

[page 1]
Comp Folder
St. Joe MO 9-6-37
Gov. Stark

Jefferson City Mo.

Dear Sir

I would like to call to your attention a matter of grave importance that affects a community in this county Buchanan

A tavern and dance hall operated by one William Vance Jr. at Sugar Lake near Rushville, MO. This is out of the vilest places in the state it is a veritable "hell hole" of crime and debauchery [debauchery] a congregating [congregating] places for the underworld.

Some of the laws being openly violated are. He is Selling whisky openly by the drink. He has no stock of merchandise at all. Miners, girls and boy alike buy hard drinks of all kinds and get drunk, all they need is the price.

[page 2]

Gambling, crap, and black Jack tables are more wide open; minor, Women and drunks all playing when crooked dice are used. There is no sales tax collected at this place at all.

The place is wide open Sunday morning to about 3 A.M., all day Sunday and Sunday night. All kinds of drinks being sold.

This man makes his brags that he has the protection of T.J. Pendergast and that the law cant do any thing to him.

He also has said that his "pay off," as he calls it, to the county officials is too high. The law violation by this man is well known to the county prosecuting attorney and also to the Sherif and his deputies.

Something must be amiss with the state Sales Tax collector also wishes the State Licker [Liquor] inforcement officer.

It would be simply useless to refer this matter to the county officials as they all belong to the Pendergast organization and confer with him a Kansas City frequently.

[page 3]

This man handler Pendergast Whiskey and lots of it, and there by might "hang a tale." This place is simply a breeding place for crime and debauchery; young girls between 14 and 20 years of age can be seen any Saturday or Sunday night after 12 O'Clock intoxicated using vile and obscene language.

How long do the better class of people of our fair State have to submit to this. As much as I would like to sign my name to this information I am giving you I dare not do it. My life and property would not be worth a lead nickel if the owner of this place I am letting you about know I was giving this information Kansas City thugs would do the one way ride act or else burn me out.

Very respectfully yours
A.F. of M.