

Casino Chip And Token News



Colorado Casino Collectibles Show

sponsored by the Colorado Casino Collectibles Club

At The



BLACK HAWK, CO

August 27 - 28, 2005

Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel

In historic and scenic Black Hawk, Colorado

(just 1/2 hour West of Denver)



Free Admission!



-Enjoy the fall splendor of the Rocky Mountain West!



-26 casinos in Black Hawk and Central City



-Discount room rates



-Free drawings and giveaways

-Dealers save 25% with early registration - Deadline: July 25

Come see

- * Chips
- * Tokens
- * Silver Strikes
- * Commemoratives
- * Apparel & Glassware
- * Memorabilia of all kinds
- * And good friends

For dealer tables or show information, please contact:

Bill Richardson E-mail: bill@roecinc.com or call (303) 778-6008



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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**AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Regular Student Junior Senior Associate
Present or former ANA number, if any _____

Mr. Mrs Ms.

Name, please print

Street

City

State Zip

Country Date of Birth

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

Please check here if you DO NOT want your name and address forwarded to the ANA representative in your area.

Please check here if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you.

I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

Signature of Applicant Date

Proposer

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Check Money Order Credit Card Type _____

Credit Card all Numbers Expiration Date

Signature of Cardholder (Required)

Dues

- Regular (age 23-64) \$36 International \$48*
- Junior (age 22 or younger) \$20
- Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$31 International \$43*
- Club \$36
- Life \$1,000
- Senior Life \$750

* US Funds

Forward completed application to:

ANA

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

SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES

Winter Issue January, February, March
Mailing Date: January

Spring Issue April, May, June
Mailing Date: April

Summer Issue July, August, September
Mailing Date: July

Fall Issue October, November, December
Mailing Date: October

PLEASE NOTE

- Do not send in ads that are folded. May we recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND", this will only cost you about \$3.85 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Once again try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.

NEXT DEADLINE

Summer Issue 2005

is June 1st 2004

Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

Winter: Jan-Feb-Mar Deadline for Ads: December 1st
Spring: Apr-May-Jun Deadline for Ads: March 1st
Summer: Jul-Aug-Sep Deadline for Ads: June 1st
Fall: Oct-Nov-Dec Deadline for Ads: September 1st

MOVING?

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

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

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

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

DISPLAY AD RATES

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

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

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to “The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.” or CC>CC. No ad will be run without payment.

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

CONTRACT DISCOUNT ADVERTISING RATES

Sign up for a full year of advertising and save up to 25% on some ads. Take a look at the table below and see how much you will save.

Full payment must be sent in with your contract ad request

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CC>CC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

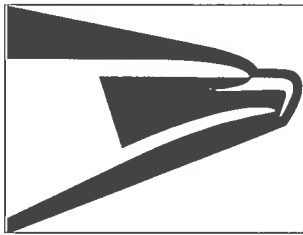
- Chips Tokens
 U.S. Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

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

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

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



First Class Mail

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

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

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

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

Sponsored by:



CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

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

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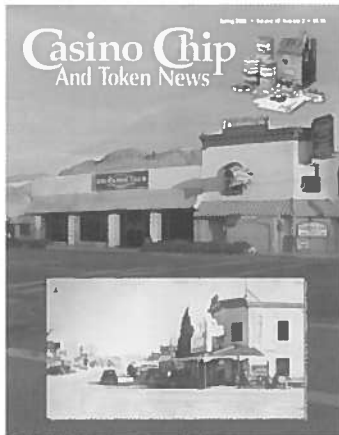
Original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not represent those of The Casino Chip and Token News or the Editorial staff.

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



Spring 2005 Volume 18 Number 2

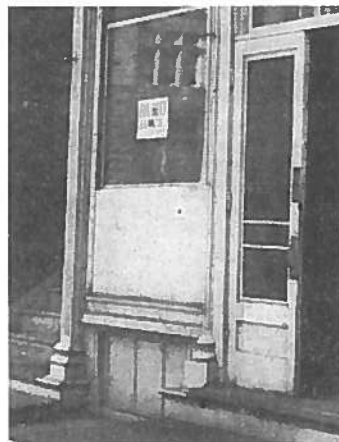


Cover Story
**Gambling on Beatty.
A History of the Exchange Club
and Burro Inn**

Photo Courtesy
Howard Herz

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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:

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

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

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

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



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

With this form I agree to Pay:

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

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

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

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

All Raffle proceed will support the CC>CC Building Fund

Total enclosed \$_____

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

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

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Any questions email me: Neal@rouletteharvester.com

From the Editor's Desk



Allan Anderson

It's always a good idea to get opinions from people who aren't in the club, or for that matter, don't even know what a chip collector is. Recently I ran across an old friend from my high school days, Rosemarie Mazzella. Being a frequent visitor to Atlantic City she couldn't quite grasp why anyone would want to keep the chips rather than playing them or turning them in. After lengthy explanations I think she understood what this is all about. Well almost. So, what better person than to give an opinion as someone from The Bronx. On top of that, an Italian from The Bronx.

I think we're on the right track. The chip articles gave a better understanding about the hobby and collecting, and the historical pieces went over big, really big. So what I'm leading up to here is, send me some articles from your area, or areas you're familiar with. There are so many parts of this country and the world that we haven't covered. Share your knowledge.

The convention is sneaking up on us in August. There will be one more issue of the magazine prior to the convention mailing in mid-June. This would be an opportune time to advertise, especially if you have a table at the show. Let everyone know what you have to sell, or what you're looking for.

The CC>CC is looking for a Promotions and Property Chairperson and a Club Publicity Director. Information on these 2 positions can be found on page 54. Thanks go out to both Tyrus Mulkey and Len Cipkins for their many contributions to the organization.

A good cause is Neal Silverman's roulette raffle for the building fund. Drawings will be held at the convention on Friday. For more information, see the ad on the previous page or contact Neal at Neal@rouletteharvester.com.

It's not easy to put a convention like ours together. Special thanks go out to Jim Steffner, convention chairman, who's hard work and endless hours have made this the huge success that it is. Also, while you're at the convention this year, stop and thank the many volunteers who have donated their time to put this all together. There is also still time to put an exhibit together for display. Contact Joe Shaw at databzr@casino-chip.com.

Hope to see everyone at the convention. Until then, happy collecting.

Allan

President's Letter



Mike Skelton

There are only about 90 days left until we meet in Las Vegas for the 13th Annual Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. Convention! This year's dealer tables are SOLD OUT and this convention promises to be our largest and best show to date!

If you haven't already done so, make your plans to attend the most anticipated show of the year. Once again, you can pre-register through our website at www.ccgccc.com to attend the convention, purchase banquet tickets and register for the annual Poker and Black Jack tournaments. We would encourage everyone to pre-register as it will save you time and money, plus some "extras" that will only be available to those that pre-register for the convention.

I would like to ask that everyone support Neal Silverman's Roulette Raffle project. Neal is attempting to gather 2005 roulette chips to be raffled during the convention, with the proceeds benefiting the Building Fund. If every member would send Neal just 1 roulette, he would easily surpass his goal. And don't forget to purchase your raffle ticket for a chance at owning all of those roulettes and supporting a good cause. You can contact him at neal@rouletharvester.com, see the Club website or see the ad else where in this issue.

Some of the things to look forward to at the Convention this year are:

- The Early Bird Banquet on August 3rd, with another excellent guest speaker
- Educational Seminars Thursday-Saturday
- Expanded Bourse floor with more tables than ever before
- Poker and Black Jack tournaments
- The Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction
- Trade sessions
- Some surprise events we are still working on and more

We can always use more assistance in putting on this Convention, especially early on Wednesday, with the initial setup. PLEASE take a couple of hours and volunteer to help with YOUR Convention. You can contact Jim Steffner at convention@ccgtcc.com to offer your time and talents. We might not have time to open up the Trade Session rooms if we don't get enough volunteers to help with the show set up!!! Thought that might get your attention.

We hope to see everyone in Las Vegas, at the Riviera, August 3rd-6th. For all the information on the convention, see the Convention articles in this issue of the magazine or visit the Club website.

Remember to have FUN!!

Mike Skelton

Vice President's Letter



Wayne Thompson

As reported the Board of Directors had their mid-year board meeting. It still amazes me all the projects the Club has going and how fast the Club and hobby are growing. I'm sure when Archie founded this Club he never dreamed it would be where it is today.

Among the new initiatives the Board wants to start is an "Ask the Expert" program. With all the new members coming in as well as with the specialization we all need help from time to time. Our idea is to have volunteers that we can post their name and e-mail address on the Club website that are willing to answer questions about their area of expertise. Some of the categories would be Riverboats, Indian casinos, California, Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, Atlantic City, Colorado, Crest and Seals, Illegals, Silver Strikes, Slot Cards, Room Keys, Tokens, and many more I haven't named. Obviously certain areas such as Las Vegas will need several "experts". We are not asking for the expert to be an appraiser, but rather a source of information for a new member or a member who does not specialize in that area. Of course if you are comfortable giving an estimated value feel free to. This continues our mission to promote greater education in our hobby.

I hope everyone will consider offering to volunteer. It should take very little time and it goes a long way in helping your fellow members.

Some time ago we started a program to add articles on certain areas of collecting to the Club website. Many people committed to providing these articles and only two have come through. I have dropped the ball in following up, but you will be hearing from me soon so you might as well start writing.

I look forward to seeing everyone in August at the Convention.

Wayne Thompson



Renew Your Membership Online



Treasurer's Report



Mike Quinlivan

As of March 31, 2005, the cash balance in the Club's accounts is \$238,397. For the first three months of 2005, the Club treasury increased its cash position by \$35,073, excluding Convention tournament registration of \$5,420 and Building Fund donations of \$615. This includes the expenditure for the Winter issue of the Club magazine. Please see the accompanying financial statements for more detail related to income, expenditures, and the breakdown of the equity accounts.

Highlights for the first 3 months of 2005:

1. 10 members became Life Members. The Club now has 108 Life Members and 5 Honorary Life Members.
2. Convention 2005 paid registration through March 31, 2005:
 - a. Pre-registration – 76 for \$760
 - b. Banquet – 95 for \$3,325
 - c. Poker Tournament - 58 for \$4,460
 - d. Blackjack Tournament – 12 for \$960
3. The balance in the Building Fund is \$58,763.
4. The audit of the 2004 Club records was performed on February 1, 2005. A hearty thanks to Mike Skelton, Dave Harber and Tyrus Mulkey for participating again and to Wayne Thompson.
5. The 2004 tax return was filed on February 15, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer
April 14, 2005

Income & Expense/Equity Statement (cash basis)

January 1 through March 31, 2005

Income

Membership Dues (includes 1st class postage)		\$13,049
Convention 2005:		
Table Fees	\$30,970	
Poker Tournament	\$4,640	
Banquet	\$3,325	
Blackjack Tournament	\$960	
Registration	\$760	
Convention 2005 Total		\$40,655
Magazine Advertising		\$2,005
Interest Income		\$767
Building Fund Donations		\$615
Promotion		\$375
Video Sales (2004 Convention)		\$100
Magazine Sales		\$42
		<u>\$57,608</u>

Expenditures

Magazine		\$12,340
Miscellaneous		\$1,383
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$773
Bank Charges		\$591
Printing (Other than Magazine)		\$556
Storage		\$250
Filing Fees		\$175
Website		\$170
Telephone		\$167
Advertising		\$55
Supplies		\$40
		<u>\$16,500</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$16,500</u>
Net Income - 01/01/05 to 03/31/05		\$41,108
Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/05		\$197,289
Net Income - 01/01/05 to 03/31/05		\$41,108
Ending Equity Balance - 03/31/05		<u><u>\$238,397</u></u>

Detail of Equity Balance - 03/31/05

Certificate of Deposit	\$76,408	
Building Fund	\$58,763	
General Fund	\$49,967	
Life Membership Fund	\$30,925	
Total Cash Available		<u>\$216,063</u>
Inventory		\$21,834
Advance (Membership Officer)		\$500
Ending Equity Balance - 03/31/05		<u><u>\$238,397</u></u>

Respectfully submitted by Mike Quinlivan, Treasurer
April 14, 2005

Membership Officers Report



Ralph Myers

Well, another quarter has slipped by. The first quarter is always the busiest quarter for me. There is more renewals the first quarter than any other. Combine that with the Superbowl and March Madness, then throw in the opening of a brand new Race and Sports Book at the MGM where I work, just two days before the start of March Madness.

Anyway, the first quarter saw 93 new members join, and 13 member become life members. That brings our life member total to over 100. Remember, if you have three years in as a member, you too are eligible for life membership. Email me for details.

Here is the second reminder. Those of you whose membership expires at the end of June who normally renew your membership at the convention can't wait to do it this year. With the convention being held in August this year, you won't be able to get in with an expired membership.

I need your help again. If you're giving me a change of address when you renew, please put a big note with your renewal telling me there is a change of address included. Don't assume that if the address on the credit card charge is different or there is a different address on your check, that I will know that there is a change of address involved. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Now for some exciting news. As of March 1 of this year, a program has been put into place to reward those members who bring new members into the fold. Each member who refers a new member will receive a \$5 gift certificate (see below) towards the purchase of CC>CC merchandise. The certificates will be mailed on a quarterly basis and will be good for one year from date of issue. The referring members name and membership number must be on the membership application to qualify.

We're only 4 months away from our convention. Don't wait until the last moment to preregister for all the activities.

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

Best regards,
Ralph



New Members

Member	Last	First	State	City	Reference
6840	Kimura	Doug	WA	Woodinville	Returning Member
6841	Schofield	Richard	MA	Bedford	CC>CC Web Site
6842	Livoti	Richard	CA	Whittier	American Chip Enterprises
6844	Mari	Jose	NY	Smithtown	CC>CC Web Site
6845	Kendrick	M.F.	HI	Aiea	
6846	Myrick	Dave	NC	Candler	Harker, Scott
6847	Sunseri	David A.	CA	San Jose	Anderson, Allan
6847-A	Sunseri	Matt	CA	San Jose	Anderson, Allan
6848	Trader	Todd R.	OH	Toledo	CC>CC Web Site
6852	May	Robin M.	SC	Moncks Corner	Rago, Bob
6853	Dieter	Randy	NV	Las Vegas	CC>CC Web Site
6854	Gafford	Mary	NV	Las Vegas	Mowery, Vince
6855	Griffin	Gary C.	WI	Hillsboro	Coin World
6858	Daniels	Elaine H.	NV	Boulder City	Returning Member
6858-A	Daniels Jr.	Ronald D.	NV	Boulder City	Returning Member
6860	Patton	Tim	TX	San Antonio	CC>CC Web Site
6861	Westergaard	Robert	NJ	Riverdale	CC>CC Web Site
6862	Hobbs	Jeff L.	FL	Shalimar	CC>CC Web Site
6864	Sonin	Larry M.	FL	Weston	CC>CC Web Site
6865	Flake	Bob	PA	Boiling Springs	CC>CC Web Site
6866	Moore	Richard	IL	Smithton	Rizzo, Pete
6866-A	Moore	Theresa	IL	Smithton	Rizzo, Pete
6867	Mollica	Ron	TX	Houston	CC>CC Web Site
6869	Griffith	John	OH	Bath	CC>CC Web Site
6871	Lin	Phillip	CA	Chino Hills	Shore, Josh
6872	Catalano	Michael	PA	Horsham	CC>CC Web Site
6875	Bledsoe	Spence	AZ	Chandler	CC>CC Web Site
6876	Cooper	Darran	Lincs	Lincs	CC>CC Web Site
6877	McNamara	James	WI	South Milwaukee	Silver Strikers Web Site
6879	Greenwood	Janice	NV	Las Vegas	Returning Member
6880	Lundquist	Eric	CT	Norwalk	CC>CC Web Site
6881	Jones	Greg	IN	New Castle	Campiglia, James
6882	Jacques	Leonard	OH	Broadview Hgts	Buckner, Jeff
6883	Rosa Sr.	John J.	HI	Ewa Beach	Sims, Rob
6884	Lewis	Robert	NY	Holland	CC>CC Web Site
6885	Delage	William	NV	Las Vegas	Perry, Steven
6886	Jackson	James T	CA	Riverside	Munding, Jim
6888	Tittsler	Rick	WI	Mequon	Returning Member
6890	Noorlun	Shawn	CO	Northglenn	Johnson, Andy
6891	Brienzo	James	IL	Blue Island	Campiglia, James
6892	Watkins	Mike	TX	Houston	Returning Member
6893	Baillie	George R.	FL	Largo	
6894	Wilson	James E.	AL	Montgomery	CC>CC Web Site
6895	Kidwell	Richard	WA	Kingston	CC>CC Web Site
6896	Saunders	Matt	UK	Crawley, West Sussex	CC>CC Web Site
6899	Hajduk	David	NJ	Voorhees	CC>CC Web Site
6900	Macy	Kris	IA	Newton	
6900-A	Jones	Kathy	IA	Newton	
6901	Culver	Kenneth G.	IA	Robins	
6903	Shaffer	James	MI	Highland	Foster, Matthew

Member	Last	First	State	City	Reference
6904	Washburn	Charles E.	MS	Horn Lake	
6905	Christian	Paul E.	OK	Yukon	Silver Strikers Club
6906	Beamguard	Jeff	ID	Meridian	CC>CC Web Site
6907	Cherico	Chuck	MA	Chelmsford	CC>CC Web Site
6908	Reed	Jack	LA	Simpson	Lowell, Pete
6909	Miller	Pamela A.	VA	Stephens City	eBay
6910	Tate	Mike	TX	Austin	CC>CC Web Site
6911	Tapia	Toney	NJ	Runnemedede	CC>CC Web Site
6912	Peckinpaugh	Jerry	IL	Schaumburg	Rizzo, Pete
6915	Belschner	Gerry	NE	Kearney	Silver Strikers Web Site
6916	Agnew	Andrea	CO	Fort Collins	Anderson, Allan
6917	Cergol	Gino	NY	Seaford	Joe D.
6920	Reynolds	John S.	CA	Santa Barbara	Christensen, Mike
6922	Tomerlin	Douglas	CO	Colorado Springs	CC>CC Web Site
6923	O'Brien	Thomas J.	MA	Pembroke	CC>CC Web Site
6924	Bodnar	Paul	OH	Gahanna	CC>CC Web Site
6925	Camden	Steven P.	OH	Batavia	CC>CC Web Site
6926	O'Brien	Kathleen	CA	Pacific Grove	CC>CC Web Site
6927	Gambill	Mick	NV	Las Vegas	Campiglia, James
6929	Maynard	Sheri	CA	Westlake Village	CC>CC Web Site
6930	Silver	Jeff	MD	Owings Mills	internet search
6931	L'Hoste	Randall P.	LA	Kenner	American Chip Enterprises
6932	Pritchard	Blair	CA	Redding	American Chip Enterprises

Nevada Casino Chips

Limited Edition Current & Obsolete

Andy Hughes

CC>CC Member # LM-2471-52



Voice Mail/Fax: 702-896-1552

E-Mail: AndyHughes@NevadaCasinoChips.com

Web Site: www.NevadaCasinoChips.com

Buy/Sell/Trade

Secretary's Report



Belinda Hixon

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Meeting of Directors of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

A semi-annual meeting of the Directors of the Corporation was held on February 1, 2005 at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, state of Nevada, for the purpose of reviewing the prior year's business, discussing corporate operations for the upcoming year, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting, including: building fund, corporate memberships, legal issues, trademarks.

The following directors were present at the meeting:

Mike Skelton - President
Wayne Thompson – Vice President
Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer
Belinda Hixon - Secretary
Ralph Myers – Membership

The following reports were presented at the meeting:

Mike Quinlivan Treasurer's Report

Current financial reports are posted online and will be present in the next issue of Chip & Token News.

CD expired on January 23, 2005 and was moved into a Money Market account. Signature cards for that account were signed by President Skelton and Secretary Hixon and returned to the Treasurer.

The 2004 Annual Audit was completed on February 1, 2005. The Audit committee was: Mike Skelton, Wayne Thompson, Tyrus Mulkey and Dave Harber. The 2004 Tax Return is almost complete and will be finished by the end of February.

Ralph Myers Membership

As of January 31, there were 3065 members with 100 being Life-members. An audit of the rolls will likely result in that number decreasing. It's the first time the membership has gone over 3000. There were 95 new members in the last quarter. The last membership number given out was 6048.

Discussion in regards to selling the number 7777 but it was decided to award it in order as all other numbers are.

Discussion about an incentive for recruiting. Current members will be awarded \$5 in chit for each new member they recruit. Award will be good for Club promotional items only. Officer Myers will design the chit and will be responsible for overseeing the incentive program.

Wayne Thompson Corporate Membership

Press kit isn't complete at this time. The Club will handle printing costs. A copy of the latest Club magazine and a DVD of the last convention will be included in the packets sent to potential corporate sponsors. Vice President Thompson will work with Allan Anderson for the design of the packet and bids on production. Funds will be allocated based on written estimates.

Corporate level discussed was \$2500 for each Casino with a \$250 charge for each additional casino with a group. Possible benefits for corporate sponsors are:

- Four full page color ads in the magazine. A discounted rate would be applied for more than four pages.
- Access to the published membership list.
- Use of CC>CC logo with approval of the Board
- Invited guests to the Early Bird Banquet. Two seats per invitation.
- Table or access to membership at the Convention.

President Skelton and Vice President Thompson will speak to representatives of Las Vegas casinos to get feedback on casino benefits.

Belinda Hixon Ten Year Members/Committee Reports

Secretary Hixon reported that 32 members achieved 10-year membership in the last quarter. Paul Bender is designing new 10 and 15-year pins and the production will be expedited.

Requests for information on the Club/hobby is sent to Secretary Hixon about once a month due to articles written in publications outside of the hobby.

Tightcircle, the service that was provided by the Club for local clubs to communicate with each other and with the Club was discontinued due to lack of use.

Secretary Hixon provided each Board Member with Committee Reports as provided in writing by each Chairperson.

Allan Anderson Chip & Token News

Magazine website is being put together a section at a time. A proposal was made to the Board about putting a book together on past articles from the magazine.

C.T. Rodgers Advertising

2004 advertising was down again. We've gone from 120 advertisers to maybe 20 or 30 over the past few years.

Our advertising rates are very good and there's no reason to increase them.

Proposing that we give a free one-inch ad to all members when they pay their dues each year and also a free one-inch ad to all new members.

Notices are sent out to all advertisers when their ads are about to expire and very few renew ads.

Barry Weintraub Bruce Landau Memorial Auction

Date of submission for lots pushed back to Feb. 4, 2005. To date 80 lots have been received and numerous commitments for lots to be delivered by the deadline. Anticipate having between 200 and 250 lots.

With the scarcity of rare chips and increasing prices, it is anticipated that we won't have any high value items in this year's auction. Therefore, the auction will probably bring in a reduced payout to the club.

Procedures have been changed and the scanning process has already begun instead of waiting for all lots to be submitted. To date, over 60 lots have been scanned.

Plans are to provide the catalog online as was done in 2004. It proved to be a popular addition to the auction and over 75% of the items had a bid before the convention floor opened. Providing the auction catalog online via color pdf's was a popular means for Club members to download and print the catalog themselves.

It is recommended that the cost of the black and white catalog be increased to \$15. At \$10 we are not covering the printing cost.

Discussion – Unanimously approved increasing the cost of the b/w catalog to \$15.

Suggestion that more “memorabilia” type items be included in the auction. President Skelton will work with the Auction Chairman to see how this can be done.

Jim Kruse Building Fund

Ideas that result in additional fundraising from the CC>CC Building Fund continue to be promoted. Andy Hughes holds periodic auctions on The ChipBoard although interest has been off on the last two that were held. Debby Meister is doing fifty grab bags for the Convention; most items will be from our inventory, my personal items and member donations. David Spragg had held a couple of sales and donated part of the proceeds to the fund. Travis Lewin is always ready to help with any promotion we have. The most interesting and potential profit maker we currently have going is Neal's Roulette project. He is attempting to gather 2005 roulette chips and sell raffle tickets, winners to be drawn at the convention.

Travis Lewin Claims

No report.

Discussion - Three outstanding claims as per President Skelton. He is working to resolve them. There is a question as to limiting the time a member has to file a claim. At this time, no changes will be made.

Jim Steffner Convention

As of January 2, 2005, 18 dealer contracts had come in. Several names are on the wait list.

Bourse floor moving to the Royal show floor this year. Seminars for Thursday and Friday will be adjacent Royal room so show floor will include the complete rectangle room. Space is a bit smaller but will be OK for at least the same number of tables as last year and possibly a few more, if needed. There were a few complaints from dealers last year regarding their table location. A new layout should solve the problem.

Seminar space for Saturday will probably be in the Top of the Riv banquet room for available space. The auction will likely be held at the Top of the Riv as well. Planning is still taking place for those two events.

Working on obtaining door prizes for pre-registered members as well as souvenir items for the envelopes.

Article is in the 1st quarter magazine with up to date information as well as the Pre-registration form and Chip & Medal design forms.

Need to encourage members to enter exhibits.

We have a tentative speaker for the Banquet. Will be announced when finalized.

Convention Survey results –

132 forms were returned this year. Suggestions made include:

- Seminars – future topics requested:
- Indian gaming info
- How to organize and store collections
- History of molds and manufacturers
- Token info
- Ivory, MoP, antique chips
- Grading, valuation, and estate disposal
- Chip production process
- Vegas history
- Casino history
- More Doug Saito (many requests)
- Casino exec's, Jacki Gaughn, Steve Wynn, etc

Exhibits

More – many good comments on exhibits but would like to see more members enter

Auction

- Pre-bid is good
- Have a few lower priced items, not everyone can afford high end
- Tokens and casino memorabilia needed
- Silent auction during convention

Banquet

Too many awards, use time for speaker.

Discussion relating to the Convention:

Chairman Steffner will discuss with the Riviera, the possibility of the Club displaying an exhibit titled “1st Five Years of the Riviera” during the Convention.

Online registration procedure will be the same as last year. The webmaster will be contacted to see that the program is in place.

Members of the Board will spend time on the bourse floor, assisting each other with responsibilities. Notes to the Convention Chairman and Volunteer Chairman to make sure that the Membership table is covered at all times.

Posts will be made on the Club bulletin board to remind members to renew prior to the Convention.

The 2006 Convention is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Riviera Hotel.

Two votes, both 5-0 were taken regarding the Convention. The first was to hold the Annual Business meeting on Friday afternoon, August 5th. The second was to rename the “Article of the Year” as “The Harvey J. Fuller Award”

Richard Covington Education

Only two speakers are confirmed as of January 31st for the convention. A third is checking to see if there will be enough specialty collectors attending the convention before he commits between now and the convention.

The Chairman suggested changing the times of the Educational seminars from 8:30 in the morning to later in the day.

Archie Black Hall of Fame

HOF recommendations are due on January 31st at which time the committee will review the qualifications and determine any new inductees for the 2005 Convention. The decision will likely not be made until mid March after all members of the committee have voted on it.

Robert Pardue Library/Poker/Blackjack Tournaments

The library operates as usual. Received a recent contribution of books and the website will be updated to reflect the new contents. Mailing costs are higher this year.

The poker/blackjack tournaments are planned at the Palms again this year. Poker tournament will have two more tables this year. Blackjack tournament will have pre-registered seat assignments starting this year. Registration has been changed to \$80 for each tournament which is a \$2 increase, after adjusting for the no rebuy in the poker tournament and no dealer tip-chip in both tournaments. The extra \$2 will go to dealer tips in lieu of soliciting tips from the in-the-money winners.

Jim Follis OCLD/OTY

In the last six months the OCLD has made approximately 73 posts to the Club's official Message Board and in excess of 50 posting to the various other casino collectibles message boards.

OTY

With the publication of the 2nd Quarter issue of the CCTN, the 2004 OTY Awards will be underway. That issue of the Club magazine will include an insert Nomination form, and an article covering the rules and conventions for the 2004 OTY Awards. As in past years, I anticipate the number of TOTY (token) nominations to be further diminished. In fact, I had a discussion with the owner of a mint who is now shopping the mint around as his business has fallen off so much he thinks it is time to get out!

I see no reason to change the current criteria for qualification as a nominee for any of the four OTY categories. I do ask what benefit there is to having three levels of Finalist, i.e., Gold, Silver and Bronze. To-date, I do not believe that the also-rans appreciate the recognition. This Gold, Silver, Bronze break-down was the concept of Chuck Smorse, who submitted it directly to the Board. The Board enacted his suggestion. However, I now find the Silver and Bronze rankings as not being useful. Sometimes, the separations between the two are very, very narrow, and the separation between Silver and Gold is typically extreme! I also find that the separation between Bronze and places 4 – 7 are pretty much in the same arena. I would ask the Board to return to a singular winner from the top ten nominees, after the 2004 Awards.

Board decision - One winner per category. Banquet invitation to winning casino.

Tyrus Mulkey Promotions/Property

Prior to the 2004 convention, several four-wheeled carts were purchased to assist in the loading and unloading of display cases. This greatly improved the speed and ease of setup and tear down for the convention. The carts were loaded with the display cases and put onto a rented trailer. Since the convention, the display cases have remained on the carts so they can be wheeled onto a trailer for delivery at the next convention. I recommend that the Club consider purchasing a trailer so the carts could remain on the trailer year round in the storage room, eliminating two steps of labor for Club volunteers each convention.

The biggest problem for Property is the lack of volunteers during setup and tear down. Most of the volunteers were older Club members lifting and hauling heavy property during the hot Las Vegas summer while the younger and healthi-

er Club members attended trade sessions. I urge the Club to consider offering an incentive to all members who volunteer their time and sweat to make this an easier process for everyone. With twice the number of volunteers, setup and teardown could be handled with ease. The 2005 convention will be held in August, which will be very hot and more volunteers will be needed for both setup and teardown.

Promotions

During the 2004 convention, the Promotions booth ran several price cuts to “blow out” the inventory with the outdated Club logo. All of the logo shirts were sold, as well as all of the clocks and handbags. Previous convention t-shirts are still in stock, as are numerous wooden dollars, wooden nickels, chips, medal sets, member pins, convention pins, and other assorted promotional items. A new item was introduced this year – the convention DVD and VHS tape. Almost 100 DVD’s have been sold, leaving just over 100 in inventory. There are currently 11 VHS tapes in inventory. Three display cases were purchased at the end of the last convention for \$50 each and will be an asset to the Promotions Booth in future years. Also new this year are two large signs that have a full color photo of the Las Vegas Strip with the Club logo in the center of the picture and a new banner.

Discussion – No online sales for a while. Approved purchase of a case for chips/tokens/pins, etc. Approved separate storage facilities for promotions/property for ease of inventory.

Convention Chairman will handle purchasing the promotional items needed for the Convention.

Len Cipkins Publicity

Nothing to report.

President Skelton will be doing radio interviews about the hobby/Club in the next few months.

Michael Knapp Standards & Archives

Nothing further to report since the pre-convention summary.

Jim Pierre Vision & Feasibility

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 (or in the attempt to be 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 preserver of gaming history & artifacts.

Greg Susong Website

I have given Allan Anderson access to a sub-domain at:<http://cctn.ccgtdc.com> as a “home page” for the Casino Chip & Token News.

Discussion – The History page is being worked on.

Question about online donations to the Club. Question about obtaining a programmer to design a program that will handle registrations through the website.

End of Committee Reports

Other business:

Altered chips

A list of known altered chips will be placed on the Educational page of the Club website.

Discussion on whether to require a refund policy other than the one now called for by the Code of Ethics. May need to redefine "altered."

Club Legal counsel has written eBay a letter suggesting a fraud item alert system. To date there is no follow up from eBay.

By-Laws

Tabled until next meeting

ANA Meeting

Next ANA meeting is the week before the convention. The Club will not have a table at that meeting.

Mentor program

Terry Shaffer proposed a mentoring program for those new to the hobby. Treasurer Quinlivan suggested that Terry contact the American Philatelic Society for information on their mentor program and design the Club's along the same lines. The Board will monitor and guide the program.

Expert Proposal

Vice President Thompson will work on.

Buyer's Guide

Proposal by Sheldon Smith to put together a buyer's guide for those new to the hobby. The Board approved the idea and President Skelton will work with Sheldon to get the project underway. The guide will not be sold on eBay as suggested by the member but will be given to all members and will be sent to others who request it if they send a SASE.

Archives

Need to gather all Club owned material in one place.

Committees

Suggestion that the size of some committees be adjusted. President Skelton will take it under advisement.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Belinda Hixon,
Secretary

The CC>CC Building Fund Mission

by Andy Hughes

*As of March 31st, 2005,
\$58,763 has been raised!*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building Fund Committee

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

Jim Kruse (Chairman)

Robert Pardue

Andy Hughes

Archie Black

Greg Susong

Vision & Feasibility Committee

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

Jim Pierre (Chairman)

Bill Judge

Mike Quinlivan

Jim Kruse

Wayne Thompson

Eric Rosenblum

Tyrus Mulkey

Nate Pincus

Chuck Tomarchio

Travis Lewin

Mike Skelton

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

Please mail a check out for the correct amount to:

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

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

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



The price is \$100 each.

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



The price is \$10 each.

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



The price is \$20 each.

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



The price is \$10 each.

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



Common back

The price is \$10 a set.

Marlow Casino Chips

CC>CC Member R-6180

The UK's leading casino chip and collectible dealer providing a worldwide service

Stocks include the following:

- Over 20,000 casino chips from around the world - house, limited edition, roulettes, fantasy, cruise ships, brothels. Current, old and obsolete
- Over 1,000 used casino craps dice in pairs and sticks
- Over 500 different packs of used casino playing cards
- Over 500 different silver strikes
- Hard Rock Cafe chips, pins, Zippos and other souvenirs
- A range of storage and display accessories

Prices are always competitive and satisfaction is guaranteed.

**For full information please visit our website now
www.marlowcasinochips.com**

Read "Gene Trimble on Chips"

Research other articles and other references – all on our website

David Spragg

38 Oak Tree Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3EE, United Kingdom

Email to david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com

We accept payments in US \$ and UK£, by check, money order credit card, Paypal, Nochex and Bidpay (no surcharges)
Cash can be sent by insured post. All goods are shipped to the US by priority airmail.

Foxwoods



by Allan Anderson

In 1986 the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation opened the original high-stakes bingo hall. Today Foxwoods comprises six casinos that collectively offer more than 7,400 slot machines and an incredible 388 tables for 17 different types of table games, including 76 for poker. There's a luxurious, high-tech Race Book, as well as the world's largest Bingo Hall. Foxwoods is the largest resort casino in the world, with 340,000 square feet of gaming space in a complex that covers 4.7 million square feet. More than 40,000 guests visit Foxwoods each day.

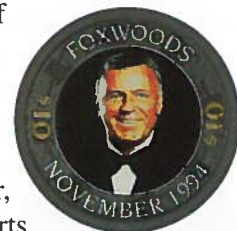
Historical Perspective

February 1992: The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation opened the original Foxwoods High Stakes Bingo & Casino February 15. It offered a 46,000 square-foot gaming space with 170 table games including roulette, poker, and blackjack. At the time, Foxwoods was not licensed to have slot machines. The facility, including an expansion of the bingo hall, cost \$60 million and

totaled 250,000 square feet. The casino contained a retail boutique, museum, three restaurants and a piano bar. Foxwoods was built next to the original 2,100-seat bingo hall, which opened in 1986 and is now called the Festival Casino. The enterprise employed about 2,300 people, nearly all from Connecticut and Rhode Island.

January 1993: The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the State of Connecticut negotiated an agreement allowing the tribe to operate slot machines at Foxwoods. The tribe agreed to pay the state 25% of its slot machine revenue (called net win) each year. The agreement provided that the tribe's obligation to make such payments would cease if the state legalized the operation of slot machines anywhere else within Connecticut, or if any other entity in the state operated slot machines. Under the agreement, Foxwoods provides the state with 25% of the slot revenues, or a minimum of \$100 million annually.

November 1993: A \$240 million expansion increased Foxwoods' size to 1.3 million square feet. Now known as Foxwoods Resort Casino, the total facility included the Great Cedar Hotel, six large gaming areas with mixed slots, keno, racebook, table games, a theater complex, retail shops, a beauty salon and a health spa. Also completed were an ice-cream parlor, deli and pizza stand. Four full-service restaurants were now operating, with a fifth restaurant located in the Two Trees Inn, which opened in July 1993. The two hotels offered a total of 594 rooms. The expansion increased the number of table games to 234 and slot machines to approximately 2,650. Frank Sinatra celebrated the formal opening of the new facility with five performances in the new 1,400-seat showroom/theater, which also converts to a large screen film/video theater.

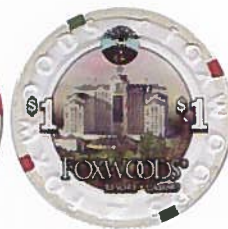




1st Issue



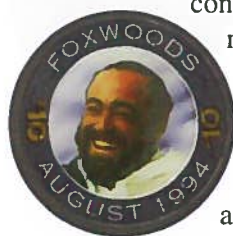
2nd Issue



3rd Issue

April 1994: After federal recognition of the nearby Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe amended its slot revenue agreement with the state. The new agreement provided that both tribes' obligation to make slot payments would now terminate upon the legalization or operation elsewhere in the state of any kind of commercial casino gaming. Each tribe agreed to make payments of 25% of their slot machine win, or 30% in any year that the annual payment for such tribe falls below a minimum threshold of \$80 million

June 1994: A \$65 million expansion is completed, adding another 300,000 sq. ft. Bingo is moved to a new hall which seats 3,200 and can be converted into an entertainment center capable of holding more than 4,000 for headliner performances and boxing events. The old bingo hall is converted into a slot



room, increasing the casino's slot total to more than 3,800 machines. At this time there are nearly 230 table

games and a variety of entertainment options for guests. The casino gaming area now measures 190,000 sq. ft.

October 1995: The success of Foxwoods' operations and management capability was recognized when a selection committee appointed by the governor to review proposals for the development of a casino facility in Bridgeport, Connecticut, selected the Tribe's proposal over a proposal submitted by an affiliate of Mirage Resorts, Inc. Authorizing legislation for this development was defeated by vote of the Connecticut General Assembly on November 17, 1995.

March 1996: Foxwoods opened the first full-service, non-smoking casino on the East Coast. This was the second phase of a two-level 140,000-square feet casino expansion project. The first phase, which opened on December 22, 1995, contains a state-of-the-art Race Book, an expanded poker room and a 30-table high-limit gaming area. Foxwoods now offered its patrons 4,244 slots and 308 table games, as well as many other entertainment options.

July 1997: Foxwoods opened the first three levels of the Grand Pequot Tower, its signature hotel property.



This first phase added 50,000 square feet of casino space including more than 900 slots and 60 table games and an additional 2,500 parking spaces. Two Gourmet restaurants, Fox Harbour and Al Dente, along with the Intermezzo Lounge opened in August 1997.

November 1997: A high-limit gaming area and Club Newport-International opened along with some remaining floors of the Grand Pequot Tower Hotel. The Veranda Café, a 24-



hour coffee shop/café, opened in December 1997 along with the 25,000 square foot Grand Pequot Ballroom.

April 1998: To complement the Grand Pequot Ballroom, additional conference facilities opened. More than 55,000 square feet of meeting space with 27 conference and break-out rooms combined with the Grand Ballroom to create a premier location for trade shows, conferences and major events in southern New England.

October 1998: Foxwoods opened the 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art Grand Salon and Spa featuring an indoor pool and fully equipped fitness





center. Services include hair and nail care, massage therapy and tanning.

December 1998: The first of 23 luxurious Villas with premium amenities located on the 22nd and 23rd floors of the Grand Pequot Hotel are introduced. The villas average 1,400 square feet, the largest of which is the 5,000 square foot Mashantucket Villa. Each villa has elegant décor, the finest amenities and around-the-clock butler service available.

December 1999: The Millennium is celebrated in grand style as Foxwoods hosts an invitation-only party for 3,500 guests and is featured on the ABC Television Network global broadcast of major events around the world.

January 2000: Total Foxwoods contributions to the State of Connecticut from slot revenue reaches more than \$ 1 billion, reflecting 25% of all Foxwoods Resort Casino slot revenues generated since 1993. There are more than 5800 slot machines operating in five separate casinos. The employee population stands at approximately 11,500. More than 40,000 guests visit Foxwoods daily.

December 2000: Foxwoods proudly opens the markedly upscale Stargazer casino and Paragon restaurant atop the landmark Grand Pequot Tower, putting the finishing touch on a construction project that began in 1995.

The elegantly appointed casino and restaurant feature rare and exotic wood veneers from Australia, marble and granite floors with decorative rosettes, and ceiling coffers with hand painted murals, Turkish crystals and fiber optic lighting accents. Foxwoods opens the new upscale jewelry retail outlet, 'Pave'.

January 2002: Legendary Blues artist B.B. King cuts the ribbon to open the B.B. King Dance & Nite Clubs, the latest addition to the Foxwoods night scene.

August 2004: The Hard Rock Cafe swings open its doors as part of a \$99 million Rainmaker Casino expansion. In addition to 20,000 sq. ft. of gaming space that adds 750 new slots and additional table games, the expansion includes a seven-story, 2,100 space parking garage and the 3,700 sq. ft. Wampum Rewards Mega Store.



Hard Rock Cafe at Foxwoods

December 2004: In preparation for a spring 2005 opening, the clubhouse at Lake of Isles golf resort opened to the public. Located opposite Foxwoods, Lake of Isles features two championship courses designed by Rees Jones around a spectacular 90-acre lake in a pristine natural setting. One course is private, for members and guests only, and one is open to the public. A Golf Academy is also slated for the course.

February 2005: The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation announces new \$700 Million Development Project that will further distinguish Foxwoods as a world-class destination. The project will commence Summer 2005 with an anticipated completion date of 2008. The project will add a new 825 room hotel tower, a 5,000 seat multi-purpose arena, 145,000 square feet of additional meetings and convention space, bringing the total to 200,000 square feet when complete, 8 new restaurants and retail locations, new nightclubs, a new spa and an additional parking garage.

The author would like to thank the following for their help in putting this article together. Sandra Rios, Public Relations Manager, Foxwoods

Resort, Bob Hiestand, Jim Gagnon, Terry Shaffer, Jim Goetz, and Phyllis Spagnola.



Palms pulls out all the stops for expansion

\$600 million project includes hotel & casino expansion, 2,200-seat showroom, 50-story condo-hotel & spa, recording studio and new pool

Edited by Allan Anderson

The Palms Casino Resort is embarking on a new era of growth that will change the skyline surrounding its landmark location. Owner George Maloof announced expansion plans to build a 40-story hotel tower and a 520-foot condominium hotel and spa.

The \$600 million expansion is part of the master plan for the Palms, which resides on 34 acres on West Flamingo Road. The expansion will introduce some firsts for Las Vegas

and compliment the local and celebrity clientele known to frequent the Palms.

“Since we opened the Palms in 2001, we have developed one of the strongest brands in the gaming industry. Our property is known worldwide.” Maloof said. “Our marketing strategy at the Palms has resulted in extraordinary financial success. We want to continue that success and make the Palms an all encompassing one stop resort destination for our guests.”

A new hotel tower with 347 rooms and suites is currently under construction and will feature many one-of-a-kind amenities. The expansion will include 46 megasuites and sky penthouses.

“The Palms set the standard for themed hotel rooms by creating the world-famous Real World suite,” Maloof said. “With our expansion, we will design some of the most extraordinary and unique luxury suites ever built in Las Vegas.”

There will be themed party suites, built with extra sound insulation, that include swimming pools, fireplaces and even a basketball court. These suites will be accessible from a private entrance and valet.

One of the main features of the expansion will be an entertainment mecca that mixes nightlife and dining. The Palms has entered into a licensing agreement with Playboy Enterprises Inc. that will enable the hotel to use the Playboy brand name for a high-end lounge and a themed retail venue. The Palms and the N9NE Group, which currently operates hot spots ghostbar and Rain in the existing tower, will operate the new venues.

The first-ever recording studio in a Las Vegas hotel-casino will span 8,000 square feet, offer state-of-the-art equipment and allow artists to record from remote units in their suites. The expansion will also include an exclusive screening room and lounge that will accommodate VIP guests who require a private spot for viewing films.

Additional highlights include an intimate 2,200-seat showroom, approximately 60,000-square-foot of meeting space, two new restaurants and specialty retail shops. A new pool with private bungalows and a unique look will be an extraordinary centerpiece for the resort.

Adjacent to the hotel towers, a 50-story, 520-foot condominium hotel and spa will be built. The project, named Palms Place, will feature 599 condominiums. Celebrities, major recording artists, prominent sports figures, actors and Palms high rollers are among the first to reserve a residence at Palms Place, which is slated to begin construction in 2006.

Palms Place will be connected to the Palms by an enclosed, elevated, moving walkway, allowing residents 24-hour access to amenities at the Palms.

“Palms Place will be the premier condominium hotel complete with a world-class spa, VIP concierge service and all the action of the Palms lifestyle,” Maloof said. “The building will be spectacular and will boast wide ranging views of the Strip and Spring Mountains.”

The Jerde Partnership, based in Los Angeles, Calif., is the architect for Palms Place and the new hotel tower. Jerde is known worldwide for its architecture, urban planning and landscape design.

Only one tower will be built at Palms Place, creating a more exclusive environment, according to Maloof. Palms Place will feature a private, gated entryway, a 50,000-square-foot pool and spa, valet parking and more.

The fully furnished contemporary condominiums will range from 600 to 7,000 square feet. Prices range from \$500,000 to \$7 million. Reservations are underway at the sales office at the Palms. For more information please call 702-942-6883.

The Palms Casino Resort, heralded as one of Las Vegas' hippest resorts, offers guests a major destination getaway with a relaxing, affordable resort atmosphere. Owned by the Maloof family, the \$265-million, 430-room property boasts a diverse mix of restaurants and bars and a 95,000-square-foot casino. This boutique resort also offers the Palms Spa and AMP salon, Brenden Theatres, a 14-theatre Cineplex, Rain Las Vegas, ghostbar, Skin Pool Lounge, Hart and Huntington Tattoo Company and over 20,000 square-foot of meeting space. The resort is home to the Real World: Las Vegas and the Bravo Celebrity Poker Showdown. The Palms features the hottest specialty suites including the Playpens with a dancer pole, the Real World Suite as seen on MTV and NBA suites with extra-large furniture. E!, VH1, CSI and MTV feature the Palms on a regular basis and the Victoria's Secret Angels made the Palms a featured destination during their “Angels Across America” tour. The Palms Casino Resort is located just west of the Las Vegas Strip and I-15 on Flamingo Road.

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What's in a Name

A selection of memorable, historic, eye catching, entertaining, whimsical and quizzical names of gaming establishments, and their tokens, that deserve to be recorded for posterity

by Vince Mowery



Laughing Jackalope

In a frame on the wall alongside the bar and printed on the back of their menu is the story of how this place came about. According to this “historical” account, the owner was down on his luck, lost a good job, paying alimony and child support, and was forced to sell his new car and truck. He bought a broken down ‘69 Ford and headed to Las Vegas in the dead of night.

His bad luck continued when the car broke down in the middle of the desert. Walking in the darkness, he suddenly saw two red eyes peering at him. As the animal darted across the road, he saw what appeared to be a Jack Rabbit with antlers. In a second it was gone, and in the distance he heard “You’ll have good fortune from now on.”

To his surprise, a sleek black limo stopped to pick him up. After hearing

his hard luck story, the gentleman passenger handed him five one hundred dollar bills and dropped him off in front of an old broken down bar and motel. He dropped five quarters into a video poker machine in the bar and hit a royal flush for \$1,000. Crossing the street to the old Hacienda, he tried his luck at blackjack and within thirty minutes won \$40,000. At Caesars, he tried his hand at baccarat and won \$130,000 in one hour. His next stop was Circus Circus where he won \$250,000 shooting craps! With his good luck and newfound wealth, he went back to the old motel and bar, where it all started, and bought the place.

I cannot vouch for the veracity of this story; however, it is still a nice clean, friendly place across the strip from Mandalay Bay. Unfortunately, the luck of that Jackalope (a cross between a jack rabbit and an antelope) did not rub off on me when I tried their machines. But I was fortun-

nate enough to get some of their interesting tokens when they opened in 1997 (Anchor Coin slot route company dated 1989) and again about a year later when they changed route companies to Cardivan and Roger Williams Mint (RWM). Unfortunately, as luck would have it, they stopped using tokens toward the end of 2000.



The Barking Frog

The Barking Frog is barking no longer. An interesting bar opened September 23, 1995 at 5150 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas. Previously, the location had the mundane name Eddie’s. Today it is a victim of major renovations (as with many other Nevada gaming establishments) and conversion to a lively (?) nightclub.

The busy design on the obverse of their token has a barely discernible image of a frog buried in the center. The reverse die used by Global Mint (G) has the Anchor Route Co. logo with the date 1989. This is further tes-



timony to the decision of the Nevada Gaming regulators that identifying dates of issue (1995 in this case) is of no importance to posterity. The token became obsolete after a little over five years.



Ichabod's Lounge

A long time Las Vegas favorite bar, lounge, restaurant & gaming establishment. No doubt about it, the place named after the scrawny schoolteacher who encountered the headless horseman in Washington Irving's classic. Burt no Sleepy Hollow around here. Their headless horseman logos appear on the front of their present location at 3300 E. Flamingo Road and on their old MVP Club card. The card is black with yellow lettering and a white background in the logo. This card is one of the first hard plastic slot club cards that I acquired, and is probably the only one of its kind from a bar. (We would appreciate any additional information.)

Their first gaming tokens appeared in 1989 from the EDT slot route company and minted by USM with their typical obverse design. As with most bars at this time, only a limited number of tokens were ordered for a limited number of dollar denomination machines. When their supply diminished, for whatever reason, they simply ordered more. Their second token appeared in 1991 from the same route company, who by then, had switched to a different mint (NCM) and changed the obverse die. Around this time, many



bar owners were becoming dissatisfied with slot route companies they were using, as evidenced by some personal discussions with owners. In 1993, Ichabod's switched to Global Minting



and about a year later switched to Anchor Coin, each using different mints. The turbulence was settled a few years later when they went coinless

Angry Wives Pub

This is my all time favorite name of all gaming establishments - casino or non-casino. When I asked a bartender where the name came from, she said three very busy professional men were planning an English style pub and discussed it with some friends. The friends told them that with additional demands on their time, they would have three angry wives. And they concluded that would be a great name for the place. When asked, she said the three were still married. And she said yes, they get many questions about the name.

The Pub opened in May 2000 at 2634 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway, Henderson with tokens from the slot route company E-T-T, Inc. and minted by Roger Williams Mint (small RWM mint mark). These tokens were used



only for about a week, when they joined the coinless craze.

Center in the Summerlin area of Las Vegas. Sorry, no tokens to commemorate the new locatio. What a shame.

About two years ago, they sold the place to "Outside Inn" (another great name). The place is now called "Red Hawk" and coinless. The three original owners retained the name and reopened as "Three Angry Wives Pub" September 2004 at the Boca Park



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Charitable Casino Chips of North Dakota

by John K. Kallman

An Overview:

Gambling takes on many forms, from the friendly Friday night poker game to the mega casinos found on the strip in Las Vegas. There are perhaps as many different ways to gamble as there are people willing to make and accept a wager. Many gaming related activities revolve around charitable organizations, with the most common being Bingo and Pull tabs. While both of these exist in South Dakota, they have added another option, that being Charitable Casinos. These are not to be mistaken with their much larger counterparts located elsewhere in the country with many being no more than a single blackjack table located in the back of a bar. From the few "casinos" that I have been able to visit so far, the only two games being offered are the above mentioned black jack, and another game usually, but not always referred to as a paddle wheel (more on that later).

Location, Location, Location!

As mentioned above, many of these places are small, and sometimes out of the way. No massive advertising campaigns here, with sometimes nothing more than a small neon light hanging in the window. I recall one time while driving from Salt Lake City to Wendover Nevada that the closer one got to the Nevada border, the number of billboards related to the various places that one could part with their money increased accordingly. In North Dakota, you have to be somewhat of a detective, have a

good road map, be willing to get lost, get misdirected, and other wise, and just plain ask!!! While the internet is a wonderful source of information, it is only as good as the person responsible for keeping the information up to date. Places close down, change owners, or the operators just decide that location B is better for business than location A, and move! While the Official State Web site has a rather extensive list of those organizations registered as charitable, the address given is that of their headquarters, not necessarily where the games take place.

What is in a name?

Having a chip in hand that is new to a collector always brings to mind where was this chip used and what for? With the charity chips of North Dakota, this is not always an easy task. The chips are sometimes not plainly marked with the organization that is running the games, or if it is marked, sometimes only with its initials. Thus, after finding a place that has a casino, that is open when you get their, and are willing to let you leave with their chips, you better be taking pretty good notes or else by the time you get home, you will be scratching your head as to exactly a chip with the initials of NDAD stood for! As a result, these chips are often misidentified, and I am as guilty as the next collector in adding to the confusion of what a chip represents. This article is in part to help relieve some of that miss-information.

Part of the confusion is the various

information that a collector is confronted with when gathering information concerning a chip. As an example, chips with the above mentioned NDAD where at one time found on the Black Jack tables in Spirit's Lounge located in the Holiday Inn in Fargo North Dakota. Now, they use chips that read "Team Maker", but these are for the same charitable organization as the previous mentioned chips.

Does one identify the chips by the name/initials on them, the bar that the games take place in, or the Hotel that they are located in? For now, until I can think of a better arrangement, I am going to use the Charitable Organization that is running the games. On my first trip, I found at least two separate locations that had table games for the same organization. Thus, it makes little sense to use anything BUT the charitable organization. As another example, one of the places listed on the internet that had gaming in fact had not had gaming for over a year as the organization decided to change locations. Thus, the location, especially if there is more than one, the chips generally do not list locations, and organizations do change locations. Another example is chips from the Blue Wolf Casino, located in the Bun Lounge in the Express Way Inn. The charity? The Plains Art Museum!

Being broad minded

(in more ways than one)

Being civic minded is, I guess, one of those things we would list on a survey as being a good thing.

Donating money to such organizations, likewise, would also go in the same column as the above. But at what lengths would you go to support such an organization? Sounds like a relative simply question with what would seem to be a reasonable simple answer. So, for those moralists, does gambling for a good cause cross the line? Does having that gambling in a bar cross the line? Ok, how about an organization that has it's casino in a "Gentleman's Club"? (And if you need some explanation as to what that is, just skip this section – you are too young to collect chips!) While this may seem a stretch, one such organization, the has one black jack table located inside the Northern Gentleman's Club in Fargo!

When is a roulette chip not a roulette chip?

It looks like a roulette chip, it feels like a roulette chip, it perhaps even taste like a roulette chip (but in this case, I would highly recommend washing very well before consumption). The answer is when it is a Paddlewheel chip! In addition to your standard blackjack table which was the norm, a few of the organizations visited also have a Paddlewheel table. This is a cross between a roulette table and a big-six wheel. While the state web site has a very detailed description on the operation of this device, it is rather, shall we say, technical. Thus, I present for you, "borrowed" from one of the establishments, the official Paddlewheel Rules:

- A Player May Not Bet Chips That Exceed a Value of Twenty Dollars For One Spin.
- If a player's total bet exceeds a value of twenty dollars or exceeds an organization's maximum wager on a spin, the ENTIRE bet is VOID and, only a player's chips in excess of the limit are forfeited.

- A player may not place a tip bet for a wheel operator.
- A player must bet by placing a betting chip properly on the betting layout. No payout or twenty-one chips can be used to place a bet.
- A player may not touch a betting chip after the wheel operator announces "BETS CLOSED", and may not obstruct the view of the playing surface until after a wheel operator pays off all winning wagers.
- A Player may not take a betting chip away from the table and must be at the table to win otherwise, the player shall forfeit the betting chip.
- A player may not take a betting chip away from the table and must be at the table to win otherwise, the player shall forfeit the betting chip.
- If a player stops playing and has an unused betting chip, the player must exchange the betting chip for a payout chip through the wheel operator before the player leaves the table.
- The Paddlewheel must make at least four revolutions.
- If a pointer stops on top of a peg, the number preceding the peg is the winning number.
- A winning odd or even bet is determined by a winning number of only the designated colored circle. However, a player loses all odd and even bets if the pointer stops on a designated house number.
- It is the player's responsibility to track their wagers.

And of course, perhaps even more important, the betting! The Paddlewheel Payoffs:

Exact Number or Pig	\$39 to \$1
Any Pig in exact Color, Two Number Split, Split Bet	\$19 to \$1

Any Pig, any color	\$7 to \$1
"A" – "D" Line bets, Ten Number Row Bet	\$3 to \$1
"E" – "N" Line bets, Four Number Corner Bet	\$9 to \$1
Eight Number line bets, "8 Ball"	\$4 to \$1
One to Twenty, first twenty numbers	\$1 to \$1
Eleven to Thirty, middle twenty numbers	\$1 to \$1
Twenty-one to forty, last twenty numbers	\$1 to \$1
Odd or Even	\$1 to \$1

Sounds like roulette you say? Very much indeed. The only difference is that the chips, despite the fact that they have no denominations, have a set value, and instead of rolling a ball around, they spin a wheel. But perhaps the most important difference, in some cases, they will allow you to purchase the chips at face value and walk out with no questions asked, no security guard escort, and no lectures involved!

An affinity for Bud Jones Suite Pip molds

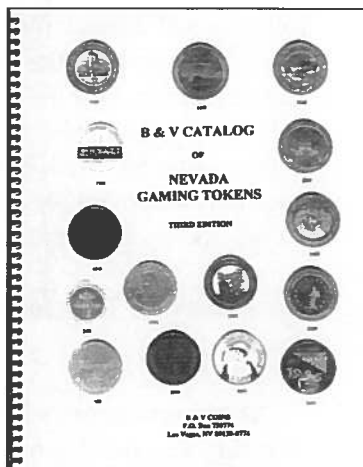
As any researcher will tell you (but very few politicians), that you should not draw any conclusion from a small sample. But, you also need to report your findings, no matter how small the sample. Does 100 plus chips from 5 different locations count? Probably not, but so far, the results would suggest that the primary source for these chips are the Bud Jones company, and the chip design of choice is the suite pip mold. Every chip that I was either able to garner, or in those rare cases where they would not permit a chip to "walk", each and every chip was a Bud Jones suite pip mold chip.

Color is everything

If you are looking for pristine chips, North Dakota Charity Chips are perhaps not for you. To say that many chips are well worn would be an understatement. And even those that are not well worn simply do not have any denomination on them what so ever, or if they do are equally worn that it is often hard to tell what denomination they are. Thus, in most establishments, along with a large poster explaining the rules, the do's and don'ts, is an equation chart explaining that color A equals value X, and so on.

The chips, the details

Ah yes, the chips, what they are, where they were used, etc. Well, while I will show you one or two this time around, that rest will have to wait until next time. Like they say, leave them wanting more, next time. So study hard, come up with your best guesses as their will be a quiz with the next installment. Your task, is to try and determine, to the best of your ability what organization the following chips are used for. The only clues you will have are in this article and your own resources. They are all from North Dakota Charitable Casinos located in Fargo. Good luck!



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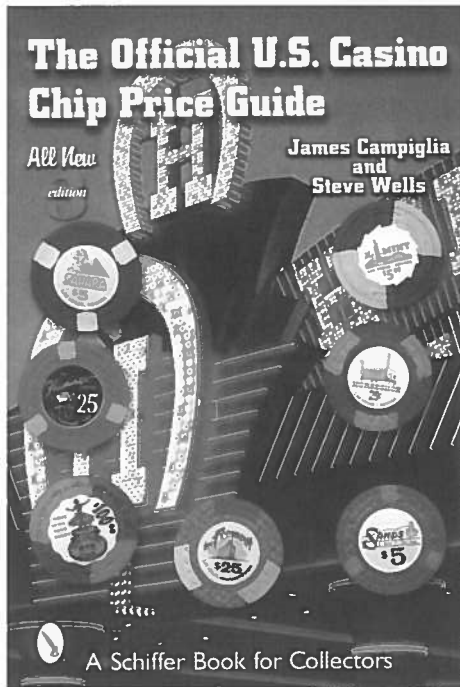
Book Review

Campiglia and Wells

“The Official U.S. Casino Chip Price Guide”

3rd Edition

by Jim Kruse



authors, recommend to new collectors that they specialize, that is, collect from a certain area, type, denomination, etc.. I say that’s good advice. I just couldn’t follow it. I love chips, any color, any jurisdiction, any denomination, any chip! And that’s why I love this book.

the attributing of certain undocumented chips. In our hobby we’ll always have some friendly discussions on value, condition, etc., but as a guide, I’ll almost always side with the two experts who created this book. quite simply, they know their stuff!

The guide starts with perhaps the most popular area, Las Vegas, then turns to the other Nevada towns, travels to Colorado, South Dakota, the riverboat states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri), and finally ends with Atlantic City. It’s the only chip guide that does this. In my opinion,

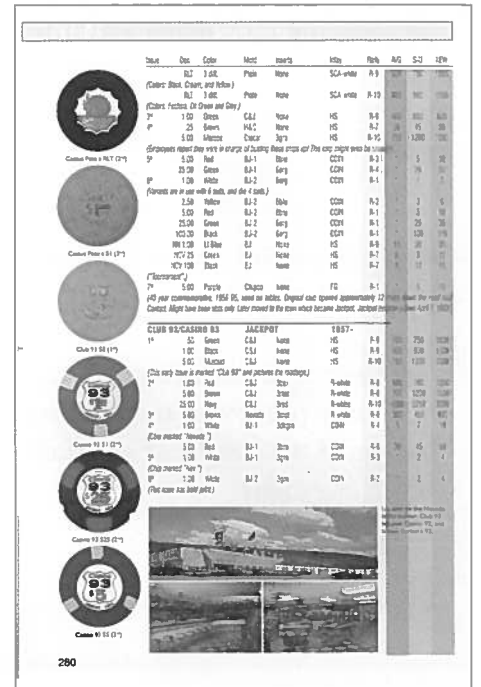
The book is beautiful. The easy to read type and the hundred of color pictures make it enjoyable and easy to find the chip you are looking for. The switch to The Casino Chip and Gaming Tokens Collector’s Condition Guide has been a great improvement over the first two books. It literally puts us all on the same page. This book is a must have for all chip lovers, veteran collectors, dealers, and especially, people new to the hobby. You will wear this book out!

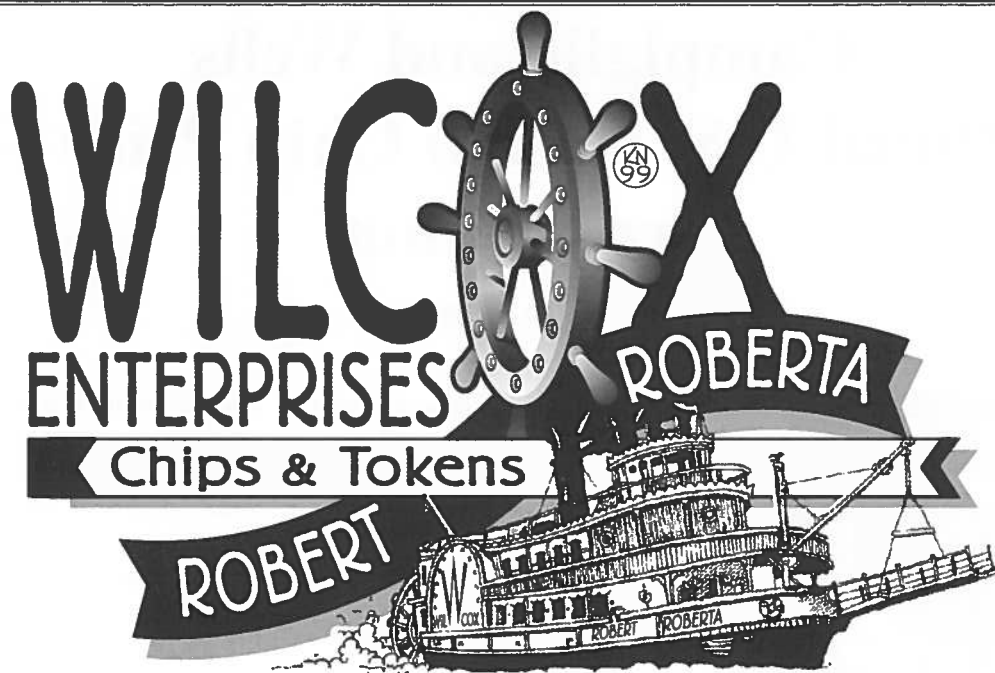
As a long time collector of anything casino/gambling related, the new “Official U.S. Casino Chip Guide” is the perfect reference book for me. Not only is it timely and well done, it’s size is perfect for carrying with me in my travels.

The authors have taken on a monumental task by not only attempting, but succeeding in listing chips from all non-tribal gaming jurisdictions in the United States. For someone like me, who has never met a chip he didn’t like, this book is without equal. I collect everything although several seasoned collectors, including the

buying this boo is like getting several books for one great price, \$29.95!

The authors are two of the most knowledgeable people in the hobby. When you take on a project of this magnitude, it is inevitable that you will create some controversy. Some experts will disagree with some prices and other areas of collecting, such as





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Atlantic City R E P O R T

by Archie Black

“A.C. ... ALWAYS TURNED ON!”



The above pin-back is my latest casino collectible acquisition. If anyone has some Atlantic City casino pin-back buttons they would be interested in trading, please contact me.

Meanwhile, as I sit here at my computer on the morning of April 1st, anticipating leaving for Atlantic City to pick up the \$2.50 April Fool's chip to be released at Trump Marina later this afternoon ... I detected my incoming email alarm chime. It's from the Club Magazine Editor, Allan Anderson, asking if I have my article ready for the next issue of "Chip & Token News".



I can hardly believe that three months have already passed since the previous issue ... as I've been so consumed with getting my 2005 Edition of Black's Catalog into production, that I've given very little thought to putting together my magazine report! On top of the release of my A.C. book, I've also resumed the often

delayed chore of updating my Puerto Rico chip catalog that hasn't been worked on since the 1999 Edition. I'm happy to report that BOTH publications are now ready for distribution.

To start off the New Year, two properties in town issued a couple of Limited Edition chips to mark the celebration of their 25th Anniversary. Bally's issued a \$5 & \$25 Birthday chip and so did Caesars. The Bally's chips were disbursed only from the casino cage ... and one had to ask for the cage supervisor to sell them. One side of the Caesars \$5 & \$25 featured an unimpressive lenticular (hologram) design. The Caesar's chips were available pretty much at various gaming tables all over the casino floor ... but there was a problem with the center inlays not adhering properly to the chip and were popping off after going through the roulette chip-per-chomper sorting machines. I understand that after several weeks all remaining Caesars stock was returned to the manufacturer. There were sufficient quantities of both \$5/\$25 Caesars chips made and distributed (thousands), so there was no resulting shortage for chip collectors.



Trump Plaza issued this \$5 Jekyll & Hyde LE chip continuing their "Broadway on The Boardwalk" show series. 700 chips were made, which more than satisfied chipper demand.



On the other end of the Boardwalk, Taj Mahal issued two \$5/\$25 chips (Sarah Brightman & Star Bar) that were limited to only 500 pieces of each nickel chip and only 100 quarters ... and both promptly sold out.



In February, the flood gates were opened with Taj Mahal leading the charge with a few more very limited

issues. A three-piece Apprentice chip set proved very popular ... particularly the \$25 issue of which only 100 were made. Not hardly enough to satisfy collector demand. While plenty of nickel Apprentice chips were made (1000) only 100 of the \$100 denomination were manufactured and 100 of the quarters.



A few weeks later, a severely limited Keith Urban duo ... a \$5 (500) and another \$25 issue, of which only 100 were made, drove collectors/investors/speculators wild as these pieces brought substantial prices on ebay and in private auctions. Only two of the quarter chips per person were permitted, although re-buys could be made by getting back in line until quantities were exhausted.



Trump Plaza finished up the month with a \$25 Chinese New Year chip (300 made)... enough for everybody.



Some collectors love 'em ... some collectors hate them ... but Trump Marina (Todd Moyer in particular) evidently likes these No Cash Value issues. This year's annual 2005 Ground Hog NCV chip was released on February 2nd only to those invited players who had a certain amount of activity on their slot card account who received an invitation in the mail to come get their No Cash Value Ground Hog chip. Here was low-roller Archie (who didn't receive an invitation), paying \$5 each from players who were redeeming their invitation cards at the Trump Card Center! A couple of weeks later, the Ground Hog promotional chips appeared in the Trump Marina gift shop for sale (buy three at \$5 each, and get one free.)



Rumor has it that Hilton will be changing over their entire rack during April or early May as Colony Capital (Resorts) has acquired the Hilton property.

In the works ... look for a Mother's Day and a Father's Day chip at Trump Plaza, plus another Run For The Roses \$100. Also, another Broadway Show chip may be in the offering soon at the Plaza. Trump Marina will be releasing their Miss Deckadence chip in conjunction with Hooters Miss Dreamgirl contest to be held Memorial Day weekend.

Later this summer, Showboat will be releasing a multiple chip set in conjunction with the Grand Opening of "House Of Blues".

Happy chippin' ... Archie
My website address is:
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Help. We Lost the Thunderbird

by Steve Fischer

Cliff Jones was an attorney in Las Vegas in the early 1940's. Most people knew him by his nickname "Big Juice," because it was a moniker he'd earned well. Big Juice was an early deal maker in Las Vegas. He put people together, casino owners with bankers, bankers with mobsters. He introduced people who wanted to do business, and got a piece of every transaction he was involved in.

Marion Hicks was a Los Angeles real estate developer who enjoyed Las Vegas in the late 1930s. Marion was friendly with Kirk Kirkorian, who was starting a small air-charter service between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, so Hicks was present on many of the flights.

In fact, Hicks liked Las Vegas well enough so that in 1941, he, Jones, architect John Grayson and entrepreneur J. K. "Kell" Houssels, pooled their money to build the El Cortez Hotel in downtown Las Vegas. The total construction cost was \$245,000. The El Cortez was a successful small casino with a nice active horse book.

In the days before World War II, most of the Las Vegas hotels and casinos were owned by locals. Out-of-town ownership didn't start until the end of the war. The Cortez sat on a half-city block, one block off Fremont Street, two blocks from the red light district, and three blocks from the Union Pacific railroad station and Greyhound depot. Accessibility-wise, it was a fairly good location. There was a two-story garden terrace building behind the



casino with 79 rooms and 8 two-bedroom suites. A room at the El Cortez started at \$6.

Construction went well and came in under budget. In the days before the war, this was fairly easy to do. Boulder Dam was completed and many construction workers who worked on the dam decided to make Las Vegas their home, so there was a good labor pool. In addition, Hicks, the visible managing partner of the El Cortez, was an easy guy to work for. The complete construction of the hotel took only nine months, start to finish.

Instead of building on Fremont Street, they asked: "Why not build out-of-the-way, out in the country where it's nice and peaceful and quiet? The hotel can have nightly barbecue and not be bothered by the drunks going from one casino to the next." So Marion Hicks and Kell Houssels decided to build the El

Cortez where it was, off the beaten path.

Sometime in 1944 or the beginning of 1945, Hicks was approached by Ben "Don't Call Me Bugsy" Siegel who was representing his boss, Meyer Lansky. Siegel made Hicks a deal for the El Cortez. The agreed-upon price was \$600,000. Siegel paid in cash. Hicks took the money and moved out of the El Cortez owners suite. Since the original ownership groups' investment was about \$125,000, they made a tidy \$475,000 profit in only four years.

Ben now owned about half of the El Cortez Hotel and completely owned the horse book. One of his bodyguards, "Fat Irish" Green, ran the book for him. The El Cortez was showing a nice, modest profit, but three miles south of town on Highway 91 there was a hotel under construction, the Flamingo, with a sizable stake from Ben. With Ben and

Meyer now venturing into the resort hotel business, they let it be known to casino owners and mobsters around the country that the El Cortez was for sale.

In Minneapolis, Davie and Charles “Chickie” Berman were experiencing a lot of local heat. As gamblers and club owners, they were being leaned on heavily, and they wanted to try somewhere with greener pastures and warmer winters. So Davie Berman flew to New York to meet with Meyer Lansky with the intent of buying the El Cortez. Meyer gave his permission for Davie to return to Las Vegas and negotiate with Siegel to purchase the hotel. As part of the deal, Lansky wanted a finder’s fee of \$160,000, in cash and up front. Davie Berman had expected this wrinkle and brought a suitcase full of cash with him. He paid Lansky the \$160,000, thanked him for allowing him to buy the El Cortez, and headed back to Minneapolis.

There he met with his partners and, between them, raised \$1.3 million in cash. The Minneapolis contingent was comprised of Davie; his brother Chickie; Davie Berman’s best friend, Israel Alderman, better known as “Ice Pick Willie”; and Moey Sedway. Once they arrived in Las Vegas to consummate the deal, they checked into the El Cortez and were met by Ben Siegel’s representative, Gus Greenbaum, who had come in from Phoenix for the meeting.

According to Susan Berman’s book, *Memories of a Gangster’s Daughter*, while Davie was downstairs in the owner’s office negotiating with Marion Hicks, his brother Chickie took the satchel with the entire \$1.3 million and went looking for some action. Moey Sedway and his men found Chickie at a high-stakes craps game at the Las Vegas Club. By the time they could stop

him, Chickie had already lost over \$900,000. (In late 2000, Susan Berman was found shot to death in her New York apartment. Lots of secrets were told in her *Gangster’s Daughters* books and her TV interviews). She had a big mouth! And she was too well connected to have that big of a mouth!

Anyway, back to 1945 Las Vegas, and brother Chickie. Crestfallen, Davie and Chickie returned to Minneapolis. Davie Berman promised his partners that the original million three would be repaid, but he needed to borrow another million to meet his purchase obligation. Davie was given the second million and flew back to Las Vegas. This time Chickie stayed back home in Minneapolis. The \$1.3 million purchase was completed and the ownership of the El Cortez changed hands again.

For years, Guy McAfee worked as vice squad captain at the Los Angeles Police Department. Apparently, though this was only rumored, he made so much money from his police job that he was able to buy acres of land just south of Las Vegas. McAfee owned, among other things, the property the Last Frontier Hotel was built on and the “91 Club” casino that stood on the land. At the time, Las Vegas Boulevard was known as Highway 91. The 91 Club was making Guy McAfee a fair amount of money, so in 1946 McAfee was approached by Jones and Hicks who said, “We have a proposition for you. We’d like to buy the land you got across from the El Rancho and we want to put in a casino and hotel.” A deal was struck, title to the land passed to Jones and Hicks, and construction of the Thunderbird Hotel began.

The Thunderbird was never much of a hotel. It opened with only 46 rooms and a nice, modest casino. But

it took all the resources that Big Juice, Hicks and their partners could come up with. To open the doors, their out-of-pocket expense was nearly \$1,500,000, but they were able to cut some corners. Since Hicks was in the construction business in Los Angeles, he also became licensed in Nevada. They built the Thunderbird with Hicks as general contractor and with his own construction crew. There were several minority partners in the Thunderbird in 1948. These included Tutor Scherer, gambler, casino owner and soon to be poet laureate of Nevada. (In the mid-to-late 1950s, *Fabulous Las Vegas* magazine routinely devoted a full page to Tutor’s poetry or prose.) Guy McAfee also had a small piece of the Thunderbird action.

It must be pretty exciting when you can be in your own casino on opening night after all the months of planning and work, knowing the mortgage will soon be paid off. You’re finally going to be able to stand in your

own craps pit, behind one of the high tables and watch all the players throwing their money at you as quickly as you can take it in. This was pretty heady stuff. It didn’t quite

work out that way, however, on opening night, September 2, 1948. The new owners were dressed to the nines.

Their wives were there and the place was flowing with excitement. There was a tradition in Las Vegas, back several decades ago, that when a new hotel opened, all the other casino



owners would show up and give the place lots of action on the craps tables.

Two casino owners, Jake Katleman of the El Rancho Vegas and Farmer Paige, another Los Angeles gambler who moved to Las Vegas and opened the Pioneer Club, were present. They were playing at the same craps table and, between them, had two complete chip rails filled with purple and yellow chips. There was a lot of back-slapping, free flowing drinks, noise and excitement – and sweat rolling down the faces of Jones and Hicks. Big Juice was having trouble catching his breath as he watched Katleman and Paige, two of his friends and rival owners, make point after point on the table. The come-out roll was the only time a seven showed on the dice. Hard-ways and all the sucker proposition bets were coming in roll after roll after roll.

Katleman and Paige finally left the craps table, gave tips to the dealers and, with two security guards escorting them, brought rack after rack of funny-colored chips to the cashiers cage. The cashier, with the Thunderbird owners watching over his shoulder, counted the chips and announced the amount: one hundred and sixty-one thousand, three hundred dollars! The total cash in the Thunderbird's cashiers cage, back room safe, Big Juices wallet and some extra just-in-case money amounted to a little over \$41,000. Oops, they were a few bucks short. And Katleman and Paige, both pretty nice guys, weren't going to say, "Hey, don't worry about the hundred and sixty thou. That was just for fun, right?" They wanted their money.

Big Juice and Marion Hicks told Jake and Farmer to come to the office. Then Marion asked if they could have two days to pay up the "one sixty large." Jake Katleman, unlike his nephew, Beldon, who

owned the El Rancho Vegas a few years later and was a pretty miserable character, said, "Sure, we'll see you Thursday for dinner and pick up the money then." After Jake and Farmer left, Big Juice and Marion just sat looking at each other. They had just lost the Thunderbird. Unbelievable, who'da thunk it? It was bad enough to lose \$161,000, but worse to lose it to other casino owners.

Neither Big Juice nor Marion were kids, so they knew where that kind of money could be found. The Mob not only had funds readily available, but thought Las Vegas was a true blue-chip investment. So Hicks called a friend of his, George Sadlo, from Texas. Sadlo was very well-connected with Meyer Lansky. Hicks explained the problem and asked Sadlo if he'd contact Meyer to tell him that they needed 160 Large. Of course, they would be willing to talk to Meyer about a partnership.

Meyer was already deeply involved in the Flamingo and the hotel and casino, under the expert guidance of Gus Greenburg was making money hand-over-fist for the Chicago Outfit, plus all the other people who had their hands in the Flamingo's financial pie. George Sadlo called Lansky that night in September 1948. Meyer was living on the top floor of the Hotel Nacional in Havana and a deal was put together over the phone. In exchange for a still-unknown percentage in the Thunderbird, Lansky would have \$160,000 in cash delivered to Big Juice and Marion's offices the very next day.

In exchange for this favor, here's what Meyer wanted: his percentage in the Thunderbird; involvement in the skim that everyone was anticipating (remember this was essentially day one and nothing had started yet); and, most importantly, for his brother, Jake, to have a job at the

Thunderbird. Nothing fancy, just something that would keep him out of trouble, pay him a legitimate wage and allow him to wear a clean shirt to work each day.

The deal was reached and the 160 Large was delivered to the Thunderbird's offices. (Does this sound a little like the first Godfather movie when Fredo Corleone went to Las Vegas to work for Moe Green?) The money was handed over to Katelman and Paige, and, on September 3, 1948 at about noon, the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino was Mob-owned.

During the Kefauver Committee meetings held in Las Vegas less than two years after this arrangement was made, Cliff Jones was called as a witness. By this time

Big Juice had gotten into politics and had risen to be lieutenant governor of Nevada.

But because of testimony at these hearings,

both Jones and Hicks had their gambling licenses revoked. It was something concerning Jake Katelman and George Sadlo's hidden ownership in the hotel. (Cliff

Jones later admitted in court that his 50% ownership was pared down to 11% after the loan.) The license revocation lasted

less than a day. Friends

of friends spoke to the Nevada Tax Commission guys, and Big Juice and Marion got their licenses back. But the Mob



was now in the Thunderbird to stay.

Most people reading this story have heard of Meyer Lansky. (If you're a fan of the Godfather movie trilogy, think of the Hyman Roth character played by Lee Strasberg.) Meyer had a brother whose nickname was Jacob. When the gang got hungry, Jake was the one they sent out for Danish and coffee. And he nearly always remembered to get it and bring it back. Jake was the kind of man who was very lucky to have a good brother like Meyer. Meyer took care of Jake the way you're supposed to when you're worth a few zillion dollars and have a brother who always means well, but somehow doesn't do everything correctly.

Starting back in the '20s, Meyer let Jake help him out in a number of his business ventures. No one laughed at Jake Lansky because he was Meyer's brother. Ben Siegel liked him, Tony Accardo liked him, Frank Costello liked him and so did Santo Trafficante. With friends like that, it was understandable that everybody liked Jake. At one time Meyer owned one of the two casinos at the Hotel Nacional in Havana, the so-called Casino International. Jake was made casino manager there.

He had a business card that read: Hotel Nacional, Jacob "Jake" Lansky, Casino Manager. Two other men who worked for Meyer were also on the floor of the Casino International, Merle Jacobs and Edward Cellini, but neither of them had business cards saying they were the casino manager.

Merle Jacobs was in charge of the casino's money and Eddie Cellini was in charge of everything else. That catch-all designation meant taking care of the dealers, pit bosses, customers and all other mundane things to keep a high-volume casino running well. On the other hand, the

International's casino manager, Jake, made sure that customers who were playing got the right drinks that they ordered, that the bartenders showed up to work on time and that the maintenance crew got the floors vacuumed each night. Jake carried out his casino manager job duties very well and Meyer was quite happy that his brother had found gainful employment. When Meyer built the giant Riviera, not the one in Las Vegas but the Riviera in Havana, he made sure the casino was run by two professionals: Dino and Eddie, the Cellini brothers. Fortunately, by this time, Jake had found a home in Las Vegas and was out of the action.

Jake Lansky drove a new 1948 Cadillac Coupe DeVille, black in color, with Illinois license plates. Guess where that car was parked every single day? It was in the Thunderbird's owner's parking place. It soon became obvious to the Las Vegas police and FBI, after a few months, that a car registered to Jake Lansky was being parked right out in the open, and it wasn't that hard to trace the license registration. That's because Jake was living at the Thunderbird. This started the investigation as to the hidden ownership and led to revocation of Big Juice and Hick's gambling license. (If you see a postcard from the Thunderbird, look at the car parked closest to the front door. That's Jake Lansky's Cadillac.)

Later, when Jake moved to the Sahara, he was specifically told not to park his Illinois-registered Cadillac out front. As a matter of fact, it was suggested that he not even bring it to the hotel. Jake was given minor jobs around the hotel to keep him busy. But the one he liked best was picking up visiting VIPs who were visiting the Sahara. He'd meet them at McCarren airport and make sure they got safely to the Sahara.



Some of the names on the Thunderbird chips

He was a very careful driver and seemed quite happy with his new duties at the Sahara. In his pocket he had business cards, just like the one at the Thunderbird, that read: Sahara Hotel, Jacob "Jake" Lansky, Casino Executive.

A real quick Ash Resnick story. Ash actually was President of the Thunderbird at one time and he had a bodyguard named Sonny Liston, yeah, that Sonny Liston! Anyway, word on the street has always been that Sonny took a dive in Cassius Clay vs Liston I and Cassius Clay vs Liston II. In both fights Clay was a 1 to 15 dog in fight 1 and a 1 to 8 underdog in fight 2. Liston did dive in both fights and Ash Resnick had a smile that lasted the final twenty years of his life. He bailed out of the Thunderbird, bought into Caesars and became an Executive Host there. (This was after Liston was murdered).



Ash's friend Joe Louis who was really down on his luck was hired by Ash to be a greeter at Caesars.

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Smoking Out Answers at the Bell Cigar Store

The Mystery of the C & C Chips

by Mark Cotton

Being a relative newcomer to chip collecting (I started in 2001), until recently I had never experienced the thrill of the hunt. What hunt you ask? Do I mean searching eBay day after day for an elusive chip needed to fill a hole in one's collection? No, that's not it. Nor do I mean the often confusing process of navigating an unknown casino floor while looking for the Player's Club booth.

The hunt I'm referring to is the process of taking a poker chip from an unknown location and attempting to track down where it came from and who was involved in its use before it became a collectible. If you haven't experienced the excitement of this kind of sleuthing first-hand, I urge you to try it. It's a little like being one of those private detectives you see on television and in the movies, except nobody gets murdered. Or at least nobody that wasn't going to get murdered anyway.

Unidentified Flying Chip

Although I said this story isn't about eBay, that's actually where it began. About a year ago, I was doing my usual browsing and searching of the casino chip category and came across a group of ten of the same unidentified chip, or UFC as many chip collectors call them. The chips were hub mold, light green in color

and bore the initials "C&C" on one side and a denomination of \$5.00 on the other. I placed a bid on them, figuring that getting ten of the same chip would give me some extras to trade for other UFC's.

I won the auction, and when the chips arrived a week or so later I found that the seller had inadvertently sent me 65 of the chips instead of 10 as listed in the auction. It turns out his wife was handling his auctions while he was out of town and she made an error in packaging the chips I won. After a few e-mails back and forth, we negotiated a price on the additional chips to avoid my having to ship them back to him. Most of the chips were in pretty good shape, although some were dirtier and had more wear to the hot stamp. The wear and the dirt told me these chips had seen some play, although I still hadn't a clue where.



The Search Begins

I had learned during my e-mail correspondence with the seller that he had originally purchased the chips in

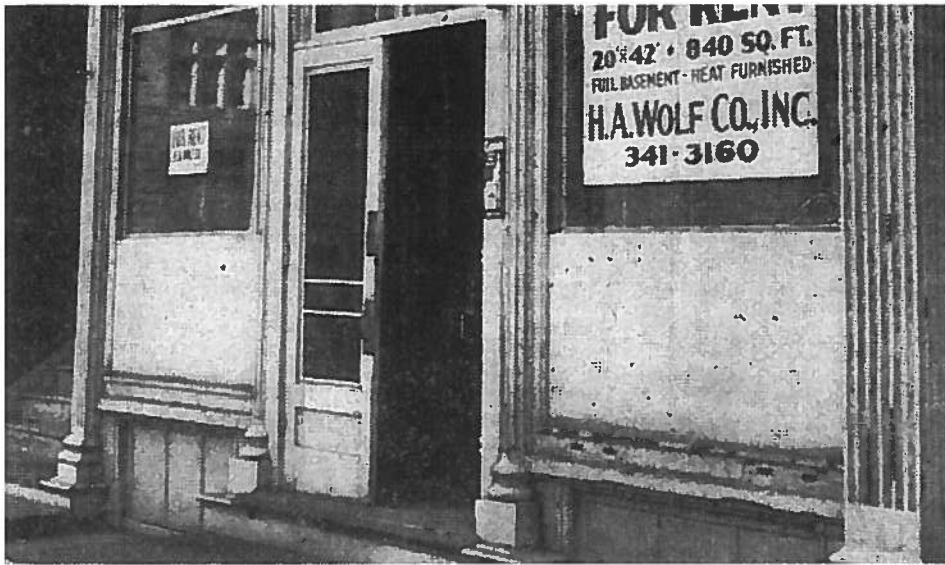
Nebraska about ten to twelve years earlier. Before selling any, he had a box of almost 500 of the \$5 chips and another 400 off-white chips in the diamond mold with the initial "P". All of the "C&C" chips had gone to a buyer in Florida, except for the 65 chips I ended up with.

So, now I knew where the chips ended up, but the question still remained: Where did they come from?

My first stop was Greg Susong's Chip Board (www.thechipboard.com), my favorite online haunt. I knew if these chips had been identified in the past, one of the regulars on the board would be able to help me out. I scanned a picture of the chip and posted it on the board with the plea for help in identifying it. Answers with attempts to help started appearing quickly, including some speculation from readers of the board about whether the initials were really "C&C" or perhaps something else, since the top of both "C's" was flat and the two of them weren't exactly identical. The typefaces used to hot-stamp initials on chips have, over the years, often included letters that were open to interpretation. Others have been downright impossible to decipher.

The Chip Board discussion brought a response from Howard Herz who was kind enough to check the records of the Mason Company and tell me that the chips were manufactured February 12, 1953 and delivered to the Bell Cigar Store at 109 S. 15th Street in Omaha, Nebraska. And, Howdy confirmed, the initials ordered to be stamped onto the chips were indeed "C&C".

I was elated to find an answer to my quest! So, the Bell Cigar Store had ordered the chips! But, as I was soon to find out, the mystery was far



After more than 30 years of gambling action, the Bell Cigar Store was closed for good in April 1963

from over. Readers of the board pointed out that cigar stores were often points of purchase for sets of personal poker chips. It could have been that the Bell Cigar Store simply ordered the chips for a customer who wanted to see their initials on them. Chuck & Clara, or Carl & Cynthia, or Cedrick & Candy wanted to impress their Thursday night poker group. Other readers of The Chip Board speculated that the number of chips ordered would certainly be enough for a hot card room operating out of the back of a cigar store. But why not order chips with “Bell Cigar Store” on them? Or, the word “Bell”? Or, maybe a picture of a bell? Why the initials “C&C”? Maybe they were the initials of the owner or owners? One reader suggested the initials stood for “Cigars & Cards”.

Some Basic Research

To try to solve the riddle of the initials, I wrote to the Omaha Public Library and asked if they would be so kind as to check the 1952 city directory for listings for the Bell Cigar Store and for any listings using the initials “C&C”. The library staff checked the early 1950’s directories

and found a listing in the 1954 directory for a “C&C Bar” operated by two gentlemen named Jerry Collins & Joseph Cap. Could this be it? Maybe the owners ran a poker table or two in the backroom of the C&C Bar? But why was there no listing for the bar earlier than 1954, when my chips were made in 1952?

The city directory listings for the Bell Cigar Store during the same period showed the owner to be Fred Weyerman. I noted with dismay the lack of the letter “C” in his name, shooting down my short-lived theory that the chips might bear the cigar store owner’s initials. While it was certainly not a slam-dunk, and not everyone on The Chip Board was convinced of the attribution, for a while I held onto the belief that the C&C Bar had been where my “C&C” chips had become worn and dirty.

The Mystery Resurfaces

Several months later, I pulled the chips out again and posted a trade offer on The Chip Board, relating what I knew so far. This rekindled the debate about whether they had been used in the Bell Cigar Store or the C&C Bar. I decided to delve a lit-

tle further into the question and went back to the internet, this time contacting the Historical Society of Douglas County (Nebraska) through their website. I told them everything I knew about the chips and asked if they could help. Almost immediately I learned that Fred “Snorts” Weyerman, the store owner, had been arrested several times on gambling charges and the Bell Cigar Store itself had been the site of a number of gambling and bookmaking raids by the police over the years. The store was on the ground floor of the Bell Hotel, widely known to be a brothel, where numerous prostitution raids had taken place. The researchers at the Historical Society of Douglas County could find no record of any such newsworthy events taking place at the C&C Bar, or any news clippings listing Mr. Collins or Mr. Cap, owners of the bar.

So, I finally had the answer! The Bell Cigar Store was it! Right? Maybe? But what about the initials? “Cigars & Cards”? “Crime & Corruption”? “Consternation and Confusion?”

I asked the Historical Society of Douglas County to send me copies of news clippings containing the stories on Fred Weyerman and the Bell Cigar Store and waited eagerly for their arrival.

More Digging

While I waited, still having no definitive answer as to where the chips were used, I began to look into organized crime in and around Omaha. I learned that the city and its neighbor across the river, Council Bluffs, Iowa had rich histories of gambling and corruption from their early beginnings. Stories of political corruption and gambling in the area describe other combination cigar stores and bookmaking fronts with names like Baseball Headquarters,

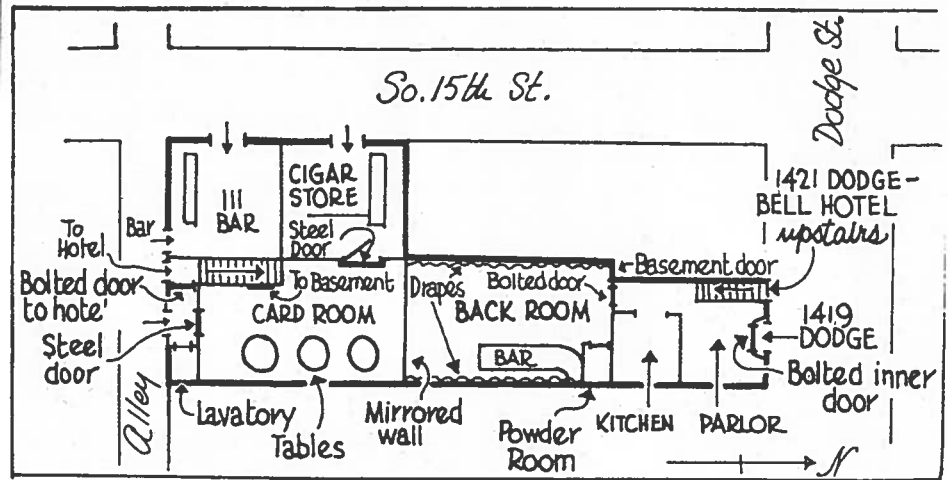
Turf Cigar Store and Owl Smoke Shop. Much of the bookmaking action took place the area of downtown Omaha on 16th Street between Dodge and Leavenworth. Coincidentally, the Bell Cigar Store was located at the intersection of 15th Street and Dodge.

An interesting side note is the fact that mafia mastermind Meyer Lansky ran a dog racing track in Council Bluffs in the early 1940's. Many well-known gamblers got their start in the area before moving west to Las Vegas.

As I learned more about the history of illegal gambling in and around Omaha, I became more and more convinced that my "C&C" chips had their own illicit history. Finally, the news clippings from the Omaha World-Herald arrived, containing a treasure-trove of information about Fred Weyerman, his brother Paul Weyerman and the Bell Cigar Store.

Bell Cigar Store & Fred Weyerman

The Bell was the site of frequent raids for card games and bookmaking. The research I received documented trouble as early as 1938 and continuing until it was closed in 1963. Fred Weyerman was listed as co-owner throughout this time period. The store was also the site of at least two bombings, which police speculated were related to an attempt to start a new bookmaking wire service. Weyerman coincidentally was running Council Bluff's Stork Club when it had been bombed a few years earlier. Weyerman was also said to be best friends with Jackie Gaughan who left Omaha for Las Vegas in the 1940's and went on to be associated with a string of casinos there, including the Boulder Club, Flamingo, Union Plaza, Las Vegas Club, Western Hotel and Golden Spike.



A layout of the Bell Cigar Store drawn after a 1955 raid.

The gambling raids seemed to be routine around the Bell Cigar Store. Paul Weyerman, Fred's brother was arrested in one raid in 1944. Paul was part owner of the Chez Paree in nearby Carter Lake, Iowa, and eventually left Omaha for Las Vegas. He was granted a gaming license there in 1956 as a 4.5% owner of the Fremont Hotel. In 1967, Paul Weyerman was charged with skimming at the Fremont and Riviera, along with six other men.

As the years progressed, the names of those arrested in raids on the Bell Cigar Store changed. Fred Weyerman himself was rarely caught holding cards or chips, but some of the card dealers got their names in print numerous times. In later years, Charles "Snooks" Hutter, Jr. was named as a co-owner of the store in news reports.

A variety of activity took place at the Bell Cigar Store. In 1940 the police Morals Squad was standing in front of the store when they saw a cab driver stop and carry a roll of papers inside. They followed him and confiscated a bundle of overnight race sheets. An article from 1948 details the arrest of a patron of the Bell for betting on baseball games. Another from 1950 describes a raid

on the Bell where the Morals Squad interrupted a game of pan, finding what the article described as "trade chips" on the men. The news stories described how chips were confiscated in several different raids over the years, but none are ever described sufficiently to provide an answer to my personal mystery.

Police busted in and took the chips at the Bell so often that one would imagine orders from chip manufacturers to replace what had been taken would be a regular occurrence. But, the layout of the Bell often made it difficult for the Morals Squad to catch gamblers in the act. A diagram of the store published in the newspaper after one raid shows multiple doors and reveals a card room as well as another back room hidden behind a mirrored wall where only "elite patrons" were welcome. The inter-connecting doors and stairways leading to the basement below and the hotel above made for quick getaways when the vice cops came calling.

Organized crime was never far from the fringes of the Bell Cigar Store. In 1953, a gambler named Eddie McDermott, co-owner of the Riviera Club in Council Bluffs was shot to death gangland style in a garage a block away from the Bell

Cigar Store. He was living at the Bell Hotel and police questioned a group of his friends who had spent the evening playing cards together at the Bell Cigar Store. Fred Weyerman was one member of the group. The murder was never solved, but the police had a theory that McDermott's operation of a "floating craps game" may have been related to the motive for the shooting.

More Theories Emerge

One connection to organized crime piqued my interest and provided still another possible home for the "C&C" chips. Many of the raids on the Bell were for bookmaking, and the reports of one bust in 1953 mentions the confiscation of racing forms and six telephones. But, it was in an online story about the history of Omaha gambling by Brian James Beerman that I learned that the person who controlled the local outlet for the national race wire service for a time was Frank Calamia. Bookmakers relied on the wire services to provide results of horse races and sporting events that their patrons were betting on. Frank Calamia and his stepson Waldon Calamia operated the Omaha branch of the national wire service under the name "C&C Publishing Co".

According to Beerman, the wire service apparently changed hands several times from 1938 to 1951, with C&C Publishing being identified as the operator in 1948 by a Western Union spokesman. The address for C&C Publishing was an empty garage at 2312 Q. Street. The wire results for horse races were received in Omaha from Kansas City and then redistributed throughout the Omaha and Council Bluffs area. Presumably, the Bell Cigar Store would have been one of the wire services customers since many of the raids on the Bell were for bookmaking operations.

Was this the answer? Did the "C&C" on my chips stand for "Calamia & Calamia"? With no hard evidence to connect the Calamias to the Bell Cigar Store or to Fred Weyerman, this knowledge just seems to muddy the waters even more. And, especially after Brian Beerman pulled yet another possibility out of his hat.

Yes, We Have No Cigars

Beerman related that there once had been a billiard hall operating in Omaha at 15th and Howard Streets, about four blocks from the Bell Cigar Store, called "C&C Recreation". Up until 1950 it was operated by Max Abramson and Fred "Tiny" Barnes. Both were well-known gamblers and associates of Fred Weyerman, according to Beerman. During the 1940's the three men had been partners in the Stork Club, an illegal casino near Council Bluffs. Abramson was a frequent visitor to the Bell, and his name turned up as one of the card players at the Bell on the night of Eddie McDermott's murder. And, Weyerman was no stranger to pool halls. Operating a pool hall without a license would get Weyerman's name in the paper a few years later.

Beerman goes on: "In 1950 Abramson claimed to have sold his interest in the C&C (Recreation) to Mose "Cappy" Rubin, an older and somewhat lesser-known local gambling figure. The previous month a report by a Kansas City grand jury had named Abramson and disclosed his connection to various bookmaking establishments in Omaha, including the C&C (Recreation). I would not be surprised, though, if he continued on as a silent partner after the supposed sale."

This theory dovetails into another that arrived with another batch of news clippings from the Historical Society of Douglas County. They

revealed that there was a place called variously "C and C Smoke Shop", "C&C Cigar Store" and "C-C Cigar Store" operating at 422 South 15th Street in much the same way the Bell Cigar Store was in the late 40's and early 50's. The news stories describe mostly bookmaking action as the target of attention by the Morals Squad. On their visits to the C&C the police were always finding racing forms, betting slips and scratch sheets, but strangely the cigar counter never had any smokes available for sale.

The owner of the C&C Cigar Store is listed as the same Mose Rubin, mostly known as a local fight figure, that Beerman told me bought C&C Recreation in 1950. And the location makes it appear that the pool hall and cigar store were one and the same. None of my information links Mose Rubin to Fred Weyerman; however I did come across one name that appears both in articles about the Bell and the C&C Cigar Store. Charles LaFerla (also sometimes listed as Charles La Feria) was arrested at raids at the C&C Cigar Store in the late 40's and at the Bell Cigar Store during the 50's, each time charged as being a "keeper of a disorderly house". LaFerla's name also turns up in a news story about charges filed against Fred Weyerman in 1963 for failure to have a Federal gambling stamp. These were the charges that would finally shut the Bell's doors after over 25 years of illegal activity. It seems LaFerla was Weyerman's bookkeeper and filed his last gambling excise tax report for the Bell Cigar Store in 1961 before leaving. So, perhaps there was a link between the Bell and the C&C after all.

Still another theory on the origins of the light green hub mold "C&C" \$5 chips. I had started with nothing to go on, and now had a handful of theories to choose from. Too many, in fact:

1. The chips were ordered by the Bell Cigar Store for use as a home poker set by an individual or individuals partial to the initials "C&C".
2. The chips were ordered by the Bell Cigar Store for the owners of the C&C Bar, who kept their nose clean and their names out of the newspaper.
3. The chips were ordered by and used at the Bell Cigar Store for the backroom games that required a never-ending supply of chips to replace the ones the police Morals Squad kept confiscating.
4. The chips were ordered by the Bell Cigar Store for Frank and Weldon Calamia, who provided the Bell with its race wire service through their company C&C Publishing.
5. The chips were ordered by the Bell Cigar Store for Fred Weyerman's buddy Max Abramson to use in his C&C Recreation, also known as the C&C Cigar Store, where presumably table games may have taken place along with the book making. And, Weyerman may have even been involved in the operation since some of the personnel were the same.

At this point, I'm a little disappointed that I don't have a definitive answer when I offer one of the "C&C" chips for trade to a fellow chipper and hear the inevitable question: "Do you know where these were used?"

The Search Continues...

But, one thing I've discovered is that the search has been even more fun than actually finding a solution to the mystery would be. I've learned a lot about how illegal gaming operated (in Omaha, anyway) and reading the newspaper articles about the raids on the Bell Cigar Store and C&C Smoke Shop has been richly entertaining.

So, you have some UFC's that are just begging to be identified? What are you waiting for? Put on your Sherlock Holmes cap and get to work! Sometimes a single clue can lead to another, with can lead to another, and so on. Once you try it you'll be hooked!

I'm not giving up my own search, and as I write this I'm waiting for another package in the mail. You see,

I recently contacted that buyer in Florida who bought the rest of the "C&C" chips. He also got the 400 off-white diamond mold chips with the initial "P" that were with the "C&C" chips, and I negotiated a trade for one.

Let's see now... What could "P" stand for... Paul Weyerman? Poolhall? Perpetual Perplexity?

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The author would like to thank Howard Herz, the members of The Chip Board online community, The Omaha Public Library, The Historical Society of Douglas County, Gary Rosenberg, Orville Menard, Bryan James Beerman and Steve Fischer. Mark may be contacted at cottonchipper@gmail.com.

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Tips For Researching Unidentified Chips

Are you ready to try your hand at tracking down the elusive gaming location for a chip in your collection? These tips may help you put together the clues you need to solve your own mystery.

1. Network with other collectors. If the chip you're researching has been around for a while, there's a good chance somebody has identified it already. Develop relationships with others who collect and research UFC's.
2. Utilize the internet. Internet search engines and e-mail can speed up your research considerably. Visit Greg Susong's Chip Board (www.thechipboard.com) to ask other collectors about your chip. In addition, several collectors of illegals and UFC's maintain websites with information and pictures that can be very helpful. Once you start to gather bits of information, visit a search engine, such as Google (www.google.com), to see if what you've learned can lead to even more clues.
3. Manufacturer's records. The early production and shipping information for some chip manufacturers has been preserved by other collectors, some of it made available in published form. Learning who ordered a chip and where it was delivered can jump-start your search. Ask around about the mold used to produce your chip and find out if such records exist.
4. Printed chip guides. The availability of reference books on chips is growing, and the pictures and descriptive information they contain can let you know quickly if your chip has already been identified.
5. Libraries. Once you have an idea of the geographical location of your chip's origins, libraries can be great tools in researching the names of clubs or their owners.
6. Historical societies. Often groups focused on preserving the history of an area can provide information in the form of newspaper clippings or researched articles about local gambling. They can also refer you to those who are knowledgeable about gaming in a particular region.
7. Keep good records. Document where you learn things. A year from now a different theory about your chip may emerge and you'll want to be able to compare the reliability of information.
8. Share what you've learned. Once you uncover information about your chip, let other collectors know. The little piece of knowledge you dig up may provide the final piece of a puzzle that others have been working on for years.

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Promotions and Property Chairperson Needed

Due to time constraints in his business, Tyrus Mulkey has stepped down as the Club's Promotions and Property Chairman. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership, I would like to extend our thanks to Tyrus for his many contributions in assisting the Club.

We are now looking for someone to volunteer to assume the duties of Promotions and Property Chairman on behalf of the Club. Since our storage facilities and merchandise are located in Las Vegas (as well as the Convention) it would be easier for everyone, if the person who volunteers lived in or around Las Vegas.

Some of duties include filling orders from members for Club merchandise, ordering Club merchandise, managing the inventory, working with the Board on new items and supervising the Club Promotions table during the Convention.

We need to fill this position as quickly as possible, so if you have an interest or know someone who does, please contact me at president@ccgtcc.com.

Club Publicity Director Needed

Len Cipkins will be stepping down as the Club's Publicity Director upon conclusion of the 2005 Convention.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership, I would like to thank Len for his invaluable and professional service to this organization over the past several years. His assistance has been tremendous in garnering publicity for our organization with many different media outlets around the country. His talents will be sorely missed.

We are now looking for someone to take over for Mr. Cipkins' duties as Publicity Director of the CC & GTCC. If you have experience in this field or related fields, we ask that you consider volunteering for this position. We hope to have the person in place before Len completes his work at the conclusion on the Convention.

If you have an interest in this position or know someone who would, please contact me at president@ccgtcc.com.

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Gambling on Beatty. A History of the Exchange Club and Burro Inn

by Howard W. Herz

The Exchange Club

If you are driving along highway 95 from Tonopah to Las Vegas you will find an oasis in the desert that has served travelers, miners and the military for more than a century. Tucked between hills that are colored with mineral deposits, the town of Beatty Nevada has served as a rail depot, mining center and recreation hot spot for the Nevada test site. Founded around the turn of the century, Beatty has survived the economic roller coaster of a century of boom and bust.

Beginning as an offshoot of the mining boom that started with Rhyolite in the Bullfrog mining district Beatty survived the end of the first Rhyllite boom by being on the Las Vegas & Tonopah railroad. As a rest stop on highway 95 between Tonopah and Las Vegas the town also served as a critical stop for travelers. When Nevada legalized gambling in



1st Issue \$100 chip around 1955. The chip came in 2 different colors

1931, most of the action was in Tonopah where a number of casinos licensed a full list of games. Most of the other gaming in the county was slot machines in bars and a sprinkling of poker games.

Located on a critical corner of highway 95 in the center of town where the road turns from east-west to south, the Exchange Club sits on the southeast corner of the intersection. Clearly, an historic building, the parapet at the top of the corner reads 19 EXCHANGE 06. In the era of modern gaming the official history of the club begins with an entry in the Nye County official records for

October, 1939 when a cigarette license was granted to the Exchange Bar.

From 1940 to 1944 the Exchange Bar was operated by Roena L. McLean with occasional licenses for liquor, cigarettes and slots. In October of 1944 the Exchange Bar was operated by Louis Hinds who continued to have slots until 1946 when he was licensed for a crap game, the first live gaming for the Exchange. Hinds continued operations until April of 1951 when a license was granted to a Mr. Eldridge for roulette, slots and blackjack.

Starting in January of 1952, the licenses were issued to the Exchange Bar & Casino for liquor, slots and roulette. It is this era of ownership that produced the first issue of gaming checks that we have been able to document. The only issue that we have found is the \$100 check on the mold of the Salt Lake Card Co. featuring concentric circles.

In 1955 the Exchange Bar & Casino was sold to Warren Doing. The name was changed back to the Exchange Bar and was licensed to O. W. Glenn and Warren Doing. As an experienced gaming operator from California, Warren Doing sought the expertise of his friend Murphy Breedlove who had been dealing poker in Westlake California. For five years Breedlove and Doing operated the Exchange Bar with craps, roulette, poker and blackjack as well as 26 slot machines. Their operation of the casino would continue until 1960 when the migration of a family from Wyoming would change the face of the Exchange.

In the 1950's Kenneth (Nick) and Lawrence (Larry) Knight operated the Emery Hotel & Bar in Thermopolis, Wyoming. With gambling a county option in Wyoming, they had poker tables and slot machines. When they sold the bar in 1960, they began an

odyssey through Nevada looking for a suitable gaming operation that would suit their taste. As Nick's son Peter Knight recalls, they traversed almost every road the state of Nevada until one day when they found the Exchange Bar in Betty.

Trained in gambling and looking for a family operation, the Exchange fit the bill. Unable to buy the bar from Warren Doing, they negotiated a 20 year lease of the building and the Exchange Club was off to a new start. In the 4th quarter of 1960 Kenneth E. Knight, Fay B. Knight, Larry M. Knight and Elaine K. Knight began the restoration of the bar.



The original adobe building needed restoration so the Knights had the exterior covered with gunite. They



The Knights in front of the Exchange Club: L to R: Larry Knight, Nick Knight, Elaine Knight, Fay Knight.



Neon and wagon wheels.

would eventually add a basement to the building as well as converting the upstairs hotel rooms to quarters for the employees. There was little doubt about what the decor of the club would be. With Nick Knight, a member of the Cowboy hall of fame, and the rest of the family steeped in western tradition, the club's original historical bar and tin ceiling were preserved. With wagon wheel chandeliers featuring a tasteful touch of neon, a gaggle of Mills slots, a craps table and a historical bar from Rhyolite rounded out the decor.

Starting out with their experience from Wyoming, the Knights sought to have a local clientele that would get personal service and care. They knew that in Las Vegas a player could drop \$5,000 and hardly be noticed. "At the Exchange Club, we tried to know all



Roy Johnson and Tommy Donovan at the craps table

of our customers and let them know that we cared.” says Elaine Knight. Besides being the largest club in Beatty, The Exchange Club served as a center for business in the community. Without a bank, most of the local businesses sought to keep cash circulating in the town. Even the houses of prostitution would bring their cash to the casino and exchange it for checks that they would mail to their banks. The Club served as one of the major social institutions of Beatty featuring dances and other events for the locals.



Larry and Vanilla ham it up in the Exchange.

The Knights joined the local Lions Club in supporting burro races for the amusement and entertainment of the local population. This event mushroomed into a major state and national event that eventually became so unwieldy that the races had to be cancelled.

Larry dealt blackjack while Faye and Elaine and Nick managed the operation. With patience and determination, the Knight family devel-



Larry Knight at the blackjack table.

oped the Exchange Club into a local institution. With a clientele of tourists, locals and workers from the Nevada Test Site at Mercury, the Exchange Club prospered. It was a lot of hard work and determination, but it was paying off.

Out in the middle of Nevada there was little of the supervision from the Nevada Gaming authorities that is found today. Crossroaders (cheats) came and went and the house had to provide its own security and surveillance. Experience counted more than anything in keeping the games honest and the customers in line when necessary. Larry Knight had never let his wife Elaine deal because he felt that customers were at their best and worst when playing and he did not want her to have to deal with them at their worst.

One evening while supervising, Elaine heard Larry say “don’t do that” to a customer. A minute later she again heard “DON’T DO THAT”. The customer persisted and Elaine

watched while Larry put the dealers deck down, walked away from the table to a slot mechanics stand and picked up a balpeen hammer. He walked back to the table and bonked the player on the head with the hammer. He walked back to the slot mechanics tools, replaced the hammer and returned to deal the game - to the same customer. Elaine never knew for certain that the customer was doing, but “Larry fixed it - even with a hammer!”



Peter Knight’s 21st Birthday party was celebrated without one ingredient - Peter was away. From left to right: Nick, Fay, Elaine and Larry

Characters, both local and transient, were a common sight in the Exchange. There was the poodle named Farley that would drink out of a soda bottle with a straw up at the bar. There were always reasons to party and Peter Knight's (Nick's son) 21st birthday was no exception.

There was the sign that said "Be Alerk" and nobody was sure what it meant. Customers and owners partied together.

The employees lived upstairs in the converted hotel rooms and were frequently the source

of amusement and problems. Elaine Knight remembers one evening when she needed the help of one of the "swampers" and sent another employee up to fetch him. Finding the "swamper" sitting on the edge of his bed with an empty wine bottle by his side, the employee stated "Elaine wants you". The "swamper", feeling no pain, stared for a moment and then replied "tell her I am flattered".



Peter and Elaine

The Knight family suffered a setback in 1966 when owners Faye and Nick Knight were killed in a plane crash. Missing a critical part of their operations team, Elaine and Larry Knight carried on and brought Nick's son Peter onto the license.



Exchange Club. The year this photo was taken is unknown.

By the 1970's the The Exchange Club was typical of a western Nevada casino in the era before mega corporations began to dominate the Nevada gaming scene.

The Exchange Club name was the source of some concern to a group of lawyers in the 1970's. Peter Knight received a letter from the Exchange Club International, a national service club, demanding that they cease and desist using the name. Claiming that a number of their members had stopped at the club thinking that it was associated with their service

club, they demanded that the Knight family change the name. Peter Knight ignored the letter. When another letter followed with a similar demand on the stationary of a Philadelphia law firm Peter acted. Recalling his legal classes at Stanford law school, Peter took his Polaroid camera and shot a picture of the 19 EXCHANGE 06 lettering on the front of the club. With a letter suggesting that in fact the Exchange Club International was violating their name, Peter's attached photograph seemed to settle the issue.



Beatty. Across from The Exchange Club.

In 1966 with the demise of the silver dollars, the Knight's ordered dollar gaming tokens for the Exchange Club. Taking a liberty with the currency, the tokens value was stated as a "Burro Buck". In 1979 when tokens were again put into use after the Eisenhower dollars were pulled from circulation, the term "Burro Buck" did not meet the regulations of the gaming control board. In an attempt to utilize the older tokens, a number of them were engraved with the correct terminology "Dollar Gaming Token". Starting with an engraving machine for the wording, the Knight's soon found that the process was far too time consuming. Using a vibrating engraver, they had a number of tokens hand engraved with the wording. In one instance the engraver put his initials on the token, an act of pride in workmanship in what had to be a very boring and tedious job.



1966 token hand re-engraved "AGP"

In June of 1980, the Knight's lease on the Exchange Club ended and a combination ownership of Warren Doing, Murphy Breedlove and Bill Boyd took over the operation. The Knight's took a short vacation after 20 years of hard work.



Murphy and Maxine Breedlove

Murphy Breedlove was the operating partner in Beatty while Warren Doing operated the Searchlight Nugget and Bill Boyd lived in Las Vegas. Keeping the traditions that the Exchange Club had developed under the Knight's, The Exchange Club was essentially Beatty's bank for local businesses, a practice that gaming control would not condone today.

Although the Burro races had been abandoned in the 1970's, Breedlove recalls town dances that lasted until the wee hours of the morning. "We would party until the sheriff called around 5am - about the same time most of the locals went home." says Maxine Breedlove. They were great parties and everyone in town would come.

Breedlove and his partners were the first to put the new electronic poker machines in the Exchange Club and they were an instant hit. The

club continued to thrive until misfortune struck on April fools day in the early 1980's. One of the employees rooming in the second floor hotel rooms put a blanket over a heater and the resulting fire closed the club for repairs.

Having to almost totally rebuild the interior, the Exchange Club was closed for months of repairs. Along with building upgrades, the owners installed air conditioning, a modernizing necessity, but one that covered the tin ceiling of the original bar. The restaurant was remodeled and the club re-opened.

The clientele of the 1980's had shifted as the MX missile system proposal brought engineers and military supervisors to the area. The traffic from the Nevada test site at Mercury continued to boost the Beatty economy. As more and more accidents occurred on highway 95 between Mercury and Beatty, the highway was nick-named the widow maker.

The military clientele became the basis of one of the most memorable evenings for Murphy Breedlove. "Almost all of our customers were military or ex-military at that time. All of them probably had basic training at some time in their lives. One evening a local character by the name of "Gooch" walked into the club with a hand grenade. The place was packed and he walked into the center of the bar and let the thing go. The pin flew up in the air and the grenade tumbled out of his hands. Gooch dove on the grenade, but not before all of our customers had fled the casino. I think it took most of them less than 3 seconds to run out the doors. the bartender went out from behind the bar and took the swinging door



1966 token



1966 token machine re-engraved



1966 token hand re-engraved

with him. Of course the grenade turned out to be a dud, but all of those military types didn't stay around to find out."

"There was the time that someone dropped a couple of rattle snakes on the poker table and a few things like that but most of the time we had a good time without too many problems - except for April fools, - everything bad happened on April fools" says Murphy.

In the 1980's the club had to provide its own security from crossroaders. Having been in the business for more than 30 years, Murphy knew most of the crooks and scam artists that would come in. Murphy's wife Maxine recalls one crossroader who drifted in one evening. Maxine saddled up alongside the man and commented "I understand its nice outside, you ought to go out and get some fresh air." The crossroader got the message and departed.



With the surge in mining in Rhyolite, The Exchange Club again prospered through the 1980's. The 1990's brought a slow down in the mining and the club has again seen lean times. Murphy Breedlove has retired and left the operation of the casino to his daughter Tabby Mulryan. The future of the gaming business in Beatty continues to be a gamble. Indian casinos in California



The Burro Inn

Picture courtesy Allan Anderson

have cut into the customer base, but tourism has increased. The Exchange Club still caters to locals, offers good food and provides clean modern motel rooms next door to its club. With gaming booming in Las Vegas and Nevada continuing to be the fastest growing state the next chapter in the history of the Exchange Club has yet to be written.

The Burro Inn

With the expiration of their lease on the Exchange Club, the Knight family looked for another property. About three blocks south was the Horseshoe Motel and the Atomic Club. Deciding that Beatty was big enough for a second casino, the Knights purchased the property and began to renovate it. For a short period of time they leased the Atomic Club to two partners who opened it as the Burro Bar for several months. With Elaine Knight as the manager the family developed the motel and club under the name Burro Inn.

The building that had been the Atomic Club had been constructed to withstand an atomic blast with foot thick walls and ceiling. Elaine Knight recalls renting a concrete saw and going through two blades and



hour when they put in the air conditioning. While excavating for an expansion of the club they uncovered the shop trenches for the railroad engines in what had been the rail yard of the Las Vegas and Tonopah railroad. Once again the Knight family, now only Peter and Elaine were in the gaming business. In addition to the club, they developed the motel property and put in a restaurant in the Inn.

Good fortune in timing made the operation a success as the development coincided with the mining boom of the late 1980's. With housing at a premium, the motel served as a temporary residence for many of the miners. Operating a small casino with a craps table and two blackjack games

along with slots, the operation kept Elaine busy. Elaine recalls one evening that was particularly busy. When the local deputy sheriff (and former employee) came by and saw how busy she was, he went home, left


his gun and badge and returned to help her deal blackjack. In 1990 the Knights sold the Burro Inn to Sukiaki Izumi, owner of the Hotel San Remo, and retired to Paharump. Their departure from the Nevada gaming

scene came at a time when the mega corporations were beginning to drive out the small single ownerships and were going to change the face of Nevada's gaming.



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Stork Club (LV) - Choice \$5, 25 or \$100	\$179	Ore House (Reno) - Plain Mold \$1,2,5,10	\$49
Trop (AC) Poker Club: Maroon NCV	\$19	Gold Strike (Jean) NCV's: 5,25,100,500	\$38
Hard Rock "Who" at the Joint \$5 & \$25	\$59	Pink Pussycat (Reno) \$1, \$2, \$5 w/ "\$"	\$39
Harrah's (Reno) \$25 N8537 "Q" Value	\$49	Pink Pussycat 1,2,5 Error Set - No "\$"	\$49
Opera House Unicorns-5,25,100; No "\$"	\$45	Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange Sq-in-Circle	\$69
Bladensburg (Md.) Complete: 60 R'lettes	\$119	Curzon House Plaques 10,50,100 Pound	\$189
Harvey's H-Mold 3-Skull/Wheel R'lettes	\$69	Harrah's Reno Hot Aug \$5's -'93 to '04	\$159
Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Playboy (London) 60's - 5Shil, 1 & 5 Pd	\$199
Opera House 9/11 Charity Set 3 NCV's	\$99	Bellagio:Ocean's 11 - \$1,\$5,\$25,\$50,\$100	\$89
Reno Hilton \$8 Yr of the Monkey (2004)	\$49	Harvey's Inn \$1 x2 - House & Nevada	\$49
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque(60's)	\$39	Christmas \$1 N7349 GREAT INLAY !!	\$499
Jailhouse - Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$45	Trop (LV) - Brooks Robinson - SIGNED	\$29
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Black Rectangle	\$59	Stockmen's (Elko) \$25 Pink; Metal Inlay	\$59
Reno Hilton \$5 Rainbow's N4603, N5168	\$44	Comstock (Reno) \$25 N2736 Obsolete	\$39
Hard Rock Set 7 Obs Multi-Color Rlettes	\$89	Sands 3 Chip Tourney Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$79
Cal-Nev-Ari \$1&\$5 Bi-Plane Coin Inlasy	\$39	Trop (LV) 5 Match Play Gray/Pink Pie	\$48
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Harrah's Reno \$5 Octagon "Satisfaction"	\$35
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$49	Ponderosa Reno N.D. Red Plain V5305	\$89
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Yellow V4396	\$19	Opera House 71 Yrs \$1,5,25,100 (19 Sets)	\$249
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Gray/Green	\$29	Town House \$5 V9907 Brn SmKey None	\$69
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$49	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$69
Harrah's Tahoe Obs. NCV's 1,5,25,100	\$39	Claim Stake (Sparks) \$1, \$5, \$25 - All 3	\$48
Sowndowner/Virginian 1 ERROR NCV	\$59	The Gambler (Reno) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49
G. Autry's Htl Continental Red Roul Rm	\$22	addle West: 1st Issue H&C: 25c, \$1, \$5	\$49
Foxwoods \$10 - Frank Sinatra	\$38	Harrah's Tahoe \$5 - "Sailboat" 1990	\$39
John's Tahoe Ngt NCV's -5,100,500	\$55	Horseshoe: WSOP Sat'lite NCV's 6 Diff.	\$35
State Line N.D. V9838 Chinese Warrior	\$79	The Shack (Lake Tahoe) \$5 Diamond	\$69
Ed's Tahoe Ngt NCV's:5,25,100,500,1000	\$49	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
Red Coach (Silver Springs) \$1, \$5, \$10	\$45	HGCC 10c or 50c Harold's Gun Club?	\$49
The Nugget \$25 Home of More Jackpots	\$799	Cal Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold Blue HS	\$99
Mr. C's (Reno) \$5 H&C 4-Brn 4-Purple	\$99	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$49
Eddie's Fabulous 50's: 5, 25, 100 NCV's	\$89	Trump Castle - Royal Flush - Set of 20	\$179
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ)	\$59	Treas Is: #10 Roul; 5 Diff; Never Opened	\$29
Eldorado RARE 5 NCV - "Fly Away"	\$125	Nugget (Reno) Green H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ngt	\$59	Nugget \$1 Maroon SmKey pic of Nugget	\$59

P&H: Up to \$100 = \$3 \$100 to \$299 = \$4 \$300 or more = No Charge

I'd Give My Right Arm and a Leg to Get That Chip!

by Scott Hartman

They say "patience is a virtue", especially when it comes to acquiring chips. Five years ago, January 2000 to be exact, I received a call from an older gentleman who had a Wilbur Clark Desert Inn chip and a pair of Wilbur Clark Desert Inn dice. He told me that he had worked with Wilbur Clark at a San Diego department store when Wilbur Clark was an elevator operator in a brass elevator. Years later in Las Vegas he ran into Wilbur Clark again and was given a \$100 souvenir chip and a pair of uncanceled Wilbur Clark Desert Inn dice. He asked me what they were worth. I told him I'd have to see the chips and the dice. Since I'm located in the greater Los Angeles area and he resides in the greater San Diego area, he decided to call me after he had time to retrieve the chip and dice from his safe deposit box. I called him, trying to set up an appointment every month for the following three months. It seemed that he never had time. (Maybe the chip and dice didn't even exist?)

Nevertheless, I faithfully contacted him both by phone and by letter every six months for the next four years. (I knew he was old and I was concerned that he might pass away before I could make a deal!) To my surprise, after writing him once again in January 2005, the old gentleman responded by calling me to set up an appointment. We decided to meet February 21st at his home in the San Diego area.

Estelle and I drove south toward San Diego in a downpour of rain. She worried about driving in wet



weather, but I was determined to attend the meeting and buy a new chip for my collection. Without any incident we arrived at our appointment right on time. Estelle waited in the car, while I went to the door, carrying an umbrella, to meet the old gentleman. He greeted me at the door along with his dog; he introduced me to his 70 pound black Lab, Jake. He handed me a dog biscuit, and invited me to give Jake the treat. I love dogs, and was happy to give the beautiful lab the biscuit. Jake wolfed down the biscuit, took one look at my umbrella and lounged at me grabbing my jack-

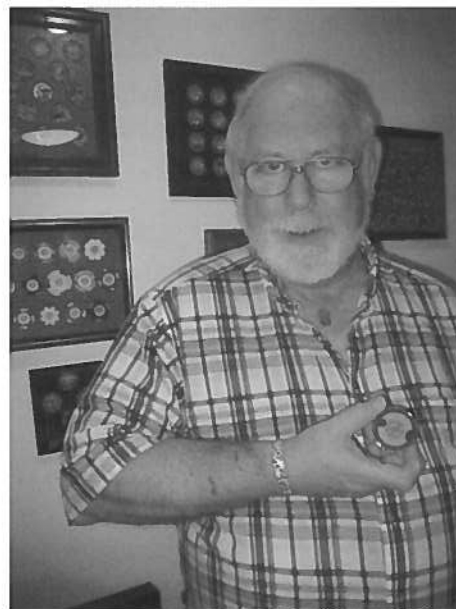
et-covered right arm. I protected myself by pushing forward into him and as a result, he let go and went for my right leg, tearing my pants and biting my upper thigh. Lucky for me, I only lost a brand new pair of slacks and a little blood. I could be talking two octaves higher! Jake's owner was shocked, he grabbed his dog and locked him inside another room, apologizing profusely. My



umbrella must have spooked Jake. Now down to business! My right arm was bleeding and adrena-

line was pumping. Jake's owner showed me the chip and the dice and asked me what I would give him for them. We made a deal, I paid for the chip and the dice. I put my prized chip in my coat pocket and asked him if Jake was up to date with his rabies shot? Yes he was. Then it was time to take care of my wounds.

Fortunately my medical plan had offices in the San Diego area, and five minutes later I was waiting in a doctor's office waiting to be evaluated and treated. Estelle was amazed at my demeanor; I couldn't stop smiling. Despite the dog bites, I now had a new prized chip for my collection. It was worth the wait, the ride, the bite, and the pain. Upon evaluating this chip we'll have to add an additional \$75 for new slacks, \$50 for a doctor's visit, and a wounded arm and leg! What a determined chipper will do to get another chip to add to his collection!



Frank Sinatra's Cal-Neva Lodge

by Steve Fischer

Bones Renner was an old time gangster from San Francisco who owned the Cal-Neva Lodge at Crystal Bay on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe.

But Bones also owed the IRS \$800,000 in back taxes. So Bones asked his friend Wingy Grober if he could pass the ownership of the Cal-Neva, who also, as a result of his sudden and unexplainable ownership of a casino, ended up with his own set of tax problems. With the IRS after him, Wingy Grober put the Cal-Neva Lodge up for sale.

On July 13, 1960, the day John F. Kennedy won the democratic nomination in Los Angeles, it was announced that Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Hank Sincola and Sinatra's old friend and business partner from New Jersey, Skinny D'Amato made application to the state of Nevada to purchase the Cal-Neva.

What wasn't announced in the papers, was that Sam Giancana owned Wingy Grober, Wingy was into Giancana for a lot of money. So Wingy and Sam made a idea. If Wingy Grober sold the Cal-Neva at a reasonable price to some friends of Giancana, Wingy was off the hook for the money that was owned Giancana.

The reasonable price turned out to be very reasonable. The Cal-Neva Lodge was sold in 1960 to Frank Sinatra and Associates for \$250,000. Everything – the whole place – for 250 Large!



Cal-Neva in the 1930's

What also didn't make the newspapers about the deal, was the FBI assumption that Sinatra was nothing more than a front in the Cal-Neva for New York's mob boss "Fat Tony" Salerno.

As for Giancana's interest in the money-losing casino, he was probably only in the deal to keep next to Sinatra, who was trying, desperately, to keep next to Kennedy, which everybody in the Chicago Outfit wanted.

Before the deal was signed, Dean Martin became aware of the mob's interests in the casino and pulled out of the deal. In 1960, Frank Sinatra was able to purchase the Cal-Neva along with his partners Dean Martin and Hank Sanicola.

For the historians out there who are jumping up and down, saying that Dean Martin *was not* an owner of the

Cal-Neva, he really was. Deano was an original owner until he found out that Giancana was involved in the joint – then he bailed.

Deano put up his 33 1/3% and it was bought by Sandy Waterrman.

As of Aug. 15, 1961, Nevada records show that Frank owned thirty-six and six-tenths percentage of the Cal-Neva. By May 15, 1962, Frank's interest rose to fifty percent.

Sinatra was convinced that the Cal-Neva, a seasonal place, could be turned around, that it could produce a hefty profit, even with the mob connected pit bosses stealing the place blind. He told Giancana that with the right investment that the place could become a year-round operation. To draw attention to the place, on opening night, Sinatra's guests included Marilyn Monroe, Joe Kennedy and his son John F. Kennedy. Also there



John F. Kennedy and Frank Sinatra

that weekend was Johnny Roselli and Sam "Momo" Giancana. Uninvited and hiding up in the hills around the casino lodge, was an FBI surveillance team with long range lenses.

What the agents couldn't see was what went on inside the Cal-Neva's secluded bungalows after the opening night party had ended. Momo Giancana reportedly told his brother that he had been present at a Kennedy brothers slumber party that night at the Cal-Neva Casino. "The men," he said, "had sex with prostitutes, sometimes two or more at a time, in bathtubs, hallways, closets, on floors, almost everywhere but the bed." (From the FBI Frank Sinatra files).

The Cal-Neva was open only from June through Labor Day weekend in September, but Sinatra wanted to make it a year-round operation. It was one of the reasons that he put in the heliport! (No, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me either but he was quoted a number of times as saying the heliport wasn't just for his buddies, it was for guests, too!)

The Showroom at the Cal-Neva was called the Celebrity Showroom, Sinatra knew acoustics. He had the showroom enlarged to seat 350 and had it built so he could perform without the need for a microphone.

Apparently the sound quality in the Celebrity Showroom was as near perfect as you can get in a cabaret.

Sinatra played the Cal-Neva Celebrity Showroom the first week of June for the 3 years he owned the place!

Then Sinatra installed the tunnels. One tunnel was installed between the showroom and Cabin Number 5, Frank's Cabin, and another between Cabin Number 3 and Cabin Number 5!

To quote Skinny D'Amato again, "Cabin 3 was for the Broads, 4 was for the Pals, and 5 was Frank's". There were three small cabins at the Cal-Neva, 3, 4 and 5, all next to each other, all commanding the premier view of the Crystal Bay portion of Lake Tahoe. When Sinatra came in he made a rule, Cabin 5 was his, 4 and 3 and cabin 5 would never be rented out, period!

Cabin 3 is probably best known as Marilyn Monroe's cabin. Though there were many many women who stayed in Cabin 3 as Frank Sinatra's personal guests, Marilyn's frequent visits there have been pretty well documented.



Over the 3 years that Frank Sinatra was in charge of Cal-Neva, Marilyn was reported to be in Cabin 3 while



Tunnel between cabin 5 and cabin 3.

JFK was reported to be in Frank Sinatra's Cabin Number 5, or Marilyn was reported to be in Cabin 3 while Bobby Kennedy was reported to be in Frank Sinatra's Cabin 5. Or Marilyn was reported to be in Cabin 3 while Frank Sinatra was reported to be in Frank Sinatra's Cabin 5.

Lots of FBI and news reports on Marilyn's comings and goings including her very last visit, July 27 through July 29, 1962.

She overdosed on pills while in Cabin 3, but managed to call the reception desk. Rescue personnel reached her in time, her stomach was pumped, and she survived. She was there that weekend with the Lawfords, Peter and his wife Pat, and possibly Bobby Kennedy though I don't even want to go into that speculation. That's never been proven!



Cal-Neva in the 1940's

Ten days later on August 5, 1962, Marilyn Monroe died.

Cabin 3 was “for the broads” said Skinny D’Amato, and looking again at that list of women who it’s said to have spent at least one night with Frank Sinatra, well, you get the drift

Cabin 4 was “for the pals”. Though Cabin 4 was used by Deano and Sammy and Vic Damone and Milton Berle and Don Rickles, what Skinny D’Amato meant by Pals where “Friends Of Ours”.

Johnny Roselli stayed in Cabin 4, Ray Patriarca had a key to 4, Jimmy Hoffa loved the place, but didn’t want to be seen there, so did Carlo Gambino and Paul Costellano and Aniello Dellacroce and lots of other friends. Men who wanted nothing more than to be able get away from the office for a few days, out in the country where you can think. Frank Sinatra’s Cal-Neva was perfect.

In 1961 a Chicago hood named Crackers Mendino died of a heart attack. Over the years, he had worked under everyone from Torrio to Giancana in the juke box, pinball and gambling end of the business. Tony Accardo, Capo of the Chicago Outfit, was one of his pallbearers, and anybody who was anyone in the Chicago outfit was there for the burial. Probably the last big time mob funeral since the days of Al Capone.

At the funeral, Tony Accardo (who you may have run into in one of my stories as “Joe Batters”, the name Capone gave him) and Sam Giancana held a meeting.

Johnny Roselli who worked for Accardo was called in and told to plant in Nevada somebody to watch



Cabin No. 3

over Frank Sinatra because the boys had decided that Sinatra was much to enamored with the Kennedys and wasn’t thinking straight anymore.

When Roselli returned to the West Coast he called a hood named Lou McWillie, whom he had first met back in 1938, when Roselli did a short stint as the Chicago representative to the Sans Souci Casino in Havana.

McWillie had worked in Cuba for years, mostly for Meyer Lansky. McWillie was never clear to anyone on exactly what it was he did for Lansky, telling the Warren Commission only that he was a “key man” at Lansky’s Tropicana Casino in Cuba.

When Castro booted Lansky out of Cuba, Lansky arranged to have McWillie moved into the Tropicana in Las Vegas as a “Casino Executive.” Otherwise, there was very little known about McWillie who also used the alias of Lewis N. Martin. According to the Warren Commission files, the FBI kept him

under surveillance and considered him to be a top mob hit man and enforcer for hire.

Roselli told McWillie that Chicago wanted him out at Sinatra’s Cal-Neva Lodge to keep an eye on their investment in the place. To watch over Sinatra and report his activities back to

Roselli (At this time Roselli was living at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, running among other things a business called the “Monte Presser Talent Agency”. I’m going to hold the Monte Presser story for another time, it’s just too long to go into here).

McWillie did as he was told, and created a job for himself at Sinatra’s casino, working under the title of “Pit Boss.”

After only two years, the Cal-Neva was starting to sour on Sinatra and only added to the miseries he was having in the summer of 1963. On June 30, 1962, an intoxicated Chuckie English, a Giancana hood, staggered out of the Armory lounge and bumped into one of the FBI agents tagging Giancana. English told the



Peter Lawford and Marilyn Monroe

agents that if “Bobby Kennedy wants to know anything about Momo all he had to do was to ask Sinatra.”

The agent reported the conversation back to Hoover who brought the comment to Robert Kennedy’s attention. Kennedy told Hoover to increase the FBI’s surveillance on Sinatra and the Cal-Neva.

The casino was already being investigated because the Feds suspected that the casino’s manager, Skinny D’Amato, was running a state wide prostitution ring out of the place. The agents suspected that the women were being flown in from San Francisco with the operation being run openly from the hotel front desk. (The above information and quotes again from the Frank Sinatra FBI Files)

Then, a few days after the Chuckie English fiasco, there was the attempted murder of a Cal-Neva employee who was shot on the front steps of the lodge. No one knows if it was mob related or not, since the incident was hushed up.

On June 30, 1962, Deputy Sheriff Richard Anderson came to pick up his beautiful brunette wife at the lodge where she worked as a waitress. She had been one of Sinatra’s girlfriends for a while before she married Anderson, three months before. Anderson had noticed the way Sinatra stared at his wife and heard about the rude and off color remarks he made to her. The Deputy, who was twice Sinatra’s tiny size, warned the singer to stay away from her. Sinatra backed down and apologized and promised to leave the woman alone.

But Sinatra was a man who brooded and let things build up inside him and on the night Anderson came to pick up his wife, as he stopped by the kitchen to talk with some of the help there, Sinatra came in, saw Anderson



Cal-Neva in the 1940’s

and ran up to him and screamed at him, “What the fudge are you doing, here?”

Anderson remained calm and said he was waiting for his wife. Suddenly, while the cop was still in mid sentence, Sinatra grabbed him and tried to throw him out. After a brief wrestling match, Anderson ended up punching Sinatra so hard in the face that he couldn’t perform on stage for a week.

Several weeks later, on July 17, 1962, Anderson and his wife were driving down Highway 28, not far from the Cal-Neva, when they were driven off the road by a late model maroon convertible with California plates. Driving at high speeds, Anderson lost control of his car, skidded off the road and smashed into a tree, killing him instantly. His wife was thrown from the car, and suffered severe broken bones and fractures.

In an interview with a Reno Television station, Anderson’s mother said: “We still think to this day that Sinatra had something to do with our son’s death.” Anderson’s left behind four children.

Sinatra’s troubles with the Cal-Neva weren’t over yet. A few days

after Anderson was murdered, and one week before her own death, Marilyn Monroe flew to the Cal-Neva at Frank Sinatra’s invitation.

Sinatra told Monroe that he wanted to discuss their upcoming film together, *What a Way to Go*. Monroe didn’t want to go, but someone told Marilyn that Bobby Kennedy would be there. It sounded logical to Monroe, since it had been in the papers that the Attorney General was in Los Angeles on business.

Sinatra flew Monroe out on his own plane along with Peter Lawford. Sinatra was no longer speaking to Lawford after the Kennedy’s dumped him, and Lawford’s wife, Patricia Kennedy Lawford.

Exactly what happened that weekend at the Cal-Neva, isn’t known and may never be known. Louie McWillie, who was still working for Sinatra at the Cal-Neva, said in a newspaper interview, “There was more to what happened up there than anybody has ever told. It would have been a big fall for Bobby Kennedy”.

What is known is that there was dinner with Momo Giancana and Phyllis McGuire, Peter and Pat

Lawford, Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe.

Momo, of course, had no business being in the Cal-Neva since he was listed in the Nevada Black Book, "The List of Excluded Persons". The book was made up of persons forbidden to enter a casino, in fact, he was at the top of the list of restricted persons, but, as San Francisco's new columnist Herb Caen said: "I saw Sinatra at the Cal-Neva when Sam Giancana was there. In fact I met Giancana through Frank. He was a typical hood, didn't say much. He wore a hat at the lake, and sat in his little bungalow, receiving people." (San Francisco Chronicle, June 3, 1962).

Exactly a year later, Sinatra's involvement with the Cal-Neva came to an end, when the McGuire sisters were scheduled to perform there. Giancana was dating Phyllis McGuire, with whom he shared a chalet during her performance there.

Unfortunately for Giancana, McGuire, Sinatra and the Cal-Neva, the FBI photographed the hood playing golf with Sinatra and having drinks and dinner together in the Cal-Neva dining room.

The FBI was also watching that same evening when, during a small party in McGuire's room, Victor LeCroix Collins, longtime friend and the road manager of the McGuire Sisters, became irritated when Phyllis McGuire kept walking by his seat and punching him on the arm.

"So I told her," Collins said, "you do that again and I'm going to knock you right on your butt. A half an hour later she punches me again and so I grabbed her by both arms and meant to sit her in the chair I got out of, but I swung around and missed the chair and she hit the floor. "She didn't hurt



McGuire Sisters

herself but Sam came charging across the room and threw a punch at me wearing a huge big diamond ring that gouged me in the left eye".

"I just saw red then and grabbed him, lifted him clean off the floor, and I was going to throw him through the plate glass door, but thought, why wreck the place? So, I decided to take him outside and break his back on the hard metal railing on the patio. I got as far as the door and then got hit on the back of the head. I don't know who hit me from behind but the back of my head was split open."

"It didn't knock me out but I went down with Sam underneath me, he had on a pearl gray silk suit and blood from my eye was running all over his suit. I had a hold of him by the testicles and the collar and he couldn't move, that's when Sinatra came in with his valet George, the colored boy, they were coming to join the party, the girls were screaming and running around like a bunch of chickens in every direction because nobody knew what was going to happen. George just stood there with the whites of his eyes rolling around and around in his black face because he knew who Sam was and nobody ever fought with Sam. Sinatra and George pulled me off of Sam, who ran out the door." (verbatim - FBI Sinatra Files)

The next morning, the FBI, which had a fairly clear idea of what had

happened the night before, as well as several rolls of film of Sinatra with Giancana, filed its report, with photographs, with the State of Nevada Gambling Control Board.

After reading the report, the Control Board's chairman, Ed Olson, called Sinatra at the Sands in Las Vegas and asked about Giancana being on the property. Sinatra said that he saw a man who looked like Giancana and that they just waved and nodded to each other and that was all.

But the FBI also had wind of the fight and told the investigators who flew to Omaha, where the McGuire Sisters were playing at the Orpheum Theatre. They interviewed Collins who filled them in and then went back to Sinatra who denied knowing anything about it. Olson thanked Sinatra for his time and hung up. There was little else he could do. Sinatra was a casino owner, with substantial investments in the state, and he was also a major celebrity who was singularly responsible for drawing tens of thousands of tourists into Nevada.

Then the newspapers got hold of the story and backed Olson into a corner, forcing him to remark that his investigation would not conclude until "certain discrepancies in the information provided by various people at Cal-Neva could be resolved."

Sinatra read that and called Olson and asked him to come to the Cal-Neva for dinner "to talk about this, your statements." Olson said that he felt it was inappropriate to be seen at the Cal-Neva having dinner with Sinatra, since the singer was, technically, under investigation by Olson's office, and even if Sinatra weren't under investigation, Olson said, it would still be unacceptable for the Gaming Commissioner to be seen fraternizing with a casino owner.

“But Frank kept insisting,” Olson said, “and I kept refusing. The more I refused the madder he got until he seemed almost hysterical. He used the foulest language I ever heard in my life.”

To calm Sinatra down, Olson agreed to meet Sinatra in Olson’s office but Sinatra didn’t show up. An hour later Sinatra called Olson in a rage. “You listen to me Ed, you’re acting like a fudge-filled cop, I just want to talk to you off the record.”

Olson, in an attempt to take back the high ground that his position required said: “Who I am speaking to?”

“This is Frank Sinatra! You fudging so-and so! F-r-a-n-k, Sinatra.” Olson avoided the insults and said that any meeting between them would have to be on record in the presence of witnesses. Sinatra cut him short and screamed, “Now, you listen Ed! I don’t have to take this kind of shit from anybody in the country and I’m not going to take it from you people, I’m Frank Sinatra!”

Sinatra went on and on, until, at one point, Olson warned Sinatra that if he didn’t show up for an interview that Olson would have him subpoenaed. “You just try and find me,” the singer threatened, “and if you do you can look for a big fat surprise, a big fat fudging surprise. You remember that, now listen to me Ed, don’t fudge with me. Don’t fudge with me, just don’t fudge with me.” (verbatim - Sinatra FBI files)

“Are you threatening me?” Olson asked. “No...just don’t fudge with me and you can tell that to your fudging board of directors and that fudging commission too.”

The next day two investigators came to watch the count at the Cal-

Neva and Sinatra yelled across the casino to Skinny D’Amato, “Throw the dirty sons of bitches out of the house.”

But since the count had already started, the agents left before an incident could be started, but came back the next day, only to have D’Amato offer them \$100 each “to cooperate.” The agents reported the bribe to Olson, who took moves to revoke Sinatra’s license.

When the news was announced that Sinatra was under investigation and would probably lose his casino license, very few people in Nevada rushed to his aid. There were a lot of people in Nevada who resented Sinatra, others despised him and very few people felt that he should have gotten a state gaming license in the first place, and the word around the capitol building, was that Sinatra needed to be taught a lesson.

The lesson they taught him was to take away his license to operate a casino or hotel in Nevada, thus forcing him to sell not only his 50% in the Cal-Neva, but also his 9% interest in the Sands, about 3.5 million dollars worth of holdings in 1963.

From the Kitty Kelly book, *His Way*, “I talked to Sam (Giancana) the next day,” said Joe Shimon, a Washington, D.C. police officer assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency, “and he told me that Sinatra had cost him over \$465,000 on Cal-Neva.” He said, “That baboon and his big mouth. All he had to do was to keep quiet, let the attorneys handle it, apologize and get a thirty to sixty day suspension but no, Frank has to get on the phone with that damn big mouth of his and now we’ve lost the whole damn place. He never forgave him. He washed Frank right out of his books.”



The Rat Pack

Nevada’s Governor, Grant Sawyer, stood behind the Gambling Control Board’s decision to yank Sinatra’s license. However, while the case was still pending, President Kennedy came to the state and was given a caravan parade through the streets of Las Vegas, and found himself sitting in the same car with Governor Sawyer. Kennedy turned to Sawyer, and said, “Aren’t you people being a little hard on Frank out here?”

The Governor didn’t reply, but later repeated what Kennedy had said to Ed Olson, who was startled by the remark. “That’s about the highest degree of political pressure you could ever put into the thing,” Olson said.

But the Cal-Neva incident was, for the Kennedys, as Peter Lawford said, “the end of old Frankie boy as far as the family was concerned.”

During the three years that Frank Sinatra had partnership in the Cal-Neva, there were only a few artifacts with his name on them, including a few chips, ashtrays and some other scarce items.

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Steve writes and sells on eBay under the name OmahaGrampa. His book, *When the Mob Ran Vegas*© will be first offered for sale during the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Convention at the Riviera in August.

ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLES

Chip Mystery Remains

by Dale Seymour and Ken Craig

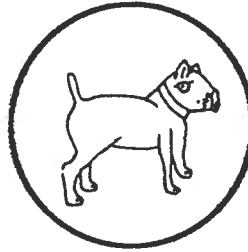
When I (DS) found my first clay poker chips in the 1960's, I was intrigued and curious about them. How old were they? How rare were they? Who made them? How many different designs were made?

Today, we know that American clay poker chips date back to the 1890's. We know that several hundred different designs were made available so that poker players might have their set of chips different from their card-playing friends. We learned a lot from finding old manufacturers catalogs. Our collecting experience and trading has revealed which of these chips are most common and which are the rarest. Most of the mysteries of poker chip history have been solved. One mystery, however, still remains. WHO MADE THE UNDERSIZED CHIPS?

Sometime around 1980. I purchased a set of about 30-35 chips from a lady in the Chicago area. Their size was different from any clay chips I had seen before. Instead of the usual 1 1/2" (38mm) diameter common dimension, they measured 1 1/4" (32mm). Nearly all of them, however, were designs used on previously-known, standard-size chips. I put these chips into my collection and coded them for the *Antique Gambling Chips* book, thinking that this was a new find and that other similar chips would show up later and possibly someone would come up with their origin and reason for being. To my knowledge no other collector has ever found any of these chips. Were they an experiment by the U.S. Playing Card Co.? Were they possibly intended for a smaller carrying case to be used to play poker on a train or ship like the smaller plain clay chips?

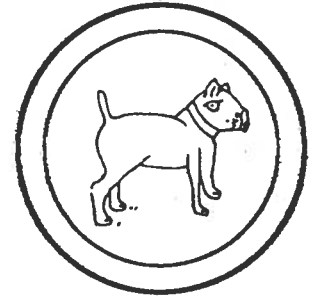
In any case, the lesson to be learned from this for the collector is: If you come across any unusual find, learn as much about it as you can. at the moment. If you don't, you may have a mystery forever.

Mystery Chip

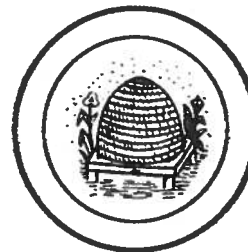


PA-DZ Bull Dog

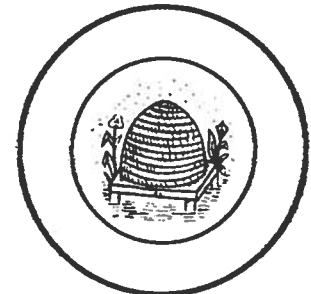
Counterpart



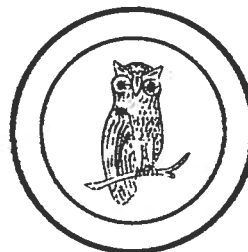
PA-ED Bull Dog



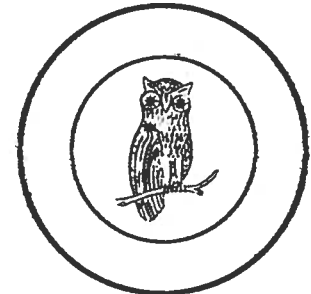
PB-AN Beehive



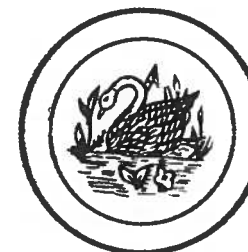
PB-AV Beehive



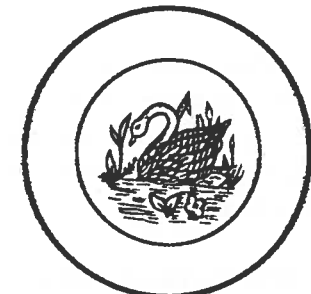
PB-OA Owl



PB-OE Owl



PB-WA Swan

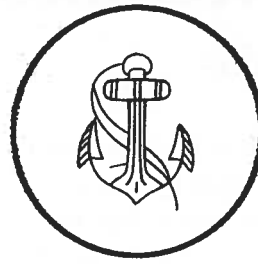


PB-WH Swan

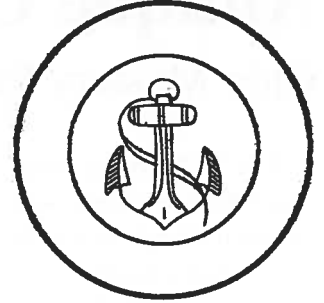
Antique Collectibles

Chip Mystery Remains

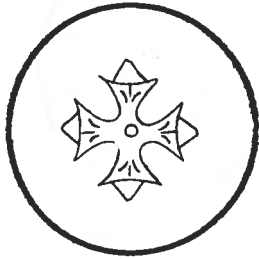
Mystery Chip



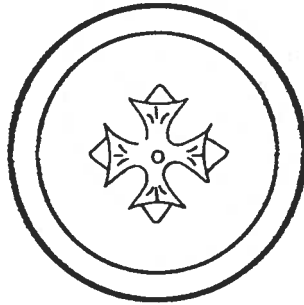
Counterpart



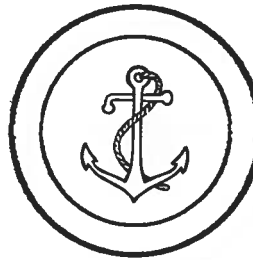
Mystery Chip



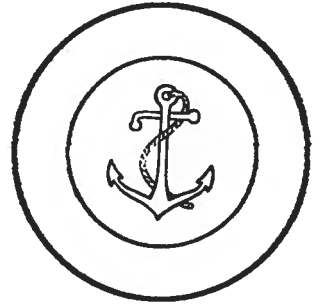
Counterpart



PM-AH Anchor



PM-AN Anchor

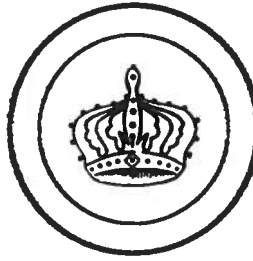
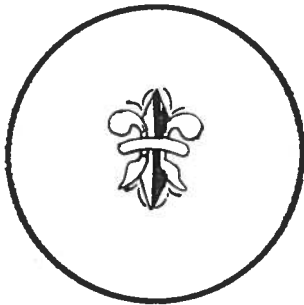
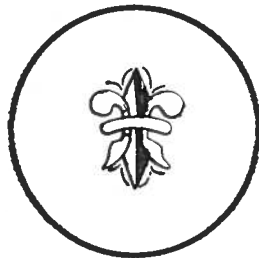


PD-FM Maltese Cross

PD-FP Maltese Cross

PM-AV Anchor

PM-AZ Anchor



PD-GJ Fleur-de-Lis

PD-GL Fleur-de-Lis

PM-DJ Crown

PM-DN Crown

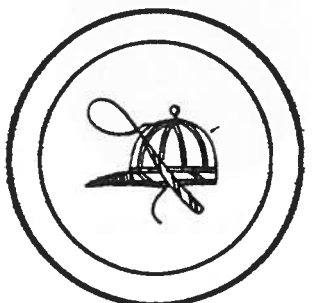
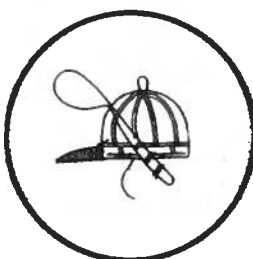
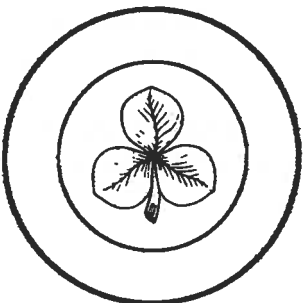
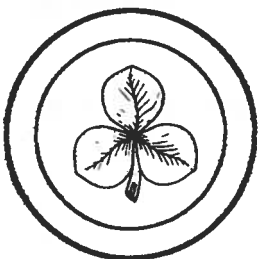


PL-AK Acorn

PL-AO Acorn

PM-JA Lighthouse

PM-JE Lighthouse



PL-CA Clover

PL-CC Clover

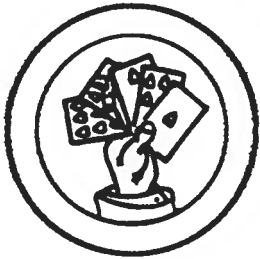
PS-GL Cap & Whip

PS-GR cap & Whip

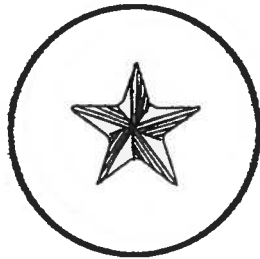
Antique Collectibles

Chip Mystery Remains

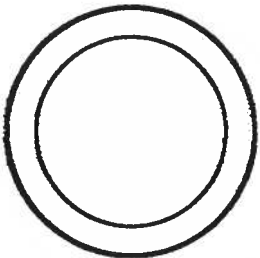
The 12 “mystery chips” shown on this page can’t currently be matched with larger chips having an identical design. It may be that the larger chips have not yet been discovered by chip collectors or maybe they never existed. If you have any information that would help solve this mystery, let us know.



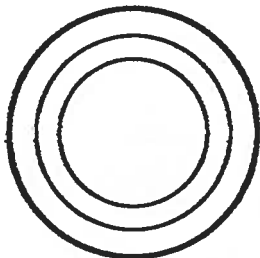
PC-LR Flush Hnd



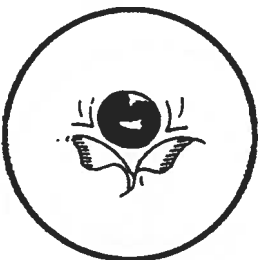
PD-LL New Star



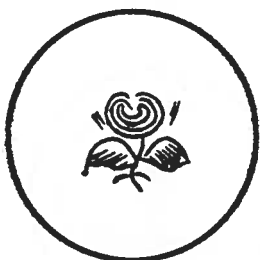
PD-SA One Circle



PD-ST Two Circles



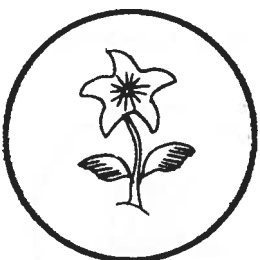
PL-FN Rose



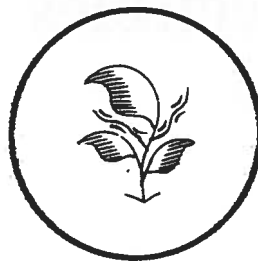
PL-FR Rose



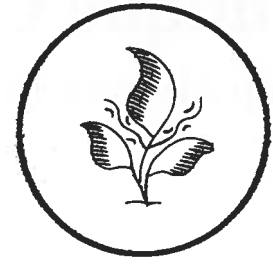
PL-KH Tulip



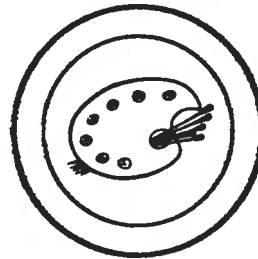
PL-LF Flower



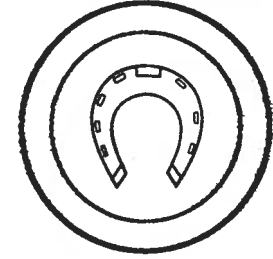
PL-MO Three Leaves



PL-MO Three Leaves
(variation)



PM-PA Palette



PS-SW Horseshoe

The vast majority of antique gambling chips created in the United States are pictured and coded in the 1998 edition of the book, *Antique Gambling Chips*. Clay chips with designs which were made for public use are the only clay chips assigned a code. Clay chips that were custom-made for individuals or clubs are not coded. Ivory chips were all custom designed and are all coded in the book.

More than 200 clay and ivory chip designs have been discovered by collectors in the past seven years. Coding errors and finds of more legible known designs are reported through this column along with new chip finds. Collectors are grateful to their fellow collectors who send in new information on chips. The more we know — the more interesting the hobby.

Steven Gould, a new CC>&CC member from Ohio, has identified an ivory chip as having been used in the Madison Square Club in New York. Steve has a set of the ivories which were salvaged from a raid on the club run by the famous gambling operator, Richard Canfield.

Canfield owned houses in Newport, RI, Sarasota Springs, NY, and New York City.

Steve tells us that in Alexander Gardiner's biography of Canfield, Gardiner describes a break-in and search of a Canfield house by authorities. The police were reported to have carried off gaming paraphernalia including thousands of ivory chips. Some of these chips were initialed MSC for the club in which they were used. These chips, coded IM-HZ and IM-IA are identified incorrectly in the chip book as MPC initials and should be MSC (for Madison Square Club).

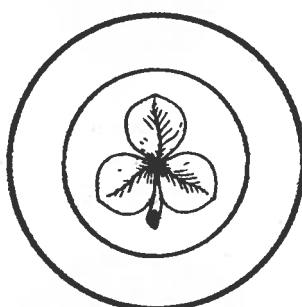
The following pages show new finds in clay and ivory chips and their assigned codes. It is interesting to note that the ivory chips coded IO-LZ and IP-OH were manufactured in an unusual sequence. Generally, the colored rim of a 5 or 25 chip was created first by dyeing the whole chip and then scraping out the dye in the center. On these two chips the dye was added after the engraving of the wreath. This was probably done because the owner found the set of chips without borders made it too hard to tell the chips apart. Some collectors of these chips have removed the colored border to reveal the attractive wreath.

Thanks to Nancy Olson (OR), Steve Caparatta (CA), Rich Hanover (NJ), Dave Burns (FL), Steve Bowling (CA), Robert Eisenstadt (NJ) and John McKinnon (IL) for their finds.

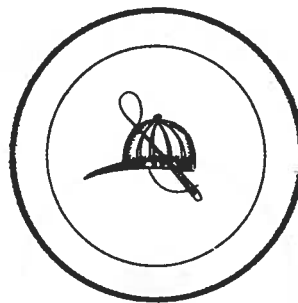
New Clay Codes



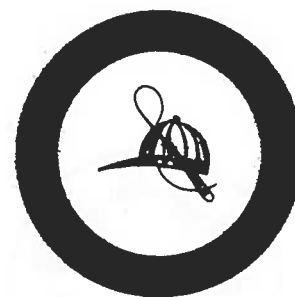
PA-KZ Horse Head
Engraved / v:g



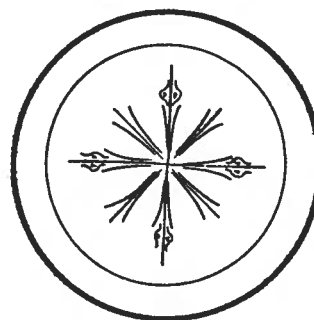
PL-CC Clover
Engraved / v:h



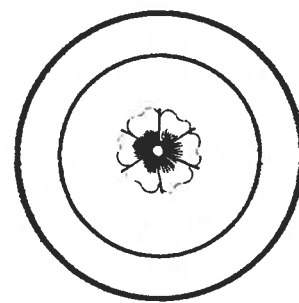
ID-HB
Cap & Whip / v:m



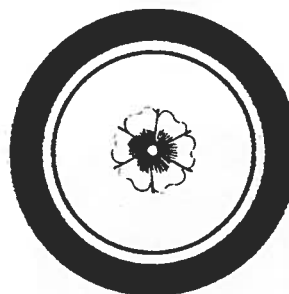
ID-HBa
Cap & Whip / v:m



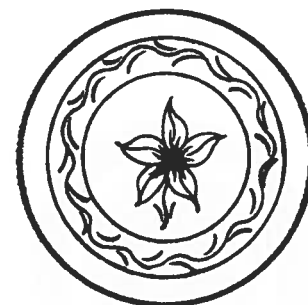
IE-CU
Straws / v:k



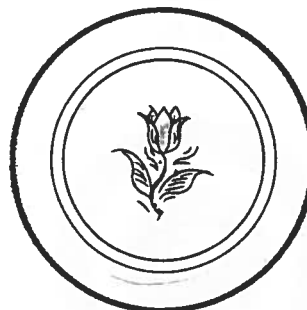
IE-OW
Blossom / v:k



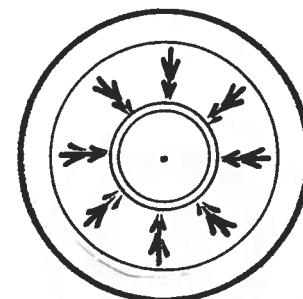
IE-OWa
Blossom / v:k



IE-TJ
Flower / v:l



IE-WQ
Tulip / v:l

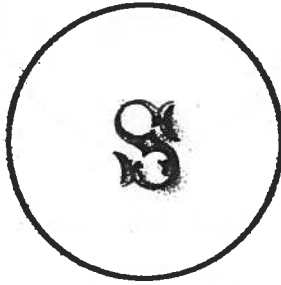


IF-CL
Eight Straws / v:l

New Ivory Codes



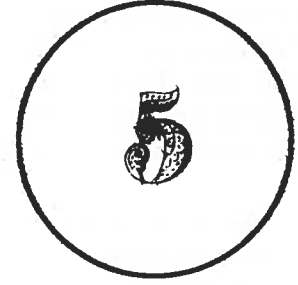
IF-EI
Floral Border / v:k



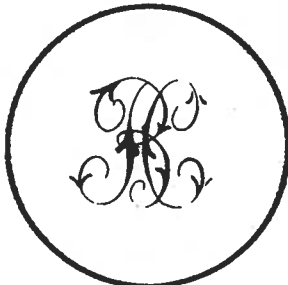
IM-IJ
S / v:l



IN-JW
U/U/U / v:l



IN-JS
U/U/U / v:l



IM-BT
BC / v:m



IN-BK
v:p



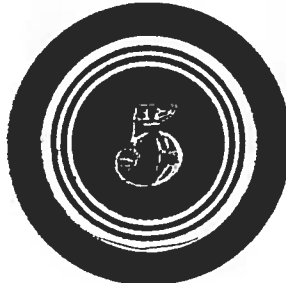
IN-WI
4/5/4/F / v:n



IN-XY
F/F/3/2 / v:l



IN-IY
U/U/U / v:l



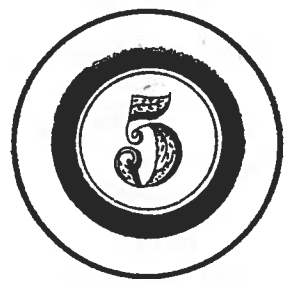
IN-JG
U/U/U / v:l



IN-YK
F/F/F/4 / v:m



IO-LZ
v:m



IN-JT
U/U/U / v:l
formerly code IN-CM



IN-JV
U/U/U / v:l



IO-OR
v:m
better graphic
or old code



IP-DZ
3/F/3/3 v:m

New Ivory Codes



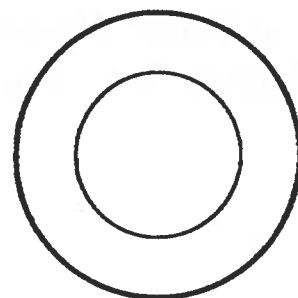
IP-FA
F/F/3/2 / v:m



IP-HR
3/F/2/2 / v:m



IQ-GB
v:m



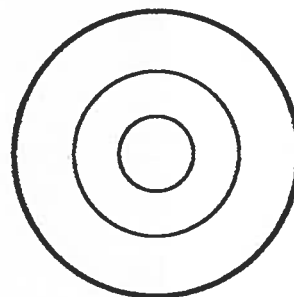
IX-GRa
1B 1W (38/22) / v:i



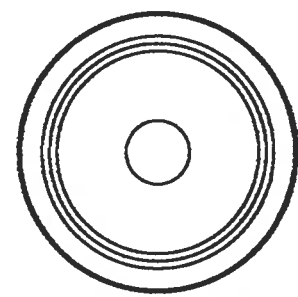
IP-OH
v:n



IP-PF
v:r



IX-QC
2B 2W (38/22) / v:i



IIY-DI
4B 4W (37/31) / v:i

Send new chip finds and inquiries on antique gambling chips to;
Dale Seymour, 11170 Mora Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024 (seymourdg@sbcglobal.net)
or Dr. Ken Craig, 3927-H Waring Road, Oceanside, CA 92056 (drkenny@cox.net)

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\$25.00 Type 3 AU \$40.00

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2005 Convention Update

Riviera Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada

August 3rd - August 6th, 2005

by Jim Steffner

Only a few short months...and counting! It's the CC>CC 16th Anniversary and our 13th Annual Convention & Show.

The convention will have something for everyone...chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, matchbooks, slot cards and room keys, and other casino memorabilia, along with exhibits, seminars, trade sessions, and best of all the chance to meet some really great people. The show floor was once again an early sell-out with several new dealers joining all your past favorites.

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 Room 5-8, which is the newer convention facility. The large show floor, close parking and easy access, spacious meeting rooms, and many exciting events await. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Pre-Registration Riviera Capri Room 111

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), along with your poker and blackjack confirmations (if you will be participating), a special



door prize drawing ticket, and any special coupons, freebies, or give-aways that we can obtain. As of early April, the pre-registration package was worth over \$35.00 and shows signs of increasing even more. Price is the same as last year, \$10.00 that saves \$5.00 over the regular three-day admission. 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.

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.

The contract signing dealer will receive one pre-registration as part of their table contract. Table helpers must order a pre-registration packet on their own if they desire. The registration form can be found in this issue of the magazine. Make sure you return the form before the postmark due date of July 1st. Please PRINT all information and include an e-mail address and/or phone number. You can also pre-register on-line at the club web site, www.ccgccc.com 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. Follow all steps 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. 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>CC 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 and membership numbers 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 with everyone's help will 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.

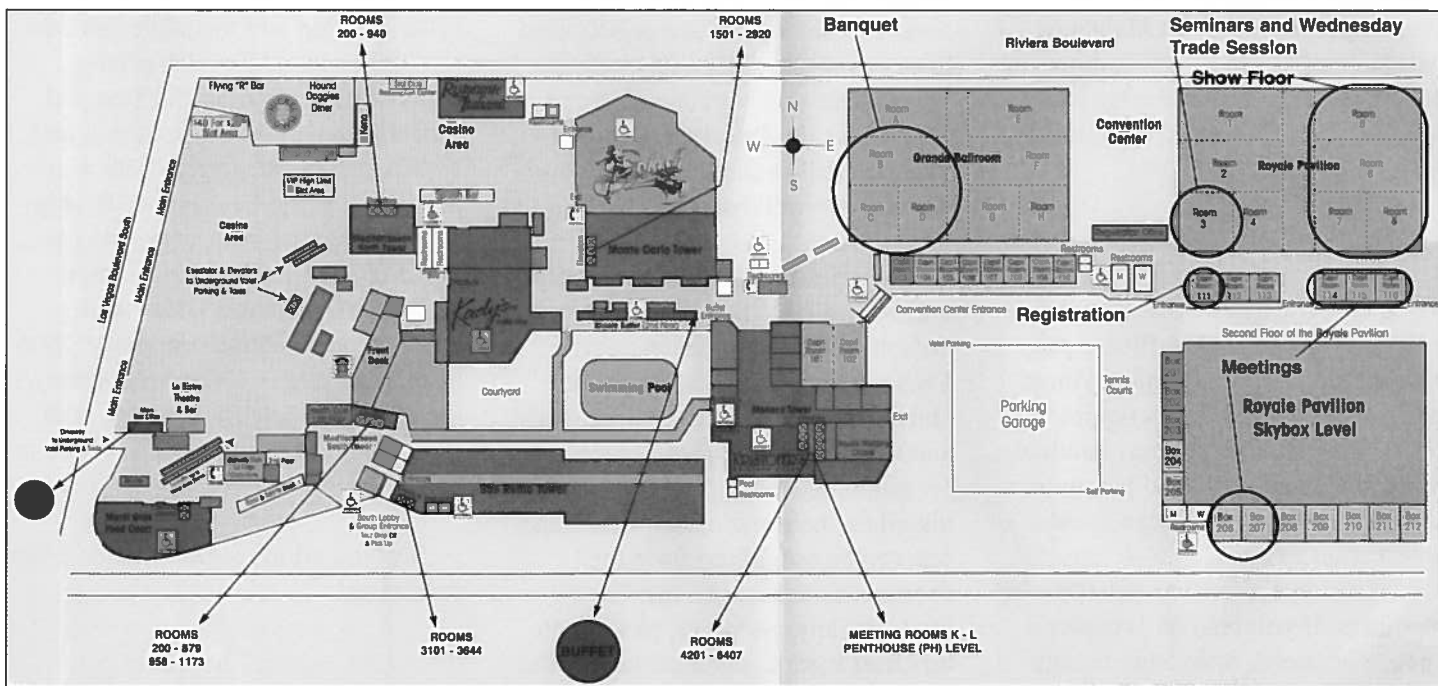
Reserve your room directly with the Riviera Hotel. Call their toll free registration number 800-634-6753 or 702-794-9412. Be sure to mention that you are with the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club. Be sure to get your confirmation number. Deadline to book our special rooms is July 15th, 2005 or until our block of rooms is filled.

Exhibits Riviera Royale Room 5-8

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 Riviera Royale Room 3 on Thursday & Friday. Saturday TBA

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 has lined up some great speakers to keep everyone well informed and educated. Plan your schedule for Thursday to hear another chapter of the great Doug Saito stories, Friday when Steve Fisher will



enlighten all of us about the history of the Riviera and Las Vegas casinos, Saturday morning with a speaker to be announced, and possibly one or two during the day.

Bruce Landau Memorial Auction – Riviera Royale Room 3

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 may include some lower and medium priced lots plus items other than chips. Be sure to order your auction catalog as they usually sell out by show time. Check related article for ordering information. The auction will be Friday evening August 5th starting at 6:30 PM.

Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session Riviera Grande B-D

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday evening, August 3rd. 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 another great speaker and just need to complete the arrangements.

You can reserve a full table of 10 seats so you and 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 Palms Hotel & Casino

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 of 7:00 PM. 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 Riviera Capri Rooms 114-116

Several trade sessions are planned during the show. 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 Riviera Capri Rooms 114-116

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, which will be awarded for first and second place in the chip, medal, and T-shirt design categories. 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. Good Luck!

See you all in August and have fun collecting!

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 setup and teardown, 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.

2005 Convention Auction

by Barry Weintraub

Okay fellow chip collectors, 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. You can bid by mail, fax or on-line.

Once again the auction catalogs will be available prior to the actual event. 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 are interested in purchasing a black & white catalog, mail a \$15 check made out to CCGT&CC and mail it to:

Mike Quinlivan,
PO Box 429,
Atwood, CA 92811.

The cost of the black & white catalog has gone up from \$10 to \$15 to cover the actual cost of printing the catalog.

Plus a color pdf version of the catalog will be available online on the

club website at <http://www.ccgctcc.com>.

The printed and on-line catalogs will be ready around the end of June.

Additionally, as with last years auction, we will be taking bids on-line. This proved to be very popular and successful in expanding the number of club members who participated in the auction.

If you have any questions about the auction, I can be reached at auction@ccgtcc.com

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2005 Exhibits Invitation

by Joe Shaw

The club is now accepting entries for Exhibits for display at the upcoming 13th Annual CC>CC 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

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

got flamingo capri?



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Mike Quinlivan
Mike@mprod.com
LM-3194-54



RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Hello riverboat collectors! It seems like new riverboat issues have been pretty slow for some time now. There are a few to report though.

Harrah's in Maryland Heights, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, built a new hotel and issued this chip.



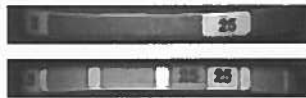
The Rainbow Casino in Vicksburg, MS replaced their aging rack.



The Argosy Casino in Baton Rouge, LA replaced their old Chipco \$1 chip with this new Paulson H&C.



The Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, IN made a change to their \$25 chip. The face of the chip appears to be the same, but the edge markings are different. The edge of the older chip is shown on top, and the edge of the newer chip is shown below.



The Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi, MS issued new \$5, \$25 and \$100 chips to celebrate the Year of the Rooster.



The Casino Rouge in Baton Rouge, LA issued their first commemorative chip since they opened in 1995. This \$5 chip advertises the 2005 ABC Bowling Tournament.



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

The Collector Coins of Grand Casino Minnesota

by John K. Kallman



Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Beginning in 1993, the Grand Casinos of Minnesota (Mille Lacs and Hinckley) starting issuing collector coins to those members in good standing of their rewards club. One token was issued once every two weeks over a two month period during December 1993 and January 1994, two of the slower months for foot traffic at the casino.

With the first token issued, a specialty designed case to house the tokens in was also given out as well. For those who could not wait for all of the issues to be given out or who otherwise could not make it to the casinos on the dates of issue, could purchase the same tokens at the gift shop at a premium. While the brochure that came with the tokens indicated that these had some gold, one would be hard pressed to find any in amounts enough to justify the \$5.00 face value that was prominent on the reverse of these tokens.

At the time of issue, there was one line, rather long as I recall, for you to pick the tokens up. And of course, there was an equally long line to redeem these tokens in for their full

face value. As a result, this is one of the few issues that has not only maintained its value since it's originally issue, but has increased slightly over the years, partly due to the fact that it did have an initially redemption value and the fact that so many were in fact redeemed.

While most of the later issues had topical themes related to Minnesota, the first issue, while generic in nature, still has in my mind, some of



Common Reverse



Grand Casino Hinckley

the better artwork shown in the series. The theme of this issue was the four winds, North Wind, South Wind, East Wind and West Wind.

As with many ideas conceived by the marketing department, this program did not have its desired intended results as the steady stream of people, who came in, got their tokens, cashed them in, and then left. This was not exactly what they had in mind. So, the following series, with somewhat less inspiring artwork debuted, again with the same reverse. However, not only were their large signs displayed at the place the tokens were being issued explaining that despite the fact that the token said \$5.00 on it, it could not be redeemed. An even larger sign to this effect was in evidence at all of the cashier cages. It appears that the decision to order the coins was either put into effect long before the decision *NOT* to redeem them or there was insufficient time at the production facility to change the token order to meet the new directive.

While the yearly issue of these tokens continued for several years,

after the second year issue, the reverse of the tokens was changed to remove any suggestion that these tokens had any value at all.



The series ended in 2000 with, at the time, Endangered Species Series I. There was no Series II issued. This much is known. Similar series of Limited Edition coins were also issued for other Grand Casino properties located elsewhere in the country.

However, now a new chapter can be written. As with any enterprise, things evolve over time and the casino industry is no different. With the introduction of a tiered rewards club, the rewards program associated with it also had to evolve. Not being a member of these higher levels, I generally only know of the benefits published by the club that is available in the public areas. However, while set up at a coin show with my wares for sell/trade on display a person came in with a 1997/1998 limited edition set in *Silver!* This is the first one I have ever seen since this series was started



and I have not seen any since, either for this series or any other series. At this point, it is only a conjuncture that these coins were given to those members in the upper levels of the reward program. The design and artwork the same as the issues given to members of the lower level, but of course the big difference is not some claim that their might be gold with the tokens, but the fact that these are indeed silver. And when compared to their counterparts, look oh so much nicer!

Do other series exist in silver? Do other series exist in other medals? These questions so far go with out answers. But perhaps by publishing this article, more answers will evolve. If you have additional information concerning either this set, or know of other sets in silver or other medals, I would like very much to hear from you. Until then, perhaps I might just increase the amount I spend at the casino in hopes that I can obtain that higher level of rewards should they decide to perhaps issue that long evasive Endangered Species II set.

As a late note, starting in January 2005, the Grand Casinos will no longer redeem the first issue for their stated \$5.00 value. Thus, now all issues can be considered as No Cash Value tokens, regardless of their stated value on the reverse.

Trade

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1 for 1 any amount OK to send

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

Knapp on Books

by Michael Knapp

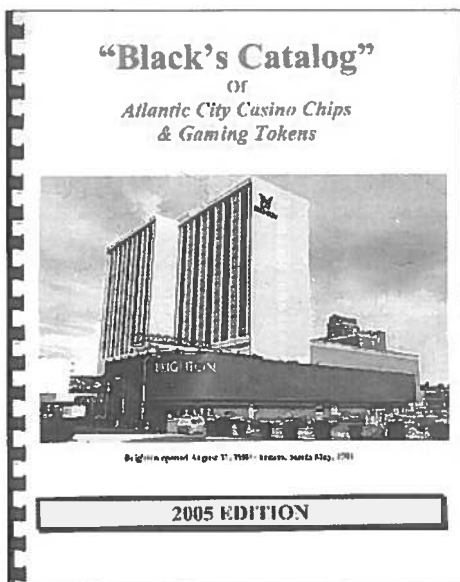
Here's the latest Casino Chip and Token News book review column. I'll try to review all books as they are published, and will fill in with books published some time ago, but which are still available from their authors or in bookstores.

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.

"Black's Catalog" of Atlantic City Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens (2005)

by Archie Black



Archie Black's Atlantic City catalog was not only the first, it remains the most up-to-date and most complete. Archie, as all readers of this

column will know, was the founder and first president of CC>CC, and was one of the first three inductees into the Hall of Fame. His first Atlantic City catalog was published with a price guide in 1993, and has followed each year since.

The 2005 edition is, of course, the largest (163 pages), but it maintains the format for which Black's Catalog is known: a history of Atlantic City casinos, an introduction, a complete listing of Atlantic City chips and tokens with unique catalog numbers, a listing of commemorative chips in chronological order including issue amounts, full color illustrations of Atlantic City chips, a token list followed by black and white photos of the tokens, a premium token section, and finally the price guide. Also included are fun night chips, fun night paper money, dealer school chips and long-gone illegal Atlantic City club chips.

Nowhere else is there a more complete catalog of Atlantic City chips and tokens, nor is there a more complete photographic section illustrating them.

As in the past, Black's Catalog claims completeness only for chips and tokens of \$100 denomination and under; many values above \$100 also appear and are described in the catalog, although they are not valued in the price guide.

While Black's uses some value ranges in his guide as many other authors of price guides have done, he also prefaces the section with the caution that values shown are for chips

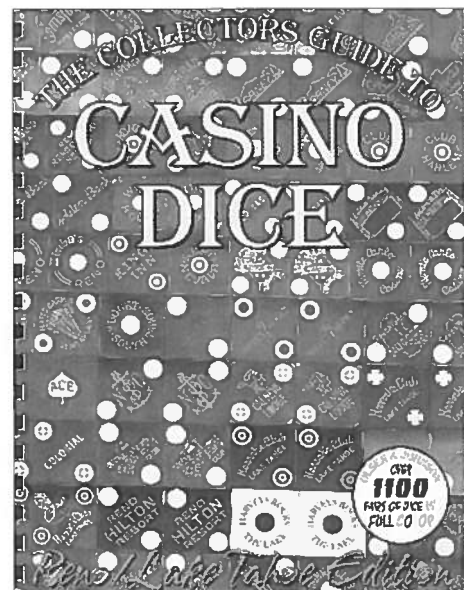
and tokens in excellent or near-new condition, and collectors need to discount the values for lesser conditions.

The price guide section also indicates, with a "+" or "-", that a chip or token's value has increased or decreased since the last published catalog. The unique numbering system which Black developed for his catalog has become the standard for reference among collectors.

As has been the case since the publication of the first Black's Catalog in 1990, this book remains an essential for collectors of Atlantic City material. It's available by e-mailing the author at ablack2@optonline.net

The Collectors Guide to Casino Dice: Reno/Lake Tahoe Edition (2004)

by Rick Olsen and Andy Johnson



Although there is no lack of price guides and catalogs for those who collect casino chips, books about dice are not to be found in abundance.

Olsen and Johnson have helped to fill in that gap. Previously, the only dice books available were those published by Jeff Laudeman ("The Dice Man"), who unfortunately and untimely passed away a few years ago.

This volume of the Olsen/Johnson dice books is devoted to the Reno and Lake Tahoe areas of northern Nevada, each in its own section. The cover declares that the book contains "over 1100 pairs of dice in full color," and I certainly won't dispute that – I didn't count them! But the color illustrations are quite clear and (aside from dice whose age makes legibility a bit difficult) easy to read.

Dice are listed alphabetically within each section, and a banner for each casino contains, in the style of The Chip Rack, the name of the club, its address, and its dates of operation. Each pair of dice illustrated is given its own catalog number, making reference by collectors a simple matter. Often, in addition to the photos of the dice themselves, matchbook covers or postcard photos are added to the listing to provide additional historical information.

In addition to the photo of the dice themselves, Olsen and Johnson have estimated the date of use of the dice, and listed their color, size, spot variety, estimated value, and a rarity guide. The rarity guide is based on the Campiglia/Wells chip guide style of ranking, and ranges from \$1-\$5 (R-1) to \$400+ (R-12).

A brief introduction provides information about condition, cancellations, and care of dice in collections.

In leafing through the Reno section, what struck me was the values shown: of the 740 pairs of Reno dice illustrated, described and valued, only eleven pairs fell into the \$1-\$5 value range. That does not square with the

values I've seen at shows and even online auctions. Taking one currently-operating casino as an example, there are twelve pairs of dice shown for the Peppermill, yet not one pair is valued in the \$1-\$5 range. Four are estimated at \$6-\$10, and the other eight pairs at \$11-\$20. I'm gonna have to pull my Peppermill dice out!

Whether you happen to agree with the values in the book or not, it's a good addition to the library of any dice collector. Some extremely rare and unusual dice are illustrated, and while a bit more research would have helped some of the descriptions, the book will be a helpful reference work. It's available by sending an e-mail to Andy Johnson at aaj777@adelphia.net

"Black's Catalog" of Puerto Rico Casino Chips
(2005)
by Archie Black



When the first Black's Puerto Rico was published in 1999, it was with the understanding that it would be the only such catalog, and that no subsequent editions would follow. As with all plans, this one changed. At the time of the first "Black's PR," collectors anticipated that a comprehensive, definitive Puerto Rico chip catalog was on the horizon. That

book was published in 2002, but fell short of expectations. Hence, this second edition of Black's Catalog.

The first section of the book, which is 77 pages long, comb bound, is a complete listing and description of all chips known to the author, with unique catalog numbers for easy reference and identification. My only nit to pick here is that both upper and lower case letters are used for catalog numbers, and that can be confusing. For example, there is a Dorado Beach \$1 chip designated as DBE-1a, and a different Dorado Beach \$1 chip cataloged as DBE-1A. Collectors will have to be extremely careful to make sure their suffix letters are the right case, or chips can be misidentified.

Following the descriptive section, there are 28 pages of full color illustrations of the chips in the book. They're clear and very legible. For this edition, Black changed the way he listed his value guide, so that now value range codes appear below each chip photo rather than in a separate section. I think collectors will appreciate the change!

Where chips were reported to exist but were not in the author's collection, rim, color and edge insert descriptions are shown in blank boxes within the color illustration section. This way, collectors will know that the chips exist, even though photos do not appear in the section.

Black's typical sense of humor is reflected in the caveat that appears at the end of the descriptive section and before the chip photos: "I try to please everyone (even the most objective critic) who takes the time to scour every word and sentence in this reference catalog looking for mistakes. If you have discovered an error or omission while perusing these pages, it was probably placed there intentionally."

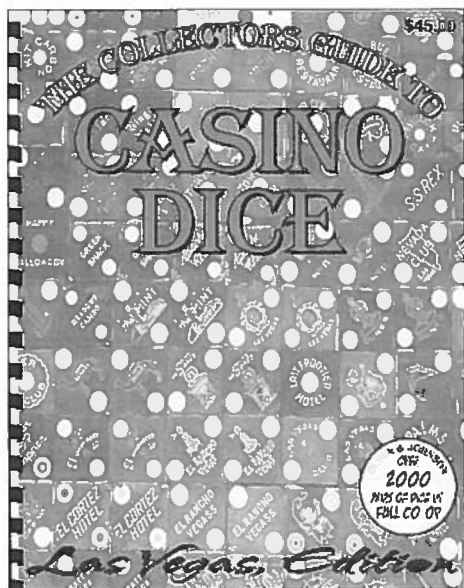
Of course, he also solicits scans of chips he may not have listed, so the caveat is certainly not absolute.

Unlike the Black's Catalog devoted to Atlantic City, the Puerto Rico volume makes no attempt to list or illustrate tokens.

For the collector of Caribbean chips, especially Puerto Rico, Black's Catalog is a welcome update and a required addition to the library. It's available by e-mailing the author at ablack2@optonline.net

The Collectors Guide to Casino Dice: Las Vegas Edition (2004)

by Rick Olsen and Andy Johnson



This one's the companion to the Reno/Tahoe volume. 122 pages, spiral bound, and the same great photos of casino dice in color.

The format is the same as the volume reviewed above, so I won't repeat. As with the Reno/Tahoe edition, there are some very scarce dice in this book; many I've never seen before. For example, Alibi Club, Glack Orchid, Cactus Club, Don's Casino, Magnesium Club and others.

The photos are clear and the color is great. Again, each pair of dice is

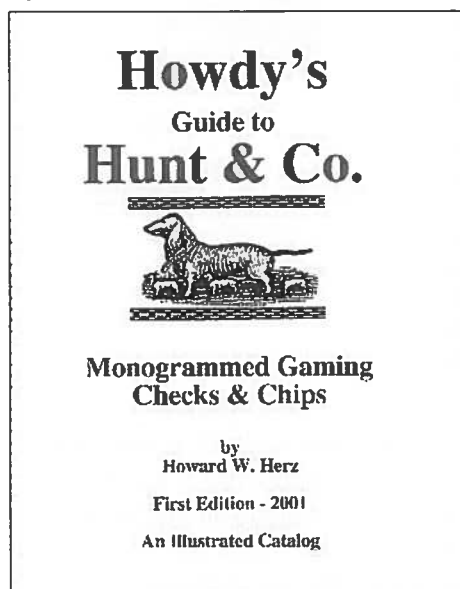
given its own catalog number, value, and rarity designation. Photos of matchbooks and some chips fill in the white spaces.

In the back of the book are some terrific ads, possibly from old city directories (credit isn't given, so I can't be sure) and postcards that add further understanding of the state of gaming in "the old days."

I have the same difficulty with the pricing in the book as I did with the Reno/Tahoe volume, but Olsen and Johnson have given us another great reference work even if one chooses to discount the values somewhat. Whether one discounts the price guide or not, the values shown provide a useful guide to relative value – it's easy to see which dice are generally considered more valuable than others. It's available by sending an e-mail to Andy Johnson at aaj777@adelphia.net

Howdy's Guide to Hunt & Co. Monogrammed Gaming Checks & Chips (2001)

by Howard Herz



Howard Herz was able to obtain the records of Hunt & Co., whose primary chip design was the chain mold. There were four different versions of

the chain mold (most often raised chain or flat chain), but Hunt also hotstamped plain mold chips, raised circle chips, and later, diamond square mold chips.

Herz has put together not only the information contained in the Hunt records, but black and white photographs of each chip as well. Numbers of chips of each color ordered are also shown.

As with the H. C. Edwards records, the information contained in the Herz book concerns hotstamped chips, which Hunt & Co. produced themselves from blanks supplied by The Burt Co. in Maine. The chips were made from the 1930's to the 1950's.

A substantial number of chips were sold to customers in the Chicago area, where Hunt was headquartered, but they also supplied clubs in Washington, Montana, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and other states, including Nevada, and numerous Elks, Moose and Eagles clubs.

Where small quantities of chips are shown, one assumes that the chips were used for home games (although that may be a mistake – there may have been reorders or missing records which would indicate other-wise), but where large numbers of chips were supplied, it's clear that they were intended for casino-style games, whether in licensed or illegal clubs.

An invaluable addition to the literature of chip collecting, which preserves history other-wise unobtainable, the Herz Hunt & Co. book is another must for serious collectors. It can be ordered from Howard Herz at chipmaster@chipmaster.com

Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club Selects New Officers

by Jerry Birl

At their first meeting of 2005, held on February 27th at the Sands Casino, the membership of the Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club unanimously approved a new slate of Officers to lead the Club for the next two years. The new Officers are: Jerry Birl – President, Jack Heiman – Vice President, Bob Touts – Secretary, Allan McCurdy – Treasurer and Charlie Kaplan – Membership Officer. The new Officers will assume their duties in May.

Dick Brach will be stepping down as President of the A.C. Club. Dick has been President of the former A.C. Chapter of the CC>CC and the A.C. Casino Collectibles Club since its initial meeting on February 24, 1994. Under Dick's leadership the Club membership has grown to over 300 active members. Dick has never missed a Club meeting and has worked tirelessly to keep the Club moving forward. The membership gave Dick a well deserved round of applause in recognition of his years

of service. Mike Custodio and Bob Irving also stepped down as Vice President and Treasurer after each had served a two year term in office.

Around 100 members were present at the February meeting and after the regular meeting adjourned, many of the Club members gathered at the Baltimore Grill for our Annual Pizza Party.

Shown are pictures of the new and retiring Club officers and also a picture from the Annual Pizza party.



Mike Custodio - current VP, Dick Brach - current President, Jerry Birl - newly elected President, Charlie Kaplan - Membership officer, Jack Heiman - newly elected VP, Bob Touts - newly elected Secretary and Allan McCurdy newly elected Treasurer.



Jerry Birl - newly elected President, Charlie Kaplan - Membership officer, Jack Heiman - newly elected VP, Bob Touts - newly elected Secretary and Allan McCurdy newly elected Treasurer



Annual pizza party

Las Vegas Time-Line

January-February-March

The Year is 1946

by James Campiglia

Billy Wilkerson announced the opening of a fancy new night club and hotel on Highway 91, outside the Las Vegas city limits (later known as the strip), next to the Bon Aire Club. It's supposed to have 240 rooms. As we all know, Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegal (more or less) muscled Wilkerson out of the Flamingo project.

Fred Sifford known as "Firpo" owns: The Jolly Jug, 1024 North Boulder Highway, Pittman area. It's currently the Centerfold Bar; Red's Tavern, 1100 North Boulder Highway, Pittman area; and Melody Inn on Boulder Highway, Whitney area. All three have craps and 21 tables. Sifford especially likes to give jobs to returning Veterans of WWII.

Bill's Place, 3337 South 5th Street, just south of the Last Frontier. Owned by Bill Doches. It has crap tables along with snacks and gas.

The Bon Aire Club, 3415 South 5th Street, owned by Max Travis and Les Welch. They sold it for \$50,000 to George Harris. The Bon Aire Club was located where Harrah's now sits. It had live gaming.

Casa Vegas, LA Highway was owner by Pappy Jarrett sold the club to Duke Wiley. Located next to Val Sneed's. The area is now the corner of Spring Mountain Road and Las Vegas Boulevard.

The Dog House, 1815 North Main Street, opened in North Las Vegas and



is owned by Bill Bailey. The address saw many clubs come and go.

El Cortez, 600 East Fremont Street is managed by Moe Sedway, a Bugsy Siegal associate.

El Rancho Vegas, LA Highway.

Owner Wilbur Clark is using tokens with his face on them and claims he is going to "flood the country" with them.

The Fiesta Villa, 3309 South 5th Street opens. The casino is run by Paul Wilds and Vic Mandotte. The general manager is John F. Morgan. The club is owned by Whitney Brandt, Pete Brady,



Kenny Glover, George Athanasoff and Jack Glover. The Fiesta Villa eventually became the Villa Venice.

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Charles & Margarita Rodgers

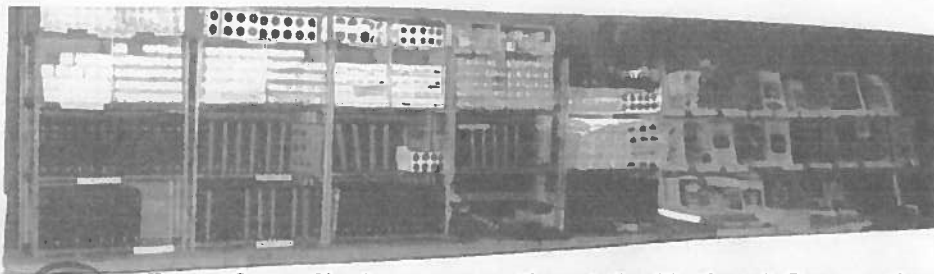
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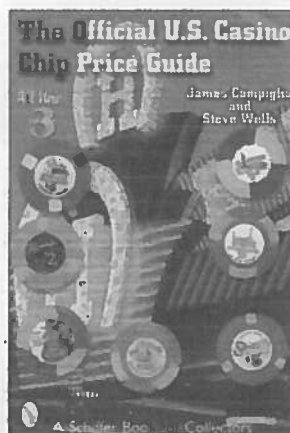
Part of our display on supplies at the National Convention



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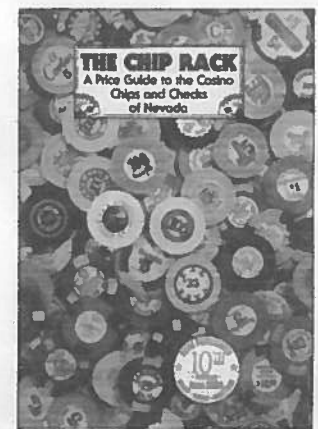
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Must have books for any Collector



Edited by Allan Anderson

Wynn Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nevada
Opening April, 2005

Steve Wynn's newest resort, Wynn Las Vegas, will open in April as a refreshingly elegant, tranquil oasis amidst the high-thrill attractions of Las Vegas. Personally catering to the specific needs of each guest, the \$2.7 billion destination resort is sure to be one of the most luxurious properties ever built. Located on the Las Vegas Strip, Wynn Las Vegas's ideal location provides guests with easy access to the Fashion Show mall, the Sands Expo, and the Las Vegas Convention Center, which will be accessible by a resort shuttle.

Lavish Guest Rooms

Accommodations are designed to be the ultimate retreat, with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide unparalleled views of Las Vegas. Styled as the perfect place to unwind, guest rooms are lavishly appointed with plush, European linens and bedding, as well as flat screen televisions in both the living and spacious bath areas. All guest rooms provide high-speed Internet access.

The Suite Life, Wynn-Style

Wynn Las Vegas suites will set a new standard in Las Vegas, with expansive floorplans and stylish, comfortable decor. Many have their own private massage rooms. Fortunate visitors to these quarters will be treated like absolute royalty.

Fine Dining

Dining at Wynn Las Vegas will be an event, with 22 food and beverage outlets designed and planned by master chefs. Dining spaces will be visually exciting and sophisticated, incorporating both the indoors and the outdoors into their design.

The Spa

The lavish Wynn Las Vegas Spa will house 45 treatment rooms with a peaceful garden theme. An attentive staff will be on hand to serve the relaxation needs of each guest. Other facilities will include a full-service beauty salon, men's barber salon, and a state-of-the-art fitness center. In addition, many guests can enjoy a massage, and a select menu of spa treatments, in their rooms or in a cabana by the pool.

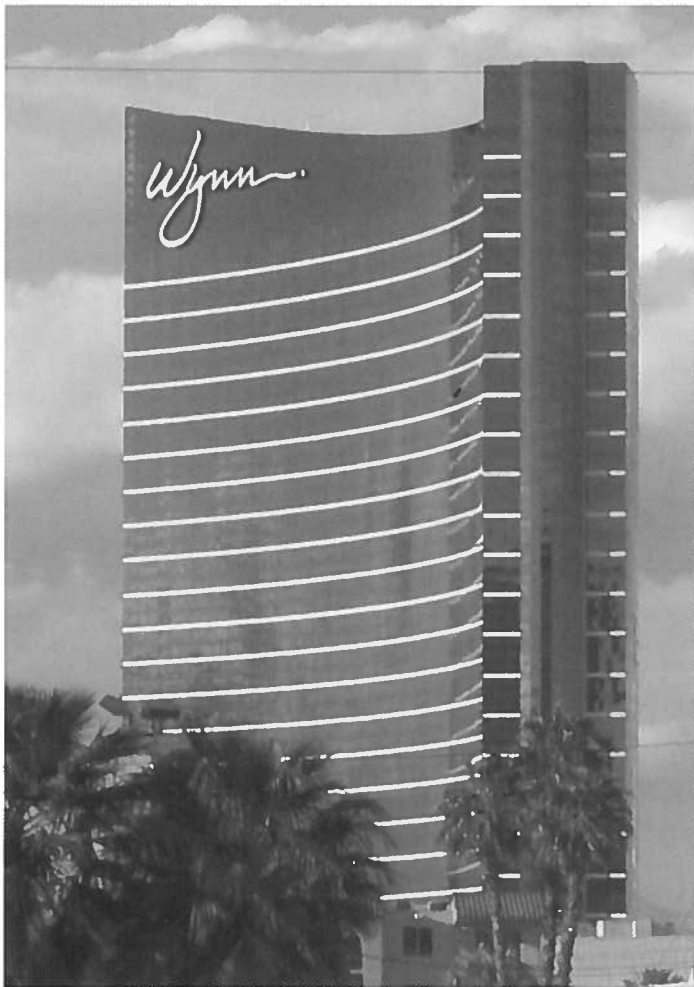
Recreation and Shopping

Recreational opportunities will be unmatched at Wynn Las Vegas, with an 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio and Steve Wynn. A 35-foot waterfall provides the backdrop to the 18th hole. The spectacular pool complex will feature two main pools and an event pool area. Sculptured gardens will surround the pool, creating a lavish oasis setting in the midst of Las Vegas.

Guests will be able to make shopping a full-time activity at Wynn Las Vegas, which will have international shopping boutiques including Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Manolo Blahnik, Dior, Cartier, Jean Paul Gaultier, Oscar de la Renta, Jo Malone, Graff, Judith Leiber, Brioni, Maserati, and Ferrari. The Fashion Show mall is located just across the street.

Entertainment

Premiering at the resort's opening in April 2005, a new show by famed creator Franco Dragone will be performed in a domed theater. The last row of seats in the intimate setting is just 42 feet from the front edge of the stage, making the audi-



Wynn Las Vegas. Photo Courtesy Michael Siskin

ence part of a transporting and unforgettable experience.

Avenue Q

“Avenue Q” has taken Broadway by storm and won 2004 Tony awards for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical by Jeff Whitty, and Best Original Score by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx. The musical will begin an open-ended exclusive engagement at Wynn Las Vegas Resort and Country Club in the fall of 2005.

Wynn will build a \$40-million 1200-seat theater especially for the musical. Another theater at the resort will house a second show created for the resort by director Franco Dragone.

Wynn had all but shelved plans to build a second theater at his new

resort until he saw “Avenue Q” on Broadway.

“I’ve seen the production three times and with each viewing saw more genius and depth in the way it explores universal human truths in a comedic and delightful way,” Wynn said. “‘Avenue Q’ is also a brilliant contrast to the extravagance that is Las Vegas. It gives visitors an exciting new choice of entertainment and that’s the secret to Las Vegas’s popularity.”

Wynn will build the new theater around “Avenue Q” which is optimally staged in an intimate setting. Plans show 800 seats at floor level and 400 balcony seats with every audience member within 75 feet of the stage. “I want to enrich and intensify the emotional journey for the guest and offer them a special and unique the-

ater-going experience,” Wynn said.

Wynn reached a deal June 2 with “Avenue Q’s” New York producers Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, and Jeffrey Seller. Starting next year, Las Vegas and New York will be the only two places in the country to see “Avenue Q.”

Meetings

Wynn Las Vegas meeting rooms will have vistas of either elegant pools, outdoor gardens, or the Tom Fazio and Steve Wynn-designed golf course.

The 200,000 square feet of flexible meeting space will include:

- 50,197-square-foot Opal ballroom that can seat 5,705 attendees theater style and is divisible into nine separate spaces
- 25,389-square-foot Pearl ballroom and is divisible into seven separate spaces
- 4,753-square-foot Grand Terrace which will host 289 guests for a reception overlooking the pool
- 25-person Citrine Boardroom and 30-person Diamond Boardroom
- 16,129-square-foot event area surrounding one of the hotel pools
- Nine meeting rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows ranging from 2,652 to 9,676 square feet, each divisible into two.



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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

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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.



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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.

Interested in submitting an article for publication? Send an e-mail to: editor@ccgtcc.com
To advertise send an e-mail to: advertising@ccgtcc.com

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 and join in discussions with fellow collectors.

[the chipboard](http://thechipboard.com)

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

[ccgtcc website](http://ccgtcc.com)

created and maintained by Allan Anderson

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 or check the website often. We will be adding articles from the Fall issue of 2000 through the current issue over the next few months.

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

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