

This could take awhile to read. <g> If you collect illegal chips you will appreciate this one.

The JML and JL Crown mold chips could have more history than any other illegal chips in your collection.

Read this then answer this question.

Who of you has illegal club chips with more history than the Hawaiian Club chips?

The back story:

I more or less stopped getting TR King chips a number of years ago. IMO 95% of them were California chips. I have 600 different California chips. I just quit adding to them.

I had never heard of Jason Lee, The Hawaiian Club in Chicago, or its ties to TR King. A few weeks ago, I received an email from an author writing a book about Jason Lee and asking for info on chips. It had scans of 4 chips -2 Scrowns, 1 Lcrown, and 1 hub with JML and JL on them. In fact I doubted that Large & Small Crown chips could have been used in Chicago.

Easy enough, I sent for the hub record. JML hub came back, nothing to do with Jason Lee. But that hub record will generate another big story as soon as I can find one of the hub JML for my collection. <g>

Now I really doubted the crown chips.

Thanks to a "Special Friend Of The Hobby," I was able to obtain copies of the TR King record cards for the L & S Crown JML/JL chips. WOW!!! Was I wrong. <g> May be the 1<sup>st</sup> time I was ever wrong! <g>

The TR King record cards told a 20 year story that spanned 3 continents North America, Asia, and Europe and a dozen states in the USA. Jason Lee was a true con man, dice cheat, and Illegal Club operator. TR King made his "Funny Dice" for roughly 20 years.

Thanks to Dave Brown and other un-named friends for info in this post. I am editing the original info from the author that started this research. You can buy his book when it is published. <g>

Enough Of that:

Mr. Trimble,

I am pasting an email that I have just sent to Mr. Jim Steffner. I found both of your names on the CCGTCC list available online:

I hope this email finds you well. I am a New York City-based writer currently researching a casino owner named Jason Lee. He had various establishments in the 1940s and 50s. I was surprised to find his casino chips for sale from his Hawaiian Club which was located at 1358 North Clark Street in Chicago. I was curious as to how familiar the collectors are with Jason Lee. Lee's name was mentioned by a collector on a website (Ed Hertel's site) that was simply showing off some of his pieces. Lee was very well known

in gambling circles at that time, but not much of a name anymore, so I am very curious. If you can provide any information or point me in a direction with someone that may have more information please contact me at this email or at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Jason A

Jason Lee

Hawaiian Club

1358 N. Clark Street

Chicago, IL

Orders 1938 through 1959



JML JL att2



JML JL2 att2

My note: I still need the blue JL chip. Looks like the JML comes in 8 colors. I still need 7 of them. <g>

Following from Dave Brown.

Have you ever heard of a place called "Johnny's Three Decker Sandwich Shop" in your research? I think I mentioned that I've been in the process of acquiring some original photo negatives of some of the old illegal gambling joints here in Chicago, and that I'd keep an eye out for Jason Lee's place.

So I've got an original 4x5 negative showing Johnny's Three Decker Sandwich Shop. Next door is a place called "King's Men Grill". It's marked "Bldg at 1358 N. Clark - alleged gambling den - Crime Probe-1-29-53". Johnny's Three Decker is a 1/2 basement type shop. The main floor place is unmarked and I assume is Jason Lee's place. I'm sending a scan and another from the same source that I don't own...yet...but it shows the address more clearly. When I purchased the picture I thought it was 1354 N. Clark, and was pleased to find it marked 1358 N. Clark.

I've got a lead on an elderly woman here in Chicago who, along with her deceased husband, used to own Johnny's Three Decker. The family now owns a Japanese restaurant in Chicago.

Dave Brown

Scans from Dave Brown.



JML JL5 ATT2



JML JL6 att2

More from Jason A:

I'm attaching the small article regarding the robbery at the Hawaiian Club -- you may have already seen this.

**4 ROB REPUTED GAMING CLUB OF 50 WATCHES, \$2,000**

*Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Feb 26, 1947;*  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)  
pg. 30

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**4 ROB REPUTED  
GAMING CLUB OF  
50 WATCHES, \$2,000**

The Hawaiian club, reputed gambling establishment on the second and third floors at 1358 N. Clark st., was held up late Monday night by four armed men, one carrying a machine gun, it was learned yesterday. They escaped with \$2,000 belonging to John Lee, proprietor, and 50 watches, which were held in a safe for customers, it was reported. Police had received no report of the raid, which took place when some 75 patrons, mostly of Japanese and Filipino origin, were in the establishment.

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JML JL 4 att2

I am also pasting a blurb here from my own research material that came from the files at the Dept. of Justice:

Hawaiian Club listed from 1945 with pool hall on first floor and gambling establishment for Chinese and Japanese in basement. Supposedly netted approx. \$100,000 in 12 months he operated the Hawaiian club. Informant advised Lee operated a South Side branch of this gambling house located near 55th and Dorchester in Chicago.

This is the only time I've heard of another gambling joint in Chicago. Does this 55th and Dorchester

address ring a bell?

Re: 1358 N. Clark: Notice the mention of going down to the basement. I've heard accounts of people going up to higher floors at 1358 N. Clark and passing through several security posts, even dogs on premises before coming to the main gaming room. He likely changed the layout of the place over time.

Jason A

My reply to The Author:

Jason.



I cannot send you copies of the TR King record cards at this time, as they are covered by IRS rules referencing donations to a museum, but will try to give you most of the information.

This guy was all over the place for over 20 years. <g>

My notes:

Jason Lee had orders shipped to 3 different cities in CA, two different addresses in IL, WY, OR, AZ, AK, and Japan. He had lots of "funny" dice plus other gaming paraphernalia shipped plus orders picked up at TR King by himself and a least 2 different ladies. I am betting there are other addresses on other order cards.

Jason Lee  
~~1087 Powell St.~~  
 San Francisco, Calif.  
 3. dice h.m. 9/16 red  
 11/21/39  
 5/2/40..COD 3 dice 5/8 for 26 game asst spots. Gen. Del.,  
 Sacramento, Calif.  
 6/5/40..Ins.P.P. Gen. Del. Marysville, Calif. 16 dice match-  
 ed his samples. "D". - *not unclassified*  
 6/17/40..Ins.P.P. 2 pr dice match sample Gen. Del. Portland  
 Oregon.  
 7/23/40..COD 5 dice 5/8 red stock H.M. STE, Gen. Del.  
 Cheyenne, Wyo. Air  
 9/13/40..COD 1 dead Ace matched last order, Gen. Del. Par-  
 lier, Calif. cs stencil on Ace Air, Spec. also .035/6-1 bevel  
 9/24/40..COD Gen. Del. Parlier, Calif. 6 deck B67 3 way BJ  
 10/4/40..COD Gen. Del. Parlier 6 tops to match his 2 sample  
 bone dice.  
*9/20 came in - Crown - 100 white, 200 green, 250 blue*  
*250 red S.M.L.*  
 10/9/40..COD 2 pr sqs matched sample, Gen. Del. Parlier.  
 T.R. King

	100	Crown	10/18/38	P. 18
	800	"	11/17/38	P. 20
	800	"	9/21/40	P. 43
	1000	"	6/28/41	P. 54
	200	"	7/3/41	P. 55
	400	"	7/9/41	
	600	"	2/19/45	
	700	"	<del>3-19-45</del>	
	1000	"	<del>3-26-45</del>	
	500	"	8-8-45	
2/19/45	400	"	<del>9-11-45</del>	
100 red				
100 chocolate	100 orange	Jason Lee		
300 blue	200 dark blue	Los Angeles, Calif.		
150 red	100 orange	Hawaiian Club,		
300 orange	100 red	1358 No. Calrk St.,		
50 green	300 blue	Chicago 10, Ill.		
250 red	300 B orange	100 b. orange,		
100 white	500 blue	500 blue.		
250 blue	200 B. orange	250 chocolate		
200 lt green	200 red	100 pink		
600 dark blue	200 chocolate	(over)		
300 green	250 orange			
100 red				

I.R. King

Record Card 1.

Address:

J M Lee

1087 Powell St

San Francisco, Ca

2<sup>nd</sup> address:

General Delivery

Marysville, CA



3<sup>rd</sup> address:

General Delivery

Cheyenne, Wyoming

4<sup>th</sup> Address

General Delivery

Portland. OR

5<sup>th</sup> Address

General Delivery

Parlier, CA

These were for small orders of dice in 1939 and 1940

6<sup>th</sup> Address

Hawaiian Club

1358 N Clark St

Chicago

Very large orders of chips in 1938-40-41-45

Hot stamp JML

4/30/41..dep bal COD 1 set Chinese dominos, Gen. Del.,  
 Gonzales, Calif. *didn't charge Chinese dice and 30¢*  
 5/5/41..came in store shipped Ins.P.P. spec. del 1 set of  
 5 dice 5/8 wh inlaid ass'td spots, 1 ace, 1 5-6, 1 pr cap 2  
 2 pr sqs 5/8 red H.M.; took with him 4 yds gr canvas, 22' of  
 6" rail rubber, 1 small layout Bar Ace-2 Gen. Del. Gon-  
 zales, Calif. *didn't charge for inlaid dice \$1.80*  
 5/13/41..cat F wanted prices on lottery equipment Gen. Del  
 Gonzales, Calif.  
 5/17/41..COD money box #627, 2 pr sqs 5/8 H.M. STE stock,  
 "D"  
 5/29/41..Ins. 10 yds gr canvas Box 602, Gonzales.  
 6/4/41..Ins.P.P. 2 pr red, 2 pr gr 5/8 H.M. STE monogramed  
 on 2, no tax, Box 602, Gonzales, Calif.  
 6/26/41..COD 2 sets Chinese dominos good ones, sent his  
 Chinese dice that he had left here. "D"  
 6/27/41..COD 1000 Crown JML (300 lt gr, 100 red, 600 blue)  
 7/2/41.."D" to P.O. ret. order of 6/26/41  
 7/3/41..COD 100 red 100 orange Crown JML  
 7/7/41..order of 6/26/41..returned

JML - both sides - Crown		Jason Lee
		Hawaiian Club
		1358 N. Clark Street
		Chicago 10, Illinois

*Jason Lee*

DATE	ORANGE
2-18-47	600

Record Card 2.

Hawaiian Club

Chicago

Several orders in 1941

Chinese Dominos, Dice, Yards of felt, lottery equipment, and money box.

2 more orders of JML chips in 1941 and 1947

Jason Lee,  
 Box 802,  
 Gonzales, Calif. JML 2  
 7/9/41..P. check Inv. for tax 78¢ 400 Crown JML (200 blue,  
 100 orange, 100 red)  
 7/16/41.. "D" ret. check \$30 wanted 2 sets dominos.  
 8/6/41..P. Check Inv for tax \$1.05 2 sets Chinese Dominos.  
 9/5/41..Ins. P. P. 3 Yards Green Poker cloth. P. C. 2.78.  
 10/2/41..Ins. P. P. handy money tray No. 630  
 10/13/41..COD 1 set Keno balls 1-80 black,  
 11/21/41..Ins. P. P. 1 domino spotted  
 7/13/44..COD Exp. 1 crap layout small, 1 4-5-6 layout, 74  
 S. W. Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. "D"  
 2/19/45..COD Exp. 600 Crown JML both sides same as before  
 (300 blue, 300 B orange) Hawaiian Club, 1358 No. Clark St.,  
 Chicago 10, Ill. shipped 3/10/45  
 3-19-45...Exp. C.O.D. 700 Crown chips, 500 blue, 200 B.  
 Orange. Ack. order, advised delivery approx. 60 days.  
 Monogram JML both sides, same as previous orders. L.R. King  
 3-26-45...came in store. Changed order  
 of 3-19-45  
 (over) Jason Lee

Jason Lee  
 1358 No. Clark St.  
 Chicago, Illinois Home Superior 74971 - 3-  
 2-5-51..Wrote for 200 blue, 100 red & 100 brown Inlaid "JL"  
 Crown Dash chips Ship PP COD \$61.53 2/9/51.  
 4-29-52..Came in store for 2600 Inlaid Crown Dash, 500 red  
 900 blue, 600 yellow, 400 choc, 200 green. Deposit \$200.  
 Shipped Bal Express COD \$190. 5-22-52.  
 July  
 7-25-52..Order for 700 yellow and 100 green chips. Signed  
 but did not come from Jason Lee. Sara Ahn, Secy said  
 Lee in Japan  
 8-12-52..Lee came in and took signature of James Lim who  
 had tried to get his chips in Jan 1952 to compare  
 with signature of above order.  
 6-24-53..Miss Ahn phoned for 5/8 RED & GREEN STE JC HM POL  
 25 pr squares SJ long letters on deuce same in each  
 color. 1 D45, 1 D55 dice cups. Shipped Ins. PP Air to  
 OK2MUN SONG. Eng. Sec 8232 A.U. APO 500 San Francisco  
 Phone her at Re. 25218 and she came in and paid for it.  
 Shipped 6-24-53.  
 (over) L.R. King

Record Card 3.

More orders for equipment, dice, and chips including the JL Small Crowns inlaid instead of hot stamp.

Orders from 1941 through 1952

1953 order 7<sup>th</sup> address.

APO 500 San Francisco. This APO tracks to Tokyo, Japan for 1953. Ok Mun Song came into the TR King office and paid cash for this order.

to 200 red, 200 chocolate, 100 b. orange, 500 blue,  
monogram JML same as last order  
4-23-45... "D" re chip order.  
5-22-45... D chips will be delivered around middle of Jun  
8-9-45... came in store... Exp COD 500 Crown; 2 50 chocolate,  
250 orange, monogram JML both sides.  
9-11-45... 100 pink Crown added to order of 8-9-45... same  
monogram. No - 9-17-45  
9-19-45... order shipped 200 chocolate, 200 orange.  
2-18-47... Order for 600 Orange Cr. Chips "JML" both sides  
"D" re delivery and ack. of order. No deposit. COD  
461.85 2/12/47. Sample chip returned  
10-27-47... Came in store. Shpd. 12 Box Kems B&B Pd. Ins. PP  
12-19-47... Came in store for 2300 crown chips. Spec. die  
"JML" both sides. Use 24 c gold tape. Stamp deep. \$50.00  
deposit. Bal. EXP COD \$186.00 1/15/48 Asia Post # 1129  
6/25/48-4 sets Kem COD to 1358 N. Clark St. Chicago, 10  
2-3-50... \$100.00 with order for 2,000 INLAID CROWN-DASH CHIP  
NEW MATERIAL & COLORS: 500 yellow, 700 blue, 400 red,  
300 brown, 100 green, "JL" both sides. Ship Bal. Exp.  
C.O.D. \$201.25 2/21/50 90 Asia Post # 1129, 1358 N. Clark St., Chicago 10

7-2853... Miss Ahn phoned and said Lee had not received order  
of 6-24. Filed claim  
7229-53... Claim ret that we would not file for APO numbers  
for 3 months. Phoned Miss A to that effect.

- 1-15-59 Letter for 5/8 Red & White DS. Six Red & Six White. 15%  
6-A. Shipped COD PP \$8.99 To: Gen Del. Page, Arizona
- 12-2-59 Letter for One A-2-3, One 4-5-6 to match his Sqs. Shipped  
COD Air PP \$7.68 TO: Gen. Del. Sitka, Alaska
- 12-15-59 Ordered 5/8 White Tricolor HM RE Elush -One 1-2-3 and One  
4-5-6 Weight, Five Sqs. Shipped COD Air PP \$14.63

#### Record Card 4

14 more orders from 1945 through 1959 for equipment, dice, and chips.

8<sup>th</sup> address for Asia Post in Chicago. There are also 4 Hunt cards for this place but Lee's name is not on them.

9<sup>th</sup> address for General delivery Page, AZ.

10<sup>th</sup> address for General Delivery Sitka, Alaska

A lady called Miss AHN came into TR King and paid for a couple orders and put in a claim for a lost order.

Several places on the cards states Jason Lee was in to pay for orders.

I only have 4 record cards. There are others.

Many of the dice orders will be for "funny" dice. <g>

From a friend:

Gene,

Probably more information than what you want, but for that date, APO 500 was for the primary sorting facility located in Tokyo Japan. From there, the mail was then forwarded to a number of locations in the surrounding area. Don't know if you want the entire list of sub-post offices or not.

So, suffice to say that Japan is the Primary location, Tokyo area as the secondary information.

Dates for APO 500 for Tokyo Japan from 02--XX-1946 through 12-31-1957. (XX = day not know, just month and year)

My notes: The APO in Japan was a military address. IMO the only thing in Sitka, Alaska pertaining to gaming was NCO or Officer Clubs. I did not check for military bases close to the other delivery addresses. Could Jason Lee have been ripping off military gaming clubs with his "funny" dice?

More from the author:

Great library to own (TR King records cards). I'm glad I made the connection with you. I mentioned before that TR King made the Monte Carlo Heist dice -- I'll try to find the article and attach it for you guys. I wonder how many counts of dice making TR King had under their belt before closing?

My note. TR King voluntarily stopped selling casino supplies in NV January 25. 1974 to avoid a NV Gaming Control Board, ban. TR King was not the only old distributor to sell "funny" dice and other cheating gambling devices, but they got caught. <g> Christy Jones NV office also got caught by Postal inspectors shipping "funny" dice to Mississippi illegal clubs. It caused the breakup of Bill Christy and Bud Jones.

I'll also attach an Application for a Nevada State Gaming License that was deferred by the gaming control board. The interesting thing here is that Jason Lee he had given the name "The International Club" which was the same name of a place in Japan. The owners of the Japanese "joint" had approached Lee about partnering and he had supposedly refused. This information came to me by the way of FBI files I got a hold of. Let me know what you think. (I have to find my scan of that Saturday Evening Post article and I'll send it.

Jason A

Jason Lee's 1958 application for a Nevada State Gaming License and minutes from GCB commission's decision, are in a PDF. The application was deferred and never pursued. Click here if you want to read it.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/illegaloftheday/JasonLee2.pdf>

FORM 2

STATE OF NEVADA  
APPLICATION FOR STATE GAMING LICENSE  
(To be filed in duplicate)

RECEIVED  
AND PAY COVERED

MAY 25 10:57 AM '77

TO: GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
Carson City, Nevada

The undersigned hereby makes application for a state gaming license under the act providing for same.

1. WALTER H. HARRIS, JR. 246 LARE ST  
Trade Name Address

4. If application is to replace a license obtained under another trade name, please show former name below.

Former Trade Name

2. Check if applicant is: An individual ☐; partnership ☒; association ☐; corporation ☐; other ☐ (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

IF THIS IS A NEW APPLICATION, COMPLETE ITEMS 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 BELOW.  
IF THIS IS AN APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF INTEREST IN AN EXISTING LICENSE, COMPLETE  
ITEMS 4, 5, AND 9 BELOW.

3. If applicant is an individual, partnership, or association, give full names, residence addresses, and nature and amount of investment of all members thereof; if a corporation, furnish the same information for all corporate officials and stockholders.

NOTE: All applicants listed below must complete Personal History Record, Schedule A; Invested Capital Questionnaire, Schedule B; and fingerprint impressions in duplicate. Invested Capital Questionnaire is not required for "Slot Only" application.

Full Name	Residence Address	Title or Nature of Interest	Amount to be Invested

4. (a) List below all individuals who are herein making application for interest in existing license owned under trade name listed in Item 1 above. Those individuals must complete Personal History Records, Schedule A; Invested Capital Questionnaire, Schedule B; and fingerprint impressions in duplicate.

Full Name	Residence Address	Title or Nature of Interest	Amount to be Invested

(b) Set forth below a complete list of businesses and their respective interests as they will appear if applicants listed in 4. (a) above are approved.

Full Name	Residence Address	Percentage of Interest Held

G. C. P. CARSON CITY



Excerpt from Jason A's above email:

"I mentioned before that TR King made the Monte Carlo Heist dice –"

I have to find my scan of that Saturday Evening Post article and I'll send it.

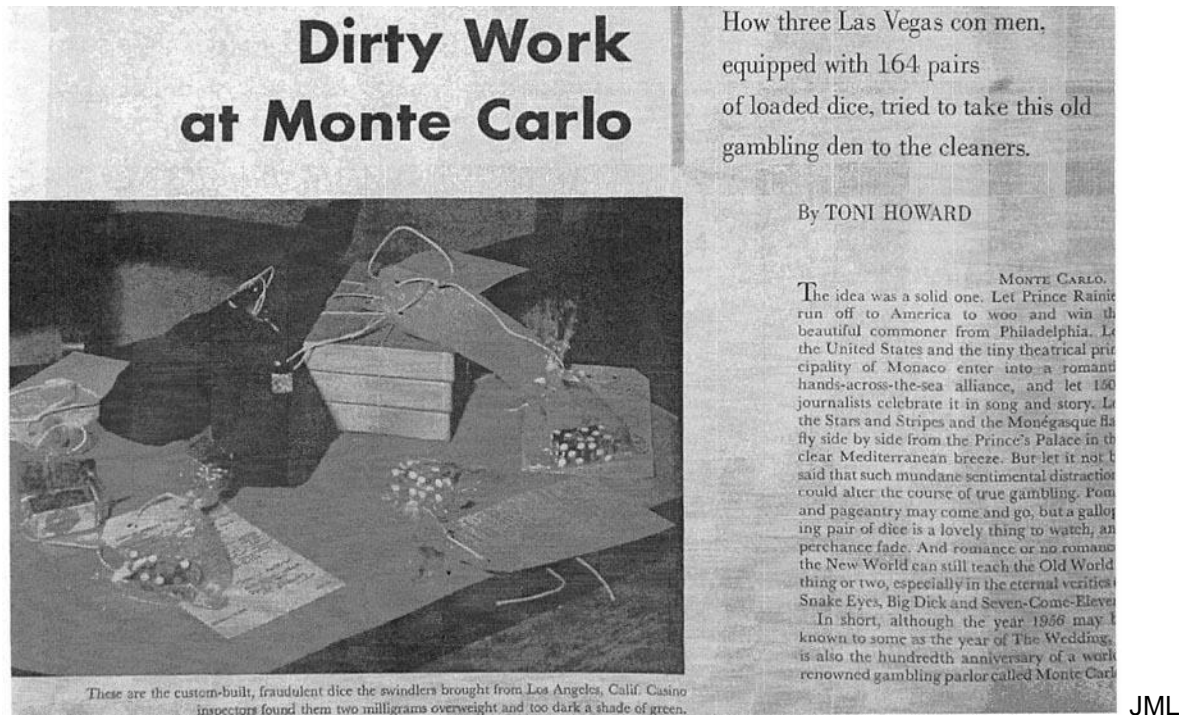
My note: I have the Saturday Evening Post article on the Monte Carlo Heist and Jason Lee.

Three excerpts from the 5 full page article in The Saturday Evening Post, follows.

Entire article is in a PDF. Click here if you want a good read.

Thank you David Spragg for the work on the Saturday Evening Post PDF.

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/illegaloftheday/JasonLee1.pdf>



Jason Lee7



The three thieves from California in the hoosegow at Nice under guard of an *agent de la République*.

JML Jason Lee8





JML Jason Lee9

OK, who has illegal club chips with more history than the Hawaiian Club chips?