


Roy Kline got this one at an antique fair in Cincinnati. He put it on the BB as a trader. I was lucky enough to see it 1st. Roy only collects odd and strange chips. I struggled to find something he would accept.  
 \*vbg\* I now have 131 Indiana illegal chips. I played in several southern Indiana crap games and a number poker games back in the 1960's



LF1att2

Name <u>Lesky Farb</u>				SPECIAL MONOGRAM				
Address <u>Phoebe</u>								
Town <u>Zionsville</u> State <u>Ind.</u>								
Per <u>T. design</u>								
Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
404	Red		LF				Gold	5.25.49
1414	Yellow	<u>Beverly Farb</u>	LF				Silver	5.25.49
202	Choc.		LF				Gold	5.25.49
404	Red	"	"				Gold	6.1.49
1515	Yellow	"	"				Silver	6.11.49
404	Red	"	"				Gold	" " "
101	Choc	"	"				"	" " "
606	Red	"	"				"	12.22.49

LF2att2

No Club name aggravates me! \*vbg\* 5,000 chips, should turn out to be a good story. Roy found the article from the Zionsville public library saying the club sat on 3 Indiana county lines but no Club name. We have seen a couple different illegals straddling 2 county lines but this is the 1st one on 3. Roy also found the article naming Farb's wife as a star of the Ziegfeld Follies. Ed Hertel found the raid article for "The Farm." I wasn't sure it was the same place as they were quoting different City names. As it turns out The Farm rivaled The Lookout House and Beverly Hills in N KY. I was unaware Indiana had any "Carpet Joints."

Enough of that: Time to call in "The Man." \*vbg\*

Enter our "Friend Of The Hobby."

Here's some stuff on the LF T-mold. Found a club name and a few tidbits on the Farbs (one tidbit includes a guy from Ft. Thomas, KY).

## LF T-mold

The chips were delivered in 1949 to Louis Laskey Farb at Zionsville, Indiana. Farb was brought to Indianapolis as a baby by his Russian immigrant parents in 1892. In the 1890's Farb's dad Sam sold sandwiches out of a basket on a street near the Indianapolis police station. One day an African-American woman approached him and asked if he would sign the bond for the release of her son who had just been arrested. This incident launched the Farb's into the bail bond business which they ran for several decades. Laskey's brother Al was running the business when interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* in 1971:

**In fact, Al prefers the real professional criminal. "They know the rules of the game and usually don't jump bond," he says. The ordinary citizen may dread the Mafia, but Al says defendants with Mafia connections are among the most gilt-edged risks and he has bailed out many over the years. "The syndicate boys from Chicago mostly call me to make bond on their gamblers," he says. "I've always found that a gambler's word is better than a banker's."**

LF3att2

In addition to being bondsmen, many of Sam Farb's seven sons boxed in their youth, promoted boxing when older, operated saloons, bootlegged liquor, ran gambling rooms and bookmaking operations. Laskey Farb was involved with all of the above, participating in gambling activities in the Indianapolis area from the 1910's until his death there in 1962.

This 1930 snip from an Indianapolis newspaper suggests that the Farbs were the Indianapolis version of Lloyds of London:

Local golfing capital was asking about the odds on Jones in the recent British open. A cable was sent to Lloyds, the Farbs of England, but unlike the Farbs word came back that the Lloyds had all they wanted against Bobby. It developed that they had too much.

LF4att2

At the beginning of this golf season Lloyd's, which takes all kinds of wagers, bet 50 to 1 that Bobby Jones would not win the four great golf championships in succession.

LF5att2

Jones, a professional lawyer and amateur golfer, won all four majors in 1930 (Jones is the only golfer to have won the "Grand-Slam" in one calendar year).

Laskey apparently hung out with some big-time gamblers....

In October 1931 the St. Louis Cardinals hosted the Philadelphia Athletics for games 6 and 7 of the World Series. Laskey Farb visited St. Louis for the event with another Indianapolis gambler named Isidore Silverman--a man *Sports Illustrated* described in 1956 as the "biggest baseball bettor in history." While at the Statler Hotel in St. Louis Farb, Silverman and a guy from Ft. Thomas, Kentucky named Frank Moore were robbed of several thousand dollars at gunpoint. Laskey's brother Al had this to say about Moore at the time:

My note: Jim Linduff ran Moore's name thru some KY databases but found nothing. He flew under the radar as far as we could tell. Will probably take a visit to the library to get more on him.

Albert Farb said Moore is "one of the biggest bookmakers in the country." He said that Moore was at one time involved in a gambling controversy with Rogers Hornsby, then a player with the New York Giants and now manager of the Chicago Cubs. At the time of the controversy Moore accused the baseball player of failing to pay an alleged gambling debt of \$280,000.

LF6att2

My note: We've seen gambling and baseball stars intermingled in a couple other "IOTD" stories.

One more Farb tidbit before moving on to the LF T-mold chips. Laskey Farb had an uncle in New York City name Isidore. In September 1934 Isidore's son Harry visited his cousins in Indianapolis. The day Harry returned to NYC from Indianapolis he was shot dead "in the gang manner."

(Sept.20th 1934)

## **'BOSS' OF BOWERY.'**

### **Henry Farb Shot Down Wednesday Night in New York.**

New York, Sept. 20. — Henry Farb, the "boss of the Bowery" and known for his benevolence to down-and-outers of that part of Manhattan, was shot down in the gang manner last night.

A black motor car drew up in front of the Monarch bar and grill, of which he was part owner, and one of the passengers called to Farb, who was seated in front of the place. They talked briefly and Farb dropped, mortally wounded. The slayers fled.

Farb was 39 years old. Reserves from three police precincts were required to clear the streets where the murder was done—19 Bowery, near Pell street, main thoroughfare of Chinatown.

Indianapolis, Sept. 20. — Henry Farb visited three cousins, Al, Lasky and Nate Farb, in Indianapolis this week and had planned to spend Yom Kippur with them. However, he was called back to New York Tuesday by a letter supposedly written by his wife, Al Farb, professional bondsman, said early this morning. Henry Farb arrived in New York yesterday morning.

When the LF T-mold chips were ordered in 1949 Laskey Farb was running a place northwest of Indianapolis called the "Farm Club." Like the article you sent says, the club was located in Zionsville in a house which sat on a piece of property at the junction of Marion, Boone and Hendricks Counties.

(the article you sent can also be found at this site devoted to Midwest illegal gambling:

<http://www.freewebs.com/midwestillegals/> )

From the Zionsville, Indiana, library newspaper collection;  
HIGH ROLLERS ONCE GATHERED AT SITE OF NEW FISHBACK TRACE  
DEVELOPEMENT

Remember the old Frankie Carle hit from the late '40s, "Rumors are Flying?" Well, that's just what was happening in southern Boone County at the time.

But it wasn't the intrigue of the romance recounted by vocalist Marjorie Hughes that generated the talk. It was the intrigue of BIG TIME gambling. Gambling for high stakes. . maybe \$200,000 or \$300,000 a night.

Gambling was illegal in Indiana, so it was no accident that the gaming house was constructed at the junction of three counties, with some of the rooms in Boone County and some in Marion County on property that also abutted Hendricks County.

With this arrangement, should the sheriff of either county schedule a raid, the gamblers would just move to another room across the county line, so it was said. Owner of the establishment, on land that is presently on the drawing board as Fishback Trace, was Laskey Farb whose brother was a bail bondsman in Indianapolis. Al Farb also was the promoter of Championship boxing bouts at the Fairgrounds Coliseum at Indianapolis and had connections with the baseball hierarchy.

The gambling house was just that an ordinary house, although it was rumored that the inside was far from ordinary, with roulette wheels that rotated behind secret panels, and other such planned cover-ups. Neighbors were sure there was something afoot when, several nights a week, Rolls Royces, Cadillacs and Lincolns would enter the gate on the 'west side of Kissel Road where 96th Street ends. And speculation regarding the illegality of that something was justified by several eyewitness accounts.

Once, when cows from a neighboring farm strayed through the open gate, the farmer's son and a friend pursued the wanderers only to find themselves greeted by a man with a pistol in his hand. On another occasion, an ambitious young reporter for a now defunct Indianapolis newspaper spied upon the apparently well-heeled guests with binoculars. He reported to the editor the outside was surrounded with a chain link fence, and armed guards could be observed in the compound.

With its proximity to U.S. 52, the major highway to Chicago at that time, the operation was rumored to attract Windy City gamblers as well as high rollers with Marion County plates, especially on Memorial Day weekend.

And speculation continued as to why and by what authority Kissel Road was paved only between 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Lafayette Road. Though the gambling operation was common knowledge, it was allowed to continue virtually undisturbed through the '50s and into the early '60s when fate, or perhaps it was Lady Luck, forced Farb to retire because of his health. He developed congestive heart disease.

But the closing of the gambling house did not signal the end to illegal operations on the property. A later owner is said to have run a landscape business out front while he bought and sold stolen property, a crime for which he eventually was indicted.

LF8att2



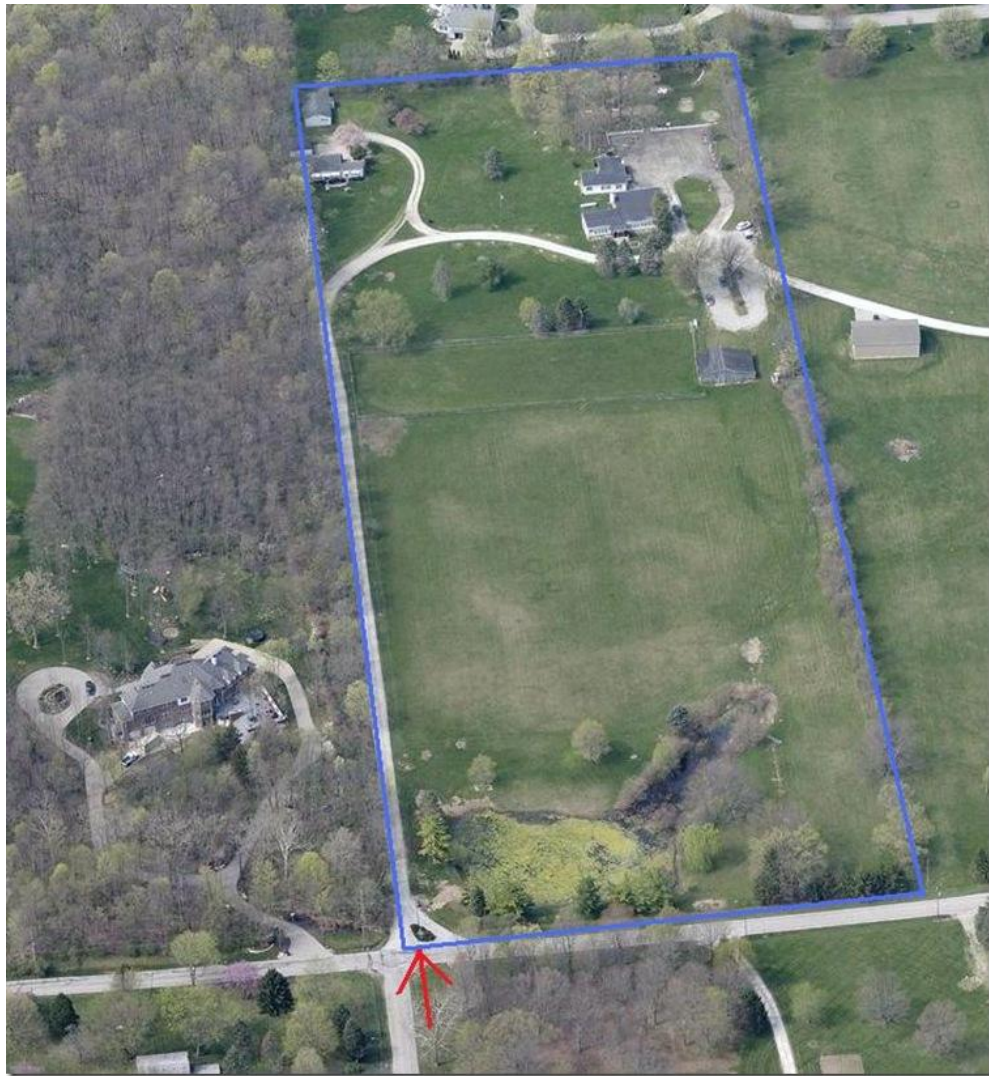
Below are some current pics of the property.

Entrance drive to the property off Kissel Road; the article you sent says the property was surrounded by a chain link fence; a chain link fence is visible in the photo—article forgot to mention that the fence is topped with barbed wire...<g>



LF9att2

Aerial view; blue line shows property boundary (about 14 acres); red arrow shows the location of the camera in the photo above:



LF10att2

a little closer view, showing the county boundary lines; some of the structures do appear to be in two separate counties:





LF11att2

My note: Not sure if its in 3 counties like the library says or just 2, That back building could be extending into Hendricks county.

another view; the structures which sat on the county lines were constructed in 1940 and 1948:



LF12att2

one more:



LF13att2

Since the 1970's the property has been the site of the Colonial Village Nursery & Day Care Center.

Two different counties? It's all the same to the Indiana State Police:

(July 23rd 1952)



## Seventeen Arrested In Gambling Raid

LEBANON, Ind. (UP)—Seventeen persons were arrested and gambling equipment confiscated in a state police pre-dawn gambling raid of the **Farm Club** today.

Police said **Lasky Farb**, owner of the club, was charged with keeping a gaming house. The other sixteen, including many out-of-staters, were charged with visiting a gambling house.

Among equipment confiscated in the raid—led by State Police Detective Sgt. Edwin Schroeder—were dice tables, a roulette wheel, **10,000 poker chips** and decks of cards.

LF14att2

—(10,000 poker chips confiscated; the 5,000 in Farb's 1949 LF T-mold order probably among them)

My note: Where are the other 9,999 chips and what was on the other 5,000 chips not on the Taylor order?

\*vbg\*

Several days later....

Farb's attorney--his brother Max--turns the tables on what is illegal:

(August 5th 1952)

## 16 Arrested in Raid Are Free of Charges

(By International News Service)

Lebanon, Ind., Aug. 5.—Sixteen persons arrested in a raid on a plush gambling casino were free of charges today after a contention of illegal arrest by state police was upheld.

Lebanon Mayor Herbert L. Ransdall upheld a motion filed by Indianapolis Attorney Max Farb on behalf of his brother, Lasky, and 15 other defendants that the arrests were illegal because the raid was made without a search warrant. Police argued vainly that the Farb casino was a public place.

LF15att2

One more item. Lasky Farb's wife a star in the Ziegfeld Follies killed in a car crash. Others in the car crash looks like a "Who's Who" in Indianapolis area.

Bluefield, West Virginia

July 22, 1935

Mrs. Gladys Farb, Former Bluefielder Killed in Accident

Mrs. Gladys Farb, 30, wife of Louis L. Lasky Farb, Indianapolis and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bishop, 223 Rogers Street, this city, was fatally injured last Saturday near Danville, Ind., in an automobile accident in which four other Indianapolis people were hurt. The former Ziegfeld Follies beauty had visited her parents in Bluefield only three weeks ago. Funeral and burial services were held in Indianapolis on Tuesday and were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, the parents, Mrs. J. E. Crank of Ironton, Ohio, Miss Mary Bishop and Roy Bishop of Bluefield, sisters and brother of the young woman. The automobile was driven by Ralph A. Scott, a recently defeated Republican Congressional Candidate, sideswiped another car and careened into a high tension utility pole, shaking charged wires down about the wreckage. No one was burned. Other occupants of the car included Arthur Downing, former Greenfield Mayor; Mrs. Dana Mendenhall, part owner of the Reliable Printing company, Indianapolis, and daughter of the late Judge Solon Enlow, and Mrs. Jane Wicker, auditor of the Penhoff Grill, Indianapolis. Mrs. Mendenhall was seriously injured. Mrs. Farb was married five years ago in New York. She and her husband had resided in Indianapolis since their marriage. She was a native of Bluefield but left here when she was 16 years old, going to New York where she later became one of the stars in the "Ziegfeld Follies". She left the stage after her marriage to Mr. Farb.

LF16att2

It appears the Farb's were well connected and took large action from the mid west to New York City. My guess is they were connected to the New York crime families. The model for the mid west "Carpet Joints" can be traced back to the first one, the Cleveland syndicate's Arrowhead Inn in Branch Hill, Ohio, circa 1930's. If you are new to the "Illegal Of The Day" series, you can read about the Arrowhead Inn here in a 6 part article told to me by my dear friend Danny Nason. Rest easy "Friend,"

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com/links/genetrimble/genetrimble.htm>

Scroll down to see over 200 stories about the "Era Of The Illegals."

The "Era Of The Illegals" 1930's-1961 has been and will continue to be an amazing story. They may have been one of the larger employers in the USA for that 30 year period. Thousands earned their living staffing them in all 50 states and moved on to turn Las Vegas into what it is today. If you look hard you can find their "footprints" all over the Las Vegas strip and downtown from the Four Queens to the Hacienda.

I suggest all new chip collectors take a hard look at the illegals and join us in our quest for the history of "Our" chips. Cheap chips and history.

Thank you "Friend," Roy, Jim, and Ed.