

Once again we have more questions than answers. The Mason Company could have given a little more consideration to future chip collectors and historians, with a few employee lessons in bookkeeping. <g>

Owensboro had a lot of small clubs with some form of gambling. I'm betting a lot of them were house backed and "raked" poker games that were illegal under KY laws. All red neck's think they are the best poker player in the world. <g>

Enough of that:

Kentucky.

The Hub Bar & Cafe

326 Frederica St

EN Wood


Owensboro, KY

1939



chip9451 att2

E. N. Wood,	New Style Monogram
Box No. 1257, <i>The Hub</i>	"ENW" in gold
Midland, Texas	
<i>Owensboro - Ky</i>	
500 B- 250 Y- 250 R-	Kansas City - 11-16-35
600 B- 250 R- 150 Y-	Kansas City - 3-31-36
7/14/39 - Inv. #3264	
1000 B-9 1 9/16" S.E. Hub Checks	
600 Blue - 300 Red - 100 Green	



Enter a "Friend Of The Hobby."

ENW

Looking at the order card, it looks like maybe the first two orders were sent to Midland and the 1939 order was sent to Owensboro? I can't determine from the card whether all the orders were sent to E.N.Wood, or just the Midland order. In any event, I haven't been able to locate Wood in either Midland or Owensboro (still checking Midland).

The Hub Bar & Café was located at 326 Frederica St, Owensboro. (the structure which housed the address no longer exists).

The proprietor of the Hub when the chips were ordered was John Riley Heflin. Heflin, a native of Kentucky, died at Owensboro in 1950, age 49. Heflin was the proprietor of the Hub from as early as the mid 1930's up until the time of his death.

My notes:

EN Wood may or may not have received the 1935 & 36 orders in Midland. We do not know when the address change on the Mason card was made. It "could" have been made before the 1st order shipped. IMO, it is for sure he received at least the last order at The Hub, in Owensboro. Club owners often contracted out gambling to a person not listed on the liquor license. It gave them a little protection if a push came to a shove.

I am not sure of the liquor laws in KY in the 1930's. When I took over the Mustang in Newport in the 1970's you could not buy a new liquor license from the state. State liquor licenses were limited out. You had to buy an existing license from someone. They were expensive to come by, \$50,000-\$100,000 comes to mind, but memory is not good at my age. <g>

EN Wood is a ghost to us. No record of him anywhere. Was he a real person or was it an alias? For sure he ran under the radar. <g>

At least we now have a street address for The Hub.

I am leaving this one as a KY chip.

Update 1/12/11

On January 6, 2011 I posted "Illegal Of The Day Kentucky 10." It told the story of EN Wood hub mold chips "ENW." They were sent to Midland, Texas, 1935-36 and The Hub Bar & Cafe in Owensville, KY, 1939.

My "Friend Of The Hobby" made this statement in his research.

"In any event, I haven't been able to locate Wood in either Midland or Owensboro (still checking Midland)."

After that post Club member Gary Fitzgerald emailed me a scan of an "ENW" Harp mold chip his son had found at a flea market in KY. Taylor records showed it was delivered to EN Woods, Paramount Club, Centralia, IL. Woods had an "S" on it but I had a hunch it was the same guy. I just received one of the

chips in the mail. The research on this chip turned up information on EN Wood we could not find the 1st time around. <g>

I now feel we have enough info to attribute the Hub mold "ENW" Midland, Texas, 1935-36 orders to the Derby Tavern in Midland.

IMO the Hub mold "ENW" was actually used at the Derby Tavern in Midland, TX 1935-36 then reordered for the Hub Bar & Café in Owensboro, KY 1939.

A certified 2 state Illegal. <g>

Re-enter my "Friend Of The Hobby"

Sometime in the late 1920's Elvin got in trouble and did time in the Federal Pen in Georgia. Don't know what he did, but my guess would be a violation of prohibition laws.

In the early 30's he's in Midland, TX where he gets in trouble again:

13dec1934:

abilenemorningnew13dec19342

Bonds Fixed For Men Charged In Seizure of Still

MIDLAND, Dec. 12.—Bonds were set ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 at the examining trial, in federal district court at Pecos, of ten men arrested in a raid by federal agents here. The charges are in connection with operations of distillery equipment without furnishing bond and paying the \$1,000 federal excise tax. Four were released on bonds, including: Elvin Wood, Herman Paulette, Edgar Paulette, and Sam Roberts. Others were bound over to await action of the federal grand jury the first week in January at El Paso. The others charged were: James A. Spiers, David Montgomery, Byron A. Pou, Ira J. Bailey, Thomas Brown and a negro, Huitt T. Flournoy.

ENW1 att2

In the article, one of the people arrested with Ervin is Sam Roberts. Sam Roberts operated a place in Midland called the Derby Tavern. In the mid-late 1930's Ervin's older brother Lee Roy Wood was a bartender at the place. So it's possible that the chips may have been used at the Derby Tavern. Perhaps further research could confirm this.

My note: Ervin and Roberts arrested Dec 1934. Ervin and Roberts were bootlegging. Roberts owned the Derby Tavern more than likely selling the moonshine. Ervin's brother worked there. ENW Hub chips ordered in 1935. I can't be 100% sure but I really like the attribution. <g>

April 1935:

BigSpringDailyHeraldBigSpringTexasThursdayApril200419354

**Bandits Get
Large Haul
At Midland**

**Victims Robbed Of Money
And Jewels, Then
Bound**

—MIDLAND (Special)—Four men robbed and bound seven persons here Wednesday evening and made away with money and jewels valued at \$2,150.

Two of the robbers remained outside the home of E. N. Wood, 1807 West Wall street, shortly before midnight Wednesday while two secreted themselves in the house.

As Mrs. Woods and another woman entered, they were robbed of their money and jewels and bound. When Woods entered, he faced a similar fate.

Armo Spears was the next to fall victim to the bandits, and three others were also deprived of their money and jewelry.

The victims freed themselves when Spears got to a knife the robbers left in his pocket and cut himself loose.

Officers here and at Stanton and Odessa kept a watch until Thursday morning for the robbers but no trace of them was found.

About \$150 in cash was taken. Jewelry stolen was valued at \$2,000. It consisted mostly of diamonds. The robber did not bother to take watches.

ENW2 att2