

The TEX chips came to me via ebay. In my opinion what we have here is a genuine two state Illegal chip. Tex fits the pattern of many illegal operators we have seen in the "Illegal Of The Day" posts, bootlegging, bribery, murder, and gambling. What can I say except he was a "chip off the old block?" <g>

A new Club member Huff Jones recently posted on the BB about his Grandfather and Father operating Illegal clubs in Miami, AZ, 1940's. That's next door to Globe, AZ where Tex Wilson had his XET chips sent and down the road from the Top of the World that was featured in "Illegal Of The Day" Arizona 2 posted on 4/5/12. I look forward to talking more to Huff in the future.

Enough f that:

Arizona/Colorado:



WET1att2

Tex Wilson

The Lodge

Globe, AZ

1/6/40

1000 chips

300 green 50c

300 blue \$1

300 yellow \$5

100 pink \$25

Same hot stamp for Denver, same person. – XET mono

Tex Wilson

Believed to be used at The Belvidere

1209 Penn. Apt #8

Denver, CO

5/27/41 and 7/2/41

1400 black \$1

600 yellow \$5

100 blue \$25

600 black \$1

400 yellow \$5

More XET chips on Diamond mold.



Link to Colorado Supreme Court case on Tex Wilson gambling.

http://co.findacase.com/research/wfrmDocViewer.aspx/xq/fac.19381017_0040036.CO.htm/qx

XET (TEX spelled backwards)

Nolan Franklin "Tex" Wilson was born in 1900 and grew-up on a ranch in a small town north of Dallas, Texas called Allen (today it's a large suburb). Around 1919 Wilson moved to the Telluride, Colorado area

where two of his dad's brothers lived (here he got the nickname "Tex"). Wasn't long before young Tex, along with a mysterious Mexican, was getting himself into trouble in Colorado:

14Jan1922:

TELLURIDE MAN BEING TRIED ON CHARGE OF BOOTLEGGING

That Nolan Wilson, a well known young man of Telluride, is now on trial in the county court in Montezuma county charged with bootlegging, is the report which has reached Telluride from Cortez. Wilson, say the reports coming here from Cortez, is alleged to have been keeping company with a Mexican, whom the authorities at Cortez suspected of violating the prohibition and gambling laws. A raid is said to have been made at the rooms occupied by Wilson and the Mexican, the Cortez authorities finding a considerable quantity of moonshine whiskey. Wilson is said to have been in the room at the time of the raid, and is said to have been arrested by the authorities and charged with bootlegging. The Mexican caught wind of the raid, say the reports and made good his escape.

XET2att2

Four years later in 1926 Tex gets married in Pueblo, CO (his first of many). By 1930 he's divorced and operating a cigar store in Salida (located about 100 miles southwest of Denver). By the mid-late 1930's he appears to have moved to the Denver area where he's arrested for running a bookmaking operation in Denver's Cosmopolitan Hotel. Later, in 1938, he's arrested again for doing the same thing at another location with a guy named Edward Burton (when Tex was arrested he offered the sheriff a \$50 bribe, which was refused).

In January 1940 the first of the XET chips are delivered to Tex at a place called "The Lodge" in Globe, Arizona. Globe had come to life in the late 1800's during a brief silver mining boom there and later became a center for copper mining. In 1940 its population was a little over 7,000 and on Saturdays, according to a travel guide published that year, it's downtown was said to be full of cowboys, Apaches and old prospectors (the Apaches "stoically feeding their nickels into greedy slot-machines").

At the time of the chip order Globe had two annual events, one in the Spring and one in the Fall--both with activities which Tex liked: gambling and rodeo.

Annual Events: '49er Celebration, May 1 (rodeo, wide-open gambling, carnival, street parade with stagecoaches); State Invitation Golf Tournament, May 10; Globe Jubilee, Oct. 20-22 (rodeo, wide-open gambling, and carnival).

XET3Att2

Here's the 1940 travel guide's description of "The Lodge":

Since 1909 THE LODGE, S. Broad St., a saloon and cardroom across from the courthouse, has been a hangout for pioneers, cow punchers, prospectors, and miners. Games of poker, hearts, and rummy are usually in progress at the card tables. The fixtures of the bar, the huge wallglass behind the counter, and the samples of ore in mahogany chests at the entrance are reminders of the early life of Globe.

XET4att2

The description says that The Lodge was located on South Broad St., Globe's main street--but the addresses I've seen place it on North Broad. Here's a color photo from the 1940's of Broad St. looking north. The courthouse is the building on the far right side of the photo. Based on the addresses which I've seen, The Lodge was located across the street in either the building on the corner or the one next to it (both structures still stand).



XET5att2

another pic:



XET6att2

current street view—corner building looks unchanged but the one next to it has had a face lift:



XET7att2

Here's an ad from Christmas 1938:

XET8att2

In May & July 1941 Tex orders more XET chips, this time having them sent to the Seymour Apartments in Denver (his residential address). I'm not sure exactly what Tex was up to at the time of these chip orders, but less than a year later a new swank club opens in the Denver suburb of Aurora with which Tex was certainly associated—The Belvidere.

Here's a Denver Post article from December 5th, 1943 about the Belvidere being closed by the sheriff. Tex tells the sheriff that there's never been any gambling equipment in the club; the DA says that just before being closed the Belvidere had dice, roulette and blackjack tables as well as slot machines.

The Cappe Wilson mentioned in the article was Tex's sister.

Court Command temporarily forbidding use of the Belvidere club near Fitzsimons General hospital is tacked to the club's door by Sheriff Herman A. Farney of Adams county. Note the peephole above the notice. The order was issued on a complaint that the club is a gambling den.



ACCUSED CLUB BARE OF GAMING DEVICES

Sheriff Says He Saw Only Tables and Chairs When He Went to Padlock Belvidere at Court's Order.

Sheriff's officers Saturday clamped padlocks on the peep-holed doors of the Belvidere night club near Fitzsimons General hospital, but when they got there the place was as bare of gambling equipment it allegedly had contained as Mother Hubbard's fabled cupboard. Adams County Sheriff Herman A. Farney said no gambling equipment, records or other evidence of gambling operations were seized in the establishment which was ordered closed earlier in the day by District Judge Harold H. Davies on the complaint of District Attorney Richard H. Simon.

CLUB CLOSED TWO WEEKS AGO.

Sheriff Farney said Tex Wilson, alleged operator of the club and a defendant with Miss Cappe Wilson,

owner, in the abatement action brought by Simon, drove up in his car just as the search got under way, and was served with a summons to appear for a preliminary hearing before Judge Davies on Dec. 9.

Farney said he questioned Wilson about the alleged gambling equipment in an effort to learn of its whereabouts, but said Wilson replied, "There never was any in there."

Only a few dining tables and some chairs were in the club which, Farney said, had been closed about two weeks.

District Attorney Simon announced his investigation is continuing.

The "complaint in equity for injunction to abate and prevent a nuisance" at the Belvidere club was filed early Saturday and was followed immediately by issuance of a temporary restraining order which resulted in the padlocking.

'NEVER USED FOR LAWFUL BUSINESS.'

Simon's complaint said the club, as recently as Oct. 30, contained "six slot machines, one blackjack table, two roulette tables and two dice tables," and "never had been used for a lawful business enter-

(Turn to Page 6—Col. 1.)

SHERIFF PUTS LAW PADLOCK ON BELVIDERE

(Continued From Page One.)

prise" since its construction early in the spring of 1942.

To the complaint were attached depositions by J. Glenn Donaldson, enforcement attorney for the office of price administration, and Harold Collier, both of whom said they had witnessed gambling in the establishment.

Simon pointed out that in June, 1942, four men pleaded guilty to charges of operating gambling in the place and were fined in a Brighton justice of the peace court.

The men who were fined were named as Julius Halperin, John B. Cagliardi, Morris Barron and John Martin.

SIMON CONFERS WITH PREACHERS.

Simon disclosed Saturday he had engaged in "lengthy conferences" with some Denver clergymen including the Rev. Samuel Bradford of Beth Eden Baptist church, who informed Simon he could obtain testimony from Donaldson and Robert L. Harvey, co-ordinator of Civilian defense in Denver.

Simon said he expected to have "additional information soon concerning operations of the club, and the names of persons frequenting the place."

In 1990 the Denver Post interviewed a guy who had been in the taxi driving business in Denver since 1935. The old-timer said that Denver's night life was pretty wild back in the 30's & 40's and that he supplemented his income nicely by knowing all the places to take people looking for a taste of it. He said he knew all the houses of prostitution and every place you could get a drink after hours. When asked where he took people who wanted to gamble he said: "Well, let's see. There was Eddie Jordan's Stockade, a Las Vegas type joint down south. And then there was the Belvidere Club in Aurora and the Wohlhurst near Littleton."

Here's a couple of Eddie Jordan chip orders from the Taylor records. Jordan and a well known Denver gambler named Ova Elijah "Smiling Charlie" Stephens purchased the Wohlhurst in 1944. Stephens, apparently with Jordan as his partner, purchased the Stockade in 1941.

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
1800	Yellow			Spec	\$1.00	Black	Silver	5-7-41
500	DK Red			"	\$5.00	"	Gold	5-7-41
700	LAVENDER			"	\$5.00	"	Gold	5-7-41
200	DK. RED			"	\$5.00	"	"	8-3-41
300	DK. RED			"	\$5.00	"	"	8-11-41
1000	Yellow			"	\$1.00	"	Silver	9-10-41

XET11att2

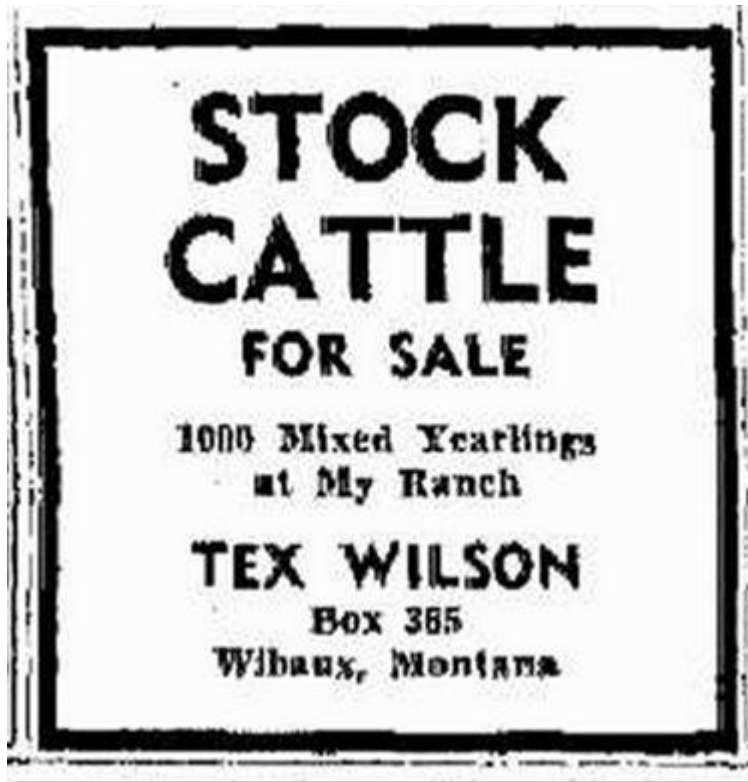
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
1010	Red	WSC					Gold	8-12-49
504	Black	"					"	8-12-49
1010	lt Blue	"					"	8-12-49
								8-12-49

XET12att2

I need the Pine tree and WSC chips. Cough them up if you have a trader.

In 1944 an isolated cabin surrounded by a 9 ft. tall fence located in rural Adams County was raided by the sheriff. The cabin had been the site of a barboot game. The two men arrested as operators said they were being paid by Tex Wilson to run the place. 200 chips were confiscated. One of the two men arrested was named Mike "Fats" Falbo. In 1948 Falbo was beaten and shot to death. His body was found in the outskirts of Denver near a barn which was the site of a barboot game patronized by major figures of Denver's underworld. His unsolved murder was thought to have been the result of a gambling dispute with the Smaldone brothers, widely regarded as the bosses of Denver's gambling world at the time.

In addition to gambling, Tex was involved with livestock most of his life. In the 1940's, although his primary residence was Denver, he maintained a large ranch in Montana:



XET13att2

Tex died at the age of 66 on February 15th 1967 in Parker, Colorado.