

# Luchese's Orphaned Minions

Here is the second of five stories on members of Cosa Nostra families who live and pursue their criminal activities on Long Island:

By Tom Renner

Few crime groups in the history of the Cosa Nostra had ever been as financially successful, internally peaceful and well organized as the Long Island crime family operated by the late Thomas (Three-Finger Brown) Luchese.

But in July, 1967, with Luchese's death, that picture changed dramatically.

Luchese, who lived in Lido Beach, guided his crime cartel for 20 years through gangland wars and investigations while establishing power bases in the garment industry, policy rackets and international narcotics smuggling. Federal experts estimated that in 1961 alone, dress firms in which he was listed as the owner or was the hidden owner produced 2,000,000 dresses and sales of \$12,000,000.

But the secret of Luchese's genius died with him. And today, largely through the efforts of the FBI, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Drug Abuse, U.S. Attorney Robert Morgenthau of the Southern District of New York, Suffolk police and Nassau District Attorney Cahn, the family is on the brink of disaster.

With 24 of its members and associates living on Long Island, the crime group is the target of grand jury investigations in Nassau, the Bronx and Manhattan. Its leadership is believed to be under the temporary control of the semi-retired Carlo Gambino, a member of the Cosa Nostra's commission, which directs the policies of the nation's 24 crime families. Its potential leaders are all in trouble, facing either jail as the result of convictions, parole restrictions or jury investigations.

Facing jail terms are such powerful Luchese figures as: Antonio (Tony Ducks) Corallo, a lieutenant convicted with former New York City Water Commissioner James Marcus in a kickback scheme; John (Johnny Dio) Dioguardi, a soldier sentenced to five years for bankruptcy fraud; Vincent John Rao, a consigliere (adviser) sentenced to five years for perjury; Ettore (Eddie) Coco, a lieutenant convicted in a homicide case and now on parole in Florida; Joseph (Joey Narrows) Laratro, a lieutenant awaiting trial in Suffolk on charges of possessing illegal electronic devices; Paul (the Veil) Vario, a soldier facing a Nassau grand jury investigation, and Carmine (Mr. Gibbs) Tramunti, a lieutenant, under investigation by Bronx and Nassau grand juries.

Despite its leadership problems, the Luchese crime family still is considered the biggest money-maker of New York's five crime families. Vario, for example, directs Long Island's largest policy-bookmaking ring. Dioguardi was accused by Cahn of using labor pressure on supermarkets to force them to handle his kosher meat products exclusively. The family is also a major power in the garment rackets, where its influence in Teamster locals enables it to obtain "sweetheart" union contracts for garment firms it controls while forcing labor problems on competitors from Florida to Long Island.

These are some of the family's leading figures:

**David Budin**—Family associate, 35; 365 W. Broadway, Cedarhurst. Activities: bookmaking layoff. He is a member of the largest layoff bookmaking operation in the U.S. (A layoff ring handles bets from bookmakers who have more bets than they can handle). The ring is controlled by Louisiana crime boss Carlos (Bayou) Marcello, gambling expert Gilbert Lee Beckley and, Anthony (Fat Tony) Salerno, a lieutenant of the late crime czar, Vito Genovese. Budin has been arrested on charges of bribery (twice), bookmaking (three times), and federal wagering tax law violation. He has been convicted twice for bribery and false registration at a motel (reduced from attempted bribery). He has served no jail time. He is awaiting trial in a Nassau bookmaking case.

**Daniel Capra**—Family associate, 58, 210 Bow Dr. East, Smithtown. Activities: policy, counterfeiting. He works for a Smithtown dress manufacturer and was subpoenaed before a Bronx grand jury investigating policy rackets. He was arrested on charges of vagrancy, counterfeiting and promoting gambling (policy), and he served a two and a half year sentence for counterfeiting. He is awaiting trial on charges of promoting gambling.

**Harry Davidoff**—Family associate, 51; 104 Hamilton Dr., Roslyn. Activities: policy, bookmaking, extortion, labor racketeering. A subordinate of soldier John Dioguardi, he is secretary-treasurer of Local 295, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Inde-



John (Johnny Dio) Dioguardi

UPI Telephoto



Harry Davidoff

AP Wirephoto

pendent) which was described by the Senate Investigations Commission as having a major role in labor rackets at Kennedy Airport. He was arrested on charges of burglary, assault, possessing a gun (twice), grand larceny (twice), robbery, attempted extortion, vagrancy, policy-bookmaking, conspiracy to extort (indeterminate jail term).

**Savino A. (Sam) Debendictus**—Family associate, 46; 49 Winter Lane, Hicksville. Activities: bookmaking, hijacking, vending machines. He is the owner of G&F Vending and Grand Vending of Hicksville. He has been arrested on charges of bookmaking, assault and robbery, grand larceny, felonious assault, forgery (three times), transporting stolen goods, interstate theft and possession of guns. He has convictions for bookmaking, interstate theft (18-month sentence), conspiracy to commit extortion, and forgery (twice).

**John (Johnny Dio) Dioguardi**—Family soldier, 54; 109 Freeport Ave., Point Lookout. Activities: labor racketeering, kosher meat rackets, bankruptcy fraud, extortion, strongarm and murder. Considered a potential successor to the late Luchese, he used strongarm methods to take over kosher meat firms and then pressured supermarkets into carrying the products of firms he controlled. He has been arrested on charges of coercion, assault, extortion (twice), tax law violation (twice), conspiracy to bribe (twice), obstruction of justice, vagrancy, and bankruptcy fraud. He has convictions for extortion (3-5 years); tax law violations (60 days), bribery (two one-year terms); conspiracy and bribery (15-30 years) and bankruptcy fraud (five years and \$10,000 fine, now free on appeal).

**Felice (Philly Black) Falco**—Family soldier, 62; 500 Washington Dr., Huntington. Activities: policy, shylocking. A policy rackets figure in New York under Corallo, he and brothers Philip and James, both soldiers, hid Corallo from Senate Rackets Committee investigators in Huntington and were active in Long Island vending machine rackets. His brothers now live in Florida. He lives primarily in Queens but still lists Huntington as his mailing address. He has been arrested on charges of rape, disorderly conduct, assault, vagrancy (twice), and policy (five times). He has convictions for policy (four times) and disorderly conduct (30 days jail).

**Michael Fiermonti**—Family associate, 72; 33 Hilltop Acres, Shinnecock Hills (summer) and 80-23 223rd St., Queens Village. Activities: bookmaking, garment industry. He is a major bookmaking figure in Queens and was a suspected gambler in Florida where he owned a car wash firm. He has been arrested on charges of bookmaking (six times), assault and conspiracy. He has been convicted of bookmaking five times.

**Michael Fiore**—Family associate, 54, 1 Field Pl., Hicksville. Activities: bookmaking, policy. He owns Rent-A-Rama, an auto rental firm in Great Neck. He has been arrested eight times: on charges of possession of a dangerous weapon (twice), burglary, bookmaking (four times), and assault. He has been convicted for possession of a weapon (19 months in a reformatory) and five times for bookmaking.

**Vincent (Jimmy Beans) Fooeri**—Family soldier, 49; 5 Printer Lane, Levittown. Activities: heroin, bookmaking, policy. He has been arrested on charges of selling heroin (twice), bookmaking (four times), and dice. He was convicted for conspiracy to sell heroin (a year and a day); attempted sale of heroin (18 months) and four times for bookmaking.

**Christopher (Tick) Furnari**—Family soldier, 42; 280 Lincoln Ave., Rockville Centre. Activities: hijacking, shylocking, bookmaking. At the height of the Gallo-Profaci gang wars in Brooklyn, he was found by police carrying a Bible that contained the photographs of the entire Gallo gang. He told police that he was planning to sell life insurance to the Gallos. He has been arrested as a wayward minor and on charges of assault and robbery, sodomy, assault and attempted rape and parole violations. He was convicted for being a wayward minor and for assault and robbery, sodomy, assault and attempted rape (15-30 years jail).

**Samuel Goldstein**—Family associate, 52; 57 Merry Lane, Jericho. Activities: extortion, labor racketeer, bookmaking. He was president of Local 239, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Independent) when he was charged with extortion in a drive to organize a Nassau auto parts firm. He has been arrested six times in Miami and New York on charges of unlawful entry, possession of gambling equipment (twice), bribery, extortion and bookmaking. He was convicted for unlawful entry, possession of gambling equipment (twice); bribery (two one-year terms) and extortion (suspended 3-5-year terms).

**Larry (The Fixer) Knohl**—Family associate, 61; 78 E. Beech St., Long Beach. Activities: embezzler, frauds, influence peddler. He owns 11 race horses in New Orleans, a resort farm in Nanuet, Rea Estates in Long Beach and a firm in Miami Beach. He has been arrested on charges of grand larceny (twice), embezzlement, making a false statement, tax evasion (twice), securities violation, criminally receiving, influencing witnesses. He was convicted for embezzlement (15-months sentence).

**Peter Kourakas**—Family associate, 45; 85 Mellow Lane, Jericho. Activities: heroin, policy, dice games. He has been arrested on charges of policy, grand larceny, sale of heroin, possession of heroin, and dice games (twice). He was convicted for policy, sale of heroin (four years), possession of heroin (2½-5 years).

**John J. (Joe Calabrese) Lagano**—Family soldier, 62; 62 Morewood Oaks, Port Washington. Activities: garment rackets. He was the secretary-treasurer of Braunell Ltd., a New York garment firm, when Luchese was vice president. He was also secretary of Monica Modes Inc., another firm in which Luchese was vice president. He has been convicted for the sale of heroin (a year and a day).

**Joseph (Joey Narrows) Laratro**—Family Lieuten-

# Carry on the Family Tradition



Steven Oddo



Joseph Laratro



Christopher Furnari



Antonio (Tony Ducks) Corallo, left, and Samuel Goldstein at a crime hearing.

ant, 52; 12 Bouton Rd., Lloyd Harbor. Activities: policy, shylocking, extortion. He recently sold his interest in LoBosco Scrap Metals Inc., one of whose owners was a member of the \$1,000 club of the Suffolk Republican Party. Laratro controls a gambling operation in Corona, Queens, with soldier Aniello Migliore. He has been arrested on charges of policy (5 times), bookmaking (three times), and possession of wiretap equipment. He was convicted of policy (4 times) and bookmaking (twice) but was never jailed.

**Peter Joseph Locascio**—Family soldier, 52; 218 Audley Ct., Copiague. Activities: hidden interests in Long Island construction firm and a restaurant. He has been arrested on charges of possession of untaxed liquor (twice), conspiracy, operating a still, possession of heroin and morphine, attempted forgery, and assault; convicted of conspiracy (two years), possession of heroin and morphine (four years).

**Sol (Crew Cut) Margolies**—Family associate, 36; 6111 Arbuckle Ave., Cedarhurst. Activities: bookmaking and policy. He is an important New York bookie and a central figure in the nationwide gambling lay-off ring of which Budin is a member. He has been arrested on charges of assault, bookmaking (seven times), conspiracy to make book, maintaining a gambling establishment, assault. He was convicted of bookmaking (twice) and maintaining a gambling establishment, but was never jailed. He is involved in a conspiracy case pending in Nassau.

**Aniello (Neil) Migliore**—Family soldier, 34; 2 Cyril Dr., Huntington Station. Activities: bookmaking, policy, extortion, shylocking. The right arm to

Laratro, he directs a bookmaking and policy operation in Corona that grosses \$15,000,000 a year. He was one of the youngest Cosa Nosa figures to attend the 1957 crime conclave at Apalachin, N.Y. He has been arrested on charges of bookmaking (four times), policy (three times), disorderly conduct, bribery and conspiracy. He was convicted for policy but never jailed. He is awaiting trial on policy charges in Suffolk.

**Steven Oddo**—Family associate, 59, 1970 Bay Blvd., Atlantic Beach. Activities: aide to policy-bookie ringleader Paul Vario Sr. The owner of the Oddo and Stephens Funeral Homes in Brooklyn, he permitted Vario to use his boat and home for gambling enterprises and has been subpoenaed before a Nassau grand jury investigating organized crime. He has one arrest and conviction for conspiracy but was never jailed.

**Antonio (Maro Antonio) Orlandino**—Family associate, 56; 2 Ferndale Dr., Hicksville. Activities: selling heroin. Described by federal agents as a key figure in a multi-million dollar heroin ring that operated in Nassau, he maintains his Hicksville address for mailing purposes while serving a 10-year prison sentence for the sale of heroin.

**Andimo (Tommy Noto) Pappadio**—Family soldier, 54; 121 Eva Dr., Lido Beach. Activities: garment rackets. He is treasurer of a Nassau garment firm and is a major figure in Luchese family garment firm operations. He has been arrested on charges of policy, vagrancy (twice), contempt of a grand jury, and heroin sale. He was convicted of policy, heroin sale (2 years and a day, later revoked by a pardon) and contempt (two years, now under appeal). He was

a partner with Thomas Luchese in Bal-Frank Blouse Co., New York, and is suspected of holding hidden interests in other garment firms.

**Cosmo Rosado**—Family associate, 38; 74 Leonard Dr., Massapequa. Activities: con man, labor official. Recently was jailed for a fourth 30-day term for contempt of a Nassau grand jury investigating a \$30,000,000-a-year book-policy ring controlled by Paul Vario Sr. In Tampa, Fla., he was known as a con artist and was nearly killed by a Cosa Nostra soldier whom, police said, Rosado had cheated by selling him barrels of frozen chicken which turned out to be more ice than chicken. He is president of Local 71, Transportation Terminal Interplant and Commissary Food Employees Union Welfare Fund at Kennedy Airport. He has been arrested on charges of passing fraudulent checks (5 times), assault, contempt (4 times), breaking and entering.

**Paul Vario Sr.**—Family soldier, 33; 132 Island Pkwy., Island Park. Activities: policy-bookmaking, bribery, strongarm, extortion, shylocking. He heads Long Island's largest policy-booking ring, grossing over \$30,000,000-a-year. He has hidden interests in Brooklyn and Long Island pizza parlors, restaurants, bars and a diner, and is co-owner of the Fontainebleau Florist of Brooklyn, a major supplier of floral displays for mob funerals. He has been arrested on charges of burglary (3 times), rape (3 times), grand larceny, operating an unregistered still, bribery, unlawful flight, failing to buy a tax stamp, bookmaking, and shylocking. He was convicted of rape (10-20 years), operating unregistered still (14 months) and bribery. Still pending are bookmaking charges in Nassau and shylocking charges in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.



Julius F. (Julie) Klein, left, and John (Sonny) Franzese arrived at an agreement under which Klein paid Franzese "rental" for part of a gambling territory worked by a third man.

## Even Outlaws Have Laws

When convict Julius F. (Julie) Klein decided to organize a bookmaking ring in Suffolk County, he learned quickly that even a hood needs mob approval to cash in on Long Island's gambling lode.

Klein's brush with the Cosa Nostra was described by a onetime member of his ring:

Klein, now serving a five-year jail term for misappropriation of funds and a major suspect in the murder of go-go dancer Irene Brandt, was an ambitious, brash, young hood with ideas of making money fast. "He decided to set up a bookmaking operation in Deer Park and North Babylon," the ring member said. "That's when he ran into trouble with (Felice) Vizzari (a soldier in the Joseph Colombo crime family), who had control of the territory."

The trouble, he explained, began with a threat from Vizzari to Klein. It was quickly followed by a plot by Vizzari to eliminate Klein. "He invited Julie to a meeting, only Julie was tipped off that Vizzari had set him up with a couple of guns. Julie didn't show." Another meeting was set up, but this time Klein sent his strongarm, Vito Perri of North Merrick. Vizzari also had sent a gunman, Pasquale Croce of Brooklyn, but when the

two men met for a showdown in Wyandanch no shots were exchanged.

Because of the trouble, complaints by Vizzari and the fact that Klein was not backed by mob interests, the ring member said, John (Sonny) Franzese, a lieutenant in the Colombo family, ordered a "sitdown" (meeting) between both sides in Freeport.

"Julie sits down with Sonny and Vizzari," the ring member said. "Sonny says the territory Julie's been working belongs to Vizzari. Then Sonny decides there's room for both of them. He says Julie can work the area, but he's got to pay rent, a percentage of his profits to Sonny. Vizzari complains, but Sonny told him not to worry, that all he was going to do was milk Julie. Sonny's smart. He's got it both ways now, collecting from Vizzari and Julie, and he doesn't do nothing."

There are times, however, when an "outlaw" (independent) moves into an area without mob connections. "When he starts working," the ring member said, "the mob guys start moving heavy in his area. If he comes out and says he's going to do something about it, they pick up a phone and all of a sudden he's got an army facing him. He gets the message real fast and either gets out or pays rent to operate."

—Renner

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*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

## The Beachhead

The Cosa Nostra has moved into Long Island. Now it must be moved out. Nassau and Suffolk cannot tolerate the presence of these hoodlums.

Every public official and every citizen of Long Island should read Newsday reporter Tom Renner's five-part series on this latest and most successful attempt by the mob to establish a beachhead on Long Island. Renner reports that there are now 120 Cosa Nostra figures living on Long Island. At least 35 of these are actively engaged in criminal activity in Nassau and Suffolk. They employ a small army of 1,400 lesser hoodlums.

No law enforcement official should rest, nor should the public permit him to rest, until this invasion is turned back. If the mob is allowed to put down roots on Long Island, it could rapidly taint Long Island's most important institutions. These gangsters are a menace to honest businessmen, to honest labor leaders, to honest politicians and to honest judges. Nassau and Suffolk law enforcement agencies must immediately be given the men and the equipment they need to either put these hoodlums behind bars or to make the Long Island environment so uncomfortable that they will be forced out of Nassau and Suffolk. The mob must go—Now!

## Striking a Balance

The nation's colleges are the citadels in which freedom of inquiry and advocacy should be zealously guarded. But they cannot be, and should not be, havens in which the laws of the land are void.

This is the point Daniel Bratton, dean of student affairs at Adelphi University, has made in his condemnation of marijuana and drug use on the Adelphi campus. The use of drugs at Adelphi has increased greatly, Dean Bratton asserted. He added that the college would both cooperate with the police and conduct its own inquiries to enforce the law.

Most importantly, this was a warning that came from an Adelphi official, not from a policeman or legislator. The law should be obeyed on college campuses as elsewhere. At the same time, college discipline is college business, and should be left in the hands of college officials. Police and politicians should not use drug enforcement problems as an excuse to interfere in campus affairs.

This seems to be the point John Toll, president of the State University at Stony Brook, is making in his response to



*"I'm legit now ... all I want is a business loan"*

the unusual memo from Suffolk police advising legislators on how to cope with student and faculty demonstrations. "The police are obviously outside their expertise," Dr. Toll commented. He is quite right.

## Oh No, Not Again!

The only thing that is worse than the service on the Long Island Rail Road is the state of its labor-management relations. There is a possibility that a dispute between the railroad and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen is going to produce a strike Monday. There is no excuse for a strike. This wrangling over job cutbacks has been building for eight months. A settlement should have been reached long ago. Neither side can justify clobbering the commuter with another shutdown of service.

## Holding the Line

Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea Jr. (R-Montauk) says Gov. Rockefeller has agreed not to cut current school aid by five per cent, as he originally suggested. Rockefeller says he has made no such deal. It's a \$60,000,000 misunderstanding; state school districts will lose that much if Rockefeller's proposed cuts are made.

If the governor does not have an agreement with legislative leaders to spare the school funds, he should have one. The schools are not the place to start wielding the budget ax.