

You can blame Ed Hertel for an "Illegal Of The Day" that is too big to post in 1 part. <g> He found a gaggle of Illinois chips and sent them out to our little inner circle of collectors. He asked "Wonder if the Shawgo's Club was in Havana, IL?" None of us had ever seen them and they were not in TGT.

Special note: Earl Shawgo proves the age old saying "When Pigs Fly" at the end of Part 2 on the Havana, IL illegals. The best part is, there is proof! Read on.  
Part 2 will follow this post.

I got my first Havana, IL illegals from Rene Nedoza in 1999. He also found a gaggle of chips. I contacted the source of the chips. She was a daughter of one of the operators and had a ton of info. Also talked to the Havana library back then. I was able to put Club names to several of the UFC's in that lot. When Rene contacted me about the chips, I doubted there even was a city called Havana, IL. Google solved that doubt. <g> Scans of some of Rene's find are in Part 2. Special thanks to David Spragg for formatting the scan.

Once again a SPECIAL thank you to our "Friend of the hobby."

Enough of that:

Havana, IL:

Here's some stuff on the Havana, Illinois area chips.  
It's an interesting contrast between the way operators in Pittsburgh had to go about their business versus how they did it in Havana: behind steel doors on second floors versus wide open doors on downtown streets.

### **Havana, Illinois area**

In the first half of the 20th century Havana, Illinois and the surrounding Illinois River Valley area were popular places for all kinds of outdoor recreational activities, attracting visitors from all over Illinois and beyond. The area, known as the "playground of central Illinois", had a reputation as one of the best places in North America to hunt ducks—trainloads of people came to the area for the duck hunting. Havana and surrounding communities are loaded with story after story of one guy in particular coming there to shoot ducks:  
Al Capone.

from Dec.1928:

**"Scarface Al" Hunting.**  
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 19—"Scarface Al" Capone, notorious leader of the Chicago underworld, is hunting on a duck preserve "somewhere in the Illinois river bottoms" it became known here today. Accompanied by five men who acted as a bodyguard, Capone paid this city a short visit enroute to the hunting preserve. They traveled in a special high speed sedan.

KSR1att2

My note: Both the library and my source in Havana told me Big Al had interests in several of the Havana North Shore operations. I never saw any written proof of it.

The people who came to the Havana area for the outdoor activities needed a place to go for some indoor recreation when the sun went down so the area provided them with plenty of roadhouses and taverns for eating, drinking and gambling. In Havana gambling was up front and out in the open and nobody seemed to mind. A Chicago Tribune reporter visited Havana in 1948:

### **All In The Open**

**Wide open seems a tame under statement. Every saloon and restaurant has massed banks of slot machines. That's to catch the small change.**

**In almost every tavern and gilded roadhouse are open gaming rooms, attracting the sucker with bright neon lighting. No guards. No passwords. Nothing furtive.**

**Just walk in off the street and try your luck at roulette, chuck-a-luck, black jack, or dice. The big play goes to the dice tables.**

**Every night, but particularly on week-ends when the town really gets jumping, you'll find gray haired grandmothers, young matrons down for a two weeks vacation, and now soldiers, wagering heavily on the fall of the dice.**

KSR2att2

Gambling operators were "fined" once a month by the Havana city government—basically a de facto gaming license.

### **Gamblers Fined On Schedule**

**"All gamblers are called into the city hall on the first of each month," said Mayor Adolph Keith. "Each is fined \$10 a slot machine or roulette wheel and \$25 for a dice table. This nets the city \$1,000 to \$1,100 monthly, and buys uniforms for the police. We have purchased a new street grader for \$7,000 and a street sweeper for \$4,500.**

**"There is no hanky-panky in the pay-off. It's a straight deal. We haven't had to borrow money for the last eight years. Most of the gamblers try to keep minors out but some creep in."**

**The interview was conducted to the accompaniment of whirring slot machines and clicking dice in an establishment two doors from the city hall.**

KSR3att2

During this time period Havana was given the nickname "Catfish Riviera of the Corn Belt." One of the guys who operated in Havana was Frank Lawson Shawgo (1891-1965).

pic of Shawgo:



KSR4att2

Shawgo, a native of the Havana area, operated a place on Quiver Lake in the 1920's called the "Shawgo Inn." From the 1930's to the 1960's Shawgo and other members of his family ran a place in downtown Havana at 109 N. Orange St. called "Shawgo's Tavern."



KSR5att2

pic of Shawgo's Tavern—the sign is kinda hard to read but the top part says "Package Liquor" and below "Shawgo's Tavern"



KSR6att2

Another well known sportsman in Havana was Edward S. Long. Born 1891 near Havana, Long had ownership interests in many gambling operations in Havana and nearby towns.

In the late 1930's Long teamed up with another local guy named Louis Elmer Becker (1906-1966) and they opened-up a place in downtown Havana at 118 N. Plum St. (across the street from the Mason County courthouse). For many years this place was known as "Becker & Long's Victory Room."






Several chip orders were delivered to the address on N. Plum St. during the 1940's:

| Name <u>HAROLD HICKS Becker &amp; Long</u>    |            |                     |            | SPECIAL MONOGRAM  |            |            |                |              |
|---|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Address <u>118 Washington St. 118 N. Plum</u> |            |                     |            | HGB \$500 \$100   |            |            |                |              |
| Town <u>BEAUFORT HAVANA</u> State <u>ILL</u>  |            |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Per   |            |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Amount  | Color      | Initials Both Sides | Style Type | Initials One Side | Other Side | Style Type | Monogram Color | Date Shipped |
| 400   | Br. Orange | HLB                 | Black      |                   |            |            | Silver         | 11-1-41      |
| 100   | Black      | "                   | "          |                   |            |            | Gold           | 11-1-41      |
| 100   | Green      | "                   | "          | HLB               | \$1.00     |            | "              | 11-6-41      |
| 100   | Black      | "                   | "          | " "               | \$5.00     |            | "              | " " "        |
| 300   | Br. Orange | HLB                 |            |                   |            |            | Silver         | 10-7-41      |



KSR8att2

My note: Like the VCC chip below, this chip was made with HLB both sides the same and with \$5 on obverse. I have both chips.

| Name <u>Becker &amp; Long</u>          |                    |                        |               | SPECIAL MONOGRAM   |               |               |                   |                |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Address <u>118 N. Plum Street</u>      |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |
| Town <u>Lawrence</u> State <u>Ill.</u> |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |
| Per <u>New Era Checks</u>              |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |
| Amount                                 | Color              | Initials<br>Both Sides | Style<br>Type | Initials<br>One Side   | Other<br>Side | Style<br>Type | Monogram<br>Color | Date Shipped   |
| 1000                                   | Red                | <u>B&amp;L</u>         | <u>Script</u> |  |               |               | <u>Red</u>        | <u>7-20-45</u> |
| 200                                    | <u>Light Green</u> | "                      | "             |  |               |               | "                 | " " "          |
|  |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |
|  |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |
|  |                    |                        |               |  |               |               |                   |                |

KSR9att2

I need this chip. Cough it up if you have a trader.

| Name <u>Becker &amp; Long</u>          |               |                        |               | <u>\$2500</u> SPECIAL MONOGRAM<br><u>B&amp;L</u> <u>\$500</u> |               |               |                   |                |
|--|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Address <u>118 N. Plum Street</u>      |               |                        |               |   |               |               |                   |                |
| Town <u>Lawrence</u> State <u>Ill.</u> |               |                        |               |   |               |               |                   |                |
| Per <u>New Era</u>                     |               |                        |               |   |               |               |                   |                |
| Amount                                 | Color         | Initials<br>Both Sides | Style<br>Type | Initials<br>One Side  | Other<br>Side | Style<br>Type | Monogram<br>Color | Date Shipped   |
| 400                                    | <u>Black</u>  | <u>H&amp;B</u>         | <u>Script</u> | <u>B&amp;L</u>  | <u>5.00</u>   | <u>Script</u> | <u>Black</u>      | <u>5-11-45</u> |
| 100                                    | <u>Yellow</u> | "                      | "             | "   | <u>5.00</u>   | "             | <u>Yellow</u>     | <u>6-17-45</u> |
|  |               |                        |               |   |               |               |                   |                |
|  |               |                        |               |   |               |               |                   |                |



KS

R10att2

Louis E. Becker  
 Becker & Long  
 118. N. Plum, Street  
 Havana, Illinois  
 K-6123  
 3/28  
 1800 B-9 AND B-10 HUB CHECKS  
 1400 CHOCOLATE MONO KSR BOTH SIDES IN GOLD  
 200 ORANGE " \$5.00 IN GOLD ONE SIDE  
 200 WHITE " \$25.00 " Completed - 4-6-46  
 MONO KSR IN GOLD REVERSE SIDE  
 Chicago Styl e  
 Completed: 3/29/46  
 \$500  
 KSR  
 Louis E. Becker  
 Becker & Long  
 118 N. Plum, St. Havana, Illinois  
 K-6894  
 4-10-46  
 200 B-10 WHITE HUB CHECKS  
 MONO \$25.00 IN GOLD ONE SIDE  
 MONO KSR IN GOLD REVERSE SIDE  
 \$2500  
 Completed: 4/16/46



KSR11att2

My note: My notes from 1999, says this chip was also used at the Pastime Club in Havana.

As was mentioned earlier, Long had ownership interests in places outside Havana. At some point he was part owner of the Virginia Country Club which was located about 30 miles south of Havana and just outside of Virginia, Illinois. From the late 1930's and for many years afterwards the principal proprietor of the VCC was a guy named Jesse L. Watts.

Here's an ad from the late 1940's ("Dine by candlelight in the most beautiful nite spot in central Illinois")



# **The Virginia Country Club**

*Presents*



**BIGGIE KANAE AND HIS HAWAIIAN-AIRES**

**Chicken — Steak — Sea Food Dinners**

Food Service ..... 5 P. M. - 2 A. M.  
Sundays and Holidays ..... 3 p. m. - 2 A. M.

**"The Fairway Room"**

Available For Private Parties  
For Reservations—Call Virginia 30

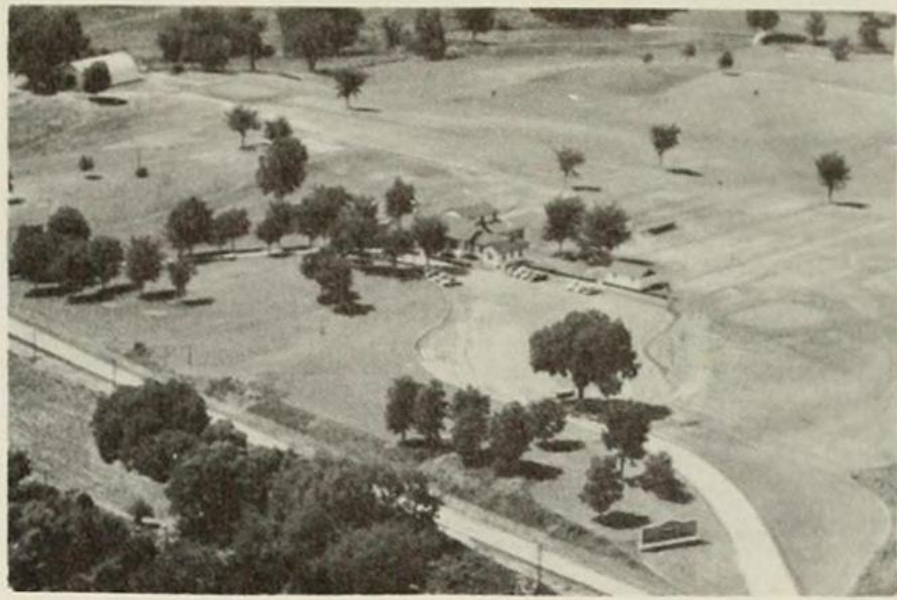
*Famous For Its Steaks*

Dine by candlelight in the most beautiful nite spot in  
central Illinois

**Located 3 Miles West of Virginia on U.S. 67**

KSR12att2

aerial view of the VCC from the early 1950's (the adjacent 9 hole golf course was opened in 1949):



WATTS, JESSE L.

Virginia

KSR13att2

| Name <u>Jess Watts</u>               |         | VCC                 |            | SPECIAL MONOGRAM  |            |            |                |              |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Address <u>Virginia Country Club</u> |         |                     |            |                   |            |            |                | \$5.00       |
| Town <u>Virginia</u> State <u>VA</u> |         |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Per                                  |         |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Amount                               | Color   | Initials Both Sides | Style Type | Initials One Side | Other Side | Style Type | Monogram Color | Date Shipped |
| 700                                  | OR Blue |                     | #1 Blue    | VCC               | #5.00      |            | Gold           | 7.5.40       |
| 600                                  | Lt Red  | VCC                 | #1 Blue    |                   |            |            | "              | 8.25.40      |
| 700                                  | OR Blue |                     | "          | VCC               | 5.00       |            | "              | 8.25.41      |



KSR14

| Name <u>Acie Harts</u>                |          |                     |            | SPECIAL MONOGRAM  |            |            |                |              |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Address <u>Virginia Country Club</u>  |          |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Town <u>Virginia</u> State <u>Lee</u> |          |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Per <u>Art - script</u>               |          |                     |            |                   |            |            |                |              |
| Amount                                | Color    | Initials Both Sides | Style Type | Initials One Side | Other Side | Style Type | Monogram Color | Date Shipped |
| 1000                                  | Yellow   | Spec                |            |                   |            |            | Blue           | 12-16-46     |
| 800                                   | Black    | "                   | "          |                   |            |            | Yellow         | 1-8-47       |
| 300                                   | Levander |                     | Spec       |                   | 25.00      | script     | "              | 4-1-47       |

KSR15

I need this chip. Cough it up if you have a trader.

The VCC property was put up for auction in February 2012:  
<http://www.sullivanauctioneers.com/02.13.12.Trison/photo.html>

## Part 2 Havana, IL to follow this post.

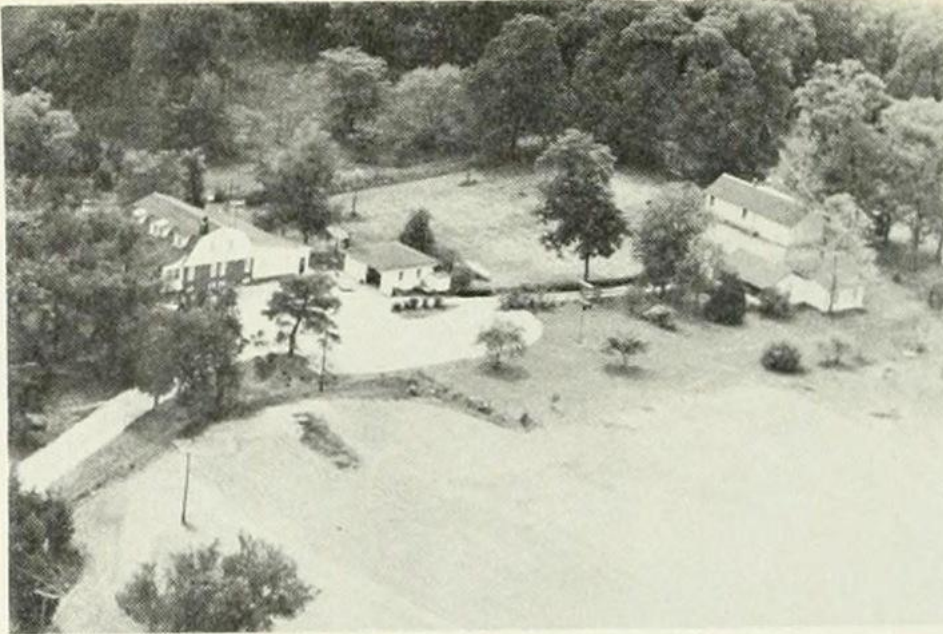
Ed Long also owned the Lakewood Supper Club and adjacent hunting club which was located 7 miles south of Havana and just north of Bath, Illinois. Here's a matchbook from Ed Hertel's matchbook site:



KSR16att2

aerial view from around 1950:





LAKEWOOD SUPPER CLUB  
Mr. Long, Opr.

Havana

KSR17

Below is a pic from 1947 taken at Lakewood. In the photo are Louis Becker, Ed Long and Scott Lucas. Lucas, a longtime friend and hunting partner of Long's, was serving his second term representing Illinois in the United States Senate when the photo was taken; a year later he became the Senate Majority Leader (Lucas was also a childhood friend of Frank Shawgo).



KSR18att2

My note: How many US Senators and Congressmen have we seen involved with the "Era Of The Illegals?" Our tax \$ at work! <g>

Lucas, although one of the most prominent and powerful men in the US Senate, lost his bid for a 3rd term in 1950. The Kefauver Commission and its investigation of gambling in Chicago--one month prior to the general election of 1950--is generally regarded as the reason for his loss. Lucas tried unsuccessfully to prevent Kefauver from taking his investigative committee to Chicago prior to the election and later blamed Kefauver's activities for his defeat. Oddly enough, the guy who defeated Lucas in the election, Everett Dirksen, was from nearby Pekin, Illinois where the local government handled gambling in virtually the same manner as Havana. [see Illegal Of The Day Illinois 28: Posted on 11/9/12  
<http://www.thechipboard.com/archives/archives.pl/bid/399/md/read/id/1223792/sbj/illegal-of-the-day-illinois-28/>

**In a recent visit to Havana, home town of United States Senator Scott W. Lucas, crap games and blackjack games could be seen from the sidewalk thru the front windows of downtown saloons.**

KSR19att2

My note: Senator Lucas from Havana and Dirksen from Pekin both elected from wide open cities that was levying monthly taxes on the illegal operators.

Here's an ad for Lakewood from 1948 (looks like they serve everything except duck <g>):



**KELLY JACKSON**

invites you to

**LAKEWOOD  
SUPPER CLUB**

7 miles S. of Havana

1 mile N. of Bath

**SERVING**

- **Steaks**
- **Chicken**
- **Fish**
- **Ham**
- **Turtle**
- **Frog**

**SPECIAL**

**SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS**

**Standing Prime Rib of Beef**

**Open 5 p.m. till 2 a.m. CST**

**Sundays and Holidays**

**4 p.m. till 2 a.m. CST**

**BAR SERVICE**

KSR20

Clarence "Kelly" Jackson mentioned in the ad above was the manager of Lakewood when Long owned it.

T-mold chip ordered by Jackson in 1948 (hot-stamp also on hourglass mold):

| Name <u>Kelly Jackson</u> |         | Address <u>J. Lakewood Supper Club</u> |            | Town <u>Bath</u> State <u>Ill</u> |            | Per <u>T. Design</u> |                | SPECIAL MONOGRAM<br><b>LAKEWOOD CLUB SUPPER</b> |  |
|---------------------------|---------|--|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Amount                    | Color   | Initials Both Sides                    | Style Type | Initials One Side                 | Other Side | Style Type           | Monogram Color | Date Shipped                                    |  |
| 1200                      | Red     |  |            |                                   |            |                      | Yellow         | 4-23-48   |  |
| 800                       | OK Blue | Lakewood Supper Club                   | Apex       |                                   |            |                      | "              | 4-23-48   |  |
| 200                       | White   |  |            |                                   |            |                      | Blue           | 4-23-48   |  |

Hourglass Mold  
Not on card



KSR21att2

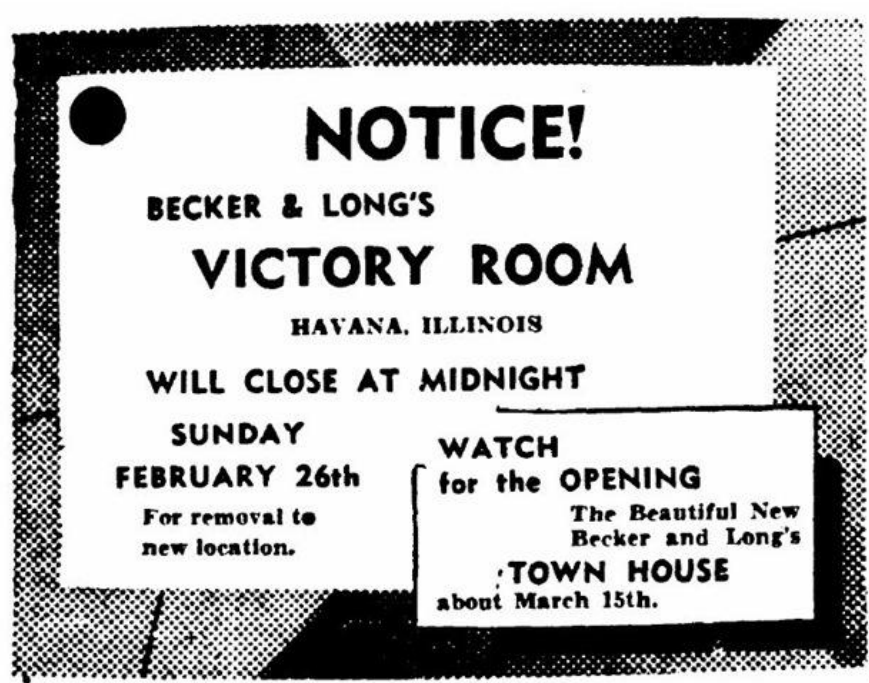
Ed Long and Kelly Jackson were visiting a private lodge owned by Long near Hayward, Wisconsin when on the night of March 5th 1949 the lodge caught fire—both men perished (there were rumors of foul-play). After his death at age 55, Long's business interests were taken over by his 29 year old son Edward "Edo" Long, Jr.

pic of Edo:

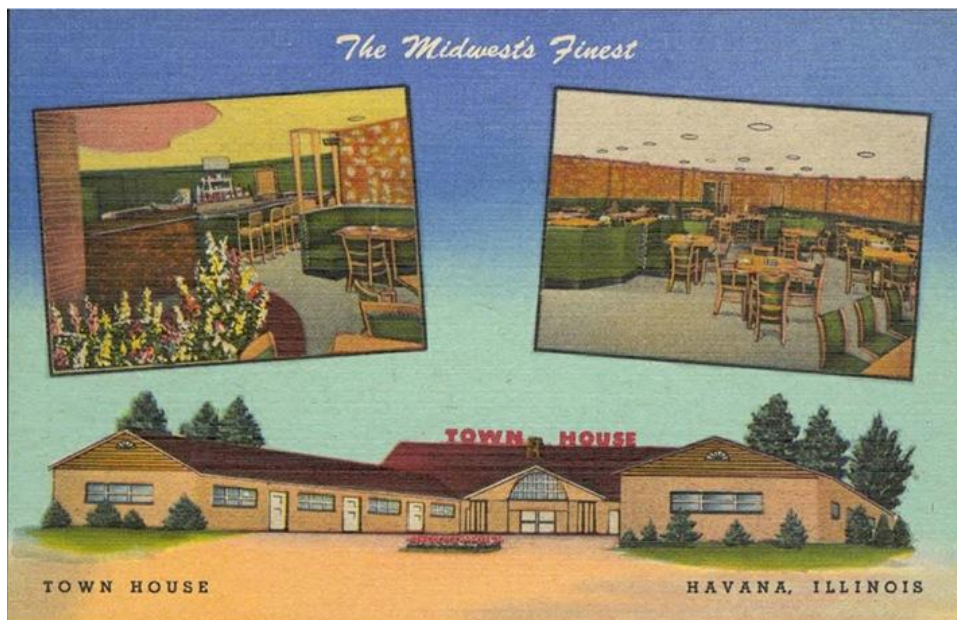


KSR22att2

Edo Long continued his father's association with Louis Becker and in the spring of 1950 they moved the "Victory Room" operation from N. Plum St. around the corner to 120 W. Market and re-named it the "Town House."




KSR23att2



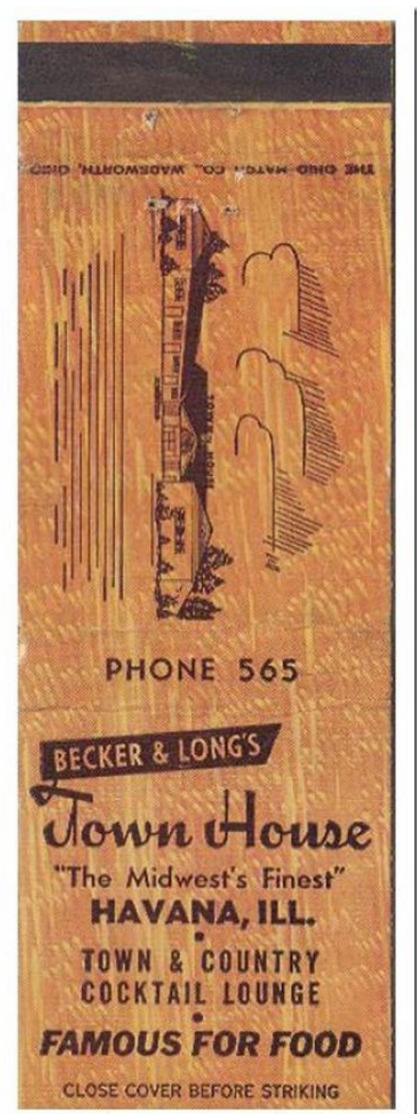
KSR24att2

Ed Hertel lists this chip as being from the Town House:

| TOWN HOUSE  |       |        |                 |        |                  |             |
|---|-------|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|-------------|
|   |       |        |                 |        |                  | Havana      |
|   | denom | color  | inlay           | mold   | notes            | code value  |
|  | 5.00  | orange | HS-"Town House" | sqincr | 4-yellow inserts | ILTN01 \$20 |
|   | 5.00  | brown  | HS-"Town House" | sqincr | 4-yellow inserts | ILTN02 \$20 |
|   | 25.00 | purple | HS-"Town House" | sqincr | 4-yellow inserts | ILTN03 \$30 |

KSR25att2

Hertel also has this matchbook on his site:



KSR26att2

The Town House is still doing business at the same location. Another business which Edo Long was involved with in Havana which is still around is the "Stag," sometimes called "Stag Tap" or "Stag Bar": <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stag-Tap/136104264716>





KSR27att2

Also found with the Havana chips was a rectangle-heart mold and a rectangle mold chip hot-stamped "JR".



KSR28att2

This is a new ID.

There's a good chance that "JR" are the initials of James Severns "Jim" Ritchie (1903-1986). Ritchie was the manager of Becker & Long's Victory Room in the late 1940's. In 1951 when the "Town House" obtained its Federal gambling tax stamp it was purchased in the name of Louis Becker, Edo Long and Jim Ritchie.

On Halloween night 1953 the Illinois State Police launched simultaneous gambling raids in three different counties including Mason County. Of the 14 places raided in Mason County, 6 were in Havana. The Illinois State Police Chief: "We thought it would be an opportune time to make the raids since it was Halloween and there was a great deal of holiday festivities." One local operator thought the raid was a Halloween prank. The raids not only ended the Halloween party that night but marked the beginning of the end of the wide-open era in Havana.

The following scan is part of the Rene find back in 1999. I spent hours on the phone with the Havana library and the source of the chips. There are several more that I have never been able to put Club names to. The source could only tell me they were from a group of illegals that was on S 4th ST in Havana.





North shore boat

Dean Bonnet. 1940's



North shore boat

James Morgan 1940-50's



Colonial Club

Jack Tanner Upscale Club on the South shore



Main St 1940-50's



Across St from court house



Club Havana-Robert Long - Closed in 1940's



Stans Tavern-Stan Boyle

Two clubs same name

1-Schreder& Dearborn

2 on South Shore

1940's 50's



Taylors Quiver Beach Two

North shore

KSR29

One final item. Although not gambling related, it involves duck hunters near Havana, including a member of the Shawgo family. It happened on October 29th 1936 (might have to reconsider the old figure of speech about porcine aviation <g>)

My note: We now have solid proof that pigs fly! <g>

Canton, Ill., Oct. 29—(UP)—  
Harold Miller and Earl Shawgo  
have the evidence of this one.  
A pig squealed high overhead  
yesterday as they stooped to in-  
spect a duck pen. Looking up  
they saw a huge American eagle  
soaring, carrying the pig in its  
talons. The bird, which previous-  
ly had stolen chickens, had a six-  
foot wing spread. They shot it  
down.

KSR30att2

My Note: The next time someone answers your question with "When pigs fly."  
Tell them it was October 29th 1936 in Havana, IL.  
The pig was shot down by Earl Shawgo and Harold Miller. <g>

Disclaimer: I do not condone the shooting of an American Eagle.