

Welcome back Tom Henderson. Tom is our go to guy for info on Mississippi illegals. I got my K+S chip back in 2002. Listed it as The Walthal Hotel like the Mason record card says, below. I have mine listed as red but kind of hard to tell red or maroon from chocolate after 78 years of handling. *vbg* Wonder how many of us were alive when this history of our chips took place? I'm old but not that old. *vbg*

Take it away Tom:

It is good to finally get a "Club" name for where it was used.

Illegal of the Day: K+S

This hub mold chip was ordered by R. A. Kent in 1936 and delivered to the Walthall Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi.

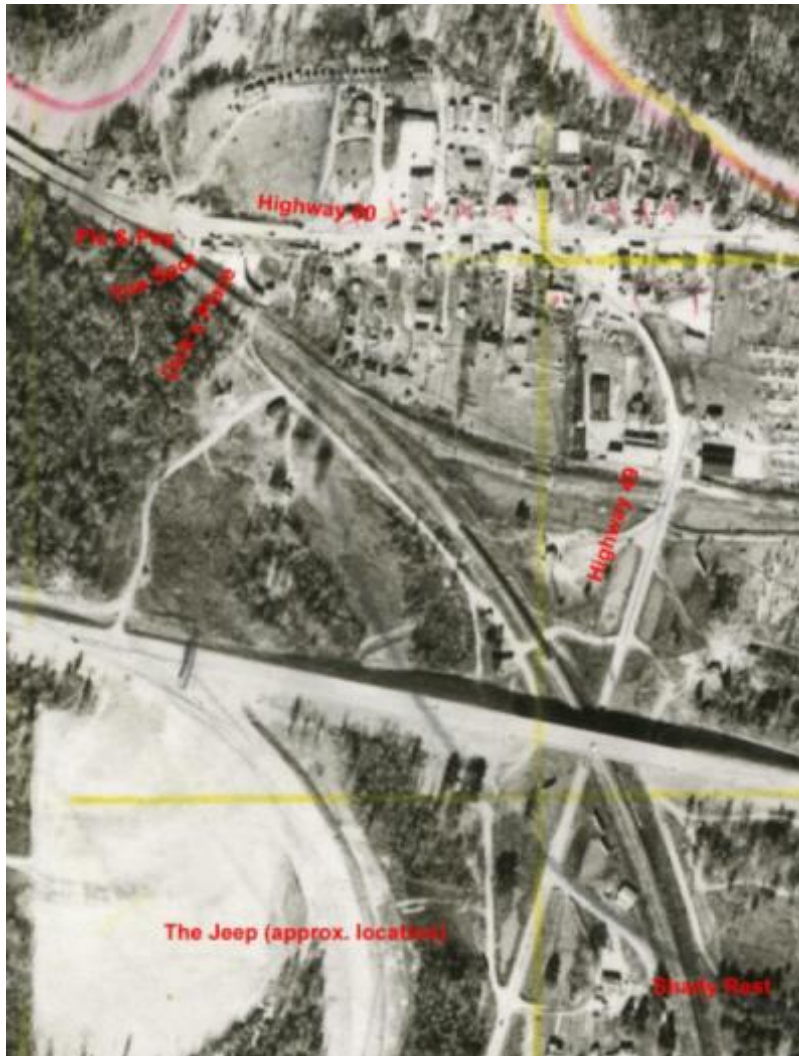


KS1att2

R. A. (Richard A., "Dick") Kent (1908-1977), was from Kentwood, Louisiana, a member of one of the founding families of the town. Kentwood is in Tangipahoa Parish, between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi state line. In the 1930's, Dick and his brother, John E. "Beekie" Kent, were hauling illegal liquor into Mississippi sometimes for brothers Sam Seaney (1903-1946) and Eugene Seaney (1906-1956) of Rankin County, Mississippi. Interviews with Seaney family members reveal the Kent brothers and the Seaney brothers sold liquor on the Rankin County "Gold Coast," an area east of Jackson in Rankin County, sometimes called East Jackson. In 1936 when this chip was ordered, the Gold Coast hosted over a dozen "night clubs and road stands" where clubs with bars, slot machines, and gambling tables served customers around the clock.

Where the K+S chip was used is unclear, but the letters are almost certainly for Kent and Seaney. Dick Kent was living at the Edwards Hotel in Jackson in 1935 and in 1937, after the chips were ordered, he was operating and living at Dick's Sandwich Shop, 111 Brandon Road (Highway 80) in East Jackson, only a few doors from Sam Seaney's Service Station and lunch stand at 101 Brandon Road. At the time, Sam

also had a club called The Jeep and the Jeep City Tourist Court on Gulfport Road (Highway 49). The 1937 Jackson City Directory shows Sam living at 418 Gulfport Road, the tourist court at 422, and the Jeep at 426. The Jeep was described by one reporter as the “liquor headquarters of the outlaw city.”



KS2att2

Rankin County Gold Coast, 1940

Sam Seaney was no stranger to the law. In March 1935 his service station and lunch stand was raided and Sam was arrested for liquor possession. In June 1937, Rankin County Judge A. B. Amis ordered 15 “saloons and gambling places” in East Jackson padlocked including “Kent’s Place” and The Jeep. Kent’s Place may have been the sandwich shop. My guess is the chips were used at either Kent’s Place or the Jeep, or maybe both.

In October 1937 “Seaney’s place” was padlocked but the newspaper doesn’t indicate whether it was The Jeep or the service station. In December both Sam and Dick were in court on contempt charges for violating the padlock injunctions, and two days later Sam, Dick and Beekie were fined \$1,000 each.

Padlock Orders Issued Against Gambling Spots

Brandon, Miss., Dec. 10 (AP)—Padlock orders were issued against 19 alleged saloons and gambling resorts on the Rankin county "gold coast" and penalties amounting to \$16,000 were assessed against 18 defendants by Chancellor A. B. Amis before he adjourned a special term of chancery court here.

Padlock orders against 19 places had been issued at an earlier term and were renewed Thursday by order of the chancellor for another year.

Evidence secured by the Mississippi National Guard in law enforcement drives under Major T. R. Birdsong led to closure of the establishments.

The penalties assessed were on a basis of \$500 for the state in each case and \$500 for the county. In the various cases where the defendants possessed bank accounts writs of attachment were issued.

Earlier in the special term Chancellor Amis had issued padlock orders against 12 places on the "gold coast" and assessed \$1,000 penalties in three cases.

The \$1,000 penalties were issued against H. L. Smith, Boone Brooks, C. D. Frankison, Beaky Kent, Sam Seany (two counts), E. L. Turner, George Steed, W. H. Cox, Dicko Kent, Cecil C. Smith, Charlie H. Warren, Bill Shores, George Hammonds (two counts), C. E. McKinney and Pat Hutson.

KS3att2

State Times (Baton Rouge), Dec. 10, 1937

By 1939 Sam had opened another place, The Spot, on Highway 80 at the same location as his service station. Seaney family members said in the same year Sam and Eugene also opened the Shady Rest Club on Gulfport Road near Sam's house. Sam's brother, Eugene, and Dick Kent were operating the club.

Shady Rest (Eugene Seaney Dick Kent) soft drinks 416 Gulfport Rd (EJ)

KS4att2

The Shady Rest was a large frame building with dining, dancing and an orchestra, set in a grove just off Highway 49.



KS5att2

Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, MS), July 24, 1946

The Spot and the Shady Rest were raided in one of the most spectacular raids ever. On June 22, 1939, 150 National Guardsmen descended on the Gold Coast raiding thirty clubs, destroying 400 cases of liquor, 21 bars, 85 slot machines, 29 gaming tables, and arresting 41 people including Sam and Eugene along with their father, A. A. Seaney. Customers reportedly lined the highway watching the action.

My note: Just thinking. *vbg* The K+S chips delivered in March 1936. The big raid was in June 1939. The chips could have been confiscated any time in those 3 years and 3 months. But what if they weren't? I count 7 places the chips could have been used in. If they lasted until the big raid, IMO they are the most traveled illegal chips we have ever seen in an "Illegal Of the Day" post.

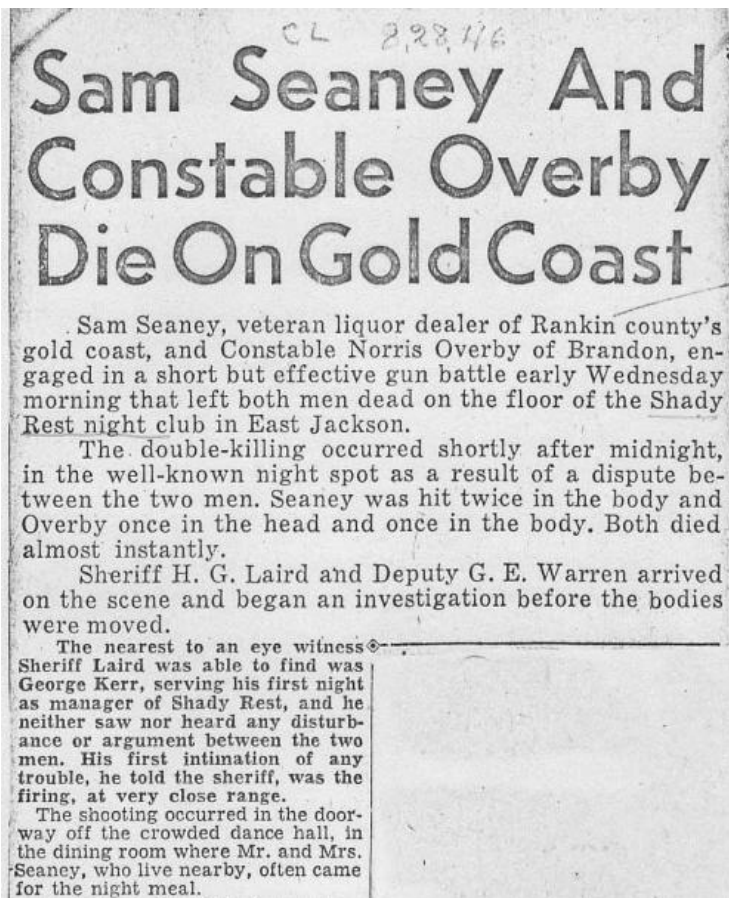
After the raid, the Gold Coast became relatively quiet. Some of the clubs reopened but with fewer bright lights and much less open gambling. Dick Kent does not appear in newspaper reports on the Gold Coast again, and except for liquor-related arrests, the Seaneys' clubs got little attention until 1946.

In the early morning hours of August 27, 1946, Sam Seaney was at the Shady Rest. Family members said he had told his father and brother that County Constable Norris Overby might cause some trouble.

Norris was demanding more protection money and was helping himself to more free liquor than Sam thought fair. Norris had raided The Spot, Sam's other club, two nights before and told Sam to close it down before the grand jury convened the following week. That might have been in Sam's best interest but having spent \$30,000 on a new bar at the Spot, he refused to close it down.

The Shady Rest was filled with customers and music that night. Norris entered the club and briefly spoke to Sam. Then, at short range, Norris shot Sam. Sam fired back hitting Norris and both fell to the floor but continued shooting. The club manager, his first night on the job, said he thought it was a bad joke they were pulling to initiate him.

Sam's sister, a waitress at the Shady Rest, was standing about ten feet from where Norris fell but was not aware of the fight until she heard shots. When she got to Sam he had come down a short flight of steps. He uttered a few unintelligible words, and died. Amazingly, no one else was hurt.



KS6att2

Clarion-Ledger, August 28, 1946

The Seaney-Overby shootout was a watershed event for the Gold Coast. In its wake most clubs closed down, expecting more crackdowns by law enforcement, but many of them reopened in the following months.

My note: As in many other stories, we have seen, killing any type of law enforcement officer is bad for business. It effects all illegal joints in the area.

The Shady Rest may have closed for good or changed names but it doesn't appear again in city directories. Eugene continued at the Spot another year when the building may have burned. According to family members The Spot was replaced by the "Little Spot, but in 1948, at the same address, Eugene Seaney and Benjamin Pierce had Seaney and Pierce's Bait Shop, a front for a liquor store that was raided several times. In 1954 the Pic and Pay, a combination grocery, fish market, and liquor store, replaced the bait shop. Eugene was arrested occasionally yet continued to sell liquor by the bottle from a drive-up window behind the store.



KS7att2

The Pic and Pay, 2012

Dick Kent was back in Tangipahoa Parish in 1940 but returned to Jackson during World War II. He was convicted of gambling and liquor violations in 1955 at the Grove Club near Jackson but was a resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, at the time. In 1959 he was running the Golden Parrot restaurant and lounge in New Orleans and died in 1977. Beekie Kent doesn't appear in newspaper reports on the Gold Coast after 1937 but Seaney family members said he and his wife were often seen at the Shady Rest. He died in Louisiana in 1986. Eugene Seaney committed suicide in 1956 and his wife operated the Pic and Pay into the 1960s.

My note: Another fine job Tom. Keep them coming. *vbg*

If you are looking for previous "Illegal Of The Day" posts. there are 268 posted at this link. They are in order by the state they were used in.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/genetrimble.htm>