

"SCARFACE AL CAPONE: AMERICAS #1 GANGSTA" BY PAT/SALTY

"GANGSTA" AS ITS OFTEN SAID TODAY,
"GANGSTER" AS IT ONCE WAS ALWAYS SAID.
HE WAS, AND STILL IS, AMERICAS MOST
FAMOUS - OR "INFAMOUS" - GANGSTER.
KNOWN OF ALL OVER THE WORLD, ^{JUST} LIKE
BABE RUTH AND YOGI BERRA.

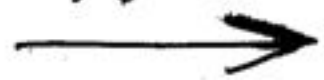
CAPONE ACTUALLY MET RUTH (WHICH I
GO INTO ^{IN} GREATER DETAIL ~~with~~ IN MY
CHAPTER TITLED "BABE RUTH, TY COBB, YOGI,
AND THE MICK").

AL CAPONE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN
NEW YORK CITY, MOVED TO CHICAGO
AT THE START OF PROHIBITION, AND THE
REST IS HISTORY.

AND - TO THE SURPRISE OF MANY PEOPLE -
CAPONE WAS NEVER IN "THE MAFIA"
OR A MEMBER OF IT - BECAUSE THEY
WOULD NOT HAVE HIM.

BEING THAT HIS PEOPLE CAME FROM
ITALY AND NOT FROM SICILY WHICH
WAS, BACK IN THOSE DAYS, A REQUIREMENT
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THEIR LITTLE "CLUB."

SO BIG AL STARTED HIS OWN CLUB
(AS AMERICANS ARE WANT TO DO)
THAT BECAME (AND RATHER QUICKLY, DUE



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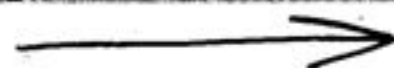
TO THE NATIONAL FOLLY EXPERIMENT
KNOWN AS 1920's PROHIBITION) MUCH
BIGGER AND RICHER AND MORE POWERFUL
THAN ANY SO CALLED "MAFIA" EVER WAS.
CAPONE CALLED HIS CLUB "THE ORGANIZATION"
AS THAT IS WHAT IT WAS, ORGANIZED.
AS IN, ORGANIZED CRIME.
AS OPPOSED TO THE DISORGANIZED ~~CRIME~~
AND UNORGANIZED VARIETY THAT CAPONE
LOATHED.

WHY DID BIG AL LOATH DISORGANIZED CRIME?
ANSWER; BECAUSE HE WAS A VERY ORGANIZED
TYPE OF GUY.

HEY, THE GUY WAS A LIFELONG BASEBALL FAN.
AND A CHICAGO CUBS FAN AT THAT!

THERE WAS EVEN A RUMORE THAT HE
PACKED UP AND MOVED TO CHICAGO (FROM
NEW YORK) PARTLY IN ORDER TO FOLLOW
AND BE CLOSER TO HIS BELOVED CUBBYS.
BACK THEN - BEFORE TELEVISION - YOU HAD
TO ACTUALLY GO TO THE BALLPARK IN ORDER
TO SEE THE PLAYERS AND WATCH YOUR
TEAM.

WHEN PROHIBITION STARTED IN 1920
A SHARP NEW YORK GUY LIKE CAPONE
COULD SEE THE BIG DOLLAR SIGNS



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FLASHING BEFORE HIS EYES FROM A MILE AWAY.

BUT BIG AL AND FREANDS HAD A PROBLEM. THE SO CALLED "MAFIA".

WHICH WAS ~~WAS~~ IN FACT LITTLE MORE THEN A SMALL SICILIAN RAN MICKEY MOUSE OUTFIT, A PENNY ANTY SICILIAN SOCIAL CLUB THAT RAN CERTAIN ITALIAN AREA RACKETS, LIKE GAMBLING MOSTLY.

THE "MUSTASH PETES" (AS CAPONE AND FREANDS REFERRED TO THEM AS) NOT ONLY WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER ALLOWING ITALIAN AMERICANS LIKE AL CAPONE TO JOIN, BUT, WHEN CAPONE AND OTHERS TRIED TO ORGANIZE BOOTLEGGING OPERATIONS TO CAPITALISE ON THE FOOLISH PROHIBITION LAWS, WERE TURNED DOWN FLAT BY THE LITTLE ~~MA~~

"MUSTASH PETES" THAT RAN THE "MAFIA". THEY WERE CONTENT TO RUN THEIR SMALL TIME RACKETS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AMERICAN CAPITALISIM AND BIG BUSINESS AND ~~THE~~ THE CRIMINAL OPPURTUNITYS PROHIBITION OFFERED. BIG AL DID.



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SO, BEING AN AMERICAN GO GETTER, BIG AL WENT HIS OWN WAY AND STARTED, WITH HIS FRIENDS JOHNNY TORIO AND SOME OTHERS, HIS OWN BUSINESS.

WHICH - AS I EXPLAINED - HE CALLED "THE ORGANIZATION" AND "THE OUTFIT."

THEY HAD TO FIRST KILL THE TOP "MUSTASH PETE" BOSS OF THE SO CALLED "MAFIA" IN ORDER TO DO SO, WHICH CAPONE HELPED DO.

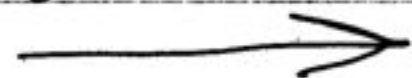
BEING THAT HE NEVER LIKED CLUBS THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HIM AS A MEMBER, ANYWAY.

AND ALSO BECAUSE CAPONE AND HIS YOUNG FRIENDS (VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHOM WERE IN THEIR 20'S AND 30'S) HAD TO KNOCK THEM OFF BEFORE THEY COULD KNOCK HIM OFF.

THIS IS HOW AL CAPONE GOT STARTED OUT IN CHICAGO BACK IN THE 1920'S, DURING PROHIBITION.

HIS NATURAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ABILITY TO ORGANIZE NOW PAYED OFF IN A VERY BIG ~~WAY~~ WAY.

THOSE SKILLS AND -OF COURSE- HIS ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO USE, WHENEVER NECESSARY, ORGANIZED VIOLENCE AND FORCE TO PROTECT HIS POSITION AND THE POSITION AND ASSETS OF HIS ORGANIZATION.



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AT his high, "BIG AL" CAPONE WAS MAKING MORE PER YEAR THEN BABE RUTH, WHICH PISSED THE BABE OFF NO END, HE WAS EVEN MAKING MORE THEN THE PRESIDENT - WHICH PISSED THE PRESIDENT - HERBERT HOOVER - OFF, TOO. IN FACT, BIG AL PISSED OFF A HELL OF A LOT OF PEOPLE BECAUSE AT ONE POINT HE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE MAKING MORE MONEY EACH YEAR THEN JUST ABOUT ANYONE IF NOT MORE THEN EVERYONE ELSE, SO HE PISSED OFF A LOT OF FOLKS. THE FOLKS AT THE I.R.S., IN PARTICULAR, BEING THAT BIG AL LISTED HIMSELF AS "A USED FURNITURE DEALER." EVEN USED TO HAND OUT LITTLE BUSINESS CARDS SAYING EXACTLY THAT! TRUE. NOT EVEN NEW FURNITURE BUT USED FURNITURE!

THE GOVERNMENT - THE FEDERALS - PUT CAPONE ON TRIAL FOR INCOME TAX VIOLATION - CAPONE'S DEFENSE?

"I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD TO FILE TAXES FOR MONEY MADE ILLEGALLY!"

AND, ~~THE~~ OF COURSE, VERY FEW PEOPLE DID. OR ~~KNOW~~ KNOW THAT EVEN TODAY.



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IN FACT, TODAY ANY SUCH CONVICTION WOULD BE APPEALED - AND PROBABLY SUCCESSFULLY, TOO - ON THE GROUNDS THAT FORCING A CRIMINAL TO REPORT HIS CRIMES TO A TAX AGENCY WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS CLAUSE WHICH STATES THAT NOBODY CAN BE COMPELLED TO TESTIFY AGAINST THEMSELF - PERIOD!

AND INSTEAD OF DOING 8 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON CAPONE WOULD HAVE DONE MAYBE 8 MONTHS, BEEN SPRANG PENDING APPEAL, AND WOULD HAVE HAD - ALMOST CERTAINLY - HIS "VIOLATION OF THE INCOME TAX LAWS" CONVICTION THROWN OUT. WHICH, BACK IN THOSE DAYS, OF COURSE DID NOT HAPPEN.

SO BIG AL GOT CONVICTED, SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS IN PRISON, AND GOT OUT IN 8. AND LIVED ANOTHER 8 YEARS IN RETIREMENT IN FLORIDA BEFORE DYING ~~WHEN HE WAS 48~~ ~~AND GOING TO THAT BIG BOOTLEGGERS PARADISE IN THE SKY.~~ OR TO THAT OTHER PLACE FAR, FAR TO THE SOUTH - OR SOMETHING.....

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