

**GAMBLING CLUBS**  
**east of Orange, Texas**  
**just across the state line into Louisiana**  
by Jim Munding

Recently while traveling near Vinton, Louisiana, I came across some information on a group of clubs located east of Orange, Texas on old Highway 90. The area was known as East Orange, Louisiana but isn't on the map. From the information I was able to gather from two people in Vinton, Louisiana there were 22 clubs along Highway 90 from the Texas state line to Vinton, Louisiana that operated as cafes, drinking places, gambling clubs and whore houses. All of this was illegal in Texas which was just across the Sabine River. These clubs were in operation from the 1930's until 1953 when interstate Highway 10 was built.

The Grove and Buster's moved when the freeway was built but the others went out of business. Buster's was owned by Marion Johnson and was known as Buster's Night Club, although the chips say "Border Club".

Clubs that were mentioned were The Grove, Big Oaks Club, Buster's Border Club, Cemaire, Showboat, Silver Slipper, Miller's Rainbow Club, Lou Ann's Club, State Line Club and the Blue Lake Club that was a Black only club. There are others but no one could recall the names.

I was able to xerox some postcards from Buster's and The Grove and also got a chip from Busters Club and the Border Club. The only remaining physical evidence is a shell of a building where Lou Ann's was and a sign (but no building) for the Showboat Club.

I was told that the "Big Oaks Club" is now where the Weigh Station is on I 10 and the rest stop is where the "State Line Club" was.

Here are some pictures of the remains of Lou Ann's Club taken in August 1998. There is also the Showboat sign just west of Lou Ann's. There are no other remains of any other clubs here.

