

The Palm Tree large crowns are known as the California site has them pictured with the wrong ID.

Jay Pike found the Palm Tree chips on one of his never ending haunts of antique stores and flea markets. TR King records gives us the following information.



Palm Tree1

ID a bit confusing. It says

Jimmy Lloyd

Club 2634 Bayshore

2090 Pacific Ave.

San Francisco

5000 chips in 1943 and then 1600 a week later. Looks like it could be two addresses rolled into one.

ie Club (something missing)

2634 Bayshore

and another order to 2090 Pacific.

6600 chips plus a 3rd order with unknown chip count.

It is time to put the Team to work. Credit Ed Hertel and Jay Pike for the research.

The research came back to Bok Hing Chan, The Palms, 2634 Bayshore, San Francisco, CA. Chinese place. Looks like it straddles two counties.

2090 Pacific is residential, apartments probably, as many people live there at the same time. I don't know who Jimmy Lloyd is, might not even be a real name.

As it turns out Bok Hing Chan and his gambling empire were the subject of "Illegal Of The Day" California 3 posted on 11/18/10. It was research on several chips with "Chinese Chars" on them. You can read it here.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/illegaloftheday/BokHingChanCA.pdf>

Bok Hing chan had a string of gambling clubs. At least 11 known. He had some of his clubs listed under one company, Wai Yuen Social Club.

Known Club names...

Palms.....2634 Bayshore Blvd.

Cabbage Patch.....910 Market st. Colma

Goat Ranch.....(behind the Cow Palace) would be about 2+ miles from Palms

Other towns he owned clubs...

N. San Mateo County (Palms & Goat Ranch), Emeryville, Watsonville, Bakersfield, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Marysville, and San Pablo You can find chips attributed to some of these clubs on the CA site.

1943

# Money, Liquor Stolen During Daylight Theft

(Times Redwood City Bureau)

**REDWOOD CITY, Sept. 21.**

—Less than 18 hours after "The Palms," swank gaming resort at 2634 Bayshore boulevard in Bayshore City, had been "knocked over" by a commando raid of San Mateo county deputy sheriffs, the same resort had reported to officers that it had been burglarized of \$1071 in cash and 47 cases of assorted liquors valued at \$3350.

## Robbed in Daylight

Earnest Buckley, bar manager for "The Palms," told raid leading Deputy Sheriff Walter Moore, and Frank B. Marlowe, criminal investigator for the district attorney's office, that some person or persons had entered the establishment between 9 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. yesterday and removed the liquor after forcing a safe to obtain the cash that had been placed in it by the bar. Buckley said that he did not know the amount of money belonging to the gaming side of the resort which had been in the same.

## Holes Drilled

Moore found that holes had been drilled above the combination of the safe and the lock of an inner door in an apparent attempt to force the strongbox open and that it had been opened and rifled of contents. The holes appeared to be the work of a professional safe cracker but there was no evidence of a "come-along bar" and said that the liquor

(Turn to Page 3, Column 5)

Palm Tree2

MORE ABOUT—

# Tavern Robbed After Raid

(Continued from Page 1)

been used. The tumblers and combination of the safe were unharmed and in working order.

Remaining enigmatic was the identity of the owner or owners of "The Palms." Buckley professed not to know who was owner of the bar and said that the liquor license was in process of transfer. Further investigation by officers revealed that the license is currently held by a James Lloyd.

## No Tire Marks

Moore was unsuccessful in reaching Millard Eros of San Francisco, who met bail for himself and six other employees of the gambling side of the resort on Saturday night. Eros and the others are slated to appear before Justice John Fahey Jr. at Daly City on Thursday morning for a preliminary hearing on the gambling charge. They were released by Fahey on \$100 bail each.

Moore said there were no identifiable tire marks or other evidences of a truck having been used to haul the 47 cases of liquor which were said taken from a locked storeroom. A sum of \$175 said taken from a cabinet in the liquor storeroom was the only link suggesting that someone familiar with workings of the establishment might have been the burglar.

## Investigator at Work

Condition of locks on the door suggested strongly that the cracksmen possessed a key.

Deputy District Attorney Louis DeMatteis said today that he had no report on the burglary other than that possessed by Moore and the sheriff's officers and that no

special significance could be attributed to assignment of Frank Marlowe, newly appointed criminal investigator for his office, to the case.

Marlowe's position was created by the board of supervisors at the suggestion of the grand jury and has been unoccupied until a recent appointment of a Marlowe by District Attorney Gilbert Ferrell. Marlowe previously served four years as a San Mateo county deputy sheriff and prior to that was connected with the Palo Alto police department. He is a fingerprint and criminal photography expert.

## Defense Workers Complain

DeMatteis disclosed today that one of the complaints leading to the raiding of "The Palms" was made in the name of a number of workmen employed at a nearby war industry.

Bar Manager Buckley fixed the time of robbery of the resort closely with a declaration to Moore that he inventoried contents of the bar at 9 a. m. yesterday. He found everything in order there as well as in the safe.



Palm Tree3

# Judge Orders Palms Gaming . Fund Returned

The approximately \$46,000 in "invasion profits" garnered by San Francisco police when they raided "The Palms," Chinese gambling establishment inside the San Mateo county line, on February 4, were lost to San Francisco municipal coffers yesterday when Judge Edward Molkenbuhr restored the money to the erstwhile Oriental gamblers.

## Given Back

The money, \$42,259 taken from a safe and gaming tables, was restored to operators of "The Palms" on the judge's ruling that there was no evidence proving the money had been used for gambling. An additional \$3500, posted as \$20 bail for each of the 175 patrons arrested when the place was raided, was lost, when the judge ordered the cases against the patrons dismissed and the bail money returned.

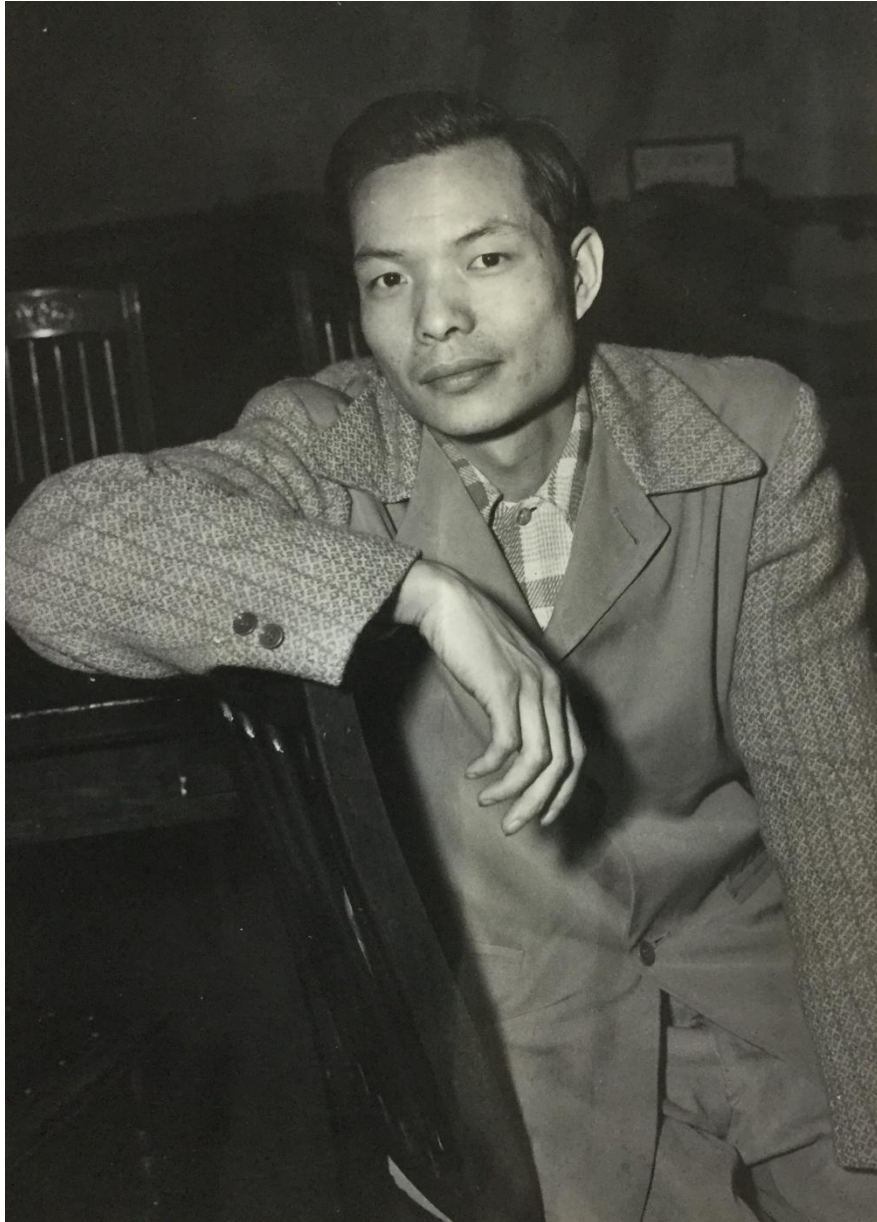
The only "payoff" salvaged by the city was a total of \$2300 in fines levied against three operators and two employes of the gaming house. The three operators, Fong Bolk Hong, Quan Chan Fong and Hai Chan, were fined \$500 each. The two employes, Fong Den and Fong Tong, paid \$400 each.

## S. F. Raid

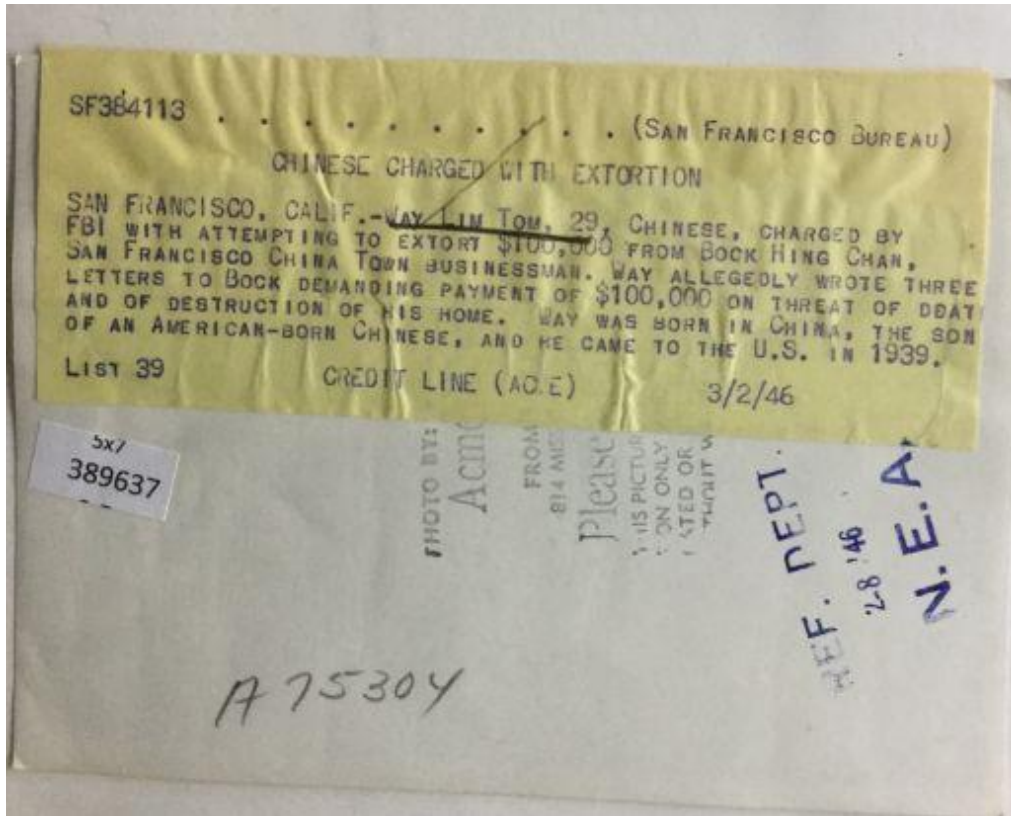
The daylight raids on "The Palms" two Sundays ago was made by the special service bureau of the San Francisco police who exercised a borderline jurisdictional right to raid the premises at 2634 Bayshore boulevard where only one corner of the extensive gaming establishment was within the San Francisco boundaries.

Jay Pike bought this FBI picture on ebay after he found the chips. Front and back of the picture scanned. Just maybe this picture will spawn a 3rd "Illegal Of The Day" on our boy Bok Hing Chan. \*vbg\*

1946



Palm Tree5



Palm Tree6

1952 articles tell of the trial of the owner, years later after the club was closed.

Chin Bock Hing ran the Palms and two other clubs, alternating whichever one had the least pressure on it that day. The IRS came in 1952 for unpaid taxes (attached article) and he was eventually found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison. While awaiting an appeal, the courts (in what must have been a fit of stupidity) released Hing on bond. Guess what? This rich gambler with ties overseas suddenly disappears! Poof, GONE!

It looks like finally in 1958 Hing settled with the IRS for just under \$1 million.

1952

# 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)

Palm Tree 7



# 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 employes 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.

This from our "Friend Of The Hobby" is from the 2010 IOTD post.

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).

IMO, Bok Hing Chan may have ran one of the biggest illegal gaming empires in CA history.

This is "Illegal Of The Day" #298.