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Leonard "Boogie" Weinglass built Merry-Go-Round Enterprises into a billion-dollar enterprise between the 1970s and the 1990s.

How Boogie went from BROKE to a BILLION

"Their Generation," an ongoing series profiling longtime locals of the Roaring Fork Valley, runs every other week in The Aspen Times.

Karl Herchenroeder
The Aspen Times

Born in a black neighborhood in Baltimore, Leonard "Boogie" Weinglass got his nickname for his dance moves.

He was rough, dirt-poor and good with girls. He bounced around from school to school. In one instance, he was expelled for stealing a few hundred blank report cards and selling them to his classmates.

He was an all-state basketball player at an all-black high school. As a fight-picking, girl-getting teenager, Boogie would show up on the big screen in 1982, with Mickey Rourke portraying him in "Diner," a breakout role for the actor.

At 21, Boogie was married. At 22, he was divorced. He didn't have enough money to make it through

college, so he found a job working in a basement at a women's clothing firm in Baltimore. But all the girls were on the first floor in the accounting department, so he didn't always stay in the basement.

"The boss said, 'Boogie, you come up here one more time, I'm going to fire you,'" Boogie, 72, recalled last week over an omelet at his diner on East Cooper Avenue.

The day he was fired, Boogie, with long hair and filthy clothes, found his way up to the second floor, above accounting, and knocked on the

president's door. Boogie introduced himself as Lenny Weinglass, and the president said, "You mean Boogie?" The man's nephew had played basketball with Boogie.

"Sir," Boogie said, "I think I would like to sell the clothes that I'm packing."

"Well, have you ever sold before?" the man asked.

"No sir, but I can sell anything," Boogie responded.

The man phoned the sales

manager in New York, and an interview was scheduled for the next day. After training and a month on the job in Atlanta, Boogie was one of the company's leading salesmen. But two years in, Boogie "got screwed" out of around \$6,000 in commission, by today's standards. Despite the hard-headedness he developed as a child, Boogie didn't quit. He kept working until he developed the concept for Merry-Go-Round — a clothing store he would open and turn into a billion-dollar chain.

The idea to open the first store came from a visit to The Different Drummer, a hippie boutique store in New York with a sign out front asking, "Tired of the same old shit?" Boogie walked in and was met by two saleswomen, wearing short pants, high heels and tight T-shirts. They took his sport coat off and dressed him in a pair of jeans and a T-shirt.

"And I liked the way I looked in these jeans and this T-shirt,"

BOOGIE, A10

Attorney cries foul on county's pot resolution

Michael McLaughlin
The Aspen Times

The confirmatory reading of an emergency resolution amending Pitkin County's medical marijuana licensing regulations led to some harsh words directed at elected officials on Wednesday.

Attorney Lauren Maytin questioned the validity of the Pitkin County commissioners' use of an emergency resolution and the timing of such a resolution.

Maytin's client, Ron Radtke, had a license issued from the state for an outdoor medical marijuana grow operation within the Woody Creek Caucus area before the county moratorium on medical marijuana was enacted in February. Radtke said he spent roughly \$50,000 on fencing, security plans and building designs for the Woody Creek site that he leased on Lower River Road in Pitkin County.

Radtke also said that he relied on the rules that were in place when he submitted his medical marijuana application. The emergency resolution countered what Radtke had done up until February. The commissioners approved the emergency resolution unanimously.

"This action is deceitful and borderline corrupt," Maytin said in a passionate response to the commissioners. "Pinning this action to a pending application? You're not treating this application fairly. You (the board) have no grounds to trigger this emergency ordinance."

The county adopted its medical marijuana licensing regulations in 2012. At that time, the Woody Creek and Emma caucuses had made no formal recommendations concerning marijuana licensing in their areas.

In February, both caucuses

requested that all types of marijuana licenses, recreational and medical, not be issued in their caucus areas. The county commissioners accepted the idea of an emergency resolution not only to grant the recommendation of the caucuses but also to align the medical regulations with the current recreational regulations.

On Wednesday, the commissioners unanimously voted to confirm the emergency resolution.

Maytin questioned why the commissioners accepted the caucus recommendations when the board has said all along that a caucus vote is only a recommendation.

"Now it seems they control the board," she said. "The Woody Creek and Emma caucuses have been silent for years and medical marijuana has been around since 2000. What's the emergency now?"

Several of the commissioners replied to Maytin, explaining that marijuana regulations are a new territory for them and the ultimate goal with the emergency resolution was to synchronize the medical and recreational marijuana codes.

Commissioner Michael Owsley has been on the board for 10 years and has never heard anyone call the commissioners corrupt or deceitful at a meeting.

"I understand where she was coming from," he said after the hearing. "She was coming from being an inexperienced attorney."

After the meeting, Maytin was obviously disappointed with the commissioners' decision.

"The truth hurts, and they didn't like it," Maytin said. "They are not being genuine with the applicant. The tail is wagging the dog."

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