

This is the 50<sup>th</sup> state on our tour of the “Illegal Clubs of The USA.” This will complete the tour. I will be posting an update in the next few days to fix the North Dakota boondoggle. <g> That update will make the total 4 out of the 50 states I do not have a chip from. That does not mean they did not have illegal clubs. That means there are more chips and history to find.

No chips:

North Dakota, Maine, Vermont, Delaware. Got any? I want em. <g>

If for no other reason I hope the tour brought a couple new collectors from the “Dark Side” over to the “Force” and the history of their chips, no matter what they collect. There is always history out there.

The “Era Of The Illegals” is no less important in our history than other “Eras” our country has experienced. It is part of our country’s journey and legacy on the way to “Today.”

The credit for the tour goes to many people.

List here: But not limited to:

<http://www.preservinggaminghistory.com/>

### **Credits**

Gene Trimble, joint author of The Records of The HC Edwards Company  
Mark Lighterman, joint author of The Records of The HC Edwards Company  
Allan Myers, joint author of The Chip Rack and The Gaming Table  
Michael Knapp, joint author of The Chip Rack and The Gaming Table  
Ernie Wheelden, joint author of The Chip Rack and The Gaming Table  
Steve Goodrich, author of The Casino Chips of Montana & The Casino Chips of Washington State  
Ed Hertel, author of Price Guide for Illegal Casino Chips  
Rick Olsen, author of The Collectors Guide to Casino Dice  
Jim Linduff, Roy Klein & Larry Trapp, Northern KY chip collectors and historians  
Dave Brown, Illegal chip collector and historian  
Pete Lowell, Black Clay Industries  
Paul Bender, Indiana chip collector  
Dennis O’Neal, TR King  
Jerry & Janice O’Neal  
Matthew DeMichele & Gary Potter, Eastern KY University  
David Spragg, Webmaster

The people on the list brought history to our hobby and helped write the history of the Illegals. They paid for and shared the old manufactures records, at their own expense, with all of us. They wrote our reference books. They paid the expense for and donated their time to create the site that bears their names. They allow us the facts needed to search for the history. I am proud to call them friends. I am proud to be a small part of the group.

There are others that need to be added to that list.

One in particular. Researcher extraordinaire. He came to me with an offer to help. I accepted. There is no way to make you understand how important his help has been. He had access way beyond my resources and my wildest dreams. For me it was a labor of love. I have to think he has the same love for our hobby.

Enough of that:

New Hampshire

I traded for this one in 2005. It just sat there until I started these posts. Not much to go on.

**PHIL VITSKY  
LITTLETON, NH**

**1936**



Understand that we have found many record cards with alias's, phoney names, bad addresses, no addresses, mail drops in different states, mis-spellings, etc.

Some were done by accident, many were done on purpose to hide the end users names and address. Many of the old distributors were owned at least in part by the illegal operators/families/gangs that they furnished chips, bad dice, marked cards, rigged crap and roulette tables, etc to.

Normally the research comes back in a few days.

3 weeks later:

### HYC

This chip took me longer than normal because I've been trying to find evidence that would nail down the attribution solid--haven't found it yet. I wanted to find conclusive info because I don't want to mislead anyone or be wrong on this particular attribution. Nevertheless, I think the info below makes a pretty good case for the chip.

Looked for Phil Vitsky in Littleton, NH--couldn't find a trace of him. Looked for any Vitsky's in NH--nothing.

So I thought I'd simply look for any Phil Vitsky anywhere, trying all sorts of spelling variations of the name.

I found evidence of only one Phil Vitsky **ever** and that Phil Vitsky, when the chips were ordered in 1936, had a primary address at: Censored. <g>

**only one Phil Vitsky *ever*" Any of you internet pros are welcome to try. <g>**

The rest of the info describes **BIG**+names in the **era**+of the illegals. Names, places including NY/Chicago/Florida, dates, Washington Post newspaper article, Kefauver Commission excerpts, and ads for a Club.

I have sent this info to our resident expert in that part of the country. Hopefully we can post an update with enough facts to prove or disprove the providence of the HYC chips.

Doing it now without such proof will allow sellers to quote me on the ID. I learned from experience to not suggest ID\$ but wait till I had all the facts. One of my pet peeves is collectors suggesting ID\$ without any proof. IMO, **attributed to+sucks!** <g>

The only 99% proof I have today is Littleton, NH.

Entire research:

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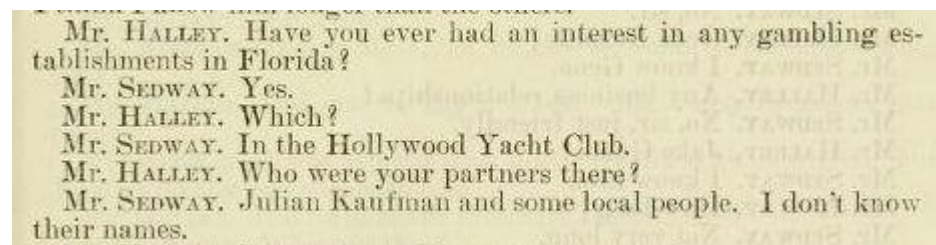
a primary address in Hollywood, Florida. This Phil Vitsky was involved in gambling operations in Hollywood

in the 1930's. In 1936 one of the prime gambling locations in Hollywood was the Hollywood Yacht Club--HYC.

The HYC has associations with some of the major names in the history of the "underworld": Meyer Lansky,

Bugsy Siegel, Moe Sedway. Meyer's brother Jake/Jack Lansky moved to Hollywood, FL in 1934. Here's a

snippet of Moe Sedway's testimony before the Kefauver Committee in 1950:



Mr. HALLEY. Have you ever had an interest in any gambling establishments in Florida?  
Mr. SEDWAY. Yes.  
Mr. HALLEY. Which?  
Mr. SEDWAY. In the Hollywood Yacht Club.  
Mr. HALLEY. Who were your partners there?  
Mr. SEDWAY. Julian Kaufman and some local people. I don't know their names.

Julian "Potatoes" Kaufman was an associate of Bugs Moran in Chicago, got in trouble there, went to New York City

and then Florida. Kaufman died at New York City in June 1939.

Unfortunately, I could never find any direct evidence that Vitsky was involved with the Hollywood Yacht Club.

In 1935 his occupation was listed as "club man." In 1939 a group of ministers of the gospel filed an injunction

against a major gambling operation in Hollywood called the "Plantation." The injunction listed ten people said

to be associated with the Plantation. Vitsky was on the list along with several other well known gamblers, including

Julian "Potatoes" Kaufman. A few days after the injunction was filed, Vitsky threatened to sue the ministers for libel,

claiming he was not associated with the Plantation. In 1940 Vitsky was named as a defendant in an injunction filed

against a place called the "Tent" which was described as a "gambling nuisance."

Philip Posh Vitsky was raised in Norfolk, VA by Russian Jewish immigrant parents, worked for the Al G. Fields Minstrels

in the 1910's, was a drummer for a nationally known house band at a swanky Washington DC restaurant called "Le Paradis"

in the 1920's and moved to Hollywood, FL by 1930. In the 1940's he owned a place called the "Veterans Locker Club" near

Fort Blanding (southwest of Jacksonville). He died in Dade County, FL in 1962.

Not sure how Littleton, NH fits in to all this--in 1936 Littleton became one of the destinations for "snow trains" which took

New Yorkers to weekend snow skiing locations. If Vitsky was there in 1936 and if the chips were meant for use at the

Hollywood Yacht Club--why would they have been delivered there??? It would be interesting to see the original order card.

I wouldn't mind getting an HYC chip if you have any extras.

Here's a few ads for the HYC from the Miami News:

8jan1936 (HYC on life preserver):



**FRANK FORD**

ANNOUNCES THE

**Formal  
Evening**



**SATURDAY**

**JANUARY 11TH**

with

**JUNE O'DEA**

International song personality of stage, screen and radio

**BRANDT and FOWLER    ZANETTE and COLES**

Sophisticated harmony from the  
House of Morgan

Society's Favorite Ballroom  
Dancers

Entrancing Dance Rhythms by the

**HOLLYWOOD YACHTSMEN**

**TARIFF: Three Dollars per Person (includes Dinner)**

For Reservations  
call KASS Maitre  
d'Hotel Hollywood 255

2 Blocks North of  
Hollywood Beach  
Hotel

30 Minutes North of  
Miami and Miami  
Beach

**FOURTH                      SEASON**



30dec1936 (HYC on pennant):

# HOLLYWOOD YACHT CLUB

Gala  
NEW YEAR'S  
EVE  
Party

GREET  
1937

At the Season's  
Smartest Party

fun! favors! souvenirs!  
Tariff \$7.50 including  
dinner

★

a galaxy of stars

Including

TERRY LAWLER

From the Clover Club, Hollywood, Cal.

★ ★ ★

Dorothy Fox and Charles Ames

"Dance Sophistication"

★ ★ ★

HOWARD LALLY

and His Brunswick Recording Orchestra

Early Reservations Suggested

PHONE KASS- HOLLYWOOD 255

NOW OPEN NIGHTLY!

Hollywood Beach

Two Blocks North of Hollywood Beach Hotel



Here's a snip from a Washington Post article from 24feb1935:

### Closed Up Tight.

Today, as the result, not a wheel of chance turns in Miami's ritzy establishments where last winter gentlemen in full dress and ladies in evening gowns won and lost small fortunes. A few are still running as night clubs, gaining a meager revenue from their suppers and drinks, but the majority have shut down completely.

As the result, Miami's casino business has moved 18 miles northward to the little town of Hollywood, in adjoining Broward County. There, in such glittering establishments as the Hollywood Yacht Club—which is guarded from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. by six grim-faced men with machine guns whom the patrons never see—the clicking wheels with the dancing red and black balls spin their nightly tale of fortune, good and ill. Or, if you are more plebeian, you can find a rousing craps game, poker, klondyke and faro in a wide-open establishment only two doors west of the postoffice.

An interesting little town is Hollywood, typical of the bizarre story that is Florida. A dozen years ago it was a swampy jungle, thick with tangled mangrove bushes and rustling palmettos. Then came Florida's real state boom of 1924-25, and with it one J. W. Young, a man with a vision who almost overnight carved a city out of the wilderness and paid \$30,000 out of his own pocket for a railroad station so that the trains of the Florida East Coast system would stop there.

