

I recently purchased a number of illegals and floor sweepings from a lady in Chicago.

See "Illegal Of The Day" Floorsweeping's posted 7/25/14.

<http://www.thechipboard.com/index.cgi/page/1/md/read/id/1310656/sbj/illegal-of-the-day-floorsweepings/>

Her father was a hustler in the Chicago area and picked the chips up in his ramblings. Many of them going back to the 1930's Chez Paree, a major illegal operation in Chicago. The lady I got them from had 800 of the white cord mold chips. I am guessing they will hit the market sooner or later.



Chez Paree1att2

Dave Brown our resident Chicago expert sent me this hub back in 2010. It was delivered to Joe Jacobson, Chicago ILL - 2000 Chocolate - 3/28/38, 9 days prior to the big raid on 4/6/38. To me it looks like a "Special Die" rather than standard font. The E.M. O'Neil Co (cord mold) was in Chicago in those days. Mason Co "(hub mold) was also based in Chicago. I've seen a lot of "Notes" on the old distributors records where they borrowed or bought dies from each other for reorders. Looks to me like this happened with the Chez Paree chips. The lady with the cord molds also a couple of the hubs.



Chez Paree2att2

Chez is located on Ontario Street, two blocks east of Michigan Avenue, in a three-story building created in 1917 as an automat, where home-cooked meals in glass cases could be purchased by inserting coins into slots.

During the Prohibition years, a speak-easy known as the Chez Pierre operated upstairs. In 1933, just after Franklin D. Roosevelt assumed his first term in office and Prohibition was repealed, the Chez Paree opened to the sweet sounds of the Ben Pollack Orchestra playing “Happy Days Are Here Again,” which had been FDR’s presidential campaign theme and was later associated with the return of the distilleries.



Chez Paree3

Article from 4/6/1938:

# CHEZ PAREE GAMBLING CASINO RAIDED EARLY TODAY, THREE NABBED

Chicago —(AP)— The gambling casino of the Chez Paree, swanky night club, was raided early today by state's attorney's police who arrested three men, confiscated equipment and turned out about 100 patrons.

About 40 of the patrons, all dressed in evening clothes, were women. The raiding squad said the patrons were playing dice, roulette, and card games.

The raid was under the supervision of Capt. Daniel Gilbert, chief investigator for State's Atty. Thomas J. Courtney who has been conducting a campaign against gambling in Cook county.

Chez paree4

There is more on the web about the Chez Paree than we could ever write in an "Illegal Of The Day." It is well documented including pictures of the celebrities that appeared there. Looks to me like every celeb of the 1930's, 40's, and 50's appeared there. It is still open and operating today.

For more info and pictures click or cut and paste the links. Thanks to Ed Hertel for the links.

Websites about the Chez Paree:

<http://chicagostyleweddings.blogspot.com/2014/05/vendor-spotlight-go-chez-chic-for-your.html>

<http://burlyqnell.com/2013/10/20/46/>

Images:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=%22chez+paree%22+chicago&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=VAK8U9nIPM6syASOsYDIAQ&ved=0CCYQsAQ&biw=1165&bih=957#imgdii>

If every illegal casino was documented on the web the way this one is, the "Illegal Of The Day" team would be out of business. \*vbg\*

David Spragg is in the process of posting 70 more "Illegal Of The Day's" on this site.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/genetrimble.htm>

Over 200 of them are there now. Hopefully all 264 will be there soon. Thank you David.