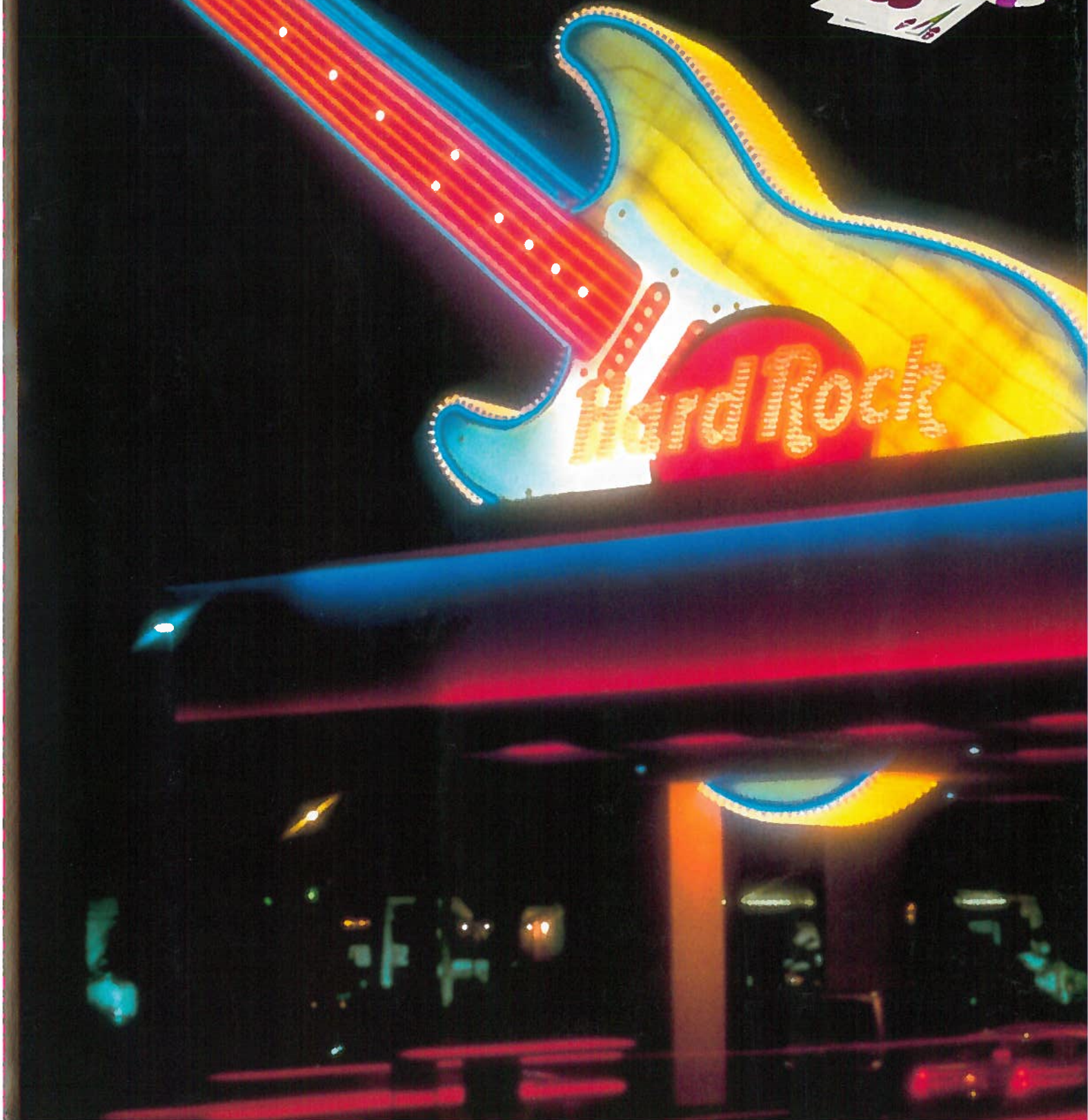


Fall Issue • October, November, December 2004 • Volume 17 • Number 4 • \$6.95

Casino Chip

And Token News



Nevada Casino Ashtray Project



Ashtrays • Vintage Casino Pictures • History and more

Visit us online at
www.nevadacasinoashtrays.org

The Nevada Casino Ashtray Project is a massive undertaking primarily showcasing Nevada Casino Ashtrays. However, it is much more. We have vintage pictures of the casinos and will later be adding the histories and personal remembrances of the places as we find them. IT WILL BE A VALUABLE SITE FOR WHATEVER AREA OF CASINO COLLECTING YOU ENJOY.

Please realize that this site is "under construction" and always will be. Check our home page "Welcome" for site features and sign our guestbook. All new additions are listed under "What's New" and will be posted on *The Chipboard*.

This endeavor has been made possible by a long list of contributors. Many have spent countless hours helping assemble the material to make this dream a reality. New contributors are welcome and encouraged. This is everyone's site.

Here's what people are saying...

"Awesome website!! Probably the best in the hobby I have ever visited. A tremendous resource for all collectors and a valuable historical treasure of long gone obscure casinos."
Archie Black, N.J.

"I am so impressed I just can't find the words to express the excitement I share in seeing this wonderful site become a reality. Thanks to Mark and the others who had the insight to bring this all together. This far exceeds my expectations of an ashtray website. This is much more, a living history for all to share, now and in the future. This project will never be completed, but will continue to grow and grow."
James Campiglia, Santa Barbara, CA

"This is truly a spectacular website! First class all the way, from quality of the pictures, to the well organized layout, it's truly a pleasure to use. You haven't just put up a few common trays, you have put together the most extensive and comprehensive collection viewable anywhere! Thanks for giving us a place to see trays so rare that most would never have a chance to see them. Major Kudos!!"
Terry Shaffer, Toledo OH

Contact us via e-mail at: mark@communicomm.com



CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

A publication of

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

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**AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Our club, CC>CC, 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

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

☐ 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

SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES

1st Quarter January, February, March

Mailing Date: January

2nd Quarter April, May, June

Mailing Date: April

3rd Quarter July, August, September

Mailing Date: July

4th Quarter October, November, December

Mailing Date: October

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 \$3.85 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.
- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.

NEXT DEADLINE

1st Quarter Issue 2005

is December 1st 2004

Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

1st Quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar

Deadline for Ads: Dec 1st

2nd Quarter: Apr-May-Jun

Deadline for Ads: Mar 1st

3rd Quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep

Deadline for Ads: Jun 1st

4th Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec

Deadline for Ads: Sep 1st

MOVING?

Dont't forget to let our Membership Director know your new address. Contact:

Ralph Myers

P.O. Box 35769

Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

ADVERTISING RATES
THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN
COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.
A 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 "The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors 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

CC>CC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

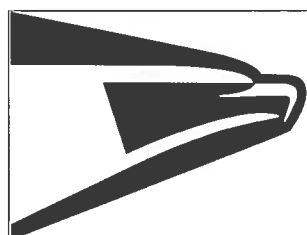
- ☐ Chips ☐ Tokens
☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

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:



CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of
The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

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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. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not represent those of The Casino Chip and Token News or the Editorial staff.

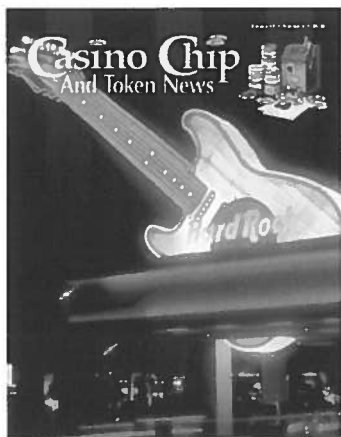
Casino Chip And Token News

A publication of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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



October • November • December 2004 Volume 17 Number 4



Cover Story

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

Photo Courtesy

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

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AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

Casino Chip & Gaming Token
Collectors Club

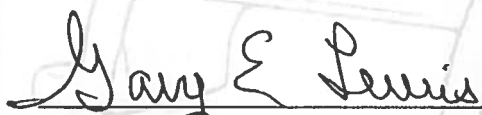
Casino Chip and Token News

EDITED BY ALLAN ANDERSON

FIRST PLACE

2004

Outstanding Specialty
Numismatic Publication


PRESIDENT


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the Editor's Desk



Allan Anderson

At their annual convention, the American Numismatic Association gave the Casino Chip and Token News magazine quite an honor, first place as the Outstanding Specialty Numismatic Publication. I would like to thank the American Numismatic Association for recognizing our publication and I would also like to thank all the contributors who have made this magazine what it is.

If you're not already a member of the American Numismatic Association, now is the time to join. One of the member benefits is their incredible magazine, *The Numismatist*. In this issue you will find an article written by Q. David Bowers on the history of the magazine. *The Numismatist* also does an excellent job of covering our club and chip collecting. Their annual convention in 2005 will be in San Jose, California.

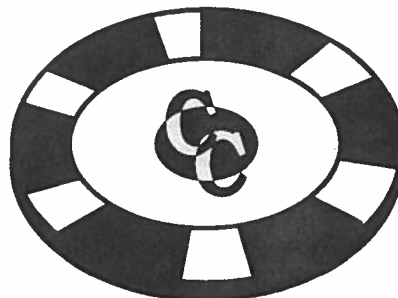
For those who missed the Chipper's Cruise, don't miss out next year. From everyone I've talked to, it was a huge success. Contact Dave Harber for more information and to make those reservations.

Inside the magazine is a Hall of Fame recommendations form. The Hall of Fame committee would like to be quite clear that these are Hall of Fame recommendations that they are currently soliciting for consideration from the membership. These are not nominations. The actual nominations and voting for future Hall of Fame members induction will be conducted by the Hall of Fame committee prior to each convention, and not by the membership at large.

In the past year our hobby is getting more exposure, we're growing with new members, the convention is getting bigger and better and there are more chip shows to attend. Chip, token, silver strike, slot card, room key and other casino collectibles just gets to be more fun each year. There is no better feeling than finding that one item you've been looking for. Support our hobby and it's members and don't forget to volunteer.

I would like to wish each and every one of you best wishes for the holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Chip Chat



Chip Chat is published at least six times a year.

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©2004 by Douglas J. Saito,
4056 Front St.,
San Diego, CA 92103

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\$21.00



The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

www.ccgtcc.com

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

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE CC>CC

We have examined the Treasurer's Report of **THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**, for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures, as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The Club's policy is to prepare its reports on the cash basis of accounting. Consequently, revenue and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the income is earned or the expense was incurred. For this reason the Treasurer's Report is not intended to present results of operations on the accrual basis.

In our opinion, the Treasurer's Report referred to above, presents fairly the income and expenditures of **THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**, for the year ended December 31, 2003, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting applied on a consistent basis.

MIKE SKELTON

DAVID HARBER

TYRUS MULKEY

WAYNE MURPHY

September 25, 2004

President's Letter



Mike Skelton

As we head towards the holiday season, with another successful Convention behind us, we must prepare for the 2005 Election. In the last issue, there was a Nomination form for Club Officers. I truly hope that each of you considered running for one of the five elected Club Offices that will be up for election in the spring. It is after all, **YOUR CLUB!**

Just a few of the things that I would like to highlight this quarter that the Club and the Board of Directors are currently working on:

- The Board continues to work on the Altered Chip investigation and as we are able, we will report any new findings to the membership.
- The process of trade marking the Club Logo continues to move forward.
- As you can see from Club Treasurer Mike Quinlivan's Financials, the Club is in very strong financial shape.
- Neal Silverman is attempting to gather 2005 roulette chips for a raffle to benefit the Building Fund. You can contact him at Neal@rouletteharvester.com or visit the Club website for more information.
- Plans will begin in earnest shortly for our 13th Annual Convention at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas from August 3-6, 2005.
- Be sure to order your copy of the 2004 Convention DVD (also available on VHS). The speech by Mr. Robert A. Maheu alone is worth the price!
- Auction Chairman Barry Weintraub has already put out the call for lot consignments for the 2005 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction. Don't miss the deadline of February 4, 2005.
- Don't forget to submit your nomination form for any deserving CC & GTCC Hall of Fame candidates to the Hall of Fame Committee by January 5, 2005. The form is available on the Club website.

On a Club related and personal note, for the second year now, I will be doing a lecture at the University of Texas on chip collecting and The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. In my opinion, this is what our Club's Educational Mission is all about! I would like to thank the following Club members who so unselfishly donated chips to be given to the UT class during the lecture. They are: **Rich Averill, Archie Black, Michael Downey, Andy Hughes, Vince Mowery, Jim Noll, Dwain Ryan, Doug Smith, Chuck Tomarchio and Al Whiting.**

I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. David Allen and his staff at the University of Texas for being such gracious hosts during my visit.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. And remember to have FUN!

Mike Skelton

Treasurer's Report



Mike Quinlivan

As of September 30, 2004, the cash balance in the Club's accounts is \$176,769. For the first nine months of 2004, the Club treasury increased its cash position by \$13,900 (excluding Building Fund donations of \$7,934). This includes the expenditures for the recently published Summer 2004 issue of the Club magazine. Please see the accompanying financial statements for more detail related to income, expenditures, and the breakdown of the equity accounts.

Highlights for the first 9 months of 2004:

- 15 members became Life Members. The Club now has 89 Life Members and 5 Honorary Life Members.
- The 2nd Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction garnered \$11,961 in proceeds during the 2004 Convention.
- Excluding the auction, the 2004 Convention cleared a gain of \$4,300.
- The Club was penalized \$2,045 by the IRS for an oversight in the submittal of the 2002 tax return. The Club Treasurer is appealing the action of the IRS. The membership will be kept informed on the progress of the appeal.
- The balance in the Building Fund is \$56,288. This includes the generous donation from the members in Southern Nevada from the 2003 Palms Chip Show, the donations from the Palms Hotel and Casino, recent fund-raisers from the Building Fund Committee, proceeds generated during the 2004 Convention and \$16,064 transferred from the Club's General Fund.
- The audit of the 2003 Club records was performed on September 25, 2004. A hearty thanks to Mike Skelton, Dave Harber, Tyrus Mulkey and Wayne Murphy for their willing participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer
October 16, 2004



Renew Your Membership Online



Income & Expense/Equity Statement (cash basis)

January 1 through August 31, 2004

Income

Membership Dues (includes 1st class postage)		\$40,967
Convention 2004:		
Table Fees	\$27,750	
Auction Proceeds	\$11,961	
Banquet	\$11,690	
Registration	\$10,265	
Program Advertising	\$2,235	
Convention 2004 Total		\$63,901
Convention 2005:		
Table Fees	\$295	
Convention 2005 Total		\$295
Promotion		\$11,646
Building Fund Donations		\$7,814
Magazine Advertising		\$2,750
Interest Income		\$1,332
Video Sales (Convention)		\$1,250
Directory Sales		\$60
Magazine Sales		\$24
Total Income		<u>\$130,039</u>

Expenditures

Convention Expenses	\$47,640
Magazine	\$27,946
Promotional Items	\$6,355
Video Production	\$6,113
Miscellaneous	\$3,953
Printing (Other than Magazine)	\$2,285
Income Tax Penalty	\$2,045
Postage (Other than Magazine)	\$1,664
Bank Charges	\$1,424
Donation	\$375
Supplies	\$230
Telephone	\$204
Filing Fees	\$170
Advertising	\$110
Membership	\$29

Total Expenditures	<u>\$100,543</u>
--------------------	------------------

Net Income - 1/1/04 to 08/31/04	\$29,496
---------------------------------	----------

Beginning Equity Balance - 1/1/2004	\$177,912
Net Income - 1/1/04 to 8/31/04	<u>\$29,496</u>
Ending Equity Balance - 8/31/04	<u><u>\$207,408</u></u>

Detail of Equity Balance - 8/31/04

Certificate of Deposit	\$75,783	
Building Fund	\$56,076	
Life Membership Fund	\$27,309	
General Fund	<u>\$25,906</u>	
Total Cash Available		<u>\$185,074</u>
Inventory		<u>\$21,834</u>
Advance (Membership Officer)		<u>\$500</u>
Ending Equity Balance - 8/31/04		<u><u>\$207,408</u></u>

Respectfully submitted by Mike Quinlivan, Treasurer
September 17, 2004

Membership Officers Report



Ralph Myers

The third quarter is behind us, and we're on our way to the new year. The third quarter was rather slow, with only eighty-one new members joining, and only one new life member.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the club telephone. The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club has a toll free phone number 877-4ccgtcc. This number rings directly to my home here in Las Vegas. I welcome all calls from members or anyone who wants to discuss the club, or the hobby of chip collecting. When you call and no one is home, you will get an answering machine. When you leave a message, please do not ask me to call you back. The toll free aspect of this phone number only works one way, incoming. If at all possible, leave me an email address, and I will get back to you ASAP. Remember that I work a full time job so you may not get a reply for a few days, but I will reply to all calls that leave me an email address. If you don't have an email address, then call me back another time. I'm usually home in the evenings, Pacific time.

As always, call me, email me, or snail mail me with any suggestions, problems, concerns or questions.

Best regards,

Ralph

Secretary's Report



Belinda Hixon

It's been a quiet quarter.

I receive inquiries about once a week, referring to articles written about the hobby in other publications. Thanks to whoever is writing those articles! We're getting great publicity from them. I do have one request. If you author an article or subscribe to publications that publish information on the Club, would you send me copies for the archives?

As always, if you have questions regarding the Club or the hobby, please feel free to contact any of the BOD.

Happy Collecting!

Sincerely,

Belinda Hixon

New Members

Last Name	First Name	City	State	Reference	Member
Ryel	James A.	Torrance	CA	club web site	6664
Hixon	Janet L.	Lombard	IL	Rizzo, Pete	6665
Cygul	Dave	Winter Garden	FL	club web site	6666
Belaire	Stephen	Winnipeg	MB	Canada club web site	6667
Webster	Perry	Golden Valley	MN	Rizzo, Pete	6668
Silvert	Thomas C.	Allentown	PA	Rizzo, Pete	6669
Lee	Robert K.	LaVergue	TN	Rizzo, Pete	6671
Ferris	Justin	Elmira	NY	Rizzo, Pete	6672
Kishida	Stephen M.	Honolulu	HI	club web site	6673
Shoff	Roland	Melbourne	FL	Rizzo, Pete	6674
George	Wayne E.	Tampa	FL	club web site	6676
Gardner	Jim	Louisville	KY	former member	6677
Rice	David	Las Vegas	NV	Averill, Rich	6678
Volianitis	John	Spartanburg	SC	Rizzo, Pete	6681
Reynolds	Robert	Mansfield	MA		6682
Gonsalves	Paul	San Antonio	TX		6683
Gonsalves	Naomi	San Antonio	TX		6683-A
Ripoli	Dan	Middleburg	FL	Silver Strikers	6686
Witherspoon Jr.	Clint	Shoreline	WA	Tan, Leonidas	6687
Lorenz	Matthew	Brentwood	CA	Rizzo, Pete	6688
Dixon	Kemnneth	Skowhegan	ME	club web site	6689
Levy	Bob	Edison	NJ	club web site	6690
German	Patricia	Somerville	MA	Rizzo, Pete	6691
Cohen	Ilan	Reseda	CA	ebay	6692
Monson	Brian	Trenton	MI	club web site	6693
Smith	Kenneth R.	Clinton	IN	Rizzo, Pete	6695
DeKeyser	Fred E.	Manteno	IL	Hughes, Andy	6696
Brixius	Joel R.	Bath	PA	Rizzo, Pete	6697
Midili	Kely X.	Escondido	CA	club web site	6698
Wieck	Gary	Clear Lake	IA	Rizzo, Pete	6699
Howell	Larry P.	Pensacola	FL	Knight, Will	6700
McGrath	James P.	Chicago	IL	Rizzo, Pete	6701
Glass	David	Baltimore	MD	Pushkin, Richard	6702
Chroust Jr.	William	Modesto	CA	club web site	6703
Foster	D. Michael	Omaha	NE	Jensen, Brent	6704
Klauss	Danny	Harris Township	MI	club web site	6705
Jordan	Charles (Ron)	North Las Vegas	NV	club web site	6706
Downey	Jason	Columbia	MD	Rizzo, Pete	6708
Mathews	Larry	Kingwood	TX		6709
Winter	George	Clarksdale	MS	Former Member	6710
Palumbo	Steven	Las Vegas	NV	Meister, Debra	6711
Bradford Jr.	Roberts J.	Plantation	FL	Rizzo, Pete	6712
Machuga	Chris	Cape Coral	FL	Rizzo, Pete	6716
Linn	Leonard	Gaithersburg	MD	Hughes, Andy	6718
McClosky	Robert	Olney	MD	club web site	6719
Shlez	Vadim	Brooklyn	NY	Cons, Rafel	6720
Stephens	Christopher	Cheshire	UK	Mulkey, Tyrus	6721
Bentley	Mike	Blanco	TX	Captbanjo	6722
Martin	Greg	Rixeyville	VA	Rizzo, Pete	6723
Cooney	Mike	Spring City	PA	Rizzo, Pete	6724

Last Name	First Name	City	State	Reference	Member
Valvo	Anthony	Merritt Island	FL	B et G of France	6725
Aquila	Elizabeth	North Babylon	NY		6726
Carlo	Miguel	Cabo Rojo	PR	former member	6727
Eyman	Duke	Cincinnati	OH	former member	6728
Allison	Jason	Oxnard	CA	Rizzo, Pete	6729
Beasley	Brian	Murfreesboro	TN	Rizzo, Pete	6732
Whitney	Bobby	Irving	TX	Rizzo, Pete	6734
Anglin	Michael P.	Shelter Is. Hgts	NY	former member	6735
Mayabb	Mike	Austin	TX	Rizzo, Pete	6736
Greenfield	Scott	Jacksonville	FL	Rizzo, Pete	6737
Munoz	Luis A.	Corpus Christi	TX	club web site	6738
Young	Arthur	Golden	CO	club web site	6739
Takach	David B.	Sacramento	CA	Rizzo, Pete	6740
Carey	Ronald	Indianapolis	IN		6741
Reno	Byron	Bertram	TX	Springer-Amison, Ellen	6742
Kaufman	Kenneth L.	Chicago	IL	Hughes, Andy	6743
Biggs	Paul R.	Woodson Terrace	MO	Aydelott, Kevin	6744

Ode to a Volunteer

Many will be shocked to find
 When the day of judgement nears
 That there's a special place in heaven
 Set aside for volunteers.
 Furnished with big recliners
 Satin couches and footstools
 Where there's no committee chairman
 No eager team that needs a coach,
 No bazaar with a bake sale,
 There will be nothing to staple
 Not one thing to fold or mail.
 Telephone lists will be outlawed.
 But a finger snap will bring
 Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
 And rare treats fit for a king.
 You ask who'll serve these privileged few
 And work for all they're worth?
 Why, all those who reaped benefits,
 And not once volunteered on earth!

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Letters

August 9, 2004

Jim Steffner
Convention Survey
PO Box 368
Wellington, OH 44090

Jim,

Enclosed is my survey for the 2004 convention, but I wanted to add a few additional comments.

I became aware of your organization by accident in 2003. I happened to be vacationing in Vegas, and stayed at the Tropicana. I met several members of the club and they were all very nice. Later I bought some chips on Ebay, and corresponded with the sellers, who were helpful and encouraging, even though I know I asked a bunch of silly questions.

And I was frequently encouraged to visit the club website and to join. I did (both) and then attended the convention in 2004. I had a great time. I learned a great deal and realized I didn't have a big collection, but was also advised to go about increasing the size selectively.

Every vendor I spoke with took time to show me things, make suggestions, and to offer encouragement. I was able to achieve some of my goals (ie a chip from Moscow), and to see how to better store, and transport my chips.

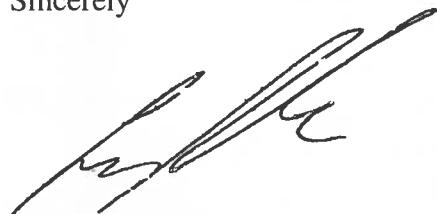
I was able to do all of this with limited mobility. I used an electric scooter, but everybody I dealt with was patient and cooperative. I was particularly impressed with the ethical and moral attitudes toward the hobby that I saw.

The lights went out at one point, and everybody waited patiently, and to my knowledge, nobody used the opportunity in an unacceptable manner. I am a Public Defender by profession, and I tend to expect the worst.

I visited the trade rooms, checked the auction, shared stories, met some of the people who encouraged me to join and played (unsuccessfully) in the Blackjack and Poker Tournaments.

I had the greatest time, I look forward to coming back next year, and was so pleased to have met a bunch of folks who share my interest, and take joy in the activity. Thank you for including me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Peacock', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aaron M. Peacock

Sonny's Saloon

The Last Bar Token?

by Vince Mowery



The latest of four tokens issued by Sonny's Saloon appeared just prior to the CC>CC Convention in June, 2004. Struck in a hi-security alloy by Roger Williams Mint and distributed by the Green Valley Gaming slot route company, will this be the last (i.e. final) bar token? Probably not, but only time will tell.

But it could very well be the last token with Sonny's name on it. Clifton Carl "Sonny" Morris died in his sleep this past July 31. According to his obituary in the Las Vegas Review Journal of August 3, 2004, he was born May 21, 1925 in Enid Oklahoma. At the age of 13, the 11th of 12 children came to Las Vegas with his younger brother William to stay with one of their sisters. "The orphaned boys arrived in Las Vegas in the middle of the city's worst

snowstorm in history, when a record 18 inches covered the Las Vegas Valley." At the age of 18 he volunteered for the U.S. Navy and became a member of the famous Sea Bees. After discharge in 1945, he settled in San Diego and worked for Wilbur Clark, associated with several restaurants and lounges. Returning to Las Vegas in his 20s, the "colorful" Sonny worked at the Aqua Lounge, and later owned several lounges. Also, his brother Bill "Wildcat" Morris became part owner of the Landmark Casino.

The first Sonny's Saloon was at the location of the Sneak Joint Casino at 2358 Spring Mountain Road. (Chips from this small casino, which closed in 1980, are very hard to find). This bar was a popular hangout. According to the obituary: "Sonny's was a home-away-from-home for everyone from judges to casino workers and the average working person. Morris had a smile and a joke for everyone and his understanding nature and big heart made him a true sounding board for those in need."



The first Sonny's Saloon token came from the ill-fated American Coin Enterprises slot route company in 1987. This token became obsolete in 1989 when American Coin cheating was exposed. (See "The Great American Coin Gaff" in Casino Chip and Token News, Volume 17, #2, pp 70-73.)



The second, and last, token used at the Spring Mountain location appeared at the end of 1994. The new slot route company was B.W. Corp. and the mint was Casino Tokens (CT). This was the start of a new



design with doubled letters of the name and a martini glass with olive logo. These tokens became obsolete when the building was demolished to make way for an overpass and major interchange on an interstate highway.

Sonny's Saloon reappeared at 3449 South Industrial Road. That's our Explorer in the parking lot. The large red sign over the side entrance is vaguely similar to the one at the original location. Again, the building is shared by a Chinese restaurant.

Looking southeast from the front of the building toward the back of the Mirage, shows how close the saloon is to the strip - one block behind the Fashion Show Mall. The large overpass across Industrial Road and farther west solved some of the worst traffic jams in Las Vegas. And the sign advertising "BONUS VIDEO POKER" is typical of many bars, lounges, saloons, etc. in Nevada.



route company. However, the tokens were minted by Green Duck Corp. (GDC) with their mint mark appearing on the obverse. During this time, Casino Tokens (CT) was getting out of the business of manufacturing gaming tokens, and the Nevada Gaming Control Board granted permission for slot route companies to continue using existing reverse dies. As a result, these tokens have a GDC mint mark on the obverse and a CT mint mark on the reverse, an anomaly shared by only a few route company tokens.

token? As far as we know, bar, lounge, saloon, restaurant, etc. tokens are unique to the state of Nevada. When a bartender at Sonny's Saloon was asked why they did not change over to the newer coinless machines, his response was that Sonny felt the old machines were just fine and he saw no need to replace or modify them. Apparently, that sentiment is shared by some bar owners throughout Nevada, since at least a few dozen are still using tokens.

We wish to thank Phil Jensen for many knowledgeable discussions of Las Vegas history and Janice O'Neal for meticulous record keeping of Nevada bar tokens.



The first token at this new location appeared May, 1997, in the same metallic alloy and from the same slot

Well the question remains: Will the token introduced at the beginning of this article be the last Nevada bar



My list of Casino Chips & Tokens number over 1,000 pieces including Indians, Nevada, Deadwood and others.

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Atlantic City Token Display Earns ANA Top Prize

by Jerry Birl

For the 2nd year in a row, I was fortunate enough to win the Archie A. Black Award from the American Numismatic Association for my display of over 225 Casino Gaming Tokens from Atlantic City Casinos. The display was on view at the 113TH Anniversary Convention of the ANA which was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from August 18 – 22, 2004.

My display was entitled “A Study of the Slot Machine Tokens and Gaming Vouchers used in Atlantic City Casinos 1978 – 2003”.

The Exhibit chronicled the development and use of Slot Machine Tokens and Gaming Vouchers as a means of “paying out” Slot Machine jackpots/winnings in Atlantic City, New Jersey Casinos during their first 25 years of operation.

This Exhibit showed various Slot Machine Tokens that had been used in the Atlantic City, New Jersey Casinos from 1978 through 2003. The regular issue tokens displayed, ranged in value from 10 cents through 25 dollars. Also displayed were other casino tokens; including promotional tokens, prototypes and manufacturer’s trial strikes.

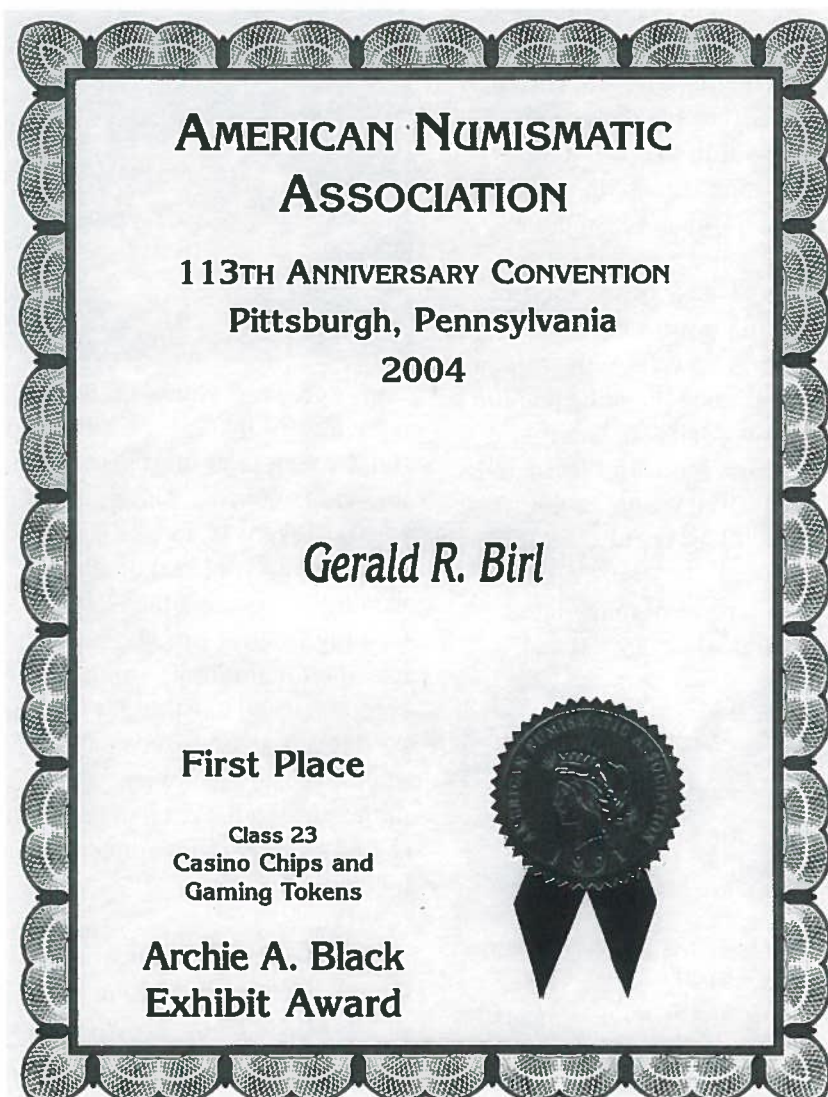
In addition, also included in this Exhibit were examples of Slot Machine Gaming Vouchers. These printed paper vouchers better known as “Ticket in – Ticket out” or TITOs, are now in use in all Atlantic City Casinos. Gaming Vouchers are rapidly

replacing the traditional Slot Machine Tokens as the primary means of paying out Slot Machine jackpots/winnings.

I am planning to enter another Casino Chip display in the 2005 ANA Convention which will be held in San Jose, California. I encourage other collectors to set up exhibits at future ANA Conventions, so our Hobby will receive further National recogni-

tion from the entire Numismatic Community.

I also plan on displaying this 2004 ANA Award winning Atlantic City Token Exhibit at our 2005 CC>CC Convention in Las Vegas so that Chip and Token collectors who were not able to view the Exhibit at the ANA will be able to see it at our National Convention.





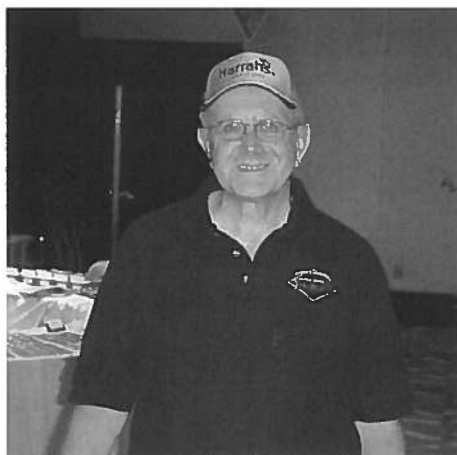
by Jerry Birl

We've changed the name, but the Chippin is the same.

The former Atlantic City Chapter of the CC>CC has a new name, but the zeal for chip collecting has not been diminished. At our last two meetings, held on March 21st and May 16th, the former A.C. Chapter began the process of reorganizing into the new Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club. In the near future the A.C. Club will develop a new logo and adopt a constitution and by-laws to govern the Club's activities.

Both the March and May meetings were very well attended as more than 100 chippers were present at both meetings. On member commented "These meetings are just like a mini Convention." Lots and lots of chips, tokens and other "Casino Collectibles" were traded and exchanged. The 50/50 drawings and the regular chip Auction were held as usual.

Mike Custodio, Club Vice-President was the guest speaker at the March 21st meeting and his topic was



Russ Diaz

"Casino Credit and Collections Policies and Procedures". Mike has worked in the Casino industry for over 18 years.

At the May meeting special chips that were made to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Atlantic City were available for sale to Club members for \$3.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of the chips will go into the Club's Treasury. Archie Black had distributed some of the chips to Atlantic City dignitaries at an event that was held to kick off the year long celebration of Atlantic City's 150th birthday.

Also at the May meeting, Club member Russ Diaz spoke to the members about his recent victory in a no limit Texas hold'em poker tournament held at Harrahs in Atlantic City. Russ won the tournament with a pair of deuces and earned a seat in the World Series of Poker to be held in Ls Vegas at the end of May. In addition to the \$10,000 entry fee, Russ and his wife Nancy will receive first class airfare to Las Vegas, a suite at Harrahs, plus many other perks. The Club members gave Russ a well deserved round of applause and wished him well in the WSOP Tournament. The top prize in this "Granddaddy" of all poker tournaments is \$5,000,000.00.

In a past issue of the National Club magazine I wrote, "I am sure in the next issue of the Club magazine I will be able to invite you to join the new ????????" On behalf of all the officers and members, I am proud to invite everyone to join the new "Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club". Contact President Dick Brach at cabodick@aol.com or log on to our Club web site - <http://ccgtcc.com/chapters/ac/>.

The CC>CC Building Fund Mission

by Andy Hughes

*As of September 30th, 2004,
\$56,288 has been raised!*

There has been discussion for several years among the club members about how nice it would be to have a location where meetings could be held, materials stored and just have a place to call home. Some have even suggested a casino chip museum could be located in the new home. The problem was money, how much and how to get it. Since maintaining a building, even if it is leased space, is rather expensive the Board of Directors decided that before any plans were made it would be necessary to see if there was enough interest in this project to raise the needed funds.

It was determined that while it may not be enough to complete the project it would be necessary to get at least \$50,000 just to get things started. In April 2002 the Board of Directors approved setting up a committee to work on collecting the necessary money to accomplish the goal.

In the first year, through the hard work of many club members, the donations to the building fund totaled about \$20,000 and are being kept in a separate bank account. Once the \$50,000 total was raised a different committee would decide how to proceed in locating the permanent home. This could include purchase of a building, leasing space or working with a government organization such as the City of Las Vegas or a University. Committee members have met with the Mayor of Las Vegas and his people in an attempt to develop something a lot faster than we ever thought possible. These meetings have been very productive and will

continue as the project comes closer to reality. There have also been meetings with various casinos concerning our needs.

When this project is completed we will have a place we can be proud of, a place that belongs to the membership, and probably most important, a place where future members will be able to honor the memories of all of the great members and collectors that started and built this great hobby and club.

On March 9 th, 2004, CC>CC President Mike Skelton announced that the Board of Directors voted unanimously (5-0) to transfer the necessary funds from the general account to the Building Fund account, in order to bring the balance to \$50,000.

At the 2004 CC>CC Convention the Vision and Feasibility Committee was formed. This committee will be charged with looking at projected acquisition costs, whether we build, lease or acquire space from a corporate donor or government agency. They will project and budget anticipated operational costs associated with the new Club Headquarters building.

Furthermore, the committee will be asked to begin shaping our initial vision of what sort of features and displays our building should contain. The budgeting process will give us a road map of where we are headed and some idea of what we can anticipate in spending in order to see this become a reality. The vision work will allow us, for the first time, to put our ideas on paper. Combined, these two processes will allow us to

approach potential corporate donors with a plan of action, specific requirements and a visual of what we hope to accomplish. Once again, our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status will be extremely beneficial to us in acquiring tax-deductible donations. It also gives the membership a more precise idea of what they can look forward to someday. Members of the Board and of the Building Fund Committee have met with city and county agencies in Las Vegas and we continue to work with them on possible donated space. We have had recent meetings with other non-profit organizations in Las Vegas on the possibility of being included in upcoming projects with them. All of these possibilities will continue to be explored by the Board and the new committee.

The current Building Fund Committee will continue their mission of raising funds from a variety of sources. The work of this committee and their volunteers has been instrumental in getting the Club to this point and will continue to be an indispensable asset to this overall project. The Board thanks the committee members and the volunteers for their hard work. Special thanks to all of the club members and corporate donors who have generously given to the Building Fund and supported the committee's fund raisers. The Board of Directors is fully committed to seeing this project come to life and being something we all can be proud of. We ask for the memberships full support on this important, long-term project. There are enormous talents within this organization and with everyone's help we will see Jim Kruse's original idea become a reality.

Building Fund Committee

The Building Fund Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Kruse (Chairman)

Robert Pardue

Andy Hughes

Archie Black

Greg Susong

Vision & Feasibility Committee

The Vision & Feasibility Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Pierre (Chairman)

Bill Judge

Mike Quinlivan

Jim Kruse

Wayne Thompson

Eric Rosenblum

Tyrus Mulkey

Nate Pincus

Chuck Tomarchio

Travis Lewin

Mike Skelton

Below are items that are for sale with ALL of the money going to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund!

Please mail a check out for the correct amount to:

Mike Quinlivan
Treasurer CC>CC
P.O. Box 249
Atwood, CA 92811-0249

Once the check arrives Mike will let the Building Fund Committee know & the items will be mailed out.

Nevada Casino Chips had the chip below made up just before the 2002 CC>CC Convention. 100 were made with engraved numbers & they are oversized (44 MM) chips. ALL of the money raised from the sale of the chips goes to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund!



The price is \$100 each.

The NCV **Palms** chip below was given out one per person with a coupon at the 2002 CC>CC Convention. There were only 850 made & the Palms graciously donated the remainder to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund!



The price is \$10 each.

The chip below was designed by **Debby Meister** who had it made for the 2004 CC>CC Convention. There were only 100 made.



The price is \$20 each.

The room key below was made for the Palms Poker Room Manager Gene Trimble. There were only 250 made.



The price is \$10 each.

Trump Marina set of three non-gaming tokens (shown with the common back). The Trump Marina graciously donated the tokens to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund!



Common back

The price is \$10 a set.

2005 Convention Auction

by Barry Weintraub

With the resounding success of the 2004 Convention Auction, we begin the work on the 2005 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction.

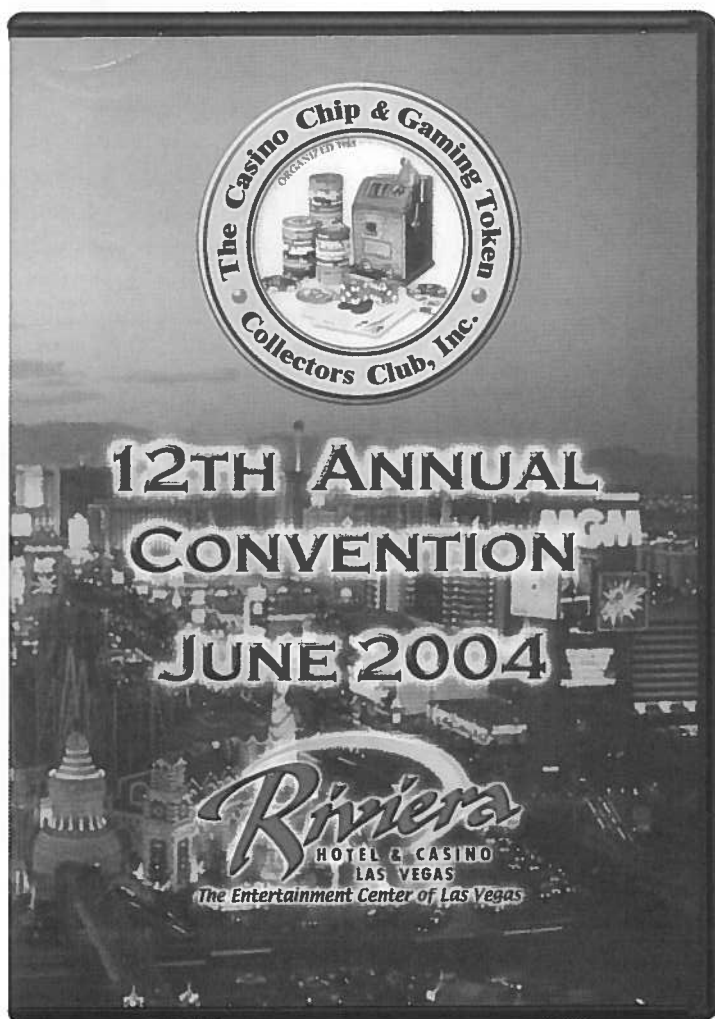
Enclosed in this issue of the club magazine is a submission form for the auction. Remember, the auction is only as good as the items we have to auction off. This is an opportunity to help the club, the auction is one of the largest fund-raising events for the club. Plus you can make a profit on an item that you are ready to sell-off.

The deadline for submission of an item is Friday, February 4, 2005.

If you have any questions about an item you are considering submitting, email me at barrychip@aol.com or call me at 818 780-6794.

CC>CC 2004 Convention Video Tape

The 12th Annual Convention video is now available. With convention highlights, the speech by Robert Maheu, Chip Stories III seminar and the Neon Museum seminar, this video is a must for those who attended the convention or for those who were not able to make it. It is available in either DVD or VHS formats.



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Red Dragon Casino - Set of 7 Roulettes	\$29	Jennie V's Casino \$5 Excellent Condition	\$39
West World (Henderson) 50c, \$1, \$5, \$25	\$59	Frontier Hotel 50c H&C(CJ) "PAN"	\$39
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 S-Mold (Sinatra Era)	\$48	Eddie's Fab 50's - 3 Diff "A" roulettes	\$29
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie N0346	\$99	Foxy's Firehouse - 4 Colors H&C NCV's	\$49
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$99	Golden Nugt Rare NCV's 6 Diff : 1-1000	\$199
Giudici's (Sparks) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49	Fiesta -Royal Flush Series of 24 \$5 Chips	\$195
Sierra Tahoe Dealer's School \$25	\$22	Cactus Pete's 25c Brown H&C HS Gold	\$79
Silver Nugget H&C NCV's: 1,5,25,100	\$32	Sahara Reno-New Find: Lg Key Roulette	\$16
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$48	Texas (LV) 4 Colors: 8-Suit NCV's	\$32
Town Tavern \$5 Purple Sm Crown 4-Yel	\$39	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$55
Silver Nugget \$25 Mike Tyson (25 Made)	\$129	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Stork Club (LV) - Choice \$5, 25 or \$100	\$199	Ore House (Reno) - Plain Mold \$1,2,5,10	\$49
Trop (AC) Poker Club: Maroon NCV	\$19	Gold Strike (Jean) NCV's: 5,25,100,500	\$38
Hard Rock "Who" at the Joint \$5 & \$25	\$59	Pink Pussycat (Reno) \$1, \$2, \$5 w/ "\$"	\$49
Harrah's (Reno) \$25 N8537 "Q" Value	\$49	Pink Pussycat 1,2,5 Error Set - No "\$"	\$59
Opera House Unicorns-5,25,100; No "\$"	\$45	Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange Sq-in-Circle	\$69
Bladensburg (Md.) Complete: 60 R'lettes	\$119	Curzon House (London) 10 Pd Plaque	\$39
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Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Curzon House (London) 100 Pd Plaque	\$79
Opera House 9/11 Charity Set 3 NCV's	\$99	Bellagio:Ocean's 11 - \$1,\$5,\$25,\$50,\$100	\$89
Reno Hilton \$8 Yr of the Monkey (2004)	\$55	Harrah's Reno \$5 V2714 "Happy B-Day"	\$85
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$39	Christmas \$1 N7349 GREAT INLAY !!	\$499
Jailhouse - Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$45	Trop (LV) - Brooks Robinson - SIGNED	\$29
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Black Rectangle	\$99	Stockmen's (Elko) \$25 Pink; Metal Inlay	\$59
Reno Hilton \$5 Rainbow's N4603, N5168	\$44	Comstock (Reno) \$25 N2736 Obsolete	\$39
International Dealer's School (LV) 1,5,25	\$28	Sands 3 Chip Tourney Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$79
Cal-Nev-Ari \$1&\$5 Bi-Plane Coin Inlasy	\$39	Trop (LV) 5 Match Play Gray/Pink Pie	\$48
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Harrah's Reno \$5 Octagon "Satisfaction"	\$35
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$49	Ponderosa Reno N.D. Red Plain V5305	\$89
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Yellow V4396	\$22	Opera House 71 Yrs \$1,5,25,100 (19 Sets)	\$249
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Gray/Green	\$29	Town House \$5 V9907 Brn SmKey None	\$69
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$49	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$69
Harrah's Tahoe Obs. NCV's 1,5,25,100	\$39	Claim Stake (Sparks) \$1, \$5, \$25 - All 3	\$48
Sowndowner/Virginian 1 ERROR NCV	\$59	The Gambler (Reno) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49
G. Autry's Htl Continental Red Roul Rm	\$22	Saddle West: 1st Issue H&C: 25c, \$1, \$5	\$49
Foxwoods \$10 - Frank Sinatra	\$38	Bally's (Tinica) "1993" GO Light Vers.	\$45
Debbie Reynolds \$5 N2406	\$50	Horseshoe: WSOP Sat'lite NCV's 6 Diff.	\$35
State Line N.D. V9838 Chinese Warrior	\$79	The Shack (Lake Tahoe) \$5 Diamond	\$69
Heinie's Reno - Red, Green, White	\$22	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
Red Coach (Silver Springs) \$1, \$5, \$10	\$45	Poor Pete's (Reno) \$5 N7306	\$22
The Nugget \$25 Home of More Jackpots	\$799	Comstock (Reno) \$25 N2736	\$39
Mr. C's (Reno) \$5 H&C 4-Brn 4-Purple	\$89	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$49
Eddie's Fabulous 50's: 5, 25, 100 NCV's	\$89	Trump Castle - Royal Flush - Set of 20	\$179
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ)	\$59	Treas Is: #10 Roul; 5 Diff; Never Opened	\$29
Eldorado RARE 5 NCV - "Fly Away"	\$125	Nugget (Reno) Green H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ngt	\$59	Nugget \$1 Maroon SmKey pic of Nugget	\$59

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\$100 to \$299 = \$4

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Andy Hughes

CC>CC Member # LM-2471-52

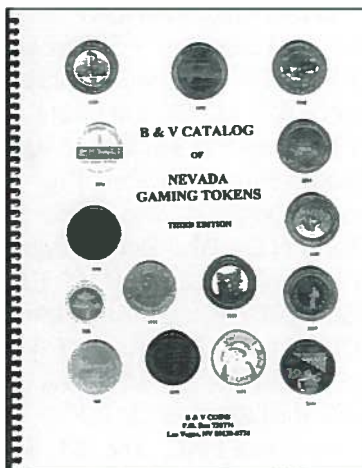


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Bettye & Vince Mowery CC>CC # 360A & # 360



Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

by Allan Anderson

The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino has always had some of the best, and most popular, memorabilia, from pins and casino chips to tokens, silver strikes, room keys, slot cards and on and on. The Hard Rock also displays one of the greatest rock n' roll memorabilia collection from the world's greatest rock music and movie legends. Some of these items are Elvis' gold lame jacket, concert outfits, leather jackets, gold and platinum records, guitars from Nirvana, Pearl Jam, ZZ Top, Van Halen, Bruce Springsteen, Aerosmith and many more.

Peter Morton opened the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on March 10, 1995 next to the existing Hard Rock Cafe. The introduction of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino quickly changed the way locals and visitors viewed Las Vegas, giving the city a newfound youth. The hotel quickly became the hottest and most sought-after destination in Vegas.

Peter Morton is a member of Chicago's preeminent family of restaurateurs. He knew at a young age that he wanted to continue the family tradition. After graduating from the University of Denver in 1969, he moved to London where shortly after his arrival he felt the need for a true American-style hamburger "joint". With money borrowed from his family and friends, he opened the Great American Disaster.

A year later, in 1971, he added rock music to the equation and opened the first Hard Rock Cafe, which restaurant experts agree pioneered the modern theme restaurant era. Located in London's Mayfair district, the Hard Rock Cafe mixed the energy and excitement of rock n' roll with great American food. Returning to Los Angeles in 1979, he

opened Mortons, which catered to an upscale clientele. In 1994 Mortons was redesigned and relocated across the street from the original site.

In 1982, with backing from Hollywood supporters, Peter Morton opened the first Hard Rock Cafe in the U.S. He soon established Hard Rock Cafes worldwide. The Rank Organisation, Pfc bought the rights for roughly half of the Hard Rock Cafes and in June 1996, Peter Morton sold the remaining rights to Rank.

continued on page 40





4th of July
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



4th of July
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



4th of July
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,500



5 Grand
\$5,000 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 500 Reissue 1999: 2,000



Aerosmith
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Aerosmith
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 5,000



All for One
\$1,000 Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Yellow
Mintage: Unknown Reissue 1999: 3,000



April's Fool
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 3,000



Big Nickel
\$500 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 500 Reissue 1999: 3,000



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,000



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,000



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,000



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
CD Case
1,000 Sets

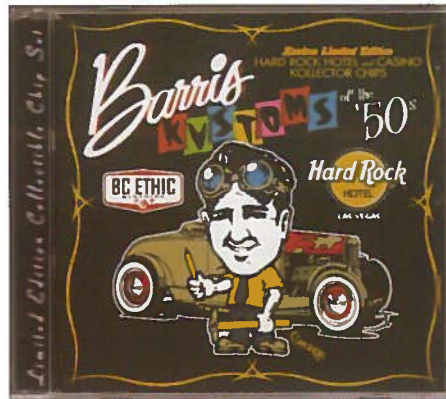


Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,000

With autograph



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,200



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
CD Case
1,200 Sets



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,200



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,200



With autograph



Barris Kustoms of the 50's
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,200



CC>CC Convention
NCV Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Blue
Mintage: 600



CC>CC Convention, Pink Taco
NCV Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Pink
Mintage: 1,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas, Angel
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas, Hotel
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: December 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,500



Christmas
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Christmas
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Cinco de Mayo
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Cinco de Mayo
\$25 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 100



Cinco de Mayo
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,500



Cinco de Mayo
\$25 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 750



Cinco de Mayo
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Cinco de Mayo
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 500



Con Air
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 5,000



Sheryl Crow
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Fuchsia
Mintage: 5,000 Reissue 2001: 350



Black Crowes
\$5 House Chip Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 100,000



The Cure
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,500



The Cure
\$25 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 250



Carson Daly
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,500



Desert Scene
\$5 House Chip Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: Unknown



Depeche Mode
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,500



Depeche Mode
\$25 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,100



Dido
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Pink
Mintage: 4,500



Duran Duran
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Eminem
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,500



First Anniversary
\$5 Year:
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 25,000



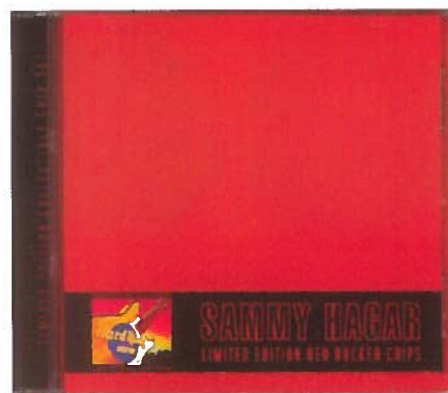
Friday the 13th
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,300



Jimi Hendrix
\$25 House Chip Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: Unknown



Sammy Hagar
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Sammy Hagar
CD Case
250 Sets



Sammy Hagar
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Blue
Mintage: 250



Halloween
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 5,000



Sammy Hagar
CD Case
250 Sets



Halloween
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 7,500



Halloween
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 5,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 5,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 3,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 3,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 5,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 2,000



Halloween
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 2,000



Hoops in Vegas
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 5,000



Hootie & the Blowfish
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Fuchsia
Mintage: 5,000



In Rock We Trust
\$500 Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Fuchsia
Mintage: Unknown



Janes Addiction
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 3,300



Janes Addiction
\$25 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 825



Billy Joel
\$25 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 10,000



King of the Beach
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



King of the Beach
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Kid Rock
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Kid Rock
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,100



Kid Rock
\$100 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 300



Kid Rock
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Kid Rock
\$25 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,000



Kid Rock
\$100 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 500



Lenny Kravitz
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,500



Lenny Kravitz
\$25 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 500



Marilyn Manson
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 5,000



Matchbox 20
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,500



John Mellencamp
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 5,000



Millennium
\$5 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 10,000



Metallica
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Metallica
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Metallica
\$25 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,500



Metallica
\$100 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 750



Metallica
\$500 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Fuchsia
Mintage: 1,000



Moby
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Van Morrison
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,000



Van Morrison
\$25 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 750



Van Morrison
\$100 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 250



Mondo Tiki
NCV Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Brown
Mintage: 1,200



Neville Brothers
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



No Doubt
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Online Bonus
\$10 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



Tom Petty
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 10,000



Tom Petty
\$100 House Chip Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: Unknown Reissue 2001: 3,000



Ozzie Osbourne, Ozzie
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 3,250



Ozzie Osbourne, Lola
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 500



Ozzie Osbourne, Minnie
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 500



Ozzie Osbourne, Ozzie
\$25 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,500



Ozzie Osbourne, Sharon
\$25 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,250



Ozzie Osbourne, Ozzie
\$100 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 700



PINDEX 2000
Oversized (49mm) NCV Year: 2000
Mold: Plain Color: Fuschia
Mintage: 1,200



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Hot Pink
Mintage: 500



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 500



PINDEX Early Bird
NCV Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Peach
Mintage: 300



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Blue
Mintage: 500



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 500



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Brown
Mintage: 1,000



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Pink
Mintage: 1,000



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Blue
Mintage: 500



PINDEX
NCV Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Orange
Mintage: 500



Playboy
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5000



Playboy
\$25 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 500



Lisa Marie Presley
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 4,500



The Punisher
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,000



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$5 House Chip Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: Unknown Reissue 2001: 350



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,500



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: White
Mintage: 1,250



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: White
Mintage: 1,250



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: White
Mintage: 1,250



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: White
Mintage: 1,250



Red Hot Chili Peppers
\$100 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 500



Ringo Starr
\$100 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 550



Rocky Horror Picture Show
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,500



Rocky Horror Picture Show
\$25 Year: 2000
Mold: Color: Purple
Mintage: 500



Rock 'N Horses
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 7,500



Rock 'N Horses
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,500



Rock 'N Horses
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,500



Rock 'N Horses
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,500



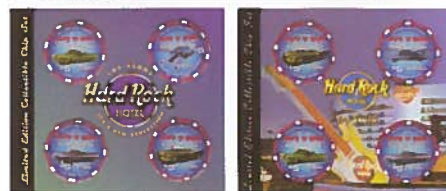
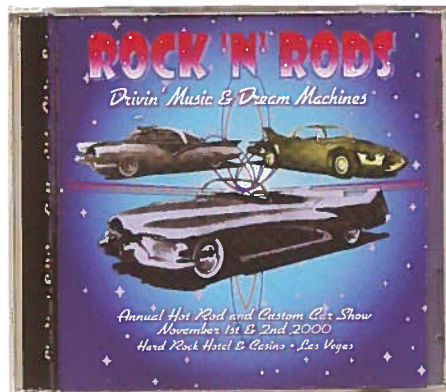
Rock 'N Horses
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,500



The Rolling Stones
\$25 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 10,000



Rock 'N Rods '51 La Sabre
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,600



Type 1 Insert

Type 2 Insert



Rock 'N Rods '54 FX-Atrons
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,600



Rock 'N Rods '55 Futura
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,600

Rock 'N Rods
CD Case
1,600 Sets



Rock 'N Rods '55 Mystere
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,600



Ed Roth Custom Cars of the 60's
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 600



With autograph



Ed Roth Custom Cars of the 60's
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 600



Ed Roth Custom Cars of the 60's
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 600

Custom Cars of the 60's
CD Case
Mintage: 600 sets



Ed Roth Custom Cars of the 60's
\$5 Year: 1996
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 600



Sting
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2500



Sting
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2500



Sting
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2500



Sting
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2500



Sting
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2500



Sting
\$25 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 750



Bob Seger
\$5 House Chip Year: 1995
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: Unknown



Valentines Day
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Valentines Day
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Dark Red
Mintage: 5,000



Valentines Day
\$5 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Valentines Day
\$5 Year: 2001
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,000



Valentines Day
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,000



Valentines Day, Melissa Etheridge
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



Valentines Day, Melissa Etheridge
\$25 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 1,500



VH1 Fairway to Heaven
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 5,000



VH1 Fairway to Heaven
\$5 Year: 1998
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



VH1 Fairway to Heaven
\$5 Year: 1999
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2,000



VH1 Fairway to Heaven
\$5 Year: 2000
Mold: H&C Color: Green
Mintage: 3,500



Volleyball Tour - AVP Shootout
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 2,500



Volleyball Tour - AVP Shootout
\$5 Year: 2003
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 1,500



Volleyball Tour - AVP Shootout
\$5 Year: 2004
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 4,000



The Who
\$5 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Red
Mintage: 5,000



The Who
\$25 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Purple
Mintage: 6,000



The Who
\$100 Year: 2002
Mold: H&C Color: Black
Mintage: 400

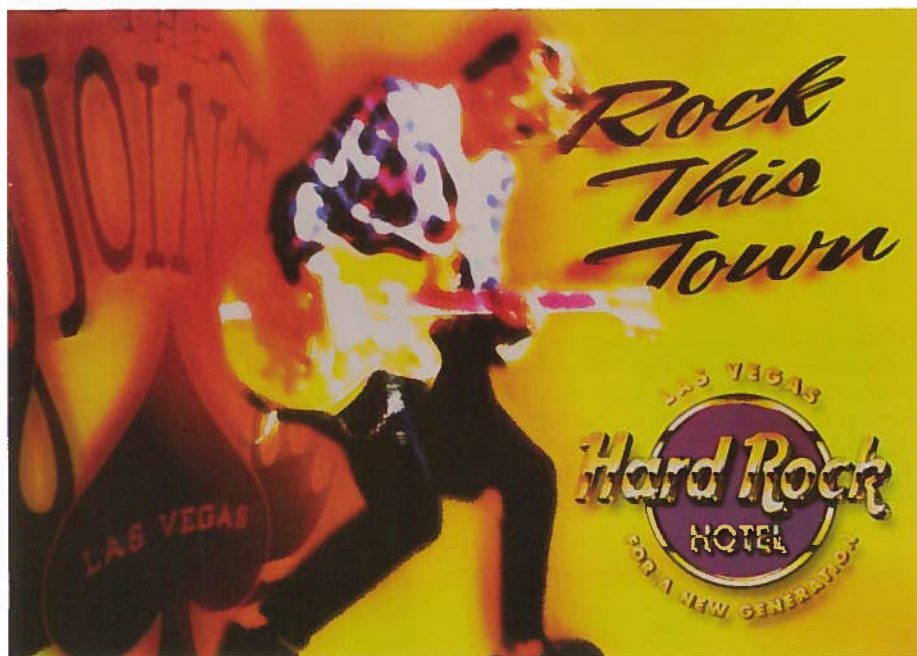


ZZ Top
\$5 Year: 1997
Mold: H&C Color: Tan
Mintage: 5,000 Reissue 2001: 350



One that didn't make it

The Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas chip was not approved by The Gaming Control Board.



No Cash Value Chips



5
Color: Hot Pink Year: 1996



25
Color: Green Year: 1996



100
Color: Dark Gray Year: 1996



500
Color: Purple Year: 1996



1000
Color: Cream Year: 1996



5000
Color: Gold Year: 1996

Movie Props



The Hard Road chips were made by a Hollywood prop house for use in the movie, TOMCATS (2001). The prop house bought a bunch of real chips from the cage as well to be used in the shot at the craps table. The "fake" chips were used to supplement the real chips to make the shot look better. Front and back of the \$5 chip are shown.



Roulettes



1995 Hard Rock opens with 2 tables



1996 3rd table opens. Old chips are removed



1999 2 new tables open. The old chips are retained on the other 3 tables.



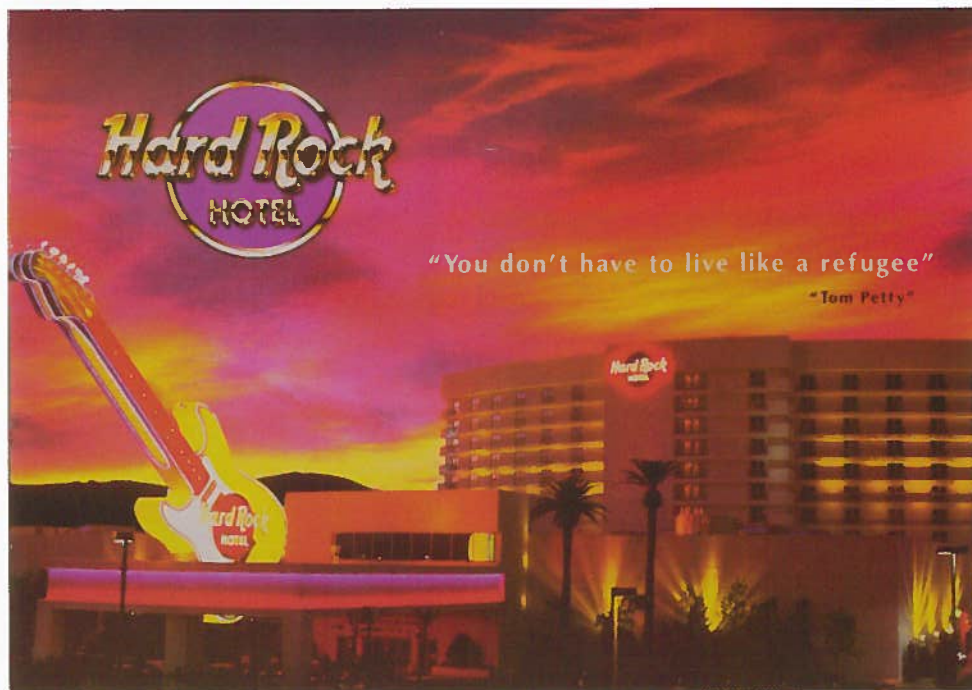
2000 New chips issued on all tables.

The roulette chips issued from 1995 through 2000 were made in the following colors: blue, green, orange, peach, pink, purple and yellow.



2004 New chips issued on all tables.

The new hot stamp roulette chips were put in play in 2004. They are made in the following colors: grey, blue, salmon, purple, green, red, and beige.



There has always been a controversy whether these two chips are from the Hard Rock. There is a possibility they were salesman samples for roulette chips but it has not been confirmed.



The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino offers guests cutting edge amenities including poolside wireless internet and plasma screen TVs in every room. Mixing rock n' roll with class sophistication, the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino continues to cater to the younger crowd by boasting more than 650 rooms, world class restaurants, a state-of-the-art 5,000 square foot Penthouse, a newly renovated nightclub and a world renowned live concert venue. The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino has revolutionized and redefined entertainment and luxury.

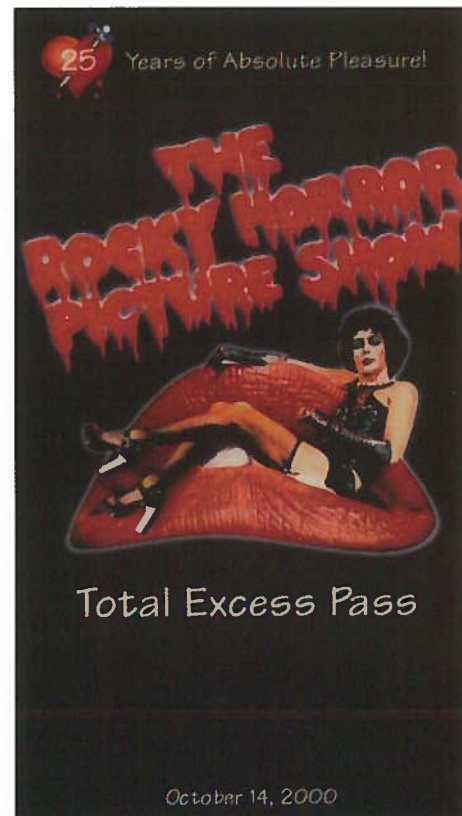
The hotel's main attraction from spring through fall is the world famous pool and beach club. Hidden in over three acres of plush landscape, The Hard Rock pool is one of the

most sought after destinations to escape the summer heat. The tropical paradise includes sand bottom pools and beaches, over 50 private Tahitian cabanas with cable TV, fresh fruit, private refrigerators and cooling misters. The pool also has an outdoor gaming area including swim up blackjack and an underwater sound system.

The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith and Red Hot Chili Peppers are just some of the names that have performed at The Joint, a state-of-the-art venue. The Joint boasts the latest technology including color video cameras feeding two massive screens that flank the stage and multiple monitors throughout the venue, 25-foot speaker bays surround the stage to complete any

performance. With balconies for VIP access, two fully staffed bars, 8,000 square feet of space, 800 square feet of stage and a capacity of 1,400, The Joint accommodates everything from a seated affair to a standing showstopper.

There are restaurants, bars and nightclubs for everyone's tastes. *AJ's Steakhouse* has the finest steaks and smoothest martinis. The interior is a



Silver Strikes



HR Logo

\$10 Year: 1995 (S) 1998 (G)



Mr. Lucky's 24/7

\$10 Year: 1995 (S) 1998 (G)



The Joint

\$10 Year: 1995 (S) 1998 (G)



Sports Deluxe

\$10 Year: 1995 (S) 1998 (G)



1964 Rickenbacker

\$10 Year: 1999 (G)



1959 Gretsch

\$10 Year: 1999 (G)



Gibson "Les Paul"

\$10 Year: 1999 (G)



1949 Telecaster

\$10 Year: 1999 (G)



HR Logo

\$20 Year: 1996 (S) 1998 (G)



Mr. Lucky's 24/7

\$20 Year: 1996 (S) 1998 (G)



The Joint

\$20 Year: 1996 (S) 1998 (G)



Sports Deluxe

\$20 Year: 1996 (S) 1998 (G)



Fender Stratocaster

\$20 Year: 1999 (G)



Flying V

\$20 Year: 1999 (G)



Gibson Firebird

\$20 Year: 1999 (G)



Hoffner Beatle Bass

\$20 Year: 1999 (G)

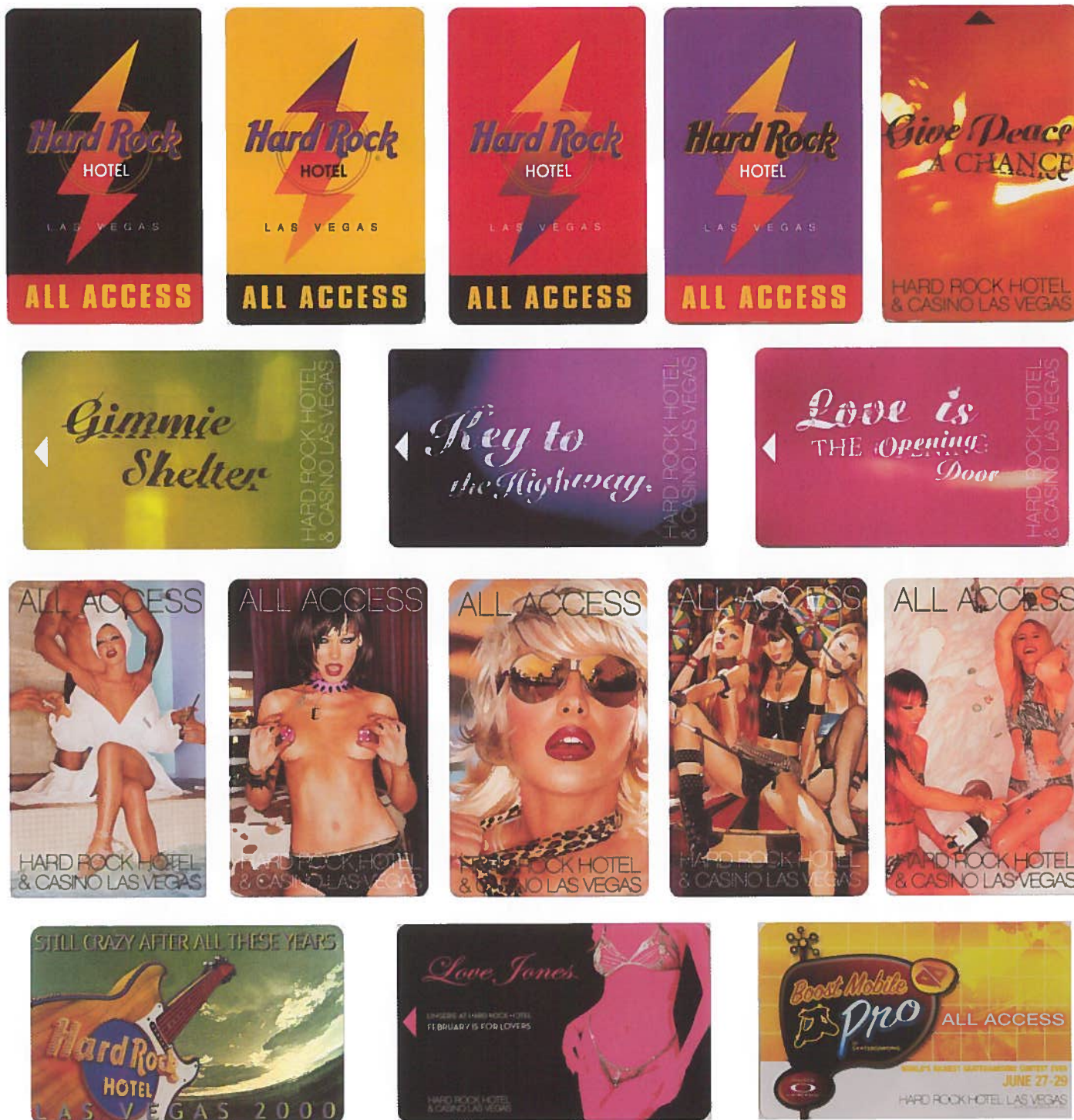


HR Logo (coin aligned)

\$20 Year: 1998 (G)



Room Keys



classic take on the early days of Vegas mixed with west coast retro flair. The cocktail bar features a live pianist nightly. *Nobu* was voted best Japanese Restaurant for four years in a row by the Las Vegas Life Epicurean Awards, *The Pink Taco* brings authentic Mexican food to Las Vegas and it includes The Tequila Bar with over 68

types of the Mexican staple. *Simon Kitchen and Bar* is a signature American eatery and was voted one of the Best New Restaurants in America by Esquire magazine. *Mr. Lucky's 24/7* cafe never closes and serves the best comfort food and milkshakes. It has been featured on Food Network's *\$40 A Day* program.

The Center Bar, with it's unique circular design, is located in the heart of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. *Sports Deluxe* is a sports bar made for true sports fans. It features 40 different sporting events that are fed into brand new hi-definition plasma screens. The *Body English* nightclub is designed to look like an English

Tokens



\$1
Year: 1995



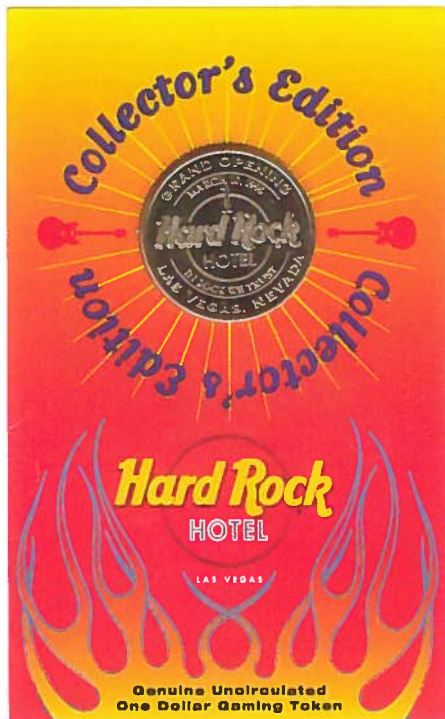
\$1
Year: 2000



\$1
Year: 2002



\$1 Billboard Music Awards
Year: 1996



\$1 Billboard Music Awards
Year: 1997



Enameled Token - Prototype
Year: 2002



\$2 Brass Token
Year: 1996



\$5
Year: 1995



\$1 Grand Opening
Year: 1995



\$25
Year: 1996



\$100
Year: 1999



These promotional chips were produced in 1991 by the Hard Rock Cafe and are not casino chips or tokens. They also came in black, red, blue green and yellow.



\$100
Year: 1999

rock star's pad. An elite membership is available that includes a private VIP area, bottle service and exclusive invites and VIP amenities.

Cuba Libre is one of the finest cigar bars in Las Vegas and offers an elegant, sit down atmosphere to enjoy a cocktail and a cigar.

Beachers Madhouse is the late night variety show. It's a chaotic blend of Kings of Comedy, Girls Gone Wild and Jackass. The Madhouse found success in New York before taking over Las Vegas. Host Jeff Beacher is a modern day PT Barnum that takes the audience on a wild ride, from sexy dancers, Beacher's Creatures, karaoke contests, and the hottest stand up comedy.

The circular design of the casino floor allows for an intimacy not found in other Vegas properties. With all the standard games including blackjack, roulette, craps and pai gow found on the casino floor, the Hard Rock is home to over 600 custom slots themed to the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Elvis and Sid Vicious.

The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino is a total rock n' roll experience from the memorabilia to the casino chips. It has become the hottest and most sought-after destination in Vegas targeting the 21-40 year old demographic.

I would like to thank the following people for making this article possible. Dave and Debbie Harber, Cheques in the Mail, for supplying me with most of the chip scans and mintage information, Steve Bedo for token scans and all the postcards and slot cards, David Spragg for chip scans and information on the



roulettes, Eric Johnson, for Silver Strike and token scans, Howard Herz for Silver Strike and token scans, Todd Moyer for information on the Hard Road chips, and Andy Hughes for chip scans and background information.



From the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Melissa Fox, Marketing Coordinator, Bart Pestrichello, Vice President of Casino Operations, Michael Decker, Cage Operations Director and Tommy O'Connor, Art Director. Cover photo and hotel photo courtesy Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.



3 Chances to Win Roulettes

First, Second and Third Place Drawings

Raising money for a good cause

I am looking to collect 2005 roulette chips during the year by soliciting fellow collectors. Prior to and during next year's convention, we will sell raffles. We will draw three winners 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All monies collected will go to the building. I hope I can get each collector who reads this to send me one roulette. If that happens it would more than double my goal. The other goal is to sell a min of \$5,000 in raffles.

Anyone interested, please send the roulettes to:

Neal Silverman
c/o Chip-Tech Ltd,
175 Central Avenue
Farmingdale NY 11735

Estimated Chip value \$4,000-\$6,000

If I am able to collect 2005 roulette chips. The prizes will be broken down as follows

- 1st Prize - 50% of the chips collected
- 2nd Prize - 30% of the chips collected
- 3rd Prize - 20% of the chips collected



----- clip and mail -----

With this form I agree to Pay:

\$_____ to buy 1 single raffle ticket at \$5.00

\$_____ to buy 3 raffle tickets for \$10.00

\$_____ to buy 10 raffle tickets for \$25.00

Drawing will be held on the Friday of the convention at 12 Noon. You need not be present to win, the chips will be shipped to the winner.

All Raffle proceed will support the CC>CC Building Fund

Total enclosed \$_____

Make check payable to CC>CC
Building Fund and mail to:

Neal Silverman
c/o Chip-Tech Ltd
175 Central Avenue,
Farmingdale NY 11735

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Any questions email me: Neal@rouletteharvester.com



by Larry Hollibaugh

Can it be October 2004 already? Seems like just last year when I was writing about the 2003 chips. No wait, that was a year ago! My, how time flies! It's been an interesting year in northern Nevada, with 68 new chips to tell you about. Let's pick up with where I left off last time...

September 2003.

OK, 2003 went out like a lamb. In September, Harrah's Reno released their usual \$5 Reno Air Races chip, and Club Cal Neva, for the first time, released a \$5 chip for Street Vibrations.



There were no new chips issued in northern Nevada in October or November. Only one new chip was issued in December, a \$5 chip from Reno Hilton to celebrate the New Year.



In January 2004, Harrah's Tahoe released a \$5 and \$25 honoring David Lee Roth, and Harrah's Reno issued a \$5 Year of the Monkey chip. Tahoe Biltmore released what was supposed to be the first \$5 chip in a four chip Collectors Series, featuring an eagle. The other three chips never showed up.



January also brought us a surprise at Casino Fandango in Carson City. Open for only a few months, a new rack appeared on the tables, the chips distinctively different from the original rack. It looked like the first rack was suddenly obsolete. But it wasn't long before the old chips were mixed back in with the new. Apparently,

these were intended to be “more” chips, not replacements. The new chips include denominations of \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100, and \$500.

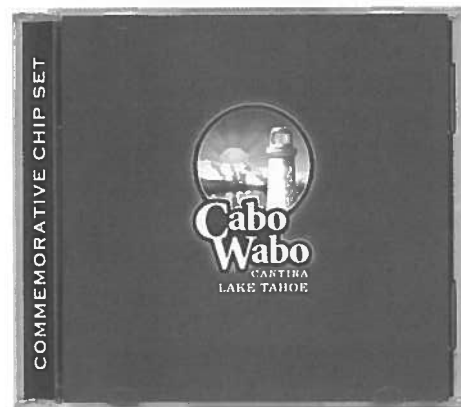


In February, the Sands Regency added a new \$1 chip to the craps tables. The old chips, still in play, say “Sands.” The new chip says “Sands Regency.” The State Line Nugget in Wendover released a \$5 Valentine’s Day chip. Reno Hilton released an \$8 Year of the Monkey chip. Hilton was not happy with the quality of this chip, and pulled it from the cage after only two days. There is some confusion over what happened to the unsold chips. There was a

rumor they were returned to the manufacturer, but that has been disputed.



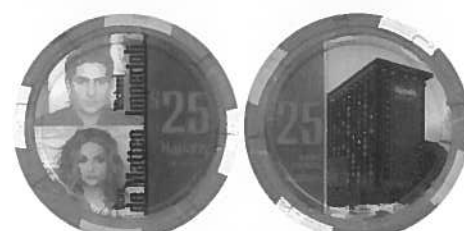
Two \$5 chips were released in March. Casino Fandango had their official grand opening party, and Reno Hilton started the 2004 World Poker Challenge. In April, Harvey’s Tahoe opened Sammy Hagar’s Cabo Wabo Cantina, commemorated with a \$5, \$25 and \$100 chip. A very limited number of special CD sets were available, each set including one \$5, two \$25s and a \$100 chip.



The long anticipated new rack at Harrah’s Reno was finally put out in May. All new chips include \$2.50, \$5, \$25, \$100, \$500 and \$1000 denominations. Also, a new \$1 chip is being used in the recently opened poker room, along with the older Bud Jones \$1 chips that were briefly used in 1996. The new chip is almost identical to the older \$1. The most distinguishing difference is that the new chip has a larger “\$1” that is a lighter shade of yellow. No \$1 chips are used in the main casino. The craps tables still use \$1 tokens.



May also saw the release of a set of six Sopranos chips by Harrah's Tahoe. Four \$5 chips picture Drea De Matteo, Steve Schirripa, Michael Imperioli, and Vince Curatola. There are also two \$25 chips, one showing Drea De Matteo and Michael Imperioli, and the other showing Vince Curatola and Steve Schirripa.



The Reno Rodeo was held June 17-26 and, as usual, the Peppermill was the only casino to do a commemorative chip for it. Silver Legacy finally released a \$5 chip for the ABC Championship Bowling Tournament, which ran from February through June. This is their first LE since Hot August Nights 2001!



Casino Fandango commemorated their First Anniversary in July with a \$5 chip. It's been one year since they opened the doors, not one year since their official grand opening. I suppose some people will look at a grand opening chip in March and an anniversary chip in July and just shake their heads. Also in July, Fitzgeralds replaced their \$1 and \$5 house chips, and Pinion Plaza put their first \$1 chip on the craps table.





August in Reno of course means Hot August Nights, and seven casinos released chips to commemorate this first class trip into old car nostalgia. Atlantis, Bonanza and Harrah's released \$5 chips, Hilton released a \$5 and \$25, and Peppermill put out the first \$5 No Cash Value chip for HAN. Not to be left out, the new Crystal Bay Club at North Tahoe released a \$5 Tahoe Cruisin' chip, clearly timed to coincide with Hot August Nights.



August also brought us a surprise from Harvey's Tahoe. A second set of Sammy Hagar chips were released, a \$5 and a \$25, again commemorating the Cabo Wabo Cantina grand opening back in April. At the same time, they released a \$5 and \$25 chip, the first of their "Summer Concert Series," to commemorate a concert by Toby Keith on August 28th.



Bonneville Speedweek was August 14-20, where the fastest of the fast gather on the Bonneville Salt Flats to lay siege on the world land speed record. The newly renamed Wendover Nugget (formerly State Line Nugget) released a set of four \$5 chips, featuring three different cars and a motorcycle.



In September Harvey's continued their Summer Concert Series with a \$5 and \$25 chip for Alabama's "American Farewell Tour" concert on September 4th. Also in September, the Wendover Nugget replaced their entire rack with chips sporting the new name, in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100, and \$500. Just in time for Jim Munding's chip show at the Golden Phoenix, Fitzgeralds replaced their \$25 house chip, and Club Cal Neva pulled their new \$5, \$25 and \$100 chips due to counterfeiting. If you missed your chance to get the old Paulson metal center chips, they're back!



The Reno Air Races were September 16-19, with Harrah's Reno continuing their long tradition of issuing a \$5 commemorative chip. September 22-26 brought the deafening, street pounding roar of thousands of Harley Davidson motorcycles to Reno again. Club Cal Neva released their second \$5 Street Vibrations chip, and two casinos released their first chips for this event. Atlantis put out a \$5, and Harrah's Reno released a \$5 and \$25. There is also a \$5 Tahoe Ridin' chip from the Crystal Bay Club which is clearly intended to commemorate Street Vibrations.



By the time this article comes out, my new web site should be up. Please come on over to www.RenoCasinoChips.com and check out "the biggest little chip site on the web!" Send me an email and tell me what you think!

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Celebrate 2005 – CC>CC Convention, Las Vegas and Riviera Anniversaries

by Jim Steffner

Seems like we just got home from the convention in June and still haven't unpacked all the great chip finds.

Wow, only about nine months to go till our next convention in Las Vegas, August 3rd to the 6th, 2005 at the Riviera – keep the dates open.

The Riviera made us feel welcome and the 2004 convention was one of the best ever. From the survey forms returned it seems most members were well satisfied with the facility, location, parking, show floor, and especially the fabulous banquet facilities with the splendid view of the strip. "Where were you when the lights went out?" was heard from several after a short power failure gave us all something to talk about.

This year a video production company was contracted to produce a video tape record with show highlights, seminar topics, and banquet speech. After several days of editing, we are proud to offer either a two tape VHS or a DVD record of the show highlights, Mr. Maheu's speech, parts of Doug Saito's Chip Stories III seminar, the Neon Museum seminar, excerpts from the auction and club business meeting and much more. If you attended the show, this is a keepsake of your good time. If you could not attend, be sure to order a copy to see what you missed. Order form was in the last issue of the club magazine, or you can download and print out a form from the club web site (www.ccgctcc.com). Don't miss out on this, quantities may be limited.



For 2005, we will again be at the Riviera but the show will be held in the Royal Ballroom which is the newer section of the convention facility. Can you imagine even a better space then last year? We had to move the dates to August for 2005 because of space availability, but we will be returning to June dates for 2006. Next year marks not only our clubs 16th Anniversary, but also the 100th Anniversary of Las Vegas and the 50th Anniversary of the Riviera. Watch for a lot of great timely celebrations and many fun events.

We're already searching for a banquet speaker who can top Mr. Maheu, if that's possible. The survey forms generated many good ideas for seminar topics as well as suggestions for future convention improvements. Member comments indicated they would like to see additional exhibits, so if you have an interesting collect-

ing topic, start thinking now about putting together for next years show. Several dealers have already signed up and the dealer invitation contracts should have been received by last years dealers by the time you read this – so begins the cycle of planning for the 2005 show.

Neal Silverman has started a project to benefit the building fund. He is soliciting donations to accumulate 2005 roulette chips. Raffle tickets will be sold before and during the convention. The winner will receive all 2005 pieces. Contact Neal at neal@roulet-teharvester.com to donate some chips or to buy raffle tickets.

Plan now for the big celebrations in 2005. Join us for all the festivities at the Riviera for the 13th Annual CC>CC Convention, August 3rd to the 6th.

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Atlantic City

R E P O R T

by Archie **Black**

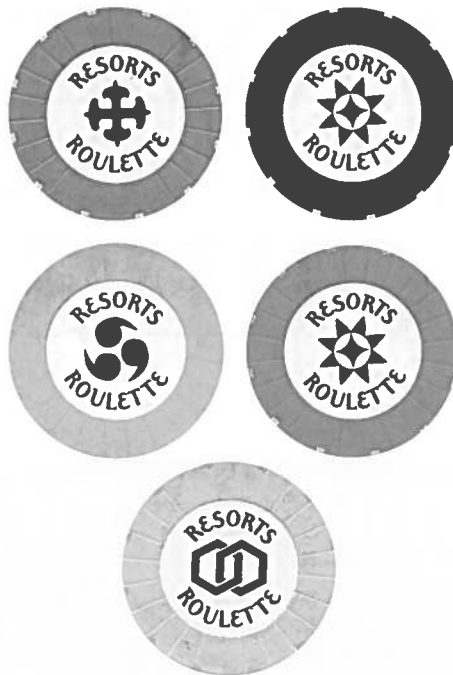
“A.C. ... ALWAYS TURNED ON!”

Labor Day has come and gone; the kids have returned back to school, ... which signals the end of the summer season all along the Jersey Shore ... and the Miss America Pageant is currently underway as this report is being prepared. An anticipated strike by Local 54 of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees union against the Atlantic City casinos (except for Borgata) will hopefully be over by the time this report is read. Once again, no Miss America chips have been approved in 2004 due to a lack of licensing agreements with the Miss America Organization. The country's controversial Presidential elections have been concluded ... and enjoying life as a chipper still goes on. Hopefully, many of our overseas military sons, daughters, husbands and wives will be returning home shortly.

On the chip front, there is not too much to report for this past quarter. Only two Limited Edition chips were issued during the month of August and none so far in September ... both chips were released at Trump Plaza. A \$5 chip to commemorate a popular in-house promotion “Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous” (700 issued) and a 500-issue \$10 Atlantic City Card Sharks chip (A.C.'s professional indoor football team).



Resorts has replaced their entire rack of roulette chips with new Paulson designs ... keeping the roulette “harvesters” busy and providing A.C. collectors with something else to maintain their collecting interests while awaiting the next release of a limited edition chip ... a \$5 issue to mark the appearance of the rock group “Heart” that will be followed up with a “Rock the Vote” chip a week or two before election day from Trump Marina.



An unofficial rumor has it that Showboat might be embarking on a Limited Edition chip program in the near future. I've also heard unconfirmed reports that IGT may be intro-



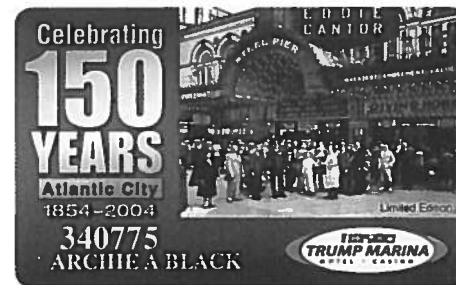
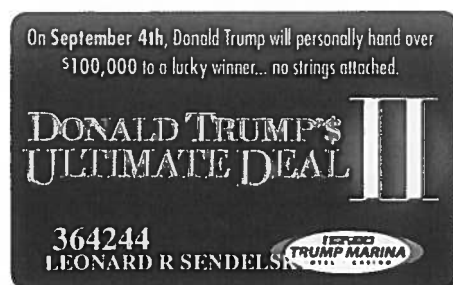
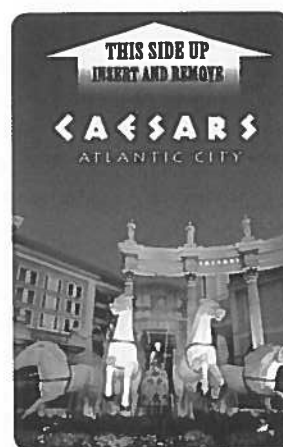
ducing their new Silver Strike machine in an A.C. property soon. I hope that both rumors prove to be true!

Collecting Atlantic City Slot Cards and Room Keys received a boost over the past couple of months with several new cards and keys making their appearance all over town.

Sorry for this brief quarterly report. Hopefully, the next quarter issue will be chock-full of Atlantic City New Issue news. BTW: Only a dozen or so copies of Black's 2004 Catalog of Atlantic City Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens are left. If anyone



wishes to order a copy in time for Christmas, please do so soon. Visit my website at: www.callzia.com/dghome/acchips/home.htm



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Plain Talk about *The Numismatist*

Introduced in 1888, *The Numismatist* originally reflected the views and needs of its creator and first editor, George F. Heath

by Q. David Bowers



The first issue of Heath's new publication was called *The American Numismatist*, a title that was shortened to *The Numismatist* for subsequent issues.

Making it's debut on the coin collecting scene in the autumn of 1888 was *The American Numismatist*, a modest, four-page leaflet dated September-October, the brainchild of Dr. George F. Heath of Monroe, Michigan. The good doctor had his eye on the future, for the masthead proclaimed that the initial issue was Volume 1, Number 1, with more issues planned. Apparently, the "American" pan of the title was not deemed necessary, for on the next issue, November-December, it was dropped.

In his spare time, Dr. Heath dabbled in selling coins by mail. More than anything else, *The American Numismatist* was a house organ, a price list. For just 60 cents, readers could order "Packet No. 13," which contained "10 var. of silver coins size of half dime," or for \$1.25, Packet No. 14, with "10 var. of same dime size."

"Interesting items, original and selected, will occupy over half its columns," Dr. Heath said of his publication, further noting that "bargains in coins will be continually offered the collector, in fact, it is the publisher's determination that *The Numismatist* [sic] shall prove a welcome visitor to his coin patrons, and any others who prepay the postage, he proposes that they shall get the full value of their money.

"Of one thing all may rest assured,

this paper has come to see its year out and though small and unpretentious, will, like the Irishman's flea, 'get there just the same,' and when least expected. And so without further ado we launch our frail bark on the journalistic seas, and with clear skies and a flowing sail go out on our mission."

Little did Heath realize that this germ of an idea would be published for the next century and would go on to become the most important non-profit coin journal ever created. The first issue of *The American Numismatist* pointed out the virtues of collecting to the youth of his time, a sentiment that was no less relevant 100 years ago than it is today:

A sign of the time most favorable is the spirit of our youth in these matters; weak and feeble as the efforts may be, fruit will be borne in the future. It is a hopeful sign when the youth of any land turn their attention to the making of collections; whether it be of coins, minerals, Indian relics, paper money, birds' eggs, autographs, postage stamps, fossils or curios, it matters not. From any of these lines much may be learned, and the taste cultivated will invariably lead to something higher and better.

"There are about 20,000 coin collectors in this country," Dr. Heath went on to say, "and the making of coin collections has never been so popular, the world over, as today. Coins could never be bought so cheap

as they can today. The wonderful impetus given to their collecting during the past few years, and the competition among dealers has done the work."

Interestingly, among the dozens of different coins Heath offered for sale, none was given a grade. A coin's beauty and desirability was apparently in the eye of the beholder, who was protected by a strong guarantee: "The coin packets as per list on this page contain no duplicates. The coins are in above average condition, and so confident am I that they will give satisfaction, that I agree to refund the money in any unsatisfactory sales on the return of the coins,"

His holdings must have been fairly generous, for he advertised that he had "over 3,500 varieties always in stock." Heath's motto, "Cheaper than the Cheapest," seems a bit out of character with the rest of his statements and philosophies, but, on the other hand, he wanted to promote his business, and one way to do it was to give the appearance of offering bargains.

The second issue of his publication featured a lead editorial on the subject of Chinese cash coins. Even more than the inaugural issue, the second emphasized coins for sale, with stress placed on world and ancient pieces, although in the American series a group of 25 varieties of "War Period tokens" could be ordered for 50 cents.

New services were announced, including the free answering of numismatic questions and the identification of unknown coins, "providing a careful description, a rubbing, or the coin itself is sent." Further, "to any who may desire, exchange advertisements of 25 words or less will be inserted free of charge to such as are entitled to receive this paper." There was no indication of a subscription or

other charge for *The Numismatist*, and it is presumed that the periodical was sent free to those who responded with an occasional order.

The Numismatist continued publication, with the third issue bearing a January-February 1889 date. Again, emphasis was on advertising packets and individual coins for sale. "*The Numismatist* is here to stay," it stated. Ideas were forming concerning a subscription arrangement. Until April 1, 1889, a year's worth of issues, plus "a good foreign coin" would be sent on receipt of 11 cents in unused stamps. At the same time, the editor gave his own numismatic preferences:

We have frequent calls for the U.S. series of dates. We have our own good reason for not collecting a series of dates. We believe in collecting only distinct varieties. The field is large enough and replete with a vast variety of beautiful and interesting designs, and we see no necessity of a collector spending his time and money over an interminable series of dates.

Stop the foolishness. If you want varieties, we have them; don't ask us for dates, for we are not in the fruit business.

The fourth issue of *The Numismatist* skipped a few months and bore a date of July-August 1889. The four-page format remained; however, three of the pages were devoted to editorial comments, with just one page of coins for sale—a near reversal of earlier priorities. The subscription rate was stated as 10 cents per year to cover postage, but to active customers *The Numismatist* was sent free.

Apparently, even if you did not subscribe or order anything, you could still obtain Heath's little publication. "Is it not worth 10 cents a year to you?" he beseeched. "If not, kindly inform us and we will try to make arrangements to give it to you."



Dr. George F. Heath, creator and first editor of *The Numismatist*, was born in Warsaw, New York, on September 20, 1850. After graduating with a degree in medicine from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1881, he entered general practice in Monroe in 1884. When not engaged in "relieving afflicted humanity, amputations, and other kindred amusements," he devoted his time to the more serious business of his collections and *The Numismatist*.

"Even more than the inaugural issue, the second emphasized coins for sale, with stress placed on world and ancient pieces"



A token dated 1902 advertises the American Numismatic Association as well as *The Numismatist* (donated by Harry J. Foreman).

“To pique his readers’ interest, Dr. Heath offered a coin quiz, stating that anyone correctly answering two-thirds of the questions. . . would receive a free subscription.”

To pique his readers’ interest, Dr. Heath offered a coin quiz, stating that anyone correctly answering two-thirds of the questions (there were 10 in all) would receive a free subscription, and the person furnishing the best answers to all of them, if he was a subscriber, “may select coins from our lists or approval lots to the amount of one dollar.” Heath also added “The Numismatist’s Philatelic Supplement” to the periodical and provided two pages of stamp lore, for a total of six pages of information.

The sixth issue of *The Numismatist*, dated November-December 1889, concluded Volume 1. An essay titled “Numismatics” occupied most of the front page and half of the second, noting in part that “The science of coins and medals is as old as antiquity itself. There is probably no other branch of collecting so ancient and honorable, or that has received the attention of students of all ages, as that of coin collecting.”

However, interest in *The Numismatist* was not what Dr. Heath had expected, and the sixth issue marked the termination of a noble experiment:

THE END. It is the universal testimony of all that have attempted numismatic periodical literature in this country that the coin collector will not support a journal in their interest, be it good, bad or indifferent. That this is true, we know; but why it is so is beyond our ken. And so *The Numismatist*, having filled out the measure of its days, draws the draperies of its couch about it and lays down to pleasant dreams. FAREWELL!

Heath bore no ill will for the lack of support and concluded his message on a cheery note: “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. May you live long and prosper.”

But the post-mortem was prema-

ture, and after a lapse of two months, lo and behold, *The Numismatist*, Volume 2, Number 1, appeared, dated March 1890. Obviously, Heath’s generous nature, his desire to promote coin collecting, and the wish to include his offerings in a publication with a more elegant title than the “Monthly Bargain Circular” combined to rescue *The Numismatist* from its seeming demise. In this issue his prices were even cheaper than the cheapest, for his coins were priced “at rock bottom.”

Things were looking up for the fledgling periodical, and it was bravely announced that “this little paper, while only advertised as a bi-monthly, will in all probability issue 12 numbers in 1890. It is published solely in the interest of the publisher and its coin patrons and to these latter it will be sent free.”

To make up for lost time, with the target of 12 issues for 1890 in mind, the next month, April, saw two issues, one dated simply April 1890 and the other April 15, 1890. Then came the May 1890 issue. The June issue, Volume 2, Number 5, featured on the front page the beginning of an essay titled “American Colonial Coins of the United States.” The essay was continued and expanded in the July, August and September issues, after which it was resumed in November, a month in which two issues appeared. The topic was concluded in the December 1890 issue, which marked the twelfth number in the second volume, thus attaining the hoped-for publishing goal.

Dr. Heath continued to refer to his coin offerings as bargains and his prices as rock bottom, but as if the rock-bottom prices were not low enough, the July 1890 issue offered a half-price sale! Emphasis seemed to be on price and price alone, with scarcely a mention of quality.

From the August 1890 issue, readers could order for \$ 50 “a magnificent German collection” consisting of 500 coins, “many over 100 years old,” or for \$ 100 a collection of 750 varieties “from over 100 cities and states.” Ten different varieties of Chinese coins, “some over 500 years old,” classified, were available for 30 cents, while 50 varieties of English penny and halfpenny tokens, circa 1789-1813, could be bought for \$ 6, and a group of 100 Civil War tokens was available for \$2.50.

In the same issue, the editor could not resist a touch of whimsy:

There is occasionally a letter sent to the mayor of our city by some doubting Thomases, inquiring as to our reliability. Now we don't object to this, but we fear our friends will not be doing themselves justice in this way, for they are apt to get a prejudiced reply; for, fortunately or unfortunately, we happen to be the mayor of the City of Monroe.

Ambitious plans were announced for 1891, with the frequency of publication accelerated to semimonthly, or 24 issues. The subscription rate was quintupled to 50 cents a year, but this was offset by the gift of a coin “at the least worth from 30 to 50 cents.” Promised features included the following: “Even- number will be illustrated. Every number will contain interesting articles and notes on coins. Every number will contain the names and addresses of from 10 to 15 or more live coin collectors, with their specialties, if any.”

“Numismatists are universally honest,” Dr. George Heath stated, “so we don't ask for your money until we fulfill our promises; simply give us your honest intention, as we give you ours. We may both fail, still we take the greater risk.”

Thoughts of closing down the periodical were left behind, and the

publisher noted, “*The Numismatist* without any promises or flourish of trumpets has kept on in the even tenor of its way and completed its second year. It promises to go right along on the same old track, a feeble representative of that most fascinating branch of collecting; the most valuable in history; the Science of Numismatics. With us, it has ever been, a rest and recreation from business and professional cares; a labor of love . . . We have kept the faith. We have finished the year.”

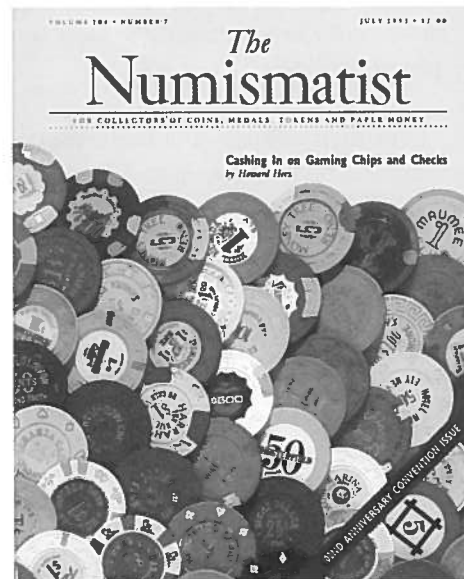
The first issue of the new year was dated January 1, 1891, and bore the greeting “A Happy New Year to all our readers. May the new year be neither ‘poor’ nor ‘fair,’ but from ‘Good’ to ‘Proof to you all.’”

Apparently, subscriptions were coming in at a satisfactory rate, for Heath noted, “The publisher is trying to do something to popularize the science of numismatics. His sincere desire is to make the journal more and more worthy of your support. He is, so far, pleased with reception met with, and grateful for kind words and favors shown. The futures of this journal; Subscriber! Advertiser! Contributor! depend mainly upon *you*.”

The coin collecting hobby was expanding, and the editor went on to say, “The numismatic revival that we have been working for is coming.” He noted the advent of several other numismatic publications with approval.

In February 1891, Heath made a proposal that would have far-reaching implications: “What's the matter of having an *American Numismatist Association*? Would it be possible? Would it be practicable? All in favor of such a scheme, send in your names.” The seed was planted, and the germination was reported in a double-sized March issue carrying an

“The post-mortem was premature, and after a lapse of two months, lo and behold, *The Numismatist*, Volume 2 Number 1, appeared.”



“Cashing in on gaming chips and checks” by Howard Herz was featured in the July 1993 issue of *The Numismatist*.

article titled "A Plea for an American Numismatic Association."

Thus, George F. Heath became the founder of the American Numismatic Association. The ANA was intended to be noncontroversial and to be "primarily in the interest of the great class of less advanced and beginning collectors." At the time, most advanced numismatists belonged to the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, publisher of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, which contained many learned dissertations on esoteric numismatic subjects.

Heath further elaborated:

Our expenses should be light; put the annual dues low. One dollar should be sufficient at present, and arrangements can probably be made whereby each member will receive this value in numismatic literature thrown in as a partial inducement . . . You can depend upon *Plain Talk* [a publication for which Charles T. Tatman furnished coin news] and *The Numismatist* to keep you posted until then.

Unselfish perhaps to a fault. Heath stated that he had nominated Tatman as secretary "to obtain an efficient officer and the hopes of having *Plain Talk* for an official organ." He did not advance *The Numismatist* as a candidate. *Plain Talk* became the official ANA organ, but as Tatman was lax in his duties and publication lapsed, the "official organ" mantle fell upon *The Numismatist*, although in the November 1891 issue it was intimated that *Plain Talk* still was in the running for this honor.

It may come as a surprise to present readers that for a brief time in the late 1890s, *The Numismatist* removed itself from the ANA and decided that it was no longer its official journal, for Heath, a man of action, could not tolerate what he considered to be las-

situde on the part of ANA officials, who would not even answer his correspondence! However, this separation soon ended.

On June 16, 1908, Dr. Heath suddenly died. Farran Zerbe, then president of the ANA, assumed the task of editing and publishing *The Numismatist* and soon purchased the publication from Heath's heirs. In 1911, through the generosity of W.C.C. Wilson of Montreal, Canada, *The Numismatist* was purchased from Zerbe and presented to the ANA. Ever since that long-ago time, *The Numismatist* has been a vital part of the American Numismatic Association.

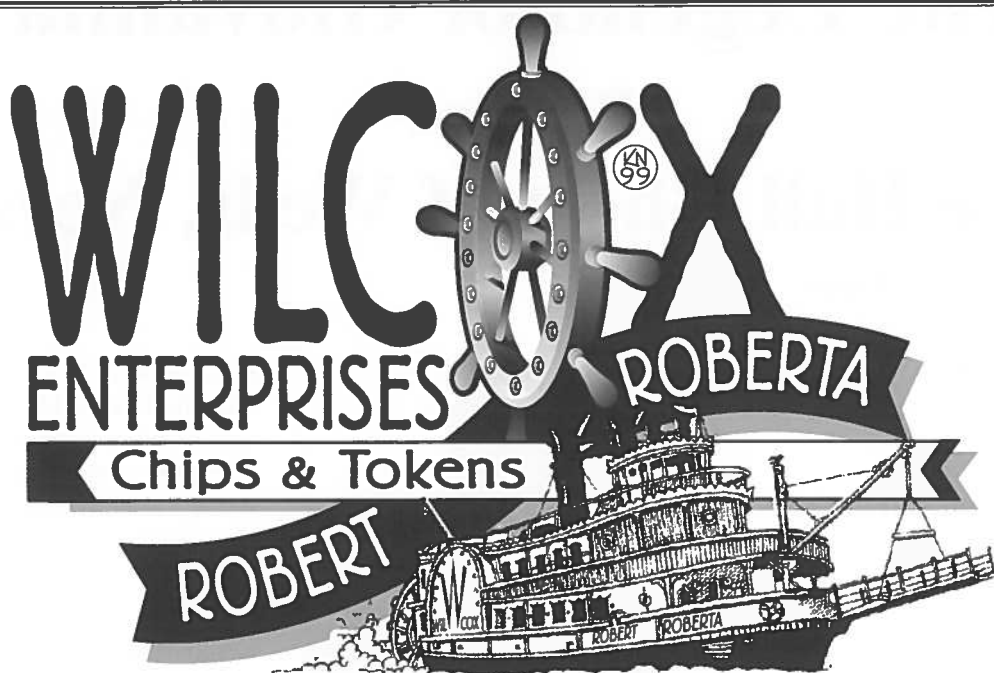
Editors of The Numismatist

George F. Heath	1888-1908
Farran Zerbe	1909-1910
Albert Frey	1911-1912
Edgar H. Adams	1912-1915
Frank G. Duffield	1915-1942
Lee F. Hewitt	1942-1943
Burton H. Saxton	1943-1944
Stuart Mosher	1945-1954
Elton G. Bradfield	1954-1966
Glenn B. Smedley	1966-1967
Edward C. Rochette	1967-1972
Thomas Marshall	1972-1973
Edward C. Rochette	1973-1974
N. Neil Harris	1974-1988
Barbara J. Gregory	1988-

Former ANA President Q. David Bowers has -written well over two dozen books, many of which have become classic references in the field of numismatics. A rare coin dealer since 1953, he co-owns Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., located in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. This article is excerpted from an early draft of THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL HISTORY, a comprehensive volume compiled by Bowers for the ANA's 100th anniversary in 1991.

For a time, *Plain Talk* was in the running to become the official organ of the American Numismatic Association.

"The ANA was intended to be noncontroversial and to be primarily in the interest of the great class of less advanced and beginning collectors"



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Roberta Cook

The Legend of Giovanna

Reputed

Dance Hall Ghost of Wells, Nevada

by Gene Kaplan and Peg Kaplan
Wells, Nevada

Ghost or Guardian Angel?
How much Fact? How much
Fantasy?

A Study Of Regional Oral Tradition
Otherwise Known
as the Haunted History of
Humboldt Wells

Walk out from Wells two miles in any direction on a warm summer night and see countless stars. It's easy to imagine this fierce proud land 100 years ago, 200 years ago. And there are some who claim they hear more than an occasional coyote wail in the darkness, hear voices, see apparitions from the past. Amidst the sage it could be 2002, 1902, or 1802, the land indifferent to such a small matter as human chronology. Of the many feet that have trod it, echoes remain. And on a warm summer night you can hear those echoes and feel a shimmer of their passing.

The vastness of the region can cause people to color in companions be they from the past or present. That's why the cowboy sings. To date, none of those ghosts, if they are that, have been malevolent. No harm has come to anyone who reported seeing them or hearing them, but astounding well-documented discoveries have been attributed to visitations from what folks hereabouts call "the other side."

Research is hindered by the reluctance of people to admit to a paranormal experience because any such a report



is greeted by skeptics whistling the *Outer Limits* theme. People were less skeptical around the turn of the Twentieth Century when many learned and scientific experts voiced a belief in spiritualism and the presumption that the living can communicate with the other side. As late as the 1920's Arthur Conan Doyle, by profession a physician, and by avocation an author and creator of Sherlock Holmes, publicly spoke out as to his belief in spiritualism. Dr. Doyle explained that in his own lifetime he'd witnessed the coming of electric light, the telephone, radio, heavier

than air flight that could cross the Atlantic Ocean. In a time of so many wonderful inventions and discoveries, Dr. Doyle asked could anyone really be sure scientific proof of spiritualism wasn't just around the corner?

True or not, stories of the haunts of Humboldt Wells persist. You can seldom get anyone to come forward so great is the reluctance of long-time residents to expose themselves to ridicule, but the consensus is her name was Giovanna. Giovanna is remembered, and her life is legend.

Disputed Giovanna Origins

Description of any mythic figure presents a unique challenge for the historian, particularly when the threshold question is, as with Robin Hood, "Did the beloved folk hero really exist?" Suffice to say the problem is compounded by alleged paranormal sightings. Giovanna is believed to have lived a life that up to a point was a typical old west story of tragedy and hardship. She was already an orphan on the day in 1870 when a Shoshone band paid a visit on the Wells postmaster. Cutting juniper fence posts for ranchers, the Shoshone found the little girl a few miles outside of town, exhausted, bare feet shredded by running over broken ground. All she had in the world hung from her neck in a knotted sock by a rawhide thong — the contents of which she refused to reveal. She described the murder of her mother, father, and infant sister and her own escape when she cut

loose a horse and rode for her life until the steed was shot out from under her.

Searchers found no trace of the family wagon, or other family members. After that Giovanna never again spoke of her childhood except to confirm her family were Italian and that was the language she could best speak as a child. Fortunately for the orphan girl the Wells area had a sizeable Italian-American community, ranchers, bronc busters, railroad men, merchants, who kicked in to board the waif at a convent-run school in San Francisco.

Giovanna came back to Wells speaking fluent English, passable Chinese. An inspired violinist and flute player she was also a proficient piano player and boarded with a succession of ranchers, imparting to ranch children her love of music and doing her best not to call undue attention to what for her time were highly unusual personal habits. Wiry, 5 foot 7 inches, brown eyes, with waist length brown hair, she devoted her free time to walks across the open range clad in buckskin over a faded shirt, rucksack, Levi's, moccasins in an era when society frowned on women wearing trousers. In her rucksack she carried a lariat and halter. Sometimes she'd jog out as far as endurance permitted, slip a halter on a grazing horse, vault onto its bare back and ride miles back to the ranch before releasing the steed. No side saddle for Giovanna! The girl could ride but wouldn't accept a riding invitation unless her host acquiesced to her riding astride.

Unusual Behavior for 1890's

Giovanna's cross-country jogs put distance between herself and her ranch hosts so she could engage in unobserved practice of other unladylike pursuits, dropping a long rope over anything that walked, throwing a slender knife fashioned from a worn-

out file into tree stumps, hurling rocks at tin can targets. One rancher swore he'd crested a hill, caught Giovanna unaware and actually witnessed her lasso an antelope on the run. No one who knew Giovanna ever called that rancher a liar.

The word "weird" began to crop up in discussions of Giovanna's habits. A cowboy out at first light looking for strays up a Thousand Springs creek bed was startled to find her crouched motionless on an embankment where she could get a good look at any passing rider's face.

Wells folks then and now respect education, love music, and are tolerant of different ways so Giovanna did well enough boarding out until she turned twenty-six and took a Bulls Head room in town. At that stage in her career she had interests only the town of Wells could satisfy. She (forgive the phrase) haunted the stockyards watching whenever an outfit drove in a herd and habitually materialized at the depot ostensibly clutching a railroad schedule as if waiting to greet someone, but in reality scrutinizing the face of every man who dismounted the cars. Whenever there was a Chinese marriage, party, funeral, she played her flute and violin and regularly visited every Chinatown storekeeper, apparently always asking the same questions. Whatever she wanted the Chinese wouldn't reveal and Giovanna wouldn't acknowledge.

Becomes Dance Hall Musician

It didn't hurt Giovanna's community reputation when she strolled through the Bulls Head or San Marin dining room or SP Café playing fiddle tunes for tips, but playing piano for bars and dance halls was another matter. Fiddling at Annie's Sporting House across the tracks was worse yet, but the fact was wherever the rough men of the frontier gathered, there Giovanna went, her music mak-

ing her welcome, the music supporting her with tips, the music enabling her to get a close look at men's faces.

Giovanna spent a lot of time talking to cowhands, teamsters, asking who worked where, how long, with who. She memorized and organized the trivia into a mental jigsaw puzzle of men on the range methodically groping for missing pieces. "That girl's looking for something," folks usually said and let it go at that. Her quest consumed all her free time and was to her more important than the round of parties and dances at which cowboys and ranchers sons courted young ladies. The talk of the county in her early twenties, Giovanna rebuffed all suitors and by the time she turned thirty was regarded as a dedicated spinster — an old maid.

By 1897 Giovanna's life had settled into a predictable routine: she played piano until the Bulls Head bar patrons drifted away and the bar was empty. Then no matter the time of year or how late at night she'd go to her room and change into buckskin, Levi's, then slip downstairs, step through the Bulls Head west wall door closest to the tracks, make her way to the railroad right of way, and walk. She returned hours later, usually after dawn. Bulls Head tenants out on the balcony for a cigar or breath of fresh air said most times she walked until she disappeared into the night, but sometimes she'd only walk as far as the edge of Chinatown and with the stockyards and roundhouse on one side, Chinatown on the other, she'd sit on a crate alongside the tracks playing her flute.

Killing Begins

Then the killing began. The first body was found face up — if a decapitated corpse can be described as "face up" — near O'Neil Basin. Neck neatly severed, wrists tied with rawhide to stout wooden pegs. A pool

of blood seeping into the ground indicated it had taken the man a long time to die after his shirt was sliced clear of his left arm and a vein opened up. The dead embers of a camp fire, a fire-hardened sharp stick, and multiple burn marks indicated he hadn't slipped away peacefully. The man's possessions were mostly there, but bits had been taken or cut off. Beside the corpse were the bridle, saddle blanket, and saddle of the mount the cowhand drew from the Remuda the last morning he was seen alive. The horse was found grazing five miles north of Wells. The bosses didn't want to make a big thing of it, didn't want law nosing around the spread, didn't want to scare off good hands. The deceased wasn't much of a buckaroo anyway. Just released from prison after a long stretch for robbery. Trailside judgment was he wouldn't be missed. So the headless body was buried, the rancher kicking dirt over the embers and an unfamiliar geometric design surrounding the fire set out with pieces of colored glass. Hired hands were told to keep quiet about it, but word did spread.

There was evidence of a later disappearance that could have been another similar killing when a bridle, saddle blanket, and saddle were found in a neat pile encircled by what the round-up cook called glass beads. Again, the mount turned up miles away, but no body was ever found. At the time, it wasn't unusual for a drifter to sign on, work a round-up, then disappear, and again the cowhand gone missing was a recently released ex-con.

Deadly Confrontation

Then a vile, violent man came to Wells by train one day, walked from the depot to the Bulls Head, checked in and started drinking. Eliphalet Jones was how he introduced himself, planting himself at a poker table in the Bulls Head Saloon. Almost elder-

ly, he claimed he'd been an Indian fighter and prospector who'd stashed a "pretty big stake quite a while back." Drinking steadily he got louder and louder, unconcerned by his unbroken losing streak. Drunk, he confided he'd just been released from prison after serving twenty-five years for a "misunderstanding" over an Army payroll, but he wasn't complaining "cause they'd have stretched me if they knew who they really had." He asked the whereabouts of a Peter Haws, once a Clover Valley rancher then named two cellmate friends he'd promised to meet who "were sprung earlier" having received lesser sentences for the same crime that sent him to prison. The barroom fell silent at mention of Haws, not seen in or about the valley for twenty-seven years. Despised by neighbors because he was believed to have raided emigrant wagons with renegade Indians, Haws had few friends, and those he did have weren't any more popular than he was. The silence was shattered by piano music, loud, repetitive when Giovanna transitioned from a Stephen Foster tune to pound out *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, pounding the upright as never before. The music broke the stillness, men began to move around, distancing themselves from the poker game and the man who claimed to be a friend of the despised Peter Haws. Men whispered, exchanging glances, recognizing the names of the ex-cons as the dead man up north to the O'Neil Basin and the cowpoke gone missing on last year's round-up.

"Barkeep, set 'em up," Eliphalet shouted after losing 30 dollars betting two pair against a flush. *Thirty Dollars!* Back then \$30 was a month's cowpoke pay. Hovering over the table, bottle in hand, the Bulls Head bartender fixed a wordless stare on Eliphalet, the meaning clear enough, "Can you pay?"

"Lots of gold for drinks, drinks on the house," Eliphalet shouted while shaking out over the green baize a leather poke with dirt breaking from the crevices. There followed the tinkle of silver and the authoritative clink of gold coins. Inspecting the hoard the barkeep counted out the price and poured whiskey allowing "Don't see many of these silver three cent pieces in these parts any more."

"Them Double Eagles all the same date?" the gambler who won the previous hand asked after poking at the twenty dollar gold coins with the butt of a Marsh-Wheeling cigar.

"My deal, if you're ready" the gambler said.

"Born ready," Eliphalet responded, wiping his face with a handkerchief, then fishing from his vest a key-wound gold watch suspended by a thick gold chain which boasted a winding key and a small gold locket set with a purple stone serving as a watch fob. "Still keeps time," he muttered "even after sitting in prison storage so many years." Eliphalet anted, opened, then drew one card, closing his hands over the pasteboards as he appeared to check out the new addition to his hand. "Raise you," he challenged nonchalantly flipping two Double Eagles into the pot, squealing like a pig when seven inches of razor sharp steel anchored his palm to the table. Giovanna closed the distance to the table, retrieved her knife to position its tip at Eliphalet's throat, and with her left hand lifted the man's bloody fingers from the pasteboards. Six cards told the story. The Jack, Ten, Deuce, and Ace of Diamonds, the Queen of Diamonds, and the Ten of Clubs that Eliphalet was dealt on the draw and had yet to dispose of after substituting in his red queen. Tears on her face Giovanna slapped the man twice, pivoted, walked out. That ended the

card game but accelerated Eliphalet's drinking.

Another Mysterious Disappearance

At midnight Eliphalet bedded down, his Bulls Head room overlooking Front Street. Eliphalet locked his door and be it due to caution or fear pulled the dresser across the door to block it. The next morning while airing bedding over the balcony rail the maid noticed curtains flapping from the open window and realized the locked room was empty. Tongues wagged. The town constable pointed to what could have been a rope groove burned into the balcony rail. A search of Front Street below resulted in a happy eight-year-old boy finding the gold key-wound watch and chain pushed just under the protective edge of the boardwalk. The boy was even happier when no one came forward to claim it. The watch was still running, but the locket was gone. It was all most peculiar but there really wasn't evidence of a crime and on top of the dresser was a Double Eagle and the room key, not in itself an unusual way to settle up for an early riser except for the multi-colored glass beads forming a perimeter around the twenty dollar gold piece. The hotel kept the room vacant until the paid-up ran out. Talk died down. Neither hide nor hair of Eliphalet was seen again. At least not alive.

Tragic Romance

Giovanna's nocturnal walks ceased after Eliphalet's disappearance as did her penchant for Levi's and buckskin. She was occasionally heard laughing. Love came when she met a cavalry Captain who frequently visited Wells to buy horses for the United States Army. He was a career soldier, proud of it, and had an excellent reputation for fair dealing with ranchers. Then came the Spanish-American War. The peculiar thing about the death of Giovanna's fiancée was after he passed none of his many friends and

acquaintances in northeastern Nevada could remember his name or his face. Several ranchers swore that on documents he had signed on behalf of the Army the ink had faded so that his signature was no longer legible. Others swore their receipts just disappeared. Giovanna coped with his death by donning black head to toe, spending hours playing military songs over and over again on the Bulls Head piano, spending hours playing Dvorak's *From The New World* on her violin, playing *From The New World* in the dining room of the San Marin and Nevada Hotel over and over even after dinner patrons cleared out to catch trains, or get on with business. The guests liked it well enough for her to earn her board and meals which is just as well for she never again felt up to teaching music. And her walking resumed.

Giovanna Disappears

A few years after the turn of the century came the night when Giovanna walked east. That was the last night she was ever seen alive. There was no reason to suspect the clear winter night would drop to less than 6 below. Tracks gleamed in the moonlight and to either side miles and miles of glistening snow. About an hour after Giovanna left town the temperature dropped and the wind picked up gusting to over 40 miles per hour whipping the blizzard into a white-out. It got so cold the bulb on the thermometer screwed to the wall of the railroad depot burst and cattle froze to death in the fields. When Giovanna was absent from her piano stool the next day search parties set out. They looked again when spring came and the snow melted but found no body or other trace of the woman.

The Shoshone had found Giovanna alone walking outside of Wells when she was a child and as an adult she disappeared walking east and was never seen alive again. When the county Sheriff asked if any of

those who knew the missing lady had a recent photograph, residents dug out pictures of wedding dances in which they just knew Giovanna was in the background with the musicians only to find empty space where they remembered the missing woman had stood. Soon things got really strange.

The Legend of the Visits of Giovanna from the "Other Side"

Dancer was seven years old in 1904, pure white, and weighed 16 pounds. He wasn't called "Dancer" at the time, and to the degree anyone needed to refer to him as more than "Here Kitty-Kitty" he was known as the Bulls Head cat. It was six minutes before midnight the hot August night when he lost a mouse track behind the depot and sniffed the air. Hopeless, Dancer concluded. He decided to trot on home, cutting across Front Street and on to the boardwalk to go into the Bulls Head Saloon. It was then he paused, registered recognition, and backed onto Front Street. This is known because two buckaroos and a railroad fireman were perched on packing crates in front of Fisher's Saloon and saw the show start to finish. Dancer took more steps backwards, then cocked his head listening and reared up into a sitting position thrusting his forepaws skyward, swaying from side to side. Then he began to mew.

"Holy cow, he's dancing" the railroader exclaimed.

"Singing too, it seems like," a cowpoke contributed. The taller cowpoke nodded, took a pull from a hip flask, nodded again.

"Sounds like *The Battle Cry of Freedom*," the tall cowpoke opined. "Hadh't figured that cat for a Yankee!"

The Bulls Head crowd emptied into the street joined by tipplers from

other saloons down the row who wanted to see the cat who sang and danced. Soon the crowd was startled beyond words because now everyone could hear music. The piano player who had come out on the street looked back into the Bulls Head where unseen hands pounded out the refrain on the upright piano he'd abandoned moments before. Dancer accompanied the unseen musician with caterwauling that if translated into human would probably have said this:

Yes, we'll rally 'round the flag, boys,
We'll rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom,
We will rally from the hillside,
We'll gather from the plain,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Our country forever,
Hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor!
Up with the star;
While we rally 'round the flag, boys,
Let's rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

We are springing to the call
Of the loyal, true and brave,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.
And our battle cry shall be:
"Not one man shall be a slave!"
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Our country forever,
Hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor!
Up with the star;
While we rally 'round the flag, boys,
Let's rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

We are springing to the call
Of our brothers gone before,
Ans'ring the battle cry of freedom.
And we'll fill the vacant ranks
With a million free men more,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.
Our country forever,
Hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor!

Up with the star;
For while we rally 'round the flag,
boys,
Let's rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Our country forever
Hurrah, boys, hurrah!
So down with the traitor!
And up with the star!
For we know while freedom lives,
Not a man must be a slave!
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Keen-eyed men could see from the Bulls Head doorway that keys were moving as if on a player piano, but none chose to make a closer inspection, not even the Colonel who'd survived a war and was generally regarded as fearless. When the piano fell silent Dancer dropped to all fours, scooted between the Colonel's legs into the Bulls Head Saloon and made a beeline for the piano. Sniffing twice, Dancer leapt onto the stool, purred awhile and went to sleep. The uneasiness of the crowd was compounded by the knowledge that Giovanna had been a special friend of the Bulls Head cat, always setting out little treats for him on top of the piano.

"Do you doubt it? Just ask anyone who was there," Bulls Head regulars proclaimed for years afterwards, pointing to the pure white 16 pound tom cat curled up on the bar or piano. Undoubtedly Dancer remembered the night vividly. But being a cat Dancer couldn't talk or explain who or what he saw.

Giovanna's Door

The night after Dancer got his name the bartender was understandably edgy, jumping when the Bulls Head's Lake Avenue door closest to the tracks blew open on a still night, then slammed shut. Peculiar thing, Dancer was pawing at the door just before it opened, then started ecstati-

cally purring like he'd seen a long lost friend. That cat and that door did the same the next night after most of the bar patrons cleared out, then nothing for three months, then nine nights in a row. It went on like that not really a predictable pattern, but frequent enough to cause talk. The anniversary of Giovanna's disappearance the Bulls Head began to fill up, an unnatural silence settling over the guests. At precisely 2:00 a.m. the clock struck the hour. Dancer leapt down from the bar trotting over to the west wall door just as it swung open then closed with a muffled thump. Purring, Dancer walked to the piano stool, surveyed the crowd with disdain, leapt upon the stool, then leapt on top the upright and curled up purring. The men in the bar looked at one another, all reluctant to speak their minds in that bar in front of that cat. In unison the men rose to walk out on the street for a hasty consultation. They were calling it Giovanna's door and no one was comfortable sitting next to it.

Then came piano music: *The Battle Cry of Freedom* followed by *From The New World* spilling out the Bulls Head open Front Street door into the street. Inside the saloon piano keys were mysteriously moving; Dancer on his hind paws on top the upright gyrating to the music and mewling out a vocal accompaniment.

The men had had enough. The details of the agreement reached are lost to history, but an apparent result was the next morning workmen moved the massive mahogany bar and back-bar from one side of the Bulls Head to the other, backing it up against and concealing that mysterious west wall door. Later, for reasons also lost to history the outside of the door was bricked shut. Time passed, eventually the very fact of the existence of the door was disputed. And even if there had at one time

been an egress exactly where the old timers remembered, could it really be Giovanna's door?

In the years after Giovanna's door was blocked Dancer enjoyed a full life and all the attention deserved by a celebrity, presiding over the Bulls Head from his perch on the bar or upright piano like an infinitely wise magistrate who had done it all, seen it all. Fortunately for the Bulls Head occupancy rate when a piano player stepped away from the upright it fell silent. Still there was restlessness. Tenants reporting flute music drifting in through open windows on late summer nights. Although Chinese residents of Wells wouldn't discuss the matter they routinely left offerings of food, oranges, on the packing box where Giovanna had sat, and when the packing box weathered to the point of collapse, another box took its place, ornamented with red paint and gold metal foil. The tradition continued until the Chinese all died or moved away and Chinatown crumbled.

Angel in the Snow

Legend has it that in 1914 a surveying party bound for Bishop Creek got caught in a blizzard and broke their Model T Ford's back axle desperately trying to make it to shelter. In the white-out the men could see nothing but one swore he heard a flute improvising *The Battle Cry of Freedom* and slogged off towards the music, the others following. The music only stopped when the half frozen men staggered into the Bulls Head where, according to local legend, the bartender was waiting with blankets and hot buttered rum.

"Never been a horse that can't be rode, never a cowboy that can't be thrown" it's said, so a nineteen year old wrangler wasn't surprised when a half-broke Mustang shied and threw him head first into a pile of rocks,

snickered and headed back to the corral. The wrangler blacked out, slipped into delirium, blacked out again, later swearing he could hear music, flute music, then woke up to find his broken leg wrapped and splinted, a half empty bottle of laudanum, and two oranges. Oranges. Back then many cowboys had never even seen an orange. How do you explain that?

In the Nineteen Twenties the silent classic *The Iron Horse* screened at the Nevada Hotel. It was a long movie for the day, interrupted by intermission. That Friday night – family night – a father was telling his family and the piano player *The Iron Horse* depiction of a Caucasian renegade in Indian guise had a grain of truth and Clover Valley rancher Peter Haws was widely believed to have preyed on emigrants. Just then the piano sprang to life to beat out a rousing elegant melody the piano player recognized as Dvorak's *From The New World*, but by then folks in Wells had other things and three skulls to talk about.

The Dream and the Discovery

Mention of dream analysis is sure to set off skeptics, however extensive research has been conducted by reputable universities into the origin of dreams; their significance in the function of the human brain. Mainstream media such as *Psychology Today* have published articles concerning dream research experiments in which one research assistant concentrated on an image while another research assistant was sleeping in an adjoining room. The finding was a higher than random incidence of the sleeping subject awaking and reporting dreams containing recognizable elements related to the image upon which the awake research assistant concentrated. Few psychologists want the notoriety which dream findings can generate – it can be as horrendous and

career-damaging as reporting a UFO – but there does appear to be a cautious acknowledgement of the possibility that a sleeping human being can experience dreams influenced by a phenomenon that could be categorized as telepathy. Do you believe that? If so, and if you want to keep a mainstream job and reputation, keep it to yourself.

In Wells in 1926 there was a second-generation woman of the west who had a dream, and to her later regret talked about it. The woman and her husband were ranch managers of the Dominic Quilici spread just west of Wells. She was a wife, mother, an intelligent individual with no eccentricities. She wasn't a fortune teller, never saw a UFO, and never made any claim about her dream other than admitting she had it and later made an astounding discovery.

As regional author Jean McElrath was to report in her *Aged in Sage*, it was September 1926 when "a black shrouded figure intruded on a woman's dream to stand beside her bed. Time passed while the shrouded spectre silently held indecipherable papers toward her, then faded with the dream into the night." The Wells woman wasn't frightened, and as a second generation of her family on the northeastern Nevada frontier there wasn't much that *could* frighten her, but she was a person who could recall the dreams which scrolled through her somnolent hours. After three days she gave in to a stirring, an instinct, and walked toward Willow Creek Canyon going further from the ranch house than ever before, striding into country unknown to her and avoided by local buckaroos. She had never been in the rocky, narrow canyon where according to McElrath, reliable witnesses said horses balked at going further and dogs growled and whined, yet the woman was undeterred. Hiking beyond a stand of willows at

the canyon mouth, she came to a halt and sat abruptly on a boulder near the cliff.

“Something just told me to sit,” she afterwards explained to Jean McElrath. Beside a creek, beside a trail traveled by Indians, emigrants, and soldiers there was a mass of shale and boulders and it was there she saw it.

A skull lay within reach of her hand – a human skull. She did not touch it. Walking back towards her ranch house she sent word to her husband who soon chugged up in their Model T and heard his wife describe the discovery. Bearing a shovel he and his wife walked back to the canyon. It was late afternoon when they reached the skull. The husband commenced digging in the immediate vicinity, unearthing \$3.75 in silver coins dated 1864 to 1868, hundreds of glass beads, red, green, blue, amber. More excavation revealed a rusted rifle, bullets, a single baby shoe, a gold locket set with a garnet and two more human skulls!

Three Skull Mystery is National News

The *Elko Daily Free Press* for September 29, 1926, headlined the front page story “Queer Dream Leads to Discovery which is Mystery Shrouded” and said the “queer dream” had “aroused curiosity” around Wells. It accurately detailed the three skulls, the rifle and bullets, the silver coins but added items the couple never saw. It did not mention the beads, and it left out the baby shoe and locket. The Free Press noted in regard to the skulls that “the dream which led to their discovery has been vouched for by many prominent citizens” of Wells. The story concluded “The find is one of the queerest which has ever been made in this county and the surrounding incidents read more like fiction than truth.”

Newspapers across the country had a field day livening up their accounts with embellishments including human skeletons, treasure maps, and buried treasure. The reports of human skeletons were off base, because no such remains were found to go with the heads. There was a skeleton, but it was that of a horse.

The sensational news generated a horde of treasure hunters prompting ranch owner Dominic Quilici to post an armed guard to protect his canyon property. Quilici was a merchant as well as a rancher, and in response to regional interest he displayed most of the artifacts and the three skulls in the window of his Wells mercantile store.

In time, interest in the display diminished and the objects were stored to make way to showcase merchandise. When the store changed hands the skulls went missing

Newspapers kept the story circulating for months and the Elko Free Press for December 13, 1926 got additional mileage out of the discovery with an item headlined “Dream Skulls, they are There.— Woman Finds Skeletons through Vision” and mused “Do the dead come to us with messages in our dreams? ... The discovery was made through a dream ... She dreamed that ... at the base of a rocky wall in a canyon just back of the ranch ... the remains of a number of dead persons would ... be found there.” The story presented direct quotes attributed to the Wells woman, who according to the Elko Free Press said:

“The dream was so vivid it made me restless, I could not forget it. I finally went to the place I dreamed of ... I uncovered a human skull.”

A subsequent ranch manager dynamited the cliff at the mouth of Willow Creek Canyon sealing the discovery

site and obliterating some of the trail.

Thirty-six years after the discovery regional author Jean McElrath interviewed the couple in a bid to sift the facts from newspaper embellishments before including the story in McElrath’s forthcoming book *Aged in Sage*. There were so many questions that could have been asked and perhaps answered, but even then after so many years the woman was highly offended at how she’d been portrayed by the media and had little to say about the “spectre,” not a word as to its sex, apparent age, or shrouded black attire.

The scientific community usually operates in isolation from believers in the paranormal, while those who believe in the possibility of ghosts often taint their own case by blending wishful thinking and publicity tricks into actual occurrences that could have a paranormal explanation. Study of the field is further hampered by derisive laughter and media lampooning that embarrasses and insults anyone who comes forward with an experience that could have scientific significance. And so it was media coverage of this well-documented discovery by a respected woman who never in her life could be described as unreliable caused her to clam-up leaving so many questions unanswered. Could the “spectre” have been Giovanna? We’ll never know.

The El Rancho Sighting

The day in 1953 when the Korean War truce was declared, a well-respected person who declined to be named was tending bar at the El Rancho. The two events actually had nothing to do with each other until an infantry Platoon Sergeant swung down from an evening train hefted his duffel bag and made a beeline for the El Rancho. Dumping the bag he asked for a room and a drink, receiving the key to Corner Room 6 with its

excellent view of the Bulls Head. He also received a straight up double shot of Jack Daniels. Then another. Then another. He was on convalescent leave from Letterman Army Hospital at the Presidio, San Francisco.

Tippling the shot glasses with his left hand the Platoon Sergeant had a story to tell. It wasn't about bugles, the strike of mortar rounds exploding into blossoms of flame in the night, M-1 rifles freezing shut, or men bayoneted in sleeping bags because they had been more afraid of freezing to death than the enemy. As a soldier he'd faced that and more. He hadn't been afraid to die, but he was afraid to come home. He'd been offered a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant the night before he was hit, an offer still open in the unlikely event he recovered full use of his right arm.

For the Platoon Sergeant, drinks were free that night. Leo Quilici, Builder/owner of the El Rancho was intensely patriotic and had a soft spot for servicemen. Leo himself was a U.S. Army veteran and served in the trenches in the First World War. He'd eye a soldier's ribbons, and serve refreshment accordingly. God help the bartender who let a G.I. reach into his pocket when Leo wanted the drinks on the house. The Platoon Sergeant kept offering a silver dollar, the bartender kept passing it back. Between drinks, after his third drink, the Platoon Sergeant used his left hand to lift his useless right hand onto the bar and commenced to unsuccessfully try to pick up the silver dollar with stiff, unresponsive fingers.

The barkeep had listened to the story about twenty-six times before he closed the bar and walked the solider up to Corner Room 6. "Maybe I can help Dad on the ranch," the Platoon Sergeant kept repeating while climbing the stairs. But that

was the night before. The next morning the clean-up crew thought they heard flute music; so did guests coming down from rooms 5, 4, and 3.

That morning the bartender was in early conducting inventory and polishing glassware when the Platoon Sergeant bounded down the steps into the bar and ordered coffee, insisting he'd pay. "Watch this," he said, flexing his right hand, flipping and catching a silver dollar he passed to the astounded mixologist. Then the Platoon Sergeant set ten silver dollars on the bar, shuffling them like cards with the nimble fingers of his right hand. He'd put the crippling wound behind him and was headed back to Presidio of San Francisco to claim his commission and Army career. He had a night he'd love to tell about but it just wouldn't do to have come so far towards a commission and screw it up with a "Section 8" discharge after saying he'd seen a ghost.

Then he told his story on the condition the bartender would never repeat it, never let on to what happened. And that bartender kept his word. Bits and pieces were overheard by a waitress, enough to know the story was about a woman, but no more. Years after that regulars who'd met the Platoon Sergeant the night before and shook his hand the next day pestered the barkeep with questions. Was it Giovanna? But the bartender, always mindful an officer's reputation was at stake, would neither confirm nor deny and kept his vow of silence.

Railroad Presence Declines in Wells but Mysterious Music Still Heard

Years passed. The Nevada Hotel went vacant, then was boarded up. Even the venerable Bulls Head fell into disrepair, ground floor windows boarded up, second story windows broken out. The boards of the original balcony overlooking Front Street

deteriorated and were taken down denying tenants an opportunity to run their fingers over the groove in the balcony rail and scrawl tall tales about the Dance Hall Ghost on post-cards mailed back home.

There were recurring tales told by tenants of nearby residential hotels who say they sometimes saw a large white cat picking through the weeds behind the shuttered buildings of Front Street. Some say that cat is still seen and those stories are still told.

Reports of flute music have also been persistent, as has the wind. Yet children out for walks on warm summer nights who claim they hear the music sometimes come home inexplicably able to whistle recognizable excerpts from Dvorak's *From The New World*, music not frequently encountered by kids too young to drive. Across the tracks teamsters pulling their eighteen-wheeler rigs away from Donna's Ranch (self-identified as Nevada's Oldest Brothel and formerly known as Annie's Sporting House) have a unique view of Front Street from their elevated driver's seats. Many claim to have seen the ephemeral figure of a slender woman standing back from a second story window of the Nevada Hotel too far back in the room to be observed from the sidewalk.

A local artist sketched an impression of a slender dance hall girl leaning over the rail of a balcony over Front Street. In fact, no one has alleged Giovanna ever wore dance hall attire, quite the opposite. No doubt the artist was only giving expression to a local legend, accurate except for the attire, but could the artist have seen more?

And again, the music. Some claim the piano music, flute music, violin music drifting onto Front Street is no more than the jukebox in the Old

West Saloon, audible on hot summer nights when the rear door opening onto John Quilici Lane is left open for ventilation. No more than that. But how many years since the Old West Saloon had a functioning piano? And when, if ever, was *The Battle Cry of Freedom* or Dvorak's *From The New World* on that jukebox?

A Wells native whose folks go back three generations believes the Old Town has a life of its own, explaining "My granddad was an old-time gambler who owned and ran a Wells casino. They say he won a casino in a high stakes poker game that brought people from all over to play. Many of the stories Grandad told were about Wells in the old days when Front Street was full of people and casinos had live bands and were packed.

"When you walk through the old town you can feel it's alive. Something of those people is still there talking to you. I can hear them talking, laughing, dancing."

It's been reported that in 2001 a team of Canadian ghost hunters stalked Front Street, staking out the Bulls Head at 2:00 a.m. on several hot August nights. One night they indeed heard music, haunting, beautiful, perfectly capturing the spirit of the American west. Realizing the music came from Lake Avenue they made their way to the El Rancho, tape recording music flowing from the balcony of the historic hotel. Their elation faded the next morning when they learned the El Rancho was again occupied and a stereo had been playing the music of Aaron Copeland followed by a flick of the changer to spin Dvorak's *From The New World*. In their disappointment they neglected to ask the date when the stereo owners moved in or reveal the date when they first heard music in the street. Another mystery?

Trail's End

Was it not Shakespeare who observed "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio than are dreamt of in your philosophy"? Is there a Ghost of Humboldt Wells?

These sighting stories are representative of oral tradition but who can say what personal experiences inspired them? This much is known. When the wind blows and the snow falls there are songs on the wind in Wells. And as of press time, no one has conclusively proven that the Ghost of Humboldt Wells *does not* exist.

Wells Buildings Played a Part in Giovanna Legend

Several buildings in Old Town Wells are alleged to be haunts of Giovanna, the Dance Hall Ghost of Wells. Their general characteristics described herein.

Bulls Head

One of the most photographed, sketched, and asked about buildings in Old Town is the Bulls Head Saloon-Hotel. Opening as the town's first tavern on Christmas 1869, the crude log cabin gave way to ever larger and elegant structures. Elko County's first Sheriff J.B. "Ben" Fitch gave up law enforcement and after becoming a saloon and hotel operator, restaurateur, partnered with cattle king Colonel E.P. Hardesty to put up a structure in Wells that merited the attention of the Elko Independent for September 18, 1887:

"Under the head of New Today will be found the announcement of grand opening of the Bull's Head hotel at Wells. This elegant building has just been completed ... and is undoubtedly entitled to the proud distinction of being one of the finest hotels in the state. As an appropriate ceremony in the formal opening of this magnificent house the manager, Mr.

J.B. Fitch ... has determined to give a grand ball which should eclipse anything heretofore attempted in the way of entertainment at Wells."

Fitch made good on his pledge to throw a memorable opening bash inviting one and all by running an invitational ad in the Elko Independent:

"Grand Ball and Opening of the Bull's Head Hotel at Wells, Nevada Oct. 5, 1887.

The undersigned announces that he will spare neither pains nor expense in making this ball A GRAND SUCCESS. The music will be the best that can be procured in the state, musicians from Reno, Carson, and Elko being already engaged. The dancing hall is 30 by 75 feet, accommodations for everyone. In all its appointments the Bull's Head Hotel is the grandest and finest in the state of Nevada. Tickets, including supper — \$2.50. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Come one, come all and enjoy yourself at the opening of this magnificent hostelry. J. B. Fitch, Manager."

The Elko Free Press for later reported the grand opening had been a gala affair, the Free Press reporter's experience beginning in Elko when he caught a caboose attached to an eastbound freight train that "swayed from side to side" as a jolly crowd continued on its way to the opening of the Bull's Head hotel. At every station the number was added to, and when the caboose pulled up at Wells it was full to overflowing.

According to the Free Press "The clock in the handsome bar-room showed 8 o'clock when the Free Press representative was cordially

greeted by the genial host, Ben Fitch" in the bar room and next saw the dining room, "one of the largest and most convenient dining halls in the state." Keeping their priorities straight the Elko reporters were soon "returning to the bar-room for another sampling of Ben's fine whiskey [which] convinces us that they are of the best." The Free Press noted the ground floor ceiling was 12 feet high, the ceilings of the upstairs hotel rooms 10 feet high, with upstairs doors that lead "to the veranda which adorns the front of the building," and "The main building is 51 x 70 and built of wood... Altogether the Bull's Head hotel is a fine building."

The Free Press was pleased to report "After viewing the hotel we adjourned to the dining hall where a grand ball was in progress, in honor of the opening of the new house. Dancing was kept up until daylight, when all retired."

Legend has it Giovanna lived upstairs at the Bulls Head, playing piano downstairs, moved to the long-gone S.P. Lodging House sometime during 1893-1897, then returned to the Bulls Head.

The Nevada Hotel

The Nevada Hotel stands as an exquisite jewel of Nineteenth Century railroad architecture, virtually unchanged. Old-timers who claimed to have personally known Giovanna told their children and grandchildren they heard her serenade patrons in the ground floor restaurant with her violin. Wells residents still living recall when the Nevada Hotel converted the ground floor into a "picture show-house" that was the first permanent movie theater in the region. Interestingly, it replaced the S.P. Restaurant-Lodging House on Lot 6, Block E, aka the Wells Hotel.

The Quilici Mercantile Building (aka The Eagle Club, Johnny's Bar)

Operating as the Quilici Mercantile Building this brick structure played a vital role in displaying three skulls which widely circulated newspaper accounts said were found after a spectre appeared in a dream. Outsiders dismissed the incident as one more whacky story in a time of flagpole sitters, flappers, marathon dances, but the skulls were real. In the 1940's John Di Grazia remodeled the place for use as a bar giving it its distinctive tile, stainless steel, and glass brick art-deco facade. Di Grazia hung out a sign dubbing his bar the Eagle Club, but everyone called it Johnny's. Years later a bowling alley operated next door where patrons often saw their bowling balls mysteriously veer to one side or another of a lane as if pushed by an unseen hand.

The El Rancho Casino

Pioneer saloon and casino operator Leo Quilici owned the Bulls Head when he decided his Nineteenth Century bar-hotel was showing its age and built the El Rancho. The El Rancho is historically significant as a commercial structure marking the transition of Wells from a frontier outpost to a modern community with permanence. Unlike the Nevada Hotel and Bulls Head which were erected in the kerosene-lit era before electricity came to town, the El

Rancho incorporated structural steel into its masonry construction and was designed to be illuminated by electricity.

The original hardwood bar and mirrored back bar are rare examples of period bar furnishings that still remain in the casino for which they were made. Today, an oil painted portrait of Leo Quilici adorns the wall by the El Rancho's bar. Atop the El Rancho went a huge neon sign featuring a wrangler on an animated bucking horse, an early example of Nevada's neon advertising heritage and one of the few signs of its era that still adorns its original structure.

The grand opening was a regional event that heralded future prosperity and the El Rancho became a crowded, lively place. On the weekend railroaders who lived along the line would come into town to stock up on groceries, many congregating afterwards at the El Rancho to drink and party. So too did ranchers, cowboys, miners, come into Wells to stock up on provisions then stand shoulder to shoulder at the El Rancho to take a drink to cut the dust.

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The Gaming Tokens of 1965

(not Issued by the Franklin Mint)

by Howard W. Herz

Nevada's casinos faced an unprecidented coinage shortage starting in 1964 as the price of silver approached the government's set price of \$1.29 per ounce. With a value in excess of \$1.29, silver dollars would have a melt value that would exceed their face value and hoarding of the silver cartwheels would be the natural result.

Most of the silver dollars used in the country circulated in the Western states with the vast majority in Nevada. Since the legalization of gambling in 1931, Nevada casinos has used the dollars on the gaming tables rather than \$1 gaming checks.

By the summer of 1964, the U.S. Treasury was running out of the bags of silver dollars that it had stored since the 1880's. With the last shipment of one million coins to Harolds Club in 1964, the treasury shopped shipments.

With the supply of dollar coins stopped and the demand dramatically increasing, casinos faced a shortage of dollar coins. The U.S. Treasury was also forced to confront an impossible situation. An attempt to design a 1964 Pease dollar (from the design last used in 1935) met with failure. Caught between the legal requirements of minting a full weight dollar in silver that would have an intrinsic value above face value and not having the legal authority to mint non-silver coinage, the government legislated the private use of dollar tokens to resolve the problem.

Desperate to find a replacement for the silver dollars that had long been in use on gaming tables, the casinos went to great lengths to stop customers from walking with the coins. Harrah's Club defaced bags of dollars in hopes of discouraging collectors. Harvey's Resort Hotel watched as the daily loss of coins went from 25,000 pieces per day to 45,000. Both Harvey's and Harrah's had to finally stop the use of dollar coins until replacements were found.

By the time the full impact of the loss of the dollar denomination coins was being felt, a number of small private mints were tooling up to meet the demand. Desperate for coins, a number of casinos ordered dollar tokens from the first mint representative who walked through the door. By early 1965 a number of private mints were striking or casting dollar tokens for casinos.

By the end of 1965, a newly formed private mint, The Franklin Mint, had come to dominate the market place. Using traditional coinage standards from the U.S. mint and applying the most modern technology and sales techniques, The Franklin Mint eclipsed its competition so thoroughly that by 1966, it was producing almost all of the gaming tokens in use in Nevada.

Today collectors find that the Franklin Mint tokens are readily available, but the other private mint issues can be elusive. With few publications to guide collectors, the non-Franklin Mint issues are easily neglected. The following listing and commentary covers the non-Franklin Mint issues and includes regular issues, trial pieces and other associated strikes.

Issues from the private mints were made in a number of metals. The Osborne Mint featured a token in "Silveen". This was a surface treatment on brass that resulted in a dark surface. As the coins were circulated they would begin to look like a tarnished silver piece.

The Mints

Michigan Tool Co. - San Jose, California

Michigan tool produced some of the early issues of 1965. With limited coinage experience, they produced a rather crude die struck coinage in copper. They produced a number of patterns of excellent quality, that were machine engraved. Their standard production did not live up to these patterns.

Osborne Coinage Co. - Cincinnati, Ohio

One of the oldest and most professional private mints that started in the early 1850's. This mint struck high quality coinage. Their gaming tokens featured a surface treatment called "Silveen". This treatment produced a dark gray surface and was a distinct product of this mint.

Norwalk Powdered Metals, Inc.

This company produced cast metal tokens. They tried to imitate the color and surface texture of a circulated silver dollar. A number of trial pieces were produced for Felix's (Lovelock, Nevada), but the mold broke after only 20 pieces were cast. The temperature requirement to produce the "silver dollar" surface was not compatible with the casting process and the process was abandoned.

Product Engineering Co., Inc. - Portland Oregon

This machine company produced cast powdered metal tokens with a number of plated surface types. Using mostly chrome plated surfaces, these tokens proved to be unpopular.

Wendell's - Minneapolis, Minnesota

A private mint that produced high quality tokens. This mint only produced a limited number of tokens in 1965.

Half Dollar Gaming Tokens - A note:

Although the federal government had allowed the production of dollar gaming tokens in 1965, a number of private mints produced half dollar tokens to ease the massive coin shortage that was occurring in 1965 as the silver coinage disappeared. Shortly after these half dollar tokens were issued, the U.S. Treasury ruled them to be illegal as the half dollar denomination was not obsolete. In most instances a small number of samples were made and sent to the casinos for trial.

Diamond Jim's Nevada Club

Las Vegas, Nevada - USA
Half Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: 1965-(O)



Golden Bronze Trial Piece

Note: This piece has been previously listed as being issued in silveen.



Obverse & Reverse Lead Die Trials

Liberty Belle Saloon

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.
Half Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: 1965-(O)



Regular mint issue - silveen

Pioneer Club

Las Vegas, Nevada - USA
Half Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: 1965-(O)



Regular mint issue - silveen

Sahara Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada - USA
Half Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: 1965-(O)



Regular mint issue - silveen

Dollar Tokens

Barney's Casino

Stateline, Lake Tahoe, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
WENDELL'S
Date/Mintmark: (1965-W)



Regular mint issue - brass

Known Samples:

Nickel-silver Trial
 Nickel-silver Trial "Void Sample"
 Golden Bronze Trial
 Golden Bronze Trial "Void Sample"
 Antiqued Brass Trial
 Antiqued Brass Trial "Void Sample"
 Copper Trial Strike
 Copper Trial Strike "Void Sample"
 Antiqued Copper Trial
 Antiqued Copper Trial "Void Sample"
 Burnished Copper Trial

Bill & Effies Truck Stop

Verdi, Nevada - U.S.A.
 Dollar Gaming Token
 WENDELL'S
 Date/Mintmark: (1965-W)



Regular mint issue - antiqued brass.

Cactus Pete's Casino

Jackpot, Nevada - U.S.A.
 Dollar Gaming Token
 OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
 Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue. - silveen

Known Patterns:

Trial in Silvery Lead
 Copper Center Trial (cut)
 Trial in White Lead
 Obverse Trial Strike in Lead
 Reverse Trial Strike in Lead

Carson City Nugget

Carson City, Nevada - U.S.A.
 Dollar Gaming Token
 WENDELL'S
 Date/Mintmark: (1965-W)



Regular mint issue - brass

Known Trial Pieces:



Brass Trial "Void Sample Only"
 Antiqued Brass Trial
 Antiqued Brass Trial "Void Sample Only"
 Copper Trial
 Copper Trial "Void Sample Only"
 Antiqued Copper Trial
 Antiqued Copper Trial "Void Sample Only"
 Polished Copper Trial
 Polished Copper Trial "Void Sample"

Casino 93

Jackpot, Nevada - U.S.A.
 Dollar Gaming Token
 OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
 Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue - nickel-silver.

Club Cal-Neva

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.

Dollar Gaming Token

NORWALK POWDERED METALS, INC.

Date/Mintmark: (1965-NPM)



Bright Chrome Finish

Known Trial Pieces:

Nickel Plated Finish

Unplated Powdered Metal Sample

Trial Strike in Medium Dark Metal

Trial Strike in Dark Metal

Trial Strike in Metal, Nickel Plated (Dull)

Trial Strike Bright Nickel Finish

Trial Strike in Copper & Lacquer Plated

Trial Strike White Nickel Plated

Trial Strike Satin Nickel Plated

Commercial Hotel

Elko, Nevada - U.S.A.

Dollar Gaming Token

OSBORNE COINAGE CO.

Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Short Leg "R" In "Players"



Long Leg "R" In "Players"

Regular mint issue - nickel-silver.

Known Varieties:

Short Leg "R" In "Redeemable"

Normal Lettering

Crystal Bay Club

Crystal Bay, Nevada - U.S.A.

Dollar Gaming Token

MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING

Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)



Regular mint issue - copper

Felix's Bank Club

Lovelock, Nevada - U.S.A.

Dollar Gaming Token

PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.

Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



Regular mint issue.

Known Trial Pieces:

Trial Finish in Satin Nickel

Trial in special alloy dull nickel.

Harold's Club

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



H/Dollar-Reeded Groups-Dot swirl-Bright Finish

Known Trial & Pattern Pieces:

H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Bright Dip
H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Unplated
H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Satin Plated Brass
H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Unplated Brass
H/Dollar-Plain Edge-Dot-swirl-Unplated Brass
H/Dollar-Cast Edge-Dot swirl-Unplated Brass
H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Plated Zinc
H/Dollar-Reeded-Dot swirl-Satin Plated Zinc
H/Dollar-Reeded Groups-Dot swirl-Zinc

Harold's Club

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



Large H-Fun Token-Reeded-Dot swirl-Bright Plated

Harold's Club

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



Small H-Fun Token-Reeded-Solid swirl-Bright Plated

Known Trial Pieces:

Small H-Fun Token-Reeded-Solid swirl-Satin Plated

Harold's Club

Reno, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



Large A-Fun Token-Reeded-Solid swirl-Bright finish

Harvey's Resort Hotel

Stateline, Lake Tahoe, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)



Regular mint issue - copper

Known Patterns -

Engraved Pattern, without Circle, Reeded Edge



Engraved Pattern, with Circle, Plain Edge
Struck Pattern, with Circle, Reeded Edge
Struck Pattern, without Circle, Reeded Edge
Struck Plain Edge Trial



Regular mint issue - copper.

Honest John's

Las Vegas, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO., INC.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-PE)



Regular mint issue.



Obverse Engraved Die Trial

John Ascuaga's Nugget

Sparks, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)



Regular mint issue - copper.

Horse Shu Club

Jackpot, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue- brass.

Nevada Club/Nevada Lodge

Reno & Crystal Bay, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)



Regular mint issue - copper.

Joe Mackie's Star Broiler

Winnemucca, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)

Pioneer Club

Las Vegas, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue - nickel-silver.

Known Special Strikes -
Silver Presentation Token

Sahara Tahoe

Stateline, Lake Tahoe, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: (1965-MT)



Regular mint issue - copper.

Sonoma Inn

Winnemucca, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue - brass.

Known Trial Pieces:

Obverse Lead Die Trial
Reverse Lead Die Trial

Stockmen's Motor Hotel

Elko, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
OSBORNE COINAGE CO.
Date/Mintmark: (1965-O)



Regular mint issue - silveen.

Thunderbird Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada - U.S.A.
Dollar Gaming Token
MICHIGAN TOOL & ENGINEERING
Date/Mintmark: 1965-(MT)



Without Birds



With Birds

Regular mint issues - copper.

Known Varities:

Weak Birds
Die Break with Birds

KNAPP ON BOOKS

by Michael Knapp

Your faithful reviewer must deliver some bad (or good, depending on your perspective) news about this column. Having just removed his residence from the flatlands of Ohio to Montana's Rocky Mountains, your reviewer finds himself in the unenviable position of still being in boxes in large measure.

While he had hoped to be unpacked, organized, and back in business by the deadline for this issue, he is far from that goal. In addition, his computer was severely flummoxed by the move, and is not operating properly even at this late date. Drastic measures may be required to force it to cooperate

By the next issue, reviews should be back on track and you will have the unequalled pleasure (or otherwise, depending on your perspective) of reading about more books written for the hobby. Your forbearance until then is respectfully requested.

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Recent Donations to the CC>CC Library

by Robert Pardue

Recent additions of gaming-related books and guides have been updated on the club's website, effective June 2004. This includes several donations received at the annual convention in Las Vegas. For a complete list of items available, go to the club website (www.ccggtcc.com) and click on the 'Education' tab. As part of the Reference Center, click on "Club Library" to view the complete 6-page list in Acrobat (.pdf) format. Instructions for check-out are included. For members who cannot access the club website, please contact Robert Pardue by email or regular mail (librarian@ccggtcc.com; P.O. Box 2014, Laguna Hills, CA 92654) with questions, to request a hard-copy list of library books, or to check-out a book.

Here's a six-pack of recent books added to the library. In five of the listings, the guide books are an updated edition to earlier publications. As new items are produced, and/or new information or "finds" occur, it is important to have updates which reflect what's known, for the benefit of the hobby.

The Chip Rack - 10th edition (June 2004), by KMW Publishing

TCR (as it is commonly abbreviated among chip enthusiasts) is well known in the hobby, with its listings and price guide to Nevada casino chips and checks. Now published in a 2-volume set with a value history and cross-reference added. (Note to library users: the current edition of TCR tends to be the most popular book in the library, so be prepared to be placed on a waiting list. And once you receive the book, please be con-

siderate by using and returning it promptly. Thanks.)

Howdy's Illustrated Guide to Nevada Silver Strike Redeemable Premium Tokens - 3rd edition (2004), by Howard & Kregg Herz

Once again, the Herz's book sets a high standard in quality of organizing the fast growing arena of Silver Strike collectibles. Building on previous editions, the spiral bound book now has 248 pages, with clean b&w photography of each Silver Strike, along with a detailed description and price guide.

The Complete Guide to Colorado Chips Tokens and Silver Strikes - 8th edition (June 2004), by Allen Banick

This multi-collectible listing of Colorado items is published as a companion to be used with Allen Banick's "CoChips.com" website. The 92-page guide lists each Colorado casino (open or closed) with data and price guides for each chip, token or silver strike issued. By looking up the color picture on the cochips.com website, a Colorado collector can get a good idea of what's available, quantities produced and price ranges. Overall, a handy guide for any Colorado collector.

Cheques, Chips and Tokens of the Playboy Casinos - 3rd edition (2003), by Tom Stroh

Updated in late 2003, the author packs a lot of information of gaming items used by Playboy casinos worldwide, from 1966 to the present. The guide includes descriptions, rarity estimates, price guides and other pertinent information on Playboy chips

and tokens used. Color scans, interspersed throughout the 106-page spiral book, add to the reader's understanding.

B&V Catalog of Nevada Gaming Tokens - 3rd edition (2004), by B&V Coins

This publication is a 175-page sales catalog of the Nevada tokens offered for sale by B&V Coins of Las Vegas. Produced by club members Bettye & Vince Mowery (the "B&V" of B&V Coins), this catalog only lists tokens available for sale, and does not aim to list all tokens ever produced. Nevertheless, it is a very useful guide to the active Nevada token collector. While most guidebooks focus either on chips or silver strikes, this B&V Catalog is very helpful in understanding what's available, particularly at bars and smaller gaming establishments which have slot machines but no table games. Organized geographically (Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, etc.) then alphabetically, the catalog is easy to use as a reference.

Las Vegas: Vintage Graphics from Sin City, edited by Jim Heimann (2003)

Chippers don't live by guidebooks alone. And for Las Vegas history buffs, this book is chock full of vintage photos, graphics, signs and memorabilia. Accompanied by a brief but intelligent introduction (in three languages!) the real star of this book are the photos of the Las Vegas which has all but disappeared with the advent of corporate-owned megaresorts. I'll lay 3-to-1 that you long for the old wise-guy era of Las Vegas after reading this book.

Chippewas
Casino
Board



Chipper's Cruise

2004

by David Harber



I remember my first thought that Thursday morning... is this thing gonna' come off or will it be the biggest disaster in chipping history? I guess the bigger question, can chipper's vacation together? After all I had put the plans in motion close to a year previously when I picked the destinations, the ship and blocked the group of cabins with a several thousand dollar deposit. A lot of time and energy had been put into this upcoming week but had we thought of everything? With that it was off to the airport to catch our flight to Miami.

Due to a delay we barely caught our connection in Phoenix but thanks to a full out sprint from one terminal to another we made it. It was on this flight that we hooked up with our "partners in crime", the Quinlivans. Back in January we convinced (OK, coerced) Mike and Corni that they should help us plan "Chippers Cruise 2004". They thought it was a great idea and thankfully were right there for every bit of planning and executing the event.

About 7:30 PM the seven of us (the Quinlivan & ourselves) were

catching a shuttle for the world famous South Beach. We had blocked a group of rooms at the Whitelaw Hotel. One of a small group of refurbished art deco hotels from the 30's. It was there that we first met up with fellow chippers and there that the vacation really started. It was also there that the first crisis hit... some of the reservations were not correct for the eight rooms we had blocked. After a few phone calls and a fair amount of stress, everything was straightened out.

It wasn't soon after that the next problem arose... Bob Orme didn't get the e-mail about bringing either a passport or a birth certificate and had neither with him. After a few more phone calls we got the word that if we vouched for him and he didn't get off the boat in the Bahamas than he "may" be allowed to embark.

The next morning we met up with all of our group for breakfast. It was a relief to see that everyone that was supposed to be there did in fact show up. The Masseys, the Hollibaugh's, the Hixon's, the Follis', Sunday Silverman, Bob Orme, the Quinlivans and us. So far so good, the west coast travelers all made it... This led to the third and final crisis of the cruise.

We had planned for a bus to take us from the hotel in South Beach to the port of Miami but somehow our reservation got lost. It looked like we



Standing: (left to right) Harold Kohrt, Bruce Massey, Mike Custodio Jacqui Custodio, Debbie Harber, Mike Quinlivan Corni Quinlivan Bob Orme, Larry Hollibaugh, Pam Focazio, Gene Lonstein and Philip Hixon

Sitting: (left to right) Iona Kohrt, Mary Ann Massey, David Harber, Casey Focazio-Follis, Sunday Silverman, Jim Follis, Diane Hollibaugh and Belinda Hixon.

would be getting taxi's till Jim Follis stepped in to save the day. Turned out he had a rental van that he got when he flew into Fort Lauderdale the night before. Jim graciously offered to ferry all of us and our luggage over to the port. After three port runs and then returning the car Jim almost missed the cruise. Talk about taking one for the team... we all owe Jim a huge thanks for stepping up and diverting crisis number three.

From the moment we got on the beautiful Carnival ship, the Fascination everything was smooth sailing. There were no further problems and everything went smoother than I ever imagined or expected.

First and foremost, Bob DID get on the boat. We were given a beautiful room for our trading sessions that was exclusively ours for the three trading times that we had scheduled. Our three tables at dinner were all next to each other. Because of the way we structured our group we were allowed to switch tables and sit at a different table each night getting a chance to really get to know each other. As with every Carnival cruise I've ever been on the crew was just fabulous with the level of service they give you. From our room stewards to our waiters I did not hear a single complaint from any of our fellow cruising chippers.

Our day in the Bahamas found us each exploring the island in different ways but I think almost all of us found our way over to Paradise Island to see the beautiful Atlantis Hotel. Between the aquarium, the beach, the backyard with the water slides (including a tube that goes through the shark tank), the archeological area and the casino itself it is truly a spectacular property. Others went to the beach or toured the island or went shopping at all the duty free shops and the renowned straw market.



Standing in front (left to right): Sarah Quinlivan, Belinda Hixon, Corni Quinlivan, Sean Quinlivan, Pam Focazio, Alexi Harber Sunday Silverman, Morris Sussman, Diane Hollibaugh, Debbie Harber and Mary Ann Massey

Standing on stairs (bottom to top): Bruce Massey, Jim Follis Mike Custodio, Dave Harber, Casey Focazio-Follis, Philip Hixon, Larry Hollibaugh and Mike Quinlivan

Saturday night was the formal Captain's Dinner. Fashion sense has never really played a big factor into our hobby so seeing everyone dressed up was quite a new experience for all of us. So much that we had to take a formal photo on the atrium staircase after dinner. This was much to the chagrined of everyone else in line behind us while the photographer painstakingly posed each of us. What a great result though... living proof that you really can dress a bunch of chippers up to look presentable!



Larry Hollibaugh

Sunday was our "fun day at sea". Sounds boring but there is really so much to do. We had the third of our trading sessions as well as a one hour open bar party provided by the cruise line. The second of our group photos (see photo page 62) was taken here in the Passage to India lounge. Sunday's filet mignon dinner was as enjoyable as every other meal onboard.

Monday morning found us meeting for our farewell breakfast before we lost half our group who debarked the ship. Their vacation now over. Thirteen of us stayed on for the second part of the cruise. We left Monday afternoon and arrived in Key West the next morning. After an afternoon in the keys we were off to Cozumel, Mexico. Wednesday was spent in beautiful Cozumel where just about everyone took an excursion whether it was snorkeling, sailing, horseback riding, kayaking or travel-

ing by jeep to some Mayan Ruins. At dinner that night everyone had reports of a great day off the ship. Thursday was another “fun day at sea” as we traveled back to Miami. Traveling so close to Cuba and seeing it’s silhouetted mountains on the horizon was definitely one of the more memorable moments from the cruise for me.

There were lots of people we’d like to thank for helping make this inaugural cruise a most successful event. First and foremost the 24 chippers that attended. We realize it was a leap of faith to trust that a couple of guys who knew nothing about the travel industry could actually pull it off. We had so many cancellations leading up to the day of the cruise that at one point we seriously thought it would be just the seven of us going. Next in line would be Captain Lou Edwards from the Little Shop of Cruises in Brooklyn (www.littleshopofcruises.com). I can’t begin to list the many ways that Lou helped us out. From arranging everything on board, to hosting two teleseminars, to getting us all a three category upgrade, to the open bar party, to the champagne and chocolates that were waiting in our cabins. He truly “went overboard for us” and very much lived up to his catch phrase. I’d also like to thank Tyrus Mulkey for helping us get the polo shirts made as well as these dealers and fellow chippers for their donations to our surprise “goody bag”:

Gene Trimble
Allan Myers
James Campiglia
Ralph Myers
John Chamberlain
Andy Hughes
Terry Lazarus
Archie Black
Chris Colangelo
Tyrus Mulkey

The chips, slot cards, playing cards



From left to right: Sean Quinlivan, Corni Quinlivan, Mike Quinlivan, Gene Lonstein, Dave Harber, Debbie Harber

and coupons delivered in a fanny pack had a significant value and were very appreciated by each person in our group that received them.

All in all it was such a success that we’re going to do it again, bigger and better! Look for details in the next few months at ChippersCruise.com when we will announce the details of Chippers Cruise 2005. Hope you’ll make plans to join us for a truly wonderful vacation. Don’t miss the boat or you very well may miss the premier chipping event of 2005!

Thought it would be fun to share some thoughts of several of our cruising chippers....

“Jacqui and I had never been on a cruise before so we were a little unsure what to expect so we only booked the three day cruise, saying to ourselves if we like it we’ll do it again, if we hate it we will never cruise again. What a big mistake we made by not booking the seven day cruise. We loved every minute on and off the ship. It was a great time from the excellent food to the entertainment to the service on the ship not to mention our trade session. I put eight new chips into my collection. It was the best three day vacation we ever had!”

Mike Custodio



Mike and Jacqui Custodio

"It was wonderful to be away from telephones, computers and the outside world for a few days. I think my favorite part was dinner. The food was great (I still didn't make the midnight buffet) but I enjoyed the fellowship with friends. It is so hard to get to sit and really talk at the convention - this gave us opportunity to get to know one another better. We're definitely interested in next year's trip."

Belinda Hixon

"Just got home from the Inaugural Chippers Cruise with some of the most wonderful chippers in the world! It was my first cruise, but surely won't be my last. Anyone who considered cruising and didn't get to go should make a serious effort to be able to attend the next one!"

Sunday Silverman

"What a fabulous time, food, fun, friends and gaming. Did I mention food?!"

We all had a really good time. There were several scheduled get togethers, but no one was compelled to attend and it was rather free form and fluid. Some of us brought traders, while everyone brought stories. We had plenty of opportunities to be together and many more to do our own things! Young, old and otherwise, there was plenty to do and plenty not to do.

My many thanks to those I traded with, those whom we broke bread with and in-general, had a very nice time. The Welcome Aboard Grab Bag was great!!

I hope to be there next year."

Jim Follis

And here are a few of the trip that are so good I want to include them in full...

"The inaugural Chippers' Cruise was a fun and successful trip on many levels. The Carnival Cruise Line staff went out of their way to make everyone comfortable. Activities for all ages - all day and night long, excellent food and service, personable employees, and round the clock room service are but a few of the things that stand out with my family.

Our kids (13 and 15 years old) were thrilled that they had their own "teen crowd" to hang with, complete with THE best "Camp Carnival" counselor. They played video games, rode down the pool's slide, danced a special "Cha Cha" line-dance on the Lido deck, had a blackjack tournament, and best of all - got to roam the ship with their new found friends till all hours!

The ports of call were beautiful! Any hurricane damage had been cleared away, and every port was ready for the cruise ship crowds. Having kids with us, we avoided the numerous watering holes Key West is famous for (we'll leave that for another visit). Instead, we

"schvitzed and schlepped" all the way to the far end of the island to a butterfly conservancy. You haven't lived till a huge neon-blue butterfly has landed on your shoulder! What a beautiful island - one which we will want to revisit with and without our kids!

Nassau had tons of shops for those looking for a deal in jewelry or souvenirs, as well as an awesome casino and hotel -- The Atlantis Resort. We brought back some Bahamian money for souvenirs (their coins are lovely), and my husband made a donation to the Atlantis' casino tables. The Bahamian people were very friendly ... But watch out for the hair braiders!

Cozumel was an adventure destination for our family. There were so many day-trips available in Cozumel, it made my head spin! My son and I took a clear kayak and snorkeling trip, viewing outrageous coral and fish; the "good dad" took his daughter on a horse-back ride through the jungle. Both excursions were exciting, safe, and a good value.

The only things we missed out on really stand out. Our son was never able to do what he had really



Pam Focazio and Jim Follis

looked forward to – order room service at 2 a.m. He was usually snoring by that time of night. And, we never were able to talk my husband, Mike, into joining the Hairy Chest contest on the Lido deck. Seems you have to impress the two female judges with not only a hairy chest (check, he's got that), but with a little dance as well. We hadn't liquored him up in time, and he wouldn't budge out of his chair. As far as I'm concerned, he was a shoe-in!

One of the best things about the Chippers' Cruise was getting to know some wonderful people that had a hobby in common. People from all walks of life and all around the country were represented. We loved hearing about their careers, families and experiences, as well as what types of casino collectibles were of interest to them. This was one of the grandest successes of the Chippers' Cruise!"

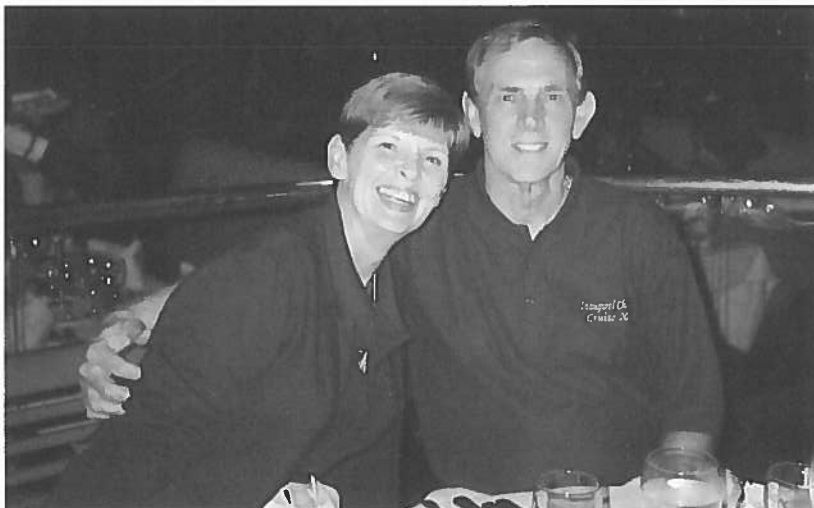
Corni Quinlivan

"The inaugural Chippers Cruise was great! We really enjoyed getting to know our fellow chippers better. They're a great bunch of people. Our "floating hotel" was super. The food was wonderful and plentiful. The ship's staff was friendly, helpful and provided top notch service. All in all, an awesome experience."

Mary Ann Massey

"Some folks think everybody should go on a cruise at least once. I agree. Some folks think everybody should go on a cruise once a year. I agree to that too, now!

The Carnival ships aren't known as "The Fun Ships" for nothing... It'd be about impossible to not have fun on one of these cruises! I know



Bruce and Mary Ann Massey

what fun is, I had a bunch of it this past weekend, and lemme tell ya, fun is my favorite thing to have!

You like to eat? Feel like eating 7 times a day? No problem. Can't decide if you want the Cornish gaming hen, the prime rib or the lobster tail (or anything else on the menu) for dinner? No problem. Order them all! All of your food is included in the price of your room. No looking at the prices on menus, they don't exist.

You like to shop? There's plenty of duty free shopping available both on board the ship and in your port of call. Gems, jewelry and watches (bought a very nice watch myself), artwork, liquor (some amazing prices on liquor when you can buy it before our government taxes it), you are allowed \$800 in purchases brought into the country per family member before you have to start paying duty. I had to have a Cuban cigar. Bought one in Nassau, a Romeo Y Julieta Churchill for \$15. Talk about a great stogey! One thing about them though, while you can bring them onto the ship, you can't take them home with you when you get back to Miami, some problem we have with Castro... You like to gamble? The

Fascination has a casino that is larger than I was expecting. Maybe 8 blackjack tables, Caribbean Stud, Let It Ride, Three Card Poker, 2 roulette wheels, a craps table and I probably left out a table game or two. They have blackjack and slot tournaments (I just missed the cut for the finals in the BJ tourney). They have a good assortment of slot machines, and about a dozen video poker machines. The odds aren't good on the VP machines, but the progressive jackpot on the bank of 25 cent Jacks or Better was well over \$1700 when we boarded the ship Friday. It was at exactly \$1838.72 when I hit the royal Friday night. Not a bad way to start a vacation!!!

You got kids? Bring'em along! The ship has special activities for kids of every age. Camp Carnival keeps the young ones busy all day, leaving mom and dad plenty of free time to spend together. Teens have their own activities so they don't have to spend the days and nights (they even have their own disco!) being embarrassed by their parents!

The Harbers and Quinlivans want to make this an annual event, and I'm all for it. Spouses and other family members who wouldn't find

interest in a chip show or convention would (and did) have a great time at an event like this. While there was some chipping and chip chat, it didn't consume very much of the weekend like a show or the convention can. We had three scheduled meetings but none were required attendance. The ship set aside the Passage To India lounge for us to have these meetings, it was a very nice room.

I hope to see everyone again, on the ship next year, as well as a whole bunch more of the good folks within this hobby. IT REALLY WAS FUN!"

Bob Orme

author's note:

Just make sure you bring your passport next year Bob... remember, you promised!

editor's note:

Well, I missed this one but I won't miss the next. What a great way to spend time chipping not to mention seeing Larry Hollibaugh in a tie.



Your cruise hosts, Mike and Dave



Sean and Alexi



Swimming lessons?



Harold and Iona Kohrt



Belinda and Philip Hixon



Diane (behind the wheel) and Larry Hollibaugh take the 4X4 Jeep Safari tour in Cozumel.



Heading for the Mayan ruins.

Bahama Antony

by Larry Hollibaugh

The first stop of the Chippers Cruise 2004 was Nassau, Bahamas. Diane and I went shopping downtown Nassau with Belinda and Phil Hixon. As we were all discussing heading for the Atlantis Casino, Antony walked up and offered his services. On the way to the casino, I asked Antony about pirates. He immediately went into “tour guide” mode, and talked nonstop about everything around us all the way to the casino. We weren’t at the casino very long before I had lost \$105 in seven hands at a \$15 blackjack table. I was definitely thinking we’d be having a much better time riding around Nassau with Antony. But then I won my money back, plus \$35, at a \$10 table. I was feeling rich!

When Diane and I were ready to head back to town, we went out to the taxi stand where we were directed to a van. The lady driver was in some heated discussion with four potential passengers, and I decided we didn’t need to get in the middle of that, so we turned around to head back to the taxi stand. There was Antony, unload-



Larry Hollibaugh and Antony

ing a fare! “Take us back to town?” “You bet!”

After some discussion about how much he might make in an hour running back and forth between town and the casino at \$4 a head, I offered Antony \$100 to “show us a good time” for the next hour or so. He

drove us all over the island for an hour and a half, showing us the haves, the have nots, the storm damage, the history. He’s the same age as me, and has been around the world. We talked about the political climate in Nassau for the last 50 years, and lots of other topics. Antony made our Bahamas visit special, and something I will always treasure.

Special \$25 Halloween Chips

from the

Ramada Express, Laughlin

by Gary Wetmore



Ramada Express in Laughlin has released a limited edition \$25 Halloween chip, quantity of 120. Special permission was granted from the Nevada Gaming Control Board to make this possible.

By invitation, guests were invited for a “Spooky Suite Deal”. You received a complimentary suite from October 29-30 and a private dinner in the Coronada Room. Guests were entered in a drawing for 3 winners to

win \$1,000 in these ghoulish chips plus another 10 drawings for \$100 in regular \$5 chips.

Will Rodgers Was a Chip Collector

by John Coughay

Recently while reading a book on Will Rodgers, *Will Rodgers* by Betty Rodgers, 1943, I became aware that Mr. Rodgers was a chipper. The following passage is from a letter Mr. Rodgers had written to his wife while visiting Monte Carlo along with his son Bill.

“There is some pretty good ideas about the place [Will wrote]. For instance, you don’t have any taxes to pay. The Casino takes care of everything. When I said: ‘Why how can they afford to do that?’ the party I

said that to laughed. I don’t know what he was laughing at then. I do now.

“They also won’t let a fellow from the old home town go in and wager. Now that right there struck me as being a very fine trait in the Government of Monaco. They practically say to their own flesh and blood: ‘Stand back till we trim these Suckers. If we need any extra for yachts or palaces, we will let you home town folks know, but we won’t want to call on you till we absolutely have to.’

“They have the prettiest chips to play with. I wanted some to bring home, so late at night when I was leaving the Casino, I cashed another money order – went over and bought thirty dollars worth of all denominations. Then I walked right by the tables rattling them and walked right on out. I showed ‘em here was a Guy who wouldn’t even go to the trouble of cashing in. I haven’t found out yet who the joke is on. Anyway the old prince of Monaco has a great business. It works while he sleeps.”

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2003 Official Convention Medal

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2002 Official Convention Medal

\$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
\$25.00 Set of 2

2001 Official Convention Medal

\$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,
\$25.00 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)



Packaged sets are available from 1994 thru 2004



2004 Convention Chip
\$4.00



2003 Convention Chip
\$4.00



2002 Convention Chip
\$4.00



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



2004 Poker Tournament Set
\$15.00 - 5 chip Set

2002 Poker Tournament Set
\$15.00 - 5 chip Set

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- Volume 7 issue 1
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- Volume 8 issue 1
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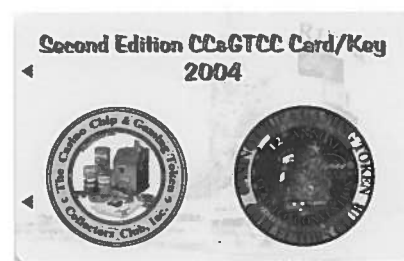
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1993 "Six Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Baltimore, Md.	\$1.00 ea.
1994 "Seven Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Detroit, Mi.	\$1.00 ea.
1995 "Eight Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Anaheim, Ca.	\$1.00 ea.
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Miscellaneous 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.
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CC>CC Convention Wood Dollar	\$1.00 ea.
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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.
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2002 Wooden Nickel "You snooze-You lose (blue)"	.50 ea.
2004 Wooden Nickel "Don't You Dare Miss It"	.50 ea.
2004 CC>CC Convention Wood Dollar	\$1.00 ea.



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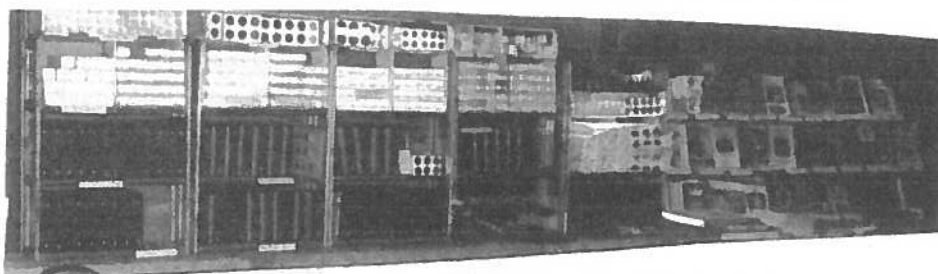
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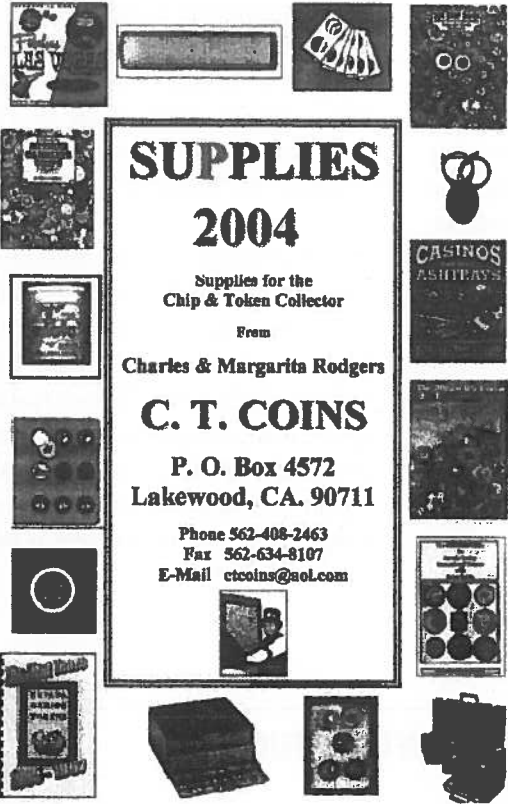
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Goodbye Ohio – Hello Las Vegas

by Jim and Sandi Steffner

Goodbye snow, cold weather and mowing a lawn. The pieces of over five years of planning were falling neatly into place. An early retirement near the end of 2003, a quick sale of our 12 acre country home and a well attended auction, left us with only two utility trailers of household and personal belongs to move to our new home in Las Vegas.

Oh, wait! We didn't have a home in Las Vegas yet. We made a trip out to sun country in March to do some house hunting but didn't find what we wanted. Between our return and the convention in June, our realtor kept sending listing sheets of prospective properties. Still no house as we started the drive cross country to attend the 2004 CC>CC Convention in June. We had to be out of our present house by early July so time was of the essence.

We arrived in Las Vegas the Saturday before the convention was to begin and started looking at more sale homes. Most did not meet our requirements. Housing in Las Vegas is very volatile and most listings don't stay on the market more than 48 hours and some even receive a dozen offers in the first 24 hours. During one of the outings our realtor needed to stop by one of his listings to make a quick repair. We tagged along – not a bad place, nice location, good price. Oh drats, already sold. The buyer was

coming in from Chicago to sign the final papers on Monday. Of course we now started comparing any house we looked at to this "sold" unit. On Tuesday we got a call from the realtor that the buyer could not make the trip and had to cancel the deal, were we still interested? You bet!

By the end of convention week, we were homeowners. Now back to Ohio to finish packing, hold an auction, and prepare for the trip back to Las Vegas in three weeks. We packed two trailers, one for us to tow and the other our son will bring in September, when he and his family come out for a vacation. A long string of phone calls started, to make sure the house would close on time.

With our two cats, litter box, cat tranquilizers and our AAA Triptix we headed out on July 8th, saying goodbye to Ohio. The first two days went well, level terrain and fairly calm animals. Once we passed Oklahoma we encountered some of the mountains and the tow vehicle balked at having to pull all that weight in the trailer up the long hills. One cat started to whine and howl a lot and even a few doses of tranquilizer didn't silence her much, by this time Sandi was ready to tie her to the car top rack!

In Gallup NM, I awoke to find someone had broken into our car and stolen my laptop computer, hard

drive, digital camera, CB radio and several other items. The good news was that only a few feet away in some cardboard boxes was the bulk of my illegal chip collection and a lot of other collectible items. The electronics can be replaced, but the chips would have been a different story. After the customary police report for the insurance company we headed out for day three. Saturday we received word that all the house papers were in order and we could close on the property on Monday, less than 30 days from when we made the offer.

Sunday night we stayed in Las Vegas and I made sure we parked in a well lit area and checked several times during the night on the vehicles well being. Monday morning we closed on the house, received the keys, delivered the whiny cats to their new home and unloaded that beast of a trailer. We made it!

Once the rest of our belongings arrive it will feel more like home. In the mean time we are adjusting to higher insurance costs, much higher vehicle license fees, lower restaurant costs, using coupons, lots of traffic, avoiding traffic by using side roads, casino promotions, and drivers running red lights, but overall, a more relaxed lifestyle.

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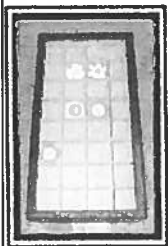
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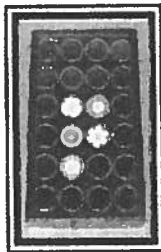
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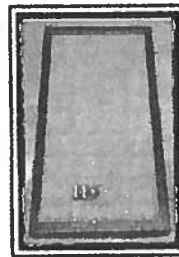
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“My Cabo Wabo Meltdown”...

or “How Slot Card Collecting Really Paid Off!”

by Tyrus Mulkey

Last summer, I stopped off at one of the many PT's Pubs/Taverns in Las Vegas to get a slot card. They actually have a little disc that you hold up to the machine rather than a card. I got my disc, played a roll of quarters, had a beer and went home.



The next month I received a flier in the mail with four coupons attached: 1-One Free Beer; 2-\$15.95 Girls of PT's calendar; 3-2,000 Bonus Points on my account; & 4-One free entry into the Cabo Wabo promotion to win a free trip to Cabo San Lucas for Sammy Hagar's annual Cabo Wabo Meltdown birthday bash. I drank the beer, passed on the calendar, got the free points, and **WON THE TRIP!!!**

On Friday we were flown to Los Cabos and put up in a fancy resort for two nights. Friday night we went to an invitation only concert at Cabo Wabo (Sammy's bar that shares the same name as the tequila brand he owns) where he jammed for nearly two hours, not counting the opening set played by Silvertide. Even though we were originally given four free drinks, our party of four ran up a bar tab of over \$100. Yea, that was us in



Tyrus, Sammy and Baird

the corner shouting out ... “Mas Tequila!”

We woke up Saturday, hit the pool at the hotel for a couple of hours and then were whisked away by shuttle to an invitation only luncheon at Villa Serena, a small restaurant where we enjoyed a complimentary meal of fish and steak with an open bar where we had countless Bloody Mary's, Pina Colada's, and Margaritas! Yea, that was us in the corner shouting out ... “Mas Tequila!”

Sammy was supposed to join us at the luncheon but he was held up by a VH1 camera crew doing a story on him. Just before we were ready to leave, an SUV pulled up in the parking lot and in walked the Red

Rocker! He apologized for being late and then made his way around to talk with all 40 people at the lunch. He's a helluva nice guy, posing for pictures and signing anything and everything. Nope, I didn't even think about asking him about chips!!! What was I thinking? Oh yea, now I remember... “Mas Tequila!”

We took off and hit the beach for a few hours before having a quick siesta and then heading back into town for a great dinner where I devoured a school of shrimp. (Do shrimp come in schools?) We made it back to Cabo Wabo for another invitation only concert right as Sammy was coming on stage. He did a few numbers and then invited Kenny Chesney on stage where they sang a fun-filled version

of the Stones' Honky Tonk Woman and a few other songs. Then out came Michael Anthony of Van Halen fame to perform a kind of Dueling Banjos with Sammy on the six string and Michael on the bass. Later it was Chad from Nickleback who performed a few songs. A great time was had by all. The entire crowd really got into it when Sammy performed Toby Keith's I Love This Bar, with some custom words to fit Cabo Wabo. I think one of the phrases had something to do with ... "Mas Tequila!"

We made it back to the hotel alive and slept off the tequila. Sunday morning we were up again and being driven to the airport after our obligatory morning margarita. We were able to bring back two bottles of complimentary Cabo Wabo Tequila and several shirts from the event and the bar! What I thought was going to be a relaxing few days on the beach was instead an all out two days of partying. I loved it!! Thank you PT's Place!!

Here are three of my favorite pictures. The first one was taken at the luncheon by a PT's exec. He asked Sammy if he would sign the pictures and return them if we sent them in through a mutual friend. Sammy said he would – I can't wait to get that one! I took the second one on the beach at our hotel – the Finistera. The third was the view from our balcony at the hotel.

Thanks for reading, I just wanted to share. Had it not been for my going in to collect a slot card, it never would have happened! I LOVE collecting!

Mas Tequila!

Tyrus



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Suriname

A Place To Revisit

by Ralph Pollack

Suriname is the smallest independent country in South America. It is situated between British Guiana on its east and French Guyana on its western border. The country of Brazil is the southern most border, while the Atlantic Ocean is its northern border. Suriname was previously called Dutch Guyana and its principal export was and still is alumina (bauxite), the primary ingredient in aluminum. Other exports include lumber, gold and shrimp. The official language is Dutch and all Surinamese speak Sranatongo (or taki taki), the local lingua franca. In late February 2004 I arrived in Aruba for some relaxation and the following week flew to Suriname. You may ask why Suriname? Well, I wanted to explore the area where Jake Kozloff and Clifford Jones started gaming in 1962 at the Torarica Hotel. These two pioneers were instrumental in opening casinos in Antigua, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and St. Maarten in the Caribbean and in Quito, Ecuador.



There were multiple reasons why Suriname was included in my year 2000 book as part of the Dutch Caribbean. First of all, several textbooks, touring guides and also the above stamp, include Suriname as part of the *Caribbean Organization*. I suppose it is and was due to the enor-

mous world trade that still makes Suriname a valuable world asset and its close Dutch connections.

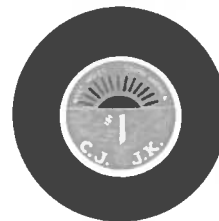
After traveling One Thousand Six Hundred miles I landed in the evening at the Johan Adolph Pengel Airport which was about an hour away from the capitol city of Paramirabo. Since Suriname is a few degrees above the equator, the heat reminded me of a visit to Palm Springs, CA when the temperature was 117 degrees during the day and at night the radiant heat from the sidewalks drifted up towards my face. I then knew what a pizza is like in an oven, however, here in Suriname it was hotter and more tropical. The trip from the airport was on a narrow highway passing small towns and one was Lely. I noticed that the signs on stores and gas stations were either in Chinese, Hindustani or Dutch but always included a translation in English. I am still unable to understand why the English language is so prevalent.

That night I stayed in a hotel in a small town about eight kilometers outside of Paramirabo called Leonsberg. The name of the hotel was the Stardust Hotel, yes, the Stardust Hotel! The people were quite friendly and the next morning the breakfast included delicious fresh breads, eggs of any kind and a mango-like juice. That morning it was raining quite heavily and I headed to the Torarica Hotel where I met Mr. Marcel Mook, the casino manager. He was kind enough to give me a tour of the city and explained some of the history and heritage of the country.

In 1962, the Torarica Hotel and Casino hosted the Surinam Casino with roulette chips bearing its name, see, SUR – B HCE.2* and a pair of dice also with the Surinam Casino logo. The chips that were used for Blackjack and Roulette were the beautiful H.C. Edwards “H” mold chips (SUR – 1 HCE.1) with the sunrise logo and the location ‘West Indies South America’ and the famous ‘C.J. J.K.’ initials. Mr. Frank Robles, the current hotel manager was kind enough to speak to me regarding the history of this premier hotel. He has the great distinction of being present and working at the opening of the hotel in 1962 when Queen Juliana of the Netherlands came for its inauguration.



SUR-B HCE.2



SUR-1 HCE.1



TOR-50G T.1

A few months after the Surinam Casino opened, Jake opened the 'J.K.. C.J. Casino', about 1/8 th of a mile from the Torarica Hotel, in the Palace Hotel. The Palace Hotel was named because it was opposite the spacious lawns of the Government's Palace. The roulette chips bear their initials (PAL - B HCE.1), while the chips from the table games had the EWING mold with a PRC # PAL- 5 EWI.1. In 1968, the Franklin Mint issued tokens in fifty-cents and one Dollar denominations (PAL - .50 T.1). At the present time a government convention center constructed primarily of glass occupies the former Palace Hotel location.



PAL-B HCE.1



PAL-5 EWI.2



PAL-.50 T.1

For about a decade the Palace Casino stayed open, then abruptly closed, while the Surinam Torarica Casino still exists in the same location and is now the Torarica Casino. After several decades no new casinos opened until the past five years when eight new ones appeared. The Macao Casino owned by Mr.R. Ryker was across the street from the Torarica Hotel so I walked over, met with Mr. Ryker and chatted about his experiences in Suriname. All of his chips bear his initials, 'R R', PRC # MAC - 5 CPO.1. There are two different currencies used for chips in most of the casinos, one in the US Dollar and the second in Surinamese Florins, PRC # MAC - 500 ATT.1.



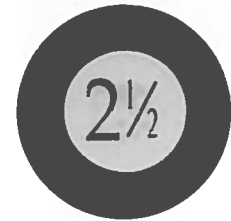
MAC-5 CPO.1



MAC-500 Sf ABT.1

I was fortunate to have met with Mr. Henk Sallons, an assistant casino manager, who was gracious enough to take me around to many of the casinos. The first stop was the Ambassador Casino. This casino had chips with the Scroll mold and a Bud Jones type mold. The generic 2 1/2 chip is a plain yet attractive chip used as a \$1.00 progressive-type bet similar to the side bet in Caribbean Stud Poker. In January 2004, the currency was revalued with a new Surinamese currency where for every old 1000 Sf this would equal to a 1 SRD. The exchange rate in early 2004 was One US Dollar = 2800 Surinamese Florins = 2.8 SRD. To this date, none of the

casinos except one, re-ordered new chips with the new currency values.



AMB-2.5 SCR.1



AMB-2500 Sf SCR.1



AMB-1 ABT.1

Our next visit was to the Mirage Casino that is an up scale casino. This casino has a colorful \$2.50 chip and its counterpart in Surinamese Florins in the 2.500 Sf chip.



MIR -2.5 LIB.1



MIR-2500 Sf LIB.1

The Golden Dragon Casino has some interesting chips, plain yet to the point.



GDR-1 DOL.1



GDR-10,000 Sf DOL.1



TOR-2.5 H&C.1



TOR-5 H&C.1



TOR-10,000 Sf H&C.1



The Torarica Casino's chips have a great South American jungle logo depicting the indigenous Carib Indian's heritages.



TRO-1 LIB.1



TRO-2.5 SRD LIB.1



LEY-10,000 Sf CPO.1



REG-2,500 Sf CPO.1

There is a small casino in a small town between Paramiribo and the JAP Airport in Lely. It is the Lely Hills Casino that has Chipco chips. Unfortunately, all these chips are worn.

There are two casinos four to five hours west of Paramiribo in the coastal city of Nickerie. The Regency chips are Chipcos without a location of a city or country. The other casino has only slot machines.

In each of these casinos I was allowed to purchase some chips to add to my collection. I was escorted to the cage where the manager would help me obtain only a few chips. I did not, nor would I be allowed to, buy a hoard of chips. I respected their wishes and left the casinos with glee that I was able to obtain these great chips! My short visit was over. I met many pleasant individuals and am looking forward to return to this interesting and exciting country.

* The reference codes used to describe chips and tokens in this text are derived from Pollack's Reference Codes (PRC) in "The Casinos of Aruba~Bonaire~Curacao~St. Maarten~Suriname, *The Dutch Caribbean*".

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The Las Vegas Hacienda



by Gene Trimble

Mandalay Bay is a beautiful new property at the north end of the Las Vegas strip. On New Years Eve 1996 the property was cleared to begin construction for this mega resort with the implosion of the Hacienda. I guess it is not too hard to destroy a building, but the legacy of the Hacienda can not be imploded. Memories do not die so easily. I am not going to write about the end of the Hacienda, the beginning is where the memories were made.

In the early 50's an entrepreneur by the name of Warren "Doc" Bayley owned three hotels in California and his dream was to build a chain of hotels all across America. His idea was to compete with the big boys like Hilton and Sheraton. The three hotels were located in Bakersfield, Fresno, and Indio. They all had the same name, The Hacienda. A funny thing happened to Doc's dream on his first attempt to expand his empire out of the state of California. His march to the east coast, began and ended in Las Vegas. Somewhere in 1954, Doc bought an unfinished hotel casino on the furthestmost end of the Las Vegas Strip called the Lady Luck. His intention was to rename and complete the hotel, lease the casino out, and continue his quest to the east coast. Dreams have a way of changing and this one was no exception.

The fourth Hacienda was completed and ready to open early 1956. The casino operators were chosen and applied for their gaming license. The plan was ready to proceed until the casino operators were found unsuitable for a gaming license. Doc was a 51% owner and 5 other partners held the other 49%. Jim Beam, a 15% owner, convinced Doc, the only thing to do was to operate the casino themselves.

The Hacienda opened in October 1956 and Doc was now a casino owner, instead of a hotel keeper. In a few short years his holdings grew into a 39% interest in the Old and New Frontiers plus the El Ray Club in Searchlight. Doc became a casino owner out of the same mold as many other owners of his day. Life was good and money was plentiful. He let the good times roll and he let the employees run the casinos. The casinos were heavily mortgaged and the three California hotels were put in hock to support the casinos. Even appearances by the Rat Pack at the Fresno Hacienda could not save the California properties. Two of them were repossessed by the lien holders. It seems that Doc was not taking care of business.

In 1964 Jim Beam passed away and his interests were handed over to

his wife. On the day after Christmas in 1964, Doc had a massive heart attack while partying with a friend. All of his dreams ended at this point, but another dream was born. Doc's wife, Judy Bayley the 1st Lady of Gambling entered the picture. Does anybody have any idea, what happened to the B in gambling? There was still a B in it, in 1964.

Judy had never been a business person and she had spent the last five years, letting the good times roll, along with Joan Rashbrook, who had been Jim Beams wife. They had spent their time at parties, race tracks and generally enjoying life. Judy decided to operate the Hacienda and enlisted Joan to help her. Together they owned 66% of everything, or nothing, depending on which way you looked at it.

Judy's first day on the job revealed some startling facts. There was no money, and in Joan's words, "5 pounds of hamburger was COD at the back door." Most bills were 120 days or more overdue including federal withholding taxes. Judy was urged to sell by almost everyone involved. Her decision was to go for broke, maybe because it was not too far to go. Maybe she thought someone would tag her with that 1st lady title somewhere in the future, but my guess is, she was stubborn. Her first task was to get some money. Four casinos and



very little money were not an enviable position to be in.

The Hacienda had an 11 1/2 million dollar mortgage on it. That probably sounded a lot bigger in 1964 than it does today. Judy and Joan flew to Palm Beach, Fl to meet with the mortgage holder. Judy had it in her



head that he would give her the much needed money to protect his loan. The girls pleaded their case and the answer sounded good, at first.

He would give them 3 1/2 million for the Frontier properties, but not cash. He would take it off the back of the Hacienda loan. Then he threw down the gauntlet with a remark that may have made them even more determined to succeed. He said "Women can't run a business". Our heroines returned to Las Vegas with an 8 million dollar mortgage that amounted to \$70,000 per month and a \$300,000 per year balloon payment, but still no cash. Judy managed to float a small loan from a lawyer friend and Joan got an uncle in England to come through with some cash. Together they took control of the daily operations of the Hacienda. The word "daily" had a deeper meaning than you might expect.

They did whatever was needed to make the property stay afloat, including busing tables in the buffet. Whatever department needed help, the girls pitched in and did the job. Customers in the buffet were overheard wondering why management allowed bus girls to wear so many rhinestones. These particular rhinestones were left over from the days when "The good times rolled" and were worn by the owners who happened to be busing tables. Joan was exiting the



buffet one evening after "work" and when she reached the casino area, there was a loud noise and pieces of the ceiling came raining down on the customers. It seems the eye in the sky had fallen off the catwalk and all that she could see was two legs flailing away as if they were trying to pedal a bicycle.

Money was never plentiful but it did get better. Judy became a force in Las Vegas and was loved and admired by many. The Judy Bayley Theater at UNLV is part of her legacy to Las Vegas. Judy Bayley died on New Years eve 1971 after 7 years of making her mark on the gaming world. The doctors said it was cancer that killed her, but Joan feels in her heart, that it was the constant daily stress of the Hacienda that killed her friend of so many years. It was too much for a sane person. Judy willed her 51% to Joan and after two hectic years she sold the Hacienda to Alan Glick for 28 1/2 million. The original loan was paid down to 5 million at this time. The Hacienda of the Alan Glick era is a story in its own right. A story for another day. Paul Lowden bought the Hacienda from Alan Glick. Circus Circus bought it from Paul Lowden and brought down the final curtain on the Hacienda. Forty years is a respectable run for any show in Las Vegas.

Today, Joan Rashbrook is an everyday customer at local poker rooms and is a consistent entrant in daily poker tournaments. Joan always has a big bag of candy for the dealers and other customers. I am not sure if she has character or she is a character. My guess is, some of both.

She still wears the "rhinestones" and has many memories of the people who were the force to reckon with in Las Vegas when "The good times rolled." Special thanks to Joan Rashbrook and Bill Moore, the entertainment director of the Hacienda, for taking the time to share the past with me. They have many colorful stories about when "The good times rolled." I opted for a few simple facts instead of names and places. I thought some insider views concerning the beginning of that era would help fill the gap.



Hacienda chips are very popular with collectors as most of us witnessed the end of an era, with the implosion of the Hacienda.

I welcome your comments at poker4@cox.net



The Great Chip Trip of 2004

or

(Jack & Bob's Excellent Adventure)

by Robert Rago

Sometimes when you get really excited about something, it never quite meets your expectations. But sometimes, if you're very lucky, things just fall into place, and everything works out better than you had any right to expect. And that's what happened to us on The Great Chip Trip of 2004.

Before we get into the details, perhaps a bit of background is warranted here: Jack Heiman (R- 2905) of the Atlantic City club and I (Bob Rago R-3871) of the Las Vegas club are old friends and avid chip collectors. By avid I mean that we are *Absolutely Nuts! Truly Insane, Chip Junkies!* (Other than that, we sometimes pass for "normal".)

Every year, Jack comes out to Las Vegas to attend the annual CC>CC convention. He stays at my house and we always attend the Early Bird Banquet, and then go to the convention for at least the first 2 days. After that, we run around the area to casinos that have recently changed racks, or brought out new chips, and pick up some the ones that we don't have.

Over the years, we have attended many conventions, and covered the Southern Nevada casinos pretty thoroughly, and we've always had a great time doing it. But this year, we thought we would try something a little different. Can you say "Road Trip"?

Here's what we planned; We would attend the Early Bird Banquet (The best one yet!), and go to the first day of the convention. (We both

picked up a few beauties ! - I'm talking about chips here) Then the next day we would take off to Northern Nevada, and to all the small towns along the way and pick up all the \$1's, \$2.50's and \$5 chips that we could find.

So without further ado, "The Great Chip Trip of 2004" ! (Or Jack & Bob's Excellent Adventure)

June 18th: It was a gorgeous day (as usual in Southern Nevada!) and we headed North on Rt. 95. We passed through Indian Springs, but didn't bother to stop. We both had chips from there, so we continued on to our first stop, Beatty.

There are 3 casinos in Beatty and the first one was The Burro Inn, It's a bar with one blackjack table, and it's only open in the evening. They use \$1 tokens and \$5 chips, and we were able to get a nice \$5 chip. The next place was the Exchange Club, which is a bar with 2 BJ tables, but again, it's only open in the evening. We already had chips from there, and they use \$1 tokens, so we didn't stop. The next place was the Stagecoach, which is a full casino. We knew they had \$1 chips, so this was going to be a good stop! Wrong ! The chips were so worn that we couldn't even read the name! No sense getting those, so we passed.

Next stop, Tonopah, There is only one casino there these days, The Station House, and like many older places, they had changed to all slots, so ix-nay on the ips-chay.

So long Tonopah!... Next stop, Hawthorne. This town was probably the most prosperous looking of all the small towns we visited. There is an munitions factory and a military storage depot there, and apparently the factory and military payrolls keep the town financially healthy. The only casino in town is the El Capitan, which is a very nice small casino. We had an excellent dinner there, and picked up some \$1's and a mint condition \$5.

And with a cloud of dust, and a hearty Hi-Ho....Wait a second....! was lost there for a minute... I think that second Manhattan just kicked in... Anyway, after dinner we headed for Fallen. One of the locals told us about a poker room called The Bird Farm, so we checked it out.... It turned out to be a bar with a couple of poker tables.

We were curious about the name, Bird Farm, so we asked about it and here's the skinny. Fallen, Nevada is where pilots go for Top Gun training! The Bird Farm is just slang for the air base that was nearby!.... Cool!

They were pretty tight with their chips, but we managed to get that rarest of chips these days - 25 centers! We also got a couple of \$1's which were dirty but otherwise in pretty decent condition.

We also picked up some \$5's at Stockman's and the Depot.

Reno, which bills itself as "The Biggest Little City in the World" was

next, and that's where we were spending the next 2 nights at a newly remodeled casino called the Golden Phoenix. We had a decent room, and they had all the facilities you would expect, but best of all, they were right in the main casino area, so we could walk to a lot of casinos, and do some serious chipping!

That evening, we picked up \$1's & \$5's at the Golden Phoenix, Fitzgerald's, Club Cat-Neva, the El Dorado, the Silver Legacy, and Circus Circus, and a \$5 at Harrah's.

June 19th: Sunshine and blue skies above, and we took off for Lake Tahoe! It's about 45 minutes from Reno and gorgeous! I had not been there for many years, and had forgotten how beautiful it was.

We picked up \$1's & \$5's from Caesar's, Horizon, Harrah's, Lakeside Inn, Bill's, Nugget, Crystal Bay, and the Cal-Neva. We also got those great brass \$2.50's and \$5's at the Hyatt Regency. We had a great lunch at the Cal-Neva, which is right on the California/Nevada border. They have a great dining room which overlooks the lake, and with our pockets loaded with chips, and enjoying a great meal, we were livin' large!

As some of you will remember, Frank Sinatra once owned this casino, and there were many photos of him with other celebrities that frequented the place back in the early 60's. One of the pictures showed him with Marilyn Monroe, and Sam Giancana, the mob boss from Chicago who was Sinatra's "Godfather". Having mob people there, eventually cost Sinatra his license. Speaking of which, At Harrah's, I picked up a 4 chip set (\$5 each), of 4 of the actors on The Sopranos. (Who said the mob was dead?) We also got \$5's from the Tahoe Biltmore.

Then we rolled down the mountain to Carson City, which is the capitol of Nevada, and only about a half-hour from Lake Tahoe. We picked up \$1's & \$5's from the Carson Nugget and Casino Fandango, and \$5's from Carson Station, Pinion Plaza, and Cactus Jack's. We later had dinner in the deli at Casino Fandango, (the newest place there) and it was great, and very reasonable.

We had done a lot of walking in Lake Tahoe, and it's 6000 to 7700 feet above sea level there. We "lowlanders" were a bit tired, so we headed back to Reno for some of that "average" sleep. (At our ages, "beauty" sleep was not an option...The best we could hope for was "average".)

June 20: Bright & sunny again.... just another lousy day in Paradise...We had three more casinos we wanted to pick up in Reno, and then we wanted to get all 5 casinos in Sparks (which runs right into Reno these days) and then head east across the state on Rt 80.

On the way to Sparks, we picked up \$1's & \$5's at the Sienna and the Sands Regency, and a \$5 at the Diamond Club, which is located, for your gaming convenience, at the Holiday Inn!

In Sparks, we got \$1's & \$5's from the Nugget, the Silver Club, and the Western Village, and \$5's from the Alamo and Rail City, and then it was off to our next stop, Lovelock,

In Lovelock, there is only one casino these days, Sturgeon's. They're all slots, but while we were having Sunday Brunch (excellent by the way!) the cashier was nice enough to get us a couple of MINT condition \$5's from the vault. I had to hold Jack up! I swear he was ready to drop to one knee and propose to

her!... I think it was a "love at first chip" thing.... give the woman her due; She had some fantastic chips!

Before someone called a preacher, we made our escape to the legendary Winnemucca. No \$1's to be had there, but we picked up \$5's from Winner's, the Model T, the Red Lion, and Legends.

Next stop; Elko. We got \$1's & \$5's from the Red Lion, and a \$5 from Stockman's Motor Inn.

Then away we went to Wells. We picked up a \$5 beauty from the 4 Way, and then we drove outta there like we stole something. It had been another long day, and we were anxious to get to our last stop. West Wendover on the Nevada-Utah border.

We rolled into West Wendover about 6-ish, and spotted 3 of the 5 casinos very quickly. It turned out that the Red Garter, was right next to our motel, and the Rainbow, where we had a very nice buffet dinner that night, was next to the Red Garter. We got \$1's & \$5's from both places..

June 21st: Too bad the weather isn't like this everywhere, but yes, we had to endure yet another gorgeous day! We picked up \$1's & \$5's from the Peppermill, the Stateline Nugget and Montego Bay, and then we started South on Rt.93A, to our final stop, Ely.

The drive on 93A to Rt 93 was the most barren road either of us had ever seen. For the first 60 miles, we saw nothing but desert and only 3 cars! There was no signal on my cell phone, so this was not a place that you ever wanted to have car trouble. Fortunately, my baby (An '85 Mercury Grand Marquis, with a big old V-8) was purring along at about 80, and we had no problems the entire trip.

The only casino in Ely these days is the Hotel Nevada, built in 1929. They had a young ton of "historic" items and stuffed animals on the walls, floors and even the ceilings. They had so much old crap around, that you could hardly find the black-jack tables! But we did find the cage! They had no \$1's, but wonder of wonders, they had \$2.50's in very nice condition. As you may know, outside of Atlantic city, this denomination is pretty rare.

Then we made a rookie mistake. We had lunch there! The service was really bad, and the food wasn't much better. But we did get our chips, and we didn't get poisoned, so all in all we dun good!

We got back to Las Vegas that evening, and had a nice buffet dinner at Texas Station. Jack and I managed to win a about \$100 each playing

video poker, so we really ended the trip on a very positive note! (\$100 = 20 - \$5 chips... Ya gotta love it!)

It was great seeing all those casinos in person, but having been there once, I doubt we will ever do it again. It was a trip that only a couple of chip nuts like Jack and I would appreciate. In 4 days, we had traveled 1500 miles. We had probably stopped at about 60 places, and we got chips from 48 different casinos. To us, it was a chip-pers once-in-a-lifetime, dream trip.

June 22nd: Damn! Another gorgeous day ! (I never get tired of the great weather we have here) We had a quick cup of coffee and then it was time to get Jack to the airport. He was headed back to Philadelphia, where his wife Ginny was waiting to drive him to their home in Haddon Heights, NJ. The Great Chip Trip of 2004, had come to an end.

I called Jack every day for the next 2 days. We didn't have anything new to say, we just reiterated what a great time we had, and yakked about all the great chips we had picked up.

As I hung up the phone, I suddenly realized something; When you are doing something that is so much fun, you never want it to end! And that's why I was calling him. We were having so much fun we just weren't ready for it to be over!

I'm not going to speculate on how we'll feel about all this next year, but you never know... Late next June, there may be a big old Mercury flying down some desolate road in Nevada. It's probably just some UFO'ers on the way out to Area 51..... then again, it could be a couple of chip-a-holics headed to the next casino on the list of The Great Chip Trip of 2005!

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Obituaries

Bob Feeney



May the name Bob Feeney always come to mind whenever a chip collector acquires a \$2.50 chip. Because the world's largest collection of \$2.50 chips, from Nevada to Norway, from plaques to pieces of clay, from old times and today, became a remarkable achievement by Bob that gave him the worthy title of being crowned the king of all \$2.50 chip collectors.

There's no debating the title. Bob's \$2.50 chips will always be proof enough. They're knockout pieces, with dozens of unbeatable scarcities. No Nevada chip collector will ever come close to being a rival of Bob's unless they have such Tahoe \$2.50 rarities as a Smith's North Shore Club, a Barney's Casino, or two different Park Tahoe chips. And such pieces as the \$2.50 chips issued by the Stardust in Vegas, or old Reno casinos like the Prima Donna of Del Webb's, the Riverside of Jessie Beck's and Harold's Club, those \$2.50 chips alone will make wanna-be's of all chip collectors. So when you're playing blackjack in Atlantic City or at a New Mexico Indian casino, be it a riverboat or a cruise ship, whether it's in Canada or Curacao, the moment you get a natural 21 and the dealer tops your winning bet with a \$2.50 chip, think of Bob Feeney and his \$2.50 chip collection.

But also think of Bob as his chip friends do. As one of the very few collector/dealers in our hobby who never had a negative word ever said about him. Not a whisper of jealousy or distrust. Simply stated. Bob was not just a good fellow, but one of the best fellows. A great guy who always surrounded himself with good company and good times, that's what the hobby meant for Bob. And that's what his wife Georgia tried to give him in the last weeks of his life, some moments of good company and good times at the 12th annual convention of Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club that was held at the Riviera in Las Vegas.

No one could have done more than Georgia to see her Bobby among chippers one last time. It was cancer that stopped him from being with us, but nothing will stop him from always being a part of us.

You're a great fellow, Bob Feeney, and now in good company at Arlington.

Doug Saito

Michael Par

December 1950 – August 2004

I met Michael Par about five years ago by winning a few of his eBay auctions. As I recall the total amount due him was six bucks. He interpreted my sarcastic reply to his “you’re the winner of these rare antique poker chips” email as spunky. We swapped a few insulting emails and became acquaintances. Over the next few years we became friends.

Michael sold chips on eBay under the moniker “chipguy.” He mostly sold single poker chips, antique and occasionally new, and the odd casino chip. For a long time he ran his “Sunday Night Specials” on eBay; auctions in which he would list single poker chips all starting at a 99¢ bid. He sold many of these chips, but not nearly enough to make it financially worth the effort. That didn’t matter much to him though. Michael enjoyed selling chips, attracted a few new Club members, and was proud of his virtually perfect eBay feedback record: 7772 transactions, with a 2550 feedback score at 99.9% positive. He was known for his quirky and funny descriptions. Michael would occasionally list a particular antique engraved poker chip that depicted a hunting dog with a rabbit in its mouth. (He probably had a boxful of those chips. It’s a great old poker chip. Seymour Code: PA-ER, “Retriever & Rabbit”) He always made it clear to prospective bidders that, “A professional stunt rabbit was used to make this chip. The rabbit was not harmed in any way other than being covered in dog slobber.” I love that line! I wish I wrote it. Wouldn’t you buy a chip from the guy who wrote that? I would. I did.

Michael was, by his own modest admission, a great card player. He would often (in response to my begging) provide tips on playing poker. In the early summer of ‘01 I told him that I was set to host my first Saturday Night Kitchen Table Poker Game. In my excitement I wrote him an excruciatingly detailed email: how many players, the kind of chips we were going to use, the stakes... I even told him the brand of playing cards I had bought for the game. I made one mistake though; I handed Michael Par a straight line. I ended my email by asking for some last minute advice. I still chuckle over his three-word reply: “TAKE A RAKE.”

I’ll bet you didn’t know Michael was an accomplished musician. No kidding. He sent me a CD of a few of his recordings. Some of the most beautiful piano I’ve ever heard. One of the songs has an unusual story connected with it. Michael was talking with the Program Director at a radio station and lamented the fact that he had never heard a song about a spermicidal sponge. The PD responded that no such song had ever been recorded. Michael begged to differ and wagered the PD that he could prove it. They bet \$100. Michael went home, wrote a song about a spermicidal sponge, recorded it (he did the music and his son handled the vocals), then presented the recording to the PD and won his bet. The song, titled (you guessed it) “Spermicidal Sponge”, was on a CD Michael sent me. It’s a lousy song. Quite possibly the worst song ever recorded. I kept the CD though. Someday I’ll win a bet with it.

In the winter of ‘02, when Jenny & I learned we were expecting our first child, I emailed Michael to share our good fortune. He replied, not with congratulations or wishes of good luck, but with a simple message; “Here’s what you’re in for.” He attached a .gif file to his email. An animated cartoon of a baby, wrapped in a blanket and screaming his head off! After our son was born Michael amused himself by sending me emails asking how much sleep I was getting, and usually signing off by telling me he was going to relax, maybe take a nap.

I learned of Michael’s illness a few months prior to his passing. I decided that the last thing he needed was to feel obligated to talk with me. I figured he needed time with his family so I pretty much left him alone. I did email him (for the last time) in July of this year just to tell him I was thinking of him. I made a grave error though. (Pun intended. Michael would have loved it.) I told him that I was thinking of him “fondly.” An hour later I sent him another email telling him that I meant it “in a manly, football watching, cigar smoking, back slapping way.” I figured he could use a laugh. He replied a few days later, and the laugh was on me, “Too late. You’re out. Walk like a man, my son.” Vintage Michael.

I don’t mean to sound trite, but Michael Par touched my life. He was my friend. I’ll miss him. A lot. Michael, they got you on the River, man. I’ll see you in Heaven if I make the list.

Dave Smith

Audrey Zaslawsky



The chipping community has lost one of its irreplaceable souls, and I lost a fellow collector who I was proud to call my friend. Audrey Zaslawsky of Las Vegas passed away on Thursday, September 2nd. She is survived by her husband and fellow chip collector, Leroy.

Most chip collectors from outside of Las Vegas probably did not know Audrey. Since retiring there in 1989, Audrey and Leroy enjoyed the Vegas lifestyle.....the glamour, the excitement, the sports books, and the buffets. But their greatest joy of all was to find a chip to add to their Las Vegas chip collection. Audrey was the true embodiment of all that makes this hobby so great. Her pleasures were the chips, her fellow chip collectors and the chip dealers she enjoyed doing business with. She and Leroy would be found at every chip show in Las Vegas, searching through every binder for that elusive chip that they could add to their ever-growing Las Vegas collection.

I sold Audrey and Leroy many chips over the years and our negotiations were always a riot. I would look over at Audrey and she would give me a small smile. Then and there, I knew that I had lost the negotiation. There was no way I could win.

I will cherish those memories.

Barry Weintraub

John "Jack" Mayercik



John "Jack" Mayercik. Jack was a member of CCGTCC and was present at the convention this year at the Riviera, Las Vegas, NV in June. He was the president and help found the Deep South Chip Collector's Club in Biloxi, MS. He died in his sleep at his home in Ocean Springs, MS

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