



UPI Photo

### Fighter Crash Kills Woman

Wreckage of an A-7D Air Force tactical fighter plane lies where it crashed yesterday on a Tucson street near the University of Arizona. One woman was killed when the plane struck a car and at least six other persons were injured. The pilot, who was trying to land the plane in an empty practice field after its engine went dead, ejected safely when only 200 feet from the ground. The plane, from nearby Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, narrowly missed buildings at the university and a junior high school.

# Mob Murder Plot: A Power Struggle?

By Tom Renner

Confirmed federal reports that three jailed Cosa Nostra leaders have been targeted for assassination raised the fear yesterday that a new struggle for control of New York's five crime families may be under way.

The assassination plot was revealed in a letter sent last week by the chief parole officer of the Seventh District of New York to the warden of the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Conn. Uncovered through a federal wiretap on an unidentified mob figure, the plot reportedly includes the planned slaying of Carmine (Lillo) Galante, 67, Carmine (the Snake) Persico, 45, and John (Sonny) Franzese, 59, while they are in federal prison.

Both police and federal intelligence sources said the assassination of any of the three men, considered to be among the most powerful Cosa Nostra figures in New York, would "almost certainly start the biggest mob bloodbath in decades." Those same sources, however, said that they had not been informed of the plot and that their mob informants had not reported any plan to take over the five families. Galante and Persico, metropolitan-area police sources said, reportedly had formed an alliance of the Joseph Bonanno and Joseph Colombo crime families against the Carlo Gambino crime family, now headed by Paul Castellano. They had also reportedly attempted to force Frank (Funzi) Tieri, described by police as the leader of the Vito Genovese crime family, to join forces with them.

Police noted that between January, 1974, and October, 1977, while Galante was free on parole, there were more than 130 mob-affiliated murders in the New York metropolitan area. Many of the murders were viewed as an attempt by Galante to assert himself over

Carlo Gambino as the dominant boss of New York's five families.

Police and federal sources said it is possible that the planned murders of Galante and Persico were designed to prevent them from seizing control of the crime families when they are released from prison. Franzese, police sources said, may have become a target because he is considered close to Persico and was expected to "settle a lot of old scores" when he was freed from prison Nov. 14.

The death threats cited in the letter sent Oct. 18 by the New York parole official, Morris Kuznesof, to Warden Raymond Nelson at Danbury warned Nelson that "information had been received from a highly reliable source that an attempt to murder Mr. Galante will be made at your institution." While neither Kuznesof nor Fiske would comment on the threat except to confirm the existence of the letter, federal sources said that the "reliable source" cited in the letter was a wiretap.

Persico, serving a 14-year term for hijacking, has been identified in congressional testimony as the acting boss of the Colombo crime family. Franzese is expected to become interim boss of the family until Persico is released. Both Persico and Franzese were identified as the men to whom federal prisoner assassins went to obtain sanctions to murder suspected federal witnesses in Atlanta Federal Prison.

U.S. Bureau of Prisons officials in Washington yesterday refused to comment on the threats or on the measures taken to protect the three men, but federal sources confirmed that all three men were under special guard at three federal prisons. Persico was transferred to Lewisburg, Pa., while enroute to Danbury from Atlanta, when authorities learned of the plot. Franzese is in solitary confinement at Atlanta and Galante is in protective custody at Danbury.

## Victims of Rare Disorder Taunted

By Sylvia Moreno

Brentwood—She was called *la loquita de la familia*, the crazy one of the family, by her father and his relatives every time they walked into the crowded five-bedroom apartment on East 28th Street in Manhattan.

She blinked continuously, jerked her head back and to the side and jabbed the air with flailing arms and hands. Her facial tics distorted her dark, pretty face, she made strange noises, and the family accused her of having *malas manias*—bad habits. She opened her mouth grotesquely and bared her teeth until her father hit her across the mouth and she bled. Marilyn Velez was 7 years old then, and she already had learned that the gestures she could not control had to be suppressed or hidden.

Marilyn, 17, wasn't diagnosed as suffering from the rare neurological disorder called Georges Gilles de la Tourette syndrome until she was 15 years old. Researchers believe it may be caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain, which does not affect intelligence. Marilyn knew she was bright (she went through elementary and junior high schools in the top classes), but she knew something was wrong. "I used to look around the room to make sure nobody was watching, then I'd make my moves. But I used to think, 'How can I be crazy if I do well in school?'"

In the worst cases, a sufferer of Tourette's syndrome screams, gasps and makes guttural noises similar to a dog's barking. Marilyn never barked, but did exhibit a symptom that about half of Tourette victims suffer: coprolalia, the uncontrollable uttering of obscenities.

"I used to say 'goddamit, goddamit, goddamit,' over and over again," she said. "My mother is very religious; she's very Catholic and I know that hurt her. But I couldn't help it." According to Dr. Arthur Friedhoff, Tourette victims have trouble with the brain's inhibitory process. "And these are the kinds of words that require the in-

hibitory process," said Friedhoff, director and professor of psychiatry at Millhauser Laboratories, New York University School of Medicine.

There is no known cure for Tourette's syndrome, but Marilyn, like other sufferers, controls most of her muscle, facial and verbal tics with the drug haloperidol.

Recently, the slim, dark-haired teenager sat in the Brentwood home of her new "parents," John and Marilyn Kelly, and wept as she re-

called her misunderstood past. Kelly is an elementary school teacher and his wife is a former psychiatric nurse. Of their five children, two suffer from Tourette's, and the Kellys say they're blessed to be able to take in Marilyn.

As Marilyn discussed her disorder, only the slight backward swaying of her head and some exaggerated stretching of her mouth and blinking gave her away. But when she spoke of her

—Continued on Page 26



Newsday Photo by John H. Cornell Jr.

Steven Kelly and Marilyn Velez on left and Richard Kelly on right with boys' mother, Marilyn Kelly