

GAMBLING ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU

You Get the Short End When You Woo Lady Luck, Whether You Play Poker, Bridge, Roulette, Dice or Horses.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

“HEADS or tails, what'll you take?” There can't be a man or woman in America who hasn't been asked that question at least once. And there are mighty few who will refuse to choose one or the other, in an attempt to decide whether to go to the movies or the dance, or to determine who gets the extra pork chop on the platter.

It's probably the simplest manifestation of the inclination to gamble that seems to be born in most of us. The toss of a coin looks fair enough, but even on a "fifty-fifty" break such as that you can't be sure that in a given number of tosses, say 100, half the tosses will be "heads" and half "tails."

In all games of chance the probability of winning is against the player, even if he can be sure the game is "on the level." Yet man has gambled from time immemorial. It makes little difference whether his purpose was to relieve the monotony of everyday existence or to get something for nothing; he has always been willing to take a chance.

Gambling was popular, even famous, in ancient Babylonia, China and India many centuries before the birth of Christ. History tells us many tales of games of chance among the Greeks and Romans. Germans gambled in the first century of the Christian era.

Monte Carlo "Wide Open."

Hundreds of years ago gambling was recognized as a menace to society. In England the first law against it was enacted in 1661. In 1698 lotteries were made illegal; gambling was further curtailed by acts of Parliament in 1845, 1853 and 1906. In 1838 France suppressed gaming tables, and in 1872 Germany closed gambling resorts, even the world-famed ones at Baden-Baden and Hamburg. Belgium clamped down on gambling in 1902, and today the only spot in Europe where the resorts "run wide open" is at Monte Carlo, in the tiny principality of Monaco.

Roulette wheels, gaming houses, faro, "policy" rackets, bookmaking lotteries and wheels of fortune are pretty generally forbidden in civilized countries today. The laws of the different countries vary, however, as do even the laws among the states of the United States.

Inside or outside the law, gambling flourishes in every section of the country. Thousands upon thousands daily visit the race tracks. Thronging invest in tickets on the Irish sweepstakes. Crap games are going on in big city alleys and in the back rooms of stores. Apartment kitchens have their Saturday night poker parties. Ladies gamble at bridge in the afternoon.

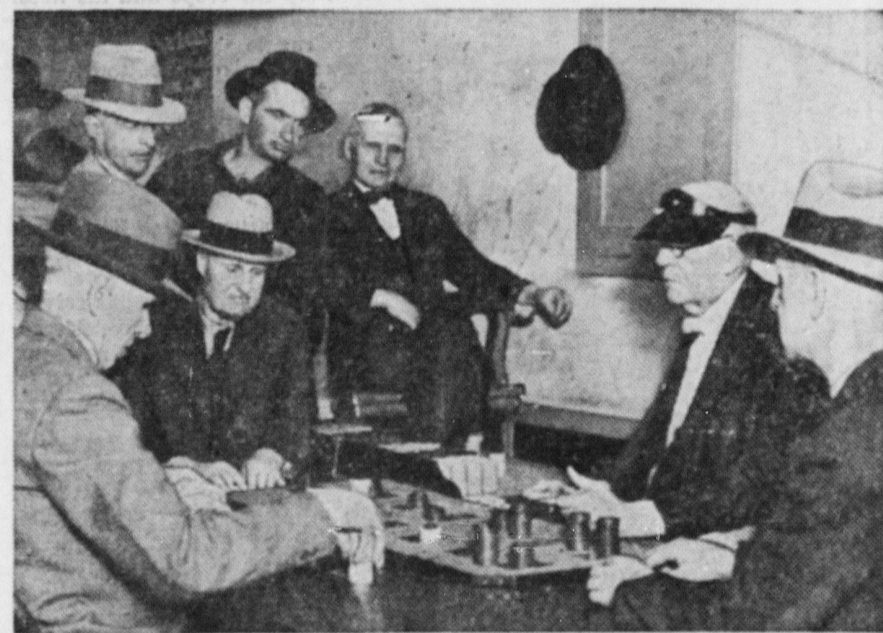
Outside the Law.

It is impossible to say exactly or even approximately, how big the gambling industry is in the United States, for most of it is conducted outside the law, just as saloons were conducted during the prohibition era. But a few representative figures are at hand to show that the total must be an enormous one.

In the twenty-two states where

Nevada; slot machines, no matter whether they operate on pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters or half-dollars, are licensed for \$30 a quarter. Last year Reno gambling houses paid taxes of \$94,245.12. Of this the city received \$38,424.08, the state and county \$52,232.76, and the municipality of Sparks, three miles distant, \$3,588.30.

Gamblers fall into three main types. There is, first of all, the



A Reno Gambling House Going Full Swing.

superstitious gambler. He believes implicitly that Luck is a sort of supernatural power, a god that can decide his fate. He woos luck by talking to his dice, or by carrying a rabbit's foot in his pocket. He seldom thinks about the mathematical possibilities of winning or losing; if he wins, Lady Luck is with him; if he loses, he is suffering a "jinx."

Another type is the seeker after thrills. Usually this is a person of some means. It is largely this type which frequents the fashionable gambling houses of Palm Beach, or those in the large cities where the turnover may be half a million dollars a week for a single "club."

Crap Not Fair.

The third classification embraces the professionals. They make their living at gambling, and they know the ropes. Usually they are figures on the fringe of the underworld, and not infrequently they become mixed up in scrapes which have only a minor relation to their gambling activities. The professional, more likely than not, is fully capable of cheating with marked cards, loaded dice and other implements beyond the pale, and will do so if he thinks

the first throw. But if "seven-eleven" is missed, repetition of the first throw is unlikely, and the seven is now working against the player and the net effect is against him.

Even chess, generally accepted as the most intellectual of all games, depends upon chance, says Prof. Von Neumann. He points out that "white," which has the first move, can always win, although if "black" is wise to the theory, he can play defensively and tie "white."

In poker the chances are one in 300,000 to obtain any certain combination of five cards. Chance is also introduced in this type of game by the action of the opponent, and intellectual reasoning is sometimes needed. There is little chance of improving the original hand in poker, so the most logical places for the exercise of skill are in making

the discards, and in deciding whether or not opponents are "bluffing" in their bets.

Poker and Bridge Chances.

Here are some of the most sought-after hands in poker, and the possibilities of their being obtained.

One pair	1-1
Two pairs	1-21
Three of a kind	1-47
Flush	1-509
Full house	1-694
Four of a kind	1-4,165
Straight flush	1-72,193
Royal flush	1-649,739

In a game of bridge there are 635,013,559,600 possible combinations of hands. You have four chances out of that many of getting a "perfect" hand—thirteen of one suit. Here are the chances on some other distributions:

12-1	2,028 hands
11-2	73,008 hands
11-1-1	158,184 hands

After your cards have been obtained there is still the element of chance that that your partner holds will not "go well" with them.

In gambling houses it is healthy to remember that the odds are always in favor of the house. If it were not they could not afford to stay in business very long. As it is, they make a profit and pay enormous taxes or, if they are operating illegally, they are forced to "kick in" handsomely to the "syndicate" or gang which usually operates them as units in a chain, or to politicians and police for "protection."

Roulette furnishes a good example of the manner in which the bank always enjoys an advantage over the player. Suppose a wager is made on any part of the board, except on a given number, and the zero appears. The player is required to give up half his stake or let the wager stand for the next play. The zero pays everything for the house at Monte Carlo, if all the wheels are in operation.

4,000,000 Sweepstakes Tickets.

Authorities consider lotteries or sweepstakes, if they are conducted honestly, as the fairest of all forms of gambling. The losing player need part with no more than the original sum he invested. But the chances of winning are mighty slim, because there are usually millions of tickets sold in the big lotteries.

In the Irish Sweepstakes, for instance, more than 4,000,000 tickets are usually sold. For each ticket held, the purchaser has one chance in 133,333 to win one of the grand prizes—\$150,000, \$75,000, or \$50,000; one chance in 6,667 to win a secondary prize of \$3,500, and one chance in 4,000 to win a small prize of \$500.

The most vicious of all gambling rackets is the "numbers" game which flourishes in many of the big cities, despite the honest efforts of the law to stamp it out. In some of these games the chance of winning is as small as one in 1 billion. Slot machines may actually be set so that the house takes in 80 per cent of all the money played, and they frequently are. Few slot machines pay the house as little as 60 per cent.

In addition, the games in gambling houses are not always honest, as has been proved in raid after raid. It's well to keep in mind that the gambler's rule since gambling was invented has been: "Never give a sucker an even break."

© Western Newspaper Union.

Floyd Gibbons Adventurers' Club



Hello Everybody!

"Murder on Soochow Creek"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

HERE'S a tale from China, where life is cheap. They'll kill you for your shoes in that desperate, over-crowded, half-starved country. Or they'll kill you for nothing at all. I've seen Chinese killed by the dozen over there for no reason, as far as I could see, but just for the sake of killing. In no country in the world, except possibly revolutionary Spain, is death spread with such a careless hand.

Yes, life is cheap over there in China. Many a man has been killed for something that wasn't worth a Chinese dollar. But our Distinguished Adventurer of the day—Milton Weaver of New York City—saw the time once when his life wasn't worth two cents.

That was in February, 1932. Milt Weaver was in the United States Marine corps then, and the Marines were stationed in Shanghai protecting our nationals and the International Settlement during the fighting that went on between the Chinese and the Japanese.

Along the Shores of Soochow Creek.

Says Milt: "You probably remember the little dug-out we Marines built and all the warlike atmosphere that surrounded us along Soochow creek?" And Milt is right about that. I sure do. I spent a lot of time down there when the fighting was going on over in the Native City, and if I saw Milt I'd probably remember him, too, for I talked with a lot of those boys who garrisoned that dug-out and stood guard along the creek. Milt's adventure, though, is one thing I missed, and I'm glad Milt has given me a second chance at it—a second chance to put in on the wire and tell it to the world.

It was a cold morning—that one in February—and Milt was patrolling his post along Soochow creek. Outside the walls of the International Settlement a furious battle was going on between Japanese troops and Chinese soldiers. Refugees were seeking safety in the Settlement by the thousand, but they weren't allowed to enter at night. The patrols along the boundaries had strict orders not to let anyone enter before six a. m., but all night long terror-stricken Chinese refugees—many of whom couldn't pass the inspection at the bridges—kept trying to force their way through the patrols and get in behind Settlement walls.

At the Mercy of the Chinese.

It was about five in the morning when Milt saw a sampan, loaded with Chinese, making its way across the creek. Immediately Milt shouted to them to go back, but on they came until the nose of the boat touched the shore. Then Milt saw he was in for an argument—maybe even a little trouble. But if he'd known how much trouble it was going to be, he'd have sounded the alarm and called out the guard before he tried to do anything else about it.

As the boat touched shore Milt stepped aboard and began telling the coolie who ran it to turn around and go back. "I had to do this in sign language," Milt says, "because the coolie, apparently, didn't understand English. The coolie appeared to be doing what I told him. He was trying to swing the boat around when a small tugboat came along and rammed into his sampan. At the same time it pushed the sampan out into the middle of the stream, making it impossible for me to jump ashore again."

And then, all of a sudden, the demeanor of the Chinese in the boat changed. A few seconds before Milt had represented authority, with a guard of soldiers at his call. Now, out there in the middle of the stream he was alone—helpless—and darned well those Chinese knew it. They began swarming toward him, babbling, gesticulating, threatening.

Milt saw what was coming—saw that he had one chance to get away, and that was to jump aboard the tugboat. He turned toward it, and then a thing happened that put him completely at the mercy of the occupants of the sampan.

As he turned toward the tug, a puff of smoke, full of fine bits of coal flew straight in his eyes. He was blinded!

It was only for a few moments, but during those few moments of blindness Milt experienced the worst fear of his whole life. The natives, seeing him helpless, rushed him—and a man that gets mobbed by a crowd of Chinese natives has darned little chance of getting out alive.

Desperate Fight on the Sampan.

"They came at me with bamboo sticks," says Milt, "trying to push me overboard into the filthy waters of the creek. I knew I was doomed if I let them get me into the water, for once I was in it they would push me under and hold me there until I drowned. I blew my whistle for help. I had a pistol in a holster at my hip, but I couldn't see to shoot it. But I also carried a baton—like a policeman's nightstick—and I began swinging it around my head as best I could."

Milt says he doesn't know how he managed to stay on his feet all through the hullabaloo. He could feel bamboo poles poking at him, and he could feel that his own stick was doing some damage, too, for every once in a while it came in contact with something that felt like a coolie's head. But little by little he was being forced back toward the edge of the sampan.

Milt was getting desperate. Another step or two and he'd be overboard. He was thinking of drawing his pistol and firing blindly into the mob, when suddenly he heard English voices on the bank, mixed in with the native shouting and cursing.

That stopped the coolies. A minute before, Milt had been a lone, hated foreign devil. Now he was backed by authority again. They put the boat back to shore, and Milt was helped ashore by English policemen and a few of his own pals, the American Marines. They gave Milt first aid treatment for his eyes, and for the cuts and bruises he had received, and Milt says he was mighty doggone glad to get his feet back on the ground of the International Settlement where good old American, British and French law and order were in force and life was worth more than a couple of plugged Chinese pennies.

©—WNU Service.

First Before British Royalty

Born in 1744, Abigail Smith became the wife of a young Massachusetts lawyer, John Adams, when she was twenty. Acknowledged as one of those who helped shape a new nation, John Adams was rewarded with the appointment of first United States minister to Great Britain in 1784, and his wife and eighteen-year-old daughter Abby joined him in London. The following summer they curtialed, as the first bona fide Americans, before British royalty—thereby leading off a picturesque procession which a favored few of their sisters have continued for years.

Claims First Sleeping Car

That the first sleeping car to be built and placed in actual service on this continent was designed and made in Canada is stated in an article in the Canadian National Railway Magazine. The plan for a sleeping car was prepared in 1859 in preparation for the visit of the then Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VII, and the actual construction was carried out at Brantford, Ont., in a plant later used for malleable iron castings for passenger and freight cars.

Blondes and Brunettes

The brunette is thoughtful, imaginative, serious and tenacious. When they start anything they see it through. They are conservative and more stable than blondes, declares a writer in Pearson's London Weekly. They are emotional and it is remarkable that many of the great religious cults have been founded by brunettes. The brunette is slower than the blonde, not so brilliant, but sometimes more sure of "getting there" in the end. The blonde is the builder, the go-getter, seeker after fresh fields and pastures new. They are the explorers and inventors, the civil engineers.

The Chaldeans

The Chaldeans were not Egyptians but were a Semitic tribe, similar to the Babylonians, who probably migrated from Arabia into lower Mesopotamia about 700 B. C. They were absorbed in the great Persian empire and some of their descendants probably remain in that part of Asia. They were polytheists and noted for their knowledge of astrology and occult science. It appears quite likely that the Wise Men from the East were Chaldeans or Babylonians.

Frocks Made Gay With Stitch Flowers

Fashion decrees that flowers bloom on our dresses in embroidery this Spring and Summer. Give this smart touch to that new frock—surprise yourself and all your friends too by what it will do to renew that plain dress from



Pattern 5801.

last year. So easily done in single and running stitch, you'll find it fun to embroider these large and small nosegays. Choose all the gay colors you wish, in wool, silk floss or chenille and know you're in style. In pattern 5801 you will find a transfer pattern of one and one reverse motif 7 3/4 by 8 1/4 inches; one and one reverse motif 5 1/2 by 6 inches and six motifs 3 1/4 by 3 1/4 inches; color suggestions; illustrations of all stitches used.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle Household Arts Dept., 259 W. Fourteenth Street, New York, N. Y.

Write pattern number, your name and address plainly.

for WOMEN only

CARDUI is a special medicine for the relief of some of the suffering which results from a woman's weakened condition. It has been found to make monthly periods less disagreeable, and when its use has been kept up awhile, has helped many poorly nourished women to get more strength from their food. This medicine (pronounced "Card-ee") has been used and recommended by women for many years. Find out whether it will help you by giving it a fair trial. Of course, if not benefited, consult a physician.

Foe's Anger

The anger of an enemy represents our faults or admonishes us of the duty with more heartiness than the kindness of a friend.—Taylor.

Constipated 30 Years

"For thirty years I had stubborn constipation. Sometimes I did not go for four or five days. I also had awful gas bloating, headaches and pains in the back. Adierika helped right away. Now I eat sausage, bananas, pie, anything I want and never feel better. I sleep soundly all night and enjoy life." —Mrs. Mabel Schott.

If you are suffering from constipation, sleeplessness, sour stomach, and gas bloating, there is quick relief for you in Adierika. Many report action in thirty minutes after taking just one dose. Adierika gives complete action, cleaning your bowel tract where ordinary laxatives do not even reach.

"In addition to intestinal cleansing, Adierika checks the growth of intestinal bacteria and colon bacilli."

Give your bowels a real cleansing with Adierika and see how good you feel. Just one spoonful relieves GAS and stubborn constipation. At all Leading Druggists.



WNU-4 22-37

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

CIGARS

Miss Florida Tampa Cigars, box of one hundred postpaid, three dollars, satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Dillon, 119 S. Salina St., Syracuse, N. Y.

SOUVENIRS

Own Valuable Beautiful pocket piece President FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT patriotic victory souvenir copper coin. Each 50c delivered. Large silver dollar. Berkowitz Properties - Charleston, Ill.

FLOWERS

Gladiolus—Selected large healthy bulbs, 3 ea. 5 varieties labeled including new Picardy 21 postpaid. Catalog free. Biesfeld Garden, 218 Woodrow Ave., Richmond, Va.

STAMPS

U. S. STAMPS, MINOR DEFECTS @ 1/2 cent, mounted and numbered in booklets cat. 50c for 10c each. Try one money back if not pleased. PARK STAMP, 688 BEACON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

CEDAR CHESTS

Cedar Chests! Bigger! Better! Beautiful! \$25.00 \$19.50 direct. Illus. circular free. Martin Cabinetworks, Barville, Penna.

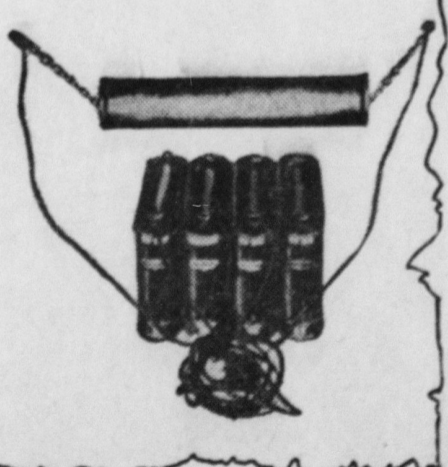
WOMEN

Step Worrying—A quarter brings you a manuscript of the most valuable information any housewife ever owned. Free! Free! 305 Fourth Avenue, New York.

HUMIDOR COUNTER MAGNET

THE illustration shows the outfit as you receive it and to operate the humidifier, it is supplied with chains at each end, which allow it to hang in full view of customer in the cigar case. The batteries are concealed in any convenient location. Connections between batteries and humidifier cannot be seen when installed, according to simple instructions that accompany each order. A space eight inches square at each end is under the operator's control. In appearance this magnet resembles any ordinary cigar counter humidifier.

No. 622. Humidor Counter Magnet, with switch, 4 Hot Shots, 30 feet of connecting wire, instructions and 5 White Dice. Complete \$50.00



This page from a catalog of a manufacturer of gambling paraphernalia illustrates one of the reasons why the odds are against you.

betting on the races is conducted with the use of pari-mutuel machines there has been \$224,000,000 wagered in a single year; this does not include the five tracks in New York state, where the "take" is enormous.

Four Irish Sweepstakes drew about \$19,500,000 in American money, for which the Yanks received in return some \$11,500,000 in prize money. In England the wagering on sweepstakes, horses, greyhounds, pools and the like totals more than \$25,000,000 a year; Scotland Yard and the British Home Office are helping the churches to fight them.

Types of Gamblers.

Probably the most wide-open town in the United States is Reno, Nevada, where state, city and county realize a sizable revenue in taxes upon the gambling houses. The latter live off the idle hours and loose purses of the hundreds who come to Reno to live for a few weeks that they may obtain divorces; most of such persons are pretty well to do, and fond of gambling.

All banking games—faro, roulette, etc.—are taxed \$165 a quarter in

he can get away with it. He seldom dies a natural death.

Whatever class to which a gambler belongs, he will sooner or later make a bad risk in the anticipation of feeling the emotional stimulation of seeing a "long shot" come in. He knows there is such a thing as "loaded" dice, but thinks he is too smart to be fooled with them. What he forgets is that dice are mathematically loaded against him, even if they are perfect dice.

Prof. John Von Neumann, mathematician of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, warns students in his lectures that it is impossible to win over a long period in a crap game. The magic "seven-eleven" combination is by far the most frequent throw, he says, but if it doesn't turn up on the first cast the chances are reversed. "That leaves a 490 winning average, so the game is not fair," he explains.

In dice explicit hazards are introduced by the rules. Seven can be thrown in six ways and 11 in two, while 2, 3 and 12 result from only one or two combinations. The conditions are favorable to win on