

I put these on the BB asking the California collectors for information on them. Wondering if they were possibly illegals? Did not get the answer to that question but I did get several different addresses for the Club.

See below on the Illegal/Legal question.

Enough of that:

California:

1.00 yellow and 25 lavender no \$ sign



1RTMatt2

RTM

Ray T Magnum.

Delivered to San Francisco, CA

2/2/39

Yellow 1 – 300 Blue 5 - 1500 lavender- 25 - 500 Vermillion 50

333 Club

333 San Pablo Ave

El Cerrito. CA

SFCC order

In reply to the BB post:

Ray T Magnum (residence [San Francisco](#)) with Bill Martin operated [the Yosemite](#) Club in [the Ritz](#) Hotel in Emeryville, Ca. Don't know if he had a club in San Francisco. Doug Saito has offered the RTM chips in the past as Emeryville, Ca. Yosemite Club operated under about 8 various people and eventually became the Avalon Club.

Larry Odoms

RTM [CLUB V]
333 SAN PABLO AVENUE
EL CERRITOS, CA
1939 – 1951

Jim Colbert from Dick Staefflers site.

Reply through email.

Hi Gene

Ray T Magnum these chips where use at the Club V in El Cerritos 333 San Pablo Ave, from 39-51. This town is across the bay from SF

Larry Eastman

My note: My friend Of the Hobby saw the post and took pity on me. <g>

From what I read below, it looks like Larry and Dick's site was right, except there is no Club V mentioned in the ads. I am going with the 333 Club in El Cerritos as the right ID. Who knows, maybe everybody is right? <g>

RTM

The chips were delivered to Ray Mangum about the same time he opened a place in El Cerrito called the 333 Club at 333 San Pablo Ave. Mangum, a native of Utah (born 1891), had operated for several years in Los Angeles before moving to the Bay area shortly before opening the 333 Club.

One-third of the 333 Club was owned by the Zemansky brothers of LA who were also known as the "Prince of the Pawnshops" because of their dominance of the pawn and loan business in southern California. The "Z-boys" were involved in all sorts of gambling enterprises. In 1939, in addition to their interest in the 333, the Zemansky's owned 100% of Club Fortune in Reno—50% owned by Sol, Abe & David and the remaining 50% owned by Joe, who was the proprietor (they also had a share in a place called "Playhouse Fascination" in Butte, MT).

Added 4/21/11

Some more info on the RTM. In April 1942 Mangum describes himself as living in Albany, Alameda Co., CA and employed by Harold Lavick at the address 3921 Adeline St., Emeryville, CA. Although he doesn't say that he was employed at the Yosemite Club, that's the address of the place and the name of the owner.

an ad from 12feb1939—10 days after the chip order ("Ask for Ray").

3 3 3 CLUB

California's Largest
Most Beautiful
Card Room

Legal Card Games
Ladies Welcome

Admission Free
No Liquor Allowed

Not a Dull Moment
Noon to Midnight
Rain or Shine

Spend an Evening More
Thrilling Than
a Day at the Races

Ask for "RAY"

333 San Pablo Ave.,
El Cerrito

ad a few days later:

The Sport of the 49'ers
NOW OPEN
California's Largest
and Most Beautiful
CARD ROOM
•
Legalized
Card Playing
Ladies Welcome
ADMISSION FREE
•
Enjoy One of California's Most Popular Pastimes
Content in Relaxation
NO LIQUOR ALLOWED
•
333 CLUB
333 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Calif.
Phone THornwall 8477

RTM2att2

Read below and decide for yourselves if it was an Illegal or Legal card room, or combination of both.

In your post you asked of the RTM: Is it a card room or an illegal? In 1939 lots of people were asking the same question, from the El Cerrito chief of police to the California AG Earl Warren.

SWANK EL CERRITO POKER CLUB DEFIES CLOSING ORDER

EL CERRITO, March 16.—Defying orders of Police Chief R. R. Cheek to "close up shop," owners of the swank "333 Club," newly-opened "draw poker palace" near the county line continued to operate full blast last night.

Cheek said Ray Mangum, owner of the establishment, claimed former Attorney General U. S. Webb had ruled draw poker was legal in California so long as it was not run as a percentage game with the house taking its cut out of the pot.

The "333 Club," which opened about a month ago on the site of the oft-raided "Club Jade" bingo palace, rents tables to players on the basis of fees collected at 15-minute intervals.

PERCENTAGE AVOIDED

In this way, it was pointed out, supposedly avoided.

Players can sit at tables which have bet limits varying from the lowly "two-bit piece" to \$1. Draw poker club operators in the State have held that the game is one of "skill and science."

Today, matters between Cheek and Mangum had, apparently, reached an impasse. Ira E. Scott, city councilman and El Cerrito police commissioner said Francis P. Healy, Contra Costa County district attorney had conferred with State Attorney General Earl Warren's deputies regarding legality of the game.

NEW OPINION SEEN

In 1937, Webb issued an opinion to the effect that "draw poker" was legal in the State, Scott said. He added that Warren's deputies had hinted a new opinion might be forthcoming.

In this connection, Warren said: "Some time ago Attorney General Webb was asked the question: 'Is draw poker as such, a legal game?'"

"He held that it was, since it is not prohibited in section 330 of the penal code which does ban such

games as Black Jack, Seven and a Half, 21 and Faro.

'INDUSTRY' MUSHROOMS

"Since then, however, 75 or 100 of these 'draw poker palaces' sprang up overnight in Southern California, running 24 hours a day.

"Certain conditions surrounding them caused them to become public nuisances and therefore Attorney General Webb instituted abatement proceedings against them. I completed that job, closing these establishments.

"About a month ago, Mr. Healy or one of his deputies asked my office whether there was any change in Attorney General Webb's opinion relating to the legality of draw poker.

HEALY IS ADVISED

"My deputies told him in certain instances where the game was being conducted on a commercial scale, it constituted a public nuisance and

ing a percentage game. We told Mr. Healy to furnish us with more facts concerning the specific problem in El Cerrito and we would advise him what our attitude in the matter would be."

Warren said Healy's office had not communicated further with him on the matter.

Cheek and Scott were noncommittal about what further action would be taken against the club in view of uncertainties surrounding legality of the game.

As far as I can tell, the 333 stayed open for at least a few years.

The "Club Jade bingo palace" mentioned above was said to have been a Zemansky enterprise. In the late 1930's the Zemansky's were considered the bingo kings of LA and were accused of trying to become the same in the Bay area.