

# The Fred

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AP leased wire and features

Frederick, Maryland

## Gangland link eyed

By RUTH W. JOHNSON  
News-Post Montgomery Bureau Chief

ROCKVILLE — The Montgomery County Police Organized Crime Unit is investigating a possible underground connection between the gangland murders of a Derwood man, whose body washed up off Staten Island, N.Y., last Wednesday, and that of John Roselli, whose body was recently discovered floating in a drum off Biscayne Bay, Fla. near Miami.

Requests have been made from Capitol Hill for an investigation into reports that Roselli took part in CIA

attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Montgomery County Police Superintendent John C. Lammers said Wednesday morning there is "no apparent connection at this time" between Eugene Michael Carrafa, 36, of 7828 Briardale Terrace, Derwood, and the CIA.

But members of the Organized Crime Unit here are interested in the similarity between the two murders, Lammers said.

Montgomery authorities entered the investigation of the Carrafa death at the

request of New York police, Lammers said.

Carrafa is listed as the owner of Gino's Classic Cars, located at 3909 Pulaski Highway in Abbington, Harford County. He was reported missing Aug. 1 by his wife, Carol. She told Montgomery Police that her husband left for New York on July 28 to visit his partner, Jay Knohl, of Seagate, N.Y.

Mrs. Carrafa said her husband told Knohl that he was going to California to check on the possibility of buying an antique car, and that Knohl gave Carrafa money to seal the purchase.

# erick Post

Good morning!

Human history doesn't show progress, only the throwing off of one set of chains and taking on another.

—Anthony Burgess

Thursday, August 12, 1976

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## in Montgomery death

Carrafa, a former Marine, was found strangled and with loops of chains tied around his waist in Great Kill Harbor, N.Y., on Aug. 4.

According to press reports from New York, Mrs. Carrafa traveled there to identify the body three days ago, but upon viewing the remains, she denied that it was her husband, and burst into tears.

Tuesday, a positive identification of Carrafa was made through dental records by New York authorities.

Asked if Mrs. Carrafa was now under police protection, Lammers said, "No, she hasn't asked for any."

The superintendent admitted that Mrs. Carrafa was "one of several" persons questioned by Montgomery officers, but he declined to release the names of others who may be involved in any local organized crime operation.

Lammers also said that Mrs. Carrafa told police that she did not know who killed her husband or why.

The investigation in Montgomery, Lammers said, is centering around three valuable stolen antique cars worth \$183,000 with which Carrafa may have had dealings and which may lead to an underground network involving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The cars stolen from Gino's Classic Cars, Inc. were valued at about \$150,000, according to a confidant of the slain businessman.

A businessman knowledgeable of the local operations of the obscure antique car "sales and service" business located on the south side of U.S. 40 just east of Long Bar Harbor Road said Wednesday "the place is almost never open for business."

The informant said, "The phone rings alot there, but the guy that runs the place is hardly ever there. He travels alot. He could be in California right now."

The man said, "It is pretty much a one-man operation. He (Carrafa) had a salesman for awhile, but he is no longer with him."

Also mentioned was the nature of the business conducted by Gino's Classic Cars.

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## Victim's brother shocked, sees no motive in killing

By RUTH W. JOHNSON  
News-Post Montgomery Bureau Chief

WATERBURY, Conn. — Matthew Carrafa, brother of the apparent gangland slaying victim, Eugene Michael Carrafa, said Wednesday night that he was "shocked and totally confused about a motive" for the brutal killing.

Discounting the robbery angle, Carrafa said his brother "always carried large sums of money" with him. He said New York Police are still searching for his brother's missing Continental Mark III. He said the car disappeared at the same time his brother was reported missing on Aug. 1 and has not been seen since.

On his return from vacation near Orlando, Fla., Matthew Carrafa said he

"He doesn't carry parts. He just does work on his own cars. He brings in the parts and puts them together. But it is all work done on his own cars. He (Carrafa) doesn't work on other people's cars," the informant said.

The man said Carrafa said he intended to sell his cars through auctions

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stopped to see his brother in Derwood on July 23, five days before Gino left for New York, and "there was no indication of anything wrong then." Matthew said his brother's only association in New York was with his partner, Jay Knohl.

Gino and Matthew, who is a tool shop foreman, were among seven sons in the Carrafa family. One sister lives in Colorado, Carrafa said. Most of the family, including Gino's wife Carroll, has gathered at Matthew's home in Waterbury for the funeral, which is scheduled to be held Friday at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Matthew said his brother had planned to attend the big antique car show in Hershey, Pa. next month. Stating that he and his brother had been "very close," Matthew commented "I think I'm more shocked about this (the murder) than his wife."

## Gangland link

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which would attract wealthy antique car buffs.

Apparently, the antique car "sales and service" business has had little contact with the public during the little more than one year it has been operating at the Pulaski Highway location.

Carrafa, acting as president of Gino's Classic Cars, Inc., purchased the white block building which today houses the business on March 4, 1975, according to Harford County land records.

Sources said Carrafa was well-known as an expert in car repair. About two years ago, they said, he worked for the Bill Bogley Lincoln-Mercury car dealership in Bethesda, which was closed in February 1975, for non-payment of \$168,000 in back federal taxes.

Last November, attorney Gary Mandel, the governor's son, was under investigation by the Montgomery State's Attorney's office in connection with activities of the Bogley dealership. No indictment was returned. Gary Mandel represented the dealership with at least one local bank, Free State, while working for Bogley.

The Carrafa home, in the Redland Station subdivision, is situated at the end of a group of \$50,000 brick townhouses. Wednesday's newspaper was lying untouched on the doorstep at noon. There was no answer to persistent knocking at the door, but the steady hum of the air-conditioner could be heard at the side of the house. A deserted picnic table could be seen among the trees at the rear of the fenced-in yard.

Most of the neighbors, engineers, architects and CPA, were away at work

for the day, but a young mother in Briardale Terrace said she knew the couple slightly and that Carrafa seemed like "a real nice guy." She said he used to drive some of the antique cars home "once in a while," but that she had not seen him for the past two weeks.

According to the neighbor, a teenage stepdaughter lived with the Carrafas, who had moved into the area about three years ago.

Hoppy Harrison, who also lives close by, said he didn't know the couple very well, but that Carrafa had offered to sell him a used car recently. "He (Carrafa) usually drives a Lincoln Continental," Harrison said. "He seemed like a pretty nice guy."

Harrison described Mrs. Carrafa as an "attractive blonde, a large-boned woman."

Carrafa's murder "shocked me badly," he commented, adding "I couldn't sleep last night ... when a neighbor gets bumped off, you know." Another neighbor described Carrafa as "built like a tank."

In the Circuit Court in Rockville Carrafa's Classic Cars, Inc. was registered as a corporation in February, 1975, with Carrafa and Knohl listed as directors. At that time, Knohl's address was given as 17929 Archwood Way, Olney.

The third name listed in the corporation was attorney Stanley N. Tashoff, whose offices are located at 19110 Montgomery Village Ave., Gaithersburg. A call to Tashoff's office was answered by his secretary who said he was away on vacation. There was no answer at his home on Garden Court in Potomac.

The court documents stated that the purpose of the corporation was the purchase, rebuilding, repair and sale of antique cars, both in Maryland and outside of the state.