

Chapter 1 : Ben Stanton â€™ GulfStar Group

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Lucky Luciano Save Charles "Lucky" Luciano ;[1] born Salvatore Lucania;[2] November 24, â€™ January 26, was an influential Italian-born mobster , criminal mastermind , and crime lord who operated mainly in the United States. Luciano is considered the father of modern organized crime in the United States for the establishment of the first Commission. He was also the first official boss of the modern Genovese crime family. He was, along with his associates, instrumental in the development of the National Crime Syndicate. Luciano was tried and successfully convicted for compulsory prostitution and running a prostitution racket in after years of investigation by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey almost failed to keep his end of the bargain, and it took months to finally come up with a solution to release Luciano. He was deported to live his life freely outside the U. Bartolomeo born , Giuseppe born , Filippa born , and Concetta. The Mafia Story in His Own Words that his father always had a new Palermo based steamship company calendar each year and would save money for the boat trip by keeping a jar under his bed. In April , when Luciano was nine years old, the family emigrated to the United States. Unlike other street gangs, whose business was petty crime, Luciano offered protection to Jewish youngsters from Italian and Irish gangs for 10 cents per week. He was also learning the pimping trade in the years around World War I. Around this time, Luciano also met Meyer Lansky, his future business partner and close friend. It is not clear how Luciano earned the nickname "Lucky". It may have come from surviving a severe beating by three men in the s, as well as a throat slashing. This was because Luciano refused to work for another mob boss. Constitution took effect and Prohibition lasted until the amendment was repealed in The amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. As there was still a substantial demand for alcohol, this provided criminals with an added source of income. By , Luciano had met many future Mafia leaders, including Vito Genovese and Frank Costello , his longtime friend and future business partner through the Five Points Gang. In , Luciano was caught in a sting selling heroin to undercover agents. Although he saw no jail time, being outed as a drug peddler damaged his reputation among his high class associates and customers. To salvage his reputation, Luciano bought expensive seats to the Jack Dempsey â€™ Luis Firpo boxing match in the Bronx and distributed them to top gangsters and politicians. Luciano and his partners ran the largest bootlegging operation in New York, one that also extended into Philadelphia. He imported Scotch whisky from Scotland, rum from the Caribbean , and whisky from Canada. Luciano was also involved in illegal gambling. In contrast to Rothstein, Masseria was uneducated, with poor manners and limited managerial skills. Maranzano refused to pay commissions to Masseria. Their rivalry eventually escalated into the bloody Castellammarese War and ultimately resulted in the deaths of both Maranzano and Masseria. Masseria and Maranzano were so-called "Mustache Petes ": They believed in upholding the supposed "Old World Mafia" principles of "honor," "tradition," "respect," and "dignity. Some of the most conservative bosses only worked with men with roots in their own Sicilian village. Luciano, in contrast, was willing to work not only with Italians, but also Jewish and Irish gangsters, as long as there was money to be made. Luciano was shocked to hear traditional Sicilian mafiosi lecture him about his dealings with close friend Costello, whom they called "the dirty Calabrian ". Luciano wanted to use lessons he learned from Rothstein to turn their gang activities into criminal empires. He somehow survived the ordeal but was forever marked with a scar and droopy eye. The identity of his abductors was never established. When picked up by the police after the beating, Luciano said that he had no idea who did it. However, in , Luciano told an interviewer that it was the police who kidnapped and beat him in an attempt to find Jack "Legs" Diamond. The war had been going poorly for Masseria, and Luciano saw an opportunity to switch allegiance. After finishing their meal, the mobsters decided to play cards. At that point, according to mob legend, Luciano went to the bathroom. Maranzano promised that all the families would be equal and free to make money. However, at a meeting of crime bosses in Upstate New York , Maranzano

declared himself capo di tutti capi "boss of all bosses". Luciano appeared to accept these changes, but was merely biding his time before removing Maranzano. However, Lucchese alerted Luciano that he was marked for death. Convinced that Maranzano planned to murder them, Luciano decided to act first. They had been secured with the aid of Lansky and Siegel. The other two, aided by Lucchese, who was there to point Maranzano out, stabbed the boss multiple times before shooting him. Meanwhile, Joseph Siragusa, leader of the Pittsburgh crime family, was shot to death in his home. The October 15 disappearance of Joe Ardizzone, head of the Los Angeles family, would later be regarded as part of this alleged plan to quickly eliminate the old-world Sicilian bosses. His own crime family controlled lucrative criminal rackets in New York City such as illegal gambling, extortion, bookmaking, loansharking, and drug trafficking. Luciano became very influential in labor union activities and controlled the Manhattan Waterfront, garbage hauling, construction, Garment District businesses, and trucking. Although there would have been few objections had Luciano declared himself capo di tutti capi, he abolished the title, believing the position created trouble between the families and made himself a target for another ambitious challenger. Instead, Luciano chose to quietly maintain control through the Commission by forging unofficial alliances with other bosses. He believed that the ceremony of becoming a "made man", or an amico nostro, in a crime family was a Sicilian anachronism. However, Genovese persuaded Luciano to keep the title, arguing that young people needed rituals to promote obedience to the family. Genovese became underboss and Costello consigliere. Because Lansky and Siegel were non-Italians, neither man could hold official positions within any Mafia family. However, Lansky was a top advisor to Luciano and Siegel a trusted associate. The Commission Luciano set up the Commission to serve as the governing body for organized crime. The Commission also provided representation for the Irish and Jewish criminal organizations in New York. All Commission members were supposed to retain the same power, with decisions made by majority vote. In reality, Luciano and his allies controlled the Commission. Luciano argued that a Dewey assassination would precipitate a massive law enforcement crackdown; it has long been a hard and fast rule in the American underworld that police officers, federal agents and prosecutors are not to be harmed. A defiant Schultz told the Commission that he was going to kill Dewey or his assistant David Asch in the next three days. Lehman appointed Dewey, a U. Attorney, as a special prosecutor to combat organized crime in the city. On February 2, Dewey launched a massive police raid against brothels in Manhattan and Brooklyn, earning him nationwide recognition as a major "gangbuster". Ten men and women were arrested. However, unlike previous vice raids, Dewey did not release the arrestees. However, Luciano associate David Betillo was actually in charge of the prostitution ring in New York; any money that Luciano received was from Betillo. In late March, Luciano received a tip that he was going to be arrested and fled to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Unfortunately for him, a New York detective in Hot Springs on a different assignment spotted Luciano and notified Dewey. The next day in New York, Dewey indicted Luciano and his accomplices on 60 counts of compulsory prostitution. However, Bailey refused the bribe and immediately reported it. Louis, Missouri, the detectives and Luciano changed trains. During this switchover, they were guarded by 20 local policemen to prevent a mob rescue attempt. The men arrived in New York on April 18, and Luciano was sent to jail without bail. Like nearly all crime families, the Luciano family almost certainly profited from prostitution and extorted money from madams and brothel keepers. However, like most bosses, Luciano created layers of insulation between himself and criminal acts. It would have been significantly out of character for him to be directly involved in any criminal enterprise, let alone a prostitution ring. At least two of his contemporaries have denied that Luciano was ever part of "the Combination". In her memoirs, New York society madam Polly Adler wrote that if Luciano had been involved with "the Combination", she would have known about it. However, in, Genovese fled to Naples to avoid an impending murder indictment in New York. However, later in, authorities moved him to Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, a remote facility far away from New York City. At Clinton, Betillo prepared special dishes for Luciano in a kitchen set aside by authorities. Supreme Court refused to review his case. They also worried about sabotage in these facilities. Anastasia, a Luciano ally who controlled the docks, allegedly promised no dockworker strikes during war. In preparation for the allied invasion of Sicily, Luciano allegedly provided the US military with Sicilian Mafia contacts. This collaboration between the Navy and the Mafia became known as Operation

Underworld. In , the naval officer in charge of Operation Underworld discounted the value of his wartime aid. On arrival, Luciano told reporters he would probably reside in Sicily. During his exile, Luciano frequently encountered US soldiers and American tourists during train trips in Italy. Luciano enjoyed these meetings and gladly posed for photographs and signed autographs. He then flew to Mexico City and doubled back to Caracas, where he took a private plane to Camaguey, Cuba , finally arriving on October Luciano was then driven to Havana, where he moved into an estate in the Miramar section of the city. In , Lansky called a meeting of the heads of the major crime families in Havana that December, dubbed the Havana Conference.

Chapter 2 : Granada Reports (TV Series " ) - Full Cast & Crew - IMDb

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Parrott, wife of T. Holman becoming its first mayor. The town suffered another setback that year when a yellow fever epidemic claimed about one life out of every eight residents. Yet it persisted as a commercial center, forming a symbiosis with its Gulf Coast port, Galveston. Landlocked farmers brought their produce to Houston, using Buffalo Bayou to gain access to Galveston and the Gulf of Mexico. Sizable numbers, however, came through the domestic slave trade. New Orleans was the center of this trade in the Deep South, but slave dealers were in Houston. Thousands of enslaved blacks lived near the city before the Civil War. Many of them near the city worked on sugar and cotton plantations, while most of those in the city limits had domestic and artisan jobs. In , the community established a chamber of commerce in part to promote shipping and navigation at the newly created port on Buffalo Bayou. By , Houston was the railroad center of Texas. In , after Galveston was struck by a devastating hurricane , efforts to make Houston into a viable deep-water port were accelerated. Petrochemical refineries and manufacturing plants were constructed along the ship channel because of the demand for petroleum and synthetic rubber products by the defense industry during the war. Navy during World War II. Due to the boom in defense jobs, thousands of new workers migrated to the city, both blacks and whites competing for the higher-paying jobs. President Roosevelt had established a policy of nondiscrimination for defense contractors, and blacks gained some opportunities, especially in shipbuilding, although not without resistance from whites and increasing social tensions that erupted into occasional violence. Economic gains of blacks who entered defense industries continued in the postwar years. Anderson Foundation formed the Texas Medical Center. In , the city annexed several unincorporated areas, more than doubling its size. Houston proper began to spread across the region. Johnson Space Center in During the late s, Houston had a population boom as people from the Rust Belt states moved to Texas in large numbers. With the increase in professional jobs, Houston has become a destination for many college-educated persons, including African Americans in a reverse Great Migration from northern areas. In , Houstonians elected Lee P. The storm cost billions of dollars in damage and killed 20 people in Texas. This was the largest urban evacuation in the history of the United States. During its recent history, Houston has flooded several times from heavy rainfall, which has been becoming increasingly common. Most of Houston is located on the gulf coastal plain , and its vegetation is classified as temperate grassland and forest. Much of the city was built on forested land, marshes, swamp, or prairie and are all still visible in surrounding areas. Buffalo Bayou runs through downtown and the Houston Ship Channel , and has three tributaries: The ship channel continues past Galveston and then into the Gulf of Mexico. The adjoining prairie land drains into the city which is prone to flooding. These sediments consist of a series of sands and clays deposited on decaying organic marine matter, that over time, transformed into oil and natural gas. Beneath the layers of sediment is a water-deposited layer of halite , a rock salt. The porous layers were compressed over time and forced upward. As it pushed upward, the salt dragged surrounding sediments into salt dome formations, often trapping oil and gas that seeped from the surrounding porous sands. The thick, rich, sometimes black, surface soil is suitable for rice farming in suburban outskirts where the city continues to grow. No significant historically recorded earthquakes have occurred in Houston, but researchers do not discount the possibility of such quakes having occurred in the deeper past, nor occurring in the future. Land in some areas southeast of Houston is sinking because water has been pumped out of the ground for many years. It may be associated with slip along the faults; however, the slippage is slow and not considered an earthquake, where stationary faults must slip suddenly enough to create seismic waves.

## Chapter 3 : Esperance Bay Race 8

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This year, the Academy threatens to get all political and metaphorical on our asses. The race for Oscar gold is on and, as usual, it pits the big against the small. For the last three years, pundits and members of the press have done all the work for the publicity machine at New Line. Jackson and his fantasy extravaganza with the release of the final film. Miramax will buy a vote for Cold Mountain but will Sony be able to do the same thing in light of their fishy Big Fish box office stunt? Not in a year with two gangbuster sea-faring films Master and Commander and Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl , a Clint Eastwood drama with a dozen great performances, and a metaphorical horse film Seabiscuit so popular it had audiences hankering for the days before Orange Alert. The brief screener ban period led many to speculate that Oscar nominations would reveal an almost unmistakable bias toward mainstream studio hits. As if the Academy Awards ever played it any other way. So, screener ban or not, the inclusion of Return of the King was a foregone conclusion as early as Seabiscuit has played right into the hands of Oscar prognosticators with a fondness for horse-racing metaphors lush, vomity Kentucky Derby perverts, all of them! It now seems like forever ago, thanks to a less-than-stellar critics award performance, but initially Mystic River worked the critics into a tizzy not seen since the likes of L. In a weak year, Oscar is usually willing to listen to the critics, so Mystic River is in. The other two slots are up for grabs, but only four films seem to have a legitimate shot: Sounds like Gangs of New York all over again. But in the interest of getting the locks out of the way, one expects that Ben Kingsley House of Sand and Fog and Sean Penn Mystic River are feeling pretty secure about their positions that is, if the latter gives a shit about the Oscar race, and his appearance at a recent award show indicates he might be letting the whiff of frontrunner status lead him by the nose. Still, this is probably the least crowded category of the lot, and Lost in Translation is primed for multiple nods. Dark horse Samantha Morton is a previous Oscar nominee and though her performance as a grieving mother in In America merits recognition, academy members may not know what category to place her in. The culture war at the heart of House of Sand and Fog will make liberals in the academy feel all fuzzy wuzzy inside, but Jennifer Connelly has received virtually no precursor attention only a BFCA nomination and her performance has been overshadowed by both Ben Kingsley and Shohreh Aghdashloo. Uma Thurman kicks ass in Kill Bill:

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*John Kessel talks with his mother Barbara Kessel. Terry Philips also joins the conversation. Creative Commons reuse should attribute credit this way: This is part of the "Your Story Project," which is a production of the Washington (Iowa) Free Public Library and Volunteer Producer Ben Stanton.*