

N.J. mobster admires syndicate setup

The Chicago crime syndicate, according to recently released FBI-recorded conversations of Mafia leaders, was much admired by Angelo DeCarlo, a New Jersey gangster.

"They got the whole state to themselves," he said.

And former Chicago crime syndicate leader Sam Giancana once teased hoodlum Ruggiero Boiardo about keeping another hoodlum, Anthony Russo, in an important position.

The transcripts of the conversations were released last week by a U.S. District Court judge in Newark, N.J. They

were made between 1961 and 1965 at DeCarlo's place called "The Barn," in Mountainside, N.J., where DeCarlo made his headquarters.

The territory

DeCarlo's respect for the Chicago organization was related to a 1963 conversation with Lou Lorasca.

"The whole mob, I think, is about 50," DeCarlo said.

Lorasca: "And look at the territory they got."

DeCarlo: "Let me tell you something about Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit. They got the whole state to themselves. That's why they can make so much money."

Dominick Claffone (another gangster): "Everybody in Chicago gets a thousand a week. Everything goes into the pot. Everybody has got their own Cadillac. Everybody has got their own home. Everybody has got their own assignment -- who's in charge of the South Side, who's in charge of the North Side, who's in charge of the Loop."

Left no trace

When Giancana, in exile since being released from a year's imprisonment at Cook County Jail in a talk-or-else ploy used who Russo had ever killed, he got a prompt

Russo boasted that he had murdered Anthony Strollo, a New Jersey mafioso who disappeared without a trace in 1962.

In another section of the tape, DeCarlo relates that he instructed a switchboard operator at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City to copy and give him all the numbers called by Robert F. Kennedy.

DeCarlo met the operator on Aug. 13, 1964, at his headquarters. Her name, given phonetically, was "Mrs. Jean Simmons," and she "agreed to do this," the transcript shows.

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