

Colombo Gang Is Big-Time, but

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

By Tom Renner

With 37 known members and associates living and operating in Nassau and Suffolk, the Joseph Colombo family is by far the largest organized crime group on Long Island.

Since the ravages of internal gang wars of the early 1960s, the family has been rebuilt and reorganized by crime boss and real estate salesman Joseph Colombo. And while it may not be immediately apparent to the average Long Island homeowner, the Colombo crime group, more than any other, has probably affected his pocketbook.

If, for example, you were the owner of a Cadillac or other luxury car and it was stolen, and if your car theft insurance rate has jumped in recent years, the chances are that a Colombo crime figure, such as Carmine (The Snake) Persico of Hempstead, directed the ring that caused your problem. If your credit card was stolen and you received bills for charges you never incurred, blame the Colombo mob. If Christmas gifts or other merchandise were delayed at a local outlet store because of a hijacking, it was probably a Colombo associate who did the job. And the cost, in higher prices for the merchandise, was passed on to you.

There are other, more subtle, threats posed by the Colombo mob. Many of the major bookmaking rings and a small portion of Long Island's policy rackets are under the protective wing of Colombo, whose trusted lieutenants collect "taxes" on the profits. The great majority of loansharks in Nassau and Suffolk are Colombo-oriented. Because of it, Colombo crime figures now have infiltrated wholesale liquor organizations that supply many Long Island stores and bars, restaurants, diners, nightclubs, bakeries, hair dressers, meat markets, pizzerias and linen supply companies.

The chief directors of this Long Island activity are Colombo lieutenants John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn, Carmine Persico of Hempstead, Salvatore (Sally the Sheik) Mussachio of Wantagh, and Sebastiano (Buster) Aloï of Brooklyn. The family members and associates on Long Island include:

Benedetto (Benny) Aloï—Family soldier, 32; 135 Beech St., Floral Park. Activities: policy, shylocking. The son of lieutenant Sebastiano Aloï, he lists his business as a self-employed Brooklyn florist. He was identified in U.S. Senate hearings as one of two men behind the beating of a shylock victim. He has three arrests for forgery, policy and possessing stolen property; no convictions. The stolen property charge is pending.

Louis (Lou Curry) Arcuri—Family associate, 59; 124 Brown St., Mineola. Activities: credit card rackets, stolen securities, shylocking, hijacking. He was convicted of fur and meat hijackings, of being a member of a securities ring that cashed \$500,000 in stolen U.S. bonds, and was a principal figure in a Suffolk burglary-safecracking ring. He has also engaged in pushing hot credit cards for a percentage with Long Island restaurateurs. He has arrests for assault, robbery, possession of a gun, forgery, grand larceny, attempt to commit a crime, and burglary; convicted of robbery (two-three years), petty larceny (reduced from grand larceny), forgery (three years).

Anthony (The Gawk) Augello—Family soldier, 45; 294 Hendrickson Ave., Valley Stream. Activities: labor racketeering, shylocking, bookmaking. Augello is the ex-president of Local 88, Amalgamated Production Workers Union (Independent), a Franzese-controlled union. He operates a Brooklyn social club. He

has arrests for grand larceny, extortion and receiving stolen property; convicted of grand larceny, receiving stolen property (3½-5 years). The extortion charge is pending.

Salvatore Beldaio—Family associate, 44; 4 Jeffrey Lane, Lake Success. Activities: policy, bookmaking. He has arrests for rape, bookmaking, assault and policy (twice); convicted of bookmaking, assault, and policy (twice); never jailed.

Michael (The Silk Glove Kid) Belvedere—Family associate who may have been elevated to soldier, 39, 722 5th St., West Babylon. He is a Queens bookmaker who has expanded his operations to Suffolk. He is suspected of having hidden interest in three restaurants in Nassau and Suffolk and recently opened an office under the name Finer Line Home Improvements in Lindenhurst. He has arrests for rape, assault and robbery, forgery, attempted grand larceny, bookmaking (twice), possession of gambling records and hijacking; convicted of assault (reduced from rape), assault and robbery, forgery, attempted larceny (1½-2 years), possessing gambling records. The hijacking case is pending.

Arthur (Artie) Berk—Family associate, 38, 376 Cochran Place, Valley Stream. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking. Considered a shylock figure under the control of Franzese by District Attorney Cahn. He has one arrest and conviction for bookmaking, maintaining a gambling establishment and possession of gambling records; never jailed.

Nicholas Botta—Family soldier, 44; 1412 L. Street, Elmont. Activities: shylocking, gambling. In 1956 he was identified by waterfront commission as a principal in shylock ring run at the Port Washington plant of what was once Republic Aviation Co. He lists his business as a New York printing firm. He has arrests for possessing smuggled goods, bookmaking, maintaining a gambling establishment, and possessing a stolen car; convicted of bookmaking, never jailed. Car theft charge pending.

Frank Carione—Family associate, 38, 44 Bethany Dr., Commack. Activities: garbage industry. Carione is the president of the Suffolk Cartmen's Association. He is an associate of lieutenant Carmine Persico and family associates Andrew Russo, Vincent and Angelo Garafalo. He was questioned and released in connection with Suffolk bombing incidents involving two garbage firms. He operates Riteway Carting Co., of Terryville and was subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating garbage rackets, he has arrests for assault and abduction and rape; convicted of abduction (one year and \$300 fine).

Dennis Delmonte—Family soldier, 26, 67 Lakeview Ave., Lynbrook. Activity: bookmaking. He is employed by a Nassau catering firm that supplies sandwiches and coffee to factories. He has two arrests for grand larceny and bookmaking; sentenced as a youthful offender for grand larceny; the bookmaking charge is pending.

Robert (Bobby Green) Falvo—Family soldier, 42; 1 Livingston St., Jericho. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking, garment rackets. Holds ownership in Amsterdam, Holland, garment firm and was former owner of a Queens dress firm, a Hicksville lumber company and attempted to buy into several nightclubs. Runs floating dice games. He has arrests for bookmaking, dice, assault, tax stamp conspiracy and sale of untaxed alcohol; convicted of bookmaking, sale of untaxed liquor at private social club never jailed.

Paul F. (Pork Chop) Flammio—Family associ-



Newsday Photo by Joe Dombroski
Anthony Augello



Felice Vizzari

ate, 43; 189 Mark Tree Rd., Centereach. Activities: car theft, burglary, hijacking. A close friend of Franzese aides John (Irish) Matera and William (Buster) Crab, Flammio was accused by Suffolk district attorney's office of attempting to muscle in on a Port Jefferson restaurant. He has arrests for grand larceny (twice), assault and robbery, possessing a dangerous weapon, receiving a stolen car, possessing stolen property; convicted of robbery (7½-15 years).

Harry Raymond Fontana—Family lieutenant, 69; 65 Phipps Lane, Plainview. He is an inactive partner in a Huntington car sales company and is vice president of the Southport Terminals in Tampa, Fla. He solicits business for firm and in 1946 a former vice president of a maintenance company complained that Fontana had threatened his life if he did not sell the stock in his firm to Fontana. He meets frequently with boss Joseph Colombo. He has no known criminal record.

Anthony (The Frog) Frangipani—Family associate, 53; 24 Arrowhead Lane, East Setauket. Activities: shylocking, bookmaking, card games. He was the co-operator of a Deer Park social club that specialized in card games and shylocking. He was arrested for loan sharking in Suffolk and was convicted but not jailed.

John (Sonny) Franzese—Family lieutenant, 49; 47 Shrubhollow Rd., Roslyn. Activities: gambling, shylocking, business infiltration, labor racketeering, prostitution, murder, securities theft. Currently facing a 50-year jail term for bank robbery, he has hidden interests in bars, transportation companies, nightclubs, boxers, entertainers. Controls the largest group of bookmakers—estimated at more than 400—and loansharks on Long Island. Controls prostitutes in Manhattan. He has arrests for assault, rape, vagrancy, robbery, bank robbery, extortion, attempted extortion, disorderly conduct (thrice), bookmaking, murder, contempt of court; convicted of contempt of court, bank robbery (50 years under appeal).

Albert (Kid Blast) Gallo—Family soldier, 38; 3206 Hewlett Ave., Merrick. Activities: shylocking, extortion, bookmaking. He was the principal figure behind a scheme to extort fees from operators of an



Anthony Ricciardi



James V. Muce



Robert Falvo



Salvatore Mussachio

It Still Picks Your Pocketbook

illegal twin-double ticket cashing scheme at Roosevelt Raceway. Convicted of contempt of court (30-days), he is awaiting trial for **extortion** in Nassau. Gallo was recently the target of gunmen who missed.

Angelo (Fat Angelo) Garafalo—Family associate, 48, 337 Harned Rd., Commack. Activities: garbage **racketeering**, hijacking. Operates the Royal Sanitation Co. of Brentwood, controls other garbage firms and is an associate of lieutenant Carmine Persico. Received a bad conduct discharge from the U.S. Army. Is suspected of having hidden ownership in bars and has been a central figure in garbage industry troubles including: territory takeovers, sugared gas tanks, beatings and arson. He has arrests for carnal abuse of an 8-year-old girl, possessing stolen goods from a hijacking and receiving stolen property from a dress company burglary; convicted of all three charges, awaiting sentencing on federal charge of possession of hijacked goods.

Vincent Garafalo—Family associate, 43; 3653 Sarah Dr., Wantagh. Activities: garbage **racketeering**, hijacking. Brother of Angelo, he is a central figure in territory takeovers and threats to garbage operators. He operates the ABC Sanitation Co. of Wantagh, V. Garafalo Inc. of Brentwood and V&D Carting Inc. of Holbrook. He has arrests for possessing a gun, attempted grand larceny, vagrancy, burglary and possessing hijacked property; convicted of possession of a gun, petty larceny (reduced from grand larceny), and possession of hijacked property, never jailed. Awaiting sentencing on possession of hijacked property.

Vincent (Jimmy) Giordano—Family associate who may have been elevated to soldier, 66; 72 Nehring Ave., Babylon. Activity: shylocking. An aide of lieutenant Sebastian Aloi, Giordano has hidden ownership in diners, car-covering firms, meat stores, delicatessens, a dress company and real estate. He has arrests for assault and robbery, (twice), **extortion**, forgery (twice), vagrancy, driving intoxicated and violating liquor laws; convicted of violating liquor laws and driving intoxicated, never jailed.

Anthony S. Guidice—Family associate, 37; 1 Priscilla Lane, Terryville. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking, counterfeiting, pornography distribution. Closely allied with Colombo soldier Felice Vizzari, he operates a bookmaking ring controlled by lieutenant John **Franzese**. He has arrest for bookmaking, assault, possessing pornographic film and counterfeiting; awaiting trial on all but the assault charge, which was dismissed; never jailed.

Michael S. LaBarbara—Family associate, 54; 207 Pearl Ave., Holtsville. Activities: cigaret smuggling, shylocking, bookmaking. Closely allied with Gallo gang, he has been arrested by Suffolk and federal agents for loan sharking. He has arrests for burglary, possessing a gun, operating a still (10 times), shylocking (twice) and cigaret smuggling; convictions for possessing a gun, operating a still (eight convictions resulting in jail terms of 18 months; a year and a day; 18 months; 18 months; two years; three years, six months); both loanshark charges are pending.

Rocco Lauria—Family associate, 37; 567 Preston Rd., East Meadow. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking. Described by District Attorney Cahn as the coordinator for **Franzese** shylocking activities in Nassau. He has arrests for bookmaking, possessing bookmaking records (twice), and being absent without leave; convicted of bookmaking, and being AWOL (five years).

Ralph Lombardo—Family soldier, 38; 910 Bellmore Ave., Bellmore. Activity: shylocking. Considered an overseer for lieutenant Sebastian Aloi's enterprises on Long Island. Took Fifth Amendment in U.S. Senate hearings when questioned about shylocking and beating of victims. No known record of arrests.

Albert Maione—Family soldier, 46; 15 Boulevard Ave., West Islip. Activity: bookmaking. He is the nephew of the late Murder Inc. executioner, Happy Maione. He is closely allied with **Franzese** and Nicholas Botta. He has arrests for bookmaking (nine times), vagrancy and disorderly conduct; convicted of bookmaking (eight times), never jailed.

Louis (The Mole) Morra—Family associate, 43; 116 Glen Rd., North Babylon. Activities: strongarm, bookmaking and cards. He once worked for soldier Felice Vizzari in a bookmaking ring as an enforcer and was a suspect in the beating of a painter union president. He has arrests for assault (five times), burglary, possession of a gun, bookmaking, robbery, parole violation; convicted of unlawful entry (reduced

from burglary), possession of a gun, robbery (5-10 years), and bookmaking.

James Vincent Muce—Family soldier, 47; 1165 Palermo Ct., Franklin Square. Activities: garbage operator, hijacking. Recently became the manager of the Glen Oaks Nursing Home in Queens that also employs Joseph Colombo's son. He owns Jim's Sweeping Service the A&J Rubbish Removal Co. and Shore Sanitation Co., all of Franklin Square. He has arrests for assault and hijacking; convicted of hijacking (2½-years).

Albert Mugnolo—Family associate who may have attained soldier status, 35; 24 West Maple St., Valley Stream. Activities: bookmaking, strongarm, counterfeiting. He was once the chauffeur for boss Joseph Colombo. He and another man were convicted of counterfeiting after they hijacked counterfeiters and took \$100,000 in bogus bills. He has arrests for bookmaking (four times), disorderly conduct (twice), assault with a car, and possession of counterfeit money; convicted of bookmaking (thrice), disorderly conduct, and counterfeiting (eight years, now on parole until 1972).

Salvatore (Sally the Sheik) Mussachio—Family lieutenant, 62; 2947 Murdock Ave., Wantagh. Activities: shylocking, bookmaking. He was once underboss but lost status when Colombo took over as boss. He was one of five men kidnaped during Gallo-Profaci war by Gallo gang. Owns an Elmont bakery and fuel oil company, and hidden owner of bars. He has arrests for bookmaking (twice), vagrancy (seven times), conspiracy, possessing a gun, burglary, attempted **extortion**, unlawful entry, robbery (thrice), assault, disorderly conduct (thrice); convictions for unlawful entry, bookmaking, never jailed.

Salvatore (Sonny) Pepitone—Family associate, 44; 73 Bayard St., Lake Grove (summer), and 7309 12th Ave., Brooklyn. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking, prostitution. He was a key member of the old Gallo gang. He is suspected of having hidden interests in trucking firms, a Suffolk bar and Brooklyn bars and was described by a mob member as an importer of prostitutes for the Gallos. He has arrests for bookmaking, grand larceny, receiving stolen property, **extortion**, forgery, vagrancy (twice), disorderly conduct; convicted of bookmaking, never jailed.

Anthony Peraino—Family soldier, 53; 2156 Legion St., Bellmore. His father and uncle were murdered in a gangland struggle for power in the 1930s. He was ordered out of New York by the late crime boss Albert Anastasia, but returned after Anastasia's death. He is allied with garment racketeer and Luchese soldier Andimo Pappadio and crime boss Joseph Colombo. He has arrests for homicide, tax evasion, and disorderly conduct; no convictions, never jailed.

Carmine (The Snake) Persico—Family lieutenant, 35; 144 Sunset Dr., Hempstead. Activities: hijacking, credit cards, policy, car theft, murder, shylocking. He was once the executioner assigned to kill all Gallo gang members. He currently owns the Blue Mountain Riding Academy in Ulster County and has hidden ownership in bars, carpeting firms and automobile sale firms. He has arrests for murder, lottery, rape, policy (five times), conspiracy, hijacking, possession of a gun (twice), disorderly conduct (thrice), assault (four times), vagrancy (twice); convicted of lottery (three months), policy (twice), disorderly conduct, assault, hijacking (awaiting sentencing). And only yesterday he was arrested on a new charge, usury, for allegedly taking part in a multi-million-dollar loanshark scheme. (Story on Page 24.)

Vincent Rocco Prisco—Family associate, 44; 6 Jordan Ct., Dix Hills. Activity: policy. Involved in policy rackets in eastern Suffolk, particularly Riverhead. He has arrests for common gambling (twice), policy (seven times), operating a policy business (four times), disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and aiding in the sale of policy slips; convicted of common gambling (twice), policy (thrice), disorderly conduct, aiding in the sale of policy slips; never jailed but declared a habitual criminal in Suffolk.

Anthony (Kid Chocolate) Ricciardi—Family soldier, 52; 340 Howard Ave., Woodmere. Activities: bookmaking, policy. He is actively engaged in policy rackets and in arranging gambling junkets to Las Vegas for high rollers through his Air, Ship N Shore Travel Agency in Cedarhurst. He has arrests for assault and robbery (thrice) and vagrancy (twice); convicted of assault and robbery (15-30 years, on parole until 1977).

Andrew Russo—Family associate, 36; 37 Lincoln St., S. Farmingdale. Activities: garbage operator, credit card rackets. He is a cousin of lieutenant Carmine Persico and a close friend of soldier John Scimone and family associate Frank Carione. Owns A&S Carting Co. of Valley Stream. He has arrests for hijacking, disorderly conduct, possessing a stolen credit card, conservation law violation and assault; convicted of assault (30 days).

Dominick Santoro—Family associate, 49; 451 Fulton St., Hempstead. Activities: prostitution, shylocking. Santoro was formerly maitre d' at several major Nassau restaurants. He was involved in a federal investigation of a \$650,000 bank **fraud** case in Suffern, N.Y. He has arrests for soliciting for prostitution, attempted horse doping, and criminal solicitation; convicted for living off the proceeds of prostitution, never jailed. Remaining charges pending.

Joseph (Joe Ship) Schipani—Family soldier, 56; 94 Brookline St., Atlantic Beach. Activities: hidden interest in restaurant. He was known as the New York representative for deported lieutenant Joseph (Adonis) Doto. He has arrests for tax evasion (twice), assault and robbery and conspiracy to sell heroin; convicted of tax evasion (three years), assault and robbery (two-four years), conspiracy to sell heroin (two years) and tax evasion (sentenced three years in jail, later reversed for federal bugging).

Frank Tumillo—Family associate, 67; 3 Greentree Circle, Westbury. Activity: policy. Allied with soldier Dominick Ciaffone and lieutenant John **Franzese**. He has arrests for conspiracy, common gambling, disorderly conduct (twice); convicted for conspiracy and common gambler, never jailed.

Felice (Philly) Vizzari—Family soldier, 48; 132 Dodges Promenade, Copiague. Activities: bookmaking, shylocking. He was arrested as a major loanshark by the Suffolk district attorney and has been identified by a mob member as a bookmaker and social club operator. He has arrests for vehicular homicide, robbery, shylocking and bookmaking (twice); convicted of vehicular homicide (undetermined jail term), robbery (5-10 years), bookmaking (twice), shylocking (one year).

A picture in Wednesday's editions of Newsday was incorrectly identified as Ettore (Tony Russo) Zappi. The photograph that appeared actually was of Zappi's son, Anthony. Anthony Zappi's name did not appear in the accompanying story, which dealt with mob residence and activity on Long Island.



Angelo Garafalo



Albert Malone



Vincent Garafalo



Michael Belvedere