

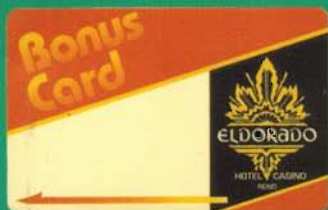
Casino Chip And Token News



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

Spring Issue
April, May, June, 2002
Volume 15, #2
\$6.⁹⁵

A Member of the
American Numismatic Association
(C-140538)



Slot Cards



Casino Chips for Sale & Better Chips Wanted

By James Campiglia

See me at jycinsb & jcampi on eBay under seller.

For an ever changing assortment of mainly Nevada obsolete chips.

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See my website www.casinorarities.com

<http://www.casinorarities.com>

for the rare high-end Nevada & Atlantic City chips.

See me and Randy Pisane of Casino Rarities at the convention.
Look for the big banner with the rare chips pictured.

I hope to see my eBay and other customers & meet all the nice people I've been dealing with.

Please stop by and say hello.

We are looking forward to the best convention ever! Hope to see everyone there. This is the best show ever so don't miss out.

randy@casinorarities.com ■ james@casinorarities.com ■ 702-456-6855



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Previously unpublished, original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor.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

Vice President
Chip & Token Update,
New Issues Report

Treasurer
Finances,
Bookkeeping

Secretary
Chapter Club Info.

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Address Corrections

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Exhibitor Applications,
Hotel Reservation Cards

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Meeting woods, decals,
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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



First Class Mail
 Check here
 for First Class Postage
 Just \$12 more a year

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

3rd Quarter Issue 2002
is June 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?

Dont'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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GREG C. SUSONG
WEBMASTER

Letter

from the editor

John Yee



I'm sad to inform you that George Conrad, beloved father, husband, firefighter, and chipper passed away in March. George and Liz were our convention chairpersons until George's illness required Liz's full-time attention. One of the first people I met when I started collecting chips was George who resided in Las Vegas. He always had the time to talk to you and had a delightful smile that was contagious. George had a new release chip service and had an outstanding reputation within the chipping community. My condolences go out to the Conrad family. He will be missed. Liz, you're a strong lady. Hang in there. We're here for you if you need us.

As we prepare for the 10th annual convention, the finishing touches are being hashed out. Jim & Sandi Steffner have graciously stepped in to finish the work started by George and Liz. I am excited and looking forward to this convention which is slated to be the best to date. Please take the time to look over the convention information and volunteer a few hours for the club. For additional information regarding the convention, you may email Jim at convention@ccgtcc.com.

In this issue we have several articles I hope you find interesting and intriguing. One of the hottest collectibles sweeping our club is slot cards and room keys. A few articles will hopefully give you some history and background information on cards and keys while keeping you on the lookout for that elusive card. The history of the Hotel Apache is also in this issue. I hope you will enjoy some old Las Vegas history and the photos that accompany the article and have as much fun reading it as I had researching it. And don't forget to check out Doug Saito's article on some large crown chips from the Hank Boss collection. Many chips in this article have never been seen before. Lastly, an article submitted by President, Nate Pincus with regards to counterfeit brass core chips, requires your attention.

This leads me into an editorial on how a small minority of individuals who voice their opinions on the cyberspace bulletin boards have been conducting themselves. A few weeks ago, we almost lost one of our board members. Marty Kaplan, secretary of the club, briefly resigned due to some heated discussion on the bulletin board accusing our board of being negligent and incompetent. I remind you that the foundation and strength of this club is made up of volunteers. If you want to make this a better organization, I suggest you volunteer your time and get involved. Hiding behind your keyboard taking pot shots at volunteers is rude, unproductive, and downright despicable. Why would anyone consider posting a public message directed at someone they would never say to their face? I think it's time to police yourselves and be aware that this behavior is detrimental to existing members and reflects poorly to prospective new members. If you have no idea what I'm talking about. Good! Hopefully, this will be the end of it.

As always, I'm looking for input. If you've got criticism, comments or praise, we want to hear it.

I hope to see all of you at the convention.

CasinoChipBinder.com



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!



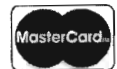
The binder's D-ring design lies flat for easy viewing!

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

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

Cheques in the Mail, Inc.
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!

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Slot cards courtesy of Steve Wells
and Allan Anderson

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President's Letter

Spring, 2002



Nate Pincus

As a businessman, I have followed the news of the quick demise of one this country's largest companies. Enron has become part of the vocabulary of America. The very word – Enron – connotes greed, side deals, sleazy business practices, enrichment of a few, fleecing the common person and so much else that can go wrong in business. The full force of the legal system and the government will investigate Enron. We all await the possible indictments. But in the business world, changes are already underway. Companies are cleaning up their accounting procedures and disclosing questionable practices. Get rich quick schemes are passé, regaining customer confidence is now in vogue.

I am saddened to say that we now have terminology in our hobby that means much the same as Enron. The phrase “brass core problem” now reverberates among members. The brass core problem involves greed, side deals, sleazy business practices, enrichment of a few and fleecing the common collector. The Board of Directors has investigated the circumstances. But we do not have legal authority. We can't issue subpoenas, we have limited resources to investigate and our powers are restricted to Code of Ethics violations. The strongest measure we have available is expulsion from the club.

The Club's Claims Director undertook a full investigation within the scope of his authority and issued an interim report to the Board. It is clear from the Director's report that counterfeit brass core chips have been produced by a club member. These chips were not marked in any way to indicate that they were copies or reproductions. According to the producer of the chips, he sold chips to several member/dealers, disclosing that they were “reproductions” and charging a price much lower than market value for genuine non-reproduction chips. The story gets hazy from there.

Dealers apparently sold them without proper disclosure and at prices far above cost. We know little about who purchased the chips and at what prices. More upsetting is that we do not yet know the entire scope of the problem. Yet to be discovered is which other brass core chips and how many are involved. Elsewhere in this issue you will find detailed information on the counterfeit chips we do know about.

The producer of the counterfeit chips identified has not renewed his Club membership. The Membership Officer has been instructed that any future membership renewal or application from this individual is to be immediately rejected.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough evidence to take action against anyone else involved in this matter at this time. However, as any additional information comes forth from other members, or otherwise, that appears to provide any corroboration whatsoever, this matter will be handed over to local law enforcement authorities to investigate since a fraud investigation is beyond the scope and capability of the Board.

The business community has quickly learned a lesson from Enron. The environment for companies and investors has changed. Companies are now policing their own ethical practices and are making fuller disclosures. Our hobby, our Club and we, ourselves, as collectors and club members need to be more diligent and demanding. Dealers, and I am referring to anyone who sells to other members, must act in both an ethical and legal manner, with full disclosure and in compliance with the CC>CC Code of Ethics. We need to be beyond reproach. The brass core problem has tarnished all of

us. Your Officers do not have the resources to bring all who are guilty to justice but we will act decisively when we have evidence of wrongdoing.

Being a member of our Club and collecting community has always meant to me that all members maintained a sense of pride in their ethics. It meant that we always dealt with each other in a trustworthy and open manner. This situation has given me reason to re-consider my opinion. Our upcoming annual convention is an appropriate time for all to restore integrity to our hobby.

As you are reading this, the convention is almost upon us. There is much to look forward to. From the opening banquet through the Last Dance trading session, the action is non-stop and the collectibles never ending. I hope to see many of you in Las Vegas.

I am saddened to announce that it was with great regret that I had to accept the resignation of George and Liz Conrad as Convention Chairpersons due to George's ill health. They had been hard at work since the end of last year's convention, establishing an extensive organization of volunteers and managing the tremendous effort of putting on our annual convention. Fortunately, we have members who are willing to step up in time of crisis.

Jim and Sandi Steffner have volunteered to take over as Convention Chairpersons. Jim and Sandi have been constant volunteers over many years and I thank them for taking on this difficult task in mid-stream. Our immediate past Convention Chairman, Wayne Thompson is pitching in to help during the transition. The combination of George and Liz's planning, the efforts of their volunteer network, Wayne's experience and assistance and Jim and Sandi's leadership will insure that the 10th Annual CC>CC Convention will be our best ever event.

This year's ANA convention will be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City from July 31st through August 3rd. I need volunteers to man the club table. Please contact me if you can help out by spending an hour or two at the table. There is a Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens exhibitor category. It is easy to exhibit and very rewarding, especially if you wind up as one of the top three vote getters. There will also be a Club meeting at ANA on Saturday, August 3rd at 8:00am. We have the room for two hours so bring your traders.

I know that you join with me in sending best wishes to George.

Happy collecting and best regards to all.

Nate

2002 Chip & Medal Design Contest 2002 Convention Exhibits

I would like to thank the members for their submissions for the 2002 Chip & Medal Design Contest. All were excellent and it was a hard decision to select just 2 winners. 1st and 2nd place winner to be announced at the upcoming 2002 convention.

I would also like to thank the members on their planned exhibits at the upcoming 2002 Convention. Other members and myself are looking forward to viewing the competitive and non-competitive educational displays.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

Joe Shaw
Convention Exhibits
CC>CC Design Contest

Volunteers Needed

Our club relies entirely on volunteers. We have no paid staff.

I am seeking volunteers to help in many ways. If you want to be more involved in your club, please contact me. Let me know your interests, skills and experiences and I will try to match you to our job needs.

Nate Pincus
P.O. Box 693
Havertown, PA 19083
610-642-6093 Fax-815-425-2792
president@ccgtcc.com

Membership Officer's *Report*



Ralph Myers

Wow, three months have gone by already.

This past quarter 83 new people have joined us, and one person has stepped up and become a life member. Congratulations to Mike Quinlivan LM-3194. If you have been a member for at least three years, you too can become a life member. Email or call me for details.

The most exciting thing I have to tell you about is that the club now has the capability of signing up new members and taking membership renewals on line using your Visa or Mastercard. In the future we will be also able to offer convention pre-registration, banquet pre-registration, poker tournament pre-registration, and club merchandise purchases all online, again with your Visa or Mastercard. Thanks to the hard work of Pete Sanders R-4182 who got all the I's dotted and the T's crossed, we began taking online memberships and renewals in early January of this year. With few people knowing of this new club feature we still signed up 27 new members and renewed 10 memberships online. All you need to do to take advantage of this new feature is to log on to the club website www.ccgfcc.com, click on membership, and follow directions after that.

In the future we will also be able to offer convention pre-registration, banquet pre-registration, poker tournament pre-registration, and club merchandise purchases all online.

Don't forget our International convention June 5th to 8th at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. If you plan to attend, please stop by the membership table and say hello. It would be my pleasure to meet each and every one of our members.

Please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or mail with any questions, concerns, or suggestions

Thank you for your continued support.

Ralph Myers

New Members Since Last Issue

Member Number	Last	First	State	Referral
R-5456	Dayhoff	Ray	MD	Website
R-5457	Morgan	Rick	PA	
R-5458	Baker	Richard	NY	
R-5459	Raab	Kathleen	NY	
R-5462	Stephen	Doug	OH	Ace
R-5463	Wilcox	Jeff	TX	Website
R-5465	Berry	Steve	PA	Hartman, Scott
R-5468	Evans	Ryan	IA	Website
R-5469	Alich	Ernest	PA	
R-5470	Gill	Steve	CA	
R-5472	Stagg	Peter	NY	
R-5473	Lawyer	Jennifer	NC	Rodgers, C.T.
R-5477	O'Brien	Richard	NY	Website
R-5478	Buckner	Jeff	KY	
R-5479	Cipkins	Len	NJ	
R-5480	Boggs	Charles	CA	Allard, Dick
R-5481	Dannehl	Charles	IL	Website
R-5482	Hudson	Keith	KS	
R-5485	McCracken	Jeff	CA	
R-5486	Bailey	Mike	NV	Yahoo
R-5487	Worthy	Russell	MI	Scalzo, Albert
R-5489	Becker	Don	IL	Batten, Jim
R-5491	Watts	Brian	MO	Susong, Greg
R-5492	Burt	Wayne	NJ	Pincus, Nate
R-5494	Waters	Ed	AL	
R-5496	Sikes	Tom	FL	
R-5497	Horsey	William	MI	Pohl, William
R-5498	Jewart	James	OK	Website
R-5499	Vietor	Ernie	MN	
R-5500	Fleming	Patrick	CA	
R-5501	Petito	Anthony	NY	
R-5503	Kerns	Delton	CA	
R-5504	Sanders	David	AZ	
R-5507	Moser	James	FL	Bishop, Brian
R-5509	Gleason	Charlie	IL	Website
R-5511	Wriggins	Jay	MS	
R-5512	Miliente	Maria	NY	Feeney, Bob
R-5513	Guy	David	NC	Website
R-5514	Perry	William	OH	
R-5515	Berka	Donna	CA	
R-5516	Curittright	Dan	MO	Shore, Josh
R-5517	Gebhart	Vincent	FL	Website
R-5518	Corrigan	Don	IA	
R-5519	Gottlieb	Richard	NC	Website
R-5520	McAlister	Joy	NJ	
R-5521	Young	Mike	CA	Susong, Greg
R-5522	Aydelott	Kevin	MO	Website
R-5523	Oney	Richard	PA	Rodgers,C.T.
R-5524	Powell	Everett	NV	Burgel, Richard
R-5526	Copeland	Kenneth	AR	Rodgers,C.T.
R-5527	Doan	Chris	CA	
R-5528	Skinner	Jason	U.K.	Website
R-5529	Robichaud	Paul	MA	
R-5530	McHargue	Sue	CA	
R-5531	Krug	Leonard	KY	
R-5532	loomis	Gary	NV	
R-5533	Lopez	Chris	WA	Lopez, Tom
R-5535	Kalinowski	Robt.	AR	Hendrix, Chris
R-5536	Clewell	Ron	MO	Watts, Brian
R-5537	Brosky	Bruce	CA	Website
R-5539	Boice	John	NM	
R-5540	Saso	Gerard	MA	Myers, Ralph

Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club

Member Club of the American Numismatic Association

www.ccgccc.com

A Non-Profit Corporation: Fed ID: 11-3193244

Toll Free: 877 4CC-GTCC

P.O. Box 693

Havertown, PA 19083

2001 - 2003 Club Officers

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Nate Pincus

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March 11, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The Board of Directors of the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club (CC>CC) is very proud and honored to bestow upon you an Honorary Life Membership in our organization. Your permanent membership card is included herein.

The CC>CC is a member club of the American Numismatics Association and is dedicated to the study and preservation of all types of gaming exnumia and related materials. Our 2700 members collect gaming items and study the history of gaming throughout the world. The club publishes a quarterly magazine for all members, maintains a reference library and sponsors educational seminars. Our annual convention brings together members from all over the United States and many foreign countries to the largest gathering of its kind.

In today's troubled times, we all need to find comfort in our leisure time. Our members are fortunate to be part of a hobby and educational organization that provides this diversion. As a member, you will receive our quarterly magazine. I hope that you have time to read the magazine and to pursue leisure activities that allow you to relax and revitalize.

I am very proud of our club and its members for their wonderful response after the attacks on September 11. The CC>CC and many of our members made donations to help victims, with numerous members selling collectibles and donating the proceeds.

One of our members teamed up the Opera House Casino in Las Vegas to create and sell a collectible set of casino chips with a patriotic theme. All the proceeds from the sale of these sets will be donated to September 11th charities. I am pleased to present you with set number 1.

Thank you for your leadership through these difficult times.

Very truly yours,

Nate Pincus
President, CC>CC

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

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 | Volume 14 issue 1 |
| Volume 6 issue 4 | Volume 11 issue 2 | Volume 14 issue 2 |
| Volume 7 issue 1 | Volume 11 issue 3 | Volume 14 issue 3 |
| Volume 7 issue 2 | Volume 11 issue 4 | Volume 14 issue 4 |
| Volume 7 issue 3 | Volume 12 issue 1 | Volume 15 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 | |
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| Volume 10 issue 3 | | |
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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.



Wood Issue Postage

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ANA Convention

**Marriott Marquis Hotel
New York City
July 31 to August 3, 2002**

**Volunteers needed to help at the CC>CC club table
If you plan on attending, please offer to help**

**Club meeting at ANA
Saturday, August 3rd @ 8:00am
The room is available for 2 hours so bring your traders**

**Exhibitors Needed
We have our own category:
Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens
Show the world what we are about!**

**Several chip and token dealers set up at the convention so there will be material available.
You do not have to be an ANA member to attend the convention.
There is much to do and see even if you are not a coin collector.**

Please contact me about volunteering, exhibiting or for information.

**Nate Pincus
P.O. Box 693
Havertown, PA 19083
610-642-6093
president@ccgtcc.com**



by Larry Hollibaugh

Northwest Nevada does not have the plethora of new chip issues that inundate the Las Vegas collectors. This makes it a lot easier, and cheaper, to keep up with new issues from this area. In my inaugural Reno Chip Report column, I will attempt to bring you up to date on what's been happening in Reno and surrounding areas for the last year, up through February 2002.

The American Bowling Congress held the 2001 ABC Tournament from February 10th through July 1st, 2001 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. The Peppermill Hotel-Casino gave away a very nice \$5 no cash value chip to each participant. You had to have a coupon to get this chip.



In April of 2001, Circus Circus introduced a Win Cards program. For \$10, you get a package that includes 15 orange "win cards" chips, in the Chipco Unicorn mold, and cards that show how to play blackjack, craps and roulette.

In early June, Caesars Tahoe released a \$5 chip to commemorate the Tahoe Classic Cruise, held June 15th through the 17th, 2001. They

also released a \$5 and \$25 chip commemorating the 2001 American Century Celebrity Golf Championship, held July 5th through the 8th. And Caesars became the first Lake Tahoe casino to offer Hot August Nights chips by releasing a \$5 and \$25 nearly two months in advance of the actual event.





Also in June, Peppermill was the only casino to commemorate the 2001 Reno Rodeo.

Cal Neva Resort in Crystal Bay released a four chip stacking set commemorating their 75th anniversary as “America’s oldest originally licensed casino.” And Eldorado put new \$1 chips into play in June, along side the coin inlay chips they have been using since 1989.

August started off with a new casino opening. The Siena opened at the former site of the Holiday Hotel, on the south bank of the Truckee River in downtown Reno. Barney Ng performed a total makeover of this place into an upscale Italian themed casino. House chips are in \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100 and \$500 denominations. The \$500 is an oversized “baccarat” style chip. The Siena also released a \$5 Grand Opening commemorative chip.

August is also time for one of the best classic car events in the country,



Hot August Nights. In addition to the \$5 and \$25 chips from Caesars Tahoe mentioned earlier, the Reno Hilton released a \$5 and \$25 as usual, and Atlantis, Peppermill, Harrah’s and Silver Legacy issued \$5 chips. The Silver Legacy chip just about didn’t happen. The casino did not get the chips until a couple of weeks after the event was over, and they were not pleased at all.



In September, the world was changed forever by the devastating terrorist attacks on America. Harrah’s and Hilton had already released chips to commemorate the Reno Air Races, however the restrictions on private aviation following the events of September 11th grounded the Air Races, and they were ultimately canceled. These chips serve as a reminder of what can happen to the best laid plans of mice and men. Although the cancellation dealt a severe financial blow to the Reno Air Racing Association, plans for the 2002 National Championship Air Races are well underway.





October saw the Western Village in Sparks replace all of their well worn \$5 chips. The new chips are essentially duplicates of the originals that had been in play for 14 years. However, they are easily distinguished from the first rack by the font used for the denomination, and the texture of the inlay. All of the older \$5 chips were removed from play and are no longer available at the casino. Back in January 2001, Western Village had added brand new \$1 chips to the existing well worn chips in play, distinguishable from the original issue chips only by the shade of blue, and of course the condition.

Peppermill in Reno and Caesars Tahoe both released \$5 chips to celebrate New Years 2002. Also in January of 2002, Hilton offered one of the most confusing commemorative chips I've ever seen. The Second Annual World Poker Challenge was held at the Hilton from January 4th through January 24th, 2002. On the first day of the event, they released \$5 and \$25 chips dated January 9-26, 2001, commemorating "World Poker Challenge I." Many people claimed that the date was simply wrong on the chips. However, the event description and dates on the chip are correct for the First Annual World Poker Challenge held at the Hilton in January of 2001. The chip clearly commemorates an event that happened a year earlier. Was it a mistake or deliberate? We may never know.

Along towards the end of January, Bill's Casino at the south end of Lake Tahoe put a new \$1 chip on the craps table. This is the first \$1 chip ever used at this casino.





In February, we celebrated the Chinese New Year with three Year of the Horse chips. Caesars Tahoe and the Hilton released \$8 chips, and Harrah's released a \$5 chip. February also saw Peppermill release their first ever \$25 commemorative, in honor of Presidents' Day. Unfortunately, the chips were not available until Tuesday following the holiday. Finally, the new management at Sharkey's in Gardnerville reopened the blackjack table with brand new \$5 and \$25 Chipcos.



If you are interested in keeping up with the new chips from Northwest Nevada, you are invited to subscribe to my new issues service. Just send me an email at sweetie@gbis.com and tell me what types and denominations of chips you are interested in. I will send you an email when new chips come out that fit your profile. ❖



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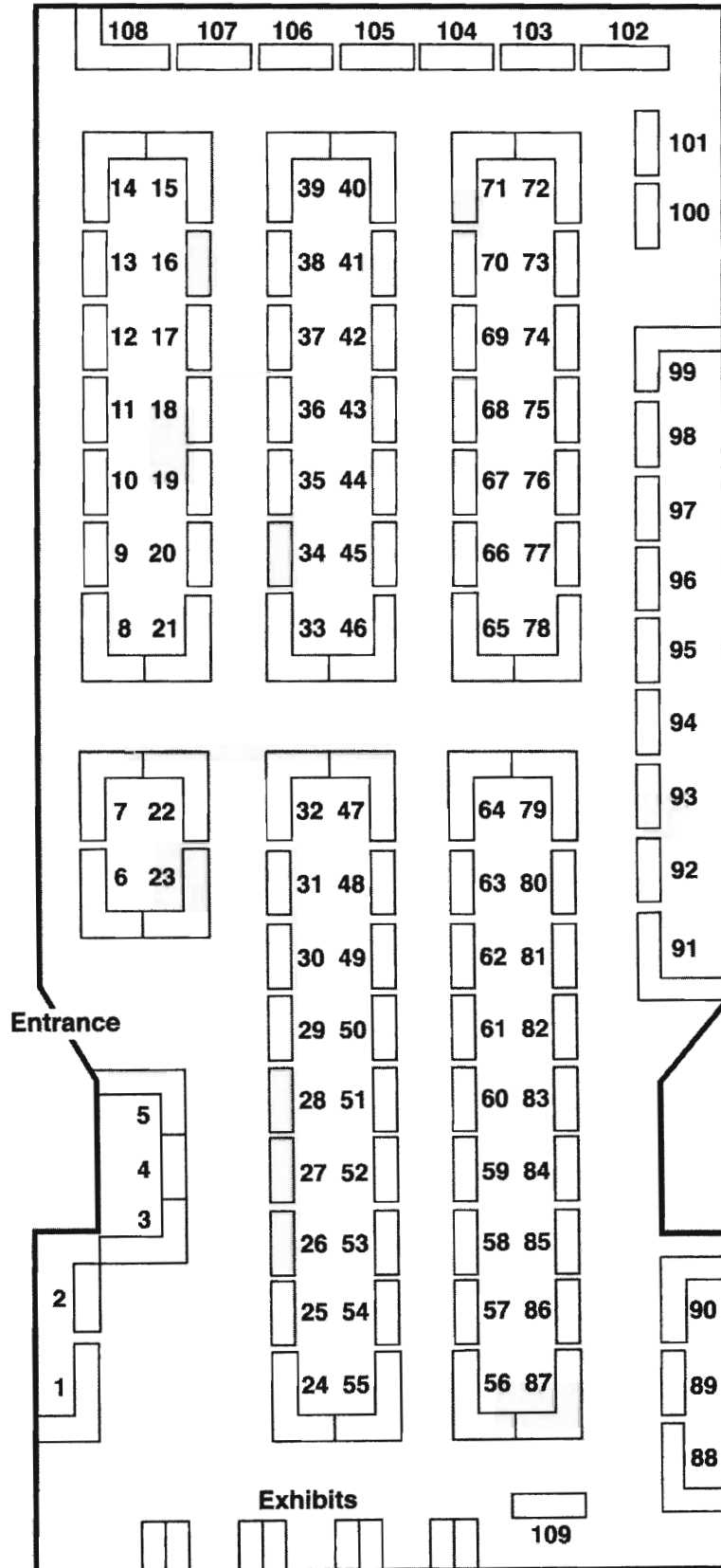
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CHAPTERS

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 - Howard Kaplan - hkaplan@cfl.rr.com - <http://home.cfl.rr.com/floridachapter/>

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.ccgccc.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/>

Southern California Chapter - Scott Hartman - 800-582-5707 - Jim Munding
<http://www.ccgccc.com/chapters/socal/Home.htm>

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The Floridian Chapter of the CCGTCC held their Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Florida United Numismatists Show (F.U.N) and Convention.

The F.U.N. Convention was a (4) day event held in Orlando Florida from January 10th thru the 13th. During those days the CCGTCC was represented with a booth donated by Floridian Chapter Member Mark Lighterman who is also the President of F.U.N. Chapter Vice President Brian Bishop manned the booth for the four day event where he displayed his Millennium Chip Collection and handed out CCGTCC Magazines, brochures, and applications. Other members of the Floridian Chapter rotated in and out to help Brian where many contacts were made and numerous questions about the Club were answered.



Floridian Chapter

by Ed Bigley

On Saturday January 12th the Annual Floridian Chapter Meeting was held. Old and new business were discussed. A proposal was brought forth for the implementation and development of a Chapter website. The green light was given by President Howard Kaplan with Ed Bigley being assigned the duties of Webmaster. The meeting was closed with a Club trade session.

After weeks of development the Floridian Chapter website was publicly revealed on January 30th. Though in its infancy the long range goals for the site are astounding! You can see the website at <http://home.cfl.rr.com/floridachapter/>

We would love to hear your input and ideas! The next Official Meeting for the Floridian Club is January 2003 with more details to follow. ❖

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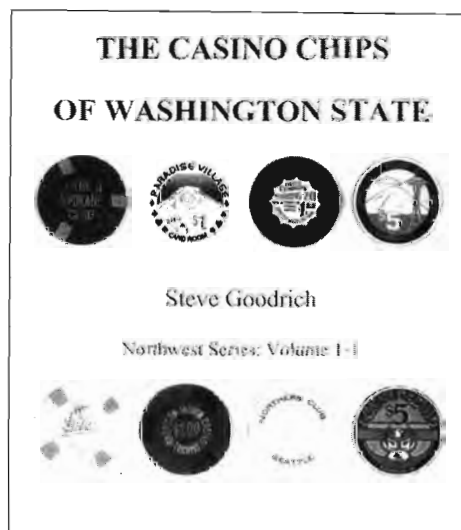
Added to the Club Library

by Robert **Pardue**

Four new guide books have been donated to the Club Library by their authors. Whether your interests are Washington State chips, Playboy chips and tokens, Non-Nevada Silver Strikes or H.C. Edward mold chips, we have a specialty guide for you.

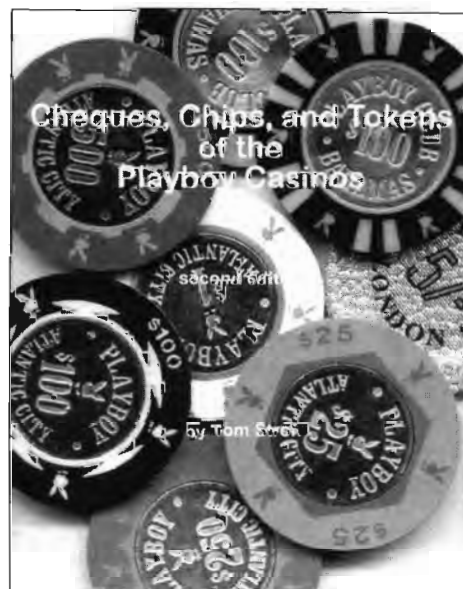
The Casino Chips of Washington State is a 75 page guide written and published in 2001 by club member Steve Goodrich. Many chippers know Steve as “Mr. Pacific Northwest” for his long-time expertise in researching chips from Washington and surrounding areas. Washington has had legal and “gray-area” cardrooms for many years. More recently, Indian casinos and a mushrooming number of new local casinos around the state has made Washington an active producer of casino chips. The guide is a thorough compilation of information about each casino/cardroom and known chips, including names, locations, chip descriptions, value estimates and representative pictures of quite a few chips. Even if you’re not an active Washington state chip collector, the guide is a useful reference to learn about the large variety of chip molds used in this area. The easy to use format is a model to consider when cataloging a specialty reference guide. The

guide is subtitled “Northwest Series: Volume 1 -1”, so watch for future northwest state guides in the future. Rumor is Montana is next?



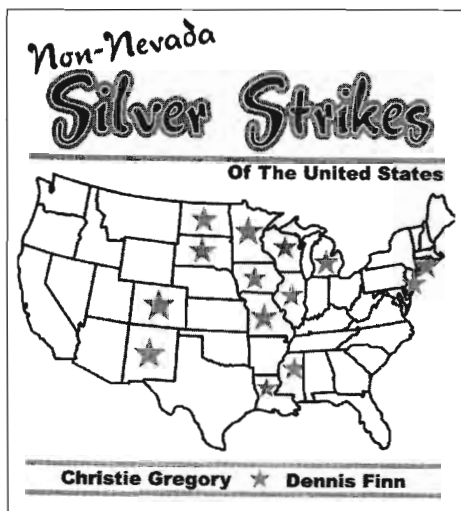
Cheques, Chips and Tokens of the Playboy Casino - 2nd Edition is the 2001 update to the original guide published by author Tom Stroh in 1999. Playboy items have had continuing interest among chip and token collectors at least since the opening of the Playboy casino in Atlantic City. But Playboy has operated casinos in the U.K., the Caribbean and elsewhere, making for a wide-range of collectibles. In 1999, Playboy opened a casino in Rhodes, Greece, which is added in this 2001 edition. A well-researched guide, this 90-page book includes lots of information about the individual properties as

well as detailed descriptions of the chips and tokens in use. Interspersed in the catalog are color plates of representative items. The color scans of the higher-value chips and plaques are particularly interesting to see.



Non-Nevada Silver Strikes of the United States, by Christie Gregory and Dennis Finn, published by the authors in 2001, is a welcome compliment to the catalogs on Nevada SPT's. The book includes Silver Strike listings for 14 states — Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Organized

by denomination first (\$2 to \$200), then by state and casino name, each silver strike is described with its image, mint mark and active/retired status. While the guide does not include price information, it's still a great reference on "what's out there" beyond the Silver Strike machines of Nevada. **The Records of the H. C.**



Edward Company, by Mark Lighterman and Gene Trimble, is a mold researcher's dream guide. The original 3x5 chip order cards from the H. C. Edward Company were purchased by the authors and reproduced in this 348 page guide. H. C. Edward Company distributed the H-mold, B-dash mold, and Double Diamond Square mold chips over many years. Most of the records are initials, plus some numbers and symbols. The records are organized conveniently by the letters on the chip so an unknown chip can be identified efficiently. Learning to interpret the records is where chip researching skills come into play. Were the chips sold for a legitimate operation, a home game

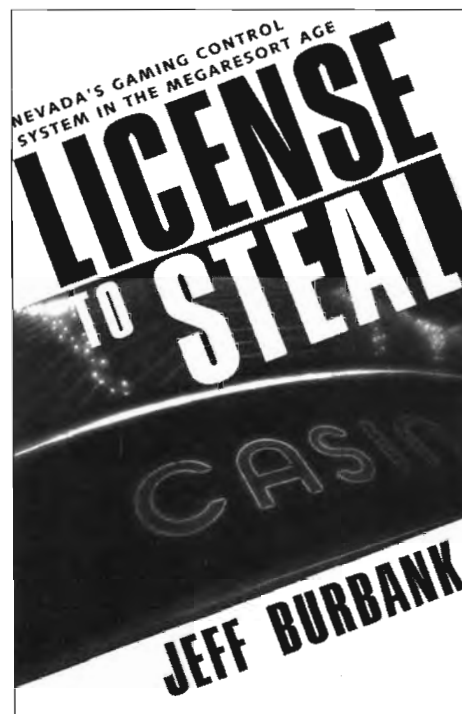
or an illegal joint (complete with fictitious names and addresses sometimes)? The records are "officially" silent, though some inference can be pieced together, based on the quantities and/or denominations ordered, the location listed and other factors. If you're an illegals chip collector, this reference will definitely be a help. Also, the written guide is accompanied by a 2-CD set of images of the 3x5 index cards, which makes electronic researching a snap.

One more addition to the club library: **License to Steal**, by Jeff Burbank, is a book about selected cases heard by the Nevada Gaming Control Board (NGCB) over the past 20 years or so. Subtitled "Nevada's Gaming Control System in the Megaresort Age", Burbank starts out by compiling a fact-filled overview of gambling in Nevada (1861 to 1999) with an emphasis on gaming laws and regulations. The heart of the book describes seven different gaming industry problem cases that the NGCB had to address:

1. A cheating (and murder) case involving American Coin, a licensed route company.
2. The Ralph Engelstad (Imperial Palace owner) image problem with Hilter memorabilia
3. The Royal Casino / Joe Slyman accounting controls and money laundering problem.
4. The near-miss vs. random out

come reel slot settings on Universal machines.

5. Liscensing process with Sheldon Adelson and Las Vegas Sands (now The Venetian).
6. The strange rise and fall of the Sport of Kings sportsbook-casino.
7. An inside-job electronic machine cheating scam. These diverse cases, chronicled in detail, give an interesting behind the scenes look at the how the NGCB keeps the casino industry in check. ❖



COUNTERFEIT BRASS CORE CHIPS,

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Nate Pincus

During 2001, members of the Board of the CC>CC were made aware of the production and existence of counterfeit brass core chips. The Board undertook an investigation. Jim Reilly, our Club Claims Director spent several months talking to members and gathering information. I urge you to read my President's Letter in this issue for more about this matter.

I want to answer some of what I expect will be frequently asked questions.

What is a brass core chip?

These are chips that have a plastic injection molded over a metal core. The single piece metal core may include a casino's name, location, denomination and edge insets. The plastic is molded around the metal, allowing the metal to show on the surface. These should not be confused with metal center chips manufactured by Bud Jones Co. In Nevada, brass core chips have been issued by Harrah's (Lake Tahoe), Crystal Bay Club (Lake Tahoe), Harvey's (Lake Tahoe), Hyatt Regency (Lake Tahoe), Reno Ramada (Reno), Ranch House (Wells), Silver Smith (Wendover) and other casinos.

What specific chips have been counterfeited?

There is credible evidence that the following chips have been counterfeited:

Casino	Denomination	Chip Color
Harrah's	\$2.50	Pink
Ranch House	\$1.00	White
Crystal Bay Club	\$5.00	Orange
Crystal Bay Club	\$100	Brown
Harrah's	\$1.00	Red/White/Blue
Silver Smith	\$1.00	Red/White/Blue
Hyatt Regency	\$2.50	Green
Reno Ramada	\$100.00	White
Ranch House	\$50.00	Various Colors

Note:

Some of these chips, in the colors noted, are not listed in the Nevada chip guides. These are NOT new finds - they are counterfeits.

Chips from the Crystal Bay Club were re-made to eliminate the hole in the plastic.

How are these chips counterfeited?

Apparently it is not a very difficult process to mold plastic around a brass core. In some cases, the existing plastic was removed from the brass core, melted down and re-molded to the core, eliminating a hole or other damage. In other instances, new plastic was used. Brass cores, like other collectibles in our hobby exist in collections and may be available from those involved in the legitimate production of brass core chips. While there is only one confirmed person who produced counterfeit chips, there may be others.

How can I tell a real chip from a counterfeit?

While it is difficult to discern, I have been told there a couple of ways to differentiate.

The edges, including the metal on a counterfeit are very smooth, with no machine marks. The counterfeits that we are aware of are made by hand and various grades of sandpaper are used to remove excess plastic, thereby smoothing both the plastic and the metal. Also, the chips will not have the injection marks normally noticeable on newly manufactured brass core chips.

Are all brass core chips suspect?

No. There are still a vast number of brass core chips that were manufactured by legitimate companies and used in casinos. To the best of our knowledge, chips acquired more than two years ago are not suspect. Only those chips listed above are reasonable to suspect at this time, but all chips should be physically examined and their background should be probed.

Keep in mind that there are legitimate chips of the identical denominations and colors from the same casinos as the counterfeits. These genuine chips should not be devalued due to the existence of counterfeits. Be wary of odd colored chips and chips in unused condition.

It is also important to know whom you are dealing with so that you have recourse. Make a record of any chips that you buy and ask for a receipt, and, of course, buy from a CC>CC member who ascribes to our Code of Ethics.

What can I do if I think I have a counterfeit chip?

You should immediately contact the person from whom you obtained the chip. You should seek 100% satisfaction from this person as called for in our Code of Ethics. If you are not satisfied, you may file a claim with the Club's Claims Director. You should also contact me with any information that might help in the investigation. This matter remains open and any additional information will be turned over to the proper authorities. The sale of counterfeit chips may constitute fraud and the production of counterfeits may violate the Hobby Protection Act. ❖

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TRK 1384. Inlaid “W”. TR King large crown mold, in purple, with a center inlay of white paper forming a “W”. No issue date given.

There’s no manufacturing record for this chip to show who it was issued for or when. What matters most, however, to a chip collector like Hank Boss is that its manufacturing style is rarely seen. Because very, very few large crown chips were manufactured with a center inlay. That’s why an experienced chip-collector like Hank Boss went ga-ga when getting this piece.

TRK1413. Nondenomination Desert Inn/Las Vegas, NV. TR King small crown mold, in navy with three green edge inserts, hot-stamped. Issued in 1952.

Unlisted. One known to exist. I’m running out of superlatives to describe the rarity of a classic Vegas casino chip like this one. Definitely of Wilbur Clark vintage because of its issue date, but also of Wilbur Clark similarity because of the image of the Joshua Tree hot-stamped on the chip. Cartwheels were turned when Hank received the TR King info on this chip. Well, all right, I exaggerate. Hank can’t do cartwheels at his age, but there sure was a little extra spring to his seventy-year-old steps when I informed Hank that this Desert Inn piece has to be in the strata of the super-rare.



TRK1463. “BK” El Rancho Vegas/Las Vegas, NV. TR King large crown mold, in mustard, hot-stamped, issued in 1949.



TR King records show that this chip order was picked up by Mrs. Jake Katelman. Not much is known about the Missus, but of old Jake Katelman, old-timers in Vegas know plenty about him, because he was the loud and boisterous owner of the El Rancho Vegas. And, more importantly, because it pertains to this chip, Jake’s brother was also involved with the day-to-day running of the El Rancho. That’s whose monogram appears on this chip – the BK being Beldon Katelman, Jake’s brother.

TRK1515. “E” Embassy Club/Gardena, CA. TR King large crowns, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1943.

Some of chipdom’s most simplistic chips have become the most cherished. Because of information gained. Which makes a plain old chip like this one into an “E” for excellence. Because for collectors of chips from the world’s most famous poker community in the 1950’s – Gardena, CA – this one is a very rare piece. And so the “E” for this chip in the Hank Boss Collection stands for Embassy, but for others who lack this piece, the “E” will always stand for envy.



TRK1571. Nondenomination C&S/Vallejo, CA. TR King large crown mold, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1945.



Let the TR King records show that this chip was ordered for a cardroom in Vallejo called C&S Sportland. And one of the owners who signed for the order was George Cannon. And this ole George was a very familiar name to Tahoe collectors like Steve Passalacqua and Don Totoian and the late Will Posthumus. Because those collectors knew about George Cannon from their various George’s Gateway chips. And so it would be that Hank Boss had another chip of historical importance. It’s like owning one of the first chips ever ordered by Bugs, the criminal not the rabbit.

APACHE HOTEL

The Megaresort of Its Time

by John Yee



Photograph Courtesy of: Glenn Davis Collection University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library

The Kiva Bar and Casino was separate from the Kiva Club at the Hotel Apache (c. 1942)

Introduction

Similar to a modern day “Grand Opening” of a megaresort on the strip, Las Vegas with their excitement and glory, came out to welcome the newest, most modern, and plush-est hotel west of the Mississippi in March of 1932. The building erected in less than a year would stand the test of time and house the Hotel Apache but probably better know to

modern gamblers as the El Dorado Club or, for the last forty two years, as Binion’s Horseshoe. During the past 70 years, the Hotel Apache and its gambling establishments have changed ownership or names fifteen times. In addition, the Hotel Apache was referred to synonymously as the Apache Hotel.

In 1905, the Union Pacific Railroad routed its trains through the

Las Vegas area. The railroad depot was at the beginning of Fremont Street, just behind the present day Plaza Hotel. With the railroad came growth and Las Vegas became an incorporated city adopting its first charter on March 16, 1911. At that time there were less than 800 residents in Las Vegas and 3,321 residents within Clark County. However, the downtown area of Fremont Street was the hub for gam-



TRK881. Nondenomination “Bronc Rider”/Fallon, NV. TR King large crown mold, in beige, hot-stamped. Issued in 1951.

Surprise, I wouldn't call it. Shocked is more like it. I acquired this chip from an old friend and chip dealer, Jim Gелlette, about seven years ago. Jim didn't know what it was, but he knew I had a friend who collected large crown chips, so how about five bucks in payment, that's what Jim asked for the piece. Five bucks then and five days later the chip was in the hands of Hank Boss. Ten days pass, and TR King's ID comes back as a chip ordered by in 1951 by A.L. Childers in Fallon, NV.

Within weeks I'm running around in Fallon, NV. Doing stories on Emily Griffith, the Mom in Mom's Place, interviewing Willie Capucci of the old Esquire Club, and the Childers name comes up time and again. Plenty of gaming folks in Fallon knew him as Al Childers, and nearly all of the old-timers remember Al taking over Mom's Place and running her operation as the Roadside Inn in the late 1970's. Very few could answer for what Al Childers was doing in 1951, the year this chip was manufactured. It wasn't until much later that I found documents that indicated Al Childers being associated with the first owners of the Roadside Inn when it was established in Fallon in 1948, and that is where I would attribute this chip as being in play.

Unlisted in price-guides, hitherto unknown to everyone else in the hobby, this chip still remains a one-and-only in the Hank Boss Collection.

TRK938. 25¢ California Club/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1957.

Yawn, just another rare chip in the collection.



TRK1035. Nondenomination Chauffeurs Union #640/Los Angeles, CA. TR King large crown mold, in light green, hot-stamped. Issued in 1941.

Do not think about well-dressed drivers as seen in "Driving Miss Daisy." Instead, envision Teamster-type truck drivers who learned getaway maneuvers while hauling a load of rum during Prohibition days. That's the meaning of the word "Chauffeur" as it relates to this old chip. Because that's what truckers and haulers and cabdrivers were called back in the days when LA Confidential wasn't a movie but a lifestyle. And, don't be surprised if DNA analysis of this chip comes back with a test result showing traces of palm-sweat from the hands of Mickey Cohen, Jack Dragna, Bugsy Siegel or other LA mobsters of pre-Las Vegas Strip days.

This oldie with a classic style of hot-stamping is an example of perseverance on the part of Hank Boss. Because another example had been submitted earlier to TR King for identification, and nothing was found in the registration cards. A second time around, and with other colors of the same chip available, TR King confirmed that the "C" came before the "U" as in Chauffeurs Union and not as I thought, where the "U" came before the "C" as in United Club.

TRK1064. 25¢ Sands "Pan Room"/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, in white, hot-stamped. Issued in 1954.

Ho-hum, just another one of a kind. As startling to see today as it was nearly eight or nine years ago when I dug up this piece for Hank. It still remains an only lonely.



on Second Street or through any of the five shops or coffee room. The lobby was a spacious 38 by 48 feet, lofty and ceiled area. Walking three steps westward through a draped arch led you into the casino and to the ascending stairway to the upper floors. Silvagni often slept and conducted business from a room on the second floor which had a terrace overlooking Second Street. Beyond the stairway, a corridor connected the coffee shop and various stores in the building. The first elevator in town was also on the North side of the building that opened up to carpeted hallways on the upper levels.

The casino, extremely small by today's standards, was located in the rear of the stores and west of the hotel lobby.

The downstairs basement housed the heating and ventilation plant, storage rooms, and the banquet hall that had hardwood floors and was the

magnet for dinner dance parties, bridge luncheons and private functions. The 50' x 75' hall could comfortably feed 300 people and claimed to have the ability to feed 500 when in a pinch. Interestingly, there was also an entrance from Second Street.

The hotel had 56 rooms including 12 suites. Each room had a bath; 25 rooms with both a shower and bath; 7 rooms with a shower and toilet; and 24 rooms with just a tub. Obviously, the bath was very important back in 1932 because the newspapers described the amenities in detail. Some say the Hotel Apache was only second to the Riverside Hotel in Reno for modern amenities and character.



Background of P.O. Silvagni

P.O. Silvagni, although sometimes incorrectly identified as Pietro Orlando Silvagni, was actually named Pietro Ottavio Silvagni as corrected by his granddaughter, Maria Wadsworth. Somehow, a writer incorrectly used the wrong name and future newspapers and books from there on out referred to P.O. as Pietro Orlando.

P.O. as his friends called him, came to the U.S. from Italy in 1904 and was the father of six children. However, two children passed away early on and the other siblings, Michele, Victor, Lena, and Olga moved to Las Vegas shortly after construction of the hotel began.

In a newspaper article dated February 24, 1933, P.O. Silvagni applied for and was granted a gaming permit for a crap game at the Apache Hotel Casino. This is the first time that Silvagni's name has been associated with obtaining a license and not just the Apache Hotel Corporation.



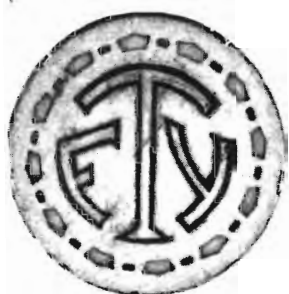
Photograph Courtesy of: **Glenn Davis Collection** University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library
The Café was located at the corner of Second and Fremont

TRK92. 50¢ Horseshoe Club/Las Vegas. TR King large crown mold, in red, hot-stamped. Issue date 1954.

Another gem that Hank found in a junk box. And since it's listed as the ninety-second chip in Hank's collection, it could very well have been picked up at the same time Hank found his seventieth chip, the super-rare Last Frontier as seen previously. Because back then, some of today's most cherished and valuable chips could be had for a buck apiece, and collectors bought chips by the handfuls. For example, a decade ago, it wasn't uncommon for a collector to dig out twenty or thirty ten-cent Nevada chips out of a junk box, and still be able to negotiate a purchase price of two-bits apiece.



As part of the first one hundred chips in Hank's collection, and discovering that this chip was ordered by Benny Binion for his famous Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas...it was not only time for all smiles on Hank's face, but it would quadruple the energy level of his eagerness to get as many small and large crown chips before they moved from junk box status to being handled with kid gloves.



TRK119. Nondenomination "FTY" Boulder Club/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, white, hot-stamped. Issued in 1953.

Remember, Hank, how you and I tried to make sense of the three letters hot-stamped as a monogram on this chip. The "T" could have stood for Townsend who ordered the chip. The "Y" could have been the famous Jimmy Young, another owner of the equally famous Boulder Club. As for the "F", well, that was the letter grade I gave us for failing to come up with an answer. Still, it was fun. And it's what chip-sleuthing is all about.

TRK163. \$5.00 Fortune Club/Gardena, CA. TR King large crown mold, in drab green, hot-stamped. Issued in 1947.

Great lettering job. Such acclamations could be said at least a hundred more times because of the creative design work TR King so often exemplified in their hot-stamp work in the old days. A bit more expensive to design and manufacture, this old Fortune Club chip still illustrates how ordinary chips, when given a great hot stamp, can be extraordinary attractive pieces.



However great it looks, this piece struck a chord of disillusionment with Hank. Like others in the early days of chip-collecting, the only Fortune Club known to everyone back then were gaming entities either in Reno or Las Vegas. And, like other little round pieces of clay in the Hank Boss chip collection, not Nevada is what TR King records would conclude. Today however, with old Gardena cardroom pieces disappearing as fast as food being served at our CC>CC convention banquet, I see there's a wee bit of proud ownership smile that appears on Hank's face when this piece is the center of his attention.



TRK291. \$1.00 Golden Gate/Las Vegas. TR King large crown mold, in navy, hot-stamped. Issued in 1964.

A beauty, and another fine example of how uniquely chips were hot-stamped by TR King. Surprising to note the issue date of 1964, which makes this old Golden Gate rarity one of the last Nevada chips to be manufactured by TR King in a large crown mold, especially when the number of 1950's and 1960's Nevada chips ordered from TR King in small crown molds increases dramatically while the manufacture of large crown chips is rapidly on the decline.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

houses and the great stream of water gushing from the valve houses, making it the most beautiful sight of its kind in the U. S.

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The Interesting Story of Boulder Dam

William Brown was a seasoned restaurateur, having operated cafés in Arizona and in California. In addition to being the vice president of the corporation, Brown managed the café and the banquet hall with the most modern equipment. Lavishly furnished as the rest of the beautiful new Apache Hotel, modern amenities included an electrical dishwasher

Sydney Smith was a veteran hotel man who was in charge of the hotel. However, it was Colonel Robert Russell who had all the fame and glory.

Colonel Robert Russell the self proclaimed "Biggest Liar in Nevada" had an honorary designation as "The

Colonel" and was know for his antics throughout town. Frank Wright, Las Vegas historian, talks about two specific publicity stunts that Colonel Russell was involved in. A widely distributed photo of an old miner with his mule registering at the Hotel Apache was sent out across the nation. In another photo opportunity, Colonel Russell is shown holding the first fish caught from the newly formed Lake Mead. Unfortunately, the fish had an uncanny resemblance to a barracuda and it was later divulged that indeed the fish had been purchased form the San Pedro Fish Market. Wright also described "Bob", as he was also know, as always dressed in western garb, with long

flowing hair, handlebar moustache with a goatee a striking resemblance to Buffalo Bill Cody. In another story told by Ms. Wadsworth, she recalls a photo in her mother's possessions of Bob on a horse in the lobby of the hotel. The creative and witty personality of Colonel Russell is one reason he was nominated for inclusion in "The First 100", a historical book about the men and women who helped shape Las Vegas.

According to the newspapers, C.E. Mason was one of the most widely known casino managers of that time. However, other than a photograph, little else is known about Charles E. Mason or his counterpart, Jack Doyle, the men responsible for the casino and its management.

History of the Clubs

Although the Hotel opened in March, 1932, the Management of the Apache Coffee Shop held a contest to rename the Apache Indian Village, located in the basement and announced the new name at it's formal opening, June 25, 1932. Indian Princess Rose Marie, an employee of the hotel who dressed in Indian garb, awarded a cash prize of \$25 to Thomas Wilson for the new name, "Kiva Club". The new cabaret below the Hotel Apache was a roaring success and a number of couples were turned away at the opening. The new club was designed as an Indian Village and the main activities included dining, dancing, and entertainment. Soon after, gaming would occur including keno. It is not know why but the Kiva Club would change it's name to the Kiva Caberet by March of 1934 and then to the Apache Night Club by May of 1934. It is believed that the Apache Night Club was also referred to in later years as the 'Pache Club.

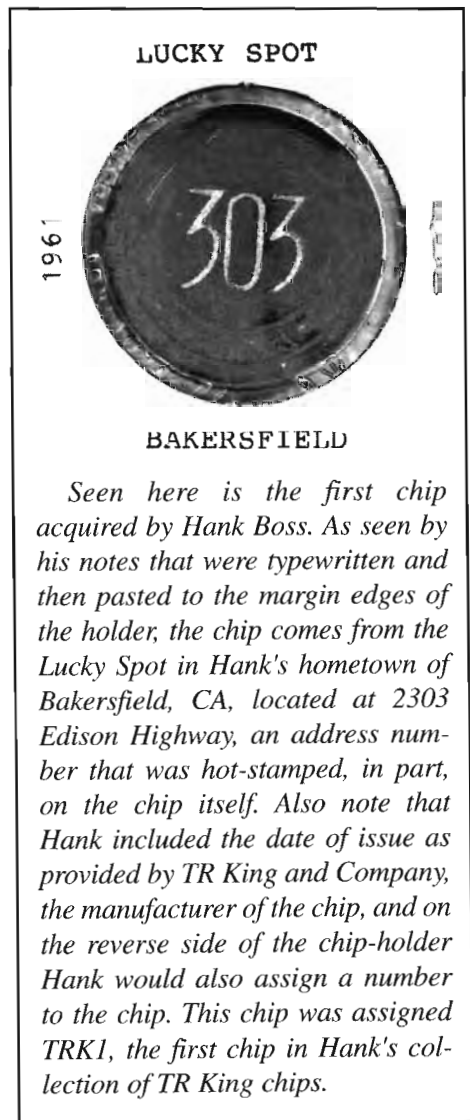
MEMORIES ARE MADE OF CHIPS

by Douglas Saito

The Hank Boss collection of chips will be coming up for auction soon, and when his last chip is sold, I imagine that all who participated in its sale will come to the same conclusion that I have about the collection. That the Hank Boss Collection will always be considered as the world's largest private collection of TR King manufactured chips.

Although the value of some chips may set all-time highs, no dollar amount will ever equal the value of what the chips meant to Hank Boss. Not when hundreds of chips have given Hank Boss thousands of hours of nearly wedded bliss, where to have and to hold each little round piece of clay made him seek more knowledge of each chip's origin, history, ownership, date of issue, craftsmanship, and purpose in play.

Such inquisitive hunger stemmed from the very first large crown chip that Hank Boss acquired for his chip collection in the late 1980's. It was a chip hot-stamped with the number 303 on both sides. And it would pique Hank's curiosity, enough so that he looked up its manufacturer, TR King and Company in Los Angeles. Within a matter of months, Hank had forged a business relationship with the owner of TR King and Company, Dennis O'Neill, and their relationship would eventually be strengthened with ties of friendship.



It became a constant back-and-forth exchange between collector and chip manufacturer. For a nominal fee, TR King and Company researched its manufacturing records and provided Hank with identifications and other info on small and large crown chips.

And thus began one man's collection of what I consider to be the world's largest collection of small and large crown chips. A collection that would take more than a decade to amass. Until nearly two thousand chips had been collected and catalogued.

It was from those TR King records that good and bad things happened. Many a small or large crown chip recognized by price-guides as being of Nevada origin were disproved by TR King records. And many bad things there were. A "JB" monogram on a small crown chip was not Jessie Beck's. The Golden Horseshoe proved to be a cardroom in Visalia, CA and not a Reno gaming establishment. A number of "Rex" chips have been erroneously listed as Nevada when California was their original place of origin.

As for the good things, it seemed for every chip that had been mistakenly identified as a Nevada chip, there were an equal number of unidentified chips that TR King records later confirmed as being Nevada issues. Some were so bland in looks, such as a small-crown chip monogrammed with the hot-stamped letters "CH" turning out to be ordered for the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas.

No matter to Hank Boss if the resulting research turned out to be a bad or good thing. What was most exciting for Hank was the anticipation of getting more small and large crown chips accurately identified and issue-dates confirmed, and so it was with sweaty-palmed eagerness that Hank opened up hundreds of letters from TR King and Company, not knowing if the most recent chip-submittal was trash or treasure.

Chips and other memorabilia found

Fellow collector and club member Rich Burgel, came across three chips, a napkin, matches, and a swizzle stick from the Apache from an ex-employee of the Apache Bar. The chips have been verified by the manufacturer, TR King and were delivered to the Apache Casino, Las Vegas in 1939. An order for 1,800 chips of various pastel colors was produced in a large crown mold and hot stamped "Apache Casino."



Why this story is being told

Maria Wadsworth of Henderson, Nevada, granddaughter of the builder, P.O. Silvagni, recalls hanging out at the Hotel during the sweltering summer days when the temperature rose to over 100 degrees. She and her friends would hang-out, literally, at the coolest place in town. The cooling system was designed to keep the temperature nearly 25 degrees cooler than the outside temperature and help eliminate the installation of fans in every room. Maria shared with me that not only did the Hotel Apache have the first elevator in town, her grandfather also had the first electric refrigeration cooling system installed in 1941, the precursor to the modern air conditioner. During the '40s with the lack of gaming regulations and enforcement, Maria was able to walk freely between the bar, casino, and throughout the hotel. Her mother helped with the books of the hotel and her aunt worked at the café. It

was truly a family business. Though the original Silvagni property owner has passed on, Binion's Horseshoe still pays rent to the numerous trusts that once made up the Silvagni family.

I started writing this article because so few people know what downtown Fremont Street was like before the monumental strip. Standing in a modern casino you



Photograph Courtesy of: Manis Collection University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library

Kids Quest — For children and parents, the Palms offers hourly child care at the Kids Quest center. Activities include an indoor playground, Techno Quest video area, Barbieland and the Karaoke Star Stage. Child care is available for children three to 12 years old.

Meetings and Conventions

With 9,000 square feet of convention space, the Palms offers creative options for groups needing meeting space by making each of its restaurants available for partial or complete buyout. With this option, for example, groups can meet in the French gourmet restaurant, Alizé, at the top of the Palms' tower and enjoy breathtaking views of the Las Vegas Strip.

The Palms marks the newest project for the Maloof family, who manage successful business ventures in the fields of banking, hotels and sports. The Fiesta, developed by the Maloofs in 1994, enjoyed two expansions and financial success under the operation of George Maloof. Brothers Gavin and Joe oversee Maloof Sports, Inc. whose holdings include the Sacramento Kings of the NBA and the Sacramento Monarchs of the WNBA. Both franchises have thrived under their direction. The Maloof family, originally from Albuquerque, N.M., consists of matriarch Colleen and five siblings, George, Gavin, Joe, Adrienne and Phil.

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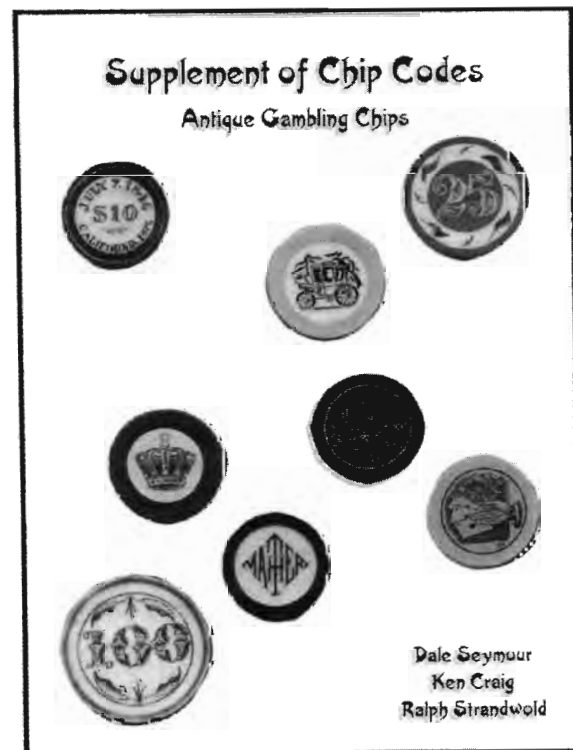
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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- *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 _____

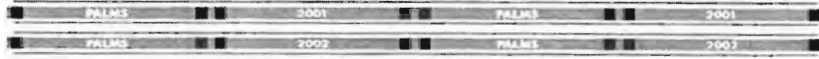
E-mail _____

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



On April 2nd, the new Golden Phoenix Hotel Casino & Resort rises from what was once the Flamingo in Reno, Nevada. Guests enter through the main entrance at the corner of Sierra Street and Commercial Row, where they will proceed to the second floor hotel registration, restaurant and night-club area. The first-floor casino is being renovated and will re-open in July 2002.

The 604-room hotel includes 66 suites ranging from mini-suites to Jacuzzi suites. All rooms feature 24-hour room service, voice mail and in-room movies. The hotel will initially open with a 24-hour coffee shop, Espresso Desert bar, and Benihana Japanese Steak House. On April 5th, Club Aftermath will open in the former Flamingo showroom and will feature live entertainment or DJ's. The club will be open Fridays only. The Vista Room, Reno's only rooftop restaurant, offers a breathtaking, panoramic view of the city and Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is scheduled to open May 4. Additional dining can be found at The Golden Palace Chinese Restaurant. It offers authentic Asian cuisine amid the relaxing sounds of waterfalls and soothing music.



New Reno Hotel Opens

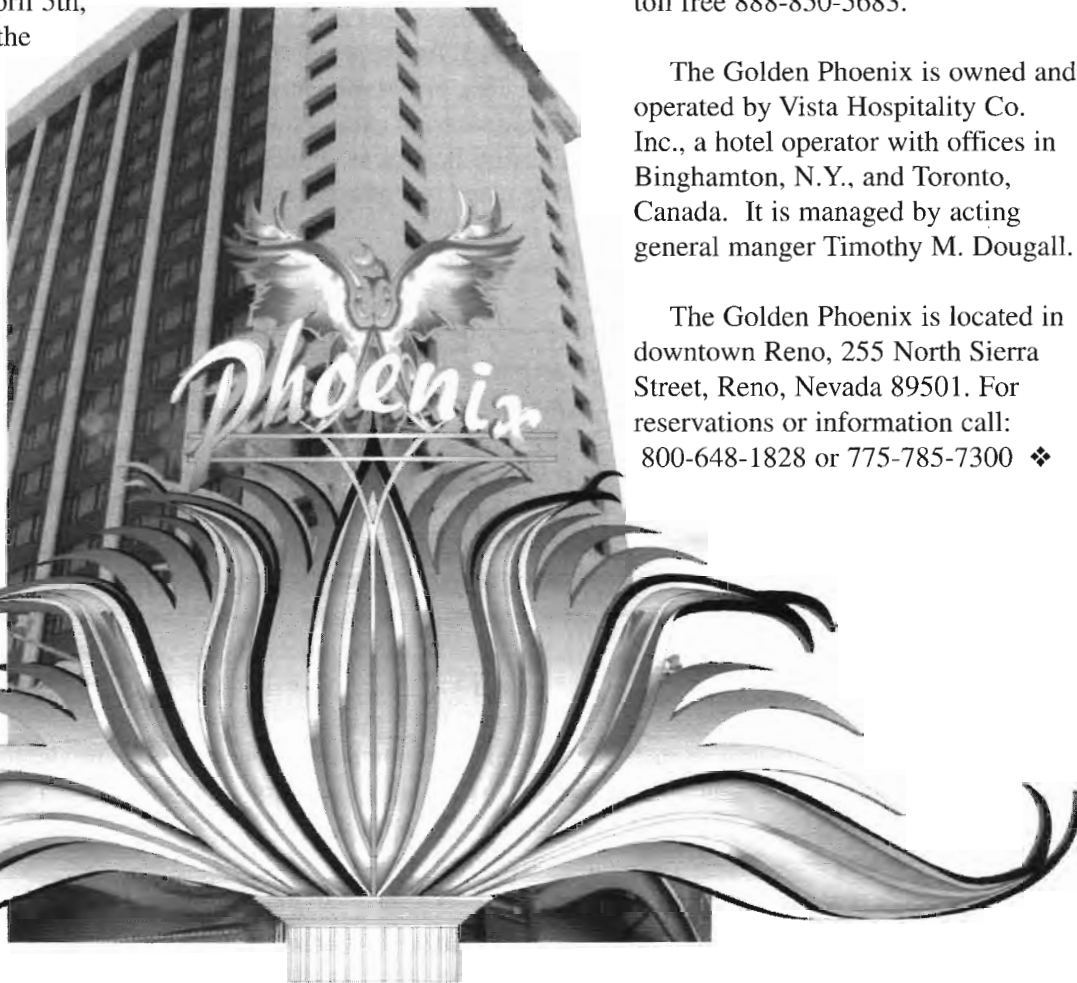
by Allan Anderson

The Golden Phoenix also offers over 14,000 square feet of convention space supported by the hotels expert catering and banquet department. Convention space can be used as a ballroom or general meeting room. It can be converted into as many as 5 individual rooms, ideal for conferences or small meetings. The space is also ideal for weddings and receptions. Also available is a 1000 seat theatre and show-room with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

The catering and Banquet Department can handle any event from small meetings and conferences to weddings and receptions. For convention, banquet and group sales information, call toll free 800-648-4510. For wedding information call toll free 888-850-5683.

The Golden Phoenix is owned and operated by Vista Hospitality Co. Inc., a hotel operator with offices in Binghamton, N.Y., and Toronto, Canada. It is managed by acting general manger Timothy M. Dougall.

The Golden Phoenix is located in downtown Reno, 255 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada 89501. For reservations or information call: 800-648-1828 or 775-785-7300 ❖



The Palms Casino Resort offers Las Vegas a major, new destination get-away with a relaxing, affordable resort atmosphere. The \$265-million property boasts a diverse mix of restaurants and bars, a spa and salon, a 14-theatre Cineplex, a 1,500-seat, multi-use entertainment venue, 9,000 square feet of meeting space and a 95,000-square-foot casino. The Palms Casino Resort is located on a 32-acre site just west of the Las Vegas Strip and I-15 on Flamingo Road - minutes from the Forum Shops and the Fashion Show Mall.

Accommodations

The 42-story hotel tower holds 440 of the world's most finely appointed and oversized guestrooms and suites – all with extraordinary views of the world-famous Las Vegas Strip. Beautifully decorated with natural woods, soft color schemes of beige and taupe, and stylish furniture, every guestroom includes televisions with high-speed Internet access, convenient data ports, and stocked mini bars. Guests will dive into the luxurious comfortable beds fitted with imported Egyptian cotton bedding, pillows and duvets.

The Palms offers three room types to choose from – deluxe



Edited by Allan Anderson



Palms Hotel Photo courtesy of *The Palms*

rooms, junior suites and grand suites. Offering 440 square feet of comfort, the deluxe guestrooms offer spectacular panoramic views, a 27-inch television and stocked mini bars.

Encompassing 540 square feet, the junior suites are furnished with a king-sized bed, an elegant sitting area and writing desk, plush bathrobes and a 32-inch television. At 1,000-square feet, the luxurious grand suites offer an elegant, marble-tiled bathroom, a

Jacuzzi bathtub and a fully stocked wet bar. Grand suites are located on the top eight floors of the 42-story tower.

Casino

The heart and soul of the Palms Casino Resort, the 95,000-square-foot casino offers non-stop excitement, generous slot and video poker payouts, and liberal player rewards. The casino includes over 2,000 slot machines, 55 table games, keno, poker room, and an innovative race and sports book.

Dining

A unique blend of signature restaurants combine inviting atmospheres, impeccable service and unparalleled value to create a spectacular dining destination at the Palms Casino

membership thereby creating the CC>CC's Annual C/T/SSOTY Awards Competitions.) This year's Club Convention will be the first to see a non-competitive Exhibit showing all thirty (30) nominated C/T/SSOTY Finalists for this year's competition. Although the Exhibit will display all 30 Finalists, it will be organized to highlight all nine (9) of the place finishers (three (3) each for each category of the competitions, COTY, TOTY and SSOTY) with a special emphasis being given to the top three (3) winners. The aspect of having three place finishers in each category is the other new element being added to the competitions. Unlike past competitions, which yielded one (1) overall winner per ten Finalists, this year's competitions will instead yield three place finishers from among the ten Finalists of each category.

Phase II

Phase II is intended to provide a process to acquire all future C/T/SSOTY Award winners, for inclusion into the permanent, Club owned C/T/SSOTY Awards Collection. This process will be an ongoing, year-after-year effort to ensure the acquisition of all Diamond level winners. Each year, that process will basically begin at the conclusion of the Finalist selection process, which identifies the ten Finalists for each category of competition. Currently, the end of each calendar year signifies the closing date of eligibility for a qualified chip, token or Silver Strike to be nominated for C/T/SSOTY Award consideration. Through the nomination process, ten Finalists in each category are identified, yielding a list of 30 different candidates. The C/T/SSOTY Chairman, in addition to announcing the Finalists and preparing the voting

materials, will make a request to all Club members asking for 'loans' of the thirty Finalist pieces, which will then be used in the Exhibit display mentioned earlier.

At the conclusion of the Convention all 'loaned' Finalists will be returned to the individuals making them available for loan. However, the individual(s) who just happened to have loaned-out the winning COTY, or TOTY, or SSOTY pieces will then be given first right of refusal to donate the winning piece(s) to the Club's C/T/SSOTY Collection. If declined, the piece(s) will be returned at which point the C/T/SSOTY Chairman will go to an alternate acquisition plan. That plan is to maintain a list of other Club members who have declared that they will step-up and donate the needed piece(s) (sight unseen) in the event of such a situation. In the absence of such volunteer(s), the Chairman will then announce to the membership (via the Internet and the CCTN) that donations are being solicited. If this process fails to acquire the needed pieces, then the Chair, in the name of the Club, will explore other avenues of acquisition, i.e., soliciting a donation from the winning casino, or possibly making an outright purchase of piece(s) using Club funds. We much prefer Club member donations because it allows the members to actively participate in Club happens, and it also allows a member's donation to become a permanent record of the Club.

Each year, the three winning C/T/SSOTY winners will be added to the Club's permanent C/T/SSOTY presentation display. When not in use at the Convention, the display will be entrusted to the Club's Promotions Chairman (Dick Allard) for storage, or as the Club's Board deems appro-

priate. It is also intended that the display be made available, under suitable conditions, for display at other official Club functions, like FUN and other ANA, Club attended functions. Additionally, and again, under suitable conditions, the display may be loaned-out to Club Chapters and/or Club members for Club promotional purposes at Chapter meetings, Casino Collectibles Shows, and at a casino to promote Club awareness to prospective new members.

Now, having said all that, we are still looking for Phase I type donations of the below identified pieces. If you would like to donate a sought-after item, please contact Archie Black or myself (Jim Follis), at your earliest convenience. Please recognize that duplicate offerings (two or more people offering up the same item(s)) will be resolved in favor of first offered, first accepted. This concept will be applicable to all things being requested in the way of donations and/or support to this effort (both Phase I and Phase II).

In summation, I would like to point out that the CC>CC's Annual C/T/SSOTY Awards competitions are now (and have been for the past several years) an established tradition of the Club. The awards represent a legacy of the early founders and Officers of the Club, and by the C/T/SSOTY Chairman, Archie Black, who has been continuously involved with the competitions since the first event in 1991 for 1990 issued chips and tokens. This legacy has also been fashioned by the Club members that have participated in the nomination and judging process over the years; many fine winners have been selected! It is fully intended that the COTY, TOTY and SSOTY Awards competitions continue for the life of the Club, and that they contin-



Donate a Players Card

Do something fun for this year's Convention in Las Vegas. When you donate a card or cards to this auction you will acquire the privilege to embellish your participation in the first ever group sponsored Club Fundraiser.

You can see an up-to-date list of cards and donors at:
<http://community.webtv.net/napasteve/cardlist>

You must be a member of the CC>CC.

All I ask is one card from each member. You may donate as many slotcards as you want with your name on them and they will be included in this auction lot.

The goal is to auction off the largest collection of slot cards with members names on them.

We hope to reach 1,000 cards.

This is a fund raiser for the CC>CC. This entire collection will be auctioned off as one lot in the Annual Club Auction at this years Convention at the TROPICANA in Las Vegas.

All money will go to the club.

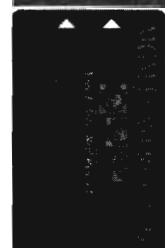
When you donate a card with your name on it, please include your club number.

Think about donating a great card and also about being the winning bidder. Tell a friend. I am #CH-044 in the CC>CC.

Send your card to:

Steve Passalacqua
PO Box 10172
Napa, CA 94581

Must receive cards by May 20, 2002



Convention 2002

Jim & Sandi **Steffner**, Convention Co-Chairs

Resignation

It is with deep regret that we are resigning the chairmanship of the Convention. As many of you are aware, it is due to circumstances over which we have very little control. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to all the wonderful people who have really gotten this convention together and will continue to do so.

George & Liz Conrad

George & Liz Conrad started it all as Convention Co-chairs and passed it on to Sandi & I to finish for them. Thanks George & Liz for doing the hard part.

Down the road a piece and around the corner, the CCGTCC Convention is getting closer. This will be the historic 10th Anniversary of our Convention. We've come a long way from the first years at the old Aladdin and several hundred club members, through the years at the Orleans, and now at the Tropicana with a membership rapidly approaching 3000. Following are some of the highlights.

General information - All dealers and table workers must be CCGTCC club members. All banquet attendees must be CCGTCC members. There will not be a chance to sign up any memberships before the show opens on Thursday. Please, be sure to contact Ralph Myers, Membership Officer, NOW to avoid any problems or delays.

Chapter meetings and general trade sessions are scheduled throughout the convention. Check the schedule board, on the convention floor for any last minute updates.

On Wednesday, June 5th there will be a general trade session from 9am to 3pm for those members who can't wait to dig in. Dealer registration opens at 9am and member registration at 10am. We'll kick off the festivities at 5pm with a culinary delight - our second annual fabulous banquet Wednesday evening, for those who pre-registered for this event. NO tickets sold at the door, and NO membership sign-ups available. If you are bringing someone who is not yet a member, contact Ralph Myers NOW.

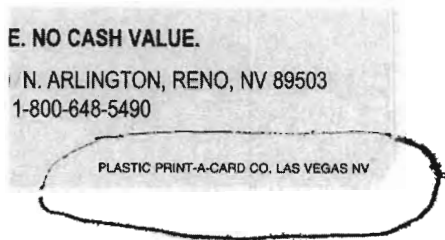
The renowned William S. Boyd of Boyd Gaming (Stardust, Sam's Town, California, Main Street Station, among many others) will be our featured guest speaker this year. Following the banquet and awards presentation, the room will be opened for the big trade session. The trade sessions are just that - a trade session. Please, no outright selling unless you want to be asked to leave the room, and don't monopolize a whole table only bring a binder or two and enjoy the fun along with your fellow members. You will find traders for chips, tokens, silver strikes, slot cards, room keys, and who knows what other type of casino collectible.

Start off Thursday morning at 8am by attending the first of three educational seminars. See descriptions elsewhere in the magazine. Ribbon cutting is at 10am, and the show is officially open. For those of you

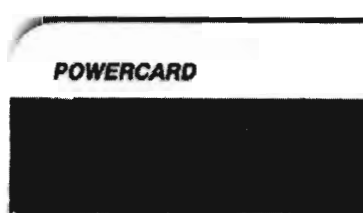
Highlights

Pre-Registration Packets
Trade Sessions
Banquet
Educational Seminars
Chapter Meetings
Raffles
Meet Old & New Friends
Show Floor full of Dealers
Poker Tournament
Club Business Meeting
Auction
Exhibits
Awards Presentations
More Trade Sessions
Lots of Casino Collectibles

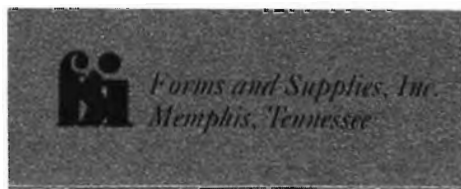
One of the ways we catalogue cards is by the distributor mark - or lack thereof. Here is an example.



On the reverse, you will find the manufacturer/distributor mark. This logo is from the Plastic-Print-A-Card Company in Las Vegas. They have produced the largest number of slot cards and their logos are known with several different sizes and shapes.



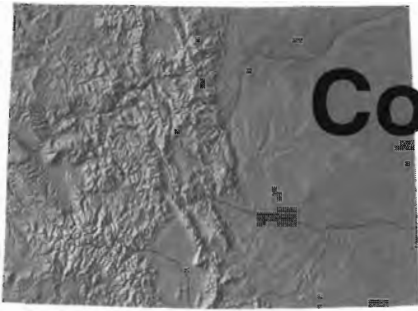
These identifying marks (Faraday, Powercard, and PPC) signify the maker/distributor of that specific card. This is only a small sampling of the many marks that are known.



This FSI mark stands for "Forms and Supplies". This was a tiny company in Memphis, Tennessee whose mark is only known to be on the 2nd issue Sam's Town card from Tunica, Miss. Only a few of these cards are currently known.

As slot card collecting gets more sophisticated and varieties more sought after, this card should turn out to be extremely desirable.

As I said earlier, most slot cards are free. You can amass a nice collection just by going out and signing up at the slot clubs. In addition to getting the card, don't be surprised if the casinos send you some nice coupons or offers. This is the reason I started signing up for cards in the first place many years ago! Of course, you can only get so far with this approach. Also, you will find that not all current cards are equal. As a general rule the best Slot Cards are higher level cards issued to big gamblers. Some clubs will give you a blank for asking (like Fitzgeralds LV) and others will not give you a higher level card at the point of a gun (Boomtown, MS, Richman, CO, etc.) These high level cards can be quite challenging to obtain, believe me! Obsolete cards are available for sale or trade from many of the same people who deal in and/or collect chips. The vast majority of obsolete cards are only a couple bucks. Of course, the most rare and desirable cards can fetch a few hundred dollars or more. Ebay always has many slot cards for sale and is worth following.



Colorado News

by Allen Banick

New Chip and Token Releases

The Lodge Casino, Black Hawk

The Lodge completed this year's "Holiday" series with a couple of made up holidays and a couple of serious ones. Each chip had a mintage of 400.



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Christmas 2001, 400 minted

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9th Anniversary Chip, October 2001, 400 minted



Thanksgiving 2001, 400 minted



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New Years 2002, 400 minted

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Bronco Billy's has issued some very nice and extremely tough chips in the last few months. The highlight of this year's chips was the MVP sets. Only 50 of these \$5/\$5/\$25 sets were made. Initially the sets were only given to players who had accumulated 20,000 points or more on their slot card. A few sets were sold to collectors.

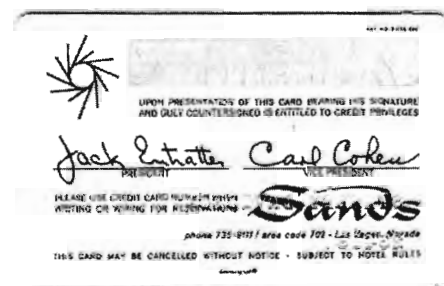
Slot Card Collecting

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Beautiful old Sands card from the 1960s



This card allowed the bearer to receive credit privileges. Cards would not be used to track play until two decades later.



Attractive 1960s Harrah's card used in Reno and Lake Tahoe



This card was used for check cashing privileges. The early cards were simply ID cards, unlike the sophisticated modern cards integrated with computer software.

These early cards (pre-1982) are very collectible and go for anywhere from a few dollars for the very common ones, to several hundred dollars for the most desirable. Unfortunately, since slot card collecting is in its infancy, these early cards have not been properly catalogued yet.

I began gambling in the mid-1980s which happened to coincide with the rapid growth of Slot Cards. By the way,

Also issued by the Sky Ute's, the 9th Annual Moto Rally. 250 of these beauties were minted.

Colorado Grande, Cripple Creek

The Colorado Grande replaced their current \$1 and \$5 tokens with an all-new 10th anniversary token. They manufactured 80,000 new \$1 tokens, 100 of them are "proof like" and 500 of them are pure silver. They also have 25,000 new \$5 tenth anniversary tokens. 100 of the new \$5 tokens are proof-like. The standard issue \$1 is shown.



Black Hawk Casino by Hyatt, Black Hawk

Our largest casino yet opened in late December. This "Resort" was placed where a 500 ft. cliff once stood.



The casino features a rack of Bud Jones \$1/\$2.50/\$5/\$25 chips as well as \$1/\$2 and \$5 tokens. A Grand Opening chip has been ordered, but at the time of this writing, has not yet been released.

Bull Durham, Black Hawk

The Bull Durham Casino is back in the chip business! After a long hiatus, we've got several new Bull chips and several more on their way! Not

shown is the 100 mintage \$100 Christmas chip.



Bull Durham, Christmas 2001, Elf 500 made



Bull Durham, Valentines 2002, 250 made

Club Meetings!

The Colorado Chapter of the CCGTCC meets on the third Sunday of every month, usually the meetings start at 11:30. Most meetings are held in Lakewood Colorado, but the location can change. For meeting information, please email Allen Banick at allen@cochips.com or call club officers Ken and Sarah Fisk at (303) 361-6151.

Allen Banick
allen@cochips.com (303) 683-0433 ❖



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The newest casino on Virginia Street in downtown Reno is Rocky's Sports Pub and Grill. It is located in the former location of The Gambler, across from Harrah's.

The casino has approximately 183 slot and video machines and a Bonanza blackjack table which is waiting for gaming approval. They hope to have the table open by early April. A second floor has been added for the sports bar and restaurant.

Rocky's hopes to appeal to a wider audience of downtown employees, tourist and locals with food, new games and live entertainment featuring music from blues to country to

classic rock and roll. The emphasis is more on the sports book and restaurant than gaming.

The second floor includes seating for approximately 120 people. It has 23 TVs, two pool tables, electronic darts and a center bar with 25 of the latest casino games. The restaurant will serve hamburgers, sandwiches and individual pizzas. It has a quieter lounge area near a balcony and large window overlooking Virginia Street.

PDS Gaming Corp. of Las Vegas — which took over the property in January 2001 from Carl Giudici of Reno — has spent about \$750,000 to remake the property.

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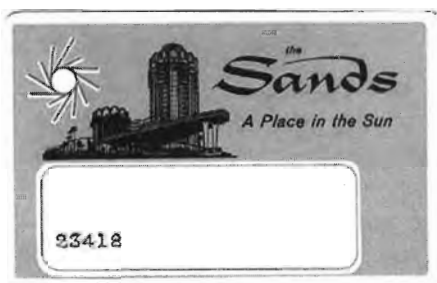
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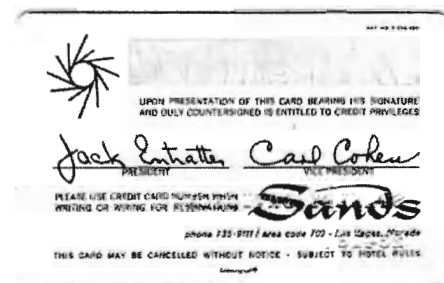
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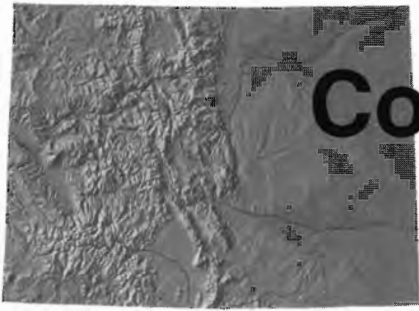
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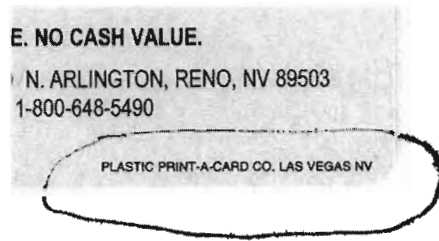


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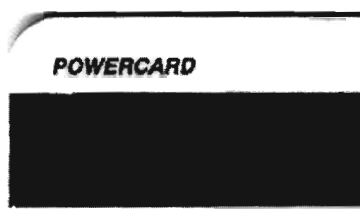
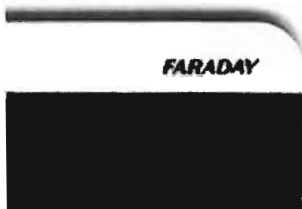
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These identifying marks (Faraday, Powercard, and PPC) signify the maker/distributor of that specific card. This is only a small sampling of the many marks that are known.



This FSI mark stands for "Forms and Supplies". This was a tiny company in Memphis, Tennessee whose mark is only known to be on the 2nd issue Sam's Town card from Tunica, Miss. Only a few of these cards are currently known.

As slot card collecting gets more sophisticated and varieties more sought after, this card should turn out to be extremely desirable.

As I said earlier, most slot cards are free. You can amass a nice collection just by going out and signing up at the slot clubs. In addition to getting the card, don't be surprised if the casinos send you some nice coupons or offers. This is the reason I started signing up for cards in the first place many years ago! Of course, you can only get so far with this approach. Also, you will find that not all current cards are equal. As a general rule the best Slot Cards are higher level cards issued to big gamblers. Some clubs will give you a blank for asking (like Fitzgeralds LV) and others will not give you a higher level card at the point of a gun (Boomtown, MS, Richman, CO, etc.) These high level cards can be quite challenging to obtain, believe me! Obsolete cards are available for sale or trade from many of the same people who deal in and/or collect chips. The vast majority of obsolete cards are only a couple bucks. Of course, the most rare and desirable cards can fetch a few hundred dollars or more. Ebay always has many slot cards for sale and is worth following.

Convention 2002

Jim & Sandi **Steffner**, Convention Co-Chairs

Resignation

It is with deep regret that we are resigning the chairmanship of the Convention. As many of you are aware, it is due to circumstances over which we have very little control. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to all the wonderful people who have really gotten this convention together and will continue to do so.

George & Liz Conrad

George & Liz Conrad started it all as Convention Co-chairs and passed it on to Sandi & I to finish for them. Thanks George & Liz for doing the hard part.

Down the road a piece and around the corner, the CCGTCC Convention is getting closer. This will be the historic 10th Anniversary of our Convention. We've come a long way from the first years at the old Aladdin and several hundred club members, through the years at the Orleans, and now at the Tropicana with a membership rapidly approaching 3000. Following are some of the highlights.

General information - All dealers and table workers must be CCGTCC club members. All banquet attendees must be CCGTCC members. There will not be a chance to sign up any memberships before the show opens on Thursday. Please, be sure to contact Ralph Myers, Membership Officer, NOW to avoid any problems or delays.

Chapter meetings and general trade sessions are scheduled throughout the convention. Check the schedule board, on the convention floor for any last minute updates.

On Wednesday, June 5th there will be a general trade session from 9am to 3pm for those members who can't wait to dig in. Dealer registration opens at 9am and member registration at 10am. We'll kick off the festivities at 5pm with a culinary delight - our second annual fabulous banquet Wednesday evening, for those who pre-registered for this event. NO tickets sold at the door, and NO membership sign-ups available. If you are bringing someone who is not yet a member, contact Ralph Myers NOW.

The renowned William S. Boyd of Boyd Gaming (Stardust, Sam's Town, California, Main Street Station, among many others) will be our featured guest speaker this year. Following the banquet and awards presentation, the room will be opened for the big trade session. The trade sessions are just that - a trade session. Please, no outright selling unless you want to be asked to leave the room, and don't monopolize a whole table only bring a binder or two and enjoy the fun along with your fellow members. You will find traders for chips, tokens, silver strikes, slot cards, room keys, and who knows what other type of casino collectible.

Start off Thursday morning at 8am by attending the first of three educational seminars. See descriptions elsewhere in the magazine. Ribbon cutting is at 10am, and the show is officially open. For those of you

Highlights

- Pre-Registration Packets
- Trade Sessions
- Banquet
- Educational Seminars
- Chapter Meetings
- Raffles
- Meet Old & New Friends
- Show Floor full of Dealers
- Poker Tournament
- Club Business Meeting
- Auction
- Exhibits
- Awards Presentations
- More Trade Sessions
- Lots of Casino Collectibles



Donate a Players Card

Do something fun for this year's Convention in Las Vegas. When you donate a card or cards to this auction you will acquire the privilege to embellish your participation in the first ever group sponsored Club Fundraiser.

You can see an up-to-date list of cards and donors at:
<http://community.webtv.net/napasteve/cardlist>

You must be a member of the CC>CC.

All I ask is one card from each member. You may donate as many slotcards as you want with your name on them and they will be included in this auction lot. The goal is to auction off the largest collection of slot cards with members names on them.

We hope to reach 1,000 cards.

This is a fund raiser for the CC>CC. This entire collection will be auctioned off as one lot in the Annual Club Auction at this years Convention at the TROPICANA in Las Vegas.

All money will go to the club.

When you donate a card with your name on it, please include your club number.

Think about donating a great card and also about being the winning bidder. Tell a friend. I am #CH-044 in the CC>CC.

Send your card to:

Steve Passalacqua
PO Box 10172
Napa, CA 94581

Must receive cards by May 20, 2002



membership thereby creating the CC>CC's Annual C/T/SSOTY Awards Competitions.) This year's Club Convention will be the first to see a non-competitive Exhibit showing all thirty (30) nominated C/T/SSOTY Finalists for this year's competition. Although the Exhibit will display all 30 Finalists, it will be organized to highlight all nine (9) of the place finishers (three (3) each for each category of the competitions, COTY, TOTY and SSOTY) with a special emphasis being given to the top three (3) winners. The aspect of having three place finishers in each category is the other new element being added to the competitions. Unlike past competitions, which yielded one (1) overall winner per ten Finalists, this year's competitions will instead yield three place finishers from among the ten Finalists of each category.

Phase II

Phase II is intended to provide a process to acquire all future C/T/SSOTY Award winners, for inclusion into the permanent, Club owned C/T/SSOTY Awards Collection. This process will be an ongoing, year-after-year effort to ensure the acquisition of all Diamond level winners. Each year, that process will basically begin at the conclusion of the Finalist selection process, which identifies the ten Finalists for each category of competition. Currently, the end of each calendar year signifies the closing date of eligibility for a qualified chip, token or Silver Strike to be nominated for C/T/SSOTY Award consideration. Through the nomination process, ten Finalists in each category are identified, yielding a list of 30 different candidates. The C/T/SSOTY Chairman, in addition to announcing the Finalists and preparing the voting

materials, will make a request to all Club members asking for 'loans' of the thirty Finalist pieces, which will then be used in the Exhibit display mentioned earlier.

At the conclusion of the Convention all 'loaned' Finalists will be returned to the individuals making them available for loan. However, the individual(s) who just happened to have loaned-out the winning COTY, or TOTY, or SSOTY pieces will then be given first right of refusal to donate the winning piece(s) to the Club's C/T/SSOTY Collection. If declined, the piece(s) will be returned at which point the C/T/SSOTY Chairman will go to an alternate acquisition plan. That plan is to maintain a list of other Club members who have declared that they will step-up and donate the needed piece(s) (sight unseen) in the event of such a situation. In the absence of such volunteer(s), the Chairman will then announce to the membership (via the Internet and the CCTN) that donations are being solicited. If this process fails to acquire the needed pieces, then the Chair, in the name of the Club, will explore other avenues of acquisition, i.e., soliciting a donation from the winning casino, or possibly making an outright purchase of piece(s) using Club funds. We much prefer Club member donations because it allows the members to actively participate in Club happens, and it also allows a member's donation to become a permanent record of the Club.

Each year, the three winning C/T/SSOTY winners will be added to the Club's permanent C/T/SSOTY presentation display. When not in use at the Convention, the display will be entrusted to the Club's Promotions Chairman (Dick Allard) for storage, or as the Club's Board deems appro-

appropriate. It is also intended that the display be made available, under suitable conditions, for display at other official Club functions, like FUN and other ANA, Club attended functions. Additionally, and again, under suitable conditions, the display may be loaned-out to Club Chapters and/or Club members for Club promotional purposes at Chapter meetings, Casino Collectibles Shows, and at a casino to promote Club awareness to prospective new members.

Now, having said all that, we are still looking for Phase I type donations of the below identified pieces. If you would like to donate a sought-after item, please contact Archie Black or myself (Jim Follis), at your earliest convenience. Please recognize that duplicate offerings (two or more people offering up the same item(s)) will be resolved in favor of first offered, first accepted. This concept will be applicable to all things being requested in the way of donations and/or support to this effort (both Phase I and Phase II).

In summation, I would like to point out that the CC>CC's Annual C/T/SSOTY Awards competitions are now (and have been for the past several years) an established tradition of the Club. The awards represent a legacy of the early founders and Officers of the Club, and by the C/T/SSOTY Chairman, Archie Black, who has been continuously involved with the competitions since the first event in 1991 for 1990 issued chips and tokens. This legacy has also been fashioned by the Club members that have participated in the nomination and judging process over the years; many fine winners have been selected! It is fully intended that the COTY, TOTY and SSOTY Awards competitions continue for the life of the Club, and that they contin-

The Palms Casino Resort offers Las Vegas a major, new destination get-away with a relaxing, affordable resort atmosphere. The \$265-million property boasts a diverse mix of restaurants and bars, a spa and salon, a 14-theatre Cineplex, a 1,500-seat, multi-use entertainment venue, 9,000 square feet of meeting space and a 95,000-square-foot casino. The Palms Casino Resort is located on a 32-acre site just west of the Las Vegas Strip and I-15 on Flamingo Road - minutes from the Forum Shops and the Fashion Show Mall.

Accommodations

The 42-story hotel tower holds 440 of the world's most finely appointed and oversized guestrooms and suites – all with extraordinary views of the world-famous Las Vegas Strip. Beautifully decorated with natural woods, soft color schemes of beige and taupe, and stylish furniture, every guestroom includes televisions with high-speed Internet access, convenient data ports, and stocked mini bars. Guests will dive into the luxurious comfortable beds fitted with imported Egyptian cotton bedding, pillows and duvets.

The Palms offers three room types to choose from – deluxe



Edited by Allan Anderson



Palms Hotel Photo courtesy of The Palms

rooms, junior suites and grand suites. Offering 440 square feet of comfort, the deluxe guestrooms offer spectacular panoramic views, a 27-inch television and stocked mini bars.

Encompassing 540 square feet, the junior suites are furnished with a king-sized bed, an elegant sitting area and writing desk, plush bathrobes and a 32-inch television. At 1,000-square feet, the luxurious grand suites offer an elegant, marble-tiled bathroom, a

Jacuzzi bathtub and a fully stocked wet bar. Grand suites are located on the top eight floors of the 42-story tower.

Casino

The heart and soul of the Palms Casino Resort, the 95,000-square-foot casino offers non-stop excitement, generous slot and video poker payouts, and liberal player rewards. The casino includes over 2,000 slot machines, 55 table games, keno, poker room, and an innovative race and sports book.

Dining

A unique blend of signature restaurants combine inviting atmospheres, impeccable service and unparalleled value to create a spectacular dining destination at the Palms Casino

On April 2nd, the new Golden Phoenix Hotel Casino & Resort rises from what was once the Flamingo in Reno, Nevada. Guests enter through the main entrance at the corner of Sierra Street and Commercial Row, where they will proceed to the second floor hotel registration, restaurant and night-club area. The first-floor casino is being renovated and will re-open in July 2002.

The 604-room hotel includes 66 suites ranging from mini-suites to Jacuzzi suites. All rooms feature 24-hour room service, voice mail and in-room movies. The hotel will initially open with a 24-hour coffee shop, Espresso Desert bar, and Benihana Japanese Steak House. On April 5th, Club Aftermath will open in the former Flamingo showroom and will feature live entertainment or DJ's. The club will be open Fridays only. The Vista Room, Reno's only rooftop restaurant, offers a breathtaking, panoramic view of the city and Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is scheduled to open May 4. Additional dining can be found at The Golden Palace Chinese Restaurant. It offers authentic Asian cuisine amid the relaxing sounds of waterfalls and soothing music.



New Reno Hotel Opens

by Allan Anderson

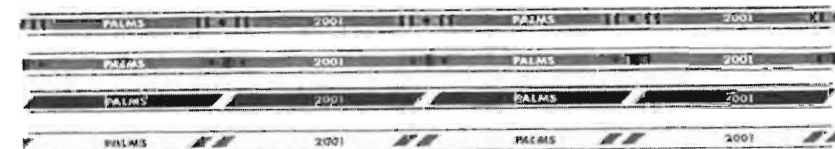
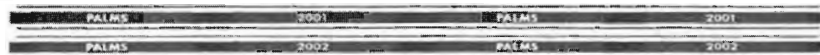
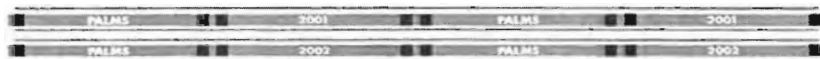
The Golden Phoenix also offers over 14,000 square feet of convention space supported by the hotel's expert catering and banquet department. Convention space can be used as a ballroom or general meeting room. It can be converted into as many as 5 individual rooms, ideal for conferences or small meetings. The space is also ideal for weddings and receptions. Also available is a 1000 seat theatre and show-room with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

The catering and Banquet Department can handle any event from small meetings and conferences to weddings and receptions. For convention, banquet and group sales information, call toll free 800-648-4510. For wedding information call toll free 888-850-5683.

The Golden Phoenix is owned and operated by Vista Hospitality Co. Inc., a hotel operator with offices in Binghamton, N.Y., and Toronto, Canada. It is managed by acting general manager Timothy M. Dougall.

The Golden Phoenix is located in downtown Reno, 255 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada 89501. For reservations or information call: 800-648-1828 or 775-785-7300 ❖





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

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

Kids Quest — For children and parents, the Palms offers hourly child care at the Kids Quest center. Activities include an indoor playground, Techno Quest video area, Barbieland and the Karaoke Star Stage. Child care is available for children three to 12 years old.

Meetings and Conventions

With 9,000 square feet of convention space, the Palms offers creative options for groups needing meeting space by making each of its restaurants available for partial or complete buyout. With this option, for example, groups can meet in the French gourmet restaurant, Alizé, at the top of the Palms' tower and enjoy breathtaking views of the Las Vegas Strip.

The Palms marks the newest project for the Maloof family, who manage successful business ventures in the fields of banking, hotels and sports. The Fiesta, developed by the Maloofs in 1994, enjoyed two expansions and financial success under the operation of George Maloof. Brothers Gavin and Joe oversee Maloof Sports, Inc. whose holdings include the Sacramento Kings of the NBA and the Sacramento Monarchs of the WNBA. Both franchises have thrived under their direction. The Maloof family, originally from Albuquerque, N.M., consists of matriarch Colleen and five siblings, George, Gavin, Joe, Adrienne and Phil.

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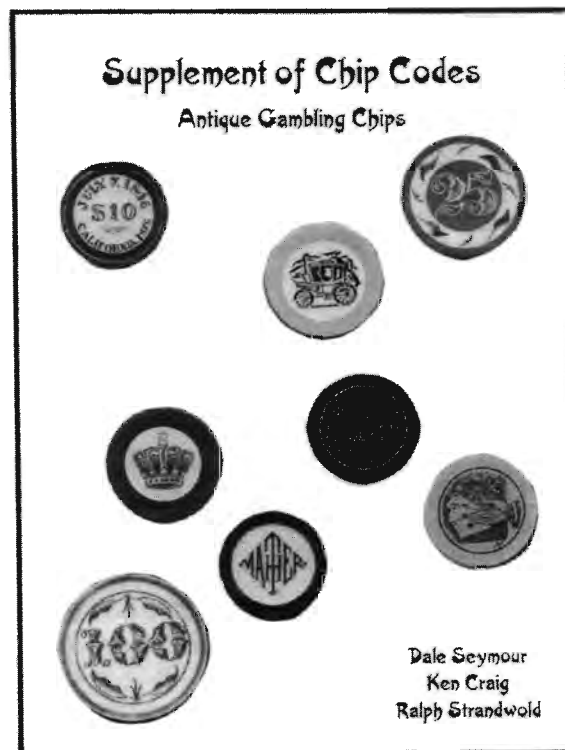
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Chips and other memorabilia found

Fellow collector and club member Rich Burgel, came across three chips, a napkin, matches, and a swizzle stick from the Apache from an ex-employee of the Apache Bar. The chips have been verified by the manufacturer, TR King and were delivered to the Apache Casino, Las Vegas in 1939. An order for 1,800 chips of various pastel colors was produced in a large crown mold and hot stamped "Apache Casino."



Why this story is being told

Maria Wadsworth of Henderson, Nevada, granddaughter of the builder, P.O. Silvagni, recalls hanging out at the Hotel during the sweltering summer days when the temperature rose to over 100 degrees. She and her friends would hang-out, literally, at the coolest place in town. The cooling system was designed to keep the temperature nearly 25 degrees cooler than the outside temperature and help eliminate the installation of fans in every room. Maria shared with me that not only did the Hotel Apache have the first elevator in town, her grandfather also had the first electric refrigeration cooling system installed in 1941, the precursor to the modern air conditioner. During the '40s with the lack of gaming regulations and enforcement, Maria was able to walk freely between the bar, casino, and throughout the hotel. Her mother helped with the books of the hotel and her aunt worked at the café. It

was truly a family business. Though the original Silvagni property owner has passed on, Binion's Horseshoe still pays rent to the numerous trusts that once made up the Silvagni family.

I started writing this article because so few people know what downtown Fremont Street was like before the monumental strip. Standing in a modern casino you



Photograph Courtesy of: Manis Collection University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF CHIPS

by Douglas Saito

The Hank Boss collection of chips will be coming up for auction soon, and when his last chip is sold, I imagine that all who participated in its sale will come to the same conclusion that I have about the collection. That the Hank Boss Collection will always be considered as the world's largest private collection of TR King manufactured chips.

Although the value of some chips may set all-time highs, no dollar amount will ever equal the value of what the chips meant to Hank Boss. Not when hundreds of chips have given Hank Boss thousands of hours of nearly wedded bliss, where to have and to hold each little round piece of clay made him seek more knowledge of each chip's origin, history, ownership, date of issue, craftsmanship, and purpose in play.

Such inquisitive hunger stemmed from the very first large crown chip that Hank Boss acquired for his chip collection in the late 1980's. It was a chip hot-stamped with the number 303 on both sides. And it would pique Hank's curiosity, enough so that he looked up its manufacturer, TR King and Company in Los Angeles. Within a matter of months, Hank had forged a business relationship with the owner of TR King and Company, Dennis O'Neill, and their relationship would eventually be strengthened with ties of friendship.

It became a constant back-and-forth exchange between collector and chip manufacturer. For a nominal fee, TR King and Company researched its manufacturing records and provided Hank with identifications and other info on small and large crown chips.

And thus began one man's collection of what I consider to be the world's largest collection of small and large crown chips. A collection that would take more than a decade to amass. Until nearly two thousand chips had been collected and catalogued.

It was from those TR King records that good and bad things happened. Many a small or large crown chip recognized by price-guides as being of Nevada origin were disproved by TR King records. And many bad things there were. A "JB" monogram on a small crown chip was not Jessie Beck's. The Golden Horseshoe proved to be a cardroom in Visalia, CA and not a Reno gaming establishment. A number of "Rex" chips have been erroneously listed as Nevada when California was their original place of origin.

As for the good things, it seemed for every chip that had been mistakenly identified as a Nevada chip, there were an equal number of unidentified chips that TR King records later confirmed as being Nevada issues. Some were so bland in looks, such as a small-crown chip monogrammed with the hot-stamped letters "CH" turning out to be ordered for the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas.

No matter to Hank Boss if the resulting research turned out to be a bad or good thing. What was most exciting for Hank was the anticipation of getting more small and large crown chips accurately identified and issue-dates confirmed, and so it was with sweaty-palmed eagerness that Hank opened up hundreds of letters from TR King and Company, not knowing if the most recent chip-submittal was trash or treasure.

LUCKY SPOT



BAKERSFIELD

Seen here is the first chip acquired by Hank Boss. As seen by his notes that were typewritten and then pasted to the margin edges of the holder, the chip comes from the Lucky Spot in Hank's hometown of Bakersfield, CA, located at 2303 Edison Highway, an address number that was hot-stamped, in part, on the chip itself. Also note that Hank included the date of issue as provided by TR King and Company, the manufacturer of the chip, and on the reverse side of the chip-holder Hank would also assign a number to the chip. This chip was assigned TRK1, the first chip in Hank's collection of TR King chips.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

houses and the great stream of water gushing from the valve houses, making it the most beautiful sight of its kind in the U. S.

At approximately the same height as Niagara Falls, the water from the valve houses falls with great clouds of mist. It is one of the most beautiful sights to be found in the world today—Boulder Dam.

This project is located thirty miles from Las Vegas, Nevada, beautiful little desert city, broad-minded in its ideas and affording many interesting diversions.

LAS VEGAS NEVADA

Center of the Scenic Southwest Gateway to Boulder Dam, Death Valley, Valley of Fire, Lost City, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, North Rim Grand Canyon. Still a Frontier Town, unsurpassed climate, excellent hunting and fishing. Reached by automobile or bus over paved highways; high-speed air-conditioned train—Main Line Union Pacific; World's finest Airplanes, three each way on daily schedule—Western Air Express Co. Grand Canyon Air Lines daily operate tri-motored planes over the Dam, Lake Mead, to the Grand Canyon Hotels. Also speed boat trips into Grand Canyon with overnight accommodations on floor of Grand Canyon. Information all hotels, Automobile Clubs offices, Foster Service, Cook's Town.



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MR. AND MRS. R. R. RUSSELL
MANAGING LESSEES
The Interesting Story of Boulder Dam

William Brown was a seasoned restaurateur, having operated cafés in Arizona and in California. In addition to being the vice president of the corporation, Brown managed the café and the banquet hall with the most modern equipment. Lavishly furnished as the rest of the beautiful new Apache Hotel, modern amenities included an electrical dishwasher

Sydney Smith was a veteran hotel man who was in charge of the hotel. However, it was Colonel Robert Russell who had all the fame and glory.

Colonel Robert Russell the self-proclaimed "Biggest Liar in Nevada" had an honorary designation as "The

Colonel" and was known for his antics throughout town. Frank Wright, Las Vegas historian, talks about two specific publicity stunts that Colonel Russell was involved in. A widely distributed photo of an old miner with his mule registering at the Hotel Apache was sent out across the nation. In another photo opportunity, Colonel Russell is shown holding the first fish caught from the newly formed Lake Mead. Unfortunately, the fish had an uncanny resemblance to a barracuda and it was later divulged that indeed the fish had been purchased from the San Pedro Fish Market. Wright also described "Bob", as he was also known, as always dressed in western garb, with long

flowing hair, handlebar moustache with a goatee a striking resemblance to Buffalo Bill Cody. In another story told by Ms. Wadsworth, she recalls a photo in her mother's possessions of Bob on a horse in the lobby of the hotel. The creative and witty personality of Colonel Russell is one reason he was nominated for inclusion in "The First 100", a historical book about the men and women who helped shape Las Vegas.

According to the newspapers, C.E. Mason was one of the most widely known casino managers of that time. However, other than a photograph, little else is known about Charles E. Mason or his counterpart, Jack Doyle, the men responsible for the casino and its management.

History of the Clubs

Although the Hotel opened in March, 1932, the Management of the Apache Coffee Shop held a contest to rename the Apache Indian Village, located in the basement and announced the new name at its formal opening, June 25, 1932. Indian Princess Rose Marie, an employee of the hotel who dressed in Indian garb, awarded a cash prize of \$25 to Thomas Wilson for the new name, "Kiva Club". The new cabaret below the Hotel Apache was a roaring success and a number of couples were turned away at the opening. The new club was designed as an Indian Village and the main activities included dining, dancing, and entertainment. Soon after, gaming would occur including keno. It is not known why but the Kiva Club would change its name to the Kiva Cabaret by March of 1934 and then to the Apache Night Club by May of 1934. It is believed that the Apache Night Club was also referred to in later years as the 'Pache Club.

TRK92. 50¢ Horseshoe Club/Las Vegas. TR King large crown mold, in red, hot-stamped. Issue date 1954.

Another gem that Hank found in a junk box. And since it's listed as the ninety-second chip in Hank's collection, it could very well have been picked up at the same time Hank found his seventieth chip, the super-rare Last Frontier as seen previously. Because back then, some of today's most cherished and valuable chips could be had for a buck apiece, and collectors bought chips by the handfuls. For example, a decade ago, it wasn't uncommon for a collector to dig out twenty or thirty ten-cent Nevada chips out of a junk box, and still be able to negotiate a purchase price of two-bits apiece.



As part of the first one hundred chips in Hank's collection, and discovering that this chip was ordered by Benny Binion for his famous Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas...it was not only time for all smiles on Hank's face, but it would quadruple the energy level of his eagerness to get as many small and large crown chips before they moved from junk box status to being handled with kid gloves.



TRK119. Nondenomination "FTY" Boulder Club/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, white, hot-stamped. Issued in 1953.

Remember, Hank, how you and I tried to make sense of the three letters hot-stamped as a monogram on this chip. The "T" could have stood for Townsend who ordered the chip. The "Y" could have been the famous Jimmy Young, another owner of the equally famous Boulder Club. As for the "F", well, that was the letter grade I gave us for failing to come up with an answer. Still, it was fun. And it's what chip-sleuthing is all about.

TRK163. \$5.00 Fortune Club/Gardena, CA. TR King large crown mold, in drab green, hot-stamped. Issued in 1947.

Great lettering job. Such acclamations could be said at least a hundred more times because of the creative design work TR King so often exemplified in their hot-stamp work in the old days. A bit more expensive to design and manufacture, this old Fortune Club chip still illustrates how ordinary chips, when given a great hot stamp, can be extraordinary attractive pieces.



However great it looks, this piece struck a chord of disillusionment with Hank. Like others in the early days of chip-collecting, the only Fortune Club known to everyone back then were gaming entities either in Reno or Las Vegas. And, like other little round pieces of clay in the Hank Boss chip collection, not Nevada is what TR King records would conclude. Today however, with old Gardena cardroom pieces disappearing as fast as food being served at our CC>CC convention banquet, I see there's a wee bit of proud ownership smile that appears on Hank's face when this piece is the center of his attention.



TRK291. \$1.00 Golden Gate/Las Vegas. TR King large crown mold, in navy, hot-stamped. Issued in 1964.

A beauty, and another fine example of how uniquely chips were hot-stamped by TR King. Surprising to note the issue date of 1964, which makes this old Golden Gate rarity one of the last Nevada chips to be manufactured by TR King in a large crown mold, especially when the number of 1950's and 1960's Nevada chips ordered from TR King in small crown molds increases dramatically while the manufacture of large crown chips is rapidly on the decline.

on Second Street or through any of the five shops or coffee room. The lobby was a spacious 38 by 48 feet, lofty and ceiled area. Walking three steps westward through a draped arch led you into the casino and to the ascending stairway to the upper floors. Silvagni often slept and conducted business from a room on the second floor which had a terrace overlooking Second Street. Beyond the stairway, a corridor connected the coffee shop and various stores in the building. The first elevator in town was also on the North side of the building that opened up to carpeted hallways on the upper levels.

The casino, extremely small by today's standards, was located in the rear of the stores and west of the hotel lobby.

The downstairs basement housed the heating and ventilation plant, storage rooms, and the banquet hall that had hardwood floors and was the

magnet for dinner dance parties, bridge luncheons and private functions. The 50' x 75' hall could comfortably feed 300 people and claimed to have the ability to feed 500 when in a pinch. Interestingly, there was also an entrance from Second Street.

The hotel had 56 rooms including 12 suites. Each room had a bath; 25 rooms with both a shower and bath; 7 rooms with a shower and toilet; and 24 rooms with just a tub. Obviously, the bath was very important back in 1932 because the newspapers described the amenities in detail. Some say the Hotel Apache was only second to the Riverside Hotel in Reno for modern amenities and character.



Background of P.O. Silvagni

P.O. Silvagni, although sometimes incorrectly identified as Pietro Orlando Silvagni, was actually named Pietro Ottavio Silvagni as corrected by his granddaughter, Maria Wadsworth. Somehow, a writer incorrectly used the wrong name and future newspapers and books from there on out referred to P.O. as Pietro Orlando.

P.O. as his friends called him, came to the U.S. from Italy in 1904 and was the father of six children. However, two children passed away early on and the other siblings, Michele, Victor, Lena, and Olga moved to Las Vegas shortly after construction of the hotel began.

In a newspaper article dated February 24, 1933, P.O. Silvagni applied for and was granted a gaming permit for a crap game at the Apache Hotel Casino. This is the first time that Silvagni's name has been associated with obtaining a license and not just the Apache Hotel Corporation.



Photograph Courtesy of: **Glenn Davis Collection** University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library
The Café was located at the corner of Second and Fremont



TRK881. Nondenomination “Bronc Rider”/Fallon, NV. TR King large crown mold, in beige, hot-stamped. Issued in 1951.

Surprise, I wouldn’t call it. Shocked is more like it. I acquired this chip from an old friend and chip dealer, Jim Gелlette, about seven years ago. Jim didn’t know what it was, but he knew I had a friend who collected large crown chips, so how about five bucks in payment, that’s what Jim asked for the piece. Five bucks then and five days later the chip was in the hands of Hank Boss. Ten days pass, and TR King’s ID comes back as a chip ordered by in 1951 by A.L. Childers in Fallon, NV.

Within weeks I’m running around in Fallon, NV. Doing stories on Emily Griffith, the Mom in Mom’s Place, interviewing Willie Capucci of the old Esquire Club, and the Childers name comes up time and again. Plenty of gaming folks in Fallon knew him as Al Childers, and nearly all of the old-timers remember Al taking over Mom’s Place and running her operation as the Roadside Inn in the late 1970’s. Very few could answer for what Al Childers was doing in 1951, the year this chip was manufactured. It wasn’t until much later that I found documents that indicated Al Childers being associated with the first owners of the Roadside Inn when it was established in Fallon in 1948, and that is where I would attribute this chip as being in play.

Unlisted in price-guides, hitherto unknown to everyone else in the hobby, this chip still remains a one-and-only in the Hank Boss Collection.

TRK938. 25¢ California Club/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1957.

Yawn, just another rare chip in the collection.



TRK1035. Nondenomination Chauffeurs Union #640/Los Angeles, CA. TR King large crown mold, in light green, hot-stamped. Issued in 1941.

Do not think about well-dressed drivers as seen in “Driving Miss Daisy.” Instead, envision Teamster-type truck drivers who learned getaway maneuvers while hauling a load of rum during Prohibition days. That’s the meaning of the word “Chauffeur” as it relates to this old chip. Because that’s what truckers and haulers and cabdrivers were called back in the days when LA Confidential wasn’t a movie but a lifestyle. And, don’t be surprised if DNA analysis of this chip comes back with a test result showing traces of palm-sweat from the hands of Mickey Cohen, Jack Dragna, Bugsy Siegel or other LA mobsters of pre-Las Vegas Strip days.



This oldie with a classic style of hot-stamping is an example of perseverance on the part of Hank Boss. Because another example had been submitted earlier to TR King for identification, and nothing was found in the registration cards. A second time around, and with other colors of the same chip available, TR King confirmed that the “C” came before the “U” as in Chauffeurs Union and not as I thought, where the “U” came before the “C” as in United Club.

TRK1064. 25¢ Sands “Pan Room”/Las Vegas. TR King small crown mold, in white, hot-stamped. Issued in 1954.

Ho-hum, just another one of a kind. As startling to see today as it was nearly eight or nine years ago when I dug up this piece for Hank. It still remains an only lonely.



APACHE HOTEL

The Megaresort of Its Time

by John Yee



Photograph Courtesy of: *Glenn Davis Collection* University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library

The Kiva Bar and Casino was separate from the Kiva Club at the Hotel Apache (c. 1942)

Introduction

Similar to a modern day “Grand Opening” of a megaresort on the strip, Las Vegans with their excitement and glory, came out to welcome the newest, most modern, and plush-est hotel west of the Mississippi in March of 1932. The building erected in less than a year would stand the test of time and house the Hotel Apache but probably better know to

modern gamblers as the El Dorado Club or, for the last forty two years, as Binion’s Horseshoe. During the past 70 years, the Hotel Apache and its gambling establishments have changed ownership or names fifteen times. In addition, the Hotel Apache was referred to synonymously as the Apache Hotel.

In 1905, the Union Pacific Railroad routed its trains through the

Las Vegas area. The railroad depot was at the beginning of Fremont Street, just behind the present day Plaza Hotel. With the railroad came growth and Las Vegas became an incorporated city adopting its first charter on March 16, 1911. At that time there were less than 800 residents in Las Vegas and 3,321 residents within Clark County. However, the downtown area of Fremont Street was the hub for gam-



TRK 1384. Inlaid “W”. TR King large crown mold, in purple, with a center inlay of white paper forming a “W”. No issue date given.

There’s no manufacturing record for this chip to show who it was issued for or when. What matters most, however, to a chip collector like Hank Boss is that its manufacturing style is rarely seen. Because very, very few large crown chips were manufactured with a center inlay. That’s why an experienced chip-collector like Hank Boss went ga-ga when getting this piece.

TRK1413. Nondenomination Desert Inn/Las Vegas, NV. TR King small crown mold, in navy with three green edge inserts, hot-stamped. Issued in 1952.

Unlisted. One known to exist. I’m running out of superlatives to describe the rarity of a classic Vegas casino chip like this one. Definitely of Wilbur Clark vintage because of its issue date, but also of Wilbur Clark similarity because of the image of the Joshua Tree hot-stamped on the chip. Cartwheels were turned when Hank received the TR King info on this chip. Well, all right, I exaggerate. Hank can’t do cartwheels at his age, but there sure was a little extra spring to his seventy-year-old steps when I informed Hank that this Desert Inn piece has to be in the strata of the super-rare.



TRK1463. “BK” El Rancho Vegas/Las Vegas, NV. TR King large crown mold, in mustard, hot-stamped, issued in 1949.

TR King records show that this chip order was picked up by Mrs. Jake Katelman. Not much is known about the Missus, but of old Jake Katelman, old-timers in Vegas know plenty about him, because he was the loud and boisterous owner of the El Rancho Vegas. And, more importantly, because it pertains to this chip, Jake’s brother was also involved with the day-to-day running of the El Rancho. That’s whose monogram appears on this chip – the BK being Beldon Katelman, Jake’s brother.

TRK1515. “E” Embassy Club/Gardena, CA. TR King large crowns, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1943.

Some of chipdom’s most simplistic chips have become the most cherished. Because of information gained. Which makes a plain old chip like this one into an “E” for excellence. Because for collectors of chips from the world’s most famous poker community in the 1950’s – Gardena, CA – this one is a very rare piece. And so the “E” for this chip in the Hank Boss Collection stands for Embassy, but for others who lack this piece, the “E” will always stand for envy.



TRK1571. Nondenomination C&S/Vallejo, CA. TR King large crown mold, in purple, hot-stamped. Issued in 1945.

Let the TR King records show that this chip was ordered for a cardroom in Vallejo called C&S Sportland. And one of the owners who signed for the order was George Cannon. And this ole George was a very familiar name to Tahoe collectors like Steve Passalacqua and Don Totoian and the late Will Posthumus. Because those collectors knew about George Cannon from their various George’s Gateway chips. And so it would be that Hank Boss had another chip of historical importance. It’s like owning one of the first chips ever ordered by Bugs, the criminal not the rabbit.

Are all brass core chips suspect?

No. There are still a vast number of brass core chips that were manufactured by legitimate companies and used in casinos. To the best of our knowledge, chips acquired more than two years ago are not suspect. Only those chips listed above are reasonable to suspect at this time, but all chips should be physically examined and their background should be probed.

Keep in mind that there are legitimate chips of the identical denominations and colors from the same casinos as the counterfeits. These genuine chips should not be devalued due to the existence of counterfeits. Be wary of odd colored chips and chips in unused condition.

It is also important to know whom you are dealing with so that you have recourse. Make a record of any chips that you buy and ask for a receipt, and, of course, buy from a CC>CC member who ascribes to our Code of Ethics.

What can I do if I think I have a counterfeit chip?

You should immediately contact the person from whom you obtained the chip. You should seek 100% satisfaction from this person as called for in our Code of Ethics. If you are not satisfied, you may file a claim with the Club's Claims Director. You should also contact me with any information that might help in the investigation. This matter remains open and any additional information will be turned over to the proper authorities. The sale of counterfeit chips may constitute fraud and the production of counterfeits may violate the Hobby Protection Act. ❖

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HOLOGRAM TOKENS

by Earl Donley

In the Spring issue of 2001 I wrote an article about the Hologram Tokens that were being developed by the Osborne Coinage Corporation and the Riviera Hotel. Since that article that announced the first token celebrating Valentines Day, the Riviera has released seven other Holograms for the following events. In 2001 they were the 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For 2002 their first three tokens have been for these winter sports; Snowboarding, Hockey, and Skiing. The Riviera has now released the plans for eighteen additional designs that are being developed for the next two years.

The Holiday Series

April Fools Day	(April 2002)
Canada Day	(July 2002)
Independence Day	(July 2002)
Halloween	(October 2002)
Nevada Admissions Day	(October 2002)
Veteran's Day	(November 2002)

The Zodiac Series

Aires	(March 2002)
Cancer	(June 2002)
Libra	(September 2002)
Sagittarius	(November 2002)
Capricorn	(December 2002)
Aquarius	(January 2003)
Pisces	(February 2003)
Taurus	(April 2003)
Gemini	(May 2003)
Leo	(July 2003)
Virgo	(August 2003)
Scorpio	(October 2003)

The Riviera has also started a program where if you send them your computer email address, they will notify you of the date and time for future token and chip releases. To be added to their notification list, notify Barbara Wolfe at, BWolfe@theriviera.com. Future Hologram Tokens will be a Limited Edition of 1,000 tokens. The Riviera has also discontinued mailing token purchases to dealers. If you wish to obtain tokens from the casino you must have someone at the casino in person on the release date. ❖

COTY/TOTY/SSOTY

UPDATE

by Archie **Black**

Magazine Editor John Yee has requested that I provide an update on this important annual contest that has been conducted every year since 1990 anticipating that this issue of the club magazine will be published and distributed prior to most club members departure for the Annual CC>CC International Convention in June

The nominations have been steadily arriving at my mailbox in Brick, NJ and my Assistant, Jim Follis, is chomping at the bit to get to work assembling the color contact sheets of

the 30 finalists and printing up the official ballots to mail out to all the judges sometime during the month of April. If all goes right, everyone who has chosen their favorite choices for COTY/TOTY/SSOTY and who have returned the nomination form that was inserted into the 1st quarter issue of the club's magazine, probably has since received and have returned the Official Judges Ballot. By the time you read this report the final counting of the ballots will have been completed and the winning properties have been notified.

The public announcement of the official results will not take place until the eve of the Early Bird Welcome Banquet, at which time we hope to have representatives from the winning properties on hand to accept the club's prestigious Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in all three categories.

For those of you who are on-line you may view images of all the previous winners over the past eleven years on the club's website at: <http://www.ccgccc.com/ctssoty/ctotyaward.htm> ❖

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

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ILLEGAL CLUBS

McClure to Cairo

by Jerry Birl

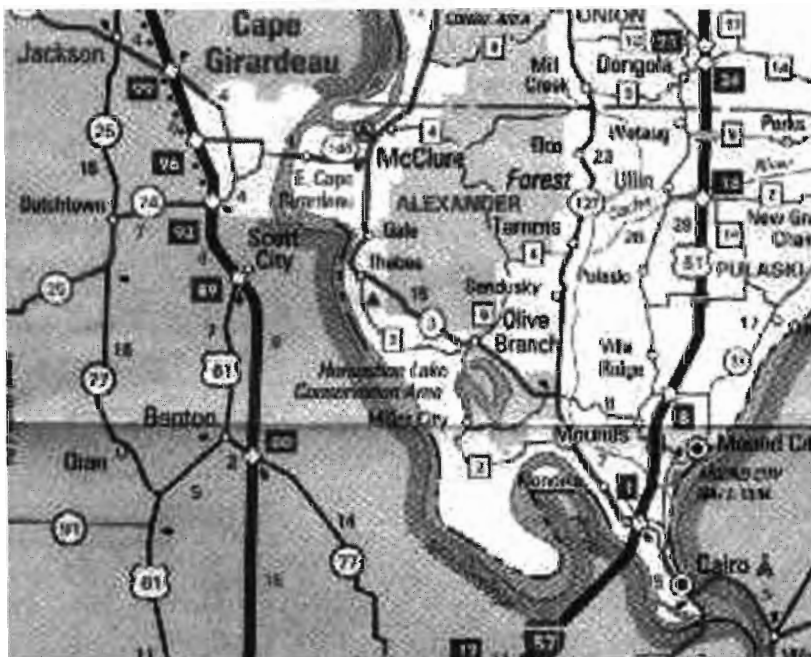
On my way from Jim Kruse's Chip Show in Tunica, Mississippi to Paul Cunningham's Chip Show outside of Detroit, Michigan last November I took a side trip through Southern Illinois in search of information on Illegal Casinos that had operated in that area. I had a couple of chips in my collection from this remote area and I was curious to find out more about the Casinos where they had been used. Not only would I be traveling on the back roads of rural Southern Illinois, but I also found myself transported back in time to an era filled with colorful characters and stories of Fabulous Gambling Halls that today are now just memories. I was fortunate to find two gentlemen each with a different perspective on the Gambling Industry in Southern Illinois. One was an 86 year old former operator of the Thunderbird Club, who made his living on the roll of the dice and the other was a 71 year old retired Illinois State

Trooper who's job it was to enforce the laws of the State of Illinois and to shut down the "Illegal" Casinos of the notorious \$1,000,000 Row.

The saga of full scale high profile Illegal Gambling in Southern Illinois began in the 1930's and ended in the mid 1970's. At one time there were as many as 38 Illegal Casinos in operation on the 30 mile stretch of highway between McClure and Cairo {pronounced K-row} at the Southern most tip of Illinois where the Ohio River flows into the Mississippi River.

I crossed the Mississippi River from Missouri into Illinois on an old and very rickety two lane bridge. The bridge was in such horrible shape that the speed limit was only 5 mph!! I felt as though I was going back in time. A new ultra modern bridge is now under construction and will soon replace the old bridge. The new highway leading to the bridge will be built over the site of several of the old Casinos which made up the \$1,000,000 Row, just outside of McClure, Illinois.

Most references on Illegal chips and Casinos list the location of the Casinos as East Cape Girardeau, Illinois when in fact the Casinos were actually located in McClure. McClure is the small town just East of the much smaller settlement of East Cape Girardeau, (which as far as I could see was only a group of about 20 or 30 mobile homes along the side of Illinois Route 146).



In the hay day of illegal gambling the toll for the bridge over the Mississippi was 50 cents and anyone who showed there toll receipt at the Casinos was given 50 cents to cover the toll. Some enterprising would be high rollers would show their receipt at six or seven different Casino and get enough money to begin their day of gambling.

The first big Casino to open in the McClure area was the Villa, a two story hotel and Casino which opened in 1938. Other Casinos which operated in McClure included; the Thunderbird, the Colony (which was the largest and fanciest Casino), Purple Grackle (this place is still in operation as a bar, pool hall and night club, although it has burned down and been rebuilt at least three times), Trocadero or Don's Club, Garden Inn, Curve Inn, Why Not Club, 21 Club and Big Jim Phillips.

All of the Casinos featured Craps, slots, poker and the larger places had roulette tables. The craps games provided the most action with the bets ranging from \$1.00 to \$200.00. When the high rolling cotton farmers from Southeast Missouri came to town the limits were raised in some Casinos to \$300. All the Craps Tables operated with single odds betting.

The Casinos all had their own chips ranging in value from 25 cents to \$100. The Casinos bought a lot of chips and dice from the Taylor Co. in Chicago, these included the T Mold chips which were used at the Thunderbird Club. During my visit the only chips I saw were some of the Brown T Mold chips from the Thunderbird. I also saw a pair of small dice from the Circle Club (which as far as I could find out was not located in this area).

Not only was this area known for Gambling and fine dining, but it also featured big name entertainment including Louis Armstrong, Harry James and Guy Lombardo. The Casino owners paid the top entertainers as much as \$10,000 a day to perform in their Clubs during the 1930's and 1940's. Gamblers by the hundreds packed the restaurants, bars and night clubs run by the Casinos to see the big time entertainers.

Further down the road closer to Cairo were other Casinos including; the Rookery, Becky's Club Charming, Flamingo, El Patio, Cairo Hotel and the Frog City Club among others.

All of these Casinos were raided and closed for various periods of time by the Illinois State Police many

times between 1950 and 1975, but some how the Casino operators would find a way to reopen and begin gambling again. However, the final raid that was conducted in 1975 brought an end to the illegal gaming era in Southern Illinois. The former \$1,000,000 Row and all of it's past glory were gone.

The above information has added to our knowledge of this area's gambling history, but there is still a lot more to uncover. I am still in the process of compiling additional information on the many Casinos that operated in this area. I am also gathering information on some of the colorful characters who worked in these Casinos and also the members of organized crime who exercised a considerable amount of influence over the operation of many of these Casinos. I hope to tell some of these stories in future articles on this very interesting area. ❖



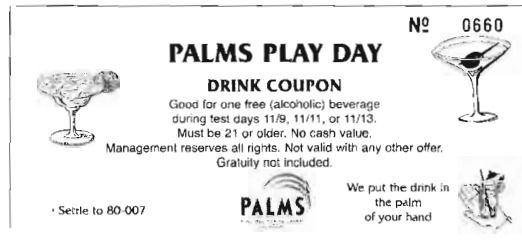
Fun Money

by Carey Burke

Most real gamblers laugh at free play coupons and giveaway items as annoying side distractions connected to the gaming business.

I am going to tell you about a little known collectable that seems to be receiving a lot of interest of late.

Almost every casino has had or now has some sort of coupon, fun book, drink ticket or prize drawing ticket – the purpose of which is to interest customers to come in, stay, and play. Unique in this category are the “Fun Nite” money bills, which resemble U.S. cash, but look more like Monopoly money. These are put into play on the V.I.P. “Fun Nite” which almost always precedes a casino’s grand opening. There are several varieties of the free play cash including paper scrip in denominations of regular money (dollars) and chips with amounts on them or in different colors to denote the amount they are worth.



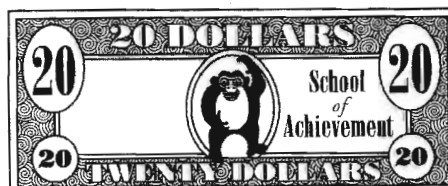
The paper scrip bills come in various sizes, from about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size to slightly larger than a U.S. dollar bill. This scrip has a variety of logo’s, pictures, designs and colors making them unique to a particular casino.

V.I.P. “Fun Nites” serve a dual purpose, the first being, to invite local dignitaries to a special cocktail party, tour of the hotel and casino’s facilities, and to give them a feeling of being special to the casino employees. Usually, they are provided with scrip to test the table games they are not familiar with or are not accustomed to playing.

The other reason for “Fun Nite” is, to give the dealers and casino employees the opportunity to practice and be comfortable with the procedures they have learned, which may be totally different from where they have worked before. The pit operations can smooth out the kinks in preparation for the “Grand Opening”.

Not all casinos have a had V.I.P. “Fun Nite”, but it seems to be the thing to do for the last several years, possibly because it is encouraged by Nevada State regulators as a “dry run” to avoid any problems that may occur.

One casino that had paper scrip printed for their V.I.P. “Fun Nite”, was the Stratosphere. The “money” was in regular denominations with a picture of the tower on one side and a gorilla on the other side. The reason they used a gorilla was, that at the time of its opening, the Stratosphere was considering a carnival-type ride up the side of the tower. It was to feature a gondola style car with a “King Kong” look to draw attention to the Hotel. They later opted for a roller coaster on top of the tower.



Another casino with “fun money” is the Paris. It is a classier paper scrip with paisley-like design, but still serves the same purpose on “Fun Nite”.



Some casinos don't seem to be too interested in doing this paper and chip play nite, while others go all out. For example the beautiful new Palms Casino on Flamingo Road really went first class and issued 14 different bills. They include 2-one dollar bills, 2-fives, 3-tens, 4-twenties, and 3-one hundreds, all of which have casino executive's portraits in the center similar to George Washington.



The most recent “Fun Nite” occurred on December 12th, at the new Green Valley Ranch Station. They issued play money similar to the Palms Casino with hotel and casino executive's photos on them.



So far, I know the Stratosphere, Paris, Mirage, Treasure Island, Bellagio and most recently the Palms have used this type of “fun money”. There may be scrip from the Excalibur, Luxor and others, and although I may not be aware of all of the casinos using this “Fun Nite” money, I would certainly be interested in hearing any information regarding other Hotel/Casinos that have had “Fun Nite”, or used this Monopoly style money. ❖





Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club
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SHARKEY'S NUGGET - GOING, GOING "SOLD TO BIDDER NUMBER"!

by Howard W. Herz

On a rather pleasant weekend in February of 2002, Nevada gaming history closed a chapter on one of its most colorful gaming establishments. The contents of Sharkey's Nugget went on the block in what the auctioneer described as the sale of the Century. Although it is a bit early in the Century to issue superlatives in advertising, they may have been correct. Almost everything in Sharkey's hit the auction block and the bidders came from far and wide. They probably could have gotten money for a bucket of dust the way the bidding was going. Some of the prices paid set records, while other items were a steal. But the auction was an ending and the beginning of Sharkey's was in the last days of the 1960s.

Milos Sharkey Begovich began his career in gaming in the foothills of the Sierra in the gold country towns of Jackson and Sonora. His family had interests in the area that tended to feature gaming. Sharkey learned his trade dealing some games that the

State of California did not license in those days. Starting in the back rooms of Sonora and Jackson, Sharkey graduated to Harrah's at Lake Tahoe in the 1950s. Sharkey's talent and experience were recognized by Bill Harrah who advanced the California native as Harrah's Tahoe grew. As a member of Bill Harrah's management team he dealt with the celebrities from Harrah's show room, high rollers with difficult tastes and the day to day problems of a gambling house.

In 1964 and 1965 Sharkey left Harrah's and joined a brave group of men who wanted to build a casino of their own. Working for food and lodging, they built the South Tahoe Nugget in the area adjacent to where Oliver's Club was located to the North of Stateline on highway 50. In July of 1965, Milos Sharkey Begovich, W.W. (Woody) Loftin and Richard Chartrand were granted a gaming license for the South Tahoe Nugget. For six years Sharkey worked the small casino in what he described

as a struggle to break even. In 1970, the South Tahoe Nugget games were leased to Barney's Club on a percentage basis. With little promise of greater profits, Sharkey began looking elsewhere for a gaming career (by 1976, Sharkey had sold all of his interest to the Estate of Richard Chartrand).

With the South Tahoe Nugget barely managing to survive, Sharkey began looking for another venture. Without any deep pocket and just a load of expertise, Sharkey set his sights on the Cal-Neva Lodge, an operation that had been struggling since Frank Sinatra had surrendered his license in the mid-1960s. With the help of a friendly banker, Sharkey put together a purchase proposal. It was in the final phase of the proposed purchase when the Cal-Neva was suddenly scooped up by the Club Cal-Neva in Reno, a loss to Sharkey in both time and effort. Disenchanted with the failure of his proposal, Sharkey's banker friend suggested that he consider a smaller property in Gardnerville, Nevada that had become a foreclosure asset of the bank. Sharkey protested to his banker that he did not have the needed cash for the purchase. The banker persisted - the property had been on the bank's records long enough - and almost begged Sharkey to make any offer. In Sharkey's own words, "I told the banker that I didn't have the money." The banker insisted that Sharkey make an offer. "I made an embarrassing low offer", says Sharkey, and to his amazement the offer was accepted.



The former Golden Bubble Casino in Gardnerville thus became Sharkey's Nugget.

In May of 1971, Sharkey's Nugget was granted a gaming license in the name of Jake Schneider. By 1976, the gaming was licensed to both Jake Schneider (33- $\frac{1}{3}$ %) and Milos Sharkey Begovich (66- $\frac{2}{3}$ %). By 1979, Sharkey was the sole owner on the state's records. Situated on highway 395 in the center of Gardnerville, Nevada, Sharkey's became a favorite of the locals.

Featuring a prime rib dinner that would fill a serving platter, Sharkey slowly expanded with limited table gaming and slots. What began to draw the crowd to Sharkey's was his passion for collecting memorabilia. As the casino grew, Sharkey's collection of clown paintings, fight memorabilia and nostalgia souvenirs filled the casino. Just about anything and everything could be found on the walls of Sharkey's. Life magazines with F.D.R. and Winston Churchill; Lindbergh kidnapping posters; Cowboy photos and memorabilia and gambling scenes painted by a local artist from postcards and photos. Sharkey's was a casino about to explode with nostalgia.

As the years passed, Sharkey became an icon of the Carson Valley. Featuring a Serbian Christmas dinner for free every year, the casino's reputation with the locals was secure. Sharkey's was Prime Rib, nostalgia and probably the most saddles ever displayed in a casino bar. With the large sized memorabilia on the walls, where did Sharkey plan to put the small items like his collection of political buttons, chips and coins? Thus were born Sharkey's famous tables. Starting in the 1980s, the regular restaurant tables were replaced with massive pine tables with memorabilia cast into the resin surfaces. To chip collectors, the tables created a mixture of awe and pain - rarities and common chips alike could be found embedded in the resin.

In the 1990s, one of Sharkey's most famous tables was created when a stern and official group of accountants from Harvey's and the Nevada Gaming Control Board witnessed the resin poured on thousands of dollars of face value of Harvey's slug core \$100 and \$1000 chips. It was one of my favorite tables. Nothing like eating a \$16.96 prime rib dinner on top of \$50,000+ in chips.





Sharkey's was a low key casino at its best. Sharkey could frequently be found resting on a bench just inside the door. Clad in his favorite tennis shoes and sporting his trademark Butch hair cut, he would regale friends with his tales of Tahoe in the 50's. Harrah's and Harvey's tales were his specialty. Sharkey could also be found sitting at the corner of his lunch counter, talking with the locals and comping a free dinner once in a while.

In the late 1990s I had the pleasure of interviewing Sharkey in his restaurant. He told me of his early days in Lake Tahoe, his purchase of the Golden Bubble and his feelings about the changes in gaming that he had witnessed. Sharkey grew up in a day and age when gaming was wilder and much more personal than it is in today's casinos of accounting and corporate management. When Sharkey started, gaming was a rough business and one where you survived on your wits and your talent. To put it in Sharkey's words, "whenever a human touches the cards, someone is going to get f---d." - a not so gentle comment upon the nature of gaming past.

With increasing age, Sharkey has mellowed. In the 1990s Sharkey's son Butch and his daughter Michelle took over the day to day management of the Casino. Just after the turn of the millennium rumors swept through the Carson Valley that Sharkey's had been sold. After months of negotiations, rumors and speculation, a sale was announced. On December 31, 2001, the sale of Sharkey's creation - Sharkey's Nugget was concluded.

Despite promises of keeping the decor the same, an auction of the contents of Sharkey's was announced in January of 2002. With both dread and anticipation, many of the regulars in Sharkey's awaited the sale of the contents of Sharkey's. Anchor Auctions of Reno produced the sale that included more than 1500 lots of items from single pictures, saddles and advertising to grouped lots of signs and dishes. Serious buyers paid \$50 for a bidder number (refunded against purchases) and crowded into Anchor auctions from February 19-21, 2002. On Sunday, February 21, the crowd watched as Sharkey's tables hit the auction block. With average prices of around \$2,500 per decorated table the crowd cheered

when the Harvey's table hammered down at \$8,500. With a total sale estimated in excess of one million dollars, Sharkey's became a memory.

Today, Sharkey's in Gardnerville has been repainted. To quote one local, "there really was a casino under all that stuff." The new owners, the Holden group, will have their chance to make their own history. Perhaps, wisely or not, they have not continued in the footsteps of Milos Sharkey Begovich who's shoes would be hard to fill. Sharkey has retired for now, but the Begovich family will hardly sit still. When asked what she planned to do after Monday, December 31st, Michelle Begovich said "I plan to take a rest" and that ought to last until Wednesday. ❖



Silver Strikes *Chapter*

by Mary Lou **Waterbury**

It looks like many of the casinos are going all out to have new silver strikes for all of us by convention time. At the last count there have been 42 designs submitted for approval. In 1995 I was told I'd better get a different hobby because all the casinos were going to drop their silver strikes. I hope the person who said that doesn't feel too bad because he has a lot of company of folks who have been predicting the future in the economy, world affairs, etc., and they are eating their words daily.

The second Silver Strike Tournament shall be hosted by O'Shea's Casino, June 3-4 just before the CC>CC Convention. Once again we are excited about attending the yearly convention. Now there are so many new strikes that we will

want to win and with many more people who share our hobby, we can hardly wait for the fun to begin. It is very encouraging that the Paris Casino is joining that distinguished list of casinos offering silver strikes.

John Yee suggested that the contributors to the magazine this time comment on the players cards and room card keys. This is a new and growing hobby that finds many of the silver strikers as collectors. So far my husband and I have been in only one Round Robin where cards were exchanged with over a dozen other collectors. That was a lot of fun waiting for the mailman to bring our packet so we could go through them and find ones that we did not have. Then pack them up and send them onto the next person on the

list. My favorite card key is the one from the Las Vegas Hilton that features the Star Trek actors. As with all hobbies, it is the hunt that is the most exciting and stimulating.

Back to Silver Strikes and the convention coming up— we look forward to seeing all of you again and meeting some of our new members. It is still the friendships that mean more to us than how many strikes we have. We have a fantastic group of people in our growing Chapter. I salute you all!

See you in Las Vegas! ❖

Quarterly Southern Nevada Limited Edition "Cheque" List

by Dave and Debbie Harber

December 2001

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a very nice holiday season. December was quite the busy month for limited edition chips in southern Nevada. We were running almost daily to get Rodeo chips, Christmas chips, Anniversary chips, Grand Opening chips and New Year chips. To add to this frenzy a couple of casinos also released patriotic chips in honor of September 11th. The Las Vegas Club released a \$10 God Bless America chip. This chip was a hot chip not just because of the events of September 11 but because the mintage was only 200. The Aladdin followed in the Las Vegas Clubs' tracks and released a \$5 and \$25 United We Stand/God Bless America chip. Mintages on these two chips were 1,000 \$5's and 150 \$25's.



Next came National Finals Rodeo. This is a big event here in Las Vegas. Many of the casinos involved with the NFR release chips to commemorate the event. Harrah's released a \$5 (mintage 1,000) chip and \$25 (mintage 100) chip for the rodeo. Hard Rock produced a 7,000 mintage Rock N' Horses chip. The Riviera also joined in on the act and released a \$1 (1200 mintage), \$5 (800 mintage) and \$25 (120 mintage) "Cow chip" all with identical artwork.



To add to the excitement, three anniversaries were celebrated this month. The Santa Fe Station celebrated their first anniversary with a 5,000 mintage \$5 chip. The Sahara also issued a 5,000 mintage chip this month to celebrate their 50th anniversary. And finally, Terrible's had a birthday this month and released a 3 piece set of \$5 chips for their first anniversary along with a \$100 "Mr. Terrible" chip. Mintages on these chips were not given.





As if Rodeo, Christmas and Anniversaries did not keep us busy enough, along came New Year. To kick off New Year, Stratosphere had a 2,000 mintage \$5 chip and a 1,000 mintage \$25 chip. The Tropicana had a 500 mintage \$5 chip and a 1,500 mintage \$100 chip. Circus Circus also did a \$5 New Year chip with a mintage of 750. The Palms did a \$5 and \$25 New Year chip with mintages of 800 and 150 respectively. At Harrah's a \$5 New Year chip was released on New Year's Eve with a mintage of 1,500. Treasure Island did a \$100 New Year chip as they did last year with no confirmed number. The Riviera New Year chip was a \$5 chip with a 500 mintage. The Four Queens also released a \$5 (500 mintage) and \$25 (100 mintage) New Year chip. The Fiesta in North Las Vegas did a \$5 (750 mintage) and a \$25 (150 mintage) New Year chip. New York New York issued a \$5, \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1000 New Year chip with unconfirmed reports as to the number they made in each denomination.



chip was combined with New Years at the Ramada Express. It was a serialized \$5 chip with a mintage of 1,000.



Christmas is also another big holiday where the casinos have us running all over town. The Riviera issued a "Colors of Christmas" chip. This chip was made for the Colors of Christmas concert at the Riviera starring Michael McDonald, Sheena Easton, Peabo Bryson and Oleta Adams. We had the pleasure of attending. It was a nice event to get into the spirit of Christmas. The Tropicana issued a \$5 Christmas chip. It had a mintage of 500. O'Sheas also released a \$5 (750 mintage) and \$25 (150 mintage) Christmas chip. Hard Rock produced a 5,000 mintage \$5 Christmas chip. Fiesta in North Las Vegas issued a \$5 and \$25 Christmas chip with mintages of 750 and 150. The Palms had Bourgogne et Grasset (B&G) make 800 \$5 chips and 150 \$25 Christmas chips. The Four Queens changed suit and had Bud Jones produce their \$5 and \$25 Christmas chips. Mintages for these two were 500 for the \$5 and 100 for the \$25. The Aladdin followed by releasing an 800 mintage \$5 and 500 mintage \$25 "Happy Holiday's" chip. Down in Laughlin the only Christmas

Lady Luck too did a \$5, \$25 and \$100 New Years chip. The \$100 chip was only made available to their invited guests. No mintage was indicated on any of these chips. The Las Vegas Club made a \$10 chip with a mintage of 500. This chip according to cage personnel was their New Year chip. Other than being released on New Years it made no mention of the New Year. Instead it has United We Stand on the obverse and America Declares War on the reverse.



New Year chips were also a big hit in a couple of small Nevada towns. The Pahrump Nugget released a New Year chip with unconfirmed reports as to the number made. Also in Pahrump, the Saddle West had \$1 New Year chips made for patrons of their New Year's Eve party. They only made 250 chips. Since they were given to their party guests and such a small number were made not many were available after the fact to the chip community. Down in Laughlin, the Golden Nugget and Colorado Belle each did \$5 chips with mintages of 1,000 for the New Year.





December. They made 500 \$5 chips and 500 \$25 chips depicting this musician. The Riviera also issued a \$5 chip for Frankie Valle who was performing in their showroom with a mintage of 700. Down in Laughlin the Ramada Express released 1,000 chips for the International Road Rally event.

Now if that wasn't enough, two casinos opened during this time period. Fiesta, Henderson (formerly The Reserve) had a \$5 Grand Opening chip with a mintage of 2,500. Green Valley Ranch (part of the Station Casinos family) opened and issued 1,500 \$5 chips, 500 \$25 chips and 100 \$100 chips for their Grand Opening.



Just to add to the excitement more chips were released for various reasons. These would include, Harrah's "Winter in Las Vegas" a chip with a mintage of 1,000. Harrah's also did a set of four \$5 chips depicting "Vegas Life". Only 250 sets were made. The Aladdin made a chip for Bryan Adams who was performing there in



Thank goodness that was it for December. Now on to January!

January 2002

January traditionally is not too busy as far as chip collecting goes except for football. While none of the chips produced actually state "Super Bowl" due to copyright restrictions, the casinos still find a way to commemorate the event. In Las Vegas, Harrah's remade their three piece football set that was previously released but changed the date to read February 3, 2002. 1,000 of these sets were made. The Tropicana issued a \$5 football chip with a mintage of 1,000. In Laughlin, the Edgewater and the Colorado Belle each released a \$5 chip with a 1,000 mintage.





Other chips were also released in January. Harrah's issued a 1,000 mintage 65th anniversary of gaming chip. The Hard Rock put out \$5 and \$25 Aerosmith chips each with a mintage of 5,000. The Fiesta, North Las Vegas made a \$25 "Macho Millionaire" chip for their Macho Millionaire slot club players. Six hundred of these chips were made. Bally's/Paris issued a \$1 Showgirl chip. While it does not seem to be a limited edition, the casino is treating it as such by doling out 5 chips at a time from the cage. The Saddle West, over the hump in Pahrump came out with an Alien chip available in \$1, \$5 and \$25 denominations. They made 1,000 \$1's, 300 \$5's and 60 \$25's. Finally, the Opera House came out with their Christmas chips just a little late. But, I guess as the saying goes, better late then never. They had 1,250 \$1 chips made, 650 \$5 chips, 100 \$25 chips and 50 \$100 chips. Whew! That was it for January! At least this month did not hurt us in the pocket book quite as much as December. Now, let's move on to February.



February 2002

Since "Super Bowl" was delayed this year, so were some of the football chips. Besides the continuation of football, we had chips come out for the Olympics, Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and NASCAR to name a few. So lets get back to football. Circus Circus produced a \$5 chip with a 1,000 mintage. The Palms released a \$5 (mintage 800) and a \$25 (mintage 100) football chip. The Four Queens football chips picture William (the Refrigerator) Perry. They made a \$5 chip with a mintage of 1,000 and a \$25 chip with a mintage of 200. "The Fridge" was also available at the Four Queens for their Super Bowl party for autographs. That's it for football chips.



Next came Chinese New Year. This year was Year of the Horse. More casinos jumped on the bandwagon this year then in previous years. The Palms had 800 \$8 chips and 150 \$25 chips for Year of the Horse. O'Sheas had a 500 mintage \$8 chip. Harrah's

Las Vegas also released a \$5 Year of the Horse (mintage 500). These chips seemed to have disappeared a little too fast. (Does any one know where we can get one?) The Fiesta in North Las Vegas issued a 750 mintage \$8 and 150 mintage \$25 chip for the holiday. Finally, Mandalay Bay again made chips for Chinese New Year. These chips were not available at the cage. They were distributed only to their Asian high rollers. If one inquired at the cage about these chips they were told they were not available to collectors but to look for them on the tables. Again, as in previous years these were very hard to acquire. 1,200 \$1's, 800 \$5's and 1,200 \$25's with identical artwork were made. Why the unusual numbers you ask? The Asian players were each given \$88 worth of chips in an envelope. \$88 worth of chips is broken down into three \$25's, two \$5's and three \$1's. Why \$88? The number 8 is considered lucky.

Since this year was an Olympic



year a couple of the casinos did make chips to mark the events. The Tropicana released a \$5 Winter Games chip with a mintage of 500. The other casino to issue chips was Indian Springs. You ask, where the heck is that? It is located out in Indian Springs about 35 minutes north west of Las Vegas on Hwy 95 heading towards Tonopah. They issued a \$5 and \$25 "Twinkle Toes Moe" an unlikely Olympic figure skating pair and a \$5 and \$25 "Jumpin' Mad Moe". Each of these chips had mintages of 500 for the \$5 and 100 for the \$25.

The next big release time was

Valentines Day. The Hard Rock issued 4,000 \$5 chips. The Tropicana released 500 \$5 chips. The Four Queens did a \$5 and \$25 chip with mintages of 500 and 100 respectively. The Aladdin made 700 \$5 chips and 100 \$25 chips. The Riviera issued a 1,000 mintage \$5 Wedding Chapel chip during this time period as well. That was it for Valentines Day but there are still more chips to come. I know, you ask, what could they possibly make next...?

Well, here goes. The other chips to





come out this month commemorated events or performers. Mahoney's Silver Nugget finally released their Christmas chips in February. There were 1,250 \$1 chips, 550 \$5 chips, 80 \$25 chips and 30 \$100 chips. The Riviera sponsored an Archery competition and made 1,000 \$5 chips for the event. Five hundred of these chips went to the people attending the competition. The Riviera also made a Christopher Titus chip in conjunction with his performance. This chip had a mintage of 500. The Palms recently had Third Eye Blind perform and issued a \$5, \$25, and \$100 chip. All three chips depicted the same artwork. They made 2,000 \$5 chips, 300 \$25 chips and 100 \$100 chips. As if this wasn't enough for the month of February, the Fiesta issued a "No Push Pai Gow Poker", "Royal Match 21" and "Fortune Pai Gow Poker" (Hearts). These chips were available in \$5 denominations each with a mintage of 750 and \$25 denominations with a mintage of 100. Look for the Fortune Pai Gow Poker

series to continue with the other three suits. The other chip to come out of the Fiesta was John James. He is the general manager of the casino. They produced 5,000 of these chips. Lastly, the Tropicana issued a \$5 chip "Trading Paint". This chip is dated March 3rd and was released for the upcoming NASCAR races here in Las Vegas. So that's it.

That covers the Southern Nevada



Limited Editions released in December, January and February. We would like to express our thanks to Andy Hughes for providing the scan of the Harrah's Year of the Horse chip. In the next CC&TN we'll look at the chips released in March, April and May and there will be quite a few. We expect St. Patrick's Day, Race day, March Madness, April Fools, Mother's Day and Memorial Day chips 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. ❖

CC>CC Fourth Annual Poker Tournament

**At The Orleans
During the 2002 Convention**

by Robert Pardue



The 2002 CC>CC Poker Tournament will be held **Thursday night, June 6, beginning at 8:00pm at The Orleans Hotel-Casino**, upstairs in one of the 2nd floor conference & meeting rooms. This is the club's 4th annual poker tournament, and it is open to all national club members and associate members (age 21+ of course). The tournament gets bigger and better each year. Capacity has increased to 12 tables (132 players), and we hope to exceed the 10+ tables (116 players) at last year's event. This is your opportunity to meet fellow chippers across the poker table, have fun, and take home some cash if you finish at the final table!

You may sign-up for the tournament on Thursday, June 6 on the convention floor at the club table.

For the first time this year, a pre-registration option was available by mailing the \$55 buy-in in advance. (The pre-registration form was available in the club magazine and on the club website; pre-registration deadline was April 30.) Maximum 132 entries, though we will attempt to seat alternates during the first hour if necessary.

Tournament information

The game is **limit Texas Hold'em**, played according to usual Las Vegas poker tournament rules. The tourna-

ment is run professionally by The Orleans poker room management and dealers. **Buy-in is \$55 per player** for 500 in No Cash Value (NCV) chips. (This includes \$25 paid into the prize pool, plus \$10 for a set of 2002 tournament chips, plus a \$20 fee paid to The Orleans.) An **optional one-time rebuy for \$20**, anytime during the first hour, gets an additional 500 in NCV chips. All rebuy money is added to the prize pool. Limits start at the 15-30 level and increase every 15 minutes. The tournament will last about four hours. No refunds for no-shows.

The final 10 players will place "in the money". The prize pool will be awarded to 10th through 1st place at the following percentages: 2%, 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%, 7%, 10%, 14%, 20% and 33%. **If all 132 seats are filled, and if all take the optional re-buy, then the prize pool will be \$5,940, with first place receiving \$1,960 plus a trophy and other goodies.**

2002 Tournament Chips

We will have a **new 5-piece set of NCV chips designed for the tournament**. The chip sets will be available for purchase at **\$15 per set**. Sets may be ordered in advance (must be pre-paid too) from Richard Allard, club Promotions Chairman. Chip sets may be purchased at the club table during the convention too. Chips will be

available for pickup on June 7 at the club table. (Postage added for chips not picked up at the convention. If you aren't attending, add \$4.95 insured priority postage for 1-5 sets.)

Other Tournament Activities

Consolation Chip Pool (optional): Bring a chip or chips retail valued at \$7-\$10. (Examples: a nice \$5 chip, or 2 snappers, or several nice \$1 chips... but please, no Trop or Orleans chips that you picked up on the way to the tournament. Make it something interesting!) Add it to the consolation pool before the tournament starts. As players bust-out, those who participate in the consolation chip pool may pick out a chip of their choice.

Chip Bounties (optional): Want to create an incentive for another player to be knocked out of the tournament (in fun, or course)? Place a chip bounty on them before the tournament starts. Whoever knocks them out collects the chip bounty on that player.

See Bob Pardue, Poker Tournament Chairman, just before the start of the tournament, if you want to participate in the Consolation Chip Pool or the Chip Bounty. ❖

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News of Europe

by Bob Hermans

For most of us the transition from our National currency to the Euro went more or less without any problems, likewise for most of the casinos. I have not heard of any 'major' problems, maybe a bit of confusion here and there. But that was to be expected.

As promised, I will send in a report to the editors of this magazine for many more issues as I try to get as many new jetons and chips from all the casinos in the Euro zone, this will be a long quest.

So here are the first ones, from Holland Casino, like before they use the same jetons and chips in all of their 11 casinos. The ones you see are from the French Roulette table (what did you think, its my favorite game). A plain grey with gold lace and purple lunette, they also have 2 'colors', meaning to avoid confusion, 2 players can have a different jeton like that they don't have to remember what they have played (this is NOT common on the French Roulette tables in Europe, I have not seen this in Spain or France, they did have it at the French Roulette table in Paris, Las Vegas). Same grey with gold lace and purple lunette but with red lines or red stubs. Very nice B&G jetons of 36mm.



During my trip to Finland in January I also picked up these nice chips from the Casino group PAF. They operate a casino in Mariaham (a small island between Sweden and Finland) and they also run the small boat casinos on many ships, which ferry between the Scandinavian countries. The casino boss told me (as it is happening in many groups) they use the same chips on ALL of their casinos, both on land and sea. Have a look at their website, the url is on the chip!

Again produced by B&G in the same size as the ones from The

Palms, 40mm. So they won't fit in the 'regular' airtites...

There is a gray 0.5, an orange 1 and a red 2. (more are of course in play, but these were the only ones I was able to get, the others are the same design just different colors)

I will post the jetons and chips on Greg's www.thechipboard.com so you can see them in color.

Now something completely different, a casino group from Ukraine, the Split Group, managed to get a plaque, produced by B&G, into space! They gave the plaque to a Russian cosmonaut, who let the plaque (which had a stamp and a certificate) drift off into space. The captain of the Space mission filmed all of this. I will try to get more info or a picture and post it as soon as I have more info.

Like always, take care and kind regards,

Bob Hermans R-4479
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2200 Herentals
Belgium
email : profexion@skynet.be ❖





RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Hello riverboat collectors!
 Sorry I missed the last issue.
 Harrah's purchased Players in
 Metropolis, Illinois and has a complete
 new rack of chips.

The President Casino in Biloxi,
 MS has a 25¢ chip for the first
 time.

These from Casino Rouge are
 white, peach, purple and yellow.



I was able to find a few No
 Cash Value chips recently. The
 first of these from The Belle of
 Baton Rouge is cream colored and
 the second is red.



The Ameristar has issued the
 following 2-\$5 chips to celebrate
 the opening of their Bottleneck
 Blues Bar. They both have a
 common back as shown in the
 third photo.



Harrah's changed all the chips on December 14, 2001 after they purchased Harvey's. I am told that the Grand Opening chip shown below is very hard to find. They distributed them to invited guests at the opening and I guess they just aren't coming back in.



This \$100 Chipco from the now closed Harvey's in Council Bluffs, IA is very interesting. I got this from an antique dealer in Omaha, NE. He said it came from some workers who found it while doing construction for the change over from Harvey's to Harrah's. I was told that they found 3 of them, but that he could only get one. I purchased that one from him. After posting the chip in my guide at <http://www.chipguide.com>, I was informed from a friend that worked in the cage at Harvey's that they only had 3 of them. They were taped up on a sign inside the cage as a reminder for employees NOT to cash them in. All the rest were encased in Lucite blocks and passed out to invited guests when they opened. So as far as I know now, this is one of only 3 that aren't sealed in Lucite.

On December 6, 2001, the Isle of Capri opened a new casino in Boonville, Missouri.





From Harrah's in Joliet, IL comes another interesting chip. This "New Era" chip comes in 3 varieties that I know of. One, shown below, is the LCV mold on both sides. Another is H&C on side one and LCV on side two, and the last is LCV on side 1 and H&C on side 2. This is the first time I have ever seen a chip with a different mold design on each side of the chip.



Caesar's in Harrison County, Indiana issued a \$5 and a \$25 to celebrate their 3rd Anniversary.



Here are a couple more No Cash Value chips I was able to obtain recently. The first is from the Emerald Queen in Tacoma, Washington. It is orange in color. The second is a light blue 100 from Sam's Town in Tunica, MS.

Thanks to everyone that helps keep me informed about new casino openings and new chip releases. It would be impossible for me to gather all this information without your help. If you are connected to the internet, please stop by <http://www.chipguide.com> to see my complete online guide with all these photos and thousands more in full color. There are several hundred chip collectors who get together every day and discuss the hobby on The Chip Board at <http://www.thechipboard.com>. Please feel free to join in. ❖



“The New Guy Completes His First Year”

by Edward Bigley



Well, Its official. I just sent Ralph Myers my renewal for membership for the Club. I have just completed one year with the Club. As I reflect back on my first year I wanted to share my experience from the new guy on the block. First off let me start by introducing myself. My name is Ed Bigley #5083. I live in Orlando, FL where I am married to my wife Teresa and work in the Public Safety field. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made my first year so enjoyable.

First a little history. I started collecting in 1999. It started with wanting to take home a chip from places we had visited or stayed while visiting different casinos. Though the wife thought I was crazy, there was just something about those little discs of clay that I found fascinating. From there it graduated to a collection of 27 chips when I asked a friend to pick me up chips during their visit to Las Vegas. I can remember the day they returned and me going through all of the chips. Picking out my favorite. Thinking that these are little works of art! Wondering how do they make these things? Look...this one has a top hat with a cane on the outside. How naive I was.

One day I decided to do a computer search for others that collected chips. Certainly I was not alone in my love for these, or was I? The first site I stumbled into was the Main site for the CCGTCC. I was in awe! Not only had I found a site that was related... there was a complete organization of people that share my same interest! Looking at the sites first page it says, “Have you ever played in a casino and taken a close look at the chips you were playing with at a table or the tokens you were putting into that slot machine?” I was home!

That same day I found Greg Susong’s site and The ChipBoard. Here people were discussing and debating there thoughts and ideas on chipping. Sharing information and even personal matters that had brought them pain or joy. I became a “lurker” watching and listening from the sidelines. Reading every post, my chip education growing. It was very obvious that a lot of the “major players” in the Chipping World were here on this message board. There were

heated debates and issues, all for the love of the hobby. As the rookie I asked a lot of dumb questions, but found everyone to be patient and understanding. Many went out of their way to guide and direct me in the right direction. It was at that point I new this was a group of people I was honored to be associated with, though I had never met any of them. That was the day I sent in my membership dues.

Over the last year I have made many contacts and friends. I became active in my local Chapter. I attended my first chip show in Tunica where I was able to put faces with names and meet the people I had spoken with through out the year. I have found everyone in the Club to be outgoing and friendly. My collection has graduated from 27 chips to over 900.

In closing I want to stop and thank so many of you that have made me feel welcome. You are the people that make this hobby the best! Through your guidance and help you have taken me “under your wing” and kept me informed, educated and protected. The knowledge you have provided is invaluable! I look forward to attending my first Convention in June of 2002 where I can thank and meet all of you in person. ❖

Dining Tidbits

Terrible's vs Delmonico

by Lisa Jung

Delmonico Steakhouse at the Venetian Hotel Casino, Las Vegas

Sorry, I shouldn't mention those two restaurants in the same sentence, much less put them on the same line. They are *not* in the same league, but it got your attention, didn't it? This makes quite a study in contrasts, much like Mel's article on Denny's vs. Delmonico in the last issue. However, in my opinion, Delmonico is 10 times better than either Terrible's or Denny's. Of course, there is a price difference, but you get what you pay for in terms of food and service.

We had dinner at the Delmonico Steakhouse with Mary Ann & Skip Harouff, Estelle & Scott Hartman, Don Lueders, Janel Cole, and John Yee. Our waiter was knowledgeable about the menu items and their ingredients. He even imitated the restaurant's owner, Emeril Lagasse, by using such terms like "Bam!" and "Kick it up a Notch!". He was able to recommend some items over others and knew how each was prepared. Our table was also attended by two assistant wait persons; among the three of them, we certainly got excellent and attentive service! We never saw the bottom of our water glasses.

Mel's appetizer of breaded oysters served with pasta, shrimp and mushrooms was well-prepared and tasty. The Hartmans had an appetizer of mushrooms with angel hair pasta; that was good, too. John's gumbo was a little on the salty side for my taste. Don liked his foie gras appetizer. Most appetizers were \$8-10; some were as high as \$12-18.

My entrée was a three-inch thick pork chop served with caramelized sweet potatoes, green chili mole, and tamarind glaze (\$26). I ordered it medium-well, which was difficult for the chef, considering that the chop was so thick, and it arrived perfectly cooked and still moist. All components of this entrée were excellently prepared and the flavors complimented each other. Mel felt his rack of lamb (\$36) was excessively charred on the outside; however, it was perfectly cooked to medium-rare on the inside. It was served with rosemary bacon potato cakes, apple-mint relish, and roasted lamb jus. Other entrees were tournedos (\$30) and rib steak (\$27). Side dishes, like asparagus, garlic mashed potatoes, and skillet potatoes were \$7-8. Wine, served by the glass, was \$8-10.

Now for the best part: some of the desserts sounded very plain,

like pecan pie and fruit cobbler, but their plain descriptions did not do them justice as they were excellently prepared and well worth their price of \$8.50. My chocolate mousse pyramid (a chocolate pyramid-shaped cake coated with a chocolate glaze and served with a cinnamon shortbread cookie and white chocolate shavings) was good (\$8), but not as delicious as the pecan pie and fruit cobbler. I'm sure it was a lot of work to make the pyramid; but, ultimately, taste is the most important factor.

A trip to the ladies room (down a very long hallway) is an event and well worth the trek. Inside you'll find a beautiful bouquet of cymbidium orchids. Beside the sinks are various products for the guests' use: hand lotion, hair spray, mouthwash, and a dish of mints.

Food, ☆☆☆☆

Service, ☆☆☆☆

Terrible's Buffet at Terrible's Casino, Las Vegas

Now for Terrible's Buffet. I was curious about how this casino got its memorable name, so I read about it in a magazine. Years ago, the owner had a chain of gas stations and was undercutting everyone in town. His competitors,

concerned about their decline in business, had a meeting to decide what to do. One person was so angry, he started yelling, "That terrible SOB...." The owner loved this reaction when he heard about it, so he, subsequently, called his gas stations and his casino, "Terrible's".

When we went into the casino, I was anticipating being able to say in my article that it wasn't "terrible", and most of it isn't; unfortunately, some of it is. A friend had recommended the food here, so I was game to try it. You first need to stand in line for the Fun Book in order to get the two for one coupon for the buffet; it was long, but it moved fast. There wasn't much of a line for the buffet (either we were lucky, or that should have been a sign.) Lunch is \$6.99, except on Sundays; then the champagne brunch is \$8.99. It's too bad that we came on a Sunday, as we don't drink champagne, but had to pay the higher price. (Okay, we had a two for one coupon, so I'm not complaining.) Actually, no one offered us any champagne, which we didn't mind, but it's the principle of it.

First of all, the set-up for the buffet is wrong. The salad ingredients, like potato salad, tuna salad, chicken salad, pickled cucumbers, and cooked shrimp (they were very small and were not fresh), are at one end of the buffet, and the fruit, lettuce, and salad dressings are at the other end. The corn and potato chowder was very good; it was placed at the right side of the

buffet. However, the chicken noodle soup was on the left side of the buffet. Secondly, some of the signs that are supposed to label the food are wrong. You'd think that the chefs would have cared enough about their food to get the signs right. So you just have to guess what the entrees are. Mel liked the corned beef hash (it tasted like it came straight out of a can and was very salty). I liked the mashed potatoes; they were "real" with the requisite number of potato lumps. They also served thick-sliced bacon; this is a plus, in my opinion. The prime rib was tender and flavorful; even the well-done parts were tender. The chow mein was made with very thick and heavy noodles (they may have been made from dry packaged noodles). The sweet & sour chicken wings were good. But, what I thought was sweet & sour chicken breast was strange; besides being dry, it might have been fish, but then I couldn't tell exactly what it was as it wasn't labeled. The beef ribs were very good, as was the barbecued chicken (it might have been brined for tenderness and flavor).

You might want to skip the desserts. They looked like bakery-type desserts. The cakes looked very dry and some desserts looked like they were garnished with cool whip.

It's difficult to rate a restaurant when the quality of the food is so uneven. Some of the food is good, but some of it lives up to its name. ☆☆

Bertolini's in the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

The setting of Bertolini's is enchanting; it is located near a large fountain with waterfalls. It may be hard to hear over the roar of the waterfalls, but the view is worth it. It's like eating at an outdoor café without the glare of the sun, and the temperature is always perfect. The normal 24-hour lighting changes in an hour, so you can experience daylight and dusk at one sitting.

They have a very extensive and varied menu. Openers (\$4.75-11.50) include bruschetta (\$6.75), calamari fritti (\$8.95), and spinach, crab & artichoke dip (\$9.50). Soups include minestrone and the requisite pasta fagioli, each \$5.75. Salad offerings (\$6.50-12.75) included Caesar (of course) at \$6.75 and chicken penne salad (\$12.75). They also offer a variety of wood-fired pizzas for \$10.75 and wood-fired pastas like chicken cannelloni (\$14.95), lasagna (\$12.95), and rigatoni with shrimp salmon & pancetta (\$14.50). There's a variety of seafood entrees like crab with pasta (\$18.95), and lobster, shrimp & scallops with pasta (\$19.95). After we ordered, the waiter brought a small round loaf of Italian bread with a dollop of Kalamata olive tepanade on the top of the bread; they should have put it in a dish on the side as it looked quite unappetizing (I won't tell you what Mel said it looked like). Mel had the salmon picatta (\$15.95); he said it was just okay. However, we both liked the garlic mashed potatoes that came with it. Bertolini's specializes in pastas

like cappelli, penne, ravioli, and gnocchi with a variety of sauces (\$11.95-15.95). Because it was marked on the menu as a Bertolini's chef special, I chose the fazzoletto: pasta sheets with spinach, ricotta, and wild mushrooms (\$15.50). The first bite was exquisite; however, because the pasta was so filling, I found it impossible to finish it all, especially since I had my eye on Bertolini's specialty: tiramisu (\$5.95). I was very disappointed in their version as it was very heavy, not very flavorful (I wondered if they had actually used any marscarpone cheese) and not really worth the calories or the price. I should have opted for the crème brulee (\$5.50) or the chocolate torta (\$5.95). Overall, the ambiance is wonderful, and the food quality and prices are moderate.

Food, ☆☆☆

Ambiance ☆☆☆☆

Il Fornaio Bakery at New York, N.Y., Las Vegas

Speaking about tiramisu, I had to try the version at Il Fornaio. It was \$4 and was served in a molded chocolate shell. The quality of the chocolate shell was not good; the tiramisu itself was better than at Bertolini's. The search goes on for a good tiramisu, but I don't mind this job.

☆☆

Port-O-Call Buffet at the Gold Coast Casino, Las Vegas

The first challenge is find the buffet as it's located in the corner at the very end of the casino oppo-

site to the front door. As they are in the process of remodeling, the entrance to the buffet is not obvious, yet. The cashier sits at a temporary table inside the entrance. Lunch is very reasonable at \$5 and dinner is \$8. There are many stations featuring seafood, Mongolian, Chinese, Mexican, Italian, American, and Barbecue. Our server was cordial and friendly, but he seemed distracted. We ordered coke and skim milk; he brought us iced tea and orange juice, but he corrected the order quickly. They have a very good salad bar; most items were fresh and delicious, even though we were eating a late lunch at 3 p.m. The seafood salad consisting of shrimp and surimi was excellent. Also good was the tuna salad, chicken salad, coleslaw, pasta salad and carrot salad. They need improvement on their bland pickled vegetables, however, and the romaine lettuce was slightly wilted. Their chow mein and stir-fried chicken & vegetables were very good. I especially enjoyed their fried plantains. I didn't have any room for dessert.

☆☆☆

Mr. Lucky's, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas

During my usual pilgrimage to the Hard Rock Casino and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for pins, we ran into John Yee who was on his way to Mr. Lucky's for their \$3 steak and shrimp special; we couldn't resist. This entrée is not on their menu; you have to ask for it. All three of us ordered the special. Our waiter was cordial and accommodating. The special comes with a salad. Mel thought his blue cheese dressing tasted spoiled, so the waiter quickly brought him some fresh dressing. We each received three succulent shrimp that were cooked perfectly and came with drawn butter. The steak, however, was slightly tough, but I recognized that the chef could only work with the ingredients he was given. What can you expect for \$3? Only when we got the bill, we found out that it wasn't \$3 for the special; it was \$7.77 due to a recent price change. It was still worth it. However, John said his apple pie was only mediocre.

☆☆



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Atlantic City Chapter begins 2002 Chip Activities with Annual Party

by Jerry Birl

On Sunday January 20, 2002 the Atlantic City Chapter began another year of chip collecting activities. The Chapter meetings continue to draw a large crowd of chip and token enthusiasts; over 130 members and guests were in attendance. The January meeting is always special because after the regular meeting, the auction, and the chip trading activities are completed the members go to the Baltimore Grill for our annual lunch and celebration of the New Year. Chapter members enjoy pizza and other tasty Italian dishes as they mingle with other fellow

chippers, talk about chips and socialize with friends they have meet through their chip collecting hobby. As usual the Chapter picked up the bill for this Annual gathering.

There are many Chapter members who have become close friends through this hobby and I feel this is one of the things that makes this hobby so much fun.

There are truly a lot of nice folks who collect chips and tokens. If you are not a member of the A.C. Chapter we cordially

invite you to join in the fun of chip collecting. To join the Chapter please contact Dick Brach, President of the Chapter, 32 South Avenue Fanwood, NJ 07023. Dues are only \$6.00 per year or \$10.00 for a two year membership.

The Chapter meeting are held on Sundays at the Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. The 2002 meetings are scheduled for March 3rd, May 5th, July 14th, September 22nd, and November 24th. Please make plans to join us at one or all of the scheduled meetings. ❖

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CC>CC Announcement Board

The Club's Website; Keeping Up With The Changing Times

by Neal Silverman

Many years ago I propositioned the Board of Directors, saying this club needed a website. The answer I got was the time wasn't right, the majority of the membership didn't have computers, let alone Internet access. Every time I asked I got the same answers, but there was more interest. I figured out what to do, make an offer they couldn't refuse, volunteer my time and effort into building a Club website. As crude as it was, the website was born. Over the years Greg Susong, our webmaster, has transformed my beginnings into the working functional website it is today. With the help of other computer savvy volunteers, such as Scott Blackburn, Pete Sanders, Ed Bigley, Dick Covington, Ross Poppell, and Charles Kaplan the website is changing on a daily basis. It is the home to our Club's Directory, Code of Ethics, Constitution, Glossary, Fantasy Chip pages and tons of reference material.

We are finding more ways to use technology to our advantage. We started with credit card use. Now our members can renew their membership's on line. New members can join the club on line. We are in the process of creating an on-line shopping cart so members can purchase Club merchandise from the comfort of their

home. Pete Sanders and Dick Allard are currently creating promotional pages with scans. We are expanding this concept to next year's convention with online registration, on line reservations for the banquet and who knows how many more areas we can expand this into. We will continue to use the Internet as we create the new Club position of Online Communications Director. This person's major responsibility will be responding to the membership and answering on line questions, keeping people informed. Hopefully, we will be able to run a Club sponsored chat room. This will enable you to chat directly with other Club members as well as Board members. We are continually working on Club and hobby issues. President Pincus has assigned me the task of making announcements, as needed, to the Club's Announcement Board also located on the Club's website.

The Club's Glossary of Terms is now on the website. Thanks to the initial efforts of Archie Black, helped by dozens of collectors, the glossary got off the ground. Charles Kaplan has volunteered to keep the Club's Glossary a work in progress. Scott Blackburn has built the Chapter's page and we encourage all CC>CC Chapters to take

advantage of this area. We can either link to your Chapter's page or help you create a page on the Club's site. There are many chips that appear to be real chips from real casinos, but actually are not. Dick Covington has developed and maintained The Fantasy Page on our website. The purpose of this page is to help you identify chips that are known to be fakes, fantasy or counterfeit.

The CC>CC website has come along since its inception and this is only the beginning. If you have a thought, an idea or just want to roll up your sleeves let Greg or myself know. We can be reached at webmaster@ccgtcc.com or vicepresident@ccgtcc.com

Official Conditions Proposal 02/072002

This proposal carries with it the call for creation of a three member Condition Description Oversight Committee to review the issues that result from the implementation of the description plan. It is suggested that whomever is currently Chairing the Glossary Committee be included in this committee since the hobby's language is involved.

Additionally this proposal calls for the Official CC>CC Condition Descriptions be printed on the back of all membership cards, including those of Chapters. It should also be placed in the Club's Glossary as well as published on the Club's web site.

CC>CC Official Condition Descriptions

The CC>CC officially recognizes the following condition categories and encourages their use by club members, casino chip sellers/dealers and casino chip collectors.

NEW - A chip which shows no sign of use or damage; in same condition as originally manufactured.

EXCELLENT - A chip which shows only slight signs of use and no damage.

USED - A chip which shows obvious signs of use and/or has minor damage, such as rim nicks or surface scratches.

WORN - A chip which has been extensively used and shows signs of substantial wear, such as rounded edges, or other damage caused by use.

POOR - A chip which is generally unacceptable for most collections. Edges worn like bicycle tires. Hot stamp completely worn off. Molds well worn. Center inlay(s) may be curled, cracked or completely missing one side or both.

DAMAGED - A chip which has substantial and unusual damage, unrelated to its use in casino play; for example, a crack, substantial scratching or gouges or excessive fading of colors. A damaged chip may also be in otherwise Mint, Excellent, Used or Worn condition and/or may also be Cancelled.

CANCELLED - May be used as a modifier to any of the above.

Acceptable samples:

Used

Used Cancelled

Used Cancelled Drilled

Worn Cancelled Notched

Nate Pincus	Yes
Neal Silverman	Yes
Marty Kaplan	Yes
Dave Shron	Yes
Ralph Myers	Yes



Atlantic City R E P O R T

by Archie **Black**

Well, the New Year started off peacefully enough... but that was all about to change as January turned into February... but I'm getting ahead of myself.

January brought five new A.C. chips into the hobby... all from the same property. Trump Plaza issued a commemorative chip to mark the inaugural season of the Boardwalk Bullies, a minor league professional East Coast Hockey League team that made its appearance with great fanfare, playing regularly at the boardwalk convention hall, which is next door to Trump Plaza where the Miss America Pageant is held each year.



Many folks in the community (mostly non-hockey fans) were very critical of the chosen name for our new team, and have voiced their opinions regularly in the local newspaper, *"The Press of Atlantic City"* in Letters to the Editor features. The Bullies; in response, at one period in their season, ripped off 11 consecutive wins. *"This ain't no beauty contest"* is the official Bullies adopted slogan. 1,500 chips were made.

Following the Bullies chip, were four different "cartoon character"

chips that are represented on these newly themed slot machines at Trump Plaza.



Two different Betty Boop chips, a Blondie, and a Popeye chip rounds out the four-piece popular series... all of which were sold out in less than a half-hour, at releases that were two weeks apart. 1200 of each chip were manufactured.

The next "new" chip to make a brief appearance in Atlantic City is this troublesome chip below... that damn near caused a riot. We have not had as much excitement in Atlantic City that this controversial "back-up" chip has provoked in quite sometime.



The story began on a Friday night in late January, when counterfeits of the regular \$100 chip were discovered and all of the regular black chips with red inserts rack chips were pulled from the casino floor and were substituted with this yellow inserts back-up chip as illustrated above. Word of this change was slow to get around to the chipping community and some chippers smelled a great investment opportunity to jump on a potential rarity. At one point, Claridge had pulled BOTH the regular and the back-up \$100 chips and was operating without ANY \$100s on the floor for several hours... until the Casino Control Commission stepped in and ordered casino management to restore one or the other chips to the casino floor. Management opted to return the back-up hundred back on most of the tables.

Well to make a long story short... instead of the chip being on the tables for only a day or two... the chip remained on the tables for two weeks. By then, everyone knew about it and quite a few back-ups walked from the gaming tables during this two-week period. The day after the backups were recalled to the cage during the first week of February ... 86 of them remained outstanding.... and the selling price had dropped to the usual \$110 for most transactions. Prior sales of this chip were in the \$400-\$500 range on eBay some six months earlier... and I know of one private transaction of \$750 that has since been dramatically adjusted.



The above Caesars \$5 chip is a unique error chip that was discovered by club member Ron Leis who put it up for bid on eBay in mid-February. This regular rack chip should have two white inserts opposite each other and two green inserts opposite each other. Final winning bid on eBay was \$711.01... just goes to show what some eagle-eyed chippers can expect to find if they look hard enough.

A couple of more error rarities offered on eBay



Talk about "eagle-eyed chippers"... Club member Robert Krueger recently offered these unique beauties for sale. The black and white photos in this magazine reproduction will not

allow the proper viewing of these errors to be effectively demonstrated, but all three chips exhibit error alignments of the edge inserts.

From left to right; pink end inserts face each other at two o'clock and five o'clock and all three sxsxs center segments are green. The center chip, shows the two pink end segments again facing each other at five o'clock and 7 o'clock but with a dark blue middle edge segment at 8 o'clock.. The chip on the right, does not have any pink segments facing each other, but still has one dark blue center segment at 7 o'clock. All "normal" BOA-20 chips should reflect all three sxsxs edge inserts with green center segments and NO end segments facing each other should be of the same color. Those of you who are on-line

can view these chips in full color for comparison on my website at

www.callzia.com/dghome/acchips/home.htm

Just prior to the deadline for this issue of the magazine, Trump Marina



issued an extremely limited edition \$100 Hooters hologram chip (Black's catalog # MAR-100c) to compliment their previously issued Hooters \$5 & \$25 pair of chips.

Well over 50 "chippers" were patiently waiting in line at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 27th, when all 100 of this chip that were manufactured were delivered to a single roulette table on the casino floor where sales were strictly limited to one chip per person. Additional purchases could be made only by returning to the end of the line... and most folks wound up with a meager two chips each. No hoarding on this issue... but perhaps a little bit of speculating!

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

Small Nevada casinos you might not have seen



*Truck Inn, Fernley Nevada
Picture Courtesy: Allan Anderson*



*Topaz Nugget, Topaz Lake Nevada
Picture Courtesy: Allan Anderson*



California Chips

by David Moore

Quite a few chips have come out recently in the Golden State. The former Sal's Club in Rosamond has become Diamond Jim's with a new rack including 50 cents, \$1, \$2, \$5, \$25 and \$100 chips. A new club is reportedly also opening in Fresno to give Club One some competition but as of this writing the chips have not been seen.



Artichoke Joe's in San Bruno replaced their \$1, \$2, \$5, \$20 and \$100 chips with a new rack in February. The club also issued a silver-strike-like token for the Year of the Horse. It was handed out in the Asian Games section and was not available at the cage.

The chip that always causes a flurry of interest for the last few years are the Hollywood Park Asian New Year chips. This year the casino again issued two chips (\$2.50 and \$5) and an \$8 plaque. Since the chips were manufactured last year when the Year of the Snake chips and plaques of the same denomination were made, the designs provided no surprises. The Commerce Casino once again released a \$5 and \$25 chip and again they are proving somewhat elusive to obtain.





Bay 101 issued their seventh anniversary chip. The year it is a \$2 denomination to go with the \$1 issued for year six. The first five years anniversary chips were all \$5 denomination.



The Tuolumne Band's Black Oak Casino issued one of the most attractive recent California chips to celebrate their Mardi Gras-themed New Year's Eve party.

The Black Oak Casino in Tuolumne was the only new Indian casino to open in the last few months. It has issued a \$5 chip and reportedly a \$5 grand opening chip although one collector reported no one in the cage seemed to know about the grand

opening chip on a recent visit. Spotlight 29 issued their fifth \$5 chip in their series of chips for the annual Pow Wow. Jackson Rancheria issued a \$5 LE to celebrate their 10th anniversary in late 2001.



Thanks to Larry Odoms and Jim Noll for their contributions this month. If I've missed a new chip issued in the last few months or if you know of upcoming California chips, drop me a line, and I'll include them in the next issue of the club magazine. Contact me at: moored@pacbell.net or write: David Moore, 1750 San Luis Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ❖

More Small Nevada casinos you might not have seen



Stateline Saloon & Gambling Hall, Armagossa Valley
Picture Courtesy: Doris Jackson, Stateline Saloon



Bordertown, Reno Nevada
Picture Courtesy: Allan Anderson

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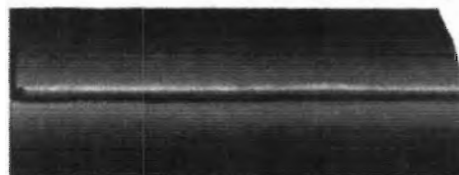
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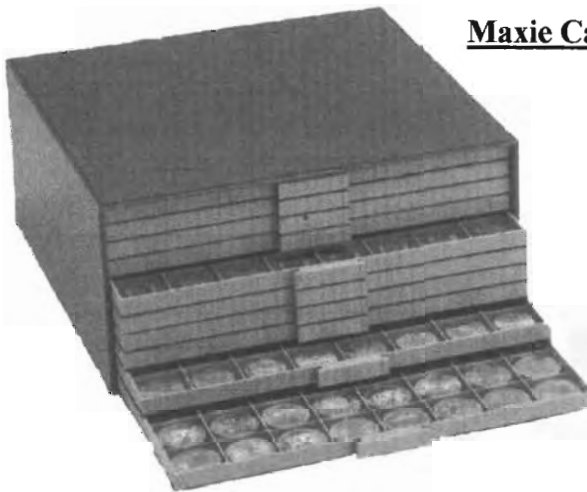
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ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLES

by Dale Seymour and Ken Craig

In the late 1970s, we were amazed to know that there were more than 100 different ivory chips. We speculated as to how many really existed. Maybe 200. Maybe even 400. Clay chips were much more common and we knew of several hundred different clays. When the first edition of *Antique Gambling Chips* was publishing in 1984, 246 different ivory designs were introduced and about 720 different clay designs. Where are we today with respect to numbers of different antique chip designs? You guess. Here is your chance to test your estimation skills. The answer is on the last page of this article. And — it's pretty amazing.

How many new finds are left? Like the kids on the car trip — “are we there yet?” This journal's article adds 18 ivories and 12 clays to the totals given in the summary.

There are a number of ivory chips that commemorate dates and places in the old West and riverboat areas. Chips like “Remember The Alamo - 1836”, “Anchor Packet Boats - 1847”, “Sitting Bull - 1876”, “Bonnefields Bank Saloon - Klondike 1899”, “New Orleans Vicksburg Packet - Ten Gold Dollars”. We have found about two dozen of these types of chips. These are not “recent creations” but are souvenir chips probably created or recreated from older ivory chips during the 1920s. Chips like these have also been poorly counterfeited in the 1980s or 1990s. Henry Garrett found two of the older type, a “\$25 California Gold” (IR-CB)

and a “Texas Joe - Faro S.F.” (IR-GX). It is interesting to note that one of the chips has “July 7, 1846” on one side and the date “1879” on the back, further evidence that these are souvenir chips.

We give a different code to a chip design with no border than to the same design with a border. When we find one or the other, we are not certain that that was not the only design made. Two new border chips of plain border chips previously known are the Saddle & Whip (ID-HJ) and the monogrammed MPC (IM-IB) chips. New ivory finds are shown on the next page. Credits to Tom French, CA (IE-HO and IE-HP), Ken Craig, CA (IE-PM), Bud Meyer, CA (IM-IGs), and Ralph Strandwold, CA (PD-AW, IQ-FQ and IQ-HF).

Probably the most exciting clay found in the last several months is an inlaid litho Buffalo Head (PA-AT). This is the third clay “Buffalo chip” we know exists. And buffalo chips are harder to come by than cow chips — no bull. The new crown chip shown (PM-EF) is like the one that has the word “CROWN” below it, but this one has a simple design below. That design is not shown in the graphic in this article. We received submissions of advertising chips to be coded, but remember they must be pre-1940 and not plastic. The Montana Power chip (PY-MQ) is not plastic. It is one of those late 1930s clay, interlocking chips.

New chip collector, Nancy Olson, of Portland, OR, found a box of clay maple leaf chips (PL-MI). The box design included the name, R. D. Fleck, Toronto, Canada. This is only the second Canadian chip manufacturer or distributor that we have seen.

Maple leaf — Canada. We should have guessed.

One of the clay design chips that take careful inspection to identify is the 24 circle Carlo chip (PD-AC). There is also a 25 circle Carlo chip (PD-AF). It is a pain in the you know what to count all of these little circles to tell which chip you have. Well, now it's even more of a pain because Fred Krick of Des Moines, IA found a 22 circle Carlo chip (PD-AA). Thanks Fred (we think).

Rich Hanover (NJ) found the great buffalo chip. Other clay chip find credits go to Ralph Strandwold, CA (PD-AW, PD-LU, and PW-HK), Dave Woody, CA (PD-MQ) and Michael Par, AZ (PD-CX, PD-IV, PL-HL, PM-EF and PY-MQ).

Send new chip finds to:

Dale Seymour,
11170 Mora Drive,
Los Altos, CA 94024
(seymourdg@aol.com)

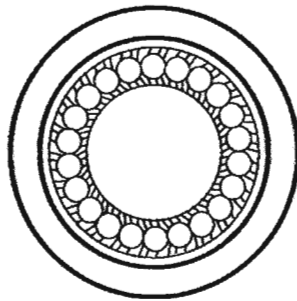
or

Ken Craig,
3927-H Waring Road,
Oceanside, CA 92056
(drkenny@home.com). ❖

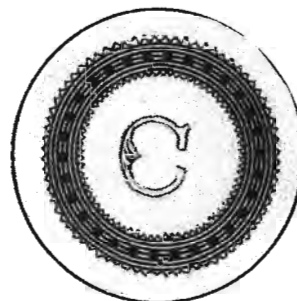
New Antique Poker Chip Finds



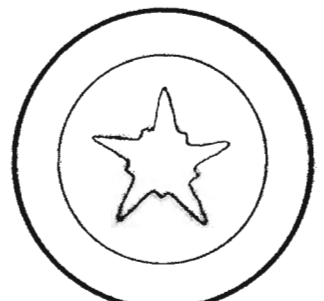
PA-AT Buffalo
Inlaid Litho / v:g



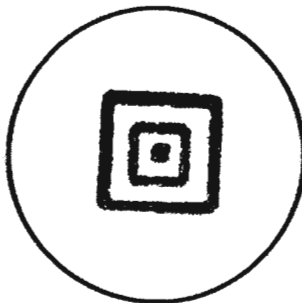
PD-AA Carlo (22 circles)
Engraved / v:e



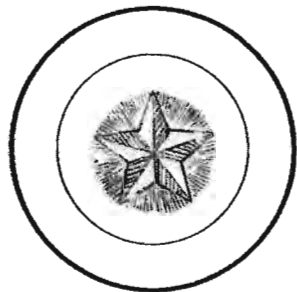
PD-AW Star Border C
Engraved / v:f



PD-CX Snowflake
Engraved / v:f



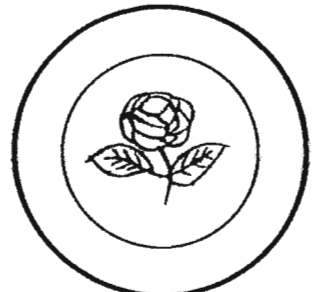
PD-IV Concentric Squares
Printed Paper / v:c



PD-LU New Star
Engraved / v:g



PD-MQ Lone Star
Engraved / v:e



PL-HL Rose
Engraved / v:f



PL-LH Flower
Engraved / v:f



PM-EF Crown
Engraved / v:f



PW-HK Spade
Inlaid / v:e



PY-MQ Montana Power
Embossed-Stamped / v:f

Antique Gambling Chips Value Rating Code*

a: 50¢ b: \$1 c: \$2-\$3 d: \$4-\$5 e: \$6-\$7 f: \$8-\$9 g: \$10-\$14

h: \$15-\$19 i: \$20-\$29 j: \$30-\$39 k: \$40-\$49 l: \$50-\$69

m: \$70-\$89 n: \$90-\$109 o: \$110-\$149 p: \$150-\$199

q: \$200-\$299 r: \$300-\$399 s: \$400-\$499 t: \$500-\$699

u: \$700-\$999 v: \$1000-\$1999 w: \$2000-\$2999 x: \$3000-\$4000

*It is important to remember that quantities of one chip or a set of chips would have a much lower unit value per chip.

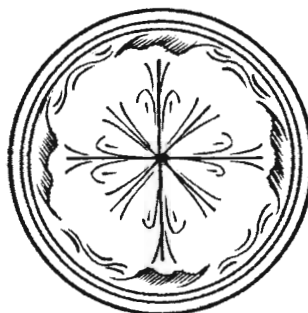
New Antique Ivory Finds



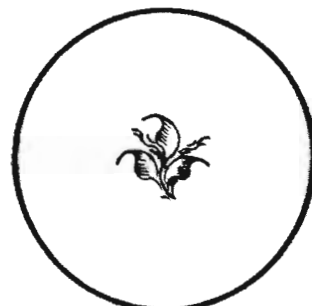
ID-HJ Saddle & Whip
v:n



ID-ORa Star
v:l



IE-CZ Straws
v:l



IE-HO Three Leaves
v:k



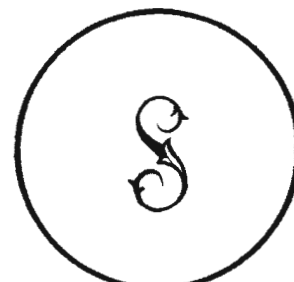
IE-HP Three Leaves
v:k



IE-PM Blossom ?
v:l



IM-IB MPC
v:l



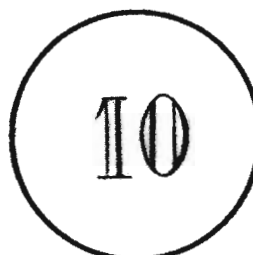
IM-IGs S
v:k



IP-CT Twenty-Five
v:m



IQ-DN Five
v:l



IQ-FQ Ten
v:k



IQ-HF Twenty
v:k



IR-CB Calif Gold
v:t



IR-CB Reverse



IR-GX Texas Joe
v:t



IR-GX Reverse

ANTIQUe GAMBLING CHIPS

Ivory Codes Assigned

Code(s)	Category	Qty
ID, IE & IF	Design	546
IM	Monograms	107
IN, IO & IP	Numerals	638
IQ	Foreign Numerals	56
IR	Commem. & Place Names	34
IX & IY	Concentrics	266
IZ	Recnt Creations & Suspcd Fakes	98

Total Ivory Codes 1745

Clay* Codes Assigned

Code(s)	Category	Qty
PA	Poker -- Animals & Reptiles	127
PB	Poker -- Birds & Insects	62
PC	Poker -- Playing Cards	58
PD	Poker -- Designs	155
PE	Poker -- People	39
PL	Poker -- Plants	67
PM	Poker -- Miscellaneous	77
PO	Poker -- Monograms	208
PS	Poker -- Sports	69
PT	Poker -- Transportation	28
PW & PX	Poker, Faro & Wheel -- Inlaid	192
PY	Poker -- Advertising (products)	126
PZ	Poker -- Advertising (gambling)	84

*Includes a few paper & wood chips.

Total Clay Codes 1292

Slot Cards *and* Casino Room Keys

by Jim Munding

Collecting slot cards and room keys has become my favorite collectible. Yes, I collect chips, postcards, match covers and other casino collectibles but this has become my favorite... Why? Well because they are inexpensive to obtain and the folks that collect are pretty fun to trade with.... also eBay and Jackpot Auctions provide a good marketplace to buy and sell.

I started collecting slot cards back when they first came out in Laughlin, Nevada. My wife and I went there quite often and stayed at the Gold River. I had cards issued to me and kept them. I wasn't really a collector then but I did save the ones I got... and they were free. About a year ago I began to collect so I dug out the old ones I had saved. Little did I know that the floodgates had opened. Since then Carolyn Donley and I wrote a book on Casino Room Keys and she wrote the first book on slot cards. Both have pictures.

Pat Lamb and Steve Wells have published another slot card book with values of each card. It is really fascinating to see the different cards and variations that have been produced. There are also two slot card collector's clubs to join. One club with nearly 125 members is PACK

(People After Cards and Keys). You can contact Pat Lamb at 6970 Jasmine Street, Commerce City, Colorado 80022 and the other is Mystic Society of Cards and Keys, 520 Charles Street, Brookhaven, Mississippi 39601-4042)

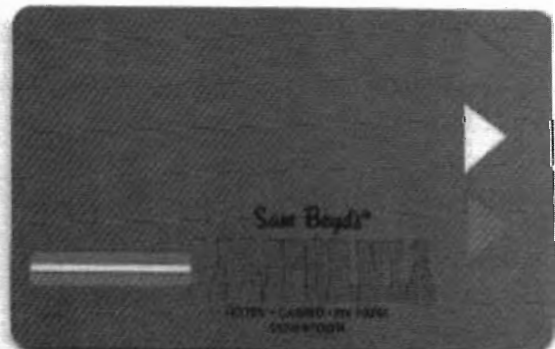
There are several collectors all over the nation that are serious about the hobby. Recently I met a friend and collector Bob Gabel in Memphis and we traveled all through Mississippi and part of Louisiana picking up cards. The real challenge is getting the "high roller" cards and obsolete cards. It seems that once a card is discontinued, it is gone and unless you have a few in your trade box, they will never be seen again.

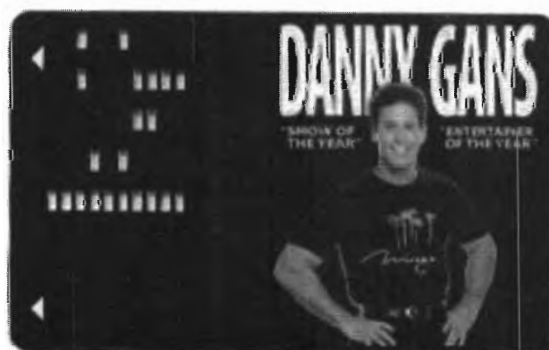
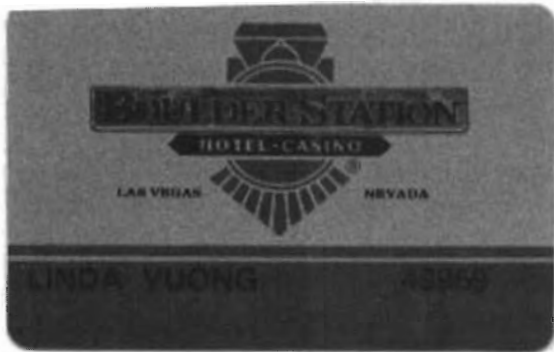
Prices for cards and keys vary. One GOLD (high roller) Landmark card from Las Vegas sold for over \$1000 and I paid over \$300 for a room key I wanted. But most of the current cards can be obtained by trading or priced in the \$2-\$5 range. Some people collect by state or category only... You can collect Nevada, riverboats, tribals or anything you want. I collect everything and always have a "wish list" of cards and keys I want. A slot card on the top of my want list is one from Mississippi's closed Cotton Club.

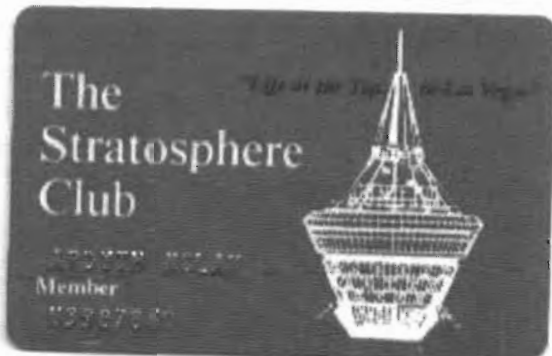
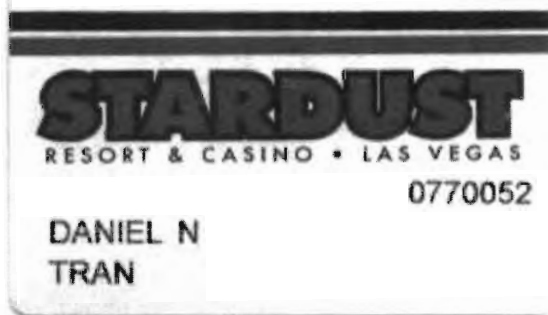
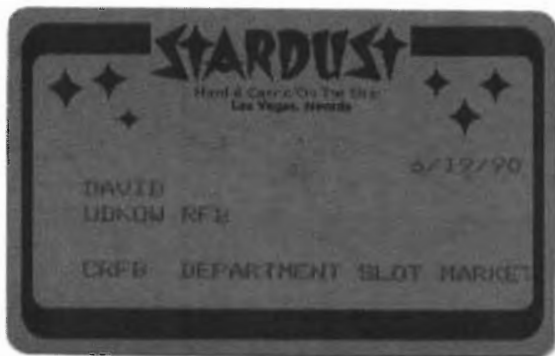
Lots of collectors collect paper credit and player's cards too. The most desirable ones are from places like the old Sands, Dunes, Stardust and other Las Vegas landmarks. Old Lake Tahoe items seem to be high on everyone's want list too.

A good place to buy, sell and trade slot cards and room keys are at the casino shows around the county. I know that 75% of my action at my table at CASINORAMA will be these items. I have included some of my favorite cards and keys for you to see. If I can answer any questions please contact me.

Jim Munding, MUN3335@aol.com ❖







Book Reviews

Reviewed by Robert Pardue

The Art of Gambling Through the Ages

by Arthur Flowers and Anthony Curtis

Published by Huntington Press, 2000. \$65 List



Through the Ages

Gambling can stir passion and drama, so it's not unusual that a wide range of artists have used gambling as their subject matter. **The Art of Gambling through the Ages** is a coffee-table size and quality book with color photos of 139 paintings, sculptures and vases from more than 100 artists. The material ranges from a 500 B.C. urn to modern paintings, from classic and representational to impressionist and abstract. A forward is penned by LeRoy Neiman and the book contains several of his paintings which are familiar. Paintings by

Picasso, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Thomas Hart Benton and others are included in this remarkable collection of gambling themes.

Two of my personal favorites are the photorealist paintings *Rol-a-Top* and *Five Cent Slot*, both by Charles Bell. An 1890 oil by Louis Collisz, titled "Monte Carlo" gives a glimpse of the formal gambling rooms of this world famous casino in Monaco. Gambling inside casinos is the subject of some of the art, but many paintings reflect the everyday games that occur in back alleys, homes or even outdoors. Card playing is probably the most frequent subject, but you will find almost every game represented — dice, baccarat, roulette, poker, video poker, even faro and sic bo. Major artists are included, but so is one of the familiar dogs-playing-poker paintings. The *A Friend in Need* (poker dogs) artist is Cassius Marcellus Coolidge, and it was painted circa 1870. Now there's a bit of trivia I'll bet you didn't know!

The authors describe each work by name, artist, date and media. A commentary on the work and the artist accompanies each piece of art. It appears that extensive research and coordination with art galleries or owners of these works of art was necessary to assemble the contents of this book. The authors are both gambling enthusiasts. Arthur Flowers is

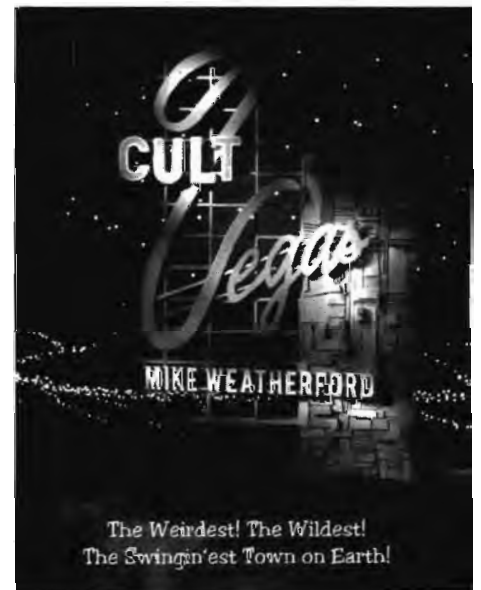
described as a researcher, student of gambling and art, an art collector and resident of Las Vegas. Anthony Curtis' name may be familiar as the publisher of the *Las Vegas Advisor* and other gambling-related books and articles.

For a new perspective on that special type of risk called gambling, take a look at the creative expression of these artists through the ages.

Cult Vegas

by Mike Weatherford

Published by Huntington Press, 2001. \$19.95 List



There are lots of ways to describe Las Vegas, a unique city since it started growing up in the 1950s. Many books

and articles focus straight ahead on the growth of gaming, the topless revues, the divorces and marriages and all the things to see and do in this 24 hour town. **Cult Vegas** takes a different approach. As its subtitle notes **Cult Vegas** is all about *The Weirdest! The Wildest! The Swingin'est Town on Earth!*

In the poker world, there's a saying that the next best thing to playing poker and winning is playing poker and losing. (Nevermind that it was probably coined by a poker-holic... stick with me a minute.) For out-of-town gambling enthusiasts who can't experience Vegas 24/7 like the locals, when you can't be in Las Vegas, the next best thing is reading about it. But after you're caught up on the news about the latest casino opening, where can you get some out-of-the-ordinary perspective on Sin City? **Cult Vegas** may be the ticket.

As an entrée to the unusual in Las Vegas, the book opens with a description of the Rat Pack era in Las Vegas. Sinatra's exploits at the Sands are well known, but did you know that Sinatra appeared on the inaugural *The Frank Rosenthal Show*, broadcast from the Stardust? You remember Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal... he's the model for the Robert DeNiro character in the movie *Casino*. It's these types of nuggets that abound in **Cult Vegas**. The book contains tidbits about other Las Vegas entertainers such as Wayne Newton and even The Beatles single appearance in town. Next subjects, the famous and not-so-famous lounge acts, from the classic Louis Prima and Keely Smith to some forgettable acts. Lounge entertainers do (or did) provide the unique atmosphere that was only found in Vegas of the good ol' days. Las Vegas Comedians provided a diversion for gamblers to laugh, even if their wallets were lighter and they were

sweating how to cover the marker they just signed. You'll find stories about comedians such as Buddy Hackett, Shecky Greene, Redd Foxx and other funny men and women on stage in decades past. Of course, an important era of Las Vegas entertainment history is the Elvis years. A whole chapter is devoted to Elvis and his entourage. **Cult Vegas** even includes a description and review of movies filmed in Las Vegas, from the classic *Ocean's Eleven* and *Viva Las Vegas* to some lesser known flicks.

As curious as some of the stories are, the photos and sidebars in the book give a decidedly wacky slant to the unique world of Las Vegas entertainment of the past five decades. The author, Mike Weatherford, is an entertainment reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Residing in Las Vegas since 1987, he originally hailed from Oklahoma, which may account for his off-beat but original take on Las Vegas as contained in **Cult Vegas**.

Las Vegas: A Guide to Recent Architecture by Frances Anderton and John Chase

Published by Ellipsis London Limited, 1997. \$8.00



The megaresort themed facades are ubiquitous in Las Vegas, from post-card images to the real thing as you drive the Las Vegas strip. This small (4" x 4") 220 page book presents a slightly different approach from the typical Las Vegas travel guide or picture book. Written by two Los Angeles-based authors (but whose writing style appears European in spots), **Las Vegas: a guide to recent architecture** features distinctive architecture around town, wherever it is found.

Nearly half the book does focus on various casinos, with a photo and a 2-3 paragraph commentary on each property. The authors' perspectives are a bit different in the features they find noteworthy. They are seeing Las Vegas from an outsider's (European?) and architectural slant, which makes their concise comments refreshingly different from the usual facts and figures. Even if you ignore the written commentary, and just peruse the photos, you'll find an interesting mix of casinos and other subjects.

As examples of subject matter, you will find multi-page photos and commentary on the Fremont Experience, a several page spread on the Rio and its award-winning sign. But mingled among the megaresort properties is a photo and comment on the Par-a-Dice Inn motel near downtown. In summary, the book is a fun and eclectic selection of architectural subjects around greater Las Vegas.

By the way, if you're looking for this book, try the gift shop in the Hard Rock Hotel-Casino. ❖

Obituaries



In Memory of **George Conrad**

George Conrad, born September 28th, 1938, left us on March 27, 2002.

George Conrad spent his life helping other people. He and his wife, Liz, went to a chip show at Arizona Charlie's five years ago. They became overwhelmed and joined the CC & GTCC at that time (R - 2830). Over the years, through his new issue service and his dealings with other club members, George built his reputation with honesty and integrity.

By accepting the position of convention chairman for this year's extravaganza, he was again reaching out to help the members. He only resigned when he knew every little detail was in place and he could no longer survive till the convention. Mr. George Conrad is survived by his wife and eternal partner, Liz, his two daughters, and two grandchildren. Remember George by his infectious smile and his good nature.

Rest in Peace George.

Steve Zacchi



My apologies to the Grossblatt family for not publishing Gene's obituary sooner. This should have been printed last year.

A Great Man Is Gone

It's a shame that many readers of this magazine never had the privilege of knowing Gene Grossblatt. Gene passed away on May 8th two days before his 73rd birthday. To those of you that knew him, you know exactly what I mean. He and his darling wife, Arlene (who died nearly 3 years ago) were fixtures in our hobby.

How can we best express the personality of Gene Grossblatt. I was fortunate to be one of his closest friends so here are some of the comments I've heard throughout the years.

"There's no better father or grandfather in world."

Give him a medium rare steak and a shrimp cocktail and he's the happiest guy in the world."

"If there's a chip he wants, nothing will stop him from getting it." Remember the Golden Goose at the Convention Auction)

"He may look drunk but he never drinks."

"Forget the topic at hand. Gene is on a different page with his own agenda." (By the way, I hope none of you were fooled by him, Gene's IQ was 170)

"He can look at chip binders forever and never get bored."

"He'll never win at poker— He's convinced it's easy to draw for an inside straight."

"I had to fight him to pay my share of the check. He always insists on paying for everything."

"I'll kill him if the roller throws a seven." (Gene always played Don't Come—and was often quite vocal about it)

"If you want to get there safely, don't let Gene drive."

I could go on and on with these comments but I think you all get the message. There will never be another Gene Grossblatt. He was a most kind and generous man who loved his family, friends and chipping with a total passion. I guess everyone hopes that in passing, they can leave behind fond memories and a lasting respect. Our community has lost a great man but the respect and memories will be with us forever. We loved you Gene. Please rest in peace.

Bruce Landau CH-002



In Memory of **Dr. George L. Grauel, M.D.**

George L. Grauel, age 59, passed away suddenly at his home in Strongsville, Ohio on Friday, March 1, 2002. He was putting Friday's chip arrivals into airtites at the time of his passing. He was a recent member (R-5364) of the CC>CC.

In late July 2001, George first contacted me through my website about his interest in casino chips. He collected baseball cards and while attending the National Sports Collectors Convention in Cleveland, Ohio in the summer of 2001, he came across a dealer selling casino chips. George soon developed an interest in casino chips and amassed an impressive collection of rare Las Vegas chips in a very short period of time.

We continued to exchange e-mail and quickly became friends. We soon realized we only lived about 20 minutes apart. It is not every day that I meet a collector from the Cleveland, Ohio area. This just goes to show how the hobby is growing.

The last time I saw George was in early February 2002. I met George and his close friend, Judy, for lunch and George proudly showed me some of the high-end chips he recently added to his collection. George was fascinated with casino chips, and mentioned his growing interest in collecting current Las Vegas house and limited edition chips. I suggested the Hard Rock Hotel issued some of the most desirable limited edition chips. Well, that is all it took as George moved quickly when it came to buying chips. Within three weeks he had located and purchased nearly a complete set of Hard Rock chips from various dealers and collectors. His final Hard Rock limited edition chips were in-transit when he passed away.

My only regret is not meeting George earlier. Anyone who knew George could attest to his sincere enthusiasm for the hobby and his desire to learn as much as possible about it. I am thankful for our friendship and I miss his inquiring e-mails and our long conversations.

Sal D. Rubino

Take part in YOUR club by advertising in YOUR magazine, it's a great way of meeting new members and making new friends. Looking for a chip, token or other casino collectible? This is the place to find it. If you have items to sell or trade, once again this is the place.

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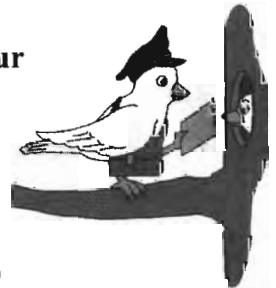
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