

Illinois, again! Geez, it is a never ending story. <g> Our "Friend Of The Hobby" asked me to ID this chip for him.

I did not think it was a biggie when I saw the ID. Wrong again! To be honest I should have recognized the name on the Mason record as I have other chips Spellisy bought on my list to research when time permits. Old age, again! <g>

I do not have the WMS chip. I repeat, I DO NOT HAVE IT! I want it. Cough it up if you have a trader.

Enough of that:

Illinois:

William Spellisy  
618 E. North St.  
Morris, IL

1936

200 black, 800 green  
100 choc, 460 red



WMS1att2

### **WMS**

William Spellisy, an Illinois native, moved to Morris, IL in the mid 1920's and died there in 1988 at the age of 87. From the mid 1930's through the mid 1960's Spellisy operated a place just outside the Morris city limits and across from the Morris County Club called the "Seven Gables." Today the place is called the Rockwell Inn. Here's a current pic; not sure how much of this building was around during the time of the Seven Gables.



WMS2att2

In October 1950 Spellisy testified before Kefauver. According to his testimony the Seven Gables had only been raided once since its opening in Dec. 1935—a raid which took place in May 1950, only a few months prior to his testimony. At the time of the raid Spellisy gave this statement to an Illinois Asst. AG:

My note: IMO, 30 years and only 1 raid. That might be a record for an illegal.



## STATEMENT

Licensee: William Spellisy, route No. 1, Morris, Ill.

Owners: Partnership with A. J. Black, Morris, Ill.; James Feeney, Morris, Ill.

Operated Seven Gables as oral partnership between Spellisy, Black and Feeney since 1935 continuously. Gambling such as crap game, roulette and horse book has been run by the partnership without any outsiders interested since opening. Crap and roulette allowed at once and have run since 1936 intermittently, and both games have been open 6 nights per week 8 p. m. to 1 a. m., daily for the past year except for 1 or 2 months in 1949.

The horse book has been run in the back room at Seven Gables, Morris, Ill., since 1943 off and on. This last time we have run the horse book for racing bets in the afternoon 6 days per week, except Sunday, from 1 p. m. to 5:30 p. m., for the past year except 1 or 2 months in 1949. The win on crap and roulette for the year 1949 was about \$15,000 for crap and roulette. The horse book grossed in 1949 \$200,000 per our records.

In 1950 our gross play on horse book from January 1, 1950, to date was \$97,426.50 per our records.

In 1950 our win on crap game and roulette wheel was \$10,391.

We have three employees on the horse book (Thomas Spellisy, brother; Neuman Engh; and Frank Black) at present and three steady employees on crap and the roulette wheel (Dick Close, William Smith, and Wayne Dyson), plus week-end employee Charles Metske and William Spellisy, the manager takes over off and on. William Spellisy is in charge of the gaming room.

We have operated slot machines in the barroom since 1936 off and on. The last time we have operated slot machines in the tavern for over the past year except 2 or 3 months in 1949. We take in about \$1,200 per month from seven slot machines and we have approximated that take each month for the past year. The partnership owns the machines and no outsiders are interested in the slots. We repair our own slot machines in rear room. We lease out on a percentage basis of 50-50 percent split slot machines to other taverns in the vicinity of Morris, Ill., such as Kresse, Nate Sklut, and Ben Sklut, and businesses such as Phillips "66" station, Prince Drive In, Karkuffs filling station. We repair and service the slot machines in our rear room and we have 23 slot machines in the rear repair room now stored or in process of repair. Don Black, son of A. J. Black, is the service and repairman for our slot machines. He is not here now. We value the new Mills slot machines at over \$200 each and about \$250 each.

I have read the foregoing statement and it is true; I consent to the search of Seven Gables and the State police have conducted themselves in an orderly manner.

WM. SPELLISY.

Foregoing statement consisting of three pencil written pages was taken at Seven Gables, Morris, Ill., by the assistant attorney general, Baird V. Helfrich, Springfield, Ill., from the admitted owner, William Spellisy, Rural Route No. 1, Morris, Ill., on May 26, 1950, immediately after the State police raid on said Seven Gables. Mr. Spellisy gave me this information in person, freely and voluntarily, as well as in a courteous and cooperative manner. He signed the statement at the end and initialled each page.

BAIRD V. HELFRICH.

My note: How would you like to rob a bank with this guy? He folded like an accordion and gave up everybody involved and the info to get the IRS on their trail. <g>

Here's a pic of Spellisy on his way to testify before Kefauver:



WMS4att2

During his testimony Spellisy was asked where he got his gambling equipment:



Mr. ROBINSON. Where do you buy your gambling equipment?  
Mr. SPELLISY. From O'Neill. I bought from O'Neill's.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Who is he?  
Mr. SPELLISY. He is somebody who sells that kind of equipment.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Do you know what company he is with?  
Mr. SPELLISY. The O'Neill Co.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Where are they located?  
Mr. SPELLISY. In Chicago.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Do you know whether he is connected with Taylor & Co.?  
Mr. SPELLISY. I wouldn't know that. I don't know who he is connected with.  
Mr. ROBINSON. You have had no business, so far as you know, with the Taylor Manufacturing Co. or Taylor & Co.?  
Mr. SPELLISY. No. I buy from a fellow named O'Neill, O'Neill & Co.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Did you make the purchase yourself personally?  
Mr. SPELLISY. Yes; I made the purchases from O'Neill.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Is this the equipment that you bought from him?  
(Witness examining photograph.)  
Mr. TRAFELET. Do you remember whether you bought that equipment from him?  
Mr. SPELLISY. Not this. I don't know who I bought this off of, it has been so long ago.  
Mr. ROBINSON. How long have you had it?  
Mr. SPELLISY. I wouldn't know now. I bought some equipment from O'Neill.  
Mr. ROBINSON. You don't recall where you bought that table?  
Mr. SPELLISY. I can't recall where this table came from.  
Mr. ROBINSON. Did you ever hear of Taylor & Co.?  
Mr. SPELLISY. I have heard the name, but I don't know what they sell. I have heard of some Taylor, but I never bought any stuff from Taylor.

WMS5att2

It's hard to remember everything.....  
"I never bought any stuff from Taylor"

My note: Or he lied! <g> BUT, why does he spill his guts to the locals and lie to a United States Senator, under oath? Just a wild and crazy guess. O'Neill was an independent operator and Taylor was owned by the Chicago mob! <g>

The following 2 chips are the ones I had on my list to research. The SG Harp he bought from Taylor in 1943.

Name *Am. Spelling*  
 Address *618 North Avenue*  
 Town *Morris* State *Ill*  
 Per \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL MONOGRAM


SG

Amount	Color	Initials Both Sides	Style Type	Initials One Side	Other Side	Style Type	Monogram Color	Date Shipped
900	<i>Grey</i>	<i>S.G.</i>	<i>Block</i>				<i>Green</i>	<i>2-17-43</i>
100	<i>Black</i>	"	"				"	"



WMS6att2

Hertel also lists this O'Neil chip:

<b>SEVEN GABLES</b>							
							<b>Morris</b>
	denom	color	inlay	mold	notes	code	value
							
		tan	HS-"SG"	cord		ILSEV01	\$10

WMS7att2

Spellisy continued to buy from O'Neil after Kefauver—several orders between 1952 and 1963:

TELEPHONE 6366

INVOICE

E. M. O'NEIL & COMPANY N<sup>o</sup> 1564

OF NEVADA

CASINO EQUIPMENT

FIFTH AND COLLEGE STREETS P. O. BOX #142  
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Date November 25, 19 52

Wm. Spellisy,  
Morris, Ill.

S.L. Dice

Postage	\$ 142 75
	<u>3 81</u>
Total C.O.D.	\$ 146 56

NOTE: Will fill in space below. CLAIMS must be filed in 6 months.

*Wm Spellisy*  
State *Morris, Ill*

BE SENDER C.O.D. No. *98*  
City *56 291*

RECEIVED  
NOV 26 1952  
U.S. MAIL  
MORRIS, ILL.

129  
U.S. Mail C.O.D. Article  
SENDER'S RECEIPT

**PAID**  
DEC 2 - 1952  
E.M. O'Neil & Co.  
Per \_\_\_\_\_

Via Airmail, C.O.D.

WMS8att2

TELEPHONES:  
DAY - Midway 2-2406  
NIGHT - DUWay 4-3064

INVOICE

E. M. O'NEIL & COMPANY

OF NEVADA  
CASINO EQUIPMENT

FIFTH AND COLLEGE STREETS P. O. BOX 314  
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Invt. 9537  
Date Dec. 5 1963

*Wm. Spelling*

*Morris Lee*

<i>125</i>	<i>Pv. Disc</i>	<i>167 50</i>		
	<i>Air Mail exp.</i>	<i>4 71</i>		
	<i>Mailed 4-2-5-63</i>		<i>172 21</i>	
	<i>Thank you</i>			
	<i>com.</i>			

WMS9att2

Here's a snip from a newspaper article about the raid in May 1950:



In Grundy county, State's Attorney August B. Black faces the assignment of prosecuting his father, Frank.

#### **Seven Gables Hit**

Frank Black is one of three employes of Seven Gables, a tavern near Morris, charged with operating a bookmaking establishment. Helfrich said the defendant identified himself as the father of State's Attorney Black.

Seven Gables yielded the biggest single bag of all the raids—82 slot machines, a dice table and a roulette wheel.

Bookmaking charges against Frank Black, Tom Spellisy and Newsman Engh, employes of Seven Gables, were based on bookmaking equipment found in a back room, Helfrich said.

Helfrich filed charges of owning a bookmaking establishment against William Spellisy, James Feeney and A. J. Black, whom he identified as joint owners of Seven Gables.

WMS10att2

My note: Once again a non-descriptive "little piece of clay" gives us a thirty year peek into a man's life. The history of our chips is amazing. How many little mementos of your life are you leaving lying around to tell your story to some future collector?