

Volume 24 Number 3  
\$6.95

# Casino Collectible News

Brought to you by The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.



# WELCOME TO SOUTH POINT

AND THE 2011  
CC&GTCC  
INTERNATIONAL  
SHOW AND  
CONVENTION!

**PLUS...**

**Somewhere in Time – Part 3**

**Profile of a Pioneer –  
Milton Prell**

**Helldorado 2011**

**Collecting Casino Bicentennials**

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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.

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## Casino Collectible News

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

# Join The Fun!

## CC&GTCC Membership Application

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Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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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&GTCC to:

**CC&GTCC Membership Officer**

**Steve Bedo**

1215 E. Dalton Ave.  
Glendora, CA 91741

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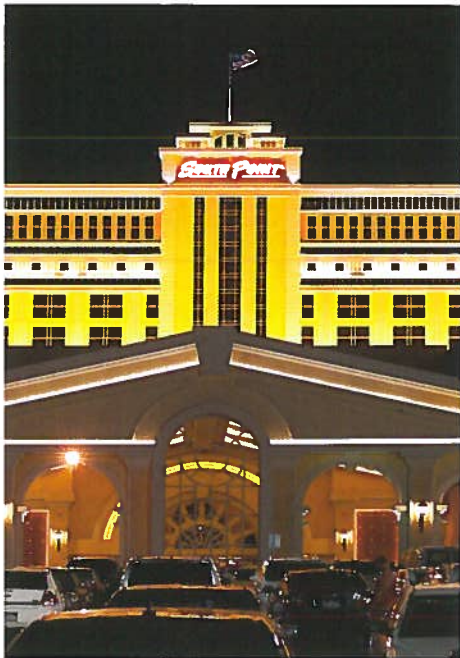
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# Casino Collectible News

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**2011 CC&GTCC Convention!**  
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Dick Covington

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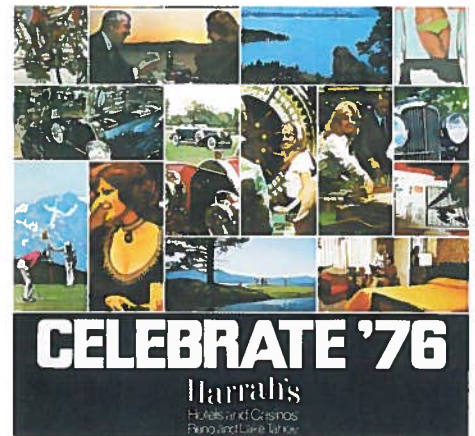


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## American Numismatic Association Membership Application

Our club, CC&GTCC, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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- 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](http://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!



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# Advertising

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Advertising Manager, CC&GTCC  
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&GTCC. 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](mailto: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  
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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](mailto:advertising@ccgtcc.com)

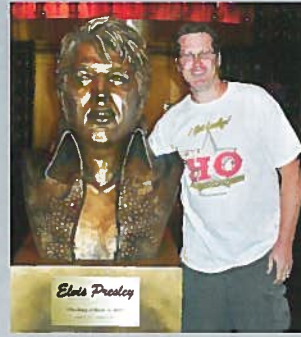


Coupon is not good as a discount on any other ad. Must be used for one-inch ad, one time only.

Expires one year from date \_\_\_\_\_



**Doug Smith**  
President



**Todd Barrett**  
Editor

## President's Letter

Wow, What a GREAT convention.

I want to give a HUGE thanks once again to all our convention Volunteers and especially Dave and Debbie Harber who did a wonderful job on this year's convention.

I would also like to welcome Jim Kruse and Sheldon Smith as our Convention Co-Chairs for 2012. Jim and Sheldon have some big shoes to fill and join a long line of special people who have chaired our conventions.

Thanks to our members suggestions we were looking forward to trying out a lot of new ideas in the coming months which will improve the club and the hobby.

For a full Presidents Report as well as Treasurers, Membership, MOGH and other committee reports, please visit the club website at CCGTCC.com as all the standard reports are now posted online in order to free up additional magazine space.

Doug "Cigarman" Smith  
LM-3209-147

## Message from the Editor

Starting with the December issue of the Casino Collectible News Magazine, Allan Anderson and I will be sharing the Editorial duties. The club magazine is a very time intensive project and I have found that some stories required more research then I have time for. I was looking for someone who could produce two issues a year to spread out the workload. Even though Allan was the Editor for nine years and "retired" in 2008, and he knows what it takes to put out the club magazine, he still volunteered to help me out. As it stands now I will be working on issues #1 and #3 and Allan will be working on issues #2 and #4. That may change if we run into any scheduling conflicts in the future.

This arrangement should allow us both some extra time to flush out and research stories for each issue. What I hope for is a "New and Improved" magazine that the club will be happy with.

If you have any questions with deadlines or how to submit an article for the club magazine, please feel free to contact Allan or myself at any time. If you are looking to advertise in the magazine, please contact C.T. Rodgers.

Thank You!  
Todd Barrett  
LM-5068-91

**SEE YOU AT**  
**"SPLASHBAR VIII" 2012**  
**Brian "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman**  
**LM-1121-157MA CCCC-06**



# New Members

Member #	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
8314	Baker	Robert	NJ	Sewell	Archie Black
8315	Cochneuer	Walter	CA	Bakersfield	Club Website
8316	Anderson	Leland	AZ	Prescott Valley	Fred Bergman
8316-A	Anderson	Renee	AZ	Prescott Valley	Fred Bergman
8316-B	Anderson	Jayse	AZ	Prescott Valley	Fred Bergman
8317	Allison	David	OH	Gallipolis	Former Member
8318	Toma	Roy T.	HI	Hilo	Club Website
8319	Queen	Brian	OK	Yukon	Club Website
8320	Thompson	Brent M.	CA	La Quinta	Club Website
8321	Bolton Morgan	Christopher	Mexico	Dist Fed 03340	Club Website
8322	Short	Chris	KY	Louisville	Club Website
8323	Zeisset	David	MO	Silex	Club Website
8323-A	Zeisset	Denise	MO	Silex	Andy Hughes
8324	Sidlow	Peter	NV	Las Vegas	Club Website
8326	Moe	Al W.	AZ	Fountain Hills	Former member
8327	Petras	John T.	NJ	Basking Ridge	Archie Black
8328	Garner	William	CA	Pasadena	Club Website
8329	Bohmer	Manfred	NJ	Union	Campiglia & Wells
8330	Montero	Ronnie	NV	Las Vegas	Ron Minsberg
8331	Dillon	Jesse	PA	Stevens	Convention
8332	Fahrenbruch	Mike	CA	San Anselmo	Convention
8333	Maahs	Marc	NJ	Ridgewood	Former Member
8333-A	Runion	Daniel	NJ	Ridgewood	Club Website
8334	Chambers	Bob	DE	Wilmington	Former Member
8335	McKenzie	Gary		UK	David Spragg
8336	Gobel	Steven	NV	Las Vegas	Convention
8337	Bolton	Marty	CA	Manhattan Beach	Dr. Shapiro
8338	Buford	Ryan	NV	No. Las Vegas	Andy Hughes
8338-A	Buford	Raymond	NV	No. Las Vegas	Andy Hughes
8339	Ryan	Meghann	PA	Nazareth	Club Website
8340	Zaremba	David	NY	Staten Island	Club Website
8341	Leopold	Richard	IL	Northbrook	Club Website
8342	Haglund	Ron	CO	Montrose	Club Website
8343	Pedersen	Larry L.	VA	Va. Beach	Jim Steffner
8344	Bearden	Keith	TX	Ft. Worth	Andy Hughes

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

# Of Literary Note

by the club Librarian, John K. Kallman

P.O. Box 122

Sartell, MN 56377

librarian@ccgtcc.com

In addition to all that was to be begged, borrowed, or stolen (just kidding) at this year's convention; Travis Lewin donated some 70lbs of material to your club's library! While many items are duplicates of what we already have, there are many new items as well:

## Club Magazines:

- Volume 12, #2
- Volume 17, #1 & #4
- Volume 18, #4
- Volume 19, #1, #3 & #4
- Volume 20, #1, #2 & #3
- Volume 21, #1, #2 & #4
- Volume 22, #4

## Casino News Magazines:

- Issue 16 - March / April 1993
- Issue 17 - May / June 1996
- Issue 31 - November / December 1998
- Issue 79 - July / Aug 2007

## Convention Programs:

- 1st, 1993; 2 copies (water damaged)
- 10th, 2002
- 15th, 2008

## Auction Catalogs / Price List:

- *Deb's 1990 Gaming Tokens & Casino Chips*
- *The Coin Company* - Auction #3, \$4
- *The Coin Company* - Gaming Check & Chip List #4
- *The Coin Company* - Gaming Token List #3 & #4
- *East Coast Casino Antiquities*
- *Doyle Mail Auction* #102
- *Doyle Mail Auction* (Un-numbered) (2 Different Issues)
- *C.T. Rodgers 1999 Nevada Chips Price List*
- *Chip Chat Auction* VI; XIV; XV; XVU; XVII; XVIII; Addendum to Auction #18
- *Chip Chat* Issue #41; #45; #47
- *Gaming Archaeology Auction* #26A
- *Club Auction: 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003*
- *John Benedict List* #7
- *RE Finders Gambling Memorabilia & Playing Card Auction* (1991 - Water Damaged)
- *RE Finders 2nd Annual Gambling Memorabilia & Vintage Playing Card Auction* (Water Damaged)
- *Chip Chat Catalogue of the Hank Boss Collection* - Session #2
- *Cunningham's Chipper List* #4, Jan 1990

- *New York Chip Connection* 1992 Holiday Auction; Eric & Betsy Rosenblum

## Other Items:

- *Black's Catalog of Atlantic City Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 & 2004*
- *Official Casino Chip Guide*, 1st & 2nd Editions by James Campiglia & Steve Wells
- *An Illustrated Guide to American Riverboats* by Greg C. Susong; (1st Edition and 2nd Edition)
- *Riverboat Casino Chips & Price Guide* by Stephen Piccolo & Greg Susong
- *Casino Chip Collecting* by Donald D. Spencer
- *BPOE Lodges* by Robert Cardiff & Michael J. O'Brien
- *Antique Gaming Chips* by Dale Seymour
- *The Chip Rack: Volume 1 #1, Volume 2 #1; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th Editions* by Knapp, Wheelden, Myers
- *The Gaming Table* by Knapp, Myers & Wheelden (x2)
- *Looking at Casino Chips & Tokens, A Guide to Technical Terms* by Donald Spencer
- *Western Casino Collectors Club Newsletter* Volume 2, Issue 3 and Volume 2 Issue 4
- *Colorado Limited Stakes Gaming Tokens and Chips* (1991 - 1998) by Gary L. Johnson
- *Nevada Silver Premium Gaming Tokens, 1995, 1st Edition* by Marvin Weaver
- *Poker Chip Newsletter* Issue #1, August 1987
- *Changing the Terrain of Casino Chip Collecting*, First Edition, April 1995 by Avram A. Eskin
- *Casino Tokens of Monet Carlo* by Thomas C. Day; ANA Reprint
- *ChipStar Price Guide to Nevada's Limited Edition Casino Chips* by Rene Nezhoda

Mark Lighterman donated a CD of photographs from the 2005 convention.

The Club donated a copy of the 2010 Convention DVD; a Copy of the 9th Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction,

and of course a copy of the 2011 Convention Program.

Ronald Mira donated a copy of the *Nevada Magazine* (April 2001) and a copy of the *Nevada Highways and Parks Magazine* (Winter 1966).

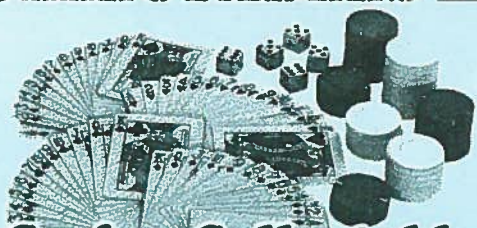
Dale Seymour donated the following items:

- *Beat The Dealer: A Winning Strategy For The Game Of Twenty One* by Edward O. Throp
- *Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson
- *The Official U.S. Casino Chip Price Guide*, 1st Edition by James Campiglia & Steven Wells
- *Toys, Games & Dolls, 1860 – 1930* by Joseph J. Schroeder, Jr.
- *A Book on Casino Gambling* by Virginia L. Graham & C. Ionescu Tulcea

- *Kregg's Guide of the Records of The United States Playing Card Company* by Kregg L. Herz, edited by Howard W. Herz.
- *11th Annual Convention program*
- *Supplement of Chip Codes: Antique Gambling Chips* by Dale Seymour, Ken Craig, Ralph Standwold (3 copies)
- *Howdy's Guide to Hunt & Co. Monogrammed Gaming Checks & Chips* by Howard W. Herz, 1st Edition, 2001.
- *Ivory Gambling Chips* by Dale Seymour (3 Copies)
- *Old Poker Chips* by Dale Seymour
- *Gamblers of the Old West* by Tine-Life
- *Cowboy Culture: The Last Frontier of American Antiques* by Michael Friedman

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FAX: (505) 856-0810  
ed.norris@comcast.net  
CC&GTCC #5451

# CONVENTION 2011

by Dave and Debbie Harber, Convention Co-Chairs

The 19th annual convention has come to a close. We are happy to report another successful convention. The South Point was a fabulous host and provided a quality facility as well as great service for yet another year. Attendance was better than most of us expected, which was a pleasant surprise and a good sign for both the economy and our hobby. Free admission on Saturday again increased our numbers. There were a few new and many returning dealers who set up on the showroom floor. For those of you who got into the spirit and decorated their tables following patriotic theme, we say, "Thank you!" We received many compliments from our members and guests about how festive and inviting the show room floor was. The exhibits were all excellent, making it hard for many to choose a winner.

All who attended Wednesday night's Patriotic-themed banquet enjoyed a delicious dinner with a variety of all-American fare and, of course, those tasty desserts. Many attendees wore red, white



Larry Hollibaugh

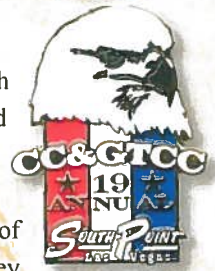
and blue and some went completely all-out in Patriotic-themed costumes. Larry Hollibaugh, who dressed as Uncle Sam, won the Award for "Best Themed Costume." Archie and Brenda Black got an "honorable mention" for their red, white and blue matching outfits.

One of the highlights of the Annual Banquet is the announcement of the awards. Michael Knapp presented this

year's "Hall of Fame Award" to Carey Burke, a worthy recipient of this honor. Jay Sands, David Sarles and David Spragg won

"The Janice O'Neal Memorial Book of the Year Award" for The Chip Rack, 12th Edition. Todd Barrett won the Award for "Magazine Article of the Year" for his fantastic Boulder Highway article, titled "Life is a Highway". Once again, Kevin Norris' artwork was chosen for the convention chip, medal and also the very popular T-shirt.

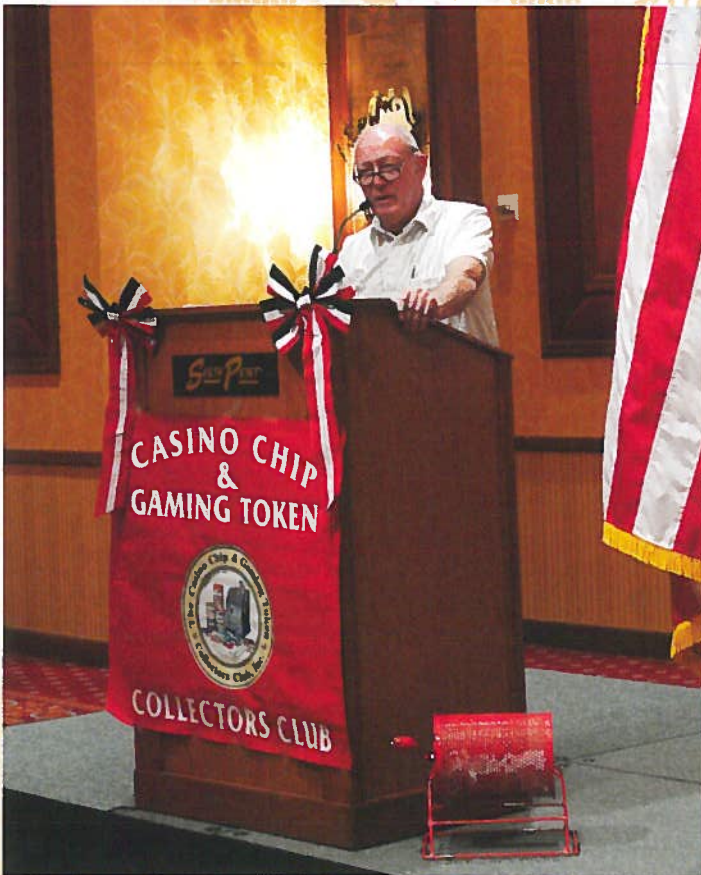
The big highlight of our convention each year is our banquet speaker. This year we had Jim Marsh, owner of both the Skyline and Tonopah Station Casinos. He spoke about his properties and the small Nevada towns of Goldfield and Tonopah. John and Dolly Ramsey along with Raulin and Margaret Mendonca again sold raffle tickets



Michael Knapp (L) with the CC&GTCC's newest Hall of Fame Member Carey Burke.



*Another enjoyable club banquet with good friends, good food and great entertainment.*



*Wednesday night banquet key note speaker Jim Marsh.*

during the banquet for a 50-50 drawing, Both the winner and the club each collected a nice sum of cash for their split share.

Opening day of the 19th Annual Convention was Thursday, June 23rd. This year, there was a pre-opening at 9:30 AM for those members who pre-registered. The official opening had President Jim Steffner doing the honors at the 10:00 AM ribbon-cutting ceremony. The club tables, auction tables, exhibit tables, literature table, the Museum of Gaming History (MOGH) table and web cam table were all decorated with patriotic red, white and blue bunting. As is customary and to raise money for the Museum, the MOGH table was covered with very large grab bags which sold for \$30 each. To all who collected donations and assembled the bags, we say, "Thank you! The bags were a huge hit."

This year we had a couple of different raffles taking place during the convention. Each pre-registrant was given a blue and a red raffle ticket in their packet. Two prizes were awarded on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, one each day for a blue ticket and a red ticket. Another raffle was held for all those who had booked rooms in our room block this year. A total of 10 prizes were given over the three days and prizes included: dinners to Primarily Prime Rib, Baja Miguel's Mexican, Don Vito's Italian Restaurant, the Coronado Café; and, also, a visit to South Point's spa, Costa Del Sur.

Several dealers said that they were very pleased with their sales and that the heavy foot traffic on opening day and Saturday exceeded their expectations.



*Thursday mornings ribbon cutting ceremony to officially start the 19th Annual Convention. (L-R) Steve Bedo, Doug Smith, Dave Harber, Eric Rosenblum, Jim Steffner, Debbie Harber.*

The Blackjack and Poker Tournaments were held again this year with the help of Bob Pardue and Gene Trimble. Klaus Burger won the BJ Tournament and Eric Swort was this year's Poker Champ. See Bob Pardue's article on page 14 of this magazine for more details.

The "Bruce Landau Memorial Auction" was held on Thursday night this year and was well-attended. Thanks to David Spragg for all the work he put into the auction catalog and for a well-organized auction. Tyrus Mulkey and Jim Kruse served as our auctioneers and there was heavy action on some of the higher- end chips and plaques.

On Friday, Sandy Steffner again hosted a "High Tea" at a local antique mall for 18 of our female attendees. Sandi gave charms to each of the attendees as a memento of the event as well as a

door prize. All who attended enjoyed good food and good conversation and can't wait until next year!

This year's educational seminars were a huge hit: Charles Kaplan spoke about the New Ghip Guide; Lisa Medford's "I Can Hear the Applause" was about her being Las Vegas' first nude showgirl; Ralph

Pollack talked about the Aruba Caribbean Hotel and Casino; and, Doug Saito entertained and informed everyone with his history of the chip collecting hobby. A special thanks to our Education Director, Sheldon Smith, for once again putting together a great array of speakers.

Jim Follis and Casey Focazio-Follis presented the OTY's on Saturday, June 25th. Be sure to read their article to see the winners and runners- up for this year. Jim also set up a web cam to allow



*One of the popular trade sessions, this busy session was from Wednesday afternoon.*



those who couldn't be at the convention this year to "visit" the show floor via their computer screen. Belinda Hixon arranged for a fantastic scavenger hunt for our junior members. In order to get a reward from Steve Bedo at the membership table, each child had to complete a "passport" by finding blue stars on specific dealer tables and then getting that dealer to stamp their passport.

Larry Hollibaugh, RenoChips.com won the Award for "Best Decorated Dealer Table on the Bourse Floor." There were several "honorable mentions," including: The Pleau family from Casino News Magazine; Dale Seymour; and, Doug Deems, with his flag

We give special thanks to the South Point for its generous donation of raffle prizes and all its help making this a smooth operation. We also thank the following: the Officers, for their time and effort throughout the year; Carey Burke, for his table display at the bottom of the escalator enticing people to visit the convention floor; the volunteers, who helped pull it all together and make this event what it is; the dealers, who bought a table or tables; all the members and dealers who either donated or collected items for the auction, the grab bags, raffles and the kids scavenger hunt; and, all the members who attended.



*Club members streaming into the show on Thursday morning.*

made from red, white and blue chips. To everyone who got into the spirit making this fun event even more enjoyable, we say, "Great job!"

A dinner reception was held on Saturday evening as a thank you to all who volunteered their time -- not only for this convention but throughout the year. This club could not function without the endless hours donated by all these selfless people. Sandy Stupak was our guest speaker and she entertained the group with her memories and stories of her life and times with her late husband, Bob Stupak, as they built and opened The Vegas World Hotel and Casino. At the end of the evening, each volunteer received thank you gifts, including a personalized mug and a book by Bob Stupak, with an opportunity to have the book signed by Sandy. This truly enjoyable evening marked the end of yet another great convention.

We'd also like to thank all the Committee Chairs that do so much to help pull off the Convention who have not been mentioned thus far: Registration Chair, Brenda Black; Convention Set-up Chairs, Paul and Barb Bender; Convention Program Chair, Allan Anderson; Promotions and Property Director, Roy Nelson; Volunteer Coordinator, Belinda Hixon; Banquet Coordinator, Wayne Thompson; Pre-Registration Chairs George Dmitrevsky and Sam Wagmeister; Exhibit Coordinator, Jim Follis; and, Convention Photographer, Mark Lighterman. The countless hours that each of these volunteer Chairs made this convention a successful one and makes us proud to be part of a club like ours.

We hope that everyone had a great time at the Convention and that we will see you again next year. If you didn't make it to the Convention this year, then, we hope to see you next year. The 20th Annual Convention of the CC&GTCC will be held again at the South Point, June 20 - 23, 2012. The Convention Chairs for 2012 have already been named, so we'd like to throw our support and thanks to Jim Kruse and Sheldon Smith for undertaking this daunting task. Everyone is excited for Tyrus Mulkey's "chipdrop," so stay tuned for more details on this record-making attempt that could very well be the highlight of the 2012 convention. Please plan on being in Las Vegas for our 20th annual get-together. You'll be glad you did.

# Blackjack & Poker Tournaments

The CC&GTCC 2011 convention held Blackjack and Poker tournaments again this year at the South Point Hotel & Casino host hotel.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 22, the 9th Annual Blackjack event was played as a three-table tournament. After the preliminary and semi-final rounds, the field was reduced to 6 places at the final table. The finalists split the net prize pool, taking home \$300 winnings for each finalist. After playing a final round of hands to

determine the winner of the framed set of commemorative chips, Klaus Burger took home the plaque and 1st place. Rounding out the other 5 finalists were club members Cheri Jollie, Dale Seymour, Sheldon Smith, Scott Snider and Stan Wigodski.

The club's 12th Annual Poker tournament moved to Friday night, June 24, this year and was held in South Point's expanded Poker Room. No-limit Texas hold'em was the game, and after many rounds, the 9-table event was reduced to 12 finalists. First year club member Eric Swort was the champion this year, taking home \$1900 and a framed set of commemorative chips. The remaining 11 finalists, in order of finish, were Jim Follis (\$900), Norm Clem (\$600), Jay Sands (\$450), Rick Pokracki (\$300), Michael Vuolo (\$200), Peter Nathan (\$150), Dennis Shoop (\$100), John Coushay (\$100), Reggie Gummer (\$100), Steve Bedo (\$100) and Todd Barrett (\$100).

A big thanks to the South Point tournament managers and dealers who make these tournaments possible, including Greg Fisher (Blackjack tournament) and Joe DiGiacomo (Poker tournament). Thanks also to Gene Trimble, and to David Spragg, for producing the 4-piece set of commemorative chips and the poker octagon "card cappers". Hope to see you at next years' tournaments!



*Above: BlackJack Tournament winner Klaus Burger (L) and Tournament Director Bob Pardue.*

*Right: Final table action of the BlackJack Tournament (L-R) Cheri Jollie, Stan Wigodski, Scott Snider, Sheldon Smith, and Dale Seymour.*



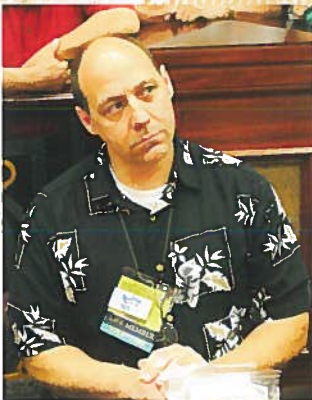




Steve Wilson



Tables full of hopeful poker players early on in the tournament



Rick Pokracki



Left: (L-R) Jim Colbert and Dennis Shoop. Right: Head to Head action between Eric Swort and Jim Follis.



Jay Sands



Final table participants (L-R) Dennis Shoop, Mike Vuolo, Tournament winner Eric Swort, Jim Follis, Rick Pokracki, Jay Sands and Norm Clem.





# 2010 OTY Awards

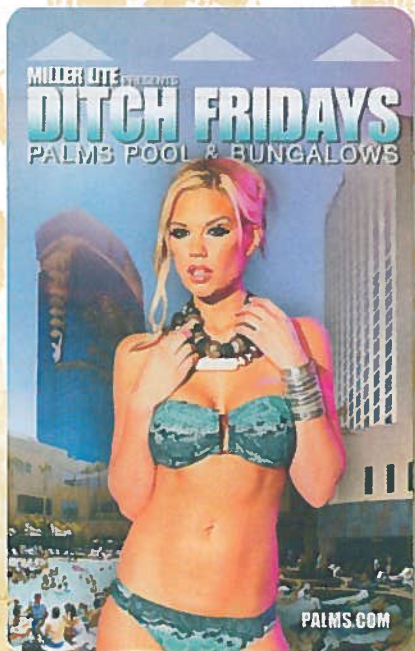
## Las Vegas Dominates, Again!

In what appears to be a bit of a repeat from last year's overall result, the 2010 OTY Awards are once again firmly centered on Las Vegas casinos. Briefly stated, we extend our Congratulations to the Palms, Sam's Town and Four Queens for achieving First Place honors in the CKOTY, SSOTY and COTY Awards, respectively. We also Congratulate Innovative, Sunshine Mint and GPI-USA (Paul-Son) for their First Place honors in the manufacturer elements of the GKOTY, SSOTY and COTY, again, respectively.

Once again this year, the OTY Award presentations were announced and handed out on the Convention Bourse floor at 11:00 am on Friday, which allowed the recipients to attend during their normal work-hours. This also allowed recipients to walk around the Bourse Floor both prior to and after the Awards ceremonies to see what our collecting World is all about!

For Slot Card or Room Key of the Year honors (CKOTY) the Palms Casino Resort issued room key celebrating their "Ditch Fridays" events at the Palms Pool and Bungalows was a heavy favorite over the runner-up contender Harrah's, Chinese Lunar New Year, Year of the Tiger, all-properties slot card.

Unlike past years, Mr. George Maloof was unable to attend the presentation and collect the CKOTY Award for the Palms Casino Resort. Standing in for Mr. Maloof was CC&GTCC Club Member and Member of the Club's Hall of Fame, Mr. Gene Trimble.



Silver Strike of the Year honors (SSOTY) went to Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall on Boulder Highway, for their "1967 GT 500 - 1960's Muscle" Limited Edition Ten Dollar Gaming Token. Minted by Sunshine Minting, this \$10 strike barely edged out a win over the Four Queens' "Limited Edition Three Hundred Dollar Token - Happy Halloween".

In attendance at the presentation and accepting SSOTY Award recognition was Mr. Hal Welch of Sam's Town and Mr. Sean Sarr of Sunshine Minting.



Regrettably, again for 2010, there were no viable nominations for Token of the Year (TOTY) so it was decided to continue the suspension of the TOTY competition for the time being.

Chip of the Year honors (COTY) went to the Four Queens Hotel and Casino's release of a \$5, Veteran's Day, Limited Edition commemorative chip, manufactured by GPI-USA (Paul-Son Gaming) in a house mold.

In attendance at the presentation and accepting COTY Award recognition was Mr. Glenn Casale of the Four Queens.

Accepting for GPI-USA was Mr. Mike Leonardo and Jason Emeric, the graphic artist designer.





Casey (the Assistant OTY Chairman) and I would like to thank the many Official OTY Judges for their participation in this Awards program of the CC&GTCC, Inc. We thank also the participating Club members that loaned us OTY Nominees for display at the Convention, as well as those who provided quality scans of each Nominee for use in the Official Judge's Pamphlet and Un-Official OTY Candidates Viewing Site (on-line).

In no particular order, those individuals include:  
 Steve Chiruck, Ralph Myers, Rob Lange, Brian (Splashman) Cashman, Larry and Alice Kopp, Tom Mgerack, Esther Barker, Jim Silva, Dennis Berry, Allan Anderson, Barry Hauptman, and

Mark and Myrna Lighterman, A special thanks also to my son Casey for his receipt and organizing of the Nominations and (mailed) Ballots. Casey is also responsible for the latch-hook rugs that are used in the two OTY Exhibit display cases.

As always, it is an honor to run the OTY Awards contests for this Club!

**Thank you,**  
**Jim Follis**  
**LM 3872-53**  
**OTY Awards Chairman**



*(L-R) Jim Follis - OTY Awards Chairman, Glenn Casale - (COTY) Four Queens, Jason Emeric - (COTY) GPI-USA (artist), Mike Leonardo - (COTY) GPI-USA, Jim Steffner - (standing in) (CKOTY) INNOVATIVE, Hal Welch - (SSOTY) Sam's Town, Sean Sarr - (SSOTY) Sunshine Minting, Gene Trimble - (standing in) (CKOTY) Palms, Casey Focazio-Follis - Assistant OTY Chairman*





# More fun from the 2011 CC&GTCC Convention



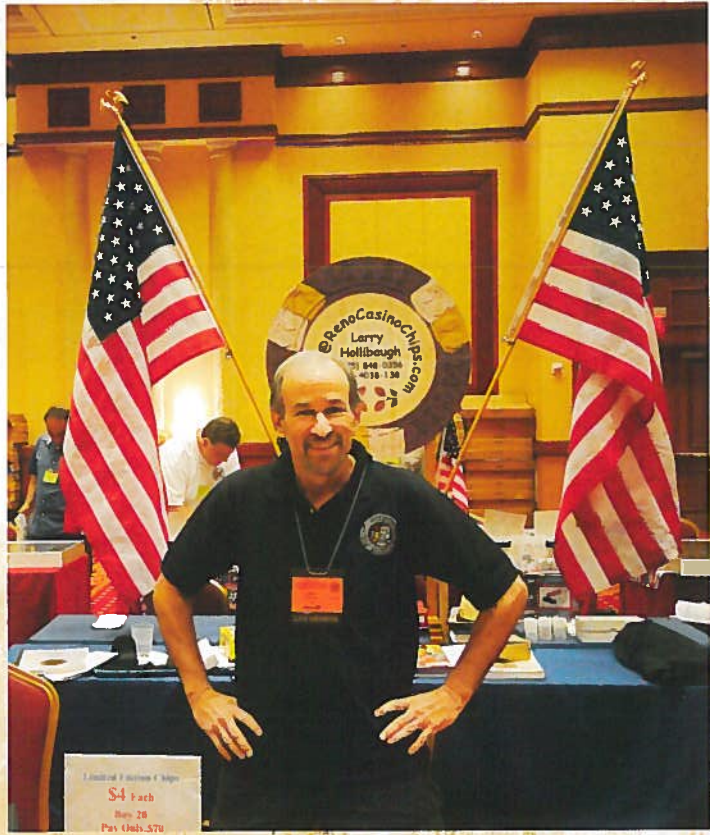
The show floor was once again packed with dealers displaying their casino collectibles for sale at the beautiful South Point Casino Grand Ballroom.



Club members who pre-registered for the convention received a \$4.00 credit good at any dealers booth on the show floor.



Frank Muscat entertains offers at his well stocked table.



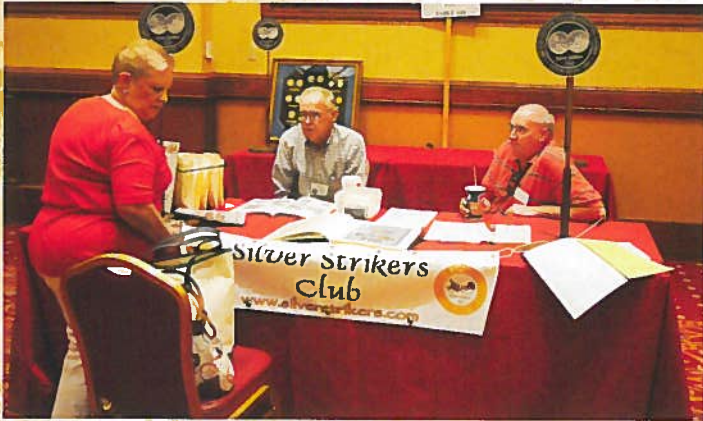
Nate Pincus is always happy to help you find what you need.



Hall of Fame member and dealer C.T. Rodgers.



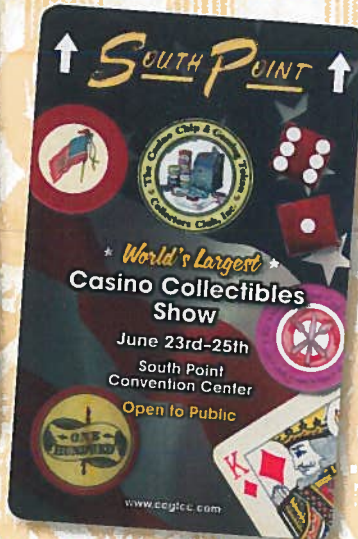
Tom Johnson has just what you are looking for at his corner table.



The Silver Strikers Club once again had their table on the showroom floor.



Wendy Schultz at her tables full of chips and tokens.



Special key cards were produced to advertise the convention to guests checking into the hotel.



Seven dealers have had a table at every CC&GTCC convention. (Front row L-R) Henry Garrett and Eric Rosenblum (Back row L-R) C.T. Rodgers, Allan Myers, Walter Dirzulaitis, Steve Passalacqua and Jerry Birl



A collectible "Admit One" card was issued for entrance to the Early Bird Banquet.



Larry Hollibaugh was the recipient of best decorated table this year. (L-R) Debbie Harber, Larry Hollibaugh and Dave Harber.



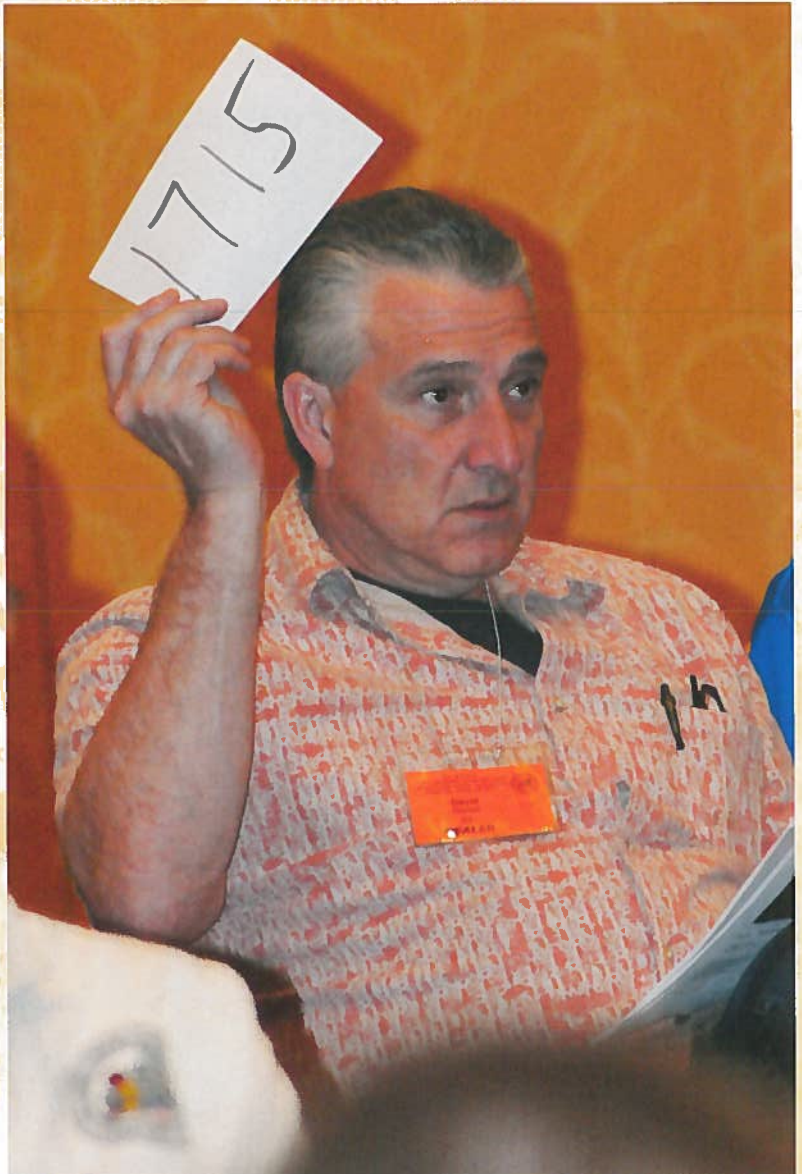
The daily seminars were entertaining and educational. Here Lisa Medford discusses her book, "I Can Hear the Applause".



Thursday night was the 9th Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction.



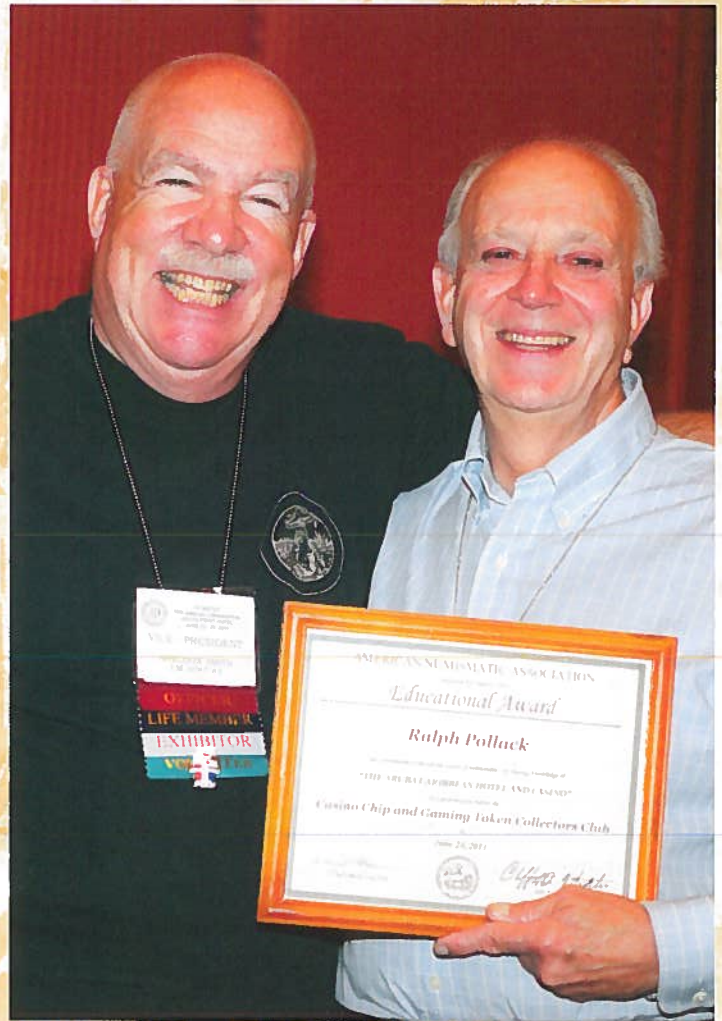
Tyrus Mulkey was once again the club auctioneer.



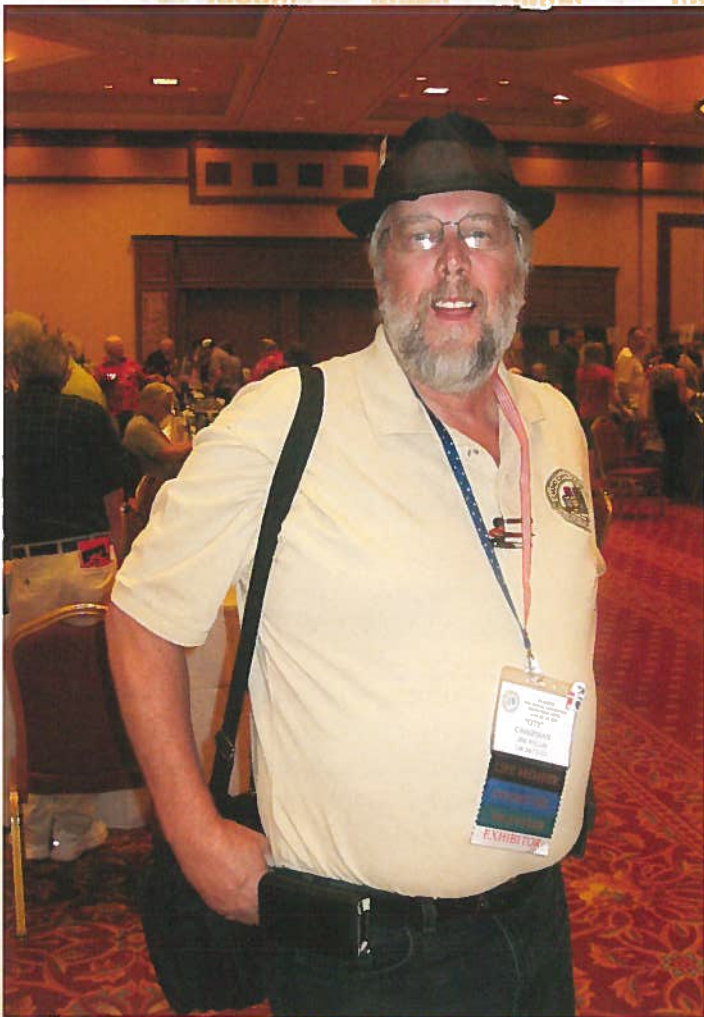
David Sarles bids on one of the 180 plus lots in this years auction.



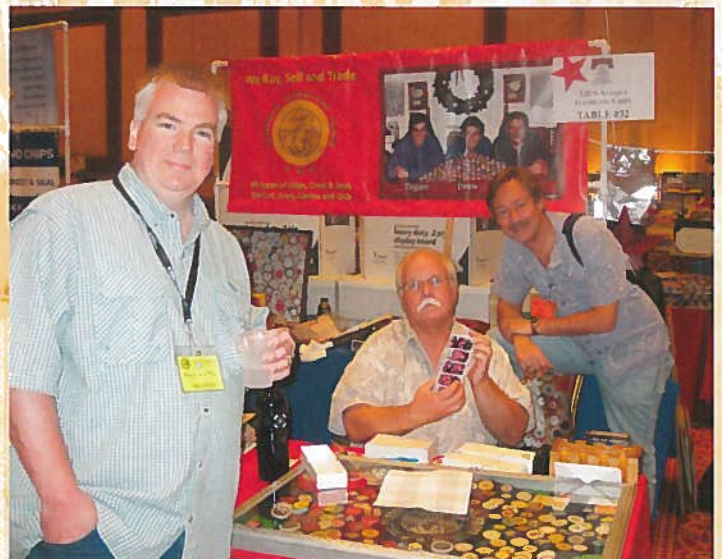
*Club member Ruby Brennan standing by to help the "newbies" with any questions they may have.*



*Sheldon Smith (L) and Ralph Pollack.*



*OTY Chairperson Jim Follis.*



*(L-R) Brian Watts, Steve Passalacqua and Terry Shaffer.*



# The People's Choice Awards!



One of the things I was not aware of when I became the Exhibits Chairman was that the Club had a name for the Awards given out to the Exhibitors voted by the Convention attendees as the Best of Show. In reading some older issues of the Club's magazine, while researching Exhibit Rules (which will be addressed in a future issue) I found out that the Awards had been called The People's Choice Awards and that is what we will continue to call them.

So, without any further ado, here are the winners of the People's Choice Awards for 2011:

Congratulations are extended to Ross Poppel for his display of a "Selection of Binion's Horseshoe Chips" which was awarded 1st Place in the voting. Ross' Exhibit featured 2 display cases of Horseshoe chips, including older issues and World Series of Poker commemorative chip sets.



Ross Poppel and Casey Focazio-Follis.

"A Special Selection of T. R. King & Co. Large Crown Mold Chips" - Jerry Birl - LM 0774-27

"The Plaques and History of the Casino Pavao in the Island of Maderia" - Ralph Pollack - LM 0749-13

"A Selection of the Ole' Red, White and Blue in Gaming!" Jim Follis - LM 3872-53

"Casino China" - Bill Judge - R-3264

"From Star to Dust, Stardust Collectibles" - Jim Steffner



Jim Steffner's second place exhibit.



One of the cases of Ross' winning display.

Coming in 2nd Place was Jim Steffner's complimentary Exhibit to his article in the last issue of the Casino Collectible News, entitled: "From Star to Dust, Stardust Collectibles".

Here is a list of all the Exhibitors and their Exhibits:

### Competitive Exhibits:

"A Selection of Binion's Horseshoe Chips"

Ross Poppel - LM 4950-158

### Non-Competitive Exhibits

"2010 OTY Nominees"

Presented by: Jim Follis, LM 3872-53

"The Harvey Fuller Diaries"

Presented by: Sheldon Smith LM 5087-83 and Howard Herz - LM 0085-03

"The Permanent Collection of all Past OTY Awards"

Presented by: Jim Follis, LM 3872-53

I want to thank everyone that provided an Exhibit at the Convention. If anyone is interested in setting up an Exhibit for the 2012 Convention, please contact me via email at Exhibits@CCGTCC.com or by mail at:

Casey Focazio-Follis  
CC&GTCC Exhibits Chairman  
5466 Jacobs Field Street  
Las Vegas, NV

Thank You!

Casey Focazio-Follis



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# Greg Susong Memorial Award

The Greg Susong Memorial Award is given to the person that the members of the CC&GTCC feel have made the greatest contributions to the club and the chip collecting hobby throughout the year. Consideration includes contributions in all facets of the hobby, both online, in print and in person at CC&GTCC functions.

This year five club members were nominated, they are, Doug Smith, Andy Hughes, Todd Barrett, David Spragg and Charles Kaplan. After a vote from the club membership, Charles Kaplan won the very first Greg Susong Memorial Award for his contributions to the chip collecting hobby for 2010.



*(L-R) Greg's son Robert Susong, Carol Susong, Charles Kaplan, Greg's parents Jan & Bob Susong, his daughter Lauren Susong, Greg's nephew Ross Ferguson and Greg's sister Kathy Ferguson.*



*Steve Bedo (L) and the 1st annual Greg Susong Memorial Award winner Charles Kaplan.*

Charles is a very deserving winner and it is fitting, as Charles has spent countless hours on *The Chip Guide* since it was donated to the MOGH. The *Chip Guide* was Greg's pride and joy and something he was very proud of. He enjoyed personally adding chip images and information to it on what seemed like a daily basis.

Steve Bedo made a very touching announcement about Greg and the award, and then Greg's family presented the award to Charles. Greg's wife Carol said a few words about how much Greg loved the hobby and how pleased the family is that his memory will live on through this award.

Greg's family also had a nice time in their short stay in Las Vegas. Robert, Ross, Kathy, Bob and Jan went down to the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop of TV fame to check it out. While there they were asked if they wanted to be in a crowd scene they were filming. They agreed and will appear in a future episode. The family also took a trip to the Hoover Dam, and Bob Susong mentioned how much he enjoyed the 130 degree temperature while on their tour!

To cap off their trip, Lauren, Robert and Ross went to the Stratosphere to partake in the Sky Jump experience. Free falling 108 floors at 40 mph!

Thanks once again to all of those who made it possible to bring out the Susong family to the convention this year through their donations. And to the CC&GTCC for allowing the award to now be part of our hobby.



*Andy Hughes, in conjunction with Mike Christensen, worked to set-up and fund this award. Through his efforts, Greg's family was able to be present for the inaugural presentation of this award.*

On Tuesday June 21st the 2nd Annual Greg Susong Memorial Get Together was held at Garduno's Restaurant inside the Palms Casino Hotel. There was a huge turnout of friends who gathered to celebrated the start of the 19th Annual CC&GTCC Convention and toast the life of Hall of Fame Club Member Greg Susong. In attendance were members of Greg's family who enjoyed the festivities and mingled with the club members.

Greg Susong had kicked off the CC&GTCC Annual Conventions by hosting a chipper get together since 2001. Although not a club sponsored event, the get togethers always drew a large crowd. Greg passed away after the 9th annual get together in 2009.

The Greg Susong Memorial Get Together now carries on that same tradition. Gene Trimble worked with the Palms and Garduno's Restaurant to make sure they would be able to accommodate the gathering. David Spragg helped to create the chips that were given away. Allan McCurdy posted an invitation to club members on Greg's Chipboard and in the club magazine. Allan complied the reservations, and Christine and Sheldon Smith helped with the name tags. Over 120 people responded, but it seems as if a bit more than that showed up.



*(L-R) Brian Cashman and Irwin "Doc" Gross.*



*(L-R) Fred Bergman, Johnny and Dollie Ramsey and Margaret Mendonca.*



*(L-R) Greg's nephew Ross Ferguson, Greg's sister Kathy Ferguson, Greg's parents Jan & Bob, Carol Susong, Charles Kaplan, Greg's daughter Lauren Susong and Greg's son Robert Susong.*


**Thank You!**


Dave and Debbie Harber made the 19th Annual CC&GTCC Show and Convention a memorable one! But it couldn't have been done without the help of the individuals listed below who generously gave their time and effort to help make it all happen. Once again, thanks!

- |                             |                         |                        |                              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Steve Asriliant</b>      | <b>Helen Fricke</b>     | <b>Lou Lucente</b>     | <b>Jim Sarra</b>             |
| <b>Fred Bergman</b>         | <b>Pat Fricke</b>       | <b>Marc Maas</b>       | <b>Laurel Sarra</b>          |
| <b>Henry Bernard</b>        | <b>Irwin Gross</b>      | <b>Ron May</b>         | <b>Phyllis Schneider</b>     |
| <b>Paul Biggs</b>           | <b>Nancy Gummer</b>     | <b>Bruce Massey</b>    | <b>Marc Shapiro</b>          |
| <b>Archie Black</b>         | <b>Reggie Gummer</b>    | <b>Mary Ann Massey</b> | <b>Dennis Shoop</b>          |
| <b>Brenda Black</b>         | <b>Cale Guthmiller</b>  | <b>Al McCurdy</b>      | <b>Sunday Silverman</b>      |
| <b>Julie Brown</b>          | <b>Barry Hauptman</b>   | <b>Patty Moulder</b>   | <b>Chris Smith</b>           |
| <b>Brian Cashman</b>        | <b>Geri Hempel</b>      | <b>Tyrus Mulkey</b>    | <b>Robert "Smitty" Smith</b> |
| <b>Danielle Chiruck</b>     | <b>Belinda Hixon</b>    | <b>Ralph Myers</b>     | <b>Sheldon Smith</b>         |
| <b>Steve Chiruck</b>        | <b>Dale Horyna</b>      | <b>Ed Noel</b>         | <b>Eric Swort</b>            |
| <b>Alex Cilento</b>         | <b>Sally Horyna</b>     | <b>Jan Noel</b>        | <b>Chuck Tomarchio</b>       |
| <b>John Coushay</b>         | <b>Richard Huber</b>    | <b>Steve Palumbo</b>   | <b>Tony Tricoli</b>          |
| <b>Dick Covington</b>       | <b>Charles Kaplan</b>   | <b>Robert Pardue</b>   | <b>Jerry Vergatos</b>        |
| <b>George Dmitrevsky</b>    | <b>Michael Knapp</b>    | <b>Joe Pavlik</b>      | <b>Mike Vuolo</b>            |
| <b>Bob Dykema</b>           | <b>Jim Kruse</b>        | <b>Ross Poppel</b>     | <b>Sam Wagmeister</b>        |
| <b>Howard Edelman</b>       | <b>Gary Kuehl</b>       | <b>Rick Pokracki</b>   | <b>Brian Wagner</b>          |
| <b>J.J. Engle</b>           | <b>Bill Lange</b>       | <b>Corni Quinlivan</b> | <b>Jim Whobrey</b>           |
| <b>Marion Engle</b>         | <b>Gail Liscio</b>      | <b>Mike Quinlivan</b>  | <b>Steve Wilson</b>          |
| <b>Casey Focazio-Follis</b> | <b>Mark Lighterman</b>  | <b>Johnny Ramsey</b>   | <b>John Zoesch</b>           |
| <b>Jim Follis</b>           | <b>Myrna Lighterman</b> | <b>Mark Russell</b>    |                              |

A special thank you goes out to the people that helped with the Jr. Collectors goodie bags and scavenger hunt. Thanks to Andy Hughes, Michael Knapp and Gene Trimble for their generous donations. Thanks as well to the dealers listed below who participated in the scavenger hunt.

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Eric Rosenblum</b>               | <b>C.T. Rogers</b>        |
| <b>Larry &amp; Fran Betker</b>      | <b>Bob Bossler</b>        |
| <b>Larry &amp; Diane Hollibaugh</b> | <b>Jim Sarra</b>          |
| <b>Peter Nathan</b>                 | <b>Terry Shaffer</b>      |
| <b>Nate Pincus</b>                  | <b>Steve Passalacqua</b>  |
| <b>Travis Lewin</b>                 | <b>Walter Dirzulaitis</b> |

Thank you to Mark Lighterman, Dick Covington and Marc Shapiro for the use of their photos in this article.

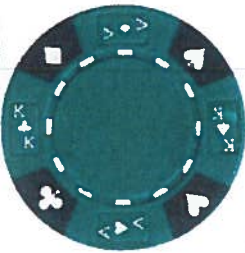
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**Poker/Blackjack Tournament Sets** – \$15.00  
 (2 or more sets \$12.00 each)  
 Years Available –  
 2004, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10 & 2011  
 (08, 09, 10 and 2011 sets are  
 4 chip commemorative sets)



**2010 Convention Pin** – \$5.00  
 Prior Year Pins Available 1997-2010 – \$3.00 each  
 Set of all 14 pins (including 2011) – \$25.00

**CC&GTCC Member Pin** – \$5.00

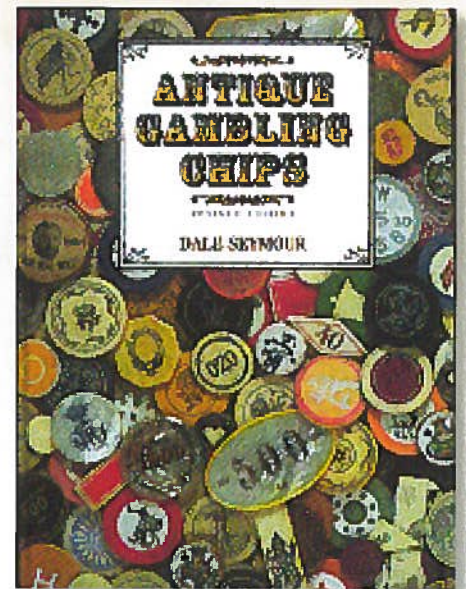


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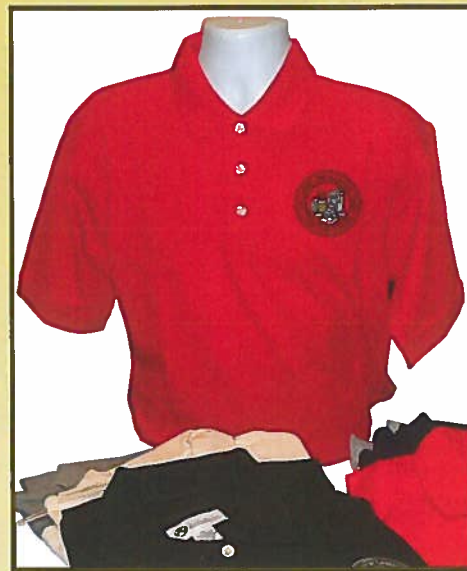
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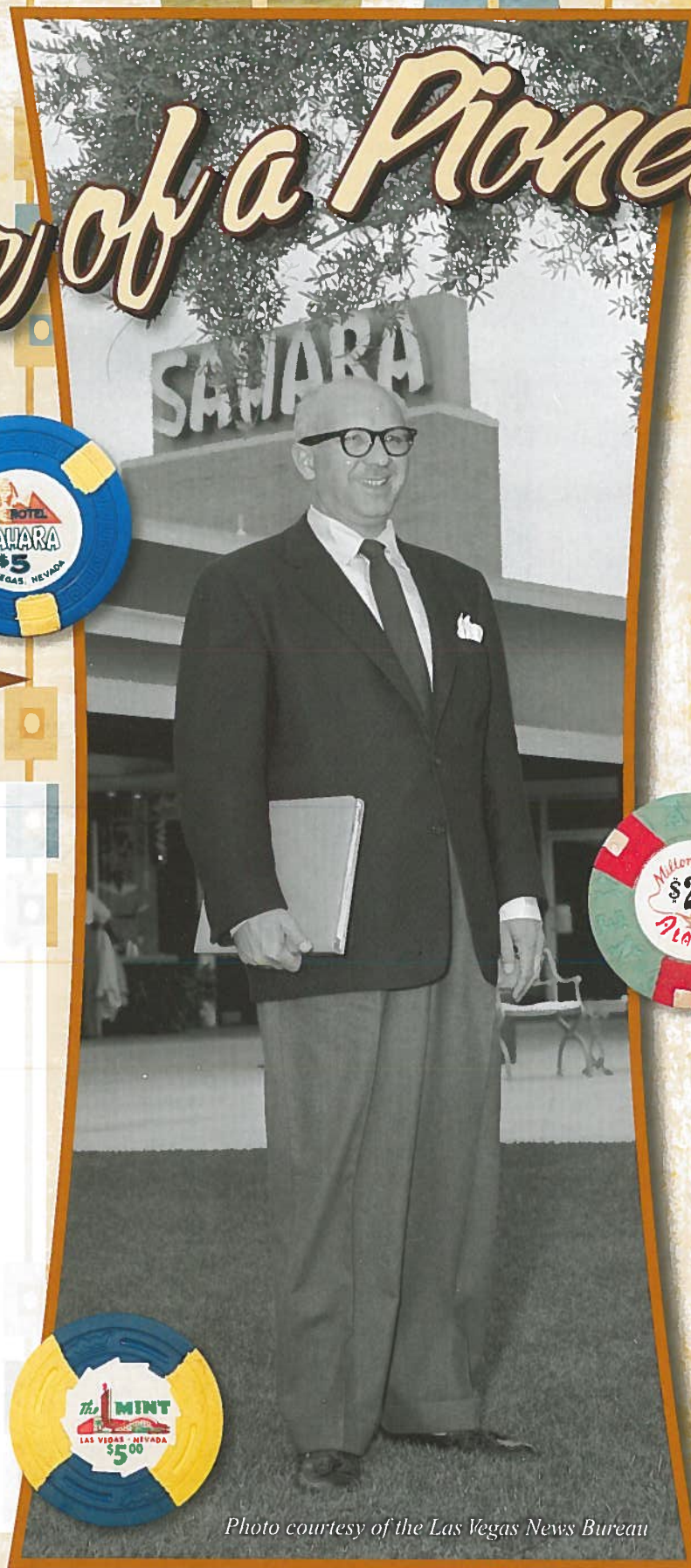
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# Profile of a Pioneer

## MILTON PRELL

by Todd Barrett

On May 16, 2011 the Sahara Hotel and Casino closed its doors after a 59-year run as a fixture of the Las Vegas gaming and entertainment scene. Finding an “old school” casino like the Sahara is difficult in the corporate-owned casinos of today’s Las Vegas. These corporations lack the character and gambling spirit that gave birth to casinos like the Sahara.



*Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau*



The sixth hotel and casino opened on the Strip, the Sahara was the brainchild of casino executive Milton Prell. Prell was born in St. Louis, MO, but moved with his family to Los Angeles when he was only two years old. After completing high school, Prell turned to a career in sales where he hustled luggage, automobiles and jewelry, all with great success.

In 1937, the Montana state legislature passed the Hickey Act, which legalized casino gaming if licensed by a county. Prell, who had a nose for opportunity, put together enough funds to open a small club in Butte called the 30 Club. During the mid 1940's Las Vegas was experiencing a tremendous growth in the casino and resort industry. While Prell was successful at his 30 Club in Butte, the opportunity in Las Vegas was too powerful to ignore. He traveled often from Butte to Las Vegas to scout locations for a club of his own. By 1945, Prell pulled up stakes in Butte and moved his family to Las Vegas. He decided to open his own club on a plot of land across from the El Rancho Vegas. The building on the land at the time was unfinished and Prell was able to complete it as he thought proper for a new club on the Strip. At that time, the Las Vegas Strip was known simply as L.A. Highway 91.

On July 24, 1947, Prell opened the Club Bingo, which boasted the largest bingo parlor in Las Vegas at the time, with 300 seats. It had a casino area with the standard table games, slots and a lounge called the Bonanza Room. While the giant neon bingo card marquee at the casino entrance drew the attention of all passersby, it was the food from the restaurant that kept patrons coming back.

Adding to the Club Bingo's success were its daily shows running

at 10:00 pm, 1:00 am and 3:00 am. They had a fresh pool of comedians as well as the more traditional song and dance acts. If the three shows a day weren't enough for the patrons, they had live music and dancing nightly from 9:00 pm to 4:00 am.

While the Club Bingo created a lot of buzz on the Strip, one thing bothered Prell: it had no hotel and was losing out to places such as the El Rancho Vegas, the Last Frontier, the Flamingo and the Thunderbird, which all had hotels for their guests. By 1950, Prell had decided he needed to build a first class hotel and casino on the site of the Club Bingo to compete against other casinos on the Strip at that time. He bought the land that the Club Bingo sat on and drew up plans for a Moroccan-themed luxury hotel and casino. While he was confident in his plans, Prell needed two things: money and a builder. He found the money with an investor who had a stake in the Desert Inn, which had opened in 1950. A. Pollard Simon was a financial analyst from Dallas, and was impressed with Prell's plans. He suggested they obtain the services of Del Webb for the construction. To get Webb to agree to the project, Prell proposed



Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

a 20% share of the hotel and casino to Webb. This was to be Webb's first stake in a casino.

By 1951 all was set in place and construction was started for the newest addition to the Las Vegas landscape, the Sahara Hotel and Casino. Prell's "Jewel of the Desert" consisted of a 240-room hotel that was two stories tall and set in a simple

Hotel Sahara, Las Vegas, Nevada



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box shape that spread out over a beautifully landscaped oasis. The grand entrance to the casino was set off by a three-story brick pylon with a simple but striking neon sign that boasted the casino's name. To keep consistent with the Moroccan theme, the Sahara included a cocktail lounge named The Casbar, the Caravan Room coffee shop, and the main dining area called the Congo Room. Each had its own unique decor, but was closely tied in with the African jungle or a Moroccan desert theme.

There was some conflict amongst Prell's executives at the old Club Bingo, however. Prell decided the Club Bingo needed to be demolished to build his new casino, but it was popular and successful; it seemed a waste to some, and a big gamble to others. But Prell's gamble paid off.

Opening night, October 7, 1952, was a smash hit with entertainment provided by Ray Bolger (Scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz). Prell had obtained the services of Stan Irwin as

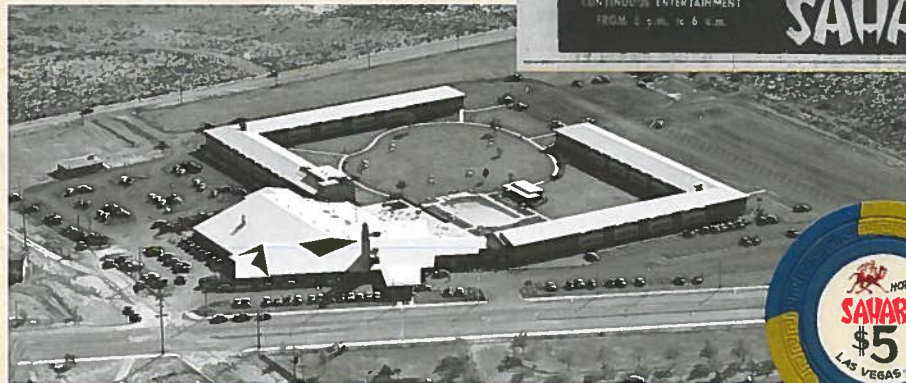
the Sahara's Entertainment Director. Irwin was an original performer in the early days at the Club Bingo and was hired to manage the Bonanza Room; he later worked on promotions and entertainment. In his first year at the Sahara, however, Irwin could not compete with the likes of Jack Entratter, the entertainment director at the Sands. Entratter was pulling in the top performers with his connections and reputation as the top entertainment director in Las Vegas. Irwin himself decided they need a bigger name as entertainment director to pull in the top performers. Irwin convinced Bill Miller, former owner and operator of the Riviera Club in New Jersey, to join the team. Miller had contacts that rivaled Entratter at the Sands. In 1953, the Sahara was featuring the likes



of Eddie Arnold, Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy, Ray Bolger and Marlene Dietrich. By 1954, the Sahara was able to lure Louis Prima and Keely Smith away from the El Rancho Vegas. Prima and Smith immediately became the hottest show on the Strip, and their shows packed the Congo Room every night.

By 1955, the Sahara was in need of more hotel rooms and an expansion of the Congo Room. E. Parry Thomas of The Bank of Las Vegas made its first casino loan to Milton Prell for the Sahara Hotel and Casino. Thomas would go on to finance several other casinos, and he is credited with the development of the casino industry in Las Vegas. Thomas loaned Prell \$750,000 to expand the Congo Room and add 120 hotel rooms toward the back of the property.

While the Sahara was humming along at a good clip, Prell turned his attention to the Las Vegas downtown area. To most it seemed that the Las Vegas Strip was where all the new development was happening; the downtown area was a bit more



*An aerial image of the Sahara Hotel from February 1953.  
Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*



*A close up view of the Sahara's original two story hotel rooms from October 1952.  
Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*



established. In 1954, Prell and a group of investors opened the Lucky Strike Club at 117 East Fremont Street, in between the Golden Nugget and the Nevada Club.

To stand out from the other casinos in the area, the Lucky Strike Club created a fantastic exterior of neon and sculptured figurines. Even in the spectacular chaos of the Glitter Gulch, this sign created by YESCO (Young Electric Sign Company) was a real eye catcher. Another gimmick that was successful for the Lucky Strike Club was their "Air Curtain," a cool blast of conditioned air blowing across the entrance of the casino that lured the patrons from the steamy Fremont Street traffic.

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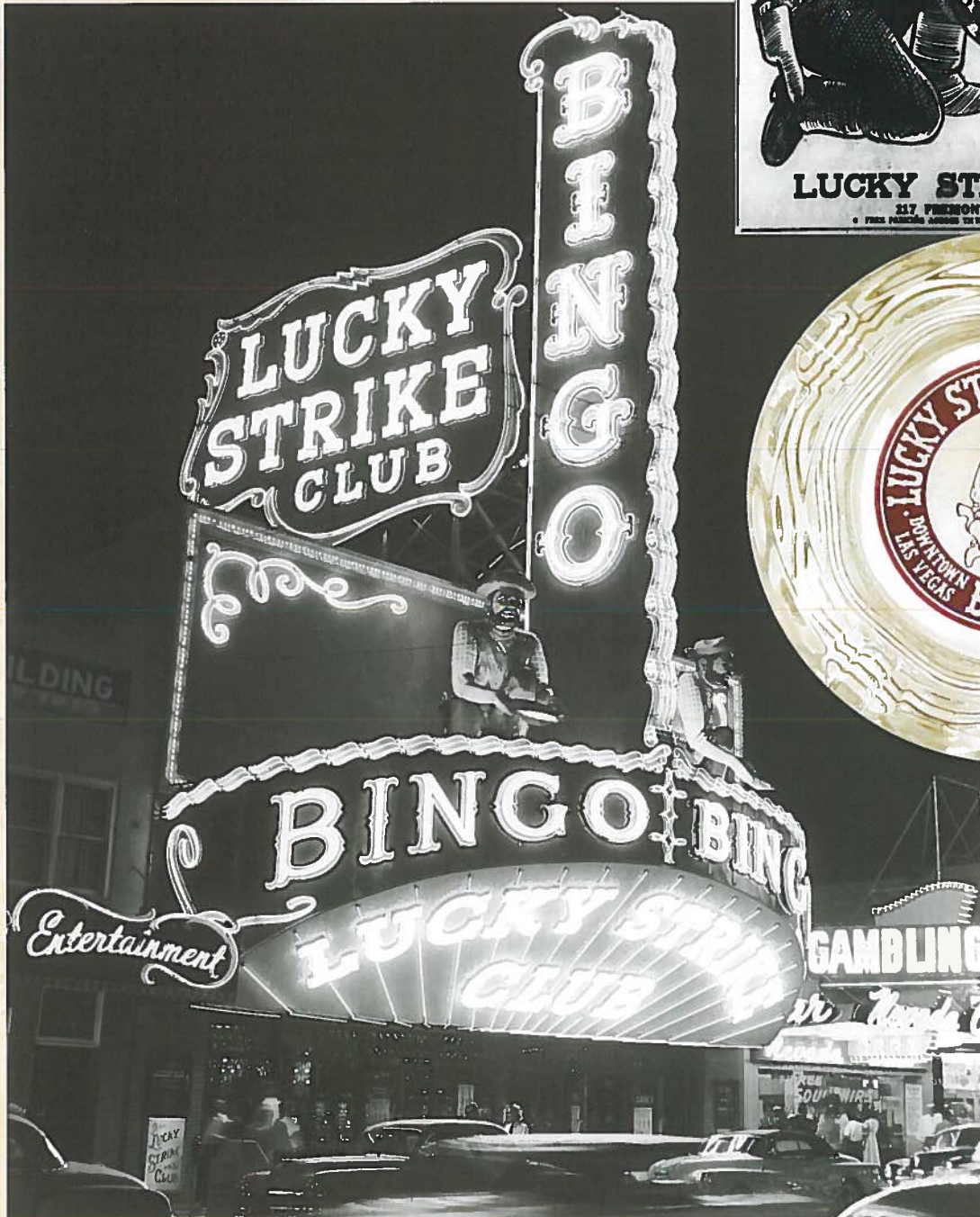


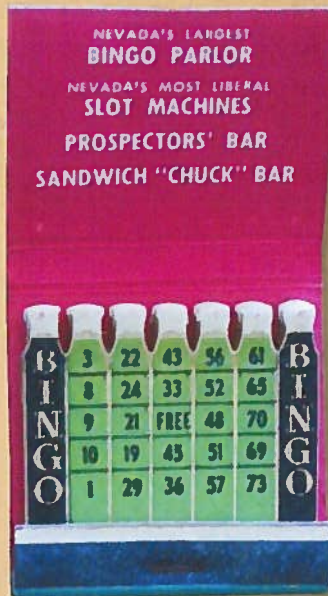
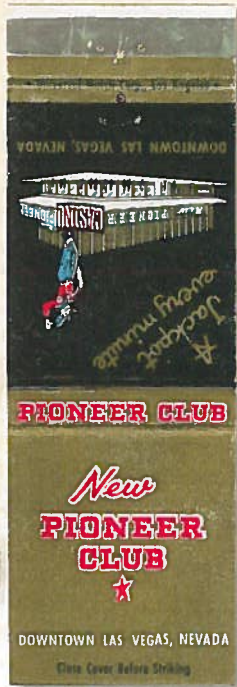
Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.



Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

The Lucky Strike Club featured what was one of Milton Prell's specialties, bingo. In 1954, no other downtown casino featured bingo and the Lucky Strike Club took advantage of this void, calling it out prominently on their neon sign. They did not offer any table games, just slots and bingo. Since Prell closed down the Club Bingo on the strip, the Lucky Strike Club laid claim to the largest bingo parlor in Nevada. They made use of the ad campaign being run by Lucky Strike cigarettes during the mid-1950's. The message "L.S.M.F.T." ("Lucky Strike means fine tobacco") was introduced on their packages of cigarettes. The Lucky Strike Club picked it up as "L.S.M.F.J." for "Lucky Strike Means Faster Jackpots."

While Prell was enjoying the success of the Sahara and the Lucky Strike Club, he took ownership of another Las Vegas landmark, Vegas Vic and The Pioneer Club. The Pioneer Club at the corner of First and Fremont Streets opened in 1942 and went through a few ownership changes until Prell and a small group of other investors took it over in December 1956 and renamed it the New Pioneer Club. It is difficult to find much information about why Prell decided to rename the casino. There is also little known about why he decided to sell his interest just a year and a half later, in July 1958. The casino operated as the New Pioneer Club until 1967 when it went back to being called the Pioneer Club. Strangely, there is only one 25¢ chip with the New Pioneer Club designation on the inlay.



A feature matchbook with the "L.S.M.F.J." slogan taken from the Lucky Strike cigarette ad campaign "L.S.M.F.T." or "Lucky Strike means fine tobacco" seen below.

### Scientific tests prove Lucky Strike milder than any other principal brand!

These scientific tests—confirmed by three independent consulting laboratories—prove Lucky Strike is mildest of six major brands tested!

JANET BLAIR says:  
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Having three successful casinos in Las Vegas during the 1950's was not enough for Prell, and he set about opening a new casino across the street from the Lucky Strike. In 1957, The Mint Casino opened on the spot previously occupied by Club Savoy, 116 East Fremont Street. As with the Lucky Strike Club, Prell went all out with the design of the outside marquee. In fact, it could be said that



Milton Prell (far right) standing on a bulldozer during ground breaking for the Mint Casino on March 8, 1957. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.



Postcard of the Mint Casino before the expansion into the Bird Cage casino.



Another postcard of the Mint Casino before the expansion into the Bird Cage casino.

the Mint was a marquee with a casino built around it--not many other Las Vegas signs were more photographed or more hypnotic! Designed by Kermit Wayne and Hermon Boernge of YESCO, the sign featured a series of white lights that ran along the edge of the wave-shaped porte-cochere. They ran in sequence up the red neon-covered pylon up to the blinking starburst at the top. It created a 3-D sweeping motion that stood alone amongst the upright and bulky neon pylons that lined Fremont at the time.

Situated between the Bird Cage Casino to the east and the Horseshoe Casino to the west, the Mint was a downtown favorite, and drew huge crowds of gawkers and gamblers. In 1959, the Bird



These 1st issue chips from the Mint Casino show the original facade similar to the one on the matchbook.



*The Mint Casino after the expansion into the Bird Cage Casino. The new arch entrance way and wave shape neon ties the old sign into the new corner property. Matchbook on right reflects the same facade. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

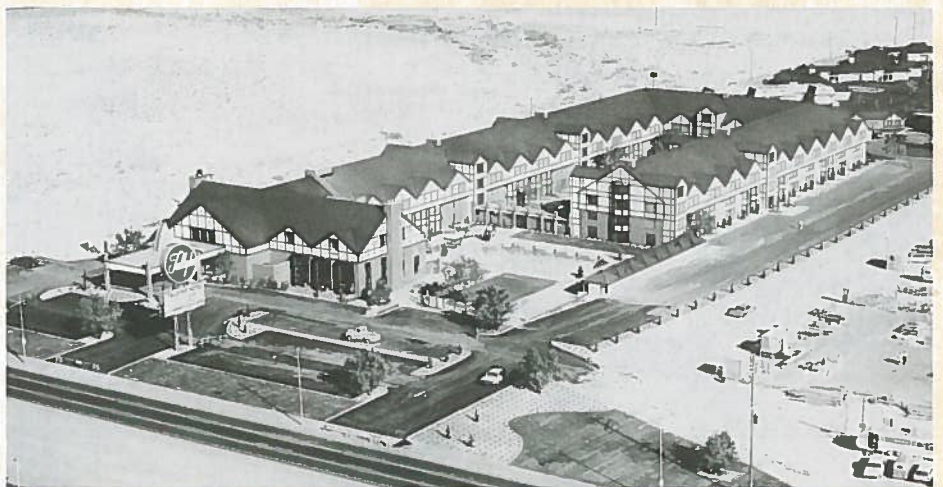
Cage Casino had two \$25,000 keno jackpots hit within a few days of each other. The club was undercapitalized and was forced to close. Prell decided to purchase the casino and its prime location on the corner of Fremont and First Streets. After making alterations to the inside of the casino, Prell had YESCO design a new sign for the new section of the Mint to tie into the original. What they came up with made the casino's façade even more spectacular. They created an eyebrow-shaped entrance at the corner of Fremont and First Streets, and incorporated a wave shape that tied both sides of the building together.

By 1960, Prell was operating three highly successful casinos in Las Vegas, a difficult feat for even the most seasoned casino operator. At the same time Del Webb, Prell's construction contractor for the Sahara back in 1952, was getting 20% of a very healthy business from the Sahara, and he wanted more. Webb took his company public in 1960 and brokered a deal with Prell and Alfred Winter, his partner in the Sahara and the Mint casinos, to turn over the Sahara, the Mint and the Lucky Strike Club (grouped under the corporate name of Sahara-Nevada Corporation) to Del Webb for 1.5 million shares of the newly-created Del Webb Corporation. It was the first time that a publicly traded company owned a Las Vegas casino.

Prell was retained as President of the Sahara-Nevada Corporation under the Del Webb Corporation. He remained President until 1964 when he retired and moved to Beverly Hills, CA.

For the first time since 1937, Milton Prell was out of the casino business. But his retirement lifestyle didn't sit well with him, and it wasn't long before a shuttered hotel on the Las Vegas strip was calling him back.

The Tally Ho was an English Tudor-style hotel that was the brainchild of New York toymaker Edwin Lowe. Lowe had amassed his wealth by inventing a little game called "Yahtzee." In 1962,



*The Tally-Ho hotel under construction in December of 1962. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

Lowe thought a country club-like hotel without a casino would do well on the Las Vegas strip. The Tally Ho had leaded windows, open timber beams, and a gabled roof. Lowe was banking on the fact that Las Vegas could attract whole families for their vacations, with golf, the Hoover Dam and Lake Mead all close by. Lowe opened the Tally Ho in February of 1963, but his vision of Las Vegas as a family destination was ahead of its time, and the Tally Ho closed down before the end of the year.



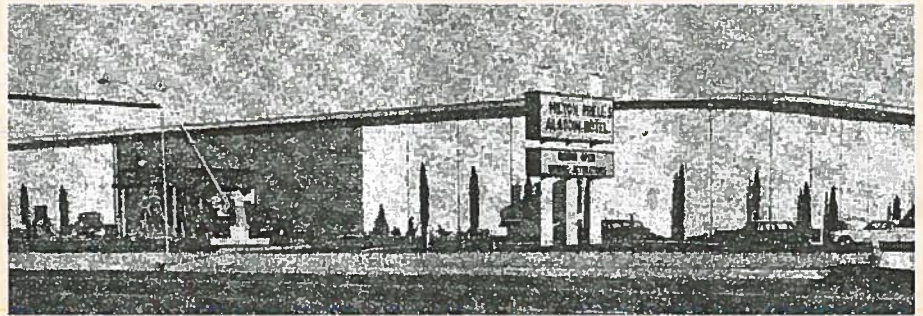
The Tally Ho was then purchased by a group from Kokomo, Indiana who renamed the property the King's Crown Tally Ho. Unfortunately, they did not change the business model along with the name. They also thought that the resort could survive without a casino, and opened for business on New Year's Eve 1964. They were wrong and the King's Crown Tally Ho closed with six months.

The next group of investors to take a run at the Tally Ho was a group of Las Vegas businessmen headed by Edward Nealis. They learned from the mistakes of the previous owners and decided to open a small casino inside the resort named the King's Crown. The group applied for a gaming license, but was denied. Fortunately for chip collectors, they had their chips made before the gaming license was denied, allowing collectors to pick up the Kings Crown chips at affordable prices.



Milton Prell decided that he would take a chance on the Tally Ho, and on January 1, 1966 he purchased the shuttered hotel for \$16 million. As with the previous owners, Prell recognized the need for a casino on the property, but he did not want to try a squeeze a small casino inside the existing structure. Prell decided he needed to do a complete redesign and use only the hotel rooms of the old Tally Ho. With an Arabian theme in mind, Prell built a new 500-seat theater named the Bagdad Theater showroom, a new gourmet restaurant called the Sabre Room, and the biggest casino in Nevada at the time. By April 1, 1966, Prell opened the newest casino on the Las Vegas Strip, the Aladdin. When the Aladdin opened, it became the first casino to open on the Las Vegas Strip since the Stardust in 1958. The thought amongst casino owners at the time was that Las Vegas was overbuilt and that any further hotel rooms and casinos could not be filled, but Prell was not deterred and the initial opening of the Aladdin was a success.

Because the construction was put on a fast track, the casino opened without the soon-to-be-historic Aladdin sign out front. Instead, a small nondescript plastic letter sign was all that announced the new casino. Prell had collaborated with Ray Larsen, Jr. and YESCO to develop a \$750,000 sign that was 15 stories high, encrusted with 40,000 light bulbs and topped with



*A very early photo of the Aladdin before the famous YESCO sign.*





a spinning Aladdin's lamp. As with his properties in downtown Las Vegas, the Aladdin sign demanded attention. Once in place, it made a somewhat bland casino exterior scream with excitement.

Some of the Aladdin's other features were an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an 18-hole golf course and the first escalator in Nevada that moved people from the parking area into the casino.



This postcard shows the amazing YESCO designed Aladdin sign. In the background the Tally-Ho hotel rooms are visible.

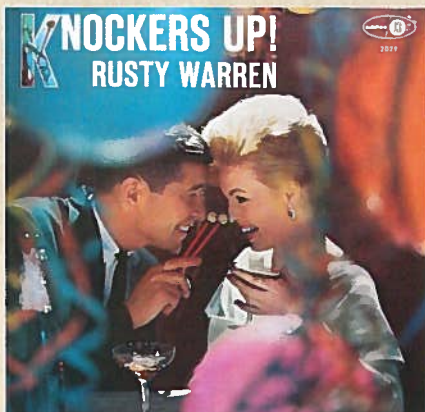
The Bagdad Theater showroom held three shows nightly, starting at 8:00 pm and running to 6:00 am. All three shows were different and all were free. The performers included comedians Jackie Mason, Redd Foxx and Joe E. Lewis; the Jet Set Revue; and a musical comedy show.

Milton Prell had friends in all the right places, and one of those friends was Colonel Tom Parker, the infamous manager of the great Elvis Presley. In May 1967, the Colonel contacted Prell asking to use the Aladdin's facilities to allow his famous client to marry his girlfriend, Priscilla. Prell provided his own private suite to keep the press from overrunning the event. Elvis and Priscilla, along with their entourage, went to get their marriage license at the downtown courthouse at 2:00 am, yet an estimated 10,000 fans and members of the press showed up to catch a glimpse of the couple.



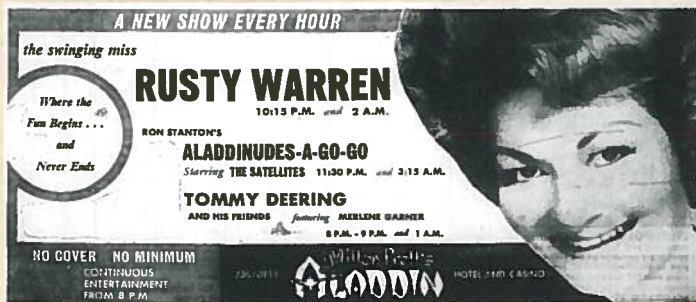
Prell was not afraid to take risks with the talent he employed at the Aladdin. In 1966, the Aladdin showcased risqué performer Rusty Warren. Warren has been called the mother of the sexual revolution, and her comedy/musical routine featured songs that

were considered raunchy at the time. Albums such as Songs For Sinners and Sin-sational focused on sex from the female point of view at a time before the sexual revolution of the late 1960's took hold. But it was her 1960 album Knockers Up! that created a cult-like



following of fans that Prell was counting on to support her during her Aladdin appearances. Warren's opening night was a huge success. Loyal fans packed the Bagdad Theater showroom to see the controversial star in the glitz, glam and anything goes style of Las Vegas.

Warren went on to play for several more years at the Aladdin.



*Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

With all of the initial success that the Aladdin was enjoying, Prell decided he needed to expand the hotel portion of the property with a 36-story skyscraper with over 700 rooms. He also wanted a convention area located on the top floors of the tower. Plans were drawn up but the funding was never realized and the tower was never built.

In early 1968, Prell suffered a stroke and was forced to take a leave of absence during his recovery. He was able to return to the Aladdin in September 1968, but he needed two canes for walking. He walked the casino floor, greeting the guests and surprising his loyal employees.



*Architect Martin Stern's rendering of the proposed 36-story hotel tower. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

Shortly after his visit Prell decided to retire from casino life; he moved back to California and never returned to casino ownership. Milton Prell passed away on June 2, 1974 in his Newport Beach, CA home at the age of 69.

Prell seemed to have quite a knack for creating and running successful casinos in Las Vegas. Several publications have even called it the "Milton Prell magic touch." He had a large group of loyal employees who followed him through his various business ventures. During a time when organized crime was spreading through Las Vegas, Prell appeared to have no connections to the mob.

Although the reputation of the Aladdin and the Sahara may have suffered in recent years from bad management, when Prell ran them, they were among the finest

casinos in Las Vegas. He demanded the finest quality in all that went into his properties. The finest restaurants, entertainment and hotel rooms created a loyal client base that bred success. Prell told the Las Vegas Sun newspaper about the Sahara in October 27, 1952 stating, "Our goal is now to make the name 'Hotel Sahara' synonymous with everything that is unsurpassed in the finest hotel luxury."

*Thank you to James Campiglia and Alex Cilento for their scans of the Aladdin, Club Bingo, Mint and Sahara chips. Thank you to Sheldon Smith, Ross Poppel, Pam Goertler and Ed Badger for their use of the King's Crown chip scans. Thank You to Ted Brown and Michael Knapp for their use of the 30 Club 10¢ token image.*



*Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

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A Project of The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.



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SATURDAY, MAY 14

# HELLDORADO 2011

By Sheldon Smith

The Helledorado Parade started in 1934 to try and attract folks to Las Vegas as Hoover Dam was being completed. The Parade was suspended in 1997 and resurrected in 2005. Now, it's 2011, and they have brought back the rodeo as well. The CC&GTCC was in the parade for the second year in a row! We did not take part in the Rodeo and, most probably, never will!

We needed a different vehicle for this year as last year's vehicle was unavailable. We scrounged around, had some options — thank you, Frank Muscat! — and then, Jim Steffner, said, "Well, you could use my truck!" "What truck?" I said, totally unaware that Jim Steffner had this giant (for me, at least), truck in his garage! I didn't walk the parade route last year and I sure wasn't going to walk it this year, either!

We needed signage for the Convention on the side of the truck and, boy!, did we have it this year! The Southern Nevada Casino Collectibles Club (SNCCC) treasurer, Jim Diesinger, referred me to the Sing Sing Sign Company! How's that for a name?



Now, we were almost set. We had wooden HELLDORADO nickels to toss (with \$1 off for the show in June), and a NEW chauffeur -- thank you, Sandi Steffner! -- to drive the route, and new signs in the form of banners for the sides of

the truck! But, how do we affix them without ruining the finish of Jim's shiny, well-kept truck? Christine said, "Let's go get magnets that we can attach through the grommets that are cut into the banners." So, we did and it almost worked but, the day turned out to be WINDY! Windy in Las Vegas you say?!!!! You have no idea unless you live here!

So this year, we had Tony Tricoli back again to walk alongside the truck with Jim. Jim told me that he would have a chair for me in the back of the open truck bed and, WOW! He wasn't kidding, I had a large, stuffed seat chair belted into the back of the truck so I could ride the parade route in comfort and enjoy it as well. Tony and Jim had to leg it out. Sandi and Christine were in the cab! Christine rode shotgun as Sandi drove and we all tossed out HELLDORADO wooden nickels!

Now, we had the HELLDORADO FORCE for the good of the club. The wheel lady, Sandi; the shotgun, Christine; the mix-with-the-crowd-walkers, President Jim and Tony; and, of course, on a chair...ME!

There were 100 entries in this year's HELLDORADO Parade,



Sandi Steffner



Christine Smith

reduced because they had too many entries last year. We all got there early AGAIN and then we waited and waited and waited. Even though our Parade number was lower than it was last year, it still took a long time to get to our number!

Along the way came, once again, some very nice surprises! We had supporters out along the parade route: Dale and Sally Horyna, Scott Snider and Sandra Zakai, who brought along Scott's parents; and Brian Watts.! See ALL the pictures! Our timing worked great — when we passed the reviewing stand, they made a nice announcement of who we were and what we do! YEAH!



*Tony Tricoli passing out the CC&GTCC Wooden Nickels.*

Our HELLDORADO NICKELS, with \$1 off the Convention admission, invited folks to the upcoming convention and we gave out 2500 of them. We had hoped that our HELLDORADO NICKELS would actually show up at the registration desk BUT, alas, nary a one! That doesn't mean they didn't have an impact, maybe \$1 just wasn't enough! Or, maybe, the folks along the Parade Route kept them as a "collectible!" Still, we feel the effort was worthwhile and will be repeated. So, we will be back next year, if for no other reason than to have fun and let thousands of folks that line the parade route know we — the CC&GTCC -- are around!

That's the story of the CC&GTCC and the HELLDORADO 2011 Parade!



*Jim Steffner also passing out the CC&GTCC Wooden Nickels.*

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# SOMEWHERE IN TIME...

## NEVADA IN THE 1940'S PART THREE

By Pam Goertler #R-3432

*Photo courtesy  
of the Las Vegas  
News Bureau.*



HOTEL FLAMINGO

# 1946

The first year that a state gaming tax is levied in Nevada, total gaming revenues are listed at \$24.5 million.



May 1, 1946; North Las Vegas incorporated as a city, putting a stop to Las Vegas' attempts to annex the town.

The movie "Heldorado", starring Roy Rogers, is filmed in Las Vegas; the film includes scenes of the 1946 Helldorado celebration.

Censors required that one "L" be removed from the name of the movie, despite the fact that Helldorado signs (with two L's) are seen throughout the movie.

Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life," premieres.

Based on the short story "The Greatest Gift" the film stars James Stewart as George Bailey a man whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel. It was nominated for five Oscars, but did not win any. The film has since



been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made.



## BAR OF MUSIC - RENO

Opened in December of 1945 without gambling, The Bar of Music, at 136 North Center Street, was licensed on February 23, 1946, for craps, 21, keno and roulette. In July, Joseph Skoff and Harry Sherwood bought the club; in December they traded the property to Denny and S.M. Wood and Fred Wilkins in exchange for the Tahoe Village Casino on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.



*Courtesy of Mark Englebretson.*

In April 1947 Harry Brody bought the Bar of Music and was licensed for keno, 21, craps and roulette, as well as twenty slot machines. In 1949 Brody was arrested for the possession of narcotics, and it was discovered that he had an extensive criminal record. He was forced to withdraw his application for a renewal of his gambling license, and the Bar of Music closed. Brody was sentenced to three years in prison; he was released six months early because of good behavior. Apparently his good behavior was only while he was in prison; he had been out for only four months when he was again arrested for narcotics possession. That time he was sentenced to serve five years in prison.

Many other clubs operated at this location over the years including Beery's, O'Briens Corner, Trade Winds, Roaring Twenties and Freddie's Lair.



*Courtesy of Eric Miller.*

# OLD WASHOE CLUB - VIRGINIA CITY

Located on South C Street, the Old Washoe Club was licensed on March 1, 1946, for blackjack, roulette, craps and Klondike. According to Fuller's Index, the gambling ended on December 31, 1948.

Klondike? The solitaire game?? If so, I wonder how many casinos were licensed for solitaire? When I saw the reference to Klondike, in Fuller's Index, I searched online to see if I could find any other games called Klondike...nope; just varieties of solitaire. It doesn't seem like solitaire would have been a great casino game, since they'd have to use one "dealer" per player, to keep the game honest...wouldn't they? Maybe that's why not a lot of casinos were licensed for it. Enough rambling...

Gold was first discovered near Virginia City in the spring of 1850, by a party that was camped by the Carson River on their way to California. William Prouse, John Orr, and Nick Kelly each found gold...a few flakes, and a small nugget or two. Their finds didn't match what they expected to find in the California gold fields, so they named the ravine Gold Canyon and moved on. They told their story to others, who told still others, and the story of their finds grew with each telling. Other gold seekers, who'd struck out in California, headed for Gold Canyon and founded a community named Johnstown; the current location of Dayton, Nevada. The men prospected throughout the surrounding area, and worked the creek for a few dollars a day.

In the spring of 1859 rich silver ore was discovered...the Comstock Lode. By the time the story got around, the Sierra passes were closed by severe winter weather. When the passes opened in the spring of 1860, the silver rush was on. Ten thousand men converged on the eastern slope of Sun Mountain, pitching tents, building shanties, or camping in any caves they could find. Over 14,000 claims were staked in the district; claim-jumping and the violence associated with it soon followed. It was soon recognized that the lode wouldn't play out quickly, and construction of a more permanent nature ensued.



From an old Crystal Saloon and Washoe Club,  
Virginia City's oldest saloon —

Between 1859 and 1882 dozens of mining companies were formed to handle the richness of the Comstock Lode. During that period over \$305 million in ore was removed from the mines; approximately 60% was silver ore and 40% gold ore. With



THE LONE RANGER DROPS IN FOR A DRINK  
RICK STUART  
AT THE OLD WASHOE CLUB  
VIRGINIA CITY, NEV. ESTABLISHED 1875

money practically flowing from the mines, some of the newly-rich spent it on opulent homes and furnishings. Of course not everyone wanted to be involved with the working of the mines. Another segment of the population was eager to provide goods and services for the miners.





In 1862 The Old Washoe Club was built. It was known at the most lavishly furnished club west of New York. Some of the early members of this prominent club were General Grant, Horace Greeley, Samuel Clemens (later known as Mark Twain), George Hearst (father of William Randolph Hearst), silver barons John Mackay and James Fair, Jim Flood, Adolph Sutro and A.J. Ralston.

With so many wooden structures, when a fire started it could easily travel from one building to the next...and that happened several times in Virginia City. The worst fire was in October of 1875; the town was devastated when well over 1000 structures, including The Old Washoe Club, were destroyed. After the original Club burned down, The Old Washoe Club quickly reopened down the street, in a building that had escaped the flames. The Millionaire's Club was on the upper floors, reached by a separate entrance from the street or by climbing a winding staircase in the Old Washoe Club. Apparently there was another entrance to the Millionaire's Club where prostitutes could be brought in discreetly, from the building next door. It's said that there was a whole other world behind the doors of the Millionaire's Club...a world that was filled with liquor, cigars and women, as well as pool, poker, and other games of chance. Many members of the Millionaire's Club were the newly rich, eager to enjoy the pleasures

that could be purchased with the bounty of the earth.

After the great fire the residents of Virginia City, confident that the ores would continue to flow from the mines, rebuilt their City over the next several months, on an even larger scale. At this time Virginia City had over thirty thousand inhabitants, and there were nearly seventy thousand people living in the district. Good times continued for a short while, but by 1878 most of the readily accessible ore had been mined, and the mines began shutting down. Thousands of people left over the next few years, leaving their grand buildings behind. Many of the buildings in Virginia City today date back to that time.

When we were there in May of 2010 The Old Washoe Club was closed, but there were signs indicating that it would be reopening soon, as a museum. Information on the internet indicates that it has now opened as a bar, with bartenders that are well-versed in the history of the Club. There's a museum area in the back, which you can explore for a fee. The reality series "Ghost Adventures" has filmed a couple of episodes there, with most of the filming taking place upstairs. Unfortunately, the upper floors aren't open to the public.

## EL REY RESORT & WILLIE MARTELLO - SEARCHLIGHT

The El Rey Casino, located on Highway 95, was licensed on March 9, 1946 for slots, blackjack, craps and roulette.

Searchlight is a small town in Southern Nevada, located approximately halfway between Needles California and downtown Las Vegas. For a decade, in the early 1900's, Searchlight was a moderately successful mining community. With no other industry, once the gold was gone, the population dwindled to around fifty.

Willie Martello left his native California to join two of his brothers, Buddy and Albert, in Searchlight, Nevada. While his brothers raised livestock, Willie's dreams went in another direction. He envisioned turning the small community into a thriving town...a tourist destination, much like what was happening in Las Vegas.

Willie opened the El Rey Casino, which was named after a Club owned by his brother Tony, in Southgate, California. In addition to gambling, the El Rey Casino



offered gourmet dining, and live entertainment every night. The classy club, in a semi-remote location, was discovered by Hollywood. Searchlight locals never knew when they might spot Frank Sinatra, Martin & Lewis, Betty Grable or Louis Prima among the casino patrons.



The El Rey had the first swimming pool in Searchlight. Senator Harry Reid, a native of Searchlight, recalled that Willie used to invite the children of the town, a dozen at a time, to swim in the pool at the El Rey.

While the El Rey served as a haven to those who were making the long dusty drive between Needles and Las Vegas, in order to make his dreams come true Willie had to get more people to visit Searchlight. He built an airport that included a 6,600 foot long paved and lighted airstrip, then offered free round-trip flights from Long Beach to Searchlight. On the flights, the gamblers were given champagne, gaming vouchers, coupons for a complimentary dinner, and even nickels that could be used to feed the slot machines. Unfortunately, when tested by the Clark County Director of Aviation, it was discovered that the runway wasn't sturdy enough to withstand the weight of the DC-3 and Constellation planes that the El Rey was using. The airport was quickly closed; when it eventually reopened, it was limited to aircraft under 10,000 pounds.

Several years after the El Rey opened, Willie was approached by a Madame who proposed the idea of running her "girls" out of the El Rey. Always looking for new ways to bring in more cash and more customers, Willie agreed to the proposal. Daisy Mae and her Ladies set up shop in the resort. This, of course, tarnished the family-friendly reputation of the El Rey and its owner. According to Martello family members who were interviewed later, Willie was not involved with operating the brothel. After a time "the girls" left the El Rey, but it was too late to save Willie's reputation.

In January of 1962 the El Rey burned to the ground. A new El Rey opened across the street, but it just wasn't the same and Willie didn't own it for long. The casino closed in 1973, but I believe the motel is still open.

Willie Martello died on January 9, 1968.

## NEVADA CLUB & LINCOLN FITZGERALD - RENO



*The El Rey Casino in 1952.*



*Far left, Willie Martello and his staff in 1952.*



*An early Nevada Club postcard.*

On March 22, 1946, the Nevada Club, formerly known as Robbins Nevada Club, began operations as a full casino, at 224 North Virginia Street.

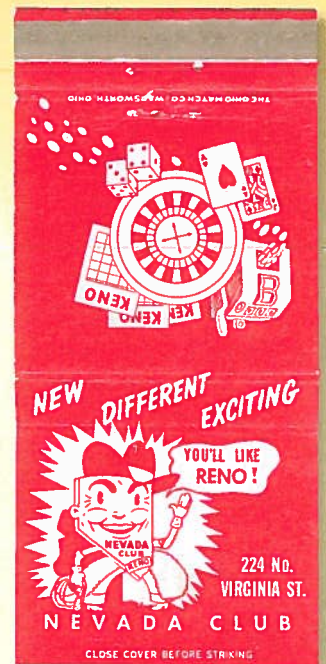
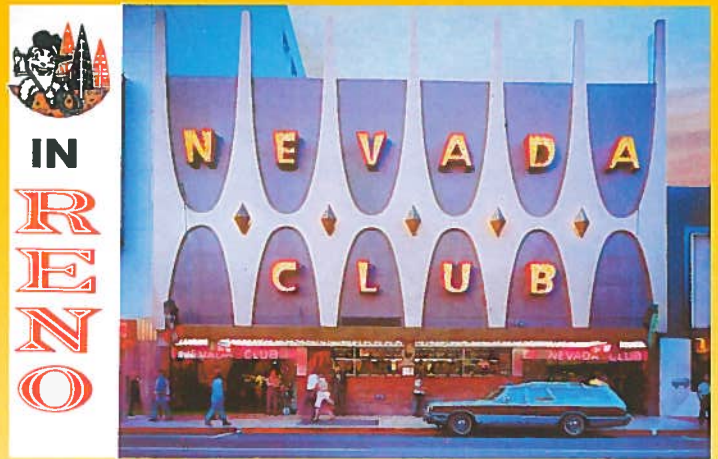
Lincoln Fitzgerald, born in California in 1892, was in the Detroit area of Michigan in the 1920's. Along with Mert Wertheimer and Danny Sullivan he opened the Chesterfield Club; a full casino with slot machines and numerous table games. After a disagreement about the way the games operated, Wertheimer sold his share of the club to Fitzgerald.

As the years went by, times changed. The federal government was cracking down on illegal gambling, and many gambling operators moved to Nevada. In Nevada, where gambling had been legalized in 1931, there was no stigma attached to gambling, no payoffs to local law enforcement, no fear of midnight raids or expensive equipment being confiscated and destroyed. In 1945 Fitzgerald and Sullivan moved to Reno, Nevada where, with Wertheimer and Ruby Mathis, they bought into the Robbins Nevada Club.

Father and son Harry and Ed Robbins started their business in 1941, as Robbins Nevada Club. In 1946 the partnership was expanded to include the four new partners, and the name was shortened to Nevada Club. Ruby Mathis and Mert Wertheimer left the partnership soon after it was formed. A grand opening--to celebrate new management, a new bar, and a new keno game--was held on March 22, 1946, in the newly remodeled club.

In August of 1946 the past caught up with Fitzgerald and Sullivan, in the form of fugitive-from-justice cases. They were charged with several counts of bribing public officials in Michigan, as well as operating illegal gambling. They fought extradition for nearly two years, and they were able to get the bribery charges dropped, but in August of 1948 they were sent to Michigan to face the illegal gambling charges. They were found guilty and were fined \$52,000, which they paid. They returned to Reno, where Sullivan continued to act as general manager of the Nevada Club, and Fitzgerald continued as casino manager.

In November of 1949 Lincoln Fitzgerald was shot twice, with a



shotgun, as he was leaving his home around midnight on his way to the Club. For several days he was on the brink of death but he finally recovered, after five months in the Washoe Medical Center. The attack left him with a limp for the rest of his life. The crime was never solved. After the ambush, Fitzgerald and his wife Meta moved into an apartment over the Nevada Club and he became somewhat of a recluse.

After his recovery Fitzgerald continued to run the Nevada Club. He was a tough boss, but fair, and his employees respected him. He was strict-and breaking his rules could quickly get an employee fired, but the Nevada Club was known to pay well. Robbins Cahill, chairman of Nevada's first Tax Board, was quoted as saying "He knew the gaming business and he ran a good gaming operation."

Dan Sullivan passed away in 1956; in the same year Ed Robbins sold his shares to Lincoln Fitzgerald, leaving Fitzgerald in full control of the operation.

Fitzgerald introduced the Monte Carlo wheel to the Nevada Club; it was a single zero roulette wheel, with a double layout. The wheel was popular with roulette players, who understood that their odds were better than they would be on a double-zero wheel. The wheel was in use until the 1980's.



The Nevada Club used Jennings slot machines. Those early machines didn't have hoppers that would pay out when a "large" jackpot (usually \$7.50-\$10.00!) was

hit. Most of the casinos paid the winners with currency...not the Nevada Club! The machine would pay out 20 coins, the slot attendant would pay out the balance by presenting the winner with a brown paper bag, which bore the Nevada Club logo, and contained the balance of the payout...in coins! The winners, of course, frequently deposited their winnings right back into the machines.

In 1981, the fiftieth anniversary of legalized gambling in Nevada, Fitzgerald was named to the Nevada Gambler's Hall of Fame. Due to poor health he was unable to attend the ceremonies. He died in a Reno hospital on April 18, 1981, at the age of eighty-eight.

Fitzgerald's widow, Meta, continued to run the Nevada Club for just over five years with the help of her brother Carlton Konarske. On January 1, 1987, Lincoln Management Group took over the property and closed it for one month. When it reopened it was able to maintain much of the atmosphere and appeal that Fitzgerald had created.

On November 20, 1997, the Fitzgerald Gaming Corporation (formerly known as the Lincoln Management Group) announced that the Nevada Club had been sold. It closed on December 28, 1997 and was demolished in October of 1999.

## MERRY- GO- ROUND BAR - RENO

The Merry-Go-Round Bar, at 26 West Second Street, was licensed in March of 1946 for 12 slot machines, craps, 2 blackjack tables, and roulette.



DOROTHY EDDY, dancer  
at CLUB SHIM-SHAM.



Located at the former site of Blondy's Bar, the Merry-Go-Round Bar was actually set on a carousel base. When activated the bar stools revolved around the center part of the bar.

Ownership changed several times over the years, ending with Lonnie Logsdon who was cited in July of 1956 for improper operation of a blackjack game. On July 31, 1956, the Gaming Control board recommended revocation of his license and the State Gaming Commission concurred.

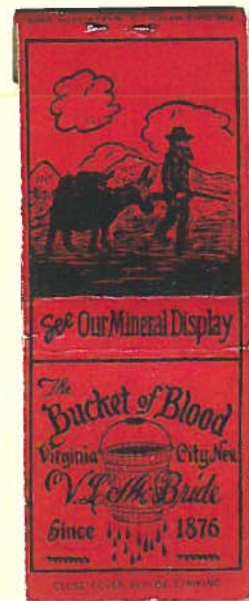


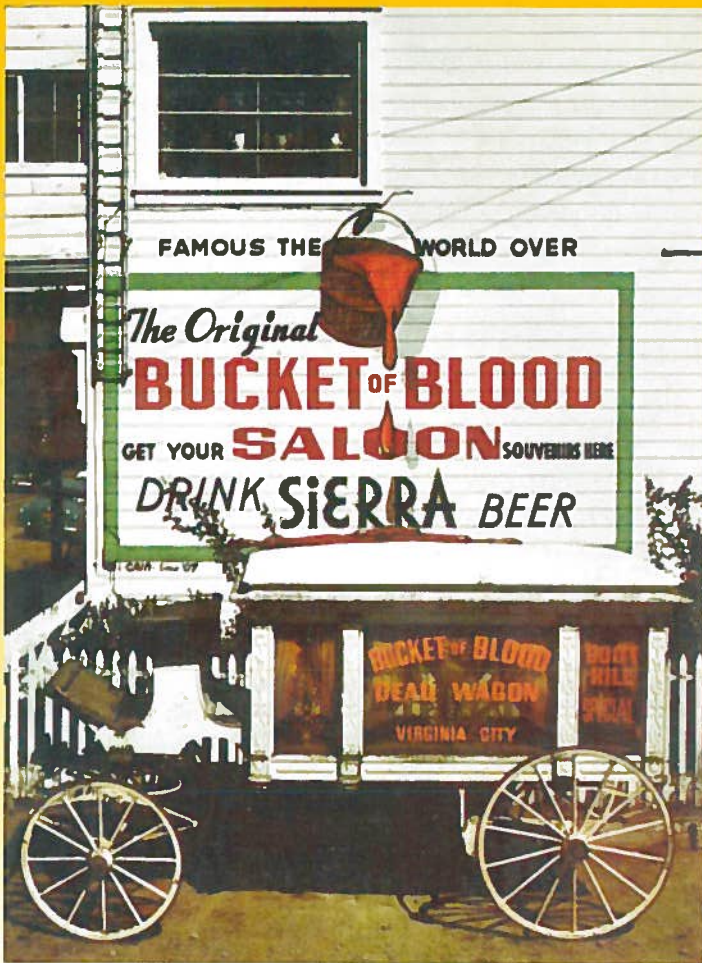
## BUCKET OF BLOOD- VIRGINIA CITY

The Bucket of Blood Saloon, on South C Street, was licensed on May 1, 1946 for slots, blackjack, and poker.

Virginia City is full of contrasts... it's a town filled with old buildings, but the streets are lined with modern cars. The sidewalks are made of old wooden planks, which are traversed by tourists wearing the latest athletic shoes. Walking into many of the old buildings, you're surrounded by relics of the past; walls are adorned by old portraits, old gas lamps are suspended from the ceiling...then you look into an old mirror and see the reflection of shiny new slot machines.

The Bucket of Blood building was constructed in 1876, after the great fire that destroyed so much of Virginia City, but I don't know what was originally in the building. We have a 1939 Nevada phone book that





The Bucket of Blood Dead Wagon, a hearse first used in Gold Hill in the 1860's, was on display outside of the Bucket of Blood.

dates the 1876 construction...or maybe reconstruction would be a better word. Some of the masonry walls of the building survived the fire, and date back to 1864. There was a door located in one of those original walls that led to an enclosed stairway which went down to the Boston Saloon. The Boston Saloon was owned by William A.G. Brown, and from approximately 1864-1875 served finely prepared meals with the best cuts of meat to the African American population of Virginia City, which numbered around 100. Brown sold his business shortly before the 1875 fire. The remnants of the Boston Saloon lay untouched until discovered, under an asphalt cap behind the Bucket of Blood, in 1997.



lists a Senate Bar on C Street; they didn't list building numbers, but I think it was the same place, because of the phone number 881. According to The Gaming Table, it was the Senate Club from 1940-1941 (licensed for blackjack). In 1945 it was known as the "Old Bucket of Blood Saloon"; by 1950 it was "Bucket of Blood Saloon". Regardless of the name, they kept the 881 phone number for several decades...at least until 1972, which is the latest phone book we have with Virginia City listings. O.K. we do have a phone book from 2002, but they'd gone to a 7-digit phone number by then.

The history of the Bucket of Blood building actually pre-



## TAHOE VILLAGE - LAKE TAHOE



The Tahoe Village Casino was located on the east side of Highway 50, at Kingsbury Grade, near the state line on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. According to Harvey Fuller, the club was licensed at the end of May, in 1946, for slots, 21, craps and roulette.

In July of 1946 Harry Sherwood and Joseph Skoff, of San Francisco, bought the Bar of Music club in Reno. In December they traded the Bar of Music to Denny and S.M. Wood and Fred Wilkins for the Tahoe Village Casino.



On September 17, 1947 Harry Sherwood was shot, during an argument, by his then partner in the Tahoe Village, Louie Strauss. The bullet lodged next to Sherwood's spine, paralyzing his legs and leaving him in critical condition. His condition began to improve, but the following month he suddenly died. The night of his partner's unexpected death, the Nevada State Police picked up Strauss who was on the road to California, towing a travel trailer.

There was a homicide investigation, and it revealed that Sherwood had once been involved with Tony Cornero (aka Anthony Stralla), who was heavily involved in West Coast gambling activities. It turns out that Strauss was "Russian Louie", a notorious gangster. A hearing was held in the dining room of the Glenbrook Inn, the only venue in the area that was large enough to hold all of the witnesses,

for Harry Sherwood; he had his own connections.)

An online article described the Tahoe Village Casino as "sleazy gambling parlor at the southern end of Lake Tahoe". Well...it may have been sleazy, but in my opinion it had some of the prettiest chips that were ever made.

The Tahoe Village closed in 1951; the casino reopened as the Casino de Paris, and later operated as Oliver's Club. The building burned to the ground in 1963.

## FRONTIER CLUB - RENO

The Frontier Club, at 220 North Virginia Street, held their grand opening in May 1946, advertising themselves as "Reno's newest and finest casino and bar..." The club offered eleven table games, thirty slot machines, race horse keno and a horse book. Some of the partners in the club included Pick Hobson and his brother Joe, Marion Hicks (who would soon move to Las Vegas to operate the Thunderbird), Dave Callahan and Cliff Jones.



In July 1946 a nightclub operator from Dallas came to the Frontier to play craps. Dave Callahan allowed him to bet \$23,000 on the point of four, with an odds bet of \$46,000. The Texan made his point, winning a payoff of \$115,000. He continued to play for several more hours, and his luck held. By the end of his run the Texan had tipped the dealers over \$24,000, and was owed over \$140,000...cash that the Frontier didn't have on hand. In August a representative of the Frontier flew to Dallas to pay the lucky



as well as the local curiosity-seekers. While there were several eye-witnesses to the shooting, it seems that none of them could swear that they actually saw Louie pull the trigger of the gun. The hearing was inconclusive and Russian Louie was released. (In April of 1953 Russian Louie met his end at the hands of James "Jimmy the Weasel" Fratianno, perhaps as a result of attempting to blackmail Benny Binion...but that's another story. And don't feel too sorry

gambler the \$141,375 balance that he was owed.

In 1947 Pick and Joe Hobson became the sole owners of the Frontier Club. In July 1948 a bingo room was opened at the Frontier and for the next several years the club focused on bingo and slots as their main forms of gambling. In 1954 a keno game was added.

On November 29, 1956, the Frontier Club was sold to Harrah's. Harrah's put 150 employees out of their jobs when they closed the club. One of the conditions of the sale was that Hobson was not allowed to open another casino for a specified number of years, out of fear that customer-loyalty would cause customers to follow Hobson, rather than gamble at Harrah's.

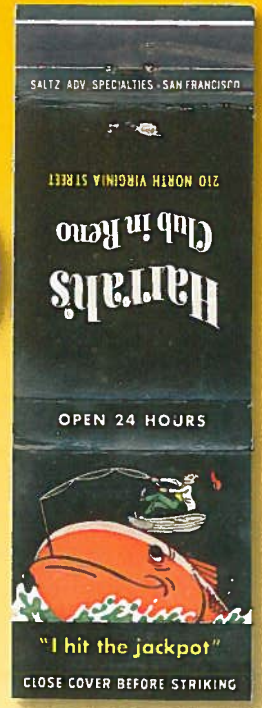


craps, a horse-race book and 40 slot machines. From this humble beginning, came the multi-billion dollar corporation that is Harrah's today.

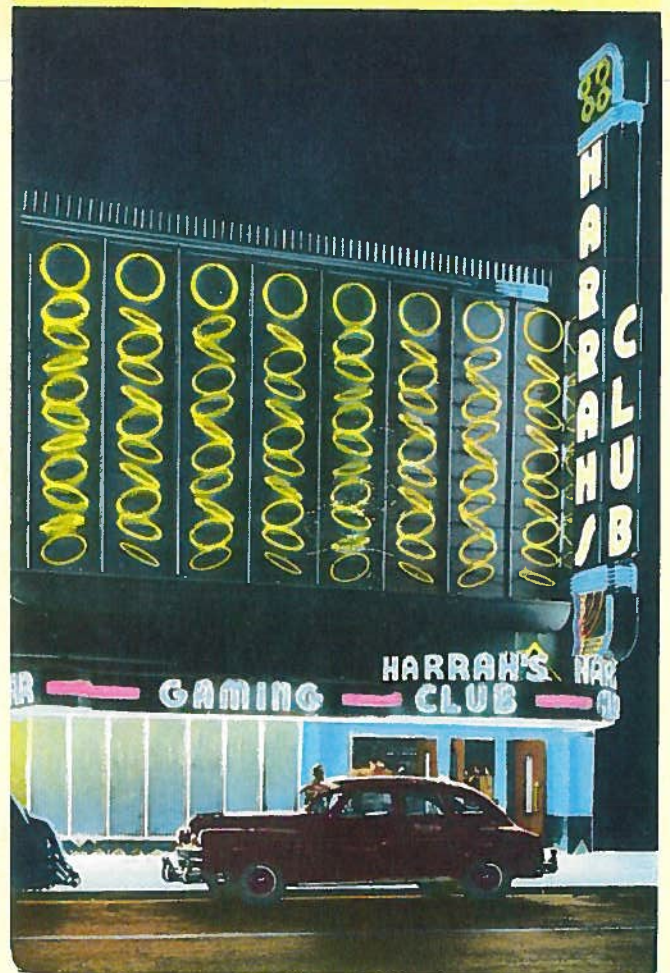
Many times, over the years, Harrah's expanded their operations by buying other properties. In January of 1953



Harrah's bought the former Frisco Club, located nearby, and it soon reopened as Harrah's Bingo Parlor. The Bingo Parlor operated until April of 1962, when it was destroyed by the same fire that destroyed the Golden Hotel. The following month Harrah's Bingo Parlor reopened at a new location, 136 North Center Street. By July the operation was in full swing and offered slot machines, keno and a restaurant, in addition to bingo.



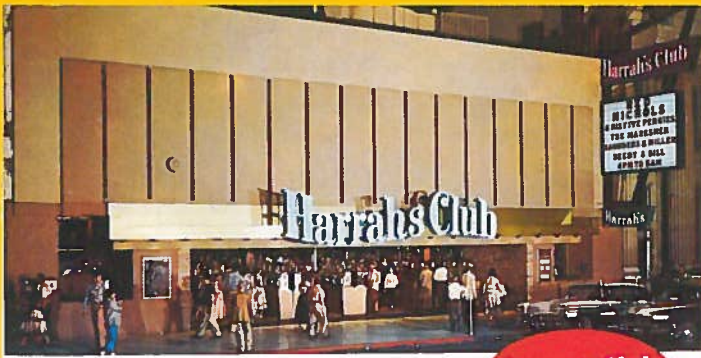
*Harrah's Club, Your Reno Host*



## HARRAH'S - RENO

Harrah's, 210 North Virginia Street, has been licensed since June 20, 1946. William Fisk "Bill" Harrah's first full casino, it was advertised as "Nevada's most beautiful casino..." and had an all-male staff. The original casino was 35 feet by 140 feet and an early license covered keno, faro, roulette, blackjack,





Walk through the world's largest air curtain into Harrah's Club, Reno. The 41 foot wide entrance protects the interior by automatically regulated currents of air. It is completely open—24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In the heart of "The Biggest Little City in the World."

**Harrah's Club**  
RENO

In 1956 they bought the Frontier Club located next door, closed it down, then tore down the wall between the two clubs. Now doubled in size, Harrah's installed 10 more table games and 215 additional slot machines. Other locations that Harrah's took over included the Grand Hotel and Grand Café, Bonanza Club, Palace Club, Golden Hotel, Overland Hotel, and the Greyhound bus depot.

On October 11, 1969, Harrah's opened a new 326-room hotel that was built at a cost of \$6 million. William Harrah officiated at the ribbon cutting; entertainers Pat Paulson, Mitzi Gaynor, and Flip Wilson were part of the ceremonies. Lou LaBonte was the first guest to register at the hotel.

In September of 1971 Harrah's was the first casino operation to become a publicly traded company. The Nevada Gaming Control Board approved Harrah's sale of 13 percent of their 3,460,000 shares of stock. Money from the sale was used to construct the Harrah's Hotel on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Bill Harrah was credited with many innovations in the casino and gambling industry; installing the first "air curtain" in 1957, Harrah made the entrance of his club accessible in all weather; Harrah had a revolving stage constructed so that preparation for the next act could proceed while another act was on stage, when one act was complete the stage



New Harrah's Casino

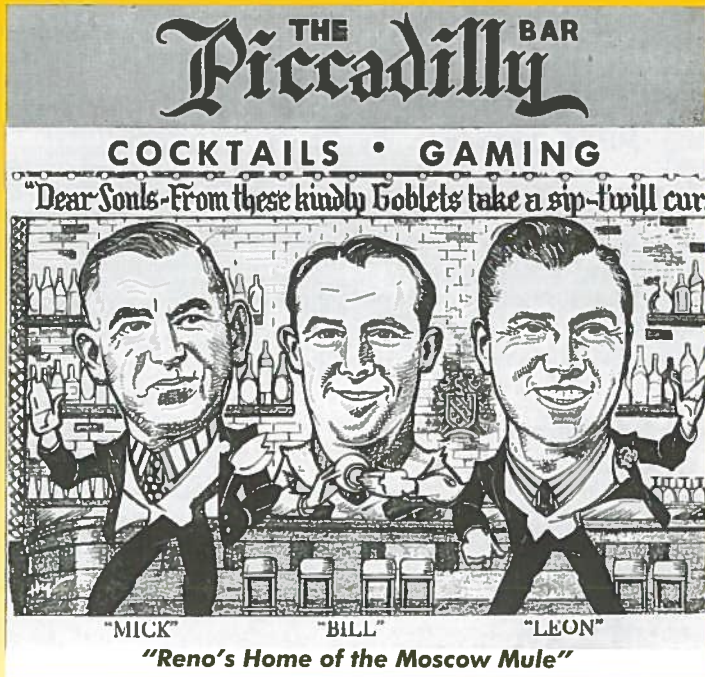


would revolve and the new act would start immediately...so there was less than a minute between acts; Harrah introduced the lights and bells on slot machines, giving casinos a more exciting atmosphere; Harrah also originated the "eye in the sky" style of casino surveillance by having a crawl space over the casino, equipped with one way glass.

Gaming pioneer William Fisk Harrah died on June 18, 1978, at the age of 66.



## PICCADILLY - RENO

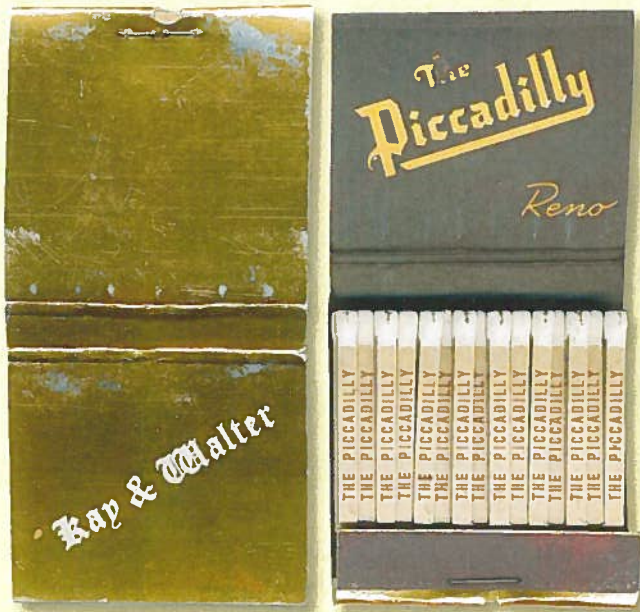


The Piccadilly opened on July 2, 1946, at 233 North Virginia Street. It was licensed for slots, poker, pan, and roulette.

The Piccadilly was named and decorated to match its slogan "A Bit of Old England, right here in Reno". The décor resembled that of an English pub, with red bricks covering the back bar.

The Piccadilly was known for its Moscow Mules drinks, which were served in copper mugs. Regular customers had their own mugs readily available on the back bar, to be filled with the drink that was made with vodka, tonic water and a sprig of mint.

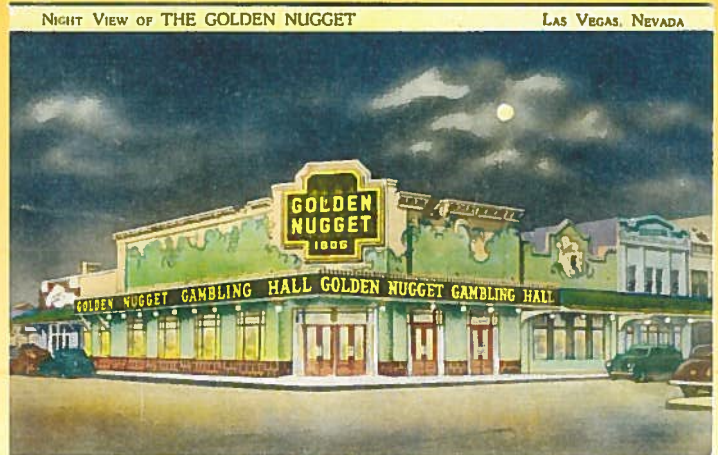
In 1952 the Piccadilly was sold and was renamed the Nugget. It was resold, in 1953, to Dick Graves and Jim Kelly who operated it for many years as Jim Kelly's Nugget.



## GOLDEN NUGGET - LAS VEGAS

The Golden Nugget opened at 129 East Fremont Street in August of 1946, licensed as a full casino.

In the 1920's and 1930's Los Angeles was full of illegal gambling joints, saloons and brothels. In the late 1930's Judge Fletcher Bowron ran for mayor of LA, pledging to rid the town of its vices. When elected, he followed through on his promises and began to clean up the town.



One of the biggest vice kings in LA was Guy McAfee; he owned brothels and speakeasies, as well as a string of profitable gambling houses, and his wife was reported to be a high-profile Hollywood madam. What set him apart from other vice kings was his other job...he was a commander on the Los Angeles vice squad!! When it was discovered just how deeply McAfee was involved with the underworld, he was forced to resign his position on the police force. Fearing possible prosecution, in 1938 McAfee headed for Las Vegas where he could put his experience to good use, without fear of reprisal.

McAfee's first casino was the Pair-O-Dice Club on Highway 91, which he purchased in 1939 from owners Frank and Angelina Detra and reopened as the 91 Club. McAfee is credited as the one who began calling Highway 91 "The Strip", as in the "Sunset Strip" which was in his old LA neighborhood.

From the Strip, McAfee headed downtown where he opened the Frontier Club and the swanky bar next door; the Mandalay Room. He was involved with the Pioneer Club, which opened in 1942. In 1945 with partner Buck Blaine, he oversaw the construction of the new Golden Nugget casino. When it opened with its marble floors, mahogany bars and crystal chandeliers, the Nugget was touted as Vegas' largest and most

luxurious casino.

When the Golden Nugget was incorporated in 1951, McAfee was named as President of the Corporation...a

title he held until 1960. Through the 1960's Buck Blaine was the President; under his watch several smaller casinos on the block were purchased so the Nugget could expand. None of the expansions included a hotel.



In 1972 the 30-year-old developer Steve Wynn bought shares in the Golden Nugget. In 1973, named President and CEO of the Corporation, Wynn began an ambitious remodeling and expansion plan, which included a 17-story, 579-room hotel tower that opened in 1977; a second hotel tower was added in 1984, and a third in 1989.

In 1981 the Golden Nugget added something new to attract guests—an 875 troy-ounce gold nugget! Called the Hand of Faith, the nugget was discovered on September 26, 1980, near Kingower, Victoria, Australia. While it's not the largest nugget ever found, it is the largest ever found with a metal detector...and it was only 12-inches underground!



In 2000, Wynn sold the property to MGM Mirage. Four years later MGM Mirage sold the Nugget to dot-com millionaires Tim

# T Y R U S R E X

has returned with an all-new website!

Howdy Chippers!

After taking three years off, I'm back with an all-new website. The new website is designed with fun in mind. Pour a cup of coffee, sit down, and browse a while. No boring text links here. Instead, you'll click on images of casinos, state flags, and other photos used as links to browse through items. Just keep clicking!

I've only got about 500 items up right now, but I'm adding as fast as I can. Should have several thousand added in the next few months! Plus, it's not just new Vegas releases and LE's anymore. I have lots of house chips and NCV's, from all over the US, tokens, older *Chip Chat* issues, supplies and more!



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- House chips from all over the US!
- Tokens!
- Older *Chip Chat* issues!
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Poster and Tom Breitling (remember that awful “reality” show The Casino, which was filmed at the Nugget? That was during the Tim & Tom year). In 2005 the Nugget was sold to Landry Restaurants Inc. Led by its chairman Tilman Fertitta, the Nugget underwent a \$30-million renovation to its swimming pool area which now includes a massive shark aquarium in the center of the pool, and a three-story water slide. Poolside blackjack is available for sun lovers.

## RANCHINN - ELKO

The Ranchinn opened at 850 Idaho Street on December 21, 1946; over the years it was licensed for slots, craps, blackjack, and roulette.



Newt Crumley began construction on his new Ranchinn Hotel and Casino during World War II. The only problem was that building materials were rationed for new construction. It was all right to remodel existing buildings, so Crumley incorporated a small root beer stand, already on the property, into the design of his new hotel.



When the 68-room hotel opened in 1946, Nevada Governor Vail Pittman was one of the dignitaries who attended the grand opening. Tex Ritter provided the entertainment on opening night; other entertainers who appeared at the Ranchinn over the years included Bing Crosby, Spike Jones, Rudy Vallee, Nelson Eddie and Jeanette McDonald, Sons of the Pioneers, and the 12 year-old

Wayne Newton.

Crumley sold the Commercial Hotel and the Ranchinn in June of 1955; he then bought the Holiday Hotel in Reno.

In February of 1962 Crumley was flying his plane and lost control when the wings accumulated a heavy coating of ice. The plane crashed to the ground killing Crumley and E.J. Questa, president of the First National Bank of Nevada.

## FLAMINGO - LAS VEGAS

The Flamingo opened on the Las Vegas Strip, on December 26, 1946, licensed for slots, blackjack, roulette, craps, and keno.



The third resort to be built on the Las Vegas Strip, construction of The Flamingo was started by Hollywood night club owner Billy Wilkerson. Post-war construction was expensive, and Billy’s bankroll was depleted long before the resort was completed.

During the 1930’s and 1940’s, as the federal government cracked down on illegal gambling, the men who had been running the illegal joints began to migrate to Nevada, where gambling was legal. Some of them were able to reinvent themselves, and be perceived as respectable citizens; others were always seen as “unsavory” characters. One of the most unsavory was Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel. Siegel’s life of crime began when he was a boy, on the lower east side of Manhattan. Siegel went from being a thief to demanding “protection” money from merchants. Before long he joined the gang that was being formed by Meyer Lansky; the Lansky gang started with gambling and car theft, but bootlegging and murder-for-hire weren’t far behind.





In 1939, on trial for the murder of police informant Harry “Big Greenie” Greensberg, newspapers revealed all the details they could find about Siegel’s past, and began to call him “Bugsy”; a reference to his unpredictable behavior. Siegel hated the nickname, and few were foolish enough to use it in his presence. (Siegel was acquitted).

Siegel and Billy Wilkerson were acquainted. They struck up a deal where Siegel would provide the financing for the remainder of the Flamingo for a piece of the action. Siegel presented his bosses with an estimated cost of \$1 million to complete the project. Siegel was a “hands on” partner, making more and more decisions, whether Wilkerson liked it or not (he didn’t). In fact, it wasn’t long before Siegel muscled Wilkerson right out of the project!



Under Siegel’s supervision the costs mounted rapidly, requiring repeated trips to his bosses for additional funds. Siegel made expensive changes to the hotel plans; each of the bathrooms in the 93 guest rooms had its own sewer system, the boiler room and the kitchen were enlarged, thick concrete walls were reinforced with steel, and luxurious carpeting and fixtures were ordered. In addition to the extravagant changes, it appeared that Siegel and his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, were skimming and stashing the cash in numbered Swiss bank accounts. It was rumored that truckloads of building supplies that were delivered (and paid for) by day, were sneaked out at night only to be delivered again (and paid for again) a day or two later.



The Flamingo Casino opened on December 26, 1946; it was a dismal failure. Siegel had chartered two planes to bring celebrities from Hollywood; severe weather prevented the planes from leaving Los Angeles so few celebrities showed up. Players were winning, and the luxurious rooms that would have kept them at the Flamingo weren’t finished. In the first two weeks the Flamingo lost \$300,000, and it closed a couple of weeks later.

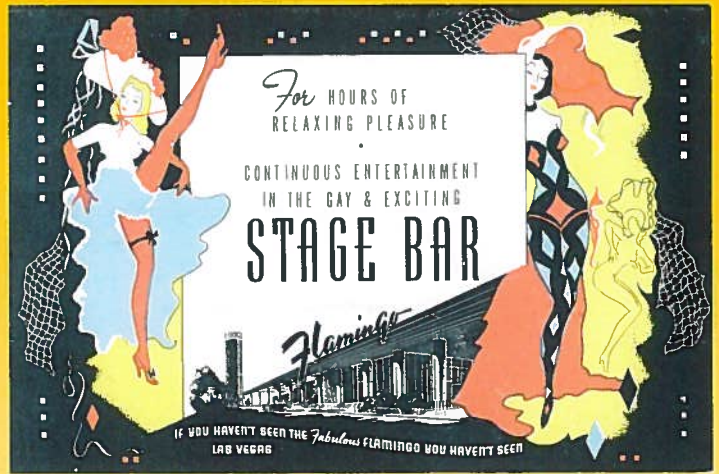


On March 1, 1947, at a final cost of \$6 million, the now-complete Flamingo reopened.

The second time around was successful for the Flamingo, but it was too little-too late for Siegel. Few people mess with the mob and live to tell about it...not even one of their own. On June 20, 1947, while relaxing on the couch with a newspaper, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was gunned down in Virginia Hill's Beverly Hills apartment.



The Flamingo has undergone many ownership changes over the years. Many more millions of dollars have been spent on construction and reconstruction, and the last of the original structure (the Oregon building) was demolished nearly a decade ago...but the Flamingo is still going strong.



*Above photos courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau.*



**Thanks and disclaimers:** As always, special thanks to the authors and editors of *The Gaming Table*, *Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments* and *The Rise of the Biggest Little City*; without those three books, this article couldn't have happened in its present form. Thanks also to Doug Saito, Al Moe, and Mark Englebretson, whose publications provided some of the research for this article. Also, thank you to Frank Steward, for supplying the scans of the beautiful Tahoe Village chips, and the scan of the Tahoe Village postcard. And my usual disclaimer: A lot of books, magazines, pamphlets, and websites provided the information and stories contained in this article...I've done my best to verify the information, but there is some room for error.

# Marlow Casino Chips

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**David Spragg**

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

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# **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.**

The annual meeting of the Corporation was held on June 25, 2011 at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, state of Nevada, for the purpose of reviewing the prior year's business, discussing corporate operations for the upcoming year, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Jim Steffner acted as chairperson and Dawn Satter recorded the minutes.

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following directors were present at the meeting:

**Jim Steffner - President**  
**Sheldon Smith - Vice President**  
**Doug Smith - Treasurer**  
**Dawn Satter - Secretary**  
**Steve Bedo - Membership**

Club Legal Counsel, Eric Rosenblum acted as parliamentarian and 41 members attended.

Motion from the floor to suspend reading of and to accept the minutes from the 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

The following reports were presented at the meeting:

## **Doug Smith - Treasurer**

Rather than take up time I wanted to quickly review the financials thru 12/31/10.

The total revenue for the year was \$119,386 with the largest items being:

Dealer Table Fees - \$26,815

Convention registration - \$10,784

Convention banquet - \$8,775

Promotional Sales - \$6,927

The total Expenses for the year was \$101,275 with the largest being:

Convention - \$36,816

Magazine - \$30,196

MOGH Workshops & Meetings - \$10,408

Total Net Income for the year shows \$18,111 which is a lot better than what we were at 2 years ago.

The numbers were all as published in the Magazine and on the web site.

## **Steve Bedo - Membership**

1700 Members

550 Associate Members

240 Life Members

We have lost 100 members over the past year. The club has had success in signing up new members during the convention.

## **Jim Steffner - President**

All member issues are being discussed individually by the Board of Directors now. Early entry into the convention has gone well. Advertising was increased for the convention this year. The announcement was made that John Zoesch was appointed by the Board of Directors as the new Club Treasurer.

President Steffner called on Election Co-chair, Mary Ann Massey to give the Election Report

## **2011 CC&GTCC ELECTION RESULTS**

The Election Committee, consisting of Bruce & Mary Ann Massey, Election Committee Co-Chairmen, and Dale & Sally Horyna, met on Friday, May 27, 2011 to validate and count the ballots received for the 2011 CC&GTCC Officers and Board of Directors Election. A total of 321 ballots were received which represents 19% of the current CC&GTCC membership of 1,679. Six ballots were voided for a total ballot count of 315.



The results, with the President and Secretary being elected for a two year term (2011 – 2013), are as follows:

Office of President:

**Douglas Smith 174**

Office of Secretary:

**James Follis 105**

**Richard Pokracki 51**

**David Spragg 159**

In summary, the 2011 CC&GTCC Officers and Board of Directors are:

**Douglas Smith, President**

**Sheldon Smith, Vice President**

**David Spragg, Secretary**

**John Zoesch, Treasurer**

**Steve Bedo, Membership Officer**

The above results are hereby submitted for certification by a vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

President Steffner accepted the Committee's report and called for a motion to certify the Election. Membership Officer Bedo moved to certify the Election and a second was received from Treasurer Smith.

President Steffner directed the secretary to cast one ballot for the unopposed slate.

The BoD voted unanimously to certify the Election.

Report accepted

Old Business – None

New Business –

Swearing in of new Officers/Board of Directors

Eric Rosenblum – Parliamentarian, administered the oath of office to:

**Doug Smith - President**

**David Spragg - Secretary**

**John Zoesch - Treasurer**

Questions/Comments from the Membership:

Complaint: Dealers are unhappy that the show hours have been shortened.

Answer: The dealers will be polled regarding the clubs direction and the convention.

Robert McColum speaks about the Lifers Breakfast and the donation of a chip case to the club.

Question: What is happening with the MOGH and where is the MOGH money going?

Answer: Wayne Thompson replies and states that a short message about the MOGH will be included inside of the club magazine on a regular basis.

Question: Is the club still accepting donations for the MOGH?

Answer: Yes, we are. Mike Skelton will be asked as to where they should be sent.

Roy Nelson states the need for more storage space for the club.

The convention chairs and the volunteers are thanked for their service to the club.

Question: Can the show hours be extended later into the evening during future conventions?

Answer: The Board of Directors will discuss this matter.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Satter, Secretary

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**Douglas Smith, President**  
**Sheldon Smith, Vice President**  
**David Spragg, Secretary**  
**Treasurer, John Zoesch**

(BOD appointed John as a replacement for Douglas Smith to complete the remaining one-year of the Treasurer's term)

**Steve Bedo, Membership Officer**  
**Eric Rosenblum, Legal Counsel**

At the June 25, 2011 CC&GTCC annual business meeting, we, the Election Co-Chairmen, will submit the results of the election, which will then be certified, at the meeting, by a vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey,  
CC&GTCC Election Co-Chairmen



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Christine and Sheldon Smith  
*of*  
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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!*

## Update Your Club Listing On the Club Web Site

It's up to you to have the correct information  
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Check out the web site now and then UPDATE your profile!

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

# nevada bicentennial gaming chips and tokens

By Phil Jensen

Originally printed in the December 1976 issue of the CAL-NEVA TOKEN LEDGER, the following article was written by Hall of Fame Club Member Phil Jensen. It chronicles the Bicentennial commemorative chips and tokens issued in Nevada.

The Bicentennial theme was apparent everywhere this year and Nevada gambling halls were no exception. Colorful red, white, and blue chips as well as tokens have been making their way across the green felt in several of the state's casinos.

The clubs, of course, are betting that the gamblers will pocket at least one of them for a souvenir, thereby giving the casino a profit of the difference between their cost and the face value of the chip. On a five-dollar chip this is substantial.

The first establishment to issue a five-dollar Bicentennial chip and perhaps the originator of the whole idea was the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The basically red chip with white and blue edge markings pictured the MGM lion with the dates 1776-1976. This chip was put into play on November 10, 1975, even before the Bicentennial year began.

Shortly thereafter, the Sahara, Golden Gate, and Union Plaza casinos in Las Vegas followed suit by issuing five-dollar chips, each with their personal vignette.

The Union Plaza featured an eagle with the inscription, "Happy Birthday America", and the dates 1776-1976.

This chip was for use on the baccarat table only.

The Sahara Hotel chip featured the American flag with the dual dates around the Sahara Lady.

The Statue of Liberty with an American flag in the background graced the Golden Gate's five-dollar chip. It too, bore the dates 1776-1976.

The Lady Luck Casino in Las Vegas soon issued a five-dollar, sterling silver, 32 millimeter token for use on their twenty-one tables.

This very attractive piece featured a flying eagle with the two dates circled over it.

The Silver Slipper Gambling Hall on the Strip was the first casino to issue a one-dollar chip for the Bicentennial. This blue chip with red and white edge markings pictured the Bicentennial star with the inscription, "American Revolution Bicentennial." It too, carried the dates 1776-1976.

The Holiday Inn followed with a similar one-dollar chip that was used primarily in the poker room. It showed a large ONE decorated in red, white, and blue, with the dates 1776-1976 surrounded by the club's name and eight stars.

Concluding the Southern Nevada list of Bicentennial chips is a small casino just off the Strip with the unlikely name of "The Casino." It produced both a one and five dollar chip. Both were



A rare photo of "The Casino" from when the Bingo Palace bought and remodeled the property, courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau.

rather plain, however, with no picture but only the motto "Bicentennial 1776-1976."

In the northern part of the state things were a bit different. Harvey Gross, owner of Harvey's Hotel at Stateline introduced the first two-dollar Bicentennial chip on April 13, 1976. This, of course, coincided with the issuance of the two-dollar bill and Thomas Jefferson's birthday. Full-page ads in the Lake Tahoe and Reno newspapers advertised the event and the new chip became an immediate success. Since then, several thousand have been pocketed for souvenirs. Apparently the red, white, and blue chip was more of a novelty than its one and five dollar counter-parts; in fact, it could prove to be more popular than the two-dollar bill.



noted on the obverse. The five-dollar bronze token pictured the hotel on the obverse and Washington crossing the Delaware on the reverse, Medalllic Art Company of Danbury CT struck the pieces.



Finally, the Horseshoe Club in Reno issued a five-dollar plastic chip inscribed "1776-1976 Bicentennial." This chip is unusual because it is red on one side and blue on the other. It is advertised throughout the club as a take-home souvenir.



It should be mentioned here that two other two-dollar chips were produced probably as a result of the issuing of the Harvey's piece. They are the two-dollar El Capitan of Hawthorne and the two-dollar Landmark of Las Vegas. They are not, however, Bicentennial pieces,

On 1 July 1976, Gary's Casino, a small club just down the highway from Harvey's opened its doors and put into play a two-dollar chip similar in appearance to its neighbor.



Only two clubs in Reno commemorated the Bicentennial, but one of them, the Holiday Hotel, went all out with five, twenty-five and one hundred dollar gaming tokens which were made of bronze, .999 fine silver, and ten-karat gold, respectively. Their purpose was twofold, in that 1976 marked the hotel's twentieth anniversary as well as the Bicentennial.

On 26 January 1976, the tokens were put into play and were also put on sale to collectors. The original order of the gold 100-dollar token sold out on the first day!

The twenty-five and hundred dollar tokens showed a mustang on the obverse and the Liberty Bell, bald eagle, and thirteen-starred flag on the reverse, the only difference being the denomination



It will be interesting to see what happens to the Bicentennial series as 1977 begins. Perhaps they will be destroyed, stored, or even sold to collectors in the casino gift shops.

*Editor's note: Thank you to Brent J. Jensen and James Campiglia for the chip and token images, and Steve Piccolo for the Harvey's \$2.00 Chip and \$2.00 bill souvenir.*

# COLLECTING CASINO BICENTENNIALS

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL

### 1776-1976



By Brent J. Jensen

Being something of the patriotic sort, I've always loved the Bicentennial of the United States. I was not yet three when it actually happened, so I have no direct memories of where I was, what I was doing, or what I thought of the event (though the wondered awe and jubilant shouts of my own two year-old to fireworks this last 4th of July may give me a hint).

I also don't remember much about my first coin collection (it consisted primarily of pulling a coin of each denomination from penny to quarter from circulation, back to the year I was born), but I do remember the first time I saw one of the 'special' coins minted for the Bicentennial. It was a



quarter just like all the others, but instead of the eagle on the back like every other one, it had the colonial drummer. Further it had the twin date on the obverse, 1776 - 1976. I remember looking at that twin date in awe and (not knowing much about the relative age of countries) wondering how something like our country could be so *old*: further proof that it must be something special. I also remember being at Cub Scout pack meeting explaining my collection, assuring all curious observers that 'since these coins had only been minted for two years and were thus more rare than all of the other "regular" coins, they were sure to become more valuable in the years ahead'.

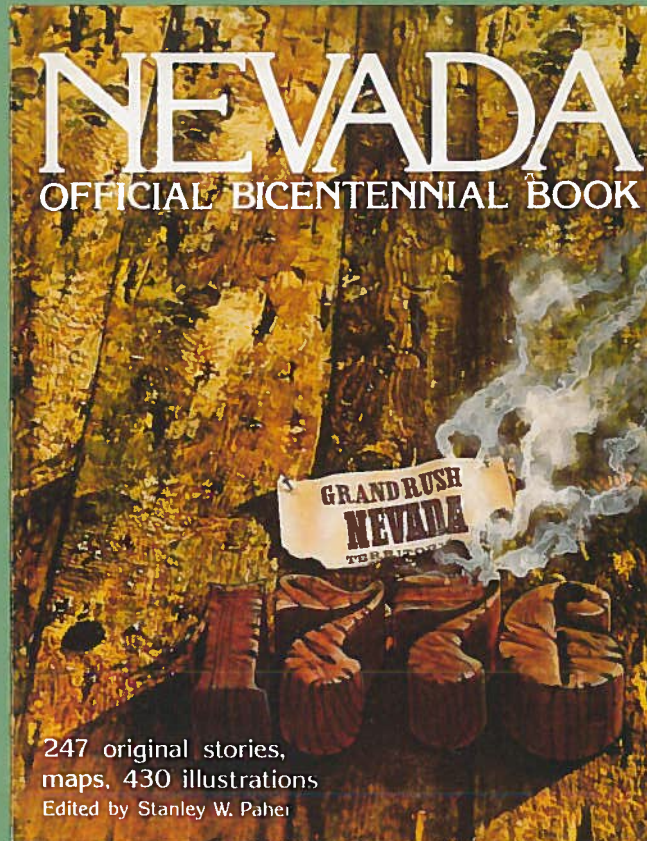
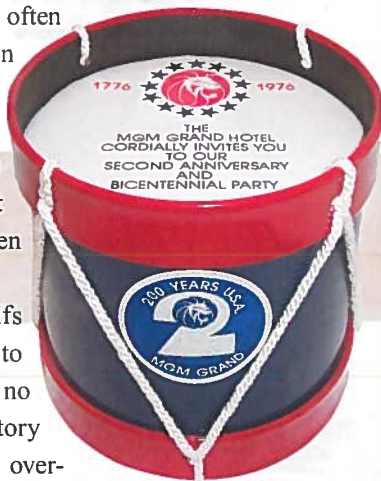
In retrospect I'm hoping that no one liquidated their savings accounts (which at the time were earning double digit interest rates) to 'invest' in Bicentennial coins on the advice of an almost

nine year-old, but the wonder and reinforced sense of patriotism that I experienced in collecting Bicentennial coins would certainly pay dividends in my collecting interests in the succeeding years. This has probably expressed itself to the largest extent since I was introduced to the hobby of collecting casino chips and related memorabilia.

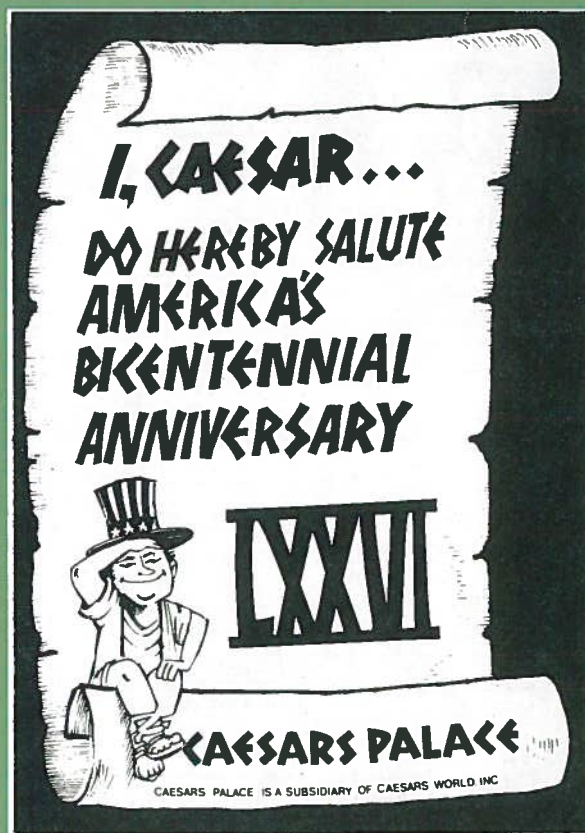
I like collecting casino (and Nevada) Bicentennial paraphernalia for a few reasons. First and foremost, I get to be a kid again. For me a large part of the enjoyment of this hobby is the "Thrill of the Hunt". I like looking for things. I like having to hunt to get them. Once I've found them I feel a sense of pride in my accomplishment, which often quickly fades and so spurs me on to my next quest. The wanting is almost as good (if not as good) as the having. This is not unlike the wonder and excitement I felt as a kid as I hunted for the hidden treasures of my pencil box.

Secondly, the patriotic motifs of the Bicentennial appeal to me. In a cynics view, perhaps no other one event in American history was so crassly over-produced, over-marketed, and over-commercialized as the Bicentennial. Everyone made something to celebrate it. And it was all for sale (many in 'limited' quantities especially for the collector market). But when I was eight and first appreciated what the Bicentennial was I was not yet a cynic, so admiring the flags and eagles and everything else takes me back to the simpler, idyllic (and admittedly romanticized in the intervening years) days of my youth.

Finally, for me the combination of Nevada/casino chips/tokens/etc. with the Bicentennial constitutes a near-ideal collecting universe. There's a reasonable number of items to collect, but the field not so large as to make the notion of a 'complete' collection unobtainable. There are also items to collect at virtually every price point: some Bicentennial chips can be had practically for face value; others I can only hope to afford, and so can become the 'holy grails' that we all seem to have. And because everyone seemed to produce something for the Bicentennial, there's



*In 1976 the "Nevada Official Bicentennial Book" was released featuring stories and ads regarding the nations 200th birthday. We will feature some of the ads from Nevada casinos throughout this story.*



always the chance you'll stumble upon some knick knack that no one's seen before and thus expand that universe a bit further.

Much like the early debates of constitutional law in the nascent American republic, I tend to classify collectors of casino Bicentennials into two camps—I call them the “Strict Constructionists” and the “Loose Constructionists”. The Strict Constructionists tend to take a narrower view of what is classified as a “true” Bicentennial piece—for chips this generally means that it must feature patriotic motifs or otherwise make direct reference to the Bicentennial (often accomplished with the word ‘Bicentennial’ or the twin dates of 1776/1976). Probably the most recognizable Bicentennial chips and tokens would fall into this camp, including the chips issued by the Union Plaza, Golden Gate, Sahara, Harvey’s etc. With the exception of the \$25 Dunes Bicentennial token, I believe

Phil Jensen’s original article written on the Bicentennial (and re-printed in this issue) included all of the Bicentennial chips and tokens from a “Strict Constructionist” view.

On the other end of the spectrum are the “Loose Constructionists”—those who take a more expansive collecting view, and include chips which are not explicitly marked as Bicentennial, but date to the period and prominently feature the colors red, white, and blue. These include such chips as the Landmark \$2, the Hacienda and Gold Dust \$5s, and arguably one



of the most elusive ‘Bicentennials’, the Thunderbird \$5 (which is stamped 1976, but is not double dated nor includes any other direct reference to the Bicentennial). I myself fall into this second collecting camp—if for no other reason it gave me a bit more to collect and allowed me to include one of my favorite chips, the Harvey’s house \$2/\$2.50 error chip.

It’s also interesting to see how the hobby itself has changed in the 35 years since the Bicentennial. As noted by Phil Jensen in his article on chip collecting written for the *Nevada Official Bicentennial Book*,



“Acquiring chips can sometimes be a trying task. There are many current ones which can be bought right at the tables, but old, obsolete ones require much searching. The best way is to get a casino owner to dig into old junkboxes which every casino invariably has.” Certainly comparing those days to the present day of eBay, The Chip Board, and the numerous chip shows and auctions certainly makes me appreciate how far the hobby has come in terms of accessibility to chips that I would otherwise never own and would likely never see. For that I am grateful, since otherwise I wouldn’t be able to participate in this great hobby like I do, and perhaps not at all.

And that’s not to say that I haven’t had my own adventures of sorts while collecting Bicentennial memorabilia. I haven’t been lucky enough to snatch something up for a song that was somehow placed in the wrong category or listed with a ridiculously low ‘Buy it Now’. But I never thought I’d see another brass Nevada Bicentennial token with the dice and slot machine (which matched a counterpart issued as a silver round) after missing out on it at a

Chip Chat auction, only to see another surface some time later on eBay.



Through a query on The Strike Point I was able to obtain one of the Aladdin Grand Opening medals issued in silver, but I’m perhaps equally proud of the smaller Aladdin bronze medallion/keychain, which cost me considerably less but was previously unknown.



Even my research for this article proved fruitful to my collecting pursuits. For the Bicentennial the State of Nevada issued a commemorative medallion, one side of which was stamped with the original design Nevada used for the 1876 Centennial celebration. According to Carey Burke, during the 1976 Nevada Day celebration in Carson City, the mint featured a coin press where you could purchase your planchet and push the button to have the medallion minted for you on the spot. I had always known that it had been produced in bronze and silver (the latter







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 As part of the American Experience  
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 We're proud of our Heritage.



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LAS VEGAS HILTON    FLAMINGO HILTON

*In Las Vegas... Come visit the Hiltons.*

Below are a few more "Strict Constructionist" as well as a few "Loose Constructionist" Bicentennial items...



## Gaming Chips

by Phil Jensen

The forerunner of the modern gaming chip is the Spiel Mark or game counter, which in many cases were crude imitations of the United States coins with unusual captions on them. Since Nevada gambling was not legalized until 1931, even the oldest chips are relatively new. However, chips from the 1930's are still difficult to locate since most have been destroyed when a club closes, when a new issue of chips replaced old ones, or when casinos have been destroyed by fire.

Many chips are hard to identify because the operator was careful not to include much information on them. Generally speaking, chips in the old days had only the owner's initials on one side and the denomination on the other. This enabled the operator to use the same chip in several locations, or, in case the game was operating illegally, any chips seized in a raid would be virtually useless as evidence.

As the years went by and larger clubs opened, chips became more elaborate. Now there are multi-colored ones with names, locations, designs and pictures on them.

Some of the early chips were made in a variety of materials including rubber, glass, celluloid, bake-a-lite, wood and ivory. Most modern chips are made of a special mixture which is a well-kept secret by the manufacturer.

Acquiring chips can sometimes be a trying task. There are many current ones which can be bought right at the tables, but old, obsolete ones require much searching. The best way is to get a casino owner to dig into old junkboxes which every casino invariably has.

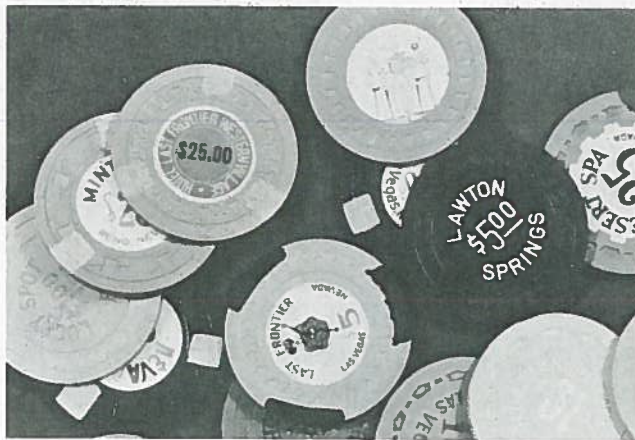
A large part of procuring old chips is making

contacts with people who are in a position to get them. This is especially true in the smaller towns where a one day visit isn't long enough to turn up any choice items.

Just recently when the old Pioneer and Domino Hotels in Reno were torn down, the general manager of the Overland Hotel, who owned the building, found some of the old chips used in the Corner Bar Club and gave them to me.

Many casinos in Hawthorne and in other boom towns have long since closed their doors, having operated in the 1940's and 50's when there was much activity and numerous clubs. Today, old chips from these casinos are very hard to find. Winnemucca and Ely are the other towns which once boasted more clubs than they do now, and, finding old chips from these towns is very challenging.

Hopefully, I might find an old-timer who was shooting dice in one of those old casinos one day twenty years ago and dropped a few chips in his pocket for a souvenir. And maybe he'll give one of them up along with a story that invariably goes with it.



505

*Thanks to Jim Follis for the use of his images of the MGM Drum, Harlod's Club decanter, Slots-A-Fun coaster, Boomtown dice and Sahara Tahoe glass. Thanks to Pam Goertler for the "Nevada Official Bicentennial Book" ads.*

# Thanks!!

To everyone who came by my table at the convention. Please check out my website. Ed Norris  
[www.casinochipcollector.com](http://www.casinochipcollector.com)

# Plattsburg Air Force Base

By John K. Kallman



Like many collectors, I collect far too much “stuff.” Despite my best effort to cut back, my collection seems to keep growing! Also like most collectors, there are several “special” areas that, if hard pressed, I would say interest me the most. One, of course, is charity casino chips from North Dakota, if for no other reason than there are so many that before now have gone un-catalogued. The other area is military-related chips--not just “commemorative” chips issued by various casinos, but items actually used by everyday GIs during their off hours to while away the time far from home. Military tokens, often either used as credit, or in many cases when from overseas locations, slot machines, are very well documented. But casino chips are much less so.

I have known of chips from the Plattsburg Air Force Base, located in upstate New York, for quite some time, but as with many an item, have never actually “seen” one, let alone three of them! Plattsburg has a long relationship with the military, dating back to the establishment of Plattsburg Barracks in 1814. Over the years, both the type of troops stationed there changed as did the military service that graced the name of the base: from Army, to Army-Air Force, to Air Force, until the close of the base in 1995.

There is no indication on these Bakelite constructed chips as to which of the various clubs (Officers, NCO, or Airman) they were used at, but with the “AFB” on them, we can date them to no earlier than 1955 when the base changed hands for at least the third time in its existence.





# CC&GTCC 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.ccgcc.com](http://www.ccgcc.com), click on the "EDUCATION" button to the top of the page. From there click on the "CC&GTCC 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](mailto:terryshaffer@hotmail.com)

# 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.

# WANTED

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# CC&GTCC Claims Form

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

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

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

The process will work as follows:

1. Fill out the form completely, sign and date it.
2. Forward it Vice-President Sheldon Smith.
3. V.P. Smith will make an initial determination on the Claim.
4. If further action or investigation is warranted, V.P. Smith 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. Smith.

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.ccgctcc.com](http://www.ccgctcc.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. Smith. 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.

[Home](#) | [Membership](#) | [Education](#) | [Organization](#) | [Reports](#) | [Message Board](#)

[Conditions](#) | [Glossary](#) | [Chip FAQ](#) | [Chipology 101](#) | [Fakes](#) | [Library](#) | [Cleaning](#) | [Brass Core](#)

## Reference Center

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

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

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

### For The Beginner

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

### Detailed Reference

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

### Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

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

The Education section of the CC&GTCC 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 Collectible News* web site. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

<http://www.ccgccc.com>



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Of Chips-Tokens and Silver Strikes  
Over 20,000 Chips for sale**

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from these states  
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Mississippi  
Atlantic City**

**Gary Rohloff**  
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**715-693-5734**  
**www.rollyschips.com**

---

**Also lots of Chips from these states**

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Wisconsin  
Minnesota  
North Dakota  
South Dakota  
Iowa  
Illinois  
Michigan  
Indiana

Missouri  
Dead Wood, S.D.  
Nevada -  
over 8,000 chips  
New Mexico  
Arizona  
Kansas  
California

Arkansas  
Louisiana  
Montana  
Caribbean  
Canada  
Cruise Ships  
Many Misc.

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**My website is: [www.rollyschips.com](http://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*

# HERITAGE

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Sands \$5 Cowgirl and  
Hourglass Las Vegas  
Casino Chip, Ninth Issue,  
R-9, Circa Late 1950s  
**Sold for \$26,290**  
May 2010  
HA.com/6035\*47380



Flamingo \$25 Las Vegas Casino Chip,  
Third Issue, R-8 / R-10 Uncancelled,  
Circa 1950  
**Sold for \$8,365** May 2010  
HA.com/6035\*47353

Consign now and get  
**Gold Cash!**



Golden Nugget \$25 Las Vegas  
Casino Chip,  
Sixth Issue, R-10, Circa 1950s  
**Sold for \$10,755** May 2010  
HA.com/6035\*47360



Flamingo \$100 Chip: The Elusive  
Highest Denomination  
of the Sought-After "Bugsy" Siegel  
Chip Series  
**Sold for \$10,755**  
November 2010  
HA.com/6047\*47353

View all lots for this November event at [HA.com/6066](http://HA.com/6066)  
and bid in real time at [HERITAGELive.com](http://HERITAGELive.com)



For more information contact:  
Tom Slater - Director, Americana  
214-409-1441 • [TomS@HA.com](mailto:TomS@HA.com)

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