

David Spragg and I were both lucky enough to be given several pages of sample chips from the Taylor Company sample chips when the company's inventory was bought out. There were T's, Harps, Hubs, Cords and other assorted molds including a number of UFC's.

I got the pink MFM chip back in 2007 and the record card soon after. The amounts ordered told me it was more than likely a Nashville illegal club and more than likely used in the well known cluster of Ilegals in Printers Alley. Never gave it much more thought.

David Spragg called it to my attention a few weeks ago. He had a pink one that he believed came from the Taylor samples found along with the Taylor records. Not sure where he got the black one. I checked my pink one and it had a note that it came from the Taylor samples also. Taylor did not sell Hub molds but there are several instances Taylor mention's the Mason Company in their records. We think there was some kind of exchange of samples and dies when a customer crossed over to do reorder's.

I firmly believe the MFM chips were used in two states. Soon after the first order in 1931, Francis "Doc" Mannion was arrested in a big illegal operation in Hendersonville, North Carolina. He fled the state, back to his home in Nashville. No record he ever went to trial in NC.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> order of MFM chips was in 1935. 4 years after the NC raid. I believe they were used in "Doc's" Printers Alley and or Cheatham County, TN illegal clubs.

I told the story of Printers Alley in my "Illegal Of the Day Tennessee" post on 8/16/10. It has been reposted here. Scroll down to Rainbow Room, TN.

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

Enough of that:

North Carolina – Tennessee:

1931

Clairmont County Club

Hendersonville, North Carolina

1935

Swank Key Club

Printers Alley



Nashville. Tennessee


Pines Dinner Club

Cheatham County, Tennessee.



1 MFM att2

M. F. Mannion,  
Nashville, Tenn.   
7-17-31: 1000 Black Hub Checks   
APR 22 1935  
1100 Black "MFM"  
2000 White Old Style Mono  
400 Pink  
5-16-35: 300 White Hub Checks  
CHIC

M. F. Mannion,  
Nashville, Tenn.   
7-17-31: 1000 Black Hub Checks  
4-29-35: 1100 Black, 2000 White, 400 Pink Chi.  
MAY 16 1935  
300 White Hubs "MFM"  
Old Style

Enter my "Friend Of The Hobby."

Michael Francis "Doc" Mannion, a son of Irish immigrants, was born in Nashville in 1887. Around the time of the first chip order, Mannion was charged with operating gambling devices at a place called "Clairmont County Club" which was located just outside of Hendersonville, NC.

Burlington (NC) Daily Times—10 August 1931

(the trial was set to get underway August 10th--24 days after the date listed on the order card):

## The Gambling Trial At Hendersonville Delayed

Hendersonville, N. C., Aug. 10.—(P)—Trial of four men charged with operating gambling devices at the Clairmont country club, two miles from here, was continued in county court today until Wednesday when recorder J. F. Justice failed to appear to conduct court.

Court attaches did not know where Recorder Justice had gone but said they believed he had been called out of town.

The four defendants, Grady Justus, Frank R. King and J. K. Livingston, all of Hendersonville, and Luther J. ("Happy") Wilson, of Asheville, were in court ready to stand trial. Their \$500 bonds each were allowed to continue in force by county authorities and they were released.

Doc Mannion, named in the warrant sworn out for the four, has not been arrested. Authorities said he made his home in Tennessee and was not now believed to be in this state.

Warrants were sworn out after the Asheville Citizen-Times had published an article terming the Clairmont Country Club the "little Monte Carlo" of western North Carolina.

Craps, roulette, chuck-a-luck, slot machines and other gambling games and devices were operated at the club with no attempt to hide them, the paper said.

The four defendants were arrested by Sheriff W. A. Garren, who took out warrants against them and Mannion after an investigation.

MFM1att2

In 1950 during a Senate investigation, Mannion was listed as one of four Tennesseans who subscribed to the race wire (the only one in Nashville).

Kingsport (TN) News—4 July 1950:

## JC Firm Named Race News User

Washington —(AP)— The Senate Commerce Committee has named four Tennesseans and a Johnson City, Tenn., firm as being among more than 2,000 persons and firms getting race news.

The committee report said the five are served by a leased wire network operated by Central Sports News of Little Rock, Ark.

The names were furnished, the committee said, by the Continental Press Service and the Western Union Telegraph Co.

Central Sports News is listed as a direct subscriber by Continental, the report said.

"It should be noted," the committee said, "that there is no evidence before the committee that any specific name or address herein listed is a bookmaker; all, however, are the recipients of horse racing news, either by wire ticker or by telephone."

It listed these subscribers in Tennessee:

M. F. Mannion, Nashville; J. Hankins, Rutledge Pike, Knoxville; Rowland News Service, 304 Tennessee Bank Building, Johnson City; Herman Lewis, Route 4, Fountain City, and W. L. Patch, Circle Sandwich Shop, Cleveland.

MF2att2

In 2008 Mannion's grand-daughter, an attorney, was profiled in the Nashville Business Journal:

**What is there about you that people would be surprised to learn?** My grandfather was Doc Mannion, a businessman who ran gambling casinos and bars into the 1950s in Nashville. His well-known outfits included "Swank Key" in Printer's Alley and the "Pine's Dinner Club" in Cheatham County.

MFM3att2

Her name is Michele Johnson, age 41, daughter of Mary Frances (Mannion) Johnson. Here's her contact info:

My Note: I spoke to Michele. Very nice woman and very busy with fixing dinner for several children when I called. <g> IMO an attorney with 3 young children has a right to be busy. <g>

Michele was not aware of her grandfathers North Carolina illegal Club operation. 80 years is a long time. <g>

She did not have a lot more info on Doc. Her Mother, Doc's daughter, is still alive but because of her age it is difficult for her to talk on the phone.