Bodies everywhere
—and one is seen all over

BY MARJORIE ROHEL

There were two extra bodies in the Manor case. One, a woman, and whether the other was dead or alive is a mystery.

Or, put another way, were there two murders of three?

Not one knew much about the man who called himself Gene Mano when he came to New Orleans in the mid-summer of 1942. He arrived in the city with a beautiful brunette bride and headed almost at once for the French Market. He went directly to the butcher, prodding over one of the meat stalls and grudging the vendor of meats a long-baited, pretentious, like himself, of a certain small Sicilian village.

His real name, Mano told the butcher, was Constantino Mano — he gave no reason for using an alias — and in the name of employment, he asked for a job.

The butcher gave him one, at which Mano did his best to make himself on an adjacent stall and is marked quickly but in business on his own.

Later, market people would remember that he seemed to spend scant time at his job; he spent his time for money. They knew him as a gambler who handled largely and easily.

Theresa Mano knew of her husband's business but she did not inquire about him or his friends. She knew them only as "Mama" and "Tony." Gene told her he had not noticed them in the market twice a day walking up and down in front of his stall and constantly.

In AN EFFORT, he said, to find out what they were up to, he made friends with them and eventually invited them home to dinner.

So, in the early Mano's disappearance, the toll continued to prosper.

On a day, the four fancied commonly at the Witchwood Bar and res-

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Section B, Page 1

Amusements

Television

Calendar

Columnists

A MATTER OF MURDER

The term "classic crime," may mean different things to different people. It may be the "perfect murder" as one of historical significance. It may involve famous persons or by some means and causes by numerous circumstances. It may be that rare cases where the motive for murder is unknown. Or, in return, how true to the public interest.

This is the fourth of a five-part series on murders over the years, and they are considered among Louisiana's "classic crimes." The final section of the series will appear next Friday.

SALVADOR VITALE, alias Tare... would-be patient was not guilty with Tommo Stanoso to the case of Gene Mano then, like others in the case, vanished, never to be seen again.

Do NOT mark, deface or mutilate
Continued from Page B-1

On May 16, 1944, Vitale pleaded not guilty to the murder of Gene Mano. The case was continued and, like so many important links in the case, Vitale was never seen again.

Police believed, but had no proof, that Mano and Siracusa had been killed for swindling on narcotics payments. There was also evidence that the two were part of a national swindling gang that sold fake oil stocks, medicines and a miracle solution to turn $1 bills into $100 bills to illiterates and other pigeons.

For months, rumors persisted that Siracusa was working in a gas station in North Louisiana.

A woman reporter for the New Orleans Item, working on the case, was told by a phone caller, “You have a little girl. If I were you, I’d lay off the Siracusa case.”

A decade later, New York police put out a “wanted” poster for that will-o’-the-wisp, Salvadore Vitale, on swindling charges.

New Orleans police had questions for him that had nothing to do with swindling — Did Gene Mano ever mention his murdered sister? And what really happened to Tommy Siracusa?