

DMI

Alexander "Allie" L. Kiddie, died 1983 in Des Moines age 89.

When the chips were ordered, Kiddie was one of the proprietors of the Fifth Avenue Cigar Store, a well known and patronized gambling house located at 203 5th Ave. In November of the year the chips were ordered, Kiddie was kidnapped and held for ransom (one of his partners had been kidnapped the year before).

In 1936 someone threw a bomb in front of the place; that same year the place was raided and 121 people were arrested. DMI=DesMoinesIowa???



DMI delivered to
Fifth Avenue Cigar Store
Allie Kiddie
Des Moines, IA
1931 - 1000 chips

Ames Daily Tribune, 23 Nov.1931:
Read down.

BOMB EXPLODES IN DES MOINES

Cigar Store Windows Blown Out, Glass Shattered in Nearby Buildings.

DES MOINES, (P)—Explosion of a bomb in front of the Fifth Avenue Cigar store here Wednesday blew out windows in the establishment, scene of gambling raids in the past, and shattered glass in nearby buildings.

The blast, at 3:05 a. m., was heard throughout the downtown district. No one was injured, police said. Most of the 50 guests in a hotel above the cigar store were awakened.

Allie Kiddie, who with Clinton (Skeets) Petty is reputed proprietor of the cigar store, said he could advance no explanation for the bombing.

Work on Theories.

Detectives assigned to the case worked on the theories that the bombing either was the initial shot in an intra-city fight between professional gamblers or the work of some person who had lost heavily in gambling.

Several months ago Charles Veltrie and Henry Guardino, former Des Moines men, asserted they were ordered to return to Chicago by local police who, they said, claimed the two men planned to "muscle in" on a gambling setup here.

121 Persons Arrested.

A police vice squad last month raided the Fifth Avenue place and arrested 121 persons, including 18 women. All but six of them later were released, a judge holding that a sign on the building's front, reading "all sporting results inside," enticed innocent persons inside.

The bomb apparently was laid or tossed almost in front of the establishment's front door last night, police said. The explosion tore a hole about 10 inches wide and 18 inches deep in the sidewalk.

Office windows as high as the fifth floor of the Youngerman building, directly across the street, were shattered.

This one was a toughy. 🤔 It took 3 of us to figure out the initials. 🤔 Mason dies often print out phantom lines on certain initials. It can actually be read both ways and make sense. This one was the toughest one yet, to read. Could have been several letters. IDCL to name a few. BTW, I was the last one to agree it was an I and the last letter, not the 1st letter. 🤔

DMI delivered to
Allie Kiddie
Des Moines, IA
1931

Read on. It went to the "Fifth Avenue Cigar Store"

DMI=Des Moines Iowa

Below articles gives you information about the type of gentlemen involved with illegal gaming across the USA after prohibition ended and the "Era Of The Illegals" started and ended 1932-1951, some continued until 1961 but few compared to how many Estes Kevaufer closed in 1951. The bootleggers needed a way to continue the cash flow. These stories can be found all across our country.

Without the history, they are only "Little Pieces Of Clay."

Ames Daily Tribune, 23 Nov.1931:

Ames Daily Tribune, 23 Nov. 1931:

KIDNAPING COUPE SPURS VICE DRIVE

DES MOINES (UP)—A kidnaping coupe that was successfully brought off by gangsters here last week, had led Monday to a crime cleanup campaign that extended into the heart of Des Moines' vice, gambling and liquor district.

Attorney General John Fletcher Saturday characterized the kidnaping of Allie Kiddie as the operation of one gang of criminals against another and he announced at least eight state agents would be assigned to Des Moines to work with local authorities in the clean-up.

The statement and attendant publicity so aroused local officers that they began functioning a few hours later while Saturday night merry-making was at its height.

Among those arrested was Clinton (Skeel) Petty, so-called "pay-off" man in the Kiddie case. Petty was accused of operating a gambling house and was released on \$2,000 bond Sunday when he pleaded not guilty. Petty reputedly was a partner of Kiddie and James (Jimmie) Sheridan in the widely-known Fifth avenue cigar store, which police raided as a gambling house Saturday.

Meanwhile County Attorney Carl Missildine came to the defense of his fellow law-enforcing officers. "There is bound to be some gambling, crime and bootlegging in a city the size of Des Moines," said the county attorney. "But I think Des Moines has less vice than any other city its size."

Mason City Globe, 8 July 1936:

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Thank you to all involved in attributing this chip. True friends of our hobby.