

On January 6, 2011 I posted "Illegal Of The Day Kentucky 10." It told the story of EN Wood hub mold chips "ENW." They were sent to Midland, Texas, 1935-36 and The Hub Bar & Cafe in Owensville, KY, 1939.

My "Friend Of The Hobby" made this statement in his research.

"In any event, I haven't been able to locate Wood in either Midland or Owensboro (still checking Midland)."

You can refresh your memory on the hub mold "ENW" chips by clicking here.

<http://www.thechipboard.com/index.cgi/page/1/md/read/id/1074408/sbj/illegal-of-the-day-kentucky-10/>

After that post Club member Gary Fitzgerald emailed me a scan of an "ENW" Harp mold chip his son had found at a flea market in KY. Taylor records showed it was delivered to EN Woods, Paramount Club, Centralia, IL. Woods had an "S" on it but I had a hunch it was the same guy. I just received one of the chips in the mail. The research on this chip turned up information on EN Wood we could not find the 1<sup>st</sup> time around. <g>

I now feel we have enough info to attribute the Hub mold "ENW" Midland, Texas, 1935-36 orders to the Derby Tavern in Midland. I will update the Kentucky 10 post.

IMO the Hub mold "ENW" was actually used at the Derby Tavern in Midland, TX 1935-36 then reordered for the Hub Bar & Café in Owensboro, KY 1939.

A certified 2 state Illegal. <g>


Enough of that:

Illinois:

EN Wood settles down in one city for a long stay, <g> another bootlegger that moved into Illegal gambling. Note that one of his bootlegging arrests was 3 years after prohibition ended. It was still cheaper to make it than buy it and pay the new Federal tax. <g>



chip18221 att2

Name <u>E. N. Woods</u>					SPECIAL MONOGRAM			
Address <u>PARAMOUNT CLUB</u>					 ENW			
Town <u>CENTRALIA</u>		State <u>ILL</u>						
Per _____								
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
600	#3 Red	yes	#1 Block				Gold	10-16-40
300	Bt. Orange	ENW	"				Silver	"
100	BLACK	"	"				Gold	"
600	#3 Red	"	"				"	10-25-40

Paramount Club  
 EN Wood  
 Highway 51  
 Centralia, IL  
 Chips in 1940.

Re-enter my "Friend Of The Hobby"

The harp mold record card helped get the ball rolling on this one.

Elvin N. Wood, born in Oklahoma in 1902; parents natives of Kentucky who moved to OK a few years before Elvin's birth; Elvin died at Centralia, IL in 1994, age 92.

Sometime in the late 1920's Elvin got in trouble and did time in the Federal Pen in Georgia. Don't know what he did, but my guess would be a violation of prohibition laws.

In the early 30's he's in Midland, TX where he gets in trouble again:

13dec1934:

abilenemorningnew13dec19342

## **Bonds Fixed For Men Charged In Seizure of Still**

MIDLAND, Dec. 12.—Bonds were set ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 at the examining trial, in federal district court at Pecos, of ten men arrested in a raid by federal agents here. The charges are in connection with operations of distillery equipment without furnishing bond and paying the \$1,000 federal excise tax. Four were released on bonds, including: Elvin Wood, Herman Paulette, Edgar Paulette, and Sam Roberts. Others were bound over to await action of the federal grand jury the first week in January at El Paso. The others charged were: James A. Spliers, David Montgomery, Byron A. Pou, Ira J. Bailey, Thomas Brown and a negro, Huitt T. Flournoy.

ENW1 att2

In the article, one of the people arrested with Ervin is Sam Roberts. Sam Roberts operated a place in Midland called the Derby Tavern. In the mid-late 1930's Ervin's older brother Lee Roy Wood was a bartender at the place. So it's possible that the chips may have been used at the Derby Tavern. Perhaps further research could confirm this.

My note: EN Wood and Roberts arrested Dec 1934. Erwin and Roberts were bootlegging. Roberts owned the Derby Tavern more than likely selling the moonshine. Ervin's brother worked there. ENW Hub chips ordered in 1935. I can't be 100% sure but I really like the attribution. <g>

April 1935:  
BigSpringDailyHeraldBigSpringTexasThursdayApril200419354

# Bandits Get Large Haul At Midland

## Victims Robbed Of Money And Jewels, Then Bound

—MIDLAND (Special)—Four men robbed and bound seven persons here Wednesday evening and made away with money and jewels valued at \$2,150.

Two of the robbers remained outside the home of E. N. Wood, 1807 West Wall street, shortly before midnight Wednesday while two secreted themselves in the house.

As Mrs. Woods and another woman entered, they were robbed of their money and jewels and bound. When Woods entered, he faced a similar fate.

Armo Spears was the next to fall victim to the bandits, and three others were also deprived of their money and jewelry.

The victims freed themselves when Spears got to a knife the robbers left in his pocket and cut himself loose.

Officers here and at Stanton and Odessa kept a watch until Thursday morning for the robbers but no trace of them was found.

About \$150 in cash was taken. Jewelry stolen was valued at \$2,000. It consisted mostly of diamonds. The robber did not bother to take watches.

My note: Notice in above article they say EN Wood but he is married to Mrs. Woods. I think they needed to hire a proof reader. <g>

I never came across any references to Elvin in Owensboro. If he was there, he wouldn't have been there very long since we know from the chip order cards he's in Midland as late as Nov.1936 and is in Centralia by Dec.1940.

My note: Four years is plenty of time. We know for sure he made the 3<sup>rd</sup> order of the hub molds in July 1939 for Owensboro.

And now the Illinois part of the story.

Paramount Club postcard:



ENW3 att2

pic from 1940:  
life10june1940



**The Paramount Club**, like all of Centralia's oases, is jammed nightly with happily oiled petroleumfolk. It fastidiously frowns on shirt sleeves and naked collar buttons.

ENW4 att2

In 1950 the Paramount Club was a subscriber to the race wire through Chicago's Midwest News Service, which was a subscriber to Continental Press Service.

In April 1953 EN Wood and his partner C.A. Johnson are described as former owners:  
11april1953ad1

# THANK YOU

We wish to thank all our customers for their patronage extended to us during the past several years. We also wish our successor much success.

**MR. JOHNSON AND MR. WOOD**  
Former owners of the Paramount Club

ENW5 Att2

11april19531

**NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

## Paramount Club

3 Miles South of Centralia On Route 51

*STARTING TUESDAY, April 14, the Paramount Club will be open 6 days a week, every day but Monday.*

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The formal opening will be May 9 and 10 with music by Jack Stalcup Orchestra. There will be special entertainment every Thursday and Sunday night, and dancing Saturday night.

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The Paramount Club is now under the management of Paul Storey, formerly of Mt. Vernon.

ENW6 att2

Less than a year later in Jan. 1954 (pretty sure Mildred is Elvin's wife):

MtVernonRegisterNewsMtVernonIllinoisFridayJanuary2219541

## Centralia Club Operator Fined

By Associated Press

CENTRALIA, Ill. — Mrs. Mildred Ann Wood, nearby Paramount night club operator, was fined \$500 today in Washington County Court on a charge of keeping gambling equipment.

The club was raided Sunday by four state police officers who confiscated five slot machines, two dice and poker tables and an undisclosed amount of cash.

ENW7 Att2

My note: Wait a minute!!! I thought EN Wood sold out of the Paramount Club the year before this article. <g> Looks like he let a new manager and the wife take the rap. <g>

History repeats itself in 1965 (I bet they had good insurance):

MtVernonRegisterNewsMtVernonIllinoisSaturdayJanuary19653



## \$6,000 Shattuc Jewel Robbery

SHATTUC, Ill. (AP) — Authorities said today an estimated \$6,000 in jewelry and other items has been reported taken by burglars from a businessman's rural home.

Mrs. Elvin Wood said missing articles include a \$2,000 mink coat, a \$650 diamond watch, \$1,500 in jewelry and two bags of cash.

ENW8 att2

My note: Looks like EN Wood was prone to being robbed. <g> He was also well traveled as he operated illegal joints in 3 different states.

The internet is amazing. We just tracked someone from birth in 1902 through death in 1994. Three states of illegal gambling, bootlegging, and twice he was robbed by thugs. The only thing we didn't get was what he had for dinner March 4, 1954. <g> I wonder what someone will be digging up and posting about some of us, someday? <g>

Personally I hope they wait till I'm dead before they start digging on me. <g>

Chips and history! What could be better in "OUR" world?