
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10224-10030

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 63-50-9

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM :
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 05/09/1956
PAGES : 12

SUBJECTS :
SMO, NCK, BKG, ASSOC, REL, B/F INT, CRIMINAL ACT,
GAMBLING ACT, POLIT ACT, ILLEGAL ACT

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 05/02/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : INC S/S

controlled and operated all gambling in six counties in western Pennsylvania. Sam Mannarino, New Kensington, Pennsylvania, was described as the "number three" man who ran a large race betting parlor on Barnes Street and the "Laetus Club," a gambling casino on 5th Avenue. This article alleged the gang took \$60,000,000 a year out of these six counties (Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington, Greene, Cambria, Allegheny). Mannarino reportedly had undisputed control of the numbers racket in these counties.

(62-75147-39-59-p.32; 62-75147-39-59, p. 106)

On June 1, 1951, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past stated local city officials at New Kensington, Pennsylvania, received regular payoffs from the Sam Mannarino mob to operate gambling, prostitution, and slot machines. (62-94466-2)

In 1952, a confidential source, a prostitute, advised that in western Pennsylvania Sam Mannarino was recognized as an important person and no outside racketeer would attempt to set up a new operation in the area of Westmoreland County without the approval of Mannarino as long as the latter's influence with local police, politicians, and judges was effective. According to this source Mannarino could request favors and do favors for persons in other parts of the country. (62-75147-39-80, p. 5)

During October, 1952, a confidential source who is a businessman in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, stated the Mannarino gang was experiencing difficulties in the New Kensington area because of a "double cross" by Mayor Raymond Gardlock and because of pressure by the Westmoreland Ministerial Association. (62-75147-39-85, pgs. 77 & 78)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1953 that Sam Mannarino and his brother, Gabriel Mannarino, also known as Kelly Mannarino, were operating a large dice and card game in Wilmerding, Pennsylvania, with the sanction of local police.

(PG 509-C2: 62-98784-47-p. 8)

In 1953, another confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that

Sam Mannarino and his wife, Rose, on June 7, 1953, took a \$30,000 mortgage with the First National Bank, New Kensington, Pennsylvania, the purpose of which was unknown. (62-98784-172, p. 14, PCI Arthur Henderson - Pgh Office)

In June, 1953, a confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that Sam Mannarino and his brother Gabriel remarked that there had not been extensive bookmaking or dice games in New Kensington since 1951. They related that at that time they had a "barbout" game in progress, which game was described as not being a regular feature but a "hit and run affair." The Mannarinos stated that they own and operate the New Ken Iron and Steel Company, New Kensington Novelty Company, and in addition, have been able to corner most of the cigarette vending machine business in the New Kensington area. They further stated that from these enterprises plus their real estate holdings they have sufficient income and do not need to engage in gambling on a regular basis in order to earn a livelihood. (62-98784-172, p. 14)

On August 4, 1953, a confidential source who was in a position to be well informed, stated the Mannarino brothers were operating a "barbout" game on the third floor of the Sons of Italy Lodge in New Kensington at that time. (62-75147-39-89, p. 83.)

On September 14, 1954, an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that Sam and Kelly Mannarino owned part interest in the "Club 30," Chester, West Virginia, where gambling is wide open.

(62-100852-3, p. 2; 62-75147-39-39, p. 71; 63-50-2, p. 3)
A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that Sam Mannarino stated in February, 1954, that he and Gabriel, his brother, were operating legally and in every enterprise they are in they could stand the scrutiny of any Federal investigative agency. He advised that he had sold his interests in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Miami, Florida. He made the statement that he was pleased with the city administration in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and stated, "No one in this city gets any appointment or anything unless we clear them." He did not deny that gambling was prevalent in New Kensington nor that it was controlled all or in part by his brother and himself.

(63-50-2)

In 1954, a confidential source who had served time in a Pennsylvania penal institution advised that gambling in New Kensington was flourishing under the leadership of the following men: Tom Pannas, manager of heavyweight prize fighter Ezzard Charles; Sam Mannarino; Gabriel Mannarino; and others. It was the opinion of this source that each of the above-named individuals netted \$43,000 in 1953 as his share of the gambling operations.

(62-75147-39-92, p. 60; Mike Zervos)

During December, 1954, a track official at the Saratoga Race Track, Saratoga Springs, New York, reported Sam Mannarino was present daily with numerous individuals reputed to be gamblers throughout the racing season.

(Race track detective Peter Booth; 62-75147-1-197, p. 21)

In January, 1955, an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised he had heard that Sam Mannarino borrowed \$40,000 from the Deposit Bank of Arnold, Arnold, Pennsylvania, and that he and his brother were to invest this money in real estate. This informant made available a clipping which he stated appeared in the "New Kensington Dispatch," a local newspaper dated either January 17 or 18, 1955, which reported that the New Kensington Sales and Rental Corporation, 1263 Third Avenue, New Kensington, Pennsylvania, was formed and approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The incorporators were listed as Sam Mannarino, Victor Carlucci, 201 Highland Avenue, and William Sams, 1017 Edgewood Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania. The corporation had been formed to deal in personal property of every name and nature, including stocks and securities of other corporations, to lend money, to sell, assign, and release such securities.

(PG-545-C; 63-50-2)

The informant also advised that Mayor Gardlock and Councilmen Krupa and Bordonardo of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, who reportedly were under the influence of Sam Mannarino, were planning to attend the inauguration of Governor-elect Leader. This informant stated that Mayor Gardlock entertained Governor Leader during the election campaign in New Kensington.

A confidential informant who is in a position to furnish reliable information advised that Jack Dragna, described as a notorious hoodlum from California, registered at the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 23, 1955, giving his address as 4757 Kensington Drive, San Diego, California. This informant advised that on April 29, 1955, Dragna sent a telegram which stated as follows: "Have room for two at Desert Inn under name of J. Baker. Have rooms for four Charlie B. Haven't been able to phone through. Send wire when you will arrive to Sam Mannarino, Room 115, Desert Inn. Bring Louis important."
(62-75147-44 Ser. 593) (PCI Dorothy Schweitzer)

This same informant on April 19, 1955, advised that Sam Mannarino, 1263 Third Avenue, New Kensington, Pennsylvania; Micael Giorano, 2115 Washington Avenue, Miami, Florida, and Lou Kahn, 112 W. 9th Street, Los Angeles, California; checked in at the Desert Inn and appeared to be acquainted with one another, and that the above telegram was sent to Mimi Tripoli, 7408 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California, proprietor of Mimi's Kitchen at that address and a known associate of Italian racketeers in the Los Angeles area.

(63-50-5; Dorothy Delo Schweitzer, telephone operator, Desert Inn)
A possibility exists that Charlie B. mentioned in the above telegram is Charlie Battaglia, FBI #4733808, an associate of Dragna, and that Louis may refer to Louis Tom Dragna, FBI #4677209, nephew of Dragna.

A confidential source, who was in a position to know the criminal activities in the Miami, Florida area, advised on July 5, 1955, that Micael Giorano, FBI #217633B, is an individual known as Nick Jerome who was active a few years ago in the management of Mother Kelly's, a former hoodlum hangout in Miami Beach and in the gambling casino of the Sans Souci Club, Havana, Cuba.

(Det. Sgt. Jerry Kedrierski, Miami Beach P.D.)
On May 29, 1955, a confidential source, who in the past has supplied both reliable and unreliable information, advised that the Mannarinos of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, backed the defeated candidate for constable in the First Ward, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in an attempt to gain a