

"A Tale Of Two Casinos"

One inside the other and both illegal. <g>

I am going to tell the Colony Club story in two parts. The research actually came in two parts and has been collected over several months. I think it is too many scans to upload in one post.

I got the C with a Club pip at the last convention and had no idea what it was. The seller had 3 or 4. I sent buyers over to him for the rest of what he had. The research below came from Dave Brown and Riverboat Rick sent me a couple of the articles. I never posted it because I felt there was more to the story. The Colony Club was a big joint ran by the Capone gang. I am very happy I waited.

Along came a harp mold chip with CR on it and no history that anyone knew about outside the address on the Taylor record. It had a club name on it that no one knew if it in fact it ever existed. But, the address was intriguing. I sent for info on it and "Eureka," we have our story. The Club existed and tells the "Rest Of The Story" for the Colony Club.

Enough of that:

Illinois:



Clover in C1att2

C with a Club pip
Colony Club
S Goldstone
744 Rush St
Chicago, IL

1000 red, 2000 yellow, 400 black - 12/21/38 200 brown, 200 green - 1/4/39

Colony Club 744 Rush St., Chicago, IL 1938-1941

Described as an "Ultra Ritzzy" café with a complete casino and "big money" craps game upstairs. The public "26" games were downstairs. Potential high rollers playing "26" might be invited upstairs to the casino. Owned by Lawrence "Dago" Mangano & Nicky Dean (Circella), it was said to have been founded

with money extorted from the movie industry. One of the "most elaborately furnished gambling establishments in Chicago."

My note: Keep this in mind for Part 2 of this story. "Potential high rollers playing "26" might be invited upstairs to the casino."

This is the first time I can remember hearing about "26." Anyone know the game?

1941-03-06-Tribune-Colony Club and Alabam gambling busts.

Sonny Goldstone the chip buyer is mentioned as sole owner in the article. His name is also in an AD in part 2 of this story.

RAIDERS SEIZE 9 AT CLUB ALABAM AND COLONY CLUB

Find Gambling Equipment at Night Spots.

Detectives from Police Commissioner Allman's office early today raided two near north side night clubs—the Club Alabam, 747 Rush street, and the Colony club, across the street at 744 Rush street—seized gambling paraphernalia, and arrested nine men.

These were the first major gambling raids along the Rush street night club belt in months, the first at the Club Alabam in 12 years, and the first, so far as could be learned, at the Colony club during its several years of existence.

First Play, Then Raid.

The raids were made simultaneously by two squads under Sergt. Frank O'Sullivan, after other detectives had played roulette and other games in the two clubs for more than an hour to gather evidence.

At the Club Alabam, one of the oldest night spots in Chicago, O'Sullivan's men found one roulette game and one blackjack game running on the second floor, and one blackjack game operating in a side room off the cabaret on the first floor. Fifteen patrons were chased out.

Leo Harky was arrested as keeper. Three other men, described as his assistants, also were seized. They are John Schmid, 41 years old; George A. Stein, 42, and Lou Rossman, 37.

Open Basement Room.

At the Colony club the raiders found players around a roulette wheel and a crap table in the basement. The door was locked, but was opened at command of the police.

Henry [Sonny] Goldstone, who described himself as sole owner of the club, was seized, along with George Romano, 31; Michael Pontnoe, 31; Alfred Morrison, 50, and George O'Brien, 40.

All nine men were taken to the detective bureau and booked on gambling charges for appearance in court tomorrow. Police also took with them approximately \$200 seized on the gambling tables of both places; the roulette wheels and other gambling equipment.

Goldstone was asked by police whether Nicholas Circella, better known as Nick Dean, owned the Colony club. Goldstone denied this.

'26' GIRL MURDER SUSPECT SEIZED; CAPONE MOBSTER
Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Feb 8, 1943;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)
pg. 14

'26' GIRL MURDER SUSPECT SEIZED; CAPONE MOBSTER

Reported Seen Near Flat Day of Slaying.

Capt. William Drury of the Town Hall police last night announced the arrest of a well known police character and member of the Capone syndicate who was identified as having been seen in the courtyard of the apartment building last Tuesday shortly before the discovery of the murder of Estelle Carey, former "26" dice girl. Miss Carey, who was beaten and burned to death, lived at 512 Addison street.

The suspect, Thomas Stapleton, 36 years old, was seized in his rooms at the Commonwealth hotel by Drury and Detective Herman Rosenthal early yesterday morning after his picture had been identified by a woman resident of the building in which the murder occurred. Stapleton told Drury he had no gangster connections and was employed as a clerk in a near northside drug store, earning \$20 per week.

Associate of Mangano.

Stapleton's apartment and wardrobe could hardly be met with a drug clerk's salary according to Capt. Drury, who said his prisoner was an associate of Lawrence [Dago] Mangano and had recently been arrested with him.

Stapleton, who is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs more than 200 pounds, was shown to the woman witness at a special showup in Town Hall station yesterday afternoon. The woman unhesitatingly made the identification. She told Capt. Drury he was the man she saw walking into the courtyard leading to the entrance of the slain

Slaying Suspect

(Story in adjoining column.)



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

Thomas Stapleton at the Town Hall police station after his arrest for questioning in the slaying of Estelle Carey.

woman's apartment. She said she also observed him as he left a short time later.

Knew Victim; Drury Says.

Stapleton no doubt knew Miss Carey, and could have been admitted to her apartment, Capt. Drury said. Stapleton was a familiar figure around the Colony club where she had worked as a dice girl for Nick Cirrella, alias Nick Denn, who is serving an eight year term in federal prison for conspiracy to extort more than a million dollars from movie executives.

Stapleton's police record shows a large number of arrests but no convictions.

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Clover in C3att2

My note: Whatever "26" is, it had women dealers.

Colony_Club-1944-ae483



Clover in C4att2

Why do I think the guy with the whitescarf is a lookout and or a guard? Is that buldge under his coat a Tommy Gun? <g>

Nick Circella AKA Nicky Dean-1948-img0015B



Clover in C5att2

Please read on for Part 2.