

Floor sweeping???? I guess all you illegal chip collectors know what a floor sweeping is? But just in case some don't, here is a quickie explanation.

When hot stamped chips are run there are always some extra ones run off. They box up the order and leave the spares lying around. Some wind up on the floor. <g> After they set up the next hot stamp die to be run, they grab any extra floor sweepings laying around and run a few over the top of the previous hot stamp, to make sure the new die is seated, etc. All ok, then they run the new order. I have seen floor sweepings with 3 or 4 different initials one on top of the other.

I got this one from a \$1 each junk box at the Arizona Charlie's chip show back in February. The Riverview Club stamp intrigued me. I knew there would be a good story behind it. Had no clue on the TJM but thought the 2 joints on one chip would tell a cross state story. It did not disappoint me. <g>

The TJM story hit real close to home. <g> The TJM could be the biggest surprise I ever had in researching old chips. <g>

There is no connection between the 2 hot stamps except they are on one chip.

I have the rect/heart mold \$1.00 chip from the Riverview Club but do not have the hub, if anyone has a trader.

Enough of that:

Riverview Club

Louisiana:



1 Tjmmatt2



1Tjm2att2



1 TJM3att2

The back of the chip has 3 hot stamps. Riverview Club-TJM-\$10.00.

Floor sweeping. TJM over Riverview Club

Riverview Club

Charles A Meraux Arabi La

1/25/35

200 red -lav- pink - green -blue - yel -white - no black

8/15/39

205 gray,verm -blk 25 - pink -yel -blue -red -lav - 45 green

Riverview Club

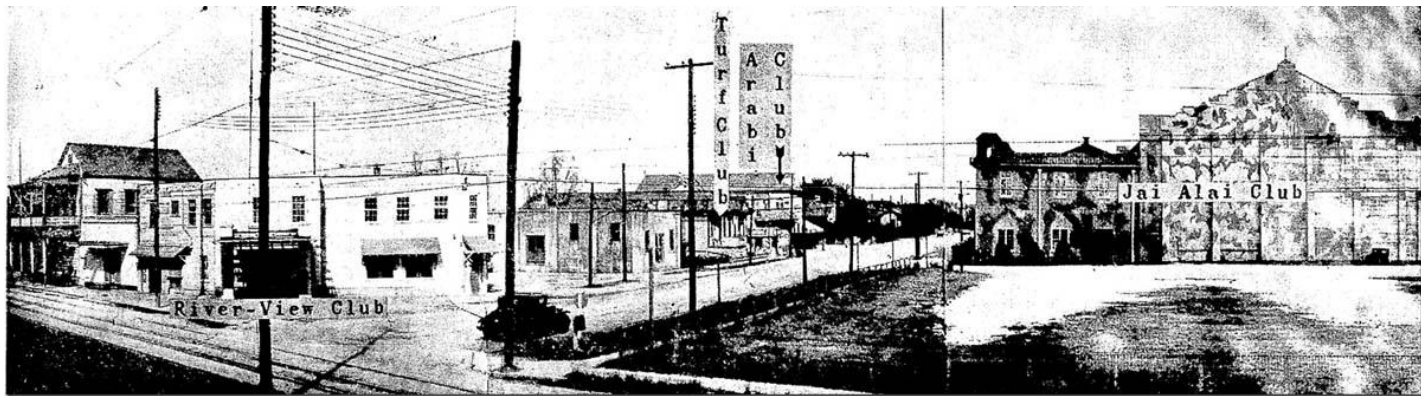
Charles Antoine Meraux was a native of Meraux, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana and died there in 1956 age 73 (Meraux, a few miles SE of Arabi, was named for Charles' father

Jules Meraux, a native of France).

At the time of the first chip order in 1935, Meraux's brother Louis was the sheriff of St. Bernard Parish and his brother Claude was the district judge (both were Tulane graduates, Louis an MD and Claude a JD). Elected to office in 1924, the "Meraux Faction" was a powerful political force in St. Bernard Parish.

The structure which housed the Riverview Club was located on the east bank of the Mississippi River on the corner of North Peters and Friscoville. Originally constructed around 1909 as a grocery store, the structure was converted into a night club in the mid-20's and was destroyed by a fire in 1958 (the club had closed around 1953).

Here's a very cool pic of Arabi's "Friscoville Coast" from 1940 showing the Riverview and other gambling clubs (the photographer looks like he was standing on the levee):



riverviewtjm1att2

My note: I have a Turf Club chip from O'Pelousos, LA, but none from this one. Probably one of the many Turf Club UFC's we all have plenty of. <g> I have a couple of chips from the Jai Alai Club.

Times-Picayune—10dec1931

A lot going on at the Riverview; Louisiana AG doesn't like it:

GAMBLING OUTFIT SEIZURE ASKED IN ST. BERNARD CASE

Attorney - General Inquires
Whether Warrants Have
Been Served

A bill of information with a petition for seizure of gambling paraphernalia at the Riverview Club, North Peter street and Friscoville avenue, was filed by Attorney-General Percy Saint with the clerk of court in St. Bernard parish Wednesday afternoon.

It alleges that on or about November 4 numerous gambling games such as dice, keno, black jack and roulette were being conducted and that "there were a number of slot machines in said building, a quantity of chips and other gambling paraphernalia being used on said premises."

Riverviewtjm2att2

Times-Picayune--31may1935

A few months after Meraux's first chip order, the lights of Arabi's gambling clubs were "beckoning far into the night"; political bosses of Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes threaten Sen. Huey Long to lay off gambling clubs:

My note: If you don't know Huey Long's story, it will be well worth a google search. He was quite a guy.

<g>

ST. BERNARD GAMING HOUSES REOPEN; CITY POLICE RAID 'BOOKS'

Dice Tables Draw Throngs;
Race Bets Taken in Jef-
ferson; Squad Visits Es-
tablishments Here

SEIZE LINE SHEETS,
RECORD OF WAGERS

Gov. Allen at Capital De-
clines to Comment on
Situation Developing Af-
ter Long's Announcement

While New Orleans police raided two alleged handbooks, St. Bernard parish gambling resorts opened their doors wide again Thursday, and Jefferson parish handbook establishments operated without molestation.

Jefferson parish establishments in Gretna and on Monticello avenue beyond the protection levee restricted themselves Thursday to daytime operation.

The "Friscoville Coast" in St. Bernard parish, however, had lights beckoning far into the night. Free parking space was furnished in a lot opposite the Turf Club and on the grounds of the Hi-Li hotel.

Early in the night the two dice tables operated in each of the St. Bernard resorts were fringed so thickly with participants that elbow room was at a premium. Twenty-five-cent chips were played in all the places except the Turf Club, which catered to 10-cent wagers. A roulette table in the Riverview Club caught the overflow there.

The Riveredge Club on North Peters street, east of Friscoville, will reopen Saturday night or Monday, it was reported.

The opening up of the gambling houses in St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes followed a definitely reported conference Monday between Senator Long and two powerful political leaders of Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes.

These political figures are reported to have voiced the dissatisfaction among an element in the two parishes with Senator Long's using the state police to keep gambling establishments closed.

It was pointed out to Senator Long, it was said, that the overwhelming majorities Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes have been giving his candidates could be switched against him if the senator's attitude toward the gamblers did not change.

Governor O. K. Allen Thursday night in Baton Rouge said, "I have no comment to make," when asked about the gambling situation here.

riverviewtjm3att2

Times-Picayune—12jan1940

Excerpts from an election time hearing on gambling in St. Bernard Parish:

The building housing the River-View Club, Nuhrah asserted, is owned by "Charley Meraux." He added that he did not know who operated the club.

'About 10 Slot Machines'

George Shane, Jr., testified that he had seen "about 10 slot machines" at the River-View Club, and that on two or three Thursdays he had observed "Patois" removing money from the back of the machines.

"Did you see anyone else with Patois?" Mr. Perez asked.

"Yes. Charley Meraux. I was told that he was the owner."

Wesley Schmidt testified that in the past two months he had been in the River-View Club and had observed about 11 slot machines there.

"Patois took the money out," Schmidt asserted.

"Whom did you see supervising Patois?" Mr. Perez asked.

"Harry Fisher. It was on a Thursday."

'Meraux' Brother-in-Law'

"Is he related to Charley Meraux, and if he is, in what way?"

"He is Meraux' brother-in-law. Meraux was sick, and Harry Fisher was supervising Patois while he took the money out."

Herbert R. Payne was the final witness heard. He said in his father's "shop" in Arabi had been a slot machine placed there by "Patois."

"Who took it out?" Mr. Perez asked.

"Patois. About two weeks ago."

"Did you ask Patois whose machine it was he operated?"

"I did. He said it was Mr. Rowley's or Mr. Meraux'."

The Rowley mentioned above is C. F. "Dutch" Rowley. Rowley became sheriff of St. Bernard Parish in 1938 when Louis Meraux died (Rowley had been Meraux's chief deputy since 1924). Sheriff Rowley was quoted in the *Times-Picayune* in 1947 saying "I want it known everywhere that St. Bernard Parish is wide open." He testified before Kefauver in 1951:

Mr. RICE. Have you ever heard of the Riverview Club, Sheriff Rowley?

Mr. ROWLEY. What's that?

Mr. RICE. The Riverview Club.

Mr. ROWLEY. Yes, sir.

Mr. RICE. What business is it in? Is that in St. Bernard Parish?

Mr. ROWLEY. Yes, sir.

Mr. RICE. Where about is that located?

Mr. ROWLEY. That's located on Friscoville and North Peters.

Mr. RICE. Who runs that club?

Mr. ROWLEY. I couldn't say right offhand; it changes hands so often. I couldn't tell you who runs that club.

Mr. RICE. What goes on in that club?

Mr. ROWLEY. I couldn't say. I never have been in the club.

Mr. RICE. Never been in there? Did anyone ever tell you?

Mr. ROWLEY. Well now, that would be hearsay. I couldn't tell you if they said they were gambling or not because that would be hearsay.

Mr. RICE. We will accept the hearsay. What have you heard about the club?

Mr. ROWLEY. I heard lots of things that are not true. I hear a lot of things the newspapers publish that are not true.

Mr. RICE. Did you hear there was gambling going on in there?

Mr. ROWLEY. Oh, yes; I heard that, too.

Mr. RICE. Did you make any effort to check up on it?

Mr. ROWLEY. What's that?

Mr. RICE. Did you make any effort to check up on it when you heard that?

Mr. ROWLEY. The reason why—no, sir; I didn't. I admit I didn't check up on the gambling because of the simple reason that where I live we never had one complaint about gambling.

Mr. RICE. Uh huh.

Mr. ROWLEY. No; I'll tell you this: If 10 or 15 people would come to me and make a complaint about gambling, I would look into it and close it, but I wouldn't close it for one disgruntle, you understand; and I never even had one of them.

Riverviewtjm5

As we have seen in other "Illegal Of The Day" posts anybody that was somebody was called before the Kefauver Commission hearings on organized crime. <g>

Rowley was sheriff until his death in 1953. Here's a Jones Bros. chip die:



Riverviewtjm6att2

Rowley did not know anything about gambling? Wonder what he did with his personal chips. <g> I would love to find one of these.

Jones Bros. chip die for the Riverview Club:



Riverviewtjm7att2

I would trade for one of these.

The Riverview Club was a customer of Jones Bros. and Mason & Co., and they were also a customer of E. M. O'Neil (Kefauver testimony):

Mr. ROBINSON. You have done business with the River View Club, have you?

Mr. O'NEIL. Yes.

Mr. ROBINSON. Is that a large club?

Mr. O'NEIL. Well, at one time it was quite a place, but that end of New Orleans, the gambling kind of died out of it.

Riverviewtjm8att2

My note: First time I knew EM O'Neil was called before Kefauver but no surprise.

OK, here comes my big shock and surprise, I mentioned above. <g>

Colorado:

TJM

TJ Malouff

207 N. Commercial

Trinidad Co.

7/31/39 500 mixed

8/22/39 500 mixed

9/16/39 100wh

6/27/40 400Lav - 50Rd - 50BI no black

My note: The spelling of the name never once rang a bell to me before the research. Hard to believe but true story. <g>

Thomas Joseph Malouff, a Colorado native whose parents moved to Trinidad shortly after his birth in 1893. His father, an immigrant, was a merchant who had a successful corner store on Main St. Thomas opened a pool hall next to his father's store in the late 1910's. By 1923 Thomas had opened a pool hall at 207 N. Commercial which he was still operating into the early 30's (his brother William took over the pool hall at 506 W. Main, next to his fathers store). I'm not sure if he was still operating a pool hall or something else at 207 N. Commercial when the chips were delivered in 1939-40--I sent an email inquiry to a library; when they respond we should know what was there.

My note: I will update if and when the library comes back to us.

Because of your association with the Palms you might be interested to know that by all appearances the Malouff's of Trinidad are related to the Palms Maloof's—although I'm not sure exactly how.

About 130 miles south of Trinidad on I-25 is Las Vegas, New Mexico which is where the Palms Maloof's immigrated to. In 1953 a woman named Badre Malouff died in Las Vegas, NM. She was an immigrant from eastern Lebanon who settled in Trinidad, CO in the early 1900's but moved to Las Vegas, NM around 1914.

Her obit says that her funeral was attended by several out of town relatives including the Palms Maloof's grandfather Joe G. Maloof of Albuquerque, his brother John of Roswell, NM, as well as several of Thomas Malouff's siblings from Trinidad, CO and Sante Fe, New Mexico. (Thomas Malouff was deceased by then).

My note: Joe G. Maloof also immigrated from Lebanon and started the Maloof fortune with a road side stand in New Mexico. I have sent this research to George Maloof. He was pleased to see it and promised me he would look into the connection between the two families.

Badre is Arabic for "full moon" and Badre Malouff sometimes is referred to as Moon, as in this Las Vegas, NM article

The article has Moon Malouff's name spelled Moon Maloof. She also had a pool hall in Las Vegas, NM and tried to beat the Federal Prohibition laws but looks like the federal liquor agents caught her. <g>

from 1928:



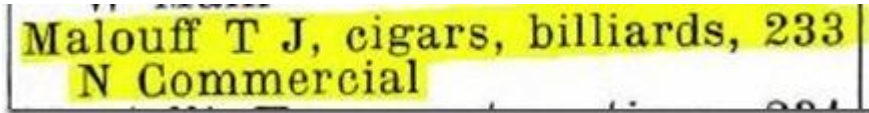
As we have seen in the past old illegal chips can tell us a heck of a story. IMO, this one is as good as it gets. <g>

Without the history, they are only little pieces of clay.

4/2/11 update.

Finally heard from the Denver Library (nothing yet from Trinidad's).

The Denver Library sent this info from the 1939 Colorado State Business Directory:



TJM2att2

The 1939 chip delivery address was 207 N. Commercial. Malouff's billiard hall on N. Commercial was originally located at 207, but apparently some time in the 1930's he moved it a few doors down to 233. He's probably residing upstairs at 207 when the chips are delivered (he was in 1930).

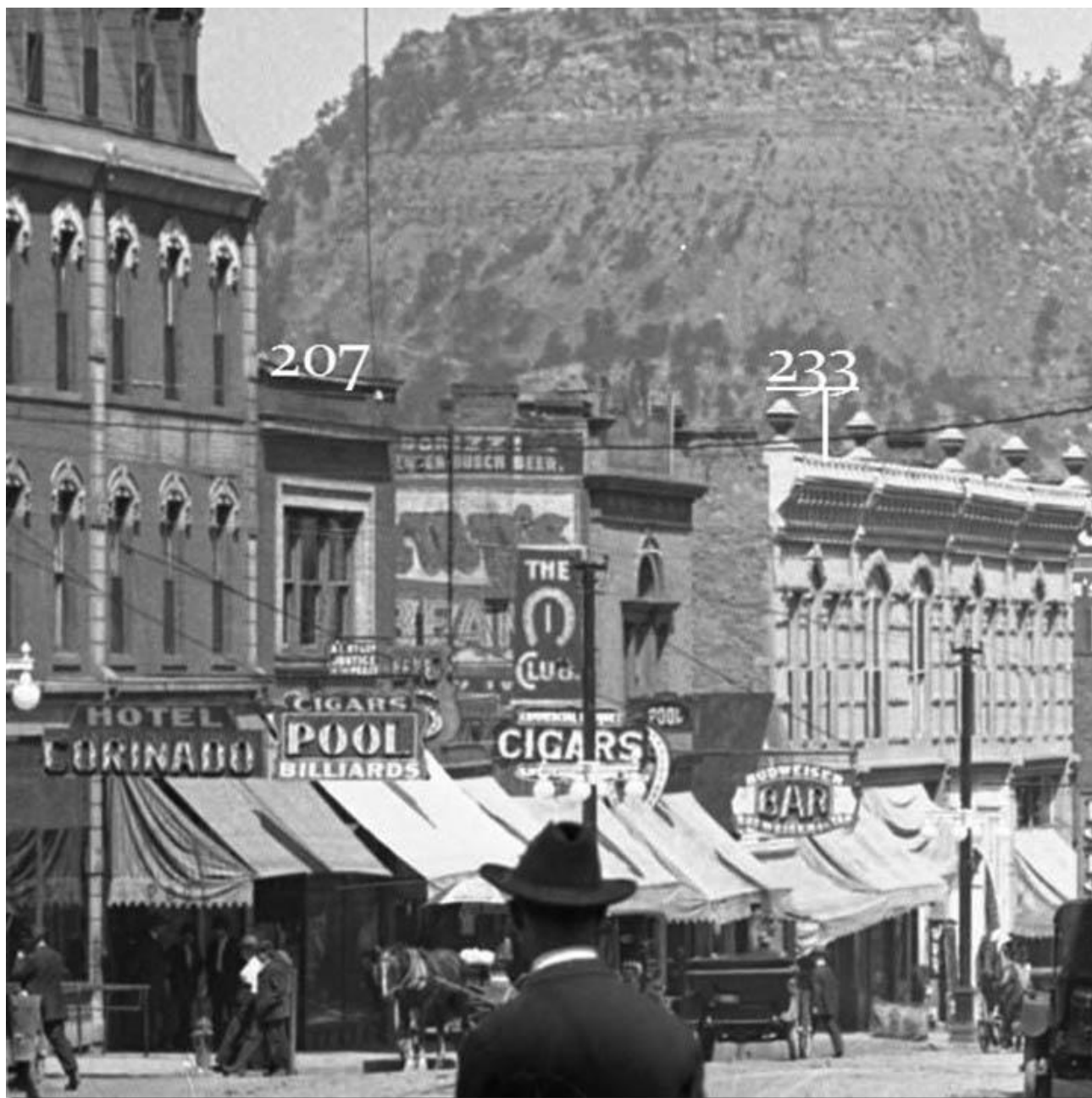
My note: We now have a Club name for the chips. "Malouff's Billiard Hall"

Here's a photo of N. Commercial from 1939 which shows both addresses (ground level 207 is a bar & grill in 1939):



TJM3att2

A photo from 1916 which shows that for many years pool halls, bars and cigar stores were to be found on that part of N. Commercial:



TJM4att2

