

# Casino Chip And Token News



A Quarterly Magazine for Members of  
the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club

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

Volume 8, #3

Summer Issue, 1995  
(July, August, September)

In this issue:

'95  
Convention  
Report

Phil Jensen  
Collection  
Recovery

Chip Collecting  
in Dominican  
Republic

Let's Talk Tokens:  
Uncirculated



Janice O'Neal receiving the prestigious ANA President's Award.

Remember to check your label for subscription termination. You  
snooze, you lose.

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Early Tropicana  
red \$25 (unc.)  
**\$45**



Early Mint  
Action Chip (used)  
**\$30**



Marina Hotel  
Action Chip (used)  
**\$20**



Desert Inn  
(unc.)  
**\$25**



Hotel Nevada  
Ely (used)  
**\$20**



Hotel Nevada  
Ely (used)  
**\$35**



Early Sands  
Roulette (green)  
**\$30**



Early Sands  
Roulette (burgandy)  
**\$30**



Dunes Hotel  
FARO (unc.)  
**\$20**



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No Cash Value (used)  
**\$50**



Original Series  
Union Plaza (unc.)  
**\$25**



Hotel Nevada, Ely  
Early Chip (used)  
**\$30**



Hotel Nevada, Ely  
Christy & Jones Mold  
**\$30**



Mizpah Hotel  
Tonopah, Nevada  
**\$20**



Mint Roulette  
Pink, Purple or Yellow  
**\$8 ea.**



Boomtown, Las Vegas  
1st Anniversary  
**\$10 (unc.)**



Riviera, Las Vegas  
40th Anniversary  
**\$10 (unc.)**



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1995 Poker Classic  
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## Exhibit Judges to Be Certified in Anaheim

Educational displays are essential to the success of an ANA convention. Aside from providing an informative, enjoyable experience for visitors, exhibits enable the preparers to share their knowledge and hone their numismatic skills. The challenge of competition takes exhibiting one step farther as collectors vie for exhibit awards.

In an effort to maintain a corps of qualified judges that supports the high standards of the competition, the American Numismatic Association sponsors the Judges' Familiarization and Certification Program. Those who satisfactorily complete the training are certified as ANA judges. Exhibitors who wish to learn more about the judging process also are invited to participate.

Supervised by ANA member and veteran judge Joseph E. Boling, this year's three-part program will be offered in conjunction with the ANA's 104th Anniversary Convention in Anaheim, California, August 16-20. The first session, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 16, consists of a discussion of ANA judging theory and application, during which certified judges present their views.

The second portion is a "judging practicum," conducted until 12 noon on Friday, August 18, at the participants' convenience. Using standard ANA score sheets, would-be judges evaluate actual exhibits on display in the exhibit area.

The third and final part of the program is slated for 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 19. Participants receive their practice judging sheets, critiqued by program staff, and successful aspirants are recognized.

Those interested in attending the Judges' Familiarization and Certification Program at the ANA's upcoming convention in Anaheim should contact Joseph Boling, P.O. Box 8099, Federal Way, WA 98003-0099; telephone 206/839-5199; or fax 206/839-5185.

CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS  
C. C. & G. T. C. C. MAGAZINE  
OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of  
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club

### EDITOR

Tom Dirnberger  
8493 142nd Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124-6768

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## The Soap Box

**To all the people who have written and critiqued the magazine: a big thank you. Let's hope that we can strive to improve it with each issue. To some of you: please be tolerant. We try very hard to get the magazine out in a timely manner. However, no one is harmed if it comes out a week later than planned. Any number of things can affect the release of the magazine; from the late membership fees to the uni-bomber.**

**Please, BE KIND. We're trying hard to please all of you.**

**ED.**

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CASINO CHIPS AND GAMING TOKENS  
COLLECTORS CLUB

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP (COUNTRY) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MY COLLECTION INTERESTS ARE:

- CHIPS       TOKENS  
 U.S.       FOREIGN

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PUBLISH MY...

- NAME AND ADDRESS  
 PHONE  
 DO NOT PUBLISH

MY NAME AND ADDRESS

I HAVE ENCLOSED MY ANNUAL DUES FOR:

- ONE YEAR (\$20) U.S.  
 ONE YEAR FIRST CLASS (\$32) U.S.  
 ASSOCIATE (\$5) U.S.  
 FOREIGN (\$35) \*

\* POSTAL MONEY ORDER OR U.S. FUNDS

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Foreign mailings are at the First Class rate. All other mailings are via 3rd class mail.

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

**James Harpp**  
**CC&GTCC-Recoding Secretary**  
**P.O. Box 490**  
**Altamont, NY 12009-0490**

# Club Officials

Got a question or a problem? Listed below are the names and addresses of the CC&GTCC officials and volunteer contacts to whom your requests should be mailed.

**PRESIDENT** Archie A. Black  
P.O. Box 63  
Brick, New Jersey 08723

**Editor:** Tom Dirnberger  
*Chip & Token News*  
Quarterly Magazine 8493 142nd Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

**Advertising Mgr.:** Charles Rodgers  
*Chip & Token News* P.O. Box 4572  
Lakewood, CA 90711

**Membership Applications:** James Harpp  
**Club Directory:** P.O. Box 490  
**Address Corrections:** Altamont, NY 12009-0490  
**Dues:**

**Information Booth:** Michael Knapp  
**Club Correspondence:** P.O. Box 340345  
Columbus, OH 43234

**Chip & Token Update:** Janice O'Neal  
**New Issues Report:** P.O. Box 706  
Howell, MI 48844

**Club Promotions:** Richard Allard  
**Commemorative club medals** 3151 N. Rainbow Blvd.  
Box 220  
**Club chips, logo patches** Las Vegas, NV 89108  
**Meeting woods, decals**  
**Back issues club magazine**

**Finances:** Chuck Tomarchio  
**Bookkeeping:** P.O. Box 8386  
**Treasury Reports:** Turnersville, NJ 08012

**Nevada Gaming Listing of new chips & tokens submitted for approval by state of Nevada:** Earl Donley  
P.O. Box 80572  
Las Vegas, NV 89180  
**Clark County Permits & Dealer Licensing for CC&GTCC conventions.**

**1995 Convention Chairman** Michael Skelton  
**Dealer Table Contracts:** 112 Simmons Street  
**Exhibitor Applications:** Coppell, TX 75019  
**Hotel Reservation Cards:**

# ***NOTICE OF DUES INCREASE***

At the club's official Annual Meeting, held during our 3rd Annual Convention in Las Vegas this past April, a \$5 per year dues increase was approved by the five club officers and the club members in attendance. Sixty four members, representing 20 states and Puerto Rico, engaged the club officers in an enlightening discussion about the pros and cons regarding club finances and the need for an immediate dues increase.

Effective July 1st, renewals of CC&GTCC annual dues will be increased from \$15 to \$20 per year, which will include 3rd class delivery of the quarterly club magazine. Foreign dues will be increased to \$35 per year. The two year membership discount will be discontinued and first-class mailings of the club magazine will be increased from \$8 per year to \$12 per year for those members who opt for the more expensive first-class delivery service. Associate memberships will remain at \$5 per year, as associate members are not mailed a copy of the club magazine. New club membership applications are now available from Secretary Harpp for those of you who wish to sponsor new members. Please destroy any old obsolete membership applications that you may have in your possession to help make the Secretary's life a little more enjoyable.

Advertising rates in our club publication have also been increased. Please write to our Advertising Manager Charles Rodgers for details. An across the board increase of 50% was necessary due to increased industry-wide printing costs (primarily paper) and the change to a new printer.

This is the first increase in ad rates since we began printing our quarterly publication and our costs have simply been creeping up and up over the past few years to a point now that we can not absorb the increases any more. (See President's Report) Hopefully our advertisers will agree that even at the higher rates, it is still a bargain to continue to advertise in each issue of the "Casino Chips And Token News".

The club officers wish to publicly thank all those generous members who voluntarily contributed to the cost of mailing out our 1995 Auction Catalog. Over \$700 was received to help offset our unanticipated first-class mailing expense. I hope that everyone was pleased with the quality of the catalog, thanks to our talented Cataloger, Howard Herz, and to club member Dick Brach's printing company. Next year, to control our costs more efficiently, the auction catalog will be mailed (for a fee yet to be determined) only to those members who order a copy in advance. It makes no economical sense to print 2000 copies and mail one free copy to every member. ... most of whom do not bid, or who have no interest in the sale.

## **SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES**

3rd Quarter: Jul, Aug, Sep  
Mailing Date: By Jul 15th

4th Quarter: Oct, Nov, Dec  
Mailing Date: By Oct 15th

1st Quarter: Jan, Feb, Mar  
Mailing Date: By Jan 15th

2nd Quarter: Apr, May, Jun  
Mailing Date: By Apr 15th

**NOTICE: "Camera ready" advertising deadline is the 20th of the month prior to mailing date. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery for 3rd class mail..**

## **FUTURE A.N.A. CONVENTIONS**

### **CLUB MEETINGS:**

1996	DENVER, COLORADO
1997	NEW YORK, NEW YORK
1998	PORTLAND, OREGON
1999	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
2000	BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
2001	ATLANTA, GEORGIA

**American Numismatic Association  
104th Anniversary Convention  
August 16-20, 1995  
Anaheim Convention Center  
Anaheim, California**

## **CLUB TABLE AT "COLLECTORAMA SHOW"**

Club members John Benedict, Dr. Robert Ginsberg and Mark Lighterman will be staffing a CC&GTCC table in Lakeland, Florida during the big "Collectorama Show" scheduled for October 12-15, 1995. Club members are invited to stop by and say hello. No trading or selling will be allowed at our gratis table. It's primarily to introduce show visitors to our organization and/or to "talk shop" about our hobby, but I'm certain that you will be able to do some horsetrading at other areas away from the club table on the show floor.

## President's Report



By Archie A. Black

Wow!! What a superb convention! "Almost flawless" was the general conclusion by the CC&GTCC Board. Congratulations to Convention Chairman Mike Skelton for his painstaking attention to details. (See the convention reports coverage published elsewhere in this issue.)

One of the major highlights of the convention was the presentation of ANA's prestigious "President's Award" to a very surprised CC&GTCC Club V.P. Janice O'Neal. The impressive award was presented to Janice by Ken Hallenbeck, American Numismatic Association Vice President. The ANA's Presidential Award was established in 1992 by ANA President David Ganz "to recognize individuals and organizations who have given tirelessly of their talent, knowledge, and time, in promotion of the hobby." No question about that description fitting "our" Janice!! Our deepest congratulations and appreciation Janice for a well deserved A.N.A. acknowledgment!

During the club's annual meeting at the Aladdin, the subject of a dues increase was voted upon. After considering several options, an increase from \$15 to \$20 per year was approved. Also approved was the elimination of multiple year dues discounts and increasing the first class mailing option from \$8 to \$12 per year due to the postage rate hike in January and the larger improved magazine size. In addition, a 50% across the board increase in the club's magazine advertising rates was also adopted. Foreign dues will go to \$35 per year. Associate dues will remain at the current \$5 per year level. The primary reason cited for changing the dues and advertising structure was directly attributed to the increased costs of publishing and mailing our quarterly magazine.

Speaking of the magazine, I hope that most of you were impressed with the improved quality of the last issue put out by Editor Tom Dimberger. He is to be complimented. I hope that many of you will drop Tom a line expressing your appreciation. As you may have noticed by the last mailing envelope, we have also changed printers; from New Jersey to Minnesota, at significantly higher costs I might add, but well worth it. The magazine is now mailed out right from the printing shop in Minnesota as soon as it is published. As the club membership increases (and also the workload) no longer can we depend on volunteer help to get some jobs accomplished. The club is simply going to have to pay for more professional help and services that previously had cost us nothing. The officers are cognizant that some members may feel that the increases are too high a price to pay, but It's simply a matter of economics. As an example; cost analysis done by Treasurer Tomarchio revealed that it cost the club \$50 just to print one page of the magazine using our former printer. We were only charging \$50 for a full

page ad under the old rates. That charge does not reflect the cost of the work of layout, paste-ups, billing, correspondence, phone calls and preparation of the ads. While we DO appreciate all of the ads we receive, there is/was a misconception among some members that the club made lots of money from all of the advertising... and there is lots of advertising. The fact is, that the cost of printing the large ads only covered the cost of publishing the actual advertisement and did not help to offset the cost of the featured articles and stories and club news. One member at our annual meeting even expressed that he did not care about the articles and club news. His opinion was that his only interest in the magazine was the display and classified advertisements. I don't think that position is shared by the majority of our club members.

In conclusion, please be assured that your officers have the membership's interest uppermost in our minds at all times. We hope that you agree that we are making those tough decisions in good faith.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that our 1996 convention dates have been set. We will be returning to the Aladdin next year for our 4th Annual Convention and Show scheduled June 20, 21, & 22, 1996. We are thrilled to know that Mike Skelton has offered his services as Convention Chairman once more. Mike has negotiated a very attractive \$45 per night convention room rate at the Aladdin which will be tough to beat when compared to other strip properties in the area. I do hope that more members will consider staying at the improved Aladdin next year. All members received rooms in the tower this year plus free show tickets. There is nothing more convenient than staying at the same hotel where the convention is being held. If you need something, or forgot something, or want to leave something, or just to go lay down and rest up for awhile or freshen up a bit it's nice to simply hop on the elevator and do your thing. The club has a vested interest in booking rooms also. The more rooms we book, the more negotiating power the Convention Chairman has regarding future conventions, wherever they are held. Also, the club receives room credits of one complimentary room for every 50 rooms that our members book. That results in less expenses for the club treasury to pick up. When the hotel registration cards are sent out, please use them as soon as you make your plans to attend in '96 so that we get proper credits for the hotel room bookings.

A personal thanks to each and every one of our volunteers who had anything at all to do with making our 1995 convention such a rousing success! And to the low life despicable thief who stole two auction lots that were on display.... I hope that your reward is coming, and soon. Your selfish theft was the only downside to an otherwise enjoyable show into which a lot of good folks put in a lot of hard work on your behalf. Is this your way of saying "thanks"? Too bad your parents did not teach you to respect other people's property. I sincerely hope that you've had lots of trouble sleeping since your return from Las Vegas.

Happy collecting,

# ATLANTIC CITY



By Archie A. Black CH-001

It certainly has been a busy A.C. quarter since my last column only three months ago. Lots of new stuff to report on:

On March 6th, The Grand issued a \$5 photo chip of Paul Anka. One side is a black & white photo of Anka 30 years ago. The other side is a color photo of the 1995 version of Anka. I am told that only 2,000 chips were issued.

On March 13th, Tropworld issued a new five piece set of \$5 pictorial tokens with A.C. scenes on them.

On March 15th, Caesars issued a \$5 CHIPCO commemorating their new Planet Hollywood opening. Also at Caesars, \$10, \$20 & \$40 silver Premium Tokens are being offered as prizes instead of coins or tokens in a few silver strike machines.

On April 4th, the Grand issued another headliner photo chip. A 3000 issue of \$5 Kenny Rodgers Paulson giant inlay chips were put into play.

May 1st, 10,000 serially numbered 5th Anniversary giant inlay Paulsons at the Taj Mahal were released.

May 2nd brought a completely new changeover rack of chips at Trop-World. The old Tropicana regular issue chips have been finally replaced with an attractive set of A.C. scenes by Paulson.

May 3rd, The Grand issued another in their headliner series. Bill Cosby graced the latest in this photo series.

On May 10th, a 10th Anniversary chip at Trump Plaza was issued. 10,000 \$5 CHIPCO's with Donald Trump's photo were put into play at Trump Plaza.

Three days later, May 13th, another 10th anniversary issue at a Trump property was released. Trump Castle issued a \$5 CHIPCO with a repositioned wizard on one side, the building on the other and all 3,000 issued were checked at the cage for double sided errors this time before being put out on the floor.

Around May 15th, Showboat issued their first \$2 and \$10 slot token in the newly re-named "Carousel Lounge", formerly "Jake's Betting Parlor". All of the former table games were removed from Jake's and relocated to the main casino floor and were replaced with slot machines.

A new \$10 brass slot token has been issued by Merv Griffin's Resorts. Only two machines are in play. Word has it that a new Merv Griffin chip is also in the works.

For you "high-rollers", a \$50 slot token, a first for A.C., was issued at Trump Castle on June 1 st. Just two of these machines are on the floor.

A Liza Minelli photo headliner \$5 chip at The Grand is expected in mid-June and another Trump/Marla \$5 chip is being planned for "The Donald's" birthday in June at Trump Plaza.

Happy collecting,

Archie



# WHAT?

I am sitting on my front porch up here In the mountains of Palmer Lake, Colorado. I just HAD to sit down. I just got off the **phone** with one of my contacts with a major chip manufacturer. I am sure what I am about to tell you will astound you too.

For three years now I have been hoofing the streets of CRIPPLE CREEK, BLACKHAWK, and CENTRAL CITY trying to get obsolete **chips** to fill orders that are piled on my desk. Frustration is **the only** word I can use to describe my feelings. "WHY is it so hard to find those elusive chips", I keep asking myself. "I know there are hundreds of them out there". Well I think I went a long way in finding out today. Listen to this one.

My VERY RELIABLE source of information has just informed me that he knows of an order of CHIPCO tokens that was placed with an INDIAN casino in Wisconsin a couple of months ago. The order was for 10,000 tokens. As of today, June 16, 1995, they are GONE and the casino is re-ordering. I said to him "Please repeat that." He did. I asked him if there could be some mistake. He answered "No, they are out of those 10,000 tokens, and are re-ordering." That is when I went out to the porch and started thinking. 10,000? Can't be. But most of all I was thinking of some of the chips I passed in the last couple of years, thinking "There are enough of them out there to satisfy the demand." You know; "I just saw about 100 obsolete Nevada House chips the other day". Imagine? I thought 100 was a lot of chips to see at one time. No wonder there is so much demand for the Colorado chips, when you consider that a normal order here for the average casino is around 2000 pieces. In fact many of the little casinos in the "early days of 1991", ordered as little as 100 !! So I think a little more, and I asked myself, "How many collectors are really out there looking for those few hundred chips?" Next I called back my contact and asked him what he thought. First of all he asked me how many I estimated there were. I answered, "A total of about 1000 active collectors" After he got through laughing he advised me that I was off by at least 10,000. "You gotta be kidding", I said. He assured me he was not kidding. "That is why every time a SPECIAL chip or token comes out it sells out in a matter of hours."

So now I sit here and think a little more. I think that the next time I see the RICHMAN \$1.00, the GREGORY STREET \$1.00, or any of the early chips from Colorado, I better buy them.

Ain't I smart?

Frank R. Mauro R1103





# 1995 Third Annual Convention Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Michael Knapp  
Photographs by Mark Lighterman

It just gets better and better! Any club member who attended the 1995 convention in Las Vegas, and who had attended the previous conventions as well, came away with that phrase on his lips. The Third Annual Convention of CC&GTCC lived up to that billing, and more!

Dealers were permitted to set up in the ballroom where the main show was to take place, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, the day before the convention opened to the public. That night, at 5:30 p.m., an Early Bird Welcome wine and cheese reception was held across the hall from the ballroom. More than 100 members attended the reception, which was sponsored by dealer donations, and a swap meet followed in the same room. Trading among members was hot and heavy, and many left the first official function having expanded their collections before the show itself even opened.

The Aladdin convention facility has always been a perfect spot for the 56 dealer tables at the show, with room for wide, comfortable aisles and chairs for those viewing dealer material. This year's opening day crowd was larger than any in previous years, and within moments of the convention's opening, the show floor was full of amazed and delighted chippers. The quantity and quality of dealers at the club convention is always a surprise to those who have not attended before, and a delight for those who have. The abundance of chips and other casino collectibles from all corners of the world is unparalleled.

At noon on Thursday, April 27, President Archie Black cut the ribbon to open the convention, and the volunteers manning the registration tables were swamped with guests immediately.

The show closed at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, and reopened at noon on Friday, running until 6:30. Following the Friday public show, the CC&GTCC members-only formal auction was held in the meeting rooms across from the convention floor. Beginning at 8:00 p.m., the auction was well-attended and lasted until almost midnight.



*The banner outside the show floor, which attracted more attendees than any previous convention.*

Returning to the Aladdin Hotel for the third time, the club convention attracted more attendance, members and general public, than any prior convention had. Interestingly, the largest casino collectibles show in this country has yet to realize its full potential: even many of the dealers and floor personnel at the Aladdin itself had no idea that the convention was taking place, and it is likely that hotel and casino personnel in other hotels were equally clueless. If the word spreads, the attendance will increase every year.



*Club officers and chairmen wait for President Black to cut the ribbon to open the convention show floor on Thursday.*



Before . . .

. . . and After:  
the opening of the convention floor.

Following the Friday public show, the CC&GTCC members-only formal auction was held in the meeting rooms across from the convention floor. Beginning at 8:00 p.m., the auction was well-attended and lasted until almost midnight.

The auction chaired by Bruce Landau, assisted by club member Jim Kruse, a professional auctioneer whose facility and talent contributes greatly to the annual auctions, by Howard Herz, Treasurer Chuck Tomarchio, and a number of hard-working and dedicated volunteers, saw a number of heated bidding contests throughout the evening.

Unlike previous years, mail bids figured heavily in the results of the 1995 auction, with 60 of the 177 lots being won by members who could not be present in Las Vegas. With some unusual and rarely-seen material consigned to the auction, bidding was heavy and competition was spirited for many lots.

Elsewhere in this issue is the complete list of prices realized at the auction, and we will highlight only a few of the successful bids here. The highest bid for a single chip was \$1,500 for an error chip from Atlantic City. A \$1.00 chip from Harrah's Marina, the chip bears the legend "Harrah's Marina" on one side and "Holiday Inn" on the other.

Atlantic City material saw strenuous action this year, as has occurred in the past, although the highest prices were realized for extremely scarce material. The second highest bid was for a set of three baccarat plaques from the Sahara in Las Vegas (\$1,320), but the next two highest bids were for Atlantic City chips: \$1,200 for a \$2.50 Playboy backup chip (rose with green), and \$1,000 for

a Playboy \$100 chip (black with yellow).

A rare \$500 chip from Caesars Palace in Las Vegas realized \$980 for the next highest bid; a set of 50 chips from the Reno Horseshoe sold for \$787; an Atlantic City Playboy \$500 received a high bid \$750; a \$100 Cal-Nevea Biltmore chip from Lake Tahoe was won by a \$700 bid; and a \$100 Golden Nugget Las Vegas chip also realized \$700.

Perhaps one of the more surprising bids of the more surprising bids of the evening was \$75 for a postcard and a business card from O'Dwyer's, a New Orleans area illegal casino which operated in the 1930's through the 1950's.



The Saturday program was a full one, with the club's annual meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. Again, heavy attendance emphasized the size and vitality of the club's membership as well as the level of interest shared by the members. President Archie Black presided over the meeting, and each club officer in attendance gave a report of his or her own area of responsibility.

The results of the club election were announced: no nominations for any office had been received other than the renominations of existing officers, and by acclamation, the club officers were reelected for another two-year term:

President: Archie Black  
Vice President/Historian: Janice O'Neal  
Corresponding Secretary: Michal Knapp  
Recording Secretary: Jim Harpp  
Treasurer: Chuck Tomarchio.

Janice O'Neal was presented with the President's Award by a representative of The American Numismatic Association, for service to both ANA and CC&GTCC. Janice has attended every

ANA convention since the founding of CC&GTCC, and has represented the chip and token club, providing information and recruiting among ANA members each year.



*Janice O'Neal receives ANA President's Award for service to CC&GTCC and ANA.*

Recognition plaques were presented by the club to officers and chairpersons who had, throughout the year, donated their time and effort to make the club what it is for the benefit of the members, and to conduct a successful and enjoyable convention. Special recognition went to convention Chairman Mike Skelton, whose dedication, planning, organization and attention to detail resulted in a 1995 convention that was clearly the smoothest run and the most enjoyable for all participants.



*Convention Chairman Mike Skelton receives thanks from President Archie Black*

Appreciation awards were presented to the Aladdin Hotel and to Paul-Son Dice and Cards for their sponsorship of the Friday morning reception for members and for their assistance for the second year in a row in providing the educational forum speaker.

Chip of the Year and Token of the Year balloting results were announced, and awards presented to the winning casinos. By vote of the membership, the most popular casino chip issued during 1994 was the Luxor \$5 chip, and the most popular casino token from 1994 was the Coyote Creek Casino (Central City, CO) \$1 token.

A representative of the Luxor Hotel was present to accept the award on behalf of the hotel, and Clyde Massaro, President of

the Colorado Chapter of CC&GTCC agreed to present the Coyote Creek award in Central City.

Two traditional awards were given to member Bob Mera of Atlantic City as the top membership recruiter of the year, and to Doug Saito for the best magazine article of 1994 for *The Lowest of the Low Gives Me the Highest of Highs*.



*Sandi Schroder, Aladdin Sales and Marketing Director, accepts recognition from the club for the excellent convention facility and the cooperation of the Aladdin staff.*



*C. T. Rodgers, recognition for work as club Advertising Manager (he's a riverboat gambler, folks, NOT a leprechaun!)*



*Jim Harpp, CC&GTCC Recording Secretary*



Chuck Tomarchio,  
CC&GTCC Treasurer



Part of President Archie Black's appreciation award: a tube of rare and valuable chips from closed casinos: ground into chip dust!

There were several items of business which needed to be dealt with at the annual meeting as well. Corresponding Secretary As you have read in previous issues, CC&GTCC has, as a result of generous donations and pledges from members, been able to endow a formal American Numismatic Association competitive exhibit award. Rules and exhibit criteria will be published elsewhere, but the Board's first requirement was to choose a name for the award.

According to ANA, it has been customary to name such an award after the person most responsible for the promotion of the hobby or specialty to which the award applies. At its meeting on Wednesday, the day before the convention opened to the public, the Board considered that issue. Secretary Michael Knapp announced the Board's decision, in which President Black did not participate, to designate the award the Archie A. Black Award. The Board felt, unanimously, that no other single person was more responsible for the state of the casino chip and token collecting hobby than Archie Black, whose vision and organizational work resulted in the founding of CC&GTCC in 1987.

The next order of business was the issue of the increasing costs of operating the club. President Black outlined the nature of the problem by discussing the increases in paper costs, mailing costs, printing costs, and other escalating costs of producing *Casino Chip and Token News*, as well as the cost of the convention and other member benefits provided by the club. Dues have remained constant over the past eight years, despite rising costs, and the Board was in agreement that in order to maintain current membership services, a dues increase would be required.

Discussion of alternatives was extensive, and

participation from the members in attendance at the meeting was widespread. Alternatives and ideas discussed were such concepts as life memberships, elimination of multi-year dues discounts, elimination of the associate member category, a sufficient dues increase to cover first class mailing for all members automatically, and others.

Ultimately a motion was made, seconded, and passed by the members present and voting as follows:

- a) Dues shall, effective immediately, be \$20 per year;
- b) Associate membership dues shall remain at \$5 per year;
- c) The first class mail option shall be increased to \$12 per year;
- d) Foreign membership dues shall be \$35 per year;
- e) Multi-year dues discounts shall be eliminated, but members will still be permitted to pay dues more than one year in advance.

In addition, the Board action increasing advertising rates in *Casino Chip and Token News* was discussed. The new advertising rates, which average 50% higher than the previous rates, appear elsewhere in this issue.

Following the annual meeting and a short break, the educational forum was held in the same room, across from the convention floor. In prior years, the seminar was held during show hours, and dealers were unable to attend. For 1995, Chairman Mike Skelton scheduled the forum to take place before the show opened to the public, and as a result, attendance was larger than it had been in the past.

Emceed by Secretary Michael Knapp, the speaker was Paul-Son's Will Hart, a commercial artist who is chief creative design consultant for the chip manufacturer. The wide graphic and full graphic Paul-Son designs, which have developed over the past couple of years as the pinnacle of clarity and quality in photographic chip design, are largely a result of Mr. Hart's work.



Michael Knapp presents CC&GTCC appreciation award to Educational Forum speaker Will Hart of Paul-Son Dice & Card Co.

An entertaining and enlightening speaker, Mr. Hart described the design process, the difficulty sometimes encountered in working with casino customers, and his efforts to incorporate chip designs into all facets of casino marketing: signage, table layouts, slot cups, and other advertising material.

The last day of the club convention was heavily attended, and dealers stayed until the closing time of 6:00 p.m. During the show, the votes of members for the most popular chip or token

## CONVENTION REPORT

By Archie A. Black

An entertaining and enlightening speaker, Mr. Hart described the design process, the difficulty sometimes encountered in working with casino customers, and his efforts to incorporate chip designs into all facets of casino marketing: signage, table layouts, slot cups, and other advertising material.

The last day of the club convention was heavily attended, and dealers stayed until the closing time of 6:00 p.m. During the show, the votes of members for the most popular chip or token exhibit were tallied, and the overwhelming winner was Mel Jung, who had assembled a detailed and informative exhibit of brass core chips.

*Mike Skelton  
presents  
award  
for most  
popular chip  
or token  
exhibit to  
winner  
Mel Jung.*



Following the closing of the public show on Saturday evening, the first "hot auction" of casino chips, tokens and memorabilia was held in the meeting rooms across the hall, for members only.

Auction chairman Bruce Landau, again with assistance from auctioneer Jim Kruse, from Howard Herz, from Treasurer Chuck Tomarchio, and from hardworking volunteers, conducted the auction of items which club members had consigned during the convention itself. Working much of the previous night, Bruce, Howard, Gregg Herz, and a couple of assistants, had compiled a short descriptive list of each lot in the 160-lot hot auction.

Chairman Landau had arranged for an overhead projector to display each lot as it was called, given that there was no catalog for the hot auction, and Howard Herz lent his expertise in describing and explaining each lot as it came up for bids.

Again, the hot auction was extremely well attended, and bidding was spirited. The highest winning bid for a chip during the hot auction was \$600 for a \$500 Milton Prell's Aladdin. Interestingly, the chip was lot 7, and was sold at the very beginning of the auction. An example of the continued interest in the auction is the fact that the second highest price realized was the final lot, \$450 for a \$5 Wilbur Clark's Casino chip from Havana, Cuba, with Clark's portrait on the center inlay.

Perhaps the most spirited bidding of the evening was for a black necktie from Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn in Las Vegas, from the 1960's. It was won with a bid of \$\$52!

For those members who have not been able to attend a club convention, it is an experience not to be missed. The date change to June, 1996, may enable more members to attend. We can only hope that next year's convention is as successful and as smoothly-run as this year's was.

A record attendance of club members, new members, visitors, and guests, combined with the universally acclaimed talents of a very capable Convention Chairman Mike Skelton; coupled with superb publicity efforts by Vince and Bettye Mowery, insured an overwhelming successful 1995 convention by all accounts of those who were fortunate enough to be there. 75 new club members were signed up by Club Secretary Jim Harpp & Marty at the club table. Dealers who had tables reported impressive sales levels and very few complaints were received regarding the planning, preparations and details prior to and during our 4th annual convention.

The pre-convention activities began with a well attended Early Bird Reception" in which more than 250 members and their guests showed up for the hot and cold buffet, snacks, beer and soft drinks. Lots of socialization and discussions among members meeting for the first time and those who re-newed acquaintances from previous conventions were enjoyed by all. The generosity displayed by several dealers who contributed financially toward this annual "ice-breaker" party was deeply appreciated.

Intermingled with the "Early Bird Reception" were early bird swappers and traders who did manage to get the worm. In what took on the appearance of a flea market atmosphere, wheeler dealers were everywhere.... in the hallways, balancing 3-ring binders on one leg while propped up against the walls, sitting on the hallway floors and inside the salon meeting rooms, inside the reception area while chewing on chicken legs, etc. A LOT of duplicate material traded hands during this three hour marathon! Result: Many new proud owners brought back home large additions of new chips and tokens at reasonable prices for their respective collections.

When the show did open the following day, hundreds of collectors and visitors to the show were lined up down the hall and around the corner awaiting the traditional 12 noon ribbon cutting ceremony. Unleashed, at 12:05, they swarmed the cavernous ballroom floor in attempt to find those elusive chips and/or tokens they had travelled all this distance to find from the more than 60 dealers from across the country who booked table space.

Club members Ken Hallenbeck, Mel Jung, Mark Lighterman, Doug Saito and Dale Seymour even brought some fine exhibits to display competitively at the show. Random visitors to the show who viewed the exhibits were asked to vote for the display that interested them the most. An impressive "People's Choice" award was presented to Mel Jung for the "Most Popular Exhibit" titled, "Brass Core Chips". Second Place went to Doug Saito for his exhibit titled, "California Nickels & Dimes". Ken Hallenbeck took Third Place with his display called, "The Making Of A Chip". A tie for fourth place was shared by Dale Seymour's "Monogram Chips" and Mark Lighterman's "European Style Plaques". All exhibitors received appreciation awards.

Two very spirited auction sessions saw new price levels established for scarce to rare material. A list of the prices realized is published elsewhere in this issue of the club magazine. For those new members who were not eligible to receive a copy of the auction catalog prior to the convention, a limited number of catalogs are available for sale at \$10 per copy (w/prices realized) from club promotions manager, Richard Allard. You may write to Dick at P.O. Box 220 Las Vegas, NV 89108 for a copy.

# CHIP COLLECTING ADVENTURES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ROBERT GINSBURG  
CC&GTCC R-1229

In 1492 Columbus discovered the New World, and is said to have landed first on the island of Hispaniola, which is made up of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He set foot in Santo Domingo, now the capital of the Dominican. Had he and his crew seen and experienced what my wife and I did, I think he would have bypassed the island and headed straight for Brooklyn. Hispaniola is a lush tropical island with palm trees, beaches, hot and humid temperatures, mountains, rivers, plush resorts, and casino gambling. It sits in the Caribbean, about 50 miles due west of Puerto Rico. It can be an idyllic paradise. Let me share with you what we saw and experienced.

We went from the airport to the Jaragua Hotel & Casino, which was to be our base of operations for a week or so, without incident and not really paying any attention to what was going on around us. The hotel was plush, and the casino was similar to ones found in Las Vegas. Glitz and glamor, lots of action and helpful people. My chip collecting started out great as I had planned. I was able to get any chip I wanted with little hassle. All of the casinos on the island play with dollars and Dominican pesos, known as RD's. All casinos open up at 4:00 pm, right after siesta. A day at the beach, some sight-seeing, a quick shower, dinner and then on to the casinos. What could be more relaxing. The first night was great and all went according to Hoyle. The next day is when I made my frightful error in judgment; I rented a car! The rental agent told me that my credit card company would not pay for any damages I might incur, which is not what I was told in Florida. I opted not to take the extra insurance, as I had driven on many of the Caribbean islands and in Central America without any incident. As I pulled out of the lot I understood why she said what she did. It was a case of *mano a mano* with cars. Most of the cars, including the one I rented, had numerous dents, scratches, missing bumpers, and no lights. Many were held together with crazy glue, as my wife noted. Each driver has his or her own set of "rules" of the road. Stop signs and traffic lights are for decoration only. One way streets become four way go-cart tracks, and intersections become a test of skill, nerve, and who is willing to get hit head on first. Parking on narrow streets was allowed, so that each driver had to negotiate a slalom course. I was not going to be intimidated as I was on a mission.

Our next day began with a trip to the beach, not knowing that Sunday, EVERYBODY in Santo Domingo goes to the beach. As we sat in bumper to bumper traffic, with most of the cars having no bumpers, we realized that we had made yet another error in judgment. We pushed on in order to reach Punta Cana and San Pedro de Macoris (this town is where many great Hispanic baseball players are from and still live in the off-season). We reached our destination but were unable to find any parking for miles. We stopped for lunch and started to head back to the city, unable to get chips from the Bavaro Beach Casino or the Decameron Casino. A two hour drive each way, and nothing to show for it, except an upset stomach and a nervous twitch. Plans had to be revised. I decided to visit all of the casinos on the main drag known as the Malecon and then venture forth into the city proper to see all of the other casinos. A good plan in theory.

The next day we did some sight-seeing, and saw a fort built by the brother of Columbus, as well as visiting the colonial part of the city. We saw the changing of the guard at the monument to the country's heroes, did some shopping and returned to our hotel. At 3:45 pm. It was time to move ahead with our revised plans. I drove three blocks in a state of panic, as traffic was still wild and crazy due to the Dominican version of Labor Day. My first stop was the Hotel El Napolitano. I was greeted at the door by a "gentleman" carrying a sawed-off shotgun, a mean look, and the same nervous twitch that I had. He asked me what I wanted and I handed him a letter I had prepared prior to leaving home which explained that I was a CC&GTCC member and wanted to collect chips from each of the casinos on the island. He looked at the letter not having any idea what it said, as I had forgotten to translate it into Spanish. I'm not even sure if that would have helped. I asked to see the "Jefe de Sala" and was escorted into an office with this security guard watching from the door. The casino manager spoke no English and my Spanish becomes real poor when I am being watched by anybody with a shotgun. I was told that I could play, and after sitting down at the Blackjack table for 1/2 hour, I was ready to move on to the next casino. I placed chips (*fichas*) in my pocket and went to leave the casino. I was followed to the door by security, and as I reached the only door was told to read the sign above. A rough translation was, "The casino requests that all players cash in their chips prior to leaving the casino. Violators will be shot." I'm not real sure of the last part, but being swift on my toes, I got the message, went to the cashier (*caja*) and got my money. I exited, ran to my car and, in proper Dominican style, sped off into traffic. I can't imagine what would have happened had I not complied with the "rules" of the house.

I was now more determined to get those damned pieces of plastic and clay. The next hotel in line was the V Centenario (Quinto Centenario), where I was directed to the casino manager who was British. He was able to read my letter, but also insisted that no chips were to leave the casino. After playing craps for 15 minutes or so, I approached him again, and after much discussion, he allowed me to take 1 of each chip denomination with me. I did

so and left. If the same policy was true in all the casinos, I would have been able to increase the size of my collection but disappoint fellow collectors who had asked me to bring back enough chips to trade. Many had requested 1 of each denomination, from each casino that I visited. On to the Sheraton Omni, where my luck would surely change, and I could communicate in English. Fat chance, same policy, no English. I returned to the Jaragua, and decided to pick up some additional chips. At the craps table I was approached by the pit boss and was told that I was not to take any more chips out of the casino. I laughed, and told him, in a nice way, that I would do what I wanted as I was spending good American dollars to stay at this hotel. He too laughed, and informed me that my play would be monitored, not to be comped, but to see if I took any more chips. As you can imagine I was angry, frustrated, exhausted and even more determined to beat these people before they beat me.

The next day, we decided to lounge around the hotel, and then venture forth in the evening for another round of "chip collecting" and gambling. After getting different directions from 6 people, looking at a street map of the city with clearly marked streets, we set off for the Gran Hotel Lina. What would have been at most a 10 minute taxi ride, became a 1 hour tour of the city at night, with no traffic lights working and few people stopping at intersections. I threw caution to the wind, and imagined that I was a long term resident of the city. I drove as they did and wound up at my destination. We had a wonderful meal, and then prepared for a night in the casino. Upon entering, I looked for that ever present sign above the door and saw none. Good omen! I asked for the casino manager, and in poor Spanish asked if it was okay to take chips out of the casino. He didn't seem to understand why I wanted chips, and probably thought I was crazy. By that time my nerves were raw, and I was in need of a chip fix. He said I could take anything I wanted with no problem. EUREKA! I played roulette, won a few pesos, and then to my amazement, discovered that I had forgotten to put aside dollars. I was unable to change pesos in dollars, but as luck would have it, my wife had some greenbacks, and I was able to get some dollar denomination chips.

The next afternoon, we went to the El Embajador with a new spirit and a sense that I was completing my mission. Again I was told that I could take any chips out of the casino that I wanted, but I was not allowed into the casino as I was wearing shorts and a shirt with no collar. I thought, "You have to be kidding and this is just another test of my resolve", recalling that I had played at numerous casinos in the islands wearing a bathing suit and T-shirt. I was not about to go back to my hotel and change. I convinced the manager to let me into the side of the casino long enough to complete my transaction, and not embarrass him. He relented, and off we went. The next stop was back to the Malecon, and the Hotel Hispaniola. I was greeted by a wonderful Jefe who spoke Castillian Spanish and who was able to read my letter. He allowed me to purchase chips, and asked me to return later on to try my luck at the tables. It must be some plot, as my thoughts were filled with paranoid ideas.

We did return later on that week, and were greeted with smiles. No plot, just a kind and understanding manager, who I think noted the desperation in my face and didn't want me to have to pay for therapy once I got back home.

I guess I could go on and on with other misadventures, but I think that you have some of the flavor of what we went through. We found no CHIPCO's, no full-graphics and certainly no "Grand Opening's". All of the casinos used Bud Jones metal inlay chips for their dollar denominations, except the Jaragua, which had a house mold for all of their chips. The peso chips were mostly gold hot stamped, with a few having inlays. Each table took pesos and dollars.

Would I go back, I think not. Would I recommend this destination to others, sure. I want everybody to experience pure terror, rejection, frustration, anger, rage, and last of all, the joy of chip collecting in the Dominican Republic. I also want somebody to test the will of that guy with the shotgun at the El Napolitano.

## CASINOS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### SANTO DOMINGO

1. HOTEL EL NAPOLITANO
2. V CENTENARIO INTERCONTINENTAL (QUINTO CENTENARIO)
3. SHERATON SANTO DOMINGO HOTEL & CASINO (OMNI)
4. HOTEL JARAGUA RENAISSANCE RESORT & CASINO
5. HOTEL SAN GERONIMO & CASINO
6. GRAN HOTEL LINA
7. HOTEL HISPANIOLA
8. HOTEL & CASINO NACO
9. EL EMBAJADOR HOTEL & CASINO
10. DOMINICAN FIESTA HOTEL & CASINO
11. MAUNALOA CASINO (ONLY FREE-STANDING CASINO)
12. HOTEL SANTO DOMINGO
13. HOTEL COMODORO

### PLAYA DORADO/PUERTO PLATA

1. PARADISE BEACH CLUB & CASINO
2. PLAYA DORADO HOTEL
3. PUERTO PLATA BEACH RESORT
4. BAYSIDE HILL
5. JACK TAR VILLAGE BEACH RESORT & CASINO

### PUNTA CANA

1. BAVARO BEACH RESORT & CASINO

### SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS

1. DECAMERON CLUB & CASINO

# THE INFORMATION BOOTH

Michael Knapp

Welcome to The Information Booth: the column that belongs to the members! It is here that you may submit unidentified chips (UFC's) for identification or questions about casino history and the like.

As we always do, we'll begin with some answers to previous UFC questions. Also, we repeat our request for participation by club members. This column is only of value if you take time to write to your columnist with identifications of chips you recognize here in the column, and if you send *legible* photocopies or samples of chips you'd like identified.

You will notice that few of the chips which appear in this column are simply photocopied. That's because many older chips do not have enough contrast to photocopy well, and if they will not photocopy once, they certainly will not photocopy a second time when the magazine is produced. As a result, we hand-illustrate most of the chips pictured here. It's a painstaking process, because we make every effort to make sure that each chip illustration is as close as possible to its original version. That way, recognition identification may be possible.

Please realize, though, that if you cannot read what is printed on a chip clearly after you photocopy it, neither can your columnist, and illustrating it will be impossible. In such a case, you may send the chip to us, with return postage if you would like the chip sent back to you after the illustration process is completed.

For those of you with answers or questions, please share your information by writing to us at P. O. Box 340345, Columbus, Ohio 43234.

Now for identifications of past UFC's:

**Q. 121:** This chip was made for Ebby Smith in Sacramento, CA, in 1949. We have no idea what the initials **JW** on the chip stand for.

**Q. 378:** Local 640 of the Chauffeur's Union in Los Angeles had this chip made for themselves. That solves the problem of the initials: it's **CU 640**, not UC 640!

**Q. 435:** This large crown rim chip hotstamped **609** is from the 609 Club in Del Rey, CA. It was shipped to Ralph Yamagata in 1948.

**Q. 492:** The **Casino El Peñon** is (or was, we're not sure whether it's still open) in the Hotel Lagomar in Girardot, Columbia.

**Q. 675:** Steve Goodrich tells us that the trees on this **CJF** chip are palmetto trees, not palm trees! The chip was used at the Charleston Jewish Federation in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Q. 693:** Cal Shorter, a member from Texas who has studied the clubs from that State, suggests that the **Vernon Country Club** was most likely located in Vernon, TX. Vernon is located northwest of Dallas/Fort Worth and Wichita Falls.

**Q. 709:** The 19th Hole, a card room in Antioch, CA, used this **BG**

chip. We don't know the significance of the initials, although we suspect that they are the initials of the owner.

**Q. 710:** We were rather hoping that there was some sort of risqué explanation for this chip, which we illustrated as **S/EX**. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your interpretation) the attribution is somewhat less exciting. The chip is properly read as **EX/S**, and was shipped to William Parker or Ash Ruby in Excelsior Springs, MO. We don't know the name of the club in which the chip was used, but we suspect an illegal club, because until recently (and except for riverboats) gaming in Missouri was not licensed.

**Q. 712:** John Beechcroft of Trenton, NJ, ordered this **CAC** chip in 1948. Again, we have no idea where it was used, but gambling in NJ was illegal in 1948.

**Q. 716:** The initials **INC** on this chip represent the International Club in El Centro, CA. The chips were made in 1947.

**Q. 717:** We don't know what the **LGB** stands for, but these chips were made for Carney Sales Equipment in Los Angeles in 1959.

We have some new UFC's this time, some of which are identified or partially identified. As usual, we will show the reverse of a chip only if it bears something other than a denomination. Chips that show denominations on the revers sides are indicated with the symbol \$ next to the chip.

719



720



**Q. 719** has been attributed to the Hollywood Dinner Club in Galveston, TX. We doubt this attribution, frankly, because we know of no other large crown chips which have been authenticated as having come from Galveston, and the chips we have seen from that club all bear the initials **HDC**. Does anyone have more information about this chip?

**Q. 720** was shipped to Harold Brown in Ecorse, MI in 1936. We suspect that this chip was merely a private issue, because only 100 were made then, and that's hardly enough for a serious illegal game. It may be, of course, that there were other orders in other colors of which we are unaware.

**Q. 721** is a different matter. These chips *were* ordered in sufficient quantities to stock an illegal club. They were sent to C. A. Mitchell at the Old Heidelberg in St. Clair Shores, MI in 1936 and 1937. Does one of our wolverine members know of illegal gambling in



the St. Clair Shores area in the 1930's? If so, or if there is a book that discusses illegal clubs in Michigan, please let your columnist know!

**Q. 722** has been attributed to the Galveston, TX area, but we have never heard of a Green Light Club in that part of the world. Does anyone have further information?

**Q. 723** is a chip that *has* been identified. It's an early issue of the Oneida Casino in Green Bay, WI, owned by the Oneida Indian tribe. The OG stands for Oneida Green Bay.

**Q. 724** is believed to be another early Indian casino chip, but we are not sure from which casino. Pete Porro, who sent us a copy of the chip, says that it was obtained in Wisconsin, but prior to the opening of reservation casinos in that State. Pete suspects that the chip originated in Michigan, but we have not been able to identify it.



**Q. 725** was made for W. D. Shoulders and was shipped to him in Las Vegas in 1951. Can anyone provide more information about Shoulders or the chip?

**Q. 726** was used at the P&C Club, a card room in Ridgecrest, CA.

**Q. 727** was made for N. D. Bolen and was shipped to him at Ft. Worth, TX in 1974. We know nothing more about the initials or about the use of the chip, though.

**Q. 728** was made for L. A. Depaoli in West Covina, CA, in 1978. We do not know whether the chip was used in a legal card room, or if so, which one.



**Q. 729** may have been used at the Silver Spur in Carson City, NV, but we're not certain. Can someone confirm, please?

**Q. 730** is another puzzler. We suspect that it might have been used in Colorado before gaming there was legalized, but we have no solid information. Can someone authenticate it?

**Q. 731** is clearly a foreign chip, but we don't know where it originated. Does anyone?

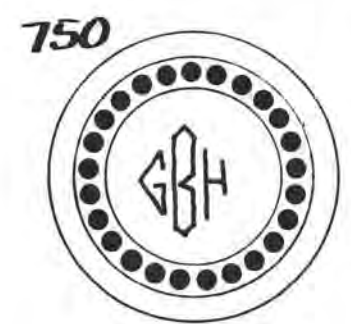
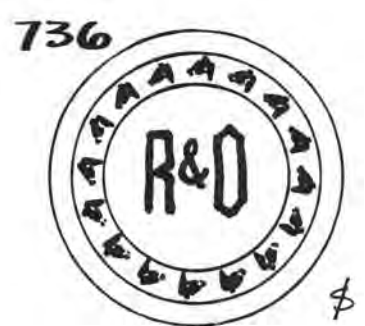
**Q. 732** is believed to have been used in a card room in Clovis, CA, but we have no confirmation to that effect.

**Q. 733** bears the initials EJO on the obverse, and the denominations on the reverse all bear the legend "in trade." The "trade" token designation was a common way to avoid identification as an illegal gaming establishment in Montana and in North Dakota at one time, and we're wondering whether one of those States is the origin of this chip.

**Q. 734** is clearly a chip made for a war veterans' club, but we don't know where Post 148 was located. Can someone help?



The following chips are all unidentified, and any assistance you can provide would be appreciated. We'll include answers we receive in the next issue's column!



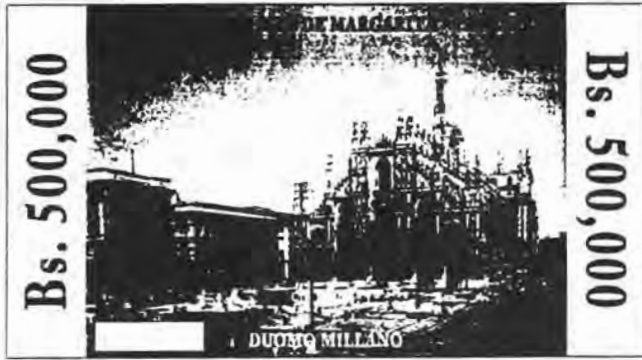


**WHAT'S NEW FROM CHIPCO??**

CHIPCO continues to keep the club abreast of new issues that have been released during the previous quarter and we are pleased to be able to illustrate them here for our members. Once again, for the benefit of our newer members, the relatively well known new issues from CHIPCO are published as illustrations in other regularly featured articles and columns in this issue. We try to publish the unusual or not too often seen issues in this column. Thanks again CHIPCO for sharing them with us.



# More Chipcos



# More Chipcos

Nevada & U.S.



## CC & GTCC PROMOTIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE

3 1/2 " embroidered, colorful cloth logo patch, "CC&GTCC MEMBER" .....	\$3.00 @
2 3/4" vinyl club logo, self-stick decal .....	\$1.00 @
5" .....vinyl club logo, self-stick decal .....	\$2.00 @
Cloisonne CC&GTCC membership pins with color club logo .....	\$4.00 @

## A.N.A. CLUB MEETING SOUVENIRS

1989. "Two Wooden Dollars" commemorative club wooden dollar Pittsburgh, PA .....	75¢ @
1991. "Four Chicago Dollars" commemorative club wooden dollar Chicago, IL .....	75¢ @
1992. "Five Wooden Dollars" commemorative club wooden dollar Orlando, FL .....	75¢ @
1993. "Six Wooden Dollars" commemorative club wooden dollar Baltimore, MD .....	75¢ @
1994. "Seven Wooden Dollars" commemorative club wooden dollar Detroit, MI .....	75¢ @
1991. Official club chip "4" issued for 1991 ANA convention .....	\$3.00 @
1992. Official club chip "5" issued for 1992 ANA convention .....	\$3.00 @

## MISCELLANEOUS CLUB WOOD ISSUES

1991. "F.U.N. Chip" Florida United Numismatists club meeting .....	75¢ @
1992. "F.U.N. Chip" Club meeting during '92 F.U.N convention .....	75¢ @
1993. "F.U.N. Chip" Club meeting during '93 F.U.N convention .....	75¢ @
1994. "F.U.N. Chip" Club meeting during '94 F.U.N convention .....	75¢ @
1995. "F.U.N. Chip" Club meeting during '95 F.U.N convention .....	75¢ @
1993. Official CC&GTCC 1st Convention wood .....	75¢ @
1994. Official CC&GTCC 2nd Convention wood .....	75¢ @
1995. Official CC&GTCC 3rd Convention wood .....	75¢ @
1994. Wooden nickel "YOU ARE INVITED" promo chip .....	50¢ @
1994. Wooden nickel "REPEATED BY POPULAR DEMAND" promo wood .....	50¢ @
1995. Wooden nickel "BIGGER & BETTER" promo wood .....	50¢ @
1996. Wooden nickel "THE PLACE TO BE" promo wood .....	50¢ @

## OFFICIAL CONVENTION CHIPS & MEDAL SETS

1994. Official Las Vegas Convention club chip (Chipco) .....	\$4.00
1995. Official Las Vegas Convention club chip (Chipco) .....	\$4.00
1994. Official Convention Medal Set (bronze & silver) .....	\$20.00
1995. Official Convention Medal Set (bronze & silver) .....	\$20.00
1993. Official Convention Medal (bronze only) .....	\$5.00
1994. Official Convention Medal (bronze only) .....	\$5.00
1995. Official Convention Medal (bronze only) .....	\$5.00

(PLEASE ADD additional \$1.50 for postage & insurance for medal sets)

PLEASE ADD 75 cents postage for one or two items. (\$1.50 for larger orders) STAMPS O.K. Back Issues of Casino Chip & Token News magazine can now be ordered here at \$4.00 each (postpaid). The following issues are currently still available:

Volume 6 #1; Volume 6 #3; Volume 7 #1, Volume 7 #3, Volume 7 #4, Volume 8 #1. 1995 Auction Catalog @ \$10.00 postpaid.

## The Nevada Gaming List

Earl Donley  
R-0380

The Nevada Gaming List is a monthly list of all the chips and tokens that have been approved for use in the State of Nevada. On the first of each month I obtain a list of the chips and tokens that received final approval during the previous month. Some of these items may have been proceeding through the approval process for the previous three or four months. When the final approval is received the chip or token usually is put into play within three weeks. I mail this list out as a free service of the Club to anyone that sends me a self addressed stamped envelope. I include the updated lists for the previous four months. These lists have proven to be an invaluable help to the collector or dealer visiting Nevada.

To receive your free copy send a self addressed, stamped, (.55 cents) envelope to :

NEVADA GAMING LIST  
P.O. BOX 80572  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 89180

I also send out a complete list of all the Premium Gaming Tokens that have been put into play across the entire country. This list now is over ten pages long and growing. To receive the Premium List, please send your S.A.S.E. (55 cents) to "PREMIUM TOKEN LIST" at the above address. To receive both lists please send a larger envelope with \$1.01 postage and make a sure to mention that you want both lists. In Nevada I know what Premium Tokens should be coming out and I have friends that let me know when the tokens are actually put into play. In the rest of the country I'm relying on the membership to keep me updated on what is in their part of the world. The Atlantic City casinos should be getting Premium Tokens this next month. The accuracy of the Premium Token List depends on everyone's input. Let me know what you find.



# Chips 'N Tokens Update

by Janice O'Neal CH-008 V.P./Club Historian

The third annual CC&GTCC Las Vegas convention is now history. Our reports are that everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year and the fourth annual convention.

We are looking forward to welcoming a group from Texas as the latest to form a chapter group of CC&GTCC. We encourage local groups to form get-togethers. Collecting chips & tokens is a lot more when there are regular opportunities to show off new finds and discuss collecting with others that have the same interests. I had thought this report was going to be much smaller than usual, but now find things have exploded everywhere—and so to work—on a general note, thanks to some good sleuthing by several members it is now known the odd “dollar sign” mold chips are being put out by the Poker Chip Co. Ltd., Torrance, Calif. Starting in Las Vegas: ALADDIN issued two chips for 1995 CC&GTCC Convention: \$5 Chipco multi red and \$5 H&C PAULSON picture chip, dk red 4 prp—multi color center; ARIZONA CHARLIE'S \$25 CHIPCO bl wht grn; BOOMTOWN \$5 picture chip H&C red 4 yel/grn—multi “1st anniversary”. Second chip in EL CORTEZ HOTEL series \$5 H&C picture chip “Benny Binion, Nevada pioneer”/older hotel picture; FOUR QUEENS continues BUD JONES chip series—\$5 off wht 4 brn—blk brn gld wht CI “1995 Kky Derby”, \$5 wht 8 split blk—blk gld wht CI “1995 Memorial Day”, & \$5 wht 8 split blu—blu red blk wht CI “1995 Queens Poker Classic-Summer Edition II”. Next will be 4th of July and we are to watch for a surprise in August”. One of these updates just wouldn't be complete without another of the variety finds that Las Vegas is becoming famous for. This time a sharp eyed member came up with a VEGAS WORLD \$1 H&C blu—HSe has zeros and says “Las Vegas”. his has no zeros and “Las Vegas, Nev”. Since my .25 has “Las Vegas”, I'm betting there is also a .25 with “Las Vegas, Nev.” We will wait to see who will be first report on this one! Too bad we didn't learn about this one until after VEGAS WORLD became part of history. Now we will have to search for them thru dealer books.

MGM GRAND \$25 H&C picture chip “1995 George Foreman”; \$5 H&C picture chip “EFX-Michael Crawford”; RIVIERA \$5 BJ tan 4 split brn—blk multi wht CI “1995 40th anniversary”.

MOUNT CHARLESTON RESORT has issued a \$5 H&C picture chip grn—multi “redeemable for food or beverage”. There is no gaming here and this is not a gaming chip. This type of issue seems to be establishing a new category in chip collecting—a “non-gaming” category. Included here are chips from-baseball card shop, topless joint, church, & mountain resort. What's next—maybe Burger King?? For a second year BINION'S HORSESHOE has gone “all out” in chips for World Series of Poker Tournament. First an additional \$2.50 for last years “winners” set-1994 Russ Hamilton. Then came a whole new set of \$5 PAULSON picture chips. This time 22 in set with pictures of Poker Hall of Fame members. H&C org 4 grn/brn—multi blk and these chips are “oversize” like most bacarrat chips.

PIONEER downtown will also be issuing a series of 12 PAULSON picture chips depicting Nevada history. The first two have already been issued (1) Hoover Dam 1936 (2) First Las Vegas land auction 1905, watch for more to come.

BALLY'S \$5 CHIPCO “Jubilee” & \$5 CHIPCO “Penn & Teller”. Also watch for more in a celebrity series of BALLY'S headliner stars.

Whenever you feel like finding a new variety, all you have to do is visit the LAS VEGAS CLUB downtown. This casino is always bound to yield something new. Case in point, check the \$1 chips, not are there several issues from times past still in play, but a new variety greeted our latest adventure. These are H&C dk blu 4 yel—blk red gld wht CI, type I thick \$1 and dark logos, type II th and light logos.

LIGOURI'S HEND new H&C picture chips \$1 blu—multi, & \$5 red 3 yel/tan—multi; EDGEWATER Lau new CHIPCO set, \$1 wolf & moon, \$5 Indian & buffalo, & \$25 three gunfighters; HARRAH'S Lau \$5 H&C picchip red 2 gry 2 blk—multi “Cisco's Party Zone”.

FITZGERALD'S Reno new 4-95 a 3rd issue of .25 H&C chip dk gld—HS and a new .50 H&C blu—HS; Another Reno bowling chip has surfaced—HARRAH'S Reno CHIPCO multi red. New HARRAH'S logo obverse, laenie, ball, & pin reverse; HARVEY'S Stln LT new “PARTY ACE” CHIP H&C dk grn—HS “NO CASH VALUE” (given with lessons). And so to Nevada tokens: HARRAH'S LV has added regular slots for \$2 tokens (1995) GDC brass, obv-new HARRAH'S logo, rev-party aligator; MGM GRAND \$10 GDC 1995 antique bronze; 2nd fight token for e Foreman \$1 GDC 1995 “April 22, 1995” and 1995 GDC \$1 “EFX-Michael Crawford” for new production show. A new discovery, thank you to sharp eyed collectors for keeping us informed. NEVADA PALACE (1993) CT, there are two types: Type I proof like sold in plastic box is medal align, Type II mint ruayed in slots) is coin align.

The long awaited NCM color tokens are now at LUXOR. There are seven tokens that have multi color design on black center with brass rim edge. Rim is much like original brass tokens. Designs are-Chariot, King Tut, Queen Nefertiti, Pyramids, Sphinx, Spread wing bird, & Winged scarab (bug). ARIZONA CHARLIE'S \$1 NCM 1995, design same as before; Also identified 1988 NCM \$1 has reeded edge and plain edge; HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL & CASINO \$1 (1995) GDC; KLONDIKE HOTEL & CASINO \$1 (1995) GDC. In 1990 we were searching for a new \$5 CT token at PALACE STATION, which was never found. It has been discovered just recently, of course in much used condition. It must have been released after collectors tired of looking for it. Now listed as (1990) CT, still same design as before.

STARDUST has gone to the \$2 token (1995) GDC BRASS.

GOLD STRIKE INN Boulder City \$1 (1995) GDC same old design: panner-obverse, “hoover dam 1935-1987-reverse and there are two types on this one: type I-small dots obverse rim, type II-large dots obverse rim. There are other differences in the two obverse dies;

GOLDEN NUGGET Lau \$5 (1995) GDC brass, same design as before. Being such soft brass metal these sure won't stay in good condition very long! Another Janice boo-boo! PEPPERMILL, Reno & PEPPERMILL, Wend (1994) \$5 tokens, both reported last issue, had mint marks reversed: Reno is NCM, Wend is GDC; another PEPPERMILL Reno \$5 token, not listed before, has now turned up, dated 1992 NCM brass; PEPPERMILL Reno \$1 dated 1995 GDC same design as 1992; PONY EXPRESS Jackpot (1995) GDC has a rotated die token; TAHOE BILTMORE Crystal Bay LT \$5 (1995) GDC. Next, of course, come the bar tokens, marching on forever it



seems!! With the publication of DON & JEAN'S "NEVADA ROUTE TOKENS" book, the bar tokens and their many varieties have become even more popular than before. There is always something new to look for. With more collectors looking for them, even more varieties are now being reported. And we thought our bars token collection was virtually complete, HAH!!— BEERS & CHEERS, CHARLIE'S DOWN UNDER (latest ARIZONA CHARLIE BAR), THE LIFT, RING SIDE SPORTS BAR & GRILL (was PAISANO'S), SCOUNDREL'S EAST SALOON (was MCGEE'S SALOON), MUG SHOTS (EAST) 3342 S Sandhill.

Variety to look for on bar tokens: The route company address on reverse has been changed. C.D.F. SLOTS old address is 2545 Chandler LV, new address is 1111 Grier Dr LV. So far found with both addresses-BRITTANY'S, BUNKHOUSE & MURPHY'S PUB ALL IN Las Vegas.

THE FLAME RESTAURANT moved out of #1 Desert Inn Rd to make way for new road construction, has re-opened at 1243 E Sahara (was WHISKEY RIVER SALOON); MR. W'S NASHVILLE 900 E Karen became CUBBIE BEAR WEST and closed. Now open again as LAS VEGAS LOUNGE (1995) CT DiCandilo Slots route Company. We have been dealing with varieties on older tokens mostly, now we have varieties on brand new issues!! LAS VEGAS BAR & LIQUOR LV & U.S.A CAFE (was JERRY'S STEAKS & MORE), Hend both issued in March, new varieties found in April: Type I-CT extra large (it has been decided to change description of new size CT mint mark from "jumbo" to "extra large") This one has small dots on reverse rim, type II-CT large-no space with large dots on reverse rim. There are other tokens with these reverse dies that are either type I or type II. It has yet to be determined if there are in fact both types in play. More on this later I'm sure—start looking collectors!!

ANTHONY'S FINE DINING (spelling on token rim is "ANOTHONY'S"), DEALERS CHOICE, LEGENDS, MARDI GRAS INN (Best Western Motel), PADDY'S PUB EATERY, PINK E'S, RED DAWG SALOON (address is 3650 LV BlvH-token says LV Blvd SOUTH), RISKY BUSINESS, & RUM RUNNER. There are four P T'S PUBS that have tokens with new route company reverse—"U.S.COIN": 4825 W Flamingo, 2875 S Nellis, 4604 W Sahara & 4424 Spring Mountain. A new P T'S PUB location at 731 S Railso has the new route company token. P T'S PUB 8584 W Lake Mead has a new (1995) CT small variety. (1992) variety was CT large. There is also a die crack obverse on the new (1995) token. All neS tokens are about the same design obverse as before. PATRICK'S has large & mini CT varieties (mini must have been around for sometime without being found-condition is really poor), GATORS has three varieties-(1990) CT large reeded edge, (1990) CT large pdge & (1991) CT mini Others are: ONE EYED JACKS 2833 N Green Valley, Hend (LV on token) has new token with address added, same design as before, OASIS BAR Indian Springs, BESIDE THE POINT and GNATS' LANDING Lau. are two types at LAZY RIVER (bar at Bay Shore Inn Motel) Lau, with a change in route company status, type I is E-T-T, LTD type II is E-T-T, INC. KNUCKLEHEADS SPORTS BAR Reno, AND JETHRO'S OVEN & GRILLE, Gardnerville STORE TOKENS: ALBERTSON'S STORES LV (1995) CT large-no space typeII large dots reverse rim, large "Las Vegas, Nevada" obverse, SOUTH POINTE MARKET, Laughlin.

CALIFORNIA: COMMERCE CASINO has an interesting new \$1 BUD JONES chip that has a bird of paradise flower on center inlay. Is there more to this set?? Haven't heard much from California on new issues!!

Are you guys sleeping on the job out there?? Or just not much new in that area lately?? COLORADO: BLACKHAWK: FITZGERALD'S (ex-MAIN STREET 101) open 5-23-95. \$1 & \$5 GDC tokens dated 1995, \$1-\$5-\$25 CHIPCO ( same design as FITZGERALD'S Tunica, Miss), WILD CARD SALOON re-opened in old CRACKER FACTORY building 5-95.

Front part is a convenience grocery store/video tape rentals, rear is saloon with slots. Using old \$1 (1991) GD tokens from original WILD CARD/ROYAL FLUSH SALOON. IF they should decide to add live game tables later, will we see the return of the notorious WILD CARD \$1 & \$5 CHIPCO?? LUCKY STAR closed 4-95, Both GOLDEN GATE & JAZZ ALLEY have removed poker tables and \$1 chips are "re-tired".

CENTRAL CITY: FIREHOUSE CASINO closed 3-15-95. HARRAH'S CNCY moved poker tables to HARRAH'S BLHK. \$1 CHIPCO re-tired at Cncy. TELLER HOUSE re-opened 21 tables, .50 & \$5 CHIPCO back from retirement!!

New place open called LUCKY STAR CASINO at PETE'S PLACE 5-95 in old GOLD STAR CASINO building. Next to and owned by FAMOUS BONANZA. They will use PETE'S PLACE chips and tokens!!

Big happenings at COYOTE CREEK CASINO to kick off week long 1st anniversary celebration 5-10-95. There were two CHIPCO issued: (1) \$5 coyote one side/naked bottom people other side, dated 1995, (2) \$5 coyote side "CASINO CHIPS & GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB"/naked bottom people side "COLLECTORS CLUB-COLORADO CR". There were 1,000 of each chip produced and COYOTE CREEK owner retained 100 of each. Remaining 900 each were made available to Colorado Chapter members on 5-10-95. Everyone there was invited tually play the chips on 21 tables for a short time. With about 30 members in attendance the 1800 chips were completely sold out before the day was over. I'm sure if anyone interested contacts a the Colorado chip dealers, they will have these commemoratives for sale.

In regular play on 21 tables are only \$1 tokens. There is a new \$1 just out with 21 hand-obv, naked bottom people-rev dated 1995 and a new \$5 token should be available soon. There are no plans as time to have chips in regular play. CRIPPLE CREEK: BLACK DIAMOND removed tables 3-95. \$5 CHIPCO is retired, BRONCO BILLY'S HAD (1995) CHIPCO slot token, but all were returned to CHIPCO as they did not fit the token recks. WILD, WEST GAMING HALL closed by state 5-17-95, LOOSE CABOOSE has re-opened again (for the 3rd or 4th time?) 5-95. Using same chips and tokens as before. CRAPPER JACK'S has added \$5 token (1995) brass.

IS "OCC", OSBORNE COINAGE COMPANY. OSBORNE has returned to gaming tokens after a 30 year absence. OSBORNE made original 1965 slot tokens in Nevada. Old time token collectors will remember the ee "silveen" color tokens. CAESARS PALACE has launched a second "CAESARS PALACE AT SEA" ship. Inaugural cruise 5-4-95 for CRYSTAL SYMPHONY (first is CRYSTAL HARMONY). Chips are PAULSON house mold for both ships. Ship name is not on regular chips-only say "CAESARS PALACE AT SEA". Original CRYSTAL HARMONY are \$5 red 2 yel 2 blu—CI & \$25 grn 4 pnk/lt grm—CI. New CRYSTAL SYMPHONY are \$5

red 4 yel/blu—CI & \$25 grn 4 lt pch/lt grn—CI. There is also a \$5 picture chip for "maiden voyage" of the new ship that does say "CRYSTAL SYMPHONY".

**INDIAN CASINOS: THIS SECTION JUST CONTINUES TO GROW BEYOND BELIEF!!**

**CALIFORNIA: SANTA YNEZ CASINO**, Santa Ynez has issued another set of regular play wide center inlay chips (maker still unknown, help. please!!) \$1-\$2-\$3,& \$5 same design and colors as before but 994" date or "limited edition" on second set, **WIN-RIVER**, Redding added \$2 plain edge dk pnk 3 yel/wht/blu—blk wht CI same design as others reported , \$5 **CHIPCO** multi-wht edge, obv-lrg eagle desn blu, rev-sm eagle design on prp, \$5 **CHIPCO** multi-yel edge, obv-"**THE RUMBLE**"(kick-boxing) on blu, rev-sm eagle design on prp, \$5 **CHIPCO** multi-yel egde, obv- "**VIPER 21 TOURNAMENT 1995**", rev-sm eesign on prp (and we are told there will be another issue very soon). **CASINO MORONGO**, Palm Springs all new chip set, H&C wide graphic—\$1 blu, \$2 grn, \$3 brn, \$5 red—all have multi on wht CI, .50 H&C lt org—HS; **SPA CASINO**, Palm Springs .50 H&C yel-hs, \$1 H&C picchip, \$2 & \$5 regular H&C; **SAN MANUEL CASINO**, Highland \$10 **CHIPCO** "**SUMMERTIME AND THE WINNIN' IS EASY**" issued 5-25-95, multi on black; **TABLE MOUNTAIN CASINO**, Friant new \$1 chip—A—mold dk blu 3off wht—blk red wht CI.

**ROBINSON RANCHERIA CASINO**, Nice has two .25 chips in play with no name at all on chip. ".25" only both sides. (1) dragons mold yel—HS (2)hrs hds rt mold dk yel—HS.

The same hrs hds rt chip also in play at **SHODAKAI COYOTE VALLEY CASINO** (owned by same Indians??). Previously reported for **ROBINSON RANCHERIA** were two \$1 chips with hrs hds rt mold and tir & club mold, now \$5 chips in both molds, both dk red 3 off wht—CI; **COYOTE VALLEY CASINO**, **SHODAKAI** at Redwood Valley \$1 hrs hds rt dk blu 4 dk pnk- CI, \$5 hrs hds rt dk red 2 off wht 2 turq—CI; **TWIN PINE CASINO**, Middletown Rancheria, Lake Miwok Indian Nation \$1 Lang Plain wht 3 split tan—Hs(now obsolete).

New .25 **BUD JONES** 8 suit blu—HS, \$1 **BJ WHT** 4 dk grn—decal center, \$5 **BJ red** 4 split gry—decal center. **NEVADA: MOAPA TRIBAL ENTERPRISES** at Moapa, Nev has installed slots in smoke shop, \$1 (1995) GDC token

**ARIZONA: BLUE WATER CASINO**, Parker \$1 (1995) GDC token open 4-95; **HUALAPAI CASINO**, Grand Canyon West \$1 (1995) GDC token open 4-95.

**NEW MEXICO: CASINO SANDIA**, Albuquerque had three special edition **CHIPCO** recently (1) \$5 multi blk "Happy Holidays 1994-1995" (2) \$5 multi prp-buffalo (3) \$5 multi gry-mountain scene. These had come and gone before hardly any collectors found out about them!! **CITIES OF GOLD CASINO**, Pojoaque Pueblo Indians \$1 (1994) NCM brass token. (no other info at this time); **CAMEL ROCK CASINO**, Santa Fe H&C hot stamped chips reported last time are obsolete. New H&C set in play with very colorful inlay with camel; **CASINO APACHE**, Mescalero \$1 & \$5 dice & cards mold with center inlay(CI); **SANTA ANA STAR CASINO**, Bernalillo \$2 & \$5 **CHIPCO** same design as others reported last time.

**TEXAS (YES, TEXAS):** There is a previously unreported **INDIAN** casino in Texas, south of El Paso near an international bridge. **SPEAKING ROCK CASINO**, managed by Seven Circle Resorts (same as Prairiehts Casino, Ft. Yates,N.D.) same chips and same colors too!! Only these say "Speaking Rock" instead of "Prairie Knights" with "Seven Circle Resorts" on other side. .50 **BJ 8 suit lav**—HS, \$1 **BJ wblu**—HS, \$2.50 **BJ dk yel**—HS, & \$5 **BJ red** 3 spt wht- metal inlay(MI).

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Add yet another state to the Indian casino list!! **EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS**, Cherokee, NC has opened Bingo/Video Games Casino. \$1 (1995) GDC bronze token. Word is live gaming tables will be added soon. Chips have already been made but are not available until tables open.

**MINNESOTA; GRAND PORTAGE CASINO**, Grand Portage,Mn \$1 (1994) GDC token. Seems this has been there for awhile and was just recently discovered so, of course, is now only found in poor condition; **FOND-DU-LUTH**, Duluth has re-opened 21 tables. \$5 hrs hds rt dk red 2 yel—blk lav wht CI are same as before. **WISCONSIN: ISLE VISTA CASINO**, Red Cliff \$2.50 **CHIPCO** are now obsolete. .50 unicorn lt blu—HS now in play (and are very hard to get away with). Small NCV copper (1994) NCM token is obsolete; **NORTH STAR CASINO**,Bowler A small supply of original first used chips have been found. \$5 unicorn blu—HS. When first opened bingo had one 21 table.

**MICHIGAN: KEWADIN CASINOS,(VEGAS KEWADIN)**, Sault Ste.Marie installed \$5 slot machine 4-1-95. Tokens are dated 1993, they will be listed as (1995)/1993 CT. \$25 machine also installed 4-15-95. This token dated 1995 GDC. Both are same design as \$1 token; **KEWADIN CASINOS** has opened three new smaller casinos around the upper peninsula of Michigan at Christmas, Hessel, & Manistique. All started with slots only last summer using "generic" **KEWADIN CASINOS** \$1 tokens.

**CHRISTMAS KEWADIN** has added four 21 tables 3-95 using **KEWADIN CASINOS** Chipcos from Sault Ste. Marie (.50 dk blu, \$1 red, \$5 gry, & \$25 grn); **MANISTEE KEWADIN** has four 21 tables to open 5-30-95 and **HESEL KEWADIN** is finishing bigger building to open 21 tables 7-95. **LEELANAU SANDS**, Peshawbestown has new .50 chip hrs hds rt bge—CI, same design as others; **KINGS CLUB CASINO**, Brimley has changed the \$5 American money chip, was dk blu 3 split bge—CI, now grn 3split bge—CI

There are some chips around from **LEELANAU SANDS**, Peshawbestown and **KINGS CLUB CASINO**, Brimley that are lighter in color than the originals. These have been bleached and are not a color variatioh casinos have been checked and all original chips are still in play. **OJIBWA II CASINO** opened 10-94 at Harvey, Mich (near Marquette). Tokens are old obsolete \$1 (1992) RWM from Baraga [Baraga has (1994) NCM brass]. New **CHIPCO** at **OJIBWA II** say only "**KEWEENAW BAY INOMMUNITY BARAGA,MICH**" obverse and map of upper Michigan with Baraga and Marquette marked with stars-reverse.

Sign in front of casino says "**OJIBWA II CASINO**", but we were told this may change soon!! **CHIPCO** are \$1 blu edge, \$5 red edge, \$25 grn edge, & \$100 blk edge (no .50 chips here).

Center design obv-blk letters org number brn flying eagle on wht, rev-blk letters org number dk grn map (this just might be another one that won't be around very long??!!)

The chips at **OJIBWA CASINO**, Baraga are still the **BUD JONES** chips from before.

**OREGON: WILD HORSE GAMING RESORT**, E Pendleton open 3-10-95. \$1 & \$5 H&C chips, \$5 H&C picture chip "limited Edition" used as Grand Opening chip. Slots are paper pay out, so no tokens here. **WASHINGTON: LUMMI CASINO**, Bellingham has \$2 hrs hds rt chip, same design as others; New discovery-LUMMI CASINO \$1 H&C yel 4 lav— blk yel org wht CI, "Lummi Indian Tribe Treaty of 1855". Is this special issue or whole new set of chips here??(HELP!!); **SWINOMISH CASINO**, Anacortes \$2 H&C dk blu—HS; **PUYALLUP TRIBE BINGO CASINO** has two CHIPCO for use in special games-.25 multi wht & "no amount" multi blu, both have "FAST CASH" on reverse.

**SEVEN CEDARS CASINO**, Sequim had a no amount H&C picture chip dated 1995 that was used as a Grand Opening souvenir, red, blk, grn on wht; **MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN CASINO**, Auburn open 4-27-95, \$1-\$2.50-C chips, \$5 H&C picture chip "Grand Opening 1995".

**RIVERBOATS: IOWA: LADY LUCK**, Bettendorf open 3-21-95. Tokens are .05-.25-\$1-\$5 (1995) GDC, \$5 is brass, CHIPCO \$1-\$5-\$25.

**LOUISIANA: NEW ORLEANS:** Two boats sharing the same docking area opened 3-29-95 (1) **RIVER CITY-CRESCENT CITY QUEEN** (Capitol Gaming), \$1-\$5 (1995) GDC tokens, \$1-\$2.50

H&C chips, \$5 H&C picture chip "Grand Opening 1995", all with gray centers, (2) **RIVER CITY-GRAND PALAIS** (Hemmeter), \$1-\$5 (1995) GDC tokens, \$1-\$2.50 H&C chips, \$5 H&C picture chip "Grand Opening 1995", all with black centers. These two sets can be very confusing: the tokens have boat name only on the rim and the names on the chips are almost too small to read. Some had the idea that tokens and chips were the same on both boats because both sets have the name "River City" showing most prominently. It really feels strange to be writing about the opening of these two boats, because the next thing I have to report is that in less than three months both boats are closed and for sale!! Rumor is **HORSESHOE** will buy **GRAND PALAIS**. To be moved to—?? **PLAYERS RIVERBOAT**, Lake Charles \$5 H&C picture chip, red 4 yel/lav/yel—multi "commemorative" (Merv Griffin portrait); **SHOWBOAT STAR CASINO**, New Orleans sold to **PLAYERS INTERNATIONAL** and moved to Lake Charles. Has retained the "STAR CASINO" name, but has all new \$1-\$5 (1995) GDC tokens and \$1-\$5 CHIPCO.

The long awaited **HARRAH'S** temporary casino, New Orleans opened 5-1-95. Tokens are .25-\$1-\$5 (1995) GDC, chips are \$1-\$2.50-\$5 H&C picture chips, each with a different picture. Since this will be the only (non Indian) land based casino in Louisiana, it will be listed in O'Neal check lists under riverboats with "LAND BASED CASINO" in notes, for the time being anyway!!

**MISSISSIPPI: TREASURE BAY**, Biloxi \$5 CHIPCO "1st anniversary"; **HORSESHOE CASINO**, Tunica \$1-\$5 (1995) GDC tokens, chips reported last time; **TREASURE BAY**, Tunica is closed; **SPLASH CASINO**, Tunica may also be closed by the time you read this. **MISSOURI: RIVERSIDE CASINO**, Riverside adds \$5 (1995) GDC token, same design as \$1; **CASINO ST. CHARLES**, St. Charles adds .50 GDC 1994 token, same design as \$1. **PRESIDENT ON THE ADMIRAL**, St Louis, another token has turned up here, .25 (1994) GDC—roulette wheel. Also a nickel size special promotion token, NCV (.25) (1995) brass. Only customers on the casino's mailing list received a coupon good for \$5 in these small brass tokens. Each token could be played in conjunction with a regular .25 token for a double coin play.

An error has been discovered on the nickel (.05) tokens at **PRESIDENT ON THE ADMIRAL**. Original token did not have "not for legal tender" on reverse. These have been recalled and a new token issued that does have "not for legal tender" on it. Also found here recently a .50 (1995) GDC token.

**CASINO AZTAR (CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE)** Caruthersville, Mo. open 4-28-95. Tokens are .25-\$1-\$5 (1995) GDC, chips are .50-\$1-\$5 H&C, \$5 is a picture chip; **HARRAH'S**, North Kansas City issued a new \$5 H&C picture chip 5-25-95. Chip shows clocktower near boatlanding.

And so we close for this quarter and what a quarter it has been. Lets hope all the chip and token makers take vacations in the near future and next quarter will give us a little breathing room!!But-I'm not about to do any betting on that happening!!

Once again a big "THANK YOU" to all that have taken the time to let me know what is new in your area. Without all of you helping this column would not exist. I'm quite sure all of the members that enjoy reading this thank you also!!

UNTIL NEXT TIME——

JANICE O'NEAL P.O.BOX 706 HOWELL,MI 48844

















# THE CHIP FIND OF A LIFE TIME

BY Steve Passalacqua CH-044

I am Steve Passalacqua the "S" in T.D.S ANTIQUE GAM LING CHIPS and charter member #44 in the CASINO CHIP & GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB. This is an account of the most incredible series of events in my chip collecting life. For my self, my family and many of my close chip collecting friends, this story dominated the 1995 CASINO CHIP & GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB annual convention at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have been collecting gaming chips since the early 1970's. On April 14th, 1995 I made the casino chip buy of my life time. I have been after this collection for many years. I had met my source at least six years ago, maybe longer, while hunting down museum quality ivory chips from the mid to later 1800s. Casino chips were always of strong interest to me but ivory chips were my first love. One day six or seven years ago I was trading chips with a collector that had clay and casino chips but no ivory chips. My new chip collecting friend gave me the name and phone number of a collector that did have some ivory chips, fact he had thousands of chips from all over; California, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Las Vegas, even some Illegal clubs. I could hardly wait to get home and phone my new source with ivory chips. I was told he recently closed a business that had many of his chips on display to the public in wood framed cases all over the walls. I made the first of many calls, explaining what a serious chip collector I was and that I was looking forward to a viewing and possible trading session. My intention was to add as many chips as possible to my collection, either by trading or buying anything that was available. We set a date and when the day came I grabbed my ivory traders, hopped in my car and drove off to his house. It was a chip collecting paradise! Chips were everywhere. Even the garage had five of the display boards with three of them still filled with chips 119 in each. After a two hour visit of talking chips, we traded three ivory chips. He had no interest or intention of selling any of his collection at this timer. Over the years, two different shows devoted to casino collectibles developed. The first ever was the Bellflower Show hosted by Jim Munding in Bellflower California and the second was the Convention hosted by the CC&GTCC in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both shows are top-notch for all levels of chip collecting; beginning through advanced, hard to find material. I now had a fantastic way to excel in my treasured hobby would never give up on my source for thousands of chips. For years I would make my phone call about every three months or so, usually a month before one of the two major chip shows. I always save my best sincere pitch about buying all or part of his collection, I had the chip collecting fever and he had a temporary cure. Sometimes we would talk for 10 to 15 minutes, other timers I was bothering him and the call would only last 15 seconds. The answer was always the same he was not ready to sell any of his collection yet, but keep up my periodic calls. He seemed impressed by my enthusiasm and devotion to chip collecting. I had the feeling that some day it would happen, I just knew I could never give up. We came very close to a second meeting several times It was very exciting and depressing at the same time. A month before the 1995 Convention in Las Vegas I made my standard phone call BAM, !! it was about to happen. He said her was ready to do something. He said we could get together Friday April 14th, any time after 5:30 pm, but to call him on Thursday to confirm. After six years of it not happening, my wife Cathy said something would happen and that he would cancel, but told me to keep calling. I made the Thursday

call and every thing was a "go". It was so long ago when I saw the chips, I could not remember one chip. I just knew he had thousands. Friday came and I made the solo drive to his house bubbling with anticipation. I was finally sitting at his kitchen table again and the big show was about to begin. Out of his storage area came casino chip racks of 100 chips each and they were dumped loose in a pile in the middle of the table. In all 40 racks were emptied onto the table, I am talking 4,000 chips! I knew It was timer to talk money I told him what I could produce. This was a fabulous collection and worth more than I had to offer and could I buy part of it. We had not sorted anything yet and I still did not know what was in the pile. He said he wanted to sell it, all to one person for twice what I could afford. The chip collecting blues started setting in I felt we were not going to make a deal. He told me to pick out what I was interested in and rack them up in racks. As I would fill a rack her would take the full rack from the table and set it in the middle of the kitchen floor. One rack for the floor, one rack back in storage and so on, I told him I was picking out what I thought was the best. He was also helping me sort the massive pile by saying do you like this one? If I said "yes it went in the rack on the floor. If I said "no it went to storage. We still did not have a deal set, but I was having fun picking out everything I liked. With ten full racks on the floor, and still sorting , he asked me something that I could hardly believe; you want this one, don't you?" I finally realized I was getting



everything on the floor for the amount I could afford. There were 20 full racks on the floor when we finished sorting. 2,000 chips, half of all the chips from the table. We closed the deal. I told him it was a fantastic deal for me, and if I did well in Las Vegas I would return with a few dollars more. On the drive home I am thinking that this is the buy of a life time, it could be worth \$30,000; finally my persistence had paid off. When I arrived home, Tegan, my youngest of two sons and the T in T.D.S. immediately started to help me sort chips. Right off the top Tegan pulled out 600 of what we call coffee can chips, unknown names, monograms, numbers and designs. Next we pulled out 200 known commons. We are now down to 1200 good chips. WOW! Now it was time to sort by location; Tahoe, Reno, Las Vegas, etc. 60% I did not have; 30% I had never seen before. After 20 years of collecting chips, I landed the big one, I found the Mother Load, I hit the Lotto and the chip convention was only a few days away. We had a lot of work to do Tegan started looking up chips in the new issue of the CHIP RACK, the price guide to the casino chips and checks of Nevada. Tegan was finding out that about 15% were not listed. These were killer looking chips, so this was a high quality sign to us. It was now 4 am, the chips have been mine for about 6 hours, and we now believe they could be worth over \$50, 000. It was time to go to bed. We stayed up late every night trying to price chips we knew were extremely rare. I made up 6 binders with color covers labelled by

location. 2 Las Vegas, 1 Tahoe, 1 Reno, 1 Nevada All Over, and we were having fun with the last one. It was the only binder with a blue cover. Its title in large letters read, EXPERIENCED COLLECTORS ONLY - CHIPS OVER \$300." We were now heavily loaded with dynamite chips and headed for Las Vegas. To tell the truth, I did not want to sell anything that was not in my collection. I had made several financial commitments to my family in order to acquire this chip collector's dream. It was a very tough dose of reality, knowing I had to sell chips that I didn't have in my collection. I have never done that before. I picked out 20 chips I was going to keep for sure. These were killers, the other 18 were good to great and the rest were for sale. I did have a target amount of sales to hit to satisfy my commitments. When I reached that target, I was pulling all the rest of the chips off the market for myself. The public was actually going to decide which chips I would be able to keep for my collection. It was extremely exciting. We arrived in town four days before the show and the news that we had phenomenal chips was spreading like wild fire. The phone started to ring; eight people were ready and willing to buy as soon as I was ready to sell. Before I could sell one chip, two things had to be completed. #1 was to reevaluate our prices to reflect their unusual rarity and overall near mint condition. #2 was to color photo copy all six binders. I felt their greatness as a whole needed to be documented as a group before any one chip was sold. We knew that two of our knowledgeable friends, Doug Saito and Walter Dirzulaitis, were already in town. They were excited and interested in taking a look. We felt we still needed help in pricing the rarer pieces, so we invited them over and asked for their help. They were more than willing, but no one had any idea that for the next 10 hours of our lives we were about to enter the TWILIGHT PRICING ZONE. From 7 pm to 4 am the next day no one left the PRICING TABLE. We took each chip one by one, held it up and talked it over. At home in Napa, Tegan had already marked each white paper 2x2 with the value code from THE CHIP RACK price guide. The codes gave us an excellent feel for the rarity and availability of the chips. Drew would take out a chip and pass it around. I would ask if anyone has seen it before, Doug would say "no", Walter would say "no", and I would say "no." "The code might be (N - \$125-149) I would say, "who has it for sale at any price?" The unanimous answer was, "no one I know. How much should it be?" Walter would say "\$200 Doug would say, "come on that is a \$250 chip", and I would write down \$325, Drew would say, "this is another one for the BLUE BOOK." We all took turns at setting the highest price on different chips. This would continue all night long, chip after chip. We were all on a natural high. These chips made the night just fly by. It was an unforgettable night, but everything about these chips was unforgettable. It is now 4 am, time for our guests to leave. Everyone must try to get some sleep. After 10 hours, two binders were still not priced. The Reno, and one with chips from all over Nevada. I would get some sleep and start again. That afternoon Doug called and I asked for more help with the last two binders. He said he would be over soon. Several more hours were spent in the TWILIGHT PRICING ZONE. With that major task completed I could now color photo copy six binders of the most interesting set of chips to ever hit the market. Five other people were also impressed and agreed to pay \$74 for each complete set of color copies. It took three attempts to be successful. The first was Kinko's. Their color machine was being used. I would have to leave them and pick them up the next day. NO WAY. It was 10:15 pm at the second place across town when we started. The manager stopped us as soon as we started because they would be closing at 11:00 pm and it would take 3 hours to do the job. For the third attempt I would return at 7:00 am the next day with another

dealer that stayed and previewed the entire collection for the three plus hours it took to copy. Everything was now ready to show and sell. Thirteen lucky collectors had an advance preview with the opportunity to buy. The collective knowledge of the people looking over the collection was much more than outstanding. Everyone felt that these six binders had chips that would never be seen again. Several times these knowledgeable minds would say this chip is too low, if they did not buy it we raised the price on the spot. It was now the night before the show, I was ready, we now had six full binders of chips with our prices well over \$100,000. The Early Bird Reception and Swap Session was about to begin. I was starting to settle down and relax. I would not take the chips to the Swap Session. I would save them for the opening day of the show tomorrow. Opening day had arrived. It was now show time, our booth looked good. On the front table is our display cases with six in d blowing binders. We felt like we were the talk of the show. Plenty of action, with lots of fun-loving discussion. This was the ultimate show for us; it could not get any better than this for a chip collecting family. Finally what this story is all about. Mid afternoon on the first day of the show a dealer introduced me to a collector I had never met and knew nothing about. It was Phil Jensen. I later learned a lot about him. This was THE PHIL JENSEN; the one with acknowledgments in Dale Seymour's 285 page book, "Antique Gambling Chips?" The same Phil Jensen mentioned in Art Anderson's book, "CASINOS and their ASHTRAYS. The same Phil Jensen that put over 200,000 miles on a brand new 1969 Chevy pickup collecting casino chips from all over Nevada. I was told that in 1980 he had his entire casino chip collection stolen. He also said he had many of our chips in his stolen collection. I felt very sorry for him but no way were these his chips. I had known my source for 6 years and felt in no way was he a thief. My source knew I was bringing them to a big show in Las Vegas, plus had them on display to the public for years. That was it. I went back to business at my booth, explained the conversation to Drew, Tegan and Mike La Frenz (Drew's college roommate, staying with us and helping with the chips). I said it was too bad about Phil's chips getting stolen, but these were not his chips. We finished the day in grand fashion with our target sales in sight, a few more sales and the rest were going in my collection. Day two of the convention was just as exciting.



The enthusiasm generated by these chips was just too much fun. Mid-day Phil walks by our booth again, shoulders drooping with his head hung down, turns around and takes a brief look in some of our binders shaking his head and leaves without saying a word. Phil walks across from our booth and sits down with another dealer. Phil is slumped into

the chair. Tegan said that "this guy really thinks these are his chips." I said, "Ok I will go over to talk with him." I grabbed one of my business cards, walked over and handed it to him. I said, "evidently you feel these are really your chips," Phil replied yes he did. I told him I was close enough to my target goal to take them off the market. I would go back to my source and try to get more information. I walked back to my table and told Tegan, Drew and Mike to close up the binders that no more of the binder chips were for sale. I went back to talk to Phil just to make general conversation, try to ease his pain, let him know I was willing to cooperate as much as possible, but they were not really his chips. For me the next 2.5 minutes were devastating. We started talking in general about the theft Phil told me about the suspected thief and what his occupation was. BOOM! A light went on. The thief could have worked at my source's business. Then he said where the suspected thief had moved. BOOM-BOOM! The second light when on. I bought the chips from that area. Then he told me of some other things stolen at the same time. That was the **BIG BANG** I had seen some of these items at my source's home. In my mind it had to be true. No one knew any of this information! In 2.5 minutes they mentally went from my chips to his. My brain turned to mush. The world was turning upside down; everything was going 100 miles an hour. I told him at this point I believed they were his chips and I would get them back to him some how. I went back to our table and told the boys they were his chips. I did not want to believe it but he told me things no one knew and I was going to give him back the chips. Then I went to talk with Howdy Herz. I needed support and help. I was a mental basket case. I told Howdy the chips I had were stolen 15 years ago from Phil Jensen and I wanted to give them back. I had no idea what to do since I was about to give well over \$100,000 of casino chips to a perfect stranger. Howdy knew Phil as did many other major dealers, We also knew of the theft 15 years ago. We set a meeting for Saturday April 29th, at 11:00 am-one hour before the start of the last day of show. We still had a few hours left of the Friday show sitting at our table with no more big chips. In the next few hour everything bad went through my mind. I had been selling stolen chips. What about the money? Was this going to be a financial disaster for my family? What about the chips I sold to friends? Was I to try and get them back? Would any of the other dealers ever do business with me? Would anyone ever want to buy or trade a chip from me? Would I even bother setting up for the last day of the convention? The hobby I enjoyed so much was over. It was a few very dark hours in my chip collecting life. In a few more hours my mental state was starting to brighten. I thought that this is a great happening! Chips stolen 15 years ago are being returned to the original devoted collector and I was on part of the positive side. I was also getting positive moral support from dealers and friends that knew me personally who would vouch for my character. I was actually starting to get excited about these crazy chips again. I knew all my early concerns would work the self out. I was headed in the right direction and it was a unanimous decision from Cathy, Drew, and Tegan. At 5 minutes to 11 Saturday morning, there was the knock at our door we had all been waiting for. In came Howdy Herz with Phil Jensen. We all shook hands and sat at the table with the six killer binders. I had no problem with the chips belonging to Phil. I already felt they were 100% his. He did bring a 1973 copy from the oldest news paper in Nevada that did a cover photo story about him and his chips. We took chips from the binders and



THE HAPPY RETURN OF THE PHIL JENSEN COLLECTION  
DREW, STEVE & TEGAN PASSALACQUA with PHIL JENSEN  
(3rd from left) SATURDAY, APRIL 29th, 1995.

matched them up perfectly with the chips in the photo. I told Phil to go through the binders and pull out anything he did not think was his. Everyone enjoyed the process. Every few chips, he would point to a chip, tap it several times and tell us a great story about how he acquired it. I could tell our entire family was growing very fond of this man. We were hearing personal stories from one of the ultimate chip collectors of all time. He even pulled out a chip and before he turned it over he said, "this has a cigarette burn on the other side" and of course it did. It was an incredible experience. Phil had not seen these chips for 15 years He remembered them like it was yesterday. About 95% of the chips in the binders were his. I still had one concern. I knew some of the people I sold chips to and some I did not. Most of the chips I sold were his, but not all of them, and I did not know what to do. I felt it was one of the scares of the theft. When Phil told me to consider it a finders fee, the last weight was lifted of my shoulders. It was 12:15 pm and the show had already started. It was time to go. When I handed him the pile of chips both our eyes filled with tears. The PHIL JENSEN COLLECTION was home again. We all went to the show a little late. By 12:30 pm my table was open with business back to normal and I felt great. Yes there was more of Phil's collection at the home of my source. We had a few ideas about what to do, but only one that made sense to me. I would simply go back to my source and buy the rest of the collection. Reasons why: #1 I liked my source, we had a good relationship and I felt he was completely innocent, #2, I was to return with a few dollars more if I had a good show in L.V., #3, the rest of the collection had already been offered to me, but I did not have enough money at the time #4, I still had a little cushion of profit from the first batch of Phil's collection that I did not mind spending to get the rest. After all, the money was generated by the collection itself. The day after I returned home I called my source. We set up and he get together on May 3rd, 1995 at 5:30 pm. I spent 4 hours going through the rest of the chips, buying things for me and things I thought were Phil's. There were plenty of chips. My source was a legitimate collector. I now have many batches of chips in front of me; some for Phil, the rest for me. We work out a deal and I pay him. Before we load the chips I tell him everything we have done is a done deal, but that there was a problem in Las Vegas. I tell him the whole story He can not believe it. Yes, he did buy a collection in the early 1980's to add to his collection from a person matching Phil's

suspicious. My source gave me several more things he had bought from the same person that I had overlooked. I kept the new batch together and waited for information on when Phil could come to my house and pick out the last of what had been stolen. On the afternoon of Wednesday May 10th, 1995 Phil Jensen and Howdy Herz were at my front door. Again Phil was seeing chips he knew very well but thought he would never see again. There were more fascinating stories with identification of chips Howdy or I could not identify. These mystifying chips were making a magical story on their own. We were now closing another chapter of the great PHIL JENSEN COLLECTION. I am extremely happy about the whole story. I feel the entire roller coaster ride was a thrill from the beginning to the end. To be a positive part of one of the biggest stories in the history of chip collecting is truly a lucky honor. With out the support of my family and friends this could have been a disaster for me. I love this hobby !!

HAVING FUN

Steve Passalacqua



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## The Phil Jensen Collection

Phil Jensen was standing in my store in August of 1981, telling me that he had just had his collection of gaming checks stolen. I can still remember that day - he was absolutely devastated. I had known Phil for more than 15 years and we had compared notes on gaming checks since he had started collecting in the late 1960's. I admired Phil's determination as a collector, traveling almost 200,000 miles on Nevada roads, searching in every corner of the state for gaming checks when the hobby had less than 10 people.

Despite our long friendship, I had never seen his collection. Phil gave me a description of some of the rarities in his collection, among them checks from the Beatty Club in Beatty, Nevada. He was certain that he probably had the only examples of these checks as Ray May, the owner, had destroyed the checks shortly after giving Phil one of each. Both Phil and I had our suspicions, but we were not able to confirm them or find the collection.

For years I had looked for Phil's collection. Every time that I would be offered a collection, I would check for the tell-tale Beatty chips - they never appeared. In early 1981 I purchased a collection that had been in a Yerington restaurant. This collection did contain numerous older and rare Nevada checks. I called Phil, but we decided that the checks were not his.

Through the years I continued to check collections for the rarities that Phil had. We often discussed the robbery and speculated whether the chips would turn up. Phil continued to collect gaming tokens and was a source of information for gaming history from his days of hunting down gaming checks. I continued to look.

Several weeks before the CC&GTCC show I received a call from Steve Passalacqua about a super collection that he had been working on obtaining for years. He had purchased a part of the collection and was sorting out the chips. He described it as an "old" collection with an exceptional number of rarities in beautiful condition. He described some of the Las Vegas rarities. I was thrilled to think that some of the classic rarities were still around. He commented that the collection also had a large number of checks from the smaller Nevada towns. I asked if there was a Beatty check in the collection and he said that there was!

I was concerned, but not certain, that the collection might be Phil's stolen chips. Steve was certain that the source was legitimate and we agreed to meet in Las Vegas to look at the collection. At 2am on Wednesday morning I was in Steve's room going over what was definitely an old and rare collection. Yes, there was a "Beatty" check as well as many others that would have been around in the 1960's but are no longer found. I was very concerned. I called Phil Jensen and asked him to meet me at the show the next day. I was still uncertain and very upset that innocent circumstances had put two of my best friends in a difficult position.

Once Phil had come to the show, it took him only several minutes to be certain that the collection was his. The rest of the story is now part of collecting history and is best told in the words of Steve Passalacqua and Phil Jensen. It was gratifying to help in the return of Phil's collection. Some of the rarest known Nevada gaming checks are back in the hands of the collector who discovered them.

Regardless of the rarities recovered, I found that the most important lesson of the experience was finding that there are people in the world who value their reputation for integrity and honesty far above the temptations of profit and greed. I feel honored to know, Tegan, Drew and Steve Passalacqua. They have set a standard that all of us can aspire to. Phil Jensen continues to be a friend who's integrity, honesty and knowledge I still admire.

Sincerely,

Howard W. Herz  
CH-85

June 1, 1995

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF CC&GTCC

My name is Phil Jensen and I began collecting Nevada Gaming chips in the summer of 1969. Back then, hardly anyone collected chips or understood anyone who did. It was lonely out there but I had a great time exploring the state picking up what would eventually become a lot of very valuable chips. I guess you could say I was one of the pioneers. By August of 1981 I had accumulated a collection of about 2500 different chips when they were taken in a burglary of my residence in Reno.

However, this letter is about another man and his integrity. It is about a man of principle and honesty. It is about Steve Passalacqua, the man who would eventually locate the collection.

Many of you have undoubtedly dealt with Steve and his sons Tegan and Drew at one time or another or have seen them at their table at past conventions. Steve always has a lot of interesting stuff. Anyway, at the last convention he REALLY had some interesting stuff. It was a collection he had worked long and hard to obtain. People were commenting on many of the pieces.

Then another dealer who knew about my collection told me to go take a look. As I flipped through the albums I began to get an uneasy feeling. I recognized many of the pieces. There were drilled and broken ones I had repaired. Many were in new condition. I got them when they were first put out. Out of all those chips, I had everyone. I knew they were the long lost chips. Dejected, I walked away knowing I had no proof. I sat down in a daze.

Then, as Steve later explained, things began to fall in place. Information I had given him began to make some sense. In a matter of minutes, Steve was convinced that these were the chips taken on that long ago day in Reno in 1981. He walked over to where I was sitting. The chips would be returned. He would go back and buy the rest. He would return those also.

Am I hearing this man correctly? What's going on here? Why is he doing this? We are not well acquainted. We've done no prior business. I never bought anything from him. Now he is returning the chips. I couldn't believe it.

But that's the point I'm trying to make. In the short time I've known Steve I've learned a lot about him and his integrity. He's a man you can deal with and feel good. All in all Steve's just a great guy. Many of you already know that.

Now it's one month since the convention. I'm sitting here looking at the chips and all the memories are coming back. All the trips around Nevada. All the old sawdust joints: Felix's, Scotty's, Humboldt Hotel, Mizpah, the Wagon Wheel. An Overland and Nugget in every town - all history now - turned into parking lots, burned to the ground or evolved into mega resorts. But they remain in my memory, crystal clear as if it were yesterday. I'd sit at the bar, drink thirty-five cent beer, play the old nickel-in-the-slot machines and hustle some old-timer for a story. I got to know many of the club owners and a couple became good friends. But mostly I collected chips. First the easy ones off the tables and then digging for the obsolete ones. I had no competition and a lot of good stuff just lay in back rooms of the old places. Many times the owner would just give them to me, "here ya go kid."

So these chips are a link to the simple times. A time when hardly anyone thought about gathering chips or realized what they would become. A time I wish I could go back to. But time goes on and there is no going back. I'm just glad I had the opportunity to do what I did. It's something I'll always remember. Thanks, Steve, thanks for bringing back all those memories.

Before I end this, I would like to thank my long-time friend and associate Howard Herz. Howdy, as he is known, is quite possibly the very first chip collector. He made a trip around Nevada in 1964 gathering chips for a display in his uncle's casino, Harvey's Wagon Wheel, at Lake Tahoe. This collection went on display in 1967 and consisted of all the gaming tokens issued up to that time along with photos of the casinos. Also displayed were about 300 current and obsolete chips from all over Nevada. This display became like a shrine to me. Every trip to Lake Tahoe included a stop at Harvey's. I spent hours perusing its contents. I memorized every chip. It was my inspiration.

I met Howard shortly after that and over the years we became good friends. We collaborated on a number of projects. Howard attended to many of the details involved in the return of my collection, even driving me to Steve's house in Napa to pick up the remainder of the chips.

So what else is there to say? This has been a very happy as well as emotional time for me. All I can say is a big thank-you to Howdy and Steve and his two sons Tegan and Drew.

And by the way, Steve, what are you planning for next year's show?

Sincerely,  
Phillip F. Jensen



# Let's Talk Tokens: Uncirculated?

by Dave Harvey R-182

*Uncirculated.* That's the magic word. But what is it? A token purchased at the cage? One never run through a machine? For fure uncirculated is one purchased in the gift shop (ie: MGM Super Bowl). Photo #1 Red Dolly token for sure I know is uncirculated. NCM gave it to me when I wrote to them (Vol. 6 #1) a few years back.

Many new collectors who want a fairly complete collection will wind up with something in between photo #2 Caesars and photo #3 Binions.

Now we come to the premium silver strike tokens. Yes, they come out of the machines. Yes, they are hard to collect. But if you want some uncirculated tokens, these are it. The nice plastic holders prevent nicks and dings. Notice how quick I discovered this. Here for (I hope) your enjoyment photos 4 to 11 some nice examples of the engravers art with no dings. Now photo #12. In Vol 7#1 we did an article on ugly tokens. I missed this one. It's got to be on the ugly list.

May you always find what you are looking for.

Dave



1	\$70.00	51	\$80.00	101	\$400.00	151	\$55.00
2	\$55.00	52	\$30.00	102	\$50.00	152	\$99.00
3	\$241.50	53	\$55.00	103	\$550.00	153	\$1,320.00
4	\$100.62	54	\$360.00	104	\$25.00	154	\$110.00
5	[\$550.00]	55	\$68.00	105	\$86.00	155	\$92.00
6	\$115.00	56	\$150.00	106	\$170.50	156	\$80.00
7	\$165.00	57	\$75.00	107	\$175.00	157	\$27.50
8	\$157.50	58	\$17.50	108	\$130.00	158	\$100.00
9	\$150.00	59	\$55.00	109	\$1,500.00	159	\$34.50
10	\$100.00	60	\$125.00	110	\$20.00	160	\$32.00
11	\$75.00	61	\$127.00	111	\$235.00	161	\$525.00
12	\$80.00	62	\$25.00	112	\$75.00	162	\$182.00
13	\$370.00	63	\$45.00	113	\$80.00	163	\$35.00
14	\$90.00	64	[\$275.00]	114	\$52.50	164	\$290.00
15	[\$300.00]	65	\$270.00	115	\$90.00	165	\$50.00
16	\$63.00	66	\$54.00	116	\$150.00	166	\$85.00
17	\$25.00	67	\$191.00	117	[\$1100.00]	167	\$410.00
18	\$28.00	68	\$85.00	118	\$47.00	168	\$20.00
19	[\$125.00]	69	\$125.00	119	\$45.00	169	\$20.00
20	\$60.00	70	\$20.00	120	\$56.00	170	\$55.00
21	\$60.00	71	\$156.00	121	\$50.00	171	\$250.00
22	[\$30.00]	72	\$590.00	122	[\$30.00]	172	\$12.00
23	\$46.00	73	\$120.00	123	\$55.00	173	\$350.00
24	[\$75.00]	74	\$152.00	124	\$50.00	174	\$135.00
25	[\$75.00]	75	\$135.00	125	\$75.00	175	\$104.00
26	\$170.00	76	\$30.00	126	\$122.50	176	\$240.00
27	\$325.00	77	\$24.00	127	\$650.00	177	\$357.70
28	\$20.00	78	\$313.00	128	\$28.00		
29	\$119.00	79	\$41.00	129	\$140.00		
30	[\$30.00]	80	\$700.00	130	\$200.00		
31	\$132.00	81	\$75.00	131	\$40.25		
32	[\$100.00]	82	\$105.00	132	\$200.00		
33	\$985.00	83	\$150.00	133	\$1,200.00		
34	\$250.00	84	\$235.00	134	\$400.00		
35	\$200.00	85	\$40.00	135	\$1,000.00		
36	\$700.00	86	\$140.00	136	\$750.00		
37	\$85.00	87	\$140.00	137	\$48.00		
38	\$76.00	88	\$367.50	138	\$100.00		
39	\$80.00	89	\$295.00	139	\$80.00		
40	\$175.00	90	\$125.00	140	\$150.00		
41	\$49.00	91	\$450.00	141	\$185.00		
42	\$210.00	92	\$270.00	142	\$425.00		
43	\$55.00	93	\$787.00	143	[\$120.00]		
44	\$40.00	94	\$174.00	144	[\$0.00]		
45	\$150.00	95	\$13.00	145	\$400.00		
46	\$75.00	96	\$30.00	146	[\$206.00]		
47	[\$375.00]	97	\$300.00	147	\$121.00		
48	\$350.00	98	\$215.00	148	\$195.00		
49	\$35.00	99	\$40.00	149	\$80.00		
50	\$235.00	100	\$70.00	150	\$15.00		[ ]=Unsold

Prices Realized • C.C.G.T.C.C. • Auction '95



**4th of July Specials**



1. Sonoma Joe's 4th of July Tourney chips no longer available and priced at: \$1.00 is \$5, \$2.00 is \$6, \$3.00 is \$8, \$5.00 is \$10 and \$10.00 is \$18. 5 pc is \$35 and w/o \$10, 4 pc is ...\$25.00
2. Harvey's , Tahoe \$2.00 Bicentennial in AU Condition ..\$30.00
3. Union Plaza, \$5.00 LV Bicent. "Happy Birthday America", w/ the American eagle, a very patriotic design for a low ...\$12.00
4. \$5.00 Reno Horseshoe, Bicent. w/Red , Blue face, Bud Jones inlay at a very reasonable price for the new collectors.....\$ 5.00
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ANA AUG. 17-20  
SEE YOU THERE**

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\$1.00 Mustard, w/3 purple ins. AU , hardly used.....\$10.00

\$2.50 Red w/3 white ins. only used for short time .....\$15.00

\$5.00 Brown, w/3 green ins. and used cond. at face.....\$ 5.00

\$25.00 GREEN! w/3 black ins. was backup for brown seldom seen ... First time offered.....\$30.00



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Fourth of July Chips - Southern Nevada

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Price \$15.00

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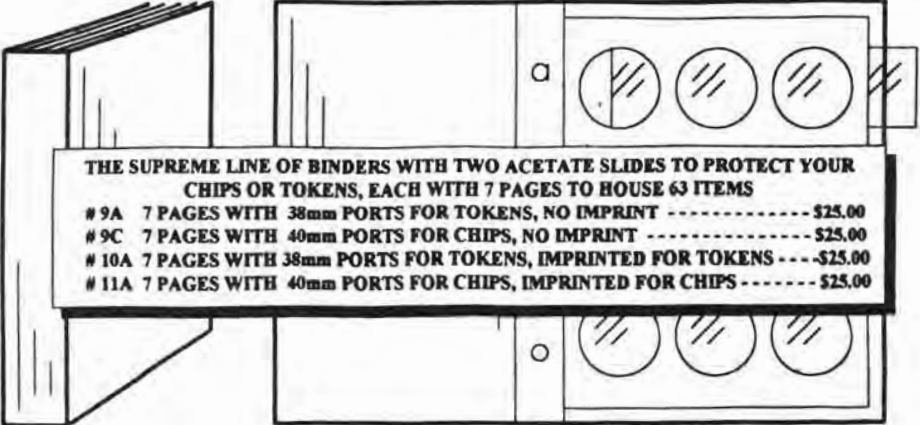
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GOLDEN NUGGET \$5 C-GOL 5a	0	G
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HILTON \$5 C-HIL 5	0	F
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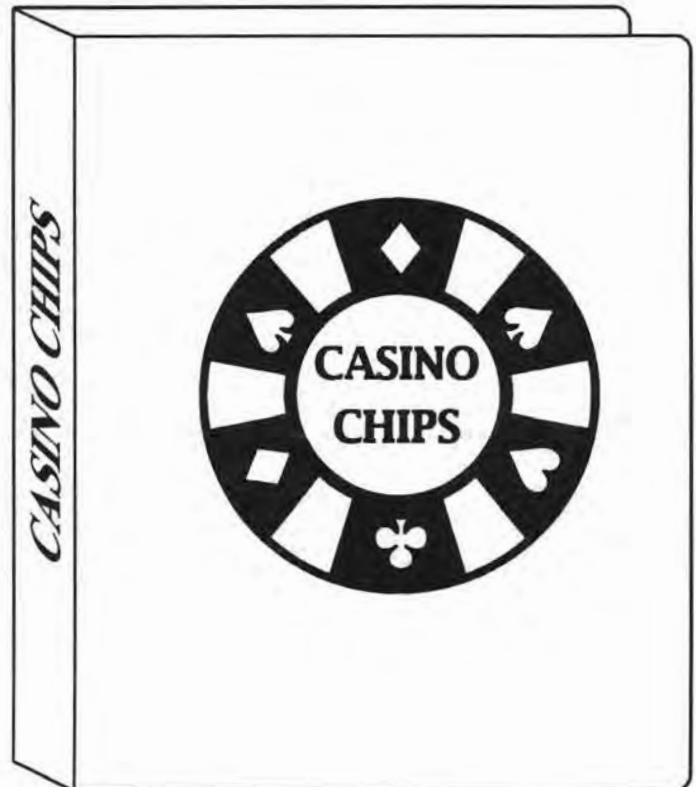
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\$1 <b>Landmark:</b> blue, H/C, HS gold, obsolete,.....	\$ 22.00
\$1 <b>Vegas World:</b> blue, H/C, HS gold, obsolete,.....	\$ 5.00
\$1 <b>Jockey Club:</b> blue, 3 brown, diesuit, coin inlay, obsolete,.....	\$ 6.00
\$1 <b>Nevada Club Diamond Jim's:</b> purple, 3 tan, horsehead left, obsolete,.....	\$ 13.00
\$1 <b>Regency:</b> Laughlin, white, H/C, obsolete,.....	\$ 7.00
\$1 <b>Carousel:</b> brown, 3 green, H/C, obsolete,.....	\$ 8.00
\$1 <b>Fremont Hotel:</b> blue, H/C, explorer, obsolete,.....	\$ 8.00
\$1 <b>Jerry's Nugget:</b> tan, 4 blue, small crown, HS gold, obsolete,.....	\$ 18.00
\$5 <b>Castaways:</b> red, diecar, 3 gray, coin inlay, obsolete,.....	\$ 14.00
\$5 <b>Sundance:</b> red, house, 3 orange/purple, obsolete,.....	\$ 5.00
\$5 <b>Sahara Hotel:</b> brown, HCE, 6 split yellow, 3 black, obsolete,.....	\$ 10.00
\$5 <b>Winners Circle:</b> red, H/C, 3 yellow, HS gold, obsolete,.....	\$ 12.00
\$5 <b>Carousel:</b> yellow, H/C, 3 pink, obsolete,.....	\$ 12.00
\$5 <b>Reno's Horseshoe Club:</b> Bicentennial, red diecar, obv blue diecar, coin inlay,.....	\$ 18.00
\$5 <b>Main Street Station:</b> Chipco, red, obv Rosie O'Grady's, obsolete, .....	\$ 24.00
\$5 <b>Riverside Hotel:</b> Reno, brown, sm key, 3 green, obsolete,.....	\$ 10.00
\$5 <b>Overland Hotel:</b> Pic Hobson's, Reno, pink, 4 blue, 4 black, .....	\$ 8.00
10 cent, <b>Silver Palace:</b> yellow, sm crown, Downtown LV, .....	\$ 50.00
<b>Thunder Bird:</b> \$1.00 Free Play, blue, H/C, .....	\$ 8.00
<b>Landmark:</b> Free Play Token, red, .....	\$ 4.00
<b>Silver Bird:</b> 1.00, 5.00, 25.00, 3 piece set, .....	\$ 40.00
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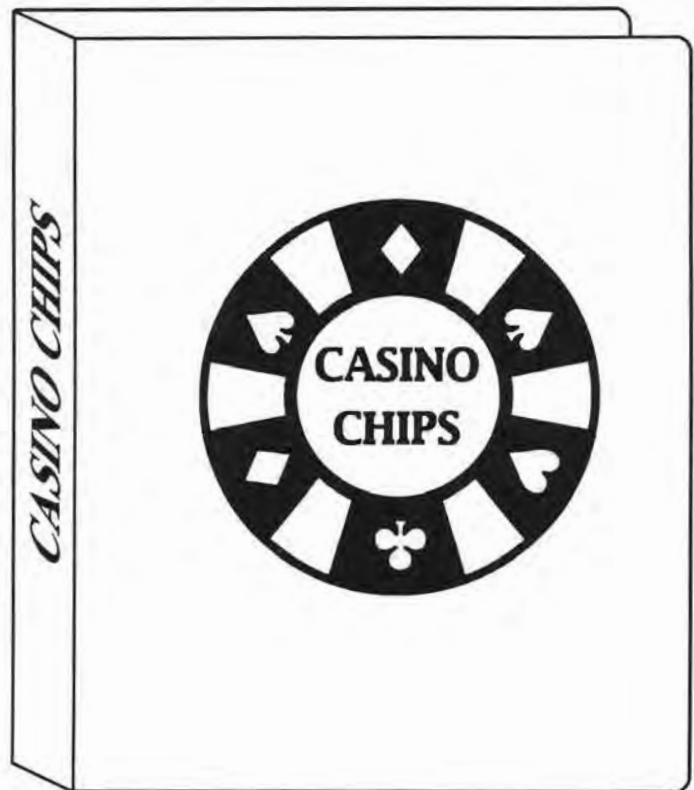
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BOARDWALK REGENCY \$2.5 C-BOA 2.5a	0	N
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BALLYS PARK PLACE \$1 C-BPP 1a	0	F
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CAESARS \$5 C-CAE 5	0	F
CAESARS \$20 C-CAE 20	0	N
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GOLDEN NUGGET \$2.50 C-GOL 2.5	0	G
GOLDEN NUGGET \$5 C-GOL 5	0	G
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HARRAHS TRUMP PLAZA \$1 C-HTP 1d	0	G
HARRAHS TRUMP PLAZA \$2.5 C-HTP 2.5	0	N
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HILTON \$5 C-HIL 5	0	F
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PLAYBOY \$1 PLA 1a	0	G
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The reaction to the museum has been so great I have decided to offer a selection of my duplicates to the club membership. Many of these chips are very rare and only seen once in a while at auctions. In most cases, I only have one or two of each chip being offered. To reserve a specific item call (702) 735-6012. Orders will be accepted on a first come first serve first basis.

If you have questions about any chips I have listed or want information on chips not listed please call. For a complete listing of chips for sale send \$5.00. This is no ordinary list. Its contents are Nevada only. (30 pages) There is something in this list for everyone.  
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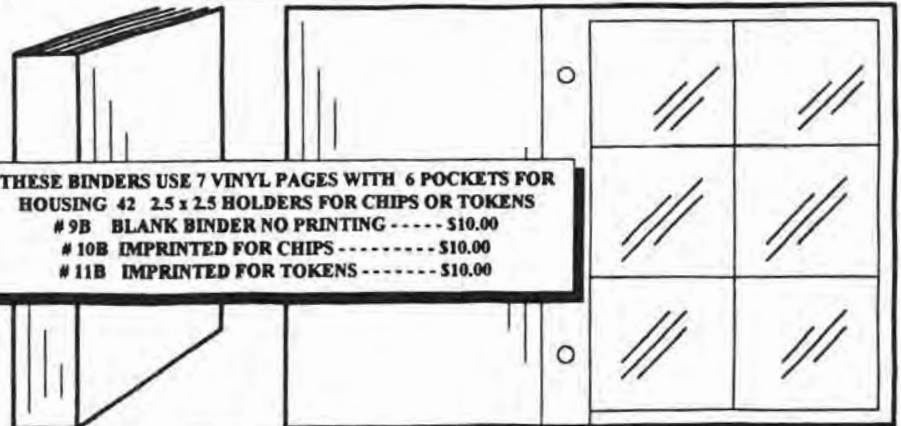
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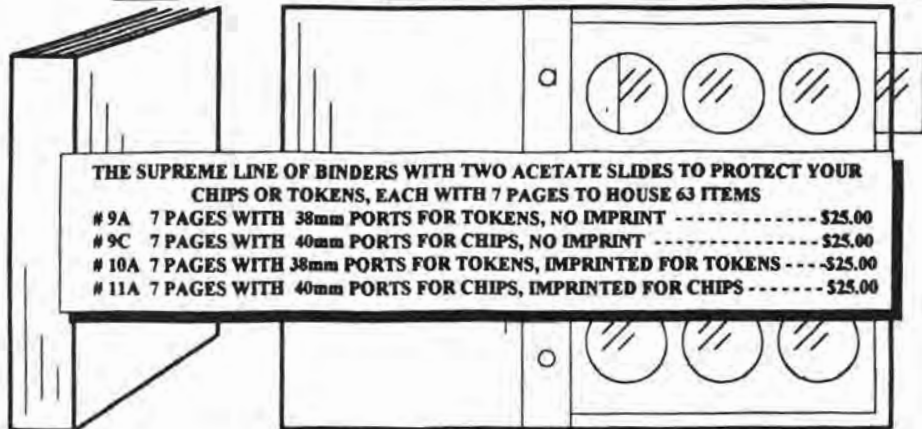
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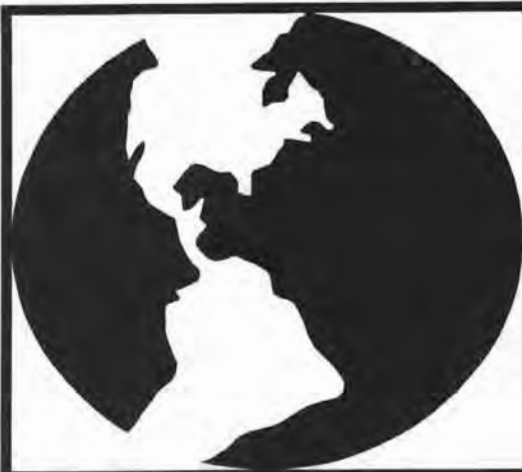
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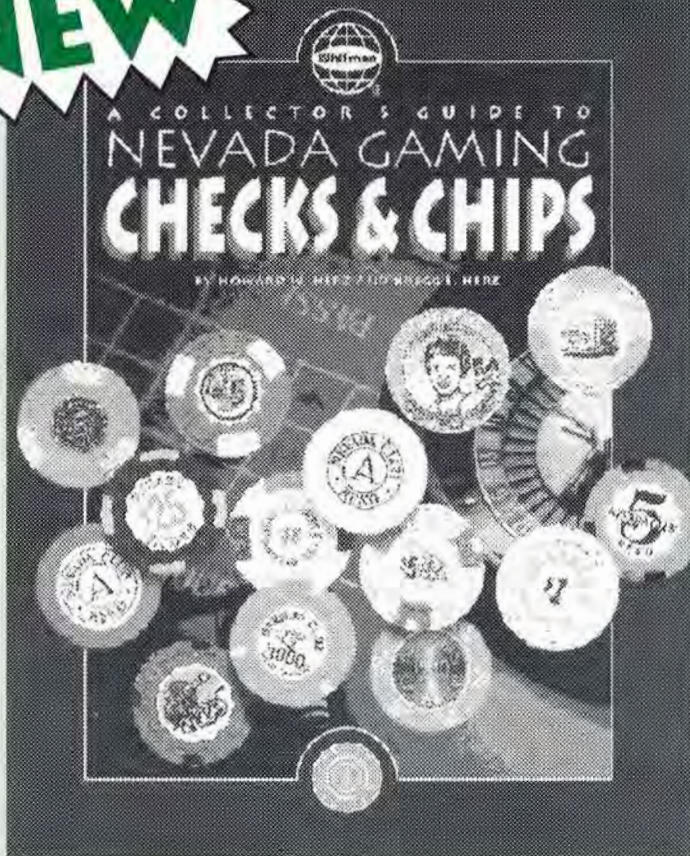


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