

# Mob's Cut 177Gs, Hearing Told

New York—The State Investigation Commission opened seven days of public hearings on underworld infiltration of legitimate businesses yesterday by hearing the story of a \$177,000 business payoff to the mob.

Officers of the New York Grinders Association said that they gave the \$177,000 to mob lieutenant Paul Gambino and soldier Salvatore Guglielmini in 1962 to buy out a mob-backed rival firm, the Butcher Tool Corp. of Brooklyn, which was threatening their business. Paul G. Kelly, the commission counsel, identified the Butcher firm as a fly-by-night operation owned by Gambino, Guglielmini and Gambino's son-in-law, Frank Ferro.

Sam Maturi, the grinder association president, aided at times by his brother Frank and Rudolph Maffei, other association leaders, said that the Butcher firm first appeared in 1959 and within months had taken hundreds of the knife and tool-sharpening accounts that the association had had with Dilberts supermarkets, Trunz Markets meat wholesalers, and other chain stores and butcher shops.

Gambino and Ferro both appeared at the hearing yesterday, and both cited the Fifth Amendment in response to questions about business activities. Guglielmini did not appear. Gambino is the brother of crime boss Carlo Gambino of Massapequa. Gambino

tried to evade cameras at the hearings by appearing with a scarf over most of his face. As he was leaving the hearing room at 270 Broadway, a spectator attempted to tear the scarf away. The man, who identified himself as Nicholas Wardey, said that he tried to unveil Gambino so that the public could see what he looked like. (Mafioso Gambino looked the part, Bob Mayer writes. Column on Page 2B.)

Maturi told the state commission that he had seen the "meat boss" at Dilberts. "He told us he took the other guys (Gambino) because he was a relative or friend." Maturi said that other stores whose accounts he lost to the Butcher firm told him that Gambino had offered them two weeks' free service, central billing for chain stores, or better sharpening prices. Maturi said that the grinders association had provided satisfactory and uninterrupted service for 30 years to some of the stores it lost.

## \$300,000 Asking Price

Finding itself squeezed out, Maturi said, the grinders association decided to buy out Gambino. He said that Gambino first asked \$300,000 but, after a series of restaurant meetings, agreed to \$177,000. In return for that sum, Maturi said, the association received the Butcher firm's assets: "Trucks that were junk, knives that were garbage and a shop that was

filthy." The assets were later sold at auction for \$1,000.

Gambino is awaiting trial on a charge of receiving stolen goods. An FBI raid in 1967 on the Blue Star Markets in Flushing, which he owns, uncovered part of a hijacked case of 1,000 Polish hams.

Brooklyn—The district attorney's office asked a State Supreme Court justice here yesterday to jail 10 members of the warring Bonanno crime family because they have refused to answer questions before a grand jury investigating continuing factional battles.

Assistant District Attorney Irving Seidman accused the 10 of contempt for their refusal to answer any questions about the gangland warfare which has claimed seven victims so far, the latest one earlier this month. Seidman said that all had invoked the Fifth Amendment despite the prosecution's promise of immunity. The men refused to say even whether they knew Joseph (Joe Bananas) Bonanno or Paul Sciacca of Massapequa, who leads a rival faction trying to take over Bonanno operations.

Among those cited yesterday was Steven Menna, 56, of 31 Speed St., Brentwood, a convicted hijacker and close associate of murdered Sam Perrone. State Supreme Court Justice Vincent Damiani said that he would rule on the contempt citation against the 10 men next Wednesday. Contempt of court carries a maximum 30-day jail sentence and \$250 fine.

## GROWTH INDUSTRY: MOBS ON LI

# Hoods Work Close to Home

*The suburban life of Long Island has attracted many Cosa Nostra hoods who brought their own business along with them. This is the first of a series detailing their activities.*

By Tom Renner

Long Island is no longer just a bedroom for organized crime. It has become an arena for most types of Cosa Nostra criminal activity.

Today at least 35 of more than 120 Cosa Nostra figures living on Long Island are actively engaged in labor racketeering, loansharking, all forms of gambling, car theft and business infiltration in Nassau and Suffolk. With them they have brought an operational army of fringe members of organized crime, including bookies, policy runners, strongarms, burglars, credit-card thieves, auto thieves, hijackers and dope peddlers, who, police estimate, number more than 1,400.

Each of them plays a role in the Cosa Nostra crime cartel, which is comprised of 24 divisions—or "families"—in the U.S. Until three years ago, there were traces of only three of those families on Long Island; today, members of five families live in Nassau and Suffolk.

Law enforcement agencies blame lack of manpower for the growth of organized crime. Another cause is the lack of cooperation between police agencies. While an underworld operation such as gambling or narcotics may range through several police jurisdictions or across state lines, most agencies still do not cooperate with each other in exchanging information or preparing cases. And a lack of cooperation is apparent among the various law enforcement agencies of the federal government.

This invasion of Long Island by Cosa Nostra figures is in sharp contrast to what Newsday surveys found on two prior occasions. In 1955 attempts were made by a few top hoodlums to move into labor and garbage collection. By 1964, a total of 41 prominent gangsters and their associates were cloaking themselves in the respectability and anonymity of suburban living. Today, 26 of that advance guard of the mob

have moved or died, but into their place has moved a far more sophisticated, dangerous and organized group of hoodlums who are operating on Long Island more frequently.

Typical of this new hoodlum approach to suburban living is Paul Vario Sr., a powerful, 53-year-old soldier of the Thomas Luchese crime family, who makes his home in Island Park.

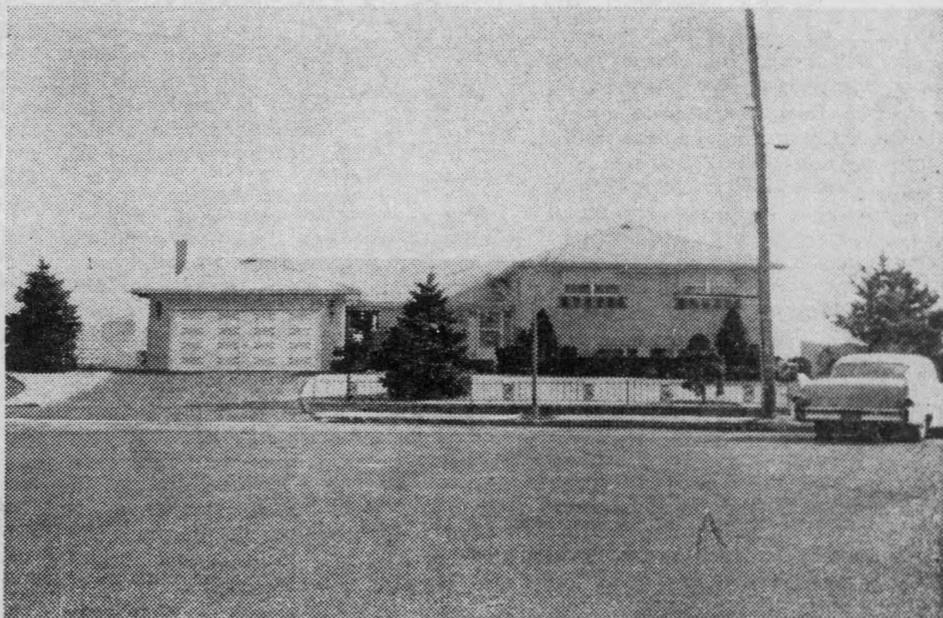
Until 1963, Vario was an unknown to the criminal intelligence agents of Long Island police. He lived in Brooklyn and confined his activities to New York City. Detectives of the Suffolk police and the district attorney's rackets squad then began receiving word that the underworld wanted to create a protected gambling establishment in Huntington. An undercover operation was launched, followed by a series of raids on chauffeur-serviced dice games. Although Vario was not arrested, he was considered the man behind the scenes.

In 1966, Vario again tried to expand to Suffolk and again an undercover agent, who was offered a bribe, exposed his attempts to establish protected bookmaking operations. Vario pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of bribery and was fined. In 1967, however, Norman Levy, chief of the Nassau district attorney's rackets squad, labeled Vario the boss of one of Long Island's largest bookmaking-policy rings, handling an estimated \$30,000,000 a year in gross bets through more than 300 controllers, runners, bookies and shylocks.

At Nassau District Attorney Cahn's direction, a grand jury began an investigation into organized crime, uncovering an intricate network of policy banks and bookmaking centers that reached from Nassau to Westchester. Since the investigation, Vario has rarely appeared at his Island Park home and two of his chief lieutenants, Stephen DePasquale and DePasquale's son, Anthony, have moved from their homes in Nassau.

What was true of Vario, is equally true of Bonanno mob lieutenant Michael (Mike Adams) Adamo, a 66-year-old "salesman" from North Massapequa, and his chief aide, soldier Michael Casale of North Massapequa. In 1963, Adamo was questioned by

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Home of Carlo Gambino on Club Drive in Massapequa



WHERE THE FAMILY LIVES. As they increase their operations on Long Island, Cosa Nostra hoodlums have moved into suburban homes like these. Carlo Gambino's home, at top, is at 34 Club Dr., Massapequa, and Pasquale Crapanzano's house, above, is at 182 Locustwood Blvd., Elmont. Both men belong to Dellacrocce "family" whose activities are told on Pages 6 and 7.

# For One LI Mob 'Family,'



Michael (Black Mike) Galgano



Gennaro (Jerry) Mancuso



Aniello Dellacroce

One of the major prerequisites for the successful infiltration and corruption of a legitimate business by the Cosa Nostra is labor racketeering, an art mastered by members of the Aniello Dellacroce crime family.

Today, of the family's 11 members and associates now living quietly in Long Island's suburbs, seven are actively engaged in labor activity in New York City either as union officials or as labor consultants. The others pursue the key moneymaking activities of organized crime: gambling, narcotics and loanshark rackets.

While the Dellacroce family's activities have for years been primarily centered in the New York City-New Jersey areas, intelligence agents of the Suffolk police and the Nassau district attorney's office have found increasing evidence of a gradual entrance into criminal enterprises on Long Island as well.

Until 1967, the Dellacroce family was directed by the diminutive, sly, soft-spoken Carlo (Don Carlo) Gambino, who seized control as boss in 1957 after the still unsolved murder of Albert (The Executioner) Anastasia.

In 1967, a year after he was one of 13 major mob figures discovered attending a "Little Apalachin" meeting at the LaStella Restaurant in Queens, Gambino decided on retirement and decided that his successor would be his chief moneymaker and corrupter, Aniello Dellacroce of Manhattan. Dellacroce, who holds a \$200-a-week job as a checker with a Newark soft drink firm, exerts major influence on New York's waterfront, which he once ran for Anastasia, and he is a power in a number of key teamsters locals. He also directs one of New York's major shylocking operations and keeps a profitable hand in policy and bookmaking activities from Brooklyn to Manhattan.

As acting boss, Dellacroce heads a crime family that has national influence, infiltrating business and labor units from New York to Florida. Gambino still guides and advises his protegee, however, while also directing the affairs of the still leaderless Thomas Luchese crime family. With the recent death of crime czar Vito Genovese, Gambino is considered by intelligence sources to be the man most likely to become the "capo di tutti capi" (boss of all bosses) of Cosa Nostra. Police note that he commands great respect among Cosa Nostra leaders. "There is no one else of his stature and influence around in Cosa Nostra now," one source said. Crime expert Ralph Salerno agrees. "He certainly has to be thought of as the top banana in the mob now," he said. "Ill or not, he'll have to take control if he wants to maintain Cosa Nostra peace."

The Dellacroce-family members and associates on Long Island include:

**James Amodia**—Family associate; 55, 277 Shelter Rock Rd., Roslyn. Activities: labor official. He is president of Local 875, Rug Cleaners, Dyers, Handlers, Drivers, Helpers and Production Workers of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Independent). The local, formerly controlled by Luchese lieutenant Antonio (Ducks) Corallo, has been the target of recent federal and police investigations. Arrested twice on robbery and counterfeiting charges, he served a 7½-15-year jail term for attempted robbery.

**Sebastian (Benny) Biondo**—Family associate; 35, 42 Argyle Dr., Shirley. Activities: suspected shylocking. He is the nephew of the late family underboss Joseph (Little Rabbit) Biondo, who died in Mastic. A self-styled night club

## Hoods Work Close to Home

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Cahn and found to be inactive on Long Island and working in New York.

In 1965, Suffolk intelligence agents found that Adamo was a central figure in a series of mob policy meetings held on Long Island and New York City to select a successor to Joseph Bonanno. When Gaspar DiGregorio, a quiet man who then lived behind neatly trimmed lawns in a modest West Babylon home, was selected, Adamo and Casale began branching out. Casale, whose interests included gambling and shylocking, was arrested on charges of gambling and attempting to bribe a police officer. The charges were dismissed. Then, last September, Suffolk gambling squad detectives raided the Bergen Hunting and Fishing Social Club in West Babylon. They said they found a hub of gambling activity, shylocking and mob meetings. Behind the club's operation was Casale as a director and Adamo, who police consider the hidden boss. The club is one of several operated in both counties by those two men.

Other hoodlums have moved their criminal activities from New York to Long Island. Here are some of them:

**Louis (Lou Curry) Arcuri**—Arcuri, 59, of Mineola, an associate Colombo member, was meeting with top loansharks in Nassau in 1964. By 1966, he was directing the operations of two safecrackers, later killed in a stakeout by police. In 1967, while living in Suffolk, he was singled out by restaurateurs, who said he approached them with a credit card "bustout" operation. He would supply stolen cards; the restaurateurs would write up phony bills; and they would all split the profits.

**Michael (Midge) Belvedere**—This 39-year-old Colombo associate from West Babylon was considered a major Queens bookie who lived luxuriously but quietly on Long Island. But in 1965, intelligence agents from Suffolk and Internal Revenue found that he had hidden interests in restaurants and bars in Syosset, Port Jefferson and West Babylon.

**Robert S. Falvo**—Falvo, 42, lives in a \$50,000 home in Jericho and is a Colombo soldier. Between 1951 and 1960, he was arrested for bookmaking and operating crap games in Brooklyn,

but in 1966 Treasury agents and Cahn found him in a new enterprise, owner-manager of the University Club in Jericho. Today, Falvo is considered by Cahn to be a bookmaker who works with both John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn and Vario.

**Angelo Garafalo**—Garafalo, 48, of Commack has been the owner-operator of the Royal Sanitation Co. and subsidiary firms for years, but it was not until 1965 that he became of major interest to police. Suffolk police intelligence found him to be the organizer and treasurer of the South Shore Social Club, formed with the help of mob elements. Then, in 1965, he and his brother, Vincent, of Wantagh, were arrested by the FBI and police on charges of receiving goods from a hijacked shipment and from the burglary of a St. James garment factory that had been emptied by shylocks linked to Carmine (The Snake) Persico, a Colombo lieutenant, of Hempstead.

Garafalo, a Colombo associate, has become an influential figure in the Suffolk Cartmen's Association, which has been under investigation by Southern District U.S. Attorney Robert Morgenthau for mob infiltration. He has been a central figure in claims by Suffolk garbagemen that he is behind territory takeovers, sugared gas tanks and beatings, but no arrests have resulted. He is also described by police as a suspect in an arson that burned down his wife's Ronkonkoma hair-dresser shop and for loanshark activities in Suffolk.

**Carmine (Charlie Wagons) Fatico**—This 48-year-old West Islip resident has been identified by Cahn as a soldier in the Vito Genovese family. His primary center of activity was Brooklyn until he noticed the fertile territory of Long Island. He was a prime suspect with his strongarm aid, Louis (Louie the Mole) Morra of Babylon, in the beating of a union official and in an attempt to take over the union local he headed. Last year, he was arrested by Cahn's rackets squad on a charge of plotting with fugitive Colombo soldier Frank (Spano) Sgro, formerly of Sayville, to murder an East Rockaway manufacturer who made the mistake of complaining about the theft of

\$185,000 worth of air conditioning equipment from his firm. The case is still pending.

There are many others, including such familiar Long Island racketeers as Luchese soldier John (Johnny Dio) Dioguardi of Point Lookout, who invaded the kosher meat trade and forced, through labor pressure, Long Island supermarkets to handle his product; or Franzese, who, though convicted of bank robbery, today remains a major gambling figure on Long Island while appealing his 50-year sentence. There's also Vincent (Jimmy) Giordano of Babylon, who is one of Long Island's major shylocks.

And they are but a few of the representatives of organized crime who are making Long Island their operating ground. They are causing growing concern to police. Last year, Barry asked for six additional men for his intelligence squad plus added men for his narcotics and gambling squads to combat the threat. "I could have used 30 more than I asked for," he said. The county board of supervisors, in an economy move, stripped the additions from his budget.

Last month, Cahn and Suffolk District Attorney Aspland announced that they were seeking added manpower. Both were aware of a three-month-long Newsday investigation of the underworld. Cahn received five of the 13 rackets squad men he sought. Aspland, whose rackets squad rarely investigated organized crime, asked for 17 men and got 12 because of what he termed the growth of organized crime in Suffolk.

Cahn explained that criminals once moved to the suburbs seeking "to assume the mantle of country squires." But, he added, "its the nature of the beast to be greedy and Nassau is a wealthy and tempting target." Barry added: "As the economics of the area and the population grows, so grows the opportunities for organized crime to rake in the profits. Make no mistake, they just don't live here, they're working here, too, and unless we get the manpower and the tools and the laws to deal with them, they are going to become more and more active here."

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