

"Illegal Of The Day" number 125.

OK, here is a good one, maybe the most documented "Illegal Of The Day" since the Jason Lee-Hawaiian Club, Chicago-Monte Carlo, research.

My guess is, only you die hard illegal collectors will take the time to read and appreciate this research.

If you only want to put names to your chips.

White House Club.
Highwood Recreation.
North Shore Recreation.
1930's-40's-50's.
Highwood, IL

If you are die hard illegal chip collector, READ ON!

My note: Mike Vuolo found the 2 fonts of the HR, WHC, and the DL chips in what was advertised as an estate sale. I have seen them sold in the same lots several times over the years. No doubt in my mind they are all connected to the Highwood, IL area.

The following documents over 50 years of gambling, bootlegging, and catering to the US Army in Highwood, IL. As always in the Chicago area everything illegal comes back to Al Capone. <g>

Enough of that:

Illinois:



WHC1att2

I have had this ID for years, came thru Allan Meyers from Howard Hertz.

No card for the HR on the left.

The orange one is
Mitchell Beaudin
400 Waukegan Ave
Highwood, IL

900 orange, 400 red, 200 yellow, 9/30/37 100 green, 200 white - 11/23/37

There is a good chance the white HR font was used on 2nd order, per Howard Hertz.

Hertz could not find the 2nd HR order in the Mason records. The new owners of the Mason records spent some time looking for it. Still not found. To be fair there are over 22,000 Mason records and very hard to search, per them, due to Special Fonts category. IMO, Hertz is right on his assumption of the 2nd HR font. I need the orange HR font in the scan. Cough it up if you have a trader. <g>

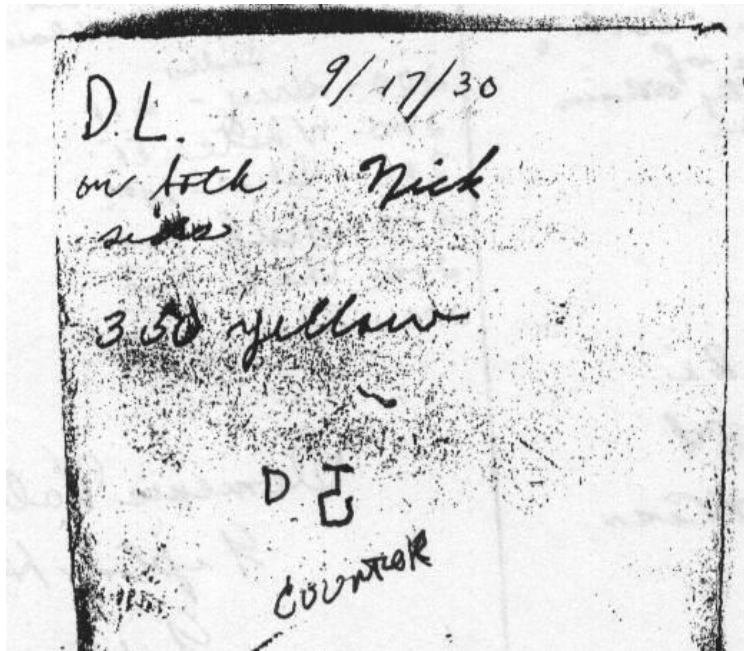


WHC2att2

W.H.C. CHAIN 9/1/36.
400-YEL. } Tom Economas
WHC both sides } 25 S-lay & d
Highwood 2cl
White House S-lub
Reordered 9/4/36
600-YEL. - same as above

WHC3att2

My note: No doubt on the WHC.



WHC4att2

The DL and the White House Club chips have also been found together for years. I am crediting the DL to Highwood, IL. This is the notation I make on a chip ID like this, "IFFY. <g>

Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

Got some stuff on the HR and WHC but couldn't come up with anything that could hold water on the DL.

For most of the first half of the 20th century Highwood, Illinois had a reputation as a tavern town. Highwood got this reputation primarily because it was a favorite recreation spot for soldiers from neighboring Fort Sheridan. In 1907 Highwood, population around 300, had 2 grocery stores, 1 drugstore, 2 churches and 13 saloons—the US Army estimated that soldiers from Ft. Sheridan spent between \$300,000-\$400,000 in Highwood during that year. By WWII the population was around 3,700 with around 50 taverns.

Here's a couple of snips from the Chicago Tribune describing Highwood:
My note: 50 minute ride on EL from Chicago to reach Highwood.

from 1989:

For more than half a century Highwood has been playing the role of Tijuanalike border town to prim, proper Lake Forest and Highland Park. Old-timers recall how, in seasons past, that part was even more dramatically scripted.

"Back in Prohibition days, whole trainloads of gamblers used to come up here," recalled Mayor Fidel Ghini, 75, pointing to the place the Chicago and North Shore's tracks formerly paralleled the North Western's right of way. That abandoned trolley line, the mayor explained, was once the town's fun-and-games link to the wider world. For those who make a living catering to their fellow man's desire to beat the odds, it was a railroad made in heaven.

In Chicago, the North Shore's trains ran on the elevated tracks, so the city's Damon Runyon set could climb aboard in the Loop. Fifty minutes later, after a high-speed ride through some of the Chicago area's most bucolic real estate, the trolley cars would let the passengers off within walking distance of a spirited poker game or high-stakes craps table.

WHC5att2

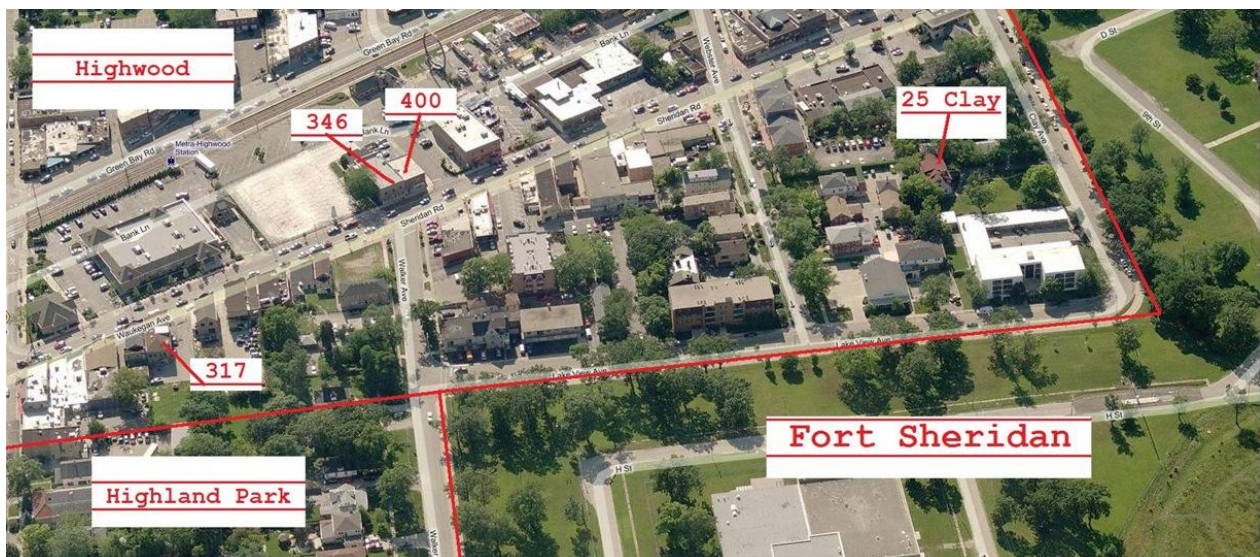
from 1982:

It wasn't so long ago that Highwood was an Army town, loose and ungovernable. That was back in the '40s and '50s, when Highwood was a notorious gambling den.

SOLDIERS FROM adjoining Ft. Sheridan walked over by the thousands with beltbags of money, attracted by promises of all-day beer busts and stud poker. Many departed with only trousers and shoes. Bars were big then. In its heyday during and after World War II, close to 50 taverns did business in Highwood.

WHC6Att2

Here's a current aerial showing the borders of Highwood, Highland Park and Ft. Sheridan and the locations of the chip deliveries at 25 Clay, 400 Waukegan and 317 Waukegan. Waukegan Ave. and Sheridan Rd. are the same street. 346 Waukegan will be mentioned below. The White House Club was on Route 22, also known as Half Day Road—the road begins just to the left of the edge of the photo.



WHC7att2

About 8 months after Mitchell Beaudin's Nov. 1937 HR chip order, his place is raided. The chip delivery address was 400 Waukegan but the raid took place at 346 Waukegan—the locations were next door to each other. Beaudin was a native of Highland Park and died there in 1959 at age 65 (his father a native of France). The article spells his French surname like it sounds: Bowden.

Chicago Tribune—10 July 1938:

My note: 100 private citizens raid the joints and make citizens arrests.

Citizens Raid 243 Lake Co. Gaming Spots

More than 100 special constables swarmed over Lake county late yesterday and last night in one of the most astonishing mass gambling raids in the county's history. Within seven hours they invaded 243 gaming spots. Most of them operated slot machines and pin ball games. The others were handbooks. In all 85 slot machines, containing \$301, were seized.

Directed neither by the sheriff nor the state's attorney, the widespread raids remained for some time a mystery. When explained, they took on the hue of a Carrie Nation exploit. The inspiration for the raids came from a young man only 22 years old. The moral and presumably the financial backing came from the Women's Christian Temperance union, ministers, church members, and others.

Swears Out 243 Warants.

The young man is Douglas Warner, a radio mechanic of Zion. He appeared yesterday before Justice of the Peace Henry A. Hansen of Highland Park, and swore out 243 gambling warants. It was reported last night that Warner coöperated in this with his older brother, Claude Warner, a former private detective, and now an agent for a collection agency. Claude Warner was described as one of the leaders.

After swearing out warants, young Warner faded from sight. His place was taken by a small army of private detectives and retired policemen—most of them from Chicago. Justice Hansen promptly swore them in as deputies. He handed them the warants.

Then they started out on their raiding expedition. They carried crowbars as well as the warants. They left in squads in sedans. Several large trucks, to be used to carry away slot machines, followed.

600 Patrons Driven Out.

The raiders first struck in Waukegan, North Chicago and Highwood. Of the sixteen handbooks visited, most were in those communities. In one, Mitchell Bowden's at 346 Waukegan avenue, Highwood, 600 patrons were routed.

Within the next hour the constables were in Libertyville, Fox Lake, Antioch, Lake Villa, Wauconda, Round Lake, Barrington, Lake Zurich, and other towns. They broke, confiscated, or attempted to confiscate slot machines and pinball games. Most of the slot machines were imbedded in concrete to foil hijackers. They also foiled the raiders. Unable to uproot them, the constables sealed them. Pinball games are licensed in Libertyville. The police there mistook a squad of raiders for hoodlums and arrested them. Credentials supplied by Justice Hansen straightened out the error.

Not surprisingly, the actions of the leader of these raids, Claude Warner, were not appreciated by everybody—including Mitchell Beaudin's younger brother Ambrose.

Chicago Tribune—23July1938:

My note: Casino operators strike back at the reform raiders. <g>

Reform Raider Charges Plot to Frame Him

Claude Warner, volunteer leader of gambling raids in Lake county two weeks ago, charged last night that an attempt was made to frame him as a reprisal for his raids. He said that persons who were angered by the closing of the gaming resorts trumped up grand larceny charges against him at Galena, in Jo Daviess county. He declared these charges were to be used to spirit him out of Lake county.

Warner is a former private detective. On July 10 and 11 he led a citizens' group in a series of sensational raids on 243 Lake county gambling spots. Ninety-four slot machines and twenty-five pin ball machines were seized. Thirty-four persons were arrested.

Hoodlum Considered Boss.

Leo Mongoven, Chicago hoodlum, is regarded as the boss of the slot machine racket in northern Lake county. Residents of the county had been threatened when they objected to the wide open gambling. The citizens' group which inspired Warner's raids demanded and obtained an outside special prosecutor in the gambling cases. He is Attorney Charles Jack, head of the Lake County Bar association.

The gaming devices have been idle in the county since the raids. But there has been no quiet in Warner's life. On July 12 he was charged with embezzling \$321 from the collection agency for which he worked. He was also dismissed from his job at about the same time.

Seized and Released.

Thursday he spent five hours in the Waukegan jail on larceny charges contained in a warrant from Galena. He was released when State's Attorney Donald M. Eaton of Jo Daviess county telegraphed Sheriff Lawrence A. Doolittle of Lake county that the statute of limitations had outlawed the charge.

Freed from jail he found all the tires of his auto slashed and the wiring torn loose. He had the car repaired and drove to Galena yesterday to find out who was back of his arrest. On his return last night he disclosed a strange series of events behind the issuance of the larceny warrant.

Story Starts in 1932.

The story goes back to 1932. Warner was then employed by a private detective agency cooperating with Jo Daviess county authorities in investigating liquor traffic and vice there. One of the men under Warner was Ambrose Beaudin.

"Ambrose is a brother of Mitchell Beaudin," Warner said. "Mitchell was one of those seized in the raids two weeks ago in connection with the operation of a handbook in Highwood. He is charged with possessing gambling devices.

"When we were investigating in Jo Daviess county six years ago, we raided a purported disorderly house between Galena and East Dubuque. The owner was Joseph Jungwirth. Several days later he complained that a pen and pencil set worth \$55 had been stolen in the raid. I hadn't taken it and I questioned Beaudin

[Continued on page 10, column 3.]

WHC9att2

REFORM RAIDER CHARGES PLOT TO FRAME HIM

Tells of Reprisals in Slot Machine War.

[Continued from first page.]

and the other men and they also denied taking it."

The story then jumps to July 11—a day after the Lake county gambling raids.

"Ambrose Beaudin, accompanied by a lawyer, went to T. P. Bahwell, a justice of the peace in Galena," Warner continued. "Beaudin said he wanted a warrant issued for me on a charge of grand larceny in connection with the disappearance of the pen and pencil set. He flashed a star and said he was from the board of election commissioners of Waukegan. There is no such body.

"Beaudin signed as complainant and got the warrant. Then he went to the home of State's Attorney Eaton there and told Eaton to notify Lake county authorities to arrest me and hold me for Jo Daviess authorities. Eaton told me Friday [yesterday] that he informed Beaudin the warrant was no good. The statute of limitations in larceny cases bars prosecution three years after the crime, and the warrant was for an offense alleged to have occurred six years ago.

Warns Sheriff Not to Act.

"Then Beaudin told Eaton: 'We don't plan to prosecute. Just get Warner to Galena. We'll pay all expenses as soon as your sheriff gets to Waukegan. Eaton told Beaudin to leave, called Sheriff Jack Stewart of Jo Daviess county, and warned him not to act on the warrant.'

Now, according to Warner's story, enters a mysterious person who gave the name of James W. Stevens, believed to be fictitious. Stevens appeared Thursday before Justice of the Peace Bahwell in Galena.

"Stevens asked for a new warrant for my arrest," Warner said. "This, I believe, was because Beaudin's attempt had failed. Stevens erased Beaudin's name as complainant from Bahwell's docket. Stevens got the new warrant from Bahwell and had it dated back to July 1. Then he had Bahwell send a telegram to Sheriff Doolittle, stating there was a warrant for my arrest and to notify Jo Daviess authorities when I was seized. The telegram stated that the warrant was following the message."

Doolittle Spoils Plan.

Warner said he believed the plan was to send hoodlums to Lake county representing themselves as Jo Daviess deputy sheriffs, get custody of him, and take him out of the county. But Sheriff Doolittle contacted Galena authorities, learned the warrant was not valid, and Warner was released.

Warner said last night that he plans to turn over his information to Special Prosecutor Jack today.

11 days after the raid at Beaudin's place the White House is raided by the sheriff.

Chicago Tribune—21 July 1938:

My note: The sheriff thinks he better get in on the raids. Too bad he didn't move first. <g>

SHERIF BECOMES REFORMER, TOO; HE MAKES A RAID

For the first time since June 9, when a Lake county reform group started gambling raids, Sheriff Lawrence A. Doolittle yesterday made a raid. His deputies arrested George Johnson and George Sikokis for operating an alleged handbook in the White House tavern at Half Day.

Earlier Claude Warner, leader of the reform raiders, arrested Thomas Shanyfelt, 72 years old, for operating a slot machine in his tavern west of Waukegan. At the request of Special Prosecutor Charles E. Jack, Warner was made a special deputy sheriff.

During the day Jack received word from Attorney General Otto Kerner to proceed fearlessly with the gambling investigation.

WHC11att2

The WHC chips were delivered to 25 Clay St. in Highwood c/o Tom Economos. 25 Clay is a residential address. The 2400 sq. ft. 2 story structure was only 8 years old when the chips were delivered and sits directly across the street from Ft. Sheridan. Supposedly many private homes were used as blind pigs during prohibition and it wouldn't surprise me if the address had more than residential living going on there, although I saw no evidence that there was.

There were several Tom Economos' in the Chicagoland area in the 1930's and I was unable to pin down which one was the guy getting the chips. He may be the same Tom Economos who described himself in the early 1940's as being employed at the Como Inn on Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. The Como Inn was a legendary Italian restaurant which was patronized by members of Chicago's underworld from Al Capone to the current day Duff family. According to the FBI and the Chicago Tribune, the last known initiations of "made men" into the Chicago outfit took place in the 1980's at the Como Inn.

In 1939 a newspaper did an expose on crooked gambling and one of the places mentioned as receiving some from Mason & Co. was the White House (I'm sending the entire article as a separate attachment):

My notes: This article is too big to upload. Link provided.

It documents the Mason Company making crooked dice, wheels. and other crooked gambling equipment for the White House and other customers.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/mmdn.jpg>

Description of dice. Most illegal operators wanted more than their fair share of the gambling odds. They called it gambling with an "EDGE." <g>

A delivery order calls for 10 pairs of No. 520 dice, 10 pairs of 705A and one pair of 250A to Ralph Hutchins, care of the Villa Moderne, Skokie road and County Line road. No. 520 are honest dice.

No. 705A are described in the catalogue as "cut edge work, to favor ace and six," while No. 250A, a popular seller, from its frequent appearance on order blanks, are the "new idea flats," or "miss-outs," calculated to narrow considerably the player's chance of making his point.

An old order in the files, carrying the name of the same person, Ralph Hutchins, in care of the White House Tavern at Half Day, lists four pairs of honest dice, four pairs of No. 705A and one pair of the old reliable No. 250A.

WHC12att2

In the article you sent from April 1944, it was said that the White House closed in October 1942 and as a consequence the North Shore Recreation had been operating in Highwood. Here's a 1944 order card from the Taylor records:

Name <u>NORTH SHORE RECREATION</u>				SPECIAL MONOGRAM				
Address _____				NRS \$2500 \$10000				
Town <u>HIGHWOOD,</u> State <u>ILL.</u>								
Per _____								
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram	Date Shipped
100	PINK			N.R.S.	10000	Block	SILVER	4-5-44
100	ORANGE			N.R.S.	2500	"	"	4-5-44

WHC13att2

I need these chips. Cough them up if you have traders.

Article from 16nov1943:

Gamblers Near Army, Navy Posts, Report

CHICAGO — (U.P.) — Law enforcement authorities said Monday that the grand jury investigation of Chicago's syndicated gambling has driven gamblers into Lake county near Ft. Sheridan and the Great Lakes naval training station.

Most of the Lake county gambling activity was reported to be centered at Highwood, a town of 3,700 population, where an elaborate gambling establishment known as the North Shore recreation is being operated, reportedly by Chicago gambling interests.

WHC14att2

A week and a half after the date of the article you sent, North Shore still being raided, Highwood still collecting \$200.

Chicago Tribune--9may1944

GAMBLERS MARK LINE IN BUDGET FOR 'A CRUSADE'

Highwood 'Mayor' Hopes for Daily Fines.

BY THOMAS MORROW.

The crusade against evil by Fidel Ghini, mayor pro tem of Highwood, went forward yesterday with a minimum of discomfort for the gamblers of the vicinity.

Mayor Pro Tem Ghini's new chief of police, Ted Benvenuti, raided the North Shore Recreation room, 317 Waukegan av., Highwood, horse race betting establishment, and arrested Ray Schultz. A fine of \$200 was levied by Police Magistrate Nello Ori.

"Do not let this disturb you," said a spokesman for the recreation parlor to his 50 customers. "A daily fine of \$200 will fit nicely into our operating expenses budget. We will be open tonight and you may play dice, roulette, poker, black jack. Tomorrow the race betting will proceed on schedule."

\$200 Daily Thru Raids.

Ghini announced that the place will be raided daily. He said the \$200 fines might make it possible to buy a fire engine, a street sweeper, or even to employ a new city attorney.

Meanwhile City Atty. Bernard Juron held that none of Ghini's actions has the faintest scent of legality.

"The mayor pro tem is mayor pro tem only in his own mind," said Juron. "If he really wanted to close the gambling place he could smash the equipment and keep it closed. His daily fine is illegal, his actions as mayor are illegal."

WHC15att2

After WWII an ex-GI sends a letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune. Apparently the White House didn't stay closed.

7aug1946:

LAKE COUNTY GAMBLING

Highland Park, Ill., Aug. 3—The letter on slot machine gambling in Lake county is an old story hereabouts, and is only a small part of a sordid picture of petty politicians and hoodlums, getting fat at the expense of the returned GI and the gullible public.

During the war, a group from Highland and the vicinity of Fort Sheridan reaped a golden harvest from the boys in the service, with phony crap games, bookies, and bum liquor, while the big dealers at the Vernon club in Deerfield and the Whitehouse at Half Day have been going to town on a 24 hour a day basis, welcoming the returned GI with his mustering out pay, as well as the luxury loving, thrill seeking wives of some of our more substantial neighbors.

They do everything but greet you with a brass band at these joints, park and watch your car, while on the inside it would remind you of a busy morning on the board of trade, with shills, mostly petty hoods from Chicago, manning the crap, blackjack, roulette, and other tables. Yes, the boys in Lake county are doing nicely. Thank you. X. G. I.

WHC16att2

In 1948 Rocco Fischetti was indicted for his involvement with gambling operations at both the White House and the Vernon Country Club mentioned above. Fischetti was Al Capone's 1st cousin and a major figure in the Chicago underworld.

Chicago Tribune—8jan1948:

JURY INDICTS 4 IN LAKE COUNTY GAMBLING PROBE

Rocco Fischetti's Arrest Ordered

The Lake county grand jury late yesterday indicted an executive of the Capone gambling syndicate and three other men for gambling operations at the White House in route 22, east of Half Day, and at the Vernon Country club in Saunders rd., west of Deerfield.

Those named were Rocco Fischetti, 3100 Lake Shore dr., an officer in the Capone syndicate; August Liebe, 3644 Lake Shore dr.; Leo F. Weiss, alias Tom Williams, of Mundelein, and John Kelly of Highland Park.

\$15,000 Bonds For Two

At the request of Special Prosecutor Okel S. Fuqua, whom he appointed to make the gambling investigation, Circuit Judge Ralph J. Dady set bonds of \$15,000 each for Weiss and Kelly and \$13,000 each for Fischetti and Liebe.

The court issued capias for the arrest of the men and turned them over to Sheriff Walter L. Atkinson for service.

The indictments charge the gambling violations occurred as of Sept. 1, 1947, and resulted from an investigation begun Dec. 1. Previously, on Oct. 9, Sheriff Atkinson had issued a shutdown order on gambling thruout Lake county.

Expect Other Indictments

Six indictments were returned, naming the four men in various combinations and charges. The grand jurors will resume their investigation next week and it is expected other indictments will be forthcoming.

All four men were accused of conspiracy to keep a handbook at the White House; keeping a gaming house at the Vernon country club; operating gambling devices there, and conspiracy to keep a common gambling house at the same club.

In addition, Weiss and Kelly were charged with bookmaking at the White House and one of the indictments contained a count naming Liebe as owner of the Vernon Country club.

Two Named Operators

Fischetti and Williams were said to have been the operators of both gambling houses with Kelly acting as day manager and Liebe as night manager at the Vernon club.

The Vernon club was the scene of varied types of gambling, including roulette, dice, and blackjack.

With this phase of his investigation closed, Fuqua said he would move against slot machine and bookie operators in other parts of the county.

Lastly, here's an article from 1950—White House still going.

Chicago Tribune—1july1950

GAMING JOINTS ARE HUMMING IN LAKE COUNTY

Survey Reveals They Are Running Wide Open

Gambling is wide open again in Lake county—handbooks, slot machines, cards, and dice—in the elaborate joints, in the back rooms of cigar stores, and at the lake resorts, a survey showed yesterday.

The seasonal opening up, in anticipation of the heavy summer traffic, took place about May 15 and was in full swing for the Memorial day week-end.

John T. Jarecki, collector of internal revenue for this district, has reported that 524 tax stamps were issued for Lake county slot machines. A tour thru the county yesterday indicated that most of them were in use.

Plenty Doing in West

Very few were in evidence east of Skokie highway, but there were plenty going in the western part of the county and in the Antioch and Fox Lake tavern and resort districts.

There was no attempt to conceal them. In some places, spot lights were trained on banks of the machines so that visitors who might drop a few nickels, dimes, quarters, or half dollars would be sure to see them.

Handbooks for placing bets on the races were equally available. Doors were open to the back rooms of taverns, cigar stores, and even barber shops where loudspeakers announced race results and clerks were busy taking bets.

One exception to the "welcome mat" policy was found. The notorious White House in route 22 [Half Day rd.] east of route 45 was operating with good attendance but behind closed doors.

Lookout Bars Reporter

The cars of about 20 customers were parked around the place, but a reporter who tried to enter was stopped by the "lookout."

"Why don't you newspaper guys let us alone?" the guard said.

"How did you know?" the reporter asked.

"Well, you've got that aerial on your car and we got license books, too, you know," he was told.

Behind the closed doors, the reporter could hear the wailing of loudspeakers giving race results. Dice and card games are played in the White House at night when the race business is not operating.

Act to Protect Cash

The White House's closed door setup was regarded not as a plan to conceal its operations, but as a system to protect its large cash transactions.

Reports were current that the gambling resort had been robbed several times a few months ago and that all precautions were being taken to withstand further raids on its funds.

WHC18att2

That ends the research from our "Friend Of The Hobby."

Following is an article sent to me from Riverboat Rick. This article started me on my quest for "The Rest Of The Story." <g>

States contractors and engineers. friend saw and with whom he talked personally to justify to the OPA their foreign use of those cars.

- "Furthermore, at the border one may, if he wishes, remove and check his tires and travel in Mexico on rented American made tires, provided Mexico under license."

CLUB CONTINUES AFTER GAMBLER IS AGAIN FINED

Ray Schultz, 38, paid another \$200 fine in police court in Highwood, Lake county, Friday as the operator of a gambling house at 317 Waukegan av. known as the North Shore Recreation club. The place was open again for business as usual yesterday afternoon.

Schultz, who said he lived there, was arrested in the gambling house by Police Chief John De Smidt, who was sent there by Mayor Charles Portilia. A similar arrest, followed by a \$200 fine, with no interruption of business, occurred April 4. The place has been operating off and on since the White House, on route 22 three miles west of Highland Park, was closed in October, 1942.

Mayor Portilia said it would be "hypocritical" to stop the horse race gambling in the Highwood club, which is crowded almost every afternoon and night. Scores of automobiles, with A, B, and C gas ration stickers, are parked near it.

