

Like father, like son... or so the saying goes. Today's IOTD is a perfect example of a multi-generational gambling family. Let's go to Evansville, Indiana.



RMC1att2

C.W. Lee  
505 Richardt Ave  
Evansville, IN – 1938

Evansville is the furthest south you can get in Indiana and not be in Kentucky. It borders the Ohio River on the other side of Henderson and down the road from Owensboro, both on the Kentucky side and both with gambling history.

In the year of the chip order, 1938, Charles W. Lee left the hotel business and opened a tavern at 103 Main Street which he called Lee's Tavern. (The address on the chip order was his home.) Lee's use of the mysterious RMC chips at his tavern was done quietly as I found no evidence of raids or other negative attention there. What can be observed however is that he was prospering. A few years later Charles moved his wife and young son Charles Jr into a bigger house and moved his operation two blocks away. His new bar at 222 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was christened the Spot Tavern and new casino chips were ordered.



## **LOSES AND SUES.**

**EVANSVILLE, May 27.—(AP)**  
—Miss Evelyn Causey, a divorcee, claimed in a Vanderburgh Circuit Court suit today she has lost \$16,480 in the last six months shooting craps in a gambling house.

The suit named Charles W. Lee as defendant. It described Lee as "owner and operator of a gambling house."

Miss Causey's suit sought to recover the alleged gaming losses.

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Charles Lee Sr looks to have left the tavern business around 1960 and turned his attention to a new kind of gambling – the oil business. While dad turned in his craps dice for drill bits, Charles Junior was gearing up to take over where dad left off.

In the early 1960s, Charles W. Lee Jr starts doing business at the Spot Tavern and ordered a new set of fancy inlay chips from Taylor and Company.

Phone HA 7-0051

VOICE

**Taylor and Company**

1736 South Michigan Ave. • Chicago 16, Ill.  
Designers and Manufacturers • Clubroom-Casino Equipment

Our Invoice No. B 6194

SOLD TO Charles W. Lee, Jr.,  
c/o Spot Tavern,  
222 N. W. Second St.,  
Evansville, Indiana

Date September 23 19 64

SHIPPED TO Evansville, Indiana

Cust. Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Our Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

TERMS - NET	Ship Via	Salesman	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepaid	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect
<b>Paid</b>	<b>REA Express &amp; Acme F.F.</b>			

QUAN.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
2-	2000 size Check Carrying Cases #3	37.50 ea.	75.00
3100	T Design Crest and Seal Inlaid Checks, weighted center under Inlay, all with 3 narrow edge inserts, all Inlays to read C. W. L. both sides, color assortment as: 1000 Yellow with 3 Lavender inserts, 500 Green with 3 Chocolate inserts, 200 Black with 3 Orange inserts, 1400 Orange with 3 Chocolate inserts.	376.00M	1165.60 <u>1240.60</u>
<p>Note: Cases shipped from Chicago via REA Express. Checks shipped from Portland, Maine via Acme F.F.</p>			



RMC5att2

It doesn't take long before the cops are busting through the doors and Charles Jr starts his decade long dance with the law. Finally, in 1967, the doors were busted down and the Spot Tavern is raided alongside other Evansville clubs in one of the city's major crackdown on gambling and vice.

But the Spot Tavern was not Junior's only game in town. The bigger one was happening in the backroom of the local Pancake House. Lee and his cousin/partner Ray Metcalf were doing it bigger and better over there. So big in fact that it caught the attention of the Feds who decided that their enterprise encouraged interstate travel and therefore warranted not only gambling charges, but racketeering as well.

## 4 Men Arrested After Gambling Raid Indicted

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Four men arrested after a gambling raid in Evansville Aug. 9 have been indicted by a federal grand jury here.

Emory Sights, 64, and Raymond K. West, 56, both of Henderson, Ky., are charged in three indictments each with traveling in interstate commerce to aid in racketeering (gambling).

Charles W. Lee Jr., 38, Evansville, and his cousin, Ray J. Metcalf, 49, Tennyson, are charged with causing Sights and West to commit the offenses.

Police confiscated more than \$43,000 and seven loaded weapons in the raid on the Pancake House in Evansville which led to the indictments. The Pancake House is owned by a corporation headed by Lee, Chester Bevinger and Metcalf's brother, Louis Metcalf.

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The 1969 raid confiscated tens of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment, as well as a mountain of evidence. There was little Charles Lee and his cousin could do but sit back and take the convictions. They received a sentence of five years in prison and were ushered off to start it around Christmas 1971.

There is no doubt that Charles Senior made off better than his son. Whether he encouraged him to go down his same path is unknown, but ultimately it was a mistake. Perhaps if Senior's story had been more tragic it would have served as a lesson for future generations.

I'm still not sure what the "RMC" initials on the chips stand for, but they are an important starting point for the decades long story of the Lee family and Evansville's gambling history.