

Double scam involved in fraud scheme

By Carol Bryant

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A Giltner man convicted of fraud for bilking an elderly Belgrade couple became a victim himself after he invested the money in a California scam, a federal indictment says.

Three men have been indicted, including two last week, for financial scams involving minerals that supposedly contained gold and grain bins in Mexico. Amazing returns were promised for the investments.

Grand Island bookkeeper Richard Rosno, office mate Frank Detamore of Giltner and law office assistant Ismael Allan Munoz of Bakersfield, Calif., have been indicted.

Rosno and Detamore had offices in a building at 1831 N. Webb Road. Detamore leased his office from Rosno, Rosno's indictment says.

U.S. Attorney Tom Monaghan announced indictments of Rosno and Munoz on Thursday.

Detamore, 54, is supposed to be sentenced on March 2. He pleaded guilty in September 1998 to committing wire fraud. He was accused of bilking \$290,000 from elderly investors C.R. Carlson of Silver Creek and Vernon and Ardene Zumbrunn of Belgrade.

"Richard Rosno identified elderly, wealthy clients of his bookkeeping service, such as the Zumbrunns and other individuals, whom he deemed capable of obtaining significant sums of money (thousands of dollars) in a relatively short period of time," his indictment says.

Munoz's three-count indictment reveals the following:

He worked as a legal assistant in a law firm in Bakersfield and made personal investments using the name IAM Co. Detamore conducted transactions using the name FJ&K Management Corp.

Munoz planned to defraud Detamore of \$150,000 and planned to use the money for personal expenses and investments. He contacted Detamore on Aug. 30, 1994, about investing in dore, which could undergo a smelting process to extract gold and other minerals.

The Californian offered Detamore a \$450,000 return on a \$150,000 investment by Oct. 17, 1994. Munoz used various methods "to lull Frank Detamore into a false sense of security and to obtain extensions of the Oct. 17, 1994, due date," the indictment says.

Detamore acquired the money he gave Munoz from the Zumbrunns. After learning of the couple's involvement, Munoz had a document delivered to them on Jan. 11, 1995, "purporting to be a performance and financial guarantee from an entity known as Investor's Guarantee and Surety Group." Munoz had a \$180,000 check delivered to the Zumbrunns on April 11, 1995, but it couldn't be cashed because of a stop-payment order.

Rosno's three-count indictment says:

He planned to defraud the Zumbrunns so he could participate with Detamore in the dore transaction in Bakersfield. Rosno was present when Detamore received the offer from Munoz on Aug. 30, 1994, to be involved in the dore investment.

Rosno told Detamore "he knew how to obtain the \$150,000 needed to participate in this investment," the indictment says.

The bookkeeper invited the Zumbrunns to his office on Aug. 30, 1994, introduced them to Detamore and met with them for three hours.

Rosno directed the couple to make their check payable to Rio Grain and Supply, of which Detamore was president. The Zumbrunns were promised they would receive their \$150,000 investment and another \$25,000 in 39 days.

The bookkeeper used lulling tactics, including seeking extensions of time to make payment. He also wrote a \$75,000 check on the account of Computer Services/Rosno Bookkeeping Service to Vernon Zumbrunn. The check had no value because of a stop-payment order Rosno made.

In a second scheme, he and Detamore made a verbal agreement on Sept. 29, 1994, to share proceeds of a foreign currency transaction Detamore was conducting in New York.

However, Detamore did not have \$100,000 needed for the transaction. Rosno then devised a scheme to defraud \$100,000 from C.R. Carlson of Silver Creek, the indictment says. Carlson now lives in a Stromsburg nursing home.

Rosno told Carlson that Detamore needed investors for a project to construct and sell grain elevators in Mexico. Rosno promised Carlson a \$100,000 profit in 30 days if Carlson would invest \$100,000 immediately, the indictment says.

The bookkeeper accompanied Carlson to the First National Bank of Osceola so Carlson could get a \$100,000 loan for the investment. Rosno gave Carlson a note promising to pay him \$200,000 30 days after Sept. 29, 1994.

Rosno directed Carlson to buy two cashier's checks for \$50,000 each, payable to Detamore from FJ&K Inc. Rosno forwarded the checks to Detamore in Buffalo, N.Y., by overnight delivery.

In another scheme, Detamore told Rosno he needed \$25,000 to continue with the foreign currency transaction in New York. Rosno contacted a client of his bookkeeping service, Larelda Valle, and told her he had a good investment opportunity.

He told Valle "that he was only asking his 'good' clients to participate in the investment," the indictment says. Rosno claimed he had invested \$100,000 of his own money in the investment being offered to her.

The investment involved construction of grain bins in Mexico. Valle was supposed to receive a \$10,000 return on a

\$25,000 investment in 30 days. Rosno accompanied Valle to Norwest Bank in Hastings to get the \$25,000 needed, the indictment says. The bookkeeper then transferred \$25,000 to Newark, N.J., on Oct. 9, 1994.

The U.S. attorney's office is requesting trials for Rosno and Munoz in Omaha.