

Continuing our trip visiting Illegal Clubs around the USA. 🤖

This one tells the story of a Tennessee born bootlegger, Illegal Club operator, and mayor of [Palm Beach](#), FL from the 1920's thru 1964. He came home to Ecorse to die in 1964. Stories like this are repeated across the USA in the "Era Of The Illegals."

Silver Rail, Ecorse, MI

I got one color of the HSD in Oval in 1998, and sent for the record card. A 2nd color came from Mike Vuolo a couple months ago and reminded I knew nothing about it. The following will be way too much for most of you to sort thru. 🤖 I think history lovers will love it. Harold Brown may or may not have been a real person. Illegal chips were often ordered under alias's. Clarence De Wallot was a real person.

Time to meet Harold? - and Clarence for sure.


## Silver Rail, Ecorse, MI

Harold Brown,  
4063 West Jefferson Ave.,  
Ecorse, Michigan

5-22-35: 300 B-10: Monogrammed over with  
oval - 20 B-10: Chocoate - \$20.00 with oval  
Old Style Monogram  
"HSD" in circle

100 - B-10 Hub Checsk  
50 Dark Blue  
50 Red  
over

Detroit  
2/10/36





## Silver Rail, Ecorse, MI

A friend called the library and sent me this:

“Talked to the local library in Ecorse, MI, she was somewhat helpful. I would have to go to their library as they have no one who will look the information up that I need. They have very old papers they told me in the basement and also a book called *The History of Ecorse* which has much information on all illegal activities. She told me that is was the center for illegal gun running and prohibition as it is right on the Detroit River. Many mobsters had their footprints in this small town.”

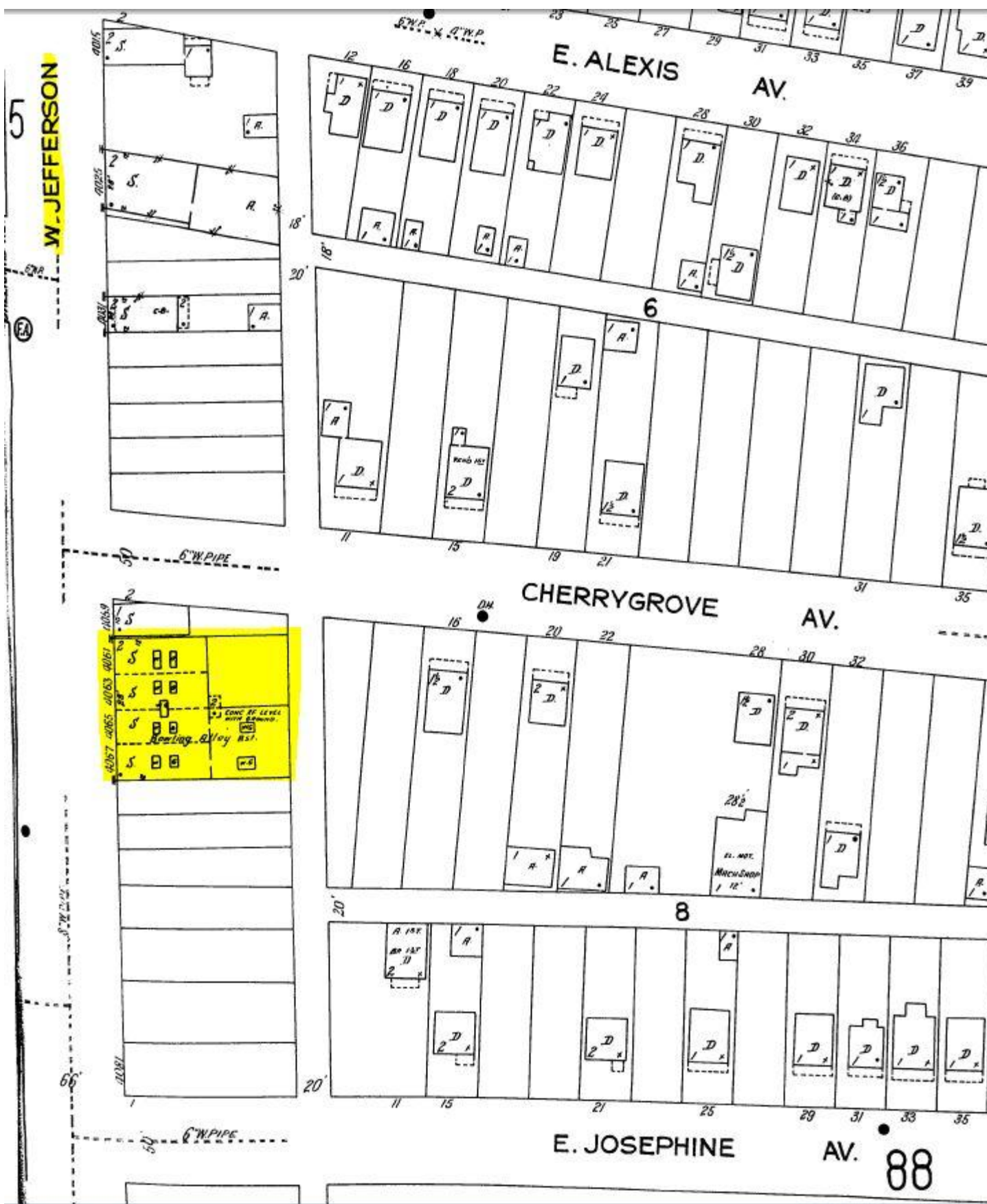
He lives 8 hours from there.

Hoping you can put a club name to the attached.

The address 4063 West Jefferson in Ecorse was housed in a building on the south-east corner of West Jefferson and Cherry Grove Avenue; the building no longer exists. It was a two story brick building which had a ten lane bowling alley in the basement. It housed addresses 4061, 4063, 4065, 4067. The building was known as the De Wallot Building.

Here's a street survey from 1924:

5  
W. JEFFERSON



E. ALEXIS AV.

CHERRYGROVE AV.

E. JOSEPHINE AV.

88

I couldn't find any meaningful reference to Harold/Harry Brown (it's a common name, several dozen in the Detroit area at the time, but none that popped out as having any relation to gambling).

However, the person that the building was named for is a different story: Clarence De Wallot (born 1898 Tennessee, died 1964 Palm Beach, Florida).

De Wallot appears to have been living at 4063 (or 4063 1/2) West Jefferson at the time the chips were ordered, where he operated a hotel/apartment on the second floor. In the early 1940's (and perhaps in the 1930's) he was also operating the Silver Rail Bar next door at 4061. Apparently, the basement bowling alley was entered through the bar, because he also owned it.

In 1940 De Wallot was arrested on charges of conspiracy to bribe public officials to protect his gambling operations:

(from *Chicago Tribune*, 6 March 1940)

# **INDICT SHERIFF AND PROSECUTOR ON GRAFT COUNT**

## **Accuse Detroit Pair of Selling Protection.**

Detroit, Mich., March 5 [Special].—Sheriff Thomas C. Wilcox, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Wayne county [Detroit], Alfred J. Garska, president of Grossepoint Park village, and three other officials were indicted today on charges of taking graft. Thirty-nine others were named in grand jury warrants charging conspiracy.

The other officials cited were Harry Colburn, chief investigator for McCrea, Carl J. Staebler, head of the civil division of the sheriff's office, and Undersheriff Bernard E. McGrath.

McCrea and Colburn have been named in a previous indictment issued by Circuit Judge Homer Ferguson, acting as a one man grand jury investigating graft and gambling, and their arraignment on the earlier charges along with 11 others, is scheduled for tomorrow.

The six officials indicted today are charged with taking graft to protect gambling houses and brothels. Those arrested on conspiracy charges included:

Gustav Pines, an investment broker, charged with having been an agent and employé of Sheriff Wilcox in handling graft moneys.

Charles Mocerl and James Mocerl, reputed gamblers.

Clarence De Wallelt, said to be

the proprietor of an Ecorse gambling house.

Sam Solomon, reputed operator of a Hamtramck handbook and gambling house.

Angelo Scaduta and his wife, Lillian, named as operators of a bawdy house and gambling establishment.

All the public officials named in the warrant, and all the others who were arrested, were arraigned before Judge Ferguson and released on \$1,000 bonds for hearing March 14.

Ouster proceedings against McCrea will be opened March 26.

The only addresses in Ecorse that I saw associated with De Wallot were all in the De Wallot Building. Incidentally, the Ecorse Public Library had it's first location in the De Wallot Building in 1926 (this is speculation--but I wonder if the library was given free rent as part of an "arrangement" with local officials).

In the 1920's De Wallot was one of the "rum runners" who operated out of Ecorse. In 1929 he was described as one of the "down river liquor barons." He appears to have been part of a large operation: (from *Ludington Michigan Daily News*, 18 Nov 1930)

## Two Powerful Syndicates of Aerial Hooch Smugglers Bring Rum to United States

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 18.—(AP) —The operations of two powerful aerial smuggling syndicates whose air fleets brought liquor and aliens from Canada to the United States were revealed today with the indictment of 10 men by the federal grand jury. According to the information held by the government the syndicates operated 30 planes for the smuggling of liquor and aliens from Canadian export aerodromes to remote landing fields in the United States.

**Agents Work with Smugglers.**  
Although the operations of the syndicates were confined for the most part to the Detroit area, government investigators said that planes landed contraband in the vicinity of cities in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Evidence on which the indictments were based was obtained by undercover agents who joined the syndicates and worked with the smugglers for weeks.

The investigators reported that 1,800 cases of liquor cleared a single Canadian airport in one month at the height of the operations while correspondingly large amounts were sent into the air from other fields across the international line. The planes, operated by the smugglers, were capable of carrying from 15 to 40 cases of liquor on a single hop.

Among the destinations reported to Canadian officials by the smuggling planes when they took off from the dominion airports were Saginaw, South Bend, Toledo, Milwaukee, Cincinnati and Sandusky.

**Hide and Seek with Officers.**  
The operators of the smuggling syndicates kept up a continual game of "hide and seek" with federal officers. Landing fields were changed frequently and hidden storage points were maintained at fields where the planes landed their cargoes.

Federal agents said today that, although the new Canadian law prohibiting exportation of liquor to the United States has crippled the industry materially, it still is operated.

The 10 men indicted today were: Clarence De Wallott, Ecorse; S. A. Steadman, Detroit; Capt. J. B. St. Louis, Detroit; Norman Hunter, Ecorse; Abe Gordon, Windsor; Donald Hunter, Ecorse; George Boucard, Windsor; Robert Yountz, Ecorse; John Thorman, Ecorse; Frank Gordon, Ecorse.

In the late 1940's De Wallot opened-up a resort at Indian River, Michigan called the Pinehurst Inn (probably had some gaming going on there).

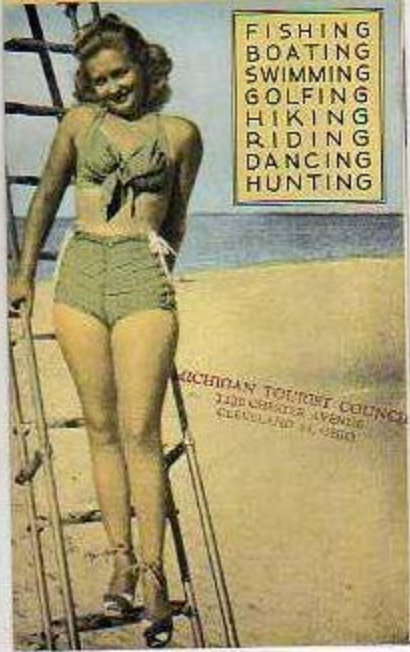
Here's a brochure which shows his picture (unfortunately it's the highest res I could get):

*A Vacation Thrill in  
Northern Michigan*

DE WALLOT'S

# PINEHURST INN

INDIAN RIVER, MICHIGAN



IDEALLY LOCATED - EASY TO GET TO  
*Telephone Bus Lines*



*Greatest Vacation Spot in the North*

*De Wallots*

# Pinehurst Inn

E. M. T. A., H. D. A. AND A. A. A.  
APPROVED

*At Beech and Maple Lakes*

INDIAN RIVER, MICHIGAN

*Come for a meal, a day, a week or a month*



AIR CONDITIONED BY NATURE  
E. M. T. A., H. D. A. AND A. A. A. APPROVED





**The Vacation Land of the North**  
 Leave your worries and cares at home. Here you will find everything for your holiday needs and to enjoy them.

Rate listed for food and

**BEWALLOT'S FINEBURST INN**  
**MICHIGAN'S GAYEST VACATION SPOT**  
 Make The Year Money That Any Place In The North

**American Plan (Break and Dinner)**

Double bed (without bath) BUT running water in room (two persons in a room) \$55.00 per person per week

Double bed and bath (two persons in a room) \$65.00 per person per week

Twin beds and bath (two persons in a room) \$60.00 per person per week

1 twin and 1 double bed with bath (three persons in a room) \$70.00 per person per week

**MARTIN HOUSE**, 19th double bed and bath, four persons in a room \$52.00 per person per week

**AMERICAN PLAN**, reservations by the week or month. First reservation begins and ends on a SUNDAY or MONDAY. One fourth reservation cost is the required deposit. Reservations made in advance.

Write, Wm. de Wallot, 2100 E. 10th St., 4102, for further information. E.M.T.A. and A.A.A. approved.



**CLARENCE DE WALLOT, Owner and Manager**

We will do our best to take care of you if you come without reservations. . . BUT we prefer to have you let us know what kind of accommodations you want so we can have everything ready for you when you arrive. A small deposit, which will be applied to your account, will insure that reservation. If for any reason your vacation plans are changed we will return your deposit if you make cancellation 45 days in advance.

Thinking about it? Write now!

Our spacious large facing EASTERN, BECKY, others, perfect, modern, THE FINEBURST INN has the finest SHOWER BATH IN THE NORTH. After our 250-room plan to serve you every bodily desire. Dining and comfortable entertainment, sports, music, a walk.

All Seasons are Beautiful

Choose any month you like to come to the FINEBURST INN, whether you come early with the cherry blossoms and snowed dinner and water sports. Row, boat and our own ice skating rinks with their own food, plus full service and today changes. Dinner hall a riot of color and entertainment. Enjoy the dining room in its own right, the woods with a hot tub, Arch, or when deep snow or thin snow cover a road.



you, you will always find certain hospitality and a wealth of outdoor activities at the FINEBURST INN.

**Deer Hunting Season**  
**A SPORT PACKED WITH THRILLS**

Make the FINEBURST INN your headquarters for the deer season. A member can enjoy all the comforts of home, yet within a short few minutes from the Deer Stand. We are located 1.66 miles from the N. T. C. RAILROAD, THE GREAT PORTLAND CEMENT and U. S. 25.

**The Show Bar—Continuing Entertainment**

The Great SHOW BAR is the SOCIAL, continuous entertainment and dancing. For the fortunate hunter we will preserve his deer in our preserves, taxidermy department. For those who come by bus or train, we will offer a small additional charge, provide a radio to see you off at the deer stand and pick you up at a designated time.

150-foot deer area for you to hunt in. Complete family riding and deer preservation halls in a 2000 year.

The approximate distances by truck are: from the following places to the following address: 2427, Chalmers 178; Chalmers 174; Detroit 238; Indianapolis 109; Toledo 218.

Open May 24th to Dec. 1st



By the late 1950's De Wallot had moved to Palm Beach, Florida where he owned the Seaview Hotel. He served two terms as Palm Beach's mayor. He died of a heart attack while on a visit to Ecorse in 1964.