

This is "Illegal Of The Day" # 228. 75, fully one third of them have been from 4 mid-western states Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. I think this number is a pretty good snapshot telling us that the mid-west was the hub of illegal gambling. We have not come close to telling all the stories but I bet the numbers will be close to what we have already seen if it was possible to tell all the stories from across the USA. Just a wild and crazy guess, maybe 9,772 to go. \*vbg\*

Once more we return to Illinois. David Spragg found The BD and Smoke House chips on ebay. He has a couple sets left and will be along with a sales post.



BD1att2

SPECIAL MONOGRAM

Name Robert Wilson  
 Address 40 Smoke House  
 Town Havana State Ill  
 Per T-design

\$500 \$2500

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
20	Orange		Block	B.D.	25 <sup>00</sup>	Block	Blue	2.13.48
60	Light Green		"	"	5.00	"	Yellow	2.13.48

BD2att2

BD (T-mold) & Smoke House (Treybal) Joe Treyball, St Louis Mo, 3 dots and dash mold.

Enough of that:

Enter our "Friend Of the Hobby."

Found a few things on the Smoke House, but not a whole lot. Robert Dixon, who ordered the BD chips, died in 1979. He had two children, a son and a daughter. His son Donald died in March of this year. His daughter Joan Stehr is in her early 80's and residing in Albuquerque, NM

The BD T-mold chips were delivered to Robert Dixon c/o Smoke House in Havana, Illinois in 1948 (the BD probably stands for Bob Dixon; could also be for Bob & Don, since Dixon's son Don was associated with him at the Smoke House). The Smoke House was one of many gambling places operating in Havana at the time--for more see this Illinois Illegal of the Day:

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/illegaloftheday/VariousIL3.pdf>

My note: The above link will take you to "Illegal Of The Day" Illinois 29. It is a good story about many illegal operations in Havana, IL and answers the age old question of "When Pigs Fly." \*vbg\*

In 1948, the year the BD chips were ordered, Havana and surrounding Mason County were visited by a reporter from the Chicago Tribune:

**Chicago visitors, wandering wide-eyed thru the city's taverns and country roadhouses, have found more concentrated gambling and assorted vice in Mason county than even in the wicked city on Lake Michigan's shores.**

BD3att2

(the Wheeler mentioned below was a State Attorney from the Havana area):

But gambling is taken as the normal pattern of life by the local citizens. Every one of the score or more saloons has a dice table in the open and usually a "casino" or "club room" for other gambling layouts.

#### **Slot Machines Like Flies**

Slot machines are as thick as flies, here and thruout the county, which calls itself the playground of central Illinois. Almost every restaurant has them. They're even in some drug stores.

In 12 years Wheeler said only one gambling complaint has been filed. It was dismissed when the complaining witnesses refused to testify, he said.

Havana does not license gambling, which is illegal by state statute. Instead, once a month, it fines every gambler on the basis of the number of his machines or dice tables, drawing a revenue of about \$1,100.

The county board of supervisors recently raised tavern licenses to \$800 annually. Wheeler denied there is any kind of a political pay-off which allows gamblers to operate.

Even the military police, who patrol the town as do the local state police, aren't immune from the click of the ivory bones. In a main street taproom this weekend one MP dropped \$85 and his buddy lost \$60 in short order.

BD5att2

My note: I don't know what an army MP was making in 1948. When I joined the army in 1959, I was paid \$72 per month. \*vbg\* \$85 would have been a huge amount to him. \*vbg\*

Dixon and the Smoke House address show-up on the Kefauver Taylor customer list from 1951:

Robert Dixon  
316 W. Main St.  
Havana, Ill.

BD6att2

Robert Dixon and his son Don purchase Federal wagering stamps in January 1952:

# 34 More In Area Get Gaming Stamps

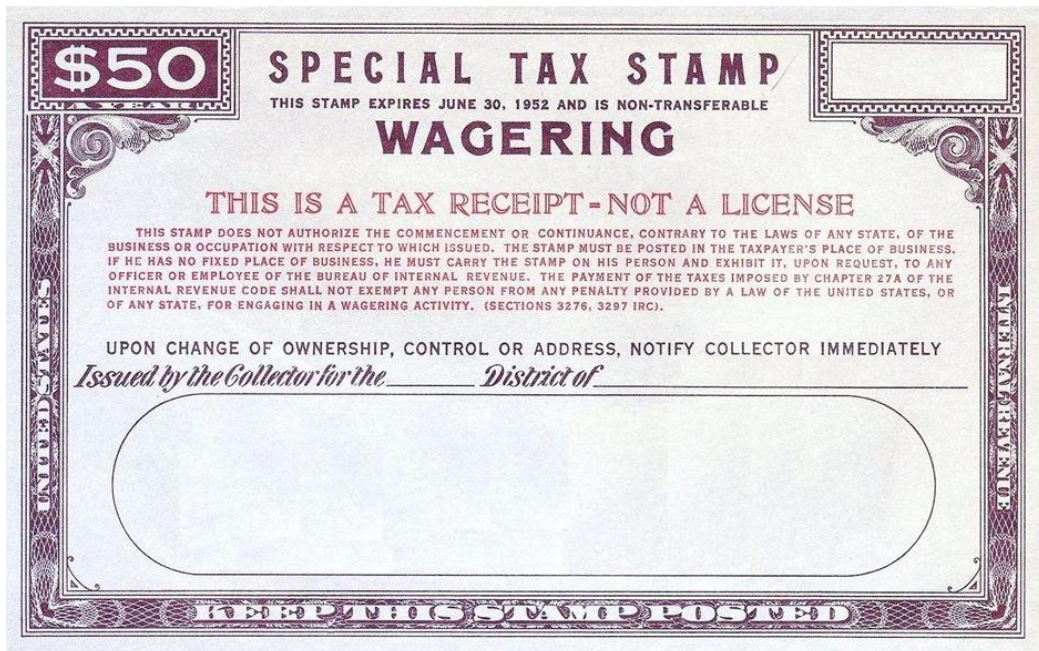
Thirty-four more federal gambling stamps have been issued recently in the Peoria area by the Springfield internal revenue district in Springfield, bringing the downstate total to 1,907.

Recent licenses include:

Inez G. Green, Greens Recreation parlor, Deer Creek; Donald Dixon, 316 W. Main, Havana; Robert Beechen, Hilltop tavern, 108 N. Main, Creve Coeur; Warren Rohrer, 350 Elizabeth, Pekin; Billy McMullen, 10 S. Fourth, Pekin; Louis Olivero, Oliver's cafe, Green Valley; Lois Bracken, 101 N. Fourth, Pekin; Woodrow Wilson, 1300 S. Second, Pekin; William H. Kinder, Kinder's tavern, 1300 S. Second, Pekin; Jack H. Oranwill and Richard E. Vonderheide, The Colonial club, R.R. 2-State Rt. 29, Pekin.

Roger Kline, R. 2, Pekin; Lorraine Endicott, 201 N. Eighth, Pekin; Lawrence Endicott, 201 N. Eighth, Pekin; Carroll and Fred Farischo, Roxy's, 304-6 Margaret, Pekin; George Ziebold, 304-6 Margaret, Pekin; Watt and May Boyer, Pekin Recreation center, 102 N. Fifth, Pekin; Don Cranwill, R.F.D. 2, Pekin; Julius E. and Adrian B. Barnes, the Windsor Hotel and Tap, 101 N. Fourth, Pekin; Richard Eidenmiller, Schrecks tavern, 10 S. Fourth, Pekin; Vernon Rohrs, Tazewell tap, 350 Elizabeth, Pekin; Allen B. Cranwill, Seven Mile Corner, Rt. 1, San Jose; Charles F. Pomrenke, Three Point tavern, R.R. 1, San Jose; Forrest Joesting, Dew Drop lunch, 249 Derby, Pekin; William M. Green, Green's Recreation parlor, Deer Creek; Ernest E. and Walter L. Kerrick, Brown Jug tavern, C.M.R. 31, Pekin; Peter Rudolph, Arthur D. Wilson, and M. Elizabeth Wilson, Pete's tavern, 312 W. Main, Havana; Robert Dixon, Smoke House, 316 W. Main, Havana; Claradine Carruthers and Matthews Sepich jr., 59 E. Chestnut, Canton; Lawrence Gray, 906-908 Walnut, Washington.

example of a Federal tax stamp from 1952:



BD8att2

My note: Illegal gambling joints could purchase the federal gambling stamp each year and feel safe from the feds sticking their nose in the business. Combine that with the monthly fine from the city of Havana's monthly tax on each table and slot machine and they were in reality now "Legal Gambling." \*vbg\*

The federal stamp also covered a person running a roving crap game as long as he kept the stamp on his person and could display it on request. \*vbg\* This federal stamp did not make gambling legal with the local or state cops. They still needed to be paid off. \*vbg\*

Here's a recent photo of the former location of the Smoke House, 316 W. Main:



BD9att2

interior, looking front to back:



BD10att2

interior, back to front:



BD11att2



My note: I doubt this will be the last "Illegal Of The Day" on Havana, IL. I believe the city came close to Newport, KY with the number of joints in operation. Per the Saturday Evening Post Newport had 150 in 1960.

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If you want to contact daughter, current White Pages listing: 505-292-0130