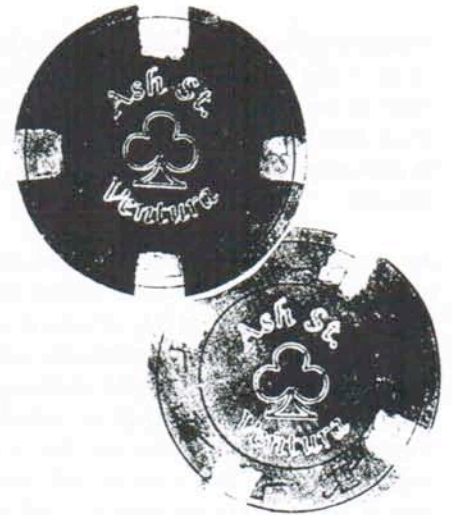


CALIFORNIA RAMBLING, GAMBLING, and COLLECTING

by Michael Moore

I have not written for CC&TN for quite awhile. So first of all I have a new address in beautiful Santa Barbara where I think I am settled. Since August of last year I have moved three times. Unpacking and trying to find things, well you know the story. I have managed to find some interesting chips during that time. The Ash Street Card Room in Ventura bought new \$1 and \$5 chips with a hot stamped Ash St. logo. The interesting part is the \$1 chips have two different types of inserts. The first order came in with a Lt. Blue \$1 with two ¼" green and two ¼" red. The manager told Paul-son's it wasn't what he ordered and they sent the corrected order free with four 1/8" green and four 1/8" red. Nice way to get double chips.



In the small town of Tracy, in the middle of nowhere, on the way to nothing California, I found a card room with a game going. Everyone at the table had mountains of blue Chipco's. I asked about a seat and was told I was second up. What I really wanted was the chips but you have to be careful how you approach these things in small California clubs. I asked about the limit they were playing. It was 50¢ - \$1 limit. It is the smallest game I personally have ever seen in a card room. I decided I would flat out just ask to buy chips because I didn't want to have to wait for a game that small. The floor man was very nice and sold me a small quantity of 50¢ and 1\$ chips. The logo shows a funny mustache bearing cowboy holding his winning hand and a bag of money on the run. But, not much money.



The Dugout was a bar on 'B' Street in San Rafael in the 50's and early 60's with an illegal poker game in the back room. The place was raided in 1962 and all equipment was confiscated by the City Police Department. End of story? No, not quite yet. One of the officers involved in the raid, now retired, came to a home game at my house and saw part of my collection. He told me of the chips he had been using in his home game with other police officers for over 20 years were from an illegal game they had raided. The Dugout. He said he hadn't had a game in ten years and would sell them to me. As is common with illegal clubs, there is no denomination or location. There's four colors; red, blue, white, and yellow, with an 'L' mold rim. I was surprised to find only 340 chips with the rarest being yellow (7) and white (40).



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