

Casino Chip And Token News

A Quarterly Magazine for Members of
the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club



Winter Issue

January, February, March, 2002

Volume 15, #1

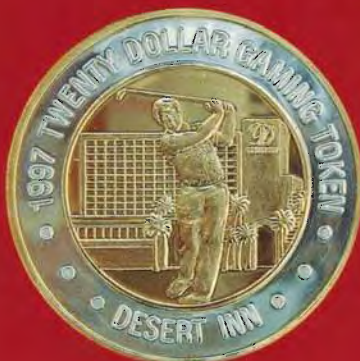
A Member of the


American Numismatic Association

(C-140538)



Silver Strikes





Windy City Chip Show !

March 16th 2002

Holiday Inn, Elmhurst, IL.

See the leading area dealers of chips, slot tokens, slot cards, ashtrays, dice, playing cards, and all manner of gaming memorabilia.

Buy! Sell! Trade! Auction!

The Holiday Inn (Holidome) is located at 624 North York Road, Elmhurst, IL. 60126, off I-290 and near the intersection of I-190 and I-290.

The hours of the show are 9AM to 4PM. Admission is \$5. The Great Lakes Chapter may have a meeting at the show at 4:30. Free coffee and door prizes! An auction may also be conducted after the close of the show. Details on an auction may be announced later. The club website, at www.greatlakeschips.adahost.com, will have up to date information.

There are eight river boat casinos within 45 miles of the show location and there are three major shopping malls within 20 miles of the show. Plan now to join us for a full day of gaming memorabilia fun.

For show details and dealer information, contact

Joel Reznick

P. O. Box 116 - Wheeling, IL. 60090-0116

847-971-7764

fax 847-215-6138

e-mail: theribet@aol.com





CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS C.C. & G.T.C.C MAGAZINE

OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collector's Club

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Previously unpublished, original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Proper credit for all materials that are published will be acknowledged. *No articles will be published without a byline.*

SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES

1st Quarter January, February, March
Mailing Date: Early January

2nd Quarter April, May, June
Mailing Date: Early April

3rd Quarter July, August, September
Mailing Date: Early July

4th Quarter October, November, December
Mailing Date: Early October

CLUB OFFICIALS

Got a question or a problem? Listed below are the names and the addresses of the CC>CC officials and volunteer contacts to whom your requests should be mailed.

President

Complaints/Suggestions,
By Laws Changes,
Committee Reports

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Hotel Reservation Cards

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convention@ccgtcc.com

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Meeting woods, decals,
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Wellington, KS 67152
webmaster@ccgtcc.com

CC>CC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

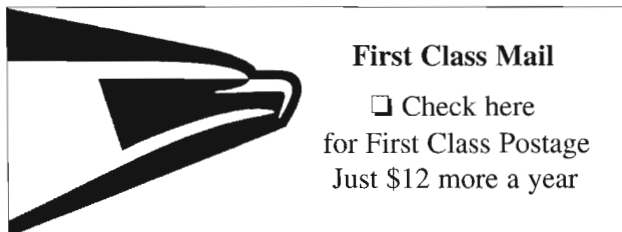
- Chips Tokens
 U.S. Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

- Name and address
 Phone
 Do not publish my name and address

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

- One year \$20.00 U.S.
 Associate \$5.00 U.S.
 Foreign \$35.00*
 * postal money order or U.S. funds



Foreign mailings are at the First Class rate. All other mailings are via 3rd class mail.

Annual dues will be renewable in the same quarter in which the membership application was processed. Check our address labels for your membership expiration dates. Mail your completed application with your check made payable to CC>CC to:

CC>CC Membership Officer
 Ralph Myers
 P.O. Box 35769
 Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

Sponsored by: _____

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Our club C.C.&G.T.C.C. is founded under the ANA, maybe you would like to join it too. It is the largest organization of coin collectors in the world.

- Regular Student Junior Senior Associate

Present or former ANA number, if any _____

- Mr. Mrs Ms.

Name, please print _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Date of Birth _____

ANA bylaws require the publication of each applicant's name and state.

Please check here __ if you DO NOT want your name and address forwarded to the ANA representative in your area. Please check here __ if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you. I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Proposer

Casino Chips & Gaming Token Collectors Club

- Check Money Order Credit Card Type _____

Credit Card all Numbers _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature of Cardholder (Required) _____

Dues

- Regular (age 23-64) \$29* outside US \$36*
- Student (age 18-22) \$11 Junior (age 17 or younger) \$11
- Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$25* outside US \$32*
- Associate (child or spouse of regular or life member living at member's address) \$4

*plus \$6 application fee, first year only

Forward completed application to:

ANA
 818 Cascade Ave.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

ADVERTISING RATES
CASINO CHIPS & GAMING TOKENS
COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

“Camera Ready” advertising deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the mailing date. These rates are for camera ready display ads only. Need help with your ad? See next the column over. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery for 3rd class mail.

DISPLAY AD RATES

1/8 Page	(Business Card) Standard size 2" x 3.5"	\$20.00
1/4 Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 3.50" x Height: 4.75"	\$35.00
1/2 Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 7.50" x Height: 4.75"	\$60.00
Full Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 7.50" x Height: 9.50"	\$100.00
Back Cover with Full Color		\$500.00
Inside Covers with Full Color	Width: 7.50" x Height: 10.00"	\$325.00
Inside Facing Pages	Width: 7.50' x Height: 10.00"	\$150.00

Note a business card is a business card not a two inch ad worked up for this space.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

These rates are for ads per column inch that are up to 3 1/2" in width and \$7.50 per inch in Height (about 6 lines). Additional overrun copy will be billed at the rate of \$1.50 per line for less than full inches, or fraction of an inch.

All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to “Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Club Inc.” or CC>CC. No ad will be run without payment.

Publisher assumes no responsibility for statements made by advertisers and reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

CONTRACT DISCOUNT ADVERTISING RATES

Sign up for a full year of advertising and save up to 25% on some ads. Take a look at the table below and see how much you will save.
 Full payment must be sent in with your contract ad request

Ad Size	One Issue	Full Year	You Save
1"	\$10.00	\$35.00	\$5.00
2"	\$22.00	\$80.00	\$8.00
Business Card	\$20.00	\$70.00	\$10.00
1/4 Page	\$35.00	\$130.00	\$10.00
1/2 Page	\$60.00	\$220.00	\$20.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$360.00	\$40.00

Just check off the type of ad you would like. You make changes in any of these ads in each quarter of issue. Full payment must be sent in with your contract ad request.

Yes, I Would Like	Ad Size	Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	1"	\$35.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	2"	\$80.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card	\$70.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 Page	\$130.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 Page	\$220.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page	\$360.00 with placement of ad

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 CC>CC# _____

Need help in working up your ad? Just give us a call at
 562-408-2463 and ask for C.T. Rodgers
 Fax - 562-634-8107
 E-Mail - ctcoins@aol.com

Send full payment payable to “CC>CC”
 with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers
 Advertising Manager, CC>CC
 P. O. Box 4572 Lakewood CA 90711

**WE NEED YOUR HELP
IN PUBLISHING THIS NEWSLETTER.**

PLEASE NOTE

- Do not send in ads that are folded. May we recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND", this will only cost you about \$3.00 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Once again try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- Need help with placing an ad, size wording, give me a call at 562-408-2463 and we will work with you for the best results on placing your ads.
- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.

Send full payment made out to "CC>CC"
with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers
Advertising Manager CC>CC
P. O. Box 4572, Lakewood, CA 90711

NEXT DEADLINE

2nd Quarter Issue 2002
is March 1st 2002

Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

1 st Quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar	Deadline for Ads: Dec 1 st
2 nd Quarter: Apr-May-Jun	Deadline for Ads: Mar 1 st
3 rd Quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep	Deadline for Ads: Jun 1 st
4 th Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec	Deadline for Ads: Sep 1 st

MOVING?

Don't forget to let our Membership
Director know your new address.

Ralph Myers
P.O. Box 35769
Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769



**CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS
C.C. & G.T.C.C MAGAZINE**

*OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collector's Club*

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WWW.CCGTCC.COM
GREG C. SUSONG
WEBMASTER

Letter

from the editor

John Yee



Happy New Year! I hope the New Year finds everyone happy, healthy, and optimistic in finding whatever treasures await you. In this issue, we have some important business that requires your attention especially if you're going to the 10th Annual International Convention and Show, June 5th through June 8th. The host hotel shall once again be the Tropicana. If you are registering for the banquet, convention, hotel rooms, or the poker tournament you will find forms in this issue. Please register early because some of these events will sell out. If you have specific questions regarding the convention, contact information can be found in the convention article in this issue.

The hotel rates remain the same as last year. Rates for Sunday through Thursday are \$49 per night and \$99 for Friday and Saturday. Forms are enclosed within so remember to support your club by staying at the host casino.

If you want a dealer table at the convention, please get a hold of Al Golovin. We've extended the deadline for dealer tables to April 5. He can be reached at (775) 747-4495 or at 5200 Summit Ridge Drive #5621, Reno, NV 89523.

What's been happening out there with regards to chips and tokens? With the exception of Silver Strikes, we've had a slowdown in overall transactions of chips and tokens especially on eBay and Jackpot auctions. Perhaps the tragedy of 9/11, the slowdown of the economy and the winter holidays have kept things in check. However, there are a number of shows coming up before the convention in June. You may still be able to make Casinorama March 23 in Southern California, Chinook Winds, Oregon March 9-10, Windy City Show, March 16 in Elmhurst, Illinois (which I've got to believe is near the "Windy City" of Chicago).

The Silver Strikers have been very busy. They had their first Silver Strike Tournament at Oshea's in Las Vegas. The event was a huge success and I've heard that Strike Tournaments will be a regular occurrence at Oshea's. Strikers are the fastest growing segment of our hobby and we have therefore decided to highlight the tokens and their tournament in this issue. They have their own chapter and additional information can be found within.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame is a little different this year. In the past, Bruce Landau and his committee chose the yearly inductees. However, in this issue, you will find a form that identifies a list of individuals and their biographies. Please vote for the candidate whom you feels has contributed the most to our hobby. Winners will be announced at the Wednesday night banquet.

I continue to look to the members for material in future magazines. If your local chapter is doing something interesting or unusual, why don't you let the rest of us know. Also, pictures are always welcome. I repeat, I can only publish articles that are submitted to me. If you're interest is underrepresented, please consider writing and submitting an article yourself.

Lastly, our convention chairman, George Conrad has taken ill. Please give George and his wife, Liz your well wishes when you see them.

Letters

to the editor

I just received the current issue of Casino Chip and Token News and as always, I enjoyed it very much. I am a token collector only. My problem is that I find very little information, articles or much of anything to do with tokens. It's all chips. I realize that most of our members are chippers but I and some others I know are not. Any help with this matter would be helpful. After all, we are chip and TOKEN collectors. This is a fine club and a beautiful magazine. Let's make it better for all.

Robert Rux, R-3488

We try our best to produce a magazine that is representative of our members and their collecting interests however, there are two things that make that task very difficult. Our 2500 plus members have a very diverse and eclectic habit that spans geographic boundaries, personal interests, and an area that has recently had tremendous growth, silver strikes and limited editions. It's a monumental task to cover areas as specific as Atlantic City, riverboats, illegals, Indian casinos, Las Vegas, Reno, California, bone and ivory, let alone casinos in Europe, Africa, South America and Asia. I have repeatedly mentioned that as the editor, I can only publish articles that are submitted to me. If no one in your collecting interest takes the time to submit an article, we won't be able to share that information to the rest of the members. However, we do have a lengthy article with pictures in this issue and another token related article to follow in the next two issues. Please keep those articles coming...

First, let me congratulate you on the fine publication. I have been a member for over ten years and although the magazine has always been an outstanding, it has been a little better each time it comes out.

However, there is one thing that bothers me. Since the magazine only comes out every quarter, sometimes there is a rush to get things published on time. The items that have a deadline do not reach us in time to respond.

A case in point... in the spring issue, on page 43 there was a notice about the banquet. There was a deadline of April 30 to have the money in. I did not receive my issue until May 3, making it impossible to attend the banquet even if I wanted. I couldn't attend because I didn't arrive in Las Vegas until Wednesday night.

I know others pay extra for 1st class mail. I do not, mainly because I don't buy too much from the magazine and do not feel it is to my advantage to pay for something I would not use. The few times I have bought something, I have never received my check returned.

I feel the above is a problem, not only for me but other members as well. I do not feel this is your fault entirely, but you can work with other officers and get the problem straightened out.

Thanks for lending an ear and you may publish this letter if you want.
Bill Snider LM520

I remember when I first became a member I waited anxiously for my next issue for the articles and advertisements. If something is important, like the banquet reservations or convention registration, we will enclose a hand insert for higher visibility.

Unfortunately the magazine is only published quarterly and you are absolutely correct that timely information doesn't reach our members sooner. We make every effort to get the magazine produced and submitted to the printer for printing and distribution within the allotted time frame. Unfortunately, I've opened a Pandora's Box by changing the format of the magazine that requires a Herculean effort to assemble and produce. We will be more conscientious in our efforts in the future.

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Silver Strikes Issue

Silver strikes courtesy of Lisa Jung and Andy Hughes for the O'Sheas strikes.

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President's Letter

Winter, 2002



Nate Pincus

I have been thinking about what it means to be a member of the CC>CC. For me, it is being part of a community of collectors with similar interests, making friends and establishing relationships. It is attending conventions and chapter meetings and participating in the activities of our club. If you feel as I do, there is no better time nor has the opportunity ever been greater than right now to get involved.

Now is the time to make your plans to attend the convention and to actively participate in all the events at the convention. First and foremost, register for your hotel accommodations at the Tropicana. The Trop is located at one of the busiest and most action packed corners along the strip. Our Convention Chairpersons have negotiated great room rates and the club derives a benefit from rooms booked for the convention. It is an enormous convenience to stay on-site.

You will again be able to pre-register for the convention. Those who pre-register gain quick access to the convention floor and receive a pre-registration package that includes coupons and promotional offers worth many times the cost of registration. Last year we also had our first opening banquet. It was a huge success. This year's banquet will be even better, with a featured guest speaker, awards and a buffet dinner. Table space is limited so register early.

Another new benefit available for this year's convention is pre-registration for our very popular poker tournament. It is one of the highlight events. We will again be producing our own set of NCV chips to be used in the tournament. The chips will be available for sale at the club promotional table the day after the tournament.

Registration information and forms are included in this magazine.

The very exciting Chip of the Year (COTY) and Token of the Year (TOTY) competition will be elevated to an even higher level this year with two major additions. For the first time, the club will be honoring the Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY). The Silver Strike Chapter previously awarded this honor but it now open for our entire membership. The other new feature is an expansion of the awards to honor the three highest vote getters in each category. This opens up the competition to many more casinos, allows us to honor more of the artistic and imaginative issues and makes this competition very thrilling. Use the form included in this magazine to make your nomination. Remember, only those who nominate are eligible to vote for the winners.

Another very important honor that the club bestows is induction into the Hall of Fame. This year the membership will decide who will be inducted. Over the past four years, ten prestigious members have entered the Hall of Fame. It is now your responsibility to carefully consider the nominees and vote. A ballot is included with this magazine.

Both the COTY/TOTY/SSOTY competition and the Hall of Fame voting are dependent on your involvement. In the past, members have not responded in great number when asked to vote. I am personally requesting that all club members demonstrate the importance of these awards by casting ballots, thereby placing these awards at the high level that they deserve. This is an easy way to participate in club activities.

I want to join with all of you to commend our magazine Editor's, John Yee and Allan Anderson for their great effort. We have the most professional publication I have seen for our type of organization. But there are a couple of ways that you can help make it even better. You can submit articles to the Editors for publication. They are always seeking interesting stories and informative pieces. Another way to make our magazine even better and at the same time increase your collecting fun is to place an ad. We have ads available for less than \$10 per issue. It is a fabulous way to find fellow collectors to trade with or to sell some of your extras.

There is so much going on for all of us to take part in. Register now for the convention, the opening banquet and the poker tournament. Book your rooms at the Tropicana. Nominate your favorite new chips, tokens and silver strikes and cast your ballot for the Hall of Fame. Participate in the convention by volunteering to help. Contact our convention Chairman, George Conrad and offer your services. This is the ultimate involvement.

We all anxiously await each issue of the magazine and read it from cover to cover. Those who advertise in the magazine derive the added benefit of continuous contact from members between issues. And for those with special interests and knowledge, we all want to hear from you. Submit your articles to our Editors. Utilize the club magazine as a vehicle to stay involved throughout the year.

I am overwhelmed by all the possibilities to participate. My experience is that the more involved I have become, the more enjoyment that I derive from our club. Now is your opportunity to take advantage of all that we offer.

Happy collecting and best regards to all.

Nate

TOKEN COLLECTORS

Finally a book has been published that lists all of the gaming tokens that are known to exist in the world. The book lists over 10,500 tokens and a completely new issue is published every 3 months. Every new issue grows by 200 to 350 new entries. Each month, anyone that has a copy of the present issue is sent a list that has all of the new token information that has been found since their issue was published. Orders are mailed USPO Priority Mail with USPO Delivery Confirmation. The \$35.00 cost of the book includes all mailing costs. This is the book that you have been waiting for. Why try to use numerous, small, incomplete lists. THIS ONE BOOK HAS ALL THE KNOWN GAMING TOKENS IN THE WORLD. Contact : Earl Donley, The Token Book, P.O. Box 80572, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89180. His phone number is 702-876-8939 .

CC>CC # R-380

Treasurer's *Report*



David **Shron**
Treasurer

As of November 30, 2001 the balance in the club's operating and interest bearing accounts was \$103,950.00. This includes monies received from lifetime memberships in the amount of \$11,300. These funds are invested in an interest bearing account and have been reserved by the board for only this purpose. All substantial expenses except payment for the third quarter club magazine estimated to be \$13,000, have been paid.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, telephone or mail with any questions and comments regarding the club's financial position. Thanks for your continued support.

David Shron
Treasurer

Convention 2002

June 5th – June 8th

Dealer Tables

Dealers who had tables in 2001 will receive information by mail.

New dealers – please contact me for information and application.

Application return deadline is April 5th, 2002

Al Golovin
5200 Summit Ridge Dr. #5621
Reno, NV 89523
(775) 747-4495
alisez@aol.com

Membership Officer's *Report*



Ralph Myers

It has been a very busy 6 months since I took the reigns of Membership Officer from Jim Steffner. A time of learn as you go, and I think I've made most of the mistakes possible, but at least I've learned from them. To those of you who were the recipients of my errors, I apologize and thank you for your understanding.

Since I took office on June 1st, we have signed up 176 new members, and combined with a drop in attrition due to the diligence of President Pincus who started a letter campaign to members who did not renew, we now have approximately 2700 members.

If I may ask for some help, a couple of things that will help make my job easier.

1. When sending me a check for renewal, please give me as much information as possible. I get a lot of mail that has a check in the envelope and nothing more. No expiration date, no member number, nothing. If you get a renewal reminder from me, please include it when you send your dues back.
2. Please send in your dues prior to expiration. Once the publisher calls me to tell me that the magazine is almost ready to ship I need to send him the mailing labels. Once I send the labels, any renewal I receive after that time requires me to send you the quarterly from here in Las Vegas. I don't get the magazines immediately it could be up to two weeks later that I receive them. A late renewal means a late magazine to you. By sending your renewal in on time it does both of us a great service. If a renewal is 60 days or more late, I may be out of magazines and you would miss out on getting one.

Something that has surfaced recently has been whether an expired member can get his or her old membership number back. The club policy that has been in place for a long time prior to me taking over this position is that any former member may get their old membership number back, if they are willing to pay all back dues for the years missed. I hope this helps clear up some of the questions I have been receiving via email.

Please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or mail with any questions, concerns, or suggestions that you may have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ralph Myers

CasinoChipBinder.com



**Holds 200
Chips!**



This is it! The **ABSOLUTE BEST & MOST ECONOMICAL** way to house and protect **YOUR** valuable casino chip collection! This **INCREDIBLE** padded chip binder has ten 20-pocket, 8" x 9" pages and holds 200 chips snugly. Even when shaken vigorously upside down **your chips just won't fall out!** Standard 3-ring binders and pocketed pages can't make that claim. This binder is made **EXCLUSIVELY** for casino chips and is a **great** way to house **YOUR** collection!

Available in Brown AND Black!



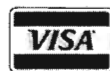
The binder's D-ring design lies flat for easy viewing!

**Only \$19.95
Each! ****

** Please add \$2.00 shipping per binder. Order two or more binders and shipping is **FREE!**

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232 N. Jones Blvd., #117
Las Vegas, NV 89107-1478
Phone: (702) 877-0460 • Fax: (800) 466-5317
e-mail: info@casinochipbinder.com
www.casinochipbinder.com

Dave & Debbie Harber #R-2283



Dealer Inquiries Welcomed, call (702) 877-0460 for more information!

New Members Since Last Issue

Member Number	Last	First	State	Referral
5392	Rollo	Mark	NY	Black, Archie
5394	Krasnoff	Margaret	MI	The Chip Rack
5394-A	Krasnoff	Justin	MI	The Chip Rack
5395	Toomey	Jim	FL	Borenstein, Alan
5396	Bernard	Rod	OH	Web site
5398	Perch	Howard	FL	Zacchi, Steve
5399	Thatcher	Randy	CA	Lueders, Don
5401	Riggan	Gene	TN	Susong, Greg
5402	Turner	Charles	KY	Bender, Paul
5405	DeMondo	Mike	NJ	Black, Archie
5406	Feehan	Kevin	NJ	Pamperin, Sharon
5408	Tittsler	Rick	WI	Web site
5409	Watson	Glen	OR	Web site
5410	Rudolph	Lee	MD	Myers, Ralph
5411	Roberts	V.	AL	Casino Collectibles
5412	Grey	Leonard	MI	Conrad, George
5413	Atkinson	Rudy	MO	Sumpter, Dan
5414	Zwain	Les	NJ	Hall of Fame
5415	Oller Bofill	Carlos	Spain	Web site
5417	Merkman		NV	Edelman, Howard
5419	Sumida	Kenneth	NV	Web site
5420	Sarsano	Peter	NY	Chequers
5421	Choquette	Francis	CA	McFadden, James
5422	Carter	Lester	HI	
5422-A			HI	
5423	Likes	Robert	ID	Finn, Dennis
5424	Apkarian Sr.	Samuel	NH	Finn, Dennis
5425	Hahn	Mike	Va	Black, Archie
5426	Talbett	Robert	NY	Web site
5427	Inzerillo	Tony	IL	Web site
5428	Girdner	Dayton	AZ	Web site
5429	Welch	John	CA	Web site
5431	Kasprzyk	Larry	MI	Moore, Greg
5432	Thorn	Victoria	CA	Lueders, Don
5433	Fellows	D.	CA	The Chip Rack
5434	Engle	Jeff	OH	Borenstein, Alan
5436	Olson	Nancy	OR	Lueders, Don
5437	McMahon Jr.	Glenn	NV	Steffner, Jim
5438	Potts	Brad	ID	Web site
5439	Heiman	Marc	MO	Web site
5440	Arguelles	Juan	IL	Web site
5442	Turner	Bill	TX	Web site
5443	Brooks	Ronald	IN	American Chip Enterprises
5444	Salvage	Judy	VA	Kineke, Edward
5445	Garrett	John	CA	Rodgers, C.T.
5445-A	Garrett	Rebecca Ann	CA	Rodgers, C.T.
5446	Vaughn	Ron	CO	Hallenbeck, Ken
5447	Thorne	Phillip	OH	Borenstein, Alan
5448	Sufficool	Jerry	OR	Steffner, Jim
5449	Maxwell	Rob	NY	Web site
5450	Trussell	John	MI	Web site
5451	Norris	Edward	NM	Web site
5452	Kubota	Dan	CA	Golovin, Al
5453	Niskar	Howard	MI	Burdick, Ted
5455	Brazil	Fred	WA	Lueders, Don

Club Merchandise

Official Convention Chips & Medal Sets



2001 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$25 Set of 2



2000 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$25.00 Set of 2



1999 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$22.00 Set of 2



1998 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$22.00 Set of 2



1997 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$22.00 Set of 2



1996 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
 \$22.00 Set of 2



1995 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze,
 \$20.00 Set of 2 (Silver)



1994 Official Convention Medal
 \$7.00 - Bronze,
 \$20.00 Set of 2 (Silver)

Packaged sets are available from 1994 thru 2001



2001 Convention Chip
 \$4.00



2000 Convention Chip
 \$4.00



1999 Convention Chip
 \$4.00



1996 Convention Chip
 \$4.00



1995 Convention Chip
 \$4.00



2001 Poker Tournament Set
\$15.00 - 5 chip Set



2000 Poker Tournament Set
\$15.00 - 5 chip Set

Pins, Patches and Clocks



2001 Convention Pin
\$4.00

2000 Convention Pin
\$3.00



Member Pin
New and Old Style
\$5.00



1999 Convention Pin
\$3.00

1998 Convention Pin
\$3.00



3 1/2" Embroidered Patch
\$4.00



1997 Convention Pin
\$3.00



One color Logo Sticker
\$1.00

11 inch gold rim battery operated clock with club logo
\$25.00



Five color Logo Sticker
\$1.00



Convention T-Shirts



2001 Official T-Shirt
 XXL - \$15.00
 M, L, XL - \$11.00



2000 Official T-Shirt
 XXL - \$11.00
 M, L, XL - \$10.00



1999 Official T-Shirt
 XXL - \$11.00
 M, L, XL - \$10.00



1998 Official T-Shirt
 Limited Sizes - \$10.00



1997 Official T-Shirt
 Limited Sizes - \$10.00



Embossed Denim Tee Shirt
 Blue or Green Washed Denim
 \$14.00

Polo Shirts
 Misc. Colors with Pockets
 XXL - \$27.00
 M, L, XL - \$25.00



Polo Shirts
 Misc. Colors without Pockets
 XXL - \$26.00
 SM, M, L, XL - \$24.00



Front

Embossed Denim Jacket
Heavyweight
 \$49.95



Back



Embossed Tote Bag
Blue Washed Denim
 \$14.00

Casino Chip & Token News Back-Issues

Volume 6 issue 3	Volume 11 issue 1	\$5 each postage paid Call for prices on multiple copies
Volume 6 issue 4	Volume 11 issue 2	
Volume 7 issue 1	Volume 11 issue 3	
Volume 7 issue 2	Volume 11 issue 4	
Volume 7 issue 3	Volume 12 issue 1	
Volume 8 issue 1	Volume 12 issue 2	
Volume 8 issue 2	Volume 12 issue 3	
Volume 8 issue 3	Volume 12 issue 4	
Volume 8 issue 4	Volume 13 issue 1	
Volume 9 issue 2	Volume 13 issue 2	
Volume 9 issue 3	Volume 13 issue 3	
Volume 10 issue 1	Volume 13 issue 4	
Volume 10 issue 2	Volume 14 issue 1	
Volume 10 issue 3	Volume 14 issue 2	
Volume 10 issue 4	Volume 14 issue 3	

Casino Chip Auction Catalogs

(with prices realized)

1994	1998	\$10 each postage paid
1995	1999	
1996		
1997		

Make checks payable to:
CC>CC

Mail orders to:
Richard Allard, Club Promotions
 7500 W. Lake Mead Blvd. #9-124
 Las Vegas, NV 89128
 promotions@ccgtcc.com

Shipping and handling charges within the continental U.S.
 Total cost of order up to \$5.00 add \$1.50; up to \$10.00 add \$3.00; up to \$25.00 add \$5.95; up to \$50.00 add \$6.95; up to \$100.00 add \$8.95

Nevada Residents subject to 7.25% sales tax
All prices subject to change without notice.

CC>CC Wooden Issues

A.N.A. Club Meeting Souvenirs

1992 Official Club Chip "5" issued for the 1992 ANA convention		\$3.00 ea.
1989 "Two Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Pittsburg, Pa	\$1.00 ea.
1991 "Four Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Chicago, Ill.	\$1.00 ea.
1992 "Five Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Orlando, Fl.	\$1.00 ea.
1993 "Six Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Baltimore, Md.	\$1.00 ea.
1994 "Seven Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Detroit, Mi.	\$1.00 ea.
1995 "Eight Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Anaheim, Ca.	\$1.00 ea.
1996 "Nine Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Denver, Co.	\$1.00 ea.
1997 "Ten Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	New York, N.Y.	\$1.00 ea.
1998 "Eleven Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Portland, Or.	\$1.00 ea.
1999 "Twelve Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Chicago, Ill.	\$1.00 ea.
2000 "Thirteen Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Philadelphia, Pa.	\$1.00 ea.
2001 "Fourteen Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Atlanta, Ga.	\$1.00 ea.



Miscellaneous Club Wood Issues

1993 Official CC>CC 1st Convention Wood dollar (Gold or Silver color)		\$1.00 ea.
1994, 1995, or 1996 Official (2nd, 3rd, or 4th) CC>CC Convention Wood dollar		\$1.00 ea.
1997 Official CC>CC 5th Convention Wood Dollar (Blue Hot Stamped)		\$1.00 ea.
1998, 1999, 2000 or 2001 Official (6th, 7th, 8th or 9th) CC>CC Convention Wood Dollar		\$1.00 ea.
1993 Wooden Nickel "You Are Invited" woodnik		.50 ea.
1994 Wooden Nickel "Repeated By Popular Demand" woodnik		.50 ea.
1995 Wooden Nickel "Bigger & Better" woodnik		.50 ea.
1996 Wooden Nickel "The Place To Be" woodnik (Ty.1 Wrong date & Ty-2)		.50 ea.
1997 Wooden Nickel "The Biggest Yet-Be There" woodnik		.50 ea.
1998 Wooden Nickel "A New Hotel-Don't Miss It" woodnik		.50 ea.
1999 Wooden Nickel "Be sure to - Be there" woodnik (Ty. 1 Teal or Ty.2 Orange)		.50 ea.
2000 Wooden Nickel "Millennium" woodnik (Ty.1 Error, Ty.2 purple, Ty.3 red)		.50 ea.
2001 Wooden Nickel "You will not want to miss this (Green)"		.50 ea.
2001 Wooden Nickel Error- has dollar graphics (purple)		.50 ea.
2002 Wooden Nickel "You snooze-You lose (blue)"		.50 ea.



1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, & 1999 Florida Numismatists Wooden Dollar issued for Club meeting during F.U.N. Conventions		\$1.00 ea.
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Wood Issue Postage

Please add .75c postage for orders up to \$3.50, \$1.00 for orders up to \$6.00, \$1.50 for orders over \$6.00.
This postage rate is for woods only

Make checks payable to:

CC>CC

Mail orders to:

Richard Allard, Club Promotions

7500 W. Lake Mead Blvd. #9-124

Las Vegas, NV 89128

promotions@ccgtcc.com

*Nevada Residents subject to 7.25% sales tax
All prices subject to change without notice.*

When the Eldorado Hotel Casino was opened by Don Carano in 1973, it had 282 guest rooms, two restaurants and 10,000 square feet of gaming space with 200 slots and 12 table games. It was the first hotel casino to locate north of the railroad tracks that bisect the downtown Reno area.

Ground level facilities included a lobby, registration area, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, specialty dinner house and gaming area. The second floor facilities included a convention room to accommodate 600 persons, swimming pool and executive suites.

An expansion completed in August of 1979, brought the total guestrooms to 411 and a further expansion completed in September 1985, added 20,000



by Allan Anderson

square feet of gaming area and added new restaurants bringing the total to six restaurants total.

Throughout the years, the hotel casino has continued expand. Today, known as "Reno's shining star", the Eldorado Hotel Casino has established a reputation for exquisite dining, personal service, luxurious accommodations and non-stop excitement. The Eldorado has grown to cover an entire city block and to soar 252 feet above the city streets.

From deluxe king rooms to whirlpool suites and majestic theme suites, the Eldorado offers accommodations for all tastes. Each of the 817 hotel rooms is finely-appointed and extras include everything from plush linens and fabrics to



Eldorado Hotel 1973 Photo courtesy of The Eldorado Hotel Casino

custom-made cabinets and furniture. The sophisticated Spa Tower suites are unmatched by any establishment in Reno. The penthouse suites, ranging from 1,600 to 2,200 square feet each, offer elegant decor, breathtaking views, whirlpool tubs and large sitting and dining areas.

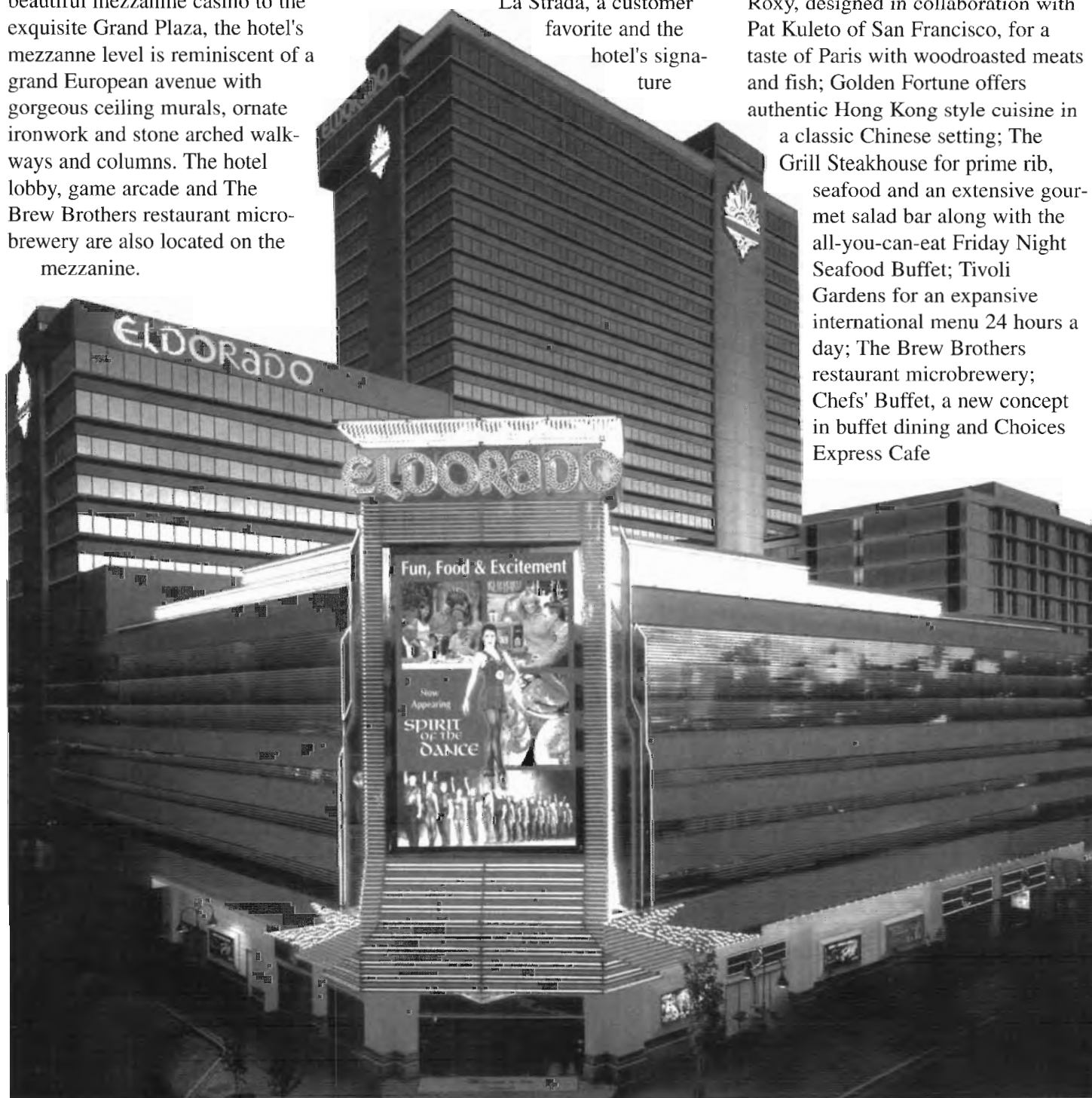
From the Chefs' Buffet and beautiful mezzanine casino to the exquisite Grand Plaza, the hotel's mezzanine level is reminiscent of a grand European avenue with gorgeous ceiling murals, ornate ironwork and stone arched walkways and columns. The hotel lobby, game arcade and The Brew Brothers restaurant microbrewery are also located on the mezzanine.

The magnificent Fountain of Fortune cascades through the Grand Plaza beneath a stunning painted sunset sky, a spectacular transition leading guests to The Brew Brothers. The first microbrewery in a hotel casino, The Brew Brothers features eight custom microbrews, a creative menu and live entertainment.

La Strada, a customer favorite and the hotel's signature

restaurant, has been voted one of the top 10 Italian restaurants, among 2,500, in the nation. This festive restaurant is divided into three separate dining settings: a countryside villa, courtyard terrace and authentic wine cellar.

The Eldorado boasts a variety of additional dining options. Try Roxy, designed in collaboration with Pat Kuleto of San Francisco, for a taste of Paris with woodroasted meats and fish; Golden Fortune offers authentic Hong Kong style cuisine in a classic Chinese setting; The Grill Steakhouse for prime rib, seafood and an extensive gourmet salad bar along with the all-you-can-eat Friday Night Seafood Buffet; Tivoli Gardens for an expansive international menu 24 hours a day; The Brew Brothers restaurant microbrewery; Chefs' Buffet, a new concept in buffet dining and Choices Express Cafe





Current House Chips

offering American, Italian and Chinese specialties - Reno's hot spot for fast, fresh food.

Nationally recognized for its restaurants, the Eldorado's fine cuisine is attributed to its extraordinary chefs and an on-site bakery, pasta and gelato shop, butcher shop, coffee roasting company and micro-brewery.

Casino space totals 81,000 square feet and contains 2,000 slot machines, 90 table games, three keno lounges and a full-service race and sportsbook. Additional amenities include, free valet and garage parking, 24-hour room service, video arcade, heated outdoor



Obsolete \$25 and \$100

swimming pool with sun deck and spa and a 12,400-square-foot state-of-the-art convention center. The 580-seat Eldorado Showroom features "Les Folie's de Paris," an extraordinary spectacle that blends European cabaret, authentic French "Can Can," humor, magic, acrobatics, song and dance with hilarious antics.

Reno's hottest nightclub, the BuBinga Lounge, features a richly elegant atmosphere, live music and Djs, innovative cocktails including on-tap infusion drinks and a dance floor. This intimate night spot was named Best Nightclub in the latest Best of Reno poll.

The Eldorado is located in the heart of downtown Reno on the corner of Fourth and Virginia streets. Call 1-800-648-5966 for room reservations or more information. In Nevada, please call (775)786-5700. Check out the Eldorado's website at eldoradoreno.com. ❖



New Years 1991



Great Italian Festival 1991



Pavarotti 1997
Courtesy of Larry Hollibaugh

Interested in Silver Strikes?

Come and join the world wide Chapter of CC>CC

Silver Strikers



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- *NEWSLETTER 6 TIMES A YEAR FILLED WITH SILVER STRIKE INFORMATION
- *SEVERAL CONVENTION ACTIVITIES AT THE ANNUAL CC>CC CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS – INCLUDING AN AUCTION, EDUCATION FORUM, TRADE SESSIONS, MANY SILVER STRIKE DEALERS AND EXHIBITS
- *ROSTER CONTAINING NEARLY 400 MEMBERS

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW AND SEND TO:

Silver Strikers
C/o Evelyn Grosklaus
3436 Bocage Drive #305
Orlando, FL 32812-7598

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST

- ALL \$7 \$10 \$20 \$40 \$200
 ALL Nevada Colorado Atlantic City Riverboats Other

May the above information be published in the club roster? YES NO

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$10.00/ROSTER \$5

OCEAN'S 11 "BELLAGIO CHIPS" NOW AVAILABLE

There are two different sets of Ocean's 11 Bellagio chips. Four denominations of the first set are diamond mold. The fifth denomination, the \$50 chip, is a "mermaid" mold. There is a very small (1/8") drill hole in the mold of each chip. This was to prevent anyone from trying to redeem them at any Las Vegas area casino. All inlays are all 100% intact.



The second set is plastic and contains the same five denominations. They are "dragon" mold. The Bellagio inlay appears on one side only. This set is not drilled.



The first set, consisting of the four diamond mold denominations (\$1, \$5, \$25, \$100) plus the \$50 mermaid mold, is priced at \$59 + \$2.50 for P&H and insurance, \$61.50 total.

The second (dragon mold) set is priced at \$15 + \$1.50 for P&H, \$16.50 total. If you'd like to add all 10 chips from both sets to your collection, the total is \$69 + \$2.50, \$71.50 total.

To reserve your sets of the Bellagio Ocean's 11 chips, call Terry Lazarus toll-free at 1-888-CHIPS-97 (1-888-244-7797) or send an e-mail to pachipper@aol.com.

CONVENTION 2002

JUNE 5-8, 2002
TROPICANA HOTEL & CASINO

by Paul **Bender**
George & Liz **Conrad**
Donna **Herhold**
Nick **Moericke**
Bob **Pardue**
Wayne **Thompson**

We hope that everyone is making plans to attend the Club's 10th Annual Convention. This will be an historic event that you don't want to miss. If you have not attended one of the Club's Conventions in the past, this is definitely the one you want to start with.

The convention will have something for everyone... chips, tokens, casino memorabilia, educational exhibits, seminars, trading sessions, and best of all, great people.

The Tropicana Hotel & Casino will again be the site of the 2002 convention and the staff of the hotel is anxious to assist the Club in presenting a first class convention. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Pre-Registration

Director Donna Herhold

An individual registration form must accompany each pre-registration along with the correct registration fee. Pre-registration packages may be picked up at the registration desk outside the convention area on the second floor of the Tropicana. A photo ID will be required to get your package. You must pick up your package in person. No registration packages will be sent to non-attendees. Pre-registration packages will include your entry badge, poker tournament, and banquet tickets, along with other

"goodies" supplied by various casinos and convention dealers. Pre-registration packages can be obtained from 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 5. Dealers will get an entry badge in their registration package and pre-registration packages as outlined in the dealer contract however, in order to obtain additional pre-registration packages, dealers must pre-register and pay the \$10.00 fee.

Hotel Reservations and Car Rentals

Hotel room rates - \$49.00 Sunday through Thursday and \$99.00 Friday and Saturday.. These rates are good from May 31-June 11, 2002. And, as of right now, there is that \$3.00 energy tax per night. We know that some of you may receive better rates from other casinos, due to your player action, but the club uses the number of rooms booked as a negotiating tool for future shows. Besides it is really convenient to stay at the host casino. We encourage everyone to book as soon as possible at the Tropicana and use the code **SCCGT02** so they will give you the special rate.

Last year Payless Car Rentals worked with the Club for favorable rates. There will be more information in the next magazine and on the Club Bulletin Board.

POKER TOURNAMENT –

Director Bob Pardue

The poker tournament will be held upstairs at The Orleans, same as last year, where it ran very smoothly. The action starts Thursday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m. We seated 116 players last year (10+ tables) last year. The room will be set up for 12 tables, or maximum of 132 players this year. Tournament chip design (5-piece NCV set) artwork yet to be determined. We will ask for design ideas via BB posting on the club board, though not an "official" contest like the club convention chip design process. Advance sign-ups for poker tournament to be included on the all-purpose convention registration form for the first time. \$55 per player (member or associate), which includes \$25 buy-in + \$20 fee to Orleans + \$10 for 1 set of 2002 Tournament chips. Tournament will have optional 1-time \$20 rebuy at the tournament. (Same as last year.) Also, players can sign up at the convention. Maximum of 132 players. — Additional sets of chips (max 5 per person) available for \$15 per set, pre-paid or at the convention. Individuals interested in the tournament can either pre-register and pay with the form enclosed or sign-up at the club table the day of the convention, Thursday, June 6.

Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session

Director Wayne Thompson

To be held on Wednesday June 5 at 5:00 p.m., this is one of our most popular functions of the week. You should make plans to attend this fine gathering. The 2001 Banquet was a great success and we promise 2002 will be just as much fun. Plus we have made some changes that will ensure faster service.

Because of the size of the crowd this will be a ticketed banquet just like last year. The cost for this event will be \$25. A ticket request form is enclosed in this issue of the magazine. Only regular and associate members may attend. If you are bringing a spouse who is not a member they can become an associate member for \$5. No one will be manning a membership table the night of the banquet so please join prior to the Convention (Click here for membership application or see the application in this magazine). All reservations must be received by April 30.

THERE WILL NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Tables of 10 will be available for \$250 and these tables will be reserved. If purchasing a table of ten the full \$250 must come in the same envelope, either as one check or a group of checks. Seating for individual ticket holders will not be reserved but will be available on a first come basis. Last year was a sellout and we

anticipate the same this year. Seating is limited to 350 people so please get your reservation in early.

After the banquet ends at about 8:00pm the room will be opened to all members for the trade session until midnight. The reception and trade session is restricted to **members only**.

If you have questions about the banquet please direct them to:
Wayne Thompson
wayne@casinocheques.com
859-252-5626

Please remit all checks to Donna Herhold (payable to CC>CC) at the address shown on the reservation form.

Chapter Meeting Rooms

Rooms will be available for Chapter Meetings throughout the convention. If any of the chapters or any member in good standing would like to make use of this space for a meeting or presentation, please contact Liz Conrad to reserve a room. (702) 645-1955 or email Lizfromvegas@aol.com.

Last Dance Swap Meet

On Saturday June 8, after the conclusion of the Convention, the Club will sponsor another swap session for any interested members. The session will begin at 7:00 PM and lasts until midnight or until all traders throw in the towel, whichever comes first. Refreshments will be provided.

Trading Sessions

As last year several trading sessions will be held throughout the Convention. Times and locations will be announced in the next magazine and on the Club Bulletin Board.

Exhibits

The exhibits will be of both competitive and non-competitive nature and there is no charge for entering an exhibit. We look forward to having some excellent exhibits again this year. If you have any questions regarding exhibits, please contact the Convention Exhibit Director:

Joe Shaw
Databzr@casino-chip.com ❖

Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club
10th Annual International Convention & Show
June 5th - June 8th, 2002

For Info Contact: **George Conrad - convention@ccgtcc.com**

Phil's Forays *Gerlach Revisited*

by Phil Jensen

Although my days of prowling the backroads of Nevada, culling chips from the green felt of its sawdust casinos are but a fading memory, I still enjoy returning to my old haunts to see what changes time has wrought. Most of the time, of course, I find them torn down or boarded up.

So, it was with great delight, when I returned to Gerlach this summer after an absence of some twenty years I found this not to be the case. Now, Gerlach is located a hundred and twenty miles north of Reno somewhere between the Black Rock desert and the twilight zone. It has gained some fame in recent years as host to the world land-speed record and the Burning Man Festival, a weeklong gathering of artists, hippies, and other "free spirits" which I surmise is another term for whack-o. Anyway, I was delighted to discover that Gerlach is stuck in a virtual time-warp. It was almost exactly as I remembered it thirty years ago.



On leaving Gerlach to the North this sign reminds one that he is still in the middle of nowhere.

There was Bruno's Country Club which burned, and was rebuilt to resemble the original building, in the early 80's and although Bruno wasn't

in he is still alive and well and running the joint. Someone at the bar said was crabbier than ever.

Conspicuously missing, of course, were the twenty-one and roulette tables. I remember vividly playing 21 and rat-holing Country Club

chips despite the watchful eyes of Bruno and his dealer-wife. Fortunately, I got several without being caught. I'll always remember, too, the time Bruno gave me a set of his Bulldog, B.S. arodie roulette chips. Sometime ago I saw one sell for \$900!

Joe's Gerlach Club is just down the road and is probably the best preserved place in town. Although Joe and his wife, Ann, are gone, Joe's son runs the place. I usually dealt with Ann; she was very helpful giving me trinkets from the drawers in the back bar and of course some square-in-circle 50¢, \$1, and \$5 chips which were used on an antique 21 table that was always covered with an oil cloth and showed against the wall. I never did see it open. The old slots had been replaced with poker machines and the highly polished floor was the same. Even the Cyrus Noble liquor decanters remained on the back bar.

Next door, the Desert Club had been renamed the Black Rock with a few changes made to the exterior. Inside though, still looks like it might have in the 40s or 50s. The owner was unaware the place had ever been named the Desert Club but did say it had originally been the Capooch Club. According to Fuller, the Capooch lasted from 1932 until 1957 and was the Thompson Club



A sign at Empire, a few miles south of Gerlach, welcomes travelers to nowhere.



The Desert Club and Joe's Gerlach Club as they appeared about 1970.



Thirty years later from the same angle

from 1957 to 1958. The Desert Club was in business from 1959 until 1971 which was about the time I photographed it. Apparently it remained closed for a number of years until it reopened as the Black Rock.

I remember locating a few Capooch Club chips in the denomination of 5¢, 25¢, and \$5 and I once talked to a guy in Elko who said he had quite a few that he kept on an old 21 table in his house.

Down the street, the Miner's Club was closed but looked like it was still in business, maybe just opening in the evenings. Also, the old Nite Cap building was still standing but the sign had been removed and someone at the Country Club said Bruno operated it while his new place was being built. The last place leaving town, The Jalisco Club, was closed and for sale just as it was thirty years ago although I remember going in there one time when it was open.

After a few hours I retrace the hundred plus miles back to civilization but the memories of thirty years ago were still with me and I thought, as I have many times, of how much neat stuff I missed by not being around Nevada in the post war years of the 40s and 50s. ❖



The Miners Club and Bruno's Country Club as they appear today and twenty years ago

FELLOW CHIPPERS... A REQUEST FOR HELP

Since the attacks of September 11th very little has been the way it was. We in the chip collecting community have struggled with what to do, and how to express our grief and other feelings. We have been moved by the stories of heroism and angered by the details of the attacks.

This beautiful and unique set of chips is the result of hard work and genuine caring expressed by many people and by the Kevin Mahoney of the Opera House casino in North Las Vegas.

This project originally had several objectives:

- To raise funds for organizations whose sole purpose was to aid families that suffered direct losses from these terrible events.
- To make a statement as a community... a community of people who share a fun, interesting hobby, that said, "We care."
- To make a set of relevant, timely and unusual chips that any collector would consider one of the treasures in his collection.
- To hopefully contribute to positive dialogue among all of the diverse groups within the chip collecting community.

The set consists of three No Cash Value chips. A total of only 150 numbered sets were made. The chips are oversized 44 mm. (baccarat size) chips. Due to their size, the number made, and the nature of this project, these chips are very unusual and should prove quite valuable in the future. They are packaged in an attractive presentation box containing the numbered set of chips in three separate airtight holders.

Set #001 will be given to President George W. Bush. Thanks to our club president, Nate Pincus, and the CC>CC board, President Bush will also be the CC>CC's newest honorary member.

The total production and distribution cost of these unique chips is less than \$1,000. If you would like to add a set to your collection, we are asking you to contribute a minimum of \$100. Higher donations will be very much appreciated. No one involved in this project will profit financially. All proceeds above direct costs will go to the relief organizations. A complete project accounting will be provided once all sets are sold. Each individual charity receiving a contribution will be asked to provide individual receipts to all donors.

When you purchase your set, you will also be given the choice of ten suggested organizations where your funds can be directed:

List of Suggested Relief Organizations (A more indepth description can be found at:
<http://ocvirtual.com/cotob/relief.htm>)

Camp Comfort
The September 11th Fund
Manhattan Youth
September 11th Children's Fund
Twin Towers Fund
Twin Towers Orphan Fund
New York City Police Foundation Heroes Fund
WTC Police Disaster Relief Fund
New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund
NYC Firefighter Survivor Disaster Fund

You can also direct your donation to any other similar relief organization of your choosing. Charities that support military personnel and their families are also particularly welcome.

These sets can be obtained in one of two ways:

- For those of you in the Las Vegas area, numbered sets of these three chips are available at the Opera House Casino in North Las Vegas (702-649-8801).
- Sets are also be available by mail. To reserve your set, please call Terry Lazarus at Chips Off the Old Block toll-free at 1-888-244-7797. The minimum donation for mail orders should be \$100 + \$3.50 for P&H and insurance, \$103.50 total. Your check or money order should be made payable to the Opera House Casino and mailed to:

**Let's Roll c/o Chips Off the Old Block
PO Box 57
Dallastown, Pa. 17313**

Your choice of organization should be communicated at the Opera House or with your mailed request. Any funds received without a specific charity mentioned will be allocated among those suggested.

Please help... and get a truly unique set of chips in the process. Don't delay. With only 150 total available, these sets will not last long.

Thanks...and God Bless.
Terry Lazarus
Chips Off the Old Block



Quarterly Southern Nevada Limited Edition "Cheque" List

by Dave and Debbie Harber

September 2001

With the tragic events in September, it will be a month that we will all remember for the rest of our lives. For a few weeks chip collecting just didn't seem all that important in the grand scheme of everything that happened in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. The casinos were so concerned about getting guests through the door and keeping their help employed that releasing chips was not a very high priority for them. There was almost a two week lull after the 11th but since then the release of new limited edition chips has returned to near-normal.

The month started out with the Riviera releasing a 873-mintage \$5 chip to commemorate headliner Tony Orlando. The Las Vegas Club put out a 333-mintage \$10 chip for both Labor Day and the start of the football season. The Hard Rock Hotel made two different 500-mintage NCV chips with the same artwork to give to pre-registrants of their annual pin collectors convention, Pindex. The Suncoast Casino in Summerlin issued a nice looking, high mintage chip to celebrate their First Anniversary.

Heading south to Laughlin the Edgewater released a 750-mintage chip to observe the city's annual Pro Bull Riders rodeo.



Toward the end of September the Tropicana released a 500-mintage "Fall Classic" chip commemorating the upcoming World Series. The Reserve in Henderson released two \$3 chips, "Blue Sue" and "Rainbow Giraffe". Both very colorful Chipco's have a common back featuring "Congo Jack". Chipco had a couple more winners with the release of the Horseshoe 50th Anniversary chips. The \$5 chip pictures the young and old Benny Binion, the \$10 features the past and present casino. The Riviera released a 700-mintage Blood, Sweat and Tears chip featuring David Clayton Thomas. Lastly the Texas Station released chips in the \$3, \$5 and \$1,000 denomination to celebrate their sixth anniversary as a "Station" casino. The artwork is identical on all three denominations.





October 2001

October to a limited edition chipper means one thing, Halloween. By far the most collected and popular chips of the all of the holidays are the ones for Halloween. But we'll get to those shortly, first let's look at the non-Halloween chips unleashed in October.

The Four Queens released the third in their \$1 "fairy" series, a 2,500-mintage "Autumn Equinox" chip. Harrah's issued 500-mintage

chips for their afternoon headliner, magician and comedian Mac King. They also had a 500-issue chip made to commemorate Claudine Williams, one of the founders of the Holiday Casino (Harrah's predecessor). Even though the Superbowl was three months away, the casino released a 1,000-mintage, three-piece set dated January 27th, 2002 (obviously ordered before the Superbowl was moved to February 3rd). The Las Vegas Club put out a 200-mintage \$10 chip celebrating the 81st birthday of downtown Las Vegas legend Jackie Gaughan. Down in Laughlin, the Colorado Belle put out a 1000-issue "Blues and Brews" chip and the Edgewater released a 750-mintage chip for their 20th Anniversary.



Now for the Halloween chips. Just like every year since 1995, Southern Nevada casino's issued a great looking group of Halloween chips. Nineteen "spooky" chips were released from nine different casinos. The Tropicana was the first with 500-mintage \$5's and \$25's. O'Sheas, Fiesta and Aladdin also issued \$5's and \$25's with each casino's chips having identical artwork. O'Sheas made 750 \$5's & 150 \$25's, the Fiesta made 750 \$5's and 250 \$25's and the Aladdin released 2001 \$5's and 201 \$25's. The Hard Rock Hotel issued a 3,000-mintage chip (a very small release for this highly collectible casino) and the Las Vegas Club released a 200-mintage \$10 chip. Over the hump in Pahrump (sixty miles west of Vegas), the Pahrump Nugget issued a Halloween chip. There were also cheques from the Opera House and Silver Nugget in

North Las Vegas. Both of the two North Las Vegas casinos issued \$1's, \$5's, \$25's and \$100's all in short supply. 1000 \$1's, 500 \$5's, 50 \$25's and only 30 \$100's were made at each of the two casinos.



November 2001

November brought us chips for Thanksgiving, Veteran's Day, a heavyweight title fight, National Finals Rodeo and the Grand Opening of Las Vegas' newest casino, The Palms.

The Ramada Express in Laughlin released two 2000-mintage chips commemorating Veteran's Day. One features the Vietnam War Memorial Wall and the second commemorates America's POW's. Thanksgiving was represented this year for us by O'Sheas. They released a 750-mintage \$5, a 150-mintage \$25 and a 50-mintage \$100, all with identical artwork. The Palms (built by George Maloof owner of the NBA's Sacramento Kings and former owner of the Fiesta) opened on the night of the 15th. Besides an extensive house rack, they issued Grand Opening chips in the \$1 (2,500 made), \$2.50 (2,000 made), \$5 (2,000 made), \$25 (300 made) and \$100 (100 made) denominations, all with identical artwork. In addition they made a 5,000 mintage VIP Grand Opening that was intended to be given to the attendees of the pre-opening VIP party. For some reason they were never distributed which of course was a much better scenario for us chip collectors! The same weekend the Palms opened found the boxing world's eyes glued on the Mandalay Bay and the World Heavyweight title fight of Hasim Rahman and Lennox Lewis. 2,500 \$5's, 400 \$25's and 100 \$100's were made with identical artwork for this bout. Down the road a bit, the Hard Rock Hotel released a low 3,000-mintage \$5 and 750-mintage \$25 for "Jane's Addiction" the popular alternative band performing that weekend in the casino's showroom, "The Joint".





The Las Vegas Club released a very popular 200-mintage "God Bless America" chip and O'Sheas issued a beautiful, 1,000-mintage \$1 chip to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of legalized gaming in Nevada.



Finally, the National Finals Rodeo, the "Superbowl" of rodeos is held for ten consecutive nights every year at the Thomas and Mack center on the campus of UNLV. Even though the event did not start until early December, during November chips commemorating the rodeo were released at the Tropicana (500 \$5's and \$25's) and the Gold Coast (their annual four-piece set in three denominations). Generally the Gold Coast rodeo chips are unavailable from the cashier's cage as the \$5's and \$25's are put on the tables. Luckily for collectors the mintages are so high that it is rarely a problem putting a set together. Each year \$100's are also made but we have never heard of any ending up in a chip collectors hands. Every night after the rodeo a buckle ceremony is held at the Gold Coast to award belt buckles to that night's winners of the different rodeo events. From what we are told the \$100's are put into Lucite and are given along with a buckle to each winner. Each of the three denominations share the same artwork.



That covers the Southern Nevada Limited Editions released in September, October and November. We would like to express our thanks to George and Liz Conrad for providing the scans of the two Ramada Express chips. In the next CC&TN we'll look at the chips released in December, January and February and there will be quite a few. We expect more rodeo, Christmas, New Years, Superbowl, Chinese New Year, President's Day and Valentines to name a few.

In the meantime, Happy Chippin' Everyone. ❖

Dave and Debbie Harber have been limited edition chip collectors since 1993 and together own the World's largest Nevada LE chip brokerage, Cheques in the Mail, Inc. They can be reached through their web site at www.lasvegas-chips.com.

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News of Europe

by Bob Hermans

First of all, I want to apologize for not sending in my 'European News' for the two previous Casino Chip and Token News issues. Due to personal reasons I just didn't have time to complete them and send them to John, one reason was I stopped working in France and the second, we moved from our house to a new condominium.

But that is all in the past now and VERY exciting times are ahead of us. On the 1st of January 2002 the Euro (€) or like some of my American friends say the Eurodollar, will make its way into our wallets.

This also means that for the 12 countries who will have the Euro, their 'old' currency will disappear. Fortunately for us the casinos will have to use NEW chips, jetons and plaques, as the old denominations are not corresponding anymore. You can imagine the change it will have on dealers and players. Like in Spain where there was a 200 Pts (Peseta) roulette table, now it will become €200 that is roughly at today's conversion of 300 Pts.

During one of the last weeks of November I went to Monaco and the surrounding coastal casinos at the Cote D'Azur to see how far along they were in their preparation. For Monaco, SBM (Société des Bains de Mer) they now have roulette tables of 20FF (French Franc), 50FF and a 100FF in the Salon D'Europe (normal

play room) they will change to 5 (would be 32FF) for the smallest, 10 and 20 for the higher limit tables. In the Salle Prive, the smallest table will be 10. A move that will be followed by many of its competitors. By doing so their turnover will rise, as the minimum wager will be higher.

The same story occurs in the Netherlands where Holland Casino, will change their 5 FL (Dutch Guilders) into a 2 (4.40FL) table and their 10FL to a 5 (11.02FL) table. There the difference between the smaller and bigger tables will even out.

Now many of us are curious to see the new jetons and plaques. Here is a sneak preview of what is going to be used:

I will post pictures of the plaques on Greg's www.thechipboard.com so that you can see them in color. The largest one, a 10.000, is valued at almost \$10,000, and is in the colors of the Dutch flag.

So my (and your) collection

of European chips, jetons and plaques will be obsolete as of the 1st of January 2002 and we will have to start over again.

There will be new chips and jetons in every next club magazine for a long time to go with all the new pieces that I will pick up during the next years...

Like always, take care and kind regards,

Bob Hermans R-4479
Pobox 49
2200 Herentals
Belgium

ps note my new email:

profexion@skynet.be ❖





MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CONVENTION

*by Jerry Birl
Chapter Secretary*

Members of the Atlantic City Chapter of the CC>CC participated in all the activities at the National Convention that was held at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas May 31 – June 2, 2001.

There was close to 100 A. C. Chapter Members, Associate Members and their families who made the trek from the East Coast to the Entertainment and Gambling Capitol of the World – Las Vegas, Nevada. If I forget to mention anyone in this recap of Convention activities please forgive me because there were so many A.C. Chapter members at the Convention that it is hard to remember everyone.

To begin with, four of the new National Club Officers – Nate Pincus, President – Neal Silverman, Vice President – Marty Kaplan, Secretary - David Shron, Treasurer are all Members of the Atlantic City Chapter.

Archie Black former National Club President served as the Chairman of the Exhibit Committee and also handled the COTY and the TOTY Awards presentations. Bruce Landau once again served as the Club Auction Chairman and his wife Eileen served as the Catering Chairman(person) and planned the menu for the Early Bird Banquet, the food was great especially the deserts – thanks Eileen. Eric Rosenblum served as Legal Counsel and swore in the new Club Officers.at the Annual business meeting.

Several A.C.Chapter members had tables at the Convention including Jim Episale, Jerry Birl, Terry Lazarus, Charles Kaplan, David Sarles, Russ Diaz, Dick Brach, Bruce Landau and Eric Rosenblum.

Two Chapter members had exhibits on display at the Convention Charles Kaplan “A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words” and Irwin Gross “Chess & Chips”.

Many A.C. Chapter Members participated in the Annual Club Poker Tournament which was held at the Orleans Casino. There were 110 players in the Poker Tournament and A.C. Chapter members made an outstanding showing. Russ Diaz was the winner of the Tournament and Bernie Sloan’s Mom Eva was the top woman’s finisher (way to go Mom) and Jerry Birl finished in sixth place overall.

Once again we have shown that the Atlantic City Chapter is the largest, best and most active Chapter in the CC>CC. If you are interested in joining and participating in all of the Chapter activities, please contact Dick Brach, President – 32 South Avenue Fanwood, NJ 07023 (908) 647-0814.

We urge everyone to join both the Atlantic City Chapter and the National Club so you can fully participate in all of the activities which are part of this great hobby. ❖

ATLANTIC CITY CHAPTER SETS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2002

by Jerry Birl

Having completed another very successful year the Atlantic City Chapter is looking forward to 2002.

Since returning from the National Convention in June of 2001. The A.C. Chapter held three meetings at the Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Chapter meet on July 22nd, September 23rd and November 18th, 2001. Around 100 members and guests attended each of the Sunday afternoon gatherings. In addition to hearing from guest speakers, the Chapter conducted 50/50 drawings and chip auctions. At the September meeting the membership approved donations totaling \$1000 from the Chapter Treasury to aid the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City. Five hundred dollars of the donated funds came from the Bob Mera Memorial Fund. Bob was an ardent chipper and the top recruiter for the National Club for several years. Bob operated the Gaming Emporium a chip collecting shop, which served as the gathering place for A.C. chip collectors for many years. Bob passed away in December of 1999 after a long and gallant battle with Leukemia.

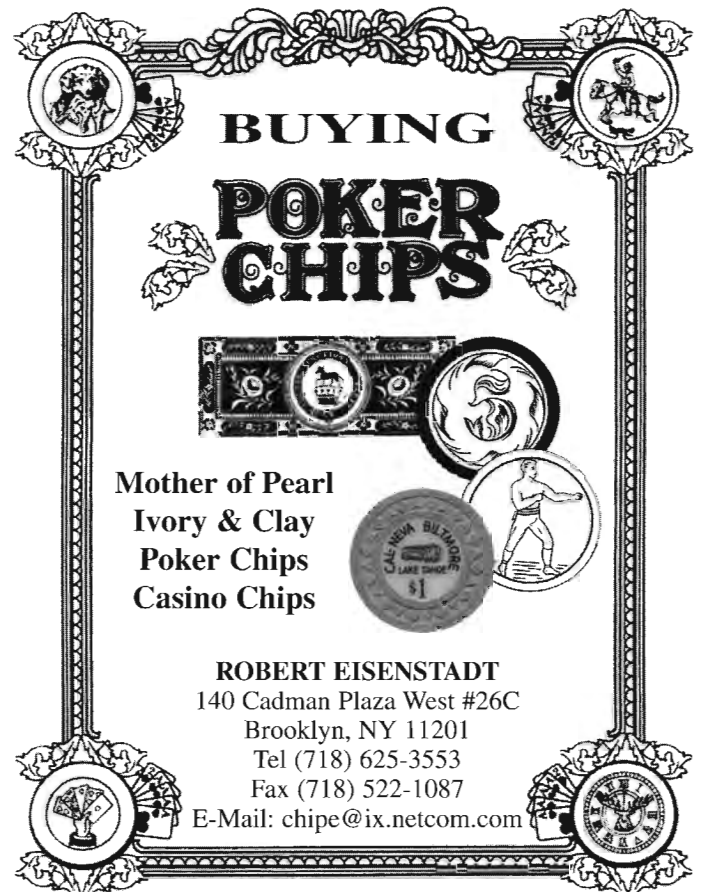
In 2002 the Chapter will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons at the Resorts Casino. The meeting dates for 2002 are January 20th, March 3rd, May 5th, July 14th, September 22nd and November 17th. All chip and token collectors are invited to come to the meetings and to join the Local Chapter and the National Club. Please contact Dick Brach, Chapter President at 32 South Avenue Fanwood, NJ 07023 (908) 647-0814 for further information on joining the A.C. Chapter. ❖



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Next Show - October 19th, 2002

The First *Silver Strikes Tournament*

by Mary Lou **Waterbury**

We have just come from the first Silver Strike Tournament that was held by O'Shea's Casino in Las Vegas. Several of us were working with Janel Cole of O'Shea's and the Flamingo Casinos to get this event shaped up. Our hats are off to those casinos for the way they put themselves out to make sure that all of the participants went home with delightful memories. Mission accomplished!!

I personally have never had so much fun at a tournament. It helped that we were all silver striker devotees so we had common ground established right away. The folks waiting for their turn were cheerleaders for all of us. When those red, white and blue sevens came up (in that order) the cheers were almost deafening. We were laughing so hard in my row that even if we did not have high numbers, we had formed a bond through laughter and jokes. What a time! We have been told there will be another tournament in the future, so keep tuned in to get the earliest information.

Many of us were able to get a hold of the "blue" Christmas strike at O'Shea's and all of us were trying to get enough extras from both casinos so that we could turn them in and get those new \$200's.

On Saturday night we went to the meeting room set aside for us in the Flamingo to do our trading in.

What a nice surprise waited us there. There were goodies to eat, coffee, sodas and drinks all provided by the Flamingo. Also we were surprised to learn that there were to be door prizes.

Sunday at 2 pm we were assembled in the banquet room. Before the awarding of the special numbered strikes to the top 50 winners, we were invited to partake in the buffet. We were used to the brunches put on back home at the casinos. Just let me say that once again the Flamingo Casino outdid itself and there were long tables crowded with all types of food that stretched from one wall to the other. There was also a table off to the side that had desserts to die for. Again, there were all kinds of beverages to compliment the meal.

Then it was time for the awarding of the special super strikes. Richard Rosales was the recipient of the strike which was 1 of 50. I regret that since I am not at home and am borrowing a computer from the Plaza, I do not have the list of all the winners. It is trite to say, but I feel that most of us felt that we were all winners in being able to attend this tournament. There were still more surprises as the Flamingo personnel had an armload of door prizes to give out at this time.

There will be a more in-depth report on the tournament in our newsletter.



Brunch spread at the Flamingo



Tournament action



Marv Weaver



Unknown, Mary Lou Waterbury, & Lloyd Malani



Manuel Orama, Jim Ward, & Janel Cole



Mel Jung, Don Muchow, Ron Kornicke, Randy Mortimer, Doug Jacob, & Mark Button



Manuel Orama, Peter Van der Kar, Janel Cole, Mel Jung, & Lisa Jungi



George & Anna Lisenko registering for the tournament. Gary Heinz looking on



Playing for a silver strike



Jimmy Mahan, Terry Roffell, Dave Ruffell, Gary Heinz, Kevin Pyles, Ray Moritz, & Roger Bryant



Jimmy Mahan, Dave Ruffell, & Ray Moritz



Michael Long, Johnny Long, Peter Van der Kar, Llyod Malani, Ron Konicke, & Gary Heinz



Tournament action



Linda Zachi, Dennis Finn, Steve Zachi, Kevin Pyles, Mel Jung, & Murray Ballou



Mrs. Ciesla, Johnny Long, Michael Long, & Ed Ciesla



Desserts from the Sunday brunch



Marv Weaver



Janel Cole & Jim Ward presenting Mark Bufton a \$200 strike and \$1000 cash after hitting the first reported 7-7-7 on a silver strike machine.

I wish all of you could have been at the tournament and shared this experience. It is always a plus when we strikers get together, whether meeting for the first time or renewing our friendships. ❖

Silver Strike Tournament Winners

Place	First Name	Last Name	Place	First Name	Last Name
1	Richard	Rosales	26	Johnny	Long
2	Mark	Gyde	27	Jay	Laird
3	Mel	Jones	28	Jennie	Laird
4	Judy	Barton	29	Bob	Buntin
5	Dorothy	Janich	30	Rob	Buntin
6	Richard	Ruffell	31	Don	Barton
7	James	McFadden	32	Carol	Heinz
8	George	Lo	33	Jackie	Finch
9	Dennis	Berry	34	Ed	Janich
10	Brian	Bishop	35	Pamela	Martin
11	Elliott	Granger	36	Carol	Chrzanowski
12	Kirk	Perusich	37	Brain	Manning
13	Douglas	Jacob	38	Anthony	Gregory
14	Richard	Anderson	39	Jack	Finch
15	Paul	Herrick	40	Norman	Chrzanowski
16	Ann	Brooks	41	Murray	Ballou
17	Arthur	Becker	42	Barbara	Sipes
18	Dale	Walkey	43	Terry	Ruffell
19	Leena	Mendenhall	44	George	Umberger
20	Gerald	Weisenbacher	45	Roger	Harrison
21	James	Smith	46	George	Lisenko
22	Jack	Oswald	47	Mildred	Berry
23	George	Janich	48	Susan	Lauderdale
24	Joyce	Bishop	49	Steven	Zacchi
25	Rod	Dickerson	50	Donna	Bjornson

IN SEARCH OF THE UNKNOWN

by Jim Steffner

A recent flea market or antiquing trip may have turned up some old poker chips. Where were they used, who owned the club, and what is "the rest of the story". Only the name, initials, or numbers embossed on the chip separate the unknown from the known.

This article will discuss information sources available to help identify these unknown and usually forgotten pieces of clay.

Mold design, chip markings, legal records, personal research and contacts, news stories, street address visits, and information gathered from other collectors are the stepping stones on your path to a wealth of knowledge about the chips.

The mold design will identify the manufacturer/distributor, approximately when the chip was produced, and in what general area it may have been used. Records are available for the Hub, Chain, Crest & Seal, HCE, and a few other molds, but are missing for many others such as the Hourglass & the Flower. Tables below list manufacturer/distributors and area in which certain molds were used.

In the early days there were three major chip manufacturers; T.R. King, Los Angeles CA; Burt Co., Portland ME; and US Playing Card Co., Cincinnati OH. Burt made 95% of the compression-molded chips and in 1947 bought molds from US

Playing Card. Chipco started up in 1988 by acquiring Burt Co. Burt's previous production manager sold all Burt molds to Atlantic Standard, which started up at same time.

Today, Paulson, T.R. King, Bud Jones, and Atlantic Standard represent the chip manufacturing market. Atlantic Standard and T.R. King are not licensed in Nevada.

Mold Manufacturers/Distributors

3 Dots	Joe Treybal
Arrowdie	Tommy Hains
C	H.C. Edwards
Cord	O'Neil & Co.
Crest & Seal	U.S. Playing Card Co.
Diamond	Jack Todd Co. to 1952, Christie Jones to 1988, then Borland
Die Car	Nevada Dice Co.
DieSquare	Pioneer Club Supply
DieSwirl	Burt Co, pre 1988. Mold owned by Midwest Game Supply
Ewing	Ewing Mfg. Co.
Flowers	George & Co
Harp	Taylor & Co.
HCE	H.C. Edwards
HHR	Langworthy & Co.
Horseshoe	TK Specialties
Hourglass	Rigdon Co.
Hub	Mason
LazyDiamond	Rigdon Co.
LgCrown	T.R. King
LgKey	B.C. Wills & Co.

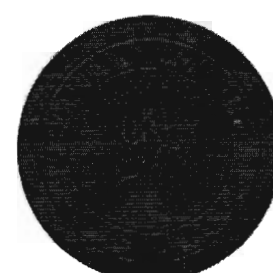
L's	C.W. Rice
Nevada	Nevada Dice Co.
Oval Chain	Hunt & Co.
Rect	Western Club Supply
SmCrown	T.R. King
SmKey	B.C. Wills & Co.
SqRect	T.R. King
S's	Ryan & Co.
TK	TK Specialty
TriClub	Gamblers General Store
T's	Taylor & Co.
Unicorn	Chipco
Wave	Bowman
Weave	Penn Specialties
ZigZag	Noll & Co.

Partial Geographical Usage

West Coast	LgCrown, SmCrown, L's, Hub, H&C, LgKey
Northwest	Hub, DieSquare, RectDiamond, SmKey, Harp, Horseshoe, LgCrown
Southwest	Horseshoe, Cord, Diamond, Hub, T's, L's, Harp, LgCrown, SmCrown
Southeast	HCE, Harp, H&C, SmKey, Star, RectHeart, LgSqr, DieSqr, Hub, C, TK
Central/Midwest	SmKey, LzyDiamond, Hourglass, Hub, Rect, Flower, S's, Cord,

Northeast

Weave, Dots, T's,
SmCrown,
DiaSquare, Diamond,
Harp, RectHeart
Chain, S's, Rect,
RectHeart, Hub,
SmKey, Dots



The Gaming Table, an excellent reference book, is a good starting point for information based on the inscriptions on the chip. The GT may list the name of the club, the location, and years of operation. Your information file is growing, but now you have to do some legwork.

Initials on the chip could represent the name of the club or the owner, or may have no connection to either. Numbers could be address locations. Most of the older clubs was being operated outside the law and the owners didn't need too much information on the chips that would lead authorities to link them to the operation. At times the initials on these older chips has no connection with the owner or operator at all.

For those chips not listed in the GT or for additional information, post a request, including a scan of the chip if possible, on Greg's board and the club board. Other members and collectors may have knowledge of your chip. Howdy Herz has the Hub mold records and access is available for a fee or chip trade. Mark Lighterman and Gene Trimble have produced a CD of available HCE mold information. U.S. Playing Card Company in Cincinnati Ohio has some records on Crest & Seal chips. Jack Todd of T-K has information on his company's molds. Howdy Herz has recently published a book of chain mold identifications from the Hunt Co. Other mold records may be made available as soon as they can be located and accessed.

You are getting closer, but now the hard part. At this point you may know the chip manufacturer, location where the chip was used, and approximate years the club was in operation. If you live close by, visit the library in the town where the club was located. Stop at the reference desk and ask to see the City Directories for the years the club may have been in operation. Search a few years before and after the dates you have. Look up the club name and the street address. Many directories will give you the owner or operator of the business. The street address will reveal adjacent businesses. Write everything down. Find out where the club owner or operator lived as well as any employees that may be listed. Check for other listings with the same name as owner or employees. Check local phone books for present day listings if the name is not a common variant. Call some of these people and inquire if they were related to the club owner. If you find a relative, they may remember the old club operation or provide other names, sources, and stories. If the weather is nice, look for older men walking in the area or sitting on a park bench in town. They may well have lived in the area at the time and can tell you some great stories. These older gentlemen may not be too prevalent since most of the illegal clubs operated in the 1930's to 50's, and a patron who played would be about 70 to 90 years old.

Visit the actual site where the



club was located. What is at the address now? If it is still an old building, talk to the present occupants, see if the landlord is the same as in early years, and check adjacent businesses. If the present building occupant has been there since the time the club operated, there may be leftovers in the basement. Boxes left by the previous occupants could be found in a corner of a basement where the present occupant never got around to discarding. Visit the club owner's residence area. Talk with neighbors who may have lived there at the time, as well as the present occupant of the house. Track down flea market and antique dealers. They can sometimes provide historical information about happenings in the area. Most of these sources are more valuable in small towns where the community is closer knit. In larger towns and cities the library, newspapers and government offices will probably be the best sources. Don't forget to do internet searches on individuals last names as a good way to locate relatives. Social security death records provide date information and last location where an individual may have resided. The SS death records can lead to date information usable in newspaper obituary research. One very important source of information may come from the person who sold you the chips. Be sure and ask where they obtained the chips. While some flea and antique dealers may make up a story, any information is valuable in your research efforts.

By now, if everything is going well, you know the club name, address, years of operation, owner and/or managers name, employees names, where the owner lived and hopefully some stories and history about the club.

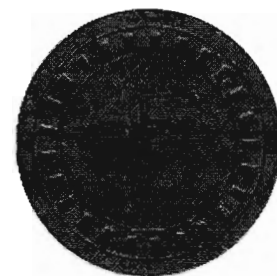
You're still a ways from "the

rest of the story". The "morgue" at the local newspaper office may give you some additional information including news articles about the club, or obituaries to help locate relatives, who just might have more chips. And speaking of morgues, be sure and check the local funeral home in smaller towns. Many times they will know the individual or the family and can possibly supply additional information. Check the local police station to access old records, as well as the county court house for case records. While you are at the courthouse, check tax records for the property, which will list the legal property owner. Don't forget the local historical society. A lot of interesting information is just waiting to be found. Document everything you come across and make copies where possible.

Start your own history book. Whenever you see a posting identifying an old chip, keep a printout or file the information. You may come across one of these chips in the future. Michael Knapp wrote many great articles about UFC's (Unidentified Chips) in earlier issues of the club magazine which were a wealth of information. Other club members are walking encyclopedias when it comes to identifying older chips; Gene Trimble, Jim Perlowski, Ed Hertel, John Zoesch, John Benedict, Howdy Herz, Michael Knapp, Allen Meyers, and many others have a wealth of knowledge.

Now that you have some extra knowledge, be sure to share it with others in their search for the unknown.

Good luck in your search and have fun collecting.
Mold information



Approx. 80 different molds.

Crest & Seal	U.S. Playing Card Co, 4590 Beech St, Cincinnati OH
Diamond	Jack Todd Co up to 1952, then Christie Jones to early 80's, then Borland.
DieSwirl	Burt Co, pre 1988. Mold owned by Midwest Gaming Supply, Kearney MO
Ewing TriClub	Gamblers General Store
Flower	George & Co, 650 Main Street, Buffalo NY
Hat & Cane	Christie Jones and Paulson
HHL	C.W. Rice Co. Walnut Creek CA - early
Hourglass	Rigdon, Cincinnati OH, White Club Room Supply
Lazy Diamond	
LgSquare	Jones Bros., New Orleans, 1950's - 1980's Paulson - later
RectDiamond	Pioneer Club Supply, San Francisco CA, entered Nevada market late 60's
Sm Crown Chain	T.R. King, 1035 S. Olive, Los Angeles CA
Unicorn	Atlantic Standard

Geographical

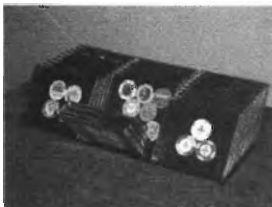
West - CA	LgCrn, SMCrn, L's, Hub, H&C,
Northwest - WA, OR	Hub, DieSq, RectDiam
Southwest - TX, AZ	Horseshoe, Cord, Diam
Southeast - FL, MS, AL	HCE, Harp, H&C, SmKey, Star, RctHrt
Central - TN, KY, OH, MI	SmKey, LzyDiam, Hourgls, Hub, Rect, Flower, SSS, Cord, Weave, Dots T's, SmCrn, DiaSq, Diam, Harp, RctHrt
Northeast - NY, NJ, CT, ME	Chain, S's, Rect, RectHrt, Hub ❖





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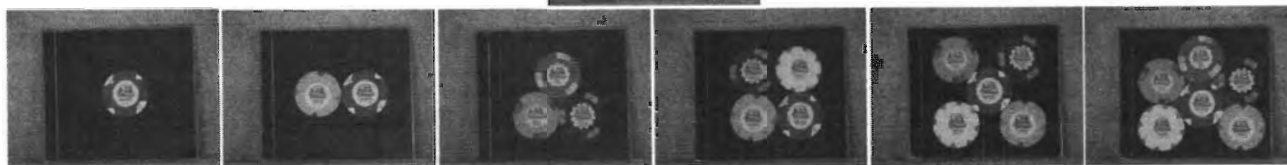


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CHAPTERS

In some areas of the country, CC>CC members have formed local chapters and hold regular meetings with educational programs, swap meets, trading sessions, and auctions for their members. More chapters are being formed all the time, and every one welcomes members from other parts of the country when they happen to be visiting. Contacts for current CC>CC chapters are listed below.

Chapter web sites are another good source of information. Whether you're looking for directions to the next meeting, see what new chips have been released, want to join a chat board, or are just looking for information.

To keep the listing current, please send your information to assteditor@ccgtcc.com

Atlantic City Chapter - Dick Brach - 908-647-0814 - <http://www.chiptech.com/acchapter/>

Casino Chip Collectors Club of New York - Travis Lewin - 315-443-1222

Colorado Chapter - Lee Bruton - 303-279-1299

Florida Chapter - Mark Lighterman - 305-595-7086

Great Lakes Chapter - Albert Scalzo - 810-794-3378 - <http://www.GreatLakesChips.adahost.com/>

Greater Houston Chapter - Vern Blanck - 713-587-0734 - <http://chipster.net/houston.htm>

Southern Nevada Chapter - Mary Lou Fortner - 702-228-0827 - <http://www.ccgcc.com/chapters/sonev/home.html>

Mid America Chip Collectors Club - Greg Susong - greg@chipguide.com

NY Metro Chapter - Charles Kaplan - 516-763-2327 - <http://ccgtcc.com/chapters/nymetro/>

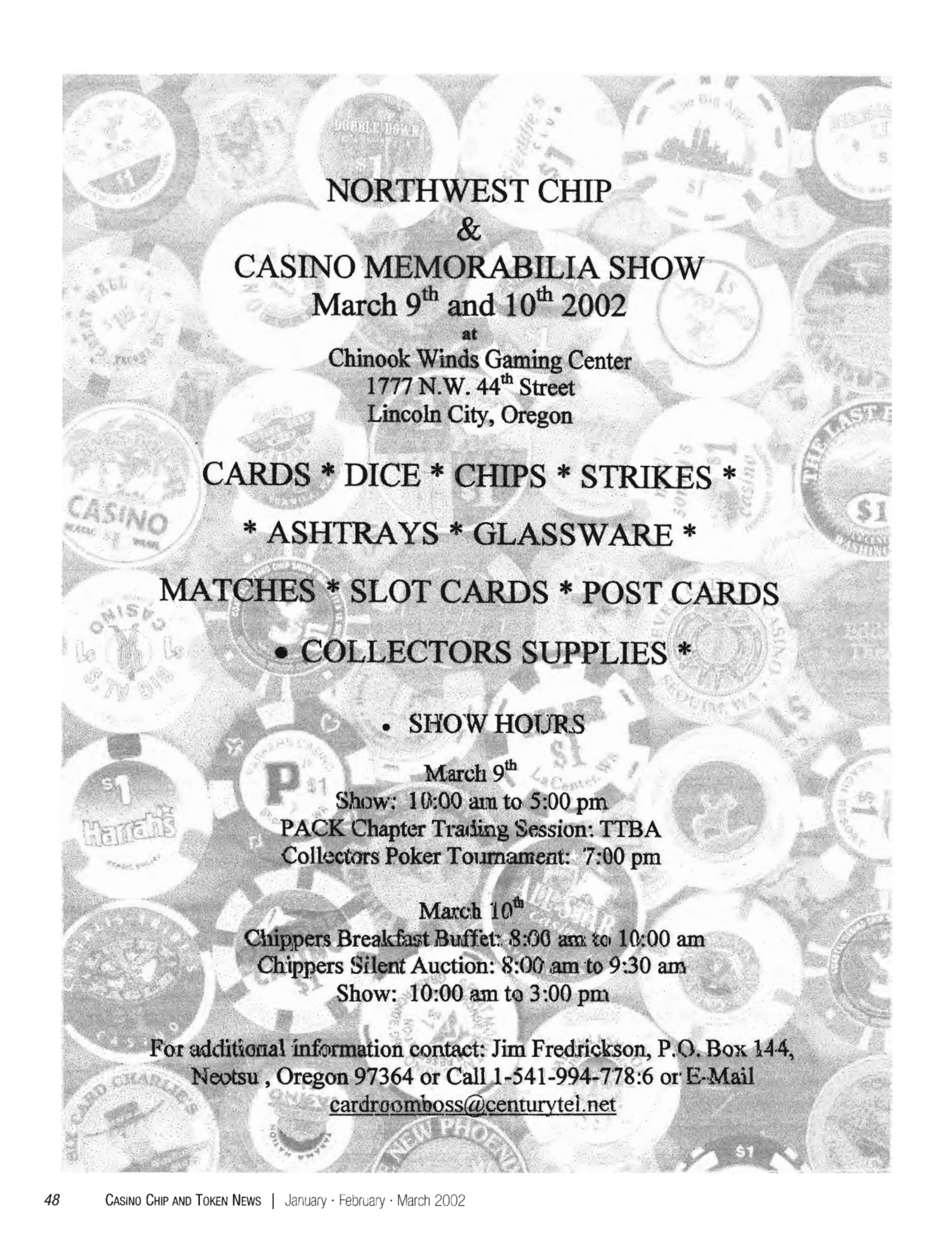
Nor-Cal-Nev Chapter (Northern California) - Todd Dingley - 916-393-6464
<http://www.anderson-design.net/norcal.html>

Ohio River Valley Chapter - Amy Andrae - arandrae@peoplepc.com - <http://www.geocities.com/orvccc/index.html>

Silver Strike Chapter - Mary Lou Waterbury - mlwaterbry@aol.com

SlabFREE Chapter - Pete Sanders - psand@slabfree.znn.com - <http://www.slabfree.com/>

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An Outsiders View

by Michael Keljo



I first discovered the CC>CC (Casino Chip & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club) several months ago, while considering a project for my Freshman Anthropology Seminar at University of Pennsylvania entitled "Money in Society and Culture." When I thought of money, casinos quickly came to mind. At first, I was interested in casino chip design, but soon I came across what seemed to be a sub-culture of casino chip collectors, which I found to be much more interesting than the chips themselves. I then decided to do my project on the people of the CC>CC, and what follows is a brief synopsis of what I discovered.

It did not take me much time to discover that Howard Herz is credited as being the first man to collect casino chips as a method of preserving gaming history. Little did Herz realize that not only was he establishing a concept that would preserve gaming history in the minds of thousands of interested collectors, but that he was also planting the seeds for a hobby that would form its own, unique social community by the end of the century, a community that can easily be seen even by an outsider doing a research project.

My main goal was to understand the motives of chip collectors. Why on earth do they collect casino chips? I devised some questions which I hoped would provide me with some answers, and I posted them on a CC>CC message board. Within a

day, I had over a dozen fully completed responses. I was delighted at everyone's help.

After reading the responses to my online interview, I was able to quickly establish two major motives for chip collecting. It seemed to me that most collectors were seeking to establish ties, which I divided into two types: historical and social. By "historical ties," I mean the efforts made by these collectors to connect themselves with periods in history and certain famous individuals through the chips that they collect. They imagine that the chips they hold in their hands played a role in the past and that, by owning these chips, they are linking themselves to the past in such a way that they can vicariously live through a chip and "its experiences." By social ties, I mean that a fundamental motivation of the collectors to join and continue the hobby is to develop social ties with their contemporary collectors.

The vast majority of chippers interviewed professed major historical influence in their collecting habits. This historical value seems to be, for most collectors, centered on the vicarious experience of history through the chip. As one collector related, "an original Flamingo chip from Las Vegas is the "holy grail" to chip collectors not so much as it's the first issue from the casino but it was issued while Bugsy Siegel was the owner! Most people lucky enough to

own one of these chips wonder if the famous gangster held the very same chip in HIS hand!" Said another collector, "Without the history of the chip in your collection, all you have is a little piece of clay. To me it is everything. I have chips that it is possible Bugsy Siegel held in his hands." To both of these gentlemen, it is as though, by owning a chip that may have been held by Bugsy Siegel, they are relating themselves directly to him, somehow sharing in the life of this long-dead gangster. The thrill of linking oneself to the Godfather of Vegas is not difficult to understand, even for a non-collector.

Yet, what struck me even more than the historical ties made through the chips were the social ties made as a result of common interests. It was readily apparent that social interests were every bit as important as the historical interests. The president of the CC>CC declared, "I have as much fun socializing as I do collecting. These two activities go together. There is a certain rush or sense of accomplishment when acquiring a special chip, but the constants are the friends and chip talk."

Since most trades require trust, I asked each collector how they felt about the people they did business with in the hobby. The responses were astounding. "Do I trust them???" Like a daughter trusts her father. I will send any CC>CC member

chips before I receive payment.” This comment really surprised me. I do a fair number of E-bay transactions myself, and I know better than to send something before payment is made. But this collector was not alone in his opinion. Said another, “Trust and reputation are important, but in the relatively close-knit hobby of chip collecting, most dishonest people don’t last long at all. The hobby is pretty strong and self-policing in that regard.”

Yet what surprised me most was the friendliness displayed by the community. I found no traces of exclusivity, and was in fact invited to join by several collectors who were nice enough to answer my questions when I had nothing to offer them. I heard fascinating stories of generosity and kindness within the CC>CC. “I was amazed at the knowledge and

welcome that I received,” recalled one collector. “Then I started getting chips in the mail from all these nice people and they didn’t want anything in return.” Another collector received similar gifts during illness. “When I was hospitalized people (other collectors) sent me well wishings as well as chips and casino memorabilia to brighten my days. Bear in mind most of these people only knew me as another collector (and never met me personally).” Such giving typically only takes place among the best of friends, and it is amazing to see it occur among people who have never met one another face to face.

The people of the CC>CC experience social ties that span both space and time. While some are interested in connecting themselves with people who lived in the past, nearly all form bonds with people who are

still alive today in the course of this hobby. The hobby becomes more than a simple hobby. It is not a set of isolated people collecting inanimate objects for their own, isolated collections. Rather, it is a set of people who become intertwined with other people, both past and present, in the pursuit of artifacts that help them to become further intertwined with people, whether they realize it or not. While the hobby has done much to achieve Herz’s original goal of preserving gaming history, it has gone far, far beyond that as it has both created and preserved social relationships in its relatively brief history. ♦

Michael Keljo hails from Dallas, Texas but moved to Pittsburgh, PA this summer. He is a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania’s business school (Wharton), where he hopes to concentrate in marketing, entrepreneurship, and legal studies

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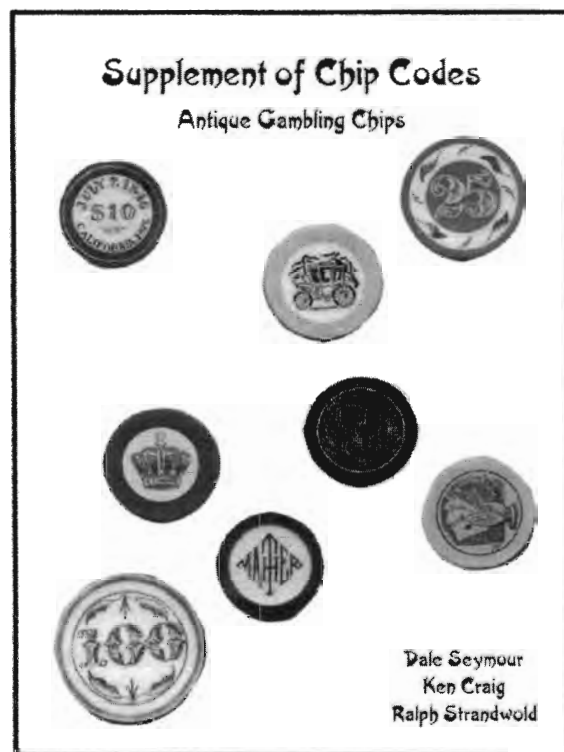
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Silver Strikes

The Mystery of Mintage Numbers!

by Jack Haddock

The silver strike collectors are full of questions, among which most commonly asked are: How many casinos have silver strikes? (Estimated: 80 Nevada/100 Total) (2) How many strikes are from each casino? (3) How many silver strikes are there? (Estimated: about 3,500) And, most often, how many strikes were made of a particular design? None of these questions are easy to answer. The question addressed by this article is the one regarding how many of each strike was, or will be, minted. Most of the strike mintage questions are answered with a resounding, “can’t tell you.” The production of silver strikes information is under the control of the casinos and they normally won’t say. Nonetheless, many silver strikes that have been in play a year or more would exceed a production of over 10,000.

Some casinos have responded to the collectors desire to know production numbers. There are several silver strikes that have been put into play which have a known mintage, and most indicate the mintage number on the silver strike.

The first to indicate the number minted was the Reno Airport on the 1995, \$40 strike issued for the Women’s Bowling Convention. The small yellow sign on the side of the slot machine indicated that only 520 were made. The airport has once again peeked collector interest by producing a series with a specific number made (777 struck) that makes it impossible to stop with just one. Since it takes all four strikes to spell out the name – “RENO” – one just won’t do! There is at least one full set of these restricted issue strikes in each fill which also includes another set of four strikes that spell out “RENO” but have that unknown mintage. The limited issue strike is contained in a colored plastic case and states that it is a “special 2 for 1 exchange” (\$20 value).

The Reno Hilton was the first to produce a series of strikes with mintages on them. One was issued each month during 2001.



The Union Plaza was the first casino to put the number produced on the strike itself. In addition to the total number indicated on the strike (ltd. 100 struck), each strike was numbered 1 to 100. The one hundred strikes were in a colored plastic and indicated a “special 2 for 1 exchange” (\$20 value). The token caught on as the “two fer” strike and was denoted to be a “chase” strike as there was only one available in each fill of 50 strikes. The Plaza is the only casino to use the Silver Striker Chapter logo on its silver strikes. Fifteen hundred of the Chapter strikes and fifteen hundred of strikes with the CC>CC logo were put in special machines and won by conventioners at the 2001 convention.





O'Shea's held the first ever Silver Strike Slot tournament on Dec. 1, at the same time introducing a series of five silver strikes with limited production and that production number on the strike. All 150 participants get one special strike and the 50 high scores win one of fifty strikes as the only prizes of the tournament. They are numbered 1 to 50 and awarded in that order. O'Shea's mintage of only fifty strikes will dictate that no more than fifty silver strike collections can contain all the strikes made, and many collectors believe that is too few strikes. Of course, it will call for a big sales price should one ever be sold.

There will be more strikes that are aimed at the silver strike collector, which proves that some of the casinos are interested in the strike collector. However, it has to be remembered that literally thousands of these strikes go home with the tourist. For sure, the tourist is the big consumer of silver strikes and the "collectors," (400 members in the Silver Striker Chapter of CC>CC) make their contribution by seeking at least one from everywhere!

Caesars Tahoe got right into the thick of revealing mintages with their 2001 "Hot August Nights" official silver strike. They obtained the license to produce 1000 silver strikes with the "Hot August Nights" logo. "Hot August Nights" is the largest event in northern Nevada. The second strike issued in a limited number (777 struck) was a new innovation where the four designs currently in play were show on the face of the strike. Another first to this strike is the fact "Ltd. 777" appears twice on the piece. These strikes are anticipated to be in play until spring as only 5 will be in each fill of 50 strikes.

There are several silver strikes in the hands of collectors that carry a higher premium, but the rarity is determined by how many "collectors" have the piece.

If you're not a member of the Silver Striker Chapter, consider the possibilities. It's a great hobby with



Issuer	Description	Mintage	Est. Current Value
Caesars Tahoe	\$10 Hot August Night	1000	\$40
Caesars Tahoe	\$10 consolidated of 4	777	no sales at this time
Eldorado Reno	\$10 Pavarotti	1000*	\$45
LV Flamingo	\$10 series of 12	1750	not in play at this time
O'Shea's	\$10 Merry Christmas	50	not in play at this time
O'Shea's	\$ CC>CC	500	\$90
O'Shea's	\$10 Leprechaun	50	not in play at this time
O'Shea's	\$10 1 st Tournament	150	not in play at this time
O'Shea's	\$10 Elephant/Donkey	125*	\$400
O'Shea's	\$10 Christmas 2001	750	not in play at this time
O'Shea's	\$200	400	not in play at this time
Reno Airport	\$40 bowler	520*	\$600
Reno Airport	\$10 "2 for 1"	777	\$500
Reno Hilton	\$10 series of 12	1750	\$20 each
Union Plaza	\$10 "2 for 1"	100	\$400
Union Plaza	\$10 CC>CC	1500	\$30
Union Plaza	\$10 Silver Striker	1500	\$35

* Number not on strike but mintage is public knowledge.

A Set of Montana Illegals

by Deborah Whole



When I was in Anaconda, Montana, this summer, I went to dinner at Jim & Clara's Supper Club on East Park. While waiting for the restaurant to open, I had a chance to speak with the owner, Jim Pearson, Jr. and learned some history of the area and the club.

There were three Jim Pearson's; grandpa, Jim, Sr., dad, Jim, Jr., and son, Jim III. Jim Sr., bought the Silver Tip in Missoula, MT, three years after it was built and ran illegal 21, pan and poker. Jim, Sr. and Jim, Jr. bought Midget's Bar in Anaconda, MT, in 1962 and renamed it Jim and Clara's after Jim, Jr. and his wife, Clara. It was very small and catered to a rough crowd. Jim, Jr. bought the buildings on both sides of the bar along with one in back and added a supper club and a gaming room. Jim, Jr. now runs the bar and super club with his son, Jim, III. The restaurant has some of the best food in Montana. Jim, Jr. cuts his meat (local Montana beef) as it is ordered. It was the best tasting steak I've ever eaten and the price was right. He opened the gaming

room in 1963 and ran two poker games and two blackjack tables. The law fined him in 1967 for illegal gambling and closed the gaming tables. Poker has not been played there since then. Jim, Jr. was kind enough to sell me his entire set of 300 chips that consists of six denominations.

Gambling in Montana was legalized in 1973. At that time anyone that sold liquor could have a gaming license. The games allowed were poker of all kinds. The state had no rules for poker when the games first started and for the first two years it was a runaway. A lot of money was won and lost. Of course, the house and the dealers were taking money from the players like you would not believe. Drops were as high as 10% with no maximum caps. It was not unusual to drop a \$100.00 out of a pot, and that didn't count what the dealer could get out of it. Greed once again got in the way of the game of poker.

Then in 1975 the state put a \$100.00 cap on all pots. The pot limit maximum was raised to \$300.00 per pot in 1989, but for a lot of card rooms it was too late, some reopened some did not. Video poker and video keno became legal in 1986, and that was the end of poker as the old timers knew it. Poker players started playing video games and all but wiped out the poker base that was left.



Jim Jr. in his late 70s, and still pulling a shift behind the bar



J&J stands for Jim, Sr. & Jim, Jr. Both sides of the chips are shown

They still have a happy hour when they get 10 to 12 people. What's sad is that as the old timers pass away the history is also dying out.

I have collected a lot more chips and history on Montana. I spent two months there, talking to bar owners, dealers, people who ran games and players. When I get my notes and chips together, I would like to print a catalog on legal and illegal chips in Montana; hopefully in time for the next CC>CC Chip Show. I have a lot of unknown chips for collectors to see and collect.

If you would like more information you can reach me by e-mail at joandeb@gte.net or at (702) 396-9008 ❖

Anaconda was mostly a mining and railroad town. When the Anaconda Copper Mine in Butte, MT, shut down due to the low price of copper in the late 1970's and the copper smelter plant in Anaconda closed in 1985, so did the town. Anaconda, like many of the old towns in Montana, is financially depressed. There are no jobs for the younger people, so they leave town as soon as they need to earn a living.

someone's toes which would sometimes lead to a fight or two with the brawlers making up and having a beer together. Now they may have 8 to 10 bars with one or two people in them.

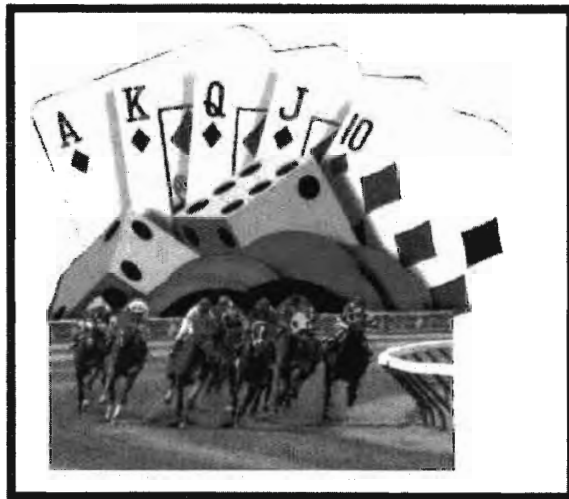
During its heyday, there where 64 Bars within 4 blocks and no-limit poker games everywhere. The miners would take the trolley up and down the 4 blocks, stop at every bar for a shot and a beer, then move onto the next, and this was just at lunch and right after work. Then they would go home, have dinner, clean up and go back to town for gambling, and girls. There were brothels above or behind most of the bars and supper clubs. I was told the bars were so crowded, you could not walk through one in town without stepping on



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Member R-3552

*Proud supporter and member of the CC>CC and
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Silver Strikes Collector

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A Tale of Two Closings

by Jim **Follis**

The Regency Casino, Laughlin, Nevada and the Sports World Casino (formerly, the CBS Sports World Casino) in Las Vegas, Nevada, are now both closed, but interestingly enough the chips and checks of one are still “in-play,” while the chips and checks of the other are, by most measurements, obsolete.

Some time ago (May/June 2001) the word got out that the Sports World Casino was closing its doors; going out of business. Its fate appeared tied to an earlier court ruling where the sports bar and casino had been sued by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) for infringement on their Registered Trademark of “CBS”. For reasons that escape me, the Sports World Casino owner, a Mr. James Ronald (Ron) August, when he first opened the operation named it the CBS Sports World Casino. Perhaps it was a media ploy, an advertising gimmick, or maybe he just didn’t watch too



closure I noticed an ad in the Las Vegas Review and Journal announcing an auction for the gaming equipment, furnishings and kitchen equipment of the

much television and was unaware of the media icon. However, I suspect he had some sort of business motive.

Apparently, that was in 1997 and Ron’s 1st issue *house* chips included “CBS” on the inlays. The house chips were also accompanied by some special, Limited Edition \$1’s and \$5’s, also with the “CBS” acronym. After the lawsuit was settled, Ron was required to pull the “CBS” chips and he replaced them with a 2nd issue, sans the “CBS,” but not in all denominations, and none were special, Limited Edition chips. Having been to the place on several occasions, I was struck by the lack of patronage, so when I heard that the place was closing, I only assumed it was because of a lack of clients and a costly result of the suit. Evidently I was wrong! Soon after hearing about the

Sports World Casino. The auction would occur at the casino’s property, located in a strip-mall on Las Vegas Blvd., just barely on The Strip. A prime piece of property, but not necessarily for a casino/bar, where parking is always at a premium and the bar had to compete with the liquor store next door.

So on July 21, 2001, my wife



and I attended the Sports World Casino, going out of business auction, at which time I got to meet and speak with the owner James “Ron” August. A rather striking individual, at just over six feet, all dressed in black, and sporting a very neat and trimmed pencil-lined moustache. To look at him he reminded me of a mixture of past television series characters portrayed by Burt Reynolds (“Dan August”) and Robert Ulrich (Dan Tanna, in “Vega\$”).

As a casino owner (or past owner?), he is a rather interesting individual. And so too is the now, past owner, of the Regency Casino in Laughlin, Nevada, Mr. Larry Long. A comparison of these two men is a different as night and day, almost literally if not figuratively. Ron August being tall, dark haired, and dressed in black, while Larry Long is on the shorter side, white haired and dresses in white-on-white shirts. Of course there is an age difference between the two, and I imagine the levels of experience in casino ownership are very, very different. Although many of you may recall that the Regency Casino was originally owned (and opened) by Robert Soper (a Nevada gaming icon) in 1979, and it was after Soper’s death that Larry and his wife (Soper’s daughter) took over operations the Regency and residual elements of Montgomery Pass Lodge and one

other past Soper-owned casino.

Many collectors (and players for that matter) familiar with the Regency Casino are impressed by two significant aspects of the property. First and foremost is that it was in operation, especially for as long as it was, there in the shadows of the much larger Flamingo

Laughlin and Edgewater properties. Secondly, it’s physical size. The Regency’s property line was situated on the banks of the Colorado River (well, about 100 feet of the West bank anyway) and extended into the town of Laughlin, all the way to Casino Drive (at least 100 yards). It was quite a hike from Casino Drive to the casino’s front door in the noon-day sun in the middle of July! And once inside you have to navigate the casino to get a cool drink at the bar in the rear. From the river-walk pathway the structure appeared to be a run-down bar, and although you could walk from the river-walk to a “Casino Entrance” using a zigzag, inclined pathway, most “passers by” simply did just that... pass by.

It was during one of my once every two months (or so) visits to Laughlin that I found out about the Regency’s closure. At the time, and for many years before, I would always stop (very briefly) at the Regency, hoping to find the table games open for the possibility of acquiring some chips at face value. Unfortunately, table games were only open for special events.



The Regency Casino is ‘tagged’ as CLOSED. Inside, Larry Long and his last employees are standing by to take in Regency chips and tokens, as required by Gaming for the duration of the Redemption period.

River Run Days were a natural because the town swelled in size as tens of thousands of bikers filled every room, bar and table in town. This was the gas, chrome and leather crowd and the Regency’s ample parking lot could hold many a Harley. And not to be left out was the hay, rope and leather crowd of Rodeo Days, where the parking lot would hold many a barley. Those and other commercial events sponsored by the casinos of Laughlin (and the Chamber of Commerce), and the steady flow of Charter Bus Junkets, keep Laughlin afloat. The Regency is at about the geographic center of Laughlin, so during those events it enjoyed plenty of walk-in traffic. Additionally, the tables would occasionally be open as a function maintaining the Gaming License, which typically happened on a Friday night. But more often than not, only the one-armed bandits of the Regency were available for gaming action.

Now I cannot speak for any other places, but I think the Regency was perhaps the last of the elevated Pit Boss observation platforms. On those rare occasions that all four blackjack table were in operation the Pit Boss functioned more like a magistrate or police station’s desk sergeant from high atop the observation chair. The observation roost was a



wooden chair that was firmly attached (nailed) atop a two-foot high wooden box that just fit under the four legs of the chair. The Boss would sit in the chair and could then observe all four dealers whose tables were aligned in a square pattern before him. Each dealer was facing outwards from the square (each had another dealer to his back and one to his side). The Boss was located adjacent to one side of the square where he could see all four dealers (two on his left side and two on his right) and his view was without obstruction by the tables or patrons. From this position he had a pretty good perspective on the players, but the feeling was one of monitoring the dealers.

At the Regency, as long as the tables were open, the “vault” was open, and if the vault was open, it was possible to get chips. If the tables were closed, then better luck next time! More often than not the cage made you go to the tables to get chips, and the \$1’s and \$2’s were never available. In fact, while I was interviewing Larry for this article, (in September, after the closure, but during the chip/token redemption period) I asked him to autograph a couple of \$1 Regency chips that I happened to have with me. He obliged and remarked that no \$1 or \$2 chips had been redeemed during the redemption

period. In fact, up until that time (about a month away from end of the redemption period), less than a rack of chips had been turned back-in. Of that partial rack, most were \$5 chips (about forty of them) and about fifteen \$25 chips.

From a previous visit, I had heard from a Regency employee that the \$2 chip was designed and ordered with chip collectors in-mind and were never actually used on the tables. Larry said that that was incorrect, and that they really had been used on the tables, but not for quite some time. I also asked him about the non-denominated purple, H&C, “RC” (in script) chips (TCR N3429 and N3433) and whether or not he could provide positive attribution of those chips as being Regency chips. After several minutes of trying to recall events in the past, he finally said that he could not recall using or not using the chips. Perhaps we will never know for sure.

He did recall a brief period of time when the Regency had a craps table, and for awhile they even had a roulette wheel, but the wheel was quickly removed when it produced disastrous results for the house! The craps table saw the usage of two different logo’d dice, while the roulette wheel used generic chips, three different colors of “A” chips. Larry still has many of the generic chips and several boxes of the dice, still wrapped in foil, 5-per stick.

Since the place was deserted - only Larry and few other employees were present for the occasion-



Larry Long standing in front of a handcrafted Wheel of Fortune. To his left is an old slot machine that was originally located in Montgomery Pass Lodge.

al walk-in wanting to make good on the redemption period- I took the opportunity to ask him if I could take a picture of him and the casino. At first he wanted to decline, but when I said that I wanted the picture for an article for the Club magazine, and that we could use a picture of him inside the casino or a picture of the hand-written “CLOSED” sign out front, he opted to pose for my camera. We walked around the darkened casino looking for a nice spot to take a picture. It was rather eerie as the majority of lights were off, all the slant-top slot machines were powered off, and their lift-top doors stood propped opened, ready for inspection. This exposed the inner works of each machine and provided ready proof that all the coin hoppers were empty. The place was silent, and for a casino, I bet there were very quarters to be found anywhere.

Over to one side of the casino there was a customized Wheel-of-Fortune wheel, which Larry told me was hand-made quite some time ago and was used to award bonus prizes to patrons, based on a drawing or a jackpot. It was rather ornate and used a lot of metal. It was flanked by two very old one-armed bandits, which Larry said were originally in the



Montgomery Pass Lodge. Older slot machines, like these (which I believe were Mills) are nearly one hundred percent mechanical and stand in pre-historic tribute to modern-day, multi-denominational, multi-play, electronic video slot machines of today. None of which were present at the Regency, but most certainly populated the Sports World Casino back in Las Vegas. And just as the owners of these two casino are worlds apart, so too are the reasons for the demise of each establishment. While the Regency was being closed so that Larry could retire, the Sports World Casino's furnishings was up for auction for quite a different reason. It seems that the Sports World Casino will undergo a metamorphosis, and will re-open at a later date. While the Regency property has been sold and the building will be razed. Larry can now sell-off the contents of the building, while Ron just simply had an auction. A sort of out with the old, and in with the new.

The process for the Sports World Casino auction was very unlike the Annual CC>CC auction. There were no color brochures, the inspection period was for one day only (the day before the auction), and nothing was cataloged or collected into a convenient place. Instead of having an auctioneer's podium, he was armed with a shoulder-carried microphone and speaker. Starting at the doorway he simply went around the casino (a single room) in a clockwise fashion and auctioned off every item he encountered. If there was a picture on the wall, he would auction it off. If a slot

machine was in his path, then it would go. If there was a trash can or floor ashtray, it was auctioned off, and so it went until everything was sold.

Because of licensing stipulations IGT was present for the auction to ensure that winning bidders carried-on (accepted) the licensing agreement for some of their video poker machines (three-play and five-play machines). This did not apply to all slot machines sold in auction that day, but certainly to the several multi-play, multi-denomination, multi-game video poker machines made by IGT. In addition to IGT's licensing requirements, the State of Nevada (through gaming laws) stipulated other requirements for the sale and purchase of slot machines. Individuals can only buy three slot machines in a year. Companies can buy more, but must be licensed to do so. For the slot machines, the auction was not *cash and carry*, as there is a waiting period for the new owner(s) to clear Gaming.

Meanwhile, everything went. A bank of slot machines, a set of chairs, a box of drink glasses, the sporting memorabilia off the walls, and even the two limosines parked

outside. The auctioneer's procession around the room included an assistant or two, a throng of bidders and Ron August. At one point I approached Mr. August and asked about the casino's chips and tokens.

"Were they part of the auction?" I asked. He told me no, and went on to say that he still had them, even all the old "CBS" stuff. I asked if Gaming was going to make him destroy them, or what? He said that he had not talked to Gaming about the chips, but he wanted to get them into the collector market. I asked about redemption and learned that there was no plan for redemption. I then asked, how can you be going out of business and not have a redemption period? He explained that the auction was only to eliminate debt. The property was still his (or the right to use it) and that he planned on re-decorating (re-themeing) the casino/bar once he put some financing together.

I looked around and saw that there was nothing in the place that was both gaming and marked "Sports World Casino". No matches, no napkins, no cards, no nothing. Perhaps chips are the only linkage. But it was an auction for the demise of another element to the gaming history of Las Vegas. Therefore I needed something to take away with me. And the something ended up being one of the sports memorabilia pictures from the wall. An auto-graphed and mounted picture of famed San Francisco Giants pitcher, and Hall of Famer, Gaylord Perry. Although I do not collect such stuff, I simply needed something (other than chips) from the defunct Sports World Casino (formerly the CBS Sports World



With the Stardust tower in the background, "Ron" August (back to camera) goes over last second instructions to the Auctioneer, with the stretch limo being up next on the block!

Casino) of Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition to the picture, I also got Mr. August's autograph, not on any chips (like Larry Long of the Regency) but instead autographed my bidder's card.

Unlike Larry Long, Ron August was going to be around the Las Vegas gaming scene and perhaps later on I will be able to get his autograph on a Sports World Casino chip. But as for Larry Long, his future was retirement, and that retirement was going to be in Oregon and it only includes horses; no gaming. With Larry's departure from Nevada gaming, he was but one of only a few of the of privately owned, casino operators in Nevada.

Being a collector, I asked

Larry what he was going to do with the Regency chips and he said that he too was going to make them available to the chip collecting community, by bringing them (and other residual material from the other Soper casinos) to the various chip shows. Larry was familiar with the CC>CC's Annual Convention (and Show), so who knows, he may end up at the Tropicana in June 2002.

Ron August, on the other hand, was looking to contact chip dealers in the Las Vegas area and make his deal(s) through them. However, according to Nevada Gaming, all of the chips from the Sports World Casino (and its predecessor, the CBS Sports World Casino)

are *live*, meaning that they can be turned in for face value. Trouble is, where to turn them in. And the bigger question for collectors is, would you want to turn them in?

All-in-all, it was very interesting to witness the final days of two links to Nevada's gaming history, and to meet both of the owners. One new and one well seasoned, but both with a cache of chips. ❖

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Atlantic City REPORT

by Archie Black

Well, one can say that A.C. chip activity has picked up significantly since my last two published quarterly reports. Leading the pack by far has been runaway Trump Marina. Their much sought after \$5 Hooters chip reported in my previous column (currently selling in the \$25-\$35 price range) continues to be in big demand by collectors across the entire country.



The \$25 Hooters chip, due to its higher denomination and similar numbers issued (600) is not as popular with chippers as the nickel chips. Occasional quarter Hooters chips could still be found on the tables in late November.

The rest of Trump Marina's \$5 "Restaurant Series" below; (two or three chips issued every two weeks in the same quantities as "Hooters") are not as popular in spite of their comparable low numbers issued (600 each). Purchase limits of one stack of each chip (20 chips per stack) per person

were placed on this entire series, with buyers permitted to return to the end of the line for individual re-buys... which resulted in complete sell-outs within 45 minutes to an hour.



Chip Milestone Reached in Atlantic City

The 300th LE honors (Limited Edition) Atlantic City chip was issued by Trump Marina. This Yacht Bar chip was among the final three chips that were released in their restaurant series on November 14, 2001.

The chronological LE "Scorecard" being maintained by Mike Custodio and Wayne Burt lists



the first LE commemorative chip issued in Atlantic City as being the Caesars' \$5 CHIPCO Blackhead which was released nine years earlier on September 14, 1992.

Nine years and 300 LE chips later, we begin the next 100 LE chips with this issue from Tropicana.



Limits of ten chips per person were rigidly enforced on this 20th Anniversary issue of 1000 chips, which seemed to be a sufficient number for everyone to go around as this chip remained on the tables for several days before eventually selling out.

In looking over "The List", one can pick out several annual topics or themes that began in earnest – then abruptly ended. Probably the most notable short-lived natural series was the Miss America chips that one would have thought would have been continued and endured ... since Atlantic City was the birthplace of this country's most famous pageant. Wrong! The series ended in 1999 after only three consecutive years of commemoration.

Another popular series I thought would have endured longer than it did were the attractive New Years Mummies chips produced by Trop. These chips too were issued over a three-year period and ended in 1998.

Since the Black Head Caesars chip issued back in 1992 ... other LE themes selected by Atlantic City's casinos have included Super Bowls, celebrity headliner performers, boxers, baseball players, automobiles, card suits, lighthouses, western legends, penguins, holidays, Donald Trump, etc. As I told my good friend Gene Trimble several years ago ... the day that the casinos issue a chip to celebrate Ground Hog Day is the day I stop collecting LE chips from that city. The only casino that has NOT issued an L.E. chip in Atlantic City is Showboat, which opened over fourteen years ago, in 1987. I sure hope their first L.E. will not be a ground hog chip!

A provocative \$100 Casbah chip issued by Trump Taj Mahal, depicting the silhouette of a nude female dancer was released on October 9th. This now tough-to-find chip is currently selling in the \$150-\$175 range. Only 160 chips were issued.



A Roman Catholic Church at Tennessee & Pacific Avenues in Atlantic City (St. Nicholas of Tolentine) has issued a fund-raiser NCV chip that is currently for sale at \$5 each in their Pacific Avenue gift shop.

Sorry to report that NO new A.C. slot tokens have been reported to me.

Atlantic City Chapter Notes

The A.C. Chapter of CC>CC has announced their meeting dates for the calendar year 2002.

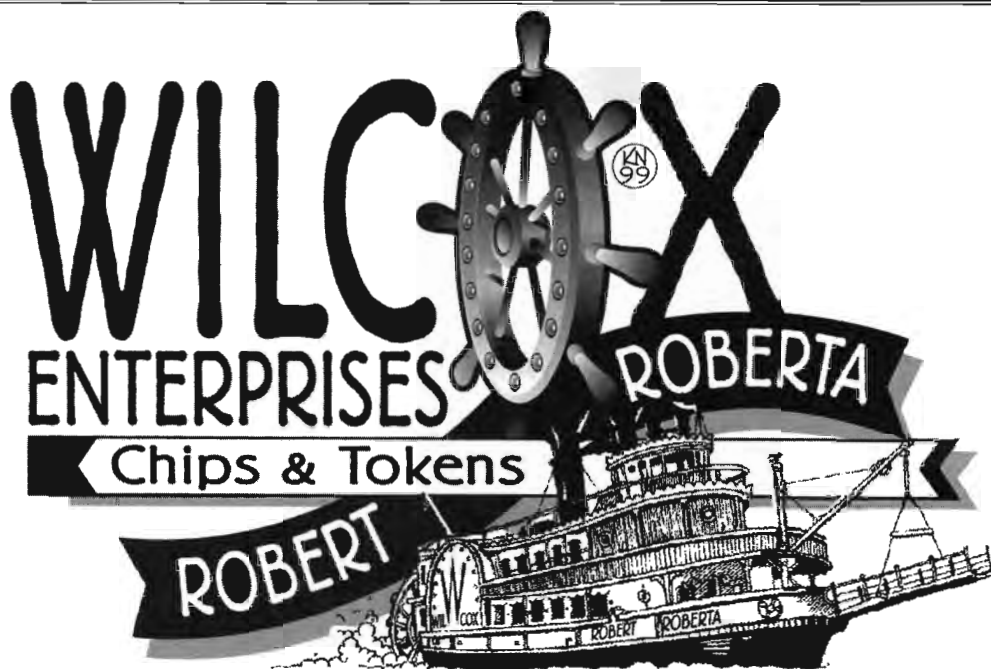


January 20; March 3; May 5; July 14; September 22; November 17. All meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held at Resorts Hotel Casino.

Speaking of Resorts ... the casino has re-ordered new \$25 rack chips to replace the old worn chips of the same design. Tropicana on the other hand has re-ordered their \$2.50 pinks, primarily for their poker room. Both re-orders are currently on the tables.

A dramatic, easily overlooked, A.C. error has been recently discovered that deserves mention here. A Miss America 1997 "Trump Marina" chip was purchased at a recent chip show in Detroit. The finder told me that he had purchased the entire 1997-1999 Miss America series of chips at the Detroit show from different dealers, so he does not recall which dealer he bought this particular chip from. The lucky purchaser did not realize the significance of his treasure until he returned home to put them away in his collection when he noticed the unique error. The reverse of the chip has the Taj Mahal center insert and both sides of the chip have the Taj Mahal house mold and correct color edge inserts. However, the obverse design depicts the center inlay graphics from Trump Marina!

Happy chip hunting everyone ... and may all your new finds be good ones! ❖



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Roberta Cook

With apologies to Mohammed, I believe the phrase is, "Since the Mountain will not come to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain".

left home 2 weeks before the show to allow myself plenty of time to obtain the items I needed, plus spend a day visiting a cousin of mine I had not seen in 55 years.

While negotiating my way back to I-80, I saw a billboard that proclaimed that the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana was now open. Whoa! What gives? I was aware that Jack Binion was attempting to purchase the Empress River casino in Joliet, Illinois, but not the Empress Casino in Hammond.

John Goes To The Mountain

by John **Bollinger**

During the four plus years I have been seriously collecting gaming tokens, I have noticed the paucity of offerings at the collectibles shows I attend and the apparent reluctance of the dealers at these shows to commit working capital for such slow selling items. Is this enough to deter a serious token collector from his search for the Holy Grail? No Way!!

It just gives me a built-in excuse to take the time and effort to get the pieces myself, before they become obsolete and destroyed, then forgotten. There is nothing that worries me more than the thought that a certain gaming establishment may have put a \$5, \$25 or \$100 token in play, and then the establishment abruptly closes, is sold, or the token gets so little play that the machines are removed from the floor and the tokens are destroyed before any collector even knows about it. This scenario has occurred with chips also.

Therefore I decided I would make a once in a lifetime pilgrimage across the width and breadth of the land to obtain whatever elusive items I came across. The 2001 CC>CC convention gave me the perfect time and excuse to accomplish this feat. I

My itinerary was to take I-70 and I-80 to the Midwest from Maryland, then head to South Dakota (Deadwood), proceed South through Kansas and Missouri, stop for a day in Oklahoma to visit my cousin, then continue on the way to the convention. So far, so good.

Nearing Michigan City, Indiana, I noticed a billboard promoting the Blue Chip Casino. Since I had visited the casino a couple of years ago, there was no need to stop but then I remembered that at that time, the Blue Chip did not have a \$100 token in play. Lo and behold, this time they had 3 or 4 \$100 token machines in play so my first stop on this journey was a success. What other pleasant surprises lay in store for me?

Sure enough, the Empress Casino in Hammond is history and now proudly proclaims itself the Horseshoe Casino (I'm glad I made my collecting foray at the Empress a couple of years ago).

The new tokens of the Horseshoe Casino are rather plain looking and all have the same design with a likeness of Jack Binion on one side and the name Horseshoe Casino spelled out in black letters on the other side. The denominations are: 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ 50¢, \$1, \$2, \$5, \$15, \$25, & \$100. Now that is a collection by itself.



Back on the road again and as I neared the Indiana-Iowa border, I refer to my Midwest casino guide map and note that Catfish Bend Casino is several miles South of the Interstate. I already have the \$1 and \$5 tokens from there, but still have a nagging suspicion that they may have a little more to offer.



At the next gas station, I called the casino on their toll-free number and inquire about the games, table limits, and slots. Informed that there are 2-\$25 slot machines in play, I immediately head south for Fort Madison, Iowa (mistake!). Thus began one of the most bizarre experiences I have ever had since I began enjoying this insane hobby... where I really get my feet wet, literally.

The road heading to the boat landing was flooded so I had to park my car in the overflow parking lot across the main highway and take the shuttle bus to the casino. The bus is much higher and able to drive through the water. After entering the boat I obtained my tokens and settled in to play some blackjack. About an hour later, the public announcement system announced that the river water was rising and the casino was closing. Of course, I was the slowest one around to cash in my chips, and by the time I left, the water was already knee-deep on the walkway to the shuttle bus stop. There was no alternative but to wade across to the shuttle. I started feeling sorry for myself until I was an elderly couple with walkers braving the waters so I continued on, debating whether or not to take my shoes off. I'm glad I didn't. Aboard the bus I overheard a lady tell another lady that she saw a snake swimming in the water near the casino boat. Yikes... all this for a \$25 token I would otherwise probably never get. Seems like pretty stiff odds for the prize.

Anyway, with wet shoes, socks and feet, I was happy to see Fort Madison disappearing in my rearview mirror as I headed for my next stop at Prairie Meadows Race Track.

When the Prairie Meadows

track opened, they issued a \$25 token with a colorized center. After some difficulty, I managed to obtain an example of this but had no success in ever locating a \$100 token I was let to believe also existed. At the casino the staff proved very polite but condescending to this "nut" who collected tokens but no colorized \$100 token was to be found in the casino cashier cage and I was assured that the cage manager would make a thorough search to see if any were around. I figured this was their polite way of dismissing a pest but I was surprised to receive a subsequent letter from Ms. Toni Holmes explaining that there never was one issued.

Continuing down the road I stopped in Council Bluffs to check out the Bluffs Run Casino for new tokens since the Harvey's organization recently bought the facility. Nothing new there, so I stopped at Harvey's Casino and got the \$5 token I was missing (the one with Council Bluff on the map) and continued north on Interstate 29 to South Dakota.

My first stop in South Dakota was the Fort Randall Casino where I picked up the \$5 token I needed and proceeded for my next destination, Prairie Wind Casino. To say that this casino is remote is like saying the Pacific Ocean is a large body of water. My casino guide said it is 10 miles east of Oglala, South Dakota but that 10 miles encompasses nothing but flat prairie land inhabited only by gophers and insects. After an eternity of driving on a narrow 2 lane county road without seeing anything of interest, suddenly on the left is a tent-like structure that can only be the casino. It seems that the bus industry must be thriving since buses seemed to outnumber cars (at least that was my impression). I quickly picked up

my treasurer and continued toward my next stop, The Rosebud Casino.

This casino located between the South Dakota-Nebraska border is not as isolated as the others but for some reason the tokens never seem to show up in the dealers offerings. I therefore assume that anyone who visits here probably keeps the tokens as a souvenir for themselves.

The next area of interest for me is the Kansas City, Missouri vicinity where recently there were some changes. The Flamingo Casino became the Isle of Capri and the Station Casino is now Ameristar. Since I already have the tokens from the newer establishments, my focus was on the older operating casinos.

First I paid a visit to the Ayoy Riverside Casino and immediately was successful in getting a \$10 token from the machines. However, the \$25 machines were removed from play on the floor so I asked the cage about their status. She replied that they were removed a year earlier due to slow action. When I asked if there were any \$25 tokens available in the cage, she directed me to her supervisor who explained to me that yes there were tokens in the cage but she could not let me have one until she received approval from the gaming commission. The representative was not available at the moment so I would have to wait. After an hour and a half, she walked up to me and said if I went to the cage, she would sell me one but only one. I never saw her leave the cage and no one else except casino personnel entered the cage so I strongly suspect that she felt sorry for me and took responsibility upon herself to let me have the item.

Needless to say, if this is the



case, this casino employs the nicest management personnel I have met. I truly appreciate the gesture.

My next stop was Harrah's Casino from which I was lacking the \$25 token. I had low expectations of success from this venture since the piece in question is in silver. Harrah's has 2 boats/barges next to each other and of course, on the first boat there were no \$25 machines. I asked the slot machine attendant if there were any \$25 tokens available in the cage but she directed me to the other boat where the machines are still in play. The design of this token which depicts the Harrah's tower is absolutely breathtaking. I gasped at the sheer magnificence of this handsome piece and wondered to myself if they were still using silver tokens when everyone else has switched to lesser metals.

From Kansas City my journey now was directed to the Native



American Casinos in Kansas. The Kickapoo Golden Eagle Casino in Harton and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino in Mayetta each have issued a \$25 and \$100 token. If I thought that the Harrah's North Kansas City \$25 was gorgeous, there are no words for me to describe the splendid example of medallion art displayed on the \$100 token of the Prairie Band Casino. The clear graphic details on the "Keepers of the Fire"

design are simply awesome. I do not think that this design can be surpassed for sheer beauty. I only hope the illustration in this article can do it justice.

With my Kansas acquisitions completed, my next stop is McAlister,



Oklahoma to spend a day visiting my cousin whom I had lost contact with in 1946. When my family moved to California in that year she was a pretty 17 year girl and I was a six year old brat. I will not bore you with details but we had a wonderful time in catching up a half century of family matters.

The next stop in my travels is the Texas seaport town of Corpus Christie. This is where the gambling ship "Texas Treasure" sails from. I arrived too late for the morning cruise but the wait was well worth the long drive.

This was to be the last gambling cruise for the next 3 days since the ship has an obligation to make a cruise to Mexico once a month and it was scheduled to sail to Vera Cruz the

next morning. Looks like my timing almost did me in on this occasion.

The shipboard activities were both enjoyable and relaxing for me and well worth the \$27 boarding charge. There was a skeet shooting competition from the fan tail, different kinds of dancing on various levels of the ship, there were talent contests and sing-alongs, continuous feeding at the food tables, and above all, three decks of gambling which opened its operations after we entered International waters.

Although the cruise line calls itself, "Texas Treasure", this name is nowhere to be seen on the tokens or chips. The tokens have a cruise ship depicted on the obverse and "Island Holiday" on the reverse. The same is true for all denominations. I managed to obtain a 25¢, \$1, \$5 and \$25 token. Now...on to New Mexico.

The new Isleta Casino and Resort had just recently expanded and



there were new tokens to be had. Among the new tokens, all of the same design, were \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$100 So far, so good. Next stop for me is a trip to the Dancing Eagle Casino. This is a small struggling casino whose future may be in doubt. I needed the \$5 token and was determined to get one. Success. While playing the machines I was talking with a trucker who mentioned that the Sky City Casino, only six miles away, now had \$25 and \$100 token machines. Guess where I headed next. Although the trucker said there were \$100 machines, he was wrong but

there indeed were \$25 tokens so I added this to my holdings.

Now to back track to Albuquerque. The Downs of



Albuquerque racetrack had a \$5 token I needed so that was my next target. After getting the token I headed north towards Santa Fe. The Sandia was supposed to be opening their new expanded casino but in this case I missed out since the opening of the new casino had been delayed. I then inquired about the casino that was rumored to be opening in Espanola by the Santa Clara Indian tribe. Once again the new casino is being delayed. So now I am on my way to Farmington to get the \$1 and \$5 tokens of the Sun Ray Casino. No only was I successful in getting my tokens, but I also hit two different machines for \$100 each. This is going to be one of my favorite places of all time.

I arrive in Las Vegas the Friday before the convention and stop to look at the offerings of Bill Akeman's booth at the Gambler's General Store downtown hoping that I arrived before the maddening crowds for the show. I was wrong. It seems the hordes of collectors beat me there by a week and nearly wiped him out of goodies. Janice O'Neil steered me onto a few obsolete (expensive) \$25 and \$100 Nevada tokens, but for the most part the majority of the better pieces were already sold.

It is still 5 days before the show starts so I decide to check out Laughlin. No luck... now onto

California to check out the action there. The Casinos Aqua Caliente, Spotlight 29, Spa and Pechanga each have recently issued a \$25 token to compliment the others so I dutifully added one of each to my holdings. Things are looking up!

Back in Las Vegas, I was disappointed at the meager offering of tokens which required my own expe-



dition. I did manage to obtain a few obsolete items from the dealers there but in most cases these items were tucked away in back of the dealers cases and took some time for the dealers to search and find them. The rest of the time we spent talking and trading with other collectors at the show.

Now comes the hardest part of my journey...the casinos of Central and Northern California.

Checking my itinerary closely, the first stop is Paiute Palace Casino in Bishop. This casino is still using the paper slips so no tokens here. Next up is Eagle Mountain Casino in Porterville which has the \$1 and \$5. No onto the Chicken Ranch Casino where I am again chagrined to learn that the paper slips are used. But along the highway is a billboard announcing the opening of the Black Oak Casino in Tuolumne where happily I obtained a \$1 and \$5.

At Jackson Rancheria, I managed to get a \$1 and \$5. Next in line I stopped at Oroville which has 2 dif-



ferent casinos, Gold Country and Feather Falls and both casinos offer \$1 and \$5 tokens.

The Feather Falls Casino provided me with an interesting experience. During the course of a black-



jack session the pit boss came over to our table and announced that whoever get the first blackjack of the next hours play will receive a voucher of \$100 worth of gas at the casino's gas station.

Since I am from the east coast and this is Northern California, guess who won the \$100 worth of



gas. Of course it was me. When I lamented that I was passing through, the lady playing at 1st base offered me \$20 for the voucher. When no one else spoke up, I accepted the offer. It isn't often I give away \$80 but I felt since I'm still \$20 ahead of the game there are 2 winners.

When I related the above to my sister who lives at Clear Lake, California, she asked why I didn't save the voucher for her. I explained that it would take a tank of gas round trip to fill up her tank so she couldn't benefit either.

After staying a day with "Sis", I visited the 2 local Clear Lake casinos that offered \$1 and \$5 tokens; the Twin Pines and Sho Ka Wah casinos.

My hopes and dreams of a bountiful harvest from the casinos



along the Pacific Coast became less than anticipated. Except for the Cherokee Heights Casino at Trinidad which had \$1 and \$5 all of the other casinos only offered \$1 tokens. These included the Black Bart, Colusa, Elk Valley, Konocti Vista, Lucky Bear, Lucky 7, and Susanville casinos.

Oops!... I forgot to mention the Win River Casino in Redding has



\$1 and \$5 tokens. The \$5 token is worth mentioning for there are 2 \$5 machines. One dispenses tokens and the other pays out paper slips. Seems as if management is undecided which course to take and is watching to see which machine get the most play.

There is nothing noteworthy to relate about the rest of my trip except



that I drove through North Dakota on my return and picked up samples of \$5 tokens I needed at 3 locations, The 4 Bears, Dakota Sioux, and Spirit Lake casinos. All of these tokens have been in use for 5 to 8 years, but never seem to turn up anywhere.

Anyway, the exhaustive journey resulted in many acquisitions I



feel I would never have gotten otherwise and I'm glad I made the effort. I hope you enjoyed the experience as much as I did.

Happy collecting all! ❖

MEL'S COOKHISTORY

by Mel Jung

OK, OK, so this is not directly about our hobby of collecting chips, but you might admit we all have to eat when we visit casinos to enjoy our hobby of collecting. In fact, I have enjoyed collecting activities and discussions that occur during dining with collector chippers over the years. It seems earlier times saw more action after shows closed and we went to dinner to find out what walked in the doors and who made the “deals” of the day. When we got into Reno or Las Vegas and found more than two chippers visiting, it was routine to make a dinner date to continue our chipping. Too many times were spent dining with Armin Pfaender and Jim Gillette at Binion's Steak house where we always ended up buying even more chips from Jim than we had expected and he could do it leaving us feeling we should treat since he made us such “great buys”. Jim always had a bag full and more in the car.

But those were the “good old days”. Now, Lisa has more often set us up with “reservations” for six to ten chippers that enjoy dining in the “finer” joints; and I go along with the flow....or don't eat! And I complain too often about the “ambiance”, extended hours it takes to complete the rituals; and the cost/quantity of the servings...compared to Dennys...my favorite restaurant.

I would not mind so much if they would allow us to have stacks of chips on the tables to make the long waits bearable with trading and chipping, but strangely, they seem to think something is “tacky” about it. Too bad, and so goes the hobby. By popular demand then, here are my opinions and comparisons about fine dining relative to “Dennys”.

Denny's vs. Delmonicos (et. al)

Atmosphere/Ambiance

At most Las Vegas upscale dining rooms, you have to a minimum of \$5 for valet parking or self-park in the garage located 3 to 12 floors away and at least 3 football fields distance from the entrance to the eatery's entrance. In addition, most locations require walking through the casino's main pit area or being lost in the slot machine maze designed to delay your visit long enough to drop enough that your total cost is increased from \$100 to \$1000. And when you arrive on time, there is always a wait at the bar where a round of drinks seems mandatory before your table is ready even if the joint is empty.

At Denny's you park immediately outside the row of window booths or at a table never more than 30 steps from where you parked the car. And it's free, no matter how long you stay!!!!

The majority of fine dining rooms feature darkened, intimate, often candle-lit rooms. You can hardly read the book length (always in some foreign language from French to Farsi...except the prices which are always interpreted to the good old US. Dollars), menus and/or wine list. It's too dark, the carpeting could be heavily stained with spilled food, wine and mashed French snails.

At Denny's, it's always well-lit. You can easily see the saltine cracker crumb patterns on the carpet mixed with the only 3 types of gravy offered. Night or day, the same lumination is steady and awakening to enable distinct color differences of the oldest hot stamped chips all the time.

The Service

Why does it take so many people to serve such little food? If you find that you have to go through a host/Maitre'd, wine captain/steward, assistant waiter, waiter, and water boy, before you can find a piece of bread; expect the food will be directly proportionately small. Probably miniscule. Bring a loop. At Pino Brasserie, Delmonicos, and Hugos Celler, the waiters are all the same. They are mostly ex-beachboys from Venice Beach, California with first year high school French accents to describe the little snails and chocolate desserts always written

in some italicized, European language.

At Denny's, the waitress can seat you, run outside to turn off your car lights, and pitch your menu to the booth or table frisbee style—all within a minute of your entering the double storm doors. And the service is exactly the same, 24 hours a day.

On our last visit, the hostess/waitress was a charming, 63 year old Vietnamese lady. The two cooks were from Bogota, Columbia and Cuzco, Peru. And the 96 year old bus person was originally trained in his early teens at the truck stop in Puckerbrush, Nevada! What a genuine international staff with real accents of their homeland. There was, understandably, some difficulty in the use of some English vocabulary/slang; like the terms "Rare" and "Well done". But, none of that fake French stuff... the entire menu is in "American" Now on to compare the

Food

Dennys

T-Bone Steak, with canned corn/carrots, mashed potatoes, gravy, parsley and dessert \$10.49

Delmonicos et.al.

T-Bone steak only with "pounded peppercorns" \$38.00

Dennys

Super Seniors Dinner, choice of Pot Roast, Chicken, Ribs with veggie, Potatoes and gravy (lunch is even cheaper) \$6.79

Delmonicos

No equal at any price.....

Dennys

"Moons over my Hammy special ..

Scrambled eggs, sliced ham, swiss cheese, grilled sour-dough bread

Has browns, fries or grits and applesauce \$6.79

Delmonicos

No equal, but for the same price range you can get a teaspoon of fish eggs (black or red) OR a dab


of mashed duck liver with a French name you can forget.

Well, I could go on and on. You can easily see, there is no contest as to value. The serving portions on costly china and linen table cloths always will leave you hungry. They seem to compete for honors serving the smallest portions for the highest prices. By dripping rainbow colored sauces around a two- inch square piece of bottom feeding fish, justifies forty dollars! A side dish of six crunchy, hardly cooked sticks of asparagus can cost you \$15. And the desserts, they put some weeds and seeds on chocolate ice cream with crackers, dribble some pastel colored syrup around the plate and charge more than any Denny's entrée.

I go obediently along with Lisa and her chipping gourmet crowd, but just don't belong. The other place I like more than Denny's is IHOP and my favorite food is Dennison's Chile...old style. Ask for it by brand and no substitutes. ❖

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by George Conrad

A convention of this magnitude could not be successful without the help of many people. Your help is needed, even if for a few hours. Listed below are some of the areas in which we anticipate needing help. If you are willing to give a few hours, please contact me as soon as possible. Thanks.

PICK UP (Tuesday 6/4) 7:00AM – 10:00AM

Load truck at storage unit with convention items, unload at Tropicana. This is an off-site job and transportation will be needed to the storage unit.

TABLE SET UP (Tuesday 6/4) 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Help align tables, drape tables with table cloths, connect sign posts to tables with “C” clamps, affix signs to sign posts, distribute display cases, set chairs in position.

TABLE TEAR DOWN (Saturday 6/8) 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Remove sign posts, collect and pack display cases, load truck for transport to storage, gather and sort display case keys.

PUT AWAY (Sunday 6/5) 8:00AM – 11:00AM

Unload truck with Club property at storage unit. Transportation will be needed to the storage unit.

AUCTION SET-UP (Wednesday 6/5) 10:00AM – 8:00PM

Arrange auction items in display cases, prepare bid board

AUCTION TABLE (Thursday 6/6) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Protect auction lots, take bids for bid board.

AUCTION TABLE (Friday 6/7) 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Protect auction lots, take bids for bid board.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE (Tuesday 6/4) 10:00AM – Noon

Help set-up membership officer’s convention space.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE (Wednesday 6/5) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Intermittently sit at membership table to give Membership Office a brief break.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE (Thursday 6/6) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Intermittently sit at membership table to give Membership Office a brief break.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE (Friday 6/7) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Intermittently sit at membership table to give Membership Office a brief break.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE (Saturday 6/8) 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Intermittently sit at membership table to give the Membership Office a brief break.

REGISTRATION TABLE (Wednesday 6/5) 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Help distribute pre-registration packages and register walk-ins. The day will be broken into 2 hour “shifts”.

REGISTRATION TABLE (Thursday 6/6) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Help distribute pre-registration packages and register walk-ins. The day will be broken into 2 hour “shifts”.

REGISTRATION TABLE (Friday 6/7) 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Help distribute pre-registration packages and register walk-ins. The day will be broken into 2 hour “shifts”.

REGISTRATION TABLE (Saturday 6/8) 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Help distribute pre-registration packages and register walk-ins. The day will be broken into 2 hour “shifts”.

TRADE SESSION (Wednesday 6/5) 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

TRADE SESSION (Wednesday 6/5) 8:00PM – CLOSE

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

TRADE SESSION (Thursday 6/6) 8:00PM – 10:00PM

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

TRADE SESSION (Friday 6/7) 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

TRADE SESSION (Saturday 6/8) 8:00AM – 10:00AM

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

TRADE SESSION (LAST DANCE) (Saturday 6/8) 7:00PM – 9:00PM

Monitor trade session to exclude nonmembers, maintain decorum, and prevent exchange of cash except to even-off a trade.

If you'd like to help in any of these positions, email George Conrad (georgecon@aol.com) or call 702 645-1955



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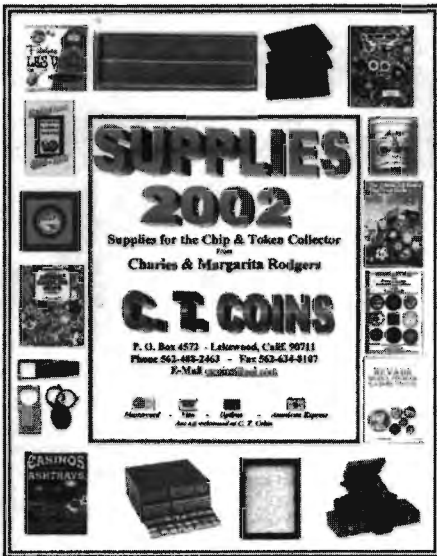
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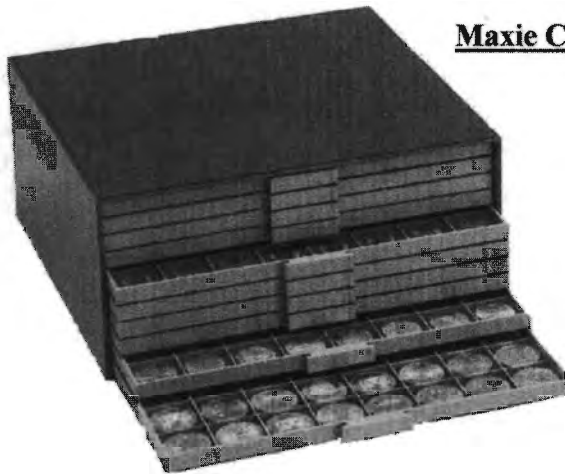
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