

September 2, 1960

Mr. William C. Palmatier
901 Calhoun Street
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Mr. Palmatier:

The publicity given your name in connection with the very nebulous and remote possibility that a telephone call was made to your home from the telephone located in your brother's tavern in Aurora, Illinois, and its possible connection with the "Starved Rock murder case", is very regrettable.

On more than one occasion I have been highly perturbed by the yellow page journalism practiced by the Chicago newspapers, and particularly the Chicago Tribune. This incident is another demonstration of their policies.

Shortly after my Assistant, Craig Armstrong, finished taking a statement from your brother, Glenn, Sandy Smith, a so-called reporter from the Chicago Tribune who is in fact an investigator for the newspaper who tries to outdo law enforcement officials and in this way enhance the reputation of the Chicago Tribune, appeared in the Courthouse. We were all very surprised to see him.

I want you to know that the investigation of this telephone call incident was under the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Police, and not my office, or our Sheriff's Office. It was the State Police who organized the investigation of this telephone call and who requested our cooperation in connection with their investigation. I understand that your brother, Glenn, created a fuss at his tavern and that perhaps someone at his tavern may have called the newspapers. My Assistant, Mr. Tom Anderson, reported to me that there were four or five squad cars from the Aurora City Police force cruising in the neighborhood of your brother's tavern and that one detective from the Aurora City Police force walked into the tavern at the time the State Police were talking to your brother. Whether it was the fuss in the tavern or a "leak" by some member of the investigating force, the newspapers learned of this routine check of a very remote lead and enlarged it completely out of its true perspective.

With Mr. Smith in Ottawa I realized the Metropolitan Press would give this matter some prominent attention in their newspapers. After a conference with the State Police officials and with Sheriff Batsy, we decided that it would get less publicity if we said the truth known

Chicago Bar Association,
Attorney at Law
170 North Dearborn

10/1/50

WILLIAM C. BARRETT,
State's Attorney

Very truly yours,

I sincerely regret the unfortunate publicity given your good name.

As you mentioned in the newspaper published September 1, 1950, I was very pleased with the way the Chicago newspaper handled the matter. I am sure you have read the issue-articles and hope that you found it satisfactory. All of this may be contrasted with the yellow press which I purchased the Chicago Daily News and the Street Times on August 21, 1950, and was unable to find any article in either Chicago newspaper and their articles on page 10 and 11 was handled in the same manner. The Chicago Sun Times put that article on page 2 and did not mention any name. The Chicago Sun Times put that article on page 2 and did not mention any name.

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William C. Barrett
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