



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT LA NUESTRA FAMILIA

FILE NUMBER 183-HQ-1030

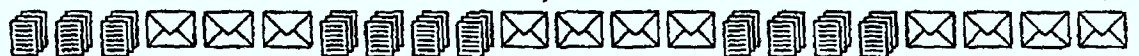
SECTION NUMBER 1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



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FBI

Date: 3/17/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO  
SUBJECT: LA NUESTRA FAMILIA, aka  
"Our Family"  
AR; ITAR - EXTORTION,  
PROSTITUTION  
OO: Sacramento  
SC 92-1212

MEXICAN MAFIA, aka  
"EME",  
[Redacted]

AR; ITAR - EXTORTION,  
PROSTITUTION  
OO: Sacramento  
SC 92-1213

ARYAN BROTHERHOOD  
AR  
OO: Sacramento  
SC 92-1214

[Redacted]

RICO  
OO: Sacramento  
SC 183-73

- 8 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
- 8 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (ATTN: Supv. [Redacted])
- 8 - San Francisco (Enc. 2)
- 8 - San Diego (Enc. 2)
- 8 - Sacramento  
(2-92-1212) (2-92-1213)  
(2-92-1214) (2-183-73)

CBS:ema  
(40)

9R  
4  
Cib

ST-103

REC-62  
K33

183-1030

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1977

CARBON COPY

Original Filed in 92-18571

b7C  
b7D

See under

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

APR 19 1977

SC 92-1212

Enclosed to the Bureau and receiving offices are two copies each of an article appearing in the Fresno Bee newspaper of 3/11/77 which synthesizes the current problem of the Mexican Mafia and the Nuestra Familia in the State of California.

For the information of the Bureau and receiving offices, Sacramento is instituting investigation of the captioned organizations and individuals, based on the enclosed newspaper article and the following information.

In recent years, there has been an increase in violence and criminal activity on the part of the captioned organizations, which had their origins within the California Prison System. These groups have now spread to the civilian population outside the prison system and have evidenced a high degree of organization. Recent informant information obtained by state and local authorities indicates well organized criminal activity is planned and perpetrated by these groups. Documents seized during local arrests of Nuestra Familia (NF) members discuss in succinct form the intended criminal activity to be undertaken to finance the gang's operations in the areas of prostitution, narcotics, robbery and extortion.

Some examples of criminal activity undertaken by these gangs in the recent past, in the areas of FBI jurisdiction, are as follows:

Sacramento file 91-8330

[Redacted]

aka - FUGITIVE;

[Redacted]

10/30/75, BR

[Redacted]

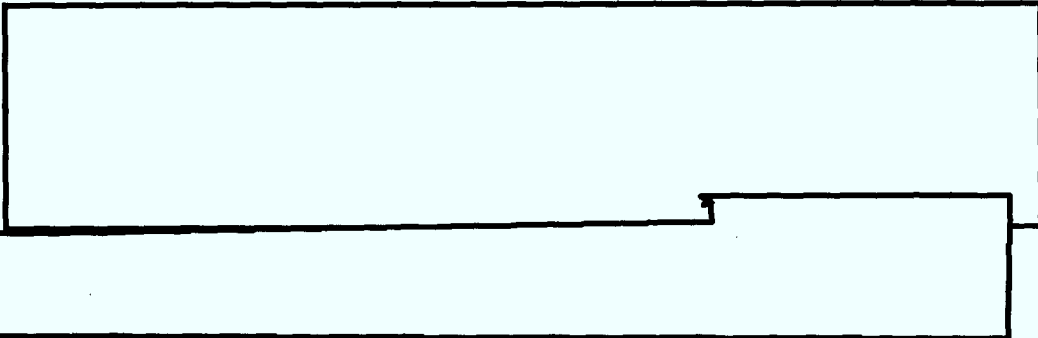
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b7E

SC 92-



[redacted] California Department of Corrections, 3001 E Street, Sacramento, California, has advised that he has been following the progress of the NF and the MM for the past four years. He advised these two organizations have increased their membership dramatically and may have as many as 300 to 400 members in the State of California. He stated all of the prison gang organizations are involved in murder, extortion, narcotics and robberies. [redacted] has been in recent contact with the state authorities in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona who have acknowledged existence of captioned organizations in their respective states. As several of the members of captioned organizations have been convicted of federal violations and are now serving sentences in federal institutions, recruiting for these organizations will undoubtedly be conducted within the Federal Prison System and in all probability will further the organizations' geographical influence.

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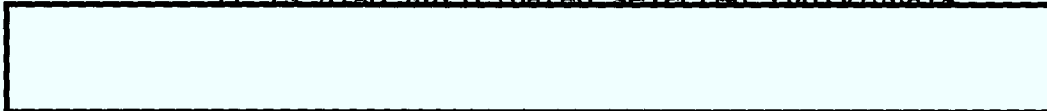


SC 92-1212

groups have become, and are rapidly becoming more so, a major crime problem in specific geographic areas within the State of California and to the state as a whole. It appears an excellent opportunity for the FBI to make a concerted effort to make a significant contribution in the areas of major crime problems involving these organizations.

The primary initial thrust will concern the alleged extortion of businesses and development of informants. If, at the end of a 90-day period, or earlier as determined by investigation, it is established there are no prosecutable violations, a closing report will be submitted.

It is also anticipated selected individuals



b7C

FBI

Date: 7/27/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Precedence)

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (183-167) (P)

RE: LA NUESTRA FAMILIA, aka  
 Nuestra Familia,  
 N.F.,  
 Farmers,  
 Our Family  
 RICO  
 OO: SF

*SF P*

*ST*

*2*

*3*

*4*

*5*

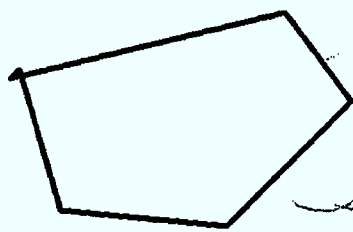
*6*

*7*

*8*

*9*

*10*



*4*

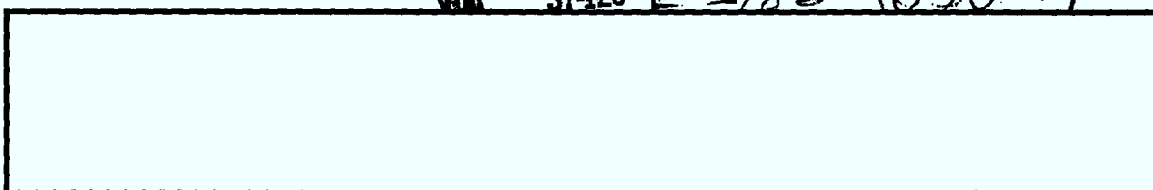
Mexican-American inmates at San Quentin Prison, Calif., began forming La Nuestra Familia (NF) as a prison gang during 1966-1967, for protection against another prison gang, the Mexican Mafia. During 1971, a constitution was drawn up setting out the structure and laws of NF. There are approximately 400-500 members of NF in prisons and on the "streets" of California at the present time.

The structure of the NF as set out in their constitution is headed by a General, under which are ten (10) Captains, under which are unlimited Lieutenants, and under which are soldiers. Rank is obtained by being a good soldier and making a certain number of "hits" (murders) on "hermits" (enemies of the NF).

*BC*

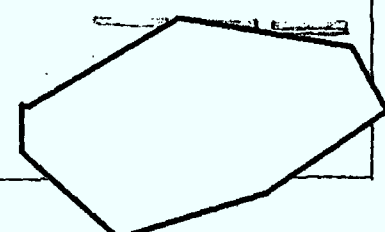
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b7F

*ST-126 REC-90-183-1030-4*



- 2 - Bureau
  - 2 - Sacramento (183-73) (Info.)
  - 2 - Los Angeles (92-5465) (Info.)
  - 2 - San Diego (Info.)
  - 2 - San Francisco
- PAD:rvs  
(10)

AUG 17 1977



Approved: 222 \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 SEP 13 1977 Agent in Charge

SC 183-73

Several of the entries have been covered over by markings in an attempt to obliterate the original notation. Recovery of these entries would be of assistance both in local and Bureau investigations.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

The Document Section is requested to examine all pages of the enclosed notebook in an attempt to retrieve original notations made prior to apparent obliteration.

The Bureau is requested to return enclosed evidence to Sacramento Division upon completion of examination.



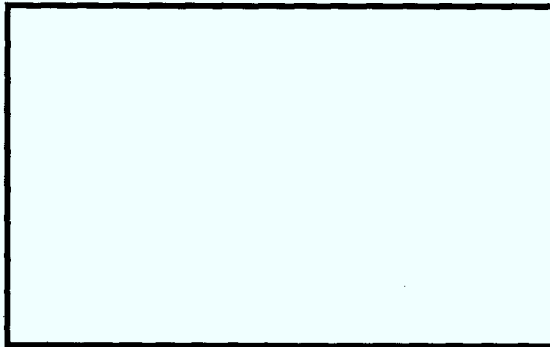
SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

The constitution of the NF sets up a system of banks for handling money obtained from illegal operations. The illegal money is to be funneled into legal enterprises.

[REDACTED] NF members have engaged in murders, selling of illegal drugs, prostitution and robberies. There have been over twenty (20) murders linked to NF in the last year.

The following are the "regiments" of NF in the "streets" of California:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



Los Angeles and Sacramento have active investigations of NF. Investigation continuing in San Francisco to develop a RICO violation.

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MC-1

FBI

Date: 10/31/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
(Attn: FBI Lab, Document Section)

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (183-73) (P)

71103029 D

SUBJECT: LA NUESTRA FAMILIA, aka  
Nuestra Familia

NF  
RICO

OO: San Francisco

6  
FPC

Q

COPY AND SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB

Enclosed for the Bureau is one "Woolco" memo book, blue in color, with ruled paper and notations thereon.

For the information of the Bureau, the La Nuestra Familia is a prison-spawned organization made up primarily of Mexican-American inmates. This organization had its beginning in the California Penal System and has since evolve into a widespread "street" operation. The La Nuestra Familia is currently active as an organization throughout the state of California and is involved in a variety of criminal activity including robbery, bank robbery and extortion.

The enclosed memo book was seized by local authorities at the residence of a wanted subject, known to be a member of the La Nuestra Familia. The book was not claimed as property by any of the occupants of the residence and was, therefore, seized due to its obvious content relating to operations of the La Nuestra Familia.

- ④ - Bureau
  - 1 - San Francisco (Info) (183-167)
  - 2 - Sacramento
- BAS:aly  
(7)

1-ENCLOSURE

REC-21 183-1030-5

NOV 2 1977

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

SEE XEROX

Approved: MAR 16 1978  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

CLM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - Strike Force, San Francisco

Report of:

Office: SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

Date:

11/1/77

b7C

Field Office File #:

183-167

Bureau File #:

Title:

LA NUESTRA FAMILIA

Character:

RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS

Synopsis:

La Nuestra Familia (NF) was formed in 1968 of Mexican-American inmates and is a California prison based gang of 200 to 400 operating in the prisons and on the streets of California. NF has a written Constitution and By-Laws setting up banks for illegal money to be put in to legal enterprises. The NF is headed by a general and has captains, lieutenants, and soldiers. Rank is obtained by killing enemies of the NF. Three kills are necessary to be a lieutenant, unless you kill one of top ten enemies of NF and then only one kill necessary. NF charging prostitutes to work in Fresno, CA. Alleged the NF attempting to extort money from legal businesses. NF document gives instructions on using children for illegal activities. NF members alleged to be involved in over fifty (50) homicides since 1975. MEMBERS OF THE NF HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENT ACTS SO MEMBERS OF THE NF SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

### I. PREDICATION

On February 23, 1977, [redacted] Intelligence, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office (SCCSO), San Jose, Calif., advised that the La Nuestra Familia (NF) is a prison based gang which is effective within and without the prison system of California. The center of the NF members' activities, who are out of prison, is the San Jose, Calif., area. Members of the NF engage in the selling of illegal drugs, gun running, extortion, prostitution, and robberies. Robberies and the selling of illegal drugs are the chief source of income to the NF in the San Jose area. [redacted]

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### II. HISTORY OF LA NUESTRA FAMILIA

On December 18, 1973, a U.S. Government House report No. 93-738, Pages 80-81, 93rd Congress, First Session, by the Committee on Internal Security, House of Representatives, entitled "Revolutionary Target: The American Penal System" contained the following information:

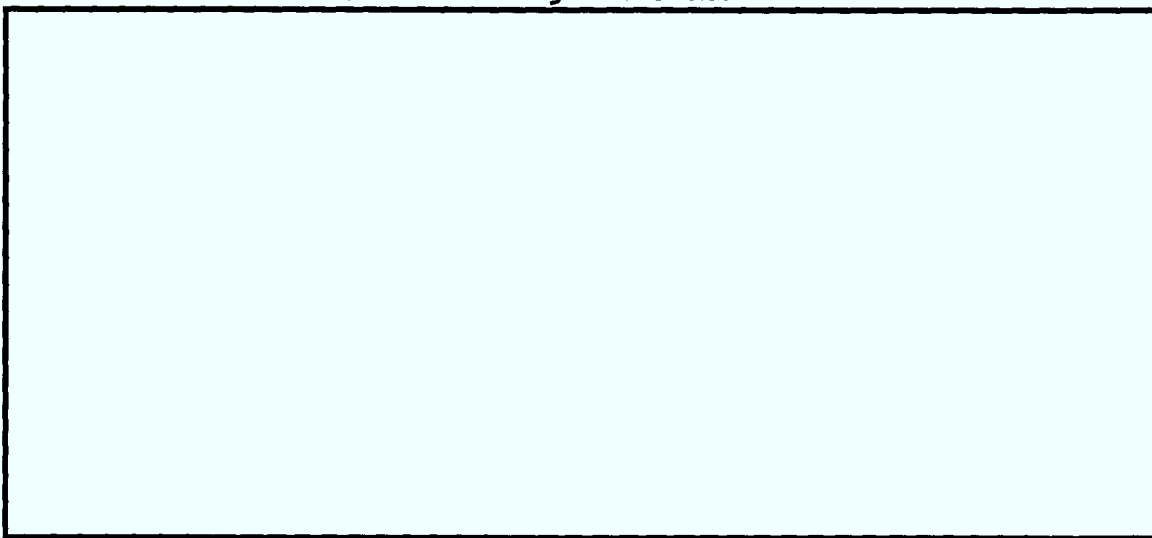
#### NUESTRA FAMILIA (OUR FAMILY)

Nuestra Familia consists of a group of Mexican-American inmates who are predominantly from the valley areas of California. It was formed in 1968 by a group of Mexican Americans who banded together for protection against the Mexican Mafia. Members of Nuestra Familia have been involved in the narcotics traffic and are presently at war with the Mexican Mafia which resents the encroachment of Nuestra Familia on its narcotics territory.

Nuestra Familia has about 200 members within the California prison system. Unlike the Mexican Mafia, Nuestra Familia has no formal connections on the outside. However, it recently formed an alliance with the Black Guerrilla Family and has received assistance from that inmate group in its battle with the Mexican Mafia over drug-related matters.

SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

The primary objective of Nuestra Familia, as noted in its constitution and bylaws, is ...for the betterment of members and the building up of the organization on the outside into a strong and self-supporting family." It was also stated, "All members will work solely for that objective and will put all personal goals and feelings aside until said fulfillment is accomplished." Another section of the bylaws stated that Nuestra Familia's general will maintain a list of 10 enemies of Nuestra Familia and any Nuestra Familia member who kills one of these enemies will automatically become a lieutenant in the organization.



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On January 31, 1974, the 1974 Report to the California Senate by the Subcommittee on Civil Disorder, Page 12, contained the following information:

The Nuestra Familia, or New Family, is the second most populous and powerful organization in the prison system. Formed originally by Central Valley and farming area Mexican-Americans as protection against the Mexican Mafia (MM), the Nuestra Familia (NF) has become an entity in itself, and now competes with the MM for control of illegal activities, narcotics and in plain violence. They operate under formal by-laws and become members for life. Any attempt to leave the group results in death, as does failure to carry out a command from the group's general or captains.

SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

The NF was first founded at Soledad Prison, Calif.,  
in 1967 [redacted] as a Latino Culture organization.  
The objects of the NF changed as time passed to exploiting  
and pressuring other inmates for canteen privileges and  
homosexual acts. They also sold protection to other inmates  
who were being pressured by members of the Mexican Mafia.

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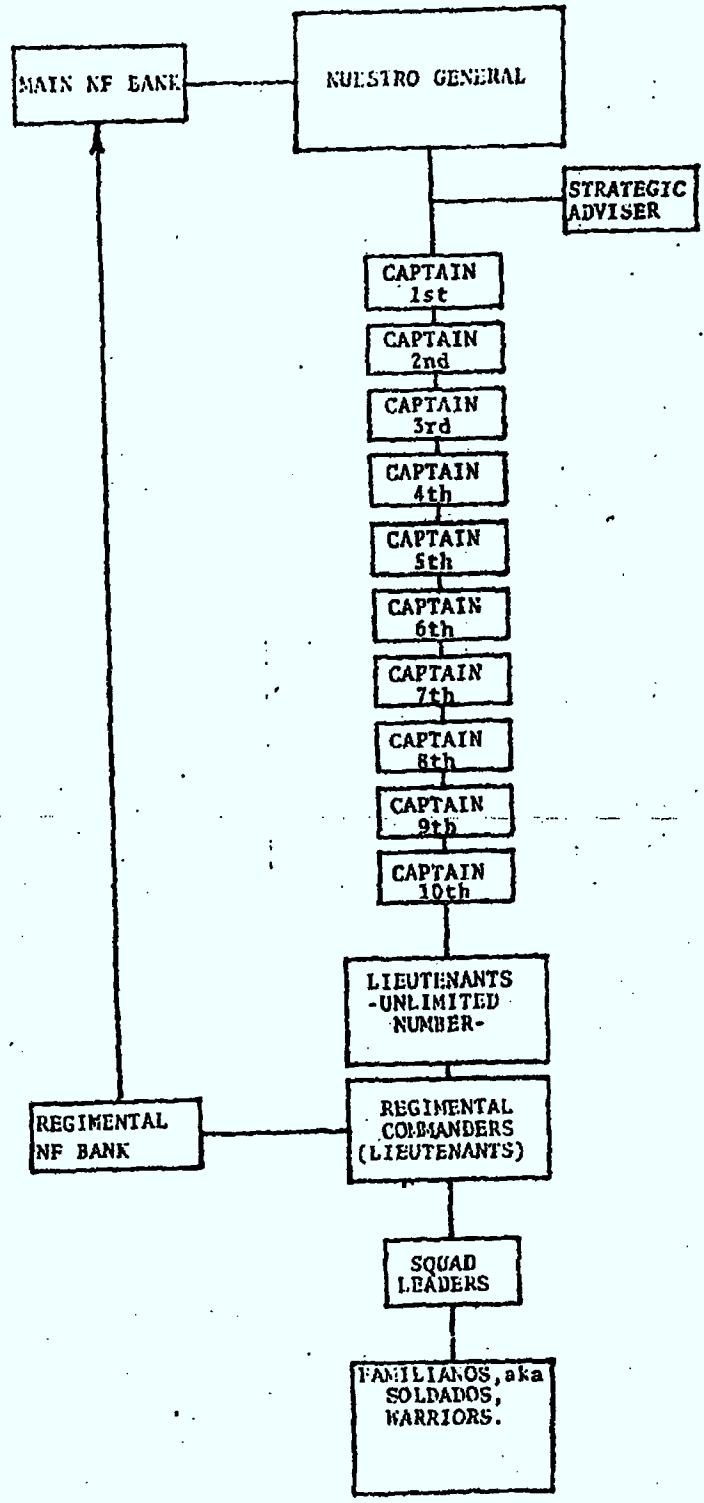


SF 183-167  
PAD:rva

IV. Diagram of the Power Structure of the NF

The following is a diagram of the structure of the NF  
as set up in its constitution and by-laws:

# Jestra Familia Power Structu





SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

X. HOMICIDES OF PRISON GANGS

The top of the square or circle represents the suspected gang affiliation of the victim of the homicide and the bottom the suspect.

# PRISON GANG RELATED HOMICIDES 1975-1976-1977



100

SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

XI. INVESTIGATION AT FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

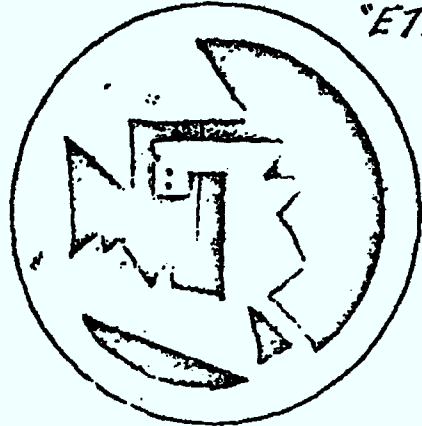
The following tattoos and emblems utilized by the  
NF are as follows:

Reprinted below and on the following page are emblems which were noted within the inmate population by California prison authorities. They include representations of the major prison gangs as well as terrorist and extremist organizations. Law enforcement agencies should be alert to these various emblems and insignia as a means of identifying suspected members and gang associates. These items are also found on letterheads and other paraphernalia used by prison inmates.

**MEXICAN MAFIA**

**EME**  
**EME**  
**MM**  
**M**  
**EmE**

*NEW MEXICAN MAFIA SYMBOL*



*"ETERNAL WAR"*

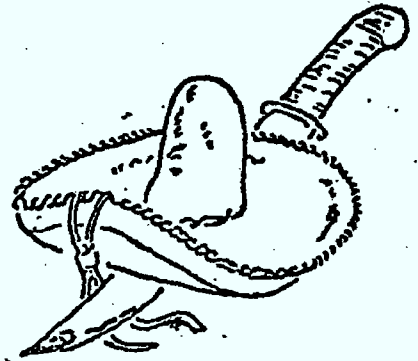
**BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY**

**BGF      BLA**

**CRIPS      PIRU** 102

**NUESTRA FAMILIA**

**NF**  **NF**



*of BUTTERFLY ON NECK*

**EL PASO TIP**

**EPT EPT**

**ESE**

**TEXAS SYNDICATE**  
**SIMILAR TO EL PASO TIP**

SF 183-167  
PAD:rvs

XV. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CONCERNING THE NF

**'MEXICAN MAFIA' VS. 'NUESTRA FAMILIA'**

# Control Of S.J. Crime May Spark Gang War

Organized gangs in California's prisons are locked in a death struggle for control of the prisons and crime in the street. So pervasive has their influence become that one veteran prison official commented, "We have about as much control over the place as the cons allow us to exercise." For the past three months, Mercury reporters Armando Acuna, Bill Romano and Bob Weaver have probed deep into this underworld and the threat it embodies for San Jose and other major California cities. This series of articles is the result of their investigation.

Copyright, 1975

The San Jose Mercury

Two prison-spawned street gangs are turning California into a battlefield in an all-out war, state law enforcement officials warn.

Part of the spoils is a flourishing \$8 million-a-month narcotics trade that supplies the San Jose area's 4,700 heroin addicts.

Lawmen are concerned by reports that "Mexican Mafia" "soldiers" have been moving into the San Jose area in recent months, apparently preparing for a power grab.

The Mafia members — mostly ex-convicts from the East Los Angeles area — plan to challenge their gang's chief rival, "Nuestra Familia" ("Our Family" in Spanish) for control of San Jose's street crime, an expert on prison gangs revealed.

The 350-member "Nuestra Familia" (NF) controls much of the street crime in San Jose and Northern California.

And, a document obtained by

a team of Mercury reporters outlines the gang's plans to expand its operations into a state crime network.

The document, written in prison by the top brass of the NF, outlines the gang's secret plans to set up regiments in California cities, complete with their own banks.

The gang's "soldiers" would be expected to raise money for the banks by holdups, burglaries, sales of narcotics and other criminal action.

The NF blueprint also calls for money to be pumped into legitimate businesses to provide "soldiers" with a "semi-retirement" program.

The Mercury newsmen also saw a copy of the "Nuestra Familia's" execution list. It calls for the deaths of 89 gang defectors in and out of prison.

But the NF's purge of its own warriors may be slowed a bit by the "Mexican Mafia's" activities.

"A heavy number of (Mexican) Mafia members have been

Page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

San Jose Mercury  
San Jose, Calif.  
p.1

Date: 12/1/75  
Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor:

Title: Control of San Jose  
Crime May Spark Gang  
War

Character:

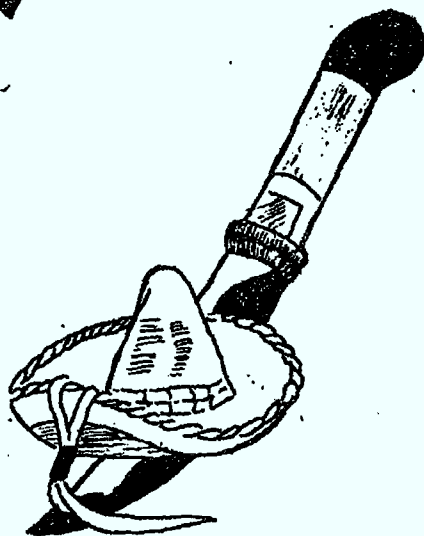
or

Classification: 92-

Submitting Office: SF

Being Investigated

# Nuestra



# Familia

**BATTLE INSIGNIA? —** This is the "coat of arms" of the "Nuestra Familia," one of two prison-spawned gangs reportedly seeking control of street crime in San Jose.

moving into the area," a gang expert said. "When people like that start moving in, it can mean only one thing — war."

One of the most recent clashes between the two gangs occurred on Oct. 9 in Bakersfield. An assassination team — suspected to be from the "Mexican Mafia" — "executed" a reputed NF member and his younger brother.

Two men and a woman held 26-year-old Danny Reyes and his girlfriend captive in his home. The assassins waited until Danny's brother, Ronald Reyes, 32, arrived seven hours later.

The brothers were handcuffed and tied with ropes. The girl was tied to a bed.

Both men were stabbed repeatedly and the younger brother was shot five times. The girlfriend was not harmed.

Lawyers representing the suspects in the killings have talked the judge into closing hearings in the case, fearing for the defendants' lives.

In San Jose, police suspect there has been at least one gang-related killing and a number of stabbings.

The body of a young man — apparently the victim of a gang execution — was found in an orchard in the eastern foothills.

And, in Santa Clara County Jail, there has been a marked increase in stabbing cases. Experts say some of these are probably gang-related.

Tipped off to the potential trouble, San Jose police say they feel they'll be able to keep the lid on gang violence in the city.

They say NF members have told them about the Mafia moving into the area, but until now the reports have not been confirmed.

"The existence of prison gangs is a fact," Capt. Larry Stuefloten said. "Many of these people are coming out. It is natural to assume they are not going to abandon their personal gang friendships and loyalties once they're on the street."

Still, San Jose police don't expect a shooting war here in the near future. Their observation on this point, however, is at odds with that of a number of state prison gang experts.

And, Capt. Stuefloten concedes the gangs are "definitely something law enforcement has to reckon with."

One area of concern is the San Jose drug scene. A narcotics officer revealed that a study of dope usage reveals approximately 4,700 heroin addicts in the area. The average junkie uses \$60 worth of heroin — "H" or "smack" — each day.

"The NF isn't strong outside prison," he said. "They need money to get their thing together."

But, the vast narcotics market here may offer them a tempting business opportunity.

Until recently, lawmen didn't know how big "Nuestra Familia" was on the outside.

But today, they estimate "conservatively" that San Jose is home-base for 30 to 40 hardcore NF members.

The "Nuestra Familia" members — they have titles that range from "soldado" or soldier to captain or "padre" — are called "farmers" by the "Mexican Mafia."

Both organizations are predominantly Mexican-American in membership.

The NF was formed in 1966 inside the walls of a state prison. Its original aim was to provide the "farmers," the Chicanos who came from San Jose, Gilroy, Watsonville, Salinas and the San Joaquin Valley, with a defense against harassment by the "Mexican Mafia."

For a time there was an uneasy peace between the two Chicano groups within the prisons. But, then, in 1968, violence flared and the gangs declared war on each other.

Although the war has been bloody — complete with its Mafia-style "contract" killings — it has stayed within the prison system.

Outside the detention facilities, the "Mexican Mafia" seemed content to control most of the street crime in the predominantly Chicano East Los Angeles area.

But then something happened to the "Mexican Mafia."

"The 'Mexican Mafia' met with leaders of 'Cosa Nostra' (the Sicilian Mafia) and told them they planned to take over the state's narcotics trade," one of the state's top authorities on the prison gangs, said.

"They told the 'Cosa Nostra' leaders they knew there were 15 'Cosa Nostra' people in prison in California," he continued. "They told the 'Cosa Nostra' if the Mexican group met with any resistance in its plans for a state-wide narcotics empire, the 15 would be executed in prison."

The result?

"The 'Cosa Nostra' apparently backed down. They've even started using 'Mexican Mafia' members to do their dirty work — as hit men (murder-for-hire specialists) and errand boys."



That's because Soledad is recognized as the headquarters of the NF. The "Mexican Mafia," more urban in its membership, has spread into Washington state, Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan and even New York State.

Authorities hesitate to guess at its total membership, but "conservative" estimates of the Mafia's membership in California top 1,000. Sometimes known as "Erme," pronounced "Em-ay," it holds control of San Quentin and Folsom.

The Erme and NF consider Chino and San Luis Obispo as kind of neutral territory. Both organizations have issued orders for their prison soldiers to kill members of their opposition on sight, a move that has led prison authorities to try to avoid assigning a gang member to an institution controlled by a rival.

"It's tough to do," one prison official said. "You have to categorize a man as a possible Familia or Mafia member. If you categorize him wrong, you are sending him to his death."

Since both organizations have patterned themselves after the "Cosa Nostra," that death will be a killing by a gang member who has been ordered to murder the lawbreaker.

If the gang member refuses to carry out his assignment, leaders "put out a contract" for his life and have him killed.

The lawman said the "Mexican Mafia" didn't have the finesse of the older "Cosa Nostra," but "it makes up for any lack of sophistication with brutality. They're a cold-blooded lot."

Lawmen feel the apparent victory over the Mafia has given the gang an expansionist mood and that's why they are looking to the San Jose area for new territory.

Conflict is not new between the two groups.

In 1966, "Nuestra Familia" was formed during a meeting at Palm Hall at the California Institution for Men at Chino.

Since then, there have been stabbings, executions and one incident in November of 1968 in which soldiers of the two rival gangs clashed in an all-out battle inside San Quentin. Seventeen convicts were hospitalized.

During a two-year period, 57 persons were murdered and 300 stabbed in prison. This year to date, there have been nine killings and 22 stabbings at a single institution.

That prison, Deuel Vocational Institution, is one of the prisons that correctional officials admit is controlled by "Nuestra Familia," smaller of the two Chicano gangs.

State Senate investigators have identified the top man, or "Nuestro General," of the NF as Robert (Babo) Sosa, an ex-convict who lives in San Diego.

Although the NF constitution — a handwritten document that was smuggled from prison to prison — says the gang shall be headed by someone in prison, lawmen believe Sosa has retained control. If the constitution were followed, the mantle of authority would rest on "Death Row" Joe Gonzales, a Soledad inmate.

IN-BACKYARD

# Weapons Cache Unearthed Here

A four-month search for an elusive cache of weapons ended Wednesday when San Jose police uncovered a small arsenal in the backyard of an East Side home.

The arms and ammunition belonged to the Nuestra Familia (NF), a prison-based street gang, according to police.

"We knew they had guns somewhere but they were continually moving the cache," said an officer. "We think we have the bulk of their long guns now."

The stash, consisting of 10 shot-guns and rifles and 100 rounds of assorted shells and bullets, were found buried behind a house at 3228 Blue Mountain Drive.

The ground had been dug up in the entire yard and the dirt raked over to disguise the hiding place, reported Officer Robert Jones.

At least two of the guns were confirmed as "stolen," taken in residential break-ins here and in Santa Clara, he added.

The weapons were wrapped in blankets and packed in a wooden box.

Arrested on suspicion of possession of stolen property were Daniel Ramos, 23, and Arthur Reyes, 29, suspected NF members, both of the Blue Mountain Drive address.

Neither offered any resistance. "They were quite cooperative," Jones said. Eight plainclothesmen and uniformed officers participated in the early-morning raid.

Nuestra Familia (Our Family) is a statewide gang operating in and out of California's penal institutions, believed responsible for a number of robberies, burglaries and other crimes. It is comprised exclusively of convicts and ex-convicts.

San Jose police began investigating NF activity here last fall leading to numerous arrests of suspected gang members. The weapons seizures and arrests Wednesday were part of the continuing crackdown.

The NF has reportedly been forming a Mafia-like organization in this and other California cities to control prison narcotics traffic and other prison activities throughout the state system.

In addition to his booking at County Jail on weapons charges, Reyes was placed under a parole hold. He was discharged from prison last summer, authorities report.

Police suspect the recovered weapons were to be used in crimes or in conflicts with rival gangs.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. 25

SAN JOSE MERCURY  
SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Date: 1/22/76

Edition: MICHINO

Author:

Editor:

Title:

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Classification: 92

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated



**ARMS HAUL**— San Jose police raided the home of two suspected Nuestra Familia (NF) members Wednesday and uncovered an arsenal of weapons. Around 100 rounds of ammunition and guns shown above were found buried in the backyard. The NF, a prison-based street gang, is believed responsible for numerous burglaries, robberies and other crimes.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Quentin 'Lockup' Continues

A general lockup of all 2800 San Quentin prison inmates continued for the second day yesterday, following four stabbings Friday and Saturday.

There have been 46 stabbings at the Marin county institution this year. Prisoner Patrick Duran, 28, serving a five-year term for car theft, died Saturday in the most serious incident.

Two other prisoners were reported in "good condition" at the prison hospital yesterday, while a third stabbed Saturday refused treatment.

Prison officials believe the violence is caused by a power struggle between two Mexican American prison gangs.

The two groups are called Nuestra Familia or Our Familia, and the Mexican Mafia, which has no relationship with the infamous Sicilian group, officials said.

Prison authorities are questioning 14 inmates about the four stabbings. Three stabbings reported earlier last week apparently were not connected to the feud between the rival gangs, and prison officials are still puzzled by these earlier assaults.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 S.F. Chronicle

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 11-12-73

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: and Pub.: Chas. deYoung Thieriot

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SF

Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## 'Our Most Serious Problem--'

The bloody prison war between the Mexican Mafia and Nuestra Familia "is one of our most serious problems," says Raymond Procnier, director of the Department of Corrections.

With more than 50 inmates dead and over 500 injured in behind-the-bars violence in the past five years, Procnier defends the indefinite lock-up of gang leaders as the only preventive measure left to prison officials.

"We cannot tolerate the level of violence we had last year," he said, referring to the deaths of 35 inmates and the injury of more than 200 in 1972.

"We have toughened security and the fatal violence is down this year."

Invariably, such measures as 24 hour solitary confinement for gang leaders with longer terms or fewer paroles has led to charges of repression by prison reform groups.

"The act of locking somebody up is certainly repressive," admits a spokesman for Procnier. "But that doesn't take into consideration the fact that these men are convicted criminals and they have to be locked up for the protection of the inmates who don't participate in gang activities."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

46 S.F.Examiner

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 8-27-73  
Edition: 9 Star Final  
Author:  
Editor: Randolph A. Hearst  
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SF

Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Behind the Soledad Prisoner Transfers

By Tim Findley

Authorities at San Quentin and Folsom prisons were beginning a "classification" procedure yesterday to determine the gang war roles of 40 inmates moved out of Soledad prison over the weekend.

The 40 were all sent out of Soledad after an incident during a prison movie Friday in which three inmates

were stabbed, none fatally.

**A**  
**News**  
**Analysis**

Twenty-three of the 40 were sent to San Quentin and 17

went to Folsom. Authorities at Soledad said all 40 were suspected of being members of either the "Mexican Mafia" or Nuestra Familia (New Family)—rival Spanish surname prisoner groups that have been involved in a blood feud for more than a year.

## KILLINGS

Prison authorities say 19 killings in 1972 alone were attributable to the prison warfare.

Prisoner support groups, however, have suggested that authorities are overreacting and rounding up inmates considered undesirable for a variety of reasons from writing to actual gang leadership.

The "war" between the Mafia and the Family, critics contend, is being used as an excuse for a tougher attitude in general of prison authorities.

## APPARENT

The case of the 40 men

moved from Soledad — on "bus therapy" as it is termed in prison — was representative of at least one major new trend in California prisons, a trend that in the last year has seen the prison system shift from a steadily declining population to one that is rapidly increasing.

It is particularly apparent at San Quentin, where last year, a modern low of 1426 prisoners were housed. Today, that number is up to 2108, and many of them are seen as "troublemakers" sent to San Quentin for security reasons.

Just a year ago, the state prison system was being touted for its apparently liberal trend in putting more inmates out on the street sooner and in leaning away from old bastions of corrections such as San Quentin.

But that has changed, and rather dramatically. Six years ago, at the start of a "liberal" trend in California corrections, the state prison population stood at an all-time high of some 29,000 men.

Largely because of a more relaxed attitude by the Adult Authority in giving men paroles and a general, if vague, policy toward giving inmates an earlier break, the inmate population began to decline.

By last year, it was down to fewer than 19,000 — a modern low — and the talk was of closing many prisons in the state. Some, particularly minimum camp facilities, were closed.

## REVERSAL

Yet, within months, the trend reversed itself. The

count last week was 20,054 — more than 1200 higher than the prison system itself had anticipated for this time this year.

Prison authorities, reluctant to be quoted, but recognizing the trend themselves, say the rising inmate population is not attributable to an increase in court commitments.

Rather, there seem to be two major reasons — first, an increase in parole violations and, secondly, a newer "get tough" attitude by the Adult Authority.

If the prison population keeps rising and is part of a new more rigid philosophy in state corrections, it could have some implications for some of the state's most elaborate plans.

San Quentin, for example, is still technically due to be closed in June of 1975 and be replaced by one of two 600-man maximum-security prisons to be built in the state.

Only modest planning has so far been done on those two new institutions, however. So, given the rise of the inmate population, the feasibility of actually closing San Quentin in 1975 is in doubt.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 S.F. Chronicle

San Francisco, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Soledad Feud: 1600 Isolated

Special to The Examiner

SOLEDAD — About half of Soledad Prison's 2300 inmates remained locked up today in the wake of an outbreak of stabbings and beatings stemming from a feud between rival inmate gangs.

Forty Mexican-American inmates were transferred out of Soledad late yesterday. San Quentin received 20 of the men. The rest went to other state prison facilities.

Some 1100 men in the prison's central section were locked up after the violence broke out during a movie Friday.

## One Critical

One inmate, Gerald Ramos, 25, serving a term for involuntary manslaughter from Los Angeles, remained in critical condition yesterday at the prison hospital with two stab wounds in the chest.

William Curtis, an investigator for the Monterey County district attorney's office, said the stabbings and beatings stemmed from continuation of a feud between rival Chicano gangs called the Mexican Mafia and Nuestra Familia — "Our Family."

## Power Struggle

"A power struggle is going on between the two groups," Curtis said. He said the feud extends throughout the state prison system.

Prison officials blamed encounters between the two gangs for 18 of 35 prison slayings in California last year.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10 S.F. Examiner

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 4-16-73

Edition: 9 Star Final

Author:

Editor: Edmund J. Dooley

Title:

Character:

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Submitting Office: SF

Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**An Examiner Report**

# Bloody Chicano War in Prisons

By Robert Hollis

San Quentin guards found Edward Salino Lopez' mutilated body beneath a pile of bloody towels in the shower room of the prison gymnasium.

Death was attributed to a massive skull fracture although he could have as easily died from the four deep knife wounds in his upper left back.

Around his neck was a garrote-like instrument to keep the 30 year-old robber from crying out.

### 'Nothing Unusual'

About 50 inmates were in the gymnasium at the time. None reported seeing anything unusual.

The May 29 killing of Lopez was the first inmate death of the year at San Quentin, although not the first convict death statewide.

Lopez was a "brother" in the "Mexican Mafia," according to Lee DeBord, then the prison information officer. Lopez' brutal murder

was another in a continuing series of knifings, clubbings and drug deaths credited to the two feuding Chicano gangs in the California penal system.

"It is a blood-fueled war of survival, in the words of Phil Guthrie, public infor-

...Familia," noted the investigator. Nuestra Familia, or Our Family as it translates, is the other major Chicano gang struggling for supremacy within the prison system.

Roberto Medina is locked away in an isolation cell in San Quentin's adjustment center and is thus temporarily safe from Mafia "hit men."

La Mafia de Mexicanos is described by Guthrie as the most powerful prison gang in the history of the California penal system. An estimated 200 of the state's 21,500 inmates are members.

They exert influence within the system far beyond their numbers. Members of the gang are drawn from the urban Chicano ghettos — or barrios — of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Nuestra Familia, with a few more "heavy brothers"

...mation officer for the Department of Corrections.

### Annihilation

"They'll keep sticking each other until one side wipes out the other," said a Mission District Chicano ex-convict who spent two years at San Quentin.

In early August, John Medina Jr., a 43 year old Los Angeles parole violator, was attacked in broad daylight in the center of the San Quentin main exercise yard.

Seconds later, Medina lay on the hot tarmac with four deep slashes close to vital organs in his neck and chest. For two days he lay near death in the prison hospital.

Prison information officer Bill Nyberg termed the Medina attack "revenge."

### A Brother

A Department of Corrections investigator explained: "He just happened to be the brother of Roberto 'Dario' Medina and they tried to kill him."

Roberto Medina is a ranking lieutenant in "Nuestra

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F. Examiner

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 8-27-73

Edition: Star Final

Author: Robert Hollis

Editor: Randolph A. Hearst

Title:

MEXICAN MAFIA

Character:

or C

Classification

Submitting Office: SF

Investigated



than the Mafia on its membership rolls, is now five years old. Familia members come largely from rural areas of California where heavy concentrations of Mexican-Americans gather to harvest crops.

The two organizations represent something new in the criminal history of the state.

### Reaching Streets

For the first time, said Jake Gunn, associate warden at Folsom prison, prison-bred gangs are forming syndicates that are reaching the streets.

Already the Mafia — not related to the Sicilian crime organization — is seeking to monopolize the heroin trade from Mexico.

According to U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials, the Mexican Mafia now controls 20 to 30 percent of all the heroin smuggled into the state across our southern border.

And within every prison in the state one or the other gang almost completely dominates the inmate rackets — narcotics, homosexual prostitution and "favors" from corrupt guards.

Department of Corrections undercover investigators, U.S. Customs officials, federal narcotics officers and police from Marin County to Tijuana all spoke with The Examiner in a three month investigation of the prison war and the growing power of the gangs. The picture is bleak.

Of the 35 inmates who died violently in the California prisons last year, at least 25 were casualties of the Chiquano war.

In 1972, 106 of the 216 inmates stabbed, clubbed or intentionally poisoned, with drugs were linked to the gang violence.

### White Gang

The Aryan Brotherhood, a neo-Nazi, white racist group of violence-prone ex-motorcyclists, has loosely aligned itself with the Mexican Mafia.

They kill or maim under "contract" for the Mafia.

To meet this challenge, Familia members have temporarily allied themselves with some of the more violent members of the Black Liberation Army cadre in the prison system.

The result is an explosive situation which has prompted extraordinary security measures by Department of Corrections officials.

\* \* \*

Outside the squalid Mexican border city of Tijuana, Harry Gamboa Buckley, alias Edmundo Sanchez Pasa, alias Eduardo Gonzalez Cortez, sits and stares through the bars of La Mesa prison.

Buckley faces charges of killing Roberto R. Parra on Aug. 21, 1972, according to the Mexican Judicial State Police. He is a fugitive from California where he is charged with possession of 80 ounces of heroin.

Until last month, Buckley was living openly in Mexico, first in Tijuana and later in Agua Prieta in the Mexican state of Sonora.

Buckley, 52, is believed to be one of the top members of the Mexican Mafia south of the border. As such, he was a major source for 89 percent pure Mexican brown heroin smuggled to the urban centers of California.

### Still Powerful. 166

Although now in prison and facing a possible sentence of more than 20 years for murder, California investigators think Buckley, of Mexican-American ancestry

despite his name, has lost none of his power in the brotherhood.

About 150 miles to the north, Joe Morgan, a convicted murderer, counts the days until his release from Chino state prison.

Morgan is not of Mexican American ancestry. Nevertheless, his word, as it passes through the remarkably efficient prison inmate communication system, is law to any Mexican Mafia brother.

### Raised in Barrio

He was raised in Maravilla, on the edge of the East Los Angeles barrio, largest in the state.

"He talks like a Chicano. He acts like a Chicano, therefore he is a Chicano," said a Department of Corrections investigator.

Morgan is considered the most powerful leader in the Mexican Mafia behind bars in California. He is currently in Chino as a parole violator from his previous murder conviction.

\* \* \*

That Harry Gamboa Buckley could live openly less than two blocks from a police station in Tijuana sheds some light on the power, both political and financial, of the Mexican Mafia.

The convicted robber, escape artist and dope dealer had been last arrested in Los Angeles on July 11, 1971, with a heroin cache worth over \$220,000 at street prices.

The next day, before a Department of Corrections parole officer could place a hold on him, Buckley was bailed out of the Los Angeles County jail.

He fled south to the Tijuana area. There he moved into a house with Daniela

Demerida, his mistress, according to Baja State Police sources.

California prison investigators believe Buckley was paying about \$60,000 a year to Mexican police officials to keep from being extradited north on the heroin charge.

Mrs. Demerida, according to a judicial state police report, possessed a Mexican equivalent of a writ of habeas corpus, which was signed by a Mexican judge and thus prevented her arrest on any charge.

### Bad Heroin

Buckley's protection did not cover murder, however.

On a hot, cloudless summer day last year, Roberto Parra, at one time the largest heroin dealer in the San Diego area, came to Tijuana looking for Buckley.

"Buckley had cheated Parra out of eight ounces of bad heroin and he (Parra) lost \$4000 on the deal," the Mexican Judicial Police report states.

Parra and a friend, Gilberto Guerrero, appeared at Buckley's home and became

embroiled in a heated argument over the alleged dope burn.

Parra pulled Guerrero's .38 revolver and fired at Buckley. Buckley, though wounded in the left stomach and right leg, managed to grab the revolver and fatally wound Parra. Mexican police said.

Bleeding heavily, Buckley fled in an auto with Mrs. Demerida. The woman was dropped off at a local police station (an odd place to stop, but unexplained) and Buckley drove east to Agua Prieta where he was treated for his wounds by friends.

Then last month he returned to Tijuana. He was

immediately arrested by undercover agents of the Judicial Police and charged with murder.

★ ★ ★

The Mexican Mafia system for running heroin across the border is simple and foolproof. It might be described as a self-help program for ex-convicts.

A Southern California Department of Corrections investigator described it this way:

"Suppose you've just been released from Quonin with \$15 in your pocket. You go to the L.A. area and look up your brothers who all served time with you.

"They supply you with a car, some clothes and a little bread.

"You jump in your car and head for T.J.

### First Time

"Now this is the first time you're buying dope in Mexico. You're sure to get ripped off because everybody gets ripped off the first time they bring some money into Mexico.

"But your Mafia brothers can contact a member of the organization and he'll front you the dope on consignment.

"You take the stuff north and sell it in L.A. or Frisco and then you return the skim to the organization."

The "skim" is usually 10 percent of the money earned from street sales of the heroin, narcotics officers said.

That money, deposited in bank accounts in the names of ranking Mafia members, is used to expand the dope smuggling network or to pay off certain Mexican officials.

★ ★ ★

Jimmy Lopez, a 32 year old Chino state prison parolee, found out the hard way

what it's like to try and burn the Mafia.

Lopez and "Colorado" Joe Arias, a parolee from San Quentin, met in the spring of 1972 in the Los Angeles area. They decided that an ideal market for heroin lay in the San Fernando Valley, home for a large Mexican-American community.

Arias, a ranking Mafia lieutenant, was supplied with a late model black Lincoln along with clothes and money by organization financiers, said a Department of Corrections investigator.

In late summer, the pair journeyed to Tijuana where they met Albert "Beto" Ramirez, then another Mafia heroin dealer established in the Bullring area of the town.

### Fugitive

Ramirez is a fugitive from California wanted in San Bernardino County for heroin sales.

Eight ounces of the familiar brown Mexican narcotic was consigned to Arias and Lopez by Ramirez. Arias and Lopez returned to the San Bernardino area where they went into business in August, 1972, investigators say.

In early September, Lopez and a number of other persons were arrested outside a San Bernardino drug store for shoplifting. Arias was out of town at the time.

The following day, Lopez was bailed out of jail and disappeared in the 1967 Plymouth he was using at the time.

### Trung Loaden 167

In the Plymouth's trunk, investigators believe, was a cache of three ounces of uncut heroin and \$1000 in cash.

Arias, upon returning to town, discovered Lopez had absconded with the dope and

money. He went looking for his former partner.

On Sept. 16, 1972, Riverside County deputies found Lopez' battered body in some scrub bushes in Reche Canyon.

The killer first shot his victim in non-vital areas. Then, while Lopez was kneeling, he was worked over with a screwdriver. Finally, he was shot in the head and heart.

"If you give the Mafia a bad name or you burn the Mafia, there's only one punishment and that's death," a Riverside County investigator said. Arias is sought for the Lopez murder.

★ ★ ★

Mexican Mafia or Nuestra Familia heroin dealers work in every major California population center, prison investigators believe.

Mafia territory includes San Francisco (primarily in the Mission District), Los Angeles, Sacramento, Fresno and Bakersfield.

Familia dealers are known to serve San Jose, the Imperial Valley and Oxnard.

Likewise, the two gangs have divided up California's prisons.

Rackets in Folsom and San Quentin prisons are both Mafia controlled. Familia members control rackets in Soledad, Del Norte Vocational Institute in Tracy and Chino's rehabilitation center.

### 'Hit' is Proof

Control of a prison like San Quentin means gang leaders run the rackets: dope, canteen ducats, bonaroo (pressed and starched) denims, cigarettes (used as prison currency) and homosexual prostitution.

New inductees in either group are usually required to prove themselves by making a "hit" against an organization enemy.

Since the war between the

Mafia and the Familia started at San Quentin in September, 1968, over fifty leaders and followers of both gangs have been killed in state prisons, Guthrie said.

Another 200 non-fatal knifings and beatings have been linked to the bloody struggle.

★ ★ ★

The war almost ended in a truce, until a fateful December day last year in the maximum security section of Chino prison.

Rudy "Cheyenne" Cadena was returning from a meal when his body suddenly plummeted from a third tier walkway in the prison's adjustment center.

Although Cadena's head smashed into the concrete floor, he never felt it. The convicted robber and murderer was dead before he hit the ground.

When guards reached the body, there were over 50 slashing knife wounds from Cadena's head to waist.

### 'Set Up'

"He had been set up," said a prison investigator. "They got him when he least expected it."

At the time of his death, Cadena was trying to forge an end to hostilities between the Mafia and Nuestra Familia. As the undisputed leader of the Mafia, he had sent word to dozens of other Mafia leaders asking their views on a truce.

Ironically, when Cadena died, investigators learned he was unaware that most brotherhood members were violently opposed to a truce.

### Coded Messages

Chino guards, it was later learned, knew Cadena was

receiving coded messages in his mail. In the weeks before his death, many personal letters were withheld.

Revenge was not long in coming.

On Christmas day, 1972, at Soledad prison, Frank "Cisco" Villalobos and Pablo "Bennie" Najera were hacked to death with prison-made knives in separate but simultaneous attacks.

Both were ranking Familia lieutenants.

★ ★ ★

The Department of Corrections has taken drastic steps.

Every known leader of either the Mafia or the Familia today is locked in an isolation cell in whatever prison he is housed. Each individual is segregated from the general prison population and must eat and exercise under strict supervision, Guthrie said.

Members of the organizations no longer behind bars are being kept under surveillance.

### Attacks Continue

Nonetheless, while fatalities are down inside the walls, inmate attacks continue. At last count, 32 inmates have been beaten or stabbed at San Quentin since the first of the year.

Other prisons show similar statistics.

"A Mafia type in the deepest, darkest hole at Folsom can order the death of a man anywhere in the state," noted one ex-convict.

Some Department of Corrections investigators who have been close to the two Chicago groups for the

past two years complain that many state officials and local police agencies do not realize the power of the gangs.

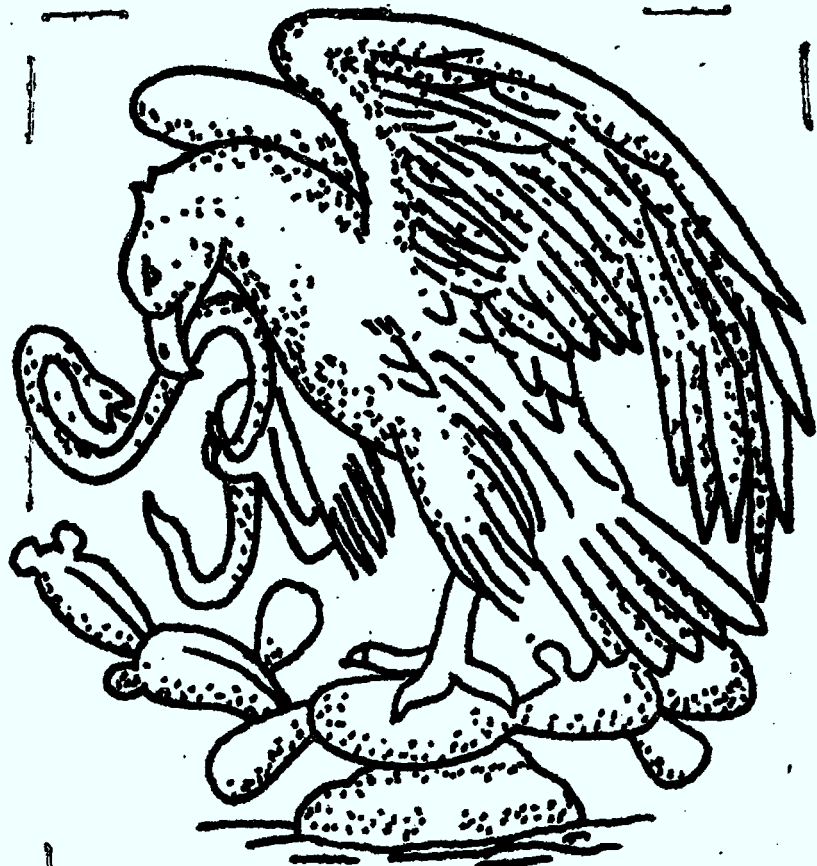
### Wall of Silence

Officials are hampered by a wall of silence from the Mexican-American community, usually the victim of

much of the expanding gang activities.

A Los Angeles woman who witnessed the death of her husband at the hands of two Mafia leaders told police she would testify against the pair. Shortly afterwards, her son was murdered.

"Now she's like a zombie," said a prison investigator. "She won't talk to anybody."



168

EME

Eagle adapted from Mexican emblem; "EME" is Spanish for "M," for Mafia

—Examiner photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Meximafia, Vast Swindle Suspected

Washington Post Service

SACRAMENTO — Officials voice growing concern that millions of dollars in state, federal and local funds for social programs are being diverted throughout California into the hands of Chicano-run, Mafia-style organizations.

Their concern was sparked by the Feb. 17 murder near the Sacramento Metropolitan Airport of a South Pasadena woman. Ellen Anne Delia had been shot, gangland-style, three times in the back of the head.

Later, it became known that Mrs. Delia, the estranged wife of the operator of a halfway house in Los Angeles, was on her way here to tell officials what she knew about the misapplication of federal and state funds and fraud in social programs in the barrios. A briefcase of documents, which she said supported what she knew, was missing when her body was found.

No one knows just what she had to tell. Her husband, himself a suspect in her murder, later reportedly told health department officials and legislators that she had possessed canceled checks from the operators of drug-rehabilitation programs to gang figures.

amounting to as much as \$1,000 a month per counselor, that go into the pockets of Chicano mobsters.

In addition, methadone reportedly is being siphoned from drug treatment programs and sold on the street.

"It's bound to be going on wherever there are programs like this, in all the cities," said a law enforcement official who asked not to be identified. "That's where the money is."

The gangs themselves were

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SAN JOSE MERCURY  
SAN JOSE, CALIF.

PAGE 1

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The stakes are high. California's poor receive more than a tenth of the health and welfare dollars spent in the United States. Drug-rehabilitation programs currently appear to be the focus of inter-gang action. About \$40 million annually, counting federal grants from the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, is spent in California.

The possible loss of such sums spurred Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo to request on Friday that federal officials as well as Los Angeles authorities join a state task force probing the loss of funds to mob action.

For months reports have circulated in the barrios that, for instance, the operators of some prepaid health-plan programs funded by the state were being forced to pay a "head" tax to the mob on each patient they saw.

Other sources in East Los Angeles say that halfway houses, which are meant to provide treatment for drug addicts and ease the transition from prison to normal life, are being strong-armed into paying "ghost counselors" salaries,

formed in California's prisons as self-protection units. They began to spill out of the prisons in 1972.

The two main gangs are "Nuestra Familia" (Our Family), which is composed mainly of rural Chicanos from California's Central Valley, and "EME" pronounced "em-meh," as in the Spanish pronunciation of the letter "M." Composed of urban Chicanos from East Los Angeles, EME is also called the Mexican Mafia, or sometimes "Emilys Brothers."

As long as three years ago officials were warning that the organizations were moving to the streets, but there was no real concern until recently, when they apparently began a gangland turf war over the control of hard-drug traffic and funds for social programs.

As blacks have in major East-coast cities, Chicanos have begun to attempt to wrest control of organized crime from the older Italian Mafia in California. One informant, only recently out of prison, said the Italian Mafia had passed the word in the state institution that Nuestra Familia and EME could fight it out for control, and "to the victor belong the spoils."

The war has been bloody. In 1975, according to Charles E. Casey, head of the Organized Crime and Intelligence Branch of the California Department of Justice, 20 murders were traceable to inter-gang rivalry; 16 of those occurred in prisons. But in 1976 there were 75 such murders, and all but 14 occurred on the streets.

That has led to a climate of fear in East Los Angeles, where one barrio figure refused to talk to reporters at all, saying, "If it got out, it could get me killed. I have been threatened and my family has been threatened, and if it got out, I would have to leave here or they would kill me."

Other longtime observers in East Los Angeles report that the leaders of community programs appear to be intimidated and are not talking about the situation.

In Los Angeles Thursday, Police Commander Ray Ruddell said "at least five and possibly more" murders are linked to Get Going, the halfway house operated by Mrs. Delia and her husband, Michael. Later police officials said the figure could go as high as 10. The halfway house, situated just a few blocks south of Los Angeles City

Hall and state buildings, has become the focus of the turf war between two factions of EME.

Michael Delia reportedly is on the side of EME, although he also has ties to the older Sicilian Mafia in East Los Angeles. He was taken into custody with six other Chicano Mafia figures on Thursday, then was released on \$7,500 bail, charged with possession of a .38-caliber pistol and two "balloons" of heroin.

At a press conference that day officers said the six had been linked to a series of crimes between Jan. 15 and Feb. 18 throughout California. The officers would not publicly speculate on what crimes they were.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

★ ★ ★

## 3 Chicanos Executed On Fresno Road

FRESNO (AP) — Three Mexican-American males were found dead Sunday on a rural road about five miles east of here—each with a single gunshot wound to the head, sheriffs deputies reported.

The victims, all believed in their early twenties, have not been identified, said Lt. Richard Pierce.

"There have been a series of incidents down here of similar type," Pierce said. "Whether this is connected I don't know."

Pierce said authorities believe a feud between two gangs, the Mexican Mafia and La Nuestra Familia, to be responsible for a recent chain of crimes in the area.

"That feud is going on all over Central California," Pierce claimed.

The three men were found Sunday at 9 a.m. by ranch owners on an entrance road leading to their property, he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

SAN JOSE MERCURY

SAN JOSE, CALIF

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gang-Style<sup>13</sup> Slaying In Morgan Hill

MORGAN HILL — A Gilroy man was gunned down late Tuesday afternoon in a gangland-style slaying here.

Dead at Wheeler Hospital in Gilroy about one hour after the shooting was Flavio Garza, 25, of 7620 Forest St.

Three suspects are in police custody.

Police acknowledged that they will investigate possible Nuestra Familia ties with the shooting.

Garza was shot in the abdomen with a 12-gauge shotgun at close range.

They said one of the suspects apparently shot Garza as he worked at a radial saw located in an open area just outside a ham radio equipment manufacturing plant.

Richard Collier, manager for KLM Electronics at Laurel Road near East Dunne Avenue, where Garza was employed, said he heard the blast of the shotgun and two quieter sounds as if from handguns.

Collier said he knew of no reason for the shooting.

Police closed in quickly and officer Richard Vasquez, with gun drawn, took the three suspects into custody at the scene of the shooting.

Collier said that Garza had been employed as a mechanical assembler at KLM for the past two years.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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San Jose Mercury

San Jose, Calif.

Date: 3-23-1977

Edition: Morning

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Classification:

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Being Investigated

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## Suspect in attempted murder called Nuestra Familia leader

A man police identified as the top Nuestra Familia member in the San Jose area has been arrested for suspicion of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

Arthur Rocko Beltran, 25, of 1368 Dubert Lane, Apt. 4, was arrested shortly before midnight Sunday at Hecker Pass highway and Watsonville road west of Gilroy by Santa Clara County Sheriff's deputies.

San Jose Police detectives, who obtained a \$100,000 arrest warrant for Beltran Friday, identified him as a lieutenant and top-ranking member of the San Jose Nuestra Familia.

Beltran was arrested in connection with the shooting of one man in San Jose February 26, and the stabbing of another man here March 4.

Both men recovered from their wounds.

Beltran and two other persons were arrested after a routine car stop.

One of the passengers was Guadalupe Rocha, 24, of 1314 Santee Drive. She is the wife of Anthony Rocha, 25 arrested last Tuesday with two other persons for suspicion of the gangland-style slaying of Flavio Garza, 25, in Morgan Hill.

Mrs. Rocha was booked into the Womens' Detention Facility at Elmwood for suspicion of carrying a concealed weapon after deputies reported finding a .22-caliber pistol on her when she was arrested.

Also arrested with Beltran was Richard Carrisosa, 41, of 750 Delmas Street, for suspicion of parole violation.

San Jose detectives Dalton Roien and Buck Ballard said warrants were issued Friday for Beltran and Phillip Pablo Lopez, 25, of 14090 Woodhaven Dr., in connection with the stabbing

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4

San Jose News  
San Jose, Calif.

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and shooting.

Lopez was arrested near his home Friday along with James Rodriguez Lugo, 26, who police say is wanted in Southern California for suspicion of armed robbery.

Beltran and Lopez were booked for suspicion of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

The Feb. 26 incident took place outside the Balcony Lounge on East Julian street when Arthur Hernandez was shot with a .30-caliber handgun.

The March 4 incident involved the stabbing of Leonard Mejia, 23, near Spring and Hedding streets.

Both crimes as well as the Morgan Hill murder last week are believed to be connected with the Nuestra Familia, a prison-based Chicano gang.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Suspected Prison-Gang 'Enforcers' Arrested Near Home of Witness

By **BILL ROMANO**  
Staff Writer

Four alleged Nuestra Familia (N.F.) enforcers suspected of trying to intimidate a witness were scooped up by San Jose police and jailed Thursday.

The group was arrested on an East Side street corner as they

rode away from the victim's home.

There were no weapons reported found in their automobile.

Lt. Don Ewing said the quartet was seen three times driving slowly past the victim's residence.

"People in the neighborhood have been on the lookout for suspicious activity and they called us immediately. A unit in the field nearby at the time made the stop," he said.

Police suspect the men were attempting to frighten a person expected to testify at the trial soon of Arturo "Rocko" Beltran, a high-ranking N.F. officer.

Beltran and a fellow member of the same prison-based street gang, Phillip Pablo Lopez, 25, have been charged with attempted murder and assault in connection with the shooting and stabbing of two N.F. outcasts here in recent weeks.

Paroled from state prison last November, Beltran was reported to have been assigned the task of getting an N.F. chapter started among gang members living in San Joaquin County.

His name has been linked with the death of an N.F. "soldier" slain there earlier this year, a killing for which two Gilroy men

were later arrested and charged.

San Jose police arrested Lopez here March 25. Beltran was picked up two days later on a \$100,000 warrant while driving over Pacheco Pass.

Those taken into custody here Thursday were identified as Robert Motalvo Campos, 24, of Gilroy; Hector Gallegos, 27, of Salinas; Eloy John Lopez, 28, no address; and Paul Sanchez Alvarez, 24, of Sacramento.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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San Jose Mercury

San Jose, Calif.

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## Deuel Removes Inmates To Avoid 'Bloodbath'

Some 40 inmates of Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy, a stronghold of the Nuestra Familia prison gang, were shipped off to other detention facilities Thursday to defuse an explosive situation among the 1,200-man population.

Correctional officials earlier had expressed fear of a "bloodbath" unless those responsible for a recent prison yard fight were transferred.

The violence left three persons hurt and has resulted in a prison-wide lockdown for the fourth straight week.

Unconfirmed reports indicate the June 8 clash between NF members and white inmates erupted over a grab for control of gambling inside the institution.

"I'm going to get people killed if I open this place," Superintendent Robert Rees said, "and the department (State Department of Corrections) doesn't want to get people killed."

The transfers were ordered by

Rees as a first step in putting the prison back on a normal footing.

Reports from both convicts and prison officials say a number of whites have been placed on the Nuestra Familia's "hit list."

A spokesman reported Thursday that 99 NF members and associates have been relocated in two separate, self-contained cellblocks, away from most of the other prisoners.

"They were both vacant, both recently renovated and ready to go so we moved them in there," said Robert Walraven, Rees' assistant.

Another 100 Mexican-American inmates with no gang affiliation continue to be housed with the general population.

Of those transferred, 27 were reputed NF leaders. The remainder were white prisoners, linked directly to the on-going turmoil.

They were moved out during the day Thursday to San Quentin, Soledad, Vacaville and Chino.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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SAN JOSE MERCURY  
SAN JOSE, CALIF.

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# Admitted 'hit list' figure says murder victim was on it, too

By DICK EGNER  
Staff Writer

A murder suspect who said he was "No. 1 on the Nuestra Familia hit list" testified Tuesday that Morgan Hill execution victim Flavio Garza was also on the list.

John Joseph Hernandez, currently facing a murder charge in San Joaquin County, testified during the murder trial of Frank John Reyes, 26, of Selma; Cesar Ramirez Gutierrez, 25, of Sanger, and Antonio Tony Rocha, 25, of 1314 Santee Drive.

They are charged with murder last March 22 of Garza, 25, of Morgan Hill, outside the L.L.M. Electronics plant where he was employed in that city. Gutierrez

allegedly used a sawed-off, 12-gauge shotgun and Reyes a .22-caliber revolver.

Because of his life being in jeopardy, said Hernandez, he is kept in isolation by the Department of Corrections. That is in connection with the slaying of one Jerry Blanco in San Joaquin County.

Trying to discredit Hernandez' testimony, Rocha's attorney, Terry Green, read in court from a transcript of a court proceeding in that county.

In it a deputy district attorney said the murder charge there would be dropped if Hernandez testified in murder cases here and in other counties.

Hernandez said he had informed the Department of Corrections that Garza was on the prison-based gang's "hit" (execution) list and that Arturo Beltran had been ordered to "hit" him.

Beltran, 25, was one of two men charged here with attempted murder and assault on Arthur Hernandez (no relation), who was shot Feb. 26, and Leonard Mejia, who was stabbed March 4.

In an earlier appearance during the trial, Hernandez admitted he was the "wheelman" in the attempted killing of Mejia, which he said failed because the knife bent.

Hernandez testified Monday that he had seen Rocha with Beltran while the latter was looking for Garza.

In the earlier appearance, Hernandez had identified Beltran as a "captain" and head of the N.F. in the San Jose area.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2.

San Jose Mercury

San Jose, Calif.

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Rocha took the stand in Judge Marilyn Pastarino Zecher's Superior Court to testify that he never was an N.F. member, though he has friends he "suspects" are members.

He said his attorney, Green, was incorrect when he told the jury in his opening statement a month ago that Rocha had hooked up with Gutierrez and Reyes when he picked them up as hitchhikers.

In fact, Rocha said, Gutierrez and Reyes went to his home March 18 -- four days before the shooting -- asking for Beltran. He said they told him someone at Beltran's home suggested Beltran might be at Rocha's.

Garza was killed by a shotgun blast to the abdomen and was also wounded in the chest and mouth areas.

Morgan Hill Officer Richard Vasquez testified he was patrolling near the KLM plant when he saw two men in dungarees walk past -- one stiff-legged, the other pulling his coat over his midsection as they saw the patrol car.

Vasquez said he turned his car around and drove back, spotting Rocha sitting in a car. At that point, the other two were in the KLM driveway, where he saw one pull what appeared to be a handgun and point it, then heard a shot, then saw the other pull what appeared to be a shotgun and heard two more blasts.

Vasquez arrested Rocha and Gutierrez as they sat in the car. Reyes, who had fled, was arrested by another officer who followed him over the fence he had jumped.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Court sets sentencing date

# 3 men guilty of execution-style murder

Three men were convicted by a jury Wednesday of first-degree murder in the execution-style slaying of a Morgan Hill electronics plant employe.

A nine-man, three-women panel nearing the end of its second day of deliberation returned the verdicts against Cesar Ramez Gutierrez, 25, of Sanger; Frank John Reyes, 28, of Selma; and Antonio Tony Rocha, 25, of 1314 Santee Drive.

In addition, the jury found Gutierrez guilty of possessing a sawed-off shotgun and found armed allegations against him and Reyes to be true.

The panel's verdicts came on the 24th day of trial. Superior Court Judge Marilyn Pestarino Zecher set Sept. 23 at 8:45 a.m. for receipt of probation reports and sentencing.

The trio were charged in the March 22 slaying of Flavio Garza, 25, of Morgan Hill, outside his place of employment.

Gutierrez was accused of firing a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun and Reyes a .22-caliber revolver, and Rocha of driving what they intended as their getaway car.

Morgan Hill Officer Richard Vasquez said he saw Rocha sitting in a car near the shooting scene moments before it happened.

He arrested Rocha and Gutierrez as they sat in the car immediately afterward.

Just before that, Vasquez said, he had been patrolling and had seen two men in dungarees walk past—one stiff-legged, the other pulling his coat over his

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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San Jose Mercur

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midsection when they saw the patrol car.

Vasquez said it was after he turned his car around and drove back that he saw Rocha sitting in the car. At the same time, he saw the other two in the KLM driveway.

He said he saw one pull what appeared to be a handgun and point it, heard a shot, then saw the other pull what looked like a shotgun and heard two blasts.

When Reyes saw him, said the officer, he jumped a fence.

Another officer chased him and yelled for the suspect to step forward. Reyes emerged from a nearby shed, hands in the air. A .22-caliber revolver was found about 100 feet away.

Besides hearing the officer's testimony about Rocha, the jury heard him linked to a Mexican American prison gang by a witness who called himself "No. 1 on the Nuestra Familia hit list."

The witness, John Joseph Hernandez, testified that victim Garza was on the NF's "hit" (assocation) list which is compiled on the basis of failings of members to obey orders.

Hernandez said Arturo Beltran had been ordered to "hit" Garza. He identified Beltran as an NF "captain" and head of the NF in the San Jose area.

Beltran, 23, and another man are charged with attempted murder and assault on two other men in February and March.

Hernandez admitted he was the "wheelman" in one of those attempts.

Rocha's attorney, Terry Green, tried to discredit Hernandez's testimony by pointing out—in a transcript of a court proceeding in San Joaquin County—a prosecutor's statement that a murder charge against him there would be dropped if he testified here.

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## **No witness, no case**

**GILROY** — Charges of conspiracy to commit murder and assault with a deadly weapon naming Ruben Garnica, 29, of 4747 El Monte St., Fresno, were dismissed here Tuesday.

Garnica was to have faced a preliminary hearing on the charges in Gilroy Justice Court.

But the District Attorney's Office was forced to seek a dismissal after Gilroy police were unable to serve subpoenas on witnesses who would have testified about the Aug. 25 shotgun shooting of Manuel Vaca, 17. Police said the witnesses simply had "disappeared."

Vaca was shot in the head in the early-morning hours at the rear of

a restaurant at 7140 Church St. Vaca has since been dismissed from the hospital.

A woman implicated in the shooting, Angelina Valdez, 21, of 539 E. Market St., Salinas, was also released earlier from similar charges.

Garnica, who has the words "Nuestra Familia" tattooed across his back, was arrested by Gilroy police last April as the aftermath of an incident in which five shotgun blasts were pumped into a house at 253 E. Sixth St., narrowly missing three occupants.

This case was also dismissed because of the unavailability of witnesses.

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S.P. 3/24/77

# Nuestra Familia plans its conquests

By RICK RODRIGUEZ  
 Californian Staff Writer  
 (Last of two parts)

from rural areas and Northern State Serate investigators have identified the top men in the California.

California gang violence has its roots in prisons. It was formed to protect rural Familia structure as Robert Babo Sosa and "Death Row" paper, city and state.)  
 Even now that it is becoming more apparent that the gangs are enemies both in the prisons and ficer said both men are now spreading their webs of violence on the streets. imprisoned at Deuel Vocational and crime to the streets, in Intelligence reports say that Institute at Tracy, a prison which vestigators believe the shots are the Nuestra Familia, like all correctional officers admit is still being called from inside other prison gangs, has a rank controlled by NF. Gonzales was prison walls. structure, a constitution and transferred from Soledad prision six months ago."  
 In the Salinas Valley, seven street by-laws. Under an NF constitution in- A Soledad prison corrections murders are believed to have been Nuestra Familia hits in the tercepted in 1975, the rank officer said authorities have past eight months. structure shows that the group is attempted to identify gang af-  
 Nuestra Familia, which means led by "nuestro general", who ilitates and isolate hardcore "our family", is comprised must remain inside prison to members in the maximum security housing unit and mainly of Mexican-Americans retain authority.

management control units. He estimated that less than ten per cent of the prison's 2,400 inmate population is gang-affiliated. Soledad was considered a NF stronghold, but no longer. "We had a lot here for awhile but they've been transferred to DVI," a spokesman says. How the word spreads from the prisons to the streets amazes even law enforcement personnel. Communications from high-ranking NF members are carried through a variety of methods such as visits, coded letters, phone calls or through parolees. Inside the prisons, communication is just as simple.

Joe Rodriguez, unit supervisor for the tri-county parole office, acknowledges that, "over the past two years there has been a definite increase of activity by this gang in the Salinas area. People on the street whose lives have been or may be touched by Nuestra Familia activities are frightened even to be asked questions about it. "It's hot, man," says one "Don't ask." Rodriguez said that in the tri-county area, his office supervises 350 felons and slightly more than 150 civil addicts who are not considered felons but who have

GANG see back page

(Continued from page 1)  
 been committed to the California Rehabilitation Center by the courts and who are treated as parolees. Of that total, Rodriguez says certain parolees have been identified as gang affiliates, but he can't divulge their number. He notes that suspected gang affiliates aren't treated "much differently than routine parolees."

"Certainly our purpose is to do all we can to dissuade parolees from involvement in criminality or any unproductive behavior. In this context, we use a variety of methods from the degree of counseling and casework to that of monitoring behavior and taking forceful action as necessary. Forceful action could be placing them in jail custody pending investigation and/or pending further revocation action by the Adult Authority," Rodriguez sa

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The parole agent is in a unique position being both a caseworker and a peace officer and he necessarily has to work closely and coordinate with law enforcement agencies and other social service groups," Rodriguez noted. All parolees must maintain contact with their parole agents who generally initiate the contact in the field.

Goals

Nuestra Familia membership is estimated at from 400-500 statewide, with the gang now attracting younger members. The gang's goals are set forth in an NF constitution:

"The primary purpose of goals of this organization will be for the betterment of its members and the building up of the organization on the outside into a strong and self-supporting familia."

"A familiano will not be released from his obligations to the organization because he is being released from prison and will be expected to work twice as hard to see that a familia is established and works in hand with the organization already established behind the walls."

"A automatic death sentence will be put on a familiano that turns traitor, coward or deserter."

And a September, 1975, NF document outlines a planned move into the streets:

"The first step will consist of establishing a self-supporting familia (regiment). Each familia will be run by a rank equal to a lieutenant. This familia shall have a bank with a basis of not less than \$1,000 and shall have bought into businesses in part or whole."

"The familia bank, just like the main bank, will buy into legal businesses but unlike the main bank, it will have no restriction about the illegality of such places."

"Familia soldados at first will be expected to make sacrifices in so far as when he commits an illegal venture, all the profits will go into the familia bank. This should be until the bank is strong enough to buy its first business."

The first step of the planned street move called for eventual payment to "soldados" and would give a member the option of "retiring" after reaching the age of 50 with 20 "years of service."

Soldado rules as outlined in the document call for no use of narcotics, expectations of holding a "legal job", no excessive drinking and no undertaking of ventures without authorization from superiors.

The second stage of the takeover was to establish "main bank."

Trend

The rumored move of the NF into the Salinas area may be a statewide trend which sees gang involvement spreading from urban areas.

"Large involvement of the gangs has been basically in the big urban areas and because the local police agencies have been trying to combat it, I think some of the pressures they have placed on them have forced some of the gang members into some of the other areas," says Monterey County Asst. Dist. Atty Dean Flippo.

Flippo says he has no way of estimating how many hardcore familia members are from the Salinas area. "I think it would be fair to say some Salinas names continue to pop-up but we receive information of individuals coming into our area from other areas. We have some for instance, from San Jose. Again, these are alleged gang affiliates, but how you corroborate that we don't know."

"They are so mobile. This is one of the reasons we're so concerned," says Monterey County Sheriff's Det. Capt. Bill Davis.

Concern over S. B. 42

Another thing which concerns law enforcement people throughout the state is S. B. 42 which would replace California's indeterminate sentence law with determined sentences. The law, which becomes operational July if efforts to block or stall its implementation fail, will result in the release of hundreds of inmates who have served more than the newly-set determined sentences for the crimes they committed.

"I think there is a very real concern on the part of law enforcement officials that if we have a large influx of inmates being released from the prison system, there's a good possibility that we may have an increase in criminal activity and in particular, gang association," Flippo says.

Parole supervisor Rodriguez acknowledges, "We anticipate a large volume of parole referrals some summer. We don't know how many will be affiliated with gangs, but we have already identified some scheduled for parole who have this identity."

Law enforcement agencies on the federal and state levels have joined in an effort to stop the growing menace of gang-related street crime. The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration has formed a special Narcotics Task Force which serves as an information gathering unit. Local agencies are polling information.

But the results in the Salinas area have generally been a lot of hearsay and little evidence which can be used in court.

"We haven't been able to prove they're responsible. You can't arrest somebody just because they belong to the Boy Scouts," says Capt. Davis.

"It's extremely difficult when all you're dealing with is words. People have got to be willing to come forward. It's not an easy job," Flippo notes.

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Salinas California

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# Prison gang extends power into Valley

By RICK RODRIGUEZ  
Californian Staff Writer  
First of two parts

La Nuestra Familia, a prison-spawned gang, is extending its quest for power on the streets to the Salinas Valley.

The deaths of seven persons in the past eight months in the Salinas area are believed to be Nuestra Familia (NF) hits. The slayings have reportedly come in an effort by NF to purge "weak members" and eliminate informants, all aimed at establishing a racketeering base in narcotics and prostitution.

The growth of gang-influenced crime in the Salinas Valley matches a statewide pattern which sees NF attempting to gain control in San Jose, Fresno, Stockton and other Central and

Northern California areas.

Reports of a war outside prison walls between Nuestra Familia ("our family") and the arch-rival Mexican Mafia, also known as the Eme — the Spanish spelling of the letter "m" — do not appear to account for the Salinas area violence.

The Mexican Mafia is basically urban and is reportedly concentrating efforts to traffic narcotics and organize crime in Southern California.

But one 1976 murder in the Salinas area, the Feb. 29 shooting of 17-year-old Donald Lee Ramirez was Eme-linked. David Joseph Perez, a 37-year-old parolee, convicted of the murder, is alleged to be a Mexican Mafia lieutenant.

Area law enforcement officials

are keenly aware of rumors of growing gang involvement in the Salinas area. But for the most part, the rumors are uncorroborated by hard facts.

Monterey County Asst. Dist. Atty. Dean Flippo acknowledges that "there is possible gang activity in our area — in the Salinas-county area — and the information that we are receiving, again uncorroborated, is that the gangs are involved in various crimes. I don't think we've received any information that there's a war going on between rival gangs in the Salinas area."

Letters received by the Californian express growing fear on the streets. One woman wrote, "Terror is rampant in the streets and barrios of Salinas and I fear

if left unchecked, this organized violence may overcome us all to the point where we may have to pay these gangsters for protection to live here."

Street talk has it that NF is seeking to control the Valley's heroin traffic, a "potentially lucrative proposition."

"With the Salinas Valley being on the main road from San Francisco to L.A., there's a tremendous amount of narcotics that comes through and we get an awful lot of information about an awful lot of people being involved. Some say people from the gangs, but I don't think we can estimate at all," about how many alleged gang members are involved, Flippo says.

Information has reached law enforcement that Nuestra

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Familia may be trying to move in on independent dope dealers. Flipppo notes. "I don't think that we can really pinpoint any major confrontation between a gang organization and independent dealers. It appears that they're all involved."

There have been reports in the past four months, that NF is attempting to move into the lower Soledad Street area to control prostitution.

"We have to stress that it's unsubstantiated. Somebody will say something and they won't back it up. And we haven't been able to back any of it up with direct proof," says Salinas police Det. Capt. Roy Hanna.

The crimes which have drawn the most attention have been the FAMILY see back page

also had a history of narcotics-related arrests.

— Larry Thomas Randall, 35, of Salinas, a known narcotics user, who was found shot three times in the bathroom at the Plaza Hotel, 30 E. Market St., early March 5. Randall had reportedly been fired at while on E. Market Street about a week earlier.

— Adam Centeno, 30, of Prunedale, whose body was discovered on Old Natividad Road across from the Sheriff's Posse Grounds March 12. He died from two close-range shotgun blasts.

Toxicology reports by the coroner's office show that only Centeno had a positive drug screen test which showed morphine and Darvon in his system. Narcotics paraphernalia was found at the scene of the Randall murder and several of the other victims had needle tracks.

**Targeted**

Some of the victims knew they were targeted for death. One woman wrote, "Alejandro (Moreno) had known of the threat to his life for some time, yet for a little while he had dared to believe, to hope in our future together, only to have his dream shattered by the shadows of his past."

The problem in making cases is that potential witnesses aren't talking.

"We are having an extreme difficulty in having people come forward and testify in court. Why? I suppose we could speculate as to whether they've been threatened or are frightened for their own safety or whatever. It's extremely difficult for police agencies in these type of cases because the witnesses are not coming forward," Flipppo says.

"What we're trying to do is that we are concerned to the extent that we're trying to corroborate this information and we're expending a considerable effort in that respect," Capt. Hanna says.

(Next: From the prisons to the streets)

gangstyle executions. Law enforcement officials won't comment on pending cases but street talk links the following murders to the prison-based gang:

**Victims**

— Jack Samuel Rice Jr., 27, of Salinas, who was shot at the Foley and Burk Carnival July 18, 1976. He died from brain damage caused by two bullet wounds to the head.

Raul Ralph Flores, 24, of Salinas, was convicted by a Monterey County Superior Court jury of second degree murder in the Rice case on Nov. 3, 1976. Despite rumors linking the slaying to a NF hit, no motive was brought out in the trial because of lack of solid evidence.

— Richard Cano Hernandez, 21, of Salinas, who was stabbed to death Oct. 17, 1976, in his Soledad prison cell. Hernandez, who was serving a term for attempted robbery, was to have been paroled Dec. 18. Two men are awaiting trial in the case.

— Gavino "Porky" Valdez, 30, of Salinas who was strangled Sept. 29, 1976 in Monterey County Jail. Valdez, who had a history of drug violations, had been housed in an eight-man cell. Reluctance of any of the 17 inmates on the entire cellblock to speak has led investigators to a dead-end as far as an arrest is concerned. It was he first murder in the jail's history.

— Alexander Moreno, 37, who also had served prison time for drug violations, was stabbed to death in the bathroom of a Fontes Lane labor camp Dec. 22, 1976 where he apparently was lured to be executed. Potential evidence at the scene was accidentally damaged by ambulance attendants who responded to the call and arrived before investigators.

— Gloria Rocha Rice, 19, widow of Jack Rice, who was stabbed 94 times in an alley behind 7½ E. Lake St. on New Year's Eve. She had testified against Flores in his trial and

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