

This is number 200 in the series of "Illegal Of The Day" post's. Let's call it a milestone on the way to many more. Number 200 came down to a choice between Illinois and a good story from Dayton, Ohio. I played poker in Dayton many a day but this one was before my time.

All of the contributors (there were many) and I thoroughly enjoyed putting them together. We all hope others will join us in the search for the history of our chips. I save every tid-bit of info and every scan collectors send me. You would be surprised how often one little mention in an article or match book cover spawns an "Illegal Of The Day."

You have to have a starting point as you will read in this post. We had a definite UFC in this beautiful cord mold chip Weston sent me. No way to track it until Weston sent the White Horse Casino matchbook weeks later. The match book wound up having nothing to do with the cord but it was the "starting point."

In "Illegal Of The Day." Illinois 32 posted on 5/17/13 I told the story of the White Horse Casino that came out of the search for the UFC cord chip that we thought we found a matchbook for. As it turned out the chip did not match but we turned up the story of the White Horse casino CHR chain mold and a new casino for TGT,

The Cord chip is the chip that spawned the info in Illinois 32. Link to Illinois 32, <http://www.thechipboard.com/index.cgi/page/1/md/read/id/1253197/sbj/illegal-of-the-day-illinois-32/>

The following ID and story fell into our laps while looking for the story in Illinois 32. In my opinion the cord chip is no longer a UFC.

Cord chips distributed by E. M. O'Neil Chicago pre 1953 then moved to Las Vegas, 1st telephone book listing in 1953 at 500 College Ave, LV. We have a small amount of the O'Neil records on Preserving Gaming History. The rest of the records exist. They have not been made available to us. From conversations I don't think the O'Neil Chicago records are among them. I'm not sure how many Cords were issued after the LV move. I am told O'Neil sold a large amount of their orders through TR King and a couple other distributors. Cord molds are a little smaller than other molds and not as desirable.

One UFC led to two stories and entries to your TGT.



The Casino

At the six-corner of 4715 Irving Park and 3971 Milwaukee Ave in Chicago. Close up scan of the six-corner intersection is several scans down.

I will add more info about Skidmore and Johnson I've put together over the years at the end of this story. They have appeared in other "Illegal Of The Day" posts

Enter our "Friend of the hobby."

I think the chip above probably has a better chance of having been used at a place called "The Casino" or "Casino Club" which was located at 4715 Irving Park in a building which straddles the corner of Irving Park and Milwaukee—one of the corners of a multi-cornered intersection known as "Six Corners."

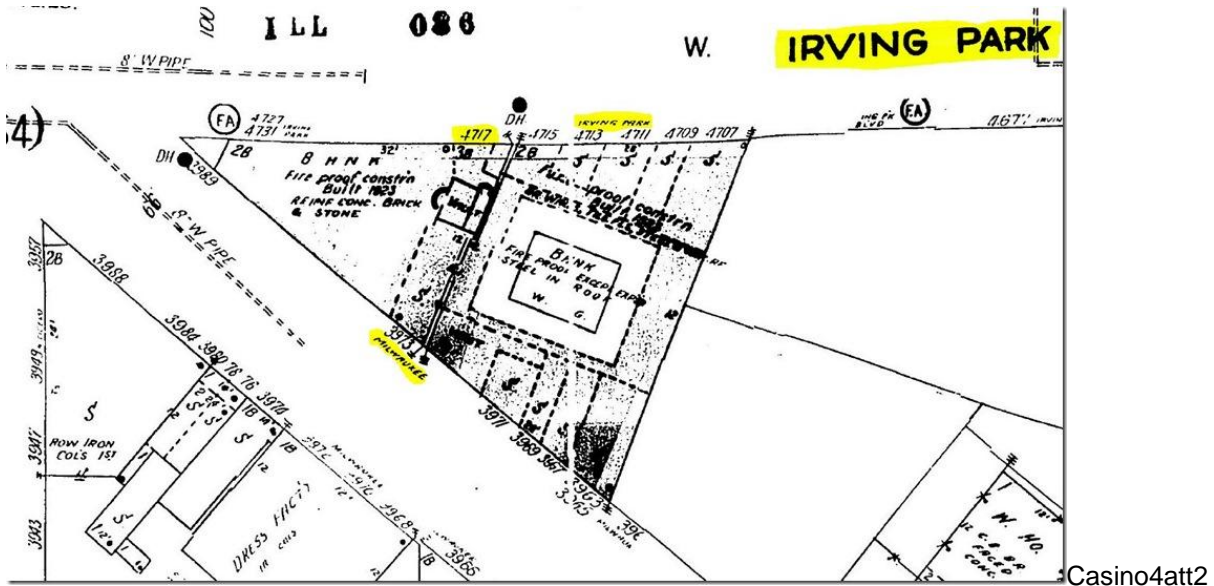
The building still exists, but has had a major face lift. Irving Park to the left, Milwaukee to the right:



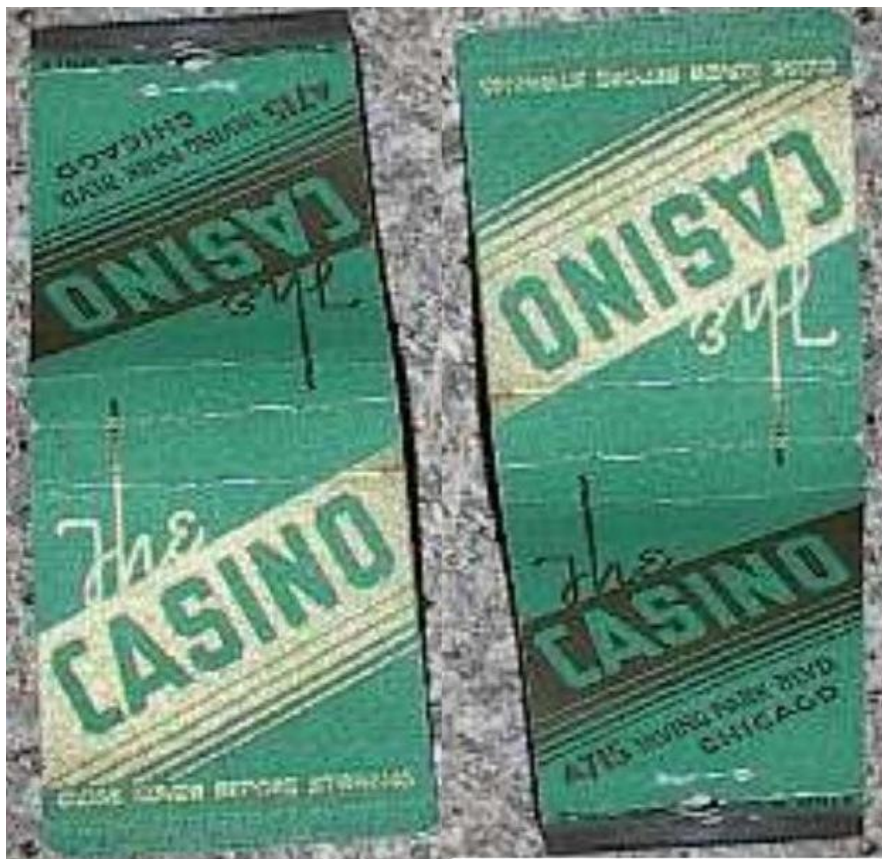
Same view from 1934; 4715 Irving Park entrance would have been on the far left side of the photo:



map:



matchbook:4715 Irving Park Drive.



Casino5att2

Here's another Casino matchbook to add to the file; it's the same as the one I sent with the Casino info except the address is different. The one I sent earlier had the address 4715 Irving Park; the one below is 3971 Milwaukee. Both addresses lead to the same club but are on opposite sides of the triangle shaped building.

Matchbook: 3971 Milwaukee



Casino6att2

The Casino was one of the many gambling rooms run by the Johnson-Skidmore syndicate. The Irving Park address was also the “nerve center” and “main clearing house” for the syndicate. From the building the syndicate communicated info to its many gaming rooms.

Complicated Phone System.

Robert Acheson and Bentley H. Moore, branch manager for the telephone company, described the complicated telephone system which hooked up 23 gambling clubs, including two headquarters or clearing house offices. The last and main clearing house was at 4715 Irving Park road which had 37 private lines to branch casinos. In addition, the witness said, there were special private wires for broadcasting race results into bookie joints.

Casino7att2

Here's a partial list of the syndicate gaming operations from 1940--several have known chips:

The Skidmore-Johnson gambling places named in the Goldstein indictment, with addresses shown in records of federal investigators, are:

CASINO CLUB, 4715-17 Irving Park boulevard.

HOBSE-SHOZ, 4721 North Kedzie avenue.

HARLEM CLUB, 4301 North Harlem avenue.

DEV-LIN CLUB, 6430 Drake avenue, Lincolnwood.

D & D CLUB, 1205 North Dearborn street.

4029 CLUB, 4020 Ogden avenue.

SOUTHLAND CLUB, 63d street and Cottage Grove avenue.

CLUB WESTERN, 9730 South Western avenue.

These are reported to be among the most profitable gambling hangouts in the city. Their history is replete with robberies and shootings—many of which, it is declared, never were reported to the police.

Casino8att2

Here's a more complete list, also from 1940:

The 23 spots in the city and county where William R. Johnson and his co-defendants are alleged to operate gambling houses were identified on a map yesterday at their trial with red topped thumb tacks. These were said to be co-clearing houses at 2135 and 2141 South Pulaski road; the K. & K. club, 2133 South Kedzie avenue; 3332 Milwaukee avenue; the main clearing house and Casino club, 4715 Irving Park road; the Southland club, 6245 Cottage Grove avenue; the D. & D. club, 1205 North Dearborn street; the Forty-Twenty club, 4020 Ogden avenue.

The Mayfair club, 4837 Elston avenue; the Lake Park club, 5325 Lake Park avenue; the House of Niles, 6825 Milwaukee avenue; 3209 Ogden avenue; the Horseshoe, 4721 North Kedzie avenue; the 11901 club, 11901 Vincennes avenue; the Gateway, Dundee and Sunset roads, Glencoe; the Northland club, 7515 North Clark street; the Dev-Lin, Devon and Lincoln avenues; the Harlem Stables, 4301 North Harlem avenue; the Forty-Eleven club, 4011 Monticello avenue; the Select club, 7212 Circle avenue, Forest Park; a sneak joint next door at 7214 Circle avenue, the Twelve-Nineteen club, 1219 Orchard avenue, Maywood; and the Crawford club, 3946 School street.

casino9att2

I hope TGT guys are recording all of these.<g>

My note: The Horseshoe and the Southland both have chips that have appeared in "Illegal Of The Day" posts along with several other Skidmore-Johnson chips from joints not on the lists.

map showing Skidmore-Johnson gambling houses, represented by the black dots:



casino10att2

My note: Other info on the Skidmore-Johnson gambling empire.

William Johnson and Billy Skidmore-Skidmore once was associated with the "Bugs" Moran gang.

