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PETER HOWICK talks to Sam Giancana who's in town to expose his mobster uncle



■ LEGACY OF THE MAFIA: Sam Giancana Jr (above) who's co-written a book on the Mafia that's rocked America. Right: A 1957 slaying of Chicago banker Leon Marcus — ordered by Mafia boss, Sam Giancana



Spilling the beans

WHEN Sam Giancana was a child he used to sit on the knee of one of the most infamous gangsters in the history of the United States. The man in question was his godfather and uncle, Sam 'Mooney' Giancana, who it is now accused, by none other than his own brother, of being the man who directly commissioned the deaths of both John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe.

"I was always terrified of him," says the gangster's godson. "He didn't have a happy smiling face that children could warm too. He always looked unhappy. He would say to me 'never get in trouble because if you get in trouble, they'll come looking for me'.

"His idea of being nice was grabbing you round the waist and asking you had you been a bad boy? He kept asking you and asking you until you cried. Then he gave you 10 dollars."

If Giancana were alive today, no doubt he would think that his godson had been a very bad boy indeed. Today Sam and his father Chuck, the mobster's brother, have written a startling expose on the Mafia man in the family. Double Cross: The Story Of The Man Who

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'The Kennedys thought they were untouchable'

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■ BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Marilyn Monroe (right) and the man who it is claimed had her murdered — Sam Giancana (above). Her death was engineered to compromise Robert Kennedy who was supposed to be having an affair with her at the time

Actually Chuck Giancana had tried to get out from under the deadly shadow of his brother for years. Sam recalls how hard it was to live with the infamous Giancana name.

"Kids would not make friends with me. Their parents would not have me in their homes. It was all because of the name, not my character. It showed me how important a name can be."

What was the most single most shocking thing that his father had told him about Giancana?

"The Kennedy assassination. I don't actually think that Joe Kennedy was that bad a man, he just thought he was doing everything in his power to make his son President, just using all his contacts to give his son a hand, contacts which in this case, included the Mob.

When the Kennedys turned on the Mafia, however, they thought they were untouchable, that they now had all the power of the state behind them to crush these now embarrassing connections. The people they were dealing with didn't play by the rules, however..."

The book also hints that Giancana had a hand in Bobby Kennedy's death. "Your brother was at it again," a Mafia associate told Chuck soon after the murder.

But while the new book ties up a lot of loose ends about the evils in American life, Sam doubts that the full story, in particular the CIA connection, will ever come out with all the i's dotted and the t's crossed.

"The guilty men in the CIA are very well insulated. I would urge that the CIA files be opened, but the mob didn't leave purchasing documents for rifles around! You won't find a memo saying 'go and shoot the President!'"

Controlled America is now number two on the New York Times bestseller list and lifts the lid on a totally corrupt American social and political system.

This weekend Sam Giancana is in town to promote the book that has rocked America.

The allegations about the Kennedys are particularly mindboggling. It has always been known that John F Kennedy's father, Joe made his family fortune from bootlegging whiskey in Prohibition America, but here we have Joe begging Sam Giancana to save his life after another mobster had put a hit on the Irishman.

In a meeting in Chicago, Joe promised that once his son was in the White House he would never forget the man who saved his father's life.

The mobster told his brother Chuck about the Kennedys: "Never be misled by appearances, Chuck. Once a crook, always a crook. The Kennedys may put on airs and pretend to be blue bloods but they know and I know the real truth — we're cut from the same cloth."

The book also records how amazed the mob were when Bobby Kennedy, as Attorney General, began to crack down on their operations. They assumed that it was Joe Kennedy's way of being able to deny he was pro-Mafia.

And it claims that to ruin Bobby Kennedy's career, Sam Giancana had Marilyn Monroe, whom Bobby was sleeping with, murdered by inserting a deadly and untraceable suppository into her anus. But FBI agents and actor Peter Lawford removed incriminating documents. Monroe's death was deemed suicide and Bobby was in the clear.

Needless to say, Sam Jnr and Chuck say that Giancana was heavily involved in John F. Kennedy's assassination, as was, the book alleges, Lyndon Johnson. Richard Nixon also had meetings with mob figures, according to the book.

Giancana was eventually murdered before he went before the Senate Select Committee on Assassinations, which was investigating the joint Mafia-CIA effort to kill Fidel Castro.

So why has Sam Jnr, who today runs a marketing company and lives under another name, decided to write this book with his father?

"I was pushing my father over the years to tell me what he knew about his brother and the Mafia but he kept putting me off. Then in 1983 he had by-pass surgery. Contemplating mortality, he said to me that I needed to know a few things. I asked him more and more and he told me everything his brother had said to him over the years. I said we have to write a book, to get it all out. We owe it to people to say what we know."

1 HOUR GARDEN
TERRY MURRAY

A lot of blooming work to do

THIS is a lovely month to be a gardener, with so much going on and the new growth starting to become vigorous and full of rising sap.

But there is always work to do. Roses should have been pruned, and it is recommended to spray immediately afterwards with one of the fungicides especially used for dealing with black spot.

Gladiolus corms can be planted for early flowering. Try spreading the planting over a 6-week period or so to provide continuity of flowering. The corms should be planted 3-4in. deep, and in heavy soils sprinkle a layer of sand in the base of the planting hole.

In flower at the moment is the popular Japonica or Quince, *Charaemeles speciosa*. The beautiful red-coloured flowers are borne



■ FLOWERING: Yes, it's Spring colour has at last returned

on bare branches and looks very attractive indeed. It makes a superb wall plant, or can be grown alterna-

tively in a free-standing position.

Also in flower is the fragrant *Daphne mezereum*.

This is one plant which dislikes any form of pruning, so best left alone each year to give the rich mauve flowers.

VEGGIE GROWING:

Put everything back into the ground. Clippings, cuttings and greenery should be put into compost and returned over time.

● Grow strongly scented marigolds in the greenhouse. Pests will give the tomatoes a wide berth.

● When sowing potatoes, place old leaves in the bottom of the trench. This helps to retain moisture and ensure a good clean crop at lifting time.

● Keep pests away by planting onions or shallots in alternative rows with carrots. This confuses both the onion and carrot flies and wards them off.

● Grow mint among

cabbages, cauliflower and sprouts to keep away the white butterfly. Alternatively crush mint leaves in water and spray on the plants for the same effect.

● Rhubarb leaves crushed in a pail of water and soaked prior to spraying over plants will remove grassfly or caterpillars.

● Always add wood ash and charcoal when making compost to improve the flowering potential of pot plants... and remember to add a little sulphur to act as a fungicide.

Over the next 6-8 weeks, I'll will give a short guide to growing vegetables. One vegetable each week. On the menu this week — peas.

● Varieties: Kelvedon Wonder, Little Marvel, Meteor (all early varieties), Lord Chancellor (main crop).

● Harvest time: Sowing to harvest (13-14 weeks).

● Sowing Date: March/April into well-drained soil. Apply 1-2 ozs of low nitrogen fertilizer per sq. yd. prior to sowing.

● Sowing: In single rows, 2in. deep, 5in. apart in the drills. Keep each drill 24in apart. Rake over after sowing by lightly tamping with the back of the rake. Cover with wire after sowing to stop birds digging up the peas.

● Support: Use twigs (hedge trimmings) or post and chicken-wire.

● Harvest: Pick about 4 weeks after full flower. Regular picking encourages more pods to develop. Pods at the base are ready first.

In each instance, I assume that the ground has been thoroughly dug and forked over prior to sowing. There is no need to remove stones but the soil should be broken down into a fine, crumb structure.