

I am on my way to the Arizona Charlie's chip show. This one is one of the smaller posts I mentioned in the last "Illegal Of The Day post. I got this chip back in 2003 from Bob Gable in Biloxi, MS. Fairly common chip most illegal chip collectors have. Recently someone asked a question about it. Turns out some of us had it as Biloxi and some of us had it as Gulfport, MS. I had it as Biloxi. None of us had ever asked for the Mason record card as far as I can tell. The current TGT has it as Biloxi 1940's-1969 and Clay Reeves name.

Let's take a look. *vbg* Turns out the chip was delivered in 1935 to 3 known gamblers on the Gulf Coast. Ed Hertel took a quick look and got "The Rest Of The Story." Actually may not be in Biloxi nor Gulfport.



Edgewater1att2

Clay Reeves, J R Burkette & Harry Jordan

Box 87, East Beach

Gulfport, MS

2700 chips – 1935

Postcard: Midway between Gulfport and Biloxi, Edgewater Park, MISS



Edgewater2att2

Ad from 1936.

Edgewater Gulf Hotel

W. M. Dewey,
Managing Director

D. O. Conwill
Manager



Phone 1270
Cable Address:
"EDGE GULF"

**400 ROOMS - - ALL OUTSIDE WITH BATH
AMERICAN PLAN**

EDGEWATER PARK, MISS. BETWEEN BILOXI & GULFPORT

Edgewater3att2

Definitely the "Edgewater Gulf Hotel" in Gulfport. Looks like a few Reeves brothers including Clay got caught in there in the 30s for gambling. I'm not sure who JR Burkette is, but Harry Jordan was a salesman for "equipment club rooms" so we know how he got on the card.

I think you would be right with either Biloxi or Gulfport. It was right in between at some place called "Edgewater Park, Miss". The attached ad for the hotel is identical in both the Biloxi and the Gulfport city directories of 1936.

After Research:

"Edgewater Gulf Hotel"

"Edgewater Park, Miss".

Turns out we were all right. *vbg* BUT! As a purest. I want the real story. *vbg*

I'm out the door to Arizona Charlie's. Hoping to get some new illegal chips. *vbg*

Added by Tom Henderson:

When the Edgewater Gulf Hotel opened in 1927 it wasn't in Gulfport or Biloxi but in an unincorporated area of Harrison County along Highway 90. Although the hotel is listed in Biloxi and Gulfport City Directories, its advertising usually indicated its location "midway between" the two cities. The residential snowbird community of Edgewater Park grew up on the east side of the hotel in the late 1920s and at one time had a post office which the hotel used as it's address in the 1930s and 1940s. Most city directories in the 1940s and 1950s show the hotel on West Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, even though it was still not in Biloxi proper until the 1960s. Outside the city limits was obviously a safer place for illegal gaming and liquor and so this unincorporated stretch of Highway 90 west of Biloxi became a haven for gambling at places like the Edgewater, the Broadwater Beach Hotel, the Beach Club, Paddock Club, Raven Club, and many others. Gradually the cities of Gulfport and Biloxi extended their city limits until they met at DeBuys Road, west of the Edgewater Gulf Hotel. When the hotel was razed in 1971 it was well within the city limits of Biloxi.