

ALBERT GOULET FILE

December 7, 2011



Most collectors know this: The AG with denomination in hatch chips were made across the Ohio river from Newport, KY in Cincinnati, OH.

I ran across the above chips in the USPC records while formatting the file for upload to the Chip Guide. What you read below is a composite of what Jim Linduff, Roy Klein, our "Friend Of The Hobby, and I could find out about the chips.

I've been sitting on the info for well over a year, for 2 reasons. Number 1, I was hoping to find one of the chips before I let the info out. <g> Number 2, I put out a lot of feelers to Northern, KY and Southern, Ohio hoping for more info. I've talked to every old timer I could still find alive, (wasn't many) and contacted several newspapers and libraries without much luck other than what Jim and Roy found. 89 years ago is a long time.

If you are looking for a Club name for the chips, you can stop reading now. We did not find one we felt safe with.

If you are a collector of illegal gambling history you will want to read on. Somewhere along the line Paul Newman got this same info and was inspired to make the movie "The Sting," based on the people that more than likely played with or used the AG with denomination in hatch chips in an unnamed operation.

Take it away gang!

Going through USPC records, Gene Trimble noticed the chips pictured above. Roy Klein and I (Jim Linduff) did some research on Goulet and the Newport, Kentucky connection and found him to be deeply involved in the gambling, booze and extortion scene as early as 1918 and continuing into the 1920's. While there is no way to connect Goulet to a specific gambling club, and given these chips may have been for home use (we do not have quantities), we can conclude that Goulet had a connection to several clubs in the area, about as close to determining these chips to be illegals as we are likely to prove.

I disagree with the home use of the chips. From what I read Goulet was a hustler. He did whatever he had to do, to make \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$! The culture in Newport, KY nourished and fed off of "unfettered criminal capitalism,*" bootlegging, gambling, and prostitution, almost from its beginning in 1795 when river pirates based out of Newport.

* Per Wicked Newport, Barker-Potter-Meglen.

The people of Newport rejected the reformers with their votes many times over the years. The economy was based on the hustlers. When I was a kid all the shops on Monmouth Street were open all night including the butcher shops. The "marks" from Cincinnati bought a lot of T Bone steaks to take back across the river at 5:00AM. <g>

29 March 1918

Covington police: Goulet, a bartender at a Pike Street bar owned by Harry "Chub" Gahan (more about him later) was arrested for shooting a patron at the bar, Thomas Gibbons. Goulet went to trial for the shooting, but was acquitted in May, after asserting he shot in self- defense.

My note: Being born in 1942, 1918 is a little early for me. I can tell you there were many bars on Pike Street in the 1960's and most had some form of gambling, race books, sports books, poker, some random BJ, and craps. Most poker, BJ and craps were cash games, no chips. One exception was the Magnolia Club at 118 Pike Street that had chips. A few doors west was the corner of Pike and Russell streets. On the SE corner was Howard Donnley's Depot Cafe. Howard and Brownie Noel had poker games all through 1950's-70's, all cash games. This game moved 1 block south on Russell St and operated through the 1980's into the 90's. Last time I played there was 1991 while I was home visiting my mother. On the NW corner of Pike and Russell was the train station. On the NE corner there was a business maybe a TV repair or a furniture store, memory is bad. On the 2nd floor was a real nice club in the late 1970's that used chips in a BJ and a crap game. I did play there a couple times but do not remember the chips. It had ties to the Magnolia Club owner. Entry was by invitation.

And now : "The sting."

12 April 1919

Goulet was indicted in a race book scam that involved convincing a mark that a "past post" of a race could be conducted. The mark, a retired Kentucky contractor, lost \$25,000 in the deal and because some of the transactions crossed state lines, a Federal Court ruled on the case. Albert Goulet was

acquitted for "lack of evidence". Roy Klein found findings by the court on appeal. His files are attached to the eMail.

A summary of the conviction is below.

My note: Frederick Gondorf alias Fred Graham is being tried under the name Fred B Grant. How is that for a federal trial? <g>

Fred B. Grant, John Connell and William Silva Convicted by U. S. Jury in Covington

"We, the jury, find the defendants, Fred B. Grant, John Connell and William F. Silva, guilty as charged in the indictment this 12th day of April, 1919; Albert Goulet not guilty. Wood Richardson, foreman.

This was the verdict returned Saturday by a jury in the U. S. District Court at Covington in the trial of Frederick Gondorf, alias Fred Graham, 50, of New York, indicted under the name Fred B. Grant; John Connell, alias Wilson, Farrell, Curtis and Day of San Francisco, and Albert Goulet, alias Albert Gordon, and William Silva of Newport, charged with using the mails of the United States to defraud.

Thomas D. Slattery, U. S. district attorney, began his argument at 8:55 a. m. Saturday. During the course of his address to the jury he scored Newport officials for alleged laxity in enforcing anti-gambling laws.

"Newport," he said, "is a city where the officers seem deaf, dumb and blind. I suggest if the chief of police of Newport must rely upon the newspapers to discover where gambling is going on he ought to fire the entire police force and resign himself or consult an ear and eye specialist.

"If the time should ever come when I am afraid to do my duty and enforce the laws I will resign."

"Swindling Not Charged"

Slattery referred to the chaotic condition in Europe and said that if hate, dissension and unrest were to be kept from America the laws of God and of the United States must be enforced.

Judge A. M. J. Cochran, in his instructions to the jury, said the offense charged against the defendants was misuse of the mails. He said they were not on trial for attempting to swindle Frank Kaiser, 54, retired contractor, of West Hoboken, N. J., out of \$25,000 by representing to him that wire tapping had yielded first-past-the-post information which made bets on horse races a sure thing. He said the offense against the United States in using the mails to defraud was the only one charged. Judge Cochran said he did not believe there was any intention by the defense to deny that Grant and Connell were partners in a scheme to defraud Kaiser. He said this had been admitted by Grant on the witness stand. He said the jury must determine whether Silva and Goulet were partners in the scheme.

Maximum Five Years

"In my opinion the evidence is not sufficient to indicate Goulet continued in the plan," said Judge Cochran. "There is not an iota of evidence connecting Goulet with the plan to swindle Kaiser." He said the jury must determine, first, whether

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

12 April 1921

Goulet was shot in the arm by an unknown assailant. No details of the incident survive.

3 February 1921

Chub Gahan, a fired Covington Detective and the owner of the bar on Pike Street where Goulet shot a patron, leased The Cedars, a resort on Madison Pike. Goulet was a bartender there. The resort became a favorite place for race track patrons and although prohibition was in place, it was not enforced and The Cedars became notorious for all night parties catching the eye of the local law boys.

12 December 1921

The Cedars burned to the ground in the early morning hours. Arson was suspected, but never proved.

My note: The Cedars was a new name to me. I have been meaning to look into it but have not as yet. 92 years is a long time. <g> I don't remember anything out Madison Pike I could call a "resort." The "Log Cabin" was out there but I would not call it a "resort." They had poker games as late as 1965.

All of this is what remains of a life "in the game" for Goulet. The chip order in 1924 fits the timeframe and his life style. Whether ordered for a joint or for home use we will never know, but we have attributed for less. Call it what you think best.

What follows is the findings from the trial. It is dry reading but tells us the plot of what would become the movie, "The Sting."

In Error to the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Andrew M. J. Cochran, Judge.

Fred B. Grant, William F. Silva, and John Connell were convicted of using the mails to defraud, and bring error. Affirmed.

John B. O'Neal, of Covington, Ky. (Maurice L. Galvin, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on the brief), for plaintiffs in error.

Thomas D. Slattery, U. S. Atty., of Covington, Ky.

Before KNAPPEN, DENISON, and DONAHUE, Circuit Judges.

KNAPPEN, Circuit Judge. Plaintiffs in error, together with one Goulet and one Davis, were indicted under section 215 of the Criminal Code (Comp. St. § 10385), for using the mails to promote a scheme to defraud. Davis was not brought before the court. A demurrer to each of the two counts of the indictment was overruled. Each of the other four defendants pleaded not guilty and the case went to trial. A motion at the close of the evidence to direct verdict of not guilty was overruled, and the case submitted to the jury. Goulet was acquitted; plaintiffs in error were each convicted and sentenced. This writ is to review the judgment on conviction.

[1] 1. *The Motion to Quash.*—The same scheme to defraud was set out in each count of the indictment. The differences related to the use of the mails—the first count charging the causing of the letter in question to be deposited in the United States post office at West Hoboken, N. J. The second charged the taking and receiving of that letter from the United States post office at Newport, Ky., in which district plaintiffs in error were indicted. The conviction was upon both counts, and the judgment imposed could have been inflicted upon either. If, therefore, the second count was good, the judgment should not be reversed on account of any defect in or failure of proof as to the first count. *Abrams v. United States*, 250 U. S. 616, 619, 40 Sup. Ct. 17, 63 L. Ed. 1173; *Hardesty v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 168 Fed. 25, 26, 93 C. C. A. 417; *Bennett v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 194 Fed. at page 633, 114 C. C. A. 402.

[2, 3] The gist of the alleged scheme was the swindling of one Kaiser out of \$25,000 by fake betting on horse races, a scheme in many of its salient features not unlike that involved in *Shea v. United States*, 236 Fed. 97, 149 C. C. A. 307; *Id.*, 251 Fed. at page 442, 163 C. C. A. 458. The details of the alleged scheme may be sufficiently summarized as embracing the making of Kaiser's acquaintance at Mt. Clemens, Mich.; the representation that Connell had been winning large sums of money on horse races (due to alleged advance information upon the

For other cases see same topic & KEY-NUMBER in all Key-Numbered Digests & Indexes

outcome thereof); the inducing of Kaiser to bet \$50 on a pretended horse race; the pretense that he had won that bet; the representation that the pool room was closed for the day, and that the alleged proprietor of the Mt. Clemens pool room would forward to a pool room at Newport, Ky., the ticket for the alleged winning of \$6,000; the persuading of Kaiser to accompany plaintiffs in error to the Newport pool room; the pretended receipt by Connell from Davis of the \$6,000 in question; the persuading of Kaiser to permit Connell to bet the whole of that sum on another pretended horse race, and so on until winnings aggregating \$75,000 should appear to be made (of which Kaiser's share was to be \$25,000); a representation that under the laws of Kentucky the winner on a horse race in that state must produce therein a sum of money equal to the amount of his winnings before he could collect them; the persuading of Kaiser to go to his home in New Jersey, get \$25,000, and bring it back in the form of a bank draft; the contriving to have the draft deposited in and collected by a Newport bank; and the fraudulent obtaining by defendants of either the draft or its proceeds.

The indictment contained due allegations of the false and fraudulent character of the material pretenses and representations charged. The only allegation in the indictment as to the specific means by which defendants were to fraudulently obtain possession of the draft or its proceeds is that—

"By trickery, artifice, chicanery, cheating, and by making false and fraudulent statements, representations and pretenses, and by other artifices, false representations, pretenses and deceptions, to the grand jurors unknown, to the said Fred Kaiser, the defendants would obtain possession of the said draft," etc.

The demurrer challenges the sufficiency of this statement. The demurrer was properly overruled. The statement in the indictment that the specific trickery and chicanery to be employed were unknown to the grand jurors expressed a situation not inherently unnatural, and, unless shown to be untrue, does not make the indictment defective. *Durland v. United States*, 161 U. S. 306, 314, 315, 16 Sup. Ct. 508, 40 L. Ed. 709. The object of an indictment is to fairly inform the accused of the charge against him, and sufficiently to enable him to prepare his defense and protect him against further prosecution therefor. *Daniels v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 196 Fed. 459, 465, 116 C. C. A. 233; *Bettman v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 224 Fed. 819, 826, 140 C. C. A. 265. The indictment, in our opinion, meets that requirement. Its frame is such as to preclude possibility of another prosecution for the same offense, as well as to enable the accused to prepare to meet the charge. The judgment should not be reversed on account of a criticism so obviously technical and unsubstantial. U. S. Comp. Stat. (1916) § 1691; Judicial Code, § 269, as amended February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1181, c. 48 [Comp. St. Ann. Supp. 1919, § 1246]); *West v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 258 Fed. 413, 415, 169 C. C. A. 429; *Grandi v. United States* (C. C. A. 6) 262 Fed. 123, 124.

[4, 5] 2. It was not error to overrule the motion for directed ver-

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dict. There was substantial testimony tending to support each of the allegations in the indictment necessary to conviction.

(a) As to the receipt of the letter: Kaiser had left Newport for West Hoboken on July 30th, for the purpose of raising the \$25,000. On August 1st he wired Grant that he was finding it difficult to get the full amount. To this Connell wired reply that Grant had arranged his part, to leave no stone unturned, and to wire when he should leave. On August 2d Kaiser mailed at West Hoboken a special delivery letter, addressed to "Mr. F. B. Grant, Vendome Hotel, Corner 9th St. and Washington St., Newport, Kentucky," stating, among other things, that he saw no reason why he should bring to Newport so much money, and asked whether the winning card could not be transferred to New York. This letter was brought to the hotel on August 3d and receipted for by the hotel proprietor's niece; on the evening of that day the proprietor's nephew brought the letter to defendant Grant while on the hotel porch; Grant then and there opened the letter, but on account of the darkness took it to his room, read it, and in reply wired Kaiser to bring the draft by the following Tuesday without fail, and that nothing more was required. The letter was retained by Grant, who later wired Kaiser, inquiring what the latter had done and on what train he would leave. Kaiser advised Grant by wire of the date he should start, came on to Cincinnati, and deposited the money in a bank there.

We think there was substantial testimony warranting the conclusion that the letter was received by Grant in the execution of the fraudulent scheme. Considering the errand on which Kaiser had been sent, it was fairly open to inference that Grant and his associates would naturally contemplate that the mails were likely to be used by Kaiser in communicating with defendants. *Shea v. United States*,

AGinhatch6att2

Here's some stuff to add to the Goulet file:

Albert Millard "Jake" Goulet

Born Sept.18th 1884 Kentucky

Died Feb.19th 1943 Cincinnati, Ohio (resided at 313 York in Newport at time of death).

313 York would have been halfway between the Yorkshire and 633 (Flamingo) across from each other and the old Sportsman Club that Screw Andrews had Chin and Frankie Boy burn for the insurance. The new Sportsman rose from the ashes like a Phoenix. <g>

20feb1943:

'JAKE' GOULET DEAD

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19 — Albert M. "Jake" Goulet, 53, prominent in northern Kentucky sports circles for 25 years, plunged 11 stories to his death from the 14th floor of the Union Trust company building, downtown, today. His body landed on the roof of a three-story offset.

AGinhatch7att2

Appears to have been a suicide.

My note: Shades of Screw Andrews going out a hospital window. I wonder what ever makes these guys think they can fly?

Leave it to our "Friend Of The Hobby" to top off this story.

When I saw in the info you sent that Goulet was involved in a "past post" con it reminded me of the movie "The Sting." While reading the article I noticed that one of the guys involved in the scam was named Frederick Gondorf and I wondered: where have I heard that name before?

Then I remembered that Paul Newman's character in "The Sting" was named Harry Gondorf and I thought: what a weird coincidence. Turns out it was no coincidence at all. Apparently the guy who wrote the screenplay for "The Sting" named Newman's character Harry Gondorf after Frederick Gondorf and his brother Charley. The past post con in the movie was inspired by the method the Gondorf's had perfected over several years of fleecing suckers in New York City using fake pool rooms, fake Western Union employees and fake police raids (the Gondorf's even used the line: "I said place--not win!").

Another article on the con in Kentucky from the Washington Post—16April1919:

WIRE-TAPPING TRIO GUILTY

Gondorf, Connell and Silva Convicted of Swindling Through Mails.

Covington, Ky., April 12.—Frederick Gondorf, of New York, alias Frederick D. Grant; John Connell, of San Francisco, and William Silva, of Newport, Ky., were found guilty in the United States district court here today of using the mails to defraud. They were indicted in connection with an attempt to swindle Frank Kaiser, of West Hoboken, N. J., out of \$25,000 by means of a "first past the post" game, in connection with betting on race horses.

The maximum penalty is five years in prison.

Albert Goulet, of Newport, Ky., indicted jointly with the three men convicted, was found not guilty.

AGinhatch8att2

I know you've mentioned Screw Andrews on the chipboard before but I wasn't familiar with the details of his death--there are some similarities with Goulet. The reason I said that it appeared to be a suicide was because the coroner had stated that Goulet had been "ill" prior to his death which I assumed meant that he'd killed himself (mental or terminal physical illness).

I was going to check what the coroner's "official" verdict was on the cause of death but oddly enough Goulet doesn't have a death certificate in Ohio (his death doesn't show-up in Kentucky either). It'd be interesting to know if people thought there was foul play in Goulet's death in the way people think there was with Andrews. Both guys ill prior to offing themselves by jumping out of a high building.....or thrown off.

My story about Screw.

I don't know about Goulet but I can tell you no one I knew thinks Screw went out that hospital window on his own.

I can't say Screw was a friend. I am not sure he had "friends." I knew him and he was always OK with me. There is a picture of him kicking a reporter in the a*ss outside of Glenn Schmidt's that says a lot about him. <g>

When Screw went on a federally paid vacation to Terra Haute, IN. in the 1960's, he turned over the Sportsman Club to 2 friends from St Louis and me, to operate a bingo. Only rule was his family got to play free bingo. You wouldn't believe how many Andrews there was. <g>

His nephew Frank "Chin" Conforti was a friend of mine until his death. Rest easy "Friend." Chin started his career in gambling at the Arrowhead Inn in Branch Hill, OH as a box man/dealer circa 1936 and worked Caesars Palace and the Caribbean for many years after Newport closed. He liked to tell the story about him and Frankie Boy burning the old Sportsman Club. The fire bomb went off early and him and Frankie Boy barley made it out with only singed hair and eyebrows.

Chin might have been the only person I knew that could have known Albert Goulet. Chin passed about 5 years prior to this research. His input on my Arrowhead Inn articles was invaluable.

Mickey, Chin's daughter a retired school principal in Las Vegas is still my friend. Chin made many visits to Las Vegas to visit Mickey. We always got together. Mickey and my ex brother in law (no rest easy for him) were an item in the 1960's during my involvement in The Sportsman Club bingo.

Sammy A was Screws "get the job done guy," We were friends. Rest easy "Friend." Sammy was transporting one of Screw's race horses to PA once. He got on a bad streak and sold the horse. <g>

Screw's brother Cy was a friend, Rest easy "Friend." Cy was a real hustler. He traveled the east coast taking off bingo's. His partner Bingo Betty won more bingo games than any other person in history. BTW, the larger bingo games at the Sportsman was always won by a "house" player. <g>

Martin Miller operated the gambling at the Merchants Club in Newport pre 1961. We were friends until his death, Rest easy "Friend." Martin started me collecting chips during a poker game in the early 1960's. Martins ex wife Nicky Ball went out a window at the Desert Inn, in Las Vegas and is said to have been the inspiration for the book, Syndicate Wife. I did not know Nicky.

None of the above thought Screw jumped out the window. I personally think Martin knew the truth but I never asked him.

Notes: The Feds raided the Charity Newport bingos in late 1960's. Several operators including Martin Miller got a 1 year paid vacation in the Lexington, KY prison farm for interstate transportation of gambling paraphernalia. Bingo cards. <g>

Roughly the same time the Feds gave Brownie Noel and Howard Donnley the same 1 year at Lexington for paying the Covington KY Chief Of Detectives to protect their poker game. The game stopped for that year then proceeded to run into the 1990's. <g> My wife's picture made the front page of the Cincinnati Post during this trial. They said she was a Connie Stevens look alike. Geeez, as if she wasn't already hard enough to live with. I served 40 years with her before I got parole. <g>

Lots of reading. After all of that, the AG with denomination in hatch chips are still out there.

I WANT ONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I will not say "Cough It Up" if you have a trader. To date I have not found any one that has one.