

Casino Chip

& Token News



Volume 23 Number 1
\$6.95

AS TIME GOES BY...

NEVADA IN THE 1930S

PART TWO

HOTEL
APACHE

APACHE
Cafe

EVENING ON FREMONT STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) educational organization
with the mission of preserving gaming history.

EDITORIAL

Editor Todd Barrett

16717 Sky Valley Drive
Ramona, CA 92065
(619) 770-7272
editor@ccgtcc.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager Charles T. Rodgers

P.O. Box 4572
Lakewood CA 90711
advertising@ccgtcc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jim Steffner
9321 Mt Bret Ave. Unit 103
Las Vegas NV 89129
president@ccgtcc.com

Vice President

Jay Sands
5371 Carmento Dr.
Oak Park, CA 91377
vicepresident@ccgtcc.com

Treasurer

Doug Smith
P.O. Box 691085
Houston, TX 77269-1085
treasurer@ccgtcc.com

Secretary

Dawn Satter
6895 East Lakemead Blvd.
#A-6 - Box 193
Las Vegas, NV 89156
secretary@ccgtcc.com

Membership Officer

Steve Bedo
1215 E. Dalton Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741
membership@ccgtcc.com

CLUB OFFICIALS

Claims Director

Travis H. D. Lewin
claims@ccgtcc.com

Legal Counsel

Eric S. Rosenblum, Esq
legal@ccgtcc.com

Publicity Director

Sheldon Smith
3549 Casa Real Way
Las Vegas, NV 89147
publicity@ccgtcc.com

Promotions Director

Roy Nelson
P.O. Box 777602
Henderson, NV 89077-7602
promotions@ccgtcc.com

Education Director

Sheldon Smith
3549 Casa Real Way
Las Vegas, NV 89147
education@ccgtcc.com

Webmaster

David Spragg
webmaster@ccgtcc.com

Club Librarian

John Kallman
P.O. Box 122
Sartell, MN 56377
librarian@ccgtcc.com

Building Project Finance Committee Chairman

Mike Skelton
building@ccgtcc.com

Co-Convention Chairs

**Mary Ann Massey and
Sandi Steffner**
9321 Mt Bret Ave. #103
Las Vegas, NV 89129
convention@ccgtcc.com

Election Committee Chairpersons

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey
election@ccgtcc.com

Auction Chairman

David Spragg
auction@ccgtcc.com

OTY Chairman

Jim Follis
oty@ccgtcc.com

Planning Committee Chairman

Allan Anderson
adesign@sbcglobal.net

Hall of Fame and Standards & Archives Committees

Michael Knapp
ChipProf@aol.com

Corporate Advertising

Allan Anderson
corporateadvertising@ccgtcc.com

Historian

Carey Burke



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Editor Todd Barrett
Assistant Editor Carl Kogut
Advertising Charles T. Rodgers
Printing Modern Litho Printing

President Jim Steffner
Vice President Jay Sands
Treasurer Doug Smith
Secretary Dawn Satter
Membership Officer Steve Bedo

Contributors

Steve Bedo • Alex Bratu • Casey Focazio-Follis
Jim Follis • Pam Goertler • Phil Jensen
John Kallman • Michael Knapp • Bruce Massey
Mary Ann Massey • Doug Smith
Jim Steffner • Sandi Steffner • Mary Anne Sulik

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Join The Fun!

CC>CC Membership Application

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Country

E-mail or Phone Number

My collection interests are:

- ☐ Chips ☐ Tokens
☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

- ☐ Name and address
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☐ Do not publish any of my information

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

- ☐ One year \$30.00 - 3rd class or bulk mailing rate
☐ One year Associate Member \$5.00
☐ First class postage - additional \$14.00
☐ International \$55.00 - includes first class postage

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All other mailings are via 3rd class or bulk mail.

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

CC>CC Membership Officer

Steve Bedo

1215 E. Dalton Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741

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or sign up or renew on line at...

www.CCGTCC.com

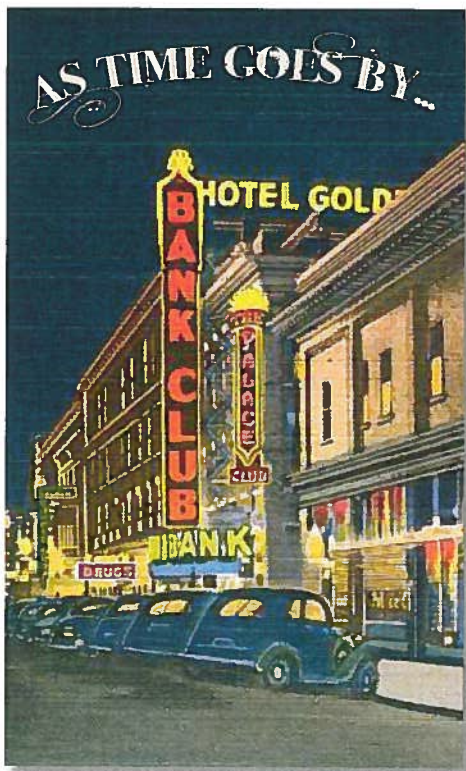
Casino Chip

& Token News



Volume 23 Number 1
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A Member of the American Numismatic Association (C-140538)



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As Time Goes By
by Pam Goertler
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American Numismatic Association Membership Application

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

☐ Regular ☐ Student ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Associate

Present or former ANA number, if any _____

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms.

Name, please print _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Date of Birth _____

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

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

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

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

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Proposer

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card Type _____

Credit Card all Numbers _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature of Cardholder (Required) _____

Dues

- Regular (age 19-64) one year
- Junior (age 18 or younger) one year \$26
- Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$41
- Life Membership (under 55) \$1,200 (over 55) \$900

* International Memberships have an additional \$36 per year shipping and handling fees in US Funds.

Forward completed application to:

ANA

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

Please contact us with any questions (800) 367-972

Visit Us Online!

www.CCGTCC.com



Visit the Membership Section to find all the information you need about our members as well as all the information you need to become a member. Find information about local clubs, visit the Hall of Fame and more.

Check out the Reference Center, where you will find useful information on the hobby of casino chip and gaming token collecting. There are articles for the beginning collector and detailed reference materials for the more experienced collector.

Log on to the club message board. Ask questions, get answers and meet other people interested in the same collectibles as you!



See You There!

www.CCGTCC.com

Advertising

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

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

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

Please Note

- Do not send in ads that are folded. We recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND". This will only cost you about \$4.95 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- 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>CC. No ad will run without payment

Schedule of Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

Spring Issue
Mailing Date: March
Deadline for Ads: January 1st

Summer Issue
Mailing Date: June
Deadline for Ads: April 1st

Fall Issue
Mailing Date: September
Deadline for Ads: July 1st

Winter Issue
Mailing Date: December
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
January 1st for 1st qtr. issue April 1st for 2nd qtr. issue
July 1st for 3rd qtr. issue October 1st for 4th 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 _____



Jim Steffner
President

President's Letter

As we enter into the New Year, I would once again like to thank you all for your support of our club. I am very proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

This past year was a tough one for the economy in general and for the CC>CC. Your Board of Directors had to make some tough choices and though we're not out of the woods yet, things are looking up. As a result of careful cost controls, a steady membership base, and a good convention turnout we are able to maintain a positive outlook for the new year.

In 2010 we will be focusing on increasing membership, securing corporate support, and several other avenues to give you more for your membership dollar.

Las Vegas is getting rain, lots of rain. Yes that's big news for this dry town. As I write this we are expecting about as much rain this week as we had all last year.

The Board of Directors mid-year Board Meeting took place in early February and we hashed over many, many topics. Watch for announcements as suggestions and ideas are put in place.

Allan Anderson, Corporate Advertising Director is already researching new methods of increasing advertising income.

The convention planning is moving along on schedule. Be sure to send in your pre-registration form and sign up for the banquet, poker and blackjack tournaments. See convention article for more details. If you would like a dealer table at the show, contact Mary Ann Massey, bmmassey2@cox.net some tables may still be available. Sandi tells me that she has had a lot of interest in the Pirate theme this year. Polish off your wooden leg, sharpen the hook, and feed Polly a cracker. Be sure to compete for a nice prize as the best-dressed pirate or pirateess at the banquet. Hotel rates are lower than last year as is the pre-registration fee, plus each pre-registration package will have some goodies including a \$3.00 chip good for merchandise purchase from any floor dealer.

Make a list before you forget – airline reservations, room reservations at the SouthPoint, pre-register, sign up for banquet and tournaments, get your traders reads, check your want list, and make sure your list ends with HAVE FUN. See you in June.

Jim Steffner
CC>CC President

THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB INC.
Income & Expense/Equity Statement (Cash Basis)
January 1 Thru December 31, 2009

INCOME

Membership Dues (Includes 1st class postage & Life Memberships)		\$	51,749
Convention 2009:			
Table Fees	\$	21,815	
Registration	\$	15,030	
Auction Proceeds (Includes Catalog)	\$	11,330	
Banquet	\$	8,776	
Program Advertising	\$	2,263	
Poker & Blackjack Tournaments	\$	70	
Convention 2009 Total:		\$	59,284
Museum Fund Donations	\$	10,753	
Promotion Sales	\$	9,101	
Magazine Advertising	\$	4,000	
Raffle Ticket Sales	\$	2,762	
Convention table Fees for 2010	\$	2,545	
Life Member Challenge	\$	2,273	
Interest Income	\$	787	
Misc (Donations)	\$	465	
Total Income :		\$	143,719

EXPENDITURES

Convention 2009	\$	34,125
Magazine	\$	27,922
Museum Committee Workshops & Meetings	\$	6,951
Promotion	\$	5,275
Museum Fund Expenses / Promotional Items	\$	5,079
Meetings	\$	3,946
Postage (Other than Magazine)	\$	2,790
Storage (Occupancy)	\$	2,556
Printing	\$	2,321
Video Production (Convention/Seminars)	\$	2,125
Bank Charges / Credit Card Processing / Ebay Fees	\$	2,111
Awards	\$	1,276
Insurance	\$	1,253
Misc Supplies (Includes Membership Pins)	\$	1,162
Website	\$	245
Filing Fees	\$	150
Telephone	\$	35
Total Expenditures :	\$	99,321

Net Income - 01/01/09 to 12/31/09 \$ 44,398

Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/09	\$	208,041
Net Income - 01/01/09 to 12/31/09	\$	44,398
Change In Inventory - 01/01/09 to 12/31/09	\$	(2,951)
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/09	\$	249,488

Detail of Equity Balance - 12/31/09

General Fund - Checking	\$	45,885
General Fund - Money Market	\$	14,590
Museum Fund (Formerly Building Fund)	\$	108,312
Life Membership Fund	\$	60,662
Total Cash Available	\$	229,449
Inventory (November 2009 listing)	\$	19,839
Advance (Membership Officer / Promotions)	\$	200
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/09	\$	249,488

Respectfully Submitted, Douglas P. Smith - Treasurer
January 20, 2010 \$ 0

New Members

Member #	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
8098	Walterman	Michael	CA	Fresno	Website
8099	DeCew	Brian	CA	La Mirada	Former Member
8100	LaFlamme	Theresa	MI	White Lake	Website
8101	Stucki	Urban F.F.M.	Switzerland		Manidiakis
8102	Amsler	Stephan	Switzerland		Manidiakis
8103	Pagan-Rodriguez	Ricardo	TX	Arlington	Archie Black
8104	Foster	Austin	MA	West Barnstable	Andy Hughes
8105	Munko	Ken	OH	Garfield Heights	Andy Hughes
8106	Legerski	Neil	NV	Las Vegas	Andy Hughes
8106-A	Legerski	Desiree	NV	Las Vegas	Andy Hughes
8107	Miracle	Shawn	PA	Hanover	Andy Hughes
8108	Smith	Joe D.	PA	Aliquippa	Club Website
8109	Gordon	James	OH	Cincinnati	Club Website
8110	Slater	Tom	TX	Dallas	James Campiglia
8111	Peterson	Perry	AZ	Scottsdale	Todd Barrett
8112	Burris	Duane	MA	North Adams	Reggie Gummer
8113	Torres	Robert	FL	Kissimmee	Former Member
8114	Kuhn	Larry	CA	Folsom	Club Website
8115	Gaipman	Paul	FL	Boca Raton	Club Website
8116	Garafalo	Michael	MD	Columbia	Club Website
8117	Hansen	Bruce H.	NM	Cliff	Club Website

If you are a new member & you don't see your name listed, it's because you did NOT chose the "Publish" option.

Current Membership information:

1,282 Regular "R" members

255 Associate "-A" members

264 Charter, Honorary & Life "LM" Members

Update Your Club Listing On the Club Web Site

It's up to you to have the correct information
on the club web site for your listing. It's FREE!

Let others know what you collect and how to reach you.
Check out the web site now and then UPDATE your profile!

It's YOUR Listing...
Make sure it's updated!

Playboy Casino Chips for sale by Tom Stroh

There I was in front of the TV one night/morning watching one of those famous “info-mercials” when it struck me, if it works for *Sham-wow* why not Playboy Chips ? If you are interested in one of the chips below call, write, or e-mail me first to reserve the chip you want and determine the extra for postage and insurance. **Tom Stroh 9764 W. Elmhurst Pl., Littleton, CO 80128; ph 303-979-6135; kj7av@q.com**



The London 10 Shilling (PLL-slO)¹, Small Crown Mold, chip was manufactured by the T. R. King Co. in Los Angeles in 1966. These were the first chips (or cheques if you want to use proper English) to be used in the original London Casino opened by Victor Lownes, who had returned to London with the intention of opening a Playboy Club much like the successful one opened in Chicago by his friend Hugh. These chips are often mistaken for the much more common 50 Pence chips made by Burt Co. in the mid 1970's and are very hard to find in a *slightly*² used or better condition. They were removed from service in 1971 when the UK changed to the decimal system and new chips with the decimal system were received. One chip is available in slightly used condition, **\$175.**

The next chip is the London 5 Shilling (PLL-s5a), a Hat & Cane Mold, manufactured by Burt Company in 1965-66. In the initial planning done by Victor Lownes for the first Playboy Club and Casino there was an arrangement with Crockfords, an established UK gaming house, in which Crockfords would manage the club for a percentage of the profits. This deal eventually fell through, but, not before a large order of chips had been placed with a chip manufacturer, Burt. An agreement could not be reached between Playboy and the chip manufacturer so an order was placed for a newest of chips with the T. R. King Co.³ The salesman of the original Hat & Cane chips, appears to have been Mr. Pat Sullivan, who apparently kept the chips over the past 40 years until his death, when they were sold as part of his estate. Two chips are available in unused cond., **\$35 ea.**

Now we shoot forward to 1981, where the first Playboy Casino is going to be opened in Atlantic City. The new \$130 million casino was finished, dealers trained, and chips on the tables, all that was left was the license. These \$2.50 chips were manufactured by the Bud Jones Co. in 1980 and used on the Blackjack tables during the short period that the Atlantic City Casino was open. Six chips are available unused or slightly used cond., **\$9.00 ea.**

The last chip offered here is the Five Pound Scroll Mold from the Manchester Playboy Casino Club. (PLN-5) I think, but haven't been able to prove it yet, that the Scroll Mold is the second issue of chips purchased for the Manchester casino. The casino, was opened in 1973, and closed with the others eight years later. The chips, as well as information, are very scarce. Only one chip is available and it is in slightly used cond, some wear on the center of the Hot Stamp **\$285.**

¹ The numbering syst. used here is from T. Stroh's "Checks, Chips, and Tokens of the Playboy Casinos."

² see Official CC>CC Grade and Condition Descriptions.

³ see "The Day the Bunny Died" by Victor Lownes

Of Literary Note

by the club Librarian, John K. Kallman

P.O. Box 122

Sartell, MN 56377

librarian@ccgtcc.com

Mike Awbrey donated a copy of *Citizen Hughes* by Michael Drosnin. Ford Jensen donated a copy of *The Slot Card Price Guide, 4th Edition* by Steve Wells & Pat Lamb.

Richard Staeffler donated a CD copy of *Price Guide to Illegal Casino Chips* by Ed Hertel. Also, three back issues of the club magazine (Vol, 22, #1, #2 and #3).



FREE CHIP LIST



**JERRY HOOVER
(R-2572)**

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



Christine and Sheldon Smith of **ONENEVADADOLLAR,**

our eBay user ID,
take this opportunity to thank all of
the people who have purchased casino
memorabilia from us.



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

-Thank You!

SSS Publishing

(Jay Sands, David Sarles
& David Spragg)

proudly announce that
they are now the new
publishers of BOTH
The Chip Rack
and
The Gaming Table

THE
GAMING
TABLE
CHIP, CHECK
COLLECTOR
THIRD EDITION



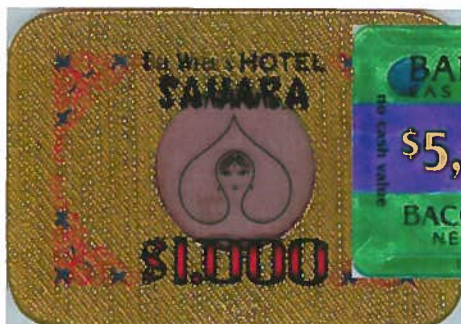
The Chip Rack is the #1 reference guide for all Nevada chip collectors, with its unique copyrighted numbering system identifying over 25,000 chips!

The Gaming Table is the ONLY worldwide guide to gaming establishments!

Order both books now from www.thechiprack.com or come and meet the publishers at the 7th Las Vegas Superbowl Chip show, 5th-6th Feb 2010.

Marlow Casino Chips

announces the consignment
sale of one of the world's
leading collections of Plaques
& Jetons. The sale is scheduled
to start in April 2010, and
catalogs should be available
at the Las Vegas Superbowl
show in February. Email me to
join my mailing list for this sale!



David Spragg LM-6180-166
38 Oak Tree Road, Marlow
Bucks, SL7 3EE, United Kingdom
or 840 S Rancho Dr #4314, Las Vegas, NV 89106

www.marlowcasinochips.com

Email: david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com



Celebrity Cruise Line Bounty!

By John K. Kallman

Having successfully navigate my first ever cruise, I could not help but reflect upon the lack of clocks throughout the ship. From my cabin, with the time only showing on the phone and some of the onboard television changes, to of course the casino as well as most of the remainder of the ship, clocks were in most cases, nowhere to be seen. Save for the printed schedule of the day's activity delivered to your room, time for the most part seems to stand still as the endless ocean passes by the ever moving ship.

This notion of timelessness is reinforced by the fact that almost everything starts later than the time posted; from

the opening of the various restaurants to the docking and departure from the various ports of call. The later who I always endeavored to meet well before time so as not to miss the boat.

Of course, as a collector of casino items, one of my priorities while aboard, was to commandeer as many items as I could to add to my ever growing collection. And while no true collector is ever happy with whatever treasures that they come away with, I none the less came away with as many items as I could without running too afoul of either the gracious casino host or staff.

Celebrity **X** Cruises®

Celebrity Cruises Inc.
1050 Caribbean Way,
Miami, FL
33132 USA

Andrew Cadmore
Casino Host

Tel: 305 539 6000
ttd: 305 539 4440

Please extend all courtesies.

This is a very special guest recommendation by

Andrew, Casino Host

FORTUNES
C A S I N O

Pool side on deck 10 there was a display of casino related items, including a “free gift” token which was not to be found within the casino itself. After several inquiries; I finally had to lead the casino host there to show him what I was talking about, and which up until then, he was unaware off! The extra effort was not in vain!

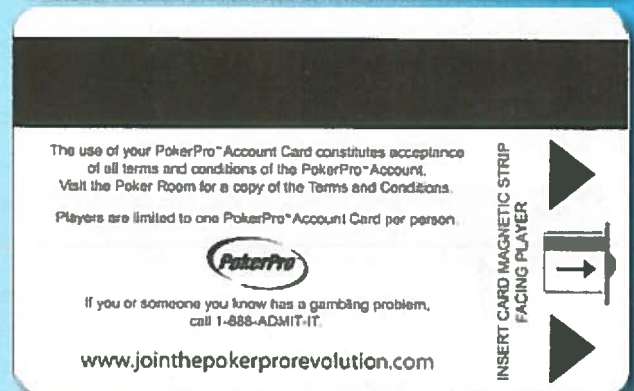
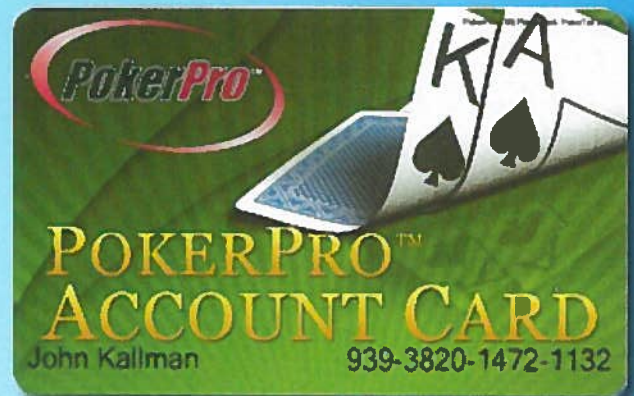


Absent among the items available were slot cards and Ticket In, Ticket Out (TITO's). Slot machine dispense either coins (quarters) for 1c, 5c and 25c machines or \$1 / \$5 tokens. All machines had bill adaptors.



Table games include two roulette (generic Chipco's – with one table having an anchor logo and the other a clover design – in the colors of white, brown, orange, blue, green,

yellow, purple and gray); 3 card poker, Texas Hold'em, and Black Jack, and Craps. There was also a Poker Pro machine which required the use of an associated card.



Dealer dealt table games used Chipco's, and in most cases where well worn and showed considerable usage.



A \$1,000 chip was also present (yellowish orange, with an art deco theme), but that was slightly beyond my budget allowance! Roulette tournaments used the table chips, while black jack tournaments used unicorn generic chips, mostly drilled.

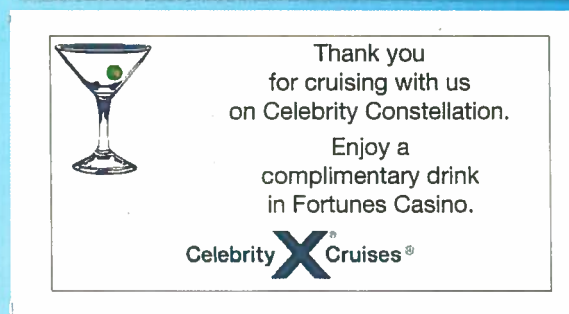
Poker tournaments were held at the poker pro machine mentioned above.



Match play coupons were available both from a shopping discount book which was being hawked (\$25) as a means to "save" money while shopping ashore. Additional discount coupons were available either in the daily printed bulletin (which I somehow failed to notice at the time) and were also dispensed to members of the "Captains Club" of which I was not (yet) a member. Coupons were also given out by the casino host:



Unlike many casinos where drinks are made available to players at no charge, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic; as with most other things on board; drinks in the casino were billed (usually overcharged, and to add insult to injury – a 15% gratuity was added to the bill for sometimes nothing more than opening the lid of the drink!). However, free drink coupons were available, in several different styles:



Of course, what would be a drink without the swizzle stick!

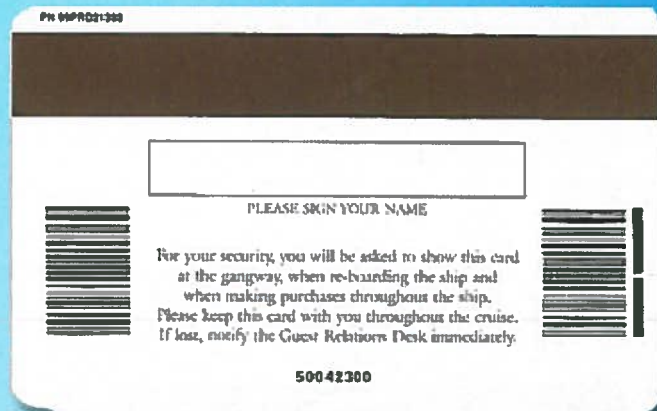
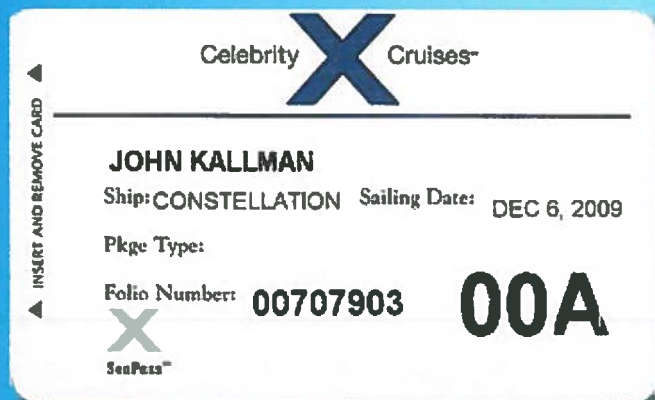


While the casino only occupied a very small space aboard the ship; it was very well located in that to get from the main dining area to the entertainment area, one had to

pass through the casino area. The daily bulletin showed the amount that the slot machines paid out – with nearly \$200,000 being the stated total after 13 days of operation. This of course means that much more was taken in then given out!

The casino was the only place where cash was actually accepted. However, credit was available via your ever present combination room key / credit card 'Sea Pass'.

While many of the items shown are available at prices much lower than the cost of acquiring them in person; it was an experience which I attend to repeat if for no other reason to try and acquire additional items either from a different ship from this line or another line altogether. In summary, no doubt a cruise is not for everyone; none the least those of us who are preconditioned to the rhythms of life dictated by a pre-published itinerary and the dictates on a watch!



Las Vegas Casino Chip Challenge

Friday April 30th thru
Sunday May 2nd 2010

www.casinochipchallenge.com

Erik Dauplaise R-8053

SEE YOU AT "SPLASHBAR VI" 2010

Brian "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman
LM-1121-157MA CCCC-06

Convention 2010

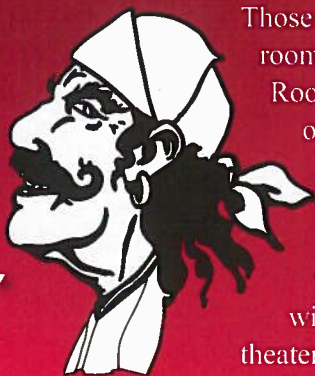
The 18th Annual CC>CC International Show & Convention

June 23rd - 26th, 2010

Sandi Steffner
Convention Chairman



*Ah Hoy Matey...
All hands on deck...
We've sighted land...
We'll be in the port of
Las Vegas soon!*



Those who attended last year know how nice the rooms were. And this year it gets even better. Room rates have been reduced another \$5.00 to only \$70.00 per night, any night during the show.

The show floor is big, beautiful and easy to access. There are many great restaurants with reasonable prices, bowling, movie theaters, and lots of good slots and table games. You are just a short ride from one of the larger outlet malls and a large antique mall.

Rendezvous at the SouthPoint Hotel on June 23rd for some fun and relaxation. The CC>CC is holding it's 18th Annual Convention June 23rd thru the 26th.

Make your plans now. Book your room at the South Point and make those airline reservations. We have a lot of



surprises in store and you won't want to miss a minute of all the activities.

Help Wanted

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

If you wish to volunteer for positions such as registration, promotions table, auction table, membership table, or show setup and teardown, please contact Belinda Hixon - txbel711@aol.com

We are looking for donations of your old and unwanted costume jewelry, necklaces, bangles and beads to fill the treasure chest at the banquet. If you would like to help fill the chest, send any items, or bring them along to the show. All donated items will be available for sale on Thursday with all proceeds going to the club treasury. Here's your chance to pick up some nice new-to-you pieces and help out the club at the same time. It's a big treasure chest do start looking now for what you can send. Mail to Sandi Steffner, 9321 Mt Bret Ave Unit 103 Las Vegas, NV 89129.

Pre-Registration

Once again, pre-registration is offered to those who would like to eliminate standing in the long lines on Thursday morning. Price is only \$20.00, and your packet will include a chip worth \$3.00 in trade at any of the show floor dealers. Could possibly be some other goodies included in the packet as well.

The registration form can be found in this issue of the magazine, and on the club web site. George D. will again be handling the pre-registration. His address and e-mail are on the registration form. Payment by check or money order made out to CC>CC must accompany the form. No credit card transaction can be used with the mail-in form. Be sure to include your e-mail, or phone number to receive your confirmation. You can also pre-register on-line at the club web site, www.ccgccc.com using VISA or MasterCard (sorry no other credit card can be accepted). Be sure you follow all the instructions in each step of the registration process. Do not close out until you are shown that you have

completed the process. With either the mail in form or the on-line process, you WILL receive a confirmation within 30 days. If you do not receive your confirmation, you are NOT registered. Postmark and on-line deadline is May 8th, 2010. Any registrations received after that date cannot be accepted.

A photo ID with address will be required to pick up your packet and each person must pick up their own. No packets will be mailed to non-attendees. Children under 12 for which there is no charge for show entry, do not need to pre-register, but if they will be attending the show, please provide their names and ages and a special Junior Collector packet will be available for them. Pre-Registration packets can be picked up at the registration desk on Wednesday June 25, 2009 between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. ONLY, and during regular registration desk hours on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. There will be four lines separated alphabetically to make the process smooth and fast. Your pre-registration envelope will contain your show badge, banquet tickets (if ordered), poker and blackjack confirmations (if participating), and any special coupons, freebies, or give-a-ways that we can obtain along with the \$3.00 show chips.

Hotel Reservations

Reserve your room directly with the South Point Hotel. Call their toll free registration number 1-866-791-7626 or 702-797-8905. Be sure to mention that you are with the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors -2010. Ask for your confirmation number. Deadline to book our special rooms is May 28, 2010, or until our block of rooms is filled.



Hotel room rates for the 2010 convention will be \$70.00 for any night. Special rates are effective from June 18, 2010 thru June 27, 2010 for those who wish to arrive early or stay over. Reservations must be made before May 28, 2010 to be included in the club room block. All reservations made at the South Point and included in our special club room block help the club keep costs down in future years and assist us in negotiating more favorable contracts for future conventions (notice the \$5 room reduction this year). Support your club and stay at the South Point.

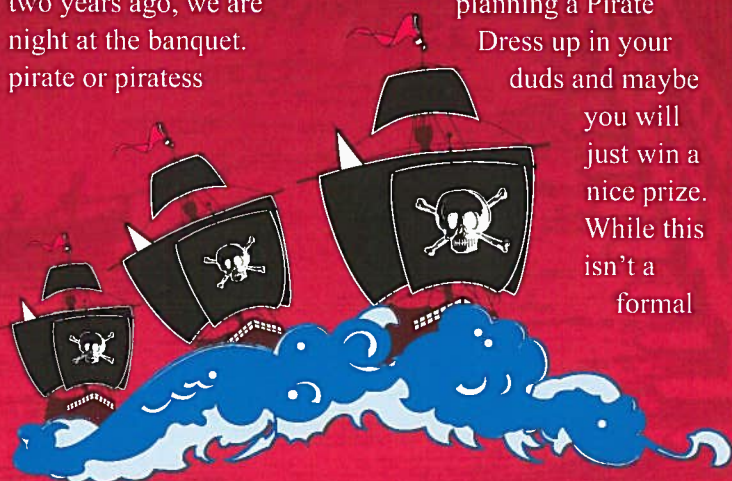
Chip and Medal Design Contest

Put your artistic talents to work, or even if you can't draw a straight line, submit your ideas and rough drawings. You don't need to be an artist. Enter the chip and medal design contest and compete for cash prizes. Your winning entry could be on the club chip, the silver and bronze medals, or the t-shirt for the 2010 18th Annual Convention. See the article in the December issue, start thinking, and submit your entry. Cash prizes will be awarded for first and second place in the chip, medal, and T-shirt design categories. The convention theme for this year is "Pirates". *Good Luck!*

Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 23rd. Reserve your tickets using the registration form or on-line. Ticket price is \$45.00 per person or a table of 10 seats for \$450.00. No tickets will be available at the door. The banquet is always a sellout so don't miss your chance to attend. Due to many requests for a theme like we had two years ago, we are planning a Pirate night at the banquet. Dress up in your pirate or piratess

Dress up in your duds and maybe you will just win a nice prize. While this isn't a formal



event, pirate related or business casual will be appropriate. Please, no flip-flops, shorts, or tank tops.

Reserve your seat or reserve a full table of 10 seats so all your friends can sit together. Please provide all ten names and full payment when you send in the reservation form. Several serving lines, fabulous food, and elegant deserts will add to an event you won't want to miss.

All banquet attendees must be club members. If you plan on bringing a spouse or friend, make sure to sign them up for club membership BEFORE the banquet. There will be no opportunity to join the club at the show before Thursday morning after the exhibit hall opens. Banquet tickets will be in your pre-register envelope and can be picked up at the registration desk between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. ONLY on Wednesday.

When the banquet ends about 8:00 P.M., the gigantic trade session begins. Bring what you can carry, allow space for others and remember NO direct selling of items. *Have fun!*

Exhibits – Grand Ballroom – A & B

All members are encouraged to enter an exhibit and compete for cash prizes. The exhibits that members provide show their collecting specialties and interests. The exhibits can be either competitive or non-competitive. Contact Casey Focazio-Follis, Exhibit Chairman at exhibits@csgtcc.com to enter. The club will provide the display cases at no cost for your exhibit.

This is one of the highlights of the convention and members look forward to seeing what other members collect. In the past exhibits have included chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, dice, belt buckles, money clips, hotel history, security badges, t-shirt quilt, and much more.

Educational Seminars

Many good suggestions were received for seminar topics. Sheldon Smith, Education Director has lined up some great speakers to keep everyone well informed, educated, and entertained. Watch for a complete seminar

schedule in the next issue of the Chip and Token News, and on the club web site.

Bruce Landau Memorial Auction

The auction will be Friday evening June 25th and once again David Spragg will be organizing the popular event. David has assembled some excellent lots for this year's auction that may include some lower and medium priced lots plus items other than chips. Be sure to order your auction catalog as they usually sell out by show time.

Poker Challenge and Blackjack Tournament

The poker and blackjack sessions will again be held at the South Point. The action starts on Wednesday with the Blackjack Tournament at Noon. The Poker Challenge will be Thursday evening with a start time of 7:00 PM. Check related article for all the details. Advance sign up for both sessions can be done on the registration form. PLEASE NOTE – due to recent gaming regulation changes payment for the tournaments MUST be made by check and mailed in on the registration form. No on-line payments can be accepted. Players can also sign up at the convention for the Poker Challenge if seats are still available. Cost this year will be \$90.00 for the poker tournament and \$70.00 for the BJ tournament.

A special set of tournament chips will be available for purchase starting on Friday morning when the show opens or by mail thru the Promotion Director. For any questions, please contact Bob Pardue, robert.pardue@cox.net

Trade Sessions

Several trade sessions are planned during the convention. Check the schedule at the show for times and locations. Bring some binders but leave space for others. Please, no outright sales of merchandise or you will be asked to leave the trade session.

Last Dance Swap Meet

On Saturday, June 26th, the Last Dance Trade Session will be held. The event will begin at 7:00 P.M. and last until the last two traders call it quits. This is not a “dance” with a band or music but just the last chance for members to get together after the convention closes to find that elusive chip, token, or slot card. Check show schedule for location.

Antique Gambling Chip Code Session – Seymour Codes assigned to antique gambling chips pre 1946

Member Robert “Smitty” Smith has organized a special event. If you collect, or are just interested in antique gambling chips, “Smitty” along with Dale Seymour and Ralph Strandwald will have a table set up in the trade session room on Friday evening June 25th starting at 7:00 P.M.. Bring in any unidentified antique chips and they will help you with an ID if available. They are interested in adding new chips to their database. Stop by and discover this fascinating part of our collecting hobby.

How about a TEA PARTY!

While your husbands are delving into chips, how would some of you ladies like to attend a tea party? If there is enough interest we can arrange for a “tea” one afternoon at a local restaurant. Transportation would be provided. Just a nice chance for the gals get-to-gether. E-mail me at convention@ccgtcc.com if you are interested. I'll get back to you with details and costs.

Watch for more updates in the next magazine and on the club web site. See you all in June and have fun collecting!



The 18th Annual CC>CC International
Show & Convention, June 23rd - 26th, 2010.

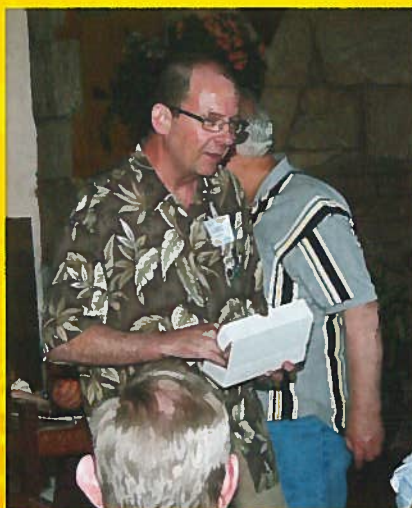
— See You There!



Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

1ST ANNUAL GREG SUSONG MEMORIAL GET TOGETHER

At Garduños inside
The Palms Casino
on Tuesday June
22nd, 2010
at 7:00 PM



If you plan on
attending e-mail
your name and
guest names to
Allan McCurdy at
annnallan@aol.com

Road Trip!



Club Members Mary Anne Sulik and Alex Bratu travel the USA to visit the Boyd Gaming casino properties.

October 10, 2:30 PM. My husband Alex Bratu and I are starting an eagerly anticipated and long planned trip. We own Boyd Gaming stock and are going to visit 16 of their 17 casino properties (this means we will be travelling across 19 states to get to them). We also want to check out the status of the Silver Strike program at Boyd and non-Boyd properties, since so many casinos have stopped offering them and we LOVE our Silver Strikes! So our first stop is the Borgata and The Water Club in Atlantic City.

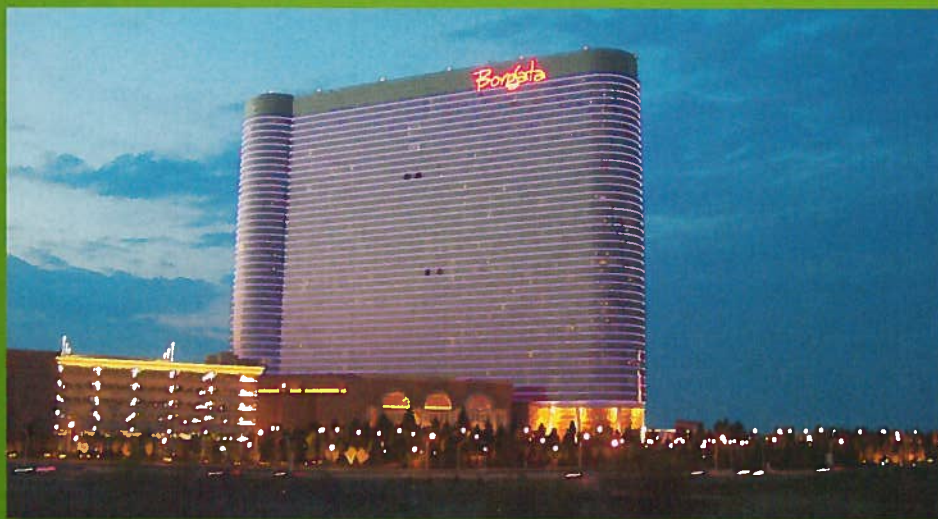
We leave Milford, CT and get on the Merritt Parkway. The Parkway is very scenic - lots of trees and very winding so you can't go too fast to enjoy them. Not much fall color right now but still a very pretty drive. We cut through a small corner of New York over the Tappan Zee Bridge. The Hudson River looks cold and grey and there are few boats scudding across the water. We hit New Jersey and the Garden State Parkway. For those of you who have driven this stretch, you know the scenery is the same over and over. To pass the time, we keep an eye out for marsh deer and spot a total of 17. The highway also frequently changes mph rates and at one point after Alex had slowed he asked "are we 65 yet"? "No, I replied, "You are 54 and I am 55"! (Alex did not find my joke as amusing as I did)! I am pleased to say that the highway has taken out half of their tollbooths while doubling the amount of the remaining tolls; we no longer have a toll every 5 minutes (at least it seemed like it). And with our EZ Pass, we never have to wait in line to pay. After a quick stop for a bite to eat, we reach the Borgata and The Water Club at about 7:45 PM.

We are staying at the Borgata and what a gorgeous hotel! Cream marble all over. We love staying at Boyd properties for a lot of reasons: the rooms are always immaculate (we travel a lot and that is not true of some of the non-

Boyd properties), the beds are always comfortable and the rooms always have something extra (in our case, thick, fluffy football field sized towels and a glass wall with a gorgeous view of the bay). We have also always found the Boyd staffs to be extra friendly and helpful and the Borgata staff is no exception. An accommodating security guy kindly takes a picture of us with the Borgata sign and then takes a second one after the first one shows us with our heads chopped off! After dropping off our luggage we go downstairs to win some money. It is a big casino with lots of slot machines - unfortunately it's Saturday night and VERY crowded. I stop to watch a lady playing 3 machines at the same time and just shake my head. Alex and I play for entertainment and I feel sorry for people who play purely for money without enjoying themselves. We walk around a lot and play a little but it is just too crowded and smoky for us so we go back to our room. We have a family a few doors down from us and their kids keep running up and down the hall screaming with laughter. After they quiet down then other guests start slamming their doors as they return to their rooms. We finally fall asleep only to be awakened by another door slammer at 4:00 in the morning. We give up and get up and go back downstairs. I watch Alex win a little money on Survivor (one of his favorites) but I lose money on Double Diamond. We go back upstairs and take advantage of our beautiful view and watch the boats going out on the bay. We decide that we don't want to wait around for the buffet to open and leave to find a diner. Next stop the Blue Chip in Michigan City, Indiana.

We are on the Atlantic City Expressway en route to Pennsylvania and pass LOTS of State Troopers; all with hapless motorists pulled over; there must be at least 10 of them. I am glad Alex is such a careful driver and we are not one of them!! The purple, pink, red and white wildflowers on the divider are plentiful and add lovely color. We stop to fill up our tank; gas is \$2.13 a gallon - 40 cents cheaper a gallon than at home.

We pass over the state line. Philadelphia skyscrapers gleam in the sunshine. Not being city people, we are glad not be caught up in all the traffic below us we can see from the highway. I am really looking forward to the drive on the Pennsylvania turnpike; I think Pennsylvania is one of our most beautiful states. It is sunny and warm and the scenery is, as usual, spectacular. Green rolling hills, white



farmhouses dwarfed by red barns, cows and horses dotting the landscape all back-dropped by trees, scarlet, gold and orange. It takes over 6 hours to drive the whole state and I enjoy every second! Plus we go through a few tunnels through the mountains which are a novelty and fun. We stop for lunch at Roy Rogers, who has great fried chicken and biscuits. The only bad part of this leg of our trip is that we are listening to Sirius radio and Alex's beloved Red Sox choke in the ninth inning of their game and are eliminated from the playoffs. No World Series for them this year. Oh well, it's somebody else's turn.

The first thing we have to do over the Ohio border is pay a toll. What a great welcome!! Ohio is much flatter than Pennsylvania with much straighter roads bordering a lot of cornfields. I know that "amber waves of grain" refers to the wheat fields of the Plains States, but it's certainly appropriate here, too. We see more deer and I hope they are not eating the corn! We have a garden at home and the deer eat our tomatoes. Still a lot of fall color - very pretty. We pass an automobile plant; wow, that building is HUGE. You need a bicycle to get from one end to the other.

We stay overnight in Elyria. Small town USA and we love it. Our hotel is nice with no screaming kids or slamming doors. After a buffet breakfast (free, so it tasted even better) we head out. Our weather is not as good - overcast, drizzly and 16 degrees colder. Yesterday we were in t-shirts and today we're in long sleeves and jackets.

Our trip today is uneventful. It is still pretty scenery and we pass the RV Hall of Fame in Elkhart. We get to Michigan City at 12:00 noon. Right on Lake Michigan, Michigan City is a beach town which explodes in the summer. Being too late for the season, it seems to be a little sleepy right now (just our speed). The Blue Chip is a dazzling blue glass building looming over the landscape. Our room in the Spa Blu tower is gorgeous with flocked carpeting (I've never seen flocked carpeting before) and the same huge thick towels as the Borgata. I love being pampered!

Our glass wall this time directly fronts the lake and we can see the famous only-working-lighthouse-in-Indiana from our window. We hop back in the car and zip over to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park on the lake and walk among dunes many feet taller than we are. What a nice respite after being in the

car for such a long time. We return to the casino where I promptly lose on Double Diamond and we leave for dinner at Alex's cousin's who lives in Chicago. The scenery is very different; very industrial, until we can see Chicago's eye catching skyline. A lot of the skyscrapers are new and more are going up. Very modern, very striking. Dinner is great and we return to the Blue Chip.

Wow, Tuesday already and what a breakfast buffet! One of the best I've ever seen! And they have (my favorite) chicken fried steak! The food is scrumptious!! After breakfast Alex wins at Survivor. We would like to stay and play a little more, but are going to my Wisconsin brother's for lunch and so have to leave. Next stop, Par-A-Dice in East Peoria, Illinois with a detour to Wisconsin.

We pass an RV towing a GEO Tracker. The license plates are "RV TOY" and "GEO TOY" - very clever!

The drive to Wisconsin is absolutely beautiful. I cannot say enough about how pretty this part of the country is. Most of the farms have extensive cornfields but we are surprised when we get to Wisconsin. Being such a big dairy state we expect to see lots of cows but instead the cornfields continue for miles. So maybe the lower part of the state grows all the food which the upstate cows eat. My brother's house is in the middle of a bunch of farms and when I tell him how lucky he is, he agrees but then adds words to the effect "as long as the wind is not blowing the manure smell to us!"

We arrive at the Par-A-Dice at 9:30 PM. We have another gorgeous room with a distressed stone bathroom and those huge towels I like. It's a good thing we are honest



people because I wouldn't mind having some of those towels at home! The casino is separate from the hotel and is a converted riverboat - how cool is that? The casino has kept some of the original interior; the boat must have been the epitome of graciousness in its day. We both play a little bit but are too tired and go back to the hotel. What a comfortable bed; we both immediately conk off.



After another yummy buffet breakfast, we hit the casino. Survivor is very generous to Alex and I play a 5x pay slot and actually win! As we are leaving, one of the entrance security guys asks us if we are returning to the casino today. We say no and ask him why he's asking. Imagine our surprise when he tells us that the casino has to pay an admission tax of \$4 for every person who enters the casino! (Customers who leave and know they will return on the same day have their hands stamped so that the casino is not taxed on repeat customers). Wow, the government is quite happy to take our hard-earned money! I know the casino industry is very heavily regulated, but I think an extra \$4 per person on top of the state government's cut of casino revenue is ridiculous. Not having heard this before, I wonder if this is true for all casinos in all states. We leave the casino and head to Sam's Town in Tunica, Mississippi.

Another grey day and drizzly. We don't mind as we are going to much warmer weather! The part of Illinois through which we are traveling is very pastoral and even though the sun is not out, it's still pretty. Illinois fades into Missouri and we immediately change from cornfields to colorful bluffs but then revert back to cornfields. I still prefer this scenery to cityscapes. However, we do see the St Louis Arch - the Gateway to the West - from the highway and that was thrilling! We get to Arkansas and stop in a Huddle House for dinner. I used to live in Hot Springs and it's

nice being back in the state hearing our first real Southern accents on this trip. The Huddle House ladies are irreverent and funny and we enjoy our dinner. I watch a guy who is skinny as a rail eat 2 whole big plates of food plus a HUGE waffle. He must have a hollow leg.

We leave and go through a tiny corner of Tennessee, bypassing Memphis and reach Tunica at 7:30 PM. We walk into Sam's Town and immediately feel at home. It reminds me of the Boulder Highway Sam's Town in Las Vegas before it was renovated. We play a lot and as usual (at least it seems to me) Alex wins a little and I lose. We find out that the bi-annual Sam's Town talent show is the next night. All of the Boyd casinos compete and the winner of each casino's competition goes to Vegas for the final competition and the winner of that competition goes to Hawaii! Just another example of how well Boyd treats their employees. So we stay another day to attend the Talent Show and laugh our heads off at the "Sam's Town Employee Rest Home" parody and then are impressed by all the contestants who are brave enough to get up in front of all of us. I feel like I am at an "American Idol" competition!

The next day is grey again. Alex hits on Survivor (that game seems to be either feast or famine and he was there at the right time, I guess) and we have breakfast (buffet again - no surprise there! Connecticut restaurants don't serve chicken fried steak and I am taking advantage of every opportunity to have it while we're travelling)! We leave for the Treasure Chest in Kenner, Louisiana.

Mississippi is so green! Honestly, every state has been just beautiful. It is so relaxing that I actually snooze a little bit (Alex is driving, as always) so I miss what Alex says appears to be a wolf or coyote dead by the side of the road. When he describes it, it sounds like a wolf to me but I don't know if Mississippi has wolves. We pass another car plant, Nissan this time, in Canton, and it is a mile long. Lots of cars in the parking lots, so I hope this one is busy and helping the local economy. We also pass a sign for a "Tomato Museum" and I wonder what's in it! Time for a treat - we stop at a TCBY. This one has 3 sugarless flavors so Alex, who is diabetic, gets to have something other than vanilla for a change. We stay on I-55 into Louisiana and I eagerly try to spot alligators in the water. Unfortunately, the Jersey Barriers prevent me from seeing much. We pass up a side trip to New Orleans, as I used to live there and prefer to remember it the way it was before Katrina hit. We get to the Treasure Chest at 3:30 PM and the sun is warm with a cool breeze. After having 2 cloudy days, this is great. The

Treasure Chest is a riverboat with 3 floors. Alex wins on Survivor (Gold level!!) and I win on a very fun new game,



Super Slotto, which was just installed the week before. We climb to the (smoke free) 3rd floor and go out on the deck to watch the water a little bit and admire the manicured grounds. Then we grab a bite in the deli; the Sloppy Roast Beef Po-Boy was highly recommended and is scrumptious! The Treasure Chest does not have a Boyd hotel attached to it and so we head out for Baton Rouge where we will spend the night. Next stop, Delta Downs in Vinton, Louisiana.

After breakfast in Baton Rouge, we jump in the car to drive to Vinton. Our schedule is a little more relaxed today as we are staying tonight at Sam's Town in Shreveport so Alex will not be driving as much as he has been. We are also meeting a Silver Striker friend in Lake Charles in the afternoon. So we have a little extra time and Alex agrees to stop at some yard sales for me (my consuming passion). Thank goodness we have the laptop so I can look at the yard sales on Craig's List.

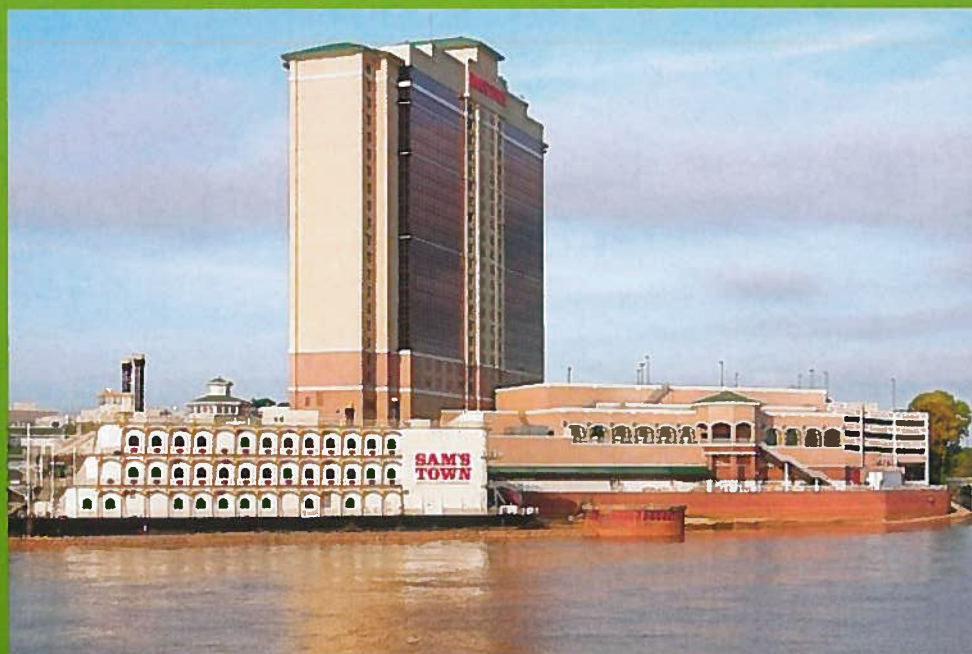
More beautiful scenery. We see a pair of red tailed hawks (even though we have them in our yard, it is still a thrill!) plus

3 more birds of prey which I cannot identify until I get home and look in my bird book. We meet our Silver Striker friend, Dan Hanagriff for lunch at Steamboat Bill's in Lake Charles. The Boudin Ball, shrimp gumbo and the shrimp etouffee are yummy! Dan has a carryon of Silver Strikes as do we, so we swap stories and strikes for an hour. It is so nice to see him - he is one of the most interesting people I have ever met. We regretfully leave Dan and reach Delta Downs at about 2:40 PM. We still have to get to Sam's Town in Shreveport, Louisiana tonight and so our time at Delta Downs is limited. What an impressive property, very modern! I wanted to walk around the grounds for a bit; there is a lake by the racetrack and we have heard a story of the alligator in the lake that likes to sit out on the racetrack and has to be forklifted back into the lake before the horse races can be run, but we don't have time to see it.

The casino is completely glassed in, so all other inside areas are completely smoke free. Because we can't find Survivor in the casino, Alex asks a slot person who said he believes that there are no Survivor machines. He approaches us a little later to say that he has checked and that there ARE some Survivor machines and brings us to them. What other casino company would train its employees to be that helpful? It has been our experience that Boyd employees always go the extra mile for us and we really appreciate it. Neither of us win any money but we have a good time. We leave for Sam's Town in Shreveport, Louisiana.

We drive through some fairly wooded areas. I express the hope of seeing a bear and about 2 minutes later, we

drive over the Bear Creek bridge but that's the closest we get to a bear! We do see some more deer, however, plus lots of cows. We are coming into Shreveport and the casinos dominate the skyline. Of course, we think that Sam's Town is the most impressive! Another marble



lobby - just gorgeous. Our room decor is lovely - swagged material in back of our bed - very clever. Marble bathroom with those huge fluffy towels. Plus, we have a dazzling view out of our window of the city lights spread below us. We go down to the casino, another riverboat. Very crowded (Saturday night, after all), very smoky. We find Survivor which lets Alex play for a long time on his original \$20. The lady in back of him hits for \$140, then \$257. I tell Alex he is playing the wrong machine...

We get up the next day (very comfortable bed) too early to have the buffet brunch. I am very disappointed as I know we would have had an EXCELLENT breakfast. We play a little bit and leave for the long trek to Las Vegas. We stop for gas at a TA which has a casino attached so we figure it's like Sierra Sid's in Sparks, Nevada and we go in to peek. Ha - about 15 unfamiliar machines. We leave without trying anything. Next stop, Shamrock, Texas.

Texas is a nice surprise. Thirty years ago I drove through upper Texas and remember the huge ranches stretching for miles. We are a little further south on this trip and the scenery is very different depending on where we are. We pass through emerald green fields, a lot of scrub land and cotton fields (I didn't know Texas grew cotton!). Beautiful blue flowers (bluebells?) dot the landscape at one point. Texas is a state of great contrasts: we travel one lane roads through tiny little towns comprised of a gas station, general store and church and marvel at the incredibly complicated highway system in the huge city of Dallas (and boy, am I glad I don't have to sit in that traffic every day!) We see tons of cows and horses, some buffalo, one (dead by the side of the road) coyote and armadillo, and some birds of prey. Since there is so much open space, I hope to see more wild animals, but I think that travelling during daylight hours would preclude that to a certain extent. I would also think that any rancher with livestock would be vigilant about exterminating varmints. We also see MANY old cars just sitting there rusting away, an occasional oil rig quietly toiling away under the sun and some of those big white wind turbines blowin' in the wind.

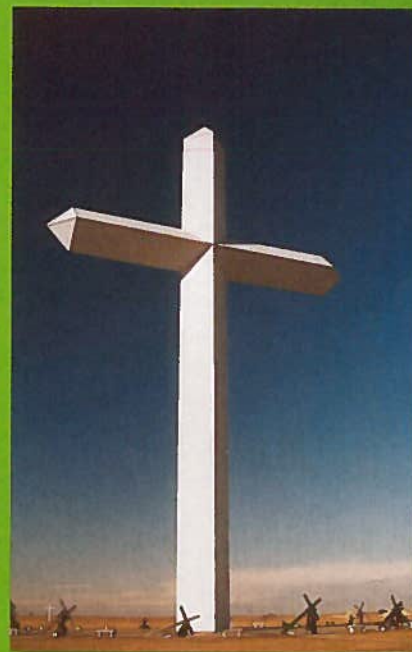
We pass a train going in the other direction and I notice that most of the 82 railcars are carrying automobiles. Just then, a car carrier loaded with autos passes the train on the road. That is pretty cool - the juxtaposition of the two forms of transport each doing the same thing.

It is very dry. A lot of the bridges we go over have no water beneath them. The largest river we cross, the Red

River, is almost completely dried up and there are two trucks sitting on the riverbed. I don't know if this is the dry season or if upper Texas is in drought mode right now. The cultivated fields we pass certainly look irrigated and healthy to me.

Alex notices that there are more Dairy Queens than McDonald's (what a surprise as we have few DQ's but lots of McDonald's at home) but we keep our eyes peeled for a Carl's Jr. and stop for lunch in Denton. I am not one for fast food, but we both love Carl's and in Connecticut the closest we have to one is Hardee's and they don't have Carl's yummy fried zucchini. This is the first Carl's meal we have since our last Vegas trip in June. I call my sister to make sure everything at home is ok and she kindly informs me that parts of Connecticut got snow already. Well, it is 81 degrees here and I am enjoying every second!! We get into Shamrock, Texas at 6:45 PM.

The next morning we leave for Gallup, New Mexico. We pass a huge cross in Groom; it must be a hundred feet tall and looks to be surrounded by life sized Stations of the Cross. I say a silent prayer for all of our troops overseas. I know that Montana is "Big Sky Country", but the same can be said of this part of Texas. The vistas must stretch for 20 or 25 miles. Outside Amarillo, we watch a big jet take off and land and take off again and wonder if the pilot is practicing. Then we pass, of all things, a horse motel!



The topography is beginning to change and the terrain begins to be less flat. Knowing that we are approaching New Mexico makes me excited. I love New Mexico and think that the red clay and golden sandstone is the perfect setting for the green scrub. Plus the mesas and buttes are so eye-catching. And, the best thing - spicy food for breakfast, lunch and dinner!!

We cross into New Mexico at 11:10 AM and change our

watches to 10:10. We start thinking about lunch and look in our trusty AAA book. A restaurant named Del's is one of the two places listed. We pull into Tucumcari and drive around a little to look at the beautiful murals painted on the buildings. We go to Del's and are a little concerned to be the only patrons. Well, we were just before the noon rush and the food is out of this world. I had the best Mexican food I've ever had. Our server said that everything is homemade and invited us back on our return journey. We just may take her up on her offer!

We jump back in the car and start paralleling railroad tracks. Evidently the tracks need railroad ties replaced. There are a lot of men for miles working on those tracks. I've never seen the equipment they were using to clean the tracks and it is cool to watch them. It looks to me like those tracks are used a lot (we counted three trains pulling between 85 and 99 cars).and I wonder how the men are able to keep the trains off of them for so long.

Albuquerque is very spread out and so doesn't seem as crowded and manic as other cities we've seen. We can tell by looking at the houses that the sun here is relentless; so many homes seem to be faded. Some of them are not in good shape and I'm sure it's a never ending battle to keep paintwork bright.

Well, the red clay and golden sandstone are now sharing space with very black dirt. Maybe it has basalt mixed in with it. We stop at Baskin Robbins for ice cream but they have only sugarless chocolate and Alex doesn't like chocolate. I wonder for the hundredth time if owners realize how much money they are losing in sales to people with dietary restrictions.

Sirius radio is on and tuned to Radio Elvis Memphis. When the song finishes, the dj comes on and says "this next one is for Mary Anne and Alex who are driving cross country to Las Vegas" and Elvis starts singing "Viva Las Vegas"! I look at Alex in amazement and gasp "how did you do this"?! He looked like the cat that swallowed the canary - he was just beaming from ear to ear! Evidently he had e-mailed the radio station and they were kind enough to honor his request. What a thrill!!!

We reach Gallup at 6:10 PM; too late to wander around much. I am disappointed because we stayed in Gallup the last time we were in New Mexico and it is a very cool town. Our hotel is nice and luckily has laundry facilities. After doing laundry, we fall into bed knowing that

tomorrow night we will be in Vega\$, Baby!!

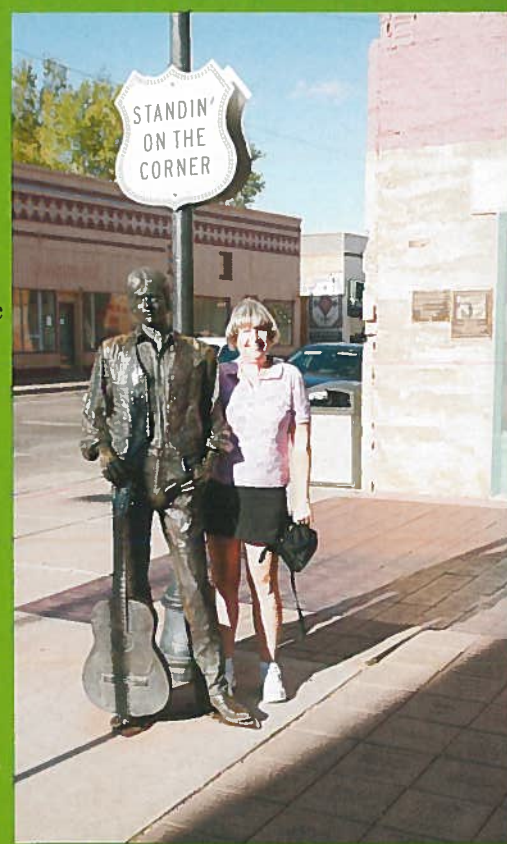
We leave Gallup and cross into Arizona onto Navajo Reservation land. I hope that the Federal Government paid the Navajo Nation big bucks to put the interstate through their property. We carefully check out the homes; they seem to be in good shape. I am relieved because a few years back we were on a New Mexican reservation and I was shocked and saddened to see its grossly substandard living conditions.

Arizona's scenery is different from New Mexico and the golden landscape is lovely. We stop in Winslow to see the famous statue based on the Eagles' "Tak'in' It Easy". The town is very picturesque, we walk around a little bit and Alex gets some good shots, especially of the town's hotel colorful flowerbeds. We leave and keep our eyes peeled for wildlife, since we keep passing signs warning of antlered wildlife crossings, but see NOTHING.

We make a detour off Highway 40 onto old Route 66 (a more scenic road) and Alex sees a roadrunner. Route 66 is also dotted with Burma Shave signs which are hilarious. We

pass what appears to be a refining plant with a huge pile of black stuff in front of it. Basalt? I wonder.

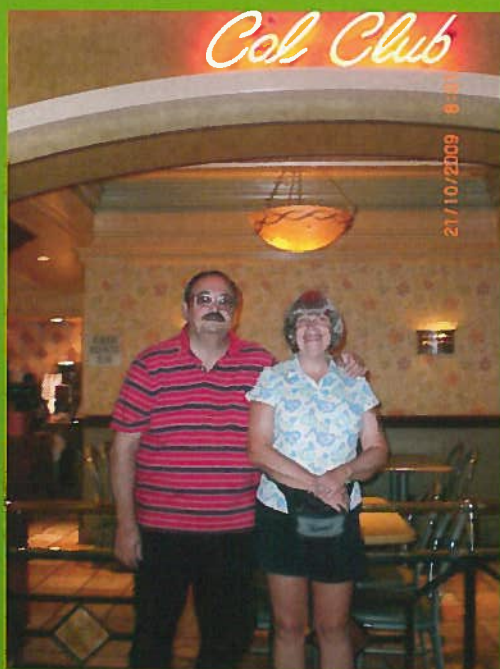
We begin to approach Boulder City and immediately run into a traffic jam. There is HUGE earth moving equipment all over the place for miles on both sides of the highway; maybe a new highway is being constructed? We finally reach Boulder City - WOW - the new bridge TOWERS over the dam and must be 30 stories high. I HATE heights and will not be going over that bridge for a million dollars.



We come around the curve and see Las Vegas spread out before us. It seems like every time we come here, the houses have spread out towards the mountains a little more. We drive through Henderson and are excited to see familiar landmarks. We prefer downtown Vegas over the strip because it's less spread out (besides, we are not glitzy people) and pull into the California Hotel parking garage at 3:30 PM. Wow, another very nice room with a sleek glassed-in shower. We drop off our luggage and hit the casino!



As we did in all of the other Boyd casinos, we want our picture taken with a sign with the casino name on it. Well, the casino HAS no interior California sign so we settle for a Club Cal sign background. It seems to me like the Cal has upgraded some of their interior and it looks much nicer now. After I lose at Double Diamond, we cross the street to our next Boyd property, the Fremont; also (it looks like to me) newly upgraded. We've stayed at the Fremont before and so were not on this trip. As soon as we enter, the security guard says hello; as usual, Boyd staff being friendly. I discover a new machine - Double Diamonds with dragons - very fun. I actually



rise above my thrifty Yankee background and, instead of 9 cents, pay 40 cents a pull. I win \$3 and am thrilled. (So thrilled that I immediately put it all back).

We go over to the Four Queens to check out the Silver Strike machines. They still have five, three of their own and Binion's two old ones. There were no red caps in any of the tubes, so when we run into Shawn Webster who runs the Silver Strike program we ask him about the Halloween red cap and the \$200 Silver Strike to learn that the red caps are going in on Wednesday of the following week and the \$200 will be available that Saturday. We play the machine right by security and get 2 we don't have; there are 4 "queens" of elements. We had seen them on the Strike Point but they are much better looking in person. Whenever I'm around a Silver Strike machine I have a tendency to go into greed mode and want to continue playing, but Alex points out that we are in Vegas for 3 weeks so we have plenty of time.

We leave for the Golden Gate so Alex could have a shrimp cocktail and then go back to our room to crash. The next morning we walk through Main Street Station and notice that they have a lot of new machines.



Wednesday and we've been on vacation for a week and a half already. It is just zipping by. We jump in the car and go to visit Boyd's two Henderson casinos, Jokers Wild and Eldorado. At Jokers Wild we explain to the security guy why we want our picture taken under the Jokers Wild sign. After he does so, we go off to play and he comes over about 15 minutes later with a plastic coin cup and asks if we want it since it lists all of the Boyd properties. What a nice guy and the cup is the perfect memento! The little we win at Jokers Wild we lose at Eldorado. Oh, well, it was fun while it lasted! They are true locals' casinos and we hear many patrons greeted by first names.

We leave for Sam's Town and battle awful traffic. Traffic just gets worse and worse but drivers here seem to be more polite than at home. Of course, I want to make a beeline for the Silver Strike machines but stop so Alex can play Survivor instead. (Probably a good idea as we have found the Sam's Town Silver Strike machines to be a little tight). Alex gets a decent bonus and so is ahead for the day. We decide to play the Silver Strike machines on a different day and go to Carl's on Sunset for lunch. We love to eat and watch the planes come in at the same time. Well, instead of eating at Carl's, Alex suggests that we get our burgers and fried zucchini and then go to McDonald's down the road so he can get his favorite french fries. I wish that he had made this request 19 years ago when we first started coming to Vegas because our vantage point at McDonald's is 1000 times better than Carl's. As a matter of fact, after lunch we walk over to Eastern Avenue and stand on the sidewalk so the planes can go directly over us right before they hit the runway - it is thrilling!! We will do this many times during this trip and I never get tired of those huge, sleek airplanes going directly over us.

After lunch we head over to the Orleans. The casino is pretty busy for a Wednesday and unfortunately there is only one Survivor machine and it is being played. We detour to the ice cream shop and discover that it is now a Baskin Robbins, but Alex is able to get sugar free ice cream anyway. I drop some money in a Double Diamond but win nothing while the lady a few machines down hits the bonus

three times. We return to Survivor and play for a long time. We leave and hop over to the Gold Coast which also has only one Survivor machine. Alex plays for a bit and we go over to the Palms to see if there are any red caps. I would like to get the three 7's one; we already have the other two 7's. I chat with the guy at the Silver Strike machine and tell him about how much fun the Silver Strike Club is and it turns out that he is a member from our home state of Connecticut! (he mentioned that he still owed his dues so he shall remain nameless). He is playing to get 20 to trade for a \$200. When I offer to trade him some of our duplicate Palms for his non-Palm dups, we have an impromptu trade session at the food court! He is absolutely thrilled to get his \$200 Strike, a race car whose driver he personally knew. Another gentleman comes over to see what we are doing but evinces no interest when I tell him about the Club.

The next few days are fun but uneventful. We meet Jerry O'Neill for dinner at the Gold Coast; we all love the buffet there. We've known Jerry and Janice for about 16 years and it is nice to catch up on his news. He is selling off part of his casino collectibles collection and is kind enough to sell us some Michigan Strikes which we didn't have.

One morning we are at the Four Queens and the slot manager shows us the Halloween red cap going in the following Wednesday. It's very cool and when she leaves with the usual "let me know if I can do anything else for you" I ask her if she can give us that red cap for free! She laughs but declines. Shawn shows us the Halloween \$200 and I ask him about the "B&T" initials on the tree and he says that's for Becky and Tracy Bottemiller. What a great idea!! He also shows us the \$200 coming out in January. It has a Hawaiian theme and portrays Queen Lydia Liliuokalani, the last reigning Hawaiian monarch.

Shawn's hand is bandaged and he says it's painful and after going to 2 doctors it is still undiagnosed. He is going to yet another doctor the following week and we wish him well. That morning we finally get enough \$10 Silver Strikes to trade for the \$200.



I discover a new machine, Vibrant 7's, with two bonuses. One gives you 15 free spins and the other has green sevens



lighting up all over the place. So about halfway through the \$5 I put in I get both bonuses and pull out \$821.15!! By far the most money I've ever won.



We go over to the Planet Hollywood to check out their Silver Strike machines. Unbeknownst to us, the "Pleasure Pit" Silver Strike showing at the top of the tube does not match the Strikes in the tube and we get nine "Peepshow" strikes in a row (which are not swappable at the cage). We snag the slot attendant to ask if there are any "Pleasure Pit" strikes in the machine and she tells us that a lot of people who play the Silver Strike machines have no idea that they

will win one and don't want them!! How bizarre not to know that you are going to get a nice present!!

The following Wednesday we are at the Four Queens bright and early. (We stay on Connecticut time and so are in bed by 7:00 Vegas time and up at 3:00). We patiently sit at the second Silver Strike machine by Security and wait for a fill of the Halloween red caps but a slot manager comes over and says that they are behind schedule because of a shift change mix-up. The machines are supposed to be filled at 8:00 and we wait from 7:10 to almost 9:00. Finally we see Shawn with his entourage and when he fills our machine I politely request a red cap on the bottom of all 6 tubes. He laughs but does put a red cap on the bottom of one tube in each machine, then scatters the other red caps as he always does. After going through \$11, I get my first strike and don't you know it is the red cap! Needless to say, I am ecstatic. I cash out and put the money in the machine next to me which Alex is playing. He gets a clear cap right after me but we want that other red cap as a swapsie. Well, after going through \$140, we have my red cap and 2 clear caps from Alex's machine so we give up in disgust.

Later in the afternoon, Alex notices two red caps on the bottom in a different machine and gets both of them plus 2 clear caps for \$40.

Friday afternoon at about 3:30 I am out walking (Vegas is a great walking town and I do 7-8 miles a day) and Alex calls me on my cell phone. He ran into Bill Cohenour and asked Bill when the Halloween \$200 strikes were being handed out the next morning. (that morning the cashier we asked didn't know). Bill kindly informed him that the strikes had been handed out earlier in the day and there were only 11 left. So Alex tells me he is going to get the 20 strikes from our room and

swap right then. I am so nervous that we aren't going to get one that I do my last 2 miles in about 20 minutes, but luckily Alex is able to get one. Whew!! After playing so much and making sure that we had the 20 swaps, it would have been terrible to lose the opportunity.

That night, we go to the California for ice cream. They have one of the best flavors I've ever had: White Chocolate

Macadamia Nut with big chunks of white chocolate and chopped macadamia nuts. I wish that we could get this in Connecticut!

The following Tuesday we are at Sam's Town and see a red cap in the Silver Strike machine. We immediately start playing and are lucky enough to get it and a clear cap which we don't have for only \$40. I am old now and my memory is shot so I didn't remember the Sam's Town had a 30th Anniversary red cap and am very happy to add it to our collection!

We run into Tracy at the Four Queens. He looks good but said he feels awful. He mentions that he and Becky had gone to South Carolina for a new treatment but it didn't work. Tracy, just know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

That afternoon, I come back from my walk and Alex mentions that he saw a Virgin Airways 747 plane on the runway when he passed the airport coming back from South Point (he loves their shrimp cocktails; they are huge tiger shrimp). Wanting to get a picture of the 747 in the air, he goes on line and finds out it comes in every day at approximately 2:45 PM. The next day we are at the Fremont and Alex makes it a point to leave so we can be

The following Monday we are at the Four Queens for breakfast. As we always do, we check the Silver Strike machines to see if any red caps are on the bottom and there is one. I want to play but Alex tells me not to be greedy and goes off to wash his hands. I stick \$20 in the machine and get 10 credits on my first spin. On my third spin I get a strike - the red cap!! Alex is shocked when he comes back and I have the red cap and \$20.25 in my hand! This is the same machine that took our \$140 so you just never know. We run into Richard Anderson at the Four Queens and end up meeting him at the Palms to buy 2 red caps. When I comment on how many Four Queens red caps he has, he says they are a result of playing for the 20 clear caps he's going to swap and that he spent a good deal of money.

We see Tim Rambo and Tom Curtin, who run the Silver Strike program at Sam's Town and stop to tell them how much we appreciate that Sam's Town has kept their Silver Strike machines. They show us the \$200 strike coming out in January. Wow, it is the coolest strike I've EVER seen; a cobra, fangs bared, rearing up behind a Mustang car. I tell Alex I definitely want one and we go to the strike machines to play for swapsies. Who do we see but Lucky Pete Ryan from Florida, who is trying to get three sets of cars plus an extra 20 to swap for the \$200. He isn't doing too well

but the guy at the other machine keeps hitting (at Pete's suggestion, when I go over to talk to him, he said he was trying for the poker strike and was going to play until he got one). The guy is nice enough to sell us 17 for \$170 which let us finish our 3 car set, swap some with Pete

for his 3 car sets, complete our 20 swapsies and get an old Laughlin strike we didn't have.

We end our stay in Las Vegas by attending the Boyd talent show at the Orleans on Wednesday night. The properties plus two offshoots send their finalists so there is a lot of talent on that stage. And I really felt like I was at American Idol because who was sitting directly in front of us but the judges, among them Jasmine Trias who was an



at the McDonald's on Sunset Road at 2:15, giving him plenty of time to set up his camera for some good shots of the 747 as it passes overhead. Of course we sit in I-215 traffic biting our nails and pull into McDonald's at 2:17. A Southwest Airlines plane is just coming in and right behind it is the (early) Virgin Airways 747. Alex scrambles out of the car and grabs his camera and gets a perfect shot as it is going over us. Boy, does his careful planning pay off; another minute and we would have missed it.

Idol finalist in year 3. I immediately jump up to meet her and what a sweetheart! Not only a beautiful lady but also a beautiful person. The show itself is one I will never forget. The talent ranges from a soprano opera singer to a Thai dancer in colorful native dress to two magicians. The show starts with a hilarious takeoff on famous movies with Boyd management as the stars.



With the legendary Bill Boyd at the Boyd Talent Show.

The following morning we run over to the Four Queens to ask Shawn about his latest doctor's visit. We are relieved to find out that it simply is a bruised bone and no surgery is needed. We sadly get into the car and leave Las Vegas, but we are already planning to return perhaps in January for the tournament and the release of the Four Queens and Sam's Town \$200 strikes.

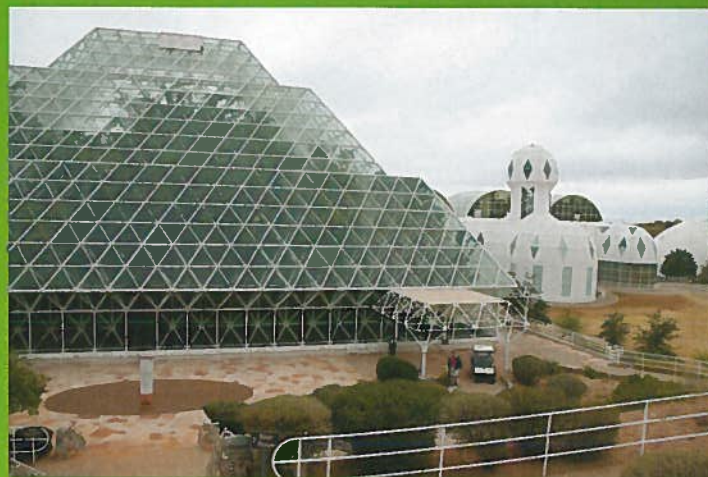
Although we are sad to leave, there is a silver lining. We are not on a time limit to be anywhere going back to Connecticut and will be able to stop along the way if we see anything interesting.

We pass the bridge being built by the dam again. This time, there are men working on the top. They must be 25 stories in the air and my stomach shivers just to look at them. We pass back into Arizona and head towards Phoenix. We see signs saying photo enforcement zone and notice cameras just waiting to photograph speeders and red light runners. We also pass four State Troopers within an hour, all of whom have nailed a motorist.

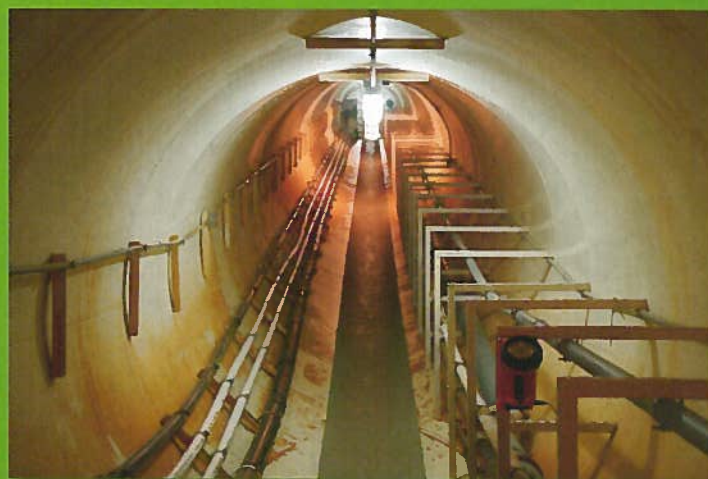
Outside of Sun City we watch fighter pilots do their maneuvers. They are so well coordinated that they look like one plane. We see a red tailed hawk perched on a highway streetlight, but that is the only live wildlife we see. The topography changes and there are lots of beautiful flowers, cotton fields and emerald green fields. I wish that farmers

had signs in front of their fields labeling their crops, as I am nosy and like to know what I'm looking at! The Gila riverbed is dry, as are all of the rivers and washes we go over. I hope that there is plenty of water flowing in the spring.

We stop at Biosphere 2 outside of Tucson, a (formerly hermetically sealed) huge greenhouse-type building where scientists monitor climate and moisture changes on the 5



different biomes represented. We have the tour showing the behind-the-scenes operations. It is fascinating! Outside the buildings it is unbelievably quiet. We hear an occasional bird but that is it. No cars, planes, people, animals or insects.



Air shaft at the Biosphere

We stop for lunch at El Charro Cafe north of Tucson. Oh boy, hot food again and is it delicious! We continue into New Mexico and see a pinto mare and her foal. At first I think they are wild but don't see any other females or a stallion guarding his harem, so they are probably domestic. We pass a sign warning of deer crossings so

we immediately keep our eyes peeled for animals but see none. We stop in Wickenburg, a former gold rush town, whose residents were too busy prospecting to take the time to build a jail, so they tied their outlaws to a tree! Later we enjoy one of the most spectacular sunsets over the mountains that I've ever seen.

The next day we come upon a loooong truck carrying what appears to be an airplane wing. It's not, it's an arm for a wind turbine and it is huge. About an hour later we see a whole slew of wind turbines atop a bunch of mesas. I tell Alex that our whole way of life is going to change within the next 50 years.

We go over the Texas border and stop in El Paso for the night. The next morning, we go up the mountain and drive Scenic Drive. Wow, a millionaires' row of gorgeous houses on one side and a spectacular view of the city and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on the other. We go down to Border Highway and drive along the Rio Grande. Well, it is not so



guacamole. We also stop in Fort Stockton to see the huge 22 foot long roadrunner statue. We stay overnight in Ozana, small and quaint.

The next morning our topography changes and we go from scrub to grassland dotted with trees. We stop in Boerne, settled by Germans with some very cool



architecture. We are just driving around, it's very pastoral, and (gasp) what do we see but wildlife! Four buzzards having lunch (I didn't look to see what) and a little further on, a whole herd of deer; there must have been 30 of them (including two on their hind legs sparring a little). Alex takes some pictures. We eat at Little Gretel's and they have yummy homemade spaetzle. A river runs through town and a lot of kids are fishing. This is the most water I've seen in two

grande here. I expected a very broad river and am surprised that it is only about 10 feet wide.

Our bible for restaurants has been our trusty AAA book and this time we eat at Chuy's in Van Horn. It is famous because the sportscaster John Madden, while traveling, stopped there one Monday night to watch the football game and raved about the food in many of his magazine articles. I try gorditas for the first time - delicious! And fabulous

days. We jump back into the car and head for San Antonio. I cannot wait! I've always wanted to see San Antonio and its beautiful Riverwalk. Well, we are not disappointed. Although it is a fairly big city, it has a small town feel. For a Sunday afternoon, there are not tons of people out. The Alamo is very interesting but heartbreaking, too. I can see why the fall of the Alamo was a big incentive to slough off Mexican rule.



The Riverwalk is absolutely lovely. Palms, bushes and flowers line its banks and a lot of the buildings are old. Some of them have lacy balconies and remind me of New Orleans. Our hotel has an exit directly onto the Walk and we just meander for a bit enjoying the warm weather. We have dinner at Landry's and people watch everybody strolling past us. It is so romantic and I have a wonderful time.



The next morning we have breakfast buffet in our hotel restaurant overlooking the Riverwalk. Our waiter is very enthusiastic about living in San Antonio; enough so that I am going to research it as a possible retirement place. We certainly would not miss shoveling snow. We leave for Delta Downs in Vinton, Louisiana. (When we first came through, we stopped for only about an hour to see the place, but this time we are staying overnight.)

Well, after driving the entire width of Texas going and coming, we finally see some longhorns. Wow, they are huge. We also see something unusual; cows, deer and buffalo all grazing in the same field. Later we see a field of antelopes, four or five different species and think maybe it is connected to a zoo. We stop in Columbus to see the 75

foot tall oak tree (the 2nd largest in Texas). It is the widest tree I've ever seen; so wide that it takes up almost the entire block. We cross over into Louisiana and reach Delta Downs at 3:30 PM. I am excited because we are meeting Dan Hanagriff again, for dinner and trading. Our room has a very cushy carpet and a gorgeous view of the racetrack and pond, but there is no sight of the alligator. It is about 60 degrees so maybe it is too cold for him.

Alex and I are going downstairs in the elevator and Alex's cell phone rings. What perfect timing; it is Dan and he has just arrived. After he regales us with stories for 2 hours (he is a walking history book) we all go to the buffet (excellent chicken and sausage gumbo) and then return to our room. We swap stories and Silver Strikes for another hour, then go down to the casino to play. Dan gets the bonus on Jackpot Party four times within fifteen minutes. (although I think we talked as much as we played). He cashes out and we move to the Vibrant (green) 7's so I can play. Some guy is playing both machines and when I politely ask him if he would consider cashing one out so I can play it, gets very snippy and growls that he is playing them. I go around to the other bank and play the Gems machine and hope with all my heart that I get the big bonus so I can wave my \$1,000 cashout slip underneath his nose and thank him for being greedy and forcing me to play a different machine. I get the little bonus, play some more but then go back upstairs to check on Alex who did not come to play with us because he is not feeling too well.

We are up at 6:00 the next morning and I immediately run to the window to watch the horses being exercised. They are magnificent animals and it is a pleasure to watch them. We go to have breakfast and play a little and I leave \$2 ahead!

We have an uneventful drive until we stop for lunch in Lafayette, Louisiana at the Blue Dog for yummy spicy Cajun food. Traffic is awful - even worse than Vegas. I wonder where all these people are coming from. We pass a group of convicts in their striped jumpsuits working on the road being carefully watched by a sheriff. What an awful life; at least they are not shackled together.

Traffic backs up outside Baton Rouge and we crawl for an hour. We discover the cause is an 18 wheeler carrying heavy equipment whose driver is going about 25 miles an hour. I wonder why he doesn't periodically pull over and let all the traffic pass him. Maybe his schedule is too tight.

We pull into Biloxi, Mississippi at 5:30 PM. Our hotel room has a huge window fronting the bay and we watch a spectacular sunset fade into the water. We both play a little but it is so smoky and noisy we leave and go to bed early. Alex is still recovering from his smoke-induced sinus problem and too much smoke will make him sick again.

The next morning I am sitting at one of three Double Diamond machines. The guy at the end of my row keeps banging his machine but it gives him nothing even after he puts another bill into it. He leaves in disgust. I get the bonus three times on my machine, cash out and move one down and get the bonus twice. I cash out and move down again to his machine and get the bonus three times and am I glad he is not there to see that! I cash out and leave \$15 ahead!

Six years ago while in Biloxi, we drove the beach road to admire all of the antebellum mansions lining it opposite the ocean. We drive the beach road this morning and it is heartbreaking to see that every single one is gone, blown out to sea by hurricane Katrina. Each home was at least 150 years old and all that history is gone. I sincerely hope that all the homeowners got out in time. All of the casinos on the beach, however, have been completely rebuilt.

We are driving the interior of the state this time and it is very green with lots of trees. When I lived in the south thirty years ago, Mississippi was a very poor state but the areas we are passing through are pretty nice.

We stop for lunch in Hattiesburg at the Purple Parrot for authentic southern Mississippi food. Oh boy, another scrumptious lunch. I think I must have gained 50 pounds by now. However, I still polish off Alex's bread pudding with white chocolate sauce.

We take a quick detour in Jackson to look at the government buildings. City Hall is one of the few buildings General Sherman didn't burn during the Civil War. I must say that Southerners are very proud of their heritage. Even the small towns have visitors' centers with lots of information.

We stay overnight in Canton, a very cool, old time town which has been used extensively for movies, TV shows and commercials. The store facades are so perfectly late 1800's/early 1900's that downtown looks like a movie set. It's really warm out so we drive around and enjoy the sights.

The next morning, we go by a small lake with a lone fisherman sitting in his boat. The scene is very pretty and looks like a Winslow Homer painting.

We pull into Sam's Town in Tunica at lunchtime. We play a little after lunch and then I go to the Tunica Museum. I expect small town exhibits and think I would breeze through in less than an hour. Well, am I surprised.



Yes, it has some exhibits devoted to Tunica residents but it also has exhibits about the area's geographic, geologic and naturalistic formation (I finally get to see a lot of wildlife - all stuffed!), the Civil War and the slave trade, the Civil Rights movement and the rise of the casinos and how they changed Mississippi forever. It is absolutely fascinating and after almost 2 and a half hours I leave only because the staff want to close! Actually, they stayed open an extra 15 minutes for me! What a great museum; I highly recommend it!

We have dinner and play a little more and the Vibrant 7's eat my money. Alex plays the game with the gold-colored Easter Island stone heads, gets five of them a few different ways and pulls \$142 out of the machine! We play a little after breakfast the next morning and leave for Connecticut.

I am excited when we pass into Tennessee. I think it is another one of our most beautiful states and am happy that we have to drive its entire length. We detour to visit the Grenada visitors' center and lake. Wow, it is huge but with only one boat on it. The visitors' center had some very cool exhibits and we get to see some more stuffed wildlife.

Right after lunch, we go over the Tallahatchie river bridge, but don't see Billy Joe McAllister's body.

We stop at the Tennessee River Pearl Museum in Camden. It is pretty interesting seeing how freshwater pearls are cultivated and harvested, and the pictures and displays of jewelry are gorgeous. Their gift shop jewelry is very pricy, however, one 18" strand of medium millimeter pearls costs over \$700.

We decide to stay over in Cookeville because it has a Russell Stover outlet and we want to get a lot of sugar free stuff for Alex. The next morning, before going to the outlet, we take a side trip to Burgess Falls. Less than a mile hike



ends in a spectacular display of a waterfall at least 130 feet high. Even Alex, who is not a hiker, says it is worth it. Take your camera!!

The trip through Tennessee is uneventful. The rural scenery backdropped by the mountains is absolutely lovely. Our weather is still nice and we are both still in short sleeves. We stop and walk around at a flea market for a few hours; there must be over 300 people selling stuff. I love junk stores and enjoy myself immensely. I have to laugh though. I am in shorts and a tee shirt and all the sellers are in heavy jackets and long pants. They don't know what cold

weather is!!

We see a lot of hawks and turkey buzzards before we stop for the night just across the border in Abingdon, Virginia. The next morning, the buffet lady is very chatty and tells us that the cops sneak around in unmarked mustangs, SUVs and other sports vehicles to be very vigilant about speeders. Luckily we don't have to worry about that as Alex is the safest driver with whom I've ever ridden. We later see a few motorists pulled over.

We go by a field of corn and are far enough above it that I can see a pattern cut into it. I've read about but never seen, a corn maze, very cool!

We see some more hawks in various areas and I am surprised and pleased to see a pair of bald eagles circling one of the mountains. What magnificent birds they are, and huge.

I am happy to be going back home, but boy, is it getting cold! We are out of short sleeves and back into jackets. We pass over the border into Maryland and then it is just a hop, skip and a jump back to Connecticut.

We pull into Milford at 7:00 PM. We've traveled for 6 and a half weeks and put 7,000 miles on the car going into or through 19 states: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Virginia and Maryland. All the states had beautiful scenery; I took some murder mysteries to read in the car when I got bored and didn't open one once. I was too busy looking out of the window.

We had a BLAST!! It was so nice seeing old friends, all of the Boyd staffs treated us like royalty and we added thirty seven new Silver Strikes to our collection!

If you are equally lucky to be able to take any type of road trip, let me make a suggestion. Get the AAA Travelguide(s) for the state(s) you are visiting. They have invaluable information about cool stuff to see, as well as the usual hotel and restaurant ratings. I would say that over half of the places we stopped to look around or eat at were a direct result of being listed in the AAA books. Reading the history of the places through which we passed was fascinating, too.



Main Entrance ashtray \$400.00 (both for \$1,200.00) Town House ashtray \$1,000.00

If they don't sell outright I will list them on ebay in April, send me your E-Mail address and I will send notification of the auctions. My ebay user name is chipwad1

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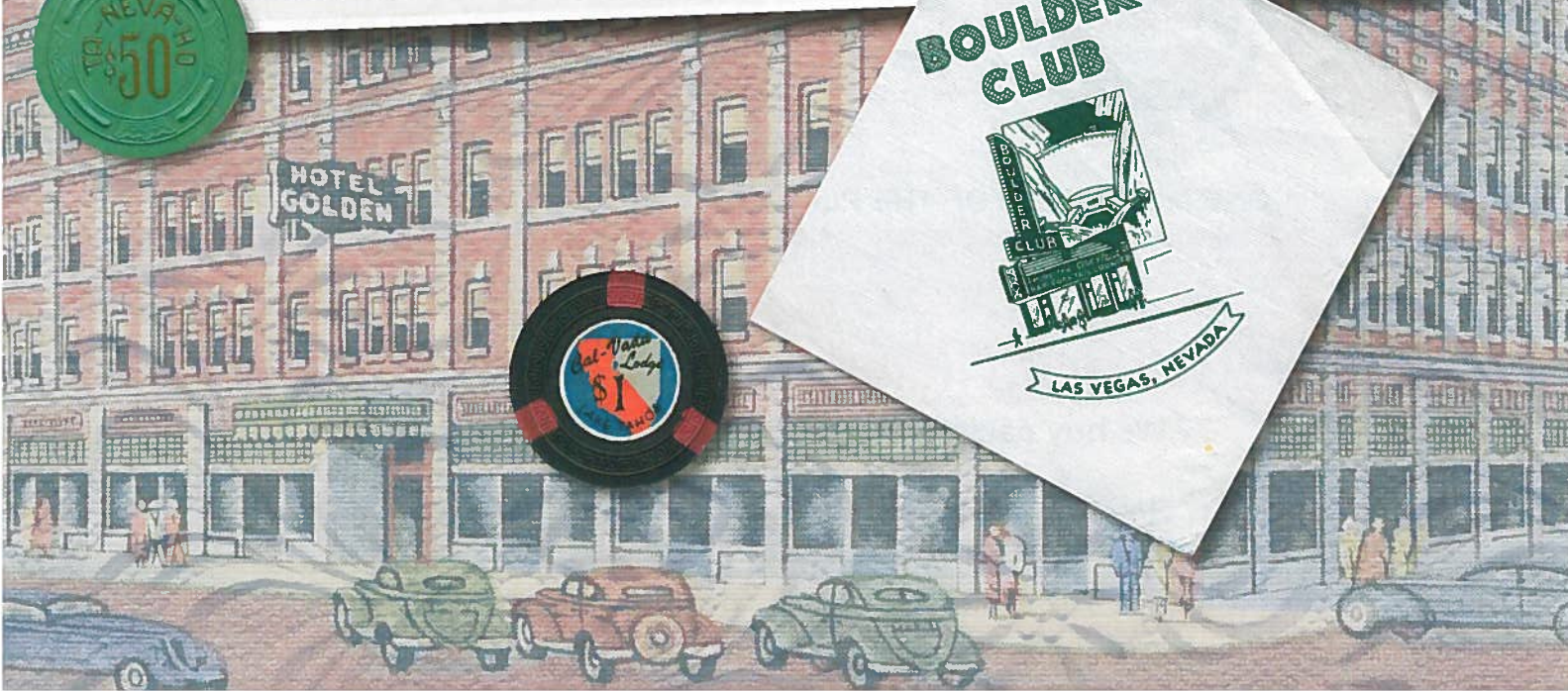
pokerchips@spinettis.com

* With this ad (one per customer)

AS TIME GOES BY...

By Pam Goertler #R-3432

PART TWO



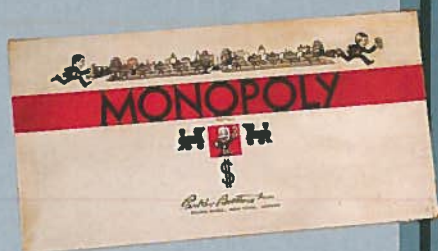
THE DECADE WAS THE 1930S...

1935



Hoover Dam was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on September 30, 1935. Roosevelt introduced the second phase of his New Deal, which called for Social Security, better housing, fair taxation and farm assistance.

In Las Vegas, the Elks first Hellsdorado Parade was held. The board game Monopoly was introduced.



Louisiana Governor

Huey Long was assassinated. A chemist

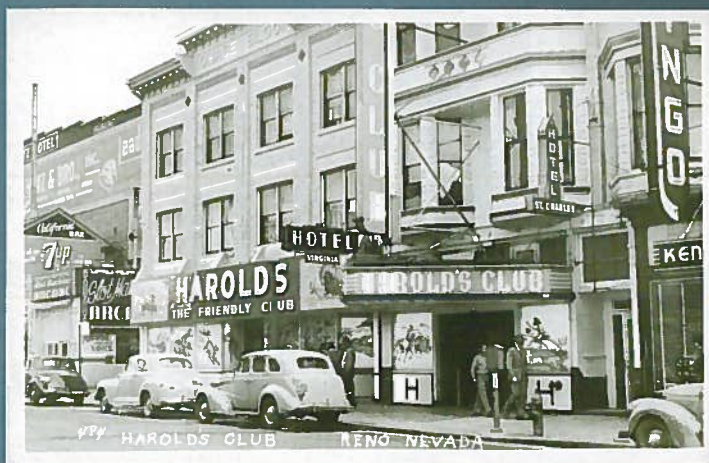
employed by DuPont created nylon, the first totally synthetic fabric. Some 5,000 Shriners from Southern California held their convention in Las Vegas.



The United States was experiencing a drought. The overworked farmlands of Texas and Oklahoma, as well as parts of Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico were literally blowing away... a "Dust Bowl". Sunday, April 14, 1935 became known as "Black Sunday"; the day was clear and warm when suddenly a cloud appeared on the horizon, growing larger and moving at 60 miles per hour. The cloud was made up of dirt--it was a black blizzard that turned the day into night. The storm blew across the nation picking up more dirt and increasing in size. By the time it reached

Washington D.C. it was estimated to reach over 20,000 feet in the air, and was over 1,000 miles wide. Some of the dirt from the storm was deposited on decks of ships that were 300 miles out from the coast. Many of the people who experienced the storm thought the world was coming to an end...and for some, their world did end. Unable to farm the land that they had lived on for generations, and with few options available, many people headed west toward the "promised land" of California, where they hoped the streets were paved with gold.

HAROLDS CLUB AND THE SMITH FAMILY-RENO



On February 23, 1935, his 25th birthday, Harold Smith Sr. opened Harold's Club at 236 North Virginia Street, in Reno. Harold, his brother Raymond A., and their wives were the only employees at the small club (25' wide by 150' deep) that started with a penny roulette game and two slot machines. Unlike traditional roulette wheels, the wheel at Harold's Club was an eight-foot wheel that was vertically mounted on the wall. Before long, the wheel became busy enough to need six clerks selling chips and servicing the forty-three layouts.



Harold's father, Raymond

I. "Pappy" Smith, understood that people loved to gamble and play games. After years of operating carnival concessions, Pappy joined his sons in Reno and became the general manager of Harold's Club. Pappy is credited with many innovations in the gambling world, including "mouse roulette" (in 1938) and "mice dice" (in 1962)...neither of



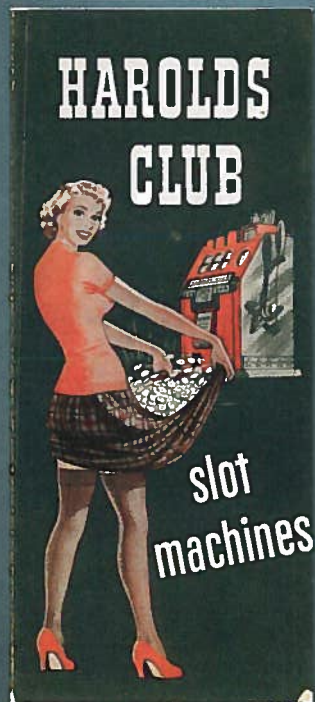
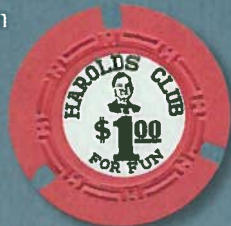
which lasted long, but both brought publicity to the Club. Many also credit Pappy with establishing the first casino credit office and the first “eye in the sky”, but Pappy’s main concern was that people have fun while they were in

Harold’s Club. To this end, he often, while walking through the casino, would double a customer’s bet or would deal a hand that was guaranteed to make the customer a winner. Pappy himself never gambled and was opposed to drinking and smoking.

In the late 1930’s Harolds Club began hiring female employees, including dealers. According to an article in Life magazine, the practice came about after Pappy overheard a woman making the comment “I don’t want to go in there—there aren’t any women in there!” Dorothy Smith and Dora Mae Pigeon Smith (Harold’s wife and his mother) were the first female dealers in the club. Dealers from the Bank Club and the



Palace Club would play at their tables, and give them tips on becoming better dealers. As business grew, Dorothy and Dora Mae trained other females to deal craps, roulette and 21. During World War II, ninety percent of the employees at Harolds Club were female.

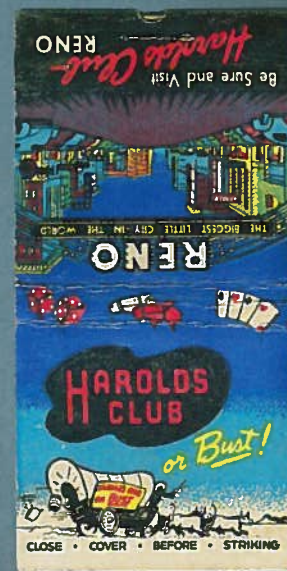


Harolds Club continued to grow through the years, enabling the Smith family to give generously to the community. Many local churches, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, hospitals and day-care centers were benefactors of the Smith’s



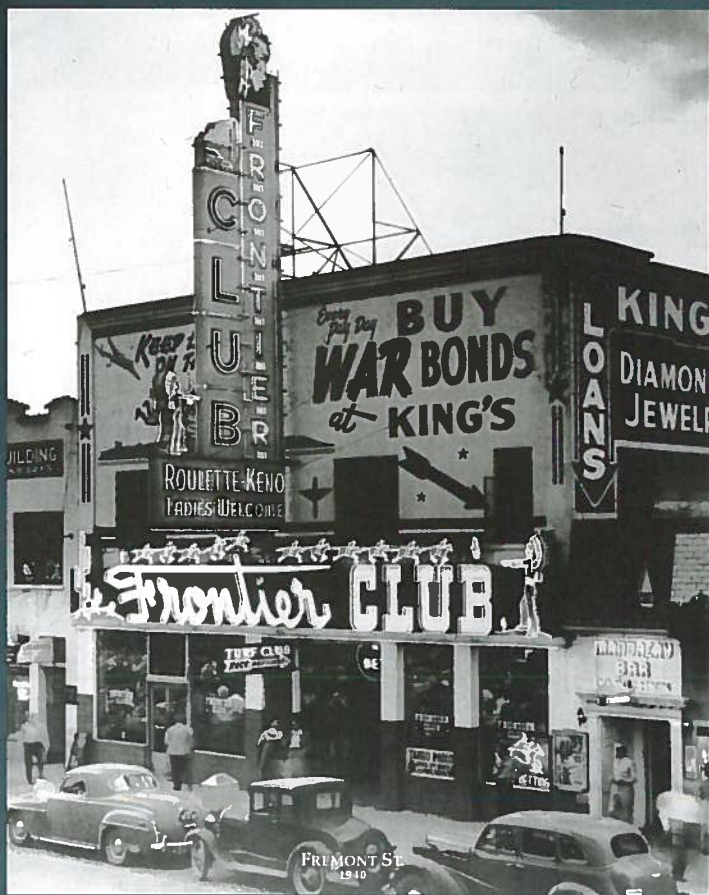
charitable contributions. Over the years scholarships were awarded, at a cost to the Club of \$4,000 each, to 250 Nevada high-school graduates so they could attend the University of Nevada. The total cost to Harolds Club was \$1 million.

Harolds Club had over 400 employees in December of 1994, when it was announced that Harolds Club, no longer owned by the Smith family, would be sold to a New Jersey gaming company. The final sixty-nine employees lost their jobs when Harolds Club closed, on March 31, 1995.



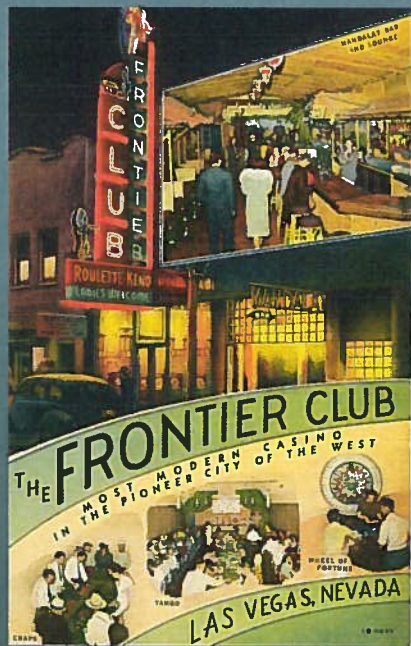
FRONTIER CLUB-LAS VEGAS

The Frontier Club opened on May 11, 1935, at 117 Fremont Street. The 1944 phone book lists former LAPD vice squad commander Guy McAfee as the proprietor



of the club, which occupied the former site of a general merchandise store. McAfee, who came to Las Vegas in 1938, was one of the “colorful” figures in the early history of Las Vegas; allegedly he owned saloons and brothels, operated illegal gambling houses and had ties to organized crime...all while commanding the vice squad! In 1944 the Frontier Club was licensed for 41 slot machines and 17 table games.

Benny “don’t call me Bugsy” Siegel was a partial owner in the Frontier Club, as well as a couple of other downtown Vegas casinos. From early in the 1940’s Benny controlled the race wires, which transmitted race results from the out-of-state tracks to legal bookmakers in Las Vegas, and he collected huge fees for the service. Anyone



who didn’t want to pay the fees didn’t get the race results from Benny’s service...and there were no competitors allowed. Race bookies had complained to the D.A., but the complaints fell upon deaf ears. Even after Benny was killed in 1947, nothing was done.

Dave and Sam Stearns opened the Santa Anita Turf Club, next door to the Frontier Club. Unable to get their own race wire service, they hid a microphone in the Frontier Club. Thus, when race results were announced in the Frontier Club, they were heard in the Santa Anita. Discovering that, the Frontier Club complained to the Federal Communications Commission, as well as the U.S. Attorney’s office. The wheels started turning, and in October of 1948, legislation was passed allowing the Tax Commission to set the rates for race wire services and to prohibit wire operators from refusing service to a gaming licensee.

DOG HOUSE-RENO



A wire-haired terrier named Poochy was the inspiration for the name of the Dog House, a combination dance-hall,

restaurant and casino that opened on North Center Street in June of 1935.

Divorcees were the target audience for the Dog House, which offered a dance floor, stage, a large bar and seating for 250 patrons, in addition to gambling. Round-the-clock entertainers included a variety of dancers, striptease artists, singers and magicians.

On January 1, 1939 the Dog House closed and it was soon demolished. On April 1, 1939 the new Dog House opened, featuring a western theme. In August of 1939 the Dog House's gambling license was revoked by the District Attorney. Shorty King and George Coppersmith, who operated the gaming, pled guilty to operating a crooked wheel. They were sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,000 each. Owners of the Dog House, Phil Curti and Al Hoffman, claimed no knowledge of the scam and started proceedings to get their licenses reinstated. Gambling resumed in January 1940. The Dog House closed in April 1944.

CAL-VADA LODGE-CRYSTAL BAY



and continued to operate until 1955.

The Cal-Vada Lodge, on Stateline Road, was licensed on June 15, 1935 for slots, blackjack, craps and keno. The club operated until 1951, when it was rebranded as the New Cal-Vada Lodge



GOLDEN HOTEL-RENO



Built in 1906 by Frank Golden Sr., at 219 North Center Street, it would be many years before the Golden Hotel would offer a casino. When Frank Golden died in 1914 the ownership of the hotel went to the Wingfield bank group, who had provided the financing. The Wingfield family, who also owned the Riverside Hotel in Reno, took over the operations of the Golden Hotel.

From the mid 1930s until the mid 1940s, areas of the Hotel were leased out to various gaming operators including Virgil Smith, Bill Williams, Wayne Martin and Del Hammond. Gaming was conducted in the Golden Bar area of the hotel, under the lessees, from June 26, 1935 to July 1, 1947.

In 1946, to finance remodeling of the Riverside Hotel, the Wingfield family sold the Golden Hotel to a group of buyers that included Norman Biltz and James Lloyd Sr. The buyers only had control of the hotel rooms, as the ground floor was under lease to the Brunswick Club and the Bank Club. Early in 1947 Lloyd bought out the lease of the Brunswick Club, and used the space to open the Golden Gulch Casino. The Golden Gulch featured showroom entertainment, as well as bingo, slots, roulette and horse race betting.

In June of 1948 the Golden Hotel was sold to hotel man Thomas Hull. The Golden underwent extensive



remodeling, at a cost that exceeded \$300,000. The Hull Hotel Corporation filed bankruptcy early in 1949, and the Lloyd group was in control again, operating the Golden for the next three years.

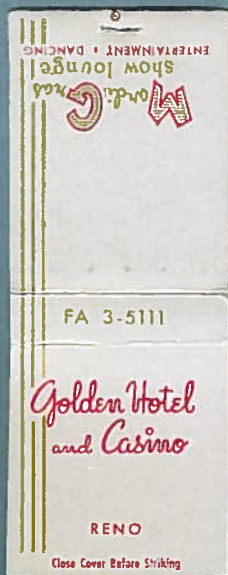
In 1952 The Golden was sold to Frank Hofues; he negotiated a 20-year lease with Bill Graham who would then open the Golden Bank Casino. On May 26 Graham's license was approved for 272 slot machines, more than 30 table games, keno and a cabaret. The 40,000 square foot casino had the largest single gaming area in the world, at that time. (Harold's Club had more square feet, but it was spread out over three floors).



James and William Tomerlin bought the Golden from Frank Hofues in 1954. In 1955 the Tomerlins were granted a gaming license, and they bought out the 17 years that remained on the lease that was held by Bill Graham.

On April 3, 1962 a fire destroyed the Golden Hotel and killed six people.

In 1963 the Tomerlins opened a new Golden with a casino, bars, a showroom and a garage...but no hotel. Construction began on a hotel, but the Tomerlins ran into financial difficulty before it was completed. Bill Harrah purchased the property; he took possession on March 29, 1966, and closed the Golden on that day. On June 20 the property reopened as part of Harrah's.



1936



King Edward VIII abdicated the throne on December 10, 1936, so he could marry American

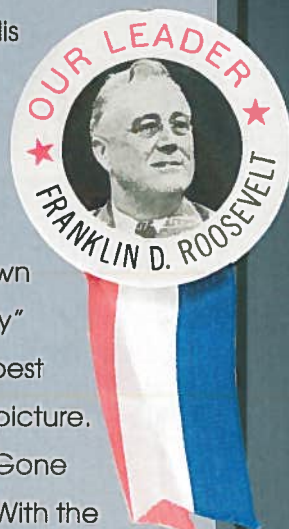
divorcee Mrs. Wallis Simpson. FDR was

reelected with an electoral vote of 523 to 8. Federal spending was up to \$8.23 billion; unemployment was down to 16.9%. "Mutiny on the Bounty" won the Academy Award for best



picture. Gone With the Wind was published. The BBC

introduced the world's first television service, with three hours of programming per day.



WANDER INN-RENO

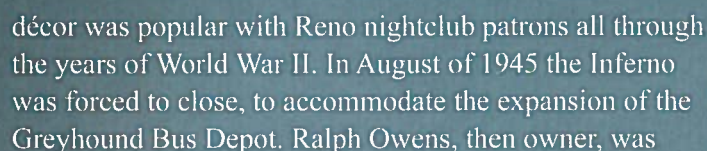
The Wander Inn, at 220 North Virginia St., was licensed from April 1, 1936 until May 13, 1937 for one blackjack game. It originally opened in 1934 as a sandwich shop, and later operated as a nightclub and cabaret.

INFERNO CLUB-RENO

In May of 1936 Vic Williams purchased the Comstock Club, located at 226-1/2 North Center Street, and turned it into an Inferno. No, not arson, he named the club the Inferno and the



1937



INFERNO CLUB

CONTINUOUS MUSIC
GAMING
FINEST MIXOLOGISTS

124 E Commercial Row.....Reno-8784



With an estimated 5,000 customers on opening night, May 28, 1937, the Club Fortune had a modern tango parlor on the east side of the building, and a lounge, a bar and gaming tables on the west side.





The innovative tango game used a moveable cart into which the players would throw baseballs. The balls would land in compartments which were wired to a large board that registered the number hit by each baseball. An operator would call out the number that was hit, and would switch on the lighted numbers on the board at the other end of the room. The customers enjoyed the baseball feature, feeling that their skill in throwing the ball could help them win the game. The Club Fortune was also one of the first clubs to use composition markers, instead of beans or kernels of corn, to mark the numbers that were called.



The Club also offered entertainment; on July 27, 1944, Sammy Davis Jr. and the Will Mastin Trio entertained the customers at the Club Fortune. It was Sammy's first engagement in Reno. Liberace was another of the three thousand entertainers to appear at the Club.

On January 18, 1947 it was announced that the Club Fortune's lease had expired and the Club would be closing. In June of 1948 McKay and Sullivan sold the

building to Sanford Adler and his associates, who would use the location for the Club Cal-Neva.

TA-NEVA-HO-CRYSTAL BAY

The Ta-Neva-Ho, on Highway 28, at the North Shore of Lake Tahoe, was licensed on June 2, 1937. Built by Norman Biltz and Pete Bennett, it housed a bowling alley...which was later converted to a 1940s style ballroom where top-name entertainers appeared. The Ta-Neva-Ho operated until 1952, and then reopened as the Crystal Bay Club.



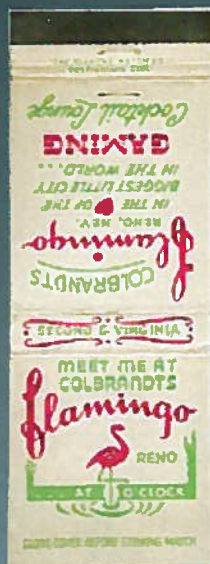
COLBRANDT'S FLAMINGO CLUB-RENO



In the early 1930's Reno was a rough and tumble town. Dozens of small bars, businesses and clubs lined the streets and alleyways. One of the businesses on North Virginia Street was Colbrandt's, a cigar store that Mae Colbrandt opened early in the 1930s. In 1937 Virgil Smith, who leased table games at several Reno establishments, leased the

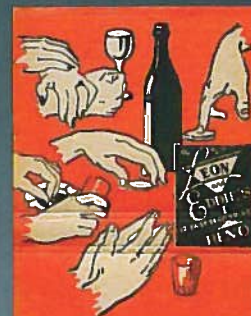
gaming concession at Colbrandt's. In 1940 Smith, with Ralph Austin, bought Colbrandt's from Mae. In 1946 they sold the club, which continued to operate (sometimes with gambling, sometimes as just a bar) under various owners, until 1957.

1938



LEON & EDDIE'S-RENO

Formerly Louie's Rendezvous, in 1935 the property at 12 East Second Street was taken over by Leon Harbert and Ed Harris; they renamed it Leon & Eddie's. The club operated primarily as a cocktail lounge, with more than 50 cocktails, sours, egg drinks, liquors and cordials listed on the drink menu. In 1938 the partnership was dissolved and Ed Harris was the sole owner, though he retained the name Leon & Eddie's. On April 15, 1938, it was licensed for slots and 21.

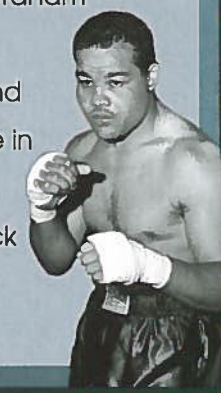


80101. PAT. 1,115,754. APPROVED BY U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE. 1938.

Hitler marched into Austria. Douglas "Wrong-Way" Corrigan flew from New York to Dublin. The Fair Labor Standards Act established a minimum wage. People panicked when Orson Welles radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" convinced them that aliens had landed in New Jersey. The ballpoint pen was



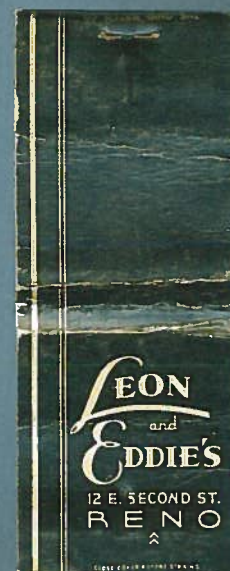
invented. Action Comics debuted. Heavyweight Joe Louis defeated Germany's Max Schmeling with a knock-out punch in the first round of the championship bout. Reno casino owners Bill Graham and James McKay



were convicted of mail-fraud and embezzlement; they served time in Leavenworth Prison from 1939-1945, leaving their associate Jack Sullivan to watch out for their casino interests.

In 1947 Leon Nightingale and Ed Silva took over the business, commenting that they wouldn't have to change the name! They were licensed for one craps game, one 21 game and three slot machines. The club would be sold several more times over the next decade, but continued to offer drinks, gambling and lounge entertainment. In 1956 Luther Cochran, in control at the time, was cited for improper operation of a 21 game. Cochran denied knowledge of any cheating, but surrendered his gaming license. The club was sold again.

In the 1970s the Club Cal-Neva bought the property for an expansion.



CLUB 91-LAS VEGAS

Former Los Angeles police officer Guy McAfee opened Club 91, on Highway 91 on the former site of the Pair-O-Dice Club. The Club would close in 1941; in 1942 the building would be incorporated into the Last Frontier Hotel. In the following photos you can see the Original Club 91 and the later Last Frontier Hotel postcard with the original Club 91 in the center of the photo.



Photo Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections



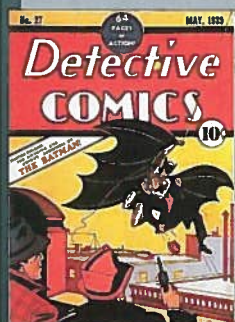
Swimming Pool, Hotel Last Frontier, Las Vegas, Nevada

1939

Germany invaded Poland, World War II began. The New York World's Fair opened. Einstein wrote FDR about the feasibility of the atomic bomb.

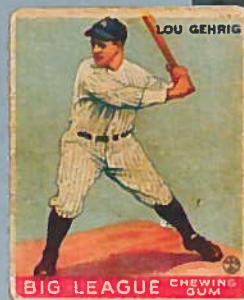
The U.S. Department of Agriculture began the first food stamp

program. Gone With the Wind premiered in movie theaters and eventually grossed



over \$192 million. Madam Alexander introduced the Scarlett O'Hara doll; the first movie character ever made into a doll. The Batman cartoon was introduced.

The average cost of a new house was \$3,800; \$1,730 was the average pay for a year. LaGuardia Airport opened in New York. Hewlett Packard was formed. Tina Turner was born on November 26. Lou Gehrig said goodbye to his fans, at New York's Yankee Stadium. The View-Master



was introduced as a method of viewing popular tourist attractions; Carlsbad Caverns and the Grand Canyon were the main subjects. The Wizard of Oz movie was released on August 15.

116 CLUB-RENO

On December 30, 1939, the 116 Club opened at 116 North Center Street, the former location of the Alpine Club. The Club opened as a restaurant, but in 1941 a new owner added slots, 21 and roulette to entertain the customers. In April of 1955, unable to renew the lease, the club closed.



THE SWIZZLES-LAS VEGAS

No, The Swizzles isn't a club or casino that you never heard of. The Swizzles is a small collection of glass swizzle sticks (or stir-sticks), and a big part of the inspiration for this article. It isn't easy to find items from the Nevada casinos of the 1930s, especially when the items are made of glass, so I wanted to share some items that we've found... and the swizzles are some of my favorites.

Over the years my husband and I have spent a lot of hours searching online auction sites for additions to our collection of Nevada casino memorabilia (memorabilia sounds so formal, I usually call it "stuff"!). We've found a lot of fun items that we've added to our collection... including glass swizzle sticks. The swizzles were in a couple of different lots, from two different sellers, several years apart, but all of them, we were told, came from Las Vegas estate sales. Most of them are listed in our Las Vegas telephone directory that was issued in January of 1939. So...the rest of this article listed casinos by the year that they were licensed, but the swizzles are all listed under 1939...because they're in the phone book!

The section header is what is printed on the swizzle stick.

GOLDEN CAMEL



The Golden Camel was at 110 N. First Street and their phone number was 737. The Golden Camel was first licensed in 1931, for a year or so, to Fred Rumph from Colorado. As recalled by a long-time Vegas resident: "Las Vegas had its share of bootlegging establishments. Probably the most famous was the Golden Camel, which was located on the alley between Fremont Street and Ogden Street on First Street...This was the gathering place for the entire community on a Saturday night. Every Saturday night the Golden Camel used to provide the women with orchids, which was the forerunner of the various giveaways which the gambling casinos and hotels went in for at a later date."

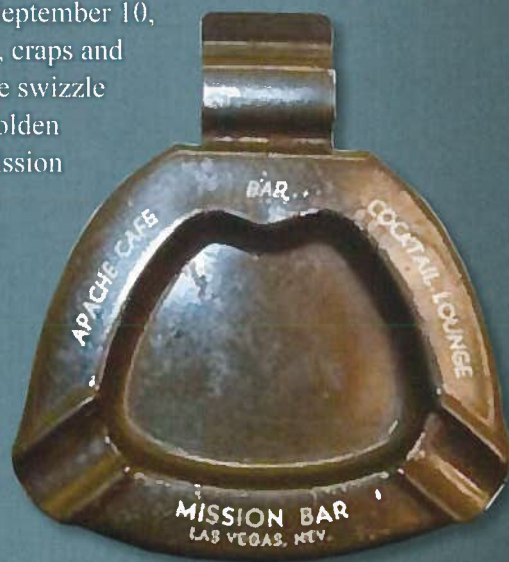
Apparently the gambling license expired in 1932, but the club might have stayed open...I can't find the information to confirm or deny that. In 1938 Joe Morgan was licensed for slots, 21 and craps at the Golden Camel, which was next door to his Silver Club. While the Golden Camel is listed in Las Vegas phone books through 1952, Fuller's Index

indicates that it might not have had a gambling license after 1939. In 1953 the Little Casino was listed at 110 N. First Street, with the same phone number that had belonged to the Golden Camel.

MISSION BAR



The Mission Bar was located at 131 Fremont, and their phone number was 1062. They were licensed from April 8, 1939 through September 10, 1940 for slots, 21, craps and roulette. While the swizzle sticks from the Golden Camel and the Mission Bar don't say Las Vegas, I have no doubt that they were from the clubs in Las Vegas, if only because of the rest of the swizzles that were found with them.



SAL SAGEV TAVERN-LAS VEGAS

The Sal Sagev Tavern was at 1 Fremont Street, their phone number was 609. At one time Sid Martin was the proprietor of the Sal Sagev Tavern, which was located in the Sal Sagev Hotel.

FREMONT STREET LOOKING EAST, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



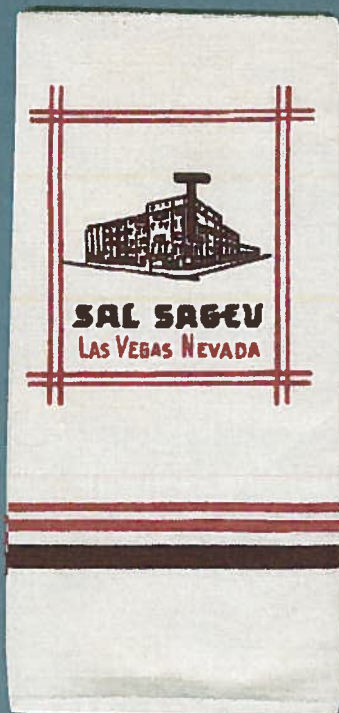
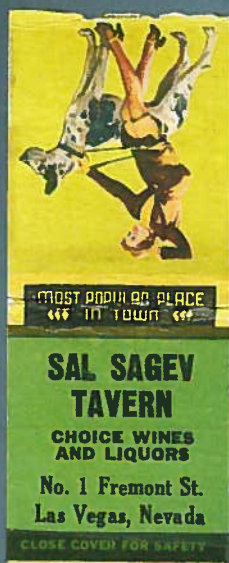
BOULDER CLUB BAR-LAS VEGAS



The Boulder Club Bar doesn't have a separate listing in the phone book, but I don't think I'm going too far out on a limb in guessing that it was located in the Boulder Club, at 118 Fremont.

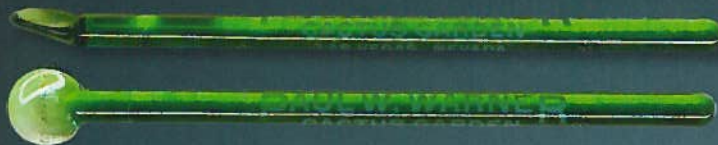


BRIGHT LIGHTS OF LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
GATEWAY TO BOULDER DAM



CACTUS GARDEN-LAS VEGAS-PAUL W. WARNER

This is the one I'm not so sure is in the phone book. The phone book lists "Cactus Beer Garden" on Winterwood Road, with the phone number 82. I'm not too sure that this is where the swizzle is from; current LV maps show a Winterwood Blvd. out near East Las Vegas, the rest of the swizzles are from the downtown area. The Gaming Table lists Cactus Garden at 2576 East Charleston Blvd., opened circa 1935, closed in 1939. That seems a more likely prospect. Then again...the Winterwood Blvd. of today might not be the Winterwood Road of yesterday.



Florence Boyer, daughter of Charles "Pop" Squires (who was one of the original settlers in Las Vegas) says there was a "nest of night spots" out near Tony Cornero's Meadows Club, and The Cactus Garden was probably the fanciest of those clubs. It was owned by Paul Warner, who later served two or three terms as an assemblyman

STOLEN FROM BARREL HOUSE & ANCHOR ROOM-LAS VEGAS



The Barrel House was at 22 Fremont, phone 528. The club was licensed from October 6, 1934 until December 31, 1938, for slots, 21, craps and roulette; they also had a full orchestra for dancing every night. The club was next to the State Café, and there was a hole in the wall between the two businesses so that Barrel House patrons could order food and coffee from the State Café. During prohibition, if the customer knew the right people, the coffee pot was often filled with something stronger than coffee. So far I haven't found any reference to the Anchor Room, other than the swizzle stick.

OVERLAND BAR-LAS VEGAS



The Overland Bar is listed at 6 Fremont Street, phone number 900. The Overland Hotel building was located at the corner of Main and Fremont Streets. It contained several other businesses in addition to the hotel, including

the Overland Bar and the Overland Café in 1939. There were numerous Overland Bars and Hotels, located throughout Nevada, that were licensed for gambling, but there's only sketchy evidence to indicate that the Las Vegas Overland Bar might have had some slot machines. (We have a 1951 postcard that shows a bar/cocktail lounge, with slot machines, at the corner entrance of the Overland Hotel building. BUT...that business would have had the address of 2 Fremont Street. Was that the Overland Bar...??? Maybe...or maybe not.)



FREMONT TAVERN-LAS VEGAS- "DON'T FORGET US"



The Fremont Tavern was located at 101 Fremont Street, phone 722. Despite the motto on their swizzle sticks, they seem to be very nearly forgotten. Other than the swizzle sticks (we have 2 of them) and the listing in the phone book I haven't found anything else about the Fremont Tavern. From the address I can tell you that, during the 1950s and 1960s, this was the location of the California Club, which used the bear as their logo. Not to be confused with the California Hotel & Casino that is still open.

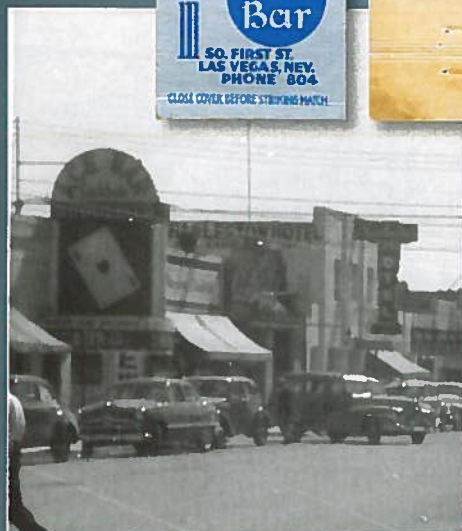
"SEE BOULDER DAM AT-AL'S BAR" 111 SO. FIRST ST.-LAS VEGAS

Al's Bar was at 111 South First Street, and the phone number was 804. Al Salton was the manager, according to the 1944 phone book, and Al's closed around 1944-1945.

From 1945-1951, the Ace Bar took over the location, and the phone number. Al's Bar doesn't show up in the usual casino reference books, but an informative matchbook tells us that Al's had "Liberal" slot machines.



"Liberal"
Slot Machines
and
The Finest
Mixed Drinks
at
Popular Prices



Pictured on the far left, Al's bar became the Ace Bar in 1945.

Apache Casino, Apache Club, Apache Hotel and Apache Restaurant...but no individual listing for "Apache Bar". I think I like the swizzle with the white printing better than the one with the red printing..."snatched from" sounds so much better than "stolen from"!



STOLEN FROM APACHE BAR (RED PRINTING)
SNATCHED FROM APACHE BAR-LAS VEGAS ALL
IS FORGIVEN-CALL AGAIN (WHITE PRINTING)

In Closing, I hope you've enjoyed this trip into the past. Special thanks go out to Dwayne Kling who spent fourteen years researching and preserving the gaming history of Reno, in his book *The Rise of the Biggest Little City*. Most of the Reno information in this article came from that book. The Gaming Table, Harvey J. Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments, and various Chip Chat auction catalogs also provided information...thanks to all of the authors for their work in preserving gaming history. Other information, including the miscellaneous facts and figures, came from different internet sites...so I hope they're accurate!

We have two styles of swizzles from the Apache Bar, which was located in the Apache Hotel Building on the corner of Fremont and Second Streets. The 1939 phone book has listings for the Apache Beauty Salon,

Frontier Club - Las Vegas matchbooks on page 43, Golden Hotel - Reno matchbook on page 44, Fortune Club - Reno matchbook on page 47, and Colbrandt's Flamingo Club - Reno matchbook on page 48 all courtesy of Jerry O'Neal.

Seven Clans - Red Lake



By John K. Kallman



Red Lake
SEVENCLANS CASINOS

I had intended to be there in conjunction with their soft grand opening on Dec 23. But it started snowing, and four days later when it stopped, there were some 11 inches on the ground. Before finally departing for my now delayed trip, I did check with the casino to see which days and hours the poker room would be open. As with most Native American casinos in Minnesota, while you can only

buy black jack chips from the tables, they prefer that you buy the poker chips from the cage, and then they will only sell them if the poker tables are open. Having shown up one time too



many without checking first, I knew that it was best to do so, or else it would have been another 400 mile, 7 plus hours round trip! While snow is bad enough, with sub-zero temps this time of year, it is best to plan ahead as much as possible.

While this casino would never be mistaken for its counterpart in Las Vegas, it is a great improvement over

its previous casino. The former location, while originally having table games, due to its small size, and location, these were soon withdrawn.



Previous Rack

The new casino has four black jack tables and 2 poker tables along with a 40 room attached hotel, something that was also missing with its former counterpart. A snack bar, a traditional restaurant, gift shop, and of course swimming pool along with 300 slot machines round out the new and improved facility. Only some of the slot machines are Ticket In – Ticket Out (TITO) equipped with the remaining machines dispensing \$1.00 tokens which are also used on

the black jack tables. The tokens are the same that were in use at the former location and the TITO's do not seem changed either.



TITO

With the re-introduction of table games, of course there has to be chips! I was unsure if they would pull out the old rack, or in fact have a new one. The later was the case, with Hat & Cane chips in use on the black jack tables and Chipo's on the poker tables. As best that I could determine, there were no Grand Opening chips either ordered, or planned. A \$100 chip is also on the black jack tables, with 3 white and 3 pink inserts.

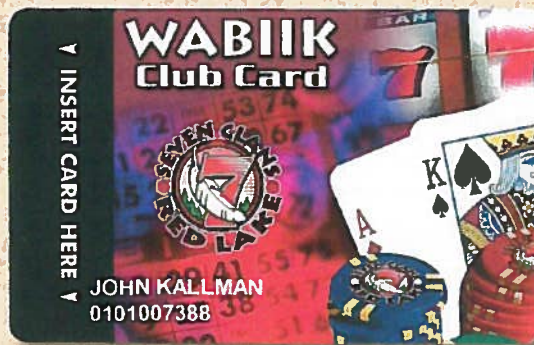


\$1.00 Token



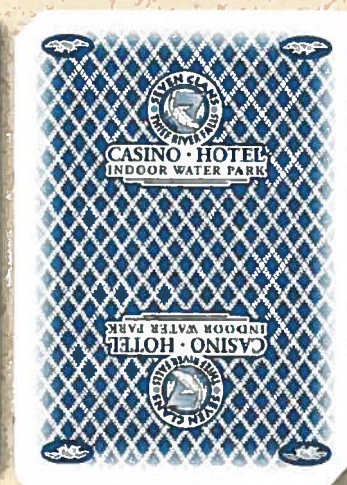
New Rack

The slot card remains unchanged, though. The hotel did order casino branded room keys, but they had not arrived as of my visit.



Slot Card

As with any new opening, there are always a few things that need to be worked out. Thus, someone forgot to order playing cards for the new casino, so they are presently using cards from their sister casino located at Thief River Falls.



Playing Cards

The "normal" Grand Opening is schedule for Jan 21 – 23, 2010. Of course, I will have to see what the weather has in store before venturing out to see what new if anything awaits my next trip.

2009 OTY AWARDS

Welcome to the 2009 OTY Awards Contests! From the previously submitted OTY candidate nominations, the top ten nominees have been tallied and are displayed herein. Voting for 2009 OTY Awards are open to all Club members and using the instructions noted on the Ballot (an insert to this issue of the CCTN) every member is asked to review these nominees, make their selections and mail their ballot to the OTY Chairman. Please remember to make copies of the Ballot for those family members that are also Associate members under your Membership number. All images provided here are at 80% of actual size.

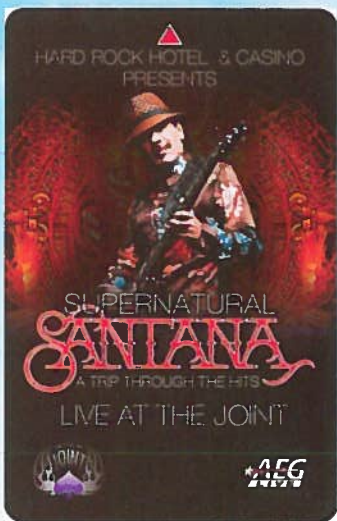
Please note the deadlines for mailing your ballot!

Thank you,

James Follis & Casey Focazio-Follis

CKOTY

Slot Card / Room Key of the Year



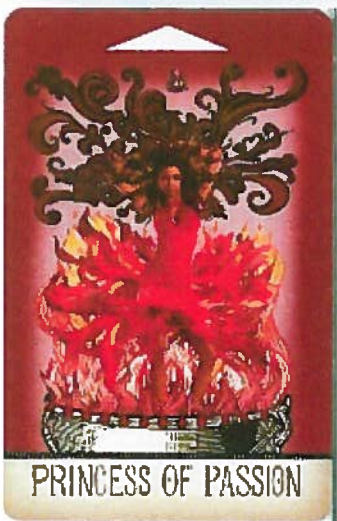
A



B



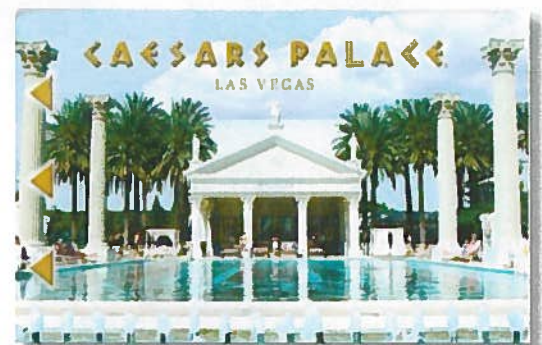
C



D



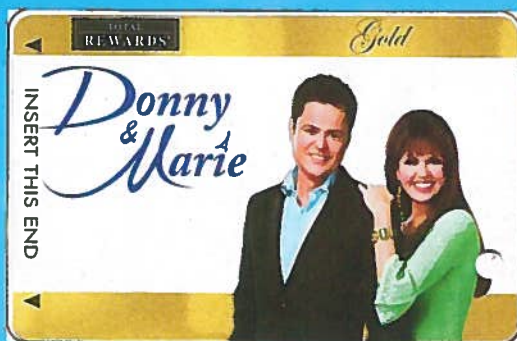
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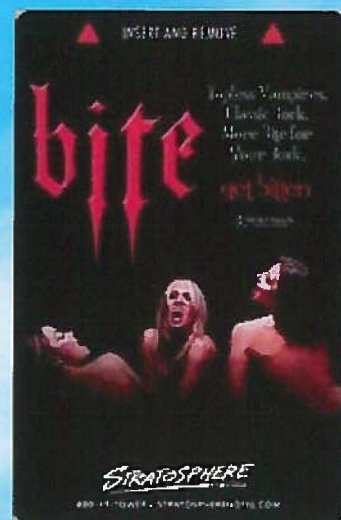
F



G



H



I

SSOTY

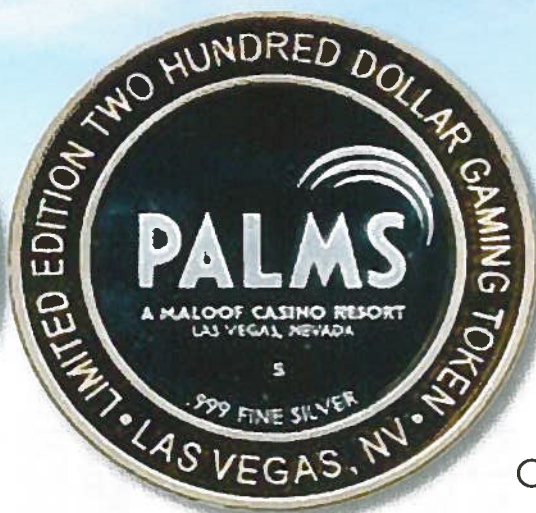
Silver Strikes of the Year



A



B



C



D

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E



F



G



H



I



J

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COTY

Casino Chip of the Year



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

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Knapp on Books

By Michael Knapp

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

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

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions. I should also say that I am an author of *The Gaming Table* and an author of previous editions of *The Chip Rack*.

UNDER THE NEON SKY: A Las Vegas Doorman's Story

by Jay Rankin (2009)

This isn't a "chip book." But it most certainly is a book about Las Vegas, living in Las Vegas, and working at a major hotel/casino. Jay Rankin was able to get a job as a doorman at MGM Grand (its second incarnation, in its current location) when it first opened in 1993. One of the most coveted and lucrative positions in Las Vegas, being a doorman is a job that's unique to Las Vegas and its huge hotels.

This is a good read, and quick. Those of us who haven't lived and worked in Las

Vegas will likely be surprised by some of the things Rankin writes about, but we've all experienced (although not from the same angle) many of the things he talks about.

He tells some great stories, and does it in a way that the reader feels as though he's part of the events Rankin describes. What is somewhat surprising is that Rankin seemed to have been surprised by some of the things that are common to all endeavors and employments: unsympathetic superiors, sometimes outrageous working conditions, bosses who appear to be fair and open at first, but turn out to be users and dissemblers. Those things aren't unique to Las Vegas hotels, certainly.

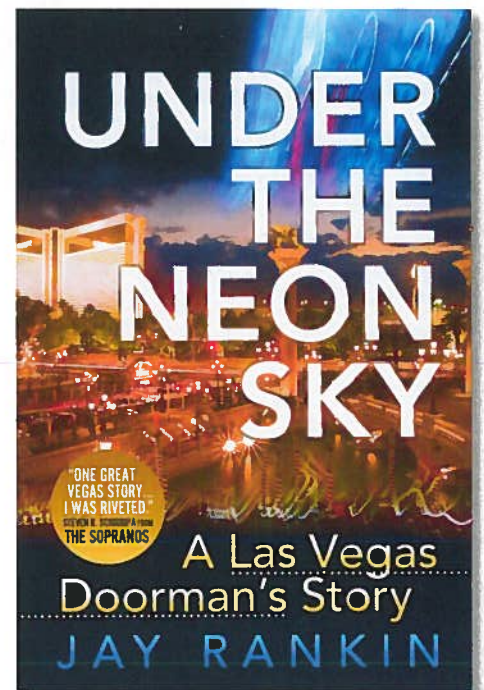
It seemed to me that Rankin, who has a degree in psychology and worked at one time as a probation officer, should not have been surprised by that sort of thing. He seems to have been more sensitive to everyday betrayals and people who were not necessarily the friends they appeared to be, than most. Given his education and background, that's a bit difficult to understand.

He writes about the culture of megaresorts, of Las Vegas itself – the temptations, dealing with a public that often has little respect or concern for those who work in the most public of areas, the abundance of constant cash, the difficulty of living in a toxic relationship.

There's no question that Las Vegas tends to exaggerate: everything's larger, visitors shed inhibitions and common civilities, drunks and wiped out gamblers are the rule, not the exception. But Rankin treats every one of these things as an absolute catastrophe; he consistently sees

himself in a life and death struggle with forces determined to destroy him. That, it seems to me, is not a very healthy way to view the world.

Still and all, a good read, and one which I think most of you will enjoy. The book is available in bookstores and from Rankin's website at jayslasvegas.com



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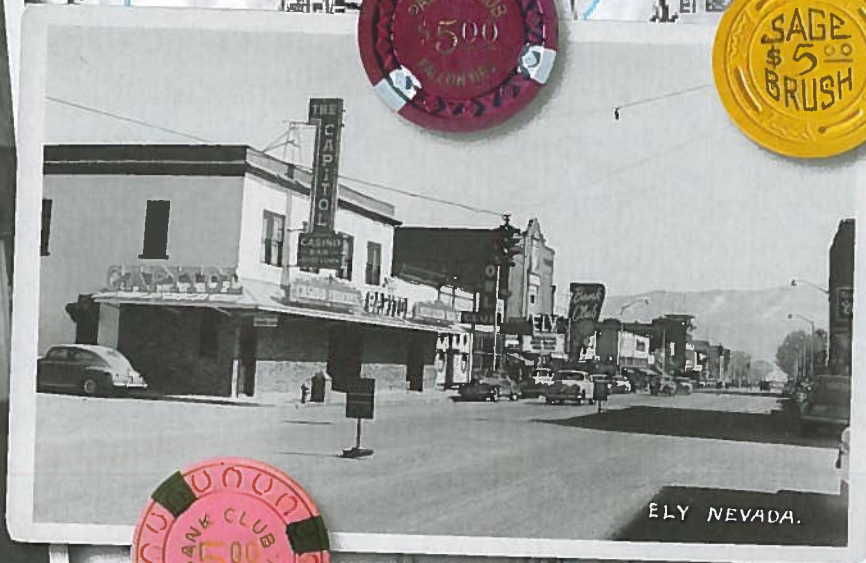
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Phil's Forays



In the last issue, Phil reminisced about his Bob Stupak memories. In this edition, Phil heads south west down I-80 to Reno. The initial story ran in the winter of 1998. It has been updated with photos and images of chips and postcards from Phil's collection...

The Loneliest Road by Phil Jensen

A few years ago, Life Magazine I think it was, did a story about "The Loneliest Road In America". Basically it was about U.S. 50 as it stretched

from Fallon to Ely - some two hundred and fifty miles of not much of anything. I was quite amused by it as I had traveled that very road many times in my search for old and current casino chips.

Since Fallon was only sixty miles from Reno, I went there often. There were some neat joints there although clubs such as the Esquire, Keystone, Owl, Pastime, Jet, Eddie's, Star and Lucky Spot had already closed. The Sagebrush, Horseshoe, Frankies,

Palace, Nevada Bank and Roadside were still in operation though, but some had ceased live gaming. Nevertheless, there were lots of chips to be had with not too much effort.

My favorite place was the Roadside Inn, also known as Mom's Place. "Mom" was a lady by the name of Emily Mitchell who not only owned the place but was also the twenty-one dealer. She was quite elderly-close to ninety by some accounts but very sharp. She had a crap table next to the

21 game and kept a close watch on it. Many times I would hear her correct the dice dealer as she dealt the cards.



The dice table itself was quite interesting. It was oval in shape with a layout that Mom had designed herself. I remember it had no place to bet the don't pass line. Mom didn't want the players betting with the house! She told me the table was once used in the old Lawton Springs casino outside Reno.

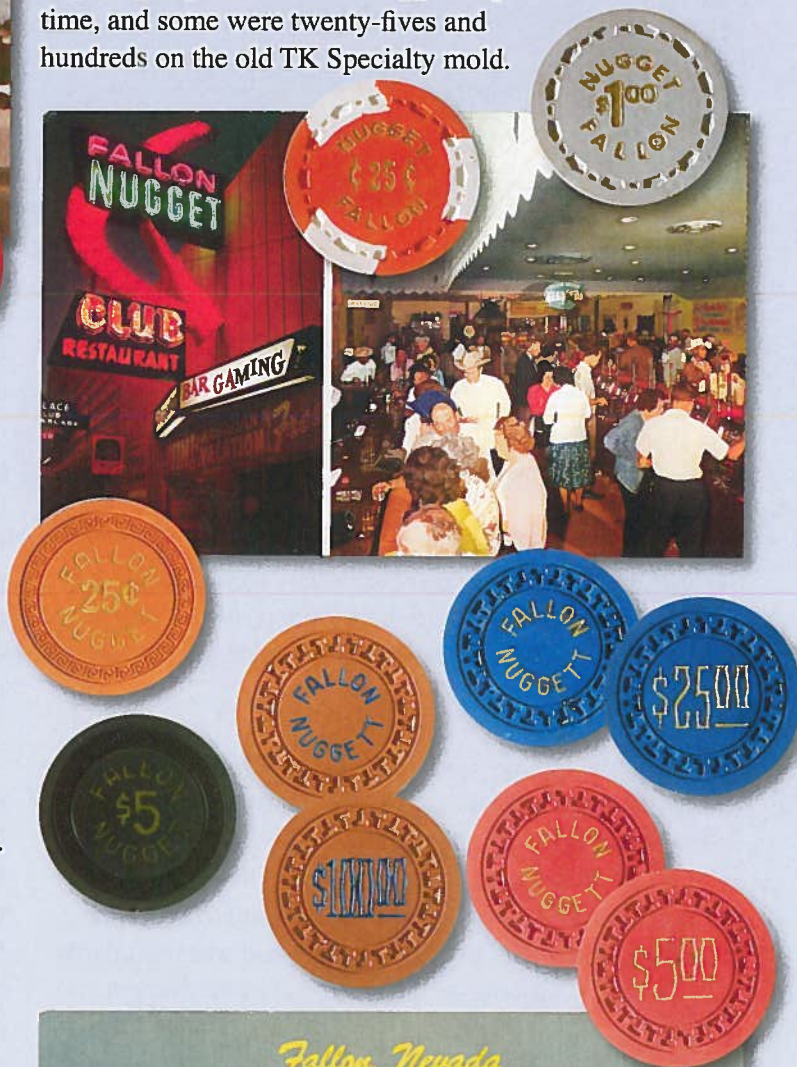
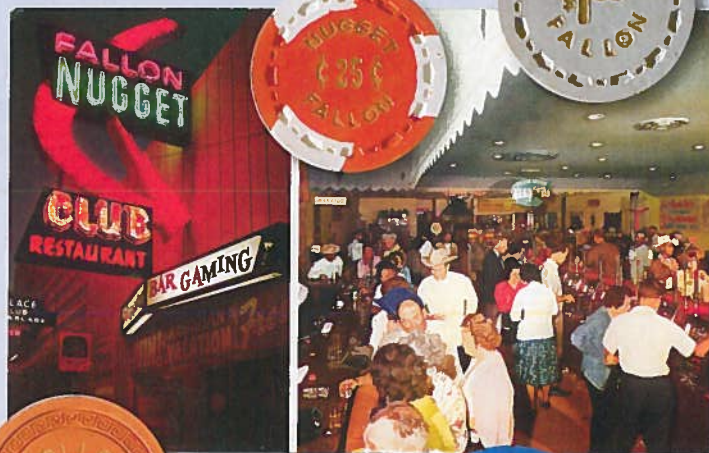
Mom used a 100 and one dollar chip with the Roadside name. Some of the dimes only has "10" on them and Mom told me that way she could use them for ten dollars! She also used some green five dollar chips that only had a clover on them. They had been used years earlier at the Old Clover Club downtown. Since most of her clientele were low-rolling service men from the nearby Navy base the five dollar chips didn't see much play.

Among the various chips that Mom gave me were some Star Club roulettes. She and her husband owned the place from 1955 until 1962. I was sorry I had missed all those old places.

Mom died around 1977 and left the Roadside to Alan Childers a local contractor and long-time friend who had previously operated games around Fallon. He radically changed the place removing the walls and partitions enlarging it greatly. He also had a new rack of chips made on the horseshoe mold. Most of the stuff from Mom's was

auctioned off including the oval crap table. The new place bore little resemblance to the old with roulette and even Keno being added. Anyway, the place only operated until 1980 when it was closed and demolished.

The Nugget, downtown, was owned by Otto Lauf. He was a great guy who always had time to talk. He would even take me into his office and scrounge around for old chips. I got quite a few old Nugget chips from him one time, and some were twenty-fives and hundreds on the old TK Specialty mold.



Next to the Nugget was the Palace Club and I remember a couple of twenty-one tables and some slots but by 1967 the place had closed and was taken over by the Nugget.



You can still see where the entrance was by a large "P" formed by real silver dollars embedded in the sidewalk exists. The silver dollars were removed years ago but I can still remember checking them to see if any were loose.

Next to the Palace was a place called Frankies. It had live gaming in the fifties and sixties but by 1970 the place operated as a bar only. One could usually find a few of the local residents passed out on the floor on the other side of the room presumably where the games used to be. It was absorbed into the Nugget around 1977 and was used partly to build new restrooms on the north end of the Nugget.

Another place I used to spend a lot of time was the Sagebrush Club. Now defunct, it was an old place having been around since the legalizing of gaming. The owner was a Chinese man by the name of Tom Wong who had operated the United Club in Reno in the early 60's. He was usually in the place playing Pan on a second floor ledge that overlooked the casino. Unlike the Roadside there was a crap table in there that was practically



square. I don't know if it was home-made but I've never seen one like it since. Like the Palace, there's still a big iron "S" in the sidewall that marks the entrance.

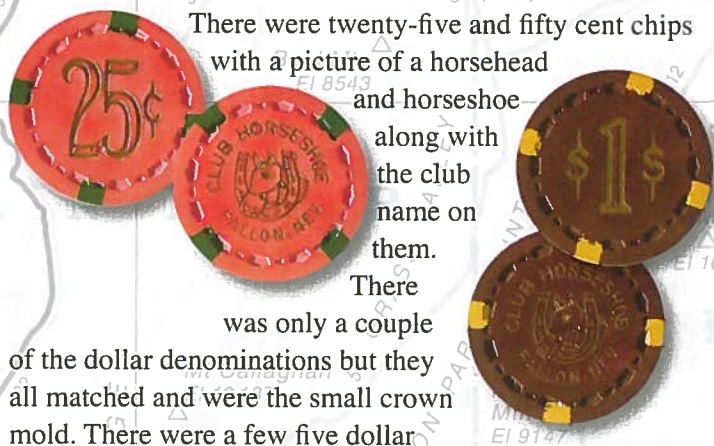


A couple blocks off Maine Street was an antique shop run by a lady whose family apparently ran the old Keystone Club. She had quite a few chips from there that she sold for a dollar a piece and every time I went to Fallon I'd buy a few. There were three different ones, a red five, a black five, and a ten dollar one that looked like it had been stamped on a roulette chip. Anyway, after a while she ran out and I figured I'd cornered the market.



There was a guy I got to know pretty well by the name of Willie and at one time he owned the Esquire Club at the head of Maine Street. He told me he had a sack full of old Esquire Club chips that he and his buddies took on hunting trips to play poker with. Somehow, over the years, they had become lost and he was never able to locate them much to my disappointment. What he did have though, was a large cardboard box that was about a third full of old Palace Club chips. There were quite a few different ones including some \$5 and \$25 aerodies. Every time I'd go visit him I'd buy a few - I guess I should have bought the whole box! Anyway, the Esquire closed in 1957 and was torn down as it had been damaged by the Dixie Valley earthquake that occurred a couple of years earlier.

In the mid 70's the Horseshoe Club was still open although the live gaming had ceased. One day I wandered in and asked the owner, a guy named Charlie, if he had any of old chips laying around. To my surprise he opened a door under the bar and pulled out several boxes of them.



There were twenty-five and fifty cent chips with a picture of a horsehead and horseshoe along with the club name on them. There was only a couple of the dollar denominations but they all matched and were the small crown mold. There were a few five dollar aerodies but they only had a horseshoe on one side and \$5 on the other. Anyway, I bought them all for what was probably a pittance as my chip budget was limited in those days. I wondered what had happened to the dollar denominations and several years later I found out when I ran into an old dealer at the Tonopah Belle in Tonopah. I don't know how many he had but he sold me a box of 100 for twenty dollars. I figured he must have worked there and "saved" them when he left.

Heading east out of Fallon marked the beginning of the Loneliest Road. It was a one hundred twelve mile trek to Austin with not much in between. Just over the mountains was Dixie Valley where the Navy held bombing practice and there was a place called Frenchman on the west side of it. The only building I remember was a small bar-restaurant operation and I would always stop there even though there was no gambling.



Anyway, as one crossed over Dixie Valley, there were signs warning of the low-flying Navy bombers and not to stop. I had never encountered any so I didn't think much

about it until one day I decided to explore the ghost town of Fairview which was on the east side of the valley and a short distance off the highway. As I drove up the mountain I ignored signs to keep out. I parked the truck and began to look around. Just as I located an old safe that was half buried in the dirt one of the Navy's finest came screaming through. He was at eye-level and maybe fifty feet away. Needless to say, it scared the bejeez out of me. I made a mad dash for the truck and bounced down the mountain to the highway. I would never stop there again!

Austin was always a welcome sight after the long drive from Fallon. The main place there was the Austin Hotel which was a two story building with a neat old bar and attached restaurant. In the bar were a couple of 1935 vintage slot machines, which I enjoyed playing, and a twenty-one table that was usually covered with an oil-cloth. One day I asked the bartender what the chips looked like thinking I was going to get some that said Austin Hotel. He reached under the bar and pulled out a couple of boxes of chips from the old Palace Club in Fallon. I thought it was kind of risky using them since my friend in Fallon had so many. The bartender explained that the game was hardly ever open and there wasn't much of a chance of anybody slipping in a ringer.

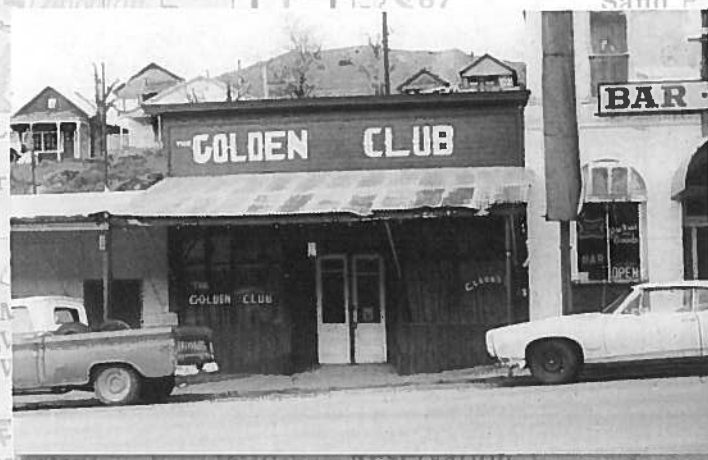
One of the Hotel's residents was a guy by the name of "Swede" Anderson. I could usually find him at the bar having a cool one. He was an interesting guy to talk to and would tell me stories about the Frontier Tavern - a place he used to operate on the other side of the Austin Summit. Naturally I asked him if he had any of the chips from there and he said he did. He went up to his room and returned with a green \$1 Portland Card Co. chip marked with the initials "FT". He also gave me creme colored BC Wills with "FT" only on both sides which he said was used for five dollars. As it turned out they were among the few chips from Austin that were actually made for the place where they were used. Seems everybody else used somebody else's chips! Swede also gave me several trade tokens from the International Hotel down the street - I think they were good for a drink. He seemed to value them a lot more than the chips.



One day I noticed a sign had been added to the restaurant



part of the hotel advertising the "Austin Nugget". I thought it looked pretty strange but was told there were plans for a quite a few slot machines to be added. Unfortunately, the hotel burned down shortly thereafter and the Nugget was short-lived.



Owned by Clara Williams the Golden Club is closed, but still standing. Austin Hotel is on the right.

Next door to the hotel was a place called Clara's Golden which was owned and operated by Clara Williams. She usually opened around 8 pm so it was tough to see her especially if I had to drive back to Reno that night. She would always park her 1961 Chevy right in front and the first thing she would do would be to take a cardboard box and go over to the hotel and get it filled with ice which she used to make drinks. She would just set it on the back bar and I guess when the ice melted she would close. Also, hanging on the mirror was a sign that read: "We reserve the right to refuse the service to anyone". I always thought it was funny.

Anyway, Clara was the sole employee in the place and in addition to tending bar she would also deal 21. I

remember I and several people were playing 21 one time and everyone wanted a drink. Clara spread the cards and went and got them while we all waited patiently.

The 21 table itself was pretty crude. The legs were basically a sawhorse type of construction but it added some personality to the joint. The dollar chips were actually old wheel chips from the Tahoe Country Club - the ones with the Indian on them. There seemed to be a lot of them around so Clara carved a groove in the ones she used. Boy, talk about security! The five dollar chips were red aerodies from an old place she used to own across the street called Moms. They had Moms on one side and \$5 on the reverse. Clara also had a box of matching \$25 chips which she kept under the bar. Every time I'd see her I'd talk her out of one but I only got a few. Clara said her son had a lot of old coins and trade tokens and I should talk to him. One problem though, he was never around. When Clara died he took over the operation of the Golden and had new chips made but it didn't last long and was closed.

Down the street was the International Hotel. There was a 21 game in there run by a Chinese man who had previously operated in Wells. Unfortunately the chips only had Chinese characters on them. He said they had been used in a poker game in Sacramento at one time.

Heading east out of Austin, it was seventy miles to Eureka, with nothing in between. The biggest place in town was the Lincoln Hotel but the casino had closed about a year before I first got there in 1969. A lot of the equipment was still there but was piled up in a corner. Also, the owner, Blanche Olinger, had been murdered in one of the hotel rooms some years earlier.

Anyway, sometime in the early 70's, I believe, the place was taken over by a man named Francis Escobar and renamed the Alpine. He told me that he would drive around and pick up hitch-hikers in the desert and offer them jobs at the hotel. It was the only way he could get help he said. Anyway, he had some pretty creepy looking people working there. One day I noticed a wheel of assorted poker chips sitting on an old poker table. They were mostly plain nondescript ones but one of the tubes had some purple BC Wills stamped "LH" and \$1.00 on the reverse. I knew they had to have been used there when the casino was open. Anyway,



when no one was looking I borrowed about ten of them. I'm sure no one missed them and I was glad to get them.

Next door to the Lincoln Hotel was Louie Gibellini's place. I got to know him over the years as a state champion single-jack driller. He competed in Tonopah at Jim Butler Days before they moved the competition to Carson City during Nevada Day. Even then he was probably in his sixties. Whenever I got to Eureka I'd stop by the bar and talk to him. At one time he operated a 21 game but it closed around 1966 a couple years before I got to town. The table was still in the bar in the early 70's but Louie could never come up with any chips much to my disappointment.

Across the street was the Nevada Club, Gold Bar, and Owl Club. There were only slots at the Gold Bar but it was still a neat old place.



Eureka, NV early 1970s - Nevada Club, Owl Club, Gold Bar. Only the Owl Club remains today.

The Nevada Club had a lone 21 game that was installed in 1969. I remember I was there when they first opened it and was able to get the original chips that were marked with a small nc and \$1 and \$5. They were white and green respectively. I guess later they were replaced with some that had the name spelled out.



The Owl Club was owned by a grouchy old guy named Vie Bereincua. He had some slots and a 21 game that was hardly ever open. One day I asked him if he had any old chips since the place had been open since the 50's. He said he had a lot of them in the basement but couldn't get them right away. So I hung around for a while playing the slots and sipping beer. After a while he came up to me and handed me some \$5 and \$25 chips that were stamped with his initials "VB". Also there were a couple that just said Owl. He mumbled something and walked off. I was glad to get them.

There was a bar across from the Owl called Jim and Lorraine's that didn't have any gambling but Jim had a blue, \$5 chip, Diamond mold in the cash register that was stamped "TC". He said he had taken it from a guy who said it came from the Tonopah Club. I gave him \$5 for it and never saw another one like it.

Leaving Eureka, the loneliest road stretched another 77 miles to Ely. Finding obsolete chips from there proved to be a difficult task although I did manage to find a couple from the Alpine and Town Club. Over the years I got several from Norm Goeringer who owned the Nevada Hotel which was the main place in town. One time, my friend, Louis Dotson, from Wendover, gave me some \$5 blue BC Wills from the Northern, a place his father ran from 1959 to 1964. I also got to know Frank Smith who ran the Commercial Club in Ruth, a small town out of Ely, but he could never come up with any chips with a name.





place and had a 21 and a crap table. Also, in the back was a pan game where there was always a bunch of old-timers playing. There were 10¢ and \$2.00 well worn chips in play but I was never able to buy any. The guy who ran the game was adamant about letting any out. Later they ordered new ones on a different mold but I still couldn't get any. The name of the place was changed to the Saddle Club in 1975 but was basically the same. It closed four years later and was turned into a restaurant.

There was a place a few miles north of town called the Fireside Inn. I remember a 21 and roulette game in operation which I thought was a strange combination. Anyway, I was glad to get chips from a rapidly declining part of Nevada.

Back in downtown Ely was a bar called the Pit. The live gaming had ceased in 1968 about a year before I got to town. One day I asked the bartender if any of the chips were still around and he said they were all in the basement. He said if I waited until he got off at 5 o'clock he'd get me some. That was a couple hours off but I hung around anyway. He did get me a set which was five or six chips and I was glad to get them. Still, I had to drive back to Reno that night which was 317 miles. It made for a long day.

So anyway, highway 50 certainly was lonely but I had a great time driving it. It's been many years since the last time I experienced it but I still have vivid memories of the great times I had.

Kitty-corner from the Nevada Hotel was the shuttered Bank Club which was owned by the late Bud Simpson



among others. There was an attached bar called The Lounge which was open though. I soon learned that there were several boxes of \$5 black, BC Wills chips in a drawer in the back bar. One time the owner gave me a few and every time I'd go in I'd con the bartender on duty out of a few more. It was always one of my favorite chips.



Pinky Simpson, Bud's widow, owned the Mustang Club across the street from the Bank Club. It was a small



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My website is: www.rollyschips.com

**Note: Not everything on yet, will take some time to get everything on.
Please keep checking back. I'm entering things as fast as I can.**

Thank You, Gary

CC>CC Election Nomination Results

The nominations for the CC>CC Officers and Board Of Directors have been submitted and tallied. 11 nomination forms were received, with one voided due to no signature.

The following members received a nomination and second from current CC>CC members, but respectfully declined the nomination:

Jim Follis - Vice President

Jay Sands - Vice President

The following members received a nomination and second from current CC>CC members and accepted the nomination:

Sheldon Smith - Vice President - **Unopposed**

Doug Smith - Treasurer - **Unopposed**

Steve Bedo - Membership Officer - **Unopposed**

Therefore, there is no need to hold an election for officers, and the above nominees are elected to the respective offices by acclamation. The term for the Offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Officer will be two years (2010 - 2012).

At the CC>CC annual business meeting in June 2010, we, the Election Co-Chairmen, will report the results of the election which will then be certified, at the meeting, by a vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRUCE & MARY ANN MASSEY, CC>CC Election Co-Chairmen

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2009 Convention Chip – \$5.00 each

Set of 11 Convention chips (including 2009) – \$35.00

Years Available –

95, 96, 99, 01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09



2009 Poker/Blackjack

Tournament Sets – \$15.00

(2 or more sets \$12.00 each)

Years Available –

2001, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09

(08 & 09 sets are 4 chip

commemorative sets)



2009 Convention Pin – \$5.00

Prior Year Pins Available 1997-2008

\$3.00 each

Set of all 12 pins (including 2009)

\$25.00



2009 Convention Medal Set – \$38.00

2008 Convention Medal Set

\$30.00

1993 - 2008 Bronze Only

\$5.00 ea



CC>CC Member Pin – \$5.00



CC>CC Totes – \$5.00

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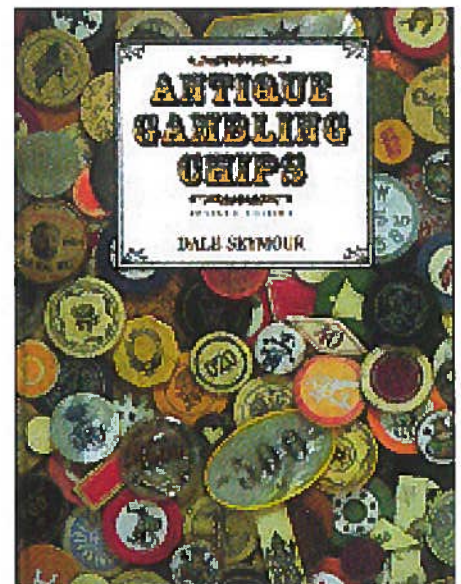
'Antique Gambling Chips'

Hardback – \$15.00



Casino Chip & Token News Back Issues – \$3.00 ea.

1993-2008 (not all available-email
request before ordering)



2009 Convention T-Shirt – \$15.00
Sizes Large – XXL.

CC>CC T-Shirt – \$15.00
Sizes Medium – XXL

CC>CC Polo Shirt – \$25.00
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CC>CC Caps – \$10.00
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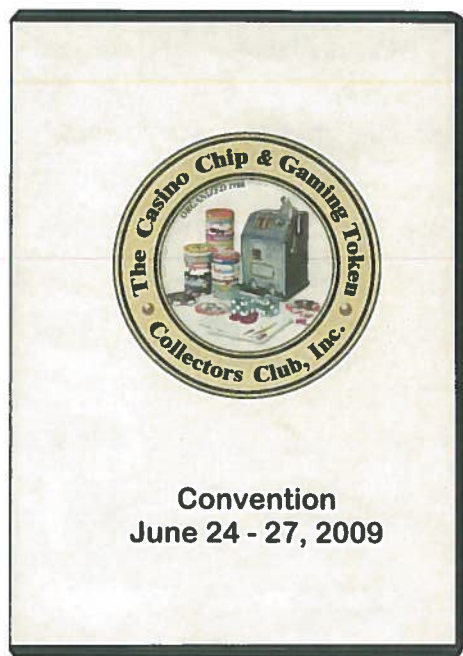
2009 Convention DVD – \$30.00
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Logo Usage Policy

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

Example



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

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CC>CC Mentoring Program

Introduction

The program is offered free of charge and available to everyone. The Mentoring Program is specifically designed for new casino chip collectors offering a wealth of information and experience of our seasoned casino chip and memorabilia collectors.

Seasoned collectors have gone through many a trial and tribulation, learning as they go and learning from their mistakes over the years. Knowledge increases little by little over time as we absorb what we can from our interactions with other collectors and individual experiences. If one is going to learn from mistakes, isn't it always best to learn from someone else's mistakes?

Collecting has many forks in its windy road, and is filled with many potential unwise choices, but our experienced collectors will help guide the beginner down the path.

Quite often a new collector just happens to stumble onto a casino chip online message board or web site. They most likely have just a few chips, no price guides and no real idea of the best way to proceed with their new hobby. They often times have no idea how vast chip collecting is. That's where we come in!

- Find out which price guides are available.
- Find out which price guides should and shouldn't be used.
- Be able to ask questions about casino chips and casino related collectibles and find the answers.
- Find resources online and offline through our resource pages..
- Find out the best ways to increase your collection.
- Discover the many different collecting areas of casino memorabilia.
- Learn from the pros, what's valuable and what's not!

The Program

Simply go to www.ccgccc.com, click on the "EDUCATION" button to the top of the page. From there click on the "CC>CC Mentoring Program" link and a questionnaire/application will download to your computer, print out and complete the questionnaire/application and mail it to the address provided. The questions are designed to best identify your interests and to match you with a suitable mentor for your particular collecting interests.

Initial Stage: lasts for a period of 30 days. During this time, both parties will be encouraged to communicate back and forth through e-mails, and/or telephone. The mentee (new collector) will be open to ask any and all questions he may be interested in, and the mentor (experienced collector) will address the questions, giving advice and direction.

At the conclusion of the initial 30-day initial stage, the program chairman will contact both parties to see if both wish to continue. If both parties are pleased with how things are going, they may choose to continue for an additional 11 months. This short initial period is particularly good for beginners who just need a little help and direction while getting started.

Either the mentee or the mentor can conclude the relationship at anytime. This may need to be done because of unforeseen real life issues that may arise.

The program will continue for a maximum period of one year from the beginning of the initial active date, with a review after six months.

Mentoring Program Director, Terry Shaffer R-5645
terryshaffer@hotmail.com

CC>CC 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 V.P. Sands.

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

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

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.

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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Reference Center

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

Casino Chip & Token News - A publication of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club

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

For The Beginner

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

Detailed Reference

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

Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

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

The Education section of the CC>CC web site 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* web site. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

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Flamingo \$5 Buggy, 1st issue



Desert Inn, Wilbur Clark \$5, 7th issue

On May 17, 2010, Heritage auctions will launch a major section of casino chips and other gambling collectibles as part of our semi-annual auction of historical and popular culture Americana. Heritage is America's third largest auction house, and the world's largest in collectibles. We invite you to visit our web site, HA.com, to learn more about Heritage. On this site you will find our Auction Archives, which shows every one of the three million collectibles we have sold, along with the catalog descriptions and prices realized!

In order to ensure our success with this new section, we have engaged the services of James Campiglia, one of the leading experts in the casino chip field, to help secure consignments and to make sure the auction presentation is accurate and effective. James is the author of the widely-used guidebook *The Official U.S. Casino Chip Guide* and is well known to most hobbyists.

We are actively seeking consignments for the May auction. Our focus will be on "higher-end" chips, conservatively valued at \$500 or more. If you might have material of this quality for sale and are interested in learning more about the auction and how our consignment program works, feel free to contact James Campiglia if you have a working relationship with him, or contact Tom Slater, the Director of our Americana Department, at TomS@HA.com, or phone him directly at 214-409-1441.

Heritage plans to expend every effort to make this new auction a rousing success, and a positive contribution to the casino chip hobby. We look forward to hearing from you!



Tom Slater
Director, Americana



James Campiglia
Consultant

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