

There is not much to report on here. Since we see a lot posts asking what the Chinese Chars on chips actually means, I thought I would post one I am pretty sure of. Also to let you California boys know the chip is out there. Unknown if there are other colors.

Thank you to MR S and a friend of his for the explanation. MR S is welcome to post if he wants to.

“You need to know in case anyone asks. The characters on the chips are what is called "Traditional" which is what was and is being used by Chinese in Calif., actually the whole West Coast. You might hear about "Simplified" which is a similar system considerably reduced and introduced in the 1950s or 60s - not well known here in the States. All of the chips will be in Traditional.”

“The written dialect I use is Cantonese, the main southern dialect, and which is what has been spoken here since the Gold Rush. However, as more Chinese come over from the mainland they are bringing Mandarin, the major and now official dialect in China. So you might get static on that score.”

I believe Mike Vuolo has 1 trader of this one.

Michael Vuolo (mike@pokergurus.com)

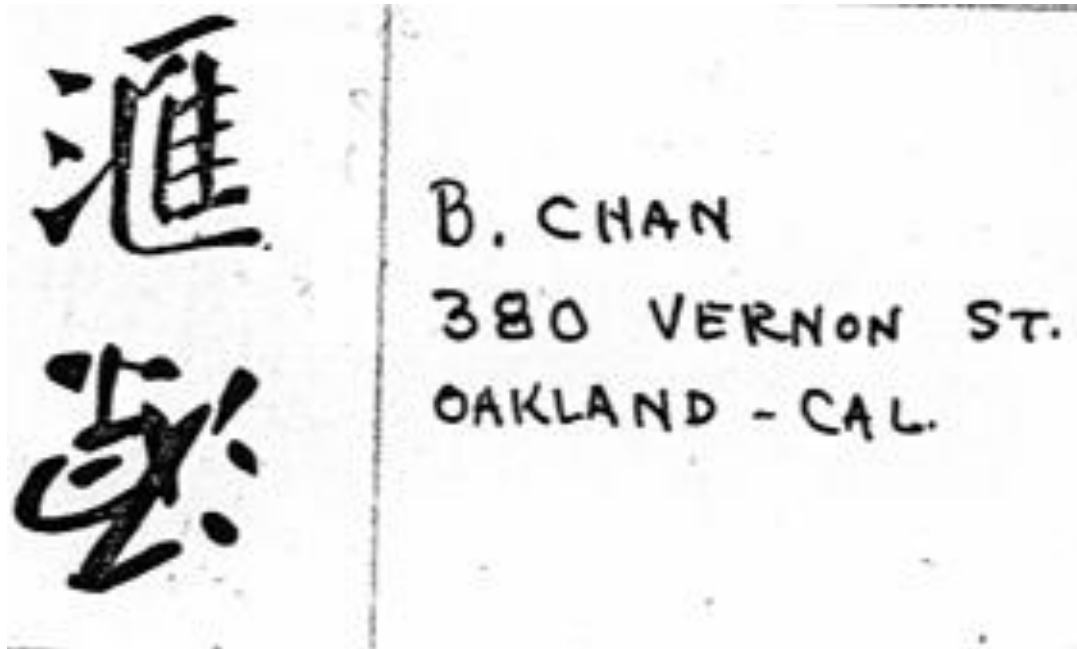
I did not send it for research. I do not have a delivery date. All that could be found in the Mason records was the Die Tag. Mason considered it a “Special Die.” I am not sure of their thinking on some orders.

No date and B Chan. I wonder just how many Chan’s lived in Oakland over the years? <g> Sort of like looking for B Smith. <g> I know China Town in Oakland is a big community as they have their own Chamber Of Commerce. If my memory serves me there is another large China Town across the bay in that bother big CA city. <g> Too many Chan’s. <g>

After hearing from our friend, I believe the below scan is the correct orientation for the Chars.



1 chinese char 1&2



Also from our friend.

I can give you an immediate response on the grey/black chips.

I'll have to work on the other one a bit.

My note: He is talking about the ABC chip with a Char I posted last week. I added the info on the Char to that post.

Left: Wui - remit (or possibly "good for")

Right: Yun - source (of luck or wealth). Your image is tilted. The 3 dots should be in an up and down line. The character is upside down in the hand-drawn inscription.

The cash value is not shown. The gaming club probably put a value on each color. Very likely there are others like this in different colors.

Update Nov 21, 2010

My statement from the original post.

“No date and B Chan. I wonder just how many Chan’s lived in Oakland over the years? <g> Sort of like looking for B Smith. <g> I know China Town in Oakland is a big community as they have their own Chamber Of Commerce. If my memory serves me there is another large China Town across the bay in that other big CA city. <g> Too many Chan’s. <g> “

Ok, I admit it! I WAS WRONG! May be the 1st time I was ever wrong! <g>

Read on.

And now "The Rest Of The Story."

Huge gambling operation and convicted for trading with the enemy (China). Paid San Mateo county officials \$15,000 per month in bribes to operate. The gambling houses had guards deputized by the San Mateo sheriff. Operated under dummy corporations and illegal tax maneuvers.

The Palms Casino entrance was in San Francisco County. Limo's would deliver the players to the front door. They walked through the club into a back room that was in San Mateo County and protected by the payoff's.

Sam and Harold Nason had this same idea of straddling county lines in Clermont/Hamilton counties, Ohio back in 1937. They were going to use an double wide mobile home but never did put it into use.

Translation: From Mr S.

Left: Wui - remit (or possibly "good for")

Right: Yun - source (of luck or wealth)

Confirmed:

B Chan= Bok Hing Chan

The Palms, Goat Ranch and Cabbage Patch.

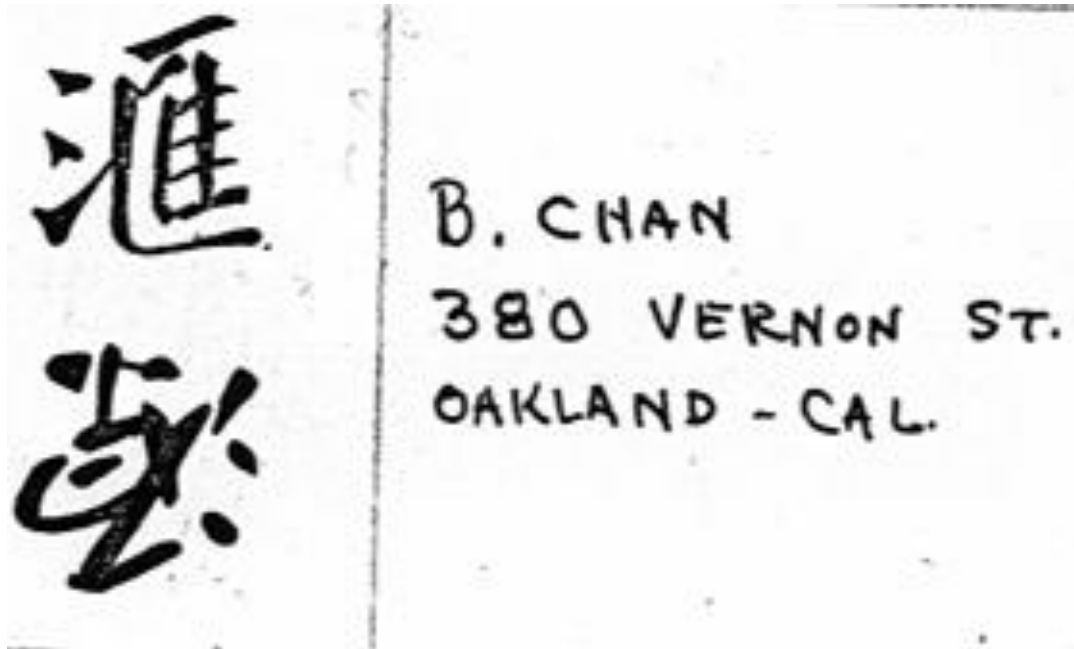
SW corner of Waverly & Washington

San Mateo, CA.

1940's-50's



1 chinese char 1&2



Enter my " Friend Of The Hobby: Geez he is good at this. <g>

Saw your post the other day on the B. Chan chip.

My first thought was: Forget it! It's Chinatown.

(But I'm too damn curious.)

The chip was delivered to Bok Hing Chan, one of the kingpins of Bay area Chinese gambling circles in the 30's and 40's. He came to the US from Canton, China around 1910 and left for Hong Kong in 1953, a fugitive.

380 Vernon was Chan's residential address from 1939 until he went on the lam in May 1953. During this time he is known to have operated at least these three gambling houses: The Palms, Goat Ranch and Cabbage Patch.

His HQ was a pawnshop in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown. The 64 year old Chan got out of dodge after being sentenced to 10 years in Federal prison for income tax evasion.

Forgot to mention that the "Wui" and "Yun" on the chip appears to be the name used by Chan for his gambling operations: spelled "Wai" and "Yuen" in first article.

San Mateo Times—20nov1952 (Chan's name is written Chin Bock Hing: Chin a variation of Chan; Bock a spelling choice; often with Asian names the last name is written first).

Fabulous Chinese Gambler to Know Fate Tomorrow

By STANLEY WISEMAN

Chin Bock Hing, sometimes called "King of the Cabbage Patch," now free on \$35,000 bail pending a review of his conviction for income tax evasion, will plead in United States district court in San Francisco tomorrow to charges of trading with the enemy.

The 64-year-old Chinese, who once ran a string of gambling clubs in northern San Mateo county, Emeryville, Watsonville, Bakersfield, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Marysville and San Pablo, is also free on \$5000 bail in connection with the accusation of trading with the enemy.

Gold Smuggling Charge

Chin will enter his plea to charges handed down by a San Francisco grand jury alleging that he smuggled gold to Red China through Hong Kong for Chinese residents in the bay area for 3 per cent interest.

Penalty for conviction on the charges is 10 years in prison or \$10,000, or both.

He was fined \$20,000 and sentenced to 10 years in federal prison last week after conviction in U. S. district court on charges of evading \$133,697 in income taxes for the year 1945. A previous trial resulted in a hung jury.

Called "Amoral, Vicious"

The fabulous Chin, who came to this country in 1910 as a young man of 20 years, was described as an "amoral, vicious man—the man (who) over a period of many years has prospered by draining the earnings of lowly Oriental agricultural workers," by Federal District Judge Edward P. Murphy in his sentencing of Chin.

During the trial it was brought out Chin owned and operated three Chinese gambling clubs in San Mateo county from 1938 to 1947.

Using dummy corporations and partnerships, Chin operated two gambling clubs in Visitacion valley and one in Colma under the general name of the Wai Yuen club. Testimony given by revenue agents and former employes at the trial gave the place names of the clubs as "The Palms" and the "Goat Ranch" in Visitacion valley and "The Cabbage Patch" in Colma.

The three clubs operated alter-



Chin Bock Hing, 64-year-old Chinese mystery man and once owner of gambling clubs in San Mateo and throughout the bay area, here is shown at the trial. A stocky figure, Chin was said to be the best dressed person at the trial. He is now out on \$35,000 bail awaiting appeal for income tax evasion and \$5000 bail awaiting trial for allegedly "trading with the enemy."

nately, depending upon where the "heat" was on.

No Testimony of Payoff

A remark by Judge Murphy in his summation that Chin paid San Mateo county officials \$15,000 for operating his clubs in this county apparently was made independently of the record.

Judge Murphy, in a single paragraph, referred to the alleged payments by saying, "... And a thoroughly reliable source informs the court that he (Chin) paid \$15,000 to San Mateo officials for the privilege of operating his illegal activities there."

Assistant United States Attorney Macklin Fleming, who prosecuted the case for the government, later elaborated on the statement to say that the \$15,000 fee allegedly was paid monthly.

Sheriff Informant

He said the information had come third hand to his attention
(Turn to Page 2, Column 8)

Gambler Case Up Tomorrow

(Continued From Page 1)

through Sheriff H. B. (Jack) Gleason of Alameda county and was not brought into the trial as evidence because it could not be "pinned down."

Easily the most startling testimony at the trial, which lasted three months, was that of George Gibbons, bodyguard, chauffeur and "jack-of-all-trades" to Chin until last year.

Gibbons related he had been paid \$60 a week by Chin from February 6, 1927, until last year for his services.

For this he drove Chin from his home in Oakland to Chin's Chinese pawnshop in downtown San Francisco's Chinatown at 159 Waverly place, carried money back and forth to the various gambling clubs owned by Chin and allegedly acted as a dummy for Chin in making income tax returns.

"I used to go out to 'The Palms,' located at 2634 Bayshore boulevard, with change for the manager," Gibbons testified. "Also I took money from the shop at 159 Waverly place to the 'Goat Ranch,' back of the Cow Palace, and the 'Cabbage Patch,' located at 910 Market street in Colma."

On other runs, Gibbons testified, he went to the San Mateo county gambling clubs to pick up money from the club managers for Chin.

He said when he arrived at the clubs the manager usually would invite him inside and give him packages of currency. All employees within sight were Chinese, he asserted. (According to United States Attorney Fleming, the guards at the clubs were white men, deputized by the local sheriff. This was not brought out in trial testimony, however.)

There were at least 11 gambling clubs operated by Chin, according to trial testimony, all catering exclusively to Chinese and Oriental trade. They apparently were shut down in 1947 when Chin began liquidating his assets allegedly to go into the gold smuggling business.

Chinese char2 att 2

San Mateo Times—22nov1952 (gives description of a raid at The Palms; the club sat on the San Francisco/San Mateo county line; patrons entered on the SF side and gambled on the SM side).

Weird Gambling Tangle Unfolded in Chin Trial

By STANLEY WISEMAN

A weird pattern of alleged San Mateo and bay area-wide gambling clubs, pseudo identities, dummy corporations and illegal tax maneuvers were unfolded before jurors in the United States district court in the trial of Chin Bock Hing, 64-year-old Oakland Chinese now free on \$35,000 bail pending an appeal of his conviction on income tax evasion.

Chin, who was tried under the name of Chin Lin Mou, remains an Oriental figure of mystery despite some three months testimony in court.

Police Testimony Recalled
However, direct testimony by San Francisco Police Inspector Marion Overstreet, concerning a raid on one of Chin's three San Mateo county gambling clubs swept away a portion of the haze surrounding the operations of a string of clubs in the bay area.

Chin operated "The Palms" on the San Mateo-San Francisco county line and the "Goat Ranch" to the rear of the Cow Palace, both in the Visitacion valley area of Bayshore City. A third club, operated alternately with the bayside

clubs, was "Cabbage Patch" in Colma.

The Cabbage Patch is now deserted. The Palms and the Goat Ranch have been torn down. But the title, "King of the Cabbage Patch," still tags Chin.

Limousine Tracked
Inspector Overstreet testified the San Francisco police, after following a limousine from Kenney and Grant streets in San Francisco to a rear door of The Palms, ordered the club raided as a gambling hall.

On the night of February 14, 1945, Inspector Overstreet and his men moved in shortly before midnight. Covering as many exits as could be located, the police walked in through the front door and demanded entrance to the back room.

"When we had pushed our way through, we found a second door," Overstreet said. "Beyond that we found a scene of confusion. There must have been about 200 Orientals inside milling around, some carrying white cloths containing money."

Games Described
The inspector stated there were 12 to 15 cash cages at the far end of the room. There were 10 tables and chairs for players. On the tables was found equipment used in the Chinese gambling games of dow ngow, fan tan and py gow and Chinese lottery cards.

In dow ngow there are six players with a set of 32 Chinese colored dominoes. Two dominoes are discarded and each player is dealt five dominos. Dice are used to determine the dealer. The game corresponds roughly to the Anglo game of black-jack, with from 3 to 10 per cent being taken by the house in all plays.

Fan tan is played with four outlined squares and a bowl of beans or buttons. The bowl is filled with beans from a sack by the dealer. Bets are placed and the dealer begins extracting four beans at a time with a long curved stick. The players bet on the number of beans left for the final draw. Bets are placed in one of the squares representing a certain number of beans at the final draw. The house takes 10 per cent. There are four methods of playing, each with different odds. Bets are limited to a house loss of \$1500.

Confiscated Fortune
Py Gow also uses 32 Chinese dominoes. The house runs the game and there are four players, counting the dealer in each game. Dice are used to determine first draw and there are 19 possible domino combinations with value. Bettors draw two dominoes at the beginning and have eight dominoes each play. Limit of points is 38. The game bears a faint resemblance to poker.

Police confiscated \$42,219 in currency and \$9000 in coin in the raid. Inspector Overstreet told the court this was later returned to Chin Bock Hing and his attorney after a total fine of \$2300 was paid for the five dealers arrested at the Palms. Overstreet said Chin agreed to purchase 500 tickets to the policemen's ball upon the suggestion of an officer present when the impounded money was returned.

Fleet of Cars
Later testimony by Chin's accountant, David Shew, indicated that a limousine fleet was partially owned by the Chinese gambling overlord for the purpose of transporting Chinese from San Francisco's Chinatown to San Mateo county and one of the three clubs.

The limousines would unload at the rear of The Palms, according to Overstreet, and the players would enter a door located in San Francisco county to play in a room in San Mateo county.

Inspector Overstreet said The Palms was closed down following the raid, until it could be moved 50 feet southward and completely inside San Mateo county, although this still could not prevent San Francisco police from raiding the operation. Police may go 500 feet outside county limits in investigations or to make an arrest.

Chinese char3 att2

Current view of the site of Chan's HQ at 159 Waverly (SW corner of Waverly & Washington).

