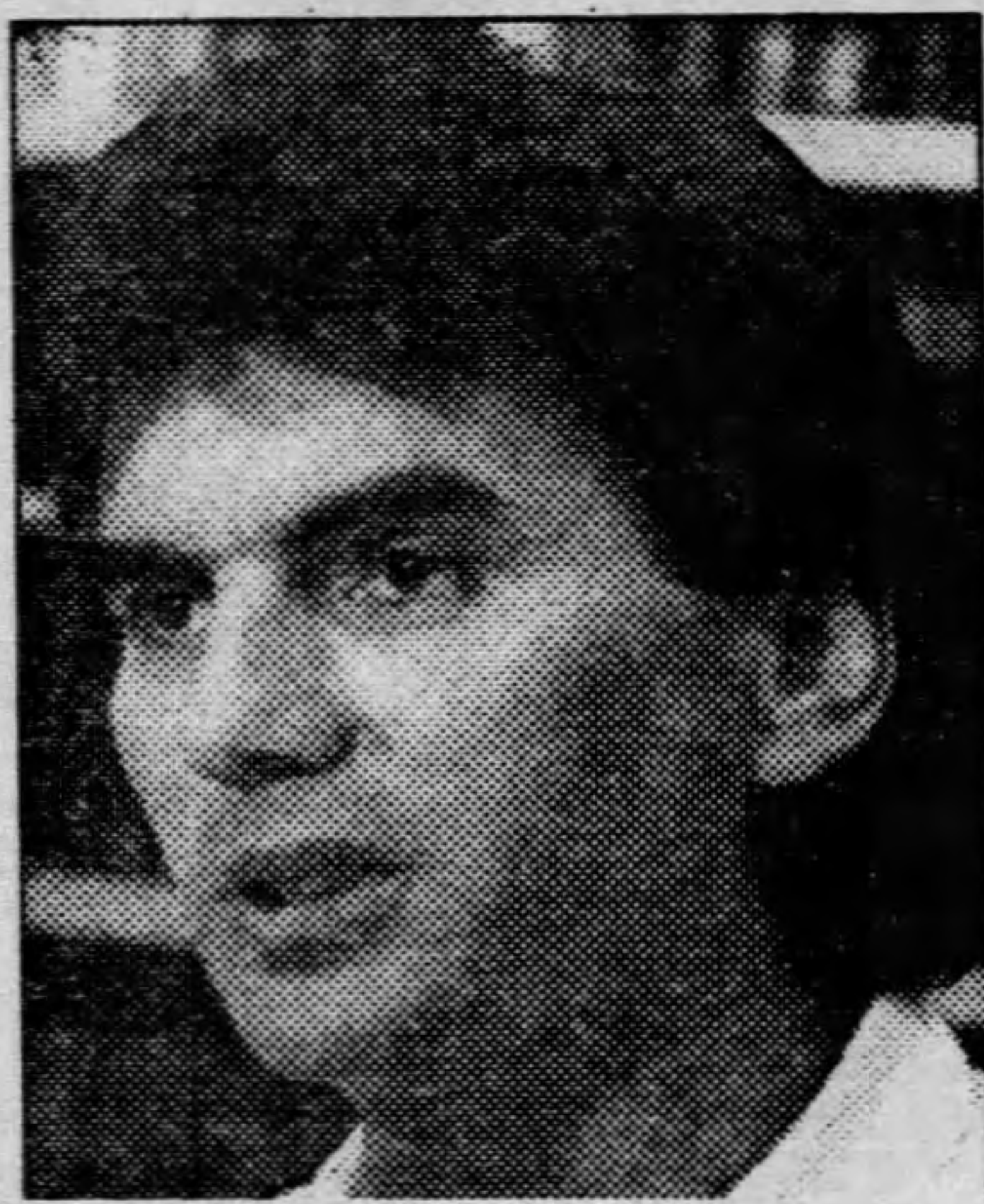


Hood gets hoodwinked

'Stepdad' was real father



John (Sonny) Franzese



Michael Franzese

By **JERRY CAPECI**

Daily News Staff Writer

Michael **Franzese**, the handsome Yuppie mobster turned informer, found out while writing his memoirs that his whole life was a lie.

Franzese, who gained his clout with mobsters as the stepson of feared *capo* John (Sonny) **Franzese**, recently learned that Sonny was actually his biological father.

The budding author, who said he worked harder than his brothers at being a mobster to impress the man he believed to be his stepfather, was devastated by the revelation his mother, Tina, made to co-author Dary Matera after he finished writing **Franzese's** story.

"My whole life would have been different," **Franzese** said, according to a five-page

Afterword of "Quitting the Mob," due out in February.

Franzese, 40, who faces up to five years in prison later this month for violating probation in California, won't be able to make the book tour.

"I wouldn't have been so afraid of losing my father if I knew he was really my father," explained **Franzese** in the book. "I wouldn't have had to try so hard to please him. Why did they put me under that kind of pressure?"

Matera, who wrote the book from **Franzese's** viewpoint, said he decided "not to redo the manuscript," adding that the revelation did not hurt the book since "it was the retelling of Michael's story from Michael's eyes."

"When I wrote the book, I knew he was a stepchild," said Matera. "To rewrite the history would have changed that."

Throughout his life, **Franzese** believed he was the biological son of reputed mobster Louis Grillo, whom his mother married in 1951 shortly before he was born.

In truth, according to Tina **Franzese's** account to Matera, after she made love with the married Sonny at age 16 and became pregnant, she seduced Grillo and convinced him he was the father.

Fast reshuffle

After her marriage, however, Sonny divorced his wife, married Tina and adopted Michael.

"Sonny wanted to tell him, but he left it up to me," Tina **Franzese** related in the book. "When I wanted to tell him, he was always too busy."

Michael was always treated as the son he really was and was loved by his brothers and sister, said Tina. "What difference did it make?" she asked.



MOB SHOOTING at McDonald Ave. and Avenue U left one man dead yesterday and another shot in the foot. He was taken to Coney Island Hospital.

KEN MURRAY

Mob soldier slain in Brooklyn

By **JERRY CAPECI** and **PATRICE O'SHAUGHNESSY**

Daily News Staff Writers

A 78-year-old Genovese crime family soldier was shot dead in Brooklyn yesterday, probably an unintended victim of intra-family feuding by the Colombo mob, law-enforcement sources said.

The primary target, a 38-year-old Colombo family associate allied with enemies of deposed boss Carmine (Junior) Persico, was wounded in the foot in the incident.

Police said two men fired about eight shots, hitting Gaetano Amato once in the chest and Joseph Tolino in the left foot as they left a storefront social club on McDonald Ave. in Gravesend at 10 a.m.

Escaped injury

A third man with the pair escaped injury by running back inside. Bullets shattered the windows of the

club, a Colombo hangout, and blood was spattered inside. Amato's hat — with a bullet hole in it — was on the ground.

Amato, of Cropsy Ave., described by police as a Genovese soldier, died 40 minutes later.

Law enforcement sources said Tolino, who is a nephew of a Colombo *capo*, was the target of the gunfire. He was reported in stable condition at Coney Island Hospital.

The Daily News reported Friday that the **Mafia's** Commission had replaced Persico with Victor (Little Vic) Orena, who has been acting boss of the turbulent crime family while Persico is in federal prison.

Started a feud

The appointment reportedly touched off a bloody feud between boosters of Orena and Persico, who wanted his son Alphonse to succeed him.

During the last three weeks, a Dyker Heights bookmaker and Persico ally was rubbed out, and another Persico supporter was shot at in his car.

On Friday, a reputed Persico associate riding in a car in Bath Beach was fired upon. He was not hit, but his companion was wounded and drove the car the wrong way on a one-way street, plowing into three pedestrians.

Arrested, charged

The reputed associate, Larry Sessa, 24, and his friend were arrested for weapons possession and reckless endangerment. Police are still looking for the men who shot at them.

Sources said yesterday's attack was apparently retribution, because Tolino's uncle, Nicholas (Nicky Black) Grancio, is allied with Orena.

Deputy Chief Emil Ciccotelli, head of Brooklyn detectives, said police were trying to determine whether all the recent shootings are connected.

It's stop 'n' go for rush riders

A series of delays yesterday took the "rush" out of the evening rush-hour for Queens-bound Flushing No. 7 line riders.

"We experienced four separate incidents from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.," said a transit spokesman.

At 4 p.m., a train broke down at the Main St. terminal in Flushing. Then a train got stuck at the Times Square end of the line. Soon afterwards, police removed a man at Grand Central who had threatened to jump from the platform.

Finally, at 6 p.m., mechanical difficulties briefly halted another train at the Bliss St. stop.

James Duddy