

Pody Poe and the "Casino" in Nichols Hills

Written by Steve Lackmeyer

Wednesday, 18 November 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Saturday, 15 October 2011 22:53



Steve's note: Over 20 years reporting at The Oklahoman I've been blessed to meet people who were truly living history. Whether you like him or not, it's difficult to deny the feeling of world history stemming from a simple handshake with Jesse Jackson. I've been in the same room as presidents, governors, heroes and crooks.

And then there's Pody Poe, who stands alone. For years growing up in Oklahoma City I heard vague references to the "casino" in Nichols Hills. When I got my drivers licence, being quite naive, I drove around Nichols Hills looking for said casino and finding nothing. It was only when I was a cop beat reporter at The Oklahoman that I began to hear the legend of Pody Poe. And when Poe was released from prison a much older, beaten down man, I wasted no time in trying to talk to him about a biography he had written.

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It was easy to see why Poe, in his heyday, was so likeable. He seemed to have no ego and was eager to please. He invited me into his apartment at The Links along NE 122 and was quick to show he was no longer into gambling and didn't even have any liquor in his possession.

Many of the people he once entertained in his "casino" (it was actually a converted garage at his home) probably would be OK with being outed as having been his guests. But after promising to name names in his biography, Poe had once again pulled off a classic bluff.

Sure, he showed photos of the celebrities (mostly those who had already passed away) who had frequented his games (Mickey Mantle was a good friend of Poe's). But the wealthy scions of Oklahoma City could rest easily knowing Poe wasn't about to create any discomfort for them.

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BINIONS HORSESHOE
Please Present to Food Server Before Ordering
COFFEE SHOP

LOCATION _____
FOR Pody Poe
DAY ANY VOID AFTER THIS DATE Life-Time
PARTY OF NO. 4

CHECK ONE BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER BAR
COMPLIMENTARY No 19453

DEPT. _____ BY Benny Binion
 ANY MENU ITEM FLYER ONLY
CK # _____ EMPLOYEE # _____

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