

Colombo: A Man With Several Roles

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

Joseph Anthony Colombo Sr. was appearing at Columbus Circle in his role as a founder of the Italian-American Civil Rights League yesterday when he was shot down.

The role of "civil rights" advocate is but one of many attributed to Colombo.

To Anthony A. Cantalupo, president of a Brooklyn real estate concern, Mr. Colombo is an employe, a \$20,000-a-year salesman, "a perfect gentleman" and a man with an interest in a garment shop in Manhattan.

To other people, Colombo is a family man, the father of four sons and a daughter.

To Federal authorities, he is another kind of family man—the head of a Mafia family with about 200 members and associates.

It was in the role of a self-appointed foe of alleged harassment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Colombo was rendered most visible to the public, in sharp contrast to other reputed Mafia leaders, who shun the limelight.

The origins of the Italian-American Civil Rights League are traceable to the spring of 1970, when Colombo began leading a nightly picketing of the Manhattan offices of the F.B.I. to protest the prosecution of his son Joseph Jr. on charges of conspiracy to melt silver coins into more valuable ingots.

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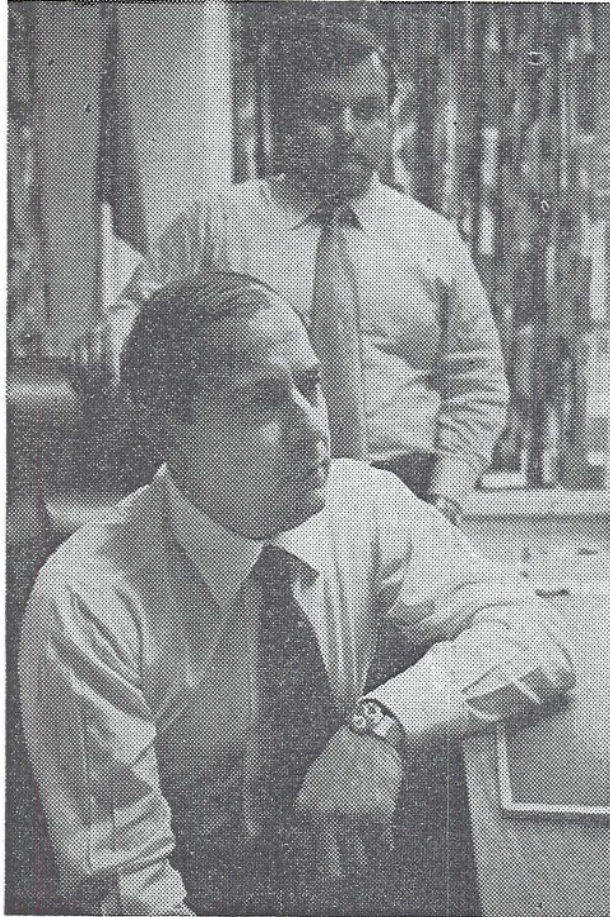
Colombo Describes Plan

"We said there is a conspiracy in this country against all Italian people," Colombo related in an article that appeared under his byline yesterday in the Gannett Group of newspapers. "Right there we formed the Italian-American Civil Rights League, right on 69th Street and Third Avenue right out in the open under God's eyes. Under the stars."

Joseph Jr. was acquitted after the Government's chief witness recanted his testimony. The league, with Natale Marcone, a 57-year-old former union organizer as president and with Colombo's 26-year-old son Anthony as vice president, grew in membership and activity.

At the end of a year, the league said it had 45,000 members. Headquarters had been established in a five-room suite on the 17th floor of 635 Madison Avenue, at 59th Street, and the league said it had 25 chapters in the New York area and new chapters opening all across the country.

A concert at the Felt Forum helped raise \$500,000 in November; in March, a testimonial dinner in Huntington, L. I., at which the league honored Colombo for "restoring dignity, pride and recognition to every Italian," netted \$101,000; Al Ruddy, the producer of "The Godfather," a film adaptation of the best-selling novel, agreed to delete references to the Mafia or Cosa Nostra from the script; so did the producers of the television series "The F.B.I."; Attorney General John M. Mitchell and Governor



Santi Visalli/Photoreporter.

Joseph A. Colombo Sr. and his son Anthony in office of Italian-American Civil Rights League earlier this month.

Rockefeller muted references to the Mafia and Cosa Nostra, and a popular television commercial that featured the words "Mamma mia, that's a some spicy meatball" was discontinued by Alka-Seltzer.

Last month, Colombo appeared at a joint news conference to announce that his league had joined forces with the Jewish Defense League, headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane, to fight what they called harassment by the Federal Government.

Appealing Conviction

But Colombo's public militancy did nothing to convince Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies that he was other than privately criminal.

At the time of his shooting, he was under Federal indictment on charges of income tax evasion. He was free on bail pending an appeal of a conviction for committing perjury in his application for a real estate broker's license. The conviction was for lying about a criminal record, which included 13 arrests and three convictions—

two fines for gambling and a 30-day contempt sentence.

He was also implicated in a jewel robbery in Nassau County, was under indictment on a contempt charge in Brooklyn, and under indictment on charges of controlling a \$10-million-a-year gambling syndicate in Kings, Manhattan and Nassau Counties.

Colombo, a son of Anthony Colombo, who was garroted in 1938, was born in Brooklyn on June 16, 1923. He attended New Utrecht High School for two years, spent three years in the Coast Guard before receiving a discharge in 1945 because he suffered from "psychoneurosis," then allegedly drifted into a life of petty crime.

Most of his arrests were on such charges as running a craps game, consorting with known gamblers or criminals, disorderly conduct and vagrancy. For 10 years he worked intermittently as a longshoreman. For six years he was employed as a salesman for a meat company controlled by the brother of a Mafia leader. Since then, Colombo has been a salesman for Cantalupo Realty.

According to law enforcement officials, Colombo is the youngest Mafia leader in the country. They say he came to power in 1964, when he was apparently given the leadership of a family headed by Giuseppe Magliocco.

They said Colombo's break came in 1962, when Joseph Bonanno, leader of a New York family headed by Giuseppe Magliocco, decided to try to become the dominant force in the Mafia. His reported plan called for the killing of three Mafia leaders, Carlo Gambino, Thomas Luchese and Stephano Magadino.

Officials say the contract for

Lindsay Calls Shooting An 'Ugly Shock' to City

Mayor Lindsay said yesterday that "the outrageous attack on Joseph A. Colombo Sr. is an ugly shock to all New Yorkers."

The Mayor had planned to attend the annual City Council outing with members of the press corps in New City, N. Y., but stayed in his City Hall office when news of Colombo's shooting came.

"It's tragic and ironic that this senseless shooting had to take place on unity day," City Council President Sanford D. Garelik said at the outing. "It's especially important that all New York remain calm and reflect on the curse of violence."

the assassinations was given to Magliocco, who farmed them out to Colombo, a newly appointed captain in his family.

Gambino Is Warned

Instead of carrying out the contract, Colombo informed Gambino of the plan, the law enforcement officers say. Bonanno was forced to surrender his leadership; Magliocco, who died shortly afterward, was fined, and Colombo was apparently given a reward — Magliocco's family leadership and seat on the national commission.

The lawmen say the Colombo family rackets include numbers and sports gambling, hijacking, fencing in stolen goods and loan-sharking. Unlike some older bosses, Colombo has concentrated also on involving himself and his underlings in legitimate businesses and he is believed to have interests in 20 businesses in New York.

Colombo has ridiculed his portrayal by the authorities.

"Mafia, what's the Mafia?" he asked recently. "There is not a Mafia. Am I head of a family? Yes. My wife and four sons and a daughter. That's my family."

He maintained that the F.B.I. encouraged the spread of the words "Mafia" and "Cosa Nostra" to conceal its investigative inadequacies.

"When they don't solve something, it's because there's this secret organization they still haven't penetrated," he said. "You can't solve it so you blame somebody. You make up labels."

Colombo and his wife, Lucille, live with their two unmarried sons and daughter in a split-level house at 1161-83d Street, in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Colombo also owns an estate at Blooming Grove, N.Y., in Orange County, near Goshen.

5 More Bodies Are Found In 1968 Mining Disaster

Special to The New York Times

FAIRMONT, W. Va., June 28

—Rescue teams found today five more bodies of the men killed in the Farmington No. 9 mine disaster on Nov. 20, 1968. The bodies have not been identified.

Seventy-eight men lost their lives in the explosion and fires, and nine bodies had been recovered previously. Sixty-four bodies are yet to be found.

The rescue teams that entered the mine today chipped away at a five-foot wall of solid coal with nonsparking tools to enter the main corridor, known as the 7 North Passageway.