

Charles (Dick) Carlino, Louis Marino Jailed; Seek Gun in Bayou

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The Vincent Vallone murder was solved today. Two men are charged with the murder. One has confessed that he was the "trigger man" who cut down Vallone with two blasts from a 12-gauge shotgun at a lonely spot on the Chocolate Bayou road last July 15. The other denies any part in the killing.

The accused men are:

Diego L. Carlino, also known as Richard Carlino, 28, of 3009 Dowling, a grocery store operator, who declared he killed Vallone to avoid having to kill someone else.

Louis J. Marino, 37, of 2628 Craigmont, operator of the L&L Ice Co. at Dowling and Leeland.

The murder case was solved by Sheriff C. V. Kern and Texas Ranger John J. Klevenhagen after weeks of intensive investigation, climaxed by a tip that led first to the "finger man" in the killing, then to Carlino and Marino.

Both Say Officers Beat Them

In county jail today both accused men said they had been beaten by officers.

Carlino said Sheriff Kern and Ranger Klevenhagen took him to a cabin near Beaumont and beat him to get the confession. Marino said he was beaten by other officers.

Sheriff Kern said none of the claims of beating were true and that no officer beat either man.

Carlino was arrested Saturday morning when officers spotted him in a panel truck driving on Farris.

Marino was arrested 24 hours later as he walked into his ice house at Dowling and Leeland.

Both were taken to jail in Texas City for questioning and were held there until almost dawn today, when Sheriff Kern brought them back to Houston.

Murder Weapon Sought in Bayou

The sheriff immediately started a search under the Sabine street bridge across Buffalo Bayou, where he said Carlino told him the murder weapon had been thrown.

While Marino was held in jail the sheriff took Carlino to the bridge and kept him there for hours while the search for the gun continued.

In mid-morning Carlino was taken elsewhere by the sheriff and District Attorney A. C. Winborn for a private conference, after which Mr. Winborn said:

"Carlino is a very frightened man. It is obvious he had not told in his confession all that he knows about the Vincent Vallone murder. It is easy to conjecture that he may have told officers orally a great deal more than appears in the confession. And it also is obvious that he is shielding someone."

Refuses to Name Accomplice

Carlino's confession does shield another person, the driver of the car that forced Vallone's Cadillac to the side of the road just before the fatal blasts were fired. He has refused to name the man.

The arrest of Marino came after Carlino had made his statement, but Sheriff Kern declined to say whether Carlino named Marino at any time, or to say how Marino was connected with the case.

Sheriff Kern said today the Vallone case "broke" several days ago when a person he declined to name gave him a tip on the "finger man" in the case.

That man, now held in "protective custody" at his own request, gave the information that led to Carlino, the sheriff said.

The "finger man" admitted that he made an appointment with Vallone on the night of the murder, to assure that Vallone would drive to town and would return later to his Chocolate Bayou road estate.

No Charges Against 'Finger Man'

Sheriff Kern said the "finger man" is not held in Harris County and declined to say if he is in the state. No charges will be filed against him, the sheriff said.

Sheriff Kern said Carlino told him he hated Vallone "because he had pushed people around for years."

"Nobody could do anything here until somebody got him (Vallone) out of the way," the sheriff quoted Carlino as saying.

The sheriff said this reference apparently was to a reported move of an "outside" group that wanted to take over the Houston bookie wire service.

Marino denied any part in the Vallone killing, Sheriff Kern said.

The sheriff said the case still is being investigated and that he has "several more" persons to question before the picture is complete.

Carlino Recent Houston Resident

Carlino is operator of the Dowling Food Market at 3009 Dowling. He has been a Houston resident for only 18 months.

Marino operates the L&L Ice Co. at Dowling and Leeland. He has lived in Houston many years, and police records show that he was convicted in 1932 and again in 1934 on charges of burglary.

"Carlino said he learned by accident that Vallone was in town that night," the sheriff said. "He said he went to the Sorrento (Vallone's lavish but unfinished restaurant) and spotted Vallone, then followed him as he drove home."

In addition to murder charges against both Carlino and Marino, charges of carrying concealed weapons were filed at Marino, Justice Ragan said today. He said Marino

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Vallone Murder Solved

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was carrying a gun when he was arrested and that another gun was found in the glove compartment of his automobile.

Sheriff Kern personally directed the diving operations that began at the Sabine street bridge at 6 a.m.

Carlino, handcuffed and shivering in the cold, sat with several officers. He seldom spoke and appeared nervous and excited.

The diving was being done by J. E. DeForrest of 8127 Concord, a professional diver who was called by Sheriff Kern immediately after his return from Texas City.

Mr. DeForrest was inching carefully over the floor of the bayou, exploring the deep mud directly under and below the bridge. After two hours, the diving crew moved to the upper side of the bridge and resumed operations.

Sheriff Kern brought a 60-foot length of rope, tied a 10-pound rock to it, then had Carlino brought to the side of the bridge.

"Pitch it off where you threw the gun," the sheriff commanded.

Carlino balanced the rock on the bridge railing and let it fall straight down.

"Take him away," said Sheriff Kern. "That's not where he told me he threw it. I'll throw the rock myself."

The sheriff pulled the rock back up and heaved it out from the bridge toward the center of the stream, then directed the diver to concentrate on that spot.

Attorney Percy Foreman attempted to have Marino and Carlino released after he learned last night of their secret arrest on Saturday, but on two trips to Texas City he was unable to find them or to find Sheriff Kern.

Search for the murder weapon was abandoned temporarily at 11:30 a.m. when Mr. DeForrest said it apparently was buried under several feet of sand and could not be located without digging.

Officers said a heavy power magnet would be brought from the Hughes Tool Co. and set up over the spot where the gun is believed to be. Such a magnet, they said, will pull it up through three feet of sand and mud.

Vincent Vallone, one of Houston's best known characters, was blasted to death with a 12-gauge shotgun fired through the window of his Cadillac at a range of only 10 feet.

Two Negroes who lived nearby said they saw a small black sedan force the Vallone car to a stop only a few blocks from his Chocolate Bayou home, just before the shotgun roared its death message, almost blowing off the top of Vallone's head.

Carlino's 19-year-old brother, Salvatore, said today that Carlino's name is Richard Giego Carlino, not Charles Carlino, the name under which he is charged.

Salvatore Carlino said he came to Houston soon after his brother did last year, and insisted that Carlino's record was "clean as a dog's tooth."

Carlino, the brother said, was a truck driver in New York, and served as a paratrooper during the war.