

Casino Collectible News

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24th Annual Casino Collectibles Convention June 23-25, 2016

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In this issue:

- 2016 Convention Info
- Tale of Two Casinos
- Omaha - Nebraska's Hidden Story
- It Happened on Fremont St. Cont.
- The Road to a WSOP Bracelet



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.



**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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State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

E-mail or Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

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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:

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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:

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Richard Huber

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or sign up or renew on line at...

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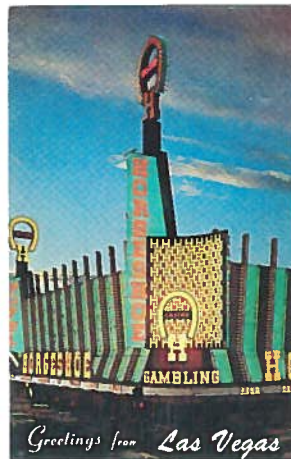


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- Do not send in ads that are folded. We recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND". This will only cost you about \$4.95 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch 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

Rates

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

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Burbank, CA 91510

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CC>CC Inc. can withdraw this offer at anytime.



Doug Smith
President

President's Letter

Summer 2016

By the time you are reading this, the 2016 convention will be upon us.

Once again we look forward to another fabulous show brought to us by our second year convention chairs, Sheldon and Christine Smith.

For those that are not aware, the Convention Chair is one of our most difficult and time consuming volunteer positions. I can't thank Sheldon and Christine enough for their hard work in making this years show truly the Greatest Casino Collectables Show On earth. I also wanted to take a minute to thank all our past convention chairs who for 25 years have put on one outstanding show after another. Thank you to Mike & Corni Quinlivan, Dave & Debbie Harber, Jim & Sandi Steffner, Mary Ann Massey, Mike Pasternack, Dawn Satter, George & Liz Conrad, Wayne Thompson, Belinda Hixon, Mike Skelton, Michael Knapp and Archie Black.

I am elated to announce that after much consideration the clubs BOD and Site Selection Committee have decided to sign for another 2 years with the South Point as our home for 2017 & 2018. We looked into several potential venues and the South Point came out on top once again.

For 2017 & 2018, things will however be a little different as our convention will move to the exhibit area which will be a change from the past years. We are excited about the new potential benefits this will bring to the convention and I believe people will find it even more convenient than we have had in the past.

If you are planning on joining us for the convention, please stop by the CC>CC Raffle table which is located next to Membership table in the front of the room. The Annual Raffle is one of the leading fundraisers for the club and with over \$5,000 in prizes, there are sure to be 10 very happy winners !!!!!

I can't stress enough how much I and the rest of the BOD appreciates each and every one of our volunteers for all you do. You have my eternal gratitude for your support.

Doug "Cigarman" Smith
LM-3209-147

Proud President of the CC>CC



Editor's Note

Robb McPherson R-8583
Co-Editor

I hope everyone has a great time at this years convention. I will not be able to attend this year with the Canadian dollar being so low and my daughter will be getting married this summer. I do plan on attending next years very special convention, the 25th Annual Convention.

It is great news to hear that the convention will be held at the South Point for the next two years. It is always good to have a stable well known venue for the convention.

It's good to see we have lots of volunteers in this club to help out at the conventions. I have been Chairman of the Ontario Numismatic Assc. Annual convention here for the last few years and it is tough to find enough volunteers to help run a convention.

I should have some more interesting casino stories for my next issue in the winter time as I will be Ottawa for the RCNA convention and then out in Western Canada for my daughters wedding. We will be making a few casino stops in our travels out west this summer.

I was very happy to have alot of support for this issue of the magazine. I had no problem filling all 80 pages of this issue. Please continue to send your stories and articles to myself and Steve.

New Members

Last	First	State	City	Ref.	Pre	Memb #
Rush	Herman	CA	Los Angeles	Web Site	R	8776
Cavanagh	Steve	NV	Las Vegas	Sheldon Smith	R	8775
Parriott	Scot	CA	Rancho Santa Fe	Club Web Site	R	8774
Weirich	Matt	NC	Waynesville	Club Site	R	8773
Hopper	Kenneth	CA	Milpitas		R	8772
Buckner	Jeff	KY	Louisville	Former Member	R	8771
Cole	Michael	TX	Alpine		R	8770
Pugh	William	TX	Rosharon		R	8769
Deal	Lance	TX	Dallas	Former Member	R	8768
Sander	John	OK	Edmond	Club Website	R	8767
Johnston	Jeffrey	WI	Madison	Club Website	R	8766
Ludmer	Miriam	FL	Coconut Creek	Mark Lighterman	R	8765
Holley	Eric	CA	San Gabriel	Richard Huber	R	8764
Ogle	Gary	WA	Custer	Club Website	R	8763
Hallenbeck	Kenneth L.	CO	Colorado Springs	Sheldon & Christine Smith	R	8762
"Shuffles" White	Carson	NC	Pine Tops	Archie Black	R	8761
Scofield	Bob	KS	Wichita	Club Web Site	R	8759
Grundfest-Wronski	Donna	NY	Wheatly Heights	Club Web Site	R	8758-A
Grundfest	Neil	NY	Wheatly Heights	Club Web Site	R	8758
Haines	Justin	NV	Las Vegas	Club Website	R	8757
Slott	Gary	TX	Groves	Club Web Site	R	8756
Miller	Kenneth	CO	Colorado Springs	Club Web Site	R	8755
Colclazier	Don	CO	Lamar	Former Member	R	8754
Naif	David	NV	Las Vegas	Club Web Site	R	8753
Richards	Frank	CA	Garden Grove	Former Member	R	8752
Giese	Les	NJ	Lebanon	Former Member	R	8751

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!

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Make sure it's updated!**

A Tale of Two Casinos

Dick Bartley [LM-5316-201]

This spring my wife and I took a cruise down the Rhine River from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland. It was a trip we'd been dreaming about for a long time – probably, ever since we started seeing the European river cruise ads on Downton Abbey several years ago. We sailed with Tauck Tours on a brand new ship called the MS Grace and it was an amazing experience all the way around. From Amsterdam to Cologne to Koblenz to Heidelberg to Strasbourg and finally to Basel – the cathedrals, museums, castles, villages and food were spectacular. But this isn't a travelog, it's a tale of two casinos.

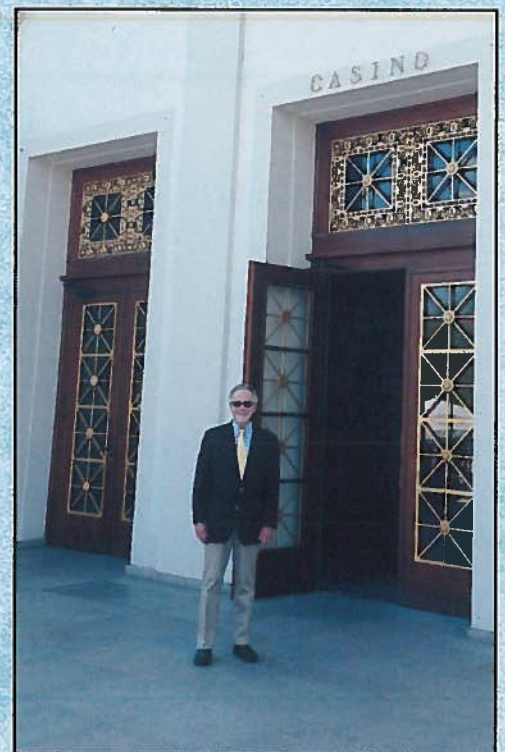


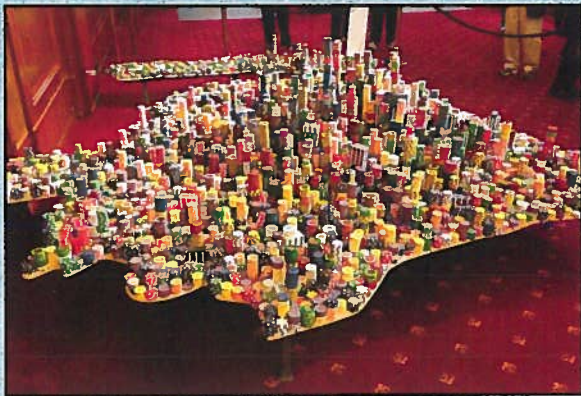
Along with our many stops along the Rhine, there were several side-excursions offered, and two of these made my chip-collector's eyes light up. The first was a trip to Baden-Baden, Germany and the other to Lucerne, Switzerland.

Baden-Baden

Baden-Baden is a spa town on the edge of the Black Forest that was settled by the Romans because of the natural hot springs located there. The Caracalla baths are still in operation today, while downtown Baden-Baden has evolved into a very high-end shopping district, not unlike Rodeo Drive in California.

The Grand Casino Baden-Baden is an elegant, old school, European casino offering French and American roulette, blackjack, poker, baccarat, and slot machines. An admission fee is charged, a passport and proper dress are required.





There are several interesting displays in the lobby area – the first is a model of Shanghai, China constructed entirely of poker chips...

I was lucky enough to pick up a couple chips for my collection during my brief visit to the Grand Casino Baden-Baden

Also featured are cases filled with antique cards and jetons...



Lucerne

A couple days later we took a side trip to the beautiful city of Lucerne, Switzerland. With Mt. Pilatus and the Alps as a breathtaking backdrop, the city is perched on the shore of Lake Lucerne and has been a gateway for trade and commerce ever since it was formally settled in the 8th century.



During our brief visit to Lucerne I sought out the Grand Casino Luzern by walking along the lakefront promenade about 10 minutes from the center of the old town (Schwanenplatz). The Grand Casino Luzern offers American roulette, blackjack, poker, baccarat and slot machines. A high-end restaurant and nightclub are also located on the premises. A passport and proper dress are required for admission when the table games open at 5 pm.



I was happy to pick up a couple chips for my collection at the Grand Casino Luzern.

Though it was just a small part of our European trip, the casino visits were fascinating and enjoyable and I can't wait to do it again.



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FOUR QUEENS
HOTEL & CASINO

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.ccggtcc.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.

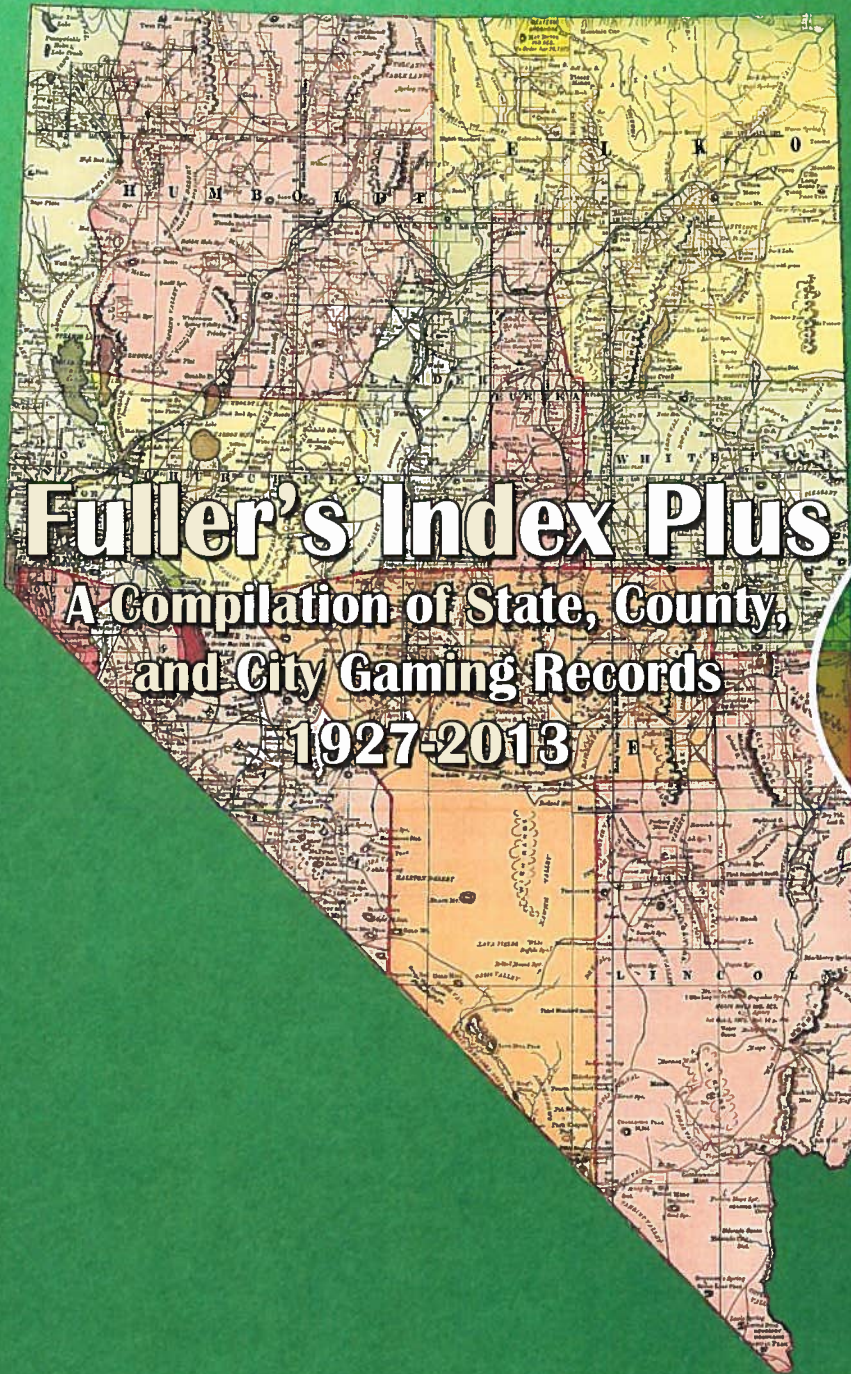
At the conclusion of the initial 30-day initial stage, the program chairman will contact both parties to see if both wish to continue. If both parties are pleased with how things are going, they may choose to continue for an additional 11 months. This short initial period is particularly good for beginners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

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In Memoriam

Myrna Lighterman 1930-2015

The entire collecting world of casino memorabilia and numismatists has lost a giant in our world. Myrna won many awards from the ANA and co-authored several books with her son Mark. She was always at our registration desk for the convention with a smile on her face. The club has lost a great spirit and friend.

Frank Chalfant 1942-2015

The chipping world has lost a pioneer and local leader in the greater Houston area. Frank started in our world when he purchased a slot machine from an illegal Galveston casino. He wrote the first book on Galveston illegal casinos and was a founder of the Greater Houston Chip Club. Frank was a good friend and will be missed.

Martin Myers

Long time member of the club and brother to Ralph Myers; aka HotRodrijm on the bulletin board. His friendship will be greatly missed.

W. Michael Brindle

Member since April, 2008. Passed late 2015.

Dan Sciacca 1955-2015

Dan and Terri Smith became collectors the same way most of us do, by fate, cleaning out a garage. Unfortunately, Dan did not join CC>CC, but he had many friends in the club through his membership in the Nor-Cal-Nev Casino Collectibles Club.

Irwin "Doc" Gross

Archie Black said best in his post on the the passing of one of the club's earliest members (R-130). "Doc" Gross was one of the well respected good guy and always the perfect gentleman. Doc will be missed by everyone he touched whether, as chip collect, an article in the CCN, playing poker, at the annual dinner (my wife Tina), or anyone he talked to.

Allan McIntyre, R-0831,

Long time member of CC>CC, passed away June 22, 2015.

Betty Jo Wilker, R-0868-A, 1933-2015

Long time CC>CC member and dealer. Her and her late husband Stan had a dealer table at many conventions right back to the early 90's

*Sadly missed along life's way,
quietly remembered every day...
No longer in our life to share,
but in our hearts, you're always there.*

Local Casino Collectibles Clubs

Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club; <http://gaming-chips.com/>; Charles Kaplan, 11 Calais Court, Rockville Centre, NY 11570; 5 meetings a year on Sunday's in AC; \$10.00 annual dues.

Chicagoland Casino Collectibles Club; ikcarkop@comcast.net; Riverboat Rick Pokracki; various locations in the tri-state area.

Dallas Chip Club; txbel711@aol.com; Belinda Hixon; various contact for next meeting

Florida Casino Chip & Token Collectors Club; Jerry Leonardo [561-445-4007](tel:561-445-4007) 6646 110th Place Sebastian FL 32958; jerryleonardo@bellsouth.net; Quarterly meetings at various locations Membership \$10.00 Yr

Houston Chip Club; Houston Chip Club on Facebook; Frank Chalfant; 1st Wednesday of the month starting at 7 PM

Michigan Chip Club; albertscalzo@gmail.com; Al Scalzo; 7229 Flamingo St. Clay, MI 48001; Elks Lodge #810, 2100 Scott Lake Rd. Waterford MI

Nor-Cal-Nev Casino Collectibles Club; Todd Dingley, sandpointe@sbcglobal.net, 6 Sandpointe CT. Sacramento, CA 95831. Contact us about our next Get-together!

NY Metro Chip Club; qualpete@aol.com; Pete Volberg, 516-322-3892; PO Box 3037, Farmingdale, NY 11735; Knights of Columbus Bethpage, NY; no membership dues.

Slot Card & Room Keys; Dave Johnston, 350 E Desert Inn Rd D-205, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-351-8573

Southern California Collectibles Club; georged@mindspring.com; George Dmitrevsky; 818-384-7357; 3rd Tuesday of every month locations vary 7-9 PM

Southern Nevada Collectibles Club; <http://snccc.weebly.com/>; Rich Klabacha; 1616 Gleneagles Court Boulder City, NV 89005-3653; monthly meetings; membership dues \$12.00

All the club information that was received at the time of the creation of the list. If you have information your club would like to add please contact the editors at Editor@csgtcc.com.

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

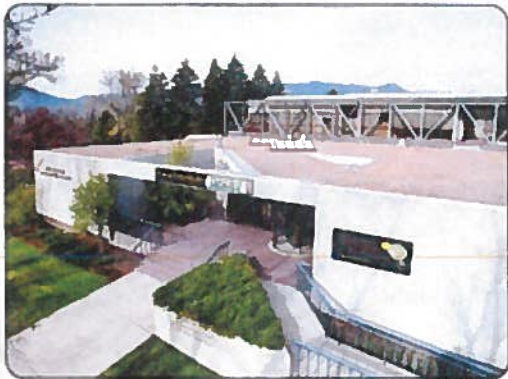
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NEWS



By Archie A. Black HLM-001/ANA Club Rep

World's Fair of Money® and National Money Show® – Members receive FREE admission to the biggest, most educational coin shows in the country. Build your collection from the best numismatic inventory anywhere, attend lectures and seminars, and view rare historical treasures from the ANA Money Museum and private collections. Plus, members are admitted to the bourse floor 30 minutes before the public. www.money.org/events

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Edward C. Rochette Money Museum – Members receive FREE admission to the Money Museum in Colorado Springs, the largest museum of its kind dedicated to numismatics. Galleries feature rare and valuable historical treasures, including a 1913 Liberty Head nickel, two of the 15 known 1804 dollars, the famous Bebee collection of U.S. paper money, and the Harry W. Bass Jr. collection of American gold coinage and pattern coins. Many rarities and select exhibits can be seen virtually. Visit www.money.org/money-museum.

David Harper, Editor of the Numismatic News, November 10/2015 issue.

His very timely article deals with disposing of coins instead of leaving things up to our heirs ... a very appropriate subject for our club members.

“Are Your Heirs Smarter Than You”

It is a little soon to make New Year's resolutions. I am going to bring up a topic that falls under the heading of resolutions, but more along the line of a life's resolution rather than an ephemeral one to lose weight, give up smoking, or exercise.

I had a telephone call yesterday. The caller had a friend who has a very nice collection. The friend's children have not the slightest interest in the coins.

What should the friend do along the lines of estate planning?

My reaction was that the coins should be sold while the collector is still alive and able to manage the process.

The collector knows what the coins are worth and how they should be sold to maximize value.

Sure there is a possibility that the coins could bring more money down the road when the kids would get them, but offsetting that possibility is the very real chance that they will mess up the eventual sale and get far less than the coins are worth.

It is better to sell the coins now, take the tax hit and let the remaining funds grow in other investments that the kids understand and will appreciate when dear



Class of
'63

DAVID C. HARPER

old dad has passed on.

Inheriting coins is growing ever more problematic. Too many heirs are in a hurry to dump the “problem.” They do not want to take the time to extract the most value for themselves.

Or they are so eager to begin spending the legacy that they will take any low-ball offer just to get the cash. Apparently they look at inherited coins like a lottery ticket. They want cash now. They don't want to wait for a more substantial flow of funds over time.

Dad ought to recognize this. He doesn't have to be in a hurry to sell. He can make all the decisions and get it done. Even subtracting the potential tax hit, he will generate far more cash for his kids.

As a collector I find it sad that coins are not as appreciated as they should be, but considering the many other phone

calls to my office from heirs where I have to tell them not to be in a hurry, I understand that an unfortunate outcome is much more likely when the coins are in the hands of people who have done nothing to collect them.

While it is heart warming to read about family collections and great collectors of history like T. Harrison Garrett and John Work Garrett, these multi-generational efforts are the rare exceptions.

Average collectors even in their most active years should have one eye on the exit door. We are all just temporary custodians of our collections anyway.

I think the greatest risks are for those collectors whose holdings are too big to ignore but too small to command a name auction.

If the collector is young enough, these holdings can be sold off over a number of years to minimize the tax liability. Some of the funds can even be plowed into new collections. A collector should never be entirely without coins, but reasonable planning and execution will prevent all those hard-earned assets from simply being frittered away by unthinking heirs.

Reprinted by permission from David C. Harper. David has been a coin collector since 1963. He joined the Krause Publications editorial staff in 1978 and is currently editor of Numismatic News and World Coin News.

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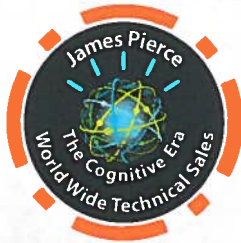
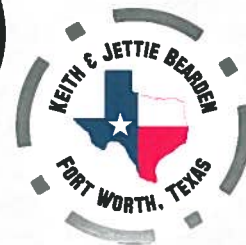
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Buy, sell, or trade chips, silver strikes, tokens, slot cards, room keys, dice, playing cards, COINS,
ashtrays, matchbooks, swizzle sticks, TIOs, postcards, and more!

SOUTH POINT

9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Main Show Floor Times:

Thursday, June 23rd, 10:00am - 5:00pm

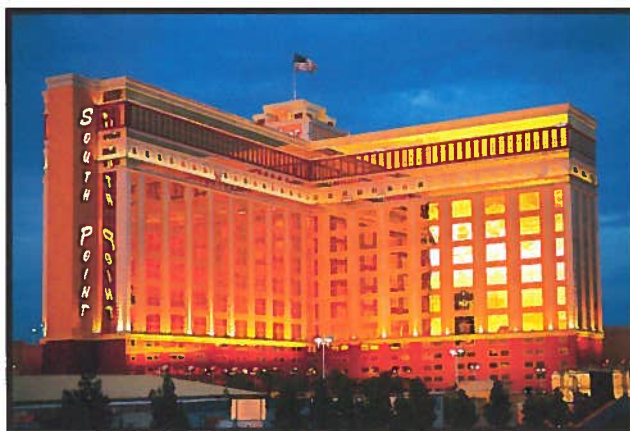
(Early entry at 9:00am for pre-registered members)

Friday, June 24th, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, June 25th, 9:00am - 3:00pm

No admission charge on Saturday!

- Open to the public -



Admission to show floor available with valid photo ID.
\$10.00 on Thursday, \$5.00 on Friday and Free Saturday.
Admission for all children 18 and younger is FREE
any day when accompanied by an adult.
Check in at the CC>CC Registration Desk prior to entry.

THE CC>CC CIRCUS OF FUN IS COMING TO TOWN!

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For more info visit
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**24th Annual
Casino Collectibles Convention
June 23-25, 2016**

The 24th Annual Convention of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collector's Club (CC>CC) is almost upon us! **COME ONE AND COME ALL** to the South Point for this year's **GREATEST (CASINO COLLECTIBLES AND COIN) SHOW ON EARTH!** From **June 23 - 25, 2016**, **JOIN US** under the **BIG TOP** and along the **MIDWAY** to see what **ASTOUNDING ITEMS** our Dealers – our **PURVEYORS AND PROMOTERS OF THE PAST** -- have brought to tempt and tantalize you! There will be **VINTAGE GAMING ITEMS** and **MEMORABILIA** from around the U.S. and the world, including casino chips and tokens, dice, silver strikes, playing cards, slot cards, room keys, ashtrays, matchbooks, swizzle sticks, postcards and much more! Some Dealers are also bringing **COINS** as extra inducement for our attendees to spend their "**DUCATS**" at our Show! Club merchandise, **SOUVENIRS** and other **ITEMS TO ASTOUND** will also be available at the Club's Promotions table. Roy Nelson, our Promotions Director, has some surprises this year and we're sure there will be something to entice everyone. Promotions will be at the back of the Showroom this year – just look for the banner and **STEP RIGHT UP** for Club souvenirs and much more!

Paul Bender has aptly captured our **CIRCUS** theme for the **CONVENTION PIN** and it is sure to be a big “hit” so get one before all are sold out! Todd Barrett has, once again, lent his amazing creativity for all of our graphics this year, including the **CONVENTION COMMEMORATIVE CHIP** and our silver and bronze medallions. For those who pre-registered, remember to use your **DISCOUNT COUPON** to take home a **SOUVENIR** from this year’s show. The **MEMORIES** we hope you make this year will, of course, be **FREE!** **ENJOY** each one!



BLACK



PMS 186



WHITE



GOLD

As usual, our Convention will have **GAMING TOURNAMENTS**, educational **SEMINARS**, a silent and live **AUCTION**, awesome and **AMAZING EXHIBITS** and member-only **TRADE SESSIONS** where you can share your interests, your excess inventory, and your **ENTHUSIASM** with fellow collectors. You can trade; but, you cannot sell at these trade sessions! Please verify that your membership is current so that you can participate in our trade sessions!

OUR MEMBER ONLY TRADE SESSION times are:

Wednesday, June 22nd (9:30 am to 4 pm and 8 pm to 11 pm);

Thursday, June 23rd (7 pm to 11 pm);

Friday, June 24th (6 pm to 11 pm);

Saturday, June 25th (7 pm to 11 pm).

If you want to attend the two (2) trade sessions on Wednesday, June 23rd, you must pre-register and pick up your badge at the Registration Desk because General Admission doesn’t start until Thursday. A **Registration Badge and Club Membership** are required for entry to all Trade Sessions, which will be held in the Napa "A" Room across from the Showroom Floor.

Our Annual Convention provides a **FULL SCHEDULE** for attendees filled with **FUN EVENTS** and a wide range of opportunities to learn more about our hobby, our club and the **HISTORY OF GAMING**, not only in Nevada but around the U.S. and the World.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND:

- 9:00 am** - Pre-Registration and banquet ticket pick-up only
Dealers and Members
- 9:00 am** - Dealer set-up begins – Grand Ballroom
Dealer credentials required for entry
- 9:30 am to 4:00 pm** - Member trade session – Napa A – *no sales*
Registration badge required for entry
- 12 Noon** - Blackjack Tournament – Casino floor
- 4:00 pm** - Member trade session closes; Pre-Registration and Banquet ticket pick-up closes
- 5:00 pm** - Dealer set-up closes.
- 5:00 pm** - Cocktail hour – Sonoma A and B
- 6:00 pm** - Early bird banquet – Sonoma A and B - Guest speaker – Steve Cyr,
“Super Host” and Founder, ICS Consulting
Ticketed event – advance purchase only
- 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm** - Member trade session – Napa A – *no sales*
Registration badge required for entry

THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD:

- 7:00 am** - Dealer set-up continues – Grand Ballroom
Dealer credentials required for entry
- 8:00 am** - Educational seminar – Sonoma A
“Mississippi Illegals” - Presented by Tom Henderson
- 8:00 am** - Registration opens
- 9:00 am** - Early admission for pre-registered members – Grand Ballroom
- 10:00 am** - 2016 show begins – Grand Ballroom
- 3:00 pm** - Educational seminar – Sonoma A
“Playing Around With My Chips Again” - Presented by Dick Bartley
- 5:00 pm** - Show in recess until 9:00 am Friday
- 6:00 pm** - Show floor secured
- 7:00 pm** - Bruce Landau Memorial Auction – Sonoma A
- 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm** - Member trade session – Napa A – *no sales*
Registration badge required for entry



FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH:

- 7:00 am** - Dealers with credentials may enter showroom
Dealer credentials required for entry
- 8:00 am** - Educational seminar – Sonoma A
“Secrets of the Chip Guide” - Presented by Charles Kaplan
- 8:30 am** - Registration opens
- 9:00 am** - Show floor opens – Grand Ballroom
- 11:00 am** - Hall of Fame Committee meeting – Napa A
- 12 noon** - OTY Awards – Grand Ballroom
- 12 noon** - Ladies’ Luncheon – Reserved Area in the South Point Buffet
- 2:00 pm** - Florida Collectors Club meeting – Napa A
- 3:00 pm** - Educational seminar – Sonoma A
*“Collecting Chips and Related Items of Gaming International’s WIN CARDS Program”
Presented by Jim Follis*
- 4:00 pm** - Show in recess until 9:00 am Saturday
- 5:00 pm** - Show floor secured
- 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm** - Member trade session, – Napa A – *no sales*
Registration badge required for entry
- 6:00 pm** - Poker Challenge – Poker room – Casino floor

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH:

- 7:00 am** - Dealers with credentials may enter showroom
- 7:00 am** - Clubs Presidents Meeting – Napa A
- 8:00 am** - **Annual CC>CC Business meeting** – Sonoma A.
- 8:30 am** - Registration opens
- 9:00 am** - Show floor opens – Grand Ballroom
- 12:00 noon** - “People’s Choice Awards” – Exhibit area – Grand Ballroom
- 3:00 pm** - 2016 show closes – See you next year!
- 5:00 pm** - All dealers must vacate show floor
- 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** - Volunteers’ Reception – Napa A
Invitation only
- 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm** - “Last Dance” Member trade session – Napa A – *no sales*
Registration badge required for entry

Times and locations are subject to change. Visit the club table for up to date details

Every year is an election year in our Club! So, **COME** and cast your vote for the “**PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS!**” Voting takes place in the **EXHIBITS** area at the back of the room from the opening of the Show on Thursday morning until Saturday mid-morning.

The winners will be announced on **Saturday, June 25th, at 12 noon** on the Showroom Floor.

Museum of Gaming History

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

Dedicated to the preservation and education of Gaming History



In addition to enjoying the **CLUB EXHIBITS**, you will also want to spend time at the **MUSEUM OF GAMING HISTORY (MOGH) DISPLAYS**, adjacent to the Promotions tables. Besides MOGH merchandise and brochures, there will be a computer to show attendees how to use the *Chip guide*, a video or slide show about the MOGH and its current exhibits at various local casinos and museums. There will also be displays of interesting collectibles and some donated pieces including a light box with slot glass.

The MOGH’s membership officer will also be available to explain the MOGH program.

THE BRUCE LANDAU MEMORIAL AUCTION, organized by David Spragg and Jay Sands, is our Club’s largest fund raiser! The Auction will start at 7 pm Thursday and will be held in the Sonoma “A” room.

COME SEE what’s available – there will be items guaranteed to **ASTOUND** and items you’ve always dreamed of acquiring or items you never even knew existed! Our Auctioneer, Tyrus Mulkey, will be on hand to make the evening fun and will keep the bidding moving . . . so, if you want an item, bid with determination! One of the **THRILLS** of collecting is to **WIN** that much-coveted item!

EARLY BIRD BANQUET

The evening will start with a **Cocktail Hour at 5pm** and a **sit-down plated Dinner at 6 pm**.

Pre-Registration is required for both the Cocktail Hour and Dinner and only ticketed persons will be admitted. Please pick up your “**KEY**” to the **GREATEST EARLY BIRD BANQUET ON EARTH** before Registration closes at 4 pm. If you have not yet signed up for the Banquet, we may be able to accommodate you if you call George Dmitrevsky immediately! **Non-members may attend the Cocktail Hour and Banquet when accompanied and paid for by a paid member**. During the Cocktail Hour, remember to purchase your **50/50 BANQUET RAFFLE TICKETS** from Dollie and Johnny Ramsey and friends. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and **ALL** proceeds from this **RAFFLE** directly benefit the Club!



Jim Kruse has outdone himself again this year in getting us an **AMAZING KEYNOTE SPEAKER** -- Mr. Steve Cyr, voted Las Vegas Life’s Best Casino Host! Mr. Cyr has been featured in over 30 television shows and has been highlighted in numerous print publications and was the subject of a controversial book, *Whale Hunt in the Desert*.

Steve Cyr was born and raised in Salina, Kansas, a small town a world apart from the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas, Nevada. The son of a Howard Johnson Hotel operator, Steve always planned on taking over the family business! Steve regularly worked at the Howard Johnson and prided himself on delivering the highest levels of customer service.

Steve was accepted into the hotel management program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Once there, the bright lights and frenetic pace of Las Vegas mesmerized him and immediately drew him in. Steve took all the gambling-related classes he could, including casino management, marketing, and mathematics. Steve sought courses that provided him with a greater understanding of the probabilities and strategies of the casino games and offered him insight into the psyche of the players.

In his final year at UNLV, Steve was selected for a coveted internship at the Barbary Coast, working under renowned casino mogul Michael Gaughan. This internship became a turning point in Steve's life. Steve stalked the casinos, trying to figure out how to apply the lessons learned in college to the behaviors displayed by the players and employees on the casino floor. Steve would lie on the catwalks with binoculars, watching the players and studying the action.

Steve learned both sides of the industry – Service and Strategy. He developed an inside perspective into the games and the players. After graduation in 1991, Steve was hired by Park Place and began his career as a slot host at Caesar's Palace and was quickly promoted to senior host at the Hilton. During his nine year career at Park Place, Steve was consistently the largest producing casino host. He brought in some of the biggest players and generated over \$33 million for the Las Vegas casino properties.

For a young farm boy who came to Las Vegas chasing his dreams, Steve Cyr is now living them! Arriving with no "juice," Steve Cyr is now the man with all the juice and he delivers all the fantasies of Las Vegas to the rich, famous and infamous from around the world!

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS:

Jim Kruse is our Educational Director and he has scheduled some **GREAT SEMINARS** this year – two on Thursday and two on Friday at 8 am and 3 pm each day. We hope that you will be able to attend some, if not all, of these seminars as they fulfill the educational purpose of our Club in a most interesting, fun and personal way!

• On **Thursday, June 23rd at 8am** (Sonoma A) - Tom Henderson Presents:

“Mississippi Illegal Chips: Context, Connections, Characters”



Tom Henderson lives in Clinton, MS; went to college at the University of Southern Mississippi and Florida State University; and will soon retire as Library director at Millsaps College, Jackson, MS. Tom has collected Mississippi illegals since about 2005, and also collects Gulf Coast postcards and ephemera. His research is focused on Mississippi gambling and prohibition history, Gulf Coast tourism, and genealogy. CCGTCC member R8545.

On Thursday, June 23rd at 3pm (Sonoma A) - Dick Bartley Presents:

“Playing With My Chips Again



"Dick Bartley is a 15 year CC>CC member living in Falls Church, Virginia. He became a casino chip collector in 1999 after bringing several chips home from a trip to Las Vegas. Dick has been a local and network radio broadcaster for over 40 years and was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2000. You can find further information at www.dickbartley.com."

On Friday, June 24th at 8am (Sonoma A) - Charles Kaplan Presents:

“Secrets of the Chip Guide.”



Charles Kaplan, LM-115-48, is the Museum of Gaming History Vice-Chairman and Webmaster, consultant and administrator of the ChipGuide, Vice-President of the Atlantic City Casino Collectibles Club, CCGTCC convention Seminar Speaker and volunteer, and frequently provides articles for Casino Chip and Gaming Token News.

Charles is a casino chip collector who specializes in the Caribbean, obsolete \$1 Nevada chips, and \$1 chips from everywhere.

On Friday, June 24th at 3pm (Sonoma A) Jim Follis will Present

“Collecting Chips and Related Items of Gaming International’s WIN CARDS Program”



Mr. James (Jim) Follis, has been a CC>CC, Inc. member since 1998 and is Life Member number 53. Jim has been collecting WIN CARDS chips and the promotional material in excess of 15 years. He maintains a Gallery website of WIN CARDS chips and related items and has provided those images to ChipGuide.

Jim has been the CC>CC’s: OTY Awards Chairman since 2002, Exhibit Chairman since 2014, On-Line Communications Director 2002 -2008, Membership Recruitment Committee Chairman/Planning Committee Chairman 2008 -2013. Jim also assists the CC>CC’s Museum of Gaming History’s local (Las Vegas) Exhibits at the El Cortez

and Plaza casinos. In addition to collecting WIN CARDS related items, Jim also has a niche interest in casino tagged, America’s Bi-Centennial chips, dice, coins and related collectibles. He also collects chips from around the World and maintains a website to register serial numbers of Sahara Plaques and maintains the “TOP 10’s to 100!” website that features over 100 different collectors’ favorite TOP 10 chips in their collection or wanted for their collection.

**These seminars provide us all with the opportunity to expand our knowledge of this hobby we so much enjoy!
So, COME ONE AND COME ALL! LEARNING IS FUN!**

“EXHIBITS AND THE “PEOPLES’ CHOICE AWARDS”:

PERSONALIZED EXHIBITS are one of the highlights of the Convention and all members are encouraged to enter an exhibit. The exhibits that members display show their collecting specialties and interests, and can either be competitive (*i.e.*, eligible for a trophy) or non-competitive.

These Exhibits are many members’ favorite **“SIDE SHOW”** as we all enjoy seeing what our fellow members collect!

Although the votes have been cast for the “OTYs,” you still have an opportunity to **VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE EXHIBIT AT THE CONVENTION! EVERY VOTE COUNTS** – this is, after all, an election year! Members can start voting as soon as the **“MIDWAY”** opens on Thursday, June 23rd. Voting will continue until Saturday, June 25th. Jim Follis, Exhibit Chairman, will announce the winners of the **“PEOPLES’ CHOICE AWARDS”** on the Showroom Floor at **12 noon on Saturday, June 25th**

Exhibits and Exhibitors for the 2016 Convention Exhibits and People’s Choice Awards

COMPETITIVE Exhibits and Exhibitors

(Eligible for the People’s Choice Awards, 1st or 2nd Place)

Terry Shaffer, LM 5645-161

Title: “Illegal Gambling Clubs of Toledo”

Jerry BirLLM 0774-27

Title: “Don’t Gamble –

Advertise. A Unique Collection of Vintage Dice Advertising Paperweights”

Mike Quinlivan LM 3194-54

Title: “The Flamingo Capri Revisited... Again”

Steve Palumbo LM 6711-249

Title: “Casino Satin”

Charles Sandes LM 0222-239

Title: “Collectible Casino Cigarette Lighters”

James Kruse LM 0632-32

Title: “2016 Year of the Monkey Chips”

Dave Pawson R-8725

Title: “Betting on Patriotism”

Jerry Vergatos LM 8093-241

Title: “Personal Players Club Cards”

Charles Kaplan LM 0115-148

Title: “A Selection of Caribbean Chips”

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

Title: “Examples of the CC>CC, Inc.’s, Standards and Archives Committee’s, Grade and Conditions Descriptions”

Michael Knapp, Standards and Archives Committee Director

Title: “2015 OTY Nominees”

Jim Follis and Casey Focazio-Follis, OTY Awards Chairman and Assistant

Title: “Carey Burke’s Remembrances”

Carey Burke, CC>CC, Inc., Co-Chairman

Title: “The Permanent Collection of All Past OTY Award Winners”

Jim Follis, OTY Awards Chairman



VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers are critical to making our Convention possible! Please sign up to spend a few hours helping out with set-up and (especially) tear-down, the Auction, the promotions table, the membership table and the Museum of Gaming History table and other areas where a smiling face and a helping hand are more than welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering some time to our Club, please contact Dave or Debbie Harber (our Volunteer "**WINDJAMMERS**") at dave@lasvegas-chips.com. You may also leave a message for Debbie or Dave at 702/877-9052.

NEW THIS YEAR – Doug Smith (our "**RINGMASTER**") and the Board of Directors (our "**TENTMASTERS**") will sponsor a **HOSPITALITY SUITE** to thank our **VOLUNTEERS** for all of their efforts in making this Convention happen! The Hospitality Suite will be open on **Saturday, June 25th from 5 pm to 7 pm** and **FOOD** and **LIBATIONS** will be provided! Exact location will be provided to Volunteers at the Convention.

We are pleased and thankful to acknowledge the following Committee Chairs and Coordinators (our "**WINDJAMMERS**") for the Club's 2016 Convention:

Pre-Registration Director, George Dmitrevsky
On-site Registration/Badge Pick-up Director, Brenda Black
Set-Up/Tear-Down Co-Chairmen, Steve Palumbo & Alan Schuyler
Volunteer Coordinators, Debbie & Dave Harber
Graphics Designer, Todd Barrett
Convention Program Editor, Allan Anderson
Promotions and Property Director, Roy Nelson
Education Seminar Director, Jim Kruse
Bruce Landau Memorial Auction Co-Chairmen, David Spragg & Jay Sands
Auctioneer, Tyrus Mulkey
Black-Jack and Poker Tournaments Director, Jerry Vergatos
Banquet Master of Ceremonies, Wayne Thompson
Banquet Speaker and Speaker Host, Jim Kruse
Banquet Raffle Coordinators, Dollie & John Ramsey
Banquet Decorations Coordinator, Sharrol Haglund
Ladies' Luncheon Coordinator, Marion Engel
Convention Photographers, Quintin Kamm, Dick Covington & Mark Lighterman
"OTY" Chairman, Jim Follis
Exhibits and "People's Choice Awards," Casey Focazio-Follis
Casino Collectibles News Editors, Steve Miller & Robb McPherson
Publicity and Advertising Director, Cale Guthmiller
Hall of Fame President, Jim Steffner
Youth Program Coordinators, Terri Lonski & Gayle Pleau

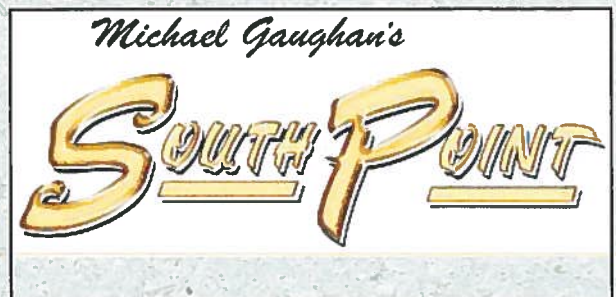
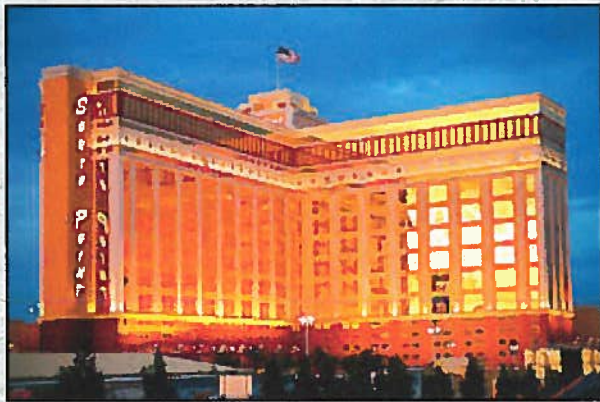
COME, join us under the **BIG TOP** and **ON THE MIDWAY** and partake in all that this year's 24th annual CC>CC Convention has to offer! We are very much looking forward to seeing **YOU ALL** this year!

Sheldon and Christine Smith
2016 Convention Co-Chairs (your **PITCHMEN**)
sheldon655@hotmail.com
christine1245@live.com

See you in 2017 for the CC>CC's 25th Annual Convention!

SAVE THE DATES: JUNE 22 TO JUNE 24, 2017 WITH DEALER SET-UP ON JUNE 21ST!

As your Convention Chairs, we want you all to know that this Convention could not occur without the countless hours donated by our Convention Staff, including Club officers, committee chairs, directors, coordinators, and members who volunteer their time, talents and energy! If you weren't able to volunteer this year, please keep it in mind for next year! This Convention is brought about FOR THE CLUB AND BY THE CLUB! Thanks for your participation!



Local Club Happenings

SOUTHERN NEVADA CASINO COLLECTIBLES CLUB

Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM! The trading and/or selling of casino memorabilia can commence as early as 6PM and will resume following the meeting. You are invited for the meeting and/or the trading sessions. We meet at the El Cortez Casino in downtown Las Vegas! The address is 600 E. Fremont St. We have an auction. You are welcome to email me if you cannot make it in person with your highest bid and your CCGTCC or local membership number and which lot you want to bid on! The meetings are pretty short; lots of fun BEFORE, DURING and AFTER!

HOUSTON CHIP CLUB

Our membership collects nearly everything casino, but there is an abundance of Texas and Galveston area illegals. Members are urged to bring items for show and tell, we have seen some great collectibles over the years. After losing our great President Frank Chalfant, Doug Smith will take over till the next election. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the Tracy Gee Center 3599 Westcenter Drive Houston TX. Meeting dates for 2016 are May 4th, July 6th, September 7th, November 9th.

NY METRO CHIP CLUB

The club met in November at the Knights of Columbus Bethpage. Pete runs a very nice meeting, snacks and drinks. It was a small group this year, it was a tough football day. There was a nice trading session and door prizes.

2016 CONVENTION BLACKJACK AND POKER TOURNAMENTS

BLACK JACK TOURNAMENT AND POKER CHALLENGE:

As in the past, both the Black Jack Tournament and the Poker Challenge will be held at the South Point in their respective locations on the casino floor and poker room during the CC>CC Annual Convention. The Tournaments are open to current CC>CC regular, life and associate members only (age 21+). Daily Convention Membership does NOT qualify for entry in the tournaments. Both Tournaments require a minimum number of entries. Full tournament rules will be available at the Tournaments. Registration for both tournaments MUST be done on the Convention Registration Form and MUST be paid by check. The Registration form is included in the Club Magazine and will also be available on-line after January 15, 2016.

The Black Jack Tournament will begin at 12 noon on Wednesday, June 22nd. The entry fee is \$70 per player. Each player receives 3,000 in NCV tournament chips each round. The bet limits are: 25 minimum/3000 maximum. A maximum of 54 players will be accepted and we anticipate that there will be three (3) preliminary rounds, followed by one semi-final round, finishing with one final round. Players will be scheduled to play in one of the preliminary rounds (12:00 noon, 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm). If a player does not advance to the semi-final round, re-entries into a later initial round will be accepted (if space is available) at \$70 per re-entry. The 2:00 pm round may be cancelled, if warranted. Final round players win a portion of the net prize pool, which is dependent upon the number of players.



The Poker Challenge will be held on Friday, June 24th starting at 6:00 pm. The entry fee is \$90 per player. Each player receives 5,000 in NCV tournament chips. The format will be no limit Texas Hold'em. Blinds start at 25-25 and limits and antes increase each period of play. Minimum bet and raise increments are equal to the big blind, unless all-in. Tables and seats will be assigned prior to the start of the tournament. If seats for the Poker Challenge are still available, Players can sign up at the convention; but, as always, it's on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables will be consolidated periodically throughout the Tournament. Finalists will be paid in the order of finish, based on the number of players.



As a special prize Jerry Vergatos the tournament director will be donating two engraved bottles of Woodford Reserve. For the poker tournament the first person who has the highest hand in the tournament will receive a specially engraved bottle with the club logo. The bottle will say tournament "High Hand". For the blackjack tournament the person who is eliminated first, will be awarded a specially engraved bottle with the inscription "First Out".

Please join us for a great time and register early so that we can get a good idea of how many participants will be this year's tournament.

A special set of souvenir chips may be purchased at the tournaments from **Jerry Vergatos**, our Tournament Director, or at the Club Table during the Convention. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT EITHER TOURNAMENT, please email Jerry at vergatos@msn.com

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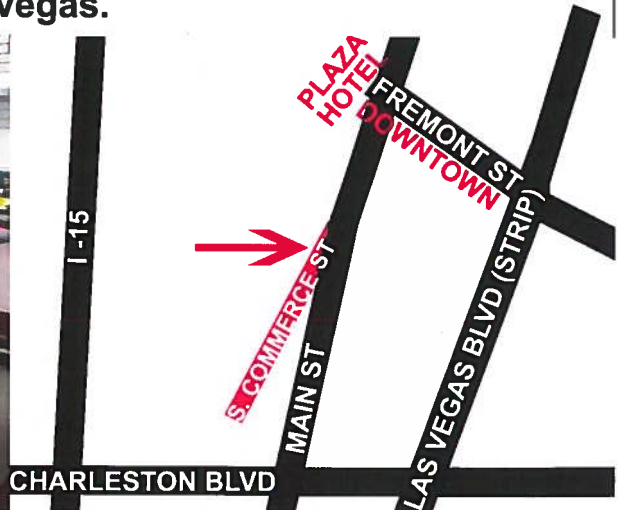


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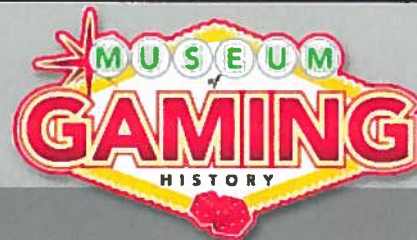
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The on-line museum has many great features including "This Week in Gaming History",
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at the Museum of Gaming History

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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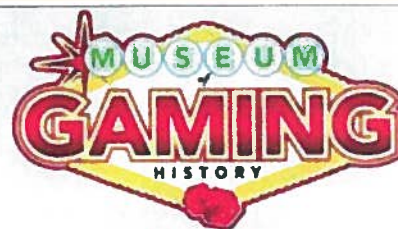
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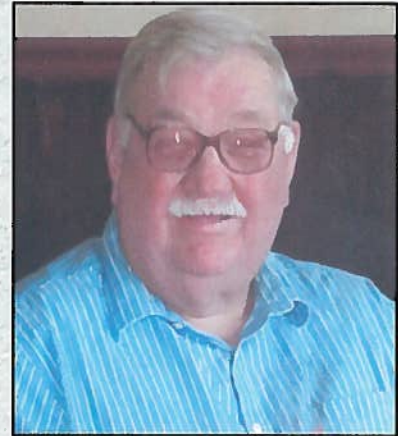
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The Member's Corner

Jerry Birl LM-0774-27



This issue of Member's Corner features Jerry Birl, LM-0774-27. When writing these articles, I hope to give an insight into some of the great people in our club. I look for people who I have come in contact in past conventions and from the local chapter here in Las Vegas. There is always a back story on what motivates all of us in our club. I hope you find it just as interesting as I do! Without further delay, I present to you JERRY BIRL.

Vergatos: Welcome Jerry Birl to Members Corner! Please tell us what got you started collecting casino chips and memorabilia.

Birl: Well, Jerry, we have to go back to the beginning when I first began gambling in a casino. I lived in Delaware and in 1978 when the casinos began to open in Atlantic City, I went up and checked them out. These were the first casinos I ever visited as curiously I did not visit Las Vegas until 1990. I was born in 1946 and I could have gone to gamble in Las Vegas as early as 1967 at age 21. But for various reasons, I was 44 years old before I set foot in a Vegas casino. Looking back now, I often wonder what great chips I could have obtained if I had gone to Vegas in my twenties. Enough of that wishful thinking, let's get back to the roots of my chip collecting odyssey!!

In the late 1970s, I began collecting all sorts of odd and curious US and foreign coins, medals, tokens, badges etc. My Father had been a stamp and coin collector so I had been exposed to collecting all my life. As an old friend once told me, "The apple didn't fall very far from the tree" as I was a collector just like my Dad. When I first ventured into the Atlantic City casinos. I was not attracted to collecting chips but rather playing all sorts of casino games – Blackjack, Craps, Baccarat and especially, Roulette. I really enjoyed the atmosphere and the interaction with other gamblers at the Roulette table as the wheel spun and the ball landed on one of my numbers.

My first chips that I can remember collecting,

were "souvenirs" of great nights that I had at the Roulette table. The first chip I can remember "saving" was from a roulette table at the High Sierra Casino when I visited Lake Tahoe in 1985. I was on a trip to Hawaii with my Mother (my Dad had passed away earlier that year) and I was acting as Mom's tour guide on a trip she had always dreamed of taking. Well, I got on a hot streak and won at almost every Roulette table in the casino. Along the way, I pocketed a Roulette chip as a remembrance of my good fortune. That was the first Roulette chip I "Harvested", but it would not be the last!!

Over the next few years, I continued to gamble and occasionally took home a few other "souvenir" chips. In May of 1992, I was in Atlantic City playing Roulette at Caesars. I would often spend hours and hours at a Roulette table – waiting to score a big win. I took a break from the tables and wandered out on the Atlantic City boardwalk. There was a shopping mall on a pier across from Caesars; I went in, got some caramel popcorn, and began walking thru the mall. As I passed the usual array of shoe stores and knick-knack shops, I saw a shop with a window full of casino chips. I was intrigued by the display and went in to see what was going on. I was immediately greeted by a very friendly fellow in a Casino dealer's outfit. That guy was Bob Mera (A future member of the GG>CC Hall of Fame). Within minutes I had not only purchased some old AC \$1.00 chips, but I had also signed up to be a member of the CC>CC. My life was changed forever on that fateful day as I became a true and certified Chip Collector!!

Vergatos: What do you collect and how long have you been collecting those items?

Birl: As I mentioned, I began collecting casino chips and memorabilia 24 years ago in May of 1992.

Like most collectors, I collected all sorts of chips in the beginning, but after a while I realized that you have to narrow your focus and find things that really appeal to you. When I collected coins, tokens, medals, etc., I was attracted to the odd and curious stuff and not the standard nickels, dimes and quarters. With chip collecting, I again was attracted to the unusual stuff – Roulette chips, NCVs, Illegal Club chips, etc.



My collection today includes the following items:

1. Roulette chips (American style clay, plastic, ceramic but not jetons) from all over the world. I have around 20,000 different roulette chips, I started collecting these in 1992.
2. Large Crown Mold chips of all kinds. I really like the look of the Large Crown Mold and I now have over 1000 of these chips. I got my first Large Crown chip in 1999.
3. Illegal Club chips from all over the US – mostly non-denominational chips except from a few areas like Hot Springs, Arkansas, New Orleans, Louisiana and East Cape Girardeau, Illinois where I also collect the denominated chips. I've been collecting Illegal chips for about 20 years.
4. Manufacturer's Sample and Prototype chips from old and new manufacturers. Once again, I usually collect only the non-denominated samples with a few exceptions. I have thousands and thousands of these chips. I have collected these samples for at least 15 years.
5. Crest and Seal chips – not a major collection probably less than a 1000 chips.
6. All CC>CC related chips from Conventions and chip shows, and also Collector's personal chips. This segment of my collection began at the first CC>CC Convention in 1993.
7. Advertising and assorted UFC chips. It is fun to collect the UFCs and try to find out where they were used. I probably picked up my first UFC in the mid 1990s.
8. Slot cards and room keys. I am not an avid collector of these items, but I pick up lots and lots of them as I travel all over the US on my way to the Annual Convention in Las Vegas. I do have a special collection of over 2000 different slot cards with my name on them. I began building my personal slot card collection in 2001 when I went on my first cross country trip to the Convention.
9. I collect Roulette Scorecards and Gambling Guides, and some other interesting paper items from various casinos. I have some of these from the 1980s that I took home before I really started collecting chips. I used to manually keep track of the Roulette numbers before the casinos put in the towers that show the numbers that have recently hit.

10. Whimsical and Cartoon Roulette related Postcards from Monte Carlo, Monaco. I believe that I acquired my first one of these post cards at an antique show 15 to 20 years ago. These post cards are kind of rare and you don't see them around much.

11. Tokens from Atlantic City casinos up to \$25.00 and all related tokens produced by AC Casinos. I got interested in these tokens about 20 years ago and picked up most of them directly from slot machines or the cashier's cage.

12. NCV, Tournament, Advertising, Training School, Fun Night and all other Special use chips from Atlantic City, NJ area. I no longer collect rack chips or L.E.s from Atlantic City (I have sold or cashed in these chips over the few years.)



13. Plaques and Jetons and other items from the Baden Baden Casino in Germany. I got interested in Baden Baden items when I visited this fabulous old casino on a trip to Europe in 2010.

14. Any type of chip or token that has an image of a Roulette Wheel on it. I have developed this specialized collection over the last 15 years. I really like these chips.

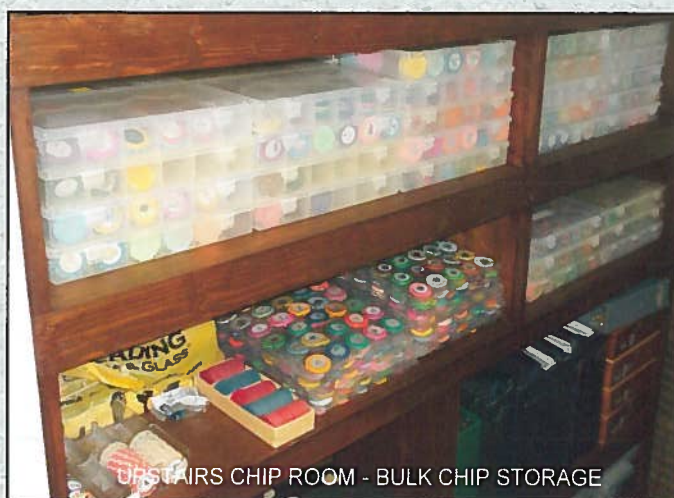
15. I also collect Advertising Related Dice Paperweights. Don't ask me why –I just like them!!

16. Inlaid, Engraved and Embossed antique poker chips off all kinds.

17. Finally, I also collect anything else related to Roulette - including full size 32" Roulette wheels, mini Roulette Wheels, Roulette jewelry, Roulette advertising, Roulette wrist watches and pocket watches, china and glassware, ashtrays, etc, etc, etc.



Well that's it – a neat little collection. No wonder I was given the name of "Mr. Roulette" many years ago by Bob Mera – the man who first introduced me to this wonderful Hobby. If it's related to Roulette, I probably have it, or I am looking for it!!



Vergatos: Where do you live, are you married, children, and grandchildren. What was your career and are you now still working or are you retired?



Birl: I just turned 70 years old (young) on March 29, 2016. I have been retired for 15 years and I live with my wife Nancy on the property where I was born and raised. We have a nice modest home complete with two rooms devoted to my chip collecting, located on the Indian River in Southern Delaware.

I have three sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Nancy also has a son and a daughter and two grandsons. Her daughter and grandsons unfortunately live in the Amsterdam, and we have to settle on seeing them via Skype.

I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren and attending their school activities and sports. My oldest grandson is a freshman at Arizona State University and I was able to spend some quality time with him during Super Bowl weekend after I had attended the Chip Show at Arizona Charlie's in Las Vegas this past January.

Before I retired in 2001, I had worked as a Union Officer and Representative for 33 years. I ended my career with Local 27 UFCW after several mergers with various local and International Unions. I was also Chairman of a Health and Welfare Fund for 25 years that provided Health benefits to nearly 5000 union members and their dependents.

Vergatos: What do you like most about our club and what do you like the least?

Birl: I love the Annual Convention and all the activities that take place during Convention week. I joined the Club for the fun of collecting and the enjoyment of interacting with Club members who share a common Hobby. I try my best to get along with everyone I deal with in our great Hobby. I do NOT enjoy the petty bickering and sometimes personal insults that pop-up between members who post on the Chip Board. This Hobby should be a source of fun and enjoyment, not disputes and controversies. I had to deal with problems all my life as a Union representative, and chip collecting was a great diversion from my daily routine and a very rewarding pastime.

Vergatos: If you were speaking to a new member, what advice would you give them?

Birl: I enjoy meeting new members/collectors and I always tell them that chip collecting is a Hobby, and to find something that interests them, and to find out as much as they can about that collecting area. I encourage new members to look around at all the different facets of our Hobby, and to do their homework and research before spending a lot of money on chips or other items.

I urge them to buy books and catalogs and to check out all the websites that are devoted to collecting chips and other gaming memorabilia.

Finally, I tell them that collecting casino and gambling items is not an investment but a Hobby that brings great pleasure to anyone who devotes the time and effort to pursuing their collecting passion. Simply, collect what you really like and you will be get years of fun and enjoyment from this Hobby.

Vergatos: Tell our readers something about yourself that nobody would know about you.

Birl: There are obviously many, many things that I have done in my life that most readers would not know about me. I nearly drowned in a tragic accident at my home when I was only two years old – luckily I survived and I am here today 68 years later answering these questions!

At the age of seventeen on August 28, 1963, I was in Washington, DC and heard the famous Martin Luther King “I have a Dream” speech.

In 1974, I spent a semester at Harvard University attending the Trade Union Program - studying with a select group of 30 Union leaders from all over the world along with MBAs from the Harvard School of Business.

Vergatos: Can you give us some clue as to what your Exhibit theme will be at this year’s Convention? How many of your exhibits were voted 1st place?

Birl: I truly enjoy exhibiting portions of my various collections at the Annual Convention. My hope is that my Exhibits will encourage other collectors to share their collections with their fellow collectors and maybe inspire someone to start collecting. I will have another Exhibit at this year’s Convention titled “Don’t Gamble – Advertise”, that’s all I can tell you at this time!!

I have been fortunate enough to win the 1st Place award five times in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2012. I have also finished in 2nd Place on 3 other occasions.

I have also had great success with displaying Exhibits in the Casino Chip and Token Category at the ANA (American Numismatic Association). I won 1st Place awards at the ANA National Conventions in 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2012 and 2nd Place awards in 2005 and 2008.



Vergatos: What direction would you like to see the club go in the next five years?

Birl: Obviously, I would like to see the Club grow and prosper in the coming years, to continue the expansion of the MOGH and increase the number of Exhibits that are being put up in various casinos, not only in Las Vegas but possibly in other areas around the country.

I also believe there are many collectors in foreign countries we should reach out to and encourage to join our Club. I believe we should support the expansion of regional Clubs and local chip shows in any way possible.

I am certain there are lots of chip and casino memorabilia collectors out there who don't even realize there is a Club and all the benefits that the Club provides. We just need more exposure and activities.

Vergatos: Can you give me the top 10 things you love about our hobby with 10 being the lowest and 1 being the best?

Birl:

1. Meeting fellow collectors and making friends. I truly love the personal interaction the hobby provides.
2. Attending the Convention and all the associated activities
3. Cataloging, arranging, storing and just plain enjoying my chips and other items that I have collected.
4. "Harvesting" chips – although I don't do it as much as I used to.
5. Discovering new and previously unknown chips and other items.
6. Traveling across country seeing all the sights along the way and visiting all the different casinos.
7. Completing various collections – getting all of something is a real accomplishment.
8. Documenting and gathering information about the old illegal clubs that operated in various parts of the country.
9. Exhibiting chips and other items at the Convention.
10. Selling chips and other items – so I can buy more stuff for my own collection.

Vergatos: I've seen from your chipboard postings that you start off early for the convention travelling through many places before you get to the convention, what are some of the more interesting places you have been to on your journeys?

Birl: Ever since I retired in 2001, I have driven across country every year to attend the Convention in Las Vegas. This year will mark the 16th time I have completed this journey. Each year I take a different route depending on what I am doing and who is traveling with me. Two of my sons and my wife have traveled with me over the years. I start in Delaware and obviously head West with quite a few twists and turns along the way. My trips last from a minimum of 3 ½ to as much as 5 weeks, including a full week being spent in Vegas for the Convention.

Many times I will pass by Las Vegas on the way out and go as far as San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego. I do this if the US Open golf tournament is being held in California the week before the Chip Convention. I am a big Tiger Woods fan and I enjoy seeing him play in the US Open. In 2008, I had the pleasure of seeing him win the US Open at Torrey Pines in San Diego. Unfortunately, this is the last "Major" golf tournament he has won. However, I have some great stories to tell the Grandkids about how I followed him around for 91 holes until he finally clinched the victory.

As far as "Natural Wonders" and other attractions – I have been to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Churchill Downs in Louisville, Pike's Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park, Royal Gorge and many other places in Colorado, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, Sedona in Arizona, Yosemite National Park, Monterey Peninsula and Death Valley in California, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon and the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

I have also visited lots and lots of large cities along the way – Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City, Reno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Albuquerque, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Little Rock, Memphis, New Orleans, Mobile, Atlanta, Charlotte, Richmond, Washington DC, Baltimore and all points in between. Over the last 15 years I have traveled nearly 120,000 miles on my trips to the Convention. And I have enjoyed every bit of it except for a couple of freak accidents that happened along the way (but that's another story).

Then there are also the small and out of the way places where I have had some of my greatest chip "Adventures". In East Cape Girardeau, Illinois on the banks of the Mississippi River, I sat in a pickup truck in Miles Hill's front yard, and he gave me some old illegal club chips from the Thunderbird club while telling me stories about when he owned the Thunderbird Club back in the 1950s.

Another fabulous encounter was in Arkansas, when an antique dealer took me to his house, went out in the barn and got an old iron skillet full of long forgotten poker chips as his wife cooked up a "Southern" style dinner for me. The chips were all from the illegal casinos that had operated in the Hot Springs, Arkansas area. That was a great and unexpected find, and I am still friends with the antique dealer and his wife to this day.

Yes, I would say I have been to some "real interesting" places in my journeys!!

Jerry Birl's Final Words:

Well, I hope these are NOT my final words as I plan on continuing my "My Chip Adventures" for many years to come. Fellow collectors have said to me "Jerry, why do you drive cross country every year to go to the Convention?" My answer is simple "There will be a day when I can't!!" Looking forward, next year (2017) will be a real milestone year for me in the Hobby. It will be my 25th year as a member of the Club and my 25th Convention with a Dealer's table. I plan on some really neat things to mark this special occasion.

Finally, I will strive to continue daily to accumulate knowledge and to enhance and live up to my Club nickname of "Mr. Roulette". I sincerely hope, I will be able to share my passion for collecting and knowledge of Roulette chips and other casino memorabilia with all my fellow collectors for many years to come.

Jerry Vergatos Final Words:

As always, I am taken back as to the passion of the members I have interviewed for these articles and Jerry Birl is no exception! I met Jerry three years ago while we were competing in the exhibit area. I found him to be very approachable and sincere. His displays are excellent and very interesting. I even found myself voting for his display over mine. In my opinion, they should consider changing the award title to the Jerry Birl Award. For those going to this year's convention, you should stop by and visit Jerry at his booth and also see his great exhibit. You can reach Jerry at his email jerrybirl@verizon.net.

OMAHA

NEBRASKA'S HIDDEN HISTORY



By Edward Hertel

Joseph Valachi summed up most of American's knowledge of Omaha, Nebraska, while being questioned by the 1963 Senate Rackets Committee. When asked about his mob dealings in the cornhusker city, Joseph answered, "Where in hell is Omaha?"

Not known for its gambling history, Nebraska is often overlooked as a center of illegal activity. In fact, by the time the senate got around to questioning mobsters about their Midwestern geographic unfamiliarity, Omaha had already witnessed six decades of being a center for illegal activity of all kinds.

Mob boss Tom Dennison



Its entrance into the new century would be anything but quiet for the city of Omaha as the year 1900 would mark the arrival of an enterprising character named Tom Dennison. As a youth, the Irish immigrant followed the prospectors throughout the west. He left the hard work of

finding the gold to the laborers, and instead concentrated on ways of separating the workers from their daily profits through saloons and gambling casinos. His prosperity grew, but he yearned to grow some roots and find real power.

When he arrived in Omaha, he saw a wide open city and wasted no time to establishing himself as the vice boss, establishing saloons, brothels and casinos all

over town. Anyone who stood against him was quickly dispatched and their business closed. He spread money liberally to the right politicians and even went so far as to hand pick a mayor who was re-elected eight times. Needless to say, his power in Omaha went uncontested for decades.

As the 1920s approached, the winds of lawlessness were starting to change. Omaha's politicians were becoming harder to bribe and the country was closing the doors on the legal liquor business. As Prohibition went nationwide in 1920, Tom Dennison knew this would be a golden opportunity to make a lot of money. Nebraska, with its wide open expanses was perfect for not only making illegal liquor, but also served as the perfect platform for distribution. In no time, Dennison's liquor was finding its way all over the country, and partnerships with Capone in Chicago and Pendergast in Kansas City made his reach immense. Omaha, once a sleepy town nestled in the center of the country, was now the center of a huge vice industry.

So much strength and money however was not going to be overlooked. Dennison's unchecked power throughout the 1920s would soon find challengers – both in competition and law enforcement.

Gene Livingston, a local Omaha gambler, was one of the first men bold enough to take his shot at the title. There was an unwritten rule in Omaha that others could participate in the city's vice, as long as it didn't interfere with Dennison's



empire. With the liquor business as Dennison's main focus, Livingston's casino remained small enough to stay under the radar. There would be room for both

men in Omaha as long as Livingston played by Dennison's rules. Unfortunately for him, he didn't.

As the 1920s were winding down, the city was starting to take a hard stance on gambling and new Special Agent Robert "Raiding Rob" Samardick took great joy in hammering his way into all the casinos in town. Gene Livingston's casino was raided in 1930, and thinking he had purchased protection from the police, he made his displeasure known. He went so far as to write a letter to the newspaper not only exposing the illegal graft, but going into vivid detail as to how it worked. This public spotlight on the gambling business was something Dennison was not pleased to see, and it served as strike one against Livingston.

Already walking on thin ice, Livingston's next business venture would pretty much seal his fate. Wanting to enter the liquor racket, he reached out to the Capone gang and purchased a gin still with the intention of competing with Tom Dennison's liquor monopoly. Opening a casino was one thing, entering the moonshine business was quite another. Strike two.

Dennison used his contacts and had Livingston's still confiscated. Without a means of providing Capone with product, or the money to pay him back, Livingston was a dead man walking. Threatened to the point of desperation, Gene Livingston offered to turn state's evidence in exchange for immunity, as well as some much needed protection. Strike three.

On May 1, 1930, Gene Livingston was relaxing in an illegal beer parlor when gun fire rang out. Police found him slumped over the

counter, dead from three shots. Word around town, of course, put the blame squarely on Tom Dennison, but nobody would ever be tried for the murder. It was just a case of Omaha business.

The next couple of years would prove bloody for the Omaha underworld. Gangsters on either side of the Dennison/Livingston gangs turned against each other resulting in numerous gangland assassinations. By 1932, the citizens of Omaha had seen enough and Tom Dennison was finally brought up on charges of liquor conspiracies. The fact that he was the leader in a gigantic liquor trade was never in question. Proving it however would be difficult and finding a jury to convict was simply impossible.

When the smoke cleared, Dennison would be acquitted of the charges, but the tide had definitely turned. Now 75 years old, and feeling every year of it, Dennison's empire, as well as his body, was weakening. He wrapped up loose ends in Omaha (like divorcing his 20 year old wife) and left town for what he hoped was an extending vacation. In 1934, while traveling in California, Tom Dennison died in an automobile accident. His long reign as king of Omaha was over.

Omaha Racketeer Says He'll Expose Graft by Police

OMAHA (AP)—Local police and gambling circles were stirred Thursday by the threat of an alleged gambler, following his arrest that he will go before a grand jury and "tell everything" concerning protection money he claims to have paid local police officers during the last six years.

Gene Livingston, for years a prominent figure here among leaders in the alcohol "racket," charged, following his arrest on a gambling charge, that he had been double crossed by the arresting officers, asserting that he has paid from \$100 to \$200 per month for "protection" from police interference.

Chief of Police Pazanowski announced following the charges that a thorough investigation will be made to ascertain the truth in the matter. Police officers implicated in Livingston's charge denied that they had ever received a bribe for any one.

The Sam Ziegman Years

The downfall of Dennison created opportunity for Omaha's local hustlers. The gang wars had thinned out the mob rank and file, leaving those who survived in a strong position. One gambler named Sam "Ziggy" Ziegman stepped up to fill the vacuum created by Dennison's departure.

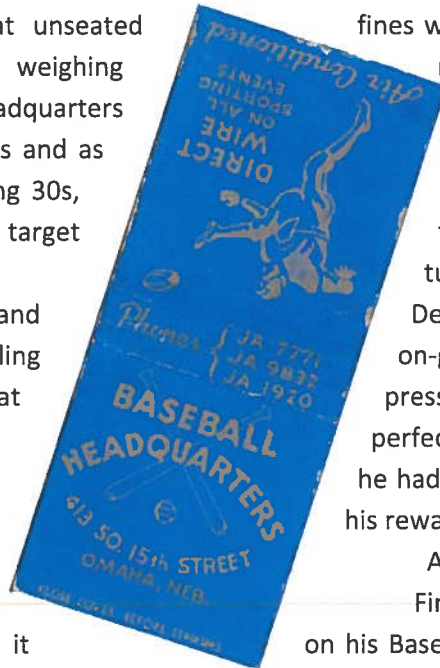
Ziegman was no stranger when it came to eschewing Omaha's laws. For over a decade he had run a sizable sports book operation out of his Baseball Headquarters located on downtown's 15th Street, as well as interests in other gambling operations around town. When it came time to find a new gambling czar of Omaha, Sam Ziegman was the obvious choice.



The Omaha that Ziegman inherited was quite a bit different from that of his predecessor, and the same forces that unseated Dennison were also weighing heavily of Ziegman. His Baseball Headquarters were subjected to the pressures of raids and as the Roaring 20s turned into the Swinging 30s, Ziegman was becoming the number one target of the reforming community.

Although he had been raided and charged for both liquor and gambling violations prior, 1929 was the start of what would be a long and adversarial relationship with the Omaha law. In this year, "Raiding Rob" Samardick paid the Baseball Headquarters a professional visit and found numerous items for illegal sports betting. Ziegman decided it was time to fight the charges and sent his lawyers in to do the heavy lifting. The case dragged on for over a year as Ziegman's attorneys continued to hound the court with appeals. He even went so far as to claim that the antiquated laws against sports' betting were null and void and that in fact he was doing nothing illegal at all. In the end however, the judge was having none of it and found him guilty. He paid his small fine and returned to his Baseball Headquarters -- only to be raided again 24 hours later.

Constant and reoccurring harassment from all sides was now the norm for Sam Ziegman. An article from November 1930 in the Lincoln Evening Journal reported that the gambler was almost "thru" due to financial pressure from a combination of outside competition and large attorney's fees from the raids. It was true that Capone's Chicago gang was challenging Ziegman's hold on the bookie operation, going so far as to



control the sports' wire that supplied the bookie joints with the racing news and charging exorbitant fees. It was also true that mounting lawyer's fees and gambling fines were beginning to strain his finances. But news of Ziegman's finality certainly proved to be premature.

Despite the reports to the contrary, Ziegman's power was not in fact diminishing, but growing during the turbulent 1930s. The combination of Dennison's decline, the continuing gangster-on-gangster violence and the increased legal pressure on rival gambling clubs made a perfect environment for Ziegman to grow. All he had to do was survive long enough to cash in his reward.

And survive he did.

Finally, after constant and continuous raids on his Baseball Headquarters, Ziegman took his case to the courts and charged the police with harassment. They, in turn, brought Ziegman up on charges of being a "common gambler". The authorities believed they had an air-tight case consisting of confiscated illegal material and undercover agents making bets in his club. However Ziegman put up his own defense, calling in seventeen character witnesses and coaxing the jury into an acquittal.

Although his fight against the law was going well, the heat from rival gang members was getting dangerous. In July 1931, shots were fired in Ziegman's direction. The police wrote it off as a "prank", but Ziegman disagreed and hired a body guard. Credible threats the next year, as well as the murder of an associate, prompted the police to give him around the clock protection. In 1933, Ziegman's Baseball Headquarters was damaged when a bomb exploded on its front porch.

Although stressful, Sam Ziegman survived to see the end of the Omaha gang war and came out the other end stronger than ever.

RUMOR ZIEGMAN IS "THRU"

Target of Fellow Gamblers From Chicago and K. C., It Is Said.

OMAHA—Sam Ziegman, who aspired to take over the "racket" following assassination of Gene Livingston is "just about thru" financially, according to rumors.

Ziegman, who it is said, made the mistake of splitting with the machine political organization just before the November elections has since been made the target of his fellow gamblers from Chicago and Kansas City, it was said. According to reports Ziegman has lost \$18,000 to these fellows within the past month. In addition he has paid large attorney fees because of his numerous arrests by Paul Sutton, morals squad head.

As the now official bookmaking boss of Omaha, Sam Ziegman thrived, spreading his influence throughout the city.

The repeal of Prohibition in 1933 changed the landscape of Omaha's illegal activity once again. Gambling, which previously had taken a backseat to the liquor trade, was now once again a major player in the business of the underworld. Gambling clubs started popping up all over town. The Log Cabin, operated by a long time local hustler named Thomas Abdo (with partner Sam Ziegman), was one of the new class of casinos that started dealing cards in 1934.

On Omaha's north side, the Sixty Club was a popular spot for both gambling and police raids. The club was so used to being raided that it barely fazed them. Newspapers reported the club's reactions with "Half an hour after the raid, business was proceeding as usual" (1934) and later, "the raid created only a momentary flurry among the guests, and the festivities continued" (1935).

Despite what seemed like constant police activity, the authorities were themselves falling under scrutiny. Sheriff Hopkins was questioned by city commissioners as to why certain clubs, such as the Coconut Grove and the Sixty Club, were permitted to continue operating even after multiple gambling offences. With orders to enforce at all costs, sheriff deputies cracked down with renewed zeal, eventually forcing the owners of the Sixty Club to close down and sell out.

The spotlight on gambling was not making life any easier for Sam Ziegman either. His bookie joints were still being harassed by police and his notoriety as Omaha's gambling czar was making him a target.



Coconut Grove Club (1935 - Mason & Co)

In 1936, a lawsuit was issued by a woman named Merle Armstrong, claiming her husband was the victim of \$865 in gambling losses at the Baseball Headquarters. The case was played out in the local media and the claim that gambling was a victimless crime was quickly diminishing. Although the courts were unanimous in their decision for Ziegman, the disgruntled wife continued to ride it all the way to the Supreme Court. The bad press only hurt Ziegman in the long run and renewed public support for reform.



Chalkboards inside the Baseball Headquarters (Omaha World Herald)

If Sam Ziegman hoped the worst was finally behind him, he would be disappointed. In May 1937, the Chicago bookie syndicate headed by Lester Laughlin roared into Omaha and took control. Within days, 64 of the 67 bookie operations in town were under their direct control, with the only holdouts being the three operated by Sam Ziegman and his partner Casey Gaughan (uncle of future Las Vegas legend Jackie Gaughan, who, as a teenager at the time, was also learning the gambling business in Omaha).

It was clear from the beginning that the new boss saw Ziegman as no threat. In an interview with the Lincoln Evening Journal, Laughlin was quoted as saying about Ziegman's group, "I think they'll come in within a short time." He would be wrong.

What proceeded was another gambling war, this one lasting for years. A rash of bombing of bookie joints in 1938 prompted police to increase the pressure.

Ziegman, now clearly on the outside looking in, was in defensive mode as he sustained numerous raids and gambling charges. In 1938, the courts and police stepped up their efforts. A district judge, openly prejudiced against Ziegman, made sure only evidence plainly against him was allowed. The police did their part as well, threatening witnesses and even being accused of beating up a gangster who refused to testify. As a result, Ziegman and Gaughan plead guilty and received large fines. The wheels were definitely starting to come off.

The early 1940s fared no better as Ziegman's house was bombed, followed closely by the mysterious fire that destroyed his east side Chez Paree night club, reputedly the largest gambling casino between Reno and Chicago. He continued for a few years struggling against factions on both sides of the law, but it was clear that Omaha was not in his future for long.



The Chez Paree Club burns down (Omaha World Herald)

Ziegman Leaves Omaha

In 1951, Sam Ziegman and his partner Casey Gaughan did what most gamblers across the country were doing - they closed up shop and moved to Las Vegas where gambling was flourishing. They invested in the post-Bugsy Siegel Flamingo and settled into the role of legal casino owners.

Life on the right side of the law however was not to last long. In 1960, a group led by Samuel Cohen and Meyer Lansky purchased a controlling interest in the Flamingo and proceeded over the next seven years to skim over \$36 million in off-the-books IOUs.

The Feds brought charges against the Flamingo's owners in 1971. Sam Ziegman, now 75 years old and retired, was brought into the case as a beneficiary of some of the ill-gotten money. All of the Flamingo partners who could be found (Lansky was hiding out in Israel) plead not guilty and the prosecutors started building their cases.

Ziegman's case was postponed numerous times as his health deteriorated. He watched as fellow conspirators were tried and found guilty, all the while preparing his defense, as well as himself, for his day in court. However, the man who spent a lifetime defending himself from gambling charges would be spared of his last battle. In 1973, the Feds took pity on the frail old gambler and dismissed the charges based on what they believed was his inability to stand trial.

Sam Ziegman would get the last laugh however as he would continue to live (comfortably from a lifetime of illegal gains) for another decade, finally passing away in 1984 at the age of 89.

Omaha After Ziegman

The story of Omaha's gambling did not end with Ziegman's move to Las Vegas. For the next few decades, many men fought (and some died) in their quest to be the boss of Omaha.

In the end, it would be the introduction of legalized gambling in state sponsored keno parlors and corporate operated riverboats that would be biggest obstacle for illegal gambling.

Guns and mob bosses are no competition for a clean legal game.

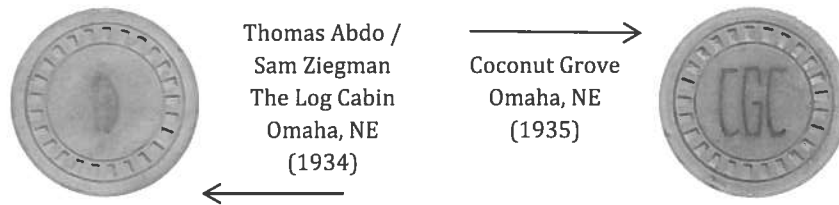
It took more than a century of history, but I think we finally answered the question, "Where in hell is Omaha?"

A NOTE ON OMAHA CHIPS AND THEIR ATTRIBUTIONS

When I acquired the chips used in the article, most of them were unknowns. Chips with Treyball and smkey molds are frustratingly difficult to attribute and one has to be careful when making leaps into assigning club names to them. Below is how I was able to conclude that the chips belonged to the clubs they are assigned to, and why I believe some have been inappropriately assigned in the past.

I was recently given all the chips used this article in one group. It is important that notes are retained on not only where the chips were found, but **what other chips were found with them**. Although they do often travel from their point of origin, many times groups of chips from a single source travel together – especially if you are acquiring them from a non-chipper.

The only chips that were immediately identifiable were the hub mold chips. These would provide a good starting point:



The information from these chips provided valuable information for all the other chips and was the key to their attribution.



This first chip had some problems right off the bat as it was already attributed to two locations, Chicago, Illinois and Jeffersonville, Indiana. The Chicago attribution is no doubt because the Hunt records show it was delivered to E. M. O'Neil with a "Chicago" note. This would be offices for the chip distributor, not the final destination. The Jeffersonville attribution is probably based solely on the name of a local casino, but it is a stretch as it looks like the chips were ordered a couple years after it closed. I believe since this chip was found with the other Omaha chips, and the "TA" chip above went to the Log Cabin in Omaha, it most likely belongs there.

The B.C. Wills & Co small key chip stamped "Sixty Club" would not be so easy. None of the information in the attributed chips say anything about a Sixty Club, and although it is a little unusual, I doubted the name "Sixty Club" is unique. I knew if this chip was associated with the others, I would need to find a club matching this name somewhere in Omaha in the mid-1930s. Sure enough, the notorious Sixty Club in Omaha popped up immediately. I felt assured that another of the chips fell into place.



The final chip I felt confident enough to attribute was the "BBH" Treyball (3 dots) mold chip. Unlike the other chips here, this one would not be so straight forward. However, assuming all these chips come from Omaha around the mid-1930s, the only club to fit the initials is the Baseball Headquarters owned by Sam Ziegman, who happened to be on the order for the "TA" hub mold chip. If this horde was accumulated in a raid, there is no doubt the Baseball Headquarters would be among them.

Can I be 100% certain these are correct? No, but I can be very confident. The chips were purchased from a non-chipper, therefore I doubt he was in the business of buying chips from multiple sources. The real kicker however is that they all fall nicely into both time and place and not one chip can be shown to belong to anywhere else. I imagine these were probably confiscated around the same time (mid-late 1930s) in some of the raids that were happening in Omaha. I was lucky that all these chips were found together, because separate, I would not be confident enough to attribute them.

Silver Strike News

On May 8th the following announcement was sent to Warren Schaefer SS-185. Publicity & Promotions Chair of the Silver Strikers Club.

I wanted to reach out to you and inform you that as of May 13th we will be discontinuing our token program here at the Mirage. After that we will be selling the remaining tokens at our main cage.

Unfortunately the popularity of the tokens has fallen so much that it has become labor intensive for us.

Russ Wills | Slot Technical Manager/The Mirage

We have lost two silver strike locations now in the last year. First was the famous Delta Saloon in Virginia City and now the Mirage. The Four Queens continues to put out many new strikes every year. Sam's Town and the Venetian should have some new ones coming out soon also.

The Four Queens is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The largest supporter of the Silver Strike program will be releasing their 50th anniversary strikes in time for the tournament. These are the approvals for the commemorative strikes.



Craps strike above and Jackpot strike below are both in Blue Capsules



50th Anniversary strike above and Martini strike below are in Red Capsules



(All images in this article courtesy of the Silver Strikers website)

Sunshine Minting Executive Announces Invention of New Silver Strike Machine and Strong Commitment to Future of Silver Strike Collecting

By Bill Metten

Las Vegas, NV – Sean Sarr, Technical Projects Manager for the Las Vegas division of Sunshine Minting, Inc. is on a mission to revive and expand Silver Strike collecting. He recently backed up his mission statement to this writer and Silver Strike Club member (668) by revealing that Sunshine Minting has acquired innovative technology to manufacture new Silver Strike machines. The technology was developed for his company by an experienced slot machine technology specialist.

“We are going to install and evaluate five of our new Silver Strike machines in California casinos later this year before we make 50 machines for wider distribution,” said Sarr.

“I am very excited to announce this news first to members of the Silver Strikers Club through your newsletter because all of us stand on the threshold of reviving and expanding this unique and fun hobby for existing and new collectors,” he said.

Sunshine Minting acquired the rights to the Silver Strike business from International Game Technology (IGT) in 2010.

“When I joined Sunshine Minting’s Las Vegas office in 2008 making Silver Strikes was a low priority and unprofitable business. A high priority was to turn our Silver Strike business around. It became an important mission for me,” said Sean.

To do it Sean began learning all he could about the Silver Strike business from the people who had Silver Strike programs as well as the collectors themselves.

“Shawn Webster, Director of Slots for the Four Queens Casino, has been my best mentor, explaining the interests of the casinos, Silver Strikers, and all of the cost considerations.

I sought his advice and I still do because he is a strong advocate for the future of Silver Strike collecting and collectors,” Sean added.

When the price of silver increased significantly several years ago Shawn Webster helped Sean reach a compromise to revise the silver content of strikes in order to keep the hobby alive.

The first Silver Strike machine was invented by Randy Adams in 1991 and introduced in Nevada with \$7 tokens containing 8/10 of an ounce of silver. At that time, Sean said silver cost approximately \$4 an ounce.

According to Silver Strikers Club member Jim Turnbow (480) the first Silver Strike Machine was placed in service at Harvey’s in Lake Tahoe.

Today there are only 15 Silver Strike machines in Nevada.

That will change when Sunshine Minting certifies its prototype Silver Strike machine and distributes 50 new machines for Silver Strike collectors to enjoy.

Article reprinted from Silver Strikers Newsletter

Casino Stories

by Charles Kaplan, LM-115-148

This is my second article with several stories that happened to me during casino visits.

Bay Cruises, Brooklyn, New York – 12 Mile Limit

During his term as mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani focused on “Quality of Life” issues to drastically reduce crime and pave the way for a resurgence of the economy and tourism. In 1996, the 162’ Liberty I casino boat, operated by Bay Cruises, began sailing from the Sheepshead Bay neighborhood of Brooklyn. Mayor Giuliani was not a fan of casinos and took issue with the casino boat. In October 1997, mayor Giuliani was able to get the border into international waters, where it is not illegal to gamble, extended from 3 miles to 12 miles. The cruise into international waters from Sheepshead Bay that used to take 25 minutes was now 1 ½ hours. Worst of all, the stormy north Atlantic Ocean waters made for a very choppy ride. Nonetheless, I decided to try my luck one evening.

The 90-minute cruise into international waters was bumpy, too bumpy, way too bumpy. It felt more like a carnival ride. Usually gamblers had dinner and drinks on the ride out, but very few made it to the cafeteria that night. Finally, in international waters, the captain came on the PA and announced that the tables were open, but because of the rough seas we were told to always keep one hand on the boat! The tables opened and I began playing. But 15 minutes later, the captain was once again on the PA. “Sorry, but it is just too rough out here, we are going to go back in. When we turn around, we are going to take some waves broadside, so keep BOTH hands on the boat until we are headed back in.” We had a few minutes to gather our chips and cash out before we changed course.



As we turned we felt the power of the North Atlantic as the waves crashed on the boat and we swayed side to side. Everyone was thrown around. Many fell to the ground. Our blackjack dealer hit her head going down and was out cold. All the equipment in the cage crashed down to the floor and was smashed. And then, with the turn completed, the worst was over and we started our 90-minute cruise back in. The boat had three levels. The first level was just slot machines. The 2nd level had both slots and table games. The third level had slot machines and the cafeteria. I wondered around the boat to check out the damage. When I got to the 1st level, I found that the entire level was covered wall to wall with dozens of passed out and sea-sick gamblers laying on the floor.

When I was safely off the boat, I swore to myself that this was the last time that I would be on this boat. But, I never had the opportunity to go out again because a couple of weeks later they stopped sailing.



(All images in this article courtesy of the Museum of Gaming History's ChipGuide)



**Mohegan Sun, Uncasville Connecticut
Jackpot or Not?**

My career has always been in computers. First as a programmer and then in Sales and Support at IBM and as an IBM Business Partner. I was competing for a large sale of computer servers to the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut. This was my 2nd meeting there and I was finalizing the information that I needed in order to submit a proposal. The casino is about 140 miles away from me and takes me about 2 ½ hours to get there. When I go there for a meeting, I leave an extra hour early in case of traffic problems. On this day there was no traffic and I got there an hour early. With some time to kill, I headed to my favorite \$1 Jacks or Better poker machine. After about three pulls, I was dealt an Ace of Spades and four other non-matching low cards. I kept the ace and hit the draw button. Up came Ten, Jack, Queen and King of Spades making a Royal Flush jackpot worth \$4,000!

It took a while, too long, but I finally was paid. I went back to my car and hid the cash, grabbed my brief case and headed off for my meeting. I made it just on time. But then I thought, do I tell them that I just won \$4,000 from them? I figured that it probably doesn't make a difference to them, but since I couldn't see any benefit from telling them, I decided to not tell them. As it turns out, I didn't get the deal, but it was still a rewarding experience.

**Tropicana, Atlantic City, New Jersey –
Double Jackpot Before Dinner**

I was at the Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City with several family members. It was late afternoon and we agreed to play in the casino for a while before getting together for dinner at 7:00pm. At the appointed time, I was the only one at the meeting spot outside the restaurant. After waiting 10 minutes or so, I decided to play a nearby \$1 Double Diamond slot machine, that pays double when 1 diamond symbol comes up in a winning pull. After a few pulls I hit a DIAMOND-DIAMOND-TRIPLE BAR for \$320 (\$80 x 2 x 2). The machine started to spit out \$1 tokens and then ran out. By that time my family members had arrived to see my good fortune. Hey, I just won \$320 because they were late. I told them to go on into the restaurant and I would be in when I was finished getting paid. An attendant came over and told me that they would be back soon to refill the machine.



While I was waiting, I notice a Triple Diamond machine nearby and started to play. After a few pulls, I got another DIAMOND-DIAMOND-TRIPLE BAR! But since this was a Tripe Diamond machine it was worth \$720 (\$80 x 3 x 3)! I was very late to dinner, and of course I had to pay, but I won over \$1,000 just because my family never shows up on time. I guess patience does have its virtue.





Treasure Island, Rochester, Minnesota - Numb at 30 Below

IBM has a plant in Rochester, Minnesota that I visit regularly. Several years ago I had a January meeting there and it was cold, very cold. They said it was the lowest temperature there in a decade, -30 degrees with a wind chill of -70 degrees. I flew into Minneapolis from New York and found that my short flight to Rochester was cancelled. This happens regularly, so I just headed down to the Hertz Rental Car desk to get a car for the 70-mile drive. On the way out, I just wanted to be sure, so I asked if it was Highway 52 that took me down to Rochester? The answer was yes, but I wouldn't be able to get to Rochester that evening. I knew it was real cold, but it was absolutely clear out. What was the problem? I was told that it was late and at midnight they pull the snow plows off the road. I would be driving through prairies and the snow was always blowing onto the highway. Having made the drive many times in the past, I decided to go ahead and see how far I could get. I knew that every town that you passed along the way had a motel that I could stay overnight if the road was impassable.

As it turned out, after I got on the road I thought that making this drive was the stupidest decision of my life. All the radio stations were on emergency broadcast giving out safety instructions because of the frigid weather: *Do not leave your home unless it is a matter of life or death. If you are driving and get stuck in a ditch, do not leave your car. Even if you see a nearby home or business, it is unlikely that you will reach it alive unless you are wearing arctic-rated clothing. Beware of black ice. Stay indoors. And so on.* I should have stayed overnight in Minneapolis and left early in the morning after sunrise. Well, I drove carefully and made it all the way into Rochester that evening without incident.

The next day it warmed up to -20 degrees and after attending my meetings, I headed off to the Treasure Island Casino in Red Wing, Minnesota, about an hour away. Again, driving was no problem, the roads were clear. But when I got there, I saw something that I never saw before, most of the cars in the parking lot were still running. People were afraid of not being able to start their cars in the frigid cold and left their cars running with the doors locked. That is the only time that I ever saw something like that.

Once in the casino, I sat down to play my favorite \$1 Jacks or Better poker machine. After a few pulls I hit a spade Royal Flush without even drawing. But I guess my mind was numb from the cold, I had only played one dollar, not the maximum five dollars needed to get the jackpot. So I won \$400, instead of the \$4,000 I would have won if I had made the maximum bet. And that is the one and only time that that happened to me.



I really enjoyed reliving some of these casinos stories; I hope that you also enjoyed them. You know, most of us have some interesting casino stories to tell, please share them with us by writing an article about them for Casino Collecting News. I am available to help you tell your stories if you need someone to edit your articles.

You can contact me at chas@ckaplan.com to make arrangements.

So long until next time.

MUSINGS from the MoGH

Museum of Gaming History

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



Dedicated to the preservation and education of Gaming History

Membership

Greetings to all club members:

Our membership enrollment is doing very well, but we still have a long way to go. As of May 1 we have signed two new life members and many people have shown interest in our project. The life membership level is the best value and relieves you of any further commitments. We have many exciting new displays in the works and would love to have you join us. We also have many volunteer positions open which would benefit the MOGH greatly. There are minimal time requirements and we can work around anyone's schedule. A little help can go a long way, so please consider. Please stop by our booths at the convention and see what we are all about. I think you will be surprised and exciting. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at vergatos@msn.com

See you at the convention
 Jerry Vergatos LM-8093-241
 Membership Director MOGH

	CC>CC Member	Life Member	Gold Member	Corporate Member
Access to the Chipguide	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to the MoGH library	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to electronic publications	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to MoGH events	Limited	Full	Full	Full
Access to MoGH area on website	Limited	Full	Full	Full
Admission to MoGH museum	Discounted	Discounted	Free	Free
Vanity numbers		✓*	✓*	
Add associate members		✓**	✓**	
MoGH T-shirt (on signup)		✓	✓	
Printed membership card		✓	✓	✓
Access to discounts and coupons		✓	✓	✓
Discounts on MoGH merchandise		✓	✓	✓
Live website link on MoGH website				✓
Coupon and discount listing				✓
Annual membership fee	Included***	\$35.00****		\$250.00

* There is a one time \$25 fee.. numbers given on a first come first served basis starting at 1001

** Add Associate member \$10 per family immediate family member

*** There is a \$25.00 annual fee to upgrade from CC>CC member to MoGH Gold member and a \$100.00 annual fee to upgrade to a Corporate member

**** There is a \$250.00 one-time fee to become a lifetime MoGH member



Todd Barrett #048



Todd Barrett #048

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- o Access to the ChipGuide
- o Access to the MOGH Library
- o Access to MOGH Events
- o Access to MOGH Members Only areas of the website
- o Discounts on MoGH Merchandise
- o Discounts and Coupons from MoGH Corporate Sponsors
- o MoGH Membership Card for Gold and higher level memberships
- o Contribute to a living legacy to ensure we can pass along to future generations a great and rich history of our hobby
- o Corporate Members - Acknowledgement and Website Link



Todd Barrett #048

Museum of Gaming History

An Educational Project of
The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.
An IRS approved 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt Not-For-Profit Corporation

The mission of the Museum of Gaming History is to preserve collections, artifacts and archives for the purpose of educating the public through exhibitions, programs and information.

Please visit us at:
www.museumofgaminghistory.org

Corporate level benefits include website advertising to expand their business and provide exposure to a target audience.

The opportunity to have vanity numbers is available for a nominal fee.

Please visit our website at www.themogh.org for further information and to sign up for membership.

Be a part of our future and ensure a lasting legacy. As membership director, I'm committed to putting the word out about this great project. My efforts will not be limited solely to our club. I will be expanding into the casino industry and local government to encourage membership. If you believe you can help, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jerry Vergatos vergatos@msn.com



Cuba display Mob Museum



Plaza display at Plaza Hotel & Casino



The mission of the Museum of Gaming History is to preserve collections, artifacts and archives for the purpose of educating the public through exhibitions, programs and information.

Look for the New and Improved MoGH at the Convention

Members and chipguide administrators will be available to show members how to use the guide.

We will have a loop video of the MoGH showing exhibits and features.

We will have a membership area to explain MoGH memberships.

We will have interesting artifacts on exhibit in display cases.

We will have MoGH apparel for sale.

Stop by table 69 and discuss the future of the MoGH.



Plaza Hotel and Casino Display



The Mob Museum



El Cortez Hotel and Casino Display



Neon Museum

www.museumofgaminghistory.org

MoGH News - The MoGH Moving Forward



Golden Nugget display in lobby of Neon Museum

In the short span of eleven months, the newly assembled board has been giving the Jackie Guaghan exhibit at El Cortez a facelift. We opened and then relocated the Plaza Exhibit, we added to our footprint at the Mob Museum with the new Cuban exhibit. We also set up a display in the lobby of the Neon Museum. We are also in discussions for addition exhibits.

The El Cortez is a work in progress. Moving the Plaza Exhibit is a win win for us. The exhibit is now open 24/7 in a high traffic secure location. The Mob and Neon Museums have the potential to open many doors with the broad exposure it brings to the MoGH and Club.

Our current exhibits are online to enjoy, check out the exhibits section on themogh.org. The MoGH has also been working hard on building our social network presence. We are actively using Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Please follow us, comment, share and retweet. The Chipguide thanks Albert Scalzo and his administrators have surpassed the 165,000 scan milestone. The MoGH now has a membership program and is currently working on new ideas for fundraising.

We will have a larger presence at this year's convention. Please stop by our tables to see amazing artifacts, learn how to better use the Chipguide, see our exhibits on a loop video, have the MoGH membership plans explained and ask questions about our future and direction. What has started out as a club house is evolving into the educational project we envisioned.

Neal Silverman
Chairman, Board of Directors
Neal@themogh.org

It Happened on Fremont Street

A Short History of Downtown, Las Vegas Continues with Part VI

By Pam Goertler #R-3432

On the north side of Fremont Street, between 1st Street and 2nd Street....

100 Fremont Street:

Birdcage Casino, 1958-1959: In November of 1957 the Nevada state gaming control board recommended that the Bird Cage be granted a gaming license. Operators told the board that their investment in the Bird Cage would be \$600,000...including \$218,000 for a casino bankroll. The plans were for seven table games and 102 slot machines. The plan was to open at the beginning of 1958.



When it comes to games of chance, even the casinos lose occasionally. As the story goes, The Birdcage Casino was forced to close when two Keno players hit \$25,000 jackpots within a short time period. After the Birdcage closed, the Mint expanded and built a new entrance, on the corner.



The Mint, 1957-1989 (Del Webb's, 1966-1989):

If only we could go back in time, to 1970. This ad was in one of the tourist papers from July:



"Don't go home without seeing the Mint 'Behind the Scenes' Tour that a half-million viewers thrill to annually. Right past the guard into the Money Counting Room (more than \$1-million processed daily), an inside look at the famed "one-armed bandits" and down through the Eye-In-The-Sky for a candid peek at casino players and dealers in action below. Even a 25-story scenic ride in the Mint's glass outside elevator to the Top of The Mint food and fun spot." We've taken the glass elevator up to The Top of The Mint for dinner, it would be fun to take the rest of the tour, too!



The official Grand Opening for the Mint was on July 7, 1957. The owners were Milton Prell, A.F. Winters, J.D. Hall, and L.B. Scherer. The predominant feature of the Mint was the impressive sign, which was nearly nine stories tall. It had about 3 miles of neon tubes, and it was said that the 16-foot tall star at the top could be seen for a distance of 30 miles. There was a full-time crew employed just to keep the sign operating properly.



Image courtesy of [The P&GG Collection](#)



104 Fremont Street

21 Club, c. 1940's (?): Licensed for slots and 21. This information came from Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments...which is a list of gaming licenses, that was compiled by Harvey Fuller. There's a question mark by the date, so even Mr. Fuller wasn't completely sure. I've searched through several phone books from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, but haven't been able to come up with a listing for the 21 Club.

116 Fremont Street

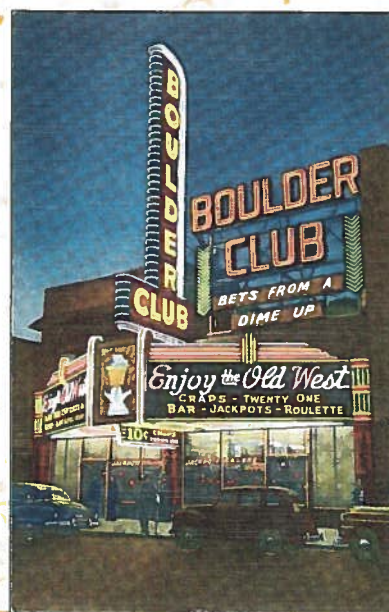
Jackpot, 1941-1945: Licensed for slots, 21, craps, roulette, faro and keno.

Club Savoy, 1945-1953: (Khoury's, 1949-1953)
Licensed for slots, 21, craps and roulette.



118 Fremont Street

Boulder Club, 1929-1960: The Boulder Club opened in 1929. When gambling was legalized in 1931, it received one of the first seven gaming licenses to be issued.



On some old matchbooks, the club advertises itself as a “gentlemen’s club” and on another book it’s “a club for ladies and gentlemen”.



In January of 1956, the Amante Brothers took over the Boulder Club. Then, in April of 1957, the original owners repurchased the Boulder Club. An ad in the March 22, 1958 Fabulous Las Vegas Magazine states “The ‘OLD’ Boulder Club; The same Old Partnership with the addition of... ‘Farmer’ MILTON B. PAGE” and it lists Jim Young, J. Kell Houssels, Ross Page, Larry Hezzelwood, Connie Hurley, Margo Goumond Hines and Lillian Witcher as the other owners, and Morris Pinkerton as the bar manager. Hmm... kind of sounds like there might have been a “hostile” take over, that got taken back!? The ad also lists craps, roulette, “21”, faro, keno, poker, pan and bridge as the available games. Liberal slot machines--3 bars any position--\$5.00 jackpots. The ad mentions that ladies are welcome, could that be because some of the owners were ladies?



124 Fremont Street

Apache Casino, 1932-1941:



The Apache Casino has been described as the first plush casino in Las Vegas, and it was the first hotel to install an elevator.



The Apache Casino was on the ground floor of the Hotel Apache, along with other small businesses including the Apache Café and the Apache Bar. There is a marvelous article about The Apache, written by John Yee, in the Spring 2002 issue of the Casino Chip & Token News.



LAS VEGAS
NEVADA
GATEWAY TO BOULDER DAM

AIR COOLED

APACHE
HOTEL

Every Comfort

MR. AND MRS. R. R. RUSSELL
MANAGING OWNERS

The Interesting Story of Boulder Dam

(Continued from Preceding Page)

Panama Canal. This will eventually fill the Dam, but since engineers figure that it will take two hundred years to fill it, we do not need to worry about it now.

One of the interesting and beneficial results of this great Dam has been the changing of this muddy turbulent stream into a clear blue mountain lake, now 85 miles long.

The cement work is now entirely completed and the mechanical equipment will all be placed by 1932.

Of special interest to the tourist is the fact that the large elevators which pass through the center of the Dam are now open to the public every day with the exception of Sunday.

Upon completion Boulder Dam will be highly illuminated on all parts—roadways, intake towers, both faces of the Dam, bridges, power houses and the great stream of water gushing from the valve houses, making it the most beautiful sight of its kind in the U. S. and the brightest spot in all the Southwest.

At approximately the same height as Niagara Falls the water from the valve houses falls with great clouds of mist. It is one of the most beautiful sights to be found in the world today—Boulder Dam.

This project is located thirty miles from Las Vegas, Nevada, beautiful little desert city, broad-minded in its ideas and affording many interesting diversions.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Center of the Scenic Southwest. Gateway to Boulder Dam, Death Valley, Valley of Fire, Lost City, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, North Rim Grand Canyon. Still a Frontier Town, unsurpassed climate, excellent hunting and fishing. Reached by automobile or bus over paved highways; high speed air-conditioned train—Main Line Union Pacific; World's finest Airplanes, three each way on daily schedule—Western Air Lines. Information all hotels, Automobile Club offices, Foster Service, Cook & Tours.

LAS VEGAS AFTER DARK IS INDEED A BRIGHT SPOT

APACHE HOTEL

AIR COOLED THROUGHOUT
ONE HUNDRED PER CENT BATHS

RATES

Single	\$3.50
Double	\$4.00 and \$5.00
Twin Bed Rooms	\$6.00

Monthly Rates on Request

AIR COOLED

EVERY COMFORT

GATEWAY TO BOULDER DAM

APACHE
HOTEL

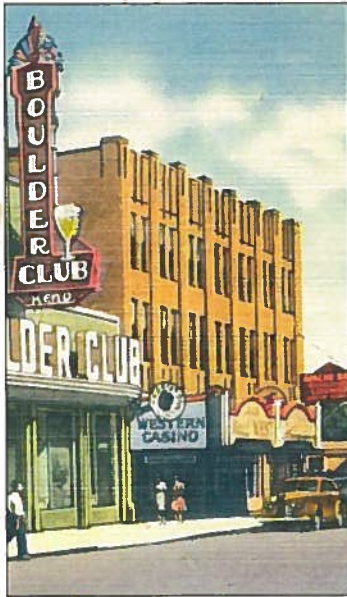
LAS VEGAS NEVADA

CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING

Kiva Club, 1932-1934: (in the basement of the Apache Hotel) Licensed for slots, 21, roulette, craps and keno. The club was designed as an Indian village.

Western Casino, 1941-1942; Licensed for slots, 21, craps, roulette, big-6 and chuck-a-luck.

New Western Casino, 1942-??: Licensed for slots, 21, craps and roulette.



124 Fremont Street

SS Rex, 1945-1946:

“Admiral” Tony Cornero had been a bootlegger, and when prohibition was repealed he ran gambling ships off the coast of California. Tired of the heat from the California authorities he headed for Las Vegas. He opened the SS Rex in 1945, and named it after one of his gambling ships. He even took a light fixture from the ship and had it installed in his Las Vegas casino, where it still hangs. Look over the bar in the oldest part of Binion’s, and you’ll see it. Tony’s notoriety meant that the officials of Las Vegas didn’t want him in their town, so within months after he received his gaming license it was revoked. An ad in a September 1945 business directory shows that the SS Rex Club was owned and managed by the Frontier Club, supervised by Ted Shorie.



Rex Club, 1946-1946:

Once Tony Cornero’s license was revoked, control of the SS Rex reverted to P.O. Silvagni, the original owner of the Apache Hotel Building. Within a month or so, he sold the club to Guy McAfee who retained control for about 6 months. Fuller’s Index shows that the next owner’s name was Bernstein, and that’s when the name was changed from the SS Rex to the Rex Club. Only 3 months later the ownership changed again, this time to Moe Sedway, and that only lasted a month or so until June of 1946.

Eldorado Club, 1947-1951: After June of 1946, the next information that I find for this property isn't until July 8, 1947. That's the date that Fuller's Index has for the opening of the El Dorado, and it's showing Sedway as the owner.

Only known ashtray to exist by author



So, what happened from June of 1946 until July of 1947? This is when I start looking for something besides names and dates. "The Las Vegas" from October 28, 1949, published by Boots Van Horn, had these bits of gossip: "The poker-joker man of the Eldorado, Duke Reamer, is still going with blonde Apache cocktail gal Stevie; however he still has a yen for Jo-Ann Kerr". Also "Still thinking he is King of the Pit Bosses & the greatest thing since Coca-Cola, is the Eldorado Club pompous, would-be wolf, Alabam. (Some people never realize they're too old to be bold)".



That doesn't explain what occurred between 1946 and 1947, but every now and then it's neat to get a glimpse of the real people that lived and worked at the clubs.



Post card circa 1946



Circa 1948



Circa 1950

Clover Club, 1951-1951: The Clover Club advertised themselves as “the Club with a heart in the heart of Las Vegas.” According to Fuller’s Index, this club was licensed for slots and 21. According to price guides, some dice were found that were attributed to this club. Sammy Cohen was the operator of the Clover Race Book. When the Horseshoe Club opened in its place, Sammy Cohen was the manager of the Race Book there.

Horseshoe Club, 1951-2006:(Binion’s Horseshoe Club)



In 1951 Lester “Benny” Binion opened the Horseshoe Club. Benny’s philosophy was “If ya wanta get rich, make little people feel like big people.” Putting that thought into practice, the Horseshoe was the first casino to offer free drinks to slot players. Under Benny’s leadership, the Horseshoe prospered. While the other casinos preferred to keep betting limits low, the Horseshoe would accept any size bet—as long as it was the first bet made.

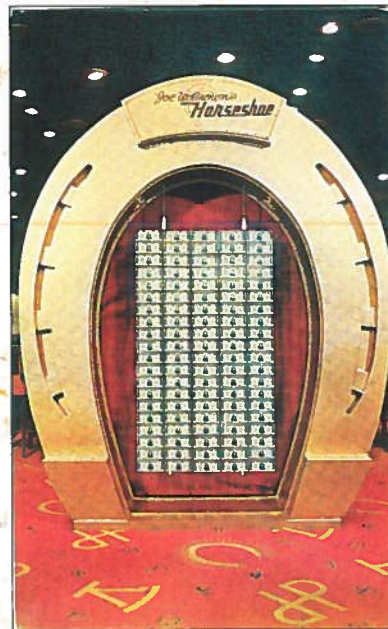


In 1949 Benny hosted a poker game between Johnny Moss and “Nick the Greek” Dondolos. After five months, Johnny Moss finally won the game and an estimated \$2 million. Benny trained his sons, Jack and Ted, to follow in his footsteps. Due to his unfortunate choice of friends, Ted lost his gaming license and was later murdered. Jack successfully ran the Horseshoe for many years, and opened more Horseshoes in other gaming jurisdictions.

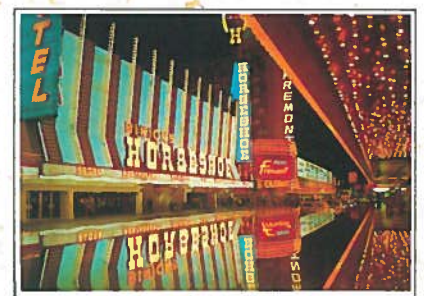
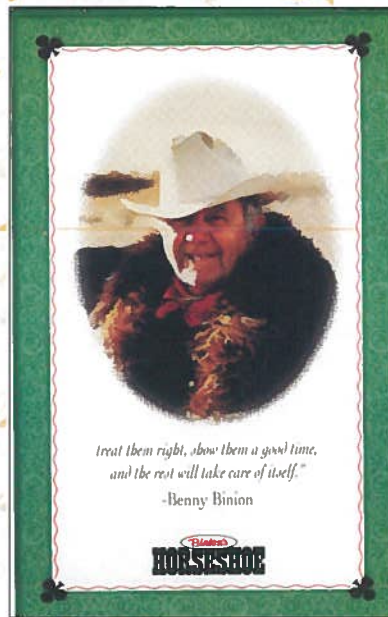


In 1998 Jack sold most of his interest in the Las Vegas Horseshoe to his sister Becky Behnen. After years of apparent financial problems, in 2004, the IRS closed the Horseshoe. A few months later the Horseshoe was sold to a group that included MTR Gaming and Harrah's. Harrah's managed the Horseshoe for a year, then sold their shares to MTR Gaming, but Harrah's retained the right to the Horseshoe name and to the World Series of Poker.

Joe W. Brown's Horseshoe Club, 1953-1957: When Benny Binion was serving time in Leavenworth, for income tax evasion (while still in Texas), he turned his Horseshoe Club over to his friend Joe W. Brown. Brown put his name on nearly everything...matches, dice, ashtrays, casino signage, and the million-dollar display. There was even a boxed craps game from Joe W. Brown's Horseshoe Club.



Binion's 2005- : When Harrah's left the downtown market, they took The Horseshoe name with them. After 55 years The Horseshoe is now known as Binion's.



Special thanks to Alan Schuyler for all of the research in the newspaper archives, lots of new facts came to light!

My usual disclaimer: A lot of different websites, books, and reference materials were used to research this article. I've done my best to double check the facts, but there could still be some errors. Hope you enjoyed the article, we'll continue our journey down Fremont Street in the next issue...

“The Road to a World Series of Poker Bracelet”

by Michael Moore - Big Store

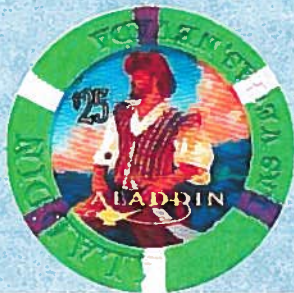
Ranking

In tournament poker, I was ranked as high as 4th in Limit Omaha High and as high as 12th in Limit Holdem. My No-Limit success has never been above an 80th ranking. It wasn't hard to be ranked high in Limit Omaha because there were only about 5 major tournaments that spread the game in the 1990's, I won one of them in 1995 and finished in the money in two others. But, Limit Holdem was another story.

Limit Holdem was king in the early days when flop games became legal in California in 1988. The Holdem games were played as early as 1986 with most municipalities unaware the game was going on in the small 1-3 table card clubs. By 1990 the vast majority of all poker in California was Limit Holdem. On the tournament trail all the other games were spread but Limit Holdem drew the biggest number of players. No Limit Holdem remained the main event, but in many cases it was the only time it was played. No Limit and Pot Limit cash games were hard to find and to get into one you had to be on the list well before the game started. Sometimes you might need to be on the list as much as a week in advance.

My Lucky Day

When I won the Limit Omaha event at the Summer Oasis tournament at the Aladdin in Las Vegas it was one of the craziest tournament wins of my life. Two hours in, I was down to 3 green \$25 chips and the blinds were 25-50. The guy I was rooming with, Matt Lefkowitz, busted out and was about to wish me luck on his way to a cash game when he saw my puny stack and decided against it.



For the next 10 ½ hours I had to win a hand in every round to have enough chips to get through the blinds. Monster stacks were all around me and I never had more than 10 chips. They were paying 27 places so when we got down to 4 tables I thought I might be able to survive to the money and at least have a payday after so many hours of play. I kept count of the players going broke and walking out and still I had just enough chips to pay the blinds with few extra. Once I folded every hand in a round to leave myself 2 chips on the button. That way I could get 7 more free opportunities to be dealt a playable hand before the blinds came around again.

A chip collector was watching the tournament and stood behind me for five hours waiting for me to bust so we could go up to my room and trade poker chips. He wasn't looking for me to continue hanging on by my teeth, he wanted me to get it over with so he could look at binders of chips he needed for his collection. At one point he got my attention and said, "I have to go to the bathroom, I'll be back in a minute. Don't leave." He was figuring that with only 2 chips I would go broke soon. Just as he got out of sight I won the next hand and five more hands in a row to end up at the final table as the chip leader. When he got back he said, "What happened?" I said, "I don't know, but if I get low on chips again I would like you to go to the bathroom." He turned around and left. I went on to win the tournament by making two flushes in a row against "Hardway" Sam the top ranked Omaha player at the time. It was 3:00 AM.

By 3:30 AM I was finally awarded the winners plaque and paid. There was not a soul I knew around to celebrate my win. I went to the room and lay on the bed with my head vibrating from the emotion of what had just happened. I looked over at the trophy to make sure it was real and I noticed the date, June 6, 1995. It was the 25th anniversary of the luckiest day of my life. My heart skipped a beat as I realized that on this same day at 3:00 AM in 1969 while standing a guard post in Vietnam I had nine rockets land on my small post with the

first rocket landing within 20 feet, throwing me through the air. Everything went into slow motion and I watched red hot metal fly past me, ripping holes in my flack jacket, taking the top off of my canteen, and putting a hole through my rifle stock, and I didn't get a scratch.

Right before the first rocket hit, Corporal Carter was coming out to check my post and I stood up and started toward him when everything went white, WAWOOM! Carter disappeared behind the flash and I landed about 20 feet from where I started. I scrambled into a trench as dirt and rocks came down on top of me from the subsequent rockets that continued to pour in. It was as if they singled me out for elimination. My ears were ringing and I couldn't hear anything. I didn't leave the trench for the rest of the night and no one came out to relieve me.

The next morning Carter showed up to see if there was anything left of me to send home and I was still sitting in the bottom of the trench. He looked down at me and I could see he was talking but I couldn't make out what he was saying. He told me later that he said, "You are one lucky !#!&*!. I saw you get vaporized. It looked like that first rocket landed right on you."

Later when Matt came in from his all night poker session he whispered, "Are you awake?"

"Yeah."

"How in Hell did you win that tournament? When I walked by, you had three chips."

I replied, "It must have been my lucky day!"

Easy Money

A byproduct of traveling around on the circuit is chip collecting. It is like coin collecting but more colorful. Once I got started I was very aggressive and willing to travel miles to find a chip not in my collection. Because I played cash games and tournaments equally I also collected tournament chips which is not advised and today not at all. If you are caught with tournament chips in your pocket you will be disqualified and if you are in the money, your prize will be forfeited. In the old days few places paid any attention until the missing chip started showing up in later and bigger events. But that was never my intention.



After playing in a dozen tournaments at the Peppermill in Reno I headed home to San Rafael, California. About half way home I stopped at a small card room in an old bar in Auburn, California to check out a club I had never been to and see if they had any poker chips worth collecting. There were six players in a \$3-\$6 dealer's choice game. They did have some interesting chips I had never seen before (Sacramento Casino 92Poker and Colorado's Finest) used as \$1 and 50 cent chips.



I won a few dollars and put some of both chips in my pocket and got up to leave. The owner said, "You should come here on Saturday, we have a No Limit Holdem tournament." I inquired about buy in, how many tables, how long were the rounds, etc. He answered, "\$60 buy in, \$5 juice, 20 minute rounds, starts at 10 AM, and we get eight sometimes nine." I only saw the one table but I figured the tournament tables were in a back room.

I started doing the math; $9 \times 9 = 81$ $\times 60 = \$2,460$; first place would be around \$1,200. They wouldn't know what hit'em. They may even have some tournament chips for my growing collection. \$1,200 started to look pretty good and it was going to be easy money. I found that playing against local players, with the pro moves I had picked up on the trail, gave me a big advantage in small town games. My record was quite good with first or second place finishes coming in at about 90% of the time.



World Series of Poker (WSOP)

The next Friday I got into a loose game at the Oaks in Emeryville and ended up playing late. I remembered I had a tournament in Auburn the next morning. So I weighed my options; stay here and win another \$1,200 or go home and get 2 hours of sleep, maybe, with a 140 mile drive to a back room game where I might fall asleep, and win \$1,200.

The possibility of some new chips was the deciding factor. I was home in bed at 6:30am, up at 8:00 am, and out the door at 8:02am. I had a 2 ½ hour drive I needed to make in 2 hours. I drove 80 mph most of the way and screeched into the parking lot at 9:59 AM. I walked in and the only person in the room was the bartender wiping down the old oak bar top. I asked him where the players were and he said, "Oh, they'll drift in in a little while." so I sat and waited.

A guy I met three days earlier walked in and started setting up. I gave him my \$65 and asked where the tournament would be played? He pointed to the table in front of me and said, "Right here," as if I were stupid to ask. "But you said you get 8 or 9 the other day," He replied, "Oh, yeah! Sometimes we even get a full table of 10." He had referred to people when I was thinking of tables. It was too late, I had to play. Nine players made the prize pool \$540 with first getting \$270, second \$170, and third \$100. As players busted out they remained in their chairs which I thought was odd. After 2 hours of play I ended up winning the tournament, the chips were generic, not interesting, and first place was \$270. I stood up to leave and the owner asked me how many chips I want? I said, "Just give me the cash I would like to go home." He replied, "You don't get paid until you play for 2 hours." So that is why no one left their seats. The torture was not over yet. I bought in for \$40 in a \$2-\$4 Holdem game, one of the hardest games to beat. Not because of the players, it's too hard to beat the rake. Right at the 2 hour mark I was up \$5 and cashed out, got paid for the tournament, and drove home, and was back in bed by 6:00 PM. I started doing the math again; \$275 – buy in \$65 – gas \$20 – food \$25 – tip \$25 = \$140 divided by 10 hours = \$14 per hour.

So much for easy money.

The WSOP has always been a magical affair, drawing big crowds and juicy games. The first few years I played in the World Series of Poker (WSOP) I would only play the opening event of \$1,500 Limit Holdem. Most of what I did was play the side games with stakes higher than any other time of the year. The first year I arrived in town with just over \$10,000 in my pocket. By 1993 I was used to playing in the biggest game a casino had to offer, which in Northern California was \$30-\$60 Limit Holdem. I went to the boardman and said, "Put me up for a Holdem seat, BS."

He said, "There is a long list for all Holdem seats, are you interested in anything else?"

"What do you have?", I asked

He says, "There is a Pot Limit Omaha 8 seat open."

I took the seat, sat down, gave the chip girl \$1000 and started to put the rest of the cash in my pocket when Ted Forest said, "It's a \$10,000 buy-in game." Not wanting to look stupid I acted like I was adjusting my chair and put all my cash on the table. My entire trip was sitting in front of me. The blinds were \$25 on the button, \$25 small, and \$50 in the big. The bring-in could be anything from \$50-\$200. The first hand I was dealt A(Hrt), 2(Dmd), 3(Hrt), K(Dmd). Ted brought it in for \$200, "Chip" Reese called, one other player called, and I called. The pot was \$900 and the flop was 8(Hrt), 4(Clb), J(Hrt), and Ted bet the pot of \$900, Chip raised it to \$2000, the other caller folded, and it was on me. My heart was pounding so hard I was sure they could hear it and I shoved in my entire bank roll. I had a great draw hand but I couldn't beat a pair of deuces at that moment. My entire trip was sitting in the pot in the first hand I played. Although I have played in much bigger games since then, at that time it was the biggest bet I had ever made and everything is relative. It was win or go home on a credit card. Ted thought for an hour, (maybe 3 minutes) before folding and then Chip looked at me, the pot, his hand, and at his chips, and that took close to a week, (maybe 2 minutes) before he folded. It was by far the longest 5 minutes of my life. I didn't play the next 3 hands and when the blinds got to me I got up and left the game with an urgent need for the nearest men's room.

My first WSOP cash was in 1995 when I played the \$2,500 Limit Holdem event and finished 14th. It was the first year I entered more than just the opening event. It was also the first year I entered the main event. All together you would think it was a pretty good year for me as I finished 10th in the main event. But money takes a back seat in tournament poker. It's never fun unless you win and that doesn't happen near often enough. I used to call my parents when I had a big cash tournament. During one of those calls my father said, "You have really found your niche." My reply was, "It may sound like it to you, but I finish in the money about 30% of the time. That means 70% of the time I am driving home kicking myself in the head for all the mistakes I made."

My final hand of the main event was against Barbara Enright in a late position who made a small raise. I called in the big blind with a K, J. The flop was K, K, J and I was loving life. My only thought was how do I get all these chips in and get Barbara to call. I checked and she checked behind. The turn card was a Q and I made a small bet trying to make it look like a cheap steal. Barbara raised half her stack and I moved all-in. She instantly called and turned over K, Q. It was a long drive back to Marin County.

As I walked to my car the world was spinning, the energy was sucked out of me, and I just wanted to find some place to crash. I managed to make it to Santa Barbara and stayed at my parents' house.

Barbara Enright went on to finish 5th and became the only woman to date to ever make a final table in the main event of the WSOP. She never even thanked me!, after all, I helped her make history and she is talked about every year as such.

As it turned out my mother was going to Las Vegas with some friends and staying at Binion's. I asked her if she would pick up a few of the result sheets for me. Each day they printed a two page story that talked about significant hands and how each player busted. Although I was not happy about being the bubble boy to the main event, it was still something I might want to show the grand kids.

When she arrived and went upstairs where the final table would be played, my name was at the top of the leader board since I was the last to go broke. My mother thought I had won the event and started telling all her friends her son had won the World Series of Poker Main Event. By the time I had talked to her she had told everyone including the bag boy at Food King. I attempted to set her straight but it was too late and she wasn't hearing what I was saying so I let her believe I had won The Big One.



It's hard to be proud of a son that is a professional poker player so letting her think what ever she wanted was not so bad. When I was around her friends she would ask me to show them my bank roll. My running around town money was \$8,000 so it was usually an impressive wad of cash. Some times I had as much as \$50,000 in various pockets if I was on my way to a big tournament. Money loses its value when you are a professional poker player. We seldom had anything except one hundred dollar bills in our pocket. Once while sitting at an empty poker table with a few other pros, a photographer walked up and had pictures of us playing. He wanted to sell them for \$50 each but none of us had anything smaller than a \$100 bill and we didn't have change. He was about to walk away when Mike Heart suggested he make it a hundred and we all bought a photo.

Las Vegas does not have a lounging area, it's a place where you gamble, and if there is a chair around, some game of chance is not more than a foot away. So, Dan Barnett and I sat down at a Let It Ride table and casually played while we talked. "Tuna" Lund sat down, then Howard "Tahoe". We were all talking about the latest tournament when Men Nguyen came over to sit in the far right seat. He said, "Dan, can I borrow \$10,000?" Dan reached in his pocket and pulled out \$30,000 and started counting. Men stopped him and said, "Oh wait, I have enough." He pulled out two hands full of money well over \$50,000 and we all laughed. Then Nelly Premrajh walks over and looks at each of us and said, "I hope I don't draw this table," meaning it would be a horrible tournament table draw and we all laughed again.

That same year, November 15, my father died. I moved back to Santa Barbara to help my mother sort things out. By then the Santa Ynez Casino had been open for a year, but most of their games were small.



The Los Angeles clubs were 90 miles away so playing on a daily bases was a little difficult. Home computers were becoming a thing and I knew very little about them so I took some classes at El Monte Adult School. I started dating the teacher, Lori. When she asked me what I did and I said, "A professional poker player," I thought it was probably the end, but, she asked where I played and when I said here in California and Nevada. She said, "Is it legal?" I informed that we were about three miles from the Commerce Casino the largest card room in the world. She replied, "Is that what they are doing in there? I eat lunch at the Commerce quite often." She was eating lunch in a card casino for five years and didn't even know that gambling was legal in California or what was going on in the next room.



Lori asked if she could watch me play sometime. I was going to be playing in the California State Championships and invited her to watch. The first two tournaments she had ever seen I finished 4th and 6th and won almost \$11,000. She could hardly believe I made that much in so little time. It was a good way to convince her that I could make a good living at poker.

The Ash Street Card Club

I thought maybe it was time to settle down and go back to work as a floor man or poker room manager and get away from all the travel. By 1997 I was only playing the occasional tournament while working 4 shifts at the Ash Street Card Club. I bought a house in Ventura only a mile from the club. It was the easiest commute of my life. Things were looking up with Lori which made me all smiles. Then the card room changed management. I lost my job and started looking for work again. I didn't really want to go back to dealing cards which was the easiest job to get if you were good. I was only interested in a management position. No one was hiring. With a nut of \$5,000 a month my bankroll started shrinking. The local games were too small and I was only bringing in about \$2,000 a month when I was running well.

There was a new manager at Ash Street (we'll call him Joe). I convinced him to hire me for 3 shifts if I could bring in business with some tournaments. I had the worst poker days, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday but I was getting them to turn a profit with some creative tournaments and giveaways. Once they were going well, Joe traded my Tuesday and Thursday for his Monday and Wednesday. When I started the new days they had almost no business. Joe stopped the promotions and tournaments on the shifts I used to have. I came in to play on some of Joe's shifts to see what he was like as a floor man/manager. He played his entire shift and wouldn't give up a seat to a customer. He was driving the players away and the club was losing money. I even saw him play an Omaha 8 game where he called his hand as a straight when he did not have one. The other player showed a set of nines and the dealer mucked it. When I pointed it out to Joe that he did not have a straight he replied, "His hand is mucked it doesn't matter." My mouth fell open. I was working for the worst card room manager on the planet.

Because the club was losing money, he stopped all promotions and started working double shifts and let one of the other floor managers go. His idea for making money was to pay out less. The days he worked double shifts, there were 5 occasions when the club did zero business. Our best dealers were the first to jump ship and go to work where there was better promise. Things just kept getting worse.

At the end of March 1998 the owners called me on the phone and asked if I would take over as a temporary General Manager. I jumped at the chance and ask what they wanted me to do. They told me to go down to the club and take Joe's place immediately. When I got there Joe, his girlfriend and two dealers were sitting at an empty Holdem table in an empty card room. He dropped the keys in my hand and walked out. The word must have traveled fast because Joe was hardly out of the parking lot when customers started drifting in and we got a game going. They all wanted to know the skinny and tell some of their own horror stories about the ex General Manager.

The owners ran an ad for a GM and interviewed several prospects but in the end they hired me. As I had said before, we lost most of our best employees. Craig Gronenthal and I were the only two floor men left to cover 14 shifts. Craig suggested we try Mike Gawlik as a floor man.

Mike was an experienced card dealer but he was one of the worst card players I have ever met. He had no control and lost most of his earnings every month. He was not friendly and kept to himself. Not the personality that makes a good manager but we were desperate

and I gave him a try. It was a disaster. His one and only shift was a Wednesday morning. We were promoting a seven card stud game. He had to help get it going by playing. He was down \$200 in less than an hour. I called him back to the office and told him he could not play and raise every hand as a floor man/player. I said, "Your job is to help get games going not destroy them." He promised he would do better and went back to the game and raised the first hand back and lost another \$40. I had seen enough. He lasted an hour and 15 minutes and I asked him to go home.

Craig on the other hand was the most likable person I have ever met. Everyone loved him. When he walked into a room you had to smile. I once asked him how he managed to get everyone to like him. Most people rubbed someone wrong at some time or another, but not Craig. He told me his trick was to act like you want to go to bed with every person that comes through the door. "You're not going to piss off a person you want to sleep with, are you?" It was all about being at your best all the times.

I always came in a little early to relieve him and help make a smooth transition from one shift to the other. One day, he had made a UFO out of 2 paper plates, one facing the other, stapled together, with push pins for landing gear, a paperclip through the top, and a rubber band through the clip. He had drawn portholes with aliens looking out and he was bouncing it around and making a "Woowoowo," sound.

"Whatcha doing, Craig?"

Craig says, "Remember that ad you helped me with a couple of months ago?"

I Replied, "Yes, you wanted a young female roommate that would run around your house naked."

Craig holds up his UFO and looks over at it with a nod, "The young girl I found is nuts and she doesn't run around naked. I got my first phone bill. It was over \$400. I called the number she has been calling and it's a FAX number. It just makes that weird noise. She takes the phone into the closet and listens for hours. She thinks they are aliens talking to her." We both started laughing and couldn't stop. But that was Craig. He didn't mind that she cost him money, he just found the humor in all situations. She was certified crazy and some one came and took her away one day.

On April 15 around 10:30 PM Craig called to tell me the game had broken up and he was closing early.

I asked if he needed any help and he said, "No, you need the rest. Besides, I am waiting for Mike Gawlik to show up to pay his marker. You go back to sleep." We had both been doing double shifts as we hadn't found any replacements.

The rest of this story is one that I didn't want to write, but there was no way I can gloss over it. Early in the morning of April 16 at 3:00 am I got a phone call from a police detective. He informed me that the manager of the Ash Street Card Club had been shot and I needed to come to the club. My first thought was, "I am the manager and I am not the one shot. This must be a mistake." Then I thought about Craig. "NO! It can't be!" I was hoping that I would get there and that a burgler would be lying on the floor. As I pulled into the parking lot and saw Craig's pickup, the only vehicle in sight, my heart fell into my stomach. I rushed to the door but was stopped by a police woman, "You can't go in there." I told her I was the manager and she told me to go upstairs and talk to Detective Ellison. Ellison and another officer sat me down in a chair and asked questions about the club. I asked if Craig was okay. They told me there was a body downstairs they needed me to identify. They informed me that they didn't think the family should see the body. It was Craig. The only thing I could go by was his tattoos and the clothes he was wearing. Six shots were fired. I couldn't breathe when I saw him. It haunts me to this day.

They informed me that all employees were accounted for except Mike Gawlik. I knew Mike was a dealer that night and that Craig was waiting for him to pay a debt. I also knew that he drove his girlfriends brand new Chevy Camaro. My thought was that a robbery was going down when Mike came back and the robbers took him and his fast car. It never occurred to me that Mike could have done it. It made no sense, but it was true. He came back to pay his \$264 gambling debt and he could only come up with \$100. They argued and Mike shot and killed Craig, took the \$646 sitting on the counter which was the house take for the night and headed to another card club in California where he lost part of the stolen money. Then headed to Las Vegas and lost the rest. From there he went to Mexico. Three days later he turned himself in at the Nogales boarder crossing, broke and hungry.

Mike Gawlik was found guilty and is serving 34 years for murder and armed robbery while using a hand gun. California had just passed a law making it a mandatory 30 years for murder with a hand gun and the 4 years was for grand theft.

The Ash Street Card Room was closed for two weeks while we remodeled. When we reopened I was surprised to find most of our customers came back. No one ever spoke about Mike Gawlik and the only thing that was ever said about Craig was how much he was loved and missed. We were running at about break even when the owners came to me and said that if I didn't buy the business they were going to close.

They gave me the books and I showed them to a friend I trusted to tell me the truth. He looked it all over and told me to walk away or you will lose everything. I didn't listen. It took all of my savings to take over. You might say I was all-in with a one card out.

Lori and her daughter Melani moved in with me. We all worked at the club. Neither of them had ever worked in the poker industry so Melani was a chip runner and Lori did the books, fixed free meals for the player, and filled in where ever. She even learned to deal. The first time she got a tip she didn't want to take it. I had to tell her that it would be bad for the other dealers if she didn't accept tips.

We were putting in long hours with a lot of giveaways, money added to tournaments, cash prizes every three hours and we only dropped \$3 a hand with no promotional dollar. In three months we doubled the business and by ten months we had tripled the monthly take. From days of zero business we were spreading 5 games. We were on our way to easy street. Good people came to work for us and players were having fun.

For the next 16 months it was Moon Pies and Gravy Train. Then one day in August 1999 the State called the club and told us to cease and desist, we no longer owned a card room license. When Lori saw my face she knew something was wrong. When I got off the phone she said, "What?"

"We have to close the club; we no longer own a license." Lori threw up. All our hard work was done. We could have fought and reopened in 6 months with a new license. But, Lori and I were tired and Melani just gave birth to her second boy, Sabien. Her first son, Shiloh just turned a year old. It was time to move on. Lori and I got married on November 11, 1999 and went to Lake Tahoe for our honeymoon. I played a poker tournament and hit a Royal Straight Flush, #18 of my life. I went on to finish 5th place. What else would a poker player do on his honeymoon? Whenever I have told that story to others the first question is,

"Are you still married to her?" And the answer is, "Yes."

For the next eight years I played very little poker and worked some odd jobs. In May of 2002 we bought a 16 acre farm in South Dakota, a state neither of us had ever been to before. It was supposed to be a place we went for the summer and room for Lori's son and grand kids to visit but we fell in love with the place and ended up staying most of the year. Melani followed with her 3 boys, Shiloh, Sabien and now Sedric, in April 2007.

The poker boom happened around 2004 and by 2007 I was playing in a few tournaments again. By 2011 I couldn't stand it any longer and started playing some WSOP events with some success. But it was 2013 when I hit the jackpot.



These chips commemorate the Death of Craig W. Gronenthal 1998



Final year chip



All Casino chip images courtesy of The Chip Guide

This is Part II of Big Store's path to winning a World Series of Poker Bracelet. Tune in to the next issue of CCN for the exciting conclusion.



Mascot R.S.L. Sub-Branch

By John K. Kallman

Before wars had numbers or were given names such as "police action", it was called the Great War. Great, not as in good, but Great as the number of countries and people that it effected. With any such world changing event, many organizations were formed both during as well as after the event itself. To offer support to those who returned as well as to remember those who did not.

One such organization was the Return Service League. From the club's web page, it is apparent that there were at least several locations, including one in Mascot, North South Wales, which is a suburb of Sydney, Australia, close by the airport. Other locations included Botany, Rosebery, and Daceyville.

Formed in 1919, soon after the close of what eventually became known as World War I, this location closed its doors in 2011 due to a lack of patronage, but still meets at Eastlakes Sports Club located in Florence Avenue Eastlakes, Australia.

What these items were used for at this juncture is anyone's guess. They could have been used for credit by club members, as a rain check to be used for purchases at a later day, or perhaps gambling. Actual dates of usage are likewise unknown.

They seem to be made of plastic as opposed to clay, but are 39 millimeters, the same size as regular casino chips. Imprinted on the obverse of each chip at the bottom center is the initials RMCP which might come from the company that manufactured them. And of course, "Moolah" is one of many slang terms for Money!

Might other denominations exist? This likewise is unknown, but more than likely.

But thanks to Brian Roach, who obtained the chips for me, we know a little bit more now than before!



Club Merchandise

Convention Chips – \$5.00 each
 Set of 10 (including 2015) – \$30.00
 Years Available –
 2001, 04, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15



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25th Anniversary Chip – \$5.00



Poker/Blackjack
Tournament Sets – \$15.00
 (2 or more sets \$12.00 each)
 Years Available –
 2004, 06, 07, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15



Common back design

2015 Silver/Bronze Convention Medal Sets – \$60.00



(Silver front and bronze back shown)

2015 Convention Pin – \$5.00 each
 Prior year pins
 (1997 - 2014) - \$3.00 each

Set of all 19 pins
 (2015 included) - \$30.00



2014 Silver / Bronze Medals \$60.00

Prior Years Bronze Medals \$5.00 each / 2 or more \$3.00 each
 (Years available-1993, 1996—2009, 2014, 2015)

CC>CC Member Pin – \$5.00



CC>CC Playing Cards \$1.00/deck

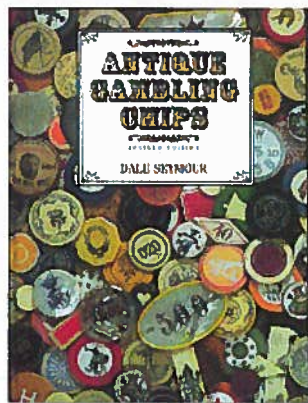
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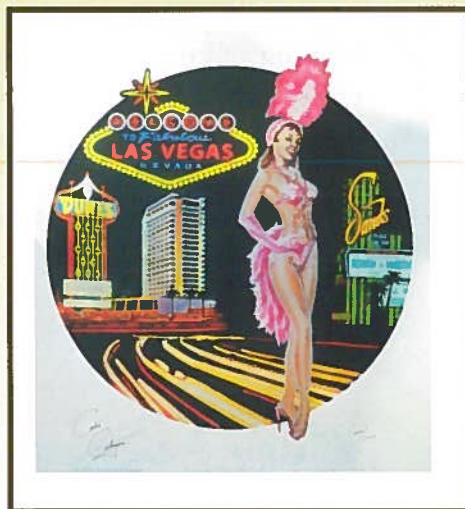
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NOTE: Some items, because of shape and/or weight will be mailed pre-paid priority and shipping cost may increase.

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.

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 \$260

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.

Marlow Casino Chips

Recent acquisitions include Dick Grave's Nugget, Khoury's El Rancho Rio, Golden Bubble Gardnerville, and the 30,000 piece Chipco sample collection. Many scarce chips always on offer.



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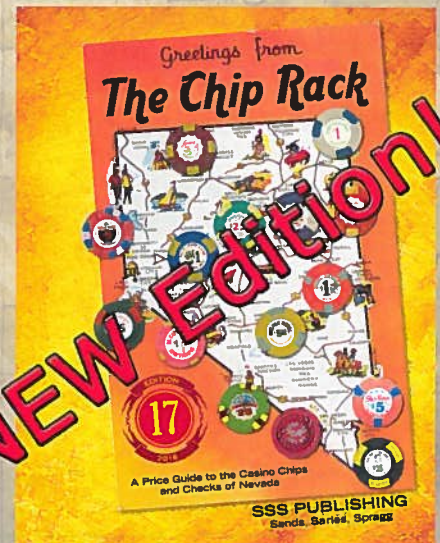
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Casino Collectible News



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.

The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. is a member of The American Numismatic Association



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