UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

[X] Quarterly Report Under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For Quarter Ended December 31, 1996

OR

[ ] Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Commission File Number 1-6227

Lee Enterprises, Incorporated

A Delaware Corporation I.D. #42-0823980
215 N. Main Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801
Phone: (319) 383-2100

Indicate by a check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes [X] No [ ]

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practical date.

Class	Outstanding At December 31, 1996
Common Stock, $2.00 par value	34,280,223
Class "B" Common Stock, $2.00 par value	12,410,236

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

	1996	1995
Three Months Ended December 31:	(Unaudited)	
Operating revenue:		
Newspaper:		
Advertising	$48,293	$45,201
Circulation	20,194	20,184
Other	13,888	13,134
Broadcasting	35,381	30,341
Equity in net income of associated companies ..	1,912	1,921
	119,668	110,781
Operating expenses:		
Compensation costs	41,323	38,614
Newsprint and ink	7,964	10,215
Depreciation	3,981	3,773
Amortization of intangibles	2,703	2,838
Other	31,285	29,278
	87,256	84,718
Operating income	32,412	26,063

Financial (income) expense, net		
Financial (income)	(544)	(527)
Financial expense	1,742	2,555
	1,198	2,028
Income from continuing operations before taxes on income	31,214	24,035
Income taxes	12,106	9,343
Income from continuing operations	19,108	14,692
Income from discontinued operations, net of income tax effect	- -	1,248
Net income	$19,108	$15,940
Weighted average number of shares	47,820	48,297
Earnings per share:		
Income from continuing operations	$ 0.40	$ 0.30
Income from discontinued operations	- -	0.03
	$ 0.40	$ 0.33
Dividends per share	$ 0.13	$ 0.12

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In Thousands)

ASSETS	December 31, 1996	September 30, 1996
	(Unaudited)	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 30,590	$ 19,267
Accounts receivable, net	57,235	50,211
Newsprint inventory	1,441	3,668
Program rights and other	14,695	17,183
Net assets of discontinued operations	55,496	56,379
Total current assets	159,457	146,708
Investments	22,187	22,156
Property and equipment, net	105,026	104,705
Intangibles and other assets	251,243	253,847
	$537,913	$527,416

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities	$103,387	$ 97,777
Long-term debt, less current maturities	52,103	52,290
Deferred items	53,067	52,395
Stockholders' equity	329,356	324,954
	$537,913	$527,416

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In Thousands)

Three Months Ended December 31:	1996	1995
	(Unaudited)	
Cash Provided by Operations:		
Net income	$19,108	$15,940
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operations:		
Depreciation and amortization	7,743	7,720
Distributions in excess of current earnings of associated companies	1,844	1,953
Other balance sheet changes	11,109	(395)
Net cash provided by operations	39,804	25,218
Cash (Required for) Investing Activities:		
Purchase of temporary investments	- -	(200)
Proceeds from maturities of temporary investments	- -	200
Purchase of property and equipment	(4,302)	(4,346)
Other	(437)	(931)
Net cash (required for) investing activities	(4,739)	(5,277)
Cash (Required for) Financing Activities:		
Purchase of Lee Common Stock	(9,115)	(868)
Payments on short-term notes payable	(15,000)	- -
Other	373	151
Net cash (required for) financing activities	(23,742)	(717)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	11,323	19,224
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning	19,267	10,683
Ending	$30,590	$29,907

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The information furnished reflects all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to a fair presentation of the financial position as of December 31, 1996 and the results of operations and cash flows for the three-month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995.

Note 2. Investment in Associated Companies

Condensed operating results of unconsolidated associated companies are as follows:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 1996	Three Months Ended December 31, 1995
	(In Thousands) (Unaudited)	
Revenues	$19,777	$19,291
Operating expenses, except depreciation and amortization	13,190	12,727
Depreciation and amortization	501	460
Operating income	6,086	6,104
Financial income	317	308
Income before income taxes	6,403	6,412
Income taxes	2,578	2,569
Net income	3,825	3,843

a. Madison Newspapers, Inc. (50% owned)
b. Quality Information Systems (50% owned)
c. INN Partnership, LC (an effective 50% owned)

Note 3. Cash Flows Information

The components of other balance sheet changes are:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 1996	Three Months Ended December 31, 1995
	(In Thousands) (Unaudited)	
(Increase) in receivables	$(8,663)	$(8,151)
Decrease in inventories, film rights and other	4,355	1,969
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable, accrued expenses and unearned income	5,161	(4,209)
Increase in income taxes payable	11,085	9,265
Other	(829)	731
	$11,109	$ (395)

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Operating results:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 1996	1995
	(Dollar Amounts in Thousands, Except Per Share Data)	
Revenue	$119,668	$110,781
Percent change	8.0%	
Income before depreciation and amortization, interest and taxes (EBITDA)	39,096	32,674
Percent change	19.7%	
Operating income	32,412	26,063
Percent change	24.4%	
Income from continuing operations	19,108	14,692
Percent change	30.1%	
Net income	19,108	15,940
Percent change	19.9%	
Earnings per share:		
Income from continuing operations	0.40	0.30
Percent change	33.3%	
Net income	0.40	0.33
Percent change	21.2%	

Operations by line of business are as follows:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 1996	1995
	(In Thousands)	
Revenue:		
Newspapers	$ 84,287	$ 80,440
Broadcasting	35,381	30,341
	$119,668	$110,781
Income before depreciation and amortization, interest, and taxes (EBITDA):		
Newspapers	$ 30,119	$ 26,151
Broadcasting	12,925	9,878
Corporate	(3,948)	(3,355)
	$ 39,096	$ 32,674
Operating income:		
Newspapers	$ 26,387	$ 22,601
Broadcasting	10,122	6,951
Corporate and other	(4,097)	(3,489)
	$ 32,412	$ 26,063
Capital expenditures:		
Newspaper	$ 1,567	$ 2,013
Broadcasting	2,528	2,061
Graphic arts	- -	227
Corporate	207	45
	$ 4,302	$ 4,346

There were no significant non-recurring items during the quarter.

NEWSPAPERS

Wholly-owned daily newspaper advertising revenue increased $3,092,000, 6.8%. Advertising revenue from local merchants increased $1,907,000, 6.7%. Local "run-of-press" advertising increased $1,756,000, 9.1%, as a result of higher average rates and a 4.0% increase in advertising inches. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas was shorter than normal and merchants increased their advertising to stimulate sales. Local preprint revenue increased $151,000, 1.7%. Classified advertising revenue increased $1,005,000, 8.0%, as a result of higher averages rates and a 4.3% increase in advertising inches. The employment category was the biggest contributor to the increase. Circulation revenue increased $10,000, 0.1%, as a result of higher rates which offset a 2.4% decrease in volume. Other revenue at daily newspapers increased $495,000, 6.0%, primarily as a result of increases in commercial printing and other non-traditional products and services.

Wholly-owned daily newspaper compensation expense increased $1,231,000, 5.2%, due primarily to increases in average compensation. Newsprint and ink costs decreased $2,251,000, (22.0%), due to lower newsprint prices. Newsprint prices remain below prior year levels; however, newsprint suppliers have announced their intention to increase prices in the second quarter of the fiscal year. Based on present market conditions, we anticipate prices to remain below prior year levels for the balance of the fiscal year but price increases are probable in the future. Other operating expenses exclusive of depreciation and amortization increased $702,000, 4.4%.

Revenues from weekly newspapers, shoppers, and specialty publications increased $259,000, 5.0%. Operating income decreased $52,000, (26.0%), due to higher than anticipated costs of specialty publications.

BROADCASTING

Revenue for the quarter increased $5,040,000, 16.6%, as political advertising increased $4,273,000, 391.5%, and local/regional/national advertising increased $340,000, 1.3%. Production revenue increased $390,000, 34.5%, primarily due to increased corporate/studio business at MIRA Creative Group in Portland, Oregon. Advertising revenue growth may be adversely affected in the balance of the fiscal year due to limited political advertising which category amounted to approximately $5,000,000 in the last nine months of fiscal 1996. We are also affected, but less significantly, by the loss of Olympic advertising as NBC affiliate revenue accounts for only 30% of our broadcast revenue.

Compensation costs increased $1,197,000, 10.5%, due to a 4.4% increase in the number of hours worked and an increase in the average hourly rates. Programming costs for the quarter decreased $476,000, (19.1%), primarily due to decreased amortization from programs amortized on an accelerated basis. Other operating expenses exclusive of depreciation and amortization increased $1,270,000, 19.2%, primarily due to increased audience promotion for the November ratings period, and outside services.

CORPORATE COSTS

Corporate costs increased by $608,000, 17.4%, as a result of increased marketing costs, the enhancement of computer software, and relocation costs.

FINANCIAL EXPENSE AND INCOME TAXES

Interest expense was reduced due to payments on long-term debt, along with payment of short-term borrowings used to finance the acquisition of SJL of Kansas Corp.

Income taxes were 38.8% and 38.9% of pre-tax income for the quarters ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively.

DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

On November 4, 1996 the Company signed a letter of intent to sell its graphic arts products subsidiary, NAPP Systems Inc. for approximately $55,000,000. The closing occurred on January 17, 1997.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash provided by operations, which is the Company's primary source of liquidity, generated $39,804,000 for the quarter. Available cash balances, cash flow from operations and bank lines of credit provide adequate liquidity. Covenants related to the Company's credit agreements are not considered restrictive to operations and anticipated stockholder dividends.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This report contains forward-looking statements and includes assumptions concerning the Company's operations, future results and prospects. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties. In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company provides the following cautionary statements identifying important economic, political, and technological factors which, among others, could cause the actual results or events to differ materially from those set forth or implied by the forward-looking statements or assumptions.

Such factors include the following: (i) changes in the current and future business environment, including interest rates and capital and consumer spending; (ii) prices for newsprint products; (iii) the availability of quality broadcast programming at competitive prices; (iv) the quality and ratings of network over-the-air broadcast programs; and (v) legislative or regulatory initiatives affecting the cost of delivery of over-the-air broadcast programs to the Company's customers. Further information concerning the Company and its businesses, including factors that potentially could materially affect the Company's financial results, is included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

(a) Exhibits:

Exhibit "A" - Computation of Earnings Per Share

(b) The following report on Form 8-K was filed during the three months ended December 31, 1996.

Date of Report: November 4, 1996

Item 5: Announce that a letter of intent was executed for the disposition by Lee Enterprises, Incorporated of its graphic arts products subsidiary, NAPP Systems Inc. to Polyfibron Technologies, Inc.

Financial statements filed: None

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

/s/ G.C. Wahlig	January 30, 1997
G.C. Wahlig, Chief Accounting Officer	Date

PART I. EXHIBIT "A"

COMPUTATION OF EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

	Three Months Ended December 31, 1996	Three Months Ended December 31, 1995
	(Unaudited)	
Income applicable to common shares:		
Income from continuing operations	$19,108	$14,692
Income from discontinued operations	- -	1,248
Net income	$19,108	$15,940
Shares:		
Weighted average common shares outstanding	$46,967	$47,378
Dilutive effect of certain stock options	853	919
Average common shares outstanding as adjusted	$47,820	$48,297
Earnings per common share:		
Income from continuing operations	$ 0.40	$ 0.30
Income from discontinued operations		0.03
Net income	$ 0.40	$ 0.33

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THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE DECEMBER 31, 1996 10-Q FOR LEE ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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3-MOS
SEP-30-1997
DEC-31-1996
30,590
0
58,752
4,398
1,441
159,457
246,110
141,084
537,913
103,387
52,103
0
0
93,381
235,975
537,913
117,756
119,668
0
0
87,256
0
1,742
31,214
12,106
19,108
0
0
0
19,108
.40
.40