

Ohio: This is our 37th stop on our trip across the illegal clubs of the USA.

I am purposely only posting one chip in this "Illegal of The Day" post. The rest of Ohio's story of Illegal gaming is rich in history and will be told another day.

Update on the Arrowhead Inn, Branch Hill, Ohio. Branch Hill is a suburb of Cincinnati. The Arrowhead Inn was the forerunner to Beverly Hills and The Lookout House and the first of the areas big Supper Clubs with gambling.

I wrote the 5 articles back in 1999 and 2000.

They turned out to be the gift that just keeps on giving. If you have not seen the articles the links are further up my main index page.

Over the years I have received numerous emails from people in Cincinnati area and other states after finding the articles. They either lived close or had relatives that worked at the Arrowhead, including a policeman from Clermont County, Ohio. He actually went out and walked the area where the Arrowhead Inn building used to be, looking for leftover items.

An heir of the mayor of Elmwood, Ohio in the 1930's emailed me several years ago. He also had a chip case with several 100 Arrowhead Inn chips in it. No different chips. He wound up selling the set on ebay.

Also emails from several Nason relatives that were not aware of their family's history. That can't be my Uncle Sam! Yes it can honey! <g>

Some were very nice emails. This one describes a very different Harold Nason. One we did not meet in the Arrowhead Inn articles. I am aware of a lot of info that was not in the articles. It was withheld by Danny's request. I did not look for the Harold that Betty describes. All of us have more than one person within us. I should have looked.

From: Tony&Liz

Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2008 10:02 AM

To: Gene Trimble

Subject: Re: Nason/Arrowhead Inn articles

Dear Gene,

Thank you for the Nason "saga". It was truly fascinating! In many ways it was unbelievable since my relationship as a child with my Uncle Harold was that of a completely different person. My own Father was around but not really in my life. Harold was the ideal male figure in my life and everything any little girl could want - kind, gentle, loving and with a great sense of humor. I moved from Covington at age 17 in 1947 to go to college and only came back briefly on rare occasions so I never really had a "picture" of what was going on with the family.

You would be interested to know that Harold was very close to my mother (Estelle), sister to his wife (Frances). In later years they maintained apartments next door to each other. My mother was a devout Catholic and in the last year of his life when Harold was so sick, she instructed him in the Catholic religion and he was baptized and made confession to a priest (who certainly got an "earful").

Tony and I are grateful that you are in Danny's life. We hope to get over to Vegas more often. In the meantime, please let us know if his condition worsens or if he has to go to the hospital.

You have our email address. Our phone number is XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,

Betty

The Nason's controlled Elmwood and southern Ohio gambling and reached into N Kentucky gambling for the Cleveland Syndicate 1932-1951. Estes Kefauver all but ended their reign in 1951. The Arrowhead Inn articles are their story from bootlegging in the 1920's through their deaths in the 1960's, as told by Harold Nason's son, Danny, my friend of many years.

Danny fought every day of his last two years of life, for one more day. He finally got the call last year, "Seven and out." Rest easy dear friend.

Enough of that:

Here is another chapter in the Arrowhead Inn saga. Doubtful it will be the last chapter. <g>

On December 26, 2009, I received this email with attached pictures.

From: John
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2009 12:40 PM
To: poker4@cox.net
Subject: Arrowhead Inn Poker Chips

Hi Gene,

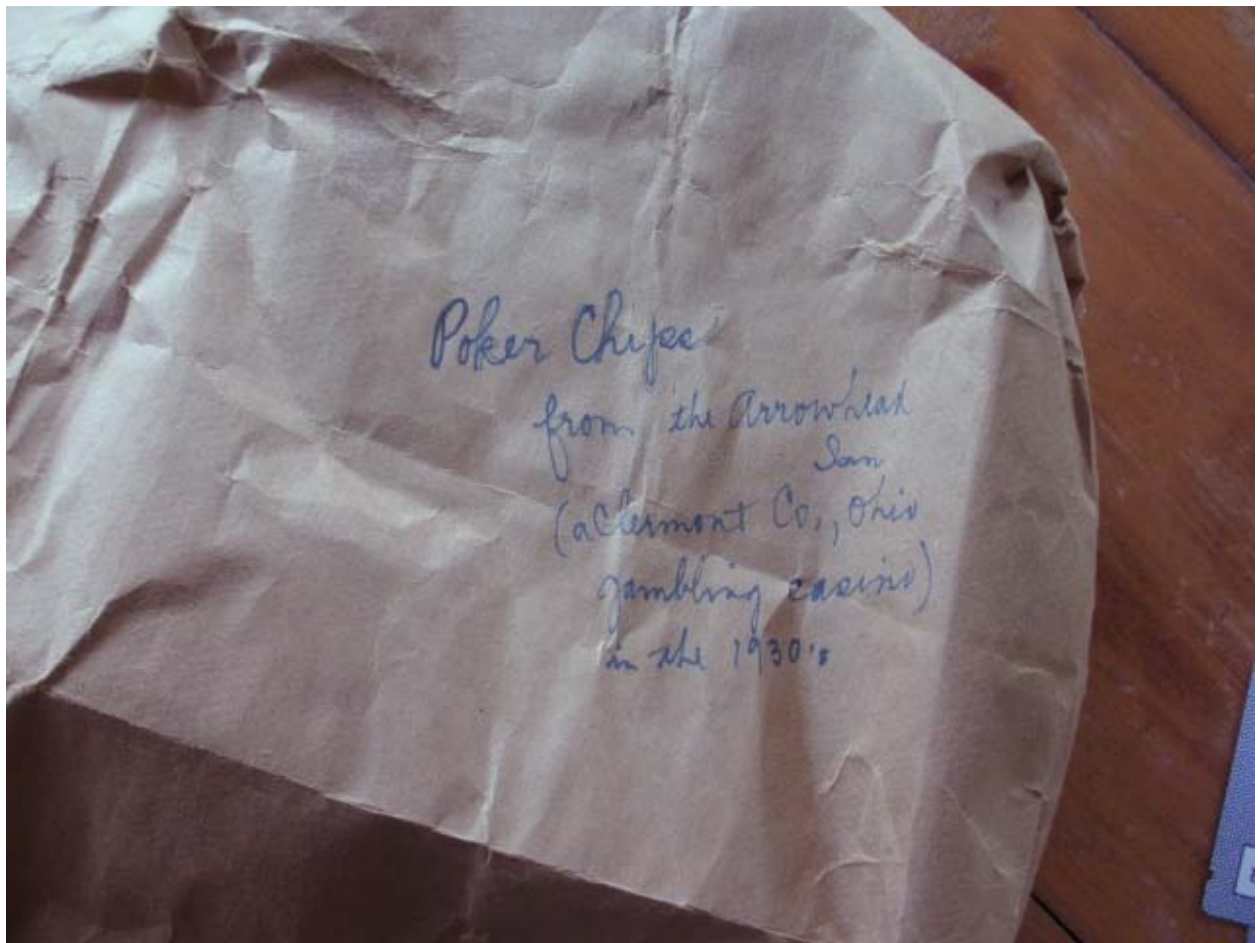
We read your article at <http://www.chaquers.com/magazine/trimble/cpgt0200.html> and thought you might be interested to see some pictures of the poker chips we just discovered in our family. My aunt knew she had the chips for a long time but only recently found where they were stored. Her mother (my grandmother) was a court reporter near Cincinnati and was present for the trial

surrounding the Arrowhead Inn being shut down. Somehow she apparently received a confiscated set of poker chips. In the attached images you can see a few images of the set. It has a cover (looks like something you'd put over a cake with a rectangle cut in the middle) and there are 301 chips. On the inside of the cover my grandma taped a news article about the casino being shut down and on the bag that covers the entire thing, she wrote a little description of what the chips are. The wooden case is engraved on the bottom, as you can see, by a company called Drueke from Grand Rapids. (The chips came from the Jack Todd Co, Kansas City MO, 1933-1950. The wooden case is from Drueke)

Have you seen an entire set like this before? Please let us me know if you have any thoughts/comments about the set. We've seen a few of the single chips online going for about \$10 or so a chip, so I'm curious as to how much the entire thing might be worth. That said, I am not interested in selling it so don't go to any great lengths to find that answer.

Best regards,

John



arrowheadinndiday1



A Backward Glance

NOVEMBER 1937

With more than 50 patrons standing around tables and wheels in the gaming rooms of Arrowhead Inn, Branch Hill, early Sunday morning Prosecuting Attorney Frank A. Roberts, Deputy Sheriffs Frank Perry, New Richmond and Paris Turner, Williamsburg, together with nine deputized assistants closed in upon this fashionable night club and impounded \$850 in cash on the tables and confiscated \$3,000 worth of gambling equipment.

THESE CHIPS WERE A PART OF
THE CONFISCATED GOODS.

I WAS NO LONGER SEC'Y
TO F.A.R., BUT WAS COUNTY
COMMON PLEAS COURT REPORTER
WHEN THIS TOOK PLACE.

Jan. 7, 1985

31



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6

There was some question on whether the white chip in the pictures were actually faded green chips. John was kind enough to send me one of the chips.



arrowheadwhite3

Scans went out to Roy Klein, Jim Linduff, and David Spragg. Roy and Jim are about as close to experts on the Arrowhead Inn as we can get. I have tons of newspaper stories they have dug out.

David suggested that Diamond mold chips may be white all the way thru like TRK crowns. I did not know that. I snapped a diamond mold pink chip. One diamond mold trader, bit the dust. <g> Color went all the way through the chip.

Jim and I questioned the green shade close to the hot stamp.

Roy's reply.

"Gene, Gene, Gene,"

"That green is just moldy, dirty gold hot stamp. I've seen that on zillion old hot stamped chips."

(com on Roy, a zillion?) <g>

I have examined the chip with a good power magnifying glass. Outside of the green shading around the gold arrowhead hot stamp, I can find no green color. The rims are perfectly white. There is 1 small nick on the edge. No green in the nick.

Best I could do on a rim scan.



arrowheadwhite4

Roy Klein, Jim Linduff, David Spragg, and I agree it is not a faded green but a white chip. This confirms 4 colors of the "INN" in an arrowhead chips, used at the Arrowhead Inn.

Here is an updated scan of the known Arrowhead Inn chips as of September 2010.

Only 7 black "INN" chips known.



arrowhead inn chipset 2010-3

The 7th color, white, Maltese Cross chip is a recent find also.

Credit to Rich Hanover for finding the dark blue and green JSB chips.

All of this info and scans will be added to the Arrowhead Inn articles as part 6.

Below are a few articles and pictures concerning the Arrowhead Inn.

Arrowhead Inn raided.

Prosecutor Frank A. Roberts and Deputies Swoop Down On Fashionable Night Club

Sunday Morning Sortie Nets Over
\$800 Cash and \$3,000
In Equipment.

OWNER IS ARRESTED

Sam Nason Charged With Viola-
tion of State's Anti-Gambling
Laws; Released on Bond.

With more than 50 patrons standing around tables and wheels in the gaming rooms of the Arrowhead Inn early Sunday morning, Prosecuting Attorney Frank A. Roberts, Deputy Sheriff Frank Perry, New Richmond, and Paris Turner, Williamsburg, together with nine deputized assistants, closed in upon this fashionable night club, impounding \$857 in cash on the tables and confiscated \$3,000 worth of gambling equipment.

Before most of the 200 other patrons in the night club and at the bar realized what was going on, Perry closed off the gambling rooms, then read a "John Doe" warrant signed by Judge Charles G. White, Common Pleas Judge of Clermont county. The affidavit for the warrant was sworn to by Roberts. Sam Nason, owner of the establishment, was arrested on a charge of violating the state's anti-gambling laws.

The deputies gathered in the money on the tables, then cleaned out all gambling equipment in evidence, including three roulette tables, two hazard tables, three dice tables, and a number of smaller devices. The raid was not completed until late in the morning, when officials had hauled away three truck loads of equipment.

Roberts explained that no money was taken from the inn's office, but patrons holding chips at the time of the raid received cash from funds in the office, not from the tables.

The officers said they met no resistance from custodians at the doors, other employees, or patrons. Nason alone was held when he agreed to take full responsibility for the inn. He was released on \$500 bond—peeled off in five \$100 bills by J. M. Wiseman, Justice of the Peace at Batavia.

Roberts declared the successful raid on Arrowhead was expected to mean the end of gambling in Clermont County. The raid climaxed a year-long drive against flagrant cases of gambling instituted last winter by the Prosec-

(continued on page 8)

Article from
Clermont Sun
Nov 18, 1937

TAHIA, Ohio, as Second-class Matter.
Bell Telephone No. 70.

County Officials Raid Arrowhead Inn

(continued from page 1)

cutor. Roberts struck at slot machines at the outset of his campaign.

"Although I have wanted to close down Arrowhead ever since I heard reliable reports there was gambling there, I haven't been in a position to carry out a successful raid until recently," Roberts said. "We made sure earlier in the evening that there was gambling last night before we moved in."

Explaining he never had received complaints against the inn on any other grounds, Roberts said complaints on gambling had become so numerous recently that he was compelled to act himself.

Nason is to receive a preliminary hearing Friday before Justice Wiseman. The official charge against him is "exhibiting gambling devices for gain."

Meanwhile, Roberts explained, the inn may continue to operate as a dining place and night club, since a gambling charge does not carry with it any right to padlock an establishment unless the court specifically orders padlocking when the case is brought up for trial. The management announced last night that the inn would be closed for the season.

Roberts said much credit for the success of the raid was to be attributed to Robert Prebble, Bethel, recently appointed a special investigator in the prosecutor's department.

All confiscated equipment will be destroyed, Roberts said.

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arrowhead raid

The raider!!!!

**FRANK A. ROBERTS, NEWLY-ELECTED
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF CLERMONT**



arrowhead raid roberts

The trial about to start.

Hearing For Arrowhead Inn Executive Friday

Will Appear Before Magistrate
J. M. Wiseman; Bond Five
Century Marks.

Sam Nason, proprietor of the Arrowhead Inn, will appear before Magistrate J. M. Wiseman in Batavia at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon to answer charges of exhibiting and operating gambling devices for gain. Nason was arrested early Sunday morning when Prosecutor Frank A. Roberts and Deputies Frank Perry and Paris Turner, and several officers closed in on the club, impounding money found on the tables and confiscating equipment said to be worth \$3,000.

Justice Wiseman said he set the hearing for Friday "to keep the case from dragging out," although Nason requested a postponement until next week. Nason was released on \$500 bond.

Prosecuting Attorney Frank Roberts declared the state was ready whenever Nason wants a hearing. Under the law, Nason may ask for a hearing any time before Friday.

If Nason is convicted, he is liable to a fine of \$500 and a ninety-day jail sentence on each count. Roberts may ask conviction on one gambling charge, or possibly on eight separate counts, since eight tables — all said to be gambling paraphernalia—were seized.

It was pointed out that if Nason pleaded not guilty, he automatically would be bound over to the grand jury. If the jury indicted Nason, the case then would go into Clermont County Court of Common Pleas.

If Nason entered a plea of guilty, however, and was willing to be tried without a jury, the case probably would remain in the hands of Justice Wiseman. If the defendant desired a jury trial, the case would be passed on to the grand jury.

Article from
THE CLERMONT SUN
Nov 18, 1937

Harold Nason at the Arrowhead inn 1935



arrowheadinnharold 1935

An envelope with a letter from Sam Nason to his sister in Texas, 1936. She also has chips from the Arrowhead. I checked, no white chips. <g>



AHE Downloads

Arrowhead Inn postcard.



Downloads

Harold Nason's watch.



nasonharoldwatch attach2

Danny Nason and wife 1948. Danny still missed her the last day of his life. I live in Danny's house. It is my wish that Danny made it to wherever she is. Her presence is in the decorative items in the house to this day.



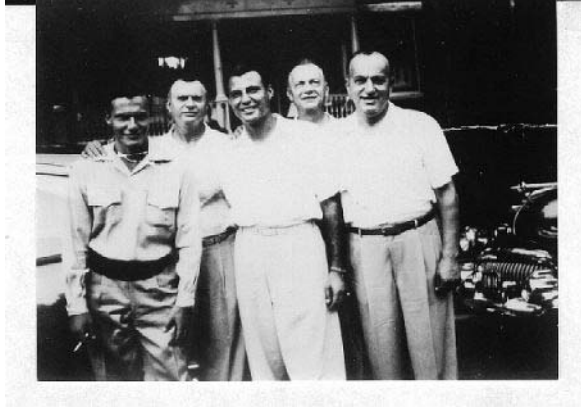
dannynason 1948

Danny at a Desert Inn Golf Tourney.



nasondannyDI attach 2

The Nason's - Bob, Harold, Danny, Frank & Sam



arrowheadinnNasons

Bobby is the only Nason still kicking. He is a retired Air Force Colonel. Bobby was never involved with illegal gambling. Notice the cigarette in his hand. He is in mid 80's and the cigarette is still always in his hand. <g>