

This is the first in a series of mid and southern Illinois "illegal Of The Day" posts.

I am calling this series of posts "Raiders Of the Lost Illegal's" in honor of Captain Elza Brantley and the troopers that served with him.

Maybe the name is a little over the top, but I like it. *vbg*

"Raiders Of the Lost Illegal's" Part 1

The grandson of Captain Elza Brantley sent me 150 scans of raid pictures, notes on the raids, newspaper articles, official documents, and confiscated chips from 500 (300 in one month) raids on Illinois illegal's, conducted by his grandfather. Some of the chips we have never seen. Also raids on clubs we have never heard of.

Elza Brantley 1913-1999

Graduated from the first class at the Illinois State Police Academy.

1955-1960 Captain in Command Battery #6 Illinois State Police-District #13 East Saint Louis- 27 counties
- 105 Troopers.

I also talked to one of the troopers that worked with him.

The series will include confiscated illegal club chips made for clubs in other states and wound up in Illinois clubs. They will also include the 1st ever Nevada Casino chips documented taken in an Illinois raid.



Illinois1att2

Scan is 1 of 250 Stateline Country Club chips actually taken in an Illinois illegal club raid. How did they get there? Best guess in a future post.

Chip delivered to Stateline Country Club Lake Tahoe, NV in 1956. SCC closed right after the delivery in 1956. Record card in Taylor files on Preserving Gaming History site.

SCC chips were taken in an Illinois illegal club raid in 1957. I have a picture of 250 of them in a BJ rack taken out of the club. I think these are the 1st NV chips we can track to an Illegal Club.



Illinois2att2

Actual chip and die taken in an Illinois illegal club, Joe Dodd's Colony Club raid in McClure, IL. How did they get there? Best guess in a future post.

Per Taylor records sent to El Dorado Club, De Soto County Mississippi, on Billy Goat Hill, in 1950's

Guess what? Elza Brantley has them documented as taken in an Illinois raid.

Example of scans of Brantley burning gambling equipment.

The end of the line for a roulette wheel taken out of the Thunderbird in East Cape Girardeau.



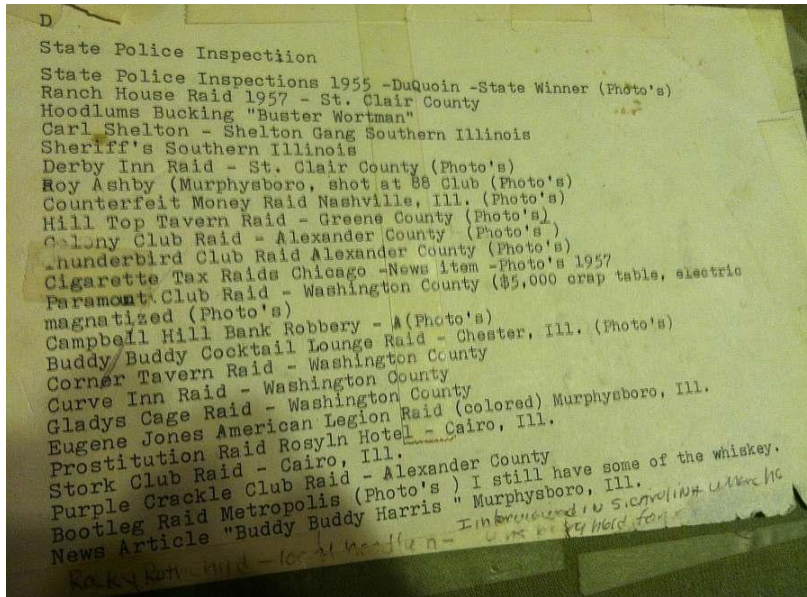
Illinois3att2

Adios to a BJ table and slots. *vbg* Paramount Club, near Centralia, IL. Washington County . 1/22/1954



Illinois4att2

Example of Brantley's notes of raids,



Illinois5att2

I never heard of Nashville, IL. Looks like they had some "Funny Money." *vbg*

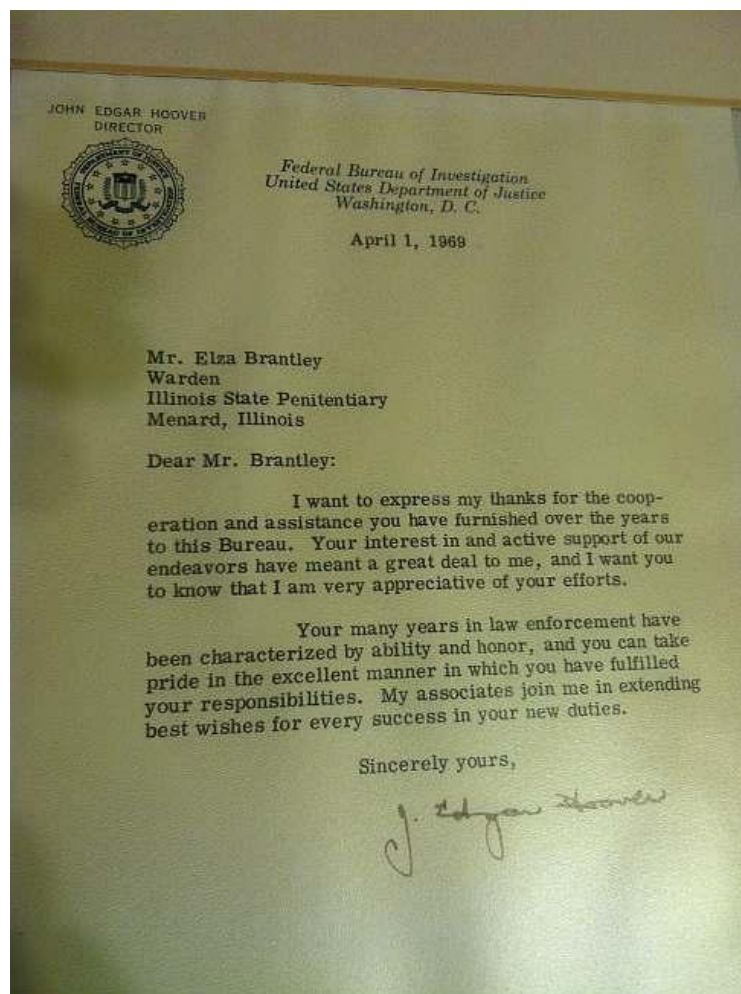
Looks like he kept some of the whiskey from a "Bootleg" raid in Metropolis. IL. *vbg*

List (61) from Brantley's notes of Illinois clubs raided by him and his men.

200 Club Annex	Madison County
205 Club forerunner to 200 club	Madison County-closed 1945
208 Commercial St	Alexander County
88 Club	Murphysboro, IL
67 - Club 67	E. Cape Girardeau
18 Club	Cairo
American Legion	Murphysboro, IL
Barber Fraily's	Hardin County
Beason's Place	Dupo, IL
Becky's Club Charming	Alexander County
Bel Air Café	9000 Block ov Collinsville Road
Buddy Buddy Cocktail Lounge	Chester, IL
Casino Club	Cairo, Rosiclare County, IL
Carousel Club	North of Jonesboro, IL
Central States Tobacco Co	Collinsville, IL
Club Winchester/Same as Club 37	Cairo, Rosiclare County, IL
Club 18	Cairo, IL
Club 37	Rosiclare, IL
Club 51	Alexander County
Club Prevue	Collinsville, IL
Colony Club	Alexander County
Corner Tavern	Washington County

Corona Club	Collinsville, IL
Court Café	9003 Collinsville Road
Curve Inn	Route 15 and 460-Washington County
Derby Inn	St. Clair County
Eagles Club	Marion, IL
El Patio Club	Alexander County
Eugene Jones American Legion Post 936	Mt Carbon, IL
Fire Works Station	??
Frog City	Alexander County
Gladys Cafe	Route 51, Ashley IL, Washington County
Glass Bar	Colp, IL
Granite City Elks Club	Collinsville
Harlem Club	Brooklyn, IL
Hill top Tavern	Green County
Hoodlums Bucking	
Hub Lounge Tavern	Alexander County
Hyde Park Club	Venice, IL
Junior Hattchette's Cocktail Lounge	Colp, IL
Long's Country Kitchen	Collinsville
Long's Tavern	Collinsville
Marion Recreation Club	Marion, IL
Metropolis	?
Mound City	?
New City Club	Colp, IL
Owl Club	Colp, IL
Paramount Club	Centralia, Washington County
Peter Valentines Tavern	St. Clair County
Purple Crackle	Alexander County
Ranch House	Centerville, St. Clair County
Red Rooster Tavern	Collinsville Road -East of St Louis
Roslyn Hotel	Cairo, IL
Rusty's Restaurant	9000 Block of Collinsville Road
Sandbar Tavern	Collinsville, IL
Scoville's Café	National City, IL
Stork Club	Cairo, IL
Terrace Lounge	?
The Annex	Madison County
The Farm	Pulaski County
Thunderbird Club	Alexander County

Later Brantley was the warden of the Illinois State Penitentiary in Menard, Illinois. He received the following letter from J Edgar Hoover director of the FBI.



Illinois6att2

Our "Friend Of The Hobby" has done a lot of research on The Stateline Country Club, Lake Tahoe, NV trying to connect the chips to Illinois. It will be "Raiders Of the Lost Illegal's" Part 2.

There is no doubt in my mind that Captain Brantley raided more illegal clubs than any other cop in the world. *vbg*