

Illegals, I love them and their history. Do you have any idea how many illegals were in operation across the country in the "era Of The Illegals" pre 1961? I am told there are 13,000 plus different Mason record cards. I think roughly 1,500 are available at this time.

13,000 Mason

1133 Taylor cards

812 Hunt cards

Add the Jones records, not sure how many of them as mine are in a PDF.

Add the BC Wills, no known records but they more than likely sold more chips than Mason. Estimate 13,000 plus.

Add the Portland Card Company records-unknown number.

Add Treyball, Evans and HC Edwards.

Add the O'Neil records

Add TR King records

Add a few other smaller distributors.

Subtract out NV and CA orders.

It is a huge number. I think we have only scratched the surface of known illegals.

Once again The Mason records do not give us a Club name. Without the note "Monogram licensed to Bobby Evans" on the record card, it is possible we could not attribute the chip. I really hate it when I have to tag a chip with "IFFY." <g> No doubt this one was the Lafayette Building.

Enough of that:

Oregon:

Walter Brown

Lafayette Building

531 SW Washington St

Portland Oregon

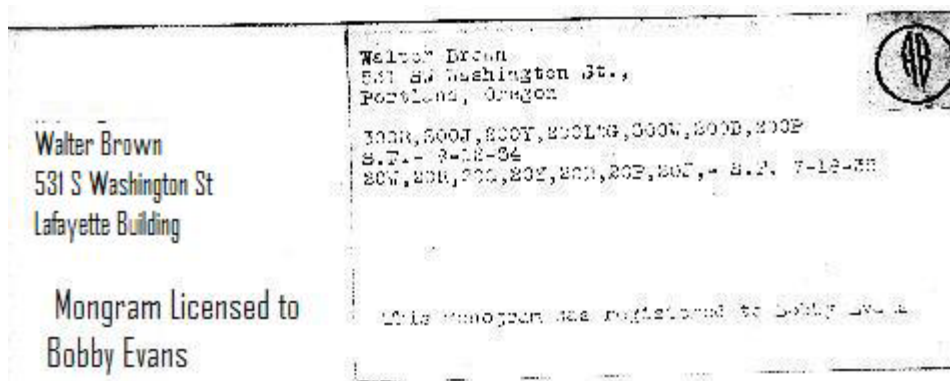
Chips delivered 1934 & 38

Note on Mason card:

Monogram licensed to Bobby Evans



1 AB att2



do not upload

AB

About a dozen Walter Brown's in Portland in the mid 1930's. Although I couldn't find any direct evidence, linking a Walter Brown to either the location or Bobby Evans, I think that the Walter who's on the order card is Walter Ernest Brown. Died in Portland OR, 1954 age 70.

My note: The only link between Brown and Evans, we found was the Mason record card.

This Walter Brown was involved with bootlegging in Portland pretty much throughout the entire period of prohibition (arrested several times). He was known locally as the "Society Bootlegger" because he supplied premium booze to Portland's wealthy imbibers. He got the nickname after police confiscated over 100 cases of bonded liquor from his home in 1923. Three years later the 1,291 bottles were publicly destroyed on a city street--over \$16,000 worth of booze literally down the drain (that's over \$200,000 today).

Bobby Evans was the made-up name of Augustine Carl Ardiss, died Portland, OR 1974 age 81. Ardiss, the son of Italian immigrants, used the name Bobby Evans during his professional boxing career, around 1909-1915, and was known by both names the remainder of his life.

The AB on the chip could be for Ardiss-Brown.

When the chips were ordered, 531 Southwest Washington Street was the location of a gambling operation which Augustine Ardiss AKA Bobby Evans was reportedly the proprietor. The two story building which housed the address no longer exists.

My Note:

The article below is lengthy but well worth reading. It describes a very large operation in 4 different locations in Portland. All upscale with an affluent clientele. This was a huge race wire operation and the chief of police is forced to resign over it.

Lafayette Building at 531 SW Washington St

The basement at 510 Broadway St

The Morgan Building at 720 SW Washington St

The Macleay Building 418 SW Washington St

One reporter found the gambling rooms crowded in less than 24 hours after a raid.

Lafayette Building at 531 SW Washington St had faro and craps tables.

The article also describes a 5<sup>th</sup> location the Canton Bazaar at 1109 SW Washington that had lottery, chuck-a-luck, and blackjack. I will keep my eye out for chips from there. <g>

Article from the *Oregonian*--28oct1934 (a couple of months after the first chip order; gives nice description of 531):

# BETTING ON RACES WIDE OPEN IN CITY

## Distant Horses Basis of Portland Wagers

## POLICE FAIL TO INTERFERE

## Hundreds of Patrons Found Crowding Centers.

## FOUR PLACES OPERATING

### Reporter for The Oregonian Makes Rounds; Telegraph Wire In- stalled in Suites.

In elaborate suites where gambling runs wide open, with apparently no police interference, galloping horses on distant tracks daily carry thousands of dollars in local wagers into the hands of the betting barons of Portland.

From 10:30 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon hundreds of bettors hoping for a big "kill" crowd the rooms, poring over charts and entry lists and seeking out "hot tips."

On huge blackboards prices, and results are chalked up. Loud-speakers operated from a central agency in another part of the city drone out the latest information from far-away race tracks. And in the central agency a transcontinental telegraph wire brings the up-to-the-second "dope" to the man at the microphone.

### Four Places Operate.

Four places were operating boldly when a reporter for The Oregonian visited them yesterday. They were:

Basement, 510 Southwest Broadway.

Basement, Morgan building, 720 Southwest Washington street.

Third floor, Macleay building, 418 Southwest Washington street, rooms 302 and 305.

Second floor, Lafayette building, 531 Southwest Washington street, room 6.

Meanwhile lottery, blackjack, chuck-a-luck and faro continued to be played in countless establishments in the city. At the Canton Bazaar, 1109 Southwest Washington street, a reporter for The Oregonian found gaming rooms crowded less than 24 hours after the place had been "raided."

### Patrons Are Reassured.

A lottery ticket marker assured patrons there was no danger. The fizzled "raid" the night before occurred 20 minutes after the "operators" had been tipped off that a raid was to occur at 9:45 P. M. The place was almost empty. Yet it was crowded that afternoon and again yesterday.

"No form of law violation is, or will be, countenanced by me," Mayor Carson declared last night when informed of these developments. "The police are instructed to apprehend and prosecute every person engaged in gambling or other crimes or misde-

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# GAMBLING OPEN IN CITY

## SCORES OF PATRONS CROWD RACING CENTERS.

**Reporter for The Oregonian Makes  
Rounds; Telegraph Service  
Given in Suites.**

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meanors. I am confident that some action will be had."

The police station was in a turmoil yesterday as the resignation of Chief Lawson was announced, with Captain Harry Niles as his successor.

In the horse-race betting establishment at 531 Southwest Washington street faro and craps were being played. This place gives visitors the "once over" before admitting them. The other three, apparently where the horses were the only gambling business, were operating with doors open in welcome to all.

At 531 Southwest Washington street a reporter for The Oregonian ascended the stairs and approached room 6. It is well known that the operator of the place is Augustine Ardiss—more commonly known as Bobby Evans.

Once given entrance by a man who peers through the glass door, partly curtained, the visitor turned to his left, walked through two supposed card rooms—several card tables were in each room—and was at the seat of business, a large well-lighted room.

On the right of the entrance to the main room was a craps table, where a young woman was trying her luck. The dealer, a young man, handled the game and the money.

On the left of the same entrance was a faro game. It was operated full blast and money was changing hands.

Straight ahead was the long board on which were posted horse racing entries, betting odds and results. And to the left of the board was the booth at which all gamblers placed their bets. Bobby Evans was not present as far as could be seen.

A news bureau located in the Mayer building receives results of all races via telegraph from eastern, southern and mid-western tracks. Those results are sent by a loudspeaker system to establishments which use them in Portland.

In the room in the Lafayette building a loudspeaker was blaring forth news from the tracks. On the board race results were being posted from Rhode Island, Maryland and Texas. Patrons were supplied with entry sheets and could also study all entries written on the boards with odds posted on all entries.

On a walkway in front and below the board a marker stood. He wrote, with chalk, data on all races as it was relayed to him from the central bureau.

Gamblers placed their bets on many races and received their winnings or went away empty-handed, as the case happened to be.

### Room Well-Fixtured.

The room in which all this operation was under way was large, well-fixtured and well filled with gamblers.

Addresses of the other establishments, in the order visited, were in the basement of 510 Southwest Broadway; in the basement of the Morgan building, 720 Southwest Washington, and on the third floor of the Macleay building, 418 Southwest Washington, entrances at 302 and 305.

All three were running wide open. A large clientele was patronizing them. Only horse racing betting was underway, but that operation was doing exceedingly well, entirely unhampered.

Well-dressed men and women, men who looked to be ex-jockeys, negroes who might have been stable boys in years past—in fact people from all classes of society were taking their chances on the nags.

ABincircle