

IMO, a rather strange order coming out of New Orleans for this "Illegal Of The Day" post. I got 2 colors of the 5¢ chip in 2008 and never looked into them. A few weeks ago Dave Hepburn emailed me an ebay link for an auction that had 9 different in it. Dave was kind enough to buy two sets. That made me 10 different chips as 1 color was a dupe. 8 of them were 5¢ chips. I thought that odd until I got the record on them. <g> Geez,, there are 20 different chips with 2 different fonts delivered in the same order.

Playing "numbers," "policy," and "lottery" were real close to the same thing back in those days. It depended on which part of the country you lived in, what it was called. In Newport, KY it was called playing the "Numbers." The cops called it the Numbers Racket! <g> Screw Andrews was the Numbers king of northern, KY and southern, OH.

The numbers business in Newport was mostly a "Black" business and bet mostly at 5¢ to 10¢ a set of numbers. The more numbers you bet, the higher the odds.

When I opened a Bingo in Screw's Sportsman's Club early 1960's there was a room with dozens of telephones. Screw had a big call in business all over northern KY and southern OH. Although mostly a black's business many poor people played the numbers every day.

Most cities had this type of gambling. Some cities winners were tied to the stock market closing numbers, some tied to horse race winners, and some just drew the numbers like a bingo would.

I played the numbers in Pittsburg while at a poker game back in the 1960's. You had to read the evening paper to find out if you won. It was tied to the stock market closing numbers.

I never once got a "gig." Read on and you will understand that one. <g>

Ebay sellers description:

"BLUE HORSESHOE CLUB"...JEFFERSON PARISH..SOUTHPORT, LA....OWNERS :..H..Mills, O. Litloff....THESE CHIPS WERE FOUND IN A BOX IN AN OLD HOUSE IN LOUISIANA .. in NEW ORLEANS.

My note: Finally an ebay seller that told the truth! <g>

Enough of that:

Louisiana:

Mason & Co record:

O J Littloff

The Blue Horse Shoe Club

2919 Daneel St

New Orleans, LA.

BLUE in horseshoe – 2 different fonts both from same order

1937 to 1939 – 20 different chips, nearly all 5c on reverse but different colors.

My Note: At least 1-10¢, 1-25¢, and 1-\$1 chip.

Total of 5900 chips



1blue in horshoeatt2

Note the top right chip is from a different die.

Enter a "Friend Of The Hobby."

Osmond Joseph Litloff, born 1900 in New Orleans, died 1967 in Slidell, LA where he had moved from NOLA two years prior. When the chips were ordered in 1937-39, 2919 Danneel St. was the location of the Blue Horse Shoe Club (the address was in a predominately African-American neighborhood).

The club was located at this address at least as late as 1946.

1938 NOLA city directory:

CLUBS

American Legion Club 334 Royal
Arabi Social Club 138 Friscoville av
Arts & Crafts Club of New Orleans 712 Royal
Audubon Riding Club Audubon Park
Autocrat Social Musical & Pleasure Club 1725 St
Bernard av
Blue Bird Social Club 1836 3d
Blue Horse Shoe Club 2919 Danneel
Boston Club 824 Canal
Catherine Club 1456 Camp
Catholic Woman's Club 608 Common

bluehorshoe1att2

For many decades Litoff and Henry Mills were associated with the operation of lotteries or policy in NOLA. Some of Litoff's uncles and brothers as well as his son Edwin were involved with lottery operations as were many members of the Mills family. One of their lotteries, and one of the more popular and long lasting, was the Blue Horse Shoe. This lottery was operating at least as early as 1928 and as late as 1974.

5dec1928

LOTTERY SUSPECT HELD
George Butz, 21 years old, 2553
Valence street, was arrested by
Ninth Precinct police from 3222 Pine
street Tuesday morning, and charged
with possession of lottery parapher-
nalia and with acting as an agent
for a lottery company. A book
containing 100 lottery plays and sev-
en lottery lists marked "Blue Horse
Shoe Lottery," were found in his
possession, according to police.

bluehorshoe2att2

10may1974 (August J. Mills, Jr. was Henry Mills' nephew)

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Lottery Charge Included Among True Bills

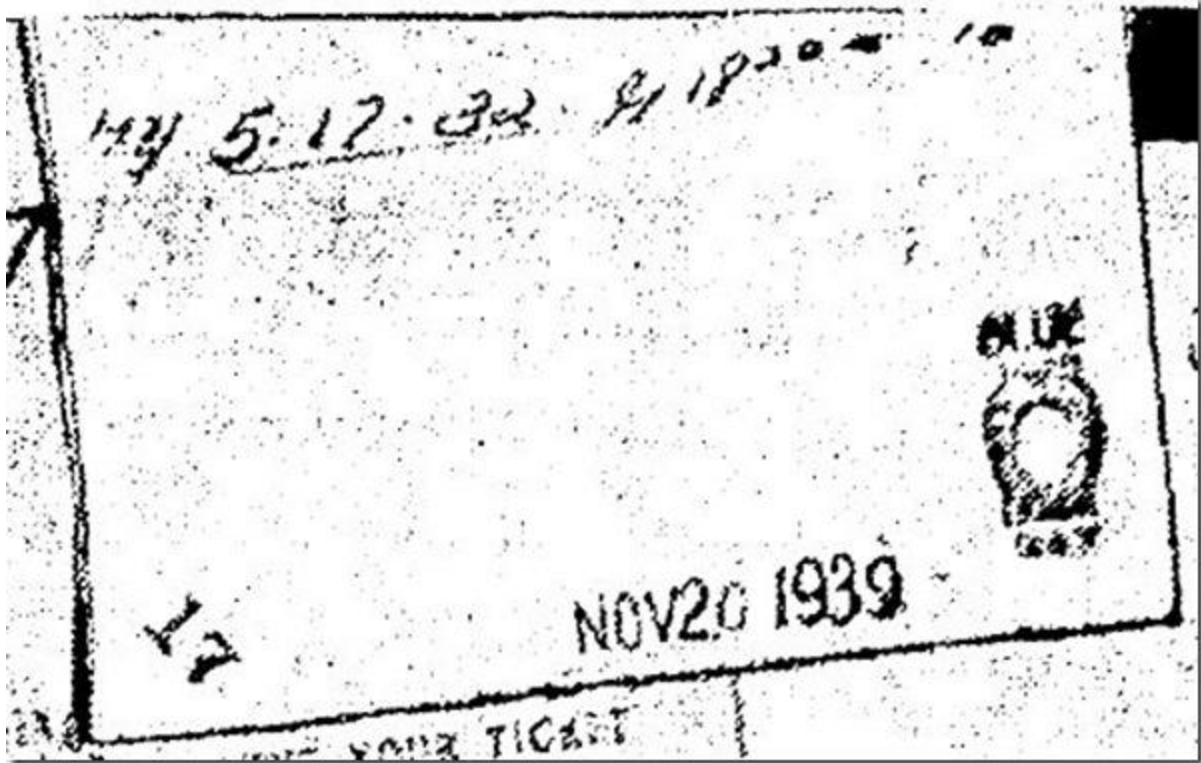
Four persons were indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury on charges of operating a lottery.

Those indicted include August J. Mills Jr., Guion Spurl, John M. Wilkerson and Clarence Jackson.

It is alleged that from April 25, 1973, to Jan 23, 1974, the defendnts conducted two lotteries known as the Blue Horseshoe Lottery and the Big Louisiana Lottery.

bluehorseshoe3att2

Here is a copy of a lottery ticket from 20nov1939. In the bottom right is the word BLUE with a horseshoe underneath (underneath horseshoe is DAY, for day as opposed to night drawing). At the top are the three numbers the player selected, 5-17-32, and writing saying that if your numbers come up you would win \$18.00 on your 10 cent ticket.



bluehorseshoe4att2

I'm assuming that the Blue Horse Shoe Club on Danneel St. was where the drawings took place. A drum with 78 numbered balls would be spun and 12 balls selected. If your 3 numbers came up, a "gig," then you'd win. 5 and 10 cent tickets seem to have been the most popular gigs. Do you have any idea what the purpose of the different colored 5 cent chips was? Do you think it had anything to do with the lottery?

My note: I have no clue why so many different color 5¢ chips were needed. How about a guess from some of you guys?

Mills & Litolff were involved in more than just the lottery in New Orleans. I'm not sure of the dates, but certainly in the late 1940's members of the Litolff and Mills families were the principal owners of the "Club Forest" in Jefferson Parish on East Jefferson Hwy. Opposite the Club Forest, Mills & Litolff had a place called the Blue Horse Shoe Tourist Court which was around as early as the 1930's. It had a "reputation" (a place where you could get a room, but you didn't stay the night).

My note: New Orleans and ladies of ill repute. Who would have thought that! <g>

In 1951 Estes Kefauver wanted to talk to both Litolff and the Mills brothers but they were nowhere to be found.

My note: The Kefauver Commission could be considered the sponsor of the "Illegal Of The Day" posts. <g>

US Marshal Louis Knox has been asked to hunt down "missing" witnesses Henry, Arthur and Frank Mills, and Osmond Litloff. They will be served when found and a committee staff member said that they would probably be ordered to report for a hearing in Washington this month.

By George Martin, Lt. Colonel

bluehorseshoe5att2

In 1958 an Orleans Parish grand jury investigating corruption in the NOLA police department questioned both Litloff and Mills about payoffs to the police. Both refused to answer the questions and both were found guilty of contempt.

My note: New Orleans police officers bribed. I don't believe it! <g>

Lottery Figures Receive 10-Day Prison Sentences

Mills, Litolff Refused to Answer Questions

Two lottery figures, Henry Mills and Osmond Litolff, refusing to return to the Orleans parish grand jury room and answer questions, were given 10-day parish prison sentences and fined \$100 each Wednesday.

And former police officers Edward Fallon, Thomas Ford and V. J. Slichon also refused to answer questions Wednesday before the grand jury and were ordered to show cause next week why they should not be found in contempt.

bluehorshoe6att2

Over a period of two years they appealed their conviction but it was upheld by both the LA and US Supreme Courts.

However, Gov. Earl Long cut Litolff some slack:

My note: Once more the Louisiana governor helps the good old boys. I think we saw that one coming from earlier "Illegal Of The Day" posts.

LONG CANCELS LITOLFF TERM

But Refuses Clemency for Henry Mills

Gov. Earl K. Long Monday granted clemency to one of two lottery figures convicted of contempt of court here during the 1938 New Orleans police probe. He refused clemency to the other.

Long granted clemency to Osmund J. Litolff.

He refused it to Henry J. Mills, who was convicted for the identical reason as Litolff.

Both were fined \$100 and sentenced to 10 days imprisonment by Judge J. Bernard Cocke in criminal district court here in January, 1938. They were found



HENRY J. MILLS
Plea turned down

guilty of contempt after refusing to testify before the Orleans parish grand jury about alleged lottery company payoffs to police.

The two men had sought a reduction to fine only. Long's action makes Mills liable to serve 10 days imprisonment here and pay a \$100 fine. The governor's action reduced Litolff's identical sentence to payment of the fine only.

Prior to the action Monday by Gov. Long, Judge Cocke had



OSMUND J. LITOLFF
Sentence reduced

ordered both Mills and Litolff to jail to serve their terms. His action followed state supreme court rejection of the latest appeal of the two.

Judge Cocke said he received notice of the rejection on Friday.

Judge Cocke Monday night said

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LONG CANCELS

Continued from Page 1

he had voted "consistently" against clemency for either man during meetings of the state board of pardons. He said he voted against clemency during the March meeting of the board here.

The other members of the board in their cases at the March meeting were Atty. Gen. Jack F. F. Grenillion and William Cleveland, president pro tem of the state Senate. Judge Cocke said, "Since it takes two recommendations, Cleveland and Grenillion must have voted for clemency."

Mills and Litolff had been identified by the grand jury as lottery figures. They refused to testify during the 1938 hearings on constitutional grounds, stating they were under federal investigation in connection with income tax payments.

CONVICTIONS UPHOLD

The contempt of court convictions for the two men were upheld by the state supreme court and US supreme court.

Also Monday the governor turned down all narcotics pardons referred to him, he said.

In Baton Rouge Monday night Long said he differentiated between Mills and Litolff because "Litolff is a sick man and he's not the public figure Mills is." He said he had been told Mills "has been in the gambling business all his life."

The governor said he had been told that Litolff was sick and "down and out financially and physically."

"I know Mills is not down and out," he added.

"How they've kept either of these people out of the pen this long I don't know," Long said. "I talked to Judge Cocke, and he said it wasn't his fault."

MAY BE SORRY

"I figured Mills had gotten by a long time without going to jail, and that Cocke had some truth in what he said. Maybe if I had known the other man better, I wouldn't have signed his, I may be sorry I did."

Long said he refused 12 narcotics pardons presented him Monday. "I'm going to refuse 30 more Tuesday," he said.

"I haven't signed one single narcotics pardon in spite of what your newspaper says," he added. "I have given some of them their citizenship back after they got out, but that's the least you can do. A man can't get a job unless he's got that."

Mills and Litolff were among many witnesses called by the Orleans grand jury during the police graft hearings.

Among the questions Mills refused to answer was: "Have you ever given any money to any members of the New Orleans police department for purposes of protection so that you could open a lottery company within the parish of Orleans?"

WOULDN'T ANSWER

A question Litolff would not answer was: "Have you ever authorized anyone to make payments to any members of the New Orleans police department for purposes of securing protection to operate any type of gambling enterprise?"

Eugene Stanley, attorney who represented Mills and Litolff, pleaded for the two men before the state board of pardons last October.

He said neither had had any connection with lottery business in New Orleans for the past 15 years.

The structure which housed the Blue Horse Shoe Club at 2919 Danneel no longer exists. Here's a recent picture of the corner of Seventh and Danneel; Blue Horse Shoe was located at the red X. The buildings certainly look like they were there in the 30's (store keeping tradition alive with lotto). A couple of old cemeteries are located a block away--certainly would have added an interesting dimension to the old neighborhood back when the Blue Horse Shoe was running.

My note: If you have never watched a New Orleans funeral put it on your "Bucket List." It is a sight to behold.



bluehorshoe9att2

In 1946 New Orleans jazz musician Irving Fazola (1912-1949) recorded a song with his Dixieland Band called "Stompin' at the Blue Horseshoe" which has these lyrics:

I've been to Chicago,
Been to New York and Kalamazoo,
I come back to New Orleans,
On account of the Blue Horse Shoe

I've attached the recording as a WindowsMediaAudio attachment—it should open up in windows media player. (not sure if the lyrics are talking about the Blue Horse Shoe Club or the Blue Horse Shoe Tourist Court or something else)



Stompin' at the Blue
Horse Shoe.WMA bluehorshoe12att2

Also, here's a couple of Jones Bros. chip dies—not sure where these were used:

My note: Not sure if these were dice dies or chip dies. If chips "I WANT THEM." <g>

They would be on the LgSq mold.



bluehorshoe10 & 11att2