

Mike Vuolo got the FEB's on ebay for us last week. I just got mine from him Friday at the Super Show in Las Vegas. Thanks to "Friend Of The Hobby No 2" I got the ID on them before the chips arrived. As soon as I saw the ID, I had a good feeling about it. Not sure why, just one of those hunches everyone gets on occasion. <g>

Enter "Friend Of The Hobby No 2"

J.A. Rampanelli
111 E. Market Street
Akron Ohio.
12/19/32

There was no club name on the Mason Card, only a name, address and date. On second thought, I might be in dire jeopardy of having a bad hunch. <g> My second thought was, they might be home game chips.

I sent the ID to "Friend Of The Hobby No 1. I also got the research back before I got the chips. As you will read I was not disappointed, my hunch was correct. <g>

Enough of that:

Ohio:

Enter "Friend Of The Hobby No 1"

J.A. Rampanelli
Far East Billiards
111 E. Market Street
Akron Ohio.
12/19/32



chip18234att2

John Anthony "Jack" Rampanelli around 1909 started operating cigar stores and billiard halls in his native Akron and did so until his death in 1947 at age 68.

He opened Far East Billiards around 1928-29 and operated it until around 1936. It was located at 127 South Main. The chips were delivered in 1932 to 111 E. Market St. In 1932 Rampanelli was operating a second billiard hall called Portage Billiard Academy (there were over 140 billiard halls in Akron at the time, pop. over 250,000). In 1932 Portage was located at 115 E. Market St., but in 1928-29 when FEB opened, Portage was located at 111 E. Market St. A theory: Rampanelli

ordered FEB chips when FEB was about to open in 1928-29, had them delivered to Portage Billiard Academy at 111 and when he re-ordered in 1932 they didn't update his address to 115.

My note: (there were over 140 billiard halls in Akron at the time, pop. over 250,000). Although I never made it to Akron, back in the 1960's Akron was talked about in Newport, KY billiard halls as the "place" to play if you were a serious pool shooter.

My note: We firmly believe there is a 2nd FEB Mason Card somewhere. There are roughly 13,000 record cards in binders. They are photo copies of the original cards. Only 1 FEB could be found. From experience I know some are out of order as I have about 30 hubs that no card could be found. Hopefully they will be digitalized soon and proper searches can be done.

In addition to billiards, FEB offered cigars and business men's lunches. FEB was raided in March and August 1935 and October 1936. The structure which housed the address no longer exists. FEB was located in the heart of downtown Akron.

Here's a couple of pics which show the street scene where FEB was located.

Pic from around 1928-29; FEB located directly across the street from the round neon sign in the lower left that says "Kay" :



FED1att2

Pic from the 1930's-40's; point of view is looking north from almost directly in front of where FEB was located:



FEB2att2

New York Times—25march1917; Rampanelli was operating the Great Northern Billiard Parlor at the time:

ALLEN TO MEET TABERSKI.

Will Try to Wrench Pocket Billiards Title from Holder.

Akron, Ohio, a city which had a population of 69,000 when the last census was taken, outbid New York for the next championship contest at continuous pocket billiards, the contestants in which will be Frank Taberski of Schenectady, the champion, and Benjamin Allen of Kansas City, Mo., challenger. John T. Doyle of this city made an offer of \$600 for the match. Rampanelli & Austgen of Akron bid \$700, and the game will be played in that city April 11, 12, and 13. Under the rules Taberski could not have named any other than his home city without the consent of Allen and the Brunswick - Balke - Collender Company, which he obtained.

FEB3att2

This champion was way before my time. <g> Maybe Andy Hughes has heard of him. Interesting that Rampanelli was able to outbid New York for the game.

20sept1932; another law suit:

FIND MISSING TOWN OFFICIAL

Wandering Streets of Pittsburgh in
Coma; Village Council Elects
Successor

AKRON, Sept. 20. (AP)—Archie T. Ingerton, 42, Peninsula village treasurer, missing since Saturday is at a Pittsburgh hospital, where he was taken after being found wandering the streets in a coma, according to word received by his parents today.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ingerton, the parents, left at once for Pittsburgh by auto after receiving a call from Mercy hospital there. Earlier in the day they had received a card from their son mailed at Wheeling, W. Va., which said "I am trying to find my way home."

Abandoning his car several miles from his home, Ingerton disappeared on the same day he had filed suit against John A. Rampanelli for \$1,619 lost in baseball gambling pools allegedly conducted at the latter's Akron poolroom.

In the car was a "Goodbye" note to his parents, who pointed out that he had brooded over financial losses and over the death last March of his fiancée, Miss Helen Harpham, of Akron, and expressed confidence that he had merely "wandered off somewhere."

L. L. Hoodey last night was appointed to succeed Ingerton as Peninsula village treasurer after the council finance committee had reported Ingerton's accounts in excellent condition.

FEB4att2

My note: Another sore loser suing the winner. <g> Interesting he was a City Treasurer and his books were in order. <g>
Cleveland Plain Dealer—7July1942; at the time Rampanelli was operating the Sportsman's Cigar Store:

NAB 10 IN AKRON GAMBLING RAIDS

Police Vice Squad Members Make Swoops on Dens

Plain Dealer Bureau.
Akron Savings & Loan Bldg.
AKRON, O., July 6—Ten reputedly "biggest" gambling operators in this wide open war production boom town were arrested here tonight in quick, secret raids engineered by Police Lieut. James Mallen and members of his anti-vice squad.

The men were charged with permitting gambling and were released on \$500 bond each. They will appear in Municipal Court tomorrow morning.

The arrests apparently were an answer to demands by municipal judges, leaders of the Akron Civic Justice Association and others who have been clamoring for the seizure of the "big shot" gamblers instead of their "two-bit stooges."

Four of "Best Known"

Among the most widely known of the 10 brought in were (as listed on police records) Edward J. (Eddie) Shippacasse, 43, of 566 Crosby Street, operator of the Pickwick Club at 127 S. Howard Street; James T. Dunn, 46, of 814 Princeton Street, said to be the owner of Dunn's 44 at 44 E. Market Street; Curtis Raleigh, 53, of 576 Dorchester Road, who operates the R. & L. at 1167½ E. Market Street, and Toney Masino, 46, of 47½ E. Mill Street, operating at 85½ S. Main Street.

Although all have been known in gambling circles here for years, it was believed that this was the first time that any of them had ever been arrested on gambling charges.

Others booked for permitting gambling and addresses as listed by police were:

BERNARD GIONCONTIERE, 46, of 339 S. Main Street.
WILLIAM A. LEE, 33, of 13 S. Main Street, operating at 361 S. Main Street.
JACK RAMPANELLI, 64, of tailmadge, operating at 53 S. Howard.
LOUIS SPEZZILO, 49, of 715 Woodstock Road, operating at 22 N. Main Street.
T. V. GRAY, 35, of 50 W. Crozier Street, operating at 487 S. Main Street.
CARMET LEWIS, 46, of 658 E. Crozier, operating at 19 Stanton Avenue.

Calls for Citizens' Aid

"Now that most of the city's "big name" gamblers have been arrested, I hope members of the Akron Civic Justice Association and other civic-spirited citizens who have been talking about going to the grand jury on the gambling situation will come forward with their evidence so these men can be properly prosecuted," Mallen said.

The association last week offered to provide Mallen with 50 men to help him "clean up" the city.

The big lieutenant, who several years ago was known as the "one man vice squad," when, alone, he carried on anti-vice raids, said that he worked on angles for tonight's raids for some time.

Mayor George J. Harter, who named Mallen to his present post about two months ago, said that he knew nothing of the raids.

"It just bears out my contention that we have a pretty good police force," Harter said.

FEB5att2

The top 10 bookies in Akron arrested for the 1st time in 1942. Rampanelli was one of them. Where were the cops as early as 1909? <g> Where were they in 1932 when the City Treasurer sued Rampanelli for gambling losses? <g>

I think we can safely assume Akron had the same pattern of police corruption as most other cluster of illegals had over the years. I also feel certain we will eventually find chips from some of the other 9 addresses listed in the above article.

I just had to show off my new trinket! <g>

It was a gift from our "Friend Of The Hobby No 2," mentioned above. Without him our "Friend Of The Hobby No1" would not have the beginnings of the information needed for research on many "Illegal Of the Day" posts.

I saw it on ebay but was way too cheap to bid on it.
I reckon I got the gift for aggravating him all the time. <g>
Thank you friend.



chip18238att2