

# The mob's fractured family 10 years after Angiulo's arrest, the Boston Mafia is transformed

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## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

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## FULL TEXT

Ten years ago today, as FBI agents hauled him away from Francesco's restaurant in the North End, Boston Mafia leader Gennaro (Jerry) Angiulo vowed loudly, "I'll be back before my pork chops get cold."

But the white-haired Mafioso has never been back and today takes his meals on a tray at the federal prison cafeteria in Leavenworth, Kan., where he's serving a 45-year prison term for racketeering.

The little back room at Francesco's where Angiulo and the leadership of Boston's Mafia regularly enjoyed their meals is gone, the restaurant refurbished. Changed utterly, too, are the Mafia itself and the neighborhood it used as its base.

In the decade that has passed since Angiulo and his three brothers were brought down in the first successful incursion by law enforcement into the Patriarca crime family, the Mafia has become more of a business and less of a subculture.

"To the old guard it was a way of life; to the new guard it was a way to make money," said Edward M. Quinn, the FBI agent who led the case against Angiulo and now heads the organized crime squad of the bureau's Boston office. Today's mob is composed mostly of third-generation Americans with "no loyalty to the oath or the code," said Quinn.

The New England Mafia, headed by Francis (Cadillac Frank) Salemme, is a dysfunctional family. It's smaller, greedier but less profitable, more prone to violence and less trusting of its own members. Already, some of its associates have turned informant, or turned up dead.

At least five murders in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island since 1991 have been attributed to the mob, according to law enforcement sources.

Unlike his predecessors, the 60-year-old Salemme -- who was raised in Roxbury, spent 15 years in prison for trying to kill a lawyer and lives in Sharon -- has little connection to the North End.

"What . . . does Frank Salemme know about the North End, other than coming here to eat pasta?" said one North

End businessman.

The neighborhood the Mafia called home has changed almost as drastically as the mob. Almost exclusively Italian when Angiulo rose to power, today the North End is less than 40 percent Italian.

Mafiosi who used to do all their financial and murderous planning there now may drop by to chat with old friends, or sip espresso in Hanover Street cafes. But with apartments in their former lair as likely to be inhabited by a yuppie from New York as an old widow born in Palermo, the North End will never again be a haven for the Mafia. Col. Charles Henderson, head of the Massachusetts State Police, recalls taking part in stakeouts in the North End during the 1970s, when Italians comprised two-thirds of the neighborhood. Many residents were friendly with the Angiulos and would tip them off if strangers were about. "Now, when we go in there, people look the other way," said Henderson. "They'll never protect them like they did before."

In the 10 years since the Angiulos were arrested, residents say, there has been an increase in the types of crimes -- break-ins, muggings and vandalism -- that were considered rare in the North End.

Some residents, particularly the older ones, complain ruefully that the arduous, expensive effort by the federal government to rid the neighborhood of organized crime left a vacuum that was filled by disorganized crime.

"If you want to know truthfully if people here feel their lives are better since the FBI removed Jerry, Danny and Frank, the answer is an unequivocal 'no,'" said Angiulo's lawyer, Anthony M. Cardinale.

However, Boston police statistics dispute the myth that Angiulo kept a lid on crime in his neighborhood. The numbers of robberies, burglaries and assaults have all dropped since his departure. There were 1,869 larcenies in the North End in 1983, compared with 1,010 last year, and 955 auto thefts a decade ago, compared with 369 last year.

Still, the North End was one of the safest neighborhoods in the city when Angiulo controlled its streets a decade ago -- and it remains that way today.

Angiulo, who becomes eligible for parole today, declined to be interviewed. Cardinale says it is unlikely Angiulo will taste freedom before his projected release date of May 15, 2010.

The grocer's son

Jerry Angiulo, the son of Sicilian immigrants who ran a North End grocery store, was raised with five brothers and a sister on Prince Street. And it was there that he set up his headquarters.

His ability to make money on the rackets won him the favor of New England godfather Raymond L.S. Patriarca, who anointed him underboss of the Providence-based crime family.

As Sgt. Thomas Foley, who heads the organized crime squad of the State Police Special Services Section, puts it: "The Angiulos were the only game in town," with a virtual monopoly on gambling and loan sharking in Greater Boston.

Like the fictional don Vito Corleone of "The Godfather," Angiulo was considered a sage. Residents routinely sought audiences at his modest studio at 98 Prince St., seeking advice and dispensation on matters legitimate and illegitimate.

Angiulo stood only 5 feet, 7 inches, but his booming voice and intimidating presence demanded respect.

"His strength came from this aura that he was invincible," Quinn said.

Today, the New England Mafia -- leery of the FBI bugging of Angiulo's office in 1981 that brought down his regime -- has no headquarters. Although part of the allure of being a wiseguy in the past was being seen, today's mobsters are invisible.

"After the Angiulos went down, I think {mobsters} are a little more careful about where they speak and who they speak to," said Lt. Pat Greaney, who heads the State Police Special Services Section. "They've kind of insulated themselves."

And the epitome of that circumspection is Frank Salemme.

"He doesn't flaunt himself in town," said Dennis O'Callaghan, acting special agent-in-charge of the Boston FBI office. "He keeps pretty much to himself and has a very select group of people that he will deal with one on one." Confirming Salemme's position as New England mob boss for the first time, O'Callaghan identified the underboss

as Luigi (Baby Shanks) Manocchio, 66, who operates Cafe Verde on Federal Hill in Providence, and the consigliere, who mediates family disputes, as Charles (Charlie Q) Quintina, 77, of Revere.

Salemme, who survived a botched assassination attempt by rival mobsters in June 1989 to become boss of the family two years later, is quicker than Angiulo was to resolve problems with violence, according to law enforcement sources.

"If you don't roll over and make payments, you wind up in the trunk of a car," said one law enforcement source.

On Aug. 21, 1991, a parking garage attendant at Logan Airport noticed a foul odor and blood dripping from the trunk of a 1988 Cadillac. The body of professional gambler Howard J. Ferrini was found inside. He had been beaten to death at his Berkley home about five days earlier.

The following month, the body of a mob associate was found in the trunk of another Cadillac, this time in Revere. Robert Donati, 50, who had ties to the renegade faction that tried to kill Salemme, had been bludgeoned and his throat cut.

Then on Oct. 3, 1991, the bound, gagged and beaten body of Barry Lazzerini, 45, former owner of the Lord & Lady restaurant in Milford and Ralph's Pub in Franklin, was discovered in his Manomet home overlooking Cape Cod Bay.

In September 1992, reputed mob associate Kevin Hanrahan was shot to death in Providence. The following month, reputed mob associate Rocco Scali, 46, who ran the Bella Napoli restaurant in the North End, was shot as he sat in his Isuzu Rodeo in the parking lot of a busy pancake house on Route 1 in Dedham.

Law enforcement sources speculate that the Scali hit was a message from Salemme, who was wounded by four gunmen in the parking lot of a pancake restaurant on Route 1 in Saugus in June 1989.

Last December, Vincent A. Arcieri, 37, owner of the Winner's Circle restaurant in East Boston, was shot in the head in the driveway of his home in Orient Heights. Sources say that Salemme's reputed muscleman, Darin Bufalino, had been feuding with Arcieri.

Law enforcement sources also speculate that missing South Boston nightclub owner Steve DiSarro may have been killed by the mob.

#### Murder as business

Murder was not uncommon during Angiulo's reign, but officials say he was willing to spare a life to save a buck.

"Jerry Angiulo was the epitome of a businessman within the criminal element," Quinn said. "While murder was a solution, if there was money to be made and there was another way to resolve a problem, they would resolve it without murder."

Today's mob is leaner and meaner.

"It's the incredible shrinking mob," O'Callaghan said. "They're getting smaller, less influential and causing in some instances more acts of violence because of that."

And as the number of "made" Mafia members drops, so does the organization's profits.

"In my estimation, I'd say their business has got to be off 50 percent from what it was 10 years ago," O'Callaghan said.

The Angiulos were hands-on operators, whose empire was disciplined, efficient and raked in staggering profits.

And when Angiulo was imprisoned, he left no instructions for his successor.

"The Angiulos were so greedy," Foley said. "They kept it all to themselves. When the Angiulos were taken down, the new guys had to go out and figure out who was paying who. There was no grooming of the next generation."

Left vulnerable to law enforcement as they tried to reorganize bookmakers and loan sharks, the new regime quickly fell. Two bosses -- Raymond (Junior) Patriarca and Nicholas Bianco -- were toppled by federal racketeering convictions before Salemme assumed control in 1991.

Some things in the North End look about the same as they did

when Jerry Angiulo walked the streets as if he owned them.

On hot days, old women sit in the shade of the brick wall near Paul Revere's statue. Shopkeepers sun themselves in lounge chairs on Hanover Street. Tourists stream through, stopping to gaze at the Peace Garden in front of St. Leonard's Church.

But there are subtle changes. Upscale Italian specialty shops have sprung up, catering to young professionals who can afford pricey olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

The exodus of longtime residents, coupled with the departure of the Mafia, have combined to produce an increase in crime, both real and perceived.

Last winter, a group of neighborhood residents sought out police at the Area A station, demanding a crackdown on a series of break-ins that were plaguing the North End.

"That never would have happened years ago," said one detective. "They tended to handle things themselves over there. Sometimes, all it took was going to see the kid's parents. Sometimes, the wiseguys took care of it."

A lifelong resident of Cooper Street agreed. "Years ago, we didn't go to the cops." Asked if they sometimes went to the Angiulos instead, the man just smiled and said, "What do you think?"

Other residents say it was the fear of retribution, rather than actual vigilantism by the Mafia, that kept potential criminals in check. An Endicott Street resident, however, tells of a beating given to teen-agers suspected of breaking into an elderly neighbor's apartment a decade ago.

"That'd never happen today," the resident said. "You probably wouldn't even know who the kids were."

And while some longtime North Enders may grieve his departure and newcomers may wonder who he is, Angiulo keeps his body and mind in shape for the day he may return to the old neighborhood.

"He's in better physical shape now than when he was arrested," said Cardinale, who talks weekly with Angiulo.

Today, there is a new group of neighbors seeking an audience with Angiulo. The aging Mafioso dispenses advice and bombast to the men on his cellblock.

#### SIDEBAR

New England mob leaders, then and now (retrieve from microfilm)

September 19, 1983

#### Illustration

PHOTO; CAPTION:1. GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JOHN TLUMACKI / Reputed mob associates meet in July 1991 at Pleasure Bay in South Boston. From left are Darin Bufalino, Francis P. Salemme, Richard Devlin and Robert DeLuca. 2. 1987 GLOBE FILE PHOTO / The headquarters of Gennaro Angiulo was at the corner of Prince and Thacher streets in the North End.

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