

---

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10300-10087  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 62-75147-29-630

---

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : SAC, MM  
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
TITLE :  
DATE : 12/08/1955  
PAGES : 31  
SUBJECTS :  
NRO, ASSOC, CRIM ACT, MAFIA FAMILIES, MEETING  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 05/04/1998  
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE  
COMMENTS : INC RPT

TO: SAC, Miami (62-1273)  
FROM: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: G.I.F. MIAMI DIVISION

DATE: December 8, 1955

58745

Enclosed herewith are four copies of the Miami G.I.F. Semiannual Report for the period from June 1, 1955, to December 1, 1955.

An extra copy of this report is being furnished to the Bureau for transmittal via diplomatic pouch to the Legal Attache at Havana, Cuba. Our experience has shown that numerous hoodlums from the South Florida area regularly ply between Havana, Cuba and Miami and Tampa, Florida.

Three copies of the section pertaining to the Miami area were previously submitted to the Bureau by letter dated December 6, 1955. It is suggested that the Bureau may be desirous of destroying the three copies of the Miami section inasmuch as the instant G.I.F. reports are complete and contain the same material sent on December 6, 1955.

Enclosures - 4 ENCLOSURE 1 set 5718  
51 enc to Legat, Havana, Cuba OK  
12-19-55 JCH  
2 - Bureau  
1 - Miami (62-1273)

CJM:lc  
(3)  
Copy B carried  
as enc. behind file  
9-24-56  
copy A carried  
and incl. by E.C.

D.S. Rogers pp 110-112, 114, 115  
refs 142, 150, 152.

RECORDED - 5

62-75147-29-65

INDEXED-99  
EX-113

212-28 236/llh  
SEARCHED BY  
SERIALIZED BY  
INDEXED BY

612

12/23/55  
907  
JAN 10 1956

Copies A & B destroyed  
7/20/59 M.D.

MM 62-1273  
JIG:fjh

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE INTELLIGENCE FILE  
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
JUNE 1, 1955 TO DECEMBER 1, 1955

The following information was obtained during the course of regular investigation by Special Agents JOSEPH I. GREALY, DENNIS J. O'SHEA and BEN W. GRIGSBY:

A. ORGANIZED GANGS

Investigation and contacts with informants and sources of information have failed to give any indication that there are any organized gangs in Broward County at the present time.

On July 9, 1955, MM-322-C advised that JAKE LANSKY, Hollywood, Florida, had flown from Miami to Havana, Cuba, on July 8, 1955, to join his brother, MEYER LANSKY, FBI # 791783, L.A. who had proceeded to Cuba from New York City; PHIL KASTEL, of New Orleans; and other unidentified syndicate members from Las Vegas, Nevada. Informant stated that a meeting was currently being held at Havana whereby these members of the National Crime Syndicate were considering the purchase of a hotel or a gambling casino in Havana. *CSA*

On July 22, 1955, MM-551-PC advised that MEYER LANSKY had been in Havana, Cuba during the early part of July, 1955, for two reasons: (1) as a guest of the Cuban Government to discuss the possibility of his bringing the men into Cuba to operate gambling. He explained that BATISTA wanted American tourists in Havana and was concerned over the strong possibility that "bust-out operations" would keep the American trade away. (2) To look over the possibility of purchasing a hotel in the heart of Havana for the purposes of operating gambling therein. *CSA*

Informant stated that LANSKY had pointed out that it would be difficult to attract competent men away from Las Vegas,

MM 62-1273

because most of them had settled down there and were content to stay there. With regard to the second proposition, he stated that LANSKY might go into the purchase of a hotel if he could form a syndicate to put up the money to purchase same.

On November 8, 1955, MM-551-PC stated that the LANSKY brothers had still not made any deal whereby they would take over a hotel and operate a gambling casino in Havana, Cuba. He added that they were still discussing the possibility with a syndicate in New York City, but that no definite decision had been made to date.

B. INDIVIDUAL RACKETEERS AND MOBSTERS

It was noted that in contacting informants and their sources of information, it was repeatedly pointed out that individual racketeers and the mobsters for the most part were not in the area during the past six months in view of the fact that this is the off season for the Florida area.

~~JOE ADONIS~~  
~~FBI #590203~~

*F/A ITALY*

The "Miami Herald," under date of November 15, 1955, reported that JOE ADONIS had agreed to deport himself by January 1, 1956, and that in return for that move he would be allowed to avoid serving a prison term for perjury. It was pointed out that ADONIS intended to go to Italy.

~~CLAUDE HARLEY ANDERSON~~  
~~1309 N. E. 17th Avenue~~  
~~Fort Lauderdale, Florida~~  
~~FBI # 755095~~

*CLAUDE H. ANDERSON*

*CLAUDE ANDERSON*

ANDERSON continues to operate a bonding business in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Under date of October 18, 1955, the "Miami Herald" reported that Agents of the Treasury Department Alcohol Tax

MM 62-1273  
EHD:mbw

MM 572-C reports that ~~COO PROCTOR~~ and ~~BUBBLES DENNISON~~, local gamblers of long standing, are tied in with ~~LITTLE JOHNNIE WHALEN~~ in the operation of his bolita business. EIA.

MM 572-C reports that JACK BUTLER, mentioned above, is tied in with the TRAFFICANTE boys from Tampa, Florida; however, the exact nature of the tie-up is not known. The informant feels that possibly the TRAFFICANTES are bankrolling BUTLER in his operation.

MM 572-C reports that one EDDY PHILLIPS ~~GUEST~~, FBI #320853, a hustler, and gambler, is now residing at the RIVIERA HOTEL, Holly Hill, Florida. GUEST is reported to be sickly and is having a hard time existing. He is reportedly mooching off of JACK BUTLER.

Mrs. PAULINE SHEPARD, Daytona Beach Credit Bureau, reported that one ELZA LEE ~~MORGAN~~, FBI #2484916, is now residing at New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and is promoting stock car races CA at DeLand, Florida. MORGAN was released on parole from Atlanta Federal Penitentiary in October, 1954, after serving time for ITSMV.

#### C. POLITICAL TIE-UPS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME.

MM 572-C reports that RAYMOND V. ~~McNEMAR~~, Deputy Sheriff of Volusia County, Florida has recently approached several bolita sellers in the city "for a percentage or else," but he knows of no payoff to McNEMAR.

#### D. POLICE EFFICIENCY

HENRY LeROY ALLEN is Chief of Police, Daytona Beach, Florida, and he is reported to be having trouble with internal bickering among members of the department. Mayor FRANCIS MORRISON reported that ALLEN was on the verge of being ousted, but to date no positive action has been taken by the City Commission.

The Department now consists of fifty men, there having been several resignations recently due to low starting salaries. Lt. DALTON SMITH heads the Detective Bureau and the general reaction of the public is that the police are doing a relatively good job, but there is reported to be much room for improvement.

MM 62-1273

CJM:lc

Miami Beach, Florida, in partnership with MICKEY GRASSO, FBI # 1164523, a stick-up man from Chicago, Illinois.

SAMUEL "STRETCH" RUBIN  
FBI # 4736849 *F.I.*

He is a hoodlum from New York City who has been active in Cuba with SALVATORE GRANELLO, FBI # 2120006, and GEORGE LEVINE, FBI # 382915. RUBIN reportedly is LEVINE's bodyguard and has made numerous trips between Miami and Havana with LEVINE and/or GRANELLO.

IRVING KAPLOW *F.I.*

This bookmaker, originally from New York City, made several trips to Miami during the summer of 1955 in connection with the gambling charge which was outstanding against him for being active in the operation of a bookmaking establishment and "bust out" gambling casino at the Empress Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. He recently advised that the local authorities have dropped the charges against him and that he plans to go to Los Angeles, California, for the winter months, and hopes to book at the Santa Anita Racing Meet with a bookmaker from New York known as ARNOLD. ARNOLD was not further identified.

BENJAMIN S. WEISS,  
alias "Big Hearted Benny"  
Miami Beach PD # A-18853.

This individual resides at 5205 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida. He is a card cheater who is known as the largest operator of bingo games in the country; being particularly active in carnivals during the summer months. He has also operated bingo in Havana, Cuba, and, according to MM-501-C, is to operate bingo in New Jersey, where the Informant reported this game was recently legalized.

MM 62-1273  
CJM:lc

Lieutenant BRUCE SIMMONS and Detective Sergeant ARTHUR H. LEONARD (NA) have continued during the past six months to afford excellent cooperation to this office. Generally speaking, it appears that this Department has continued to improve in organization, discipline and morale. During the period covered by this report there has been no wide-open gambling and there has been a definite absence of open bookmaking and other forms of vice. Sneak gambling, such as betting on horses and sporting events, has continued, but no evidence has come to the attention of this office indicating that there is an organized pay off to the Police Department, or "okay" from the Police Department for the operation of such.

There has been the usual speculation that there will be sneak "bust out" gambling houses in operation on Miami Beach during the coming winter season, but as yet information has been non-specific and nothing has been learned which would be indicative of police venality in this matter..

The only data which has come to our attention which would make us skeptical of the integrity of Chief ROMEO J. SHEPARD was a report received in August, 1954, by the New York Office from its informant, NY-204-C, who has furnished reliable information in the past. This was to the effect that NY-204-C advised that he had become quite friendly with SALVATORE GRANELLO, FBI # 2120006. In the course of conversations with GRANELLO, this hoodlum mentioned various contacts he had in Miami and Miami Beach. The informant stated that GRANELLO particularly mentioned having a "big in" with Chief of Police SHEPARD at Miami Beach. According to the informant, GRANELLO stated that SHEPARD was the "bag man" in Miami Beach, and GRANELLO stated he had eaten dinner with Chief SHEPARD on a few occasions.

The informant furnished this information in connection with the investigation of the matter entitled, "CARMINE DI BIASE, was., - FUGITIVE, UFAP - MURDER." GRANELLO is reportedly the closest associate of this fugitive and is suspected of having harbored him.

*MA* *RT*

consisting of three or four unknown writers under NICK SAGONIAS out of Tarpon Springs. He said MACK ANDERSON has formerly headed up SAGONIAS outfit in St. Petersburg, but that he has been unable to establish to date whether or not such an organization does exist. It should be noted, as will be set forth later, SAGONIAS is due to enter Federal Prison any day.

Detective QUILLIGAN further advised that it is difficult to determine which writer is writing for which organization because there is indication that they are changing from one group to another fairly frequently. He said that some of the names furnished above have been convicted and served a few months time in the past year and are out again, some are waiting sentence, some are in but will be out shortly, however, all are known bolita writers and undoubtedly will be in operation from time to time in these groups.

MM-416-C has advised that to the best of his knowledge the following groups are operating bolita in the St. Petersburg-Pinellas County area. Group number one is the TRAFFICANTES. MM-416-C states that he believes the TRAFFICANTES are still operating through ANDREW WRIGHT, JOSEPH BRYANT and possibly ALFRED HILL POOLE, all of whom were convicted with the TRAFFICANTES early in 1955 and who have appeals pending in Supreme Court of Florida. This informant stated that he believes approximately 80% of the TRAFFICANTE peddlers who were operating at the time of the mass raids in May, 1954 are still peddling bolita.

Group number two is the FABIAN group. The informant states that he believes this group is operating in St. Petersburg with TONY and JERRY LOPEZ as their pick up men. He says that they have about ten writers in St. Petersburg, but that the peddlers are not being contacted directly. He was unable to furnish additional information regarding this group at this time. F/A.

Group number three; MM-416-C states that this is the NICK SAGONIAS group, however, NICK SAGONIAS is due to enter the Federal Correctional Institute, Tallahassee, Florida



MM 62-1273

any day now and that his old operation is being run in northern Pinellas County by a Greek bar operator in Clearwater, who is not otherwise known to the informant. This group, according to informant, had one pick up man in St. Petersburg and is handling their overlay through ~~JOE PLESCIA~~, operating from the ~~Sands Bar, Tampa.~~ *FIA*

The fourth group according to informant, MM-416-C, is operated by TONY "HALF PINT" ~~CAGNINA~~, nephew of RED ITALIANO, out of Tampa, Florida, who is acting as pick up man in St. Petersburg for some combination in Tampa. CAGNINA supposedly hangs around ~~Wolfe's Restaurant, St. Petersburg~~ *FIA* on Thursday or Friday night to make his pick ups. Further details of this operation are unknown to this informant, to date.

*N. Sanchez*  
On November 14, 1955 ~~GEORGE FABIAN~~, brother of ~~VIRGILIO FABIAN~~, one of Tampa's most notorious gamblers, was arrested at Tampa. In a search of his apartment evidence was seized showing a tie-up with bolita operations in St. Petersburg. This arrest was supposed to have been made as a result of a combined investigative effort of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. There were reportedly about 1,000 tickets which were lay over bets from the St. Petersburg area, indicating a large operation in St. Petersburg. *FIA*

Concerning FABIAN's arrest, Detective Sergeant HARRY DIETRICH of the St. Petersburg Police Department stated to the newspapers "FABIAN's organization is the largest threat we have here in St. Petersburg, second only to the TRAFFICANTES. The TRAFFICANTE gang grossed a million dollars yearly before their conviction in Pinellas County of lottery law violations."

PETE BENSE, PCI, advised that during the past several months the TRAFFICANTES had an operation in northern Pinellas which had been knocked off by the Sheriff's Office and that it was no longer active. He said that this was a very small operation and the knock off was in the form of a small arrest action.

MM 62-1273

GENUNG stated that GASPAR LA MOTT is operating a combination with MRS. JOHN IPPOLITO, wife of "STRAW HAT JOHNNY" IPPOLITO, who is now serving a sentence after conviction in United States District Court, Tampa, on a wagering stamp violation.

Chief Criminal Deputy GENUNG advised that with the break up of these three combinations there is little activity right now in Clearwater and northern Pinellas County area, but that he expects an immediate renewal any day.

GENUNG stated that early in 1955 the Sheriff's Office was using the technique of obtaining search warrants for moonshine to make bolita cases. He stated that this arose from moonshine activity on the part of bolita operators after the conviction of the TRAFFICANTES in Pinellas County in the spring of 1955 and the resultant decline in bolita sales. He stated that this was successful for a period but was changed after several arrests.

GENUNG advised that within the past month he has been contacted twice by PETE BENSE, bondsman, Clearwater, a PCI of this office, hinting that if a "local" man were operating the bolita there would be less criticism from the population and enforcement would be easier if arrangements could be made for regular arrests and fines be levied. GENUNG stated that he did not know BENSE's principal as he had clearly advised that nothing such as this plan would even be considered by Sheriff SID SAUNDERS or by himself, GENUNG.

As set forth earlier it should be recalled that PCI PETE BENSE advised that he had obtained \$300,000 at 2% interest to use in his business operations and also stated that he intended to back Justice of the Peace ED SILK in the approaching Sheriff's campaign. BENSE also made the statement that "what was good for PETE BENSE would have to be good for Pinellas County."

All violations indicated in this report have been referred to the proper authorities for investigative action.

such as doctors, lawyers, dentists and professional people will all go before the Grand Jury and state there is no Mafia with the purpose in mind that they all feel the Italian people are hurt by allegations of a Mafia.

It is specifically noted that hereinafter, information reported concerning any crimes or local situations have been reported to authorities having investigative jurisdiction.

A. ORGANIZED GANGS

The organized gang as reported in the GIFF for many years at Tampa, Florida consisting of SANTO TRAFFICANTE and his brothers, still continues.

*FLX*  
This organized gang actually consists of ANTHONY and FRANK ~~DIECIDUE~~, AUGUSTINE GUS ~~FRISCIA~~, FBI #689739, JOE MISTRETTA, FBI #1063305, JOE ~~PERRONE~~, FBI #487416B, JAMES C. LONGO, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office No. 53741, ANGELO BEDAMI, FBI #1849088 and SALVATORE ~~SCAGLIONE~~, FBI #355220B. *DIECIDUE*

This group, over the many years, has been alleged to operate bolita, numbers racket and to have been associated in a group commonly referred to as the Mafia.

The activity during this period for the above, namely concerns their allegations of being members of the Mafia and to have substantially backed NICK C. NUCCIO to the office of Mayor and the Italian group thereby would have controlled Tampa politics. The allegations were made that the head of this group is now SALVATORE SCAGLIONE, FBI #355220B, and this allegation was made by Lieutenant DANIEL ALVAREZ; the other head of this group is now ANGELO BEDAMI, FBI #1849088, whom it was alleged by ALVAREZ that the latter two are called "Mr." by the other Italians in this group, thereby giving them their position of respect in the Italian group. This latter information may be possibly true in that SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR. has moved his forces according to reliable confidential information received through CI HAV-11 at Havana, Cuba, wherein it has been reported that SANTO TRAFFICANTE was operating a numbers racket in the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore in Havana and that he has political backing there in the same manner as previously obtained in Tampa, in that a law has now been passed to allow the numbers to operate there. The Sevilla-Biltmore Hotel was owned by *CWBA*

MM 62-1273  
S.JL:mm:lc

*FIA* { resides in a home owned by Captain WALTER C. HEINRICH, NA, Vice Squad, Police Department. Testimony from SHADLETSKY, as noted above by the County Solicitor developed that SAM ~~HYMAN~~ <sup>FIA</sup> is his attorney and that he is allegedly in business with him in the "Bay Sales Corporation, Buddy Shad Sales," and that he is connected in this business, which is the alleged manufacture of doors, with SAM HYMAN and one FRED ~~HADDOCK~~ <sup>FIA</sup>. Spot surveillances of SHADLETSKY determined that he is closely associated with SALVATORE ~~ARMENA~~, with alias, FBI # 167160B; FREDDIE FINK, FBI # 280445; JOE PELUSA DIAZ, a local Tampa bolita peddler and hoodlum; and SALVATORE J. ~~LORENZO~~, FBI # 5136882, who is very closely associated in the SANTO TRAFFICANTE group, above. It is particularly noted that SHADLETSKY has a long record for narcotics and that ~~DANNY LEWIS~~, New York City PD # B-246389, has a conviction for narcotics, and it has been reliably reported that they are setting up in Havana, Cuba. It is noted that on telephone checks during this period that these individuals have numerous contacts all over the country, and that such individuals also have contacts with SALVATORE GRANELLO, FBI # 2120006, and his partner, GEORGE LEVINE, FBI # 382915, and that these individuals both have operated for many years in Havana, Cuba, and New York City, and are considered big-time hoodlums. It is also noted that at this time that in checking GRANELLO's telephone records, there are numerous calls to one SAM ~~KLEIN~~ in Tampa, Florida, and it is particularly noted at this time that SAM KLEIN is a brother of GEORGE KLEIN, former PCI, and SAM KLEIN has personally advised Special Agent STEPHEN J. LABADIE that he is without a doubt going to run for Sheriff of Hillsborough County in 1956. It is also personally reported by GEORGE ~~KLEIN~~ <sup>FIA</sup> to Special Agent LABADIE in the past, that he has been a close long-time friend with his brother of "STRETCH" RUBIN, who is a gambler in Havana, Cuba, and Miami, Florida, and who is closely associated with such individuals as JONAS BERNARD SCHATTEN, with alias, FBI # 130805B.

B. INDIVIDUAL RACKETEERS AND MOBSTERS

~~JOE BEDAMI~~  
FBI No. 82699A  
~~ANGELO BEDAMI~~  
FBI No. 1489088

*FIA* }

JOE BEDAMI is the son of ANGELO BEDAMI, and JOE BEDAMI is well known to Tampa law enforcement officers as an armed robber

	<u>PAGES</u>
KING, JAMES H. . . . .	75, 80, 81, 89, 90
KING, LOUIS LESTER . . . . .	159
KIRK, JOHN F. . . . .	160, 162
KITCHEN, ARNOLD. . . . .	32
KLEIN, GEORGE. . . . .	143
KLEIN, SAM. . . . .	143
KNIGHT, CECIL. . . . .	53, 54
KNOTH, REX . . . . .	162
KOLKER, IRVINE "COKIE" . . . . .	64, 87
KOUSTENIS, THEODORE. . . . .	145
KRUPP, A. B. . . . .	111, 128
KRUSE, LESLIE E. . . . .	158
KRUSE, LESTER (SEE LESLIE E. KRUSE)	

L

LACKEY, W. A. . . . .	128
LA MOTT, GASPA . . . . .	125, 126, 127
LANEY, MAURICE . . . . .	20
LANGDALE, E. J. . . . .	27, 28
LANSKY, JAKE . . . . .	3
LANSKY, MEYER. . . . .	3, 4
LATANO, JOE (SEE PATSY CATALANNO)	
LATTURE, J. E. . . . .	150
LAZZARA, AUGUSTINE PRIMO . . . . .	144
LE DUC, E. G. . . . .	111
LEE, ARCHIE M. "BIG" . . . . .	44, 46, 52
LEE, DOROTHY . . . . .	29, 31, 32
LEE, GENE. . . . .	5, 6, 8, 9, 14
LEE, RALPH H. . . . .	106, 110, 111, 125, 129
LELOW (SEE CARMINE GALANTE)	
LEONARD, ARTHUR H. . . . .	78
LEVINE, GEORGE . . . . .	74, 143
LEVITT, JULES. . . . .	57
LEWIS, DANIEL (DANNY). . . . .	73, 141, 142, 143
LEWIS, EMMA. . . . .	121
LEWIS, O. ALLEN. . . . .	49
LINDSEY, WILLIAM . . . . .	98, 101
"LITTLE NAPOLEON" (SEE WILLIAM BLATT)	
LOBIANCO, JOHN . . . . .	18
LONG, GEORGE . . . . .	32
LONGO, A. J. . . . .	157, 158, 161, 163, 165
LONGO, JAMES C. . . . .	140
LONGO, JAMES E. JIMMY . . . . .	146

## X.