

Eastern seeks complete investigation of any Leprino-crime ties

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Howard McDonald, General Manager of Eastern Milk Producers, has called for a complete and thorough investigation of any possible links between Leprino Foods Company of Denver, Colorado and organized crime.

McDonald's request came in response to recent newspaper stories implying that Arizona police believed that there are connections between Leprino and Joseph Bonanno, Sr. of Phoenix.

Eastern and Leprino are involved in a twenty-year agreement calling for Eastern to own and finance two mozzarella cheese plants in Horseheads, New York and South Waverly, Penna.

The agreement also provides for an exclusive milk supply contract under which Eastern would supply Leprino over the twenty-year period with approximately 600 million pounds of milk annually.

McDonald said "I am getting sick of continued newspaper and magazine reports full of suggestions, half-truths and innuendos about Eastern or Leprino having connections with the mafia. The 4000 members of Eastern are not going to stand idly by and continue to be subjected to this kind of unwarranted attack".

He said further that both Eastern and Leprino would welcome the investigation by any appropriate agency having authority, whether it be the Department of Agriculture and Markets, a state legislative committee, congressional committee or the state crime task force. The important thing, he said, was that it be a responsible agency that would come up with a definite conclusion.

"It is too serious a matter to be tried in the newspapers or left unsettled", stressed the Co-op leader.

McDonald said he would prefer to have any hearings or investigation as public as possible so that everyone will know the truth.

Let's bring everything out

in the open and settle it once and for all. Neither Eastern nor Leprino has anything to hide," he said.

McDonald reported that Leprino has previously been investigated several times and has always come up clean: There have been FBI checks as well as a thorough

investigation by the Pinkerton Agency, authorized by the A.G. Edwards Company, an investment firm which Eastern had hired to place the financing for the cheese plant project.

In addition, McDonald said, "The FmHA application process, itself, calls for FBI checks of both Eastern and Leprino and the principals of each company."

In regard to Eastern's application for a \$20 million

loan guarantee from the Farmers Home Administration, McDonald said he had talked Thursday of this week directly with the Washington office of FmHA and was told the application was being evaluated and processed on schedule.

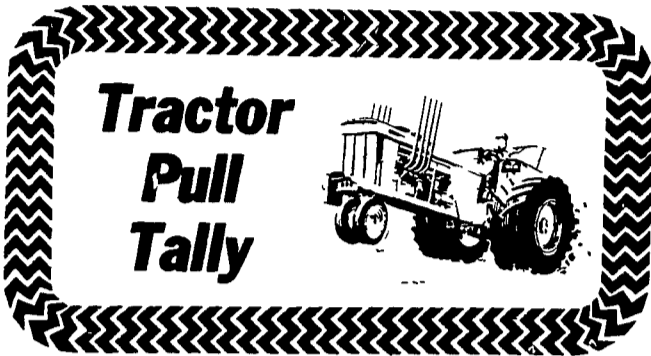
He said James Flickinger, Senior Loan Officer stated that, "As yet, the application has neither been approved, disapproved or delayed."

Flickinger reported, according to McDonald, that, "There was some additional

evaluation to be made but that, all in all, the attitude here is very positive".

McDonald also reported arrangements for the placement of the cheese plant financing is moving ahead satisfactorily. A preliminary draft of a detailed loan agreement with the AMMC Funding Corporation was reviewed at a recent board meeting.

He said, "I expect the loan agreement will be finalized and executed later this month".



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2. Jeff Frantz, Hellam, PA M44/427 Chev. 288.2;
3. Harry Almoney, York, PA Oliver 88/427 Ford 287.9.

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1. Harold Stauffer, Ephrata, PA Deutz 8006 257.7;
2. Dan Greenleaf, Martinsburg, PA JD 4010 247.10;
3. Dale Smoker, Cochranville, PA AC-180 237.5.

5500 FWD

1. Willie Omps, Winchester, VA 1957 Ford, 263.2;
2. Dan Fellenbaum, Litzitz, PA 1969 Chev. 256.0;
3. Linda Ziegler, Bird-in-Hand, PA 1979 Chev. 248.3.

7000 Mod

1. Earle Henderson, Baldwin, MD Case/turbine FP/235.9;
2. Danny Forrester, Shippensburg, PA CK/2-460 Fords FP/230.11;
3. Elwood Funk,

Litzitz, PA Hmde/Allison FP/225.9.

9000 SS

1. Harry Greist, Coatesville, PA IH 1456 232.9;
2. Dan Greenleaf, Martinsburg, PA JD 4010 222.4;
3. Snyder Pulling Team, Address, PA Ford 9600 207.6.

9000 Open

1. Elwood Funk, Litzitz, PA, Allison 279.1;
2. L & Z Pulling Team, Mt. Joy, PA 3-440 Dodges 257.2;
3. Greg Manners, Ringoes, NJ 2-440 Dodges, 253.10.

6500 FWD

1. John Adams, Centerville, MD Ford 288.8;
2. Willie Omps, Winchester, VA 1957 Ford 260.1;
3. Willard Cahall, Townsend, DE Ford 251.8.

12,000 Open

1. Willard Will, Central City, PA Hmde/Allison 287.7;
2. Elwood Funk, Litzitz, PA Hmde/Allison 263.2;
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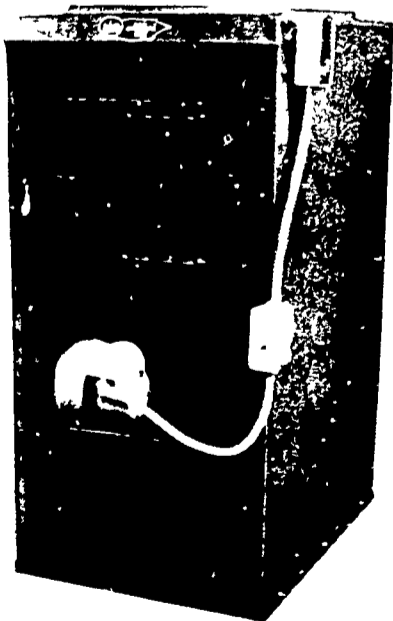
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