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DETAILS:

A. PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1. Birth Data

T-1, a reliable source abroad, advised on April 30, 1958, that SEBASTIAN LA ROCCA, the son of IGNAZIO and ROSARIA SCANCARELLO, was born at Villa Rosa, Italy, on December 19, 1901. LA ROCCA departed Villa Rosa before 1927, the year in which the registration of the inhabitants of the community of Villa Rosa was begun.

2. Citizenship Status

On December 12, 1957, SA WILLIAM R. WALL ascertained from the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Pittsburgh, Pa., that JOHN LA ROCCA entered the United States on September 2, 1910, at New York, New York, aboard the "Principe De Piemonte."

These same INS records show that on May 12, 1950, LA ROCCA applied for U. S. citizenship. On January 20, 1953, a deportation warrant was issued for LA ROCCA by the District Director, INS, Philadelphia, Pa., said warrant was based on Sections 241 (a)(4) and 212 (a)(12) of the Immigration Nationality Act. He was arrested January 21, 1953, and subsequently given a deportation hearing as an undesirable alien. This undesirable status was based on previous arrests involving LA ROCCA on criminal-type charges. On August 31, 1953, LA ROCCA testified before an INS Hearing Board that he had been involved in the numbers racket, bootlegging, and slot machines, but added that he was no longer involved in anything other than legitimate enterprises. The "Pittsburgh Press," a Pittsburgh daily newspaper, publicized portions of LA ROCCA's testimony on November 10, 1954, and reported that LA ROCCA had testified that his financial holdings amounted to approximately one-quarter of a million dollars and if permitted to remain in the United States, LA ROCCA testified he would not become a burden of the state.

A news release from the "Pittsburgh Press" dated January 27, 1955, stated in part: "The government today dropped attempt

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A news release of the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" dated May 15, 1957, reported in part that a Federal indictment against ex-racketeer JOHN LA ROCCA was ordered reinstated by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, Pa. In an article dated October 11, 1957, this same newspaper reported that LA ROCCA went on trial in Federal Court charged with perjury and making false statements in connection with his deportation hearing. Then on October 15, 1957, this same newspaper reported in part that Federal Judge RABE F. MARSH had ordered JOHN LA ROCCA acquitted on charges of perjury and making false statements in connection with his deportation hearing. Judge MARSH ruled that the Government had failed to show clear and convincing proof to back up its charges.

HAROLD LAUVER, Investigator, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Pittsburgh, advised SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on March 13, 1958, that his office planned to take action concerning the Petition of Naturalization filed by LA ROCCA on May 12, 1950, and which had never been acted upon. Mr. LAUVER stated that although LA ROCCA had made no new request and had not "pushed" for action to be taken on the petition filed, his office was setting up a hearing and was gathering information regarding LA ROCCA's moral character, known recent criminal associates and identities of persons willing to testify against LA ROCCA.

3. Education

T-1 advised on April 20, 1958, that it was not possible to ascertain whether or not LA ROCCA received any formal schooling during the time that he was in Italy.

On February 13, 1958, FLOYD O. SMITH, Supervising Principal, and THOMAS J. ADDLEMAN, High School Principal, both of Shannock Valley Joint School District, which includes Yatesboro, Pa., where LA ROCCA formerly resided, advised that the Old Yatesboro School had been abandoned and that records of attendance are not available for students who attended from thirty to forty years ago. Both advised that although they have been residents of Rural Valley-Yatesboro area for forty or more years, they could not recall the LA ROCCA family.

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1928	At Scranton, Pa., looking for work.
September 30, 1928	Married in Pittston, Pa., to the former MARY SMELIK (date of birth April 2, 1910, at Jessup, Pa.)
Late 1928 - 1933	Resided with uncle, JOHN LA VALLI, at Jamestown, N. Y., where subject operated a filling station at Cassadaga, N. Y., and during this period was transporting liquor.
September, 1933 - October, 1949	Resided at 6426 Apple Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
February 25, 1944	Subject adopted a child (HOWARD LESLIE HOFFMAN) at Greensburg, Pa., through the Westmoreland County Orphans Court. The father of this child is TONY TERRIGIO (not further identified) and the child was born in Greensburg, Pa., on October 1, 1943. The child was then named JOHN.
October, 1949, to present	Subject resides at 900 West Ingomar Road, Ingomar, Pa.

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With regard to LA ROCCA's present residence, it is pointed out that CASIMER J. PELLEGRINI, owner, Casimer J. Pellegrini Associates, 201 South Craig Street, Pittsburgh, advised SA ROBERT A VOEGE on April 24, 1958, that he designed and directed the building of the home in which LA ROCCA now lives and which he owns. He said that to duplicate this home today would cost between $150,000 to $175,000.

It is pointed out that LA ROCCA's whereabouts have not been known to individuals in his neighborhood or to other available sources since about December, 1957. It is also pointed out that the U. S. Marshal's Office in Pittsburgh has had a subpoena for LA ROCCA to appear before a New York investigating committee with regard to LA ROCCA's possible presence at the November 14, 1957, meeting at Apalachin, N. Y.

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The Buffalo Office advised that on March 10, 1958, Miss EVELYN LEDERER, Clerk, City Court, Dunkirk, New York, advised that her records reflect that on December 17, 1930, one CARL STEIN, Manager of the J. G. PICKARD Store, Dunkirk, New York, obtained a warrant for the arrest of JOHN LA ROCCA for disposing of chattel mortgaged property. She stated that on November 5, 1931, LA ROCCA appeared in court and paid STEIN $115 for the property originally purchased and the charge was dismissed. She advised that the J. G. PICKARD Company went out of business approximately fifteen years ago and that CARL STEIN is deceased.

Release in part per IRS 7/14/98 RP

[redacted] on December 23, 1957, FRANK W. MAGILL, Assistant Chief, Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, advised SA WALL that [redacted]

JFK Law 11(a)

C. ASSOCIATES

Apalachin, New York, Meeting, November 14, 1957

On February 3, 1958, Assistant United States Attorney STEPHEN E. KAUFMAN, Southern District of New York, made available to SAA JOHN J. RYAN photostats of Registration Card No. B56740 of the Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, New York, date stamped on its reverse side 8:58 A.M., November 14, 1957. The registrant, JOHN S. LA ROCCA, (and friend, crossed out) Coin Machine Distributing Company, 500 North Craig, Pittsburgh, Pa., occupied Rooms 852-54-56 at what appeared to be a $10 daily rate. Under the Remarks section is written, "Charge to Onon Canada Dry."

Records at Trans-World Airlines, Wilkes-Barre Scranton Airport, at Avoca, Pa., made available on March 5, 1958, by RUSS GARLAND, Manager, to SA FREDERICK T. HOULIHAN, show that on November 16, 1957, two reservations were made by Medico Industries, Inc., Pittston, Pa., for travel on November 16, 1957, from Avoca, Pa., to Pittsburgh, Pa., on Trans-World

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Airlines Flight #483, leaving at 10:11 A.M. on November 16, 1957. At the time that these two reservations were made on November 16, 1957, the passengers identified themselves as AMATO and LA ROCCO.

The records of telephone calls charged to Pittston OL-47111, which is listed to Medico Industries, Inc., Pittston, reflect that on November 15, 1957, a telephone call charged to this number was made to Pittsburgh, Pa., SO-45296.

It is pointed out that the Pittsburgh Telephone Directory lists JOHN LA ROCCA, Brant Road, Ingomar, Pa., telephone number Forest 45296.

Medico Industries, Inc., Pittston, is operated by WILLIAM, PHILIP, ANGELO, CHARLES and SAMUEL MEDICO. WILLIAM MEDICO, president of this concern, is a top hoodlum of the Philadelphia Office.

On March 12, 1958, a photograph of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA was displayed to EDWARD JENKINS, ticket agent at Trans-World Airlines, Avoca, Pa., and he advised that he believed that LA ROCCA was one of the two men who had reservations on Flight #483 on November 16, 1957, and who boarded this plane at Avoca on November 16, 1957, en route to Pittsburgh.

The "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" under date May 2, 1958, reported that JOHN LA ROCCA was named as one of three men who escaped the roundup of sixty visiting individuals by New York State Troopers at Apalachin, N. Y., in November, 1957.

As mentioned previously, Assistant United States Attorney KAUFMAN, Southern District of New York, advised that JOHN LA ROCCA had been registered at the Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, N. Y., on November 14, 1957, the date of the meeting of hoodlums at Apalachin, N. Y.

On April 16, 1958, Mr. KAUFMAN advised that attempts by the United States Marshal to obtain service on a subpoena for [redacted] presence before a Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York had been unsuccessful. Mr. KAUFMAN said that he had issued a subpoena for [redacted] for [redacted] appearance before the Grand Jury on April 17, 1958, because [redacted] had indicated that [redacted] and had inferred

JFK Law 10(a)2

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that he could produce [redacted] for questioning. Subsequently, Mr. KAUFMAN advised that he had excused [redacted] from appearance in response to the subpoena on the basis that [redacted] was sincere in his statements that he did not know [redacted] whereabouts.

The following individuals are considered current active associates of JOHN LA ROCCA as developed during investigation into the background and operations of LA ROCCA:

JOSEPH ROSA
FRANK VALENTI
NICK STIRONE
FRANK AMATO
THOMAS PECORA
SAMUEL MANNARINO
GABRIEL MANNARINO
TONY RIPEPI
DOMINICK ANZALONE
JOE SICA
FRED KOHL
JACK CANCELLIERI

Investigation has revealed that all of the above have been active leaders in some type of illegal operation at one time or another in the Pittsburgh area.

Brief descriptive data relating to the criminal or hoodlum background of each of the above individuals is as follows:

According to T-3, who requested his identity remain confidential and who stated he will not testify at any future Federal or state proceedings, JOSEPH ROSA was a very powerful, but silent, figure in the gambling and racket element in Western Pennsylvania. ROSA has been investigated under the Top Hoodlum Program of the Pittsburgh Division.

FRANK VALENTI -- According to his FBI identification record, FRANK VALENTI has been arrested at least thirteen times on charges of murder, gambling, breaking and entering, robbery, etc. VALENTI was one of the individuals present at the November 14, 1957, Apalachin meeting. N.Y.

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in any illegal activities but was devoting all of his finances and time in legitimate business enterprises.

DOMINICK ANZALONE -- On September 11, 1957, Chief County Detective JAMES EADIE, Fayette County, Uniontown, Pa., advised that DOMINICK ANZALONE was a power among gamblers and racketeers in Western Pennsylvania, particularly in Fayette County.

JOE SICA -- SICA is the son-in-law of JOSEPH ROSA. SICA was indicted by Federal Grand Jury in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 6, 1948, on conspiracy to violate the Selective Service Act of 1940 but this indictment was nolle-prossed. SICA has been reported as active in the operations of a numbers "book" in the Turtle Creek Valley area of Western Pennsylvania.

FRED KOHL -- Lieutenant THOMAS WEBER, Union Railroad Security Police, Homestead, Pa., advised SA JAMES I. FELSKI on March 19, 1957, that FRED KOHL, co-owner of the Ankara, a supper club, near Pittsburgh, Pa., was active in the numbers racket in Swissvale, Pa., area.

JACK CANCELLIERI -- Pittsburgh Police officers familiar with gambling operations in the general Pittsburgh area advised that JACK CANCELLIERI was a well-known numbers writer on the North Side section of Pittsburgh. PA

In addition to the above-described individuals, others with whom LA ROCCA is closely associated are individuals such as JOHN J. SCARDINA who, according to CHARLES RAY LA CAMERA, a self-admitted numbers writer of Farrell, Pa., was the big numbers operator in the Sharon-Farrell, Pa., area. LA CAMERA advised on July 1, 1957, that all numbers writers work for SCARDINA in the Sharon-Farrell area.

MICHAEL GENOVESE -- On February 27, 1958, [redacted] self-admitted Pittsburgh numbers writer, advised SA ROBERT A. VOEGE that TONY RIPEPI and FRANK VALENTI were important racket men in Pittsburgh; however, RIPEPI was above VALENTI. He said that JOHN LA ROCCA seemed to be the key man in the Pittsburgh area and added that he would place LA ROCCA and GABRIEL MANNARINO as the two men who control the racket

JFK Act 6 (4)

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T-6 said that in the LA ROCCA residence seven murders were committed within the period of a few years and that no one was ever prosecuted for any of these murders. Informant said that in 1922 JOHN LA ROCCA attempted to kill TERESA TRONZO and then after this attack the families of TRONZO and LA ROCCA were constantly at odds and that they all carried firearms. T-6 said that the LA ROCCA family had threatened to kidnap TERESA TRONZO and place her in a house of prostitution unless the charges against LA ROCCA were dropped. (This offense has been previously reported under the caption "Criminal Record.")

In October, 1942, Captain W. I. ENGLISH, U. S. Engineers Office, Pittsburgh, advised SA DANTE DE LILLO that he had information that JOHN LA ROCCA's liaison with the Superintendent of Police in Pittsburgh was through one GEORGE MESSER. (MESSER admittedly has been a partner to LA ROCCA in the numbers business in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh.)

JFK Act 6 (4)

On August 21, 1946, [redacted] advised that he felt that an attempt on his life was brought about by JOHN LA ROCCA and that LA ROCCA's attempt to squeeze him out of business was the purpose for this attempt. [redacted] said that LA ROCCA had exclusive numbers rights in the Eighth Ward and also rights in part of the Thirteenth Ward of Pittsburgh.

On December 13, 1957, T-7, a representative of another Government agency, advised that one MIKE GABLE and FRANK VALENTI and AL LADISH, now deceased, illegally entered the residence of an individual and stole from the premises a .45 caliber automatic pistol. T-7 stated that this allegedly occurred in 1942, 1943 or 1944. This source said that FRANK VALENTI left this gun with JOHN LA ROCCA for safekeeping and that at a later date this same gun was used to kill one GUS GIANNI. T-7 said that his source claimed that FRANK VALENTI had told many times that no act could be committed without the permission of JOHN LA ROCCA and that because of this the source felt that LA ROCCA had knowledge of, and concurred with, the murder of GUS GIANNI.

T-7 further advised that CARLA FERRARI, who was a paramour of FRANK VALENTI at the time of the FREDDIE GARROW and

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exist any longer because they have all been confiscated by the Pennsylvania State Police during their various raids.

On February 27, 1958, [redacted] advised SA VOEGE 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. [redacted] 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. [redacted] 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, [redacted] 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 [redacted] and his move and had someone drive a car over [redacted] one night as he was crossing a street. [redacted] said when he was discharged from the hospital he found out that his automobile had numerous bullet holes in it. [redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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. [redacted] recalled that LA ROCCA was completely bankrupt at that time because of numbers setbacks but managed to raise

JFK Act 6 (4)

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enough money to put up his share. [redacted] said he personally travelled 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 [redacted] 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. [redacted] 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 McGINLEY, SAMUEL MANNARINO and F. W. ZOGG, the latter from Chicago.

(d) Illicit Alcohol

On August 31, 1953, LA ROCCA, while testifying at an INS hearing in his own behalf, stated that he had been "mixed up" in bootlegging, numbers racket, and slot machines, and that in his earlier days he had worked as an Indiana County, Pa., coal miner. LA ROCCA stated that he was then engaged only in legitimate enterprises.

E. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

On October 10, 1955, JOHN LA ROCCA was interviewed at his place of business on Craig Street by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA. LA ROCCA stated that since his trouble with the Internal Revenue Service and the INS, his business in the past three years had dropped so much that he had his business and property up for sale. LA ROCCA stated that he has been patient and cooperative with all government agencies and has been investigated and reinvestigated on numerous occasions and cannot understand why the government will not leave him alone. LA ROCCA stated his true name is SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA and that he never liked the name SEBASTIAN and consequently has been called JOHN for many years. LA ROCCA stated that after he sells his business on Craig Street he will continue to operate the North Star Cement Block Company.

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the perjury trial in Federal Court, Pittsburgh. The subject had maintained that he had no connection with this business as of February 19, 1948, when this business was raided by the Allegheny County Detective Bureau and thirty-eight slot machines were confiscated.

FRED M. THIER, 422 Miller Avenue, Duquesne, made a sworn statement on March 15, 1954, that the Duquesne Vending Company was never sold and that LA ROCCA was still a partner at the time of the raid.

A search of the records of the Prothonotary's Office failed to reveal any record of the Bulk Beverage Company which LA ROCCA had alleged that he owns.

HAROLD W. LAUVER, INS Investigator, advised on December 16, 1957, that he had made a search of the prothonotary's records at Fayette County, Pa., and had not been able to locate any record concerning the Fayette Novelty Company nor the Rock-O-La Corporation which have been allegedly owned in the past by the subject.

A news item dated November 10, 1954, appearing in the "Pittsburgh Press" reflects that JOHN LA ROCCA testified before the Immigration Hearing Board that his net worth is $258,500 and that he has had no income from gambling or other illegal sources in the past ten years.

With regard to the North Star Cement Block Company, it is pointed out that on December 10, 1957, T-8, a representative of another government agency, advised that [redacted] T-8 JFK Law 11(a) advised that [redacted] T-8 said that [redacted]

Regarding the Standard Dryer Distributing Company, it is pointed out that prothonotary records, under fictitious names registration, Volume 133, page 42, Certificate No. 42387, list the United Hand Dryer Distributing Company, 500 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh. The character of this business was to buy, sell and distribute mechanical hand dryers, and the interested partners were JOHN S. LA ROCCA. The date the certificate was issued May 12, 1954.

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LA ROCCA advised at the time of his deportation hearing that after the termination of the Standard Dryer Distributing Company, prothonorary records, fictitious name registration, Volume 120, page 19, Certificate No. 38182, he formed the United Hand Dryer Distributing Company. Heretofore these records could not be found in the Allegheny County Prothonotary's Office.

It is noted that the registration card No. B-56740 of the Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, N. Y., dated November 14, 1957, listed JOHN S. LA ROCCA, Coin Machine Distributing Company, 500 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh.

On March 4, 1958, T-9, whose records are available through the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, advised that his records show that on November 9, 1956, his records show that $45,000 was loaned to JOHN LA ROCCA and his wife, MARY S. LA ROCCA. It was noted that $1,000 was paid on this loan on January 7, 1957, and that $500 payments were made each month thereafter until January 30, 1958, with the exception of September, when two $500 payments were made during that month.

It was noted that there was still a $37,500 balance remaining on this loan as of March 4, 1958, and that this was apparently the second loan made to LA ROCCA.

No notation was noted which would indicate the purpose of this $45,000 loan.

In April, 1958, T-10 advised that [redacted], JFK Law 11(a)

T-10 advised that [redacted]

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JFK Law 11(a)

F. TRAVEL

On January 27, 1958, Mrs. CLOVER GIBSON, Secretary, and Miss LORENA SANDERS, Clerk, Velda Rose Motel, Hot Springs, made records available to SA ROBERT E. HICKMAN, which revealed that JOHN S. LA ROCCA, 500 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh, registered in the Velda Rose Motel on October 22, 1957, with one JOHN SCARDINO (address not given) and departed on November 8, 1957. The records revealed that the subject and SCARDINO resided in Rooms 118 and 99. According to Miss SANDERS, the subject seemingly was in Hot Springs to take the baths and to her recollection had no visitors in his room. Miss SANDERS advised that she did not know what places the subject frequented while visiting in Hot Springs nor did she know any individuals he contacted while in Hot Springs. Miss SANDERS pointed out that the motel did not maintain telephone numbers of local calls their guests make.

On January 21, 1958, Mr. AUSTIN PITTMAN, Assistant Manager, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, advised that a review of his records from 1954 to present revealed no information regarding the subject.

On February 3, 1958, Assistant U. S. Attorney STEPHEN E. KAUFMAN, Southern District of New York, New York, made available to SAA JOHN J. RYAN a photostat of registration card No. B56740 of the Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, N. Y., stamped on its reverse side 8:58 a.m., November 14, 1957. The registrant JOHN S. LA ROCCA (and friend crossed out), Coin Distributing Company, 500 N. Craig, Pittsburgh, Pa.,

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occupied Rooms 852, 854, and 856, at what appears to be a $10 rate. Under the remarks section is written "charged to Onon Canada Dry." The initials of the clerk on duty appear to be "CB." Mr. KAUFMAN volunteered that Inspector DENMAN, New York State Police, Sidney, New York, had turned over the photostat to him on a recent trip KAUFMAN had made to that area.

G. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Through observation, interview, and investigation, JOHN LA ROCCA is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	December 19, 1901
Place of birth	Villa Rosa, Caltanesetta, Sicily, Italy
Height	5'10"
Weight	200 lbs.
Hair	Black, graying
Complexion	Dark
Eyes	Brown
Present Address	900 West Ingomar Road Ingomar, Pa.
Past Address	6426 Apple Street Pittsburgh, Pa.
Marital Status	Married
Wife	MARY S. LA ROCCA
Date of birth	April 2, 1910
Place of birth	Jessup, Pa.
Date of marriage	September 30, 1928, Pittston, Pa.
Son	JOHN LA ROCCA
Date of birth	October 1, 1943
Adopted	TN HOWEARD LESLIE HOFFMAN February 25, 1944 at Greensburg, Pa., through Westmoreland Orphans Court

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