

Agency Information

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SEBASTIAN JOHN LAROCCA

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PG 92-226

PG T-2 is PG 585-C who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 9/8 and 24/61 and 10/19/61.

PG T-3 is JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, a former criminal informant of the Miami Division, who has resided in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area and who has specifically requested that his identity be concealed.

PG T-4 is JOHN FARAH, 446 East Liberty Street, Girard, Ohio, who was contacted by a BuAgent of the Cleveland Division on 8/25/61 and who has requested that his identity be concealed.

PG T-5 is PG 622-C* who is contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on a daily basis.

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COVER PAGE

10101-10103

Clerk of Courts and the Prothonotary's Office. The files of the Sharon Police Department relating to arrests made in Sharon, Pa., since 1942 in connection with the rackets in Mercer County were reviewed and a list has been obtained of individuals arrested by that department and the Pennsylvania State Police who allegedly worked for JOHN SCARDINA. Descriptions, identification records and addresses were obtained in this regard in an effort to determine the specific scope of the operation of SCARDINA in that area and to ascertain the connection, in a racket way, with SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA. In this connection Assistant Chief WILLIAM LAVIN (NA), Sharon Police Department, Sharon, Pa., furnished the names of business establishments which are known as gambling centers at Farrell and Sharon and which are under the direction of JOHN SCARDINA.

PG T-1 recently advised that Canton, Ohio, racketeers have moved into Youngstown, Ohio, and have forced JOHN SCARDINA to move his numbers bank from Brookville, Ohio, to Farrell, Pa., where his current daily take has dropped to \$900. He stated that this operation is now spreading from Farrell and Sharon to Greenville and Grove City, Pa., and will no longer take in any Ohio area.

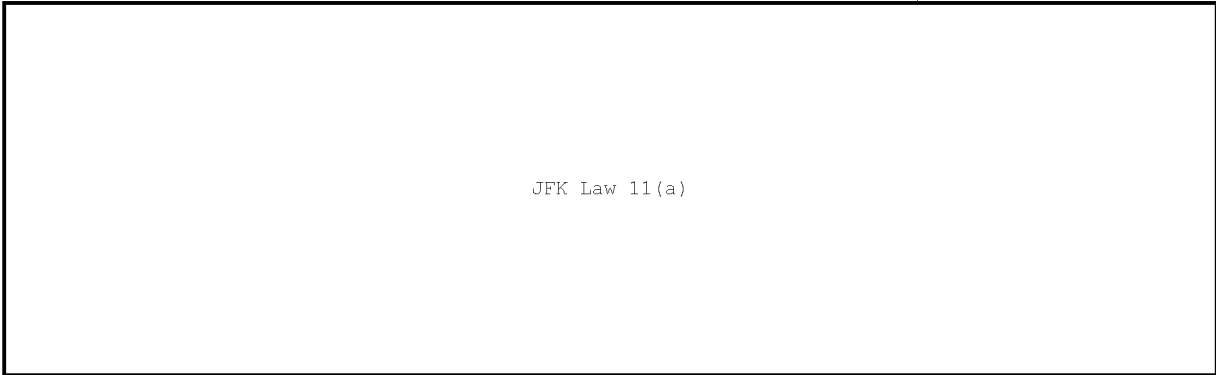
HELEN MELANIK, aka Pa.

On August 29, 1961, SA ROBERT MADDEN, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised the Pittsburgh Office of the FBI that

JFK Law 11(a)

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ANTONIO RIPEPI, aka *Pa.*

PG T-3 has advised that although RIPEPI was for many years a friend of the MANNARINO brothers and is still a close associate of LA ROCCA, SAMUEL MANNARINO now has a violent hatred for this individual. He recalled that in 1958 when MANNARINO was in a hospital to have an operation and thought he was dying, he attempted to get out of the hospital bed because he said he was going to "kill a RIPEPI." He has been heard to quote this phrase on other occasions.

Pa. JOSEPH and LOUIS VOLPE, aka *Volpe* *790K* *Pa.*

The Little Rock Office of the FBI advised on October 19, 1961, that LA ROCCA registered at the Avanelle Motor Lodge at Hot Springs, Arkansas, as JOHN SCOTT and Party, 19 South Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, on October 5, 1961, and was observed accompanied by three unknown men taking thermal baths. There was no indication that he or his associates were in close contact with any of the gambling element at Hot Springs. When observed on October 19, 1961, LA ROCCA was driving a blue four-door 1961 Cadillac, bearing Pennsylvania registration 996-17C. This registration was issued to LOUIS VOLPE, 1017 Taylor Street, East McKeesport, Pa.

PG T-3 advised that JOSEPH and LOUIS VOLPE, the latter described by him as a "don," have controlled all forms of gambling and other racketeering activities in the Turtle Creek Valley area, of Pennsylvania which surrounds Wilmerding, Pa., for many years. Close associates of both LA ROCCA and

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the MANNARINO brothers, they still maintain close social and business contacts with GABRIEL MANNARINO. He said that during the fifteen month period, commencing in December, 1957, when GABRIEL MANNARINO was in hiding to avoid the service of a subpoena before a Federal Grand Jury in New York City, he was hidden at least part of the time by VOLPE Lieutenant "SARGE" BOTTI. MANNARINO had just returned from the Apalachin conference of hoodlums during this period. He added that the VOLPE brothers and their Chief Lieutenant JOE SICA own a substantial but silent interest in the Holiday House, a motel-supper club on U. S. Route 22 in Monroeville, Pa.

JOSEPH REGINO, aka

PG T-2 advised that he noticed that on or about October 12, 1961, JOSEPH REGINO was missing from the Johnstown, Pa., area and that there was a good possibility he had accompanied SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA to the southern portion of the United States for a brief vacation.

SA ROBERT MADDEN, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised that

JFK Law 11(a)

J. C. TOPOLINO, 1961 Southeast 15th Court, Bel Aire, Florida, advised that he has been living at the afore-mentioned address as a guest of JOSEPH REGINO of Johnstown, Pa., and that his telephone number is WH 1-7325, assigned to the Pompano Beach, Florida, exchange. Although he denied that he has ever heard the name LA ROCCA, it has been determined that LA ROCCA visited Florida during the early portion of 1961.

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Company, 12 McCandless Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., owned by SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, that an emergency meeting of the Association would be held at 12 PM on Thursday, September 7, 1961. Although the purpose and place of the meeting was unknown, the informant conjectured that the meeting would be held at the Pittsburgher Hotel in Downtown, Pittsburgh, and would concern price increases. He indicated that although ALMO PRUNER, sales manager for the North Star Cement Block Company, was scheduled to be in attendance, his presence at the meeting was discouraged by other officials at North Star who felt that LA ROCCA did not want to have anything to do with such representation.

D. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

North Star Cement Block Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.
(SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, President)

PG T-5 has advised that the management of the North Star Cement Block Company at 12 McCandless Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., is extremely concerned about the financial phase of the operation and are seriously considering working during their vacation periods without pay. He said they have also given consideration to working for a period of one month for a total salary of \$100 each.

SA ROBERT MADDEN, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., has advised that

JFK Law 11(a)

Other Information Pertaining to Legitimate Enterprises

SA ROBERT MADDEN, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised on September 22, 1961, that

JFK Law 11(a)

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E. TRAVEL

PG T-1 and PG T-2 advised that on October 19, 1961, LA ROCCA was definitely at Hot Springs, Arkansas, enjoying a two-week vacation and mineral baths. They conjectured that he had departed from Pittsburgh during the initial portion of October with JOHN SCARDINA of Farrell, Pa., who is his closest personal associate.

The Little Rock Office advised on October 19, 1961, that SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA had been observed at Hot Springs, Arkansas, on October 18, 1961, and that immediate investigation had reflected that he had registered at the Avanelle Motor Lodge as JOHN SCOTT and Party, 19 South Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, on October 5, 1961. His departure date was unknown. It was further determined that LA ROCCA was accompanied by three unknown individuals and that all had been observed taking thermal baths. There was no indication that the group had been in close contact with any of the gambling element at Hot Springs, Arkansas. LA ROCCA was

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CHARACTERIZATION OF INFORMANTS

PG T-1 is an individual who is extremely familiar with the gambling activities of individuals controlling racket operations in the Farrell-Sharon area of Pennsylvania.

PG T-2 is an individual who is extremely familiar with prostitution-type activities in the Pittsburgh area and has a speaking acquaintance with members of both the LA ROCCA - GENOVESE and MANNARINO organizations.

PG T-3 is an individual who is familiar with racket operations in the Cities of Miami, Florida, and Pittsburgh, Pa., and who is in a position to furnish continuing information relating to the activities of both the LA ROCCA - GENOVESE and MANNARINO organizations.

PG T-4 is an individual who lives and works in the State of Ohio and who knows the members of the FARAH family.

PG T-5 is a source in a position to furnish information on a continuing basis concerning the legitimate business operations of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA and his associates.

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