

also paid the tax of \$2,000 for the 2 days they were late; a total of \$13,500.

Keeping up with the payments on the two loans from Messino and Bravos became so burdensome the Chiagouris brothers asked Mercurio for help in getting Caravello to repay them all or part of the \$40,000 due them. Instead Mercurio repeated the confidence to Messino and Bravos.

The time arrived for the \$110,000 payment. In the Flying Carpet Motel cocktail lounge at 6465 North Mannheim Road, the gangsters threatened to put a bullet in the head of each of the three brothers.

Bravos stipulated new terms. Thereafter they would pay \$10,000 every month until such time as they could make a one lump payment of \$100,000. Bravos said this would continue if the victims had to make monthly payments the rest of their lives.

Also present in the cocktail lounge was Caravello. He was punched about the face, kicked in the shins and threatened with murder for "breaking the rules"; Caravello had, after all, taken \$40,000 of their money from the Chiagourises. His life was spared.

Thereafter the brothers paid \$10,000 a month on the so-called refinancing of the second loan. They were also still paying the \$1,500 weekly on the first loan.

In March 1965, however, they could only pay \$8,000 of their \$10,000 obligation. Messino and Bravos threatened to choke them until their tongues hung out. The terrified men were also given another arbitrary tax of \$2,000 on top of the \$2,000 balance for that month.

The brothers made their regular monthly and weekly payments on the two loans, plus the above assessment, until May 1965. Lombardi collected the payments from them at the Bonfire Restaurant, 7900 West Grand Avenue, Elmwood Park, Ill.

Once again the brothers could not come up with the money. As instructed, George and Jack Chiagouris reported to the picnic area of the Bonfire Restaurant. Albert Chiagouris was afraid to keep the appointment.

Messino and Bravos were furious. Messino punched Jack, fracturing his jaw. He also walloped George in the face, kicked him in the ribs, and kned him in the groin. They were both worked over thoroughly until they agreed to locate Albert.

Bravos said he would hold them as personal security until Albert showed up. At the court trial 2 years later George Chiagouris testified:

In the meantime Mercurio had arrived. A tooth was out of my mouth, my lip was all swollen, the side of my face was swollen, there was still some bleeding, I couldn't stand erect, I couldn't breathe too readily * * * the whole left side of Jack's face was swollen, he was holding his hand to his face * * * he couldn't stand straight.

Messino and Lombardi had inflicted all the punishment.

The brothers had a trust account at the Chicago City Bank valued at \$140,000. They promised to make an assignment on the trust, to Mercurio, with Messino and Bravos having the real but undisclosed interest.

George and Jack telephoned their homes, leaving word for Albert to be at the bank the first thing next morning. George and Jack were forcibly taken to the home of Messino's mistress where they were held overnight, literally kidnaped and held for ransom.