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## And Token News



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## CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of*

*The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

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

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Chips ☐ Tokens

☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

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☐ Name and address

☐ Phone

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☐ Life Member \$450.00

☐ First class postage \$14.00

☐ Foreign \$55.00  
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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:

CC&GTCC Membership Officer  
Ralph Myers  
P.O. Box 35769  
Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

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### CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of  
The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

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

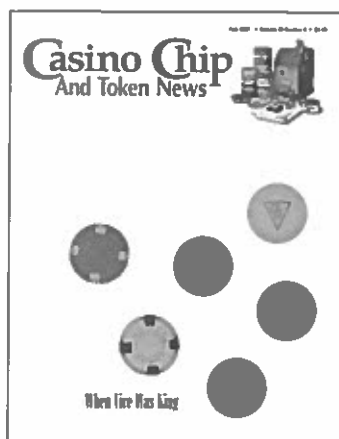
# Casino Chip And Token News

A publication of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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



Fall 2007 Volume 20 Number 4



## Cover Story

### When Vice Was King. A History of Northern Kentucky Gambling.

Chips courtesy Howard Herz

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, please print

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Country

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

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

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

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

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

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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:

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☐ Associate \$5.00

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☐ First class postage \$14.00

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CC&GTCC Membership Officer  
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- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.
- All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to "The Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc." or CC&GTCC. No ad will run without payment

## SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION AND AD DEADLINE DATES

*Winter Issue* January, February, March  
Mailing Date: January

Deadline for Ads: December 1st

*Spring Issue* April, May, June

Mailing Date: April

Deadline for Ads: March 1st

*Summer Issue* July, August, September

Mailing Date: July

Deadline for Ads: July 1st

*Fall Issue* October, November, December

Mailing Date: October

Deadline for Ads: September 1st

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## RATES

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March 1<sup>st</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. issue    June 1<sup>st</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. issue  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. issue    Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. issue



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

# Call for Hall of Fame Recommendations for 2008

---

Membership in the Hall of Fame is the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club's highest honor. Each year, several members are considered for inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Members are selected based on their contributions to the hobby as a whole, their contributions to the Club, their impact on the Club and the hobby, and their exemplary integrity and adherence to the principles upon which the Club was founded. There have been one, two or three new members selected each year since the inauguration of the Hall of Fame in 1998. The seventeen members of the Hall of Fame appear below.

The selection of honorees each year is made by the Hall of Fame Committee, which consists of all living members of the HoF. The input of the membership in the selection process is indispensable. The members of the HoF cannot know every member of the Club, nor have knowledge of the contributions to the Club and the hobby that may have been made by each member.

Enclosed with this issue of *Casino Chip and Token News* is a recommendation form which we urge members to complete and mail to us so that we may consider the contributions of those people the members believe deserve the Club's highest recognition. Please provide as much information as possible in support of your recommendation so that the Committee can give it full consideration. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2008, and the final selections, if any, will be announced at the Club's annual convention in Las Vegas.

The current members of the Hall of Fame, in alphabetical order, are:

Archie A. Black  
Harvey Fuller (deceased)  
Howard Herz  
Phil Jensen  
Michael Knapp (*Chairman*)  
Bruce Landau (deceased)  
Robert Mera (deceased)  
Allan Myers  
Janice O'Neal  
Charles T. Rodgers  
Eric Rosenblum  
Douglas Saito  
Dale Seymour  
Mike Skelton  
Jim Steffner  
Greg Susong  
Gene Trimble  
Ernie Wheelden

For biographies of the HoF members, please visit the Club website at <http://www.ccgccc.com>



## All Convention Attendees Please Read

# The Future of Our Convention

The Riviera has informed us that if we do not get our room count up this year they may not allow us to hold our Convention there next year. If that were the case the cost of holding our Convention could easily go up \$20,000+ and the room rate a minimum of \$25-\$30 per night. These numbers are based on actual research. There are only 12 hotels in Las Vegas that can accommodate our needs so we would certainly be at their mercy.

We think this is important for all our members to consider when they go to book a room. Please even if it costs you a few dollars more a night please stay at the Riviera. I assure you the convenience of not having to leave the hotel and being about to drop off or pick up items from your room at anytime will more than make up for the nominal extra cost.

Please realize that after discussion with the Riviera they are very serious. We book a nominal number of room nights and spend very little with catering considering we use such a disproportionate share of the Convention space. For those who don't know the bourse floor and meeting rooms are provided at no cost. No other hotel in town will even talk to us on these terms.

For years we have exhorted our members to stay at the Convention hotel and yet the number drops every year. So this year we have decided to resort to incentives.

Before I go into the incentives we are going to offer, let me state upfront that I know some members will be unhappy especially the members who live in Las Vegas. But I hope everyone will understand this is not a decision the Board of Directors took lightly. It is a necessity that we cannot ignore if we want to have an affordable place to hold our Convention.

For those members who stay at least two nights under the Club room block we are going to offer the following incentives, which I think, will make staying at the Riviera almost irresistible!

We have at least one casino (we are working on more) who will be issuing a limited edition NCV Convention chip for those staying at the Riviera. The chip will be free.

Registration will be raised to \$20 per person. For those staying at the Riviera they will receive \$10 in dealer scrip, which can be redeemed with any dealer to offset the increased fee.

We have items being donated that will be raffled off. Only members that stay at the Riviera will get a free raffle ticket.

We have quite a few dealers who are offering discount coupons for our members who stay at the Riviera. This alone could save our members a fair amount of money.

Lastly the members who stay at the Riviera will be allowed into the show one hour earlier than everyone else.

At this point these are the incentives that have been confirmed. We are working on even more incentives as a way to entice members to stay in the Club room block.

Keep in mind these are limited to one per room. If there are two members legitimately staying in the room and they book 4 nights then we will provide two of everything.

We have given this a lot of thought and tried to be as fair as possible to the members who support the Club by staying in the hotel. Keep in mind this system is set up to reward members who support the Club by staying in the Convention hotel, not penalize the ones who don't. For those members who live locally I realize that some will feel this is unfair. But the way we viewed the issue was that with the money you save for not having airfare and hotel costs the savings will more than offset the value of the rewards.

We are asking all our members to consider staying at the Riviera. It is extremely important to the future of our annual Convention. Thank you.

After reviewing this is, if any member has any questions please direct them to Wayne Thompson ([president@ccgtcc.com](mailto:president@ccgtcc.com)) or any other Board member.



**Wayne Thompson**  
President

## President's Letter

First let me be the one to apologize for this issue being late. Because of some items that had to be dealt with in this issue I asked Allan to hold it up so we could get everything required in the magazine.

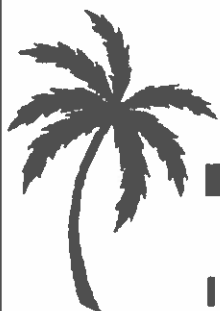
It's hard to believe we are just a few months away from another Convention. I know Mike and Dawn as well as countless other volunteers have been working non-stop in getting everything ready. It's going to be exciting and I know everyone is looking forward to June.

I would like to ask everyone to read, in particular, the articles on the "The Future of The Convention", "Membership Recruitment" and the "New Appointments." These articles will give you some insight to some of the issues facing the Club and what the Club is looking at for the future.

We are preparing for our mid-year Board meeting and we have been fortunate to have a lot input from the membership on things the Club should consider as we move forward. If any member has suggestions please feel free to bring it to the attention of one of the Board members and we will try to address it at our February meeting. Keep in mind that the Board can only initiate as many ideas as we have volunteers willing to step up and take charge. We are especially concerned about growing and retaining our membership and want to get as many suggestions as possible as this has been a problem the Club has faced for several years.

I regret to announce that Allan Anderson has resigned his position as Editor of our award-winning magazine. Allan has given many years, three years as co-editor, and going on six years as Editor to one of the most time consuming jobs in the Club. In the next issue of the magazine you will see an announcement asking for someone to accept the position as Editor. Allan has given everything to the Club for almost nine years and has earned a well-deserved rest. I hope a few of our members will be willing to consider this position. If you have questions please contact Allan and he can better explain what the position involves.

Lastly on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank our members for all the support they have offered and we hope everyone will feel like they can bring any ideas, complaints, etc. to the attention of the Board.



**Wanted!**  
**FLORIDA CHIPS**

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THESE FLORIDA  
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**ALWAYS INTRESTED  
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I NEED FOR MY  
COLLECTION.**  
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*Von McKenzie R-7134*

## Announcements

I would like to thank the following individuals:

**Michael Knapp** – Michael has agreed to stay on as Chairman of the Standards and Archives committee. For those of you who aren't familiar with the committee, they have worked to establish grading standards that can be used to create conforming in our hobby. In addition they have worked to define what constitutes an altered or repaired chip. Not as easy a task as it may seem. Thank you Michael for staying on to continue the work of the committee.

**Travis Lewin** – Again Travis has agreed to stay on as Claims Director. He has done a great job in dealing with complaints between members and fairly resolving disputes. Having someone with Travis' expertise and temperament is important in giving our members credibility in dealings with other members and non-members. Thank you Travis.

**David Spragg** – We were in danger of not having a Club auction this year or at least a scaled back one. David saw our dilemma and agreed to Chair the auction and even put up an on-line catalog that will allow mail bids. In addition to his duties as Webmaster this will be another big task. Thank you David for stepping up and making sure we have an auction.

**Dave and Debbie Harber** – As most of our members know the Club started a collection of our member's personal chips to display at the Convention and ultimately in our future Museum. Previous Chairs have done a great job in building this collection and I know that will continue under Dave and Debbie. If you have had any recent personal chips made that have not been added to the Club collection please send one to Dave and Debbie. I encourage everyone to participate. Thanks Dave and Debbie (and Alexi) for taking this on.

**John Kallman** – As most of our members know we have developed a very substantial library of price guides, books on Gaming history, back issues of Club magazines, past auction catalogs and even videos of television specials related to Gaming and videos of past Conventions. Managing this inventory and tracking the lending is a major task. We hope all members will take advantage of this great resource. Thanks John for accepting this position.

We have so many volunteers that we can't honor them all here but these are recent appointments or re-appointments that I wanted to announce so the membership would know some more of the many things the Club is always working on.

## Looking for Membership Recruiters

The Club feels that we have to take new steps if we want to see a larger growth in membership, and in the retention of current members. To that end we are looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate the recruitment and retention effort.

While the Recruitment Chairman will have a lot of leeway in how they go about achieving growth, the Board has some ideas how we think it may work best. Basically we see the Chairman as someone who can recruit current members throughout the country and in foreign countries to locally spread word of the Club through their contacts and when possible with the cooperation of local casinos. Obviously the Las Vegas and Atlantic City casinos will be most difficult to work with because of Gaming regulations. But there are other ways to make contact with casino employees. In addition we envision members putting on displays at local venues such as libraries to promote the hobby. Also press releases in as many markets as possible will need to be sent. I'm sure we can find a member with expertise in writing press releases to assist with this.

The attraction of new members and retention of current members is vital to the future of the Club. I hope someone will see the importance of this effort and step up to volunteer. Even if you are not in a position to be Chairman at least volunteer to be on the committee.

If you wish to get more details contact Wayne Thompson at ([president@ccgtcc.com](mailto:president@ccgtcc.com)), by phone at (859) 252-5626 or speak with any Board member.



**Doug Smith**  
Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report

This is my second report as your newly elected Treasurer. This past quarter has flown by and its hard to believe I have been in office for over 5 months now. All financial documentation is now currently in my possession and I look forward to continuing to learn all that is expected from this position.

### Highlights of the final Quarter of 2007:

All auction lots from the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction have been paid for, mailed and received.

The Online Renewal is once again up and running after an unexpectedly long wait.

The Club Directors and Officers (D&O) policy has been updated to include the new BOD members.

Museum Fund Personal Chip Auction was completed on Ebay adding another \$650 to the fund.

All Expenses for the 2007 convention have been paid to the Riviera as well as expenses for all convention related costs.

### Club Accounts

The current balances as of 12/31/07 in the new club accounts are as follows:

Museum Fund Money Market	\$108,089.42
Life Membership Fund Money Market	\$ 63,006.04
General Fund Money Market	\$ 32,079.30
General Fund Business Checking	\$ 11,288.62
Total of all four accounts	\$214,463.38

The above totals do not reflect checks in the amount of \$5,613.50 for 2008 Convention Tables and Advertising that have been deposited but not yet cleared.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction


All lots sold have been paid for, shipped and received by the purchasers.

All Consignors have been paid and payments are reflected in the total balances above.

The 2 lots that were unsold have been returned to the consignors.

**Christine and Sheldon Smith**  
*of*  
**ONENEVADADOLLAR,**

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



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

*-Thank You!*

## The Museum Fund

The total amount currently in the Museum fund as stated above is now at \$108,089.42. We have collected \$2,805.96 since my last report thru new donations, promotions and Interest on the account.

A total of \$650 was raised with the Ebay Auction of personal chips and other items that were donated by Gene Trimble & The Palms, Ron Lammer, Myself and a few others. Skip Harouff was the winner and once again has been a tremendous supporter of the fund. I also wanted to recognize a generous donation by Paul Donohue in the amount of \$200 to the fund. Donations continue to come in from Andy Hughes sales of special Museum Fund chips as well as those sold on David Spragg's website. I wanted to thank everyone again for their donations and support of this great project.

## Online Renewals

As of the time that this report was written the On-line renewal function on the CC&GTCC site is finally up and running. I would like to sincerely apologize for the length of time we were down as there is no good excuse for us not being able to accept online payments for the past few months.

The amount of time and effort to make this seemingly easy task work was in fact a long and arduous task that was as frustrating as anything I have previously worked with. I want to thank those who helped me get this up and running again and also to David Spragg our webmaster for rewriting the code to allow us to accept credit cards once again.

## Newbie Tip Of The Day

Although this is not really a true club Treasurer function, I wanted to take a moment to talk about a great new feature that I have been writing daily on Greg Susong's Chipboard.com. For the past 2 months I have been posting a "Newbie Tip Of The Day" which covers just about every subject related to Casino collecting.

While started originally for newer collectors, you will find that there are many features and posts that can assist even the most experienced collector.

Once completed sometime in February, these tips will all be made available thru links on the Chip Board and hopefully the Club Website as well. The tips are also posted daily on ChipTalk.com. There is a huge amount of information as well as links to many resources on just about every collecting topic.

If you haven't been to the Chip Board ([www.thechipboard.com](http://www.thechipboard.com)) your missing out on a lot of great information so I hope to see you there.

## Period Revenue (Thru 12/29/07)

The following monies were collected during this past Quarter thru 12/29/07.

Promotion Sales	\$695
Membership Renewals	\$4,926
Advertising Fees	\$1,105
Convention Auction Sales	\$3,360
Interest on Accounts	\$3,373
Final Bank Close Out	\$140
Museum Fund Donations	\$1,120

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Total Period Revenue	\$14,719
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## Period Expenses (Thru 12/29/07)

The following expenses paid in the last Quarter thru 12/29/07.

Consignor Payments For Club Auction	\$649	
Storage Unit Fees	\$852	
Convention Fees (Riviera)	\$37,431	
Convention Misc. Fees & Repairs	\$418	
Convention Refunds	\$110	
Conventions State Sales Tax	\$2,528	(Not incl. on previous report)
CTN Magazine Printing	\$11,715	
CTN Magazine Postage	\$3,195	
Shipping For Club Library Move	\$976	
Misc Postage Expenses	\$1,825	
Misc. Expense Reports	\$714	
 Total Period Expenses	 \$60,413	

**Period Account Balance Reconciliation (Thru 12/29/07)**

Total balance in all accounts as of 09/10/07	\$286,728
Uncleared checks as of 09/10/07	(\$26,571)
Revenue for the Period thru 12/29/07	\$14,719
Expenses for the Period thru 12/29/07	(\$60,413)
 Balance of all accounts as of 12/29/07	 \$214,463

In closing I would like to thank each of you for your support and to everyone who has helped me this past few months while I transition into this position. I look forward to seeing you all at the next Convention and happy 2008 to everyone.

## BUY – SELL – TRADE

Silver Strikes, Slot Tokens, Decks of Cards  
Swizzle Sticks, Slot Key, Card Key, Ivory,  
Clay Chips and Anything Casino

**Highland Collectibles**

**Frank Muscat**

P.O. Box 42457, Las Vegas NV 89116

THE CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB INC.  
Income & Expense/Equity Statement (Cash Basis)  
January 1 Thru December 31, 2007

**INCOME**

Membership Dues (Includes 1st class postage)		\$ 47,948
Convention 2007:		
Table Fees	\$ 31,860	
Banquet	\$ 8,390	
Registration	\$ 8,935	
Program Advertising	\$ 3,220	
Auction Proceeds	\$ 5,684	
Convention 2007 Total:		\$ 58,089
Building Fund Donations		\$ 13,780
Promotion Sales		\$ 10,571
Interest Income		\$ 9,527
Magazine Advertising		\$ 5,120
Directory Sales		\$ 10
Misc		\$ 25
Total Income :		<u>\$ 145,070</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

Magazine		\$ 62,982
Convention 2007 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales)		\$ 55,460
Promotion		\$ 4,582
Postage (Other than Magazine)		\$ 4,445
Video Production (Convention/Seminars)		\$ 4,211
Storage (Occupancy)		\$ 3,976
Bank Charges		\$ 2,405
Miscellaneous		\$ 2,379
Supplies		\$ 2,258
Insurance		\$ 1,253
Website		\$ 475
Advertising		\$ 262
Telephone		\$ 206
Filing Fees		\$ 150
Printing		\$ 65
Total Expenditures :		<u>\$ 145,109</u>

Net Income - 01/01/07 to 12/31/07 \$ (39)

Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/07	\$ 240,459
Net Income - 01/01/07 to 12/31/07	\$ (39)
Change In Inventory - 01/01/07 to 12/31/07	\$ (1,362)
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/07	<u>\$ 239,058</u>

**Detail of Equity Balance - 12/31/07**

General Fund - Checking	\$ 11,289	
General Fund - Money Market	\$ 32,079	
Museum Fund (Formally Building Fund)	\$ 108,089	
Life Membership Fund	\$ 63,006	
Total Cash Available		\$ 214,463
Inventory		\$ 23,795
Advance (Membership Officer)		\$ 800
Ending Equity Balance - 12/31/07		<u>\$ 239,058</u>

Respectfully Submitted, Douglas P. Smith - Treasurer  
January 08, 2008



Belinda Hixon, Secretary

## Secretary's Report

Happy 2008!

Let me begin with an apology. Dale Seymour graciously donated 15 copies of his *Antique Gaming Chips* book to the Club at the convention and I failed to note that in my last report.

If others would like to make donations to the Club, please notify any BoD member.

I know that it seems to have taken this BoD some time to get things up and running and in some instances it has been a challenge. But we've been working to get the bumps smoothed out while continuing to work on the day to day business of the Club.

Dealer Point System - We're working on the point system for Convention dealers and will have something to announce soon. Putting together the list of dealers throughout the years was a challenge in itself! Thanks to those members who have put forward suggestions as to how to structure the system.

Committee/Directors - We're also continuing our search for an Auction Chairman and the Recruitment Committee Chairman. If you're interested or know of someone you think would be good in the jobs, please let any BoD member know.

Journey Through 15 Years - DVDs are still available. Contact me if you're interested in obtaining one. Cost is \$10 plus postage.

Club History Page - We're still in need of information regarding the following areas. If you can help fill in the blanks, please let me know.

- Recruiter of the Year – 1996 and 1997
- Newsletter Article of the Year – 1996, 1997, 2000
- Best Exhibit (People's Choice Award) – 1996, 1997, 1998

Logos – Membership logos can be obtained by contacting me either by email or snail mail. Please remember when using the logo that it must be used in accordance with the usage policy as posted in the magazine or on the Club's website.

As always, if you have concerns or suggestions for the BoD, please contact any one of us.

Happy collecting!  
Belinda



# FREE CHIP LIST



**JERRY HOOVER**  
(R-2572)



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





## *10 Year Members*

Congratulations to the following members for attaining 10 years of membership in the CC&GTCC!

Richard Hagopian R-3359  
David Klier LM-3365-65  
Dave McGregor R-3376  
Paul Dell R-3392  
Anna Pojat R-3403  
Stephen Suhre R-3419  
Richard Zunica R-3423  
Robert Washam R-3436  
Don Phillips R-3464  
Belinda Hixon LM-3505-68  
Rolando Espinosa R-3517  
Jack Haddock R-3523  
Karl Schneider R-3532  
Roy Allen R-3547  
Dennis Finn R-3552  
Dusty Montfort R-3561



Maurice Nurenberg R-3361  
John Karczewski R-3372  
John Chamberlain R-3390  
Constance Hartling R-3395  
Charles McDaniel R-3406  
Steven Silverstein R-3420  
Pam Goertler R-3432  
Calvin Polansky R-3455  
Charles Smith R-3476  
David Pyle R-3515  
Craig Moyer R-3521  
Gene Kwiecinski R-3527  
Phil Chmielewski R-3546  
Warren Schaefer R-3549  
John Strohmenger R-3559

## **MISSISSIPPI CASINO CHIPS**

### **CURRENT & OBSOLETE**

### **Free Price List**

**George W. Winter, Jr.**

P.O. Box 193  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
[gwwinter@cableone.net](mailto:gwwinter@cableone.net)

# *Of Literary Note*

by the Club Librarian, John K. Kallman

## **Using the Library**

Whether you choose to write or email you will discover the CC&GTCC Library has an extensive collection of reference material. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, chips, tokens, silver strikes, slot cards, room keys, Ticket In, Ticket Out (TITO) and other casino related collectibles

The library also maintains periodicals and auction catalogs. A collection of programs are available to individuals for presentation or personal use.

Members may borrow up to a total of 3 (three) books, auction catalogs, and video presentations at one time. Items may be requested by author, title or subject. Requests for auction catalogs should specify the dealer's name and the date of the auction. The books and catalogs are loaned for a period of one month. Always include your CC&GTCC number to validate your request along with your current shipping address. Address must correspond with that on file with the membership officer ([membership@ccgtcc.com](mailto:membership@ccgtcc.com)). If you have moved, please update your address before requesting loan of material. NO material will be mailed to addresses other than those currently on file.

The Club will pay the cost of sending the materials and the member will pay the cost of returning the materials. Materials must be insured for return. Insurance fees are based on the replacement value of the materials, assuring adequate coverage if the shipment is lost. Materials will be mailed USPS Library Rate.

### **For information, contact:**

Club Librarian  
C/O John K. Kallman  
P.O. Box 122  
Sartell MN 56377  
Email: [librarian@ccgtcc.com](mailto:librarian@ccgtcc.com)

### **Late and Overdue Policy, Effective 10/01/07**

1. Library orders may be extended one time, with the total borrowing period not to exceed two months.
2. Requests for extensions must be received within one week of the original due date. Extensions will NOT be granted if there is a pending request by another member for the material or if the extensions exceed paid membership dates.
3. All library returns not postmarked by the due date will be assessed a \$5.00 fee
4. Library returns that are received uninsured by the carrier or not insured as indicated on the postal insurance form will be assessed a \$5.00 fee, in addition to any other fees incurred. A second failure to insure will result in a loss of borrowing privileges for one year from original due date.

### **The overdue process:**

1. If materials are not returned or extended within 30 days after the original due date a first reminder note will be sent via email or USPS. A \$5.00 fee will be assessed when the materials have been returned and determined to be in good condition.
2. If materials are not returned or extended, a second notice will be sent via USPS approximately 30 days after the first notice was mailed. A \$10.00 fee will be assessed—when the materials have been returned and determined to be in good condition.
3. If materials have not been returned after an additional 30 days, a third notice will be sent USPS Certified Mail, with return receipt. This notice will consist of a letter listing the overdue items; an invoice detailing the monetary charges owed to the CC&GTCC, and will also serve as notice that any charges will be applied to the dues renewal, if all outstanding materials and fees are not returned within the stated 30 day time period. Charges will include:

- a. The fair market replacement cost of each item
  - b. \$10.00 fee per item
  - c. Permanent loss of borrowing privileges
  - d. A warning of possible expulsion from the CC&GTCC.
4. If materials are returned in good condition after the third letter is received, the patron's account will be credited the fair market value of each item. However, the patron will still be liable for the \$10.00 fee per item. The patron will incur a loss of borrowing privileges for one year from the date of reimbursement.
  5. If all materials are not returned for any reason, the patron file will be turned over for expulsion proceedings.
  6. If determined by the CC&GTCC Board of Directors, the patron will be expelled.

**Looking Back:** *Gaming Times*, January 1998. The front cover and lead article was concerning the introduction of the new game Ricochet. In addition to interviewing the creator of this game, several casino executives are interviewed as well. An overview of how the game is played is also given. But as with anything else, I guess you would actually have to play it a few times to really understand it! I have a few of these chips in my collection, and have actually seen the game in operation, but even after reading how to play, I still do not understand it. But then again, there are a lot of things I do not understand!

**Your Help Is Needed:** As legalized gaming expanded from its original confines of Nevada, both in Atlantic City as well as other locations, both the number of collectors and periodicals to support these collectors expanded and flourished. However, as with many things, there were either insufficient advertisers and/or collectors to support so many publications. One that has withstood the test of times is *Coast to Coast* publication which was first titled *Casino Collectibles Magazine*, later re-titled *Casino News Magazine*. The library has volumes 14 through 62 inclusive but is in need of copies of the first 13 issues.

**Library Additions:** The following items have been added to the club library and are now available for loan:

**CC&GTCC - 10th Annual Convention Program CC&GTCC 2002** (Donated by yours truly).

Chuck Tomarchio kindly donated copies of the **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Club Convention Programs**. We now only need Programs from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Conventions to complete the set.

**CC&GTCC – 15<sup>TH</sup> Annual Convention DVD** (2 copies available)

**The Fifth Annual Bruce Landau Memorial Auction (2007)** with prices realized) (2 copies available)

**Ticket In – Ticket Out Quarterly Electronic Newsletters**, by Jim Noll, Issued 1 through 12 (1 copy each – again, donated by yours truly). If you would like to receive electronic copies of this rather informative newsletter, contact Jim at [jenca@pacbell.net](mailto:jenca@pacbell.net). Jim was also kind enough to provide a replacement copy of his book *TITO's – Machine Readable Slot Machine Cashout Tickets* which had gone missing in action. Jim also donated the following items:

**Mystic Society of Cards & Keys Newsletters:**

Vol 7/#1 9/07   Vol 6/#5 6/07   Vol 6/#4 4/07   Vol 6/#3 2/07

**Slot Card & Room Key Collectors Club Newsletters:**

Vol 4/ #2 Qtr 2 2007   Vol 4/ #1 Qtr 1 2007

**Paper Money Journal of the SPMC**, Vol XLIV No. 6 Whole #240 11/12-2005.

My article on TITOs Pages 454 to 460 and a review of my TITO book.

If you collect slot cards and/or room keys, a monthly electronic update is available from Larry and Alice Kopp at [LaCARDKEYS@aol.com](mailto:LaCARDKEYS@aol.com). Back issues are also available from them and copies are now also available from the library as well. They are currently working on creating files that document various California Native American Indian casino slot cards with the following casinos haven been completed: Pauma, La Posta, Pala, Santa Ysabel, Sycuan, and Valley View.

# THE 2007 OTY AWARDS CONTEST IS NOW OPEN!

by Jim Follis

That's right! It's time to Nominate!

Inside this issue of the award winning Casino Chip and Token News you will find an **Official Nomination Form** for the 2007 OTY Awards. Every Club member is encouraged to take a little time and reflect back on the fabulous array of chips, tokens strikes and cards (slot and room key) issued by casinos worldwide during the calendar year of 2007. If any of them stand out in your mind, or take center-place in your collection, then perhaps you might want to recognize them by nominating them for OTY Award consideration.

Only as a CC&GTCC member are you entitled to participate in the Club's annual Chip of the Year (COTY), Token of the Year (TOTY), Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY) and Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY) competitions, aka: The OTY's!

The 2006 Awards will be marking the Club's 17<sup>th</sup> year of COTY and TOTY competitions, our 7<sup>th</sup> year of the SSOTY competition and our 5<sup>th</sup> year for CKOTY honors. I am both honored and pleased to be serving as the COTY, TOTY, SSOTY and CKOTY Awards Competitions Chairman, along with my son, Casey, the Assistant OTY Chairman.

The rules for this year's competitions are pretty much the same as last year, and for our newer members (a very big Welcome to our newcomers) and as a refresher for our seasoned participants, I will go over the requirements once again.

Between January 1st and March 15th, 2008 the Assistant OTY Chairman will be accepting nominations from any and all Club members in good standing. **As a reminder to all Regular members, please be sure to make a copy (or copies) of the Nomination Form for the Associate Member(s) tied to your membership number, so that they too can participate.**

Every Club member should keep in mind that **YOU MUST NOMINATE** at least one OTY candidate, in at least one category, **IN ORDER TO QUALIFY YOURSELF AS A JUDGE** in the final voting process. Simply stated:

## YOU MUST NOMINATE TO PARTICIPATE!

Completed original Nomination Forms were designed to be folded, taped (stapling is acceptable, but the Post Office prefers tape), affixed with 1<sup>st</sup> Class postage (.41 cents) and then mailed. Providing that the insert is folded correctly (and printed on both sides) the mailing address will be pre-printed on the reverse of the form. However, completed forms (original forms or copies) may be sent in an envelope to the address that appears on the back of an original form. That address is also re-printed below for your convenience.

As we did last year we will accept nominations via email to [oty@ccgtcc.com](mailto:oty@ccgtcc.com). However, if you take advantage of this method, you must format your submission into the same headings as the Nomination Form **AND** you must include all of your nominations at one time. Please do not make piece-meal submissions. If you do, then the most current submission form will replace, in total, any previously submitted form. Emailed submissions must be sent prior to midnight (PST) March 15, 2008.

As the nomination forms begin arriving, the Assistant OTY Chairman will be very busy tabulating all the selections, in each of the four categories. The top ten nomination-getters, in each category, will then be designated as the Ten Finalist in their respective category. The OTY Chairman will then acquire a complete set of the Ten Finalists and use them to produce a full-color Judge's Pamphlet. A Judge's Pamphlet will then be sent to each and every member who submitted a valid Nomination Form and will be used to view and judge all of the Ten Finalists. Early May is the target timeframe to mail out Judge's Pamphlets.

Note: Associate members making legitimate nominations will receive their own Judge's Pamphlet. They will not have to share a Regular member's copy! Judge's Pamphlets, just like last year, will depict the front and back (obverse and reverse) of all Ten Finalists in each category in their actual sizes. A separate Balloting form is included so that the Judge's Pamphlet may be kept as a souvenir of your participation in this highly prestigious, members-only event.

Judging will take place from about mid-April to about the end of April. All ballots must be returned via the postal system and must be postmarked on or before a date to-be-determined and announced later. ATTENTION International members, I am inclined to make allowances for voting if the deadlines prove to be a hardship, like e-mail notification.

By mid-May I will likely know the top finishers in each category. I will be going about the task of preparing the various award plaques, which like last year will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> Place only. Acknowledgements will also be given out to the respective manufacturers. I will also be taking care of the Club's acquisition of the four 1st-place finishers to add to the Club's Permanent Display.

For our newer members (and also as a reminder) the Club's Permanent Display is the Club's own collection of all past winners of the Chip of the Year, Token of the Year, Silver Strike of the Year and Room Key/Slot Card Key of the Year Awards Competitions. That collection will once again be on-display at the Convention as a non-competitive Exhibit right along side a complete set of all 40 Finalists from the 2007 competitions.

Well, that about covers it, except for the fine print below. I encourage each and every member to participate in this event, as I see these competitions as an opportunity for the Club's members to tell the casinos and their suppliers that we appreciate their efforts to produce a quality product.

#### **The fine print:**

All nominees must have been issued, for use, for the first time, during the calendar year of 2007. Various members of the CC&GTCC may be called upon to verify this criteria for chips and tokens. The Officers of the Silver Striker's Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for Silver Strikes. The Officers of the Slot Card and Room Key Club shall be called upon to verify this criteria for slot cards/room keys.

Chip of the Year eligibility criteria: A chip must be issued by a casino. It must also serve a gaming purpose.

Token of the Year eligibility criteria: A token is one that is intended to be inserted into a slot machine for play. Excluded are coins (money), currency and tickets. The emphasis is on slot machine play.

Silver Strike of the Year eligibility criteria: Simply stated, an eligible Silver Strike is one made by IGT under their trademarked Silver Strike program.

Slot Card/Room Key of the Year eligibility criteria:

Slot Cards must be issued by a casino and are intended to track player action at a slot machine.

Room Keys must be issued by an affiliated hotel/casino establishment. The key (looking like a plastic credit card) must be used to open a guestroom.

Casey and I look forward to receiving your nominations shortly. We may be contacted via email: [oty@ccgtcc.com](mailto:oty@ccgtcc.com). Lastly, for those who are Internet connected, be sure to visit the Un-Official OTY Viewing Sites, where you can view many of the potential OTY candidates. There are four locations to visit:

<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2007?dir=COTY>    <http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2007?dir=TOTY>  
<http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2007?dir=SSOTY>    <http://www.gamingore.com/gallery2007?dir=CKOTY>



# A Message from Your Convention Co-Chairs



by Dawn Satter and Mike Pasternack

Greetings again! We would be quite remiss if we did not first take a moment and give our heartfelt thanks to Allan Anderson, who will be stepping down shortly as editor of this publication. Allan, we and all the members of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club are indebted to you for your nine years of hard work. The Casino Chip and Token News would not be the fine publication it is today were it not for your dedicated work and professionalism, turning the club's "newsletter" into an award-winning magazine. We cannot thank you enough.

Now, on to convention-related matters. June is drawing closer and closer, and there has not been one day since our appointment as co-chairs that we have not been hard at work trying to get things ready for the upcoming convention. We are working on a ten-month period from last year to get everything in order—not even an entire year has passed since the '07 con.

We need to clarify something that has come up recently. We do not set the prices for admission, the banquets, the tournaments or the dealer fees. Our main function is to ensure that the convention is planned and everything is in order. We are also in charge of the dealer table assignments. There are different chairpersons who are in charge of other convention functions and we supervise them. Setup, pre-registration, registration, the banquet, etcetera are all run by different volunteers; we are lucky to have the people on board in charge of those chores, and we extend our gratitude to those individuals who have taken on (or remained in charge of) those tasks.

As a reminder, your chairs as well as the other chairpersons and their helpers are all unpaid volunteers. Without volunteers, the convention would not be a reality. Therefore, we again encourage anyone attending the convention to volunteer a couple of hours of their time doing some sort of volunteer work. It doesn't take much of your free time and is also a great way to meet and network with your fellow club members. Help your club by doing your part and becoming a volunteer.

We are still actively seeking more Sergeants-at Arms with police or military experience. We already have some, but need a few more. Also, we encourage all club members who have good quality digital cameras to feel free to take photographs at the convention. Just make sure that if you take some good ones, make it a point to find one of us at the show so we can take them to the business center at the Riviera to be burned onto a CD for possible publication in the magazine. Just keep in mind that not all the dealers are fond of having photos taken of their merchandise, so if in doubt, ask before you shoot. We are short on photographers, so everyone is welcome to take photographs in and around the convention. If published, you will be given photo credit in the magazine.

The auction is currently under reconstruction, as we have unfortunately lost Jay and Barry because of their other commitments. More details will follow as we get the auction details straightened out.

Most importantly, we want to make everyone aware that show security is of primary concern to us at the 2008 show. We want everyone to have a good time of course, but let us all keep in mind that we are in the age of heightened National Security and Homeland Security, so it follows that under our chairmanship, you can expect convention security to be at much higher levels as well.

What does this mean to you as an attendee? As most of you already are aware, you need to have valid ID to pick up your credentials. In the past, this was only required of pre-registrants, but daily walk-ins filled out their own forms and were then given stickers to wear. As a result, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Popeye were in attendance at the '07 show. This will not happen again, as now those working the registration booth will be filling out the forms rather than the attendees, and admission stickers will be issued only after an official form of photo identification is presented, similar to what occurs when people apply for players club cards at casinos. If someone does not want to present valid identification, there is probably a good reason for it, and they will be denied admittance to the show. Also, many people were observed at last year's show wearing stickers dating back as far as 2005! This is now a thing of the past. It is also a good idea to have your club membership card on you at all times. All dealers and pre-registrants' membership status must be current, and this will be verified with our club membership officer.

In addition to the membership badges, there will be a secondary form of admission (to be announced later on) that will be required to gain entry to the floor and trade sessions and also to prevent anyone from loaning badges to their friends. It has been brought to our attention that last year during dealer setup, an individual was observed wearing a borrowed dealer's badge doing a bit of pre-show shopping. When confronted, this individual made a joke of it, and the dealer(s) involved treated the Setup Chair and the Convention Chair in a rude manner. We know who the responsible parties are, and they will not be given a dealer's table at this year's show. Their checks will be returned to them.

Access to the show floor during dealer setup is strictly limited to authorized persons only, and anyone found to be in violation will have their badges revoked and will be removed from the show floor for the duration of this convention and may face further disciplinary action as the BOD sees fit. There is a zero tolerance policy in effect, and this sort of behavior will be dealt with appropriately. We ask that all members conduct themselves in an honorable manner while at the convention, which means having a certain level of respect for fellow members and dealers, and also remind all members that they are bound to abide by the club's code of ethics. As a result of many dealer complaints, we are also abolishing the all-day trade sessions on Wednesday. There will be other trade sessions at the show for those interested.

Remember, we want everyone to have a good time, but to act responsibly and respectfully. And while we cannot divulge all of our new security measures, please keep in mind that the "chipper" standing next to you browsing through the merchandise might very well be an Undercover Security Officer with full powers of arrest hired as event staff. We will keep everyone posted on further details in upcoming issues of the club magazine and also in posts on the club's message board.

At this late stage of the game we have a good handle on the way things are going to be, so no more surveys, suggestions or comments are needed. We thank everyone for all their input, but this is no longer necessary. Rather than quote Nietzsche or the Bard, we shall borrow a line from a prominent 20<sup>th</sup> century sage as our new working motto: "Attention all planets of the solar Federation...we have assumed control." (Neil Peart, 1975).

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2008 show!

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Satter and Mike Pasternack

## **CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK**

Terry Lazarus, R-2708...P.O.Box 57...Dallastown, Pa. 17313...1-888-CHIPS-97

E-mail: [Pachipper@aol.com](mailto:Pachipper@aol.com)

Web site: <http://cotob.net>

Red Dragon Casino \$1-\$5000 (7 Denoms)	\$79	Jim Kelley's Nugget 03 LE Set: \$1,\$5,\$25	\$39
Red Dragon Casino - Set of 7 Roulettes	\$29	Jennie V's Casino \$5 Excellent Condition	\$39
South Tahoe Ng't: 7 Colors Plain R'lettes	\$129	Frontier Hotel 50c H&C(CJ) "PAN"	\$39
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 S-Mold (Sinatra Era)	\$48	Eddie's Fab 50's -4 Diff Color Roulettes	\$29
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie N0346	\$111	Foxy's Firehouse - 4 Colors H&C NCV's	\$59
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$69	Golden Nugt Rare NCV's 6 Diff: 1-1000	\$199
Giudici's (Sparks) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49	Hard Rock Starter Set - 20 Diff New \$5	\$139
Sierra Tahoe Dealer's School \$25	\$22	Cactus Pete's 25c Brown H&C HS Gold	\$89
Silver Nugget NCV's: 1,5,25,100,500	\$49	Jim's Casino (Wendover) \$1 H&C(CJ)	\$119
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$48	Texas (LV) 4 Colors: 8-Suit NCV's	\$32
Town Tavern \$5 Purple Sm Crown 4-Yel	\$39	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$55
Diamond Jim's (Jackpot) \$1 Gray 3-Grn	\$60	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Stork Club (LV) - Choice \$5, 25 or \$100	\$199	Ore House (Reno) - Plain Mold \$1,2,5,10	\$49
Trop (AC) Poker Club: Maroon NCV	\$19	Gold Strike (Jean) NCV's: 5,25,100,500	\$38
Hard Rock "Who" at the Joint \$5 & \$25	\$59	Skyline - Diamond Mold \$1, \$5, \$25	\$85
People's Choice- Set of 3 - 805 W. Owens	\$149	Pink Pussycat 1,2,5 Error Set - No "\$"	\$49
Opera House Unicorns-5,25,100; No "\$"	\$45	Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange Sq-in-Circle	\$69
Bladensburg (Md.) Complete: 60 R'lettes	\$119	Curzon House Plaques 10,50,100 Pound	\$189
Nashville Nevada Club \$5 Brown, 4 Org.	\$39	Harrah's Reno Hot Aug \$5's -'93 to '07	\$169
Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Playboy (London) 60's - 5 Shil, 1 & 5 Pd	\$199
Opera House 9/11 Charity Set 3 NCV's	\$99	Bellagio:Ocean's 11 - \$1,\$5,\$25,\$50,\$100	\$89
Reno Hilton \$8 Yr of the Monkey (2004)	\$39	Mapes \$5 & \$25 - T Mold	\$25
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$39	Desert Sands (Cabazon, CA.) \$3 & \$5	\$19
Jailhouse - Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$45	Trop (LV) - Brooks Robinson - SIGNED	\$29
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Black Rectangle	\$59	Stockmen's (Elko) \$25 Pink; Metal Inlay	\$59
Reno Hilton \$5 Rainbow N4603 or N5168	\$39	Comstock (Reno) \$25 N2736 Obsolete	\$39
Hard Rock Set 7 Obs Multi-Color Rlettes	\$89	Sands 3 Chip Tourney Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$79
Nevada Club (Carlin) \$5 Green "N.A.W."	\$55	Trop (LV) 5 Match Play Gray/Pink Pie	\$39
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Harrah's Reno \$5 Octagon "Satisfaction"	\$35
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$59	Ponderosa Reno N.D. Red Plain V5305	\$89
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Yellow V4396	\$29	Opera House 71 Yrs \$1,5,25,100 (19 Sets)	\$249
Caesar's (South Shore) \$1 Gray N4975	\$22	Town House \$5 V9907 Brn SmKey None	\$69
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$49	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$69
Harrah's Tahoe Obs. NCV's 1,5,25,100	\$39	Claim Stake (Sparks) \$1, \$5, \$25 - All 3	\$48
Sowndowner/Virginian 1 ERROR NCV	\$49	The Gambler (Reno) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49
G. Autry's Htl Continental Red Roul Rm	\$22	Saddle West: 1st Issue H&C: 25c, \$1, \$5	\$49
Foxwoods \$10 - Frank Sinatra	\$38	Harrah's Tahoe \$5 - "Sailboat" 1990	\$29
John's Tahoe Ng't 100 NCV (Ewing Mold)	\$22	Horseshoe: WSOP Sat'ite NCV's 6 Diff.	\$35
State Line N.D. V9838 Chinese Warrior	\$89	The Shack (Lake Tahoe) \$5 Diamond	\$69
Ed's Tahoe Ng't NCV's:5,25,100,500,1000	\$49	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
Red Coach (Silver Springs) \$1, \$5, \$10	\$45	Harold's Gun Club (HGCC) 10c & 50c	\$85
The Nugget \$25 Home of More Jackpots	\$950	Cal Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold Blue HS	\$99
Mr. C's (Reno) \$5 H&C 4-Brn 4-Purple	\$119	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$49
Eddie's Fabulous 50's: 5, 25, 100 NCV's	\$79	Palms-Playboy Video Set 5 - 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv	\$55
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ)	\$49	Treas Is: #10 Roul; 5 Diff; Never Opened	\$29
Wendover Nugget Roulettes - 7 Diff "C"	\$22	Nugget (Reno) Green H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ng't	\$49	Nugget \$1 Maroon SmKey pic of Nugget	\$59
Casino de Capri (pre-Castro) \$1, \$5, \$25	\$39	Plantation \$25 1 <sup>st</sup> Issue Purple SmCrown	\$49
<b>P&amp;H: Up to \$100 = \$3</b>		<b>\$100 to \$299 = \$4</b>	<b>\$300 or more = No Charge</b>



# Convention Rooms at The Riv

Listed below are the room rates for the Riviera for the 2008 show. Everyone who is planning on attending the convention is encouraged to book the rooms by mentioning "The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club" group rate when they reserve. The telephone number to call for reservations is 1-800-634-6753 in the continental US, or locally at 702-794-9412.

We are aware that many members have comped rooms at the Riviera or elsewhere, but we ask the membership to support the club by booking at the group rate. After hours of negotiations, this is the best they can offer us this year. If we meet the required number of rooms, we may be able to secure a better rate for the coming year(s). If we do not, we may be forced to pay higher prices for rooms in the future and also may have to look elsewhere for a place to hold our convention. The Riviera has treated the club quite well over the past few years, but the room bookings are down considerably, and IT IS IMPERATIVE that our members book their rooms at the prevailing rates.

Dealers are also reminded that as per their contracts, they may be required to stay at the Riviera if necessary to fill the rooms.

Rates are as follows, per night, excluding tax:

Single/Double/Triple/Quad	\$89.00
Petite Suite	\$175.00
1 Bedroom Penthouse	\$550.00
2 Bedroom Penthouse	\$700.00
1 Bedroom Suite	\$300.00
2 Bedroom Suite	\$400.00

The Riv is currently undergoing a series of upgrades and renovations to its guest rooms, and we hope to be able to call it home for many years to come.

Hope to see you all at the show,  
Mike and Dawn

## California Large Crown Chips

**\$7.00 each • 10 different for \$50.00**

**Armin Pfaender**

**P.O. Box 2032, North Hills, CA 91393**

**818-200-3663**

# The American Gaming Archives

by Howard W. Herz

Gambling has existed in America since the founding of the nation. Not always tolerated and frequently persecuted, gamblers have had a tough time getting any respect. Today gaming (we used to call it gambling) is a billion dollar industry that brings in tax revenues that support a large number of states. Despite its growth in America, the gaming industry has never had an institution that archives its history and artifacts and preserves the full spectrum of its colorful past. Never, that is, until November of 2006.

In November of 2006 a collection, the American Gaming Archives (AGA), was established to preserve the manuscripts and artifacts of American Gaming. Initially residing at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, the AGA also will be expanded to the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas when they have moved to their new quarters. The focus of the archives will be gambling in America with consideration of several regions in the Caribbean that were developed by American gaming interests. The Archives will seek material that documents American gaming both legal and unlicensed. The Nevada Historical Society collects both manuscripts and artifacts making it the perfect place to house the Archives.

With the records and artifacts of gambling rapidly disappearing as the traditional gambling manufacturers closed, the need for a concerted effort to secure and preserve gaming history became urgent. In the last decade of the 20th century, the gaming industry went through several dramatic changes. The technology that had sufficed from the early 1900's to the late 1960's was rapidly becoming out dated as computers and other forms of electronic wizardry invaded the gaming industry. Traditional gaming manufacturers had to change or be left behind. By the 1990's, the shift from traditional gambling to computer driven gaming was remaking the industry. Those manufacturers who resisted change were forced to close.

The rapid spread of gaming to jurisdictions beyond Nevada accelerated the change in the industry.

A number of institutions in Nevada have acted to preserve the state's history and have some specific gambling collections. But gambling in America was far more than just Nevada. Legalized gambling represented only a small portion of American gambling, unlicensed gambling existed in almost every state.

In August of 2007 the CC&GTCC was asked to participate in the AGA and specifically requested to consider being the public face of the archives by establishing an informational website that would showcase the contents of the archives and serve as a clearinghouse for information on gaming history. By participating with the AGA, the CC&GTCC will fulfil their educational charter as a non-profit organization.

At the present time, the AGA is focusing on acquiring the records of gaming manufacturers. These records reflect the extent of gaming in America in the 20th century. Artifacts in the collecting now include samples of the manufacturing tools and documentation of the manufacturing methods of several mid-western companies that dominated American gaming. The AGA is compiling records on gaming operations that will include photographs, operational techniques, artifacts and business records.

The task of documenting the history of American gaming is an enormous consideration. The cooperation of the CC&GTCC will bring the contents of the archives to the attention of the membership and the public. As this Archive develops, an important part of American history will be preserved. Finally, after 75 years of legalized gambling, the gaming industry will have the respect it deserves.

# The Las Vegas Strip

## the early years - part 2

by Pam Goertler  
assisted by Brian Cashman

### Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn The fifth resort on the Strip

#### The Players Club

In 1945 Johnny and Mitzi Hughes opened a small, but elegant, club at 3145 Highway 91, in Las Vegas. The Club was called The Players; it was licensed for slots, blackjack and craps. Guests at The Players wore coats and ties, high heels and evening gowns. Wandering musicians provided entertainment in the Orchid Room. *Fuller's Index* shows that Wilbur Clark was the licensed owner of The Players Club as of March 1949, and that the club was closed in 1949.

#### Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn

According to the March 1, 1955 edition of the Las Vegas Review Journal: *"In 1945 when slender, dapper Wilbur Clark stood in the barren desert with a blue-print in his hand and visualized the completion of his dream, he did not know then that it would be five long years before the Desert Inn became a reality."*

Wilbur Clark had been involved in gambling, both legal and illegal, since the 1930's. He worked on gambling boats off the California Coast, then moved on to Saratoga, Reno (Bonanza Club) and Palm Springs. In San Diego, he bought a couple of small bars that had gambling in the back rooms. Like other gambling entrepreneurs of the era, he eventually ended up in Las Vegas.

Clark bought a majority of shares in the El Rancho Vegas in 1944. In 1945 he leased the downtown Northern Club from Mayme Stocker, renaming it the Monte Carlo. He remodeled the Monte Carlo, bringing to it an elegance that wasn't seen in other downtown casinos. The sale of these properties gave Clark the cash to buy out

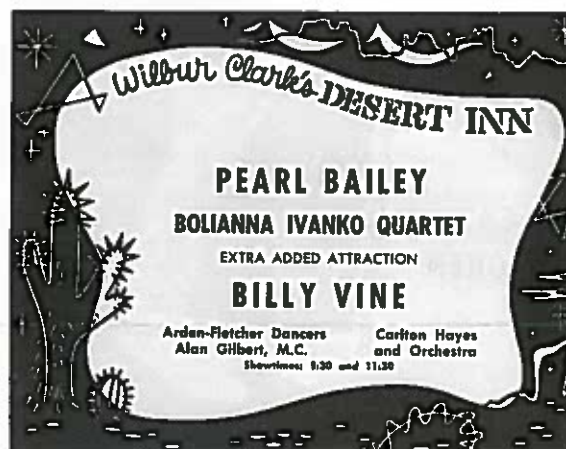


his partners in the Players Club. He demolished the building to make way for the Desert Inn.

Clark's dream was to build a luxurious, chic resort that would compete with The Flamingo. Construction began in 1947 and, unfortunately for Clark, he ran into the same problem that Billy Wilkerson ran into when The Flamingo was being built...he ran out of money long before construction was complete. The construction site was silent for nearly two years, while Clark tried to raise the funds needed to complete his dream.

#### Moe Dalitz

In 1949 Clark met Moe Dalitz. Dalitz was a former rumrunner from Cleveland, with connections to top figures in organized crime. As head of the Mayfield Road gang, Dalitz also was involved with illegal gambling. Using the profits from his illegal activities, Dalitz invested in legitimate businesses including Detroit Steel Corporation, Pioneer Linen Supply, Liberty Ice Cream Co., Buckeye Catering Co., and several others. Clark sold 74% of the Desert Inn to Dalitz and five of his Cleveland partners. With financing that was secured from







the Teamster's Union Central States Pension fund, the Desert Inn was completed in 1950.

Preferring to remain in the background, Dalitz and his Cleveland partners were happy to have Wilbur Clark as a prominent "front man" with his image and name on napkins, match books, menus, place mats, coin cups, chips, tokens and neon signs that boldly proclaimed "Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn".

### Grand Opening

Understanding the importance of publicity, the DI sent Grand Opening invitations to all major newspapers and magazines. They flew the media guests in, at a cost of \$5,700. Clark sent out 150 invitations to high rollers, with \$10,000 credit limits. Moe Dalitz and his partners supplied the names of more dignitaries and gamblers who were invited to the Grand Opening, which was held on April 24, and 25, 1950. About half of the guests on opening night were from Nevada and California, the rest flew in from all parts of the country.

Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and the Donn Arden Dancers were among the entertainers who played to

a full house on opening night, in the luxurious Painted Desert Showroom.

### Success

The DI casino, at 2400 square feet, was the largest in Nevada. It offered five craps tables, three roulette wheels, four blackjack tables, and seventy-five slot machines. It employed sixty people. Profits for the DI, in its first week, were \$750,000, including \$90,000 from the bar. During the casino's first year of business, the monthly gross income was \$250,000; net profits in the first year were just under \$2 million. I'm assuming that would be reported income—after any skimming in the count room.

Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn was a success. In spite of the name, however, Clark had very little influence in the day to day operations of the DI. Instead, he and his lovely wife Toni acted as goodwill ambassadors, not only for the DI, but also for Las Vegas. They were constantly visible around the hotel, greeting and chatting with the guests. Clark was often heard on popular radio programs, and was seen on television, always promoting his Desert Inn and Las Vegas. He and Toni dined with dignitaries and politicians, including Senator and Mrs. John F. Kennedy. They were presented to the Pope, in two private audiences, and they were guests at the White House.

### Golf

Moe Dalitz had his own vision for Las Vegas, one in which resort owners worked together to promote Las Vegas as a vacation destination. He tried to get other resort owners to join him in building an 18-hole golf course on the strip. He was rejected and ridiculed by the



other resort owners, who thought it was a foolish idea. In November of 1951, the DI began the project on its own. A few months later, 165 acres of land adjacent to the DI had been cultivated and contoured. Grass and trees were planted; lagoons, sand traps and greens were added, resulting in an attractive 7200-yard course.



In 1953, the DI held its first Annual Tournament of Champions Golf event, to raise money for the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund for Cancer Research. For 13 years this was an annual event on the pro golfer's tour. It was televised by NBC, giving

great publicity to the DI and Las Vegas.

Over the years presidents, including John F. Kennedy and Gerald R. Ford, have played the DI course. Robert Redford, John Elway, George Clooney and Bob Hope are some of the celebrities who have played the course. Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, Lee Trevino, Greg Norman and Nancy Lopez have all won tournaments held on the DI course. Not a bad claim to fame for an idea that was considered foolish those many years ago.

### Skyroom

Another unique feature of the Desert Inn was the Skyroom, billed as a sky-high cocktail lounge. The third-floor lounge was glassed in on 3 sides, and overlooked the figure-8 swimming pool. The room also overlooked the "Dancing Waters", fountains with water rising and falling in time with recorded music, under the glow of colored lights. In the center of the lounge was an oval bar, and there were tables grouped along the glass walls. Against one wall were a number of slot machines. The midnight blue ceiling was set with electric "stars" that twinkled at night.



In the 1950's, assured by the government that there was no danger to Las Vegas from the fallout, atom bombs were tested at Yucca Flats, approximately 75 miles from Las Vegas. Always looking for fun and publicity, casinos would host parties on the roofs so their guests could get a clear view of the mushroom clouds. The Skyroom was another venue from which many Las Vegas, as well as DI guests witnessed the

tests.



### The end of an era

In 1955 Wilbur Clark's health began to suffer. Some say it was caused by unhappiness at what his dream had turned into, or the fear of what questions might come up in an interview. Regardless, he began to remove himself from the public view. In 1956 he suffered a stroke, restricting his moves even more. In 1964 he sold his shares to Dalitz and his associates, and a year later he died from a heart attack.

In the hands of Moe Dalitz, and his general manager Allard Roen (AKA Rosen), the Desert Inn continued to prosper. However, without Clark as a front man, more unwelcome attention was focused on Dalitz and his associates. Las Vegas was beginning to get uncomfortable with the syndicate in control.

### Howard Hughes

Eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes often visited Las Vegas during the 1940's and 1950's. He enjoyed the glamour, and in the evenings would go from one resort to another, often with a lovely lady on his arm. He envisioned what the city could become; predicting that one-day the population would exceed 1 million. That man was far different from the recluse who arrived in Las Vegas on Thanksgiving Day in 1966, taking over the top two floors of the Desert Inn. The floors were reserved for 10 days only, for Hughes and his entourage. Hughes extended his stay. Dalitz was getting irritated; the suites that the Hughes party occupied were normally reserved for high rollers, customers who would lose tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in the casino. Hughes never left his suite, and his entourage didn't gamble. Further, the suites had long been promised to high rollers for the holidays. Hughes told Robert Maheu, his right-hand man, to "handle it".

Maheu contacted Teamsters Union President, Jimmy Hoffa, and called in a favor. Hoffa telephoned Dalitz, asking him to let "my friends" stay. That lasted into the new year, then Dalitz began pressuring Maheu again. Maheu finally told Hughes that the only way they could continue to stay at the DI was for Hughes to buy it. He did.



After buying the Desert Inn, Hughes bought the Sands, the Frontier, the Castaways, the Silver Slipper, and the Landmark. Hughes purchasing these casinos meant that the syndicate was on its way out. Hughes brought in his own men, though many of the top management stayed. The inexperience of the Hughes team meant that the skimming could, and did, continue for awhile.



Unbeknownst to the public, Hughes was apparently in the beginning stages of mental illness when he went on his casino-buying spree. He wouldn't leave the top floor of the Desert Inn, with its darkened windows, and it was seldom that he allowed anyone else in his suite. He had a phobia about germs, yet he lived surrounded by his own filth. In 1970, Hughes finally left the Desert Inn on a stretcher, and was taken to the Bahamas. He died on a plane enroute to Houston in 1976, at the age of 70. The cause of death was reportedly kidney failure, but he was malnourished and dehydrated, and pieces of hypodermic needles were found in his skeletally thin arms. What a sad ending for one of the wealthiest men in the world. His Summa Corporation continued to own the DI until 1987.

Before his death, Hughes had approved an expansion and remodel of the Desert Inn. On July 4, 1978, the DI had a grand re-opening. Over 300,000 tourists and Las Vegas residents watched the desert sky blaze with the largest fireworks display the town had seen.



Wayne Newton had signed the richest and longest-term entertainment contract in the history of Las Vegas. He welcomed the guests to the new Crystal Room, but then, after singing a few songs, he collapsed on stage.

Suffering from the flu, he was carried off the stage on a stretcher and he was hospitalized for two days. For those two days Joan Rivers, Robert Goulet, Nipsey Russell, Doc Severinsen and Dave Barry filled in.

## Vega\$

Even if you never visited the Desert Inn, you may be familiar with its casino and pool area. Many scenes from the 1978-1981 television series, *Vega\$*, were filmed there. Robert Urich played Private Investigator Dan Tanna. Tanna drove around Las Vegas in a 1957 T-bird, taking care of problems for Phillip Roth (Tony Curtis), the casino manager at the Desert Inn casino. Tourists were sometimes able to watch the scenes being filmed, and some were even selected to be 'extras' if a crowd scene was being shot. Long before he was my husband, my husband was at the DI when the show was being filmed. He was able to take a couple of pictures of Robert Urich by the swimming pool, and his daughter was picked to be an extra for the day! He says that she felt like a movie star! Unfortunately, when the episode was shown, they weren't able to pick her out of the crowd...but they knew she was there!



## More owners

In 1987 Summa Corporation sold the Desert Inn to Kirk Kerkorian and his Tracinda Corporation. The name was changed to the MGM Desert Inn.

In 1993 the Tracinda Corporation sold the DI to ITT-Sheraton for \$160 million. A \$200 million renovation and expansion was completed in 1997. The renovation actually reduced the number of rooms from 821 to 715, in order to offer more comfortable accommodations. The Augusta and St. Andrews towers as well as the casino and all public areas were renovated. The Palm Tower, Grand Lobby Atrium, Starlight Lounge and Villas Del Lago were all added, as well as a new Golf Shop and Country Club.

In 1998 Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide bought ITT, acquiring the DI as part of the package. Starwood immediately put the resort up for sale as it was losing money.



In May 1999, Sun International Hotels, Ltd. bought the DI for \$275 million. On March 2, 2000,



Sun International announced that it was pulling out of the agreement to buy the resort from Starwood. They agreed to pay up to \$15 million to Starwood if the resort didn't sell for the originally agreed upon \$275 million.

## DI turns 50

On April 24, 2000, the Desert Inn turned 50 years old and had a weeklong celebration. Festivities



began with a celebrity golf tournament on the championship course. Some of the celebrities were Susan Anton, Robert Urich, Vincent Van



Patten, Tony Curtis and Rip Taylor. A time capsule was buried on April 25, 2000, to be opened on April 25, 2050.

## Steve Wynn

On April 28, 2000, Steve Wynn bought the Desert Inn for \$270 million. Just four months later, at 2:00 a.m. on August 28, the Desert Inn closed her doors.

The Desert Inn was imploded, in stages, to be replaced by the upscale Wynn resort. The first implosion was the Augusta Tower, which went down on October 23, 2001.

The Palms and St. Andrews towers were imploded on November 16, 2004.

## WYNN

The Wynn resort opened on April 28, 2005, just 4 days after the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn, and exactly five years after Steve Wynn bought the DI.

At a cost of \$2.7 billion, the 50-story curved tower, covered in bronze glass, has 2,716 rooms. Of the rooms, 2,359 are standard rooms at 620 square feet; there are 270 parlor and salon suites, 45 executive suites, 36 fairway villas, and six 7,000 square foot private entry villas.

The 111,000 square feet of casino space offers 137 table games, 1,960 slot machines, a race and sports book, a keno lounge, a baccarat room and a poker room.

If a guest is hungry, there are 18 restaurants and bars, six of them overseen by renowned celebrity chefs.

The 76,000 square feet of retail space includes a Ferrari-Maserati dealership.

The Desert Inn golf course was retained, though completely redesigned by architect Tom Fazio. It was available to hotel guests only, and the cost per round of golf was \$500.

Currently Steve Wynn is building the second phase of his resort, and is calling it "Encore". I'm not sure if the golf course survived this expansion.

My husband and I went to Wynn. Once. It's beautiful, it's huge, and it's elegant. I miss the much smaller Desert Inn, where I once went around a carousel of slot machines and played every one of them just one time...just to see how many would pay off. Most of them did. J

## Where'd Moe go?

Moe Dalitz died in 1989. At the time of his death he was a prominent member of the community, known for his charitable and philanthropic contributions.

## The Sahara

The sixth resort on the Strip

## Club Bingo

—On July 24, 1947, the Club Bingo opened on the corner of Highway 91 and San Francisco Avenue, across the highway from the El Rancho Vegas. Milton Prell built the

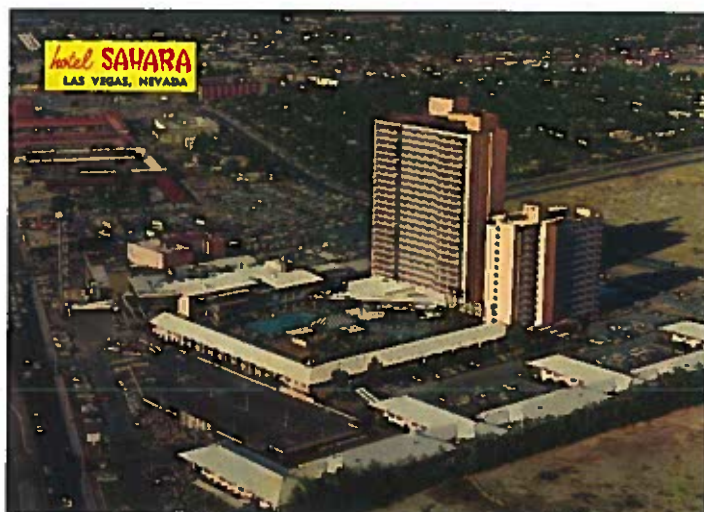
STARTS SUNDAY FEB. 24th	<b>"THE LARGEST CLUB IN NEVADA"</b>		STARTS SUNDAY FEB. 24th
<b>RED INGLE &amp; Co.</b>		<b>RED INGLE &amp; Co.</b>	
SKITS - LAUGHS MUSIC		SKITS - LAUGHS MUSIC	
OPEN 12 NOON 'TIL ? ? ?			
SHOWTIMES: 10:00 P. M. - 11:30 P. M. - 1:00 A. M. - 3:00 A. M.			
CONTINUOUS DANCING - 2 BANDS - TILL 5 A. M.			
<b>MIKE WERNER AND HIS ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>IT'S ALWAYS CLUB BINGO FOR FINE FOODS MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST 12 Midnight 'til 5 a. m. 49c to \$1.00</b>	<b>JACKIE COON AND HIS TRIO</b>	

club on land that was owned by Mel D. Close, Sr. The sign on the outside of the building featured a large neon bingo card, and the inside of the club featured a 300-seat bingo parlor. In addition, the club was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and roulette. On opening night Club Bingo raffled off a brand new Cadillac, the lucky winner was a gentleman who owned a hamburger stand.

In the evening, Las Vegans often ran into friends and neighbors while enjoying drinks served by the friendly bartenders at the club. In the morning, the club served the best 49-cent breakfast around. It wasn't long before Prell added the Bonanza Room, for entertainment and dancing. What Club Bingo didn't have was a hotel.

## The Sahara

—In 1952, Mel Close sold the land under Club Bingo to Milton Prell, Al Winter, and a group of investors from Portland, Oregon. Deciding that a hotel was needed, the group solicited backing from Texas financier A. Pollard Simon. Finding that their financing was still short, the group contacted contractor Del Webb, who agreed to build







the new hotel at, or near, cost in exchange for 20% interest.

On October 7, 1952, the Sahara opened. The theme of the property was African, with statues of camels in front of the hotel. The Congo Room was decorated with statues of Arabs; The Caravan Room restaurant and the Casbar Lounge overlooked the swimming pool. The lobby and casino were in the front of the main building, with restaurants in the rear overlooking the two-story room wings. The wings held 206 rooms, each with a balcony or patio. Prell dubbed his new creation "The Jewel in the Desert", perhaps in tribute to his previous occupation—he was a jeweler.



### Dining and Entertainment

The Congo Room was promoted as "*Breathtaking... Spectacular... Unique... artistically designed as the nation's most beautiful room*". Booths and tables were triple-tiered, and positioned to provide an unobstructed view of the elaborate stage from every seat. The Congo Room offered an international selection of menus, with each menu giving a wide variety of selections to satisfy the food whims of the most discriminating diner.

The Caravan Room was surrounded by large picture windows, which overlooked Las Vegas' largest swimming pool, and the Garden of Allah, with its lush vegetation.

The heated pool, holding over 200,000 gallons of water, was built to meet official Olympic specifications. The Caravan room was open, for delicious meals, from early morning until midnight.

The Casbar Lounge ("*we know it's spelled wrong*") was a cocktail lounge that served the finest liquors in an atmosphere of romance, soft lights, and delightful musical entertainment.

### That's Entertainment

The Riviera, in Fort Lee, New Jersey, was a swank club with illegal gambling upstairs. When World War II started, the club closed. Bill Miller bought it in 1945, renamed it "Bill Miller's Riviera", and reopened without gambling. After struggling for the first year, the club became successful. According to Miller, Sinatra played there, as did Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, Jerry Lewis, and Sammy Davis Jr. with the Will Mastin Trio. In 1953 Bill Miller's Riviera was closed, and a highway was built through the property.



Milton Prell called Bill Miller and invited him to join the Sahara group. Miller bought a 10% interest in the property and was named entertainment director. The first act that he booked at the Sahara was Ray Bolger, best







known as the scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. Bolger was popular as a dancer, but he didn't have a nightclub act. Miller put together a variety show, with Bolger acting as emcee and performing his dance routines between the other acts.

### Louis Prima and Keely Smith

In 1954 Miller received a call from Louis Prima, a gravel-voiced vocalist and trumpeter whose arrangements combined swing, Dixieland jazz, Italian folk songs and comedy. Louis' wife, Keely Smith, was pregnant, they had no job and no prospects, and they were broke. Could Miller use them and their small group? Miller said he could use them...in the lounge. When Louis hesitated, Miller assured him that they would make more money than they ever had before. Louis asked when they had to be there, "In six days" replied Miller.

While Keely packed, Louis contacted the members of their group. They left New York in a caravan of cars. Being pregnant, Keely got sick from time to time, and the

entire caravan would come to a stop 'til she recovered. They finally reached Las Vegas.

On November 24, 1954, Prima and Smith opened in the lounge at the Sahara. There were virtually no lights on the stage, just a tiny spotlight for the performer to stand under. The service bar for the waitresses was right in front of the stage. Waitresses yelling out drink orders in the middle of a number often interrupted the show. The song would stop, Prima would ask the waitress if she was done then, receiving an affirmative answer, the song would pick up right where it left off. After a few days of that, Prima told Milton Prell that it just wasn't going to work. The next day the service bar was moved to the far end of the bar, away from the stage.

In 1954 the lounge was wide open. A man gambling in the casino could look over and see his wife in the lounge, while she enjoyed a drink and listened to a few songs. Prima and Smith, however, didn't just play music; they put on a show. According to Bill Miller "...there was no one, ever, in the history of show business, that did the business that this man [Louis Prima] did from midnight until 6 in the morning. You could not get into that club."



Keely Smith says the crowds were so large that the room had to be enclosed. Drapes were put up to help muffle the sound, but the show was still louder than the pit bosses, dice tables and slot machines.



Eventually the lounge was enclosed with glass. They did five shows a night, from midnight to 6 a.m., eventually out-drawing the main showroom. Their engagement at the Sahara lasted for six years.

As of 1999, Keely Smith was still performing, and a portion of her show was dedicated to Louis Prima.

### Expansions

As the Sahara gained in popularity, it needed to add more rooms to accommodate all the guests.

The Bank of Las Vegas opened in 1954, and shortly after that banker E. Parry Thomas was assigned to work there. Parry had the vision to see what Las Vegas was becoming, and knew that he and the bank could be a part of the growth.



In 1955, Parry Thomas and the Bank of Las Vegas loaned the Sahara \$750,000 for additional rooms and improvements. That was the first time a bank loaned money to a casino. Prior to that, the casino owners had to rely on whatever cash they could come up with, either privately or by taking in partners who often had connections to organized crime.

In the mid-1950's, Las Vegas finally began building upward, and in 1959 the Sahara added a 14-story tower, with 200 rooms. The tower was constructed on the far side of the swimming pool, and was patterned with windows and balconies. There was a digital time and temperature board on top of the tower, capped with a stylized "S". The expansion also included a convention center and a 127-foot vertical roadside sign, by YESCO.

In 1961 Milton Prell sold the Sahara to Del Webb, who arranged a merger between his construction company and the Sahara-Nevada Corporation. The merger also included Prell's downtown Mint and Lucky Strike Clubs. Prell continued to operate the Sahara until 1964.



Del Webb continued an aggressive expansion plan, adding a 24-story skyscraper (at the time, the tallest in the state) with 400 rooms, which brought the Sahara to over 1000 rooms. Webb also added a 44,000 square foot convention facility and a parking lot with spaces for over 3000 cars.

Paul and Sue Lowden purchased the Sahara from Webb in 1982, and in 1988 added a 26-story tower, expanded the casino, and added a new race and sports book.



In 1995, Bill Bennett bought the Sahara from the Lowdens for \$193 million. Bennett immediately began a \$100 million renovation project, which included remodeling the Casbar Lounge and 1,720 hotel rooms. After Bennett passed away the Sahara was put up for sale, in 2007 it was sold to SBE Entertainment Group and Stockbridge Real Estate

Funds.

### The Telethon

While not as well known as the Desert Inn, and not as popular as the Sands, the Sahara still made its marks in the history of Las Vegas. Hundreds of top stars played there, especially every Labor Day from 1973 through 1981. That's the years that the Sahara played host to Jerry Lewis's annual Labor Day Telethon, to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. The telethon started in New York in 1954, as a 4-hour local event. Over the years it grew, and in 1973 it moved to Las Vegas, to the Sahara. Coincidentally (or not?) that's also the first year that the telethon raised over \$10 million. One of the more memorable moments in telethon history was in 1976, when frequent telethon guest Frank Sinatra escorted a grinning Dean Martin onto the stage as a surprise to Jerry Lewis. Memorable because it was the first time that the comedy team of Martin and Lewis were together again, after a much-publicized break up so many years before.



### NASCAR

In the spring of 2000, Sahara teamed up with NASCAR Café to bring the entertainment complex to Las Vegas. The 75,000 square-foot Café featured stock car racing entertainment and an All-American menu. The NASCAR theme included giant projection television screens, equipped with surround sound, that feature NASCAR racing, driver profiles and the latest NASCAR news.



The NASCAR Café also features “Speed”, the roller coaster, and a Cyber Speedway with 24 stock car racing simulators, a state-of-the-art arcade and various race memorabilia.

## Movies

The 1951 movie *Painting the Clouds with Sunshine* featured the interior of the Club Bingo.

Much of the 1960 *Ocean’s 11* movie was filmed at The Sahara, in addition to the Riviera, Desert Inn, Sands and Flamingo.

The 1986 movie *Stripper* had scenes filmed at The Sahara and Imperial Palace.

The 1956 movie *Meet me in Las Vegas* had scenes from The Sahara.

## The Sands

### The seventh resort on the Strip

### La Rue Restaurant and Casino

Remember Billy Wilkerson? You know, the man who really started building The Flamingo—even though Ben “don’t call me Bugsy” Siegel usually gets all the credit. In part one of this article, the segment on The Flamingo, the last thing I said about Billy was “*Billy would retain one-third ownership and operational control.*” That was the plan, but that’s not exactly what happened...

Billy might have been muscled out of the Flamingo, or he might have been bought out, or maybe he just got tired of dealing with Ben Siegel’s idiosyncrasies and temper tantrums.

Whatever happened, Billy was out of the Flamingo, but he still wanted a club in Las Vegas. In December of 1950, Billy Wilkerson opened LaRue Restaurant and Casino, possibly with Jack LaRue and/or Nola Hahn as partners. LaRue was on Highway 91, between the Desert Inn and the Flamingo; it was licensed for slots, blackjack, craps and roulette.

Along comes Max Kufferman, who wants to build a resort on the Las Vegas Strip. He buys LaRue from Billy Wilkerson, but he can’t get a license from the Nevada Gaming Board. He allegedly sells LaRue to Jake Freedman (sometimes spelled Friedman) and his partners

Jack Entratter, Carl Cohen, and Ed Levinson.

## The Sands

—In 1952, Freedman and his partners brought in architect Wayne McAllister to design the new resort. Rather than building from the ground up, McAllister’s design remodeled and added on to LaRue. In August, Freedman went before the gaming board and applied for his casino license. Initially he was denied a license, because of his association with Max Kufferman, but eventually was able to convince the board that he wasn’t a front for Kufferman. Freedman had intended the property to open in late October or early November, but the licensing problems delayed the opening.

Finally the license was issued, the 200 luxurious rooms were ready, and the invitations went out. The world premiere of the Sands would be Monday, December 15, 1952. In the fabulous Copa room would be Danny Thomas, Connie Russell, Lou Wills, Jr., Ray Sinatra and his orchestra, and of course, “the Most Beautiful Girls in the West”. Present at the Grand Opening were 146 newspapermen



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Ernie Ross Trio  
Tommy Doyle

**The Sands**  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



and special guests including Esther Williams, Fernando Lamas, Arlene Dahl and Terry Moore. Each was presented with a chamois bag that was filled with newly minted silver dollars.

Similar to what happened on opening night at the Flamingo, in her first 8 hours the Sands lost over \$200,000. Unlike the Flamingo, within the next 16 hours or so, the Sands won it all back.

The guestrooms were in five two-story motel-type buildings; each named after a racetrack for thoroughbreds. The buildings were arranged in a semicircle around the swimming pool. In one corner of the large rectangular main building was the reception desk, slot machines were arranged on one long wall, a bar and cocktail lounge were on the opposite wall. Three stairs led down to the casino.

### Entertainment

Jack Entratter and Carl Cohen came to Las Vegas from New York, where both were associated with the world famous Copacabana Night Club. Entratter was named entertainment director of The Sands, and there was no one better for the position than he. He'd worked with all of the top stars of the day, and he brought all of them to the Copa Room, including Lena Horne, Danny Thomas, Judy Collins, Tallulah Bankhead, Rosemary Clooney, Peter Lind Hayes & Mary Healy, Bobby Darin, Jerry Lewis, and Vic Damone.

### The Rat Pack

Thanks in large part to Entratter's celebrity line up, the Sands was established as the 'IN' place to go in Las Vegas. Out of the hundreds of stars featured at the Sands, there were five that were famous individually, but together they were legendary, described by Paul Anka as "the greatest, cool, hippest entertainers around..." The Rat Pack.



**Frank Sinatra** was the Leader of the Pack. In addition to his incredible singing voice, he won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for the film *From Here to Eternity*. He would gamble, chase women and drink until dawn, and do it all with boyish charm and sophistication. Frank's first appearance at the Sands was October 7, 1953.

**Dean Martin** was dark and handsome, a ladies man. He could croon a tune, or toss back a martini with equal style. He'd been one-half of the Martin & Lewis comedy team, but they split up in 1957 and Dean began working in the nightclubs as a solo act. Dean was headlining at the Sands in January 1959, when Frank joined him on the stage for the first time. A reviewer reported that the pair put on one of the best shows ever seen at the Sands.

**Sammy Davis, Jr.** was the sensational young performer from the Will Mastin Trio,

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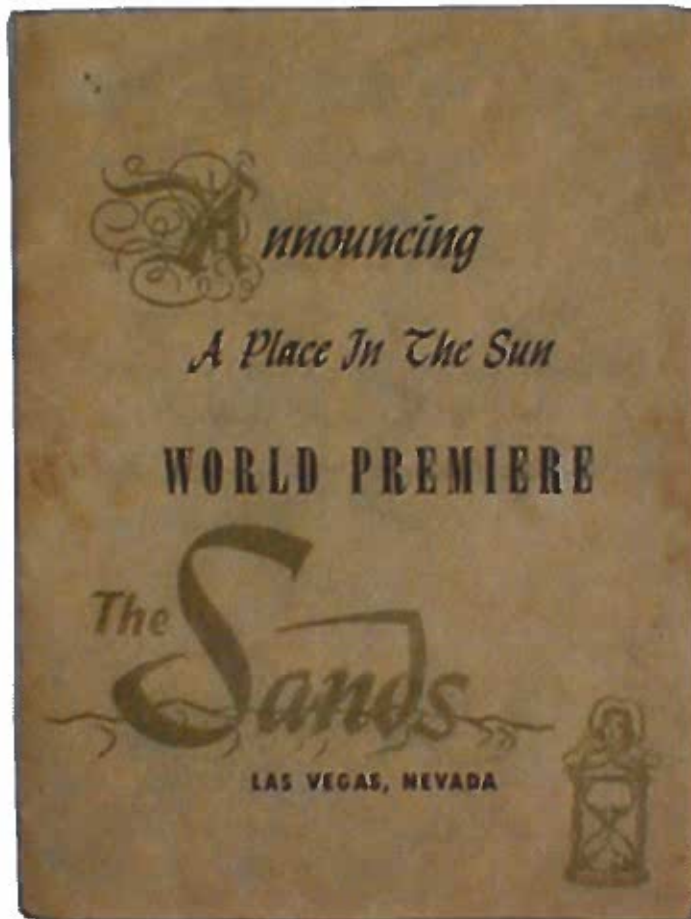
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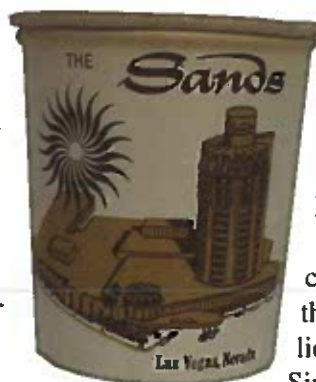


which had included his father and his uncle. He was an awesome singer and dancer, perhaps the best all-around entertainer of the group.

**Joey Bishop** was the straight-man, and the best comic of the group. He'd been working as an opening act, and when he joined The Rat Pack as a warm-up he wrote many of the "improvised" routines that were performed on stage.

**Peter Lawford** was an actor and entertainer, but he was also John F. Kennedy's brother-in-law and Sinatra wanted to be part of Kennedy's inner circle. Sinatra's nickname for Peter was "Brother-in-Lawford".

In the non-politically correct 1950's and 1960's, there was no subject that the group wouldn't joke about...race, religion, politics, and of course drinking. Part of the nightly routine included rolling a bar cart onto the stage, and making regular trips to it for a refill. One of their most widely reported comic bits has Dean (after Joey Bishop whispered the idea in his ear) picking up Sammy Davis Jr., and carrying him to then-Senator John F. Kennedy, who was in the audience. Dean drops Sammy into



the Senator's lap, announcing "Here you are, Mr. Senator, the NAACP sent this award over for you." The audience burst into gales of laughter.

The original *Ocean's 11* movie was produced in 1960. The movie starred all of the members of the Rat Pack; in fact the movie was produced by Sinatra's own Dorchester Productions, as a way for the group to work together. The filming took place in Las Vegas from January 26 through February 16, 1960, and the Rat Pack used The Sands as their playground. They did two shows a night in the Copa Room then headed for the lounge where they often ended up on stage again. After a few hours of sleep, it was back to the movie set for whoever had early scenes scheduled. Around 5:00 p.m., they'd all meet in the steam room.

Those few weeks in the 1960's were pure magic. With all the publicity that ensued, those weeks defined the image of Las Vegas in the minds of the nation. During February, the hotel received 18,000 reservation requests for its two hundred hotel rooms.

A&E did a marvelous set of four VCR tapes on the history of Las Vegas. Not only are there great old shots of the Strip, in its early days, there are also clips of The Rat Pack doing their show at the Sands. Get the tapes, you won't be disappointed.



These days the Las Vegas Strip itself is the attraction. The casino architecture is 'over the top', the casinos are huge, the shopping is incredible. There are stars in town, but if they're not hiding from public view, they can still be lost just because of the size of the town. In the 1950's and 1960's The Strip was a two lane road, the casinos were smaller and more personal, and you just might run into your favorite star out in the casino. While Jack Entratter discouraged the Copa Room stars from playing in the casino ("If they lose, they might hate me and say no the next time I want to book them"), he encouraged them to hang around the casino and even deal a few hands. Of course, when they dealt everybody won, so the customers loved it.

### Money

The Sands management understood the concept of spending money to make money. In the first six months, Jack Entratter spent \$1 million on entertainment. In the early years, Frank Sinatra alone was paid \$15,000 a week. But

when Frank was in town, there was money to be had. Frank knew all the big money people, and many Hollywood Celebrities would fly in to see him perform. The Copa Girls were the highest paid showgirls in town, described as lucious dolls in sumptuous costumes, everyone wanted to see them and to be seen with them.

Guests at the New Year's Eve party in 1954 were supposed to pay \$25 each. Instead, they were all comped, which cost the Sands approximately \$100,000. I don't know when the tradition started, but for years, on New Year's Eve, The Sands gave their guests velvet bags filled with silver dollars. We bought one that was from New Year's Eve 1965, and we once saw a framed display of about 25 of the bags in an array of colors, all from different years.

Another item that the Sands gave out in an array of colors was their logo coffee mugs. There were free coupons available all over the place, and if you didn't happen to



have a coupon, an out of state driver's license would work. We didn't spend a lot of time at the Sands, but we did visit it on almost every trip to Las Vegas. Hey...we had to get our free coffee mugs! Plus, I always liked to kick off my sandals and wiggle my toes in the lush

green lawn (probably more than you needed to know...sorry!)

### Frank leaves the Sands

Frank Sinatra was a star. As I said before, when he was in town there was money to be had. He knew it, the casinos knew it, and he knew that the casinos knew it. Consequently, when he made a request, regardless of what it was, the standard answer was "Of course, Mr. Sinatra. And is there anything else I can do for you...?"

Thus, on September 11, 1967, Mr. Sinatra was not a happy man when his request for credit was denied. Various sources don't agree on the amount of credit that was requested, or who made the decision to deny Mr. Sinatra's request. They do agree, however, that an unhappy Frank went in search of Carl Cohen, Vice President of the Sands. Frank (approximately 155 pounds) found Carl (close to 300 pounds) seated in the coffee shop. There was a lot of yelling and swearing, then Frank picked up a chair and threw it at Carl. Carl takes that kind of abuse

from *no one*, regardless of their star status. Carl took a swing at Frank, and knocked him to the ground, also knocking the caps off of his two front teeth. Frank's bodyguard (!) Jilly Rizzo helped him up and back to his suite. They packed up, then headed for McCarren Airport and a flight back to Frank's home in Bel Air. The casino found Alan King to replace Frank for the two shows he was scheduled to do that night.

Jack Entratter was right, the Copa Room stars shouldn't gamble at the Sands.

### Changes

In late 1965 there was a groundbreaking for the distinctive 17 story cylindrical tower, which would add 777 rooms. Most of The Strip was still low-rise, so the new tower would stand out as a landmark, like the Stratosphere tower does today.

On July 22, 1967, Howard Hughes (Summa Corporation) bought The Sands for \$14.6 million. In 1981, financial advisors advised Summa to sell the property. The Inns of the Americas (later known as Pratt Corporation) bought the property, enlarged the casino, and remodeled the porte cochere. Pratt Corporation ran into severe financial problems, and Summa repossessed the property.

In 1988 Kirk Kerkorian bought The Sands, and renamed it the MGM Sands. Just a few months later he sold it to the Interface Group for \$110 million. That sale was finalized in April of 1989.

### The End

Fifty-five years after the first hotel was built on the Strip, the one thing that was constant was change. Virtually all of the resorts, as they aged, lost business to the newer and larger resorts that continued to be built. The Sands was no exception...she was in a decline. No matter who owned her, no matter what improvements were made, she just couldn't keep up with the newer, larger properties. In 1996, the decision was made to close the doors. Once the announcement was made, the reservations phone lines couldn't keep up. There were thousands of people who wanted to stay there one last time, to remember the good times they'd had, to reminisce with others who were also there for one last time.





Shortly after 6:00 p.m., on June 30, 1996, after Bob Stupak rolled the dice one last time, the Sands turned off her lights, and closed her doors...but not quite forever. The Sands got one last chance to be seen, in all her glory, near the end of the film *Con-Air*. Her lights were turned back on and she was painted and polished. Slot machines were brought in and set up. Her brief revival comes to an end when a plane crashes into her. Filming finished, the actors leave. The crew packs up and leaves. There's no more action at the Sands.

At 2:00 a.m. on November 26, 1996, the Sands was imploded.

### The Venetian

On May 3, 1999, the \$1.5 billion dollar mega-resort, the Venetian opened for business on the former site of the Sands. The 35 story Venetian opened with 3,036 rooms on 1.7 million square feet of property.

The Venetian was the Strip's first all-suites hotel. The spacious 700 square-foot suites feature plush private bed-chambers, an oversized 130 square-foot bathroom finished in Italian marble, and a sunken living room area.

What the Venetian doesn't have is legends-no Copa Girls, no Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin. Shoot, they don't even have free coffee mugs...do they?

### The Royal Nevada

#### The eighth resort on the Strip

**"Royal Nevada Group Say Three 'Undesirables' Out of Hotel!"** exclaimed the article on the front page of the Las Vegas Review-Journal on March 1, 1955. The article went on to explain that Florida attorney Herman Kohen, a partner in the lavish Royal Nevada Hotel, told the tax commission that financier Frank Fishman, and gamblers Herbert Manheim and Sam Miller "are out unequivocally, without reservation and permanently."

In February, the tax commission had labeled the three as "undesirable" as Nevada gambling license holders; the Royal Nevada would not receive a license unless the three were bought out.

Kohen then explained to the commission that Manheim and Miller had been bought out completely. Fishman, however, wanted another \$200,000 from the remaining partners. As the leaseholder, he was holding notes in that amount. The notes however, were intended to be paid back after 10 years. Kohen told the commission that if



forced to pay that debenture to Fishman, he would be getting \$290,000 out of the venture...but had only put in \$90,000. Besides, the remaining partners didn't have the money.

### The Opening

Apparently the problems were taken care of, and on the evening of April 18, 1955, the Royal Nevada hosted a pre-opening party for soldiers from the Nevada atomic testing grounds with a special dinner. On April 19, 1955, the Royal Nevada formally opened for business, with 250 rooms. The soldiers were in evidence again, this time assisting in one of the opening ceremonies...a showgirl dropped the key to the Hotel's door down the barrel of a cannon, and the soldiers set the cannon off, shooting the key into the desert sky. The headline entertainer on opening night was opera star "Queen of the Met" Helen Traubel, singing in the hotel's beautiful Crown Room.

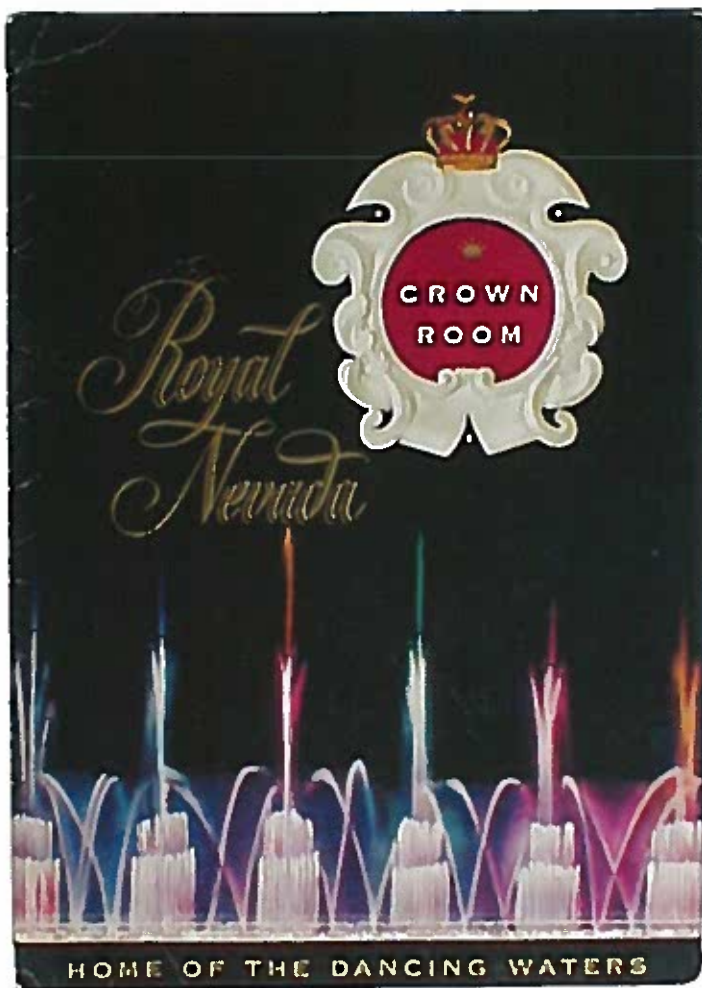
The Hotel itself had a central structure, which was topped by a large neon trimmed crown. A gracefully curved low-rise wing flared out from each side of the structure. On the front of the structure was a fountain-like sculpture, formed from curved neon tubing. Inside the

Hotel were a "Dancing Waters" fountain show, The Luau Room, the Cabaret Lounge and the Palm Room. Bud Harris opened the Strip's largest gift shop in the resort, it featured imported, domestic and western items. We have a decorative Staffordshire plate that pictures a group of people around a roulette wheel. The caption on the plate reads "Playing Roulette, Las Vegas, Nevada". There's a sticker on the back from the Royal Nevada Gift Shop.



### Entertainment

One of the featured lounge acts was the Dukes of Dixieland—which included Liberace's brothers Frank and



Fred. The showroom featured a shortened version of the Broadway smash *Guys and Dolls*, which reunited its original Broadway stars; Robert Alda (father of television star Alan Alda), Vivian Blaine and Sam Levene.

### Problems

After being open for only eight months, more problems arose at the Royal Nevada. On January 1, 1956, the resort closed its doors after the culinary union tried to collect \$25,000 in back wages that it said were owed.

Bill Miller had been the publicist at the Sahara Hotel, but was also an investor in the Royal Nevada. When the Royal Nevada closed, he left the Sahara. In March of 1956, the resort reopened as Bill Miller's Royal Nevada, with T.W. "Rich" Richardson as president, W.A. Simonds and Bucky Harris as managers. The resort's new motto was "A wonderful where in Las Vegas."

I'm not sure, but the resort might have closed again in 1956, or maybe it just underwent a renovation. I found an article indicating that on February 3, 1957, the bistro and



casino were newly opened. In 1957, for the first time, "all you can eat prime rib" was introduced to a strip's Chuckwagon buffet, at the Royal Nevada, and the cost was \$1.50.

The resort continued to struggle, and in March of 1958 the Royal Nevada closed for good. Some say it was a result of a weak economy, combined with the building boom on the Strip (The Riviera opened 2 days after the Royal Nevada, The Dunes opened in May, and the popular Moulin Rouge opened on the West Side in June). There have also been rumors that the gamblers broke the bank. Whatever the reason, the Royal Nevada had made its last comeback.

### "Stardust South"

In 1959, the crown came down from the building and the Stardust took over the property. The casino and most of the showroom became the Stardust's convention center. The motel wing became the pool wing for the Stardust. The wing was usually used for high rollers and showgirls. The pool was more secluded than the Stardust's Big Dipper pool, so it was the pool of choice for the showgirls who liked to swim in the nude to avoid tan lines.

On June 1, 2006, the Royal Nevada wing of the Stardust closed for good, and now it's gone. Eventually the ground that it stood on will be under a tiny portion of the gi-normous *Echelon Place* project that is currently under construction.

### The Riviera

#### The ninth resort on the Strip

Back in Chicago, in 1931, David, Meyer and Lou Gensburg started a small business, manufacturing pinball





and other amusement games. As their business, Genco, Inc., grew, their father told them to use whatever money was available and buy real estate. They bought hundreds of parcels of land in northwest Chicago, including many corner lots with stores and apartments on them. Post-depression, the property was cheap, but the values were rapidly rising.

In 1952, the Strip was approximately 3 miles long. The Sahara and El Rancho Vegas were at the northern end, the Flamingo was at the southern end; the Thunderbird, the Sands, the Last Frontier, and the Desert Inn were scattered between them. Between the resorts there were restaurants, gas stations, and other small businesses...and lots of empty desert land. So, when the Gensburg brothers decided that they wanted to build a big casino in Las Vegas, there were plenty of empty parcels for them to choose from. The property they decided on was between the Thunderbird and the Desert Inn. The new resort was to be called the Casa Blanca.

### Licensing

Charles "Charley the Blade" Tourine (AKA Charles White), and William Bishoff (AKA Lefty Clark, of the Detroit Syndicate) were named on the original license application, along with the Gensburg brothers. Bishoff had been associated with Meyer Lansky, running casinos in Havana. Tourine had also been a casino manager in Havana. Shortly before the Nevada Tax Commission meeting, where the gambling license would be granted (or not), realizing that he wasn't likely to be approved, Tourine removed his name from the application. The tax commission refused to license Bishoff, so the project was delayed.



In September of 1953 a new application was submitted to the commission. The proposed resort name was changed to The Riviera; among others, the list of applicants included the three Gensburg brothers, and Harpo (Arthur) and Gummo (Milton) Marx, of the Marx Brothers comedy group. This time the application was approved and construction of the Riviera began in 1954.



### The Opening

Before the Riviera, the Desert Inn's Skyroom was the tallest building on the Strip, at three stories. Some designers believed that the sandy desert floor wouldn't support a high-rise building. The Riviera, designed by Miami based architect Roy France and Son, topped out at nine stories. Luckily for the guests staying



in the 291 rooms, the Riviera boasted the first elevators on the Strip. The casino had 18 table games, and 116 slot machines.

At 10,000 square feet, the Clover Room Theater was the largest showroom on the Strip. The room could seat 523 people for the dinner show, and 700 people for the second show.

The Grand Opening, the most lavish that Las Vegas had seen to date, was on April 21, 1955. Joan Crawford was the official hostess; being paid \$10,000 plus her room and meals, for four days of greeting the Riviera's guests. The headliner in the Clover Room was Liberace...at a previously unheard of salary of \$50,000 a week! (For comparison, remember that this was around the time that the

Sands was paying Frank Sinatra \$15,000 a week! Just a few years earlier, Liberace played at the Last Frontier for \$750 a week!) "He was the hottest name in show business, at the time" mused Tony Zoppi, the Riviera's vice president in charge of entertainment and publicity. What did Liberace have to say about opening night at the Riv? "It was one of the great nights in my career. When the curtain went up, the ovation was tremendous. So was my bank account from that day forward." There was also a 32-piece orchestra, conducted by George Liberace.



### Bankrupt

Like the Royal Nevada, the Riviera ran into problems right from the start. This nationwide period of recession in 1955 was the only time in postwar history that the availability of hotel rooms greatly exceeded the number of visitors. Also, with Tourine and Bishoff out of the picture, no one in the group of investors had any experience running a casino...hotels, yes, but not a large casino.



no. In July of 1955, the Riviera declared bankruptcy. Gensbro Hotel Corporation, the property owners, stepped in and immediately started looking for new operators. They turned to Tony Accardo, who was high up in the Chicago Mob, for help. Tony knew just who to contact.

### Gus Greenbaum

Back in 1947, just a couple of hours after Bugsy Siegel was killed, three men walked into the Flamingo and announced "We're the new bosses." The three men were Gus Greenbaum, Moe Sedway and Morrie Rosen. Greenbaum was in charge of the Flamingo for the next eight years, and he ran the place at a profit...there was plenty for The Boys to skim, and still show a large enough profit to keep the taxmen happy. A win-win situation. Everybody was happy except for Mrs. Greenbaum. Gus was caught up in the Vegas life style; he drank too much, gambled too heavy, ate too much, and chased too many women. His health was suffering. In March of 1955 Gus approached his Boss Tony Accardo—he wanted to retire. Tony said O.K., so Gus and Bess Greenbaum moved back to Scottsdale, Arizona.

In July, Tony called Gus and set up a meeting. At the meeting, Tony told Gus that they really needed him to return to Vegas and run the Riviera. Gus protested that his health was shot and a return to Vegas and that lifestyle would kill him. Tony commented that one could die in a number of ways. A few days later Gus received a panicked phone call from his brother Charlie. Charlie's wife, Lenore, had answered the phone a few minutes earlier—a man told her that if she knew what was good for her, she and her husband had better convince Gus to move back to Vegas! Gus assured Lenore that it was a bluff, nothing would come of it, and he had no intention of moving back to Las Vegas. A few days later Charlie came home and found his wife dead. Cause of death—suffocation. A human hand had smothered her. Gus and Bess packed up and moved back to Vegas.



Within a short time Gus had put together a group of investors, many of whom had been with him at the Flamingo, to bail out the Riviera. The group included Ben Goffstein (who would later open the Four Queens, downtown), "Icepick" Willie Alderman, Joe Rosenberg, Charles Harrison, Ross Miller (a Chicago bookie, whose son would eventually be Governor of Nevada), Dave Berman, Elias Atol, and several others.

On July 28, 1955 Gus Greenbaum and his group of investors applied to the Nevada Gaming Commission for licensing. Gus informed the Commission that his group would lease the Riviera for \$1,250,000 a year, and that they had already loaned the Riviera \$500,000 as a short-term solution to her financial problems.

In September it was announced that the Commission had reviewed the situation and the applicants. The Commission noted that several of the applicants had police records, most going back to the 1920's and 1930's. Because the Riviera was in dire financial circumstances, and because the country was in a recession, and Las Vegas





needed the jobs that the Riv provided, and because the applicants had clean police records in Nevada, the Commission approved 8 of the 14 applicants. Approval of the others would be deferred until there could be further investigation, and Gus had to agree to replace any of the applicants that the Commission deemed undesirable.

Greenbaum did what he had to do to turn the Riviera around. He still had the names and addresses of the Flamingo's high rollers, and his secretaries contacted all of them inviting them to enjoy the hospitality of the Riviera. A few dealers had been getting away with their own little skimming operation, at the tables...those dealers learned the hard way that it was impossible to deal when you had a broken hand. Finances at the Riviera were back on track, the mob was making money, and everybody was happy again. Sort of.

Before long, Gus was back to heavy losses at the craps tables. He was drinking too much, and no beautiful woman was safe from his attention, whether she was a showgirl, a secretary or a prostitute. Gus wasn't making good decisions, and his Bosses noticed. They sent people to talk to Gus a couple of times, but nothing changed. After Gus gambled away all of his millions, he began pilfering. His bosses had enough—they wanted Gus out. They suggested it was time for Gus to go back into retirement, in Arizona. Gus said no; he was enjoying Las Vegas.

In 1958 Gus and Bess went home to Scottsdale for a few days over the Thanksgiving weekend. On December 3, 1958 their housekeeper found Gus and Bess dead, both were decapitated. The police report said that they had been murdered, but there was nothing to indicate that the murders were connected to the mob. Did I mention that "enforcer" Marshall Ciafano, and Tony Accardo happened to be visiting their friend Pete "Horse Face" Licavoli over the holiday? Did I further mention that Licavoli lived about 30 minutes away from the Greenbaum home? Probably just a coincidence.

On December 5, 1958, gambling at the Riviera was closed down from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., while services for the Greenbaums were held in Phoenix and Las Vegas. In spite of a \$35,000 reward that was put up for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murder or murderers, the case was never solved.

On December 9, 1958, Ben Goffstein was named president of the Riviera.





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### The 1960's

Goffstein had worked with Gus Greenbaum for a lot of years, and he knew how to run a casino. In spite of that, in mid-1960 Goffstein approached the Gaming Control Board and informed them that the Riviera was very close to closing her doors, due to a shortage of cash on hand. Goffstein explained that while assets were well over \$2 million, there was only about \$155,000 cash on hand due to buying Greenbaum's shares from the estate, some of the other partners requesting money for their investments, and poor entertainment that hadn't drawn the anticipated number of gamblers to the Riv. Within the next two weeks, the Riviera needed to be able to pay close to \$500,000 for obligations such as payroll, rent and entertainment expenses.

Goffstein said that there were seven men who were ready to pay the

Riviera \$760,000 cash for 38.4% of the Riviera, which would keep it afloat. Goffstein expected that the Board would approve the seven investors, as all were involved with the Desert Inn and Stardust. The seven were Wilbur Clark, Allard Roen, Moe Dalitz, Sam Tucker, Morris Kleinman, Ruby Kolod and Bernard Rothdopf. Gaming refused to make an immediate decision, fearing that issuing multiple licenses to individuals would give too much power to too few people.

Meanwhile, the First National Bank of Nevada stepped in. Though the Riv had maxed out her credit, the bank offered another \$250,000 loan, which would be guaranteed by the Desert Inn and Stardust groups. A \$100,000 loan payment that was due would be extended for 60 days while Gaming processed the seven new applications. Ultimately, the applications were denied. It was tough but the Riviera survived the crisis thanks, in large part, to the popular comedian Shecky Greene performing in the Starlight Theatre.

In February of 1963, Ben Goffstein resigned as president.

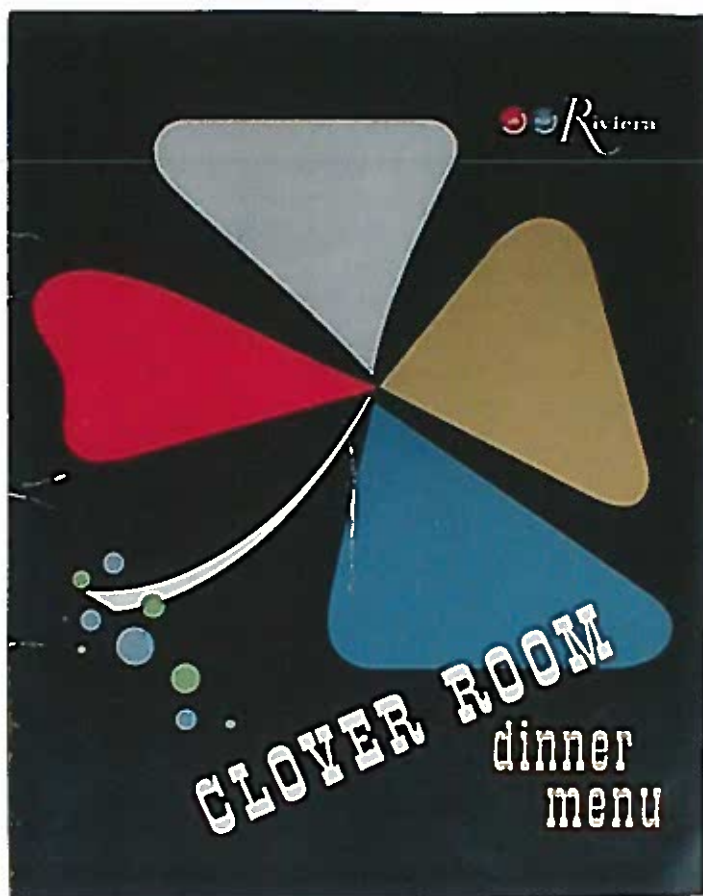
In 1965, Hotel Riviera, Inc. bought out the Gensburg brothers, becoming the sole owner of the resort.

In 1967 a wing was added, with 200 guestrooms, a penthouse, a 9000 square foot lobby and 10,000 square feet of meeting and office space.

Shecky Greene was playing in the lounge, and it was packed every night. Celebrities could often be found in the audience, catching Shecky's show in between doing their own shows. Just before the last show of a two-week engagement, Shecky was told that the lounge would be converted into a keno parlor the next day. When it was time for the show to start, Shecky stepped onto the stage holding an axe. He proceeded to chop the stage into bits, and presented the pieces to his fans as souvenirs. The next day, unaware of what had happened at the show, Executive Director Ed Torres called Shecky with the good news "We've decided to keep the lounge open for another month!"



In 1968 the Riv completed an expansion project,



with a 12-story hotel tower and convention facilities. That same year "Rat Pack" member Dean Martin received shares in the Riviera, in exchange for performing in the showroom. Dino's Den Restaurant was named for him.

### The 1970's

In 1973, the Riviera was sold again. The buyer was Meshulam Riklis, a New York multi-millionaire who paid \$56 million for the resort. In 1975 he added the 17-story Monte Carlo tower with 300 rooms, 60 suites and an elaborate penthouse, at a cost of \$20 million. This brought the total number of guestrooms to 1,000. In 1977 the San Remo Tower was built, adding 200 more rooms and the elegant Ristorante Italiano, a gourmet Italian Restaurant.

In 1973, Dean Martin was released from his contract and the Riviera bought back the shares he held. The reason given was that Kirk Kerkorian offered Dean a deal that he couldn't refuse, to perform at the new MGM Grand which would be opening soon. There were rumors that Dean had been trying to get his contract with the Riviera rewritten, so that he only had to perform one show a night. A standard LV strip contract required two shows a night.





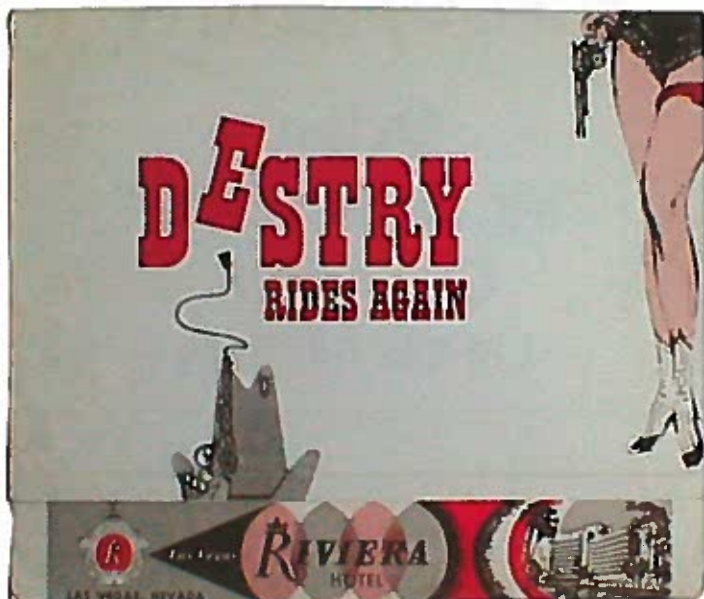
### The 1980's

The first time I saw the Riviera was in 1981, and it had the coolest sidewalk in front of it. The concrete squares had the handprints, footprints and autographs of dozens and dozens of stars, pressed into the cement. There were lights, kind of like rope lights, set between the squares. A few years later the sidewalk was gone, buried under the food court. In those days I rarely had a camera with me, so I never got a picture of that sidewalk. L

In the 1980's, the Riviera added the variety show "Splash", "an aquacade of music and dance" that took place in and around a 20,000-gallon aquarium. The show featured numerous specialty acts. Of course, the infamous *Splashbar* was named after the popular show.



"Crazy Girls", a topless female comedy revue was another popular show during the 1980's, as was "An Evening at La Cage". La Cage was a revue of female



impersonators and cabaret dancers, starring 20 year old Frank Marino as Joan Rivers.

In 1982 several scenes from the movie *Nevada Heat* were filmed at the Riviera. The movie starred Pia Zadora, who also happened to be Mrs. Meshulam Riklis.

In 1984, the Riviera had cash flow problems again, and filed for bankruptcy protection under chapter 11. Riklis blamed declining revenue from foreign high rollers. Arthur Waltzman was brought in as president, in an attempt to get the Riv financially stable again. He was able to accomplish that by catering to the middle class tourist in addition to the high rollers, and in 1985 the resort was back out of Chapter 11.

In 1988 the 24-story Monaco Tower was added, at a cost of \$28 million, bringing the number of rooms to more than 2,000.

### The 1990's

In 1990 the Riviera expanded the casino, to nearly 125,000 square feet of gaming space...which they boasted was the largest casino in Las Vegas.

In 1990 the Riviera remodeled suite #2902. A remodel? For just one suite? Well, yes. You see, the star of the New Year's Eve festivities was a star of stars...none other than Francis Albert Sinatra! And of course, Mr. Sinatra was still accustomed to hearing "Yes, Mr. Sinatra...and is there anything else I can do for you? Remodel a suite? Of course, and what amenities should the suite contain, sir? And your color choices? Very good sir...we'll take care of it. And is there anything else?" Two thousand people packed the Superstar Theatre on that New Year's Eve and rang in the New Year with a legend.

In 1993, during their 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Riviera revived an old Las Vegas publicity stunt...they had a floating craps game in the swimming pool.

The word around Hollywood was that the Riviera was very "movie friendly". That certainly seemed to be the case in the 1990's, when parts of the following movies were filmed at the Riv: (1992) *The Runner*; (1995) *Beyond Desire*, *The Watcher*, *Showgirls*; (1996) *The Corporation*; (1997) *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* and *Vegas Vacation*; (1998) *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

Scenes from the 1997 movie *Casino* were also filmed at the Riviera. The movie was based on real happenings at the Stardust, but the 'dust wouldn't have anything to do

with the film. So the fictitious name Tangiers was used, and the casino shots took place at the Riviera. We happened to be in town when some scenes were being filmed downtown. I came out of one of the casinos and headed toward the Plaza. I could see that there was something going on, there were police and security officers around, and there were cameras all over the place (everyplace except in my hand, sigh...). I walked up just in time to see Sharon Stone step out of a trailer; she looked gorgeous in a little white dress, and a white fur coat. But, it was kinda' chilly out and I didn't have a fur coat, and it actually looked pretty boring, so I went inside. I watched through the window for a few minutes, then headed for the casino and some video poker.

On May 10, 1997, the Riviera unveiled the largest life-cast bronze statue in the world. The "No ifs, ands or..." statue is 6' tall, 11' long and weighs 1540 pounds. It was created by Michael Conine, to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Crazy Girls* show.

In 1999 the Riviera designed and built 12 Skyboxes, rooms from 600 square feet to 1,024 square feet, which sit above the Royale Pavilion. The rooms are available for special parties, such as Super Bowl parties, and include a private bartender, servers, and network feeds on two televisions.

#### The new millennium

In 2005, the Riviera celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, one of very few Las Vegas casinos to make it that long. Part of the original building is still there, if you look at the front kind of behind the mirrored tower, you can see the long horizontal bands with the windows between them. That part was constructed in the 1950's.

The Riviera currently has five towers, with approximately 2,000 guestrooms, 187 suites, and penthouses.

The casino offers reel slots and video games, table games, keno, bingo, a VIP slot area, and a race and sports book.

The resort offers a swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, health spas and exercise rooms.

Of course, the resort is now home to the annual Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collector Club, Inc.'s annual convention! YAAAAAYYY!!



A few years ago the *Splashbar* became the un-official hang out for many of the Club's convention attendees. "Splash", the show, has been replaced, and the *Splashbar* name has been removed. The bar, however, is still there and the *Splashbar* spirit of camaraderie and friendship remains. Drinking all day and/or all night is optional, soft drinks are available if that's your preference and "blue stuff" is available for the adventurous (I don't know what it is, but I think it's alcoholic?). Brian, "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman will see you there in June...WOOOOOOOOO!!

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**Brian  
"Mr. Splashbar"  
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# CC&GTCC Membership Number 7777 Auction

The CC&GTCC has decided to auction off Membership 7777 with the proceeds going to the Museum Fund. If you are already a CC&GTCC member, you can still make a bid and 7777 will replace your current number. Former CC&GTCC Membership Officer Ralph Myers has volunteered to run the blind auction.

The rules will be as follows:

- Any current member or prospective member may bid on 7777.
- All bids must be mailed to me at:  
Ralph Myers  
7777 contest  
9124 Chenin Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV  
89129-6114
- No online bids.
- Any bids sent to the club PO Box will not be accepted.
- The high bid will be posted every Sunday night on the club message board.
- The bidding will be closed when Membership Officer Sunday Silverman tells me that membership number R-7775 has been issued.
- In case of a tie bid, the earliest postmark will be the winner.
- When Treasurer Doug Smith receives payment from the high bidder, he will notify Membership Officer Silverman that it is OK to issue the new membership card with 7777 on it.

As well as getting membership number 7777, the winner will also get the following:

Nevada Casino Chips along with Dave & Debbie Harber of Cheques In The Mail, Inc. are having a CC&GTCC Member 7777 contest!



In addition to the chips you will receive from Nevada Casino Chips for being 7777, and the dice donated by Gene Trimble and The Palms, you will also receive 100 of the great looking personalized membership chips that Cheques In The Mail, Inc. offers at the link below. The total value of the 100 chips is \$158!

<http://www.homepokerchips.com/ClubChips>

The chip will be the same design as the artwork shown. The auction winner will have their choice of one of the four stock colors offered at the link above.





Palms 2007 Halloween Dice



Palms 2007 Jimmy's Naughty Night Nite VI Dice

The list of chips to be won, along with the bonus is below. The link to the CC&GTCC application is [http://www.nevadacasinochips.com/cc\\_gtccapplication.htm](http://www.nevadacasinochips.com/cc_gtccapplication.htm). Just print out the application, fill it out & mail it in along with your annual dues.

In addition...all four of the CC&GTCC members with the numbers below will receive the three new, right out of the box, matchbooks shown front & back, also, my personal chip, and The Reserve room key. The Reserve closed a few years back and is now Fiesta Henderson. I might also include a few other items as I'm packing up everything for the winners.



Good luck to everyone! Even if you are not one of the lucky numbers below, you will enjoy being part of a great club. The award winning quarterly magazine is worth the annual dues just by itself! Who will be CC&GTCC 7777?

- #7750  
5 different uncirculated \$1 current Nevada house chips from Nevada Casino Chips.  
BONUS if I am listed as sponsor: 1 uncirculated \$5 current Nevada house chip.
- #7760  
10 different uncirculated \$1 current Nevada house chips from Nevada Casino Chips.  
BONUS if I am listed as sponsor: 1 uncirculated \$5 current Nevada house chip.
- #7770  
15 different uncirculated \$1 current Nevada house chips from Nevada Casino Chips.  
BONUS if I am listed as sponsor: 1 uncirculated \$5 current Nevada house chip.
- CC&GTCC Member #7777  
100 Personalized membership chips from Cheques In The Mail, Inc.  
40 different uncirculated \$1 current Nevada house chips from Nevada Casino Chips.  
2 pairs of dice

# Captain Q

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# The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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## Reference Center

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

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

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

### For The Beginner

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

### Detailed Reference

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

### Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

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

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

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

Check out the club library for books or search for articles on the *Casino Chip and Token News* website. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

<http://www.ccgccc.com>

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The Houston area collector's club would like to invite all those interested to join our group for casino chip and token trading fun and information.

We discuss chips from every part of the country and every era of gambling. Whether your interest is riverboats, Nevada, Native American, or the old illegal clubs, the Houston group has it covered.

Come visit friends and fellow gambling chip enthusiasts each month. Bring trading material or anything you would like to show or ask questions about.

We hope to see you there!

**Meeting Location:**  
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**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Dates:** 2007

**Monday-November 5th  
Monday-December 3rd**

**Email us for details**

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# Nevada Casino Ashtray Project



*Ashtrays • Vintage Casino Pictures • History and more*

Visit us online at  
[www.nevadacasinoashtrays.org](http://www.nevadacasinoashtrays.org)

The Nevada Casino Ashtray Project is a massive undertaking primarily showcasing Nevada Casino Ashtrays. However, it is much more. We have vintage pictures of the casinos and will later be adding the histories and personal remembrances of the places as we find them. IT WILL BE A VALUABLE SITE FOR WHATEVER AREA OF CASINO COLLECTING YOU ENJOY.

Please realize that this site is "under construction" and always will be. Check our home page "Welcome" for site features and sign our guestbook. All new additions are listed under "What's New" and will be posted on *The Chipboard*.

This endeavor has been made possible by a long list of contributors. Many have spent countless hours helping assemble the material to make this dream a reality. New contributors are welcome and encouraged. This is everyone's site.

## *Ashtray Pictures and Casino Photos*

The most important feature of this site is the ashtray pictures. They are all thumbnailed. All you have to do is click on the image and they will enlarge to life size. The pictures and scans of the trays vary in quality. This is due to having many people contributing and different methods being used to convey the images to us. As better pics become available they will be used.

The site is divided into four groupings, Tahoe, Reno/Sparks, Small Town, and Las Vegas. The Small Town group will at first give a list of the towns. Pick a town and click on it and another list will give you the Casinos and Clubs. The other groups will give you a list of the Casinos and Clubs that are specific to that group. Pick one and check it out.

We have endeavored to have a picture of each Casino. In many cases that has been more difficult to obtain than the ashtray. We hope you enjoy our site. Visit often because you never know what you'll find.

**Mark & Lynn Englebreton**  
Contact us via e-mail at: [mark@communicomm.com](mailto:mark@communicomm.com)

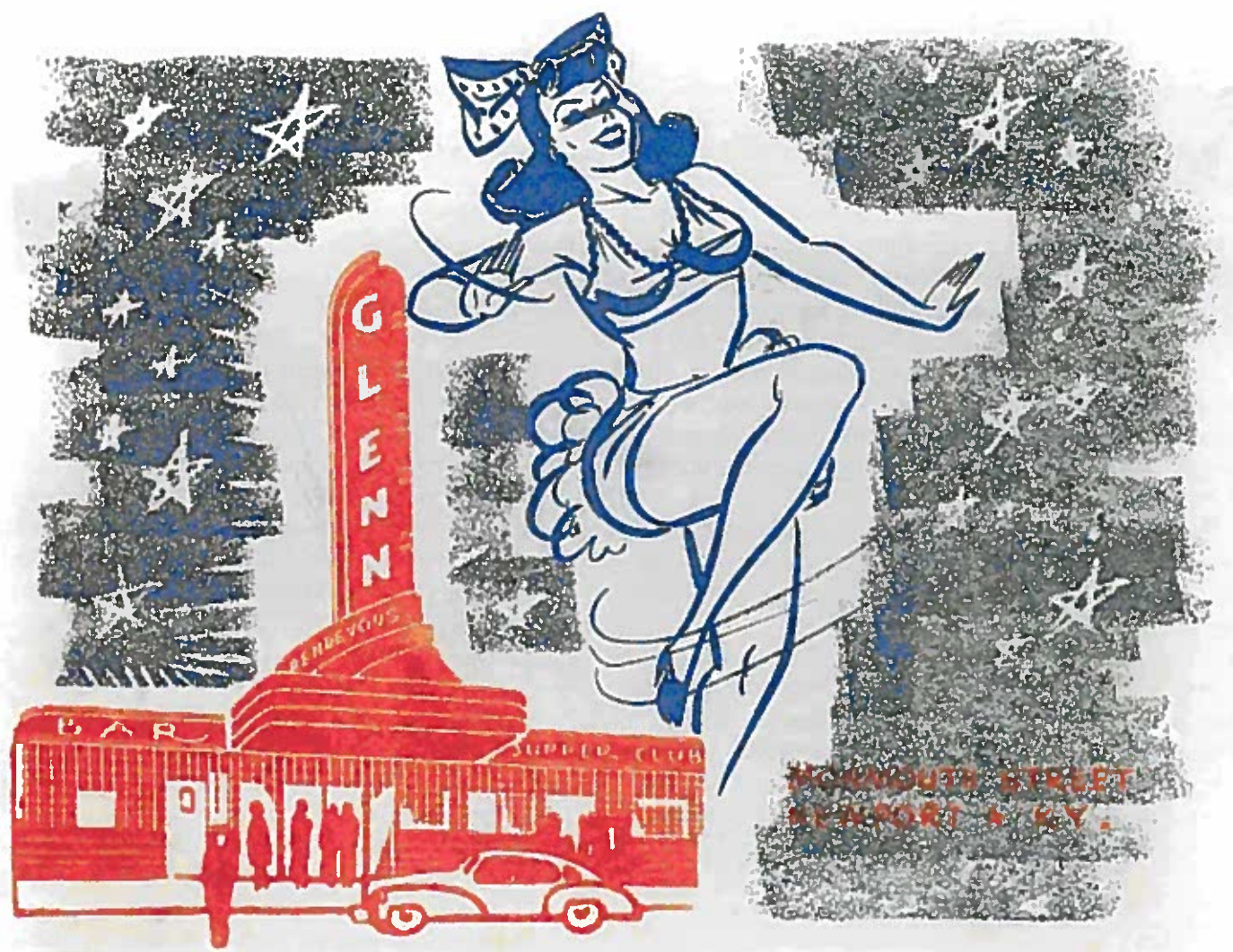


# When Vice was King

## A History of Northern Kentucky Gambling 1920 - 1970

### Part 1

by Jim Linduff  
with Roy Klein and Larry Trapp



### Preface

Much has been written about organized crime in the United States, primarily about activities in major cities: New York, the city of origin; Chicago, home of Al Capone; Miami; Tampa; New Orleans, with its possible connections to the assassination of John F. Kennedy; and of course, Las Vegas, the city that crime built.

Northern Kentucky has been included in some studies, most notably one by Hank Messick, the crusading investigative reporter for the Louisville *Courier-Journal* who made his career writing about the illegal activities there. Several excellent articles listed in the Sources section of this article have described the Northern Kentucky scene, some including descriptions of chips, dice and other memorabilia of interest to collectors.

Why then, our article? We asked this question several times throughout the project as we searched for long-forgotten references and recollections of clubs, some not being in the news for over 60 years! First, and of most importance to us, is our need to further document the people and locations that made the Northern Kentucky gambling era unique.

Also, as collectors, we are a scurvy lot who never stop looking for new finds—a chip not previously known to be at a given joint, dice that surface from places not thought to have had gambling at all, ash trays, dinnerware, swizzle sticks...all the “stuff” we keep and share with others. If these new treasures evoke some jealousy in our fellow collectors, so be it! We certainly aren’t in it for the money! God knows we buy way more than we ever sell.

Finally, we view our work as a continuing process. We believe we have updated and significantly expanded the knowledge of both the people and places in the Northern Kentucky gambling history. We have also tried to further describe how and why Northern Kentucky became a gambling center and to what extent the “reform” actually helped the area. Our section listing chips from the area will certainly be challenged, but it represents our best effort to provide a summary of the authenticated and undocumented chips from each location. We have not tried to place values on the chips, as these tend to change frequently as new batches are found, and because they are worth what someone is willing to pay at a given time.

It is our hope that others will correct and update what we have done so that information about the area will not be lost over time. It’s been fun putting this together and we welcome comments.

We want to fully credit and acknowledge the valuable help we received from Gene Trimble, Dave Horn, Ed Hertel, Allen Meyers, Rich Ritchie, Lou Coletti and many others in the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club. Their written work and answers to our questions were a vital part of our study.

## Introduction

The scope of this study begins in about 1920, the start of Prohibition. While gambling and prostitution thrived in the Northern Kentucky region prior to 1920, particularly during the Civil War, as prostitutes and gambling halls serviced the soldiers stationed in Cincinnati, the influence of organized crime in the area caused gambling to flourish in the 1920s and into the 1930s. During Prohibition, criminal activities became more respectable to citizens who

demanding alcohol and the gambling associated with it. Large amounts of capital became available to buy and/or build distilleries, distribute the booze made therein throughout the Midwest and establish lavish carpet joints for people to drink and gamble. Northern Kentucky was near the booze supply, centrally located for distribution and its public officials had a history of looking the other way.

One of the first major players in the bootlegging business was George Remus who came to Cincinnati from Chicago in 1920. While he had little direct influence in the gambling and prostitution business, he built a massive bootlegging operation in the early Prohibition days and many people in his organization became players in Northern Kentucky during later years. It took the Cleveland Syndicate to jumpstart gambling in Northern Kentucky. The Cleveland Syndicate became part of a nationwide mob organization that controlled illicit activities coast to coast.

The Cleveland Syndicate received the Ohio/Northern Kentucky area at the first national Organized Crime Commission in 1928. The Syndicate became one of the most powerful outfits in the country.

The Cleveland Syndicate was first headquartered in Cincinnati at the Arrowhead Inn, in Branch Hill, Ohio, east of town. Joseph Bauer, an independent gambler, started the Arrowhead Inn in the late 1920s and ran it free from interference until 1932 when the Syndicate took over and put Sam Nason in as operator. In 1937 reform officials raided the joint and shut it down. Nason, a local with Syndicate ties moved to Elmwood Place in 1933, first at the Valley Walk-A-Show club, then to the Fox and Crow in Montgomery in 1944.

The Syndicate turned attention to the Coney Island Race Track in Cincinnati. The track was opened in 1925 and had Eastern mob ties. Dutch Schultz, a member of the Eastern mob took over the track operation in 1932. After he was gunned down in Newark in 1935, the Cleveland Syndicate took over and renamed the track River Downs.

The Syndicate entered Northern Kentucky, first by taking over Latonia Park and a dog track in Florence. In the mid-1930s, they “acquired” Beverly Hills and the Lookout House from locals and began what was to become an almost total takeover of gambling in Northern Kentucky.

## Major Players

### Cleveland Syndicate

Moe Dalitz—head of Cleveland Syndicate

Sam Tucker—operated boats that ran booze from Canada

Louis Rothkopf—ran booze stills

Morris Kleinman—ran brewery in Cleveland

Modern organized crime began in 1920 with Prohibition. Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano were the national heads. The Cleveland Syndicate received the Kentucky area at the first Organized Crime Commission in 1928. Also known as the Cleveland Four, the Syndicate was one of the most powerful crime outfits in the United States. The four heads each brought specific skills to the organization led by Dalitz who came to Cleveland from Detroit where he was a member of the Purple Gang, the crime syndicate there.

Originally the Cleveland Syndicate was involved in bootlegging liquor from Canada and distributing it nationwide in the United States. Gambling and illegal casinos followed in the 1930s and 1940s and by the 1950s the Cleveland Syndicate was deeply involved with the expansion of Las Vegas enterprises.

### New York and Other Mob Influences

**The Levinsons: Ed, Mike, “Sleepout Louis”**—from Detroit. They came to Newport by way of Chicago in the late 1930s and took over the Flamingo/633 from Art Dennert.

**The Millers: Berman, Joe and Martin**—from New York. They took over the Yorkshire from Jimmy Brink in 1944.

**Screw Andrews**—A Cincinnati numbers runner, Andrews took over Black joints in Newport. Andrews was involved with all aspects of illegal operations in Northern Kentucky and associated with both the Eastern and Cleveland Syndicates.

**The Payne Brothers: Charles, Steve, Larkin (Ollie, Bull)**

The brothers were active in local crime since the 1930s. Steve Payne was killed in 1948 as part of Screw Andrews’s takeover of Black Newport numbers and bar business. Screw hired both remaining brothers in his Central Avenue joints. Bull was killed by Melvin Clark in 1952, Charles died of natural causes in the early 1950s. Melvin Clark

An associate of the Payne brothers, Clark ran Black joints until they were taken over by Andrews. Andrews shot and killed Clark in 1955.

### Local Bootleggers

#### George Remus

An early influence, Remus was a booze runner, pharmacist, lawyer and the king of the bootleggers.

#### Peter Schmidt

A truck driver for Remus, Schmidt started at the Glenn Hotel in 1932, and opened a room in the hotel called the Glenn Rendezvous in 1941. Schmidt opened Beverly Hills in 1934. The Syndicate burned the Beverly in 1936, and Schmidt turned over control to the Syndicate in 1940. He sold the Glenn Rendezvous to the Levinsons and Art Dennert in 1948. He opened the Playtorium in 1951 and the Snax Bar (previously the Belmont Club) in 1954. Tito Carinci became the manager of the Glenn Rendezvous in 1957 and the name was changed to the Tropicana in 1960. The joint burned in 1962.

#### Red Masterson

A Remus associate, Red was also allied with the Cleveland Syndicate. In 1936 Masterson was given control of the Merchant’s Club as payment for burning the Beverly.

#### Buck Brady

A local mobster and Remus associate, Brady opened the Green Lantern, a Black joint on Licking Pike in 1931. In 1933, he bought the old Bluegrass Inn also on Licking Pike and renamed it the Primrose. After trying and failing to kill Red Masterson in 1946 (Red had told Buck he had to get out of the Primrose), Buck finally “sold” the Primrose to the Syndicate. The joint was again renamed the Latin Quarter, managed by Dave Whitfield, one of the people who helped burn the Beverly in 1936. Present-day, the club is called Bobby Mackey’s bar.

#### The Farleys: Rip and Taylor

The brothers were bootleggers out of Clay County, and Remus associates. Rip robbed the Flamingo in 1946, and was shot and killed. His brother Taylor was wounded in the shootout, but survived and ran the 345 Club for the Bridewell brothers (see below). The Farleys also ran several gambling/whorehouse joints including the 316 Club at 316 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Major Local Independents

### Art Dennert

Dennert operated the Club Alexandria and had points in the Flamingo and the Glenn Rendezvous. He also operated the H. Dennert beer distributing company in Cincinnati.

### Jim Harris

The owner of the Hi-De-Ho (previously the 19 Club) in Wilder while also serving as police marshal during the 1930s and 1940s, Harris opened the Stark Club in Newport in the late 1940s. In 1951 the Hi-De-Ho was raided and closed, an event precipitated by the Syndicate. Harris continued to run the Stork/Stark until the mid-1950s when it became primarily a strip joint.

### Jimmy Brink

Brink opened the Lookout House to gambling in 1933, then sold it to the Syndicate in 1941 remaining as a manager/front-man. Part of his settlement with the Syndicate included points in the Beverly and the Lookout House. The Carr Brothers, long associated with Brink also got points in the Lookout House. In 1956 the Carrs and Brink's widow sued to get a piece of the Kentucky Club, claiming a financial interest there but lost in court.

### The Bridewell Brothers: Emile, James, Ralph, Ray

The brothers ran several bust-out joints including the 345 Club, the 202 Bar, Ray's Café at 116 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, the Mecca and the Kid Able Club behind Monmouth Cigar.

## Layoff Operators

In the early 1940s, a national betting layoff operation was established in Newport under the control of Meyer Lansky and the New York mob. Providing a service for bookmakers, the layoff operators covered bets too large for the locals for a service fee. Located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and York, the bank covered most of the layoff action in the Midwest. The Lassoff brothers ran the operation under the heading of Bobben Realty Company.

### The Lassoff Brothers: Bob and Ben ("Big" and "Little Porky")

The Lassoffs ran a major sports layoff operation as Bobben Realty.

### Nig Devine

A partner of the Lassoff brothers, Devine started as a local caterer to the Syndicate joints. Devine was tied to Screw Andrews and the Lansky operation, but was a local in scope.

### Gil Beckley

Beckley took over Bobben with help from Eddie Levinson in 1950. Beckley started layoff betting in Indianapolis in the mid 1940s, moved to St. Louis, then on to Newport and became a national figure. Due to the heat from the Kefauver hearings in 1951, Beckley moved the operation to Canada, then back to Newport in the Glenn Hotel in 1955. He is believed to be a victim of a mob hit in about 1970 and was officially declared dead in 1977.

## Other Locals

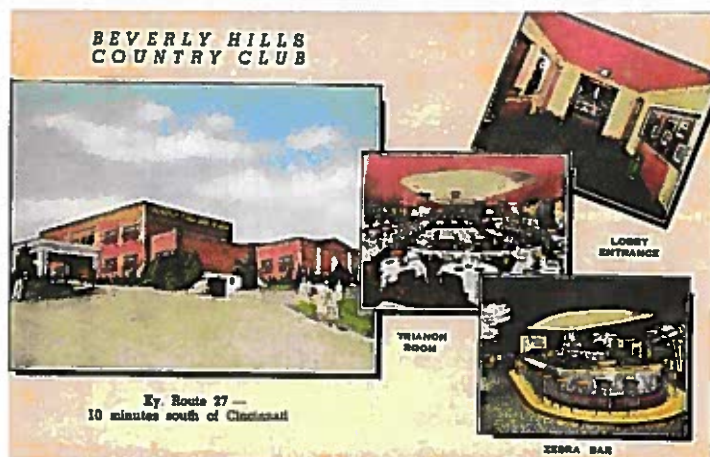
Albers, Louis: 222 Club, 222 Pike, Covington  
Carr, Ping: Carr Brothers Café, 1916 Madison, Covington  
Connelly, Ed: Columbia Café, 101 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, Newport, warehouse w/ gambling  
Cottingham, Ray: 333 Club, 333 Central, Newport  
Eisner, Sammy: manager of many clubs including 202 Bar, 310 Club, Newport  
Frombes, Sam: Surf Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> and York, Newport  
Kensella, John: Horseshoe, 6<sup>th</sup> and Monmouth, Newport  
Lester, Charles: Syndicate lawyer  
Maggard, Smokey: Dog Patch, Victory Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> and York, Newport  
Meader, Ed: Teddy Bear Lounge, 1541 Sleepy Hollow Road, Covington  
Orr, Ernest: Orr's Café, 1918 Madison Road, Covington  
Roth, Charlie: Dogpatch Manager, 2<sup>nd</sup> and York, Newport  
Stanfield, Robert: Midwestern Bar, 602 Central, Newport.  
Delbert Spicer was a bartender here  
Taulbee, Boots: Tin Shack, 309 York, Newport

## Major Clubs

The clubs listed as "major" are somewhat arbitrary, but represent establishments that played a significant role in the history of Northern Kentucky gambling. Beverly Hills and the Lookout House became the top "carpet joints" run by the Cleveland Syndicate. The several clubs run by Peter Schmidt, an independent who fought control by the Syndicate all his life, were major at least in the events that took place there. Others, like the Flamingo and the Yorkshire Club, were run by the Eastern Syndicate with agreement from Cleveland. The Merchant's Club and the Primrose Club had a longevity that deserves the title of "major."



## Beverly Hills



Beverly Hills Country Club was the crown jewel of the Northern Kentucky illegal club scene, located on a hill in Southgate, Kentucky. The location dates back to the 1900s, when it was named the Blue Grass Inn. The club burned in 1915 and the property was sold. Next came a joint called the Old Kaintuck Castle. In 1934 Peter Schmidt, a local bootlegger, bought the property, and built and opened Beverly Hills.

Schmidt tried to run the operation without interference, but after being burned out by the Cleveland Syndicate in 1936, a fire allegedly set by Red Masterson, Schmidt sold in 1940.

The Syndicate ran the club very well, bringing in top entertainment to supplement the large-scale gambling that took place there. To offset the constant raids and hassles from local police, the building was equipped with electronic surveillance and a separate power plant.

By the early 1960s, it was apparent to the Syndicate that Northern Kentucky could no longer be defended and was not strategic to their overall gambling operations. The club was sold and gambling shut down. In 1977, the club was completely destroyed by fire, killing 175 people.

There is a large amount of memorabilia remaining from Beverly Hills, the most valuable of which came from the gambling period. Chips range in value from common to rare.



Beverly Hills Country Club Chips

## Flamingo Club

In the late 1930s, Arthur Dennert opened the Flamingo Club at 633 Monmouth Street. Dennert was a local boot-legger who subsequently opened Club Alexandria and was a partner in a beer distributing company. The Eastern Syndicate, with full concurrence of the Cleveland Syndicate (who "owned" the Northern Kentucky area), forced Dennert out of the Flamingo. The Levinson brothers, Mike, Ed and "Sleepout" Louis, representing the Eastern Syndicate headed by Meyer Lansky, ran the Flamingo and made it into a major player in the Newport gambling scene. The back room featured a large gambling area complete with horse boards for all major tracks, roulette and craps and poker tables.

The cooperation between the two syndicates was unusual, but there is evidence that Cleveland shared in the profits coming out of the Flamingo, so they could allow the Eastern Syndicate's presence without financial harm.

The Flamingo was also known as the 633 Club due to the address and much of its memorabilia has "633 Club"



printed on it. Most illegal clubs tried not to advertise their intentions, but the Flamingo did so with the 633 Club tag.

Gambling ceased operation in the early 1960s and the location became a teenage dance club.

There are many different chips from the club as well as dice, glasses and other items used there.



633 Club - Flamingo Chips





### Glenn Hotel/Glenn Rendezvous

Another of the Peter Schmidt operations, the Glenn Hotel was bought in 1932 and a small casino with slot machines was set up. The joint became a haven for organized criminals running from indictments and/or arrests.

In 1941, after being run out of his Beverly Hills operation, Schmidt opened a larger club on the second floor of the hotel and named it the Glenn Rendezvous. A bust-out joint, the Cleveland Syndicate sought to take it over so as not to taint the image of Newport gambling with the high rollers coming to the area.

Schmidt sold the club to members of the Eastern Syndicate, including the Levinson brothers and Art Dennert to keep it away from Cleveland, but after Dennert died in an auto crash under mysterious circumstances in 1952, the Cleveland Syndicate took over.

In 1958, Tito Carinci was brought in from Cincinnati to run the Rendezvous. Tito had been a local football star at Xavier University in Cincinnati and was an outgoing front man for the club. He decided to clean up the joint in 1960



and in the process, renamed it the Tropicana. This was the place that in 1961 was used to frame George Ratterman, a true reform candidate for sheriff. Ratterman was drugged and placed in a room at the Tropicana with stripper April Flowers. Pictures were taken. The job was totally botched however, and Ratterman used the incident as fuel for his campaign, landing him in office and sealing the fate of illegal gambling in Northern Kentucky.

Chips have been attributed to the Glenn Hotel and the Glenn Rendezvous, but not the Tropicana.

on the Syndicate-run Merchant's Club by others on the police force loyal to Schmidt. Several complicated legal manipulations later, Schmidt continued to run the Playtorium, but moved the gambling operation next door to what was previously the Belmont Club, calling the joint the Snax Bar. Peter Schmidt died of natural causes in 1958. The operation was taken over by Charles Lester, a longstanding mob lawyer.

Many chips and other memorabilia exist from the Playtorium. Belmont Club and Snax Bar dice are highly collectable, but no chips from those clubs appear to exist.



Glenn Rendezvous Chips

### Glenn Schmidt Playtorium/Snax Bar

Peter Schmidt in 1951, after losing the Glenn Rendezvous, opened a large establishment at 18 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Named the Playtorium, the building housed a restaurant, cocktail bar, bowling alley and casino, which was located in the basement. Considered an act of defiance by the Cleveland Syndicate, raids were conducted by mob-run officials. Retaliation came in the form of a raid

Most agree that the Snax Bar used chips from the Playtorium.





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Glenn Hotel,  
928 Monmouth St.,  
Newport, Kentucky

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400 Lav. -(choc. & Lav. have spec. inlay on  
edge in green) Blue are regular Hub.  
3200 White - Det. Req. 1495 - 3-25-38 Inv. #327  
500-B-9 White - 500 -B-9 Choc. with special green  
inlay edge - 4/26/38 - Det. Req. #1555

Harry Duckham,  
Glenn Hotel-928 Monmouth St.,  
Newport, Kentucky

New Style Mono.  
"KD" in gold

KD

2000 R- 200 P- 200 Y- Detroit #266 - 12-1-36

6/26/39 - Inv. #2763

2000 B-9 1 9/16" S.E. Hub Checks - Blue.

Inv. #2835 - 11/21/39: 1200 B-9's; Light Blue

Inv. #3295 - 12/2/39: 1200 B-9's. Reg. Blue.



H. D. Duckham,  
Glenn Hotel,  
Newport, Ky.

1000 Black } Gold letters  
200 Green }

400 Yellow } Silver letters Mono "HDD"

1000 Black, 2000,- Gold Letters

400 Yellow, - Silver letters Det. 1/4/34  
10-3-34



Harry Duckham,  
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928 Monmouth St.,  
Newport, Kentucky  
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"HDD"



3000 - Red Square 1 1/2" 1200 - 1 1/2" 1 1/4" 7/16"  
Special Checks - Regular Hubs with 2 chocolate  
Inlays - 1600 Y- 200 P- 200 G- Det. #308-11-6-36

300 B-9 Hub Checks 200P- 100B- Det. Req. #306  
3-30-36

1400 B-9 Hub Checks Square Edge- 1000H- 400Y  
Req. #967 -Det. 9-2-36

200P- with 2 chocolate edge inlays- spec. hubs  
Detroit #988 - 12-1-36



Glenn Hotel Chips  
Harry D. Duckham & L. Kaufman



Glenn Schmidt's Chips

### Hi-De-Ho/19 Club

The 19 Club in Wilder was purchased by "Big Jim" Harris in 1940 and immediately renamed the Hi-De-Ho Club. Gambling and prostitution were the club's standard fare. Harris, who had previously opened the Stark Club in Newport, determined that his joint in Wilder was easier to operate and that local officials were more tolerant primarily because he was at the time the marshal of Wilder!

The place became notorious as a bust-out gambling operation and the whore's rooms were wired so that customers could be blackmailed with photos and audiotapes. The Cleveland Syndicate, concerned by the loss of gambling business at the Lookout House nearby and worried the blackmail scheme would cast a bad light on their clubs, convinced the Kentucky State Police to raid the Hi-De-Ho in 1951, effectively shutting down the club. After a long trial process, Harris was sentenced to three years' jail time in 1955. Harris would return to run several strip clubs later, but it was a great example of Northern Kentucky justice that he continued to be the Marshall throughout his early brushes with the law.

Local collectors have never authenticated chips from the 19 Club, despite efforts to do so. Hi-De-Ho chips and memorabilia are in demand. The chips attributed to the Hi-De-Ho were actually delivered to the Glenn Hotel.

### Latin Quarter/Primrose Club/Bluegrass Inn

Located on Licking Pike in Wilder, this location has one of the most colorful histories of all the Northern Kentucky clubs. Built in 1895, the building originally was home to a slaughterhouse.

In the basement a well was constructed to collect drained blood and refuse from animals killed in the rooms above. Closed in 1890, the building became a gathering place for occultists. In 1896, two men were convicted for dismembering a young woman during a satanic ritual after a sensational murder trial. The two were hanged after being found guilty of killing Pearl Bryan. Interestingly, her head was never recovered, giving fuel to the ghost stories that circulate about the building even today.

After Prohibition ended in 1933, E.A. "Buck" Brady, a truck driver who started working for the Cincinnati bootleg king, George Remus, purchased the building, turning it





**ENQUIRER PHOTOGRAPHER THREATENED AFTER HI-DEE-HO RAID.**

The top photograph, made by Ben Cochran, Enquirer photographer, shows the front of the Hi-Dee-Ho Club, 19 Licking Pike, Wilder, Ky., which was raided by Kentucky State Police yesterday. Inset is James Harris, the town Marshal of Wilder, who was caught in the club by the raiding troopers. The lower photograph was taken by Kentucky State Police before the startled players at this dice table could grasp that a raid was in progress. After Cochran took the photograph of the exterior of the club yesterday, he was threatened by two men in an automobile, which was traced through its license number to a man who was sentenced to serve life imprisonment in the Kentucky Penitentiary in 1941 for a fatal stabbing.

into a tavern and gambling facility. The joint was originally called the Blue Grass Inn, then the Primrose Club. This Bluegrass Inn should not be mistaken with the bar of the same name located in Southgate, the original Beverly Hills location.

In 1946, Brady decided to take on the Cleveland Syndicate, who were trying to take over his club, by shooting Red Masterson, a Syndicate operative and manager of the Merchant's Club. Brady gunned down Red outside the Merchant's Club, but Red survived and Brady was arrested for disturbing the peace! Red did not testify and Brady was dismissed.

The Syndicate gave Brady two choices: Get out of town or be killed. Brady chose to retire to Florida. The Syndicate now had control of the Primrose and renamed it the Latin Quarter, then enlarged the club. Brady committed suicide in 1965.

To this day the building, now Bobby Mackey's, a country and western bar, is a location visited by ghost theory groups.

Chips have been authenticated from the Latin Quarter. While Primrose chips have been listed in various publications, they have not been authenticated.



Latin Quarter Chips



Post Card - Primrose

## Lookout House

The Lookout House has a long history, beginning in the 1880s. In 1912, Bill Hill opened the Lookout House with picnic tables in the large dining room. The building, on the Dixie Highway in Covington, had a view of the Cincinnati skyline. In 1933, Jimmy Brink, another Remus bootlegger, purchased the Lookout House and began running a very successful gambling joint that almost immediately interested the Cleveland Syndicate.

After witnessing the harassment toward Peter Schmidt at the Beverly, Brink decided to negotiate a deal with the Syndicate, and in 1941 sold the club for \$125,000, retaining 10 percent of the profits of both the Lookout House and the Beverly and remaining as the local manager of the Lookout House. This was a great deal for Brink and an unusual deal for the Syndicate, who generally favored just taking clubs outright. The Syndicate now had large gambling operations in both Kenton and Campbell Counties. so the when the respective grand juries were in session in



Lookout House Glasses

one county, gambling operations could be shifted to the other county without interruption.

A major raid in 1952 closed the gambling operation at the club. Jimmy Brink died in a plane crash later that year. After being rebuilt as a restaurant in 1963, the building burned to the ground in 1973.

Chips and other memorabilia exist in large quantities from the Lookout House. Chips with a lighthouse logo, initially thought to have been from the Beacon Inn in Wilder, have been attributed to the Lookout House and are rare.

## Merchant's Club

The Merchant's Club was located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Newport, within sight of the county courthouse, and operated from the early 1940s until 1961 as a gambling joint. After Peter Schmidt's alleged involvement in the Beverly Hills fire in 1936 which effectively convinced him to hand over control to Cleveland, Red Masterson was given the job as club manager at the Merchant's Club by the Cleveland Syndicate. Red was also known as an enforcer for the Syndicate and was known to be involved in several murders during his career in Newport.

Chips exist from the club, most in large quantities.







Lookout House Chips



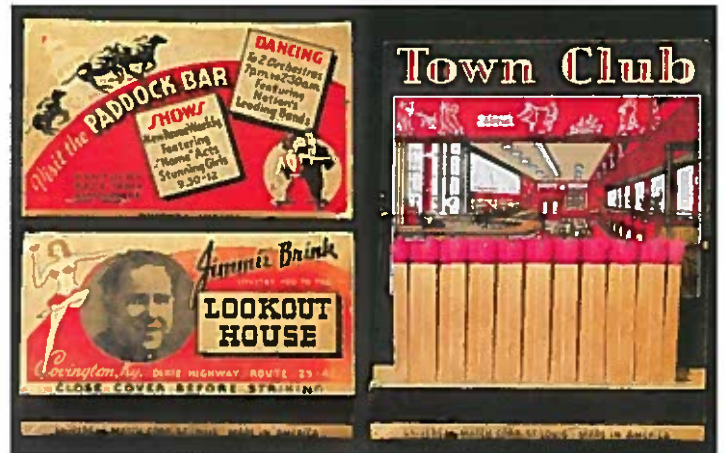
Merchants Club Chips



## Yorkshire Club

Located at 518 York Street, The club was opened in 1941 by Jimmy Brink, then beginning in 1944, run by the Berman (a.k.a. Miller) brothers, Joe and Martin, two Meyer Lansky employees from New York. The casino was large, over 7500 square feet, and housed a bookie operation with horse boards. Like the Flamingo Club, the Yorkshire appeared to be run in cooperation with both the Eastern and Cleveland Syndicate groups. Both were high-end, "carpet joints," run openly in Newport throughout the modern gambling area from the 1940s until the early 1960s.

Chips and other memorabilia from the Yorkshire are generally available in large quantities, however specific chips are rare, primarily the oldest ones from the 1940s.



Yorkshire Club Chips



Yorkshire Club Chips



Part 2 of this story will be in the next issue of the magazine. It will include the minor clubs, Newport Central Avenue Clubs and the reform movement.



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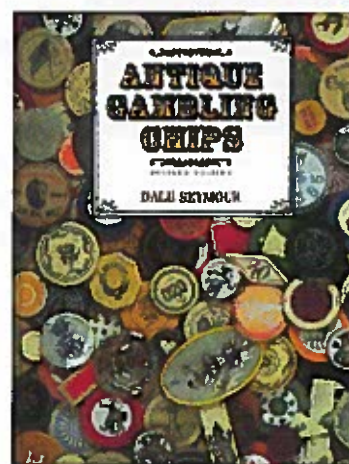
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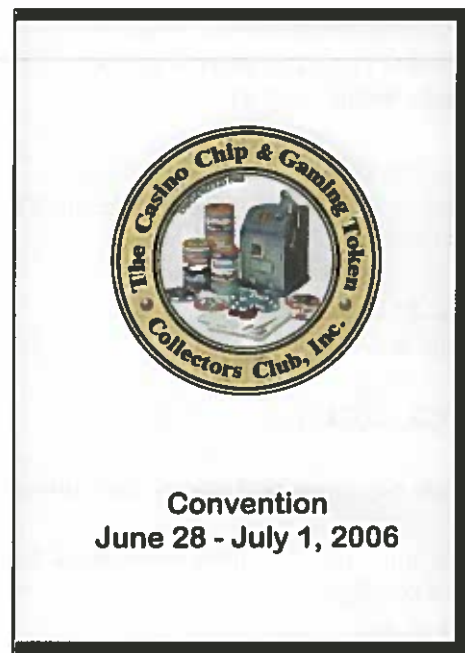
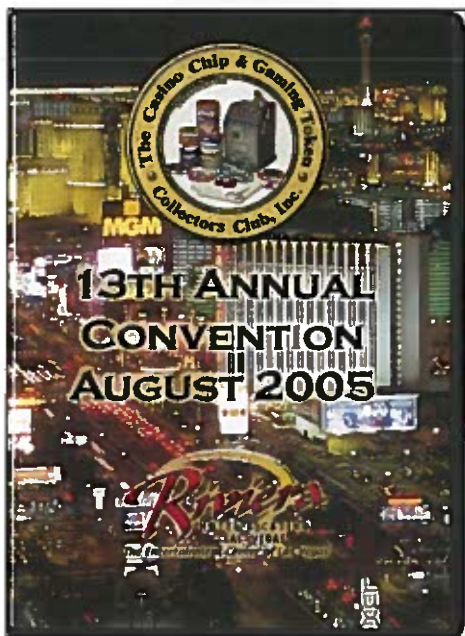
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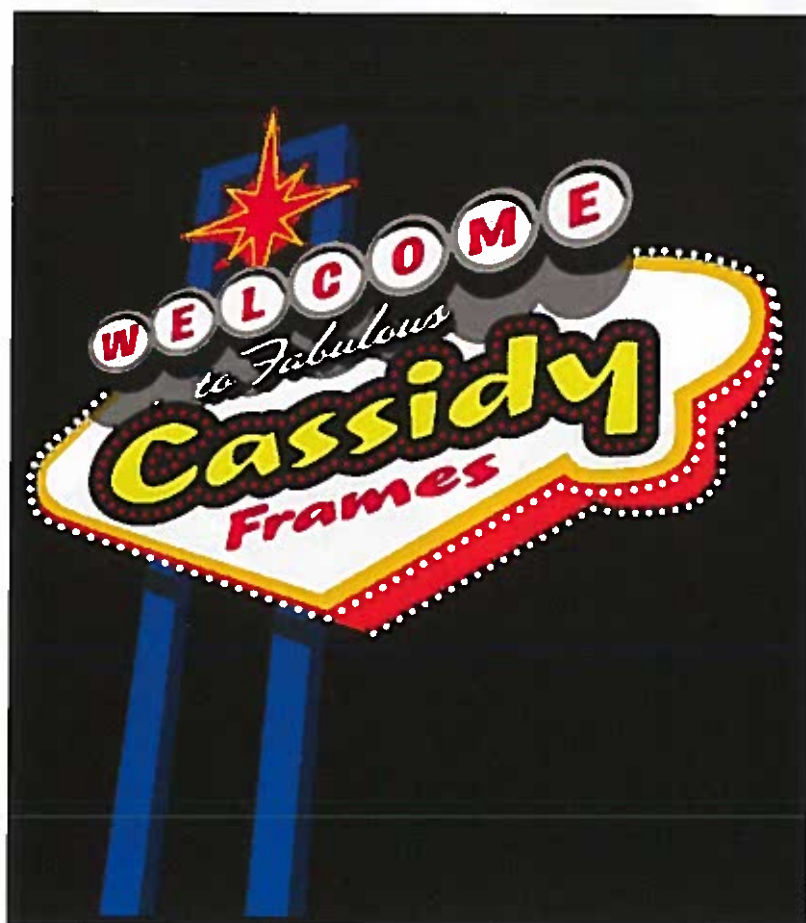
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# CC&GTCC Museum Fund

by Andy Hughes

## Museum Fund Committee

The balance in the Museum Fund as of December 31, 2007 is \$108,089.42.

The Museum Fund Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Kruse (Chairman)  
Robert Pardue  
Andy Hughes  
Archie Black  
Greg Susong

## Vision & Feasibility Committee

The Vision & Feasibility Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Pierre (Chairman Emeritus)  
Mike Skelton (Chairman)  
Bill Judge  
Mike Quinlivan  
Jim Kruse  
Wayne Thompson  
Eric Rosenblum  
Nate Pincus  
Chuck Tomarchio

Below are items that are for sale with ALL of the money going to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund!

Please mail a check out for the correct amount to:

Doug Smith  
Treasurer CC&GTCC  
P.O. Box 691085  
Houston, TX 77269-1085

Once the check arrives Doug will let the Museum Fund Committee know & the items will be mailed out.

Nevada Casino Chips had the chip below made up in April of 2007. 100 were made with engraved numbers & they are oversized (44MM) chips. ALL of the money raised from the sale of the chips goes to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$100 each.



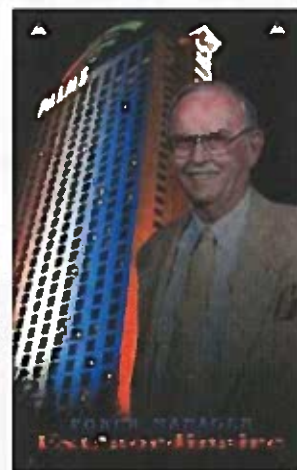
The NCV Palms chip below was given out one per person with a coupon at the 2002 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 850 made & the Palms graciously donated the remainder to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$10 each.



The chip below was designed by Debby Meister who had it made for the 2004 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 100 made. The price is \$20 each.



The room key below was made for Palms Poker Room Manager Gene Trimble. There were only 250 made. The price is \$10 each.



Trump Marina set of three non-gaming tokens (shown with the common back). The Trump Marina graciously donated the tokens to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Museum Fund! The price is \$10 a set.



Common back



These are some of the chips available from David Spragg on behalf of the CC&GTCC Museum Fund. 100% of the proceeds (net for the personal stacker set) will be donated to the museum fund. There is no charge for shipping. For more information on these and other chips got to: [www.marlowcasinochips.com](http://www.marlowcasinochips.com)



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5 stacker set \$18 or \$5 each.



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2006 Palms show reception & trade session. \$10.00.



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2006 Palms chip show poker tournament players. \$10.00.



Happy Halloween 2007. Donated by Debby Meister and Steve Palumbo. Standard sized ceramic plaque. \$20.00



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Given to all 2007 CC&GTCC Convention banquet attendees. \$8.00.



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Chipboard 2007 annual get-together at the Palms. \$5.00



House of Hanover. \$5 denom A-crest mold. Various colors. \$15.00

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# The Southern Nevada Chip Report

by Tyrus Mulkey

Greetings Southern Nevada Chip Collectors!

The Monte Carlo released a devilish chip celebrating the opening of their Mexican restaurant named Diablo's Cantina.



Hooters released the September Calendar Girl chip featuring Randi. Hooters also released a \$25 chip with Bethany on it. This chip sat in the cage for over three months while management refused to release it. At the same time, several of them appeared on ebay and commanded some pretty hefty prices. I kept getting calls about them and made numerous attempts to get one. Finally one day a cashier brought one from the back and said they were for sale. I actually had one in my hand!! I said I wanted a stack and so she went to the back to get it only to come back and say she had made an error and they weren't allowed to sell them. I didn't even get the one I had held in my hand!!! Alas, a few weeks later they were all released and I was able to get that stack.



The Playboy Club, located atop the Palms, celebrated their first Anniversary and released a \$5 and a \$25 chip. Chippers were able to get these at the Palms cage without having to go upstairs to the Playboy Club. I do recommend going upstairs if you ever have the chance. It's a beautiful room with a great view!



And speaking of views of the Strip, you can't get a better one than the one you get by actually being on the Strip!! And that's where Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Restaurant is located. It's on ground level at the far North end of the Flamingo, right next to O'Sheas. Although it's been open several years, the Flamingo just released chips - a \$5 and a \$25 with different artwork on each denomination.



Happy Halloween! I hope you had a great one. The ghouls and goblins were out in full force in Las Vegas. Oh, and there were some trick or treaters, too! The following casinos released Halloween chips this year: Ellis Island (\$5); Palms (\$5 and \$25); Paris (\$5); Bally's (\$5); Rio (\$5); and the Hard Rock (\$5).





Hooters released the October girl \$5 Chip featuring Rhonda.



The comedy magic duo Penn & Teller have been "Living in Vegas" and performing at the Rio for five years now. The Rio released a \$5 Chip for the anniversary. About a week later, the Rio released a second Penn & Teller \$5 chip with a different picture of the two on it and no mention of an anniversary. The Rio is becoming famous for doing "double releases" like this. After the first two I thought mistakes had been made, but now I'm thinking it's all intentional and will continue.



The Palms celebrated their sixth anniversary and released a \$5 chip.



The Riviera issued a \$2 chip for their Poker Room. This is a drop chip that is used by the dealer's to drop the casino's share of the pot. Players never actually use this chip. The Riv was gracious to chippers and sold them from the poker cage upon request. The Gold Coast also released a \$2 drop chip for their poker room, but they were not gracious to chippers and refused to sell

them. I made several attempts to get them and each time the poker room manager gave me a story. The story changed slightly each time so I'm not so convinced of it. At any rate, these chips are more difficult to get than most.



Veterans Day was remembered by two Las Vegas casinos when the Four Queens and Slots-A-Fun each released a \$5 chip.



Planet Hollywood has made it official! After months and months of slowly changing the name, they finally put the last nail into the Aladdin's coffin. \$5 and \$25 Grand Opening chips were finally released from Planet Hollywood.





Rio, Paris, and Bally's each released \$5 Thanksgiving chips.

That's it for Southern Nevada! Thanks for reading. All of the chips mentioned in this article, and thousands of others, can be viewed 24/7 at [www.TyrusRex.com](http://www.TyrusRex.com).

Tyrus R Mulkey, Jr  
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## Help Wanted

### Editor of The Casino Chip and Token News Magazine

It's tough to give up something you really like doing but all good things must come to an end. Effective with the post 2008 convention issue I will be resigning as editor of the Casino Chip and Token News Magazine. I started doing the magazine in late 1999 and when my last issue meets ink it will have been 9 years. I want to thank all the people who have contributed over the years. Without them there would not have been a magazine. Special thanks to C.T. Rodgers, advertising manager, John Moore who kept me from butchering the english language and to Joe Shaw. Not to be forgotten is John Yee who called me one day in 1999 and said, "hey, I just volunteered you for something".

Anyone who is interested in applying for this position please contact me at [editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:editor@ccgtcc.com). A background in graphics and publishing is helpful.



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# Northern Michigan

## Casino Chips & Slot Cards

by James N. McNally

Michigan has a rich tapestry of casinos. In addition to the three Detroit casinos, there are numerous Native American casinos in both the lower and upper peninsulas. In addition, Michigan's unique geography puts several Canadian casinos within easy reach.

The upper peninsula – or “U.P.” – is affectionately known by the locals as “Yooperland.” The area has a distinct culture derived from the northern Europe homes of its early immigrants. This article focuses on the casinos of the eastern Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula, as well as the nearby casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

The *currently available* \$1 chips from each casino are shown here. Gamers and collectors have to buy their chips at the table games or at the cashier's cage in the poker room (for those having a designated poker room). Chips are not sold from the regular cashier's cage. In addition, expect some confusion. If you ask for 50 cent chips or \$1 chips, it is quite likely the dealer will reach for Kennedy half dollars or \$1 slot tokens; you have to make clear that you want chips, not coins or tokens.

Although the staff at all the northern casinos are friendly, they do not like selling chips because it depletes the supply at their tables. One thing is clear, particularly at Indian casinos: the casinos do not like to buy new chips, and the dealers have somehow picked up the attitude that if they sell you ten chips, they may never be able to replace them. Of course, that's utter foolishness, but it's the attitude that prevails when you seek to buy chips. An exception was the Little River and Odawa casinos in the northern Lower Peninsula, where the staff even helped pick out the nicest condition chips for me.

Each casino offers a players' club card. Some programs are shared by multiple casinos. Each program generally has different membership levels, representing the different levels of perks. The basic cards are shown in this article.

### The Eastern U.P.

#### Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie (Michigan)

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians operates five casinos in the Upper Peninsula, and also operates the Greektown Casino in Detroit as a regular state-regulated casino (at the time the tribe assumed ownership, the Greektown was the only non-Indian casino in the nation owned by Indians).

The casino at Sault Ste. Marie is a couple miles east of I-75 on 3 Mile Road, then north on Shunk Road (not Skunk Road – if you Mapquest Skunk Road, you'll end up about 7 miles away).

The flagship casino in Sault Ste. Marie, formerly called Vegas Kewadin, has chips in American and Canadian denominations. For American denominations, the casino no longer uses 50 cent chips, but instead uses JFK halves. A variety exists for \$1 American chips – the casino interchangeably uses an old design chip, a newer design (both Chipcos), and \$1 slot tokens.



Left: original Kewadin \$1 chip, still in use.  
Center and right: Newer Kewadin \$1 chip (both sides shown)



\$1 slot tokens are also used at the tables, just like chips.



Its Chipco Canadians are available in 50 cents and \$1 (as well as higher denominations not addressed in this article). The \$1 chips are among the worst chips in the nation; they are brown and their design easily rubs off. Considering how infrequently tribal casinos put new fresh chips on the tables (generally once every millennia, a cynic might suggest), it is impossible to get fresh Canadian \$1 chips in any collectible condition.



Canadian 50 cent and \$1 chip. Good luck finding a \$1 chip in good condition.

Although the American \$1 chips and tokens are used at all of the Kewadin casinos in Northern Michigan, only Sault Ste. Marie uses Canadian chips.

There is a single roulette wheel at Kewadin SSM, but it has playing surfaces on both sides of the wheel. The Paulson roulette chips have a gold hot stamp script "Kewadin." Only one set of chips was visible during my visit – the colors were white, green, light blue, salmon, dark blue, and plum.

Kewadin Gold free play tokens are given out for motel promotions and various casino events. About the size of a quarter, there are two tokens available, with different inscriptions on each side. In the photo, the two views on the left depict the most recent issue. It has the newer Kewadin logo with the sun, lake and tree. On the right are both sides of the older token, featuring the older Kewadin logo. Both tokens are in current use. The tokens are distributed in rolls of 20.



The Kewadin Northern Rewards program is used at all five of the tribe's northern casinos. It is not interchangeable at the Greektown Casino in Detroit, which has its own rewards program.



## Bay Mills (Brimley, Michigan)

The Bay Mills casino, owned and operated by the Bay Mills Tribe of Ojibwe Indians, is a small casino. The casino's employees know how to get there, but the rest of the population might have a hard time because the route is not well marked. Signs lead you from I-75 to M-221, but they don't tell you where to go when M-221 ends (you turn left and go two miles).

Bay Mills still uses \$1 slot tokens. It has chip denominations in American and Canadian currencies. There is the \$1 Chipco for the American spender, and Bud Jones 50 cent and \$1 for Canadians. There is no longer a 50 cent American in circulation – the casino uses JFK halves instead.



\$1 slot tokens, with both sides shown, used by both King's Club and Bay Mills.

It has a single roulette table, with Hat & Cane chips hot-stamped with a gold shamrock. The casino's name does not appear on these chips. They come in green, blue, orange, purple, pink and yellow. The minimum value is 25 cents (25 cents is the common minimum value for Yoooper roulette games).

The Fun Card slot program is used at Bay Mills and its sister casino, King Club



### King's Club (Brimley, Michigan)

Kings Club, jointly operated with Bay Mills, is a slots-only club and no longer uses chips. It was the first casino in Michigan to offer slot machines, and the first tribally operated casino in the U.S. to offer blackjack.

### Casino Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario)

The casino at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is owned by the Ontario Lottery & Gaming Corporation ("OLG"), and is operated as a charity casino for the benefit of the local hospital. Getting here is easy – when coming off the International Bridge, turn right and follow the road downtown. The casino is only a block or two away.

The Soo has a single roulette table, designated as Table B (the dealer told me he thinks the backup set is marked as Table A). The chips are Bud Jones models, and Table B's colors are rose, light blue, lime green, dark brown, grey, tan and blue.

The casino uses only Canadian funds. Among their low denomination chips, they have a \$1 chip and a 50 cent chip (nothing lower). The \$1 chips in particular are in horrible condition, so it's not worth the trip for harvesters. Two other OLG casinos have switched to new designs bearing the OLG logo and the name of the casino (Brantford & Thousand Islands); perhaps the Soo will follow suit soon.



The casinos uses the same slot club card as most other OLG casinos.



### Kewadin Hessel(Hessel, Michigan)

The tiny Hessel casino was undergoing some renovation during my visit, but apparently not an expansion. It is among the Kewadin system of casinos.

Two styles of red Kewadin \$1 chips and \$1 slot tokens are used interchangeably at its two blackjack tables. There are no roulette tables, and therefore no roulette chips.

This casino still uses coins in its slots (and the \$1 slot token in the \$1 machines). It does not have TITOs.





## Kewadin Shores(St. Ignace, Michigan)

When I first visited back in October 2006, the tribe was up in arms about this casino. Apparently the tribal decision-makers built a beautiful new casino and hotel, and later discovered that the new casino had been constructed on land not approved for gaming. Since that time, the matter has been resolved and the casino has moved into its new digs.

In October 2007, the casino was using the two standard Kewadin \$1 chips and Kewadin's \$1 slot tokens interchangeably at the tables. There are two roulette tables with a common single wheel in between. One side uses HHR chips with a round white inlay with the Kewadin logo in a red splash. The colors available are purple, pink, maroon, brown, and teal. The other side's Paulson chips have the Kewadin name in black hot stamp. Colors are salmon, blue, yellow, green, pink, orange, and maroon.

### The Northern Lower Peninsula

#### Victories Casino (Petoskey, Michigan)

Victories was closed in June 2007. Its chips were redeemable until September 30, 2007. The casino has been replaced by a much larger facility about a quarter mile away (look for the water tower).

#### Odawa Casino (Petoskey, Michigan)

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians replaced Victories with the Odawa Casino Resort in June 2007. The casino uses \$1 chips; there are no fractionals.



Both sides shown.

Two roulette tables are available. The casino's name does not appear on the chips. One table has a three-spoke pinwheel design, and the colors are grey, orange, blue, olive, peach, brown and yellow. The chips at the second table have a 10-spoke wagon wheel design, and I believe they come in the same colors.

The casino's rewards program is called the Optimum Rewards program.



#### Turtle Creek (Traverse City, Michigan)

Turtle Creek is building a new casino with an expected June 2008 opening date. The Traverse Bay Casino Resorts consists of these two casinos plus the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. Grand Traverse Resort had originally been developed by private non-Indian sources. When it fell into financial trouble, the tribe – using the profits from its casinos – was poised to acquire the property and add this high-profile resort to its holdings. By saving the resort, the tribe helped preserve jobs, helped maintain the Traverse City area as a favorite vacation and convention destination, and diversified its portfolio. Many people are distrustful of Indian casinos and the money they raise, but let's be clear about this: The Indians paid a lot more money for the resort than the white man paid the Indians when the land was *first* acquired.

Turtle Creek continues to use the standard Traverse Bay chips (\$1 white, 50 cents blue). The \$1 chips are available in two variations, wider and narrower rim print, as shown on the next page.



Both sides shown.





The casino has two roulette tables. The chip inlay depicts a turtle in a brown circle, with no table designation. One table uses green, beige, turquoise, teal, rose, tan and blue-grey chips. The other table has blue, rose, blue-green, brown, orange, peach and yellow.

#### Leelanau Sands (Peshawbestown, Michigan)

The Leelanau Sands casino was the original casino of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The casino continues to use the standard Traverse Bay chips also used at the tribe's Turtle Creek casino.

The Grand Traverse Rewards card is used at both casinos



#### Little River (Manistee, Michigan)

An anachronism, the Little River Casino's slots do not use the TITO system – they still spit out real nickels, quarters and \$1 tokens.

Two roulette tables are in operation – I do not have chip colors. The casino, owned by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has \$1 and 50 cent chips.



The Player's Club is the name of the casino's rewards program.



*Editors note:* James N. McNally is a Detroit attorney and a recent convert to chip collecting. His website [www.jnmcnally.com/CHIPS.htm](http://www.jnmcnally.com/CHIPS.htm) contains articles about his collecting travels.

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# St. Maarten Isle

## St. Maarten's Oldest and Continuous Running Casino

by Ralph P. Pollack

The longest operating casino in St. Maarten was in the Great Bay area of St. Maarten and started as the St. Maarten Isle Casino.



The first, original chip order card lists the order for \$1.00, \$5.00 and \$25.00 chips on March 5, 1968. About two years ago a hoard of these chips along with the \$50.00 Match Play and \$100.00 chips were sold on eBay.





MAR. 5, 1968

ST. MAARTEN ISLE HOTEL


Langworthy & Co. #1314 (Sillcocks #6164 3/11/68)

Colors:

2,000 Yellow - 3 Green	1/2" Inl. Edges,	\$1
5,600 Red - 3 Lt. Blue	" " "	\$5
2,400 White - 3 Black	" " "	\$25

NEW Horsehead Mold Shipped 6/24/68

Extra Heavy



In 1968, the Franklin Mint issued both 50 Cent and One Dollar tokens in Proof and regular run editions.



At a later date, in 1972, these HHR chips were changed to the mighty and spectacular NEVADA DICE mold from Bud Jones' Nevada Dice Co.. These chips are rare and not many have ever emerged. They were made with excellent materials that left the incused mold in a 'shiny' condition.

ST. MAARTEN ISLE HOTEL \$1 \$5 \$25 JUNE 7, 1972

Nevada Dice Co. PO #988 (Sillcocks #7250 6/9/72)

Colors:

2,500 Yellow - 3 Red	1/2" Inl. Edges --	\$1
2,000 Red - 3 White	1/2" " " --	\$5
2,000 Green - 3 Blue	1/2" " " --	\$25

Nevada Mold - Regular Weight




In 1974, just two years later, the name of the casino changed to the Great Bay Resort Hotel & Casino with the Large Greek Key mold from the B.C. WILLS & CO.

GREAT BAY RESORT HOTEL & CASINO JANUARY 28, 1974

B. C. WILLS & CO. PO #R13503 (Sillcocks #7658 2/5/74)

Colors:

7,500 Red - 3 White	1/2" Inl. Edges --	\$5
2,500 Lavender-3 Maroon	1/2" Inl. Edges--	\$25
1,000 Black - 3 White	1/2" Inl. Edges --	\$100

Special Heavy - Super Gem Mold #364




Well, guess what, two years later on March 12, 1976, the casino change names and ownership to the Great Bay Beach Hotel with very regal looking chips with the EWING mold.

GREAT BAY HOTEL MARCH 12, 1976

Ewing Int. Sales PO #301-76 (Sillcocks #8141 3/23/76)


Colors:

2,000 Lt Blue - 3 DG Red	1/2" Inl. Edges -	\$10
1,000 Dk Blue - 3 DG Orange	1/2" " " -	\$50
200 Dk Green - 3 White	1/2" " " -	\$500
100 Lavender - 3 DG Green	1/2" " " -	\$1000
100 Black - 3 DG Yellow	1/2" " " -	\$5000

Extra Heavy - "Dice-Ace" Mold

540-41600-45010

Enlarge Image & before entered in book



Ek #6, Page 122



Four years later, the casino was renamed back to the Great Bay Resort Hotel & Casino and the chips that were ordered had the EWING mold. The Burt Co. records depict the order date as August 14, 1978.

GREAT BAY RESORT HOTEL & CASINO      AUGUST 14, 1978  
 Ewing Int. Sales #8-78-3      (Sillcocks #8735 9/8/78)  
**Colors:**  
 2,000 Dk Blue - 3 DG Pink 1/2" Inl. Edges - \$5  
 1,000 Med. Green - 3 DG Yellow 1/2" Edges - \$25  
 Extra Heavy - "Dice-Ace" Mold



Bk #7, Page 123



These chips are still in current use, however, the name of the current casino is the 'Golden Casino at Great Bay'.




I wish to thank James Blanchard for his great assistance and Antonio Palella for his help with some of the information. Without these two individuals this article could not be complete.

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By Ralph P. Pollack

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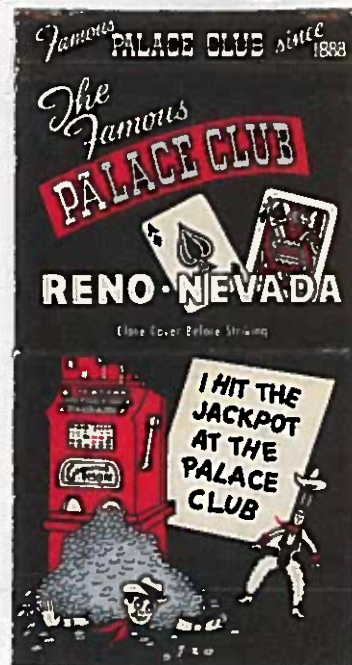
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#### PALACE CLUB

46 E. Commercial Row, Reno, Nevada  
 1888 to 1979

Under the ownership of the Petricciani family, the old Palace Club survived both the legalized gambling drought and the great depression. It also recovered following a 1909 fire to become the headquarters for the famous Jeffries-Johnson fight on July 4, 1910. The Palace was truly "Reno's Brightest Corner".







#### THUNDERBIRD HOTEL-CASINO 1948 to 1976

The Thunderbird was the fourth hotel-casino to open on the famous Las Vegas strip. The owners were attorney Cliff Jones and builder Marion Hicks. Mobster Meyer Lansky was also reputed to hold shares in the property. The Thunderbird closed in 1976. It reopened in 1977 as the Silverbird.



# Knapp on Books

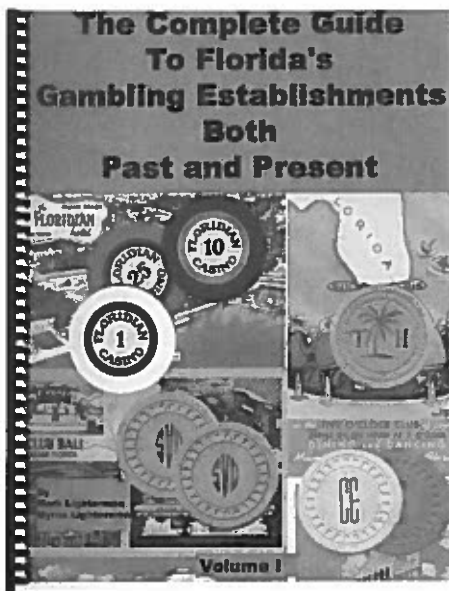
by Michael Knapp

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

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

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions. Due to a number of requests, I'm now returning to adding contact information at the end of each review.

***The Complete Guide to Florida's Gambling Establishments Both Past and Present (2007)***  
by Mark and Myrna Lighterman



The last time I reviewed this book – the first edition in 1996 – it consisted of 146 pages. It was authored by the Lightermans and Bob Ginsburg, who has unfortunately since passed away. You'll no doubt recognize Mark Lighterman's name – he's been the Club's official photographer as long as I can remember. As I recall, I gave the first edition a glowing review. This one will be even better.

Those 146 pages are now 725 pages! The book takes two volumes, with a small third booklet I'll discuss later. It contains more than 2500 full color (and full-sized) photos of Florida chips and tokens, as well as color photos of postcards, matchbooks, and similar historical material for the collector of Florida material.

Unlike the Spencer book I reviewed a couple of issues ago, which is a history of all gambling in Florida, and much less detailed than the Lighterman book, this book is directed specifically toward chip and token collectors. The historical research and detail is extensive.

Volume I is devoted to a section on Florida's gambling history (the first 86 pages), and covers its illegal gambling locations in a "Club Gallery" which devotes a separate entry (sometimes more than a full page) to each known club. Listed alphabetically, each listing provides the name of the club, its city, address, years of operation, and owners/operators where known.

For those clubs for which there are known postcards, news photos, chips, matchbooks, and the like, the photos are contained within each listing. There are a number of entries which

highlight controversy as well – chips, for example, believed to be from a specific club, but without substantiation are pointed out and discussed.

Following the gallery section is a listing and discussion of unknown operations. Names or details are not known, but whatever information research has provided is discussed so that further information can be fleshed out when it surfaces.

Although chips and tokens are pictured with each of the corresponding listings in the "gallery," there is also a separate alphabetical section which pictures each chip, each with its own catalog number, along with its attribution. Finally, there is an index listing each club, owner and operator with a page reference for fast reference.

And that's just Volume I!

Volume II is similarly arranged, listing day cruises, pari-mutuel card rooms, tribal casinos, Florida fraternal organizations, advertising chips, and finally, roulettes. As with Volume I, each entry contains color photos of the boats or casinos, as well as their corresponding chips. An alphabetical index follows in this volume as well.

The Lighterman book is not intended to be a price guide. In an experiment, however, those who purchase the book now will receive a small third volume, consisting of about 25 pages, with all chips illustrated in Volumes I and II listed by their catalog numbers, and providing a *The Chip Rack* style value code for each.

This third volume is entitled "Check List," and it can certainly be carried easily, with a collector's inventory checked off, rather than having to carry the large main volumes. Mark tells me that collector

demand will determine whether the checklist values will be updated regularly.

For illegal club collectors in general, and certainly for collectors of

Florida club and casino material, the Lighterman book is an indispensable addition to a chipping library.

To order, contact Mark Lighterman at [mlighter@bellsouth.net](mailto:mlighter@bellsouth.net).



## ANA News Money Museum

courtesy American Numismatic Association

The ANA Money Museum is named in honor of former Executive Director and ANA Past President, Edward C. Rochette.

Through the discovery of money, America's largest museum dedicated to numismatics brings culture to life. The museum explores art, history, science and much more to promote the diverse nature of money and related items.

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The multimedia Bass Gallery houses the Harry W. Bass Collection, a spectacular and comprehensive collection of American gold coins, experimental pattern coins and paper money.

The museum's main level features a new exhibit every year designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests, including history, art, archaeology, banking and economics, and coin collecting.

The Maynard Sundman-Littleton Gallery and the Whitman Publishing Gallery on the museum's lower level

also feature new exhibits every year, illuminating aspects of numismatics and collecting designed to appeal to collectors and the general public.

### The Collection

The museum collection consists of over 250,000 objects encompassing the history of numismatics from the earliest invention of money to modern day. The objects include paper money, coins, tokens, medals, exonumia, and traditional money from all over the world.

A couplee of the highlights from the collection include:

### 1913 Liberty Nickel



Five Liberty Head nickels were made in 1913 under mysterious circumstances when the United States Mint was changing from Charles Barber's Liberty Head motif to the Buffalo/Indian design engraved by James Earle Fraser.

The existence of these five 1913 Liberty Head nickels was unknown until December 1919, when an advertisement in *The Numismatist* offered to purchase any example for \$500. The ad was placed by Samuel W. Brown, a former employee of the U.S. Mint. Many researchers believe Brown placed the ad to legitimize his coins. The following year, Brown exhibited all five nickels at the American Numismatic Association (ANA) convention in Chicago. The "Fabulous Five" remained together as a set until the mid 1940s, when they were separated and sold. In July 2003 the finest known specimen sold for a reported \$3 million.

### A Multimillion-Dollar Coin Comes Out of Hiding.

The Walton specimen, now on exhibit at the ANA Money Museum, was believed lost for some 40 years. The coin was supposed to be in the possession of George Walton when he was killed in an automobile accident on March 9, 1962, but was not found. In actuality, the rare nickel had been miss-identified and was in the hands of the Walton family, stored in a box hidden in a closet. The family brought the coin forward in 2003 after learning that the other four specimens were being united for a special



display at the ANA's national convention in Baltimore. The result, after the coin was authenticated at the convention, was the first reunion of all five 1913 Liberty Head nickels since the set was broken up in the 1940s.

## 1804 Silver Dollar



### The "King of American Coins"

In 1991, one of the most stunning items was given to the ANA Money Museum—one of the most famous and valuable coins in the world! This is, of course, the Bebee Specimen of the 1804 dated United States Bust dollar, originally purchased from the Philadelphia mint by mid-19th century coin dealer William Idler.

Donated by the ANA Museum's magnificent benefactors Aubrey and Adeline Bebee, of Omaha, Nebraska, this provocative and mysterious coin has had a colorful history on its way to becoming the property of the entire ANA membership. An example of the so-called "restrrike," or Class III group of 1804 dollars, probably struck c. 1858, its existence was first disclosed in 1908, when Idler's son-in-law, John W. Hazeltine, disposed of the Idler collection. Idler had sworn Hazeltine to secrecy about his acquisition of the coin forty years earlier. Perhaps he had been troubled by the cloudy nature of his possession of the coin, his having evidently purchased it somehow from the mint, and he was possibly worried about his production of electrotype copies of the piece. Earlier, Idler had obtained another specimen of the 1804 dollar and sold it to one C. P. Nichols, who had returned it to the mint upon

request when the story of the unauthorized release of these pieces came out.

H.O. Granberg, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, purchased the coin from Hazeltine. It next "surfaced" in the sale of the William C. Atwater collection by famed sensationalistic Texas coin dealer B. Max Mehl, on June 11, 1946, when it was purchased by Will W. Neil for \$2,875. The coin was sold at auction, again by Mehl, on June 17, 1947, for \$3,125 to Edwin Hydeman.

Having handled the sale of a number of the 15 known specimens, Mehl was responsible for much of the notoriety surrounding the 1804 dollars today. His showmanship and speculation about its origins helped make it the best known and most eagerly sought-after of American rarities, and it was presumably he who first dubbed it the "king of American coins." Inevitably, a veil of romance settled upon these coins. They had become the focus of the scandals which rocked the mint in the 19th century on account of the peculations of employees; they were tied into early national diplomatic efforts and economic developments; they were the among the most desirable coins tracked by the nascent coin-collecting fraternity; their appearance and manufacture offered a number of seeming contradictions.

Fourteen years after its last sale by Mehl, an anonymous purchaser acquired the Hydeman coin in Abe Kosoff's auction of March 3-4, 1961, for \$29,000. Who owned the coin for the next eleven years is presently unknown, but in 1972 Kosoff again offered the coin for sale, on behalf of the owner, selling it to Wide World Coin Company "for a reported \$80,000." Later in 1972 it was said to have been purchased by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries for \$150,000; the

piece was subsequently sold in 1974 to Mark Blackburn for \$200,000. It may have changed hands several times before being acquired in 1979 by Superior Stamp and Coin Company, who immediately sold it to Dr. Jerry Buss for \$200,000. The Bebees purchased the coin from the sale of the Buss collection, held by Superior Galleries January 28-30, 1985, where it was lot number 1337, realizing \$280,000 (plus 10% commission).

A thorough and fascinating account of the 1804 dollars is *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing Company, 1962). To this work should be added *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar: 25th Anniversary Follow-up*, also by Newman and Bressett (Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society, New York: American Numismatic Society, 1987). The ANA Library call Nos. are GB20.N42 and GB20.N42T. Information from both of these works is quoted above.

Great notoriety has attended the 1804 dollars in the 1980s, with the ANA's recovery of the stolen Linderman/du Pont specimen and the sale of a number of the other examples, in particular the Dexter (which realized \$900,000 plus 10% commission) and the King of Siam specimens (included in what is undoubtedly the most famous and valuable of U.S. Mint presentation proof sets). Today, the Bebee specimen is valued at \$1,000,000, joining the 1913 Liberty Head 5 cent piece (also donated by the Bebees) as the most valuable coins in the Museum's collection.

Numismatists divide the 1804 dollars into two or three groups—the so-called "originals" and "restrikes," with the latter sometimes being divided into two "classes." In real terms,

the coins are neither truly restrikes or originals, since they are essentially ante-dated fantasies representing, long afterward, an issue of coinage that never existed in the first place.

The eight known surviving pieces of the Class I ("originals"), were apparently initially struck, without specific authorization, to fulfill President Andrew Jackson's desire to use presentation sets of United States coinage as gifts for foreign Heads of State toward whom he wished to make diplomatic overtures. These included the Emperors of Japan and Cochin China, as well as the Sultan of Muscat and Oman and the King of

Siam, with only the set presented to the latter surviving nearly intact today.

Why the mint officials chose to include newly struck proof examples of the dollars and eagles dated 1804 in the 1834 and 1835 sets intended as foreign gifts of state can now be understood although perhaps not adequately explained, but the existence of all the other 1804 dollars is clearly due to laxity and chicanery on the part of the mint workers. The 1804-dated obverse die used in 1834-5 was again employed in 1858, combined with a new reverse, to strike the second group of coins as a part of what

became a scandalous embarrassment for the mint. One example of this "issue" was struck on an 1857 Shooting thaler of Bern, Switzerland, with the edge left unlettered. This coin is the so-called "Class II," residing today in our national collection at the Smithsonian Institution. The remaining six "Class III" pieces "emerged" from the mint in the 1860s and 70s, all showing evidence of their edge lettering having been added after the coins were struck, contrary to the practices of the mint back in the time when edge lettering was being legitimately impressed onto the planchets.

## Bargain Hunters

For the last few months I have been advertising that I'm selling off my extras and I have sold a lot. However, I have been traveling from the East to the West coast and have added as many as I have sold.

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

Due to an inadvertent omission, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting is being republished in an amended form.

The annual meeting of the Corporation was held on August 11, 2007 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, state of Nevada, for the purpose of reviewing the prior year's business, discussing corporate operations for the upcoming year, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Mike Skelton acted as chairperson and Belinda Hixon recorded the minutes.

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The following directors were present at the meeting:

Name of Director

Mike Skelton - President

Wayne Thompson – Vice President

Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer

Belinda Hixon - Secretary

Ralph Myers – Membership

Club Legal Counsel, Eric Rosenblum acted as parliamentarian and 42 members attended.

Motion from the floor to suspend reading of and to accept the minutes from the 2006 meeting. Motion carried.

The following reports were presented at the meeting:

Name

Wayne Thompson

Report

Vice-President

## Corporate Members

A strategy for attracting corporate members is being developed. Two members are working on a press kit that will be sent to prospective corporate members.

Question from Michael Knapp regarding the dues structure for corporate members. VP Thompson responded that the dues would be significantly higher than for individual members.

Report accepted

Name

Belinda Hixon

Report

Secretary

## 10 and 15-Year Membership Pins

Pins are being distributed at the Convention. Those not picked up at the convention will be mailed. Last quarter there were 159 members eligible for 10-year pins. This quarter there are 18. There are 46 15-year members. Numbers run from 571-802.

## Committee/Director Templates

In August 2006 Secretary Hixon contacted all Committee Chairmen/Directors requesting basic job descriptions/processes and forms used in each Chairman/Director's Club functions. Secretary Hixon will be following up with



those who have not responded. It's important to the Club that we have a basic outline for each function of the Club so we don't have to start from scratch with each new Chairman/Director.

## Logos

Since we began requiring that members use the Membership logo in lieu of the Club logo, approximately 75 have been requested. There are about 5 new requests per quarter.

Report accepted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Report</u>
Ralph Myers	Membership

There are approximately 2900 members with the breakdown as follows:

2200 Regular members  
 390 Associate members  
 217 Life members  
 6 Honorary Life members (1 deceased)  
 51 Foreign members representing 15 countries

Pat Beard asked a question about the membership end dates. Officer Myers responded that if a member joins at the end of a quarter or during the first 45 days of the next quarter are renewed at the end of the quarter.

Curtis More asked about renewing memberships on the website. President Skelton responded saying that the website was being redesigned and renewals would be made easier.

Report Accepted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Report</u>
Mike Quinlivan	Treasurer

Membership Dues (includes 1 <sup>st</sup> class postage)	\$34,140	
Convention 2007:		
Table Fees	\$32,420	
Poker Tournament	\$10,100	
Banquet	\$6,265	
Blackjack Tournament	\$3,360	
Registration	\$3,010	
Program Advertising	\$1,680	
Convention 2007 Total	\$56,865	
Interest Income	\$4,494	
Building Fund Donations	\$4,350	
Magazine Advertising	\$4,090	
Promotion Sales	\$1,503	
Directory Sales	\$10	
Total Income		\$105,452
Expenditures		
Magazine		\$34,850
Storage (Occupancy)		\$2,272

Postage (other than magazine)	\$2,098	
Miscellaneous	\$1,964	
Bank Charges	\$1,539	
Promotion	\$949	
Website	\$475	
Advertising	\$199	
Filing Fees	\$141	
Telephone	\$140	
Supplies	\$64	
Printing	\$64	
Convention 2007 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales)	(\$1,307)	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$43,543</b>
<b>Net Income – 01/01/07 – 6/30/07</b>		<b>\$61,918</b>
Beginning Equity Balance – 01/01/07	\$240,459	
Net Income 01/01/07 to 6/30/07	\$61,918	
Change in Inventory -01/01/07 to 06/30/07	<u>(\$2,910)</u>	
<b>Ending Equity Balance</b>		<b><u>\$299,467</u></b>
<b><u>Detail of Equity Balance – 6/30/07</u></b>		
Building Fund	\$96,225	
General Fund	\$64,387	
Life Membership Fund	\$61,293	
Money Market Fund	<u>\$55,015</u>	
<b>Total Cash Available</b>		<b><u>\$276,920</u></b>
Inventory	\$22,247	
Advance (Membership Officer)	<u>\$300</u>	
<b>Ending Equity Balance 06/30/07</b>		<b><u>\$299,467</u></b>

Atlantic City Club's \$4000 donation in honor of Bob Mera took the Building Fund over the \$100,000 mark.

Report accepted.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jim Steffner	Convention

Chairman Steffner reported that the convention was a success. 80 dealers set up on 90 tables. The show was an early sell out.

Thursday was very successful with many attendees.

The theme for this year was Luau

The 2008 Convention will be held June 18-21 at the Riviera. We'll have the same room for the show.

No questions were asked.

Report Accepted

## Old Business:

### Bonding of Officers

President Skelton announced that the incoming BOD would be bonded. The paperwork was completed on August 7, 2007.

### Logos-

Paperwork to copy write the Club Logo has been submitted to Washington DC. We're currently waiting on a response and will copy write/trademark the membership logo as well.

### Comments from the floor -

Paul Donahue presented an amendment to be placed on the next ballot against the Board of Directors putting recommendations on the ballot amendments. (Mr. Donahue presented copies of the amendment to the members present at the meeting and the BOD).

Question from VP Thompson about placing the amendment on a separate section of the ballot.

Point of order by Aaron Peacock regarding the publishing of the amendment for discussion.

Archie Black asked if there would be an opportunity to oppose the Donahue amendment.

Jim Follis asked if any amendment proposed by a member has to be placed on the ballot. President Skelton said that each proposal has to be published and voted on.

David Spragg suggested that it be discussed at the next business meeting since there is no scheduled election until 2009.

### Other discussion/comments from the floor -

Curtis More suggested that a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place be awarded in the Blackjack and Poker tournaments.

Joe Pavlik commented on the election of Officers.

## Certification of the Election:

Mary Ann Massey –

Election Committee consisted of Bruce & Mary Ann Massey, Election Committee Co-Chairmen, and Pat & Carey Burke.

The Election Committee met on Monday, June 4, 2007 to validate and count ballots received for 2007 – 2009 CCGTCC officers and Board of Directors Election.

Total of 434 ballots were received. Seven ballots were determined to be invalid due to membership status, post mark/or lack of required member/voters signature.

Results are as follows:

### Office of President

Joe Pavlik	27
Wayne Thompson	400



Office of Secretary	
Jim Follis	116
Belinda Hixon	309

#### Constitutional Amendments:

#1 – Total -398	Yes – 392	No - 6
#2 – Total -398	Yes – 390	No - 8
#3 – Total – 400	Yes – 391	No – 9
#4 – Total – 399	Yes – 385	No – 14
#5 – Total – 400	Yes – 384	No - 16
#6 – Total – 400	Yes – 391	No - 9
#7 – Total – 401	Yes – 28	No - 373
#8 – Total – 401	Yes – 30	No- 371

In summary, the 2007 – 2009 CC&GTCC Officers and Board of Directors are:

Wayne Thompson, President  
 Jay Sands, Vice – President  
 Belinda Hixon – Secretary  
 Doug Smith – Treasurer  
 Sunday Silverman – Membership Officer

Constitutional Amendments #'s 1 – 6 received the required 2/3 majorities of votes and therefore, passed.

Constitutional Amendments #'s 7 & 8 did not receive the required 2/3 majorities of votes and therefore failed.

We the Election Co-Chairmen, request that the results of the Election be certified by vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

Motion from the floor to certify the Election results.

#### Discussion:

Paul Donohue objected to the certification of the Constitutional Amendments and requested that the election results be declared void based on the recommendations of the BOD being placed on the ballot.

Michael Knapp commented that it is a common for BOD recommendations to be placed on corporate ballot and suggested that when ballot materials are sent out, opposing recommendations be included with the ballot.

Aaron Peacock commented that there are no restrictions on the BOD regarding recommendations.

Pat Beard commented that the BOD was elected to watch over the interests of the Club and make recommendations based on information not known to the general membership.

Motion made and seconded to amend the Constitutional ballot. Motion failed.

Joe Pavlik, unsuccessful candidate for office, objected to the election being certified and called for a full vote of the BOD on his claim that Thompson should be disqualified.

Aaron Peacock stated that it was he who said that it was inappropriate for three officers (Thompson, Myers, Hixon) to vote on accepting the Claims Director's findings and turn down Mr. Pavlik's claim.

President Skelton stated that an ethics claim filed by Joe Pavlik against Wayne Thompson had been reviewed by the Claims Director, Travis Lewin. No evidence was found evidence of an intentional violation of the Code of Ethics. President Skelton stated a full report on the matter had been filed in the last issue of the magazine and the issue was now considered closed.

Motion made and accepted to certify the Election results as reported by the Election Co-chairmen. Motion passed.

### **New Business:**

#### **Instillation of Officers:**

Parliamentarian Rosenblum administered the oath of office to Sands, Silverman, Smith and Hixon, and then administered the oath of office to Incoming President Thompson.

#### **President's remarks:**

Thanked the outgoing members of the BOD for service to the Club.

Stated that we must keep pursuing education information and manufactures' records.

We must find ways to grow and retain members.

First official duty was to appoint Mike Skelton as the Chairman of the Vision & Feasibility Committee.

The Building Fund is being renamed the Museum Fund.

Paul Donohue presented the BoD and membership in attendance with the following for discussion.

To CC&CTCC Board of Directors

August, 7, 2007

Some thoughts on the new membership amendments and the discounted memberships they offer.

I see this as a potential financial problem for the club because of the funds shortfall that could result from the grandfathering of current members at the old \$300.00 Life Membership Rate (15 times the old \$20 yearly dues).

Let us start out with a fact. The BOD has indicated by last years dues increase that club expenses require membership rates of \$30 per year. Agree or disagree, that is what the BOD decision to raise yearly dues stated.

Now let us look at the impact grandfathering current members at the old rate could have. Each current member granted Life Membership at the old rate creates an immediate \$10 per year shortfall for each of the first 15 years of Life Membership. That means the Life Membership Account must generate that shortfall each year or club expenses may not be met. That equates to \$150.00 per member over the first 15 years. The Life Membership Account must also generate funds to cover the Life Membership of the member beyond the 15 year period. I doubt that the necessary funds to cover all this can be earned in today's financial market without substantial risk.

How many people are we talking about that are eligible for grandfathering? I do not have an exact number but it is everyone that has been a member for less than 3 years at the time the amendment goes into effect. I would guess 500 – 1000 maybe more are eligible. How many of them will take the opportunity to get Life

Membership at the discounted rate is anybody's guess. I expect a jump in Life Memberships because it will be considered a bargain. Basically anyone that can afford \$300 will take advantage of the opportunity and save \$150. I would not be surprised if the number taking advantage of the opportunity is well up in the hundreds.

A few figures based on number of discounted Life Memberships granted \$300 vs. \$450):

# of Grandfathered LM	Yearly Shortfall	15 Year Shortfall
10	\$100	\$1500
25	\$250	\$3750
75	\$750	\$11,250
100	\$1,000	\$15,000
200	\$2,000	\$30,000
300	\$3,000	\$45,000
500	\$5,000	\$75,000
1000	\$10,000	\$150,000

Some of this will be offset by Life Members that pass away or quit the club leaving some balance of their LM dues in the account. I think this will be a relatively small number of members that will not offset the larger amount of LM or grandfathered LM still active. People that opt for Life Membership tend to stay around not quit and not many die each year (thankfully).

If the club takes a financial hit of this magnitude, it will lead to another dues increase in the not too distant future to cover club operating expenses. This will possibly cause another round of grandfathering. A cycle of dues increases and grandfathering could eventually result making the membership rate unattractive to new members.

I recommend that the Board of Directors not implement the grandfathering provision at this time due to the negative financial impact it will have on the club. I also recommend that President Skelton's Board leave this decision to the incoming BOD.

Sincerely,

Paul Donohue  
11209 Alton Rd  
Frederick, MD 21701-3402  
CC&GTCC LM3935-18

President Thompson told Mr. Donohue that the BOD would take his suggestion under advisement.

President Thompson introduced the 2008 Convention Co-Chairmen, Dawn Satter and Mike Pasternack.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Belinda Hixon, Secretary



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