

## THE ELUSIVE CLOVER CLUB

By

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Currently I am researching the history of the Clover Club, an underground gambling club that existed in Los Angeles during the 1940s. Although the club was well known among Hollywood's elite, little is known about the club and its chips. The following is what I have gleaned from various sources about the Clover Club:

Los Angeles Times (December 22, 1996)

- The Clover Club was on the Sunset Strip where La Cienega dead ends into Sunset Boulevard.
- Operated by mobsters Milton "Farmer" Page and Nola Hahn, the Clover Club was the name of the restaurant open to the public. In the back room was the Bacon Club, the secret gambling joint. It was not uncommon for gamblers to drop more than a hundred grand in one night.

Bugsy Siegel: The Man Who Invented Murder (David Hanna, 1974 cited by Michael Knapp, written communication, 1996)

- Bugsy Siegel was one of the owner's. The club was a hangout for everyone involved in everything illegal. It was especially popular among the black market operators and the Mafiosi who made millions in black market gas rationing tickets.
- The first floor of the club consisted of a bar and a small room featuring top-flight entertainers like Peggy Fears, Frank Fay, and Ethel Waters. Upstairs there were gambling rooms, entered by a rear door.
- The club was never raided by the police, although others dispute this (see below). Even though there were a couple of shootings, the police permitted the club to operate as a free-for-all center of the underworld. The advantage of this was that the club served as a valuable listening post.

Michael Knapp, Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club, written communication, 1992

- A son of the owner related an account of going to the police station with his father periodically, and while he waited in the car, his Dad would take a bag into the police station, returning without it.
- There were raids from time to time, but somehow his father always seemed to get advance notice. They'd load the gaming equipment into a large truck, and drive around with it until the heat cooled, then unload it and start operating again.

Given the notoriety of the club, not much is known about its chips. My knowledge of the chips that were actually used is limited. I believe that the illustrated chips were from the Clover Club. I welcome any additional information. Please contact me at P.O. Box 8716, Calabasas, CA 91372, phone 818-222-6043.

