

# Attempted Gallo Killing Linked To War Over Brooklyn Rackets

An underworld feud involving a slaying and the kidnapping of three men led to the attempted murder last month of Lawrence Gallo, Brooklyn hoodlum, the police disclosed yesterday.

Assistant Chief Inspector Raymond V. Martin said the feud was between established underworld powers and the three Gallo brothers, Joseph, Lawrence and Albert. It began, he said, in June, 1960, following the murder of a syndicate thug, Vincent Graffeo.

The Gallos and their accom-

plices have for several years sought, with some success, to share in the proceeds of rackets in Brooklyn, particularly in gambling and vending machines, Chief Martin said.

In March, 1961, he went on, the Gallos were marked for murder. They replied, Chief Martin said, by kidnapping three syndicate members. At the same time two Brooklyn rackets chiefs, Joseph Profaci and John (Bath Beach) Oddo, quickly left the city—Profaci for a hospital and Oddo for Florida.

Crime overlords from throughout the country met in the metropolitan area soon after the kidnapping, according to Chief Martin. They agreed to a truce with the Gallos if the three kidnapped men, whose identity was not disclosed by the police, were released unharmed. The three were released.

The Gallos have been under "practically twenty-four-hour-a-day surveillance" since the Graffeo slaying, Chief Martin said, but he supplied no details of the resumption of the feud, which led to the attempted garrotting of Lawrence Gallo in a Brooklyn cafe.

A patrolman was shot in the face when he entered the cafe, which was not open for business, as Gallo was being strangled. Giovanni (Joseph) Scimone, one of two men indicted in the shooting, was identified yesterday as a chauffeur and bodyguard for Profaci. Charles Clemenza, owner of the bar, called the Sahara Restaurant, 1201 Utica Avenue, was described as a friend of Profaci's.

See  
20  
Value  
Packed  
Pages!

**STERN'S  
HOUSEWARE'S  
FAIR & SALE**

**SECTION 11  
of this Issue**

*The New York Times*

Published: September 3, 1961  
Copyright © The New York Times

# 13 IN GALLO GANG ARRESTED IN RAID

## Police Act to Curb Warfare for Control of Rackets

The Brooklyn police rounded up thirteen members of the Gallo gang yesterday in an attempt to end the warfare between underworld factions fighting for the control of rackets in the borough.

Most of the gang members, including their leader, Lawrence Gallo, were found asleep in a second-floor apartment over the Direct Vending Machine Company at 51 President Street, Brooklyn.

Next door at 49 President Street, several others were seized. Joseph Gallo, a younger brother of Lawrence, was arrested in a Greenwich Village restaurant. The vending machine company is controlled by the Gallos.

The raids were conducted by detectives headed by Assistant Chief Inspector Raymond V. Martin after a search warrant had been signed by Kings County Judge Hyman Barshay.

Before taking the gang members to the Bergen Street Station for questioning, the police found a .22-caliber rifle and a shotgun at 51 President Street. In the adjoining apartment, the detectives picked up two more rifles.

The gang members were questioned for hours by Inspector Martin and Assistant District Attorney Aaron E. Koota.

Then they were arraigned last night before Judge Barshay, who ordered all thirteen held in \$25,000 bail as material witnesses, to be questioned by a grand jury today.

"It is quite obvious to the court," the judge told them, "that this is an incipient gang war, either for supremacy or for revenge. As a result, one

gang member was killed and an attempt was made to assassinate another."

District Attorney Edward S. Silver said they were being held as material witnesses because the possession of rifles did not violate the Sullivan Law and because the police were still trying to solve the attempted strangling of Larry Gallo on Aug. 20. Two men have been indicted.

Mr. Silver said the police also were without clues in the murder of Joseph Magnasco, who was killed by an unidentified gunman in front of a Brooklyn restaurant a week ago. Magnasco was described as a member of the Gallo gang.

"It seems quite clear that the Gallo gang has been herding together for safety in fear of execution by a rival mob," Mr. Silver said.

The police believe the gangland violence stems from the Gallos' desire to move in on the lucrative rackets controlled by the older and entrenched syndicate organization.

Besides the Gallo brothers,

the other gang members seized were:

Anthony Abbatemarco, 39 years old, of 527 Second Street; John Catrone, 41, of 1223 Elm Avenue; Anthony Garguilo, 24, of 78 President Street; Frank Illiano, 33, of 8 First Place; Alfonso Serrantino, 28, of 51 President Street, and Leonard Dello, 35, of 504 Third Street, all of Brooklyn.

Also Vincent Regina, 31, of 262 Fourth Avenue; Salvatore Mangianelli, 32, of 1453 Sixty-first Street; Joseph Carna, 21, of 51 President Street; his 30-year-old brother, Larry, of 2085 East Fourth Street, all Brooklyn, and Vincent Gugliari, 33, of Brightwater, L. I.

In another development yesterday, Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy assigned Deputy Chief Inspector John F. Stanley to head the Central Investigation Bureau. He replaces August W. Harms, who will transfer to the Detective Bureau in the Bronx.

Inspector Shanley's bureau will concentrate on racketeers and organized crime.

# GALLO, AT COURT, DENIES GANG WAR

He Says Police Harass 13  
Seized in Brooklyn

By JAMES P. McCAFFREY

Joseph Gallo, one of the thirteen gangsters rounded up by Brooklyn detectives on Tuesday, denied yesterday that the gang had declared war on a rival faction in the Brooklyn underworld.

The 32-year-old ex-convict, known to fellow gangsters as "Crazy Joey," accused the police of "harassing us" in their investigation of the attempted garroting of his 33-year-old brother Lawrence and the unsolved murder of Joseph Magnasco, a member of the Gallo gang.

Joseph Gallo made the charge in the corridor of the Brooklyn Supreme Court, where he and the twelve gang members had been brought to testify before the rackets grand jury.

The Gallo gang had been seized by detectives after Kings County Judge Hyman Barshay had signed a search warrant for raids. Rifles were found in the raids. The gang members were held as material witnesses.

## Unable to Post Bail

They were taken yesterday from the Civil Prison, 434 West Thirty-seventh Street, Manhattan, to the court because they had been unable to post \$25,000 bail each when arraigned Tuesday night.

"These guns have been there for years," Joseph Gallo shouted to newspaper reporters. "The

police knew it. This is an election year. Everybody wants to get into the act. We use the guns for hunting deer."

Gallo denied that one rifle was loaded with "dum-dum" bullets. His lawyer, David F. Price, tried to silence him.

"You let me say what I want to say," Gallo said. "I want the reporters to get the right story—the police are harassing us."

Then turning to Walter Buchbinder, chief investigator of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, Gallo yelled:

"Hey, Walter, you know damn well we know nothing about that murder. Gang war! You made up a big story about gang war. There's no gang war—there's nothing. You guys are making up something out of nothing. I want to tell the truth."

## Immunity Is Sought

The gang members were herded into an anteroom while District Attorney Edward S. Silver and an assistant, Aaron E. Koota, went before the grand jury. Assistant Chief Inspector Raymond V. Martin, in charge of the police investigation, testified before the panel.

Mr. Price advised the Gallos and their associates not to testify before the jury unless granted immunity from prosecution. Both Joseph and Lawrence Gallo were denied the offer.

Three of Gallo associates received immunity and appeared before the jury. They were Frank Illiano, 33, of 8 First Place; Leonard Dello, 35, of 504 Third Street, and Vincent Regina, 31, of 262 Fourth Avenue, all Brooklyn. Mr. Koota said all had answered questions, but he would not disclose their nature.

# **GALLO GANG FIGURE GUILTY IN BRIBE CASE**

Salvatore D'Ambrosio, a member of the Gallo gang, was convicted in Kings County Court last night of having attempted to bribe two detectives.

D'Ambrosio had been accused of offering \$1,100 to Detectives Edward McLean and Jerome Kilbane to change their testimony against D'Ambrosio's girl friend, Palmo Vitale, 22 years old. Miss Vitale later was found guilty of contempt of a grand jury that was investigating the Gallo gang.

D'Ambrosio also had been sought for questioning in the inquiry, which followed an unsuccessful attempt to murder

Larry Gallo Aug. 20. Later, D'Ambrosio, also known as Sally D, surrendered to the District Attorney office.

The jury deliberated for five hours yesterday before reaching its verdict. Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz ordered the defendant held without bail pending sentencing. D'Ambrosio, who is 36, faces up to ten years' imprisonment.

**The New York Times**

Published: January 5, 1962

Copyright © The New York Times

# **Gallo Gang Saves 6 Children in Fire In Brooklyn Flat**

Seven members of the Gallo gang rescued six children yesterday in Brooklyn when a fire in a mattress filled a top-floor apartment at 73 President Street with smoke.

The Gallo headquarters is at 51 President Street. The seven men had just left a near-by restaurant when they saw smoke pouring from the apartment, which is occupied by Mrs. Sista Biaz and her six children, whose ages range from 10 months to 6 years.

Mrs. Biaz was shopping and the children apparently set fire to a mattress by playing with matches.

The seven men rushed into the apartment and smothered the fire with their jackets. One of the youngsters, Evelyn, 5, had burned hair, but all the other youngsters were carried to safety without injury.

The men who made the rescue were Larry Gallo, 31, who inhaled smoke but refused treatment; Albert J. Gallo, 32; Frank Illiano, 34; Anthony Abbate-marco, 39; Alfonso Serantonio, 22; Leonard Dello, 37, and John Commarato, 37.

Said Mrs. Biaz: "They saved the lives of my children."

Said Battalion Fire Chief Alexander Steier: "They had the fire out and the kids out—a very good job."

Said the Police Department's Assistant Chief Inspector Raymond Martin, cautiously: "Well, I hope the police have made them into decent citizens."

**The New York Times**

Published: February 1, 1962

Copyright © The New York Times

# GALLO MAN HELD IN GANG SLAYING

## Photo Picked by Witnesses in Ozone Park Shooting

A member of the Brooklyn Gallo mob was charged yesterday with the fatal shooting of Vincent DiTucci, a rival gangster whose body was found Wednesday in his car with five bullet wounds in the head.

The 34-year-old DiTucci, a member of the Profaci gang, was slain as he sat in the auto on a street in Ozone Park, Queens.

The police had reported earlier that there were no witnesses to the crime. However, Queens detectives said yesterday that five witnesses had identified Gennaro Basciano, a 33-year-old occasional longshoreman of 210 President Street, Brooklyn, as being at the murder scene.

Basciano, who was arrested Thursday in front of the Gallo headquarters, 51 President Street, was held without bail by Judge James E. LoPiccolo in Queens Criminal Court for a hearing Monday. The police said witnesses had identified him from picture files.

The murder of DiTucci, who was apparently unemployed since his release from prison four years ago after completing a burglary sentence, was the latest incident in what the police consider a thinly disguised gang war.

### Struggle for Power

They contend that the Gallo mob has tried to undercut the prestige and power of the gang headed by the late Joseph Profaci, who died last year of natural causes.

The Profaci group, which was active in Brooklyn as early as the nineteen-twenties, has been the target of Gallo members since World War II. The Gallo gang owns several companies dealing in coin-operated machines.

Basciano, a convicted burglar, was one of 16 Gallo members arrested May 19 after two Profaci men were wounded by rifle fire as they drove on a Brooklyn Street.

Last Thursday, Lawrence Gallo, 35, and his 62-year-old father, Albert, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn Federal Court to making false statements to obtain a Government-insured bank loan. The elder Gallo is also involved in a deportation proceeding.

Other Gallo leaders are Joey and Albert Gallo, who have survived several attempts on their lives. The four Gallos have been arrested more than 100 times in all.

# SYNDICATE CITIES LISTED BY VALACHI

## He Also Tells Inquiry How He Directed '52 Killing

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 — Joseph M. Valachi gave Senate investigators today the names of 12 cities besides New York that he said had Cosa Nostra crime syndicate "families."

He identified them as Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Tampa, Newark, Detroit, Buffalo, Utica and New Orleans. He said the syndicate operated also in Miami and Las Vegas but that these were "open" cities without families.

As he concluded his public appearance before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the convicted murderer and former Cosa Nostra member told how he had masterminded the killing on Sept. 20, 1952, of a mobster who had turned informer for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

Valachi said he had directed the murder of Eugene Giannini on contract for Vito Genovese, the Cosa Nostra boss who is now serving a 15-year prison sentence.

The witness said he had gained Giannini's confidence by introducing him to a girl who worked as a waitress in a restaurant he owned. Then, he said, he acquainted himself with Giannini's movements as employe of a permanent dice game on East 112th Street in Harlem.

Valachi said he gave three aspirants for Cosa Nostra membership instructions on how and where to kill Giannini and they then murdered him.

### Names 3 Partners

The witness identified his partners in the slaying as Fiore Siano and Joseph and Pasquale Pagano, all alive today. Joseph Pagano is now serving a jail sentence.

Valachi also told the subcommittee all he knew about the murder of Albert Anastasia, the wounding of Frank Costello and the Cosa Nostra convention held in Apalachin, N. Y. All took place in 1957.

The witness said Anastasia, a syndicate leader, was shot to death in a New York hotel because he had brought too many members into the organization, "commercializing" the syndicate by charging fees for admission.

The witness credited Genovese with the unsuccessful effort made to assassinate Costello. He said Genovese felt that Costello, who had taken command of the syndicate in New York after the jailing of Charles (Lucky) Luciano in 1937, had grown too powerful.

Valachi said the meeting at Apalachin, which was raided by New York state police, had been called at Genovese's instigation to tell Cosa Nostra leaders from all over the nation the reason for Anastasia's murder. He said another aim was to reduce the syndicate size by dismissing several hundred undependable members.

Valachi testified about the murder of Willie Moretti, one of the syndicate chiefs, who was killed in New Jersey in 1951 by order of Cosa Nostra's ruling council because his behavior had become unpredictable.

"It was supposedly a mercy killing because he was sick," the witness said. "Genovese told me, 'The Lord have mercy on his soul, he's losing his mind.'"

### Tells of Brooklyn War

The informer also gave the committee his version of what caused the underworld war in Brooklyn between the Gallo and Profaci forces that has raged since 1960.

Valachi said that while in the Federal Detention House in New York, Carmine Persico Jr., a member of the Profaci "family," had told him 125 younger members had started a rebellion against the leadership of Joseph Profaci because he was taxing them heavily on their illicit enterprises. He said Persico told him he himself had to pay \$1,800 of his proceeds from a robbery to Profacio.

Additional testimony on the bloody struggle between the Profaci gang and the young thugs led by Joe and Larry Gallo was given by Sgt. Ralph Salerno of the New York Police.

Sergeant Salerno said that in the two years between August, 1961, and August, 1963, the Gallo-Profaci war had resulted in nine murders, nine attempted assaults and murders and the unexplained disappearance of three thugs. He said the three were believed dead.

The witness said that in addition to rebelling against Profaci's taxes, the younger members of his family resented their leader's distribution of the most lucrative rackets to older members.

# 16 in Gallo Gang Seized To Halt War on Profacis

By ROBERT C. DOTY

Brooklyn authorities sought yesterday to end the bloody Gallo-Profaci war by arresting and arraigning one of the "armies"—the survivors of the Gallo mob. In pre-dawn raids, the police arrested Albert Gallo Jr., a leader of the dissident faction of the Cosa Nostra crime syndicate in Brooklyn, 14 of his henchmen and one woman.

The roundup of the 16 gathered in virtually all of the Gallo mob still alive and at liberty after several years of street warfare.

They were arraigned later before Supreme Court Justice Julius Helfand on a 20-count indictment charging them with conspiracy to kill 22 members of the so-called Profaci "family," recognized holders of the main Cosa Nostra—or Mafia—crime franchise for Brooklyn.

Lawrence Gallo, brother of Albert, was also indicted and will be arrested on his release Dec. 20 from the Manhattan House of Detention.

## 12 Have Been Slain

He has been serving a four-month term for fraud in connection with a G.I. loan on his home.

Since the Gallos first broke with their Profaci overlords in a bid for greater shares of the "action"—illegal profits—in 1960, at least 12 members of the two factions—most of them Gallo mobsters—have been murdered.

According to gangland sources, most of those arrested had been marked for death. Their undisciplined revolt against hierarchical superiors in the crime syndicate had won them the hostility of the main organization, which condemns intra-gang "muscle" tactics of the Roaring Twenties in the Sophisticated Sixties.

The 15 men arraigned under heavy guard were held in bail ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000 each. The woman, 39-year-old Gloria Patane, wife of Santo Patane, one of the arrested mobsters, was released in the custody of her attorney.

Most of the defendants, each

**Continued on Page 51, Column 1**



# 16 IN GALLO GANG SEIZED BY POLICE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

guarded by a detective, appeared in court deadpan and surly, but a few of the younger members betrayed signs of alarm. Most were dressed in ordinary business suits, donned when police seized them. One or two wore windbreakers and slacks.

The arraignment brought extraordinary precautions. Ordinary spectators were cleared from the courtroom and half a dozen relatives of the accused were searched and permitted to remain.

## Investigation Continuing

Asked why action had been directed at only one of the combatant factions, with the Profacis listed only as intended victims in the 14-page indictment, Kings County District Attorney Edward S. Silver said "the investigation is continuing."

This suggested that the roundup yesterday might have been only the first battle of a major campaign against Brooklyn gangland. There was speculation that the Brooklyn prosecutor hoped to squeeze from the arrested Gallos information incriminating the Profaci faction. Until 1960, most of the men arrested yesterday had been "soldiers" or "button men"—the underling musclemen—of the Profaci faction. Presumably, they know details of Profaci crimes.

The indictment and arrests resulted from seven months of intensive investigation by Assistant District Attorneys Albert V. DeMeo and Frank DiLalla and 10 detectives assigned to work full time with them. They operated from a secret headquarters set up on the fifth floor of the Brooklyn Municipal Building that escaped the attention even of court regulars and police officers in the area.

## Murder Conspiracy Charged

The indictment's main count alleges that the defendants "unlawfully, knowingly, willfully and corruptly conspired, confederated, combined and agreed together" to murder 22 members of the Profaci gang or their allies.

Heading the list, according to the indictment, was Giuseppe Magliocco, 65-year-old head of the Profaci "family"—or faction—who inherited the top spot on the death of his brother-in-law, Giuseppe Profaci, of natural causes in June, 1962.

The objective of the mass wiping out of Profacis, the charge continued, was to gain control of the bookmaking, policy and loan-shark enterprises of the Profacis as well as of some of their legitimate enterprises. Among these are an importing company, a wine and liquor corporation and a linen supply company.

In support of the conspiracy, the grand jury listed 10 overt acts alleging such actions as purchases of vehicles, weapons and bullet-proof vests, and provision of hideouts. Among the hideouts were premises at 2300 Ocean Avenue and 3505 Foster Avenue, both in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Patane, alias Louise Page, was listed in the indictment as having filed application for the lease of the Foster Avenue hideout.

Second and third counts detail the alleged attempt to put the plan into execution with the shooting on May 19, 1963, of Carmine Persico and Alphonse D'Ambrasio, two Profaci men. It is charged that all 16 male defendants, plus Louise Mariani, killed subsequently in Port Jefferson, L.I., had participated in this assault.

The 17 remaining counts charge various members of the gang with possession of an arsenal of weapons, some of them concealed—a felony under the Sullivan Act when the accused has a previous criminal record.

Listed were several Smith & Wesson .38-caliber revolvers, a German Luger automatic pistol, two kinds of .22-caliber pistols, something identified as an F.N.H pistol, two silencers and detonating caps. The caps are required to set off high explosives.

## Various Possible Penalties

The defendants appear in varying combinations in the several counts. Their potential penalties range from seven years in prison and a \$1,000 fine up to 64 years in prison and an \$8,000 fine for the man accused of being the busiest of the lot—John Santiago, 29, of 329 Carroll Street, Brooklyn.

The Gallo-Profaci feud began when the ambitious and small-time Gallos, led by Joseph Gallo, 33, the second oldest brother of the trio, kidnapped Magliocco and several of his superiors in the Profaci mob early in 1960.

They were held as hostages while the Gallos negotiated a promise of a greater share of the spoils. The hostages were then released unharmed. Before then, the Gallos and their friends had been on mere "wages" from the syndicate—wages they supplemented by holdups, hijackings and other unauthorized assaults.

The syndicate's tongue-in-cheek agreement to give the Gallos the Red Hook district as their exclusive province did not long keep the peace.

The Profaci "regulars" lured Larry Gallo, the oldest brother, now 35 to a Brooklyn restaurant on Aug. 20, 1961, attempted to garrote him and shot a policeman who happened to come upon them.

The fatal shooting of Joseph Magnasco, another Gallo henchman, on Oct. 4, made it clear that the "deal" was off and that the Profacis considered all Gallos fair game. The Gallos went into hiding in two apartments at 51 President Street in South Brooklyn.

They still made sallies from their stronghold on punitive or retaliatory raids, as the two factions exchanged killings.

Last Aug. 9, a trade of deaths was completed in a single day.

# Roots of the Gallo-Profaci War: Youth vs. Age, Need vs. Plenty

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

Youth against middle age. Need against plenty. Truculence versus contentment. Obscurity versus status.

These contrasts are believed by the police to be the causes of the underworld war between the Gallo and Profaci gangs that led yesterday to indictments against the Gallos on charges of trying to kill off their rivals.

The head of the Profaci gang is Joseph Magliocco, a heavy-set, benign-looking man of 65 who lives in East Islip, L. I., in a baronial type of mansion protected by a stockade fence.

Magliocco rides horses and grows tomatoes on his estate. His expensively dressed visitors are usually other middle-aged or elderly men whom he entertains on his 39-foot yacht or at the private steam bath that he maintains in another dwelling.

Magliocco, who was born in Sicily, speaks broken English and he affects meekness and mental lethargy in his confrontations with law-enforcement authorities.

When he was brought in for questioning last August by the Suffolk County District Attorney in connection with the murder of a member of the Gallo gang, he clutched his heart, wolfed down pills and acted bewildered. He hardly acted the part of the head of a gang involved in murder, gambling and other forms of law-breaking.

In contrast, the members of the Gallo gang are not affluent. They are young men. They are American-born. And they are not meek.

During a police interrogation, Joe Gallo, who is now in jail, heard a detective say "Frank Costello owns New Orleans," implying that Costello ran the rackets in that city.

"Who gave him New Orleans?" asked the hoodlum known as Crazy Joe. "Eisenhower? If you're strong enough to take it, it's yours."

Most of the Gallo members live in South Brooklyn tenements or in low-rent apartments. They have to scrounge for weekly subsistence. They are on the constant lookout for

Profaci gunmen pledged to assassinate them.

The Profaci Mafia family is an old one, with national status in the underworld. Its long-time leader was Joseph Profaci, who died last year of cancer. He was related by family and marriage to Mafia chiefs in other cities.

The Profaci organization, now run by Magliocco, the late leader's brother-in-law, is more than 30 years old. It was started by Profaci after the assassination in 1931 of Salvatore Maranzano, who headed a Mafia branch whose members all had Sicilian backgrounds.

Although Profaci had been a gunman for Maranzano, he was able to make his peace with Maranzano's enemies, mostly of Neapolitan origin. These enemies consisted of such future underworld chiefs as Vito Genovese, Frank Costello, Charles "Lucky" Luciano and Albert Anastasia.

Profaci ruled his family with an iron hand and he became a ranking member of the Mafia national ruling commission. He and Magliocco developed considerable legitimate business as well as racket interests. They led quiet, church-going lives in their communities.

The Gallo members, starting as "soldiers" or underlings in the Profaci organization, never had a chance to advance in their trade. They were restricted to payments for individual jobs and rarely were given racket enterprises for themselves.

Since they were young and in need of funds for liquor and girl friends, they resorted to robberies, hijacking of trucks and other forms of law-breaking. They were frequently involved in barroom brawls and encounters with the police. These fights served to estrange them further from their Mafia bosses, who sought to avoid police attention by leading exemplary private lives.

Police officials have tended to regard the Gallo gangsters as a throwback to the free-wheeling mobs of the Prohibition era. But they could never achieve the status of these underworld predecessors.

# GUNMAN IS SOUGHT AS GALLO WITNESS

## Member of Profaci Faction Has Fled From Brooklyn

By ROBERT C. DOTY

A key witness in the murder-conspiracy indictment of the Gallo gang of Brooklyn has fled and is being sought by the police throughout the East.

A 15-state alarm went out Tuesday night for Carmine Persico, 30-year-old gunman of the Profaci gang, which has been engaged in a war of extermination with the Gallos, for the control of Brooklyn rackets.

The shooting of Persico last May 19 on a Brooklyn street is the principal overt act charged against the Gallo forces who were rounded up in mass Tuesday. Sixteen men and one woman have pleaded "not guilty" to an indictment for conspiracy to kill 22 members of the Profaci mob.

"Persico is a complainant in the case and we certainly need to have him around," Kings County District Attorney Edward S. Silver said yesterday, after Persico's flight became known.

### Pistols Thrown From Car

Persico raced off in a car with another man last Friday evening when a police car pulled alongside to question him at Atlantic and Third Avenues, Brooklyn. In the chase, the police said, two loaded .38-caliber pistols were thrown from the fleeing car. A message to the 15 Eastern states and the District of Columbia that make up the police alarm circuit in this area asked that Persico be arrested for illegal possession of firearms.

Mr. Silver said yesterday he would take every measure to speed trial of the Gallo mobsters—partly, at least, to prevent the case from disintegrating through the death and disappearance of witnesses.

Another defendant, John Donnaruma, a 38-year-old laborer, surrendered yesterday. He pleaded not guilty and was held in \$25,000 bail by Supreme Court Justice Julius Helfand.

With the 17 arrested Tuesday and Lawrence Gallo, who is serving a short term for fraud in the House of Detention, most of the Gallos who have survived were accounted for. Lawrence, who is 36, is the oldest of three Gallo brothers.

Two of Mr. Silver's assistants and a team of 10 detectives worked for seven months from a secret headquarters in the Brooklyn Municipal Building to gather evidence against the Gallos, examining "well over 100 persons."

"We have only harvested part of our crop," Mr. Silver said when he was asked why the arrests had virtually wiped out one of the Brooklyn gangs, leaving the Profacis untouched.

Mr. Silver declined to disclose how the evidence of intent to commit 22 murders had been obtained, and specifically refused to discuss wiretapping in connection with the case.

However, he said later, in a general discussion of the subject, that "wiretapping is absolutely vital to investigations of involved criminal situations."

Evidence obtained by such methods, on court orders, has been ruled admissible by state courts even though Section 604 of the Federal Communications Act calls wiretapping a felony in some circumstances.

But in two important tests the Federal judiciary has refused to review a conviction obtained partly on wiretap evidence and declined to forbid the introduction of such evidence.

### Justice Department Bill

Law enforcement officials throughout the country have long fought for the enactment of Federal statutes recognizing wiretapping as a tool against organized crime. The Justice Department has prepared such a measure.

"The trouble with the Attorney General's present bill is that it is too limited," Mr. Silver said yesterday. "It excludes the use of wiretaps in connection with gambling, for example, and gambling is the lifeblood of the underworld."

The intensive phase of investigation of the gang war that has cost 11 lives—nine Gallo and two Profaci—since early 1960 began with the shooting last spring of Persico and another Profaci gangster, Alphonse D'Ambrosio, 38.

"We quickly obtained information — not evidence — as to who did the shooting and decided to go into it in depth," Mr. Silver said.

The cause of the war was the Gallos' rebellion within the parent Profaci "family" of the national crime syndicate. The missing witness, Persico, once sided with the Gallos but returned to the Profacis. He was indicted for an attempt to garrote Lawrence Gallo in 1961, but escaped trial when his intended victim refused to help authorities.

Persico is free on bond pending appeal from a 15-year sentence on a Federal conviction for hijacking.

# GALLO FOE YIELDS IN GANG WAR CASE

## Profaci Aide Freed in \$2,500 Bond on Gun Law Charge

A key figure in the notorious Profaci gang surrendered yesterday morning to the Kings County District Attorney's office. The police had broadcast a 15-state alarm for him on Wednesday.

The fugitive, Carmine Persico, 30 years old, had been sought since Dec. 6, when he eluded a police squad car in downtown Brooklyn. During the chase, the police reported, Persico or an unidentified companion threw two .38-caliber pistols from the car.

Persico has been referred to as the principal target in the indictment accusing 18 members of the rival Gallo gang of conspiring to murder 22 members of the Profaci gang.

One count in the indictment charged that members of the Gallo gang sought to kill Persico and Alphonse D'Ambrosio last May 19 in the battle to control the Brooklyn underworld. Persico was hospitalized for several weeks with gunshot wounds, which paralyzed his right hand.

Well-dressed and completely relaxed, Persico had nothing to say when he arrived in the office of District Attorney Edward S. Silver. He was accompanied by his attorney, Maurice Edelbaum.

### Freed in \$2,500 Bail

Surrounded by detectives, Persico, who gave his address as 920 50th Street, Brooklyn, was taken to Bergen Street Station for formal booking. From there he was transported to Manhattan Police Headquarters for fingerprinting and picture taking.

Returned to Brooklyn Criminal Court, he was freed in \$2,500 bond on a charge of violating the Sullivan Law. The complaint said Persico had thrown a .38-caliber pistol out of an automobile at Atlantic Avenue and Third Avenue on Dec. 6 at 7:30 P.M. He will get a hearing Thursday.

In asking for the low bail, Assistant District Attorney

Albert V. DeMeo told Judge Abraham M. Roth that Persico was now free in \$40,000 bail after a conviction in the Federal Court on a charge of participating in a \$75,000 hijacking job. He has appealed.

Fifteen of the Gallo gang are still in jail, unable to raise the bail set when they pleaded not guilty last Tuesday to the murder-conspiracy indictment.

Lawrence Gallo, the 35-year-old reputed leader, is in the Federal House of Detention finishing a four-month term for a Government fraud. One woman was paroled in the custody of her lawyer. Joseph Savino, the eighteenth defendant, has been bailed out.

# Gallo Trial, Barely Begun, Ends; 17 Plead Guilty, and 18th is Freed

By DAVID ANDERSON

The mass trial of the Gallo gang in Brooklyn came to an abrupt end yesterday almost before it had begun. Seventeen defendants, led by the brothers Lawrence and Albert Gallo, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor, which carries only light prison sentences.

Charges against another defendant, Mrs. Gloria Patane, an aunt of the Gallos, were dismissed.

The 18 had been on trial before Justice Dominic S. Rinaldi in Supreme Court on charges of conspiracy to murder a rival gang, the Profaci; violations of weapons laws and other misdeeds. The indictment listed 20 counts.

## Seized Last December

The Gallos, maverick gangsters whose vendetta with the dominant Profaci clan has resulted in at least a dozen murders since 1960, were rounded up by the police last December.

The sudden collapse of the trial surprised only the jury. Such a development had been talked about around the court for days, but the jurors, 10 of whom were selected yesterday morning, expected a long trial.

In the end, after all the guilty pleas had been taken in the absence of the jurors and everyone was leaving the courtroom, a clerk cried out: "Migosh, the jury! Now they've got to be dismissed."

Joseph A. Solovei, a former Municipal Court justice, speaking as counsel for the defense, moved after the luncheon recess that 17 not-guilty pleas be withdrawn and pleas of "guilty of the crime of conspiring to commit an assault as a misdemeanor" be substituted. The defendants smiled and whispered among themselves.

"We have concluded, after very, very thorough and exhaustive study, that it is in the best interests of justice that we accept the plea," said Assistant District Attorney Albert V. DeMeo.

## Defendants Questioned

The court summoned the first defendant. "Are you Larry Gallo?" Justice Rinaldi asked the slight, baldish 36-year-old man, who was twitching his fingers in front of the bench.

"Yes, sir," replied Gallo.

Then came other questions, each asked in some form of every defendant save Mrs. Patane.

"Were you familiar with the hideaways at 2300 Ocean Avenue and 3505 Foster Avenue, between Jan. 1, 1960 and Nov. 13, 1963?"

"Did you and these other people plan and scheme to assault those who were interfering with whatever business you people were in?"

"Are you guilty?"

Every time, every question brought the reply: "Yes, sir."

Mr. Solovei then moved to have the indictment against Mrs. Patane dismissed. Again the prosecutor agreed, observing that "perhaps this woman has been amply punished" by the guilty plea of her husband, Santo (Uncle Sam) Patane. When Santo Patane had stood before the bench, his wife had sat weeping among the Gallos.

## Sentencing Due Dec. 2

Justice Rinaldi set Dec. 2 for sentencing. Prison terms can run from one to three years. There can be no fines.

The defendants meanwhile continue free on bail of \$15,000 to \$50,000.

Nine months ago the Gallos and their mobsters faced penalties of from 7 years to 64 years in jail plus fines. Nevertheless

the District Attorney's office regards the outcome as satisfactory.

"It was a conviction and a victory," one official noted, adding, "the first time a complete mob has been picked up and pleaded guilty. It was, you see, far more than mere harassment."

A reason why the authorities were willing to settle for less than a full trial was said to be "the nature of the case."

This referred to wiretap evidence that might not stand up under appeal to higher courts.

# 15 in Gallo Gang Jailed, 2 Others Fined

Fifteen members of the Gallo gang in Brooklyn were sent to prison yesterday and two others received fines in State Supreme Court.

Originally they were indicted on 20 counts of conspiracy to commit murder in their feud with the Profaci family of the Cosa Nostra. Last Sept. 20, however, the gang, led by the brothers Larry and Albert Gallo, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of assault.

Justice Dominic S. Rinaldi sentenced the two leaders to six months each in the penitentiary. The same jail terms were imposed on three of their top ranking henchmen, Frank Illiano, Gennaro Basciano and Salvatore Mangiamelli. Ten others received three months apiece in prison and two were

fined \$150 or 30 days. Both paid their fines.

Justice Rinaldi expressed regret that the punishment could not have been heavier.

District Attorney Aaron E. Koota, however, saw the case as "marking a milestone in the history of criminal prosecutions in New York.

"In no prior instance of organized gang activity," he said, "has there been in one fell swoop a plea to an indictment charging them with criminal activity."

The prosecutor expressed satisfaction with the subsidence of gang warfare in the borough since the roundup of the Gallos in December, 1963. He said he intended "to see that the streets are safe for the public."

Prison sentences for the Gallos, he added, served the two-

fold purpose of punishing them and acting as a deterrent to others "who think they can make our streets a battleground for their wars."

"The longer these men are put away, the safer our streets and people will be," Mr. Koota concluded.

The Gallo gang members smiled occasionally, yawned occasionally during the speeches and whispered among themselves.

When the time came each of them moved forward to the bench in order of seniority for sentencing. Then, handcuffed, each one walked away without a flicker of expression.

Joseph, (Crazy Joe) Gallo, reputed head of the clan, is at present serving a 7-to-14-year term in Attica State Prison. He was convicted Nov. 16, 1961, of extortion.

**The New York Times**

Published: January 9, 1965

Copyright © The New York Times

# **Gallo Is Rearrested With 2 of His Gang As Criminal Friends**

Larry Gallo of the Brooklyn Gallo gang, released from jail only eight days earlier, was arrested again yesterday along with two other members of the gang for consorting with known criminals—each other.

Gallo's lawyer, Robert I. Weiswasser, promptly accused the police of harassment. The lawyer also sharply criticized Judge Anthony E. Maglio, who set bail at \$2,500 each and put the case on the court calendar for June 1.

Gallo's jail term had been on a misdemeanor charge growing out of an alleged plot to wipe out a rival gang. He had previously been arrested nine times on the consorting charge, but never convicted.

Arrested with Gallo, who is 37 years old and lives at 2031 East 67th Street, Brooklyn, were John Cutrone, 42, of 219 Grand Street, Manhattan, and Genaro Basciano, 33, of 210 President Street, Brooklyn.

The Penal Code makes it a punishable offense for a man of "evil reputation" to consort with criminals for an unlawful purpose. To sustain the charge, this unlawful purpose must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. In practice, the police rarely are able to supply such proof.

Mr. Weiswasser contended that the law is used as a device to harass ex-convicts.

"It takes about two minutes to get an acquittal in these cases," he said, "but not until the defendant has had to pay a lawyer and a bail bondsman and spends a night in jail and two days in court, tying up the calendar and taking up the time of two policemen."

Leonard B. Reisman, Deputy Police Commissioner in charge of legal matters, declined to comment on the Gallo case.

**The New York Times**

Published: May 7, 1965

Copyright © The New York Times

## Gallo and Two Others Cleared in Gang Charge

Larry Gallo was acquitted yesterday in Brooklyn Criminal Court of consorting with known criminals—two other members of the Gallo gang.

Judge Abraham Roth released Gallo and the two others without comment after a three-minute proceeding. With Gallo, who is 36 years old and lives at 51 President Street, were John Cutrone, 44, same address, and Gennaro Basciano, 34, of 210 President Street. They had been picked up by police at 1:30 A.M. on May 6 in a bar at 752 Coney Island Avenue, where, it was said, they were the guests of honor at a party.

Gallo has now been arrested nine times for consorting with men "of evil reputation" but never convicted. The law requires proof of unlawful purpose, which has never been established.

"This is simply harassment by the police," Robert I. Weiswasser, Gallo's lawyer, declared.

**The New York Times**

Published: June 2, 1965

Copyright © The New York Times



# Police Scoff at Idea Persico Could Be 'Conned'

## Effort to 'Set Up' Racketeer at \$2,000 a Month Alleged

By SIDNEY E. ZION

The nicest thing said about Carmine (Snake) Persico yesterday was that he is not the kind of man to stand still for a shakedown.

"That bum wouldn't stand still for Pope Paul," said a high police intelligence official. "Only a crazy man would even think he could shake the Snake. My God, that's his racket. You've got to know better than trying to con a con man."

There have been allegations this week that a city detective and a Federal narcotics agent tried to "set up" Persico, a top Brooklyn racketeer, for a \$2,000-a-month payoff, through an informer who was killed by a policeman on Saturday in an apparently unrelated incident.

"I repeat," said the police officer, "it's the only thing I've ever heard about Persico that I don't believe."

Who is Carmine Persico?

"He is one of the top men in the syndicate," said former Assistant Chief Inspector of Detectives Raymond V. Martin yesterday.

Mr. Martin is the author of "Revolt in the Mafia," published in 1963, a volume that chronicled the gang war between the Profaci and Gallo gangs for control of the Brooklyn rackets in the early nineteen-sixties.

### Has Own 'Territory'

According to Mr. Martin, and other police sources, Persico, at 33 years of age, has his own "territory" covering most of South Brooklyn, under the over-all generalship of Joseph Colombo, reputed to be the new head of the mob "family" formerly run by the late Joseph Profaci.

"Five years ago," said one detective, "he was the gun for hire and now he hires the guns."

Persico's first brush with the law came in 1951 when he was involved in a gang fight in Prospect Park that cost a youth his life. Persico was charged with homicide but the case against him was dismissed.

Beginning in 1952 Persico was arrested a number of times for gambling offenses and was convicted a couple of times.

In 1961 he was arrested, with



Carmine Persico

others, for attempting to strangle Larry Gallo in the Sahara Lounge, Brooklyn. At the time, Larry and Joey Gallo were making a bold effort to take over the Brooklyn rackets from Joe Profaci.

According to Joseph Valachi, the informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose testimony before a Congressional committee two years ago about widespread organized crime activities created a sensation. Persico was at first slated to join the Gallos in their takeover attempt.

However, in 1960, Persico was arrested on a Federal hijacking charge.

### Influenced by Costello

As Valachi told the story, Persico met Frank Costello, the aging racketeer, in the Federal House of Detention on West Street, New York, where both were being held.

Costello, Valachi said, took young Persico aside as a father would and persuaded him to forsake the Gallos and stick with the syndicate.

"After that," said Mr. Martin, "Persico joined the war against the Gallos. He used to take potshots at Larry every morning. But when we picked him up for garroting Larry at the Sahara Lounge, Larry wouldn't talk, true to the omerta [gang] tradition. So we had to let him go."

Persico was convicted on the Federal hijacking charge, after four trials, but last week the United States Court of Appeals in New York reversed the lower court and ordered a new trial.

## It Is 'Only Thing' About Him Official Won't Believe

His longest stay in prison was one year in City Jail for third-degree assault in 1961.

Still pending against him are, aside from the hijacking charge, a 1964 gambling conspiracy indictment in Brooklyn and an old charge from the Gallo war days involving the beating of Sidney Slater in the Copacabana in 1962.

As a result of that beating, Slater became Inspector Martin's chief informer on the Profaci-Gallo situation.

### Martin Kept 'Well Informed'

Mr. Martin, who is kept "well informed" during his retirement by old contacts, said yesterday that the Profaci-Gallo war had been patched up and that Larry Gallo was now "doing business right next to his old enemy, Persico."

According to Mr. Martin, the truce was arranged by Joseph Colombo and others after Joseph Profaci's death.

How has life treated Carmine Persico, now married and the father of four children?

"He is now enjoying the greater glories of suburbia," a police officer said wryly yesterday. "He has a beautiful house in Hempstead, L. I., complete with swimming pool and two-car garage. When the spirit moves him, he throws barbecues to which he invites his underlings, presumably to show them the benefits of following his path in life."

# TWO GALLOS ACTED AS PEACEMAKERS

## Brothers Enlisted to Calm Youths in East New York

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

The city used Albert and Larry Gallo, leaders of a Cosa Nostra faction in Brooklyn, as peacemakers during the recent outbreaks of racial violence in East New York.

"They were happy they were able to do something good," Dr. Frank Arricale, the city's Youth Board Director, said yesterday.

It was Dr. Arricale who solicited the aid of the underworld figures in a clandestine meeting. He gave them letters of identification that certified that the Gallos were members of a committee for intergroup harmony in East New York and allowed the pair to move freely among some 2,000 policemen on duty in the area.

A source close to the Gallos said it was his understanding that Dr. Arricale turned to the brothers after it became apparent that the youths involved in the troubles in East New York "did not look up to policemen."

The source further said it was his understanding that Dr. Arricale approached a number of persons from various ethnic groups to ease tensions in the neighborhood. He also said that the Gallos were instrumental in keeping Italians from other parts of the borough from coming into the East New York section and adding to the conflict.

"I stand by what I did," Dr. Arricale said, "and I think they (the Gallos) did a good job."

A spokesman for the Police Department was less enthusiastic. "We did not know specifically with whom Dr. Arricale was working, but we trusted his good judgment and that of his workers," the spokesman said. "His judgment was always good in the past."

About two weeks ago, after fighting had broken out in East New York, Dr. Arricale said he sent word to the Gallos that he wanted to talk to them.

The youth agency head, accompanied by a Brooklyn clergyman, met with Albert Gallo and a Gallo lawyer in a South Brooklyn luncheonette. Sipping soft drinks, the four talked for an hour. Dr. Arricale said he won a pledge from Albert Gallo that he and his brother would try to keep Italian-American youths from South Brooklyn and other areas from going into East New York and fighting with Negro youths.

During the meeting Albert Gallo demanded an explanation of what the Youth Board was doing to "keep the kids off the street," Dr. Arricale said.

Negro and white youths clashed two weeks ago in a dispute over which group would control an intersection formed by New Lots and Livonia Avenues and Ashford Street. During subsequent violence an 11-year-old Negro boy, Eric Dean, was slain by a sniper's bullet. Days later a 17-year-old Negro boy, Ernest Gallashaw, was arrested and charged with the slaying. Gallashaw's bullet, the police say, was meant for a policeman.

### They 'Spread the Word'

Armed with the letters of identification, the brothers "spread the word around," Dr. Arricale said, and helped to calm the neighborhood. The letters were similar to those given to a number of clergymen and other volunteers solicited by Dr. Arricale, who worked in both the Negro and white sections of the community.

"The most important thing here was to stop the bloodshed," the Youth Board head said.

When asked if he feared criticism from some quarters for soliciting help from the underworld, he added: "I stand by what I did, and I think they did a good job. Thank God we got things quiet in East New York, so that now we can do some programming and get the young people involved in other things."

An East New York white man, who declined to be identified, said he had observed the Gallo brothers in action in the community and that they had been "very much concerned." They said, "don't give the cops a hard time," the man said.

Albert and Larry Gallo are leaders of a Cosa Nostra faction that split off from the older Profaci gang that was led by the late Joseph Profaci. Another Gallo brother, Joey (Crazy Joe) is serving a lengthy prison term for extortion.

A gang war ensued after the Gallo-Profaci break in 1960 in a dispute over illegal profits and at least 12 members of the two factions (most were members of the Gallo gang) were killed. The war ended about a year ago when Joseph Columbo took over the Profaci gang and arranged a settlement.

The East New York man added that the Gallos had advised that if there were any agitators in the area, "that we should talk to them, and if they still made trouble they (the Gallos) would talk to them." The man said there was

no implication of a threat in the Gallos offer to talk to agitators.

In addition, the man said, the brothers had helped set up a racially mixed committee of youths to map out recreational programs for the area, but he declined to be more specific on the matter at this time. Asked if he thought the Gallos were gangsters, the man said, "that's only what the papers say."

The police have charged the Gallo gang with dealing in bookmaking, policy, loan-shark operations, hijacking and other illegal activities.

In January, 1962, the two Gallo brothers, along with five other gang members, were credited with rescuing six children from a Brooklyn apartment house fire. A battalion fire chief said at the time: "They (the Gallo gang) had the fire out and the kids out—a very good job."

# MAYOR'S TV SHOW KEEPS PHONE BUSY

## New Yorkers Call to Ask About Virtually Everything

For an hour last night, citizens picked up the telephone to complain to Mayor Lindsay about everything from soap to traffic lights.

New Yorkers got the chance as the Mayor appeared from 6 to 7 o'clock on a special WCBS-TV program, "Ask Mayor Lindsay." With him were eight of the top officials in his administration, including Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary, Fire Commissioner Robert O. Lowery and Parks Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving.

A Queens man, sounding irritated, asked the Mayor: "Where is the traffic light on my corner that a man representing Mr. Lindsay promised me the day before election day?"

Mr. Lindsay smiled and said: "That sounds like a very enthusiastic doorbell pusher indeed!" Then he asked the caller to write to him and give him "the specifics," and promised that the Traffic Department would look into the situation.

The show was operated on what was called a 15-second video-tape delay so that the calls could be screened and blanked out if they were offensive or repetitive. To listen to the calls, the Mayor and his aides wore earphones resembling hearing aids. There was time to answer about 30 calls on the program.

One woman asked why there was no soap and water in the city rest rooms in the parks, "considering the city ordinance that there must be soap and water in all public rest rooms."

### Hoving Gives Reply

On this one, the Mayor deferred to Commissioner Hoving, who said his department was "trying to make the situation better," but that the soap was often "taken away" by people.

Mr. Lindsay broke in to ask Mr. Hoving what kind of soap it was, "a bar of soap or what?" Mr. Hoving explained that it was either liquid soap or "the kind that you grind into your hands."

"Is there any weapon a woman can carry legally in New York?" another woman asked.

The Mayor suggested "women's ingenuity," but turned to the Police Commissioner for an authoritative answer.

"One of the real weapons is a whistle," the Commissioner said, "and I say this seriously. Or a woman can make application to carry a firearm. But her own ingenuity and the exercise of her own discretion is the best weapon in the long run."

Some of the questions were complaints about alleged city favoritism toward Negroes and Puerto Ricans and other matters involving civil rights.

The Mayor and Commissioner Leary both disputed one questioner's contention that the Police Department's recruitment program was showing preference to minority groups.

One viewer asked if Commissioner Leary had approved the use of Albert and Larry Gallo, Brooklyn gangsters, as peacemakers during the recent racial violence in the East New York. "And who does the Lindsay administration plan on using next?" the man concluded.

### Mayor Backs Action

The Mayor replied that "when things are as tense as that, as dangerous as that, you call for help from any area."

Mr. Leary said the city's arrangement with the Gallos "was done without the knowledge of the Police Department, but we take the position, in times like that, to take help from everybody we can get."

A few questioners from the city's slum areas asked Mr. Lindsay such questions as: "Why do we have to live in rundown houses and pay big rents and get no services?" and "Why can't my family get into public housing and why don't you answer the 28 applications I've sent in."

The Mayor's answer to the latter question was: "That's a difficult one. There's a great demand for public housing." Mr. Lindsay and the chairman of the Housing and Redevelopment Board, Jason R. Nathan, said they were doing everything possible to increase the supply of public housing but that despite their best efforts, the supply would probably remain inadequate.



The New York Times

**REJECTS 'DEAL' TALK:**  
Robert Price, the Deputy Mayor, rejecting stories about "deals" yesterday.

# P.B.A. SCORES USE OF GALLOS BY CITY

## Police Spokesmen Call Role of Mobsters in Brooklyn

### Riots 'Civic Disgrace'

By WILL LISSNER

The spokesman for the city's patrolmen denounced yesterday as a "civic disgrace" the use of the Gallo brothers in helping to halt racial violence in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

John J. Cassese, the president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said that while he would not go so far as to say that the move undermined the work of the police force, he did believe "it sapped the morale of the men," made things difficult for them and boded ill for the future.

Mr. Cassese discussed on WNBC-TV's "Direct Line" program the city's use of Albert and Larry Gallo, leaders of a Cosa Nostra faction in Brooklyn.

He held his indignation in check on the program in answering a viewer's telephoned question about the incident, but he gave heated replies to questions about it in a hall outside the studio.

Norman Frank, community relations director of P.B.A., pointed out that besides the Gallos, the leader of an anti-Negro group, James (Sandy) McMenemon, was used as a peacemaker.

McMenemon was one of 50 residents of East New York who took part in a meeting in the Mayor's office at City Hall on July 23. The meeting was called to get white and Negro leaders in the community to agree to tell their followers to "cool it." When a press picture was taken, McMenemon was given prominence in it as the symbol of the assembly.

### Arrested Twice

Referring to McMenemon, Mr. Frank declared:

"This kid in East New York was arrested twice since he shook hands with the Mayor."

McMenemon, 24 years old, along with two companions, pleaded not guilty in Brooklyn Supreme Court on July 28 to charges in a burglary case. He was arrested again on Aug. 12 and accused of selling marijuana.

Mr. Cassese, who has had his share of foot patrol, caught his questioner by the lapel.

"I can just see what will happen," he said. "It's this way. When a police officer goes up to some juveniles who have been misbehaving and tells them to quiet down and move along, what will they say to him?"

"'You're not the boss around here,' Mr. Gallo is.

"When you single people like that out, you make them tin gods in the neighborhood—people known for their habitual lawlessness."

A spokesman for the Police Department indicated at the time that it was not happy with the arrangement, which had been made by Dr. Frank C. Arricale 2d, the city's Youth Board director. Neither Mayor Lindsay nor Dr. Arricale was available for comment yesterday on Mr. Cassese's and Mr. Frank's criticisms.

The New York Times

Published: August 15, 1966

Copyright © The New York Times

# Use of the Gallos In Racial Unrest Is Scored by Jury

A Brooklyn grand jury investigating the role of Albert and Larry Gallo in helping to ease racial relations in the borough last summer was sharply critical yesterday of the New York City Youth Board for having employed the brothers.

Reporting that there was insufficient evidence to warrant any indictments, the jury said:

"We deplore the conduct of the Youth Board in enlisting the services of Albert Gallo and Larry Gallo and cloaking them with indicia of official authority in an endeavor to quell disturbances in the East New York and Flatbush sections of Brooklyn, thereby introducing a disturbing innovation which is inimical to proper law enforcement and damaging to the prestige of duly constituted authority."

The statement referred to letters furnished the Gallos by the Youth Board to help them to "cool" white youths in Brooklyn's troubled neighborhoods. District Attorney Aaron E. Koota had protested against such official endorsement of men being investigated for criminal activity.

"I think these letters should not remain in the possession of the Gallos," Mr. Koota added.

"And, so far as I know, they have them to this day."

The Gallos, reputed leaders of an organized underworld faction in the borough, were credited with attempting to ease racial animosity in East New York in July and in Flatbush in August. When Mr. Koota first learned of this, he described it as "a deplorable abdication of official responsibility." On the other hand, a Brooklyn lawyer remarked: "The Gallos should get medals."

The prosecutor said that his greatest concern was lest the brothers had made "any deals or received promises of immunity" in return for their intervention.

The Gallo brothers and other underworld figures are being investigated by a rackets grand jury. They have already served 30-day jail terms for contempt in refusing to answer questions and now face another term for the same offense.

## FAMILY MEN

These were the chieftains of the five Mafia 'families' in New York in the late 50's when the Gallo boys began their rise.



Vito Genovese.



Joseph Bonanno.



Albert Anastasia.



Thomas Luchese.



Joseph Profaci.

# Robin Hoods or Real Tough Boys? Larry Gallo, Crazy Joe And Kid Blast

By FRED J. COOK

**B**ROOKLYN District Attorney Aaron Koota had many problems on his mind one day this past summer when his chief assistant, Elliott Golden, came to him with a disturbing rumor. The District Attorney's office had been quietly pressing a probe into the infiltration of legitimate businesses by big-time racketeers; it was gathering information that seemed to indicate racketeers were fixing races at some of the state's big harness tracks. At the same time, it was trying to keep an eye on a particular trouble spot in the tough East New York section, where Italian-American gangs had recently clashed with Negroes in a riot. Now, to add to the problems, Golden reported: "I hear a rumor the Gallos have been asked to make peace in East New York."

Koota's reaction was much like that of a man who has just been told that the devil has been invited to use his good offices to keep the minister in his pulpit on a Sunday morning.

"That's incredible," he said. To understand just how incredible, one has to appreciate just how incredible are the Gallos themselves. Law-enforcement authorities are united in the belief, based on solid underworld information, that the Gallo brothers and the mob they lead are as tough a band of enforcers as Brooklyn has known since the days when Albert Anastasia headed Murder, Inc.

But they have about them something that Anastasia and Abe Reles and Blue Jaw Magoon and the rest of

their kind never had—a Robin Hood aura, a touch of knight-errantry that seems to remind the public of Errol Flynn shooting arrows into the cruel minions of an arrogant king. The notion may be all myth and delusion, as every law-enforcement agency in the city insists, but undeniably it is there. There is a surprisingly large segment of the public that seems to identify with the Gallos and persists in seeing infinite good in them. And now, Koota was informed, the City of New York had sanctified the image and the delusion by designating the Gallos as special representatives in the effort to bring peace to warring East New York.

"I can't believe it," Koota told Golden, "but I'll check."

**H**E picked up his telephone and called Deputy Mayor Robert Price. "Bob," he said, "I hear the Gallos are being used by the administration to make peace in the East New York section." Price appeared astounded. It was all news to him, he said; he doubted it could be true, but he would find out. Some hours later, he called Koota back; yes, he said, the report was true. The New York City Youth Board had deputized the Gallos to use their influence with the young Italian gangs, but really he wouldn't attach too much importance to the action—the whole matter appeared to be cooling off now.

Racial tensions in East New York may indeed have been cooling off, but the disclosure that the law had been impelled, or compelled, to enlist the services of the Gallos on its side stirred up a secondary brush fire that generated considerable heat. Koota denounced the action as "very shocking and deplorable, a distinct disservice to law enforcement, aggrandizing hoodlums and building images

for them for others to look up to." With that, he ordered a grand-jury investigation.

**A**LL of which raises the questions: Just who are the Gallos? What are they like?

They are, according to law-enforcement men who know them, the personification of well-heeled hoods on the rise. They are nattily dressed, wearing the big racketeers' money-glow suits with the razor-edge crease and pointed shoes so highly buffed they shine even in the moonlight. They are polite, soft-spoken; to talk to them when they are on their good behavior, you might think they came straight out of a church choir. "But make no mistake about it," says Elliott Golden, "these are real tough boys—and I mean really tough."

The leader of the pack is Larry Gallo, the oldest of three brothers. Now 38, Larry looks and acts like a prosperous businessman; one would hardly suspect that he is a man who was almost strangled and left for dead, a tourniquet around his throat, in a gloomy Brooklyn bar five years ago.

Next in line comes Joseph, 37, also known as Crazy Joe and Joey the Blond. Crazy Joe got his nickname because he was the most outspoken and reckless of the Gallo brothers, the coiner of immortal phrases like the one he pulled on a Manhattan cafe owner into whose business he sought to muscle back in 1961. When the businessman hesitated about giving Crazy Joe 50 per cent of his business just for the honor of associating himself with the Gallo name, and asked for time to think over the proposition, Crazy Joe growled: "Sure, take three months in the hospital on me." Unfor- (Continued on Page 127)

FRED J. COOK is the author of many books, including "The F.B.I. Nobody Knows," "A Two Dollar Bet Means Murder" and, most recently, "The Corrupted Land."



**BROTHER ACT**—Right, Albert (Kid Blast) Gallo (in light coat) and a couple of henchmen in their Robin Hood role—with the children they rescued from a Brooklyn tenement fire in 1962. Above, Joey Gallo and Larry, with rope burns on his neck after a rival gang's attempt to garrote him in 1961. Below, Crazy Joe and his wife at the 1961 extortion trial that sent him to prison.



# Robin Hoods

## Or Real Tough Boys?

*(Continued from Page 37)*

fortunately for Crazy Joe, his intended victim had alerted District Attorney Hogan's office. Three detectives were seated at the next table, within easy earshot, and that little bit of overheard repartee sent Crazy Joe to Attica State Prison for 7 to 14 years, currently deactivating him.

Last and youngest of the Gallos is Albert, 36, also known as Kid Blast. Albert and Larry have just been indicted for criminal contempt for refusing to testify before the Brooklyn grand jury investigating the role of racketeers in legitimate businesses. Indicted along with them were Joseph Colombo, a considerably bigger fish, and three of his lieutenants, Johnny (Bath Beach) Oddo, Joe (The Minx) Livotti and Salvatore (Sally the Assassin) Perritore. Colombo conducts a respectable real-estate business on the side. The Gallos are unusual in having no visible legitimate means of support.

**F**EW New Yorkers had ever heard of the Gallos before 1960, but in the next years the name was to fill the headlines. The reason for both the obscurity and the notoriety is to be found in the Gallos' strategic position in the Brooklyn underworld. Mob rule in New York in the late fifties, when the Gallos were on the rise, was divided among five Mafia "families." The largest and most powerful was headed by Vito Genovese, who had made himself the dominant power in Eastern gangdom. Other tribes were ruled by Anastasia, Thomas (Three-Finger Brown) Luchese, Joseph (Joe Bananas) Bonanno, a Brooklyn chieftain who had also carved out a racket domain in Tucson, Ariz., where he usually resided, and Joseph Profaci, known as "the Olive Oil King," who had been a Mafia power for three decades.

The Gallos at that time were classed as "button men," or privates, in Profaci's underworld army. As the title indicates, they were relatively obscure, but even so they were no ordinary button men. They had formed their own tightly knit band of followers and were building their own regime within the confines of the Profaci family. So tough were they that they had become known, indeed, as Profaci's principal enforcers. Larry Gallo's bodyguard, Joseph (Joe Jelly) Gioelli, was reputed to be one of the most efficient guns in the business, and so, in 1957, when the top echelon of the underworld was riven with jealous strife, the Gallo wing of the Profaci empire was called upon to play a historic role.

According to Joseph Valachi, the Federal Government's prize informer, and Sidney Slater, a Gallo defector who has been playing informer for

*(Continued on Page 129)*

*The New York Times*

Published: October 23, 1966

Copyright © The New York Times

(Continued from Page 127)

District Attorney Hogan, the action went this way:

Vito Genovese had discovered that the underworld was too crowded with both himself and Albert Anastasia in it. Since Genovese had no wish himself to depart, he decided to insure himself of continued residency by giving Big Al a forceful shove. Carlo Gambino, Anastasia's "underboss," was known to be an ambitious man, and it was intimated to him that, if Big Al could be removed from the scene, Gambino could become his heir with Genovese's blessing. Finding the prospect attractive, Gambino reputedly contacted Joseph Profaci, and Profaci passed the word along to his Gallo wing.

The result was a fearful racket in the Hotel Park Sheraton barbershop in midtown Manhattan one fall morning in 1957, and when the smoke had cleared, there was the Lord High Executioner of Murder, Inc., stone-cold dead on the barbershop floor. There was naturally a great hue and cry for the killers, and, just as naturally, nothing ever came of it.

But, in time, there were breaks in the Mafia code of *omertà* (in effect, silence): Valachi and Slater talked. According to them, Joe Jelly and another of the Gallo mob were the boys who actually did in Big Al. Slater related how, on one occasion shortly

after the Anastasia bump-off, he encountered Joey Gallo, Joe Jelly and three other members of the gang in a bar. Talk naturally turned to the astonishing event that had so recently taken place in the Sheraton barber-shop, and Crazy Joe, according to Slater, laughed and quipped: "From now on, Sidney, you can just call the five of us the barber shop quintet."

Understandably, having performed such signal service, the Gallos expected to be well rewarded. The reward they had in mind, according to underworld sources authorities trust, was control of gambling, narcotics and loan-sharking in a vast section of Brooklyn, including East New York. Inconveniently, these preserves were being well tended at the time by others; if the Gallos were to get them, those others would have to be shoved aside, and Joe Profaci, the Gallos' boss, evidently did not rate the Gallos highly enough to risk all the hell that would be caused. The aborted Apalachin conference in November, 1957, to which the Gallos evidently had looked for suitable reward, did nothing for them. Instead, they remained in the kind of dependent status in which they had been before—only now they were decidedly unhappy about the injustice of it all.

**T**HOUGH the public itself was still not much aware of them, law-enforce-

**“When the Mafia was split by rivalries in the fifties, the Gallos were mere ‘button men,’ or privates, but they played a historic role.”**

ment authorities already had them tabbed as "real tough boys"; and so the McClellan committee of the United States Senate summoned them to Washington in 1958 to testify about jukebox racketeering and extortion. The summons put the Gallos in the spotlight, and Crazy Joe, decked out like a matinee idol, reveled in the moment. He waltzed into the office of Robert F. Kennedy, then chief counsel for the committee, and wisecracked to the dumfounded Kennedy: "Nice carpet ya got here, kid. Be good for a crap game."

From that opening line, Joey kibitzed his way through the day. He frisked a visitor to Kennedy's office to make certain the man wasn't carrying a rod; just in case somebody should do in the distinguished

committee counsel, he explained, he didn't want it to happen while he was there and could be blamed for it. Taking a fancy to one of the secretaries, he offered the girl a job with the Gallo enterprises, her salary to be as much as she could steal from the till.

On the witness stand, it was another story. The Gallos claimed the privilege of the Fifth Amendment against possible self-incrimination all the way. Kennedy said they were the toughest bunch of hoods he had ever tried to interrogate. Crazy Joe accepted the verdict like a man who had just been awarded the Medal of Honor. Bobby Kennedy was so right, he said—a very perceptive man—and he, Joey Gallo, liked him very much.

Others in the law-enforcement field were becoming convinced, like Kennedy, of the Gallo toughness. One of the most convinced was former Assistant Chief Inspector Raymond V. Martin, then in charge of Brooklyn South detectives. In a book he later wrote, "Revolt in the Mafia," Martin cited some specific examples. At one time, he said, Joey Gallo was reported to have kept a young and hungry lioness named Cleo locked up in his cellar to frighten shakedown victims. If the target for the night objected to being shook, Crazy Joe would open the cellar door and throw Cleo a hunk

(Continued on Following Page)



(Continued from Preceding Page)  
of raw meat. Cleo would roar her appreciation—a sound that invariably caved in all resistance.

"To many observers," Martin wrote, "Joey Gallo was a delightful buffoon, but to me, as a cop, he classed as a savage. I knew of one case where Joey held another man's forearm between his hands and broke the bone over the edge of an office desk, as a way of collecting a debt owed to his combination. The man told the story to one of my detectives but he was too frightened to sign a complaint lest he be killed. He was killed later, anyway."

**S**UCH were the Gallos when, at the start of the nineteen-sixties, they determined on a course without parallel in brashness in the underworld: they declared war on Joe Profaci, which meant, in effect, that they defied the whole Syndicate system.

The opening move was a kidnaping. Gallo hoods snatched Joseph (The Fat Man) Magliocco, Profaci's brother-in-law and heir apparent; Frank Profaci, the boss's brother; Sally (the Sheik) Mussachia, a trusted henchman, and John Scimone, Profaci's bodyguard. The four were all held under guard in separate hotel rooms in Manhattan, and the Gallos prepared to parley with Joseph Profaci, who, unfortunately for them,

had escaped their clutches and flitted off to Miami.

There followed some devious negotiations, but peace, presumably, was finally made. The Gallos were given to understand, law-enforcement authorities say, that they could operate a variety of rackets with the approval of Profaci and the Syndicate. So they released their prisoners—and were promptly treated to the underworld's favorite tactic, the double cross.

Joe Jelly, the prize bodyguard of Larry Gallo, was probably the first to get the news. A beer barrel of a man who walked with a roll, Joe Jelly had a favorite hobby, deep-sea fishing. So, one fine summer day in 1961, a group of close friends, all boys in the rackets, invited him on a little excursion on a cruiser sailing out of Sheepshead Bay. And that was the last seen of Joe Jelly.

A few nights later, an unfamiliar car rolled through the streets of Brooklyn's Bath Beach section. As it slowed down near a favorite Joe Jelly hangout in a candy store on Avenue U, the rear door of the car suddenly flew open and a bundle was tossed out. The bundle landed on the sidewalk almost at the feet of some of Joe Jelly's young men. It consisted of Joe Jelly's coat, wrapped around a dead fish.

Before this official obituary notice had been delivered, Larry Gallo also

**“The Gallos determined on a course without parallel in brashness in the underworld: they declared war on the whole Syndicate system.”**

got the news. On the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 20, 1961, authorities later learned, he got a telephone call from John Scimone, the kidnapped and released Profaci bodyguard. Scimone seemed very excited; he had such good news for Larry, he said, that he just couldn't tell him over the phone. Wouldn't Larry meet him at the Sahara Lounge on Utica Avenue to get the good word and have a drink?

Larry, evidently believing that a peace pact was a peace pact and not aware Joe Jelly had gone deep-sea fishing, went to the rendezvous. Scimone met him, pressed a \$100 bill into his hand as an earnest of things to come, and they had a drink together at the bar. Then Scimone

excused himself to go to the men's room, and Larry was sitting there, drinking and chatting to the bartender, when he saw, in the mirror over the bar, a rope coming out of the darkness behind him and looping around his neck. Before he could move, a hard knee was thrust into the middle of his back, propelling him against the bar, and two strong hands yanked the rope into a strangling garrote.

In seconds more he would have been dead, but just at that instant, the side door of the lounge swung open and a police sergeant making a routine inspection entered. He saw the bartender calmly polishing glasses and was about to leave when, beyond the end of the bar, he sighted the protruding legs of Larry Gallo.

"Is that something on the floor?" he asked.

With the question, the place erupted. Three figures dashed out the door. One fired a shot that wounded the sergeant's partner, waiting by their patrol car, and then all three piled into a white Cadillac and fled. That was the beginning of the Gallo-Profaci war.

**T**HE Gallos, outmanned and out-gunned, holed up in what became known as The Dormitory, second-floor

(Continued on Page 132)

(Continued from Page 130)

living quarters running through two connected brick-front buildings at 49-51 President Street. They stocked the place with guns, turning it into a virtual arsenal, and a huge refrigerator in the kitchen bulged with food. The Gallos' father, Umberto, presided over the kitchen and did all the cooking. Larry Gallo handled the details out front and ran the war against the Profacis.

Inspector Martin, in repeated raids on the Gallos' headquarters, came to know Larry well. Moon-faced, round-eyed, smooth-skinned, Larry Gallo was a fascinating human enigma. He had a good housewife's passion for cleanliness. He provided cans in which his gang had to dispose of their cigarette ashes and butts. He decreed that the floors of The Dormitory must be swept daily, and once a week both floors and windows were scrubbed with a strong pine deodorant that made the place reek of the great outdoors.

A moody man, Larry Gallo liked music. He played the violin himself, and he had a large collection of records. When he played the records, he turned up the volume, and the strains of "Aida" or "Il Trovatore" or "Carmen" would float out into the street, music for the whole neighborhood. Larry disdained jazz and pop and minor classical pieces; for him, there was only one kind of music—opera.

When Inspector Martin tried to question him one day about these elevated musical tastes, Larry explained:

"Mr. Martin, I ain't goin' to be doin' what I'm doin' for the rest of my life. You may not think so, but life is made for finer things. One day, I'm going to retire. I don't want to be like so many fellows I know who retire and they can't do nothin'. When I retire, I'm going to be cultured. I'm going to sit back and enjoy, enjoy."

The buildings on President Street were unusually populated by about 25 hard-core operatives. Larry and Kid Blast were always on the premises, but Crazy Joe insisted on going his own way. He and his wife, who also liked culture, moved into an apartment in Greenwich Village and carved in the nightclubs just as if there were no war on. When asked if he wasn't afraid of being hit by the Profacis while living the gay life so openly, Crazy Joe just laughed. He was afraid of only one man, he said—"that Khrushchev, he's nuts blowing off all them atom bombs."

Irrepressible as always, Crazy Joe spoke with contempt of the official police record of his misdeeds, which listed such offenses as extortion, assault, rape and vagrancy. "The cops say I been picked up 15 to 17 times—that's junk," he said one day back in the fifties. "I been picked up maybe 150 times, only they never make a record. I been worked over for nothing until my hat sits on my head like it belongs to a midget."

**W**HEN Crazy Joe spoke those lines, he had indeed never been convicted of anything. Hoods like the



**COOLING IT**—Police aid an injured youth during last summer's riots in East New York. When the Youth Board asked the Gallos to help make peace, their "Robin Hood" legend got a large boost.

Gallos have a lot going for them in their battle with the law. There is the code of *omertà*. There is terror, inspired by brutality and murder, that silences witnesses. There is the mob bankroll, an incredible resource, that can often sway both witnesses and the law. Where, one may ask, do gangsters like the Gallos get such resources?

The answer is, from a variety of rackets. Even though the Gallos did not receive the rich rewards they sought from Profaci, they had for several years run a fief that poured out a cascade of money. In 1958 and 1959, the Brooklyn mobs had warred for control of vending-machine, pinball-machine and jukebox business, and when the dust settled, an arrangement had been made to vest control in the muscle wielded by Local 266 of the Associated Music Operators Union. And who was to provide that muscle? Crazy Joe Gallo.

The way it worked was shown in an incident in 1959 that provoked Joey's first serious brush with the law. The proprietor of a bar and grill in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn wanted a pinball machine taken out, but the company that had installed the machine had a contract with Local 266. And so, almost the instant the businessman made known his wishes, Joey Gallo dropped in for a visit. Taking out that pinball machine would make the union very unhappy, he said; and, to indicate just how unhappy, he picked up a knife and wielded it as if he might be contemplating giving the bar owner a shave.

After he left, the startled businessman telephoned Koota, and Koota got Joey indicted. What happened next is instructive. On the witness stand, the terrified businessman remembered details less clearly than he had when telling his story to Koota and the grand jury. Perhaps Joey had just accidentally picked up the knife, he said; perhaps he hadn't really meant anything by it. The jury, faced with this weakened evidence, threw out charges of attempted assault and ex-

tortion, but it did uphold a coercion charge and Joey went off to prison for a year, his first bit behind bars.

The kind of money that swelled the Gallo treasury in the days before the war with Profaci was illustrated by another incident. In addition to their vending machine-jukebox-pinball business, the Gallos, like all good racketeers, had their hands in gambling and policy and loan-sharking. Just how deep they dipped into these waters was indicated on Jan. 3, 1961, when police raided a top-level mob conclave in a White Turkey Restaurant in Manhattan. Caught in the police net were some 14 of the most powerful mob brains in the business (a couple of the loan sharks were the kind who could lend \$1-million without blinking an eyelash)—and there, big as life, sitting in with this exclusive coterie, was Albert (Kid Blast) Gallo.

Once the Gallos became mired down in their war with Profaci, things changed for the worse economically. It was not easy to run a swatch of rackets while holed up in The Dormitory. As the pinch began to be felt, a new element of desperation crept into the Gallo methods; they began to flex their muscles in an attempt to shake down legitimate businessmen for part of their profits. The immediate result was unhappy: Joey's run-in with that aforementioned Manhattan cafe owner, which got him put away for 7 to 14.

**T**HINGS were at this pass—the Gallos holed up in the President Street dormitory, a Gallo or a Profaci henchman being occasionally knocked off, gunplay in the streets sometimes winging innocent bystanders—when there occurred the incident that was to inspire the Gallo Robin Hood legend.

Larry and Kid Blast and some of the troop were making their way back to The Dormitory from a neighborhood luncheonette one day in 1962 when they saw smoke curling from the third-floor window of a tenement at 73 President Street. Larry Gallo

led the charge upstairs to the apartment of Mrs. Sista Biaz, who had gone out to buy some milk, leaving her six small children unattended. When the Gallos burst into the apartment, they found Evelyn Biaz, 5, with her hair ablaze. Larry stripped off his coat and smothered the fire. Then he and his troop formed a human chain, passing the six Biaz children down the stairs to safety. That done, they smashed out a window and tossed a burning mattress and some burning chairs into the street. By the time firemen arrived, the blaze was out, the children rescued; there was nothing more to be done.

"They are good boys; God bless them," Mrs. Biaz told the press.

**L**ARRY GALLO had labored so heroically that he had to be taken to a hospital for treatment of smoke poisoning, but the rest of the troop, rising to the occasion, tossed some money into a hat and then began to solicit neighborhood shopkeepers for a fund to help out the Biaz family. Kid Blast, the only Gallo spokesman left on the scene, was a bit doubtful at first about what the public reaction would be. "With our crummy luck, I suppose we'll get arrested for putting out the fire without a license," he said.

But when the television camera crews arrived, Kid Blast blossomed. "Don't try to make heroes out of us," he declaimed magnanimously. "We're not heroes. We only done what any red-blooded American boys would do. Do you see any horns here? I got no horns. We're not animals. We're just human beings trying to get along."

It was a good pitch—and it registered. Inspector Martin was soon deluged with letters from all over the nation, the theme of most of them being that the Gallos were really fine boys at heart and the cruel police had been unfair to them.

"It irks me terrible that these fine boys to my way of thinking can't get a break in life," wrote a woman in Rochester, N. Y. From a parsonage in North Carolina came a letter praising

(Continued on Page 134)

(Continued from Page 132)

ing the Gallos for "the great thing" they had done and "the good" in them. It added: "I hope to read more and good things about you in the future. The aged, the blind, mothers such as Mrs. Biaz must need young men like you to read to them, to baby-sit, take them for walks. Be brave and ask the police and fire department if there isn't something they can find for you to do. . . ." Inspector Martin almost choked on that one, but he got a chuckle out of the most succinct comment he received—a postcard from Houston, Tex., that seemed to sum up the prevailing public reaction. It read: "Gallo, Si! Martin, No!"

**S**O was born the Robin Hood legend that District Attorney Koota found running so strongly this past summer when the New York City Youth Board enlisted the services of the Gallos. The contrast between Robin Hood and reality is made all the more vivid, in Koota's opinion, by the changes that have been wrought in the Gallo fortunes in recent years. Here is a rundown on some of the things that have happened:

Vito Genovese, the ruthless over-all head of the Eastern Mafia, was tucked away in a Federal jail in 1959 on a 15-year narcotics rap. In 1962, his long-faithful lieutenant, Anthony (Tony Bender) Strollo, vanished—reportedly killed on Genovese's orders when he tried to reach for supreme power in the boss's absence. That same year, Joseph Profaci died—of cancer. Magliocco, his son-in-law, took over the family leadership, but he, too, was ill and died in 1963.

The result was a power vacuum that someone was bound to try to fill. The someone, according to a synthesis of the best information possessed by a variety of enforcement agencies, was Joseph (Joe Bananas) Bonanno.

The story is that Joe Bananas approached Joseph Colombo, who had succeeded—rather insecurely—to the Profaci-Magliocco mantle. Colombo was to knock off Luchese, the last of the other veteran overlords still alive and at liberty, and Genovese, who seemed to be giving orders from prison and so presumably could be got at in prison. Then Bonanno would be enthroned as ruler of the New York Mafia, and Colombo would head the old Profaci family with his blessing.

The scheme looked enchanting on paper, but Bonanno, despite a long life in the rackets, apparently had not taken into account a cardinal fact of underworld ethics: The double cross can always be trumped by the double double cross. Colombo now practiced this ancient and respected art. While pretending to listen to Bonanno, he informed on Bonanno to Luchese and Genovese. The result was the kidnapping of Bonanno just before he was scheduled to testify before a Federal grand jury; sequestered for more than a year in a mystery still not fully explained, he has only recently reappeared upon the scene.

In the interim, things changed. Co-



**STONE-COLD DEAD**—The body of Albert Anastasia, Lord High Executioner of Murder, Inc., lies in the barbershop where he was gunned down in 1957. Said Joey Gallo, while sitting with four friends in a Brooklyn bar some days later: "Call us the barbershop quintet."

lombo was rewarded for his faithfulness by being installed as unquestioned head of the Profaci family. As one of his first acts, he made peace with the Gallos. The best word today is that the Gallos rate high, very high indeed. It is even said in some circles that, within a year or two, they may have elbowed out Colombo. Others, however, maintain the brothers are handicapped, careerwise, because their reputation as mavericks distresses serious-minded mobsters. "No one can give these guys a contract that will stand up; they're too stupid and, more important, they're too much in the limelight," says a veteran police investigator.

For the present, anyway, the money pours in from a wide variety of rackets. According to the best official information, the Gallos are now the underworld top dogs in East New York, and their coffers are swelled by money from vending machines and jukeboxes, hijacking and shakedowns, bookmaking and policy, loan-sharking and labor racketeering and, possibly, narcotics.

Well-heeled, they live as to the manor born. No longer holed up in The Dormitory, though 51 President Street remains their operational headquarters, Larry and Albert are now known to detectives as "guys who like to bounce around." Larry has established himself in a new home at 3206 Hawlett Avenue, Merrick, L. I., and Kid Blast lives at 639 East Fourth Street, Brooklyn. But when the night life begins to blossom, you are likely to find them bouncing at the Copacabana, the Latin Quarter, Gian Marino's, the Pussycat or Coco Poodle.

**W**ITH this background in mind, District Attorney Koota and his aides were especially incensed when they found that the Youth Board had issued letters that, in effect, put an official imprimatur on the deeds of the Gallos. The letters, signed by Frank C. Arricale II, executive director of the Youth Board, advised anyone who

might be concerned that Albert Gallo was chairman of the Emergency Citizens Committee for Harmony in East New York and that Larry was a member of his committee. The letters advised that the Gallos "informally but very effectively" were "helping to reduce tensions and promote understanding" in areas of great concern to the Youth Board. They added that the board was "very grateful" for all the good work the Gallos were doing.

Just how did all this come about? The Youth Board's explanation is that, motivated by great concern lest the city be shaken by the kind of racial riots that have brought disaster to other urban centers, it contacted virtually everyone who might possibly help put a damper on the fires. More than 200 groups throughout the city were enlisted in the cause; along the way, someone suggested that the Gallos might be helpful. After all, if the Italo-American youth gangs in East New York were a problem, wasn't it possible that the Gallos could influence them? At the moment, it seemed as if any suggestion that might insure peace was worth trying—and so it was done.

Just what the Gallos did, if anything, is debatable. The Youth Board itself acknowledges that it does not know whether the Gallos helped at all. District Attorney Koota feels

strongly that the police and civic groups in the area, not the Gallos, should be given the credit for cooling off tensions in East New York. He questioned the Gallos, members of the Youth Board and everyone else who might know, and he says flatly: "There is no real proof that the Gallos did a damn thing."

A Kings County grand jury, which investigated the matter, issued a brief, one-paragraph statement. It said it "deplored" the conduct of the Youth Board in enlisting the aid of the Gallos "and cloaking them with indicia of official authority." The action, the jury felt, was "inimical to proper law enforcement and damaging to the prestige of duly constituted authority," but it found no grounds for further action.

The whole experiment in official use of underworld influence seems to have produced just one undeniable result—the further glorification of the Gallos. Like Inspector Martin, District Attorney Koota began to get letters indicating that at least part of the public regarded the Gallos as much-abused boys, possessed of generous impulses for good if authorities would only stop harassing them.

"The public puts halos on these hoods," Koota says. "It is perhaps a symptom of moral decay, a rottenness in our community which glorifies the underworld."

Koota has a tentative theory that the glorification of a band of toughs like the Gallos may stem, at least in part, from the revolt of individual man against the overwhelming mass pressures of our times.

"I am no sociologist," he says carefully, "but maybe this glorification of the Gallos results from the feeling of the average man for the underdog. Perhaps it's an inevitable development of our times. Our huge economic development, the massive powers of government—so impersonal and so removed; the old town meeting is long gone—all of this overwhelms the average guy and makes him like to see some big, important official get his comeuppance. All of this helps to create that Robin Hood image and the identification of the public with the Gallos."

Then, in an afterthought, he added: "Why do they prefer jail to testifying before grand juries? Well, after all, did Robin Hood ever help the Sheriff of Nottingham?"