

As I mentioned in an earlier "Illegal Of The Day" post, there are no Illegal chips in TGT from Maine. I am told this one did not make the new TGT, but will make the next edition. A number of us always hoped to get an Illegal chip from all 50 states. This fills one hole in my 50 states Illegal collection. Still need 3 more states Vermont, Delaware, and N Dakota.

As you will read there was a lot of illegal gambling in Portland. I had no idea they had so much of it. My guess is there are a lot more Illegal Club chips from Maine out there to be found.

Anthony Casale was involved with many different illegal activities including, bootlegging, drunken driving, gambling, armed robbery, hijacking, narcotics, white slavery, and the "Crime of the Century," the Great Brinks Robbery. He was shot and wounded by the US Coast Guard. I think that's a first for us in "Illegal Of The Day" posts. <g>

It is totally amazing how many different places in history our quest for the history of our chips have taken us. They run the gambit from The World Series of Baseball to the "Crime of the Century." <g> That is a pretty good spread.

As you will read, we could not put a 100% sure Club name to the chips. There is a suggestion in the history for Mary's Café in Portland owned by Casale's brother. I don't like it. The logo on the chips suggests the Clover Club or the Shamrock Club. Both have 3 leaves but a 4 leaf clover brings luck to the finder. <g>

Casale is Italian so I rule out Shamrock Club. Not sure what else is possible so in my files I am calling it The Clover Club with an asterisk \*.

David Spragg got these off of ebay. They came out of an antique store in Portland, Maine. I feel certain he will be along with spares to sell. <g> Only 2 of the blue \$10's found.

The history was tough and we had to resort to snail mail from the Portland library to finish it off.

Enough of that:

Maine:



Clubandclover1att2

Anthony Casale

68 Franklin St

Portland, ME

12/18/47

500 x \$1

200 x \$5

100 x \$10

100 x \$50

100 x \$100 (chocolate)

\$50 and \$100 denominations. We don't see very many illegals in those denominations.

I need the Chocolate \$100. Cough it up if you have a trader.

Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

Email number 1.

Still looking into the Clover over Club chips. I've found some stuff on Casale but am still trying to find what club those chips were used at. No evidence of a Clover or Shamrock Club in Portland at the time (may have been outside city limits). The chips were delivered to Casale's residential address. Portland city directories are no help: from 1946-1950 Casale's occupation is listed as "laborer"—as good a cover as any I guess.

Email number 2.

I apologize for taking so long to get this info to you. I was waiting for the Portland Library to snail mail me Casale's obit, which arrived Saturday. Not much in the obit I hadn't seen already but still interesting.

Unfortunately still no solid info on where exactly the chips were used—I'm sure there's an answer somewhere.

Email number 3.

AHA! At last "The Rest Of The Story."

### **Clover with Club**

### **Clover Club?**

Anthony J. "Tony" "Little Tony" "Little Chief" Casale was a native of Portland and a son of Italian immigrants from Sicily. At the time of his death at Portland in 1985 at the age of 77 Casale was described as a "prominent member of Portland's active underworld."

For decades, starting when a teenager in the 1920's, Casale was involved in many different money producing illegal activities which often got him in trouble with the law and occasionally landed him in jail.

Like many of the guys who were involved with illegal gambling, Casale was a bootlegger. Casale was involved with illegal liquor as early as 1927 when he was 19 and he continued to work with the stuff long after Federal prohibition was repealed, being convicted in 1940 for operating an illegal distillery in Augusta, Maine (sentenced to 3 years in Federal prison in Atlanta).

Eleven days after Casale's arrest for operating the illegal distillery he was charged with the theft of \$1500 worth of shoes from a Maine Central freight car. While he was serving time in Atlanta on the liquor charge, Casale was also indicted for his involvement in the September 1940 breaking, entering and removal of \$1500-1800 worth of cigarettes from a storehouse in Portland. In addition to liquor Casale was involved in with narcotics, being arrested in 1928 for selling morphine to an undercover detective.

Casale was wounded in 1934 when the US Coast Guard opened fire on him and his brothers Samuel and Matthew after they refused to obey commands to pull over their truck load of liquor. In April 1931 Casale was charged with "assault to kill" when he and a buddy shot-up the liquor laden vehicle of a rival bootlegger in an attempt to hijack the guy. Later that year in September, Casale was identified as an accomplice in a botched armed robbery attempt in Boston where the victim was shot in the foot and Casale's accomplice was shot in the head and died on the spot. Casale, charged with "assault and robbery while armed," was later arrested in Maine and taken to the Portland Police headquarters:

Shortly after arriving at headquarters, young Casale expressed his desire to get a hair-cut, so Inspector Cady and Boland accompanied him to a barber-shop.

Cluband clover2att2

pics of Casale when in his 20's and in his 30's:



Clubandclover3att2



Clubandclover4att2

By 1946 Casale was out of prison and back in Portland residing at the Casale family home at 68 Franklin. In December 1947 the clover with club chips were delivered to him at the address. Pic of address:



Clubandclover5att2

Where the chips were used is still an open question. From 1946-1950 Portland city directories list Casale's occupation as "laborer." The directories show no "Clover Club" or "Shamrock Club" (no Italian "Trifoglio Club" either)—not sure what other names to look for.

Casale had a younger brother named Daniel who operated a place called Mary's Café in downtown Portland at 224 Federal St. Daniel was a known gambler and 10 months after the chip order was arrested for gambling in a club located on Monument Square, just a half block from his café. Daniel's brother Anthony was not the listed proprietor of the club but I suppose he could have been connected to the place.

Also, a lot of people from Portland gambled in places located outside the Portland city limits so it's possible that Casale didn't operate in Portland. Here's a description of a club from 1951 which sounds like the kind of place those chips may have been used:

"I have been to a town nearby Portland that has had a combination Horse Room, Dice Table and Black Jack game going on either all at once or separately.

"The game is so big that the house has been known to lose \$15,000 in one night. I have seen men bet \$200 at one hand of Black Jack. Bet \$1,000 on one roll of the dice. Bet \$200 and \$300 on a single horse race.

"This place has been running for 15 or 20 years. It is so well protected that I have been there when they were going to be raided and they would announce, after the next race we will close until further notice. They would run the race and after everyone had been paid off would take sheets from wall and put other gambling equipment away. After we had been outside about 15 minutes the police would run in and no one would be there x x x.

Clubandclover6att2

My note: This is the type of Club the high denomination chips were used in. Club names were not used in any articles we could find. It reminds me of the early days in Printers Alley Memphis, TN. As we saw in Tennessee 3 on 12/23/11, plenty of illegal clubs but no Club names.

In the Spring of 1951 the gambling situation in Portland and surrounding Cumberland County became a major issue. Inspired in part by Kefauver, a Cumberland County Grand Jury convened and subpoenaed over 200 men and women, many of whom refused to say anything about what they knew about local gambling. Casale was subpoenaed but got out of town before he could be served. Here's one person's testimony:

tior, sir.

**Joe Ferrara**

Q Are you employed at present?

A I refuse to answer to incriminate me

Q Were you present at a conference in an office on Congress Street recently with County Attorney McDonald and myself?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Sam Cox?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Sam Strumpf?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Frank Arnold?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Joe Schatz?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Providence Joe?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of Joe Modes?

A I refuse to answer sir

Q Do you know Lottie Gelsinger?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know the present whereabouts of Sam Strumpf?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know a man by the name of **Tony Casale?**

A I refuse to answer sir

Q Do you know the present whereabouts of Sam Cox?

A I refuse to answer

Q Do you know the present whereabouts of **Tony Casale?**

A I refuse to answer

**Bartley Connolly**



When the grand jury handed out its indictments Casale had 13 gambling counts charged against him--his brother Daniel was also indicted.

Anthony's brother Dan leaving court after posting \$5,000 bond:



... Dan Casale puts arm to face ...

Clubandclover8att2

Anthony's location was still unknown at the time of the indictments. 6June1951:

## **TWO MORE GET PRISON TERMS AS "GAMBLERS"**

**One to Two Years for  
Cox and Arnold; Still  
Hunt Anthony Casale**

### **STRUMPH APPEARS**

PORTLAND, June 5-AP-Two top figures sought in the Maine crime probe since the grand jury turned in 146 gambling indictments more than a week ago, made surprise appearances in Superior Court today.

Samuel O. Cox, 51, of Portland, was sentenced to one to two years in prison and fined \$500. Indictments against Samuel Strumph, also of Portland, were continued to the September term of court.

Unaccompanied, Strumph walked up to a State Trooper at the courthouse and gave himself up. Cox came in with his lawyer.

#### **Still Seek Casale**

Cox and Strumph pleaded guilty. Their surprise appearance today leaves only one major figure in the crime probe unlocated. He is Anthony "Little Chief" Casale of Portland, who also was indicted on gambling charges.

Clubandclover9att2

So where was Casale? When the grand jury began to convene he appears to have gone to Florida with a lady friend he had known since the 1930's named Lillian Levesque. Lillian operated a cathouse called "Melody Ranch" southeast of Portland in the town of Old Orchard Beach (more about this place below). In February 1952 Casale was in Boston.

Casale was picked-up by Boston Police detectives as part of a round-up of the usual suspects during their investigation of the "Crime of the Century," the Great Brinks Robbery. After being questioned, Casale was just about to walk out of police headquarters when, unfortunately for Casale, in walked a Cumberland County Deputy Sherriff who happened to be in Boston on an unrelated matter. The deputy recognized Casale, pulled out an old warrant and took Casale back to Portland.

The warrant the deputy used to arrest Casale was not the one for his gambling charges but one for a charge of "transporting a female for immoral purposes." In January 1951 Casale had driven a 19 year old female from Portland to his friend Lillian Levesque's Melody Ranch. The 19 year old initially claimed that she did not know what Melody Ranch was when taken there and once there that she was held against her will (she spent 10 days there, had sex with 30 men at \$10 each).

Casale was found guilty and sentenced to 5-20 years in state prison. Later, the 19 year old changed her story—a story contradicted by many—but it didn't matter, Casale's pleas for a new trial and a pardon from the governor were rejected.

By 1959 Casale had served his time and returned to Portland where for several years he operated the ABC Music Company. ABC was a coin operated device company, a type of business quite often associated with organized crime.

My note: There is no doubt in my mind Anthony Casale was a member of an organized crime family. IMO, could have been either Buffalo, NY or Boston, MA families. After all that he and his brother were involved with, his nephew is elected Mayor of Portland. <g>

Here's Casale's obit from 1985. At the time of Anthony's death the Mayor of Portland was his nephew Joseph (son of his brother Daniel).

[Note: the obit says he was sentenced on New Years Eve 1949 to three years on a gambling conviction but I didn't see any evidence of this]

# Anthony Casale, reputed gangster, dies here at 77

Anthony J. Casale, who died here last night at 77, was known in his youth as "Little Chief" and "Little Tony" — nicknames accumulated over decades as a reputedly prominent member of Portland's active underworld.

As early as 1928 he was mentioned in newspaper accounts of the city's narcotics trade, with morphine the primary drug. His name also appeared frequently during the early 1930s in connection with illicit brewing and trading of rum and wine.

Gang warfare broke out over liquor trade, and in 1932 a car in which Casale was riding was riddled with bullets as it rolled down Middle Street.

Casale went to jail for the first time in 1935. The previous year Coast Guardsmen caught him running liquor on a back road in Brunswick, and in January he was sentenced to serve a year and a day in federal prison.

And on New Year's Eve of 1949 he was sentenced to serve three years in connection with a gambling conviction.

By far his most celebrated brush with the law began early in 1952, when he was arrested and charged with illegally transporting Marilyn Sargent Morris to Melody Ranch in Old Orchard Beach — a well-known



house of prostitution — against her will. In February he was convicted and sentenced to serve five to 20 years at the Maine State Prison, but the case occupied front-page space for the next two years.

Casale immediately sought a new trial, claiming he was convicted on perjured testimony. After the Maine Supreme Court rejected his plea, he began serving his term.

In 1953, still claiming Morris had perjured herself, he sought a pardon from the governor. And that December, Morris recanted — but then failed a lie detector test.

In the middle of 1954 she pleaded guilty to perjury, and Casale continued to work for a new trial throughout the year — while also asking for a pardon, which was denied.

The case came to its final conclusion in December of 1954, when the Maine Law Court denied his second appeal for a new trial.

After serving his sentence Casale disappeared from the news until 1963, when he was convicted of drunken driving.

He was born in Portland, a son of Guiseppe and Carmela Nappi Casale, and attended local schools.

Surviving are two brothers, Samuel Casale and Daniel Casale, both of Portland; and three sisters, Mrs. James (Mary) Wyse and Mrs. Settimo (Anna) Trivellin, both of Portland, and Mrs. John (Carolyn) Piscopo of Tonawanda, N.Y.

Prayers will be recited at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday from Chapel A of the Jones, Rich and Hutchins Funeral Home, 199 Woodford St. A funeral Mass will follow at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph's Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, South Portland.