

I got the following info from a friend. He had already checked Preserving Gaming History web site and knew the Harp mold was an Illinois chip. The flower mold chips were up in the air as to an ID, at that time. "Tale of two ID's".

Makes for a good story.

Enough of that:

Thought I'd forward you the email I got from the chips' seller which has some info about the Spur Inn in Spur, TX since the yellow flower mold might be from there. I had contacted this eBay seller about buying a set of the Blue Horse Shoe chips and asked if they had any chips from Dallas and that's when they brought-up the Spur Inn chips.

PAY-PAL Please....mobanx2@yahoo.com...

OK...YOU HAVE JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF A VERY KOOL OLD FIND ...BUT...I HAVE ANOTHER SET FOR YOU...PLEASE SEE PICTURES...THESE CHIPS ARE NOT FROM DALLAS BUT FROM TEXAS..I INCLUDED A COUPLE E-MAILS FROM PEOPLE THAT LIVED ..OR LIVE IN SPUR TEXAS..I HAVE MORE HISTORY..IF YOU WANT..I HAVE TO DIG LITTLE DEEPER IN MY RECORDS....

I HAVE PERSONALLY SPOKEN TO "JEWEL" THE RUNS THE ...NOW "SPUR INN BED & BREAKFAST" IN SPUR TEXAS...SHE IS SO KOOL...SHE IS LIKE IN HER 80's..AFTER SPUR INN BURNT THE LAST TIME THEY MOVED THE GAME TO PERSONAL HOMES IN "SPUR" HE HAD PLAYED IN SOME OF THESE GAMES..ETC..

OK...THE FIRST FEW CHIPS I SOLD FOR LITTLE OVER \$50 EACH..I SOLD SOME TO LOCALS IN SPUR AS YOU SEE IN THE E-MAILS FOR \$25 EACH..THAT WAS FOR THE YELLOW & THE BROWN..SENSE THEN I FOUND THREE

PURPLE" ONES..I HAVE ONLY THE THREE PURPLE ..THE YELLOW-\$15...THE BROWN-\$15 THE "PURPLE" \$45..ONLY HAVE THREE...MAYBE THE ONLY PURPLE LEFT ANYWHERE....YOU KNOW ABOUT SHIPS..WHO KNOWS..

LET ME KNOW HAVE MORE HISTORY..IF YOU WANT THE THREE ..I CAN SHIP TOGETHER I WILL TAKE \$65 FOR SET IF YOU WANT NOW..WILL SHIP BOTH SETS TOGETHER

LET ME KNOW..IF YOUR NOT INTERESTED IN THE "SPUR INN" ..I UNDERSTAND...UNDERSTAND..SORRY TO GO ON & ON ..LOVE THE HISTORY OF THE CHIPS ESPECIALLY CUZ I FOUND IT...

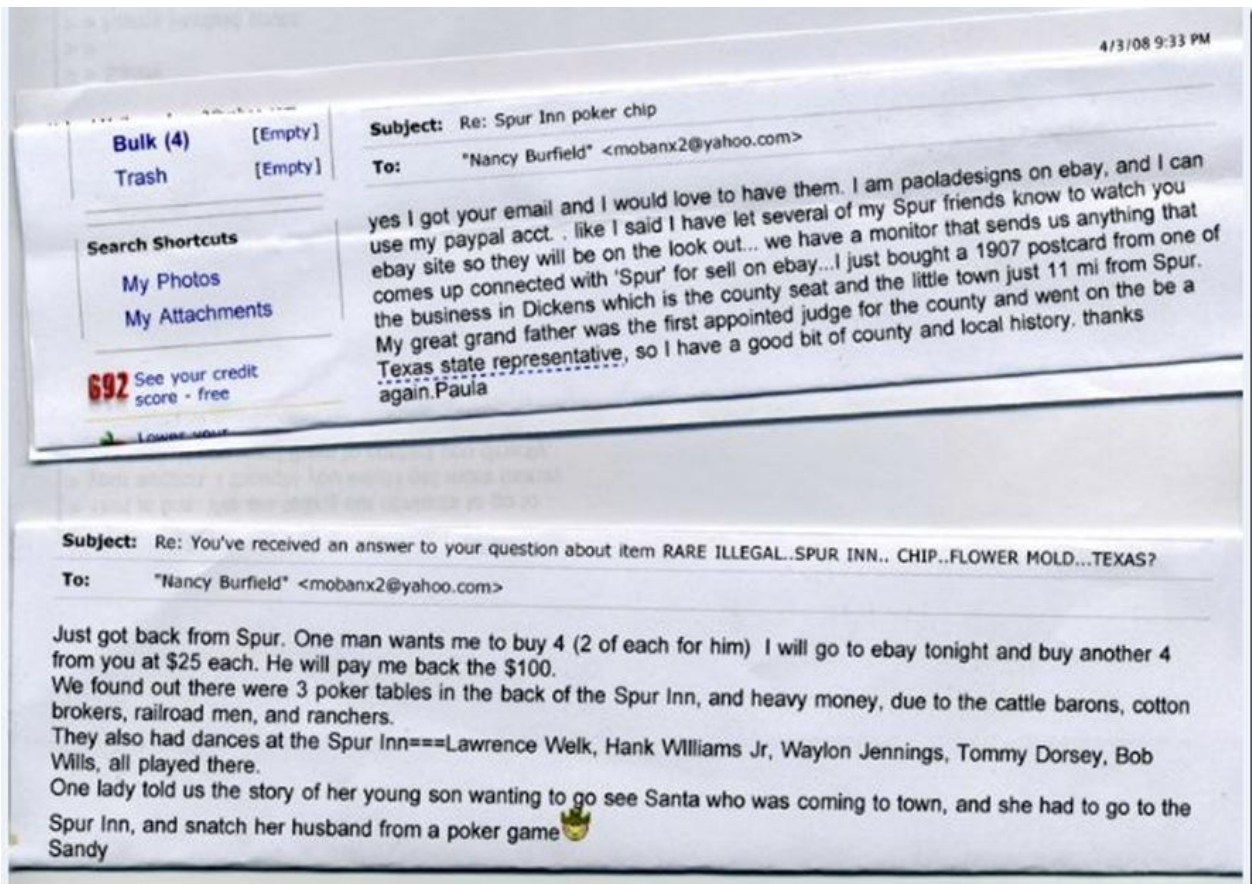
HAVE A NICE EVENING

BOB/NANCY

ps. JUST ADDED TWO PICTURES OF THE "OLD SPUR IN"

Spur Inn1att2

Here are the emails the seller refers to and a pic they sent:



Spur Inn2att2

Spur Inn, Spur, Texas. Unknown year the picture was taken. No doubt in my mind they had gambling. Now, where are the chips! <g>



Spur Inn3att2

The seller's names are Robert & Nancy Burfield of Ozark, MO (mobanx2@yahoo.com). I didn't tell them about the harp mold ID since I know that sometimes people can get upset when they find out the truth about a chip that they thought was something else--the sellers may have been OK with the new info, but in the middle of a transaction I figured I'd just let it slide.

My note: I called the sellers. They had done their homework and were telling the truth as they knew it. They had bought both molds of the Spur Inn chips on line several years ago in one lot. They had searched out and found the 80 some year old operator of The Spur Inn bed and breakfast, still open in Spur, Texas. She told them about private poker games at the Spur Inn and then moving the game to private residences after The Spur Inn burned down. She had some chips and would try to find them. No luck on that yet.

The sellers put 2 & 2 together as many of us would. To them it was a good ID. Whoa!!! Not so fast! <g> That is why we have the Preserving Gaming Web Site. They were happy to get the correct ID. They have some for sale at a reasonable price. Robert & Nancy Burfield of Ozark, MO (mobanx2@yahoo.com)

Enough of what the Spur Inn chips are not: <g>

Illinois:



1 Spur Innatt2

I do not have the purple flower mold. The sellers only had 4 of them.

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
1000	Br Orange	Spur Inn	Spec.					3-30-46
800	Lavender	" "	"					3-30-46
400	Choc	" "	"					3-30-46

Taylor

Figured you'd like some info about the Spur Inn in Karnak, Illinois. The chips were delivered to Thomas H. Willingham, the son of a Paducah physician. Thomas appears to have lived all his life in Paducah, dying there in 1986 at age 77. The chip delivery address was a cigar store in Paducah owned by Dexter Howell. A possible reason for the chips being delivered to Paducah in March 1946 is that the Spur Inn at Karnak was in the process of being rebuilt after a fire in December 1945:

My note: We have no proof the flower molds were used in IL, except the fact they were both purchased in one lot from the same seller. The hot stamps are close. I am calling the flowers as IL until I see something saying they are not.

**SPUR INN NEAR KARNAK
DESTROYED BY FIRE**

CAIRO, ILL., Dec. 6—(AP)—
The fire which yesterday destroyed the Spur Inn, dance hall on Route 37 between Cairo and Marion, caused damages estimated at \$40,000 by J. G. Webb, operator of the Inn. The origin of the fire, Webb said, was not determined.

Spur Inn4att2

Karnak? Wonder if that is where Johnny Carson got his alter ego name? <g>

Re-opens around the time of chip order:

closed at Rainbo Ballroom, Chi, has
added Kenny Martin as a new chirp-
ster. . . . Spur Inn, Karnak, Ill., had
Orrin Tucker billed last December
and the spot burned down. Rebuilt,
spot had Tucker's ork open April 4,
and combo left April 5, when Ken
Jackson, late of Art Kassel, took over.
Jimmy Ellyn follows Jackson. . . .

Spur Inn5att2

Apparently the Spur Inn employed a lot of people from Paducah (from 1948):

Die As Auto Hits Truck

Car Ploughs Into Parked
Transport in Illinois; Five
Others Seriously Hurt.

METROPOLIS, Ill., March 10—
(UP)—Six persons were killed
and five others seriously injured
today when a car carrying 11
men, all Negroes, crashed into a
transport truck on a highway near
here.

All the dead and injured were
from Paducah and western Ken-
tucky. They were returning home
from Spur Inn, night club north of
here, where they had worked last
night as waiters and cooks.

The car, driven by Allen Risby,
Paducah, crashed into the rear of
a trailer-truck operated by the
Southwestern Transport Co. The

Spur Inn6att2

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ALVINO REY

SPUR INN

Karnak "Y", Ill.

30 Miles South
of Marion
Presents

One Night Only
Tues. July 30th

In Person

Alvino Rey

And His 25 Piece Orchestra

Featuring Jo Ann Ryan, Vocalist
Jimmy Joyce, Vocalist

The Airliners (four boys and a girl)

Dancing 9:30 'till 1:30

\$1.75 per person, plus tax

For reservations phone 32, Karnak, Ill.

All reservations cancelled at 10:30 P. M.

ad from 1947:

SPUR INN Proudly Presents
Route 37, Karnak "Y" Ill **One Nite Only**
30 Miles South of Marion Thursday, June 19th.

**HELLO, HELLO, HELLO
IN PERSON!**
MUSIC BY MASTERS

Dancing 9:30 'till 1:30
Adm. \$1.50 per person
Plus Tax

Frankie
Masters
AND HIS WORLD FAMOUS ORCHESTRA
with PHYLLIS MYLES

For Reservations 'PHONE
Karnak, Ill. 32
Choice Chinese and American
Foods.

Spur Inn8att2

Sykeston (MO) Herald—26aug1948 (Karnak is in Pulaski County):

CHARGES WIDE-OPEN GAMBLING NEAR CAIRO

This morning's St. Louis Post Dispatch has a front-page story, written by a staff correspondent, charging that "gambling is such a lucrative business in graft-ridden Alexander and Pulaski counties (Illinois) that law enforcement officers stand idly by while two outside syndicates fight it out for the profits."

Stating that the gambling places and night clubs are being hard pressed to meet the demand of the gambling syndicates, the Post Dispatch story continues:

"Nowhere in Illinois can there be found as many elaborate gambling casinos as there are in these counties at night. The local highways are brightly lit with garish neon signs, advertising such resorts as the Colony Club, the Dawn Club, Club Winchester, Club El Morocco, Club El Patio and Spur Inn.

"Within a few miles of the eastern approach of the Cape Girardeau bridge in Alexander county can be found 23 gambling joints, from the 'nickel-shooters' to the big places."

Cape Girardeau and the surrounding cities were a literal hot bed of illegal gaming clubs. There are many chips from the area including The Thunderbird, East Cape Girardeau IL.



chip8797att2



chip2885att2

The small key has always been controversial since it was found in 2000. Many believe it to be a Las Vegas chip. I believe it to be an Illinois chip. No doubt the T mold is Illinois.

I have chips from The Colony Club and the El Patio Club mentioned in the article. Off the top of my head The El Patio and Frog City Club in Cairo, IL, are the only 2 arodies from IL. Ed Hertel did have both arodies for sale or trade. Not sure if he still has some.