

From my "Illegal Of the Day West Virginia" post back on 8/22/10'
"I will leave Steubenville and it's mostly houses of ill repute for a future post."

Steubenville:

In the late 1960's and early 70's I played poker in the greater Cincinnati area with a guy named Ray XXXXXi. He walked the walk, talked the talk, a babe on both arms, drove a new Caddy convertible, and dressed to the nines. You can see his image on many TV cop shows today. (guess his profession before you read on?)

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Did you guess his profession?

He could have been the hip, suave, upscale, and well to do pimp on any TV show today. I'm pretty sure I recognized him on a South Park episode. <g>

He worked 4 girls in Steubenville houses. Rotated them on a monthly basis. One or two sat behind him every time he played poker. The girls were open about what they did. I never understood them and their chosen lifestyles. Ray never tried to hide what he did and in fact talked freely about it.

I abhorred what he did but in fact liked him as a person. I can't explain both feelings at the same time. He invited me to a game in Steubenville. I went. Two Madams played in the game. The win was in my all time top 10 in one poker sitting. When I got home I felt dirty. I could not wash it off for some time. Steubenville had a lot of houses of ill repute. NO, I did not visit a house when I was there. <g> The city was just not who I was. It was hard to look my 2 little girls in the eye for some time.

One night in a game in Newport a guy walked in and said, "hey, some gal shot Ray 5 times, up in Steubenville, last night, he is dead."

The guy in the 2 seat said "live by the gal-die by the gal." "Shuffle up and deal." TRUE STORY. <g>

Enough of that:


Ohio:

I got this chip in 1999 in trade. It sat 11 years without research.

Jefferson Club
124 North 6th Street
Steubenville
Chips delivered in 1936-37



7698 att

<p>Tony Tabasso, 711 North St., Steubenville, Ohio</p>	<p>Old Style Mono. "TGT" in gold</p>	
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~~300R-~~
 300 each - R-W-Y-P-G-DB-J- Detroit #884-11-25-36
 400C-50G-400G-300J- Det. #253 - 12-31-36
 100C- Detroit #490 - 3-22-37
 500 Choc. - 500 Green Det. Req. 598 4-19-37

Another obvious illegal club, 4,300 chips but no Club name on the card.
 The guys name alone looks illegal to me. <g>
 To me the chip has no value without a Club name.

Enter a "Friend Of the Hobby."

Anthony Joseph Tabasso, a lifelong resident of Steubenville, died 1964 age 58. 711 North St. appears to have been his residential address when the chips were ordered.

Tabasso was involved with bootlegging during prohibition. His brother-in-law Vincent Casali was one of the biggest movers and shakers in Steubenville. In 1924 some state liquor agents tried to enter the Tabasso home looking for liquor--they were disarmed, beaten-up and thrown out on the street by Casali and a 17 year old Tony Tabasso.

I'm not certain, but I think the chips were probably used at a place called the Jefferson Club. It was located on the upper floor of a two story building at 124 North 6th Street. For many years this address was associated with various enterprises involving Vincent Casali—including gambling. In July 1939, Tabasso was reported to be the proprietor of the Jefferson Club.

This club was in business when the chips were ordered Nov/Dec 1936 & March/April 1937. In August 1936 the proprietor of the club was reported to be Joseph Guido.

The G on the chip could be for Guido, one of the T's for Tabasso and the other T could be for Joseph Tegano. Tegano operated a newsstand-cigar store at the address; in the back of the store he was running a gambling operation with Casali in January 1936.

My note: Lots of O's and I's on the end of those names. *vbg*

During this time Steubenville is said to have been known as "little Chicago" where supposedly a popular saying of teenage males was:

"Learn to steal, learn to deal, or go to the mill."

Two guys who learned to deal in the local gambling houses in the 1930's were Dino Paul Crocetti and Dimetrios Georgios Synodinos- (guess "Who" before you read on.) <g>

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Did you guess who they are?

AKA Dean Martin and "Jimmy the Greek" Snyder. (my note:is it possible Dean handled these chips?)<g>

Unfortunately, I didn't come across any info that either worked at the Jefferson Club. By all accounts, Martin worked at a gambling room at the rear of the Rex Cigar Store--located across the alley from the Jefferson Club.

I've attached a snip from a 1959 article about how Dean Martin got his job at the Rex Cigar.

Dean still chuckles whenever he recalls how his father finally talked him into a "respectable" job, meaning, of course, the barber profession. One morning he gave Dean five dollars to enroll at the local barber college. On the way downtown to pay his tuition, Dean passed a local cigar store, then a well-known front for the biggest gambling house in Steubenville. He couldn't resist going in—and promptly lost his five dollars. Making the most of an unfortunate situation, he talked himself into a job there as a clerk selling punch-board chances.

Before long he was promoted to dealer and croupier on the gambling tables in back of the store. He did so well that he was loaned to other gambling houses as far away as Florida and worked himself up to \$125 a week, a small fortune for a fellow barely out of his teens. At least, he assured me later, his shady labors had a worthy purpose: his income not only helped support his parents, but put his brother through college.

My note: Another Rex chip to look into. I have several REX cards but none for Steubenville.

The Jefferson Club was not a place to be a sore loser--or you might end up sore indeed. <g>

Steubenville Herald Star--14august1936:

MINGO MAN HURT IN CLUB BRAWL

Victim Suffers Three Fractured Ribs; Treat- ed in Hospital

Melton Redive, 20, of 755 Commercial street, Mingo, was treated at the Ohio Valley hospital at 6:45 a.m. today for three fractured ribs and severe body bruises, the result, he told police, of being kicked down the stairs of the Jefferson club, North Sixth street.

Redive said the beating was administered by the club proprietor, Joseph Guido, according to the police report. Helen O'Neal, of 514 North Third street and Leroy Jordan, of 617 Adams street took Redive to the hospital. He was discharged after treatment. No charge was filed in the case.

POLICE PROBING SLUGGING CASE ON NORTH SIXTH

Victim of Attack In Club-
room Is Hospital
Patient

PROPRIETOR HELD

Investigation was being continued today into the beating administered Albert Hutson, 32, Ridge avenue, in the Jefferson club at 124½ North Sixth street.

Hutson was taken to the Ohio Valley hospital at 4:30 a. m. and after he lapsed into unconsciousness, alarm was felt over his condition and Police Chief Ross H. Cunningham called in the county prosecutor's staff to aid in an investigation of the case.

Hutson regained consciousness during the afternoon and today was reported in fairly good condition. He suffered a fractured jaw, a fractured nose, bruises and the loss of several teeth, a police report says. According to his statement to the chief, he was slugged from behind and then beaten at the club.

Under arrest in the case is Tony Tabasso, 33, of 301 North Seventh street, identified by police as the proprietor of the club. Prosecutor

ATTACKED IN GAMBLING ROOM; SUES FOR \$25,000

John A. Hutson Files Action Against Proprietors, Charging He Was Beaten in Resort

Charging that he was assaulted and brutally beaten in a gambling resort at 124 1/2 North Sixth street in the early morning of July 11, John A. Hutson, 1648 Ridge avenue, today filed suit in common pleas court asking a judgment of \$25,000 against Anthony Tobasso and Clarence Checca, named as proprietors of the establishment.

Hutson in his petition states that he, in company with Rolland Rogers and three other companions, visited the establishment the morning of July 11, and that about 2:45 a.m. Rogers became engaged in an argument with Tobasso concerning gambling losses. Tobasso, Hutson alleges, seized

Rogers by the neck, dragged him to the entrance door and ejected him.

The employees of the establishment then assaulted the plaintiff, the petition further charges, knocking him to the floor and kicking him.

Hutson suffered a compound nose fracture, a fractured upper jaw, loss of several upper teeth and numerous bruises, he says. He was treated at Ohio Valley hospital and later was taken to a Wheeling hospital where he underwent an operation.

The assault, the plaintiff charges, was wilful, brutal and malicious. He is represented by Attorney Hugo F. Chestosky.

Here's a map of Steubenville from 1929; Jefferson Club at 124 North 6th, Rex Cigar at 523 Market-- buildings are no longer there, but the parking lot in the rear is.

