



The Hallettsville Casino Club

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

The August 29, 1889 Hallettsville Herald announced that some of the citizens of Hallettsville had met at the pavilion west of town on Sunday and organized the Hallettsville Casino Club.

The club was formed by local citizens with the purpose of benefitting its members morally and intellectually by the congregation of good and honorable men and women to its meetings. To own and maintain a building or room by donation, lease or purchase for the members and their families to meet for the encouragement of science, literature, gymnastics and general healthful and honorable amusement and when practical to maintain a library.

The group was open to anyone regardless of nationality, creed, faith or politics.

The group would play chess, checkers, domino, piquet, cribbage, whist, casino and hopefully a bowling or rolling alley which could be added with the approval of the members.

No game of chance would be allowed within the premises of the club and betting was entirely prohibited.

The following were the officers and members of the organization:

President: Eugene B. Storch
Vice President: Wm. Muenter
Secretary: Rud. F. Skrehot
Treasurer: Jos. Stanzel
Custodian: Jos. Schindler
Overseer: W.P. Ballard

Board of Directors:
S.C. Patton
Wm. Muenter
P.H. Green
Jno. Houchins
Volney Ellis Jr.
F.W. Neuhaus

Committees
On Name
John F. Houchins, Joe Kahn, Eugene B. Stork
Legal Advice
P.H. Green, Rud. F. Skrehot, S.C. Patton
Premises & Construction
Jos. Schenk, B. Arnim, Jos. Stanzel
Bylaw & Rules
S.C. Patton, Joe Kahn, P.H. Green, F. W. Neuhaus

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Amusement & Games

Wm. Muenter, Jos. Schenk, J.W. Bennett

Literature & Library

P.H. Green, Rev. Jos. Mack, J.N. Kainer

Members

J.N. Kainer

Eugene B. Stock

Wm. Muenter

S.C. Patton

L. Reichman

Rudolph F. Skrehot

J.W. Bennett

Jos. Stanzel

Volney Ellis, Jr.

Joe Kahn

Rev. Jos. Mack

Theo. Silber

Wm. Rabenaldt

Jos. Schenk

F.W. Neuhaus

John F. Houchins

Peter Rashka

August Salich

B. Arnim

W.P. Ballard

Jos. Schindler

R.J. Polashek

P.H. Green

S. Arensohn

Ferd. Sokol

L.S. Pepper

A. Finkelstein

Ernst Merrem

The group planned a grand opening on October 13th, 1889. A meeting was held the first Monday in October on the program and other important business. Many casino organization across the state were invited to the event. The grand opening, however, had to be postponed until the 1st Sunday in November and trains would run on the S.A. & A.P. This would enable the clubs of Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas and other places to arrive on Sunday's noon train.

Sources:

Hallettsville Herald
August 29, 1889

Hallettsville Herald
October 3, 1889

Hallettsville Herald
October 17, 1889

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