

The main reason I am showing this chip and its history is I am tired of seeing it advertised as a Jeffersonville, IN chip. Yes there was a 121 Club in Jeffersonville. Never a 121 ½ Club that I am aware of. I had a guy at the last convention tell me the 121 Club had a back room and that address was 121 ½.

Geez!!! <g>

I know-I know Jeffersonville chips sell better. <g>

Sorry you Indiana boys, you lose this one. Sometimes you just have to face reality! <g>

There is a red 121 ½ chip out there. I need it.

Al Capone is mentioned below.

I doubt everyone knows that Al Capone tried to move into Las Vegas right after gambling was legalized in 1931. He put up the money for what might have been the 1<sup>st</sup> place on the strip. It was right at Sahara and Las Vegas Blvd, where the World's Largest Gift Shop is today. He did not last long as the powers that be, did not want him. <g> The front guys were European and Jewish if I remember right. I have all the info on it but can't seem to find it now. It was in another article I wrote way back when. I think it was in a Gambling Times article I wrote in 1996. I will keep looking.

Enough of that:

Missouri:

Kansas City - again.

In "Illegal Of The Day" Missouri on 9/8/20 George Jones's 1827 Club was featured along with several other illegals located in the 31<sup>st</sup> and Troost St area of Kansas City. Several different gangs operated in the area. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> one I've seen tied to Al Capone. Keep in mind the 1st raid described below was before prohibition ended and was done by liquor agents.

Who was the "KING" of the bootleggers? Answer: Al Capone.



17839 IM

Ralph Rosenberg  
Miller Recreation  
Twelfth Street Recreation Club  
121 1/2 E. 12th St.

KC Missouri

7/14/37

Ralph Rosenberg, son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, died KC, MO 1969 age 68.

First arrest on bootlegging charge in 1929; arrested again in 1931 with several others who were reportedly part of a liquor ring in KC associated with Al Capone. Ralph had several brothers in KC, some involved with gambling, some with corrupt Jackson County government positions.

His brothers Herman and Harry both testified before Kefauver Commission. During WWI, Herman served in the artillery unit commanded by Captain Harry Truman).

My note: Geez Harry Truman again. <g> Harry might get the prize for "Most Honorable Mentions" in the "Illegal Of The Day" posts. <g>

121 1/2 East Twelfth Street was the location of Twelfth Street Recreation, ostensibly a pool hall. The order card says Miller Recreation, which it was also known by.

It was incorporated in 1945 as Miller's Twelfth Street Recreation Co. (Miller refers to Harry W. Miller, who was the president of the place at the time the chips were ordered).

My note: A pool hall has a president? <g>

My note: Article from the Seattle Daily Times. National newspapers picked up the story because of Capone's name. Wonder how many other newspapers picked it up?

Here's an article about Rosenberg's liquor arrest; *Seattle Daily Times*--19June1931:

## 6 Capone Men In K. C. Plead Guilty

By Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, Friday, June 19.—Six persons described by government agents as members of a liquor ring formed here by Al Capone, today pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to violate the prohibition law.

They are Fritz Malloy, Ralph Rosenberg, Frank Martin, Leo Swartz and Louls Kent Burton, who were indicted with forty-one others by a grand jury at Joplin, Mo.

Guy Brock, another indicted as a conspirator, pleaded guilty Monday and was sentenced to serve two consecutive sentences of a year and a half each at the Leavenworth federal prison and was fined \$7,500.

Rosenberg, Martin, Barrett and Burton were each sentenced to serve eighteen months in the federal prison at Leavenworth and were fined \$7,500.

The sentencing of Malloy and Lee Schwartz was deferred until July 6 at the request of their attorneys.

Here's a snip from a 1952 letter written to the editor of a Missouri newspaper:

The undersigned lived in Kansas City during the wide-open late thirties -- when you could watch the Snooker Club's crap, blackjack, poker games and horse book while waiting in your car for the traffic light at 31st and Prospect to change -- when the dealers' chants from the Twelfth Street Recreation in the heart of downtown Kansas City drowned out the newsboys on the corner.

Note, this raid is 20 years after the 1<sup>st</sup> one. I wonder how many raids in between?  
Twelfth Street Recreation raided; *Hutchinson (KS) News Herald*-7April1951:

## **Bookie Shops Raided In Kansas City**

**Kansas City (AP) —** Police raided the Twelfth Street Recreation shop Friday and Jackson County Prosecutor Henry H. Fox, said they seized records which showed "that a bookmaking operation was being conducted on much more than just a local scale."

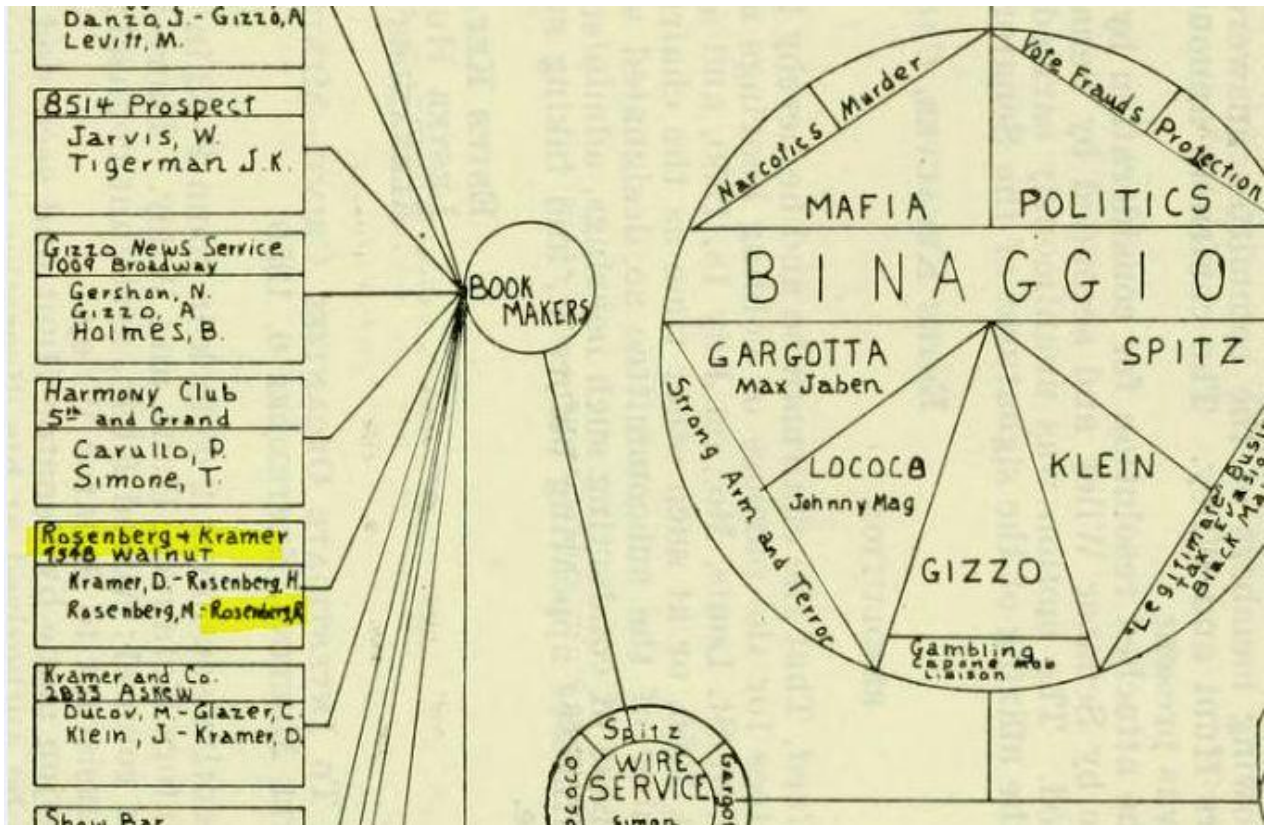
The raiding squad found evidence that checks had been issued ranging from \$100 to \$22,000. Fox said the checks had been issued to bookmakers or horse race gamblers.

Earlier, Fox led police into another establishment on complaint that a horse racing handbook was in operation there. Two men were arrested.

Here's a snip from the Kefauver KC gambling chart I sent you with the research on the George Jones chip.

My note: Cut down version of the chart made for The Kefauver Commission on organized crime in 1951, posted on 9/8/20, so you can read the Rosenberg's names and the address.

The address listed, 7548 Walnut, is Ralph Rosenberg's residential address; lists brothers Meyer & Harry (doesn't mention 12th St. Rec.):



The building which housed 121 1/2 still exists--it is the HQ of the NAIA, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

The club was located on the second floor, approximately in the center of the building:



Here's a very interesting photo of the interior from Feb.1939:





**Crapshooting**, the specialty of the house, at the Twelfth Street Recreation, 121½ East Twelfth St.

What say ye, Indiana boys? Are you satisfied? <g>