

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, 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 color 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.

There are always far more unidentified chips than there are members who write to me with answers. The purpose of this column is to try to identify chips that our members ask about. It's important to share your knowledge of chips that your fellow members may not know about. Come on, collectors: help!

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 published. 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 and identification may be possible. Believe it or not, it's actually more difficult to work with color photocopies than with black and white, even though they look prettier when you copy them! And digital scans are virtually impossible to work with, because

they're almost never actual size. If you have a scanner, I know you like to show off the results, and electronic transmission is certainly faster and easier than (gasp!) taking pen in hand and writing a note, but please, if you want your UFC to appear in this column, don't send me scans!

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.

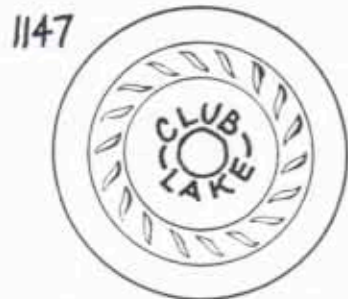
Also, please realize that if you recognize a chip published here as a UFC, you have information that your fellow collectors do not have. Please share. That's the whole point of this column. What is common knowledge in one area of collecting is completely unknown in others. For those of you with answers or questions, please share your information by writing to me at P. O. Box 340345, Columbus, Ohio 43234.

As usual, we'll begin with some identifications of previously-published UFC's. The volume and issue number of the magazine where the chip first appeared is shown in parentheses so you can see the illustration if you wish.

UFC 944 (9/4): Carolyn Bruton has identified this one for us. It's a Bud Jones coin inlay chip with a "**Liberty**" head in the center. It was used by a casino night company in Colorado. Unfortunately we don't know the name of the company or whether it's still in operation.

UFC 1122 (11/2): There was a Club Lake located in Hot Springs, AR. Kenny Craig has a chip specifically identified as having been used there, but the mold design and lettering style are different from the **Club Lake** chip pictured in the last issue. Kenny's chip is

pictured below, as number 1147. For now, I'm going to assume that both styles of chip were used at the Hot Springs illegal casino, until further information is provided by someone who can authenticate UFC 1122 as having originated elsewhere.



UFC 1129 (11/2): Talk about information from the horse's mouth! It seems that our member Ed Weinstein is Vice President of Marion & Co., a casino supply company in N. Miami, FL. Marion & Co. happens to own the elfcrown mold, and Ed was able to provide us with the precise identification of this chip, which bears only the number 21 and a denomination. The chip was made for the **21 Club**, a private gambling club in New York City, which opened in 1985 and closed in 1989.

As we indicated in the last issue, Ed confirms that most of the elfcrown chips have been sold overseas, Puerto Rico and St. Maarten being two of the main markets for the chips, as well as private casinos throughout the world.

Thanks, Ed!

UFC 1138 (11/2): This chip, which bears the name Hudson, is from the **Bee Hive Tavern** which was located in Coos Bay, OR in the 1970's. Our Pacific Northwest expert, Steve Goodrich, suggests that Hudson may have been the owner's name, because there's no other apparent connection with the Bee Hive.

Unfortunately I have no other identifications to share with you in this issue, but I'm sure that there will be more next time. We certainly have more UFC's for you though, and hopefully someone will be able to help us identify some of them. Thanks to all members who take time to write about chips they recognize, and to send photocopies of chips they can't identify.

The more members who participate and share the information they have, the more every collector's

knowledge and understanding of the hobby benefits.



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In addition to the members whose names are mentioned specifically above, the following members also provided information or new UFC's for this column: John Benedict, Jim Fondren, Allan Myers, Jim Myers, Top Newby, Butch Reynolds and Barney Rieffen.