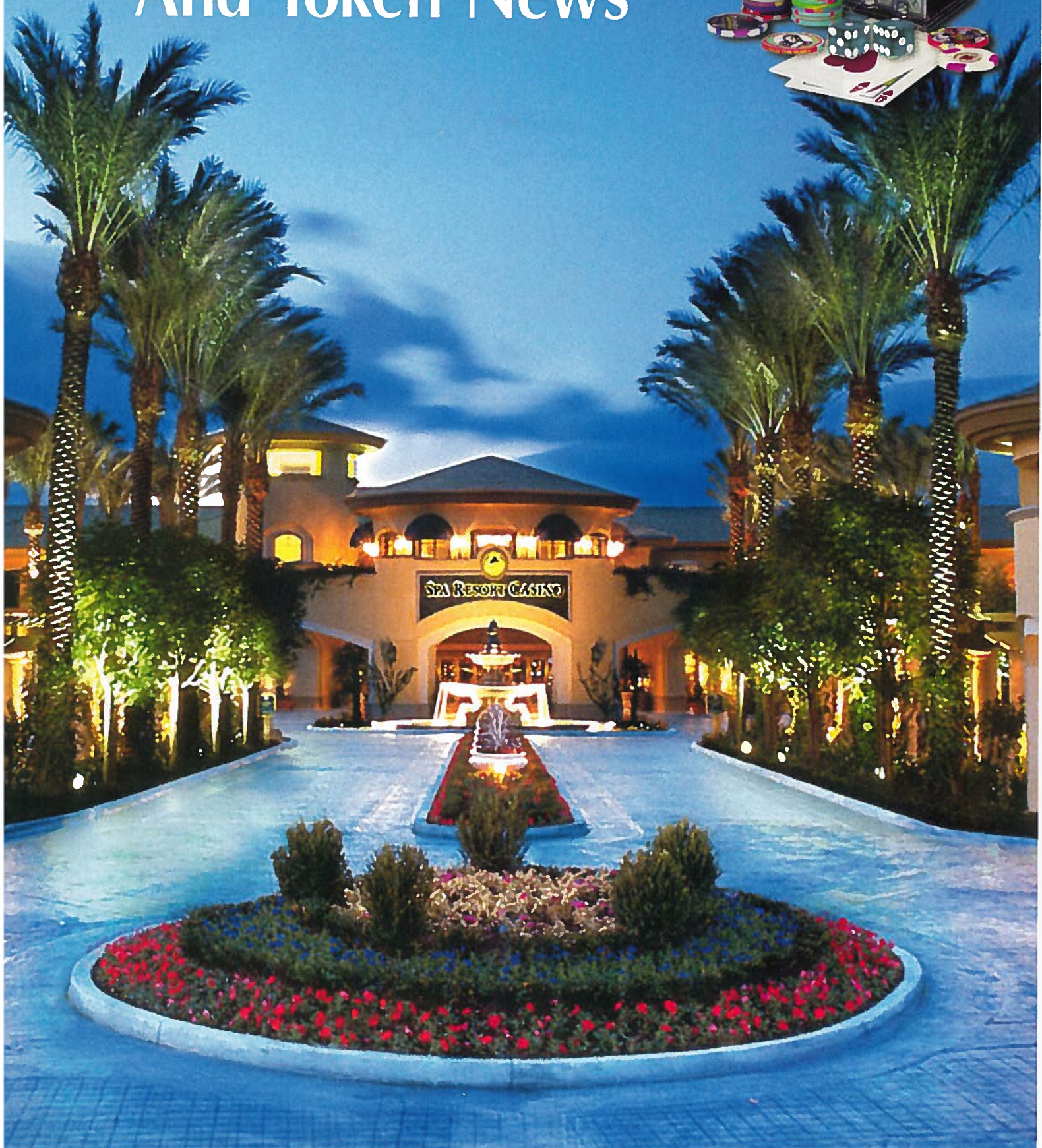


Winter 2005 • Volume 18 Number 1 • \$6.95

# Casino Chip And Token News



*A name to remember when you need supplies*

**Charles & Margarita Rodgers**

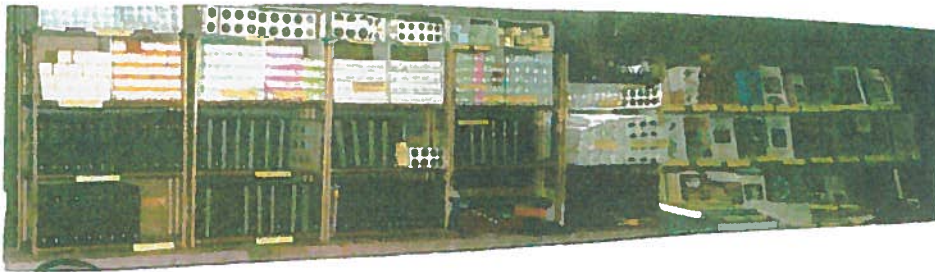
**C. T. Coins - P. O. Box 4572 - Lakewood, CA. 90711**

**Phone 562-408-2463 - E-Mail [ctcoins@aol.com](mailto:ctcoins@aol.com)**

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**Part of our display on  
supplies at the National  
Convention**

### SUPPLIES 2005 CATALOG

**Just full of goodies for the Chip & Token Collector  
Over 50 pages with some of the following.**

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- ◆ Air-Tight Cases
- ◆ Direct Fit Cases
- ◆ Round Cases
- ◆ Display Cases & Trays
- ◆ 12-20-30 Pocket Pages
- ◆ 12-18-24-60-80-96 Chip & Token Wallets
- ◆ Storage Tubes
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## CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

A publication of

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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

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**Jim Kruse**  
building@ccgtcc.com



**ADVERTISING RATES**  
**THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN**  
**COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**  
**A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION**

“Camera Ready” advertising deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail.

**DISPLAY AD RATES**

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

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<b>Ad Size</b>	<b>One Issue</b>	<b>Full Year</b>	<b>You Save</b>
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.

<b>Yes, I Would Like</b>	<b>Ad Size</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<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&GTCC# \_\_\_\_\_

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 - ccoins@aol.com

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

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

# CC&GTCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

My collection interests are:

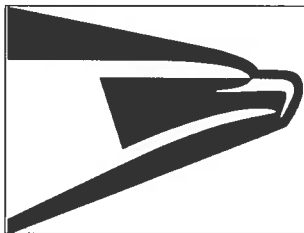
- Chips       Tokens  
 U.S.       Foreign

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&GTCC to:

CC&GTCC 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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**ADVERTISING** CHARLES T. RODGERS  
**PRINTING** PALMER PRINTING

**PRESIDENT** MIKE SKELTON  
**VICE PRESIDENT** WAYNE THOMPSON  
**TREASURER** MIKE QUINLIVAN  
**SECRETARY** BELINDA HIXON  
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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.

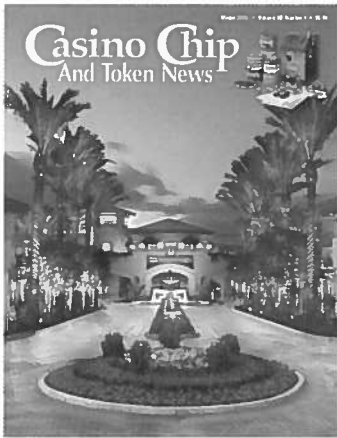
# Casino Chip And Token News

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

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



Winter 2005 Volume 18 Number 1



*Cover Story*  
**Spa Casino and the  
Agua Caliente Indians**

*Photo Courtesy*  
Virgen Advertising  
Agua Caliente Casino & Spa Resort  
Casino Public Relations

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# Letters

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Congratulations on a well written and informative article regarding the Hard Rock. I would like to clarify your question regarding the two "HRH" chips that you state are controversial. I can personally attest that they did indeed come from the Hard Rock in Las Vegas. The original intent was that they were supposed to be some sort of promotional or NCV chip given to high rollers but were quickly shot down due to the poor quality of the chip.

There were a bunch of them in the casino offices and I know a Blackjack dealer made a dress out of them for Halloween one year. Most were given away as play chips and there may be still some in the casino offices used for training or whatever.

I hope this solves your mystery.

Sincerely yours,

Roy Brennan  
Las Vegas, NV

## 2005 Convention Seminar Notes

The wonderful Riviera is now 50 years old. Steve Fischer will be holding a seminar at this year's convention on the early years of the "RIV" when it was controlled by the Chicago Outfit (the mob), and some of the most colorful people on the Strip.

Doug Saito will be doing a seminar on the life and times of Harvey Fuller.

### **Trade**

**All Atlantic City casino \$1.00 chips used condition**  
1 for 1 for any \$1.00 chips, also poker for dummies chips.  
1 for 1 any amount OK to send

**Andy Korton** P.O. Box 207, Bellmawr, NJ 08099

### **Free Price Lists. Chips-Tokens-Silver Strikes**

**Specializing in Nevada Route Tokens**

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Hoffman@rabbitbrush.com



# From the Editor's Desk



Allan Anderson

This is not an editorial on chip collecting or even on our hobby. It's a story that reminds us of what's important in life.

It's a story about Eva Marie Schicke, a California Department of Forestry firefighter who lost her life on September 12, 2004 while fighting a forest fire at Tuolumne River Canyon in the Stanislaus National Forest in Northern California. I did not know Eva, I knew her fiancée Shea who is the son of a very good friend of mine, Gary Buhler.

Eva was the first female firefighter with the California Department of Forestry to die in the line of duty, she was 24 years old.

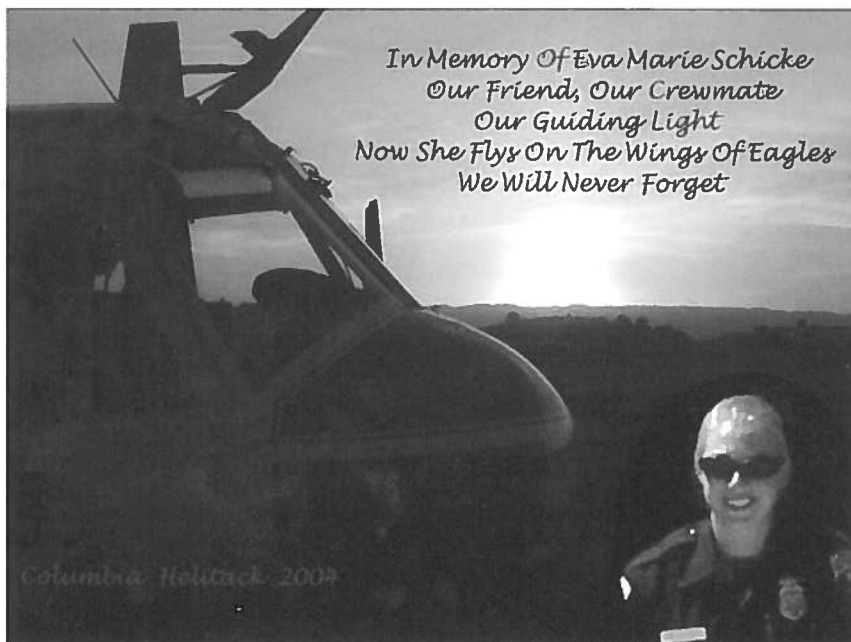
As a member of an elite helicopter firefighting crew, Eva and her colleagues were building a firebreak ahead of the wildfire raging through the canyon when she was overcome by flames. Six other firefighters were also injured.

Governor Schwarzenegger summed it up best with his statement:

"Eva's death is a tremendous loss for the California Department of Forestry not only because she was the first female firefighter to lose her life in the line of duty, but because she bravely risked her life to protect our homes and ensure our safety. In the face of danger, Eva acted with courage and commitment, giving her life for the protection of her fellow Californians."

There is a memorial ride planned for Saturday July 9th from Angels Camp to Bear Valley California. If you're in the area, stop by.

For more information go to [www.evaschickememorialride.com](http://www.evaschickememorialride.com)



# President's Letter



**Mike Skelton**

As we enter into a new year, one of the pioneers of our hobby has left us. Sadly, we learned of the passing of Hall of Fame member Harvey J. Fuller shortly after Christmas. For some of us “old timers” in this hobby and this Club, the passing of Mr. Fuller leaves a very big void. You wanted to talk Nevada chips or Nevada Gaming History, Mr. Fuller was the person that could and would talk about it. His note taking on his keno cards is legendary!

For the folks who haven't been around very long, you truly missed out by not having the opportunity to have at least one conversation with him. Fortunately, fellow Hall of Fame member Howard Herz was the editor of Harvey J. Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments in 1991, so much of his research will live on and is available in print.

Another Hall of Fame member, Doug Saito, persuaded Mr. Fuller to talk to him in detail about his research, recollections, and experiences in traveling throughout Nevada and talking with old-timers about their memories. “Conversations with Harvey Fuller” is some of Doug's best work, which he publishes occasionally.

There are so many instances over the years that Howdy, Doug and countless others have uttered the phrase, “According to Harvey Fuller, this chip.....” when talking about the history of casinos or the origin of a chip. That phrase will live on as long as there are Nevada chip collectors and it is the ultimate tribute to a true Pioneer.

Preparations are now in full swing for the 13th Annual CC & GTCC Convention to be held August 3-6, 2005 at the Riviera Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. This year's convention will coincide with the Centennial Celebration of the City of Las Vegas and the 50th anniversary of the Riviera Hotel!

Complete information and registration forms are located in this issue. If you wish to register on-line, visit [www.casinochip.com](#). Either way, make sure that you don't miss Convention week at the Riviera! The Wednesday night Banquet will feature another outstanding keynote speaker. The bourse floor will be larger, along with the Educational seminars, Poker and Black Jack tournaments, trade sessions, old friends, new friends, the Bruce Landau Memorial Auction and more casino stuff than you can imagine!

If you would like to help out and get more involved with the Convention, please contact Convention Chairman Jim Steffner. You can email him at [jim@casinochip.com](mailto:jim@casinochip.com). Remember this is YOUR Club and YOUR Convention!

Mike Skelton



# The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc

www.ccgcc.com

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

## REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE CC&GTCC

We have examined the Treasurer's Report of **THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**, for the year ended December 31, 2004.

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, 2004, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting applied on a consistent basis.

MIKE SKELTON

DAVID HARBER

TYRUS MULKEY

WAYNE THOMPSON

February 1, 2005

# Treasurer's Report



**Mike Quinlivan**

As of December 31, 2004, the cash balance in the Club's accounts is \$174,955. For the twelve months of 2004, the Club treasury increased its cash position by \$10,161 (excluding Building Fund donations of \$9,216). This includes the expenditures for all published issues of the Club magazine during 2004. Please see the accompanying financial statements for more detail related to income, expenditures, and the breakdown of the equity accounts.

## Highlights for the 12 months of 2004:

1. 24 members became Life Members. The Club now has 98 Life Members and 5 Honorary Life Members.
2. The 2nd Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction garnered \$11,961 in proceeds during the 2004 Convention.
3. Excluding the auction, the 2004 Convention cleared a gain of \$4,300.
4. 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. UPDATE (November): An informal appeal was made and was subsequently denied. Any further appeal would necessitate an in person hearing in Ogden, Utah. We do not have evidence that an extension of the filing date was actually approved by the IRS. Therefore, no further appeal will be made regarding this matter and is now considered closed.
5. The balance in the Building Fund is \$57,858. 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.
6. 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.
7. The 2003 tax return was filed on October 18, 2004 within the time period approved by the IRS. The 2004 tax return will be filed prior to April 15, 2005 since there will be no need to file an extension next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer  
January 16, 2005



## Renew Your Membership Online



# Income & Expense/Equity Statement (cash basis)

January 1 through December 31, 2004

## Income

Membership Dues (includes 1st class postage)		\$57,560
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		\$13,153
Building Fund Donations		\$9,216
Magazine Advertising		\$3,890
Video Sales (Convention)		\$2,050
Interest Income		\$2,183
Directory Sales		\$60
Magazine Sales		\$35
		<hr/>
Total Income		\$152,343

## Expenditures

Magazine		\$57,495
Convention Expenses		\$47,781
Promotional Items		\$6,355
Video Production		\$6,113
Miscellaneous		\$3,963
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$2,725
Printing (Other than Magazine)		\$2,333
Income Tax Penalty		\$2,045
Bank Charges		\$1,746
Insurance (D&O)		\$891
Supplies		\$496
Donation		\$375
Telephone		\$339
Filing Fees		\$170
Advertising		\$110
Membership		\$29
		<hr/>
Total Expenditures		\$132,966

Net Income - 1/1/04 to 12/31/04

\$19,377

Beginning Equity Balance - 1/1/2004

\$177,912

Net Income - 1/1/04 to 12/31/04

\$19,377

Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/04

\$197,289

Detail of Equity Balance - 12/31/04

Certificate of Deposit	\$76,075
Building Fund	\$57,858
Life Membership Fund	\$28,981
General Fund	\$12,041
	<hr/>

Total Cash Available

\$174,955

Inventory

\$21,834

Advance (Membership Officer)

\$500

Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/04

\$197,289

Respectfully submitted by Mike Quinlivan, Treasurer  
January 16, 2005

# Membership Officers Report



Ralph Myers

Busy, busy, busy. That's what the fourth quarter was this year. We had 95 new members join our ranks. That's an average of one a day, and ten members stepped up to life status. We're getting real close to the 100th life member.

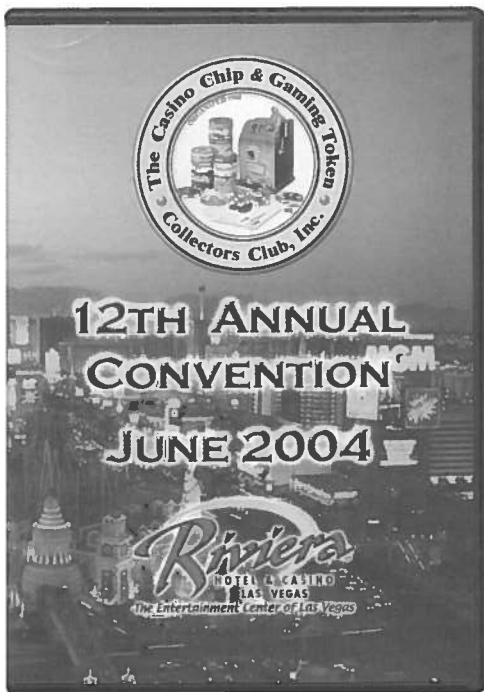
A little reminder. The convention is later this year. Those of you who renew your membership at the convention each year can't wait this year to do so. If you wait for the convention, you'll find that your membership has expired, and you won't be able to get in. You also won't be able to preregister for the convention, banquet, or poker and blackjack tournaments unless your membership is current.

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

Best regards,  
Ralph

## CC&GTCC 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.



To order visit our website at: <http://www.ccgcc.com/news.html>  
or send a check to:

Tyrus Mulkey,  
CC&GTCC Promotions  
P.O. Box 43432  
Las Vegas NV 89116

email: [promotions@ccgtcc.com](mailto:promotions@ccgtcc.com)

Cost is \$25  
for either a single DVD  
or a 2 VHS tape set.

# New Members

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
6746	DZiubkowski	R. Michael	PA	Corry	Rizzo, Pete
6747	Christian	Dayna	OK	Oklahoma City	club web site
6748	Leonard	Kerry	CA	Roseville	club web site
6751	Freres	Michael	NV	Las Vegas	former member
6752	Bryson	Greg	KS	Atchison	
6753	Rubin	Daniel	NY	Brooklyn	Buckner, Jeff
6754	Cabarrubias	Charles	CA	Rancho Palos Verdes	club web site
6756	Quinn	James G.	GA	Loganville	club web site
6757	Neville	Greg	OK	Edmond	American Chip Enterprises
6758	Nolletti	David	FL	Gainesville	American Chip Enterprises
6759	Newman	Larry	PA	Philadelphia	Episale, Jim
6760	Werner	Mary Lou	MN	Rosemount	American Chip Enterprises
6762	Astbury	Al	TX	Austin	
6763	Wilder	Tom	IL	Chicago	club web site
6764	Newman	Kevin	TX	Bellaire	club web site
6766	Denison	Bruce R.	CT	Guilford	Rizzo, Pete
6767	Martin	Shane	AZ	Tucson	Rizzo, Pete
6768	Roberts	Brian	TX	Amarillo	Rizzo, Pete
6769	Caffray	Robert	FL	Vero Beach	club web site
6770	Mesh	Adam	NY	New York	Kaplan, Marty
6771	Linderman	Forrest	CA	Watsonville	American Chip Enterprises
6774	Aahz	Chris	CA	San Jose	club web site
6776	Ducar	Chuck	NV	Reno	Susong, Greg
6777	McNanna	Dan	IL	Plainfield	Hughes, Andy
6778	Freider	Carole	NY	Plainview	former member
6779	Royals	Charles Scott	NC	Trinity	club web site
6780	Emerson	Jon	FL	St. Petersburg	club web site
6781	Johnson	Rodney	TX	Houston	Rizzo, Pete
6782	Korton	Andy	NJ	Bellmawr	Woods, Roy
6786	Tenbrook	Cory	TX	Red Oak	club web site
6787	Gonzalez	T. Mike	WV	Clarksburg	club web site
6788	Bachtel	Paul	IN	Elkhart	Rago, Robert
6789	Jones	Robby	TX	Childress	Rizzo, Pete
6790	McAllister	Chris	WI	Genesee Depot	TBhe Chip Rack
6791	Owczarzak	David	NY	Lancaster	former member
6794	Pace	Jim	IL	Palos Hills	Gliwa, Frank
6795	Hull	James	MD	Crofton	Black, Archie
6797	Minges	John	NC	Greenville	
6799	Mesh	Harry	NJ	Morganville	Kaplan, Marty
6800	Volz Jr.	Ronald	PA	Philadelphia	Cosby, Janice
6801	Hoerr	Richard L.	AZ	Casa Grande	American chip enterprises
6803	Mull	Dan	MA	Ayer	Rizzo, Pete
6804	Erett	Richard	FL	St. Pete Beach	club web site
6805	Bittel	John	FL	Merritt Island	club web site
6806	Nelson	Daniel	OR	Aloha	club web site
6807	Kelly	Steven M.	CA	Capitola	club web site
6808	DeBlasi	Michael	FL	Cape Coral	Rizzo, Pete
6812	England	Leigh	WY	Casper	club web site
6813	Steele	Todd	MD	Laurel	Steele, Stan
6814	Vernon	Dodd M.	IL	MT. Prospect	club web site

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
6815	Wilson	Tom	IL	Winnetka	bobyguns
6816	Oster	Alan G.	CA	Apple Valley	Held, Roxie
6817	Wright	Paul R.	TX	Midland	American Chip Enterprises
6818	Conolly	Michael	NJ	Old Bridge	club web site
6819	Noel	Michael J.	MA	Boston	Foster, M & Lin, P
6820	Ellis III	Walter P.	NY	Latham	club web site
6821	Breslin	Robert	AL	Eufaula	club web site
6822	Thomas	Allen	AL	Moody	Rizzo, Pete
6823	Zywiczynski	Anthony J.	OH	Perrysburg	club web site
6824	Sage	Michael	NV	Carson City	Anderson, Allan
6825	Langman	Mark	CA	Moraga	
6826	Esmay	James R.	CA	Porterville	club web site
6826-A	Esmay	Pauline L.	CA	Porterville	club web site
6827	Bartnowski	Ed	CA	Sebastopol	former member
6829	Der Sarkissian	Ara	CA	Los Angeles	club web site
6830	Viner	Wesley	CO	Thornton	Bracken, DP
6832	Miller	Tim	IN	Auburn	club web site
6833	Johnston	Deborah	CA	Oakland	Rizzo, Pete
6834	Lynch	Tammy	UT	Hurricane	Rizzo, Pete
6835	Tortorello	Joseph	CA	Costa Mesa	club web site
6836	Soule	Ryan	CA	Sierra Madre	club web site
6837	Mitchell	Sandy	OK	Tulsa	
6838	Maryniak	Thomas	MD	Gaithersburg	club web site
6839	Miller	Sonny	KY	Fort Thomas	Miller III, William

## Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominations for the 2005 - 2007 Officers and Board of Directors of the CCGT&CC have all been submitted and tallied, and the only valid nominations were cast for the re-election of the current Officers / Board of Directors. There were a few individual nominations, but our rules require two nominations for any position in order for it to be valid.

Therefore, there is no need to hold an expensive and time consuming election process. No ballots will go out in the mail. At the business meeting in August, we, the nominating committee, will ask for a motion directing the Secretary to cast one ballot in favor of the entire slate.

The Officers and Board of Directors for 2005 - 2007 are:

President – Michael Skelton

Vice – President -- Wayne Thompson

Treasurer – Mike Quinlivan

Secretary – Belinda Hixon

Membership – Ralph Myers

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey  
2005 Nominating Committee Co-Chairpersons

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey  
bmmassey2@cox.net



# Secretary's Report



**Belinda Hixon**

The following members have achieved Ten Year Member status in the last quarter. Congratulations!

Joe Polette	Ruth Hepner	Claire Toten	Robert Ginsburg
Frank Caccavone	Clem Osheaski	Chris Colangelo	Charles Ingersoll
Gary Butterworth	Larry Markman	Susan S. Wells	Thomas McGrath
Frank Carella	Edward Piscina	Karen Racutt	Ray Fenstermacher
Tony Monfalcone	Asher Thompson	Dan Howard	Pat Lamb
David Sarles	David Del Rossi	John Montrony	John Fletcher
Joseph Levi	Edward Shute	Tree Shields	George Van Trump
James Kelly	Moe Lago	Tod Abate	Robert Lada

New Ten Year Member pins are being produced and will be sent when the Club receives them.

The Board will be holding its Winter meeting on February 1st. A full report of the meeting will be in the next issue of the magazine.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Hixon  
Secretary

## A Special Thank You

To all the club members who took time to advertise in this publication in the year 2004 - Thank You!

When you answer any ad in this publication please let the advertiser know where you read their ad.

Take part in your club by advertising in this publication. It's easy. Ad rates are on page 3 and if you need any help, contact me at [advertising@ccgtcc.com](mailto:advertising@ccgtcc.com).

Join your friends and help the club. **Advertise now.**





# Harvey J. Fuller

1919-2004

by Howard W. Herz

Harvey J. Fuller - a member of the CCGTCC Hall of Fame died December 28, 2004 . At the time of his passing, Harvey was living with his nephew Woodrow Wilson in Antioch, California. His passing has saddened many who knew him, but he leaves a legacy of historical research that will continue to be recognized in the years to come. For those who collect gaming checks and tokens, Harvey J. Fuller's research has influenced our hobby in many ways that are both subtle and direct.

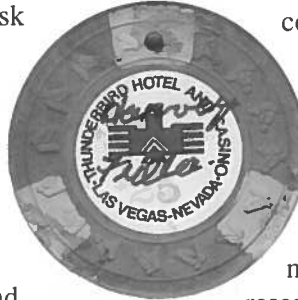
Harvey J. Fuller was raised and educated in Southern California. His original ambition was to be a rancher, but without financing in the 1930's depression he declined to become a ranch hand. Harvey had a chance to go to college and majored in speech with the intention of becoming a radio announcer. Before he could begin an announcing career, World War II interrupted and he joined the army air corps.

After returning from the war, Harvey joined the Los Angeles police department. From 1946 until his retirement in 1977, he served on the police force gaining a respect for, and the knowledge of a good investigator.

Where to go and what to ask became second nature to Harvey.

As a child he collected street car transfers, a hobby that illustrated his nature as a collector. His intellect pushed him beyond just accumulating collections and he thrived on discovering what was behind the things he collected. During a vacation to the Lake Tahoe area, Harvey and his wife Eleanor visited Harvey's Resort Hotel. While standing in line at the coffee shop they noted a display of a collection of gaming tokens owned by the casino. Eleanor had several tokens in her purse that were not redeemable and on the spot, Harvey Fuller began collecting gaming tokens.

As his pursuit of gaming tokens and later gaming chips continued Fuller found that there was a lack of information on where they came from or anything about the clubs that produced them. His natural instincts as a



collector and his training as an investigator drove him to find the information that was lacking. Initially beginning with Nevada casinos that issued tokens he had accumulated, he expanded his research in 1970 to finding information on all Nevada clubs that had live gaming.

In a chance encounter at the Senator Hotel in Reno, Harvey Fuller met Howard Herz, curator of the collection kept by Harvey's Resort Hotel that had sparked Fuller's initial interest. After a continuing correspondence concerning the casinos of the south shore of Tahoe, Harvey's Resort Hotel's curator asked Mr. Fuller to complete a study of the Lake Tahoe casinos. This initial research request eventually evolved into a project to document the casinos of Nevada from their legalization in 1931 to 1981, the 50th anniversary of Nevada gaming.

Working directly for Harvey's

Resort Hotel under the direction of their numismatic collections curator, Fuller set out to document every Nevada gaming establishment that had live table games. Spending vacations in Las Vegas most of the year and venturing into northern Nevada during the warmer summers,



Harvey Fuller and his wife Eleanor traveled most of Nevada's back roads. Besides seeking out the official license records, Fuller pursued much of the less official records that ranged from newspaper advertising to conversations with the local barbershop owners, bartenders and retired residents. Putting his experience from the LAPD to full use, Fuller would pursue interviews with dogged determination. He kept notes and would track down interviewees on his next trip if they had eluded him previously. For three weeks of each month Harvey and Eleanor would stay at the Todd Motel in Las Vegas and venture home for a week to pick up his pension check and check on his house.

As the Nevada gaming operations documentation project continued, Fuller's methods of note taking had to be revised. Fuller's preferred method for taking notes on the back of keno tickets had to be upgraded. For the sake of consistency and storage, Fuller transcribed his keno ticket notes to 8-1/2 x 11 sheets of binder paper. Harvey's notes rapidly expanded beyond his first binder and eventually evolved into a set of binders dedicated to each Nevada county.

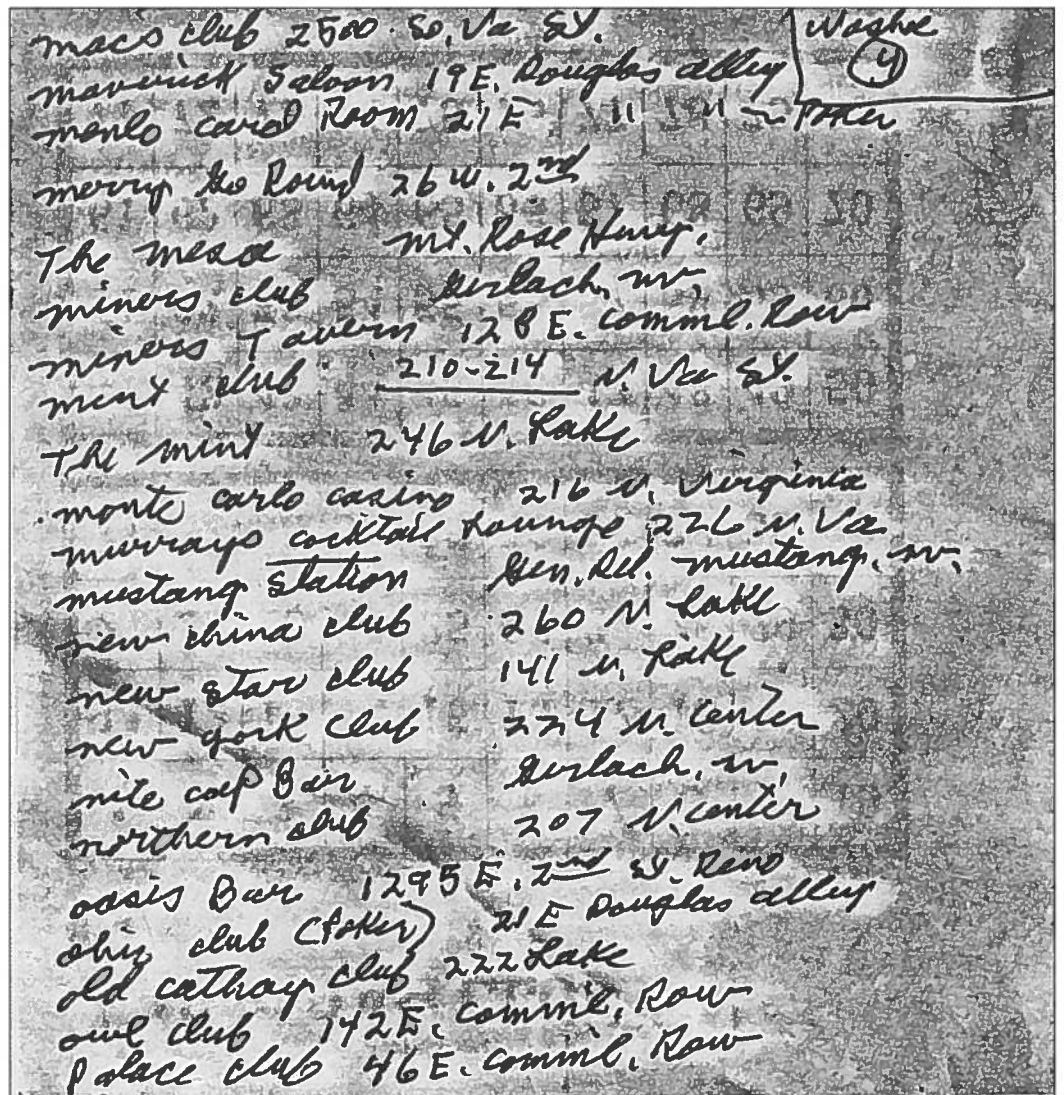
By the end of the documentation project, Fuller had documented around 2400 operations that would qualify as live gaming operations. Although Fuller's notes were exhaustive in their content, they were neither edited nor entered in chronological order. In many instances he had included multiple ownerships of a single club on a single page. In an effort to separate the different ownerships over time, the notes required careful review

to determine individual club ownership histories. Fuller's careful documentation provided most of the clues as to who and when multiple ownerships occurred, but separating them was a chore.

The initial editing of the notes resulted in the publication of Harvey J. Fuller's Index of Nevada Gambling Establishments - 1991. The line listing of the individual ownerships was edited from Fuller's notes and gave address, dates of operation, and notes on the games licensed. To date, this is the only publication from Fuller's extensive research. Fuller's Index has had a great impact on gaming collectors by giving them not only names and dates of operations, but

has provided the starting point for additional gaming history research.

In addition to Harvey Fuller's research, his personality left an impression on all those who knew him. His personal knowledge of gaming history in Nevada was encyclopedic and a short question to Harvey could unleash a history lecture. During the days of his research, Fuller would "park" Eleanor at her favorite slot machine in a casino and would then hit the streets looking for garage sales or seeking a person to be interviewed. He frequently would bring home a few chips gleaned from a swap meet wrapped in the cellophane of a used cigarette pack along with a note on the chips written on a



Harvey's notes on a Keno ticket

For H. H

June 1990  
NYE - Esmeralda Co's.  
Mineral Co.

6/1-3 Las Vegas

6/4/90 - left L.V. 11:00AM to Hwy 95,

at Lathrop Wells - state Hwy 373 drove 16 miles south to  
Stateline Saloon - no info. - still has 1-21 game. - 16 mi. back  
on to Beatty - made several interviews to find location of  
St. Peters Bar. - Glenn St. Peter, a bootlegger during  
prohibition went legit in 1931 - Already had gaming lic  
in 1931, obtained liquor lic. in 1933. - on Hwy 95,  
opp. Exchange Club - 3<sup>rd</sup> business on S. side st. ① Gas  
station, ② Beatty Club Bar ③ Pot shop. (Bobbie's Pot shop)  
this had been St. Peters Bar. Bobby Adrian, P.O. box 56  
Beatty, Nev. 89003.

On to Tonopah - 5:15 PM, Rm B - Silver Strike Motel.  
Silver Strike casino now has very good Basque food. <sup>Days mi.</sup> 230 mi.

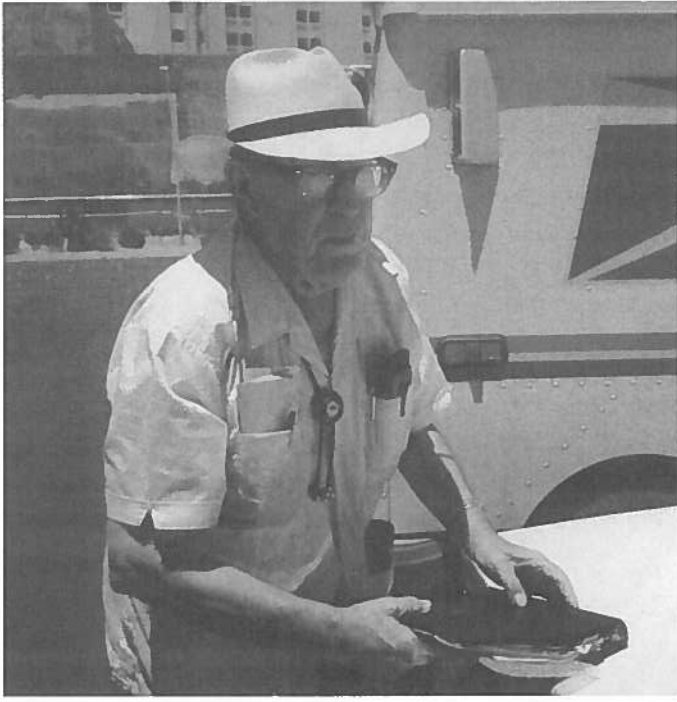
6/5/90 left Tonopah 11:00 AM. arrived Hawthorne 1 PM, <sup>made 4</sup> 100 miles  
checked for info at Mineral Co. Sheriff's office - no info -  
they referred me to Martha G. BARLOW in ~~sheriff's~~  
office - met in - try 6/7/90.

to newspaper office of "Independent News" and  
Editor Jack McCHASKEY gave me some info - &  
come back 6/7/90.

Days mileage 109.0

6/6/90 to newspaper MINERAL COUNTY INDEPENDENT &  
checked 2 books ① 2/29/40 thru 2/19/41 and  
② 2/26/41 thru 2/18/42.

6/7/90 interviewed Joe Jani - Joe's club. interviewed owner of  
the hog cabin bar.  
to newspaper office - checked papers 2/25/42 - Nov. 42.  
interviewed Pete Caletti of Hawthorne club



Harvey and his notes



Harvey Fuller and Carey Burke

keno ticket. His gaming history information always documented the source whether it was from the Las Vegas Review Journal or “Joe the barber” in the shop down the street from the El Capitan in Hawthorne.

The trunk of his car was a chip collector’s bazaar with bags marked for distribution to his friends and associates along with gaming memorabilia or other items for a friend in L.A.

Harvey Fuller treasured his friendships with other collectors. Carey Burke and Bill Watson were always mentioned in his conversations. Fellow LAPD officer Cliff Ruff was bitten by the collecting bug. He could also relate stories that he had heard from others that would give color and interest to the gaming operations and operators that he researched. His knowledge was wide ranging and his interests seem to be unlimited, but by a strange quirk of fate, he would become one of the earlier and most prolific historians of Nevada’s gambling operations.



Harvey always told me that he wanted to live until the Aztec calendar ended. I asked him why and he replied that he was just curious to know if the Aztecs knew something that we did not.

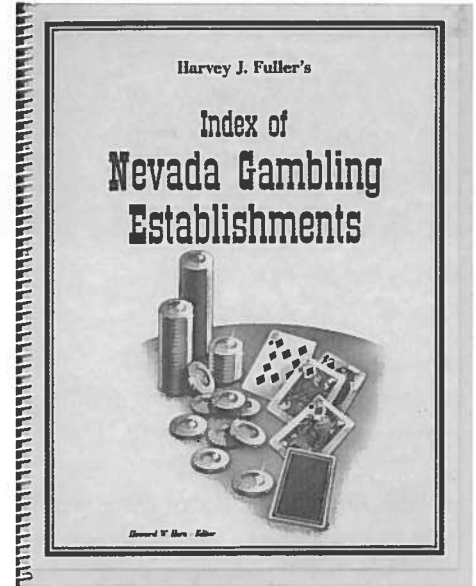
In 2004 Carey Burke in coordination with Woody and Loretta Wilson brought Harvey to the CC&GTCC convention. Dispite the infirmities of age, Fuller fully enjoyed meeting

many of the collectors who attended the show. It was an opportunity for many of them to meet a man they had heard of, a man who had somehow influenced the hobby and even their collecting. Harvey received a standing ovation from the crowd attending the auction sale. He was amazed to see the prices that chips were bringing and recalled that many were pieces that he had sold years before for a pittance compared to today's market.

The next generation of collectors will not have the privilege of knowing Harvey Fuller in person but the hobby will continue to benefit from his research and the knowledge he shared. Those of us who had the pleasure of his acquaintance will fondly recall his character and generosity. Our hobby will continue to be stronger from his fundamental contributions.



Dale Seymour, Phil Jensen, Howard Herz and Harvey Fuller



Janice O'Neal and Harvey Fuller



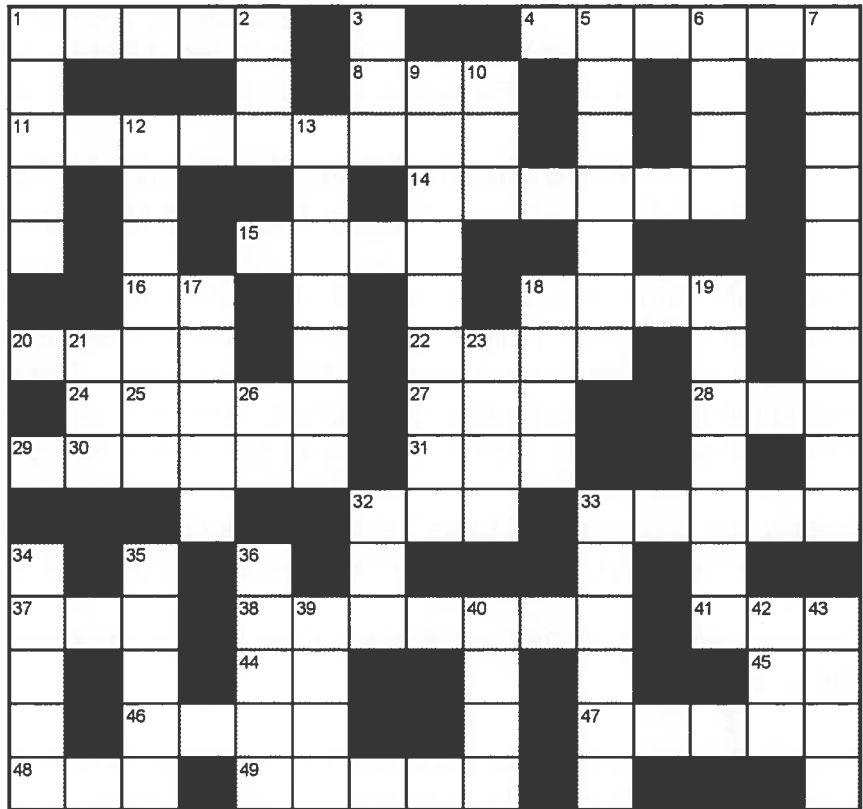
Ernie Wheelden, Allan Myers, Michael Knapp and Harvey Fuller

# Chip Trivia #1

by David Hench

## ACROSS

- 1 The Hard Rock commemorated this former Police man with a 2004 chip set
- 4 Family that owns The Palms and the Kings
- 8 What a knit is likely to do best
- 11 This band's lead singer sang the national anthem before Game 1 of the 2004 World Series (the band was also featured on a Hard Rock LE)
- 14 Poker game featured on WPT
- 15 In poker, a blind is kind of a live variation of this
- 16 Compass direction traveled to get from Beau Rivage to Harrah's St. Louis
- 18 A Palms chip featured this band's performance that coincided with Cinco de Mayo, 2002 (but were they pretty in it?)
- 20 Craps term for "cover" (or what sun light will make chips do)
- 22 Periodic table element (Fe) in Mike Tyson's nickname
- 24 What do chippers and music fans know Cornell Haynes by?
- 27 How do you pronounce a period in computerese?
- 28 Singular of "dice"
- 29 Who succeeded Black as CC&GTCC president?
- 31 Neon occurs in this form
- 32 Binion son whose death sparked two murderer trials
- 33 It can mean movie set items or house paid poker players
- 37 Term for at or near the stern of a riverboat
- 38 This president was pictured recently decked out in shades on a Hard Rock chip
- 41 Company that produced casino-preferred poker cards until recently selling out
- 44 If you can't ID a Nevada chip, as Yogi would say, "You can look it \_\_\_\_\_" (in TCR)
- 45 Call for eleven at craps table
- 46 The Palms released a CD-style set of chips for this band, led by tongue-wagging Gene Simmons
- 47 Brian Rouff's current novel set in Las Vegas, "Dice \_\_\_\_\_"
- 48 5th word Steven Tyler sang at performance in 11-across
- 49 Webster's defines it as a "pastime" activity



Answers on page 84

Cinch Puzzles

## DOWN

- 1 Ex-Beatle featured on a 2003 Hard Rock chip
- 2 Moe's pal, the two of whom took over the Fabulous Flamingo upon Siegel's death
- 3 Hit TV drama featured on a 2002 Palms chip
- 5 This Las Vegas hotel released Lynyrd Skynyrd chips in 2004
- 6 Hoops star who was recruited by UNLV, played at Rhode Island, then for Clippers and Lakers, Lamar \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 This LV casino released a Daryle Lamonica chip for the 2004 Super Bowl
- 9 She's the one who would walk across a fire to be on a Hard Rock chip
- 10 Townshend and Daltrey crew featured on a 2002 Hard Rock chip
- 12 Matt Damon played one in a 1998 poker flick
- 13 These ruled according to the Chinese calendar in 2004
- 17 Campiglia's co-author of "The Official U.S. Casino Chip Price Guide"
- 18 You try to win them in poker games, otherwise you cook in them
- 19 Pamela Anderson flame featured on recent Hard Rock chips
- 21 Acronym for American Numismatic Association
- 23 "One more for the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 26 It stands for "Limited Edition"
- 32 What is the denomination (in \$) of the Lady Luck's 1997 Derby chip?
- 33 This Derby winning jockey was featured on Bally's chips in '04
- 34 This LV hotel has featured Secretariat, Seattle Slew, and Funny Cide on chips
- 35 Homonym for Ruth Chris' specialty, actually a gamblers buy-in
- 36 The Fiesta Hotel bills itself as "The Official Royal \_\_\_\_\_ Capital of the World"
- 39 A blind person, \_\_\_\_\_ facto, can't view his collection
- 40 Black Sabbath metal rocker turned TV sitcom star featured on a 2003 Hard Rock chip
- 42 Third \_\_\_\_\_ Blind
- 43 Ewing, S-Crown, and HHR are each codes for this

# CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Terry Lazarus, R-2708  
P.O.Box 57...Dallastown, Pa. 17313...1-888-CHIPS-97  
E-mail: Pachipper@aol.com Web site: <http://cotob.net>

## Rare South Tahoe Nugget (Lake Tahoe) Complete 7-Chip Roulette Set For Sale

The South Tahoe Nugget was located at the intersection of Highway 50 and Kahle Drive. According to Harvey's Fuller's "*Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments*," it opened on July 4, 1965 and closed its doors forever on March 31, 1981. The games featured at the Nugget, in addition to slots, included blackjack, craps, keno and roulette. That same location later housed John's Tahoe Nugget (1983 to 1991) and Ed's Tahoe Nugget (1991 to 1993).

Among two of the largest Lake Tahoe collections and what may well be the largest roulette collection in the world, none of the three included a complete set of these chips.

They are listed as N6387 to N6393 in Chip Rack #10. Each individual chip is valued at \$30 to \$39.

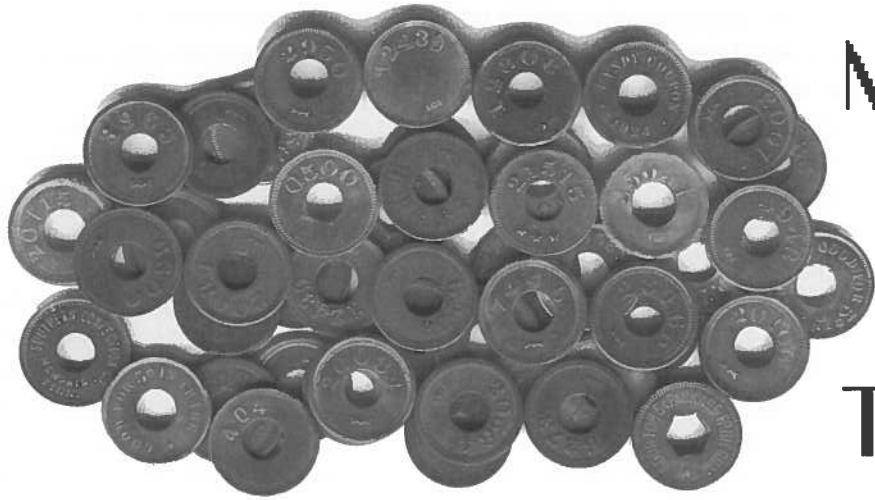
Here is your opportunity to purchase the entire set for only \$169 (+ \$3 P&H, \$172 total). This is more than \$40 below the "low-end" of the Chip-Rack value estimate.

As always, earliest orders will receive the chips in the best condition. In general, however, these chips are in excellent condition.



To place your order, please send me an e-mail at [pachipper@aol.com](mailto:pachipper@aol.com) or call me toll-free at 1-888-CHIPS-97 (1-888-244-7797).





# Mysteries of the Numbered Tokens

by Vince Mowery

Why did so many thousands of tokens with numbers appear during the first half of the last century? We know that these tokens were used in slot machines, but little else. Why display numbers of one to five digits on these tokens? What did the numbers mean, signify or identify? We have only theories or conjectures, but no conclusive confirmations. We need records and evidence to answer many questions.




Most of these numbered tokens are brass and nickel size (21 mm) - the dominant machine denomination during that time period. The side opposite the numbers usually identified "value," such as "Good For 5¢ in trade," or something equivalent, or "Good For 5¢ Cigar," or "Good For Package of Mints," or similar euphemisms. Tokens with higher and lower stated values are much less common.

Many of these tokens have symbols, called ornaments, such as stars, dots, plus signs, different styles of bowties, etc. at the bottom of one or

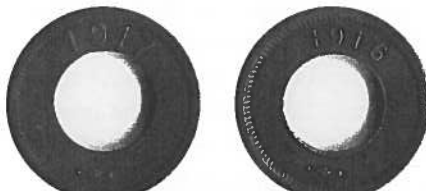
both sides. What, if anything, did these ornaments signify? Were they part of a signature or code used to help identify them?




Many nickel size tokens of this time period have center holes, as shown. But the reason for these holes is no mystery. They allowed the slot machine mechanism to easily identify tokens and shunt them to the payout chute, while allowing solid nickels to drop into a cash box. It was probably anticipated that the customer would replay the paid out tokens; and, of course, the saved cash contributed to the machine's profit. Also, tokens with less metal could have been cheaper. But the initial reason for put-




Same number, different ornament treatment



Consecutive numbers, large holes



Why start a number with a zero?



Why would anyone use this number?  
Small hole.

ting holes in the tokens was to satisfy local regulations that prohibited pay-out in cash.

Could it have been the growing widespread anti-gambling sentiments that contributed to the use of numbered tokens in so many places? It has been conjectured that numbers were used in place of names and addresses when and where gambling was declared illegal. However, we have chips, dice, etc, from illegal clubs, during this time period, that display names and even locations. But we know of no slot tokens from these clubs similarly identified. Why this dichotomy? Is it possible these illegal clubs used numbered tokens - possibly because that's what was expected at that time? Or, quite likely, these clubs felt no need to use tokens. US coins would be good enough.

Times were turbulent. Did organized crime use numbered tokens in their slot operations? On February 24, 1934, New York City police raided offices of the Tru-Mint Vending Company (a front for mobster Frank Costello) and confiscated 10,000 tokens; and a raid also picked up another 20,000 tokens at the headquarters of Frank's brother. ("Slot Machines," Marshall Fey, 4th ed., page 137). Were any of the many thousands of tokens seized in New York City and elsewhere, during anti-gambling periods, identified by numbers? Do records exist detailing what was confiscated?

But mob-run gambling operations did not have a monopoly on slot machines. During the days of nickel cigars and five-cent beers, a slot machine (sometimes called a trade stimulator) frequently sat on the counter of ubiquitous cigar stores, and on many bars above a spittoon. And

later, the machines migrated to other locations. I recall, as a kid, playing a nickel machine behind a panel in a wall opposite a pool table in the back room of a confectionary store in Pennsylvania, and when my mother-in-law won a jackpot on a lone machine in the lobby of a hotel on the eastern shore of Maryland.

When proprietors used slot tokens, it is quite likely they wanted to avoid redeeming tokens from other locations (called foreign tokens). This meant they needed to be able to identify their own tokens. A simple and inexpensive way to do this would be with numbers. So, one conjecture is that the numbers represented locations or particular users. Another theory is that numbers identified serial numbers of particular machines.

Just as with recent slot operations, when foreign tokens were found in machines, they would be given to exchange companies who, for a fee, would return them to the original sources. It has been conjectured that the numbers were code numbers, particularly those with five digits, ("Numbered Amusement Tokens," Stephen P. Alpert, Don French, Kenneth E. Smith, TAMS Journal, August 1976, pp. 125-130) and attempts were made to decode them; but results were inconclusive. Exchange companies either had the means for translation, or used location identifications supplied by token manufacturers. Unfortunately, records from these early exchange companies are not available. This should be no surprise. A few years ago, I visited a local token exchange company, looking possibly for some good tokens before they were returned. I only got to speak to a head in a peep-hole in a door inside a small alcove. Later, another exchange company offered me well-worn tokens no

longer redeemable at closed casinos. And unlike some chip manufacturers, detailed records of early gaming tokens are unknown (at least to me). This also should not be surprising, considering the many legal issues during that time.

Another possibility is that the numbers are simply invoice numbers on token salesman's order forms. This would explain consecutive numbers or numbers close together found in some parts of the country. Or perhaps the numbers were simply assigned by the token manufacturer as orders were received. There is some speculation that some numbered token were used as counters, chips, checks, whatever on table games, and moved among locations. This could explain why some numbers have been found in different areas.

To confound the mysteries, tokens with the number 35054, as displayed at the beginning of this article, have been found in many parts of the country. To explain this, it is theorized that this was just an inexpensive generic token, possibly used as a temporary token until the specific orders could be filled. Or one could postulate that these tokens belonged to an organized crime syndicate. Large quantities were found in the Saint Paul, Minnesota area.

So, many mysteries remain, and these tokens remain mavericks. We need records and hard evidence to clarify what happened during this period in the history of gambling. Contributions welcome, [bvinlv@aol.com](mailto:bvinlv@aol.com).



## 10 Years of Gaming, Centuries of History

by Sunday Silverman

In April of this year, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians will celebrate ten years of gaming in downtown Palm Springs, California. A tribal venture that began as a small poker room with a handful of blackjack tables has blossomed into two casinos, the Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, the only tribe in the State of California with two casinos.

Gaming has been very profitable for tribal members, who are collectively the members of the Agua Caliente Development Authority, owners of the Spa Hotel, the Spa Resort Casino, the Agua Caliente Casino and the former Canyon Country Club, Canyon Hotel & Conference Center and the 18 hole South Canyon Golf Course which has been refurbished and recently

reopened to the public. Situated on approximately 530 acres, there are plans to renovate the resort and complete approximately 500 residential and condominium units.

But tribal history goes back several centuries. The name Cahuilla (pronounced co-we-ha) is derived from the concept of 'master' or 'powerful ones', a people whose physical power has a counterpart of deep inner strength. Cahuillas believe nature in all of its forms is connected into a single harmonious whole, where man is not master of the universe, but part of its cooperative design. They are protective of the earth being careful to not allow destruction of plants, animals and resources.

The Agua Caliente discovered the hidden medicinal wonders of the area which is now known as Palm Springs.

Centuries before any European settlers entered California, the Cahuillas inhabited the west end of the Coachella Valley from Mount San Gorgonio to Borrego Springs and from the San Jacinto plains to the Orocopia Mountains. They treasured the 'agua caliente', the healing hot water springs for which they are named and learned to use the vegetation for food, medicine and building materials. The Cahuilla name for the area was 'Se-Khi' (boiling water) which was changed to Agua Caliente by the Spanish. The official U.S. government name later became Palm Springs.

Communities were developed in Palm, Murray, Andreas, Tahquitz and Chino Canyons where the tribe found food and materials for producing clothing, housing, weapons and weaving intricate baskets. The canyons

were a source of shade, cool breezes and a ready supply of fresh water from streams that ran year round. A network of trails created access between the mountains and the desert and also connected them with other cultures from the Pacific Ocean to Arizona and from Mexico to the Central Valley of California. Palm Canyon is fifteen miles long and contains the world's largest fan palm oasis. Palm, Andreas and Murray Canyons are listed in the National Register of Historic Places for their historical and biotic values and are open to the public from September through May for hiking and picnicking. Tahquitz Canyon can be seen by obtaining a special permit. Tahquitz Falls pours across sheer granite in a breathtaking 60 foot drop. You may remember seeing these falls in the movie 'Lost Horizon'. Tahquitz and Andreas Canyons contain the oldest Cahuilla villages in the area.

The Cahuillas belong to the Shoshonean division of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family. Other tribes in this group are the Aztecs, Hopi, Papago, Pima, Ute, Serrano, Cupeno and Gabrieleno. Recent research has shown that Indians occupied the area between 350 and 500 years ago. The Tahquitz alluvial fan and the area surrounding the nearby hot springs was home to the Kawasic Band. The Painakic Band lived in Andreas and Murray Canyons, the Wanikik Clan lived in Snowcreek and Whitewater Canyons. Palm Canyon was occupied by another clan, but for unknown reasons, its identity has been lost. All of these Indians were living in the area during the time that the Agua Caliente Reservation was first established on May 15, 1876 by executive order of President U.S. Grant. At the same time the government deeded 10 miles of odd sections of land to Southern California Railroad to induce them to build a track through the area. 6700 acres lie within the city limits of Palm



Spa Casino interior

Springs with the remaining sections fanning out across the desert and mountains in a checkerboard pattern. Other sections were added to the reservation on September 29, 1877 and February 2, 1907. On January 12, 1891, Congress passed the Mission Indian Relief Act which authorized allotments to individual tribe members from the acreage that comprised the reservation in Palm Springs. Almost 60 years passed before Public Law 339 equalized the property values of the allottees and set up long term leasing for up to 99 years for many tribes, finalizing the allotments and designating certain lands for tribal use and cemeteries.

The tribes of the area were very isolated and were fortunate to be spared from the barbarous lifestyle of the early Spanish and Mexican periods. The first recorded contact with 'civilization' is in the baptismal records of San Gabriel noting that Indians in the area were baptized as early as 1809. The diary of Brevet Captain Jose Romero notes the day before his expeditions arrival in the area on December 28, 1823 that there would be no water or pasture for the horses until Agua Caliente was

reached. This statement implies that although he was on an exploration to find overland routes from Sonora to California for the Mexican government, he was aware of the existence of the hot springs beforehand and it was not to be a new discovery. The diarist, Lt. Jose Estudillo wrote that upon the return of the expedition in 1824 to a spot known as Los Vernitos (Little Springs) that the soldiers were impressed at the sight of corn, pumpkins, melons and other summer crops being grown in mid winter.

Cahuilla villages were occupied year round, with one or more people venturing out when it became necessary to hunt, gather plants for various reasons or to visit or trade with other tribes. At harvest time, 50% to 65% of the tribe left the villages to assist in gathering crops and would move to a collecting area for up to several weeks. Crops in the area were irrigated by water from nearby streams by rock lined ditches from Tahquitz, Andreas and Chino Creeks and are still visible in undeveloped areas. Old letters on file with the Bureau of Indian Affairs written in the mid-1880's contain remembrances of elderly Indians whose parents worked on

these ditches when they were very young.

Women were responsible for gathering plants that were used for food such as acorns, mesquite beans, seeds, wild fruit, agave and yucca. Mesquite beans, pinion nuts, acorns and the dates of the native palms were ground into meal and prepared as a cake or mush which was a large part of their diet. After gathering these commodities were stored in baskets and earthen pots for later use. The women were also the creators of the intricate baskets and pottery. Many grinding stones can still be found in areas where food was prepared.

Men hunted wild game needed for food and clothing and used bows and arrows, nets and throwing sticks to capture wild game such as deer, quail, other small animals and reptiles. The agave cactus was a source of food, but the fiber was also used in making slings, nets and sandals. It was also their needle and thread.

Cahuilla villages contained housing that was big enough for extended families. The early ones were circular, brush shelters built over a scooped out hollow and built up with boulders. After being exposed to Mexican influence, the houses were more rectangular and had walls plastered with mud or adobe and thatched roofs. Villages usually had 100 to 200 inhabitants each and were connected politically and territorially in units with other villages in groups called a triblet or sib. Each sib was divided into lineages which consisted of both nuclear and extended families. Cahuilla society was divided into two groups or moieties known as Wildcat and Coyote.

The Tribe's bylaws and constitution were adopted in 1952 by a majority vote of the Indian people and officially approved by the

Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and later amended several times. The document established the governing body of the Tribe. It also established the jurisdictional boundaries of the reservation as set aside by President U.S. Hayes in 1877 and regulates membership, the powers of the tribal council, inherent powers, meetings, adoptions, amendments and the repeal process of the document.

In 1977 the Tribe voted to change the name to read 'Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' because the Tribe did not have any contact with the missionaries that brought so many Indians to California from Mexico and were mainly confined to the coast. 'Cahuilla' is a linguistic group. The Tribe has a 'government to government' relationship with the United States government. As a federally recognized 'Tribe' and sovereign tribal entity, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has governmental authority over its reservation land and people. The constitution and by-laws outline a two-tiered democratic tribal government structure, the tribal membership and elected tribal council. The tribal council is comprised of five elected positions and four proxy members. The elected members are chosen by secret absentee ballot and the four proxy members are then appointed by the elected council members.

Economic development began in earnest in 1992 with the purchase of the Spa Hotel, which replaced the Old Bath House' and 'Hot Mineral Springs'. The Tribe employs a Director of Planning & Development and a Planning Department. The Tribe has also formed an Indian Planning Commission, which is made up of a cross-section of tribal members and community members who meet on a regular basis to lend their expertise. The Tribe is committed to only the



best use of Indian Trust Land which they believe will only occur through sound planning and fair and equal zoning.

In 1989, the Tribe formed the Agua Caliente Development Authority (ACDA), once again

involving a cross-section of Tribal Members and community members who can lend their expertise to this organization. The ACDA is an Economic Development Subsidiary of the Tribe established to increase Tribal assets, which will benefit all Tribal members.

To increase more awareness of the Indian people in the community, the Tribe formed the Interpretive Center Committee in 1989. This committee is now called the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Committee and is in the process of establishing just that--an Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in one of the Tribal reserves, Indian Canyons. The museum would promote the history, culture and traditions of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Education has always played an important part within the Tribe, and through the Tribal Constitution and Bylaws, a portion of Tribal funds have been set aside for that purpose. Since more Tribal members have become interested in higher education, a Scholarship Commission was formed for funding members who wanted to increase their education (academic and/or vocational schools). An in-house management training program at the Spa Resort Casino trains Tribal members in various departments. At the conclusion of the course, candidates



can choose to work in the department for which their talents are best suited.

The Tribe employs over 2000 members of the surrounding community at the Spa Hotel, Spa Resort Casino, Agua Caliente Casino, Indian Canyons, Cultural Museum and Tribal offices. They are active in community events and have contributed to local charities to the tune of over \$8 million dollars over the years. The Tribe was also instrumental in promoting the unsuccessful Proposition 70 in the recent California election which would have allowed tribes to have unlimited numbers of slot machines as opposed to the 2000 per tribe limit currently in force in exchange for paying the state 8 1/2 percent tax on gross revenues, the same as any other business in California. The Tribe's economic growth philosophy is simple: Their prosperity is linked directly to Palm

Springs' prosperity. What benefits one benefits the other.

The Spa Hotel, 100 N. Indian Canyon Dr. Palm Springs, CA house 221 rooms, luxury spa facilities, outdoor pools and hot tubs, a brand new 7000 sq. foot health club, meeting facilities in various sizes and dining at the Agua Bar & Grill.

The New Spa Resort Casino, 401 E. Amado Rd. Palm Springs, CA opened in November 2002 with 1000 slot machines and 32 table games. The Platinum Room provides privacy for high limit slot and table players. Restaurants include The Stage Deli, Oasis Buffet, Noodle Bar and Roppongi (asian fusion). Sports can be viewed in the Sundance Lounge and the Cascade Lounge provides live entertainment on weekends.

Agua Caliente Casino, Bob Hope Drive & Ramon Road, Rancho Mirage, CA opened April 2001 with 1000 slot machines, 49 table games, 10 poker tables and bingo. Visit the Primrose Room for high limit action. You can dine at the Desert Eatery food court, Grand Palms Buffet, Mariskinos Restaurant & Bar or Prime 10 Steakhouse. The Cahuilla Showroom hosts big name acts as well as boxing. Canyons Lounge has Monday Night Football and entertainment nightly.

More information can be obtained on the Tribe's website [www.agua-caliente.org](http://www.agua-caliente.org)

# New Casino Chip and Token News Web Site

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# Casino Chip And Token News

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



Welcome to The Casino Chip and Token News magazine website. A quarterly publication of The Casino Chip and Token Collectors Club, Inc. On this site you will find featured stories from current and past issues of the magazine along with useful information on the hobby of casino collectibles.



volume 18 no. 1  
Mailing February 2005

The archives section will allow you to view many of the articles that have appeared in the magazine over the years. All of these articles are in pdf format. You can download the latest Acrobat Reader from the Adobe website.



**Preserving Gaming History**

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club was established to promote the hobby of casino chip collecting. Since those early days, members now collect just about anything that a casino has to offer. From chips, tokens, silver strikes, slot cards, room keys to cocktail napkins and swizzle sticks. Our annual convention in Las Vegas draws sellers and buyers from all over the world. There are also many shows throughout the year all over the country, sponsored by local clubs or club members.

For more information on the club, click on the link below.

[ccgtcc website](#)

Interested in submitting an article for publication? Send an e-mail to: [editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:editor@ccgtcc.com)  
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The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. is a member of The American Numismatic Association. For more information click on the link below.

[ANA website](#)

Are you new to the hobby? Would you like to learn more? Log on to [thechipboard.com](http://thechipboard.com) and join in discussions with fellow collectors.

[the chipboard](#)

created and maintained by [Allan Anderson](#)  
Updated January 12, 2004

[www.cctn.ccgtcc.com](http://www.cctn.ccgtcc.com)

The new Casino Chip and Token News website, when complete, will offer color articles from past issues in pdf format, links to educational, informational and collectors websites and much more.

For more information send an email to [editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:editor@ccgtcc.com) or check the website often. We will be adding articles from the Fall issue of 2000 through the current issue.

We hope you enjoy the site. Any comments or suggestions are welcome.



by Allan Anderson

Just north of the University of Nevada in Reno on North Virginia Street sits one of Reno's best kept secrets, The Bonanza Casino.

In 1973 the Bonanza Casino was licensed for 30 slots. Lou Benetti Jr. and Don Baldwin owned 50 percent of the casino which opened in September 1973. In 1974 Robert McDonald and Robert Douglass each bought a third of the casino. In 1975 Russ Sheltra obtained 25 percent of the property and in 1977 the Bonanza Casino was approved for blackjack with an initial 6 tables. There are currently 8 table games. In 1980 Pat Brady obtained 2 percent of the casino from Russ Sheltra and Robert McDonald.

The Bonanza Casino has gone through two major expansions. One in 1989 and another one which was completed in 1996.

The Bonanza Casino has approximately 450 slot machines on the casino floor, ranging in denomination from 1¢ to \$5 including over 65

Penny slot machines with all of the newest and most popular themes. The casino also offers \$100,000 dollar Keno, Million Dollar Ticket and a Cal-Neva Sportbook. The Bonanza Casino is one of only three Northern Nevada casinos to offer Nevada Numbers. Catch five of five numbers with a \$2 bet and you'll win a \$5 million progressive jackpot! The numbers are drawn nightly at 6 p.m. The Bonanza Casino remains the *only* casino that offers \$1 single deck blackjack, 25¢ roulette and 25¢ craps.

The Bonanza Restaurants offer a variety of food for everyone's tastes. The Branding Iron is open 24 hours and offers a variety of menu specialties including American, Italian, Mexican and Seafood favorites as well as daily specials. A popular part of the Branding Iron is the daily buffet.

Cactus Creek offers a large selection of Southwestern specialties as well as seafood, steak and ribs. All of the dishes are prepared daily with only the freshest ingredients. Top the evening off with one of their deca-







dent desserts made by award winning pastry chefs. The wine selections rivals any restaurant in the area with the lowest prices of any casino in the Reno area.

The casino has recently unveiled its new guest loyalty rewards program.

Dubbed “Fort Cavalry”, the program takes a different spin on levels of play. Rather than the traditional “silver, gold, diamond” plateaus, Fort Reno Cavalry rankings are taken from military characters from the old west. All new enlistees will hold the rank of Private, with promotions to Captain, Colonel and General awarded based on play. The higher the rank, the greater the rewards.

The Bonanza Casino’s guest loyalty program is unique to Northern Nevada as it is the only casino to offer rewards wherever money is spent within the casino, not just gaming. Guests who frequent the Cactus Creek Southwestern Steakhouse, Branding Iron Cafe, casino bars or the property’s gift shop will earn merit points for purchases. Slots, keno, craps, roulette and black jack players will also earn merit points, which in turn can be used for discounts for



Craps Table



purchases. The rewards will also include invitations to local events, concerts, athletic events and much more.

Photos courtesy Bonanza Casino  
Chip scans courtesy Larry Hollibaugh



The Pit



# The Chip Collection

at



by Allan Anderson

Walk into the recently renovated buffet at Baldini's Sports Casino in Sparks and the first thing you see is walls of framed chips. This incredible collection was purchased by Donald W. Baldwin from Roger Maxwell. There is more to this collection than meets the eye and hopefully in the future more walls will be adorned with more chips.

Baldini's is Northern Nevada's Specialist in Sports Entertainment! Located a 1/2 mile south of I-80 on Rock Blvd. in Sparks. Baldini's features exceptional dining and big-time gaming.



# Knapp on Books

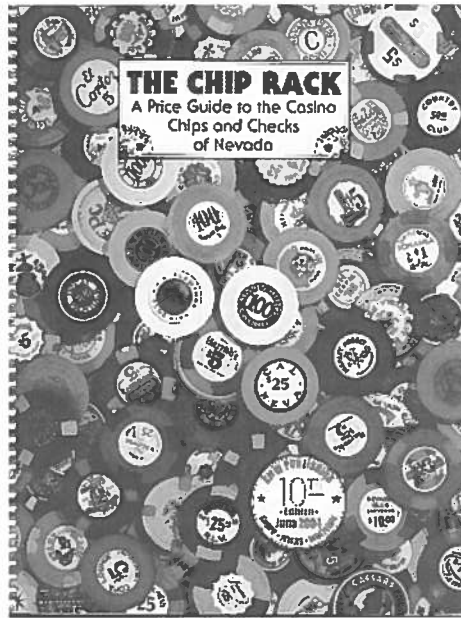
by Michael Knapp

Your faithful reviewer is back, mostly unpacked, with another book review column for Casino Chip and Token News. I'll try to review all books as they are published, and will fill in with books published some time ago, but which are still available from their authors or in bookstores.

I have to have books in order to review them, so if you're an author, let me know by sending me an e-mail at ChipProf@aol.com to arrange for a review copy. For readers of the column, if there are books you'd like to see reviewed in this column, please also drop me a note and I'll be glad to try to accommodate your request.

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions. This time, a further disclaimer is necessary. The Chip Rack, 10th Edition, is reviewed here. I am one of the co-authors of the book, and my review should be considered in that light.

It is not uncommon to hear the criticism that the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club, and Casino Chip and Token News, are "too chip-oriented"; that there is little or nothing about casino tokens and too much about chips. This column includes two more books about tokens. Along with Nevada Silver Strikes, by Anderson, and A List of the World's Gaming Tokens by Donley, that makes four books especially for tokeneers! There's certainly enough reference material for token collectors if they want to take the time to read it – and like chip collectors, they should!



## The Chip Rack, 10th Edition, (2004)

by Allan Myers, Michael Knapp and Ernest Wheelden

First published in 1993, The Chip Rack is now considered by many to be the principal guide to Nevada casino chips and their values. It is not only the most complete catalog of Nevada chips, it is the only catalog that assigns a unique and permanent catalog number to every chip listed. TCR numbers have become the standard method of referring to Nevada casino chips within the hobby. The 10th edition of TCR was published in two volumes, because the sheer number of chips that are fully described in detail had grown to such an extent that binding was not available to contain all 613 pages in one volume.

Those familiar with The Chip Rack know its contents well: a detailed Introduction that includes a discussion of what makes chips valuable, and how and why values

change; new issues facing the hobby; and a complete glossary of terms, abbreviations and details used in TCR's description of the chips listed. The main body of listings follows, and Part I concludes with the informational notes that explain some of the chips described.

Each chip is described by location, casino, address, opening and closing dates, color, mold design, edge inserts, inlay (or hotstamp), the color of the denomination that appears on the chip, a description of the center inlay, whether a logo is found on either or both sides of the chip, the approximate date of issue of the chip, and in many cases the number of chips issued. In addition, the condition of the chip as valued in this edition of the book is shown, along with the value the authors believe represents the fair market value of each chip.

The Chip Rack is the only Nevada casino chip guide published by chip collectors rather than dealers, and the values shown in the book attempt to reflect actual fair market value based on actual sales.

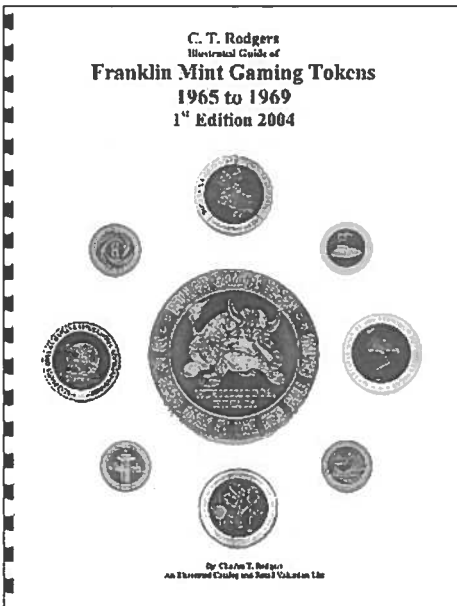
Part II contains the pictorial section that allows the collector to identify similar chips (large vs. small print, for example); the cross-reference section that lists all chips by their number and shows the casino that issued the chip; a mold reference section indicating which molds were used by each casino in Nevada; and a statistical section that contains a summary of the chips listed in the catalog.

New for the 10th edition is a chip value history in Part II. At a glance,

the collector can tell how the value of a particular chip has progressed over the last seven editions of TCR – that is, back to 1996!

More than 20,000 Nevada chips are fully described, cataloged, and valued. No other Nevada chip guide comes close to that number, and no other guide is as current as TCR10. In addition, the 10th edition incorporates for the first time the official CC&GTCC grade and condition standards.

The Chip Rack is available from most chip dealers, and at Gamblers General Store in Las Vegas.



Now on to tokens, as promised: **Illustrated Guide of Franklin Mint Gaming Tokens 1965 to 1969** (2004), By C. T. Rodgers

C. T. Rodgers is an outstanding contribution to the field of Nevada token collecting.

Prior to 1965, the casino token did not exist. Casinos used U. S. coinage for slot machine play. When the U. S. Mint stopped minting silver dollars to preserve the nation's store of silver, collectors and precious metals dealers

began hoarding the old silver dollars, and casinos needed a substitute for their customers to feed into the machines!

Ultimately the Nevada casinos negotiated with the Nevada legislature and with the U. S. Congress for a grant of permission to mint their own silver-dollar-like coins for use only in the casinos. The casino token was born.

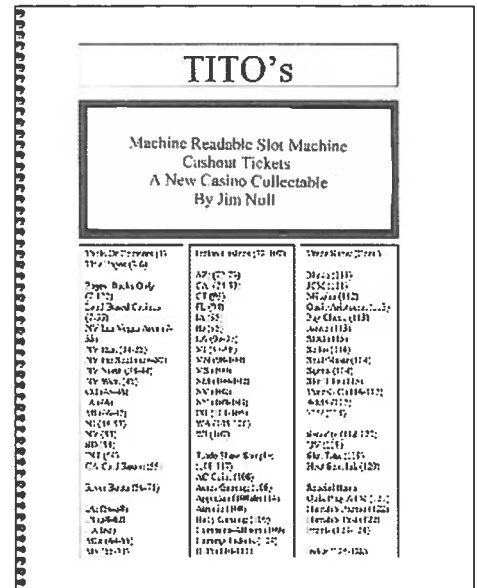
While there were a few mints that made early casino tokens, by far the majority were minted by the Franklin Mint. The intricacy of the Franklin Mint designs, the quality of the coinage, and the beauty of their tokens has not since been surpassed.

When the Eisenhower “silver” dollar went into circulation in 1971, the dollar casino token was no longer made. Until, that is, the ill-fated, smaller Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was issued by the U. S. government. By then, however, Franklin Mint was virtually out of the casino token business (I suspect because their product was significantly more expensive than tokens made by competitors), and the original Franklin Mint issues gradually disappeared from the casino scene.

C. T. Rodgers' book contains not only a complete listing of all Franklin Mint tokens, but color photos of the tokens, the issue numbers (Franklin Mint made not only the general casino issues, but sets of Proof and Proof-Like versions of all their tokens), and current market values for each token.

Throughout the 142-page book, C. T. has added photographs of the Franklin Mint books and cards containing the Proof and Proof-Like token versions, the casinos themselves, and other relevant historical and informational material. The book is not only a value guide and catalog to Franklin Mint issues, but a reference work as well.

The book can be obtained from C. T. Rodgers, or by e-mailing [ctcoins@aol.com](mailto:ctcoins@aol.com).



Sandwiched between reviews of token books, I'm going to insert a definitely “non-token” book: **Jim Noll's TITO's: Machine Readable Slot Machine Cashout Tickets – A New Casino Collectible** (2004) by Jim Noll

Periodically the death of the casino token is announced and funeral services are held (as has also been the case with fractional chips and dollar chips), but – to paraphrase Mark Twain – rumors of their death have been greatly exaggerated! It's clear, however, that there is now a viable alternative to casino tokens, and they're making significant inroads into the casino market.

Bill acceptors and TITO (Ticket In/Ticket Out) slips have, in a number of casinos, completely replaced the well-known casino token, change person, and rolls of quarters, nickels, dimes and half dollars. In his Introduction, Noll says that more than half of US slot machines have been upgraded to use TITO technology!

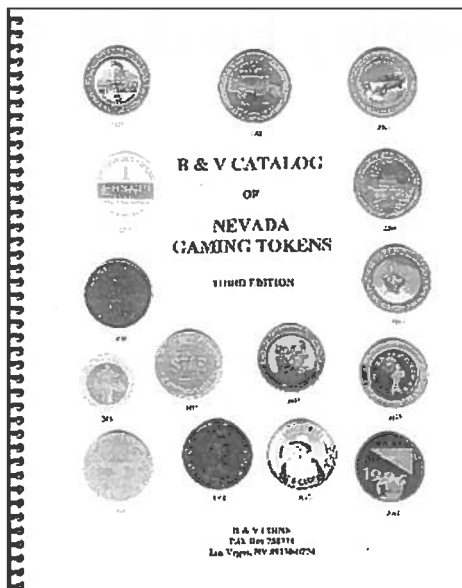
Jim hasn't limited his 128-page book

to Nevada tickets. Tribal casinos, riverboats, Atlantic City, and even trade show sample tickets have also been included.

Five to a page, Noll shows a color photograph of the ticket, listed by the casino that issued it, and briefly describes the ticket in code which is easily expandable for new tickets as they appear. Rather than attempting to assign a market value to each ticket, Jim has shown a rarity scale from one to five, so that relative values will be easy to determine.

As TITO tickets become more prevalent, and the designs become more intricate and money-like, this area of collecting is likely to become far larger. Noll's book is the only reference work of its kind, and will undoubtedly be of value to collectors of TITOs.

Copies can be obtained by contacting Jim by e-mail at [jenca@pacbell.net](mailto:jenca@pacbell.net).



And now back to tokens! Bettye and Vince Mowery have published the **B & V Catalog of Nevada Gaming Tokens, Third Edition** (2004) by Bettye and Vince Mowery

Unlike the other token books reviewed in this column, the Mowery catalog is actually a price list. The Mowerys have many of the listed tokens for sale, and the prices shown are prices, not value guides.

The 175-page book is of particular interest because it lists not only casino tokens, but those used in bars, supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants and drug stores – virtually any establishment that has slot machines.

Descriptive notes are included for all tokens, along with date of issue, the mint which produced the tokens, and condition notations. The Introduction indicates how the catalog's condition descriptions can be converted to Official CC&GTCC Grade and Condition Descriptions.

Some black and white photos of tokens appear, but unfortunately I found some of them a bit difficult to read, while others are quite clear. Silver strikes are not included in this catalog.

The B & V Catalog can be obtained by contacting the Mowerys by e-mail at [bvinlv@aol.com](mailto:bvinlv@aol.com).

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# The CC&GTCC 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 9th, 2004, CC&GTCC 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&GTCC 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&GTCC  
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&GTCC 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&GTCC 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&GTCC Convention . There were only 100 made.



The price is \$20 each.

The room key below was made for 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.

## Vision & Feasibility Committee Report of June 16, 2004 Meeting

The initial meeting of the V&F Committee was convened by Chairman Jim Pierre on Wednesday, June 16th, 2004 in the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas. The members of the committee are Bill Judge, Jim Kruse, Tyrus Mulkey, Jim Pierre, Nate Pincus, Mike Quinlivan, Eric Rosenblum, Mike Skelton, Wayne Thompson & Chuck Tomarchio. All members were present.

This committee is charged with:

1. Developing a vision for using the proceeds from the Building Fund (this would include, but not be limited to, whether we lease, buy or acquire space from a corporate donor, whether the space would serve as a club office, museum, store, and/or storage for donated items and other club property);

2. Evaluating the feasibility of obtaining that vision (estimation of acquisition and projected operational costs and possible income sources). In order to establish a baseline for the committee, each member was asked to state his personal vision of the future building. A consensus of opinions showed that, ideally, the new building would provide:

- a. Library Space to store & exhibit the Club's growing reference library;

- b.. Museum Space to store and exhibit the Club's collection of casino memorabilia. This would allow the Club to accept tax free (as a result of it's 501(c)(3) status) donations of individual items and collections & show loaned collections;

- c. Storage Space for the clubs display cases, promotional items and records;

- d. Meeting Space for small groups such as the Executive Board, Committees, etc;

- e. Retail Space to sell Club promotional items and duplications from the Club's collection. (It was underscored that the Club does not want to go into competition with it's dealer members, but that some form of income would be required to off-set the operational costs of the facility. The details of the retail function were not resolved.)

- f. Location would be in the Las Vegas, Nevada, area. It was also agreed the "ideal" would be far too expensive to undertake in the near future, and that a phased approach needed to be undertaken. A process that would involve seeking loaned or donated space initially, moving to rental space, then ultimately to the purchase of our own building was discussed. Initial possibilities that were suggested included seeking some display space at UNLV or the "mob museum" downtown in the old

Post Office. Initial contacts have been made, but no significant discussions have resulted.

Because, ultimately, the Club might choose to seek financial support from the Gaming Industry and political agencies, it was decided not to pursue individual casinos for space at this time. It was felt that other casinos would be reluctant to donate money or memorabilia to a display in a competing casino.

Other issues which must be resolved before any plan is finalized include the basic insecurity of using non-owned space and the relationship of our facility with the UNLV Gaming History efforts.

Jim Pierre, Chair

### Ongoing activities

The Vision & Feasibility Committee is currently investigating leasing costs for various sized properties at various areas around Las Vegas. We are also investigating other expenses such as insurance, utilities, etc.

In February, there are exploratory meetings scheduled with representatives of UNLV Gaming Dep't and a Las Vegas historical group to explore a minimum cost way to begin to establish a presence and validate our role as preservers of gaming history & artifacts.

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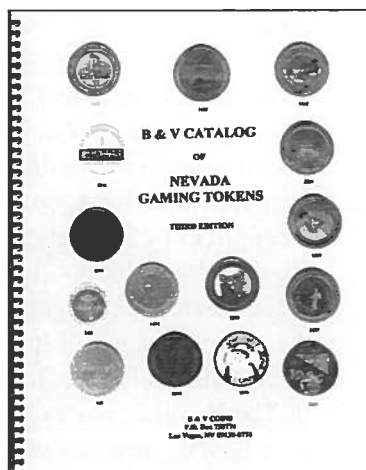


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# The History and Mystery of the *Moulin Rouge*

by Steve Fischer

Back in September of 2003, I wanted to offer for sale on eBay an autographed menu from the Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. It was signed by boxing legend and 2% owner of the Moulin Rouge, World Champion Joe Louis, who also worked as a greeter at the hotel. Interesting, but certainly not a rarity.

So I decided to do a little investigating into what ever happened to that hotel/casino. What is interesting is that there is almost no information about what happened; why an establishment that had become extremely popular suddenly closed. Yet, putting together a few facts about that year.....plus some common sense...

It was 1955. The strip hotels were doing well. There was a LOT of



Joe Lewis dressed for Helldorado Days just before opening of the Moulin Rouge (in background).



building going on. Smart money from all over the country was watching what was happening at the El Rancho Vegas and the Last Frontier and the Sahara and the Flamingo and the Sands.

Likable or not, the mobsters who owned the casinos, and the casino owners who fronted for them, were overall a pretty damn bright group of guys! Especially when it came to gambling. These were money men – they understood gaming and they understood gamblers. And they were getting successful.

These very serious gambling men, and in some cases, new casino owners had one hell of a lot riding on their own casino's success.

There were a few side stories

The new owners of The New Frontier, Murray Randolph, Irv Leff and Morris Friedman just paid Jake Kozloff, Guy McAfee and Beldon Katelman a *lot of money* to buy The Last Frontier. Then, it cost them a few hundred thousand more to convert The Last Frontier into their dream, which they called The New Frontier. These very serious men and new hotel owners needed cash flow FAST - and didn't need no competition from no uppity you-know-whats like the owners of the Moulin Rouge.

Sid Wyman was making good money at the Sands. He had points in the Sands, but he decided to leave to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a Casino Owner. So what if he had made his money as a Bigtime book-maker in St. Louis? He was legit now!

Sid's partner was Al Moll who had fled Missouri because that damn Estes Kefauver and his damn Organized Crime Committee were going to start asking him questions *again!*

So Moll closed his Christmas Accounts at the St. Louis bank, sold his interests in the casinos in Kentucky and Tennessee, and brought a couple mil cash to the Land Of Golden Opportunity – Las Vegas. A place where a gambler could make a decent living legally! It cost Sid and Al \$5 Million Dollars to get the doors of The Royal Nevada open – These very serious men and new hotel owners needed cash flow *fast* – and didn't need no competition from no uppity you-know-whats like the owners of the Moulin Rouge

Meanwhile, Gus Greenbaum was asked by the owner of the Riviera, "Big Tuna" Tony Accardo, head of the Chicago Outfit, to please come to Vegas and save the damn hotel! The Riv had been open for three months, and for 90 straight days had lost money each and every day! So Tony

Accardo kindly asked the management team of the Riviera to pack their bags – pick up some souvenir post-cards – and be out of the hotel within 15 minutes!

At first, Gus said, “No thanks” . But Marshall Ciafano (Johnny Marshall in Vegas) who was the number one enforcer for the Chicago Outfit (he had a particular fondness for ending discussions with a blow-torch)! was very persuasive. Four nights later, his sister-in-law was murdered in her bed. Gus changed his mind. He brought his management group from the days he owned the Flamingo, but in order to purchase the Riviera, Gus had to raise some serious cash fast. He sold pieces of the Riv to his old group.

These managers weren't wealthy men. They had to mortgage homes and borrow anywhere they could to raise their stake, and they sure as beans didn't need no competition -- especially from some uppity-you-know-what's.

### The Riviera Split in 1955

Ben Goffstein (7% ownership) Harry Goldman, Ross Miller and Davie Berman (split 7% ownership between them), “Icepick” Willie Alderman (7% owner), Jess Goodman, Charlie Haris, and the Atoll Brothers Frank, Fred and Elias (17% ownership). These very serious men and new hotel owners needed cash flow FAST– and didn't need no competition from no uppity you-know-whats like the owners of the Moulin Rouge.

### The Dunes in 1955

Stan Miller left a good job at the Sahara to buy into the brand new Dunes. Sid Wyman, Kewpie Rich, Butch Goldstein, Major Riddle, Bob Rice, Howie Engel were listed own-

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ers. Morris Shenker, the attorney for the Mob, was also an owner, as was Ray Patriarca - the Capo of the New England La Cosa Nostra.

All of these guys had spent a lot of time and a lot of money -- and they had a lot riding on the success of the brand new Dunes Hotel and Country Club. And these very serious men and new hotel owners needed cash flow FAST - and didn't need no competition from no uppity you-know-whats like the owners of the Moulin Rouge.

The Fremont, “Doc Bailey’s” Hacienda, and the Tropicana were nearly finished. And in the midst of all this building – there was an economic downturn across the country. and Las Vegas was getting a few less visitors. All these new rooms going up on the Strip – and all these very serious men and new casino owners were getting worried about all the competition.

It was the middle of the 20th century, and most of the entertainers in Las Vegas in the 1940s and early 1950s went to West Las Vegas to sleep and eat. And West Las Vegas of that time was pretty bad. Muddy streets. Little plumbing, little electricity. That's where most of the black

entertainers who worked in Las Vegas lived. The maids and the kitchen help. Even Sammy Davis, Jr. and his dad, Sammy, Sr., along with his uncle Will Mastin, all stayed in the rooming houses in that poor section of town; there were laws back then about such things.

And then, on May 20 of 1955, (articles vary on the exact day), The Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino opened out on West Bonanza with 105 Rooms. It was variously called the “First Multiracial” or “Integrated” or “Cosmopolitan” hotel in Las Vegas. Blacks were welcome, Whites were welcome, even Benny Binion was welcome!

The two main owners of the Moulin Rouge were Louis Rubin, who made his money from New York Restaurants, and Al Bisno, a Los Angeles builder, both white. The Rouge had a total of eight owners who bought partnership in the Casino, and one who was given 2 points of the project. The others were George Altman, who became the casino boss, Al Childs, Will Schwartz, Larry Ousely, Walter Zick and Tom Foley. Tom was the hotel attorney who was also licensed by the state of Nevada to operate the bar/tavern at the Rouge.

Joe Louis was the last of the “owners”. In exchange for The Champ’s services, Lou and Al gave Lewis 2 points in the hotel. I must mention that some sources say that Joe was only a host/greeter, but LIFE Magazine which came out a month after the Rouge opened said, “Former Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Louis, is an owner and host of the new Moulin Rouge.” If it’s good enough for LIFE Magazine, I’ll also accept that Joe had 2 points in the Rouge.

There were 17 additional investors – none of which were licensed by the state, and as such, none of which had to have their names published. Each point of the hotel, prior to building would cost \$24,000 -- and you had to buy a minimum of one point to become a limited partner.



### Hotel Personnel

Sonny Boswel – General Manager (Sonny was a former Harlem Globetrotter)

Martin Black – Publicist of the Rouge

George Altman – Casino Manager George, who had left his pit boss job at The Last Frontier, and all the dealers at the Rouge were white. They were the only jobs at the hotels that were not filled by Blacks.

Blacks couldn’t deal or be involved in any casino games prior to the Moulin Rouge, so there were no experienced dealers to draw from.



Morry Deitch – Assistant Casino Manager. Previously with the Golden Nugget ‘51-55



Waiters’ jackets issued before opening night at Moulin Rouge, were expected to make the club’s waiters look snappier than any other in town.

Monk Schaefer – Swing Shift Pit Boss

Joe Chariara – Pit Boss

Cliff Marshon – Dealer

Carl Walton – Dealer

John Achoff – Pit Boss

Andy Rocknie (Called “Rockie”) – Assistant Security Chief. Retired State Senator from Wyoming, retired Pro Wrestler.

### Entertainment at the Moulin Rouge

Wally Ogle – Stage Manager

Benny Parson – First orchestra leader (4 months) until he was replaced by Les Brown who was there for the last two months of the Moulin Rouge’s life.

### The Night In May 1955 Moulin Rouge opened

The Platters opened at the Moulin Rouge

Liberace was playing at the Riviera  
Carmen Miranda was at the New Frontier

The Delta Rhythm Boys were at the Sands

Louis Prima and Keely Smith were at the Sahara

### Security At The Hotel

There were 25 Interracial Security Staff – All wearing the French Foreign Legion dress uniforms with plumed hats.

Merle Longnecker – (Head of Security). Retired after 25 years as Inspector of Homicide with the Oakland, California, PD.

Opening Night at the Moulin Rouge was packed – It was attended by all the major newspapers, magazines and the wire services. Martin Black, PR Man for the Moulin Rouge had arranged and paid for 70 newsmen to come in from the East Coast and the Midwest.

The first show at the Rouge was “Tropi-Can-Can” with the largest chorus line in Las Vegas with 23 dancers. During much of 1954, The Moulin Rouge held open, and very well publicized auditions all over the US looking for Black Dancers and Chorus Girls to dance on the line at the new hotel!

Local, state and federal officials were all over the Rouge on opening night — including Mayor C. D. Baker of Las Vegas.

### **Some later entertainers to play at the Moulin Rouge**

Harry Belafonte, Della Reese, Hines, Hines and Dad (a very, very young Maurice and Gregory Hines and their dad), The Penguins (right before their big hit “Earth Angel”), Dinah Washington, Lionel Hampton, Duke Ellington, Sammy Davis, Jr. with Sammy Davis, Sr., Will Mastin, and Ella Fitzgerald. She, like many of the Black headliners, kept a 2-room suite at the Rouge.

The Moulin Rouge had what was called a “Breakfast Show,” at 1:30 AM — and it attracted most of the entertainers from the Strip. After the second show was over at the Sands and the Sahara and the Silver Slipper, the entertainers the singers, the showgirls and boys would head over the Moulin Rouge to sit in on the Jam Sessions. The impromptu get-togethers were becoming more and more popular.

A typical night at the Moulin Rouge would have Sammy Davis, Jr. on stage, and George Burns and Gracie Allen, Nat “King” Cole, Jack Benny and Mary Livingston, Joe E. Louis, Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford, Harry Belafonte, and 350 others watching the hottest show in Las Vegas.

While all these people were watching the Watusi being danced by the Moulin Rouge Chorus line of 23 dancers, the dealers in pit 3 at the Desert Inn were talking to one another. The place was empty! And the Flamingo began letting craps dealers go home early.

It began to catch on. The Black celebrities who played the Strip now had nice accommodations in West Las Vegas, and the white entertainers who played the Strip, most notably Sinatra and his group, began showing up at the Moulin Rouge to watch the late show.

The night the Dunes opened, May 23, 1955, Frank Sinatra was in the house — he played, he saw the show, and then at 10:30 he escorted Hedda Hopper over to the Moulin Rouge to watch the Tropi-Can-Can and the Watusi! The Dunes people were not very happy with this! On their opening night! Sinatra and party are heading to West Las Vegas!

When Sinatra showed up somewhere, everyone else wanted to be there, too.

So on any given night the audience held far more stars than the stage did. People were lining up hours before the shows to try to get into the Cafe Rouge, the Showroom at the Moulin Rouge. After their midnight shows, the showgirls and the dancers on the Strip began heading into West Las Vegas for the 2:30 AM shows. These shows turned into Jam Sessions with world class talent playing or watching or both. It was becoming *the* place to be! And sure enough, the gamblers wanted to be where the action was. So instead of staying at the Flamingo and playing, the gamblers wanted to try out the Rouge where they heard the action really was!

Surprisingly, there are very few newspaper and magazine articles about what happened. Good records were not kept, apparently. And there weren’t many people who wrote about the history of the place.

Before the Rouge opened, there were highly publicized talent searches throughout the country to find the most beautiful black dancers, the best black bartenders, the finest black sous chefs and executive chefs and pastry chefs and the best black Maitre’d available, and, the plan began to work — money was being made!

*“Holy Mackerel - Did You See Our Crowd Last Night?”*

*“I saw Marlena Dietrich with Sinatra! And George Burns was there again! Damn!”*

On the second floor executive offices at the Sands, the Flamingo and the DI, people started to take the Moulin Rouge seriously! At first, it seemed like a nice, innocent enterprise for Negroes which didn’t have a snowball’s chance in hell of succeeding. It was in West Las Vegas after all. “Who is going to drive to West Vegas to play 21 next to a bunch of Negroes?” was the standard thought. Until it began taking off.

All of a sudden, night after night the midnight show at the Moulin Rouge and the breakfast show was selling out. And then the dinner show began taking off, and the tables were beginning to fill up every night! The Casino owners assumed that the Moulin Rouge was going to attract Blacks, but, to nearly everyone’s surprise, the casino was filled with white gamblers, dressed to the T’s. Diamonds, black chips, loud voices, celebrities walking around — hundred dollar bills filling up the drop boxes at the tables — it was becoming pretty heady stuff!

Apparently, enough was enough.

The showgirls who were coming over to the Moulin Rouge for the 2:30 AM Breakfast Show were told by their managers that if they were seen there again - *Once more* - they would be fired.

The liquor distributor who was supplying the Sands was told that if he kept selling to the Moulin Rouge, he could forget the Sand's business.

The food purveyor to the Sahara was asked who he wanted to keep as a client, the Sahara or the Moulin Rouge?

Questions like that would make any supplier to a hotel think seriously about who should be a client, and who shouldn't.

Then something serious happened. The Liquor License of the Moulin Rouge was suspended!

Next to the Gaming License a Casino's Liquor License is the most valuable commodity it has. After researching the "why" the Liquor License of the Moulin Rouge was lifted. I found a paragraph in one of the Las Vegas newspapers which said that Moulin Rouge was charging "working Blacks" more money for drinks than they were charging "white collar Blacks"! So apparently, the liquor license was lifted because the Moulin Rouge was practicing discrimination. Horsefeathers! But it was lifted and for the last month of the life of Moulin Rouge, no liquor could be served, legally!

One sunny afternoon in October, Federal Agents, and agents from the state of Nevada Gaming Commission and the Clark County Sheriff's Office entered the casino portion of the Moulin Rouge, told everyone to stop what they were doing. The casino

was now closed. Newspaper reports said many of the gamblers grabbed as many hundred dollar chips as they could and headed for the front doors. Other players gathered their chips and got on line at the one casino cage hoping to cash in their chips. They were told by Sheriff's Deputies that the cashier was closed; and they would have to file in Clark County Court for redemption of their chips; the rest were now under control of the Nevada Gaming Commission.

And that was that.

There wasn't much coverage of the closing. The hotel which opened to such fanfare, covered by the national news, barely received passing references in the Las Vegas newspapers. In going through everything I could find for the months of September and October of 1955, I was able to find only 7 short references to the closing!

And that I found very surprising.

It wasn't as if The Las Vegas Sun or the Hank Greenspun's Review Journal were shy! They took on the Mafia in Vegas, they went after the casino owners, even the governors of the state was called a crook. Why didn't they make a big deal out of the sudden closing of the Moulin Rouge?

The few articles on the topic suggest "three possible reasons for its closing - poor location, poor management and a glut of new hotel rooms." *bologna!* The place was coming apart at the seams with business. The Cafe Rouge was the only showroom in Las Vegas that was continuously selling out! And that includes the Copa Room at the Sands, the Arabian Room at the Dunes, and the Venus Showroom at the New Frontier.

Yes, a few hotels had trouble at the time. Like the Dunes (which was

right on the brink of bankruptcy. It closed in June of 1956 for "remodeling" before it was bailed out by Jackie Freeman of the Sands, or the Riviera which had just opened and was losing enormous amounts of money, or the Royal Nevedan which closed. But the Moulin Rouge was making money. The place was jumping! For its small size, it was turning into a gold mine!

Then suddenly, the big four began to apply pressure on the two Las Vegas banks to call in the short term notes that had been made to the Moulin Rouge investors. They applied pressure on the suppliers of the Moulin Rouge, demanding money out front for liquor deliveries or food on a daily basis.

Another possible scenario is that the owners of the Moulin Rouge were stealing the hotel blind. One of the night auditors was quoted by a Las Vegas Sun reporter that, "money was flying out the back door!" A perfectly plausible explanation. The owners were stealing money from the soft count room at the MR. Not the first time it would happen, and certainly not the last time either.

But then, one asks, "What is the Nevada Gaming Commission - stupid? They licensed eight guys to operate a gambling establishment in Nevada. They also sent in one of their NGC people daily to watch what was going on. The state of Nevada and the Federal Government don't like gambling revenues being pocketed by owners! And they know what forensic accounting is.

When they closed the Moulin Rouge, they took the books!

*If there was money missing, do you think the two or three governmental agencies who were going over the Rouge's books would miss it? Not report it?*



Bar in the Moulin Rouge

If they found someone's hand in the till, do you think they'd just shrug their shoulders and leave? Neither do I!

Same year – 1955, Al Parvin was convicted of stealing \$30 Million dollars from the Flamingo, and he went

to jail. Morris Lansberg was convicted of stealing from the Flamingo and the Fremont, and when James Tanner, Maurice Freeman and William Pompili were caught stealing from the Frontier, they went to jail.

How about Morris Kleinman at the Riv? He was caught embezzling money from the Riviera and was sent to Federal Prison for 3 years! When Gus Greenbaum was caught stealing from the Riviera, his head was cut off, literally.

After its closing as a casino, the Moulin Rouge was a hotel for a few years. In 1960 it was used for a historic signing of an agreement to abolish housing and other forms of racial segregation on the Strip. In May of 2003, an arsonist's fire destroyed much of the Moulin Rouge.

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Thanks to Mike Quinlivan for the scans of the chips used in this article

Steve writes and sells on eBay under the name "OmahaGrampa."

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# PACK

## (People After Cards and Keys)

by Pat Lamb

PACK (People After Cards & Keys) was born on February 2001 with 72 Charter members. It was a monthly newsletter club brought about by the passion for slot cards by myself, Pat Lamb. My husband Daryl and I had attended a January chip/token show in the Las Vegas area. There were a few traders/sellers who dealt in slot cards and room keys, but my enthusiasm went further, and I wanted a special club for this collectible. I got the idea of listing new cards and keys from a dear friend of mine who sent out monthly lists of newly released tokens. During the long drive back home from Las Vegas to Denver, PACK was in the making.

The PACK newsletter came under attack by many, who thought it was not necessary to have a separate club from the CC&GTCC. But I was persistent, and fought to keep the monthly newsletter afloat. Since then I have printed a letter to be sent to the now 222 members each month filled with a list of new cards and keys for that month. Most PACK newsletters were 8 pages of articles, 50-80 new card listings, exciting EBAY high bid prices, and new "Old Card" finds. But it would not have been possible without the help of the "PACKer's". Many people from different states sent me information about the new cards and keys from their area. That is what kept this close family alive. If it had not been for the member's help, PACK could not have been successful. We also had a PACK member card donated from Scott at ACC. He does great work, and we appreciated the nice "slot card" type membership card.

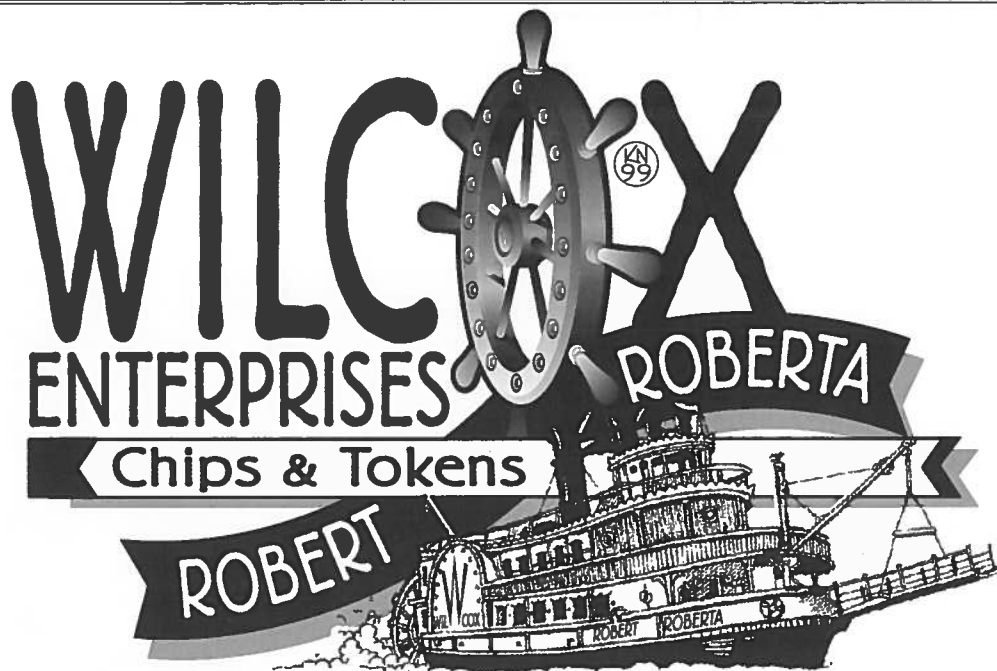
Slot Cards and Room Keys, became a very *hot* collectible, as it seems they are more like pieces of art, very small and compact, and lightweight (easy to store). The cards change constantly, both obverse and reverse in color, text font, and manufacturers. Casinos are now putting out "levels of play" cards giving the high-roller's a card of their own for the better comps and benefits. These are the harder to get and most sought cards of all. But the entry levels and common current cards are more than available at any casino, and are easy to trade with fellow collectors. You can find them to buy/trade at the CC&GTCC convention tables, on EBAY, and at many "casino collectible trade shows" which now take place in several states. There are 2 bulletin boards on the internet- Greg's board at [www.slotcardbbs.com/cgi-bin/scb.pl](http://www.slotcardbbs.com/cgi-bin/scb.pl), and Scott's board at [casinocardcollector.com/forum](http://casinocardcollector.com/forum), both which offer a lot of information for the card and key collector, and there is even another newsletter, which comes out of Mississippi. A new slot card/room key club has taken shape in the last year, and if you have an interest, please contact Dave Johnston at 350 E. Desert Inn Road, Apt C202, Las Vegas, NV, 89109. PACK supported them all, and we believe the above have helped promote the slot cards and room keys collections. Also hand in hand with the PACK newsletter, I, Pat Lamb along with my great co-author, Steve Wells, have written 5 editions of the Wells/Lamb Slot Card Price Guide. The PACK newsletter kept the members up to date monthly on new card additions. The latest book, which went on sale

this month, features almost 6,000 slot cards. These are listed by issue order, and have a rarity rating along with the handy checklist to keep track of what cards you have and are still missing. If you are interested in collecting slot cards, this "guide" is an excellent way to keep track of your collection, and I see many people using them at the CC&GTCC convention each year. The 5th edition is \$39 (with the priority shipping paid) if interested, please contact me with any questions on the guide, the bulletin boards, and/or anything which pertains to slot cards. Pat Lamb at 6970 Jasmine Street, Commerce City, CO. 80022.

I wanted to do this article, not only to mention the birth and story of a strong Slot Card/Room Key newsletter, but also to let you know the end is now near. Due to health complications, the last PACK newsletter will go out in January 2005. It has been a fun informative four years, and I am saddened to see it go. But there comes a time for all of us to slow down a bit. I am still collecting slot cards for my own hobby, and will continue to promote the "price guide" with Steve. I just want to send my love to all the PACK members, with heartfelt "THANKS" and hope to see you all at the next CC&GTCC convention. I appreciate your interest in slot cards, and room keys.

Patty Lamb





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Robert Wilcox Cook

CC&GTCC # R-0577

Roberta Cook

# 2005 Convention Update

Riviera Hotel

Las Vegas NV

August 3rd – August 6th, 2005

by Jim Steffner

Happy Anniversary. It's the CC&GTCC 16th Anniversary, the Riviera is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and Las Vegas is planning lots of events for their 100th Anniversary Celebration.

August will mark our 13th Annual Convention & Show and after the great reviews of last year, our 13th will be even luckier than ever.

The convention will have something for everyone...chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, matchbooks, slot cards and room keys, casino memorabilia, exhibits, seminars, trade sessions, and best of all the chance to meet some really great people.

The Riviera Hotel will be our host for 2005 and the staff is anxious to assist our club to make this convention another first class event. This year we will be in the Royal Pavilion, which is the newer convention facility. This large show floor, beautiful banquet facilities offering a spectacular view of the strip, close parking, and many other exciting events await. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.

## Pre-Registration

Once again, pre-registration is offered to those who would like to eliminate standing in the long lines when the show opens. There will be four lines separated alphabetically to make the process smooth and fast. Your pre-registration envelope will contain your show badge, banquet tickets (if ordered), poker and black-



jack confirmations (if participating), a special door prize drawing ticket, and any special coupons, freebies, or give-a-ways that we can obtain.

Price is the same as last year, \$10.00 that saves \$5.00 over the regular three-day admission. A photo ID with address will be required to pick up your packet and each person must pick up their own. No packets will be mailed to non-attendees. Children under 12 do not need to be pre-registered, but if they will be attending the show, please provide their names and ages and a special Junior Collector packet will be available for them. There is no charge for pre-register packets or for show entry for those under 12. Pre-Registration packets can be picked up at the registration desk ONLY between 9AM and 4PM on Wednesday August 3rd, 2005 and during regular registration desk hours on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

The contract signing table dealer will receive one pre-registration as part of their table contract. Table helpers must pre-register on their own if they desire. The registration form can be found in this issue of the magazine, in the April issue, and on the club web site. Make sure you return the form before the postmark due date. Please PRINT all information and include an e-mail address and/or phone number. You can also pre-register online at the club web site using VISA or MasterCard (sorry no other credit card can be accepted). Be sure you follow all the instructions in each step of the registration process. Do not close out until you are shown that you have completed the process. With either the mail in form or the on-line process, you WILL receive a confirmation within 30 days. If you do not receive your confirmation, you are NOT registered. Postmark and on-line deadline is July 1, 2005. Any registrations received after that date will not be accepted.

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey will again be handling the pre-registration. Their address and e-mail are on the pre-registration form. Payment by check or money order made out to CC&GTCC must accompany the form. No credit card transaction can be used with the mail-in form. Be sure to include your e-mail, or phone number to receive your confirmation. Please PRINT all information. Full banquet table payment must accompany the form for those wishing to reserve a full table. List all 10 names on the form.

### **Hotel Reservations**

Hotel room rates for the 2005 convention will be \$68.00 for Sunday thru Thursday, and \$75.00 for Friday & Saturday. Reservations must be made before July 15, 2005 to be included in the club room block. All reservations made at the Riviera and included in our special club room block help the club keep costs down in future years and assist us in negotiating more favorable contracts for future conventions. Support your club and stay at the Riviera.

Our special rates are effective from July 29th thru August 9th, 2005 for those who wish to arrive early or stay over. Members booking rooms at the host hotel provide the club with the low cost convention facilities and make our group a welcome convention in Las Vegas. If we do not generate enough hotel room nights the cost of the show floor and meeting rooms could rise. The room elevators are only a short distance from the show-room, banquet, exhibits, and meetings.

Reserve your room directly with the Riviera Hotel. Call their toll free registration number 800-634-6753 or 702-794-9412. Be sure to mention that you are with the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club. Be sure to get your confirmation number.

Deadline to book our special rooms is July 15th, 2005 or until our block of rooms is filled.

### **Exhibits**

The exhibits that members provide show their collecting specialties and interests. The exhibits can be either competitive or non-competitive. All members are encouraged to enter an exhibit and compete for cash prizes. Show cases are provided at no cost. Contact Joe Shaw, Exhibit Chairman at databzr@casino-chip.com to enter. See related article and exhibit entry form for more details. This is one of the highlights of the convention and members look forward to seeing what other members collect.

### **Educational Seminars**

Dick Covington will try to outdo last year's excellent venue of seminars. Many good suggestions were received on the survey forms for seminar topics. Dick is in the process of lining up some great speakers to keep everyone well informed and educated. Plan your schedule for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning and possibly one or two during the day.

### **Bruce Landau Memorial Auction**

Once again Barry Weintraub will be organizing the Bruce Landau Memorial Auction. With record-breaking bids last year, he has assembled some excellent lots for this year's auction that should be even better. Be sure to order your auction catalog as they usually sell out by show time. The auction will be Friday evening August 5th.

### **Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session**

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday evening, August 3rd. Once again you will enjoy great food,

a fabulous view of Las Vegas from high above in the Top of the Riv banquet room. Reserve your tickets using the registration form or on-line. No tickets will be available at the door. The banquet is always a sellout so don't miss your chance to attend. After last year's speech by Robert Maheu, it will be hard to top his appearance but we are working on some great suggestions received from the survey form. Look for more details as time nears.

You can reserve a full table of 10 seats so all your friends can sit together. Cost will be \$35.00 each or \$350.00 for a full table. Please provide all ten names and full payment when you send in the reservation form. Several serving lines, fabulous food, elegant deserts, and plenty of seating room will add to an event you won't want to miss.

All banquet attendees must be club members. If you plan on bringing a spouse or friend, make sure to sign them up for club membership BEFORE the banquet. There will be no opportunity to join the club at the show before Thursday morning after the exhibit hall opens. Banquet tickets will be in your pre-register envelope and can be picked up at the registration desk between 9AM and 4PM ONLY on Wednesday.

When the banquet ends about 8PM, the tables will be open for a gigantic trade session. Bring what you can carry, allow space for others and remember NO direct selling of items. Trade session is open for members only. Have fun!

### **Poker Challenge and Blackjack Tournament**

The poker and blackjack sessions will again be held at the Palms, same as last year. The Palms and Gene Trimble have gone out of their way to

provide a nice facility for both tournaments. The action starts on Wednesday with the Blackjack Tournament at Noon. The Poker Challenge will be Thursday evening with an earlier start time. Check related article for all the details. Advance signup for both sessions can be done on the registration form or on-line at the club web site. Players can also sign up at the convention for the Poker Challenge if seats are still available, but they usually sell out well before.

A special set of tournament chips will be available and one set is included with each players seat. These chips are used for both the blackjack and the poker tournaments and will be available to players and for purchase starting on Friday morning when the show opens. Additional sets can be purchased from the Promotion table at the show or by mail. For any questions, please contact Bob Pardue, pardue@home.com

### Trade Sessions

Several trade sessions are planned during the show. Each morning from 8AM to 10AM the trade room will be open, trade till your hearts content. Several evening sessions are also planned. Check the show schedule for any additional trade sessions that may be scheduled. Bring some binders but leave space for others. Please, no outright sales of merchandise.

### Last Dance Swap Meet

On Saturday, August 6th, the Last Dance Trade Session will be held. The event will begin at 7PM and last until the last two traders call it quits. This is not a "dance" with a band or music but just the last chance for members to get together after the convention closes to find that elusive chip, token, or slotcard. Check show schedule for location.

### Chip and Medal Design Contest

Put your artistic talents to work, or even if you can't draw a straight line, submit your ideas and rough drawings. You don't need to be an artist. Enter the chip and medal design contest and compete for cash prizes. Your winning entry could be on the club chip or the silver and bronze medals for the 2005 13th Annual Convention. See the article in this issue, start thinking, and submit your entry. 2005 is also Las Vegas 100th Anniversary, the Riviera is celebrating their 50th Anniversary, and our club has been in existence for 16 years. Cash prizes will be awarded for first and second place in the chip, medal, and T-shirt design categories. Good Luck!

### Survey Winners

From over 130 survey forms returned after the 2004 convention, 5 were randomly selected from the ones that included a member's name. These five winners will have a paid

pre-registration for the 2005 convention. Your names are already listed and you will receive a confirmation. Thanks to everyone who sent in a survey. Your ideas, suggestions, and comments are helpful in planning the next convention. Congrats to the following:

Mark Englebretson  
Douglas Hancock  
Ed Norris  
Mark Erickson  
Dale Horyna

### Help Wanted

Part time positions are open for members who wish to volunteer a few hours during the show. It is because of these volunteers that the show goes on. Without their donation of a few hours we could not provide all the fun and excitement that the members enjoy.

If you wish to volunteer for several positions such as registration, promotions table, auction table, or membership table, or show setup and tear-down, please contact Bob Bickford, Volunteer Coordinator, oldbera@wowway.com or call Bob at 440-243-0478.

If you have some experience in video or television production and would like to help with coordination of the video production DVD that will again be produced, please contact Jim Steffner, convention@ccgtcc.com.

Watch the next issue of the club magazine for developing details and more exciting news. See you in August!

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Email to [david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com](mailto:david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com)

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# Chip & Medal Design Contest

The club is now accepting entries for our Convention Medal and Chip design contest for the 2005, 13th Annual Convention. These club convention commemorative issues are very collectible and popular with the membership. All members in good standing are eligible to participate. Awards for winning entries in both categories will be presented at the convention in June 2005 at the Riviera.

Contest rules are as follows:

1. The obverse side of the medal will be the standard club logo, of which a die has already been prepared.
2. The reverse medal design submitted is to be prepared in black and white, on plain paper in a circular area about 6" to 8" in diameter.
3. The chip design subject matter may be presented in black & white with color designations, in color, as a photograph, decal, or penciled art layout. Hand drawn or computer-generated art is acceptable. Formal art is not necessary. Your idea is just as important.
4. Up to three entries in each category may be submitted.
5. A panel of judges appointed by the Design Chairman will select winning designs. Winning design may be modified to meet manufacturing specifications if needed. Any changes will be reviewed with the designer.
6. All entries become the property of CC&GTCC and may be used for the T-shirt design if appropriate.
7. Deadline for entries is April 30, 2005 and MUST be postmarked by the date to be eligible.

Mail entries to:

Jim Steffner  
Design Contest  
9321 Mt Bret Av #103  
Las Vegas NV 89129

Mitch Heller  
Cheryl Heller  
CC&GTCC #2038

713 419-2405  
281 277-8079  
cmrheller@aol.com

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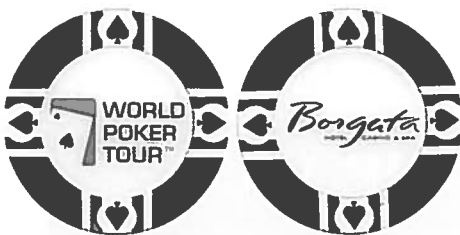
# Atlantic City R E P O R T

by Archie Black

**“A.C. ...ALWAYS TURNED ON!”**

With the introduction of TITO machines all over town (Ticket In Ticket Out) as they have been introduced in many other gaming jurisdictions around the country ... new slot tokens have been reduced to wishful thinking in Atlantic City. I'm afraid we may have seen the last of new gaming tokens in this town for some time to come. But have we got some additional new chips to report on in this issue, with the Trump properties leading the pack!!

The World Poker Tour's "Borgata Open" was held on September 19-22 in Atlantic City. This black & white non-value admission chip was distributed among visitors to the tournament who wished to view the Travel Channel's video-taping. The chips are serially numbered and as numbers were drawn at random, only 150 viewers at a time could enter the ballroom where the taping was being held. The WPT Championship will be held on April 18-26 at Bellagio in Las Vegas.



In conjunction with the Ultimate Fighting Championship held next door at Boardwalk Hall on October 21st, Trump Plaza issued a second commemorative chip in as many years to mark the occasion for the

second anniversary of this event held in Atlantic City. 700 chips were issued.



In November, it was a Salute To Veterans chip that captured the attention of A.C. chip collectors when Trump Plaza issued 300 of this \$20 yellow chip.



A couple of \$5 chips issued to mark the appearance of Trump Plaza's Broadway on the Boardwalk show themes, "Footloose" and "Jekyll & Hyde" nickels were released in November and December.



Todd Moyer at Trump Marina was quite busy during this quarter with several new chip issues for collectors to chase.

A \$10 chip to mark the headliner appearance of rock group "Heart"

was issued at Trump Marina on November 11th.



A No Cash Value chip that was sold in the Marina's Gift Shop marking the 150th Anniversary of the city of Atlantic City proved to be quite popular... which was followed up with a special 5-piece set of redeemable \$5, \$10, \$10, \$25, \$100 Limited Edition chips that were housed in a plastic cd jewel case. Only 150 sets were made and many collectors were lined up for 6-7 hours in advance of the pre-announced 2 p.m. release time on a Saturday morning in November to purchase a full set at face value of \$150 each.







chip brought a bid of \$425 while a specially silk-screened felt table cover with George Thorogood's photo that was used on a blackjack table and autographed by George Thorogood went for \$125. I'm told that the BJ table covers cost the casino \$150 each to have made.



Trump Marina's Todd Moyer was responsible for this Halloween issue of 666.



Two of the most scarce \$25 chips ever issued in Atlantic City were issued by Trump Taj Mahal. Only 100 of the Gloria Estefan/ Sheryl Crow quarter chips and 500 of the Estefan/Crow nickels were issued in early November while I was away in Las Vegas attending the Palms Casino Collectibles Show. No advance notice was given of this controversial release, which had many chippers scrambling.



Trump Plaza's Joe Gontowski takes credit for this innovative, spooky, lenticular (hologram) design (shown at the bottom of the page) that changes from a skull to a pumpkin when the chip is tilted at various angles.



### Atlantic City Halloween Chips

The day before the 150th Anniversary chip set went on sale, a Turkey Bowl Takeoff \$5 LE was issued. Slot-card player names were drawn at random and invited to bowl a frozen turkey down a lane to knock over bowling pins. \$100 was awarded for each pin knocked down.

Several properties in town issued Halloween chips this year, which have become very popular over the past few years with many chip collectors around the country.

Trump Plaza finished up the year with this New Year 2005 chip which features an image of Robin Leach of Rich & Famous fame.



Showboat, which has had a dormant LE chip program up until very recently, issued this pair of relatively tough Halloween chips, thanks to new games supervisor, Chris Block. Only 500 of the nickel chip were made; 200 of the quarters.



Each Year Trump Marina holds a donation auction to benefit VH1's "Save The Music Foundation" and issued another No Cash Value chip to mark the 2004 event. An autographed Resorts \$25 Jerry Seinfeld



At year's end, a surge of last minute chips appeared along the Boardwalk properties in A.C. Bally's Park Place and Caesars both issued pairs of \$5 & \$25 25th Anniversary chips in late December.. The Bally's chips are serially numbered.



The Caesars 25th Anniversary issues were said to be prone to losing the hologram center inserts; especially after being run through the roulette auto-sort chipper machines. A.C. chip collectors have not seen a new Caesars Limited Edition chip in 5 years when the 20th Anniversary chips were issued. We hope that it won't be another five years for the next LE at Caesars.

Chris Block, at Showboat, also had a New Year 2005 set released on time.



"The Quarter" is now open at Tropicana with a Havana Cuba theme ... and so is the shopping concourse, which resembles many of the up-scale shops at Caesars Forum and Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. A new roulette table has been positioned right at the entrance to "The Quarter" with a 5 bar center inlay design. The G.O. \$25 LE chip has been issued to mark the official Grand Opening of "The Quarter".



Lastly but not leastly, Trump Plaza has changed over all of their numbered roulette chips to chips with designs on the center inlays.

'Till next quarter ... let me be one of the first to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2005!!

Happy chippin' ... Archie

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# Club Merchandise

## Official Convention Chips & Medal Sets



**2004 Official Convention Medal**  
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,  
 \$25.00 Set of 2



**2003 Official Convention Medal**  
 \$7.00 - Bronze, \$18.00 - Silver,  
 \$25.00 Set of 2



**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

**Casino Chip & Token News  
Back Issues**



**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

- Volume 6 issue 3
- Volume 6 issue 4
- Volume 7 issue 1
- Volume 7 issue 2
- Volume 7 issue 3
- Volume 8 issue 1
- Volume 8 issue 2
- Volume 8 issue 3
- Volume 8 issue 4
- Volume 9 issue 2
- Volume 9 issue 3
- Volume 10 issue 1
- Volume 10 issue 2
- Volume 10 issue 3
- Volume 10 issue 4
- Volume 11 issue 1
- Volume 11 issue 2
- Volume 11 issue 3
- Volume 11 issue 4
- Volume 12 issue 1
- Volume 12 issue 2
- Volume 12 issue 3
- Volume 12 issue 4
- Volume 13 issue 1
- Volume 13 issue 2
- Volume 13 issue 3
- Volume 13 issue 4
- Volume 14 issue 1
- Volume 14 issue 2
- Volume 14 issue 3
- Volume 14 issue 4
- Volume 15 issue 1
- Volume 15 Issue 2
- Volume 15 Issue 3
- Volume 16 Issue 1
- Volume 16 Issue 2
- Volume 16 Issue 3
- Volume 16 Issue 4
- Volume 17 Issue 1
- Volume 17 Issue 2
- Volume 17 Issue 3
- Volume 17 Issue 4



**2004 Poker Tournament Set**  
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**2002 Poker Tournament Set**  
\$15.00 - 5 chip Set

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copies

Convention T-Shirts



**2004 Official T-Shirt**  
 XXL - \$15.00  
 M, L, XL - \$10.00



**2003 Official T-Shirt**  
 XXL - \$15.00  
 M, L, XL - \$11.00



**2002 Official T-Shirt**  
 XXL - \$15.00  
 M, L, XL - \$11.00



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



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



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



**1998 Official T-Shirt**  
 Limited Sizes - \$10.00



**1997 Official T-Shirt**  
 Limited Sizes - \$10.00

Pins, Patches and Stickers



2004 Convention Pin  
\$4.00



2002 Convention Pin  
\$4.00



2000 Convention Pin  
\$3.00



1998 Convention Pin  
\$3.00



One color  
Logo Sticker  
\$1.00



Member Pin  
New and Old Style  
\$5.00



3 1/2"  
Embroidered Patch  
\$4.00



2003 Convention Pin  
\$4.00



2001 Convention Pin  
\$4.00



1999 Convention Pin  
\$3.00



1997 Convention Pin  
\$3.00

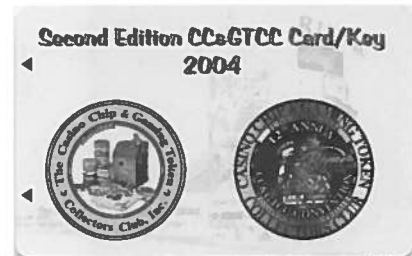


Five color  
Logo Sticker  
\$1.00



Polo Shirts  
Misc. Colors with Pockets  
M, L, XL - \$24.00  
Misc. Colors without Pockets  
SM, M, L, XL - \$22.95  
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2004 Club Card/Key  
\$2.00



## CC&GTCC Wooden Issues

### A.N.A. Club Meeting Souvenirs

1992 Official Club Chip "5" issued for the 1992 ANA convention		\$3.00 ea.
1989 "Two Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Pittsburg, Pa	\$1.00 ea.
1991 "Four Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Chicago, Il .	\$1.00 ea.
1992 "Five Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Orlando, Fl .	\$1.00 ea.
1993 "Six Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Baltimore, Md .	\$1.00 ea.
1994 "Seven Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Detroit, Mi .	\$1.00 ea.
1995 "Eight Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Anaheim, Ca .	\$1.00 ea.
1996 "Nine Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Denver, Co .	\$1.00 ea.
1997 "Ten Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	New York, N.Y .	\$1.00 ea.
1998 "Eleven Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Portland, Or .	\$1.00 ea.
1999 "Twelve Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Chicago, Il .	\$1.00 ea.
2000 "Thirteen Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Philadelphia, Pa .	\$1.00 Ea.
2001 "Fourteen Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	Atlanta, Ga .	\$1.00 ea.
2002 "Fifteen Wooden Dollars" ANA club wooden dollar	New York, N.Y.	\$1.00 ea



### Miscellaneous Club Wood Issues

1993 Official CC&GTCC 1st Convention Wood dollar (Gold or Silver color)		\$1.00 ea.
1994, 1995, or 1996 Official (2nd, 3rd, or 4th) CC&GTCC Convention Wood dollar		\$1.00 ea.
1997 Official CC&GTCC 5th Convention Wood Dollar (Blue Hot Stamped)		\$1.00ea.
1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 or 2002 Official (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th) CC&GTCC Convention Wood Dollar		\$1.00 ea.
1993 Wooden Nickel "You Are Invited" woodnik		.50 ea.
1994 Wooden Nickel "Repeated By Popular Demand" woodnik		.50 ea.
1995 Wooden Nickel "Bigger & Better" woodnik		.50 ea.
1996 Wooden Nickel "The Place To Be" woodnik (Ty.1 Wrong date & Ty-2)		.50 ea.
1997 Wooden Nickel "The Biggest Yet-Be There" woodnik		.50 ea.
1998 Wooden Nickel "A New Hotel-Don't Miss It" woodnik		.50 ea.
1999 Wooden Nickel "Be sure to - Be there" woodnik (Ty. 1 Teal or Ty.2 Orange)		.50 ea.
2000 Wooden Nickel "Millennium" woodnik (Ty.1 Error, Ty.2 purple, Ty.3 red)		.50 ea.
2001 Wooden Nickel "You will not want to miss this (green)		.50 ea.
2001 Wooden Nickel Error- has dollar graphics (purple)		.50 ea.
2002 Wooden Nickel "You snooze-You lose (blue)		.50 ea.
2004 Wooden Nickel "Don't You Dare Miss It"		.50 ea
2004 CC&GTCC Convention Wood Dollar		\$1.00 ea.
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, & 1999 Florida Numismatists Wooden Dollar issued for Club meeting during F.U.N. Conventions		\$1.00 ea.



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# The 2004 OTY Awards Contest Now Open

by Jim Follis

That's right! It's time to Nominate!

Inside this issue of the award winning Casino Chip and Token News you will find an Official Nomination Form for the 2004 OTY Awards. Every Club member is encouraged to take a little time and reflect back on the fabulous array of chips, tokens strikes and cards issues by casinos worldwide during the calendar year of 2004. If any of them stand out in your mind, or take center-place in your collection, then perhaps you might want to recognize them by nominating them for an OTY Award.

Only as a CC&GTCC member we are you entitled to participate in the Club's annual Chip of the Year (COTY), Token of the Year (TOTY), Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY) and Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY) competitions; The OTY's!

The 2004 Awards will be marking the Club's 15th year of COTY and TOTY competitions, our 5th year of the SSOTY competition and our 3rd year for CKOTY honors. I am both honored and pleased to be serving as the COTY, TOTY, SSOTY and CKOTY Awards Competitions Chairman, along with my son, Casey, the Assistant OTY Chairman.

The rules for this year's competitions are pretty much the same as last year, and for our newer members (a very big Welcome to our newcomers) and as a refresher for our seasoned participants, I will go over the requirements once again.

Between now and April 30, 2005 the Assistant Chairman will be accepting nominations from any and

all Club members in good standing. As a reminder to all Regular members, please be sure to make a copy (or copies) of the nomination form for the Associate Member(s) tied to your membership number, so that they too may participate.

Every member should keep in mind that *you must nominate* at least one OTY candidate, in at least one category, *in order to qualify yourself as a judge* in the final voting process. Simply stated:

## **You must nominate to participate!**

Completed original nomination forms were designed to be folded, taped (stapling is acceptable, but the Post Office prefers tape), affixed with 1st Class postage (.37 cents) and then mailed. Providing that the insert was printed correctly this year, the mailing address will be pre-printed on the reverse of the form. However, completed forms (original forms or copies) may be sent in an envelope to the address that appears on the back of an original form. Which is also reprinted below for your convenience. As we did last year we will accept nominations via email ([oty@ccgtcc.com](mailto:oty@ccgtcc.com)). However, if you take advantage of this method, you must format your submission into the same headings as the Nomination Form AND you must include all of your nominations at one time. Do not make piecemeal submissions. If you do, then the most current submission form will replace, in total, any previously submitted form. Emailed submissions must be sent prior to midnight (PST) April 30, 2005.

As the nomination forms begin arriving the Assistant OTY Chairman

will be very busy tabulating all the selections, in each of the four categories. The top ten nomination-getters, in each category, will then be designated as the Ten Finalist in their respective category. The OTY Chairman will then acquire a complete set of the Ten Finalists and use them to produce a full-color Judge's Pamphlet. A Judge's Pamphlet will then be sent to each and every member who submitted a legitimate Nomination Form and will be used to view and judge all the Ten Finalists. Mid June is the target timeframe to mail out Judge's Pamphlets.

Note: Associate members making legitimate nominations will receive their own Judge's Pamphlet; they will not have to share with the Regular member's copy! Judge's Pamphlets, just like last year, will depict the front and back (obverse and reverse) of all Ten Finalists in each category in their actual sizes. A separate Balloting form is included so that the Judge's Pamphlet may be kept as a souvenir of your participation in this highly prestigious members-only event.

Judging will take place from about June 20th to about June 27th. All ballots must be returned via the postal system and must be postmarked on or before June 27th, which is a Monday. ATTENTION International members, I am inclined to make allowances for voting if these deadlines prove to be a hardship, like e-mail notification.

Shortly after the Forth of July, I will likely know the top three place finishers in each category. I will be going about the task of preparing the various award plaques, which like last year will be awarded through three places, Gold, Silver and Bronze, for a



total of 12 awards. I will also be taking care of the Club's acquisition of the four First-place finishers to add to the Club's Permanent Display.

For our newer members (and also as a reminder) the Permanent Display is the Club's own collection of all past winners of the Chip of the Year, Token of the Year, Silver Strike of the Year and Room Key/Slot Card Key of the Year Awards Competitions. That collection will once again be on-display at the Convention as a non-competitive Exhibit right along side a complete set of all 40 Finalists from the 2004 competitions.

Well, that about covers it, except for the fine print below. I encourage each and every member to participate in this event, as I see these competitions as an opportunity for the Club's members to tell the casinos and their suppliers that we appreciate their efforts to produce a quality product.

The fine print:

All nominees must have been issued, for use, for the first time, during the calendar year of 2004. Various members of the CC&GTCC

may be called upon to verify this criteria for chips and tokens. The Officers of the Silver Striker's Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for Silver Strikes. The Officers of the Slot Card and Room Key Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for slot cards/room keys.

**Chip of the Year eligibility criteria:** A chip must be issued by a casino. It must also serve a gaming purpose.

**Token of the Year eligibility criteria:** A token is one that is intended to be inserted into a slot machine for play. Excluded are coins (money), currency and tickets. The emphasis is on slot machine play.

**Silver Strike of the Year eligibility criteria:** Simply stated, an eligible Silver Strike is one made by IGT under their trademarked Silver Strike program.

**Slot Card/Room Key of the Year eligibility criteria:**

Slot Cards must be issued by a casino and are intended to track player action at a slot machine.

Room Keys must be issued by an affiliated hotel/casino establishment. The key (looking like a plastic credit card) must be used to open a guestroom.

Casey and I look forward to receiving your nominations shortly. We may be contacted at (702) 413-7399 or via email: oty@ccgtcc.com . Lastly, for those who are Internet connected, be sure to visit the Un-Official OTY Viewing Sites, where you can view many of the potential OTY candidates. There are four locations to visit:

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2004?dir=COTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2004?dir=TOTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2004?dir=SSOTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2004?dir=CKOTY>

Jim Follis  
OTY Awards Competition Chairman

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# RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Lakeside Casino in Osceola, IA decided they needed a \$3 chip.



Hello riverboat collectors! The Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin, IL replaced their aging rack sometime in July.



Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, IA replaced their rack sometime in August.



Harrah's Casino in Maryland Heights, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, released these two chips in July. One advertises poker and the other advertises their VooDoo Lounge.



This next one is a mystery to me. It came from the Palace Casino in Biloxi, MS. It was used when playing a game called Streak Blackjack. I was unaware the chip even existed until I found this chip in a collection that I purchased recently. I don't believe the game is still found at this casino. If you have any information

on when the game was at the Palace, I would love to hear from you. I've done a little research and have learned that the game is being played at the Treasure Chest in Kenner, LA. If anyone gets any of these Streak chips from there I would like to hear from them.



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

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- F. Closed or obsolete Nevada locations
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\$5.00 Type 3 AU \$15.00	\$25.00 Type 3 AU \$40.00
\$5.00 Type 4 AU \$15.00	

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# 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:

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**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

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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&GTCC Building Fund

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **CC&GTCC Building Fund** and mail to:

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Any questions email me: [Neal@rouletteharvester.com](mailto:Neal@rouletteharvester.com)

## TOKEN LIQUIDATION SALE

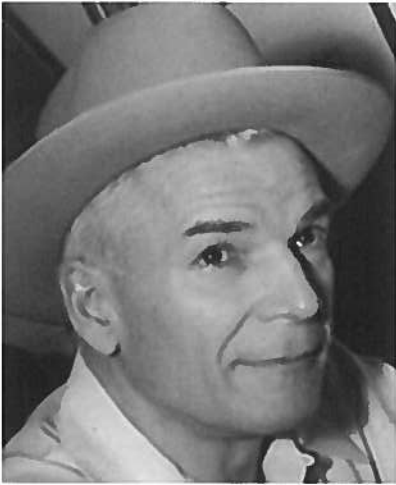
Las Vegas, Nevada				Carson City, Nevada			
Bally's	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1992 NCM	Carson City Nugget	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1965 FM
Bianca's Corral	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	Bill Crow's Mint	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1966 FM
Blue Note Lounge	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	Warehouse Market	\$1	Unc	\$10.00 stamped off ctr
Gus Thiros' Bonanza	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1996 Brass FM	<b>Henderson, Nevada</b>			
Boomtown	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1994 CT	Jokers Wild	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 GDC
Ye Boston Grill & Bar	\$1	Exc	\$2.00 CT	Pat Hand	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT bar
Bubba's	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 1992 CT	Triple J	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 NCM
Buck's Tavern	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT Cardvan	<b>Jean, Nevada</b>			
Caesars Palace	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1966 FM	Burrало Bills	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 GDC 1995?
Caesars Palace	\$1	VG+	\$2.00 1979 FM	<b>Lake Tahoe, Nevada</b>			
Caesars Palace	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1992 CT	Ed's Tahoe Nugget	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1992 CT
California Club	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1966 FM	<b>Laughlin, Nevada</b>			
Casino Royale	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1992 CT	Edgewater	\$1	Unc?	\$3.00 1992 CT
The Cave	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 1990 NCM	Gold River-Miners & Ore	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1992 CT copper
Circus Circus	\$1	Exc	\$3.00 1981 LM	Gold River-Ore Mill	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1993 CT copper
Circus Circus	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1991 NCM	Gold River-Mine shaft	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1994 CT copper
Dan's Royal Flush Casino	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 Brass NCM	Gold River-rock crusher	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1995 CT copper
Debbie Reynolds	\$1	Unc	\$6.00 1993 CT	Ramada Express	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Raleigh/Gaston
Desert Inn	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1992 CT	Ramada Express	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Rogers C.P.
D.T.'s	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	Ramada Express	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Jupiter #60
Duck Inn	\$1	Exc	\$2.00 NCM	Riverside	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Burtmier pony
Dunes	\$1	Exc/Unc	\$8.00 1965	Riverside	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Walting
Ferdinands Steakhouse	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	Riverside	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Lions head
Frontier	\$1	Unc	\$6.00 1967	Riverside	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 Dennings Delux
Gold Spike	\$1	Exc/Unc	\$4.00 1985 Dk. Brass	<b>Reno, Nevada</b>			
Hacienda	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1992 NCM	Clarion	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1991 NCM
Holy Cow	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 CT	Reno Hilton	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 NCM 1992?
Idle Spurs Tavern	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	Horseshoe Club	\$1	Unc	\$6.00 FM 1965?
Imperial Palace	\$1	Exc	\$2.00 1989 NCM	Mapes Money Tree	\$1	Exc	\$5.00 1979 (FM)
In Cahoots	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	<b>Yerington, Nevada</b>			
Kilroy's	\$1	Exc	\$2.00 CT	Casino West	\$1	AU	\$6.00 1981 (LM)
Loose Caboose	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	<b>Skagg's Alpha Beta</b>			
Main Street Station	\$1	Exc	\$2.00	4420 E. Bonanza L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM
MGM Roberto Duran	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1994 CC	1150 E Desert Inn Rd L.V.	\$1	VG-Exc	\$4.00 NCM
MGM Vinny Paziienza	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1994 CC	6850 Spring Mountain L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM
MGM Don King	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1994 CC	2300 Tropicana L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM
MGM Randall vs. Chavez	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1994 CC	<b>Mayfair Market</b>			
MGM Dina	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 GDC Brass	4813 Paradise Rd L.V.	\$1	Exc	\$6.00 NCM (1986)
The Mint	\$1	Exc	\$4.00 1966	<b>Oscro Drug</b>			
Payless Stores	\$1	Exc	\$1.50 Cardivan NCM	4014 S. Rainbow L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM Carrol-Unt.
Philly Pub	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 Cardivan CT	3550 W. Sahara L.V.	\$1	Exc	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Quality Inn & Casino	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 CT	3345 E Tropicana L.V.	\$1	Exc	\$4.00 NCM Carrol-Unt.
The Reel Deal	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1992 CT	<b>Smith's Food King</b>			
Royal Hotel Casino	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 1992 CT nice	830 S. Boulder Hwy Henersn	\$1	VG	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Sassy Sally's	\$1	Exc	\$6.00 Brass nice	1941 N Decatur L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Sheraton Desert Inn	\$1	Unc	\$4.00 CT	574 N Eastern L.V.	\$1	Unc	\$10.00 NCM Cardivan
Sly Fox North	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 beautiful	3750 E Flamingo L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Sport of Kings	\$1	Unc	\$2.50 GDC mirror fin.	232 N Jones L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Starboard Track	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 1991 Cardivan	S. Maryland L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM Cardivan
Stardust Lido de Paris	\$1	Unc	\$5.00 1966 FM	350 N Nellis L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$4.00 NCM Cardivan
Stardust Lido de Paris	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 1993 LM	22 E Oakey L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM Cardivan
Tony L's	\$1	Unc	\$3.00 CT MM on black	850 S Rancho L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM Cardivan
Turf Lounge	\$1	Unc	\$2.00 CT	42505 E 2nd L.V.	\$1	VG+	\$3.00 NCM Cardivan
Wonder World	\$1	Exc	\$6.00 Coin Corral				

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# Tony Cornero

## Swashbuckler

by Steve Fischer

Las Vegas has always been made up of a group of characters. Certainly none of the fun ones were what you could call 'mainstream,' and like everyone else who enjoys Las Vegas history, I have my own list of guys I really like reading and writing about.

Each of these guys have been responsible for flavoring the personality of Las Vegas - and because it's my list, guys I don't like just don't make the list. Kirk Kirkorian and Howard Hughes certainly flavored Las Vegas, but you'll never find either one on my list.

Among my favorites have been an odd mix of characters - some famous, some infamous, and some you've possibly never heard of before. But each had a style which made me smile for one reason or another. Some of the people on my list of favorites are:

Johnny Roselli, Fat Irish Green, Sammy Davis, Jr., Jay Sarno, Carl Cohen, and Tony Cornero.

This is the story about Tony Cornero

When Tony was in his early 20's he was involved in some enterprises which were just on the other side of the law. That decade was dominated

by Prohibition, and Prohibition meant the opportunity for enterprising men like Cornero to make a lot of money. He smuggled whiskey in from Canada, and smuggled rum in from Mexico (both the whiskey and the rum were top grade), he then sold them to the speakeasies in Southern California. By the time Cornero was 25, he had made a million dollars... a million dollars in 1927 Money!

His specialty was unloading these "rumrunner" boats out beyond the 3-mile limits, transferring the liquor onto his speedboats, and running them into the coves of Southern California beaches - until he got caught.

Tony went to prison, and while in prison, he did what a lot of smart prisoners do - he kept his mouth shut and his ears open. He heard about what was going on in Vegas, where best cons could really bring in the money.

In 1929 or 1930, when he got out, Tony took his two brothers, Frank and Louis Stralla (Tony's last name was Stralla, also - *maybe he thought it sounded too Italian*, so he went by Cornero), to dinner and laid out a fabulous plan!

It was pretty common knowledge that Nevada was playing around with

different ideas of how to stay alive, this was 1930, the beginning of the great depression.

Nevada governor Fred Balzar and the State legislature was about to make gambling legal again! It had been legal until about 1903 and was about to be legalized statewide. But there was a catch! The cities in Nevada, especially Reno and Las Vegas, were going to be allowed to set up their own regulations, not only regarding gambling, but also regarding prostitution.

Uncle Sam was well aware of what was going on in Nevada, and was involved. Herbert Hoover had that big dam project, named after himself that was about to begin construction east of Las Vegas. With all those thousands and thousands of men working on the dam, some rules had to be set up, for the men's own protection of course. Rule A - no gambling and Rule B - no women! (Well, not within easy reach anyway.) So Boulder City was built with no gambling and no women - no women of the evening, anyway.

Block 16 was an area within walking distance of downtown which was the Red Light District of Las Vegas. It was bordered by First and Second Street between Ogden and Stewart. All the prostitutes in Las Vegas were

supposed to work in the houses of Block 16 – from the big fancy whore-houses like the Arizona Club, to the rum joints with one back room like the Lone Star. Block 16 was where the liquor and the women could be found!

Tony had met a couple of guys in prison who said they were pretty well connected in Las Vegas politics. With the help of the churches of Las Vegas, Uncle Sam and the upstanding citizens of Las Vegas, those guys were going to get Block 16 closed down – “run them women out of town!”

The corner of Fremont Street and Charleston Blvd. in Las Vegas is “out of town”, it’s in Clark County, but not in Las Vegas City. If Block 16 was closed down where were those poor girls going to go? Where were those thousands of men who were working on the Hoover Dam supposed to find companionship? So, with nothing but goodness in his heart, Tony Cornero took an option of a 30 acre piece of desert (way out on Fremont and Charleston) for \$1 per acre. The purchase price was going to be \$10 per acre.

With gambling going to be legalized within the year (again, this is 1930), getting out of Las Vegas City would mean you didn’t have to be under the control of the Las Vegas City Council. You didn’t have to limit the number of slot machines you could have in one establishment, you weren’t limited in the number of 21 tables or faro-tables, you got a gambling license. Out in the county it’s your money, you do what you like!

One of Tony’s nicknames was Tony the Hat. He wore a nice white 10 gallon hat, a felt one, with a stick-pin in it! Tony The Hat sat down with brothers Frank and Louie and said, “Guys, heres the deal. We got about a hundred grand left from the rum

and whiskey business, right?” What I’m proposing is that we give the two guys I met in prison 5 grand so that they can grease the proper palms in Vegas and the State Legislature. We buy the property out in the desert, build us a first class hotel, say about 30 rooms, a first class casino, a great restaurant, a wonderful bar, heck, we’ll even put in our own airstrip! Bring in movie stars! (Sounds a little like Ben Siegel, doesn’t it?)

### 1931 The Meadows Casino

It cost Tony and his brothers \$31,000 to build the Meadows, and they built it for cash! They did put in the landing strip. Sure enough, at the beginning of 1931, gambling was legalized in Nevada, and sure enough, their casino was pulling in customers from all over town.

People dressed to the “T’s” to come on out to the Meadows Speakeasy. They had a top flight dance band. Tony hired Jack Laughlin, big time Broadway producer of “No, No, Nanette”, to come out and live in Las Vegas for \$500 a week! An incredible salary in 1931 – depression 1931. Tony wanted to stack the deck in his favor and hiring a big time Broadway name worked. Laughlin created the “Meadows

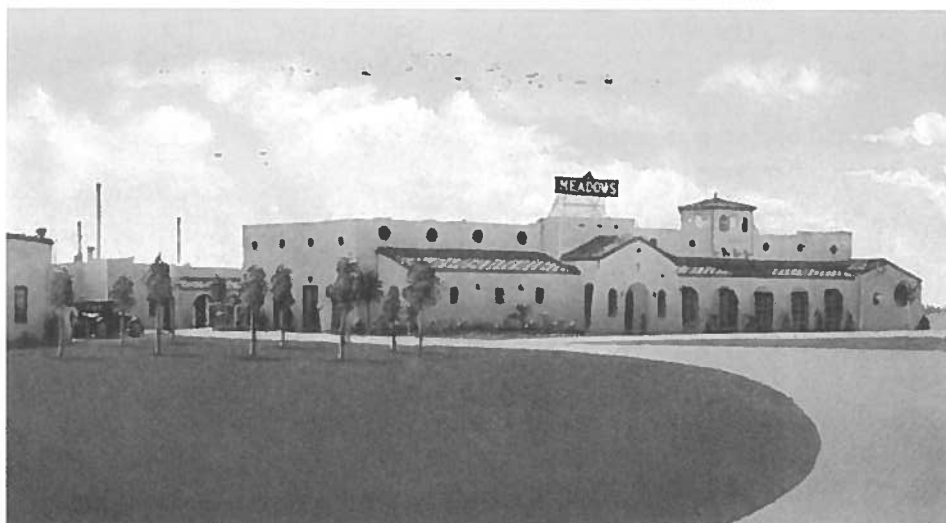
Revue” which sold out every night it played.

The booze Cornero served was top notch, after all, it was “imported” from Canada and Mexico. Las Vegas society began bellying up to bar at the Meadows. The booze really was top notch! Most of the liquor being served in downtown Las Vegas was bottled pretty close to downtown Las Vegas!

The Depression was not a good time to operate a hotel and casino and the two cons that had promised Tony Cornero that they’d get Block 16 closed, never came through. According to a 1932 Las Vegas newspaper article, the two men “*were spirited away in the dark of night by masked riders, never to be heard from again!*”

So, the 30 rooms which were built at the same time as the casino went pretty much empty. The society people of Las Vegas who were drinking, dancing, and gambling were driving home afterwards and the rooms were more often vacant than filled.

Two months after the Meadows opened, the Cornero brothers sold the hotel portion of the business to Alex Richmond, a Southern California



The Meadows, 1931



The Meadows interior

hotel man. On Labor Day of 1931, within 3 months of Richmond taking over the 30 hotel rooms, a fire of unknown origin occurred in the hotel portion of the Meadows.

Tony Cornero and his brothers weren't real popular with the powers-that-were in Las Vegas. When The Las Vegas Fire Department heard that the Meadows was burning, they just didn't make the call.

The Meadows wasn't in the City of Las Vegas, it was out there in the county, right? The LVPD only had to cover the City. Clark County had the Volunteer Fire Dept., "and we sure hope them Cornero Boys can round up all them volunteers in time to save the Meadows!" The hotel burned to the ground!

Tony and his brothers managed to hang on another three months with a casino only but, it just wasn't to be. Like so many other, the Meadows became part of Las Vegas history!

### 1938 The SS Rex

During the early 1930s there was a wonderful cottage industry off the shores of Southern California - luxury gambling ships.

Although this was during the early years of the depression, there were still lots of moneyed people in Los Angeles, especially the movie people, the politicians, and the idle rich. There was no place for these poor souls to gamble in 1933 Los Angeles.

The ships were anchored in what was called "Gamblers Row," outside the so called "three mile limit" off Santa Monica and Long Beach. Motorboats called Water Taxis delivered gamblers to and from the ships and it was done openly! The LA Times used to run big ads for the ships and you could hear radio ads encouraging people to "take a luxury cruise to nowhere."

Names like the SS Texas, and the SS Monte Carlo, the SS Tango and

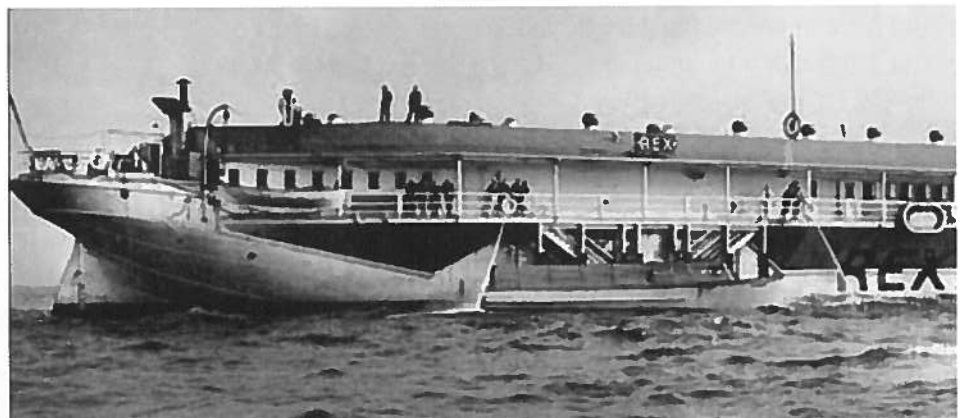
the SS Rex were all heavily advertised. On a Saturday night, you and the wife could get dressed to the nines, take a water taxi out of Long Beach Harbor or Santa Monica, and in 30 minutes you'd be on the SS REX.

A fabulous restaurant, great bar and 2 craps tables, blackjack, Faro, one arm bandits, a great horse parlor and a nice poker room were waiting. Tony Cornero, who like all good hustlers understood people, offered a challenge ... a \$100,000 reward to anyone who could show that any game on the Rex or any of the gambling boats was rigged. Cornero and the boats made another fortune!

The most famous of these boats was the SS Rex. The three fellas who owned the Rex were Johnny Roselli, Jack Dragna and Tony Cornero.

All Dragna had going for him was a scary last name. Although he was CAPO of the Los Angeles Cosa Nostra, he was such a cream puff and he mishandled his gang so badly, it was referred to by "made guys" as the Mickey Mouse Mafia. (This was reported in many taped phone calls that the FBI had privy to.)

Johnny Roselli and Jack Dragna were affiliated with the Chicago outfit, Tony Cornero was by himself, without Mob Affiliation.



SS Rex



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New York became aware of all the money being made by the gambling boats out there, just 3.1 miles off Santa Monica. Never wanting to miss an opportunity, Meyer Lansky sent Ben Siegel out to Los Angeles to oversee the racing wire, and to work out a deal with Jack Dragna to cut the New York Mob in on the action. Right away, Benny developed a working relationship with Tony Cornero, who by then was in direct control of the smaller ships in the fleet, Rose Isle and the Monte Carlo as well as the big ones ... the Johanna Smith, the SS Tango and the giant SS Rex, the big money maker!

Cornero bought the SS Rex, totally remodeled it, and opened it on May 5, 1938. Cornero's investment, rumored to be \$600,000, was financed by Ben Siegel and George Raft. Bugsy was out of the New York Mobs and his intrusion onto the Rex and the Tango was not taken well by Jack Dragna



and the Chicago outfit. Chicago had put in the initial venture capital to get the fleet going and now New York comes in with Bugsy and wants to take over! (This was a precursor of this same situation which would happen in Las Vegas for the next 25 years!)

With Ben Siegel involved, competition wasn't friendly anymore. Boats were burned, owners were found washed up on the Santa Monica beach, and the SS Rex became more and more popular. Water Taxis would take patrons out from Santa Monica and Long Beach - 25¢ one way, return trip for free!

Dragna then put out a contract on Cornero, but Tony lucked out. An up-and-coming young whippersnapper Attorney General of California by the name of Earl Warren didn't like gambling! Attorney Generals who want to become Governors know that highly publicized cases that protect the public from the horrors on gambling boats 3.1 miles off the coast of Santa Monica usually spell headlines and votes.

The state of California and Earl Warren found a technicality – a way around the "Three Mile Limit." It was the way the three miles were measured. The state of California refigured the starting point off the coastline and declared these ships in California waters, and therefore illegal. Warren and the LA Police and Sheriffs got aboard small Coast Guard crafts and made their way 3.1 miles out to sea bent on arresting Tony Cornero and closing the SS Rex.

A pitched sea battle began, the LA Cops vs. the SS Rex crew – the battle

never involved guns. Tony wouldn't allow the cops on the S.S.Rex. He and his crew kept them off with high powered waterhoses which worked for 3 days, then Tony and his crew gave up the SS Rex and surrendered to Earl Warren and the LA Police.

Tony Cornero was arrested and told reporters that he had to give up because they didn't have a barber aboard the Rex. He showed them when he turned around that he needed a haircut!



The SS Rex served admirably in WWII. It was re-christened the Star of Scotland and was sunk in the service of our country!

Wilbur Clark was one of the minor investors in both the SS Rex and the SS Tango. He had a total of 3 points in each. When the S.S.Rex was taken, Clark moved to Las Vegas, and recouped his losses in the El Rancho Vegas in which he purchased majority ownership in 1944.

### 1938 The SS Tango

*"Tony Cornero's Floating Gambling Palace, The S. S. Tango, anchored just 3.1 miles off Long Beach, had more gambling tables than any casino in Las Vegas!"* . LIFE Magazine 1938

Now, that sentence always had my interest because in 1938 in Las Vegas, the following clubs had this many gaming tables:

The Boulder Club	6
The Las Vegas Club	12
Monte Carlo	5
Northern Club	3
Pair-O-Dice	4
Red Windmill	2

A year before the Tango floated, Tony had another ship, a nice big one. It was the 282' Monfalcone. Tony and his partners, Jack Dragna and Johnny Roselli "had" it because they raided the schooner out on open water and "possibly" threw the crew overboard. Also, they "possibly" kept the 50 Slots, the 2 Roulette Wheels, the 2 Craps Tables and the 2 other tables for themselves. The Monfalcone burned in August, 1930.



What about the much bigger SS Tango? "Tony Cornero lost it in a poker game." Can you imagine the size of a poker game that to call a bet, Tony put up the Tango? If the profit on the Tango was \$100,000 a month, that would make the ship and the casino aboard it worth what? Certainly in the \$3 to \$4 million dollar range!



Where was a poker game which required a bet of \$3 to \$4 Million dollars to call. And if Tony lost the Tango, who won it? Interesting question, right? I Don't know the answer and it's one of the questions about Cornero which has puzzled me for years – who the heck did he lose the Tango to?



### The SS Rex Casino Winter 1944

Though the Meadows Casino had failed in 1932, Tony was ready to bet on Las Vegas again.

He contacted his friend, the builder and owner of the Apache Hotel in Las

Vegas, Orlando Silvangi, and they struck a deal.

From the time the Apache Hotel opened in 1936, through about 1945, it was the classiest hotel in Las Vegas. It had the first elevator in Las Vegas and the first fully carpeted lobby. The Apache was a meeting place for the movers and shakers of early Las Vegas. This is where the bankers would meet for lunch. Howard Hughes used to take his lunch here, so did Kirk Kirkorian, when they were downtown.

The deal was that Tony would lease the 'Pache Casino (as it was called) from Orlando Silvangi, and he would rename it the SS Rex – after his dearly departed gambling ship. The City Council of Las Vegas remembered Cornero very well from the Meadows, and from his very public front page fights with Attorney General of California, Earl Warren. They didn't want any part of Cornero, and, on December



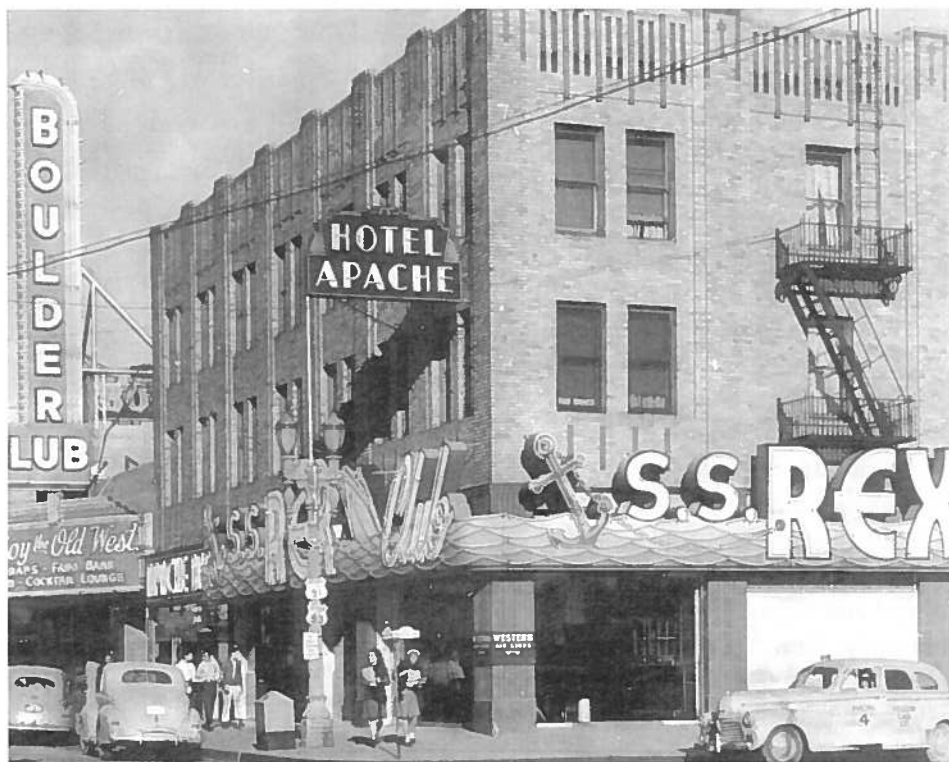
10, 1944, they voted no to his request for a gaming license by a 3-2 vote. However, two weeks later, someone must have spoken with a Las Vegas City Councilmen named Coradetti. City records show that Coradetti changed his vote from a "no" to a "yes" allowing the gambling license.

The land-based SS Rex lasted a little more than 21 weeks! For whatever reason (and I cant find out what the reason was), the gambling license was lifted, and the SS Rex Casino in the lower portion of the Apache Hotel was no more.

### 1948

When the SS Rex in Las Vegas closed, for the second time, Tony and the Mrs. packed up the Cadillac, put the trailer on the back, loaded the hamper with egg salad sandwiches and the thermos with seven and sevens, and headed back to Beverly Hills.

Tony was working through the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles with the Country of Mexico. He was



being paid \$1,000 per week plus his expenses to assist Mexico in setting up their new venture, casino style gambling. In 1948 the Mexican Legislature passed a bill legalizing casino gaming and Tony was right there, ready to help our neighbors to the South.

He was working with officials of the Mexican Government, acting as a very well paid consultant in their new venture, when someone rang his front door during dinner. Cornero answered the door to two gunmen and four bullets! All to the stomach. It was a pretty clear message, The Las Vegas casino owners didn't think the expertise that Tony had picked up in Las Vegas should be shared with our neighbors to the South who were going to do their best to take business away from Las Vegas.

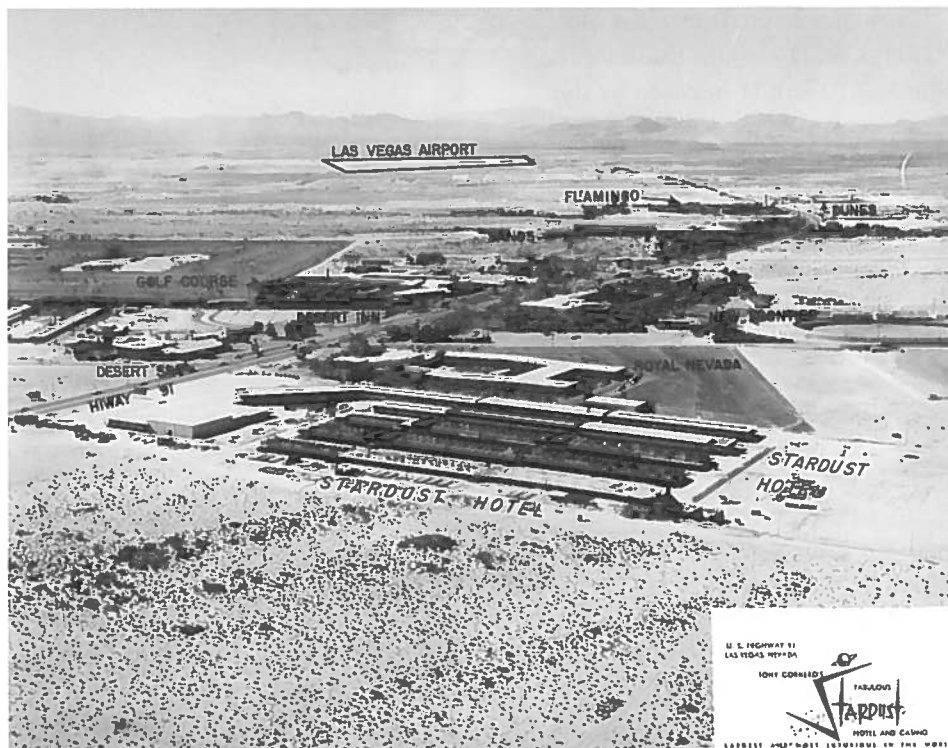
### Early 1950s The Stardust Hotel

It took Tony Cornero a year to recover from the gunshots but he did.

Tony realized that if he was going to make it in gaming it had to be in Las Vegas. So, once again, Tony and the Mrs. rented another U-Haul, loaded up the Caddy and headed out across the desert to Las Vegas. This time to go after the biggest dream that Tony every had, to build the largest hotel and the largest casino in the world!

For a small amount down, Cornero bought a 40 acre piece of land on the Strip. However, that was all the money he had. Even in 1953, you had to put a couple hundred thousand down! So, he owned a piece of land, and had a great idea for a hotel. What to do next? How about selling shares in the hotel? That'll raise money.

(Have you seen the movie or Broadway show "The Producers"?). Well, before he could sell shares in The Starlight, (that was its original



“working” name), it changed to the “Stardust” later in 1954, he had to have those shares.

So, Tony filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, stating that he wanted to sell stock in his venture. He then went to the printer and printed up a whole bunch of stock certificates. Oh yeah, and as President and Chairman of the Board he voted himself stock options which he exercised immediately. The shares were issued for \$10.01 each. He bought 65,000 shares for 10cents each for himself and his wife. They now owned 51% of all the stock for a total investment of \$6,500 The assets of the Starlight/Stardust at the time was 40 acres of land, valued at just over \$500,000!

Easiest way to sell stock is just to sell it, right? So Tony and a group of salesmen who worked for him began “working the phones”, selling shares in the “biggest hotel in the world, with the biggest casino in the world” for an initial price of \$10.01 each. Later prices rose to meet the market demand.

Did I mention that the SEC had not approved this sale?

Tony had taken out newspaper ads around the country offering Starlight/Stardust stock for sale. Radio advertisement ran in the western states and people started buying the stock.

Finally, the SEC ruled that all this stock wasn't registered!

All those sales that Tony and the boys made were valueless! Karat, Inc., the operating company behind the Starlight/Stardust had sold stock in the hotel without an underwriter. They were selling it themselves, why get an underwriter?

Meanwhile, construction had begun on the Stardust and a lot of people were going to be out a lot of money. The state of Nevada ruled that those purchases “instate” ( those investors who lived within Nevada) could actually keep their ownership, those outside the state lost all their money.

Now it was on Tony's list of "Things To Do While Building the Stardust." Getting licensed by the State to operate a casino ("Damn," he must have thought.) I knew I forgot something."). But, he was turned down by the Commission! He was not allowed to own a casino! Had to do with that silliness about him being a convicted felon and all!

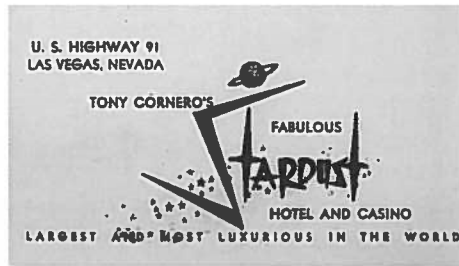
So here he was, a casino just beginning to be built, and he couldn't operate the thing! He asked his buddy Farmer Paige if he'd like to take it over for him. Lease the casino from him, on paper, for \$150,000 a month. Paige said sure but he wanted to run the joint, not Cornero! A basic sticking point between them.

Enter the Chicago outfit. The Desert Inn Group, headed by Moe Dalitz. They came and bailed Tony out.

The biggest problem in Las Vegas construction in 1955 was that there were far more projects going on than there were skilled workman available. Union laborers were being paid twice union wages by Tony Cornero who needed to get the work done on the giant Stardust site. At the same time, the Stardust was being built, The Riviera, The Dunes, The Hacienda, The Royal Nevada, The Fremont (downtown), The Lucky Strike (downtown), The Moulin Rouge (in West Las Vegas), The Golden Gate (downtown), and The New Frontier, were all in various stage of construction, and they all needed experienced construction workers.

Journeyman plumbers, masons, cement contractors and electricians were being offered twice what they were being paid anywhere else in Las Vegas to work on the Stardust. Cornero's money began to run out real fast.

In March of 1955, Tony made the first of a number of presentations to



Moe Dalitz and his partner Meyer Lansky. He desperately needed money to finish the Stardust, and he was willing to take in United Hotels, the Desert Inn operating company, as a full partner.

As part of the presentation, Tony Cornero and the Desert Inn photographer, a man named Mark Swain, spent 3 days taking photos, including aerial shots of the Stardust.

The 1st loan was made to Cornero for \$1.25 million which was the first of three loans Tony Cornero was going to ask for from Moe Dalitz and the United Hotel Group. The second and third loans were soon to follow, and before you knew it Cornero was into the mob, the Chicago Outfit, for nearly \$4.3 million dollars!

Two weeks away from completion of the Stardust, Cornero was again out of money!

He required an additional \$800,000 to stock the hotel with cash required to open, and to pay the liquor and food suppliers for the initial stocking of the Stardust. This was July 31, 1955.

11 AM that morning, July 31, 1955, Tony Cornero Died.

There's always been speculation about his death, although the facts of his death were pretty straightforward. He was playing craps at the Desert Inn after meeting with Dalitz and was drinking his regular "7 & 7s." He was down \$37,600 at the table, and he fell over dead.

Many authors speculate that his death was caused by a heart attack brought on by Moe Dalitz making sure that Tony, a high roller, was given the ultimate insult – he was presented with a \$25 bill for his drinks which blew his blood pressure through the roof and brought on the heart attack.

From local newspaper stories: *Tony Cornero dropped dead at approximately 11:00 AM at a craps table at the DI.*

*His body was taken off the casino floor and brought into a casino host's office before the coroner or LVPD were called.*

*Two hours later, at about 1 PM, the LVPD was called and Tony Cornero's death was reported.*

*The glass which Tony was drinking out of was washed. They could never find which glass he was actually using!*

*No autopsy was performed on his body. His body was sent by railroad to Los Angeles.*

*Two days later, a coroner's jury in LA, again without having an autopsy, came to the conclusion that Tony died of natural causes, and he was buried.*

The Word on the street has always been that Cornero was poisoned.

The Stardust, which was put up as collateral for the previous loans now became the property of United Hotels. On the surface, Tony's brother Louis Stralla came in to complete the Stardust, but that became impossible. The day after Tony died, the Stardust construction site had a work stoppage! Donald Patterson who was the General Contractor finally stopped working on the site, saying that the "jurisdictional disputes were just too much to deal with," and the Stardust sat empty for two years!

There were more than 1,000 mourners at his funeral, including all the casino owners from the strip.

Per his request, Tony's favorite song *The Wabash Cannonball* was played by the organ and sung by the mourners. (Classy guy that Tony!)

Though Tony raised nearly \$10,000,000 in the years just before

his death through the stock sales and the loans, his total estate was valued at \$800 the day he died!

Cary Grant played Tony Cornero in the 1943 movie "Mr. Lucky", costarring Laraine Day. The TV Show "Mr. Lucky", which ran from October 1959 through September 1960, was loosely based on Tony Cornero's life.

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Steve writes and sells on eBay under the name "OmahaGrampa."



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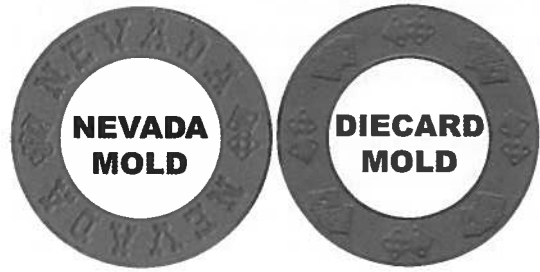
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# Bud Jones and the NEVADA and DIECARD Molds



by David Spragg

Bernard 'Bud' Jones was born in Kansas City in 1915. After working in the dice manufacturing industry for two decades he moved to Nevada with his family in the mid 1950's. He founded the Bud Jones Co. in 1965 and also traded as The Nevada Dice Co. until the mid 1970's when he put his name on that company also.

Bud designed the 'NEVADA' mold in 1965 and the 'DIECARD' mold in 1971. The Burt Co. had the molds made for BJ and then made chips to his orders. While BJ owned the molds they would have resided at the Burt Co. Bud Jones never actually made chips from the molds. It is believed the molds cost around \$40,000 each to make at that time.

In its correct orientation the NEVADA mold consists of two instances of the word 'NEVADA' separated by 'four aces' at the 9 o'clock position and '2 and 5 dice' at 3 o'clock. Chips from this mold are medal aligned so the position of the aces and dice will be reversed on the back of the chip. The DIECARD mold consists of 4 repetitions of the 'four aces' separated by 4 repetitions of the '2 and 5 dice'. Chips from this mold are coin aligned and therefore the same on both sides. Both molds were used for both inlay and hot-stamp chips. Burt Co./Atlantic Standard chips are rarely found with inlays or hot-stamps perfectly aligned. Bill Borland however took trouble to align most of his hot-stamp chips correctly when he later used the

molds to make counterfeit chips.

Unfortunately we have no records to confirm BJ supplied any out of state orders on the NEVADA mold. The long debated but still unidentified EP chips shown below may well have been the only ones. The chips may of course have been from Ernie Primm's Club in Reno but the order was not shipped to Nevada. More than likely they were for either Ernie Primm's Club in Gardena, CA, or the nearby Embassy Palace Club which Primm also operated. Regardless of their use, Primm's own history, which will doubtless be debated once more, dictates that these must have been among the earliest chips produced on the mold. Use of the DIECARD mold was more widespread, both within and outside the US.

Other early uses of the two molds, with hotstamp and inlay, are illustrated below. Bud stopped selling chips on the two molds in 1980 except for re-orders and special requests. The



last BJ order for inlayed NEVADA mold chips was for Circus Circus in 1978. The \$1 chip from that last order, known to differ slightly in color from previous orders/re-orders is also shown.



In 1973, Bud started making his own plastic coin inlay chips, using a new incused DIECARD mold. He designed them so that he could sell his own line which was different to others. Sadly, as these chips have really stood the test of time, he never managed to crack the empire of Paul Endy's Paulson. Paul told everyone that Bud's coin inlays were too slippery for dealers to cut. They believed him and most never gave them a chance. Most of BJ's Las Vegas business appeared to remain within the Hughes controlled casinos, where he was already selling tables, dice and other gaming supplies. As a further new line, he started making his own '8 suit' clay chips in 1980. Here are some examples of his earliest coin inlays.



In the late 1980's, BJ introduced a smooth, non-incused coin inlay chip, which was made on similar DIESUITS & DIE4SUIT molds. These chips remain in use in many casinos today and are still produced on request.

The Burt Co. was owned by the Burt family from 1936 to 1985 when they sold out to Delta Reality. John Kendall then acquired them later the same year and continued running the company until it went out of business in 1988 when he founded Chipco to manufacture his preferred 'Protec' chips and sold the Burt Co. assets to Jim Blanchard. Burt Co. resumed manufacturing under the name of Atlantic Standard.

Bill Borland bought the rights to the two molds from Bud Jones around 1991. The molds themselves remained with Jim Blanchard/Atlantic Standard who made chips and blanks on the dies to Borland's orders. Borland made his fantasy commemorative chips on the NEVADA mold and produced a number of counterfeit hotstamp chips on both molds. He did produce 3 genuine chips to order for the Hotel Nevada, Battle Mountain. He also made value and non-value chips for other establishments inside and outside Nevada. It has not been possible to confirm whether these chips were actually

produced to fulfil orders and were in use at the relevant casinos or otherwise. The hotstamps on these chips were not properly aligned. There are some examples below.



When Borland died Jerry Wall came into control of his assets. A couple of years ago Jim Blanchard bought the rights to the molds from

Wall/Borland's estate and made the Nevada Jacks' chips shortly afterwards. Blanchard is still making and selling chips on the DIECARD mold. He sold the NEVADA mold to 'nevadajacks.net' and these chips are now being manufactured by the Blue Chip Co.

Bud Jones died in 2001 and Bourgogne et Grasset (B&G) bought the Bud Jones Co. In 2002 B&G and the Bud Jones Co. merged with Paul-Son Gaming to become the world's largest casino supply company. They changed their name to Gaming Partners International in August 2004.

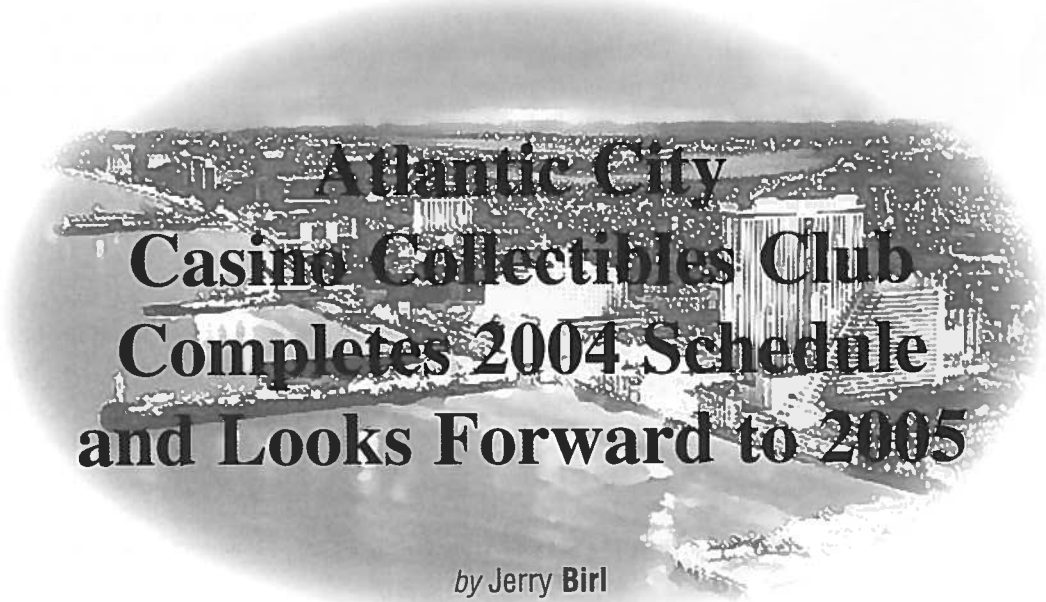
Thanks in particular to Gene Trimble who carried out all the original research, and to James Campiglia and Allan Myers for their contributions. I welcome your comments by email.



Jim Blanchards chips



The recent chips from Blue Chip Co.



# Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club Completes 2004 Schedule and Looks Forward to 2005

by Jerry Birl

The Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club completed its 2004 schedule with a meeting at the Sands Casino on Sunday, November 14, 2004. The guest speaker was New Jersey State Assemblyman Dr. Jeff Van Drew. Assemblyman Drew gave an overview of the impact that Casino gambling has had on Atlantic City over the last 25 years, and the outlook for the future. Revenues, employment and improvements to the City of Atlantic City have far exceeded the estimates that were made in 1978 when the first Casinos opened. Billions and billions of dollars have been generated by the 8% tax on gaming revenues. The monies have been used to provide medical benefits to senior citizens throughout the State of New Jersey. There are now 50,000 people directly employed in the Casinos in Atlantic City. Additional plans are underway to further enhance the attractions that already exist in

Atlantic City. Planners hope to make Atlantic City a true vacation destination similar to what has been done in Las Vegas, where expanded shopping, dining and entertainment venues will be added to compliment the existing Casinos. The future of Atlantic City looks very bright.

At the November 14th, September 12th and July 18th meetings, Club members participated in the regularly scheduled activities including chip swapping sessions, 50/50 drawings, and Club auctions. In addition, Club officers gave various reports and Club members were updated on the latest chip releases from the various Casinos. Between 85 and 125 members and guests attended each of the Club meetings.

As was reported in the last issue of the National Club Magazine, Russ Diaz participated in the World Series

of Poker at Binion's Casino in Las Vegas. Russ didn't bring home the \$5 million 1st prize, but he finished in the middle of the field, and actually outlasted many of the Legends of the game. Russ, however, did capture 1st place in the Poker Tournament at the Palms Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, which was held in conjunction with the November 5th and 6th Chip Show.

All the officers and members of the A.C. Club are looking forward to another fun filled year of chipping activities in 2005. The Club's Annual pizza party will be held in March of 2005. If you want to join the Club and participate in Club activities, you can get further information on the Club's website - <http://ccgtcc.com/chapters/ac/> - or you can contact Dick Brach - Club President - [cabodick@aol.com](mailto:cabodick@aol.com)





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# Poker & Blackjack Tournament Changes for the 2005 Convention

by Robert Pardue

Once again, the annual CC&GTCC convention in August 2005 in Las Vegas will include Poker and Blackjack tournaments for members and associates. The tournaments will be hosted again at the Palms Casino Resort. Complete information and rules will be posted later on the club website with other convention info. In most respects, the tournaments will operate as last year. The primary change is the all-in-one entry fee of \$80 for Poker and \$80 for Blackjack per entrant. As explained below, the net increase is just \$2 per entrant.

Previously, the Poker tournament was \$55 to enter, plus \$20 rebuy, plus \$3 dealers' tip-chip, or \$78 total. Since virtually every player opted for the rebuy and dealers' tip-chip, we've simplified the entry process by charging \$80 per entrant. (The extra \$2 also goes to the dealers' tip pool, in lieu of tokens from the final table players.) Players will start with 1200 in chips, rather than the previous 500 buy-in, plus 500 rebuy and 100 for dealers' tip-chip.

The Blackjack tournament entry was \$75 previously, with an extra \$3 for dealers' tip-chip. We're changing the entry to \$80, with the extra \$2 going into the tip pool, in lieu of other dealer tips, similar to the poker tournament. Players chips will be adjusted to 600 per round.

Other improvements expected: The Poker tournament will add 2 more tables for the 2005 event. The Blackjack tournament will have pre-assigned seating for the three initial rounds, for player convenience. And we will start the semi-final and final

rounds of play immediately after the prior round, in order to finish a bit earlier to accommodate attendance at

the Wednesday night banquet.

See you at the tables in August!

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# Recent Additions to the Club Library

by Robert Pardue

Books, videos, auction guides, DVDs and VHS tapes – the club library has a number of new additions for club members. For the benefit of recent members, let me explain the purpose of the club library: as a non-profit educational organization, one of the missions of the club is to make casino- and chip-related research and reference materials available to members. Materials are available to be checked-out by any club member or associate member in good standing. Up to 4 items at a time will be mailed to you (at club expense); you return the items within 3 to 4 weeks (at your expense). Typically, Priority mail is used, but certain bulky or heavy items may require special handling and/or insurance. Mailing outside the U.S. also may require special handling. The most popular items sometimes have a waiting list, and are shipped by order requested. Now, on to the new additions...

We were all saddened when long-time club member Bob Feeney (Mr.

\$2.50 chip) passed away. His wife, Georgia, thoughtfully donated much of **Bob Feeney's extensive chip library** of books, catalogs, auction guides and magazines to the club library. To mention just a few of the 200+ individual items donated, a complete set of *Chip Chat* issues (issues #1 to #34) and a 3-volume set of Chip Chat's color catalog for the Hank Boss Collection auctions; a 33-piece set of auction catalogs from Gaming Archaeology / The Coin Co.; additional copies of chip guides, such as Black's Atlantic City guides, several Colorado guides, Riverboat guides and six editions of The Chip Rack; plus a number of back issues of the club magazine and other magazines. These non-current editions may assist future club members in tracking down historical info about various casinos' chips. (For a complete list of these donations, the library list on the club website will be updated to include all donated items.)

The 1994 *Guide to Nevada Route Tokens*, by Don & Jean, was donated

in memory of member & collector David Harvey. This 3-ring binder reference on tokens is new to the club library and should be useful to casino token enthusiasts.

*Obsolete Casino Chips of Puerto Rico* (2002) was donated by the son of author George T. Davis. This 25-page spiral-bound booklet features chips from the Albert Rollins Collection. While some of the Puerto Rico chip values have changed since publication, the booklet contains interesting historical nuggets of information.

Interested in the old west? We now have *The Gamblers*, a 1978 book from the Time-Life series on the old west, with 240 pages and numerous pictures.

And finally, if you weren't able to make it to the 2004 convention, the club has donated the **Convention Highlights video**, including the Bob Maheu speech – available in either VHS or DVD format

## 2005 Convention Auction Catalog

by Barry Weintraub

Start your engines, Ladies and Gentlemen; it's time to start thinking about the 2005 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction that will take place 7 PM Friday night August 5, 2005 at the 13th annual CCGT&CC at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in fabulous Las Vegas.

Once again the auction catalogs will be available prior to the actual event and can be ordered from our esteemed Treasurer, Mike Quinlivan. The black and white version features scans of all the lots and is invaluable in reviewing the lots in the auction and is available for \$15. If you want to place an order for a catalog, send a check, with your club membership number to:

Mike Quinlivan  
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If you have any questions about the auction, I can be reached at [auction@ccgtcc.com](mailto:auction@ccgtcc.com)

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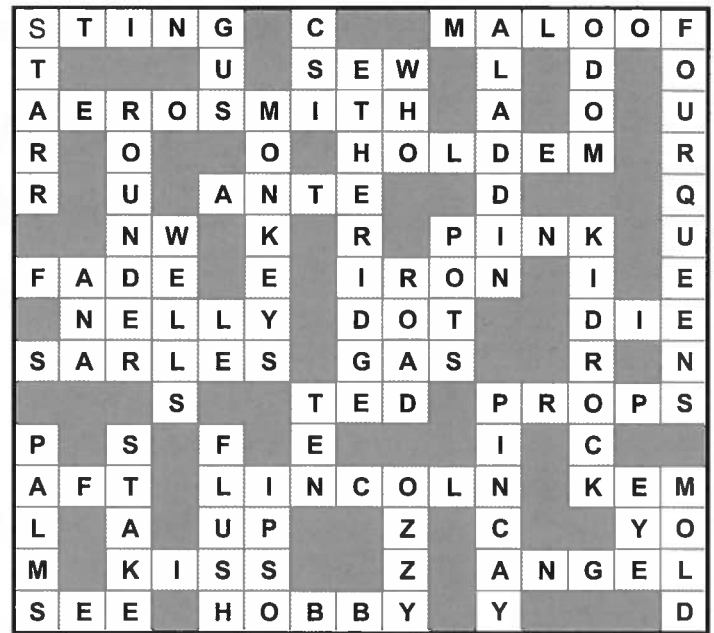
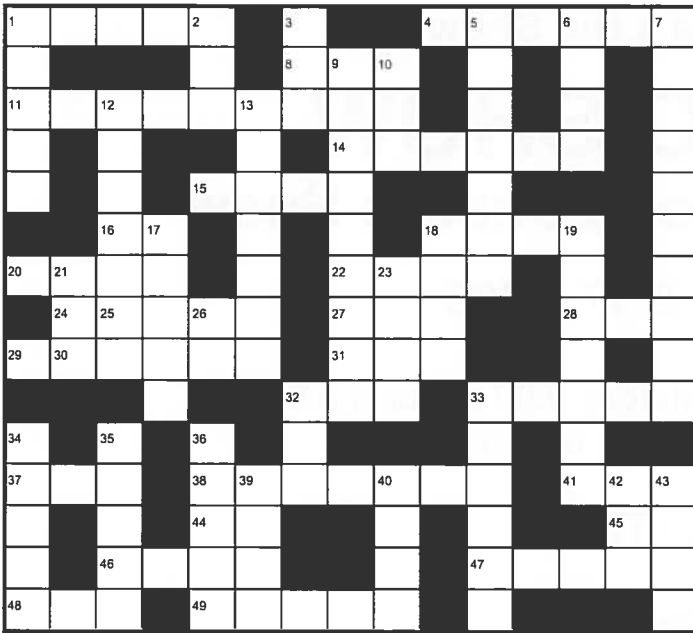
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Please reserve your hotel rooms now. Wed. 9/14 \$34.95, Thurs. 9/15 \$69.95, Fri. 9/16 \$79.95 Sat 9/17 \$89.95. This is Air Races weekend in Reno. Please mention the show and code GCHIP05 to get these special rates. Reservations must be made by August 12, 2005 for these rates.

For dealer tables and more information contact:

Jim Munding, P.O. Box 4087, West Covina, CA 91791 (626) 919-0603  
Email [MUN3335@aol.com](mailto:MUN3335@aol.com)

(Solution to "Chip Trivia # 1")



# 2005 Exhibits Invitation

by Joe Shaw

The club is now accepting entries for Exhibits for display at the upcoming 13th Annual CC&GTCC Convention. This year's convention is being held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The convention dates are August 3rd through August 6th 2005, and this year's convention will also feature a much larger floor space. All Exhibitors will receive an Appreciation scrip that can be used for purchases at any dealer's table on the bourse floor or at the club's promotions table. Visitors to the convention will select The People's Choice Award for the First, Second and Third Place winners for exhibits.

To receive your Exhibitors Application form, please contact

Joe Shaw  
10301 East Estates Drive  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Or if you wish to have the form (done in Microsoft Word format) sent to you electronically, send an email to

[databzr@casino-chip.com](mailto:databzr@casino-chip.com)

The Exhibitor's Application must be filled out and returned before June 20th.

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