

Once again we visit Steubenville, Ohio.
Some of my thoughts and memories of playing poker in Steubenville are described at the below link.

Also: Much more on Steubenville, Dean Martin, and Jimmy "The Greek" at this link. Scroll down to "Jefferson Club, OH" It is my "Illegal Of The Day" posted 9/27/10.

Most of the "Illegal Of The Day" posts are there. Hopefully the rest will be there soon.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/genetrimble.htm>

Here's a pic of Dean Martin dealing at the Sands in Vegas:



HCinoval15att2

Link to story about Dean Martin dealing at the Sands written by a former pit boss (uummm....apparently Dino had a way with the ladies):

<http://www.blue-eyes.com/blog/2010/07/14/pit-boss-dino-deals-21/>

Enough of that:

Ohio:

HC in oval:



1HCinoval1att2

Harry Cooper
c/o Imperial Cigar Store
6th & Market Sts.
Steubenville, Ohio

My note: Very high possibility the chips were used at the “New Lincoln Café” and or the Half-Moon Nite Club

Ordered 1000 chips 10/10/35
700 Green
200 Black
100 Red

Harry Charles Cooper, a Russian Jew, immigrated around 1907 and died at Steubenville in 1959 age 60. Cooper was a major figure in the Steubenville gambling scene. Like a lot of the guys in Steubenville, he started young. He was arrested for gambling in 1919 and in the 20's was several times caught violating the liquor laws.

Around 1924 he began operating the Imperial Cigar Store at 535 Market St. (in the Imperial Hotel building) and did so for 30 years. When the chips were ordered he also owned part of a restaurant/bar located across the street from the Imperial called the New Lincoln Café. Cooper also was reportedly a partner in a place in Steubenville around this time called the Half-Moon Nite Club. In the 30's Jimmy the Greek was a dealer at the Half-Moon and Dean Martin sang some there in the 40's (the only place I've seen that Dean Martin dealt in Steubenville was at the Rex Cigar Store, located a few doors down from the Imperial).

Here's a pic looking down Market Street at 6th from the 1930's. The Imperial Cigar Store was located on the street level in the corner of the building.

If you look down the sidewalk you can see the sign for the Rex Cigar Store, where Dean Martin dealt blackjack.



HCinoyal1att2

Same pic with a broader view:



HCinoyal2att2

1935 ad for Imperial Cigar:



HCinova13

1935 ad for New Lincoln Café:

The New
LINCOLN CAFE

*announces the re-opening of
the Lincoln Lounge tonight*

**Featuring As Host and
Master of Ceremonies**

JACK MYERS

Included are

Such Celebrities as:

CISS CRAFT, Queen of the Ivories
JOE OLDENCLOTH, Steubenville's
Own Bing Crosby

BERNICE McQUIRE, Pride of West
Virginia

JAMES CASSIDY, Chicago's Famous
Ballad Singer

BEA KENT, The Personality Girl

CHUCK WASSMUTH, Radio Star of
Various Networks

THE MELODIANS

Dancing — Entertainment
and Floor Show, Nightly

No Cover Charge
For
Reservations
Call
Arthur Fried
3054-J
534 Market St.

HCinova4att2

Another "WOW" of a Show
AT THE BEAUTIFUL

Half Moon Nite Club

Route 7 — Steubenville, Ohio.

STARTING FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1935
We Proudly Present

"ROSALYN" Dances of Charm and Grace
"MILDRED SEGAL" Rhythm In Tap
"JOAN ROMAINE" Soubrette In Song
"JACK DAVIS" Your Popular M. C.

Dansapation by "Johnny Chick and His Cavaliers
Why Bring a Bottle When We Have What You Want.
Make Your Reservations Now for Halloween

CALL THE

Half Moon Nite Club

Phone 9381 — Steubenville, Ohio. — Route 7

HCinova15att2

(all articles below from the *Steubenville Herald-Star*)

Harry Cooper fined for gambling as early as 1919.

31july1919:

Four Are Fined For Gambling

Joseph Mirkin, Harry Cooper, Charles Kinney and Ambrose Parks, indicted by the special grand jury for gambling, retracted pleas of not guilty and entered pleas of guilty in Common Pleas court this morning. They were fined \$50 and costs each by Judge Smith. The court reprimanded the men for frequenting gambling rooms and warned them that the next time they appear before him they will receive workhouse sentences.

HCinoval6att2

Harry Cooper arrested twice by Federal Liquor agents for bootlegging, 1923 and conspiracy against the government.

20sept1923:

YOUNG MAN NABBED ON U S CHARGE

HARRY COOPER FACES CONSPIRACY CHARGE AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

Held for Hearing Under \$7,500 Bond — Exploding Still Caused Fire on Adams Street — Prisoner's Second Offense.

Following his arrest last night, Harry Cooper, 539 North Seventh street, was taken before United States Commissioner C. J. Borkowski and placed under bond of \$7,500 awaiting preliminary hearing next Monday on nearly a dozen charges including conspiracy against the United States government.

Cooper was sent to the Capton workhouse only a few weeks ago when caught transporting liquor into the city and was released on payment of a heavy fine in Mayor McCullough's Richmond court. His arrest last night is on a far more serious charge and was made by United States Marshal Watson on a federal warrant.

The affidavit charges Cooper with the manufacturing and possession of intoxicating liquor, maintaining a common nuisance at 102 Adams street, where he is alleged to have set up and had in his custody or control a still. The still was located in an empty house a couple of weeks ago when firemen were summoned to extinguish a blaze here supposedly caused by the still exploding.

Federal investigators learning of the unclaimed still have been hard at work on the case since the fire, resulting in the arrest last night.

Hearing is set for next Monday, September 24th, at 1 p. m. before Commissioner Borkowski. Bond was furnished by local parties. The hearing will be of little import, it is said, cases concerning the government being immediately waived and the Columbus office will then take complete charge of the case.

31may1932:

My Note: The cops got dice but no chips.

Gambling Equipment Seized; Arrest 2 Men

Following a raid made on the Imperial Cigar store, Sixth and Market streets, Saturday afternoon, two men were arrested on charges of operating gambling devices. They were R. E. O'Neil, 28, of 529 North Fourth street; and C. D. Wells, 26, of 318 North Fourth street.

The pair were released on bonds later and were to appear in municipal court Tuesday for arraignments. Patrolman Harry Brooks and George Gottman who made the arrests confiscated racing forms, pool tickets and dice in the establishment, they said.

HCinoyal8att2

9feb1935:

Guilty of gambling again in 1935. This was 7 months before Harry bought the chips.

Guilty Plea Entered To Gambling Charge

After Harry Cooper, one of the proprietors of the Imperial cigar store, Market street, had pleaded guilty in common pleas court Friday to a charge of permitting gambling, sentence was deferred by Judge Jay S. Palsley. Cooper was released without being required to post bond.

Cooper was one of 19 men cited to appear in court Monday at 9:30 a.m., in informations filed Wednesday by Prosecuting Attorney Arthur L. Hooper to answer to charges of gambling or permitting gambling in connection with book-making on horse races, operation of card games, roulette, "numbers" rackets and player or "skill" boards.

HCinova19att2

11feb1935—a snip from an article a few days after the above article:

Fined \$75 plus court costs. I doubt that was a hardship on Harry's bankroll. <g>

Describes Business
Harry Cooper and Andrew McGraw, who operate the Imperial cigar store on Market street, do a considerable business in gambling, the prosecutor averred. They were each fined \$75 and costs. The same fine was assessed against William O'Brien and Thomas Griffin, rear of Academy billiard parlor, Market street, where the prosecutor said a faro game is operated.

HCinoval10att2

O'Brien and Griffin mentioned above were supposedly Cooper's partners at the Half-Moon.

[from *Dino: Living High in the Dirty Business of Dreams* by Nick Tosches (1992)]:

(Jimmy Synodinos = Jimmy The Greek)

Jimmy Synodinos was doing the best of all. In 1934, when Prohibition ended, Money O'Brien, Harry Cooper, and a third partner, Tom Griffin, had opened the Half Moon Nite Club. It was an elegant joint overlooking the river a mile north of the Fort Steuben Bridge on Route 7. The Half Moon offered two floor shows nightly and the finest food in Ohio, and the gambling casino in the back offered a plush and luxurious alternative to the back-room dives downtown. Jimmy, already working as a runner for O'Brien, had started out parking cars at the Half Moon for a dime a rap. Now, at eighteen, he was dealing craps in the back room.

HCinoval11att2

Here's a link to YouTube where someone has posted the ESPN 30 For 30 documentary on Jimmy The Greek which has some stuff about Steubenville (mostly at the tail end of part1 and beginning of part2):

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=148BB384A76819BF