

The "Strip," Highway 41, running from Henderson, Kentucky to Evansville, Indiana was a cluster of illegal gambling joints for years. There are a number of the "Strip" clubs and their chips documented in our hobby. They ran relatively free from police intervention. I am guessing it was due mainly from paying off several different police jurisdictions. City, county, and state police had a hard time figuring out which one should go after them. <g>

The end result was Estes Kefauver scared the crap out of them. <g> In effect many just closed, on their own.

Kefauver not good for business:



WBW9att2

"It's that _____ Kefauver."

I wonder what the _____ word was? <g> Anyone care to take a guess? No prize if you get it right. <g>

Enough of that:

Kentucky:

William "Bill" Benjamin Walker

Walkers Tavern

Club 101

The Commando/Commando Club, Little Commando


Highway 41

Henderson< Ky

Chips delivered 1945 through 1950

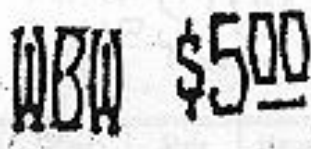


chip16519 att2

Name <u>W. WALKER</u>				SPECIAL MONOGRAM				
Address <u>HENDERSON</u>								
Town <u>HENDERSON</u> State <u>KY</u>								
Per <u>T. design</u>								
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
4000	Green			WBW	50¢	Block	Gold	12-4-45
100	Black			WBW	50.00	"	"	12-4-45
6500	Orange (45)	Block	WBW	50¢	"	Blue		10-15-47
2000	Lt Blue	"	"	"	5.00	"	Yellow	10-15-47

WBW

I have the orange and the green 50¢ chips. I also have a black 50¢. Card says black is \$50. My black chip must be a mistake in the production or a mistake on the record card.

Name <u>Wm. WALKER</u>				SPECIAL MONOGRAM				
Address <u>910 WALKERS TAVERN</u>								
Town <u>HENDERSON</u> State <u>KY</u>								
Per <u>HARP DESIGN</u>								
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
2000	GRAY	—	—	WBW	5.00	Block	GOLD	3-8-46

WBW2

There are also \$5.00 harp molds. Does anyone have one of them? I need one.

NAME Cleib 101 Inc (H. Walker) 50¢ SPECIAL MONOGRAM
 Address RR #1
 Town Henderson State Ky.
 Per T. Chew - Hwy Burt Commando \$500 \$2500

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
3079	dk Blue		Script	50¢			Gold	6.21.50
806	Pink		"	50¢	Commando	Spur	Silver	6.21.50
251	Gray		"	25¢			Gold	6.21.50
HENDERSON				KY				

WBW10att2

I need one of these if anyone has a trader or one to sell.

NAME Clarence Fambrough SPECIAL MONOGRAM THE
 Address 40 Little Commando
 Town Henderson State Ky
 Per Heavy T. design (Burt) \$500 \$2500 COMMANDO

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
2000	Orange	24¢ Commando	Circular				Silver	3.16.50
800	Black		"	24¢ Commando	5.00	Black	Gold	3.16.50
200	White		"	"	25.00	"	"	3.16.50

Geeez another one I need! Anyone have a trader?

"The Commando" chips sent to Clarence Henry Fambrough. His connection is described below.

Enter our Friend Of the Hobby:

WBW

Clarence Henry Fambrough, born KY 1905; supposedly built the Commando in the 1940's; sold it to Walker in 1950; moved to Long Beach, CA in the 50's and died there in 1969.

Look forward to hearing what you find out from the son.

William "Bill" Benjamin Walker, a Kentucky native, died Henderson, KY 1979 age 74. Walker was also associated with the Club Commando in Henderson which he supposedly purchased in 1950.

A son of Walker's still living in Henderson, age 78 (Tulane educated lawyer):

My note: I talked to Ulvester and Marianne Walker. Nice people and thrilled I had found the Walker's Tavern chips. Ulvester has dice from several of the "Strip" clubs but no chips. He will try to scan the dice for me. If so I will post an update to this post. I sent them a link to many of the "Illegal Of The Day" posts.

Enter Marianne and Ulvester: Son and daughter in law of William Walker.

Gene,

Thank you for calling us. We enjoyed talking with you.

Ulvester read many of the articles, but I did not have much time to do so this evening. Both of us look forward to reading more, and, of course, we are very interested in the one you are writing about Ulvester's dad's places. You have an interesting and unusual hobby.

We look forward to hearing from you again soon.

All good wishes,

Marianne and Ulvester

Gene,

(1) The name (on The Commando Card) is probably Clarence Fambrough--there was such a person.

(2) Walker's Tavern and Club 101 were in the same location. It was originally Walker's Tavern. My father apparently decided to incorporate the business as Club 101 in the late "40's" (for liability reasons I suppose). The Commando was in a different location. Walker's was located on the strip approximately 2 blocks north of the City limits between 14th street and Herron Avenue where a car wash presently exists. The Commando Club was located approximately 1/2 a mile further north on the strip closer to Evansville. Both were on Highway 41 and were a part of the strip. You should be aware the Kasey Klub was not located on the strip. It was on highway 41 but it was south of the City of Henderson approximately 2 miles. The strip was the area between the North city limits (Of Henderson) and Evansville, IN. Hope this helps.

Ulvester

My note: The Kasey Club will be featured in another "Illegal Of The Day" post.

In past "Illegal Of The Day" posts we have seen a number of ways local thugs have tried to extort money from illegal club operators. The Shelton gang in southern Illinois is the first one that comes to my mind. But I don't remember them resorting to dynamite. <g>

Kentucky New Era—8 April 1949:

Dynamite Rips Henderson Cafe In Gaming War

Rival Slot Machine
Groups Blamed For
Fourth Such Blast

Henderson, Ky., April 8.—(AP)—The Right Quick Cafe was rocked by a dynamite explosion today, the fourth such occurrence here in recent weeks.

Investigating officers said a stick of dynamite apparently was thrown through a coal window at the rear of the building. The cafe had been closed for the night.

The explosion also rocked the Henderson Gleaner-Journal and the Kentucky Bakery, located near the cafe. The cafe is located in the center of the business area.

Walker's Tavern, a short distance outside the city, was damaged by a dynamite explosion about three weeks ago. Pearson's Tavern, nearby, was rocked by a similar explosion April 1.

WBW2att2

Another Taylor customer:

Rite Quick Cafe
Tom Behan
Henderson, Ky.

WBW3att2

This info came from the Taylor Company customer list that was compiled for the Kefauver Commission subpoena. I searched the Taylor chip records for any combination of initials that matched the Rite Quick Café or Tom Behan's name. Came up with nada. My guess is they bought dice from Taylor.

Kentucky New Era—14 April 1949:

Owner Of Dynamited Tavern Tells Of Threatening Calls

Henderson, Ky., April 14—(P)—The operator of one dynamited Henderson County tavern testified today he had received several threatening telephone calls from Richard (Dickie) Stevens.

Bill Walker, whose tavern was dynamited March 20 as the first in a series of four reported dynamitings in and near Henderson, testified it was Stevens' voice which made the threats.

Some of the calls were made in Henderson and some in Evansville, across the Ohio River, Walker testified.

He was the first witness called in examining trials for Stevens, 35, Harvey Meyers, 33, Harry Rednour, 33, and James McCormick, 19. They are charged with banding and confederating to commit an illegal act. The illegal act was described as causing damaging explosions.

Meantime, Marilyn Ringle, 16-year-old school girl and one of the commonwealth's key witnesses, was arrested today on charges of perjury and held under \$2,500

bond.

The girl testified in a court of inquiry earlier this week about trips she made to two dynamited taverns with three of the defendants. The perjury warrants were signed by Meyers, Rednour and McCormick, whom she implicated in the dynamitings.

These three, held under \$5,000 bond each, and Stevens were in court for their examining trials before County Judge Fred Vogel. The hearings started shortly before.

Walker's Tavern was the first place to be dynamited. It was followed a week later by the dynamiting of Pearson's tavern. Both are outside the Henderson city limits.

A jeep was stolen from the street here March 26, driven out in the county and destroyed by dynamite. The Rite Quick Cafe was dynamited April 8.

Officers have speculated that the dynamitings were committed in an effort to extort money from nightclub owners.

WBW4att2

16 year old school girl involved. <g>

Logansport Pharos—8march1951 (sore loser with a good lawyer):

Rule Man Who Lost Shirt in Crap Game Entitled to Refund

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 8—
AP—The third district Illinois ap-
pellate court today ordered a \$1,-
500 refund to a man who lost his
shirt in a dice game at Hender-
son, Ky.

G. M. Young, a livestock dealer
from Murphysboro, Tenn., stopped
at the Walker tavern at Henderson
while going home from a livestock
sale in December, 1948. He got in-
to a dice game.

Young lost all his cash, and then
went next door to a tourist court
and cashed a \$1,500 check with
William Walker, the court owner.
He lost the \$1,500 rolling dice, too.

Young later ordered payment
on the check stopped, however.
The Kansas, Ill., State Bank, on
which the check was drawn, filed
suit in Edgar county circuit court
to determine to whom the money
should go. Walker also sued.

Young claimed that the tavern
was owned and operated by
Walker, and that Young should
get the money back because he
got no "legal consideration" for it.
Walker said he had given up his
interest in the tavern and didn't
know what Young wanted the
money for when he cashed the
check.

The Edgar county circuit court
upheld Young's point of view, and
said he should get his money back.
The appellate court agreed today.

We have seen this type of law suit before. Geez. I've been gambling for 50 years and never blamed anyone but myself for losses. <g>

Kentucky New Era—24 April 1952 (the "but officer, we're playing *bridge*" excuse again; "porker chips" found; Robert West mentioned is Walker's son-in-law)

Troopers Raid Henderson Club

18 Pounce On House As Gambling Probed

Henderson, Ky., April 24. (AP)—Operators reportedly trying a comeback along the "Strip," a once-notorious lineup of gambling houses were served a warning last night when state police raided one of the bright spots.

Eighteen troopers moved in on the Commando Club shortly before midnight.

They found nothing more than four men playing cards—"bridge," they said—but the raiders arrested two men on charges of setting up and operating a game of chance.

Officers said the charge was based on the discovery of considerable gambling equipment — a dice table folded up in a corner of the "back room" and a cabinet loaded with porker chips and other gaming equipment.

The operation started with a rendezvous at Madisonville, about 50 miles away. Five automobiles loaded with troopers reached the Commando at 11:25 p.m. CST.

They went straight to the back room and found seven men. The four "bridge players," they said, were seated at a table. One man was watching.

None of the five was arrested, but the other two were. William Walker, who identified himself as president of the club, and Robert E. West, who said he was vice-president, were booked on the

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TROOPERS RAID

—Continued From Page One

gambling charges.

The "Strip" runs about a mile and a half north of the Henderson city limits along U. S. Highway 41. Large-scale gambling was carried on there until last August, when the operators mysteriously closed up and hauled away their gambling equipment.

The Henderson Good Government League reported recently that gambling halls were opening up again.

WBW6att2

Anyone have any of those "PORKER" chips describe above. <g>

They should have claimed they were playing Tonk instead of bridge. Troopers might have believed them.
<g> Tonk used to be a "big" gambling card game in KY/IN/OH/ TN in the 1950' -70's. I used to be a pretty good Tonk player. <g>



WBW7att2

Little Commando Loses License

Frankfort, Ky., June 11 — Liquor and beer licenses of the Little Commando near Henderson were revoked by the state yesterday on gambling charges.

Seven other licensees were wiped out while permits of six other places were suspended on various charges. The Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control Board took the action.

Permits of six Louisville places, including the Trianon Nite Club, were revoked. Frank and Ray Columbia, Lexington, lost their beer license.

The Little Commando, operated by Club 101, Inc., had been among Henderson County night clubs, raided by state police.

It was charged with operating gambling games the nights of March 29 and April 5. Revocation of its liquor and beer permits becomes effective midnight June 28.

WBW8att2

And finally the “END” comes, as all good gig’s do, “The Era Of The Illegals” came to a screeching halt in the early 1950’s. The Estes Kefauver hearings were devastating on the illegals in most states.

Except for the Lookout House, Covington/Newport, KY avoided the Kefauver commission sweeping shut down of the illegals. Moe Dalitz’s deal with the commission to give up the Lookout in exchange for them staying out of N KY, gave Newport illegals 10 more years of operation. I know of no other such deal.