

The SLIM and BUGGS chips were obtained from an ebay auction several months ago. A friend bought them and sent them to me. Sorry, no traders. I held off posting them in hopes the 3<sup>rd</sup> chip you will read about below showed up. The 3<sup>rd</sup> chip is a TH hub and has the initials for the Traux Hotel on them. Hopefully some day, it will show up.

The story documents another long history of illegal/legal booze and illegal gambling. This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> attribution of chips from Syracuse, NY. IMO the 1<sup>st</sup> one is an iffy attribution, so will not include it in this post.

Enough of that:

Syracuse, New York:



Slim1att2



SLIM

George DiGiacomo  
Truax Hotel  
Syracuse, NY

6/24/36 - 200 black \$1

7/3/36 - 150 black \$1

8/13/36 - 40 white \$5

8/18/36 - 40 white \$5



Slim2att2

BUGGS

Same day as "Slim" above

Frank Bagozzi  
c/o Greenways Brewing Co Inc  
1925 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY  
6/24/36 100 blue \$5

Note on BUGGS card says 'see TH also'

TH

George DiGiacomo & Frank Bagozzi  
Truax Hotel  
Syracuse, NY

13/9/36  
500 black \$1-200 white \$5  
I NEED THE TH CHIP! Cough it up if you have a trader.

#### Slim & Buggs & TH Hub Molds

George DiGiacomo was a son of Italian immigrants and a native of Utica, NY. Prior to WWI DiGiacomo worked at a popular newsstand in downtown Utica. In 1919, after service in the ambulance corps in Europe during the war, DiGiacomo was elected Supervisor of Utica's 1st Ward (re-elected in 1921). In 1923 he was fined for gambling along with 14 others when Utica police raided a downtown crap game. A few years later he moved to Syracuse where the SLIM chips were delivered to him in 1936.

My note: What a surprise! A Utica Ward Supervisor arrested for Illegal gambling. <g>

DiGiacomo was arrested a couple of times in the 1950's when Syracuse police raided craps games at Windy Hill Billiards, 309 Pond St. and the Italian-Americans Veterans Club, 230 N. Salina. DiGiacomo died at Syracuse in Dec. 1963, age 72.

My note: IMO it is a stretch to think the chips were used at Windy Hills Billiards or the Italian-Americans Veterans Club, some 14 years later, but possible.

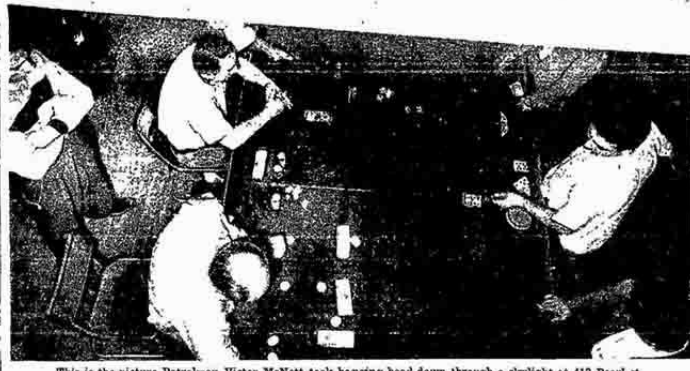
Frank Dominic Bagozzi was raised in a west side suburb of Syracuse called Solvay where his Austrian born father operated a saloon. Bagozzi worked at his dad's place as a teen and during prohibition was arrested when an employee was caught unloading a freight car full of barrels of beer onto a truck for Frank. In 1930 the Bagozzi's hid their speak-easy by having an entrance in the rear while the store front resembled a vacant building for rent.

Bagozzi's first arrest on a gambling charge was in 1930 when police raided a gambling house he was operating in Syracuse. Over the next 40 years he would be arrested numerous times—mostly on gambling charges. In 1951 a raid of a place run by Bagozzi made headlines when a police photographer

snapped a pic of the illegal gambling in progress from a skylight in the roof—through which the police then dropped down, according to Bagozzi, "like bat men":

—PATROLMAN DANGLES HEAD DOWN TO SNAP PICTURE—

# Syracuse Police Nab 11 in Gambling Raid



This is the picture Patrolman Victor McNett took hanging head-down through a skylight at 413 Pearl st.

—DRAMA—

## 3 Raiders Enter by Skylight

### BAGOZZI HELD AS PROPRIETOR

A SYRACUSE policeman, armed with a camera, was dangled by his heels through a skylight early today as police staged a melodramatic raid on an alleged gambling establishment and arrested 11 persons.

Sgt. William McCarthy fired two signal shots into the air as 10 other policemen converged on a building at 414 Pearl st.

McCarthy and Patrolman Joe Donahue and Victor McNett slid down a rope from the skylight into the midst of the alleged gambling house as men scattered in all directions, police said.

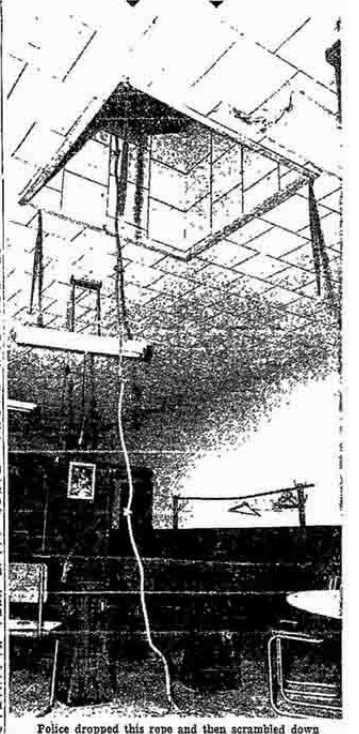
THE THREE policemen pounced on the alleged gambler as McNett daringly dangled head first from the skylight and snapped a picture of the operations to be used as evidence.

They arrested Frank Esposito, who gave his address as 730 E. Laurel st., and 10 others. Residents at the Laurel st. address, however, told police Bagozzi did not live there.

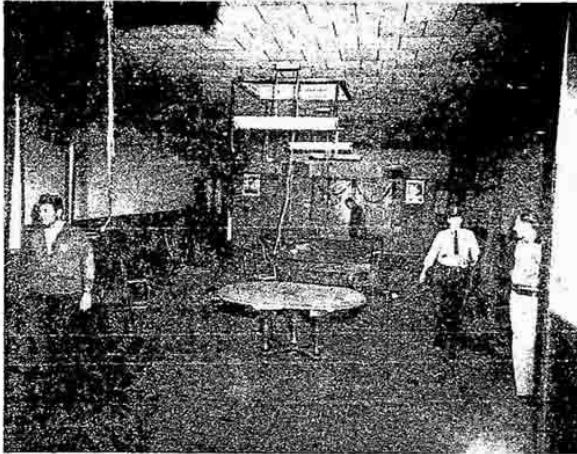
Esposito was charged with being the proprietor. He pleaded not guilty in Police Court and bail was set at \$250 pending disposition of the case Sept. 5.

Pleading not guilty to being inmates of a gambling establishment were Samuel M. Vigliotti, 36, of 2508 Lodi st.; Carmine L. Louise, 56, of 130 Richmond av.; Otto F. Cottop, 36, of 307 Weyland rd.; Leonard Cordeau, 25, of 321 N. Salina st.; Michael Calca-

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)



Police dropped this rope and then scrambled down



**AFTERMATH OF TARZAN STYLE RAID.** Plainclothesmen and a uniformed officer examine gambling room at 413 Pearl st. where police swung down from a rope through a skylight to break-up an early morning dice game. At left is Patrolman Charles Heath. Patrolman Joseph Donahue searches the rear of the room, and Patrolman Floyd Colang is shown walking to door guarded by Patrolman Bernard Weber.

## Raid

From Page 1

gino, 62, of 215 Turtle st.; Michael Semelle, 39, of 205 E. Division st.; George J. Marshall, 27, of 323 N. Salina st.; Edward J. Freco, 37, of 143 Wood av.; Joseph T. Mastropolo, 31, of 2036 Lodi st., and Louis Cafodonne, 55, of 108 Robinson st.

BAIL WAS set at \$100 apiece and the cases were put over to the same date.

Police reconstructed events leading up to the raid as follows: Acting on a tip, they had been "casing" the building for two weeks.

Early today, Sgt. McCarthy called his "raiders" to Lincoln Park. They met there in darkness and set their last-minute plans, scheduling the raid for 2:20 A.M.

**THREE CARLOADS** of police took part.

McCarthy assigned one car near St. Joseph's Hospital, in the rear of the building, and the remaining two cars in the neighborhood.

The police sergeant, theorizing that the alleged gamblers might have a short-wave radio hookup in their room or just outside the building, arranged to signal the "raiders" by firing two shots from his service gun. This meant, as one policeman reported, "to close in on the target."

McCarthy and Patrolmen Donahue and McNett, assigned to the crime laboratory, were on the roof. McCarthy and Donahue ascended through a skylight while the patrolman took pictures of the alleged "crap and card games."

**THE POLICE** then dropped a knotted rope and Donahue went down first, landing right in the middle of the table on which the men were playing.

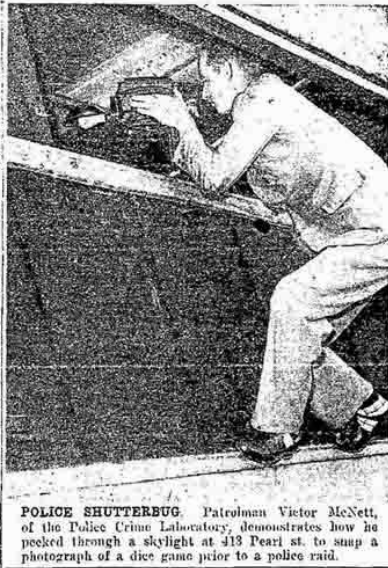
McCarthy had several men posted at points of exit, and Patrolman Floyd Colang, among them, reported he heard a voice cry out, "Throw the dice out the window," just about the time the other police officers hit the room from the skylight.

Bagozzi told a reporter the police officers came through the ceiling like "bat men."

Patrolman Charles Tighe quoted Bagozzi as saying, "What the heck. You've got to get knocked off once in a while. When you're in this business, you expect it to be raided from time to time."

**POLICE CONFISCATED** dice, cards, a table, 22 chrome red-leather chairs, two lounge chairs and aavenport.

McCarthy said "some men got out" as they scattered in all directions when police made their surprise appearance.



**POLICE SHUTTERBUG.** Patrolman Victor McNett, of the Police Crime Laboratory, demonstrates how he pecked through a skylight at 413 Pearl st. to snap a photograph of a dice game prior to a police raid.

My note: Dropped in “like bat men” Today the reporter might think it was “Like Seal Team 6.” <g> If so, I bet BO would take the credit! <g> OK OK, it was a joke not a political statement. <g>

Interesting that the 1<sup>st</sup> cop that came down the rope landed in the middle of the crap table. I wonder if the stick man yelled “Seven and out!” or “No Roll!” <g>

By the 1960’s the sports car & Cadillac driving Bagozzi was well known in Syracuse and referred to as a “dapper gambler.” On Feb. 28th 1981 he died at Syracuse at the age of 75.

My note: “dapper gambler:” How many times have seen that phrase in an “Illegal Of The Day” post?

So what were DiGiacomo and Bagozzi up to when the SLIM, BUGGS & TH chips were delivered to them in 1936? Unfortunately I wasn’t able to find anything definitive but my guess is that they were running games at the Truax Hotel. I base this guess on the fact that we know hotels were common venues for illegal gambling at that time and that the final chip order is hot-stamped TH, which could possibly stand for Truax Hotel. This guess is tempered somewhat by the fact that at the time of the chip orders DiGiacomo was a resident of the Truax Hotel and so it’s possible the chips were merely delivered to his place of abode. It should also be mentioned that a few months prior to the chip orders Bagozzi was arrested when police raided a poker game taking place at a billiard hall called the Venetian Gardens— Bagozzi was listed as a participant, not the proprietor.

The 54 room Truax Hotel was located on the northeast corner of Harrison and S. Warren, directly across the street from Syracuse’s finest hotel at the time, the Syracuse Hotel (the structure which housed the Truax has been replaced by a parking garage).



Slim5att

The only chip order not sent to the Truax was the BUGGS chip. It was sent to the Greenway Brewery Company. I'm not sure what Bagozzi's association was with Greenway but I think it probably had to do with distribution of their product. In 1933, during the same week that the State of New York legalized 3.2% beer, a business calling itself the Syracuse Beverage Co. filed papers of incorporation. The company described itself as "the largest distributor of beer in central New York" and its president was Bagozzi, who for many years during the 1920's and 1930's listed his occupation as "truckman." I'm assuming Bagozzi was trucking illegal beer during prohibition and turned his business legit when it became legal. One of the incorporators of the Syracuse Beverage Co. was a next door neighbor of Bagozzi named Sylvio Santorum--he became an executive with Greenway in the late 1930's.

During the Summer of 1936 when the chip orders were being delivered, Bagozzi was also involved in an enterprise to bring dog racing to central NY. Bagozzi was an incorporator and secretary-treasurer of a concern named the Salt City Kennel Club.

The SCKC had its opening day of racing on August 13th 1936 (same day as one of the chip orders sent to DiGiacomo). Local authorities warned that any track betting would be illegal, but the operators felt they could legally provide patrons with a form of wagering called "option betting." This disagreement made its



way to Albany where the Governor and AG got involved and the issue landed in the courts. 2 1/2 weeks after SCKC's opening day a NY Supreme Court justice appointed a "referee" to decide the legality of option betting at the SCKC's track:

NEWS OF CITY  
CENTRAL NEW YORK

# SYRACUSE HERALD

SECTION III

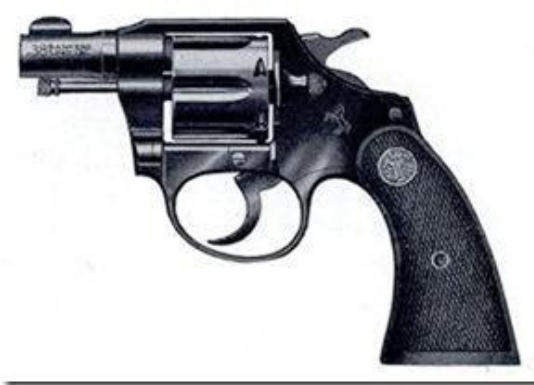
VOL. 56, NO. 2,918. SYRACUSE, N. Y., SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1936. XXX TEN CENTS

## DOG BETS ILLEGAL, REFEREE RULES

Slim6att2

And that was the end of that.

Also, another interesting tidbit that takes us into Bagozzi's world in 1936 is that on July 3rd of that year he purchased a Colt .38 "banker's special" from a pawn shop in Syracuse (this is the same date as one of DiGiacomo's chip orders). This hand gun, with its short 2 inch barrel, was advertised by Colt to be "conveniently carried and quickly drawn from the pocket."



Slim7att2

Here's a couple of ads for places run by Bagozzi in the 1940's:

**NOW OPEN**

# BAGOZZI'S

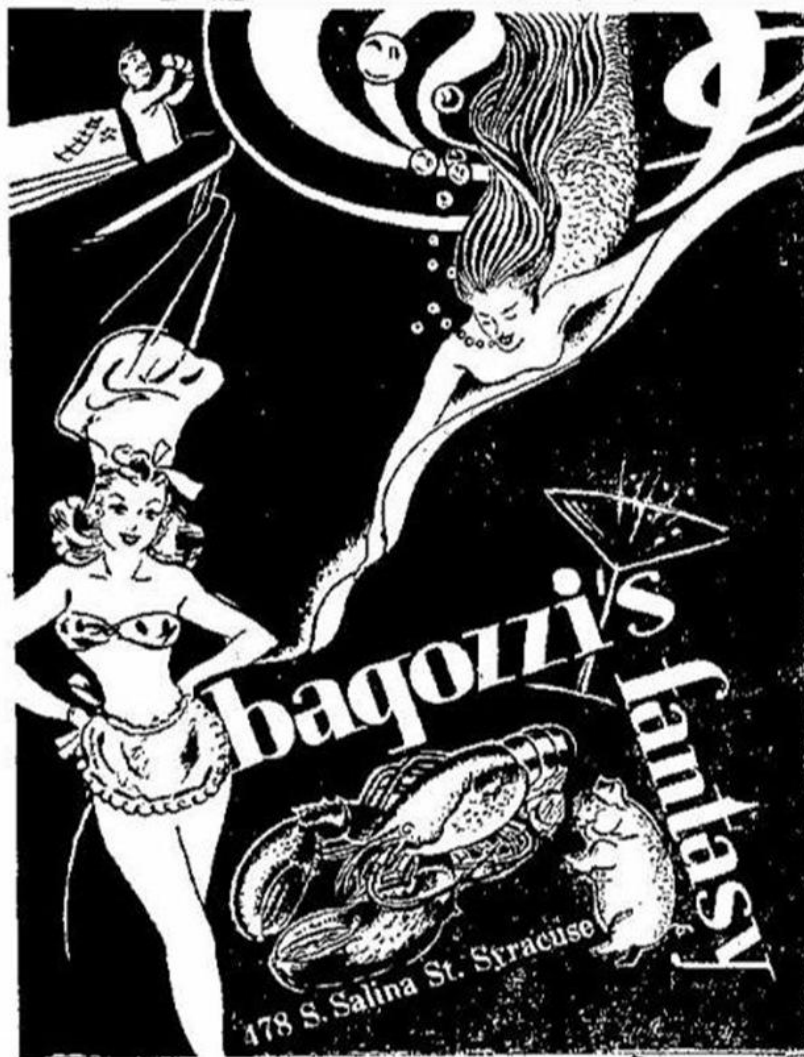
**BEAUTIFUL, NEW  
BOWLING CENTRE**

Open Dates—League Bowling  
3 to 5 P.M. — 5 to 7 P.M. — 7 to 9 P.M.  
LUNCHEONETTE — SODA BAR

For Reservations—3-9604

**480 S. SALINA ST.**

Slim8att2



. . . where you may enjoy your favorite dishes in your favorite epicurean manner. BAGOZZI'S FANTASY has an atmosphere unlike anything in the East . . . restful, soothing and yet stimulating to the imagination . . . you've only to drop into BAGOZZI'S for lunch or dinner to be truly "out of this world." "ABE" MOST and his famous quartet, acclaimed by London critics as the greatest in existence, create the instrumental background for your dining pleasure.

**BAGOZZI'S FANTASY CAFE, INC.**