



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Bugsy Siegel

PART # 8 of 11

PAGES AVAILABLE THIS PART 253



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILES CONTAINED IN THIS PART

FILE #	PAGES AVAILABLE
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FILE DESCRIPTION

LOS ANGELES FILE

SUBJECT "BUGSY" SIEGEL

FILE NO. 62-2837

VOLUME NO. 5

SERIALS 684

to

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE
FROM : SAC R. B. HOOD
SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL

DATE: June 23, 1947

I talked with MR. ROSEN at the Bureau on 6/21/47 and advised him of the known facts surrounding SIEGEL's killing and he requested that we keep the Bureau advised of developments as we learn them.

RBE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 MAC/BAZ

bx

62-2837	684
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JUN 23 1947	
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: June 23, 1947

FROM : ASAC J. C. ELLSWORTH

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-95 BY SP 70296/RS

On June 21, 1947, [redacted] telephoned to see if the FBI was interested in this case and was advised we are not. He said that he had been on the case since early in the morning. b7c

It was learned that SIEGEL had flown in early on the morning of June 20, 1947 from Las Vegas with [redacted]

[redacted] SIEGEL was to keep an appointment with his attorney JOE ROSS.

[redacted] was at the VIRGINIA HILL home and said that seven cartridge cases had been found outside the window. These cases were about 2" long and about .30 caliber in size. The bullets were copper jacketed and it looked like a carbine rifle had been used.

SIEGEL was four feet from the window and 14 feet from the place where the gun was rested. There is a lattice work between the HILL house and the neighbor's driveway. The killer rested his gun in one of the openings of the lattice. Nine shots were fired; only two bullets entered SIEGEL's body, both through the head. One bullet came out through an eye and a portion of the eyelid was found ten feet from him. There were five holes in the wall about as big as a dollar. Other bullets hit objects in the room.

The couch on which SIEGEL and [redacted] were sitting was at right angles to the window with its back in line with the right side of the window looking in. [redacted] was next to the window with his left arm resting along the back of the couch. SIEGEL was at the far end of the couch, leaning over a little and reading a paper. Apparently, the first two bullets just singed [redacted] coat on his left arm. The killer almost had to shoot around the corner and obviously was a good shot. b7c

JCE [redacted] b7c

62-2827-688
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

FD-71
(7-30-45)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. 6248837

COMPLAINT FORM

Ben Seigel 60-122
Subject's Name and Aliases *OW*

[Redacted]
Name of Complainant

Postmaster, Beverly Hills
Address of Complainant

Address of Subject

Telephone Number of Complainant

6-24-47 1:30 PM

Character of Case

Date and Time Complaint Received

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT: Deceased

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/RSB

FACTS OF COMPLAINT:

Informant called and stated that it had come to his attention
that the subject had mailed a package to [Redacted] *b2*

[Redacted] has been contacted by SA [Redacted] in the past. Info
was telephonically conveyed to SA [Redacted]

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

Information only

42	2837	691
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUN 24 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		
<u>[Redacted]</u> Special Agent <i>b2c</i>		

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE

FROM : SAC R. B. HOOD

SUBJECT: BEN (BUGSY) SIEGEL
Information Concerning

DATE: JUNE 26, 1947

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-83 BY SP-7 mac/eb

On 6-23-47, [REDACTED] of the News stated that [REDACTED] were recently released from prison in Derby, Kansas and in jail one of them is said to have remarked that he had a big job to do on the West Coast and it was felt by [REDACTED] that they might have some connection with the SIEGEL case. b7c

On June 23rd, [REDACTED] for the District Attorney's Office, telephonically requested that if we received any information that might be of assistance in connection with this case, to please advise him of it at once. He was assured that we would be pleased to do so, if anything were learned. It was pointed out that we were not making any investigation of the case.

On June 24th, [REDACTED] of the Examiner stated he thought I would be interested in knowing the following: VIRGINIA HILL was the girl friend of JOE ADONIS of New York and she came out here to see Hollywood and SIEGEL was told to take care of her, and the money she has been throwing around was SIEGEL's. Furthermore, for some reason, she threatened to commit suicide in Las Vegas very recently and SIEGEL personally took her to the hospital. I questioned [REDACTED] a bit about this and he said his representative in Vegas had checked this and this was accurate information.

He also pointed out that [REDACTED] who was formerly a partner in the Flamingo, has ducked out and is also in Paris, as is VIRGINIA HILL.

[REDACTED] is now getting away from the narcotic angle for the motive and states he believes it is because of one of the two following reasons - mistreatment of VIRGINIA HILL or, (2) a fight over the racing news service. He stated he learned that SIEGEL had the bookie concession in [REDACTED] place in Las Vegas.

RRR [REDACTED]



Siegel's Death Cheated FBI of Seizing Him as Dope King, Agent Reveals

By ALEXANDER KAHN
United Press Staff Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Gangland murder victim Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel today was identified by federal narcotics agents as one of the world's biggest dope ring operators.

Narcotics agent W. J. Craig disclosed Siegel was shot to death Friday night just as he was about to be arrested for dope activities. Siegel's Hollywood playboy front in which he hobnobbed with film celebrities and was photographed with stars like his pal, George Raft, was just a means of covering up his participating in an international narcotics ring, Craig said.

"We have a heavy file on Siegel," the narcotics agent said, "and we were just about to close

in on him when he was slain."

"Siegel participated in big international narcotics deals," he added.

Reports from other sources said the fact that narcotics agents knew of Siegel's connection with the international ring probably led to his death to keep him from revealing the workings of the ring.

The west coast section of the ring, with headquarters here, was on the verge of being

cracked open by the federal agents. It was reported that the machine-gunning to death of Police Chief Juan Menesen of Mexicali last Sunday night was due to his investigating narcotics smuggling across the Mexican border.

Siegel's part in the ring was reported to have been learned from Frank Orbe, 57, a prisoner in the Tijuana, Mexico, jail on a murder conviction.

The disclosure of Siegel's narcotics connections came as his friend, film star Raft, agreed to supply any information he had on the activities of the gangland leader.

—Use REPORTER ADS—

Use the Daily REPORTER For Advertising RESULTS.

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DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-9me/RS

S. A. Daily Reporter
6-24-47



b7c

62 2837 692
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 26 1947
ROUTED TO

me

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE
FROM : SAC R. B. HOOD

DATE: June 28, 1947

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN (BUGSY) SIEGEL
Information Concerning

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 JAC/STB

On 6-27-47, I received a phone call from [redacted] who described himself as a reporter on the San Francisco Chronicle, down here checking on the SIEGEL MATTER and he wanted to talk to me about the tie-in between SIEGEL and San Francisco and Northern California interests. b7c

I informed him that I had nothing to discuss on this person as we were not making any investigation into the matter and he said he presumed we had some files and information on this situation and I told him I was in no position to discuss it.

RBH [redacted]
62-2837 b7c

62	2837	695
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUN 28 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		
ROUTED TO		FILE

M

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: June 28, 1947

FROM : Special Employee [REDACTED] *b7c*

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

[REDACTED] Special Employee [REDACTED] has been informed by an acquaintance [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was recently talking to a man who made the statement that he made a delivery to VIRGINIA HILL's home on the night of SIEGEL's murder, and that he saw VIRGINIA HILL there, and was positive it was she. *b7c*

[REDACTED]
62-2837 *b7c*

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DATE 1-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/123

62	2837	696
DEPT. OF JUSTICE		INVESTIGATION
JUN 28 1947		
ROUTED TO		OFFICE
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Los Angeles, California
June 28, 1947

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-7-85 BY SP-7/MSJ/BS

Director, FBI

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
MISCELLANEOUS, INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

Dear Sir:

On June 27, 1947, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] called and requested that he be contacted in person regarding the SIEGEL matter.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by ASAC J. G. ELLSWORTH. He related that some years ago, [REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

[REDACTED] It will be recalled that SIEGEL was killed on the evening of June 20, 1947 in Los Angeles and that it was reported that he left Las Vegas on the night of June 19, arriving in Los Angeles by air early in the morning of June 20.

In the early afternoon of June 19, SIEGEL was at the FLAMINGO HOTEL in Las Vegas when he received a telephone call from MEYER LANSKY from New York City. MEYER LANSKY, it will be recalled is well known as SIEGEL's partner, sometimes called "LITTLE BOB". It is reported that he has \$200,000 invested in the FLAMINGO HOTEL. SIEGEL was alone in the room while in the next room was a man named [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

m

62-2837-697

Director, FBI

June 28, 1947

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

Later that night, SIEGEL flew to Los Angeles and, according to the informant, arrived in Los Angeles about 2 a.m., June 20, 1947. From the papers, it appears that he brought with him "SWIFTY" MORGAN who has been a close associate of SIEGEL and has frequently posed as the father of VIRGINIA HILL. The only business reported so far for SWIFTY MORGAN is that of a traveling tie salesman.

[REDACTED]

113

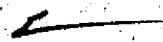
Director, FBI

June 28, 1947

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL

It is suggested that, if it is not possible for the Bureau to enter the investigation to try to identify the actual killers, sufficient of the information being gathered through the Bureau's informants be turned over to local police authorities to enable them to get on the right trail and apprehend the killers. No move in this direction will be made by the Los Angeles Office without Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,


R. B. HOOD
SAC

cc: New York
Salt Lake City

JCH
62-2837 *b7c*

AIR MAIL

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATED 6/30/47

Data on Siegel to Be Pooled

Groping for a lead in the slaying of Ben (Bugsy) Siegel last June 20, local law enforcement officials will meet at 10 a. m. tomorrow to pool information.

The meeting was suggested by Walter Lentz, chief special agent for Attorney General Fred N. Howser.

It will discuss infiltration of known hoodlums from Detroit, Chicago and New York.

By pooling information, Chief Deputy District Attorney Ernest Roll said he hoped to turn up a clue for the motive behind Bugsy's slaying. Roll is heading the inquiry into the gangster slaying.

Others attending the meeting will be Beverly Hills Police Chief C. H. Anderson, District Attorney William E. Simpson, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, Assistant District Attorney John Barnes, Chief Investigator H. Leo Stanley, and Undersheriff A. C. Jewell.

Simpson also has detailed an investigator to visit Eastern cities to look over operation of criminal syndicates and check on movements of known racketeers.

To date, Roll has admitted that there is no evidence pointing to identity of the gunman who killed Siegel as he sat reading a newspaper in the Beverly Hills home of Virginia, his wealthy divorcee.

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DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-7MAC/RS

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JUN 30 1947	
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE	
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1 SIEGEL CALLED DOPE RING BOSS

Mexico Authorities Say Bugsy Supplied Hollywood, East

Mexican authorities yesterday said Ben (Bugsy) Siegel, slain gangster chieftain, was boss of a million-dollar narcotics syndicate supplying Hollywood and Eastern markets.

By airplane, speedboat and automobile, the ring smuggled opium and its by-products into the United States for several years, according to the former assistant chief of federal police in Mexico City.

Another Mexican source said Siegel had an auto with a secret compartment behind the front seat which would hold 300 cans of opium.

Ignacio Mancilla Vega said Siegel's murder in a Beverly Hills mansion June 20 may have been the result of a fight inside the syndicate.

NEW THEORY—

His opinion differed slightly from that of American narcotics agents, who blame the Mafia (Black Hand) narcotics ring of Charles (Lucky) Luciano for the killing.

Mancilla said the Luciano mob tried to get control of the Mexican narcotics traffic more than a year ago but failed to make deals with Chinese poppy growers in Mexico.

Luciano, deported to Italy, slipped back into the United States and came to Brownsville, Tex., for the deal, Mancilla said.

The news from Mexico City followed the Examiner's disclosure last Sunday that Francisco (Frankie the Good) Ochoa, arrested in Mexico, supplied Siegel in narcotics.

Ochoa said Siegel paid him \$50,000 to look for a deal in 1945. He said he had a deal in mind, but it was not made.

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DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/RSB

62	2837	700
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUN 30 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		
ROUTED TO	FILE	

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Los Angeles, California
June 29, 1947

MEMO FOR THE SAC: FILE NO. 62-2837

RE: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
Information concerning

On this date at 11:30 AM an unknown man who refused to give his name called and asked to talk with a Special agent whose name he believed to be [REDACTED]. When he was advised there was no agent here by that name, he asked the writer's name, and then submitted the following information:

An individual by the name of [REDACTED] (ph) with alias of [REDACTED] who owns the American Music Co., at Tucson, Arizona, and is "king" of the juke box machine business there, and also operates the narcotic traffic between Nogales, Mexico and U.S. was connected with Siegel, and had trouble with him. He stated that Cassioneri knew all facts surrounding demise of Siegel.

Informant again called at 12:15 Pm this date and advised that [REDACTED] he had learned had a big argument with Siegel on narcotic traffic. He also stated that others tied up with the Siegel mob included [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the same city; that the last two named are now serving time in Federal Prison on narcotic raps. Informant requested that the writer meet him clandestinely this day, but he when advised that would be unable to leave office before 4:30 stated that to forget it at the present, and he would get in touch with the writer later.

[REDACTED] A 122

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DATE 11-27-95 BY SP-7 MAC/RS

62 | 2837 | 701
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 30 1947

[REDACTED]

18

Los Angeles, Calif.
June 29, 1947

MEMO FOR SAC: FILE NO. 62-2837

Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel
Information concerning

On this date at 2:30 PM [REDACTED] phoned [REDACTED] b2
that he had just heard through sources in Las Vegas, Nevada that [REDACTED]
is scheduled to take over the Management of the Flamingo Club of Ben Siegel
for the Siegel Estate. He had no further information to furnish.

[REDACTED] SA b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/198

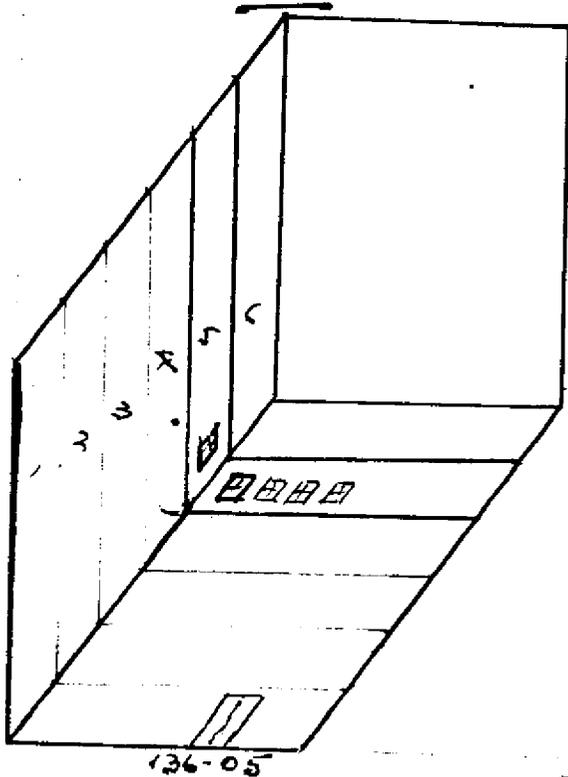
62 2837 702
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 30 1947
[REDACTED] b2

m

19



MAIN ST.



136-05

SANFORD AVE

U.S.
D.O.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-95 BY SP-7 mac/ps

62-2837-704
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 29 1947
LOS ANGELES CALIF.

b7c

1/20

June 25, 1947

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The enclosed diagram shows the location of the apartment used as a hideout by the Bugsy Siegel murderers.

The address is 136-05 Sanford Ave., Flushing, New York. The corner apartment is on the fifth floor, with one of the windows on Main Street, facing the West and the other four windows, on Sanford Avenue, facing the South.

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DATE 11-7-85 BY SP7mac/BS

62-2837-705
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 25 1947
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

b7c

21

Heiress' Broken Romance With Slain Siegel Disclosed

Brother of Girl Tells of New Car and Sister's Plans

Virginia Hill, Alabama heiress, and Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel were "romantically inclined," but the romance went awry before the gangster was slain last week in the heiress' Beverly Hills mansion.

This was disclosed yesterday by Charles Hill, 21, brother of Miss Hill, when he was questioned in the District Attorney's office by Chief-Dep. S. Ernest Roll and Chief Investigator H. Leo Stanley.

The youth, with Miss Hill's secretary, Jerri Mason, and Al Smiley, Hollywood sports figure and friend of Siegel, was in the Moorish residence at 810 N. Linden Drive at the time of the slaying.

Romance Disclosed

He said that his sister, now in Paris, and Siegel had been romantically inclined and that when Miss Hill lay unconscious in a Las Vegas hospital after taking sleeping tablets in Siegel's Flamingo Club, Siegel told him that he wanted to marry Virginia, according to Roll.

"And I am sure my sister was also in love with him," he was quoted by Roll as saying.

But the romance faded. Hill said his sister and Siegel had concluded that both were "too nervous" to get along and had agreed to split up. She had planned some time before to go to Paris. At first Siegel was against the trip but, after the agreement to part, advised her to go ahead. In their "split-up" there was no violence, the brother said.

Then Virginia returned to her Beverly Hills home which she had rented from Juan Romero, an importer, and made the arrangements to go abroad. Hill said he and Miss Mason were left to pack up and travel to Miss Hill's home in Miami, Fla., in Miss Hill's new automobile.

New Car Deal

Asked about this new car, Hill said that his sister had purchased it a month ago and paid \$6400 for it, according to Roll.

Stanley asked him if Siegel had put up the money for the car or the rental of the Linden Dr. dwelling which Romero has already told the police he rented to Miss Hill for \$500-a month.

"I don't know whether he put up any money for anything," he replied, according to Stanley. "He was there at the time we got the car but my sister gave me the money in cash to pay for it and I went and got it from a used-car place."

He added that he knew Siegel was in the habit of giving money away to a lot of people but that he had little exact knowledge of his sister's finances.

Asked About Visit

When asked about the reason for Siegel's last visit to the Hill residence, Hill said he understood that Siegel had come over from Las Vegas to get his clothing from a guest bedroom and that he had also planned to meet his daughters from New York and take them on a two-month trip to Canada.

In one point of the interrogation Hill was asked by Roll if he knew whether his sister had been well acquainted with J. Adams, a New York gambler. Hill replied that he never had introduced him to Adams in New York about three years ago.

At the conclusion of the questioning Roll declared, "At least we have some evidence that Miss Hill did not get all her wealth because she was an Alabama heiress as it has been rumored."

Earlier, Dist. Atty. Simpson turned to the sportsman's divorced wife for help.

Investigators Kemp Nivens and Chick Ebbets Jr. brought Mrs. Esther Siegel and her attorney, Irving Hill, to Simpson's office for an hour's questioning.

Wife Nervous

Mrs. Siegel appeared in a conservative black dress with white trimmings, a black coat and black knit gloves. She is a blond with blue eyes and a florid complexion. She was nervous on the day after the funeral.

She said: "We were schoolyard sweethearts in New York City. About 20 years ago, while he was in the garage business there, we were married."

She talked freely with Simpson, Asst. Dist. Atty. John Barnes, Roll and Stanley.

There was no mention of Siegel's background as a tough slugger from Hell's Kitchen.

Divorced in Reno

Instead his ex-wife called him a "fine husband" and "thoughtful father." The only trouble was that he had so much business away from home that she decided there was no use staying married.

She divorced him last Aug. in Reno and got a substantial

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 28 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE
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property settlement and alimony. What was this "business" that kept him away so often?

She didn't recall any particular

ars. What were his relations with Virginia Hill?

Mrs. Siegel answered: "I never knew or heard about Virginia Hill until I saw her name in the papers after the murder."

Mrs. Siegel told how she telephoned from New York to Las Vegas on the fatal day and her call was completed to Siegel in Beverly Hills. They arranged for her to come here with their children, Millicent, 16, and Barbara, 11, so Siegel might see his daughters.

The nervous divorcee-widow walked from the District Attorney's office. She left an ash tray filled with lipstick-smearred cigarette stubs.

Hunt Turns East

Meanwhile Simpson ordered a top-notch investigator sent to the East for a thorough canvass of Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel's gangland connections.

Police here began search for a racketeer who reputedly was badly beaten three weeks ago in a battle at Siegel's Flamingo Club in Las Vegas, Nev.

Underworld sources hinted that this racketeer is in a hospital. His wounds presumably are camouflaged on records as "gout." The Flamingo row was one in which Siegel was apportioned western control of book-making.

Simpson's men continued studying the files of Murder, Inc., and began a thorough search through Federal narcotic records here.

Walter H. Lenz, chief special agent of the State Attorney General's office, scheduled a meeting

for 10 a.m. next Tuesday to discuss the Siegel killing and other gang and racket activities.

Simpson, Roli, Barnes and Stanley will represent the District Attorney's office at this conference. Lenz also invited Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz and Undersheriff A. C. Jewell.

Two Beverly Hills detectives flew to New York yesterday with extradition papers for Albert Greenberg, suspected of robbing Mrs. Samuel Genis on April 2 in her apartment at 9543 Charleville Blvd., Beverly Hills.

When arrested in New York the day before the Siegel killing, Greenberg said he had been in Siegel's Flamingo Club at Las Vegas from March 30 to April 5 and that Siegel would vouch for this statement. He denied the \$114,000 Genis robbery.



QUESTIONED—District Attorney's office yesterday turned to Mrs. Esther Siegel, the divorced wife of the slain Bugsie Siegel, for help in cracking the gangland mystery. She was questioned for an hour by the investigators. Times photo

Mrs. Siegel Tells of Romance and Life with "Bugsy"

Fails to Shed Light on Dark Trails of Slain Ex-Husband

They were bashful, giggling sweethearts in school on the east side of New York . . .

The boy left school and bought a garage, continuing a timid courtship of the girl he loved . . .

Then they got married.

That was 20 years ago. Today the boy—Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, the rubbed-out gangland czar—was in his grave, dead from underworld bullets, and the tear-stained girl tremulously told the authorities of her life with "Bugsy."

Auburn-haired Mrs. Esther Siegel, 38, who divorced the slain gangster last August, submitted voluntarily to questioning by District Attorney William E. Simpson in a private conference at Simpson's offices here.

MYSTERIES UNSOLVED

But Mrs. Siegel's answers dashed Simpson's hopes to penetrate through shadowy mysteries cloaking "Bugsy's" past life and associates.

She disclaimed any knowledge of Siegel's associates in the limbo of the half-world . . . she knew of no one who wished to do him harm . . . she knew nothing of his gangland pursuits and intrigues.

"Bugsy," she told District Attorney Simpson, was "a good husband, a good father to our two daughters, and a splendid man."

"I divorced him in Reno last year only because I was so tired of being lonely," she commented, nervously puffing on a cigaret. "He was so rarely at home."

As far as she knew, Mrs. Siegel said, "Bugsy" had no enemies.

"I never heard of a single soul who didn't love him," she fearfully exclaimed. "Even after the divorce we remained on the best of terms. In fact, I talked to him over the phone the day he was killed. We discussed a trip our daughters were making to Los Angeles from the east."

Mrs. Siegel said she never had heard of Virginia Hill, wealthy heiress in whose Beverly Hills home Siegel was killed, before she read accounts of the murder in the newspapers.

Shown two gold keys found in Siegel's possession after the shooting, Mrs. Siegel exclaimed:

"I gave one of them—the blank one—to him on his birthday. I've never seen the other one." (The other key to which she referred opened the front door to Miss Hill's mansion.)

Shortly before the conference got underway, Simpson issued a statement in which he said:

"I have today instructed Chief Investigator Leo Stanley to assign one of his men to go to a number of large eastern cities to obtain all information concerning the associates and activities of Benjamin Siegel."

"Instantly Stanley will arrange for the establishment of a permanent unit for the exchange of information between eastern cities and Los Angeles county concerning the movement of known mobsters. When the arrangements are made, all information received will be available to all law-enforcing agencies."

Acting on instructions of Attorney General Fred N. Howser, who has moved into the Siegel case, Walter H. Lentz, chief special agent of the State Department of Justice, today revealed a highly important meeting scheduled for next Tuesday to discuss gangster activities in California.

Lentz said he had requested Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz, Undersheriff A. C. Jewell, District Attorney Simpson and one of Simpson's assistants to meet in the attorney general's office at 10 a. m. Tuesday.

"I intend to inquire into all forms of vice and gambling and the persons responsible," he said. "I shall seek the cooperation of the telephone companies in determining the names and locations of telephones that are being used for unlawful purposes."

Meantime, Siegel, confidant of film colony luminaries and ruler of a vast underworld empire, had gone to his grave alone and almost un mourned.

The body, hermetically sealed in an ornate \$5000 casket, was entombed in a crypt at Beth Olam Cemetery late yesterday from the mortuary where members of his family held a simple, five-minute service for him. None of the six mourners at the rites witnessed the burial.

At the same time, Attorney General Howser, in announcing that his office would enter the investigation of Siegel's slaying, said that he and Governor Cadden were not only concerned with "who killed Siegel, but more particularly with the cause of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mcl/lor

62-283-1708
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 28 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE
ROUTED TO FILE 5

his killing.

District attorney's investigators and sheriff's officers speculated on a theory that a Chicago racketeer, whom they have identified, paid two gunsmen to rub out "Bugsy" because of jealousy over Miss Hill.

Paris police were cabled to get statement there from the thrice-married, red-haired divorcee, who had left for Europe a week before the shooting.

Local authorities want to know what her relations with Siegel were, why he was carrying a gold key to her home at 810 North Linden drive, Beverly Hills, and why she went to Paris.

It was also disclosed that two women and two men, one of them carrying a .38 automatic, were picked up by Santa Monica police for questioning about the Siegel slaying.

They were Mary Mabelle Morrison, 25; Ruth Haffmone Shook, 30; Anthony Cambiano, 28, and Joe M. Masinia, all of Kansas City.

Agents of the F. B. I., expressing interest in the quartet under arrest, went to Santa Monica to join Santa Monica police and the district attorney's office in questioning them.

Lieut. Charles Horn, of Santa Monica police, said both men had been questioned about their whereabouts the night "Bugsy" was rubbed out.

The district attorney's office announced Charles Hill, youthful brother of Virginia Hill, would be questioned late today.



—Herald-Express Photo

TELLS OF MARRIED LIFE WITH BUGSY

"Bugsy was a good husband, a good father . . . I knew of no one who wished to do him harm . . ." said Mrs. Esther Siegel today as she told of her married life with Bugsy Siegel in the district attorney's office. The divorced wife of Siegel is shown in a conference with authorities.



Meanwhile, the name of Virginia Hill, the heiress in whose home Bugsy was slain, continued to figure prominently in the case. Mrs. Siegel said she never had heard of Miss Hill before reading accounts of the murder in the press. Miss Hill shown in conference with authorities at New York early in week.

25



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

FD-71
(7-30-45)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. _____

COMPLAINT FORM

"Bugsy" Siegel
Subject's Name and Aliases

Info Concerning
Address of Subject

Character of Case

[REDACTED]
Name of Complainant
Post Office Dent.
Address of Complainant
Beverly Hills P. O. CR-66949
Telephone Number of Complainant
6-24-47 11:15 A. M.
Date and Time Complaint Received

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:

FACTS OF COMPLAINT: Compl. reported that the Postmaster at the Beverly Hills P. O.
advised him that on June 19, 1947, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Info. furnished to Supervisor [REDACTED] at time it was received.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7mac/88

62-2837-209
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 24 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Special Agent

mm

21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: June 28, 1947

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL, was.
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7mat/AB

On 6/27/47 an individual who refused to reveal his identity telephonically advised the NYO that JOE ADONIS [redacted] operate a banked crap game in a baby carriage factory at Fort Lee, New Jersey. He said customers from NYC gather at a parking lot on 52nd Street between 6th and 7th Avenues, NYC and are driven to the game at Fort Lee by cars operated by the gambling club there. He further stated they leave every five minutes and go via the George Washington Bridge. b7c

The informant said BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL had been there twice within the past three or four months and had won \$260,000 and was killed by ADONIS, [redacted] He said the game is heavily guarded by armed men; has been running for six months, and pays police protection at Fort Lee. b7c

The above is being furnished for information purposes.

[redacted]
62-8883

b7c

62-2837 711
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 2 1947

[redacted]

hm

22469*

ppp

FBI SALT LAKE CITY 7-2-47

4-55 PM MST MMH

SAC LOS ANGELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/for

6 ROUTINE

[REDACTED] WAS, MISC. INFO, CONCERNING. REURTEL JUNE THIRTY, LAST AND MYTEL SAME DATE. [REDACTED]

HAS LEFT FLAMINGO HOTEL LAS VEGAS, DEPARTURE TIME, DATE AND DESTINATION UNKNOWN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TO LAS VEGAS UNKNOWN. RUC.

NEWMAN

END

OK FBI LA CJM

621	48371	714
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUL 2 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		

[REDACTED]

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b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, LA 6/30/47

SAC, SALT LAKE CITY URGENT

[REDACTED] WAS, MISC. INFO CONCERNING, CRIME SURVEY. [REDACTED]
PACKED AND DEPARTED FROM HIS APARTMENT SATURDAY NIGHT EIGHT THIRTY. *b2*
PRETEXT CALL TODAY REFLECTS [REDACTED] OUT OF TOWN, PLACE AND TIME
RETURNING UNKNOWN. DETERMINE [REDACTED] WHEREABOUTS THROUGH
C.I.'S IN L.V. SOME INDICATION HE MAY BE IN NYC. SUTEL.

HOOD

[REDACTED]
~~9-350~~ ✓ *b7c*
62-2469

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 [REDACTED]

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *9 00* P.M. [REDACTED] *b2*
62-2837-715
29

62-2469

FBI SALT LAKE CITY

6-30 -47

8-35 PM

RWC

SAC LOS ANGELES

URGENT

[REDACTED] WAS, MISC. INFO. CONCERNING, CRIME SURVEY. REURTEL TODAY.
[REDACTED] ADVISED LATE TODAY THAT [REDACTED] S AT FLAMINGO
HOTEL PROBABLY UNDERCOVER AND IS NOT FREQUENTING THE CASINO AND
OTHER PUBLIC PLACES. DETAILS TO BE OBTAINED LATER AND WILL BE
FURNISHED YOU.

b2
b7c
b7d

NEWMAN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 MCE/RS

END

ACK PLS

OK FBI LA 0711

ACK AGAIN PLS

OK FBI LA 0711 GMVV

neg

A.F.F.

62-2837-716
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 30 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

[REDACTED]

b7c

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATED 7-2-47

BUGSY DEATH CLEWS POOLED

District Attorney and Sheriff's officials met yesterday at the invitation of Attorney General Fred N. Howser's office to pool information on Bugsy Siegel's murder and to discuss gangland activities here.

The meeting, first of a series planned, was presided over by Walter H. Lentz, chief special investigator for Howser, who said discussions centered on "law enforcement and crime conditions in general."

OFFICIALS MEET

Attending were District Attorney William E. Simpson, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, Undersheriff A. C. Jewell, Inspector Norris Stensland, Detective Lieutenant Joseph Vigneau, Assistant District Attorney John Barnes, Chief Deputy District Attorney Ernest S. Roll, Chief District Attorney's Investigator H. Leo Stanley and Detective Captain Everett P. Davis.

Finding of a 14-carat gold key with the initials "B. S." in script caused some excitement. It was found by Herbert L. Michel, 348 North Vermont avenue, in front of the Small Claims Court on Temple street.

CHECK KEY

Captain Ray Morris of the Sheriff's bureau of investigation said the key was being turned over to Beverly Hills police to see if it belonged to Bugsy Siegel.

Captain W. W. White, Beverly Hills detective chief, said the key would be tried in locks at 810 North Linden drive, the mansion rented by playgirl Virginia Hill, where Bugsy was slain.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/ps

Luciano Denies Siegel Link

ROME, July 1.—(INS)—"Bugsy" Siegel, racketeer who was shot to death in a swank California home. He added: Charles (Lucky) Luciano, former New York vice king now in Italy, said today that all he wants now is to be able to "enjoy this beautiful country and its beautiful women."

Interviewed in Rome, Luciano said "I know absolutely nothing about the death of Benjamin

"I have no interest in politics. I was mixed up in it once, and came out with broken bones."

62-2837-7

m

62-2837-717



SURE, I HAD SIEGEL RUBBED OUT—LUCIANO

This was in less lucky days for Lucky (right) in Cuban custody

ROME, July 1.—(AP)—Charles (Lucky) Luciano, one-time New York vice overlord, said today that he still was "king" of all racketeers and sarcastically agreed to "take the rap" for the gangland killing of Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel.

Luciano arrived in Rome, en route from Sicily to Papri, without fanfare. He stopped at the fashionable Savoia Hotel, donned a light sports shirt and gabardine slacks and jeered at reporters throughout a 20-minute interview.

"Anything you want to know, just ask me," he said. "Sure I did it. Sure I had Siegel rubbed out."

"So they say I gave it to Siegel, huh? Why not? I'm king of them all—all the rackets. I'm king of vice, king of dope, Public Enemy No. 1, anything you want to pin on me. I did it."

Luciano refused to say how he knew Siegel had been mowed down by a gunman in Beverly Hills, Calif. No accounts of the slaying have appeared in the Italian press.

Asked about United States newspaper reports that he had ordered Siegel's death from Havana because Siegel refused to turn over receipts of the Las Vegas, Nev., resort to the "Sicilian Union committee," Luciano said:

"So it was in the American press, huh? Well, what're you

asking me for, then? If American papers says it's true, it's true. Whatever American papers say is true. Now, if that makes anybody happy, they're welcome to it."

He said he was touring Italy "like a private citizen. They ain't got anything on me here. They never did have and they're not going to, either."

And about an American report that he, Siegel and Frank Costello were organizing an international Gope ring?

"Sure, sure. I don't know about Costello and Siegel, but I am, all right. What do you think I'm here for, my health? Sure, my territory's to be Europe and the Middle East—Russia, too, if I can get in there."

"Anything more they say I did? No snatchings, no baby killings, no ax murders, no clubbing old women to death? If they need anybody for them, send them to me. I'll take the rap for them all. I always do."

Luciano said he planned to return to Sicily in August for "nice long rest. Taking raps wear you out after awhile."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-2/MS/RS

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62-2837-718
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JUL 2 1947

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J

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

DATED 7-1-47

Howser aide investigates Bugsy rubout

Mystery of who killed Bugsy Siegel was seeded a pretty poor second today to the much more absorbing question of why the dapper overlord of the underworld was rubbed out June 20.

Walter C. Lentz, chief special agent for Atty. Gen. Fred N. Howser, who has taken an academic interest in the Siegel saga, said:

"We are not interested so much in who killed Siegel, but in the cause of it. It is apparent there is a lot of money floating around and somebody is getting it.

Lentz made his statement as he went into a huddle with law enforcement officers here to try to revivify the flagging chase for Bugsy's killer.

The conference was called by Lentz on orders of Howser who before he departed for Washington ordered an investigation into the bookmaking, race wires, narcotics, gambling and prostitution fields.

At the end of the two-hour party, Lentz said, "This is the first in a series of meetings with county officials of the 58 counties in the state. We have discussed these problems and are in the fullest spirit of cooperation.

"A lot of hoodlums and gangsters from the East have selected California as a soft spot, partially because of crowded conditions here and the shortage of law enforcement officers," said Lentz.

"This is more than a mere county matter—it reaches beyond the state."

Lentz said he plans to call a similar meeting in San Francisco "very soon" to offer the services of the attorney general in cleaning up that city.

Attending the conference were Sheriff Eugene S. Biscailuz, U.S. Marshal A. C. Jewell, Dist. Atty. William E. Simpson, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Ernest Roll, Asst. Dist. Atty. John Barnes, H. C. Stanley, chief of the sheriff's bureau of investigation, and Everett P. Davis, captain of detectives in the sheriff's office.

While all this was going on, a mild stir was created by Herbert L. Michel, 346 N. Vermont Ave., North Hollywood, who found on the sidewalk in Temple St. in the shadow of the Hall of Justice a glittering gold key resembling those affected by Bugsy.

Inscribed on the key were the initials "B. S.," which induced Michel to take it to the sheriff's office.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-27-85 BY SP-7 mjt/ep

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JUL 8 1947
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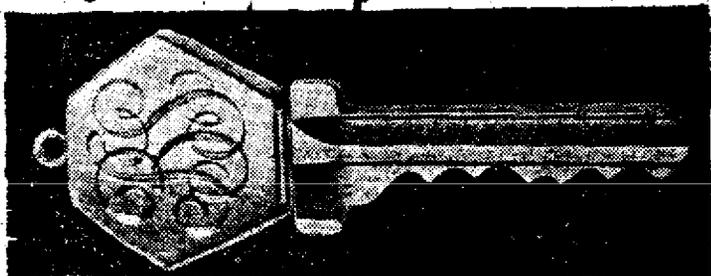
DATED 7-1-47

Gold Key Found in Siegel Case

Will Be Tried on Doors in L. A.

A gold key with the engraved initials "B. S."—believed to stand for Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel— which was found today on the sidewalk at the civic center was turned over to Beverly Hills police today in hopes that it may unlock the mystery of the ganglord's murder.

The key, which Herbert Michel, of 346 South Vermont avenue, picked up at Broadway and Temple street, will be tried on various doors both in Beverly Hills and in Las Vegas, where Siegel operated the \$5,000,000 Flamingo gambling casino, sheriff's officers said. Among the slain racket chief-



WILL IT UNLOCK SIEGEL MURDER MYSTERY?
Gold Key, Engraved With Initials B. S., Found Here, Believed Owned by Slain Gang Chief

tain's personal effects were found four keys, one of which fitted the door at the home of Virginia Hill, wealthy heiress, at 810 North Linden drive, Beverly Hills, where he was slain in a hail of carbine bullets.

GANGSTER CLEANUP

Meanwhile, a state-wide campaign to "clean out all racketeers" was launched by local law enforcement officers meeting in an "information pool" conference on the gangland slaying.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mck/bs

We will pay particular attention to the bookie wire services and bookmakers because we believe they are at the root of gangster activities in the state. Declared Walter H. Lentz, chief special investigator of the attorney general's office, who called the meeting.

At the same time, President Miguel Aleman ordered a clamp-down on illicit drug traffic in Mexico, following disclosure that the slain underworld czar headed an international narcotics ring running dope from Mexico to the United States.

"LUCKY" LUCIANO

District Attorney William E. Simpson also announced that he has appointed Investigator Thomas O. Slack to check Siegel's mobster activities in the east.

The meeting at Lentz's office was attended by Beverly Hills and Los Angeles police department representatives, the sheriff's office, district attorney's office and some federal agencies.

Meanwhile, in Rome, Charles "Lucky" Luciano jeeringly claimed he was willing to "take the rap" for any crime committed in the United States, including the Siegel rubout.

SARCASTIC

The former New York racket boss, who was deported to Italy, told reporters in a sarcastic interview:

"So they say I gave it to Siegel, huh? Why not? I am king of them all, all the rackets. I am king of vice, king of dope, public enemy No. 1, anything you want to pin on me. I did it."

Somebody mentioned a report that Luciano, Siegel and Frank Costello were organizing a European dope ring.

"That too?" said Luciano. "Sure, sure, I don't know about Costello and Siegel but I am all right. Sure, my territory is to be Europe and the middle east—Russia, too, if I can get in there."

62 2837 720
JUL 2 1947
POLICE



VIRGINIA'S HOUSE, "BUGSY" SIEGEL
Through a trellis of roses.

CRIME

Murder in Beverly Hills

Benjamin ("Bugsy") Siegel was a hood with class. His home outside Beverly Hills was a tourist showpiece. He dined with Barbara Hutton, went yachting with Countess Dorojhy di Frasso.

Bugsy was born 42 years ago in New York's dingy Lower East Side. He got his start as night watchman for a gang of beer runners. Petulant as a small boy he went "bughouse" when crossed, but he was cunning, and he earned the respect of New York City's top crooks. When he hooked up with Meyer Lansky, New York ranked him as one of the "Big Six." He beat raps for rape, carrying concealed weapons, possessing narcotics, and murder. In 1933, Murder, Inc. was branching out. Bugsy, a member, set up western headquarters in Hollywood.

Businessman. Bugsy went right to work. He moved in on the gambling at Redondo Beach, took a cut of the profits at the Agua Caliente race track, muscled in on the numbers racket, cut himself a slice of the offshore gambling fleet and the Culver City dog track.

In 1939, Big Greeny Greenberg [a former associate of Bugsy] was found dead. Police arrested Bugsy. In jail, Bugsy lived fine, arranged for meals of steak and pheasant, and had liquor served in his cell to entertain his women visitors. And things took care of themselves. Two State's witnesses suddenly died: the case against Bugsy died with them.

The war years were good to him. He cornered the \$500,000-a-day California bookie business, set up a "milk run" smuggling Mexican heroin into California. In 1946 he opened the swanky \$6,000,000 Flamingo Club in Las Vegas. He made the acquaintance of sultry, dark-haired Virginia Hill, 30, who was famed for parties that dazzled even Hollywood. The story was that thrice-married Virginia had a Brooklyn patron, a gang overlord

who paid her handsomely to stay out of New York. Bugsy moved his shoes and suits over to Virginia's house.

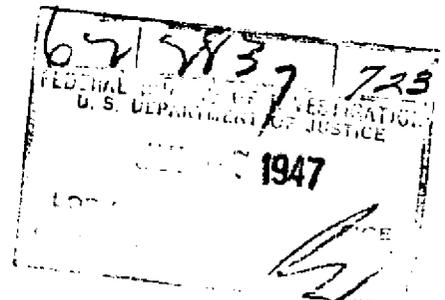
But lately things had begun to go sour. The Flamingo lost money. From New York headquarters, the boys arrived to talk to Bugsy. A couple of hoods were cut down in the old '20s gangland style. Competition was increasing. The underworld was migrating eagerly into Southern California.

One day last week Bugsy returned to Beverly Hills from Las Vegas. He went to Virginia's house with his side-kick, Al Smiley. Virginia wasn't there; she had gone to Paris. Bugsy settled onto the sofa and glanced at the next morning's papers.

Outside, someone pushed a .30 caliber carbine through a rose trellis, drew a careful bead, put two shots into Bugsy's head, two into his body. A shot that went wild lodged in an oil painting of a nude woman, holding a wine glass.

Time Magazine
6/24/47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 MUC/RS



Los Angeles 13, California
July 7, 1947

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mcf/bs

SAS, Salt Lake City

AIR MAIL

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

Dear Sir:

Reurtel 7/2/47 wherein is set out information that

[REDACTED]

Los Angeles File No. 62-2290 entitled "VIRGINIA HILL, alias Virginia
D'Alvy Special Agent, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 8/27/42, reflects
the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(2)

62-2837-725

85

SAC, Salt Lake City

July 7, 1947

RE: BENJAMIN "BOB" SIMON,
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

[REDACTED]

b7c

VIRGINIA HILL, age 26, stating she was born in August, 1916.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

It is noted that the above information reflects that VIRGINIA HILL has six brothers.

[REDACTED]

b7d

The above information is being forwarded for your appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
SAC

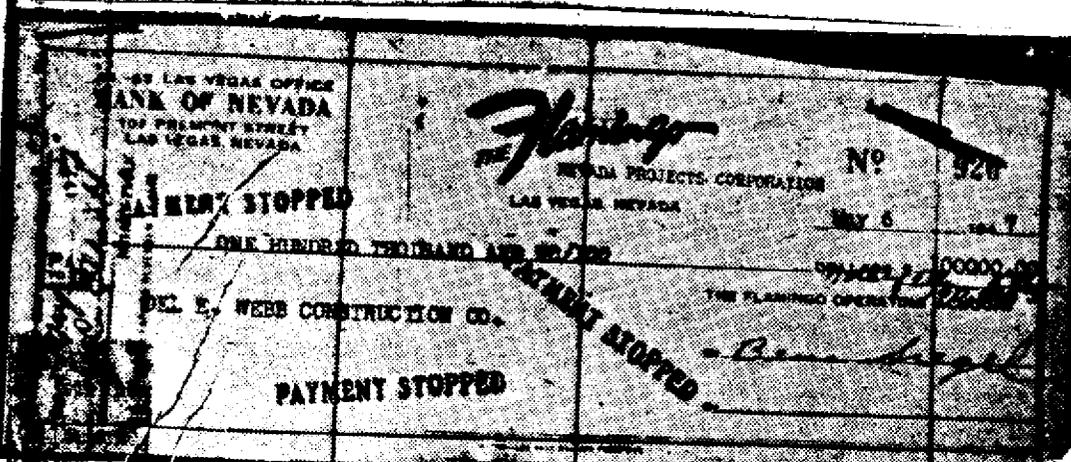
J.

[REDACTED]

62-2837

b7c

AIR MAIL



PAYMENT STOPPED — This \$100,000 check given the Del Webb Construction Co. for Buggy Siegel May 6 was returned to the Del Webb company formally protested the payment stoppage before a notary public May 12. The firm completed construction of Siegel's Flamingo Club in Las Vegas, Nevada, after two other companies had started work on the resort.



FUNDS LACKING — Insufficient money remained in the Flamingo Club account to cash this \$50,000 draft signed by Ben Siegel just four days before his gangland slaying. This check was also protested by the Del Webb Construction Company. (Story is on Page K)



MYSTERY KEY — Engraved with the initials "B.S.," this 14-carat gold key was found yesterday on Temple Street in front of Small Claims Court. Police are checking to see if it belonged to Ben Siegel. Los Angeles Examiner

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/lee

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER, JULY 2, 1947. 2837
67 2469 727
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL, WAS
MISC. INFO CONCERNING JUL 3 1947
(L.A. 62-2837)
J

38

STIEGEL HINTED \$1,500,000 IN DEBT BEFORE MURDER

Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel's debts just a week before his murder in Beverly Hills 12 days ago may have totaled a staggering \$1,500,000.

That was disclosed last night by Chief Dist. Atty. Investigator H. Leo Stanley on the basis of information given him by an unidentified friend of the slain gambler.

Simultaneously two checks signed by Siegel and totaling \$150,000—both of which bounced

no way linked to the murder and has not been questioned by any of the Attorney General's staff.

But disclosures made yesterday indicated that Siegel's financial troubles ran into the seven-digit class—and that the \$150,000 debt represented only a fraction of his money difficulties. Chief Special Agent Walter Lentz of Atty. Gen. Howser's office declared:

"We believe these are not the only checks on which Siegel stopped payment. We think the racketeers' purpose in paying

June 16, four days before Siegel was murdered in Beverly Hills. They were drawn on the Las Vegas office of the Bank of Nevada.

Notations on them showed, respectively, the payment stopping and the nonpayment because of insufficient funds. In each case the Del E. Webb Construction Co. protested.

At a meeting with Dist. Atty. Simpson, Sheriff Biscailuz and other law enforcement officers, Lentz said the evidence shows that Siegel's

One for \$50,000 was returned because of insufficient funds. The racketeer had stopped payment on the \$100,000 check.

Both had been made out to Del E. Webb, wealthy Phoenix contractor who built Siegel's Flamingo Club in Las Vegas, according to the Attorney General's office.

Reached at Vancouver, B.C., where he flew yesterday, Webb was quoted in a dispatch as expressing surprise at news of the checks. He said he knows nothing of the checks and asserted that he certainly would have known about them had they been given to him as head of the construction company. Webb said he expects to go to Victoria, B.C., today and will continue to Portland, Or., tomorrow.

One of three owners of the New York Yankees, Webb is in

That corroborated Stanley's report that the racketeer had told a friend one week before his death that he had to raise "\$1,500,000 — or hide out somewhere." Then Siegel said, according to Stanley's informant, "But I wouldn't know where to hide."

The murdered gambler at that time averred he had a 30-day deadline for acquiring the huge sum. He told Stanley's informant that he had "borrowed up to the hilt" from all his friends, and that "no bank would lend another dime on the Flamingo" because, despite its luxuriousness, it was a comparatively small establishment.

Of the two checks which were returned in San Francisco after going through the Bay City clearinghouse, the \$50,000 paper is dated May 6.

The larger bears the date

He said the June 20 slaying involves the entire West. "It is not so much who was killed but what is behind it," he explained. "Gambling, narcotic smuggling, bookmaking, prostitution and other forms of crime are here."

Lentz intends to hold similar meetings with officials of all other California counties.

Only possible new hint to the murder was a gold key found on the sidewalk beside the Small Claims Court on Temple St. in the Civic Center. It resembles two gold keys found in Siegel's pockets and bears the sportsman's initials. The finder, Herbert L. Michel, 346 N. Vermont Ave., handed it to the Sheriff's bureau of investigation.

Chief Investigator H. Leo Stanley of the District Attorney's office and his aides questioned Siegel's dentist, barber and other associates. They offered no definite clue to the killer.

LOS ANGELES TIMES, JULY 2, 1947

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL, WAS
MISC. INFO CONCERNING, CRIME SURVEY
(L.A. 62-2837)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/BJ

20

39

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: July 3, 1947

John
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-7-85 BY SP-7 mac/pba

Re Los Angeles letter of June 28, 1947.

It is desired that the Los Angeles Division recontact [redacted] who furnished information concerning the Siegel killing as set forth in reference letter. [redacted] should be advised that the Bureau had no jurisdiction in this matter because there is no Federal violation involved. It should be suggested to him that he make available the information reported to the local authorities who are investigating the Siegel death. You should continue to furnish to the Bureau any information coming to your attention concerning the captioned matter. *bx*

cc-Salt Lake City

orig 8-11-81

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUL 8 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		
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7-8-47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-27-85 BY SP-7 MCL/BJC

Siegel death inquiry turns to S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8.—(AP)—Walter Lentz, chief investigator for the attorney general's office, was here today from Los Angeles to confer with San Francisco law enforcement officials on the Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel gang slaying in Beverly Hills last month.

He met with Dist. Atty. Edmund G. Brown and Police Chief Charles Dullea on San Francisco phases of the slaying.

Brown was inclined to dismiss rumors the possibility Siegel's death was associated with San Francisco racing wire service, gambling and narcotics activities, but said all information along such lines will be discussed with Lentz.

The officials also planned to consider reports which would tend to link the Siegel killing with the strangling of Nicholas (Nick) DeJohn, former Chicago mobster whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of his flashy convertible here last May 2.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LCS ANCHORS EXAMINER
DATED 7-9-47

Siegel Bad Checks Sought by Associates

Business associates of slain gangster Bugsy Siegel are seeking to buy up some of his bad checks.

That was the disclosure made yesterday in San Francisco by Walter H. Lentz, chief investigator for Attorney General Fred N. Howser's office.

Lentz was there to meet Edmund G. Brown, San Francisco District Attorney, and Chief of Police Charles Dullea on San Francisco angles of Siegel's death and gangster activities in general.

Lentz said he has been advised that Siegel's worthless checks are being honored "at a discount" by former associates to conceal dealings they had with him.

"Persons holding such checks apparently are willing to turn them over to the associates in the hope of salvaging some money out of them," Lentz was quoted as saying.

"Apparently Siegel's associates are anxious to put their hands on the checks to hush things up."

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7-5-47

Siegel

Check Slain Bugsy's Tie With Race News

State authorities today probed what connection Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel's alleged interest was in controlling a state racing news service.

Seeking some answer to that question, Chief Special Agent Walter Lentz of the attorney

general's office today planned to fly to San Francisco for a conference with Stanley Cohen, racing news publisher.

But Cohen, head of the Continental Press Service in northern California, announced his intention of coming to Los Angeles to "find out what's going on"

from Russell Brophy, whom he described as Continental's chief in Southern California.

Brophy said here:

"This whole thing is silly. No one has questioned me on the Siegel matter and I have

no interest in it."

Lentz, however, said he wanted to find out if rumors that Siegel was trying to gain control of the state's racing news was so, and what connection it might have with the murder.

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Siegel Slaying Inquiry Muddled by Confusion

Confusion muddled the Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel murder investigation yesterday.

Chief Special Agent Walter Lentz of the Attorney General's office prepared to go to San Francisco to question Stanley Cohen, racing news publisher.

Lentz said Cohen heads the Continental Press Service in Northern California.

Cohen said he will come to Los Angeles to "find out what's going on" from Russell Brophy. He described Brophy as Continental's chief in Southern California.

Brophy said this would be silly because he knows nothing of the murder. He said he is merely a customer of Continental, buying its news to use in his daily and weekly sports publications.

Brophy is a son-in-law of James M. Ragen, Chicago racing news czar who was slain by gangland bullets last year. Ragen first was general manager of Moe Annenberg's Nationwide News Service and later was head of Continental.

Brophy said curtly: "No one has questioned me on the Siegel matter and I have no interest in it."

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. S. Ernest Roll countered: "We talked to Brophy a few days after the shooting and have a report on the conversation in our files."

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LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATED 7-4-47

SIEGEL SLAYER HUNT STALLED

Miss Hill's Brother Explodes Legend of 'Alabama Heiress'

Efforts to find Gangster Bugsy Siegel's slayer bogged down again yesterday.

Investigators said they still were checking his strained financial condition as the "most likely" reason for his murder by gunfire in the Beverly Hills residence of playgirl Virginia Hill on June 20.

Beverly Hills police questioned Virginia's older brother, John Mack Hill, 28, U. S. Marine and an expert rifleman, but he gave them little information other than Miss Hill is not an "Alabama heiress."

NO HEIRESS

"That stuff about my sister is a lot of bunk," he said. "We came from Alabama, but from a family of very ordinary, middle-class people."

His testimony caused police to speculate on the source of Virginia's wealth and to wonder if, as some persons have said, she was more closely associated with the underworld than at first believed.

"Virginia and I never saw much of each other in recent years," said Hill. "I didn't approve of the way she lived."

Another brother, Charles, however, was in the house at the time Bugsy was killed.

There were reports that a second safety deposit box exists, probably in Beverly Hills. Authorities, however, have been unable to locate it.

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S. F. ANGLE

Walter H. Lentz, chief investigator for Attorney General Fred J. Howser, announced he has scheduled a meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday morning with Chief of Police Charles Duffie and District Attorney Edmund G. (Pat) Brown.

He said the meeting would be similar to the one held in Los Angeles and would touch upon crime conditions and law enforcement efforts in general.

"We will go into certain aspects of the Siegel case," Lentz declared. "I have several gambling and narcotics leads to check."

Meanwhile no bad checks signed by Siegel have appeared other than the two which "bounced." They were made out to Del E. Webb Construction Company, builder of Bugsy's \$4,000,000 Flamingo in Las Vegas. One totaled \$100,000 and the other \$50,000.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 4 1947

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Tell Siegel 'Touch' on Geo. Raft

Claim 'Bugsy' Asked Actor for Loan Of \$100,000

The name of George Raft, slick-haired portrayer of screen gangster roles, cropped up again today in the investigation of the tangled financial affairs of Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, slain ganglord.

Close on the heels of a disclosure by state investigators that Siegel may have paid a staggering \$1,500,000 debt with his life, District Attorney William E. Simpson said he had learned that "Bugsy" had recently approached Raft and other Hollywood film figures for loans of \$100,000 or more.

The actor, however, promptly denied that Siegel had attempted to borrow money from him, and said he had last seen the gambling czar March 6 at the opening of Siegel's Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

NEEDED \$1,500,000

Simpson said he had reports that "Bugsy" had declared:

"I feel like burying my head in the sand. My pride is badly hurt. I got my friends and myself into this Flamingo thing for \$4,500,000 and it's driving me nuts.

"I need \$1,500,000 and I need it within 30 days."

The district attorney also said that investigators were checking on all phone calls to and from the Flamingo between June 18 and June 21 in an effort to locate whoever Siegel might have talked to from Las Vegas before he came to Beverly Hills last June 20 and met his death.

The theory that Siegel may have been rubbed out because of bad debts was based on the revelation that two of his checks for a total of \$150,000 "bounced" just before his murder.

"We believe these are not the only checks on which Siegel stopped payment," declared Walter H. Lentz, chief special investigator for the attorney general's office. "We think his primary purpose in coming to Los Angeles on the day of his slaying was to raise money to cover his bad checks."

Investigators also learned that "Bugsy" had confided to a friend a week before his death:

"I need \$1,500,000 within 30 days. The bank won't lend it to me and my friends have helped all they can. If I don't get it, I'll have to hide out."

CHECKS STOPPED

The two checks, for \$100,000 and \$50,000, were made out to the Del E. Webb Construction Co., the firm which completed Siegel's gaudy \$5,000,000 Flamingo gambling casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

Both were signed "Ben Siegel" and were drawn against the operating account of the Flamingo on the Las Vegas office of the Bank of Nevada. The hundred grand check, dated May 6, was returned marked "payment stopped." The other check, dated June 16, was returned for "insufficient funds."

Investigators declared that while no suspicion was attached to Webb, wealthy Phoenix con-

tractor and part owner of the New York Yankees baseball club, the checks indicated that Siegel was broke and "may have welched on some other people not so nice."

Webb, visiting Yankee farm clubs in Vancouver, B. C., denied he ever saw the checks.

"As far as I know the company doesn't have the checks," he said. "I did not receive them and I know nothing about them."

Since the drafts were not made out to Webb personally, he may not have seen them, investigator pointed out.

However, a close associate of Webb told newsmen that the contractor's investment was protected by liens on the Flamingo.

One of the theories about Siegel's rubout was that the underworld czar tried to raise money by boosting the rates for his racing news service. Bookies may have found it easier to kill him than to pay off.

The bad check find, a "top

secret" in the attorney general's offices, leaked out through the San Francisco Police Department. ~~It had come through the~~ Bay City clearing house, which took photostatic copies before returning them.

At a meeting with District Attorney William E. Simpson, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and other law enforcement officers, Lentz said the Siegel slaying shows that Los Angeles is rated as a "soft spot"

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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CP

State tells of finding safe— deposit box used by Siegel

Atty. Chancery Colts, of the state inheritance tax division, said today he has found a safety deposit box used by Bugsy Siegel, and the box has been opened by County Treasurer E. L. Byram.

Federal narcotic agents are said to be curious about the contents and about the existence of a second deposit box, possibly in Beverly Hills.

Bad check operations by Bugsy Siegel put him \$1,500,000 in the hole and probably led him to seek solvency by borrowing from high-power friends in Hollywood the day of his death, law officers said today.

Raft was quoted as saying by the investigators.

Raft's publicist, a man with a passion for anonymity, subsequently volunteered a statement in an attempt to set the record right for his client.

"Mr. Raft has been questioned by the Beverly Hills police, the Los Angeles police, the FBI and the district attorney's office," he said.

"He admitted being a childhood friend of Mr. Siegel's on Tenth Ave. in Hell's Kitchen in New York.

"But the way Mr. Raft feels about the whole thing now is that Mr. Siegel is a closed chapter in his life. Mr. Raft is an actor, not a mobster," he said.

"There is a difference," he added thoughtfully.

Other big wheel Hollywood

names were expected to bob up in the rolling background of the late

Investigators from the office of Dist. Atty. William E. Simpson, checking into the story that Bugsy came here to try to borrow the money to cover his checks, ran again into the name of George Raft.

Raft, who is always as cool as a cucumber when he talks to the cops in the movies, got pretty excited when he was asked about it and denied the story violently.

"I haven't seen Siegel since the opening of the Flamingo Club,"

Bugsy as Simpson revealed he had in his possession records of all phone calls made from the Flamingo Club from June 18 through June 21, the day after Bugsy's death.

Simpson said his men are carefully checking the list of calls to narrow down legwork on the ones they consider important.

Information that Bugsy bounced two checks totaling \$150,000 before gangland bullets brought him to an untimely end on June 20 leaked out of the state's investigation into the slaying.

And tied in with this disclosure was a new picture of the gangland overlord painted by an unidentified friend—that the notorious Bugsy died a pauper while trying to patch the crumbling walls of his empire.

Bugsy, said Chief Dist. Atty. Investigator H. Leo Stanley, may have been as much as \$1,500,000 "in" on the basis of this new information.

Siegel had said a week before his death that he "had to raise \$1,500,000—or hide out somewhere," the informant told Stanley. But, the friend added, Bugsy "didn't know where to hide."

Besides that, the friend continued, Siegel thought he had 30 days to raise the cash. "But maybe someone considered some of those notes came due the night of June 20," Stanley theorized.

The bank drafts, signed by Siegel, were made payable to the Webb Construction Co., which built Bugsy's fabulous Flamingo Club in Las Vegas, Nev.

But Webb, millionaire contractor-sportsman, who owns a sizable slice of the New York Yankees' baseball empire, denied in Vancouver, B. C., last night that he had ever received the two checks.

"As far as I know," Webb told reporters, "the company doesn't have the checks."

Since the drafts were not made out to Webb personally, however, investigators pointed out that he may not have seen them.

A group of creditors who built the Flamingo have claims totaling \$1,100,000 against the corporation, it was learned. Webb was described as the biggest creditor.

Investigators made it plain that no suspicion of complicity in Siegel's death was being directed at Webb.

There are lots of other questions, however, which the state wants answered about those rubber checks, according to Walter Lentz, chief investigator for the California attorney-general.

"We have reason to believe more of these checks are out," said Lentz as he prepared to leave for San Francisco today to press the investigation.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FBI SAVANNAH 7-11-47 10-08 AM EST TDW
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BENJAMIN QUOTE BUGS UNQUOTE SIEGEL, WAS. MISC. INFO. CONCERNING,
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OFFICE AND CONTENTS YOURTEL INDICATE NO INVESTIGATION HERE.

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JUL 11 1947		

LOS ANGELES 6 FROM WASH 11 5-57 PM

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RE LOS ANGELES LETTER FIRST INSTANT RE KILLING OF BENJAMIN QUOTE
BUGSY UNQUOTE SIEGEL, MIS CELLANEOUS. INDIVIDUALS FURNISHING INFO-
RMATION TO YOU CONCERNING KILLING OF SIEGEL SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT
CASE IS NOT BEING INVESTIGATED BY THIS BUREAU AND THAT INFORMATION
THEY POSSESS SHOULD BE FURNISHED BY THEM TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR
APPROPRIATE ATTENTION.

HOOVER

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ACK PLS

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUL 11 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, LA 7/11/47

SAC, BIRMINGHAM URGENT

BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL, WAS, INFO CONCERNING, CRIME SURVEY.

RE REF [REDACTED] AUG. TWENTYSEVEN LAST, BIRMINGHAM,

ENTITLED QUOTE VIRGINIA HILL, [REDACTED] INFO

CONCERNING UNQUOTE. REP REFLECTS VIRGINIA HILL'S [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BUREAU DESIRES BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA. ADVISE BUREAU

SO THAT CHECK MAY BE MADE OF IDENT. RECORDS.

HOOD

[REDACTED]

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Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5:15 PM [REDACTED]
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Siegel pals flee rumored death threats

Two confidantes of the late Bugsy Siegel—his red-headed girl friend and the man who sat beside him the night he was killed—were mysteriously missing today as the gangland word went out that they are marked for death.

An ocean and a continent apart, neither Virginia Hill nor Allen Smiley could be located to be warned by the reports.

In Los Angeles, central homicide squadmen reported an anonymous caller had tipped them that two triggermen had been assigned to eliminate Smiley, the tall, gray-haired friend of Bugsy who was stung in the shoulder by one of the bullets which Siegel caught last June 20.

Pals of Smiley indicated he was not around.

"Just say he's out of town," they said.

In Paris, where Virginia had gone a week before Siegel was slain in her Beverly Hills home, police reported she had checked out of her hotel and disappeared.

The report came after Beverly Hills Chief of Police Clinton H. Anderson said he had heard via the underground of the underworld that two gunmen, too, had been dispatched to Europe to kill her.

Police pointed out the strong possibility that both of Bugsy's friends knew from their own sources that they needed a change of climate for their health.

Both had clammed up under questioning, neither throwing any light on the identity of Bugsy's assassin.

The big "X" however, has been placed behind the names of the divorcee and Smiley because they know too much, the tipsters said. Chief Anderson said he immediately dispatched a cable to the prefecture of police in Paris, telling of the situation, and followed it with an air mail letter.

The other two occupants of Miss Hill's Beverly Hills home the night Bugsy was slain there got themselves married yesterday in Las Vegas, Nev. 30 days after the murder of the gang lord.

Charles Hill, 21, brother of Miss Hill, and Terri Mason, 24, secretary to Virginia, were married and left for Florida where Miss Hill has ordered her home to be reopened.

Attorneys for the Nevada Projects Corp., which owns Bugsy's Flamingo Club, said a deal for sale of the gambling resort is imminent.

About 20 offers to purchase the club, which is making a lot of money or losing a lot, depending on which faction says it, have been received.

The lawyer said Bugsy owned 25 or 30 per cent of the club and controlled it with a couple

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JUL 14 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/10/47

Virginia Hill

Quits Paris Hotel In Gang Threat

Virginia Hill, wealthy divorcee in whose Beverly Hills home gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was rubbed out, has checked out of her hotel in Paris and disappeared following disclosure that she too was marked for a gangland target, dispatches from Paris revealed today.

Word that two gunmen were on their way from the United States to slay the former friend of Siegel's was relayed to French police by Police Chief C. H. Anderson of Beverly Hills.

Chief Anderson said he received the information through "underworld sources," but declined any further comment.

Miss Hill has repeatedly denied all knowledge of the mystery surrounding Siegel's death. She had left for Paris a week before the killing.

Meanwhile, Charles Hill, 21, her brother, and Miss Jerri Mason, 24, her secretary, left for Florida today on a honeymoon following their marriage in Las Vegas last night. The pair was upstairs in Miss Hill's house on the night of the Siegel murder.

In Las Vegas, stockholders of Siegel's ornate \$5,000,000 gambling casino Flamingo held a secret meeting after which Attorney Louis Wiener said he has received "many offers" from persons wishing to buy or lease the club.

Wiener, who represents both Siegel's estate and the Nevada Projects Corp., owners of the Flamingo, said the stockholders have not yet decided what to do with the casino and hotel.

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JUL 14 1947		

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Siegel Murder Clue Seen in Race Wire War

Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel may have met death as the result of a tug-of-war between rival racing wire interests in the San Francisco Bay area, Chief Atty. Gen. Investigator Walter Lentz said here yesterday on his arrival from a clue search in the northern city.

Lentz confirmed reports that Siegel, who was murdered in Beverly Hills last June 20, issued a virtual ultimatum to users of race track wire reports only 10 days before his slaying. The racketeer, according to information given Lentz by a "reliable" underworld tipster, told the Bay area betting interests that they must take his service — "or else."

San Francisco Inquiry

Although Lentz interviewed in San Francisco the head of the rival wire service, with little positive results, the State's investigator declared that he still isn't convinced "my information isn't true."

Lentz said, "I have good reason to believe that Siegel talked to several people in San Francisco 10 days before he was killed, and instructed them to subscribe to his service." Maybe Lentz agreed, somebody objected to the ex-gangster's technique.

Another Denies It

Another San Franciscan supposedly contacted by Siegel, the operator of a chain of cigar stores, denied knowledge of the racketeer's asserted "or else" ultimatum, Lentz said. This interview also left Lentz unshaken in his latest lead on the Siegel murder.

Of "eight possible motives," ranging from love to dope peddling, the probability that Siegel was slain in such a race track wire service row is the "hottest," Lentz declared. He said he had also learned that Siegel sought to channel his racing "news" across San Francisco Bay into Contra Costa County.

Meantime Beverly Hills Police Chief C. H. Anderson, who earlier notified Paris authorities of a rumored assassination attempt against Miss Virginia Hill, Siegel's onetime girl friend, said he has received no acknowledgment of his air-mailed warning. He added that he has heard that the mysteriously wealthy divorcee had left her Paris hotel.

Allen Smiley Missing

Also among the temporarily missing was Allen Smiley, Siegel's intimate chum who sat beside him the night he was murdered in Miss Hill's mansion.

Smiley, too, has been "marked" for death, according to information received by Chief Anderson from an unidentified source.

The Beverly Hills police official said he personally isn't concerned with reports that Siegel's murder may have originated in a bookmaker-tipster dispute.

"We don't have any bookies here in Beverly Hills," he said. "Our investigation is proceeding along other lines."

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 14 1947

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7-11-47

BUGSY FRIEND FLEES HOTEL

(Photo on Picture Page)

Virginia Hill, Bugsy Siegel's former girl friend, checked out of her Paris hotel last July 3 and has not been heard from since.

That was the news reaching here yesterday from the French capital.

It came as Paris police were trying to find the thrice-married playgirl to tell her that she has been "marked for death" by the underworld for "knowing too much."

Virginia had been staying at the Westminster Hotel in Paris.

QUESTION—

Asked if she was alone when she left, the hotel manager was quoted as saying:

"That's not a very discreet question."

Miss Hill arrived in Paris only a few days before Bugsy was shot to death in the mansion she was renting in Beverly Hills.

With Siegel at the time was his pal, Allen Smiley, whose clothing was nicked by a couple of bullets. Now it is said that Smiley has been "earmarked" for death, too, and that he is in hiding.

Beverly Hills Chief of Police Clinton H. Anderson, who received the death tip on Virginia, says he does not think it is so about Smiley.

He said Smiley was seen in Las Vegas on July 4 and, so far as Anderson knows, still is there.

HONEYMOON—

On their honeymoon yesterday were two other occupants of the death mansion: Charles Hill, 41, Virginia's brother and Berri Mason, 24, her secretary.

They were married in Las Vegas on Wednesday and left for Florida where Miss Hill, it is said, has ordered her home reopened.

After Virginia quarreled with Bugsy and departed for Paris, she was rumored to be interested in a "Frenchman."

Certain sources said the man in question was Nicholas Feuillatte, 21-year-old U. S. Army veteran, now said to be living at 4 Rue de Castiglione, Paris.

The reports were that Virginia had shipped her luggage in his care.

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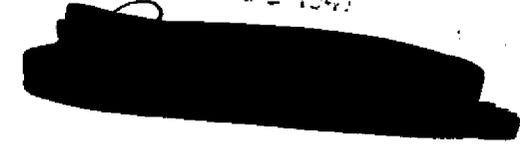
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JUL 14 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/11/47

Link 'Bugsy' Siegel Rubout To S. F. Race Wire Gang

Possibility that Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel may have bumped up against a tough gang in an attempt to organize race wire users in the San Francisco Bay region today was advanced as a new cause for his gangland murder.

Investigator Walter Lentz said he had been informed Siegel had told San Francisco race betting interests to take his service. The prober said he has reason to believe that violent objection was made to his demands which had been made on an "or else" basis.

"I have reason to believe," Lentz said, "that Siegel talked to several people in San Francisco 10 days before he was killed and instructed them to subscribe to his service."

Meanwhile, Virginia Hill, Siegel's former girl friend, has disappeared from her Paris hotel, presumably taking up private residence. Chief of Police C. H. Anderson of Beverly Hills had informed Paris officers that she was earmarked for death.

Also, Allen Smiley, pal of Siegel who was with him when the fatal shots were fired, has been reported keeping under cover. He was reported to have gone to Las Vegas and that he still is there. Anderson said he did not believe Smiley has been named for a death spot.

"We are making progress in

our investigation," said Anderson.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATED 7/12/47

Late 'Bugsy' Siegel's Flamingo Hotel Sold for \$3,000,000

By Walter Winchell

The Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly operated by the late Ben (Bugsy) Siegel, slain hoodlum, was sold last night.

The new owners are a syndicate of Las Vegas hotel owners and business men headed by Sanford D. Adler.

Adler is the owner of the Rosslyn Hotel in Los Angeles, the Del Mar Hotel at Del Mar, Calif., and the El Rancho Vegas at Las Vegas.

Heavy gambling losses sustained by Siegel at the hotel casino plus a disappointing revenue from the property in general are believed to have been contributing factors in his assassination in Beverly Hills.

The new owners take possession July 14.

The purchase price was about \$3,000,000. The hotel cost \$5,750,000. The real estate broker who handled the deal is Murray Randolph of Los Angeles. All former owners are not in on this deal.

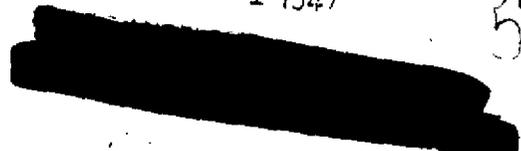
The new men will seek, among other things, special airplane shuttle service free of charge, to oblige people from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and other cities.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATED 7/13/47

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DATE 11-27-83 BY SP-7 mca/ptz

BUGSIE'S FLAMINGO SOLD TO HOTEL MAN

Adler of El Rancho Vegas Pays \$3,000,000 for Slain Gangster's Ornate Desert Club

LAS VEGAS (Nev.) July 12. (U.P.)—One of Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel's rival hotel owners disclosed today he had bought the slain gangster's ornate Flamingo casino for \$3,000,000.

He is Sanford D. Adler, who by the deal became president both of the Flamingo and El Rancho Vegas.

The Flamingo reportedly had been losing money as fast as did the customers at its gaming tables. Siegel's need to make up the losses was believed to have contributed to his assassination June 20 in Beverly Hills.

Costing almost \$6,000,000 to build, the Flamingo had red-and-blue lighted bushes and a

green pond, rugs thicker than a dealer's bank roll and more mirrors than a crazy house. Behind a fountain in the lobby were \$7 to \$30 rooms frequented by movie stars who liked the custom-made beds—six inches wider and six inches longer.

Backing the desert colossus, besides Siegel, were Harry Rothberg, vice-president of the American Distilleries Co. of Peoria, Ill.; Billy Wilkerson, publisher of a movie trade journal, and Joe Ross, a Hollywood lawyer.

The Flamingo was sold by the Nevada Hotel Corp., acting through Murray Randolph, Los Angeles broker.

62 2837 756
FLORENCE B. HARRIS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 14 1947

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LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATED 7-14-47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mcl/br

Siegel Death Warning by Virginia Hill Bared

As slain Bugsy Siegel's friend, Virginia Hill, was reported en route to New York from Paris last night, a warning she gave him in Las Vegas was reported.

Flying back with her, it was said, was Actor George Raft, lifelong friend of the gangster who was "rubbed out" in Miss Hill's Beverly Hills home last June 20.

She went to Paris two weeks before Siegel was slain; Raft left after the killing.

Miss Hill's warning was uttered as she lay in a Las Vegas hospital, just awakened from an a.s.v. daily self-administered overdose of sleeping pills.

PREMONITION? —

For saving her life, Bugsy was offering the physician a new hospital wing, among other things, the account has it. Miss Hill interjected:

"Give him your hotel (the Flamingo); and let him turn it into a hospital. We'll both get

out of here before those guys kill you."

Activities of three men, associated with the Flamingo, on the day Bugsy was killed also are under investigation.

The men left Las Vegas by car about 5 p. m., after learning planes had been grounded. They were said to be in a great hurry.

Although key men at the hotel, none showed up there until 2 p. m. the next day.

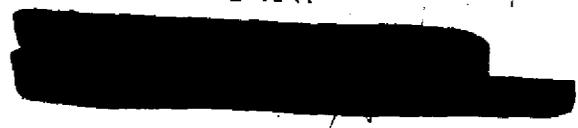
Driving time from Las Vegas to Los Angeles is about five and a half hours. Bugsy was killed about 11 p. m.

Dr. Carlyle to Speak

Dr. Richard Carlyle, author and lecturer, will discuss "A World in the Making" tomorrow noon at the Los Angeles Co-Operative Club's Biltmore meeting.

62-2537-757
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 14 1947

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Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SAC, Los Angeles

Date: July 15, 1947

SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
CRIME SURVEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-95 BY SP-7/mca/ra

[REDACTED] advised on 6/26/47 that Los Angeles County was again opened up on 6/25/47 for gambling and for what reasons informant did not know. This informant alleged that he had learned the gambling establishment which was being operated by [REDACTED] and which is being guarded by [REDACTED] and others, that BENJAMIN SIEGEL was very erratic in the manner that he was handling his employees at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. [REDACTED] told him that while he was in Las Vegas he heard other gamblers say that SIEGEL had been unfair in firing some of his employees there. On one occasion SIEGEL entered the kitchen of the Flamingo Hotel and fired an ex-GI who was shell-shocked and employed there merely as a favor, because he was only eating an orange. On another occasion SIEGEL fired one of the crap table dealers because he did not observe SIEGEL take a \$1600 check from in front of him. The firing that SIEGEL was doing at the Flamingo was done so often and without any proper reason to the extent that on one occasion he fired a guest who was lying under a tree relaxing. [REDACTED] said it had become a joke when SIEGEL was going around without reason, even firing some of his own guests at the hotel.

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[REDACTED]
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 16 1947
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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/14/47

*Bugsy Siegel Told He Was Target Before Rubout

A warning that Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, slain gambling czar, was marked as an underworld target several weeks ago was given him by Virginia Hill. It was disclosed today as the wealthy red-haired divorcee was reported en route to New York from Paris.

As she lay in a Las Vegas hospital, recovering from an assertedly self-administered dose of sleeping pills, Miss Hill heard "Bugsy" offer the physician a new hospital wing for saving her

life, according to the account. "Give him your hotel (the \$5,000,000 Flamingo in Las Vegas) and let him turn it into a hospital," she interjected. "We'll both get out of here before those guys kill you." Miss Hill, in whose Beverly

Hills home Siegel was murdered June 20, left for Paris more than a week before the killing.

At the same time, activities of three men associated with the Flamingo on the day Siegel was slain were under investigation. They reportedly left Las Vega

by car about 5 p. m. after learning planes had been grounded

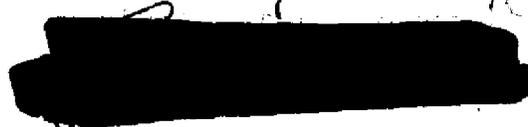
and did not return until 2 p. m. the next day.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-1/mae/BA

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 30 1947

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DATED 7-17-47

Bugsy Vegas Club sold to hotel man

LAS VEGAS, Nev., July 17.—(AP) Hotelman Stanford D. Adler today assumed control of slain Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo Club and denied that gamblers Gus Greenbaum, formerly of Phoenix, and Moe Serway ever had any interest in the establishment.

Earlier, it was reported that Greenbaum and Serway were holding up transfer of the property from a corporation headed by Siegel to Adler's syndicate.

Adler said only a legal technicality held up the transfer.

Richard Chappell, the Flamingo's manager under Siegel, was retained in that position.

A down payment of \$600,000 on the \$3,000,000 purchase price was offered to the syndicate by Adler, also owner of El Rancho Vegas here, Del Mar Hotel, Del Mar, Calif., and the Rosslyn Hotel, Los Angeles.

The hotel was incorporated at Carson City, Nev., with authorized capital stock of \$250,000. Directors include Adler, Charles Resnik and James West, all of Los Angeles.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7/maz

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 18 1947

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(10)

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DATED 7-17-47

Bugsy was no gangster, says Virginia

NICE, France, July 17.-Sultry Virginia Hill, blue-eyed, fast-talking girl friend of gangland's lately departed Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, said today that she accidentally took an overdose of sleeping pills last week because she was "worried and nervous."

Virginia, chatting gaily and sipping cognac at the edge of a swimming pool at plush Hotel La Reserve at nearby Beaulieu, said, however, that her worries weren't about the Los Angeles gunmen said to be on her trail.

"I'm hiding from sorrow, not killers," she said. "There are no gangsters on my track. Ben wasn't a gangster, either."

Virginia didn't appear sad. She laughed gaily, tossing her long auburn hair in the soft Riviera breeze throughout an hour-long interview.

Virginia said she was angry at Riviera police and officials at Villa Albert I clinic for saying she tried to commit suicide by taking a full vial of sleeping tablets.

"I was just worried and nervous, that's all," she said. "I took the tablets so I could sleep. I took too many, I guess."

Virginia said Bugsy had hoped to come to Europe with her, but that "he was too busy." If her sorrow was caused by Siegel's erasure in Los Angeles, she didn't show it. She was sun-tanned and apparently in good health. Two enormous gold bracelets and a heavy string of pearls set off a white suit with a navy blue blouse.

"All I want is to be left alone with my sorrows. What I seek most is solitude," she said, refilling her glass.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-7/mal/ld

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 18 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/16/47

Siegel's Hotel Pair Balk Transfer, Won't Sell Their Stock

Transfer of the late Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo Hotel to new owners was held up today by refusal of two stockholders in the Siegel corporation to sell their stock.

A local syndicate, headed by Hotelman Sanford D. Adler, was to have taken possession last night, but gamblers Moe Sedway and Gut Greenbaum refused to step out. Another meeting was scheduled for Saturday.

Adler, owner of El Rancho Vegas in Las Vegas, Del Mar Hotel in Del Mar, Calif., and the Rosslyn Hotel here, was to have advanced the syndicate the \$600,000 down payment on the \$3,000,000 purchase price, but only on condition that the new syndicate include none of the former stockholders.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7/MLK/T

62-2837 763
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 18 1947

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LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS
DATED 7/16/47

Bugsy's girl defies killers

PARIS, July 16. (UP) - Red haired Virginia Hill, who attempted suicide rather than continue her flight from underworld killers, changed her mind today and defiantly announced that, "They can come ahead—they'll find me here."

Miss Hill, ex-girl friend of the murdered Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, told the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune by telephone that she was at the La Reserve Hotel in Beaulieu, on the French Riviera.

"I read in the paper that two men have come over here to shoot me," she said. "They can come ahead—they'll find me here."

Miss Hill felt differently not so long ago. Police at Nice disclosed yesterday that she swallowed a whole tube of sleeping tablets a week ago, and was saved only when servants found her in a serious condition and rushed her to a private clinic.

Although the police and hospital records listed the suicide attempt, a special nurse who answered the telephone when a call was placed for Miss Hill today denied it.

"She did not try to commit suicide," the nurse said. "She is merely sick from all those things newspapers are saying. You can understand that. I was called in by the doctor to take care of her. She is sleeping now and cannot be disturbed."

It was the second time that the shapely glamour girl had taken an overdose of sleeping tablets. The other time came immediately after she and Siegel quarreled in Las Vegas, Nev., where the former New York underworld character built a multi-million dollar casino, the Flamingo Club.

Miss Hill, who usually seemed to have a plentiful supply of 1000 bills from an unknown source, later left for France and was soon afterwards that Siegel on June 20—was shot to death in her home in Beverly Hills, Calif. The murder remains unsolved.

Beverly Hills Police Chief C. H. Anderson, however, reported that gangland assassins left for France early this month to kill Virginia.

She had been dating a wealthy Frenchman and making all of the night clubs, but when she heard that someone had put the finger on her, she quietly checked out of her Paris hotel and fled.

Miss Hill had professed to be little concerned with Siegel's fate, and declined to look at pictures of the gambler's bloody corpse.

After her latest encounter with too many sleeping tablets, she left her Monte Carlo hotel. A switchboard operator at the hotel La Reserve in nearby Beaulieu said she checked in there under an assumed name.

In her telephonic interview today, Miss Hill said:

"I am not hiding. I am sick. All on account of the awful things people say. I am down here just trying to get well."

She again complained of news stories about Siegel.

"He was one of the finest men I ever met, and he had the greatest respect for me," she said.

Referring to Siegel's death in her house, she said: "Why shouldn't he have a key? What's wrong with that? It was a big house."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-7 mca/08

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JUL 16 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/16/47

Virginia Hill in Breakdown Over 'Bugsy' Siegel Death

By International News Service

NICE, France, July 16. — The fabulous Virginia Hill, reportedly marked for death by underworld "triggermen" because of her knowledge of the murdered Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel's activities, denied today that she attempted suicide last week.

In a statement issued through her nurse, the attractive 30-year-old "mystery girl" — in whose Beverly Hills home, Siegel was slain June 30—explained her hospitalization in Monaco.

Authorities revealed she had been found unconscious in her room July 8 at an exclusive Monte Carlo hotel. An emptied tube for sleeping medicine reportedly was found beside her, leading to the report that she had tried to take her own life.

Records at the Monaco hospital showed that Virginia had been treated for "intoxicating effects" of an overdose of a sleeping drug. The record said she was not in a comatose state when admitted, but was hysterical.

Virginia, however, said a nervous breakdown due to all the unfavorable publicity following the shocking news of Siegel's

"liquidation"—necessitated the hospitalization.

Following her release the day after being admitted to the hospital, the 30-year-old Virginia retired to semi-seclusion in the Reserve de Beaulieu, a luxurious Riviera hotel midway between Nice and Monte Carlo.

Virginia's nurse quoted the American oil heiress as saying:

"While in Paris I had a nervous breakdown because I loved Mr. Siegel so much. I decided to go to the Riviera because there were too many distractions in Paris.

"I arrived at the Monte Carlo Beach hotel and received reports of what was being said about me in America. Then I had another, and worse, breakdown and was rushed to the hospital."

The nurse, an English-speaking woman, said Virginia is depressed and spends hours without talking. She added that her patient does not fear gangsters who reportedly are trailing her, and has not asked French police for protection.

Monte Carlo police records show no entry of a suicide attempt.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-7 mac/AB

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JUL 18 1947

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LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATED 7/17/47

Virginia Hill Denies Death Try Over 'Bugsy'

Frank admission that she deeply loved gangster Bugsy Siegel came yesterday from mysterious Virginia Hill in France.

But the thrice-married, sultry-eyed Virginia denied she had tried to end her life with sleeping tablets at Monte Carlo.

Wire dispatches from the Riviera said that Virginia explained her hospitalization in Monaco hospital in a statement released through an English-speaking nurse.

LOVED SIEGEL—

"While in Paris I had a nervous breakdown because I loved Mr. Siegel so much," she was quoted as saying.

"I decided to go to the Riviera because there were too many distractions in Paris."

(Bugsy was slain in Miss Hill's Beverly Hills mansion as he sat reading a newspaper on June 20).

"I arrived at the Monte

Carlo Beach Hotel," Virginia said, "and there I received reports that two men had come to France to shoot me.

"I had another and worse breakdown and was rushed to the hospital."

The nurse described Virginia as being "depressed" and said she spends hours "without talking."

"But, she does not fear the gangsters who reportedly are trailing her," the nurse declared. "She has not asked the French police for protection."

Monte Carlo police records, it was disclosed, show no entry of a suicide attempt.

Records at the hospital, however, revealed that Miss Hill was treated there for "intoxicating effects" of an overdose of a sleeping drug.

HYSTERICAL—

The record said she was not in a comatose state when admitted, but was hysterical.

Virginia tried to kill herself in Las Vegas before Siegel's murder. The attempt followed a bitter quarrel with Bugsy, who rushed her to the hospital.

Hospital attendants said that Bugsy learned from Virginia's own lips at that time that he was "marked for murder."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/RS

62-2837-766

JUL 18 1947

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LET THEM COME, SAYS— VIRGINIA HILL, OF KILLERS

PARIS, July 16. (U.P.)—Virginia Hill, breathing defiance at the Los Angeles gunmen reported on the way to liquidate her as they did her boy friend Benjamin (Bugsie) Siegel, said in a telephone call from the Riviera: "I have read in the paper that two men have come here to shoot me. They can come ahead. They'll find me here."

Miss Hill made the call last night to the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune from the Hotel La Reserve at Beauveine.

She had disappeared from Paris two weeks ago, going to a beach hotel at Monte Carlo. It was a week ago today that the Los Angeles police announced that two anti-Siegel operatives had left for Paris to kill Miss Hill for knowing and talking too much.

The same day, according to Riviera police and the Villa Albert I Clinic, Miss Hill tried to kill herself by taking a full vial of sleeping tablets. She was taken to the clinic. Released two days later, she went to the Hotel La Reserve and registered under an assumed name.

In an interview at her hotel later Miss Hill said that she accidentally took an overdose of sleeping pills last week because she was "worried and nervous." She added, however, that her worries weren't about the Los Angeles gunmen said to be on her trail.

"I'm hiding from sorrow, not killers," she said. "There are no gangsters on my track. Ben wasn't a gangster, either."

Virginia said she was angry at Riviera police and officials at Villa Albert I Clinic for saying she tried to commit suicide by taking a full vial of sleeping tablets.

"I was just worried and nervous, that's all," she said. "I took the tablets so I could sleep. I took too many, I guess."

U.S. Tip on Gangsters Denied by Paris Police

Chicago Tribune Press Service

PARIS, July 16.—Both Charles Badin, underdirector of judiciary police at the Prefecture, and N. Bouriscot, chief of the national Surete police at the Ministry of the Interior, today denied the Tribune that they had ever received any warning message from the Chief of Police of Beverly Hills, Cal., about gangsters being en route to France to slay Virginia Hill.

Prefecture officials opined that the Beverly Hills Police Chief announced gangsters were going to Europe to knock off Virginia solely to take public interest off their own inability to arrest

Bugsie Siegel's slayers and focus attention elsewhere.

The American Embassy here asserted that it had received no message from California police or sheriffs to be forwarded to the Prefecture.

(Beverly Hills Police Chief C. H. Anderson said that his department had sent an air mail letter "about a week ago" to the Prefecture of Police in Paris about Virginia Hill.

"We wanted to know whether she was in Paris on business and if so on what kind of business," he said. "As to the other thing the report that two gunmen had come to Paris to kill Miss Hill, we have heard all kinds of rumors, but we don't know anything authentic."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-85 BY SP-7 mac/ta

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 18 1947

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LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

DATED 7-18-47

Daily News LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA **37**
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1947

Bugsy's gal coming back to U. S.; claim holder joyous

Reports were printed in the French press yesterday that Virginia Hill—who is being stalked by gunmen because she knows too much about the murder of her boy friend, Bugsy Siegel—is soon to return to the United States.

One person who will be glad to see her come back is Hollywood dress designer Ray Driscoll, who today complained that she left owing \$3000 for clothes he made for her trip abroad.

Another person whose life had become troubled by the gangland slaying of Bugsy was Juan Romero, who rented to Miss Hill the mansion in Beverly Hills where Siegel was shot last June 20.

Romero moved into the house himself a few weeks after the shooting, and said the place has become a sightseeing curiosity, forcing him to disconnect his doorbell and change his phone number.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-9 mac/BB

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 21 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS

DATED 7/18/47

Brother Files for Siegel Estate

A petition for letters of administration in the estate of Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, slain gambling czar, was on file today by his brother, Maurice B. Siegel of Los Angeles, in District Court in Las Vegas, Nev.

Value of the estate was given as "upward of \$10,000" in the petition, and Judge A. S. Henderson set hearing on the action for 10 a. m. on Aug. 1. The brother, in asking to be appointed administrator, said "Bugsy" left no will.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-85 BY SP-7 mac/aa

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 21 1947 70
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7-20-47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-95 BY SP-2MA/TA

\$100,000 Paid 'Bugsy' by Rich Friend Probed

By Ray Richards

Los Angeles Examiner Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, July 19.—Payment in 1937 of \$100,000 to Ben "Bugsy" Siegel, gangster, by Charles Ward, multi-millionaire president of a St. Paul calendar-making firm, has been placed under investigation as an aftermath of Siegel's recent gunshot death in California.

Letters showing the payment was made to Siegel in two installments have been scrutinized by Federal officers and turned over to the Los Angeles Police Department, it was learned.

The investigation has revived the remarkable story of the relations of Ward and Herbert H. Bigelow of the big Brown and Bigelow advertising specialty firm of St. Paul.

The two met in the early 1920's as fellow convicts in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan. Bigelow was doing time for income tax fraud, Ward for narcotics law violation.

When Ward was released, Bigelow sent him to a job with the firm. When Bigelow regained his freedom, he raised Ward rapidly to a high position in the company.

BIGELOW KILLED

In 1933 Bigelow and a woman companion were killed on a lake near Bigelow's North Woods hunting lodge.

The bodies were never recovered. Accidental drowning was the final official theory. But the capsized canoe was found with

perforations which some of the investigating officers insisted could have been made only by bullets, probably fired from a rifle on the shore.

Ward inherited \$1,000,000 from Bigelow and soon succeeded him as president of the firm, which last year did a \$21,000,000 business.

The letters to Siegel were found by Federal officers in the investigation of Brooklyn's "Murder, Inc.," of which Siegel was a member.

The first letter, bearing the signature "Charles Ward" and the date of October 14, 1937, on Brown and Bigelow letterhead, was addressed to the gangster at 328 South McCarty drive, Beverly Hills, Calif., shortly after Siegel had become West Coast representative of "Murder, Inc." The letter follows:

"Dear Ben: Enclosed find two Liberty bonds for \$20,000. Sorry I couldn't make it \$25,000, but as you know I am short of cash on account of my stock deals. Am lucky to have enough to eat on. Hope this will help."

SECOND LETTER

The second letter to Siegel at the same address was dated December 6, 1937, on the letterhead of the Midway National Bank of St. Paul and bore the signature of the bank's president, A. L. Ritt. It follows:

"Dear Mr. Siegel: At the request of Mr. Charles Ward we are enclosing our draft No. 7128 in the amount of \$80,000, drawn on the Guarantee Trust Company of New York, payable to yourself. Will you kindly acknowledge receipt and forward same in the enclosed envelope?"

Ward is quoted as explaining that the \$100,000 was repayment of a loan from Siegel.

When Siegel was tried at Los Angeles in 1940 for the killing of a "Murder, Inc.," gangster suspected of giving information to the law, he was asked if he had visited Ward at St. Paul at about the time of the Bigelow death. He denied it, and the line of questioning was not pursued.

Siegel's killers last month, and the reason for their act, remain unknown.

Ward's career has been widely publicized as one of the strangest in American big business. Born at Seattle 60 years ago, he crossed the Pacific many times as a seaman, was a flunky in an Alaskan saloon, and joined the revolutionary forces of Pancho Villa in Mexico.

In 1919 he was arrested for a narcotics law violation at El Paso and met his benefactor at Leavenworth as the result of that misadventure.

Owner of a big farm at Hudson, Wis., Ward was for several years a power in the Progressive Party of that state, and was referred to by some publications as political boss of St. Paul as well.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 21 1947

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301 Continental Bank Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah
July 17, 1947

Director, FBI

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 18 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

RE: FLAMINGO HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
CRIME SURVEY

DECLASSIFIED BY 49-7 MAC/DB
ON 12-2-85 b7c

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has been previously advised of negotiations pending on the part of SANFORD D. ADLER and his associates whereby ADLER hoped to lease or purchase the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, after the death of BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL. These negotiations were being made on the behalf of SANFORD D. ADLER and SIEGEL's former associates in the Flamingo Hotel by MOR SEEWAY, an associate of SIEGEL at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Members of the Eastern Criminal Syndicate, who were interested in the Flamingo Hotel with SIEGEL, were represented in the negotiation by MORRIS ROSEN, an official of the American Distillers Corporation and an associate of MEYER LANSKY and other members of the Eastern Criminal Syndicate.

On July 12, 1947, the Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Las Vegas, Nevada, announced the sale of the Flamingo Hotel by the Nevada Projects Corporation, the corporate legal owner of the Flamingo Hotel, to SANFORD D. ADLER and the latter's associates who were not named. The newspaper article reflected that the consideration paid by ADLER for the Flamingo Hotel was in excess of \$3,000,000.

[REDACTED SECTION]

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RE: J

62-2837-771

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
LA 62-2837-771 pg 2

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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TO: DIRECTOR
RE: FLAMINGO HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
CRIME SURVEY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Further information as to the details of the sale of the Flamingo Hotel to the new owners [REDACTED] will be made available to the Bureau and interested divisions as soon as it is obtained [REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN
SAC

94-142 AMSD
cc Los Angeles (P & C) AMSD
Phoenix (P & C) AMSD
St. Paul (P & C) AMSD

cc 62-1150

ML

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE

DATE: July 22, 1947

FROM : SAC E. B. HOOD

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSEY" SIEGEL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

In a telephone conversation with MR. ROSEN on July 15th he stated that if any information is received relative to the killing of SIEGEL we should refer it to the LAPD rather than to the Beverly Hills PD and no investigation is to be conducted by us.

If through any source available we did receive accurate positive information in connection with this case, the Bureau should, however, be advised immediately and no further action of any kind taken until further instructions are received.

RBH
62-2837

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-95 BY SP-7 mac/182

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JUL 22 1947	

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301 Continental Bank Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah
July 18, 1947

DECLASSIFIED BY 39-7000
ON 11-7-85

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: BENJAMIN "BOGS" SIGGEL,
INFORMATION CONCERNING CRIME SURVEY

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to San Diego letter dated July 1, 1947,
to the Bureau, copies of which were furnished interested
offices, stating that

[REDACTED]

For the information of the Bureau and interested offices, it
is believed that

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It is believed that this information may help to clear up
this matter.

J

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN
Special Agent in Charge

62-2837-17
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 21 1947
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

62-1130
cc - San Diego, Los Angeles,
and Phoenix

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/24/47

Virginia Hill

Miami Palace Ready For Her Return

By International News Service

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., July 24.
—Virginia Hill's palatial Miami Beach home was ready for her occupancy today, but there was no indication when the 30-year-old playgirl would arrive from France to live in it.

However, Miss Hill's 20-year-old brother, Charles "Chick" Hill, and her secretary, Miss Jerri Mason, 24, are occupying the Sunset Isle mansion.

They arrived in Miami Beach Sunday from Los Angeles, and today denied reports that they were married in Las Vegas recently.

Hill and Miss Mason were in Virginia's swank Beverly Hills, Calif., home the night that Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was slain in the living room while reading a newspaper.

Young Hill said he had not been advised when his sister will return from France, but added that he expected her "soon."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11-27-95 BY 68-71162/AM

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 24 1947 111

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/24/47

'Bugsy' Murder

Howser Sees Wire Service Motive

Gangland slaying of Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, gambling czar, probably was motivated because he "muscled his racetrack wire service into Nevada and was attempting to take over northern and Southern California."

This was the theory advanced today by Attorney General Fred N. Howser after he and other officials broke open Siegel's safety deposit vault box and found assorted men's jewelry and an insurance policy to the reputed gangster's mother.

Although the box yielded no clue to the murder, Howser said:

"We think we know who had the best motive. Either the director or the actual perpetrator of the shooting was a western man."

Investigations showed Siegel to be the representative of Trans-america Wire Service, the attorney general stated, adding that on June 13, seven days before Siegel's death, the wire service sent the following telegram to bookmakers it serviced:

"Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are compelled to discontinue our

business after the last race of June 14."

Howser intimated that this wire followed a direct threat to Siegel. A complete investigation of all racetrack wire services were called for by the circumstances, it was said.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-21-85 BY SP-7 mac/ha

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JUL 24 1947

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BUGSY'S GIRL ATTEMPTS SUICIDE, FEARING GUNMEN

L. A. hoods stalk her in Europe

NICE, July 15.—(U.P.)—Virginia Hill, glamorous girl friend of late Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, tried to commit suicide by swallowing a tube of sleeping tablets, it was learned today from the record of the Villa Labert clinic in Monte Carlo.

It was reported that she was in hiding from two Los Angeles gunmen, supposedly seeking to kill her.

Police said the gunmen were sent here to liquidate her for knowing too much—and talking too much—regarding the murder of her gangster boy friend.

Miss Hill swallowed a full tube of sleeping tablets in the attempt, police said, but hotel employes found her in her room and she was sent to the Villa Albert clinic, where she recovered.

She was discharged from the clinic, operated by the Monte Carlo Hospital, last Friday, two days after the attempt, it was said.

Miss Hill had come to France the week before her boy friend Siegel was shot to death June 20 through a front window of her Beverly Hills home in which he was staying.

She talked freely in Paris of Siegel.

It was reported from Los Angeles last week that two gunmen had been sent to Paris to liquidate her, as they had rubbed out Siegel because she knew too much and talked too much.

Police believe that Miss Hill left her Paris hotel secretly and went to nearby Monte Carlo to hide.

The police and attendants at the Albert clinic indicated that her condition was serious when she was found but physicians managed to save her, they said.

Police said they believed that Miss Hill despaired of eluding the gunmen.

Los Angeles police had said that they notified the Surete Nationale, the French Scotland Yard, that the gunmen were en route. French authorities have denied that they received any such warning.

Reports have been published that Miss Hill tried to kill herself by taking sleeping tablets several weeks ago at Las Vegas, Nev., after a quarrel with Siegel at his white elephant gambling palace.

Monte Carlo police said Miss Hill never asked them for protection.

They reported that she checked out of her Monte Carlo hotel the day she left the clinic, leaving no forwarding address.

An employe of the Hotel Le Reserve in nearby Beaulieu said she checked in there the same day but that by agreement with the management she registered under an assumed name.

Before she sought seclusion on the Riviera, Miss Hill said Paris that she was on vacation when she heard of Bugsy's death. She last saw him during the first week in June in his Flamingo Casino in Las Vegas, she said, and they quarreled when she wouldn't let him eat dinner with "all those nice people" in "a dirty sport shirt."

"I 'phone goodby from Chicago and said I was coming to Europe," she said. "He said goodbye and I never heard from him afterward."

Miss Hill said then she intended to be in Europe three months.

She also said she never had been very friendly with Bugsy—Ben, she called him—and they did not have mutual friends. She never knew, she said, that he was a gangster.

The house in which Bugsy was killed, she said, was not actually hers, but was lent to her by a friend.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 10 1947
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LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS
DATED 7/15/47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-27-95 BY SP-1 mact/btc

Bugsy rubout scared fake money gang

Federal agents in San Francisco have seized plates used to print \$1,000,000 in counterfeit currency discovered in the Utah desert. Washington headquarters of the secret service said the plates were found in a repossessed automobile, and agents are hunting the defaulting buyer, whose identity they know.

Bugsy Siegel's gangland rubout here was credited today with thwarting a cleanout of Las Vegas gambling casinos by a \$1,000,000 counterfeit ring.

Discovery of a \$1,000,000 cache of phony \$10 bills near the Utah-Nevada line, led to the belief the money was abandoned when Siegel's death brought a swarm of police to Las Vegas.

Secret service men said the huge cache of bogus bills was found hidden in a culvert about 20 miles west of St. George, Utah, by a Los Angeles bus driver.

There were 16 bundles of the bills, each containing \$200,000.

Authorities said the bills were in an unfinished state, being in sheets of two bills each. However, they said they would have been easily passable after they had been cut and put through a coffee-grounds aging process.

J. H. Bracken, driver who found the cache, said he first noticed

one to the bills about three weeks ago, while making his weekly run between Los Angeles and St. George.

He saw the bill alongside the road, stopped and picked it up. The following week he saw two bills scurrying along the roadside before the wind.

Last Friday Bracken stopped his bus, got out and searched the area. He found the cache in a culvert beside the road.

He later walked into Las Vegas police headquarters and turned over a sack containing \$100,000 in the spurious money.

Chief of Detectives Ollie Stark of Las Vegas said, "It is quite possible that the heat generated from Bugsy's rubout may have delayed the operations of the counterfeiters."

He pointed out that the bundles may have been broken and a few bills scattered by a heavy wind in the Utah area shortly after Bugsy's murder.

F. C. Wasson, Los Angeles secret service agent, said a \$60,000 packet of the counterfeit money is being sent here for investigation.

The investigation will center in Salt Lake City, Utah, however, since the find was made within the Denver, Colo., federal district.

Because of Bugsy Siegel's connections in Las Vegas, where he operated the lavish Flamingo Club, the heat was on the gambling city during investigation of his death.

It was believed the counterfeit money was brought into the area by a national ring which intended to work a \$1,000,000 swindle on the Las Vegas clubs until the Siegel scandal scared them off.

62-2837-713
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 10 1947

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/15/47

Spurious Bills Link 'Bugsy' Rubout to Counterfeiting

The Los Angeles office of the Secret Service today was investigating the possibility that a cache of \$1,000,000 in counterfeit \$10 bills, found hidden in a tree near St. George, Utah, might be connected with the gangland slaying of Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel.

Authorities in Las Vegas, Nev., advanced the theory that the bogus bills may have been abandoned by a counterfeiting ring because of the "heat" generated by Siegel's rubout.

The fake money was found by a Los Angeles truck driver, J. R. Bracken, who said he stopped to pick up one bill lodged in a tree and discovered 12 large bundles.

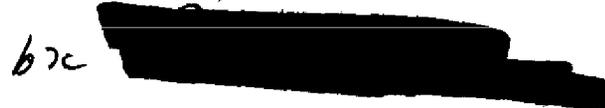
He turned over approximately \$100,000 in the counterfeit money to Las Vegas authorities. The rest of the bills were scattered over a 20-mile area by the wind. Sheriff's deputies recovered most of it.

Although Las Vegas police said they experimented with some of the bills and successfully passed them on six out of seven gambling casino cashiers in Las Vegas, the local Secret Service office said the bills were "crude and unfinished."

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 16 1947



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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC
FROM : ASAC J. C. ELLSWORTH
SUBJECT: BENJAMIN (BUGSY) SIEGEL
Information Concerning

DATE: July 2, 1947

MR. ROSEN telephoned at 12:50 P.M. 7-1-47 regarding our letter setting out the interview with [REDACTED] b7c

MR. ROSEN pointed out that we obviously have no Federal violation and, therefore, no reason to enter the investigation. He does not want us to "stick our necks out" like we did in the NSPA case recently.

He asked how we know whether or not the local authorities are on the right trail or not, and I advised him that we know only from the newspapers and from [REDACTED] that they are investigating the fringes by talking to Hollywood celebrities, etc. and really don't have any concrete leads. ROSEN pointed out that if we give the information to the local authorities they will probably make their own trips to the East and will give considerable publicity to what they will do and whom they will interview. b7c

It was suggested to him that if he desires, we can have [REDACTED] give his information direct to some police agency and leave us out of it, and he said that the Bureau might so instruct and to stand by until he gives us definite instructions as to how to handle the information we are getting. b7c

7/2 he said he still has no word from my part as to what we will do with our info.

JCE
62-2837

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
JUL 2 1947		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		

Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC
FROM : ASAC J. C. ELLSWORTH
SUBJECT: BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL

DATE: July 8, 1947

[redacted] telephoned on July 1, 1947 that his informant had just reported that the fellow in Santa Monica [redacted] had left that morning for Las Vegas. bx

JCE [redacted]

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DATE 11-22-85 BY 89-7 me/...

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUL 8 - 1947
[redacted]

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LOS ANGELES HERALD & EXPRESS
DATED 7/15/47

'Bugsy's' Girl in Death Try

By United Press
NICE, July 15.—Virginia Hill, glamorous girl friend of the late Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, in whose home in Beverly Hills Siegel was slain, tried to commit



VIRGINIA HILL
Tried Suicide to Escape Gunmen, French Records Show

suicide by swallowing a tube of sleeping tablets, it was learned today from the record of the Villa Albert, clinic in Monte Carlo.

It was reported that she was in hiding from two Los Angeles gunmen, supposedly seeking to kill her.

According to the report, corroborated by the Monte Carlo police, the girl swallowed a full tube of powerful sleeping tablets in her room at the Monte Carlo Beach Hotel on July 9.

She was discovered by hotel employees and taken to the Villa Albert, a private clinic operated by the Monte Carlo Hospital.

Three doctors managed to save her and she was released July 11.

Clinic employees said they believed that the former night club entertainer had despaired of eluding two gunmen who Los Angeles police said last week had left for France to kill her.

Los Angeles police said they had informed French police, but authorities here denied they received any such word.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/85 BY SP-2 mac/da

62-2837-788
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 10 1947

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