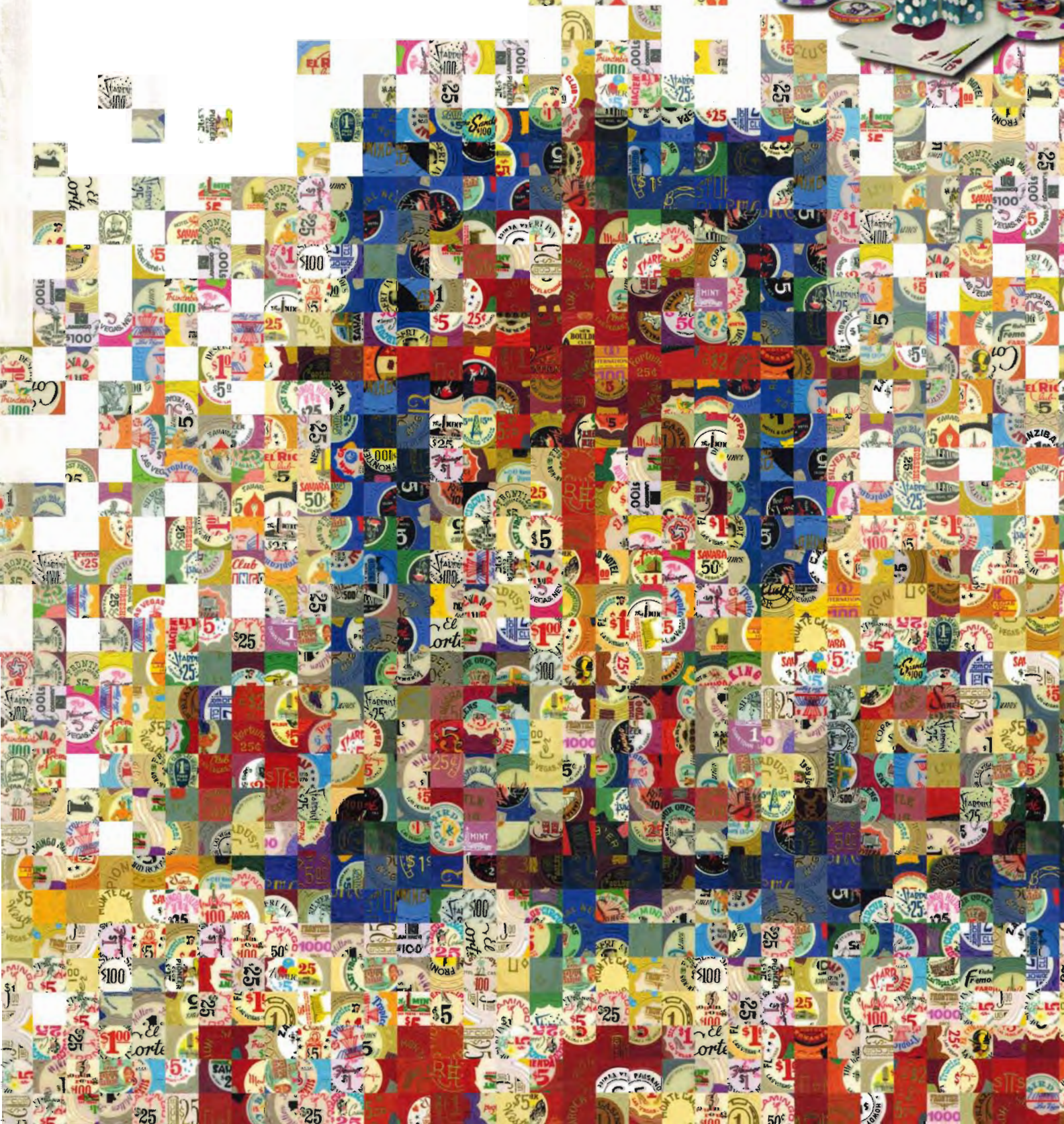


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## And Token News





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## CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

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

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Ralph Myers  
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### CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of  
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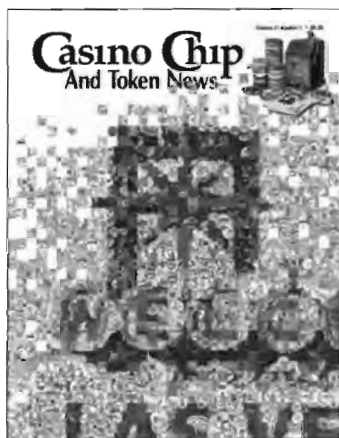
# Casino Chip And Token News

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

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



Volume 21 Number 1



*Cover Story*

**Convention 2008**

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*Spring Issue* April, May, June  
Mailing Date: April  
Deadline for Ads: March 1st

*Summer Issue* July, August, September  
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Deadline for Ads: July 1st

*Fall Issue* October, November, December  
Mailing Date: October  
Deadline for Ads: September 1st

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Ralph Myers

membership@ccgtcc.com

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**Wayne Thompson**  
President

## President's Letter

Well it has been a wild couple of months for the Board of Directors. We recently had our mid-year board meeting and we spend two full 8-hour days and still had a few minor unfinished items on the agenda we are dealing with by e-mail. We tried to address all the questions and issues that members had brought to us as well as the normal Club business. There were some great ideas from some of our members and several of them have been adopted.

Among the member suggestions were a "Planning Committee" chaired by Steve Margolis. Their main task is to look to the future of the Club and offer suggestions the Club should be considering as we do our planning for the future. In addition there will be times that the Board will ask them to address a particular problem and offer suggestions on how to best solve it. As Board members we know we don't have all the answers so we thought this would be a way to bring in fresh ideas.

We are forming a "Member Recruitment Committee" to work on bringing in new members as well as retaining our existing members. We hope to see members from all over the country join in to help make this effort a success.

Sheldon Smith has done a great job as Publicity Chairman but no matter how hard one-person works they can't promote the Club nationwide. That is why we have decided to form a committee of members from around the country, chaired by Sheldon to try and get local media sources to cover our organization. Obviously the publicity can only help us grow and enhance our reputation as the best source of historical information on gaming history.

I guess from the beginning of this Club Charlie Rodgers has been Advertising Manager and has devoted a substantial amount of time to work with the membership to get ads in the magazine to help offset the magazine cost and to help members make their interests known. Since we passed the constitutional amendment last summer we now have the ability to bring in corporate members and we need the ability to start soliciting these industry related corporations and other non-members to support our Club through not only membership but also advertising. Towards this end we are forming a "Sales Committee" to solicit non-member advertising. Charlie as always will be in charge of the members and this new group will be in charge of the non-members. We have set a new higher advertising rate for non-members and of course left it the same for our members. If you have never advertised in the magazine I ask you to consider it. It is by far the best bargain you can find.



As a Club we are doing more and more and we need your help as members if we are going to keep growing this Club. Perhaps our most pressing current need is a new magazine editor to replace Allan Anderson who after 9 years as assistant editor and editor is taking a well-deserved break. I hope everyone will consider volunteering for this position. If you think it is more work than you can handle alone there are people who are willing to help gather articles from the members, edit or proofread, and basically assist in any way they can. We just need an editor to coordinate the process. Please give consideration to this position because without the magazine the Club loses one of the main things we are known for. Contact Allan, myself, or any Board member if you have questions regarding this position.

A few more issues I want to touch on briefly:

Since taking over as Librarian John Kallman has done a great job in getting our library set up and establishing rules for use. As members you have access to a great resource on almost any area of gaming and gaming history. Please take advantage of it.

With the Convention only about three months away Mike and Dawn have been working non-stop to bring you the best Convention yet. I hope when you see them at the Convention you will thank them for all their hard work.

One task the Board felt a need to take on was establishing a "dealer rating system" that will allocate table location by the number of points the dealer has accumulated. The points are allocated based on the number of years a dealer has setup at the Convention and the number of tables they have had. More weight was given to the number of years than the number of tables. This is obviously not popular with some dealers but popular with others. We feel this system is the fairest way to allocate table location and hope over time everyone will agree.

Chairman Skelton has been working on moving the Vision & Feasibility Committee forward and recently the Board and the committee members had a 1-? day meeting with Sandra Harris to establish plans for moving this project forward. As many of you know Sandra is the person who set up the "Neon Boneyard" and is someone with an extensive background working with museums. She has been a great facilitator and has been critical in seeing we are moving in the right direction.

Every year we are disappointed with the turnout at the Club business meeting. With all the things going on in the Club we need every member possible to attend and let us

know your feelings on what we as a Board are doing right and what you think needs to be changed. This is a once a year opportunity to get answers to your questions and to participate in the running of the Club. Please take time out of your schedule to show up.

Lastly, it is with regret that the Board accepted Sunday Silverman's resignation as Membership Officer. Sunday is dealing with some personal issues and I think given the same circumstances we would do the same thing. On behalf of the membership and myself I want to thank Sunday for all she has done and wish her well and look forward to seeing her in June. Thanks Sunday!

By now you should have received your nomination forms for a new membership officer. We are fortunate to have more than one person running for this very important and time-consuming position. I would be totally remiss if I didn't offer a huge thank you to Ralph Myers for stepping up and offering to serve as Membership Officer until an election can be held. A very generous offer from a member who is always doing something on behalf of the Club. Thank you Ralph!

If you are still awake let me close by saying it is an honor (and most of the time a pleasure) to be able to serve on the Board. We are fortunate to have the Board members we do and I personally thank them for all their dedication.

Wayne Thompson  
CC&GTCC President  
HLM-2733



**Jay Sands**  
Vice-President

## Vice-President's Letter

A couple of weeks ago there was a thread on The Chip Board that started with the question, "How is this hobby doing?" It was seemingly a simple question but was surprisingly complicated to address. After all, how do you measure how the hobby is doing? I think you can break the issues down into two major ones: the economics of the hobby and the size of the collecting universe. I'll try to address both of these issues in responding to the question at hand.

Perhaps the most telling indicator of the state of our hobby of collecting casino memorabilia is how prices are trending. In the thread on The Chip Board, several expressed concerns that we are experiencing a decline in lockstep with the overall economy, as there is a perception that people seem to be selling chips somewhat more cheaply than in the recent past. On the other hand, some think that the hobby is doing well, and that our hobby is recession-proof, since the cost of entry is inexpensive and most beginning collectors derive pleasure from collecting current items, such as chips, tokens, strikes, matchbooks, and anything else they can put their hands on in a casino (alas... no more ashtrays.)

I think the answer to the question, though, would depend on who you are asking. There are as many reasons to collect things as there are collectors, but I believe that some of the main groupings of members of our (or any) hobby can be broken down like this: a) those in it for financial reasons (dealers), b) those gambling on the future state of the hobby (investors), and c) the "pure" collector. Most of us, whether or not we're prone to admit it, fall into more than one of these groups.

So what's going on with price trends? With apologies to collectors of silver strikes, tokens, matchbook covers,

swizzle sticks, paper goods, etc., for the purposes of this discussion, I am going to confine my thoughts to Nevada casino chips for two reasons: first of all, it's my main area of collecting interest and probably the only one I can speak to with any degree of knowledge, and secondly, I would estimate (conservatively, I think), that at least 80% of the dollars spent in the casino collectibles hobby are spent there.

The first problem that is evident is that the two main price guides for Nevada casino chips are outdated now, each about 3 years old. This in itself presents what I feel is a huge obstacle to those looking to enter the hobby. Collectors rely on price guides for valuation in all hobbies, and without an accurate price guide, even the most seasoned of us can feel lost to some degree. At this point in time there are no new editions of either guide on the horizon, and this is a serious problem for our hobby.

As one who studies the market, it is my opinion that prices in the area of Nevada casino chips have remained very healthy. For sure, there have been quite a few finds of chips that had been previously thought of as rare, and prices of those have plummeted (which may be contributing to the perception that prices are falling in the hobby overall.) Some of the recent finds, since the last of the price guides were published, include the \$25 Birdcage, the Reno Sunflower chips, the Verdi Inn chips, the Tropicana house molds, the \$1 gray Caesars Palace, the Dopey Norman's quarters, and, most recently, three denominations of Black Orchids. Additionally, it appears that there might be quantities of Sands \$25 and \$100 HNO's coming into the marketplace, though the seller has been less than forthcoming about his inventory. Certainly, buyers of these chips who purchased them at the astronomical prices they'd fetched before the finds can be distraught, but that's the nature of the volatile high end of the hobby, because unlike, say, coin collecting, in many cases the production and destruction records no longer exist. Are these finds good for the hobby? It's a mixed bag, of course, as the previous high-end buyers are at a loss but the mid-range collectors are able to add some great chips to their collections.

What is undeniably bad for the hobby is that these finds, coupled with the lack of up-to-date price guides, beget opportunities for unscrupulous and unethical sellers to misrepresent what they are selling by citing values and rarity levels in the latest price guides with full knowledge that they are completely incorrect. (This type of abuse alone should impress upon collectors that it is vital that they follow the market on collectibles they are considering



buying. Relying on the descriptions in an auction lot or what is currently listed in a 3-year-old price guide can be a recipe for trouble.)

Another major factor influencing a change in the marketplace has been the evolution of on-line auctions. Over the past 10 years or so, eBay has increasingly become the marketplace where a tremendous quantity of casino memorabilia is sold day in and day out, and has progressively included more and more mid- and high end material. With collectors spread around the world, this e-commerce outlet has become what is probably the best indicator of price trends in the hobby. Many of the more important chip dealers sell on eBay for the simple reason that it provides a consistent cash flow... they don't have to rely on the national convention and various chip shows and local club meetings to conduct business. While listing strategies may vary with some sellers holding their prices and others starting their auctions at very low levels, in my estimation most popular mid-range chips have held their values firmly over the past 5 years or so. For example, the price points of such crowd-pleasers as the \$5 Dunes marquee or \$1 sultan, the \$1 Four Queens or Fremont arodies, and the \$1 Hacienda small key have remained remarkably consistent, despite the fact that they show up on eBay just about weekly. In many cases, the eBay sales are at price points close to or even higher than those you find in dealers' binders.

As for the high end, I have found eBay to be very competitive with live auction sales or dealer pricing. Price records for individual chips have frequently been broken on eBay, and this will no doubt continue in the future. In the high end of the hobby, however, there is competition between on-line auctions and live auctions, and there is a perception that consigning a chip to, say, Doug Saito's Chip Chat auctions would bring a better price than selling on eBay. Several reasons for this perception include the fact that many high-end collectors are not on the internet, the feeling that there are more high-end eyes in the auction room than there would be in an internet auction, and the fact that you can see and touch the chips in question rather than relying on posted scans. And in Doug's case, you can add to the equation his huge and devoted customer base.

What has suffered over the past several years is the lower end of the hobby. The less expensive items are the realm of the newer collector and as fewer of them enter the pursuit the pricing will trend downward. This, unfortunately, includes limited edition or commemorative chips,

where the secondary market has dried up dramatically over that time. These issues have also reinforced the perception held by many that chip prices have been trending downward overall.

The other main factor in measuring the health of our hobby is the size of the universe of collectors. It's clear that we, as a group, are aging upward as few younger people enter the hobby, and virtually all of us agree that we need to attract more collectors. Our hobby is still a very small one, with maybe 4,000 to 5,000 people collecting casino memorabilia around the world. It is clearly a fascinating hobby, with an interesting historical backdrop behind all of the older material. Most would consider it glamorous or sexy since it involves gambling, from its earliest forms thousands of years ago through the organized crime influence of the 50's to today's global proliferation of casinos. So, why aren't there more of us collectors? There is obviously no simple answer to this question, because if it were evident, it would be simple to recruit new members into our hobby.


Where should we be looking for new collectors? Recently, Archie Black posted a link to an interesting article appearing, appropriately enough, in the AARP Magazine. The article notes that some scientists have postulated the existence of a "collecting gene" while others think that the collecting instinct is a modern expression of our ancient instincts to hunt and gather. Whatever the case, it seems to be true that people are either collectors or they're not, and that we should probably be looking for established collectors to bring into our hobby. This undertaking needs to be a focus of the Club, and shortly there should be some news regarding our efforts in this direction.



**Doug Smith**  
Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report

**Christine and Sheldon Smith**  
*of*  
**ONENEVADADOLLAR,**  
our eBay user ID,  
take this opportunity to thank all of  
the people who have purchased casino  
memorabilia from us.



Watch for our future sales on eBay and  
elsewhere. What a great hobby!

*-Thank You!*

This is my third report as your newly elected Treasurer. The information contained in this report reflect costs and expenditures for the period of 01/01/08 thru 02/29/08. I appreciate all the comments and suggestions and look forward to helping the club with improvements and securing a better future for us as an organization. I also once again wanted to send a HUGE thanks to Mike Quinlivan our previous treasurer for all his help and support during this 1st years transition.

### Highlights of the first 2 Months of 2008:

- Attended BOD meeting and Museum Committee Workshop in Las Vegas.
- Completed full audit of club books by the appointed Audit Committee.
- Completed fun trend analysis of previous 5 years revenues and expenses and presented suggestions on cost savings ideas to the rest of the Board Of Directors.
- Worked numerous issues related to the 2008 convention and suggestions by members for making the 2008 the best one yet.

### Club Accounts

The current balances as of 02/29/08 in the new club accounts are as follows:

Museum Fund Money Market \$108,753.12  
Life Membership Fund Money Market \$ 63,825.80  
General Fund Money Market \$ 32,264.08  
General Fund Business Checking \$ 44,351.30  
Total of all four accounts \$249,194.30

The above totals do not reflect Membership checks in the amount of \$1,393.00 that have been deposited but not yet reflected as well as checks written in the amount of \$18,527.84 including payment for CCTN that have not yet cleared.

### 6th Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction

For those who have not heard, David Spragg has graciously agreed to take over this years auction replacing the previous chairs who have done a fabulous job in doing justice to Bruce's work. Details on the auction are forthcoming. However from a financial standpoint I did want to mention that this year, all lots must be paid for before the convention close for those bidding in person, even for those wishing lots to be mailed. Mail bidders will be invoiced as always shortly after the convention.

### The Museum Fund

The total amount currently in the Museum fund as stated above is now \$108,753.12. We have collected \$663.70 since my last report thru new donations, promotions and Interest on the account.



THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB INC.  
Income & Expense/Equity Statement (Cash Basis)  
January 1 Thru February 29, 2008

INCOME

Membership Dues (Includes 1st class postage & Life Memberships)		\$ 6,551
Convention 2008:		
Table Fees	\$ 27,453	
Poker & Blackjack Tournaments	\$ 2,160	
Banquet	\$ 440	
Registration	\$ 340	
Program Advertising	\$ -	
Auction Proceeds	\$ -	
Convention 2008 Total:		\$ 30,393
Interest Income		\$ 1,218
Magazine Advertising		\$ 725
Promotion Sales		\$ 181
Misc		\$ 10
Building Fund Donations		\$ -
Directory Sales		\$ -
Total Income :		<u>\$ 39,078</u>

EXPENDITURES

Printing	\$ 2,274
Postage (Other than Magazine)	\$ 778
Meetings	\$ 500
Supplies	\$ 412
Bank Charges	\$ 287
Promotion	\$ 96
Magazine	\$ -
Convention 2008 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales)	\$ -
Video Production (Convention/Seminars)	\$ -
Storage (Occupancy)	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -
Insurance	\$ -
Website	\$ -
Advertising	\$ -
Telephone	\$ -
Filing Fees	\$ -
Total Expenditures :	<u>\$ 4,347</u>

Net Income - 01/01/08 to 02/29/08	\$ 34,731
Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/08	\$ 239,058
Net Income - 01/01/08 to 02/29/08	\$ 34,731
Change In Inventory - 01/01/08 to 02/29/08	\$ -
Ending Equity Balance - 02/29/08	<u>\$ 273,789</u>

Detail of Equity Balance - 02/29/08

General Fund - Checking	\$ 44,351	
General Fund - Money Market	\$ 32,264	
Museum Fund (Formerly Building Fund)	\$ 108,753	
Life Membership Fund	\$ 63,826	
Total Cash Available		<u>\$ 249,194</u>
Inventory		\$ 23,795
Advance (Membership Officer)		\$ 800
Ending Equity Balance - 02/29/08		<u>\$ 273,789</u>

Respectfully Submitted, Douglas P. Smith - Treasurer  
March 07, 2008

There will be some additional costs for the Museum fund which will be paid shortly to cover the fees accrued during the last Museum Committee Workshop in February. These include the fees for Sandra Harris who has been instrumental in helping bring our dream to fruition. Sandra has headlined the efforts of the Neon and Libarachi Museums in Las Vegas and is now the deputy Director for the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at Berkley. After attending the meetings myself, I am more excited than ever about the future of our Museum. I want to personally thank everyone who has donated and supported this great project in the past and continues to do so.

### **Online Renewals & Preregistration**

The On-line renewal function on the CC&GTCC site has been up and running without issues for several months now. Since the last report we have added the ability to preregister online for the pre-registration fees, banquet, and poker and blackjack Tournaments. I wanted to thank David Spragg once again for helping getting this monster off the ground as well as Sunday Silverman and George Dmitrevsky for helping me immensely with reconciling the payments.

### **Period Revenue (Thru 02/29/08)**

The following monies were collected during the first 2 Months of 2008.

Dealer Table Fees \$27,453  
Membership Renewals \$4,301  
Life Memberships \$2,250

Blackjack and Poker Tournament Fees \$2,160  
Interest Income \$1,218  
Magazine Advertising \$725  
Banquet Fees \$440  
Pre-Registration Fees \$340  
Promotion Sales \$181  
Miscellaneous Donations \$10  
Total Period Revenue \$39,078

### **Period Expenses (Thru 02/29/08)**

The following expenses paid during the first 2 Months of 2008.

Printing (Incl New Member Brochures) \$2,274  
Misc Postage Expenses \$778  
Deposit for Flamingo Meeting Room fees \$500  
Misc Supplies (includes postage supplies) \$412  
Credit Card Processing Fees \$287  
Promotional Items \$96  
Total Period Expenses \$4,347

### **Period Account Balance Reconciliation (Thru 02/29/08)**

Total balance in all accounts as of 12/29/07 \$214,463  
Revenue for the Period thru 02/29/08 \$39,078  
Expenses for the Period thru 02/29/08 (\$4,347)  
Balance of all accounts as of 02/29/08 \$249,194

In closing I would like to thank each of you for your support and kind words over the past few months and I look forward to seeing you all at the 2008 Convention.

## **Help Wanted**

### **Editor of *The Casino Chip and Token News Magazine***

It's tough to give up something you really like doing but all good things must come to an end. Effective with the post 2008 convention issue I will be resigning as editor of the Casino Chip and Token News Magazine. I started doing the magazine in late 1999 and when my last issue meets ink it will have been 9 years. I want to thank all the people who have contributed over the years. Without them there would not have been a magazine. Special thanks to C.T. Rodgers, advertising manager, John Moore who kept me from butchering the english language and to Joe Shaw. Not to be forgotten is John Yee who called me one day in 1999 and said, "hey, I just volunteered you for something".

Anyone who is interested in applying for this position please contact me at [editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:editor@ccgtcc.com). A background in graphics and publishing is helpful.



## All Convention Attendees Please Read

# The Future of Our Convention

The Riviera has informed us that if we do not get our room count up this year they may not allow us to hold our Convention there next year. If that were the case the cost of holding our Convention could easily go up \$20,000+ and the room rate a minimum of \$25-\$30 per night. These numbers are based on actual research. There are only 12 hotels in Las Vegas that can accommodate our needs so we would certainly be at their mercy.

We think this is important for all our members to consider when they go to book a room. Please even if it costs you a few dollars more a night please stay at the Riviera. I assure you the convenience of not having to leave the hotel and being about to drop off or pick up items from your room at anytime will more than make up for the nominal extra cost.

Please realize that after discussion with the Riviera they are very serious. We book a nominal number of room nights and spend very little with catering considering we use such a disproportionate share of the Convention space. For those who don't know the bourse floor and meeting rooms are provided at no cost. No other hotel in town will even talk to us on these terms.

For years we have exhorted our members to stay at the Convention hotel and yet the number drops every year. So this year we have decided to resort to incentives.

Before I go into the incentives we are going to offer, let me state upfront that I know some members will be unhappy especially the members who live in Las Vegas. But I hope everyone will understand this is not a decision the Board of Directors took lightly. It is a necessity that we cannot ignore if we want to have an affordable place to hold our Convention.

For those members who stay at least two nights under the Club room block we are going to offer the following incentives, which I think, will make staying at the Riviera almost irresistible!

We have at least one casino (we are working on more) who will be issuing a limited edition NCV Convention chip for those staying at the Riviera. The chip will be free.  
Registration will be raised to \$20 per person. For those staying at the Riviera they will receive \$10 in dealer scrip, which can be redeemed with any dealer to offset the increased fee.  
We have items being donated that will be raffled off. Only members that stay at the Riviera will get a free raffle ticket.  
We have quite a few dealers who are offering discount coupons for our members who stay at the Riviera. This alone could save our members a fair amount of money.  
Lastly the members who stay at the Riviera will be allowed into the show one hour earlier than everyone else.

At this point these are the incentives that have been confirmed. We are working on even more incentives as a way to entice members to stay in the Club room block.

Keep in mind these are limited to one per room. If there are two members legitimately staying in the room and they book 4 nights then we will provide two of everything.

We have given this a lot of thought and tried to be as fair as possible to the members who support the Club by staying in the hotel. Keep in mind this system is set up to reward members who support the Club by staying in the Convention hotel, not penalize the ones who don't. For those members who live locally I realize that some will feel this is unfair. But the way we viewed the issue was that with the money you save for not having airfare and hotel costs the savings will more than offset the value of the rewards.

We are asking all our members to consider staying at the Riviera. It is extremely important to the future of our annual Convention. Thank you.

After reviewing this is, if any member has any questions please direct them to Wayne Thompson ([president@ccgtcc.com](mailto:president@ccgtcc.com)) or any other Board member.



**Belinda Hixon, Secretary**

## Secretary's Report

Greetings!

In less than 100 days we'll be gathering in Las Vegas for the Convention. Mike and Dawn have been working non-stop to provide us all with a convention to remember. We'll have 3 ? days filled with activity and hope that if you're in town for the Convention, that you'll take part in as many of the events as possible.

In the past few months, I've been thinking a great deal about the people it takes to run this organization. I receive reports from members who volunteer (a couple in two areas) and serve at the pleasure of the BoD but also, I hope, because they derive pleasure from serving the Club and trying to make it stronger and more viable. If you happen to have occasion to deal with any of these people, please take the time to say thank you. They do far more than asked on behalf of the Club as a whole.

Allan Anderson  
Carey Burke  
Jim Follis  
John Kallman  
Michael Knapp  
Travis Lewin  
Roy Nelson  
John Moore  
C. T. Rogers  
Mike Pasternack  
Dawn Satter  
Mike Skelton  
Sheldon Smith  
David Spragg

To these Chairmen/Directors, those who serve on their committees, and those who serve in special limited areas, thank you all.

In the past few months we've all been busy with the day to day operation of the Club. There are many days when we communicate for hours by email, trying to take care of issues that arise. We met for two days in February, meeting for about 16 hours. We got through approximately 60 agenda items during the meeting.. There is a summary of the votes and discussions printed elsewhere in the magazine.

As always, if you have a concern about the Club, please contact any BOD officer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Belinda Hixon

**FREE CHIP LIST**

**JERRY HOOVER**  
(R-2572)

10655 Kinnard Avenue, #204  
Los Angeles, California  
90024-5939  
**310.441.1171**  
jerry.hoover@pepperdine.edu

## Report on the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on February 20 – 21, 2008 at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas for the semi-annual meeting.

Present were:

Wayne Thompson – President  
Jay Sands – Vice President  
Doug Smith – Treasurer  
Belinda Hixon – Secretary

Also present was Club Legal Counsel, Eric Rosenblum. Reports were heard from each officer in attendance.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Report</u>
Doug Smith	Treasurer

Financials as of 12/31/07 are included in the last magazine and available on the Club website.

Discussion:

Convention Pre-registration is up and running.

Newbie Tip of the Day – Should be able to access the full grouping on the Club website. It will be discussed with the Webmaster. Also discussion on printing the tips and inserting them into the Welcome packets sent to new members.

Promotional sales – we need to find a better way to promote the items we have. Possibility of selling on eBay at a buy-it- now, price.

Magazine Costs

Check into applying for a Non-profit mailing status. Club Legal Counsel will investigate and make appropriate applications.

Still having difficulty nailing down the pricing on International mailing costs. 40 members are international.

Advertising has to increase in order to maintain the quality of magazine that is produced.

End of Treasurer's report

<u>Name</u>	<u>Report</u>
Sunday Silverman	Membership

Discussion:

Two members have requested that they be grandfathered in as Life Members at the old rate.

**The BOD voted unanimously not to grandfather in members who were not eligible for Life membership at the time of the dues increase.**

Senior Life Memberships

**The BOD voted unanimously not to initiate the Senior Life Member program at this time.**

Membership brochures are being redesigned and will be made available as soon as possible. In the meantime, Secretary Hixon has a limited number of the current design on hand. The new brochure will be available from the Membership Officer and will also be made available as a PDF online for those who wish to print their own for distribution can use. An announcement will be made on the Club BB when the brochures are available.

End of Membership discussion

<u>Name</u>	<u>Report</u>
Jay Sands	Vice President

In order to prepare a packet for corporate membership, we need to outline what the perceived benefits are for such membership. Possible incentives include:

Access to the Club Membership list minus the Do Not Publish members.

The list could be used to send coupons/offers to the membership.

Banners or displays at the convention

Possible table at the show to sign up players club members

Tax deductions due to our tax status.

The Press Kit for major donors will be put together in conjunction with the Museum Fund's campaign.

End of Vice President's report.

Name  
Belinda Hixon

Report  
Secretary

Procedures and forms used by each committee/chair are now on file with the exception of one area.

Question regarding the clarity of the Member's Logo usage policy. It is the opinion of Legal Counsel that the policy is sufficient. Logo requests tend to peak around the time that magazines are delivered and then fall off dramatically.

10 Year Membership pins for the last quarter have not been mailed.

The database for Convention Walk-in's has been completed. Approximately 890 walk-ins attended the convention last year. 158 marked that they were club members. 225 of those who are non-members requested information on the 2008 convention. Information will be sent out around the middle of April. Secretary Hixon suggested that the database needs to be completed at the convention so cards and membership applications can be sent to all walk-ins (minus members) within a month of the convention.

End of Secretary's Report

A week prior to the meeting Secretary Hixon provided each BOD member with Committee reports as provided by the Chairman/Director.

### **Advertising**

Motion made and seconded to increase rates for non-members (corporate ads) to:  
One fourth page - \$150 one time or \$500 for four issues.  
One-half page - \$300 one time or \$1000 for four issues  
Full page - \$500 one time or \$1750 for four issues

**The BOD voted unanimously to increase rates for non members (corporate advertising) as moved.**

### **Auction**

Change auction time to 5:30 pm. Bourse floor will close at 4:30 on Friday before the Auction.

### **Claims**

One claim is open (sent to Director for investigation)

One claim is in the Vice-President's possession and will be forwarded to the Director.

### **Convention**

The BOD met with the Convention Co-chairs for a period of 3 hours on Thursday, the 21st.

As of February 20, there are 70 dealers, 2 of which are comp tables to the Silver Strike Club and Slot Card Club.

### **Discussion**

Comp tables will not be allowed to sell merchandise.

Those Clubs using a CC&GTCC provided meeting room will not be allowed to hold auctions during their meetings.

Dealer System - more weight to number of years  
2 pt. per year of participation  
1 pt. per table per year. Corner tables get 1 points.

### **Trade Sessions –**

Those attending trade sessions need to wear Convention credentials.

### **Sessions to be held:**

Wednesday night after the banquet – traditional Early Bird Trade Session  
Thursday night during the poker tournament.  
Saturday night – Traditional Last Dance Trade Session

### **Education**

Investigate the process of getting Educational Seminars on the Club's website along with a viewing counter.

### **Hall of Fame**

Process is under way.

Added the call for nominations and recommendation form to the website this year.

### **Legal**

No pending legal issues.



All three logo items have been copywrited and we are waiting on Trademark and Servicemark paperwork back from Washington D. C.

## **Library**

Running smoothly.

Books have been inventoried.

Internal and external procedures were codified and published on the Club's website.

Discussion:

It is the Librarian's (and the BOD's) opinion that one copy of the book selected as the Book of the Year should be donated to the Club Library.

## **Magazine**

New Editor needs to be found.

Check on mailing rates (media, Not for Profit, etc).

## **OTY**

Selection process underway.

Discussion

SSOTY and TOTY will be going away due to the lack of new production.

Any new categories must be approved by the BOD before being presented to the membership.

Suggestion that there be a Personal Chip of the Year awarded. It is the BOD's opinion that any personal chip award should voted on as a People's Choice Award during the Convention.

## **OLCD**

Discussion as to original purpose of the position and the need for it today.

**The BOD voted unanimously to eliminate the position of OLCD.**

## **Property/Promotions**

The Chairman provided the BOD with an inventory count and suggestions for moving merchandise that is outdated or that we have too much of.

Discussion

Investigate the possibility of selling club merchandise on eBay.

Some items will be distributed among Convention attendees via pre-registration bags or in the Museum Fund bags.

## **Standards & Archives**

Committee was asked to reconsider and modify the report submitted in 2006 . The report is pending.

## **Vision & Feasibility**

The committee scheduled a meeting with consultant Sandra Harris for February 21st and 22nd.

Major areas of the 1 day meeting will be building needs and costs, as well as a concentration on the Capital Campaign.

The Building Fund committee was absorbed by the V&F committee and several sub-committees set up within the larger group.

Discussion

A full report will be sent to the BOD after the meeting in February.

## **Website**

Discussion

Items that need to be included on website and how they should be organized.

Selling club merchandise online.

Discussion regarding the abuse of the delete function on the Club's bb and who has the ability to delete posts from the BB.

**The BOD voted unanimously to eliminate the delete function on the Club's website.**

## Other business

### Annual Business meeting

Scheduled for 11 am on Saturday, June 21, 2008 at the Riviera Hotel & Casino. Room location will be announced by Convention Chairs.

### Constitutional amendments

Three amendments have been presented to BOD must be sent out 60 days before the Annual meeting. (4/21/08)

### Fundraisers for the Club

Due to legal concerns, any proposed fundraiser for the Club or Museum Fund must be submitted to the BOD before being started.

### Member Suggestions

Proposed "Planning Committee" submittal approved with modifications. An announcement will be made the committee becomes active.

Suggestion that the Club purchase a table at other shows for recruitment purpose. It is the BOD's opinion that there isn't enough walk-in traffic to purchase a table. We will ask members to provide brochures/applications to potential members.

Proposal for a Leadership Level program. Tabled until more research can be done.

Suggestions that the Club become more visible on other sites (Chip Talk, etc..) The suggestions will be sent back with a request for more specifics.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Hixon  
Secretary



### *Ten Year Members*

Congratulations to the following members for attaining 10 years of membership in the CC&GTCC!

Jack Sahlberg R-3562

Bruce Campbell R-3567

Rob Lange R-3570

Bob Orme R-3576

Robert Christopher Jr. R-3577

Bob Martin R-3578

Eugene Graze R-3584

Jim Silva LM 3587-41

Richard Ruffell R-3588

Butch Reynolds R-3594

Florence Smith R-3596

Amy Andrae R-3605

Jim Reilly LM-3606-38

Charles Emke R- 3608

Jack Sellner R-3609

Kevin Pyles R-3613

Bobby Stoops R-3614

Rick Robillard R-3615

David Freedman R-3616

Anthony DiMascio R-3618

Gregory Bereski R-3627

Chuck Smorse LM3632-159

Douglas DeCrosta R-3633

# Of Literary Note

by John K. Kallman  
Club Librarian

## Looking Back

On this side of the pond, the race for the White House is well underway with the number of candidates down to a manageable few. One way potential candidates test the political waters is to write (or more accurately, have it ghost written) a book outlining their views and positions on various topics. *The America We Deserve* is one such book. This book outlines those positions and views by none other than Donald Trump! Yes, the “Donald” of television, real-estate, and casino fame once considered running for President of the United States. Apparently, his political career got no further than the writing of this book. One can only speculate on what type of President he would have made, but as they say, if they were making book in Vegas, it would be a safe bet to say that the landscape of gaming as we know it would look somewhat different than it does today. This is one of several books on or about Donald Trump in the club’s library along with other casino notables, be they owners, operators, or entertainers that are available for your reading enjoyment.

## Library Additions

The following items have been added to the club library and are now available for loan:

The first and second newsletter of the recently formed *Caribbean Casino Collectors Club* was donated by Charles Kaplan. For additional information about this club, contact Howard at [chas@ckaplan.com](mailto:chas@ckaplan.com), or

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club  
c/o Charles Kaplan  
11 Calais Court  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Dues are \$10.00 per year.

If your casino related club or organization publishes a newsletter, you may want to consider donating copies to

the club library. Past issues would also be welcomed as well.

Other items added:

## Gambler’s General Store

Sales List 1999-2000 & 2000-2001.

## Gambler’s Book Shop

2000-2001 and 2002-2003 catalogs.

## Atlantic City Insider

Vol. 6 No 4.

## Harper’s Magazine

Fortune’s Smile (World Series of Poker, December 2000).

## Las Vegas Sun

Las Vegas Historians Compiles Top Gaming History, June 10, 1999.

## TITO Collectors Newsletter #15

## In Print:

*Numismatic News*, January 29, 2008: Member Mryna Lighterman receives that publication’s 2008 Ambassador Award

*Numismatic News*, February 5, 2008: The Floridian Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club 2008 chip is featured. Dues are \$10 per year. For additional information, contact Mark Lighterman, 5224 West SR 46 #408, Sanford FL 32771-9230.

*Coin World*, February 4, 2008: Spectrum Purchases Historic Medals, Tokens from Casino. Items from Jackie Gaughan owned properties.



# 2008 Convention Update From Your Convention Co-Chairs

by Dawn Satter and Mike Pasternack



Hello to all! The 2008 show is almost upon us, and promises to be another exciting year. Many dealers offering casino collectibles of all types will be in attendance, and with the new auction format and many educational seminars planned, we are confident that the 16th annual CC&GTCC Convention will be a success and a rewarding experience for all those who attend.

## **Hotel Reservations:**

As of this writing, we are unfortunately still *very* short of meeting our required number of rooms. Members are encouraged to stay at the Riviera. If we do not make the numbers, we are in grave danger of not being offered convention space at the Riv next year. Rooms are \$89.00 a night, and the rate is good not only during the show, but for the days immediately prior to and directly after the convention. Support the club now and we still have a chance of remaining at the Riviera for next year's convention. Book the rooms by mentioning "The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club" group rate. The telephone number to call for reservations is 1-800-634-6753 in the continental US, or locally at 702-794-9412.

## **Volunteers:**

As always, we can still use more volunteers for setup, teardown and many other positions during the show. If you can volunteer even a couple of hours of your time, please consider doing so. It's a great way to help your club out and to network with other members as well. Please contact us at [convention@ccgtcc.com](mailto:convention@ccgtcc.com) or the Volunteer Coordinator, Bob Bickford if you are interested in helping out.

## **Banquet/Trade Sessions:**

The early bird banquet is always a highlight of the convention. Entrance is strictly limited to pre-registrants, so if you have not pre-registered yet, please do so. In addition to good food, there will be an interesting guest speaker, and it is during the banquet that all the awards are handed out. This is a must-not-miss event for all attendees! Immediately afterwards will be the first major trade session of the show. Please consult the convention schedule elsewhere in this issue for further details.

## **Exhibits:**

We are looking for exhibitors. If you would like to be an exhibitor at the show, please contact Casey Focazio-Follis. Hopefully by June, there will be many competitive and non-competitive exhibits for all to see and to enjoy.

## **Educational Seminars:**

Sheldon Smith has done a wonderful job of lining up guest speakers for this year's show. There will be the first-timer's workshop, and many other educational seminars presented, including one by our very own Gene Trimble. Try to attend as many as possible—you have everything to gain and nothing to lose!

## **Local Club Meetings:**

There are several local clubs who will be holding meetings at the convention. These include the Florida Club, the Caribbean Casino Collectibles Club, the TITO Club, and the Silver Striker's Club. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please feel free to meet with members who share a similar specialty interest within our hobby.



**Bruce Landau Auction:**

David Spragg has taken over the duties of Auction Chairman. We are confident that he will do an excellent job in this position, and we wish him all the best. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the club auction, which will feature some great pieces for sale this year. Help your club by bidding high and frequently!

**Poker/BJ Tournaments:**

The 6th Annual CCGTCC Blackjack tournament will be held at The Palms Casino Resort on June 18, 2008. 12 noon. The 10th Annual CCGTCC Poker Tournament will be held at Binion's Gambling Hall & Hotel on June 19, 2008. 7 PM.

If there are seats available after pre-registration closes, tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis to fill any remaining spots.

**Trade Sessions:**

There are four major club-sanctioned trade sessions scheduled for this year. Consult the convention schedule for further details. These are always a big hit with our membership. Please keep in mind that these are TRADE sessions, and no selling will be permitted on the trade floor.

**Riviera Benefits:**

There are a number of incentives being offered to club members who are showing support for the club by staying at the host hotel. These include early admission to the bourse floor, a chance in the "Got Riv" raffle created by John Reynolds, a special NCV chip, and \$10 cash back on the pre-registration fee in the form of scrip to be redeemed at dealer tables. This was a necessary decision made to entice members to stay at the Riviera. We hope most members will take advantage of these perks.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the biggest chip show of the year, the national convention! We hope everyone has a good time and stays safe.

Best regards and happy chippin'...  
Mike and Dawn

## **Volunteers Needed**

In addition to the various chairmen and club officers, there is a need, a rather large need, for club members to volunteer. At last year's convention, almost 90 people gave an hour or two of their time to help the club run smoothly. This year, best estimates are we will need closer to 100.

It can be as easy as checking ID's at the trading session doors to manning a table for Registration, Building Fund, Membership, Promotions, Auction. Even Tuesday's Set-Up needs a few volunteers. If your convention schedule allows, please consider donating a few hours. I'll find a spot for you.

Bob Bickford  
oldberea@WowWay.com  
(440) 243-0478

# Convention Schedule

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2008

- 9:00 AM** REGISTRATION OPENS; ID REQUIRED  
Dealers and members
- 9:00 AM** DEALER SETUP BEGINS- ROYALE 1-4  
*DEALER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY*  
*Exhibitor setup from 9-1 PM ONLY*
- 12:00 PM** 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CC&GTCC BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT -PALMS CASINO RESORT
- 3:00 PM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 7  
“FIRST TIMERS CONVENTION WORKSHOP”  
SPEAKER: HOWARD HERZ
- 4:00 PM** PRE-REGISTRATION AND BANQUET TICKET PICK-UP CLOSES
- 5:00 PM** DEALER SETUP CLOSES
- 5:30 PM** EARLY BIRD BANQUET- TOP OF THE RIV  
*TICKETED EVENT- ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY*
- 8:00-11 PM** “BIG KICK OFF” MEMBER TRADE SESSION AFTER BANQUET -*NO SALES*  
DEALER SETUP CONTINUES- CAPRI 112-113  
*DEALER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY*

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2008

- 7:00 AM** DEALER SETUP CONTINUES- ROYALE 1-4  
*DEALER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY*
- 8:00 AM** REGISTRATION OPENS; ID REQUIRED
- 8:30 AM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 7  
SPEAKER: DAVID. D. SCHWARTZ,  
UNLV GAMING STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER
- 9:00 AM** OPENING CEREMONIES- 2008 SHOW BEGINS, ROYALE 1-4  
*EARLY SHOW ADMISSION TO PERSONS STAYING AT THE RIVIERA*
- 10:00 AM** 2008 SHOW OPENS TO ALL
- 2:00 PM** HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEETING- CAPRI 110
- 3:00 PM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 8  
“CUBA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE CCCC”  
SPEAKERS: CHARLES KAPLAN AND RALPH POLLACK

**3:00 PM** SILVER STRIKE FORUM- ROYALE 7

**4:00 PM** CARIBBEAN CASINO COLLECTIBLES CLUB- ROYALE 8

**4:30 PM** SHOW FLOOR ENTRANCE CLOSED- EXIT ONLY

**5:00 PM** SILVER STRIKE MEETING- ROYALE 7

**5:00 PM** SHOW IN RECESS UNTIL 9:00 AM FRIDAY

**5:00-10 PM** MEMBER TRADE SESSION- CAPRI 112 & 113 **-NO SALES**

**6:00 PM** SHOW FLOOR SECURED

**7:00 PM** 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CC&GTCC POKER TOURNAMENT- BINION'S GAMBLING HALL

**FRIDAY, 20 JUNE 2008**

**8:00 AM** ***DEALERS WITH CREDENTIALS MAY ENTER SHOWROOM***

**8:30 AM** REGISTRATION OPENS; ID REQUIRED

**8:30 AM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 7  
"LIFE & TIMES OF SLIM EWING AND THE EWING MOLD"  
SPEAKER: BILL RAGSDALE

**9:00 AM** ***EARLY SHOW ADMISSION TO PERSONS STAYING AT THE RIVIERA***

**10:00 AM** SHOW OPENS TO ALL- ROYALE 1-4

**11:00 AM** FLORIDA CASINO CHIP & GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB MEETING-  
CAPRI 112

**2:00 PM** TITO COLLECTORS MEETING- CAPRI 112

**3:00 PM** STANDARDS AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETING- CAPRI 110

**3:00 PM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 7  
"PRESERVING GAMING HISTORY"  
SPEAKER: GENE TRIMBLE

**3:30 PM** SHOW FLOOR CLOSED- EXIT ONLY

**4:00 PM** SHOW IN RECESS UNTIL 9:00 AM SATURDAY

**5:00 PM** SHOW FLOOR SECURED

**5:30 PM** BRUCE LANDAU MEMORIAL AUCTION- ROYALE 7

**8:00-11 PM** MEMBER TRADE SESSION - (AFTER END OF AUCTION) CAPRI 112-113 **-NO SALES**

SATURDAY, 21 JUNE 2008

- 8:00 AM** *DEALERS WITH CREDENTIALS MAY ENTER SHOWROOM*
- 8:30 AM** REGISTRATION OPENS; ID REQUIRED
- 8:30 AM** EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR- ROYALE 7  
"THE FIRST NUDE SHOWGIRL AND HER STORIES"  
SPEAKER: LISA MEDFORD
- 9:00 AM** *EARLY SHOW ADMISSION TO PERSONS STAYING AT THE RIVIERA*
- 10:00 AM** SHOW OPENS TO ALL- ROYALE 1-4
- 11:00 AM** ANNUAL CC&GTCC BUSINESS MEETING- ROYALE 7
- 3:30 PM** SHOW ENTRANCE CLOSED- EXIT ONLY
- 4:00 PM** SHOW CLOSES- SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
- 4:00-10 PM** "LAST DANCE" TRADE SESSION- CAPRI 112 & 113 *NO SALES*
- 6:00PM** *ALL DEALERS MUST EXIT SHOW FLOOR- NO EXCEPTIONS*

\*\*\* Times and locations are subject to change. Check the schedule at the convention. \*\*\*

**Attending the Convention in 2008?**

# **EXHIBITORS WANTED**

Contact the Exhibits Chairman

**Casey Focazio-Follis**

5466 Jacobs Field St.  
Las Vegas, NV 89148

or email at

**exhibits@ccgtcc.com**

for additional details



# **The 5th annual Slot Card & Room Key Collectors Club**

## **"SWAP MEET & TRADE SESSION"**

will be held during the 2008 CC & GTCC Annual Convention.

**Wednesday, June 18th, 2008**

**9:00 am to 5:00 pm (or whenever the last trade is made)**

### **Blair House Suites**

2nd Floor Meeting Room

344 East Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV

Open to all current members of the Slot Card & Room Key Collectors Club.

Non-members may join at the door by paying only \$5.00 annual dues.

9am - 11 am: Free continental breakfast

Noon - 1 pm: Free hot lunch served

**Raffle prizes, Grab Bags, "Bungie Grab", Grand Prize Drawing during the meeting.**

GRAND PRIZE - 600 different slot cards

Consolation Prize - 300 different slot cards

Last, But Not Least, Prize - 100 different slot cards + Colorado Mug

(Winners must be present to claim prize)



For further information:

**Dave Johnston**

Secretary / Treasurer

Slot Card & Room Key

Collectors Club

350 E Desert Inn Road, C-202

Las Vegas, NV 89109

702-437-9366

SlotCardKing@Embarqmail.com

# CC&GTCC 2008 Poker Tournament

at Binion's Casino – Downtown Las Vegas

Thursday June 19, 2008 at 7:00 pm

## General Info

The 2008 CC&GTCC Poker Tournament will be held during the club's annual convention in Las Vegas. The tournament format will be **NO-LIMIT** Hold'em again this year. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Poker Tournament the club has sponsored. Pre-registration for the Poker tournament is encouraged — see club magazine or website for details. Additional entries on the day of the tournament will be accepted on the convention floor, if space available. Wait-listed players will be seated in the tournament during the first hour, if seats become available.

The set of 2008 commemorative tournament chips will be available for sale at the club table beginning on Friday, June 20, for \$15 per set. Also available by mail — see club magazine for order information.

## Time & Place —- NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR —- BINION'S CASINO – DOWNTOWN LV

Thursday evening, June 19, 2008, beginning at 7:00 pm at Binion's Casino - Downtown Las Vegas. Depending on the number of players, the tournament may last 4 to 5 hours or so.

## Entry info

Entry fee: \$100 per player. (Note: No optional rebuys or add-ons this year.)  
Open to current CC&GTCC members and associate members only. (Age 21+ of course.) Maximum 165 players (15 tables with 11 seats per table). Additional tables may be added if warranted and available for set-up. Each player receives 1500 in NCV tournament chips for entry fee.

## Prize pool

\$60 of each player entry goes into prize pool\*, \$30 to Binion's for hosting the tournament, \$10 for cost of one set of 2008 commemorative tournament chips awarded to each player. (\*3% of prize pool held for tournament staff.)

## Prizes

First place winner receives custom-framed plaque with commemorative tournament chips. **Prize pool distribution: the final 12 players split the prize pool based on a declining percentage. Distribution: 38%, 18%, 12%, 9%, 6%, 4%, 3% for 1st through 7th places, and 2% each for 8th through 12th place.** All entrants receive a set of commemorative chips. (Chip sets available toward the end of the tournament, or pick them up on Friday at the club table on the convention floor.)

## Poker Tournament Format

**NO-LIMIT** Texas Hold'em. Start with 1500 in tournament chips. No rebuys. Limits start at 15 & 30. Limits increased every 15 minutes of play. Minimum bet and raise increments equal to big-blind unless all-in. Tables & seats assigned randomly as registered. Tables will be consolidated periodically throughout the tournament. Finalists will be paid in the order of finish.

No refunds for no-shows. No-show chips will be blinded off, then picked up after 40 minutes of play if no player.

## Tournament Play

Binion's Poker Room tournament rules for this type of tournament will apply. Seat assignments, table combinations, rulings on play, etc. according to Tournament Director whose decision is final.  
Also...Absolutely NO HARVESTING tournament chips.

# CC&GTCC 2008 Blackjack Tournament

at Palms Casino Resort

Wednesday June 18, 2008 12:00 noon

## General Info

The 2008 CC&GTCC Blackjack Tournament will be held during the club's annual convention in Las Vegas. This is the 6th annual Blackjack Tournament the club has sponsored. Pre-registration for the Blackjack tournament is encouraged — see club magazine or website for details. Walk-up entries and re-entries will be accepted at the Palms on the day of the tournament as well, based on space available.

A set of commemorative tournament chips will be available for sale at the club table beginning on Friday, June 20, for \$15 per set. Also available by mail — see club magazine for order information.

## Time & Place

Wednesday afternoon, June 18, 2008 – 12:00 noon to approx. 5:00 pm at **Palms Casino Resort — pit #3**. See specific schedule below.

## Entry info

Entry fee: \$80 per player. Open to current CC&GTCC members and associate members only. (Age 21+ of course.) Maximum 108 players, as explained below. Each player receives 600 in NCV tournament chips each round.

## Prize pool

\$45\* per player goes to prize pool; \$25 to Palms for hosting the tournament and \$10 for cost of one set of CC&GTCC 2008 commemorative tournament chips awarded to each player. \* 3% of prize pool held for tournament staff. (Commemorative chip sets available after the Thursday night poker tournament, or pick them up Friday at the club table on the convention floor.)

## Prizes

First place winner receives custom-framed plaque with commemorative chips. Final round players win the following portion of the net prize pool: 1st place - 40%, 2nd - 25%, 3rd - 15%, 4th - 10%, 5th - 7%, 6th - 3%. Each player receives a set of tournament chips; re-entry receives additional set of chips.

## BJ Tournament Format

Three (3) initial rounds, followed by 1 semi-final round, followed by 1 final round. Players will be scheduled to play in one of the initial rounds (12:00 noon, 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm) with player start times assigned as received. (If you do not advance to the semi-final round on your first try, re-entries into the 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm initial rounds will be accepted if space available, at \$80 per re-entry.) Semi-final round begins **immediately** after the last preliminary round finishes and Final round begins **immediately** after the semi-final round finishes... so if you advance to the next round, remain available for the next round!! Each round starts promptly. Late players will be disqualified. No refunds for no-shows.

## Initial rounds:

6 tables with 6 players each table. Maximum 36 players start at 12:00 pm; 36 additional players start at 1:00 pm and 36 additional players start at 2:00 pm. The FIRST and SECOND place players with the most chips from EACH table advance to the semi-final round.

## Semi-final round:

6 tables with 6 players each (assuming sell-out in initial rounds). The FIRST place player from each semi-final table advances to the final round.

### Final round:

1 table with 6 players. Final position based on order of busting-out. For players with chips remaining at end of final round, the final order of finish will be determined by chip count.

### Tournament play

Each round begins with each player receiving 600 in NCV chips. Betting limits: 10-500 anytime. Players make betting decisions in turn for each hand, with “chung” marker at first-base player for first hand. Chung moves clockwise each hand, so new player acts first each time. Open play for the first twenty (20) minutes, then five more additional hands will be played at each table before play ends. Maximum of 1 minute per player to make betting decision.

Blackjack Tournament will use 6-deck shoe, with cards dealt face up. Dealer must hit soft 17. **Blackjack pays 2-to-1.** Double down on any two initial cards. Split any pair, resplit to total of 4 hands. Resplit aces to total of 4 hands if additional ace(s) dealt immediately. Double down after split permitted. Surrender permitted.

### Additional tournament rules

One player per hand — No coaching from other players or spectators. Must leave table when no chips remain. All standard Palms Blackjack rules apply. If there is a tie between two contestants who may advance to the next round, one (1) card will be dealt in normal order to each contestant. High card dealt will determine who will advance to the next round. (Ace high, deuce low.) All disputes resolved by the Palms tournament representative whose decision is final. All decisions will be based on normal house rules. Any extenuating circumstance will be based on the fairness for all participants. And finally, absolutely NO harvesting tournament chips!

## Convention Rooms at The Riv

Listed below are the room rates for the Riviera for the 2008 show. Everyone who is planning on attending the convention is encouraged to book the rooms by mentioning “The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club” group rate when they reserve. The telephone number to call for reservations is 1-800-634-6753 in the continental US, or locally at 702-794-9412.

We are aware that many members have comped rooms at the Riviera or elsewhere, but we ask the membership to support the club by booking at the group rate. After hours of negotiations, this is the best they can offer us this year. If we meet the required number of rooms, we may be able to secure a better rate for the coming year(s). If we do not, we may be forced to pay higher prices for rooms in the future and also may have to look elsewhere for a place to hold our convention. The Riviera has treated the club quite well over the past few years, but the room bookings are down considerably, and IT IS IMPERATIVE that our members book their rooms at the prevailing rates.

Dealers are also reminded that as per their contracts, they may be required to stay at the Riviera if necessary to fill the rooms.

Rates are as follows, per night, excluding tax:

Single/Double/Triple/Quad	\$89.00
Petite Suite	\$175.00
1 Bedroom Penthouse	\$550.00
2 Bedroom Penthouse	\$700.00
1 Bedroom Suite	\$300.00
2 Bedroom Suite	\$400.00

The Riv is currently undergoing a series of upgrades and renovations to its guest rooms, and we hope to be able to call it home for many years to come.



# Convention Exhibits Are Needed

by Casey Focazio-Follis  
Exhibits Chairman

The convention is just around the corner and we need more exhibits. If you are planning on going to the convention, please think about placing an exhibit of some of the things you collect. Last year's winner, Steve Bedo, had a great display of Hard Rock items. 2nd Place was a huge display of \$200 only silver strikes. We also had other great displays and some non-competitive exhibits.

You bring the stuff and the club will provide display cases and table space. Just remember, exhibit set-up is Wednesday only, 9 – 1. Please contact me by email at: [Exhibits@CCGTCC.com](mailto:Exhibits@CCGTCC.com). I can also be contacted through my Dad, Jim Follis, at: 520.971.7909.

The display cases the club provides are about 2 x 3 feet and about 3 inches high. A slightly deeper case is available for displaying larger items.

I will need this information:

Exhibit content or theme,  
Number of cases needed,  
Your name,  
Your CC&GTCC member number, and  
Title of the Exhibit.

Exhibits must be casino related in some way in keeping with the nature of our club. If any of the exhibit will include slabbed chips, special permission must be received from President Wayne Thompson. Please contact him, not me.

The deadline for submissions will be May 31st.

Thank you,  
Casey

## Notice of Meeting of

### The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

A meeting of the members of The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. will be held at The Riviera Hotel (Royal 7 room), Las Vegas, state of Nevada, on June 21, 2008 at 11:00 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows: Annual Business meeting.

Name of Secretary: Belinda Hixon

Corporation: The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Published in *Casino Chip & Token News*

April, 2008

# List of Dealers as of Press Time

C.T. Rodgers	David Gehl; Nevada Collectibles
Peter Van der Kar/Lloyd Malani Silver Strikes	Bob Ensley; Bob's Gaming Trinkets
Joe Dolce	Peter Nathan; Vegas Chipman
David Sarles	Joel J.Reznick; Frog Pond Collectibles
Scott Hartman; Scottman "The Chip Man"	Eric S. Rosenblum; New York Chips and Decanters
D.P. Bracken; Casinobilia	Doug Saito; Chip Chat
Ron Minsburg	B and V Coin
Bob Hayden; Oldmanchipper	Stan & Betty Wilker
Wes Rasmussen; Wes Rasmussen Silver Strikes	Rick Lonski; Casino Fun Distributing
Ralph Strandwold; Ralph Stranwold - Collector Ivory and Clay Chips	Dean Porter; Dino's Chips
Robert McColum; Cal-Neva Chips	Jerry Birl; R.I.C.H. Roulette International Chip Hunters
Joe Benon	Steve Piccolo
Barry Weintraub	Jim Sarra
Terry Lazarus; Chips Off the Old Block	Slot Card & Room Key Collectors Club
Michael Spinetti; Spinetti's	Tiny Treasures LLC
Steve Barber; S & P Collectibles/Cochips.com	Al Poluyanskis; Luckytoboat
Gary Rohloff; Rollys Chips	Casino News Magazine
Henry G. Garrett	Silver Strike Club
William Cohenour; Bill's Catalogs and Silver Strikes	Allan Myers; Travis Lewin- Allan Myers
Howard M. Kaplan; Howard's Cruise & Foreign Chips & Dan's Gaming Tokens	Howard M. Herz; Gaming Archaeology
Larry Betker; Larry & Fran Betker	Paul Cunningham
Janice M. O'Neal; Janice and Jerry O'Neal	Walter Dirzulaitis
Walt Gonski	Rick Olsen; Vintage Dice
Dwight Harouff; Skip's Chips & Stuff	Frank Muscat; Highland Collectibles
Gary Shepherd; Classic Chips	Bob Bosseler
Tyrus R. Mulkey; Tyrus Rex	Dick Brach; Dick Brach Collectibles
Steven Cutler	Cameron Kessinger; CRK Enterprises/ Cameron Kessinger
Andrew Miller; Andrew Miller- Collector	Jim Munding
David Harber; Cheques in the Mail, Inc.	Lynn Brooks
Don Totoian; Don's Tahoe Collectibles	Mitch Heller; A Chip for You and Me,
James Campiglia; James Campiglia and Mark Freitag	John R. Riggins
Steve Passalacqua; T.D.S. Antique Gambling Chips	Rick Timmins; RT Casino Chips
Mark Lighterman; The Florida, Playboy Chip Experts	David Takach; TopShelfChips.com
Jim Rauzy; Diamond Jim's	Armin Pfaender
	Terry Shaffer; Collector's Assistant Software

# Six Great Reasons to Come to the Convention

by Sheldon Smith

We are having SIX wonderful and informative seminars for all of us in casino collectible land.

Now I know that everybody that has been collecting casino memorabilia for at least a week believes they know enough and don't need to hear any more.

NO, NO! You say, "that's not true! I want to learn all that I can to be more knowledgeable of the hobby that I am in."

What's that you say, "there are these GREAT seminars featuring the likes of; Trimble, Herz, Kaplan & Pollack." There's more you say!

A presentation by Dr. David Schwartz from UNLV and Ms. Lisa Medford, the first nude showgirl in Las Vegas will be there too!

What more can I ask for!!

How about this:

Bill Ragsdale talking about Slim Ewing and his work with the Burt Brothers and mold development (Bill was there for the approval) & Slim's \$1,000 sample chip, a review of Slim's exploits during the depression as a 19 year old pilot for the Salt Lake City sheriff, running slot machines in California in the 1940s, in 1950 inventing the drop box, inventing the electrical Keno board, supplying a full line of casino supplies, Bill's Caribbean sales trips with Slim, his mob friends (Jake Lansky, Meyer Lansky's brother, etc, the Cellini Brothers), and Slim's local Vegas friends. Plus Slim's ownership in the Vegas Carver House, a casino in the Honduras, a slot operator at McCarran Airport in the 1960s and his own Vegas Pawn shop.

## **Now I know I am coming to these seminars!**

The Educational Seminars of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual CCGTCC Convention are listed below.

Howard Herz, a seminar for First Timers, I have spoken to Howard and it sounds like it will be a very good presentation with powerful advice for collectors and a possible surprise for the attendees!

David Schwartz of the UNLV Gaming Studies Research Center promises to be very exciting also, David presented several years ago and a lot has happened since!

Charles Kaplan & Ralph Pollack will present on the Caribbean including CUBA and the new Caribbean Casinos Collectible Club, Ralph presented last year and he and Charles have cooked up some great new information.

Bill Ragsdale worked for a long time for Slim Ewing and will present on the life and times of Slim Ewing and the Ewing mold!

Gene Trimble will present on the Preserving Gaming History Web Site as well as the importance of the records from the companies represented!

Lisa Medford, who spoke briefly, last year, will speak about the LIFE & TIMES of the FIRST nude Las Vegas showgirl!

1. Wednesday, 6/18/8-3PM

Howard Herz, The First Timers Workshop.

2. Thursday, 6/19/8-8:30AM

UNLV Gaming Studies Research Centers very own David G. Schwartz.

3. Thursday, 6/19/8-3PM

Charles Kaplan & Ralph Pollack, Cuba & the Caribbean.

4. Friday, 6/20/8-8:30AM

Bill Ragsdale, Life & Times of Slim Ewing and the Ewing Mold.

5. Friday, 6/20/8-3PM

Gene Trimble, Preserving Gaming History.

6. Saturday, 6/21/8-8:30AM

Lisa Medford, the FIRST nude showgirl & her stories.

## **DK's Collectibles & Casino Tokens**

Dealer of Casino Gaming Tokens & Collectibles

Including Hard Rock chips, pins and more

### **Debbie Kling**

CC&GTCC member R-3821

**Visit my website: [www.dkscollectibles.com](http://www.dkscollectibles.com)**

Phone: 515 778-0080

Email: [dkkling@mchsi.com](mailto:dkkling@mchsi.com)



by Larry Hollibaugh

There were 46 cash value chips and two Win Cards chips issued in Northern Nevada in 2007. Baldini's Sports Casino in Sparks retired their \$1 chips a few years ago when they took out the craps table. In January they put in a poker table, and released a new \$1 chip. Harrah's Reno celebrated their 70th Anniversary in January and issued a pair of \$5 commemorative chips, one honoring Bill Harrah and the other picturing the original Harrah's Bingo Parlor.



January ended with two casinos issuing chips. The Red Lion Casino in Elko released a \$1 chip in honor of the annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering. They previously put out a series of \$5 chips annually from 1997 through 2001. It's great to see them revive this tradition, and especially nice to



have a \$1 collector chip. In June of 2006 the Reno Hilton became the Grand Sierra Resort. On January 31, 2007 they finally replaced the old Hilton chips with a new rack in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1000, and \$5000.



February 18th was the Year of the Pig, and once again only Harrah's released commemorative chips. The good news; not only did they release a chip for Harrah's Reno, they also released the first Chinese New Year chip from Lake Tahoe, with both the Harrah's and Harvey's names on it. The bad news; shortly after they released the Lake Tahoe chips, they pulled them. Only the few chips that were left on the tables made it into the hands of collectors. I have no idea why they were pulled.



March started out with a plethora of new chips, mostly thanks to two new properties sporting the Gold Dust West name. In late 2006 the new owners of Pinion Plaza in Carson City changed the casino's name to Gold Dust West. On March 1st 2007 they replaced the Pinion Plaza chips with a new rack in \$1, \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations. On March 5th, the Gold Dust West in Elko opened its doors in what was formerly a grocery store, which of course means another new rack in \$1, \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations.

On March 2nd, Terrible's Rail City Casino in Sparks opened up a poker table with a new \$1 chip. This is the first chip sporting the new name since Herbst Gaming purchased four Northern Nevada casinos in May 2006. The other casinos now sporting the Terrible's tag are Sands



Regency ("a Terrible's Casino"), Terrible's Gold Ranch, and Terrible's Casino Dayton (formerly Dayton Depot).



In April, Grand Sierra Resort began offering a new Win Cards chip. This chip is the same pink color as the old Hilton Win Cards chip, but has eight red marks on the edge. This is the first time I've seen the plastic injection-molded unicorn chip with

"inserts." In May, Red Lion Casino in Elko began their Win cards program, using a white chip with a red hot stamp.

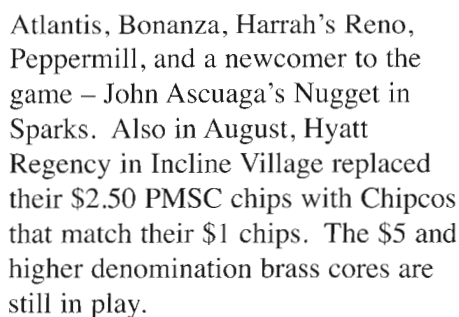


June was another good month, with eight chips total. Terrible's Casino Dayton became the first casino in Dayton to offer live gaming (blackjack and poker), with chips in \$1, \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations. Stockman's Casino in Fallon changed their rack to Bud Jones chips in \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations. And Red Lion Casino in Elko released a \$5 chip to commemorate the June 15th Elko Motorcycle Jamboree 2007.



July went chipless, but August roared into town with carburetors blazing. Five casinos released \$5 Hot August Nights chips, including

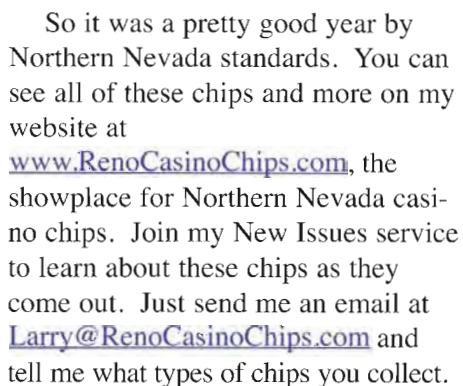




September was another noisy month, with a Reno Air Races chip from Harrah's, and Street Vibrations chips from Atlantis and Harrah's. Also in September, Pioneer Crossing Casino in Fernley opened up a poker table with \$1, \$5, and \$25 hot stamped chips.



released a new \$1 chip sporting their classic lion logo in November (my pick for COTY 2007), and in December they issued their fourth new chip of the year, commemorating their 25th anniversary with a \$5 Chipco. Also in December, Silver Legacy released a \$5 chip advertising their new Aura Ultra Lounge.



The chip scene slowed down for the rest of the year. October was quiet. Red Lion Casino in Elko



# KMANGB = Keep Me And Never Go Broke

by John Kallman

By nature, many gamblers believe in luck. They almost have to, because as we all know, the odds are usually in the houses favor. Thus, to come out a winner, one must either cheat, or believe in luck. For in the long run, if you gamble long enough, with out luck, you will go broke. Unless of course unless you have one of these “lucky” pieces in your pocket. More commonly referred to as encased coins, these good luck pieces are quite collectable. Casinos, have issued a fair number of these items, and you may wish to add some to your collection. Either to have a good luck piece of your own, or of course, to never go broke!

Besides condition, the three things which determine value of these items are: Issuer, Shape, and Date of the Coin. From a numismatic perspective, the date of the encased coin can often out weigh any other factors. A rare coin in and of itself can be worth thousands of dollars! A word of caution: The dates of the encased coin are often used to date an item, and some encased coins have had the original coin replaced with an earlier dated coin to increase the value of piece. Of course, some coins are removed for the value of the coin itself. One should examine the encasement around the coin to see if there are any unusual marks with is a telltale sign of a coin being replaced. Also, look to see if the coin is aligned properly and that there is no light showing between the coin and the encasement. While a majority of encased coins involve cents, as this is rather inexpensive and will fit a large number of stock designs, other coins can and have been used. Not only does this cost more to make (after all, a nickel is worth 5 times that of a cent!), this also makes the piece more valuable since so few were made.

The shape of the outside case is the 2nd factor. Some people who collect encased coins only seem to care little about who issued the piece or the coin that is encased inside, but more interested in acquiring one of each type of shape. Mostly, casino issues are of the “horseshoe” type, with the horseshoe adding extra luck! More unusual, and thus, more valuable shapes are teddy bear and “potty”

encasements to name a few. The more unusual the encased designed, the more valuable the piece.

And of course, for people who collect “by theme”, who issued the piece is also worth note. Thus, an encased coin from one of the larger and longer lasting casinos will bring far less than one of the casinos that were smaller, more out of the way, and only had its doors opened for a few years. By nature, the smaller, out of the way places probably issued far less of these items, and had far fewer that were given out, thus making them harder to find.

Of course, there are many other legends other than those referring to luck, including but not limited to “good for”, commutative, and “in trade items as well. There are also varieties of the good luck message on these items as well.

Thus, if you are either a gambler looking for a little more luck, or a collector looking to add something new to your collection, you may want to consider adding a few of these items to your collection.

For additional information, good references for these items are:

For a general overview: *Tokens and Medals, A Guide to the Identification and Values of United States Exonumia*, First Edition, 1992, by Stephen P. Albert and Lawrence E. Elman.

For only casino related items: *The Collector's Guide to Nevada Casino Promotional Tokens with Price Guide*, compiled by Gaming Archaeology, Casino Collectibles.

I have seen a recently issued book, just on Encased Coins, that covers not only the history, the machines, as well as the encased coins known, this may of only be of interest to those who collect these items as the cover price is \$99!



# Pinnacle Atlantic City Destroys \$61.2 Million in Sands Gaming Chips

by Archie **Black**

*Photos Courtesy* Carmen E. **Gonzales**  
Public Relations Manager, Pinnacle A.C.

On May 9, 2007, Pinnacle Atlantic City cleaned out the vault at the former Sands Casino Hotel and destroyed \$61.2 million in remaining Sands gaming chips.

The bounty - weighing in at 9,700 lbs. - consists of 457,000 gaming chips of all denominations, including promotional chips and tokens. The chips were transported from the vault and across the casino floor one last time before being “shredded” inside a 51 ft. semi-truck from Secure Mobile Destruction.

Pinnacle Atlantic City auditors unwrapped and loaded the chips onto conveyor belts that traveled into the truck, where a hammer-type machine pounded the chips into tiny pieces and deposited them into buckets on the other side. The entire process took approximately three hours.

Due to the lifetime value of gaming chips in New Jersey, Pinnacle has chosen to destroy the remaining lot, since technically, they still have value and could still be redeemed.





# Message from the Auction Chairman

by David Spragg

The 2008 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction will once again be held during the convention, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the earlier than usual time of 5.30pm. The change in schedule is due to the earlier closing time for the convention floor.

As you may have read in Wayne Thompson's notes in the last magazine, we were in danger of having no auction at all this year. My late appointment as auction chairman meant I had a lead time of only about half of what is usually required, so there are some enforced changes this year.



The first of these is the fact that the auction will be limited to a maximum of 150 lots (including donated lots), of which 10 donated lots will be auctioned during the banquet. I am pleased to say that I have already secured sufficient material for the auction but I therefore regret that I am unable to offer the membership the opportunity to consign if they have not already done so. It has always been a 'wish' to try and reduce the length of the auction, and although this year's reduction was somewhat enforced, we will look at its success (or failure) before deciding how to proceed in future years.



I have tried to be very selective in the material to be auctioned this year, and am confident we will be offering 150 lots of the highest quality. Consequently there will be a minimum bid of \$50 on any item, and some items valued at \$500 and up will carry reserves. One further point I do need to stress now is the enforcement from the 'terms and conditions' that every successful buyer who is present in the auction room will be required to pay for their lots before the end of the convention, regardless of whether they choose to collect them (and pay the Nevada Sales Tax) or not.



I plan to have the auction catalog available approx 6 weeks in advance (i.e. early May). It will be made available on-line for anyone wishing to view, download or print as soon as it is completed. Full terms and conditions will be included. I also plan to have hard copy versions available for sale but have not yet decided whether they will be in color as well as black & white. I will probably make that decision based on demand.



For convention absentees and those not wishing to bid in person, I will be offering the opportunity to bid by email, and /or by proxy in the auction room. Convention go-ers will also be able to view the lots in the main convention hall before the auction and place bids at that time. Our usual 'scoreboard' showing the high bids for each lot will again be in use. I intend to publicise the auction as widely as possible through the club, and early bids are always encouraged as in the event of equal bids, the earliest will take precedence. I will also maintain an online listing of the current high bids right from the time the catalog is published.



If you are not regularly on-line and will need details of the catalog, the opportunity to bid in advance or by proxy, or have any other enquiries on the auction, please use [auction@ccgtcc.com](mailto:auction@ccgtcc.com) to contact me.

I am going to take this opportunity to give some thanks in advance to the other people who have helped or will help this all to happen at such short notice. While I don't have an official 'co-chairman', both Gene Trimble and Luke Rapley have made themselves available to deal with any logistical issues of me being 6,000 miles away, avoiding the need for any of the consignments to be sent to



the UK. Debby Meister is helping prepare the scans for the catalog, our regular auctioneers Jim Kruse and Tyrus Mulkey will once again be entertaining you, and Alex Cilento will be manning the viewing tables in the convention hall.

My last thanks go to all that have consigned lots to the auction, and in particular to those who donated lots for the club to keep 100% of the proceeds. Of particular note here was the wonderful donation of 12 scarce chips from David Sarles, who continues to show unprecedented support for the club. Spurred on by this, Doug Smith also made a considerable donation and I hope others will follow their leads for future auctions.

The chips and dice on these pages are a samples of the material so far received"



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Special offer for all members, whether you are attending this year's convention or not! Why not join the many members that have had their own personal 'Splashbar' chips made to trade this June. If you can't attend, then I can trade for you! All I need from you is a photograph or other image for the front of the chip. Chips from just 75c each + actual shipping with a minimum order of just 25.



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# The Las Vegas Strip

## the early years - part 3

by Pam Goertler  
assisted by Brian Cashman

### The Dunes

The tenth resort on the Strip...  
"The Miracle in the Desert"

He was huge...the 30 foot tall fiberglass Sultan that overlooked the entrance to the Dunes. He was the lord of all he surveyed, a benevolent ruler; he welcomed all to his domain. Once inside, however, you were under the watchful eye of lady luck. You couldn't see her, but she was there. If she was in a good mood, you were lucky and could walk out the door as a winner, but she could turn quickly and if she weren't on your side, you would lose.

### In the beginning

The original partners in the Dunes were Alfred Gottesman, a former movie theater chain owner; Bob Rice, a Beverly Hills costume jewelry maker; and Joe Sullivan, a Rhode Island businessman. Sullivan was rumored to be a "front man" for Ray Patriarca, head of a Rhode Island crime family. The partners bought 85 acres on the southwestern corner of Flamingo Road and the Strip, and the 200 room Dunes hotel was constructed at a cost of \$3.5 million, by the McNeil Construction Company of Los Angeles.

The Dunes opened on May 23, 1955, at 3650 Las Vegas Boulevard South, with great fanfare. The headliner was Vera Ellen, who starred in the musical-variety show *Magic Carpet Revue*, with a cast of 60 entertainers, in the Arabian Room. Ellen was a singer, dancer and actress, who had starred the previous year in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, along with Danny Kaye, Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney (sorry...had to throw that in, it's one of my very favorite Christmas movies!).

### Tough times

The country was in a recession in 1955, and the Las Vegas casinos felt the pinch, especially the



new casinos. The Riviera and Royal Nevada had only been open for about a month when the Dunes opened. The off-strip Moulin Rouge opened just a few days later. Without an established clientele, all four struggled. Before long, Jake Freedman, owner of the Sands, bought the Dunes. He used the experienced staff of the Sands to operate the Dunes, but it wasn't enough. Within a year the Dunes casino closed, but the low-rise hotel remained open.

### A new beginning

In 1956 James "Jake" Gottlieb bought the Dunes, with financing from the Teamsters Union pension fund. Gottlieb brought in Major Arteburn Riddle, to assist in running the resort (Major was his name, not a rank). On June 6, 1956, the Dunes had a grand re-opening, inviting most of the residents of Clark County to attend. Over 6,700 people attended, enjoying the free buffet and dancing that were offered.

Riddle had innovative ideas that worked well in Las Vegas. He booked Minsky's Follies, starring Lou Costello, for a six-week engagement. The Follies featured the first bare-breasted showgirls in Las Vegas, which caused an uproar in some circles. The controversy created publicity, the publicity generated ticket sales (a record 16,000 in one week), the business that was generated helped the resort to







be profitable...and a six-week engagement lasted for well over four years. After the Follies, the showroom was used for Casino de Paris, which was conceived, produced and directed by Frederic Apcar. The show was the first to be imported from France, with its original cast. Casino de Paris played at the Dunes for over 20 years. A couple of other entertainment features included Tanya, the elephant, who pulled the handle on her own slot machine (she needed human help to feed the coins into the slot), and pool-side fireworks at 10:15 every night for the entire summer, in 1960.

### The Sultan's Table

In addition to a new direction for the entertainment, Riddle brought gourmet dining to Las Vegas in the Sultan's Table Restaurant. Some of the hors d'oeuvres offered were Terrine de Foie Gras aux Truffles for \$6.75, Escargots de Bourgogne for \$4.00 or Smoked Nova Scotia Salmon for \$3.75. Lobster Bisque or French Onion Soup Gratinée were available for \$1.85 each. A few of the entrée choices were Paupiette of Filet of Sole Marguery, Long Island Duckling à l'Orange, Prime Filet Mignon aux Champignons or Medallion of Veal à la Sultan, at prices







that ranged from \$9.50 to \$17.00. Of course the captains were available to assist you in selecting fine wines to complement your meal. One of the captains listed was early club member and chip manufacturer, Bill Borland. Reviewed by the Diner's Club, the Sultan's Table was named "America's finest and most beautiful new restaurant." In December of 1965, the Sultan's Table was

the only Las Vegas restaurant named on Esquire Magazine's "Gourmet Feast" list.

Of course a buffet was also available, in the Aladdin Room, and it offered more than 50 cold and hot dishes...something for every taste.

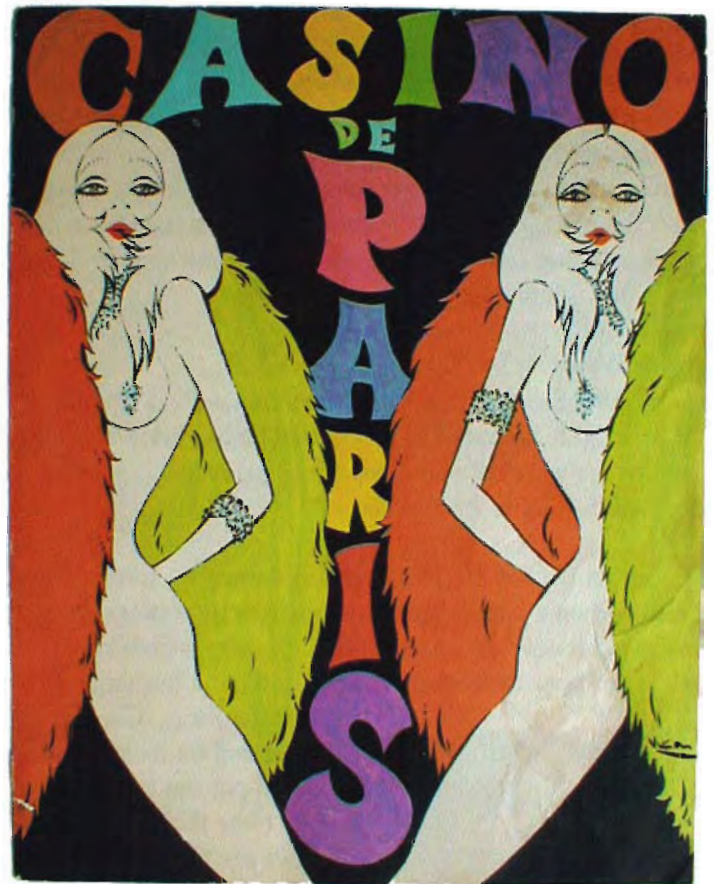
#### And more...

In 1961 Riddle bought a huge rectangular piece of land that stretched between Dunes Road and Tropicana Avenue. He used the property to build an 18-hole, par 72 golf course. His next move was to have the Olympic Tower constructed, adding another 250 rooms to the hotel. By this time, Riddle had bought the Dunes from Jake Gottlieb.

In 1965, Riddle added the "Diamond of the Dunes" tower, which brought the total number of rooms to over 1000. The tower was advertised as having 24-stories, but I've read that it actually only had 21, as the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> floors were omitted. In spite of that, it was the tallest building in the state. Also added was the 180 foot "Diamond of the Dunes" sign. At the time, it was the largest freestanding sign in the world. Including the foundation, the sign weighed 1,500,000 pounds. The sign had miles of neon tubing, used 10,000 lighting units, and had an annual operating cost of \$47,500.

In June of 1965 the "Dome of the Sea" seafood restaurant opened. There was a pool in the center of the restaurant. In the pool was an "island" where a harp player would sit, playing for the enjoyment of the diners. Two of the harpists were Barbara Allen and Kippy Lou Brinkman.

Is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> an unlucky day, or a lucky day? In October of 1967 it



was both, for the Dunes. There was a hot hand at the dice table...50 straight passes that cost the Dunes \$250,000. Sounds unlucky, BUT...they got worldwide publicity that they couldn't have bought for any price.

In 1970, billionaire Howard Hughes considered buying the Dunes, but the Gaming Control Board was not willing to issue any more gaming licenses to Hughes, fearing violation of anti-trust laws.

In December of 1979 the Dunes opened another tower, adding another 300 rooms to the count. The new tower advertised luxurious suites with multi-level layouts, exotic flora and cascading waterfalls. The Dunes offered acres of free parking, two giant swimming pools (the Seahorse Pool and the Olympic Pool), the largest golf course in the state, a convention center, conference rooms and a staff of more than 2,300. The 1960's and 1970's had been good.

In 1983 the Oasis Casino was added to the property.

During one of the renovations, the Sultan had been moved to the golf course, where he was visible to traffic passing on the highway. In 1985 an electrical short in his stomach caused him to catch fire, he was destroyed.



The 1980's were tough on the Dunes. She was getting older, and was sold a couple of times. In 1987 she was sold to Japanese millionaire investor Masao Nangaku for \$155 million. Her new owners weren't able to make the aging property a success, especially as new mega-resorts were opening and providing added competition, starting with the Mirage. It took about 10 years for the Dunes to go from being one of the showplaces on the strip to being a run down high-rise.

### Steve Wynn

In 1992 Steve Wynn bought the Dunes for \$75 million. At midnight, January 26, 1993, the Dunes closed and the employees were offered a last (free) prime rib dinner in the Sultan's Table Restaurant.

On September 26, 1993, a four-alarm fire started at the Dunes when a construction (destruction?) worker drove a front-end loader over an electrical circuit. Winds of 30 miles per hour fanned the flames, and blew burning

embers over the Strip. Caesars Palace turned on their sprinklers to put out any embers that blew their way.

Barbary Coast and the Flamingo Hilton were advised to turn off their ventilation systems to avoid drawing smoke into the rooms. Because there were no lives in jeopardy (all construction workers had been

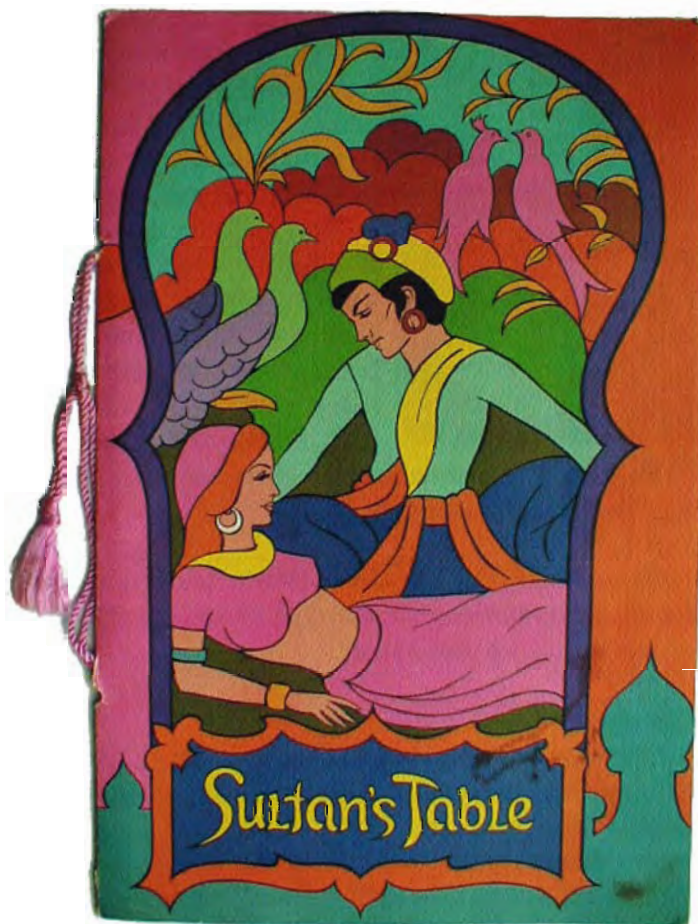
accounted for), and the property was scheduled for destruction anyway, the fire fighting was aimed at preventing damage to other properties. The fire was contained by 7:00 p.m.



On October 27, 1993, from the front of his new Treasure Island Resort, Steve Wynn "fired" a cannon that was aimed at the Dunes. The Dunes casino, sign and north tower were imploded at that moment. It took 365 pounds of dynamite, placed into 426 strategically placed drill-holes, 84 flash-bombs and 281 fire mortars to bring the Dunes down, with the desired effects. The south tower was used, for a time, to house the records of the Mirage and Treasure Island properties. In 1994 the south tower, too, was imploded, but without fanfare.

### The Bellagio

On October 15, 1998, on the site of the Dunes, The Bellagio opened. It's 36 stories contained 3,026 rooms and suites, and it was built at a cost of \$1.6 billion.



The property holds Lake Como, which has more than a thousand fountains and runs the length of the Bellagio property. At regularly scheduled times the fountains "dance" to amplified music, to the delight of crowds that gather on the Strip to watch.





There is a 12,500 square foot conservatory that has beautifully designed botanical displays. The displays are changed every season.

The lobby ceiling contains a 66' x 30' display of approximately 2000 Dale Chihuly floral pieces, of mouth-blown multi-colored glass. The glass weighs approximately 40,000 pounds.

The casino is 156,000 square feet; it holds 173 table games and over 2,700 machines.



### The Dunes liquidation sale

I really didn't remember when this happened, but it had to have been 1993. George (my husband) and I were in Las Vegas. We happened to see an ad in the paper inviting the public to the Dunes liquidation sale. We were just beginning to get interested in collecting casino stuff, and thought it would be fun to go to the sale. I had visions of getting cheap chips and dice and cards and ashtrays and wastebaskets and glasses and toiletries and do not disturb signs and... and I was trying to figure out how to get all the loot home!

We drove over to the Dunes. There were cars parked all over the place, every side street within ? mile was lined with cars. It was HOT out and after driving around for awhile George finally found a parking place in the Dunes parking lot, somewhere in the back-40.

There was a chain-link fence around part of the property, and hundreds of people were lined up along the fence with more people joining the line every minute. They were only letting 50 people at a time into the Dunes. After some people came out, they'd let the next group of 50 go in.

After standing out in the heat for a couple of hours, we finally got in the door. It was kind of disappointing because there were a lot of TVs and lamps and chairs (like would be used in a banquet room). We wandered around into the well-used kitchens (disgusting!) and into the casino. There wasn't much small stuff around, but we could have bought slot machines or a black jack table or a roulette wheel! There was a tray of keno balls, without a price on it. George carried the tray to one of the liquidators to ask how much, and was informed that they weren't for sale, unless he could produce a gaming license (we could have bought a slot machine, but no keno balls without a license?). She kind of jerked the tray out of George's hands, causing most of the balls to spill onto the

floor. George helped her pick some of them up, then as we walked away we noticed that #69 had rolled off into a corner...

We wandered some more, and saw slot tournament signs hanging from the ceiling. I stood on a chair or a blackjack table or something and managed to yank one of them down. There were some playing cards, I bought a couple of decks for \$10 each (some bargain, huh?), they also had uncut sheets of cards, but I couldn't figure out how to get one home without wrinkling or folding it, so we passed on those.

We found ourselves in a dining room. I can't remember for sure, but it might have been the Dome of the Sea restaurant, as I seem to vaguely remember an empty pool, which would have been where the harp player sat. Anyway, I was hoping for some logo'd silverware...nope. No glasses or dishes either (bummer!). I picked up a keno ticket holder (no name or logo on it), and a couple of small relish dishes (plain glass, no logos).





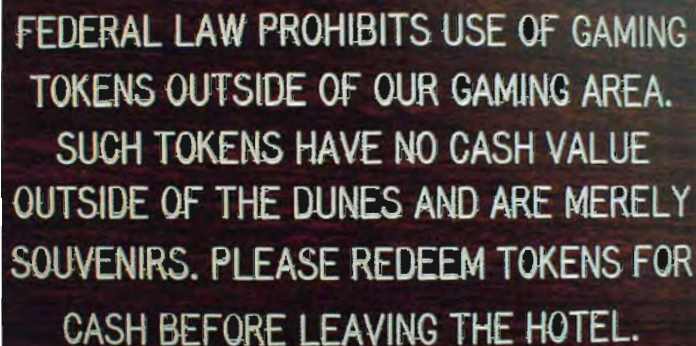
The only small things we'd really noticed, with the Dunes name, were the signs in and around the casino "Redeem Dunes tokens before leaving the casino..." "Federal law prohibits minors from lingering in the Dunes Casino..." that type of thing. Some were double-stick taped to the walls and others were screwed in. We looked around to find something that would pry them off the walls. George noticed a security guard's stand, he looked in it and found a screwdriver, he also found a key. The tag on the key says "Casino Porter H SK". The key itself says "do not duplicate". Neither one says Dunes...bummer!

Anyway, we got some of the signs down, and we got a couple of pictures/transparencies from behind a counter in the Oasis Casino. They were mounted behind Plexiglas, and were back-lit...like slides. Why oh WHY didn't we ever take a camera with us??? I'd give a whole buncha' money for pictures of us getting this stuff, to prove it's genuinely from the Dunes!

They were allowing people to go up to some of the hotel rooms; all of the furniture was for sale. There were only certain floors that were accessible to the public...the elevators wouldn't stop at the other floors. So, we took the elevator up. The elevators were really pokey, and only a couple of them were running. We went to the highest accessible floor (14<sup>th</sup>, I think). The furniture in some of the rooms was AMAZING! There were some real bargains, too, if you needed a pair of fake elephant tusks! There were mirrored headboards that went to the ceiling, great big wet-bars, jungle print overstuffed chairs...everything you've seen in a sleazy movie, and a bunch of stuff you'd find in a classy high-roller suite (and us with no camera...pout, pout!).

We checked out the peephole things in the doors, because they were cool! You could move it from side-to-side or up and down to check out short people, tall people, or people down the hall...and I'd never seen one like that! There was an employee wandering around, so George asked "how much?" The employee said he wasn't sure, but he didn't think they were for sale, someone had bought the doors and would be out in a couple of days to get them. You can guess the rest...George still had the screwdriver in his pocket, so we got a peephole. Hey...just because that guy didn't think they were for sale, didn't mean that we couldn't ask again, downstairs at the cash register, right?

The elevators were so pokey that, after exploring one floor, we took the stairs down to explore the next floor. There was one door we went through...I don't remember



FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS USE OF GAMING  
TOKENS OUTSIDE OF OUR GAMING AREA.  
SUCH TOKENS HAVE NO CASH VALUE  
OUTSIDE OF THE DUNES AND ARE MERELY  
SOUVENIRS. PLEASE REDEEM TOKENS FOR  
CASH BEFORE LEAVING THE HOTEL.

the details, but we were on some kind of catwalk...not outdoors, but somehow just behind the façade of the building. I wish I could remember it better, and George doesn't remember that part at all, I suspect that it was some kind of access to the neon, or something like that. I remember that the only thing between outdoors and us was some smoked glass. I don't think we were supposed to go through that door, but George likes to explore and I follow him, usually protesting all the way!

Anyway, floor by floor we went down and explored each floor as we went. (If you ever go to a hotel/casino liquidation sale, bring your camera!) We were still carrying the few things we'd picked up. I'd paid for the cards, and nothing else had price stickers. We'd asked about prices for the signs, and the person we'd asked was amazed that anyone would want stuff like that. She'd said it wouldn't be more than a couple of dollars for everything that we'd picked up.

After we'd explored the lowest open floor (I think it was the 8<sup>th</sup>?) I started to head for the elevators so we could go down and pay for our stuff, and leave. George wanted to go down another floor, to see what was there...if anything. After my usual protests, I followed him. Again, floor by floor we went down, checking out the rooms as we went. I'm sure I was still uttering half-hearted protests...thinking that we were going to have to climb back UP the stairs so we could take the elevator down (I have no imagination!). As we neared the ground floor, the plan became clear...we'd walk out the stairway door, and hope for the best! Wrong! We couldn't get out. Apparently they'd locked the stairway doors on the lowest couple of floors, probably to keep people from exploring...silly them!

We didn't want to walk back up 8 floors, so we continued down further. We found ourselves in the basement, and LOST! We stumbled across an employee locker room, and it was trashed! The lockers were all open, and



all kinds of stuff was ALL over the floor. We picked up a couple of dealer aprons, an employee handbook, some pens and matches, a couple of Frontier glasses, and a business card holder with the Dunes name on it. Luckily we also found some plastic bags to carry the stuff in!

We tried to find our way out, but we were hopelessly lost and continued to wander around in circles. We ran into another lost soul, who'd done the same thing we had! He'd been wandering for a long time too! I think he was happy just to find other people! The three of us walked around together, and finally found a door that was unlocked. We followed a hall, climbed some stairs, and found ourselves next to a door that led outside. Security guards were stationed outside the door. We walked out, expecting them to stop us, question us, order us to go back in...or something. They didn't. Apparently they were supposed to make sure no one went in through that door...coming out was o.k. Our new "friend" headed for the front of the building, he was going to stand in line again and go back in!! George and I headed straight for the car. It had been a long and tiring day...but it wasn't quite over. George put the key in the trunk lock and turned it. Instead of the trunk opening, the key broke! It was a rental car, so George found a Good Samaritan who gave him a ride to a pay phone, while I waited by the car. The rental car company sent someone out to get the broken key out of the lock, and provide us with a duplicate key. That was the end of our adventure at the Dunes.

### **The Hacienda**

#### **The eleventh resort on the Strip..."Hayseed Heaven"**

In 1955 Warren "Doc" Bayley, with his wife Judy and several partners, began construction on The Lady Luck Hotel and Casino, on the Las Vegas Strip. As the project moved forward, the other partners dropped out one by one until only the Bayleys and Stanley Burke were left. The Bayleys owned a small chain of "Hacienda" hotels, with locations in Fresno, Indio and Bakersfield, California. When the other partners dropped out, leaving Doc in charge, he changed the name of The Lady Luck to Hacienda, to fit with the other hotels in his chain.

Neither the Bayleys nor Burke had any experience in running a casino; the loss of the other partners also meant that the financing was short. Bayley brought in Jake Kozloff, who'd been involved in the New Frontier and the Golden Nugget.

In June of 1956, the Hacienda opened at 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South, with 266 rooms on 60 acres, and no casino. The Gaming Control Board, under Robbins



Cahill, had repeatedly deferred issuing the license, but didn't explain why. Finally, off the record, one of the board members told Bayley that the Board considered Kozloff unsuitable, but if his name was removed from the application the license would probably be approved. Kozloff's name was removed, and the license was issued after the admonishment that the board expected the Hacienda to fail, and that the Bayleys would probably go broke trying to succeed. Bayley responded that they were going broke now, and asked that the board please give them a chance. The casino finally opened on October 12, 1956. (Note: several sources say the casino didn't open until early 1957, I elected to go with the date listed in Fuller's *Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments*.)

### **Hayseed Heaven**

The newest resorts on the Strip; the Royal Nevada, Riviera and Dunes were all struggling. New resorts kept opening, and wanting a piece of the pie, but the pie wasn't getting any larger. What Las Vegas needed was a new market. While the other resorts touted luxury, comfort and big-name entertainment, the Hacienda went after the value-oriented customer, and families. When they opened, the Hacienda offered swimming pools, miniature golf and a go-cart track. The track was also used to host ? Midget National Championship races, which drew large crowds.





Over the years, a 9-hole 3-par golf course, 6 lighted tennis courts, Ping-Pong tables, baby-sitting services, and eventually an RV park were added. Pets were welcome, but had to be registered upon arrival. The Hacienda was often called "Hayseed Heaven".

### Hacienda Holiday

Doc Bayley was a promoter. One of his most successful marketing tools was the "Hacienda Holiday". For \$16 the guest would get their room plus \$10 in promo chips redeemable at the restaurants and bars (later that was extended to include the casino, also). Billboards advertising the special were on several Southern California Highways. In 1967 the property manager went to California to investigate expanding the number of billboards that would advertise the Hacienda Holiday package. Returning to Las Vegas, he encountered highway construction in Victorville. Every car had to stop at the construction, to be re-routed onto the "old" highway. While waiting his turn, he had a flash of inspiration...why not have someone hand out brochures right there, to cars headed in the direction of Las Vegas? He made the arrangements. Arriving back at the Hacienda, he discovered that a dozen of the brochures had already been turned in! He told Doc, who immediately arranged for two pretty girls to hand out the brochures. By September of 1968, they'd handed out over 100,000 flyers; vacationers who were using a Hacienda Holiday package occupied over 100 rooms per night!

In 1978 the Hacienda Holiday package was still being offered, though the price was up to \$39.78 per person, and it was called the Hacienda Champagne Holiday. The package was for 3 days and 2 nights and included a deluxe air-conditioned room, champagne breakfast (midnight to 6:00 a.m.), champagne brunch (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), gourmet buffet dinner (5:00 to 10:00 p.m.), Midnight show in the Fiesta Room with one cocktail, one 3-spot keno ticket, one cocktail at Island Bar, free daily

champagne party (5:00 to 6:00 p.m.), a complimentary flight bag, one bottle of Hacienda Champagne, unlimited use of the tennis courts and swimming pool, free parking, and all taxes and gratuities.



### Location

The Hacienda was nearly two miles south of the other Strip resorts, so it was the first resort encountered by the travelers from Southern California. At times this worked to their advantage. During the extra-hot summer months, many of the travelers would stop at the Hacienda for a cool drink. If they liked the Hacienda, they might not go any further. Also, since they weren't close to any of the other resorts, anyone that came in by plane or bus often didn't bother to leave the property.

Doc did his best to see that a lot of guests came in by plane. Thanks to the remote location, planes were able to land right on the Hacienda property. Doc started with one plane then added another and another. He had a DC-4, equipped with a piano bar, that ran nightly flights from Burbank. He eventually ended up with a fleet of 30 planes, flying the customers in. Reportedly, in 1962, Bayley's planes flew in 150,000 people. There were so many flights, that the Hacienda was investigated for running a commercial airline. Doc tried to convince officials otherwise, but with as many as 70 flights a week landing at the Hacienda, his arguments were futile (the Civil Aeronautics Board allowed 10 flights per month). Most of the planes had to go.



### The plane, the plane!

Have you ever noticed the Hacienda plane suspended from the ceiling in the baggage claim area at McCarran airport? I have. I never realized there was a story behind it, but there is...

In October of 1958, it was announced that pilots Bob Timm (former Hacienda slot department head) and John Cook would be attempting to break the world endurance flight record, which was 50 days. It was to be a fund-rais-



er for the Damon Runyon cancer fund, and Doc Bayley guaranteed that the minimum donation would be \$10,000. Later it was estimated that the donations would be from \$150,000 to \$500,000, but I never found the actual amount. Anyway, it was also, of course, a publicity stunt for the Hacienda.

The plane selected was a single-engine Cessna 172 Seahawk, which was 26'6" long. Everything was stripped from inside the plane, except the pilot seats, and then it was outfitted with a mattress and an extra 95-gallon fuel tank. The Hacienda name and logo were painted on both sides of the plane. They bought a fast pick-up truck, and assembled a ground crew. Members of the ground crew were Norbie Prada, Doyl Hickman, Roy Young and Bill Marhold.

Before the flight took place, the pilots and ground crew practiced re-fueling. The practices took place on the main road near Pahrump, which was straight and isolated. The plane would fly at an altitude of 20 feet, over the truck, while both were going about 70 miles per hour. The plane crew would drop one end of a rope to the ground crew. The ground crew would attach one end of a fuel hose to the rope, which would then be pulled up to the plane. The nozzle was inserted into the fuel tank, and then the ground crew would pump 95 gallons of fuel to fill the tank. Once perfected, it took about three minutes for the maneuver to be executed. Once the real flight began, the same rope was used to get food, water and clean clothes up to the plane. There was at least one time, during the actual flight, that the fuel truck malfunctioned. A red 1956 Thunderbird, which was used as a "crash wagon" by Alamo Airways, was brought in to save the record. The T-bird carried fuel in 5-gallon cans, which were hauled up to the plane to keep it airborne until the truck was back in service.

The actual flight began on December 4, 1958, from McCarran Field. The pilots took turns, flying in four-hour shifts. Luckily the plane was equipped with autopilot, as there was more than one time that the active pilot dozed





off. One of the pilots realized they'd flown over a mountain range after he'd dozed off while on duty! The flight path went over Nevada, California and Arizona, and the flight ended on February 7, 1959, after a record setting 64 days, 22 hours, 19 minutes and 5 seconds! A record that remains unbroken to this day, except by astronauts.

Much to the disappointment of Doc Bayley, the newspapers had refused to publish anything about the flight until the plane had been aloft for 30 days. At that point they deemed it newsworthy. Also disappointing to Bayley, the newspapers figured out that it was a publicity stunt, and they refused to mention the Hacienda's name in the article. They went so far as to block out the Hacienda name that was painted on the sides of the plane! To salvage what publicity he could, Doc installed a booth near the cashier cage, where Hacienda guests could follow the progress of the flight and even talk to the record-breaking pilots.



### The end of an era

Doc Bayley died on December 26, 1964, leaving his estate to his wife, Judy. Judy was urged to sell the Hacienda, as well as the shares held by the Bayleys in the New Frontier, and the El Rey Resort in Searchlight. Judy had been involved with her husband in running the Hacienda, at least during the early years, and she decided to run the resort herself. She was the first woman to run a Las Vegas Strip hotel/casino. Joan Rashbrook was her friend and assistant.



Judy quickly discovered that the Hacienda had financial problems. There was no money in the bank, bills were unpaid, and there was a large mortgage on the property. She and Joan met with the mortgage holder, who agreed to take the Frontier shares in partial payment of the debt.

Judy and Joan managed to borrow some cash from friends and relatives, and they did whatever needed to be done to keep the resort running...even bussing tables in the buffet. Their hard work paid off, and finances improved. Judy also took the time to become involved in many local charity events, including fundraisers for cancer research.

On December 31, 1971, Judy Bayley died from cancer, leaving her shares of the Hacienda to Joan Rashbrook. After running the place for over a year, Joan sold out to Allen Glick's Argent Corporation. In 1973 the Argent Corporation sold 15% of the Hacienda to Paul Lowden.

In 1977 the Gaming Control Board forced the Argent Corporation to sell all of their Nevada casino holdings, due to a massive skimmming scheme that was uncovered at the Stardust. Paul and Sue Lowden bought the Hacienda. Later they would also buy the Sahara, from Del Webb.

In 1980 an 11-story tower was added, with 300 rooms. By this time the resort had ten buildings and an RV park, plus the Little Church of the West (which had been moved from the Frontier property), on 48 acres of land. Also in 1980, after the MGM fire that killed dozens of people, it was realized that the Hacienda's fire protection system was woefully inadequate. Over \$250,000 was spent on new sprinkler systems, alarms, smoke detectors and PA speakers in every hotel room.

In the early 1990's Redd Foxx played at the Hacienda.



The IRS claimed that Redd owed over \$900,000 in unpaid taxes, and the income from the Hacienda helped keep the IRS at bay. George and I went to see Redd, and the show was a riot! At the start of the show, Redd warned that some of the audience might be offended by his humor. He said that anyone was welcome to leave at any time...this was his show, and he was going to say whatever he wanted. A few people did walk out of the show. By the end of the show, most of us that stayed were holding our sides, which hurt from laughing so hard! But, believe me, no one would have ever accused Redd Foxx of being politically correct!

A "new" magician, Lance Burton, began headlining at the Hacienda in 1991. Lance got his start with a 15-minute act as part of the Folies Bergere show at the Tropicana, then moved to the Hacienda. He played there until June of 1996, when he moved to the Monte Carlo to perform in the new Lance Burton Theatre.

In 1995 Circus Circus Enterprises, Inc. bought the Hacienda for \$80 million, and they closed it on December 1, 1996. On December 2, they invited the Salvation Army and Opportunity Village to come in and remove the furnishings, which could be sold to raise funds that were needed by the charities. On December 4, the Little Church of the West was moved to a new location, 2/10 of a mile south, and to the Eastern side of the strip, where it would reopen on December 11. On the night of December 12 the Hacienda's doors were opened one more time, to a group of firefighters who used the closed and dark hotel for a mock training drill.

### The end...eventually!

Then, on December 31, 1996, the Hacienda was imploded during a 90 minute live-telecast, with thousands of people attending the implosion in person. The plunger



was pushed, and a huge cloud of dust rose as the building fell. At that point, most television stations cut away, to show other fireworks and New Year's Celebrations. When the dust settled, the crowd in attendance saw that much of the Southern-most part of the

**JUDY BAYLEY PRESENTS**  
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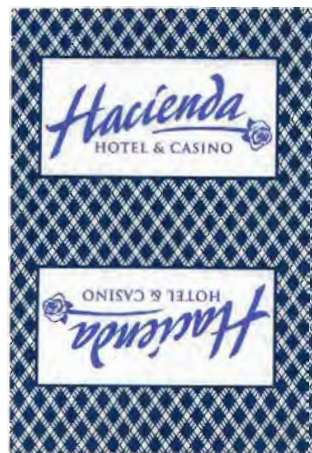
600 LUXURIOUS ROOMS WITH TV (300 WITH COLOR)

3 PAR 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE ON HACIENDA GROUNDS  
FRIENDLIEST CASINO IN LAS VEGAS

LARGEST HOTEL POOL IN NEVADA

Hacienda Hotel was still standing! The demolition team assured the audience that it would be down by daybreak, with the help of a few ropes and a crane.

The hotel would go down...but she didn't make it easy for those who sought to destroy her! By the next morning, January 1, 1997, a stairwell, some rows of rooms and the end of the hotel building were still standing, in spite of the overnight efforts of the demo crews. By noon the frustrated crews brought in a wrecking ball, and relentlessly pounded the building with it over and over again, for an hour. Holes were knocked in the building, but she still wouldn't tumble. Finally the crew resorted to chopping at the base of the building, knocking out larger and larger chunks of the foundation. Just after 2:00 p.m., 17 hours after the initial implosion, the Hacienda finally caved in.



Part of the Hacienda still lives. The 40-foot neon sign, with the famous horse and rider, was taken to the neon boneyard and restored. It spent some time at McCarran Airport, and is now part of the neon museum at the



Fremont Street Experience.

### Mandalay Bay

Hayseed Heaven is gone. Its site is filled by the humongous Mandalay Bay Resort, which opened on March 2, 1999. The resort was built at a cost of \$950 million, and it opened with over 3300 rooms and suites.

Over \$10 million was spent on ads for the new resort. Dan Ackroyd, Jim Belushi and John Goodman headlined a parade of Harleys riding through the front door. (I think that stunt sounds like something that might have happened at Hayseed Heaven!)



As the name Mandalay Bay suggests, the resort has a water theme with a 14 foot long aquarium in the lobby, which holds 12,200 gallons of salt water. The property has an 11-acre tropical water setting that includes a beach with sand and surf. The surf pool was designed to support surfing competitions.



There's a 30,000 square foot spa, which includes a 3,000 square foot fitness center. There are shops, several lounges, over a dozen restaurants, a lazy river ride, 3 pools and a jogging track.

The 135,000 square foot casino contains 122 table games, 2400 slot machines, a 300-seat race and sports book, and a high-limit room.



In the 1950's, there was nearly two miles of empty desert between the Hacienda and the Dunes. Now the same stretch of desert, between the Bellagio and Mandalay Bay, is home to the Monte Carlo, New York-New York, Excalibur and Luxor.

### The Tropicana

**The twelfth resort on the Strip...“The Tiffany of the Strip”**

Ben Jaffe, part owner and board chairman of the Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami Beach, came to Las Vegas in 1955. He bought 40 acres of land on the vacant southeast corner of the Strip and Bond Road (now Tropicana Avenue). Jaffe wanted to build the finest resort in Las Vegas, and with that in mind he organized the Bond Estates Company to build the resort. The Tropicana was designed by architect M. Tony Sherman, and built by



Taylor Construction, both from Miami. Jaffe had no casino experience so leased the casino operations to New Orleans gambler “Dandy” Phil Kastel. Kastel's wife, Margaret, thought it would be fun to decorate the Tropicana so showed up every day in her fur coat, telling the workmen what to do.

Construction was in full swing on the Stardust before it began on the Tropicana. Unfortunately for Jaffe and his partner Charles Baron, Tony Cornero decided to pay construction workers double wages, in order to speed up com-





pletion of the Stardust. Jaffe was forced to bring in a crew of masons from California, as none were available in Vegas. That, with other cost overruns that Jaffe wasn't prepared for, forced him to sell his shares of the Fountainbleu to raise another \$5 million to finish the Trop. The Tropicana was finally finished, and at a cost of \$15 million it was the most expensive Las Vegas resort to date.

Cost overruns weren't the only problems that confronted Jaffe. The Gaming Control Board wouldn't license "Dandy" Phil Kastel as the casino manager. Seems that "Dandy" Phil had some mob connections, and that pesky Control Board thought they could keep the mob out of Vegas. The licensing battle went on for awhile, some sources say nearly a year. "Dandy" Phil eventually backed out of the deal, and the licensing moved forward.

The Tropicana finally opened on April 4, 1957, at 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. South, with 300 rooms. Lush landscaping surrounded the Olympic-size swimming pool that was in the central courtyard of the tropical-theme hotel. The focal point, as seen from the strip, was the 60-foot tulip-shaped fountain that was lighted by rose and blue neon, and was set in a shallow 110-foot reflecting pool. Lieutenant Governor Rex Bell cut the ribbon to open the beautiful new resort. Monte Proser's original musical production "Tropicana Revue", which starred Eddie Fisher, was the highlight of the opening festivities. The theater-restaurant, with a stage that encircled much of the audience, would accommodate 450 patrons for dinner. Things were good.

### More than meets the eye

On the evening of May 2, 1957, there was a shooting in New York, in an apartment house on Central Park West. The victim was Frank Costello, who was known to be in the upper echelons of the mob. A single shot was fired, and blood streamed over the side of Costello's face. The gunman hurried past the shocked doorman, out to a waiting car, and sped off. Costello sank down onto a sofa and held a handkerchief to his bleeding head, he muttered "Someone tried to get me". He was rushed to nearby Roosevelt Hospital, where doctors

worked on the superficial wound that was behind Costello's right ear.

While the doctors worked on Costello, detectives searched his clothing. In his bloodstained suit jacket they found a slip of paper with handwritten notes. Costello claimed that the slip of paper wasn't his, and he had no idea how it got into his pocket. One of the notes, *Gross casino wins as of 4/27/57 \$651,284*, was found to be the exact figure of the Tropicana's receipts in her first 24 days of business. It was established that Michael J. Tanico, a cashier at the Tropicana, wrote part of the note. The Beverly Club in New Orleans, whose owners included "Dandy" Phil Kastel, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky, had previously employed Tanico. Some of the handwriting was identified as belonging to Louis J Lederer, who also held an interest in the downtown Fremont Hotel. The Gaming Control Board ordered that Lederer be removed from the gaming industry.

The shadow of suspicion of hidden mob-ownership now darkened the brightly shining new resort. Jaffe himself wasn't considered squeaky clean, as it was reported that he gambled and ran punchboard cards just over the border in Mexico. Anxious to clean-up his standing with the Control Board, Jaffe brought in well-known Las Vegas businessman J. Kell Houssels to help run the Tropicana.

### J. Kell Houssels

Houssels originally came to town as part of a surveying crew for the Hoover Dam project. In 1931 Houssels bought the Old Smokeshop on Fremont Street, then converted it into the original Las Vegas Club. Later he expanded into other business ventures, including ownership in Las Vegas's first cab company, Lucky Cabs. He purchased interest in the El Cortez Casino in 1941, as well as the Showboat, and would eventually be a part owner of the Union Plaza. Houssels also worked with City Hall to develop and promote Las Vegas. His reputation in the town was above reproach, and the Control Board readily licensed him to help run the Trop.

Houssels bought six-percent of the Trop, and managed it with the assistance of Robert O. Cannon, whose local experience had been gained at the El Rancho Vegas and the Last Frontier. One night in 1957, gamblers had been winning heavily and Houssels quickly borrowed a large amount of cash from the El Cortez, which he rushed to the Trop in a paper shopping bag, to make sure all bets were adequately covered (accounts vary from \$50,000 to "several hundred thousand dollars"). Under his leadership the





Tropicana was doing well, and in 1959 Houssels bought out Jaffe's interest in the resort, though Jaffe retained ownership of the land.

In 1959 entertainment director Lou Walters (father of newswoman Barbara Walters) imported the French spectacular "Folies Bergere" from Paris, a show that is still playing today, nearly 50 years later. Much like the town itself, the show is constantly reinvented so that it remains entertaining to repeat visitors. My husband and I went to see the Folies a few years ago; one of the acts was a dance routine performed to the song "Lady in Red". Both dancers were fully clothed, and it was one of the most sensual things I've ever had the pleasure to watch.



## The 1960's

In 1961 the Tropicana bought 120 acres of land across the street to the east. It was used to build a par-70 18-hole golf course and country club. The Clubhouse was styled like a southern mansion. The Club offered a night lighted driving range, pro shop, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, gallery lounge, dining room, TV room, and dressing rooms with lockers. The resident pro was Milt Ross, a Class A PGA pro.

J. Kell Houssels enjoyed horse racing. In the late 1930's he maintained stables for 13 thoroughbred horses at a California racetrack. I found a reference that said Houssels won \$69,000 at Hollywood Park, on July 6, 1963...but it didn't say whether that was from betting, or

whether he owned a horse that won, or...? Shecky Greene played in the Showcase Lounge at the Tropicana. Shecky had an unusual clause in his contract...it required that a racehorse be named after him! So, to honor the contract, Kell named one of his horses "Shecky G.". In 1961 Shecky G. won his first race, at Pamona Park.

The coolest thing that I found about Houssels' horses is that one of them, Bymeabond, won the Santa Anita Derby in 1945, earning \$50,000 in prize money. The jockey was Georgie "The Iceman" Woolf. If The Iceman's name sounds familiar...remember the movie Seabiscuit? Georgie was the one who rode Seabiscuit to victory over War Admiral in a match race at Pimlico. Bymeabond also ran in the 1945 Kentucky Derby, under jockey Fred A. Smith. Bymeabond was taken to the inside early, forcing the early pace. He made a bold bid on the stretch turn, but gave way steadily in the last quarter, finishing 6<sup>th</sup>. Sorry...I got way "off track" here (groaaaaaan!), I'm supposed to be at the Trop in the 1960's, not California in the 1940's!

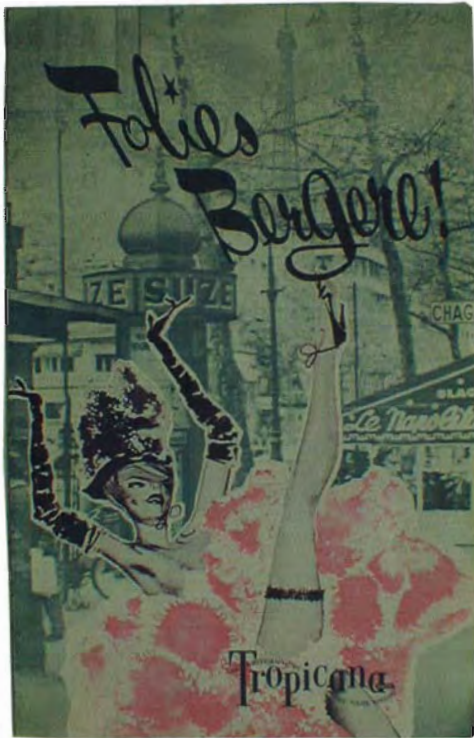
One of the acts at the Trop was Gus Augspurg, with his "girlfriends" (which were baboons). In 1965 one of his baboons, Mary Jane, somehow escaped. After she'd been missing for several hours, a phone call was received at the Trop asking if they were missing a baboon. Luckily a neighbor had spotted Mary Jane and fed her cookies to keep her attention until Gus's wife Casey could get there to pick her up. Another baboon incident occurred when Gus and friends appeared on Jack Kogan's TV show. Seems one of the "girls" ran Jack off the set so she could play with the station's kitten mascot!



There were approximately four hundred rooms added, during 3 expansions in the 1960's. The rooms were all air







conditioned, and most (if not all) of them had their own patios.

In 1961 the Tropicana bought a Tiffany Rolls Royce for the use of "Special Guests".

In 1969 J. Kell Houssels married one of the Folies Bergere dancers, named Nancy.

### The 1970's-the mob at the Trop

In 1970 Houssels sold his shares of the Trop to Trans-Texas Airways. A year later, Trans-Texas sold to Deil Gustafson from Minnesota. In 1974 the Gaming Control Board learned that Gustafson's company was using the Trop to loan money to known Detroit mobsters, and they forced him to sell a controlling interest in the resort. The buyer was chemical heiress Mitzi Stauffer Briggs.



In 1975 another group of investors, Associates of the Tropicana, bought into the resort. Joe Agosto, who was appointed to head the Folies Bergere show and later ran the hotel, represented the group. Nevada officials later discovered that Agosto was sending cash to mobster Joseph Aiuppa of Chicago, as well as to mobsters in Kansas City and Milwaukee.

The FBI set up wiretaps on the phones of reputed mobsters in Las Vegas, and their suspected associates in Kansas City. Information gathered from the wiretaps, and other eavesdropping methods, uncovered a skimming scheme that was in place at the Trop. In 1981 a Kansas City Grand Jury indicted seven of the alleged mobsters, and in 1983 all seven were convicted. One account that I read said that during the trial, Joe Agosto, who'd turned government witness, had a heart attack and died. Gustafson was tried and convicted in a separate case, involving check fraud at the Trop. The Control Board required both Gustafson and Briggs to sell their shares.

In 1977 the 22-story, 600 room, Tiffany Tower was added. Also added was the world's largest Tiffany leaded-glass canopy, over the gaming tables. Due to the size and construction of the canopy, special "shock-absorbers" had to be installed to keep the canopy from cracking or breaking when the building vibrates. I seem to recall that there was a great shot of that ceiling in the 1984 movie "The Vegas Strip War", which was Rock Hudson's last movie, and also starred Sharon Stone. A ton of great casino shots in the film.



In the late 1970's the Tulip Fountain was removed.

### Ramada Inns...Aztar...Columbia Sussex... Who's next?

In 1979, the Ramada Inn Hotel chain acquired the Tropicana, leasing it from Jaffe's family. In 1985 they began a major renovation project that featured a 5-acre water park, and added the 22-story Island tower. They re-themed the hotel, calling it "The Island of Las Vegas".

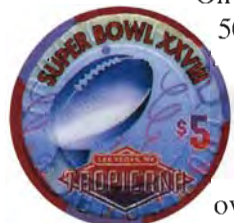
In 1989 Ramada Inns formed the Aztar Corporation, to run the Tropicana properties located in Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada, as well as the one in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Jaffe family retained ownership of the land in Las Vegas until 2002, when they sold it to Aztar for \$1.2 million. A year later, Aztar announced that the Trop would be undergoing a major renovation and expansion, which would nearly double the number of rooms. That didn't happen.



Somewhere in this period the Gambler's Hall of Fame and Museum occupied a portion of the Tropicana's ground floor. They displayed the most wonderful collections of ashtrays, china, chips, postcards, swizzle sticks, photos and other pieces of gaming history that I've ever seen in my life. The Trop replaced the gaming history with a Titanic Display, I believe.

In 2006 the Columbia Sussex Corporation acquired Aztar for \$2.8 billion. Columbia announced a \$25 billion upgrade that would destroy much of the existing hotel. They said the property would expand to more than 10,000 hotel rooms by 2010. They announced that they would retain the historic Tiffany Theater and keep the Folies Bergere show.



On April 4, 2007 the Tropicana turned 50. The hotel has 1,871 rooms and suites, six restaurants, a five-acre tropical garden oasis with three swimming pools and whirlpools, a full-service spa, a styling salon and barber shop, over 100,000 square feet of convention



space, a wedding chapel and 61,000 square feet of gaming space. The casino is filled with video reel and multi-game slots, blackjack, craps, roulette and poker. In addition, the Tropicana offers a seasonal swim-up blackjack game by the Coconut Grove Bar.

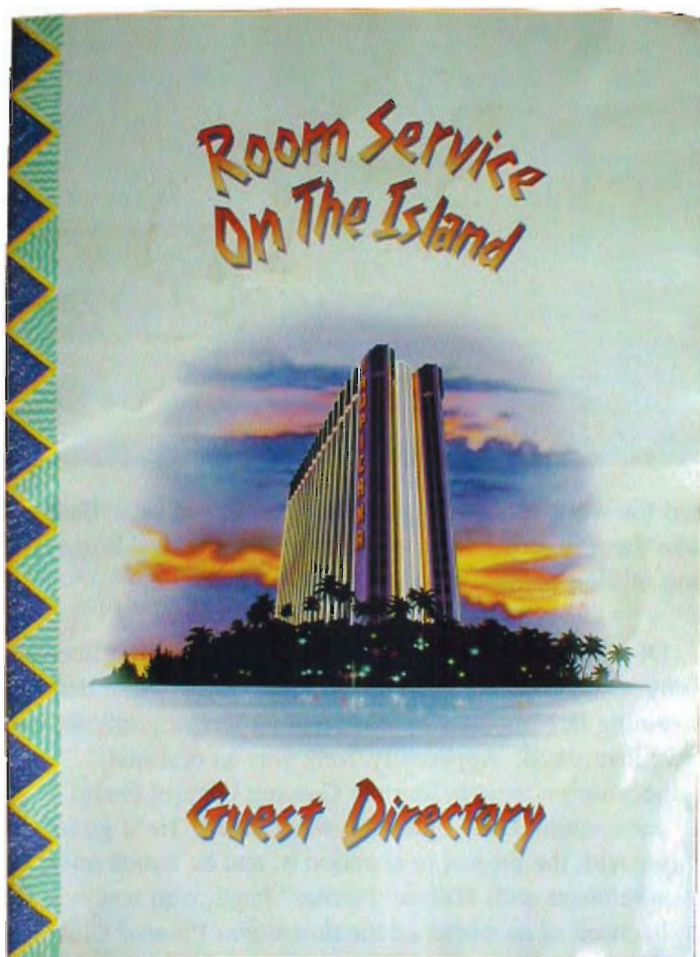
Unfortunately, Tropicana employees aren't happy. Columbia has laid off over 300 workers from the Las Vegas property, in an effort to cut operating costs. Costs have been cut, but so has the service to the customer, as well as upkeep and maintenance to the hotel and grounds. The Tropicana, once known as the most elegant show-place on the Strip, is getting shabby and run-down.

On Wednesday, December 12, 2007, Atlantic City Gaming Officials denied the renewal of the AC Tropicana's gaming license. They said that the AC Trop failed to meet New Jersey's standards for financial responsibility, character and integrity. The board ruled that a trustee will operate the casino until a buyer is found. Columbia Sussex is appealing.

Time will tell what affect that will have on the Las Vegas Tropicana...







## The Stardust

### The thirteenth resort on the Strip

#### Anthony Cornero Stralla

He was better known as Tony Cornero. Cornero made his first fortune during prohibition; his specialty was overseeing the unloading of illegal booze from large ships waiting off of the California coast, to smaller boats that would get the booze to shore before dawn. Cornero was caught, convicted of a felony, and did time. Then prohibition was repealed, so he had to find another occupation after his release from prison.

Tony, with his brothers Frank and Louis, headed for Las Vegas. Early in 1931, Tony and his brothers built the *Meadows Casino*, near the intersection of Fremont and Charleston. It was reportedly the first “classy” casino in town (as opposed to “sawdust joints”, which appropriately described most of the early casinos). Most of the guests were local, they didn’t need hotel rooms so, only two months after it opened, the Corneros sold the 30-room hotel but retained the casino. On labor day, 1931, the hotel burned to the ground. The Corneros kept the casino until 1932. That was the end of Tony’s first venture in Las Vegas.

Tony headed for California, where he ran gambling ships, including the *SS Rex*. There were constant battles with state and local officials, sometimes literally, sometimes figuratively. At least one time, when officials tried to board the *Rex*, Tony’s crew sprayed fire hoses at them, to keep them at bay! Eventually, though, deputies did board the *Rex*. They axed roulette wheels, threw craps tables overboard, and enjoyed taking pictures of the mayhem. Tony took his battle all the way to the California Supreme Court, claiming that his business was legal, but eventually he lost the war. So, for awhile, Tony ran a legitimate shipping company.

In 1944 Tony headed for Las Vegas again. He leased the casino in the Apache Hotel building, downtown, and changed the name to the *SS Rex*. We’ve been told that the light fixture (which looks like carvings of Neptune) over the main bar at Binion’s was removed from the *SS Rex* ship, and was installed in the *SS Rex* Casino by Tony Cornero. There were, of course licensing problems for Cornero. Several months after the *SS Rex* opened, the landlord severed all connections with him. Once again Cornero headed for California, to operate the *SS Lux* off shore. Once again, he found himself battling with officials. Once again, he lost.

#### If at first you don’t succeed...

In the early 1950’s Tony Cornero was in Las Vegas again, preparing for his third venture into the Las Vegas gambling scene. This time he would go all out...he didn’t want his hotel to have just 200 or 300 rooms, like most of the new hotels had when they opened. No...his hotel would have 1500 rooms! Each section of rooms was to be named after a planet, and there would be a space-age motor scooter to carry the guests to their rooms. The hotel would cover 40 acres of land...the world’s largest hotel! The hotel would be called *Stardust*. (There is some indication that Cornero originally planned to call his resort *Starlight*. I couldn’t find much, but I saw one ad with that name).







In 1954 Cornero bought 36 acres of land next to the Royal Nevada. He set up a company that he called *Stardust Inc.*, then printed up stock certificates, which he sold to his investors, at \$10.01 a share. Of course, he hadn't registered the stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but that was just a formality...wasn't it? He got the money; the customers got the stock certificates, and construction began. Simple enough. If money ran a little short, sell a few more certificates. He ended up selling some \$4 million in unregistered stocks. Not being registered, the stocks weren't underwritten. Ultimately stockholders took the case to court, where the judge ruled that Nevada residents who'd bought stock could keep their ownership, non-residents lost their investments.



Tony Cornero paid cash as he went. A truckload of materials was delivered...he paid cash. Construction workers worked...he paid cash at the end of the week. He went over to the Desert Inn to shoot some craps...he paid cash. There was a lot of construction going on in Las Vegas in the 1950's (that's one thing about Vegas that hasn't changed!) and there weren't enough skilled workers to go around. It took a lot of time to build something the size of the Stardust, but Tony was anxious to see his dream turn into reality. He began paying union laborers double wages, to get the job done faster. Of course, double wages plus materials and some gambling (a man had to have an outlet at the end of a long day, didn't he?) meant that the money started to run out.

In 1955 Tony set up the first of several meetings with Moe Dalitz and Meyer Lansky. He needed money to finish the Stardust, which would be the world's biggest hotel



and the world's biggest casino, and he would be willing to take them in as partners. Over time, they loaned him several million dollars, so progress could continue.

Of course there was a small matter of a gaming license. Tony was a convicted felon. He'd previously been denied a gaming license; later he'd received a license, only to have it revoked. Apparently Tony was an optimist, because he went before the Gaming Control Board once again. Once again, he was denied. He'd gone too far with the project to abandon it, and he struck an agreement with Milton "Farmer" Page, who was licensed as an owner of the downtown Pioneer Club. Of course, Farmer wanted to manage the casino his way, and Tony wanted to make his own decisions...but all that could be worked out later, at least there was a license.

Then, on the morning of July 31, 1955, while shooting craps at the Desert Inn, Tony Cornero clutched his chest, collapsed and died. Some say it was a heart attack.



Others speculate as to why the glass he'd been drinking from was whisked away to the kitchen to be washed, and why it was two hours before anyone called the Sheriff. There was no autopsy. Whatever the cause...at 55 years old, Tony Cornero crapped out.

The Stardust was about 80% complete when Tony died and construction stopped. Construction workers hadn't been paid for two weeks, and no one knew who was in charge. The hotel was boarded up and fenced off, and stayed that way for nearly two years. A creditor's committee moved in to try and straighten out the mess in Federal Bankruptcy Court. Finally Mrs. John Factor, sister-in-law of cosmetics magnate Max Factor, was allowed to purchase the Stardust. The Factors were the backers for Dalitz & Company, who would officially assume control in September of 1958. The Stardust's plans were revised, somewhat, and work began again.

#### A dream comes true...finally

On July 2, 1958, nearly three years after Tony Cornero died; the Stardust opened at 3000 Las Vegas Blvd. South. It opened with 1032 rooms that were advertised as "Astronomical luxury at down-to-earth prices" (rates started at \$6 per day). The Big Dipper swimming pool was 105 feet long; the casino was 16,500 square feet; the lobby was 13,500 square feet and was decorated in rich red and deep brown colors with indirect lighting. The Café Continental theater-lounge had seating for 700. The resort opened with the French revue *Lido de Paris*, starring Jacqueline Du Bief. The most noticeable thing about

the 'Dust was the sign on the building; it was a 216 foot long "galaxy" that weighed 29 tons, and used 7,100 feet of neon tubing and 11,000 lamps to create a glow that was visible from 3 miles away!

The Stardust offered the largest casino in Nevada (probably the largest in the country). In addition there was the Stardust Country Club four miles to the east, The Stardust International Raceway was to the west of the property, the Stardust bought a drive-in movie theater that had closed and it was reopened as the Stardust Drive-In. They even offered a supervised playground for the youngsters, and riding was available at Horseman's Park, on the Stardust grounds. When the adjoining Royal Nevada went bankrupt, the Stardust bought it, thus adding more rooms and another swimming pool. The Royal Nevada's casino was turned into the Stardust Auditorium/Convention Center.

The Stardust was successful. It seems that Tony Cornero's dream came true, even though he wasn't around to see it.

#### The 1970's

In 1969 the Los Angeles based Parvin-Dorhmann Corporation bought the Stardust. Ashtrays and postcards of the time say "A Recrion Resort"; Recrion was an off-shoot of Parvin-Dorhmann. In the early 1970's they had the 'Dust up for sale, and along came developer Allen R. Glick.





Glick came to Vegas in 1972 and purchased the Hacienda Hotel and Casino with the intention of tearing it down to build a mobile home park. He changed his mind, decided to run the Hacienda himself, and applied for a gaming license. His application was approved. He found out that the Stardust and the Fremont Hotel (downtown), both owned by Recrion, were for sale. He approached Al Baron, assets manager of the Central States Teamster Pension Fund, for financial backing. Baron tried to warn him that “business partners” came along with teamster money, but Glick persisted. By 1974 Glick owned the Stardust and Fremont, and the Chicago mob owned Allen Glick.



### “Lefty”

Frank “Lefty” Rosenthal was a highly skilled sports handicapper, from Chicago. He’d been a professional gambler, he’d run his own bookie joint, and in 1971 he was hired by the Stardust as a floorman. Lefty was very smart, and when he saw the amount of cash that went through the casino, he began to get ideas on how to increase that cash flow even more. He told some “friends” that if he could get into a position of authority, there would be a big increase in the casino profits.

When Glick took over the Stardust, his “partners” told him to promote Rosenthal, so Glick made him the Director of Nevada Operations, for the Argent Corporation. Then the Gaming Control Board entered the picture. Seems that anyone that holds an upper-management position in the casino industry had to be licensed by Gaming, as a Key Employee. Gaming told Glick that Rosenthal wouldn’t get a license, period. Over the next several years Rosenthal had different titles at the Stardust, including food and beverage director and entertainment director. Rosenthal would hold a position for awhile, then Gaming would step in and say the position needed to be held by a licensed person. Finally, Rosenthal hosted *The Frank Rosenthal Show*; a television show that was broadcast from the Stardust. Regardless of his title, everyone (including Allen Glick) knew his real position...he was the Boss!

One of the ideas that Rosenthal dreamed up was to add a race and sports book to the



casino. Before 1975, race and sports betting was handled in small “bookie joints”. In September of 1975, the Stardust opened an 8,000 square foot book, with plush chairs, multiple television screens, and numerous boards to display race results.

### Siegfried & Roy

It was 1970 when Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn came to Las Vegas for three years, to perform a 15-minute act in Donn Arden’s *Lido de Paris*, at the Stardust. In 1973 they left Nevada to perform elsewhere, then they came back to perform at the MGM, in the *Hallelujah Hollywood* show, for the next several years. In 1978, learning that Siegfried & Roy’s contract was up for renewal, Rosenthal wanted them back with the *Lido*. He sent Bernie Yuman, a “gopher” with ambition, to the MGM, promising him \$500 if he could get the magicians to Rosenthal’s office, for a meeting. There was 20 minutes left in the MGM’s second show when Bernie ran out the door. Bernie managed to get into the magician’s dressing room, and persuaded them to meet with Rosenthal. Rosenthal doubled their salary, and made sure the dressing rooms and animal quarters were all that the magicians requested. He also agreed to give them star billing, with the *Lido*, and allowed them to be the 30-minute closing act. They stayed at the Stardust until 1981, when they moved to the Frontier, to star in *Beyond Belief*.

### Skimming

Rosenthal was in charge of a huge “skimming” operation that included both the Stardust and the Fremont. The “skim” was cash that wasn’t included in the official count. If the cash wasn’t counted, it wasn’t reported. If it wasn’t reported, it wasn’t income. If it wasn’t income, it wasn’t taxed.

Skimming started in the early days, when casino owners had to pay back loans that didn’t show up on the books. If someone borrowed a million dollars from Meyer





Lansky, it was a cash loan “just between us”. The loan and interest had to be paid back in cash, off the books. Susie Berman, daughter of mobster Dave Berman, remembers going into the counting room with her father. She watched as the owners sorted money into stacks, by denomination, then divided it “three for us, one for the government, two for Meyer.” The owners had to make a profit—that’s why they were in business. Meyer had to be paid back, or the casino owner wouldn’t stay in business. The government’s stack would be counted, reported as income, and taxed. Everyone was happy with the set-up until the government figured out that they weren’t getting their full share.

The Government started making rules and regulations to try and clean up the casino industry. Agencies were set up to regulate licenses, and to oversee accounting procedures. Casino owners were no longer allowed in the count rooms. A Nevada Gaming Commission person was placed in the count room, observing the count and recording the figures for the government. As more government controls were put in place, less money was going to the mob...and the mob saw that as a bad thing.



In the count room, the coins weren’t individually counted they were weighed. The Stardust managed to adjust their scales to under-report the value of the coins on the scales. The coins that weren’t included in the official count were rolled, then were placed in kiosks around the casino floor. Before the days of bill-validators, the change girls would sell rolls of coins to slot players. They would take the bills they received, and put them into the cash drawers in the kiosks, and take out more rolls of coins. At night more rolls of coins would be added to the kiosks, and the money would be removed from the cash drawer. None of that cash ever showed up in the counting rooms. It was estimated that \$12 million a year was being skimmed, by this method.

Rosenthal couldn’t do everything himself. He needed someone to make sure that his orders were carried out. Tony “The Ant” Spilotro was the muscle-man that the mob sent to Vegas to fill the role. Useful when he arrived in Vegas, Spilotro eventually proved to be a hindrance. He had an affair with Rosenthal’s wife, he got involved with drugs, and he set up a burglary ring. He was drawing unwelcome attention to Frank Rosenthal and the Stardust. Rosenthal tried to keep him away, but Spilotro felt that he was beyond taking orders.

In 1982 a car bomb blew up Rosenthal’s car, in an attempted murder. Rosenthal’s estranged wife died later that year, from a drug overdose.



Spilotro was arrested for heading up the burglary ring. The Feds were closing in. By 1983 the state had suspended the gaming license of Argent, pending revocation of the license. Rosenthal was listed in the "Black Book", the state Gaming Commission's list of persons who were officially barred from entering any Nevada casino. He moved to California. Other mob bosses were arrested and some did time in prison. Spilotro and his brother were found, a few years later, beaten to death and buried in a shallow grave in the middle of a cornfield in Indiana.

For more of the story of the mob-controlled Stardust, get the movie *Casino*. It was based on the book of the same name, that was written by Nicholas Pileggi, which tells the story much better than I ever could. The names have been changed, but the story is there.

### The Boyd Group

The state removed Argent from controlling the casino, but they didn't close the Stardust. The state asked Boyd Gaming to come in and manage the casino, while hearings were held to determine whether Argent could stay in gaming. Argent retained control of the non-gaming areas. Initially Argent gave Boyd a hard time, but they became more cooperative after time, realizing that they were reaping the profits of Boyd's management. Boyd Gaming received only a flat fee for managing the casino. Boyd had been managing the Stardust for about a year when an Argent attorney approached them. Argent had lost their license, and felt that they would lose their appeal. They wanted to know if Boyd was interested in buying the Stardust and the Fremont, which was also owned by Argent and was involved in the skimming operations.

Boyd agreed and on February 28, 1985 ownership officially changed hands.



In 1988 Boyd spent \$50 million to expand and renovate the property, and in 1991 they added a 32-story hotel tower.

On February 28, 1991, the *Lido de Paris* show took its final bow, after being part of the Stardust since 1958. Twelve totally different versions of the show had been produced in France, then sent to the Stardust. Nearly all of the early performers came from France, with the shows. Later versions of the show used mostly American performers. The costumes were designed and created in France. As each version of the show ended, the costumes and scenery were taken out into the desert and burned, under the supervision of Federal Agents, to avoid paying import taxes on them.



In 1993 Sam Boyd passed away, which left Boyd Gaming in the hands of his son, Bill. In that same year, Boyd Gaming went public.

In 2006 it was announced that the Stardust would close, to make room for Echelon Place. Echelon Place will be built on 63 acres and will include the 2,600-room Resort Tower and the Suite Tower with 700 suites. Two spas are planned, two theaters and more than 25 bars and restaurants. There will be landscaped pools, shopping and more than a million square feet of meeting and convention space. Three additional hotels are expected to be part of the property, each with additional amenities. Opening is scheduled to be 2010.







### The first...

In June of 1981, George and I saw the *Lido de Paris* show, which starred Siegfried and Roy, and the show was incredible! It was the first show I ever went to, in Las Vegas. It was also the first program/ticket stubs that I saved as souvenirs. Unfortunately, by the time we started collecting NV casino items, the program and stubs had been lost or discarded. (Sigh...timing is everything!)

We never went to many buffets, but the buffet at the Stardust was the first LV buffet that I ever went to. I still remember watching the lady at the next table, as she carefully wrapped a few dinner rolls in napkins and placed them in her purse.

The slot club at the Stardust was the first one I ever joined. Not that I cared about being a slot club member, but they gave two Stardust pens to you for signing up...I wanted the pens! I still have the slot card.



The Stardust was the first hotel to offer me a free hotel room for two nights. WOW...I couldn't believe they did that...for little ol' ME!!! Yeah, I felt like a VIP!

For these reasons, for the memories and the nostalgia and the history, I think the Stardust is the resort I'll miss the most.

### Disclaimer

I hope this series of articles has been as enjoyable to read as it has been to write. To the best of my knowledge, all of the information in the article is correct; unfortunately, different sources sometimes provided very different "facts" for the same incident. For example...remember how Frank Costello was shot, and wounded, in the lobby of his apartment house? One source said he was "fatally shot"! Oops!

### Credits

Some of the reference books used for these articles include: *"The Stardust of Yesterday"* by Heidi Knapp Rinella; *"The First 100, Portraits of the Men and Women*



*Who Shaped Las Vegas*", published by Huntington Press; *"Las Vegas, The Entertainment Capital"* by Donn Knepp; *"Resort City in the Sunbelt"* by Eugene P. Moehring. I also used various issues of *"Chip Char"*, and auction catalogs by club member Doug Saito. Additional information came from various websites, postcards, and hotel brochures.

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## Reference Center

Welcome to the CC&GTCC Reference Center! Here you will find useful information on the hobby of casino chip and gaming token collecting.

### [Casino Chip & Token News](#) - A publication of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club

This official club quarterly is a must-read for every casino collectible enthusiast.

### For The Beginner

- [CCGTCC Mentoring Program](#) - Help others or find help for yourself!
- [2005 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- **Ask The Expert!** - a list of CC&GTCC members who have volunteered to answer your questions.
- [Chip Conditions](#) - an official list of CC&GTCC sanctioned terminology used to describe chip condition.
- [Glossary](#) - an extensive list of the terminology used in our hobby - a "Chiptionary", if you will.
- [Chip FAQ](#) - a huge list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding our hobby.
- [Chipology 101](#) - a great intro-to-chipping seminar presented at the national convention.
- [Cleaning Chips](#) - a good primer on cleaning casino chips.
- [Mold Designs](#) - Robert Eisenstadt's mold design project.

### Detailed Reference

- [Fakes/Fantasy/Counterfeits](#) - a large list of fake, fantasy, and counterfeit chips - includes pictures.
- [Brass Core](#) - a thorough presentation of the brass core controversy.
- [Fraternal Order of Eagles](#) - Aeries listed numerically
- [Cancelled Chips](#) - Nevada Casino Chips Known To Exist Cancelled

### Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

- [Club Library](#) - a list of club reference material that you can check-out and use.
- [Gaming In Atlantic City](#) - by Steve Piccolo
- [Playboy Cheques, Chips & Tokens](#) - by Tom Stroh
- [Knapp on Books](#) - A series of book reviews by Michael Knapp
- [The Flamingo Capri Revisited](#) - by Mike Quinlivan
- [Casino Chip and Token News](#) - Back issues

The Education section of the CC&GTCC website offers valuable information on chip collecting, whether you're new to the hobby or have been collecting for years.

In this section you will find reference material about fakes and counterfeits, cancelled chips, brass core chips and much more. *Ask The Expert* gives you access to over 50 collectors who can answer any question about collecting. Each collector is an expert in a particular field. Whether it's casino chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, dice or collecting by state, country or casino, you can find help here.

Check out the club library for books or search for articles on the *Casino Chip and Token News* website. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

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# Reinventing the Wheel - Literally Charitable Casino Chips of North Dakota

by John Kallman

Casinos, like any other commercial enterprise, need to continually reinvent themselves in order to stay competitive. And while the demands of the plains of the upper mid-west are somewhat less than those on the strip in Las Vegas, they exist non-the less. This is evidence by the large number of charities that change locations in an effort to maximize the number of customers that at least come through the front door. The number and types of games are greatly limited in North Dakota, with only bingo, poker, black jack, and paddle wheel currently being allowed. Up until now, I had seen two different layouts for the paddle wheel, those being the pig or duck wheel with the only difference between the two, other than the animals involved, was the number of spaces allocated to each animal, with one having four spaces and the other having five spaces. Of course, the number of spaces determined the house advantage.

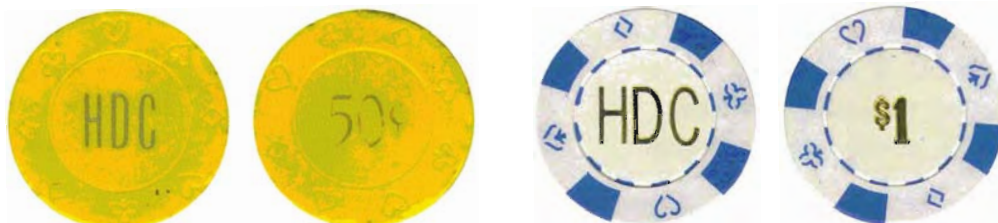
During my most recent visit in search of both chips and information, a third wheel is now in play. This latest version is best described as a tri-wheel. No animals involved at all! There are 3 circles, of increasing size, from the center of the wheel out to the edge. The inner most circle has the numbers 1 through 10, the middle circle has the numbers of 1 through 20, and the outside, and the outer most circle has the numbers 1 through 40. Each player can bet on any individual number from any of the circles, a combination of numbers, and of course, even / odd. The rate of return, for other than even / odd, is most certainly in the houses favor, with best of the inner circle 7 to 1, the middle circle 16 to 1, and the outer most circle 34 to 1. Players beware!

On other fronts, it appears that other things besides what games can be played, are also becoming somewhat friendlier to collectors as I also noted that canceled cards were also being sold at some locations. Sadly, though, the cards do NOT have the charity/location on them, just generic. Also, at least one casino was able to sell chips no longer intended for table play to be canceled and sold! Thus, things are looking up. However, not all locations are chipper friendly.

The Plains Art Museum, which operates the Blue Wolf Casino in Fargo North Dakota, did open a second location, also in Fargo and placed a new rack of chips on the table. As previously noted in earlier articles, there were NO \$2.00 chips with this new rack. The paddle wheel chips were also changed to a new rack, all with "PAM", Bud Jones Suite Pip Mold, hot stamped, in nine different colors.



Having worn out the casinos in both Grand Forks and Fargo, two of the larger cities in North Dakota, I am starting slowly to move farther a field. The last trip found me in Hillsboro, with all of two bars and one charity, dealing in both locations:







Further a field, American Legion Post #181 in Thompson has the following chips in play:



And finally, Buxton Childcare Center also, has a table game, but sadly they were not willing to let any chips depart the location. Bud Jones hot stamp chips with "BCC" on the obverse and the denomination on the reverse were present in the denominations of 50c, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$25.00.

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# When Vice was King

## A History of Northern Kentucky Gambling 1920 - 1970

### Part 2

by Jim Linduff  
with Roy Klein and Larry Trapp

#### Minor Clubs

Many of the clubs described in this section played an important part in the history of Northern Kentucky gambling and some, like the Old Homestead, have historical significance beyond gambling. They were, for the most part, run by local operators and represent hundreds of similar bars that operated in the area. It is important to understand the prevailing attitude of those who lived in Northern Kentucky; it was one that allowed and supported the invasion of organized crime syndicates in the 1930s. Prostitution and illegal booze sales fueled that process as well as the love of horse racing in the Bluegrass state. Tougher laws in Cincinnati helped the Northern Kentucky gambling operations also. When taken as a whole, Northern Kentucky found an industry that could help support an otherwise depressed area and elected officials actively helped keep the gambling and prostitution businesses going.



The Avenue Chips

#### Bellevue

##### Avenue Nite Club, 181 Fairfield

The club was originally called the Clifford Mile Café, at least as early as the late 1930s, and was named the Avenue in 1949. Duke Mile took over from his father in the early 1950s and ran the club until August, 1963, when the club burned, killing two people. Efforts to reopen the club were not successful and the property was sold in 1978. Gambling was openly conducted in the basement of the joint. Chips from the Avenue have been attributed.

##### Barney's Old Homestead, 713 Fairfield

Perhaps the oldest hotel in Kentucky, the building dates to at least 1865, when it was used as a warehouse for goods coming to Fallon Landing on the river to send to the military at Fort Thomas. Part of the building was also used for temporary overnight rental rooms.

In 1905, the Sproehnle family purchased the building and it became a hotel and restaurant. The building was listed as Barney's Old Homestead through the 1930s until 1970 when the name was shortened to the Old Homestead. In 1980, Walter Gruner purchased the property and ran it as an antique store until 1993 when it was sold to the current owner. Barney Sproehnle ran gambling games in the back room of the restaurant and on the second floor. Chips and dice have been attributed to this location.







Barney's Old Homestead Chips

## Covington

### 222 Club, 222 W. Pike Street

In a study conducted by Eastern Kentucky University (*Sin City Revisited*, DeMichele and Potter), the 222 Club was listed as a Black joint in Newport in the 1940s, later located in Covington. We find no evidence of a Newport club, but in Covington there was a 222 Club located at 222 W. Pike Street. Run by Louis Albers, the 222 Club existed from at least 1927 through 1950 when it became Collett Liquors. In 1955 it was listed as A and Z Furniture. When run by Albers, the joint was busted for slots in 1929 and in 1931 for punchboards. The building, now vacant, remains, at the corner of Pike and Craig Streets.

514 Club, 514 Scott Street

Owned by George Hunt, the bar was operated from 1943 into the late 1960s as the 514 Club. Raided several times for the operation of a sports book, the club may have had other forms of gambling, but no chips have been found.

### Carr Brothers, 1916 Madison Avenue

Located next to Orr's Café on Madison Ave., Carr Brothers was in operation from at least 1938 until 1955, when the building was sold to Brock Furniture, a business located north of the Carr building. During the joint's history it was named Carr's Mecca Café from 1943 to at least 1948, giving credence to those who believe the Mecca chips found came from the Carr location vs. the Newport club by the same name, but no one familiar with the club remembers the use of chips there. Carr's was basically a horse handbook. Charles "Ping" Carr operated the bar until his death in 1949. Ping was active in horse racing circles and was long associated with Jimmy Brink.

### Club Keeneland, 1053 Madison Avenue

The joint was listed in the Covington phone books in the early to mid-1950s. Russell Hundley owned the bar. Glenn "Bulldog" Wright was the manager in the mid-1950s prior to his purchase of the Woodland in 1975. The interest in the location by collectors is due to chips found that were thought to be from the club. But these are not attributed and not likely to be from there. A race book was run there, but no one has stepped forward to try to authenticate chips.

### Club Kenton, 432 Scott Street

The bar was listed in the Covington phone book from the mid-1940s until 1951, when it was listed as vacant. Chips have been authenticated, but not much is known about the operation.



### Golden Horseshoe, 1234 Madison Avenue

Little is known about the club except that it was raided in 1950 for operating a handbook and it was listed in the 1951 Covington phone book. Lawrence Brockmeier, an old bootlegger who was arrested in 1928 for selling beer, owned the building. This was a small bar with a handbook, not likely to have had formal gambling. There are chips thought by some to be from the club, but they have not been attributed and we do not feel they are from there.



### Kentucky Club, 627 Scott Street

The club operated from as early as 1943 until the mid-1950s when the contents were sold. Robert Sweetzer and Lee Burns were listed as the last owners, but were sued by the estates of Ping Carr and Jimmy Brink who alleged they were partners in the gambling operation. The suit was denied and the club's contents were sold for \$80,000. Chips from the club have been authenticated.





## Magnolia Hotel, 118 Pike Street

This location operated as the Magnolia Hotel from 1943 through 1954, then as the Holiday Hotel until 1966. Gambling was conducted at the Magnolia and chips have been attributed.



## Orr's Café, 1918-1920 Madison Avenue

One of the oldest locations still existing, Orr's was in operation since at least 1920 until 1948 when it was sold and renamed Kay's. In 1951, the name was changed to the Derby. It had several owners, and it remains the Derby, although it is for sale at this time. Like the Carrs, the Orrs ran several bars in the area, including Orr's Rural Rendezvous in Winston in the early 1940s. The Rural Rendezvous became the 44 Club from 1943 until 1956. A horse book was run out of the 44 Club.

Collectors have long sought chips from the Madison Avenue location. Just two years ago, some surfaced at a yard sale. Two different yellow chips have been found and there are rumors of red chips as well, but to date, they have not surfaced.



small gambling operation in a room behind the bar. The club was in operation from 1943 until 1966. Chips from the location have been authenticated.



## Rocket Club, 417 Scott Street

Several studies suggest that a Rocket Club was located at 2nd and York in Newport and a chip has been identified as being from there. Jeff Laudeman suggested that a Rocket Club was located at 417 Scott Street in Covington. We find no evidence of a Rocket Club at the Newport location from phone books beginning in the 1930s, news accounts, and interviews with several people that were active in the Northern Kentucky scene as early as the 1940s. The Covington location at 417 Scott Street is first listed as a restaurant, the Spencer/Porter Restaurant in 1945, then the as Times Café in 1948, the King of Clubs in 1954, and the 417 Bar in 1959. Some remember gambling at the joint and it is possible that the gambling room was known as the Rocket Club during the Times Café ownership. Based on what we know, the Rocket Club chip (black, "RC" inscription, small key mold) is listed as a UFC.

## Press Club, 607 Scott Street

Located in downtown Covington, the Press Club had a



### **Turf Club, 10 W. Southern**

The club was in operation from the late 1930s until 1966. Primarily a horse book, no chips have been found from the club.

### **Newport**

#### **Columbia Café, 101 4th Street**

Owned by Ed Connelly from 1942 through 1957, the joint was renamed the Columbia Café from 1959 through 1962. Connelly was busted on a prostitution charge in February, 1955. In April, 1956, Connelly was listed as the owner of the Stark Club at 633 Monmouth, perhaps as a front for Jim Harris.

#### **Haidi Club, 116 W. 4th Street**

This location was best remembered as the Haidi Club, a whore house run by Hattie Jackson who in November, 1956 testified that several County Commissioners were regulars at the joint. Earlier, in January, 1956, a raid at the same location listed Ray Bridewell as the owner. The club was called Ray's Place. The Bridewell Brothers operated several bust-outs including the 345 Club on Central and the Mecca and Kid Able clubs on Monmouth. Hattie Jackson first came on the scene in 1947 as a prostitute working for Vivian Schultz, the madam who ran the 316 Club.

#### **316 Club, 316 W. 4th Street**

The club was run by Taylor Farley. Farley was indicted on a gambling charge in February, 1948. In 1944, John "Boots" Taulbee was listed as the owner of the restaurant. Taulbee was in the news as early as 1929 for a murder charge involving a customer of Mary Jane Rohan, who ran whorehouses at 316 W. Southgate and at Taulbee's location on 4th Street. Taulbee also is listed as the owner of the Tin Shack at 309 W. 4th Street in 1949.

#### **Stark Club, 613 Monmouth Street**

Jim Harris opened the location as the Stark Club in the early 1940s and the joint had many names. Phone records and news accounts indicate the following names:

- 1949: An ad called the club the Stark Club.
- 1950: The Cincinnati Yellow Pages listed it as the Stark Club
- 1952-1953: The Newport phone book listed it as the Stark Club
- 1954-1955, and 1956-1957: The Newport phone book listed it as the Stork Club
- 1955 the Cincinnati Yellow Pages listed it as the Bongo Club
- 1958: The Newport phone book listed it as the Club Bongo

- 1959: One ad listed it as the Stardust, another as the Silver Slipper
- 1960: The Newport phone book listed it as the Silver Slipper
- 1961-1963: Ads listed it as the Frolic
- 1964-1965: Vacant
- 1966-1975: Listed as the Galaxie Club
- 1976-to date: Listed as the Brass Ass/Mule

Messick recalls visiting the club as the Stardust in 1958. We remember the club as being the Silver Slipper in 1959-1960. Of course, it's likely the name was fluid and as in other locations, the gambling part in the back may have operated under a separate name. Chips from the days of the Silver Slipper and the Stardust have been found in Newport, but it is our feeling that these chips were never used in play at the clubs. Under all of its various names, the 613 Monmouth bar was more of a strip joint than a gambling location and it is very unlikely that the small back room where poker was played had chips, particularly in the denominations found. This was a bust-out, cash joint. The chips were more likely to be advertising tokens, not chips used in games.



Interior of the Silver Slipper, 1959



Silver Slipper Chips





Stardust Chips

### Club Alexandria, 2124 Monmouth Street

In 1949, Art Dennert opened this club which featured floor shows and a large circular bar. The building had previously housed several other clubs including the Riviera Club in 1947 and the New Look Club in 1948. The New Look featured female impersonators. Dennert, who had previously been involved in the Flamingo in Newport, ran the club until 1952 when he was killed in an auto crash. The building was sold to the Farr family in 1954 and converted to a trade mart. During its short history as Club Alexandria, gambling was conducted and chips from the club are among the most sought-after collectables in the Northern Kentucky area.



### Dog Patch/Dog House, 2nd and York

The location of the Dog Patch has been listed at various addresses in Newport and Covington. Matches from the Dog Patch listing the address as Riverside Drive/Monmouth Street in Newport have been found. To make matters more confusing, matches from the Dog House have been found with the same address. We think the club was called both names, probably first the Dog House, then the Dog Patch. A May 1943 article about the Surf Club indicated that the Dog Patch was the previous name for the Surf Club at 2nd and York Street in Newport.

### Jockey Club, 604 W. Riverside Drive

The Jockey Club operated in Newport from the 1930s until the mid-1950s. Owned by Hallman "Shorty" Mincey, the club featured black jack and poker. Chips have been identified, but not authenticated.



### Kid Able/Monmouth Cigar, 941 Monmouth Street

Owned by the Bridewell brothers who also ran the Mecca Café, the joint was a small gambling operation with hookers working the bar. The front of the joint housed the Monmouth Cigar Store. The Bridewell operations included several bust-out joints including the 345 Club, the 202 Club and Ray's Café in addition to the Kid Able Club and the Mecca. Chips have been authenticated from the Kid Able Club.



### Mecca Café, 924 Monmouth Street

Owned by the Bridewell brothers, the Mecca operated in the 1950s across the street from the Kid Able Club. In the late 1940s the Carr Brothers place at 1916 in Covington was listed as Carr's Mecca Café. The chips from the Mecca are thought by some to be from Carr's, but several people interviewed remembered chips at the Mecca on Monmouth and that Bridewell's had chips across the street at the Kid Able Club. The truth may be elusive, but for now we are listing the chips from the Newport location.





### Ray's Café, 202 York Street

Another Bridewell joint, it was the William McDaniel Café from at least 1938 until 1952, when the name changed to Ray's Café. In 1955, the joint operated as the 202 Bar until it burned in 1957. Several mid 1950s arrests were made for having pinball machines. Sammy Eisner was listed as the manager during the raids. Eisner had a long record of gambling arrests and was married to the stripper Callie Blaine.

### Rocket Club, 2nd and York Street

See the description in the Covington section. It's another mystery that may never be solved except to restate that no written evidence has been uncovered that the Rocket existed in Newport and the chip thought by some to be from there has not been authenticated.

### Sandwich Shop, 609 Monmouth Street

This was a small joint located next to the Stark Club. Building records show that after being Leo's Auto Parts Store until 1965, a restaurant license was issued to a T & A Enterprise in the name of John Ahbrund. The location was listed as a billiard lounge in 1969 then the Sandwich Shop in 1970. The club was raided on August 26, 1969, and two craps tables, two card tables, five chip boxes, twenty-five decks of cards, two adding machines and four croupier sticks were confiscated. A fugitive warrant was initiated for Benjamin Sumpter who was thought to be running the joint, but he was not apprehended. Sumpter later ran porn shops in Northern Kentucky. After being listed as the Monmouth Street News in 1971-1972, the location was vacant after 1973. Chips from the Sandwich Shop have been authenticated. They appear to be the last chips made for the Northern Kentucky area.



### Stag Café, 225 E. Seventh Street

Located at 225 E. Seventh at Roberts Street, Clarence Peters owned the bar that was named after him from 1940 through 1957. In 1958, the name was changed to the Stag Café and remained as such until 1965. The bar had a book and may have had a small gambling operation.

### Tin Shack 309 W. 4th Street

Listed only in the 1948 phone book, the Tin Shack was owned by John "Boots" Taulbee, a longtime gambler and bar owner in Newport. A chip from the Tin Shack has been identified and while not totally authenticated is considered by most collectors as from the club.



### Walton

#### Woodland Inn, US Route 25

Located several miles south of Covington in Walton, the building housed a small gambling operation behind the restaurant. In 1975, Bulldog Wright purchased the restaurant and it remains in operation. Chips from the location are common. These would have been used prior to Wright's ownership and little is known about the gambling operation.



Woodland Inn





Woodland Inn Chips

## Newport Central Avenue Clubs

Central Avenue in Newport housed many bars, whore houses, gambling joints and even a few restaurants and was an area that catered primarily to Black patrons. Central Avenue started at the Ohio River, and was an area that often flooded. It also had the highest crime rate in the city. History is clouded about specific locations since joints moved, addresses changed and most buildings were nothing more than old frame structures that originally may have been private homes. In addition to written studies about the area, we have researched phone books, news articles, interviewed people who were there and used a 1940 street map located in the Kenton County Library. Our own experiences were limited to the timeframe just prior to the razing of the area as part of the Newport Housing Authority project in the late 1950s to early 1960s. The following locations have been identified for their significance in the history of gambling in the early Newport days.

**208 Central:** The frame structure was the home from 1942-1949 of Ray Bridewell, a local bar owner. There was no indication that the location housed gambling and/or prostitution.

**300 Central:** From 1954/55 to 1960, the location operated as the Central Café.

**310 Central:** The club operated as the Oscar Citron Restaurant from 1938/39-1949, then the Club Alibi in the early 1950s through 1958, and finally the Golden Lounge until the building was demolished in the early 1960s. This location was a key gambling location for Screw Andrews who gained control in 1952 from Oliver, "Bull" Payne and Melvin Clark. The joint "changed hands" when Melvin Clark shot Payne. Clark was convicted of carrying a concealed weapon and told to leave town. Later, in 1954, Clark came back to Newport and tried to reopen Coconut Grove at 5th and Patterson. Screw considered Clark a

threat to his numbers operation, so he shot and killed him in 1955 in an incident determined to be self-defense by the police.

Several local characters were listed as managers of the place, including Sammy Eisner in 1951 and Christie Matz, who ran the joint in the late 1950s while Screw was in jail for tax evasion. While the Golden Lounge, big name entertainment was offered including blues singer Charles Brown who, because of his gambling habit, worked almost as a servant to Screw who held his gambling chits.



**315 Central:** The building was the home of Oliver "Bull" Payne in the 1940s and was used as a barber shop.

**325 Central:** The location operated as the Congo Club in the mid 1950s, the Newport "office" of Albert "White Smitty" Schmidt, a prominent numbers operator and a rival of Screw Andrews. Perhaps due to the rivalry, the club burned in 1956. Arson was immediately suspected, but never proved. The joint was reopened as the Sidewalk Restaurant during 1959.

**327 Central:** Listed as the residence of Ellis Cork from 1938/39-1949, the location was of interest because Cork later owned the notorious Cork's Bar at 345 Central, described below.

**330 Central:** Probably the most prominent bar in the area, the location became the Sportsman's Club in the mid 1940s, operated by Steve Payne until 1948 when Payne was found murdered on a deserted road. The murder may have been orchestrated by Screw Andrews, but this was never proved. The property was titled to Irvine "Nig" Devine, an associate of Mike Coppola, boss of the East Harlem numbers racket who then passed it to Andrews.

Screw ran the club at this location until the building was demolished in the early 1960s. He then built a new club at 9 E. 4th Street in 1961. There have been several references to an original Sportsman's Club located in Southgate Alley. Research suggests that a club was operated at 208 W. Southgate Alley. As early as 1938, Bull Payne was listed as running a club/tailor shop with A.J. Mayo at that location. Bull was the youngest of the Payne brothers, all who had long rap sheets beginning in 1931, when they were held for murder. A.J. Mayo was no stranger to the law, having been arrested in 1932 for a drug bust at the Southgate location. Beginning in 1942, the location was listed as being owned by Steve Payne, Bull's brother. Located directly north of 330 Central Avenue, the location of the Sportsman's Club, by 1948 the Southgate Alley building was actually attached to 330 Central. It was in these buildings that the Sportsman's Club was born. Some collectors have claimed the Southgate location was once called the Royal Blue Palace, partially due to chips found stamped with RBP. The Royal Blue Palace does not show up in news accounts or phone books and no one interviewed remembered the joint with that name. It is possible that 208 W. Southgate operated as the Royal Blue Palace, but it would be most unlikely that chips were made for the joint since no other Payne/Clark/Andrews clubs had chips at all.

**333 Central:** The location was first operated under the name of the Robert Cottingham Restaurant in 1942, became the 333 Bar in 1949, then the Copa Club from 1954-1960. Cottingham, who lived at 339 Central and may have run gambling out of both locations, was arrested in 1931 when horse boards and slots were found there. Cottingham then moved his operation to 325 Central, which later became the site of the Club Congo. The 1939 floods in the Bottoms caused Cottingham to sell part of his gambling operation to Charlie Drahmman, an associate of Jimmy Brink. For the next several years they ran a suc-

cessful gambling joint at 333 Central. During the early 1950s the operation was taken over by the Payne/Clark group. In 1954 the club was named the Copa Club under the control of Screw Andrews. The Copa Club also featured name entertainment and gambling, catering primarily to the Black population until it was demolished in the early 1960s.

**339 Central:** The home of Robert Cottingham, the building was used as a gambling facility in the 1930s and may have provided a place to use when Cottingham's bar at 333 Central was raided. Cottingham died in 1949.

**344 Central:** Aaron Fogel operated a grocery store at the location. He was indicted several times over the years for gambling and liquor violations. He owned the building at

**325 Central** that burned in 1956 when known as "White Smitty" Schmidt's Congo Club.

**345 Central:** The bar was operated as the 345 Bar in 1952/53, then as Cork's (or Corky's) from 1954-1960, when it was torn down. As Corky's it was as notorious a bust-out joint as any in Newport. Hookers had rooms on the second floor and occasionally gambling was conducted. The Midwestern Bar, just up the street at 602 Central was a "knife and gun" club often thought to be as crooked as any, but Corky's left many broke and beaten during the late 1950s.

Little has been written about the Central Avenue area because the Syndicate stayed out of the area, except for what influence they may have indirectly had on Screw Andrews. These were small bust-out joints with relatively small takes and caused too much publicity to be worthwhile to the Syndicate. In their interest in being invisible to the public and because the clientele were primarily Black, the area didn't offer enough to be considered worth the effort to the mob.

The history of Northern Kentucky, particularly of Screw Andrews would be incomplete without this knowledge, however. Andrews, who started as a small-time bootlegger in Cincinnati became a major player in Newport and was perhaps the most colorful character in the region's history. His death in 1973 when he either fell or was pushed from a window at St. Luke Hospital in Fort Thomas, officially ended one era of Newport that influenced the lives of almost all who lived there.

### Reform Movement

Over the years, attempts to reform Northern Kentucky were ongoing but generally futile. Since the 1900s various groups and even a few local elected officials made







Screw gives an "attitude adjustment" to a photographer who stuck a camera in Screw's face.

attempts to shut down illegal activities, but there was not much support from the general populace because these activities brought money to the region. Local clergymen attempted to organize several times without much support from Catholic leaders, who were much more tolerant of gambling than their Protestant brothers.

In the early 1950s a group of ministers in Kenton County actually got some action that resulted in the closing of the Lookout House in 1952 and the Syndicate decided to keep the place closed for gambling as a concession to the reformers. The "reform" movement in Campbell County at that time was totally compromised when the Syndicate was able to get Red Masterson to head the Newport Civic Association (NCA) under the slogan of "Clean Up, Not Close Up." The NCA was a pawn of the Syndicate and after several circus-like raids in Newport, gambling continued through most of the 1950s.

In 1958 however, clergy in Newport helped organize a legit group called the Social Action Committee (SAC). After several unsuccessful attempts to get grand jury action in Campbell County, in 1960 a visiting judge dissolved the old grand jury, seated a new group and indicted several officials including the circuit judge, the county judge, the mayor and the police chief.

Formed in 1961 by local businessmen, the Committee of 500 convinced George Ratterman, a retired pro football player living in Fort Thomas to run for sheriff. Acting with the SAC, the Committee of 500 hoped to get more active support from Catholic members using Ratterman's college football career at Notre Dame as a ploy.

Tito Carinci, president and manager of the Tropicana, sitting next to Juanita Hodges, a.k.a. April Flowers, at the Ratterman trial.

There was a failed effort by Tito Carinci to drug Ratterman and place him in a hotel room with a stripper, the lovely April Flowers. Carinci had been running the Tropicana and used one of his dancers, Flowers as the setup. The scheme backfired when blood samples proved Ratterman had been drugged. Ratterman won election in November, 1961 and coupled with Robert Kennedy's new crime squad at the Justice Department, the Committee of 500 claimed victory and that they had "driven vice out of Newport."

In the aftermath, about the only losers may have been the people of Northern Kentucky that had to stay. As early as the mid 1950s, the Syndicate had realized the end was in sight in Northern Kentucky and the leaders had moved to Florida, Nevada, Arizona and Cuba to further their cause in these locations. The Syndicate had never wanted publicity and as the demographics of the country changed, Northern Kentucky was no longer needed to be the center of operation. As it became clear that serious trouble was on the way, the Syndicate and all those working for them that could do so, left town for Vegas, Miami, Havana, etc. Those who had to stay were in worse shape than when the Syndicate ran things.

Since the Committee of 500 and the SAC had no other agenda than running out the gamblers, the void was filled by strip joints, drug dens and a few bust-out gambling clubs and the area went into a thirty-year period of decay. It was not until the reforms of the early 1980s and the use of the land on the river began that the area started to rebound to where it is today.

In part due to the paralysis in local government in Cincinnati, the Newport Levy, Covington Landing and the refurbishing of adjacent properties have enabled Northern Kentucky to flourish. Should Cincinnati ever become a viable entity (not likely in the near future) there will be some sorting out necessary in Northern Kentucky.

The state of Kentucky, like most states without legalized gambling, (except horse racing) wrestle with how to





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Dear Casino Memorabilia Collectors:

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You for your support and encouragement over the last nine years. Unfortunately, I am not able to continue with the chip business and the website is now closed.

If you will be attending the Annual Convention at the Riviera, please stop by my table. I will have 1000's of chips available at great prices. And, with every qualifying purchase, you'll get a FREE spin on the Prize Wheel where you can win collectables, supplies, and more valued between \$5 and \$135. Stop by the booth for details.

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Thanks again, I had a great time "building your collection chip by chip from their table to yours!"

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# NASCAR at the Seminole Casinos

by Allan Anderson

In a joint effort, Chipco International, one of the leading gaming chip manufacturers in the US, Premiere Sports Alliances and Get-Etched, Inc, both motorsports industry marketing and licensing agencies, announced a unique gaming chip concept featuring NASCAR drivers. The launch of this nationwide program occurred at the Seminole Tribe of Florida's six Florida casinos, including Seminole Hard Rock Tampa.

This program will feature NASCAR drivers Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Clint Bowyer, Kasey Kahne, Jeff Burton and Dale Earnhardt, Sr. on gaming chips distributed and featured at casinos throughout the US. The program will generate interest for consumers and collectors alike and will focus on casinos surrounding race markets throughout the season.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa unveiled the first chips as the launch of a year-long promotion. Seminole Gaming will be promoting and featuring various quantities of \$5.00 chips throughout their casinos. Additionally, special poker table layouts have been created to further drive excitement and to promote the driver chips.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's Vicki Kuracka says, "Seminole Hard Rock Tampa was pleased to be the first casino to unveil this chip program featuring top NASCAR drivers. With motorsports interest in the State of Florida, this is a perfect partnership for us".

John Kendall, the President of CHIPCO International in Raymond, Maine stated that, "CHIPCO is proud to supply the Seminole Gaming Casinos with our premium ProTech Series gaming chips featuring images of some of the top NASCAR drivers. We believe these chips will be a hit in the gaming world".

Clint Bowyer, driver of the Richard Childress Racing #07 Jack Daniels Chevrolet said, "This is cool. I love to play poker and can't wait to see my chips in casinos around the country."

Richard Childress Racing's Director of Licensing Michael Brown states, "this is one of the best licensing concepts I've seen in some time. We believe this will be a hit with fans, collectors and sponsors, like Jack Daniels".

Quantities for the NASCAR series chips are as follows.

## **Hard Rock Tampa:**

Jeff Burton - 2,500, Clint Bowyer - 2,500,  
Kasey Kahne - 2,500, Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 2,500,  
Jimmie Johnson - 3,000, Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 3,000, Jeff Gordon - 3,000 and Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 3,500.

## **Hard Rock Hollywood**

Jeff Burton - 2,500, Clint Bowyer - 2,500,  
Kasey Kahne - 2,500, Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 2,500,  
Jimmie Johnson - 3,000, Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 3,000, Jeff Gordon - 3,000, Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 3,500.

## **Seminole Casino Hollywood**

Jeff Burton - 2,500, Clint Bowyer - 2,500,  
Kasey Kahne - 2,500, Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 2,500,  
Jimmie Johnson - 3,000, Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 3,000, Jeff Gordon - 3,000, Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 3,500

## **Seminole Casino Coconut Creek**

Jeff Burton - 500, Clint Bowyer - 500, Kasey Kahne - 500,  
Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 500, Jimmie Johnson - 600,  
Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 600, Jeff Gordon - 600,  
Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 700

## **Seminole Casino Immokalee**

Jeff Burton - 600, Clint Bowyer - 600, Kasey Kahne - 600,  
Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 600, Jimmie Johnson - 700  
Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 700, Jeff Gordon - 700,  
Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 900

## **Seminole Casino Brighton**

Jeff Burton - 500, Clint Bowyer - 500, Kasey Kahne - 500,  
Dale Earnhardt Sr. - 500, Jimmie Johnson - 600,  
Jimmie Johnson (Champion) - 600, Jeff Gordon - 600,  
Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 700

Artwork is identical for all properties.

I would like to thank Gina Araya, Public Relations & Advertising Coordinator, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, Ralph Smith, Chipco International and Daren G. Lucas, Premiere Sport Alliances for their help.





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## 2006 Riviera Convention Chip – \$5.00

## 2007 Poker/Blackjack Tournament Chip Set – \$15.00

(2 or more sets \$12.00 each)

Prior Year Sets Available - '01, '02, '04, 05, 06

2 or more sets \$12.00 each



## 2007 Convention Pin

\$5.00

Prior Year Pins Available 1997-2006

\$3.00 each

Set of all 11 Pins (including 2007)

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# CC&GTCC Museum Fund

by Andy Hughes

## Museum Fund Committee

The balance in the Museum Fund as of February 29, 2008 is \$108,753.12.

The Museum 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)  
Mike Skelton (Chairman)  
Bill Judge  
Mike Quinlivan  
Jim Kruse  
Wayne Thompson  
Eric Rosenblum  
Nate Pincus  
Chuck Tomarchio

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

Please mail a check out for the correct amount to:

Doug Smith  
Treasurer CC&GTCC  
P.O. Box 691085  
Houston, TX 77269-1085

Once the check arrives Doug will let the Museum Fund Committee know & the items will be mailed out.

**Nevada Casino Chips** had the chip below made up in April of 2007. 100 were made with engraved numbers & they are oversized (44MM) chips. ALL of the money raised from the sale of the chips goes to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$100 each.



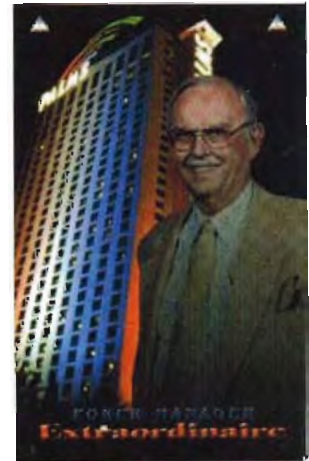
The NCV **Palms** chip below was given out one per person with a coupon at the 2002 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 850 made & the Palms graciously donated the remainder to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$10 each.



The chip below was designed by **Debby Meister** who had it made for the 2004 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 100 made. The price is \$20 each.



The room key below was made for Palms Poker Room Manager Gene Trimble. There were only 250 made. The price is \$10 each.



Trump Marina set of three non-gaming tokens (shown with the common back). The Trump Marina graciously donated the tokens to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$10 a set.



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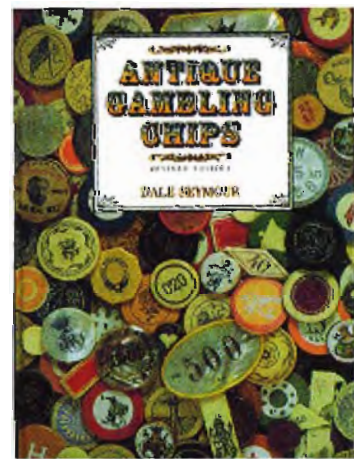
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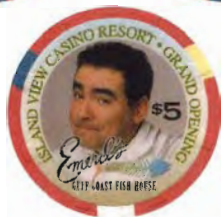


# RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Hello riverboat collectors!

It's been a busy year at the Island View Casino in Gulfport, MS. Here are the 2007 & 2008 Mardi Gras, 2007 & 2008 St. Patrick's Day, two different chips for their Emeril's Gulf Coast Fish House, a 2007 Halloween chip, a 2007 New Years chip and a 2008 Valentine's Day chip.



The Amelia Belle Casino in Amelia, LA opened on May 20, 2007 with the following chips.

This is also another instance where two molds were used to make the chips, resulting in some extra varieties. The \$1 and \$2.50 chips are known in both a version with LCV on both sides, and also a version with H&C on one side and LCV on the other. The \$5 and \$25 are only know

to be the combination H&C on one side and LCV on the other. If you know of any other varieties of these, please send me an email to [greg@chipguide.com](mailto:greg@chipguide.com).

Sometime during the first half of 2007, the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, IN came out with this new \$1 chip. I am not sure if they replaced all their \$1's, or just added these to the rack.

# Half-Price Hotel Rooms!

The club needs your help meeting the room-night quota placed on us by the convention hotel - the Riviera. Please consider sharing a room with another member if you are planning on staying elsewhere. Pay only \$45 per night sharing a room!

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Email Steve Margolis R-7695 at  
[casino\\_chips@comcast.net](mailto:casino_chips@comcast.net)

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**CASINO CHIPS**





Casino Queen in E. St. Louis, IL changed their rack in August 2007.



In late 2007, Majestic Star in Gary, IN put out this new \$5 chip.



Bayou Caddy's Jubilee Casino in Greenville, MS got a new Chipco rack in October of 2007.



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

# Doug Deems

R-3744

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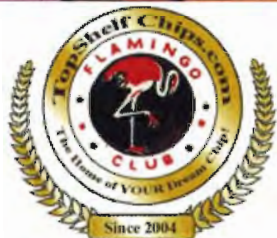
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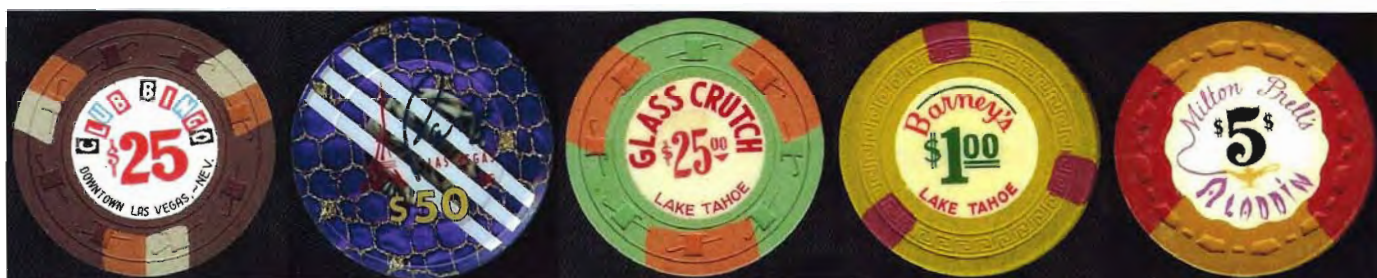
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# Collecting Puerto Rico Casino Chips

by Charles Kaplan

Like many Caribbean islands, Puerto Rico is a popular warm weather vacation destination. Just a short flight from Miami, Puerto Rico offers many advantages over neighboring islands. As a United States territory, English is taught to all school children and is widely spoken, although Spanish is the native language. No need to bring your currency conversion calculator, the U. S. dollar is used here. You can also leave your passport at home, but bring your electrical devices because they will work here without adapters. The standard Caribbean island fare of turquoise blue waters, friendly locals, interesting sight seeing, fantastic dining and great night life are all found in Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico is one of the largest islands in the Caribbean, about 110 miles long by 35 miles wide, but is the smallest in the Greater Antilles chain of islands that also includes Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola (the home to Haiti and the Dominican Republic). In 1898, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States in the treaty ending the Spanish-American War. Puerto Ricans became citizens of the United States in 1917, but do not vote for the President. On the other hand, they do not have to pay federal income taxes. There is ongoing debate over whether Puerto Rico should remain as a semiautonomous commonwealth of the United States, seek statehood or become an independent country. Sometimes the issue becomes a hot topic, but mostly Puerto Rico is a peaceful, quiet and safe place to vacation. Old San Juan, which was at one time not a safe place to visit after dark, is now becoming a hot spot. Located near the cruise ship terminals, many passengers are extending their vacations by staying in Old San Juan a day or two before or after their cruise. Magnificent old brick buildings trimmed with wrought iron are being restored to house art galleries, fine dining establishments and upscale retailers. Today, Old San Juan is the place to be, before or after dark.



Where you have great resorts and good night life you will probably find casinos. And Puerto Rico has great night life, lots of vacationers, and the most casinos in the Caribbean. There are two distinct periods in the history of casino gambling in Puerto Rico, the unregulated era prior to 1948 and the government regulated period that followed. In the pre-regulated era, Puerto Rico, like Miami, Galveston, Newport, New Orleans and other well known areas, had many, perhaps 20 to 30, illegal casinos. They operated much the same way in Puerto Rico as elsewhere: there was public demand for casinos, there were some enterprising entrepreneurs willing to take on the odds, and there was (sometimes negotiated) tolerance from local officials. Information about these clandestine operations is scarce and is beyond the scope of this article. The most highly sought after chips from Puerto Rico are from the pre-regulated era and include beautiful ivory and crest and seal chips.



With casinos sprouting up around the Caribbean in the late 1940's, mostly in Cuba, then Governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Munoz Marin, sought to establish a legitimate gaming industry on the island. On August 15, 1948, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico legalized casino gaming. The Hilton Corporation was brought in by the government to build the first hotel with a licensed casino. John Scarne, the note gambling expert, was the consultant used to design casino operations. In 1949 the Caribe Hilton opened. The Caribe Hilton was the first Hilton hotel built outside of the mainland United States and it was the first Hilton Hotel with a casino.



Since then about 50 casinos have been in operation, with about 20 open today. With over 50 licensed casinos, over 50 years, you can just imagine how many different casino chips were in use, thousands. An interesting fact about chips from Puerto Rico is that many casinos used chips with denominations for roulette. To keep wagers separate for each gambler, different color and insert combinations were used. You will find some casinos having ten or more different \$1, \$5 and sometimes \$25 chips in use at the same time. Here are a few of the many different \$1 chips that were used on the roulette tables at the El San Juan casino.



The main tourist area of San Juan is Condado. That is where you will find many hotels and casinos, among them Condado Plaza, Marriott, Ambassador Plaza and Diamond Palace. But casinos are also found in other locations around San Juan - Isle Verde, Carolina, and Old San Juan, and in other tourists spots around the island, including Dorado, Fajardo, Mayaguez, Humacao, and Ponce.



There are two catalogs of the chips from Puerto Rico. In 1999, Archie Black, the first President of the Casino Chip and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club, published "*Black's Catalog of Puerto Rico Casino Chips*". This first attempt at documenting the chips of Puerto Rico is excellent. Pictures, text descriptions and a price guide of most of the known chips at the time are included. Archie has since issued revised editions in 2005 and 2007, a sure sign that interest in collecting Puerto Rico chips is on the rise. After several years of considerable effort, CC&GTCC member George Davis published the catalog of the "Albert Rollins' Collection of Obsolete Casino Chips". Al Rollins recently passed away and



was a coin and casino chip dealer in Puerto Rico. He is responsible for most of the Puerto Rico chips that have found their way into our collections. Al's collection was second to none and well worth the view. George Davis still has some copies for sale.

### The Casinos at 1309 Ashford Avenue, Condado Beach, San Juan

Ashford Avenue is just one block off the beach and is the main drag in the Condado section of San Juan. I would like to take you through the history of one casino, located at 1309 Ashford Avenue. Over the years, the casino took on several different names with ownership changes. Some of the chips used at this location are among the hardest to find from the island and some are quite common. The Sheraton Hotel and Casino was in operation from 10/3/1963 until 1978. There are many classic chips from this hotel. My favorite is the red \$1 chip hot stamped with the Sheraton wreath logo. The high denomination chips from the Sheraton are particularly scarce and in great demand, but even the lower denomination chips are also highly sought after.



After the Sheraton closed, the hotel and casino reopened in 11/1978 as the Dupont Plaza. A tragic fire on New Year's Eve 1986 took 97 lives and left 147 injured. The fire also led to the closure of the hotel/casino. Chips from this casino are scarce. Sometimes they are found warped from the exposure to heat or with burn marks.



Plans were in place to reopen the hotel and casino as the Palms after an extensive renovation. A rack of Bud Jones chips were ordered, but the casino was never to open as they failed to get a gaming license. And, much like the Jockey Club or Sunrise casinos in Las Vegas, chips from this never open casino are available to collectors in plentiful supply.

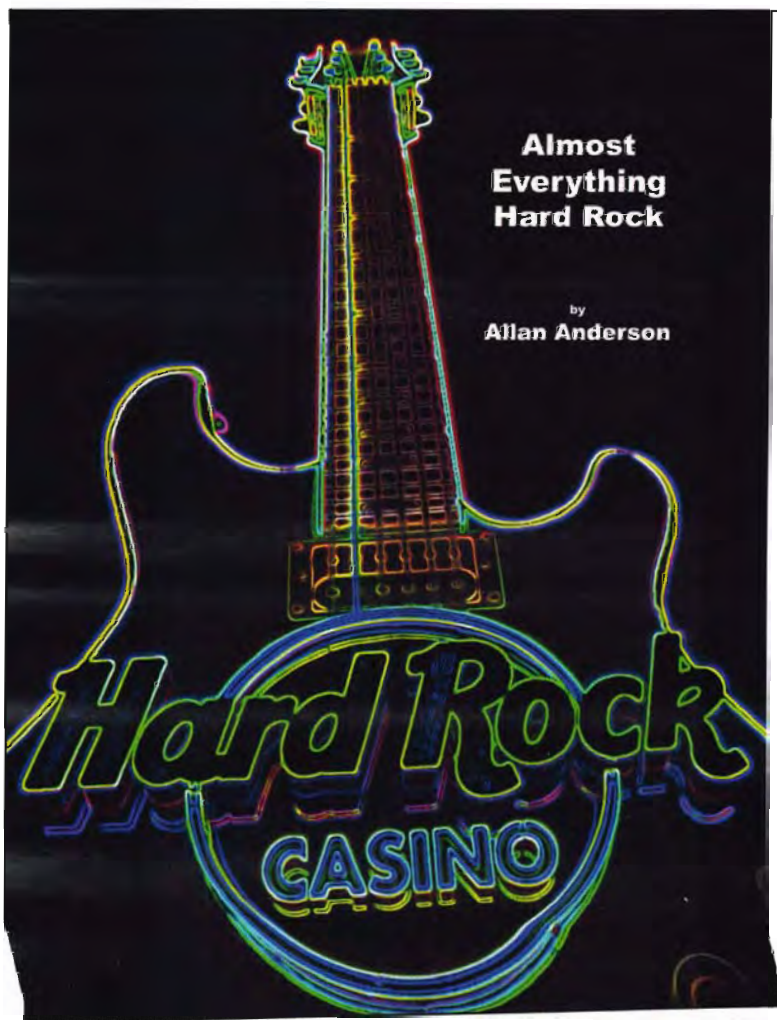


Eventually the hotel and casino did reopen and is today known as the San Juan Marriott.



There is some good news and some bad news concerning chips from Puerto Rico. As in many gaming jurisdictions, there are no regulations controlling what happens to chips when they are no longer in use, either because the casino closed or because the chips were replaced with a new rack. So, sometimes the chips are destroyed and sometimes they are sold off with the furniture and fixtures. That means that there are many chips from Puerto Rico casinos that are available to collectors at very reasonable prices. One can assemble a collection of over one hundred obsolete chips from Puerto Rico for around a \$1 or \$2 each. Several years ago there was a flood of these, mostly Bud Jones, chips into the hobby. They can be found from the Condado Beach, Palms, Ramada, and Quality Inn casinos. Chips from some of these casinos were recently auctioned on eBay in large quantities for home poker games. On the other hand, there are many more exotic and beautiful Puerto Rico chips that are scarce and difficult, if not impossible, to find. After Nevada and Atlantic City, rare Puerto Rico chips consistently bring in the highest premiums.

I hope to continue with additional articles about the casinos and chips from other Puerto Rico casinos. If you have any suggestions, I can be contacted on-line at [chas@ckaplan.com](mailto:chas@ckaplan.com). You can also see pictures of Puerto Rico casinos, chips, tokens and other casino collectibles online at the Caribbean ChipGuide, [www.caribbeanchipguide.com](http://www.caribbeanchipguide.com).



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# Don't Miss September's Chippers Cruise IV to Alaska!

by Dave and Debbie Harber

Imagine cruising through Alaska's untamed frontier this September alongside huge glaciers & spectacular scenery while watching for whales, bald eagles, wolves and grizzly bears with fellow chip collectors, dealers and CC&GTCC officers.

In 2004 we combined a three night and four night cruise to the Bahamas, Key West and Cozumel, Mexico. Two years ago we spend eight days/nights in the Western Caribbean visiting Panama, Costa Rica and Belize. Last year it was eight days/nights to the Mexican Riviera. All were fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone that went.

This year we think that Alaska will be the not-to-miss adventure that will top them all and you and your whole family are invited.

What's different about this years Carnival cruise is that with the previous three we have embarked and disembarked from the same port city. On this cruise we are departing from Anchorage, Alaska on Wednesday, September 3rd and leaving the ship in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on Wednesday the 10th.

Along the way we'll visit four ports and travel over 1,500 miles. The best thing about a cruise is that you unpack once and let the destinations come to you.

In their literature Carnival describes each port and highlight along the way as follows:

Anchorage is located at the upper end of Cook Inlet in the Gulf of Alaska and is our departure port. Anchorage is Alaska's largest community. This popular tourist destination and crossroads for global air travel is only minutes away from the recreational areas bordering the Gulf of Alaska. You may choose to arrive early and take the Grandview Cruise Train excursion which offers an incredible opportunity to view Anchorage's beautiful, pristine wilderness, including the Kenai Mountains.



Day two of our cruise finds us in Prince William Sound, located off the coast of Anchorage. This amazing body of water hosts the largest concentration of glaciers in Alaska, including the College Fjord, a series of glaciers named after elite Ivy League schools. Keep one eye on the shoreline while you cruise, as you just may spot otters, seals, bears, eagles and deer.

College Fjord was discovered during an 1899 expedition. Located in the northwest corner of Prince William Sound, College Fjord is surrounded by over a dozen glaciers, the largest of which is called Harvard Galcier. As you sail along enjoying the serenity and natural beauty of this destination, listen for the splash of glaciers calving into the water below.

Day three finds us in our first port, Sitka. Sitka is the only major city on Alaska's Baranof Island. It is the beneficiary of three distinct cultures: Tlingit Indian, Russian and American. You'll find relics of all three cultures throughout the area. With the spectacular natural beauty of Sitka Sound, its fascinating history, unique totem park and Mount Edgecomb - a dormant volcano which rises above the harbor - Sitka is definitely a treasure in the Alaskan wilderness.

Day four is another port day. Juneau, Alaska is considered by many to be the most beautiful capital city in the nation. Checking in at just a little over 3,100-square-miles, Juneau qualifies as the biggest American city - geographically, that is. The terrain is hilly and winding, and narrow streets present a small-town quaintness existing side-by-side with cosmopolitan sophistication. You'll find great shopping, fine restaurants and superb museums.

As your ship approaches Skagway on day five, you'll see the town resting peacefully at the base of a river valley bordered by the Coast Mountains. The mountains, ranging from 5,000- to 7,000-ft. in height, seem to rise straight up from the saltwater fjord. Once on land, the streets of Skagway draw you back over 100 years, when this idyllic native fishing village was overrun by hordes of prospectors. Today, wooden sidewalks, old-fashioned saloons, quaint gift shops and horse-drawn carriages serve as reminders of the Alaskan Gold Rush days.

After leaving Skagway we travel through the Lynn canal. Stretching nearly 100 miles through some of Alaska's most breathtaking scenery, Lynn Canal is the longest glacial fjord in North America. As you cruise through this regal landscape you'll be awed by hanging glaciers, towering waterfalls and majestic mountains.

Day six brings our last port day. A popular destination along Alaska's famed Inside Passage, Ketchikan is teeming with Native American culture. Home of the largest concentration of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people in the state, this extraordinarily beautiful city on Revillagigedo Island boasts the world's largest collection of totem poles, and an equally impressive selection of museums and cultural centers featuring Native dance, carvings and artifacts. Ketchikan's calm waters and surprisingly gentle climate make it a favorite of sports fishermen.

Our seventh day is one at sea, cruising Alaska's beautiful inside passage... mile after mile of beautiful scenery that you won't want to miss.

We disembark on day eight in Vancouver, a dream-like, mountain-ringed city blessed with a huge natural harbor that remains ice-free year-round. Wide open spaces, beautiful beaches, tall skyscrapers and an enchanting rainforest

all mingle together to create a most relaxed and stress-free setting. Most folks come here to get away from it all, and enjoy fantastic cuisine, world-class entertainment, and unlimited shopping opportunities.

Besides the two organized cocktail parties and our nightly dinners each chipper can pretty much do their own thing both on the ship and in the ports. With our round robin seating the dinners are a great time to tell each other about our days and get to know each other much better. On every cruise there are always stories of big wins in the onboard casino and loads of fun for the whole family doing everything there is to do aboard a Carnival "fun ship".

We've used the same agent for all four cruises and Captain Lou has always been able to get our cabins upgraded several classes and makes sure there are bon voyage gifts waiting for us in our cabin upon departure. He arranges two private cocktail parties for us, complimentary group photos and schedules a room for trading and getting together during our days at sea.

When you consider that your hotel, transportation, entertainment and all the food you could ever want are in one all inclusive price I'm not sure there is a better vacation value out there. If you have an interest in joining us and fellow like minded chip collectors, please visit our website at [ChippersCruise.com](http://ChippersCruise.com) or send us an email to [info@chipperscruise.com](mailto:info@chipperscruise.com) and we'll be happy to send you more details.

More than a vacation, Chippers Cruise IV will be a journey though America's last true frontier that will create wonderful moments and life long memories.

Don't miss the boat and join us!

Dave and Debbie

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South Tahoe Ngt: 7 Colors Plain R'lettes	\$129	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
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Red Coach (Silver Springs) \$1, \$5, \$10	\$45	Harold's Gun Club (HGCC) 10c & 50c	\$85
The Nugget \$25 Home of More Jackpots	\$950	Cal Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold Blue HS	\$99
Mr. C's (Reno) \$5 H&C 4-Brn 4-Purple	\$119	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$49
Eddie's Fabulous 50's: 5, 25, 100 NCV's	\$79	Palms-Playboy Video Set 5 - 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv	\$55
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ)	\$49	Treas Is: #10 Roul; 5 Diff; Never Opened	\$29
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# Candidates for the Position of Membership Officer



My name is Steve Bedo and I am running for the open CC&GTCC Membership Officer position. A little background for those that don't know me — I have been a member of the CC&GTCC since 2001, the same year that I attended my first club convention.

I became a Life Member three years after joining the CC&GTCC and have attended & enjoyed every convention since 2001. My personal chip collection interests don't extend much past the Las Vegas city or Clark County limits, my favorites being those old Las Vegas obsoletes. On the personal side, I reside in southern California, am married (about 20 years) with one daughter, Sarah (my pride & joy), future star of stage & screen.

I am running for the Membership Officer position because I'd like to step-up and give back to this club, the hobby and the people that I enjoy so much. I have volunteered at each convention since 2002 and have thoroughly enjoyed each experience, but am looking to contribute more. Although I am not thoroughly familiar with the duties and tasks of the Membership Officer, I have the skills and know-how to operate most Windows-based computer programs that may be necessary to maintain the membership roster and provide the necessary reporting. Our past Membership Officer, Ralph Myers (as well as the current club BoD members), have offered their help should the new Membership Officer need some assistance during the transition period. We're not talking rocket science here and if I can't figure it out, my 17 year old daughter is also there to help.

My job as the Membership Officer would obviously be to maintain & update the membership records and carry out the day-to-day responsibilities of the position, respond to member's questions & requests as they pertain to membership (including renewals, magazine issues, etc...) and bake every member a cake for their birthday (actually...scratch that last one as that would drastically

REDUCE our membership). My goal as the Membership Officer would be to work with the other members of the Board of Directors and the membership to develop new members and ways to increase membership, as well as ways to retain current members. We would all love to get more youth in this club, but if demographics prove that our target group is persons over 45 (people that have the time & cash to get involved in collecting), then we need to find ways to expand that group as well. Discussion is very important...between club members, between BoD members, between club members & the BoD. It has spawned some great ideas recently such as John Reynold's "Got Riv" raffle, Steve Margolis' idea for a "think tank", Doug Smith's "Newbie Tips". With creative thinking like this, I believe that our great club can flourish.

In closing, this position is not only about membership...it's about THE membership — ALL OF YOU!! It's about listening to the members & helping to put in place what it takes to make this club and hobby even more enjoyable. The Membership Officer needs to work with, as well as have the support of, the other Board of Director members because The Membership Officer position also carries with it the responsibility of being a voting member of the Board of Directors, a responsibility that I would take very seriously if elected. I am familiar with the current BoD members, like & respect them all, and I am certain that I will serve with them in an atmosphere of cooperation.

I am asking for you vote and for your support if elected. And if elected, I believe that I will be an excellent representative of the members of this club, as well as the spirit of this club. Thanks for your time...please vote and in the words of one of my "chipping heroes", keep **"Having Fun!!"**

Steve Bedo, LM-5259-111





Hello !! Some of you know me from the Chipboard. I have been a member for three years now and recently took on Life membership. I have been a Chip collector for nine years and have collecting Basketball cards, comic books and other items most of

my life. Casino chips by far has been the longest hobby that I have worked and It continues to fascinate me as much if not more than when I first began. I have met many great people in this club that have also helped to further my collection and knowledge in Casino Chips. I learned early on that this wasn't an ordinary club. There have been other clubs that I would join and quickly tire. I think people are what make this club great. I have received so much from our club and I would love to give back. That's why I nominated myself for the membership position that opened up recently when vacated by Sunday Silverman. I know that many of you do not know me and I invite any questions that you may have. Please feel free to email me at [sbhomes4you@gmail.com](mailto:sbhomes4you@gmail.com). Here is a little about myself. I live in Santa Barbara, California. Born and Raised fourth generation. I am 42 years old and a father or 2 Girls, Cameron 11 years and Ryann 13 years old. I am an Agent For Re Max Realty and work most weekends with clients but also work another job in the grocery business during the week for Health benefits and a steady check. I drive an American car and own my home.

I have been a "responsible" person my whole life and I have worked since I was 12 years old in a family owned business that was originally a hardware store that eventually relocated to another town and became a gas station that sold everything from hardware to hard liquor. I ran that business for about 11 years and learned the many highs and lows of running a business from payroll to hiring and firing. I left the family Business when I went through my Divorce. My wife at the time worked for Lucky, a grocery store and I enjoyed the fantastic health benefits that I was soon to lose and hence my journey to grocery to maintain those benefits. Since then I have worked at Home Depot where I was a Dept head of hardware and often was given the store keys and asked to be

MOD (manager on Duty) they saw my leadership skills as well as hardware experience. During this time I studied for my Real Estate License and passed the State Exam during a good but slow market. When I started selling I noticed things kept slowing down but thought they will improve and I will work harder. As we all know times kept tightening even more. I don't give up and I devoted 40 to 60 hours a week and I even left my Home Depot job to pursue Real Estate full time. When my refinance money started running short I knew what had to be done. I returned to grocery where I always flourished as someone willing to work harder than the rest to gain more hours and better shifts. Today I run the Receiving Dept and this is a spot that comes round once in a blue moon. It requires a lot of responsibility and only a select few are trusted by the store manager to run that position. I was able to earn this spot after my return in under 10 months and that's almost unheard of to have keys that quickly but I am known as honest, reliable and very hard working. I am telling you this for two reasons, 1, that many here that really don't know me and 2, to show you my work ethics that will extend to the membership position. I know this is a position of great responsibility and take it very seriously. I feel my life experiences make me a perfect candidate for the membership position. Real Estate has also taught me good people skills as well as using a computer to manage my business and time efficiently. I excel in communication and many consider me to be fair but strict in my values

If I am elected I will have time every afternoon to work on membership duties I work Monday thru Friday from 4 am until noon each day thus having the whole afternoon open for club work. I am readily available via Email or phone and will respond quickly to your questions/needs. I believe in running my duties in an organized manner but I also like to make tasks fun and would love to step up and help this club grow. I feel more than ready to fill this position and had in fact planned on running for it next time it came around. I am looking to fill the membership position for long term and feel any candidate should be prepared to stay in it for many years as there are club costs involved anytime that the spot changes hands. That will reduce any unnecessary expenses for us. I would appreciate that you consider me for this spot and vote for the person that you feel will be best for our club and best serve regardless of popularity or years with the club. Thank you for reading.

John S. Reynolds LM 6920-223

# 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



Please contact the Secretary for a copy of the logo with your membership number on it.



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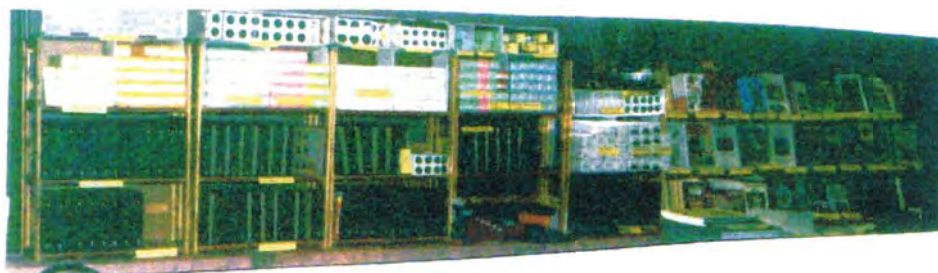
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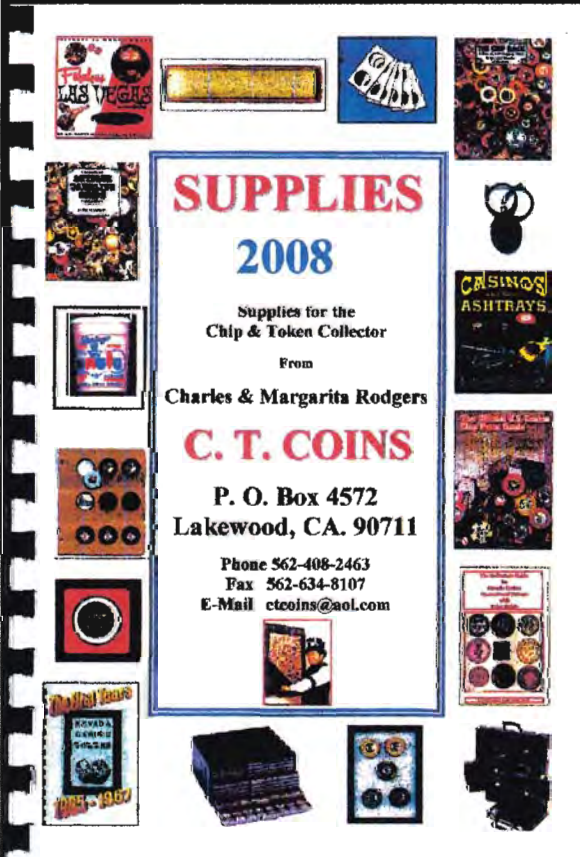
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