# asino Chip And Token News



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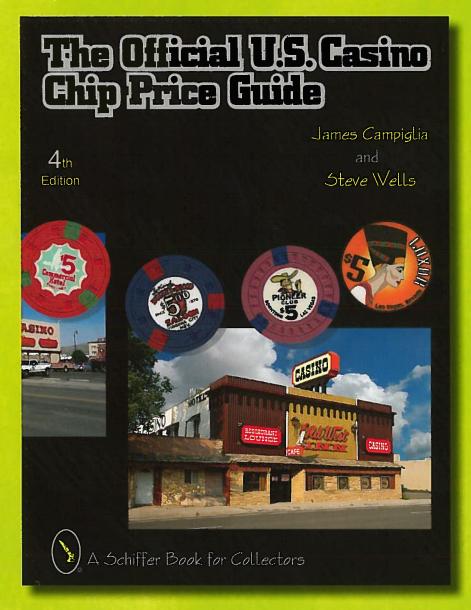
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#### **Casino Chip & Token News**

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

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

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#### **CC&GTCC** Membership Application

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My collect	ion interests are:	
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	☐ U.S.	☐ Foreign
□ Name	e you to publish m and address t publish my nam	
☐ Associ ☐ Life M ☐ First cl	ear \$30.00 ate \$5.00 ember \$450.00 ass postage \$14.0 n \$55.00 des first class post	
_	ailings are at the nailings are via 3rd	
in which the Check our expiration	ne membership a r address labels fo dates. Mail your	able in the same quarter application was processed, or your membership completed application rable to CC&GTCC to:
C		nbership Officer
	<b>Steve</b> 1215 E. Do Glendora,	alton Ave.
Sponsore	ed by:	



#### Casino Chip and Token News

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

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Assistant Editors Joe Shaw and Bob Orme

Advertising Charles T. Rodgers
Printing Palmer Printing

President Wayne Thompson

Vice President Jay Sands

Treasurer Doug Smith

Secretary Belinda Hixon

Membership Officer Steve Bedo

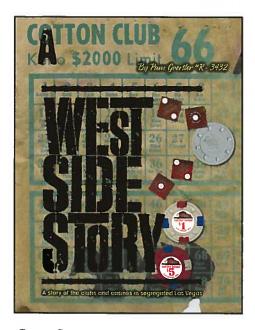
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Original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not represent those of The Casino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

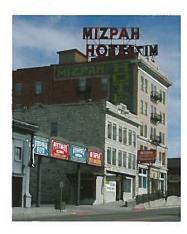
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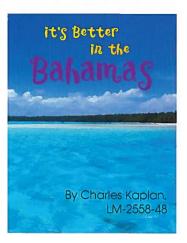
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Country Date of Birth
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Signature of Cardholder (Required)
Dues
• Regular (age 23-64) \$36 International \$48*
• Junior (age 22 or younger) \$20
• Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$31 International \$43*
• Club \$36 • Life \$1,000
• Senior Life \$750
* US Funds
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818 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

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Tume		
Address	and all	
City		
State	Zip	Country
Phone Number		<u></u>
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☐ One ye		
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☐ Life M	ember \$450.00	
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- When ordering items from one of our advertisers, let them know what issue of the magazine in which you noticed their ad.
- All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to "The Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc." or CC&GTCC. No ad will run without payment

#### Schedule of Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

Winter Issue January, February, March Mailing Date: February Deadline for Ads: January 1st

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

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

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

#### Moving?

Don't forget to let our Membership Officer know your new address. Contact:

Steve Bedo 1215 E. Dalton Ave. Glendora, CA 91741

#### Rates

Advertising rates for members are available by emailing the advertising manager at advertising@ccgtcc.com

# The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. Wants you to advertise in your quarterly magazine for FREE This coupon is worth one FREE one-inch ad in Casino Chip & Token News Deadline for ads are March 1st for 2nd qtr. issue June 1st for 3rd qtr. issue Sept. 1st for 4th qtr. issue Dec. 1st for 1st qtr. issue Send all ads to the following: Charles T. Rodgers, AdvertIsing Manager P.O. Box 4572 – Lakewood, CA 90711 Need help call 562-408-2463 or E-Mail advertising@ccgtcc.com Coupon is not good as a discount on any other ad. Must be used for one-inch ad, one time only. Expires one year from date



Todd Barrett Editor

#### Letter from the Editor

Welcome to Volume 21 - Issue 4 of the Casino Chip and Token News. Those numbers probably don't mean much at first glance, but it is the first issue in nine years without Allan Anderson as Editor. After nine years of perfecting this magazine and its content Allan has decided to step down and concentrate on the online version of the CCTN.

When I first heard that Allan was "retiring" as Editor, I thought "that would be a lot of fun to work on, but it is such a great magazine, if anybody screws it up there will be hell to pay!" Fast forward to the 16th Annual CC&GTCC Convention in June of 2008. All pumped up about the show and excited to see my friends once again, I sat down at "The Splashbar" to get the convention started with a few libations and a little video poker. Before I could even put \$20 into the video poker machine I somehow agreed to take over as Editor of the CCTN. Maybe it was the excitement of the first day of the convention, maybe it was seeing all the smiling faces, hand shakes, hugs and friendly waves hello that had me in a great mood. Maybe it was the steady stream of drinks that Mike Quinlivan and Allan had coming my way that finally made me decide. But in any case here I am, your new editor for an undetermined amount of time.

In all seriousness one of the reasons that helped me decide to accept the position is all the club members that have agreed to step up and help me with the tall task of maintaining the level of quality of this magazine. Joe Shaw has agreed to stay on and help with assistant editorial duties. Sam Wagmeister offered his assistance, Bob Orme has agreed to help, Debra Meister offered her exceptional graphic design services. And Allan himself has agreed to help me get off to a good start and will continue to contribute as a writer/researcher. With all of the help offered I felt like I would not disappoint the club members and continue to offer a high quality product.

I have some plans that I hope the club members will like. One such idea is to re-run some of the articles from years past. We should be informing our newest club members about some of the important moments in our past. The article I selected to start with is on page 62. I think you will agree that this is a moment in our club's history that should never be forgotten.

Lastly, I would like to again thank my fellow club members. Keep the articles, stories and ideas coming. Without you, our magazine would be rather thin. To Allan, thanks for all your help and guidance; it's your magazine, I'll just be typing for a while.

Todd Barrett #5068-91



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Wayne Thompson
President

## President's Letter

As we head towards the Holidays the Board has been working on a multitude of projects. Some of the news is good and some of it should be a concern to all of us.

One of the most exciting things is our new home for the 2009 Convention. After discussions with five different casinos we were able to get a favorable deal with a great property, South Point. The hotel is two years old, has a great exhibit hall, 12-screen movie theatre, 24 hour bowling center, 10 restaurants, showroom, equestrian center, large casino, poker room, sports book, and 42" plasma TV's in every room. I'm sure our new Convention Chairs will give more details elsewhere in the magazine. Which brings me to another piece of good news. I am very grateful to Jim & Sandi Steffner for stepping up and agreeing to take over as 2009 Convention Chairs.

Since this is his first issue I want to say thanks to Todd for taking on the job as Editor. He has a tough act to follow but we are confident that he will be more than equal to the task.

It's time to start the process for the 2009 election. As always we are fortunate to have Bruce & MaryAnne Massey as our Election Chairs. I want to encourage anyone who has considered running for office to step up. While a Board of Directors position involves a real time commitment, the Club is always in need of new ideas and volunteers. I hope everyone will give thought to running.

Now we need to deal with a little more sobering news. Our membership numbers are down substantially. I think this is the same problem a lot of organizations such as ours are facing. A lot of it has to do with the economy. With the lower numbers obviously our dues revenue is down and a smaller run on the magazine costs us more per issue. The Board is looking at a variety options to

increase revenue or reduce expenses. Some of the options we are going to have to consider, among others are: How can we do a better job of recruiting new members and retaining existing members? Do we have a need to raise dues? Should we lower the quality (color and number of pages) of the magazine, or reduce the magazine to three issues a year? The Board is taking this revenue issue very seriously, because it can have a serious effect on the future of the Club. We'll provide more specific details in the next issue after we have a chance to properly address the issue.

One other issue that we have had to address is the current situation with bank failures. We have taken steps to insure our money, including the Museum fund are in more than one bank so we are insured by the FDIC on all monies.

I want to thank the membership for the support they have given the Board. As always we welcome your comments and suggestions. And again I want to encourage everyone to consider running for one of the Board positions in the upcoming election.

Wayne Thompson HLM-2733 President CC&GTCC



#### 6th Annual Super Collectables Show

Friday, January 30th, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, January 31st, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 good for both days



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Doug Smith Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report

The information contained in this report reflects costs and expenditures for the period of 07/01/08 thru 09/30/08. Fortunately for me the Treasurers activity has slowed down a bit as most of the convention activities fell into last quarter's time frame.

#### Highlights of the Third Quarter of 2008 (07/01/08 - 09/30/08):

- Reconciled and paid all invoices for the 2008 Convention
- Worked with the BOD & Magazine Editors to try and reduce Magazine costs
- Worked with the BOD & Promotions chair to discuss cost savings for club promotional merchandise.
- Updated and renewed insurance for both Fidelity Bond and D&O liability policies.
- Renewed 3 year membership in the ANA
- Initiated a "Question of the day" on the Chipboard.com to gather ideas on improving the club and furthering the hobby.

#### **Club Accounts**

The current balances as of 09/30/08 in the new CC&GTCC accounts are as follows:

Museum Fund Money Market	\$108,603.34
Life Membership Fund Money Market	\$57,769.19
General Fund Money Market	\$14,503.91
General Fund Business Checking	\$16,367.46
Total of all four accounts	\$197,243.90

The above totals do not reflect checks written in the amount of \$11,951.18 for payments that have not yet cleared and deposits in the amount of \$2,314.10 that were made after the 09/30/08 date. Obviously the totals for the year show a large decline from the last report because of the bulk portion of the convention expenses paid during this past quarter. There is also a much larger Net Income loss for the period which accounts for a drop in the Museum Fund Accounts due to the workshop expenses as well as lower revenues and higher convention expenses. The BOD is actively in discussions about increasing revenues as well as cutting expenses in order to improve our finances.

#### The Museum Fund

The total amount currently in the Museum fund as stated above is now \$108,603.34. During this past quarter \$871 in new donations were added as outlined below. There has been an additional donation of \$322 that has not yet been accounted for as it fell after the report date.

A summary of donations for the Museum Fund this past quarter is as follows:

Travis Lewin (Portion of convention sales)	\$115
CC&GTCC of Southern Cal	
(In the name of Mike Heron)	\$100
Ted Phillips (Chip Auction)	\$35
Christine and Sheldon Smith	\$100
Walter Diebler (Chip purchase)	\$28
Sales of Carlos Cartagena	
Signed Prints and Chips	\$493

There were also several expenses this period associated with the Museum Fund totaling \$2,474 for fees associated with our advisor, Sandra Harris who continues to move us in the right direction to make our dream of a CC&GTCC Museum into a reality. As always, I would like to once again thank everyone who has donated and supported this great project in the past and continues to do so.

#### Online Renewals & Pre-registration

During this past quarter we have had a total of \$4,722 in transactions thru the website for payments on Membership, and Convention pre-registration activities. Only Membership functions are currently available with the convention now concluded.

#### Period Revenue (Thru 09/30/08)

The following monies were collected during the period of 07/01/08 thru 09/30/08.

Membership Renewals	\$12,255
Auction Proceeds	\$2,457
Magazine Advertising	\$2,427
Interest Income	\$1,423
Promotion Sales	\$950
Museum Fund Donations	\$871
Program Advertising	\$455
Misc.	\$200
Dealer Table Fees	\$90
Registration Fees (Refunds & Incentive)	<\$670>
Total Period Revenue	\$20,458

#### Period Expenses (Thru 09/30/08)

The following expenses paid during the period of 07/01/08 thru 09/30/08.

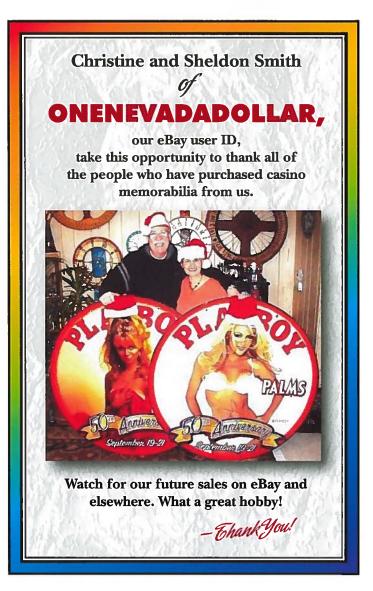
Convention billing from the Riviera	\$38,759
Misc Convention Expenses	\$8,388
Convention Security	\$3,854
CCTN Printing & Postage	\$2,990
Museum Committee Workshop	\$2,474
Convention awards	\$1,296
Insurance	\$1,253
Books for Volunteer Appreciation	\$1,200
Membership Pins	\$1,170
Membership Cards	\$1,148
Storage Fees	\$852
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$790
Convention Truck Rental	\$685
Misc Postage costs	\$528
Advertising	\$496
Meeting Costs (Pre-Convention)	\$255
ANA Membership Renewal	\$99
Telephone Charges	\$80
Wire transfer Fees	\$76
Misc Promotional Item Costs	\$52
Misc Supplies	\$37
Total Period Expenses	\$66,482

#### Period Account Balance Reconciliation (Thru 09/30/08)

Total balance in all accounts as of 06/30/08	\$243,003
Revenue for the Period thru 09/30/08	\$20,458
Expenses for the Period thru 09/30/08	(\$66,482)
Repayment of Advances	\$265

Balance of all accounts as of 09/30/08 \$197,244

Thank you once again to all that helped support the club and the Convention and I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention 2009.



#### THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB INC. Income & Expense/Equity Statement (Cash Basis) January 1 Thru September 30, 2008

INCOME Membership Dues (Includes 1st class postage & Life Members	ships)	\$	49,799
Convention 2008:		•	,
Table Fees	\$ 30,383		
Registration	\$ 11,127		
Auction Proceeds	\$ 8,609		
Banquet	\$ 7,840		
Program Advertising	\$ 2,345		
Poker & Blackjack Tournaments Convention 2008 Total:	\$ -	\$	60,304
Convention 2000 Total.		φ	00,304
Museum Fund Donations		\$	10,403
Promotion Sales		\$	7,840
Magazine Advertising		\$	4,377
Interest Income		\$	3,289
Sales Tax (To be paid later)		\$	1,814
Misc		\$	342
Directory Sales		<u>\$</u> \$	-
Total Income :			138,168
EVDENDITUBES			
EXPENDITURES Convention 2008 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales)		\$	58,503
Magazine		\$	45,799
Museum Committee Workshop		\$	8,752
Promotion		\$	8,046
Meetings		\$	6,631
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$	5,295
Printing		\$	4,166
Video Production (Convention/Seminars)		\$	4,131
Bank Charges		\$	2,155
Supplies		\$	2,113
Museum Fund Expenses		\$	1,723
Storage (Occupancy)		\$	1,704
Insurance		\$	1,636
Membership Pins		\$	1,170
Membership Cards		\$	1,148 578
Meetings (2007) Website		\$ \$	677
Miscellaneous		\$	644
Advertising		\$	496
Telephone		\$	372
Filing Fees		\$	249
Total Expenditures :		\$	155,988
Net Income - 01/01/08 to 09/30/08		\$	(17,820)
Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/08		\$	239,058
Net Income - 01/01/08 to 09/30/08		\$	(17,820)
Change In Inventory - 01/01/08 to 09/30/08		\$	(1,005)
Ending Equity Balance - 09/30/08		\$	220,233
Detail of Equity Balance - 09/30/08			
General Fund - Checking	\$ 16,367		
General Fund - Money Market	\$ 14,504		
Museum Fund (Formally Building Fund)	\$ 108,603		
Life Membership Fund	\$ 57,769		
Total Cash Available		\$	197,243
Inventory		\$	22,790
Advance (Membership Officer / Promotions)		\$	200
Ending Equity Balance - 09/30/08			220,233
Respectfully Submitted, Douglas P. Smith - Treasurer October 16, 2008			

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Belinda Hixon Secretary

#### Secretary's Report

#### Greetings!

Elections are upon us; no, not the national elections but those for the Board of Directors of the CC&GTCC. The start of the process is included in this issue of the magazine – the Nominations form. Any member (Life, Regular, Associate) in good standing is eligible to run for office. Please note that in order to have a name placed on the ballot, there must be at least two nominations. Also please note that for this election only the Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Office will be elected for a one year term as we implement the "staggered term" amendment that was approved by the membership last year. The President and Secretary will serve a two year term.

Thanks to Mary Ann and Bruce Massey for acting as Election Chairpersons during this process.

The BoD continues to work on day to day business of the Club. Growing and retaining the membership continues to be a concern and we're also working on website additions/design.

10 year membership pins have been mailed. If you haven't received yours please let me know.

As always, if you have comments /suggestions, please contact any BoD member.

Happy Collecting! Belinda

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

Dan Eagen - LM 3768-144

Stan Steele - R 3780

Doug Cundiff - LM 3782-71

David Peters - R 3784

John Haines - R 3792

David Ruffell - R 3795

Thomas Katahira - R 3800

Ralph Bjornson - R 3802

John Yee - LM 3809-209

Debbie Kling - R 3821

Richard Staeffler - R 3828

Paul Smith - R 3829

Ron Kirzner- R 3835

John Ryan - R 3837

David Smith - R 3839

Wade Mickelson - R 3842

Peter Nathan - R 3844

Judy Pollack - LM 3848-75

Monty McCormick - R 3860

Charles Sholan - R 3866

Luke Rapley - LM 3867-175

Jim Follis - LM 3872-53

Bernard Agius - R 3879

Gene Bertcher - R 3880

Harry Sommer - R 3894

Thomas Casey - R 3904

Jane Corley - R 3934

Thomas Casey - R 3904

John Tavena - R 3913

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#### Of Literary Note

by the Club Librarian, John K. Kallman P.O. Box 122 Sartell, MN 56377 librarian@ccgtcc.com

Summer is winding its way down with the first signs of fall in the air by the time you read this. Perhaps things slow down a little in summer, or maybe it is the inevitable "hangover" following the club's annual convention, but whatever the case, things have been somewhat on the slow side. While most authors await the annual convention to release their new or revised editions, as this is when the market is best, most disappointing is the decrease in the number of members borrowing items! The library is one of those "hidden" benefits of the club that most members do not seem to use with great frequency! Your only cost is returned (return) postage and insurance. So as you settle in for another long winter of watching a simulated fire playing on your television screen, perhaps you should while away the time by reading a book or two!

Donations of note this time around include:

#### The Casino Chips of Oregon (And Idaho)

by Steve Goodrich. This is his Northwest Series Volume 3-1 and completes the series for this part of the country. Next I guess is for him to start on updates!

Bill Holman was kind enough to donate a copy of the **11th Annual Convention program**, along with copies 1-1 through 20-3 of the clubs quarterly magazine.

Tom Stroh donated a copy of his Cheques, Chips and Tokens of the Playboy Casinos, 5th Edition.

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**Steve Bedo Membership Officer** 

## Membership Officer's Report

Greeting from the Membership Office and Happy Fall & Winter to you all (I'm always happy to see summer go...)!! A final update on the Orange "Come Back" Reminder cards that were sent out to past members that had not renewed over the past 18 moths or so – we sent out over 400 cards and received 180 positive renewals from "lost" members. This same type of campaign will be continued in the future, with reminder cards being sent those members whose memberships have expired within the past year.

As for new members, since our last report we have added seventy-two new regular members to the Club's ranks and seven associate members. We welcome all you new members and we welcome back all of those past members that have returned. A note of apology to some of you out there – one of my duties is to send out "Thank You" chips to those that have referred new members to the CC&GTCC... well, I had been a bit remiss in my duties but hopefully you have received your chip(s) by the time that you receive this latest edition of the CCTN. (My thanks to Ralph Myers for this reminder as well as for his continuing help these past months).

Bringing in new members (as well as keeping our existing ones) is so important to our club, and we would like to thank all of you that have spread the word about the CC&GTCC and have brought in new members. The Board of Directors is actively looking for ways to improve membership & increase membership value. With the help of a couple extremely helpful members, the club is looking towards casinos, poker rooms, restaurants & hotels as possible participants in a coupon / discount program that would definitely add greater value to being a member of the CC&GTCC. We are still looking for more suggestions and new ideas, so if you have any ideas or

suggestions, please forward them to me at membership@ccgtcc.com. Please note that these things take time, so your patience is appreciated.

Our Membership Committee will be present at the Super Show at Alexis Park in Las Vegas Super Bowl weekend. Try to attend & support your fellow members and your club by attending and bringing along someone new.

The 2009 convention has been booked at the South Point Hotel & Casino for June 24th through the 27th. I am looking forward to this as it is a new hotel with great rooms (yes, I've already stayed there), a big casino, lots of great restaurants and some great amenities like a movie theatre and bowling alleys (hmmmm... do I smell a bowling tournament challenge??). A big "Thank You" to Wayne Thompson for his tireless effort in getting us a great facility (for both convention goers and dealers) for our next convention.

In closing, I want to remind you how important it is to renew on-time. In order to help keep costs in check, we have drastically reduced the number of "extra" CCTN issues that we get from the printer. That means that if you didn't renew & we've run out of "extra" CCTNs, you will still get your four copies, but one of them won't be the one you just missed. Renew early!!

One more thing... congratulations & thanks to Todd Barrett on his first edition of the CCTN!!

Happy Chipping & in the words of one of my all-time favorite people, keep "HAVING FUN"!!

Sincerely, Steve B

#### **New Members**

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7871	Murray	John	NY	Syracuse	Club Website
7872	Merlo	John	CA	Westminster	Jim Follis
7874	Lafaille	Leon	CA	Modesto	Magazine
7874-A	Lafaille	Patricia	CA	Modesto	Magazine
7875	Hanson	Tom	WA	Bellevue	Former Member
7876	Cohon	Scott	FL	Boca Raton	Archie Black
7877	Goldberg	J. Alan	CA	Poway	Sunday Silverman
7878	Kan	Stanley	CA	San Jose	Archie Black
7878-A	Kan	Terri	CA	San Jose	Archie Black
7879	Walker	Donna	IL	Niles	Archie Black
7880	Athay	Randy	AZ	Lake Havasu City	Archie Black
7881	Pait	David	SC	Simpsonville	Archie Black
7882	Archer	Kathy	CA	Chino	Archie Black
7883	Mah	Steve	CA	Pleasant Hill	Archie Black
7884	Leonardo	Jerry	FL	Sebastian	Michael Downey
7887	Freiermuth	Mark A.	NJ	Atco	Ron Leis
7888	Cooney	Shaun	NJ	Trenton	Ron Leis
7889	Trevett	David	NJ	Port Monmouth	Roll Leis
7891	Stoddard	Jo Ann	NY	Homer	
7891-A	Trapper	Suzanne	NY	Homer	To Amno Staddand
7891-A 7894	Hassler	Chris			Jo Anne Stoddard
7895			PA	Akron	Larry Taylor
	Winkelman	Ben	MN	Saint Paul	John Reynolds
7896	Ebbert	Kenneth	PA	Gibsonia	Ralph Myers
7897	Trosper	Ray	TX	Sidney	
7899	Chipman	Mark	IN	Indianapolis	Former Member
7899-A	Chipman	Brett	IN	Indianapolis	Member's son
7900	Fields	James	PA	Bensalem	Archie Black
7901	Clarke	David	MS	Jackson	Gene Trimble
7902	Mier	Mike	NV	Las Vegas	Michael Downey
7903	Koivisto	Rich	MN	Duluth	John Reynolds
7904	Hickle	James	IN	Pittsboro	Larry Taylor
7906	Leed	Shelbie	PA	Washington Boro	Fred Hempel
7907	Mc Ginniss	Jimmy	MS	Ocean Springs	Club Website
7908	Knight	Phyllis	CA	Santa Clarita	Gene Trimble
7910	Hawkins	Kim	TX	Lamesa	
7912	Gore	John	CA	Alpine	Club Website
7912-A	Gore	Penny	CA	Alpine	Club Website
7914	Casey	Kevin	TX	Addison	Club Website
7915	Schmitt	William	IL	Tilton	Club Website
7916	David	Robert J.	LA	New Orleans	Club Website
7917	Pellettieri	Dante	AZ	Gilbert	
7918	Zidek	Jeff	PA	Latrobe	Club Website
7919	Whitaker	Ronnie	NC	Raleigh	Club Website
7920	Sherman	Rita	TX	Kemah	CT Rodgers
7921	Walker	Don	FL	The Villages	Club Website
7922	Albright	Tony	TX	Kenedy	
7922-A	Albright	Tammy	TX	Kenedy	
7924	Moe	Al W.	AZ	Scottsdale	Former Member
7925	Goldberg	Jay	MN	Edina	Club Website

Member	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7926	Todd	Mike	NJ	Wharton	Archie Black
7927	Seaney	David A.	IN	Indianapolis	Sheldon Smith
7930	Gregory	Wayne	TX	Friendswood	Club Website
7931	Jarashow	David	NJ	Morganville	Marty Kaplan
7932	Smith	Brad	OH	Marion	Former Member
7933	Boyko	Matthew	CA	San Francisco	Former Member
7934	Siviy	Mike	PA	Pittsburgh	Ron Leis
7935	Maloof	George	NV	Las Vegas	Gene Trimble
7937	Hambright III	Richard	PA	Mechanicsburg	Club Website
7938	Trimble	James A.	IL	Willowbrook	Club Website
7940	Foster	William H.	NV	Las Vegas	Club Website
7941	Kaczor	Olaf	Germany	Bremerton	Club Website
7942	Kay	Bruce	NJ	Flemington	Club Website
7943	McCann	Dennis	CA	San Diego	Club Website

## Message from the Auction Chairman David Spragg



The 2009 Bruce Landau Memorial Auction will be held during the convention, at the South Point Hotel & Casino, on Friday 26th June 2009.

This year, due to various constraints, I had to limit the number of consignors and unfortunately a number of regular consignors from the past that I was unaware of, did not get the opportunity

to put material into the auction. For 2009, to some degree, I would like to think "normal service will be resumed".

I still plan to maintain some of the successful changes which were implemented this year. The auction will be limited to a maximum of 200 lots (including donated lots), of which a small number will be sold by silent auction during the first two days of the convention. There will be no lots auctioned during the banquet next year.

Again, I want to be selective in the material for the auction this year, and be confident we will be offering 200 lots of the highest quality. Consequently there will be a minimum bid of \$50 on any item, and reserves may be set for lots valued at \$500 and up. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged from this year and are available to view in full on the club website or via email.

You may consign lots (subject to the standard 10% sellers commission, which will be waived in the event of a consignor buying back a lot -10% buyers premium is still payable) and/or you can donate lots where the club retains the proceeds. This year several club members graciously donated some valuable lots which helped make the auction a great success.

There will be no printed consignment form. Instead, I invite would be consignors to contact me (preferably by email) to determine suitability of lots. Smaller items are preferable but I am happy to consider anything gaming related which has a reasonable chance of selling. Please do not send anything without contacting me first.

I plan to have the auction catalog available approx 6 weeks in advance (i.e. early May). It will also be made available online for anyone wishing to view, download or print as soon as it is completed. Consequently, the latest date that anyone can contact me to consign lots will be January 31st, 2009.

Please use auction@ccgtcc.com to contact me. If you need to contact me by mail, please write to:

David Spragg 840 S. Rancho Dr #4314 Las Vegas, NV 89106

or, if you have no other means of contact, leave me a message via Gene Trimble (702 683 6729) and I will contact you.

I will make a further progress announcement in the next magazine.

#### Call for Hall of Fame Recommendations for 2009

Membership in the Hall of Fame is the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club's highest honor. Each year, several members are considered for inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Members are selected based on their contributions to the hobby as a whole, their contributions to the Club, their impact on the Club and the hobby, and their exemplary integrity and adherence to the principles upon which the Club was founded. There have been one, two or three new members selected each year since the inauguration of the Hall of Fame in 1998. The names of the nineteen members of the Hall of Fame appear below.

The selection of honorees each year is made by the Hall of Fame Committee, which consists of all living members of the HoF. The input of the membership in the selection process is indispensable. The members of the HoF cannot know every member of the Club, nor have knowledge of the contributions to the Club and the hobby that may have been made by each member.

Enclosed with this issue of Casino Chip and Token News is a recommendation form which we urge members to complete and mail to us so that we may consider the contributions of those people the members believe deserve the Club's highest recognition. Please provide as much information as possible in support of your recommendation so that the Committee can give it full consideration. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2009, and the final selections, if any, will be announced at the Club's annual convention in Las Vegas.

Please take the time to recommend those you feel should receive the Hall of Fame honor.

The current members of the Hall of Fame, in alphabetical order, are:

Allan Anderson Archie A. Black Harvey Fuller (deceased) **Howard Herz** Phil Jensen Michael Knapp (Chairman) Bruce Landau (deceased) Robert Mera (deceased) Allan Myers Janice O'Neal Charles T. Rodaers Eric Rosenblum Douglas Saito Dale Seymour Mike Skelton Jim Steffner Greg Susong Gene Trimble

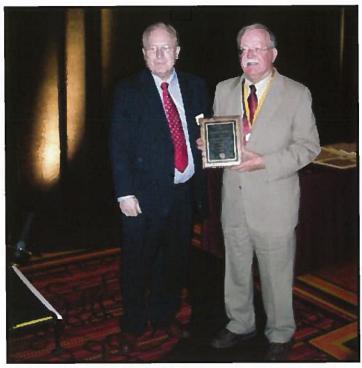
Ernie Wheelden

For biographies of the HoF members, please visit the Club website at www.ccgtcc.com/hall\_of\_fame.html

## American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money in Baltimore



CC&GTCC member Myrna Lighterman was honored with the presentation of the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award and medal. This prestigious award acknowledges those who demonstrate the spirit of the late Glenn Smedley, an ANA member and hobby enthusiast regarded as a "collector's collector."



Kenneth Hallenback received the American Numismatic Association's 2008 Life Time Achievement Award. Allan Anderson received first place in the 2008 Club Publications Contest, Specialty Clubs for The Casino Chip and Token News magazine.

#### At the exhibits awards, Class 6: Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens:



First Place – John R. Hammond, "Egyptian Theme Casino Chips & Tokens From the Luxor – Las Vegas, Nevada"









Second Place – Gerald Birl, "A Selection of Large Crown Mold Gaming Chips Produced by the T.R. King Company"

Third Place – Christopher Donato, "One Dollar Casino Chips"



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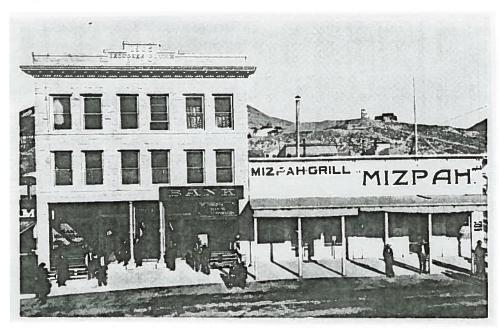
## Mizpah Hotel



Photo Courtesy of Max Chapman at www. Nevadamax.com

## The Grand Old Lady

#### Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah, NV



One of the earliest photos of the Mizpah Hotel site. The building on the left still stands today, The "Mizpah Grill" on the right is where the current 5 story Mizpah Hotel stands. Photo Courtesy of Chip Chat

In May of 1900 Jim Butler, who at the time was the district attorney of Nye County Nevada, discovered silver in an Indian campground named Warren Averill Springs. News of the discovery traveled quickly and the population soared. By 1905 the name of the town was officially changed to Tonopah, Nevada.

Between 1900 and 1910 the population of Tonopah fluctuated between 5,000 and 10,000. Several businessmen decided that a quality hotel/dining establishment was needed for the area. The original financiers were George Wingfield, George Nixon (U.S. Senator), H. C. "Cal" Brougher, and Robert Govan. The hotel they decided to build was named the Mizpah, after the Mizpah Mine Butler started in 1900. Construction was briefly halted when the town's

mining revenues were diverted to help rebuild the city of San Francisco after the disastrous 1906 earthquake.

In 1907 Tonopah became the county seat of Nye county and on November 17, 1908 the Mizpah Hotel was open for business. Construction costs were estimated at over \$200,000, and featured 54 guest rooms (some with common baths), oak furniture, hot and cold running water, steam heat, brass chandeliers, stained glass windows, and the first electric elevator west of the Mississippi.

The "Grand Old Lady" as it has been known to be called was heralded for it's service, comfort and amenities. It was well known throughout the United States and drew rich and famous clientele because of its opulence. It was also

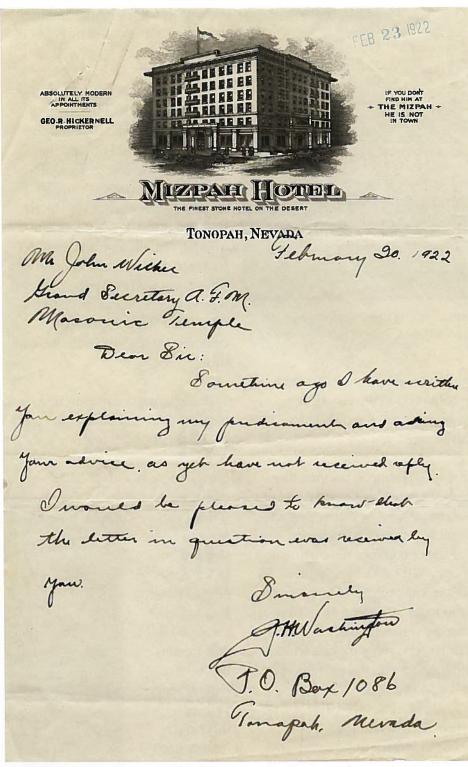
built to last. The 5 story hotel walls are 18" of solid granite, and until 1948 it was the tallest building in Nevada.

The 1930's was a tough time for the country and the town of Tonopah. The production in the mines had tapered off and the population dwindled. This, along with the great depression, had caused all but one local bank to fail. But through all of this, the Mizpah remain a profitable hotel. Because of its central location in the state, a midway point between Reno and Las Vegas, the Mizpah received a steady stream of customers even in the toughest of times.

The Mizpah became home to many military families when the U.S. Army opened the Tonopah Army Air Force Base just outside of town during WWII. B-24 Liberator

crews were trained there prior to being shipped out to Europe. One of those training at the air base was famous test pilot Chuck Yeager. During this time Yeager and other Army personnel were regular visitors to the hotel.





Mizpah Hotel letterhead provided in rooms in 1922 when George Hickernall was leasing the hotel before purchasing it in 1930. Courtesy of Martin Kenney

Tonopah was again a busy and profitable place to be, and in 1947, the Mizpah needed to expand. Charles and John Cavanaugh, the current owners at the time, purchased and annexed the adjoining 3-story Brougher-Govan building which had housed the Tonopah Banking Corporation until its demise during the great depression. Doorways were cut through the granite walls so that 12 additional guest rooms (including two new suites) could be added. A new kitchen and another dining facility was also added to the existing hotel.



the first legal gaming license was granted to the Mizpah Hotel. The Cavanaugh brothers re-configured the lobby of the hotel to fit a small casino and a cocktail bar. The first issue chips of 1945 are a Small Key mold with "The Mizpah Club" hot stamp.

#### Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah, MV



Myron Stahl & Les E. Short purchased the hotel and installed the now famous neon lights of the hotels name on the rooftop. On Oct. 1, 1956, the neon sign was lit for the first time.

The early days of the casino had a full selection of tables games including "21" Roulette and Craps. In its last operational form the Mizpah's casino was a slots only joint. Its 3,024 square foot casino area held 80 slot machines, including 21 bar top slots.

The cashier's cage is situated directly in front of the vault. The vault boasts 18 inch thick steel reinforced concrete walls. The vault door was previously situated next door at the Tonopah National Bank. having been brought to Tonopah in 1902 via

Francisco, from there by rail to Reno and then south by horse drawn wagon.

clipper ship

around the horn to San

By the 1960's the hotel had fallen in to the worst shape of its historic life. The





interior had been chopped up and remodeled so many times it was possible to rent a "interior room" for the night for \$2.50. These rooms had a window that faced the main corridor and not the outside world. Bare bulb lighting and metal spring beds were the decor, and the clientele consisted of cowboys, passing tourists and transients.

#### Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah, MV

But the 1970's brought another boom in Tonopah, and this time it was deposits of gold, copper and molybdenum. The population went from 2,500 to over 4,000 in one year. The Anaconda Copper Company announced it would build a \$200 million mining operation just north of Tonopah. A 500-acre subdivision of new homes, with a new school and a park was planned by the Anaconda Copper Company.



In 1976 The Scott Corporation purchased the Mizpah Hotel buildings and some adjoining property. The hotel and annex were gutted to bare walls and completely rebuilt in the original turn-of-the-century style. The restoration included reducing the number of guest rooms from 104 to 56, including 6 parlor suites, all with private baths and thermostatically controlled heating and air conditioning. New stained glass windows were hand-crafted for the first floor, the finest of wall paper was hung on all of the walls and the finest carpet was put on the floors. The exterior was given a face lift, and park benches and iron lighting fixtures

installed along the sidewalk.

The Scott Corporation also issued a new rack of chips. Gone were the 20-year-old Small Key "Mizpah Hotel" chips. They were replaced by Paulson H&C inlayed chips.

In 1984 the property was sold once again. Bill Allison & Bert Basolis (president & vice president of Billibert Corp.) bought the hotel and hopes were high. The casino and hotel were regularly packed with patrons. But this boom was only a temporary high in the many ups and downs in the life of the Mizpah. By 1986 the mining went belly up. Prices of gold and silver slid downward, workers and the Anaconda Corporation had left town. By 1987, the Billibert Corp. had filed for bankruptcy. Bill Allison of the now defunct



702/482-6202

#### Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah, MV

Corp., leases out the hotel and finally takes control with his wife Delores in 1996. Then in 1998 the Allisons sell the Mizpah to Equivest Holding Group of Tucson, Arizona. But Equivest could not make the payments and in November of 2000 the Allisons

reacquire the hotel. The doors have been closed since that point and a few offers have been made, but a sale has yet to go through.

For now the Mizpah sits with her doors closed with most of the furnishings still in the building.







A rather rare matchbook of the 1950's Mizpah Club inside the hotel and casino. This would have been at the time of the Cavanaugh Brothers (Charles and John) ownership. The matchbook mentions "George, Bob and Johny". Johny maybe be John Cavanaugh. There is also a set of Mizpah chips with the wagon wheel logo as well.

Courtesy of Martin Kenney

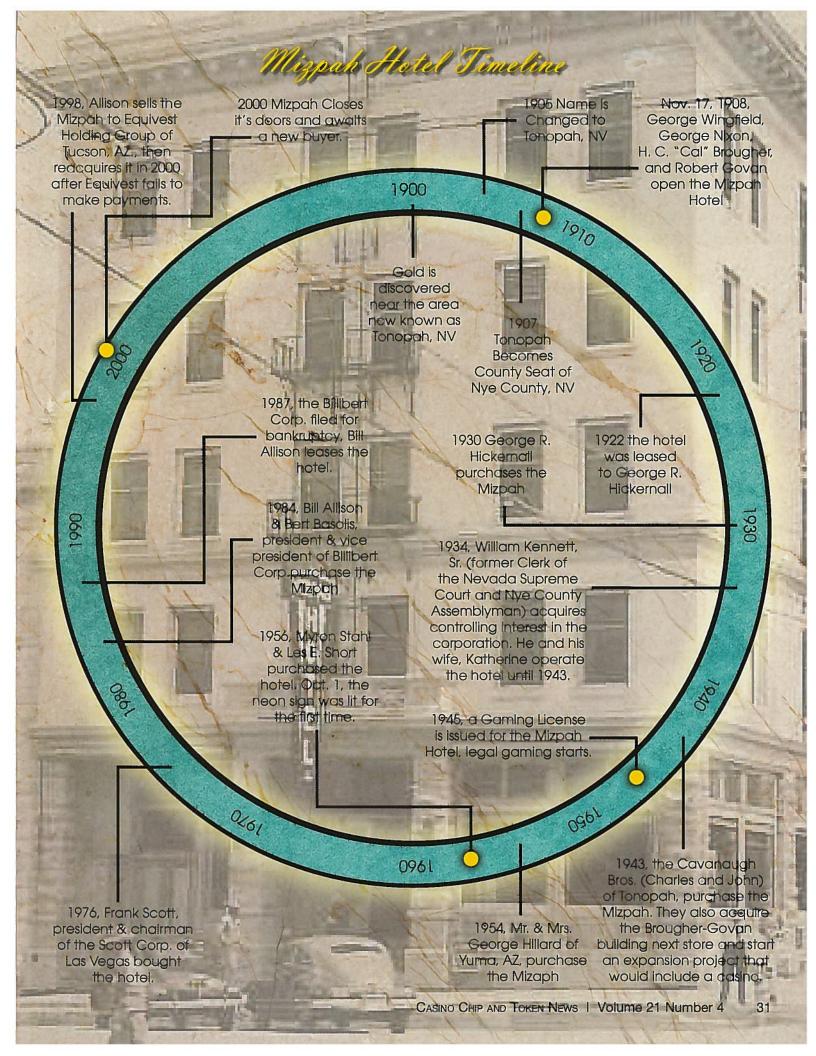
Then there are the ghost stories... one of the hotel's most well known resident is an apparition that may have contributed to the hotels ever-growing draw. The "Lady in Red," a local purveyor of female companionship who worked the Mizpah and was strangled to death by her jealous boyfriend. Apparently she still inhabits the sixth floor where she has been know to follow guest around for their entire stays.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of people have stayed at the Mizpah expressly to find the Lady in Red. Well known for her sense of humor, the ghost has played many pranks on guests. Years after Keno was discontinued in the casino and all wiring was disconnected, numbers continued to light up on the boards, attributed to the ever playful Lady in Red.

Purportedly there are two miners who were killed during an attempted robbery. These two miners roam the basement at night, and have been know to pull pranks on the employees.

You may or may not believe in ghosts, but one thing is certain, The Mizpah Hotel and Casino has a spirit that will never die.

175-412-1051 Photo Courtesy of Max Chapman at www. Nevadamax.com Matchbook and Ashtray scans courtesy of Mark Englebretson Chip scans courtesy of Chip Chat and Phil Jensen



## What Didn't Happen at Tonopah's Mizpah Hotel!

by Guy Rocha, Nevada State Archivist



Photo Courtesy of Central Nevada Historical Society

more has happened within its walls when, in fact, it didn't happen there at all. For years promoters, managers, and owners of Tonopah's Mizpah Hotel, about halfway between Las Vegas and Reno on U.S. Highway 95, have taken great liberties with the past to enhance the history of the business and attract more patrons. The marketing strategy is an old and unsophisticated one and incorporates the "George Washington slept here" approach. As is almost always the case, the burden of proof lies with the consumer

proving the claim wrong, rather than the person disseminating the information demonstrating with some evidence that the assertion is true.

Let's start with famed gunfighter and lawman Wyatt Earp. Despite the claim to the contrary, Earp had no verifiable association with the Mizpah Hotel. Yes, Wyatt, and his wife Josie, lived in Tonopah in 1902 running a saloon, prospecting, and pursuing other business. However the Mizpah Hotel only dates back to 1907-08. By then the Earps were long gone, living

virtually the rest of their lives in the Los Angeles area and prospecting along the Colorado River. Brother Virgil had died in nearby Goldfield in 1905, and while Wyatt and Josie may have left LA to visit Virgil prior to his death in October, there is no record of the couple ever returning to central Nevada after 1905. The truth in this story probably relates to the Mizpah Saloon and Grill, a landmark wood-frame structure, located at the site of the Mizpah Hotel before it was built. Earp may have frequented the business before it was moved to the south end of Tonopah to make way for the Mizpah Hotel in 1907.

In another column, I demonstrated the claim was preposterous that long-time Democratic U.S. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada had died prior to the 1940 general election and his body kept on ice at the Mizpah Hotel. Records, newspapers, and an interview with Dr. "Bart" Hood, Pittman's personal physician, clearly indicate that Key died in Reno's Washoe General Hospital some 4 days after the election. The November 5 edition of the Nevada State Journal noted that Pittman was hospitalized and would not be able to travel to Tonopah to cast his vote as was his custom. The senator's wife, Mimosa, arrived at his bedside on election day from Washington, D.C. Her journal stated that she saw her husband alive and conscious: "Went straight to hospital with Dr. Hood. Key happy." Despite the bogus frozen body tale repeated in the controversial book The Green Felt Jungle (1963), and, until recently, on the hotel's Key Pittman Restaurant menu, the story is really about keeping the news of Pittman's terminal illness, linked to a massive heart attack, from the voters. Following Pittman's death, Governor "Ted" Carville, a Democrat, could then appoint another Democrat to the vacant seat--which he did in appointing Berkeley Bunker of Las Vegas.

Moving ahead in time 17 years, a myth has seemingly developed around multi-millionaire and eccentric Howard Hughes's secretive second marriage to Hollywood actress Jean Peters in Tonopah. We know from marriage records and other later biographical accounts that early in the morning on January 12, 1957, Hughes, Peters, and a few select Hughes' associates, flew from the LA area to the former Tonopah Army Air Base in a new 120-passenger TWA Constellation (Hughes owned TWA at the time). The commonly-accepted story goes the troupe was

shuttled to the Mizpah Hotel, where several rooms had been reserved. Under the assumed names of G. A. Johnson of Las Vegas (Hughes) and Marian Evans of Los Angeles (Peters), the couple was married. Their first honeymoon night was not spent in Tonopah, but rather in LA following a quick return flight. According to the account in Empire, a Hughes biography published in 1979, "[t]he entire operation took about three hours."

Hughes' veil of secrecy lasted for quite some time. Rumor abounded in Hollywood and elsewhere of the marriage, but no press accounts appeared until March 1957, and they were full of distortions as to when and where the couple were wedded. Tonopah was not mentioned in any of the stories. In fact, the Nye County marriage certificate with the fictitious names was not filed in the county recorder's office until May 27 by District Attorney William P. Beko (later long-time district judge).

Eventually the facts came out that Hughes and Peters were actually married in Tonopah. Yet according to LeRoy David, a Nye County Democratic Assemblyman at the time, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, a.k.a. the Johnsons, were married in his apartment at the L&L Motel (razed in 2005) and not at the Mizpah Hotel (the biography Empire referred to a secondfloor room in "a nondescript motel"). David, late in life, had mistakenly credited Justice of the Peace Tom McCulloch with marrying the couple--McCulloch was not elected JP until November 1958. Actually the marriage certificate shows long-time JP Walter Bowler conducted the brief wedding ceremony. In an interview in 2002 with Associated Press reporter Martin Griffith, a former Hughes attorney, D. Martin Cook, said, "the only people in the motel room other than the happy couple and himself were Hughes aide James Arditto and Justice of the Peace Walter Bowler, who performed the five-minute ceremony." Jean Peters obtained a divorce from Howard Hughes in Tonopah on June 18, 1971.

So has anything happened at the Mizpah Hotel that corresponds with the claims made over the years? Well, some people claim Jack Dempsey held a job at the Mizpah Hotel. Dempsey, who won the world's heavyweight title in 1919 from Jess Willard, fought a number of fights in Nevada including against Johnny



Sudenberg in Tonopah on June 13, 1915. Dempsey, originally from Colorado, got into the

fight game in 1911 and bounced around Nevada for a few years until Tex Rickard, one of the great boxing promoters of the day, took him to the big time. There are no known published sources to prove conclusively whether or not Dempsey worked at the Mizpah, and he has been dead since 1983. However, he wrote in his 1960 autobiography "I never was a saloon bouncer in my life," casting considerable doubt on the widely-publicized claim that he was once a bouncer in the bar of the Tonopah hotel. William Pettite of Fair Oaks, California—a friend and associate of Jack Dempsey late in Dempsey's life—wrote in a letter dated January 12, 2001, that "[Dempsey] was never a bouncer

anywhere... never worked at the Mizpah Hotel... and never met Tex Rickard until 1919 in New Jersey."

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Interior of the "Jack Dempsey Dining Room"

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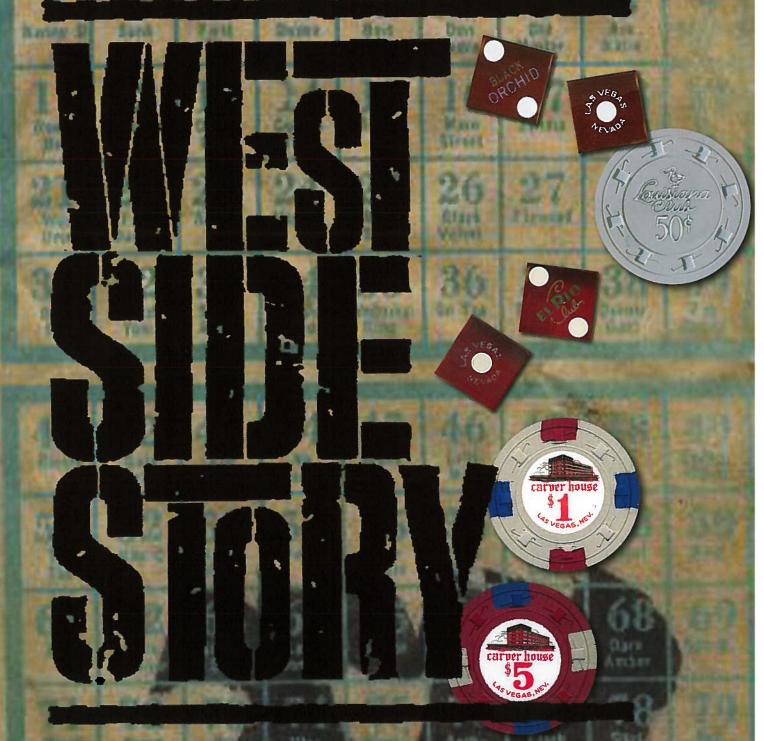
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COTTON CULTURAL GOETHER #R-3432



A story of the clubs and casinos in segregated Las Vegas

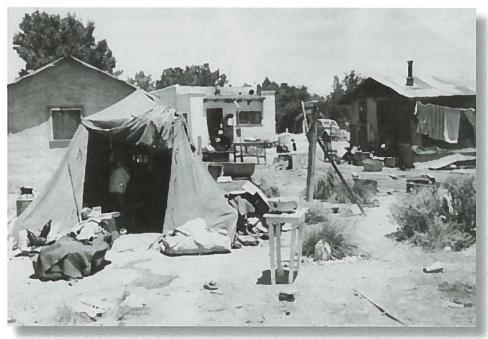
My husband and I love the mementos of "old" Nevada. We love the chips and the dice, the postcards and the glassware, the ashtrays, swizzle sticks. menus, matchbooks and just about anything that comes from the Nevada of the 1930's through the 1970's. That was a time when Las Vegas still had a small-town feel, while it sparkled with glitz and glamour. But, behind her neon façade, Las Vegas had another side...

The Westside.

The Westside was where Las
Vegas's black population was
forced to live. But times changed
and Las Vegas was forced to
change, too. There's still a few
artifacts left from those early
Westside times... a few chips, dice
and photos are in collector's hands.
When you look at your collectibles,
do you know where they really
came from, or do you just see little
clay discs and celluloid cubes?
Let's go back and see where those
artifacts originated....

#### **Humble Beginnings**

In 1882, Archibald and Helen Stewart moved to a 960 acre ranch and farm in the Las Vegas Valley. They grew crops, made wine from their grapes, and raised cattle; selling the food to miners and to travelers headed west. Many times wagon trains would stop at the ranch to replenish their supplies, and would camp on the Stewart property for as long as a week, to rest.



Living conditions on the Westside of Las Vegas in 1942.



Hellen Stewart

Another major ranch in the valley was the Kiel Ranch, located in an area that is now North Las Vegas. One fateful day in 1884, Archie Stewart

rode to the Kiel ranch. Later in the day, Helen Stewart heard a rider approaching. She expected it to be her husband, instead it was a hand from the Kiel ranch bringing a note that said "Mrs Sturd send a team and take Mr. Sturd away he is dead. C. Kiel." Archie had been murdered, leaving behind his pregnant wife and four children.

Mrs. Stewart continued to live at the ranch, taking over the management of the day-to-day activities. She also bought more land, more than doubling the size of the ranch. It was reported that Montana Senator William Clark did not always follow a straight and narrow path. In fact, one article said that most of the bills passed by Senator Clark were of the \$1,000 variety! Senator Clark was part owner of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad, and knew exactly what path it would take through Nevada. He decided to buy some land and build a town. The land he wanted was owned by Mrs. Stewart.

J. T. Mc Williams was a surveyor who was hired to survey the 1800-acre property that Senator Clark would buy from Mrs. Stewart, with water rights, for \$55,000. During his surveying, McWilliams discovered an 80-acre tract of land that was unclaimed. He filed a claim, and took that tract himself. On today's map, the McWilliams claim would be bordered by A and H Streets, Bonanza and Washington, on the west side of the tracks.

McWilliams divided his property into lots, and laid out a town-site. Promising graded roads and fresh spring water for residents, he sold several lots, for as little as \$100 each, to miners, cowboys and rail workers. Immigrants also took advantage of the offer of cheap land; Chinese, Mexicans, Native Americans, Italians, Spaniards and more. By early 1905 the population approached 1500. Homes and businesses were erected on the lots, but building materials were scarce, so many were constructed of canvas over a wooden frame. However, McWilliams didn't make many improvements to the community. There was no sewage system and no paved roads. Clark had bought all the water rights from Mrs. Stewart, and refused to provide water to the McWilliams townsite. With the canvas construction, bits and pieces of the town flopped loose and even blew away from time to time, earning the town the nickname of "Ragtown".

When Senator Clark began his land auction on May 15, 1905, there were 3,000 people in attendance. Bidding reached a fever-pitch for the prime lots on Fremont Street, causing some of the lots to sell for double their initial value. By the time it was over, Clark had sold more than 600 lots for more than \$265,000... nearly 500% profit. Many frustrated residents of "Ragtown" bought lots from Clark, and by the end of the auction dozens of the canvas tents that had housed businesses on the west side of the tracks had been moved to the east side to set up shop. Four months later, a fire swept through what was left of the McWilliams town site, destroying most of it.

#### Jobs

In 1928, when the rest of the country was in a depression, Congress authorized the funds to build Boulder Dam (now Hoover

Dam). Help wanted ads were taken out nationwide, causing thousands of laborers to migrate to the Las Vegas area. During the peak construction period, 5251 workers were employed on the project. When the dam was completed, some of the workers drifted away from the area to find their next job, others stayed in the area which helped the population to grow.

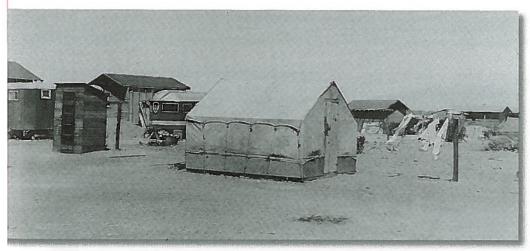
By the late 1930's, the country hadn't fully recovered from the depression and the Las Vegas economy was in a recession. When the United States entered World War II, the government again rescued the Las Vegas economy by establishing the Las Vegas Army Air Gunnery Range, which eventually became Nellis Air Force Base. Another government program established the Basic Magnesium Plant, in Henderson, which ultimately employed well over 10,000 people. During the war years, the population of Clark County jumped from 16,000 to more than 48,000 people.

#### Segregation

Some of the early settlers of the Las Vegas Valley were black. In the early days, blacks bought land, began businesses, and were a part of the Las Vegas Community. Then Las Vegas began to adopt "Jim Crow" laws, which established segregation in the town. Of the 5,000 workers that were employed on the dam, only 11 were black. The Basic Magnesium Plant, however, recruited many blacks from the Southern states, to fill a critical shortage of workers. The government established the Carver Park housing project, in



1905 Land auction of Clark's Las Vegas Townsite east of the Railroad tracks
- Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections.



Housing for workers at the Basic Magnesium Plant Henserson, Nevada, April 1942. Photo Courtesy UNLV -Dickinson Library Special Collections



A "court" where cabins and tents could be rented for the workers at the Basic Magnesium Plant. Photo Courtesy UNLV -Dickinson Library Special Collections

Henderson, for black workers and their families. Henderson's white community was on the opposite side of Boulder Highway.

In Las Vegas, the blacks were forced to live in West Las Vegas, which included the McWilliams townsite. Segregation, a growing population and cheap land resulted in crowded conditions on the Westside. Unfortunately, living conditions were slow to improve. In the early 1930's, with financial assistance from the government, Las Vegas paved miles of roads, installed sidewalks, gutters, curbs and drainage facilities. City parks were developed, and even a small

municipal golf course. None of these improvements reached the Westside.

After the war the healthy Las Vegas economy was due, in large part, to tourism and gambling. Large resorts were being built, and many of the housekeeping and kitchen staff were black. Big name entertainers were hired for the showrooms, and some of the entertainers were black, including Sammy Davis Jr. Because of the Jim Crow laws, black entertainers were not allowed to stay at the hotels where they performed. Nor were they, or any other blacks, allowed to gamble in the casinos

on the strip or downtown. The Westside was the only community where blacks could socialize. In 1945 Sammy Davis Jr., as part of the Will Mastin Trio, made his first appearance in Las Vegas... at the El Rancho Vegas. The group was paid \$500 a week, worked with the biggest back-up band they'd ever had and had a comfortable. modern stage to work on. They were ecstatic, and the rehearsal commenced. After rehearsal, they asked about their rooms, the manager responded "We can't let you have rooms here. You'll have to find a place on the other side of town." It was like a slap in the face that Davis never forgot. In Davis's words:

"We were performing at the hotel, but we couldn't stay there. We couldn't eat there. We couldn't gamble in the casino. We couldn't walk in the front door. In Vegas, for twenty minutes, our skin had no color. Then, the second we stepped off the stage, we were colored again... The other acts could gamble or sit in the lounge and have a drink, but we had to leave through the kitchen, with the garbage. I was dying to grab a look into the casino, just to see what it was like, but I was damned if I would let anyone see me with my nose against the candy-store window."

In the February 23, 1952 edition of "Jack Cortez's Fabulous Las Vegas" magazine, there was a column by Pearl Bailey. Here's what she had to say about it:

"Quite a thing at the Last Frontier Wednesday night, given by the Westside Community Center. I heartily agree that the Westside needs MANY, MANY improvements; sewage, housing, lighting, oh, so much there's not space to mention. This town is growing too fast to have such a terrible condition as exists over on that side. When performers come here to play, there's no place to stay; and please remember, these folks have some pretty nice places they call "home," so are not used to such conditions. Then, too, how about the folks already calling this "home"? All I gotta say is something should be done to let ALL our wonderful town grow together. Since this happens to be "Brotherhood Week," what's wrong with starting now?"

#### **Westside Clubs**

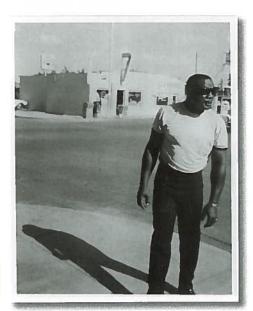


Cotton Club - 500 Jackson Street - Photo Courtesy of James Campiglia

Now you have the background. You know how and why the Westside came about. Most of the Westside residents had jobs; there was no reason for them to remain in town if they didn't. But, their presence was no longer welcome downtown or on the strip, neither was their money. They had to establish and patronize their own stores, garages, barbershops, restaurants and clubs. Because the community wasn't acknowledged by mainstream Las Vegas, and because many of the clubs were only open for months instead of years, it's hard to find information on the black clubs... but here's what I was able to find.

#### **Jackson Street**

Jackson Street was the business and social center of the Westside, much as Fremont Street was the center of downtown. Now we consider Jackson Street to be a poor, somewhat dangerous part of town, but it wasn't always that way. It was simply the center of a community of people whose skin was a different color, at least until race riots began.



World Heavyweight Champion from 1962 - 1964 and Las Vegas resident, Sonny Liston outside of the Cove Hotel Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections.

#### **Carver House**

400 W. Jackson St., 7/7/61 - 1965



Carver House Circa 1962 - Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

The 88-room Carver House Hotel opened in July of 1961, at the corner of D and Jackson Streets. The Hotel was complete with a lounge bar, swimming pool, coffee shop, men's clothing shop, 24hour beauty and barber shops and a restaurant named Mr. B's Supper Club. The rooms began at \$8 for the general public, with special rates available to select groups. The casino formally opened on July first, with 32 slot machines, two craps tables, four blackjack tables, and a keno game. Principal

owners were Paul Woodward, Abe Cohen and George Smith Jr.

The Carver House, which touted itself as an Interracial Hotel & Casino, offered flights from Burbank for as low as \$10, which included Champagne served en route, limousine service, and the sepia show "Le Jazz Hot" that

> played in Mr. B's. The show was presented by Billy Eckstein and Sammy Davis Jr. It starred John Bubbles,

Nichelle Nicole, and the beautiful Carverettes. It was choreographed by Lon Fontaine, and the orchestra was led by Eagle I.



Pearl's Drapery Service

Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

#### **Cove Hotel**

400 W. Jackson St., 12/3/65 – 11/25/66

It was difficult for the blacks to get loans to buy property, which is one reason that many of the clubs were owned by Chinese Americans. Businesswoman Sarann Knight Preddy recalls that it was not unusual to see a big shiny car parked in front of a shack, because everyone was working and had money, but blacks just couldn't seem to qualify for home loans. Boxer Joe Louis owned the Cove Hotel, making it one of the few black-owned casinos. The Cove was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and Bingo.



The Cove Hotel took out a display ad in the yellow pages of the 1966 Las Vegas phone book. Las Vegas is a desert town... right? The Cove Hotel was on the Westside, which catered to blacks... right? So can anyone explain why the picture in the yellow pages ad is a white man surfing...??



#### **Cotton Club**

500 Jackson St., 1944 - 1957



Cotton Club - Photo Courtesy of James Campiglia

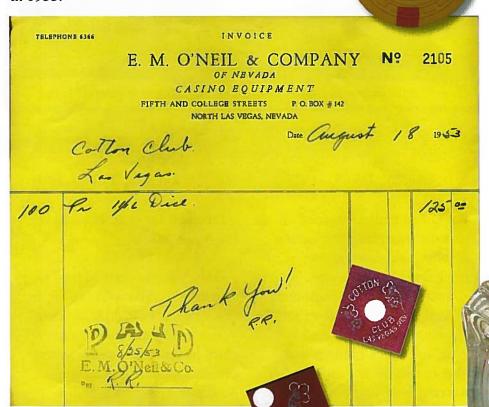
The Cotton Club opened as a small bar in 1944, with a few slot machines and a racehorse keno game. The club was opened by Moe Taub, near the Army Air Base, to give the black servicemen a place to gamble. Of course other blacks gambled there too, and it wasn't long before a blackjack

were added to the club. All of the black entertainers had to sleep on the Westside, so they would often go to the Westside clubs after performing on the strip. Sometimes they gambled, sometimes they put on an impromptu performance. It's been said that the residents of the Westside got to see the same acts that the people attending shows on the strip got to see...but on the Westside, they were free! On occasion, Louis Armstrong would walk into the Cotton Club, with his horn, and the place would jump until dawn.

In July of 1947, the club was sold to Jodie Cannon who ran it for just under 6 months before selling it to Uvalde Caperton, a black man. Caperton owned the club until 1957. According to the 1953 Las Vegas City Directory, Jodie Cannon was the manager of the Cotton Club, so it sounds like he stayed on after selling the place. Then again, the City Directory shows that Uvalde Caperton was a bookkeeper for the Cotton Club, in 1953.







The pictures shown from the Cotton Club are courtesy of James Campiglia and Scott Jaske. One hot afternoon James and Scott went to the Westside and started knocking on doors, in search of gaming history. They came away from their hunt with Cotton Club pictures, Brown Derby chips, and three brand-new red blackjack layouts from the Brown Derby... and stories of the adventure!

Sarann Knight Preddy moved from Oklahoma to Las Vegas, with her husband and parents, when she was 22 years old. They settled on the Westside, and Preddy went to the business district on Jackson Street to look for a job. She soon became a keno writer for the Cotton Club. That was one stepping stone for Preddy, who would later become the first black woman to own a Nevada gaming license.

DANCING AND GAMING ...

COTTON CLUB

"DRINKS THE WAY YOU LIKE THEM"

PHONE 5709-J

UVALDE CAPERTON 500 Jackson St.

Proprietor LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Photo Courtesy of

Rick Olsen

#### Love's Cocktail Lounge

#### (Love & Lee's)

400 W. Jackson St., 12/3/65 – 11/25/66

As the name of the club indicates, this was primarily a cocktail lounge that was owned by Jimmy Love and Joe Lee Robertson. Being in Las Vegas, it seems that every bar has to have gambling... at least a few slot machines. Apparently, in the case of Love's and Lee's, it was four slot machines and one poker table. I think this was one of the addresses that my husband and I tried to find in 2002... and all we found a vacant lot.



Co-Owner Jimmy Love behind Musicians Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

#### C's Cotton Club

500 W. Jackson St., 1989 – ?

All I could find about C's Cotton Club is that it was a slot casino... no table games.



Love's Cocktail Lounge interior - Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

#### Green Lantern

501 Jackson St., 1/5/45 – 1947

The Green Lantern opened up across the street from the Cotton Club with a license that was restricted to slots and craps. Trying to draw from the same customer base as the popular Cotton Club, but having a more restricted license, the Green Lantern was unable to survive and closed after just a couple of years.

#### **Round Up Casino**

501 Jackson St., 1/8/47 – 1948

After the Green Lantern closed the property opened again, this time as the Round Up Casino. The Round Up was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker. It's been said that the Round Up was located near the city hall, and sometimes city officials would gather there for lunch.

#### **Ebony Club/Club Ebony**

501 Jackson St., 1/15/48 – 1949

Licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker.

Harvey Fuller learned how to investigate while working for the Los Angeles Police Department. When he began collecting casino chips he realized that the history of the chips and casinos was disappearing, so he used his investigative skills to find and preserve all of the Nevada casino history that he could. Harvey is gone now, but his notes have been passed on to others who love the history as Harvey did. Doug Saito has some of Harvey's notes and he tells us of a 1984 interview that Harvey had with Charlie Winder, a black owner of Westside casinos. In that interview, Charlie told Harvey that the craps and blackjack games at Club Ebony were called "round table" games.

It sounded like the games were player-backed, and the house would take a cut of each game. According to Charlie, most of the operators didn't have enough money to back the games.

#### Silver Club & Cafe

505 ½ Jackson St., 7/26/56 – 3/31/57 Re-opened 1962 – 1963

Fuller shows this club was owned by Millhizer during its 1956 – 1957 operations, licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker. The club was reopened in 1962 – 1963, by Charlie Winder, and again was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker.

#### **Low Cost Games**

506 Jackson St., 5/6/64 – 2/16/67

After selling their interests in The Little Casino, across the street, Charles Winder and Charlie Hills bought a restaurant... and turned it into the Low Cost Games Casino. Licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker, the casino used chips with LCG initials on them.

#### The Little Casino

507 Jackson St., 11/6/63 – 3/31/64

Charles Winder and Charlie Hills were licensed to operate slots, blackjack and poker at The Little Casino, and that's all the information I could find.

#### **Town Tavern**

600 Jackson St., 7/5/55 – 7/6/59

Dee Dee Cotton was a dancer, and the first black cocktail waitress on the Las Vegas Strip. She remembers that when she moved to Las Vegas in 1957 the Town Tavern was "the" place to go. She'd get off work after the late show, after midnight, and would head over to the Town Tavern, with a group of other dancers. There were a couple of blackjack tables and a couple of craps tables, but it was the lounge they went to. The local guys would buy drinks for her

She remembers that a man named Earl Thurman would get up and sing, and then everyone else would also get up and sing or maybe dance. Often entertainers would come out after their late shows and the joint would party until dawn.

I think Earl Thurman must have been a classy guy, because it was during his reign that the Town





#### **New Town Tavern**

600 Jackson St., 7/6/59 – 12/30/70 Reopen 1981 – 1993

#### **Town Tavern**

The Town Tavern, New Town
Tavern and Ultra New Town
Tavern had several ownership
changes, and opened and closed
several times over the years. Some
of the New Town Tavern chips
are initialed "FF", which probably
indicate the club owners from that
time, Gin Fong and Sui Mon Fong.

There was an ad in the July 1989 yellow pages advertising that the New Town Tavern is open 24 hours, and they offer 21, craps, keno, slots and poker... as well as a touch of soulful live entertainment



New Town Tavern - Top hat and white gloves sign matches earlier Small Crown Chips - Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections



New Town Tavern Interior - Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections





"Little Lee" dealing craps at New Town Tavern Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections



#### **Ultra New Town Tavern**

600 Jackson St., 1993 – present

One sunny afternoon, in September of 2002, armed with a list of addresses, my husband and I drove to the Westside to explore. We searched in vain for the buildings that had housed the Carver House Casino and the Cove Hotel. There were no remains from the Cotton Club or Club Harlem... just empty lots where casinos had been. However, we did find the Ultra New Town Tavern, and took a picture of it for the photo album. What we didn't do was get out of the car, as the neighborhood had a rather unsavory reputation.

A website says that The Ultra New Town Tavern started in 1980 as a hotel/motel operation, with estimated annual sales of \$300,000. Are we talking about the same Ultra New Town Tavern...? I didn't know they had rooms!?

Another website says the
New Town Tavern is the
place to go on the nights
that you don't feel like
paying \$12 for a drink...
"They may be cheaper,
they're definitely not

weaker." The site also says the NTT has 36 slots and 2 table games. They have the Sunrise Restaurant in

addition to the New Town Tavern Bar.

#### **Square Deal Club**

1322 North E St., 1/1/44 – 45

Starting around 1943, Las Vegas officials refused to renew business licenses for blacks unless they moved the business to the Westside. White business owners began putting up signs refusing to serve blacks, forcing the blacks to go to the Westside for anything they needed. This forced the blacks to move to the Westside. Out on the strip, the sprawling El Rancho Vegas and The Last Frontier were open. In comparison, the Westside clubs were small, though not much smaller than some of the downtown clubs. These were the conditions when the Square Deal Club opened in 1944, licensed for slots, craps and poker. The Square Deal Club lasted just a year before it was sold, and reopened as the El Morocco Club.

#### El Morocco Club

1322 North E. St., 1/5/45 – 55 & 1957 – 1958

Frank Wilson was the owner of the El Morocco Club when it opened as a bar with slot machines. One source that I used said that the El Morocco was closed by the police in 1948, but that it reopened. No reason was given for the closing. Another source said that a police commissioner forced the closing of a West Las Vegas tavern for "catering to an interracial clientele"... that source didn't say which tavern so I can't help but wonder if that was the El Morocco Club? Maybe the zebra logo was symbolic? Regardless of why it was closed, the El Morocco reopened and added blackjack, craps and poker tables. Business was good until 1955, when it was

destroyed by a fire.

A new owner rebuilt and reopened the El Morocco from 1957-1958. Then the building sat empty for two years, neglected by everyone except vandals. Vandalism caused the building to be dangerous so it was condemned, and then razed by the city.



Craps at the El Morocco Club - Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

#### **New El Morocco Club**

1322 North E St., 3/11/59-2/9/60 & 10/2/63-4/28/64

Fuller shows that the New El Morocco opened on March 11, 1959, with Oscar Crozier being one of the owners, and a closing date of February 9, 1960. The year 1960 was an important year for blacks in Las Vegas, as it was the year that segregation was officially ended. Oscar Crozier played an important role. He was the liaison between the Strip casino owners and James McMillan, the president of the local NAACP.

Fuller shows another incarnation of the New El Morocco opening on October 2, 1963 with Val Ruggerio as one of the owners. The closing date that he shows is April 28, 1964. He shows licenses for slots, blackjack, craps and poker under both ownerships. From the New El Morocco, Val Ruggerio went to Reno and in April of 1966 opened



#### Chic A Dee Club

1314 North F St.. c. 1955

I found a few paragraphs about Chinese Americans that operated casinos, with blacks as their target audience. It referred to Zee Louie's Chickadee Club (later called the Louisiana Club), which closed in 1957 when Louie moved to San Francisco. Fuller has no listing for a Chickadee Club. TGT lists "Chic-A Dee Club, Las Vegas, NV, Owner: Jim & Willie, Opened: 1940's Closed: 1940's".

With no listing in Fuller, and a different spelling and no address in TGT, I started looking in phone books. The August 1955, Nevada phone book had the Chic A Dee Club at 1314 North F Street (which was not the same address used by the Louisiana Club). The 1956 phone book doesn't have listings for the Louisiana Club or the Chic A Dee Club. I did find a listing in the 1966 phone book for the Louisiana Club, which confirms the street address of 1322. I'm guessing that the two clubs could have been in the same building, but accessed by different entrances?



1322 North F St., 8/16/55 - 5/20/70

The Louisiana Club was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and keno. One set of

Louisiana Club chips is marked with "Z L" for Zee Louie (aka Zhei Lhou or Zee Looie), who owned the club from April 19,

1966, until it closed on May 20, 1970. Does this mean that Zee Louie came back from San Francisco? Your guess is as good as mine, but those dates came from Harvey Fuller... and I'll take his word for it. Another issue of the Louisiana Club chips is marked with a "W", and Fuller says that Wong was the owner of the club from its opening on August 16, 1955 until April 18, 1966, the day before Louie took it over.

under the leadership of Harry Lee Fong and Rose Fong opened the West Side Club in the early 1940s to cater to African American customers, who were not welcomed in the major casinos."

#### Club Alabama

(Smokey Joe's Club Alabama) 1400 F St., 5/1943 – 7/1943

While researching this article, I happened to receive my current issue of "Chip Chat" from and by, club member and casino historian extraordinaire, Doug Saito. Doug quotes an advertisement for a new club, from the May 14, 1943 issue of the Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal "Formerly the Westside Club. Jackson and F Street. Smokey Joe's Club Alabama. Gaming. Drinks. Cocktail Lounge. Smokey Joe LaDue, owner."

When I searched for Smokey Joe LaDue on the internet, I found an actor! In an episode of Gunsmoke, from 1947! But I couldn't find a picture or a biography... wonder if it was the same one??

#### Westside Club

1400-1402 F St., 1943 - ??



Fuller doesn't list the Westside Club. TGT has this listing: "Westside Club, Las Vegas, NV, opened 1943 closed: yes". No address is listed. Information is minimal, but I found this reference: "In Las Vegas several Chinese Americans

#### **Harlem Club**

End of F St., 1/7/44 – c.1945

Camp Clipper was part of the Desert Training Center, south of Vegas, and had several regiments of black soldiers. Camp Siebert in Boulder City had some allblack units that were in charge of guarding Boulder dam. Booze, women and gambling were as close as Las Vegas so, with weekend passes in hand, soldiers in need of R & R would head for town. In an attempt to avoid race riots, which were happening in other parts of the country, the Las Vegas police actively worked to keep the black soldiers on the Westside, where there was a USO Club available for their recreation. Despite that, violence periodically broke out.

In January of 1944 a group of about 50 black soldiers, who'd been drinking in the Harlem Club, came out and trashed the nearby Brown Derby. Police moved in and one soldier was killed, and others were injured in the riot that broke out. This resulted in the West Coast Defense Command temporarily making Las Vegas "off limits" to servicemen.

#### **Black Orchid**

632 North H St., 8/1/66 – 10/30/69

Slots only

#### El Rio Tavern

1905 North H St., 5/7/54 – 4/28/64

William Kee and his brother Frank, were born and raised in Hawthorne, Nevada. From 1954-1957 they owned and managed the El Rio Club. They targeted the same clientele as the nearby Louisiana Club, and offered lowlimit gambling and good food, Chinese as well as American. The El Rio Club hired blacks and Chinese Americans, then provided the training needed for them to be dealers. While not as prosperous as the downtown or strip casinos, the Kee brothers lived very comfortably from the proceeds of the El Rio. When Bill Kee died, Frank took over as manager of the casino for a short time, then closed the club and moved to California.



Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special

Collections

Craps at the El Rio Club - Dealer on left is Howard King, a local boxer
Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections



In 1944 the Brown Derby was wrecked by a group of black soldiers. A riot erupted, during which one soldier was killed and others were injured. The Derby was rebuilt and continued with business as usual until it closed in 1947.

On Christmas Eve in 1950, someone named Ensley reopened the Brown Derby and had it until 1952. In 1952 it was sold to Jefferson... could it have been the same Percy Jefferson? Jefferson sold it to Smith, circa 1973, and Smith closed it on September 30, 1974. In the early 1970's local R&B group "Pure Hell" provided entertainment for the customers.

#### El Rio Club, Raleigh Hughes

3/8/73 - 7/6/78

During the Hughes ownership, the El Rio became known for the best barbeque and soul food in the neighborhood. In 1978 the El Rio was seized by the IRS for non-payment of taxes.

#### **Brown Derby**

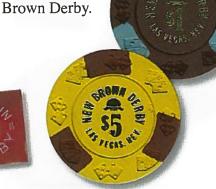
320 West Monroe, 1944 – 1947 & 1950 – 1973

The name was the same as the famed Hollywood Restaurant, but that's where the similarity ended. The Brown Derby was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and poker, under the ownership of Percy Jefferson.

#### **New Brown Derby**

1979 - 8/83

From 1979 until August of 1983, the club was resurrected as the New



#### **People's Choice**

805 West Owens, 10/80 - 1980's?

Sarann Preddy started her career in gambling by writing keno tickets, but she learned other casino

games, too; craps, poker and blackjack. In the early 1950's she and her husband moved to Hawthorne,

where there was one club for blacks. The club was for sale, so she borrowed \$600 from her father, bought the club and became the first black woman in Nevada to receive a non-restricted gaming license.



Several years later she sold the club and returned to Las Vegas. It was the 1960's and Las Vegas had an ordinance that prohibited women from dealing or supervising casino games. Preddy went to work for Jerry's Nugget, which was in North Las Vegas and was not governed by the ordinance.

Eventually the entrepreneurial urge rose again, and she opened the People's Choice Casino on Owens Avenue and H Street. The usual references don't have a closing date for the People's Choice, but it's listed in the 1989 phone book.

#### **Westside Story**

901 West Owens, 1980 – 2/81

Fuller says open from 1980-1981, TGT says 1981-1982. They do agree that this club was only open for a year or so. It operated mainly as a bar and restaurant. It was licensed for slot machines, so presumably there were a few. The chips that are out there would have been used on poker tables, the only



#### **B.J.'s Loungs**

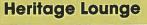
901 West Owens, 1990 –

#### **Black Orchid**

938 West Owens, 1/1/65 – 12/5/65

Licensed for slots, blackjack and craps. Chips and dice have been found from this club, which was open for less than a year.

Two owners of the Club were P.L.
Jefferson and
Boysie Ensley,
who also
owned the
Brown Derby
at one time.



2012 West Owens, 1993 –

Apparently the Heritage Lounge is still open. When looking for information, all I could come up with was a review on the internet. It said "A dive located in one of the rougher ends of town."

#### **Moulin Rouge**

900 West Bonanza, 5/24/55 – 5/18/59?

The Moulin Rouge was on the west side of the tracks, but it wasn't in the center of the Westside Community... it was on the edge. There were a lot of other differences between the Moulin Rouge and the other Westside Clubs that are named in this article. More on that in the next issue of the Casino Chips and Token News Magazine....

Special thanks to Brian Cashman, James Campiglia, Steve Bedo, Mark Englebretson, Paul Gregory, Rick Olsen, Phil Jensen, Don Leuders and Eric Miller for the chip, matchbook, keno ticket, dice order and ashtray scans. Thank you, James Campiglia and Scott Jaske, for making the trip to the Westside and for sharing the pictures that you rescued.

Extra special thanks to our editor, Todd Barrett, for going to the UNLV Library and finding many of the pictures that are included here. Great job, Todd!

Note: In verifying names, addresses and dates of operation I've referred to Fuller and TGT. Fuller is "Harvey J. Fuller's Index of Nevada Gambling Establishments". Harvey Fuller spent years researching Nevada casino history, including combing through the records of the Gaming Commission to establish license dates. Howard Herz organized the information for the book, which was copyrighted in 1992. TGT refers to "The Gaming Table, Chip, Check and Token Collectors' Guide", audit copy for 3rd edition. It was written and published by club members Allan Myers, Ernest Wheelden and Michael Knapp, and lists names, addresses and operating dates for all known casinos.

All information in the article is correct, to the best of my knowledge. However, a lot of different sources were used and they were not always in agreement in the information that they provided.



ORCHID

#### **Location Details**



#### 1 - 400 W. Jackson

Carver House 1961 - 1965

Cove Hotel 1965 - 1966

#### 2 - 500 W. Jackson

Cotton Club 1944 - 1957

Love's Cocktail Lounge 1970 - 1985

#### 3 - 501 W. Jackson

Green Lantern 1945 - 1947

Round Up Casino 1947 - 1948

Ebony Club/Club Ebony 1948 - 1949

#### 4 - 600 W. Jackson

Town Tavern 1955 - 1959

New Town Tavern 1959 - 1970

Ultra New Town Tavern 1970 - current

#### 5 - 1322 N. E Street

Square Deal Club 1944 - 1945

El Morocco Club 1945 - 1955

1957 - 1958 New El Morocco Club

1959 - 1964 Louisiana Club

Louisiana Club 1955 - 1970

#### 6 - 1400 F Street

Westside Club 1943? - ?

Club Alabama (Smokey Joe's) 1943

#### 7 - 1905 N. H Street

El Rio Tavern 1954 - 1964

El Rio Club 1973 - 1978

#### 8 - 320 W. Monroe

Brown Derby 1944 - 1947 1950 - 1973

New Brown Derby 1979 - 1983

#### 9 - 805 W. Owens

People's Choice 1980

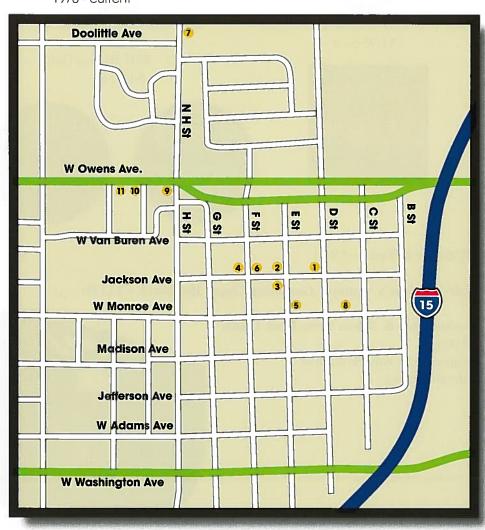
#### 10 - 901 W. Owens

Westside Story 1980 - 1981

B.J.'s Lounge 1990

#### 11 - 938 W. Owens

Black Orchid 1965



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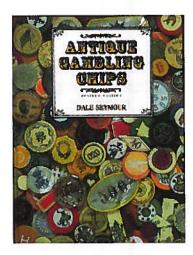
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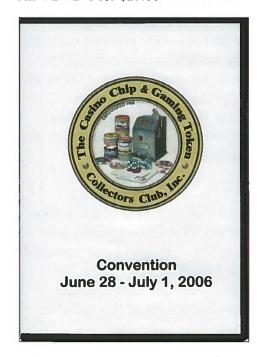
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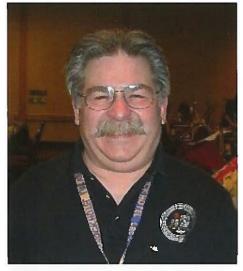
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I try to review all books as they are published, and will fill in with books published some time ago, but which are still available from their authors or in bookstores.

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

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions. Due to a number of requests, I'm now returning to adding contact information at the end of each review.

An apology for this column: my computer finally died a few months ago, after serving me well for about 9 years, which in computer years is 150 or something.

Ordinarily I include scans of the covers of each book I review, but unfortunately my scanner, which otherwise is in perfect condition,

# Knapp on Books

doesn't know how to play well with Windows Vista, which is installed on all new computers these days. Once I manage to get that issue worked out, cover photos will return to the column.

HOWDY'S STANDARD GUIDE TO COLLECTING GAMING CHECKS & CHIPS (2008) by Howard W. Herz and Kregg L. Herz

This book is, among other things, an illustration of why all members should go out of their way to attend the educational seminars at the annual Club convention. I'll explain that at the end of this review.

Much of what we as chip collectors know about chips, their manufacture, their parts, and the descriptive terms we use daily (mold designs, edge inserts, center inlays, and the like) originated with Howard (Howdy) Herz. Herz, by the way, was one of the first three inductees into the CC&GTCC Hall of Fame, due in large part to this kind of work.

More than 20 years ago, in 1985, Howdy published the first book devoted to collecting casino chips, and to standardizing some of the terms and descriptive methods collectors needed to communicate accurately with each other. Harvey's Guide to Collecting Gaming Checks and Chips is now out of print, but major portions of the book were revised, expanded, and published along with a limited price guide ten years later, as A Collector's Guide to Nevada Gaming Checks and Chips, which Howdy co-authored with his wife Kregg.

The current book, Howdy's Standard Guide, is actually a reprint of the first 67 pages of the 1995 book – the part that contains the basic historical information, clear illustrations of mold designs, edge insert patterns, center inlay types, colors, and similar information used by collectors on a daily basis.

Back to the explanation I promised at the top of this review. At the 2008 Club convention in Las Vegas, Howdy Herz presented the First-Timers' Convention Workshop, and each attendee received a copy of this valuable book.

For anyone who didn't attend, a copy is available from Gaming Archaeology for \$15.

HARVEY J. FULLER'S INDEX OF NEVADA GAMBLING ESTABLISH-MENTS, 1931-1981 (2008), Edited by Howard W. Herz

It is difficult to overstate the

importance of Harvey Fuller's work in researching and meticulously recording the history of Nevada casinos. It was in recognition of the value of his work to the hobby that Harvey Fuller was given the Club's highest honor: induction into the Hall of Fame.

It is also difficult to overstate the tremendous amount of work that Howdy Herz did to decipher and put Fuller's notes into publishable form so that the rest of us would have the benefit of Fuller's information.

Originally published in 1991, the Fuller Index has been the primary source of information about addresses, opening and closing dates, and types of games licensed in many Nevada casinos which have long been closed and for which accurate information was simply unavailable.

Were it not for a fire in 1960 which destroyed many of the Nevada Gaming Control licensing records, it would be a simple matter to go to Carson City to sit with the originals and make notes.

That fire, however, meant that collectors no longer had access to the primary documentation that would have established addresses, ownership, types of games licensed, and dates. Much of this information is now taken for granted among collectors. It has for so many years been "common knowledge" that we may tend to forget where it came from.

As a co-author of The Chip Rack and of The Gaming Table, I can tell

you that the information we were able to research and find for our first editions was small compared to the work that Harvey Fuller did in conducting his own research throughout Nevada.

Howdy's original publication of the Fuller work helped us greatly in expanding TCR and TGT, and often challenged what was then the accepted knowledge. That's not to say that Fuller didn't make mistakes, or that everything in the Index is gospel. But it's just about as close as it gets, allowing for the occasional error.

Harvey Fuller died in 2004, but thanks to the work Howdy Herz has done, his research lives on to benefit the entire hobby. The Index can be purchased from Gaming Archaeology for \$30.

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# A Nevada Landing DIG for Chips and Tokens of Pop's Oasis! Part 2

by Jim Follis and Jim Steffner

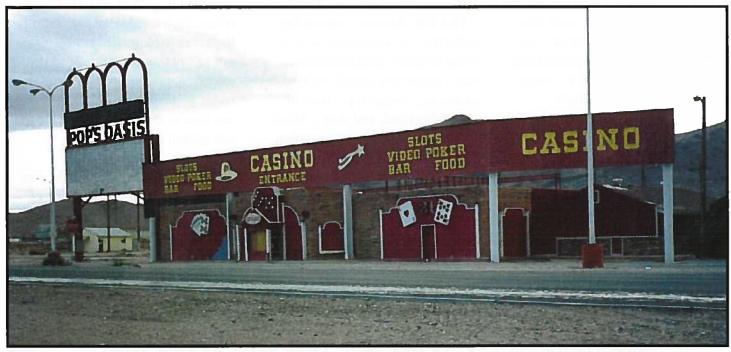


Photo courtesy of Jerry O'Neal

The last issue of the Chip & Token News brought you a story by Jim Follis, of the old Pop's Oasis in Jean Nevada; it's closing, and transformation into the Gold Strike Casino and the Nevada Landing. When Pop's closed a quantity of the chips & tokens were imbedded in the foundation of the Nevada Landing Hotel & Casino across I-15.

When the Nevada Landing was demolished, many of these \$1.00, \$5.00 \$25.00 chips and \$1.00 metal tokens were discovered at the demolition site. Since that time through many phone calls, e-mails, and letters, I have been attempting to gain access to the site (now fenced and posted as No Trespassing) to recover some of these chips and tokens, both loose and imbedded in

pieces of the concrete. The purpose of this quest was to secure some of these historical artifacts for the CC&GTCC Museum of Gaming History. These remnants of the old Pop's Oasis may be lost forever if not recovered now and held for informative displays in our future museum.

While unable, as yet, to make contact with the owner of Pop's when it closed, I did pursue seeking permission from the present owners of the property, MGM/Mirage Corporation. After several contacts I was able to secure permission to enter the site. This authorization was also made possible by having Mike Skelton, Director of the Museum of Gaming History sign off on an agreement drawn up by the Nevada Landing property owners which stated

that any, and all items recovered from the site would be donated by Nevada Landing to our Museum. In addition, a representative of the property owners would accompany the search team and a complete list of all items found and removed would be documented and signed off by both parties. None of the recovered items were to end up in any private collections.

With the agreement signed, the next step was for each of the participants in the search team to sign a Waiver of Rights in case of injury or death while on the Nevada Landing property. Jim Follis, Casey Focasio-Follis, and I submitted the Waiver of Rights form and requested a date and time to enter the site.

At 6:00 a.m. on August 2, 2008 we drove down to Jean and began the big dig. Under the watchful eye of a Gold Strike Security Officer, we dug and dug, and dug. After about three hours it was starting to get a bit warm (that's why you do any labor type work early in the day when the temperature is only in the low 90's <G>). We had covered the whole area where any chips and tokens had been reported as found and left no stone unturned. Our contacts at MGM / Mirage assured us that there would be no further searches allowed and that our search was allowed only because of the connection with the museum. The site is posted as No Trespassing and is definetly closed to all further access.



Search team - Jim Steffner, Casey Focazio-Follis, Jim Follis

All totaled we were able to recover 18 various denomination chips, 110 tokens, and 18 pieces of concrete with imbedded chips and/or tokens, or impressions of where they had once been. All items we found have been packaged and along with copies of the "Agreement", inventory list, and letter of explanation, tuned over to the Museum for present storage and future display use.





Examples of recovered items





#### Membership Recruitment Committee Chairman's Report Jim Follis

In the last issue of the CCTN I asked for the submission of ideas and concepts to solicit new members into this grand Club of ours. While many suggestions have been made (mostly via email and posting on the Club's online Message Board) I have also received a few phone calls and even some snail mail suggestions. Of the many (and varied) suggestions, I have noted a common thread in quite a few and that centers on looking towards casino employees as a probable source of new members.

After all, casino employees certainly can be close to the objects of our desires and it would not be surprising if long-time employees (and their off-spring that follow in a parent's foot-steps) are also hidden or silent collectors, let alone sources of historical information. A common suggestion has been to distribute a flyer (or single sheet newsletter) about the Club to employee break-rooms and to the HR organizations.

To facilitate such an endeavor, we need local contacts for the casinos, both here in the US and all around the World! While this concept is not fully detailed, at a minimum we are talking about contacting a respective casino and through a management contact or employee, ask that Club provided (and approved) flyers are distributed to employees via break-rooms, employee bulletins boards, or the HR organization.

In essence, we are asking Club members to step-up and adopt a casino (or two) in their immediate vicinity. If you have an interest in participating in this Casino Employee Outreach Program, please contact me via the below noted methods.

The Committee is still open to more suggestions. While the more recent online request for ideas posted by CC&GTCC Treasurer Doug (Cigarman) Smith yielded lots of ideas, we can never have too many suggestions. Even if they sound the same, sometimes a slight nuance can make a great addition or deal-maker for any previously submitted idea.

Well, that's it until next Quarter. I look forward to seeing as many of you that I can at the 2009 Convention in June at the South Point!

Jim Follis Membership Recruitment Committee Chairman Recruitment@ccgtcc.com 520.971.7909



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Come visit friends and fellow gambling chip enthusiasts each month. Bring trading material or anything you would like to show or ask questions about.

We hope to see you there!



Meeting Location: Tracey Gee Community Center 3599 Westcenter Dr. Houston, Tx. 77042

Time: 7:00 p.m.

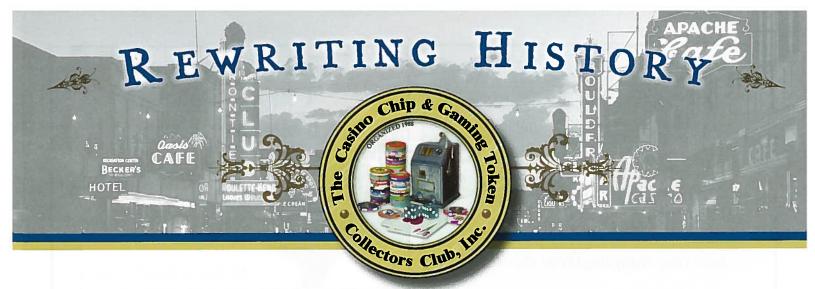
Dates: 2008 October 1st November 5th December 3rd

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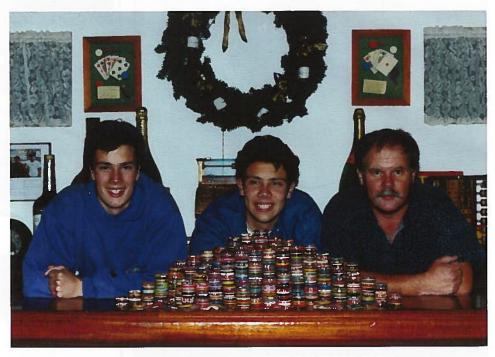
#### Reliving great articles from the CC&GTCC archives

This article first ran in the summer of 1995 - Volume 8 - Issue #3. It is a story that some of you may remember first hand, some of you may have heard about, and others still may have never heard about at all. Here it is told by Steve Passalacqua himself just a few months after it occurred. It involves several club members and a very important chip collection that was stolen years earlier.

I Am Steve Passalacqua, the "S" in T.D.S. ANTIQUE GAMBLING CHIPS and charter member #44, in the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club. This is my account of the most incredible series of events in my chip collecting life. For myself, my family and many of my close chip collecting friends, this story dominated the 1995 Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club annual convention at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

I have been collecting gaming chips since the early 1970's. On April 14th, 1995, I made the casino chip buy of my lifetime. I have been after this collection for many years and I had met my source at least six years ago, maybe longer, while hunting down museum quality ivory chips from the mid to late 1880's. Casino chips were always of strong interest to me but ivory chips were my first love. One day, six or seven years ago, I was trading chips with a collector that had

clay and casino chips but no ivory chips. My new chip collecting friend gave me the name and phone number of a collector that did have some ivory chips. Iin fact he had thousands of chips from all over, California, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Las Vegas, even some illegal clubs. I could hardly wait to get home and phone my new source. I was told he recently closed a business that had many of his chips on display to the public in wood



The three boys of T.D.S. ANTIQUE GAMBLING CHIPS. Tegan, Drew and Steve Passalacqua

#### REWRITING HISTORY

framed cases all over the walls.

In the first of many calls, explaining what a serious chip collector I was and that I was looking forward to a viewing and possible trading session, my intention was to add as many chips as possible to my collection. We set a date and when the day came, I grabbed my ivory traders, hopped in my car and drove off to his house. It was a chip collecting paradise; chips were everywhere, even the garage had five of the display boards. After a two hour visit, we traded three ivory chips. He had no interest or intention of selling any of his collection at this time.

Over the years, two different shows devoted to casino collectibles developed. The first was the Bellflower Show, hosted by Jim Munding in Bellflower, California. The second was the Convention, hosted by the CC&GTCC in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both shows are top notch for all levels of chip collecting, beginning through advanced, hard to find material.

I now had a fantastic way to excel in my treasured hobby. I would never give up on my source for thousands of chips. For years I would make my phone call about every three months or so, usually a month before one of the 2 major chip shows. Always giving my best sincere pitch about buying all or part of his collection, I had the chip collecting fever and he had a temporary cure. Sometimes we would talk for 10 to 15 minutes. Other times I was bothering him and the call would only last 15 seconds. The answer was always the same, he was not ready to sell any of his collection yet, but keep up my periodic calls. He seemed impressed by my enthusiasm and devotion to chip collecting. I had the feeling that some day it would

happen; I just knew I could never give up. We came close to a second meeting several times. Each call was very exciting, always ending in frustration.

A month before the 1995 Convention in Las Vegas I made my standard phone call, BAM!!! It was about to happen. He said he was ready to do something. He said we could get together Friday, April 14th, any time after 5:30 PM, but to call him on Thursday to confirm. After six years of it not happening, Cathy, my wife, said something would happen and he would cancel, but tell me to keep calling. I made the Thursday call and everything was a go. It was so long ago when I saw the chips, I could not remember them; I just knew he had thousands.

Friday came, and I made the solo drive to his house bubbling with anticipation. I was finally sitting at his kitchen table and the big show was about to begin. Out of his storage area came casino chip racks of 100 chips each and they were emptied on to the table. I was sitting at a table with 4,000 chips. I knew it was time to talk money, I told him what I could produce. This was a fabulous collection and worth more than I had to offer and "could I buy part of it?" We had not sorted anything yet and I still did not know what was in the pile. He said he wanted to sell it together, all to 1 person, for twice what I could afford. The chip collecting blues started setting in. I felt we were not going to make a deal. He told me to pick out what I was interested in and rack them up. As I would fill a rack he would take the full rack from the table and set it in the middle of the kitchen floor. One rack for the floor, one rack back in storage, and so on. I told him I was picking out what I thought was the best. He was also helping me sort

the massive pile by saying, "do you like this one?" If I said "yes," it went in the rack on the floor. If I said "no," it went into storage. We still did not have a deal set, but I was having fun picking out everything I liked. With ten full racks on the floor, and still sorting, he asked me something that I could hardly believe, "you want this one, don't you?" I finally realized I was getting everything on the floor for the amount I could afford. There were 20 full racks on the floor when we finished sorting, 2,000 chips, half of all the chips from the table. We closed the deal. I told him it was fantastic for me, and if I did well in Las Vegas, I would return with a few dollars more.

One the drive home I am thinking "this is the chip find of a life time, it could be worth \$30,000." Finally my persistence had paid off. When I arrived home, Tegan my youngest of two sons and the "T" in T.D.S., immediately started to help me sort chips. Right off the top Tegan pulled out 600 of what we call "coffee can chips", unknown names, monogram numbers and designs. Next we pulled out 200 known commons. We were down to 1200 good chips. WOW! Now it was time to sort by location, - Tahoe, Reno, Las Vegas, etc. 60% I did not have, 30% I had never seen before.

After 20 years of collecting chips, I had landed the big one, I found the Mother Load. The chip convention was only a few days away. We had a lot of work to do. Tegan started looking up chips in the new issue of THE CHIP RACK. the price guide to the casino chips and checks of Nevada. Tegan was finding out that about 15% were not listed. These were killer looking chips and this was a high quality sign to us. It was now 4 a.m.; The chips have been ours for about 6 hours, and we now believe

#### REWRITING HISTORY

they could be worth over \$50,000. It was time to go to bed! We stayed up late every night trying to price chips we knew were extremely rare. I made up 6 binders with color covers labeled by location, 2 Las Vegas, 1 Tahoe, 1 Reno, 1 Nevada All Over. We were having fun with the last one; it was the only binder with a blue cover. Its title, in large letters, read "EXPERIENCED COLLECTORS ONLY - CHIPS OVER \$300." We were now heavily loaded with dynamite chips and headed for Las Vegas.

To tell the truth, I did not want to sell anything that was not in my collection.

I had made several financial commitments to my family. It was a very tough dose of reality knowing I had to sell chips that I didn't have in my collection. I have never done that before. I picked out 20 chips I was going to keep for sure, 2 were killers, the ether 18 were good to great and the rest were for sale. I did have a target amount of sales to

hit, to satisfy my commitments. When I reached that target, I was pulling all the rest of the chips off the market for myself. The public was actually going to decide which chips I would be able to keep for my collection.

We arrived in town 4 days before the show and the news that we had phenomenal chips was spreading like wild fire. The phone started to ring. Eight people were ready and willing to buy as soon as I was ready to sell. Before I could sell one chip, two things had to be completed. #1, reevaluate our prices to reflect their unusual rarity and overall near mint condition. #2, color photo copy all six binders. I felt their greatness as a whole needed to be documented as a group.

We knew that two of our knowledgeable friends, Doug Saito and Walter Dirzulaitis, were already in town. They were excited and interested in "taking a look." We felt we still needed help in pricing the rarer pieces, so we invited them over. They were more than willing, but no

TOS Antiques (Control of the Control of the Control

The TWILIGHT PRICING ZONE COMMANDOS. (back row) Steve Passalacqua, Doug Saito, Walter Dirzulaitis. (front row) Mike LaFrenz, Tegan and Drew Passalacqua.

one had any idea that for the next 10 hours of our lives, we were about to enter the TWILIGHT PRICING ZONE. From 7pm to 4am the next day, no one left the PRICING TABLE. We took each chip one by one, held it up and talked it over. At home in Napa, Tegan had already marked each white paper 2x2, with the value code from THE CHIP RACK price guide. The codes gave us an excellent feel for the rarity and availability of the chips. Drew the oldest of my two sons and

the D in T.D.S., would take out a chip and pass it around. I would ask, "has any one seen this one before?" Doug would say, "no," Walter would say, "no," and I would, say "no." The code might be (N - \$125-149;); I would say, "who has it for sale at any price?" The unanimous answer was, "no one I know." How much should it be? Walter would say, \$200." Doug would say, "come on that is a \$250 chip," and I would write down \$325. Drew would say, "this is another one for the BLUE BOOK." We all took turns at setting the highest price on different chips. This would continue all night long chip, after chip. We were all on

> a natural high; these chips made the night fly by. It was an unforgettable night, but everything about these chips was unforgettable. It was now 4 AM, time for our guests to leave. Everyone must try and get some sleep. After 10 hours, 2 binders were still not priced; the Reno binder and the one with chips from all over

Nevada. I would get some sleep and start again.

That afternoon, Doug called and I asked for more help with the last 2 binders. He said he would be over soon. Several more hours were spent in the TWILIGHT PRICING ZONE. With that major task completed, I could now color photo copy six binders of the most interesting set of chips to ever hit the market. Five other people were also impressed and agreed

to pay \$74 for each complete set of color copies. It took three attempts to be successful. Kinko's color machine was being used, I would have to leave the chips and pick them up the next day. NO WAY! It was 10:15 p.m. at the second place across town when we started. The manager stopped us as soon as we started because they would be closing at 11:00 p.m., and it would take 3 hours to do the job. For the third attempt, I would return at 7:00 a.m. the next day for the 3 plus hours it took to copy the 6 binders. Everything was now ready to show and sell.

Thirteen lucky collectors had an advance preview with the opportunity to buy. The collective knowledge of the people looking over the collection was outstanding. Everyone felt that these six binders had chips that would never be seen again. Several times these knowledgeable minds would say, "this chip is too low," If they did not buy it, we raised the price on the spot. It was now the night before the show, I was ready. We now had 6 full binders priced well over \$100,000. The Early Bird Reception and Swap Session was about to begin. I was starting to settle down and relax. I would not take the chips to the Swap Session. I would save then for the opening day of the show tomorrow.

Opening day had arrived. It was now show time. Our booth looked good. On the front table were our display cases with six mind blowing binders. We felt like we were the talk of the show, plenty of action, with lots of fun loving discussion. This was the ultimate show for us, it could not get any better than this for a chip collecting family.

Finally, what this story is all about. Mid afternoon on the first day of the show, a dealer introduced me to a collector I had never met. It was Phil Jensen. I later learned a lot about him. This was THE PHIL JENSEN, the one with acknowledgments in Dale Seymour's 285 page book Antique Gambling Chips. The same Phil Jensen mentioned in Art Andersen's book, CASINOS and their ASHTRAYS. The same Phil Jensen that put over 200,000 miles on a brand new 1969 Chevy pickup collecting casino chips from all over Nevada. I was told that in 1981 he had his entire casino chip collection stolen. He also said that many of our chips were in his collection, stolen in 1981. I felt very sorry for him but no way were these his chips. I had known my source for 6 years and felt in no way was he a thief. He knew I was bringing them to a big show in Las Vegas and he had them on display to the public for years. That was it. I went back to business at my booth, explained the conversation to Drew and Mike LaFrenz (Drew's college roommate, staying with us and helping with the chips). I said it was too bad about Phil's chips getting stolen, but these were not his chips. We finished the day in grand fashion with our target sales in sight. A few more sales and the rest were going into my collection.

Day two of the convention was just as exciting; the enthusiasm generated by these chips was just too much fun. Mid day Phil walked by our booth again, his shoulders drooping with his head hung down. He turned around and took a brief look in some of our binders, shook his head and left without saying a word. Phil walked across from our booth and sat down with another dealer. Phil slumped into the chair. Tegan said," This guy really thinks these are his chips." I said, "OK, I will go over to talk with him." I grabbed one of my business cards, walked over and handed it to him. I said, "evidently you feel these

are really your chips." Phil said, "yes I do.", I told him I was close enough to my target goal to take them off the market. I would go back to my source and try to get, more information. I walked back to my table and told Tegan, Drew and Mike to close up the binders, that no more of the chips were for sale. I went back to talk to Phil to make general conversation, to try to ease his pain, and to let him know I was willing to cooperate as much as possible, but they were not really his chips.

For me, the next 2.5 minutes were devastating. We started talking in general about the theft. Phil told me about the suspected thief and what his occupation was. BOOM!, A light went on. The thief could have worked at my sources' business. Then he told me where he thought the suspected thief had moved. BOOM-BOOM, the second light when on. I bought the chips from that area. Then he told me of some other things that were stolen at the same time. That was the BIG BANG. I had seen some of these items at my sources home. In my mind, it had to be true, as no one knew of this information. In 2.5 minutes they mentally went from my chips to his. My brain turned to mush. The world was turning upside down. Everything was going 100 miles an hour. I told him at this point I believed they were his chips and I would get them back to him, somehow. I went back to our table. I told the boys they were his chips, I did not want to believe it, but he told me things no one knew and I was going to give him back the chips.

I went to talk with Howdy Herz. I needed support and help. I was a mental basket case. I told Howdy the chips I had were stolen 14 years ago from Phil Jensen and I wanted to give them back. I had no idea what to do. I was about to give well over

#### REWRITING HISTORY

\$100,000 worth of casino chips to a perfect stranger. Howdy knew Phil as did many other major dealers. He also knew of the theft 14 years ago. We set a meeting for Saturday, April 29th, at 11:00 a.m., one hour before the start of the last day of show. We still had a few hours left of the Friday show, sitting at our table, with no more big chips.

In the next few hours, everything bad went through my mind. I had been selling stolen chips. What about the money? Was this going to be a financial disaster for my family? What about the chips I sold to friends? Was I to try and get them back? Would any of the other dealers ever do business with me? Would anyone ever want to buy or trade a chip from me? Would I even bother setting up for the last day of the convention? The hobby I enjoyed so much was over. It was a few very dark hours in my chip collecting life.

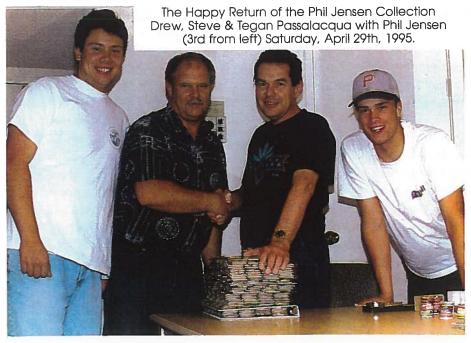
In a few more hours, my mental state was starting to brighten. I thought, "This is a great happening. Chips stolen 14 years ago are being returned to the original devoted collector." I was also getting positive moral support from dealers and friends that knew me and would vouch for my character. I was actually starting to get excited about these crazy chips again. I knew all my early concerns would work themselves out. I was headed in the right direction and it was unanimous from Cathy, Drew, and Tegan.

At 5 minutes to 11:00 Saturday morning, there was the knock at our door we had all been waiting for. In came Howdy Hers with Phil Jensen. We all shook hands and sat at the table with the 6 killer binders. I had no problem with the chips belonging to Phil. I already felt they were 100%

his. He did bring a 1973 copy from the oldest newspaper in Nevada that did a cover photo-story about him and his chips. We took chips from the binders and matched them up perfectly with the chips in the photo. I told Phil to go through the binders and pull out anything he did not think was his. Everyone enjoyed the process. Every few chips, he would point to one, tap it several times, and tell us a great story about how he acquired it. I could tell our entire family was growing very fond of this man. We were hearing personal stories from one of the ultimate chip collectors of all time. He even pulled out a chip and before he turned it over, he said, "This has a cigarette burn on the other side," and of course, it did. It was an incredible experience. Phil had not seen these chips for 14 years and he remembered them like it was vesterday. About 95% of the chips in the binders were his. I still had one concern. I knew some of the people I sold chips to and some I did not. Most of the chips I sold were his, but not all of them, and I did not know what

to do. I felt it was one of the scares of the theft. Phil told me to consider it a finders fee. The last weight was lifted off ay shoulders. It was 12:15pm and the show had already started. It was time to go. When I handed him the pile of chips both our eyes filled with tears. The PHIL JENSEN COLLECTION was home again. We all went to the show a little late. By 12:30pm, my table was open with business back to normal. I felt great.

Yes, there was more of Phil's collection at the home of my source. We had a few ideas about what to do, but only one that made sense to me. I would simply go back to my source and buy the rest of the collection. Reasons why: #1, I liked my source. We had a good relationship, and I felt he was completely innocent. #2, I was to return with a few dollars more if I had a good show in Las Vegas. #3, the rest of the collection had already been offered to me, but I did not have enough money at the time. #4, I still had a little cushion of profit from the first batch of Phil's collection, that I



T.D.S. recovered and returned to Phil Jensen a \$100,000 plus casino chip collection, stolen in 1981.

did not mind spending to get the rest. After all, the money was generated by the collection itself.

The day after I returned home, I called my source. We set up another get together on May 3rd, 1995, at 5:30 p.m. I spent 4 hours going through the rest of the chips, buying things for me and things I thought were Phil's. There were plenty of chips. My source was a legitimate collector. I now had a new batch of chips in front of me; Some for Phil, the rest for me. We worked out a deal and I paid him. Before we loaded the chips, I told him we had a done deal, but there was still a problem in Las Vegas. I told him the whole story. He could not believe it. Yes, he did buy a collection in the early 80's, from a

person matching Phil's suspicions. My source gave me several more things he had bought from the same person, that I had overlooked. I kept the new batch together and waited for information on when Phil could come to my house and pick out the last of what had been stolen.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 10th, 1995, Phil Jensen and Howdy Herz were at my front door. Again, Phil was seeing chips he knew very well but thought he would never see again. There were more fascinating stories with identifications. These mystifying chips were making a magical story on their own. We were now closing another chapter of the great PHIL JENSEN COLLECTION. I am extremely happy about the whole

story. I feel the entire roller coaster ride was a thrill from the beginning to the end. To be a positive part of one of the biggest stories in the history of chip collecting is truly a lucky honor. Without the support of my family and friends, this could have been a disaster for me. I thank you all. I treasure this hobby and the people in it.

Steve Passalacqua
T . D . S .
ANTIQUE GAMBLING CHIPS

HAVING FUN

#### - Editor's Note -

This story won the "Article of the Year" at the 4th Annual CC&GTCC Convention in 1996. I asked Steve if he would like to elaborate on the story a little more, but he mentioned he thought that the story still holds up just as it did 13 years ago. I agree with Steve, but wanted to add that I thought it was fate that Steve wound up with Phil's collection. I'm not sure how well I would have been able to deal with returning the collection to it rightful owner. I think I would have done the right thing as Steve did in the end, but there certainly would not be any smiling photos of me returning the chips! On the other side of the coin, I am amazed at Phil's generosity of letting Steve keep the money that he made off of sales before he realized the collection was stolen. If it were my collection, I would want every chip, binder, flip and every penny back, and I think there would be police and lawyers involved as well! I think It had to be these two particular club members involved for the story to end up the way that it did.

## See you at "SPLASHBAR V" 2009

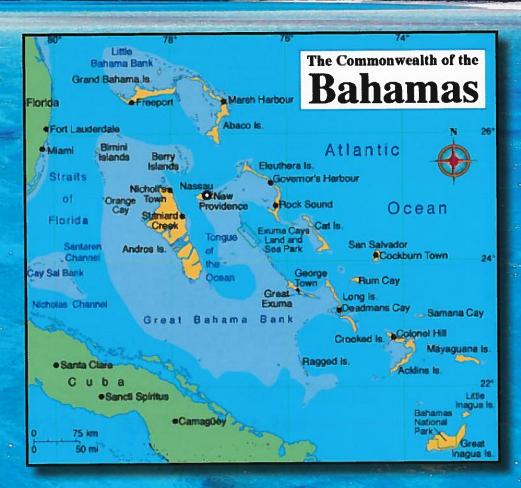
Brian "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman LM-1121-175MA CCCC-06

# it's Better in the Bahamas

By Charles Kaplan, LM-2558-48

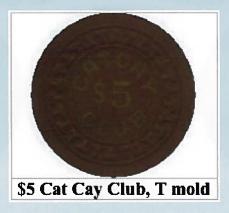
The Bahamas are an archipelago of about 700 islands and 2,400 uninhabited islets and cays lying 50 miles off the east coast of Florida. They extend for about 760 miles. Only about 30 of the islands are inhabited; the most important is New Providence on which the capital, Nassau, is situated. Other islands include Grand Bahama, Abaco, Eleuthera, Andres, Cat Island, and San Salvador. The Bahamas are the closest friendly warm weather resort destination to the United States and have a long history of providing hospitality to Americans.

Prior to the 1960s, gambling was illegal in the Bahamas. But there were two private casinos in the Bahamas that operated only during



the tourist season under special license, the Cat Cay Club on Cat Cay and the Bahamian Club on New Providence island. Both of these casinos were for hotel guests only and Bahamians were not allowed to gamble in these establishments.

The Cat Cay Club was on Cat Cay, a small island in the southern Bahamas, owned by Louis Wasey. The origins of Cat Cay's legalized gambling operation began after Wasey had already built the nine-hole golf course upon which the Duke of Windsor, while Governor of the Bahamas from 1940-45, enjoyed playing. The course was named Windsor Downs in his honor. During one of his visits the Duke mentioned that it might be fun to have a little casino on the island for guests. Wasey readily agreed and the Duke issued a license in Lou Wasey's name personally. Upon Wasey' death in 1963, the island's casino license expired. Wasey left the island to his daughter Jane, a New York sculptress, who returned for two years, but in 1965 Hurricane Betsy did enormous damage and the island was closed.



The Bahamian Club operated illegally since the 1920s on West Bay Street in Nassau. It was only open 3 months a year during the height of the tourist season and then only to a very exclusive clientele. In 1939, the Bahamian Club was issued a license with an amendment to the existing penal code.



The next significant event to have an effect on casino gambling in the Bahamas occurred in Cuba. On New Years Eve, 1959, Castro and the revolutionaries overthrew the corrupt Batiste regime. Batiste had cooperated with the American Mafia, headed by Meyer Lansky, to take over the casinos in Cuba. Thrown out of Cuba and with all the equipment and casino operation experience, the Mafia had to go elsewhere. There is evidence that they then established casinos throughout the Caribbean, in: Antigua, Aruba, Curacao, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Maarten, Suriname and, of course, the Bahamas. There is considerable published evidence of the Mafia's involvement with the legalization and ownership of casino gambling in the Bahamas.

In the Bahamas, the first to fall pray to the mob was the Bahamian Club. A new rack of chips issued in the early 1960's gives a hint of the new ownership; it was now called the New Bahamian Club.



Long before the gambling was authorized or even mentioned out loud, the blueprints for Freeport's Lucayan Beach Hotel on Grand Bahama Island depicted a large room specifically ordered at a Miami meeting attended by the builders, the architect and Meyer Lansky. On the plans, the 9,000-square-foot room was called a "handball court," but it was ultimately to become the Monte Carlo casino. From its opening night in January 1964, the Monte Carlo Room prospered, never having a losing night. At the end of five months it had made \$1 million, and before the year was over it had repaid the \$600,000 lent by the Lansky mob to equip the casino and provide the initial bankroll. By the end of 1966, the casino was grossing \$8 million a year according to available records. It is worth noting, however, that Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, the international accounting firm which kept the casino's books, did not trust those available records and resigned that year.



Huntington Hartford, the hapless A&P heir, discovered Bahamian politics to his chagrin, when he embarked on a grandiose Bahamian project in 1959, without greasing the proper palms. Hartford, who had an instinct for throwing his millions into noble and picturesque but ruinous undertakings, decided to go into the resort business. He bought most of Hog Island—changed its name to Paradise Island and spent \$30 million building a luxury playground there. Paradise Island is just off Nassau, the capitol city of the Bahamas, on New Providence island. But then he discovered that the place could not break even without a casino and a bridge across the harbor. No other big investors would consider going in with him unless they heard the click of dice, and he found he could not ferry over nearly enough tourists by motorboat to pay the bills.

As a matter of economic necessity Hartford decided to add a casino. But all efforts to obtain a gambling franchise and a permit to build a bridge failed. He even offered to give 50% of the casino's profits to the Bahamian public. But he made the mistake of retaining the wrong lawyer to plead for his gaming concession and, worse, he had committed the terrible faux pas of contributing some \$15,000 to the ruling party's rivals. As the stalemate stretched on, his troubles in Paradise were costing him \$1 million a year by 1964. So Hartford gave up and sold most of his holdings to the quaintly named Mary Carter Paint Company, whose owners wanted to diversify their holdings.

Miraculously, Paradise Island's difficulties began to melt away. Gambling there became possible merely by purchase, for \$750,000, of a Certificate of Exemption from the owner of the Bahamian Club, a sedate little gaming room in Nassau. The permit was transferred to the Paradise Island Casino when it opened. Approval for the bridge was graciously granted by the Bahamian government, which decided that a span across the harbor would not be a hazard to shipping.

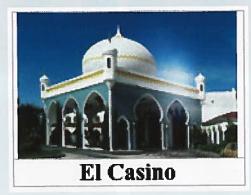


The Paradise Island Casino is still open today, but it is now part of the amazing mega-resort, the Atlantis, the largest in the Caribbean.



Daniel Ludwig built the King's Inn on Grand Bahama, an 800-room hotel surrounded by an 18-hole golf course. Ludwig wanted to build a gambling casino in connection with his hotel, but Groves' Bahamas Amusements Ltd. held the monopoly on Grand Bahama casinos. Groves eventually built his own El Casino just across the street from King's Inn. By this time Ludwig had leased the King's Inn to Miami hotel-owners Morris Lansburgh and Sam Cohen, Lansburgh and Cohen were owners of record at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas between 1960 and 1967, and were indicted along with Lansky and five others on charges that they had skimmed more than \$36 million in gambling profits during those years. Lansburgh and Cohen pleaded guilty to two counts of impeding the collection of taxes.

In 1967, the largest casino in the Western hemisphere was opened in Freeport on Grand Bahama Island, El Casino. A great white Moorish meringue of a gambling mansion. At night, its domes and turrets-from which no muezzin calls to worship any Allah—the crap tables and the stick-men are floodlit in the colors of Neapolitan ice-creams. Inside the rows of fruit machines chatter desolately in a wilderness of bright lights and garish colors. The Ladies and Gents are called Sultanas and Sultans, and the cocktail bar is called the Kasbar.





#### El Casino eventually became the Princess Hotel and Casino and has since closed.



In May 2000 the Bahamia Casino opened in Lucaya on Grand Bahama island.



The Bahamia only lasted a short while and in 2003 became the Isle of Capri, Our Lucaya.



Other notable casinos in the Bahamas are:



Playboy Club, 1978-1982, in the Ambassador Beach Hotel



Cable Beach, opened by Carnival Cruises (notice the Carnival logo)



Crystal Palace, formerly Cable Beach, still open

Today, there are three open casinos in the Bahamas: The Crystal Palace in Nassau; The Atlantis on Paradise Island; and the Isle of Capri, Our Lucaya, on Grand Bahama Island. There is reported to be a slots only casino, Breezes Bahamas Resort, in Nassau. The Emerald Bay easino on Exuma Island recently closed. I have not seen a chip, token or anything from the Emerald Bay casino. Have you? The Atlantis is the class act of the group, the other casinos always seem to be struggling to keep their doors open.

The Bahamas are convenient to Americans on the east coast. It is only a short flight or cruise to reach the their warm turquoise waters. Bargains can be found and the amenities are all you would want from a Caribbean resort. I hope that you will find that things are "Better in the Bahamas".

# Log on and check it out! The new look CCTN online. www.cctn.ccgtcc.com



The Casino Chip and Token News Magazine website features articles from past issues. Complete magazines will be available to download in the coming months. As of this time only issues from 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 are available.

## **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 logo 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



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

## **CC&GTCC Claims Form**

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

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

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

The process will work as follows:

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

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

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

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## **Reward Fund**

Several years ago, the Club had a standing offer to help deter theft of member's collections. Somewhere along the way it was either dropped, forgotten or just faded into obscurity. The Board has voted to reintroduce the reward offer. We would like to thank Jim Reilly for his research and assistance with this project. The terms of the offer are similar to those used by the ANA. Please contact any member of the BOD for further information.

The Club offers a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons charged with the theft of any part of a club member's collection.

The Club will pay a reward as follows:

If the retail value of the stolen property is less than \$5,000, the reward is \$250 If \$5000 to \$20,000, the reward is \$500 If greater than \$20,000, the reward is \$1000.

The purpose of this reward offer is to increase the likelihood of apprehending and convicting those who steal from club members, as well as to increase the likelihood of recovering the stolen property. The reward offer, however, is not intended to reimburse any club member's loss. It is each member's responsibility to maintain insurance against losses of this kind.

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

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Conditions | Glossary | Chip FAQ | Chipology 101 | Fakes | Library | Cleaning | Brass Core

#### **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.

## <u>Casino Chip & Token News</u> - 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.
- <u>Chipology 101</u> a great intro-to-chipping seminar presented at the national convention.
- <u>Cleaning Chips</u> a good primer on cleaning casino chips.
- Mold Designs Robert Eisenstadt's mold design project.

#### **Detailed Reference**

- <u>Fakes/Fantasy/Counterfeits</u> 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.**

- <u>Club Library</u> 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.

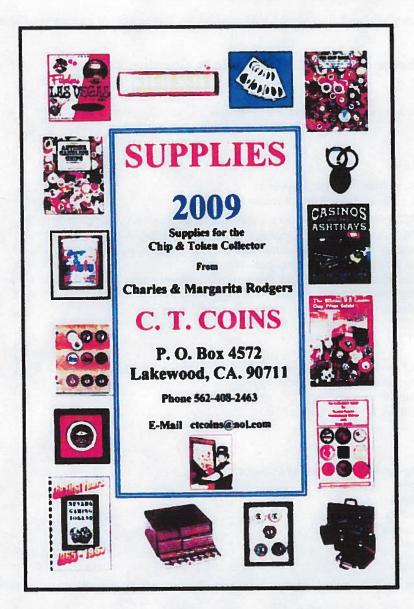
In this section you will find reference material about fakes and counterfeits, cancelled chips, brass core chips and much more. Ask The Expert gives you access to over 50 collectors who can answer any question about collecting. Each collector is an expert in a particular field. Whether it's casino chips,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

http://www.ccgtcc.com

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Exchange Club
Beatty
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#48-9 Harrah's Lake Tahoe \$5.00 Chipco Chip First Comm from Chipco for the State of Nevada UNC, \$20.00



#48-10
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#48-11
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#48-12
Last Frontier
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Diamond Mold,
Black & Blue Print,
UNC, \$20.00



#48-13 Marina Las Vegas 25¢ Chip Plak Hat & Cane Gold Hot Stamp Unc. \$50.00



#48-14
Marina Las Vegas
S5.00 Chip Orange
Good only at table
games, Hat & Came
Gold Hot Stamp
Unc. \$15,00



#48-15
Marina Las Vegas
\$25.00 Chip Gray
Good only at table
games, Hat & Cane
Gold Hot Stamp
Unc. \$25.00



#48-16 Marina Las Vegas \$500.00 Chip White Good only at table games Hat & Cama Gold Hot Stamp Unc. \$50.00



#48-17 Mapes Reno \$5.00 Chip Brown With Metal Foil inlay late1940's Fine \$15.00



#48-18 Mapes Reno \$25.00 Chip Green With Metal Foll Inlay Late 1940's Fine \$25.00



#48-19 Mapes Reno \$25.00 Red – Large Crown – Gold Hot Stamp Fine \$10,00



#48-20 Mizpah Tonopah \$1.00 Lavender Chip, Hat & Cane, Gold Hot Stamp. Ex Fine – AU \$20.00



#48-21 Mizpah Tonopah 1 Orange NCV.Chip, Hat & Cane, Gold Hot Stamp. UNC. \$5.00



#48-22 Money Tree Reno \$1.00 Poker Orange Hat & Cane, Gold Hot Stamp, UNC. \$5.00



#48-23 Money Tree Reno \$5.00 Chip Red Small Crown & Dash, Black over Gold Print, EX. Fine \$7.00



#48-24 Union Plaza Las Vegas .70¢ Chip Brown Hat & Cane Gold Hot Stamp UNC. \$10.00

