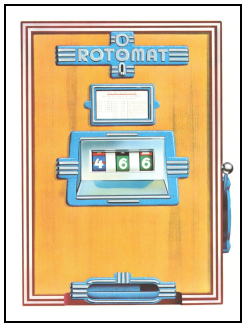
The German Wall Machines

THE GUNTER WULFF STORY

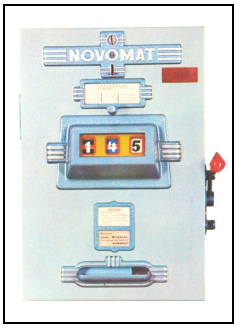
In 1958 the import restrictions imposed on various items coming in to England were getting a little easier, import licenses although limited where obtainable, my Father went on a trip to Gemany and found that there was a vast number of wall machines available from the German Distributor's and the buyer could name his own price. My Father was buying these machine for as little as five pounds each for Rotomat's, Novomat's and Beromat's, the Beromat "B" and Exacta type machines were slightly more, around ten pounds each. My Father bought his first batch of machines around 50 machines from a distributor called Schmitz & Gerdes in Köln, I remember my Dad telling me that he had to meet the people from that company at a little bank in Gelsenkirchen, a little coal mining Town (Gelsenkirchen was the location of the ladies section of Buchenwald Concentration Camp during World War II) in the middle of the Ruhr region of Germany



Rotomat 1953



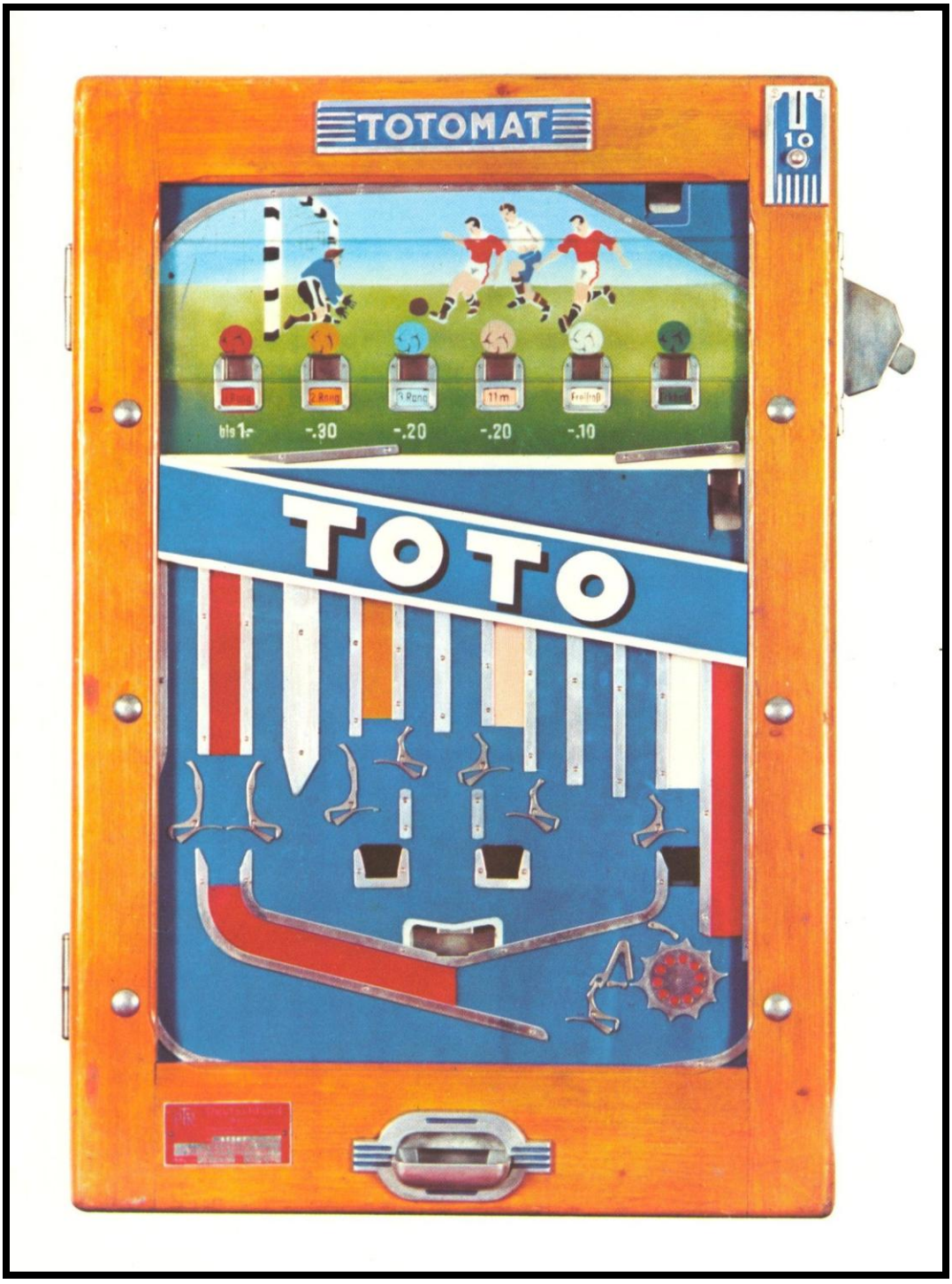
the Town of Gelsenkirchen 1955



Novomat 1954

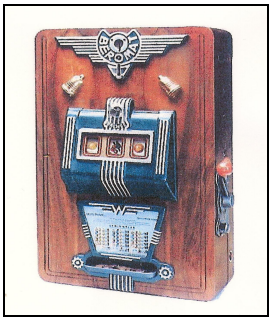
He said when he went into the bank they were so polite and stood to attention. My Dad brought all of the machines back in a lorry that we still used for our fairground stalls. After that we bought loads of machines in from Germany, on a regular basis, we also bought a lot of machines from Autoslot Ltd in Croydon, they were bringing in a lot of machines and my Dad bought them unconverted and we converted them, I remember that the coins that they used in Germany were 10 pfennig coin's about the size of a five cent piece, the tube was about eight inches tall and the payout slides only had about a quarter of an inch on each side of the hole for the coin, by the time we reamed out the slides that were made of die-cast, there was only about an eighth of an inch left on each side of the hole so they broke very easy, my Father cut a V shaped slot in the coin tube about three inches from the bottom, he then put a dome headed bolt through one side of the tube and this caused the coins to tilt after the tube was three inches full of English penny coins, (about the size of a fifty cent coin) any other coins after that would fall through the side of the tube and into the cash box, this system was the answer to the problem. My Dad also adjusted the timing levers and slowed down the motor from 15 seconds to five seconds. German wall machines had a very high standard of engineering.

Gunter Wulff "TOTOMAT" 1950



Gunter Wulff's first machine "Toto" then "Totomat" designed by Walter Bohlmann 1950

These machines made a lot of money for the operator's and at a cost of Forty-Five Pounds each were a good investment. We sold these machines to many Arcades and traveling showmen, I remember at the London Trade Show in 1959 we sold every machine on the first day, Charles Hawtrey from Fleetwood Pier near Blackpool, gave us an order for 20 machines, that was great in those days. on our stand at the show we also had a Bradley Challenger Mark II for sale, two young guys came up and said they wanted to buy it, they gave my Father Ten Pounds deposit for the machine and left, when we got home after the show my Mother had left the receipt book in the Regents Palace Hotel (That was where everybody in the business stayed in those days, the traveling showmen called it "Meeting Week" an annual event there was more business transacted in the lounge of the Regent's Palace Hotel than there was at the show) so we could not deliver the Challenger to the buyer, several years later while attending an ACA Dinner and Dance in Great Yarmouth, I was introduced to two young men from Tenby in Wales, I said "Did you buy a machine at the London show several years ago, and never got it ?" one of the young men said "Yes how did you know" I said "We sold it to you and I owe you Ten Pounds, here it is" the young man looked at me in bewilderment and said to his Brother "Phillip order a bottle of Champagne". Those young men were Phillip and Frankie Booth, we have been friends ever since.



Beromat 1954



German two year license for the Rotomat

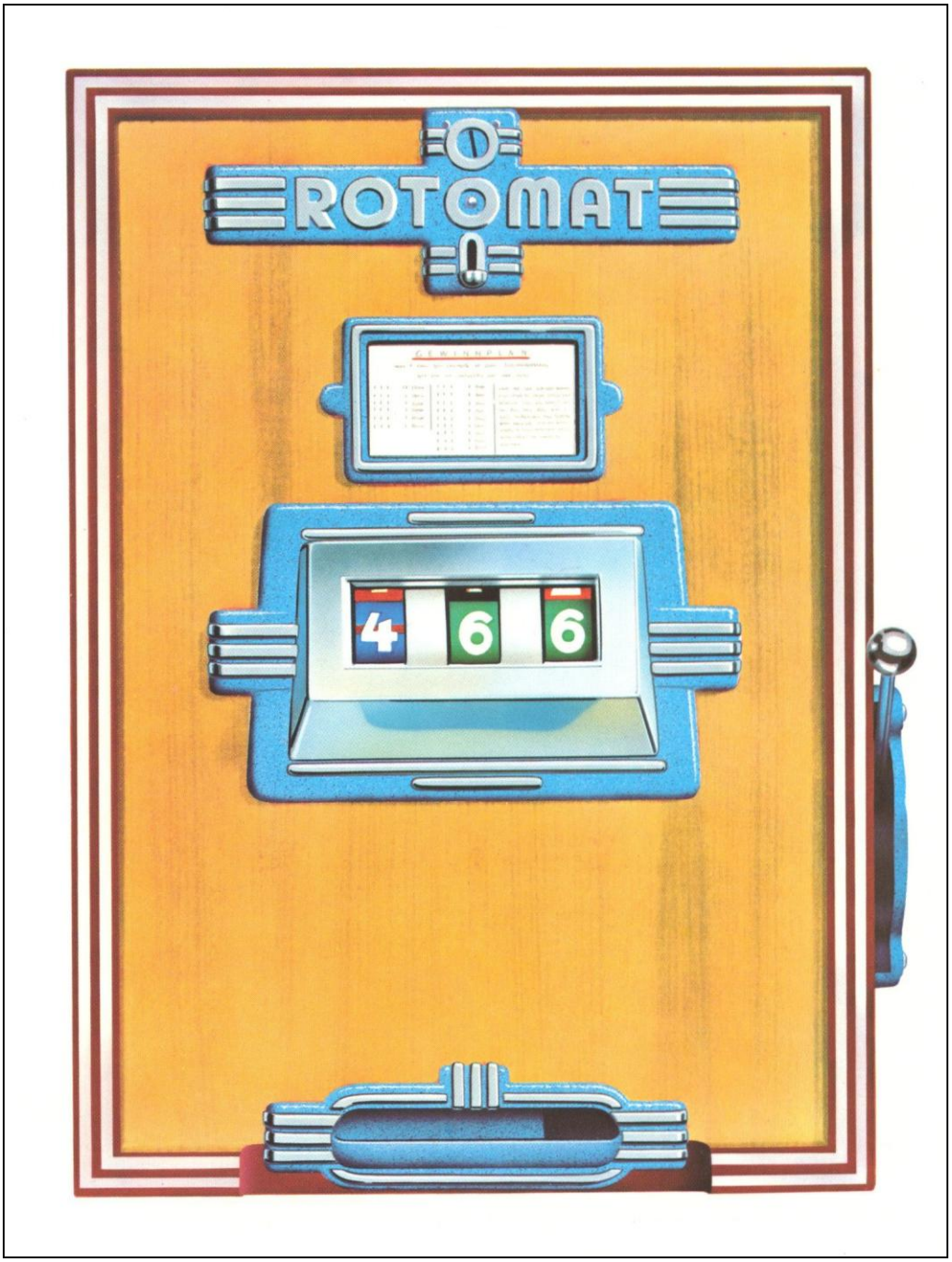


Tip-Top 1960

Getting back to the operation of payout machines in Germany, the laws were very strict, the German law stated that every machine manufactured for operation in the Federal Republic of Germany could only be in operation for a two year period, after that the machine must be taken out of operation. These law's were to help the post war struggling German economy to get back on it's feet, by restricting the machines to a two year life span, it helped to keep the German workers in work

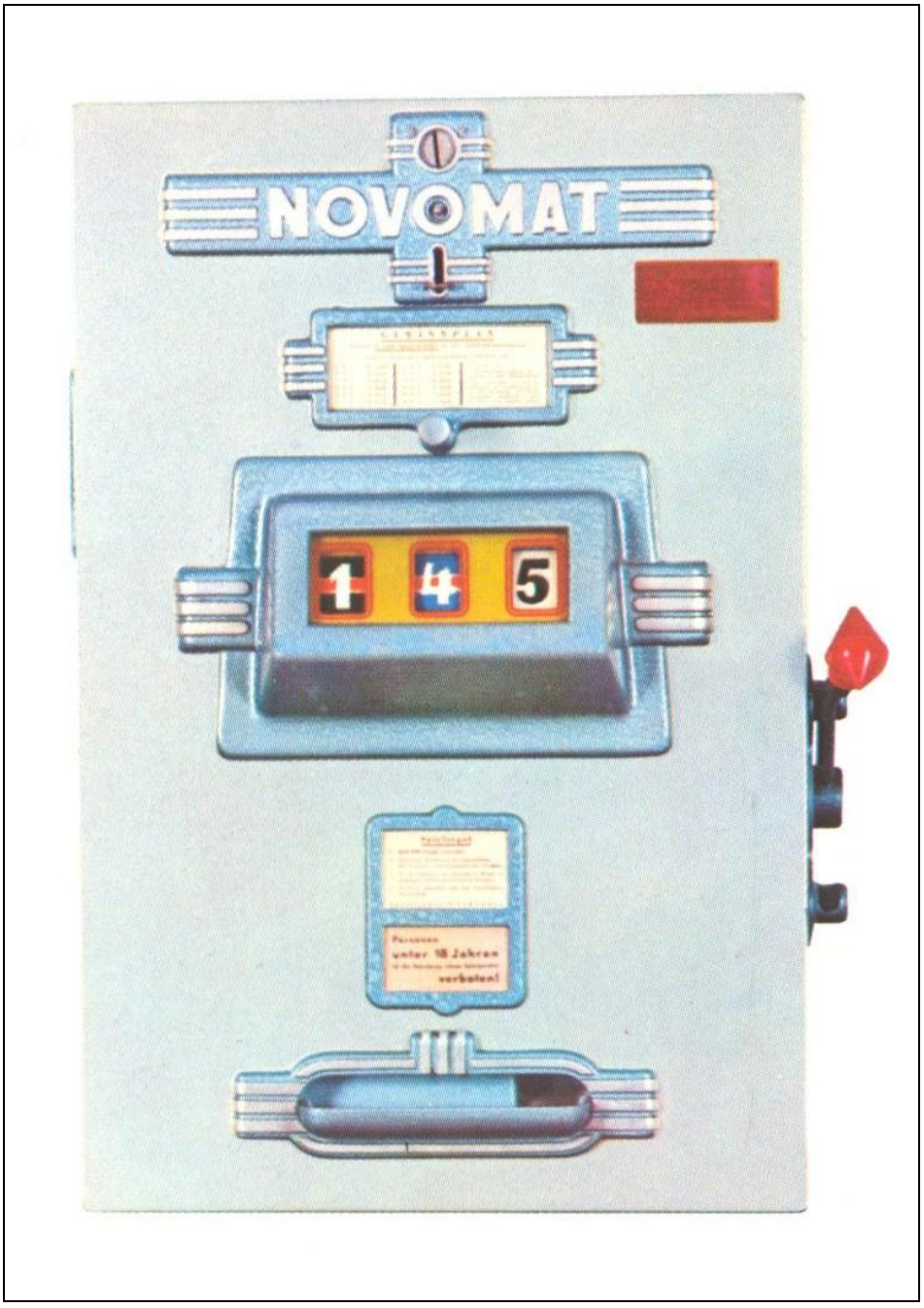
These machines also had to have a time cycle of 15 seconds per play; they were also restricted to a limited payout award (this was the first known version of an AWP) and a high payback percentage. It also meant that if a company had a certain percentage of the market that company would know exactly how many machines it would make over a one-year period; this law is still in force today. There are over 300,000 payout machines on location in German today, if a company such as NSM or the Gauselmann Group were to say have a 25% share of the market they would have a production figure of around 75,000 machines per year or 1,500 per week, beautiful numbers.

Gunter Wulff "ROTOMAT" 1953



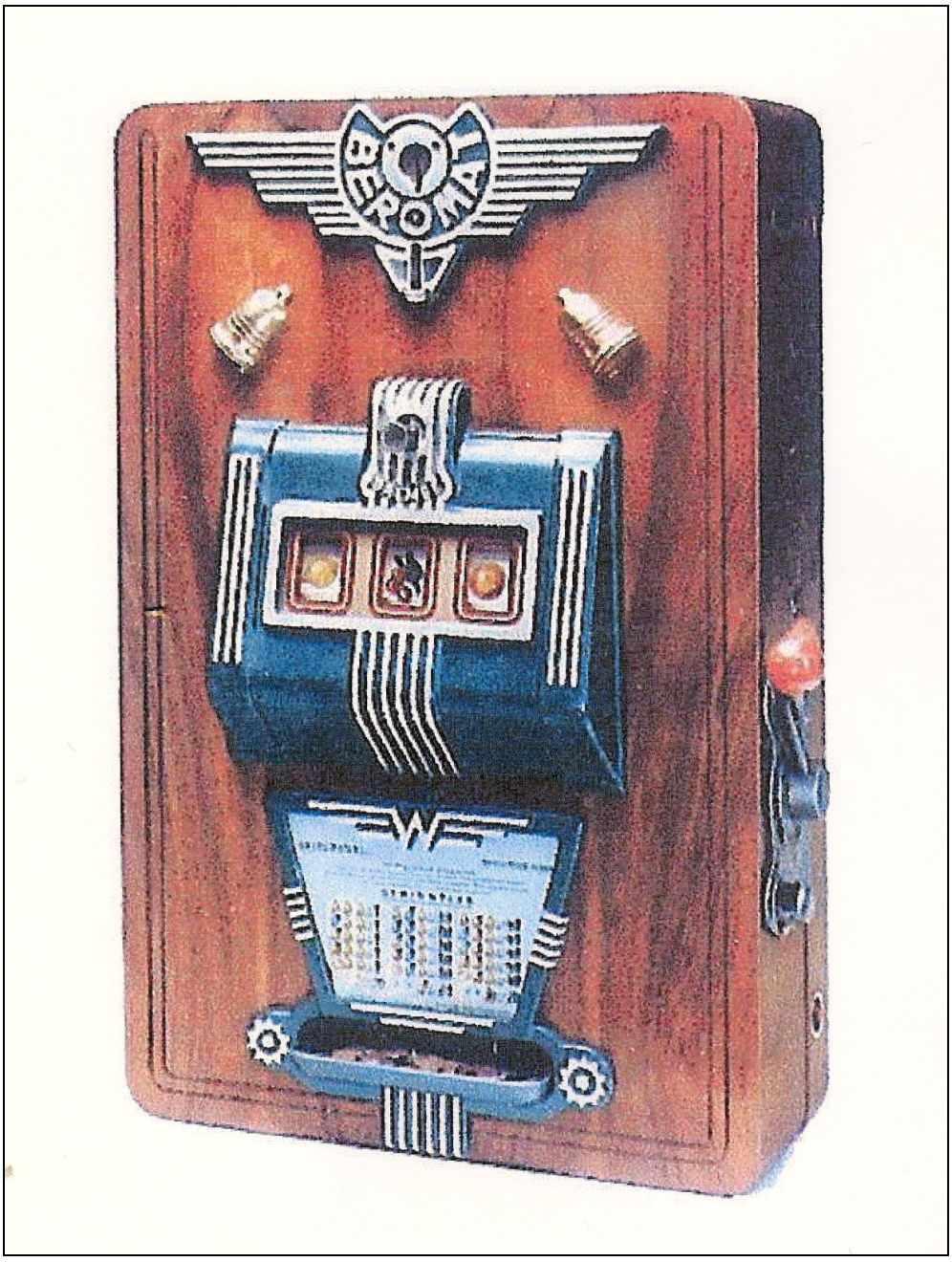
Gunter Wulff's "Rotomat" first 3 reel machine designed by Walter Bohlmann 1953

Gunter Wulff "NOVOMAT" 1954



"Novomat" 3 reel machine with Re-Spin Feature designed by Walter Boahlmann 1954

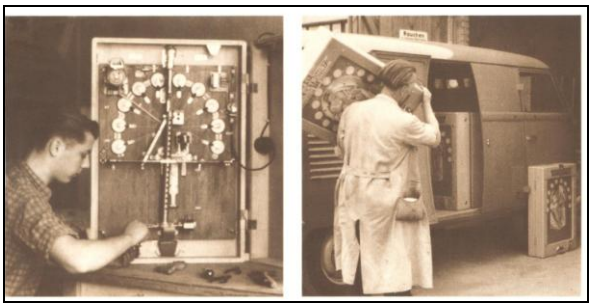
Gunter Wulff "BEROMAT" 1954



"Beromat" Gunter Wulff's only machine with Fruit Symbols 1954

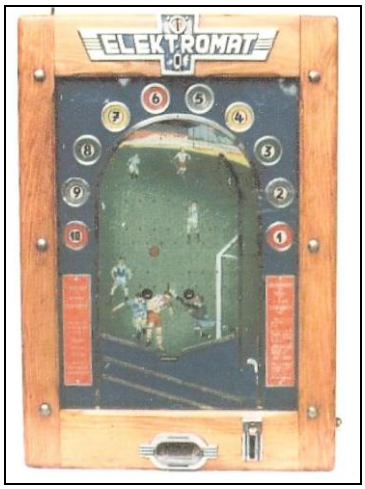


Gunter Wulff Factory Berlin Germany



Delivering Totomat machines in 1950

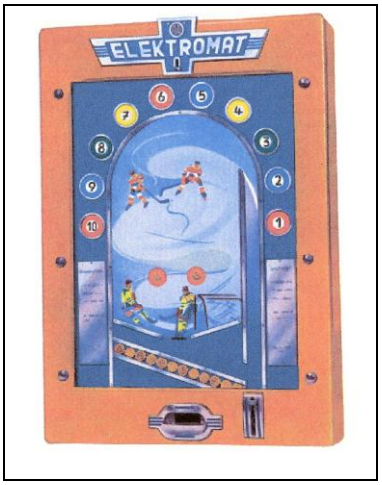
Although today's games are electronic in the 1950's most of the games were of the mechanical three reel type, the leading manufacturer in those day's was without a doubt Gunter Wulff Apparatebau this company was formed in 1950 by the Berliner, Gunter Wulff, his first machine was "Totomat" a game very similar to another game called "Treff" that was made in 1949 by another German company called Steiner. Both "Treff" and "Totomat" were just re-vamps of the earlier games that were made in both Germany and America, such as "Hoppla" made by the old German company of Jentzsch & Meers in 1928, and "3 Jacks" made by Mills and several of the other American manufacturers of the time. Totomat was sold for 260DM=$60.00 and 6,300 units were sold of this machine.



Elektromat Football 1951



Elektromat Revue 1951

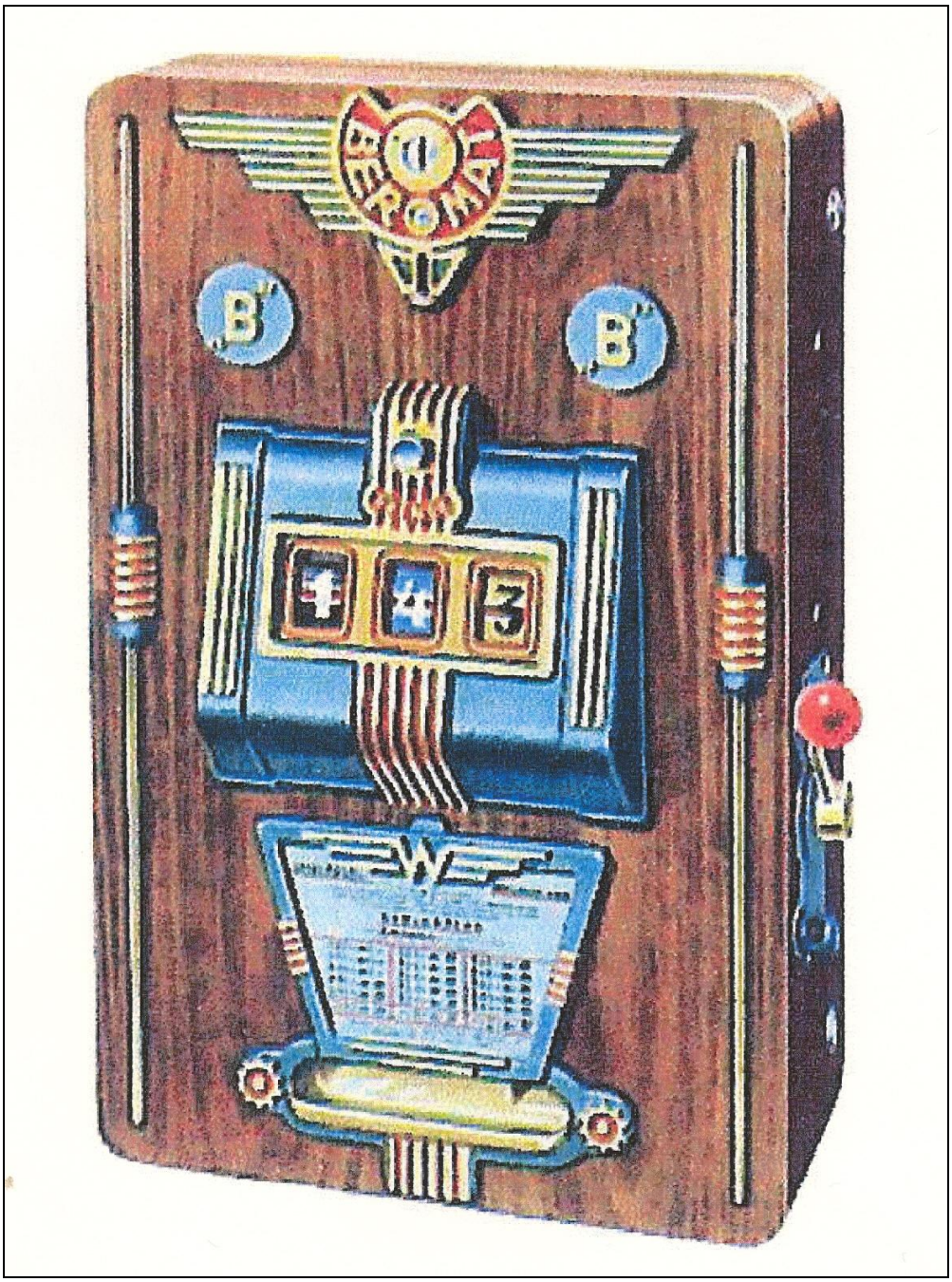


Elektromat Hockey 1951

A change in legislation in 1951 required a minimum of 15 seconds per game, which meant the end of Totomat where the game only lasted 3 seconds. However, Gunter Wulff had already a completely new game, the Elektromat, which met the new standards and was well received.

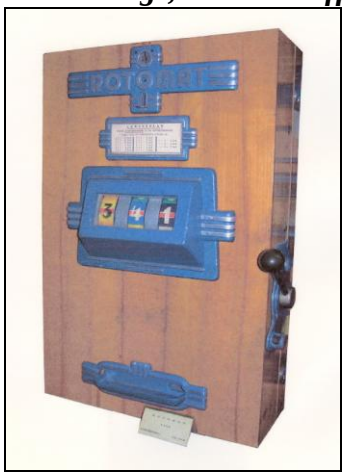
In 1953, Gunter Wulff introduced his first three-reel slot machine called the "Rotomat", Designed by Walter Bohlmann Gunter Wulff's Chief engineer; this machine would set the standard for Gunter Wulff 3-reel machines for the next decade. This brilliant designed machine had 3 reels each with ten numbers ranging from 1-6, the numbers 1-4 each had a bold red stripe across the center of the number, when the player

Gunter Wulff "Beromat "B" 1954



"Beromat "B" with different trim and numbered reels 1954

Achieved three red lined numbers in line that indicated a winning combination. The maximum win on the Rotomat was 1 DM (10 coins) this was paid when the player lined up 1-1-1, 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 on the pay line, in that order. Gunter Wulff always had his machines paying around 70%, but when the minimum was 60% set out in the new German laws, Walter Bohlmann suggested that they remove the number 6 from the first reel, because if the player saw a number 6 on the first reel, he knew he had lost automatically, not a very encouraging thought. After that all Gunter Wullf 3 reel machines never had a 6 on the first reel, also many of the current stock of Rotomats at that time had a restart button fitted to also solve the number 6 problem. Sales of the Rotomat reached over 12,000 units. Gunter Wulff would produce more than twenty different versions of the "Rotomat" including "Novomat" (26,000 units sold), "Orion", "Regina", "Lottomat", "Tip Top" and "Tivoli" using the exact same cabinet and front castings, but with different winning combinations.



Rotomat 1953



Orian 1958



Beromat "B" 1954

In 1954 Wulff came out with the "Beromat", this machine was the first machine to have a slightly different look to the cabinet and was fitted with new style castings,, the "Beromat" was a beautiful looking machine, with it's gold and green trim, it was the first and only machine to be produced with fruit symbols on the reels, but sales would reach only a little over 10,000 units. Prior to this all of the three reel machines produced by Wulf had numbers on the reels, or what was commonly called in Europe "Totalisator" numbers. Wulff quickly followed the "Beromat" with the Beromat "B", the same machine but with the original type of numbers instead of fruit symbols on the reels. After the "Beromat "B" Wulff once again changed the look of the machine slightly by introducing a large frame mounted on the front of the machine with an attractive award glass, so doing away with the castings that Wulff had put on his machines in the previous 10 years.



Rotomat reel casting 1953

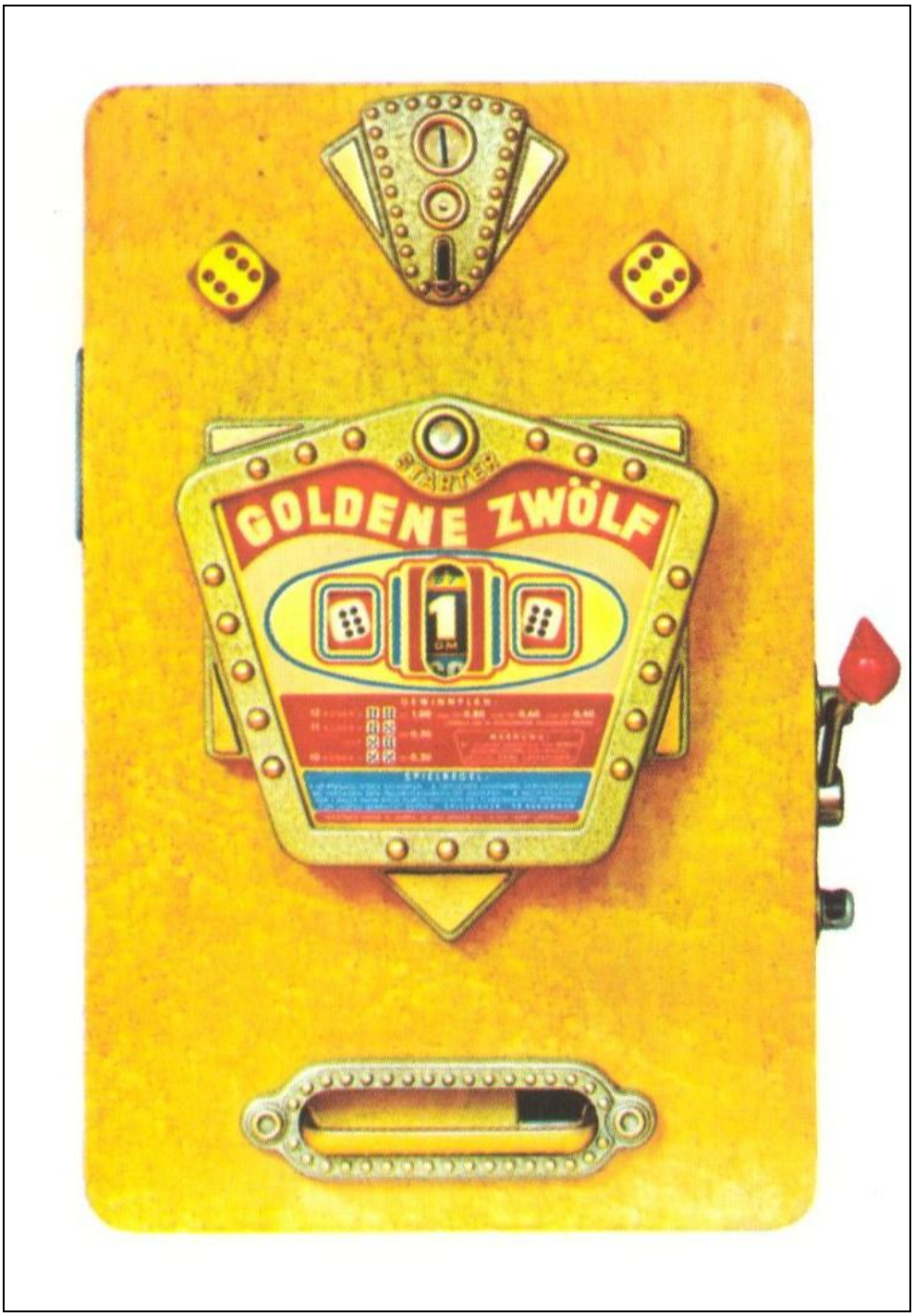


Goldene Zwolf casting 1955

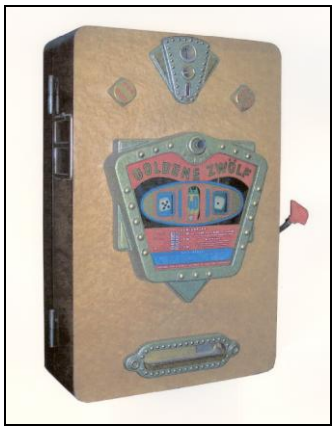


Beromat casting 1954

Gunter Wulff "GOLDENE ZWOLF" 1956



"Goldene Zwolf" 3 reel machine with Dice on the reels and Re-Spin 1956



Goldene Zwolf 1956



Primus 1957



Addretta 1957

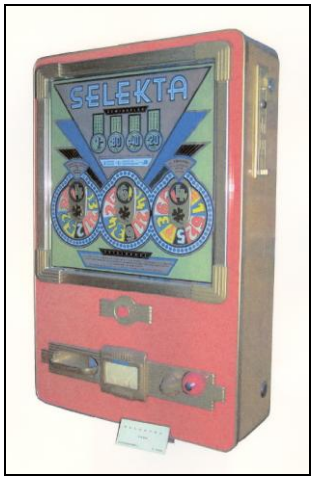
This machine introduced in 1956 was called "Goldene Zwolf", Gunter Wulff once again experimented with a different reel combination, using dice symbols on the first and third reel and the payout award on the second or center reel, this machine was not very successful in Germany (but did well in England) and Wulff quickly turned back to
The more successful Totalisator Reel system, with such machines as "Andretta", "Exact", "Primus" and "Perfekta" being the last of the three reel machines. Around this time Wulff had also introduced "Duo-Mat" (9,900 unit sold) and "Duolett", these machines were mechanical in operation but instead of the reel system had two roulette style wheels in the front of the machine, one was for the winning number and one was for the payout combination, these machines were not only unsuccessful to the player but also very troublesome in their operation. In 1958 Wulff introduced a range of three disc machines, starting with the "Selecta", "Praziz" and "Rondomat", and finishing with "Hermes" in 1961, this was the last totally mechanical machine produced by Wulff.



Duo Mat 1956



Perfekta 1958



Selekta 1959

British Conversion to a "GOLDENE ZWOLF" 1959



British Conversion designed by my Father David Bailey, the V shaped cut In the payout tube helped to solve the problem of broken payout slides Caused from too much weight on the slides by the much larger British old Penny. This conversion was on the "Goldene Zwolf" to a "Double Six".

A collection of Gunter Wulff machines at the London Show 1959



My Mother Florrie Bailey selling Gunter Wulff machines at the London Trade Show 1959

Gunter Wulff "BINGOLETT" 1959

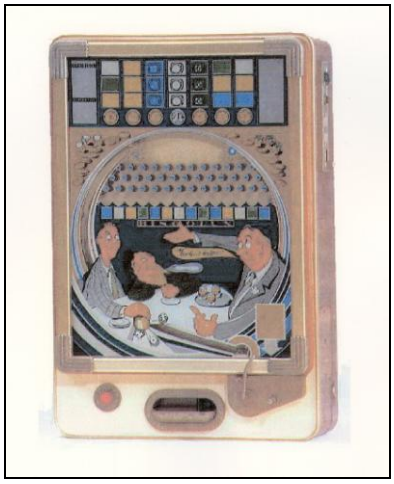


"Bingolett" was Gunter Wulff's first Electro-Mechanical game 1959

In 1959 Wulff had also manufactured a Series of electro mechanical machines incorporating a bingo theme; the first of these games was called "Bingolett" followed by "Bingolux" in 1960 and the last one being the "Rialto" manufactured in 1964.



Bingolett 19589



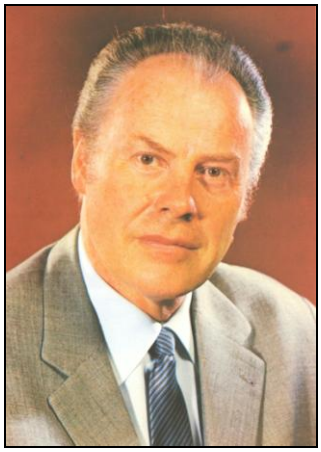
Bingolux 1960



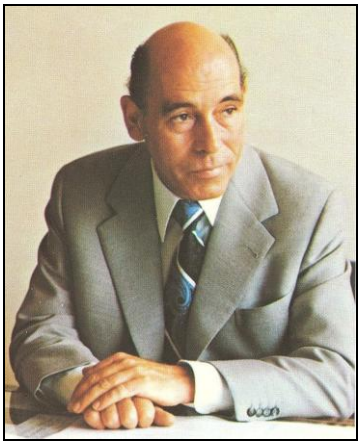
Rialto 1964

For almost fifteen years Gunter Wulff Apparatebau had dominated the mechanical wall machine business in Germany. For the next several years Gunter Wulff Apparatebau would no longer enjoy that position as market leader in the coin machine business in Germany.

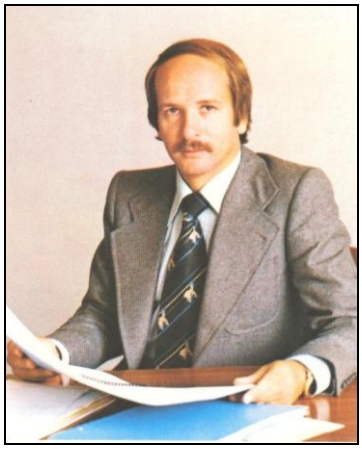
In 1972, Gunter Wulff Apparatebau was sold to the Bally Corporation, and renamed Bally Wulff, for the next 20 years Bally Wulff would be the only company within the Bally Group to constantly make a profit year after year.



Gunter Wulff 1975



Harro Koebke 1975



Hans Kloss 1975

Gunter Wulff was born in 1912 in Forst about 75 miles from Berlin. In 1937 he started Gunter Wulff –Chemie KG this was a chemical company making glass ampoules for lighter fuel, during World War II he made smoke bombs for the German military. (My friend Marty Bromley told me that although Gunter Wulff made smoke bombs for the German Military they were ineffective to say the least, he had done this to be able to get the special treatment from

the German socialist Party, he was allowed to have a car and all the other perks awarded to companies supporting the German War effort). at the end of the War, Berlin was so ravaged by the Allied bombing that production was virtually impossible, Gunter Wulff decided to move to Hamburg where there was more chance of being in the American sector of occupation than the Russian sector, and also having a better chance of starting production again.. On his way to Hamburg Gunter Wulff met a young man literally on the side of the road his name was Harro Koebke, he had escaped from a Berlin Suburb to Hamburg by hiking, and Gunter Wulff stopped and gave him a lift. He joined Gunter Wulff and was to remain with him for the next 35 years. There are a couple of conflicting stories about how Gunter Wulff got into the Coin Machine business, according to Professor Christian Marfels who wrote the book "Bally: The Worlds Game Maker" he states that Gunter was encouraged by an old time operator called Heinrich Santelmann, who encouraged him to buy slot machines, with respect I think that Heinrich Santelmann introduced Gunter Wulff to Walter Boahmann who became Gunter Wulff's chief engineer and was to stay with Gunter Wulff for the next 25 years. (But I would have to accept the story told to me by my friend of 45 years-Marty Bromley who said that Gunter Wulff got into the coin machine business when he purchased his first slot machine from an American Military Base in Berlin) Another long term employee who joined the company in 1970 was Hans Kloss a brilliant stratagist, Hans would go on to become the President of Bally Gaming Inc, and be based in Las Vegas through the early 1990's until his retirement in 1998



Sega Bell 1959



Sam Stern, Ralph Mandell, Marty Bromley, Bill Ruffler



Sega Diamond Star

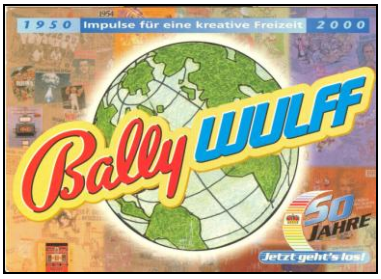
In 1960 Marty Bromley made a deal with Gunter Wulff to lease part of the Gunter Wulff factory in Berlin to produce Sega slot machines that until now Marty had been manufacturing in Japan, the new 1960 British Betting and Gaming act was coming into force and Marty wanted to grab a large piece of that market. Marty himself went to live in Berlin and also took with him his trusted aid Ray Lemaire from Japan. These were produced for the next three years under the guise of Gunter Wulff-Apparatebau who had secured great tax incentives from the German Government and had allowed Marty to do the same. All of the Sega Slot Machine parts were shipped in from Japan, Sega machines were assembled, a "Manufactured by Gunter Wulff" plate's were attached and Marty sold his Sega Slot Machines to the American Military through his Club Speciality Corporation. Based in Panama who were the World Wide Distributors of Sega Slot Machines.

In 1972 my close friend and guru Marty Bromley then head of Sega the company he founded as Service Games with his Father in the 1940's was also approached by one of his old partners Sam Stern who wanted to buy D. Gottlieb & Co, the pinball manufacturer, Marty told Sam "If you want to buy a pinball machine manufacturer, I can buy Chicago Coin from the Gensburg's" they did that and Stern Electronics was born.

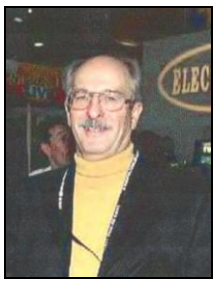
By 1965 Gunter Wulff –Apparatebau GMBH were producing around 130 machines a week, this peaked to over 150 machines a week by 1966, between 1966 and 1967 production dropped to an all time low of less than 100 machines per week for the first time during the 1960's, but by 1968 with the introduction of their new Rotomat Super Krone model sales nearly doubled to around 150 machines a week, and between 1969 and 1977 those figures would continue.



Billy O'Donnell 1975



Bally Wulff postcard 2000



Hans Kloss 2005

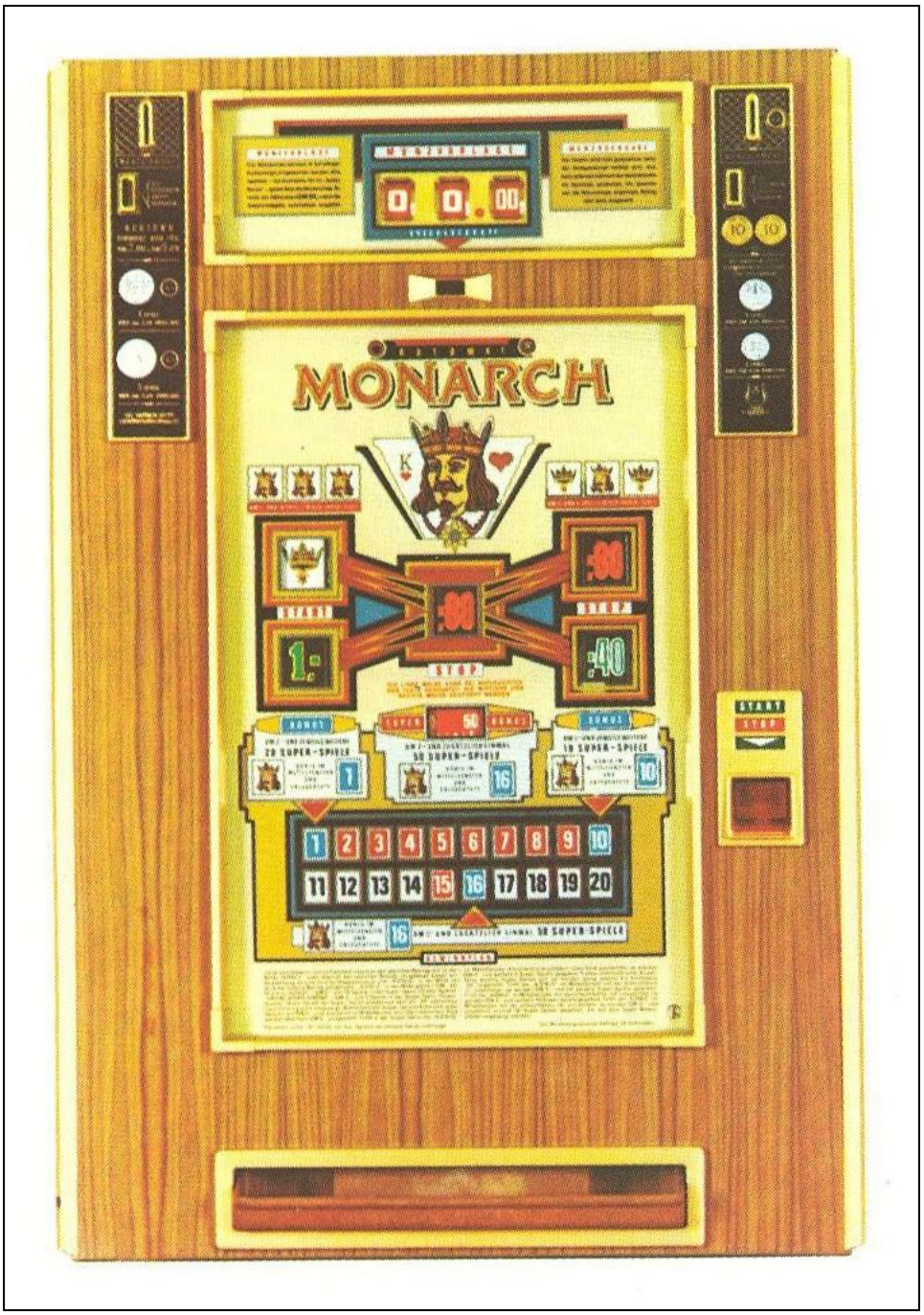
Since 1972 Gunter Wulff -Apparatebau GMBH as been known as Bally Wulff and are housed in a five story 7,000 sm building and employ around 400 people. An interesting Feature of this facility is that part of the "Berlin Wall" is the view one gets from the building. Bally Wulff does all of its own design and development in house, and has an excellent team of designers.

In 1968 Gunter Wulff developed a new Electro-mechanical machine called Super_Krone, it was to be the start of a new era for Gunter Wulff, Super Krone was already in production when a rival company introduced the first German wall machine with a credit meter, rather than be left behind, Walter Bohlmann designed a top box to house a credit meter on top of the Super-Krone machine.

In early 1972 Gunter Wulff would manufacture not only the last machine under the Gunter Wulff banner, but their most successful machine in their history, The Monarch. Not only did the Monarch sell a record number of 30,000 machines but it was also named as the wall machine of the decade by the German coin machine trade.

So ends the story of a great German coin machine Pioneer Gunter Wulff.

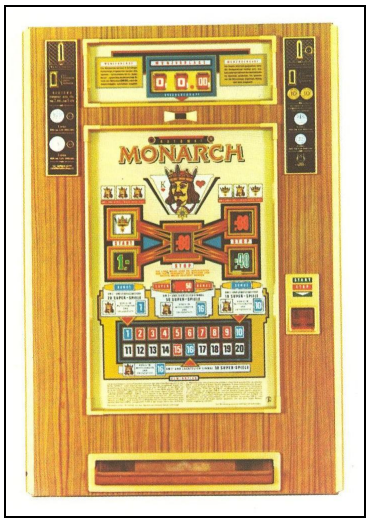
Gunter Wulff "MONARCH" 1972



Gunter Wulff's "Monarch" voted "Top Wall Machine "of the 1970's in Germany



Super-Krone 1968



Monarch 1972



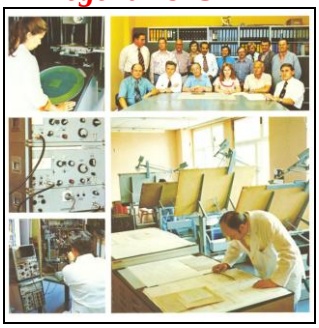
Regent 1975



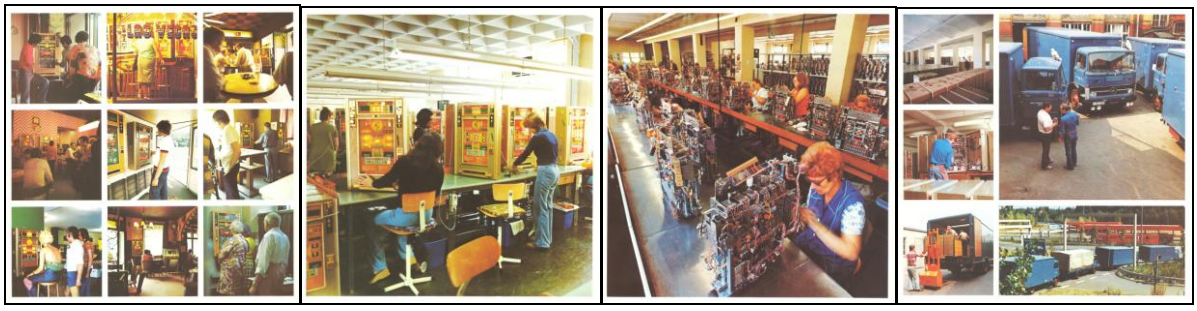
"The Workers"



Bally Wulff Factory Berlin,



Design & Development

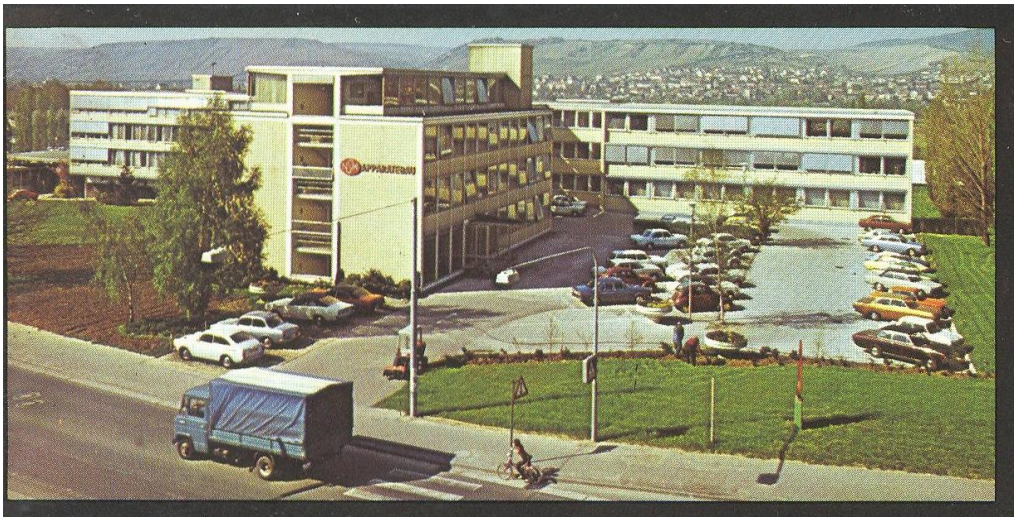


Bally Wulff operates all kinds of coin operated machines in locations, including many machines manufactured by their rival competitors. Today Gunter Wulff Distributes from over twenty of their own distributing centers spread throughout Germany.

You may wonder how American business man Marty Bromley was a major player In the Bally buyout of Gunter Wulff, Apparatebau, well during the early 1960's Gunter Wulff leased space in his factory to Marty so that he could assemble the Sega slot Machine line for Marty Bromley's Club Specialty Company based in Panama. Club Specialty was the worldwide distributor for Sega Marty and Gunter were very close Friends, this friendship would last until the death of Gunter Wulff on June 8th, 1980.

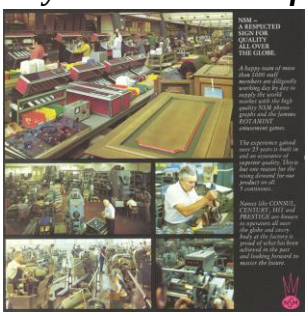
THE NSM/LOWEN STORY

During the glory day's at Gunter Wulff Apparatebau, there was another company in Germany that was enjoying an equally successful run on the German coin machine scene, that company was NSM AG. who for the previous 10 years had also been very successful with their electrically operated rotating disc system wall machines, starting in 1952 the company had there first success in 1954 with their "Rotomint Record "A" machine. They proceeded to manufacture a string of variations of the "Rotomint" for several more years, this machine proved very popular with the German playing public.



The NSM factory at Bingen-On-the-Rhine, Germany 1960's

NSM AG was founded by Herbart Nacke, Gerhard W. Schultz and Wilheim Menke, at that time there were two companies Lowen Automaten dienst who was responsible for sales and NSM AG, in 1956 both companies moved to Bingen on the Rhine, it was not until 1984, that they would merge, prior to that time Lowen Automaten was established as a separate company under Gerhard W. Schulze. (Since 1990 NSM AG as been a non-public company).
By 1962 NSM AG/Lowen Automaten had manufactured and distributed over 12,000 jukeboxes and 200,000 payout machines through their 12 branch offices and two Belgium subsidiaries, they controlled 60% of the German payout machine market.



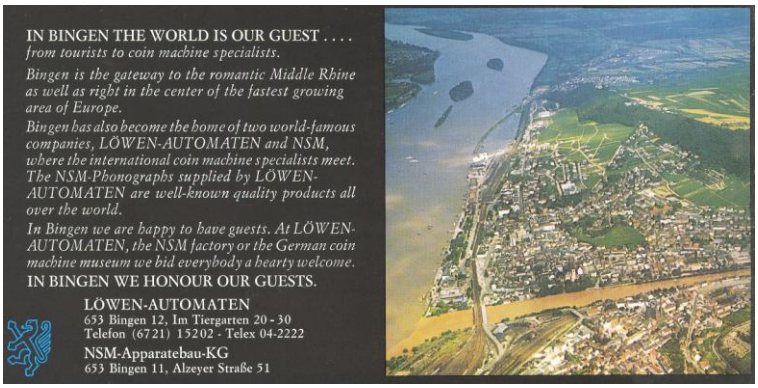




NSM Jukeboxes *Selection mechanism's for Console model* *Payout Machines*

Their production in 1963 was 400 Fanfare jukeboxes per month and 2,000 payout machines per month, along with this Lowen Automaten was the Exclusive distributor for Bally games in Germany, another Lowen subsidiary Volbracht Nachf, was the sole importer of Chicago Coin games. On a more social side, by 1962 one in every four employee's lived in a house built by

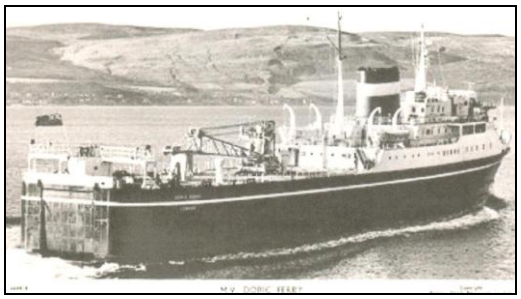
Lowen Automaten, there were also company owned parks, playgrounds and even a sports stadium.



The beautiful Town of Bingen-On-The-Rhine, in Germany

On my first visit to the their factory in the autumn of 1964 it was interesting to observe at Lowen Automaten's beautiful factory in the beautiful and picturesque Town of Bingen-en-the-Rhine that as you walked up the spiral staircase to the second floor, the walls had pictures of the various wall machines that Lowen Automaten had distributed over the previous 5 years, it was also interesting as well as disturbing that on the walls of their offices there were pictures of the owners of the company Herbart Nacke and Gerhard W. Schultze with several German Nazi leaders from World War II including Goebbels, Himmler, Goring and Adolf Hitler himself.

I first visited the Lowen Automaten factory when my best friend Barry Hall and I went on a trip to Belgium with another traveling showman friend of ours Alfie Proctor and Brian Groome who was one of Barry's location owners, I had a big Ford Zephyr car and we went over on the night ferry from Tilbury to Antwerp in Belgium. We got on the Doric Ferry a ship that carried mostly truck drivers and a few passengers, the accommodation was very limited and most of the drivers had bunk beds in one big room, after the ship sailed there was a small bar that opened for the drivers and the four of us played cards for a couple of hours, the big winner was the location owner that Barry had invited along.



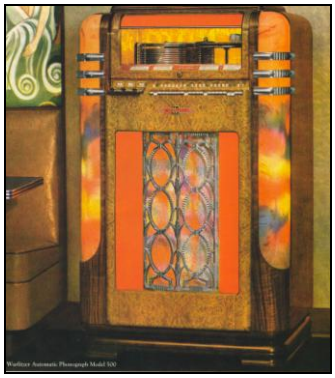
The "Doric Ferry" Tilbury-Antwerp

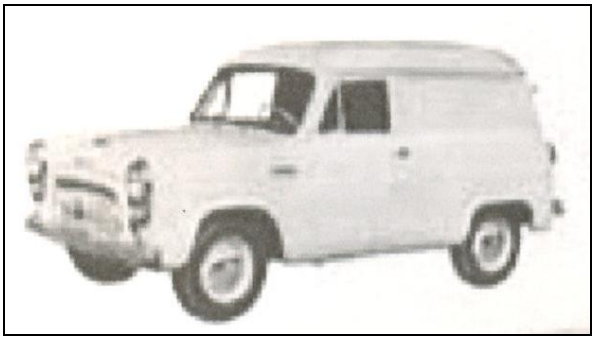


My 1965 Ford Zephyr

Barry Hall who as been my lifelong friend (and my best man twice) started operating in 1959, he started out with twelve NSM Fanfare 100 jukeboxes, I also started operating jukeboxes the year before in 1958, the first time I knew that Barry was operating was when I went to an all night transport café in Breadsal, near Derby, the man that owned the cafe was called Guy, all of the traveling showmen knew Guy from going into his café late at night after all the fairground's in the area closed, we all went there for the steak and chips, Guy always had his own jukebox an old Wurlitzer 500, and the traveling kid's would play the 24 selection machine when they visited Guy's Café. I thought I could convince Guy to take one of my

jukeboxes and get rid of the old Wurlitzer machine that he had, when I arrived at the café, I was surprised to see a brand new jukebox, it was a NSM Fanfare 100 model, I went into the kitchen where Guy was beating a steak with a mallet, I said "Hi Guy how are you, still beating your steaks to death I see ?" Guy looked up and said "My steaks are like business, very tough", I said "Did you buy a new jukebox?" Guy said, "No I got it from a company that operates jukeboxes". I said "Guy, I have been trying to get you to have a jukebox for the last three months, now you go and get one from somebody else" Guy said "Well Barry Hall came in and offered to buy my old jukebox and put me a brand new one in, I thought Barry was your pal", very shocked I said "He is, but I did not know he was operating jukeboxes".







Wurlitzer 500 at "Guy's Café" ***Ford 7 cwt Van 1960*** ***Fanfare Stereo 100 1958-61***

After leaving Guy's Café, I drove over to Derby where Barry's Father Harry Hall had his winter quarters, Barry was there fixing his Ford Escort van, in those day's all the traveling kid's drove the Ford Escort 5 or 7 hundred weight van's, (on a Sunday night there would be about 10-15 of these travelers van's Parked outside the Nottingham Palias Dance Hall), Barry's van had been in so many accident's that virtually every wing and bumper on his van had been replaced, Barry like all of the other traveling kid's lived for speed, (In later years Barry would be driving a Porsche, he is the only man I know that got two speeding tickets in one day, twice ? and like all of the rest of us was lucky to have survived those crazy but fun day's.) I said "Hi Barry, how are you" he said "You got here just in time, I'm fucking hungry, let's go and eat", I said "Sounds good, let's go to Guy's and get a steak", he said "Nah, let's go to Smiths on Derby Road, it's closer", I said "What's up with Guy's, are you frightened that I might see the new jukebox ?", Barry said "Guy's got a new jukebox ?", I said "Yes he has and you should know, it's your machine", Barry started laughing and that is how I found out that Barry was operating jukeboxes.

The NSM Range of "FANFARE" Jukeboxes



"Fanfare" Silver 100 1961-63



"Fanfare " Stereo 100 1958-61



NSM "Fanfare" 60A 1957-8



NSM "Fanfare" 100-Mono 1957-9

Barry Hall was still traveling with his Dobbies" (Kiddy roundabout) and was operating the jukeboxes from his Mother Leila's house in Nottingham, Leila and his Father Harry Hall a well known Notts & Derby Showman had been divorced for several years and Leila was now with a man who like her, was of the Jewish faith. His name was Eddy.

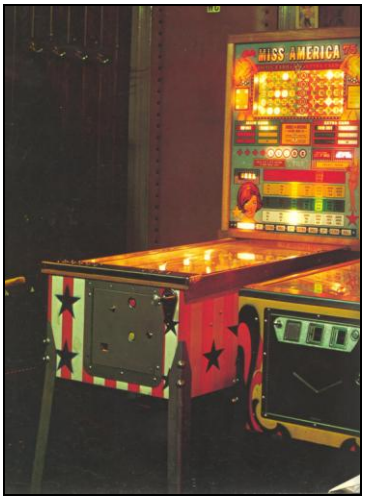
Leila had introduced Barry to Morris Moss who was in the rag trade, Morris's Son Eric Moss was operating jukeboxes and Morris told Leila about how great his son was doing as a jukebox dealer in Manchester, Leila suggested to Barry that he and Eddy get involved in this kind of business, they decided to buy twelve jukeboxes from him, Eric Moss told them that he was making a fortune from these machines, Eric Moss (who eventually committed suicide after murdering his son) was also married to Werner Katz's Daughter, Werner Katz was sales manager with Albert Levy who owned The Gainsmead Group one of the biggest jukebox operator's in England in the 1960's, Werner Katz's Son Alfie is still in the business today. Barry's Step-Father soon became disenchanted with the jukebox business and Barry bought him out, Barry formed Coin Amusements Ltd and over the next twenty five years became a substantial operator in the Nottingham area.



Seeburg K D-200 1957



Gottlieb Buckaroo 1965



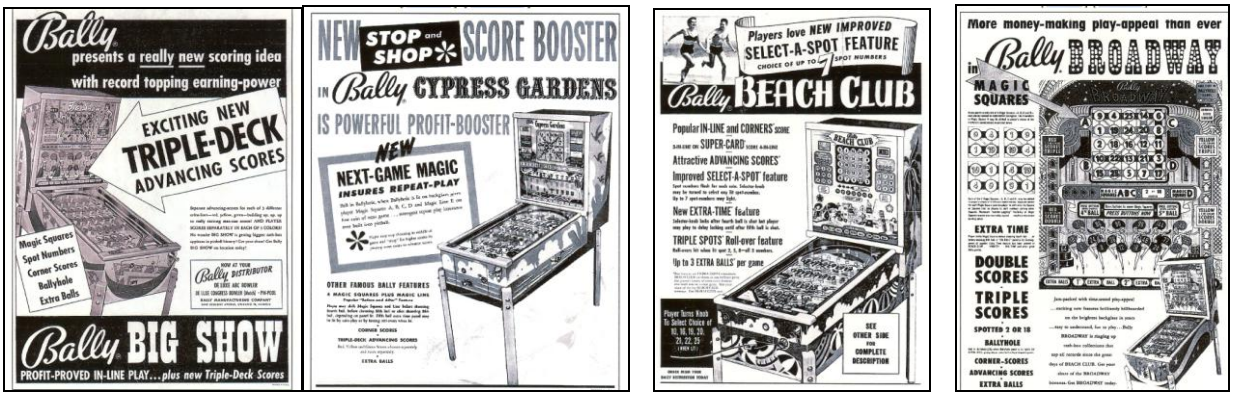
Bally Miss America 1957

Barry quickly started to expand his jukebox operation by buying used Seeburg's he bought several Seeburg K D's from a company called Jones Conniff and Wright, in London, a company that was importing used jukeboxes from Belgium. At this time I was dating a young Lady called Cheryl East who's Father owned a farm at Breadsell, I was using his out building on the farm to store and convert Fruit Machines (Slot Machines). It was about this time that a company from Holland, called Hobea opened a showroom in London, behind Liverpool Street Railway Station. It was run by a British guy called Raymond Bishop who was married to a Dutch Woman, Raymond spoke Dutch fluently.
Hobea was bringing the German Wall Machines into England and my Father was buying unconverted machines from them and converting them to the English coinage and selling them to the traveling showmen. In Belgium at that time a vast amount of Bally Bingo's were being operated there and Hobea was introducing them to England.

Operating Bally Bingo's

After buying several Bingo's from Hobea I decided to take a trip to Belgium and find out where to buy used Bingo games, I arrived in Antwerp and went to an area called Lange Leeme

Strauss, I remember the road was cobbled stoned and there were Trams still running there. I first went to a company called Belgium Amusement Company run by a man called Sol Groetman, the Groetman family ran the largest arcade in Belgium at Blankenburg on the Belgium Coast, this was run by Sol's Son Hank who would eventually become a lifelong friend. Belgium Amusement Company was the distributor for several American companies including Sega. I did not know at the time but my soon to be friend Marty Bromley was a partner in the Blankenburg arcade with Hank.



Bally Bingo's games were the greatest gambling devise's ever invented

Belgium Amusement Company did not sell bingo games, but Sol Groetman directed me to a company called Antwerp Novelty Company who was located just up the street on the Lange Leem Strauss, when I arrived there it was a converted house and the owner was a woman called Mitzi Keekens. This was the place in Belgium to buy Bingo's, Mitzi Keekens was married to a retired sea captain, but her and her Mother ran the business, after introducing myself she asked me if I would a cup of coffee, and this was my first experience with rombouts the famous Belgium coffee built into a filter, I have been drinking it ever since.

Antwerp Novelty Company had a top Bingo mechanic called Kreil, he would later join Hobea N V in Holland and eventually work for them in their London office, Kreil was a wizard with a bingo game, and made it look easy. I bought quite a few bingo games from Mitzi over the next couple of years. I also found a great place to eat in Antwerp, it was a Deli-Style restaurant called "Panache" this deli was famous for its beef and had won several awards over the years, every time Barry Hall and I would go to Antwerp to buy bingo's we would visit "Panache" get the roast beef sandwiches laced with fresh horseradish on beautiful French baguettes. During our many trips to Belgium, Barry and I would also visit the seedier side of Antwerp and party into the night. We would go to the many bars in the red light district and spend more money on watered down drinks and get entertained by various ladies of the night than we would spend on a van load of bingo games. One place we liked was the "San Succi" Night Club, we would go there and watch the striptease performers doing there provocative dances to make the clientele more horny than they would normally be, we were no exception, in fact I think we invented the saying "You let your dick rule your head" we certainly did that. In these places the deal was that you bought drinks (at extortionate prices) for the ladies who worked there, and they would sit with you and obviously tease the hell out of you, the manager/pimp of a club like the "San Succi" would parade a few girls in front of you, you would then choose who you wanted to sit with you, and the one's you chose stayed with you till

you stopped buying them drinks at around $3.00 a pop, and that was just what it was watered down pop (soda) remember it was the early 1960'soda was 5 cents a bottle . The "San Succi" had one stripper there who was drop dead gorgeous, she went under the stage name of "Pussy Galore" we went to this club so many times that they all got to know Barry and I nearly as well as they got to know our money. One night in the "San Succi" I decided I wanted "Pussy Galore" and I don't mean just pussy in its self, but the stripper they called "Pussy Galore" I told the manager/pimp after he had paraded all of his finest ladies in front of me, that she was the only one I wanted, finally after realizing I would not settle for any think less, he brought her over to our table, "Pussy Galore" did not normally sit with any clients, she was a headliner in the "San Succi" purely doing striptease. I sat in that place buying drinks for about three hours, she had told me that if I waited till the club closed she would meet me outside, Barry was jeering me and saying "You are going to have a long wait, grab one of the others now", we stayed in that club till 3 a. m and I stood outside waiting after that, to both my and especially Barry's amazement "Pussy Galore" appeared, she was with another girl, she walked over and said to me "Let's go and eat, I brought a friend for Barry", Barry immediately said "That'll do for me". As we strolled along the still lively streets of Antwerp at 3:30 am I felt like the King of Belgium.

After eating in one of the all night eateries, I went back to "Pussy Galore's" apartment, after being there for the rest of the night, I knew my patience in waiting and also spending a small fortune was worth it, and I was the King of Belgium, and she certainly proved she was, but also had "Pussy Galore". I remember going back to our room at the little demi-pension where we were staying and waking up Barry, to tell him my story of what had happened, I told him that when I got back to her apartment, she took a shower and while she was doing that I had hidden all of my money in the back of her portable radio, just in case I was set up to get rolled, she came out of the shower, she was glowing like a bronze statue, she asked me if I minded taking a shower, she also proceeded to open a large skylight window, and I thought good job I put my "gelt" in the back of that radio, if there was going to be any trouble, I planned to grab the radio, whack whoever was trying to roll me with it, and take off down the stairs as quickly as possible, I hesitantly got in to the shower expecting the worst, but it was only my imagination working overtime, Barry said, "How much did she charge me ?", I said that when I left she was fast asleep, so I forgot to pay her, although I was sure I was going to be set up, it was me who finished up the winner. Sadly the next time we went to Belgium, we went to the "San Succi" I asked where "Pussy Galore" was? And the manager told me, she had gone back to Paris. I never saw her again, I understand she became quite famous in her career, I can understand why.