

Yuppie Don's hands may be bloody

Yuppie mobster Michael Franzese always insisted he was a special case who never took part in any mob killings.

The ironclad rule says would-be mob members must take part in a hit before they can become full-fledged mobsters, but Franzese presented himself as a slick, college-educated guy too smart to bloody his hands.

"My case was unique," Franzese wrote in his tell-all book, "Quitting the Mob." The clout of his father, Colombo capo John (Sonny) Franzese, spared him, he said, from the traditional blood ritual.

Investigators were never able to disprove that story — until Colombo capo Salvatore (Big Sal) Miciotta joined the FBI's team.

Now Miciotta has linked the Yuppie Don to two killings, and Franzese's scheduled August release from prison could be jeopardized if the feds don't look the other way.

And, because Franzese has embarrassed them royally since he started cooperating — he still owes the government most of \$14 million in promised restitution and, after an early release from prison, he was nabbed for stealing another quarter million and jugged again — they probably won't.

Though the agency appears to concede that Franzese was not personally the shooter in either case, FBI documents obtained by Gang Land do directly connect Franzese to two mob killings.

Early on the morning of March 23, 1978, Americus (Scotty) Scotese was shot repeatedly in the head and chest

near his home in Gravesend, Brooklyn. Police said Scotese, 48, who had an arrest record going back 30 years, was killed by three men armed with a shotgun and a .38-caliber revolver.

Colombo boss Carmine (Junior) Persico had ordered Scotese's death, according to the FBI documents, and wannabe mobsters Miciotta and Franzese were two of the four men as-

GANG LAND JERRY CAPECI



signed "to carry out the murder," Miciotta told the feds.

Miciotta admits firing the fatal shots, the documents say, but he says it was Franzese who arranged for the hit team's getaway in a rental Mercury.

Seven months later, as kids outside demanded treats on Halloween night, Franzese and Miciotta were rewarded at a Canarsie catering hall for their "work" — and inducted into the Colombo family, according to Miciotta.

During the ceremony, Franzese and Miciotta both agree, they promised to be on call for any killings deemed necessary by their Colombo bosses.

"It was the central theme of the evening — death, murder, and spilled blood," Franzese wrote in his book. "Any one of the men I was shaking hands with and kissing might one day be called upon to kill me. Or I might one day be called upon to kill him.

That's what struck me the most about the entire ceremony."

Five years later, Miciotta got one of those calls. This time, Persico was ordering the murder of mob associate Lawrence (Champagne Larry) Corrozza, whose stated offense, though Miciotta called it a "pretext," was that he was supplying Franzese's beautiful 19-year-old sister with cocaine and having an affair with her.

A week before the killing, Miciotta told feds, Franzese insisted that Corrozza had to be killed and that he wanted to do it himself.

Higher-ups demurred, however, and Miciotta was named the shooter, subsequently blowing Corrozza's brains out while sitting behind him in a parked car.

In his book, Franzese claims he learned of the murder plot and anguished long and hard about it because he and the victim "had been closer than brothers."

Franzese's story is that he confronted Corrozza about the drug use and the affair and warned him he was marked for death. The conversation occurred in a funeral parlor while Corrozza, a mortician, drained the blood from a young woman.

According to the book, Franzese said: "You're a dead man. You're no more alive than that girl on the table." Corrozza thanked him, Franzese wrote, and they embraced — and a few days later, as promised, Corrozza was indeed as dead as the girl on the table.

According to one FBI report, Franzese told agents in Chicago several years ago he was frankly a bit worried

that someday he might be linked to killings through racketeering charges.

"In his own mind, he felt that it could be construed that he possibly was involved in the authorizing of two murders," the report says.

It could be. And yesterday, officials of the FBI and Brooklyn U.S. attorney's office refused to discuss what their current thinking might be about prosecuting Franzese in the deaths of Scotese and Corrozza.

All that wining lands him free trip

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A message in a wine bottle tossed from a cruise ship off northern Japan took nearly six years to float 4,350 miles to Sibiu, a palm-fringed resort island off west Malaysia's east coast.

The message read, "Home before Christmas" and simply asked the bottle's finder to contact John Mutimer at 64 Macedon Road, Lower Templestowe, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3107.

Now, Mutimer is in for a surprise if he contacts the resort where a guest found the bottle. The Sea Gypsy Village on Sibiu Island has written Mutimer to offer him a free vacation, but it has not yet received a reply.

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