

GAMBLING KINGPIN DIES IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS, Nev., July 31—(AP) Anthony Corneo Stralla, Southern California and Nevada gambling figure, died today of a heart attack. He was about 55.

Stralla—better known as Tony Corneo—succumbed in his suite at the Desert Inn, across "The Strip" from the casino-hotel he had hoped to open tomorrow.

After a long legal battle, Stralla's syndicate recently received a license from the mammoth Stardust hotel, of which he was to be president and general manager. He held 50 per cent of the stock in the project. The rest was divided among 2,800 other stockholders.

Stralla—former operator of gambling ships off the Southern California coast, obtained the license from the Nevada Tax commission by leasing casino rights to eight other men for six million dollars a year.

During Prohibition days Stralla reportedly made a million dollars as a rum runner before he was 30. He was convicted and sentenced in 1929 to two years in McNeil Island, Wash., penitentiary.

In the late 1930s and 1940s he acquired notoriety as the operator of the gaming vessels "Rex" and "Lux," which plied their trade off Santa Monica and Long Beach. At one time the "Rex" was the flagship of a fleet of four barges operated by Stralla.

"The Admiral of the Rolling Bones," as he was once dubbed, engaged in a series of legal skirmishes with then State Attorney General Earl Warren, now chief justice of the United States. Eventually Stralla was put out of business on the coast.

In 1948 he narrowly escaped death from an assassin's bullet. He was shot at his Beverly Hills, Calif., home by one of two mobsters. No convictions were ever obtained.

When state and federal agents seized the "Lux," it reportedly was doing a net business of \$179,000 in one two-week period.

After the California clampdown, Stralla turned to legitimate shipping, operating the Seven Seas Trading company and the Santa Maria Steamship corporation.

Stralla was divorced from actress Barbara Land in 1947. He was born in the Piedmonte region of northern Italy and came to San Francisco with his parents as a child in 1904.

A new 1,020-foot concrete highway bridge over the Dwarakaswar River has been opened to traffic in Burma, Rangoon reports.

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