

The EW chips showed up on ebay a few weeks ago. When the ID came back, it was a pleasant surprise to me. New Florida illegal's don't come around often. We have only seen 2 Florida "Illegal Of The Day" posts. The last one was October 2011. Ed Hertel jumped on the ID and we had plenty of info on Earl Warner before the auction ended.

Take it away Ed.

I received the below chips recently and although Florida is not one of my areas of expertise, I thought I might take a look and see if it had any legs. Spoiler alert – IT DID!



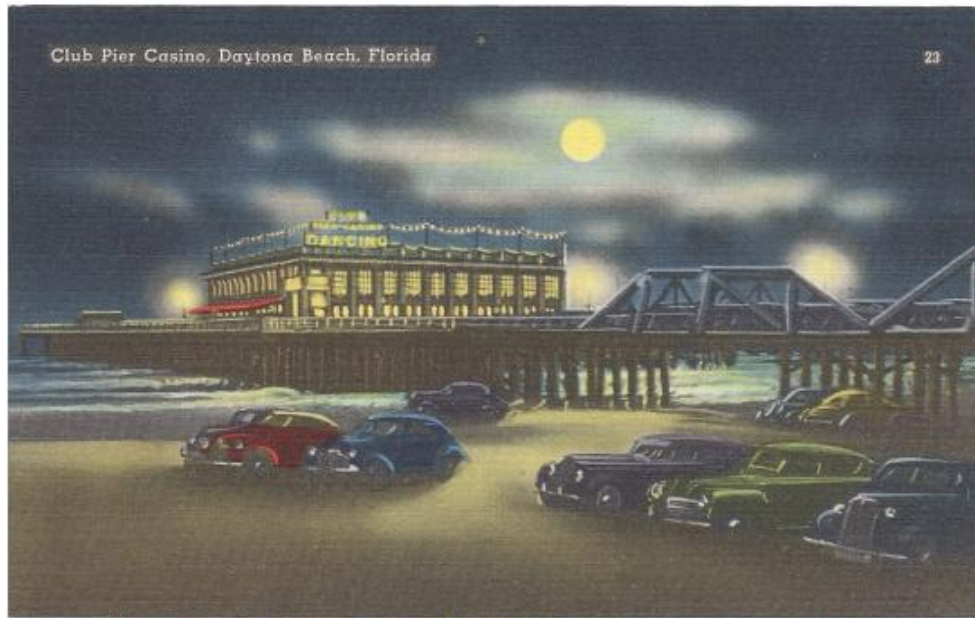
EWFL1

The large order of 2,000 chips was shipped to:
Earl Warner - Chateau Lido
Daytona Beach, Florida
1946

(side note – the colors of the \$1 and \$25 chips are unusually similar. I have a hard time telling them apart myself. I can only guess this was a mistake on Warner's part and must have caused some confusion in the club.)

The story of Earl Warner is a common one to other hustlers we've seen. He was born Earl Warner Allgair, but was quick to drop the complicated last name when he struck out on his own. His rap sheet grew at an early age as he tried his hand at different vices. He built up large profits from selling black market gasoline during the tight rationing war years and was arrested repeatedly for such things as counterfeiting, assault, violating liquor laws and operating a house of prostitution.

In Daytona Beach, Florida, Earl Warner found himself in a new line of work – running illegal gambling casinos. During early 1940s, he was put in charge of the locally popular Club Pier Casino. The word “casino” shouldn’t be automatically associated with gambling as many times it just meant a meeting place for dancing and entertainment. Even without evidence of such, with a guy like Earl Warner running the place, it’s hard to imagine there wasn’t something shady going on.



EWFL2

The Club Pier Casino was a large building extending on a pier over the ocean, very similar to the Balinese Room, the famous gambling casino in Galveston, Texas. For a club wanting to deal in illegal activities, this set-up is beneficial as it makes unwanted raids very difficult. Entry into the club is only accessible through one access point which is usually easy to monitor and control.

Regardless of the illegal activity at the Club Pier Casino, we do know that gambling was happening at his next venture – the Club Chateau Lido. In 1945 it was announced that Earl Warner was leaving the Pier Casino and taking over the operations at the Chateau Lido on Sickler Drive, along the Halifax River. It was being billed as “the most beautiful supper club in Florida.”

Earl Warner Now Running Own Nitery in Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 26.—The newly revamped Club Pier Casino, top local night spot, is now operating under new management, John Saks. Spot has two bands, Bobby Jones's and Maria Elena's girl rumba band.

Earl Warner, formerly associated with the Club Pier Casino, has opened the Club Chateau Lido, billed as "the most beautiful supper club in Florida." Club is located on the Halifax River. Room has George Cardini and his band.

Earl Warner's

Club Chateau Lido

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
SUPPER CLUB IN FLORIDA"

DINNER—?

Yes! We are serving the best dinner in town—with music.

FULL COURSE DINNER
6 to 8 p.m. — \$1.25

• • •

SUPPER—?

Yes—delicious dishes in wide variety—with

• • •

DANCING

and entertainment 8 to 12 p.m.

George Cardini

AND HIS BAND WITH
SPELLE WHISKY.

• • •

• Cocktail Lounge and Bar
8 to 12 p.m.

• Private Dining Rooms

• Banquet Room for large
parties of any type.

• • •

One minute from downtown—
on the Halifax River—at north
end of Balough Road.

EWFL3

Of course it's one thing to bill yourself and "the most beautiful" and it's quite another to pull it off. The Club Chateau Lido however did have a unique look. Its downstairs was open to allow tables and a floor show which hosted big orchestras and topflight entertainers. The second floor was positioned to the side of an open dome which allowed patrons to look down on all the entertainment.



EWFL4

What these upstairs patrons were doing was a secret to the rest of the house, but the order of the “EW” casino chips at this time gives us a clue. Earl Warner’s reputation in Daytona Beach was growing, and it wasn’t for the better. Citizens were starting to talk about the illegal gambling and questions were being asked about why the law wasn’t doing something about it.

In 1947 the Club Chateau Lido was sold to the Loyal Order of the Moose who transformed it into their meeting lodge. Earl Warner and his new partner Gordon Miller turned their attention to a place called the Seabreeze Golf and Tennis Club and set up shop.

It didn’t take long before news of the activities in the club circulated around town. The citizens, frustrated with the lack of law enforcement, went to the judge and asked for help. What they received was the power of “elisor”. Where a sheriff can deputize a citizen, a judge can elisor someone. He gave this group of private citizens the power to arrest people, and that is exactly what they did.

In October 1948, a group of newly empowered citizens swept through Daytona Beach and started raiding illegal gambling clubs. The three clubs hit were the Club Diamond, the Beach Club and the Seabreeze Golf and Tennis Club. The mob confiscated gambling equipment worth \$97,000 and arrested eight people, including Earl Warner.

And just in case there was any question about why he was arrested, he was charged with “unlawfully and feloniously maintaining a gaming room for the purpose of gaming and gambling in a certain building known as the Seabreeze Golf and Tennis Club.” No misinterpreting that!

Informations Filed Against Eight Men In Gambling Cases

Criminal informations charging eight men with keeping gambling rooms were filed in DeLand late yesterday by State Atty. Murray Sams.

The eight, with one exception, were the same men who had been arrested as the

"Satira" Greeted By Benefactor



Patricia "Satira" Schmidt (left), Toledo dancer recently pardoned from prison in Cuba, arrives in Chicago and kisses her benefactor, Mrs. Jeanette "Aunt Jenny" Arenstein. "Aunt Jenny" came to the financial assistance of "Satira" who was serving a 15-year sentence in Cuba for killing her lover, John Lester Mee, Chicago attorney, on his yacht in Havana harbor.

result of elisor-led raids on three Volusia County night clubs Aug. 26.

The eighth man is Gordon Miller. He is charged along with Earl Warner, with "unlawfully and feloniously . . . maintaining a gaming room for the purpose of gaming and gambling in a certain building known as the Seabreeze Golf and Tennis Club."

John Marcano, Seabreeze Golf and Tennis Club employe, one of the eight men originally arrested on charges of maintaining gambling rooms, devices and equipment, was not named in the criminal informations.

The other six who were named were George L. Hack of the Club Diamond, west of DeLand, and H. Jackson Green, Jr., B. L. Worthington, Charles Watson, Abe Berman and George L. Dantzier, all of the Beach Club in Daytona Beach.

The eight men are all due to report to Circuit Court in DeLand on Monday, opening day of the Fall term. If they indicate a desire to be arraigned and pled then may do so, otherwise arraignment and pleas will wait until later, Sams said. All have posted bonds, he added.

Filing of an information by the State Attorney or an indictment by the Grand Jury is necessary before proceeding to trial on a felony.

Since the informations have been filed, no indictments are required, but Sams declared here last night that he still intends to bring the entire gambling situation in Volusia County before the Grand Jury. He said:


EWFL5

Warner knew with all the evidence that there was little he could do to fight it. He pled guilty on gambling and was fined \$1,500. The fine was small, but the loss of gambling equipment was significant.

Licking his wounds, Earl Warner returned to his home state of Indiana with the plan of raising horses. Like most of his plans however, these too did not unfold as expected and after a fire destroyed his barn, he returned to Daytona Beach to do what he did best.

Warner bought a motel on South Peninsular Drive and used it for a home. It was around this time in 1951 when he made an order for more chips from Taylor and Co with the familiar "EW". It was also around this time that Estes Kefauver's committee on organized crime was hounding the Taylor company

for a list of their customers. There, we find Warner's last gambling location of the Sea Side Coffee Shop. No doubt he was using his new chips either in the Sea Side or in one of the rooms at the motel. Where ever they were used, it wouldn't be for long.

NAME <i>Earl Warner</i>			SPECIAL MONOGRAM						
Address <i>314 S. Pennsylvania St.</i>									
Town <i>Daytona Beach</i> State <i>Fla</i>									
Per <i>F. Deigo</i>									
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped	
<i>3.3</i>	<i>Yellow</i>	<i>EW</i>					<i>Blue</i>	<i>6.7.51</i>	
<i>2.2</i>	<i>Red</i>	"	<i>Micro</i>				<i>Gold</i>	<i>6.7.51</i>	
<i>101.</i>	<i>PK Blue</i>	"					<i>Gold</i>	<i>6.7.51</i>	

EWFL6

My note: We need the T mold EW chips. Cough them up if you have traders. *vbg*

With his health fading quickly, Warner tried his hand on a new hustle. In 1954 he bought a large amount of unrefined opium and was surprised when his newly hired chemist turned out to be an undercover policeman. The following year found him fighting his own health as well as the courts.



EWFL7

With an unwinnable court date quickly approaching, the stress finally caught up to him and Earl Warner died in December 1956 of coronary thrombosis. The emaciated body and the aging face betrayed his young 54 years. The man who hustled his entire life was finally able to rest.

My note: Florida has a long and storied history with gambling that involved many of the mafia crime families around the US including New York, Chicago, Cleveland, and New Orleans families. The mafia families considered the Miami area as an "Open" city, meaning anyone could operate there, same as Las Vegas. I see nothing that makes me believe Earl Warner was involved with any of them.