

The CCS chips came off ebay. We only saw the one auction for 2 chips. Mike Vuolo bought them and we took one each. Turned out they were good ones.

After over 50 years in the poker world, every time I think I've seen it all, sure enough they come up with something new. <g> It looks like the same rule applies to the history of the "Illegal Of The Day" posts. We have seen **almost** every type of city, county, and state official, both elected and appointed, indicted for conspiring to keep the illegal casinos operating.

Here comes the topper! The Iowa "State Attorney General," the number one law enforcement person in the state is indicted for graft from illegal club operators. This one might be hard to top. Maybe we need to go back and revisit those 2 Missouri illegals that Harry Truman's name showed up in. <g>

The Illegal casino operators across the country left a never ending trail of \$, \$, \$, and \$. <g>

Enough Of that:

Iowa:



CCS3-1att2

Tony Pasha

Club Cigar Store

422 Nebraska

Sioux City, IA

900 yellow, 210 red – 9/18/39

CCS

Anthony "Tony" Pasha was born to Italian immigrant parents at Omaha, Nebraska in 1896. In the 1910's he crossed the Missouri River into Iowa and settled about 100 miles northwest of Omaha in Sioux City. From the late 1910's until the early 1940's Pasha operated billiard halls and cigars stores at many locations in downtown Sioux City and became a well known gambler there.

In 1935 the editor of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Verne Marshall, started an investigation into political corruption in the State of Iowa and began publishing stories about what he found. His exposure of gambling payoffs made in Sioux City led to a grand jury investigation there which resulted in the indictment of Iowa's Attorney General Edward O'Connor and several others in July 1935, including Tony

Pasha and his brother Frank. The indictment and subsequent trial of the AG was a story reported nationwide. Here's the *New York Times* from July 4th 1935 (AG's name was O'Connor not O'Connell):

IOWA PROSECUTOR NAMED AS GRAFTER

O'Connell, Attorney General,
and Assistant Charged With
Gambling Conspiracy.

JURY NAMES 21 OTHERS

Operation of Gaming and Slot
Machine Syndicate in Sioux
City Is Alleged.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa, July 3.—A Woodbury County grand jury today indicted the State's Attorney General, Edward L. O'Connell, and his assistant, Walter Maley, on charges involving graft and corruption in public office.

O'Connor and Maley were two of twenty-three persons listed in four separate indictments returned by a grand jury of seven men. All were charged with being connected with a slot machine and gambling syndicate.

The indictment returned against O'Connell and Maley alleges that they violated the State laws by "conspiring together with fraudulent, felonious and malicious intent, wrongfully to do an illegal act injurious to the public trade, morals and police, and to the administration of public justice, by agreeing among themselves to the operation of gambling houses and gambling devices in Woodbury County and elsewhere in the State of Iowa, the exact location of said gambling houses and the exact character and kind of gambling devices being to this grand jury unknown, and a more particular description of which cannot be given by this grand jury."

CCS3-2att2

My note: The story made the New York Times. That tells you just how big the story was.

Although indicted in July, the trial of the AG wouldn't begin until November. Pasha and Sioux City gamblers James Pontralo and Ike Sherman, who had also been indicted, provided financial assistance for the Attorney General's legal defense. The Pasha's weren't arraigned until October:

My note: " Huh?" The illegal operators paid for the Attorney General's lawyers? Sounds like some of the stuff that went on in Newport, KY for over 30 years.

Arguments in 'Graft' Cases Will Soon Get Started at Sioux City

Sioux City—(AP)—Arguments on the motions in the Woodbury county "graft" trials were expected to begin late this afternoon as soon as the state completed its records in support of answer and resistance filed to motions Tuesday.

Wednesday's session consisted mostly of reading of the court records.

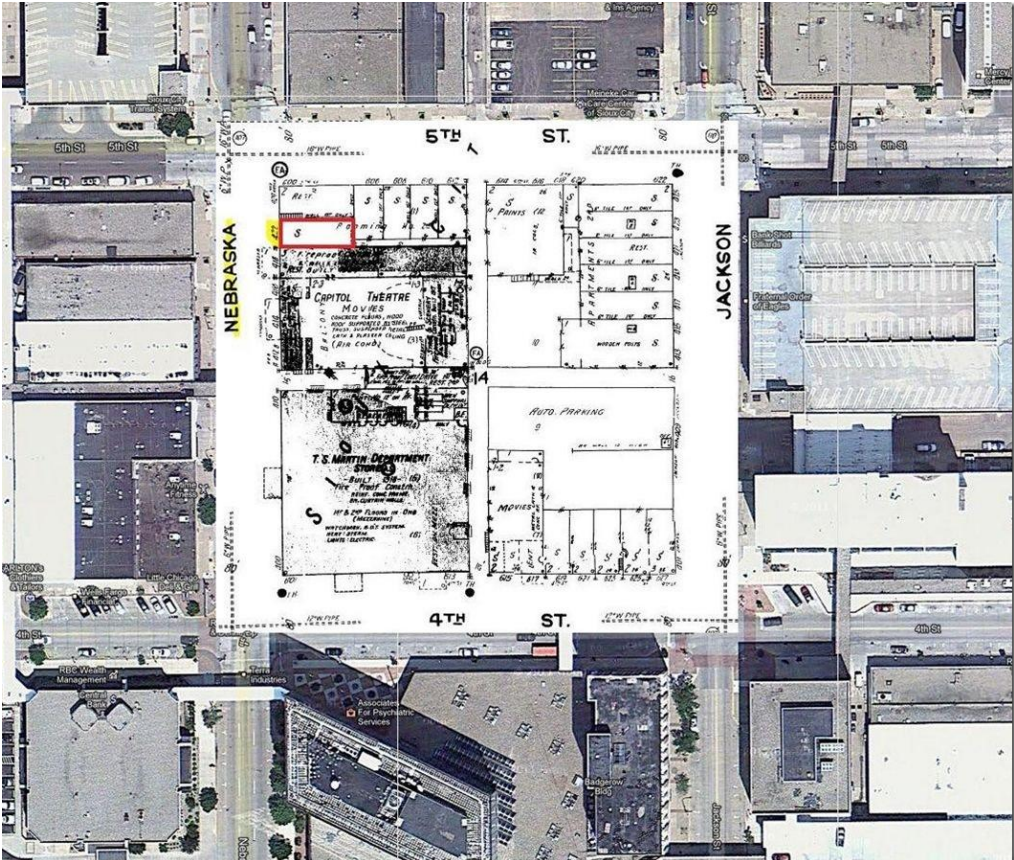
The only witness called by the state was Robert Turner, court reporter, and one of the persons who acted as clerk to the grand jury.

Frank Pasha, Tony Pasha and George Meyers, who face charges of conspiracy to operate gambling houses and keeping a gambling house reported through their attorney that they would appear in court this afternoon for arraignment.

The names of the three defendants and Pete Mitchell and Don Nickle, who face the same charges, were turned over to Sheriff W. R. Tice yesterday with the request that they be told to report at court.

Nebraska no longer exists—the whole original block is gone and has been replaced by one large building which houses the Sioux City Public Museum.

Here's a current aerial with an old map showing the location; a few doors away is the Capitol Movie Theater:



CCS3-5att2

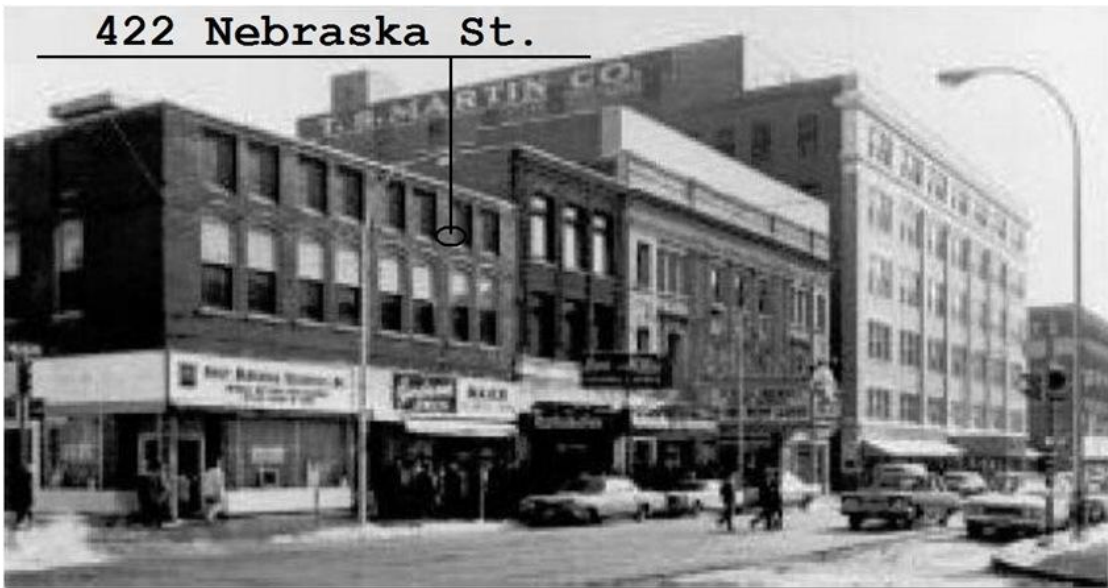
Here's a couple of views of the street from the 1950's & 1960's (not very good quality pics; the Capitol movie marquee is visible on the right):

422 Nebraska St.



CCS3-6att2

422 Nebraska St.



CCS3-7

The Club Cigar Store ran for maybe 2 years; by 1942 it was no longer there. This is about the time Pasha re-crosses the Missouri River and heads northwest again—this time about 1600 miles to Seattle, Washington. Pasha resides there for most of the rest of his life and appears to have been involved in activities similar to what he was doing in Sioux City (his brother Frank followed shortly afterwards). Tony died in the Los Angeles suburb of Pomona in 1987 at the age of 91 and was buried in Seattle.

Sioux City was the hometown of Pauline Esther Friedman, better known as Abigail Van Buren or “Dear Abby” (her father owned several movie theaters in Sioux City including the Capitol on Nebraska). In 1960 a “Mrs. Chips” seeks her wise counsel:

DEAR ABBY: My husband plays poker with a group of men every Saturday night. For one lame excuse or another no one else wants to have the game at his house, so it winds up here almost every time.

As in every crowd, there's always someone who wants to play “one more hand” to recoup his losses. As a result they play until dawn. I don't have to stay up to wait on them, but I can't sleep with these poker chips clinking all night.

Am I being unreasonable to ask them to have the game somewhere else once in a while?

MRS. CHIPS

DEAR MRS. CHIPS: If you want to keep the homes fires burning, take the chip off your shoulder and throw it on the logs. Many “poker widows” would love to have your problem. At least you know where your husband is every Saturday night.

All poker players should frame Dear Abby's response to Mrs. Chips on their walls above their poker table. You now have the perfect excuse to stick in the little woman's face every Saturday night. <g>

I came up with an answer that worked better for me. I taught the little woman to deal then play poker! <g> She learned well and actually became a pretty good player.

She went on to become a poker room manager at a big Las Vegas resort, including running a major poker tourney. We were the only husband/wife poker room managers in Las Vegas at the time, 1990's. There were one other husband/wife poker managers that worked for Jackie Gaughan downtown in the 1980's that I am aware of. They had the El Cortez and the Union Plaza at the same time.