

This posts tells us about 4 new Idaho additions the TGT and identifies chips from 2 of them. This post is a lot longer than I like to post. Since both chips were found in the same place, I did not want to break it into 2 parts.

A couple months ago Paul McDonald sent me the cowboy on a bucking horse arodie chip. It was new to me. I ask him where he got it. He told me it came from an ebay seller in Castleford, Idaho. I asked for the address and email and got the lady's phone number. Her name was Dana Winson and a very nice lady.

Email from Dana,

Hello gene! Sure give me a call! and no the King and Hart's has always been called King and Hart's. Originally called King and Hart Club. Now called King and Hart's Bar and Grill. Thanks Dana

She told me she found 300 of the arodies King & Hart's bar/restaurant she had taken over and was remodeling. They were in a basement room with a well camouflaged doorway. She said King & Harts had both card games and slot machines in the early days of the place that was built in 1947. I prodded her for info on prior owners and she gave me the name and phone number for Bud Randall. I called Bud.

He gave me as many names as he could remember, He confirmed they had a lot of slot machines close to 100 and high stakes poker games. He said players came long distances to play in the poker games. He said they used chips but he did not remember the chips as it was well over 50 years ago.

Here is the succession of owners as he remembered.

Dewey King and Clyde Hart 1940's - about 1953
Swede Olson took over roughly 1953
Pud Lewis late 1950's
Bud Randall Pud's nephew took over after some years. .

Bud Randall did not buy the chips. That means King & Hart, Swede, or Pud Lewis did. Arodie's were issued from 1951-1967.



Last Frontier1att2

Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

King and Harts

King & Hart's was opened in the mid 1940's and is closed for remodeling today. Here's a current view:



Last Frontier3att2

The chips were found by Dana Winson who had purchased the bar and was giving the place an overhaul.
Here's some pics of the interior of the place before it was redone:



Last Frontier4att2



Last Frontier5att2

My note: Dana has given up on the remodeling of King & Harts and has returned the place to the seller.

King & Hart's is named after the two original owners: John Dewey King (1899-1987) & Clyde Everett Hart (1907-1975). King and Hart were brothers-in-law, King having married Hart's sister in 1920. Some local news from July 1945 which sounds like it might be the beginning of King & Hart's:



Last Frontier6att2

By the mid 1950's Hart had moved several miles east to Kimberly, ID and King was running a place called the River Club a few miles north near Buhl—not sure whether either of them still had an interest in King & Hart's.

Here's a bottle opener which is stamped on the other side:

"If you got to go, go to the River Club. Dewey King. 5 Mi. No. of Buhl, IDA"



Last Frontier7att2

My note: A very graphic bottle opener? <g> Well, I thought I had seen it all, BUT!!! <g>

One of Everett Hart's kids was named Edward. He died in Las Vegas in 1994. In 1951 an Edward Hart burglarized King & Hart's. No mention that he was the son of Everett but he was the same age:

Buhl Man Arrested For Safe Burglary

GASTLEFORD, April 11—Quick action by county and state police led to the arrest Tuesday night of Edward Hart, 20, Buhl, on a charge of first degree burglary in connection with the burglary of a safe containing \$972.55 from the King and Hearts pool hall here early Tuesday morning.

Hart was arrested at Castleford. After questioning by officers, he took them to a privy behind the pool hall where about half of the money was hidden beneath a toilet seat.

Officers hope to arrest the man suspected of being Hart's partner in the crime sometime today. A warrant has been issued for the man, a parolee. Hart said his partner left him Tuesday afternoon, carrying the remainder of the money and driving a car which the men borrowed from a Castleford man prior to the burglary.

The safe was recovered last night on the edge of the desert west of Castleford across the Little Salmon Falls river canyon. Sheriff Jesse Carlton said he does not believe the men are connected with any of the five unsolved safe burglaries in the Twin Falls area.

Hart was arraigned before Justice of the Peace J. O. Pumphrey Wednesday morning. He waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to district court. Bond was set at \$2,000 and Hart was returned to the county jail in lieu of bond.

Assisting Sheriff Carlton in the investigation are Deputy Sheriffs Curtis Pryor and Jim Benham, and State Officers Jack Lewis and Clark Hand.

Last Frontier8att2

Last Frontier Club

My Note: Dana Winson also found 12 of the Last Frontier Club chips in the hidden room at King & Hart's.



Last Frontier2att2

She thought they were from a Reno, NV club. After consulting with David Spragg we decided they were not Reno chips. I wound up with 5 of each Cowboy arodie and Last Frontier Club chips for our inner circle and set off on a search for more info.

Re Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

The Last Frontier Club chips were found in 2010 in a storeroom of an old bar named King & Hart's in Castleford, Idaho (pop. 226).

When and how the Last Frontier Club chips arrived at King & Hart's is unknown by me--I suppose it could've been anytime from the 1940's to the 2000's, brought there by King or Hart or someone else.

Although the story of how the Last Frontier Club chips made their way to King & Hart's may be a mystery, I think there's a good chance that the info below might explain the origin of the chips.

On December 23rd 1946, about 140 miles east of Castleford, a new "swank" club opened its doors:

You Are Invited to the
GRAND OPENING
of the
"LAST FRONTIER CLUB"

Monday, December 23rd
GALA FLOOR SHOW

FEATURING:

NICK LUCAS

Stage, Screen and Radio Star

The Singing Troubadour who introduced:

"Tiptoe Through the Tulips"

"Always," "Singing in the Rain"

ALSO

BONGER & ANDRILLITA

In South American Comedy

AND

STAGE DOOR CANTEEN ORCHESTRA

Direct from Hollywood

Come early, stay late for more fun, a better time.

It's the "LAST FRONTIER" Club with that

WESTERN ATMOSPHERE

West of Pocatello, on the Airport Highway

JIM McNICHOLS & BOB HILLMAN

Your Congenial Hosts

A new venture in night club entertainment will be offered eastern Idaho tonight at 8 o'clock in the opening of the Last Frontier Club on the Oregon Trail highway in Power County.

The club, recently completed at a cost of \$150,000, is owned by Jim McNichols, and will seat about 300 persons.

Entertainment will feature the well-known Nick Lucas, the singing troubador who made "Tip-toe Through the Tulips" and other songs popular. Bonger and Andrilla, South American comedy team, will be on hand with the Stage Door Canteen orchestra.

Bob Hillman, who will act as host, said "the club is as nice as any in Las Vegas and other scenic centers and there is nothing better in the United States."



Last Frontier11att2

The Last Frontier Club had a grand opening but was immediately beset by problems which hampered its success. Within a year of its opening the State of Idaho passed new laws which made it illegal to sell liquor by the drink in establishments located outside of incorporated municipalities--which made it illegal at the Last Frontier. The owner James Edward McNichols went through hoops over the years to try to get a liquor license for the club.

In March 1948 Idaho liquor agents raided the Last Frontier and made arrests—but not for liquor violations:

Raid Last Frontier

**AMERICAN FALLS, Ida.,
March 11—A squad of state liquor
law enforcement officers Wednesday
at 11:30 p.m. raided the swank
Last Frontier night club four miles
west of Pocatello and made ar-
rests on gambling charges.**

Last Frontier12att2

Another problem for the Last Frontier was that it was constructed near a large fertilizer plant which would occasionally deposit a layer of malodorous dust upon the club. McNichols sued the fertilizer company for damages—he lost. During the damage suit trial a man named Ball who was responsible for maintenance of the club's exterior neon lighting testified:

My note: Wow! I bet that was a stinker! <g>

BALL ALSO admitted seeing gambling in the club during his work there, including a roulette wheel, craps and blackjack tables.

Last Frontier13att2

The lack of a liquor license and the presence of fertilizer weren't good for business and perhaps led to an almost fatal situation for the Last Frontier Club: in the spring of 1949 the US Bureau of Internal Revenue slapped an \$88,000 lien on the it. In May 1949 it was put up for sale:

Idaho's Last Frontier Club Goes Under Gavel Today

Tribune Special

POCATELLO, Ida., May 19 — U. S. bureau of internal revenue will auction off the famous Last Frontier night club Friday at 10 a.m. for \$88,000 and interest owed in income taxes by the operators.

The building was constructed in 1946 at a cost of more than \$200,000. Its operators have been involved in legal entanglements since 1947, and its doors have been closed for most of the past year.

Last Frontier14att2

(the "legal entanglements" mentioned in the article above refer to liquor licensing)

My note: Cost \$200,000 to build in 1946. IMO this would be considered a "Carpet Joint" by any standards.

The club went unsold and McNichols was able to get it back by paying off his tax debt. In 1950 he tried to sell it himself:

**LAST FRONTIER
NOW
FOR SALE**

For Complete Information
Call J. E. McNichols at 90-J4

Last Frontier15att2

It went unsold. The club reopened briefly in December 1951 but liquor licensing issues forced it to close after a few weeks.

ad from Dec 1951:

DANCING AND FINE ENTERTAINMENT
AT THE LAST
FRONTIER CLUB
NOW OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK
OPEN DAILY 4 P.M. 'TIL 1 A.M.
WEST OF CITY ON HIGHWAY 30

Last Frontier16att2

McNichols tried to sell the club again in March 1953:

'Last Frontier' Owner Places Club Up for Sale

The Last Frontier club, probably the swankiest club anywhere in Idaho, can be purchased for \$50,000 less fixtures.

That's the word from Owner Jim McNichols.

Built in 1936 by McNichols, the club is reported to have cost at least \$250,000 but, after operating several years, one sort of trouble after another resulted in the front doors being locked.

Last Frontier17att2

The club went unsold again. McNichols opened the place occasionally for private parties and continued to try to get a liquor license up to the time of his death in 1960 at age 63.

Prior to opening the Last Frontier Club McNichols operated a place called the Shamrock Club. Sally Rand appeared there in 1942:

SCOOP!

Your Host J. E. McNICHOLS

Announces the Engagement of

THE INCOMPARABLE

Sally Rand

IN HER

Sensational Dances

Starting WEDNESDAY, Feb. 4, 1942

Another Hit In Our "Spring Festival of Stars"

Save this card! Miss Rand will be pleased to meet you personally and autograph this picture for you at the bar or at your table.

★ *For Reservations* Phone 1223 ★

SHAMROCK CLUB

HIGHWAY 91

POCATELLO, IDAHO

Last Frontier18att2

This particular card was signed by Rand for a guy whose name appears to be Dewey—too bad it doesn't say "To Dewey King"



Last Frontier19att2

Four years later in April 1946 the Shamrock was raided:

CLUB MANAGER FACES GAMING, RUM CHARGES

POCATELLO, Idaho, April 22. (AP) — Carl Nelson, manager of the Shamrock club south of Pocatello, was ordered arraigned today on charges of gambling and illegal liquor sales. He was arrested in a raid by Sheriff Alma Marley and his deputies Saturday night.

Marley said officers battered down two doors with sledge hammers to gain entrance to Nelson's club. The sheriff said a roulette wheel, dice table, dice and roulette chips and several cases of whisky were confiscated.

Last Frontier20att2

My note:

King & Harts - Castleford

Last Frontier Club - Pocatello

Shamrock Club - Pocatello

River Club - Buhl

Where are the chips from the Shamrock Club and River Club?

I believe the arodie attribution is 95% good. No reason I can think of for 300 chips made in the 1950's-1960's being in a place that had gambling in the 1950's-1960's than they were used for gambling.

IMO there is no doubt on the Last Frontier Club chips. Steve Goodrich our resident expert on Idaho Illegal chips agrees with me. Steve made this year's convention for the 1st time in several years. Welcome back friend.

Paul McDonald has the cowboy arodie auction starting on ebay Sunday July 14th.

Dana Winson told me she would put the rest of the Last Frontier Club chips on ebay,