

Poker was good to me all through the 1960's-70's. I played in several regular games in the Dayton, OH area. One of the biggest pots I ever won was in the back room of a launder matte in Dayton. The game was no-limit hold-em. My friend Rainwater flopped top set. Another player flopped a lower set. Johnny B flopped a nut flush draw. I flopped a straight flush draw. Rainwater made quads. I made the straight flush. Rainwater always claimed it was a cold deck. <g>

I think I already told the story of this same back room when 3 guys with shot guns kicked in the door. "Hands up" "Get against the wall" "Give us all your money" Big Betty went to her bra for her cash and one of the shot guns went off. She caught several buckshot in the shoulder. She missed the next 5 or 6 games but came back just as mean as ever. <g>

I've had this Mason record card for 12 years but had never seen a chip. I obtained the chip on the BB a few months ago.

Enough Of That:

Dayton, OH. A little before my time. <g>

Take it away "Friend."



SilverPoker Dollar1att2

Dayton-Springfield Road also known as Wright Brothers Memorial Highway,

Joe Parisi  
2500-E.5th St.  
Dayton, Ohio

Mono SILVER  
DOLLAR  
CAFE

DEC 11 1937

SILVER  
DOLLAR  
CLUB

1000W,1000R,500 Blk.-Det.Inv.#7409

8/11/39 - Inv. #4102

2000 B-9 1 0/16" S. E. Hub Checks - All White

PARISI, JOE  
2500 E. 5TH ST.  
DAYTON, OHIO

6/26/40

SILVER  
DOLLAR  
CLUB

INV. M 2758

1000 B-9 HUB CHECKS RED

SPEC MONO SILVER DOLLAR CLUB BOTH SIDES IN GOLD

PARISI, JOE  
2500 E. 5TH ST.  
DAYTON, OHIO

6/26/40

SILVER  
DOLLAR  
CLUB

INV. M 2758

1000 B-9 HUB CHECKS RED

SPEC MONO SILVER DOLLAR CLUB BOTH SIDES IN GOLD

Silver Dollar2att2

The chip delivery address, 2500 E.5th St. was the location of a small grocery store.

### Silver Dollar Club

The chips were delivered to Joseph Leonardo Parisi, a son of Sicilian immigrants who settled in the Pittsburgh, PA area in the early 1900's. During prohibition Parisi was a bootlegger. In the mid 1920's he operated a still on a farm about halfway between Pittsburgh and Dayton, OH which supplied whisky to customers throughout central Ohio. By the mid 1930's Parisi had moved from the Pittsburgh area to Dayton where he died in 1974 at the age of 69.

The chip delivery address, 2500 E.5th St., was the location of a small grocery store owned by a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant family named Schear. The Schear's would later become the owners of a large chain of grocery stores in the Dayton area known as "Liberal Market"). The store was managed by Ralph D. "Cookie" Schear and sometimes the store was called "Cookie's Market."

In the 1930's Cookie Schear and Joe Parisi formed a gambling partnership which ran numbers/policy/lottery games in the Dayton and Springfield, OH areas. They also operated a few roadhouses. In the late 1930's they operated a gambling room in a house north of Dayton called the "Green Lantern." The club got its name from two green lanterns sitting atop gateposts at the front entrance. In March 1939 the Green Lantern was high-jacked by five men with submachine guns and subsequently closed by the sheriff.

## GREEN LANTERN GAMBLING PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED BY SHERIFF'S ORDERS

The "Green Lantern," Miami county gaming house located on a farm just east of Phoneton and north of U. S. highway 40, scene of a reported \$10,000 holdup early Sunday morning, has been closed, according to Sheriff Kenneth Miller.

The sheriff was inclined to believe the holdup report was greatly exaggerated as well as the amount of the loot said to have been taken. He described the place as a sort of "private club" with persons presumed to be admitted by membership card only. Mel Thomas, 37, better known as "Babe Bright," who in years past appeared in Piqua as a prize fight referee, was in charge of the house, Miller said. Dayton authorities declare that Bright or Thomas is one of the "muscle men" for the Joe Parisi-"Cookie" Schear gambling combine of Dayton.

Silver Dollar3att2

snip from another article:

**Biggest in This Section**  
The "Green Lantern" was described by the Dayton newspaper's informants as one of the biggest gambling establishments in this part of the country and that it is allegedly operated by Joe Parisi and Ralph D. "Cookie" Schear, known numbers racket men of Dayton.  
According to information received here this morning the Green Lantern has been operating for months on a lavish scale with tables for dice, roulette, chuck-a-luck and cards. All drinks and food were reported to be "on the house" to gambling patrons.

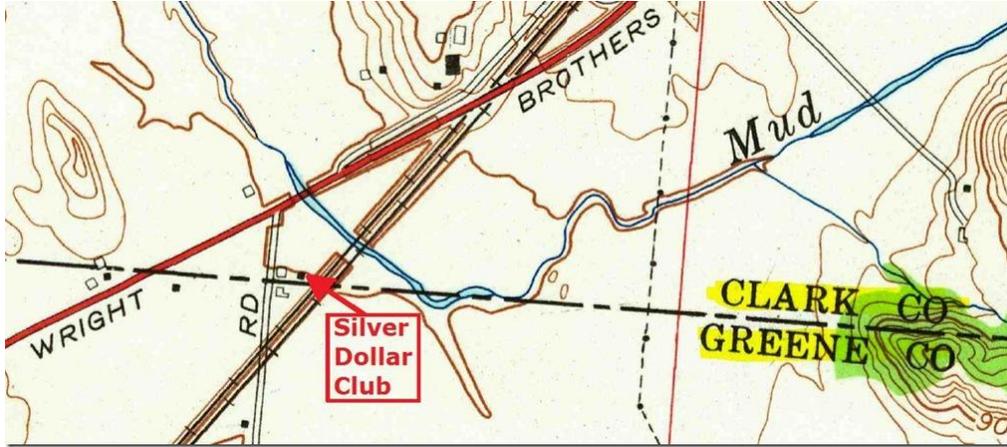
Silver Dollar4att2

My note: Joe and Cookie sound like the Screw Andrews of Dayton to me. Screw was the numbers "King" in Newport, Ky.

Not long after the Green Lantern closed, Parisi and Schear moved to another roadhouse located about halfway between Dayton and Springfield: the "Silver Dollar Club."

The Silver Dollar was located in a rural house which sat just off the Dayton-Springfield Road about two miles northeast of what is today Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (known as Wright Field and Patterson Field when the Silver Dollar was in operation; Dayton-Springfield Road also known as Wright Brothers Memorial Highway—the Wright's flew some of their earliest aircraft at the air field). The structure which housed the Silver Dollar sat just barely on the Clark County side of the Clark-Greene County line. The structure burned down in 1966.

old map showing location on boundary line and a current aerial of location:



Silver Dollar5att2



Silver Dollar6att2

appear to be remnants of buildings at the location:



Silver Dollar7att2

Here's a description of the Silver Dollar from the early 1940's given by the club manager Melvin Thomas (the same guy mentioned above as the manager of the Green Lantern):  
My note: I have TK mold chips with MT on them. One more reason to get the TK Specialty records released. <g>

## Bribery Trial Of County Prosecutor Continued

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, June 26—Testimony that the Silver Dollar night club was an elaborate gambling establishment with 16 employees and operated for three years in Clark co was offered today in the bribery trial of prosecutor Jerome A. Nevius.

Mr. Nevius is accused of receiving two automobiles and money from Joseph Parisi and Ralph Schear, operators of the club, also under indictment on charges of offering a bribe.

Melvin Thomas of Dayton, manager of the Silver Dollar, testified the club operated dice, poker and "bird cage" games, slot machines and "the old army game"; gave free chicken dinners to all its customers, and maintained a "crying room" in which complaining losers were consoled.

Losers who could not afford their loss, he told the jury, often were given back their money and told not to return to the club.

Mr. Thomas insisted the club did not operate as an "open house", but catered principally to "a lot of our friends and other people."

Silver Dollar8att2

My note: First time I have heard it called a "crying room." The term in Newport was "walking money" and I've never heard of a guy getting all his money back. Usually a \$20. IMO, the first time you gave a guy all of his money back and told him not to come back, you might as well close up because they would all cry for it. I think the reporter made that up. Some casinos in Las Vegas had a "walking money" policy when I first came to town. Not sure if any still do.

In 1944 a couple of losers at the Silver Dollar were unable to confine their tears to the crying room and cried all the way to the Clark County courthouse where they filed damage suits to recover their losses. These suits triggered a Clark County grand jury investigation into the Silver Dollar which resulted in the indictment of both Parisi and Schear on gambling and bribery charges in Dec. 1944. Also indicted for bribery was Jerome A. Nevius. Nevius had just been elected to his 3rd consecutive four-year term as Clark County's chief prosecutor.

**Nevius in a statement denying the indictment accusations said:**

**"In fairness to the voters of Clark-co who, by their expression of confidence re-elected me, I emphatically deny the charges made against me and expect in due time to be vindicated."**

Silver Dollar9att2

In May 1945 Parisi and Schear plead guilty to the gambling charges:

## **Two Are Fined On Gambling Charges**

**SPRINGFIELD, O., (AP)—Joseph Parisi, 40, and Ralph Schear, 36, of Dayton were each fined \$12,500 and sentenced to 90 days in jail yesterday when they pleaded guilty to indictments charging them with operating a gambling resort and conducting a numbers racket.**

**They previously had entered innocence pleas to the indictments returned by a special grand jury called by Common Pleas Judge Golden C. Davis. The pair still face bribery charges in connection with alleged gambling operations at the Silver Dollar, a Clark county night spot.**

Silver Dollar10att2

In June 1945 Nevius went to trial on his bribery charge, the gist of which being that he had accepted cash and automobiles from Parisi and Schear in exchange for protection of the Silver Dollar. Witnesses testified that they had seen Nevius at the Silver Dollar. He would stay for a few minutes then leave. Nevius' bank accounts showed deposits not congruent with his salary as chief prosecutor. A constable from a town near the Silver Dollar testified that he asked Nevius for aid to raid the club and Nevius replied: "If I were you, I'd let it ride." A former patron of the Silver Dollar had this to say at the trial:

She told of a conversation with Melvin Thomas, the establishment's manager. She quoted him as saying in answer to her question why the club wasn't closer to Dayton:  
"We can't. We don't have an arrangement with the prosecutor and sheriff of Montgomery County like we do in Clark."  
She also testified that Parisi told her he "had been paying the prosecutor and sheriff of Clark County"

Silver Dollar11att2

My note: Nevius is just one more elected official charged with accepting bribes to protect gambling. How many have we seen in the IOTD series? Parisi had no problem telling people about the bribes. Remind me to never rob a bank with this guy. <g>

Nevius' trial lasted 17 days. The jury took a little over 90 minutes to find a verdict of guilty and the former prosecutor received a sentence of 1 to 10 years at the Ohio State Penitentiary. Nevius immediately appealed the verdict. The appeal process lasted almost 2 years and culminated in a decision by the Ohio Supreme Court to uphold the verdict. Nevius appealed to the United States Supreme Court but they refused to hear his case.

In June 1947 Nevius began to serve his 1 to 10 at the Ohio Pen—rubbing shoulders with guys he helped put there as a prosecutor.

pic of Nevius entering his new home:

## Gambling 'Does Not Pay,' Former Prosecutor Learns



**JEROME A. NEVIUS (LEFT) IS JUST A NUMBER IN OHIO PEN**

Silver Dollar12att2

"GAMBLING DOES NOT PAY".....unless you were a shareholder in the Parisi-Schear partnership. According to the sworn testimony of

Parisi & Shear's accountant, during the years 1941-1944 said their gambling partnership had a gross income of \$3,700,000 and a net profit of \$500,000. Of this amount the Silver Dollar contributed \$545,000 to the gross and \$226,784 to the profit (most of the partnership's gross income came from running numbers games—90% going to payouts, according to their accountant).

Another numbers game:

- The average annual income in the US in 1940 was \$1,368; or \$22,721 in 2013 dollars.
- Nevius's annual salary as Clark County's chief prosecutor in the early 1940's was about \$3,700 a year; or about \$50,000 in 2013.
- The Parisi-Shear gambling partnership in the early 1940's had an annual profit of about \$125,000; or about \$1,700,000 in 2013.

In the early 1940's the combined population of Dayton and Springfield was about 300,000.

After serving 23 months in the Ohio Pen, Nevius was paroled June 15th 1949.

Apparently the Clark County Historical Society has a collection of materials related to the Nevius case. I emailed them several weeks ago about the collection but never received a response.

[http://www.heritagecenter.us/search\\_collections.cfm](http://www.heritagecenter.us/search_collections.cfm)

#### GOVERNMENT CATEGORY (CITY AND COUNTY)

Deeds (Grantor and Grantee) 1811-1875  
Indenture Record Book - 1825-1834  
Naturalization Records - *See Index and Microfilm*  
List of Clark County Prosecutors 1801-2011  
Tax Duplicates 1846-1900  
Plats and Surveys  
Index to Landowners in original Springfield Plat 1801  
City Utilities Collection  
City Police Department  
City Police Department - Floyd Womacks Collection  
City Streets Collection  
City Commission - Robert Pyle Collection  
Engineering, Planning and Transportation Department  
City Issues and Renewal Projects: Committee of 21, Blueprint for Progress, Issues "7 and 6", Core Renewal  
City Property Collection  
City Law Collection  
Health Department  
City Budget Collection  
Prohibition Probate Records  
Jerome A. Nevius Silver Dollar Gambling Scandal Collection - Court of  
Common Pleas - 1940s  
Municipal Court Cases  
City Collection  
City Collection - Oversized

Silver Dollar13att2

How many of you have this chip?

See you after the convention.

Brand new to me illegal club coming after the convention?  
Do you have this chip? I know 5 people that does have it.

