

We have spent a lot of time recently with the bigger hubs of illegal gambling history, Texas, Illinois, California, etc. I thought a little change of pace was in order. This is one of the smaller research projects we did. We proved a Club name in one try and felt it was enough.

Many cigar stores across the US were retailers for chips. They ordered from the manufactures for customers. It is very hard to prove illegal gambling without the customer's name. When I first saw this ID, my 1st thought was, another dead end. I love surprises! *vbg*



CCS4-1

Cookies Cigar Store

Kenosha, WI

2100 chips – 1956

Frank Tenuta was arrested dealing a poker game at Cookies Cigar store at 2207 56th street in 1947. A gun fight broke out between two players, one was shot 3 times. IMO, here is the best part of the story. The gun fight was over a \$3 loan unpaid for several days. *vbg* Tenuta paid an \$89 fine for dealing the game.

1947

Tenuta Fined in Gambling Case

Frank Tenuta, 33, 2317 Fifty-fourth street, this morning pleaded guilty to a charge of being the keeper of a gambling place, Cookie's Cigar store, 2207 Fifty-sixth street, and paid \$89 fine and costs in municipal court.

Tenuta was arrested early Sunday morning after the shooting of James Buttera, 55, 2104 Fifty-fifth street, during a poker game in a back room of the store. The detective bureau identified Tenuta as the dealer in the game.

Buttera was shot by Camillo Migliano, 60, 2101 Fifty-fifth street, in an argument over a small loan, which began as both participated in the game. Det. Lt. Arthur J. Riley and Det. John Boswell questioned Buttera at Kenosha hospital and Migliano at his home Thursday.

Buttera's condition was reported as good late this morning. He is suffering from bullet wounds in his neck, right shoulder and left forearm. Lt. Riley said that Buttera and Migliano yesterday told substantially the same account of the shooting they related in separate statements on Sunday a few hours after the fray.

Gun Is Still Missing

Migliano told Lt. Riley he fired four shots at Buttera after the argument over \$3 Buttera loaned him on Friday. Buttera lives across the street from Migliano. The detectives questioned Migliano closely in an effort to locate the .38 caliber foreign-make pistol used in the shooting.

Migliano said Buttera wounded three times grabbed the gun from him, struck him over the head with the butt and threw it onto the floor. He said Buttera kicked him in the head several times after he fell to the floor in the rear of the cigar store.

Migliano posted \$7,500 bond Monday at his county court arraignment on a charge of assault with intent to kill, indicated a plea of not guilty and preliminary hearing was scheduled for next Wednesday. The gun, which Migliano said he purchased in Italy in 1910 and brought to the U. S. in 1913, has not yet been recovered by police.

CCS4-2

The next year Carlos Scotta the owner of the store was arrested along with 5 others playing a game of rummy. The players were fined \$2 each plus \$4.50 court cost. *vbg* Scotta fined \$50 and \$4.50 cost. Beginning to sound like a rinky dink joint. *vbg*

Five Men Fined For Gambling In Cigar Store

Five men were fined in municipal court this morning on gambling charges after their arrest at 5:30 p.m. Friday in a back room of Cookie's Cigar store, 2207 Fifty-sixth street.

Carlos Scola, 46, 3504 Sixtieth street, owner of the store, was fined \$50 and \$4.50 costs on a charge of being the keeper of a gambling house. Scola had posted \$100 appearance bond after his arrest.

Fined \$2 and \$4.50 costs each for being inmates of a gambling house were Frank Tenuta, 34, 2317 Fifty-fourth street; Emil Senteri, 56, 5030 Sixth avenue; Oscar William Ogren, 52, 5311 Thirty-fourth avenue, and Lewis Sanford, 34, 4536 Twenty-third avenue. All had previously posted \$25 appearance bonds.

Scene of Shooting

Tenuta is an employe at Cookie's Cigar store. The arrests were made by Patrol Sgt. George Petersen and Patrolman Edward Ungemach. They reported that the five men were playing a game of rummy for 15 cents a round when they entered. The cards and \$4.76 in the game were seized and taken to police headquarters.

The back room of the cigar store was the scene of the shooting of James Buttera, 55, 2104 Fifty-fifth street, early on the morning of Sept. 28. Camillo Migliano, 60, 2101 Fifty-fifth street, was charged with assault with intent to murder for allegedly shooting Buttera three times after an argument during a poker game.

On Oct. 29, Migliano's attorney waived preliminary hearing on the charge and the case was bound over to municipal court for trial. Migliano is free on \$7,500 bond. Buttera recovered from his bullet wounds, but the gun used in the shooting has not been recovered.

Tenuta was charged with operating the poker game in which Buttera and Migliano were taking part.

CCS4-3

Five years later we finally see some action. 24 arrested playing craps, 3 poker tables, sports and horse racing slips.

Police Raiders Nab 24 On Gambling Charges



RAIDERS LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE—A sledge-hammer wielded by a detective at midnight Friday smashed an opening into Cookie's Cigar store, 2207 56th St., where 24 men were arrested. The above photo shows uniformed police and detectives collecting gambling evidence and other items in the large room hidden by a phony store front (additional photos on page 7).

Smash Door At Cookie's Cigar Store

Police raiders led by Chief Stanley Haukedahl smashed their way into Cookie's Cigar store, 2207 56th St., at midnight Friday and broke up what they described as poker and dice games.

Twenty-two men were booked as inmates and the other two, Jeffrey Covelli, 32, 1713 27th St. and Anthony Curti, 36, Rt. 4, Box 77, were charged with being operators of a gambling house. Covelli, who listed his occupation as a bartender, and Curti, who said he was a factory worker, both posted \$500 bonds.

Among the inmates was John Rizzi, 43, Racine, owner of the Tic Tac club, a well-known Milwaukee night spot. Other inmates included 18 Kenosha, two other Racine men, and a Milwaukeean. All posted \$25 bonds and are due to appear in court Monday.

The raid began at midnight when Acting Detective Gordon Elen sledge-hammered open the front door of the phony store. Ten fellow officers, including Haukedahl, poured through the entrance, a back door and a side door leading from an adjacent restaurant.

Covelli, seated in the front section of the store amid empty counters, shouted "What's the matter? What's the matter?" as the raiders swept past him and into the backroom through an open inner door.

Attempt to Flee
Confusion filled the room and four men bolted for rear and side doors in an escape attempt, but ran into detectives and uniformed officers.

The room contained a large green felt-covered billiard table apparently used for "shooting craps." There were three smaller tables scattered around the room and these had the appearance of being used by card players.

Police found a list of Kenosha, with names of horses and winning bets. Packages of playing cards were found in a table drawer and in the rafters of a rear storeroom.

In the front section of the empty store, more cards and dice were found in a locked cupboard smashed open by police. A wall telephone, listed as 49623, was surrounded by pencilled football game scores, telephone numbers, and various names.

The 24 men were split into groups and shuttled to police headquarters in squad cars while Haukedahl and Detective Sgt. Franklin Hill, and Detectives Michael Bruno, Robert Bosman, Paul Conrad and Elen spent an hour searching the room for additional evidence. Officers Frank Komstra, William Moschler, Dick Houtinger, Robert Cantwell, Rudolph Botic and Paul Ross also searched the basement area, rear storage rooms.

Spectators Jeer Police
Sidewalk spectators jeered the police officers who moved gamblers out of the building. Sgt. Beulah Hartwig accompanied the raiders and assisted in the inventory of equipment. She and Miss Pat Peterson, police secretary, also aided Desk Sergeant Joseph Trotta in booking the 24 men.

Each alleged inmate was booked and searched and his money and valuables were counted by Sgt. Barney McIverson, Officers Roger DeKok and John Zapf and Detective Conrad. The money and valuables were sealed in individual envelopes for safekeeping. Capt. Matthew Kirsch and Lt. Paul Rolfe then interviewed each of the 24 men and returned them to the cell block for several hours before their release on bonds.

A squad car was dispatched by Haukedahl and it returned with Detective Sgt. Robert Dechman, who fingerprinted and "mugged" all those arrested. He was assisted by Officer Zapf.

The men were crowded into the first floor cell block and the overflow was sent to the upstairs cells. Sheriff Marshall Simonsen appeared at police headquarters and offered the facilities of the county jail to Haukedahl. Attorney David L. Phillips showed up at the city jail within an hour after the raid.

Phillips watched the bookings, then stepped outside briefly, and as quickly reappeared with a bundle of bills totaling \$900. He told Sgt. Trotta, "Just in case they are short."

Station Lobby Crowded
Reporters asked him the sudden source of the cash. Phillips smiled and replied, "A fellow left this with me to leave here."

Officers found six new parlay cards while searching one of the men. The cards, unmarked, were for today's basketball games and were found in the pockets of Anthony LaMacchia, one of the men arrested as inmates.

While the inmates and operators were being interrogated, local gambling figures and others with police records congregated in the police station lobby to offer ball money and transportation.

12 Men Forfeit Gaming Bonds

Twelve men arrested Dec. 12 in a police raid on a gambling joint forfeited \$25 bonds apiece today in municipal court.

The 12 men, booked as inmates, had originally entered pleas of innocent on Dec. 14 and trial had been set for today. They are Arthur Covelli, 33, 5709 22nd Ave.; Michael DelConte, 55, 4533 24th Ave.; Michael DelPozzo, 25, Milwaukee; Edward Dzioba, 44, 1806 55th St.; Ancel Heather, 45, 5113 22nd Ave.; Fred Holmes, 51, 6207 23rd Ave.; Anthony LaMacchia, 43, 2312 57th St.; Ernest Paradise, 39, 6800 24th Ave.; John Rizzo, 43, Racine; Fino Stella, 32, 5525 23rd Ave.; John Taglianetti, 20, 1922 53rd St.; and Justin Theriault, 45, 5413 24th Ave.

Eight other men charged with being inmates forfeited similar bonds on Dec. 15 in municipal court.

The two men booked as operators, Anthony Conti, 36, Rt. 4, Box 77, and Jeffery Covelli, 32, 1713 27th St., entered pleas of innocent on Dec. 14 and will face trial Jan. 4. They posted \$500 bonds apiece.

Police raided a phony cigar store at 2207 56th St. and rounded up the 24 men. Evidence of card playing and dice games were collected by officers.

CCS4-5

Gaming House Count Admitted

Anthony Conti, 36, Rt. 4, Box 77, was fined \$250 and costs or six months in the county jail today after pleading guilty in municipal court to operating a gambling house.

A similar charge of being an operator of a gambling joint was dismissed against Jeffery Covelli, 32, 1713 27th St., and a warrant charging him with being an inmate was substituted.

Covelli entered a plea of innocent to this new charge. Trial was set for Dec. 28.

Originally, both men had been scheduled to face trial Jan. 4 and were free on \$500 bonds.

The two men and 22 others were booked by police Dec. 12 after the front door of a phony cigar store at 2207 56th St. was sledge-hammered open by detectives and uniformed officers led by Chief Stanley Haukedahl.

Two men had entered pleas of guilty earlier to charges of being inmates and had paid fines of \$20 and costs. Twenty others forfeited \$25 bonds when they failed to appear on charges of being inmates. Evidence of card and dice playing were collected by police during the raid.

In 1952 the United States used almost nine trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

CCS4-6

The articles said several times, the cops were calling this place a "Phoney" Cigar store. I'm guessing they found no cigars for sale, *vbg*

It looks like the place disappears around 1954 (probably after the raids, arrests and sentencing). It could have been operating in 1956 when the CCS hub chips were delivered, as an unlisted place, but there is someone else in charge at the old Cookie's Cigar store address in 1956.

Special Thank you to Ed Hertel for the articles.