



# ILLEGAL SEMINAR OF THE YEAR

June 26, 2012

# Quick Overview

Where were they located?



# Illinois - Chicago



## Chicago – Cicero

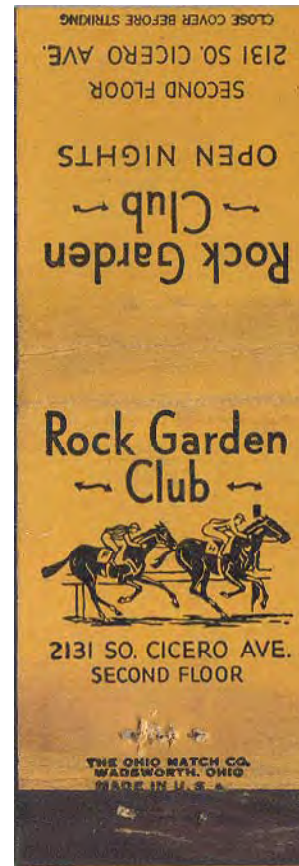
- Most famously run by Al Capone's Chicago Outfit during the 1920's.
- Vicious gang wars brought heat upon the Outfit and forced them out of Chicago and into neighboring Cicero.



# Illinois - Cicero

## Rock Garden Club

Capone's headquarters in Cicero





# Illinois - Chicago

Vernon Country Club



Greyhound Club



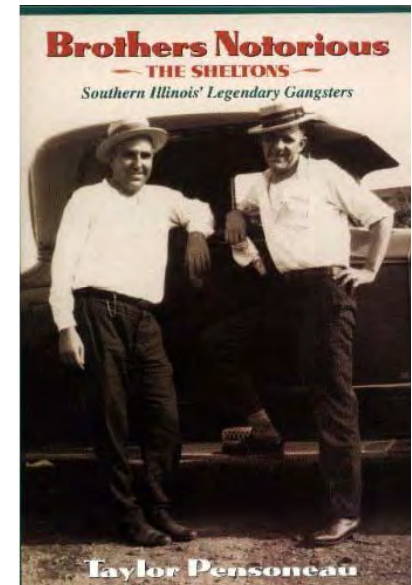
Joe Miller's 885 Club



# Illinois – The Sheltons

## Williamson County & East St Louis

- Shelton brothers wage a bloody war with gangster Charles Birger in the 1920s.
- Homemade armored trucks and aerial bombed were employed.
- Shelton's finally win the war when Birger was executed for killing a Shelton ally, who was also the mayor.
- The war created much unwanted attention and the FBI started interfering with business.



**Brothers Notorious**  
The Sheltons  
Southern Illinois' Legendary Gangsters  
By Taylor Pensoneau

**Also see**  
Bloody Williamson  
By Paul M. Angle

# Illinois – The Sheltons

## Peoria

- The Sheltons moved north to Peoria and muscled their way into local businesses.
- Engaged in epic battles with everyone from the politicians to the local gangsters to the Ku Klux Klan.
- Al Capone and later Frank “Buster” Wortman put a hit out on the brothers and one by one the Sheltons were assassinated.



Chips ordered for  
B. Shelton c/o Palace Club  
205-1/2 S. Madison St.  
Peoria, IL  
Oct. 8, 1947



Carl Shelton killed Oct. 23, 1947  
Bernie Shelton killed July 26, 1948



# Texas



## Galveston area

- Controlled by the Maceo brothers.
- Bootleggers turned casino owners turned underworld godfathers.
- Owned some of the most plush and famous casinos including the Hollywood Dinner Club and the Balinese Room.





# Balinese Room (Galveston)



# Louisiana



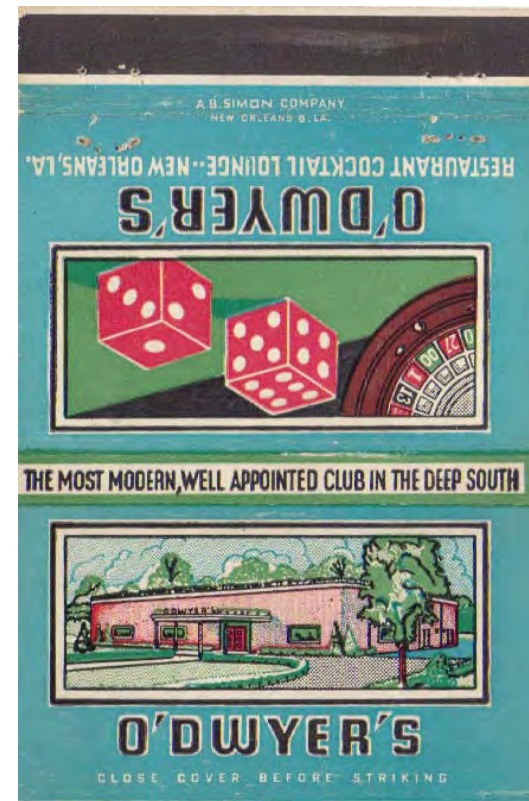
## New Orleans

- Controlled by Carlos Marcello from the late 1940s through the 1960s.
- Questioned by Senate committee on organized crime sparking feud with the Kennedy's.





# New Orleans





# Kentucky



## Newport/Covington

- Wide open town run by the Cleveland Syndicate.
- The Cleveland mob was ruthless in their negotiations and forcefully took clubs they wanted to bring into their illegal empire.
- The Cleveland mob was headed by Moe Dalitz.



# Peter Schmidt - Hero or Crazy Man?

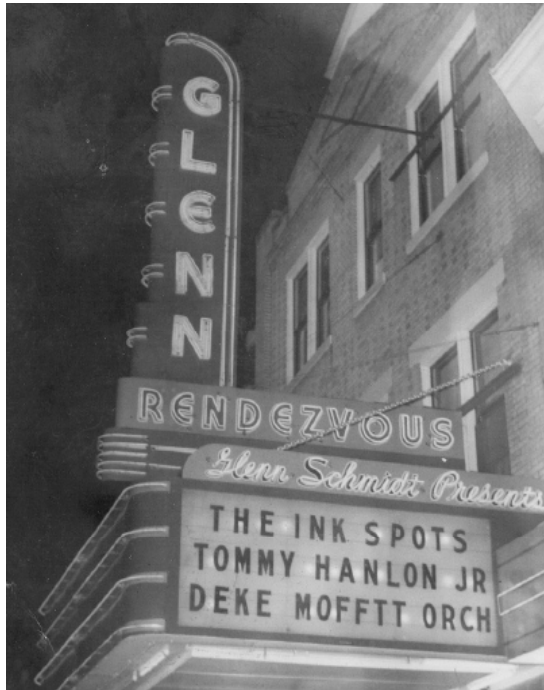


Arrested for driving illegal liquor and did some time in prison. When released, he bought a hotel and named it the Glenn Hotel (after his son) offering illegal liquor and slot machines.



Ambitious, Peter renovated the hotel in the bigger Glenn Rendezvous.

# Peter Schmidt – Glenn Rendezvous



Large three level building with the upper floors providing gambling and bookmaking.

The Rendezvous was very popular and did not take long before the syndicate wanted a piece of the action.

After intense pressure, Peter sold the club to the Cleveland Syndicate in 1935.





# Peter Schmidt – Beverly Hills Club

After losing the Rendezvous, Peter turned his attention outside of town and created the plush Beverly Hills Club.

Top entertainment and crowds of people again attracted the attention of the syndicate and in 1936 Moe Dalitz visited giving Peter an offer he could not refuse.

He refused...



# Peter Schmidt – Beverly Hills Club



# Peter Schmidt – Beverly Hills Country Club

Not deterred, Peter Schmidt rebuilt the club even grander, renaming it the Beverly Hills Country Club.

In 1937, the club reopened to much fanfare, which again drew the attention of the Cleveland Syndicate.

After years of fighting and killings, Peter finally relented and signed over the club in 1940.





# Peter Schmidt – Playtorium



Again without a casino, Peter turned his attention to a bowling alley and went about renovating it into a new casino called the Glenn Schmidt Playtorium.



As expected, the syndicate again tried to push themselves in, but Schmidt refused.

Crooked police on the syndicate payroll raided the club continuously for years.

Schmidt held out until he finally died – of natural causes.



# New York - Saratoga



## Saratoga

Long before the Revolution, Saratoga with its mineral bathwaters has attracted the rich and famous.

In 1863, John Morrissey built the first large scale casino, the Club House, followed closely by the famous racetrack.



# New York - Saratoga

## Lake House & the Mob

The 1920s ushered in a new era of Saratoga's gambling history.

Mobsters from all over the states grabbed up real estate and lake houses and started opening up summer gambling places.

Some moderate, some very elaborate.

## The Brook

Owned by Arnold Rothstein  
(notorious for fixing the "Black Sox" World Series)

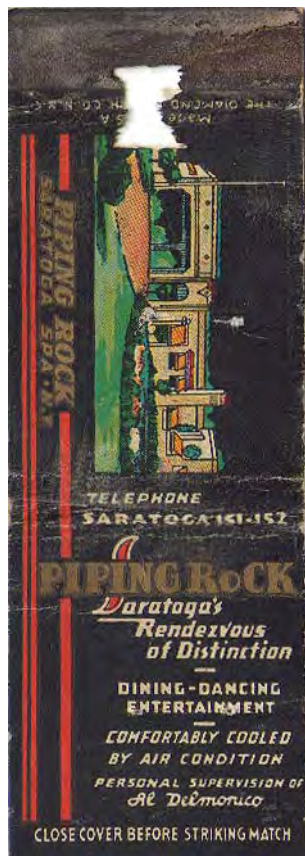




# New York - Saratoga

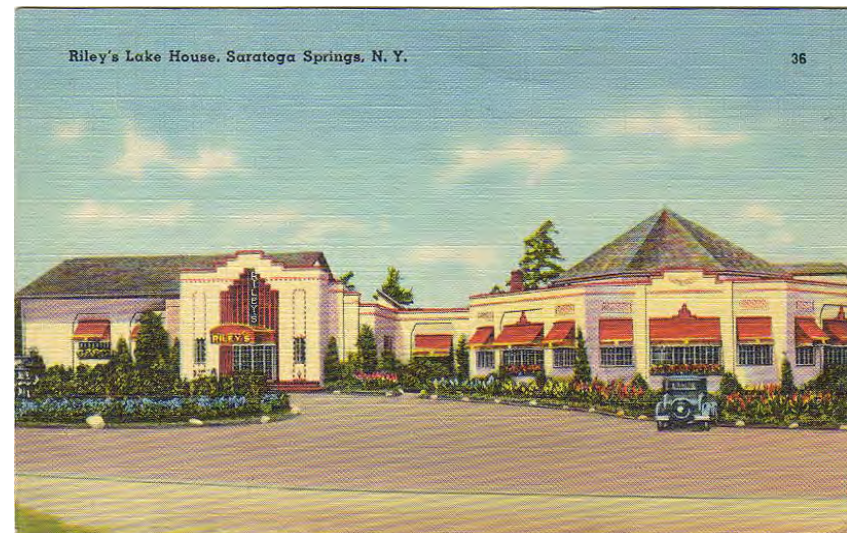
## Piping Rock Club

Owned by Meyer Lansky



## Riley's Lake House

Owned by Lansky, Luciano, Sullivan & others



# Detroit / Toledo

## Detroit

Run by the Purple Gang



## Toledo

Run by the Toledo Syndicate



Although they shared many of the same customers, they stayed on their own turf.



# Hot Springs, Arkansas

## Belvedere Club



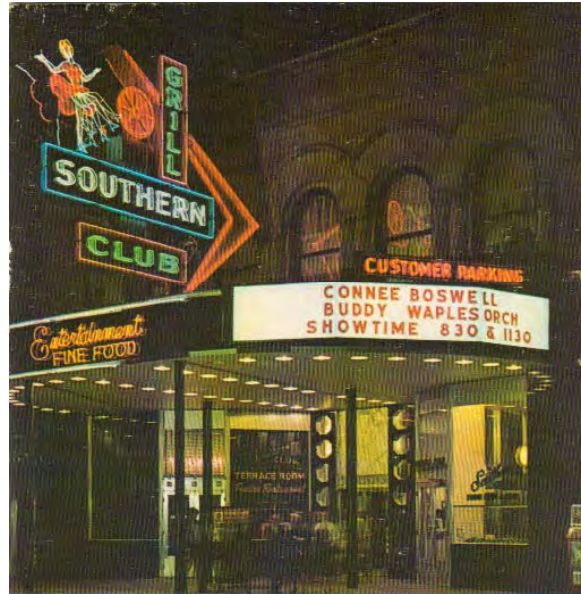
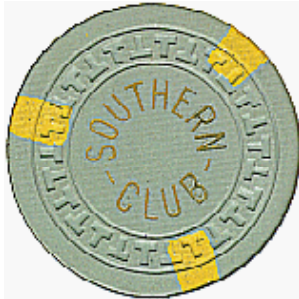
## The Vapors





# Hot Springs, Arkansas

## Southern Club





# Miami, Florida





# Offshore Santa Monica, California



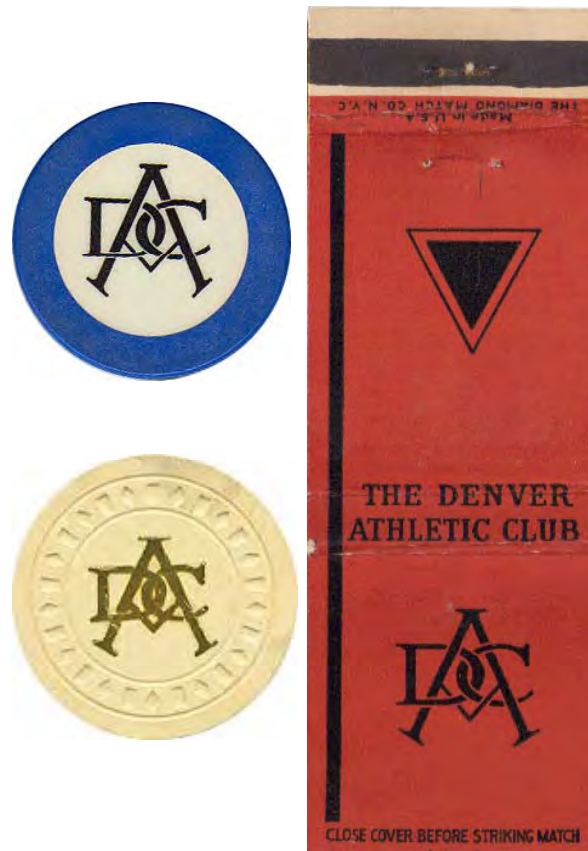


# Other

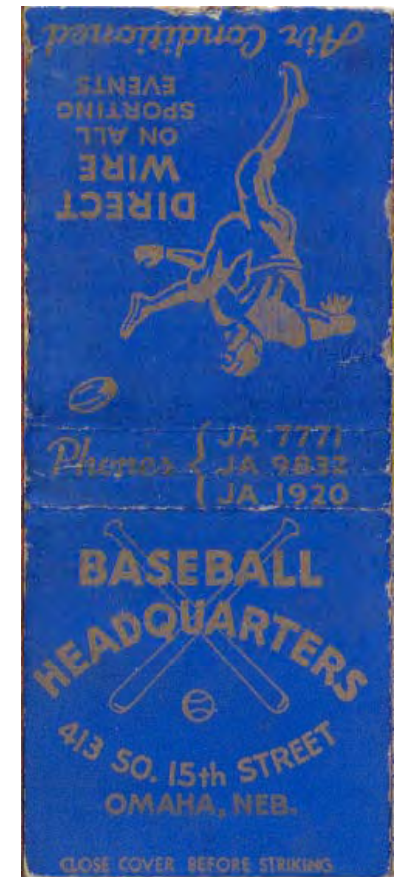
## Jeffersonville, IN




## Denver, CO



## Omaha, NE



NAME TOPPER'S KEY CLUB SPECIAL MONOGRAM  
 Address 6510 W. North Ave.  
 Town Chicago State Ill.  
 Per \_\_\_\_\_

\$500 \$100   
*Regular weight checks*

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
202	yellow	He. Dr.	2-1-200		75.25	Back	Blue	6/24/56
1008	Green	" "	" "		1.00	Black	gold	6/24/56
505	Green	" "	" "		1.00	"	"	12/19/56
100	Yellow			Top Hat	5.00			9-17-59
504	Green			"	1.00			9-17-59
500	Green			"	1.00	Black		1-16-61
500	"	"	"	"	1.00	"	"	2-21-61
500	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	6-6-61
500	Green		Black	1.00	Top Hat	Blue	Gold	1-5-62

Invoice No.	Date Sold	Total Qty.	Type	No. Ea. Color	Color	Stamp
A 1005	9/1/61	200	JBSS	100	Grass Green	
				100	Orange	
Special Stamp: " HONEY DEW INN " to circle check on both sides in gold.						
No denominations on these checks.						
Phone Ja. 2-7636						

HONEY DEW INN  
 c/o Mr. John Drayton

115 Front St.,  
 New Orleans, La.

## Researching Illegal Clubs



# 1. Using the Manufacturer Records

Chips offered for sale in 2001

Represented as being from a club named:

**Moline After Dark**

Moline, Illinois





Attribution picked up by *The Gaming Table* and the *Illegal Price Guide*.



**PROBLEM: No records exist of any place called Moline After Dark!**

# Chip Manufacturer Records

## PreservingGamingHistory.com

[INDEX & Home Page](#)  
  
[H.C. Edwards H Mold](#)  
  
[Hunt & Co. Chain/Plain Molds](#)  
  
[Other Links Articles & Records](#)  


### Preserving Gaming History

**This website is dedicated to the illegal chip collectors of the world.**

There is nothing worse to an illegal chip collector than having an initial chip and not knowing where it was in use.

The old manufacturers records on this site can be attributed to many of us researching initial chips over the years. Those of us involved in illegal chip collecting have invested many research hours and dollars accumulating these records. We now share them with the world.

[Gene Trimble CC&GTCC Life Member 2192-170](#) [David Spragg CC&GTCC Life Member 6180-166](#)


The main focus of the website is the distributors cards for the companies that supplied a large proportion of illegal gaming pieces. These distributors also supplied many licensed gaming establishments and home orders in their own right, and records for those are also included. This website will be a constant 'work in progress'. As of October 2009 over 600 man hours has been spent formatting and indexing nearly 7,000 records detailing orders of over 15,000 different chips and other gaming supplies. In addition, we present various other articles, documents and catalogs from the manufacturers, and a memorial tribute to the late Janice O'Neal.

Credit for the amassing of the data on this site, in no particular order, goes to but is not limited to those listed at the bottom of this page.

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Before using this site for the first time, please read the notes on the [search page](#).





The records on this website are in PDF format. You will need Adobe Reader to view them. If you do not have it you can download the latest version free by clicking the icon below.



You may also find the following links useful:

[Research articles by Gene Trimble](#)  
[Research articles by Dr. Allan Myers](#)  
[Ed Hertel's website and Illegals guide \(available for download\)](#)

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[Jones Bros. Large Squares Mold](#)  
  
[E. M. O'Neil Cord Mold](#)  
  
[Taylor & Co. T & Harp Molds](#)  
  
[Janice O'Neal Memorial](#)  


# Chip Manufacturer Records

[INDEX & Home Page](#)

[ILLEGALS HOME PAGE](#)

[H.C. Edwards H Mold](#)

[Hunt & Co. Chain/Plain Molds](#)


[Other Links Articles & Records](#)


## Taylor & Co. Records


Taylor & Co. of Chicago were the second most prolific (after Mason) supplier of chips to illegal clubs. As well as their own 'T' and 'Harp' molds, they supplied many orders on Hunt & Co produced checks after Hunt took them over. Records for those will be found here rather than under Hunt. Many of these chips are found well worn with unclear monograms. A number of the original records were similarly unclear. However, the importance of the Taylor information was such that it warranted enhancement. As Taylor used standard typefaces for almost all their orders, it was possible to reconstruct almost all the alphabets and use these to enhance, or replace missing, monograms in the records. [The typeface file created for this can be viewed here.](#)


We are also working on a 'Taylor contacts' file that Dave Brown reconstructed from 5x3 cards found at Carl Stahl & Co (Hunts). This will be published here when I've finished formatting it.


These records contain chips made on the following molds. Small variations in these molds exist.


  
T mold


  
Harp

  
Chain

  
Diamond Square

  
'Plain' style

  
Circles

  
Hub

[Jones Bros. Large Squares Mold](#)

[E. M. O'Neil Cord Mold](#)

[Taylor & Co. T & Harp Molds](#)

[Janice O'Neal Memorial](#)

INDEX TO RECORDS									
NON ALPHA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	



# Chip Manufacturer Records

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
800	Yellow	M.D.	Block				Blue	1-31-47
600	Scarlet		"	M.D.	5.00	Block	Yellow	1-31-47
200	Black		"	"	25.00	"	Yellow	1-31-47
125	"		"	"	25.00	"	"	3-5-47
250	Scarlet		"	"	5.00	"	"	3-5-47
500	Yellow	M.D.	"				Blue	3-5-47
200	Orange		"	"	50¢	"	Blue	2-3-48
150	dk Blue		"	"	1.00	"	Yellow	2-3-48

SPECIAL MONOGRAM  
50¢ \$25.00  
MD \$1.00 \$5.00

Max O'Klock  
Colona Avenue  
East Moline, Ill

Ordered:  
1947 - 1948

# Other Research

## Max O'Klock

Newspaper article dated 1950

Fire which broke out about 3:30 this morning leveled a storage shed at the rear of Maxie's Night Club, completely destroyed a stock of liquor which was stored in the shed and killed a riding horse which was housed in the small building. The night club, owned by Max O'Klock, is located on 23rd Avenue at 19th Street, south of the East Moline city limits. Cause of the blaze is unknown.

## Dan O'Klock



## 2. Links to other materials

**Known:**

Found in Alaska

**Unknown:**

What does D&D stand for?

What city?

What is the animal?





## 3. Talk to People

### John Romeo & the Key Club

**When:**

November 1998

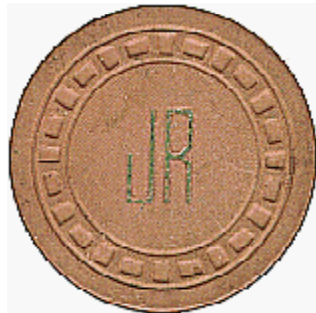
**Where:**

Blast from the Past Show  
Biloxi, Mississippi



### 3. Talk to People

# John Romeo & the Key Club

[illegible]

JOHN ROMEO to Calvin *James* Biloxi, Miss.

### 3. Talk to People

#### John Romeo & the Key Club





### 3. Talk to People

#### John Romeo & the Key Club



### 3. Talk to People

#### John Romeo & the Key Club

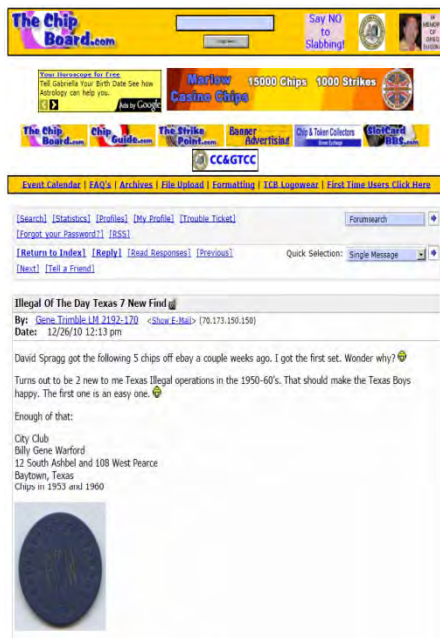


August 18, 1969 after Hurricane Camile

# Share Your Research!

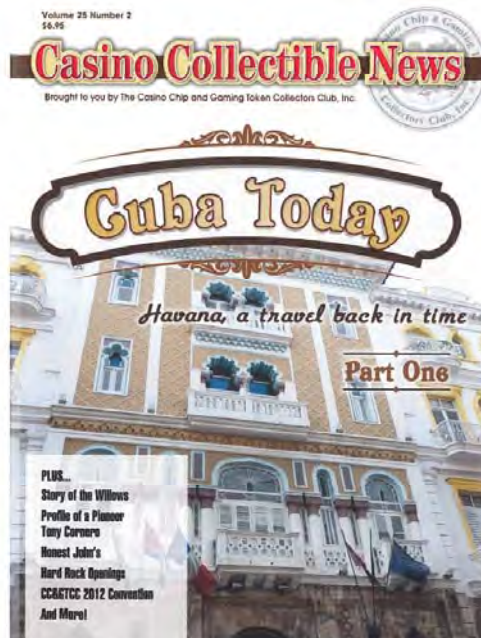
## ONLINE

www.thechipboard.com

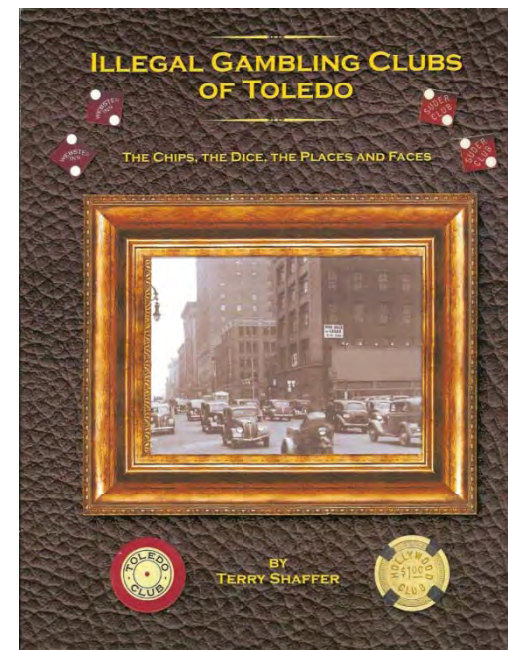


## ARTICLE

Casino Collectible News



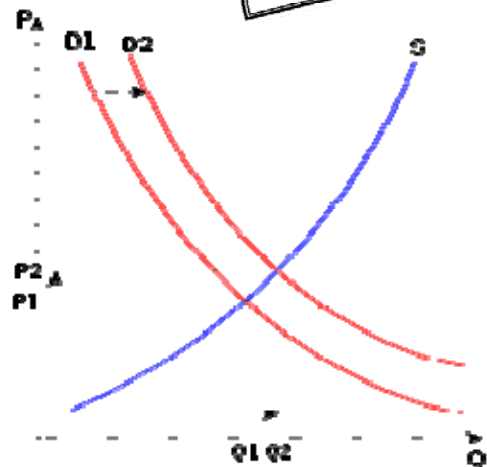
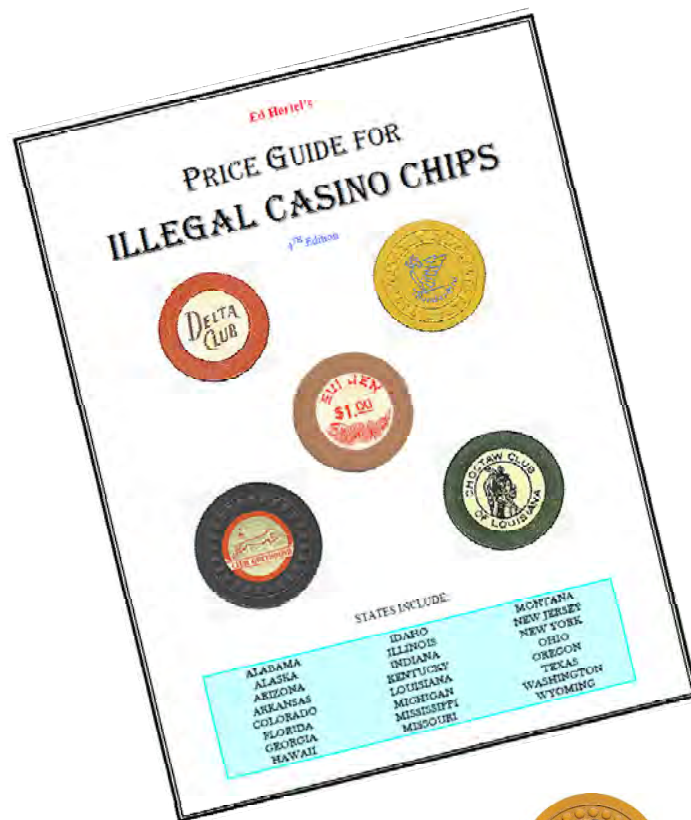
## BOOK



TIMELINESS

OPPORTUNITY OF FEEDBACK





# Pricing Illegal Chips

# Factors Determining Price

## DEMAND

### 1) Number of Collectors

- Location
- Collector Turnover

### HIGH DEMAND

ILLINOIS  
KENTUCKY  
TEXAS

### MEDIUM DEMAND

LOUISIANA  
INDIANA  
OHIO  
ARKANSAS  
FLORIDA

### DECLINING DEMAND

NEW YORK  
MICHIGAN  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST

# Factors Determining Price

## DEMAND

- 1) Number of Collectors
  - Location
  - Collector Turnover
- 2) Chip Characteristics
  - Chip Type



CREST & SEAL



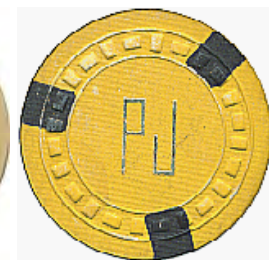
HUB



HARP



T's



LGSQR





# Factors Determining Price

## DEMAND

- 1) Number of Collectors
  - Location
  - Collector Turnover
- 2) Chip Characteristics
  - Chip Type
  - Strength of Attribution
- 3) Economic Conditions
  - Disposable Income



# Factors Determining Price

## SUPPLY

- 1) Number of Chips Available
  - Heavily influenced by popularity of area
- 2) Source of the Supply
  - Trust in seller

# Using Auctions as Indicator

## Kentucky Club

Covington, KY



2005 – 3 chips known to exist.

Privately sold for \$500

2010 – Chip shows up for sale on eBay.

Active bidding above \$200

2012 – Two chips up for sale on eBay.

Sells for opening bid of \$79 / \$75

Problems with fixing a price:

- What would the next one sell for?
- How many are out there?

**PRICE GUIDES SHOULD BE THE VALUE OF A  
POTENTIAL SALE, NOT A RECORD OF PAST SALES!**



# No Past Sales

## What We Know

- Chips Found: 4 (very confident)
- Location: Kemah, Tx (confirmed with Taylor records)
- Past Sales Price: none
- Demand: Moderate
  - Galveston area is popular
  - Kemah Club not famous
  - T-mold has a following of its own



What is the value?

# No Past Sales

[illegible]

## Where are the other 1,600 chips?

# Recent Sales



### ILLEGAL CASINO LAKE SHORE CLUB RARE CHIP BLACK HOT SPRINGS AK NEW ORLEANS LA

Like 0

Item condition: --

Ended: Jun 16, 2012 13:17:55 PDT

Winning bid: **US \$129.50** [ 3 bids ]

Add to list

Shipping: **\$3.00** - Standard Shipping | See all details  
Item location: Ponchatoula, Louisiana, United States  
Ships to: United States

Delivery: Estimated within 5-8 business days

Payments: **PayPal** | See details

Returns: No returns or exchanges, but item is covered by eBay Buyer Protection.

**Seller information**  
100% Positive feedback  
Save this seller  
See other items



### Illinois new find: illegal Club Belvedere, Springfield IL, poker gambling chip

Like 0

Item condition: --

Ended: Jun 14, 2012 20:00:11 PDT

Winning bid: **US \$61.00** [ 16 bids ]

Add to list

Shipping: **\$2.99** - Standard Shipping See more services | See all details  
Item location: New York, United States  
Ships to: United States

Delivery: Estimated within 3-6 business days

Payments: **PayPal** | See details

Returns: 14 days money back, buyer pays return shipping | Read details

**Top-rated seller**  
**poker-chips-on-line** ( 3132 ★ ) me  
100% Positive feedback  
Consistently receives highest buyers' ratings  
Ships items quickly  
Has earned a track record of excellent service  
Save this seller  
See other items



# QUESTIONS?