

# Police trace Carrafa to New York nightclub

9-8-76

F Post

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ROCKVILLE — Montgomery's Organized Crime Unit has uncovered an association between Eugene (Gino) Carrafa, 37, the murdered Derwood antique car dealer, and a business establishment in the Bronx area of New York, frequented by underworld figures.

Although police refused to divulge the name of the establishment, they said it is a known meeting place for members of the Vito Genovese Cosa Nostra family.

Carrafa's bloated body washed up off Staten Island, N. Y., on August 4, three days after his wife, Carol, reported him missing from their home at 7828 Briardale Terrace in Derwood, a short distance from Rockville.

Carrafa had been strangled and his body wrapped in chains, which were padlocked and weighted. The discovery of his body touched off an investigation by police in four states, and by the FBI, which is also probing a similar death of Chicago mobster, John Roselli.

Roselli's body was found floating in an oil drum off Biscayne Bay, Fla., a few

days after Carrafa's washed ashore. A third death, that of Janice Mae Piccerelli on July 21, in Chicago, was believed to have had some connection to an apparent underworld rift.

The Organized Crime Unit also said that one of Mrs. Piccerelli's places of employment in Chicago is owned by a man formerly associated with the late mobster Sam (Momo) Giacana. Sources said Mrs. Piccerelli was a known companion of underworld figures in Chicago.

Carrafa, his partner, Jay Knohl, who is now missing from his New York home, and Mrs. Piccerelli's former husband all served in the Marine Corps together. A possible link between the three of them, Roselli and Giacana is still under investigation.

Giacana was murdered at his home last year, before he had a chance to testify before a Senate committee concerning the CIA's part in attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Roselli, who had testified once before the committee, was being called upon again

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for additional information at the time of his death.

Recent reports have indicated that Castro, upon learning of the plot against his life, retaliated by instigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Organized Crime Unit said that Mrs. Piccerelli's "apparent accidental overdose death" in Chicago "appears at this time to be coincidental" insofar as it relates to Roselli's death.

Police said they had also learned that Roselli had been in touch with underworld figures in Washington, D. C., prior to his death last month. Those figures in Washington had been linked, in the past, to an identified Cosa Nostra soldier in the Vito Genovese family, they said.

Carrafa, and Jay Knohl, who forfeited \$150,000 cash bond when he failed to appear in a New York court last month on child molesting charges, operated Gino's Classic Cars in Abingdon, Md.

Just prior to Carrafa's death, three valuable antique cars were stolen from the agency, which had a \$157,000 insurance policy on the vehicles. The cars, and the Continental Mark III driven by Carrafa to New York when he disappeared, have never been recovered.

Mrs. Carrafa has refused to discuss her husband's death with reporters. She insists that she does not know anything about why he was murdered, or who would have killed him. At the time she reported him missing, she told police that he had gone to New York to talk with Knohl about the purchase of an antique car.