

THE INFORMATION BOOTH

Michael Knapp

Welcome to another installment of "The Information Booth." For those of you who are reading the column for the first time, it is here that I try to provide some information about unidentified flying chips (UFC's) submitted by members for identification and to answer questions about casino history, chip history, or related subjects.

As I always do, I'll begin with some answers to previous UFC questions. Also, I repeat my request for participation by club members. This column is only of value if you take time to write to me with identifications of chips you recognize here in the column, and if you send *legible* photocopies (full size is a must; black and white is preferred, and please *do not send enlarged copies*) or samples of chips you'd like identified. Please don't assume that if you recognize a chip, someone else will. Don't assume that "everyone knows what that chip is." If you have information which may be of help to other members, please share it through this column.

You will notice that very few of the chips which appear in the column are simply photocopied. That's because many older chips do not have enough contrast to photocopy well, and if they will not photocopy once, they certainly will not photocopy a second time when the magazine is produced. As a result, I hand-illustrate most of the chips pictured here. It's a painstaking process, because I make every effort to make sure that each chip illustration is as close as possible to its original version. That way, recognition identification may be possible.

Please realize that *if you cannot read what is printed on a chip clearly after you photocopy it for the column, neither can I, and illustrating it will be impossible*. In such a case, you may send the chip to me, *with return postage* if you would like the chip sent back to you after the illustration process is completed.

Also, please realize that if you recognize a chip published here as a UFC, you have information that other fellow collectors do not have. Please share it! That's the whole point of this column. What is

common knowledge in one part of the country, or in one area of collecting is completely unknown to others. For those of you with answers or questions, please share your information by writing to me at P. O. Box 340345, Columbus, Ohio 43234.

This month there has been little in the way of identifications of past UFC's, but we've received a story that's fantastic, and I'm sure you'll enjoy it.. Following the UFC number being identified, I've included the Volume and Issue number of the magazine in which the chip originally appeared.

UFC 769 (8/4): The **Toti-Gaughan** chips have been mentioned by several people as having been used in a dealer's school. I've confirmed this with a pit boss at the Barbary Coast (owned by Toti and Gaughan). He said that the Barbary Coast had its own dealer's school, and that the chips were definitely used there.

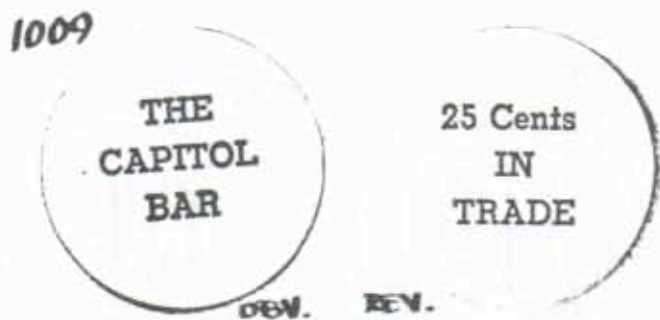
UFC 969 (9/4): The **Winner's Circle Club** was a card room in Madera, CA which closed around 1994.

UFC 1002 and 1003 (10/1): Michael Moore of Santa Barbara, CA has identified these chips, and the story that he tells is terrific. I can't do better than to quote Michael: As you may know, poker players have colorful nicknames. Usually they have something to do with who they are. **Hardway Sam** is a cab driver and poker player in Las Vegas. Sam had a tendency to play long-shot hands and win the hard way. Hence, Hardway Sam. He happens to be the top rated Omaha High tournament player in the nation. **Keno** is his pet cat pictured on the chip. When a player has the best hand and is beaten by a long shot hand, it is called a "bad beat." Sam put so many bad beats on people he got tired of hearing the complaints and had a chip made that expressed his and Keno's opinion. When you complained about how Sam beat you, he would throw the BAD BEAT \$100 chip to the player who lost the hand.

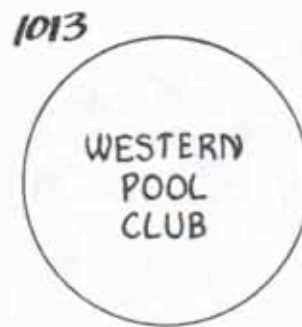
By the way, Michael knows of whence he speaks. He's beaten Hardway Sam in national tournaments, and in 1994 was ranked 8th nationally by the National Ranking Association of Tournament Poker Players. His nickname, by the way, is "Big Store" Moore, and there's *got* to be a story behind *that!*

Now it's time for some recently-submitted UFC's. As I've done for several years now, I have indicated those chips which have a denomination on the reverse side by the \$ symbol next to the illustration. If there is no such symbol next to the chip, the reverse is identical to what you see here. If you can recognize any of the chips below, please share your information with other members by dropping me a note at the address which appears above.

UFC 1009, both sides of which are shown below, is rubber-stamped on a paper fleur-de-lis chip. Most often, the "in trade" legend was used as a cover for gambling: the proprietor could always claim that there was no gambling going on, because no money was being used. The chips were ostensibly good only for merchandise. Many such chips were used in Montana and other locations in the Northwest before poker games were legalized.



UFC 1010, we're told, might have been used at the Mina Hotel in Mina, NV in 1940 or so, but there is nothing on the chip to indicate that origin. The photocopy shows a hand-drawn "edge insert" on the chip, which is not reproduced here. Does anyone recognize it?



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Thanks to the members who submitted information for this issue: John Benedict, Doc Finstuen, Terry Lazarus, Travis Lewin, Michael Richter, Jim Sandor, Dale Seymour and Jim Steffner.