

Agency Information

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SEBASTIAN JOHN LARocca

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COMMENTS : RPT

PG T-7 is DAVID A. SMITH, Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted by SA RICHARD GORDON DOUCE on 12/1/60.

PG T-8 is the confidential report of Dun and Bradstreet, Inc., dated 4/19/59 and furnished by the Pittsburgh Office of that organization on 3/14/61.

PG T-9 is CHARLES METCALF, Vice-President, Western Pennsylvania National Bank, McKeesport, Pa., who was contacted by SAA ALLISON on 4/27 and 5/1/61.

PG T-10 is HAROLD W. LAUVER, Immigration and Naturalization Service Investigator, Pittsburgh, Pa., who requested that his identity be concealed and who was contacted by SA WILLIAM R. WALL on 12/12,13, 16 and 19/57.

PG T-11 is JAMES CUNNINGHAM, Dun and Bradstreet representative, Johnstown, Pa., who requested that his identity not be revealed and who was contacted on 4/27/61 by SA J. EDWARD KERN.

PG T-12 is E. L. EDWARDS, Vice-President, United States National Bank, Johnstown, Pa., who was contacted by SA KERN on 4/27/61.

PG T-13 is JOHN E. GERLICH, Assistant Vice-President, Brookline Savings and Trust Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted on 4/17/61 by SAA ALLISON.

PG T-14 is J. DOUGLAS DOLE, Executive Vice-President and Secretary, South Pittsburgh Savings and Loan Association, Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted by SAA ALLISON on 4/17/61.

PG T-15 is CHESTER STUPAK, a former potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh Office who was contacted by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA on 12/13/54 and 10/21/55.

PG T-16 is CHARLES H. THOMAS, owner and operator of the Thomas Service Station at Ingomar, Pa., who requested that his identity remain confidential when contacted by SA VOEGE on 3/22/61.

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COVER PAGE

REVIEWED BY ^{DWS} ~~BJ~~/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 9/29/97 *JD*

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^{IRS}
REVIEWED BY ~~BJ~~/JFK TASK FORCE.

ON 8/14/98 *JD*

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REVIEWED BY ^{DWS} ~~SA~~ JEFK TASK FORCE

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On February 27, 1958, Reverend ANDREW E. DLUGOS, Pastor, St. Michael's Roman Catholic Slovak Church, First Avenue, Jessup, Pa., advised SA JAMES E. CARROLL from official church records that MARY CMELIK was born at Jessup, Pa., on April 2, 1910, and was baptized on April 3, 1910. Her parents were listed as JOHN CMELIK and MAGDALINE GABRIS.

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Pittsburgh, Pa., as reviewed on December 12, 1957, indicate that IA ROCCA adopted a child named HOWARD LESLIE HOFFMAN at Greensburg, Pa., through the Westmoreland County Orphans Court. The father of this child was identified as TONY TERRIGIO and it was noted that the child was born at Greensburg, Pa., on October 1, 1943. Upon adoption, the child was named JOHN.

Lieutenant Colonel GILBERT PHILIPPS, Admissions Officer, Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pa., has advised that JOHN LA ROCCA is presently attending Valley Forge Military Academy, where tuition, room and board amounts to approximately \$2,225 each school year. He further advised that the only close associate of LA ROCCA at the academy is DOMENICK VINCENT RIPEPI, son of ANTONIO RIPEPI, a close associate of the elder LA ROCCA at Pittsburgh, Pa.

PHILIPPS advised that cadets are not required to account for money furnished to them by their parents or guardians and that this would apply also to the money these cadets spend at the post exchange or while away from the academy. They are not required to furnish memoranda and their mode of travel from the school to their homes during vacation periods. It should be noted that LA ROCCA is presently scheduled to graduate from Valley Forge Military Academy on June 3, 1961, and according to his father intends to pursue a course in law.

V. Origin of the Interest of LA ROCCA in Racketeering and Steps Leading to Current Position and Activities in Racketeering Matters

The most complete understanding of the origin and background of the interest of LA ROCCA in racketeering and the steps

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leading up to his current position and activities in racketeering matters, can be obtained from information relating to the early activities of LA ROCCA, furnished to the Pittsburgh Office of the FBI as follows:

On February 27, 1958, GEORGE MESSER advised that he had been in the numbers writing activity since about 1928 and is still active in this regard. He said that most of Pittsburgh's present day "big racket men" once depended on him solely for protection purposes since he knew local and state police figures and recalled that JOHN LA ROCCA was one of these racketeers. MESSER stated that LA ROCCA became acquainted with him in about 1941 or 1942 when LA ROCCA was handling all the numbers activity in the East Liberty Section of Pittsburgh and had set himself up as a "little god." When LA ROCCA became dissatisfied with his financial gains, he left Pittsburgh on a trip to Chicago to see friends about paste reel machines with which he felt he could make more money. MESSER said a paste reel was similar to a "one-armed bandit" with the exception that a small paper-wrapped mint was dispensed after the coin was placed in the slot and the play was registered. The Chicago manufacturer of this machine circumvented the "strictly for gambling purposes" phraseology in the law in this manner.

While LA ROCCA was in Chicago, MESSER said he moved into the East Liberty Section and took over the entire numbers operation. He turned in his numbers returns to one GEORGE CHRISTY (now deceased) in Pittsburgh. When LA ROCCA returned to Pittsburgh he became angry with MESSER and his move and had someone drive a car over MESSER one night as he was crossing a street. MESSER said when he was discharged from the hospital he found out that his automobile had numerous bullet holes in it. MESSER said that because he thought he would make money in the East Liberty Section, he stayed in the business of writing numbers and actually forced LA ROCCA out of the numbers business.

MESSER advised that in about 1943, he and LA ROCCA became friendly and LA ROCCA invited him to share equally in the ownership of the Coin Machine Distributing Company which later set up offices at 5746 Baum Boulevard, in Pittsburgh. MESSER

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recalled that LA ROCCA was completely bankrupt at that time because of numbers setbacks but managed to raise enough money to put up his share. MESSER said he personally traveled to Chicago to arrange for the purchase of machines to be distributed by this company and had a verbal agreement with ART ROONEY who allowed him to place these machines throughout the East Liberty, Homewood, and Garfield Sections of Pittsburgh where ROONEY was not operating. According to MESSER, ROONEY, who is the present owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, professional football club, was the only man who could get paste reels before LA ROCCA tried, and controlled the entire Pittsburgh vicinity in this regard. MESSER said that the Government placed a \$100 tax stamp on each machine and the city of Pittsburgh put a \$50 tax stamp on each machine. He said that other owners of the company, in addition to himself and LA ROCCA, were FRANK AMATO, BARNEY MC GINLEY, SAMUEL MANNARINO, and F. W. ZOGG, the latter from Chicago.

MESSER advised that the company was doing well financially before Allegheny County authorities raided establishments where the machines had been placed and forced it out of business. He recalled that, although each of the six aforementioned individuals owned an equal share in the company, SAM MANNARINO and LA ROCCA seemed to run everything and held meetings at which important subjects were discussed in Italian, which he did not understand. He advised that he realized that LA ROCCA was only using him for his proven protection methods and MESSER did not mind as long as he got his cut of the profits. He recalled that during 1946 or 1947, MIKE GENOVESE came on the scene. He stated that this individual had been a pickup man for LA ROCCA in the East Liberty-Homewood Section of Pittsburgh and was a tough kid who, according to MESSER, "was almost begging to go to jail." He said LA ROCCA turned GENOVESE over to him and asked MESSER to "keep him clean" because he had him in mind for future plans. He recalled that FRANK VALENTI, who was present at the Apalachin conference of hoodlums, and ANTONIO RIPEPI, a Pittsburgh hoodlum, visited the offices of the Coin Machine Distributing Company regularly and always took orders from MANNARINO and LA ROCCA. He said RIPEPI was a more important racket man than VALENTI but that LA ROCCA seemed to be the key man in the Pittsburgh area. He said he would place

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER</u>	<u>ANNUAL INCOME</u>
DONALD P. TURNER 2130 W. Pike St. Houston, Pa.	234-56-8841	331.32
FRANK J. CIROCCO 1212 Arch St. Pittsburgh 12, Pa.	184-14-4258	1,539.97
JACOB S. GEORGE 5403 Butler St. Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	190-24-7201	3,132.38
JOSEPH E. BRYAN 439 Kathleen St., Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	177-18-9068	1,306.18
LOUIS R. SAALINGER 709 Maytide St. Pittsburgh 10, Pa.	164-28-1015	1,285.13
STEPHEN JENCA 5206 Natrona Way Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	167-10-4008	989.00
ROY L. VEY 1153 Cornell St. Pittsburgh 12, Pa.	188-18-9241	5,300.00
ORLANDO M. PRINCIPE 4204 Main St. Pittsburgh 24, Pa.	194-28-0383	896.27
JOHN IRWIN 2503 5th Ave. Pittsburgh 19, Pa.	185-12-4668	1,531.72

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER</u>	<u>ANNUAL INCOME</u>
LEONARD A. YAGATICH 1424 Fallowfield Ave. Pittsburgh 16, Pa.	203-22-3715	2,566.79
ROBERT THACKER 226 Sylvania St. Pittsburgh, Pa.	178-26-6365	2,155.73
AUGUST BULLION 5223 Berlin Way Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	278-28-3867	483.45
CARMELO TRAPANI 4776 Sciota St. Pittsburgh 24, Pa.	165-26-2632	1,369.30
OLIVER E. SHERWOOD 1509 Celtic St. Pittsburgh 10, Pa.	187-30-5880	39.60
LEROY W. WILLIAMS 543 Rosedale St. Pittsburgh 21, Pa.	160-22-9414	608.51
FRANCIS J. ROGALSKI 461 Robinson Court Pittsburgh 13, Pa.	173-16-5201	255.54

PG T-8, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or state proceedings, advised that his records indicate that JOHN S. LA ROCCA is the President of the North Star Cement Block Co., Inc., at 12 McCandless Ave., Rear, Pittsburgh 1, Pa. He said his records further indicate that ALMO PRUNER is the Vice President, ALDO A. PRUNER is the Secretary and ROY L. VEY is the Treasurer. He stated that his records further indicate the following:

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Son	JOHN LA ROCCA
Date of birth	October 1, 1943
Adopted	TN HOWARD LESLIE HOFFMAN February 25, 1944, at Greensburg, Pa., through Westmoreland Orphans Court
Brother	ANTHONY LA ROCCA
Date of birth	May 14, 1912
Place of birth	Whiskey Run, Indiana County
Residence	6323 Glenview Place, Pittsburgh
Employed	Barber, 8003 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh
Brother	JOSEPH LA ROCCA
Place of Birth	August 4, 1893
Place of Birth	Villa Rosa, Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy
Residence	835 Farragut Street, Pittsburgh
Employed	Barber, Penn and Shady Avenues, Pittsburgh
Naturalized	Court of Common Pleas Indiana County, March 5, 1924
Brother	JOHN J. LA ROCCA
Address	118-20 Walnut Street, Johnstown, Pa.
Owner	Keystone Vending Co., Johnstown, Pa.
Sister	LEONA ROSE
Marital Status	Widow
Children	3
Residence	With daughter, Mrs. ANGELO RICCI, Broadhead Road, Glenwillard, Pa.
Sister	Mrs. ROSE CONTI
	380 Rose Avenue, Buffalo, New York
Sister	Mrs. ANGELINE ZITTO,
	Baltimore, Maryland
Father	IGNAZIO, deceased, died 1937, Philadelphia
Mother	ROSARIA, deceased, 1942, Pittsburgh
FBI Number	96725

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B. ASSOCIATES

Among the more prominent currently close associates of LA ROCCA are the following individuals:

Samuel Mannarino, aka.

This individual is an extremely close associate of LA ROCCA who presently resides at 201 Highland Avenue, New Kensington, Pa. He and his brother, GABRIEL, control the New Kensington and Westmoreland County areas as far as the rackets are concerned and are closely allied with the GENOVESE-LA ROCCA organization in the Pittsburgh area. MANNARINO is a former business associate of LA ROCCA who, according to PG T-3, who has requested that his identity remain confidential,

[REDACTED] JFK Law 11(a)
He is presently a subject in a case entitled, "BERNARD J. EZHAYA, ET AL, ITSP-MT," which involves the theft of \$2,250,000 in bearer bonds and an unknown amount of registered bonds, jewelry, and cash from the Brockville Trust and Savings Company, Brockville, Ontario, Canada, on May 3-4, 1958. The trial in this matter is presently being conducted at Chicago, Illinois. MANNARINO was interviewed by Bureau Agents of the Pittsburgh Office upon his arrest on July 2, 1959, at which time he declined to make any statement and would only engage in general conversation. It can be said that MANNARINO is both a business and social acquaintance of LA ROCCA.

N.Y. Gabriel Mannarino, aka.

This individual, known to his close associates as "KELLY," resides at 540 Charles Street, New Kensington, Pa., and is the younger brother of SAMUEL MANNARINO. He is a close social associate of LA ROCCA and is a business associate also, as far as criminal activity is concerned. He was present at the Apalachin conference of hoodlums during December, 1957, and on June 11, 1959, appeared with LA ROCCA before the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field of the United States, where

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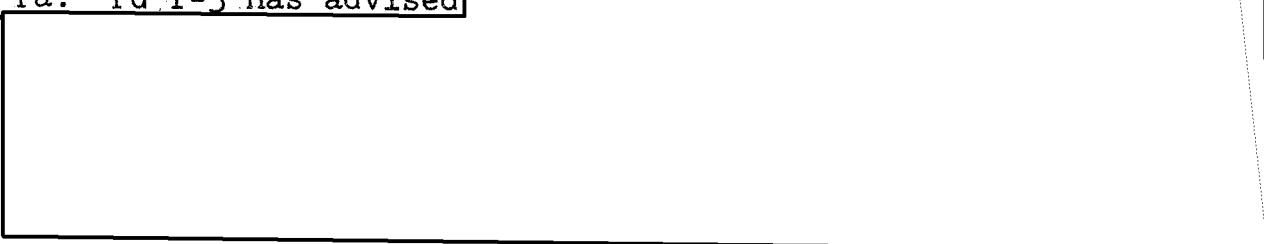
During past interviews with Bureau Agents of the Pittsburgh Office he has been completely uncooperative and has instructed his fellow officials at North Star to act in a similar manner. It is not known whether he actually owns any part of the LA ROCCA holdings.

JFK Law 11(a)

~~Roy Vey~~

This individual presently ~~resides at 1153 Cornell Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.,~~ and is considered the General Plant Manager of the North Star Cement Block Company at 12 McCandless Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. PG T-3 has advised 

~~Aldo and Almo Pruner~~

These individuals are officials at the North Star Cement Block Company and list their address as ~~653 Bower Hill Road, Bridgeville, Pa.~~ PG T-3 has advised 

~~Salvatore Marino~~, aka Pa

This individual ~~resides at 755 Willow Glen Way, San Jose, California,~~ and is a partner in the California Cheese Company with his son, ANGELO MARINO. The company is located at 295 West San Carlos Street, San Jose. A social associate of LA ROCCA, MARINO was interviewed by Bureau Agents of the San Francisco Office during 1959 at which time he stated that LA ROCCA visited him in 1954 and traveled to Los Angeles, California, with him. He recalled that they were taken in for questioning by the Los Angeles Police Department while in the company of one FRANK DE SIMONE, an acquaintance, and

C. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

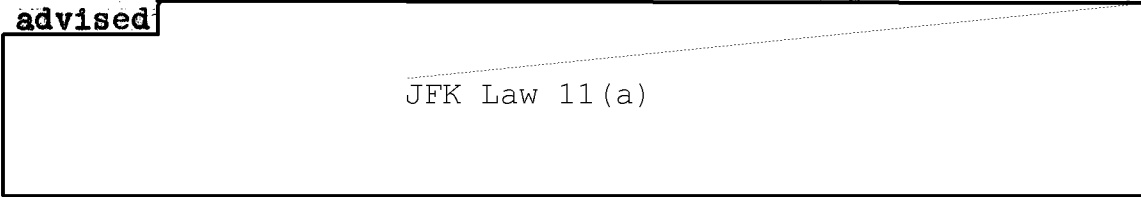
1. North Star Cement Block Company
12 McCandless Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Records of the Prothonotary's Office, Allegheny County, Pa., City-County Building, Pittsburgh, were checked on December 19, 1957, and the following information concerning the North Star Cement Block Co., is recorded in Prothonotary's Record, Volume 120, Page 139, Certificate No. 38421, which may be obtained by subpoena directed to DAVID D. ROBERTS, Prothonotary, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh.

The type of business is indicated as manufacture and sale of cement block, purchase and repair of building material, equipment, machinery and supplies. The owners were listed as NICHOLAS DI PASQUALE, 175 Georgetown St., West View, Pa.; THEODORE P. RIPEPI, 217 Andrew St., Pittsburgh; URSULA RIPEPI, 4720 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, and JOHN S. LA ROCCA, R. F. D. 7, Pittsburgh 29, Pa.

These records indicate that the Certificate was filed on May 28, 1951, by NICHOLAS DI PASQUALE and that a Certificate of Withdrawal of NICHOLAS DI PASQUALE was filed February 10, 1952, and was dated as of November 30, 1951.

PG T-5, who has requested that his identity be concealed, advised



Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Pittsburgh, were examined on December 16, 1957, and disclosed that at a hearing on August 3, 1954, LA ROCCA testified that he owned a forty-seven and one-half percent

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ON 9/29/97 *del*

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interest in the North Star Cement Block Co., that forty-seven and one-half percent of the company was owned by TONY RIPEPI and that the remaining five percent was owned by THEODORE RIPEPI, a nephew of TONY.

PG T-6, who has requested that his identity be concealed, on April 25, 1961, advised

[REDACTED]

JFK Law 11(a)

This source also advised that on income tax returns filed for the years 1951 through 1960, LA ROCCA claimed

[REDACTED]

1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The source advised

JFK Law 11(a)

PG T- 7 , who has requested that his identity be concealed and expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or State proceeding, advised that the following individuals are employed by SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA at the North Star Cement Block Co., 12 McCandless Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.:

NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	ANNUAL INCOME
ANTHONY SCIORILLI 112 North Matilda St., Pittsburgh 24, Pa.	190-10-3019	\$7,123.65
FRED S. WOODFORK 614 Vanilla Way Pittsburgh 6, Pa.	206-03-5406	3,823.34
HERMAN A. SMITH 254 Meyran Ave. Pittsburgh 13, Pa.	167-01-2425	6,259.01
CLEMENT H. REDSHAW 105 Manville Dr. Pittsburgh 37, Pa.	199-10-9861	5,035.45
FRANKLIN K. BULLION 5270 Butler St. Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	410-36-3604	4,514.88
ROBERT E. CAVALLUCCIA 255 Service Way Pittsburgh 1, Pa.	200-20-4682	5,058.62
ALBERT J. MASLEN 183 Burrows St. Pittsburgh 13, Pa.	200-07-0420	4,668.36

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is held by JOHN J. LA ROCCA.

PG T- 6 , who requested that his identity be concealed,
on April 25, 1961, advised that

[REDACTED]

This source advised that on his 1960 income tax return
JOHN S LA ROCCA,

[REDACTED]

This source further advised that the 1960 income tax
return for Keystone Sales, Inc.,

[REDACTED]

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