



"Bartlesville—Sleepy Time Sin," an "expose" of vice conditions here written by Ben Townsend, a former Examiner-Enterprise reporter, made for rapid sales of a pulp magazine for men here this week. George Perkins reported he had sold 300 copies of the magazine, and had ordered another 500. Other news dealers reported equally good business. Even neighboring towns were sold out Wednesday night.

Most of Townsend's article dealt with the ease with which illegal liquor is available in Bartlesville. He called bootlegging "one of the town's most prosperous industries." One official commented that if everyone patronized the whiskey merchants as frequently as this author apparently did, bootlegging would be much more prominent.

Another phase of the city's "vice" was a report on a club which served drinks and ran gambling games " smack in the center of town." Apparently Townsend referred to a joint which operated for a short time using the name of a veterans' organization as a front. Apparently the organization had no connection with the "club." One of the illustrations of the article showed chief of police Willard Jarvis with a whiskey bottle, dice, playing cards and a croupier's stick taken in a raid which permanently closed the club—but the article failed to mention this fact.

Another photo used to illustrate the article showed Record reporter John Ferguson along with a federal alcohol tax unit man as a whiskey still was raided near Dewey. The third illustration was a photo of a girl leaning against a box car talking with a man. This picture was an obvious fake, since there is no combination of paving and railroad tracks in Bartlesville, where a railroad car would be located.

Townsend gave a graphic account of his experience with a prostitute in "one of the leading hotels"; of a beer joint clock used for gambling on which a drunk lost \$250 "in no time"; of a filling station whose operator was "so brazen he put up large signs advertising whiskey"; and of a "well-known sin spot just across the city limits."

Local officials refused to comment on the article, but one had unprintable comment concerning its author.

Townsend charged the whole town is imbued with a "see no evil" creed, and he allowed the evil doings would continue here.

Many citizens have taken the attitude that the same thing would be as true of any town this size in the country. But because it is common does not make it right.

As to enforcement of liquor laws, Oklahoma and Mississippi are the only two states which have not given up trying to enforce prohibition, and have made sale of liquor legal. But gambling, dope and prostitution are different. Wherever these vices flourish, they should be eliminated. If they exist here as Townsend claims, every means should be used to abolish them.