

The 3 previous Missouri "Illegal Of the Day" posts were devoted to Kansas City and its cluster of illegal gambling joints. This one and the next "Illegal Of the Day" is devoted to Joplin, another cluster in Missouri. The next one will have some very interesting info if you are interested in poker history.

I have 4 different Mason record cards for REX and I am betting there are several others. It was a popular name for illegal's and CA card rooms.

Enough of that:

Missouri-Joplin:

I got these in 2002 and the Mason record card at the same time.

Have 4 colors of the hub and 2 colors of the diamond mold. Both molds were found in the same hoard from an estate sale.



11187att2



11189 att2

Info from Mason record card:

Rex Athletic Club

413 1/2 Main St

E Vaughn

Joplin, MO

1936

REX Athletic Club

Elmer Ellis Vaughan, native of Arkansas, died 1955 in Oklahoma City age 64 (he moved away from Joplin in the 40's and lived briefly in Hot Springs, Arkansas before moving to Oklahoma).

The structure which housed the Rex Athletic Club at 413 1/2 South Main still exists but has been updated:



Rex AC was raided in January 1937, Ellis Vaughan arrested and gambling paraphernalia seized, including chips--which were ordered to be destroyed. I guess some escaped.

As you can see below they also had a crap table and slots.

Joplin Globe--31jan1937:

EIGHT ARE ARRESTED IN A GAMBLING RAID

Alleged Gambling Devices Also
Seized by Officers at Rex
Athletic Club.

Eight men were arrested and a number of alleged gambling devices were seized in a raid on the Rex Athletic Club, 413½ Main street, at 9:30 o'clock last night.

The information on which the search warrant was based was filed before Justice Vernon Sigars yesterday afternoon by Prosecuting Attorney Charles R. Warden. The warrant was turned over to officers who conducted the raid early last night.

Officers who took part in the raid were Constable W. H. Ford, Deputy Sheriff Hal Tadlock and Police Detectives Ike Caylor, W. F. Gibson and Victory Fetty.

A dice table, several sets of dice, several packs of playing cards and a quantity of poker chips were seized and taken to the constable's office.

J. E. Lansford, night desk sergeant, said the eight men had a total of \$233.10 in their possession when they were "checked in" at the city jail.

The eight arrested are Walter Coffey, Ellis Vaughn and E. E. King of Joplin, Ed Harold and W. Landreth of Neosho, L. E. Dobb of Anderson, V. M. Newsom of Wildcat and M. H. Lyle of Miami. No formal charges had been filed last night.

On another search warrant issued last night by Warden, the raiding party seized a nickel slot machine at the Purity bakery, 2014 Main street. No arrests were made. The machine was turned over to Warden.

Order "Slots" Destroyed.

Justice Vernon Sigars yesterday issued an order for immediate destruction by Constable W. H. Ford of all gambling house equipment seized by officers in a recent raid on the Rex Athletic Club, 413½ Main street.

The paraphernalia previously had been adjudged gambling equipment, but was held as evidence awaiting disposition of the cases against Ellis Vaughn, V. M. Newsom and Walter Coffey, alleged operators.

Yesterday at Carthage Vaughn and Newsom pleaded guilty to operating a gambling house and were fined \$200 and costs each. The charge against Coffey was dismissed.
