

Kenny Craig sent us the JKF chips last year. I already had the Mason card from years ago. For some reason I did not check my database for other chips sent to the Schlitz Tavern. Just lazy, I guess. *vbg*

Our "Friend Of The Hobby's" research came back tying the RK chips to the JKF chips. I had the RK chip and the Mason card. I got them in 2001. I have no notes in my database about the RK over stamp other than it was there and possibly a "floor sweeping." I wonder if I actually read the mason card right, at that time. This "Illegal Of The Day" just might redefine our term "floor sweeping." *vbg*

Take it away "Friend."

JKF

Not long after the sale of beer became legal in the US on April 7th 1933 a place of business opened in Kansas City named the Schlitz Tavern. The Schlitz was located south of downtown at 3310-12 Main Street.

My note: Can anyone out there remember when beer was illegal to sell in the USA? I'm old and I cannot! Here's a pic of the building from 1940:



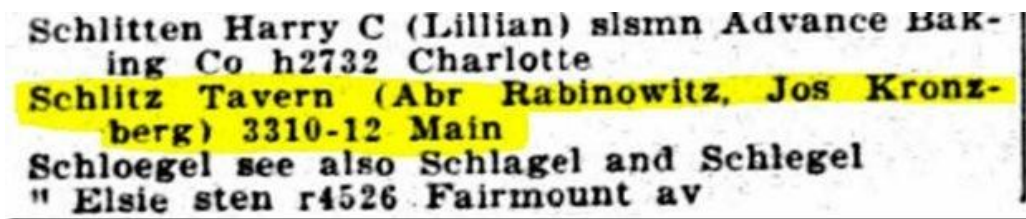
JKF1att2

current view (address today is 3240 Main):



JKF2att2

In 1935 the proprietors of the Schlitz were Abraham "Butch" Rabinowitz and Joseph Samuel Kronzberg.



JKF3att2

During part of the time Rabinowitz and Kronzberg ran the Schlitz they had a partner named Lincoln D. "Link" Moran. Moran was a well known operator of KC gambling clubs in the 1930's and an associate of Charles Binnagio, the man who would become KC's boss in 1939.

These RK hub mold chips were delivered to the Schlitz; the R probably for Rabinowitz, the K for Kronzberg:

Schlitz Tavern, Schlitz
 3310-12 Main St.,
 City

RK

"RK"
 New Mono in Silver
 (To be monogrammed over
 old checks monogrammed
 as follows -)

75 Yellow) Monogrammed "GA" new style
 50 Blue) Monogrammed "GA" new style
 150 Red) Monogrammed "MS" old style large
 25 Blue) Monogrammed "LJS" old style regular

(Above checks were returned to us and are O.K.
 for sale.)

JKF4att2



JKF5att2

My notes:

The RK chips were delivered and used by the Schlitz. The Schlitz knowingly ordered chips that were ordered, hot stamped for someone else, and went undelivered or returned. My guess is, they were cheaper.

I sent for info on the GA, LJS, and MS hot stamps. No card found on the GA and LJS. The MS is actually a typo on the Mason card. It is SW.

Mason card says the SW were for Seymour Weiss, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans but the order was cancelled before they were even shipped. That was 4/10/35. Doesn't make sense to save a few ¢ per chip, since Weiss was a multi millionaire.

Anyone ever seen a chip for the Roosevelt Hotel? I haven't and it is not in the latest TGT. If anyone has the RK over stamped on GA or LJS please show it and "cough it up if you have a trader, *vbg*

OK, the following probably does not belong in this IOTD but I got it at the last minute and could not resist adding it. *vbg*

Would be nice to find some chips actually sent to Seymour Weiss, he sounds like an interesting guy.

He was the proprietor of the Roosevelt and a close associate of Huey Long. Long had a 12th floor suite at the Roosevelt. The hotel was apparently *the* place to be in NO in 1934.

Huey Pierce Long, Jr., nicknamed "The Kingfish", was an American politician who served as the 40th Governor of Louisiana from 1928 to 1932 and as a member of the United States Senate from 1932 until his assassination in 1935.

My note: Huey had his finger in every pie. *vbg*

There were, in short, plenty of reasons why Huey Long should stay at the Roosevelt, but a man named Seymour Weiss was the most important. And by 1934 Weiss not only owned the Roosevelt Hotel, although he was only in his late thirties, he was also a self-made millionaire. Now, next to Huey himself, he was the most important person in Long's vast, complex, and rich network.¹⁸

JKF6att2

--from *Huey Long Invades New Orleans: The Siege of a City* by Garry Boulard



Save for Huey himself, no one knew as much about the intricacies, secrets, and finances of the Long organization as Seymour Weiss. Urbane, Jewish, and temperate, Weiss was one of the few restraining forces in Huey's life.

JKF7att2

My note: Seymour Weiss ordered the SW non delivered hubs 4/10/35. Long was assassinated 9/8/35 by Carl Weiss. Quite a coincidence, but I see no connection to the 2 Weiss's. Unsolved Mysteries did a show on Long. If I watched it, I don't remember it.


If we could find some chips actually delivered to the Roosevelt Hotel, we would have one heck of an IOTD. *vbg*

The RK card is stamped with the date Aug 14 1935. That same month Rabinowitz and Kronzberg were busted by Federal agents for "carrying on a rectifying business" at the Main Street address (apparently they were rectifying alcohol without a permit and not paying the Federal tax on what they produced). In December 1935 sheriff's deputies were removing property from the Schlitz because the proprietors had not paid rent.

My note: I never heard this term before. "rectifying alcohol without a permit" It is a new one on me.

A year and a half later John Francis Kellerman has these JKF hubs delivered to the Schlitz Tavern:

John Kellerman,
c/o Schlitz Tavern,
K.C., Mo. Reg. Old Mond "JKF"
4/23/37: B-9 1000C-M&Co. Inv. 3582 (K.C.)
5/8/37: B-9 1000C-M&Co. Inv. 3631 (K.C.)



JKF8att2



JKF9att2

Kellerman was a known KC gambling operator who in the years prior to his association with the Schlitz managed the 3925 Club:



JKF10att2

My note: Where are the 3925 chips?

In 1937 the listed proprietor of the Schlitz was Thomas J. Conway and in 1938 it was Louis Monteleone, a well known KC night club operator. By 1939 the Schlitz was no longer at 3310 Main. A few blocks away at 3009 Harrison a place calling itself the Schlitz Inn started doing business around 1937, but it's unclear whether the Schlitz Tavern had any connection with the Schlitz Inn.

In 1940 Kellerman described himself as "part owner" of a "book maker shop" and in Dec. 1942 he was arrested and charged with "keeping a horse betting establishment":

A CHARGE IN GAMBLING,

Three Men Arrested at Marlborough With Betting Equipment,

Three men arrested at Marlborough in a gambling raid by sheriff's deputies were charged today by the prosecutor with keeping a horse-betting establishment.

J. A. Purdome, chief deputy sheriff, said the deputies confiscated a quantity of horse race gambling equipment, including racing forms, at 7941½ Woodland avenue. There were five telephones in the room, he said, over which persons took bets. After the races, Purdome said, the bettors were met elsewhere and the bets were settled.

The men identified themselves as **John Kellerman**, 44 years old, 5029 Wyandotte street; Harry A. Bell, 46 years old, 109 East Fortieth street, and William Jankowski, 43 years old, 4312 Oak street.

JKF11att2

In 1950 during the Kefauver hearings Simon Partnoy, the manager of the race wire service in KC, is questioned by Chairman Kefauver:

The CHAIRMAN. Give us the names of your customers. They paid you big money. You know who they are.

Mr. PARTNOY. There was Kellerman.

The CHAIRMAN. Where is he?

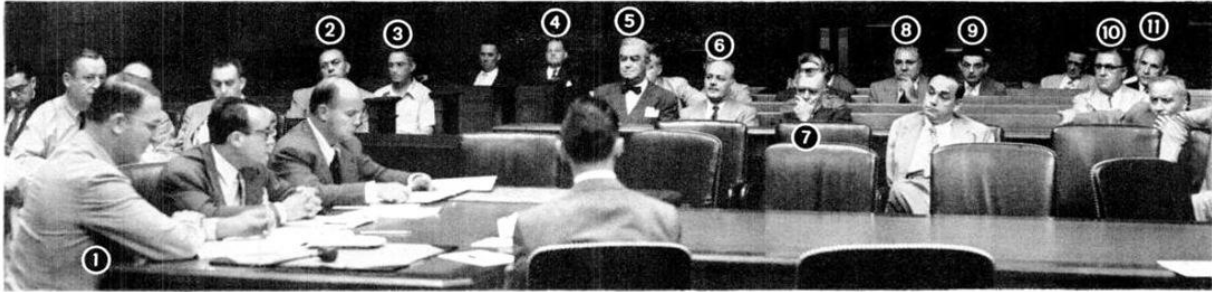
Mr. PARTNOY. Where is he located? I don't know the locations of any of them.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the first name?

Mr. PARTNOY. John F. Kellerman.

JKF12att2

pic of the hearing—Kefauver #1 and Partnoy #9:



In a Kansas City courtroom (above) Senator Kefauver (1) questioned this imposing cast of local gamblers and politicians. Mike Lascoula, alias Mike School (2), is a gambler. James Balestrere (3) is reputedly head of Kansas City's Mafia. Gambler Walter Rainey (4) is already under indictment by federal and county grand

juries. Hampton S. Chambers (5) and Robert Cohn (6) were deposed as police commissioners by Missouri Governor Forrest Smith after Binaggio's murder. J. L. ("Tuck") Milligan (7) is ex-chairman of police board. Joseph DeLuca (8) is convicted member of narcotics rings. Simon Partnoy (9) runs the local racing wire business.

Raymond A. Edlund (10), Democratic state treasurer, was asked about gamblers' contributions to his party. Sheriff J. A. Purdome (11) was present under subpoena to testify about the state of law enforcement at the time of the Binaggio slaying. Said Kefauver soothingly, "The Kansas City police department is a good one."

JKF13att2

My note: The Kefauver Commission devastated the illegal clubs across the USA in the early 1950's.

In 1951 Kellerman would start the Plaza Electric Company which he would run until his death at KC in 1959, age 60.



JKF14att2

One more thing....

In 1936, while the Schlitz Tavern was up and running in KC, the Schlitz Brewing Company released a new beer:

For refreshing energy

Schlitz

the beer with *Sunshine*

VITAMIN-D

A BAT cracks . . . a ball sings . . . and high in the air a shortstop leaps to make the catch.

It took extra energy to make that play . . . the kind of reserve energy that is brought to you in sparkling, invigorating SCHLITZ—the beer with SUNSHINE VITAMIN D*.

This precious element of buoyancy and invigoration adds more *lasting* benefits—gives new meaning to summer refreshment!

Modern living; clothing; hours spent indoors or in the shade—rob us of sunshine benefits even in mid-summer. SCHLITZ in brown bottles or cans gives you the SUNSHINE VITAMIN D so important to health and vigor—plus the *tangy, old-time SCHLITZ flavor and bouquet safeguarded by PRECISE ENZYME CONTROL—and at no increase in price.*

Enjoy SCHLITZ every day—a cooling, refreshing toast to health.

* Each 12-ounce bottle or can of SCHLITZ contains 100 U. S. P. X Units of Sunshine Vitamin D.

SCHLITZ brewer's yeast contains the pro-vitamin D which is activated directly by the ultra-violet rays of the sun to form Vitamin D. (Protected by U. S. Letters Patent.)

JOS. SCHLITZ BREWING COMPANY, Milwaukee, Wisc.

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The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous

JKF15att2

According to the ad, each bottle or can has 100 units of Vitamin D.
According to the Mayo Clinic, 600 units is the recommended daily allowance of Vitamin D.

My note: Who ever heard of Vitamin D beer? Looks like Schlitz was saying everyone should drink a 6 pack per day. *vbg* Read the claims in the advertisement. Do you think they could get away with that in today's world? *vbg*



JKF16att2

My note: No connection between the Schlitz Tavern and the Schlitz Brewing Company. *vbg*