

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) 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.

With this column, we pass a significant milestone: the **1000th Unidentified Flying Chip!** Back when I began this column in Volume 2, Issue 1 of what was then the CC>CC newsletter, I had no way of knowing that "The Information Booth" would become as popular or as helpful to collectors as it has. I also had no way of knowing how many unidentified chips there really are out there, and it seems that there are more every week. I had hopes originally that we would be able to identify most chips for collectors. We'll keep trying!

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.

Now for some identifications of past UFC's. In this issue, for the first time we are going to try adding some information. Robert Eisenstadt gave us this suggestion, and it sounds good to us. Let me know if it helps you with your own identifications. Following the UFC number being identified, we will include the Volume and Issue number of the magazine in which the chip originally appeared.

UFC 223 (Vol. 4, No. 1): Several members have written to indicate that the **Southern Club** chip illustrated in this column

was definitely used at the Southern Club in the Southern Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. And Doc Finstuen, who had sent us a note about the chip last time, wrote to say that he was merely indicating the possibility that the chip had been used in Galveston, TX, and didn't mean to suggest that he knew that to be the case.

UFC 870 (9/2): This identification is another illustration of why it is sometimes difficult to attribute a chip to a specific location without having very specific authenticating information from someone who actually saw the chip in play. Apparently there have been **Bryn Mawr Country Clubs** in Reseda, CA, in the Chicago area, and in the Cleveland area. Several members have written to say that the chip must be from one or the other of the Bryn Mawrs. Fact is, the chip is only from one of the various Bryn Mawrs, but unless we hear from someone who has actually seen the chip in play in one of the country clubs, we are hesitant to attribute it to any one of the clubs as opposed to the others.

UFC 882 (9/2): Member Ernie Meador, who grew up in the Havana, IL area, has written to share some more information about the area. This hub rim chip, hotstamped **KSR**, was originally identified by Howard Herz from the old records of the H. E. Mason Company, which originally sold the chip in 1946. It was made, according to the Mason records, for Louis Becker, but there is no indication of a club name in the records. Ernie tells us that Havana, IL was a "wide open town" in the 1940's. "If it can be determined," he says, "that Mr. Becker owned any kind of business in Havana in 1946 and he purchased chips, you can bet that the chips were used for games."

Ernie remembers that his school bus dropped him off in front of a grocery store/gas station in Havana in the late 1940's, and that the store had slot machines in the front room and card games in the back!

UFC 941 (9/4): Chuck Tomarchio and Mark Lighterman have done some research on this **Riviera** chip which Chuck sent for identification. Mark was able to find an article from the Miami Daily News in March, 1951, which featured a raid on and the closing of the Riviera Club, located at 34 Sunny Isles Road. In his auction catalog number 20, Howard Herz includes this information, along with an analysis of the possible relationship between the Miami Riviera Club and the Riviera Club in New Jersey. Herz concludes that current information does not support such a connection.

UFC 943 (9/4): Here's a good example of how two different collectors, with totally different information, can both be right! We know that this **JAY** chip was made for Jon A. Yates in 1952, and shipped to Yates in Barstow, CA. That much T. R. King (which sold the chips to Yates) was able to say. Steve McLendon, a student of California card club chips, has found that the chips were used at the Goldstone Hotel in Barstow in the 1950's. But as was the case with many CA club chips, this one was also later used in Visalia, CA at the Sierra Club. Both

identifications are therefore correct.

UFC 951 (9/4): The **ACE** chip was used at the Sequoia Club in Hanford, CA.

UFC 958 (9/4): **Drifters Club** was located at 920 North State Street in Ukiah, CA, according to Allan Myers. It's now closed.

UFC 963 (9/4): The **Boots and Saddle Club** operated in Fresno, CA from 1949-1951, and was owned by Jim Burnes and Jess Barker.

UFC 965 (9/4): Steve McLendon tells us that **Cap's Saloon** opened in Salinas, CA in 1948. Its owner was a retired police captain, which explains the name.

UFC 968 (9/4): Jim Rudy was the owner of the **Market Club** in Sacramento, CA.

UFC 969 (9/4): The **Winners Circle** is still in operation in Santa Rosa, CA, but the illustrated chip may be obsolete. Current chips are Paul-Son full graphic chips.

UFC 972 (9/4): The **M&M Ent.** chip was used at a card club in Sacramento, CA. We're not sure of the name of the club or its exact address, however.

UFC 973 (9/4): Although we don't know what the initials **PU** stand for, we can now report that these chips were shipped in 1950 to I. S. Soper, at 4130½ Slauson, Los Angeles.

UFC 976 (9/4): Allan Myers noticed that this chip had been published earlier, as **UFC 740** in Volume 8, No. 3. But we still don't know anything about the **ORC** chip!

UFC 978 (9/4): There were **Paddock Clubs** in Biloxi, MS and in Streator, IL, as well as other places. We don't know the origin of this particular chip, though. Can someone help?

UFC 981 (9/4): He wasn't able to give us the name of a club in which this chip was used, but Allan Myers was able to let us know that the **xXx** chip was used in Fairbanks, Alaska.

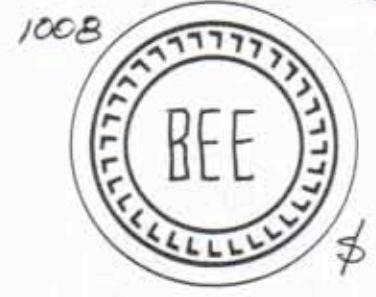
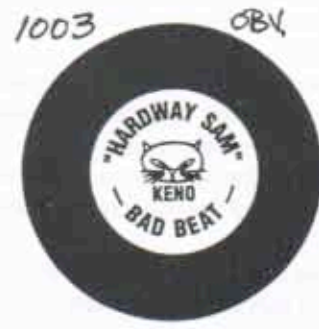
Now it's time for some recently-submitted UFC's. As I've done for several years now, I have indicated those chips which have a denomination on the reverse side by the \$ symbol next to the illustration. If there is no such symbol next to the chip, the reverse is identical to what you see here. If you 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 982 might be from the Biloxi, MS area. Does anyone recognize it?

UFC 983 may be a Moose Lodge chip. Is there a list of Moose Lodges by number that anyone knows of?

UFC 984 was found in Rapid City, SD, but that may or may not be the origin of the chip.





Many members took time to send us information or UFCs for this issue. Thanks to: John Benedict, Al Bernstein, Jerry Birl, Robert Eisenstadt, Steve Goodrich, Terry Lazarus, Mark Lighterman, Steve McLendon, Ernie Meador, Allan Myers, Robert Pardue, Barney Reiffer, Joel Reznick, Eric Rosenblum, Chuck Tomarchio and Al Zaika.