

Meet the Commission: They Run Crime

By SANDY SMITH

Special Press Correspondent

Chicago—Who are gangland's commissioners?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation found that the commission, the grand council of the murderous La Cosa Nostra brotherhood, is composed of the following mobsters:

MOMO SALVATORE (MOE) GIANCANA—At 53, Giancana



MOE GIANCANA

is bald, eccentric, wild-tempered, and the king of Chicago rackets. Before he was old enough to vote, he was arrested three times as a murder suspect. One homicide case against him collapsed when the state's chief witness was murdered.

Giancana served two prison sentences for thievery and moonshining. He was released from the last term in World War 2. Then his draft board rejected him for the army service as a psychopath.

Years later, Giancana said: "Who wouldn't pretend he was nuts to stay out of the Army. The draft board asked me what I did for a living and I told them I was a thief. They thought I was crazy but I wasn't—I was telling them the truth."

Most of the commission gangsters shun notoriety but Giancana loves to showboat. He courted singer Phyllis McGuire across this country and followed her through Europe.

The other commission gangsters, mostly serious-minded hoodlums, have criticized him—when he is out of earshot, of course—for neglecting the rackets to go pub-crawling.

CARLO GAMBINO—Gambino, 61, is one of the four New York gangsters on the commission. He was born in Italy. At the age of 19, he entered this country as a stowaway. For the last six years, the government has been attempting to deport him.

A gang assassination put Gambino on the commission. He took over the chair of Albert (Double-A) Anastasia after he was slain in a New York barbership in 1957.

Gambino's only legitimate business is a New York partnership of so-called "labor consultants."

He has a 33-year police record of arrests for embezzlement and liquor law violations. He was convicted of possessing untaxed alcohol in 1941 but his sentence was suspended and he was placed on probation for five years.



CARLO GAMBINO

THOMAS (THREE-FINGER BROWN) LUCCHESI—Lucchesi, 64, wears two hats on the commission. He is a mob delegate from New York City and the gang council's commissioner of boxing.



THOMAS LUCCHESI

According to the government, Lucchesi was the man behind Frankie Carbo when Carbo was considered the underworld boxing czar. Carbo controlled the fighters and Lucchesi controlled Carbo.

Lucchesi's arrest record begins in 1921. His only prison term was for auto theft. He was arrested for questioning in five murders but released each time for lack of evidence.

His principal legitimate interests are in women's garments or controls at least six clothing companies.

JOSEPH (JOE BANANAS) BONANNO—Bonanno, 58, is another commission delegate from New York but at his second home in Tucson, Ariz., he attempts to pass himself off as a quiet-living real estate man.

Government files show that Bonanno has been involved in a lot of things—supplying machine guns to the Capone gang in Chicago, extortion, gambling, narcotics, gold smuggling and grand larceny. But he never has been convicted of anything.

Bonanno's businesses include a Brooklyn clothing company, a Wisconsin cheese firm, and his realty and insurance office in Tucson.



JOSEPH BONANNO

Race Hate—

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people learn to judge people as entities to themselves, not as a color or creed, we will never have a true free America. But even with her faults, she's better than living under

Nazism or communism. I have lived under Nazism and my parents under communism so I know of what I am speaking. J. G.

5 at Apalachin

At least five of the 12 members of the Cosa Nostra commission attended the 1957 gathering of hoodlums at the Apalachin estate of the late Joseph Bonanno, Sr.

They are Carlo Gambino, Joseph Bonanno, Vito Genovese, Gerardo Catena and John Scalish.

VITO GENOVESE—Genovese, 66, is the only commission gangster behind bars now. He is serving a term in Atlanta Federal Prison for a multimillion dollar dope peddling conspiracy. He has managed somehow, according to the government, to pull switches on commission deals from his jail cell.

Before he went off to prison in 1959, Genovese was the commission's strongman in New York. His power was unaffected by arrests on charges of murder, felonious assault, receiving stolen goods, larceny, arson and bookmaking. One murder case against him was dropped after the state's chief witness was fatally poisoned in the cell in which he was held for protection.

A crackdown on New York rackets forced Genovese to flee to Italy in 1937. For the next six years, he hobnobbed with the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini. Genovese gave Mussolini \$250,000 for new buildings. Mussolini responding by bestowing his highest civilian award on Genovese.

During World War 2, Genovese tossed lavish parties in Rome for Mussolini's Nazi allies, including Herman Goering.



VITO GENOVESE



JERRY CATENA

GERARDO VITO (JERRY) CATENA—Catena, 58, is the New Jersey gang boss. His police dossier shows arrests for gambling, robbery, grand larceny, larceny, bribery of a federal juror and as a material witness in a murder case.

His interests in gambling and legitimate business have, just as wide a range. He controlled gambling casinos in Cuba, held shares in other casinos in Nevada, and operated a number of New Jersey concerns, including jukebox and vending machine firms.

SEBASTIAN JOHN (BIG JOHN) LARocca—Larocca, the Pittsburgh gang chief, was born in Italy 62 years ago. He entered the United States when he was 10 years old.

He was 21 when he was sent to prison for assault to kill. He was convicted later of carrying concealed weapons and operating a lottery.

Larocca got his start in the gang as a moonshiner and numbers gambler in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh.

On his take from the rackets, he acquired a cement block company, a beverage firm, considerable real estate, and a palatial residence in the Pittsburgh suburb of Ingotmar.

Larocca's petition for citizenship was pending in 1953 when the government attempted to deport him as an undesirable alien. This action was based on two of his previous convictions.

It was halted, according to testimony before the Senate Rackets Committee, by a "pre-departure pardon" from former Pennsylvania Gov. John S. Fine. The pardon knocked out one of the convictions in the government's deportation case. Larocca agreed not to apply for citizenship again before 1964.



BIG JOHN LAROCKA

STEVE MAGADDINO—In Buffalo rackets, Magaddino, 72, is the boss. In the city's legitimate business, he operates a pest control company and a linen supply firm.

He owned a liquor firm, too, until the State Liquor Authority closed it.

Appropriately, for a hoodlum whose mob once was known as "the good killers," Magaddino also is an undertaker.



STEVE MAGADDINO

Valachi's Song

Joseph Valachi, the hoodlum who has been talking to the Department of Justice, is expected to appear this month before the Rackets Committee. What kind of a witness will he make and what weight does his testimony hold? Has the underworld placed a \$100,000 price tag on his head?

These questions and others are answered in three dispatches by Harry Ferguson, UP-International reporter, starting

TOMORROW
IN
The Press

How FBI Exposed Big Shots

Special Press Correspondence

Chicago—An FBI "intelligence" probe—the trap that snared spies, Communist Party leaders and big-time jewel thieves—exposed the underworld commission of 12 gang lords.

This was revealed by Justice Department officials in the first full disclosure of methods used by G-men to investigate the commission and its terrorist society, La Cosa Nostra.

At the same time, government prosecutors reported that the intelligence effort by the Federal Bureau of Investigation laid the groundwork for conspiracy cases against the commission gangsters.

FBI agents are assembling the evidence by which the government hopes to prosecute the commission mobsters for conspiracy to control organized crime across the nation, it was disclosed.

None of the commission big shots are sitting ducks, the Justice Department sources pointed out. It may take months or years to bag them.

It may be that long, the government officials explained, before the government can prove in court what the FBI learned in a 6-year investigation—that the commission gangsters conspire to "run" national and international rackets.

The FBI found that the commission is composed of mobsters from nine cities. All are chiefs of separate La Cosa Nostra "families," or gangs.

From FBI reports, the government estimated the total annual rackets take of La Cosa Nostra and the commission in the billions.

Chicago's crime boss, Momo Salvatore (Moe) Giancana, 53, was identified as one of the Midwest hoodlums on the commission.

How was all this revealed? Up to now, the official reply of the Justice Department was that the FBI did it with an "intelligence" investigation. The department offered no further explanation. It gave no hint of exactly how

the FBI had uncovered the mobster's commission. And FBI officials here and in Washington refused to discuss the "intelligence" probe of the gangland council.

But federal prosecutors, disclosing that the conspiracy probe of the commission did reveal why the FBI opened the attack on the commission with an "intelligence" investigation and what this accomplished.

The Justice Department spokesmen said that:

The intelligence investigation is a proven technique in the FBI. It was used first on foreign espionage agents and on the Communist Party.

It was employed successfully afterward to break up a band of jewel thieves who engineered, million-dollar "scores" on wealthy Chicago vacationing in Miami Beach.

The prime target of the intelligence inquiry is the group, rather than the individual. Such a probe is aimed at the espionage apparatus or jewel gang.

In this type of investigation, the subjects are under a constant surveillance. All of their associates are checked out. Federal agents keep a day-by-day tab on where the subjects go, whom they contact, and what they do.

The FBI then seeks to develop informants among the subjects' associates. This was done with singular success in the probes of the Communist Party and in the La Cosa Nostra investigation.

An inside story of La Cosa Nostra has been given to the government by a convict and former New York mobster, Joseph Valachi, 58.

The information furnished by Valachi was double-checked by the FBI with other informants in the gangster brotherhood. One government official said that the FBI had developed so many informants within La Cosa Nostra that the society literally was honeycombed with undercover agents of the government.

An intelligence investigation may continue for years before there is any evidence of federal law violations.

This is so because the investigative technique is used most often on persons who are directing crimes instead of committing them.

And that, according to one Justice Department official, is precisely what Giancana and the other gangsters are doing on the commission.

"These commission hoodlums are so far removed from the daily operation of the rackets that, from the standpoint of legal proof, they appear to be almost law-abiding," he said.

"Their underlings may break the law but the big shots steer clear of direct involvement in crime. They sit back and call the shots."

"The prime purpose of the intelligence investigation is exposure. That's just what the FBI did with the commission."

"Now the government knows what it is up against—a conspiracy on a gigantic scale. The literal translation of the words La Cosa Nostra is 'our thing'. In the light of what has been discovered, the gangsters consider all the rackets, plus a good chunk of legitimate business, as their 'thing'—a prize to be split between them."

Here, the spokesman said, the FBI agents took apart Giancana's rackets organization to the point that the government was able to queer at least one international gambling deal he was attempting to swing through the commission.

The first clues to the existence of the commission were traced up by Chicago FBI agents tracing Giancana's cross-country jaunts and international junkies, the government official said.

ONE—The Chicago crime syndicate's murder-for-hire intelligence investigation disclosed: a squad which executed murder "contracts" repeatedly approved by Giancana. The FBI identified more than 20 Chicago hoodlums as contract-killers, or "hit men." Even the

He was born in Italy, came to the United States in 1909, and gained citizenship in 1924.

JOHN T. SCALISH—Cleveland gang ventures, from vending machines to labor "muscle," are dominated by Scalish, 51. His true name is Giovanni Scalish.

Scalish's formal education ended at the seventh grade. He was 18 when police arrested him for the first time. At 21, he was sentenced to the state reformatory for robbery. He was granted a pardon by Gov. George White in 1935.

Scalish is a partner in the Buckeye Cigarette Service, a vending machine company. The Justice Department says he exercises control over several Teamsters Union locals in Ohio.



JOHN SCALISH

JOSEPH ZERILLI—Zerilli, 66, of Detroit, is described by the government as a gangster so wealthy that he doesn't need to keep his hands in the rackets anymore.

As a young man, Zerilli drove a milk wagon and a bread truck. When prohibition came along, he switched to beer and Detroit's East Side gang of bootleggers. The end of the dry era turned Zerilli to gambling, the prime source of his present wealth.

His legitimate interests are manifold—a wholesale produce company, a beer distributing company, a baking concern, a bus company and two race tracks.

Detroit police have arrested Zerilli on charges ranging from suspicion of robbery to suspicion of murder. He was convicted only once—of carrying a concealed weapon. He paid a \$50 fine.



JOSEPH ZERILLI

ANGELO BRUNO—Bruno, 53, is Philadelphia's man on the commission. His full name is Angelo Bruno Annaloro but he dropped his last name years ago.

Bruno has been lucky in court. He was convicted three times—1935, illicit still; 1954, two lottery charges—but never went to jail. Each time, he gained probation. Police were unable to convict him on other charges including drug violations and gambling.

Bruno took over the Philadelphia-Camden mob from his rackets mentor, Marco Regnelli. Both were partners in the Penn-Jersey Vending Co. As mob chief, Bruno acquired two other vending firms

but he peddled them early this year.

thief, is the top dog of the RAY PATRIARCA—Patriarca, 55, a one-time jewel Massachusetts-Rhode Island-Connecticut gangs. His ability to consolidate the mobs of three states into one underworld organization put him on the commission.

It was a good deal for Patriarca. In addition to the rackets he took over, he picked up cigarette machine companies, earth-moving firms and manufacturing concerns.

Since 1926, Patriarca has had 27 arrests and 16 convictions. His pardon in 1938 from a 2-to-5 year prison term touched off a political scandal. It developed that the names of priests had been forged on his pardon application. Patriarca was sent back to prison and didn't get out until 1944.

Among them was a Chicago hoodlum who gave the fake name of Tony Bello.

Thirty-two years later, in 1950, the FBI identified "Tony Bello" as Phil Bacino, an associate of Giancana and Frank Laporte, the south Cook County (Chicago area) rackets chief. Bacino now runs a pizza restaurant in Calumet City, Ill.

The increasing pressure of this investigation impelled Giancana two months ago to appeal to the U.S. District Court for relief. He asked that the court restrain the FBI from watching him so closely.

Justice Richard B. Austin granted the gang chief some

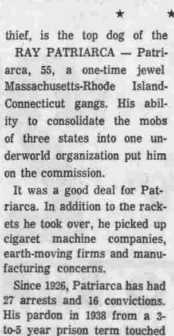
respite with an order that hobbled the FBI agents trailing Giancana. But Austin's ruling was stayed by the U.S. Court of Appeals a few days before the exposure of Giancana's role on the commission.

Giancana's court maneuvers to shake free from his federal shadows received official commendation from another target of an FBI intelligence investigation—the Communist Party.

In the Aug. 18 edition of the party's publication, the Worker, the Communist national chairman, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, wrote: "I must say I regret that others of us, previously harassed (by the FBI), failed to take similar action. . . I'm glad Giancana has taken them (the FBI) on."



ANGELO BRUNO



RAY PATRIARCA