

Garrison, Haggerty Deny Any Dealings with Mafia

Rap Report Tying Them to Marcello Associates

District Attorney Jim Garrison and Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. have assailed a recent report linking their names with persons who have had business ties

with Carlos Marcello or Marcello enterprises.

"Life Magazine has implied that I'm a member of the Mafia, and Time has said I'm nuts," said Garrison. "If I'm connected with the Mafia then why do I have a \$52,000 mortgage on my home?"

Judge Haggerty said: "These people are trying to connect me to the Mafia. I've never had dealings with any crooked person in my life. You can check my 11 years in the district attorney's office (he served as an assistant DA). At this time in my father's life I certainly wouldn't do anything to bring shame on myself . . . I'd kill myself first." (He referred to his father, Edward A. Haggerty Sr., longtime clerk of Criminal Court.)

Garrison's reference to his home mortgage stemmed from publication of a story in Look Magazine concerning the previous owner of the DA's home at 4600 Owens Blvd.

BUYS HOME IN 1965

According to records at City Hall, Garrison purchased his home on Nov. 24, 1965, for \$65,000 from attorney Peter J. Casano. Terms of the sale, according to the office of the Re-

cord of Mortgages, were \$13,000 in cash and the balance in the form of a promissory note for \$52,000, payable in monthly installments of \$335.10.

Casano had purchased the lot on April 5, 1965, for \$15,950 and financed \$49,000 for construction of the two-story brick home, according to public records.

However, records at the city Department of Safety and Per-

mits reflect that on March 16, 1965, Building Permit No. A57550, showing the owner of the property as Roy Occhipinti, 619 Gov. Nicholls, was issued for construction of a residence at 4600 Owens Blvd.

A Use, Occupancy and Compliance certificate was issued in mid-July, 1965, indicating completion and acceptance of construction of the house by city building inspectors.

Roy Occhipinti is a brother of Frank Occhipinti, who lives next door to Garrison at 4558 Owens.

The name of the builder listed in Permit No. A57550 is Regent Builders and Gerald E. Senner signed the application as the representative or owner of the contracting firm.

LISTED AS OFFICIAL

The New Orleans city directory for 1965 listed Gerald E. Senner as being in the real estate business at 619 Gov. Nicholls, and it also listed him as an official of the Chateau Motor Hotel, 1001-21 Chartres.

Copies of legal documents compiled by the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Inc., show that in the early 1950s Carlos Marcello and his brother, Salvador, along with Frank Occhipinti and his brother Rosario (Roy) set up a partnership and built the Town and Country Motel, 1225 Airline Hwy., in Jefferson Parish.

Carlos Marcello has been identified by several sources of the "boss" of the Cosa Nostra in Louisiana.

The MCC documents reflect that Carlos' son, Joseph C. Marcello, later replaced Salvador as a partner and in February, 1964, the partners sold the motel to Stevie Motel Inc. Casano signed as witness to the sale.

Article of incorporation of Stevie Motel Inc., reflect that it has three directors, each owning one share of stock. They are Joseph C. Marcello, Mrs. Louise M. Hampton and Miss Florence Marcello, a son and two daughters of Carlos Marcello.

Frank and Roy Occhipinti

are also listed as vice-presidents in the articles of incorporation of Southern Tours, Inc., with Anthony P. Marcello, as secretary-treasurer, and Basi Ingrassia as president.

SHARES DIVIDED

Ingrassia and Anthony P. Marcello, Carlos' brother, who were listed as agents, each held 100 shares, and Frank and Roy Occhipinti each had 50 shares.

Checks by the MCC in 1966 and 1968 indicated that the partners of the sight-seeing company had remained the same.

Southern Tours is headquarters at 1225 Airline hwy., and Casano served as notary public for the incorporation papers which are dated Jan. 30, 1963.

The names of Frank Occhipinti, as president and Ingrassia, as secretary-treasurer, also show up in the records of Vieux Carre Tours Inc., which was incorporated on Sept. 6, 1967.

The address of Vieux Carre Tours is listed at 1225 Airline hwy., the location of the Town and Country Motel.

The other officer of Vieux Carre Tours is Edward A. Kunz, a vice-president, who is a member of the law firm of Occhipinti, Occhipinti, Casano, and Kunz.

Garrison said he had not read the report about the purchase of his home and the associations of the persons connected with it, not did he intend to read it.

He said articles attacking him have appeared in national publications "one after the other as a result of our investigation of the Kennedy assassination, and I think it reflects that we represent a problem to someone."

Concerning the adverse publicity, Garrison asserted that the Central Intelligence Agency, "which engineered the assassination, controls every national media and this is just the beginning."

PROSECUTES CASE

An official in Garrison's office, who said he had read the report, said it failed to mention the fact that the DA's office is

currently prosecuting a case against Roy Occhipinti on two counts of possession of stolen property. Roy Occhipinti heads the Desta Co., a mortgage firm. Casanto is secretary-treasurer of the company.

Roy Occhipinti was indicted earlier this year by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury after his arrest in January when he was booked with illegal possession of \$506 worth of jewelry.

His trial has been allotted to Judge Haggerty.

Criticism was leveled at Judge Haggerty, who presided at the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw earlier this year, because both Casano and Frank

Occhipinti have financial interests in the Rowntowner Motor Inn.

Occhipinti is general manager of the inn, and Casano is secretary of the corporation which owns the Rowntowner.

The 14-member jury in the Shaw trial (12 jurors and two alternates) was housed and received meals at the Rowntowner during the 40-day trial.

Judge Haggerty, who is also known to frequent the Rowntowner, selected that location for the Shaw jury. Records of the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's office indicate the cost for lodging the jury at the Rowntowner was \$23,590.04.

ASKED QUESTION

Asked why he had arranged for the jury to stay at the Rowntowner, Judge Haggerty answered: "What about the Rowntowner?" He said the motor inn had provided excellent accommodations, adding that the fourth floor was reserved for the jury with safeguards that no one could approach jury members from downstairs. Also, he said there were criminal sheriff's deputies on the roof for security.

Concerning his presiding over the trial of Roy Occhipinti, Judge Haggerty said he has met the man two or three times, but asserted that does not mean he has to recuse himself under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"Have I ever met him socially? Have I ever been out with him? No," he said, and he added: "Just because you've met someone does not mean you have to recuse yourself."

He said it happens many

times that a judge presides over a case involving someone whom he has met casually, and he asserted that if a judge was allowed to recuse himself just for that reason it would be an easy way to avoid a case.

The case against Roy Occhipinti stems from his arrest last Jan. 10 at his residence at 5478 Dayna Ct. Police said they recovered one article of antique jewelry in his home which allegedly was part of the loot taken in an \$80,000 jewelry store robbery in Louisville, Ky., in September, 1967.

Victim of the Louisville robbery was Joel Hurley, 33, a Chicago jewelry salesman, who had left his merchandise in the safe of the W. G. Buschemeyer Jewelry Co.

The background and allegations concerning the charge are contained in the application for a search warrant for Occhipinti's home which was filed by Det. Milton Meyer.

REASONS GIVEN

The application contained the following "reasons and facts for the request of the search warrant:

"On Jan. 8, 1969, Det. Meyer, in company with FBI agent D. Hahn, investigated a complaint from Mr. Joel Theodore Hurley, 33, 6011 N. Winthrop, Chicago, Ill., an antique jewelry salesman. Mr. Hurley stated that on Jan. 7, 1969 he had occasion to go to Antin's Jewelry Store located 702 S. Carrollton ave. along with another antique jewelry salesman, one Herbert Finkelstein, residing 1212 Avenue of The Americas, N. Y., N. Y. Almost immediately upon entering Antin's Jewelry Store Mr. Hurley positively identified approximately 50 pieces of antique jewelry that had been stolen from him in a burglary of W. G. Buschemeyer & Sons, 669 S. Fourth, Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 26, 1967. Stolen in this burglary was approximately 800 pieces of antique jewelry. This burglary was reported to Louisville, Ky., Police Department and the FBI.

"Upon recognizing his property, some of which he had for three years or more and had handled almost daily, Mr. Hurley said nothing to Mrs. Leah Antin but did tell Mr. Finkelstein. Leaving the store, Mr. Hurley contacted the FBI office and the New Orleans Police Department. Det. Meyer sent Mr. Hurley to Antin's Jewelry Store at 308 Royal on Jan. 8, 1969, and when he reported that he could positively identify two pieces of his jewelry in the window on the basis of the aforementioned, search warrants were obtained

725 pieces of jewelry. It has been established through the public services in New Orleans, La., that Roy Occhipinti resides at 5478 Dayna Ct."

The search warrant was dated Jan. 9 and signed by Judge Matthew S. Braniff.

The following return was made after the search warrant was served:

"Inventory of property seized: One silver gold rose pin, \$200; one gold filled pendant, \$4"

SURRENDERS CHECK

"During the investigation the proprietor Mr. Samuel Antin Jr. stated that he purchased the recovered stolen jewelry from one Roy F. Occhipinti for \$306.50 and surrendered his check, number 7010, covering this transaction. This check was endorsed by Roy F. Occhipinti and stamped on back 'For Deposit Rex Finance Co.' Mr. Antin's record of this transaction lists Roy F. Occhipinti as residing 5478 Dayna ct., New Orleans, Telephone 488-9825.

"Mr. Antin described Roy F. Occhipinti as a white male, 55 years, five feet eight inches, 200 pounds, bald head, brown eyes.

"This is the same general description that Roy Occhipinti is known by the police department. Although 73 pieces of jewelry has been recovered there is still approximately 725 pieces of jewelry missing at this time. The subject Roy F. Occhipinti is known to members of the detective bureau as an associate of well known professional burglars. Occhipinti has been seen by members of this department in the company of both local and out of town police characters. Furthermore information in the past has been received from at least two reliable confidential sources that the subject Roy F. Occhipinti handles stolen merchandise but he could never be connected to any type of crime to date.

"In view of the aforementioned it is believed that Roy F. Occhipinti is still in possession of some of or all of the missing