

I recently got the KLP chip from John Kallman. It is our first documented "Illegal Of The Day" from Canada. It was challenging. The ID on the flip said it was from Winnipeg, Canada. The Mason record card said it was sent to Duluth, MN. Never fear, my "Friend Of The Hobby" is a genius. <g>

Enough of that:

Winnipeg, Canada:



1KLP2att2

K-6775 4/8 3500 B-9 HUB CHECKS 2000 RED 1000 BLUE 500 YELLOW MONO ANY THREE LETTERS OF MONOGRAM NOW OPEN Completed: 5/7/46	M. Crawford 418 W Superior Duluth, Minn	KLP
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CHICAGO STYLE Please use this card in re-ordering K-6775-A 2500 Hub Checks 2000 - Red 1000 - Blue 500 - Yellow - B.O. MONO KLP on both sides in gold Received 4/8/46 Completed 5/2/46	KLP
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KLP

Came across some interesting stuff on this one—still some unanswered questions though. The Mason card says the chips were delivered to M. Crawford at 418 W. Superior in May 1946. The delivery address was a building in downtown Duluth, MN which housed 8 businesses. 5 of these businesses were Canadian enterprises:

3 railroads (Canadian National Railways.

Grand Trunk System; Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific Railway.)

2 steamship lines (Canada Steamship Lines; Northern Navigation Co.)

The only M. Crawford in Duluth that I could find at the time of the delivery was a Matthew McColl Crawford, a ship captain. I didn't find any evidence that he worked for the Canadian steam ship lines which were located at the delivery address. I haven't been able to figure out what, if any, connection there is between the fact that the chips were delivered to an address in Duluth which housed Canadian businesses and the fact that 2 years later the chips end up in Winnipeg, Canada—but it seems like it would be a bit of a coincidence if there wasn't one.

My note: When I got the KLP chip it had a detailed ID on the flip the chip was in.

Max Koffman

190 McKenzie St

Winnipeg, Canada

1948

Ordered thousands of chips.

My note: Read on for Max's story.

There were 3 Max Koffman's in Winnipeg when the chips found their way there in 1948. The one who resided at 190 McKenzie was a well known gambling operator in Winnipeg for decades. Koffman was arrested as early as 1927 on gambling charges. He was busted numerous times in the 40's for running floating craps games in private residences.

Picture of 190 McKenzie St where the chips were delivered, taken in 2001 By Wes Parks.



KPL10att2

Here's some of his busts which made the newspapers, all from the Winnipeg Free Press (I guess "morality squad" is Canadian for "vice squad"). The last article is **especially good**.

28sept1927:

Arrest Alleged Gamblers.—In a raid on 483 Dumoulin street, St. Boniface, early yesterday morning, members of the St. Boniface morality squad unearthed a gigantic gambling dive. Large tables, dice and cards were seized by police and the following placed under arrest and released later on bail, to appear in St. Boniface court today: John Karr, Charles Vautch, Harry Lloyd, Sam Turk, Max Koffman, Stanley Darkasy, George Falwarock, Edward McKurko, Sam Brownly, J. McDougall and Lawrence Remitz. They will appear before Magistrate H. R. Welsford.

KLP1att2

10 years later, 31july1937:

Koffman Fined in Gaming House Case

Pleading guilty, before Magistrate R. B. Graham, Friday morning, to keeping a gaming house at 483 Manitoba avenue, Max Koffman was assessed a fine of \$96 and costs. In addition, the gaming table and other accoutrement seized on the premises by morality officers were confiscated.

Fines of \$6 and costs were imposed on 12 other men who were found on the premises at the time of the raid. They were: Louis Beauregard, Louis Lewis, Joseph Werbicki, Stewart Park, Stefan Sowecky, Harry Lewis, Peter Kolanski, Henry Hansen, Samuel Travis, Arthur Vinsky, Tony Cancilla and Peter Balusky.

KLP2att2

About 10 years after above, 29oct1946:

18 Picked Up At Dice Game

Sweeping down on an alleged crap game, operated in a room at 594 Mountain avenue, early Saturday morality officers arrested 18 persons, confiscated a gaming table, rake, chips and dice. Max Koffman, 194 McKenzie street, alleged keeper of the game, Frank and Mary McKay, tenants of the house and 15 men, found in the room faced charges in city police court, and were remanded until Oct. 30.

The big game was halted at 3.20 a.m. Saturday by acting sergeant Alex Cleghorn, Constable C. Clark and detectives T. Beeby and James Semple.

Difficulty in stopping gamblers' operations was emphasized by Inspector Peter Cafferty, chief of the morality squad, today, as he explained. "Some of these ring leaders are hard to tab. They rent rooms in various sections of the city and never use the same room twice in a row."

Gaming house customers are picked up in cars and taken to the scene of the night's game. Later they are returned to their homes in a like manner, he said.

The fifteen men found in the gambling house identified themselves as the following: Herman Haas, Joseph H. Cooper, Frank Oleschuk, Harry Coldridge, Benjamin Brown, James William Wingratsky, Peter Barnes, Tony Urbanovich, Mike Korolyk, Cyril Lockwood, James McLeod, Vincent Cancelli, William Homenick, Steve Gyulay and Lawrence Conway.

KLP3att2

Around the time the KLP chips get to Winnipeg, 5may1948:

Gamblers And L.C.A. Offenders Enrich City Coffers By \$1,450

Gamblers and offenders under the liquor control act paid \$1,450 into city coffers Wednesday, when they entered pleas of guilty to a variety of offences before Magistrate M. H. Garton, in city police court. Four gaming house keepers, Wong Lung Chuck, 223 Alexander avenue; Lee Hing, 272 Pacific avenue; Wong Marks, 223 Pacific avenue and Ing Tong, 232 King street each paid \$100 and costs while 15 other persons found in these premises were assessed \$10 each. Dolores Gale, who sold liquor at 588 Burnell street, was fined \$100 and costs and similar fines were imposed on Peter Rasmuss, 423 Flora avenue and Harry Munt, 674½ Selkirk avenue, for keeping liquor for sale. Peter Kushner, in whose auto police discovered a quantity of home brew, was fined \$200 and costs as was Alex. Moskal, 783 Pritchard avenue, who also had liquor in his possession which had not been purchased from the commission. **Max Koffman, 190 McKenzie street, who operated a floating crap game at 750 Carter avenue was fined \$100 and costs and a similar fine was imposed on William Ignat, for allowing Koffman to use his premises for the game.**

KLP4att2

About a year later raided by the Mounties, 4may1949:

Gaming House Owner, Patrons, Fined \$496

A raid by officers of the R.C.M.P. preventive service on a two-way dice game at lot 20, Old Kildonan May 1, resulted in 17 men being fined a total of \$496 and costs in provincial police court Wednesday.

Magistrate D. G. Potter fined Max Koffman, 190 McKenzie street, \$196 and \$4 costs when he pleaded guilty to keeping a common gaming house. Paul Chorney, owner of the house at Lot 20 Old Kildonan, was fined \$150 and costs for permitting the premises to be used.

Fifteen persons found in the house and charged as inmates were each fined \$10 and costs.

KLP5att2

About a year after that, 26oct1950:

\$970 Fines Paid Following Raids On Gaming Dens

Round-up of 30 men in police raids on two gambling establishments had its sequel in morality court Wednesday when a total of \$970 in fines were ordered paid.

At 597 Anderson avenue, police arrested Max Koffman, 190 McKenzie street, who was fined \$100 and costs or one month for keeping a gaming house; the proprietor, David Hilderman, who was fined the same amount for permitting his premises to be used as a gaming house, and 18 "found-ins", each of whom was fined \$10 or ten days.

KLP6att2

The article below, dated 4oct1948, is very interesting. It's only the second article about a gambling raid that I've ever seen in which the chips which are confiscated are described: "Over 700 gambling chips were seized...some of the chips had the initials K. L. P. on them." The police inspector makes an intriguing comment about the confiscated chips:

"This involves a considerable loss to the gamblers as all the chips have to be brought in from the United States."

My note: I wonder if Mason refused to mail the chips directly to Canada?

I'm not sure exactly how to interpret the inspector's comment, but could this help explain why the chips were sent to Duluth?? Why would chips have to be "brought in" from the US? Maybe "brought in" simply means mailed in from a US distributor?

Raid Ends In 32 Arrests

Police Morality Squad Breaks Up Crap Game

Sunday broke up an attempt to re-establish floating crap games in Winnipeg after a four-month absence, according to Morality Inspector Peter Cafferty.

He said morality detectives swooped down on a house at 440 College avenue and arrested 32 men playing in "a big crap game."

Three men, Max Koffman, 190 McKenzie street; Samuel Trays, 289 Simcoe street; and Michael Sawchuk, 53 Polson avenue, have been charged with keeping a gaming house.

The other 29 face charges of being found in a gaming house. Stanley Mozer is charged with permitting 440 College avenue to be used as a gaming house.

Inspector Cafferty said this was the first big crap game in the city for over four months. "We believe they have been operating their floating games in the suburbs," he added.

Over 700 gambling chips were seized in the raid, Inspector Cafferty said. Some of the chips had the initials K. L. P. on them.

"This involves a considerable loss to the gamblers as all the chips have to be brought in from the United States," the inspector commented.

An intensive morality department campaign last May clean-

ed up two large floating crap games operating in the city then. At that time it was charged thousands of dollars changed hands nightly.

Inspector Cafferty explained then the games were moved from house to house each night in an effort to prevent police raids. Known players were met at a downtown rendezvous and taken in cars to the house to be used.

A little more food for thought....

Here's a Winnipeg ad from May 1946, same time as the chip order. It's advertising a cruise on the Great Lakes which leaves every Tuesday from Duluth. Three of the businesses at the chip delivery address are mentioned: Canadian National Railway (CNR) and Northern Navigation Division of Canada Steamship Lines.

WHEN YOU GO EAST



TAKE A Boat Trip

Over lakes Superior and Huron on a spacious C.S.L. steamer. Relax in the fresh air with congenial companions. Music and dancing in the evenings. Cabin accommodation and excellent meals. Automobiles carried. Commencing June 18th, sailings for Sarnia and Windsor from Duluth every Tuesday; from Port Arthur every Wednesday.

Further information from any C.N.R. or C.P.R. agent or from Northern Navigation Division of

CANADA STEAMSHIP LINES



J. P. MACKENZIE
General Passenger Agent
305 McArthur Bldg. Winnipeg
Phone 95 642

KLP8att2

Another ad a few weeks later--the chips appear to have been delivered to the address of the Duluth end of this Canadian "Lake & Rail" enterprise. Speculation: maybe Matthew Crawford, the ship captain, was a captain of one of these boats and the chips were used on the cruise???



TRAVEL

EAST

this year

BY "LAKE & RAIL"

Travelling on business? For Pleasure? There's nothing like a GREAT LAKES CRUISE for a refreshing change of pace to break up the long trip. You'll relax completely under cool, sunny skies—while picturesque shorelines unroll their scenic marvels. You'll dance and play, you'll eat with zest and slumber like a happy child. Automobiles carried.

Commencing June 22, sailing every Tuesday from Duluth, Wednesday from Port Arthur to Sarnia, Detroit and Windsor.

St. Lawrence and Saguenay Cruises

While in the East take a well-earned rest cruising these famous rivers.

Any C.N.R. or C.P.R. agent will route you Lake and Rail, or apply to Northern Navigation Division of

CANADA STEAMSHIP LINES

J. P. MACKENZIE

General Passenger Agent

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