

Giltner man charged for alleged bogus investments

By Carol Bryant

The Independent

A Belgrade couple and a Silver Creek man are waiting to be repaid \$290,000 they loaned a Giltner man now charged with theft by deception.

They were told the money would be invested in such diverse items as plastic fence materials manufactured in Lexington, grain bins in Mexico and a gold and silver product called dore, according to court records.

The U.S. District Attorney's Office in Omaha and the Nebraska State Patrol are investigating the two cases and other incidents, said Lt. Bill Schlachter, head of criminal investigations for the Nebraska State Patrol in Grand Island.

"It appears there are six or eight other victims," Schlachter said. Authorities did not say how much money was involved in all of the incidents under investigation.

Frank A. Detamore, 51, of Giltner and a Grand Island bookkeeper were named in State Patrol affidavits and Hall County search warrants. Detamore's office at 1831 N. Webb Road was searched in February. Search warrants were issued in January, February and March to investigate items belonging to them.

Detamore was charged in Hall County Court in February with felony theft by deception for obtaining \$150,000 from Vernon and Ardene Zumbrunn of Belgrade. Detamore's preliminary hearing in county court will be at 9:30 a.m. April 12 before Judge David Bush.

Detamore previously served 18 months to three years in prison on a Nebraska felony conviction for receiving stolen property, according to an affidavit by State Patrol investigator John Frederick filed March 28 in Hall County District Court.

No charges have been filed against the Grand Island bookkeeper.

Detamore could not be reached for comment on the charge.

Victims mentioned in State Patrol affidavits:

The Zumbrunns, a Belgrade couple in their mid-60s who loaned Detamore and the bookkeeper \$150,000 in a check written Sept. 1, 1994. For their investment, the Zumbrunns were supposed to receive \$25,000 interest after 39 days.

An elderly Silver Creek man who told State Patrol Sgt. James Phinney that he gave Detamore at total of \$140,000 as investments to purchase grain bins and grain to be shipped to Mexico.

The Grand Island bookkeeper, who had the Silver Creek man as a client, introduced him to Detamore in Grand Island.

The Silver Creek man stated that Detamore promised him he would double his money on \$100,000 of the investment. The transactions were issued in November or December 1994.

A Phillips woman who told Frederick and Phinney about a \$20,000 loan she made to Detamore on Oct. 12, 1994, for 56 days. She was supposed to receive \$20,000 in interest.

She issued two checks for \$10,000 each to Rio Grain Inc. She received a certificate for one share of Rio Grain stock from Detamore and a promissory note for \$40,000 due Dec. 7, 1994.

A notice of incorporation for RIO Inc. was published in the Aurora News Register on April 10, 1991. The notice states that 40,000 shares were issued for \$1 each. Detamore is the registered agent.

Detamore did not tell the Phillips woman he was a convicted felon as required by state regulations when stock certificates are issued, the affidavit said.

The woman "also states that she was shown documents bearing Chief Industries logo, and she was led to believe Detamore was working for Chief," the affidavit said.

Detamore "was retained by Chief Industries as a 'special consultant' to complete a grain bin deal in Mexico. His affiliation with Chief was terminated on June 1, 1994, because he failed to produce any down payments on the contracts he had written."

"Authorities at Chief advised that at no time were there any grain bins under construction. Chief authorities also advised that funding for the project Detamore was working on was supposed to come from Mexico, and there would be no need to solicit funds locally," the affidavit said.

The Phillips woman was repaid \$20,000, Phinney said.