

A few weeks ago I posted the B harp mold on the BB as a new to me California chip. I picked it up at the last Las Vegas chip show. No big deal. <g>

Email from our "Friend Of The Hobby".

"Saw your post about the B harp. You may already know this but the "E. Remer" on the order card is "Big-Time."

Yes, I had heard of "Big Daddy" Elmer "Bones" Remmer. His name came up in connection with other San Francisco area chips but had never looked into him. CA illegal chips had never been my first sought out illegals. IMO, CA more than likely has way more chips issued than any other state outside of NV and the many legal card room chips are hard to differentiate from the illegals.

That opinion changed when the Sphinx's with "SPX" chips on them were found. See "Illegal Of The Day" California 5 posted on 7/8/11. Geo B. Goldie ordered the SPX chips for a Los Angeles CA illegal at the same time he owned the Cal Neva in 1929, 12 years prior to Remmer's orders for a San Francisco CA illegal while owning the Cal Neva in 1941. History has a funny way of repeating itself.

"Big Daddy's" story follows and is a good one. Take the time to read his 1963 obit. Clara Bow, Rudy Vallee, funny dice and cards on the tables at the Cal Neva, the IRS, refilling name brand whisky bottles, Estes Kefauver Commission, and next on the mobs list as **"The man most likely to succeed Bugsy Siegel in a very permanent status," all played chapters in his life.**

Enough of that:
California:

Bay area gambler Elmer "Bones" Remmer; the Stockton, CA address was his residential address at the time.



B-1att2

Name: E. Remmer Address: 1607 W. Walnut St. Town: Stockton State: Cal.
 Per: MARP

B

SPECIAL MONOGRAM

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
500	White	B YES	serif				GOLD	5-20-41
300	DK. RED	"	"				"	" " "
300	LT. BLUE	"	"				"	" " "
300	Bl. Orange	"	"				SILVER	" " "
300	LAVENDER	"	"				GOLD	" " "
300	PINK	"	"				SILVER	" " "

B-2att2

He also ordered these chips at the same time:

Name: E. Remmer Address: 1607 W. WALNUT ST Town: Stockton State: CAL.
 Per: _____

CAL NEVA LODGE
CASTLE IN THE AIR

SPECIAL MONOGRAM

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
300	#3 Red	YES	APU.				GOLD	5-20-41
300	White	"	"				"	"
300	DK Blue	"	"				"	"
300	GREEN	"	"				"	"
200	BLACK	"	"				"	"
200	Yellow	"	"				SILVER	"
300	12 Blue	returned	1/41	- Sold to P. Pearl 2/10/41				
300	#3 Red	"					"	"
300	Yellow	"					"	"

B-3att2

My note: The NV boys got all excited when they saw both "B" and Cal Neva orders together. Same day, same address and eerily close to the same orders. Did "Big Daddy" use the B's at the Cal Neva? Could be but I cannot say that. He had several big operations going in the Bay area at the same time the Cal Neva "Castle In The Air" opened. The bad part of this story is we cannot pin the B chips down to which operation he used them in. My gut tells me one of the Bay area illegals he operated.

My note: I am wondering who P Pearl was that bought the 3 returned colors in 1942 and where he used them. I could not find P Pearl on the Taylor customer list. As you will see in a future series of posts on Illinois illegals, returned Taylor chips had a way of making it to East Cape Girardeau, IL. <g>

Not long after the 2 orders:

The Calneva hotel and night club on the California-Nevada line opened for business this week under former manager, Bones Remmer of San Francisco. The

B-4att2

ad announcing opening of 1941 season on June 28th 1941:

OFFICIAL OPENING -- 1941
 Where Nevada and California Meet On the North Shores of Lake Tahoe!

CAL-NEVA SATURDAY NIGHT JUNE 28th CAL-NEVA

Presenting a GALAXY OF STARS
GEORGE JESSEL
 MASTER OF CEREMONIES
 World-Famous Star of Radio - Stage - Screen

RAN WILDE BAND
 AND HIS NATIONALLY POPULAR

JIMMY RAE
 ACROBATIC SOLO DANCER

THE FAMOUS DANCE TEAM
The STAPLETONS

And Direct From the Studios
MAYRIS CHANEY
 AND HER HOLLYWOOD CHORUS
 Opening Dinner . . . Three Dollars

DINE and DANCE
 In California and Nevada

GAMING
 In Nevada

Hotel European Plan

Lake Shore BUNGALOWS Available

For Reservations
 Phone Brockway 10

the Castle in the Air

HERE IS A REGION OF BEAUTIFUL SCENIC LOVELINESS OF LAKE TAHOE MOUNTAIN RESORT THAT OFFERS EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR RECREATION AND FUN

CALIFORNIA NEVADA

B-5att2

My note: For some reason I had it in my mind, the word "Gaming," no B was a much more modern term. Here it is being used in 1941.

Remmer's obit from June 1963:



ELMER (Bones) REMMER
The death of a czar

King-Pin Remmer Is Dead

Elmer (Bones) Remmer, faded big daddy of Northern California gambling, died Tuesday night in Alameda Hospital. He was 65.

The portly ex-kingpin of the card room and the dice table, for three decades one of the Bay Area's flashiest figures, succumbed quietly to a glandular ailment.

He had spent his last days as an automobile salesman.

Remmer, whose home was in Oakland, was paroled two years ago from the Federal prison at Terminal Island where he had served 2½ years of a five-year term for evading \$63,000 in federal income taxes.

A 'BIG GUN'

His story goes back to the 1930s when the florid-faced gambler, who liked to describe himself as a "big gun," operated the Cal-Neva Lodge on Lake Tahoe.

In 1932, Bones hit the headlines when Clara Bow, America's "It" girl, stopped payment on a \$13,900 check she had written to cover gambling losses at Remmer's Tahoe blackjack tables.

The story caught the newspaper fancy and people, who already knew about Clara Bow, began hearing about Remmer. Bones appreciated the publicity. He told a confidant, "I got so much publicity out of the check, I'm hob-nobbing with the elite."

TRIED HIM AGAIN

In 1938, the government tried him again, this time for evading \$63,000 in taxes. The conviction stuck.

He went to prison for 2½ years, then two years ago was paroled after scraping up enough money to pay the tax bill. He went to work for a brother, William, co-owner of an Oakland car lot.

Very little was heard of Bones Remmer until May 19 when he entered the hospital. But he hit the headlines again today.

Bones operated card rooms in San Francisco, had an interest in a club on the one-time unincorporated strip near El Cerrito and reputedly operated establishments elsewhere.

His every move made news. But the notoriety had its price. He was sued by Rudy Vallee for allegedly forcing the

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The Remmer Story Ends: Bones Is Dead

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singer to perform under "professional duress" and he was sued by a poor loser who, claiming he was a minor, said Bones had illegally allowed him to gamble in a club.

In 1945 a federal grand jury indictment claimed he was refilling whisky bottles with inferior blends.

In 1946, his San Francisco liquor license was suspended.

In 1948, his San Francisco clubs were raided.

In 1948, the Nevada State Tax Commission warned him to "put square dice and new decks on the tables."

In 1948, San Francisco police announced the start of a campaign to drive him out of San Francisco.

But Bones was still making big money and didn't seem to mind the harassment. One of his San Francisco operations reportedly grossed \$21,000 in a day.

The disquieting elements in Remmer's life, however, took a new turn in 1947, the year Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, Southern California's gambling czar, was rubbed out.

Rumor had it that Bones was next. One newspaper columnist called him, "The man most likely to succeed Siegel in a very permanent status."

"Me?" said Remmer. "I haven't got an enemy in the world."

But the pressure began to tell. In 1948, Remmer closed his San Francisco clubs and said he was going "legitimate." But that didn't get him off the hook.

Two years later, the Bay Area kingpin was hauled before the Senate Crime Committee, headed by Sen. Estes Kefauver.

In 1951, Remmer was indicted for evading \$153,000 in federal income taxes. In one of the longest criminal trials in Nevada history—it lasted two months—Bones was convicted, but the verdict was overturned on appeal.

He wasn't so lucky the next time.

He is survived by his widow, Helen, of 3747 Woodruff Ave.; a sister, Dorothy, and brothers William D. Remmer and Victor Herbert Remmer. Funeral services have been set tentatively for Friday by the Chapel of the Oaks, Oakland Mortuary.

“Big Daddy” Elmer “Bones” Remmer led a very colorful life including outlasting the mob as:
“The man most likely to succeed Bugsy Siegel in a very permanent status.”