

The Dells in Morton Grove, Illinois was featured in "Illegal Of The Day" Illinois 14 posted on May 28, 2011.



TND-1att2

Here is what I said about the Dells in that post.

"The following articles document murder, bribery, denial of bribery, mayhem, etc going back 20 years. I think we have seen all of this many times in other "Illegal Of The Day" posts. Why do I remember Illinois as having more than their share of this type of history?"

The Dells had more than their share of violent history.

Here is the link to Illinois 14 that has many newspaper articles in it if you want to refresh your memory.

<http://www.thechipboard.com/archives/archives.pl/bid/321/page/18/md/read/id/1103904/sbj/illegal-of-the-day-illinois-14-bonus-for-today/>

Earlier this year one of my regular trading partners sent me the TND hub mold. Big surprise, it turned out to be a new to me, The Dells chip. TD on the chip was easy, but what did the N mean?

This post will document the The Dells and the advertising for it from 1918 through the fire that destroyed it on October 9th 1934.



TND-2att2

The Dells - (The New Dells)

Dempster Rd

Chicago, IL

5/12/31 – 1000 red, 2000 white

The Dells was in a suburb of Chicago called Morton Grove.

The Dells was run by Sam Hare.

He also had chips delivered in 1931 with The Dells on them.

TND

Enter our "Friend of the Hobby."

I was curious about the initials on the chip. I think there's a good chance they stand for The New Dells.

My note: IMO, no doubt they stand for The New Dells. Read on.

The Dells was around from the 1910's until 1934. For most of its life it was closed during the winter months and would re-open in May.

My note: Sounds a lot like the Lake Tahoe casino's.

Here's some ads for The Dells:

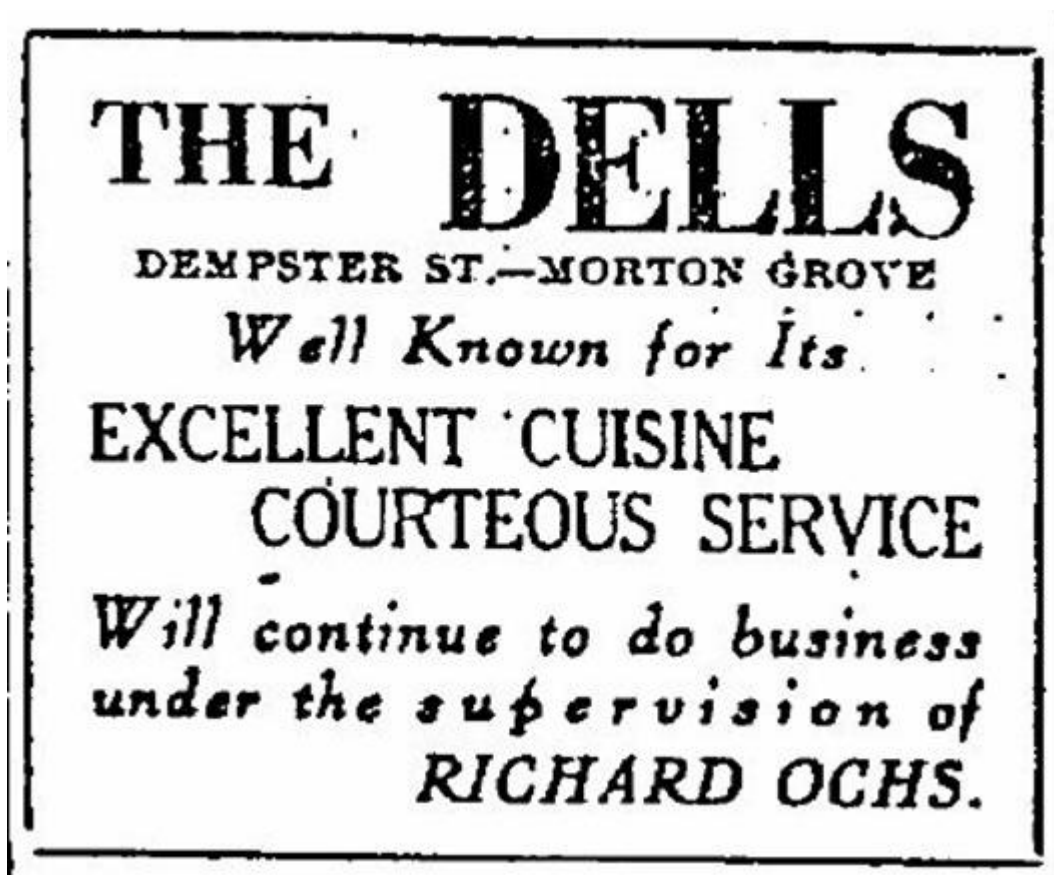
1918--



TND-3att2

1922—The place comes under new management when the sister of Mrs. Fred Pein shoots and kills her business partner Felix Rachbauer (both mentioned in the above ad). Mrs. Fred Pein, name was Pearle Mae Pein, had become part owner of The Dells when her husband, during a celebration of the end of World War I, having been given a glass of whiskey, raised it, made the toast "here's to peace forever," drank it down and dropped dead. A buddy who drank with him also dropped dead. In a tragic accident, the friend who gave them the drink had pulled out an old whiskey bottle which many years before had been emptied and refilled with undiluted insect poison.

My note: Geeeeeeyzzz! I don't think I can go for that story! <g>



TND-4att2

1924--

THE DELLS
4 Miles West on Dempster St.
MORTON GROVE
FAMOUS for UNEXCELLED CUISINE
HIGH CLASS GRILL
SPECIALTIES IN SEA FOOD
GOOD MUSIC AND DANCING
Announces the Annual **GRAND**
OPENING Thursday, May 1st
For Reservations Theodore Selle,
Ph. Morton Grove 7 Rich. Ochs, Props.

TND-5

1925—Sam Hare takes over the management, the place is overhauled and is advertised as "The New Dells"

The New Dells

Extends Its Warmest and Heartiest
Invitation to Yourself and All
Your Friends

For the Time of Your Lives
REFURNISHED! REDECORATED!

Thousands of dollars have been spent to
convert this rendezvous into an en-
chanted, sparkling palace of mirth and
pleasure.

No Matter How Warm—it's Cool Here
A Marvelous Surprise Awaits You
The House Where Perfect Service
and Finest of Foods Prevail
Syncopating Dance Music by

The New Dells' Inspirators

Hal Ehrig, Director

A dance orchestra of eight, internationally
proclaimed as syncopation's hottest and
finest. Just finished a 42-week tour of
Europe and the States.

Entertainers That Are Unusual

**FEATURING RENEE ANSELL
AL REYNOLDS, ALICE BURKE
FOOD—CHARM—SERVICE**

Under the Personal Management of

SAM HARE

Route: Sheridan Road North to Demp-
ster St., Evanston, then West to Morton
Grove, Ill.

For reservations phone Morton Grove 7

TND-6att2

1928—three years later and still using the name "The New Dells"; also begin broadcasting their entertainment over the radio.

The New Dells

Dempster Road

Morton Grove, Ill.

Presents

COON-SANDERS

Original Nighthawks

Victor Recording Dance Orchestra

EDDIE CLIFFORD

Master of Ceremonies

COLLEEN ADAMS

Prima Donna

SUZETTE & JOSE

Spectacular Dances

ELSIE COLE

Prima Donna

and others

The Dells Is Noted for Its Excellent Cuisine

SAM HARE, Mgr.

Reservations—Phone Morton Grove 7

Broadcasting Nightly—Station WBBM

TND-7att2

1929--



The New **Dells**

Dempster Road, Morton Grove, Ill.

TONIGHT
FORMAL OPENING
COON-SANDERS
ORIGINAL NIGHT HAWKS
BROADCAST NIGHTLY OVER WGN
ALSO
ALL STAR ENTERTAINMENT
OPEN DAILY 11 A. M. UNTIL CLOSING
SAM HARE, Mgr. Reservations
Tel. Morton Grove 7

TND-8

May 1931—the TND and THE DELLS hubs are delivered on May 12th and May 15th; the place opens for the season on May 20th; still using the name “The New Dells” and still broadcasting nightly over the radio.

**GRAND
OPENING
TONIGHT**

The New Dells

DEMPSTER RD., MORTON GROVE, ILL.

Management SAM HARE



**FEATURING AMERICA'S SENSATIONAL
DANCE ORCHESTRA
GEORGE OLSEN
IN PERSON,
AND HIS MUSIC**

GEORGE OLSEN

BROADCAST NIGHTLY OVER WBBM

Reservations, Phone Morton Grove 1717
SAM HARE, Mgr.

FAMOUS STARS of

"Good News" and "Whoopee"
Also American and European
ALL STAR ARTISTS

TND-9

June 1931--

(IN PERSON) **GEORGE OLSEN** AND HIS MUSIC

FAMOUS STARS OF "GOOD NEWS" AND "WHOOPEE"

LAST FOUR DAYS

The New Dells

DEMPSTER RD., MORTON GROVE, ILL.

Management SAM HARE

OPENING

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JULY 1ST

BEN BERNIE AND HIS ORCHESTRA

"The Ole Maestro" (IN PERSON)

FOR A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

(Broadcast Nightly Over WBBM)

COVER CHARGE WEEKDAYS, \$1.50; SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, \$1.50.
FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE MORTON GROVE 1717. SAM HARE, Mgr.

TND-10att2

July 1931--

BEN BERNIE

"THE OLE MAESTRO" IN PERSON AND HIS
ORCHESTRA—LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

BROADCAST NIGHTLY OVER WBBM

NEW COOLING PLANT—ALWAYS 70°

• • •
ALSO
ALL
STAR
ACTS

The New Dells

• • •
FOR
RESERV.
PHONE
MORTON
GROVE
1717

DEMPSTER RD., MORTON GROVE, ILL.

COVER CHARGE WEEKDAYS, \$1.00; SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, \$1.50

• • • Management SAM HARE • • •

TND-11att2

August 1931--

The New Dells

DEMPSTER RD., MORTON GROVE, ILL.

DOUBLE BIG FEATURE

SAM HARE,
MGR.

TED HEALY
(IN PERSON)
"CELEBRATED MUSICAL
COMEDY STAR"
AND HIS
TROUPE

**NO COVER
CHARGE TO
DINNER
GUESTS**

Arriving Before
9:30 . . . After
9:30 Week Days
50c . . . Saturday
and Sunday
After 9:30 . . . \$1

FOR
RESERVATIONS
PHONE
MORTON
GROVE
1 7 1 7

**IRVING
AARONSON**
AND HIS
COMMANDERS
"Superlative Dance
Entertainment
Orchestra"

BROADCAST NIGHTLY OVER WBBM

TND-12att2

September 1931—at the end of the 1931 season, the word "New" is removed from the advertisements and is not used again as a headline in ads.



The DELLS
Dempster Rd. Morton Grove

FRED WARING'S PENNSYLVANIANS

IN PERSON ORCHESTRA and SHOW
CAST OF 25 ENTERTAINERS

NO COVER CHARGE TO DINNER GUESTS
Arriving Before 9:30
After 9:30 Week Days, 50c
Saturday and Sunday after 9:30, \$1

For Reservations
Phone Morton Grove 1717
Broadcast Nightly Over WBBM
SAM HARE, Mgr.

TND-13att2

here's a snip from a Chicago dining guide from 1931:


NEW DELLS *Dempster Road, Morton Grove, Ill.*

Another well-known dine-and-dance pavilion among the cottonwood trees northwest of Chicago. Everybody seems to know Sam Hare and his New Dells; he's had this place here for over seven years. It is three miles west of Evanston and the North Shore and its clientele is made up of innumerable captains of industry and capitalists and their wives and guests, out for an evening's diversion. There is room for nine hundred on the large dance floor, and music is supplied by such popular orchestra leaders as Ben Bernie, Ted Lewis and George Olson. They appear at different periods during the season and their lively melodies are broadcast over Station WBBM. Four floor shows nightly, beginning at 8:30, with a couvert of \$1.00. On Saturday night the cover charge is \$1.50. Steaks, chops, chicken, lobsters, and frogs' legs are especially delectable at the New Dells and add considerably to the fame of the place. You reach the Dells by driving north out of Chicago on Sheridan Road, as far as Evanston, then west on Dempster Road. Morton Grove 1717.

TND-14att2

My note: 900 dancers at one time. This was a big club.

May 1933—open the 1933 season with a big name



The Dells

3 MILES WEST OF SHERIDAN RD. ON DEMPSTER

OPENING TONIGHT

GUY LOMBARDO

and his

ROYAL CANADIANS

CARLOS MOLINA

AND HIS TANGO RHUMBA ORCHESTRA

BRILLIANT REVUE. ~~W.~~ NO COVER CHARGE
3 TIMES NIGHTLY AT ANY TIME!

SAM HARE, *Manager*

RESERVATIONS — PHONE: MORTON GROVE 1717

TND-15att2

June 1933—ad mentions "the New Dells Bar"

THE DELLS

JUST 30 MINUTES FROM CHICAGO'S LOOP
Three Miles West of Sheridan Road on Dempster

"THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENTERTAINER"

TED LEWIS

(IN PERSON)

HIS BAND—His Entire N. Y. Production
BRILLIANT SHOW THREE TIMES NIGHTLY

NO COVER CHARGE

AT ANY TIME

SCHLITZ... "The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous"
Served on Draught Exclusively at the New Dells Bar
Phone Reservations Morton Grove 1717-2015. SAM HARE, Manager


TND-16att2

October 1933—Guy Lombardo comes back near the 1933 season's end

The Dells

30 Minutes from the Loop
3 Mi. W. of Evanston on Dempster

★ Limited Engagement ★ In Person ★



**GUY
LOMBARDO**

AND HIS ROYAL CANADIANS

3—Brilliant Shows Nitely—3

"Nationally Known for Food"

NO COVER CHARGE

Phone Reservations,
Morton Grove 1717-2015
Sam Hare, Manager

TND-17att2

The Dells tried to operate in 1934 but was closed down by law enforcement when it tried to run. 900 people had paid for reservations to attend opening night May 29th 1934 but were turned away by police who blocked the entrance on orders of the State Attorney's office. A month later on June 29th The Dells re-opened for a few days but was closed down again by the State Attorney's office (police raided the place while in operation—they allowed the 300 guests to finish their meals before kicking them out). The State Attorney's office claimed that The Dells was "a hangout for gangsters." The Dells would not re-open again.

My note: Really nice that the cops allowed the diners to finish their meals. <g>

On October 9th 1934 four men with sawed-off shotguns arrived at The Dells, doused the place with gasoline and set it on fire.

pic of fire:



TND-18att2

interior after the fire:



TND-19att2

exterior after the fire:



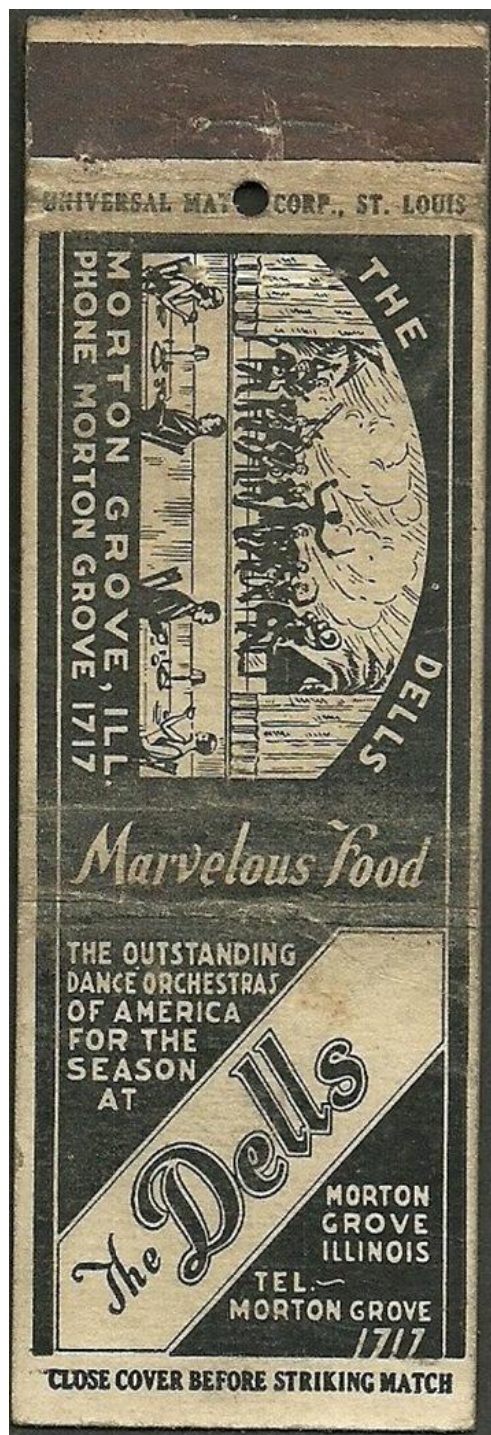
TND-20att2

pic of the front entrance from the 1920's:



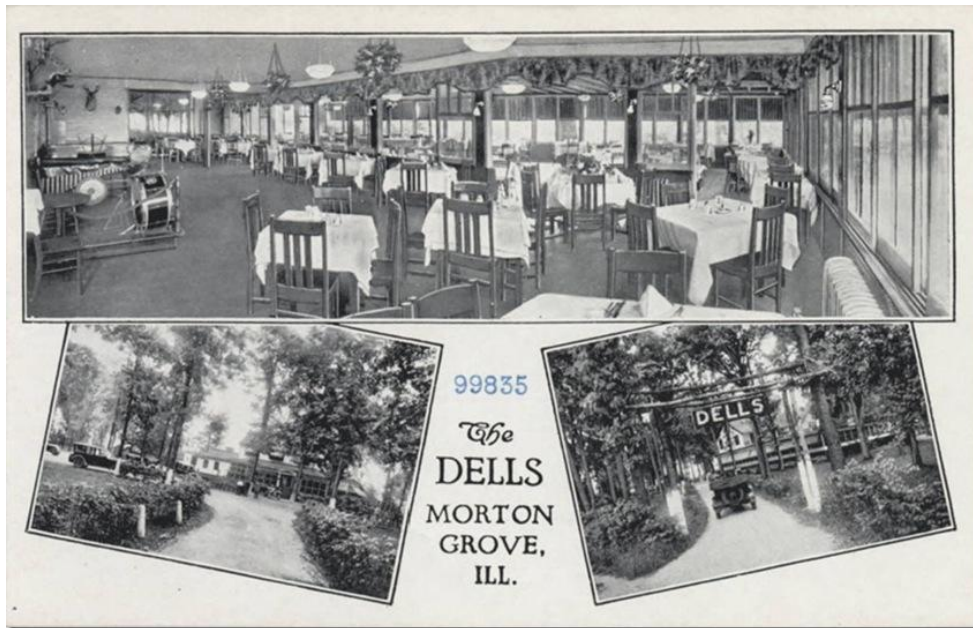
TND-21att2

matchbook:



TND-22att2

postcard:



TND-23att2

The history of The Dells equals or even surpasses other carpet joints like Beverly Hills in Northern Kentucky and The Arrowhead Inn in Branch Hill, Ohio. The Arrowhead 1930's was the model for future carpet joints but it looks like The Dells was the model for the Arrowhead. The local crime families ran some classy places but they were brutal when necessary. Many of these places featured in "Illegal Of The Day" posts were burned to the ground including The Dells, Beverly Hills, The Sphinx' in Hollywood, California, and The Lookout House in Northern Kentucky.

The history of the "Era of The Illegals" is a never ending story.