## [page 1]

Born in Sicily, Feb. 23, 1883, and came to Kansas City in 1912. He is 5 ft. 5 or 6 in. tall, weighs about 170, has thinning hair, face, ears, neck and hands are marked by old burn scars, and wears glasses some of the time. He dresses very well and quietly, speaks English with a heavy accent, signs his name in English but cannot read or write it. His wife is named Jennie, and their address is 410 S. Gladstone Blvd., Phone - Benton 4184.

Joe began in the extortion racket after his arrival in Kansas City in 1912, and later got into the sugar business. During prohibition, he and his Mafia pals held firm control of the supplies used to make whiskey, as well as controlling the manufacture and sale of the finished product. In the 1930's, he was one of the organizers of a huge narcotics ring, dealing in heroin, which was broken in 1942, with the details listed in the FOLLMER testimony. He also has received, it is alleged, a cut of all rackets operated in Kansas City, including gambling, policy, labor rackets, etc.

DiGiovanni is president and one of the two principal partners in the Midwest Distributing Company, a wholesale liquor firm at 1109 Cherry Street, Business Telephone - Harrison 2722. This is the largest liquor wholesale firm in Kansas City, and it holds the exclusive franchise on all Seagram's products for Jackson County, which includes Kansas City. The firm was involved in a huge interstate black market whiskey ring, and on December 21, 1943, there were arrested Scarface, PETE DIGIOVANNI, BINAGGIO, NORRIS SALWINSKAY, alias MORRIE SOL, a dope peddler, killer and labor racketeer; PETE SPALITTO, MAX DUCOV, LOGAN IMHOFF, CURTIS ATTENBERRY, JACK GASBORO, FRANK DEMARA: SAM DIGIOVANNI, a nephew of Joe and Pete and manager of Midwest, and PETE GREGO, a Midwest employee. All were arraigned on Federal informations of violating Federal liquor laws, failing to keep proper records, etc. In January 1944, all the cases were mysteriously dismissed by the U. S. District Attorney "because of lack of evidence." The ATU men

[page 2]

- 2 -

Police Record of Joseph DiGiovanni

Kansas City Police Department, 10-9-1918 - Murder. Sent to county prosecutor, 10-10-18. PD file cards show "No Disposition." Records this far back are no longer on file in courthouse and very little can be found on the case.

Kidnapping - 10-10-1925. Sent to State, discharged by government 9-19-1929. Unable to locate information on this in the court records. Police Dept. has information it involved a girl who was kidnapped and raped.

11-29-1920 - Pled guilty to prohibition rap, fined \$500 and \$25.55 costs in Federal court.

5-25-1928 - Indicted by Federal grand jury for having 4t,000 gallons of liquor at 2547 Agnes. Case dismissed later.

1-20-28 - Indicted by Federal grand jury for having 250 gallons still at 516 East 5th with 70 gallons of whiskey and mash enough for 2,000 gallons of liquor. Dismissed March 24, 1930.

4-25-28 - Indicted apparently on same still, pled guilty, fined \$500 on one count and two counts dismissed.

2-15-29 - Indicted on five counts by Federal grand jury for having 75 gallon still at 1847 E. 7th, 300 gallons of mash, 300 lbs of corn sugar, 120 gallons of whiskey in barrels. Pled guilty.

Put on probation two years under \$1,000 bond to Dr, Max Goldman.

9-12-29 - pled guilty to one count of Federal indictment for selling whiskey, fined \$400 and sentenced to four months in Lafayette County jail. Released from jail 2-10-30, after pleading poverty and inability to pay fine.

## [page 3]

- 3 -

3-15-29 - Federal information filed vs DiGiovanni on 75 pints and 130 half pints of whiskey at 516 Harrison. Dismissed later.

11-6-30 - Pled guilty same day indicted as second offender to 22 gallons of liquor at 533 Charlotte. Sentenced in Federal court to 60 days in Clay County Jail.

5-25-41- Material witness - discharged.

8-24-43- Speeding and resisting arrest. Dismissed without prosecution-city court.

7-2-1915 - DeGiovanni was arrested with about fifteen other Black Handers on charges of investigation concerning Black Hand extortion letters he allegedly had written to various Italians in the North Side (Little Italy) in Kansas City. This case was worked up by Louis Olivero, an Italian detective who later was murdered by the Mafia. Olivero had obtained information from about twenty Black Hand victims. But they later lost their nerve and refused to testify against DiGiovanni or any of the other Black Handers.

Other members of the DiGiovanni family own the Happy Hollow Liquor stores in Kansas City, a chain of retail package stores. Some own restaurants and several other package stores. One brother, Vincent DiGiovanni, is a one-third partner with two other Mafia men, JOHN BLANDO and VINCENT CHIAPETTI, in the Superior Wines and Liquor Company, which has the franchise on one of the better Schenley liquor lines and is a very large wholesale house.

The income of Joe DiGiovanni, as reported to the government, is from \$55,000 to \$80,000 a year. Italians in Kansas City consider him to be extremely wealthy and it is believed he hides much of his income from the government.

Old addressee where DiGiovanni has lived in the past include 533 Charlotte, 3524 Park Ave. and 565 Campbell Street.

# [page 4]

-4-

PETER (SUGARHOUSE PETE) DI GIOVANNI, brother of Scarface, was born June 28, 1886 in Palermo, Sicily, came to the United States in May 1903, and was naturalized July 7, 1924 in Kansas City, Missouri. He is 5 ft. 6 in. tall, weighs about 180 lbs, has a stocky build, dresses well in quiet-toned double breasted suits, and has a ruddy complexion. His wife is Mary DiGiovanni and their residence is at 502 Campbell Street. Sugarhouse Pete is a full partner with his brother Scarface in Midwest, is believed to hold an interest in the Happy Hollow Liquor Store chain, and when Federal agents seized some heroin in a raid in 1942 from members of the big 8-State narcotics ring here which brought its heroin in from Tampa. The drug was in a briefcase owned by Sugarhouse Pete.

Peter GiGovanni's brief police record is as follows:

10-9-18 - Kansas City Police Department - murder (to State 10-10-18) - "No Disposition" shown in the file.

3-19-1921 - Kansas City Police Dept. for investigation - "Mo Disposition." 2-14-1926 - Kansas City Police Dept. for investigation - "No Disposition."

Peter DiGiovanni reportedly was active as an extortionist in the early 1920's when the Black Handers had a last fling at this racket before they began devoting all their attention to bootlegging, dope and gambling. His power and position in the Mafia probably derives largely from his brother, Scarface's position, originally.

Sugarhouse Pete did not testify in the open hearing of the Committee; however, his brother, Scarface, did, denying his police record, later admitting parts of it until Senator Kefauver recommended he be indicted for perjury. To date, the U. S. District Attorney in Kansas City has not taken any action on the case beyond sending a brief on the matter to the Department of Justice in Washington. He says he is waiting for an answer from them.

Pete's home telephone is VICTOR 2786.

[page 5]

-5-

#### JAMES BALESTRERE

(Balestrere is sometimes spelled and always pronounced Balestreri or Balesteri) Balestrere was born June 24, 1891, in a small village, made largely of stonemasons near Palermo Sicily. Federal records show that he came to the United States April 15, 1903. His story is that he came over when he was 8 years old, went first to Milwaukee, where several hundred members of the Balestrere family live, first visited Kansas City about 1905, and returned there to live in 1908. He is a stonemason and bricklayer. He undoubtedly has been arrested at various times, but no police record appears available.

Balestrere denies he has ever had any influence except through his ability to speak Italian to the older Italians at election time. But the fact is that he is more feared in the underworld and by Italians than anyone in Kansas City except Scarface, and has been a powerful man among the Italians in Kansas City since the early 1920's. During the latter period ho was a part of the bankroll is a heavy crap game which was held and in which a Negro man was shot. In recent years he has removed himself from such an active participation in anything resembling a racket, although it is thought he gets a cut from all the rackets in Kansas City, as well as a cut from certain labor unions in which he is influential, and from rackets at Wichita, Kansas, where BOBBY CARNAHAN, JOE LaSALLE and MAX COHEN operate. TONY GIZZO is considered to be the go-between on the Wichita setup and Tony Long has been considered in the underworld to be a more or less personal representative of Balestrere.

Balestrere was in a little trouble briefly in the spring of 1926 when a bootleg place he owned was losing money and which was torched by someone who used so much gasoline it ran out on the sidewalk under the front door. The place was operated by another Mafia member, JOHN BLANDO who, according to

[page 6] - 6 –

Balestrere, is his nephew. Balestrere admits he was in the corn sugar business, once kept a saloon for the late T. G. Pendergast, and was given a cut of a big bingo racket in Kansas City by

Pendergast in the 1930's, although he didn't do any work at the place. In 1939, he was tagged for a Federal income tax lien on money he received for gambling from 1935 to 1938. The amount of taxes, penalties and interest was \$5,680.43. No criminal prosecution was started. He states he settled this for less than the above amount. In the early 1940's, he was given a cut of the Green Hills gambling place by Charley BINAGGIO, and was the godfather of Binaggio's only child, Anita, now about 8 years old. He is godfather of many, many Italian children in Kansas City, and virtually all the Italians like to be recognized by him.

Balestrere is considered to be the top Mafia man under Scarface, although he denies he has ever heard of the Mafia, as do all the other Mafia men in

Kansas City. In the 1936 to 1940 cleanup of Kansas City by Federal agents and grand juries, Federal agents named him as the most powerful and influential man of the Sicilian race west of Chicago in the United States.

He built his own home at 5421 Brooklyn Ave. in Kansas City, Phone, Hlland 4676. His home is a modest residential district of medium class income families It is larger than most, has a huge cellar with a fireplace, recreation room, etc. He summoned all the Italian workmen in town to contribute free labor, but put the finishing touches on himself with a few Mafia cronies. It is a 5- bedroom house, which he states cost only \$5,000. It is probably worth \$25,000 to \$30,000 now, at least.

Balestrere is the very humble, polite type who tips his hat to everyone, is very unctuous, but believes that murder is the only proper way to deal with what he calls "traitors." His wife (maiden name unknown) has a cousin living at San Jose, California, and he has relatives in San Diego, California. His

[page 7] -7-

wife's first name is Josie. His sons are Angelo, Buster, John and Sam. Angelo has a liquor store where Balestrere works every day (telephone - Grand 9880, 1124 East 18th St., and is called National Tobacco and Liquor Store. Buster is a hoodlum and John is active as a business agent in the Retail Package Liquor Clerks Union. In 1948, we (Ahearn and Cahill) questioned Marie Balestrere at San Jose, California, and believe James is related to him.

Balestrere owns a tavern in the county outside the city, the White Horse Tavern, which he claims he built with his own hands. This he has rented over the years to various racketeers, who have invariably paid a high rental, sometimes \$400 a month, and they have Bootlegged, run horse Books

and operated dice games in the place. Balestrere claims, of course, that all the lawbreaking in his tavern is news to him.

Although he has always lived in a small quiet way, Balestrere is believed to be wealthy. He actually is at work every day in his son's liquor store and makes a great front of being a poor, hardworking man with no influence at all. He pretends that the only pocket money he has is what his sons give him. No Federal agent has ever been able to find where he had any bank account, lock box, insurance, real estate or anything else of value.

Curiously, a great many influential people, politicians in both parties, cops, officials of all kinds and the leading gangsters feel he is a man worthwhile as a friend. His friends often have

lunch in the back room of the liquor store and Balestrere usually cooks it himself.

[page 8] - 8 –

NICOLO IMPASTATO alias NICHOLAS TOUSA, NICK TOUSA, NICOLINE TOUSA FBI # 2716692 Kansas City Police Dept. #52296

Born June 1, 1900, Cinisi, Palermo Province, Sicily. He is 5 ft. 6 in. tall, has dark brown hair turning grey, is getting bald at the forehead, has a dark complexion, brown eyes, and wears horn rimmed glasses. He dresses neatly and wears pinstriped suits. Sick is reported to be a heavy better at race tracks, favoring Southern tracks in the winter months.

According to Impastato, the Mafia was a patriotic organization to which he belonged in the old country and that he fled to the U. S. in 1927 because Mussolini's gestapo was chasing him. He claims to speak no English and usually demands an interpreter. Actually, he can speak and understand enough to get along working, as a front, as a clerk in a liquor store in Kansas City for members of the DiGiovanni family.

He was considered to be the active general manager of the heroin ring, broken in Kansas City in 1942 and 1943. He also is believed to be a killer for the Mafia and the best theory on the Carramusa murder in Chicago in 1945 is that Nick himself helped with it. During the war, he registered as an alien under No. 4771776.

Impastato's associates in Kansas City include JAMES DeSIMONE, a known Mafia killer; JOE OLIVER; JOE DeLUCCA; FRANK DeLUCCA; JOE SCHOOL alias JOSEPH LASCUELA, a gunman; STENO LAMENTO and ANGELO (BOSSIE) NIGRO, all convicted dope handlers and peddlers. Other associates include LOPIPARO in St. Louis; the MILLER brothers in Dallas, Texas, and the BELEN brothers in Houston, Texas. Lopiparo is a narcotics person and a heavy man in St. Louis racket circles.

Nick travels a lot, going to New Orleans, New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, and St. Louis. He has a brother, VITO IMPASTATO, who once was

[page 9] - 9 -

a Mafia enforcer in Springfield, Illinois, and for a time operated in St. Louis.

Another associate is JOHN MIRABELLA, a former St. Louis racketeer now reported living in Pueblo, Colorado, who was arrested years ago (1928?) in the arrest of Mafia leaders made in the Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio.

Impastato's last home address was 32 Warner Plaza, an apartment building in a midtown location in Kansas City. At times he worked at the Roma Bakery (run by Mafia men) and in the Stop and Slop Liquor stores operated by the DiGiovanni family. He gave the Stop and Shop phone number as a place where he could be contacted early this year: Harrison 3805. The address of the store is 425 West Sixth Street, very close to the Missouri-Kansas line and on the principal trafficway between the two Kansas Citys. The store, incidentally, is operated by Patsy Ventola, a convicted member of the big heroin ring, who married Sadie DiGiovanni. She holds liquor license. The clerk is SPEEDY DRAGNA, who used to associate with some of the "red hots" who ran around with NORFIE JACK BRANCATO, alias MURPHY SAUNDERS, alias MURPHY

DANELLO, a machine gunner, now in San Quentin for a holdup in Fresno.

Some people, including our force, list Nick as a member of the international grand council of the Mafia but he appears to be more of a traveling delegate, messenger and errand man.

He has been subpoened by the Committee but not questioned.

[page 10] - 10 –

## JOHN BLANDO

His name was GIOVANNI BATTISTA BLANDO until he was naturalized 10-10-27 under Kansas City, Missouri Certificate No. 2611297 (another example of our immigration and naturalization service to the Mafia).

BLANDO was born June 12, 1897 in Sicily. His wife's name is Maria, who was born April 3, 1902 in Italy and naturalized June 1929, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S. District Court Certificate #470730. They formerly lived at 5328 Euclid Ave. and now live at 637 East 74th Street, Telephone, Hiland 3629. Blando now calls himself Battista Blando.

Blando's police record, which seems to consist mostly of arrests for bootlegging and arson in the old days, is mixed up with that of his uncle, who has the same name, and the police in Kansas City have never untangled it.

Blando was arrested in connection with the arson case in the place he managed for Balestrere in 1926, but nothing ever came of it. Balestrere sometimes calls Blando his nephew; sometimes his cousin. Federal agents describe him as Balestrere's brother-in-law. Nephew apparently is the proper relationship. Blando is president and one-third partner of Superior Wines and Liquors, 2035 Main Street, which has one Schenley line. The other two partners are VINCENT CHIAPETTI, a Mafia man who was listed in the large and small address books of NICK GENTILE, THE important narcotics man seized in New York in the late 1930's. The third partner is VINCENT DIGIOVANNI, a brother of Scarface and Sugarhouse Pete. Each takes a profit of about \$100,000 a year from the firm and each has about \$100,000 invested in it. It is one of the largest firms here, after Midwest.

Blando has a son, Emanuel Lawrence Blando, born in Kansas City, August 20, 1926 and a daughter Grace Lucille Blando, born December 13, 1927, also in Kansas City.

[page 11] - 11 –

Blando is considered to have great influence in the Mafia in Kansas City and to have a cut of the rackets the Mafia dominates or operates.

In September 1934, Sheriff Tom bash seized an armored car from the forth Side Democratic Club, the Lazia-run Mafia political front. The man who claimed the car was Blando, who explained it was not his car but that he was acting as a close friend of John LAZIA, who had been murdered a month earlier. Blando explained the bullet holes in the fenders by saying he put them there himself, testing, and that the car had been borrowed from a friend in Denver, Colorado.

When WOLF RIMANN was murdered in Kansas City in 1949 after he had obtained a Schenley franchise by going directly to New York, his lawyer, Jack Cannon, told of several conversations, one by telephone with Binaggio, in which Cannon and/or Rimann were told directly by Binaggio or by a friend of Binaggio's, "You can't have the Schenley franchise because that belongs to my friend John Blando." Blando and Binaggio denied all this. We printed the story. That night Cannon began getting telephone threats, demanded a police guard, but we were unable to obtain anything more relative to the ease.

The telephone number at Superior Wines, et al is Harrison 1772.

[page 12] - 12 –

VINCENT CHIAPETTA (correct spelling) was born 11-221886 in Boggiorele, Sicily, went to school there until the third grade, sailed from Palermo in December, 1905, for New York. He went to New Orleans where he lived with an uncle, the late PETER ZINNITI. When he was nineteen, he was arrested as a suspected anarchist in New Orleans, In 1909 he says he came to Kansas City and became a grocer at 404 East 4th Street in Little Italy.

He is 5 feet, 6 inches, weighs about 155 pounds, is slender, has brown eyes, grey hair, wears glasses, is a dapper dresser, polite in manner, speaks good English compared to his pals, through self-education by reading, although his English is accented slightly.

He married MARY A. CORPORA. Their relatives include a daughter, CARMELINA, who married a VIOVANO, a member of the St. Louis macaroni firm family; a brother, TONY CHIAPETTA, who lives in K.C. on Park Avenue; a brother, Marco M.

CHIAPETTA, 6649 Locust, telephone Delmar 3187, who owns a liquor store; a brother, PAT CHIAPETTA, 3022 Garfield Avenue, telephone Linwood 0222; and a sister, MARGUERITE, who married a SALVATO, and lives at 325 Wabash, telephone Benton 4764. Telephone at CHIAPETTA home is Jackson 0542.

CHIAPETTA was naturalized in the United States Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in 1919, he says.

He is secretary-treasurer and a full third partner with BLANDO and VINCENT Di GIOVANNI in Superior Wines and Liquors and has \$100,000 (one-third) of the stock of the firm. The company was doing a gross of \$3,000,000 a year at the end of the war, probably slightly down now.

He is president of the Supreme Concilio, an Italian charitable organization here, which aids needy dagoes. His name was listed in both notebooks of NICK GENTILE, N.Y. narcotic guy in 1938.

[page 13] - 13 -

Although CHIAPETTA maintains a great appearance of respectability, he admits that years ago he was in the corn sugar business with JOE FILARDO, a Mafia member, CHARLES V. CAROLLO and others. This was the outfit dominated by the Di GIOVANNIS, BALESTRERE, et al, which controlled the bootlegging.

The listing of the CHIAPETTA name not only in the large notebook of NICK GENTILE, but also

in the smaller, apparently more important list, was the first time in recent years he has come to the attention of any enforcement agency. Also listed in the book was the name of NICOLO IMPASTATO, who was not at that time considered to be a very important guy around K.C.

CHIAPETTA was subpoenaed by the Kefauver Committee in K.C. but testified only at the closed hearing. I don't recall his testimony in detail but in private conversations he has admitted there was certainly a Mafia in the old country and it operated there but he thinks there isn't any such thing in this country.

[page 14] - 14 -

THOMAS LOCOCO, alias GAETANO LACOCO, TANO LOCCO, YOUNG TOM LOCOCO, YOUNG TOM LOCCO, TOM LACCO and YOUNG TANO. KCFD# 9640. LOCOCO is 54 years old, claims he was born in this country. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs about 160 pounds, but looks small, wears tinted rimless glasses part of the time, has black hair and dark complexion.

LOCOCO is a skilled professional killer and has been one for at least twenty years and probably closer to thirty. He was one of the key group of young dagoe storm-troopers who have fronted, first for Lazia, and later for the other front men put up by the Mafia in K.C. He was a member of the mob execution squad through the late 1920's and all the 1930's, with TOM GIZZO and CHARLEY GARGOTTA.

He has a long police record but no convictions, until he fell this year in federal court for income tax evasion. He is now doing two years in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

His police record is incomplete became he was so powerful in the 1930's, when the mob controlled the police department, that all his record was removed and much of the detail was lost when the record was reconstructed after the 1940 cleanup. This same factor also applies in the case of almost every dago listed on these pages, which explains why there are so many gaps in the TANO was almost caught in one gang spot killing in 1933. GARGOTTA was caught, tried, beat the rap and went loose. LOCOCO also has worked as a gambling joint boss, was a partner with three other pals of BINAGGIO in the operation of the race wire service in K.C., which was seized by threat in 1916 from the former operator at the time the Capone mob was taking over the national race wire service of Continental Press operating from Cleveland. LOCOCO has worked as a labor rackets bomber, once hired another Dago to blow

[page 15] - 15 –

up an athletic club he owned--the Dago squealed and went to prison. When the Dago, TONY MICELI, came out of prison in 1930, he was promptly murdered as he walked down the front steps of his home.

LOCOCO, in the 1930's, was a partner with CHARLES V. CARROLLO in a very profitable bingo Joint they muscled away from a California Jew who had started it. They paid the Jew one dollar for the whole layout and told him to blow TOWN. He did.

He got rich and bought a 108-acre farm, built an artificial island in the late on it, and in 1948 went to Nogales, Arizona, posed as a retired businessman, hired the mayor as his attorney and

bought the El Reposa Motel, paying a reported \$48,000 for this 10-unit tourist court. He has since sold it to pay back income taxes.

TANO was a visitor to the gathering of Mafia guys in Tiajuana, Mexico, held shortly before Binaggio and Gargotta were murdered in K.C. last April 5.

It is claimed that one of the triggermen in the BINAGGIO deal is LOCOCO, who incidentally was an uncle of BINAGGIO'S wife, MRS. CECELIA BONDON BINAGGIO. MRS. IDA BONDON, CECELIA'S mother, is a sister of LOCOCO. TANO has an alibi for the murder. We can't put him near the scene, connect him to the S & W 32s used in the double killing or tie him in any other way.

TANO has a nephew, JAMES SALVADOR DUARDI, F.B.I. # 5092078, KCPD # 9145, who resembles TANO but is taller and much heftier physically. He is called JIMMY. TANO has put him in the rackets. He is 29 years old, 6 feet 1 inch, 200 pounds, dark hair, brown eyes, dark complexion and unusually large hands. He lives at 329 Spruce Avenue. He has a minor police record and generally gets picked up for questioning in the gang killings in K.C. He works around as a bartender.

TANO held out on income totalling \$64,66l over a four-year period. This

[page 16] - 16 -

is all Uncle could find and prove up. He "copped out" (was arrested), sentenced to two years on September 11, 1950.

TANO has been an active Mafia agent for at least twenty years. He was a heavy financial backer of the narcotics ring which operated up until 1942.

He apparently was engaged in smuggling at Nogales and was under investigation by the customs bureau agents.

He has been a principal partner in all the major gambling joints operated by the mob here in recent years. He owns several drugstores here, also the Casablanca Liquor Stores at 501 Independence Avenue, telephone Harrison 9427, operated by VINCENT MUSSCROICA and JAMES MANCUSO.

Because of a serious arthritic condition, he has been spending the winters mostly in Arizona and Old Mexico. He may have some connections at Monterey. We have a rumble on a big home there owned by a KC guy but we don't know who it is. Might be FRANK COPPOLA, who was deported, but he is mainly a St. Louis and New Orleans guy, hooked up down there with CARLOS MARCELLO, "DANDY" PHIL KASTEL and the COSTELLO guys in Louisiana.

The LOCOCO home is at 346 South Jackson Avenue, Benton 1502 (telephone). His wife is Edith who is 50 years old, and was born in this country. TANO was born on January 3, 1895 in Jackson County, Missouri, he claims. His mother is MRS. CAROLINE LOCOCO. He has a daughter, SANTA, 28 years old, who is married to EDWARD JOHN BRUNI, 33 years old, and originally from Pennsylvania.

TANO is probably the most skillful and experience killer we have in K.C., smart enough always to have kept out of serious trouble and smart enough to avoid the publicity that has harmed a lot of his pals.

### ANTHONY ROBERT (TONY) GIZZO, KCPD # 12572

He is five feet, seven inches, about 210, chubby face, brown eyes, black hair, getting bald in front. Dresses expensively, likes to eat and drink well, make a big entrance in taverns, night clubs, etc. He is known to be a woman chaser.

Tony is an ex-con, who received two years in 1924 from Uncle on possession of a big quantity of heroin, opium and cocaine. He offered ten grand to arresting officers to let him go. Since, he has been arrested a number of times, for questioning in murders, the Union Station massacre in Kansas City in which Pretty Boy Floyd killed four cops and federal agents (Gizzo and Lococo gave Floyd an escort out of town afterwards) in gambling and other rackets. He is under indictment now by a county grand Jury for running a big sports event bookie joint netting \$100,000 a year on the record. Binaggio was his partner and two other guys who didn't count. He must have been bigger than Binaggio because he went around countermanding Binaggio's orders and made it stick. He has been a personal representative of Balestrere, particularly with the Wichita, Kansas, mob.

Amongst the gangsters around the country he has wider personal acquaintance than any other racketeer the Committee has questioned so far. The Federal authorities indicate he is a close pal of Joe Profaci of Brooklyn, of the grand council, but Tony denies knowing Joe. He admits knowing Frank Costello of New York. He also acknowledges being acquainted with the following:

Frank Coppola

MoMo Adamo (known in Kansas City as Cut Me In MoMo and was a small punk imported from Chicago in the late 1920's by Johnny Lazia)

[page 18] page 17

John Rosselli in California
Jack Dragna in Los Angeles
Ralph Pierce
Harry Russell
Murray Humphreys
Mimi Capone
Charley Gioe
Phil D'Andrea of the Chicago mob
Frank Erickson
John Vitale of St. Louis
Willie Moretti of New Jersey
Joe Massei of Detroit

He says he is a close pal of Tony Accardo, Charlie Fischetti, Rocco and Joey Fischetti, Ralph Capone, Jake Guzik, Paul Ricca and Louis Carapagna of Chicago mob. He knows Joe Adonis and Pete Licavoli to see them but sayd he hasn't ever met them formally. In New Orleans he knows Carlos Marcello, Phil Kastel and Sylvester Carrollo. Other gangsters admit they know Tony all

over the country. He met them all socially he claims when travelling to racetracks in the middle 1930's with a string of horses he owned at the time.

Tony was the contact man in Kansas City for Accardo and the Chicago mob when Ricca, Campagna and company were in Leavenworth endeavoring to buy their paroles. He provided oars and drivers for Accardo and others who went up to Leavenworth to see the boys (Accardo got in posing as a lawyer) and threw a party for them after they got out.

[page 19] Page 18

Tony is believed to be a traveling contact man for the Mafia in Kansas City in dealings with Mafia guys in other cities. He moves around a great deal and receives a great number of telephone calls from out of town. Dorothy Bernard, a white woman, is his wife and their home telephone number is Hlland 7126. Tony has been the main man peddling Canadian Ace Beer in Kansas City. A pal of his is Alex Louis Greenberg in Chicago, the old Capone guy who runs the brewery.

Tony is a killer, but puts up an affable, pleasant front. It is doubted if he would risk his neck in a killing job anymore.

[page 20] page 19

JOSEPH DE LUCA was born in Giordinello, Sicily on April 17, 1893. He arrived in the United States on April 10, 1910. He is five feet, eight inches tall and weighs 210 pounds. He has a round face with a big nose and wears rimless glasses revealing brown eyes. His hair is brown, but it has quite a lot of grey in it. He is of lumpy build and. has a paunch in front. He is KCPD No. 40870. He uses the name Joe DeLuce and DeLucca. Frances Perry Deluca, his wife, was convicted of perjury in 1943. She lied to save Joe from conviction in a big heroin ring case made by federal agents here.

Joe owns two liquor stores with his brother, Frank DeLuca. They are the National Liquor store at 1721 West Ninth Street, telephone Harrison 9025 and the State Line Liquor store located at 1724 West Ninth Street, telephone Harrison 8181. They formerly owned the store at 1124 East 18th, now owned by Balestrere's son, Angelo Balestrere. DeLucca lives at the Sterling Apartments, 2840 Forest Avenue. He owns a great deal of real estate. During prohibition he was one of the biggest bootleggers in Kansas City. Except for prohibition raps, he has not much of a police record. On June 12, 1942, he was given a three year federal sentence for the sale and possession of narcotics. He did time at Texarkana, Texas and got out August 11, 1945. In 1924 Joe and Frank were caught by cops tailing a man. They had in the car a hunk of gas pipe and a loaded .32 revolver, which Joe said he owned. He explained that his brother was just over from the old country. Joe beat the CCW rap. They are both vicious and potential killers. Joe was an important figure in the narcotics in ring broken in Kansas City in 1942.

[page 21] page 20 FRANK DE LUCA, brother of JOE DE LUCA, KCPD No. 30610, FBI No. 1820551, was born fifty-six years ago, exact date unknown, in Sicily. He is five feet, seven inches tall, about 175 pounds in weight. His brown hair is greying heavily. He has brown eyes and a dark complection. A permanent twitch in his left eye gives him the appearance of winking at everyone he sees. His face is also lopsided. His mouth slants down to his left. He has had eighteen arrests, ranging from murder (he beat the rap) to arrest as an enemy alien June 13, 1942, when be was put in an alien camp for a short time.

When he was running a saloon in 1936 he killed a Negro customer who threw a glass of beer in his face, but pleaded self defense, although all the bullets struck the Negro in the back.

DeLuca travels a good deal, no doubt on Mafia business.

He goes to Miami, Houston, St. Louis, where he associates with Tony Lapiparo, a narcotics guy, to New York, Chicago and Memphis. On July 30, 1943, he was arrested in Los Angeles, but no details were obtained.

He was a bootlegger in the old days, like his brother, Joe and was arrested for it. Neither he nor Joe are able to read or write English.

[page 22] - 21 –

JOE PATITO, who is a Mafia member, was often overlooked because of his respectable front. He is a lawyer and operates a finance and loan company, but he was also a financial backer of the heroin ring here in the 1930's. He is associated with a very respectable lawyer, Hunt Moore, who is also a respected member of the school board in Kansas City as well as president of the finance company. Patito studied law under Moore as a young man.

He was born in Italy about 57 years ego. He is 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighs about 215 lbs., has soft brown eyes, brown hair streaked with grey, stocky build, speaks accented English and often serves as interpreter in courts, etc.

He has only four arrests showing on his police record, three for speeding and one for whisky, charge dismissed March 18, 1925.

His loan company is the Colony Loan and Finance Company which until recently was located at 304 East Tenth Street, but is now at 305 East Ninth Street, telephone Harrison major stock holder in this outfit is Joe De Luca, who was described previously. Joe lives at 2608 East Tenth Street, telephone Benton 0153.

He has a brother, Carl Patito. A third brother, Nick Patito, who ran a liquor store, was killed several years ago in a holdup by a punk named LeRoy Dean Crist. When Crist beat the case and the jury turned him loose, the Patito family employed James DeSimone, to be listed later, to murder Crist. Crist was killed in gangland style shortly after him acquittal.

[page 23]

- 26 -

The following are less important members of the Mafia who are more on the outer circle and still doing the dirty work, except for a few of the older ones.

PAUL CATANZARO, who is a Mafia killer, was born November 9, 1884 in Sicily. He was naturalized at Kansas City, Missouri July 7, 1924, Certificate No. 2090108. In 1919, on March 28,

Catanzaro used a shotgun to murder an elevey year old boy, Frank Carramusa, Jr., son of Frank Carramusa, an Italian importer in Kansas City who was on the outs with the Black Handers. Dozens of people saw the killing but Catanzaro disappeared. He was arrested about a year later but no witness could be found to testify against him.

This Carramusa was a younger brother of Carl Carramusa, who was murdered in Chicago in 1945. Revenge for the killing was one reason Carl testified against the Mafia men in the 1942 narcotics cases. When Carramusa was testifying, Catanzaro sat in a front row in federal Court and made threatening gestures at Carramusa, which upset Carramusa so much that Catanzaro was thrown out of court and arrested.

He was also arrested in the 1910 to 1920 period of Mafia activity for bombing homes for extortion purposes, for burglary and later for bootlegging. Until a few years ago he was employed as a night watchman by the DiGiovanni brothers at their Midwest liquor firm. He was also pinched once for sending threatening Black Hand letters but nothing came of it. His police record has been cleaned out of the police files. The police are reconstructing it now but have no picture of him. He lives at 538 Olive Street, telephone Chestnut 2886.

```
[pager 24]
- 23 –
```

LOUIS LA ROCCA, reportedly a brother of Frank, was born October 22, 1904 in Italy (Sicily likely). He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs 185 lbs., has brown eyes, black hair getting grey, wears glasses, stocky build. He was arrested in Oklahoma City April 25, 1930 as their No. 6950. He has six pinches in Kansas City for bootlegging, speeding, and one election-day beef at the polls (February 15, 1940). He lives at 2304 East 8th Street, telephone Chestnut 6160. He was naturalized in Kansas City, Missouri September 28, 1936, Certificate No. 4072819. His wife is Mary Larocca, who is now 42 years old, and was bom in Jackson. County, Missouri.

```
[page 25]
– 24 –
```

JOSEPH LASCUOLA, better known as JOE SCHOOL, is a narcotics man, a killer and has been active in the gambling rackets. He was born January 1, 1897 in Sicily. He is short, stocky, square-shouldered, and about 5 feet 7 inches tall. He weighs about 170, has black hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. He has a long record of arrests going back to 1919 for robbery, murder, assault, narcotics, hold-up, burglary CCW, keeping a horse book. He was listed in the Mickey Cohen notebook, apparently did some telephone business with Cohen. His last home address was 627 Benton, telephone Chestnut 0935.

A better phone and address is 1910 East 72nd, with the bookie office numbers: Victor 5405 and Hiland 5466.

```
[page 26]
- 25 –
```

MIKE LASCUCLA, or MIKE SCHOOL, brother, of Joe, Has the Kansas City Police Department

No. 3-6-06. He claims the United States for citizenship. He is 5 feet 9 inches and about 170 lbs. He has brown eyes, black hair getting bald, wears glasses.

He has about thirty arrests, mostly as a gambler and bookie, once on narcotics. He has no pen time and lives at 506 Park Avenue, telephone Harrison 6184.

[page 27] - 26 -

A third brother, also a gunsel, is PHILLIP TOM (Fooley Babe) SCHOOL, who was born July 13, 1909 in Kansas City, Missouri. He is 5 feet 8 inches tall, with brown eyes, black hair with a bald patch on top and back of his head is thinner. He has done jail time for the Dyer Act and is a tire thief with a long arrest record. He was arrested twice for murder and many times on gambling.

[page 28]

JOE OLIVER, square name Joe Olivero, Kansas City Police Department No. 32176 (no picture available) was born 12/25/1887 in Italy (Sicily??). He is an associate of Nick Impastato. He is 5 feet 5 inches, medium build, grey hair, brown eyes, and has lived recently at 2931 Main Street. No phone number is available.

His police record shows only cm arrest, in 1939, for forging policy slips.

[page 29] 28

JOSEPH FILARDO was born 8/10/1898 In Italy (Sicily?) and was naturalized here 4/10/40, Certificate No. 4715174. He is president of the Midwest Bakery and Macaroni Company and the Roma Baking Company, both at 1303 Independence Avenue, telephone Harrison 0796, which sells its products by muscles. It is also a Mafiaa hangout for such as Impastato, James DeSimone, etc.

Filardo is five feet six inches tall. His wife's name in Carmen and they live at 103 South Van Brunt Boulevard, but their telephone is not listed. He has only speeding arrests.

[page 30] 39

Living next door to Joseph Filardo is JOE CUSUMANO, also a Mafia guy, who is vice-president of the two firms. He was born 1-25-1900 in Sicily, and was naturalized to Kansas City, Missouri 12-18-1944, Certificate No. 6268902.

His wife Carmela is 41 years old according to her voting registration. Joe has no police record, at least none left in police files.

[page 31] 30

A third official of the Midwest Bakery and Macaroni Company and the Roma Baking Company is JaCK BINAGGIO, who is the secretary-treasurer of the companies. He is 52 years

old, born in Italy (Sicily ?). He is 5 feet 8 inches tall with brown hair, brown eyes, dark complexion. He has four arrests, three for NPA and one for rec stolen property, with no convinctions.

He lives at 3935 Benton Boulevard, telephone number Linwood 8932 with his wife Lena.

[page 32]

31

TONY BALANO was born 1-30-1898 at Costelvitano, Italy or Sicily. He is 5 feet 6 inches tall, 170 pounds and has brown eyes and grey hair. His wife's name is Rosa. He lives at 401 Garfield, telephone Grand 0731, and operates the Balano Tobacco and Liquor Company, 1427 East Eighteenth Street, three blocks from Balestrere, telephone not listed.

In 1921 Tony was shot and wounded by a policeman who was on a trap, watching an old memorial cannon where a Black Hand extortion victim had placed some money for fee Mafia. Balano came to get it and was shot. In retaliation, he and some friends tried to burn down the house of the policeman who wounded him. Tony was shot in July and the houseburning was in September. Tony ran around then with TONY GIZZO and CHARLEY GARGOTTA and up until the late 1920's was with them.

[page 33]

32

This winds up the list of Mafia members, except for a few old and feeble ones, and one who is doing a twenty-year federal sentence and thus is out of action. Listed below are some of the young gangsters, principally the killers and enforcers who did the heavy work for the Binaggo mob, which was merely the front organization for the old Mafia members.

PATSY VENTOLA lives at 647 East 69th Street, telephone number Jackson 0665. His FBI number is 1948062 and his Kansas City Police Department number is 32786. He was born 5-3-1910 and is 5 feet 5 inches tall. He has a heavy build, chubby face, black hair, brown eyes, medium complexion. His mother Mary is residing at 417 Maple Avenue. He was sentenced in 1940 to a year and a day at Rekarkana, Texas for a federal narcotics rap. He was in a big heroin ring. He is married to Sadie DiGiovanni, a daughter of Sugarhouse Pete DiGiovanni. He operates the Stop N Shop liquor store at 427 West 6th Street where Nick Impastato and Speedy Dragna are the clerks. His license is in his wife's name.

[page 34]

33

LOUIS VENTOLA, brother of Patsy Ventola, has Kansas City Police Department No. 32594 and FBI number 1947646. He was born 8-10-1918 in Kansas City, Missouri. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighs about 165 lbs. He has brown eyes, black hair and a sallow complexion. He got two years in 1940 with his brother Patsy, which they did in Leavenworth. In 1944 he spent two years in the Missouri penitentiary for theft. Be manages Patsy's restaurant at 608 West 6th Street, telephone Harrison 8795. He used to hang around with guys at midget race tracks at St. Louis and Kahoka, Illinois.

The Ventolas are not considered to be very heavy, compared to the others listed in this

section.

Louis uses the alias Joseph Davies sometimes.

[page 35] 34

JOE GUERERA, Kansas City Police Department No. 46592 and FBI number 4059366, is 24 years old. He is 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighs 170 lbs. He has brown eyes, black curly hair. He lives with his wife, Nancy, at 2818 East 8th, telephone no. Chestnut 8035.

He owns the Couples Club, 1422 Main Street, telephone no. Harrison 9643, and it is operated by his brother-in-law, JOE MARCHESE.

Joe Gurera has 28 arrests in Kansas City for CCW, murder, gambling, burglary but with only one conviction for burglary which resulted in a five-month stay in a juvenile home in 1939. In 1944 he worked for a time for a produce company in Birmingham, Alabama.

[page 36] 35

MAX JABEN was born October 24, 1902 in Ribijesov, Poland. He came to the United States in 1920 and went to Portland, Oregon. In 1926 he went to Kansas City, Missouri. His square name is MOTEL (MOTSH) GRZEBIENACZ which is pronounced "greb-nough-witz." It was changed by court order January 9, 1943 when he was naturalized in Kansas City. His certificate number is 5777909.

Jaben is 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 187 lbs. He has a very cocky appearance and manner of walking. His black curly hair is kept cropped close to his skull. He has had a couple of arsenous fires in his homes in Kansas City. He is arrested for questioning in the better gang murders. He has been active in gambling in Colorado the last three years. He is a bomber and torpedo for the mob in Kansas City and is considered to be one of the heaviest guys in town.

He was an active pallbearer at the Charley Binaggio funeral.

He is Jewish, and his wife's name is Edith. They have four sons ranging in age from 2 to 22 years old. He lives at 4138 The Paseo, telephone Westport 0954. He is part owner of Cov-a-Car Seat Cover Shop at 1710 Grand Avenue. He also owns a piece of a midget auto race track, Olympic Stadium, and has cut himself into the policy and bookie rackets also.

[page 37] 36

THOMAS (HIGHWAY) SIMONE, alias Joe Leone, (Kansas City Police Department No. 23405) is an ex-con with a long, record dating to 1933. He has arrests for murder, robbery, burglary, the Dyer Act, counterfeiting (for which he did 18 months in El Reno, OK for this one), kidnaping, etc.

He is 35, 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall, and weighs 210 lbs. He has black hair, black eyes, heavy shoulders and general build.

He lives at 414 Wabash with his wife, Mary, and his telephone number is unlisted. He is

close to Tony Gizzo and Tano Lococo.

[page 38] 37

CHARLES CACIOPPO, alias CHUCKIE MORGAN, CHARLEY CAPPO, is an ex-convict, having served four years for burglary and larceny, has a long arrest record. He is 27 years old, five feet eleven inches tall, 205 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, dark complexion. He lives at 920 Chestnut, phone Humboldt 1262. He is now under state indictment for muscling into policy racket.

[page 39] 38

LOUIS (BLACK LOUIE) CANGELOSE, alias LOUIS MALLO, alias LOUIS CAUSMNO, Kansas City Police Department No. 21625, F.B.I. No. 1703599, was born August 7, 1912. He is 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs 146 pounds. He has sometimes acted as driver for TONY GIZZO. He has arrests dating back to 1931 for highway robbery, CCW, kidnapping (for which he was sentenced to twenty years in Missouri State Penitentiary on August 30, 1933 but was paroled July 23, 1940).

[page 40] 39

JOSEPH (JO JO) CAMMISANO, alias JOE CUMMINGS, was born August 22, 1915 in Iowa. He is 34 years old, 5 feet, 5 inches tall, weighs 185 pounds, has black curly hair and brown eyes. He is an ex-convict ( two years for running a still in 1938). He lives with his wife DORIS at 3534 St. John, telephone Benton 2088. He is a brother of WILLIE CAMMISANO. Both are under state indictments for muscling into the policy rackets. He and WILLIE have been getting telephone calls from some of the Colorado mob. Samples: EUGENE SMALDONE, boss of Dagoes in Northern Colorado called July 13, 1949 to Harrison 8980, the El Reno Bar at 801 E. 9 run by CAMMISANO boys. Later that day called JOE'S home.

[page 41] 40

WILLIAM (WILLIS THE RAT) CAMMISANO, alias WILLIE CUMMINGS, Kansas City Police Department # 38222 was born April 26, 1913 at Williamsburg, Iowa. He is 5 feet 9 1/2 inches tall, weighs 210, has blue eyes, brown curly hair, and is of chunky build. His wife's name is ANTOINETTE. Home is at 333 South Jackson; phone is Benton 7575. Phone in El Reno Bar is Harrison 8980, and in El Reno Delicatessen next door is Harrison 9346.

WILLIE has a long record of arrests dating back to 1930 when he was running around with HIGHWAY SIMONE, NORFIE JACK BRANCATO, NICK DRAGNA, PAT WILLIE LUGGE, PETE VITTORINO, SAM (DETROIT SAM) LICAVOLI and JOE LICAVOLI. He was in holdups and had some

hot government .45 automatics but beat all the raps. He did six months in El Reno starting March 23, 1934; later did two years in Leavenworth on internal revenue violation (1939). His bar was bombed March 24, 1949, the day WOLF RIMANN was murdered but nobody ever case up with a good reason for any connection between the two events.

One Colorado pal of WILLIE is EARL BREWER, a former Kansas City guy, who runs EVERGREEN-BY-THE-LAKE at Evergreen, Colorado now.