

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10287-10396
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-6054-2091

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
68486 Date: 12-02-2022

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : VOEGE, ROBERT A.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
TITLE :
DATE : 08/31/1967
PAGES : 48
SUBJECTS :
LCN, ASSOC, BKG, CRIMINAL ACT, MEETING, SUR, CONSPR
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 11(a)
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/21/1999
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF IRS
COMMENTS : RPT, TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGES i-ii, INDEX PAGES 31-33

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE PITTSBURGH	OFFICE OF ORIGIN PITTSBURGH	DATE 8/31/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/27/66 - 8/25/67
TITLE OF CASE LA COSA NOSTRA PITTSBURGH DIVISION		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT A. VOEGE	TYPED BY alb
		CHARACTER OF CASE ANTI-RACKETEERING - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCE

Report of SA ROBERT A. VOEGE dated 5/31/66, at Pittsburgh.

- P* -

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth characterizations of informants utilized during this investigation.

TO NEW YORK

Enclosed for New York are two copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth characterizations of informants utilized during this investigation.

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 3-Bureau (92-6054) (Encl. 2) 1-Buffalo (92-337) (Info) 1-Cleveland (92-748) (Info) 2-New York (92-2341) (Encl. 2) 2-Pittsburgh (92-599)		92-6054-2091	REC-65
		16 SEP 6 1967	EX 101 EX-101 REC-12
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Agency		- A - <i>[Signature]</i>	
Request Recd.		STAT. SECT.	
Date Fwd.		COVER PAGE	
How Fwd.		<i>[Signature]</i>	
By			

55 NOV 2 1967

PG 92-599

LEADS

BUFFALO - INFORMATION

An information copy of this report is being furnished to the Buffalo Division because of information contained herein relating to JAMES SALAMONE and DOMINICK AUDITORI. Both individuals reside at Erie, Pa., and make frequent trips to the Buffalo, N. Y., area, where they are closely associated with organization members.

CLEVELAND - INFORMATION

An information copy of this report is being furnished to the Cleveland Division because of the ties between several Cleveland members of the organization and certain members of the Pittsburgh "family."

PITTSBURGH

AT PITTSBURGH, PA. (ALLEGHENY COUNTY)

1. Will follow and report the activities of those members determined to be actual leaders of the Pittsburgh "family" in accordance with Bureau instructions and will continue to develop sources of information in the vicinity of their legitimate enterprises, who will be able to furnish even more complete coverage of the financial interests of the group.
2. Will remain alert, through intensive informant coverage, to the extension of interest of the Pittsburgh "family" in the Chester, W. Va., area, where gambling enterprises are presently being supervised by JOSEPH PECORA, the organizational front-man.
3. Will closely follow the activities of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, characterized by member sources as the "Capo" of the Pittsburgh Burgata, in view of his contemplated retirement and the possibility that organizational violence may erupt as the result of the naming of his successor.
4. Will develop additional informants familiar with the operation of the Pittsburgh organization in an effort to effect further identification, leadership and membership in this area.

- B -

COVER PAGE

PG 92-599

INFORMANTS CONTACTED IN RELATION TO THIS REPORT

PG T-1, PG T-6, PG T-11 and PG T-14 are SF [REDACTED] C-TE, who has been contacted since November, 1965, by Special Agents of the San Francisco Division. C

PG T-2, PG T-3, PG T-7 and PG T-17 are PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III. C

PG T-4 is PCI [REDACTED] who was contacted by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON. A

PG T-5 and PG T-8 are PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON. C

PG T-9 is PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III. C

PG T-10 is PCI [REDACTED] who was contacted by SA CYRIL J. LAFFEY. A

PG T-12 is BU 82-C*, who was contacted by Special Agents of the Buffalo Division. C

PG T-13 is BU 280-C*, who was contacted by Special Agents of the Buffalo Division. C

PG T-15 is NY [REDACTED] C, who has been contacted by Special Agents of the New York Division. C

PG T-16 is PH 591-C*, who was contacted by Special Agents of the Philadelphia Division. C

PG T-18 is PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA JAMES B. FANNING. C

PG T-19 is PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON. C

PG T-20 is PCI [REDACTED] who was contacted by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON. A

PG T-21 is PG [REDACTED] PC, who was contacted by SA JAMES B. FANNING. C

- C -

COVER PAGE



PG 92-599

PG T-22 is PG 603-C-TE, who was contacted by SA JOHN S. HUGHES.

PG T-23 is PG 826-PC, who was contacted by SA EDWARD L. STEWART.

PG T-24 is PG 787-C-TE, who was contacted by SA HARRY WILLIAM CROON.

PG T-25 is PG 809-PC, who was contacted by SA ALBERT E. KLEBE, JR.

PG T-26 is PG 788-C-TE, who was contacted by SA ALBERT E. KLEBE, JR.

PG T-27 is PG 658-C, who was contacted by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON.

- D* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: ROBERT A. VOEGE
Date: 8/31/67
Office: PITTSBURGH, PA.

Field Office File #: 92-599
Bureau File #: 92-6054

Title: LA COSA NOSTRA
PITTSBURGH DIVISION

Character: ANTI-RACKETEERING - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis:

Specific revelations received from member source which establish the existence of La Cosa Nostra at Pittsburgh, Pa., as early as 1905, and general impressions as ceremonial participant reviewed. Organizational leadership and evaluation of hierarchy by criminal informants set out. SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA is the "Capo" of the Pittsburgh "family" and he utilizes MIKE GENOVESE as top lieutenant. GENOVESE is heir-apparent to LA ROCCA position, and LA ROCCA's pending retirement may trigger power struggle. SAMUEL MANNARINO, leader and identified "family" member, died of cancer following lengthy illness on 6/5/67, at New Kensington, Pa., residence. Known and suspected organization members presently under investigation by Pittsburgh Division listed. ANTONIO VRIPEPI has been identified as known member by member source, and he was involved in Baltimore, Md., shooting during 12/66. Other matters pertaining to membership reviewed. Criminal activities of La Cosa Nostra include marked influence on the Pittsburgh numbers scene, in the Altoona, Pa., rackets, and at Chester, W. Va., gambling establishments. Suspected member JOSEPH PECORA fronts for organization at numerous casinos in northern West Virginia, which appear to be immune to raids and attempted closings. Internal Revenue Service at Pittsburgh is conducting intensified investigations which relate to known and suspected organization members. Informants advise no known large-scale conspiratorial meetings held in Pittsburgh area. Miscellaneous information relating to Pittsburgh "family" and its interests reviewed.

- P* -

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page Number</u>
I. <u>EXISTENCE</u>	2-8
a. Organizational Background	2-6
b. General Observations Relating to the Initiation Ceremony	6-8
II. <u>ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP</u>	8-10
a. Actual Leaders in the Pittsburgh Division	8
b. Evaluation Obtained from Other Sources	9
c. Death of a Pittsburgh Leader and Identified Organization Member	9-10
III. <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	10-18
a. Organization Members Presently Being Investigated by the Pittsburgh Division as Office of Origin	10-11
b. Suspected Members of La Cosa Nostra Presently Being Investigated by the Pittsburgh Division as Office of Origin	11-12
c. Other Matters Pertaining to Membership	12-18
IV. <u>CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES</u>	18-28
a. Information Relating to the Influence of the Organization in the Pittsburgh Numbers Racket	18-22
b. Investigations Being Conducted by Other Federal Agencies which Relate to La Cosa Nostra	22-23
c. Information Relating to the Influence of the Organization in the Altoona, Pa., Area	23-24
d. Information relating to the Influence of the Organization at Chester, W. Va., Gambling Establishments	24-26
e. Other Matters Relating to Criminal Activities	27-28

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page Number</u>
V. <u>CONSPIRATORIAL ASPECTS</u>	28-29
VI. <u>MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PITTSBURGH "FAMILY" OF LA COSA NOSTRA</u>	29-30
a. Attendance of Pittsburghers at Wedding of JANET IMBURGIA and FRANK NANNICOLA, in Warren, Ohio	29
b. Possible Interest of Pittsburgh "Family" Member in Florida Race Tracks	29-30
c. Attendance at Wedding of GEORGIENNE MANNARINO and Dr. RUSSELL BUFALINO, Pittsburgh, Pa., November 5, 1966	30
VII. <u>INDEX</u>	31

PG 92-599

DETAILS:

I. EXISTENCE

Specific revelations relating to La Cosa Nostra have previously been brought to light by a former Pittsburgh, Pa., area native, which has established the existence of the organization in this vicinity without question.

a. Organizational Background

PG T-1, a member source, who was initiated at Pittsburgh, Pa., has advised that the Pittsburgh Burgata of La Cosa Nostra was organized in about 1905. Prior to that year, the organization was commonly referred to as the "Black Hand" and was in control of members called "Commurista," who were mostly Italians from Calabria, that area in southern Sicily located in the heel of the boot. He advised that the term "Burgata," which may also be "Borgata," is the term used to identify the "family" or group.

The aforementioned informant advised that he was present at a Pittsburgh initiation ceremony during 1927, at which time the Capo of the Pittsburgh group was STEVE MONASTERA. The Sotto Capo was (FNU) LANDOLINA. He said that the term "Capo" is simply a term meaning "boss" or leader, and that "Sotto Capo" is the title given to the person who is his assistant in command of a Burgata.

PG T-2, another member source, was questioned specifically about his knowledge of the background of La Cosa Nostra. He stated that he had heard stories about STEVE MONASTERA, who was Capo of the Pittsburgh Burgata during the latter 1920's, but recalled only that he had been gunned down as he was emerging from a Pittsburgh area hospital. When this informant was asked if he recalled anything about PEPINO SIRACUSA, who succeeded MONASTERA as Capo, he indicated that he recalled only that SIRACUSA had been killed in the bathroom of his home, which was located in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh. He advised further that the tenures of the aforementioned individuals were "before my time."

PG T-3, another member source, characterized SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA as a "peace-loving homebody." He stated that LA ROCCA will never be observed at night clubs

and rarely will be at sporting events, but that when he does go to such places, he will never be seen in the company of "any of our guys." He further advised as follows:

There was considerable "muscle" used by "us" in Pittsburgh in the 1920's and 1930's. "We" regularly forced gamblers and club operators to take "us" in as partners in spite of any objections, and anyone who resisted too much would have his property damaged and his "head broken" repeatedly until he accepted "our man" as his partner. Most of the time, "we" bought our way in by paying the gambler or club operator one-half of what "we" decided was a fair price for his total investment, but on occasions, "we" took a one-half partnership without laying out any money at all. JOE ROSA and SAM MANNARINO used to travel everywhere together on such assignments during that period.

When the "Jewish gamblers" would see MANNARINO and ROSA walking down the street together, they all disappeared as though hiding from the plague. It is recalled that in about the late 1930's, two men opened a craps room in a store front on Frankstown Avenue, near Paulson Avenue. One day MANNARINO and ROSA walked into the joint and informed the proprietors that as of that day they were fifty percent partners. When the proprietors absolutely and profanely rejected this idea, ROSA and MANNARINO drew revolvers. While MANNARINO guarded the door, ROSA lined the two operators and five patrons up with their backs to him and their faces to the wall. MANNARINO and ROSA kept laughing and talking about how they were going to have their own smaller Pittsburgh version of the notorious St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago. After a very few minutes of tormenting the seven men against the wall in this fashion, the two operators broke completely and pleaded to be allowed to share their gambling profits.

According to this informant, in approximately 1942, LA ROCCA came on the scene and peace came to the Pittsburgh rackets. He was well liked by all of the racketeers and was completely respected by everyone whom he met. He quickly established the axiom that negotiation would be utilized in place of assassination and he commenced a policy of endeavoring to patch up disputes and grievances by discussion and conciliation. If a member was in violation of any of the definitely forbidden acts of the group or was

intractable in relation to a lesser matter, LA ROCCA would not hesitate to authorize a "hit."

The idea held by LA ROCCA that greater mutual benefit and profit could result by peaceful arbitration gradually proved its soundness to other racketeers in the Pittsburgh area and the result is that there have been fewer "mob killings" in the Pittsburgh district than in any other city of comparable population. Another result came about because of this new LA ROCCA thinking. All of the members of La Cosa Nostra in the Pittsburgh area became "workers." The old policy of having stooges and outsiders control the operation of a gambling establishment while the leader sat back and merely shared in the profits was abandoned. No longer would the leader pick up his business with a staff of "muscle men," but these muscle men became actively engaged in the administration of the numerous gambling establishments themselves.

This informant stated that when he was a young man, "in my early 20's," GIOVANNI BAZZANO was very fond of him and frequently used him as a chauffeur. When BAZZANO was killed by numerous ice pick stabs in New York City, however, everyone knew he had it coming and felt no pity for him. BAZZANO is buried in a cemetery in the New Kensington, Pa., area, according to this informant.

PG T-4 advised that in the late 1920's and early 1930's, the two top groups in the Mafia in the Pittsburgh area were headed by JOHN CANCELLIERI (deceased) of the North Side, and the VOLPE brothers of Wilmerding, Pa., headed by JOHNNY VOLPE (deceased), also known as "Prince Johnny." He stated that JOHNNY VOLPE was shot down in July, 1932, on Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, with his brothers, JIMMY and ARTHUR. LOUIS VOLPE and JOE VOLPE are the younger surviving brothers. JOHN CANCELLIERI died about 1965, and left his Rosa Villa Restaurant at Sandusky and East General Robinson Streets to his grandsons, JOHN and SAM. The father of these two boys, SAM, died in 1947, and was an active Mafia man. The informant was not certain of the sons' affiliation with La Cosa Nostra but knows that meetings are held at the Rosa Villa Restaurant between LA ROCCA, the MANNARINOS and TONY RIPEPI periodically.

He advised that in 1957, he made a visit to Italy and learned that the Mafia members around Florence and Milan all claim to be Sicilians, even if they are Italian born. He advised further that there was a gangland murder in the

