



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet



Title **Good Boys Now**

Publication *Pittsburgh Press*

Date 1951-08-30

Author(s) Othman, Fred

Abstract Description of Ben Cohen

Keywords Ben Cohen

Notes From FBI file 63-HQ-7046 serial 23.

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[redacted] stated he could not furnish any information as to whether COHEN was associated with the "rackets" as he has had no personal contact with COHEN since his departure from Ambridge in 1922 or 1923.

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A review of the records of the Office of Student Records at the University of Pittsburgh by [redacted] Clerk, disclosed that one BENNIE COHEN of 464 Maplewood Avenue and 430 Merchant Street, Ambridge, Pa., entered the University of Pittsburgh School of Economics during September, 1920, and left the university during June, 1922, having completed 50 credits; that university records further disclosed COHEN attended Ambridge High School, his father's name was listed as ABRAHAM COHEN, and that transcripts of his student record had been directed to Penn State University on August 26, 1921, Thiel College on August 14, 1922, and Duquesne University on May 28, 1923.

Inquiries made through [redacted] residence since 1936, and [redacted] Street, residence since 1934, both Pittsburgh, Pa., on August 29, 1961, failed to disclose information relating to one BEN, BENNIE or BENJAMIN COHEN having been a resident at 5520 Hobart Street, Pittsburgh, it being noted such residence for COHEN was listed while he attended Duquesne University sometime prior to 1926.

Examination of the records of the Allegheny County Bar Association and Prothonotary's records for Allegheny County, Common Pleas Court, Pittsburgh, Pa., on August 30, 1961, failed to disclose any listing or admittance for an attorney under the name of BEN, BENNIE or BENJAMIN COHEN.

The files at the "Pittsburgh Press" Library, a local newspaper, examined on August 30, 1961, disclosed an article appearing in the "Pittsburgh Press" by FRED OTHMAN (now deceased) entitled, "Good Boys Now," and datelined Washington, D. C., August 20, 1950, which in substance sets forth the following:

"I never did see so many gents in sharp suits and sincere cravats as the Miami Beach gamblers who showed up reluctantly to assure the U. S. Senate that they have reformed. From now on, said they through their mouthpiece, they are going to be good boys.

"Senator Estes Kefauver, Democrat of Tennessee, Chairman of the Crime Investigators, kept insisting on calling Attorney Bennie Cohen their 'voice.' Bennie said the proper term was 'mouthpiece.'

"Bennie glistened in solid gold. He looked something like a sunburned and slightly undersized Edward H. Arnold in horn-rimmed spectacles and a suit of fawn-colored gabardine so superlatively fine that it shimmered like silk.

"His bald spot reflected the light; so did the 3 carat diamond on his little finger. He wore a gold wristwatch with a gold band an inch wide; his cuff links were of gold in the shape of buttons; his deep red tie was held to his ample middle by a golden clasp.

"Bennie told about five good boys, including his brother, Sam, who organized the S & G syndicate to handle the wholesale end of hoss-race gambling on the Florida stand and who did \$26,000,000 worth of business one year after the war.

"Now they're through. The syndicate is no more. The good boys are going into other businesses because (as Bennie reported) the newspapers crucified them.

"The trouble seemed to be that the T-men were after Bennie, Sammie and Jules and the others on income tax charges. All hands refused to answer questions about their actual gambling profits nor could any of them explain how the syndicate came to be known as the S & G with offices scattered along the Beach and bookies working cigar stands in 191 different hotels."

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The [redacted] referred to in the article mentioned above was identified as [redacted]

Inquiries made of [redacted] Chief Identification Officer, Pittsburgh Police Department, and [redacted] clerk, Credit Bureau, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., failed to disclose any information identifiable with BEN, BENNIE or BENJAMIN COHEN.