

Volume 25 Number 1
\$6.95

Casino Collectible News

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



Historical Tidbits of the



Las Vegas
H
A
C
I
E
N
D
A

PLUS...

Gambling In Cuba Part 2

Losing The Shoe

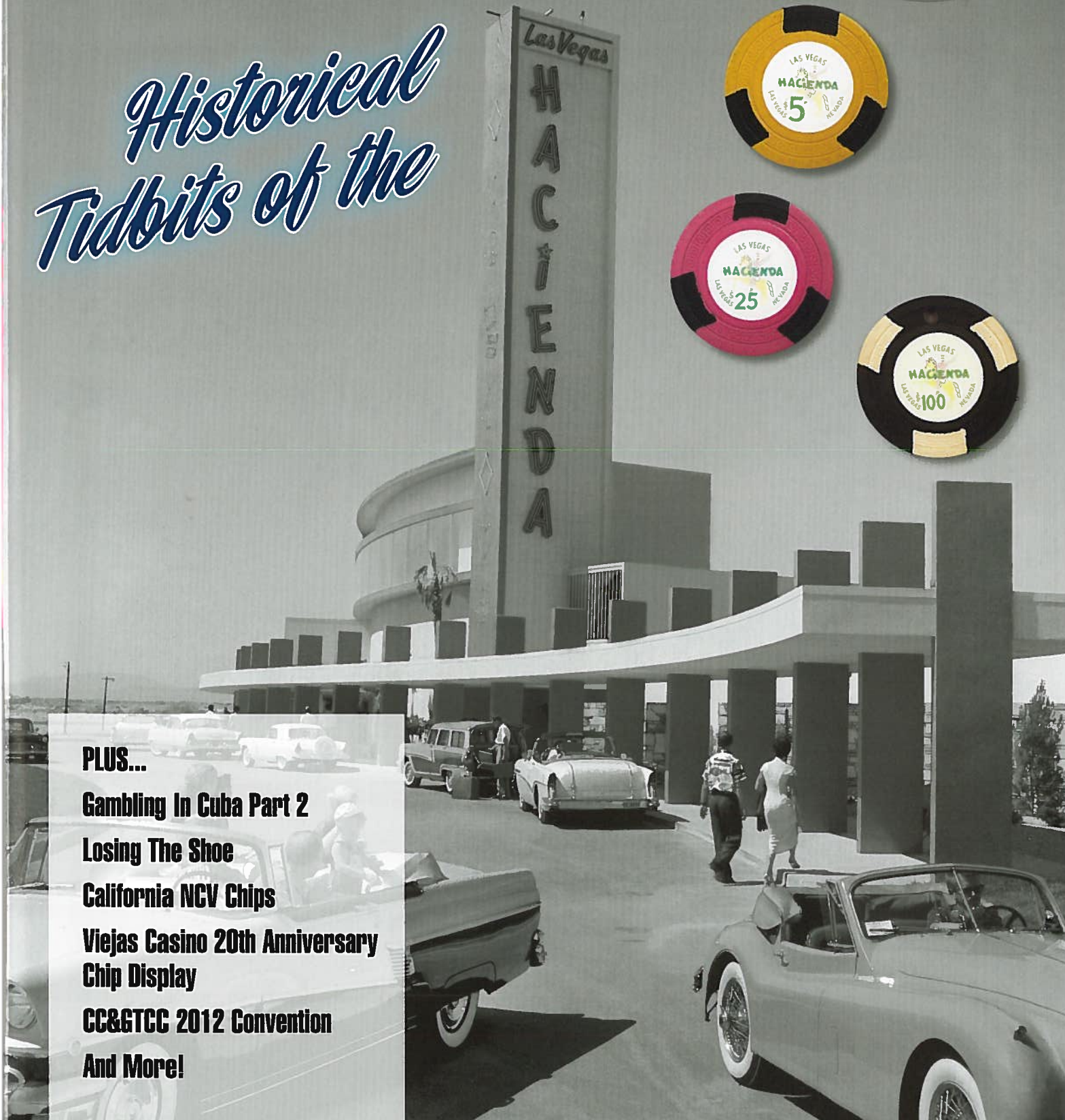
California NCV Chips

Viejas Casino 20th Anniversary

Chip Display

CC>CC 2012 Convention

And More!



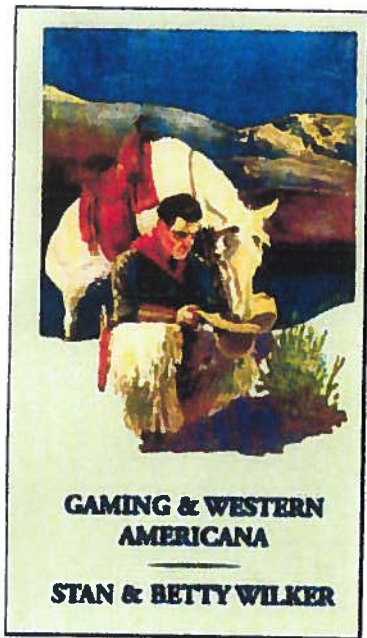
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CC>CC LM 172

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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

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

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.
is a 501(c)(3) educational organization
with the mission of preserving gaming history.

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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>CC Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

E-mail or Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

Chips

Tokens

U.S.

Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

Name and address

E-Mail address

Do not publish any of my information

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

One year \$30.00 - 3rd class or bulk mailing rate

One year Associate Member \$5.00

First class postage - additional \$14.00

International \$55.00 - includes first class postage

International mailings are at the first class rate.
All other mailings are via 3rd class or bulk mail.

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

CC>CC Membership Officer

Steve Bedo

1215 E. Dalton Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741

Sponsored by: _____

or sign up or renew on line at...

www.CCGTCC.com



Casino Collectible News

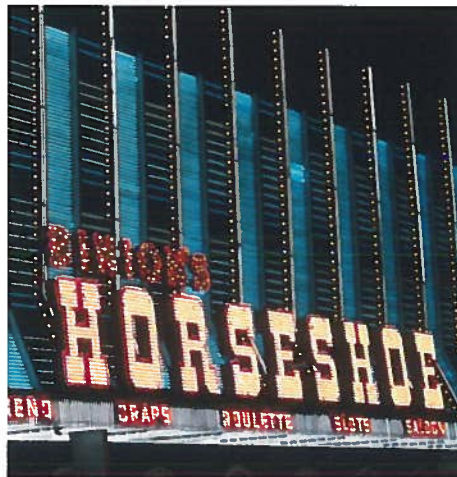
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Cover Photo Courtesy of
the Las Vegas News Bureau

American Numismatic Association Membership Application

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

Regular Student Junior Senior Associate

Present or former ANA number, if any _____

Mr. Mrs Ms.

Name, please print _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Date of Birth _____

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

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

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

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

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Proposer

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Check Money Order Credit Card Type _____

Credit Card all Numbers _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature of Cardholder (Required) _____

Dues

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

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

Forward completed application to:

ANA

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

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

Visit Us Online!

www.CCGTCC.com



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

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

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



See You There!

www.CCGTCC.com

Advertising

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

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

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

Please Note

- Do not send in ads that are folded. We recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND". This will only cost you about \$4.95 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- When ordering items from one of our advertisers, let them know what issue of the magazine in which you noticed their ad.
- All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to "The Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc." or CC>CC. No ad will run without payment

Schedule of Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

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

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

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

Winter Issue
Mailing Date: December
Deadline for Ads: October 1st

Moving?

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

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

Rates

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

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Wants you to advertise in your quarterly magazine for FREE

This coupon is worth one FREE one-inch ad
in *Casino Chip & Token News*

Deadline for ads are
January 1st for 1st qtr. issue April 1st for 2nd qtr. issue
July 1st for 3rd qtr. issue October 1st for 4th qtr. issue

Send all ads to the following:
Charles T. Rodgers, Advertising Manager
P.O. Box 4572 - Lakewood, CA 90711
Need help call 562-408-2463 or E-Mail advertising@ccgtcc.com



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

Expires one year from date _____



Doug Smith
President

President's Letter

Wow, seems like just yesterday since the last convention and already we are in full swing getting prepared for the 2012 convention.

Lots of discussions among the BOD this past quarter as we reviewed all the comments and suggestions from our dealer surveys. Some fantastic suggestions were made and we are doing our best to implement quite a few of them.

Due to popular demand, we have once again lowered the convention registration fees. This year Fridays admission will be \$5 and as always, Saturday will be free.

Pre-registration fees have been lowered to \$15 this year and will be the best deal around. Not only will those that pre-register be able to get in to the show 30 minutes early on Thursday and Friday, but the packages will contain a special chip, tickets for a special pre-registration only raffle and some other goodies still to be announced.

For those Snapper collectors, this years "Dealer Scrip" chip will be in the \$2.50 denomination and will only be available to those that pre-register. This chip can be used at any dealer table on the bourse floor.

The CC>CC will be sponsoring another Raffle this year and based on the prize pool that has already been donated, this will be one of the biggest raffles we have ever had. Please look for the add in this issue of the magazine for information on making a donation or purchasing tickets for your chance of winning a GREAT Prize package.

Thanks again to all the donors as well as those that have purchased raffle tickets as this is an important fundraiser for our club.

Want to be part of the convention? I would urge all our members to volunteer for the convention. It's a great way to meet tons of people and without the support of volunteers we would never be able to put on the great conventions that we all look forward to.

Thanks again to everyone for your support and to all committee chairs as without you our club and convention would never be the same.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the South Point in June and seeing what Mike and Corni Quinlivan have in store for our special 20th convention.

For a full Presidents Report as well as Treasurers, Membership, MOGH and other committee reports, please visit the club website at www.CCGTCC.com.

Doug "Cigarman" Smith
LM-3209-147

Editor's Note

There was a small omission on the last issue of the club magazine that may make the article entitled "The Bridge" seem a bit confusing. On page 52, a portion of the last paragraph is missing, it should read as follows:

".....among other things one cannot find in the larger casinos just down the road in Las Vegas. And in the gift shop among the various trinkets, candy bars and sodas was a token commemorating the opening of the bridge in October of 2010. While I normally would not buy this type of item, the back had the name of the casino on it, which of course makes this a modern day casino trinket – something I do collect!"

New Members

Member #	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
8369	Jamrus	Dave	IL	Bourbonnais	Albert Scalzo
8370	Nylen	Kathleen	NV	Las Vegas	2011 Convention
8371	Asercion	Joseph	MO	Silver Spring	Campiglia & Wells
8372	Frederick	Vince	TX	Spring	Club Website
8373	Di Palma	Kay	TX	Ft Worth	Charles Kravitz
8374	Lukanic	Brian	IL	Lombard	David Spragg
8375	Barbiaux	Jason	PA	Pittsburgh	Derek Bistricky
8376	Heird	Tim	OK	Grove	Andy Hughes
8377	Marsh	Jim	NV	Las Vegas	Convention
8378	Naples	Louise A.	CA	Manteca	Andy Hughes
8379	Rego	Don	CA	Napa	Allan Anderson
8380	Haralson, Jr.	Emmett J.	PA	Greenville	Club Website
8381	Barstow	Jeremiah	OH	Alliance	Archie Black
8382	Peter	John	NY	Derby	Ricky Pushkin
8383	Davis	Richard	AZ	Tucson	Andy Hughes
8384	Orama, Jr.	Manual	CA	San Jose	Archie Black
8385	Futhey	John	WI	Menomonee Falls	Club Website
8386	Contreras	Christian	TX	Converse	Club Website
8387	Byrnes	Philip R.	NV	Las Vegas	Club Website
8387	Webb	Christopher	NV	Las Vegas	Walter Dirzulaitis
8389	Kelley	Justin	IN	Granger	Andy Hughes
8390	Baranske	Mike	WA	Vancouver	Club Website
8391	Maren	Jonathan	MA	North Andover	Andy Hughes
8392	Bertacchi	Armand	IL	Wheaton	Club Website
8393	Heinz	Gary	CA	El Cajon	Former Member
8395	Beigel	Evan	CA	Santa Clarita	Club Website
8396	Maassen	Jerry	TX	Arlington	Former Member

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

Update Your Club Listing On the Club Web Site

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

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

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



John Zoesch
Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

The information contained in this report reflects costs and expenditures for the period of 10/01/11 thru 12/31/11.

Highlights of the Fourth Quarter of 2011 (10/1/11-12/31/11)

- Prepared books for annual audit in February 2012
- Coordinated with several members to sell personal chips as a donation to the club.
- Worked with other BOD members on ways to cut expenses and increase income.
- Transferred more money to Club High Interest account from checking. About 37% of annual interest was earned in the last quarter.

Club Accounts

The current balances as of 012/31/11 in the CC>CC accounts are as follows:

General Fund Business Checking	\$ 19,112.75
Museum Fund Money Market	\$ 99,499.85
Life Membership Fund Money Market	\$ 62,136.14
General Fund Money Market	\$ 89,671.82
Total of all four accounts	\$270,420.56

The above totals do not reflect checks written in the amount of \$9,785.93 for payments that have not yet cleared and deposits in the amount of \$65.95 that were made after the 12/31/11 date. On 12/10/11 \$15,000 was transferred from checking to high yield savings to take advantage of the available interest.

The 20th Annual CC>CC Convention

This year marks our 20th annual convention and we are planning on making it the best ever. We have already started to receive checks for table fees and advertising for the convention program.

The Museum Fund

The amount currently in the Museum fund is \$99,499.

Greg Susong Memorial Fund

The remaining balance of \$2,365 that was donated by members has been added to the club accounts. This amount will be kept track of separately for future awards costs until depleted.

Membership

This past quarter saw \$11,915 in membership payments.

2012 Casino Collectables Calendar

The 2012 Calendar has made a profit of \$1,291 so far. With anticipated sales of dates and calendars increasing this has turned into a fantastic fund raiser for the club.

Period Revenue (10/1/2011 Thru 12/31/11)

The following monies were collected during the period of 10/01/11 thru 12/31/11.

Membership Renewals	\$11,915
2012 convention table fees & adv	\$2,955
Promotion Sales	\$295
Museum Fund Donations	\$30
CCN Magazine Advertising	\$660
Calendar Sales	\$920
Sale of donated items	\$271
Interest Income and misc.	\$136
Total Period Revenue	\$17,182

Period Expenses (Thru 12/31/11)

The following expenses were paid during the period of 10/01/11 thru 12/31/11.

CCN Magazine	\$503
Calendar	\$1,232
Misc. Postage (Membership/Promotions)	\$1,206
Advertising	\$20
Paypal/Bank Fees	\$210
Misc. Supplies	\$447
Filing Fees	\$110
Insurance	\$1,107
Total Period Expenses	\$4,835

Period Account Balance Reconciliation (Thru 12/30/11)

Total balance in all accounts as of 10/01/11	\$257,774
Revenue for the Period thru 12/31/11	\$17,182
Expenses for the Period thru 12/31/11	\$(4,835)
Balance of all accounts as of 12/31/11	\$270,421

An accounting of the full 2011 year is also available on the Club website.

THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB INC.

Income & Expense/Equity Statement (Cash Basis)

January 1 Thru December 31, 2011

INCOME

Membership Dues (Includes 1st class postage & Life Memberships)		\$	48,182
Convention 2011:			
Table Fees	\$	20,815	
Registration	\$	10,007	
Banquet	\$	6,875	
Program Advertising	\$	1,185	
Poker & BJ Tournaments	\$	-	
Auction Proceeds (Includes Catalog)	\$	7,252	
Convention 2011 Total:		\$	46,134
Promotion Sales		\$	8,540
2012 convention table fees		\$	2,605
2012 convention advertising		\$	350
Museum Fund Donations		\$	2,741
Magazine Advertising		\$	3,797
Nevada State sales tax (To be paid)		\$	-
Raffle Tickets		\$	1,045
Calendar Sales (Costs Deducted)		\$	1,291
SSOY and other Donations		\$	479
Greg Susong Memorial Fund donations		\$	2,365
Sale of donated items		\$	686
50/50 Raffle		\$	158
Interest Income/misc		\$	371
Total income :		\$	118,745

EXPENDITURES

Magazine		\$	33,255
Convention (Includes Convention program)		\$	37,169
Advertising		\$	4,406
Promotion		\$	4,397
Video Production (Convention/Seminars)		\$	2,400
Storage (Occupancy)		\$	3,408
Museum Fund Expenses / Promotional Items		\$	1,696
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$	3,864
Bank Charges / Paypal Fees / Ebay Fees		\$	1,432
Websites		\$	550
Misc, Supplies (Includes Membership Pins/Cards)		\$	845
Filing Fees		\$	290
Printing		\$	633
Telephone		\$	90
Insurance		\$	1,450
Total Expenditures :		\$	95,884

Net Income - 01/01/11 to 12/31/11 \$ 22,861

Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/11	\$	267,841
Net Income - 01/01/11 to 12/31/11	\$	22,861
Change In Inventory - 01/01/11 to 12/31/11	\$	-
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/11	\$	290,702

Detail of Equity Balance - 12/31/11

General Fund - Checking	\$19,113	
General Fund - Money Market	\$89,672	
Museum Fund (Formally Building Fund)	\$99,500	
Life Membership Fund	\$62,136	
Total Cash Available		\$ 270,421
Inventory (October 2010 listing)		\$ 20,081
Advance (Promotions)		\$ 200
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/11		\$ 290,702

Respectfully Submitted, John Zoesch - Treasurer
January 8, 2012

Convention 2012

By Mike and Corni Quinlivan



It's hard to believe but this year we will be holding the 20th annual CC>CC Convention. To celebrate with some flair this year's theme has been designated as The Roaring 20's. The celebration will begin Wednesday June 20th and conclude on Saturday June 23rd.

For those of you that have not experienced the South Point there are several reasons why this facility has been chosen to host our conventions at least through 2013. The show floor is big and easy to access with wide aisles. They have excellent restaurants that are reasonably priced, a bowling alley with 64 lanes, a movie theater with 16 screens and a very good selection of table games and slots.

Be sure to make your plans early, book your room at the South Point and make your airline reservations. We hope to provide yet another great convention for all to attend and enjoy. Maybe we'll have a few surprises too.



Help Wanted

Our conventions are run by volunteers and without volunteers the show could not go on. Please consider donating a few hours to help with registration, promotions table, auction table, membership table, or show set-up and tear down. Please contact Belinda Hixon, Volunteer Coordinator – txbel1711@aol.com.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration is again being offered to those who would like to eliminate standing in long lines on Thursday and Friday morning. The price this year has been lowered to \$15.00 and you get to enter the show a half hour early Thursday and Friday. In addition, there will be a \$2.50 Scrip chip (snapper) included with each pre-registration packet.

The registration form can be found in this issue of the magazine and on the Club website. George D. will again be handling the pre-registration. His address and e-mail are on the registration form. Payment by check or money order made out to CC>CC must accompany the form. No credit card transaction can be used with the mail-in form. Be sure to include your e-mail or phone number to receive your confirmation.

You can also pre-register on-line at the Club website, www.ccgccc.com using PayPal. Be sure to follow all of

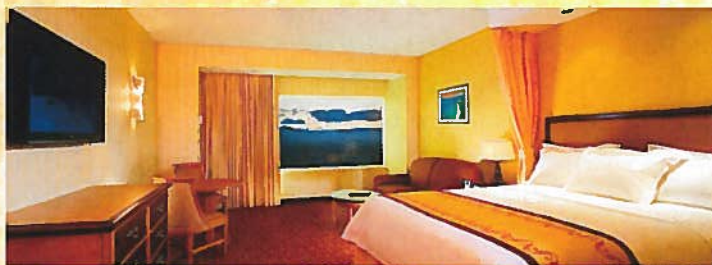
the instructions in each step of the registration process. Do not close out until you are shown that you have completed the process. With either the mail-in form or the on-line process, you WILL receive a confirmation within 30 days. If you do not receive your confirmation, you are NOT registered. Postmark and on-line deadline is May 4, 2012. Any registrations received after that date cannot be accepted.

Each person must pick up his or her own packet using a photo ID with address. No packets will be mailed to non-attendees. Children under 12 will not be charged for show entry; therefore pre-registration for them is not required. However, please provide their names and ages and a special Junior Collector packet will be available for them.

Pre-registration packets can be picked up at the registration desk on Wednesday June 20, 2012 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm ONLY and during regular registration desk hours on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. There will be four lines separated alphabetically to make the process smooth and fast. Your pre-registration envelope will contain your show badge, banquet tickets (if ordered), poker and blackjack confirmations (if participating), and any special coupons, freebies or give-a-ways that we can obtain.

Hotel Reservations

You may reserve your room directly with the South Point Hotel by calling their toll free reservation number at 866-791-7626 or 702-797-8005. Be sure to tell them to use our special booking code "CAS0615". You may also book your reservation by using the internet. Go to the Club website (www.ccgctc.com) and select the link on the left hand side



that says "2012 Hotel Booking". The deadline to book your room within our block is May 25, 2012 or until our block of rooms is filled.

Hotel room rates for the 2012 convention are \$50.00/night Sunday through Thursday and \$80.00/night for Friday and Saturday. If you are coming to Las Vegas early or staying over after the convention our room block runs for more than

two weeks from Tuesday June 12th through Thursday June 28th. Remember, in order to be within our room block your reservation MUST be made by May 25th.

As an incentive to book your room using the Club special booking code your name will be entered into a drawing of prizes throughout the show. Besides the drawings, and only available to those who book their reservations through the Club, keep in mind that all the reservations made at the South Point that are included in our special room block help the Club keep costs down in future years and assist us in negotiating favorable contracts for future conventions. Support your Club, be eligible for prizes and stay at the South Point.

Chip & Medal Design Contest

Submit your ideas, sketches or finished art for our chip and medal design contest and compete for cash prizes. Your winning entry could be on the Club chip, the silver and bronze medals or the T-shirt for the 2012 20th Annual Convention. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd places in the chip, medal and T-shirt design categories. Remember, the theme for this year's convention is The Roaring 20's. Good Luck!!

Early Bird Banquet And Trade Session

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 20th. Reserve your tickets using the registration form or on-line. Ticket price is \$45.00 per person or \$450.00 for a table of 10. No tickets will be available at the door.

The theme is The Roaring 20's, so come



as a flapper or dress up in your duds and maybe you will just win a prize. While this isn't a formal event, theme related or business casual will be appropriate. Please, no flip-flops, shorts or tank tops.

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

All banquet attendees must be Club members. If you plan on bringing a spouse or friend, make sure to sign them up for Club membership BEFORE the banquet. There will be no opportunity to join the Club at the show before Thursday morning after the exhibit hall opens. Banquet tickets will be in your pre-register envelope and can be picked up at the registration desk between 9:00am and 4:00 pm ONLY on Wednesday June 20, 2012.

When the banquet ends about 8:00 pm, the trade session begins. Bring what you can carry, allow space for others and remember NO direct selling of items.

Exhibits

Grand Ballroom - A & B



All members are encouraged to enter an exhibit and compete for cash prizes.

The exhibits that members provide show their collecting specialties and interests. The exhibits can be either competitive or non-competitive. Contact Casey Focazio-Follis, Exhibit Chairman at exhibits@ccgtcc.com to enter. The Club will provide the display cases at no cost for your exhibit.

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

Educational Seminars

Rick Pokracki has lined up some great speakers to keep everyone well informed, educated and entertained. Watch for a complete seminar schedule in the next issue of the Casino Collectible News and on the Club website.

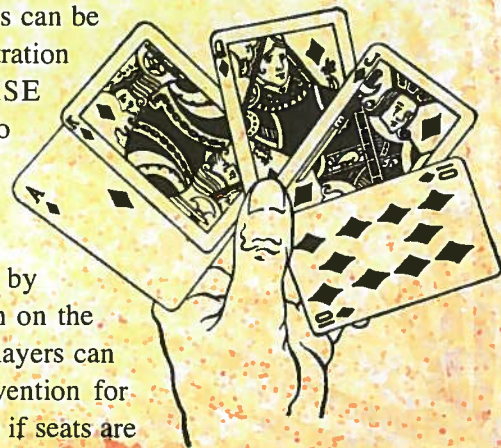
Bruce Landau Memorial Auction

The auction will be held Thursday, June 21st at 7:00 pm. Once again, David Spragg will be organizing this popular event. David is assembling some excellent lots for this year's auction that may include some lower and medium priced items other than chips. Be sure to order your auction catalog as they usually sell out by show time.

Poker Challenge And Blackjack Tournament

The Poker Challenge and Blackjack Tournament will again be held at the South Point. The action starts on Wednesday June 20th with the Blackjack Tournament at noon. The Poker Challenge will be Friday evening with a start time of 7:00 pm. Be sure to stay tuned for more details. Registration for both tournaments can be done on the registration form.

PLEASE NOTE - due to gaming regulations payment for the tournaments MUST be made by check and mailed in on the registration form. Players can sign up at the convention for the Poker Challenge if seats are



still available. Cost remains the same this year at \$90.00 for the Poker Challenge and \$70.00 for the Blackjack Tournament.

A special set of tournament chips will be available for purchase starting on Saturday morning June 23rd when the show opens or mail through the Promotion Director. For any questions please contact Tournament Chairman Bob Pardue at Robert.pardue@cox.net.

Trade Sessions

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

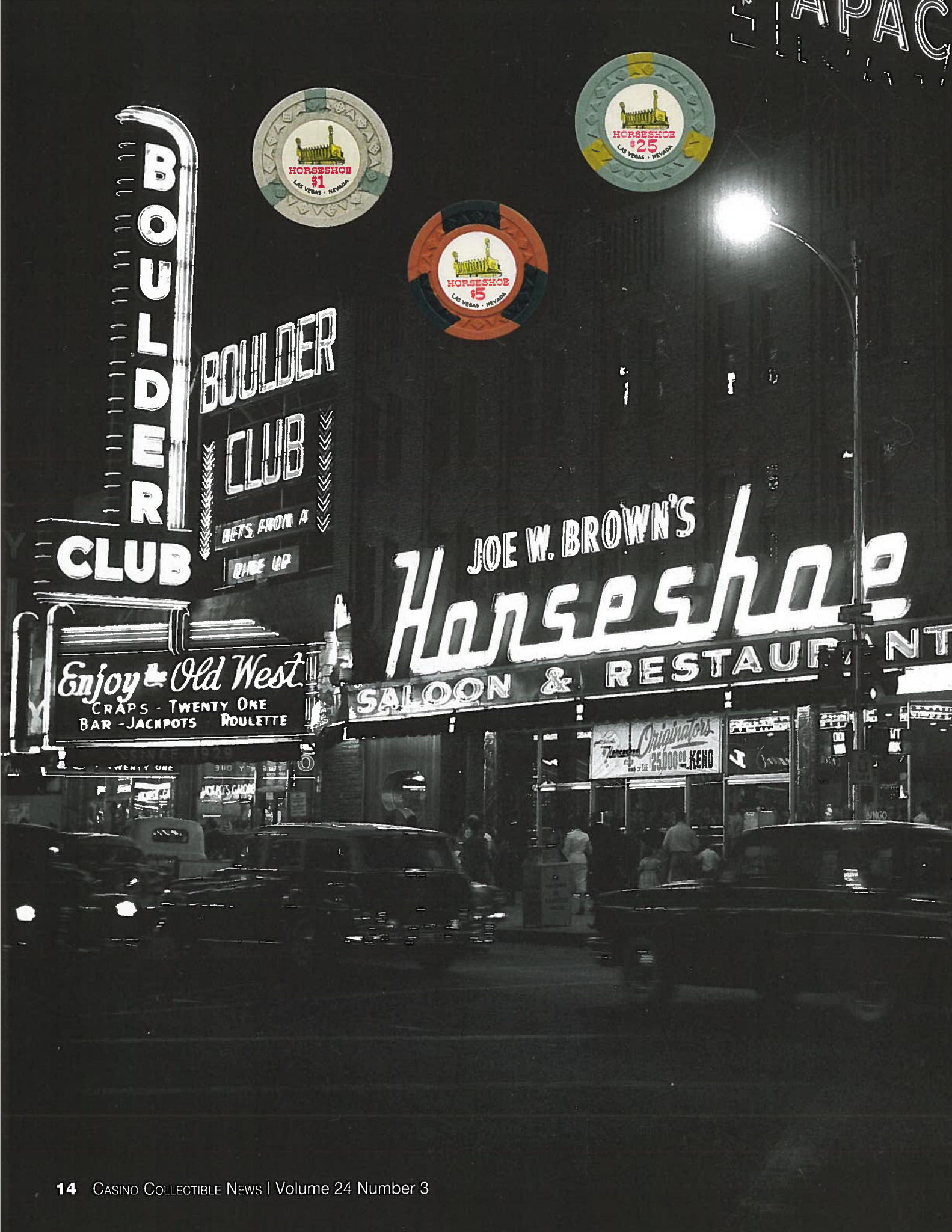
Last Dance Swap Meet

On Saturday, June 23rd, the Last Dance Trade Session will be held. The event will begin at 7:00 pm and last

until the last two traders call it quits. This will be the last chance for members to get together after the show floor closes to add that last chip, token, strike or slot card to their collection. Check the show schedule for the location.

Watch for more updates in the next magazine and on the Club website at CCGTCC.com. Make your plans now to be in Las Vegas on June 20th through the 23rd for the 20th annual gala, appropriately named The Roaring 20's. We hope to see you there!





Losing The Shoe

by Steve Fischer



Three days after the Horseshoe was raided and closed, Harrah's held a press conference to announce its pending purchase of the Horseshoe from Becky Behnen

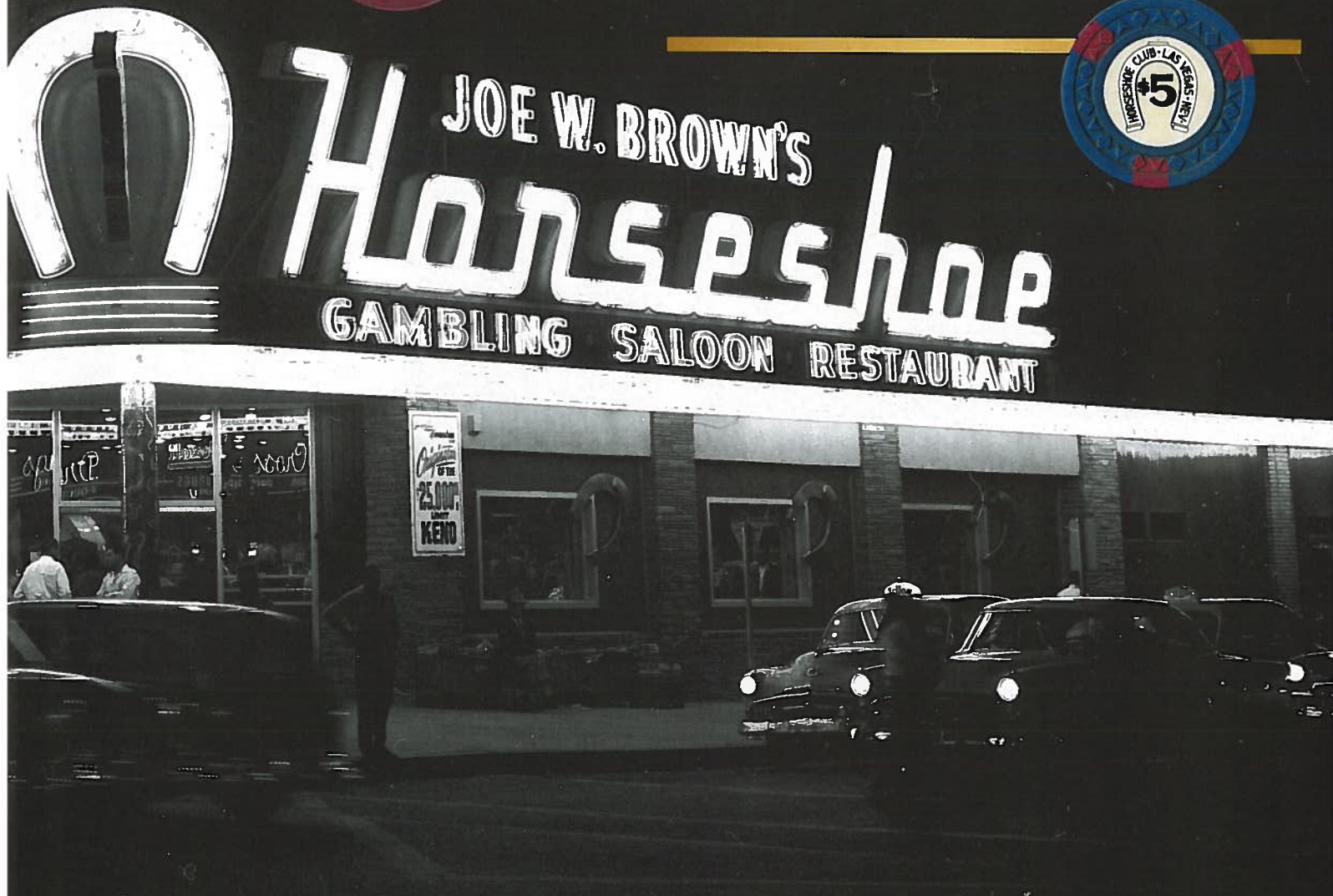


Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

W

e last left Benny Binion in the story about the marathon poker game between Nick the Greek and Johnny Moss, put on by Benny at his Horseshoe Club supposedly lasted for 5-months, from January through May of 1949 called "THE GREATEST GAME NEVER PLAYED," the supposed genesis of the WSOP.

Moving forward to 1951, and Benny has just purchased the Eldorado Club from the Silvagni family. He purchased the building, the old Eldorado Club, but not the land. Silvagni told Benny that he would sell him the building, but the land it sat on would only be available to Benny through a ground lease. This meant that every 10 years, the Binions would sit down with the Silvagnis, and discuss the rent for the next 10 year period.



A very early photo of the Horseshoe before the neon lights would go up. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.



Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

In 1951 Benny opened The Horseshoe Casino, which actually sat on land owned by three different landowners. So, just in case, Benny were late making one of the payments on the land leases, but kept the other two up to date, Binion's landlord who wasn't getting paid couldn't evict 1/3 of the Horseshoe.

One of the principle owners of the Silvagni property that the Horseshoe stood on was William Coulthard. Coulthard was an ex-FBI agent, Las Vegas' first resident FBI agent in fact, who married the daughter of the Silvagni family. She died a few years later, and her piece of the ownership of Binion's property was inherited by her husband, Bill Coulthard.

Benny Binion's friend and attorney during the 1950s was Harry Claiborne. Harry went on to become a Federal Judge, and was removed from the bench some years later for income tax evasion. Back in 1953 the Great State of Texas was getting a little tired of trying to extradite



Benny Binion back to Dallas so he could stand trial for any number of different crimes they believed they could convict him of. The governors of Texas and Nevada were both getting a little fed up with Benny ducking a number of obviously legitimate charges. And Harry Clairborne agreed, this might be a very good time to make a deal. He'd have his client, Benny Binion, plead guilty to two counts of Federal tax evasion. All other charges and inquiries against Benny would be immediately dropped. Among the





agency couldn't catch up with one of the most famous and most visible men in Las Vegas. He had regular office hours down in the Horseshoe Coffee Shop, and somehow Benny was always aware when lawmen from Texas were coming into Las Vegas.

Clairborne, Benny's attorney, counseled Benny to make a deal with the feds. All charges would be dropped with the exception of the two counts of Income Tax evasion, in exchange for a guilty plea on both counts. In exchange, Benny would be sentenced to five years in prison.

Benny was locked up in Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas on Dec. 12, 1953, and released on April 19, 1957. A model prisoner, Benny was released after serving only 3 years and 4 months.

When Benny pled guilty to the Federal Tax charges, he knew he was going to be gone for as long as five years, and he had to get someone who could buy the Horseshoe from him, run it successfully while he was in prison, and then sell it back to him at a legitimate profit.

ENTER JOE W. BROWN OF NEW ORLEANS

charges dropped was one for Capital Murder (the death of Herbert Noble's wife), as well as state charges having to do with Binion's vice-grip control of all the illegal gambling in Dallas and its suburbs.

The Attorney General of Texas was looking at over 100 different charges that he was considering trying Benny Binion on – all having to do with gambling. But it was costing the State of Texas a great deal of money along with a great deal of embarrassment that the Rangers, the Dallas Police Department and a federal

Joe was in Las Vegas many times a year, he owned substantial real estate in the city. Joe W. Brown Drive runs south off Sahara. It's the land where the Las Vegas Convention Center now sits. That giant parcel of land is where Joe W. Brown built a horse track. It



A fantastic photo of a Helldorado Parade float from Joe W. Brown's Horseshoe as it sails right past the casino of the same name. The float represents the block of Fremont Street that contains the Horseshoe and is referred to as "Glitter Gulch."

Photo Courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.



A very early matchbook cover for the Horseshoe and the El Dorado Corp.

MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF

When Joe W. Brown took over operations at the Horseshoe, he re-branded everything from casino chips, to ashtrays, to parade floats, to matchbooks. If it once said "Benny Binion's Horseshoe" or just plain "Horseshoe" Joe made sure it read "Joe W. Brown's Horseshoe."



Brown also made an attempt at removing the Binion's name on the chips they were using in the Horseshoe when he took over. You will notice that the chips on the right have a portion of the name "Binion's" scratched off. Brown had his crew painstakingly remove "inion" out of "Binion's" from every chip in the casino.





Joe W. Brown (far right) posing with his newly branded Million Dollar display. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

was a beautiful track with a great clubhouse, lots of entries, and lots of purse money to go around. But people who go to Vegas don't want to wait the 17-minutes between races. Craps, BlackJack and the other casino games were much better suited to the vacationer who was only in town for three days. The racetrack closed within one season.



A oversized holiday matchbook

But Joe W. Brown was one of the wealthiest men in New Orleans and in Las Vegas. Besides knowing Joe for years, Benny knew that he needed \$5 million to cover his legal expenses. And Joe was willing to pay Benny \$5 million for Benny's share of the Horseshoe. He also agreed that when Benny got out of jail, he'd sell the Horseshoe back to him.

Benny had to find an outside executive

to run the place for him. Years later he would turn the day-to-day of the Horseshoe over to his kids, but when Benny headed off to prison, Lonnie "Ted" Binion was just 10-years old, and Jack was only 16. (Jack was the second oldest of the Binion kids). Binion actually had five children; daughters; Barbara, Brenda and Becky, and sons; Jack and Lonnie "Ted" Binion.

Barbara was unfortunately hooked on drugs and attempted suicide in the early 1970s. She only succeeded in shooting off much of her face. She lived in seclusion, addicted to the same heavy drugs that plagued Ted, and died of an overdose in 1977. She was the oldest of the Binion siblings.

When Benny was released from prison in 1957, he went to see Joe W. Brown to purchase the Horseshoe back. However, Brown was only willing to sell controlling interest back to Benny, not all the shares he owned. It wasn't until seven years later that Benny would get back complete ownership of the Horseshoe. It wasn't until 1964 that Benny regained complete control of the Horseshoe.

NO GAMING LICENSE FOR YOU!



In 1967, Benny lost his gaming license. The Gaming Control Board finally voted to revoke Benny's license because of his felony record. Also in 1967, Ted Binion was named casino manager of the Horseshoe, his brother Jack would be the president of the hotel, their mother, Teddy Jean would run the cashier's cage, and Becky would run the kitchen. All in the family.

Also in that year, Teddy was kidnapped. Though he was freed unharmed, the taxi driver who was involved in the kidnapping was found shot dead. No one asked Benny where he was when this happened.

In July of 1972, Bill Coulthard sat down with Benny Binion to discuss how much it was going to cost the Horseshoe to lease the ground it sat on. Bill had left his job in the FBI's Las Vegas Field Office and began work in Las Vegas as an attorney.

The monthly income from the Horseshoe rental kept everyone in the Silvagni family very happy for years. This was the third time



the land lease was renegotiated. In 1952 when Binion bought the Eldorado Club, the original land lease was put into effect. In 1962, there was a substantial raise in rent as the Horseshoe was by then quite successful. Ten years later in 1972, it was 109 degrees outside and Bill and Benny began arguing. There are two different versions of the conversation that Bill Coulthard had with Benny Binion on that fateful day in July.

Version 1

“YOU WANT HOW MUCH RENT, YOU SUM’BITCH?” “If you think there’s any way in hell that I’m going to sit still for you doubling my rent for the next ten years, you better think again, shyster!”, said Benny.

Coulthard told Benny he didn’t mind if he wanted to pack up his casino, and find a new place when their current 10-year agreement would expire later in the year. To which Benny told Coulthard what he could do with his new rent.

Bill Coulthard walked out of the Horseshoe into the 109 degree heat, walked across the street to his car in the parking garage, sat down in his car, put his key in the ignition, turned on the starter and Bill Coulthard and his nice new 1972 Cadillac were blown all over the second level of the parking garage of the Bank of Nevada.

The Metro police and the FBI were in agreement that it was probably four sticks of dynamite which blew Coulthard and his car to Kingdom Come. The explosion was so powerful in fact, Coulthard was decapitated.

Version 2

The FBI files, which are available through the Freedom of Information act, tell a different story... a completely different reason for the Coulthard murder.

According to the FBI files, a possible reason for the bombing

was that during the meeting, Bill Coulthard told Benny that he would have to deal with the “new land owner.” Apparently, Bill had negotiated the sale of his land, the land that the Horseshoe sat on, to “A competitor of Binion’s... a man Benny hated.” That person’s name was blacked out of the FBI file on Benny Binion.

Whatever the reason, ex-FBI agent, and landlord of the Horseshoe Casino, William Coulthard, was dead. With Coulthard out of the picture, the land deed was to remain with the Silvagni family, nearly all of whom were afraid of Benny.

Benny and the next of Silvagni’s relatives sat down to discuss the terms for the next 10 year. For some reason, the Silvagni family, who didn’t much like Bill Coulthard anyway, was very eager to reach a new rental agreement for The Horseshoe. It took less than 10-minutes to agree to terms. “Damn shame what happened to Coulthard,” Benny said. “Just a damn shame.”

And, Benny had successfully negotiated another contract... this time for a ten year ground lease on the land the Horseshoe sat on. It was nearly the exact same money as the last ten year lease, no increases.

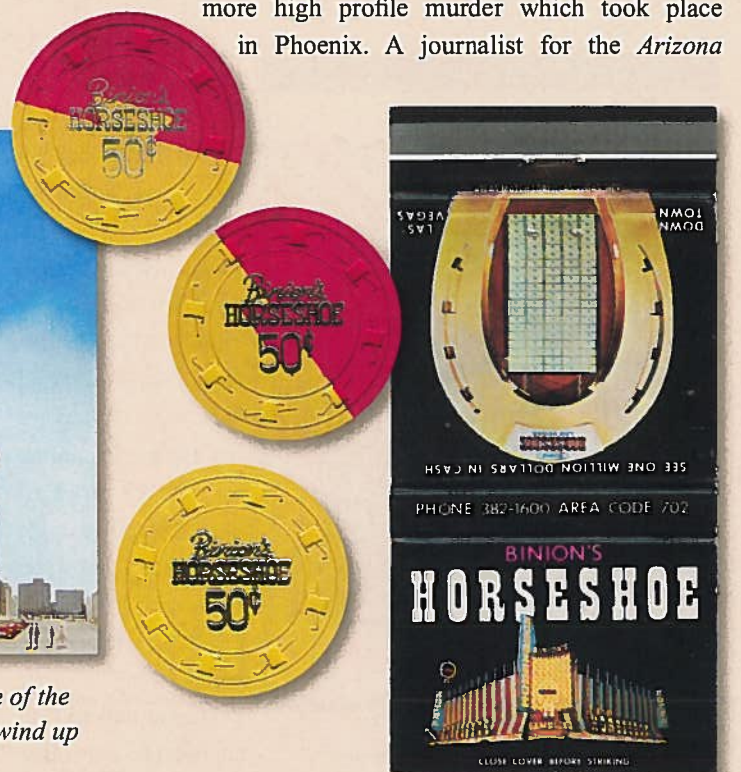
Everyone in town was aware of who had likely set up the bombing. But the Sheriff in town, the famous Sheriff Ralph Lamb, a very good friend of Benny Binion’s and his sons, would never allow charges to be brought against any of them.

The FBI lab technicians that were going over the residue of the bomb, found a guitar pick being used as a triggering devise. This was the trademark signature of a known bomber living in Las Vegas. No charges were ever brought against that individual either.

Four years after the bombing of Coulthard, there was an even a more high profile murder which took place in Phoenix. A journalist for the *Arizona*



A postcard of an artist rendering of the proposed lighting scheme of the exterior of the Horseshoe. Once completed the Horseshoe would wind up literally encrusted with neon tubing and flashing lights.





The Dice Swirl mold chips put out in the 1950's with the famous Horseshoe graphic with Benny Binion's photo inside of it.

Republic newspaper was working on one of those blockbuster stories. He was researching the trail of skimmed money which was leaving three Las Vegas casinos and was being distributed through some of the racetracks in Arizona.

To stop the story from being reported, someone planted a dynamite bomb in the car driven by Don Boles, the investigative reporter for the *Arizona Republic*. When the bomb squad was combing the site for clues, they found that same signature guitar pick used in the Bill Coulthard bombing in Las Vegas.

Boles died 11 days after a bomb was detonated beneath his car in the parking lot of a central Phoenix hotel. Max Dunlap was believed to have hired two men to do the job at the request of a liquor wholesaler and a landowner named Kemper Marley. Dunlap, a Phoenix contractor, was convicted and sentenced to life, Marley was never charged in the case.

THE BEHNENS, BECKY, NICK, AND BENNY

In 1981, Benny's daughter, Becky Binion married Nick Behnen. Nick's new father-in-law Benny thought he'd help the kids out. He wanted Nick to run the Silver Star casino in downtown Las Vegas. After their investigation of Nick Behnen, which was done as a favor to Benny, the Nevada Gaming Commission, turned down Nick's application for a license. The Gaming Commission found that though he had a very lengthy arrest record, he failed to list most of these arrests on his application. They also cited his lack of business experience, and they found out that it was Benny Binion who was financing the deal, not Nick.

By 1986, the Horseshoe was doing well. Jack Binion did a great job as President, and Ted was a very popular Host/Casino Manager. (He was only caught a few times hitting on the wives of high rollers who came into the Horseshoe to bet everything). Ted also hosted the poker and 21 tournaments there – up until the time he was arrested in 1986. He was arrested for drug trafficking along with his friend, who was also Tony Spilotro's bodyguard, Fat Herbie Blitzstein. Herbie Blitzstein and Ted Binion were friends,

but Blitzstein was a mobster and Ted a casino owner – and Ted lost his gaming license.

In that wonderful movie *CASINO*, Tony Spilotro (the guy who was buried alive in real life along with his brother) was played brilliantly by Joe Pesci. Spilotro was one of the more scary people in Las Vegas. Blitzstein was his bodyguard, and people who knew, knew that Fat Herbie Blitzstein was every bit as ruthless and scary as his boss, Tony Spilotro. Fat Herbie was shot to death at his home on January 7, 1997 in Las Vegas. Outside talent from Buffalo, NY was brought in to do the job.

And after a long and storied life, the great Benny Binion passed away on Christmas Day, 1989.



Benny Binion and his daughter Becky (c. 1969)
Photo courtesy of UNLV Special Collections.



The Horseshoe mold chips put out in the 1970's with the same graphics as the earlier Die Swirl Mold chips. This set also contains the \$5,000.00 "Brownie" chip that Bob Stupak tried to cash in, but was denied by Becky Behnen.

The World Series of Poker celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1994, its silver anniversary. The Horseshoe added silver bars as part of the winner's purse that year. Whatever the winner of the WSOP was, the Horseshoe would match his weight in silver. Russ Hamilton, weighing 300 pounds was the winner that year.

Teddy Binion's brilliance was often overshadowed by his addictions. Everyone who knew him was aware of the fact that he was a genius with numbers. He could figure odds almost instantaneously. Many people said that he was as good at gambling odds as Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal, who's been acknowledged as the best Numbers Man of all times in Las Vegas. And Ted was a genuinely nice guy, especially to people in real need.

Ted took up drugs at an early age. He'd smoke marijuana in the Horseshoe, even though he was casino manager. He'd be up in the eye in the sky watching for cheats down at the tables – and he'd smoke grass. The smell permeated everything because the Horseshoe was an small, intimate casino. Metro Police certainly weren't going to bust a casino owner because he was smoking grass at work. Later on, Ted got into heroin, black-tar heroin which is really bad shit.

Neither Becky Behnen nor her husband Nick was very pleased with the way things were going at the casino. With Ted and Jack running the place, Becky and Nick were sure that her 18% ownership of the Horseshoe was nowhere near what she was being paid, though most people guessed that all the Binion children were receiving in excess of a million dollars a year.

Before Becky Behnen wrestled the ownership away from the rest of the family, the approximate breakout of ownership was:

Becky Binion Behnen	18	points (%) of the Horseshoe
Ted Binion	20	points (%) of the Horseshoe
Brenda Binion Michaels	20.5	points (%) of the Horseshoe
Jack Binion	42	points (%) of the Horseshoe

Becky and Nick, her husband, decided that they were going to go after sole ownership of the Horseshoe. After a long drawn out and very contentious fight, Becky sued her brothers, Jack and Ted, saying that they had mismanaged money at the Horseshoe, and they were diverting money out of the Horseshoe down to Jack's casinos in the Gulf Coast. It looked like the Binion name would be dragged through the mud, and family secrets would be coming out. It looked like a real fight was going to be started in the courts and carried in the newspapers.

At the same time that this was going on, Ted Binion was stripped of his gambling license, and he knew that he'd have to divest himself of his stock in the Horseshoe. So, Ted and Jack and their sister Brenda sat down to talk over their options. It was decided that rather than get into a long and horrible family fight, this might be a good time to sell out to Sister Becky and her husband Nick Behnen.

STATE OF NEVADA



0559

This license is issued pursuant to the requirements of NRS Chapter 463. It must be posted in a conspicuous place in the addressed premises, and is void unless validating sticker evidencing quarterly renewal is attached hereto.

Issued To: (Not Transferable)

N953-02-02 00370-01
The Horseshoe Club Operating Co.
dba THE HORSESHOE CLUB
P. O. Box 520
Las Vegas, NV 89101

1986 GAMING LICENSE
NONRESTRICTED

LICENSEES:

Jack Benny Binion
Teddy Jane Binion
Lonnie Ted Binion
Brenda S. Michael
Becky Lou Behnen

Receipt of State License Fees and/or authorization for the games indicated below is hereby acknowledged.

Table with 2 columns: Games Subject to Annual State License Fee, No.
Craps 10
Roulette 2
Twenty-one 36
Keno 1
Bingo
Wheel of Fortune 1
Baccarat 1
Sports Pool
Race Book
TOTAL 51
Card Games
Poker 0
Panguingui 0
Slot Machines yes

ISSUED BY THE NEVADA GAMING COMMISSION

Executive Secretary
Effective Date October 1, 1986
Amending License No. 1668

Table with 4 columns representing quarters: 1 QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2 QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 3 QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 4 QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31

A copy of the 1986 Gaming License issued for the Horseshoe showing the Binion family ownership along with the number of gaming tables. You might notice that the Shoe was not licensed for any poker tables in 1986. The long history of poker at the Horseshoe started with the World Series of Poker in the 1970s, but live cash games didn't start until the Horseshoe bought the Mint Casino next door and expanded the floor space to include poker tables. It has been said that Benny's wife Teddy Jane hated poker and did not want it at the Horseshoe. Jimmy Albrecht ran the poker room at the Mint Casino and Benny kept him on to run the poker room for the Shoe and to run the WSOP as well. Albrecht is generally credited with making the WSOP what it is today. Gaming License image courtesy of Chip Chat.

THE DEAL FOR THE HORSESHOE AND THE WSOP

- TED BINION agreed to sell his 20% interest to his brother JACK for \$7 million in cash, and a \$3.8 million I.O.U.
- BRENDA BINION MICHAEL agreed to sell her 18.5% of the Horseshoe to her brother JACK for \$8.5 million
- BECKY BINION BEHNEN agreed to give her brother JACK an I.O.U. for \$20 million in exchange for his 42% holding, along with the 38.8% holding that he'd just purchase from his brother TED and sister BRENDA.
- BRENDA BINION BEHNEN would receive an additional \$3.6 million payment from the \$20 million I.O.U., and
- JACK BINION would receive an additional \$16.5 million from the \$20 million I.O.U.

The term of the \$20 million I.O.U. would be 2-years. Behnen's ownership of the Horseshoe went from 18%, which she already had, to almost 98% of the place.

The additional points two points, one point for JACK and one point for BRENDA were held because both Jack and his sister Brenda wanted to continue holding a gaming license in Nevada, in case Becky didn't make good on the \$20 million I.O.U., they could foreclose on the Horseshoe and not have to be re-licensed by the Nevada Gaming Commission.

AND THE LAST PART OF THE DEAL...

There were about \$5 million in outstanding markers due to the Horseshoe. Word on the street has always been that those \$5 million in outstanding markers came from investors who were going to buy into Jack Binion's Horseshoe Clubs in Louisiana and Mississippi. And if they signed markers at the Horseshoe when Jack and Ted ran the place, and then decided not to repay the markers when the Behnens took over, Jack and the old ownership wouldn't be that concerned... it wasn't their debt to collect. But the Behnens insisted that part of the sale would be that Jack and Ted purchased the \$5 million in bad markers.

In 1997, Ted's good friend Fat Herbie Blitzstein was found dead in his home in Las Vegas. Shot gunned.

On July 7, 1998 Becky Behnen became the new owner of the Horseshoe Casino and Hotel. She kept the World Series of Poker, but dropped the Poker Hall of Fame Classic.

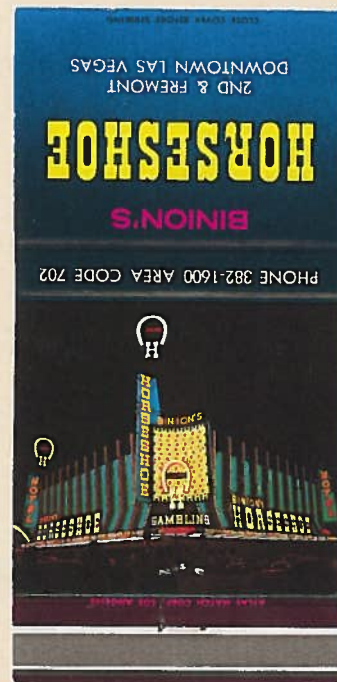
At the same time she lowered the ceiling on bets way down to match everyone else downtown. And she tightened up on all the comps

that had made the Horseshoe so popular and so successful. She was no longer going along with her dad's formula of treating the Little Guy like he was a Big Guy – and the business at the Horseshoe began its slippery slope downhill.

The Horseshoe was as perfect as any gaming house in the country was for many, many years. Benny was the perfect host, and most everyone left the Horseshoe feeling that they'd gotten a fair shake. But the Behnen's lack of real business acumen, mixed with the family helping themselves to far more money than the casino could afford to pay them led to a steady decline in profits. The Behnen's also decided that if they didn't pay bills which were owed – chances are they could make even more money! Becky and her husband decided not to pay withholding taxes to the state, not to pay the employees health premiums, and nearly anything else they could think of to milk the Horseshoe out of even more money.

Also during the reign of the Behnens, the Horseshoe Casino was behind nearly \$1,000,000 in monthly fees that all merchants and casinos on Fremont Street pay to the Fremont Street Experience. Besides lowering the betting limits and making comps much harder for players to get. The Behnen's took down and then sold the very popular \$1 Million display of \$10,000. To some it seemed Becky, her son Benny Behnen and her husband Nick would go out of their way to give as poor of customer service as they possibly could give.

Many patrons and most of the help at Binion's truly disliked the new ownership. Slowly, but very surely, the patrons who'd made Binion's one of the most successful brands in the world, were taking their business elsewhere. And people who worked at Binion's, and were once proud of it, began looking for new jobs. It was a shame, but the venerable Horseshoe was being bled to death.



Benny Binion





*Binion's Horseshoe at it's familiar corner of Fremont Street and Casino Center Blvd. (2nd St.) in 1977.
Photo courtesy of nicepictures.*

IS THIS HOW IT ENDS?

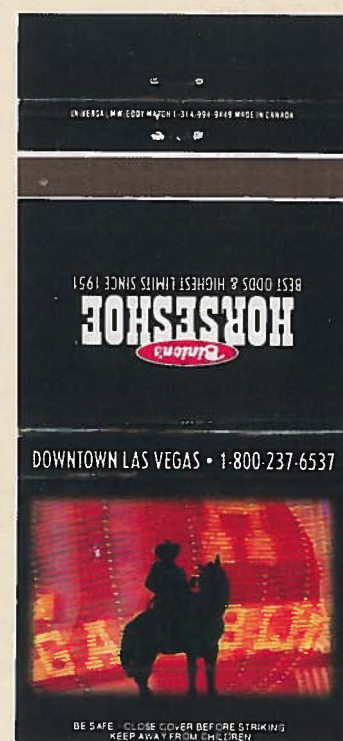
On September 17, 1998, ex stripper Sandy Murphy, Ted Binion's live-in girlfriend returned from a fancy luncheon at a restaurant she was sure to be seen in, (just in case she might need an alibi), returned home to the mansion she shared with Ted, and found Ted Binion, 55-years old, dead on the living room floor. Wrapped in a sleeping bag on top of an mattress.

The following day, Rick Tabish, Sandy's boyfriend and two accomplices were arrested in Pahrump, Nevada. They were digging up the underground vault that Ted Binion had asked Rick to build for him a few years earlier. Millions of dollars in silver bars and silver dollars were buried there. Rick Tabish told the arresting officers that he was digging up Ted's silver to keep it safe.

As most of you know, Rick Tabish and Sandra Murphy were both tried and convicted of the murder. But in 2003, their guilty verdicts were overturned on appeal. The State decided to try the two again in October of 2004, this time the defense prevailed and both Murphy and Tabish were found not guilty. Although they could never be tried again for the murder of Ted Binion, both were found guilty of conspiracy to commit burglary and/or larceny, burglary

and grand larceny. Those charges were related to the silver dig in Pahrump two days after Binion's death. Murphy was sentenced to time served in prison. Tabish received 12-60 months each on the burglary and grand larceny charges and 18-60 months on a deadly weapons charge. Tabish was released on parole on May 17, 2010, and is served his parole in Montana through March 2011.

One day, Bob Stupak, friend of the Binion brothers and developer of Vegas World and The Stratosphere wandered into the Horseshoe. He wanted to cash \$500,000 in \$5,000 chips which Binion's had issued. Becky was called down to the casino cage, she told Stupak that she wasn't going to cash his chips, which she said were stolen or counterfeits. This would seem





The dazzling display of the Horseshoe at night in 1990. Photo courtesy of nicepictures.

to be against the law in Nevada. Gaming law states that chips won by a gambler had to be able to be redeemed at that casino. Stupak then asked for the two suitcases that he had stored in the cashier's cage at Binions – each contained hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash.

CC>CC Club Member Steve Cutler has been collecting everything from menus and door keys to the hotel rooms in 1950's Vegas, to the autographs of every single famous legend who ever played Las Vegas – or so it seems. Hundreds and Hundreds of collectibles... the kind that you look at and go, "WOW!"

Among the many WOW items Cutler displayed in his *Tropicana's Casino Legends Hall of Fame* that was once inside the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, was the collection of "Brownies" – those \$5,000 chips which Bob Stupak was having so much trouble cashing in at the Horseshoe.

During the World Series of Poker in 1998 dealers were to be paid \$100 for eight hour shift they worked – that was the traditional



Part of the Horseshoe signage resides in the Neon Boneyard.

fee paid poker dealers at the WSOP. It was reduced by Becky on the second day of the WSOP to \$50 per day. As soon as that was done, 12 experienced WSOP dealers decided that that was the last straw, they walked out during the tournament. That evening 13 more dealers went into Becky's office to complain about the imposed wage reduction. The following morning, when those 13 dealers showed up for work, they were stopped from entering the Horseshoe by security. They were all fired.

January 12 – Three days after the Horseshoe was raided and closed, Harrah's held a press conference to announce its pending purchase of the Horseshoe from Becky Behnen.

In 2003, Jack Binion gave Harrah's Corp. the chance to purchase a major stake in The Horseshoe. Jack's company, Horseshoe Gaming Holdings Corp., owns casinos in Louisiana, Indiana, Iowa and Mississippi. Another of his corporation's assets was an in-default note signed by Becky Behnen when she acquired Jack's interest in the Horseshoe, and that in-default note was now worth approximately \$22 million during the last quarter of 2003, when Jack sold his HGH, (Horseshoe Gaming Holdings) to Harrah's for nearly \$1.5 billion.

It was widely believed that Harrah's had little interest in the old Horseshoe casino, what Harrah's wanted were the two "brands" which came along with the deal... The "Horseshoe" brand and the ownership of the name, the WSOP, or "World Series of Poker". Just weeks after Harrah's deal with Behnen, Harrah's sold the Horseshoe to MTR Gaming Group. MTR Gaming remodeled both the casino and hotel after the purchase. A notable feature of the remodeling was to replace the casino's worn carpet with surplus carpeting that Benny Binion had stored since initially carpeting the casino.

It was announced in November of 2009 that the property's 365 hotel rooms would cease operating on December 14, 2009. Binion's (the Horseshoe is now dropped from the name) is now just a shell of what the former gem of downtown Las Vegas once was. Enjoy the pictures and stories, as that is all that is left.

Thanks to Ross Poppel, Pam Goertler, Jovito Ng, Gil Esquerdo and Martin Kenney for the use of their images in this story. Thanks to Gene Trimble for help with the info on poker in the Horseshoe.

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Casino Collectible News

Website



The Casino Collectible News website has archived articles from 1988, when it started out as a newsletter, through the years as The Casino Chip and Token News magazine to the current Casino Collectible News magazine. All PDF's are optimized for easy downloading. If you have any requests for articles contact Allan Anderson, CCN webmaster, at adesign@sbcglobal.net.

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

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ChipGuide.com is a database that identifies casino chips from 36 states.



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A NEVADA \$1.00 CHIP TOWN TYPE COLLECTION

by Charles Kaplan - LM-115-48



One of things that I enjoy collecting the most is \$1.00 casino chips. As long as there as a "1" on the chip, I'm interested. The currency could be anything and the more exotic, the better. But of course, Nevada casino chips are the most sought after and they are the cornerstone of my \$1.00 collection. Some time ago, I got the idea to put together a collection of a \$1.00 chip from each town in Nevada that issued a \$1.00 chip. I already had most of them and

then I tried to complete the collection. And while I was completing the collection a couple of new casinos popped up in towns that previously never had a casino that issued a \$1.00 chip - Mill City and Dayton come to mind. After many years I thought I had finally completed the collection, only to learn that a chip had been issued by the Brooks Oasis casino in Indian Springs. So the collection is at least still one off from being complete.

Then, of course, the next project becomes how to display the collection: it is no good if the chips are just sitting around in boxes. The idea I came up with was to get a large map of Nevada that showed all the towns and somehow mount the chips onto the map. The first problem was to find a map. I searched the internet for all the well known map companies and came up empty. Nothing was large enough to fit all the chips on to or complete enough to show all the towns. Then I started searching for map images with GOOGLE. There I found that the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Nevada DOT, made the perfect map for the project and you could even buy it for just a few dollars on the internet. The map is 36" (wide) by 48" (tall), that is 3' x 4'.

The next problem was how to mount the chips onto the map. This was perhaps the most difficult part of the project. After much thought and a few trials and errors, the solution was to mount the map onto an 1/8" piece of plywood cut to the size of the map. Why 1/8" plywood for a backing? Here is the explanation. Casino chips are 1/8" thick, so if I could cut a hole through the map and backing, the chip could just pop in and be flush with the surface of the map. Brilliant, huh? But, then why plywood? A casino chip is about 1 and 5/8 inches, or 39mm, in diameter. I had to find some way to cut 39mm circles in the map and the backing. The only thing that I could find to make 39mm circular holes was a special drill bit. Drill bits only work well on wood, not paper, cardboard or foam board. So wood it was and the only sheet of wood they make that is 1/8" thick is plywood. Plywood is not the greatest for drilling holes, they are never clean on the back side, but that was the best I could come up with.

The plan was to: 1) Cut the plywood to the size of the map; 2) Tape the map to the plywood; 3) Make a small drill hole through the map and the plywood at the exact spot where I wanted to place each chip; 4) Remove the map from the plywood; 4) Drill all the 39mm holes; 5) Bring the map and the plywood to a framer to have them mount the map onto the plywood and make the frame; 6) Cut away the map above each hole; and 7) Mount the chips into the map.

It took a long time and a lot of painstaking work, but the map was finally completed. There were some challenges along the way. Casino chips may have started out being 39mm in diameter, but with use they get smaller. So some of the chips fit nice and snug into the holes and others were loose and free to move around. In fact when you look at the picture of the entire map, you will see the chip from the El Capitan Resort in Hawthorne has slipped out of its hole and is near the bottom of the map.

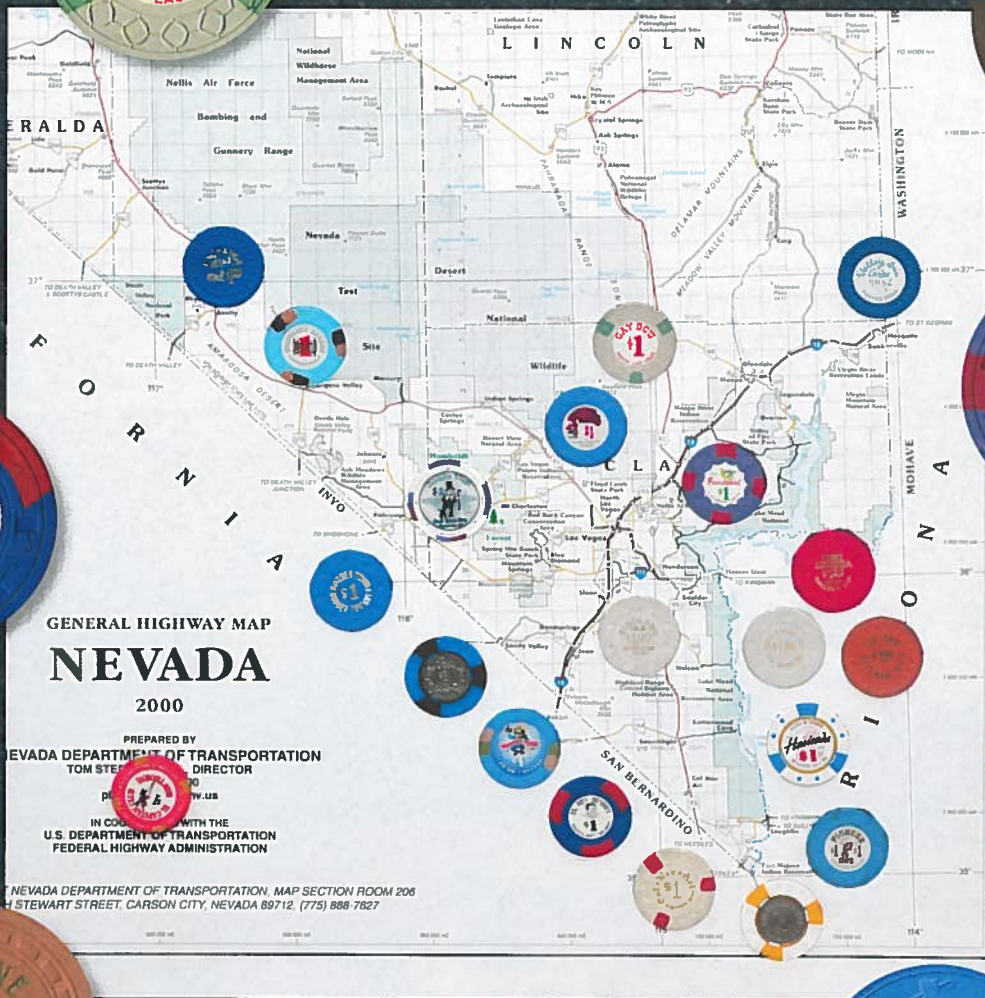
I had to make a choice of which chip to use from each town, if there was more than one candidate. This is how I prioritized my choices: 1) Casino name appears on the chip and the casino name includes the name of the town, like the Battle Mountain Club; 2) The name of the town appears on the chip; 3) Chip appearance or attractiveness. All in all, there are 64 chips in the collection. But one should be removed, the Mina Bar which is not thought to be from Nevada any longer, and one should be added, Brooks Oasis from Indian Springs, and the total remains at 64.



Detail of the Northeast portion of the map



Detail of the Northwest portion of the map



Detail of the Southern portion of the map

Notes

- These are the Nevada towns that had casinos that issued chips, but no \$1.00 chips are known: Caliente, Goldfield, McDermitt, McGill, Moapa, and Sun Valley
- At the time that the collection was mounted and framed the Mina Bar (MB) chips were attributed to Nevada, but they are no longer.
- The image of the Brooks Oasis chip from Indian Springs is not in the collection. The image was borrowed from the ChipGuide and was contributed by Jerry Graham.



By Jim Noll
R-3123

20th Anniversary chip display at Viejas Casino



As part of its 20th Anniversary in September, 2011 Viejas Casino provided its guests with a display that took a look back into its casino chip history. In a glass case placed just inside the east casino entrance by valet parking; the display contained at least 300 or more chips, as well as two framed complete sets of the now long gone slot tokens and Viejas/Commodore Cruise ship chips.

In the pile of chips, was at least a half dozen chips that are not currently listed in *The Chip Guide* with face values from \$10 to \$1000. Working with the PR department from Viejas Casino, we are able to display some of these rare chips here.

Key dates in Viejas Casino History

Viejas Casino was one of the first casinos in California. Located in the southern California town of Alpine, Viejas opened on September 13, 1991 with a 10,000 square foot gaming floor.

Viejas Valley Casino Chips 1991



Brass Core Chips 1991



Viejas Casino & Turf Club Chips 2000



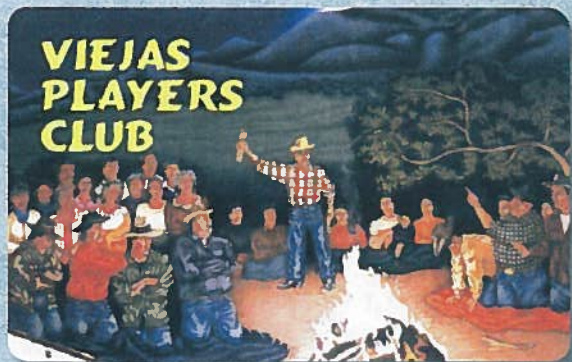
3rd Anniversary chip 1994



6th Anniversary chips 1997



1998/1999 Camp fire players card for Bingo and Card Room



November 1998, Proposition 5 (the California Indian Self-Reliance Act, which would amend California law to allow slot machines and banked card games at tribal casinos) passed by California voters. One month after voter approval, the California Supreme Court blocked Proposition 5 from going into force, pending a review of two legal challenges.

Economic Independence Day for California Indians came on Sept. 10, 1999, when 58 compacts between tribal governments and the state, covering slot machine gaming devices and house-banked card games (like blackjack), were signed into law.

June 14, 2000, Viejas Casino becomes the first tribal gaming facility in California to put into play Las Vegas-style coin operated slot machines into operation.

Viejas Casino: Chips/Tokens 2000



Set of 5 - Year of the Rabbit Chips 1999



Set of 5 - Year of the Dragon Chips 2000



Enchanted Sun Boat with Commodore Chips/Tokens 2000



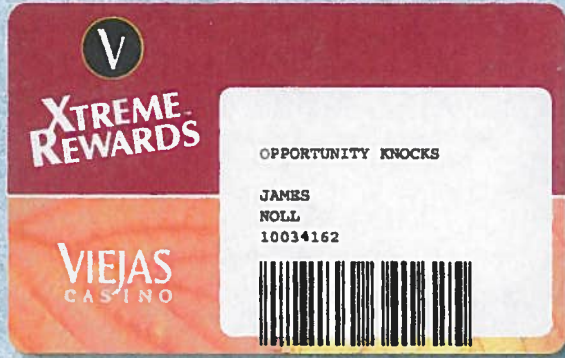
10th Anniversary chips 2001



The current rack 2005



Paper Promo cards 2003/2004



20th Anniversary chips 2011



common back



common back

*The Viejas Casino's 20th Anniversary was marked with a four chip issue shown above
3 - \$5.00 chips and 1 - \$25.00 chip 4 fronts & 2 backs shown.*

Viejas Casino now has over 210,000 square feet of gaming, over 2000 slots, and over 50 table games.



A close up look at some of the spectacular chips in the display featuring some chips from the Viejas Valley Casino Rack.

Chips & Tokens in the display

At the time of writing this article, The Chip Guide lists at least 60 Viejas Casino chip/token types. Shown below are some items that have not appeared in the Chip Guide yet. Some are from the Viejas Casino promotional display.

Slot Tokens: None of the tokens were pictured in The Chip Guide. These tokens were introduced in June 2000, the casino is now all TITO.

The Enchanted Sun cruise ship was in action from April 14, 2000 to June 2, 2000 running a day trip service between San Diego, CA and Ensenada, Mexico. Viejas Casino partnered with Commodore Holdings Ltd. of Hollywood, FL to operated the floating casino. Troubles surfaced early as the dock facilities were never completed in Mexico. Relations between Commodore, Viejas and the Mexican authorities that ran the docking operations went from bad to worse and Commodore pulled the plug in June and sailed the boat away. This shut down the operation without prior announcement and triggered a series of law suits.

Higher value Commodore Boat chips and tokens not shown in The Chip Guide.



Rack Chips and Limited editions

Rack chips values not in current The Chip Guide
From the Viejas Valley Casino Rack 1991

Viejas Valley Casino \$25.00 green with 3 pink inserts
Paulson H&C scallop inlay.



Viejas Valley Casino \$100.00 black with 3 white pink white
inserts Paulson H&C cog inlay.



Viejas Valley Casino \$500.00 white with 3 green purple green
inserts Paulson H&C hex inlay



Viejas Valley Casino \$1,000.00 pink with 3 green blue green
inserts Paulson H&C "notch" inlay



Viejas Casino \$10.00 tan with 4 orange and 4 white inserts
Paulson H&C with round inlay. This chip was never used in play.



Additional older chips included in the display that are rarely
seen in collections even though they are in The Chip Guide.

Light Violet \$3.00 Viejas Casino & Turf Club RTP Crown Series



Dream Catcher \$3.00 Viejas Casino & Turf Club Chipco



Viejas & Turf Club \$5.00 NCV Match Play 3rd Anniversary with
Buffalo H&C



*I would like to thank Viejas Casino for their cooperation with the facts and details for this story.
Especially General Manager Mr. Wild and Public Relations Mr. Robert Scheid.*

Of Literary Note

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

Feast or famine! Such is the life of a librarian. However, I never lack something to read. After last issue multipage listing of additions, this month, and the pantry is nearly bare.

John Benedict donated a copy of *Ginsburg's Guide to the Casinos & Chips of St. Maarten*.

Allan Anderson, your co-editor of this august publication, donated a copy of his 4th installment of *Almost Every Thing Hard Rock*.

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

TYRUSREX

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!

Thanks for taking a look.

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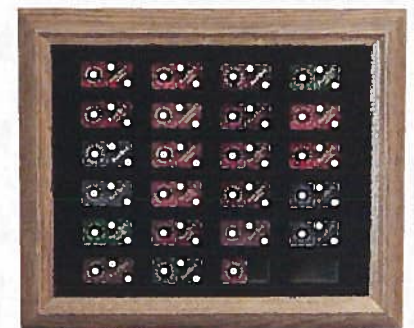
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CC>CC RAFFLE

The CC>CC will be conducting another raffle at the June 2012 convention at the South Point Hotel, Spa & Casino in Las Vegas. We are looking for all types of donations of items to be included as part of the raffle—chips, dice, slot cards, strikes, tokens, postcards, matchbooks, ashtrays, swizzle sticks—ANY type of casino memorabilia that is in good condition that you'd like to have in YOUR collection. Thanks to the GREAT participation in the past from our wonderful club members in the way of ticket & raffle item donations, this has been a success over the past several years both for the club AND for the lucky winners. Ticket costs are

a single raffle ticket for a donation of \$10 or three raffle tickets for a \$25 donation. You do NOT need to be present at the convention to win and those not attending will have their winnings shipped to them (at no additional cost to the winner) after the convention closes. Ticket donations can be made via mail by sending your ticket donations (payable to the CC>CC) to:

Douglas Smith
CC>CC President
PO Box 691085
Houston, TX 77269-1085



Our Club Members have come through already with nearly 1,300 Chips & Tokens, 20+ Plaques and Jetons, 60+ Matchbooks, 150+ Slot Cards, 70+ Die, 40+ Decks of Cards, Postcards, TOTO's,

Badge Holders, Pens, etc, etc, etc. Take a look at the items shown in the photos above! Lots more coming in and added to the Raffle Prize pool every week!

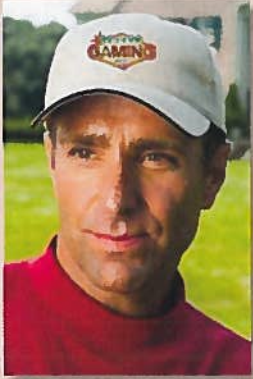
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The on-line museum has many great features including "This Week in Gaming History",
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★ **NEW** ★

at the Museum of Gaming History **Visit the Greg Susong Digital Media Center!**

The Greg Susong Digital Media Center is dedicated to Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club Hall of Fame member Greg Susong. Greg is one of those who brought the Internet to chip and token collecting. His website, The ChipGuide, was one of the first sites devoted entirely to chip and token collecting, and serves as a tremendous resource for collectors throughout the world. His work has been kindly donated to the Museum and will be continued to be updated at the Museum of Gaming History.

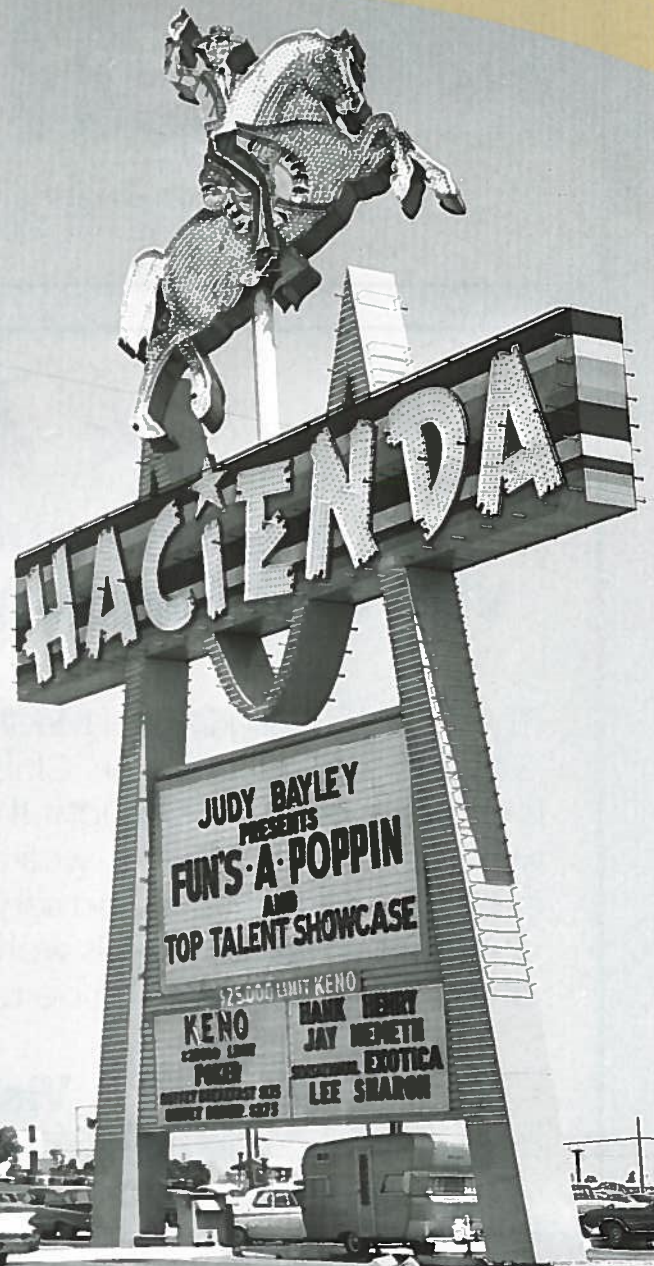
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Historical Tidbits of the

HACIENDA

Las Vegas, NV

by Jim Steffner - HLM-1508



Warren Vance Bayley, born in 1900 in Plattsville, WI, married Judy Florence Belk from Texas on June 14, 1936 and moved to California. Together, they started a fruitcake business. Later, they sold stock in the company, bought raw land and built the Fresno Hacienda, first in a chain of motels.

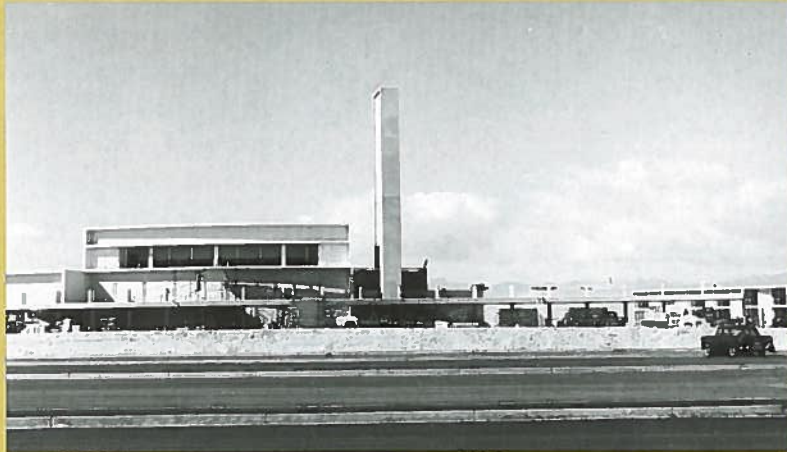
In 1955, the National Corporation, composed of Texas millionaire Frank Hoefus; Carlton Adair, the Sacramento hamburger king; Stanley Burke, owner of the 60 acres of land; and Orville Chedister, a silent partner, was building the Lady Luck, designed by architect Homer Rissman, far south of any other casinos on the strip. In fact there was nothing between the Lady Luck and the Flamingo. Frank offered Warren "Doc" Bayley a part of the operation and Bayley jumped at the chance. His Hacienda motel business, Standard Motels, Inc., in Bakersfield, Indio and Fresno, California was busting at the seams and flush with profits. Doc offered to buy in as partner and operate the hotel and the food and bar part of the hotel business. National Corporation would continue running the casino. Trouble soon came as too many hotels opened in the 1955-56 era and National backed out of project. Doc had a decision to make and having never walked away from a good fight, he stood firm and vowed to make his newest investment a winner. Doc consummated a deal with National whereby the Hacienda Corporation would take over the Lady Luck using no funds from banks or Wall Street. Doc took over with 51% ownership and renamed the project the Hacienda. He brought in two Fresno executives, 52-year old General Manager James Wilkinson and 27-year old Resident Manager Dick Taylor, who would soon be promoted and become the youngest hotel manager in America the following year.

Step back in time – The Hacienda Club at 1729 N. Main Street, North Las Vegas was first licensed in May 1948. In 1951, Roy Ritner, a California lounge owner, and two friends took over the Club, which consisted of 16 slot machines, one crap table, and two 21 tables. The partners were approached by the tall, white-haired Bayley who wanted the name for his soon to be opened hotel on the strip and were willing to pay for the right to use that name. A deal was made and the Hacienda Club closed, the three partners going their own ways. Ritner returned to California and repurchased his old lounge. His son, Roy Ritner Jr., followed his father's footsteps in the gaming industry and became hotel manager at the King's Castle in Lake Tahoe and played poker professionally for many years.

The \$6 million, 266 room, 60 acre Hacienda Hotel opened on May 5, 1956, with 800 employees, but the casino did not. Approval to operate the casino was denied after Jake Kosloff, former operator of the Last Frontier, an employee at the Golden Nugget, and an investor in the Hacienda, could not get approved as Casino Manager. He was denied a license because he did not report the sale of the Last Frontier immediately to the tax commission and because

of his unsuitable background and unsatisfactory activities in Nevada's gambling industry, according to the Gaming Control Board. Bayley took Jake off of the license application and replaced him with Karl Meier, formerly associated with Fremont Hotel's Ed Levinson. License approval was quickly granted and the casino opened on October 12, 1956. Warren "Doc" Bayley's office suite was #401.

Las Vegas in winter months had a 90% vacancy rate. Several



Construction photos of the Hacienda which was then going by the name of "Lady Luck"



Dick Taylor

The first death occurred in Room 324, and the second death a year later was also in Room 324.

hotels, including the Royal Nevada, Dunes, and Moulin Rouge, were opening and closing due to financial difficulties and the odds on the Hacienda succeeding were not good. Doc Bayley kept the Hacienda going with several innovative ideas, coupons, junkets, entertainment, etc. One of Doc's ideas was the "Hacienda Holiday" at \$16.00; patrons were offered a room, food credits, a bottle of wine, and \$10.00 in casino credit. Dick Taylor wanted to set up

racing oval for pee-wee race cars, a quarter-midget race car track, and the largest swimming pool in Nevada—a 300,000 gallon pool shaped like the letter "Z."

The New Year's Eve season in 1956 was so successful that the Hacienda was booked well over 100%. Innovative Dick Taylor contracted with the recently closed Moulin Rouge to use their hotel rooms for the overflow.

In 1957, the Ronda Room (lounge) featured Billy Ward, Kay Parsons, Eddie Peabody and would soon be renamed the Jewel Box Theatre with 4 shows nightly. In the Palomino Room the Theatre Guild was presenting "Dial M for Murder." Also this year Doc formed Hacienda Airlines, which was the first hotel airline to bring in junkets to Las Vegas. The \$188 Chicago to Las Vegas package included a room for six days and five nights, four meals, and a membership in the hotel's golf club. For \$27.50 a gambler could fly from Los Angeles, get a deluxe room, free tote bag, bottle of champagne, and \$5.00 in chips. The low cost approach garnered the nickname "Hayseed Heaven" for the Hacienda. This year also saw Slot Department head Bob Timm become exclusive distributor for Jennings Slot Machines and Dick Taylor was promoted



to General Manager. billboards in Victorville and Barstow to catch attention of drivers coming from California. He couldn't get permits for the billboards so he hired kids, and later pretty girls, to attract the truckers and to stand at a busy street corner and hand out coupons. The coupons were a huge success and soon the Hacienda was booking almost 40% of its room nights as a result of the handouts.

to General Manager.

The following year brought low budget family-oriented shows such as Cole Porter's "Can Can." The hotel sponsored a publicity stunt to break the record for non-stop flight, which stood at 50 days. Bob Timm, Slot Department Manager (and distributor with Silver Slots Inc.) who proposed the idea to Bayley, and co-pilot John Cook (pilot with Mercer Airlines) stayed up for 64 days, 22 hours, 19 minutes, and 5 seconds from December 4, 1958 to February 7, 1959, easily breaking the old 50 day record. Their record still stands today. Ground crew included 4 slot techs. Practice runs were made on a dry lake south of the Nevada-California border, where Whiskey Pete's is today, and on the main road in Pahrump. Few people lived in Pahrump at the time and the road was usually deserted. Practice sessions required pilots to come in low over the speeding truck, a hose line would be pulled up into the plane

Doc and Judy lived in Suite 325 with a gray cat and doxie dog.

A kid friendly, par-3 pitch-and-putt golf course encircled the hotel and was soon lighted for all night play, the first in Las Vegas. Also installed was a miniature golf course in the patio-pool area, a



The first issue small key mold house rack from 1956 including the ultra rare \$5.00 navy chip with no inserts, the \$5.00 mustard chip with three black inserts and the \$100 black chip with three cream inserts.

and the men in the truck would start manually pumping gas to the plane—all while speeding down the road. Meals were prepared in the Hacienda kitchen and lifted up by a line like the gas hose. The first live television interviews were aired over Los Angeles as the pilots talked by radio to a helicopter flying alongside the airplane. When you fly into Las Vegas, did you ever notice the single engine Cessna Hacienda Skyhawk above the baggage claim area at McCarran? That is the record holding plane.

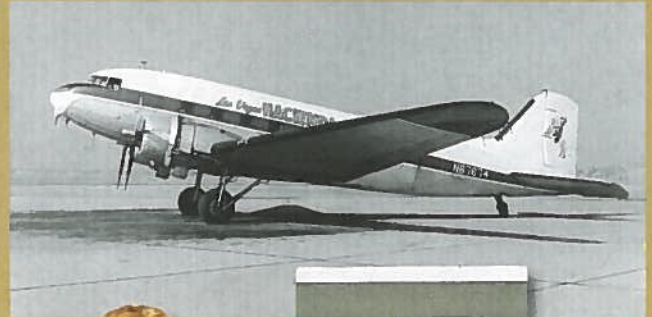


*Robert Timm and John Cook remained aloft in a Cessna 172 from December 4, 1958, to February 7, 1959 - the current world record.
Photo Courtesy of Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum*



FLY HACIENDA!

During 1962, the hotel was flying in about 150,000 passengers with 30 planes. The Civil Aeronautics Board shut down the airline plan in July 1962, classifying it as an unlicensed airline after receiving many complaints from commercial carriers.



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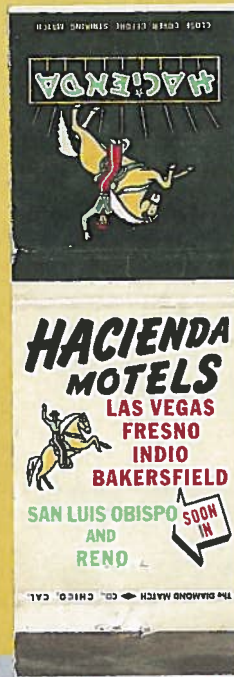


This postcard of the Hacienda Craps table shows what appears to be a mustard chip with three black inserts in play. Which could be either the first or second \$5.00 chip issued. Either way, it is a table full of very desirable chips!



to other properties to gamble, eat, or see shows. The Hacienda had no big name performers or large show production costs so it kept most of its income. At the New Frontier, the shows and entertainers took most of the income. Losses at the New Frontier almost took down the Hacienda.”

By this time Doc owned and operated the Hacienda, New Frontier, and the Mt. Charleston Lodge. He also owned 1400 acres in Kyle Canyon, and was a major partner in the El Rey Club in Searchlight. Willie Martelo had established the El Rey Club in Searchlight, Nevada. The club was destroyed by fire in 1962. Sharon Richardson, Willie’s niece, reported that Willie was not discouraged and with financing provided by Bayley, he and Doc bought the Crystal Club across the street and renamed it the El Rey Club. Unfortunately his efforts to turn Searchlight into a resort city were doomed by the rapid growth in Las Vegas. Doc had plans for the area with an airfield to fly in gamblers, supplying DC-3s in exchange for an unpublicized part of the action at El Rey, and an 18 hole golf course with surrounding home sites. “When the first plane arrived on the airstrip Willie was waiting to greet the passengers and welcome them to the



In 1959, Bayley and Company bought the New Frontier with 39% ownership. The “company” included Bayley, Preston Foster, a 1940s movie actor, Richard Taylor, and lawyer David Zenoff, who would later become Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Dick Taylor relates: “Doc’s Hacienda might have been one of the area’s greatest had it not been for our fiasco of acquiring the New Frontier Hotel. The Hacienda was very successful based on its isolation at the south end. Guests would come and stay, whereas with the New Frontier they would come and then go



El Rey. The plane door opened and the stewardess looked out at Willie waving from the ground. One minor problem—there was no stairway to let the passengers off the plane. Willie had to rush into town and buy a ladder from the hardware store,” related Andy Martello, El Rey historian. In 1964, Willie’s health was declining and Doc bought out Willie’s interest in the club.

The year 1959 saw the opening of a \$6 million convention center, and the Hacienda restaurants included the Cactus Room, Hacienda Deli, Charcoal Room, and the El Grande International Buffet.

In the early 60s, the Hacienda bought 8 small planes for \$2 million, and started package deals from New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. One of the DC-4s had a piano bar and negligee fashion show on nightly schedules from Burbank. While back at ground level, Bayley brought some nostalgia to the Hacienda by purchasing the ornate backbar from the notorious Arizona Club in downtown Las Vegas. The early 1960s would also see no cover, no minimum dancing from 6:00 pm - 4:00 am, which drew local dance enthusiasts.

In 1961, the Hacienda introduced a version of “Happy Hour” with free champagne from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Bayley stated that the Hacienda was the world’s largest user of California champagne, at more than 150,000 bottles per year.

This year the Hacienda was operating at higher occupancy rates than any other Las Vegas Hotel. In December 1963, Dick Taylor left his

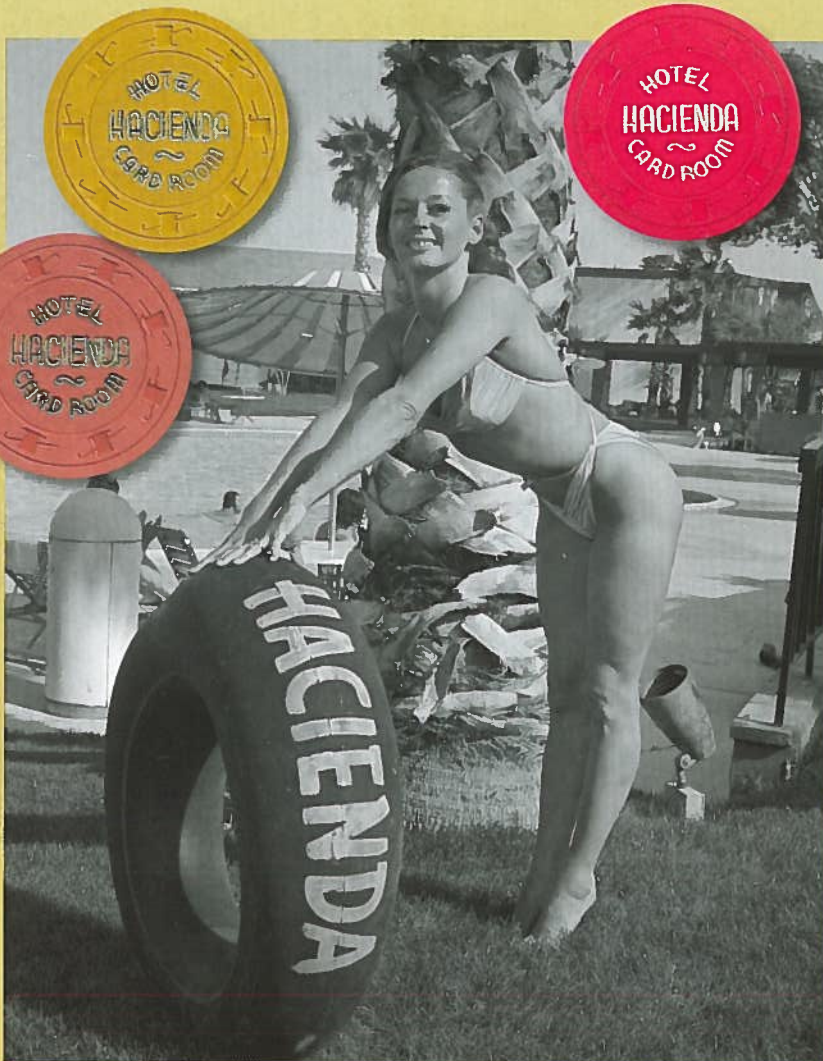
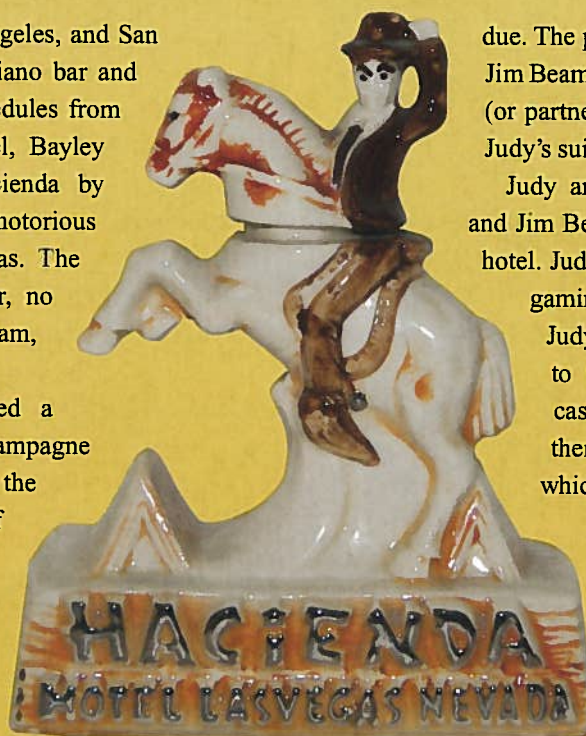


Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.



position at the Hacienda for a job in Palm Springs as stockbroker.

In 1964, the Hacienda was the first hotel to be affected by a strike of casino dealers. The Hacienda was also the first property to offer time-shares on the Strip. In 1965, the Palomino room hosted professional boxing every Tuesday.

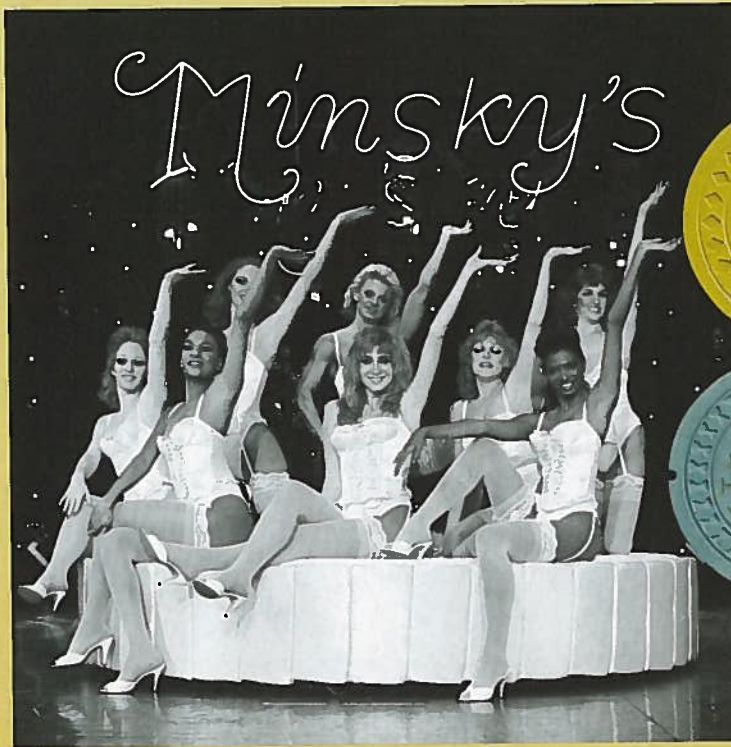
Doc died December 26, 1964 from a reported heart attack. Judy took over. She soon discovered the many problems she inherited. There was a major shortage of cash to operate the property. It seems Doc had gambling markers all over town and had not been managing the business all that well. Doc sometimes paid bills with casino chips when out of cash. Deliveries were arriving C.O.D.; most bills were well past

due. The property had an \$11.5 million mortgage. Jim Beam, (yes, that Jim Beam) a 15% shareholder (or partner), died in 1964, the same year as Doc. Judy’s suite was 701 after Doc died.

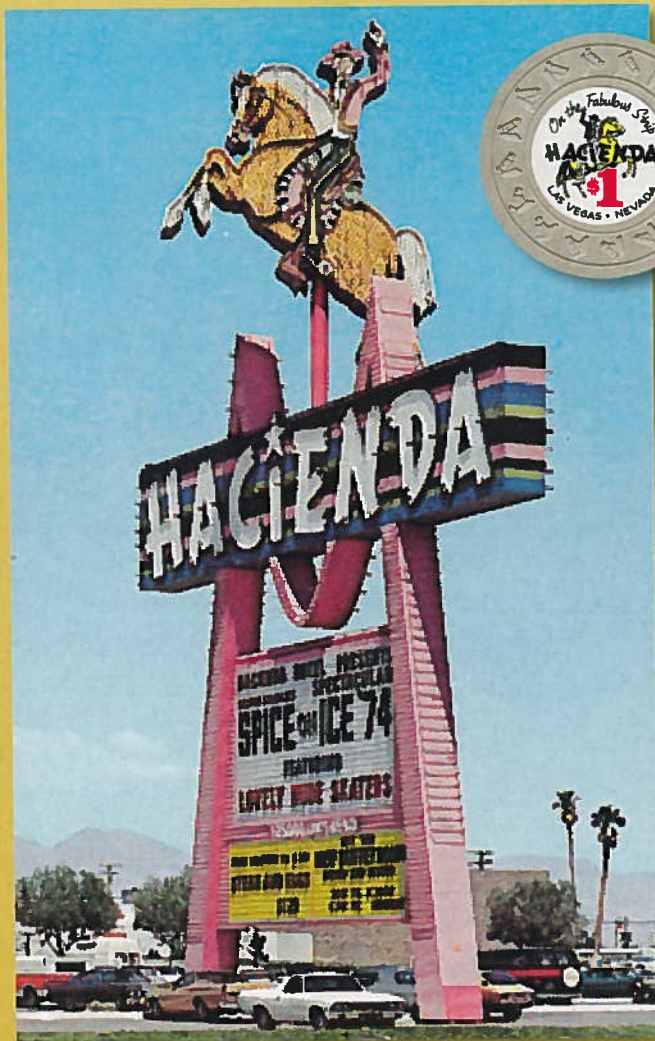
Judy and Joan Rashbrook (Judy’s hairdresser and Jim Beam’s widow) would move on to run the hotel. Judy was the first woman to oversee a Strip gaming operation, with a 66% ownership. Judy and Joan went to Los Angeles to talk to the mortgage holder to get operating cash. The mortgage holder could only offer them \$3.5 million for the Frontier property, which would be deducted from the back end of the Hacienda loan. With no extra cash they returned to Las Vegas. Judy secured a small loan from a friend and Joan came up with some money from a relative and the fight to keep the property open each day began. The income was never great

but the two ladies, even pitching in to bus tables, managed to keep the Hacienda open. Bayley was known as “The First Lady of Gambling” and her legacy includes the Judy Bayley Theater at UNLV. Besides being Chairman of the Board of the Hacienda, she was also President of Casino Operations, Inc., Standard Motels Inc., Frontier Properties Inc., Silver State Hotel Co., and the Mt. Charleston Lodge and Recreation Center Inc. Judy Bayley joined Mayme Stoecker as women who ran hotels and casinos. Claudine Williams would later join that rare list as well.

The Hacienda horse and rider hotel sign as well as its counterpart at McCarran Airport was designed by Brian “Buzz” Leming of Young Electric Sign Co. and was modeled after Judy’s prize horse, J.B’s Boy. The hotel sign was installed in 1967. Frank Maggio, Publicity Director for the resort, was training the horse to represent the hotel



*The cast of the Minsky's Burlesque show from the late 1980s.
Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.*

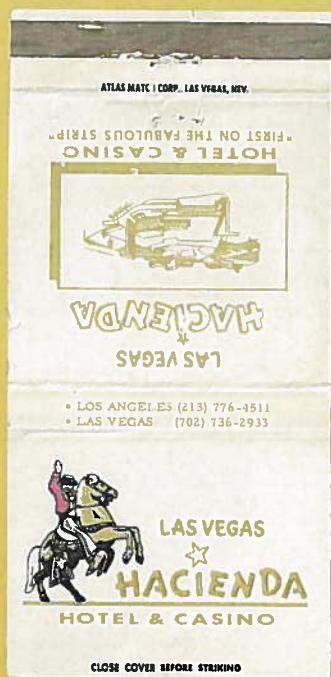


in parades. The horse and rider are actually called “Caballero Astride his Palomino.” An 11th Anniversary drawing for a new car was won by Las Vegas resident Mrs. Fay Sullivan. Her lucky ticket was drawn from a drum of over 200,000 entries.

By 1968 the resort was offering golf with lessons available, continuous entertainment, a beauty parlor, free radio and TV, free gaming lessons, baby sitting, and even accepted pets—as long as they were registered at the front desk. The resort also offered helicopter rides (See the Strip by day or night, or tour the Grand Canyon, or see Mt. Charleston). There were 558 rooms and guests could enjoy a \$2.95 buffet. By October 1968, Judy Bayley was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the entire Hacienda family, both Nevada and California properties, as well as the El Rey Club in Searchlight.

In March 1970, the Hacienda advertised its March Mardi Gras. For \$5 a guest would receive a luxury air-conditioned room with TV, \$10 in free play chips, two buffet brunches, greens fees for the par-3 golf course, a free champagne party, and free miniature golf. What a deal! This year Judy held responsibilities in El Rey Operations Inc. of Searchlight, Nevada, the Searchlight Development Company, and the Warren Bayley Investment Company.

Judy Bayley died on December 31, 1971, willing her remaining 51% to Joan. Judy changed her will just four days before she died, disinheriting her family and a few key casino employees.



Cal Magleby and Joan Raishbrook were co-executors of Judy's estate. Joan, her personal secretary, and Cal ran the hotel for about one year but ended up selling to Allen Glick and his Argent Corporation in 1974 for \$28.5 million. Glick, under the Argent Corporation, bought 80 acres of land on the south side of the property and had plans for a new casino, new showroom, new pool, restaurants and a \$25 million, 11 story, 300-room tower. Unfortunately, Argent was forced to sell all of their Las Vegas and Nevada properties after they were found to be involved in a massive skim- ming scandal at the Stardust.

and in 1982 became "Fire & Ice." Redd Foxx was added in 1983.

Little Church of the West was moved from the Last Frontier site to the Hacienda property in 1978.

The early 80s saw the addition of an 11 story, 300-room tower, a convention center, and a renovation face lift for \$30 million. The Hacienda also spent \$250,000 for new fire protection systems after the fires at the MGM Grand and Las Vegas Hilton. There were now 10 buildings on 140 acres.

In 1983 Hacienda Resorts Inc. operated under Paul Lowden's Archon Corporation, which was the old Santa Fe Corp., which was renamed Sahara Resorts in 1986, and in 1993, changed to Sahara Gaming Corp. Got that straight?

Minsky's Theatre opened, featuring a burlesque show with Red Foxx, in 1988.

In 1977, Glick and Argent were accused of aiding organized crime.

Paul Lowden, a strip casino bandleader and in 1972, the Entertainment Director at the Hacienda, along with group of partners, purchased 15% of the Hacienda for \$250,000 and acquired the balance on October 1, 1977 for \$21 million from Allen Glick's Argent Corporation. Paul Lowden owned the Hacienda for 22 years. Lowden also owned the Santa Fe Hotel and Casino, Sahara Hotel & Casino, and the Pioneer Hotel & Casino in Laughlin. Under Lowden, the Hacienda started topless ice skating reviews.

In 1972, the Azure Room opened with George Arnold's "Fantasy on Ice" starring Suzan Anton.

In 1974, the red and green theme was replaced with tan & brown.

In 1975 Fiesta Room showcased "Spice on Ice," America's only nude ice review. "Spice on Ice" became "Ice Fantasy '80" in 1980,





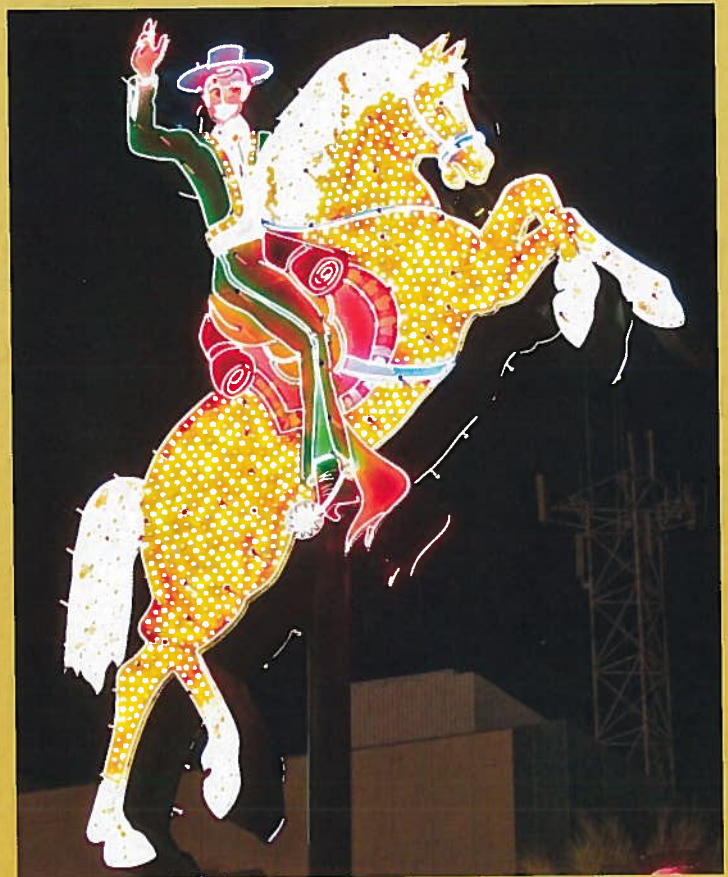
The Hacienda in 1995, photo courtesy of Chris Flanders.

The early 90s saw the Hacienda as one of the largest hotels in Las Vegas with 1100 rooms. A 1991 expansion brought the size to 1140 rooms. The 21,000 square foot Matador Arena opened for monthly public televised boxing.

The year 1991 saw Lance Burton performing in the Fiesta Showroom for a five year run before moving to the Monte Carlo.

Paul Lowden sold the Sahara in 1995 to William Bennett for \$150 million and the Hacienda in 1995 to Circus Circus Enterprises for \$80 million, with the sale being approved on August 24, 1995.

The Hacienda closed its doors on December 1, 1996. The next day the hotel was open to several local charities including the Salvation Army and Opportunity Village to take whatever furniture, equipment, and supplies they wanted. The sale of these items provided much needed benefits to those in need in Las Vegas. On December 4, the Little Church of the West was moved from the Hacienda property to its new home a bit further south at Las Vegas Boulevard and Russell Road, where it stands today. About 30 local firefighters had the great opportunity on December 12 to practice night fire fighting techniques in the empty hotel building. The Hacienda sign was the first piece for the Neon Museum and you can see the restored "Horse and Rider" that stood on Paradise Road by McCarran Airport, at the intersection of Fremont Street and Las Vegas Boulevard.



The famed historical Hacienda was imploded December 31, 1996 with 1125 pounds of explosives. The event was showcased in a 90 minute televised event. The implosion was also featured in the movie "Blasted in Las Vegas." Come dawn on January 1, sightseers were astonished to see several parts of the building still standing. Even all the explosives couldn't level the famed hotel.

"They can't blow up our memories," said Dick Taylor.



LEFT: The shuttered Hacienda on December 31, 1996, hours before the scheduled implosion.

ABOVE: The south end of the Hacienda Hotel still standing in the morning hours of January 1, 1997 after the implosion the night before. Both photos courtesy of GraphiChris.

I wish to thank Richard "Dick" Blackburn Taylor for providing the bulk of the information for this article. Unfortunately, Dick passed away on March 10, 2011 at his home on Mt. Charleston just as the final draft was nearing completion. We will miss you Dick, and thank you for all you did for the Hacienda and for Las Vegas. It wouldn't have been the same without you—for sure!



Additional thanks to Brian Cashman, Alex Cilento, Nate Pincus, James Campiglia and Don Lueders for the use of their chip images in this article.

The People's Choice Awards!

By: Casey Focazio-Follis

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.

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

"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

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 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 please feel free to mail me at:

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

Christine and Sheldon Smith

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-Thank You!



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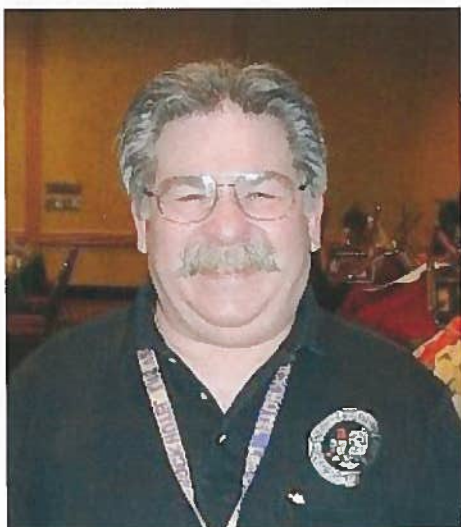
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My website is: www.rollyschips.com

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

Thank You, Gary



Knapp on Books

By Michael Knapp

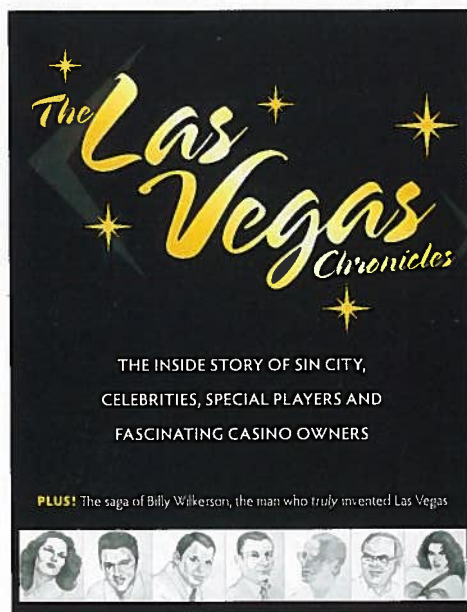
Welcome to installment 26 of this series of book reviews!

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

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

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions.

THE LAS VEGAS CHRONICLES (2012), by Andrew J. McLean



Subtitled "The Inside Story of Sin City, Celebrities, Special Players and Fascinating Casino Owners," The Las Vegas Chronicles will not contain many surprises for casino memorabilia collectors who have done any significant amount of research, but it is a fun read, and will no doubt provide tidbits which have not received much print.

At first, one might be tempted to say, "Oh, great – another book about Las Vegas and the mob. We have enough of those." But that would be selling this book short. Sure, it begins with some of the standard stories of the mob in Las Vegas, of the beginning of corporate takeover with Howard Hughes and Kirk Kerkorian, and it even includes much of the story of Billy Wilkerson, the Los Angeles nightclub and publishing impresario who actually "invented" the Flamingo Hotel. And in doing so, some of the old myths about Las Vegas are perpetuated.

You might even learn some details about Gus Greenbaum, Marshall Caifano, Virginia Hill, and Lefty Rosenthal you didn't know.

But the book doesn't stop there. It also includes some good stories about Benny Binion, Howard Hughes, Kirk Kerkorian and Steve Wynn, each of whom was responsible for building part of the Las Vegas we know today.

A section on celebrities includes stories about Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Siegfried & Roy, Wayne Newton and even Wally "Mr. Peepers" Cox (only those of us of a certain age will remember Wally Cox or Mr. Peepers, but, well, you know). Some fun details you might not have known or heard of in this part of the book.

Similarly, the section on "special players" includes details about Kerry Packer, Archie Karas, Stu Ungar, Chip Reese, Ken Uston and others you've never

heard of. Reading about their exploits, their generosity, their stinginess and their wild swings will prepare you for the next Club convention!

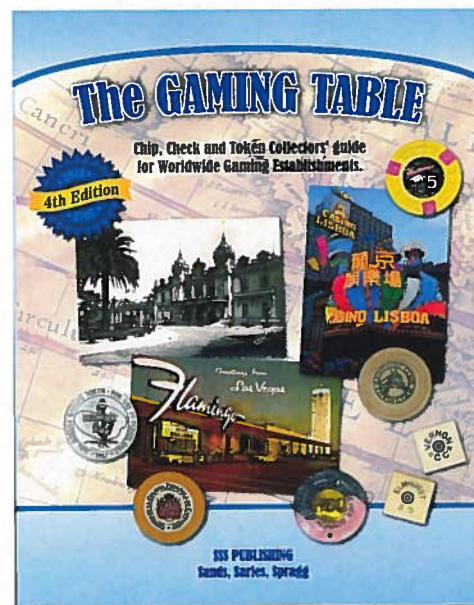
There's a section on dealing in a casino, and the special pressures that includes. And a sections on special events and occurrences in Las Vegas' history, trivia and attractions.

The Las Vegas Chronicles may not contain earth-shattering or totally new information, but then we are a rather knowledgeable audience; far from the general readership this book will undoubtedly astound.

In all, it's a fun read, and everyone is sure to learn something from it.

The book is published by Scotline Press in D'Iberville, MS and is available on Amazon.com, and perhaps in some brick and mortar bookstores as well.

TTHE GAMING TABLE: CHIP, CHECK AND TOKEN COLLECTORS' GUIDE TO WORLDWIDE GAMING ESTABLISHMENTS, 4th Edn., (2012) by Jay Sands, David Sarles and David Spragg



[Disclaimer: your reviewer is one of the original authors of The Gaming Table.]

Since its first publication in 1991, The Gaming Table has been the only guide of its kind for the chip and token collector. Its purpose was to list all known casinos, whether still operating or not, along with details – address, opening and closing dates, operators, types of chips used – to assist the collector in identifying items in his collection that might otherwise be a complete mystery.

The fourth edition, under new ownership and authorship, continues that goal 20 years after The Gaming Table's first publication.

The fourth edition is the first published by Jay Sands, David Spragg, and David Sarles, and there have been a few changes in format, but the concept and content of the book remain essentially the same.

This edition has fewer pages than the previous version (although not many fewer), but that is due mostly to the format change rather than any elimination of content.

The appearance of the book has been altered somewhat. Rather than the four vertical columns which readers are familiar with, with the casino names in boldface and detail information following below, the new edition is laid out similarly to its sister publication, The Chip Rack: a horizontal spreadsheet-type format. Every other line is shaded to make following along easier.

The typeface is extremely small, but that keeps everything in one volume and is largely responsible for the slightly reduced number of pages, even though there is actually more content. The size of the type may be problematic for some readers, however.

The authors indicate that they have added 2,400 entries since the third edition, and modified information for an additional 5,000 entries. That's no doubt true, although difficult to verify. They also say that they've "added" a "type" column, indicating whether a casino is a specialized type (for example, riverboat, day cruise, tribal, etc.). Actually, that information was already in the third edition, but appeared below (not alongside) the casino name.

The extensive bibliography which was contained in previous editions of The Gaming Table is again included, and it contains what may be the most comprehensive listing of original sources for the collector who wishes to conduct his own specialized research. There is no other publication which offers the collector the ability to look up an unidentified chip and find its origin and further information. Not all unidentified chips can be found in TGT, of course, but more are added every year, especially with the availability of more manufacturers' records.

TGT remains one of the hobby's most important and useful reference works.

It is available from the authors at <http://www.thechiprack.com/order2.htm> for \$50.

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Jerry Hoover (R-2572)

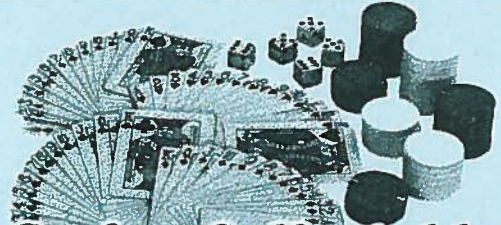
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Voting for the 2011 OTY Awards

The OTY Awards Assistant has been receiving a steady stream of Nomination Forms via snail mail, emails and even a few telephone call-ins. As of press time, the 2011 Nominee deadline has passed and we are now on to finalizing the voting process. In looking forward, we can see that the next issue of the Casino Collectible News (June, 2012) will not be in member mailboxes in time to use for display of the nominees.

While there will be an Internet capability to view the nominees and then cast your votes. For those members that are not Internet savvy, and you wish to view and vote on the 2011 OTY Awards, then you will need to contact the OTY Awards Chairman and ask for a hardcopy version of the Judge's Pamphlet be mailed to you.

In order to make this request, you will need to call the OTY Chairman at (520) 971-7909. If you get voicemail (answering device) please leave your name, membership number and a callback number for a return call.

There is also time to send a written request for the Judge's Pamphlet by mailing the OTY Chairman at:

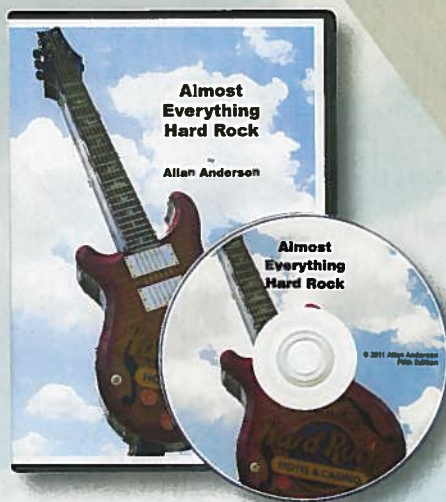
Jim Follis
OTY Awards Chairman
5169 N. Windriver Pl.
Tucson, AZ 85750

Be sure to include your return mailing address.

For those members who will be participating in the OTY voting process on-line, please look to the Club's web-site for further announcements and instructions.

Thank you,

Jim Follis
OTY Awards Chairman



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2012 CC>CC Election Nomination Results

The nominations for the 2012 CC>CC Officers and Board of Directors have been submitted and tallied. 24 nomination forms were received, with 3 voided due to late postmark, for a total of 21 valid nomination forms.

The following members received one nomination. Per the CC>CC Constitution, a member must receive two nominations to be eligible to run for Office:

Vice President: None

Treasurer: None

Membership Officer:

Jim Follis

Steve Passalacqua

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

Vice President:

Steve Bedo

Jim Follis

Steve Passalacqua

Treasurer:

Jim Perlowski

Membership Officer:

Tammy Lynch

Rick Pokracki

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

Vice President: Sheldon Smith (Unopposed)

Treasurer: John Zoesch (Unopposed)

Membership Officer: Steve Bedo (Unopposed)

A ballot vote is not required since the above Board of Directors positions are uncontested. The above nominees are elected to the respective offices by acclamation. The term for the Offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Officer will be two years (2012 - 2014).

At the CC>CC annual business meeting on June 23, 2012, we, the Election Co-Chairmen, will report the results which will then be certified, at the meeting, by a vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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THE LIFE BLOOD OF A NATION

FROM COLUMBUS TO CASTRO: GAMBLING IN CUBA

Part 2

By Christopher Bolton
R-8321

THE MOB ERA

From December 22-26, 1946 the so-called "Mob Summit" was held in Havana. Participants included Joe Adonis, Albert Anastasia, Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Joe Bonnano, Moe Dalitz, Tommy Lucchese, Santo Trafficante (probably Sr. due to the board level meeting), Antonio Accardo, Carlos Marcello, Stefano Magaddino, Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano. It has been commented that the "Bugsy" Siegel issue regarding the Flamingo was discussed at this summit. Whether by coincidence or not, Frank Sinatra was also in Havana during those same days (the entertainment?). There is a scene in the Godfather Part II, where the mob meets to discuss the dividing of gambling interests in Cuba although the movie's timeline is 1958, some 12 years later.

Havana's gaming was a free-for-all - no more regulated than a fairground whose operator subcontracted the individual sideshows and stalls. The Cuban owners of the city's nightclubs were leasing out their gaming rooms - and sometimes even individual games and tables - to just about anyone who claimed to have a bankroll to risk. Some were serious, professional operators, but had less experience - and less bankroll. The come-on games like *cúbolo* were the result of this. This carney style game offered quick returns on minimal investments. Stories proliferated of gullible American tourists being cheated by smiling and plausible dealers - some Cuban, but many American - who brought the cards and dice to their table, and who took their money off them as they ate.

Cúbolo or Razzle Dazzle had many forms but usually consisted of eight dice being spilt from a cup with the resulting number being compared with the numbers on a "conversion chart" to determine the number of points scored. The conversion chart would consist of some 120 numbered squares offering different sized prizes. Most results were useless and required the bettor to "double down" for another chance to win. The conversion chart was manipulated by the agent who would change the rules of game as he went along if a punter happened to obtain a large prize. To keep the player interested, he would be allowed to win small amounts and would ultimately lose his shirt as he was always "within reach" of a major payoff.

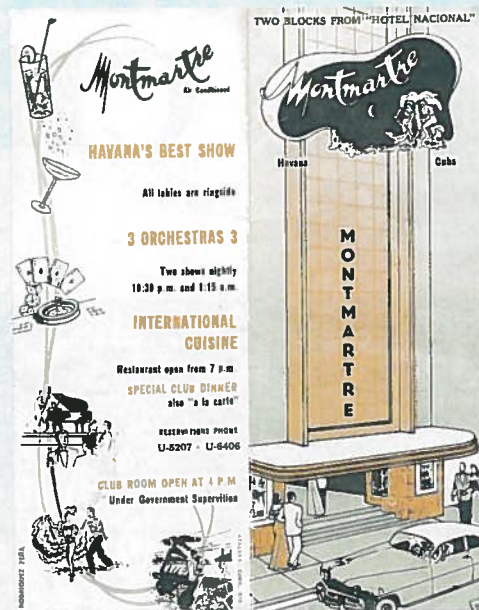
"The President of the Republic," announced the Havana Herald on February 10, 1953, "has given definitive instructions to

the various police forces to intensify measures of protection for foreign tourists." It was "unprecedented," said the newspaper, for the president to express himself personally on this subject, and he had dispatched the minister of the interior on a tour of Havana's gaming rooms to look out for fraudulent multidice games like *cúbolo* and razzle-dazzle, a variant on the theme. The Cuban Tourist Commission even had a form printed which authorized visitors who believed that they had been cheated to stop payment on their checks.

These measures had scarcely had a chance to work, however, when, at the end of March 1953, the Saturday Evening Post ran an expose' headlined on its cover, "Suckers in Paradise: How Americans Lose Their Shirts in Caribbean Gambling Joints." The author of the article, Lester Velie, had been on a thorough tour of Havana's nightspots. All of them, he reported, had succumbed to the operators of razzle-dazzle, *cúbolo*, and the come-on games, and must now be considered "bust out" joints - or fraudulent. The traditional casino games were not above suspicion.

Most dealers in Havana were dealing blackjack from a single hand-held pack, which was open to manipulation, rather than from a

box or shoe, which had long been the standard practice in America. In the length and breadth of Havana the reporter could discover only two locations where the gambling was honest. One was the so-called "louse ring" underneath the grandstand at the Oriental Park horse track, where Cubans gambled



with Cubans for modest stakes. The other was at the very opposite end of the scale - the Montmartre Club, a luxurious, plush-and-gilt, third floor establishment a few blocks away from the Nacional Hotel in downtown Havana. The operation of the Montmartre's gaming tables had recently been taken over by Meyer Lansky. The serious high-rollers knew cheating when they saw it, and there was no suggestion of sleight-of-hand or come-on games in the Montmartre Club. To the contrary, thanks to Meyer Lansky, honestly conducted high-stakes gambling was still alive and well in one corner of Havana, at least.



Montmartre

On March 30, 1953 - two days after the Saturday Evening Post expose' - Cuban military intelligence arrested thirteen such cardsharps, all American, and immediately deported eleven of them. Under Batista's first period in power, the only legal gambling was at the Casino Nacional and the Oriental Park Race Track and its adjoining Jockey Club. This situation coupled with Cubans' love of gambling helped boost participation in the lottery and especially in the game of bolita.

Lottery stores offered full sheets of 100 tickets with the same number for 25 pesos or cachitos (a partial ticket) for 25 cents. The Hotel Sevilla offered a lottery variation where, if you could not find the number you wanted the Sevilla would let you play that number as long as you bought the whole sheet, and would pay full prize value if you caught "El Gordo" (the Fat One or Main Prize). The lottery drawing was a true ritual: there were two tumblers filled with small balls. In one there were the lottery numbers and in the other the prizes. Young children from the local orphanage, dressed in fancy uniforms would stand at each tumbler and first a lottery number would be pulled and the number announced in a loud voice. Immediately thereafter, a second boy would pick a ball from the prize tumbler and shout out the prize for that number.

When the main prize was drawn, an excited voice would shout out "Premio Mayor, Premio Mayor".

Bolita was also run from the Sevilla Hotel under the watchful eye of the owner Amleto Battisti, Havana's leading numbers man. La Bola was invented by José Manuel Castillo in the Luyanó neighborhood. Based on the Charada game of 36 numbers, this was increased to 100 numbers with new characters, animals and objects added. No 45 for example represents the shark, and which today is another nickname for Fidel Castro.



Competition flourished in the different areas with the Tropicana's Martin Fox running the numbers from the night club and Campanario López from the Marianao district. Three numbers were drawn: the first number is the Fijo (fixed number), the other two numbers are called Corridos. People could bet on one number for the fijo, two numbers (the fijo plus one corrido, or all three numbers - a really long shot). A one bet on the fijo would pay out at 80 or 90 pesos. A parlé of fijo plus corrido would pay out 900 pesos.

Meyer Lansky's Montmartre Club remained the premier destination for high rollers. Originally built in the 1920s as a casino and indoor dog track, the place was destroyed in civil disturbances in the 1930s and rebuilt; Joe Carlyle ran the shows. The Montmartre did not have the quality floor shows or ambience to match the under-the-stars nightclubs of the garden suburbs of the Tropicana and the Sans Souci, but it did have Lansky's table crews, and that attracted the best players. It was serious gambling for serious gamblers.

The Montmartre was only a few minutes stroll from the Nacional, the grandest hotel in Cuba - or in the entire Caribbean. Lansky had long nursed a plan to install a casino in the Nacional Hotel itself. The hotel stood imposingly on a rocky bluff looking out across the bay towards the Morro, the ancient and picturesque fortress guarding the entrance to Havana harbor. Ten stories high and of classic design, the Nacional bore a striking resemblance to the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, whose architect it shared, and Lansky's scheme was to take over a wing of the Nacional and



Gran Casino Nacional

refurbish it with luxury suites for high-stakes players, a deluxe Caribbean version of the formula which Las Vegas had been developing so successfully since the death of Benny Siegel.

In 1955, Meyer Lansky got a piece of the action and Pan Am's Intercontinental Hotels took over management. In January 1956, a wing of the hotel was turned into a club, casino and bar. It was operated by Meyer and Jake Lansky and fronted by Wilbur Clark of Las Vegas fame. The casino was named Casino Internacional. The casino itself offered 7 roulette tables, 21 slot machines offering plays from 5 cents to \$1, 3 black jack and one craps tables. The Casino Parisien was for dancing and dining and the Starlight Terrace was a bar.

Eartha Kitt was the star of the floor show with which the new Nacional Hotel casino opened for business in the winter season of 1955-56. It proved an immediate success. Lansky placed his brother Jake in charge of the casino floor, and night after night Jake surveyed the proceedings from his giant ladder to make sure the games were kept clean. The Lansky brothers were operating in partnership

be good for anyone's business. Batista seldom visited Meyer Lansky's casinos - in the winter season of 1955-56 Lansky was operating at both the Nacional and the Montmartre, and had a piece of another, more modest club, the Monseigneur - and the two men were almost never seen together in public. Nor did they socialize privately. Their relationship was strictly a professional one. Lansky and Batista were, to all intents and purposes, partners in the commercial development of Cuban gambling, but there was



Fulgencio Batista

nothing as crass as a direct transfer of funds from one to the other.

It made more sense for both sides to operate through middlemen, and though the payoff might sometimes take the form of cash, it more often involved jobs, supply contracts, and a whole network of patronage.

In 1955, the system reached its culmination in the promulgation of Hotel Law 2074, by which the Cuban government granted tax exemptions to "all new hotels, motels, and similar establishments providing tourist accommodations." Any hotel with more than \$1 million of new investment, and any new nightclub valued at \$200,000, was entitled to apply for a casino license. The government even announced itself ready, in certain circumstances, to provide "direct financial assistance" through the Bank for Economic and Social Development (Bandes), for the construction of tourist projects it considered particularly valuable. The Bank offered matched public funds for construction and the law guaranteed a 10 year exemption from

income taxes with no import duties for furnishings and equipment.

Batista was able to cite this law as the reason why, in a matter of years, the number of hotel rooms in Havana nearly doubled - from some 3,000 in 1952 to nearly 5,500 in 1958. All these new rooms were modern, luxurious, and air conditioned, and Batista was entitled to take credit for his achievement. By 1958 Cuba was experiencing the booming tourist economy that did not come to other corners of the Caribbean for ten years or more. But Hotel Law 2074 was also the channel by which the president could dispense government money to associates like Meyer Lansky, who then made sure that it was friends and relatives of the president who profited privately from the construction and operation of the new hotel-casinos that they built. Cuba's strict labor quota laws were also relaxed to allow foreign croupiers and casino staff into the country on special two-year visas as "technicians."

In the spring of 1956, less than three years after he had been



Nacional Hotel



Jake (L) and Meyer Lansky

with a regime which was corrupt. But they did not allow that corruption to touch the purity of what made them real money - serious, professional gambling. Their partner, Fulgencio Batista, shared their professionalism.

Flamboyant and high profile in many respects, the Cuban president was not, himself, a gambling man. He also realized, as clearly as the Lansky's did, that having Cuban officials gathered around roulette tables in their caps, uniforms and all the trimmings, would not

in jail in Saratoga, Meyer Lansky started work, under the terms of Hotel Law 2074, on the construction of his own hotel, The Riviera, a twenty-one-story, 440-room skyscraper was located on Malecón and Paseo Streets in Havana. When it opened, the Riviera would be the largest purpose-built casino-hotel in Cuba - or anywhere in the world, outside Las Vegas. The hotel became the informal headquarters of the Mob. Incorporated as a Cuban company, Riviera de Cuba, S.A. partial funding was guaranteed by the.

To construct the Riviera, Lansky selected Irving Feldman, a builder who had a dozen hotels and prestigious apartment blocks to his credit on Miami Beach. Short, swashbuckling, and dynamic, Feldman was a Napoleonic figure who had the reputation for bringing high-quality jobs in on time. In his previous life, Feldman was an unashamed gambler and ladies' man. But when it came to construction, he was all business. He broke ground on the Riviera in January 1957, and eleven months later it was finished. Meyer's brief for his hotel was that it should contain nothing but the best. The Riviera was the first major

building in Havana to have central air conditioning, in contrast to the new Capri Hotel, completed a few months earlier not far from the Nacional, which had individual box units, rattling and dripping from every window. Cold hissed smoothly and silently into the Riviera's luxurious room from ceiling vents, and every window had its own view of the sea. Seen from the air, the two broad curves of the Riviera swept back from the Malecon in the shape of a tremendous Y, with cantilevered balconies at every end. In terms of style and decor, the Riviera was angular and futuristic. Echoing and reflecting the waters of the Florida straits, the hotel was clad in turquoise mosaic, while the casino itself, a curved and windowless pleasure dome covered in gold mosaic, nestled on the ground beside it like an enormous, gilded ostrich egg. The furnishings were by Albert Parvin-Dohrman, which was supplying the latest luxury hotels in Las Vegas. Modernistic chandeliers



glittered from the ceilings of the casino, restaurant, and public rooms, like so many convoys of winking flying saucers. The overall effect did not, perhaps, win prizes for taste, but it was undeniably exciting.

Everyone in Havana knew that the Riviera was Meyer Lansky's project. He sent excited progress reports and photographs of the construction back to his son Paul, in Tacoma, as the steel skeleton of the main tower rose in the sky. But, as ever, Meyer hid his own participation behind the names of his partners and associates. The casino license, for which the hotel paid the Cuban government \$25,000 a year, was held by Eddie Levinson. The casino manager was an associate of Levinson's, Eddie Torres - and the Riviera Hotel Corporation itself was headed by the Smith brothers, Ben and Harry, two Toronto hoteliers with whom Lansky had negotiated the Management contract. The only place in which Lansky's name appeared on the paperwork was as director of the hotel's kitchens.

The Riviera Hotel cost \$14 million to build (using matching funds from the Bandes). It opened with a fanfare on the evening of December 10, 1957. Its Copa Room floor show,

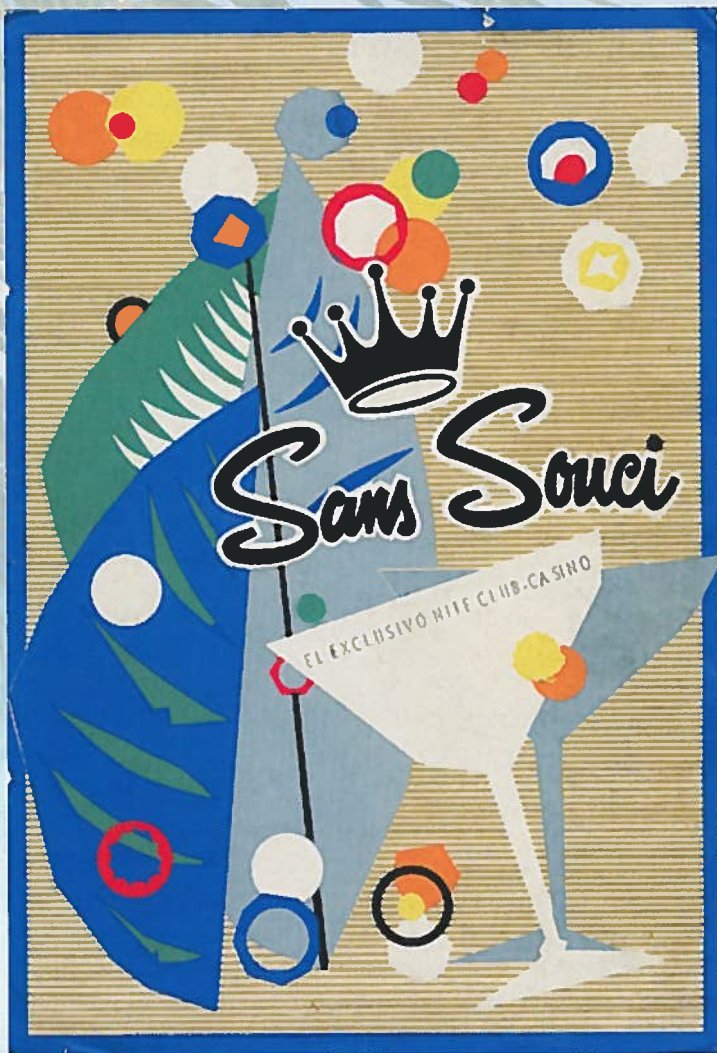
which was carried in part on American network television, was headed by Ginger Rogers. The Riviera was universally judged an immense success. Its casino started making money from the first night. Its 440 double rooms were booked solid through the winter and spring season of 1958 and beyond. It took the deployment of several large-denomination bills to secure a decent seat in the Copa Room, where the performers that winter included Vic Damone, Abbott and Costello, and the Mexican comedian Cantinflas. Most satisfying of all, it was even harder to secure a table to eat in the Riviera Room, the hotel's gourmet restaurant, which offered, by general consent, the city's finest fine dining, and steaks of a particularly high quality.

Santo Trafficante arrived in Havana on December 26, 1955 at the invitation of Lansky, and installed himself in room 517 at the Rosita de Hornedo Hotel in Miramar. His first order of business

was to set up a base. To that end, he purchased the Sans Souci from Gabriel and Kelli Mananrino and installed Lefty Clark as the front man, with Norman Rothman as manager. The Sans Souci was a Spanish-style structure located about 8 miles outside Havana on the Arroyo Arenas Highway. Dating back to WWI, this nightclub had fallen into disrepair and Trafficante ordered a one million dollar refurbishment for it to be ready for the 1956 tourist season. The Sans Souci had a 1,100 person capacity for its nightly shows and offered roulette, craps, blackjack, chemin-de-fer (shimmie). Back in 1952 the Sans Souci had introduced the crooked Razzle Dazzle game, taking in some \$7,000 a night. They also offered a bingo come-on to get things started with a \$1,500 main prize every night.

and Malecón. The 14 story hotel was built at a cost of \$2.3 million and boasted 140 rooms with a gay 90s style casino. Guests and visitors alike had ample opportunity to lose their money with the casino's operating schedule of noon to 7:00 or 8:00 the next morning.

Confidence was high in Havana and several hotels and clubs were being built with casinos. Some even went so far as to have their chips made: these included the St. John's and the Casino del Río. Unfortunately the casinos never opened for business as the Revolution beat them to the punch.



St. John's Casino



Casino Rio

Havana was a tropical city that lived off rum, rumba and roulette. Tourism flourished with the promise of cheap drinks, with a bottle of rum costing \$1.20 (US) and gambling starting at five cents. Even those tourists who "crapped out" could always find a way home through a loan from the Anglo-American Welfare Federation.

Trafficante expanded his empire with the Hotel Deauville; construction started in November 1956 and opened in July 1958. The Deauville was a joint venture with "bolita" kingpin Evaristo García Sr. The hotel was located at Galiano Street, between Infanta

Santo Trafficante was also a silent partner in the Casino de Capri Hotel; B movie actor George Raft was the greeter for the throngs of tourists pouring into Havana. The George Raft junket chip is perhaps the Holy Grail for Cuban chip collectors. The Casino de

Capri was located at 21 and N Streets in the Vedado district and had six roulette tables with six colors for each table – perhaps the most complete and quite complicated chip set for collectors of Cuban chips.



Casino de Capri

In an effort to appease unrest among the Cuban people who saw the casinos as a gringo invasion, Batista reserved ownership of the The Habana Hilton for local investors. The investment was made by funds from the Cuban Catering Workers' Union and the hotel was to be operated by Hilton Hotels Group. It was inaugurated by Conrad Hilton on March 22, 1958. The hotel was located at 23 and L Streets, also in the Vedado district. This hotel became Fidel Castro's headquarters in January 1959 (the Continental Suite). Today the hotel is called Habana Libre.

However, dark clouds were beginning to form over Cuba. The revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara were making inroads and a stronger military presence was being felt in the major cities. On another front, in April, 1958 the Nevada Gaming Board banned all holders of Nevada gaming licenses from operating in Cuba. The successes of Cuba's casinos were hurting business out west. Wilbur Clark, Moe Dalitz and others sold out their interests and returned home. Along with Benny Binion, who had been invited to participate in the Cuban operations but refused because he didn't believe in doing business where he couldn't speak the language, these owners turned out to be quite the wise guys (pun intended) and were spared the threats of losing their businesses.

REVOLUTION AND A NEW ERA

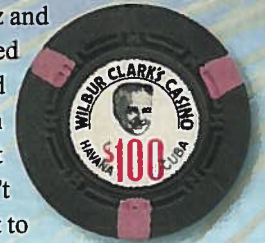
As dawn rose on New Year's Day 1959, Havana awoke to the news that Batista had abandoned the country during the night. Suddenly in Batista-less Havana, there was dancing in the streets and this was not exactly due to the New Year's celebrations. Havana went wild with the news that Batista, his family and friends had fled the country.

Lansky only found out at 1:30 am on New Year's Day that Batista had fled the country. He had no inkling at all that the end had been so close. He spent the rest of the night going from casino to casino to secure the cash. He left Havana on January 9 with one suitcase full of cash.

The workers at the Riviera deserted their jobs to go out and



George Raft Junket Chip



celebrate. Downtown Havana saw crowds rush into the luxury hotels which housed the largest casinos. Batista's brother in law, General Roberto Fernández y Miranda controlled all 10,000 slot machines in Cuba and these were turned into mangled, unrecognizable hulks of metal. Fernández also held the concession for Havana's parking meters and these fared no better. In the early weeks of January 1959, peasants who had only dared to look wistfully at the outside of the chrome-and-glass towers housing the visiting Americanos now strolled with impunity into the lobbies. It was several days before life in Havana returned to some sort of normality.

One of the first decisions of the new revolutionary government of Cuba in January 1959 was to shut down the casinos and the national lottery. Both were inappropriate to the ethics of the new, reformed Cuba. If the country's tourist business depended on gambling, announced the new prime minister, Miro Cardona, then the tourist business would just have to suffer. Fidel Castro had already proclaimed from the mountains his intention of removing the Yankee gangsters who ran the casinos of Havana. The realities of government, however, soon caused Castro and his ministers to think again. At the end of January 1959, several thousand waiters, croupiers, dealers, and bartenders who had been thrown out of work by the closing of the casinos paraded in protest through the streets of Havana. Castro had delegated the responsibility for the casinos and the national lottery to Pastora Nunez, one of the woman guerrillas who had fought in the Sierra Maestra, and at the end of February 1959, Señorita Pastora Nuñez summoned the

major casino owners to her office. "I highly disapprove of the way you make a living," she lectured, "but we are reconsidering our earlier decision."

Money proved to be the final persuader. The casino owners agreed to give their employees seven weeks' back pay for the time they had been out of work, and with that assurance, the government rescinded its earlier decree. CASINOS REOPEN IN HAVANA, proclaimed the banner trailing behind a plane which flew up and down Miami Beach in the last week of February 1959. There were about six weeks left until Easter, and, with luck, the Riviera and the other hotels could recoup enough of their losses to break even for the season. Cautious optimism filled the gaming rooms at the prospect of coexistence with a regime that seemed both clean and pragmatic.

However, not everybody got their money or investment back. Lansky's Riviera had cost 14 million dollars to build and equip. While six million dollars came from the Cuban government, Lansky and associates had invested some eight to 10 million. The hotel had been open for just over a year and according to conservative estimates had made three million dollars in profits, leaving seven million on the table when all US properties were expropriated.

In April 1959, Santo Trafficante and Jake Lansky were arrested pending deportation, which occurred in July of that year. By the end of October 8, 1960 the Mob finally "crapped out" as US properties and businesses were expropriated en masse.



Casino Artistica Austuriano

Casino Español

THE SUN ALWAYS RISES

Fifty years of Castro and Communism have not managed to eliminate gambling. Gambling still exists in Cuba, with clandestine cock fights, and cards and dice games, Bolita and there is also the Loteria de las Visas (exit visas for Cubans wishing to get out of Cuba). People will set up tables and charge entrance fees of up to 30 pesos with potential winnings of over 20,000 pesos – a real fortune. Prostitution is also run from these illegal casinos with the “mangos” mixing with the clients. In the 1970s and 80s anybody caught organizing illegal gambling could go to jail for two years or more. Today, it is a 600 peso fine – hefty but better than the slammer.

Bolita is also run in a different manner. The banker has his listeros or leg men who each have a route and take bets. Most people pony up a penny to a dollar for a chance to buy meat or shoes and USD100 in winnings is the score of a lifetime. The banker checks to make sure certain numbers are not overloaded and if they are, these are botado or passed off to other bankers. The reason certain numbers may be overloaded is linked to Cubans’ superstition and dreams. If there is news about Fidel Castro, the numbers 1 and 45 will get extra play. If somebody dreams they are at sea, they may bet on numbers 3 or 5, based on the charada charts. The winning numbers are the first three numbers drawn from the Miami Lottery and these are broadcast over Radio Martí. People with shortwave radios listen in to the drawing and then spread the word among the neighbors. Everybody plays bolita and while the better off will play up to 200 pesos on a fijo, poor people will play with calderilla or loose change.

Will gambling ever become legal again? It is a fair bet that as long the Castro brothers are in charge, there will be no change. However, increased foreign investment in hotel infrastructure and a general acceptance in most countries of regulated gaming may be enough to persuade any new post Castro government to reintroduce gambling. Place your bets and time will tell.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Ricky Mariani and Manual Orama, for opening up their collections and sending me hundreds of scans to choose from. Rich Hanover and Charles Kaplan for allowing me access to their websites and cherry pick the chips.



Habana Country Club



Union Club



CALIFORNIA

NO CASH VALUE!

By Stu Lovett
LM 4603-165



California just doesn't have poker chips, it has just about every other type of tokens and chips that you can imagine. With it's extensive array of card rooms, Casinos, Indian Casinos and illegals, you will find all kinds of tokens, chips, card covers, spinners and the likes.

Let's start off with some of the most common chips, that would be tournament chips. Just about every gambling establishment has tournaments. From the largest Casino to the smallest card room, tournaments are the most popular game beside cash games of Hold 'em and Omaha. The first tournament chips used in California were just chips of different colors mostly with the card room's name on it. To avoid any confusion, card rooms started putting denominations on the chips. Today, most places use denominations on their tournament chips. But still, a few places still use different colored chips with their name on it. Both types of chips have the words "No Cash Value" on them. This prohibits individuals from trying to cash them in at the cage.

No Cash Value (NCV) chips are very common in many casinos. They usually range in the \$5.00, \$25.00 & \$100.00 amounts. Occasionally you will find other odd amounts, but they are rare. The NCV chips are used as a promotional item to get people in the doors. Some are sent out by mail to players. The amount of the NCV sent is usually determined by the individual playing status. The higher the play, the bigger the NCV. Some casinos or card rooms keep their NCVs in the casino and they make you fill out a card at the cage. Others have you fill in some data online prior to you visiting the casino. Either way, the NCVs are just waiting for you to show up to claim them!

Match play is another form of NCVs. These are used when

you play at table games.

They are usually played with another similar size bet. If you bet \$5.00 and place your match play chip with that bet, you will win \$10.00 if you win you bet. If you lose, good bye to your original \$5.00 and the match play chip!

Tokens enter another realm of promotional items. These can be for free drinks, free meals or a free spin on a machine. Their purpose is, of course, to get people in the door to actually gamble. They are betting on the fact that not many people would go into a casino and just have a free drink, without putting a few bucks on either a table game or a slot machine.

One more category of NCVs are tournament buy-in chips. Occasionally, when you enter a tournament, the casino or card room may give you a nice looking chip to bring to the table to show that you have paid your fee for that specific tournament. There are also buy in chips, re-buy, 2nd buys and satellite buy chips. They are usually a little bigger than the standard gaming chips. They usually have the facility name on it and are pretty nice looking chips. I have not seen many of these recently. Nowadays, they take your name and hand you a paper receipt for the tournament with your table number and seat number on it.

Some other miscellaneous items you may see are spinners, card covers, and commemorative tokens and chips. Spinners are metal advertisement pieces that you may have at the table. They are plain on the reverse side with a metal button in the middle enabling a player to spin the token. These are either given to players by casino bosses or purchased at the gift shop. Card covers are used mainly to protect your cards while at a poker table. Placing these chips

or tokens on top of your cards while in a hand at the table lets the dealer know you are still in the hand and prevents him or her from accidentally mucking your cards. Commemorative chips and tokens usually mark a special occasion for the casino. Either

“Grand Opening”, an anniversary, or an addition to the casino. They are often chips, but can also be tokens. They are almost always NCV, but are very collectible.

TOURNAMENT CHIPS



TOURNAMENT CHIPS



BUY IN CHIPS



NO CASH VALUE (NCV)



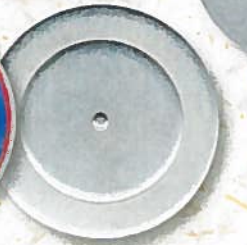
"GOOD FOR" CHIPS



PROMOTIONAL CHIPS



OTHER NCV CHIPS



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 Set of 10 (including 2011) – \$30.00
 Years Available –
 95, 96, 01, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10 & 2011



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>CC Member Pin – \$5.00

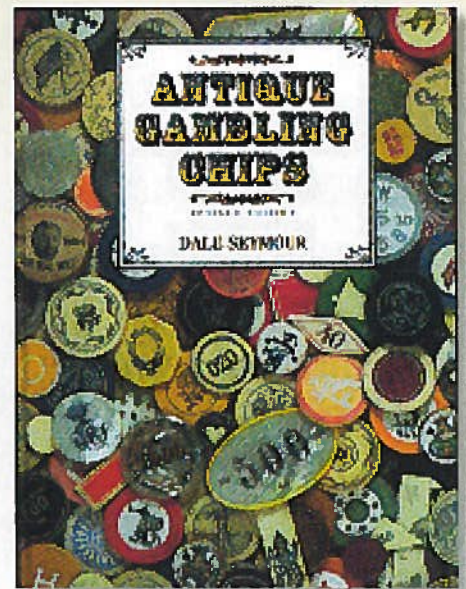


CC>CC Playing Cards – \$1.00/deck

CC>CC Wooden Nickels & Dollars – \$1.00 (set of 1 each)

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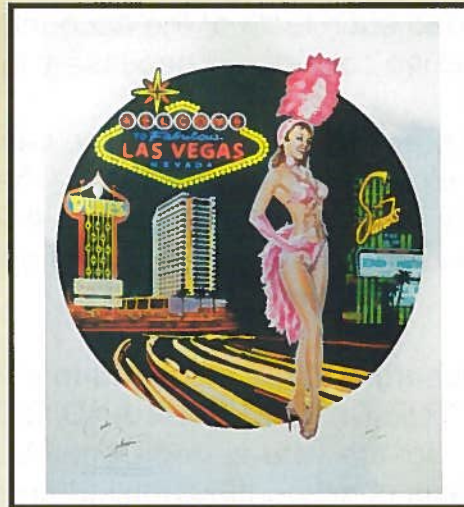
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NOTE: Some items, because of shape and/or weight will be mailed pre-paid priority and shipping cost may increase.

International Orders/Orders from Alaska and Hawaii—Contact for shipping charges.

For more club apparel check out the ‘On-line Club Shop’ on the website www.ccgccc.com.



The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc

www.ccgcc.com

A Non-Profit Corporation: FED ID: 11-3193244

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE CC>CC

We have examined the Treasurer's Report of **THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**, for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Our examination included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures, as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The Club's policy is to prepare its reports on the cash basis of accounting. Consequently, revenue and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the income is earned or the expense was incurred. For this reason the Treasurer's Report is not intended to present results of operations on the accrual basis.

In our opinion, the Treasurer's Report referred to above, presents fairly the income and expenditures of **THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**, for the year ended December 31, 2011, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting applied on a consistent basis.

DAVE HARBER

DEBBIE HARBER

DOUGLAS SMITH

MIKE QUINLIVAN

February 03, 2012

CC>CC Mentoring Program

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

The Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

CC>CC Claims Form

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

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

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

The process will work as follows:

1. Fill out the form completely, sign and date it.
2. Forward it Vice-President 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.ccgccc.com for you to download and print out. We are working on a program that will allow you to fill out the form online and send it electronically to V.P. 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>CC Reference Center! Here you will find useful information on the hobby of casino chip and gaming token collecting.

Casino Collectible News - A publication of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club
This official club magazine is a must-read for every casino collectible enthusiast.

For The Beginner

- [CCGTCC Mentoring Program](#) - Help others or find help for yourself!
- [2007 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- [2005 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- [Ask The Expert!](#) - a list of CC>CC members who have volunteered to answer your questions.
- [Chip Conditions](#) - an official list of CC>CC sanctioned terminology used to describe chip condition.
- [Glossary](#) - an extensive list of the terminology used in our hobby - a "Chiptionary", if you will.
- [Chip FAQ](#) - a huge list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding our hobby.
- [Chipology 101](#) - a great intro-to-chipping seminar presented at the national convention.
- [Cleaning Chips](#) - a good primer on cleaning casino chips.
- [Mold Designs](#) - Robert Eisenstadt's mold design project.

- [2011 Club Auction](#) - Catalog, Terms and Conditions & Current High Bids.

Detailed Reference

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

Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

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

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

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

Check out the club library for books or search for articles on the *Casino Collectible News* web site. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

<http://www.ccgcc.com>

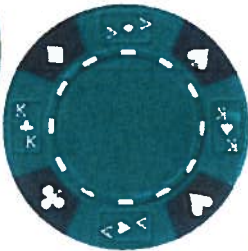
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