

I got the P hub back in January 2015, along with quite a few other illegals and T mold samples including floor sweepings. They came from the daughter of an old gambler. She had 1000's of chips. Once again no "Club" name on the Mason record. Our "Friend Of The Hobby" went to work and got us a "Club" name. I am not sure how this one was forgotten for 16 months. I plead old age! *vbg*

Take it away "Friend."



P1att2

Paul Butkovich
302 Main St
Wood River, IL

Just 100 chips, 1947

After Research:

Boody's Bar also called Butkovich's Tavern

Attached is an article from 2005 about the guy who ordered the P hubs.

Below is another article about him from 1998.

Both articles work hard to promote the idea that Butkovich was a laborer by day and an artist by night. Although both say he liked to paint racehorses, neither mentions anything about his gambling activities. The one below says that while Butkovich worked as a laborer his wife managed a tavern owned by his brother.

FAMILY SEEKS RECOGNITION FOR PAINTINGS CREATED IN A WOOD RIVER BASEMENT - CONSTRUCTION WORKER LEFT ARTISTIC LEGACY

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Readability: 5-6 grade level (Lexile: 860L)

Author: Robert Goodrich ; Of The Post-Dispatch

By day, Paul Martin Butkovich sweated on construction jobs as a member of Laborers Local 338 in Wood River. At night he labored in his basement as an artist.

"My dad was really a walking contradiction," said Pete Butkovich, 54.

Mildred Butkovich agreed. For her husband, she said, earning a living for his family came first, "but his passion was art."

Paul Butkovich died in January 1996 at age 76, leaving some 700 drawings and paintings. His work earned him little recognition in his lifetime but is now starting to win the attention of art critics. And the family is looking for a way to share his talent, especially throughout Southern Illinois.

Pete Butkovich and his mother said nothing was for sale. That would be the artist's wish too, they said. He customarily attached the initials "NFS" (not for sale) to his works.

Paul Butkovich was born in 1919 in Wood River, the son of Yugoslavian immigrants and one of eight brothers. A sister died at birth.

He was mostly self-taught as an artist. At age 19, he attended the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., but couldn't afford to stay.

Mildred Butkovich met her husband in 1940. "I was working in an ammunition plant in East Alton," she said. She occasionally went out with a group of co-workers.

"We went to this dance hall," she recalled. "He was sitting there. I was dance-crazy, and he couldn't dance a step."

But that didn't impede romance. The two married in August 1941 and stayed happily together until his death 55 years later. "I wouldn't trade anything," Mildred Butkovich said. "If I could, I would have added some more years."

Not that things were easy. While he worked as a day laborer, including lots of overtime, she raised two sons (Pete and older brother Paul Jr.) and operated a tavern owned by her husband's brother.

Pete Butkovich said his father occasionally doodled at the kitchen table, but would often disappear into the basement after supper to draw or paint deep into the night.

He did pen-and-ink drawings, pastels and mixed media pieces, some with markers or crayolas, using a tool he fashioned from a razor blade for fine touches.

"He loved racehorses and thoroughbred racing," Pete Butkovich said.

His father often visited Fairmount Park in Fairmont City. He had a good eye for powerful horses and skillful jockeys, his son said. But he painted rather than gambled.

The couple spent weekends visiting area art shows and galleries, Mildred Butkovich noted.

Said Pete Butkovich, "Education was so important to dad." Pete graduated from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Paul II attended Yale and went on to earn a doctorate. Pete now lives in Connecticut, Paul II in New York.

A few people recognized Paul Butkovich's talent while he was still alive. The school superintendent in Roxana nominated him for a Pulitzer Prize for art in the 1950s.

For a time, Butkovich used a pen name - A.P. Butzz. Family members think it may have stood for "Artist Paul Butkovich."

In the summer of 1996, a few months after his death, the University Museum at SIUE displayed a collection of his work.

Curator Michael E. Mason said the work "far exceeded our expectations." He added, "I felt as if I had been entrusted with a rare gift."

State Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Troy, has taken a special interest in the collection and hopes it gets a wide audience.

"There should be an awful lot of demand," Stephens said. "People should see this."

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My note: Looks like the source was wrong or just plain lying about Pauls gambling.

May 13th 1961:

Paul Martin Butkovich, at 316 Main St., Wood River, was listed as a purchaser of a wagering stamp. There were no stamps issued at Wood River for coin-operated devices.

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1958

More Gambling, Slot Permits Listed

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (Special)—Following is a list of additional persons and businesses in Madison, Macoupin and Jersey counties who or which have obtained federal permits to make wagers or operate slot machines for the current (from June 30, 1957, to now) year:

Federal wagering permits, costing \$50 each:

- Olivia Bourbon, 4310 Lake Drive, Granite City,
- Idle Hour Cafe, Margaret V. Brikner, Box 195, Worden.
- Cyril Bugger, 629 Burroughs St., Collinsville.
- Paul Butkovich, 316 Main St., Wood River.
- Wedge Tavern, Fred C. Hardin, 1510 E. Broadway, Alton.
- Wedge Grill, James K. Kodros, 1510 E. Broadway, Alton.
- Howard's Barber Shop, Walter H. Howard, 211 E. Main St., Mount Olive.

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1971

Area man indicted in gambling setup

A 52-year-old Wood River man and nine other persons have been indicted by a federal grand jury for participating in an alleged gambling operation on major sporting events that spanned into several states.

Paul Butkovich, 52, of Wood River, was indicted with the others for conspiring to violate the Organized Crime Act through the financing and managing of an illegal gambling business which was smashed by raids of FBI and Illinois Bureau of Investigation agents last December.

Indicted with Butkovich were Robert Babcock, 45, of Peoria, Arthur Farrell, 58 of Westville, Joe Mazzotti, 51, 39 East Moline, Ernest B. Dinora, 63, Dominic Greco, 59 and Richard Mattera, 51, all of Springfield, Robert C. Fox, 45 and Victor Seppi both of Las Vegas.

The indicted men are charged with accepting wagers and bets on sporting events by telephone and relaying information to other

persons in the operation in Southern Illinois and Las Vegas.

The indictments grew out of raids last December in five Illinois cities, including a search of a car in Wood River, by federal and IBI agents. U.S. Attorney Frank Violanti told the Telegraph.

The gambling business operated from Oct. 15, 1969 until December 1970, the time of the raids and had a gross revenue of \$2,000 or more for one or more days, the indictment charges.

Activities of the alleged enterprise radiated from a loop between the two apparent bases for its operation—Springfield and Las Vegas.

The indictment claims that the business was transacted over telephones between these and other points and that money was transferred by telegraph.

Other counts of the four-count indictment charged Dinora and Fox with supervising and controlling the operation.

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Two years' probation for gambler

A Wood River man who pleaded guilty in Springfield to federal gambling charges Friday has been given two years' probation, according to information released to the Telegraph Tuesday.

Paul Butkovich, who gave federal authorities an address of 169 Madison, was given the probation on two charges, conducting an illegal gambling business and conspiracy to violate the law by conducting an illegal gambling business.

Federal District Judge Omer Poos sentenced Butkovich to two years' probation on each charge, with the sentences to run concurrently.

William Roberts, prosecuting attorney in the U.S. Attorney's office at Springfield, said Butkovich was indicted last March 26, and turned himself in to federal authorities after a criminal summons was issued.

Butkovich pleaded not guilty April 5 and was released on \$,000 bond. Williams said Butkovich was one of 10 persons indicted on the charges. The others live in Springfield, Danville, Taylorville and Rock Island. He said Butkovich was transmitting bets from this area to Springfield on football games.

Butkovich around 1940:



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pic from the mid 1940's when Paul bought the P Hubs, Butkovich's Tavern on Main Street in Wood River; Paul behind the bar holding son, wife Mildred behind bar to left:



My note: There was enough gambling going on that Paul was mentioned in the Kefauver Commission hearings in the early 1950's.

Chairman Kefauver mentions a "Butkovich Tavern" while questioning Dallas Harrell, the former sheriff of Madison County, where Wood River is located (Harrell was sheriff from 1946-50):

The CHAIRMAN. Sheriff, the record does not show that. I do not want to go through all the record, but just taking it at random, there are a great many places in Madison County that indicate that they are not private clubs. Here is Joseph Bergrath: Bergrath's Tavern and Restaurant.

Mr. BURLING. Is that a private club?

Mr. HARRELL. Senator, I want to get this definite. There were no slot machines operating in Madison County, commercially operated slot machines during the 4 years that I was in there as sheriff, and neither has there been since 1938 with these exceptions, I picked up, I think about three or four slot machines in Madison County; during the 4 years that I was in there I picked up every slot machine that there was operating in a tavern or a commercially operated slot machine.

The CHAIRMAN. How about Starlight Tavern?

Mr. HARRELL. I don't know. What is the address?

The CHAIRMAN. 1349 Grand, Madison.

Mr. HARRELL. Well, that is—I don't know what that is.

The CHAIRMAN. How about Butkovich Tavern?

Mr. HARRELL. Well, now, here. There is a whole bunch of these places, they may have a tavern, that may be the way that they are listed, but these were clubs, they were ex-GI clubs, they were Elks' clubs, they were Knights of Columbus.

The CHAIRMAN. Here is Burns Liquor, 701 Madison. That does not sound like the Elk's Club.

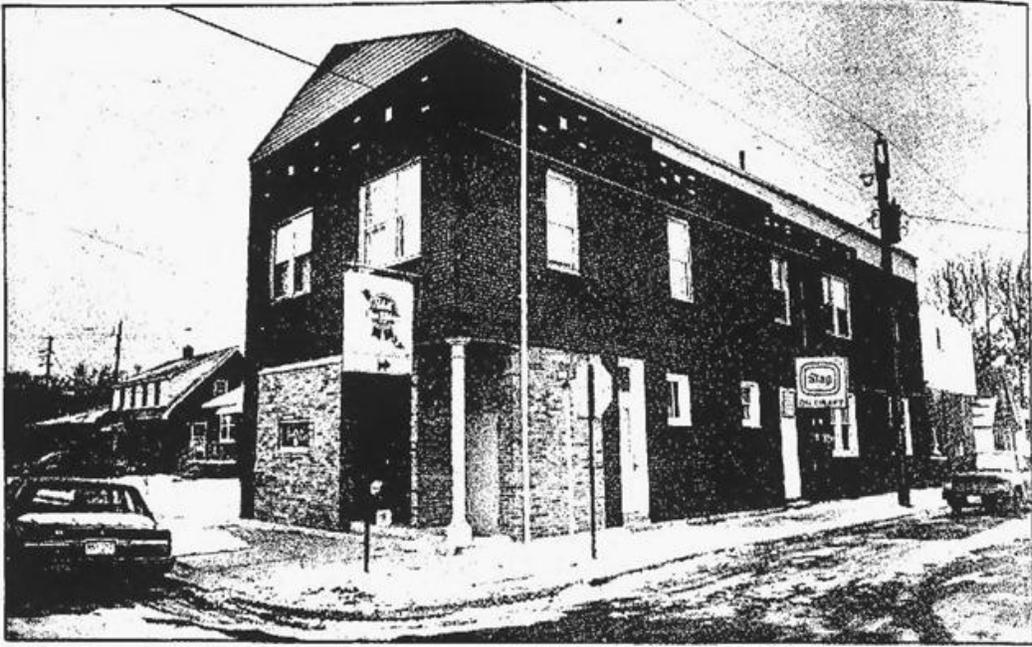
Mr. HARRELL. Well, now, I will tell you, I know what you are talking about there. Those are not slot machines.

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Butkovitch's son Pete, age 70, who's mentioned in the articles lives in Cromwell, Connecticut:

My guess is that the P hubs were used at the tavern; perhaps Paul had a poker game there? P for Paul. When the chips were delivered to Butkovich in 1947, 302 S. Main was both the location of the tavern as well as Butkovich's residence.

Here's a pic from 1988 when the place was known as Scottie's (the building was torn down around 2007-08).



P10

current view:



P11

Here's a recently made artistic recreation of what the place looked like in 1953 (not sure who made it, but from here: <http://www.iyway.com/samples/graphics/woodriver/photoshop.html>)

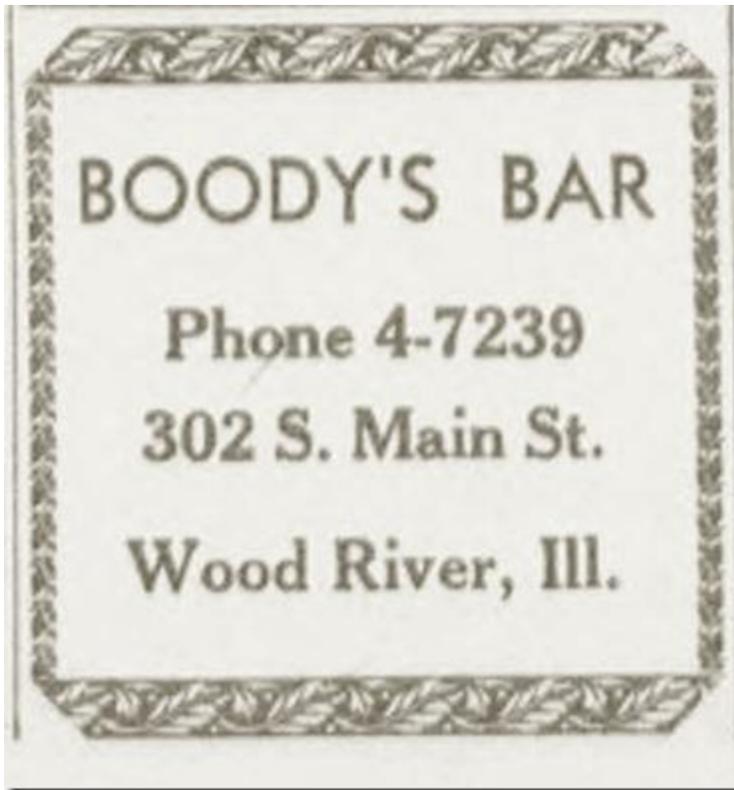


P12

The place was known as Boody's, a nickname of Paul's brother John (Boody) easier to say than Butkovich).

I've attached a pdf from 1988 about the place.

ad from 1948:



P13

My note: Looks like he also sold gambling supplies.

Also saw this ad from 1947 which was in Billboard Magazine (same year as the chip order). The ad is hard to read but the address is 302 South Main in Wood River and the name of the company, Butzz, is the same as the pen name used by Paul Butkovich (mentioned in one of the articles I sent earlier). hard to decipher, but mentions "all colors" "all size tables up to 70 1/2" "guaranteed washable" "special price to jobbers"



P14

This is "Illegal Of The Day" #312, in the never ending search for the history of our chips.