

These were on ebay awhile back. We made an attempt to buy them but were outbid. Mike Vuolo emailed the winner and bought a couple from him. Selma, Alabama is best known for the marches that helped jump start the civil rights movement.

Not a big story but it is always a good day when you can put an ID to a new illegal club chip. <g>

Enough of that:

Alabama:



Bamboo Dinner Club

BAM on side.

BOO on side 2.

Bendersky's

Bendersky's Building

Selma, Alabama

2600 chips over 3 orders

1960-1967

Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

Bendersky's was a store in downtown Selma for many decades (at least as far back as the 1930's). They sold all kinds of stuff including sporting goods:



BamBoo2 att2

My guess is that Bendersky's ordered the chips for a customer.

The chips may have been ordered for a place which operated in Selma during the time period of the chip orders called the "Bamboo Dinner Club." Haven't found much about it but I know it was operating as early as 1962, was formally incorporated in 1963 by three guys who dissolved their partnership in 1968. It had a bar and served liquor, but I don't know if it had gambling.

Enter a "2<sup>nd</sup> Friend Of The Hobby."

A 2nd friend of the hobby, who has helped us in the past, still has access to limited info from the FBI files. "Bamboo Dinner Club was busted for illegal gambling in 1965, along with another restaurant down the street called "Tally Ho." Tally Ho looks like it still exists and is famous.

It is good to have friends! <g>

Some say the FBI got wind of the subsidiary enterprises going down the block from the Tally Ho and began an investigation.

Later, the first addition to the Tally Ho was a dancing room, known as the Bamboo Room, lined with 4 inch bamboo from a local farm in nearby Perry County. In addition, four 'stalls' were added by the Mangolds and Capt. Henry (Willie) Lacy, USAF, in the original cabin room, currently known as the Entry Room. The concept for the stalls came from a restaurant in Memphis. Chains with a numbered brass plates, taken from the bulls at the State Fair. Often steaks from these prize animals were served at the Tally Ho.

Sometime after the horseshows began, a second house was built down the lot from the original cabin. This house was somewhat less comfortable, and slightly smaller than the Tally Ho, but if you were in the mood for a little 'game', it was the perfect spot. There was a narrow gated lane behind the Tally Ho, and if the gate was left open, it meant there was 'action tonight.' Many of the wealthier and influential citizens of Selma were known to frequent the little gaming house. Often rumors of prostitution circulated as well, but the size and nature of the house was such that it would have made it difficult to provide such services amongst the dice throwers and card shufflers.