

REPUTED GANG HEAD QUIZZED

Licavoli Testifies for Coroner's Inquest

Denial that he had any knowledge of the slaying of Pete Dagastino and Dominick Mighiore here last week was made by Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli when he appeared yesterday before Coroner Frank G. Krefl for questioning in connection with the killings.

Licavoli, who had been sought for two days by the coroner, appeared at Dr. Krefl's office yesterday with his attorney, Harry Levy. He said that he knew Dagastino and Mighiore casually, but that they had never worked for him and that he never had any dealings with them.

Licavoli said that he was at his home, 2733 Pemberton road, the night of the slaying, and that he knew nothing about it until the next day. John Rai, reputed lieutenant of Licavoli, also appeared at Dr. Krefl's office yesterday and testified that he knew the murdered men slightly but that he had no knowledge of the slayings. He said he was at home the night the men were shot.

Coroner Krefl, who devoted several days to questioning gangster suspects, rendered a verdict yesterday that Dagastino and Mighiore were killed by a person or persons unknown.

Paul Daniels, 725 Erie street, a chef in the Rossini restaurant, testified that on the night of the shooting the two murdered men left the restaurant with two girls. Police have been unable to locate the two girls.

Licavoli Gangster Fights

Friberg, Two Others Going After LaSalle

Extradition Hearing Scheduled for Monday

Custody of Ernest LaSalle, 44, alleged Licavoli gang trigger-man arrested in Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 5, will be sought by Toledo law enforcement officers in extradition proceedings in Rochester Monday, Harry Friberg, chief assistant county prosecutor, announced yesterday.

LaSalle, wanted here on several first degree murder charges, has not waived extradition, Mr. Friberg said. Thus, a hearing in New York will be necessary. According to a telegram from the Rochester chief of police, a hearing in trial court will be conducted upon arrival of Toledo officials.

Start Trip Sunday

Mr. Friberg will leave for Rochester Sunday. Accompanying him will be Capt. Arthur Kaufman of the Sheriff's office, and Capt. George B. Timiney of the Toledo Police division. Captain Timiney can identify LaSalle and testify that he was in Ohio at the time of the murders of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitzky and Norman Blatt, Mr. Friberg said.

Because of road conditions and "because we haven't got a car," the three Toledoans expect to make the trip by train, the prosecutor's assistant reported.

Return to City

No Word From Party

No word had been received in the courthouse offices yesterday regarding the exact whereabouts of Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort and Sheriff Charles L. Hennessey, presumed to be on the return auto trip from California with three prisoners.

Arrest of LaSalle, one of five members of the notorious Licavoli gang missing since indictment of 15 men in 1934, ended a 10-year search, pressed by Mr. Rhinefort. He was picked up by FBI agents, for failure to appear for induction into the Army in Louisville, Ky., where he had registered under a pseudonym. The prosecutor's office had sent a holder to Rochester immediately after his arrest. LaSalle's real name is Ernest L. Fusco, records show.

LaSalle to Plead Early Next Week

Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort plans to have Ernest LaSalle arraigned in court early next week on the charge of first degree murder in connection with four Licavoli gang killings, he said yesterday when LaSalle was brought to Toledo from Rochester, N. Y.

LaSalle, also known as Ernest J. Fusco, and his escorts, Detective Capt. George Timiney of the Police Department and Capt. Arthur Kaufman, sheriff's deputy, arrived here yesterday afternoon. He was placed in the county jail to await trial.

Extradition of LaSalle In Murder Case Sought

Extradition to Toledo of Ernest LaSalle, charged in an indictment returned 10 years ago with first degree murder in connection with four gangland murders, will be sought by Lucas County officials.

Harry Friberg, chief assistant prosecutor, today finished the necessary papers and Capt. Arthur Kaufman of the sheriff's office will take them to Gov. Frank J. Lausche in Columbus this afternoon.

LaSalle, arrested recently in Rochester, N. Y., by FBI agents, was a member of the notorious Licavoli gang, the prosecutor's office said.

LaSalle May Be Returned To Face Murder Indictment

Fugitive Licavoli Gangster, Held by FBI In Rochester, N. Y., Wanted Here for Killings

Joel S. Rhinefort, Lucas County prosecutor, said today that he would make every effort to have Ernest LaSalle, 44, fugitive Licavoli gangster under a first degree murder indictment here, returned to Toledo from Rochester, N. Y., where he was arrested yesterday by FBI agents.

Mr. Rhinefort sent a letter to the U. S. Marshal at Toledo asking for extradition of LaSalle. He said that the extradition is a question of eligibility, not only in matters of the return of LaSalle, but also in the return of the other members of the gang.

LaSalle's bond fixed at \$25,000 cash bond yesterday by Robert Miller, U. S. Commissioner Rochester.

The slayings with which LaSalle is charged were committed here over a three-year period when the Yonnie Licavoli gang was in the zenith of its power in Toledo.

2 Killed in 1931

Lubitzky and Blatt, bootleggers, were shot to death at Franklin Ave. and West Bancroft St., Oct. 30, 1931. Miss Bell, sweetheart of Kennedy, was shot to death at Jackson and Superior Sts. the night of Nov. 30, 1932 when the gangsters tried to kill Kennedy.

Kennedy met his death the night of July 7, 1933 while walking Edgewater Dr., Point Place, with another of his sweethearts, Audrey Ball, beauty contest winner.

Subsequently Licavoli, Jacob (Firetop) Sulkin, Joseph (Wop) English, John Rai and Ralph Casello were tried and convicted. They now are serving life sentences Ohio Penitentiary.

3 Never Caught

John Mirabella, Russell Syracuse and Leo Mocerri, also under murder indictment, never have been caught.

Mr. Rhinefort revealed today that he had been on the trail of LaSalle for months and that he had given the FBI information where the fugitive might be found. At times Mr. Rhinefort's assistants were only an hour behind LaSalle, the prosecutor revealed.

Three Identified With Licavoli Not Held

Three men, two described by police as former members of the Licavoli mob, were arrested yesterday in a hotel here on charges of being suspicious persons.

The former Licavoli henchmen detectives said, are Henry (Chalk Red) Berson, 38, alias Harry Berson, alias Harry Leonard, alias Henry Yaranowski, no permanent address, but who said his occupation was bartender, and Frank (Rough Manuelli) Enpactato, 46, alias Emanuel Badalmenti, alias Ruff Manuelli, who gave his address as Monroe, Mich., and his occupation as merchant.

Their companion was booked as Pete Bannarito, 39, no address, who said he was a bartender.

Police said Enpactato had \$75 when arrested, Berson \$357 and Bannarito, \$9. Berson and Bannarito were released under bonds of \$200 each and Enpactato under \$400 bond.

Before Police Judge Edgar V. Norris today, Morris Lubitzky, a torney and brother of Abe Lubitzky, slain in 1931 by the Licavoli mob, requested and was granted continuances until Feb. 1.

He said the men had railroad tickets to the east coast and after their release on bond last night continued their trip to see the son of one of them. The son, they said is at an army port of embarkation.

County Files Licavoli Gang

Licavoli Gang Member Arrested

LaSalle Wanted Here On Charge of Murder

Ernest Joseph Fusco, known locally as Ernest LaSalle, one of the Licavoli mobsters, was arrested today at 1 a. m. in the Ford Hotel, Rochester, N. Y., by FBI agents, according to Joel Rhinefort, Lucas County prosecutor.

LaSalle is under indictment here on the charge of first degree murder in connection with four gangland murders in Toledo in 1932-34.

Several members of the gang, including Yonnie Licavoli, now are serving life sentences for the slayings.

Mr. Rhinefort said every effort will be made to bring LaSalle to Toledo to answer the murder charge.

LaSalle was arrested by FBI agents on a fugitive warrant charging that he had failed to report for induction in Louisville, Ky.

State Dismisses Murder Charge

Star Witnesses Gone, Court Is Told

First degree murder charges against Ernest LaSalle and James Licavoli, former members of the Yonnie Licavoli gang during prohibition days, were dropped yesterday by County Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort.

The prosecutor's motion for nolle was granted by Common Pleas Judge John M. McCabe, before whom both men recently pleaded guilty to extortion charges. They now are in Ohio penitentiary.

At the time the pair was sentenced, both Judge McCabe and Mr. Rhinefort expressed the opinion the murder charges, arising out of gangland killings in the early '30s, would have to be dropped now because of lack of evidence. Several material witnesses have died or their whereabouts are unknown, Mr. Rhinefort said.

The two were among a number of members of the gang indicted on the charges. Three still are sought, while five others are serving life sentences in the penitentiary for the killings. LaSalle was arrested last spring in Rochester on federal selective service violation charges, while Licavoli was picked up later when questioned in Cleveland about a murder there.

La Salle Held By FBI On Draft Charge

Suspect Is Accused As Triggerman In Murders

A holder for Ernest LaSalle, alleged trigger-man in the Licavoli gang, arrested in Rochester, N. Y., yesterday, was sent to officials there by Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort shortly after he received word of LaSalle's arrest.

LaSalle, 44, up to yesterday was one of five members of the notorious gang at large since indictment of 15 members in 1934.

Wanted here on a first degree murder charge in connection with the slaying of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitzky and Norman Blatt, LaSalle was identified through fingerprints, it was announced by Special Agent Jack B. Wilcox, of the FBI's Buffalo office.

Called Draft Evader

Charges of draft evasion and kidnaping also face LaSalle, according to Mr. Rhinefort, who with the FBI has pressed the search for the missing Licavoli gangsters. The FBI began the manhunt after he had registered for Selective Service in Louisville under the name of Edward Kellner and failed to report for induction Aug. 27, 1943.

Records show his real name is Ernest L. Fusco. His bond was fixed at \$25,000 cash or \$50,000 paper bond by U. S. Commissioner Robert Miller, Rochester, at the 1931 and 1932.

Two Others Arrested

Two other former members of the Licavoli gang broke into the news yesterday.

Harry (Chalky Red) Leonard, 39, and Henry Berson, 38, were arrested.

GANG SUSPECTS WILL TESTIFY BEFORE KREFT

Coroner Asks Quiz of Released Pair at Inquest

The two suspected gangsters arrested in a raid early Saturday on a residence in Westway, are desired by police and Coroner Frank G. Kreft for questioning in connection with the slaying of Pete Dagastino, 29, Wednesday night. Detective Inspector Timiney said Saturday afternoon.

The suspects, Ernest LaSalle, 32, and John Rai, 26, were released Saturday noon on \$750 bond each by Common Pleas Judge Scott Stahl, after writs of habeas corpus had been filed by their attorney, Harry Levy. The hearing on the writs was set for 1:30 Monday afternoon.

Still Seeking Licavoli
Inspector Timiney said that the two men are lieutenants of Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli, reputed gang leader, whom police are seeking for questioning in regard to the Dagastino killing. He said the two men will be turned over to Coroner Kreft, who is making an investigation of the Dagastino slaying for questioning Monday.

Charges of being "suspicious persons" were placed against the two men Saturday afternoon.

Ordered Out
The two men, both well known to police, were arrested in a raid on a fashionable home in Westway. Detective Inspector George Timiney said that they were among the men ordered from Toledo several weeks ago.

Timiney said investigation of the Dagastino slaying indicates it was a result of the dead man's efforts to operate as an independent distributor of beer and liquor here.

Tony Rossini, who was said to be a partner with Dagastino in a restaurant at 214 Huron street, and who was arrested Thursday in connection with the slaying, was released yesterday on \$1,000 bond.

GANG SUSPECTS FACE QUESTIONS

Men Will Be Quizzed About Slayings by Coroner

Orders for Ernest LaSalle, 32, and John Rai, 26, reputed gangsters, who were released on a writ of habeas corpus yesterday afternoon by Common Pleas Judge Scott Stahl, to be produced in his office at 11 a. m. today were issued last night by Coroner Frank G. Kreft. A woman also will be questioned.

He said that he desires to question the men in connection with the slaying of Pete Dagastino, of Monroe, here last Wednesday night. The coroner said the men also will be questioned regarding Dominick Mighiore who died yesterday afternoon in County hospital, as a result of a bullet wound received Wednesday night.

Police said that Mighiore died without revealing who shot him. He was found in the west end, with a bullet through his mouth, last Wednesday night, a few hours before Dagastino's body was found. The two were intimate friends.

LaSalle and Rai were released by Judge Stahl after their attorney, Harry Levy, contended that they were taken into custody without a warrant. Police said the men were arrested as "suspicious persons," and Assistant County Prosecutor Samuel Kaplan, representing the police, said that the issuance of a warrant was a "mere formality" and that the court could assume that "the warrant will issue."

As the two men left the court house with Mr. Levy, Inspector George Timiney sought to arrest them again, but their attorney protested, and Timiney decided to postpone his plans of arresting the two suspects. He said that police are desirous of questioning the men in connection with the gangster killings here and that the police will be at the coroner's inquest this morning.

Tony Rossini, operator of a restaurant at 214 Huron street, was questioned by Dr. Kreft yesterday afternoon. He said that he knew Dagastino and saw him the night

he was killed, but that he knew nothing of his slaying.

Tells of Seeing Paul 1932

Rossini said that the two men were patrons at his restaurant last Wednesday night, and that several girls were with them. He said they were in the place when he left to go to a hotel to make a long-distance telephone call. Rossini said that Dagastino, when in the restaurant, had \$650, a diamond pin, and a watch and a chain. The articles and money were not on the body when found.

Rossini also testified that Dagastino had received a telephone call while in the restaurant. He said that he did not know how Dagastino or Mighiore made their living, and denied that Dagastino was a partner in his restaurant. He admitted, however, that Dagastino had paid \$80 in bills at one time, and testified that the \$650 Dagastino had with him Wednesday night was obtained from an insurance company on a stolen automobile.

Lived Here Seven Years

Rossini said that he came to Toledo seven years ago from Buffalo, and that he took over the restaurant recently from a man named Charles Loper at the request of Loper's son. He said that a chef named Paul and a waitress named Virginia were in the restaurant Wednesday night when Dagastino and Mighiore were there.

Dr. Kreft said that he plans to question the employees of the restaurant.

WANTED FOR QUIZZING IN GANG KILLING

Suspect at Inquest Offers To Produce Yonnie by Tomorrow

Yonnie Licavoli, sought by police for several days for questioning in connection with the double slaying here last week of Pete Dagastino and Dominick Mighiore in a gang war over booze, will appear tomorrow at the resumption of Coroner Frank G. Kreft's inquest into the case, the coroner was assured today.

The assurance came from Ernest LaSalle, himself a suspect in the slayings, and was given as the suspect testified at the coroner's inquest.

"I believe I can bring Yonnie in here at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning," LaSalle told the coroner.

Coroner Issues Warning

"Tell him," replied the coroner, "that it would be wise for him to appear, for we are going to get him whether he comes voluntarily or not."

With the coroner when he made the assertion were Detectives John Mullen and Dinnie Clark of the police homicide squad. They said that should Licavoli appear for questioning at the inquest, they would not detain him, since they sought him only for questioning and did not plan to hold him longer than necessary.

LaSalle's promise to surrender Licavoli came after Coroner Kreft had asked him why John Rai, arrested with LaSalle Friday night in a luxurious Westway home here, had not appeared for questioning at the inquest.

"John must have misunderstood the hour of the inquest," said LaSalle. "I will bring him here tomorrow, and believe I can find Yonnie Licavoli and have him here also."

LaSalle denied emphatically he knew anything concerning the slaying of Dagastino and Mighiore. "Dagastino was found dead in his car on a lonely road in South Toledo and Mighiore died late yesterday in County hospital, where he was taken after he had staggered to the home of Joseph P. Everett on Barrington road, shot thru the head."

"I never had any business dealings with Dagastino, and neither did I quarrel with him," said LaSalle. "I did not learn of his murder until the next day when I read the newspapers."

Says He Has Alibi

"I drove to Detroit at 7:30 p. m. the night of the shooting," he said, "and did not return to Toledo until 2:30 a. m. I was with friends all the time and can provide an alibi."

LaSalle said he was a salesman of cigars and cigars for Earl McCabe at McCabe's place at 617 Monroe street.

He said Yonnie Licavoli operates a butter and egg distributing store on Monroe street.

Dagastino was associated with Tony Rossini in management of the Rossini restaurant at 214 Huron street, despite Rossini's declaration to the contrary, Mrs. Virginia Lee Sturniolo, 19, of 920 Huron street, a waitress in the restaurant, testified at the inquest.

GIRLS HUNTED AS WITNESSES IN GANG WAR

Companions of Pete Dagastino Sought for Questioning

The search for two girls who were with Pete Dagastino, and Dominick Mighiore, when they were shot by gangsters last Wednesday night, was renewed by police Tuesday night, following testimony obtained by Coroner Frank G. Kreft that the men left Rossini's restaurant, 214 Huron street, with the girls.

The testimony was provided by Mrs. Virginia Lee Sturniolo, 19, of 920 Huron street, a waitress at the restaurant. She said the two girls had never been in the place before and that she did not know them.

Licavoli to Appear

Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli, reputed gang leader has been sought by police since the slaying, also is scheduled to appear at Dr. Kreft's office Wednesday at 11 a. m. for questioning.

A promise that he would produce Licavoli was given to Dr. Kreft by Ernest LaSalle, who was subjected to an hour's questioning. LaSalle said he was in Detroit the night of the shooting. He said he also would have John Rai, who was scheduled to appear Tuesday at the coroner's office Wednesday morning.

Detectives John Mullen and Harry Clark assisted Dr. Kreft in questioning LaSalle but he was emphatic in his denial of any knowledge of the slaying.

Occupy Rear Booth

He said he was a salesman of cigarettes and cigars for Earl McCabe, 617 Monroe street, and that Licavoli was engaged in the butter and egg business in Monroe street.

Mrs. Sturniolo testified it was her understanding that Dagastino was interested in the restaurant with Tony Rossini.

She said it was the custom of Dagastino and his friends to occupy a rear booth in the place, and that last Wednesday night when the two girls, who later left the restaurant with Dagastino and Mighiore, entered they were summoned to the booth by Tony Rossini.

Licavoli Denies Knowing About Gang Murders



Yonnie Leaves Court.

Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli for whom Coroner Frank G. Kreft had been seeking two days, stepped out of a handbox into the Coroner's office today and said he knew nothing of the slaying here last week of Pete Dagastino and Dominick Mighiore and hardly knew the men themselves. In fact, Yonnie confessed, he spoke to them only to be sociable.

Following his avowal of innocence Coroner Kreft returned a verdict of homicide person or persons unknown.

Attended Party

Licavoli, the breath of fashion in a cream-colored hat and mouse-colored gabardine suit with a diamond-studded watch ribbon stretched across his chest, established an alibi for himself and said he had known the two hoodlums only slightly and had never had any dealings with them.

"I knew Dagastino and Mighiore only by sight," Licavoli said. "I spoke to them when I met them just to be sociable. Beyond that I never had anything to do with them."

With Licavoli came John Rai, said to be one of his henchmen, and Attorney Harry Levy. Rai, too, had his alibi and denied any knowledge of the killing.

On the day of the shooting, Licavoli attended a family party given for his mother, who was leaving for St. Louis, he testified. He said he did not leave his house that night and knew nothing of the shooting until next morning.

Coroner Reads Verdict

Rai, who was arrested with Ernest LaSalle, another alleged Licavoli henchman, several days ago at 4835 Westway, testified that he knew the two victims only slightly, had had no dealings or differences with them and was at his home the night of the shooting.

When the two had finished their testimony, Coroner Kreft read his verdict in their presence.

Paul Daniels, 725 Erie street, chef in the cafe of Tony Rossini at 214 Huron street, also summoned for questioning, said that on the night of the shooting he saw Dagastino and Mighiore accompanied by two girls go out of the restaurant thru the kitchen and disappear into an alley.

SUBPENA OUT FOR LICAVOLI

Coroner Acts When Yonnie Fails to Appear at Inquest.

Subpenas were issued for Thomas (Yonnie) Licavoli and John Rai after the two failed to appear at the office of Coroner Frank G. Kreft Wednesday for questioning in the outbreak of gang warfare a week ago when Pete Dagastino was shot to death and Dominick Mighiore was wounded fatally.

Ernest LaSalle, who testified before the coroner Tuesday, said both Rai and Licavoli would appear to make statements when the inquest into the double killing is renewed.

LaSalle said he was a cigar and cigarette salesman, and that Licavoli is engaged in the butter and egg business in Monroe street. He was emphatic in his denial of any knowledge of the slayings, saying that he was in Detroit when they occurred.

Police indicated they would not arrest Licavoli if he appears for questioning, saying they are seeking him only for that purpose.

QUIZ OF LICAVOLI, AID TO BE TODAY

Men Will Be Questioned in Connection With Gang Slayings

Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli, reputed gang leader, and John Rai, one of his supposed lieutenants, sought for questioning in connection with two recent gang killings here, will be at Coroner Frank G. Kreft's office today at 11 a. m., the coroner was notified in a telephone message last night from an unidentified person.

Dr. Kreft received the message a few hours after he had issued subpoenas for the two men, after they failed to put in an appearance yesterday morning, as promised by Ernest LaSalle when he was questioned Tuesday. The coroner said the person who called him explained that Licavoli did not know he was supposed to appear Wednesday.

Detectives John Mullen and Harry Clark, who were given the subpoena to serve on the two men, said a search for them last night was unavailing. They said if they fail to appear today the search will be continued.

County Files Licavoli Gangster

Holder

La Salle Held By FBI On Draft Charge Suspect Is Accused As Triggerman In Murders

A holder for Ernest LaSalle, alleged trigger-man in the Licavoli gang, arrested in Rochester, N. Y., yesterday, was sent to officials there by Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort shortly after he received word of LaSalle's arrest.

LaSalle, 44, up to yesterday was one of five members of the notorious gang at large since indictment of 15 members in 1934. Wanted here on a first degree murder charge in connection with the slaying of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitsky and Norman Blatt, LaSalle was identified through fingerprints, it was announced by Special Agent Jack B. Wilcox, of the FBI's Buffalo office.

Called Draft Evader
Charges of draft evasion and kidnaping also face LaSalle, according to Mr. Rhinefort, who with the FBI has pressed the search for the missing Licavoli gangsters. The FBI began the manhunt after he had registered for Selective Service in Louisville under the name of Edward Kellner and failed to report for induction Aug. 27, 1943. Records show his real name is Ernest L. Fusco. His bond was fixed at \$25,000 cash or \$50,000 paper bond by U. S. Commissioner Robert Miller, Rochester. At the time of his arrest in a hotel, he possessed three or four draft registration cards, Mr. Rhinefort was informed.

Mr. Rhinefort served as chief assistant prosecutor during the trials of Licavoli, Joseph (Wop) English, Jacob (Firetop) Sulkin, John Rai and Ralph Carsello, implicated in the gangland's murders between 1931 and 1933.

Two Others Arrested
Two other former members of the Licavoli gang broke into the news yesterday. Harry (Chalky Red) Leonard, 39, alias Henry Berson, no permanent address, and Emanuel (Rough Manuel) Badalmenti, 42, alias Frank Enspactato, Monroe, Mich., Licavoli henchmen, were arrested by the Police Morals squad here on charges of being suspicious persons. Leonard was released on \$200 bond and Badalmenti on \$400 bond. Arrested with them was Pete Annarito, 39, no permanent address. He also was charged with being a suspicious person and was released on \$200 bond.

LaSalle May Be Returned To Face Murder Indictment

Fugitive Licavoli Gangster, Held by FBI In Rochester, N. Y., Wanted Here for Killings

Joel S. Rhinefort, Lucas County prosecutor, said today that he would make every effort to have Ernest LaSalle, 44, fugitive Licavoli gangster under a first degree murder indictment here, returned to Toledo from Rochester, N. Y., where he was arrested yesterday by FBI agents.

Mr. Rhinefort sent a letter to the U. S. Marshal of the New York district stating a *capias* would follow and adding that Lucas County officials would take custody of the prisoner if federal authorities would release him.

LaSalle was indicted here in March 1934 in connection with the gangland slayings of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitsky and Norman Blatt.

LaSalle also faces charges of draft evasion and kidnaping. Mr. Rhinefort was informed by federal authorities. The FBI began hunting for the fugitive when he registered in Louisville, Ky., under the name of Edward Kellner and failed to report for induction Aug. 27, 1943. LaSalle's real name is Ernest Fusco.

LaSalle's bond fixed at \$25,000 cash bond yesterday by Robert Miller, U. S. Commissioner in Rochester. The slayings with which LaSalle is charged were committed here over a three-year period when the Yonnie Licavoli gang was in the zenith of its power in Toledo.

2 Killed in 1931
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Kennedy met his death the night of July 7, 1933 while walking in Edgewater Dr., Point Place, with another of his sweethearts, Audrey Bail, beauty contest winner.

Subsequently Licavoli, Jacob (Firetop) Sulkin, Joseph (Wop) English, John Rai and Ralph Carsello were tried and convicted. They now are serving life sentences in Ohio Penitentiary.

3 Never Caught
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Mr. Rhinefort revealed today that he had been on the trail of LaSalle for months and that he had given the FBI information where the fugitive might be found. At times Mr. Rhinefort's assistants were only an hour behind LaSalle, the prosecutor revealed.

The fugitive was being returned to Toledo in custody of Harry Friberg, assistant county prosecutor, and Detective Capt. George Timiney of the Toledo Police division.

Waived Extradition
Fusco, arrested Feb. 5 for alleged violation of the Selective Service act, waived extradition. He had been at liberty since his indictment in 1934. The Federal Bureau of Investigation took up the manhunt after Fusco had registered in Louisville, Ky., under the name of Edward Kellner and failed to report for induction Aug. 27, 1943.

He was indicted here in connection with the slayings of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitsky and Norman Blatt. Serving life sentences in Ohio penitentiary for their parts in the murders are Thomas (Yonnie) Licavoli, gang leader, Joseph (Wop) English, Jacob (Firetop) Sulkin, Ralph Carsello and John Rai.



Ernest LaSalle

Licavoli Gang Member Arrested

LaSalle Wanted Here On Charge of Murder

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LaSalle is under indictment here on the charge of first degree murder in connection with four gangland murders in Toledo in 1932-34. Several members of the gang, including Yonnie Licavoli, now are serving life sentences for the slayings.

Mr. Rhinefort said every effort will be made to bring LaSalle to Toledo to answer the murder charge.

LaSalle was arrested by FBI agents on a fugitive warrant charging that he had failed to report for induction in Louisville, Ky.

LaSalle on Way Here for Trial Alleged Licavoli Gang Trigger Man Faces Murder Charges

Ernest J. Fusco, 42, New York City, under indictment here as Ernest LaSalle, alleged trigger man of the notorious Licavoli gang, was en route to Toledo last night to face trial on first degree murder charges.

Monroe County Judge James P. O'Connor yesterday signed an order in Rochester, N. Y., for extradition to Ohio of Fusco, identified by Toledo authorities as one of 15 men indicted in connection with four gangland killings here between 1931 and 1936, the Associated Press reported.

The fugitive was being returned to Toledo in custody of Harry Friberg, assistant county prosecutor, and Detective Capt. George Timiney of the Toledo Police division.

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LaSalle Custody Plea Must Go to Buffalo

Lucas County's plea for custody of Ernest LaSalle, alleged Licavoli gangster wanted here on murder charges, must be directed to the U. S. district attorney at Buffalo, N. Y., Harry Friberg, assistant prosecutor, was informed yesterday by F. C. Blackford, U. S. marshal at Rochester, N. Y.

LaSalle was arrested Monday by the FBI in Rochester on the charge of failing to appear for induction into the armed forces.

Hearing on Return of LaSalle Set

An extradition hearing, aimed to obtain custody of Ernest LaSalle, accused Licavoli gangster, by Toledo law enforcement officers for trial here on first degree murder charges growing out of gang killings, will be held in Rochester, N. Y., probably Monday, Harry Friberg, assistant prosecutor, said today.

Mr. Friberg said Toledo police were notified late yesterday by the Rochester police chief that extradition papers had arrived from the New York governor's office and a hearing would be held in court in Rochester as soon as Toledo officers arrived there.

The assistant prosecutor said he is planning to leave tomorrow by train with Capt. Arthur Kaufman, sheriff's deputy, and Police Capt. George E. Timiney to bring back LaSalle if extradition is granted unless Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort returns from California before Monday and makes different plans.

Aid of Licavoli Blocks Return

County law enforcement officers were blocked yesterday in their attempt to return Ernest LaSalle, accused Licavoli gangster, from Rochester, N. Y., to Toledo for trial on first degree murder charges growing out of gang killings.

Harry Friberg, assistant prosecutor, reported last night that LaSalle was given until next Wednesday to file writ of habeas corpus, contesting the right of his extradition to Ohio. If LaSalle files by Wednesday, the hearing will be sometime next week.

Mr. Friberg, Deputy Capt. Arthur Kaufman and Police Capt. George Timiney, were to return from Rochester early today.

Innocence Pleaded By Ernest LaSalle

Ernest LaSalle, 43, accused Licavoli gang member, pleaded innocent to a charge of murder in the first degree when arraigned yesterday before Common Pleas Judge John M. McCabe. Reading of the indictment was waived by the defendant's counsel, John J. Barone.

LaSalle, apprehended recently in Rochester, N. Y., after being large more than 10 years, is charged with four fatal shootings perpetrated by the Licavoli gang between 1931 and 1933.

Licavoli Gangster

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Fights Return to Cit.

Friberg, Two Others Going After LaSalle

Extradition Hearing Scheduled for Monday

Custody of Ernest LaSalle, 44, alleged Licavoli gang trigger-man arrested in Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 5, will be sought by Toledo law enforcement officers in extradition proceedings in Rochester Monday. Harry Friberg, chief assistant county prosecutor, announced yesterday.

LaSalle, wanted here on several first degree murder charges, has not waived extradition, Mr. Friberg said. Thus, a hearing in New York will be necessary. According to a telegram from the Rochester chief of police, a hearing in trial court will be conducted upon arrival of Toledo officials.

Start Trip Sunday

Mr. Friberg will leave for Rochester Sunday. Accompanying him will be Capt. Arthur Kaufman of the Sheriff's office, and Capt. George E. Timiney of the Toledo Police division. Captain Timiney can identify LaSalle and testify that he was in Ohio at the time of the murders of Jack Kennedy, Louise Bell, Abe Lubitsky and Norman Blatt, Mr. Friberg said.

Because of road conditions and "because we haven't got a car," the three Toledoans expect to make the trip by train, the prosecutor's assistant reported.

No Word From Party

No word had been received in the courthouse offices yesterday regarding the exact whereabouts of Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort and Sheriff Charles L. Hennessy, presumed to be on the return auto trip from California with three prisoners.

Arrest of LaSalle, one of five members of the notorious Licavoli gang missing since indictment of 15 men in 1934, ended a 10-year search, pressed by Mr. Rhinefort. He was picked up by FBI agents, for failure to appear for induction into the Army in Louisville, Ky., where he had registered under a pseudonym. The prosecutor's office had sent a holder to Rochester immediately after his arrest. LaSalle's real name is Ernest L. Fusco, records show.

2 Licavoli Gang Members Guilty

LaSalle Given Five-Year Terms

James Licavoli, 41, and Ernest LaSalle, 44, held in jail here in connection with four 12-year-old gangland slayings, today pleaded guilty to charges of extortion a few minutes after indictments were returned by the Grand Jury.

LaSalle was sentenced by Common Pleas Judge John McCabe to two consecutive five-year terms in the penitentiary on two counts and Licavoli, pleading that he wanted to visit his parents in St. Louis before going to prison, was freed under \$10,000 cash bond.

Licavoli, accused of one count, was ordered to appear before Judge McCabe at 10 a. m. Nov. 19 for sentencing. Licavoli's bond was posted by Attorney John J. Barone, who represented both men. The attorney brought the money to the courthouse in a briefcase.

Threats Are Charged

The indictments against the two charged that they, by threats, extorted money from Charles Marea, an alleged bootlegger, on July 15, 1932. The second count against LaSalle accused him of extorting money from Martin Schweitzer, alleged Toledo hoodlum, on July 15, 1931.

LaSalle and Licavoli, former members of the old Yonnie Licavoli mob, were the fourth and fifth to face the extortion charges. The other three, all of whom have served their prison sentences, are Harry Leonard, alias Yaranowsky, alias Chalky Red; Sebastian Lupica and Anthony (Whitey) Besase.

LaSalle had been held in jail here without bond since March. He was arrested the previous month in Rochester, N. Y., on a draft violation.

Licavoli, in jail here since June was picked up in Cleveland for questioning in connection with the shotgun slaying of Nathan Weisenberg, suspected of being a slot machine operator. Released from that case, he was brought to Toledo.

Four Toledo Murders

The murder charges on which Licavoli and LaSalle were held here grew out of the slaying of four Toledo persons over a three-year period in the early 1930s.

Yonnie Licavoli, Jacob (Firetop) Sulkin, Joseph (Wop) English, John Rai and Ralph Carsello are serving life sentences for murder.

Three others, John Mirabella, Russell Syracuse and Leo Maceri, indicted on the same charges, never have been located.

Prosecutor Joel Rhinefort said today that the murder indictments still stood against James Licavoli and LaSalle, but they might be dismissed after the two are in prison.

Maximum Extortion Term To Be Asked

Licavoli to Face Court Nov. 19; LaSalle Sentenced on Two Counts

The maximum term of five years in the penitentiary will be recommended by Common Pleas Judge John M. McCabe Nov. 19 when he sentences James Licavoli, 41, former member of the Licavoli gang indicted on four murder charges, the judge announced yesterday.

Licavoli and Ernest LaSalle, 44, yesterday pleaded guilty to charges of extortion shortly after indictments were returned by the grand jury in a special session.

Licavoli Released

LaSalle, also under indictment for four gangland murders in the early 30's, was sentenced to Ohio penitentiary under both counts of the extortion charge. Judge McCabe recommended to the Ohio Pardon and Parole commission that the former gang members serve the maximum five-year terms consecutively under both counts.

Licavoli, indicted on one count, was released on \$10,000 cash bond on a plea he wanted to visit his aged parents in St. Louis before going to prison. LaSalle will begin serving his sentence before Licavoli is sentenced, Judge McCabe said.

Both men are accused of extorting money from Charles Marea, an alleged bootlegger, July 15, 1932, and LaSalle in addition was charged with extorting money from Martin Schweitzer, alleged gangster here, July 15, 1931.

3 Still Sought

Three other members of the old Yonnie Licavoli gang have been convicted on extortion charges and five others are serving life sentences for murder. Three others indicted for the gang killings still are being sought.

While the murder charges still stand against Licavoli and LaSalle, Prosecutor Joel S. Rhinefort indicated they may be dismissed after they are in prison.

Former Purple Gang Member Held In Ohio Racket Slayings

Ernest LaSelle Quizzed In Cleveland On Killings At Youngstown, Warren

CLEVELAND, Aug. 1 (AP)—A man described by police as a member of the old Detroit-Toledo Purple Gang was held in jail today without charge for questioning in recent racket slayings in Youngstown and Warren.

Ernest (Fusco) LaSelle, 39, was picked up by detectives early yesterday on Euclid Avenue. He gave a New York address.

Officers said he had just left another former member of the Purple Gang, which controlled bootlegging, gambling and other rackets in Michigan and Ohio during the prohibition era.

Police Inspector Richard R. Wagner said LaSelle had been in Cleveland about the times of the slayings of Vince DeNiro, a top racketeer figure in Young-

stown, and Mike Farah, a Warren racketeer.

"We can't let that coincidence go unchecked," Inspector Wagner said.

DeNiro, 39, was killed July 17 when a bomb ripped apart a car when he turned the ignition key.

Farah, 56, was killed at his home July 10 by shotgun blasts fired from a car.

Police said LaSelle told them he had lived in Warren but moved to New York last summer because authorities kept questioning him. He said he had just come to Cleveland from Warren. Police said he had nearly \$600 in his pockets.

Police at Youngstown said LaSelle was known as Ernie Fusco there and dealt with DeNiro.

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DiSalle Promised Bomb Probe Aid

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (AP)—Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy today promised to do everything possible to help Ohio halt a 3-year wave of unsolved bombings Governor DiSalle of Ohio said after a conference.

Pressed for details of federal-state plans for investigating the long series of violent incidents, Mr. DiSalle declined comment.

Mr. DiSalle said the attorney general is familiar with the situation in Youngstown, where a gambler, Vince Deniro, was blown to bits July 17 when he stepped on the starter of his car and set off a bomb.

Mr. DiSalle said other unsolved bombings over the 3-year period occurred in Mahoning, Trumbull, Stark and Jefferson counties. He said all of them apparently were connected with racketeering.

AUG 3 1961

