

The Origins Of These Great Mafia Nicknames

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The Origins Of These Great Mafia Nicknames

By Stacie Hougland



[WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Pacino)

At the website themobmuseum.org, you can answer a few questions to reveal your mob name and profile (this author is speakeasy owner Stacie "Sweet Lips" Hougland and I don't want no trouble, see?). Put on your

best Italian accent while reading about these real-life gangster nicknames.

Louis "Louie HaHa" Attanasio Jr.



This doesn't seem like the most intimidating nickname, does it? Think again... it's said he laughed every time he took a wise guy's life. He was released from the clink in 2017 - if you poke fun of him, the joke might be on you.

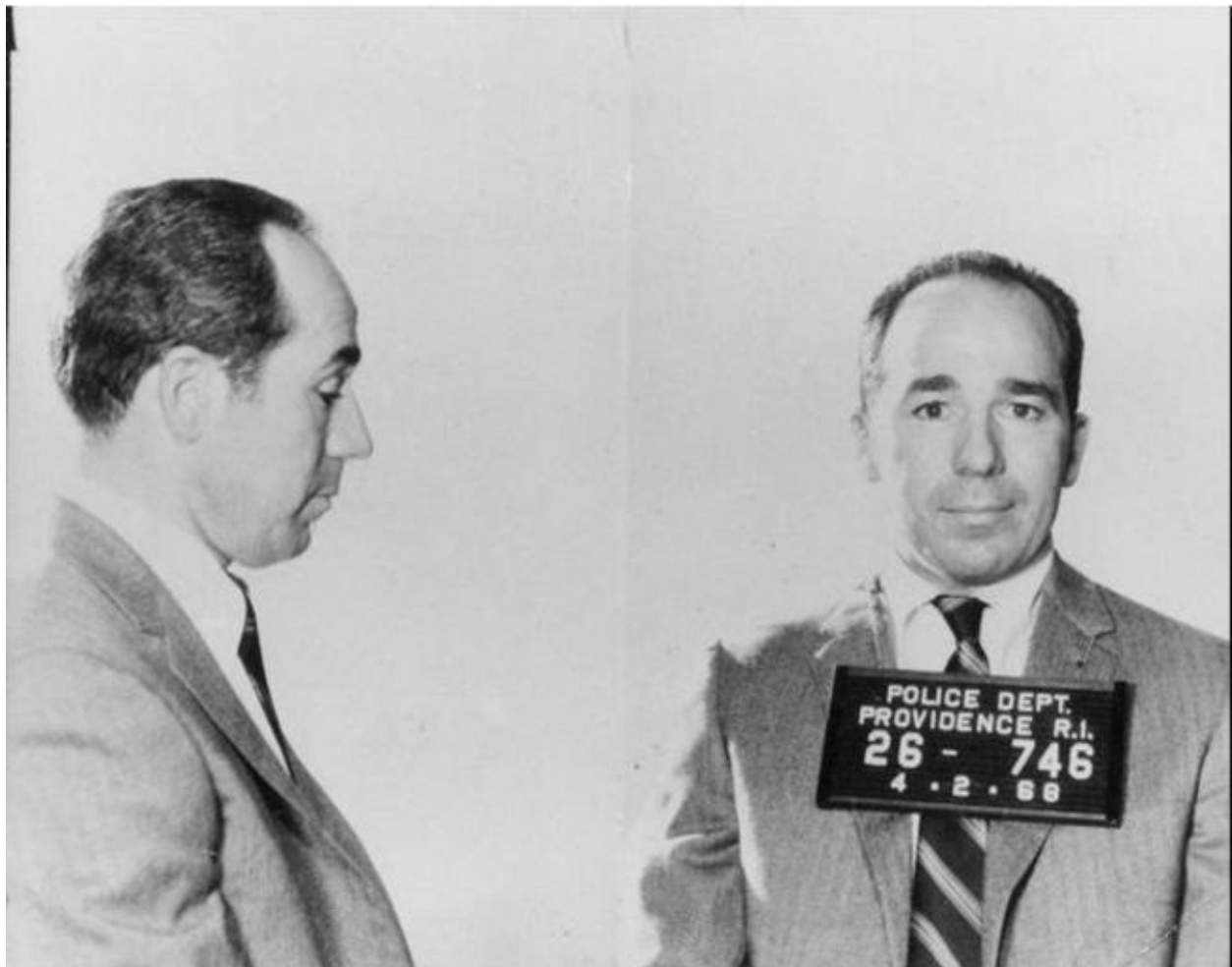
Ciro "The Artichoke King" Terranova



[WIKIMEDIA.ORG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ciro_Terranova.jpg)

In the 1890s, he became an underboss in one of New York City's first crime families, the Morello family. He got his unusual nickname because he would purchase all the artichokes in the city and sell them for three times as much. Apparently there was a great demand for those tasty thistles in the 1920s.

Luigi "Baby Shacks" Manocchio

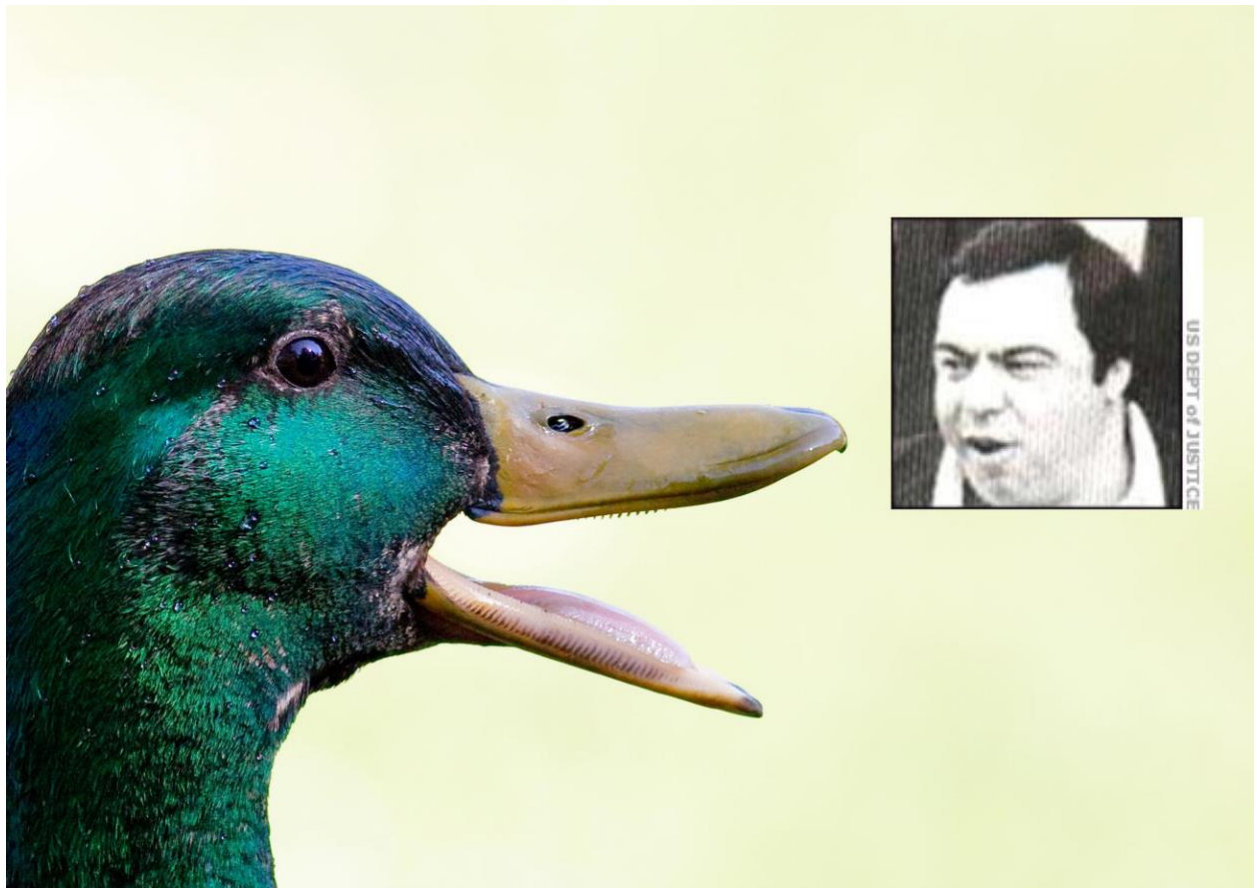


[WIKIMEDIA.ORG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Luigi_Manocchio.jpg)

Rhode Island's Providence Journal referred to this New England crime boss as "Baby Shanks" for years, having misunderstood "Baby

Shacks." He got that nickname for his baby face and his reputation for "shacking up" with many women.

Angelo "Quack Quack" Ruggiero



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Angelo would just *never stop talking* and it got him in plenty of trouble. The FBI considered him a "psychopath" and caught him blabbing over a wire-tapped conversation. Then he landed in jail after arguing and cursing a judge. Quack.

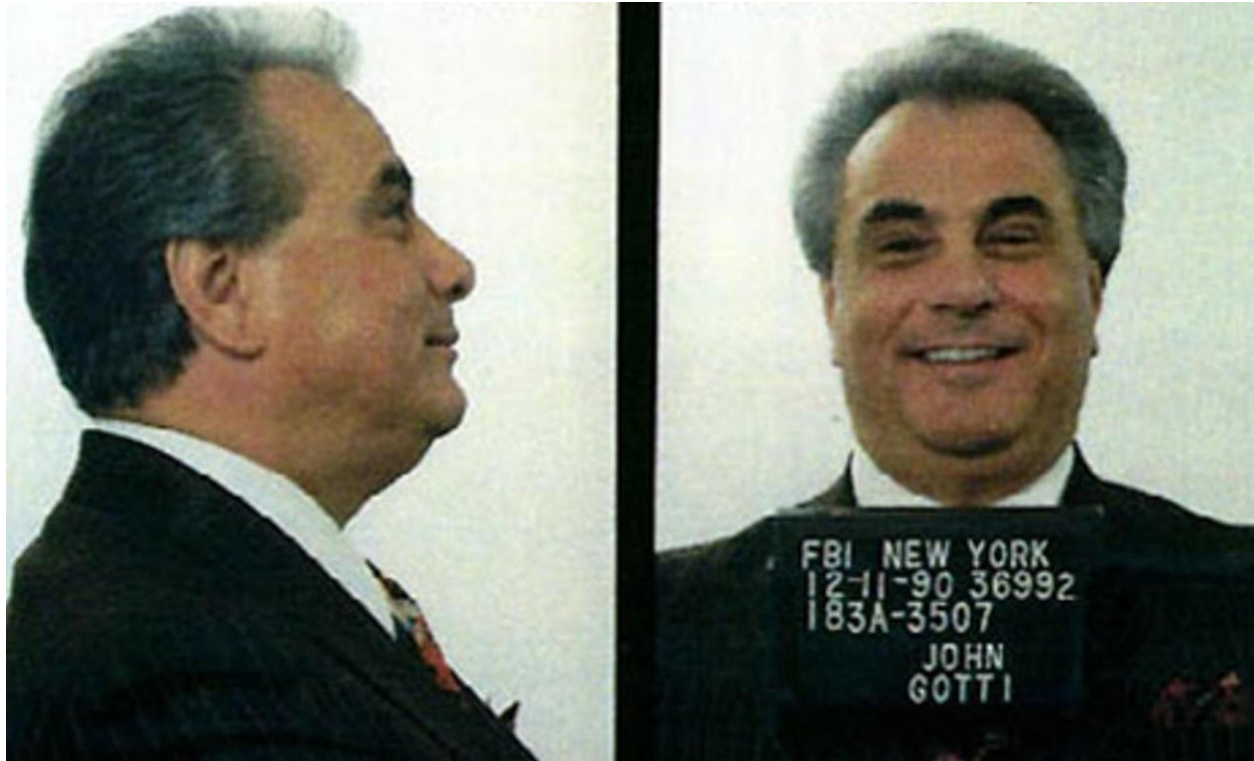
Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno



[EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org)

This famous crime boss who ran his family from the age of 26 and supposedly served as the model for Marlon Brando's Vito Corleone in the *Godfather* films got his nickname from... the media. He detested it and preferred his friends call him "Don Peppino."

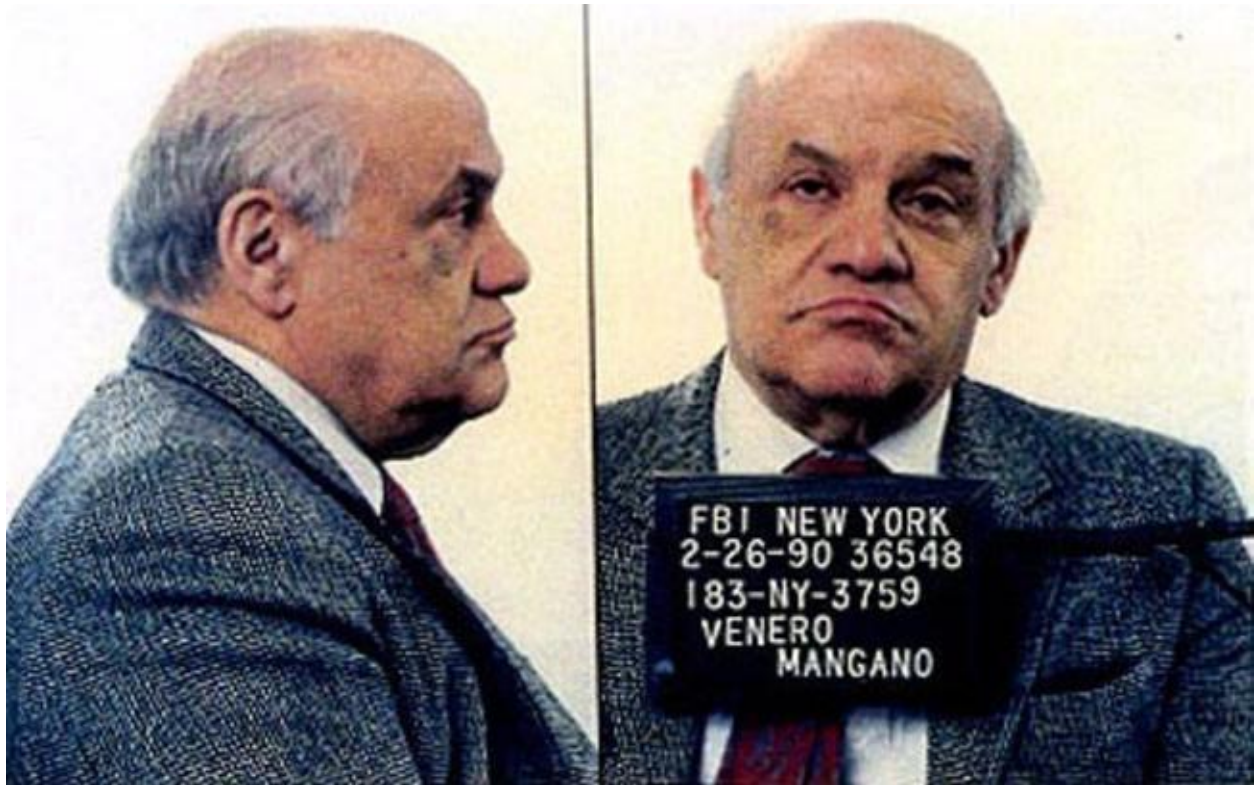
John "The Teflon Don" Gotti



NO.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Known for his flashy style and charisma, Gotti had that "catch me if you can" personality the working class loved - he became a bit of a hero as head of the Gambino family. He earned his nickname for winning three back-to-back trials in the 1980s, but finally went to the slammer for good in 1992.

Venero "Benny Eggs" Mangano

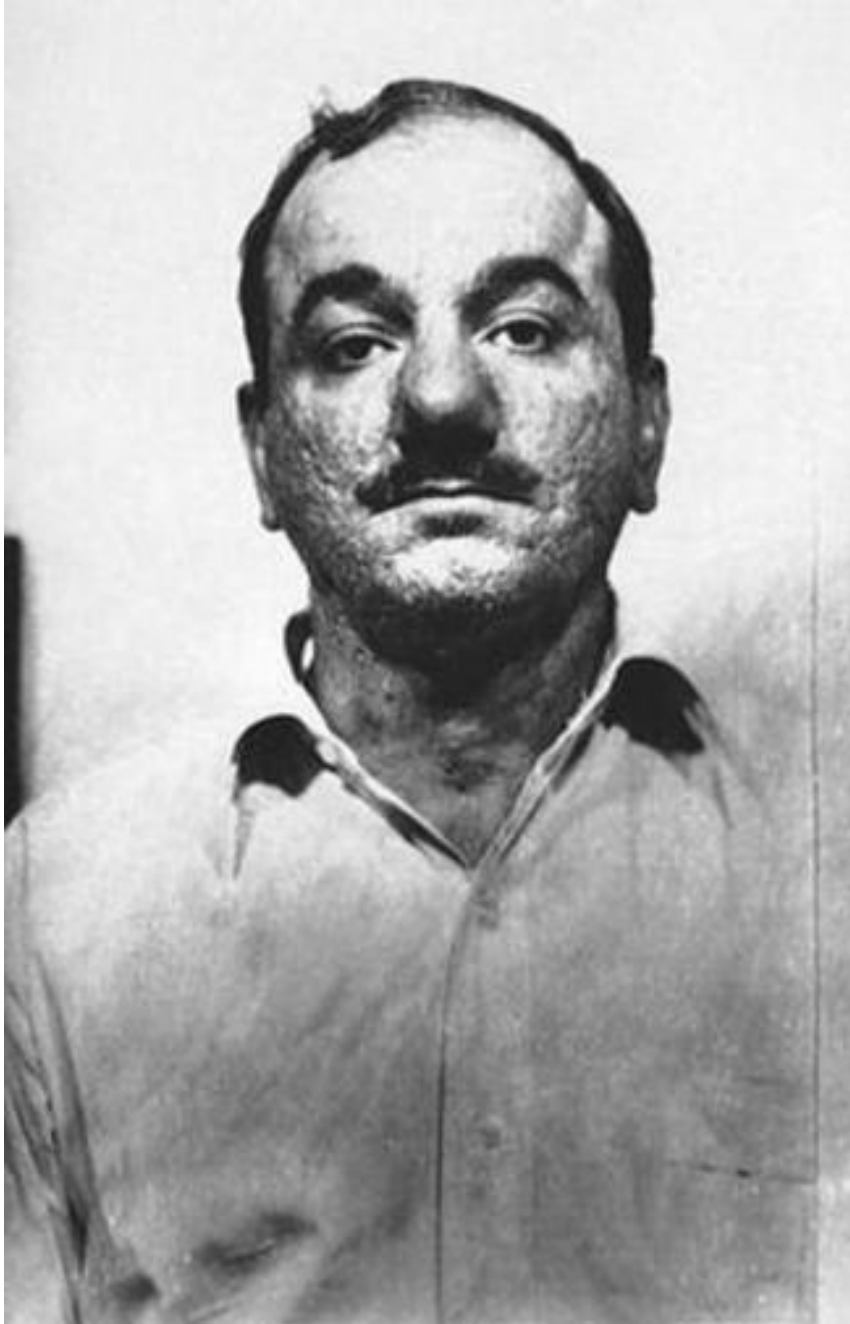


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He served as a decorated tail gunner in WWII, but later fell in with the Genovese crime family and served 13 years for extortion and conspiracy. But his nickname was ever so innocent: his mother ran a shop selling eggs years before.

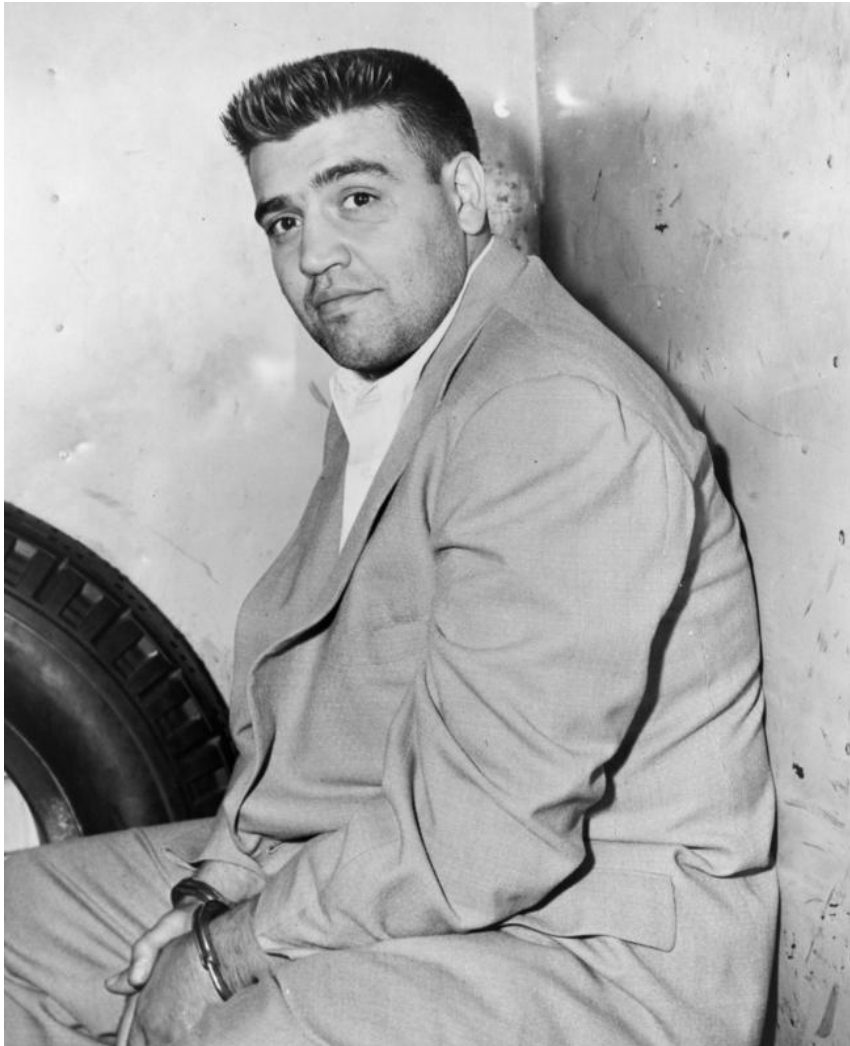
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Philip "Chicken Man" Testa



Maybe you've wondered where Bruce Springsteen came up with the line "Well, they blew up the Chicken Man in Philly last night/Now they blew up his house too" in his song "Atlantic City." It refers to this pockmarked South Philly gangster, whose father had a poultry business.

Vincent "The Oddfather" Gigante



[WIKIMEDIA.ORG](#)

This boss of the Genovese family for about 25 years was also called "The Chin" for fairly obvious reasons. But he earned his other nickname because he'd wander the streets of Greenwich Village, disheveled in a bathrobe, often with a caretaker. Later he admitted it was a ruse to deter prosecution.

Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik



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No, Jake Guzik wasn't a car mechanic or huge fan of potato chips (that we know of). As a big player in the Chicago Outfit involved in the organization's finances, he "greased" the wheel by paying off politicians and law enforcement.

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