
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90104-10419

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-2940-19

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : PG
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 03/28/1958
PAGES : 51

SUBJECTS :

SEBASTIAN JOHN LAROCCA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : Consulted; 4; 10(a)2
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/31/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF SSS

COMMENTS : RPT, REFERRED TO SSS

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
68262 Date: 09-22-2022

The New York office advised that on January 28, 1958 Mrs. KATHRYN TOOMEY, Chief Clerk, Local Board 64, Selective Service System, 8909 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, advised that the following persons residing at 118-36 201st Place, St. Albans, were registered with that board.

Name: THOMAS ALVIN TURCOTT
Sex: Male
Race: White
Date of birth: November 4, 1935
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 150 lbs.
Complexion: Light

It was noted that this individual entered the U. S. Army on March 27, 1956 and has been assigned Army Serial Number US 51368857. He listed his uncle, JOHN BEST, of 117-31 238th Street, Elmont, N. Y., as the person who will always know his address.

Name: ROBERT HENRY TURCOTT
Sex: Male
Race: White
Date of birth: July 14, 1937
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blond

It was noted that this individual enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on January 18, 1956 and was assigned Marine Serial Number 1589517. He listed VERONICA TURCOTT, his mother, as the person who will always know his address.

The New York office advised that the records of the New York City Police Department contain no record for HENRY TURCOTT and the indices of the New York office contain no reference to anyone named TURCOTT.

Upon the determination that a telephone call was made from the LA ROCCA residence to OX 1-1680 at Vineland, New Jersey on November 24, 1957, the Newark office was requested to determine the

T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on March 24, 1958 that the subscriber to Pittsburgh telephone GRant 1-4453, which number has been called in the past from the LA ROCCA residence, is Margiotti and Casey, attorneys, 720 Grant Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. It is to be noted that both men have represented the subject in the past and that VINCENT CASEY is presently handling all legal affairs of the subject.

Miss FRANCES PRIAM, 4310 Vista View, West Mifflin, Pa., paramour of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, Pittsburgh top hoodlum, was interviewed at length by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on February 19, 1958. She advised that she has known LA ROCCA and his brothers for approximately fourteen years, having met "Big John", as she calls him, when her brother-in-law extended LA ROCCA credit for automobile gasoline. This brother-in-law, whom she did not wish to identify further than to say his name is "CHANCE" and that he had served time at the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary, operated a filling station on Baum Boulevard in Pittsburgh at that time. PRIAM, who is approaching thirty years of age, said LA ROCCA "had eyes for her" when she was sixteen and that she has always appeared at least five years older than her actual age. She said he has approached her on more than one occasion during the past three years and asked her to be "his girl" but that she has not seen her way clear to take him up on this proposal. She said she has met his wife, a very retiring and suppressed woman, and has always admired LA ROCCA for his conservative and gentlemanly manner. His proposal was made more difficult, she admitted, by the fact that she has been "going steady" for approximately nine years with JOE FOREMAN, a Pittsburgh racketeer who does not care for any of the East Liberty "musclemen", as he calls them.

PRIAM, the youngest of fifteen children born to a mother who came to the United States from Hungary when eighteen years of age, recalled that approximately seven or eight years ago FOREMAN and LA ROCCA had a vehement disagreement over a property settlement and that ~~MIKE GENOVESE~~ and his brother "PHIL", also known as FELIX, were sent to see FOREMAN as a threat to a "going over". She said FOREMAN prevented violence by contacting LA ROCCA directly and challenging him to a personal fight and that he has referred to the GENOVESE boys as "musclemen" since that time.

PRIAM advised that she is an accomplished waitress who has worked at all the best places in Pittsburgh and is a member of the local union. For the past three years and up until two weeks prior to this interview she was the main waitress in the Genovese Cocktail Lounge at 412 Larimer Avenue. She also worked at the Holiday House in Monroeville for a time during 1957 and is well acquainted with the Italian element operating that establishment. She intimated that she accepts "dates" on a selective basis and prefers racketeers who are willing to spend a great deal of money on her. She placed "Young John" LA ROCCA in this category and stated that she preferred to date him more than anyone else except FOREMAN. "Young John" was described by PRIAM as being "Big John's younger brother who controls the rackets in Uniontown, Pennsylvania with an iron hand." She said "Young John" telephones her long distance regularly and that she is his date whenever he arrives in Pittsburgh for a meeting with other racketeers. She said he is divorced, has children and is a "very eligible catch." She said LA ROCCA's other two brothers, JOE and TONY are barbers in the Pittsburgh vicinity having absolutely no tie-in with the rackets, to her knowledge.

PRIAM seemed disconcerted during the interview because of the fact that her boyfriend JOE FOREMAN was on trial in Allegheny County Court for burglary, receiving stolen goods, and illegal possession of a firearm. She advised that he is a used car salesman on Baum Boulevard, is married and has four grown children. FOREMAN telephoned her during the interview and expressed the wish that he had money to "buy off someone" because he felt that he was being "railroaded" on the burglary charge.

PRIAM advised that she quit at the Genovese Lounge because she had to wash dishes and because the GENOVESE brothers seemed to be getting "tight" financially. She said there has been very little business at the lounge "since that Apalachin thing" and that she was unable to clear even four dollars a night in tips. She estimates that a waitress with obligations must clear at least seven dollars a day in this regard in order for it to be profitable to work at all.

She recalled receiving a telephone call approximately three to four weeks prior to this interview from Mrs. CARMELLA GENOVESE in California who wanted to speak person-to-person to MIKE GENOVESE,

from whom she is divorced. It should be noted that at about this same time CARMELLA GENOVESE was interviewed by Bureau Agents in California and she was uncooperative in furnishing information about her former husband.

PRIAM recalled that at Christmas time, 1957, the entire GENOVESE family, including the mother and father of the GENOVESE brothers, gathered in the dining room of the lounge and that she received a large tip for serving them. It had previously been reported that old Mrs. GENOVESE had died.

PRIAM fits the following description as observed by SA VOEGE on February 19, 1958:

Name:	FRANCES PRIAM
Age:	Twenty-nine
Race:	Caucasian
Sex:	Female
Height:	5'5½"
Weight:	155-160 lbs.
Build:	Heavy, big boned
Hair:	Dark brown, long; worn straight back off the face with large bun in back; never dyed
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Clear and swarthy
Other characteristics:	Has large nose; wears blouses and skirts rather than dresses; is chain smoker of filter-tip cigarettes; enjoys eating and drinking to excess; resides with mother (age 73) and brother (laid off from U.S. Steel, Homestead Works) and brother's wife and two children (ages 10 and 2); Drives 1957 red Ford with gold strip along sides, bearing Pennsylvania license 563373
Residence:	4310 Vista View, West Mifflin, Pa.
Telephone:	Homestead 1-0551
Hangouts:	Genovese Cocktail Lounge, 412 Larimer Ave., Pittsburgh; Holiday House, Monroeville; Hanna's Restaurant, Centre and Craig, Pittsburgh.

his brothers and LA ROCCA want to keep him "clean." Informant advised that ARCHIE NELSON, another of Pittsburgh's top hoodlums, does not attend the meetings either, nor do "BOOTS" BELLINI, a numbers baron, and CHUCK TEEMER, another Pittsburgh top hoodlum. All of the aforementioned individuals have been observed by the informant at the lounge at one time or another. Informant advised that arrangements had been made for a close girlfriend of the informant to purchase a car through HYMIE MARTIN, approximately two weeks prior to this interview, but that the informant had seen none of the other racketeers recently with the exception of PHIL and FIORE GENOVESE, "JO JO" PECORA and LOUIS VOLPE, who frequents the Holiday House almost nightly.

The informant had no knowledge of the numbers or "sports book" arrangements of the GENOVESES but had recently received a telephone call for PHIL GENOVESE from a Jewish racketeer working along Fifth Avenue to whom PHIL ostensibly owes money. Informant could not recall this individual's name but promised to endeavor to locate it among some check stubs on which a notation was made. Informant recalled that during September or October, 1957, two or three racket men from New York City visited the Genovese Cocktail Lounge and were closeted with the GENOVESE brothers and LA ROCCA for a period of time. Following the meeting, one of these men, who introduced himself as JIMMIE (last name unknown), spoke with the informant for sometime. Informant described JIMMIE as an immaculately dressed Italian man in his fifties and thinks his name can be determined through PHIL GENOVESE, who has confided in the informant during the recent past.

Informant advised that PHIL or FELIX GENOVESE, as he is sometimes called, is definitely not "top dog" in the GENOVESE family although he is close to the MANNARINO brothers. In the opinion of the informant, his overindulgence in extra-marital relations, his preference for drinking great quantities of scotch, and his violent temper and strong arm tactics will prevent PHIL GENOVESE from ever obtaining "big" status in the group. Informant advised that a girl named EVELYN, whose nickname is "PEPPER", and who is employed on a part-time basis as a waitress at the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant in Pittsburgh is known to everyone as "PHIL's girl" and no one else dares to touch her. Informant advised that PHIL GENOVESE dates EVELYN two or three times a week openly and helps support her. According to the informant, the 1957 Ford now being driven by PHIL GENOVESE was given to him as a Christmas gift by KELLY MANNARINO, Pittsburgh top hoodlum, in December, 1956.

The informant advised that the girlfriend of "BIG JOHN" LA ROCCA whose name is not recalled, died approximately ten years ago from an illness which LA ROCCA tried to cure by securing the best medical aid money could obtain. Informant advised that MIKE GENOVESE is a quiet individual who does not date openly but forces his common-law wife ALICE to remain home alone constantly in a house "in the middle of nowhere." Informant advised that none of the wives of the racket men accompany them at their hangouts and seem to be reconciled to remaining in the background while their husbands date and support other women openly.

GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, a well-known and self-admitted Pittsburgh numbers writer who is now sixty-three years of age, was interviewed at his residence, 124 Elysian Street, Pittsburgh (Emerson 1-6684 or Emerson 1-5332) by SA VOEGE on February 27, 1958. He advised that he began his numbers activity during "the old clearing house days of 1928" and is still active in this regard. He said that most of Pittsburgh's present day big racket men once depended on him solely for protection purposes since he knew local and state police figures and recalled that JOHN LA ROCCA was one of these racketeers. MESSER stated that LA ROCCA became acquainted with him in about 1941 or 1942 when LA ROCCA was handling all the numbers activity in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh and had set himself up as a "little God." When LA ROCCA became dissatisfied with his financial gains he left Pittsburgh on a trip to Chicago to see friends about paste reel machines with which he felt he could make more money. MESSER said a paste reel was similar to a "one-armed bandit" with the exception that a small paper-wrapped mint was dispensed after the coin was placed in the slot and the play was registered. Its Chicago manufacturers got around the "strictly for gambling purposes" phraseology in the law in that manner, he explained.

While LA ROCCA was in Chicago MESSER moved into East Liberty and took over the entire numbers operation. He turned in to GEORGE CHRISTY (now deceased) in Pittsburgh. When LA ROCCA returned he became angry at the MESSER move and had a car run over MESSER one night when he was crossing a street. When MESSER got out of the hospital he found his automobile had numerous bullet holes in it. Because he thought he'd make money MESSER stayed in East Liberty and actually forced LA ROCCA out of the numbers business. MESSER recalled that SAM LEVINE, a

Pittsburgh top hoodlum, turned in to him during the early numbers days but said that he has not seen LEVINE in years, although he is familiar with his McKees Rocks book. He said he was friendly with LEVINE's brother RALPH, a promising dentist who is a United States Army officer at present.

MESSER advised that he and LA ROCCA became friendly following their feud and that in approximately 1943 LA ROCCA invited him to share equally in the ownership of the Coin Machine Distributing Company which later set up offices at 5746 Baum Boulevard in Pittsburgh. He recalled that LA ROCCA was completely bankrupt because of numbers setbacks but managed to raise enough money to put up his share. He personally visited Chicago to arrange for the purchase of the machines and made a verbal agreement with ART ROONEY, who allowed him to place the machines throughout the East Liberty, Homewood and Garfield sections and in other areas where ROONEY was not operating. According to MESSER, ROONEY, who is the present owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers professional football club, was the only man who could get paste reels before LA ROCCA tried, and controlled the entire Pittsburgh vicinity in this regard. MESSER said the Government placed \$100 tax on each machine and that the city put a \$50 tax stamp on each machine. He said the other owners of the company in addition to himself and LA ROCCA, were FRANK AMATO, a Pittsburgh top hoodlum, BARNEY MC GINLEY, SAM MANNARINO, a Pittsburgh top hoodlum, and F. W. ZOGG from Chicago.

MESSER advised that the company was doing well financially before Allegheny County authorities raided establishments where the machines had been placed and forced it out of business. He recalled that although each of the six owned an equal share in the company MANNARINO and LA ROCCA seemed to run everything and held meetings at which important subjects were discussed in Italian. AMATO and several other Italians attended these meetings but MESSER did not understand Italian. He advised that he realized that LA ROCCA was only using him for his proven protection methods and did not mind as long as he got his cut out of the profits. He said his chief protection was the then Superintendent of Police SCOTT.

MESSER recalled that during 1946 or 1947 MIKE GENOVESE came on the scene. MIKE had been a pickup man for LA ROCCA and was a tough kid who, according to MESSER, "was almost begging to go to jail."

MESSER, who admittedly ran "moon and numbers joints" in the early thirties and was well acquainted with "Big Mike" SPINELLI, who killed ARTHUR, JIMMY and JOHNNY VOLPE, advised that there is absolutely no numbers organization in the metropolitan Pittsburgh area. He said that there are numerous independent books which are well distributed and that there are no concessions or defined areas. MESSER stated that anyone with money can operate as he pleases and that the police prefer it this way because they can collect protection money easier. He said the police will not allow any organization now.

MESSER advised that at one time he saw "Monkeyface Joe" ROSA, FRANK VALENTI and TONY RIPEPI, all top hoodlums, daily, but that he has gotten away from the Italian element now with the exception of the GENOVESES and NELSON. He recalled that VALENTI and RIPEPI visited the offices of the Coin Machine Distributing Company regularly and always took orders from MANNARINO and LA ROCCA. He said RIPEPI was a more important racket man than VALENTI and that LA ROCCA seemed to be the key man in the Pittsburgh area. MESSER would place LA ROCCA and MANNARINO as the two men who control the rackets in Western Pennsylvania and he sees MIKE GENOVESE as the logical successor to the top position.

MESSER, who drives a 1955 blue and white Oldsmobile sedan, 1957 Pennsylvania license E3914, recalled that in about 1947 labor leader NICK STIRONE visited the company offices to visit his close friends LA ROCCA and MANNARINO. He asked SAM MANNARINO to get "gorillas" to handle some men who were giving STIRONE labor trouble on a highway being built in the Monroeville section and more specifically to give the dissenters a "going over" while upsetting their equipment. The job was done for STIRONE by MANNARINO who became incensed when he learned his gorillas had hurt some older Italian men. MESSER said MANNARINO was under the impression that the men who had defied STIRONE were young punks and he let STIRONE know what he thought of him in front of MESSER.

E. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

T-8 advised on March 4, 1958 that his bank made a loan to the subject in the name JOHN S. LA ROCCA for \$25,000 on a mortgage for 2 properties March 4, 1958. That his bank made a loan to the subject in the name JOHN S. LA ROCCA for \$5,000 on a mortgage for 1 property

F. TRAVEL

T-3 advised that MIKE GENOVESE had left town during the early portion of February, ostensibly with his wife, and that he learned from other racketeers that GENOVESE and LA ROCCA went to Florida and were there during the months of February and March, 1958. It was his opinion that they might remain there until after a Pittsburgh Grand Jury to investigate rackets has finished its deliberations. It should be noted that MIKE GENOVESE and his wife returned to the Pittsburgh area during the first week of March, 1958 and that T-7 subsequently advised that it was rumored among the Pittsburgh racketeers that they had been in Cuba as well as Florida.

On March 24, 1958, JUDD MECHLING, Chief Deputy U. S. Marshal, Pittsburgh, advised that when Deputy Marshal RAY ECHEMENT tried to serve a subpoena on the subject at his residence on that date, he was informed that the subject was "vacationing down south and would definitely be home for the Easter season." He advised that ECHEMENT contacted Mrs. JOHN LA ROCCA in this regard and was treated very cordially, although he was not allowed to enter the house.

On this same date SA ROBERT A. VOEGE observed the 1957 cream colored Cadillac belonging to the subject parked in his garage and it still bore 1957 Pennsylvania license 11FMI.

The Albany office advised on March 15, 1958 that TROY WILLIAMS, Manager of the Arlington Hotel at Binghamton, N. Y., had advised SA PATRICK A. MUNLEY on February 21, 1958 that all records pertaining to the subject had been taken by an investigating committee but he recalled the fact that the subject and (FNU) GENOVESE were at the hotel on November 14, 1957, the date of the Apalachin meeting, and had two bedrooms and a living room which would call for a rate of \$22.00. He stated that the rooms were paid for in cash and were not charged to Canada Dry Bottling Company of Endicott, N. Y. He related further that there was only one telephone call placed from the rooms occupied by the subject and that call was to Pittsburgh telephone Forest 4-5296, which is the home telephone of the subject. He stated that he had located a duplicate telephone ticket which shows the call was made on November 13, 1957 but he advised that the telephone operator evidently was in error in view of the fact that the subject registered at 8:58 AM on November 14, 1957.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

JUDD MECHLING, Chief Deputy U. S. Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh, Pa., advised on March 25, 1958 that his office still holds a subpoena for the subject to appear before the Federal Grand Jury for the Southern District of New York to give evidence in regard to the alleged violation of Section 371, Title 18, U. S. Code. He stated that although the appearance was scheduled for February 13, 1958 he has not been able to serve this subpoena and will have to obtain a ruling on a new date.

The New York office advised on March 20, 1958 that on that date it was confidentially learned from WILLIAM S. LYNCH, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York at New York City, that on March 19, 1958 VINCENT CASEY of Pittsburgh, Pa., an attorney for the subject, whose telephone is Pittsburgh GRant 1-4453, telephonically advised LYNCH that he was unable to contact LA ROCCA relative to his scheduled appearance before the Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York. CASEY advised LYNCH that he expected to be in contact with the subject during the week of March 23, 1958 relative to the subject's Grand Jury appearance. MR. LYNCH advised that he was seriously considering the issuance of a subpoena for the appearance of CASEY before the Grand Jury in this matter contingent upon LA ROCCA's appearance before that body during the week of March 23, 1958.

IN VIEW OF THE SUBJECT'S CONVICTION FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL AND ARREST FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON, HE MAY BE ARMED AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

- P -

INFORMANTS

- T-1 is H. W. GLENN, U. S. Postal Inspector, Pittsburgh, Pa., contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on March 21, 1958, who requested that his identity be concealed.
- T-2 is WILLIAM MEREDITH, Special Agent, Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, who was contacted by SA HAROLD L. STEVENS on February 27, 1958 and on March 25, 1958, and who requested that his identity be concealed.
- T-3 is GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, Potential Criminal Informant of the Pittsburgh office who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on February 27, 1958 and on March 11, 1958.
- T-4 is GEORGE HARRISON, Supervisor, Devereaux School, Glenmoore, Pa., who was contacted by SA T. EDWARD UMPHRES on February 7, 1958 and who has requested that his identity be concealed.
- T-5 is FRANK YANKO, Laflin Grove, Laflin, Pa., who was contacted by SA FREDERICK T. HOULIHAN on January 10, 1958 and whose identity is being concealed because he is a former security informant of the Philadelphia office.
- T-6 is RUDY SOKOL, a potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh office who was contacted by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA on February 20, 1958.
- T-7 is Miss FRANCES PRIAM, a potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh office who was contacted on February 19, 1958, March 7, 1958 and March 11, 1958 by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE.
- T-8 is LOUIS J. REIZENSTEIN, Executive Vice President of the Washington Trust Office, Western Pennsylvania National Bank, 931 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on March 4, 1958.

INDEX

	<u>Page Numbers</u>
MARIANELLI, SUSIE	21,25
MARIANELLI, THERESA	22
MARTIN, HYMIE	27,28
MC GINLEY, BARNEY	30
Medico Electric Company	34
Merry-Go-Round Restaurant	28
MESSER, GEORGE "MOON"	29-31
MOFFITT, MARTIN	22
Motor Freight and Trucking Company	22
NELSON, ARCHIE	28,31,32
North Star Cement Block Company	6,16
PASQUALE, STASHIE D. MRS.	16
PECORA, "JO JO"	27,28
"PEPPER"	28
Pittsburgh Steelers	30
POLIZZI, MICHAEL SANTO	26
Premo Marianelli Construction Company	22
PRIAM, FRANCES Miss	17-19
PULCI, ANTHONY	13
RAGNO, "LITTLE JOE"	23
REGINO, JOSEPH	23,24
REGINO, MARIO	23

INDEX

INDEX

	<u>Page Numbers</u>
MARIANELLI, SUSIE	21,25
MARIANELLI, THERESA	22
MARTIN, HYMIE	27,28
MC GINLEY, BARNEY	30
Medico Electric Company	34
Merry-Go-Round Restaurant	28
MESSER, GEORGE "MOON"	29-31
MOFFITT, MARTIN	22
Motor Freight and Trucking Company	22
NELSON, ARCHIE	28,31,32
North Star Cement Block Company	6,16
PASQUALE, STASHIE D. MRS.	16
PECORA, "JO JO"	27,28
"PEPPER"	28
Pittsburgh Steelers	30
POLIZZI, MICHAEL SANTO	26
Premo Marianelli Construction Company	22
PRIAM, FRANCES Miss	17-19
PULCI, ANTHONY	13
RAGNO, "LITTLE JOE"	23
REGINO, JOSEPH	23,24
REGINO, MARIO	23

INDEX