

# CONFESSIONS OF A Mafia mission:

DAILY EXPRESS Wednesday February 19 1992

31

## GODFATHER

# Kill Kennedy

**S**OON after the murder of Marilyn Monroe in August 1962, Attorney General Robert Kennedy's FBI agents slammed into the Giancanas with full force. Not just Mooney, but his brother Chuck and family felt the force of their harassment.

Throughout the autumn of that year, Chuck agonised about the constant stream of cars parked outside his home or at the Thunderbolt Motel which he ran for Mooney. The bar was full of G-Men.

Chuck's agony increased when Mooney said he would sell the motel. "It's too hot even to have a drink in the goddam lounge," he snarled.

So, even though the thought of being out of work made him panic, Chuck put the motel up for sale. Anne-Marie begged her husband to talk to Mooney. "It isn't fair," she said tearfully.

"Mooney's too big to be worried by us," said Chuck. "He's up to his eyeballs in international deals."

Mooney had also made plans for the biggest star-studded occasion in Chicago's history: the grand opening of his Villa Venice, the swankiest nightclub east of Las Vegas.

Throughout the opening week champagne flowed, while on stage stars such as Eddie Fisher, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr crooned for the fans.

Chuck and Anne-Marie were stationed front-row, centre. And here was Chuck sitting so close to the stage he could smell Sinatra's cologne. This was what being Mooney's brother was all about.

Despite the glamour of the club's opening, the FBI intensified its war against the Chicago boss and organised crime.

In January 1963 the coast-to-coast



BOSS: Mooney Giancana

cry went up from the underworld to eliminate the Kennedys. And Mooney, who had set himself up as 'boss of bosses', was pressurised by fellow Mafiosi — particularly Jimmy Hoffa and Carlos Marcello — to do just that. In the early spring the Thunderbolt Motel was sold and Chuck, out of work, found himself in hospi-

tal for a hernia operation.

**O**NE day Mooney trotted into the hospital room, his face lit up with an uncharacteristically-broad smile. He sat down on the edge of the bed: "I just wanted you to know that it's all been taken care of," he said mysteriously. "You know I always win."

On November 22, 1963, Chuck turned on the car radio and learned that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. Somehow, he wasn't surprised. He'd heard everyone, from gas station attendants to guys in the Outfit (the local Chicago term for Mafia), saying: "Somebody should get that Kennedy bastard."

When the all-too-familiar name of Jack Ruby sprang across the airwaves, there was no doubt left in Chuck's mind.

For Ruby was the Outfit's man in Dallas. So his brother had ordered the hit — and the cover-up when Ruby shot Oswald in front of the TV cameras.

Several years would pass before Chuck heard the full, incredible story from Mooney himself, and in the interim Mooney had plenty of troubles. Launching a highly-publicised grand jury investigation into inter-state racketeering in May 1965, the Justice Department targeted Giancana.

Mooney, who'd been granted immunity, refused to talk. He was found in contempt and sent to Cook County jail for a year. When he came out he relaxed at Chuck's sub-



urban ranch home. His gaunt face and thinning hair saddened Chuck: the past year hadn't been kind. But his arrogance still remained. "I'm leaving for Mexico," he told Chuck. "All I gotta do now is work deals for the CIA and the Outfit...all over the world. Overseas is where it's heading. The Vietnam War is gonna make a lot of guys rich..."

"Forget about the FBI. I'm talking CIA. They're different. Like night and day. We've been partners on more deals than I have time to tell you about."

Chuck was irritated by Mooney's cavalier attitude and mumbled: "I guess I'll never understand." Glowering, Mooney lowered his voice, fixed Chuck with steely eyes and hissed: "We took care of Kennedy...together."

*He lifted his cigar to his lips and a cruel smile curled like an embrace around it. Chuck felt as if his mind had gone blank. His brother had been right. The government and the Outfit really were two sides of the same coin.*

For the next hour Mooney shared the darkest and most horrifying of his secrets. Ruby had been Mooney's man in Dallas for years, running strip joints, gambling rackets and narcotics for the Outfit and running guns for the CIA. Ruby's murder of Oswald was an act that placed Chicago's Outfit and Mooney squarely in the middle of the assassination cover-up. Ruby had previously worked with the CIA during the planning of the Bay of Pigs operation — the attempted invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Over time, the Dallas gangster had formed fast friendships with undercover agents — men like Lee Harvey Oswald. At one point Ruby went so far as to give CIA operative and Outfit pilot David Ferrie a job in his Carousel Club.

But there was another reason Mooney said he selected Jack Ruby for the job. Since coming to Texas, Ruby, true to his Chicago training, had massaged the local cops and politicians, gradually getting to know most on a first-name basis.

**T**HIS had been extremely useful in the aftermath of the assassination. Ruby was even able to gain access to the police station — an astounding feat for a person the Press later referred to as "a half-witted strip-club operator" — both immediately after Oswald's incarceration and, more critically, during Oswald's transfer.

"Oswald knew what the story was when he saw Jack comin' at him. He knew he'd been made the patsy and that Jack was gonna take him out. But it was too late for him to do anything about it."

Chuck knew from years of asso-

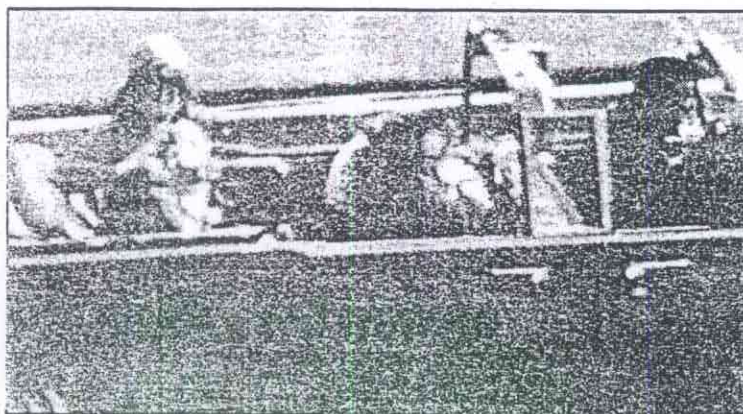


HITMAN...Jack Ruby, Mooney's man in Dallas, shoots Oswald



● **WHEN** Chicago Godfather Sam Mooney Giancana's head was blown off with a hail of bullets in June 1975 in suburban Chicago, it seemed as if his darkest secrets — the part he played in the murder of Marilyn Monroe and his role in the assassination of President Kennedy — would die with him.

● But over the years he confided much to his younger brother Chuck, who, together with Chuck's son Sam Jr, has now written this sensational expose of the part played by the Mafia at every level of U.S. life.



**DEATH IN DALLAS...** Kennedy falls victim to an assassin's bullet

cliation with the Outfit that a man in Ruby's position would go to any lengths to kill Oswald, because he had the knowledge to blow the lid off the entire operation.

Any Outfit guy would think it better to die in the electric chair than to die at the hands of one of Mooney's enforcers for screwing up a job. One Outfit man who screwed up had been left dangling on a meat hook for 48 hours before he died.

Mooney said that the alleged lone gunman, Oswald, had ties to both the CIA and the Outfit. He had been connected with the New Orleans Mob from the time he was born. Then he had a stint with homosexual CIA operative and Outfit smuggling pilot David Ferrie — a hairless eccentric whom Mooney said he had frequently used to fly drugs and guns out of Central America.

Oswald had been a spy for the U.S. in the Soviet Union. He was not a Castro sympathiser nor communist at all, as the misinformation spewing from the government in the wake of the assassination had had the public believing.

Oswald was sent to Dallas by his intelligence superiors, where he made contact with Ruby. Mooney now confided that each man involved in the assassination plot received \$50,000.

Mooney himself got "millions in oil" from wealthy right-wing Texan oilmen, though he never disclosed precisely who the financiers were.

Oswald was the natural choice as fall guy: "We'd laid the groundwork to make him look like a commie nut, by goin' to Russia and spouting all

that pro-Castro stuff. He was perfect..."

Mooney said the entire conspiracy went "right up to the top of the CIA" and even Vice President Lyndon Johnson knew. According to Mooney, the nuts-and-bolts planning had involved some of the top people on the Dallas police force. He grinned: "They made sure it was so loose down there on the day of the hit, hell, a four-year-old could have nailed Jack Kennedy."

**F**ROM Chicago, Mooney brought in top-notch killers Richard Cain, Chuckie Nicoletti and Milwaukee Phil, all of whom had previously worked on the Bay of Pigs deal. Cain and Nicoletti were the actual gunmen for the hit, being placed at opposite ends of the Book Depository. In fact it was Cain, not Oswald, who actually fired the fatal shot from the infamous sixth-storey window of the Depository.

To eliminate Oswald, Mooney said that the CIA had selected Roscoe White and PC Tippit, who both held positions in the Dallas police force. Under the guise of self-defence, they were to murder the 'lone gunman'. However, Tippit had wavered, allowing Oswald to escape. Thus White had been forced to kill his partner.

"Probably the only real screw-up in the whole goddamned deal. And the rest is history," Mooney said

grinning. "For once we didn't even have to worry about J Edgar Hoover (the FBI chief)... He hated the Kennedys as much as anybody and he wasn't about to help Bobby find his brother's killers. He covered up anything his Boy Scouts found. And if somebody found out too much, the CIA took care of the problem."

From what Mooney said, the CIA had indeed stepped in with immense efficiency and removed all traces of conspiracy. And Mooney, with his practice of delegating, was well insulated too. His lieutenants took care of the details. Results were all that mattered.

Just before JFK's murder he had met the top CIA men, some politicians and the Texan backers of the assassination on just one occasion in Dallas. And that was that.

Chuck listened appalled while his brother unveiled the story of the President's murder.

Mooney said: "The hit in Dallas was just like any other operation we'd worked on in the past... we'd overthrown other governments in other countries plenty of times before. This time we just did it in our own backyard."

© 1992 by Sam Giancana and Chuck Giancana. Taken from *Double Cross: The Story Of The Man Who Controlled America*, by Sam and Chuck Giancana, to be published by Macdonald on March 2, at £16.99. Adapted by PETER GROSVENOR.

**TOMORROW: WHO REALLY MURDERED BOBBY**