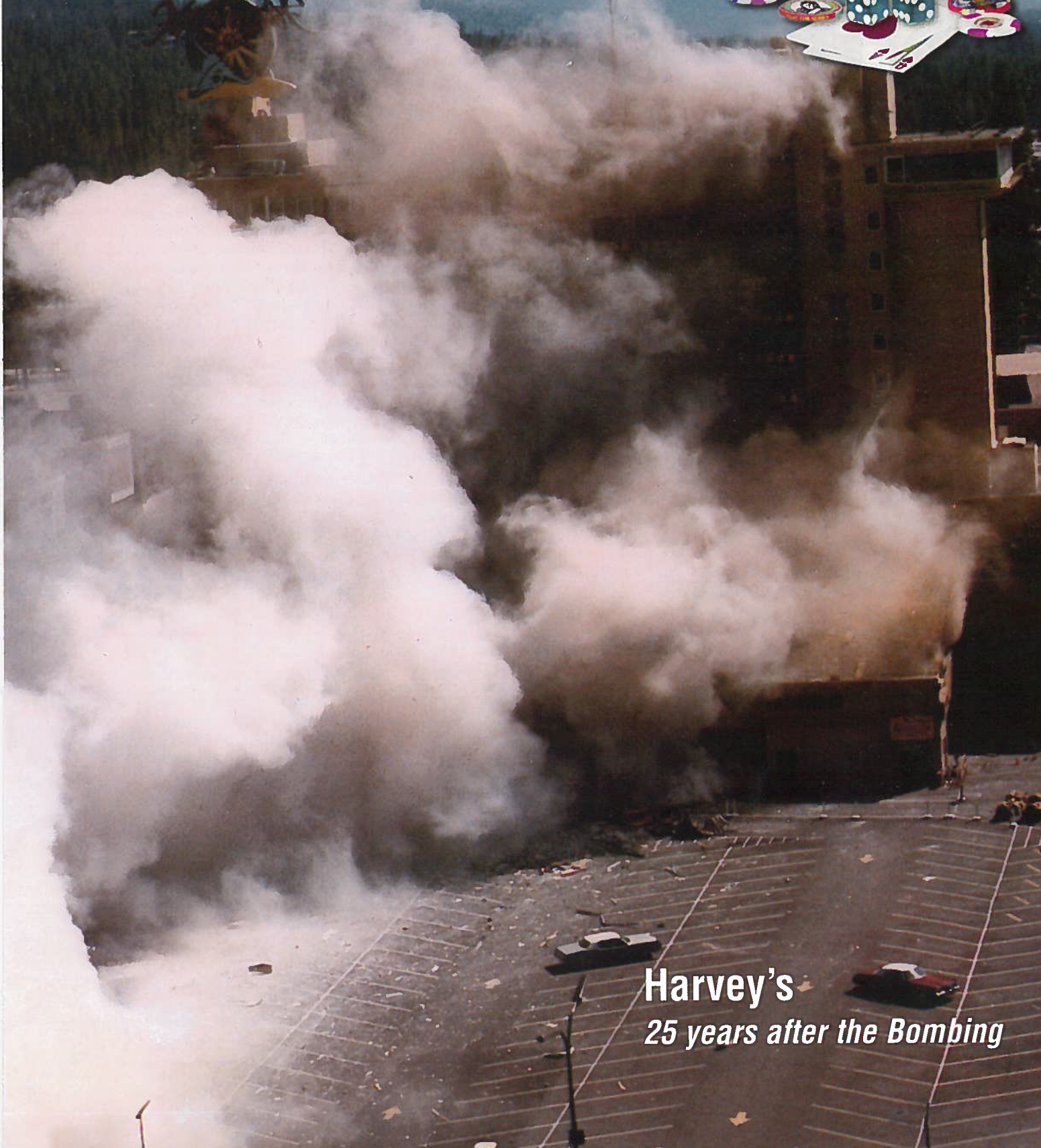


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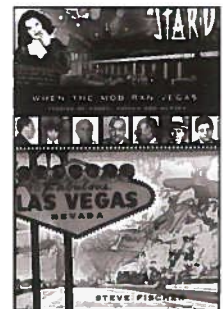
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CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

A publication of

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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

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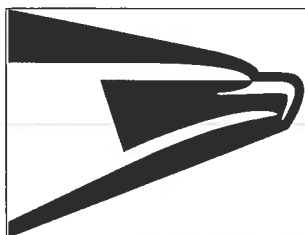
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CC>CC Membership Officer
Ralph Myers
P.O. Box 35769
Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

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CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

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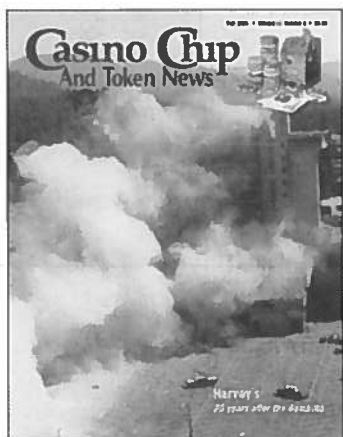
Original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not represent those of The Casino Chip and Token News or the Editorial staff.

Casino Chip And Token News

A publication of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.
A Member of the American Numismatic Association (C-140538)



FALL 2005 Volume 18 Number 4



Cover Story
**Harvey's
25 Years After The Bombing**

Photo Courtesy
Gaming Archaeology



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NUMISMATIC
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Casino Chip & Gaming Token
Collectors Club

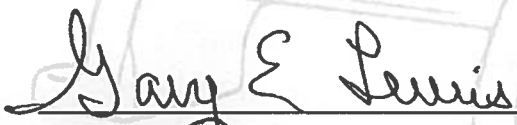
Casino Chip and
Token News

EDITED BY ALLAN ANDERSON

FIRST PLACE

2004

Outstanding Specialty
Numismatic Publication


PRESIDENT


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



From the Editor's Desk

Allan Anderson

Once again the American Numismatic Association has honored our magazine with a first place award for Outstanding Specialty Numismatic Publication. An Award like this would not be possible without the contributions of many. My thanks go out to the following who contributed to the magazine over the past year. Allen Banick, Archie Black, Bob Bickford, Jerry Birl, James Campiglia, Mark Cotton, Ken Craig, Steve Fischer, Jim Follis, Jack Haddock, Dave Harber, Scott Hartman, David Hench, Pam Holmgren, Howard and Kregg Herz, Larry Hollibaugh, Andy Hughes, John Kallman, Michael Knapp, Jim Kruse, Pat Lamb, Debby Meister, Vince Mowery, Douglas Mudd, Tyrus Mulkey, Robert Pardue, Dale Seymour, Joe Shaw, Neal Silverman, Sunday Silverman, Sheldon Smith, David Spragg, Jim Steffner, Greg Susong, Barry Weintraub. Special thanks also go out to Mark Lighterman, club photographer and John Moore, assistant editor, who keeps me from butchering the english language.

Thanks to the following for supplying me with convention photos. As always, Mark Lighterman, club photographer, Terry Shaffer, Marc Shapiro and Barry Hauptman.

Mark Cotton is creating an index of all the articles from past issues of the magazine and it will be available on the magazine website. There will also be links to the magazine pdf or the specific article.

David Spragg has donated disk space so that we will be able to archive all the back issues of the magazine as pdf files. We will also be able to archive more individual articles. Look for the magazines to be available in January 2006.

In this issue of the magazine you will find two new regular columns. There is an American Numismatic Association news section which will keep you up to date on events and news from the ANA, and a new products section which will cover new technology and products related to our hobby.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and to a very safe and happy new year.



Michael Turrini, ANA Regional Outreach Representative, presents the Outstanding Club Publication Award (Specialty Club Category) to Allan Anderson, Editor, *Casino Chip and Token News*.

Advertising

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E-Mail - ccoins@aol.com

Send full payment payable to "CC>CC"
with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers
Advertising Manager, CC>CC
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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.
- All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to "The Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc." or CC>CC. No ad will run without payment
- Publisher assumes no responsibility for statements made by advertisers and reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

NEXT DEADLINE

Winter Issue 2006
is December 1st 2005

SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION AND AD DEADLINE DATES

Winter Issue January, February, March
Mailing Date: January

Deadline for Ads: December 1st

Spring Issue April, May, June
Mailing Date: April

Deadline for Ads: March 1st

Summer Issue July, August, September
Mailing Date: July

Deadline for Ads: June 1st

Fall Issue October, November, December
Mailing Date: October

Deadline for Ads: September 1st

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RATES

Advertising rates for members is available on the Casino Chip and Token News website at <http://www.cctn.ccgcc.com> or by e-mailing the advertising manager at advertising@ccgtcc.com

Letters to the Editor

Several years ago Stan and I attended another Collector's Convention at the old Aladdin. After a night of parties and a brief cocktail party before the opening, the club officers opened the doors to the hall and announced "Well, get yourself a table"! What ensued was like the Oklahoma Land Rush. We were lucky as dealers not to get trampled in the stampede.

The public came into the show right behind us. We had a day of frantic unpacking and selling and then the convention was over. When we think of that horrendous show we marvel at the smooth operation of the CC>CC. The success of the Chip Convention is all due to the dedication and hard work of the officers and the tireless volunteers. Our hats are off to you for another wonderful convention!

Thank You!
Stan and Betty Wilker

Looking for any and all



Flamingo Capri memorabilia



Mike Quinlivan - LM-3194-54 • mike@mqprod.com



Mike Skelton

President's Letter

Since the publication of the last issue, we have experienced the excitement of another exceptional convention, the tragedy of the worst natural disaster in our nation's history and the loss of several long time Club members.

Thanks to Jim and Sandi Steffner for another excellent job of putting on our best Convention to date! As an organization, we all owe Jim and Sandi a very big "Thank You" for the job that they have done over the past several years and are happy to announce that they will again be our Convention Co-Chairs for 2006!

A special thanks goes out to the Club and Convention Volunteers, whose hard work and dedication really make all of this possible. The Convention has grown into such an "event" that it took over 65 volunteers to make it all happen this year. This doesn't count the other 35-40 members who volunteer their time throughout the year in various roles to help insure that we get to that one special week in Las Vegas every year. **THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK!**

On August 29th, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast states causing massive destruction. The affected area covered 90,000 square miles and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless or temporarily displaced. Some of this people are CC & GTCC Club members.

As of this writing, we are not aware of any of our members being seriously injured during the storm, but we do know that some of them have lost their homes and everything they own. Several members lived and worked in Kenner, Metairie or New Orleans, LA and Gulfport or Biloxi, MS and are now living elsewhere with relatives.

If you wish to help our Club members who were directly affected, visit the following website: <http://www.nevada-casinochips.com/HurricaneKatrinaVictims.htm>. Member Andy Hughes is conducting auctions every 5 days on line, with the funds raised going directly to our Club members suffering from this disaster. If you wish, you can make a donation directly to the efforts, without bidding on the auctions.

The Board of Directors would like to encourage all of our members to donate to any of the relief agencies assisting in this recovery, participate in Andy's auctions or help out by volunteering. There are folks from the ravaged Gulf Coast states now scattered across the country and most communities have some type of relief effort under way right in your own backyard. We have over 250,000 evacuees in the state of Texas alone. I am sure that any help, in whatever form, that anyone can offer, would be appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has suffered from this tragic storm.

And sadly, I must once again report to you that we have again lost several long time Club members.

Shortly after the Convention, Mr. Vince Mowery of Las Vegas passed away. Vince's beloved wife, Bettye, had passed away earlier this year. Many of Vince's friends and his daughter Wendy, all say that Vince passed away from a broken heart. Vince was active in many areas of the Club, along with Bettye, from the early days. I'm not sure how many of

those early conventions would have been pulled off, if not for the assistance that both Vince and Bettye lent to a rookie Convention Chairman from Texas. Ann and I always had the highest regard for the Mowery's and will miss them both very much.

Another long time presence at the Conventions was Alice Blanck of Houston. Alice, her husband Vern, Art and Muriel Sanderson were the stalwarts of the Convention Registration table for many years. Alice always had a kind word for everyone and always had a hug and kiss ready for you each morning as we prepared to open up the show. Alice was the Club's first ever Associate Member, a distinction that she and Vern were both very proud of. And to those of us who knew her, we were proud to call her our friend. Our deepest condolences go out to Vern and the entire Blanck family. We will miss her kindness and her spirit.

Casino Chip and Token News Recognized Once Again!

We are very proud to announce that our quarterly Club magazine, Casino Chip and Token News has once again received the First Place Award as the "Outstanding Specialty Numismatic Publication" from ANA! This marks the 2nd consecutive year that the CCTN has been the proclaimed the winner in this category.

Our outstanding Editor Allan Anderson deserves a hearty "Thank You" from the membership for his continued excellence in the production of our award winning magazine. This is a very time consuming and often times, an under appreciated position within our organization. Our thanks go out to Assistant Editor John Moore for all of his efforts as well. And of course we appreciate all the efforts of each of the former Editors for helping us grow the magazine into its present form.

One group of individuals that also deserve our thanks, are the members who contribute articles each quarter! Many times we fail to recognize the effort and the knowledge that go into the articles themselves. It would not be the magazine that it is without the submissions from our membership. We thank each of the contributors for their part in making the Casino Chip and Token News such a valuable information resource! And we would encourage all members to consider contributing articles for publication.

Some of our members have been long time and frequent contributors to the magazine. Their years of collecting and research in many different areas, have added greatly to the collective knowledge of our membership. People like Allan Anderson, Archie Black, Dave & Debbie Harber, Howdy Herz, Michael Knapp, Vince Mowery, Janice O'Neal, Bob Pardue, Dale Seymour, Greg Susong and Gene Trimble are invaluable to our organization. We appreciate your efforts and thank you for sharing your knowledge with all of us.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of CCTN!

Mike Skelton



Vice President's Letter

Wayne Thompson

Congratulations to Jim and Sandi Steffner and the 80-plus volunteers that made this years Convention the best ever. Seems like every year we add more and more activities and this year was no exception.

Our banquet speaker this year, Richard Goeglein, certainly did a great job relating stories from his days at the Dunes, Harrah's, and the Aladdin. Another in what has become a tradition of great banquet speakers. We want to thank one of our favorite honorary members, Ms. Claudine Williams, for persuading Mr. Geoglein to be our guest.

The Silver Strike Club certainly has the Club's appreciation for working with IGT to donate a Silver Strike machine for the Club to display in our future home. They also worked with Global Mining to get the dies that were used to make the Las Vegas Centennial/Silver Strikers Club Commemorative Strike donated to the Club for display. We want to thank IGT and Global Mining. Also we want to thank the TI for donating one of the \$200 Silver Strikes that won the 2004 Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY).

Hopefully by the time you receive this issue of the magazine we will have a new section posted on the Club website called "Ask the Experts". We have had over 30 people agree to be a resource for any member that needs information in a particular area of collecting. If anyone else wants to be a part of this panel please get in contact with me. I want to thank each of the people who have volunteered to be on the panel. I hope everyone will refer to this section often when they need information that they haven't been able to find.

Last but certainly not least congratulations go out to our Editor Allan Anderson and our Assistant Editor John Moore. For the second year in a row this magazine has taken first place in the ANA Outstanding Specialty Numismatic publication. I'm glad others are beginning to recognize what our members have known; that we have a great publication.



Ivory

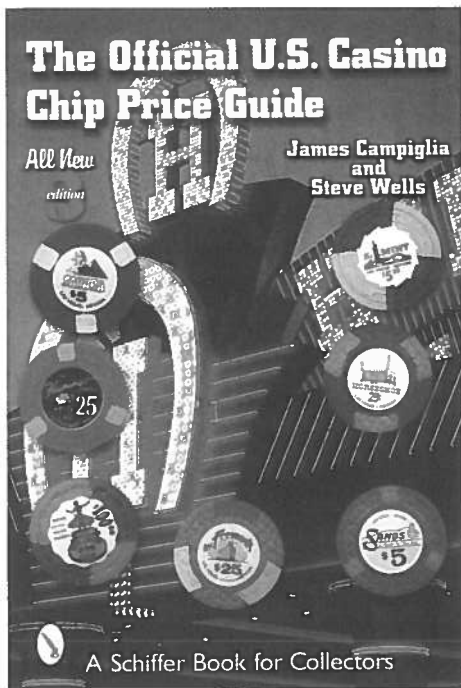
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The 3rd edition of
**The Official U.S. Casino
Chip Price Guide**
is out!

Get your copy direct from the author

This **NEW 2005 book** is completely revised and updated, this 3rd edition is the best resource for collectors of American casino chips. Since the publication of the last edition, this hobby has exploded, with thousands of new members and dramatic price changes. This comprehensive, **full color guide** will provide you with the best information available. Here are just some of the most notable features as noted on the back cover:

- All locations with legitimate gaming commissions are listed, including Nevada, Colorado towns, Deadwood, SD., Atlantic City, and the 6 Riverboat States!
- Over 2150 rare casino chips, worth over \$2,000,000 are pictured in full color
- All prices and rarity have been completely revised and updated.
- Now showing grades for chips as per the CC>CC grading standards
- Nostalgic photos and postcard shots of many casinos throughout the U.S. with emphasis on Nevada showing many clubs that are now history
- Comprehensive index to help in finding casinos quickly and easily

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Treasurer's Report

Mike Quinlivan

As of September 12, 2005, the cash balance in the Club's accounts is \$171,547. For the first eight and a half months of 2005, the Club treasury decreased its cash position by \$15,615, excluding Building Fund donations of \$12,207. The expenditure for the summer issue of the Club magazine is included. Please see the accompanying financial statements for more detail related to income, expenditures, and the breakdown of the equity accounts.

Highlights for the first 8 1/2 months of 2005:

1. 23 members became Life Members. The Club now has 121 Life Members and 6 Honorary Life Members.
2. The proceeds from the 2005 Bruce Landau Memorial auction will be \$10,308. The financials as of September 12, 2005 reflect a balance of \$4,934 because \$5,374 of auction payments are still due. The gross earnings for the auction were \$60,541 while the net payments to consigners were \$50,234.
3. The balance in the Building Fund is \$70,885. Dave Smith provided \$400 in matching funds through The Home Depot. Neil Silverman collected over 2005 roulettes for the Building Fund Raffle that was held on August 5. Through Neil's efforts \$4,435 was collected through the raffle. Another \$4,831 was donated for various offerings at the Building Fund table, including Silver Strikes donated by the Palms.
4. The September 12, 2005 financial statement shows some accounts with a debit balance. This is due to the fact that the merchant account that processes credit card payments (on-line membership and convention registration) owes the Club over \$2,500 due to incomplete transfers of monies and various charge-backs. It has taken several weeks, but it appears that the merchant account has finally taken steps to rectify their errors. Once the Club is properly credited, these debit balances will be cleared. We hope to have the credit card processing up again by the time you receive your copy of the Fall magazine.
5. Some non-annual expenditures have occurred this year. They include the printing of the buyers guide and the grade and conditions handouts, a projector (used at the convention), a replacement laptop for the Membership officer and the purchase of updated embroidered shirts and Club logo watches.
6. 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 for helping out this year.
7. The 2004 tax return was filed on February 15, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer
September 12, 2005

Income & Expense/Equity Statement (cash basis)

January 1 through September 12, 2005

Income

Membership Dues (includes 1st class postage)		\$41,136
Convention 2005:		
Table Fees	\$31,125	
Banquet	\$9,730	
Registration	\$9,195	
Auction Proceeds	\$4,934	
Program	\$1,815	
Blackjack Tournament	(\$320)	
Other	(\$590)	
Poker Tournament	(\$800)	
Convention 2005 Total		\$55,089
Convention 2006:		
Table Fees	\$1,180	
Convention 2006 Total		\$1,180
Building Fund Donations		\$12,207
Promotion		\$11,421
Magazine Advertising		\$7,495
Interest Income		\$2,212
Video Sales (2004 Convention)		\$250
Magazine Sales		\$150
Directory Sales		\$80
		<hr/>
Total Income		<u>\$131,220</u>

Expenditures

Convention 2005 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales)		\$53,747
Magazine		\$42,691
Promotion		\$14,742
Video Production		\$6,947
Printing (Other than Magazine)		\$5,495
Miscellaneous		\$3,945
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$2,997
Bank Charges		\$1,545
Storage		\$1,268
Telephone		\$364
Supplies		\$349
Filing Fees		\$175
Website		\$170
Advertising		\$114
Membership		\$79
		<hr/>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$134,628</u>

Net Income - 01/01/05 to 09/12/05 (3,408)

Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/05		\$197,289
Net Income - 01/01/05 to 09/12/05		<u>(\$3,408)</u>
Ending Equity Balance - 09/12/05		<u>\$193,881</u>

Detail of Equity Balance - 09/12/05

Building Fund	\$70,885	
Certificate of Deposit	\$57,052	
Life Membership Fund	\$35,336	
General Fund	\$8,274	
Total Cash Available		<u>\$171,547</u>
Inventory		\$21,834
Advance (Membership Officer)		\$500
Ending Equity Balance - 09/12/05		<u>\$193,881</u>



Ralph Myers

Membership Officers Report

Well the convention is behind us, and it was another home run, our biggest convention yet. While new member numbers for the convention were down from previous years, new life membership at the convention was up. We had eight members step up to life membership during our three day convention.

Since my last report for the third quarter magazine, one hundred eleven new members have joined us.

Congratulations are in order to James Campiglia, for being the top new member recruiter for 2004-2005. Congratulations are also in order to the other nine members who filled out the top ten new member recruiters. As always gentleman, a job well done.

Don't forget, a referral of a new member gets you a \$5.00 referral voucher good towards CCGTCC merchandise.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the members who worked with me at the membership table. You all know who you are, and I look forward to working with all of you next year.

I would also be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to Jim and Sandi Steffner and their legion of volunteers who make the convention the success that it is.

At the present time online membership renewal is not available. Please bear with us while we work to make it better than ever.

Don't forget Life Membership is available to all regular members who have three or more consecutive years in the club. Email me for additional information.

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

Best regards,
Ralph



Renew Your Membership Online



New Members

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7010	Johnson	Greg	TN	Kingsport	Hughes, Andy
7011	Pulver	Donna	FL	Tampa	Markley, Ross
7012	Leshner	Michael	NJ	Cherry Hill	CC>CC.com
7013	Chandgie	Ric	NC	Greensboro	Former Member
7014	Spring	Richard	CA	Venice	Weintraub, Barry
7015	Abramson	Marc	CA	Sherman Oaks	Moser, Jim
7015-A	Teichner	Jacquelyn	CA	Sherman Oaks	Moser, Jim
7017	Miller	Bruce	CA	Joshua Tree	Silverman, Sunday
7018	Bindle	Ronald G.	MI	Sterling Heights	Bindle, Michael
7019	Hunt	Simon	UK	Worcs	CC>CC.com
7020	Waltz	Robin	MD	Hagerstown	Rizzo, Pete
7021	Coleman	Glen	OH	Lancaster	CC>CC.com
7022	Johnston	Jeff	WI	Madison	CC>CC.com
7023	Levesque	Michael S.	UT	Roy	Smorse, Chuck
7025	Tocchini	Joe	CA	Castro Valley	CC>CC.com
7026	Cunningham	Mike	MS	Starkville	CC>CC.com
7028	Renshaw	George Lee	CA	Calimesa	Rodgers, Charles
7029	Hinz	Paul F.	FL	Bradenton	Rizzo, Pete
7031	Dean	Steven E.	KY	Bellevue	Turner, Charlie
7032	Radzilowski	Lynn M.	MI	Grand Blanc	CC>CC.com
7034	Pye	Butch	CO	Castle Rock	CC>CC.com
7034-A	Pye	Lynne	CO	Castle Rock	CC>CC.com
7036	Munz	G. West	CA	San Clemente	Former Member
7038	Meers	Jerald W.	MO	Brentwood	
7039	Strum	William E.	MD	Cabin John	CC>CC.com
7040	Kamm	M.S.	CA	Cathedral City	Silverman, Sunday
7041	Takiguchi	Alan	CA	Los Angeles	Takiguchi, Ron
7042	Reil	Mark	AZ	Bullhead City	CC>CC.com
7043	Fuller	Jason	AL	Valley	CC>CC.com
7045	Reed	James	KY	Ft. Mitchell	CC>CC.com
7046	Fakahua	Nale	UT	St. George	Former Member
7046-A	Fakahua	Kimberly	UT	St. George	Former Member
7047	Baird	Patrick	WY	Cheyenne	CC>CC.com
7048	Gray Jr.	John	GA	Jesup	CC>CC.com
7048-A	Gray	Derenda	GA	Jesup	CC>CC.com
7049	Enriques	Lei	NV	Las Vegas	Del Popolo, Joe
7050	Uehara	Aaron	HI	Honolulu	Oshiro, Lee Jennifer
7052	Wright	Rosanne	NV	Las Vegas	Former Member
7053	Coulson	Kurt	WA	Seattle	Logerwell, Don
7054	Dalton	Douglas W.	CO	Greeley	CC>CC.com
7055	Bigler	David	MN	Lakeville	Belligan, James
7056	Rodgers	Dennis	CA	Saugus	CC>CC.com
7057	Gwyn	Gary	TX	Amarillo	CC>CC.com
7058	Cooke	Keith	NC	Charlotte	CC>CC.com
7062	Monaghan	William	NJ	Ocean City	CC>CC.com
7063	Gilbert	Steve	CA	Mountain View	The Chip Rack
7064	Wallner	Mark	NV	Las Vegas	CC>CC.com
7064-A	Wallner	Diane	NV	Las Vegas	CC>CC.com

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7065	Pettit	Patrick	FL	Saint Petersburg	Silver Strikers Club
7069	Gottlieb	Alex	NJ	Hoboken	Hughes, Andy
7070	Lucente	Louis	NY	Elmont	Kaplan, Charles
7071	Barton	Don D.	TX	FT. Worth	Anderson, Richard
7071-A	Barton	Judy	TX	FT. Worth	Anderson, Richard
7072	Best	James M.	FL	Lakeland	Lighterman, Mark
7072-A	Best	Carrie	FL	Lakeland	
7074	Thompson	Kevin	WA	Port Angeles	Convention
7075	Miller	Eric	CO	Golden	Convention
7077	Masukawa	Dorothy	CA	Los Angeles	Masukawa, Glenn
7078	Harber	Tom	FL	Punta Gorda	Jones, Kevin
7079	Emilo	David	OH	North Royalton	Shoop, Dennis
7080	Samuelson	Siiri	WA	Ocean Shores	Cusick, Don
7081	Zamarripa	Frank	CA	Walnut	Rodgers, C. T.
7082	Caldwell	John	CA	Burbank	Convention
7082-A	Leo	Jennifer	CA	Burbank	Convention
7083	Molter	Carol	FL	Ellenton	Former Member
7090	Greller	Jason	NY	Wading River	
7091	Lacy	Joe	MD	Middletown	
7092	Lammer	Ron	KS	Topeka	Shore, Josh
7093	Knudsen	Jack	UT	Ogden	US Casino Chip Guide
7094	Stabile	Robert T.	OH	Garfield Heights	Susong, Greg
7095	Hohman	George E.	PA	Honesdale	Convention
7096	McGahan	Samuel L.	FL	Orlando	Hixon, Belinda
7097	Lyon	Charles E.	PA	Douglassville	Former Member
7098	Green	Jim	FL	Ocala	Susong, Greg
7099	Racutt	Karen	NV	Las Vegas	Rodgers, C.T.
7102	Strutzel	Kurt	FL	Ft. Myers	Hughes, Andy
7103	Johnson	Eric	NV	N. Las Vegas	Hughes, Andy
7104	Carroll	Lon	AZ	Kingman	Deems, Doug
7105	Schultz	Steve	DE	Wilmington	Myers, Ralph
7107	Laird	Jay	TX	Plainview	Hughes, Andy
7108	Munro	Thomas	Canada	Alberta	Hughes, Andy
7109	Gryczkowski	John	MO	Peculiar	Susong, Greg
7110	Pagano	Dennis	CA	Hayward	Official Price Guide
7113	Graves	John	CO.	Colorado Springs	Myers, Ralph
7113-A	Graves	Debbie	CO.	Colorado Springs	Myers, Ralph
7114	Hayes	Sandra L.	ID	Silverton	
7115	Love	John	CO	Grand Junction	Myers, Ralph
7116	Henkels	Duke E.	PA	Lafayette Hill	Black, Archie
7119	Valot	Philip M.	NY	East Patchogue	Anderson, Allan

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Nate Pincus

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Secretary's Report

Belinda Hixon

Hurricane Katrina has impacted all of us. We have many members in LA, MS and AL and we are concerned for their well-being. President Skelton has asked that I act as the Club contact point for information on those members. If you have any information please let me know. I'll make posts on the Club's website and update everyone in the next issue of the magazine.

The minutes of the Annual Business meeting are included in this issue. Minutes of the Board meeting will be included in the next issue.

Respectfully,
Belinda Hixon

Fifteen-plus Year Members

The following members have reached the Fifteen-plus milestone with the Club.
Congratulations!



HLM 0001	Archie Black			0138-25	Armin Pfaender
0001-A	Brenda Black			0139	Tom Arestad
0002	Eileen Landau			0142	Joseph Gallagher
0003-40	Robert Pardue			0144	Gene Baxter
0006	Mark Lighterman			0148	Steve Nishita
HLM 0007	Michael Knapp			0149-56	Floyd Thomas
0008	Janice O'Neal			0151	Arnold Hollander
0009	Dean Richmond	0055	Al Zaika	0152	Anatole Karmen
0018	David Udkow	0058	Dale Seymour	0153	David Gingold
0020	George Keniston	0070	David Cuthbertson	0154-86	Gary Pairgian
0021	Norman Mangouni	0072	Wayne Sone	0159	Robert Eisenstadt
0022	Jon Yasko	0078	Paul Fort	0163	G. Perry Leonard, Jr.
0025	Jon Morell	0079	K. Michael Pollard	0164	Gerald Lucas
0027-87	Allan Myers	0085-3	Howard Herz	0167	Alvin Beatty
0028	Rick Meyer	0088	Gerald O'Neal	0173-44	Eric Rosenblum
0031	Walter Dirzulaitis	0094	Michael Hurley	0175	Arthur Quigley
0033	C.T. Rodgers	0095	Edward Kurtz, Jr.	0179	Merrill Johnson
0036-35	Albert Giorgi	0098	William Miller	0180	William Mapes
0037	Jim Dalzell	0108	Charles Mades	0187	Loren Kelley
0041	Kermit Stephen	0109	Ernie Wheelden	0192	Richard Bitterman
0043	Jim Munding	0111-46	Travis Lewin	0197	David Mellendorf
0044	Steve Passalacqua	0112-112	John Kallman	0205	Richard Bilek
0046	Anthony Sorrento	0116	George Pilla	0207-113	James Campiglia
0047	Paul Cunningham	0118	Phil Jensen	0212-05	Robert Hoadley
0049	Scott Fawcett	0125	George Dmitrevsky	0219	Donald Durnin
0051	Jack Boberg	0130	Irwin Gross	0222	Charles Sandes
0054	Henry Garrett	0137	Steve Gores	0225	Robert Jenkins

0226-92	Gerald Ayers	0274	Joel Reznick	0327	Russ Diaz
0227	Joe Joslin	0279	Ronald Dorian	0329	Stephen Alpert
0228	George Hansen	0281	Fred Zinkman	0332	Robert Kubach
0236	Mark Freitag	0287	Larry Trapp	0343	Thomas Hitselberger
0238	John Cunningham	0289-14	Gary Acquistapace	0344	Louis Larsen
0244	William Lonergan	0292	Cameron Kessinger	0345	John Moore
0258	Georgia Feeny	0296	Jeff Smith	0354	Ernest Marquez
0259-59	Jim Sarra	0303-17	Mark Guttenplan	0358	Kevin Norris
0261	Bill Holman	0306	Steve Goodrich	0360	Vince Mowery
0264	Don Totoian	0309	Floyd Pierce	0361	George Steel
0273	David Willis	0326	Charles D'Ambrogi	0369	Rusty Goe

Ten Year Members

The following members have reached the Ten Year milestone with the Club.
Congratulations!

2097	Victor Scaranda			2268	Gary Kobayashi
2098	Jack Jenkins			2278	Neil Reeves
2105	Stan Poll			2280	Rich Carter
2107	Nike Bergquist			2283	Dave Harber
2115	Bruce Wendling			2308	Larry Betker
2117	Paul Mikulin			2314-43	David Johnston
2120-31	Greg Susong			2315	Don Tompkins
2123-80	Dean Porter	2192	Gene Trimble	2331	Doc Finsteun
2129	John Facinoli	2193	Carol Ann Miley	2345	Roy Bodien
2134	Bob DeWitt	2195	Guy Pinchette	2354	Roy Brennan
2135	Bob Gabel	2199	Betty Blake	2356	Daniel Fix
2136-108	Mike Spinetti	2206	Gary Engleman	2360	Joanne Kessler
2139	Kendall Furman	2207	Jim Mooradian	2362	Mike Baldwin
2145	Don Hitchcock	2211-21	Tyrus Mulkey	2363	Marty Raschkovan
2146	Angela Holmes	2213	Mary Tupper	2369	Thomas Testa
2150	Greg Scheibel	2219	Donald Feld	2377	John "Top" Newby Jr
2160	Albert Rios	2237	Dean Nusbaum	2402	Ed Hertel
2162	Steven Plunkett	2240	Jay Lipowsky	2404	Peter Kowalick Jr
2163	Charles Lindsey	2246-20	Steve Wells	2431	John Johnston
2164	Jim Forsman	2251	James Kanno	2432	Clinton Boyle
2169	Albert Marchetti	2260-61	Cliff Ruff	2434	Lauren Guida
2175	Tony Torres Jr.				



New CC>CC Claims Form

Enclosed in this issue of the magazine is the new, standardized CC & GTCC Claims Form. You **MUST** use this form to file a Claim against another Club member.

Up until now, there has never been a uniform, standardized way of filing a Claim against another member for an alleged Code of Ethics violation. Claims have been filed over the years in formats ranging from hand written notes, typed 5-6 page letters to just an email saying "I want to file a claim against _____".

Most of the time the information provided to the Club is vague and/or incomplete. The Claims Director may spend more time gathering basic information that should have been provided in the first place, than on resolving the issue at hand.

This form provides all the basic information needed by the Club, in written form, first hand from the member filing the complaint.

The process will work as follows:

1. Fill out the form completely, sign and date it.
2. Forward it Vice-President Wayne Thompson.
3. V.P. Thompson will make an initial determination on the Claim.
4. If further action or investigation is warranted, V.P. Thompson will forward the form to the Claims Director to open a Claims Investigation.
5. The Claims Director will work to mutually resolve the matter between the parties or if that is not possible, make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the appropriate action.
6. The Board will act on the recommendation and the final report of the Claims Director. The parties involved will be notified of the final decision of the Board by Vice President Thompson.

IF you find it necessary to file a Claim against a fellow Club member, please help us to resolve the matter as quickly as possible by using the Claims Form.

*The form will be available on the Club website at www.ccgccc.com for you to download and print out. We are working on a program that will allow you to fill out the form online and send it electronically to Vice President Thompson. We will notify the membership once this format is available.

Altered Chip Update

Due to time constraints and other unforeseen events, the complete and illustrated version of the Altered Chip update will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Mike Skelton

The matter of repairing or altering chips has been examined by this Board on an ongoing basis for some time now. Prior to the Convention opening, the Board of Directors called a meeting of all the table holders to inform them that we would stringently enforce the table contract provision that calls for “non-genuine” items to be clearly marked as such and that **we had in fact taken legal action against one of the persons known to be altering chips.** (We would like to express our thanks to all of the table holders for attending that early morning meeting.)

The suit was filed in federal court in the state of New York and is currently ongoing. The purpose of the suit is to stop the named individual from doing further alterations that we feel are detrimental to our members and the hobby, to ascertain which

chips have been altered and for whom the alterations have been done. The membership will be fully informed of the outcome of this particular legal action, once it has been settled.

This suit will not be the end of the actions taken by the Board in this matter. We have information that there are 20 or so individuals doing alterations to one degree or another. And if necessary, we will pursue all possible remedies against these individuals as well. Furthermore, we are committed to taking all appropriate actions against anyone who knowingly commits fraud against our members by selling them altered chips.

The Board conducted a survey on our website over a year ago as to what each member considered an “altered chip”. At this year’s convention we distributed a written survey asking the same questions. The Board has also asked Michael Knapp’s Standards and Archives Committee, to undertake the project of recommending an “official” definition of an altered chip to the Board. Elsewhere

in this issue, there is more information on this project, as well as a survey that we would encourage everyone to fill out and return to Michael’s committee.

Some folks who defend these alterations compare them to “repairing a dented fender on a car”, but Eric Rosenblum, the Club’s Legal Counsel, put it best when he compared these alterations to “rolling back the odometer on a car.”

We will make every effort to keep the membership informed about the actions taken by the Board on this matter. There will be times when legal issues are involved that we will not be able to speak as openly or candidly as you may want us to. But please understand that we must do that in order to protect the Club. This has been and will continue to be a time consuming, long term project, but we are committed to doing everything possible to stop this threat to our hobby.

Important Member Survey

A survey of members’ opinions about altered chips is included in this issue of CC&TN. It was distributed at the convention, but few members completed it.

Please take the time to complete and mail the survey.

Make your opinions count!

CC>CC Building Fund

by Andy Hughes

Building Fund Committee

The balance in the Building Fund as of September 1, 2005 is \$70,885

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 Emeritus)
 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 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!
 The price is \$10 a set.



Common back

The Building Fund Raffle

by Neal Silverman

At the 2003 convention I won an auction item to benefit the building fund. I thought then I got a great deal but the fund and club was short changing itself. There definitely could have been greater membership participation and larger dollars generated.

I felt a raffle was an ideal way of getting the membership involved. I spoke to Jim Kruse and pitched the idea during the 2004 convention. He said let's do it.

I got home and with a year to collect donations and sell raffles, I put the Roulette Raffle to benefit the building fund into place. I set unrealistic goals 2005 roulettes for the 2005 convention. I also set a goal of selling \$2005 in raffle tickets. The chips started coming in very slowly I was a bit disappointed at first and never thought I would come close to goal. I just kept on pushing the issue and posting on the bulletin boards. I received many emails of encouragement complimenting me on a good job for a good cause it kept me going. The roulettes kept on coming, still

thinking goal was a real long shot I was happy to collect over 1000 in the first 6 months.

As the convention neared I picked up a very strong supporter, Gene Trimble. Armed with casino collectibles from the Palms he put up very attractive offers daily on the bulletin boards. I also got an email from Mike Skelton saying the club was also going to help induce members to donate roulettes. The club offered a chance for all donors of roulettes to win a leather club jacket. This made the difference and in a short amount of time the goal of 2005 roulettes was not only met but beat. In all we collected 2300 roulette chips donated by 163 different members.

I started selling roulette raffles by posting on the bulletin boards and placing ads in the club magazine. I raised over \$2000 prior to the convention. At the convention we set up a raffle cage at the building fund table and continued to sell raffles until the drawing time. I am happy to say that the event raised \$4370 for the building fund.

The winners of the raffle;
first place:

Steven Perry 1150 roulettes,
second place:

Katie Smith 690 roulettes,
third place:

Don Wheeler 460 roulettes.

I would like to thank the volunteers at the building fund table that helped sell raffles, Gene Trimble for everything you did to help make this happen. Also a special thanks to Jerry Birl, Barry Hauptman, David Spragg and Norm Clem for their most generous donations. Mike Skelton and the club board for the great jacket you presented me with at the banquet. It was a great surprise. One last big thank you to all that donated and all the bought raffles without you it wouldn't have been such a successful event.

As I write this, the thoughts are going through my head, what can I do to top this fund raiser for next year? The announcement will be made on the bulletin board after new years.

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

An annual meeting of the Corporation was held on August 5, 2005 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, state of Nevada, for the purpose of reviewing the prior year's business, discussing corporate operations for the upcoming year.

Mike Skelton acted as chairperson and Belinda Hixon recorded the minutes.

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following directors were present at the meeting:

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

Thirty members attended the meeting.

Motion from the floor to suspend reading of and to accept the minutes from the 2004 meeting. Motion carried.

The following reports were presented at the meeting:

Mike Quinlivan
Treasurer's Report

Current financial reports are posted online. Net income from 1/1/05 – 6/30/05 of \$62,374, of which \$41,839 will be used to pay convention expenses. Total cash amount of \$237,329.

Reported that the audit for 2004 was completed on Feb. 1, 2005. The tax return was filed February 15, 2005.

Building fund to June 30, 2005 is \$62,832. \$4,370 was raised for the Building Fund roulette raffle.

As of 6/30/05 there are 14 new Life members.

Question regarding the Inventory. Treasurer Quinlivan explained that it was the promotional items (pins/medals/etc.) made since 1992.

No other questions.
Report accepted.

Ralph Myers
Membership

Officer Myers reported that the numbers have remained the same from 2004 to 2005. We continually get new members but the attrition rate is about the same as the new members.

We currently have about 2700 members in all 50 states and 8 countries.

We have a new program giving \$5.00 script to any member who brings in a new member. The program will run through the end of 2005 at which time the BOD will reevaluate the program. So far it's been successful.

No questions
Report accepted.

Belinda Hixon
Secretary's Report

Collectors Booklet edited by Sheldon Smith is available. Copies can be attained by sending a SASE to Ralph Myers.

Local Club contacts were updated. Information on those clubs that did not respond to requests for updated information was deleted. Information can be updated/added by contacting Secretary Hixon.

The Club has updated the Membership Logo. Members should contact the Secretary for a copy of it.

The History page has been updated on the website. Several pieces of information are missing. Anyone who can fill in the blanks is asked to contact a BOD member.

144 members are eligible for 10 year pins and 102 for the 15 year pins.

No questions
Report accepted.

Wayne Thompson
Vice-President's Report

Working on emphasizing the Educational aspect of the Club. In the next two weeks or so the Ask the Experts program should be up on the website. 35 members have been recruited to answer questions from other members in regard to specific areas of collecting. We should have 50 by the time the program is in full swing.

The BOD continues to work on a Corporate membership program.

No questions
Report accepted.

Old Business
None

New Business

Question on why the Early Bird Banquet wasn't held at the Top of the Riv this year. President Skelton explained that the room had been booked by another group two years ago.

Mary Ann Massey *Election*

15 nomination forms were received. Other than the current officers, five individuals received one nomination each. Rules require that there be two nominations in order to be valid. Therefore there was no need to hold an election.

We, Bruce and Mary Ann Massey, Election Committee Chairpersons, ask for motion directing the Secretary to cast ballot in favor of the following 2005 CC>CC Officers and Board of Directors.

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

Motion made and seconded.
Motion carried.

Call for nominations for the 2007 election will be placed in the Club magazine no less than 180 days before the 2007 Convention. The election will be held no less than 30 days before the 2007 convention with the installation of officers to take place at the convention.

Mike Skelton *Vision & Feasibility*

Question regarding the feasibility of a building.

The location that was previously considered was 1000 sq. ft with the

price being \$120 per foot, per month. The landlord would only give a one year lease. The process never came close enough to do a cost analysis or to signing a lease. The cost analysis will only be done on a specific property analysis. Only then will it come to the membership.

Jim Steffner *Convention*

Dealers are reporting good traffic. The number of dealers is lower this year but the table numbers are the same.

Next year's convention will be June 28-July 1, 2006; still in discussion on location for 2007.

Traffic numbers for the convention aren't available yet.

Question on timing and location of convention. Chairman Steffner stated that we aren't large enough to get other times or locations. Room rates for other locations are too high for our membership.

Chairman Steffner sent out 15 feelers to other locations in Las Vegas with enough space for us and got only two responses. Both were negative.

Comment from the floor that transportation for members into Atlantic City or other locations would be too difficult, no airports in close proximity. The Club would also have to transport property therefore creating additional expenses.

The proximity to other casinos in Las Vegas is a plus for our membership.

Chairman Steffner keeps up with other properties and continues to explore other hotel locations for the Convention.

Question on multi-day passes. Will be worked on before next year.

Riviera's live chip was put out without Club input on the design.

Question on meeting/program for first year attendees or new members during the Convention. Suggestion will be looked into for 2006.

Announced that an agreement had been worked out with the Toy Train Society to allow reciprocal attendance to each other's show on Saturday, August 6th.

Chairman Steffner accepted the Chairmanship for next year.

President Skelton made the following announcements:

- The Club is going to use the web site for more educational purpose. At the present time, there are 191 questions and answers on the FAQ page.
- The Mentoring program is just getting started. Terry Shaffer is heading the program.
- The Collector's Booklet is available now for members and non-members alike.
- Question on whether articles in the magazine that are advertisements are paid for. The Platinum Collection article was paid for. Suggestion to the Editor that an "advertisement" header be added to future articles that fall into that category.
- Question on what the Altered Chip survey would be used for. President Skelton stated that the survey had posted previously. The survey is share what the membership's idea of an altered chip is.

Instillation of Officers

CC>CC Legal Counsel, Eric Rosenblum swore in the new Officers.

President Skelton thanked Eric for all of the work he'd done for the Club in the past.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and carried at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Belinda Hixon
Secretary

Logo Usage Policy

The Club has certain logos and symbols which it must protect in order to protect its reputation in the collectibles community. No member is allowed to use the Club name, logo or symbol other than is approved by the by-laws or as otherwise specifically approved in writing by the Board of Directors.

- Only members in good standing may identify themselves as members of the Club
- Any member who identifies himself/herself as a member must affix or state their membership number so as not to confuse the public.
- "Identifies" includes advertising, announcements, business cards, internet websites, internet or live auctions, e-mails and any and all types of communication.
- Every member must make an effort not to confuse the public or lead the public to think that the member represents or speaks for the Club, other than those officers who actually do speak for the Club or those who have been authorized by the Board to speak for the Club.
- No event, show, auction or convention shall use the Club name, logo or symbol for any reason whatsoever unless it is an event, show, auction or convention run by the Club.
- The Board has approved a "Member's Logo" which contains the member's membership number. Only that log may be used by members in their advertising, promotions, business cards, auctions, etc.
- Any other use of the Club name, logo or symbol must be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval prior to such use.
- The entities formerly known as "Chapters" are prohibited from using the Club name, logo or symbol as representative of their organization

Example



CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Terry Lazarus, R-2708...P.O.Box 57...Dallastown, Pa. 17313...1-888-CHIPS-97

E-mail: Pachipper@aol.com

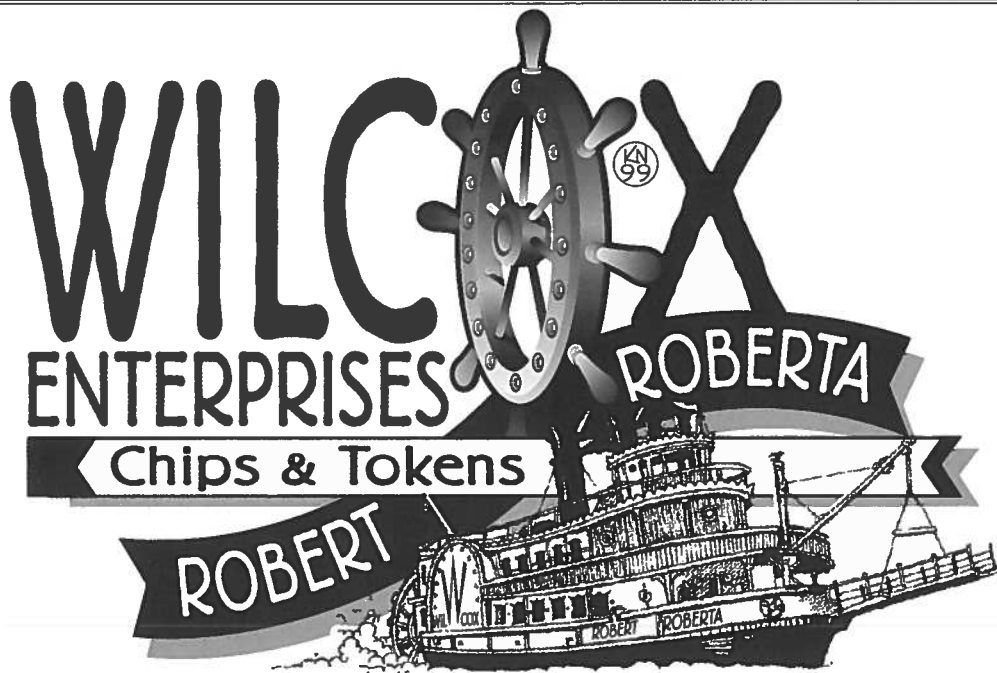
Web site: <http://cotob.net>

Red Dragon Casino \$1-\$5000 (7 Denoms)	\$79	Jim Kelley's Nugget '03LE Set: \$1,\$5,\$25	\$39
Red Dragon Casino - Set of 7 Roulettes	\$29	Jennie V's Casino \$5 Excellent Condition	\$39
South Tahoe Ngt: 7 Colors Plain Roulettes	\$159	Frontier Hotel 50c H&C(CJ) "PAN"	\$39
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 S-Mold (Sinatra Era)	\$48	Eddie's Fab 50's -4 Diff Color Roulettes	\$29
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie N0346	\$99	Foxy's Firehouse - 4 Colors H&C NCV's	\$59
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$69	Golden Nugt Rare NCV's 6 Diff : 1-1000	\$199
Giudici's (Sparks) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49	Fiesta -Royal Flush Series of 24 \$5 Chips	\$195
Sierra Tahoe Dealer's School \$25	\$22	Cactus Pete's 25c Brown H&C HS Gold	\$79
Silver Nugget NCV's: 1,5,25,100,500	\$39	Jim's Casino (Wendover) \$1 H&C(CJ)	\$159
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$48	Texas (LV) 4 Colors: 8-Suit NCV's	\$32
Town Tavern \$5 Purple Sm Crown 4-Yellow	\$39	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$55
Silver Nugget \$25 Mike Tyson (25 Made)	\$149	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Stork Club (LV) - Choice \$5, 25 or \$100	\$199	Ore House (Reno) - Plain Mold \$1,2,5,10	\$49
Trop (AC) Poker Club: Maroon NCV	\$19	Gold Strike (Jean) NCV's: 5,25,100,500	\$38
Hard Rock "Who" at the Joint \$5 & \$25	\$59	Pink Pussycat (Reno) \$1, \$2, \$5 w/ "\$"	\$39
Harrah's (Reno) \$25 N8537 "Q" Value	\$69	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 Roulettes	\$119	Curzon House Plaques 10,50,100 Pound	\$189
Harvey's H-Mold 3-Skull/Wheel Roulettes	\$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 2 Diff- House & Nevada	\$49
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$39	Christmas \$1 N7349 GREAT INLAY !!	\$499
Jailhouse - Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Different \$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 Roulettes	\$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	Saddle West: 1st Issue H&C: 25c, \$1, \$5	\$49
Foxwoods \$10 - Frank Sinatra	\$38	Harrah's Tahoe \$5 - "Sailboat" 1990	\$29
John's Tahoe Ngt NCV's -5,100,500	\$55	Horseshoe: WSOP Sat'ite 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	Harold's Gun Club (HGCC) 10c or 50c	\$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
Wendover Nugget Roulettes - 7 Diff "C"	\$22	Nugget (Reno) Green H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Nugget	\$59	Nugget \$1 Maroon SmKey pic of Nugget	\$59

P&H: Up to \$100 = \$3

\$100 to \$299 = \$4

\$300 or more = No Charge



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You can reach us by telephone at 217-357-3308 unless we are off chasing chips, in which case everything stops until we get back.

We have an extensive collection of both current and obsolete items from the area we service. Orders are generally processed over the weekend and shipped on Tuesday, but large complex orders may take longer. If we can be of assistance to you, we would like to make your acquaintance. Please either phone, write or e-mail.

Robert Wilcox Cook

CC>CC # R-0577

Roberta Cook

How Did A “Limited Edition” Become A “Chaser”?

by Jack Haddock

“Limited edition” is a term found in every area of collecting and no less prominent than in casino chips and tokens. These limited editions (LE) have become a designation of collecting for many chip collectors of today. The designs are a key factor in the chips popularity and the number made is right behind.

The Silver Strike tokens all state that they are a “Limited Edition Ten (or other denomination) Dollar Gaming Token.” That generally means that there are at least 1,750 of that particular strike. Then someone took the term “Limited Edition” to a new level and invented the “chase” strike. That means that the casino makes a “Limited Edition” of a quantity under the 1,750, generally between 500 and 800. When a casino does this, they must pay for the manufacturing of the dies (about \$800). Don’t feel sorry for them, it can take

the winning of 10 or more “common” strikes to obtain the “chase” strike. That means lots of play and lots of casino income. You see, the casino puts only 4 to eight “chase” strikes per tube of 42 silver strikes (there are six tubes). So the player gets to “chase” and “chase” the strike in the red case.

In the old days, prior to 2004, the casinos could put the number they were producing right on the silver strike. The Nevada Gaming Commission put a stop to that so now the collector has to put his faith in the casino to only make the number they say they will make. Of course, sometimes the casino doesn’t say. Its kind of a mystery as to how that number is usually gets disclosed. Sometimes the collector makes up a number!

The “chase” strikes issued at convention time end up being fairly common

though pricey to win. That is because the public doesn’t take very many of them away and only the true collectors gather them up. At convention time, many collectors are present to accumulate the “chase” strikes in just a matter of days while “chase” strikes issued at other times of the year may take several months to disappear.

While the casino chips display all sorts of bright colors, the true limited issue – “chase strike,” is in a red capsule and easy to see in the dispensing tube on the slot machine. Be cautioned, some casinos got real creative and put older strikes in the red capsules in hopes to encourage the player to haul them away thinking they had “a real prize.” The casinos all reported that the concept worked!

Well there it is! A “chaser” that is REALLY a Limited Edition.



Strike with limited number indicated
“Chase”



Strike without limited number indicated
“Chase”

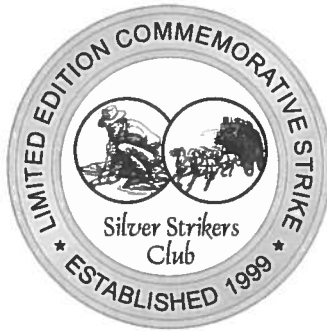


Chip with limited number indicated

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Silver Strikers Club
 c/o Kevin Pyles - 1st Vice President
 3088 Raven Drive
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85650-7504
 tazdude@comcast.net

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Referred by _____

Areas of interest include:

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

May we publish the above information in the club roster Yes No

Annual membership dues	\$10.00
One time membership processing fee	\$ 5.00
Optional spouse associate membership*	\$10.00
Total amount enclosed	\$ _____

* Spouse name _____

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Convention 2005 Round-Up

by Jim Steffner
Convention Chairman

Who ever said that 13 was an unlucky number? If you were one of the thousands who attended the 13th Annual CC>CC Convention at the Riviera, 13 was indeed a very lucky number.

A classic August event brought out blackjack & poker tournament players, an awards banquet with a fabulous speaker, hot topic seminars, 37 exhibit cases, 114 dealer tables, and trade sessions, an exciting auction on Friday, and finally on Saturday, the Last Dance Trade Session to close out our 2005 convention.

The fun filled week started with the ever-popular Greg Susong get-together at the Palms on Tuesday evening. Several hundred folks attended and received one of Greg's coveted chips and a nice Palms t-shirt courtesy of the Palms and Gene Trimble.

Wednesday started off with the blackjack tournament at the Palms with Peter Ricardi taking top honors. What a surprise for our pre-registered mem-

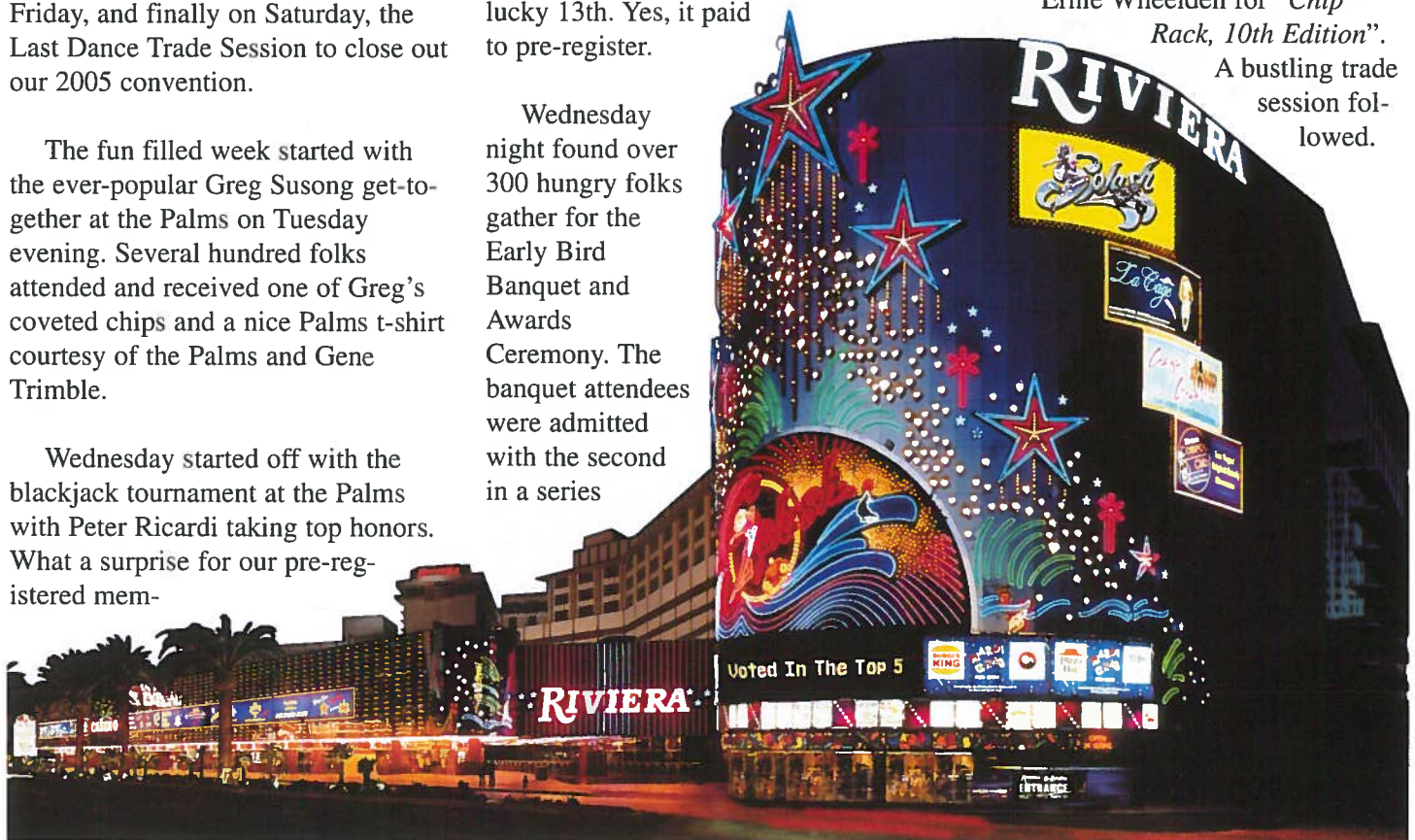
bers, they found several nice items including an Imperial Palace auto museum admission pass, a Las Vegas Centennial pin, a pre-registered prize drawing ticket (for over 350 gifts), and a fancy black carry bag with an imprinted club logo. Items such as a leather computer case, Fossil watch, logo jackets, dinner certificates, show tickets, games, tote bags, t-shirts, Riviera 50th Anniversary 4 piece token set, and many other great items made many winners quite happy. Another lucky 13th. Yes, it paid to pre-register.

Wednesday night found over 300 hungry folks gather for the Early Bird Banquet and Awards Ceremony. The banquet attendees were admitted with the second in a series

of collectible "slot card" banquet tickets. Watch for another series addition next year. Not only did the banqueters dine on some exquisite dishes prepared by the Riviera chefs, but they also enjoyed guest

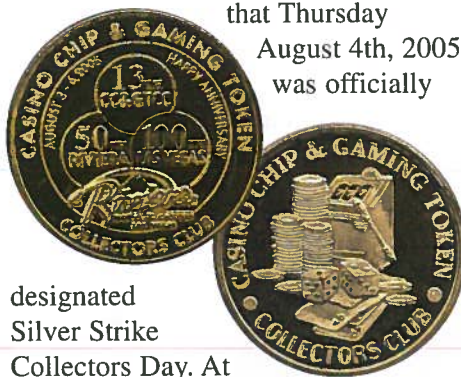
speaker Mr. Richard Goeglein who held several executive positions with Harrah's and Holiday Corporation. During the awards presentations, Mr. Gary Bridges of IGT made a donation of an IGT Silver Strike machine to the club, arranged in part by the Silver Strike Club and Doug Conley. The machine will have a place of honor in our museum when the time comes. The Magazine Article of the year went to Tyrus Mulkey for his article in the July-Sept 04 issue titled "Howard R. Hughes Jr. and His Influence on the Transition from Gambling to Gaming". The Book of the Year Award was presented to Allan Myers, Michael Knapp, and Ernie Wheelden for "Chip Rack, 10th Edition".

A bustling trade session followed.





Thursday started with an awe-inspiring talk by Doug Saito, “Chip Stories IV – Harvey Fuller, A Gaming Historian”. An overflow crowd filled the hallway waiting to enter the show. Following opening ceremonies and the ribbon cutting, a proclamation from Mayor Oscar Goodman and the City of Las Vegas was read indicating that Thursday August 4th, 2005 was officially



designated Silver Strike Collectors Day. At 10:00AM the crowd flowed in to drool over 114 tables of every imaginable casino collectible. They were also able to view 37 display cases of exhibits submitted by club members. This is one of the largest exhibit collections to date. First place exhibitor award went to Jerry Birl, with Mike Quinlivan and Lynneta Englebretson tied for second. Donald Durnin displayed many old postcards that were enlarged to poster size showing views of old Las Vegas. Donald donated these to the club for future use in the museum and two unmounted pictures were included in the auction.

Thursday afternoon the Silver Strike Club had Gary Bridges and

Jeff Millar of IGT who spoke about the future of silver strikes including the return of the \$200 strikes. The evening poker tournament brought together diehard card sharks. After the final table of 6 agreed to split the pot, Jeff Willcox walked away the top player with the coveted trophy.

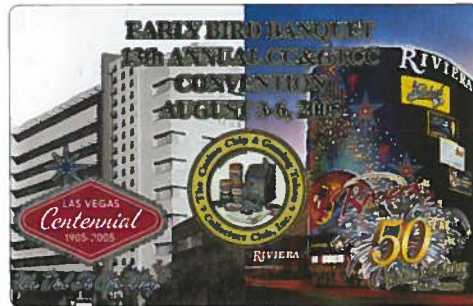
Steve Fisher, author of “When The Mob Ran Vegas” presented an interesting and informative talk, “Riviera’s First Few Years – The Mob Years” at the Friday morning seminar. He discussed the early days of the Riviera and some mob history during the exciting Las Vegas times. (Now I know more about the secret tunnel between the Desert Inn and the



Guest speaker Mr. Richard Goeglein

Frontier, why it was there and who used it.) On Friday afternoon the CC>CC held the Annual Business Meeting. Members had a chance to hear how the club is operating, ask questions, and make comments. The ever-popular Friday night Bruce Landau Memorial Auction involved some fierce bidding and sales totaled over \$55,000 in chips, strikes, tokens, dice, and other items.

Neil Silverman organized a roulette chip contest to benefit the building fund. Steve Perry was the first place winner and received 1150 roulettes. Second place went to Katie Smith with 690 chips and Don Wheeler took third place and received 460 roulettes. Many thanks to all the club members who donated these 2300 roulettes, and to Neil for taking on the project.



Carey Burke presented a talk at Noon on Saturday, “Gaming History in Paper Collectibles” and had a large display of items for viewing. The room was filled to capacity and many members were able to ask questions and examine many old cards, menus, advertising, and photos. (Yes, we broke from tradition and did not hold a Saturday AM seminar, but from the crowd that attended at Noon, this may be a popular time for a break from the show floor and a chance to learn more about our hobby.)

Saturday evening closed with the well-attended Last Dance Trade Session. New this year was a volunteer appreciation get-together with speaker John L. Smith, author of eleven books and columnist for the Las Vegas Review Journal. Everyone enjoyed his presentation. John gladly hosted questions after his 45-minute presentation. Each volunteer received



Jim Steffner receives a lifetime membership from Mike Skelton

a personalized autographed copy of one of John's books, "Of Rats & Men" or "No Limit".

I would like once again to say THANKS! to all the volunteers who put in some time at the convention helping with set-up, registration, club tables, or wherever needed. It's because of you that we are able to put on this show. Each of you was in part, responsible for every member attending being able to have fun.

We produced a DVD for this year's convention as was done last year. This is your chance to have a permanent record of "the happenings"; member interviews, shots of items available at the dealer tables, seminar speakers, banquet speaker,



Jim Kruse auctions off a Playboy Anniversary display donated by the Palms Hotel/Casino

and a lot more. Order your DVD now from the Roy Nelson, Promotion Director. See order blank in this issue. This was a hot item last year and your opportunity to relive the experience, or see first hand what you missed. There are still some of the DVD copies available from the 2004 Convention with Robert Maheu speaking. Contact the club promotion



Mr. Gary Bridges of IGT donated an IGT Silver Strike machine to the club, arranged in part by the Silver Strike Club and Doug Conley.



The Book of the Year Award was presented to Allan Myers, Michael Knapp, and Ernie Wheelden for "Chip Rack, 10th Edition".



The Magazine Article of the year award is presented to Tyrus Mulkey for his article in the July-Sept 04 issue titled "Howard R. Hughes Jr. and His Influence on the Transition from Gambling to Gaming"

department. You can also order the black club logo carry bag that was given to each of the pre-registered members as part of their packet.



Mike Skelton was inducted into the CC>CC Hall of Fame. Archie Black makes the presentation.



Wendy Schultz and Vince Mowerey



Registration table. Bruce & Mary Ann Massey, Archie and Brenda Black and Myrna Lighterman.



Sean Quinlivan, Alexi Harber and Sarah Quinlivan



Allan and Ann McCurdy



Dale Seymour



Greg Susong and Steve Pasalaqua



Doug Deems



Diane and Allan Myers



Bob and Mona McColum



Paul Bender and Barb Jones



Jack Haddock and Howdy Herz



Jackpot Auctions



Steve Fischer



Sunday Silverman



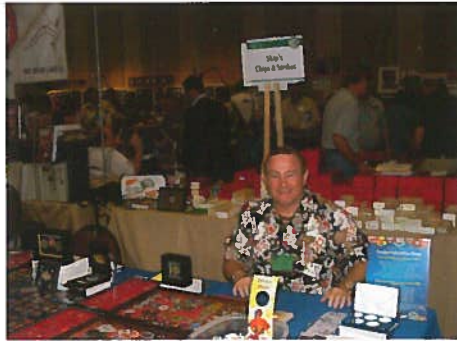
Travis Lewin



Larry Hollibaugh and Fred Lamb



Walter Dirzulaitis



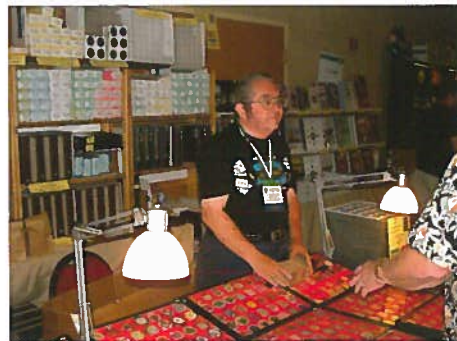
Skip Harouff



Debbie and Dave Harber



Brian Watts



C.T. Rodgers



Ed Bigley



Neal Silverman receives a club jacket from Mike Skelton for organizing the roulette drawing benefitting the building fund.



Neal Silverman draws a ticket for the roulette raffle.



Gene Trimble receives a club jacket from Mike Skelton for his ongoing contributions to the club.



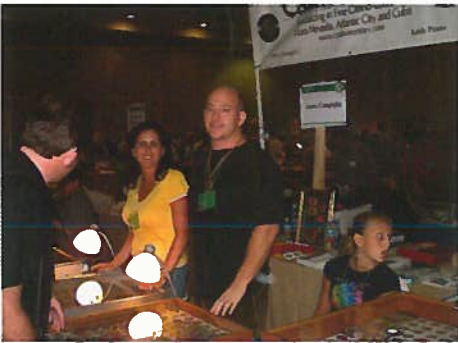
Sally and David Moore



Gary Acquistapace



Brian Watts



James Campiglia



Jerry O'Neal



Sandi and Jim Steffner



Julie Brown, Terry and Ron



Cindy and Mark Cotton



Fran and Larry Betker

For 2006 we are back at the Riviera June 28 to July 1st. We'll be in the Grande Showroom (same as

2004), a lot closer to the entrance. Lots of surprises are in the works. Plan now to attend and pre-register.

Don't be a "stay at home" wishing you were an "I'm here and having fun".

Thank You Volunteers



by Bob Bickford

Here are the club members that helped to make Convention 2005 such a success. Anywhere from an hour shift to a four-hour shift; From one day to all four days. They pitched in where needed. It ended up almost 400 hours of volunteer work over the four days. And the best part is, they had a good time doing it. My hats off to these 82 "Official Volunteers," and we'll see you in 2006. The volunteers listed below will receive a club paid pre-registration for the 2006 convention.

Steve Bedo
Joanna Berube
Brenda Black
Mark Cotton
Paul Donohue
J.J. Engel
Casey Focazio-Follis
Barry Hauptman
Barb Jones
Fred Lamb
Myrna Lighterman
John Matusch
Tom Miller
Patty Moulder
Roy Nelson
Howard Pryor
Sean Quinlivan
Marc Shipiro
Ralph Strandwold
Harriet Vandervliet
Cindy Zoesch

Paul Bender
John Berube
Julie Brown
Charles Davis
Marion Engel
Ken Faris
Jim Funk
Geri Hempel
Charles Kaplan
Robin Lange
Gail Liscio
Ron May
Theresa Moore
Tyrus Mulkey
Brian Okiec
Peter Quilla
Jim Sarra
Sunday Silverman
Chris Smith
Kerry Waite
John Zoesch

Fred Bergman
Ed Bigley
Brian Cashman
Carol Davis
Lynn Englebretson
Patrick Fleming
Dennis Garnier
Mike Heron
Michael Knapp
Dan Lewis
Tammy Lynch
Ann McCurdy
Rich Moore
Ralph Myers
Aaron Peacock
Corni Quinlivan
Phyllis Schneider
Dennis Shoop
Sheldon Smith
Ron Welden

Henry Bernard
Archie Black
Alex Cilento
George Dmitrevsky
Mark Englebretson
Jim Follis
Theresa Garnier
Tom Hitselberger
Gary Kuehl
Mark Lighterman
Darrell Lynch
Al McCurdy
David Moore
Rhona Myers
Ross Poppel
Sarah Quinlivan
Jim Selig
Nancy Shoop
Tony Tricoli
Steve Wilson

Exhibitor Award

by Joe Shaw
Exhibits Chairman

I would like to start off by thanking all the Exhibitors that took the time, trouble, cost and effort in putting up an Exhibit at the 2005 Annual Convention at the Riviera.

There were a total of 16 outstanding Exhibits this year, which included chips, silver strikes, casino badges, money clips, ashtrays, postcards along with other casino memorabilia.

Congratulations again goes out to Jerry Birl, who garnished the most votes with his 1st Place Exhibit titled "A Study of the Slot Machine Tokens & Gaming Vouchers used in Atlantic City Casinos from 1978 - 2003". This was a repeat 1st Place performance for Jerry as he also garnished the most votes in the 2004 Convention for his "Collecting United States Casino Roulette Gaming Chips".

Tied for 2nd Place was Mike Quinlivan with his "The Flamingo Capri Revisited" Exhibit and Lynnetta Englebretson with her "Small Town Nevada Casinos & Their Ashtrays".

For those of you who could not make it to this year's Convention, here is an alphabetical list of the other Exhibitors along with the title of their Exhibits.

Mike Christensen
"Casino Security Badges - 1st Editions to Modern"

Don Durnin
"Early Strip"

Jack Hadock
"Casino Collectible Cousins - Chips & Silver Strikes"

Mike Heron, Chuck Smorse,
Joe Pavlik
"Personal Chips"

Larry Hollibaugh
"Reno Area Collector Chips"

Charles Kaplan
"Vegas Dollars"

Ralph Myers
"Paperweights of Nevada"
Armin Pfaender
"Gardena Chips"

David Spragg
"The Carl Osborne Counterfeit Chips"

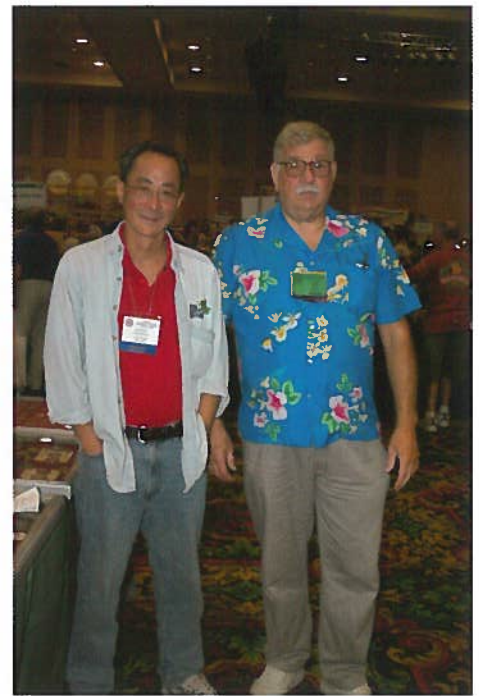
Kitty Stoops
"A Selection of Casino Money Clips"

Tom Stroh
"Timeline"

Steve Swanson
"Highlights of the Platinum Collection"



One of the many cases that made up the winning display



Joe Shaw and Jerry Birl

A special thank you to Don Durnin who donated his Exhibit to the Club. Don had early Las Vegas postcards blown up to poster size which he exhibited and then donated them to the Club at the conclusion of the Convention.

Thanks also goes out to Jim Follis for his help this year again in exhibiting all of the OTY award winners.

If you are planning on being at next year's annual Convention, why not plan on getting involved by having an Exhibit of your own. Cost is free and the best part is that you can enter the Convention floor prior to the official opening.

For more information on setting up an Exhibit at the 2006 Convention, please send me an email. Its never too early to start planning.

See you next year.

Joe Shaw
2005 Exhibits Chairman
shinyhats@hotmail.com

2004 OTY Awards Here are the Winners!

by Jim Follis
OTY Awards Chairman

For me, the highlight of the OTY Awards competition is the Pre-Convention Early-Bird Banquet. This is where the winners are formally announced and it marks the near culmination of all the responsibilities entrusted to the OTY Awards Chairman and Assistant for the roughly 18 month process of each year's contest. And although we had two extra months this time around (for the 2004 contest) it only means that we will have two less months for the 2005 competition. This is a function of the contest running from January 1st of a given year and finishing during the Convention of the following year. I bring this to everybody's attention because not only does this issue of the Club magazine include this article on the 2004 winners, but there is also an insert for submitting potential candidates for OTY consideration for the 2005 competition!

That's right, just as some of you are finding out who the winners are for 2004, I am also announcing kick-off of the 2005 contest. Because the 2006 Convention will be in June, we should not have this compression next year. And now, on to the winners and some special news regarding the Permanent Collection.

Submitted in Nomination for the Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY) Award:

Trump Plaza
Card Sharks (card)



Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. OTY Awards recipients, August 6, 2005 at the Awards Banquet at the Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. (from L – R) Mr. Bart Pestrichello (COTY, Hard Rock, Las Vegas), Mr. Warwick Stone (accepting COTY for GPI), Mr. Sean Sarr (SSOTY, Global Minting), Mr. Gary Bridges (SSOTY, IGT), Mr. Jordan Salmon (SSOTY, ti (Treasure Island)), Mr. Mark Frietag (CC>CC Member accepting the TOTY for Gold Diggers, Cripple Creek, CO), Mrs. Brenda Black (CC>CC Member accepting the CKOTY for Innovative Plastics), Mr. Archie Blank (CC>CC Founder and Past President accepting the CKOTY for the Trump Plaza, Atlantic City, NJ), Mr. Greg Susong (CC>CC Member accepting the TOTY for Osborne Coinage), Mr. James (Jim) Follis, OTY Awards Chairman and Casey Focazio-Follis, Assistant OTY Awards Chairman

Palms
Korbel New Year (key)

MGM Grand
Pink Panther (key)

Palms
Coors Light Racing (key)

Palms
Jimmy's Naughty Nighty Nites III (key)

MGM Grand
VH1 Divas (key)

MGM Grand
MAXXIS U. S. Open (key)

Rio
VooDoo café & lounge (key)

Golden Phoenix
The TOP (key)

Submitted in Nomination for the
Token of the Year (TOTY) Award:

Caesars Palace
\$1 Celine Dion
(Celine with blowing hair)

Bronco Billy's
\$1 Birthday (2004)

Las Vegas Club
\$1 Barrick Logo

Caesars Palace
\$1 Celine Dion (autograph version)

Gold Diggers
 \$1 Gold Panner
 Eldorado
 \$1 ABC Bowling
 Gold Creek
 \$1 Mountain Peak
 Silver Legacy
 \$1 ABC Bowling
 Gold Spike
 \$1 Barrick Logo
 (9 Nominees only)

Submitted in Nomination for the Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY) Award:

Four Queens
 \$200 Christmas
 Palms
 \$10 CC>CC
 ti (Treasure Island)
 \$10 Siren
 Four Queens
 \$10 Bats
 El Cortez
 \$200 New World
 Palms
 \$200 Funny Cide
 El Cortez
 \$40 Spanish Galleon
 Palms
 \$10 Santa Claus
 Las Vegas Club
 \$40 Silver Strike Machine
 ti (Treasure Island)
 \$200 Siren

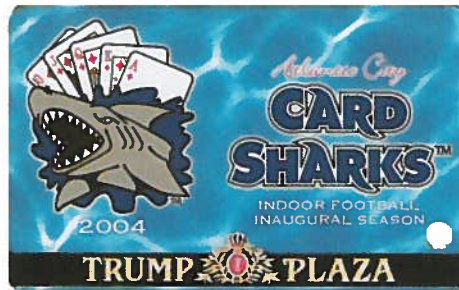
Submitted in Nomination for the Chip of the Year (COTY) Award:

Rio
 \$5 Thanksgiving (female Indian)
 Riviera
 \$5 Halloween
 Palms
 \$3 Poker Room
 Riviera
 \$5 Leap Year

Palms
 \$5 "3 Lucky Years"
 Trump Plaza
 \$25 Halloween
 Hard Rock
 \$5 Friday the 13th
 Golden Nugget
 \$5 River Run
 Palms
 \$25 Hart and Huntington Tattoo

And the winners are....

CKOTY – Trump Plaza
 "Card Sharks"
 Manufactured by: Innovative Plastics



SSOTY – ti (Treasure Island)
 \$200 Siren
 Minted by Global Minting
 IGT (Silver Strike Program)



John Stetz, Jr. receives the CKOTY award from Archie Black



Mr. Jordan Salmon, Treasure Island, donates the silver strike to the club.



Mr. Sean Sarr accepting the SSOTY award for Global Minting



Mr. Gary Bridges, IGT, accepting the SSOTY award for the silver strike program

TOTY

Gold Diggers \$1
Minted by Osborne Coin



COTY – Hard Rock
\$5 Friday the 13th
Manufactured by Gaming Partners International



Congratulations to the winners!
We also want to thank those that assisted us in our efforts to present the Nominees in the Judge's Pamphlet and also the display of Nominees at the Convention. Specifically, we thank Dick Staeffler, Ralph Myers, Archie Black, Roy

Baldwin, Gene Trimble, Kitty Stoops, Robert Reno, Marc Shapiro, Victor Salnick, Michael Downey, Debby Meister, Barry "H" Hauptman and all of the Club members who took the time to nominate and then voted in the 2004 OTY Awards Contest!



Mr. Bart Pestrichello accepting the COTY award for the Hard Rock and Mr. Warwick Stone accepting the award for Gaming Partners International.

We also make special note of the Award recipients that were kind enough to receive their Awards, in-person at the Pre-Convention Early Bird Banquet. With our sincere appreciation, we thank:

Mr. Bart Pestrichello and Mr. Warwick Stone in accepting the COTY Awards for the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and GPI.

Mr. Jordan Salmon, Mr. Gary Bridges and Mr. Sean Sarr, respectively accepting the SSOTY Awards for ti (Treasure Island), IGT and Global Minting.

We also thank Archie and Brenda Black for accepting the CKOTY Awards for the Trump Plaza and Innovative Plastics, and Mr. Mark Frietag and Mr. Greg Susong for accepting the TOTY Awards for Gold Diggers and Osborne Coin.

We also want to thank those who have donated to the Club's Permanent Collection, each of the four 2004 OTY winners. This means that the Permanent Collection remains complete and holds an example of all past and current OTY chips, tokens, strikes and card/key honorees.

The ti (Treasure Island) \$200 SSOTY has been donated to the Club by the ti (Treasure Island) Hotel and Casino, as arranged by Mr. Jordan Salmon of the Treasure Island.

The Gold Diggers \$1 TOTY has been donated to the Club by Mr. Richard "Wishing You Enough" Staeffler.

The Trump Plaza "Card Sharks" CKOTY (slot card) has been donated by the Trump Plaza, as arranged by Mr. Joe Gontowski of the Trump Plaza.

The Hard Rock "Friday the 13th" COTY has been donated by Mr. Kevin Aydelott

Well, that about sums it up. This is the final element for the 2004 competition and its now time for the 2005 candidate recommendation process. Please use the provided insert to make recommendations of up to five candidates in each of the four OTY categories. Be sure to confine your recommendations to items released in calendar year 2005 only. Casey and myself thank you for your readership and very much look forward to receiving your recommendations. If you have any questions or suggestions about the OTY Awards process, please feel free to contact us at the address provided on the insert, or via email at: OTY@CCGTCC.com.

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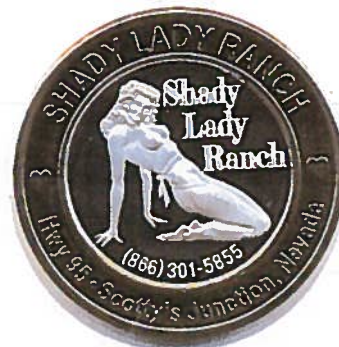
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Blackjack and Poker Tournaments

by Robert Pardue
Blackjack and Poker Tournaments Director



Terri Abshire - Palms Blackjack tournament director, Robert Pardue - Club Tournament Organizer, Gene Trimble - Palms Poker Room Manager, and Peter Ricardi, blackjack tournament winner.



Gene Trimble - Palms Poker Room Manager, David Spragg, Robert Thompson II - Palms Poker Tournament Director, Bobby Griffith - Palms Celebrity Poker Showdown Dealer, Sharon Fann - Palms Celebrity Poker Showdown Dealer, Sandi Wilson - Palms Poker Tournament Supervisor Robert Pardue - Club Tournament Organizer and Jeff Wilcox, poker tournament winner

The Palms Casino Resort hosted the CC>CC 2005 Convention's Blackjack and Poker Tournaments again this year. Beginning on Wednesday afternoon, August 3, the Third Annual Blackjack tournament was contested by 91 entrants in this kick-off tournament at the Palms. The field of entrants is narrowed to two players per table from the three pre-

liminary rounds, then one player per table from the semi-final round of play. The following six players won a seat for the final round of play: Peter Ricardi, Peter Nathan, Bart Hagensick, Mark Freitag, Tony Kreusch and James Douglass. With a prize pool of \$4095 at stake, the finalists decided unanimously to split the money and play for the 1st prize

award of framed tournament chips. First place went to Peter Ricardi, and each finalist received \$665 in winnings.

The next evening, a record 189 players returned to the Palms for the Seventh Annual Poker Tournament as part of the CC>CC 2005 Convention. In addition to the all the professional Palms staff and dealers,



the tournament was directed by Robert Thompson. (If you've watched Celebrity Poker on Bravo Channel, filmed at the Palms, Robert Thompson directs those tournaments and begins each contest with "Shuffle up and deal!") Starting with 19 tables, players vied for one of the 18 final seats in this contest of limit hold'em. After several hours of hard fought play and table consolidations, two tables remained. With a prize pool of \$8505 at stake, the 10th through 18th places would receive 1% or \$85 each.

The following members finished in 18th to 10th place: Mike Pasternack, Jason Santos, Bill O'Day, Jim Best, Arnie Hollander, Ken Francis, Doug Jones, Mike Robison and Marty Beckers. Then 9th place (\$128) went to Dennis Shoop, 8th place (\$170) went to Russ Diaz, and 7th place (\$213) went to George Payne. The final six players elected to chop the remaining prize pool, then play for final standings. With each of the final six receiving \$1150, the order of finish was: 6th place – Todd Barrett, 5th

place – Glenn Grush, 4th place – Brian Watts, 3rd place – Greg Galloway, 2nd place – Rich Moore and 1st place – Jeff Willcox. In addition, Jeff Willcox won the framed set of tournament chips and keeps the "traveling trophy" until next year.

A special thanks goes to Gene Trimble and the Palms, to club member Brian Watts, designer of the 2-sided set of tournament chips, and to Chris Colangelo (Tiny Treasures) for the framed sets of chips.

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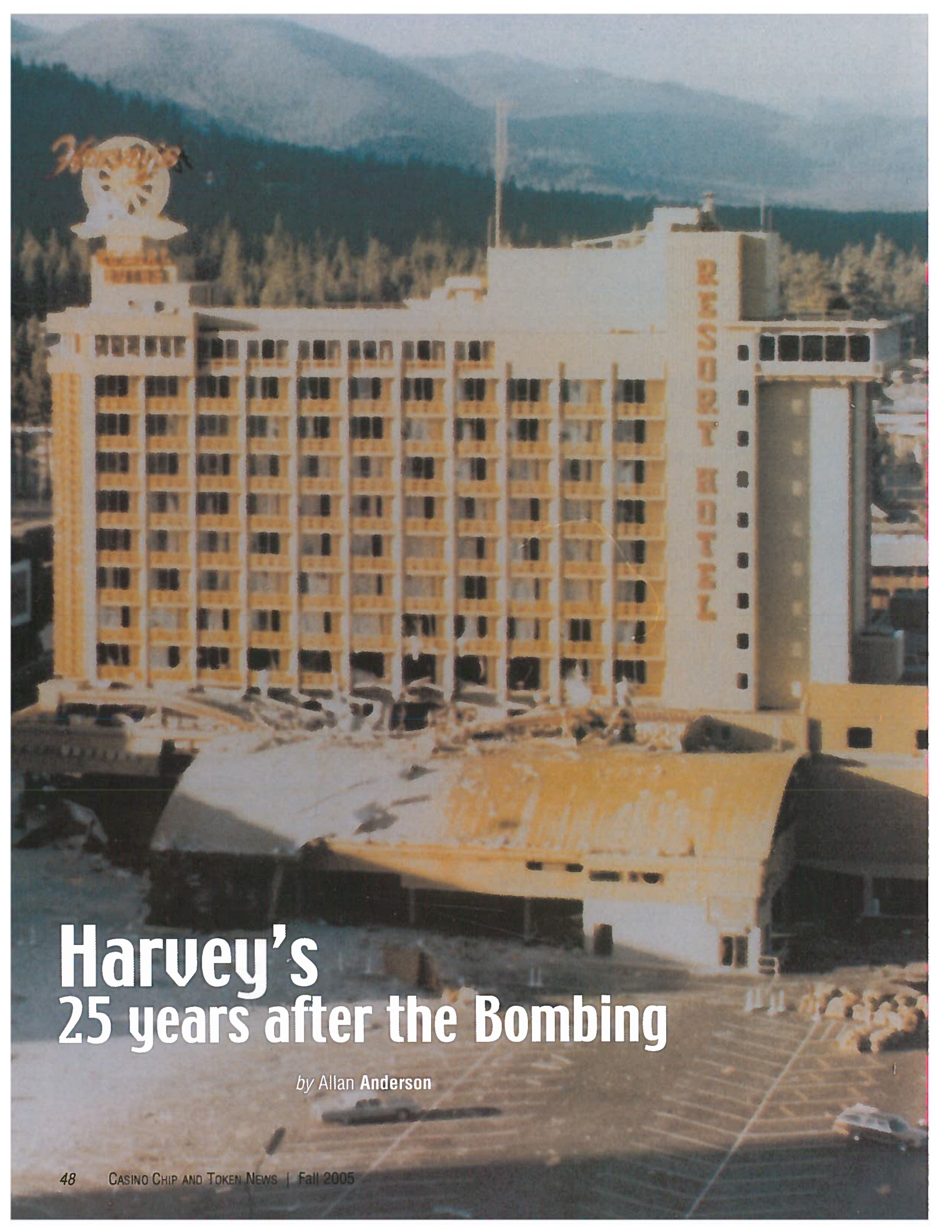
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Harvey's 25 years after the Bombing

by Allan Anderson

25 years ago, a bomb containing 600 lbs of dynamite exploded at Harvey's Hotel Casino in South Lake Tahoe. The bomb shattered windows in the hotel and blew a hole in the side of the building 5 floors high. Sheriffs' deputies evacuated hotel guests and sealed off the area around the hotel. No one was injured or died in the explosion.

John Birges was a Hungarian freedom fighter who spent 8 years in a Russian prison camp before coming to America in 1957. He became a successful landscaper and restaurant owner in Clovis California and was a high roller at Harveys'. Over the years John lost around \$750,000 at the casino playing blackjack.

Enlisting the help of his 2 sons John, Jr. and Jimmy, friends Willis Brown and Terry Hall and longtime girlfriend Joan Williams, John Birges set his plan in motion. His goal was to extort \$3 million in \$100 dollar bills from Harvey Gross, owner of Harvey's Hotel/Casino, by planting a bomb inside the hotel.

In the early morning hours of August 26, 1980, Willis Brown and Terry Hall delivered the bomb, disguised as IBM equipment, into a side entrance at Harvey's. They left the bomb in a room next to the PBX room. After carefully leveling the bomb on wood blocks and raising the wheels of the cart, they left the hotel, got into a white van driven by John Birges and drove away.

The bomb was made up of two boxes. The bottom box was about 4 feet in length, the top box was a lot smaller with 23 switches on it. All the switches were flipped in the same direction except the last one. Next to the bomb, employees found a letter.

When Sgt. Stanley Pope from Douglas County Sheriff's Office

arrived on the scene, he was handed the 3 page letter that was found with the bomb. It read:

"Stern warning to the management and bomb squad."

"Do not move or tilt this bomb, because the mechanism controlling the detonators in it will set it off at a movement of less than .01 of the open end of the Richter scale. Don't try to flood or gas the bomb. Do not try to take it apart. In other words, this bomb is so sensitive that the slightest movement either inside or outside will cause it to explode."

"This bomb can never be dismantled or disarmed without causing an explosion. Not even by the creator. Only by proper instruction can it be moved to a safe place where it can be deliberately exploded. Only if you comply with the instructions will you learn how to move the bomb to a place where it can be exploded safely."

Other parts of the letter claimed there was enough TNT to damage Harrah's across the street, the device had a float switch and an atmospheric switch set at 26.00 to 33.0 and that there were 3 automatic timers each set to explode at three different times. The letter also mentioned authorities should evacuate an area to 400 yards, or about a quarter of a mile. There was also a deadline to deliver the \$3 million within 24 hours.

Authorities set out to try to understand what they had on their hands. They tried to "listen" to the bomb with sensitive listening devices but didn't hear a thing. They set up X-ray equipment and took pictures of both boxes. They couldn't make out anything in the bottom box. The top box revealed circuit boards, switches, a float switch, wires, and possible blasting caps. What were also discov-

ered were wires running from the screws on the device that would trigger the bomb if the screws were turned. Trembler switches would set off the device if the box were moved, even a little bit.

After John Birges got back to Fresno, he called his son Jimmy and told him that the bomb was inside. Jimmy was told to get his brother and meet him later that afternoon. Both sons were in shock. They didn't believe that their father actually went through with the plan. They had refused to help him place the bomb inside the casino, thinking that their refusal to help would get him to change his mind. They thought he was joking. They had helped him steal the dynamite from a hydroelectric project at Silver Lake and Jimmy helped store the dynamite, dry it out and help Joan Williams pack it in the box. Jimmy and John Jr. even helped practice loading the bomb in the white van. But that was it. They had had enough.

John Birges now wanted his sons to help him with retrieving the extortion money. He did not trust Willis Brown and Terry Hall.

John Jr. and Jimmy headed towards Tahoe in their fathers Volvo. They had bags for the money, guns and two strobe lights.

The money was to be delivered by helicopter, the pilot was to wait for instructions at Lake Tahoe airport. The instruction would come 10 minutes after midnight by a phone call at a public phone booth. Before taking off, the pilot was instructed to shine a strong light into the cockpit giving the impression he was being watched.

On delivering the money the letter stated:

"The designer of the bomb will not participate in the exchange, so it will

be completely useless to apprehend any person making the exchange because they will not know how the bomb works. They perform their duty for a reward.”

“And again, if you don’t want to be stuck with a thousand pounds of TNT, do not allow any investigation by local agencies, FBI or any other investigative agency before the bomb is removed.”

“If the money is received without any problems, six sets of instructions regarding the removal of the bomb will be given to you at different times.” The pilot will receive the first set of instructions. You may receive the remaining five sets of instructions one by one via the Kingsbury Post Office by general delivery.”

“There will be no extension or renegotiation,”

The money was to be delivered in \$100 dollar bills, unmarked or chemically treated in any way. What the money would buy is a way to safely move the bomb. It was going to explode, either in the casino or elsewhere.

The trip to Tahoe included John Birges and Joan in her Toyota, followed by the sons in the Volvo. At Placerville John told Joan to take the Toyota to the Cameron Park airport and wait for him. He would be arriving by helicopter. John Birges and his two sons drove up highway 50 to Ice House Road at Echo Summit where he and Jimmy got out of the car with the strobes and guns. John Jr. was to drive to Carson Pass on highway 88 later that night and wait. The plan was to fire up the strobe when the helicopter landed, order the pilot out and take off with the \$3 million. Jimmy would be dropped off at Carson Pass and John Birges would fly to Cameron Park, leave the heli-



Harvey's in the 1980's

copter and drive with Joan to Clovis. All was going smoothly until they discovered they had forgotten the battery for the strobes. John Birges and his 2 sons drove all the way to Placerville to find a store open so they could buy one. After buying the battery they headed back to Ice House Road. John Jr. called the airport from a restaurant to give the pilot his instructions and headed to Carson Pass.

While John Birges was finalizing his plans, FBI agents were going over the extortion letter with Harvey Gross at The Sahara Hotel next door. There were 2 choices: pay the \$3 million or make up a phony package that resembled the \$3 million. The phony package only contained \$1,000 but had the same feel and weight as \$3 million. Harvey Gross said to make the phony package.

The FBI then had one of their own pilots, Joe Cook, fly up from Los Angeles. Joe landed at Heavenly Valley Ski Resort where his helicopter was loaded with the phony \$3 million. He was told to fly to Lake Tahoe airport, go to the public pay phone and wait for instructions. The FBI hid a second agent behind the pilots seat whose job was to protect the pilot.

The phone rang, a voice told him there were instructions under the metal shelf. He had 3 minutes to get airborne but first he had to shine a light in the cockpit.

“Follow Highway 50 to the west on the right-hand side in a straight line,” Don’t go over 500 feet above the elevation of the terrain.”

“Approximately 15 miles west of the airport, start looking for a strobe light on your right. You have four minutes to land after the strobe turns on. Approximately 200 feet south will be an envelope with further instructions nailed on a tree six feet off the ground. Follow the new instructions as strictly as you did the first.”

Cook took off and followed highway 50 for 15 miles and started looking for a strobe light. FBI agents were in cars below him and an airplane was circling above him. After some time, he started running low on fuel and had to head back to the airport. He never saw the beacon. His instructions were to follow highway 50 for 15 miles. What the instructions had actually said was to follow highway 50 for 15 miles in a straight line. He had followed the winding highway 50



Harvey's today.

and was short by a few miles where John Birges was waiting.

As the sun came up, John Birges and his son Jimmy started walking away from their clearing. They had not heard the helicopter. As they were walking they saw John Jr. driving the now damaged Volvo towards them with Joan in the passenger seat. John Jr. had left Carson Pass when John Birges and Jimmy didn't show up and hit a deer along the way. Joan had left Cameron Park airport when John Birges didn't show up and she headed back following John Jr. Following the speeding John Jr. back, she lost control of her Toyota and smashed into the mountain, totaling her car and breaking her nose. They took Joan to a hospital in Placerville then headed back home.

After the failed extortion, authorities called a press conference requesting the extortionist get back in touch with them.

Joan heard the radio broadcast while driving back and John Birges called the Sheriff and told him to throw switch number 5 and wait for further instructions. Switch 5 was a dummy switch.

While all this was going on, bomb squad experts were trying to find a way to disarm the bomb. The call came in to flip switch number 5. The bomb squad was not sure if this was a good idea. Were the extortionist upset about the botched payoff. Would this set off the bomb?

The bomb squad consulted with many private and government agencies to try to find a way to disable the bomb. They were at hour 30 and they felt they were running out of time. They confronted Harvey Gross with their decision to try to dismantle the bomb. Harrah's and The Sahara were evacuated along with parts of Caesars Tahoe. If there were a blast there would be very little notice. Highway 50 was closed and cars were stopped at Kingsbury grade from entering Tahoe.

Bomb experts used C4 to create a linear shape charge. The plan was to sever the top box of the bomb from the bottom before any electrical charge could get through.

At approximately 3:45 the device was detonated.

The bomb detonated and tore a

huge hole in the side of Harvey's. The bomb experts failed to disable the device.

John Birges had stuck some left-over dynamite among the triggering devices in the top box. The plan was to wipe out any fingerprints that might be there. When the charge hit the explosives, they triggered the trembler switches, which detonated the dynamite in the bottom box.

Bomb squad experts had opened some doors, closed others and torn down walls to channel the explosion outward not upward to minimize the damage. They were successful.

The FBI now set out to find out who the bombers were. The investigation at Harvey's lasted 27 days, the FBI pursued hundreds of leads and the list of suspects ran into the hundreds. Months went by.

Then it all began to take shape. The night the bomb was delivered to Harvey's, Terry Hall had registered at a local motel. He did not write down the license plate number of the van on the registration form. The motel owners wrote the number down anyway as he drove off. When they heard the FBI was looking for a white van, they called.

The van was traced to John Birges Jr. who the FBI interviewed. The FBI ruled him out as a suspect.

A reward of \$200,000 was now raised to \$500,000. A tip came in telling the FBI to look at John Birges. The FBI interviewed him, discovered he had lost thousands at Harvey's gambling, and had the experience to make such a bomb.

The FBI began full time surveillance of John Birges and his two sons. The agents tried to get the sons to confess. Jimmy tried to get his

father to confess and then get him to flee the country.

John Jr. was brought in front of the grand jury to explain why his van was in Tahoe the night of August 26. He told a series of lies but the FBI had proof otherwise and he was charged with perjury and jailed. John Jr. then confessed.

A year after the blast, John Birges, Joan Williams, Terry Hall and Willis Brown were arrested and charged with extortion and conspiracy.

John Birges went on trial in Las Vegas in 1982. His defense was that he built the bomb for loansharks working for Harvey Gross. He was ordered to blow up the casino when he couldn't repay his gambling debts. Harvey Gross needed the insurance money to pay for his new high rise. A very strange story with strange characters. John Birges insisted he never meant to pick up the \$3 million.

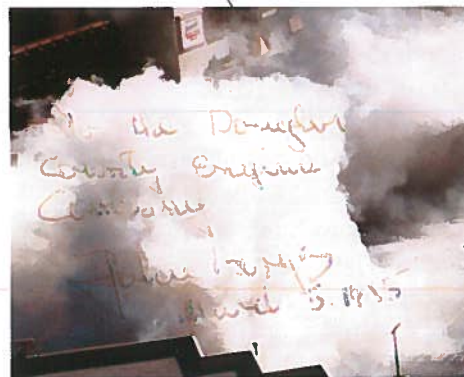
John Birges' sons testified against him. It took the jury of 6 men and 6 women 10 hours to convict him and he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Joan Williams got 27 months, Willis Brown and Terry Hall got 7 years each. Jimmy and John Jr. were set free.

Had the bomb exploded while the hotel and casino were occupied, former Douglas County Sheriff Jerry Maple is quoted as saying, "Whoever didn't die in the explosion would have died in a towering inferno,"

John Birges died of liver cancer in prison 1996, Harvey Gross died in 1983 at the age of 78, a year after the reconstruction of his hotel/casino. In 2001 Harrah's acquired Harvey's for \$625 million and today, the name Harveys, no longer has an apostrophe.



A photo of the explosion is signed by John Burges for the Douglas County Fire Department. It reads "To the Douglas County Engine Company, 1985."



Circumstances certainly enhanced the anxiety and the frustration that everyone shared when the threat could not be resolved and ultimately the bomb was detonated. One of the things that it did do was illustrate the character of Harvey Gross, who, on the day of the blast lamented "my poor employees - what can we do". Harvey Gross and Harvey's both survived to continue to grow and prosper and prove that they were up to the task of surviving the challenge."

Howard Herz, a close friend of Harvey Gross states "When I look back at the bombing of Harvey's I think about the feelings of fear, despair, anger and confusion that the incident created. I know that the event effected Harvey deeply. After years of hard work building a business, decades of helping the small community at Lake Tahoe and just trying to survive in a seasonal economy, the first question the bombing raised was "why". It was an act of perpetrated violence by an unknown individual at the time it occurred.

The author would like to thank The Nevada Historical Society in Reno, Nevada, and Howard Herz, Gaming Archaeology for their assistance.

References:
Nevada Appeal News Service
Tahoe Daily Tribune
Las Vegas Review Journal
Reno Gazette Journal

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I Was Just Horsing Around

by Pam Holmgren

I wanted to be able to write an article to tell how I got started into horse chip collecting, but then I found that it was more than that. I'm more known to all my fellow chip-pers as sportiepam. Why that name? Well, I love sports, all sports. I grew up around sports, as my dad was a PE teacher. I even played golf with the great Arnold Palmer. But what does this have to do with chip collecting? I will be getting to that.

Well, horse racing is a sport. The greatest sport ever. The Sport of Kings as they say. I lived and grew up near Arlington Park Race Track, Arlington Hts, IL. My dad worked at the track during the summers, in the old jockeys club as a lifeguard, before the fire. My dad and I went to the track allot. I got to love horse racing and got to be very good at handicapping. The bad part was gambling was in my blood. How would I know 40 years later, I would know more about race tracks and casinos then ever.

I'm currently retired, after 37 years from United Airlines, where I had the greatest opportunities to go everywhere. So where was my favorite place. LAS VEGAS. I fell in love with it. The first time I went, I was not of age. I had more fun trying to gamble at the crap table and getting away with it. I admit I was kicked out a few times, but that did not stop me. I learned the game early. I think craps and horse racing have allot in common. They both are very

exciting and can really get that adrenal pumping. Just like sports do.

When I became 21 it became a sin. WOW I can come here anytime I want, and I did. 5, 6 and maybe 10 times a year. Now this was before the days that casinos were not everywhere. My favorite place to stay and play was the Hacienda . This is a nice collection that I worked on so I could get it framed. It also became my luckiest place and became my last stop before heading to the airport, or if I drove from LA. . My mom and dad loved it there too. They eventually came here more then me. This is where it all got started. I could never figure out why in the world would my mom bring home a casino chip worth \$5.00 (allot of money to me at that time) and not cash it in. I thought she was nuts. Anyway, she did it and so did my dad. They went everywhere and collected a chip here and there. A few years ago, before I lost my dad, he gave me all their chips. He said, "Pam, you will know what to do with those chips some day". So I took them and they were carefully stored away.

After I retired, I finally had time to look at all I had collected from my years of traveling. I knew I had those chips, but I did not have a clue what to do with them. One day, in early 2004, I started to search the web to see if I could find out anything about chips. The first hit ironically was a gentlemen's website owned by Jeff Buckner. I read all about chip collect-

ing and what he collected. Low and behold there were horse chips!! My eyes lit up and I kept looking through his collection and decided to e-mail him. He was the nicest person and we both had 2 things in common, we loved horse racing and horse chips. I asked him what is a good way of selling some of my parent's chips? He said, "Sell them, you need to keep them!"

Where does one start and how do I get some of those horse chips? He said, "You need to join the CC>CC, a great group of people and collectors and learn about chip collecting". So I went to their website, www.ccgcc.com and joined. I didn't think twice. I wanted to know how to get some of those horse chips. That was the only thing on my mind.

Within a week or so I got e-mailed from Greg Susong, welcoming me to this great chip guide room www.chipguide.com and in the mail a members card. Here again was another great collector who directed me and helped me though all my questions and problems.

Once I joined, it was liked the racetrack and crap table, addictive and exciting all at the same time. I was after those horse chips!!!! I never knew so many people collected chips and all sorts of casino stuff. Boy, if I only knew. I know we've all said this same phrase.

My mom was the collector and

smart one. Jeff was right. I did not sell all the chips I started to learn about the world of chip collecting. It took me awhile to get use to the lingo and what a good chip was versus a bad chip. I'm still learning. I was still looking out for those horse chips.

The next nice person I met online was Andy Hughes and learned about his website. There were my first horse chips. Wow I finally found these chips that Jeff was talking about. Seattle Slew and Secretariat. I have a whole equine art collection of both of them. Now I have some chips of them. Now mind you, I did not buy all the horse chips, only the ones he had.



My next big step was how to I find more chips. Well, that's when the chipboard told me about E-Bay. I knew about it and was a bit fearful at first, but I wanted chips and boy or boy did I find chips.

This is when another great collector came to my aide and his name was Terri Schaffer. I was out there bidding on a chip that was way over priced and he nicely stepped in and told me that he was not selling the chip properly. Terri was great as he watched over me as a mentor and I owe him big thanks.

After this happened many people stepped in and said you need a TCR book. A What??? Actually my first book was the "US Official Casino Chip Guide". Along came another nice person who said, "Send me your address and I will send you an older version of the TCR I have. His name was Sheldon Smith. When I got it, it was like Greek to me. I've learned to read it now. What a nice guy.

Ok, here I am 16 months later, with a grand total of 134 different horse chips These are many of my favorite chips I have collected. I also



had to figure out a way of displaying them. I ran across a nice cabinet to display as many as I could, the rest are in binders.

There are so many nice people out there I don't go looking for the horse chips and/or tokens too, they happen to find me. Since I love the horses and the racetracks I also have many race cards. I did not know how much a collectible they were too. They are part of my horse collection too.



If anyone wants to see my entire collection it can be found on the website below, that was kindly built by another collector Brian Watts.

www.collectionlibrary.com/sportiepam



Brian made it possible for not just me, but also others to show off their collections of chips and traders.

This last horse chip I saved for the end. I knew Debby Meister did chip designs. So I asked her if she would do a personal chip for me. She stepped right in and didn't think twice and asked nothing for her time except of few of my chips. We worked back and forth and she was very patient and knew what I wanted. I thanked her for the help in designing and working with CHIPCO on this great personal chip.



What can I say about so many wonderful people I've conversed with over the year and a half? I cannot name them all, but you know who you are. I'm now just a collector of horse chips and over 1200 \$1.00 chips from all over. It took me this long to decide what I wanted to collect, in order to afford my horse chips. Unfortunately there comes a time when you have to make a decision on what you want to collect and how much can you afford, because like anything else it can get quite expensive. I wanted to most of all have fun.

Well, now you know. So when you find the time, take a look at what I've collected in such a short period of time thanks to my parents. This is in Memory of my mom who recently passed away. Thanks mom, for all you did in getting me started in such a great hobby. I will miss you, but your memories are always there.

See you all at the next convention, I promise.

Carey Burke Appointed CC>CC Historian

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Carey Burke of Las Vegas has been appointed to the position of Historian. Carey is a long time Club member, a Life Member and will bring his unique understanding of Club History to the position.

In addition, Carey will be responsible for collecting, cataloging and storing (in one location for the first time) the items the Club already possesses that are stored in different parts of the country. He will assist with acquiring future donations of items to the Club and/or the Building Fund, help with the determination of which items would need to be preserved for future display or auctioned off, with the proceeds going to the Building Fund.

We are very excited that Carey has agreed to donate his time and talents to a position that will simultaneously help us preserve our past and assist us in building for the future!

Mike Skeleton

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Little Caesar's

by Tyrus Mulkey



I'm sure every chipper has that one chip or collectible that they are in search of that could be considered the absolute and ultimate prize in the quest for a complete collection.

I know I've had one for just over four years. In June of 2001, I decided to collect everything that I could from the defunct Little Caesar's casino that was located in a small strip mall where Paris Las Vegas now stands. Little Caesar's was my first dealing job when I moved to Las Vegas in 1987. At the CC & GTCC convention that year, I traded for the three sports book chips. I remember walking (okay, bouncing) away from Bill Akeman's table with the three chips in my hand all proud of myself because I now had all of the chips known from Little Caesar's.

As I got out my TCR and my highlighter to mark off the last three chips, my jaw hit the floor when I noticed that there was a \$5 hot stamped chip listed. How did I miss that? I never knew there was a \$5 hot stamp from Little Caesar's!

I immediately went back to Bill's table and inquired about it. He said that the listing was a mistake because the chip didn't exist. I asked several other prominent dealers and I was

told the same thing - no such chip existed. I went to Allan Myers' table and asked him. He said that he was sure the chip existed but that he would have to check his records back home to verify any details.

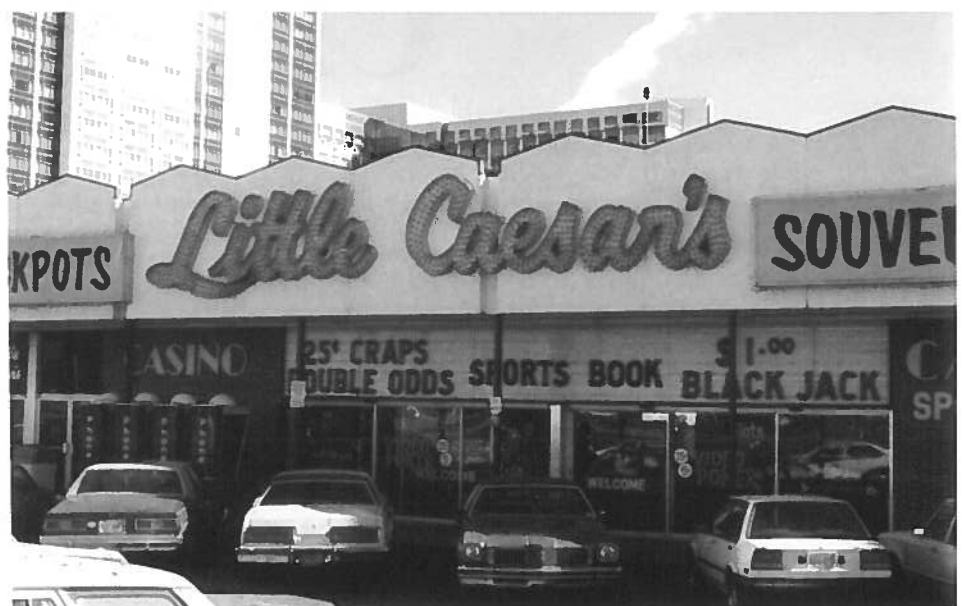
I emailed Allan a few weeks later and he replied that not only was the chip listed in the C&W Price Guide, but that there was a picture of it!! I immediately got a copy of the book and opened it up. There it was - a Little Caesar's \$5 hot stamp in full color!! Rage swept through my veins as my blood boiled!!! I would actually have to wait an entire year until the next convention to get the chip!

The following year I hit every single dealer table on the bourse floor asking about the chip. Not only was I on the hunt, but several of my chipping buddies were also making inquiries. I kept hearing remarks from the dealers that several people were looking for the same chip!! It

seemed that every time I got a lead, it turned out to be the inlay chip. One dealer told me he had one back home and would sell it to me. I followed up several weeks later to discover that he didn't have it after all. My heart was broken.

Every chip show I attended after that seemed like Groundhog Day. I asked as many people as possible if they had the chip and I kept hearing, "No!" As time went by, the value in both Nevada price guides continued to climb. I had about come to the conclusion that I would never own the chip.

Alas, a few weeks ago I received an email with the results of my daily search on ebay for "Little Caesar". There it was! A \$5 hot stamp!! With an opening bid of \$15.99!!! My heart raced, my palms sweated, and my, well, uh, let's just say I couldn't stand up. The only problem was that it was a seven day auction. How was I going to go without sleep for seven days?!?!?! After a grueling week of watching the auction, I sat by my computer, with two hours to spare, watching the countdown clock. Finally, in the last minute, I put in my bid of a ridiculous amount of money knowing that no one in their right



mind would pay that much for that chip and I nervously refreshed the page until the clock stopped and I was declared the winner!!! Luckily, the underbidder didn't push me into bankruptcy and I got the chip for a very reasonable price. An eerie silence and calm set in shortly after I danced around my office screaming. How could this be, I thought. It can't be that easy? What's going to happen next? A lost package in the mail? The seller backing out, perhaps? Something MUST go wrong here!!!

A few days later the package arrived in the mail and I was stunned at just how beautiful this little piece of clay was. There was a brief period of happiness and proud accomplishment, but then I became very concerned. Uh-Oh! What do I do now? I love this hobby but is there any reason to go on? I'm done. There's nothing left. What will I search for now?

I put the chip back into the package it had arrived in. Sure, I told some people about it and even looked at it a few times. But I refused to enter it into my database. No way

was I going to be done with this hobby. After a week, I took the chip out of the package and entered it into my database. I got out my high-lighter and my TCR and completed the Little Caesar's section. I then placed the chip in my collection alongside all of the other Little Caesar's chips.

But then something strange happened - I wasn't sad and I wasn't depressed. I had a smile from ear to ear because I knew that I wasn't giving up on this hobby. I may not have a "dream chip" at the moment, but another will come along. I'll still enjoy acquiring the chips that fill in those holes in my collection. I'll still actively pursue dice, cards, tokens, matchcovers, photos, and keys. I'm not stopping my search for historical pieces or just plain ol' good-looking chips. No way, this hobby is just too much damn fun to quit because I happened to obtain a killer piece!!!!

So, I'll be seeing you at convention!! You may not recognize me, though, because I won't be asking every person in sight if they have a Little Caesar's \$5 hot stamp for sale. I already have one!!!!

Thanks for putting up with my rambling! I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed re-living it.

And, by the way, if you have any items from Little Caesars that you want to part with, I'm still on the lookout for things I don't have. Below is a list of what I do have:

- All of the chips!
- Lucky Ducat tokens
- Jackpot Loot bags
- Coin redeemable for \$5 in slot play
- Card redeemable for 5 free nickels
- Decks of cards in black, blue, and red
- Dice (lots of them!)
- Signage
- Ink pen
- Plastic slot machine
- Copy of the gaming license from the State of Nevada
- Sports Book ticket
- Business card
- Paycheck stub
- Original photo
- Dealer's apron
- Lots of great memories

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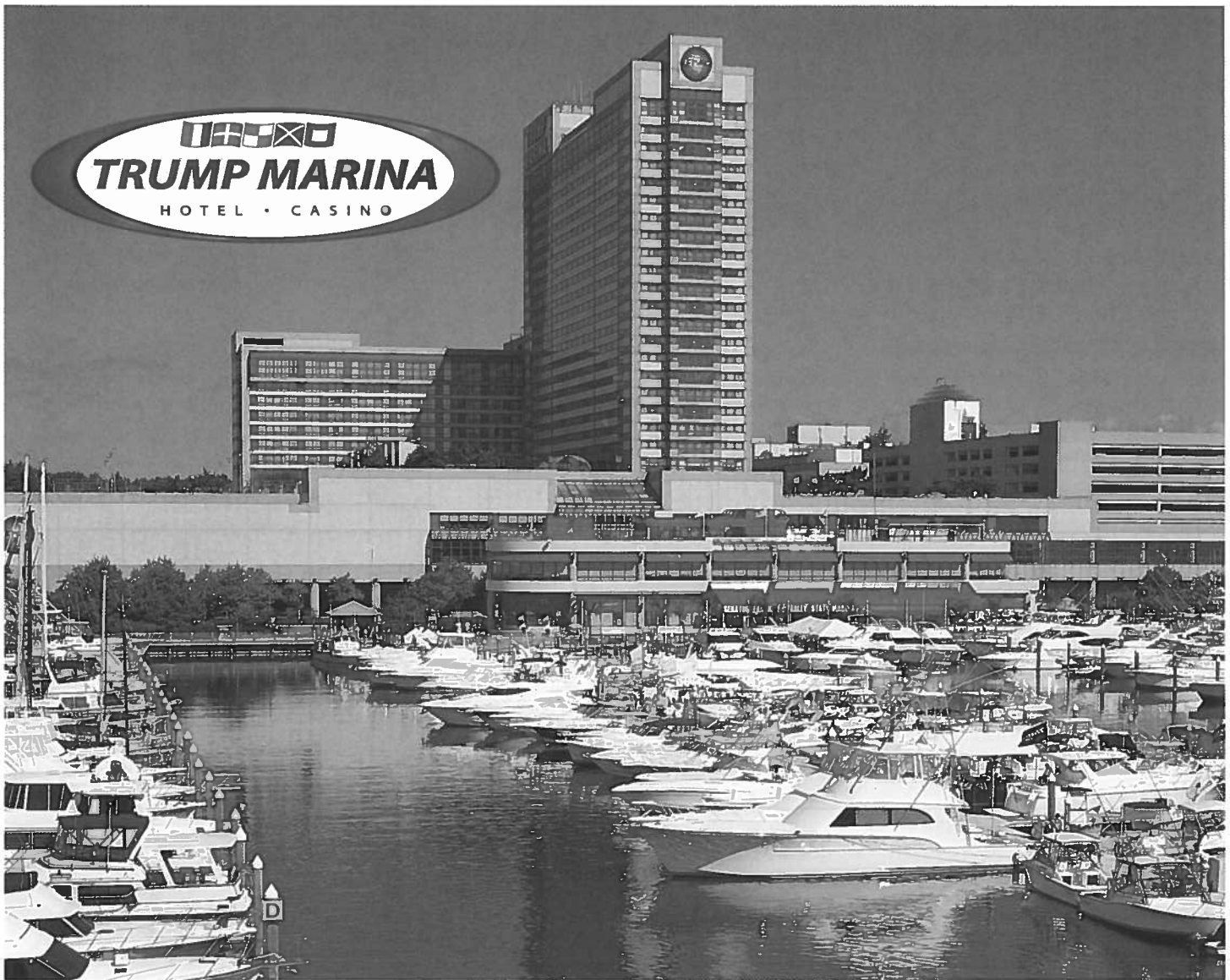
Debbie Kling

CC>CC member R-3821

Visit my website: www.dkscollectibles.com

Phone: 515 778-0080

Email: dkkling@mchsi.com



by Allan Anderson

In a setting as unique as the people it attracts, Trump Marina Hotel Casino is a vibrant convergence of land and water, trend-setting youth and affluent achievers, cool heat and confident sophistication. According to Senior Vice President of Marketing, Todd Moyer, "It's like a perfect cocktail, every ingredient effortlessly blends together to create an experience that goes down smoothly and satisfyingly, creating a buzz of anticipation, a quiet current of electricity, a sense of ease and comfort, and a thirst for more."

Trump Marina Hotel Casino is THE ONLY HOTEL/CASINO that you can arrive by land, sea or air. Float your boat right up to the Senator Frank S. Farley Marina – a public facility owned by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry and managed by Trump Marina Associates, L.P. The marina's 640 slips are capable of berthing boats from under 20 feet to over 300 feet. Or, fly in to the only public helipad in Atlantic City – a short 50-minute trip from New York and other major cities! No matter how you arrive, you're only steps away from exciting gaming!

Feel the excitement and experience the view of the Atlantic City skyline where million-dollar yachts are within earshot of the hippest live music in town. Adjacent to the marina is a seasonal "hot spot," *The Deck*. The best bayfront bar and restaurant in Atlantic City, *The Deck* offers casual fare, the coolest drinks and the hottest bands seven days a week, set against a backdrop of the marina, bay and Atlantic City skyline!

The magnificent Trump Marina Hotel Casino is a 2 million square foot complex that houses 728 deluxe rooms. The Crystal Tower features



the exclusive Trump Club, and lavish amenities including butler service. Trump Marina received the prestigious Five Star Diamond Award from the Academy of Hospitality Sciences – an honor shared by fewer than 100 hotels worldwide!

The 74,252 square foot casino offers the wildest games in town from baccarat to blackjack and craps. Trump Marina slots are the ones to play because they're "95% certified!" Independent experts at America's #1 gaming publication, *Strictly Slots Magazine*, have recently re-certified over 287 select slot machines on Trump Marina's casino floor as being "loose" -- 95% plus payback (that's more than 95 cents on every dollar!) - - for the second year in a row! Try the latest state-of-the-art video slots and reels, plus machines in every conceivable denomination. The video poker machines were voted "best" by *Casino Player* magazine in their "Best of Gaming" edition. Casino events like "Free Slot Day" feature instructional gaming lessons and free slot play up to the first \$50.00 played! The Miss Dreamgirl Contest, sponsored by the in-house Hooters restaurant, and the weekly Apprentice Viewing Party, are examples of events typically held in the *The Wave*. *The Wave* is a trendy nightclub where drinks and dancing to live bands are the main faire.



"The unique events we have presented, like New Year's Jammie Jam, the Miss Dreamgirl lingerie contest, and the summertime "Miss 'Deck'adence" at The Deck, are designed to attract younger, sophisticated customers who come to The Wild Side to let loose and have an exciting time. In this casually hip atmosphere, you can be your 'wild' self in a sophisticated environment. Trump Marina is the place where yacht club style meets nightclub culture," adds Moyer.



The urbane atmosphere that is evident throughout Trump Marina includes entertainment in a variety of venues. Top name acts are showcased in a 16,920 square foot ballroom, The Grand Cayman, and the intimate 509-seat showroom, The Shell. Lisa Marie Presley, Heart, Jackson Browne, and Sugar Ray are just a few of the performers featured recently at Trump Marina.

Marvel at the view of the marina and Atlantic City skyline from yet another panoramic spot at Trump



Marina. HarborView Restaurant is known for its succulent seafood, steaks, chicken and pasta dishes. Indulge in an elegant Sunday champagne brunch that will satisfy your wildest craving while enjoying the view!

Whether it's the picturesque view of Atlantic City and the Farley Marina, or the thrill of winning and being 'wild,' nothing compares to the Trump Marina experience.



Sample chips from the casino.



AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

ANA News

by Allan Anderson

I went to my first ANA convention this year which was held in San Francisco and if you've never been to one, it's something not to be missed.

From the exhibits, the displays, the show floor and the banquets, there is something for everyone. I finally met Barbara Gregory, editor of the *Numismatist* along with a large number of people I've been e-mailing and calling over the years. Plan to make the next convention which will be held August 16 - 19, 2006 at the Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street, Denver, Colorado. While there, you're close enough to visit the American Numismatic Association building, tour the museum and visit with some truly nice people.

The ANA recently had elections and BiggsKofford, the auditing firm for the American Numismatic Association 2005 Board of Governors' election, has reported the following election results:

President

William H. Horton Jr.
Keyport, NJ

Vice President

Barry Stuppler
Woodland Hills, CA

Governor

Patricia A. Jagger-Finner
Iola, WI

Donald H. Kagin
Tiburon, CA

Alan Herbert
Belle Fourche, SD

M. Remy Bourne
Minneapolis, MN

Prue Morgan Fitts
Framingham, MA

Michael S. Fey
Morris Plains, NJ

Walter A. Ostromecki, Jr.
Panorama City, CA

Installation of the new officers for the Association occurred at the ANA Banquet on Saturday, July 31, 2005 in San Francisco, CA.

There is a new display at the ANA Money Museum titled "Money of the World Today."

Previewed by Douglas Mudd, Museum Curator, "Money of the World Today: A Portrait of Global Society," is open in the main gallery. The exhibit features a fresh approach to this fascinating subject, taking visitors on a tour of the world, continent by continent. The journey's departure point is marked by a huge globe, surrounded by world flags and a series of clocks marking the current time in many capital cities. And, of course, it's all accompanied by stunning examples of world coins and paper money.

As travelers embark on their tour, they will view groups of display cases representing the world's continents. Each has a corresponding panel that explains its political geography, illustrated with spectacular satellite images of the region.

Examples of the currency of every recognized country of the world present a colorful collage of designs and images. Along with the amazing variety of numismatic specimens, visitors will experience the diversity of our planet's people and terrain through hundreds of dramatic images. Not only is effect aesthetically pleasing, but it also provides a unique educational experience of the world's currency and the underlying connections between our national economies.

For more information go to the ANA website at:
<http://www.money.org>

On the next page is a membership application. If you're not a member, join. Along with all the benefits you'll get *The Numismatist*, a great monthly magazine.



**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.

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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

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* US Funds

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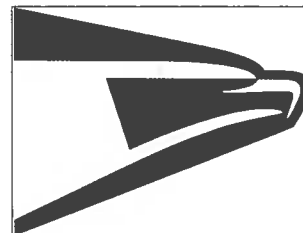
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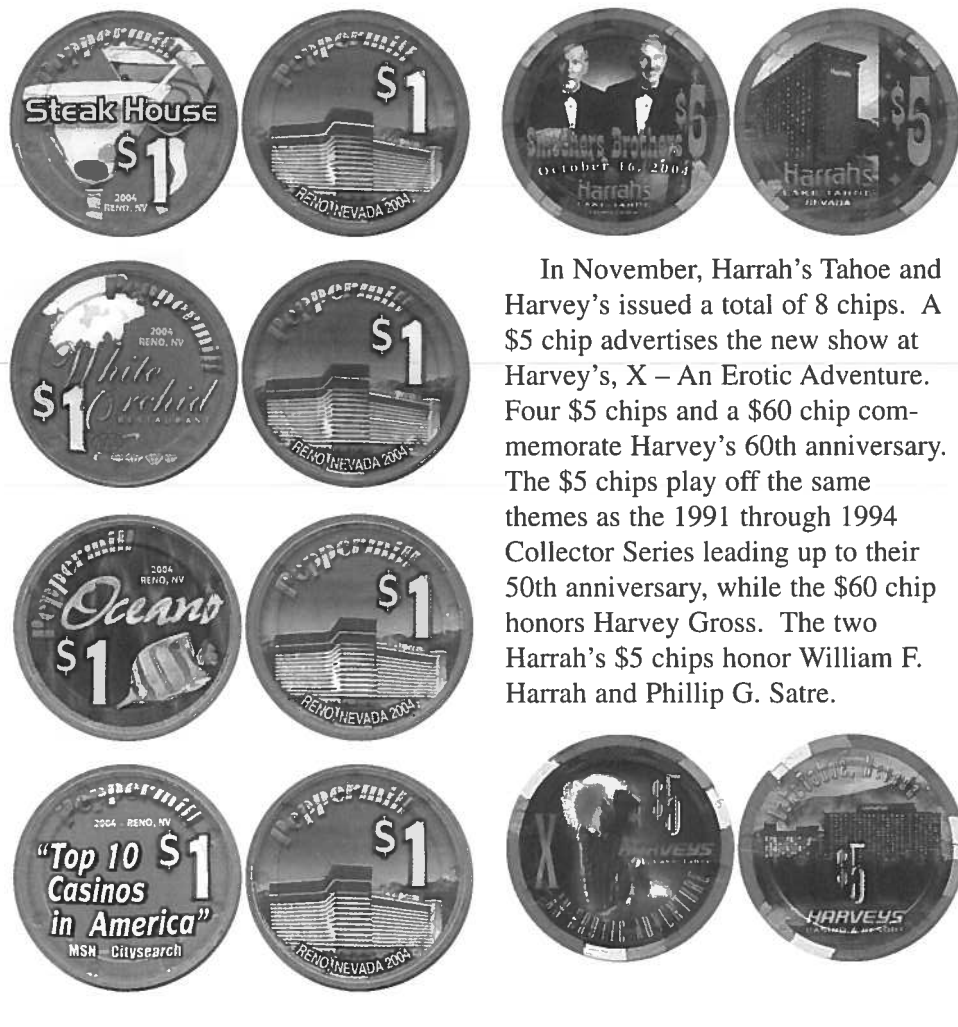
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by Larry Hollibaugh

Another year, and another 68 chips issued in Northern Nevada. We start with October 2004. Peppermill Reno replaced their hot stamped \$1 chips with four different chips advertising the Steakhouse, White Orchid and Oceano restaurants, and the Peppermill's distinction of being rated one of the "Top 10 Casinos in America" by MSN. Also in October, the Reno Hilton commemorated their Pot of Gold poker tournament, the Wendover Nugget celebrated their "Deer Widows Weekend," and the Smothers Brothers appeared at Harrah's Tahoe.



In November, Harrah's Tahoe and Harvey's issued a total of 8 chips. A \$5 chip advertises the new show at Harvey's, X – An Erotic Adventure. Four \$5 chips and a \$60 chip commemorate Harvey's 60th anniversary. The \$5 chips play off the same themes as the 1991 through 1994 Collector Series leading up to their 50th anniversary, while the \$60 chip honors Harvey Gross. The two Harrah's \$5 chips honor William F. Harrah and Phillip G. Satre.





In the November - December time frame, Sands Regency and Silver Legacy got their Win Cards programs off the ground. The Silver Legacy Win Cards chips were made in two different shades of purple.



Also in December, the Horizon Casino at South Lake Tahoe replaced their house \$5 chips with incused dice-cards mold beauties, and Reno Hilton celebrated New Years Eve 2004.



2005 got off to a good start with a Happy New Year chip from Casino Fandango in Carson City, and a 50th anniversary chip from John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The Reno Hilton and Harrah's Reno released chips for the Year of the Rooster, with the Hilton chip being the \$8 denom for Chinese good luck.



In March, Bill's Casino in South Lake Tahoe released a pretty chip featuring a skier, and the Reno Hilton hosted the World Poker Challenge 2005. In April, Baldini's Sports Casino in Sparks released their first ever collector chip featuring a pretty girl and a NASCAR car.





Spanning April, May and June, Harrah's Tahoe released a total of six chips for the 2005 World Series of Poker, including 5 \$5s and a \$25. Harvey's also released a \$1 chip for this event.



Club Cal-Neva in downtown Reno put out another new rack of chips in May, after their previous new rack was pulled due to counterfeiting. Only the \$1 chip from that previous rack is still in use. The new chips include \$1, \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations.



Also in May, the Cabo wabo Cantina at Harvey's celebrated "Cinco de Cabo" with a \$5 and \$25 featuring the Red Rocker himself, Sammy Hagar. The Peppermill in Reno started using new \$1 and \$5 chips in their poker room in June.



Hot August Nights was a terrific success again, with seven \$5 chips. One is from a new player in the HAN chip scene, the Silver Club in Sparks. The others were from the usual suspects; Atlantis, Bonanza, Harrah's, Reno Hilton, Peppermill, and Crystal Bay Club. Sorry, no \$25 from the Hilton this year. Crystal Bay Club also released a Tahoe Ridin' 2005 chip in advance of the upcoming Street Vibrations motorcycle festival.



Also in August, the Peppermill in Wendover replaced their tired old rack with brightly colored chips in \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100, and \$500 denominations. The Silver Club has a Win Cards chip now. I'm not sure when in 2005 they started the program, but I discovered the chips in August.

September is the month for the Great Reno Balloon Races and the Reno National Championship Air Races. There were no Balloon Race chips this year, but Harrah's released an Air Races chip, albeit weeks late. Better late than never, though. I'd hate to see them break a tradition that goes back to 1993. The Reno Hilton released a \$5 chip to commemorate a major player in the Reno Air Races; Captain Gene Cernan, Last Man On the Moon.



The Lakeside Inn replaced their battered chips in September with fresh copies that are virtually indistinguishable from the old ones except for the sharp edges. These chips include \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100, and \$500 denominations. The Lakeside Inn also released a \$5 commemorative in September featuring a snowboarder.





And then there were Harleys. Street Vibrations rolled into town late September with \$5 chips from Atlantis, Club Cal-Neva and the Reno Hilton. Harrah's has promised a Street Vibrations chip, but three weeks after the event they're still not in. That'll be something to start the next column with!

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MESSAGE FROM TYRUS

After six months, the merger is now complete!

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www.TyrusRex.com

Since early this year, I have worked to combine all three websites into one "Supersite". TyrusRex.com is now offering thousands of casino collectables, as well as supplies and books. What makes it so great? Well, here's a few things that make shopping at www.TyrusRex.com simple:

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Atlantic City R E P O R T

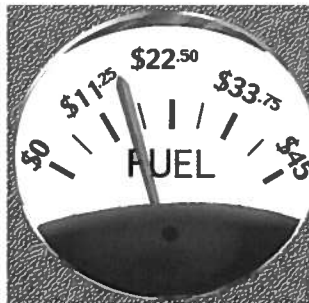
by Archie Black

“A.C. ... ALWAYS TURNED ON!”

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our dedicated Editor, Allan Anderson, for his outstanding efforts that he has put in, getting out our ANA award-winning, Best Publication “Chip & Token News.” The club is indeed fortunate to have Allan at the helm of our quarterly club publication.

Since my article in the last issue of “Chip & Token News” Atlantic City chip collectors have witnessed several new chips that have been issued in this relatively small town, but I’m concerned that is about to change. (More on that development is followed up in my last few paragraphs.)

Slot tokens have just about all but vanished here in “Las Vegas East” with the introduction of TITO (Ticket In, Ticket Out) a year or so ago. It’s a good thing that the tokens are still redeemable at the cashier’s windows. It’s time for me to get rid of a few larger quantities that have been laying around unsold for any length of time. I’ve only kept a few of each un-circulated tokens in stock for new-comers into the hobby who may get interested in collecting tokens sometime down the road.



The price of gasoline in New Jersey has not been as high as it has been in many other parts of the country, but gas at \$3 per gallon locally here has not kept folks away from the casinos. 2005 has been one of the best summers in A.C. casino history.

The House of Blues has opened inside the Showboat. It is the largest House Of Blues venue in the entire country! The former Showboat’s Boardwalk entrance has been completely re-designed with a HOB theme emphasis that overshadows the Showboat marquee.



This no cash value brown chip was given out to players who received an invitation in the mail on the day of the House of Blues Grand Opening. I purchased a small number of chips from players who claimed their free chip at the promotions booth. A few weeks later, thanks to Showboat management, and to Chris Block in particular, offered a quantity of 150 NCV chips to the A.C. Casino Collectibles Club to sell to their membership at \$2 each for the club treasury ... all chip sales are to be restricted to one chip per A.C. club member.

The second floor poker room at Showboat’s House of Blues was the release setting of these three brand new chips which are designated

“Poker” that coincided with the opening of House of Blues. A \$5, \$10 and \$20 denomination “poker” chip series has been issued.



Speaking of Poker; Trump Taj Mahal issued this pair of \$10 and \$20 rack chips exclusively for use in their huge non-smoking poker room.



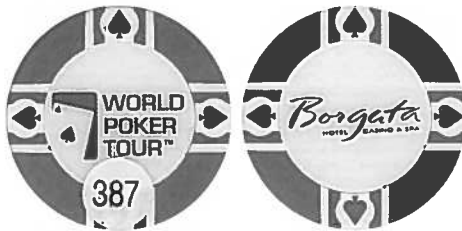
Trump Plaza issued this \$20 chip on August 16th to mark the opening of their popular "Beach Bar" that is located on the Atlantic Ocean side of the famous Atlantic City Boardwalk. Tiki huts on teakwood decks have been built right on the beach ... and live island music entertainment on hot summer days well into the evenings makes one think of an Island resort rather than being in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Trump Plaza's Games Supervisor, Joe Gontowski, gave out free drink coupons good at the Beach Bar to those who were in line to purchase these chips on the day of issue.



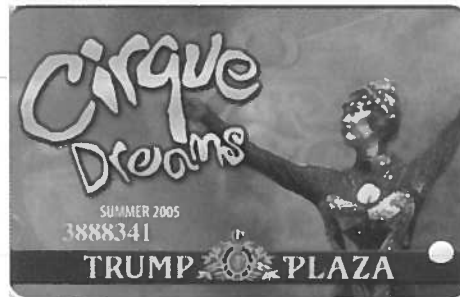
Still no word is available regarding the Sands 20th Anniversary LE chip that was announced a few months ago in a local weekly news paper. This chip issue was supposed to be released on the July 4th weekend. I've confirmed that the chips are on the property at Sands and are in the cage; but no official word on the release date was available at press time.



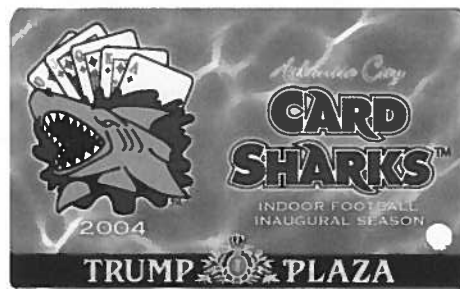
Borgata was one of the several announced stops for the World Poker Tour again this year. This 2005 admission chip was given to those spectators who sought a seat to watch the event live for the TV cameras. Last year's chip was blue.



Slot cards remain very popular with casino collectible collectors this quarter; with the Trump properties once again leading the way.



This attractive Trump Plaza card was awarded "Slot Card Of The Year" for the year 2004 at the club's annual Las Vegas convention back in August. A.C. Card Sharks was a professional indoor football team that played their games at Boardwalk



Hall, next to Trump Plaza..

Here is a very tough Limited Edition card that is proving to be very difficult to find. This card was issued at Trump Marina for one day only on Sunday, October 16th and no advance notice was given that it would be available during a celebration of the 1980 Philadelphia Champions reunion.



Heard through the grapevine department: ... TRUMP PLAZA and SHOWBOAT will each be doing 2005 Halloween chips this year.

It's been learned that Showboat's Game Supervisor Chris Block has accepted a high level job at Harrah's in Las Vegas effective the end of October. While we all extend the best of luck to Chris in his new career promotion at Las Vegas Harrah's, it appears like the LE chip program at Showboat may come to a screeching halt after the current chips in the hopper are released if nobody picks up the LE program where Chris left off. After Chris leaves; a Brian Setzer chip the end of November and a World Series of Poker chip in December are currently in the works.

TRUMP MARINA has temporarily curtailed its LE chip program due to some issues with the State of NJ. A 20th Anniversary chip is supposedly on schedule.

While I don't anticipate too many new LE's to be issued in A.C. during 2006 ... let me be one of the very first to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Sands

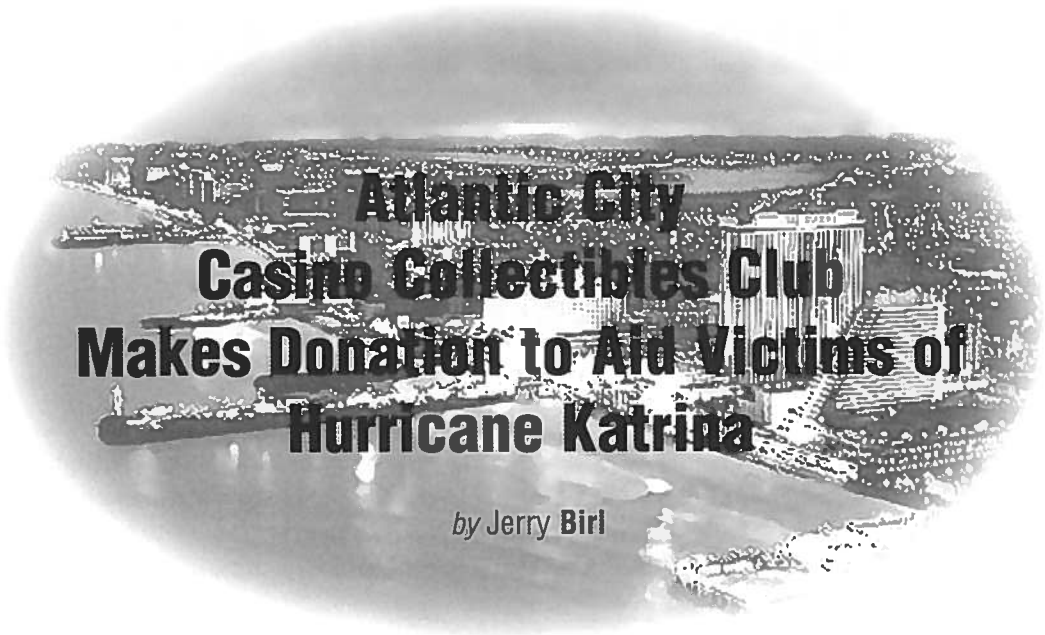


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Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club Makes Donation to Aid Victims of Hurricane Katrina

by Jerry Birl

At the September 11th meeting of the Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club, the membership approved making a donation of \$1000.00 to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The meeting was held in the Biscayne Room of the Trump Marina Casino.

President Jerry Birl opened the meeting and called for a moment of silence to reflect on the tragedies of September 11, 2001 and the recent devastation brought to the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina. Secretary Bob Toots read the minutes of the July 10th meeting. Treasurer Allan McCurdy gave the Treasurer's report and Vice President Jack Hieman reported on new chips that had been released since the July 10th meeting.

Chris Block Manager of table games at the Showboat donated NCV chips commemorating the opening of the new House of Blues Casino at the

Showboat Casino. The proceeds from the sale of these chips will go into the Club treasury.

We are still working on getting chips celebrating the 11th anniversary of the AC Club produced by some of the Casinos in Atlantic City. These chips will feature the new Club logo. The center inlays for the chips were designed by Kevin Norris. Kevin has designed many, many chips for the National Club Conventions over the years and he always does an outstanding job. The new Club logo is shown below.

Plans for activities at future meetings were discussed including presenting awards to the Atlantic City Casino that produces the best chip and slot token. These awards will be modeled after the CC>CC COTY awards. We may also have a luncheon in connection with the presentation of

these awards to the Casinos. We are tentatively planning on holding this special meeting in March of 2006 and we will be inviting chippers from all over the country to attend this event. After the completion of the Club Auction and the 50/50 drawing the meeting was adjourned. The next Club meeting will be held on Sunday November 20th at the Trump Marina Casino. We would like to thank Todd Moyer of the Trump Marina for providing the meeting room to the Club at no cost.

If you want to join the A.C. Casino Collectibles Club please visit our website:
<http://ccgtcc.com/chapters/ac/>
or write to
Jerry Birl
P.O. Box 1261
Millsboro, DE 19966



Charitable Casino Chips of North Dakota

Part III

More Casinos than. . .

by John K. Kallman

The old adage has always been that there were more card rooms in California than casinos in Nevada. However, as many collectors know, up until recently, poker and the people who play it was going south faster than the price of silver after the Hunt brothers quit buying it. Even many mainline Las Vegas casinos did away with their poker rooms in the late 90's due to a lack of players and profit. Much was the same in California, added to that was various local ordinances that restricted clubs severely. While poker recently has made great strides, with the increasing number and influence of Indian casinos, the local one and two table cards rooms of California are more of a thing of the past I fear than a hope for the future.

What does this have to do with charitable casinos chips of North Dakota you ask? Fair question! The population of Fargo in 2000 was all of 90,000 (64,756 of legal age) people, with West Fargo adding another 14,940 (10,573 of legal age) for a total population of a little less than 105,000 (a little over 75,000 of legal age).

Within these two cities, I was able to locate 31 different establishments with at least one or more table games with assorted chips in play. There well could be more! That equates to 1 casino for every 2,500 people!!! Of course, one also has to take into

consideration the population of neighboring Morehead Minnesota, that while it has no legal table games that involve casino style chips (yet), it is only a stones throw away (32,177/24,877). So even with say 100,000 people eligible to plunk down Friday's paycheck on an legal turn of the cards, that is still an amazing 1 casino for every 3,333 people! And while the Fargo/Morehead area is one of the largest population centers fro all of North Dakota, even the smaller communities that I have managed to visit so far are well represented with a fair number of locations for one to be separated from their life's savings. Wahpeton for example, with a population of all 8,556 total had at least six locations! If the rest of North Dakota is anything like the first results in far as the number and variety of casino's, locations, and chips, then we might have to rethink the adage that started this installment.

And while Las Vegas Nevada is no longer dependent upon the never ending stream of visitors arriving daily at McCarran Airport, they too suffer from conditions that affect the rest of the country. Locations such as Jackpot would probably dry up and blow away if it were not for all those Iowans who decided to take a break from looking for taters and where would Wendover be if not for all those good Mormons driving in from Salt Lake City? Fair questions to be sure, but how many people do you

know book a flight to say Bismarck North Dakota in the Middle of January to try and find a \$1.00 Black Jack game that only opens after 5:00 PM in the evening? Not too many would be my guess!

But enough of idle speculation! You want some hard facts and even more importantly, some chips! And we will start with a very appropriate candidate, West Fargo Hockey Association. As many people have noted, many of the casino chips from North Dakota could pass as miniature hockey pucks they are so well worn!

WHF = West Fargo Hockey has at least six places presently dealing blackjack of which at least five of them are located in West Fargo, and one in Fargo proper. None of these locations offer paddlewheel games. The current locations are:

Border Town Bar & Grill

807 Main Ave East
West Fargo ND

Silver Dollar Bar

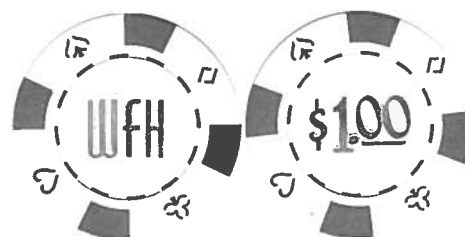
221 Cheyenne Street
West Fargo ND

Speedway Events Center

680 Main Ave West
West Fargo ND

Old Chicago

2551 45th Street SW
West Fargo ND



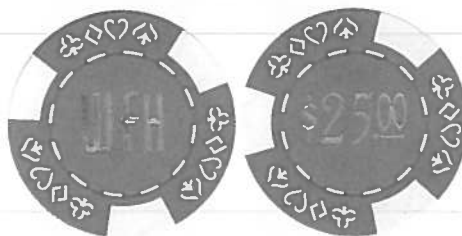
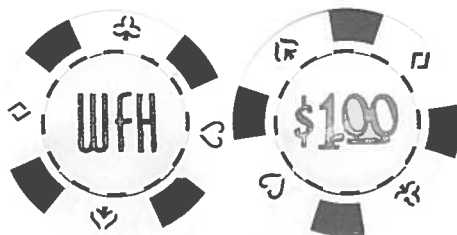
M&J Brand Saloon

817 Main Ave
West Fargo ND

Ramada Inn

1635 42nd Street South West
Fargo ND

Of these locations, I made it to four of the six locations and though it was a Friday evening in what we here in the northern part of the US would consider good weather, the number of people playing was easily outnumbered by the number of people who were collecting a paycheck waiting to deal cards. While this would appear to be a money losing proposition, at least one of the locations that I visited that does have a web site boasts that with a total of 1 blackjack table that is only opened from 5 P.M. until closing



still brought in over \$150,000 in one year. Who says that there is not money to be made in gambling? You just need to know which side of the table to be on. And now for some chips.

Notes: In most cases, \$25.00 chips are the highest denomination seen on the tables with the exception of a single \$100 chip that Northern Prairie Performing Arts is using, and then only to "color-up". While in most cases you can easily find tables where the minimum bet is only \$1.00, maximum bets are limited.

I would like to hear from club members who live/work in North Dakota who may have access to locations and chips that I do not have. You may contact me via email at cashcoinconnection@yahoo.com.



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Club Merchandise

2005 Convention Chip – \$4.00

Prior Year Chips Available-'95, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, 04 (\$4.00 each)

Set of 8 convention chips (including 2005) \$25.00



2005 Poker/Blackjack Tournament Chip Set – \$15.00

Prior Year Sets Available 2000-2004

2 or more sets \$12.00 each



2005 Convention Pin – \$4.00

Prior Year Pins Available 1997-2004 @ \$3.00 each

Set of 9 Pins (including 2005) – \$21.00

CC>CC Member Pin – \$4.00 (New)



2005 Convention Medal Set – \$25.00

2005 Silver – \$18.00 / 2005 Bronze – \$7.00

Prior Year Sets Available 1994-1999 – \$10.00



2005 Convention Tee Shirt – \$10.00

Sizes Small – XXXL

Prior Year Tee Shirts – \$6.00 (Not all sizes available)

CC>CC Tee Shirt – \$10.00

Sizes Sm—XXXL

CC>CC Polo Shirt – \$25.00

Colors – Red, Navy, Black, Cream, Steel, Grey

Sizes Sm – XXXL

CC>CC Watches – \$25.00

Men's and Women's

CC>CC Caps – \$10.00

One Size Fits All

CC>CC Totes – \$6.00



2005 Convention DVD – \$25.00

2004 Convention DVD or VHS – \$10.00 (Both 04 & 05 – \$30.00)

Casino Chip & Token News Back Issues (1997-2004) – \$3.00

5 or more back issues – \$2.00 each

Inquire About Issues Prior to 1997



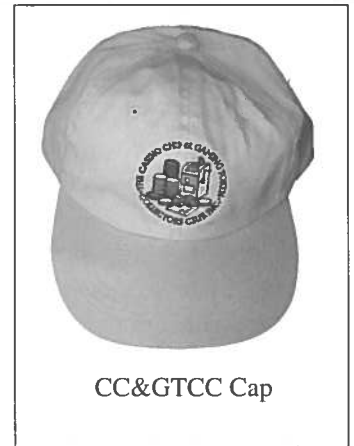
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Personal Chips

by Debby Meister

Believe it or not, this whole thing started because my company asked me to put together a monthly newsletter about PC tips. One day while looking around for a Halloween graphic for my October issue, I found a neat skeleton cat. I thought boy that would look great on a chip. So I put together my first chip. I was thrilled when Chipco said they would be willing to make me 100 chips instead of the usual 500, but even 100 chips were expensive. I made a deal with my husband that if he let me make the chips he would be off the hook for a birthday present. He jumped at this amazing opportunity.

I've since graduated from using clipart. When I get a request for a chip design, sometimes the person knows exactly what they want and others times they just want a chip with no idea what design they would like. To help discover what direction the chip should go in, I ask them what their favorite things are besides chips and what colors they prefer. From there it's just a matter of trying to develop a concept that works.

I use Adobe PhotoShop to create the designs. In addition to creating the graphic by drawing pixels, I also have various brushes and shapes to work with. I often have to stretch, squeeze and cut up the elements to get it where it needs to go. I can apply built in effects to make things look 3 dimensional, glowing, etc. The end result is like a collage made up of layers containing various strokes and shapes.

When a working design is ready, I send it for approval. Sometimes it's close on the first try, other times it takes a dozen or more modifications and occasionally a total restart. Once I have the final design, I send it to Chipco. Contact Chipco for pricing.

Chipco has a specific palette that I have to use. Occasionally they will recommend that colors need to be modified to produce a better result. When that happens, the changes are made then the chip has to go through the approval process again, until we have a final design.



Samples of chip designs. To view more chip designs go to <http://www.nevadacasinochips.com/DJM.htm>

MY PERSONAL CHIP

by Chris Colangelo

You've been collecting everyone else's chips, now it's time to get your own.

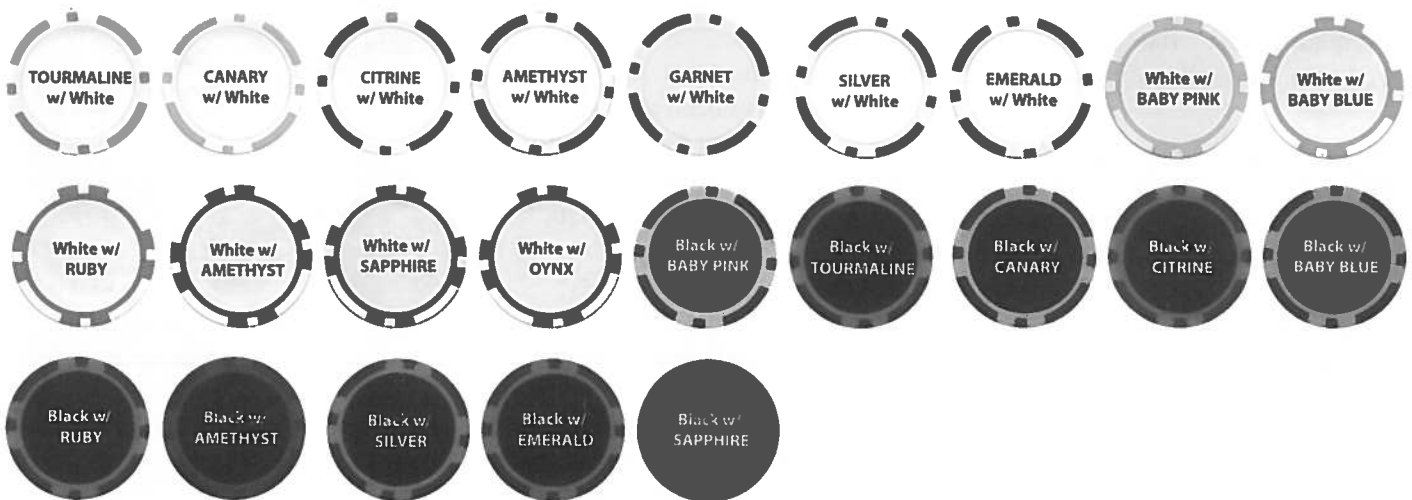
You choose the colors, designs, and phrases that you want on the chip. We can even put your photo on the chip if you want. The minimum order is 20 chips and we only need about two weeks to make them once you approve the artwork. All chips are 40mm in diameter and weigh 11.5 grams each

To get information on how to order go to our website at:
<http://www.MyPersonalChip.com>

Club members can receive the special pricing by typing "CC>CC Member Discount" in the "Special Instructions" box on the shopping cart page.



Colors





Cheques In The Mail, Inc.
presents

Home Poker Chips

by Dave Harber

Cheques in the Mail, Inc. has proudly represented Chipco International for close to eight years now. In that time we have commissioned close to one million Chipco Pro Tech® chips on behalf of our customers. Our primary focus are home game chips for someone who (for example) has a weekly Thursday night poker game with their buddies. These chip sets typically have several different colors and denominations. However over the years we've also made chips for wedding favors, birth announcements, coupons, gift certificates, advertising pieces and business cards.

You can order directly from Chipco but we can get the same exact job done for less money and in a shorter time frame. We have two fabulous artists on staff who are willing and eager to create a chip that you can be proud of forever. Over the years we've made chips for major celebrities, professional athletes, poker professionals, CC>CC members and lots of others who simply want the highest quality, best looking customized chip available on the market.

Chipco chips are fairly expensive but will last a lifetime. Plastic sticker chips or hot stamped chips will definitely cost you less but you need to decide if you want to pay a little more and get a lot more or a little less and get a lot less.

So how did we get started eight years ago? We were already selling collectible chips on our web site,

lasvegas-chips.com, to hundreds of chip collectors from all over the world. Our daughter was about to be born so we were in a stationary store looking at birth announcements and then it hit me...

We should do a birth announcement chip to announce her upcoming debut into this world. After all collectible chips were our livelihood so it really was a perfect announcement if I could just find a company to make them.



I called a few of the manufacturers. John Kendall at Chipco was extremely receptive to the idea and allowed us make a smaller mintage than most of the runs that they were doing for casinos at that time. We made 402 of them thinking that was a clever number since our daughter Alexi was born on April 2nd (04/02). While it may have been a clever number we really weren't thinking very far ahead as we only had about 30 friends and family to send the chips to.

So what do we do with the other 370 chips? We ended up sending them out to many of our chip collecting customers. I bet there are those of you reading this that were a recipient of one of the original Alexi chips



back in the spring of 1998. So we shipped them out to announce her birth not because we ever expected to turn this into a business but because we thought the collectors would appreciate a new and different chip in their collection.

Before we knew it we were hearing from chip collectors who also wanted to have a custom chip made. One's daughter was getting married, another's son was having a bar mitzvah, a chipper's parents were getting ready to celebrate their 50th anniversary,

several wanted a new and different type of marketing tool for their business. Purely by happenstance, our personalized chip business was born and began to flourish.

We got so busy with the poker popularity rush of 2003 that we actually sold our collectible chip business to Tyrus Mulkey of TyrusRex.com and for the last 18 months or so have been doing nothing else but helping people make their own personalized Chipco chips. We'd be honored to help you too and if you mention that

you are a CC>CC member we will happily give you a 10% discount off of your initial order of 100 to 500 chips. That's works out to less than 88¢/chip (plus artwork fee) for your own casino quality, personalized Chipco Pro Tech® chip. Visit our web site at PersonalChips.com for all the details.

Dave and Debbie Harber
www.PersonalChips.com

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2006 Convention Auction

by Barry Weintraub
Auction Chairman

The 2005 Convention was a resounding success and was topped off with a wonderful auction on Friday night. My thanks to the many volunteers who help make this event possible. Within this issue of the club magazine is a list of the final prices realized for the 2005 auction.

Now we begin the work on the 2006 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction. This will be an interesting challenge because while we had 14 months to prepare for the 2005 auction, this time we will only have 10 months until the 2006 convention.

We are planning a couple of changes in the auction for 2006. The first change is to reduce the number of lots in the auctions thereby making the auction end earlier than it has in the last couple of years. Additionally, we must remember that the auction was created as a fund-raiser and that the lots were to be items that were not generally or easily found on the convention floor. To this end, we will be looking for items that we anticipate will sell for at least \$50.

While this may upset some people, please remember that we can only have a limited number of lots and the main purpose of the auction is to serve as a fund-raiser for the club.

To that point, submitters can donate lots to the club and receive a tax donation form from the club for the amount the lot sells for. The club is a 501 c3 non-profit organization and donations to the club are tax deductible.

Enclosed in this issue of the club magazine is a submission form for the auction. If you have any questions about an item you are considering submitting, email me at barrychip@aol.com or call me at 818 780-6794.

The deadline for submission of an item is Friday, February 28, 2006.

2005 Convention Auction Final Prices

Lot	Description	Final Bid	Lot	Description	Final Bid
1	\$100 Al Cooper's Beachcomber	\$175	20	Buffalo Billys - Set of 3 chips	\$70
2	25¢ Al's Liquor Store	\$50	21	\$1 Cactus Pete's	\$300
3	\$5 Aladdin	\$55	22	\$100 Caesars Palace	\$240
4	Aladdin - Set of 9 chips	\$50	23	Caesars Palace - Set of 3 NCV chips	\$70
5	\$5 Anthony's Casino	\$50	24	\$1,000 Caesars Tahoe	\$150
6	Apache Club - Pair of Dice	\$225	25	\$25 Cal Neva - Plain Mold	\$1,600
7	1000 Bally's	\$35	26	\$25 Cal Neva Lodge - T mold	\$200
8	\$100 Bank Club	\$200	27	\$25 Cal Neva Lodge - H&C	\$30
9	50¢ Barney's	\$600	28	\$100 Cal Neva Lodge	\$200
10	Big 4	\$150	29	Cal Neva - Set of 3 chips	\$300
11	Black Cat - Pair of Dice	\$250	30	California Hotel - Set of 5 Silver Strikes	\$125
12	\$1 Bonanza Hotel	\$200	31	Campiglia/Wells Chip Price Guide	\$26
13	\$5 Bonanza Hotel - inlay	\$2,700	32	50¢ Chick's Club	\$225
14	\$5 Bonanza Hotel - HS	\$120	33	Circus Circus - 50¢ & \$1 chips	\$60
15	\$5 Bonanza, Don French's	\$75	34	\$1 Club Cal-Neva token	\$70
16	10¢ Boulder Club	\$110	35	Club Tongo	\$350
17	\$5 Boulder Club	\$125	36	\$1 Colorado River	\$170
18	\$5 Bowery Club	\$70	37	Davin's - \$5 & \$25 chips	\$40
19	\$2.50 Broadwalk Regency	\$40	38	\$25 Debbie Reynolds	\$150

Lot	Description	Final Bid	Lot	Description	Final Bid
39	\$1 Desert Inn	\$100	85	\$25 Frontier Hotel	\$700
40	\$5 Desert Inn	\$400	86	\$1000 Frontier Hotel	\$425
41	\$5 Desert Inn - Coin inlay	\$150	87	Frontier Club, Reno -	
42	\$25 Desert Inn - Country Club	\$325		\$5 & roulette chip	\$20
43	\$500 Desert Inn\$	375	88	\$25 Gary's Casino	\$1,900
44	\$5000 Desert Inn - Baccarat	\$225	89	\$1 Gay 90's	\$40
45	\$1 Desert Inn, Wilbur Clark's	\$175	90	\$25 Golden Nugget - Atlantic City	\$100
46	Desert Inn - Set of 3 Joshua Tree Chips	\$160	91	25¢ Golden Nugget	\$30
47	Desert Inn - Set of 5 chips	\$125	92	\$5 Golden Nugget	\$175
48	Desert Inn, MGM - Set of 3 Chips	\$125	93	25¢ Golden Slipper	\$3,300
49	Desert Inn, Sheraton - Set of 4 Chips	\$175	94	Hard Rock - Rock 'n Rods 4 chip set	\$70
50	Desert Inn, Wilbur Clark -		95	\$100 Harrah's - Cog Inlay	\$235
	Set of 3 roulette chips	\$60	96	\$100 Harrah's - Paddlewheel	\$200
51	\$1 Desert Inn Token	\$35	97	Harrah's - Set of 5 Silver Strikes	\$60
52	Desert Inn Token -		98	\$25 Harrah's - Reno/Tahoe	\$75
	Sinatra's 77th Birthday	\$120	99	Harvey's roulette chip	\$20
53	\$25 Desert Spa	\$400	100	Harvey's error chip - \$2.00/\$2.50 chip	\$375
54	Double Eagle - Set of 4 chips/3 tokens	\$50	101	Havana Riviera - Set of 4 chips	\$125
55	25¢ Dunes - HHR mold	\$50	102	Havana - Set of 6 Cuban Chips	\$200
56	25¢ Dunes - H&C mold	\$150	103	10¢ Hawthorne Club	\$15
57	\$1 Dunes	\$225	104	\$25 Hide-Away	\$125
58	\$5 Dunes	\$275	105	\$5 Hilton International	\$30
59	Dunes - Set of 6 Baccarat Chips	\$75	106	\$25 Hilton - Reno	\$100
60	\$1 El Capitan Club	\$1,900	107	\$20 Hilton & \$25 Tropicana -	
61	\$25 El Cortez	\$550		Set of 2 Baccarat chips	\$60
62	El Morroco -		108	\$1 Horseshoe	\$400
	Set of 7 "Good For" Tokens	\$70	109	Horseshoe - Set of 22 WSOP Chips	\$175
63	\$5 El Rancho Hotel	\$55	110	\$100 Imperial Palace	\$2,000
64	\$25 El Rancho Hotel	\$70	111	50¢ International	\$50
65	\$5 El Rancho Vegas - Diasqr mold	\$375	112	LaRue	\$80
66	\$25 El Rancho Vegas - Diasqr mold	\$150	113	50¢ La Rue	\$200
67	\$5 El Rancho Vegas - Sm Key mold	\$250	114	\$2.50 Lady Luck	\$100
68	\$25 El Rancho Vegas - Sm Key mold	\$225	115	\$1 Landmark	\$500
69	\$5 El Rancho Vegas - T mold	\$1,000	116	\$5 Landmark	\$700
70	Felix De Vere - Set of 2 chips	\$110	117	"Let It Ride" Chips - Group	\$70
71	50¢ Flamingo	\$120	118	25¢ Little Club	\$80
72	\$5 Flamingo - Plain mold	\$1,500	119	\$5 Lotus Inn	\$1,500
73	Flamingo Roulette	\$90	120	Luxor - Set of 4 Silver Strikes	\$60
74	Flamingo - Set of 5 Silver Strikes	\$70	121	Las Vegas - Group of 20 \$1 chips	\$75
75	\$10 Flamingo Hilton Silver Strike	\$180	122	Las Vegas - Group of 20 \$5 chips	\$141
76	\$5 Flamingo Hilton - Laughlin	\$30	123	\$5 Main Street Station	\$60
77	\$1 Foreign Club	\$225	124	\$25 Main Street Station	\$600
78	Foxwoods - Set of 3 Celebrity chips	\$35	125	MGM Blackjack Layout -	
79	Franklin Mint 1966 Gaming Tokens-			De La Hoya/Strum fight	\$400
	Set of 16	\$200	126	\$5 MGM Grand chip - prototype	\$200
80	Franklin Mint 1969 Gaming Tokens -		127	\$20 MGM Grand Baccarat chip	\$400
	Set of 23	\$60	128	\$25 MGM Grand chip	\$250
81	10¢ Fremont	\$100	129	\$100 MGM Desert Inn chip	\$400
82	\$2 Fremont	\$150	130	MGM Grand - Set of 2 chips	\$300
83	\$5 Fremont	\$1,800	131	MGM Grand - Set of 4 chips	\$30
84	50¢ Frontier Hotel - PAN chip	\$40	132	\$25 MGM Grand chip - Reno	\$175

Lot	Description	Final Bid	Lot	Description	Final Bid
133	25¢ Model T Truck Stop, Keith's	\$100	177	\$20 Sands	\$260
134	\$1 Model T Truck Stop, Keith's	\$100	178	\$100 Sands	\$225
135	Moulin Rouge - 2 Pair of Dice	\$450	179	25¢ Sans Souci	\$75
136	\$25 Moulin Rouge: can-can girl	\$15	180	\$1 Sans Souci	\$60
137	\$25 Moulin Rouge: tower	\$15	181	\$25 Sans Souci	\$120
138	Nevada 25¢ chips - Group of 12	\$40	182	\$100 Sans Souci	\$75
139	\$5 Nevada Biltmore	\$115	183	\$5 Santa Anita	\$250
140	Nevada Chips - Set of 7 chips	\$35	184	\$5 The Shack	\$100
141	Nevada Chips - Set of 8 chips	\$30	185	\$5 Shamrock Hotel	\$15
142	\$100 Nevada Club - Las Vegas	\$150	186	\$5 Showboat	\$100
143	ND Nevada Club - Tahoe	\$35	187	Showboat - Set of 6 roulette chips	\$50
144	New Star Keno - Set of 2 Chips	\$250	188	\$1 Silver Palace	\$125
145	\$5 North Shore Club	\$200	189	\$5 Silver Slipper	\$50
146	Northern Nevada - Rack of chips	\$300	190	\$25 Silver Slipper	\$250
147	\$25 The Nugget	\$300	191	\$100 Silver Slipper	\$230
148	10¢ Orbit Inn	\$50	192	\$25 Silver Slipper - Boulder Highway	\$225
149	Ore House - Set of 6 chips	\$140	193	Stardust - Faro	\$50
150	\$5 Pagni Bros Jubilee	\$300	194	\$25 Stardust	\$450
151	Palace Station - Set of 5 Silver Strikes	\$60	195	\$1 State Line Casino	\$250
152	Palms - 5 chip Kiss Set	\$50	196	Stockman - roulette error chip	\$50
153	\$25 Paradise Hotel	\$250	197	\$25 Sturgeon's	\$775
154	Park Hotel - Roulette Layout	\$150	198	\$25 Sunset Club	\$150
155	\$5 Piccadilly Club	\$190	199	Tahoe Chips - Set of 3	\$200
156	25¢ Pioneer Club	\$175	200	Tahoe Village - plain mold roulette	\$250
157	\$5 Playboy - Bahamas	\$75	201	Taj Mahal - AC - Set of 4 chips	\$150
158	Playboy Club - Baccarat Layout	\$160	202	\$25 Tony's Club	\$225
159	Plaza - Set of 6 Silver Strikes	\$90	203	\$5 Topaz Lodge	\$100
160	Poker - Dealer Chip	\$90	204	\$25 Treasure Chest	\$100
161	Porcelain Gaming Tokens - Set of 7	\$75	205	\$25 Trocadero	\$375
162	\$5 Primadonna	\$250	206	\$10 Tropicana - AC	\$90
163	Ramada Express - Set of 12 chips	\$75	207	\$1 Tropicana	\$100
164	Ranch House token	\$20	208	\$25 Tropicana	\$30
165	\$25 Ranchinn	\$100	209	\$100 Tropicana - foil center inlay	\$500
166	Red Dolly Chips - Set of 5	\$126	210	\$100 Tropicana - fountain inlay	\$150
167	25¢ Reno Casino	\$60	211	Tropicana - Set of 13 Cuban chips	\$350
168	\$5 Resorts Int'l	\$80	212	Tropicana - Set of 6 Cuban Chips	\$250
169	Resorts Int'l - Set of 2 chips	\$10	213	Trump Marina - Set of 5 chips	\$275
170	50¢ Sahara	\$35	214	\$500 Trump Plaza - AC	\$50
171	Sahara - Set of 4 Plaques	\$350	215	Uncle Sams - Set of 3 chips/3 tokens	\$50
172	ND Sal Sagev	\$500	216	\$1 Wagon Wheel	\$100
173	\$100 Sands - AC	\$225	217	\$25 Wagon Wheel	\$230
174	\$1 Sands	\$650	218	\$1 The Westerner	\$575
175	\$25 Sands - house mold 8(4 fuchsia/4 purple)	\$225	219	\$100 The Westerner	\$70
176	\$25 Sands - house mold 3-white	\$25	220	\$25 The Wheel	\$100
			221	Whiskey Pete's	\$30

The 2005 OTY Awards Contest Opens Soon

by Jim Follis
OTY Awards Chairman

Once again, it's time to Nominate!

Even though we are just announcing the winners of the 2004 OTY Awards competitions, it is now time to get ready for the 2005 contests! Inside this issue of the award winning Casino Chip and Token News you will find an Official Nomination Form for the 2005 OTY Awards. Every Club member is encouraged to take a little time and reflect back on the fabulous array of chips, tokens strikes and cards issues by casinos worldwide during the calendar year of 2005. If any of them stand out in your mind, or take center-place in your collection, then perhaps you might want to recognize them by nominating them for an OTY Award. Please keep in mind that because of publication timing, we are a bit premature in announcing the 2005 OTY contest. Please allow the release and issuance of any and all 2004 OTY contenders by not making your selections until after midnight, December 31, 2005. Please note that submittals postmarked before that time will not be accepted.

For our hundreds of newer members since the last competition, this then is a refresher on how the competitions work. Only as a CC>CC member we are you entitled to participate in the Club's annual Chip of the Year (COTY), Token of the Year (TOTY), Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY) and Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY) competitions; The OTY's!

The 2005 Awards will be marking the Club's 16th year of COTY and TOTY competitions, our 6th year of the SSOTY competition and our 4th

year for CKOTY honors. I am both honored and pleased to be serving as the COTY, TOTY, SSOTY and CKOTY Awards Competitions Chairman, along with my son, Casey, the Assistant OTY Chairman.

Between 1 January, 2006 and 31 January, 2006 the Assistant OTY Chairman will be accepting nominations from any and all Club members in good standing. *As a reminder to all Regular members, please be sure to make a copy (or copies) of the nomination form for the Associate Member(s) tied to your membership number, so that they too may participate independent of your participation.*

Every member should keep in mind that **YOU MUST NOMINATE** at least one OTY candidate, in at least one category, **IN ORDER TO QUALIFY YOURSELF AS A JUDGE** in the final voting process. Simply stated:

YOU MUST NOMINATE TO PARTICIPATE!

Completed original nomination forms were designed to be folded, taped (stapling is acceptable, but the Post Office prefers tape), affixed with 1st Class postage (.37 cents) and then mailed. Providing that the insert was printed correctly this year, the mailing address will be pre-printed on the reverse of the form. However, completed forms (original forms or copies) may be sent in an envelope to the address that appears of the back of an original form. Which is also reprinted below for your convenience. As we did last year we will accept nominations via email (oty@ccgtcc.com). However, if you

take advantage of this method, you must format your submission into the same headings as the Nomination Form **AND** you must include all of your nominations at one time. Do not make piecemeal submissions. If you do, then the most current submission form will replace, in total, any previously submitted form. Emailed submissions must be sent prior to midnight (PST) January 31, 2006.

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

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

Judging will take place in the Month of April. All ballots must be

returned via the postal system and must be postmarked on or before a date yet to be established, but will be announced in the Judge's Pamphlet mailing. ATTENTION International members, I am inclined to make allowances for voting if these deadlines prove to be a hardship.

During the Month of May I will likely know the 1st Place finisher in each category. I will be going about the task of preparing the various award plaques. I will also be taking care of the Club's acquisition of the four First-place finishers to add to the Club's Permanent Collection.

The Permanent Collection is the Club's own collection of all past winners of the Chip of the Year, Token of the Year, Silver Strike of the Year and Room Key/Slot Card Key of the Year Awards Competitions. That collection will once again be on-display at the Convention as a non-competitive Exhibit right along side a complete set of all 40 Finalists from the 2005 competitions.

Well, that about covers it, except for the fine print below. I encourage each and every member to participate in this event, as I see these competitions as an opportunity for the Club's

members to tell the casinos and their suppliers that we appreciate their efforts to produce a quality product.

The fine print:

All nominees must have been issued, for use, for the first time, during the calendar year of 2004. Various members of the CC>CC may be called upon to verify this criteria for chips and tokens. The Officers of the Silver Striker's Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for Silver Strikes. The Officers of the Slot Card and Room Key Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for slot cards/room keys.

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

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

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

Slot Card/Room Key of the Year eligibility criteria:

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

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

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

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2005?dir=COTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2005?dir=TOTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2005?dir=SSOTY>

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2005?dir=CKOTY>

Jim Follis
OTY Awards Chairman

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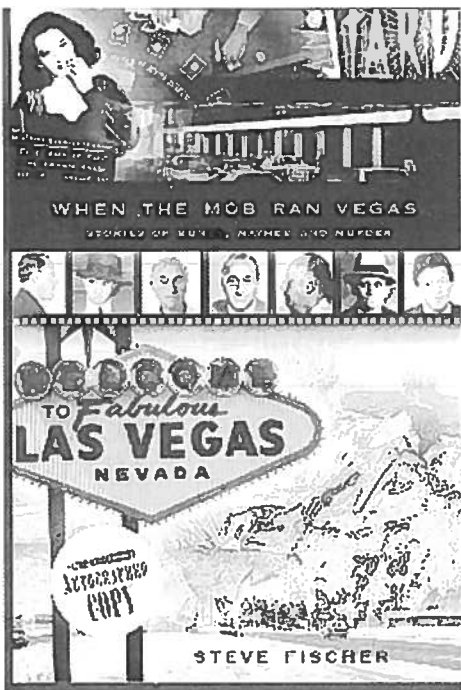
Knapp On Books

by Michael Knapp

I 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.



When the Mob Ran Vegas (2005),
by Steve Fischer

Steve Fischer can tell a story. His style is light and breezy, and his book is full of detail about the days before the Las Vegas Strip was a series of

theme parks and monuments to egos; back when players were kings and queens, and there was always some casino income on which taxes weren't paid.

Those of you who have done research on Las Vegas, its hotels and casinos and its personalities and characters will find much familiar in this book. Even for avid readers, there will be details you've never read before. Those of you who have never done your own research will find Fischer's book riveting.

Organized into 22 chapters, the book is a combination of reminiscences and history, and without authors like Steve Fischer, much of early Nevada gaming history would be lost forever.

On occasion, my own research has led me to slightly different versions of the matters this book covers, but for the most part it's an in-depth, although selective, history of what Las Vegas (and to a degree, Lake Tahoe) was like in the 1950's through the 1970's.

The Flamingo (no, Ben Siegel didn't envision the place out of thin air in the desert; that's a convenient myth that has survived longer than it should have); the Thunderbird; El Rancho Vegas; the Riviera; the Stardust; the Moulin Rouge; the Tropicana; the Cal-Neva Lodge; Caesars Palace; the Sands; the Silver Slipper – all classic mob joints discussed in detail and with humor in Steve's book.

Some of you will have read parts

of the book in Steve's (Omahagramma) listings on eBay, but there is far more between the covers of the book than you may have seen online.

Ben Siegel, Meyer Lansky, Jake Lansky, the Katelmans, Tony "The Admiral" Cornero, "Icepick Willie" Alderman, Gus Greenbaum, Davie Berman, Moe Sedway, John Marshall (Caifano), Frank Costello, Marion Hicks, Cliff Jones, "Dandy Phil" Kastel, Tony "Joe Batters" Accardo, Frank Rosenthal, Tony "The Ant" Spilotro, Carl Cohen, Frank Sinatra, Sam Giancana, Jack Entratter, Johnny Roselli, Howard Hughes – all names which resound through Las Vegas' history, and with which most of you will be familiar. All of them play parts in Fischer's stories.

When the Mob Ran Vegas is a quick, entertaining read, and everyone is sure to find nuggets of history they didn't know before.

The Records of the H. C. Edwards Company

By
Mark Lighterman
And
Gene Trimble

Volume 1

First Edition

2001

The records of the H. C. Edwards Company, (2001)

by Mark Lighterman
and Gene Trimble

Often chip collectors whose interests run to the history behind the chips we collect, and those who wish to identify unknown chips (for example, those with nothing but initials on them), long to be able to rummage through the records of chip manufacturers to mine the wealth of information contained in the records.

Unfortunately, chip manufacturers are extremely secretive about what they've produced and for whom. With respect to chips made for illegal (or merely unlicensed) gaming establishments, the need for such secrecy was self-evident. It is less obvious with respect to open, operating, licensed casinos, but the traditional veil of secrecy has covered chips made even for the most public of casinos.

Many of the manufacturers and distributors that made chips for long-closed clubs, especially illegal clubs, are now out of business and gone. Most of those destroyed their records as one of the last acts before they closed the doors for good (B. C. Wills and Rigdon, for example). Other manufacturers (notably T. R. King) maintain the records and sell research and identifications to collectors.

Fortunately, on occasion the collecting community has the opportunity to salvage some or all of the records of a chip manufacturer or distributor, and sometimes the individuals who obtain the records publish them for the benefit of all collectors.

That is exactly what Mark Lighterman and Gene Trimble did with the records of the H. C. Edwards Co. which they were able to obtain

from their current owner. Lighterman and Trimble then went through the records, organized them, scanned them, and published them in book form for the reference of all chip collectors.

There is a wealth of previously unknown information in the book, and sometimes the missing information is not only tantalizing but tremendously frustrating as well.

It was generally thought that H. C. Edwards (which was not a manufacturer of chips, but a distributor for The Burt Co. in Maine) sold chips from about 1950 through 1968. What Mark and Gene determined, however, was that H. C. Edwards sales continued well into the 1980's. The H mold was the mold exclusively distributed by H. C. Edwards, but the records showed that they also sold some Dash-B and double-diamond-square mold chips.

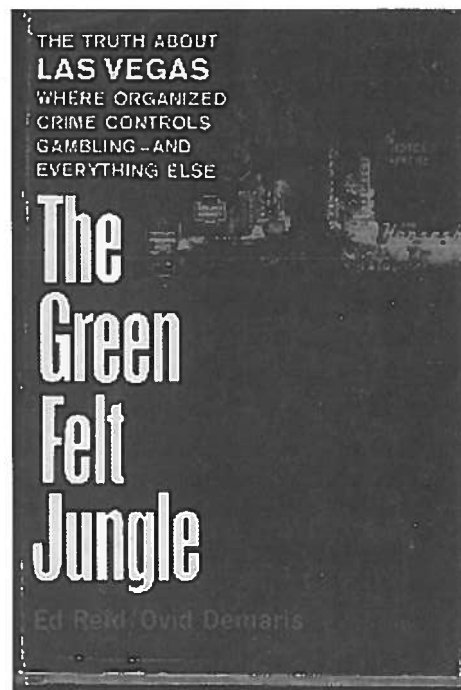
Most often, center inlay chips were ordered from and made by the chip manufacturer, then sent to the distributor for sale to the customer. Hotstamped chips, however, were usually made by the distributor on blanks made by the manufacturer and sent to the distributor under tight security.

The records that constitute the book are the hotstamped variety, which H. C. Edwards made and sold themselves.

I suspect that the records that Mark and Gene were able to obtain, were only a portion of the H. C. Edwards chip records: the vast majority of the chips in the book were sold in the 1970's and 1980's, and we know that H. C. Edwards was distributing chips much earlier than that. Some of the records indicate shipment to what clearly amount to "fronts" or "mail drops." For exam-

ple, chips sent to a Baskin-Robbins ice cream store or a dry cleaner or a laundromat or even a little league group. There is no information as to where the chips were actually used in play.

Most often the style of final hotstamp is shown on the record cards reproduced in the book. In addition, "die tags," sample prints of custom-made hotstamp dies, constitute some 20 pages of the 350 pages in the book. Many of these die tags show hotstamp dies for chips with which collectors will be more familiar: Harolds Club, Club Cal-Neva, The Avalon, Boulder Club, etc. For any serious collector interested in going beyond the amassing of chips, this book, is a terrific addition to the literature of the hobby. Copies may be obtained by e-mailing Mark Lighterman at mlighter@bellsouth.net.



The Green Felt Jungle (1963)
by Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris

I'm going to depart from my policy of reviewing only books that are currently in print, because anyone interested in the history of gaming in

Nevada will need to find some books that are no longer being published. *The Green Felt Jungle*, virtually the first book every to delve behind the faces of the public “front owners” of Las Vegas casinos to reveal their true ownership and operation, is one of those indispensable books. And it is available. Used copies, although they sometimes command \$50, can still be found.

Reid (who at one time in the late 1980’s was a member of CC>CC) and Demaris are clearly anti-gaming, and their bias sometimes shows through in the language they use and the labels they attach to people and casinos. Still, the information contained in this classic exposé is invaluable and enlightening. It was one of the main sources of information for Steve Fischer’s book, reviewed above, and has been a major resource for many other authors for the past 32 years.

Demaris, by the way, also wrote *The Boardwalk Jungle* (1986), about the beginning of gaming in Atlantic City and the mob’s influence (although not through direct ownership as it was in Las Vegas). And Ed Reid, before teaming with Demaris, wrote the classic *Las Vegas: City Without Clocks* (1961).

The reader gets the hint that Reid and Demaris aren’t exactly fans of Las Vegas on the book’s very first page: “The city itself looks like a grotesque Disneyland.” This in 1962. One can only imagine what they’d say about today’s Strip and the Fremont Street Experience.

But then, for the first time ever in a published book, the authors begin dissecting Las Vegas hotel by hotel and character by character. Of course, there’s Ben Siegel, the wire service, the Flamingo Hotel and his murder.

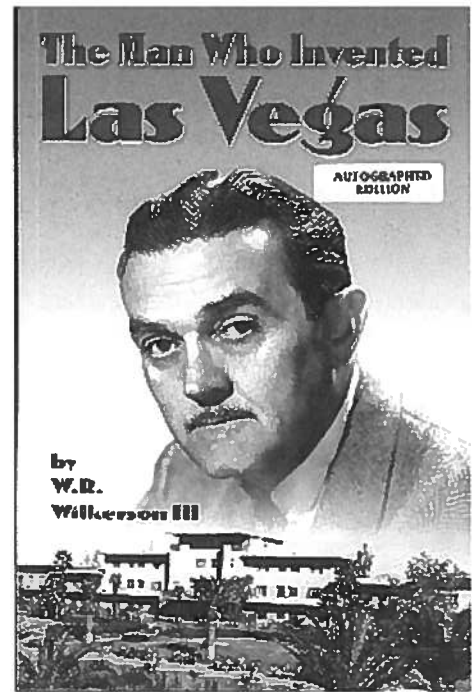
Verbatim quotes from the Kefauver hearings and from wiretap transcripts. The details of the killings of the “Two Tonys,” two relatively small-time hoods who pulled off the only (to this day, some 44 years later.) successful robbery of a casino.

Wilbur Clark and “his” Desert Inn – how it came to be controlled by Moe Dalitz and his Cleveland associates, with Clark as the public front man. Dalitz’s history with the Cleveland mob and his involvement in illegal gambling in Ohio and Kentucky. Tony “The Admiral” Cornero’s back-ground and his Starlight Hotel, the stock swindle that financed it, and its takeover by the Dalitz Desert Inn group.

Frank Costello and the Tropicana; Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Doc Stacher at the Sands; the Dunes, Major Riddle and Ray Patriarca, head of the New England mob; Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund and its involvement with the major Strip hotels; Benny Binion’s history in bootlegging, murder and gambling in Dallas and Fort Worth, and his running feud with Herbert “The Cat” Noble.

All these stories, many now simply accepted fact, first saw the light of day in *The Green Felt Jungle* more than 40 years ago. A lengthy Appendix lists the licensed owners of Las Vegas casinos at the time of publication, along with home addresses and the percentage of ownership of each licensee.

The Green Felt Jungle is an amazing part of Las Vegas gaming history, especially considering when it was published and what it revealed.



The Man Who Invented Las Vegas
(2000)
by W. R. Wilkerson III

Sometimes myths are more fun than reality, and the history of the Flamingo Hotel certainly has its share of fun myth.

As the story goes, Ben Siegel, on his way out of Las Vegas back to Los Angeles, after a trip to make sure his Trans-America Wire Service was carried by all existing Las Vegas sports books, suddenly had a flash of inspiration, stopped in the middle of the desert, looked around, and decided he’d build the world’s swankiest hotel and casino on a desolate stretch of road that every traveler between Nevada and Southern California would have to pass. From that flash came the Flamingo Hotel, larger and fancier than anything Las Vegas knew at the time.

But that’s the myth. Never mind that El Rancho Vegas and the Last Frontier already existed not far away on what would become the Strip. Never mind that a man named Billy Wilkerson, already an established

impresario in Los Angeles – a publisher and nightclub owner – had already begun building the hotel. Never mind that Siegel got into what would be the Flamingo the same way most mob characters wound up in the casino business – by lending money and taking control, sometimes through force.

The Man Who Invented Las Vegas, written by his son, is the story of Billy Wilkerson, of what really happened, and how.

Billy Wilkerson began publishing a small newspaper called “The Hollywood Reporter,” devoted to the motion picture industry, in 1930. Within five years it was the voice of the movie business and was read coast-to-coast.

Wilkerson also became involved in the restaurant and nightclub business, at one time owning the top clubs on the famed Sunset Strip: Ciro’s, the Trocadero, L’Aiglon, La Rue, Vendome and Sunset House. Between the paper and the nightclubs, Wilkerson became a Hollywood insider, rubbing elbows with producers, directors, and major studio stars and catering to their extravagant tastes.

Wilkerson also had a problem: he was a compulsive gambler. Joe

Schenck, then chairman of 20th Century Fox, is given credit for advising Wilkerson that if he was going to gamble the huge amounts he was playing at the tables in Las Vegas and at Agua Caliente in Mexico, he should seriously consider owning the house.

It was Wilkerson, not Siegel, who realized that Las Vegas was only appealing to hard core gamblers from Hollywood because the rustic “old west” casinos didn’t compare to the swanky, European-styled restaurants and clubs that the industry glitterati were used to. He determined to change that, and early in 1945 bought the 33-acre parcel that became the Flamingo, from Margaret Folsom, who was unsuccessfully running a small bordello out of a run-down motel on Highway 91 to Los Angeles.

Wilkerson hired architects and designers to begin concept work on his classy hotel in the desert, and it was Wilkerson, not Siegel, who came up with the name “Flamingo Club,” because his favorite haunt in New York was the Stork Club – another bird. Live flamingos were to cavort around fountains and pools in Wilkerson’s concept.

To help him run the casino, Wilkerson went to Gus Greenbaum and Moe Sedway, then operating El

Cortez in partnership with – you guessed it – Ben Siegel. They liked Wilkerson’s enthusiasm and nightclub-restaurant background, and agreed to pitch in. For a percentage, of course. Siegel, at this point, was unknown to Wilkerson. His name had never come up.

Wilkerson’s gambling problem caught up with him during construction, though. He was out of funds, having lost most of what hadn’t been put into the building, he owed Greenbaum and Sedway money, and he needed help. Sedway promised to find it. It was Moe Sedway, not Ben Siegel, who went to Meyer Lansky to pitch the value of owning a classy hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

Ultimately, Lansky put together a deal with Harry Rothberg, a bootlegger and later legitimate liquor distiller and distributor, to finance the Flamingo. Only after that deal was done – in exchange for 2/3 ownership of the venture, did Ben Siegel step in to watch over the Lansky group’s investment.

The book details how construction progressed, the financial problems that Wilkerson had, and the eventual muscling-out of the idea man by his mob associates.

A fascinating and myth-debunking look at the real history of the Flamingo Hotel.



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CC>CC Library

New Additions for Summer 2005

by Robert Pardue
Club Librarian

Any club member or associate member in good standing may check-out materials from the club library. Contact Robert Pardue, club librarian, by email (librarian@ccgtcc.com) or regular mail (P.O. Box 2014 Laguna Hills, CA 92654). You may check out up to four (4) items at a time. Items are mailed to you, generally Priority Mail, at club expense. Heavy items may use "media mail/parcel post" class. Postal tracking and/or insurance may be recommended or required for certain items.

Keep the items for up to 3 weeks; renew for 2 additional weeks as long as the item(s) haven't been requested by another member. Return the items by mail at your expense. Use postal tracking and/or insurance for items of value.

I Picked up a few new books, guides and CD's for the club library at the 2005 annual convention in Las Vegas. For Las Vegas history buffs, a couple of good reads – *Next to Hughes: Behind the Power and Tragic Downfall of Howard Hughes by His Closest Advisor*, by Robert Maheu. This 1992 book tells the Howard Hughes story from the perspective of his right-hand man, Mr. Maheu. The book was personally signed by Mr. Maheu, our guest speaker at the 2004 convention banquet, then generously donated to the club by Mark Sutton. Also added to the library, a brand-new historical book titled *When the Mob Ran Vegas: Stories of Money, Mayhem and Murder*, donated by author and club member Steve Fischer. A number of the older casinos are featured in this recounting of Las Vegas when "the boys" were in charge.

New Mexico: Casino Chip, Tokens & Slot Card Guide, by David Niver, contains just what the title suggests – casino collectibles from the American Indian casinos and Racinos located in the state. Donated by the author, this 2nd edition (2005) includes color photos and valuations for value chips, roulettes, tokens and slot cards.

For the token collector, a donation of 5 editions of *A List of the World's Gaming Tokens*, by Earl Donley was received from member John Bolinger. These 5 editions (#2, 7, 12, 13 and 16) are representative of the semi-annual updates published by token specialist, Earl Donley. The most recent edition was published in January, 2005 and contains detailed lists of tokens, promotional items and silver strikes from the USA, riverboats, Indian casinos, cruise ships and foreign casinos. Quite a comprehensive list of both current and closed casinos, though it does not contain price estimates.

A Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles is a new booklet, published by CC>CC in its 1st edition, August 2005, for free distribution at the convention. Edited by club member Sheldon Smith, this booklet is a compilation of 20 short articles by other club members, answering frequently asked questions or offering perspectives about collecting casino memorabilia. The booklet includes a convenient CC>CC grade and conditions chart too.

The Platinum Collection auction catalog is a computer compact-disk presentation of a significant Nevada

chip and token collection to be auctioned in September 2005. Billed as "the finest combined collection of Nevada gaming chips and tokens in the world", a number of items were illustrated in last quarter's issue of our club magazine. This CD includes searchable photos of all the chips in the collection, plus selected tokens. Club members Howard & Kregg Herz and James Campiglia were instrumental in consulting on this auction catalog, along with Julie Carlson. Kudos for the easy navigation and quality color photos of this collection, which includes some rare and gorgeous items!

And finally, for poker playing members, a DVD titled *Howard Lederer "Tells" All: Winning Secrets for No-Limit Hold'em Poker*. Featuring Howard Lederer, a successful high-stakes poker professional, this 60 minute presentation explains how to read opponents' "tells" across the poker table. (This is the same DVD given to players in the 2005 CC>CC poker tournament, compliments of the Palms.)

For a full listing of materials in the club library, and procedures for checking-out items, view the list on the club website.



INTERNATIONAL SWIZZLE STICK COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

The International Swizzle Stick Collectors Association (I.S.S.C.A.) was founded on June 1st, 1985 by Ray P. Hoare of Vancouver, BC, Canada and Polly Rusk of Yuma, Arizona. The formation of this organization was brought about by the necessity of a place where swizzle stick collectors could meet, swap, and talk about their chosen hobby - SWIZZLE STICK'.

I.S.S.C.A. is not connected with any other collectors club or association. It is a co-founded, non-sponsored organization, dedicated to helping its members. As the name implies, we are swizzle stick collectors.

Upon formation of The International Swizzle Stick Collectors Association with initially 17 members, we realized that our chosen hobby could grow rapidly, and therefore to have a monthly meeting per se, would be almost out of the question. We decided that a monthly newsletter would have to act as our monthly meeting.

The first newsletter went out in October 1985, and since then our membership has grown from its original 17 to in excess of 160, and our newsletter went from its original four pages to anywhere from thirty to forty pages each and every month.

The newsletter is written, edited composed and printed in Vancouver,

British Columbia, Canada. Topics covered are:

- Editors thoughts and comments
- Letters received, opinions, comments and ideas.
- Swizzle stick articles or related subjects written by or on members of I.S.S.C.A.
- Help wanted. Identify swizzle sticks by sending in photocopies. These are published for a three month period.
- Advertising. Buy, sell or trade
- Classi-Classified. Advertise for specific items. Reasonable rates.
- Freebee offers.
- New members, changes and deletions
- Additional information on conventions.

By becoming a member of I.S.S.C.A. we feel the benefits will far out-weigh the cost of membership. We can, and will provide you with all the information available to swizzle stick collectors, plus an opportunity to add to your collection, meet with sincere helpful collectors, trade with, on a "trust basis" and in general learn more about this hobby that you would ever thought possible.

Among our membership are two reputable swizzle stick manufacturers that help support I.S.S.C.A. through their advertisements. One of them has been very instrumental in making available at our conventions, overruns on swizzle sticks at a minimal cost as a fund raiser for I.S.S.C.A. We also have back issues of our

newsletters available at a nominal cost which will bring you up to date information wise, on one of the fastest rising collectibles.

We sincerely hope that the above information has been helpful to you, and look forward to having you become a member of the International Swizzle Stick Collectors Association. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact us at your convenience. We are always here to help you.

Membership Dues

Membership dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters, printing and providing a yearly membership roster, and cost of supplies and services to support our printing equipment.

\$30.00 US One year membership per member (U.S. Residents)

\$10.00 US Spouse (optional) - regardless of residence

\$35.00 US Canadian Residents

\$40.00 US International Residents (other than Canada)

Cheques should be made payable (in U.S. funds only) to I.S.S.C.A and mailed to:

Vera J. Hoare,
Secretary/Treasurer,
International Swizzle Stick Collectors Association,
P.O. Box 1117,
Bellingham, WA. 98227-1117

El Rancho Vegas

by Steve Fischer

On the bottom of the card is a piece of information that I always found interesting - The Hull Hotel Company built the El Rancho Vegas for \$425,000.

And that's the starting point that I've been looking for.

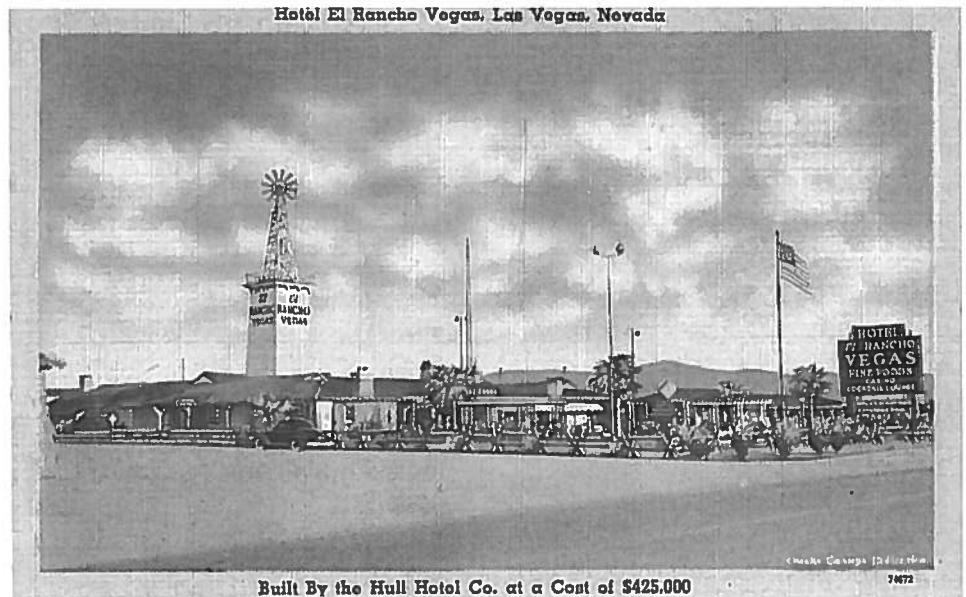
Before you read this - a small explanation - Ownership of Las Vegas hotels and casinos are sometimes quite complex.

There are sometimes many different owners, and sometimes, as was the case with the first 10 years of the El Rancho, owners kind of kept coming and going, the same owners kept buying into and then selling the hotel, then buying it again. . There is a fairly complex ownership coming up ... and I'm using this nice postcard, which I think is the first Post Card the El Rancho put out, as a vehicle to go into the first 10 years of the ERV

Most of the writing that I do on the El Rancho Vegas has to do with its later years - the 1950s through the fire which destroyed it on June 17, 1960.

During the 1950s, the ERV had a pretty stable ownership ... not that BELDON KATLEMAN, who owned the El Rancho Vegas, was what could be called stable, but the ownership in the 1950s involved only two majority owners, BELDON KATLEMAN and BENJAMIN ARANOFF.

Before I began on the early years of the El Rancho Vegas ... let me talk for a moment about its closing, and the fire.



There are few history buffs who can agree on who killed Bugsy Siegel. All sorts of possibilities exist there - as to who actually pulled the trigger, and who ordered the hit. Much the same situation exists when people talk about who or what caused the fire that destroyed the first of the Las Vegas resorts, the El Rancho Vegas (ERV).

There are generally three possible reasons given for the fire.

First - That it was an accidental fire. It started in the kitchen area, and though it was a "very hot and fast burning fire". (Fire Department code for, "possibly a chemical accelerant" was involved), maybe it was just an accidental fire.

Second - That the fire was started by someone who was not involved with the hotel. Someone who disliked BELDON KATLEMAN enough to want to burn him out, and then had the guts or the craziness to actually

do it. Beldon was disliked by many people, but there weren't more than a handful who were actually capable of doing arson.

MARSHALL CAIFANO was one of those people. During the first year that Ciafano was in Las Vegas, 1945, he had his named changed to JOHN MARSHAL. It sounded more sedate, nearly human. CAIFANO was sent by Tony Accardo, head of the Chicago Outfit, (what the "mob" was called in Chicago), to watch out for its interests in Las Vegas - he was Chicago's Enforcer in Vegas from 1949 through 1960, and then again from 1965 through 1969.

Each time he was called back to Chicago, he was replaced by JOHNNY ROSELLI. Roselli was Sam Giancana's friend - but Sam's boss, Tony Accardo, hated Roselli. Giancana kept sending him out to Las Vegas, and bringing Caifano back in from the cold. Most people who knew Caifano knew he was genuine-

ly a psychopath, even if they didn't know what the word meant, and that he truly enjoying killing people.

He also had this thing for blowtorches. It was his favorite toy.

There were many people who died in Chicago by blowtorch in the 1930s and 1940s ... and many people believed Johnny was responsible. Included was the 1947 torch murder of a 22 year old female dealer at one of Sam Giancana's Chicago gambling clubs. Chances are, she was probably pocketing some chips, so a blowtorch seemed to be a logical reprimand. A single mother, she left a 3 year old son.

A few people in Las Vegas began showing up being burned to death also. Well, they were in the desert outside of Las Vegas at least - but torching was become a very popular method of gangland execution in Las Vegas, and JOHNNY MARSHALL used to keep a blowtorch in the trunk of his car, you know, "just in case".

And then one night in May 1960, JOHNNY MARSHALL was thrown out of the El Rancho Vegas showroom. Thrown out on his rear end in the parking lot - in front of people!

BELDON KATLEMAN told two security guards to toss him on his keester or look for new work! Of course the security guards knew who JOHNNY MARSHALL was .. but he was dead drunk, they hoped! This happened two weeks before the fire.

CAIFANO was always my pick as having caused the El Rancho Vegas fire ... then I found a new piece of information, which I never had before .. and that becomes the

Third possible reason for the fire. Insurance. In the last two years of the

life of the El Rancho Vegas - things were not going at all well.

By 1958 and 1959, the El Rancho Vegas, its WESTERN motif was out of style ... tourists were wanting the glamour of the Desert Inn or the Sands or most of the newer resorts - and the income from the gaming tables at the ERV began dropping steadily.

And more and more people were being laid off, and the top entertainers who used to call the El Rancho Vegas home, could now make more money further south on the Strip.

And then there was the Fire Insurance thing. After the fire, while the Sheriff's department was going through the hotel's business files - they found that BELDON KATLEMAN had let most of his bills slip to 2 or 3 months past due ... with the exception of his Fire Insurance Policy ... THAT was paid up to date.

Now many of you who are on eBay frequently have seen the fire-damaged and fused chips and other items from the ERV.

Poor BELDON KATLEMAN had to admit to the Las Vegas Police that he had apparently forgotten to make a deposit yesterday ... and he had nearly \$500,000 in cash that was in the safe there - and well, the chips fused together .. the cash, that was not only burned to a crisp, the crisp itself was burned so badly that there wasn't even any residue left - half a million dollars in cash burned - what a lucky thing about the insurance premiums being paid up to date!

And then there was the matter of BENJAMIN ARANOFF.

Ben Aranoff enjoyed Las Vegas .. and he was a regular High Roller at the El Rancho Vegas.

One day at the beginning of 1958, Aranoff was at the El Rancho Vegas when Katleman asked if he'd be interested in becoming a 50/50 partner with him in the property.

All Aranoff had to put up was \$500,000 - and he owned half the El Rancho Vegas. So Aranoff called his wife back in Toledo - and told her the good news - they were now half owners of the El Rancho Vegas.

The good news turned sour very quickly. BELDON KATLEMAN decided that he now had ARANOFF'S half million, and it wasn't going to be necessary to cut Aranoff in on the profits - nor to return the loan. (Something which KATLEMAN was becoming more and more famous for). This also happened with a guy named MURRAY RANDOLPH from L.A. - he loaned Beldon \$475,000 so that Beldon could buy into the LAST FRONTIER back in 1944 - and that was the end of MURRAY RANDOLPH'S money).

When Randolph sued to recover his money - BELDON told the court that RANDOLPH had known Mob Associates behind him, and BELDON didn't want "those type of people" owning any part of anything in his beloved town, Las Vegas .. and that he was going to return the half million dollars "as soon as humanly possible."

Well, Ben Aranoff, all 5'2" of him wasn't gonna take that kind of thing. You don't become wealthy enough to have a HALF MILLION in ready cash laying around by being stupid, or being shy, and Aranoff pressed the issue in court - and won an injunction to attach the property of the El Rancho Vegas - "property" in this case meant cash from the cashier's cages and back room.

Sheriff LEYPOLD of Las Vegas was a friend of KATLEMAN'S .. he tried to delay the confiscation of the cashier's cage money .. but Ben Aranoff forced his lawyer to threaten Sheriff LEYPOLD with suit also, if he didn't act immediately!

Reluctantly, on April 7, 1959, the Las Vegas Sheriff's office closed the El Rancho Vegas for 2 days, until Beldon had repaid the money he'd promised Murray as his monthly repayment on the \$500,000 loan.

This exact same scenario happened a second time, on October 29, 1959, the sheriff again attached the El Rancho Vegas funds and accounts. Which AGAIN closed the El Rancho Vegas - this time for four days until KATLEMAN could come up with the money which was needed for this month's installment on the loan!

These short cash positions happened throughout 1960 - and performers began walking out on their contracts .. saying they were not getting paid for their performances.

I think attachment of funds, and non-payment of contracts, and the like could usually be thought of as "handwriting on the wall" in most any business

On June 17, 1960 at about 4:00 AM, security guards smelled smoke coming from the main building - and by the time the Las Vegas Fire Department could respond the hotel was a complete loss.

According to the newspaper articles on the day following the fire, many of the firemen interviewed believed it was "too hot and fast burning of fire" The hotel was a complete loss. Thank Heaven ... all the insurance premiums were paid up to date!

That was the end of the El Rancho Vegas - it was never rebuilt.

Either KATLEMAN decided that he had enough money, and he had made millions of dollars in Las Vegas, or the rumor was true, that BELDON KATLEMAN was told by the other Casino Owners on the Strip to get out of town! He was hated, with cause by the other owners. "Psycho" was a term which was often used to describe him ... and Las Vegas would be better off if he were no longer there. The one thing most everyone could agree with about KATLEMAN was that he couldn't be trusted to keep his word.

The segue here ... BELDON KATLEMAN ... last owner of the El Rancho Vegas may have had a personality similar to THOMAS A. HULL, first owner of the El Rancho Vegas.

Just a little background on TOMMY HULL.

Tommy was a successful hotel operator .. started with next to nothing, ended up owning and managing four or five fairly good sized hotels including the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and four or five smaller properties, including some motor courts -- and each of the motor courts he renamed the El Rancho something or other .. The El Rancho Vegas was going to be the third.

Tommy hired WAYNE McCALLISTER of Los Angeles as his architect on the new project. You may recognize the name WAYNE McALLISER as the designer of many of the early Las Vegas Strip hotels, including the Sands and the Desert Inn. He designed the El Rancho Vegas in 1939 and 1940, and as soon as that project was finished for him, he worked with BEN SIEGEL remodeling the front of

Ben's new hotel - The El Cortez downtown.

McALLISTER also designed Bob's Big Boy Restaurants, and Big Boy #1 in Toluca Lake, California is on the California Register of Historic Places.

June, 1942 to June 1943 was the biggest and best year for the El Rancho Vegas. It added 60 units for military officers from the Gunnery School (now called Nellis Air Force Base).

There was so much money being made in the year's period, that R.E. Griffith and his nephew BILL MOORE decided to build the second Las Vegas resort hotel on the Strip - The Last Frontier. (R.E. GRIFFITH was the brother of D.W. GRIFFITH, the movie mogul).

July 2, 1943 - TOMMY HULL sold out to JOE DROWN for \$700,000. Included in the purchase price was a housing project just north of the El Rancho.

JOE DROWN was into hotels. He made a lot of money in buying and selling his hotels. His most famous, the BEL-AIR HOTEL, he kept until the year he died in 1982 - he owned the BEL-AIR for nearly 40 years. For this particular transaction, DROWN was acting on behalf of one of his best friends and clients, CONRAD HILTON, President of the Hilton Hotel chain.

Many people believe that TOMMY HULL sold the El Rancho Vegas because of BILL MOORE up the road. The Last Frontier had just opened ... and it was magnificent. HULL knew competition when he saw it, and decided to cash in while he could.

According to the bottom of the El

Rancho Vegas post card, the El Rancho Vegas cost Tommy \$425,000 to built two years earlier .. and if JOE DROWN paid him \$700,00 for it .. that's a pretty nice profit of \$275,000 - especially because Tommy was having all kinds of personnel problems at the ERV.

In the two years that TOMMY HULL owned the ERV, there were 13 different General Managers at the property.

Hull was an s.o.b. - a real hard character to work for. What made it especially difficult was that HULL lived in LA, and believed in Micro Management. He called his hotel managers 2 and 3 times a day ... and he wanted an accurate, up-to-the-minute report about what was going on at each of his hotels. And how he wanted things to be going for the rest of that day. 13 General Managers in 24 months.

The following is a time-line on the FIRST 10 years in the life of the El Rancho Vegas ... it changed hands many times in that time ... yet, if you notice the sale price each time, you'll notice that each and every owner who had the ERV made money off it.

June 22, 1944 - JOE DROWN retained 25% of the ERV, and sold 75% to CONRAD HILTON for \$930K - HILTON and DROWN bought some adjoining land and expand the El Rancho Vegas from 66 to 100 acres.

Feb 10, 1944 - CONRAD HILTON decided to sell most, but not all, of his holdings in the El Rancho Vegas. The Los Angeles hotel broker S.P. BARASH, sold Hilton's portion of the ERV to the Clark-Smith Hotel Company.

Partners in Clark-Smith Hotel Company were WILBUR CLARK,

JACK WALSH and CLAYTON SMITH, a San Diego Hotel man.

The purchase price for the ERV was now up to \$1.25M. Included in this price were 100 acres of ground, 70 bungalows and the hotel. WILBUR CLARK, who was a 25% owner of the El Rancho Vegas (the hotel portion), also leased the casino for 10% of the casino's net profits.

Sept 17, 1945 - (18 MONTHS LATER) JACK WALSH and CLAYTON SMITH decided to sell their portion of the EL RANCHO to WALT GUZZARDI of Encino, Calif and his son, JOE GUZZARDI of Woodland Hills, Calif.

WALT GUZZARDI was a Los Angeles restaurant owner. The sale price of the property to the GUZZARDIS was now \$1.5M.

The sale included 200 acres in the immediate vicinity, the 240-room El Rancho Vegas, an airport site and the physical property of radio station KENO.

WILBUR CLARK, was a partner who also leased the casino from the Guzzardis for \$500,000 per year, and the fourth partner was G.E. Kinsey, also of Los Angeles.

Oct. 15, 1945 - The EL RANCHO VILLAGE (which was what the El Rancho Vegas was called) - was a "PRIORITY BUILT" (WWII) housing project. Priority Built because the Army approved the El Rancho Vegas for temporary housing for officers and some NCOs who were coming into the bases for training.

The OPA (Office of Pricing Administration)sued the GUZZARDI, JOE DROWN and WILBUR CLARK for charging over OPA guidelines for "wartime rental" of these cottages - and the 4 owners were fined \$19,500.

Nov 9, 1945 - Wilbur Clark who owned 25% of resort, (as well as the casino), filed in court to put the EL RANCHO VEGAS in RECEIVERSHIP - involuntary bankruptcy. He charged that JOE and WALT GUZZARDI misappropriated funds and went over OPA Regulations. (OPA during the Second World War was the *Office of Pricing Administration.*) It put a ceiling on pricing - especially that pricing that had to do with uniformed personnel. In this case the court allegation that CLARK was making was that the El Rancho Village, was charging service men in excess of the OPA ceiling for rental.

Nov 11, 1945 - Fight over which court had jurisdiction. The Guzzardis wanted this settled in Federal Court - because they claimed to be California residents - however CLARK and G.E. KINSEY, a Los Angeles real estate broker, wanted the receivership handled in a Nevada Court (not a Federal one) because they claimed that the Guzzardis were Nevada residents.

The Nevada Court was given jurisdiction, and the District Court Judge GEORGE E. MARSHAL was very friendly with WILBUR CLARK - forcing the Guzzardis out of their ownership, for a very small amount of money, only \$5,000.

Jan 18, 1946 - (Two months into the litigation) - JOE DROWN buys the Guzzardis out of the rest of what they feel should be their ownership - a little more than \$100,000.

The Guzzardi's father and son, who invested about \$60,000 in the El Rancho Vegas during September of 1945, and here it is January of 1946, a little less than FOUR MONTHS LATER - and they've got 5-Gs out of WILBUR CLARK.

Though Clark probably really did

pull a fast one on them, now JOE DROWN was giving them what amounts to settlement money of about \$100 Thousand .. and they still have a law suit pending. OK, four months, \$45,000 profit (\$45,000 in 1946 money), and all the comps that come with owning the fanciest damn hotel in Las Vegas for the winter of 1945.

Chances are the Walt Guzzardi and his wife, (the ones who lived in Encino) would drive out to Burbank Airport, and catch one of the charter flights that KIRK KIRKORIAN was offering.

Conjecture only, but I'd assume KIRKORIAN and GUZZARDI knew each other ... maybe GUZZARDI Sr. and GUZZARDI Jr. even spent an occasional weekend up at EL RANCHO by themselves. Playing golf and attending Church on Sunday morning, naturally - with the guys!

When JOE DROWN, again the guy who owned the Bel-Air Hotel bought the GUZZARDI Clan out of their half interest in the El Rancho, in the months following the Second World War - the El Rancho Vegas was still an elegant property.

The Flamingo was just beginning construction, and the Last Frontier Hotel was a mile further along the Los Angeles Highway toward Las Vegas. The El Rancho Vegas was still riding on years of war business ... either from the Army base or BMI, from the movie colony - every night was party night at the El Rancho Vegas.

Physically the El Rancho Vegas was made up of the main building, which held the lobby and the restaurant, the casino and the offices.

In 1945 there were two retail shops in El Rancho, the Gift Shop and the Travel Agency. You could

make your travel plans, including a return to the El Rancho Vegas right there in the lobby. The rest of the property was made up of private cabins - where you'd drive right up to the front door of your cabin, and park there. Each of the cabins had its own kitchen, and a nice sitting room, and most had fireplaces.

The grounds of El Rancho Vegas during this time period were immaculate. Each cabin had its own BBQ, and picnic table, beautiful well tended lawns and greenery everywhere. To get to your cabin, you could follow the well lighted and well paved roads winding through the property. Ten gardeners worked year round keeping up the grounds. The El Rancho Vegas used as much as 10 million gallons of water a month during the hot summer months. Horseback riding, buggy rides and nightly campfires were all part of the Las Vegas scene at the El Rancho Vegas.

The resort maintained its own laundry facilities on the premises, and a staff of 15 worked to iron shirts and blouses, and have them back to you within six hours. It was the first Las

Vegas resorts where everything was self-contained. There was no need to go to any other casino to lose your money - and most people stayed right on the grounds.

The El Rancho Vegas had a very colorful "*How We Began*" story.

Apparently, the way the El Rancho told it, TOMMY HULL was driving to Las Vegas one day in early 1939. He almost made it. Right outside of town, just south of the city limits, kind of where Highway 91 and San Francisco Ave met (right where the Sahara sits now) - he had a flat tire.

So, he pulled off to the side of the road, and walked across the street to a dusty gambling hall called the "91 Club". (At the time the 91 Club was owned by Captain GUY McAFEE who apparently had made enough money as a Captain of the Los Angeles Police Vice Squad that he was able to purchase land in Las Vegas and buy the casino that was sitting on it).

The casino was called the Pair-O-Dice Club, and Captain Guy renamed



it the "91 Club" – Hwy 91, Club 91.. get it?

Anyway, as the tale goes, TOMMY HULL, who didn't much like casino gambling sat down at the counter had a sarsaparilla and asked for the telephone number of the nearest garage. He called the service station, which was way down on 5th Street in Las Vegas, and was told they'd be down to help him out in about an hour.

So HULL went back across the street, and sat down on the running board of his car facing Hwy 91. And while he was waiting for the truck to come all the way south of town to help him, he began counting cars which were heading to Las Vegas.

And he said to himself, "with these many cars going to Las Vegas, I'm going to build a magnificent hotel way out here on the outskirts of town". And I'll put in a swimming pool, and guest cottages and I'll have entertainment and horse and buggy rides for the kiddies."

And that's how the El Rancho Vegas came to be - per the promotional flyer put out by ABE SCHILLER in 1942. Wonderful story, too.

What really happened, I believe, was that TOMMY HULL went to see BIG JIM CASHMAN - who knew everything and everyone in 1939 Las Vegas. He told CASHMAN that he owned a couple of BIG HOTELS like the LA Mayfair and the giant HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT - and a couple of smaller EL RANCHOS - in California, the El Rancho Bakersfield, and the El Rancho Fresno.

"And Jim, I want to QUIETLY buy some land just outside of Las Vegas - on the road in to town - big enough to house a nice family-oriented dude ranch".

JIM CASHMAN understood Las Vegas even better than TOMMY HULL thought he did. "Tommy, here's what I'm going to suggest" .. Cashman explained that the real money in Las Vegas wasn't in hotel rooms, it was in legalized gambling - and if you could combine the two ... like the Apache Club downtown had done .. you'd make yourself a fortune!"

Now Las Vegas, like most other small towns was run on small-town politics, with the old boys of Las Vegas controlling the city council and the bank and nearly everything else in sight.

So JIM CASHMAN suggested to HULL to get the heck out of Las Vegas. If you just go a couple of miles south, just across that dirt road out there called San Francisco Ave, you are no longer in Las Vegas. Which means, "you ain't gonna' be beholdin' to the City Council for nuthin' ... you don't have to follow their rules - a big place like you're thinking of building - maybe with 50 or more employees, you'll be the biggest damn employer in Clark County."

You'll be in charge of the County Board of Commissions!! You can make your own rules regarding gambling and licensing and taxing and all sorts of other things.

Smart guy, that JIM CASHMAN. So Hull did what you're supposed to do when you're dealing with a professional - you listen very carefully to what he suggests.

JIM CASHMAN and his son, JIM, JR. started looking around for an ideal spot for this new EL RANCHO HOTEL - and sure enough, there it was - about in as perfect a spot as you could ask for. Right on the southwest corner of Hwy 91 and San Francisco -

just across the city limits. And the whole lot - all 66 acres of it, was owned by one person, the widow, Mrs. J. Hunt .. none of this having to deal with a corporation or a family, each with its own interests, this was a one-day transaction.

So on TOMMY HULL'S behalf, JIM CASHMAN negotiated with the widow Mrs. Hunt and for \$150 per acre, the first 66 acres of land for the El Rancho Vegas was purchased.

All right, that's all background stuff, now back to 1946 ... JOE DROWN owned about 75% of the El Rancho Vegas, and WILBUR CLARK had 25%, but there was a large outstanding mortgage on the property owned by a group of LA men ... also, according to newspaper reports, G.E. KINSEY from Los Angeles, who operated the NEVADA BILTMORE in Las Vegas, offered \$1.5 MM for the property.

Feb 12, 1946 - The El Rancho Vegas was put into INVOLUNTARY BANKRUPTCY in FEDERAL COURT - and the court removed the GUZZARDIS (father and son) and WILBUR CLARK from the board of directors - and turned the hotel over to the LA GROUP who held two mortgages against the El Rancho Vegas for a total of \$630,215.83.

The new ERV owners - Called the LA GROUP

JOE W. DROWN - Owner of the Bel-Air Hotel among others.
BERNIE VAN DER STEEN - Became new Hotel Manager.
CONRAD HILTON - He still had a small position in the El Rancho Vegas.
PORTER MORGAN.
LYNN MONTROY.
L.E. TRIP, and S.P. BARASH.

Sept 14, 1946 - The suit against WILBUR CLARK and G.E. KINSEY

for \$1.4M by Walter Guzzardi and his son Joe - saying that they were forced into selling their portion of the El Rancho Vegas by a "friendly judge" in Nevada (friendly to WILBUR CLARK) for \$5,000 - when it was worth \$1.5M! finally came to court.

April, 1947 - SANFORD "SANDY" ADLER buys into the El Rancho Vegas - he purchased all the outstanding shares which were owned by WILBUR CLARK and BERNIE VANDER STEEN, though VANDER STEEN remained on as Hotel Manager. And ADLER became President and majority owner of the El Rancho Vegas.

June 1947 - BEN SIEGEL was killed on June 20, 1947. SANDY ADLER, then owner of the El Rancho Vegas, headed up the group of investors the Fabulous Flamingo. And from June 1947 through Dec, 1947 - Adler was President of both hotels. (In December, 1947 Adler and his group were forced out of the Fabulous Flamingo by GUS GREENBAUM).

July 1947 - JOE DROWN bought SANDY ADLER'S portion of the El Rancho Vegas -

In one month, SANDY ADLER was kicked out as president of both hotels!

May 5, 1948 - (10 months after acquiring it this time) - JOE DROWN again sells the El Rancho Vegas ... this time for \$3M.

June 14, 1948 - The new new owners of the ERV
TUTOR SCHERER
FARMER PAIGE
GUY McAFEE
JAKE KATLEMAN
LEO KIND
JOE and VIC HALL, and
BERNIE VANDER STEEN,

again remained on as Hotel Manager, however this time, in an equity position.

Feb 15, 1950 - VANDER STEEN resigns as Manager of the ERV, and returns to LA to work full time with the company he owns there (he was President of The Pig 'N Whistle Co.) And the new hotel manager at the El Rancho Vegas became HARRY BECKET.

July 10, 1950 - TUTOR SHERER becomes the new President of the ERV

Sept 8, 1950 - Two new partners in the ERV are approved by the NGC for Gaming Licenses - JACK VERTLIEB and JOE CONTRATO.

June 14, 1950 - JAKE KATLEMAN, who at this point had 495 shares in the ERV, which amounted to 49.5% ownership, was involved in a one-car accident in Las Vegas, and that night was flown to Los Angeles' Queen of Angels Hospital for treatment of his massive injuries.

June 17, 1950 - JAKE KATLE-

MAN dies, and his wife LIBERTY "Libby", began speaking with their nephew, BELDON KATLEMAN, 29-years old, to come in, manage the El Rancho Vegas and watch over her 495 shares.

495 shares represented just under 50% of the El Rancho Vegas - there were 1,000 shares of stock issued in the El Rancho Vegas.

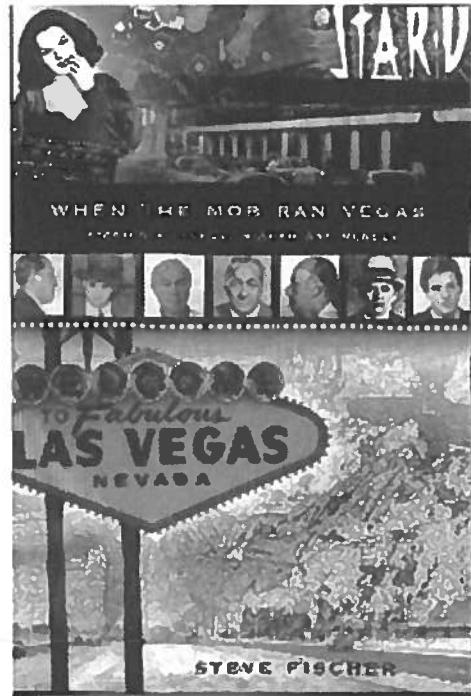
May, 1952 - (Two years after he began taking care of his aunt's shares, BELDON owned them all) - Beldon finally took complete control of these 495 shares, for substantially more money than they were worth! Though there were lawsuits over those shares in years to come, Beldon came out on top of his sweet old elderly and trusting aunt who asked him into the business.

And so began the 10 year reign of BELDON KATLEMAN at the El Rancho Vegas.

On June 17, 1960 - exactly 10 years to the day after JAKE KATLEMAN died - the El Rancho Vegas burned to the ground.



Aerial view of El Rancho



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Dini's Lucky Club

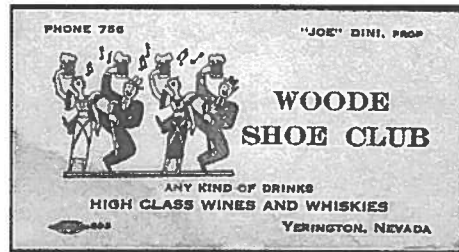
by Allan Anderson

In 1933 the “Bodie Fire” caused Joe Dini's Soft Drink Parlor To Close and Joe returned to Yerington. He didn't give up hope though and it wasn't long before Dini's Lucky Club was founded by Giuseppe “Joe” Dini Sr. and licensed in December of 1933. It was located in the middle of downtown Yerington where it was call the Wooden Shoe Club, shortly thereafter became Joe Dini's Lucky Club.

In 1938 the Lucky Club was moved to 45 N. Main St. on the site of the Bank Bar owned by Vic Bernard Sr. Joe Sr. purchased the building from Mrs. Baldwin who had a rooming house on Main Street. The deed shows that the player piano was included for \$50.00 more.



First matchbook



First business card

In 1952 Joe Jr. was going to college but returned home to help the family due to his his father's illness. In 1960 Joe Jr. purchased the business from Joe Sr. In 1965 he purchased the building from both his parents and later on he purchased the building to the north (now the site of the restaurant) from Mr. Del Curto, the shoe repairman.

The Remodeling began with the creation of the “Keg'n Kandle Lounge”. Dini's Pizzeria was created in the front half of the building and later it grew to a full scale restaurant.

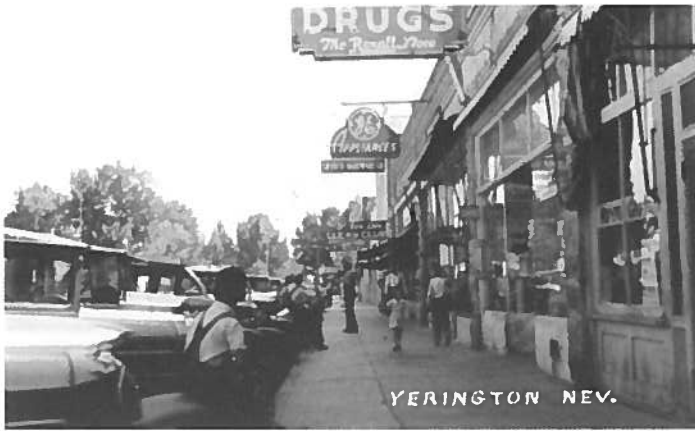
The Next acquisition was the building south, which was the Nevada Drug owned by Paul Olsener It is now the main casino. That was the major remodel and historic restoration job. Joe Jr's son David Dini, was the contractor for the job.

The year was 1911 when the business was operated by Vic Bernard Sr., and was known as the Bank Bar. Jack Dempsey, who later became the world heavyweight champion. helped lay the floor in the building which now houses Dini's Lucky Club. The same floor is in use today under the carpeting, attesting to the good job done by the late George Friedhoff as contractor.



Early photo from 1911 when the new floor was installed.

Recently the Dini's acquired the Mason Valley News building from Bob Sanford and family. In this building “The Cellar” was created. It's Yerington's newest lounge and bar with dancing, karaoke, live bands and DJ's. Along with The Cellar, Dini's features Giuseppe's steak house, a coffee shop and buffet.



Yerington in the 1930's. Dini's is located about half way down the block.



Lucky Club in the 1950's



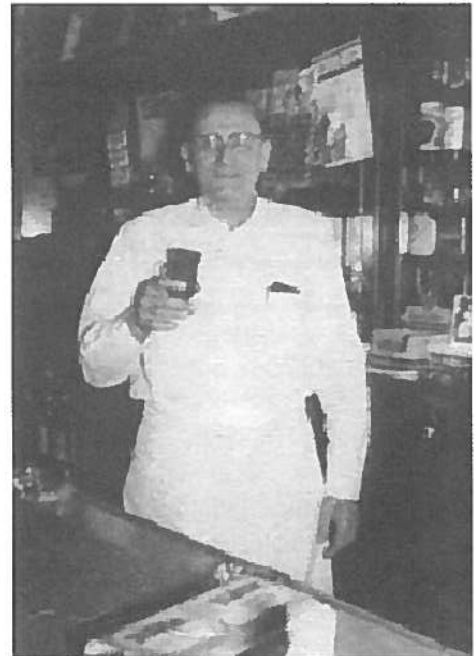
Dini's Lucky Club in the 1970's



Dini's Lucky Club in the 1980's



Dini's today.



Joe Sr. Bartending

New Products

Card Guard-R Features Collector Casino Chips

Poker Specialties has announced the release of its Card Guard-R line of brass and stainless steel card guards. Although card guards of various types are well known, the Card Guard-R's innovative design not only offers a beautiful functional piece, but allows any player to now personalize their guard by capturing any standard casino chip in solid brass or stainless steel (pat. pend.) Dennis Rodgers, the inventor of the unique Card Guard-R, was looking for a way to get his favorite collector chips from inside a locked box at home, out to where everybody could see and enjoy them. Say's Dennis, "With the Card Guard-R's unique design anyone can easily snap in and protect any standard 39mm Casino Chip turning it into both a useful guard and a great conversation piece." Once in place nearly all the chips front and back designs are visible.

Dennis Rodgers talks about the idea behind the Card Guard.

"I've been playing casual Poker with my friends for over 30 years. I think over the years my buddies and I have played most forms of Poker, at least every one we have ever heard of. After being introduced to the game of Texas Holdem a little over a year ago, the informal Poker gatherings of once a week became more serious games of Texas Holdem played several times a week, along with tournament play on weekends. It was during this experience that I learned that if your cards are on the table and somebody throws their hand away and any cards happen to land on your cards, your hand becomes dead. However, this could be prevented by placing some type of object on your



hand to protect it from flying cards and chips. We used various objects such as chips, car keys, cell phones, anything to protect the hand. I started using a few of my favorite collector chips as guards which were fun to show and often made a great conversation piece at our games, but the light weight-chips did not do a great job of guarding a hand. I started to think of a better solution."

"While watching Tournaments on TV and looking through magazines, I saw several card guards that were offered for this specific purpose, even one made out of solid gold costing almost \$1,000. I thought there had to be a better solution than that! I also wanted to retain my ability to get more use out of my collector chips than having them stuck back home in a display case locked up. After many ideas and more than a few prototypes, I was able to fashion a machined metal case that had sufficient weight, had a nice feel in the hand, and snapped together to hold any standard 39mm casino chip showing both sides of its face design. Now I was approaching a solution that was both very functional as a card guard, but also unique in that it allowed me to

both display and protect my favorite collector chips during games, or to have out and just show around. My friends all loved the idea and had to have one too, so soon I was turning out one-off's for them on the weekends."

The Poker Specialties Card Guard-R sells for \$23.50 ready to receive any 39mm casino chip or can be bought on-line for \$24.95 with any one of a wide range of casino chips available to choose from on the site www.pokerspecialties.com. The Card Guard-R comes in either Solid Brass or Stainless Steel and is beautifully machined with a clear coat to maintain luster for many years. The clever design allows one to snap chips in and out of the Guard-R easily and require no tools of any sort. Once snapped in place, the chips are well protected and secure. The 2.5 oz. weight gives a nice solid heft to the guard and provides great protection to any Poker hand as the chips and cards fly.

Poker Specialties is located in Valencia CA. Visit them on the web at: www.pokerspecialties.com

Road Trip!

by John Kallman

Weather permitting; I try to make a casino run at least once a month. Living in Minnesota, there are many months when traveling any great lengths is just not advisable unless absolutely necessary. And, if you are like me, you probably live in location where if you want to go to a casino for what ever reason, you probably have to drive some distance to get there. I would give you Vegas odds as they say, that a casino is not along your normal routes of travel to work, school, or daily errands. While there are 13 Indian Casinos and one card room within the state, the closest one to where I live is some 50 miles, away. While a few are grouped together so that you can stop and visit them the same time with out piling on the miles, most are not. For example, Grand Portage is a good 300 miles, one way. Needless to say, some casinos I do not get to quite as often as others.

Not having been to the clubs annual convention since 2000, and now gainfully retired, this was an excellent opportunity to take an extended road trip, visit some casinos that I had been to before, but not for some time, and of course, a whole lot of casinos that I had not been. Thus plans were made, maps were printed out, check list of what I had or what I need were made and other necessary plans to be gone two weeks were checked and double checked.

Originally the plan was to depart, as they say in the military, at 0-Dark-Thirty on Wednesday, 27 July. Of course, as all good plans go, there were changes. The first was that Robert (Bob) Moats decided to come

along! Bob is a recently recruited (by yours truly) collector from Canada who flew in on the 26th to the Twin Cities airport. This meant of course that I could add three more stops to the trip – Mystic Lake, Little Six, and Canterbury Card Room, all located in Shakopee MN, just outside the belt-way of the Twin Cities. Bob would stop by the Players Club booth to get a slot card (or two) for him and with my expired driver's license, some for me. I would stop and get the chips, tokens, and Ticket In Ticket Out's (TITO's) that were needed and Bob would "borrow" some matchbooks. We would of course check out the gift shop for anything that might have been consigned there from the casino floor. A check of a poker room, if it existed, would also be in order as there are an increasing number, and sometimes, the chips in use there would be different than on the main floor. If an opportunity presented itself, I would leave my business card in hopes that if something new came in, they would let me know. This scenario was repeated through out the trip. Only twice did leaving my business card pay off – but when it did,

boy the results! I liken it to fishing. You have to go through a lot of bait before you hook a real keeper! It was at the last stop of the day, Canterbury Downs, which two weeks later, my business card would pay off – but more on that later. In so much as this was the last planned stop of the day, Bob could play a few rounds of poker before we headed to my house for a good nights rest, and one last check of everything.

27 July - Day 1 We start out early as planned and after a quick stop to the nearest grocery store to pick up a few added provisions to supplement us while we are on the road, we are on our way! First planned stop is Prairie's Edge Casino located just outside of Granite Falls MN, just a little over 100 miles. This is a newer casino just off a major road that is much easier to get to the once closed Firefly Creek casino that was many miles off the same road along a twisting turning stretch of highway that was best driven only during the daylight and stretches of good weather. One of the pleasures of driving the back roads is being able to stop for the scenery and of course stretch the legs. While approaching Granite Falls there is a turn-out which affords an excellent view of the valley below.

The casino has a small attached



Granite Falls Valley

hotel, a gas station and they are in the process of adding an RV park that should be completed early next spring. While Bob was busy getting slot cards for us, I went over to the blackjack pit only to find out that we had arrived too early as they did not open until 10:00 am. This is not that unusual for the smaller casinos in many locations with the White Oak Casino located in Deer River Minnesota not opening until 4:00 pm. And then they only have a total of, count them, two, and then only one table which is normally opened



Prairie's Edge Casino

Having some time to kill until the tables open, I joined Bob at the card players club and started flipping through their monthly flyer when I came across a page indicating that they were re-opening their old Firefly casino later that day as a Bingo hall. In addition to Bingo, they will have at least 25 Video Gaming Machines (thus the possibility of either new tokens, or new TITO's, but 5:00 PM was far too long to wait to see. Something to plan on for the next trip? The slot card was a plain white generic type which meant that perhaps they were also going to issue a revised slot card to reflect the re-opened casino? In any event, it was still good for 5¢ off a gallon at the casino run gas station!

Back to the Black Jack table where they were in the process of opening up, but asked us to stand back while they counted the chips, checked the cards, and went through other administrative tasks. In the adjoining pit area, there was similar activity going on, but there was already a group of people sitting on the chairs and they were just getting around to unlocking the chips which appeared to be different than the rack at the other table. Curious, I off course had to ask if I could see these chips! The chips were the old Firefly rack (\$5.00 and \$25.00 chips) that

had been drilled and were being used to train new dealers, which explained the people sitting around the table. Since a \$1.00 chip is not currently in play – with \$1.00 tokens instead in use, for training purposes, they use “foreign” (i.e. non-Prairie's Edge) \$1.00 tokens that have likewise been drilled on the training tables. Again, a business card was left in hopes of getting these drilled obsolete chips. I also learned that a poker room is scheduled to open on/about 27 August with at least a \$1.00 chip to be put in play. Notes were taken and plans were made for a follow up trip.

The blackjack table finally opened, Bob got the items he needed but there was nothing new for me, not at least this trip. A quick stop at the gas station to take advantage of the 5¢ discount that comes with the player's club and, and of course another new discovery as they have opened up a “smoke free” casino in an adjoining room to the convenience store portion of the gas station. Of course, this consisted of nothing more than about 20 slot machines, but who knows, next trip? While I did not come away with a single item new to my collection, the prospects of a follow up visit both to Prairie's Edge along with a stop at the recently reopened Firefly Creek was well worth the stop.

Next stop was Royal River in Flandreau South Dakota. This was just less than 100 miles away and hopes were high for myself as I knew that there was a recently released \$1.00 chip and perhaps other denominations as well! While Bob was once again busy getting slot cards for the two of us, I was off in search of these elusive chips. None on the tables in the blackjack pit. No, they would not sell any from the cage. Back to the blackjack pit where I asked if they could call the cage and have some brought out. No – they are only used in the Poker Room, but that was only opened Friday to Sunday, and then only in the evening. Back to Bob at the Players Card booth where they said to check with the gift shop. The gift shop directed us to an office next door, who then directed us to another office where, after we explained what we wanted, with another business card dispensed, we waited in an outside office until someone emerged from the inside office. Again another explanation, another business card and finally we were escorted to the cashier's cage where this nice gentleman signed for 50 - \$1.00 chips for which we gladly tendered \$50.00. Now you know why some people charge just a little over face value for a chip. Not only do they have to drive a little distance to get to the casino, but once there it is not always

easy or possible to get the chips that they came for in the first place. For those who like sports and sports betting, off



track betting is legal in South Dakota and there was a section with numerous large screen TV's with a very, very comfortable seating area for you to watch the sport of your choice, and if you wished, bet a buck or two.

Next stop was Fort Randall Casino, located in Pickstown South Dakota. While I had been to Royal River a number of times over the years, this would be my first ever stop at this casino so everything would be new to me. As for Bob, every stop would be new. However, this was to be a little longer stretch of the legs – 180 miles! Driving in America is always an experience, especially off the main interstates. Road signs are few and far in between, gas stations a rare sight, but you get a better sense of what is life like away from the cookie cutter establishments that seem to populate the exits of the interstate. And, while as numerous other times on the trip, signs declared “Road Construction Ahead!”, in very few instances did you actually see any one doing any construction at all. However this was not such a case. Not only were there people who were actually working (and not just standing around drawing a paycheck while they flapped their jaws), the road surface was down to gravel. This made the trip a lot slower, and a little bumpier. No great treasure here, but I was still happy to come away with what I did. But eventually we made it there.

Not only did they have a poker room, but it was open. That was the good news. The bad news was they were still using \$1.00 tokens on the tables! But not all was lost as what

chips they did have were all new to my collection, as was the slot card. After another brief stop, it was back in the car and on to our next stop, Rosebud Casino.

New Players Club Card from Fort



Randall

Next up on the itinerary was Rosebud Casino, another 145 miles added to the odometer. Various travel guides state that this casino is close to the Nebraska border. This is an understatement at the best. If it were not for a frontage road between the Casino and Nebraska, it would be *ON* the border. If you are proficient in watermelon seed spitting, you can stand in the parking lot and have them land in the next state. The parking lot was being redone to the point that it was down to gravel and heavy equipment moving around, so we picked our way gingerly through a maze while dodging the bumper vehicles and finally found a place to park.

Once again, the poker room was

open (yes!) and there were chips on the table (yes!), and, and, and they were tournament chips! However, they did not have the casino name on them, just Bud Jones suite pip molds in various colors and the denomination in the center. And once again, the quest to get \$1.00 chips by going hither and yon was underway. Why some casinos make it so difficult for people to buy little round pieces of clay at prices greater than what it costs them still amazes me. The chips were eventually secured and since the sun was still shining, we had time for at least one more casino stop.

The last planned stop for the day was to be Prairie Wind Casino in Oglala South Dakota. Of course, one thing (among many others) that I failed to do, was check to make sure that they had a hotel in association with their casinos. Needless to say, they did not. Oh well. While no \$1.00 chips were evident on the table, they were much easier to acquire from the cage than any of the other casinos that we had stopped at during the day. A poker room is scheduled to open August 11. In so much as we knew that we would have to drive a little farther before we could hit the sack, we made this stop shorter than many of the others. A hotel was soon located in Hot Springs and while



Rosebud Casino

there appeared to be plenty of rooms available from the lack of automobiles in the parking lot, the prices for a mid-week stay at the Motel 8 were quoted at over \$100, with discount. It turns out that the yearly motorcycle rally in nearby (150 miles) Sturgis was only 10 days away. But tired from a hard day of driving and chip collecting and figuring that the prices would only get higher the closer we got to Deadwood, we bit the bullet and paid the fare. This would not be the first time that we got caught up with either a lack of rooms or high prices. A total of 707 miles for the day.

July 28 - Day 2 Today's schedule was to drive to Deadwood South Dakota, acquire as many items as possible and try to make it to Cheyenne Wyoming to spend the night. Having been to Deadwood once before five years previous I knew from past experience that the tourist outnumbered the gamblers and as a result what table games were available did not normally open at least until 10:00 am, so there was no hurry to get there and then end up waiting. A slow but beautiful drive through Yellowstone was a great way to spend the morning. Our journey was interrupted briefly by one rather large buffalo taking his good old time crossing the road. It appeared he had nowhere in particular to go that day and was taking his good old time in getting there. To be able to see one of these magnificent creatures up close and personal, and not confined to an 8 by 10 cage was a highlight of the trip. That, and to see a new born calf test out it's newly found legs, prancing back and forth, jumping up and down, darting here and there, while mom was not too far away keeping a wary eye on all and hoping that they could get back to more important things, like eating, was another highlight.

We drove by where the Crazy



Buffalo in Yellowstone

Horse monument is being carved out the side of a mountain, but given the price of admission and the amount of time it would take, we decided to skip it for this trip. Deadwood, in my mind's eye has not changed that much, with too many tourists and not enough gamblers. New places and issues were far and few in between even if it had been five years. The Silverado has opened a poker room that seems well received along with a new rack of \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00 chips.

The route company has also changed hands with A. G. Trucano having bought the company and moved the administrative and repair facilities from outside of Deadwood (these were located behind the Wiggly Field Bar) next to the hard count room in Deadwood. As such, the front door is no longer open to collectors wanting to purchase samples directly but now must be won from the machines. Four new \$1.00 tokens were made in conjunction with the upcoming motorcycle rally.



For token lovers, smaller casinos are the place to go as the cost of retro-fitting slot machines for Ticket-In/Ticket-Out is still too expensive to make economic sense for these smaller locations. Both here, as well as in the mining towns of Colorado, tokens were in evidence to a far greater extent than chips, to the point that some of the smaller casinos that did have table games were not only using \$1.00 tokens but \$5.00 tokens as well. A few of the casinos that used to have table games but have not dealt a turn of cards for awhile were still willing to sell chips from the cage. And while I had prepared a list of either what I had or what I needed, I soon realized that when in doubt, purchase what is offered and if you wind up with an un-needed second, someone will be more than glad to trade with you. Or, if all else fails, put it up on one of the various auction sites.



New Club Card from Deadwood Gulch

Also, there were as far as I can tell, a total of two chips issued in association with the 2005 Sturgis motorcycle rally. The Gold Dust issued their yearly Chipco with only the date being changed from the chips that were issued last year. The Four Aces also put out a lively chip, and depending upon which side you like the best; you could have the best of all worlds: poker, motorcycles, or whiskey!

I am sure that we missed some items along the way, but then again, there is always next trip. By late afternoon, we had done a pretty good job of getting what could be got. We



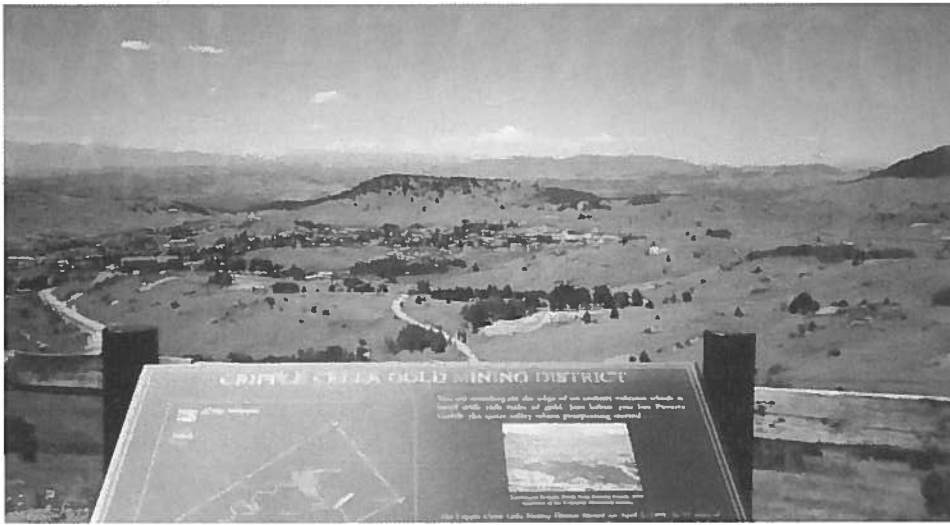
found the car, double checked our directions, and hit the road again with hopes of making Cheyenne Wyoming by nightfall hoping that the distance between Deadwood and there would equate lower room rates.

We cruised to the outskirts of town as the sun was setting and at the first exit started looking for affordable room rates. Our luck was once again not with us as this was the night of the start of the yearly rodeo for that area. Not only this exit, but all the next exits in town and as far south as 30 miles were either already sold out or very expensive. As the darkness overwhelmed us along with being rather tired of hunting goodies in the late July heat, we decide to bite the bullet and take what was available. Mileage for today was only 401 miles, but because we also walked a lot, we were that much worse for wear.

July 29 – Day 3 Up early again with the sun, we check the maps and headed on out with today's goal being Cripple Creek Colorado. While I have driven through parts of Colorado, it was only briefly while

returning from my last club convention some five years earlier, and then there was neither time nor money to stop at any casinos. Thus, this years trip the plan was to stop at the mining towns first, and hope that there would be funds left for the convention. After passing through first Denver, and then Colorado Springs, more than one vehicle was observed pulled over to the side of the road with the hood raised and the radiator putting up a good imitation of a mini-volcano. I was more than glad that I had decided to trade in my five year old car for something newer before departing.

While Cripple Creek is in a valley, it is still high enough in the mountains that if you are not used to the altitude, it does take some time getting used to. Once again we did not have hotel reservations so the plan was to check first at the Double Eagle, the one place in town with the most rooms available, and then plan the rest of the day accordingly. The Double Eagle is the first casino that one encounters and has a multi-story parking garage located directly behind the casino. As per our string of bad hotel luck for the trip so far, we were not to be disappointed when we discovered that they were indeed booked for the night, but at least they would put us on a stand by list just in case there was a cancellation. We then headed out for a quick tour of the cities casinos. In so much as all but one of the casinos are located on the main street, the chip run amounted to a three block long hike first up one side of the street (and I do mean *up!*) Then back down the other side. When we got back to the Double Eagle, there was indeed a cancellation so we unpacked the car, freshened up and revised our plans for the rest of the day. Arranging super was of course in order because food is right up there in my book along with chips and tokens.



Overlooking Cripple Creek

After supper Bob could play his poker and I made a second, more leisurely check of the ground that we had already covered to see if anything was missed the first time around. One surprise was that while the Uncle Sam casinos were still open, they had pulled the table games the day before we had arrived. They had been bought out by the Gold Rush. I soon found the administrative building of the Gold Rush (which is located on a side street next to the Gold Rush casino, and after some explanations and some waiting and some coordination the proper person was found, the safe was opened and I was allowed to purchase some chips. A check of the Double Eagle gift shop revealed \$2.50 chips that had been removed from the tables for sale at face value, and *no* tax.

A few things that were different from other places we had stopped were the prominent signs at all of the exits of the casinos indicating that intoxicating liquor (is there any other type?) could not be taken outside the casino. Try enforcing that in Las Vegas. The other, as Bob found out in the middle of the night when he could not sleep and a couple hours of poker seemed to be in order, is that there is no gambling allowed after 2:00 am. This, and a definite

lack of hotel rooms meant that if you did not either live there, or close by, you were very unlikely to stay very long or spend very much. The gaming limits no doubt hurt as well.

On the plus side, for the most part, unlike Deadwood, the place was not overrun by tourist (except us of course) and the original exterior of the buildings for the most part had been retained. Of all of the mining town stops, this was perhaps my favorite. The Double Eagle has great accommodations for the price and a full buffet breakfast is included.

For people who like chip friendly casinos, the best stop of the trip has to be Bronco Billy's. Not only will they take the time to sort through what limited editions they have left at the cage, they will also put you on a mailing list to let you know when a new chip has been issued. Even before returning home, I had a letter in the mail with a list of the past issues and how many were still available. If you are not already on their mailing list and would like to be, just drop a letter to Peggy Renz, Marketing Assistant, 233 East Bennett, P.O. Box 590, Cripple Creek Colorado 80813 or email her at penz@brancobillyscasino.com. Mileage for today was all of 183, but

the car was more than happy to have an "off" day as we were as well.

July 30 – Day 4 A drive around rather than through Denver started off the day. The objective today were the two towns of Black Hawk and Central City. There are two major hotels listed for the area, and as our luck was true to the course, we could not get rooms at either location. Thus, we concentrated on getting our goods and getting out of town. Upon arriving in Black Hawk, it was a little disappointing after having just come from Cripple Creek in that the casino/hotels were anything *but* the original buildings from the late 1800's. While a few of these are still around and even fewer are still open, one can see why the smaller places up the road in Central City are having such a struggle to stay in business. Not only do you have to navigate your way through all of the larger casinos before you even get there, parking is at a premium (though usually free when you could find it). There is, however, a free shuttle bus that stops at most locations while a handy guide tells you where to wait, and is designed so that you know exactly how long you have to wait until the next bus will arrive.

We did the first couple of casinos in Black Hawk and then drove down to Fortune Valley where the car was parked for the remainder of the day as we took advantage of the free transportation and made our way counter clockwise fashion through first the casinos back in Black Hawk and then eventually Central City before winding our way back to Fortune Valley casino. We exited town using the newly constructed road to Central City in search of a place to roost for the evening.

After seeing the major casinos of Black Hawk and the few, smaller casinos in Central City, it is quite

obvious why they are having such trouble staying open. While the Teller House had reopened briefly, it was once again closed! Only time will tell if Central City casinos will make a comeback or not. As for Black Hawk, in many ways the amount of construction that was underway reflected what we were to see upon arriving in Las Vegas.

Back on the freeway after taking the road from Cripple Creek, we found a hotel room and it was right next to a restaurant no less. We emptied the car, filled our stomach and rested our rather tired feet after a full day of chasing tokens, chips, slot cards and matches. These three towns are more than worth a return visit, but this time, on a weekday rather than a weekend and then without the pressing demand of the looming club convention. Mileage for today was once again a short 169 miles, but once again our feet had taken a toll even though a lot of ground was covered via the shuttle busses, a fair amount of walking to and from the various casinos once we got off the bus, once again left a rested car but a tired pair of chippers!

July 31 – Day 5 One thing about these extended trips is it seems that no matter how tired you were the night before, you are up early and raring to go at the crack of dawn. And today was no different, but now we had the luxury of taking our time as it was still a couple of days before the convention started and we have made far more distance than what we had hoped. Not having reservations in Las Vegas until Wednesday, we would have a couple of extra days to visit some places that were not on the original agenda. We hoped to make it to Mesquite, Nevada, today as spending a Sunday night in Utah does not top my list of places to party. But since we had the extra time, we would not push it if we did not have too.

One of the best parts of Colorado is the drive through the mountains, with them on your right as you drive west and the Colorado River on your left. We got to see mule deer and buckhorn sheep along the way as well as being able to take a break and tip our toes in the above mentioned river.

We did make it to Mesquite, pulling in around 9 pm or so. Found our rooms, found some food, Bob found a poker game and I scouted the casino for things that I might otherwise have missed. While I had stopped in Mesquite five years previous, it was during the mad rush home from the convention rather than on the trip there, and this time, I could take my time. Mileage for today was 639!

August 1 – Day 6 While chips and other related items were on today's agenda, getting the oil changed and the tires rotated was also high on the list of things to do. There were signs of major construction along one of the exits from the freeway, but it was difficult to tell if this was to be a new casino, another condominium, or another retail shopping plaza. Having driven through Wells, Nevada, some five years ago, I was impressed in how the landscape of the town changed once the trains started bypassing the town rather than stopping while engines were either uncoupled or coupled. The next major change to the town was the construction of the interstate, with the businesses that relocated from where the railroad tracks were to where the interstate was. A similar change could be seen in Mesquite with the few remaining downtown casinos just a former shell of their former selves. I would once again make a mental note of this same effect in Henderson later in the trip.

While I collect Nevada as I do many, many other locations, once

again I purchased chips in hopes that I did not have the item rather than pass on one that might in fact be a duplicate. Many chips that I thought I did have I passed on because resources (i.e., cash, was starting to get a little thin and many more days were yet to come.

With tires rotated, oil changed, casinos scouted, we made our way to northern Las Vegas with stops at both the Poker Palace and Jerry's Nugget. The Poker Palace looks to be a place best visited during the day. Jerry's Nugget has a nice display close to the cashier's cage displaying all of the chips that have been in play since they opened. Very nice!

Back on the freeway, we avoided going through Las Vegas via the congested streets and headed south to Laughlin. While a few empty lots now display "Sold" signs rather than "For Sale" there was no sign of any construction other than a parking lot expansion at the Avi. Not only does this casino need a few more signs on how to get there, but fellow chippers should be warned that if you are going there from Casino Drive in Laughlin the speed trap between point A and point B is still very much in effect as it was when I was there five years ago. They didn't get me then, and they didn't get me this time either, and I hope that they do not get you, but you would think with all the money they took in, they would do a little road work on this mostly two lane, twisting road, but it appears that those funds are going else where. Please do not contribute to these funds, watch your speed and save your money for chips!

Most, but not all of the casinos were covered today, with more driving than walking as the casinos do not make it easy for foot traffic other than along the Colorado River, but with the heat, it is best to enjoy the com-

forts of air conditioning as much as possible. We eventually settled into the River Palms with four or so casinos to do the next day. A poker room was available for Bob while I ventured next door to the Golden Nugget as they had a \$3.00 black jack table while the River Palms only had \$5.00 and up. One thing that the Golden Nugget needs to work on is that their restrooms. They are all located on the lower level so if you have the need to go, you either have to water a nearby plant or leave your place and hope it is still there when you return. Mileage for the day was exactly at 200 miles.

August 2 – Day 7 While the River Palms had a morning poker tournament, we decide to press on with the task at hand and finished up the few remaining casinos in Laughlin with the Riverside being the last one on the list before the long road trip was to resume. We got there in time for them to cut the cake and pass out the champagne to celebrate their anniversary. The cake and drink was so-so, but the photos of the then and now were well worth barring the crowd of freeloaders (ourselves included)! Next on the agenda were the three casino's located in Primm. The stretch of highway between the freeway that leads from Las Vegas to Laughlin and the freeway that leads from Primm back to Las Vegas has to be one of the longest stretches of highway that I have been on in a long time. While there is a speed bump of a "town" located about half way in between the two interstates, I really do not believe that anybody lives there anymore. I think that we passed one vehicle going the opposite direction during the entire time on this back road. This is a place where one would not want to have either a flat tire or lack of gas.

For those of you who have not been to Primm before, of the four

possible corners at the one and only exit off of the interstate, there are three casinos, and all three are owned by the same company. A monorail connects the three making it easy to get from point A – to point B. As with many other places in Nevada, a drink of water costs you! However, the next stop, Jean, would prove much friendlier!

Much like Primm, Jean has two casinos on the four corners of the single exit, once again owned by the same company. However, things are a lot more relaxed here as compared to the previous stop. Perhaps it is because Jean is stuck between Primm and Las Vegas, they do not get quite the same number of people stopping, but what ever the reason, I can highly recommend a visit to this small desert town.

Not only are there signs everywhere stating that sodas, coffee, and yes, even water is free from any bar or from any of the always present waitresses. While we did not stay here this year, on my last trip a nights stay was under \$30.00 and this also included a free breakfast. But with a few more stops to make, we headed out once again.

While we stopped at the Silverton, with their recent addition of a Bass Pro Shop, they have raised their prices to the point that we moved along after acquiring our goods. We eventually settled into the Fiesta after making a few wrong turns, but once again poker was available and the prices, while not quite as good as in Jean, were acceptable. Only 181 miles added today, but it seemed much, much more.

August 3 – Day 8 The convention was only a day away. The excitement was building. We paid a trip to the two remaining casinos in the old downtown section of Henderson

before making our way onto Boulder Highway, slowly making our way towards Las Vegas proper, stopping at casinos along both sides of the highway. Finally, early afternoon found us stopping at the Riviera to find our bearings, pick up our registration packages and say hello to friends old and new. Having completed this process, we then headed over to the Stratosphere where we would spend the next three days and nights. Mileage was only 198 but were we oh so glad to find a place to call "home" even if it were for only a few days.

August 4, 5 and 6 – Day 9, 10 and 11 The convention! For those who were there, there is no need to repeat what you already know. For those who were not, my words can not adequately describe the fun, excitement, and joy these conventions are. Be it the education meetings, the displays, or just the sheer volume of different items for sale or trade. Even if you do not collect it, it was still worth looking at, or learning about. With no pre-convention opening meetings on Saturday morning, we "slept" in, made sure that we had everything packed and made our way over to the convention. We said our goodbyes and picked up a last few items before once again heading out on the road for the long journey home. While a few more casinos were scheduled for the way home, this leg of the trip would be more about driving then anything else. Leaving the parking garage at 11:00 AM, we found the freeway and headed east.

Back into Colorado we once again ventured, viewing again the scenic mountains, but this time from a different viewpoint. However, this time, we turned our vehicle north and headed towards Salt Lake City as opposed to returning to Denver. Just by chance, we pulled off the freeway at Spanish Forks, Utah, to refill our stomachs and our gas tank. What a

pleasure indeed it was to find a place where “service” was still part of the station. There to greet us was not only a smiling face not only willing to pump your gas for you, but also clean your windshield while you took care of “other” business. They also had two service bays with a mechanic on duty!

Skirting around the eastern portion of Salt Lake City, we once again turned our car east and headed towards Wyoming. Cresting a small ridge shortly after nightfall, all one could see was a sting of red tail lights stretching in front of us in one direction and an equally long line of headlights headed the other direction. After a few false attempts to once again find lodging, we settled in for a well deserved night of rest without a single casino stop to show for it the entire day. 583 miles had been added since we left Las Vegas.

August 7 – Day 12 Today was to be another day of piling on the miles without the hope of a single casino stop. How depressing! But good mileage was made with another 708 miles added.

August 8 – Day 13 Home is almost in sight, even if it is only figuratively in sight. The goal is close at hand and so are some casinos after two days of nothing but driving, we can at least take a break for something other than the food, fuel, and restrooms.

The first stop of the day was Bluff’s Run casino. Rumors for quite some time indicated that they had finally added table games to this slots only casino that is co-located with a dog track. These rumors proved to be false. While Harrah’s has taken over to the point that they are even issuing their slot cards here as opposed to a Bluff’s Run card, table games will not be found until the Horseshoe Casino,

which was under construction right next door, is opened sometime in 2006. They are also putting in a Bass Pro Shop along the frontage road along I-80 with a hotel directly behind that.

Not finding anything at all here as all the machines are Ticket-In, Ticket-Out, we moved along first to Ameristar and then Harrah’s with nothing new to report. Next up the road was Casino Omaha followed by Winnavegas, with again nothing new to report at either location. Next was the Argosy Casino in Sioux City. While I have stopped here many times, they now have the Argosy chips on the tables as opposed to the Sioux City chips. However, they are Sioux City tokens, both on the tables as well as the slot machines. One wonders why they would change out one and not the other.

The last planned stop of the day was to be Jackpot Junction in Morton Minnesota. From their monthly mailer they had recently gone to a tiered slot card system and had an unexplained card shown simply labeled as a “Partner Card”. If the first stop of the trip, also located in Minnesota, resulted in nothing, at least the last stop of the trip would bring, if nothing else, one and possibly two slot cards. Hopes were high after striking out at far too many of the stops today.

It turns out that the Partner Card is for use at the casino’s owned and operated golf course. After securing that card along with the new example of their tiered players card, it was off to the poker room to see if any new chips other than the \$1.00 chip that was in play. There was, a \$2.00 Yellow Chipco. After spending \$80 to pick up 40 of these beauties, leaving myself all of \$20 for gas to make sure I could get home without pushing the car the last few miles, it was only then that the card room manager

told me that they also had a \$2.50 Chipco in play on the Black Jack tables. What to do? Obviously, spend my last \$20 to pick up all of eight of these and hope that (a) I would not run out of gas and (b) that if things got really bad, that I had not maxed out my credit card the previous 13 days.



9:00 pm Monday evening and we finally pull into my garage, less than 60 hours from the Rivera parking lot to my house, including stops at seven different casinos along the way – that is what they call making tracks. Total mileage over the nearly two week trip was 4,509 miles!

Additional Notes: At the “pre-start” to this journey, I explained how

I would leave my business card at the various locations along the way in hopes that they would contact me if a new rack was put into play. Of all the stops along the way, only one did so. A day after I returned, an email message from the cage at Canterbury Downs had a new \$10 chip in play. Of course, one could argue that none of the casinos that I had stopped at had placed any new chips in play, but



this is the first time in some 5 years of leaving my business card at any casino that I was ever contacted by any one concerning a new issue. But

I will keep fishing regardless of how bad the catches have been.

Rested and with plenty of things to catalogue during the long Minnesota winter, I am already planning a return trip to next year's convention with hopes of visiting a large number of casinos located in Oklahoma as I currently only have about four total chips from that state. See you next year!

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Outstanding Specialty Numismatic Publication
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Preserving Gaming History

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

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

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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.

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](#)

created and maintained by Allan Anderson
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The Casino Chip and Token News website will soon have all magazines from the Fall 2000 issue to the current issue available in pdf.. Look for these coming in January 2006. The archives section has articles from past issues available in pdf now.



by Allan Anderson

The ultimate sports bar is now part of Baldini's Sports Casino in Sparks, Nevada. Taps Opened in July and features 28 different beers on tap which are served at 33degrees in a chilled glass. With an economical menu, Taps caters to everyone with a different promotion every night. Sunday and Monday are football days, Tuesday and Wednesday are student promotions and if you have a student ID you can get a 5oz beer for 10¢. Thursday is karaoke night, Friday is ladies night and Saturday is college day.

Taps also features 29 slot machines that combines all denominations, from 5¢ to \$1 towards a progressive jackpot.

Baldini's has also converted to a new tiered slot card program featuring XTra Bonus Bucks. XTra Bonus Bucks means you earn dollars for your points. You can then convert the dollars into XTra Bonus Bucks, giving you 50% more. An example would be that for every \$5 generated in points it earns you an Xtra \$2.50. For more details contact the All-Stars Players Club desk.



Preferred



Bronze



Silver



MVP Gold



SAN FRANCISCO CARD COMPANY

by Sheldon Smith

Right off the bat let me say that I am not nearly as good a researcher as some, based upon the stories I have seen on this BB. I have had help in this endeavor. I am trying though and I thought I'd share the results so far of the SF CARD CO.

This starts with my good friend Al Bernstein showing me several boxes of chips with labels at the end saying SF CARD CO., 100 Fillmore St. with a Market phone exchange obviously placing this box fairly far back. The chips contained within the box had denominations and the same Chinese Pictograph symbol on all of them. I went so far as to purchase a Chinese-English Dictionary to try and find out what the symbol meant. Chris (wife) consulted with one of the engineers of Asian extraction who consults for the Department of Labor and I continued to look for the meaning of the symbol.

The incomplete consensus was that the Pictograph could be interpreted as "WUN" or "WEN" which might have several meanings, one of which could be: money or denomination

After much looking on the Internet and elsewhere I contacted several agencies in San Francisco regarding the company and the address and was rebuffed repeatedly despite my comment that the company was not in business and couldn't they just tell me....

I was able to contact the San Francisco Public Library and after

several polite back and forth emails I was directed to a person who ran a small research company called *My Librarian*. I contacted Ms. Donna Arrowood and after lengthy conversations and scans of the end of the box and the chip itself Donna went to work.

We found the SF CARD CO. in the 1953 SF business directory with a listing that included items such as:

- Club room equipment
- Perfect hand true dice
- Poker checks
- Layouts
- Duce boxes
- Plastic cards
- New card readers
- Chinese dominos

The SF CARD CO. continued to be listed in the SF business directory until 1974.

On June 13, 1973 Helen Artz Costello was pistol whipped during a purported robbery and died the following day. Her husband Mr. Manuel Costello sold off the assets to another company that we have yet to locate. Ms. Artz married Mr. Costello but we have no known offspring of Ms. Artz without Mr. Costello. We have subsequently discovered that Mr. Costello may have been murdered by his 3rd wife, was Helen his 1st or 2nd (don't know).

One of Mr. Costello's surviving children, Mrs. Helen Artz Costello's stepson, whose name we shall not produce here has told me some fascinating stuff.

Mrs. Artz Costello was asked on a number of occasions, according to her husband, as told to his son to produce counterfeit chips.

Mrs. Artz Costello was investigated by the FBI because of the possibility of producing counterfeit chips.

Was Mrs. Artz Costello rubbed out by those whose "names must not be mentioned" because she refused to make counterfeit chips or because she was making them and not sharing the pie with those whose "names must not be mentioned"? We will probably never know.

Mr. Costello's son remembers distinctly the day that his father sold the business to another company, purportedly nearby to the SF CARD CO. He did have, until not too long ago, a quantity of the chips and other stuff that his father gave him as the company was sold. Two of the son's siblings have died in recent times and the string to locate these records seems perilously thin. Thanks to Robert Eisenstadt's wonderful web site we know that these chips were made by Burt Co., and that this chip design is now owned by Atlantic Standard Molding Inc. (pokerchips.com.)

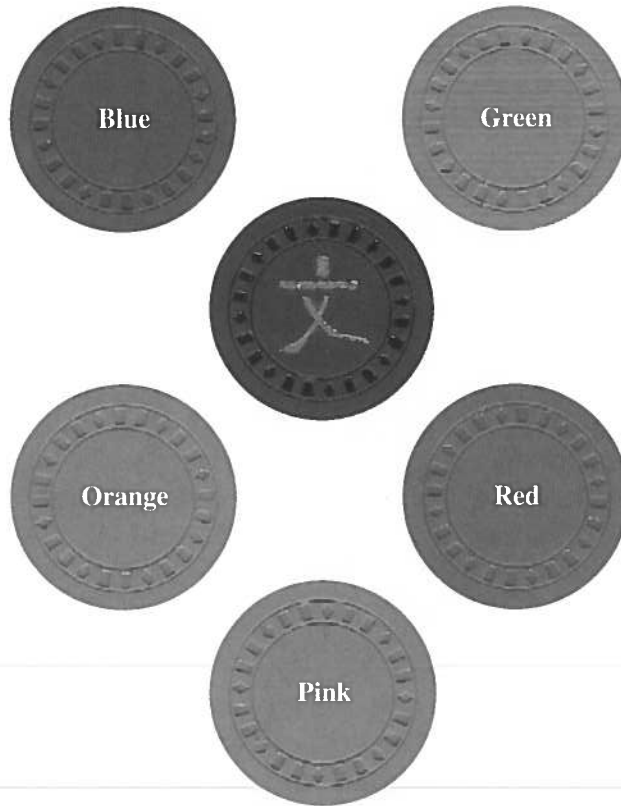
The chips were sent to SF CARD CO to be hot stamped according to orders received from various sources. We are continuing to research the SF CARD CO. in the hopes that their records are not lost. The scan shows the Asian pictograph chip in the middle surrounded by the blanks that Mr. Costello's son was kind enough to

send me. (I paid for them). He sent me all he had, although he admitted there used to be a lot more. They are gorgeous, the interiors of the DIAMONDS and the SQUARES are shiny just like the Christy & Jones / Hat & Canes.

I would like to hear from anybody who has corrections to what I have written and perhaps can direct me to other sources. I have emailed pokerchips.com in the hopes that they might have information about what they sent the S F CARD CO and perhaps for whom the shipments were intended.

Humbly submitted for your viewing pleasure, all bouquets and brickbats are welcome!

Sheldon Smith



Ads from the past

by Mark Freitag

The Players
Nevada Life
December 1945

Hoot Gibson's D-4-C Ranch
1947 Las Vegas Yellow Pages



(Below left) Schnoz old Jimmy Durante congratulate Max Traxis at the opening of his beautiful Club.

Club Bon Air is the first welcome sign seen on entering Las Vegas. (Above) Those famous funny man Bob Hope and Jerry Colonna attack slot machine at the Bon Air.

(Below right) Happily engaged in roulette are Mrs. Flo Sisco Guth, Mrs. Muriel Williams, Mrs. Vera Brady and Mrs. Lita Rowell, caddie, Jimmy Keye, is busy dolivering some winnings.



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Obituaries

Vince Mowery

Vince was one of the unsung heroes of our Club and the hobby. He was around in the early days and took care of numerous Club responsibilities. He handled publicity for a while, and was responsible for the Club Property and Promotions, as well. Vince has told me how he kept everything that belonged to the Club in his garage. He also told me about driving out to Stateline to put brochures in the Nevada Tourist Bureau office there. He and his wife, Bettye, were also Election Co-Chairs more recently.

Vince has been a regular contributor to the CCTN, mainly offering articles on tokens and small town Nevada.

There are a lot of great volunteers who make this hobby, and Club, successful. Many of them stay hidden in the background, just making things happen rather than promoting themselves. Vince was one of those. While I was Secretary and Property & Promotions Director, Vince was always there with advise and ideas. No, he wasn't announcing them on the Internet, he was whispering them into my ear.

I, as well as everyone else that knew Vince, can tell you that there has never been a more clear cut case that Vince died of a broken heart. Vince appeared to lose the will to live after his Bettye died last year.

Recently, at dinner with myself and a few other chippers, Vince looked at Doug and asked him how he was. Doug replied that he was fine. Vince said, "Well, how's your heart?" Doug stated fine. Vince said, "Mine's broken." I will never forget the look in his eyes and the tone of his voice when he said it. He really did have a broken heart.

I am terrible saddened and numbed by the news. However, I'm thinking that I should be happy for both Vince and Bettye. They are together again. What a romance!

Tyrus Mulkey

Alice Blanck

All of us were saddened to hear of the passing of long time member Alice Blanck of Texas. Alice and her husband Vern have been active members since the very early days of the Club. In fact, Alice was the very first Associate member, a distinction that both she and Vern were very proud of.

From the early days of the first conventions, Alice volunteered her time at the Registration table. She, along with Vern and the Sandersons (Art & Muriel), was a fixture at the entrance to the convention floor for many years. Her bright smile was one of the first things you saw heading into the show each morning and she was always ready with a hug and kiss on the cheek. She is likely on of the few volunteers in our organization that worked with every convention chairman we have had over the past 13 years.

On behalf of my wife Ann, the Board and the membership, I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Vern and the entire Blanck family. Alice was a dear, sweet lady and we are all very fortunate to have had the honor of knowing her.

Mike Skelton

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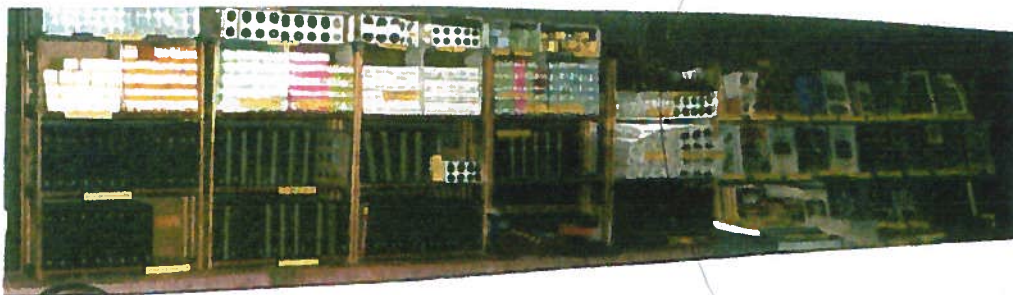
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