

# Casino Collectible News

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

*Casino*  
**COLLECTIBLES ASSOCIATION**  
EST. 1988



The El Cortez Collection



Somebody's Turning 30

Benny Binion and The  
Dallas Gambling Wars



Buckley's Casino



Also in this Issue:

- Knapp on Books
- Member's Corner: Tribute to Brian Cashman
- MoGH - From Chip to Chipguide
- Lots of Covention information and so much more....

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

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

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

## Reference Center

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

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

### For The Beginner

- [CCGTCC Mentoring Program](#) - Help others or find help for yourself!
- [2007 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- [2005 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- [Ask The Expert!](#) - a list of CC&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.
  
- [Club Auction](#) - Catalog, Terms and Conditions & Current High Bids.

### Detailed Reference

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

### Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

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

The Education Section of the CC&GTCC website offers valuable information on chip collecting, whether your 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 its 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 Collectibles News web site. Other publications and articles also free to download.

<http://www.ccctcc.com>



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A 501(c)(3) educational organization with the mission of preserving gaming history.

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not represent those of The Casino Collectible News or the Editorial staff.

*Join The Fun!*

**CCA Membership Application**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

---

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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My collection interests are:

Chips                       Tokens  
 U.S.                               Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

Name and address  
 E-Mail address  
 Do not publish any of my information

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

One year \$30.00 - 3rd class or bulk mailing rate  
 One year Associate Member \$5.00  
 First class postage - additional \$14.00  
 International \$55.00 - includes first class postage

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

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

**CCA Membership Officer**  
**Richard Huber**  
P.O.Box 6994  
Burbank, CA 91510

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

**or sign up or renew on line at...**

**www.CCGTCC.com**

# Casino Collectible News

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A Member of American Numismatic Association (C-140538)



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**American Numismatic Association  
Membership Application**

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

Regular  Student  Junior  Senior  Associate

Present or former ANA number, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Mrs  Ms.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country                      Date of Birth

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant    Date

**Proposer**

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Check  Money Order  Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card all Numbers    Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Cardholder (Required)

**Dues**

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

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

Forward completed application to:

**ANA**

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

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

**Visit Us Online!**

[www.CCGTCC.com](http://www.CCGTCC.com)



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

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

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



**See You There!**

[www.CCGTCC.com](http://www.CCGTCC.com)

# Advertising

Need help in working up your ad?  
Just give us a call at  
775-425-0590 and talk to Allan Anderson  
Fax - 775-410-8322  
Email - [adesign@sbcglobal](mailto:adesign@sbcglobal)

Send full payment payable to "CCA"  
with your advertisement to:

Allan Anderson  
Advertising Manager, CCA

## Please Note

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

## Schedule of Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

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

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

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

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

## Rates

Advertising rates for members are available by emailing the advertising manager at [advertising@ccgtcc.com](mailto:advertising@ccgtcc.com)

## Moving?

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

**Richard Huber**  
P.O.Box 6994  
Burbank, CA 91510

## The Casino Collectibles Association

Wants you to advertise in your quarterly magazine for FREE.  
This coupon is worth one FREE one-inch ad  
in *Casino Collectible News*

Deadline for ads are

January 1st for 1st qtr. issue  
July 1st for 3rd qtr. issue

April 1st for 2nd qtr. issue  
October 1st for 4th qtr. issue

Send all ads to the following:

Allan Anderson, Advertising Manager  
via e-mail at [adesign@sbcglobal.net](mailto:adesign@sbcglobal.net)  
or call Allan at 775-425-0590 for more info.



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# Casino Collectible News

Coupon is not good as a discount on any other ad.  
Must be used for one-inch ad, one time only.  
CCA. can withdraw this offer at anytime.

# President's Letter

4th Quarter 2017



Greetings to my fellow club members. I sincerely hope everyone is doing well. The holiday season is fast approaching and I hope your plans include plenty of family and friends. Congratulations to Steve Miller and Robb McPherson

on winning the ANA Award in the Specialty Numismatic Publication Category. Their great efforts and expertise were well rewarded. We should all acknowledge the work they put in to give us a great magazine.

I have submitted an update of my projects that I have been working in this edition. Please tell me your thoughts and comments by email at [vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com). I have started projects which I believe will help the club grow.

We have lost many prominent club members this year. Their presence will sorely be missed. In their own way, they made the club what it is today. May they rest in peace.

I'm always looking for volunteers. You don't have to commit to a lot of time, just a little effort can go a long way in achieving great success. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Steve Passalacqua has said it best when he said we should all "Have Fun" I know I'm doing just that and hope all of you are doing the same.

It's an honor being your president.

Jerry Vergatos            LM-8093-241

# Editor's Note



Hello once again fellow club members, I'm writing this just prior to Thanksgiving weekend. With the help of many of you, I had lots of content to work with to put

this issue together but with that said, Steve and I would be happier to have too much content then have to scrounge around for news and articles to complete an issue.

It was great to be able to attend the very special 25th anniversary convention this past summer. I was able to put alot of faces to the names I see in magazine. I hope to be able to come to the convention every other year.

When I was thinking about the magazine in the late summer while waiting for the fall issue to come out, I received an email from Heritage auctions regarding the upcoming auction with the El Cortez gold tokens. I thought this would make a great article for the magazine. When I started to research it, I found that the collection came out in late 2007. I then wondered if anyone had written about this back in 2007/2008. I emailed Todd Barrett to see if he had any recollection of any previous articles. This made me wonder if there was an index of all the articles of all 30 volumes that i could refer to. It has not been done. So with a few emails sent, I should have all the previous issues here at home. Watch for it in 2018, an all new index of our magazine so that anyone researching articles will be able to look back and find a particular article with ease.

Your Editor, Robb McPherson R-8583



## New Members

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Last	First	State	City	Ref.	Pre	Memb #
Escobosa	Marcia	CA	Corona	Former Member	R	8893
Delage	William	RI	West Warwick	Leonidas S Tan, Phd	R	8892
Jarvis	Aaron	CO	Florissant	Club Web Site	R	8891
Bagliore	Steve	PA	Stroudsburg	Club Web Site	R	8890
Spence	John	CA	Palm Springs	Former Member	R	8889
Slivinski	William	NH	Nashua	Former Member	R	8887
Wojciechowski	Jim	WI	Milwaukee	Douglas Smith	R	8886
Young	Richard	OR	Grants Pass	Sheldon Smith	R	8885

Fellow members, I have been emailing your renewals for a year now and I want to thank those that have renewed shortly after the email was sent. If I don't have an email on file, please provide one on the renewal post card you receive. If you do not renew by month end, an expired membership postcard is sent. It is surprising to me why an unusual number only renew after receiving the expired member postcard, even thou they received a renewal email. Let's all do our part to keep costs down. On another note, please email me with any changes, especially address as the club magazine is not forwarded if you have bulk mailing.

Richard Huber  
Membership Officer  
membership@ccgtcc.com

---

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

### Update Your Club Listing On the Club Web Site

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

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

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

# Local Casino Collectibles Clubs

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

Chicagoland Casino Collectibles Club: [ikcarkop@comcast.net](mailto:ikcarkop@comcast.net); Riverboat Rick Pokracki; meetings are at various locations in the tri-state area.

Colorado Casino Collectibles Club: Ken Hallenbeck, treasurer, 711N Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1007. [kenhallenbeck@comcast.net](mailto:kenhallenbeck@comcast.net). Meetings Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, and Nov. on the third Sunday of the month, 11 AM to 3 PM at the American Legion Post 21, 500 9th St. Golden, CO 80401

Dallas Chip Club: [txbel711@aol.com](mailto:txbel711@aol.com); Belinda Hixon; various, contact for next meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*All the club information that was received at the time of the creation of the list. If you have information your club would like to add please contact the editors at [Editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:Editor@ccgtcc.com).*

# CCA Mentoring Program

## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

## The Program

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

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

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

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

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

Mentoring Program Director, Terry Shaffer R-5645  
[terryshaffer@hotmail.com](mailto:terryshaffer@hotmail.com)

## Letter to the Editors

Received my fall edition of club magazine today. Just finished reading from cover to cover. Another great job by Steve Miller and all involved with it's content. Fantastic convention coverage, nice write up on Gene Trimble, another great Ed Hertel piece and all photographs throughout are top notch. This edition of our magazine will surely not disappoint. Many thanks to all involved. *via email* Jerry Hudson 8/26/17

*Thank you Jerry for the kind words. SM*

**Names with the Photos** Archie Black HLM-001 8/29/17 Nice to see so many club member names associated with photos. Nice job Steve Miller!

*Thank you Archie SM*

A few years ago I discovered someone who I know from drag racing is Gene Trimble's nephew. I was wondering if this issue's tribute might be available as a .pdf or .txt file that I could send to him. I'm sure he would like to read it!, *via email* Bob Orme R-3576 9/6/17

*I sent a copy of the article to Bob and received the following SM*

Thank you very much for that! Gene's nephew really liked it! He did point out that Gene passed away on July 12<sup>th</sup>, not June 12<sup>th</sup>. Bob Orme R-3576 9/11/17

*Thanks Bob for letting me know about the date I'll put a correction in the next issue. SM*

I wished to acknowledge the receipt of the Club's Magazines, and thank you for sending them to me. I have forwarded copies to my siblings. It's another award winning publication. Great photo selection, story layout, and design coupled with some compelling writing. It is clear why you are the Editor in Chief.

My family and I wish to thank you for printing the story about the donation of our parent's vest as well as the accompanying story about the envelopes my Dad used to prepare and send to Club Members. Laying out the publication with those two elements side-by-side was brilliant. And thank you for placing a teaser photo on the cover.

All-in-all, the fall issue is a great wrap up of the convention and related events. Thanks for all you do, which I suspect much goes unnoticed. Please feel free to call upon me to assist you in the future if/when the need may arise *via email* Stephen Sanderson 9/11/17

*Your parents were a big influence on the club and conventions for many years. SM*

Here's the chip made as a memorial to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting. The chip is to be given first responders, hospitals and government agencies. *Via email* Chuck Gajewski 10/10/17

*A store owner in Henderson requested the chips to be made to so he could give out to First Responders in Las Vegas. Chuck once again stepped up to donate the chips. SM*



# News from the Southern Nevada Casino Collectibles Club

## Doings of the SNCCC....

The Southern Nevada Casino Collectibles Club was given a rare treat for their October monthly meeting. Instead of gathering at our current location (the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino) we instead were privileged to get together at the home of CCA and SNCCC members Anne and Mike Spinetti.

It was nothing short of spectacular! Mike has amassed a fantastic collection of casino collectibles and memorabilia, and better yet, he displays much of his collection in a setting that easily accommodated 30 SNCCC members amongst Mike's several antique gaming tables, as seen in the photos.

Mike is the owner of Spinetti's Gaming Supplies, Downtown Las Vegas, and he is a regular vendor at the annual CCA Conventions/Shows. For those who have been to Mike's tables at the Show, you will well know the basket of cookies he always has available. Well this gathering was no exception to those treats, in addition to shrimps, sliced meats, chips and dip and drinkables!

Mike spoke briefly of his growing up in Jackson, CA and his 30 years as a Honda Dealer, as well as being the Mayor of Jackson, CA for many years. In the picture shown of Mike, with the chip rack of crest and seal sailing ship chips, it is those chips that started him in collecting. He and his family played cards at home and those were the chips they used.

Through the efforts of SNCCC President, Jerry Vergatos, the SNCCC always strives to have new and different guest speakers at our monthly meetings. Meetings, with rare exceptions, like this one, take place at the Gold Coast casino, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. Everyone is invited to attend when in town! Email Jerry at [SNCCCComment@gmail.com](mailto:SNCCCComment@gmail.com) for details when planning your next trip to Las Vegas.



# *NEWS From the President's Desk*

Greetings to all club members.

**2019/2020 Convention** – Negotiations have been finalized and we are now contracted with South Point Hotel & Casino for the 2019 and 2020 conventions.

Key upgrades:

- We will be getting the larger space next to where the convention was this past year.
- An increase of 5,600 square feet at the same rate as we paid for the space in 2017.
- Room rates are locked in until 2020 at the same rate as this year.
- There is a possibility we will get the larger space in 2018 if no other convention is booked by October of 2018.

Instrumental in the negotiations were the CCA Board and Christine and Sheldon Smith. Their experience and suggestions made the negotiation amicable to our club. I was able to get a better deal through their help.

**Meet the Prez** – I will be contracting my own booth at next year's convention. I will be there for you to stop by and tell me your thoughts, suggestions, and any issues you may have. I will have a raffle drawing that is free to any club member who talks to me. You'll have a chance to win T-shirts and a 750ml of Woodford Reserve with my personal logo. I'll also have personalized chips to trade. I hope to meet everyone!

**MoGH** – With the help of Carey Burke and his contacts, a meeting was arranged to try and get some exhibit space at the Nevada State Museum. We met with the Director, Dennis McBride and he was very receptive to a proposal to let us have a museum space. Jim Folis is preparing a proposal and will be submitted to them shortly. The proposal will include a growing exhibit, with multiple themes and could be long term.

**Membership** – Mailings are also going out to guest attendees who visited the convention this year in hopes of getting them to join. We had over 400 locals and some not so local at our conventions with many showing interest in next year's show.

**Industry Dealers** – I made a proposal to the Board of Directors and was approved with this new classification of dealers for next years convention. I will be soliciting Industry Giants to have a booth/exhibit at next year's convention. My targets are IGT, Konami, Scientific Games, Chip manufacturers, and other gaming companies. I'm attending the G2E convention next month to solicit these companies and more. My pitch to them is to have them entertain and inform our attendees with their new products/games. If any member has a contact in any company, please let me know at [vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com).

**Website Redesign** – I have been approached by two volunteers offering to redesign our websites. Originally, I was seeking outside companies for offers and production. Since club individuals have stepped forward, I am putting the outside companies on hold. Specifically, what is being done is purely speculative and is only in the design phase.

When it gets to the technical phase, this will be turned over to all those who have a greater knowledge than me. This is not an easy endeavor as there are many technical issues involved. Costs and functionality are the primary concern.

**My wish for the membership** – I want to take this time to ask that we please try and refrain from attacking club members on the message boards. If there is a problem, please try and contact the member and work things out amongst yourselves. If you can't, please contact me and let's solve the issue. Posting derogatory, negative comments only polarizes us and diminishes our image to all that view the comments. We are better than that. Respect for each other is something we should strive for. I think the world of all our members and hope this message has some meaning to you.

Until my next message, I wish everyone my best.

Regards,  
Jerry Vergatos  
President  
[vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com)

## **2018 Nomination Schedule**

### **Annual Meeting Saturday, June 23, 2018**

- Nomination forms to be received by members in the Winter issue of CCN
- Nominations must be postmarked no later than Saturday, 1/6/2018, with receipt by Election Chairman by Saturday, 1/13/2018.
- Candidates' statements must be to the CCN Editor by 2/11/2018.

## **FREE LIST OF \$1.00 CHIPS**

**Jerry Hoover (R-2572)**  
10655 Kinnard Ave #204 Los Angeles, CA 90024-5939  
Phone 310-441-1171 E-Mail [jhoover7777@gmail.com](mailto:jhoover7777@gmail.com)



# Look Who's Turning 30!!!

26302018

Is this by chance a phone number? **Noooo.**

Is it referring to a science fiction star date sometime in the future? **Noooo.**

Could it be the combined age of the Board of Directors? **Noooo,** but it's close.

How about a safe combination? Again **Noooo.**

It's none of those things. But it is something **very special.**

## COME CELEBRATE

# A Historic Milestone: The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention! & 30th Birthday Celebration! June 21 – 23, 2018 at the South Point Hotel and Casino Exhibit Area, Hall "D"

So this means it's time to start planning to be there. Time to start making vacation plans, travel plans and room plans.

We've been incredibly fortunate to have had a wonderful staff working on the show in past years and most of them are again generously donating their time to make next year's show just as special. Thanks to everyone who has done such a wonderful job in previous years.

For anyone who would like to participate as a dealer next year, copies of the new contract are in the magazine.

You can also print out copies from the club web site. Contracts are already starting to come in, so get busy now and don't miss the January 31st cut-off date for contracts. Information on Pre-registration will be coming out shortly.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. And I promise, there will be a birthday cake!!  
Thanks.

Steven Palumbo - Convention Chairman





**Casino**  
**COLLECTIBLES ASSOCIATION**  
**< EST. 1988 >**

## CCA 2018 RAFFLE

The CCA will be conducting our annual raffle at the June 2018 convention at the South Point Casino in Las Vegas. We are looking for all types of donations of items to be included as part of the raffle - chips, dice, slot cards, strikes, tokens, postcards, matchbooks, ashtrays, swizzle sticks, room keys - ANY type of casino memorabilia that is in good condition that you would like to have in YOUR collection. Thanks to the great participation in the past from our wonderful club members in the way of ticket and raffle item donations, this has been a success over the past several years both for the club AND for the winners.

Ticket donations are \$10 for one, or \$25 for three raffle tickets. You need not be present at the convention to win. Those not attending will have their winnings shipped to them (at no additional cost) after the convention closing.

**Ticket donations can be made via mail by sending your ticket donations check payable to CCA to:**

**Douglas Smith**  
**Raffle Chairman**  
**PO Box 691085**  
**Houston, TX 77269-1085**

Use the same address if you are sending a donation of chips, dice, slot cards, strikes, tokens, postcards, matchbooks, ashtrays, swizzle sticks, room keys - ANY type of casino memorabilia that is in good condition that you would like to have in YOUR collection. Thank you for all of your past support and we look forward to your continuing support to once again make the 2018 raffle a SUCCESS!

This year, we are moving the Show from the Ballroom area to the Exhibit Hall Area, Hall D. Pre-Registration Packets and General Admission registration will be available at the Box Office across the hallway from the Exhibit Halls. This is in the same area and on the same level as the South Point's Arena and Pavilion. You are going to love the new space – it has Restrooms and a Concession Stand in the room!

Once again, we thank all of the Committee Chairs, Directors and Coordinators who will be working with their volunteers to bring our members another successful Convention. We are pleased to announce that Harold Edelman and Chip Rosenblum have joined our Convention Staff this year – Howard as the Volunteer Coordinator and Chip as the Social Media Director – WELCOME to them and THANKS, also, to ALL of our 2017 Convention Staff, as follows:

***Pre-Registration*** - George Dmitrevsky

***On-site Registration/Badge Pick-up*** - Brenda Black

***Set-Up/Tear Down*** - Alan Schuyler

***Volunteer Coordinator*** - Belinda Hixon

***Graphics*** - Todd Barrett

***Convention Program*** - Allan Anderson

***Promotions and Property Director*** - Roy Nelson

***Bruce Landau Memorial Auction*** - David Spragg and Jay Sands

***Auctioneer*** - Tyrus Mulkey

***Black Jack and Poker Tournaments*** - David Sowell

***Publicity Director and Advertising*** - Sheldon Smith

***Social Media Director*** - Chip Rosenblum

***Banquet Master of Ceremonies*** - Wayne Thompson

***Banquet Speaker and Speaker Host*** - Jim Kruse

***Banquet Raffle - Open***

***Photographers*** - Quintin Kamm, Dick Covington

***“OTY” Chairman*** - Jim Follis

***Exhibits*** - Casey Focazio-Follis

***Hall of Fame*** - Eric Rosenblum

***Youth Program*** - Terri Lonski and Gayle Pleau

***Club Magazine Editors*** - Robb McPherson & Steve Miller

You will see in the above list there is one spot left open. If you are interested in running the Banquet Raffle, please contact me. As always, we need volunteers for many jobs including: loading and unloading the merchandise truck before and after the show and helping with Set-up and (ESPECIALLY) Tear-down; working at Registration and the Promotions, Membership, Auction and Museum of Gaming History tables. We also need volunteers to help our Treasurer after the Auction with bidders' lots. With the exception of the first day when shifts may be longer, shifts are usually two hours each and no special training is necessary – just bring your enthusiasm and sense of responsibility!

Thanks,  
Steven Palumbo - Convention Chairman

# CALL for CONVENTION EXHIBITS

With the Casino Collectibles Association's (CCA) Convention coming up in June, we are getting the word out early that we are in need of Exhibits for the Museum of Gaming History's, People's Choice Awards at Convention time. If you are planning on going to the 2018 Convention, please think about doing an educational Exhibit.

Basically, to participate, just sign-up (an email to me), bring your stuff, and the Club will provide display cases and table space. Just remember, Exhibit set-up is Wednesday only, 9 – 1, if we follow last year's schedule. Set-up will require having your credentials, therefore, Exhibitors MUST pre-Register for the Convention.

Please contact me by email at: Exhibits@CCGTCC.com. I can also be contacted at: 520.971.7909.

The Club provided display cases are about 22 x 32 inches and are about 1 inch high, deduct ½" in both measurements to make a liner. A slightly deeper case is available for display of items with a little bit more height. (About 2.5 inches in height.)

***I will need the following information:***

***Exhibit content or theme,***

***Number of cases needed,***

***Your NAME,***

***Your CCA member number, and***

***Title of the Exhibit.***

Exhibits must be casino related in some way, in keeping with the nature of our Club. Additionally, the contents of the Exhibit must be owned by the Exhibitor. If any of the Exhibit will include slabbed chips, special permission must be received from President Doug Smith. (You will be responsible for that permission process.)

Exhibits are part of the Club's overall mission of Education, so please consider doing an Exhibit to display a portion of your collection.

Jim Follis  
MoGH Exhibits Chairman



In this issue we shine the spotlight on a brand new, ground-up casino in Las Vegas.

## **The Lucky Dragon Casino**

This Asian themed casino opened at the end of 2016. I stopped by in early March of 2017.

The Lucky Dragon Hotel and Casino is one of the newest casinos in Las Vegas. It is located on the north end of “The Strip” at 300 West Sahara Ave - it is right behind the Bonanza Gift Shop, three blocks south of the Stratosphere.

According to their website, www.LuckDragonLV.com, they have 27,500 square feet of gaming space. Here are some casinos listed in the Nevada Gaming Control Board’s “2016 Nonrestricted Square Footage Report” to give you a comparison of the Lucky Dragon to other Las Vegas casinos:

CASINO	SQ FT
Golden Gate	12,243
Casino Royale	19,000
Hooters	24,750
Four Queens	27,269
Lucky Dragon	27,500
The D	33,673
Cromwell	40,010
SLS	50,662
Stratosphere	80,000
Circus Circus	121,688
Caesars Palace	124,181
South Point	137,232
MGM Grand	153,000
Wynn	193,886

Even though it is small it felt very open and spacious. As you might expect in a new casino everything was pristine. The gaming area is beautifully decorated in red and gold. The website qiharmony.com says that in the Chinese culture red symbolizes good fortune and joy. Yellow/gold is considered to be the most beautiful color. It represents neutrality and good luck. The outside of the casino building is also red and gold. The player club cards and the \$5 Year of the Rooster chip also followed the red/gold color scheme.

Their selection of table games focuses on Asian favorites like Baccarat and Pai Gao Poker with only a few “Western-style” games like Blackjack. Many of their slot machines had Asian themes like pandas and dragons.



The Lucky Dragon Hotel (left) and the Casino (right) taken from West Sahara Avenue

### THE CHINESE DRAGON

Chinese mythology, folklore and stories are filled with dragons. This legendary creature is usually a long, slender, snake-like animal with four legs. Chinese dragons ability to fly is either mystical or magical; unlike Medieval, lizard-like dragons which use wings to fly. Chinese dragons are considered to be wise, powerful creatures. Comparing a person to a dragon or using the term in an idiom is a compliment.

It is no surprise that the Lucky Dragon’s stylized dragon “D” logo is on everything: chips, cards, TITOs, napkins, table felts, matchbooks etc. I like the design - I think it is simple yet elegant. I took 2-dimensional design in college and would expect an A grade if I had designed something this good.

### CONCLUSION

It is obvious the owner of the Lucky Dragon was aiming for the largest, most grandiose casino in Las Vegas. And it is definitely targeted at the Asian gambler. I think it is a great smaller casino worth seeing and spending time to gamble. We did not eat there but I suspect their Chinese food is authentic. Its proximity to the Strip is great and getting in/on was easy. I look forward to visiting them again during our next trip to Las Vegas.

TITO, matchbook and chips collected during my visit (left).

Entry-level players card (right)



Got a Spotlight Idea?

Do you specialize in one area of casino memorabilia?  
 Want to see a particular collectible or casino in a future issue?  
 Please let me know and I will work with you and make it happen!

Erik Dauplaise R-8053  
 erik24@cox.net



# Buckley Casino and Slot Machines

## By Rich Burgel



I recently sat down and had a coffee with an old time Las Vegas resident who was a retired slot repair technician for many years at most of the Downtown little long gone casinos on Fremont St..

I asked him about the short lived Buckley Slot machines and the casino named after the machines. He replied that Buckley slot machines had been around since the 1930's and that the Buckley Bones(Dice game) & Horse Racing game were most popular. He also mentioned the machines were quality made but orphan machines due to parts availability etc..

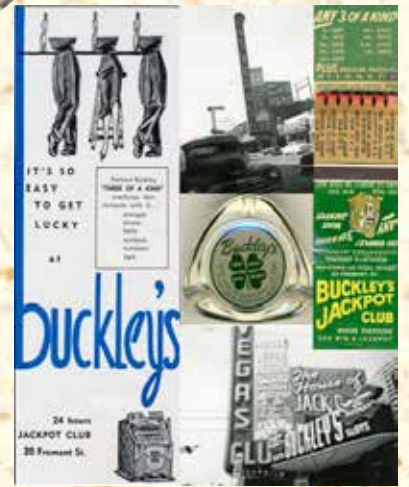


Pat Buckley stayed in the manufacturing part of the slot business and his two brothers, Hubert and John went on into the retail casino slot business. Buckley's bet on two machines to sell, most casino operators used 5 cent and 25 cent slot machines on the casino floor, Buckley's idea was lets put out 10 cent and 50 cent machines to be different. These machines were a flop for the casinos. People did not like 10 cent machines as they were prone to jams and made little noise on payouts. The 50 cent machines were too expensive to play causing you to go through your bank roll very quickly. Buckley had a stockpile of these machines in their warehouse as a result of these failures.





Hubert and John came up with a bright idea, why don't we open our own casino and use the machines in it. So John opened up Buckley's Casino on Fremont St. and Hubert opened one in Reno Nevada. Both casinos lost too much money and ended up closing. So the experiment did not work. The rest is history as collectibles from these short lived casinos are very desirable. Here are some of these collectibles.



Matchbook pics courtesy of Don Leuders  
Collage and other pics Pam G.

# News from the Silver Strikers Club

# SILVER STRIKE

## Room Package & \*\$10,000 SLOT TOURNAMENT

**January 26, 27, & 28, 2018**

### Package's Include

- Three night stay at the Four Queens Hotel & Casino
- Welcome Cocktail Reception-Open Bar
- Awards Ceremony with Cake and Champagne
- Limited Edition Silver Strike Token
- Entry into the \*\$10,000 Slot Tournament

### PRICE FOR ROYAL PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS

<u>Per Person</u> <u>Double Occupancy</u>	<u>Single</u> <u>Occupancy</u>	<u>No Room</u> <u>Needed</u>
<b>\$ 322.00</b>	<b>\$ 425.00</b>	<b>\$ 219.00</b>

Space is limited so call Room Reservations today at

**(800)634-6045 (press #1) OR (702)385-4011**

Ask for Theresa, Alba, or Arlene

**\*Slot Tournament prize money is based on 150 participants and will pay 20 places.**

**Prize money will be adjusted based on actual entries.**

Based on space availability. Prior reservations required. Package price is per person. Packages cannot be split. Tournament entry is non-transferable. Must be 21 years of age or older to enter. Offer may be modified at anytime. Tournament rules available at Welcome Party. Management reserves all rights.

**FOUR QUEENS**  
**HOTEL & CASINO**



# Return of the \$40 Silver Strike

## Hot News from the Four Queens.



The Four Queens will be busy once again for the Annual January Silver Strike Tournament on the last weekend in January. Shaun Webster, Director of Slots, has informed the editor of a new machine (actually an old machine modified) being put in play for the tournament. **Yes the \$40 Silver Strike will be making its return to the Silver Strike lineup.** This machine will have one column of \$40 strikes in it with an special extra silver strike image added to the last reel. So when you hit this special symbol on the payline the machine will dispense the \$40 strike. On top of that, the machine will still be full of the normal \$10 strikes in the other columns and will dispense the regular \$10 strikes when the regular silver strike symbol lands on the payline.



On September 29, Shaun Webster, Director of Slots, Four Queens, released the design approvals for the annual Halloween silver strikes that the Four Queens has been issuing every year on Halloween since 2007. On October 27th the \$300 strike was released for players to trade in their 30 \$10 strikes.



# Members Corner

Jerry Vergatos LM 8093-241

Recently, we lost one of our beloved club members, Brian Cashman. As a tribute to him, I'm re-posting the Member's Corner article published in the April 2015 edition. It was one of the best ones I ever did. At the time, I really didn't know much about him personally and when I was done, I was impressed with him. What I learned the most from him was his great love for the club and all its members. We lost a great member and I will miss him as I'm sure all of you will. May he rest in peace.

Here is my original interview with Brian, "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman in its entirety.

Welcome club members to this edition of Member's Corner. In this edition, I am featuring Brian Cashman, AKA Mr. Splashbar. I chose Brian because I was curious about him. I had seen posts in the chip guide and articles about his Splashy Awards and the Splashbar Event. I was intrigued by who this person was and what he was all about. I contacted him and he agreed to be my next victim and I'm so glad he did. Very often, when a new member joins, he feels uncomfortable as they don't know anyone. This resonates with me as well as Brian when we both joined. As you will see in the article, that feeling can be resolved by any club member willing to take that first step in welcoming new members. Brian is an excellent example of doing just that. Enough said, I present to you, Brian Cashman "Mr. Splashbar!"



**Jerry:** Hi Brian, please explain how you got the nickname, "Mr. Splashbar?"

**Brian:** It all started at the Riviera Hotel. Their main show was "SPLASH" and the bar outside, on the casino floor was named the "SPLASH BAR". I had attended a convention after being a member for a few years and was really upset that no one would take the time to speak with a new member. I attended the next year and things were the same until a real nice guy (Jim Kruse) introduced himself to me. He asked how I liked the convention and I said not very much as the members I saw were very stand-offish. Well he took me down to the SPLASHBAR and introduced me to the members at the bar and all of a sudden you would have thought I was their best friend. After that, I decided that no one should have to go through what I went through and made it a point to pull over anyone with a CCGTCC badge and introduce myself, talk with them for a while, and then introduce them to every member I could find at the SPLASHBAR. That is how "MR SPLASHBAR" came about.

**Jerry:** What do you like the most about the club?

**Brian:** The friends that I have made and kept over the years. Our members are a special group.



**Jerry:** What type of casino memorabilia do you collect?

**Brian:** Chips only, from Las Vegas and mainly downtown

**Jerry:** Tell us a little about yourself, personal life, wife, kids, grandkids, etc. Where do you live, career?

**Brian:** Born in 1944 and brought up in a section of Boston called Roslindale. After high school, I joined the Army. After the Army, It was while working as a laborer digging ditches that I noticed a guy wearing a white hard hat and watching us work, while he stood there. That is when I decided I had to go to school. After a few years in school, I became that guy in the hard hat. I ended up being a civil engineer for the Massachusetts Water Authority for 38 years until retirement 4 years ago. Met my beautiful wife in 1974 and we were married in 1975 (40th anniversary in March). We have two daughters and they have given us three beautiful granddaughters. We moved to the small town of Walpole, MA about 25 miles south of Boston 18 years ago. I have been retired over 4 years and loving it. We go to Florida and Aruba every spring for vacation.

**Jerry:** Ok, Brian. Here's your chance to clown around! Give me your top reasons why everyone should be at the next Splashbar Event.

**Brian:** The next Splashbar event is the annual "SPLASHY AWARDS." This is where the members honor someone who has done something for the club. It started as a real fun event 10 years ago the year after SPLASHBAR #1. We decided to honor one who had something that was real fun by having a crazy ceremony at the SPLASHBAR. After a while it included members that have done something beneficial for the club as well those who have a sense of humor. The ceremony takes place the Friday afternoon of the convention at the lounge by the restaurants at approximately 5pm. Besides having a real good time, it is a great place to meet members! (Just go up and introduce yourself).

**Jerry:** What drove you to join our club?

**Brian:** In 1993, I was a small time collector and saw the club being mentioned on-line and thought, there are more weirdo's like me in this world? I just had to join and is ONE OF THE BEST MOVES I HAVE EVER MADE.

**Jerry:** If you had to change anything in the club, what would you do? What would you like to see in the future concerning our club?

**Brian:** I am not sure that there is anything I would change as, (except for the chronic complainers), it is running as good as can be expected. I, like most would love to see an increase in younger members. How to get them to join I really don't know.

**Jerry:** Do you have any advice for new members?

**Brian:** Yes, a whole lot. Try to decide what you want to collect and work at that. You can branch out later if you decide to. Do not buy everything you see. Use the Chip Rack for a guide to Nevada chips and the Casino Chip Guide for other locations. Also one of the greatest resources you will have is The Chip Board. You can find information on just about any chip in the world on it. Also, just be honest with your transactions and you will find that your collecting will go along much smoother. Last thing: make friends with other members and you will have friends for life.

**Jerry:** Tell us something about yourself that nobody knows. (Now keep it clean!)

**Brian:** Not much to tell, I am what you see, and grew up like any other city kid.


**Jerry:** Give us your final parting words.

**Brian:** Jerry thanks for granting me this interview. I think it is a good thing and an important part of the club history, for members to get to know the other members of the club. Please, keep this going.

**Jerry's Final Words:** I wish to thank Brian for this interview. I caught him just before he was leaving for Aruba. While I don't know him personally right now, I know that will be remedied on Friday afternoon, June 26 at the convention (Location is at the bar adjacent to the restaurants.) I plan on being at the Splashbar Event to personally greet him and would especially invite new members to stop by and say hello. I'm sure you will find him very personable.

**REMEMBERING  
MR. "SPLASHBAR"  
Brian "Mr. Splashbar" Cashman  
LM-1121-157MA CCCC-06  
1944 - 2017**

# In Memoriam



*Beautiful memories  
treasured forever of the  
love and happiness we  
shared together*

Jerry O'Neal, February 2017 - CH-0088

Joe Pavlik, February 2017 - LM-5967-135

Tony Tricoli, February 2017 - R-2084

Frank Muscat, March 2017 - R-5702

Bob Ginsburg, April 2017 - R-1635

William R. Kaar, April 2017 - R-1170

Eugene Trimble, July 2017 - LM-2192-170

Brian "Splashbar" Cashman, September 2017  
LM-1121-157

Stu Lovett, September 2017 - LM-4603-165

Michael Richter, October 2017 - R2726

# Club Members Step Up To Help with Harvey

by Steve Miller LM 1069-241

Sometimes the weatherman gets it right but, most times... well, you know. This year the three main sources for hurricane predictions said that for this season, it would be worse than the 30-year average for the Atlantic Basin. What that would include is 11 to 17 named storms – including April's Tropical Storm Arlene, which ran its' course before the season even started. Five to nine would become named hurricanes and two to four would become major hurricanes of category 3 or greater. The season started early, and as I am writing this in early October, Nate is threatening on the Gulf.

Harvey, a Cat 5, which just sat over Houston for days, created havoc. Harvey, before it moved on, left record setting floods and damage. As you know our club has many members in this area, who were affected by Harvey. Member, Chuck Gajewski of Buffalo, NY, decided to help raise funds for those that suffered from the disaster.

Chuck, along with being a member, also designs and sells personal chips. While the reports were coming in about Houston flooding, Chuck with his son Greg designed a chip for Hurricane Harvey Relief, to use as a fund raiser. The chip shows what they are able to design; one side is Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, Bring Hope into Crisis. The other side is a image of the eye of the storm, Hurricane Harvey, 8/25/17. Chuck charged \$5.00 for each chip offered. He also donated supplies, mailing costs, and time, so that all funds collected would go to the relief fund. This was all done while Harvey was still causing havoc.



Chuck wanted to donate the money to a smaller organization in order to get more bang for each dollar collected. After contacting Doug Smith, a Houston resident, for some help finding a group, Chuck decided on the Justin J Watt Foundation. JJ Watt is a small-town Wisconsin boy, selected in the 2011 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans and the 2012, 2014, and 2015 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. His journey from backyard football to the big stage of the NFL was not always smooth, never easy and filled with adversity, but with unbelievable support from his friends and family, JJ turned his childhood dreams into reality.

He created his organization to help the kids in the community have the same opportunities that were afforded to him. The mission of the foundation, is to provide after-school opportunities for middle-school aged children in the community to become involved in athletics, so that they may learn the character traits of accountability, teamwork, leadership, work ethic, and perseverance, while in a safe and supervised environment with their peers. Moneys collected through September would be used to replace and repair equipment lost or damaged by the floods.

To collect funds, Chuck posted on the ChipGuide board that he was doing the fund raiser. The posting had images of the chip and contact information. At the September meeting of the Atlantic City Casino Collecting Club, Jerry Birl collected from over a dozen members to forward to Chuck. On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Chuck was at the Southern Nevada Casino Chip Club's meeting at the Gold Coast. Jerry Vergatos let Chuck speak to the members present about what he was doing. The SNCCC donated \$250.00 as a club, along with the members present that night added another \$110.00 to aid flood victims. In total, Chuck was able to collect \$1000.00 to go directly to Justin J Watts Foundation.

In the past Chuck has donated 4 sets of 50 personal chips to the CCA's convention raffle gift bags run by Doug Smith. Chuck pledged, if fund raising reached \$1000.00, he would add two more sets of personals, so there will be six sets in the raffle in 2018.

Chuck told me that doing the fund raising for Hurricane Harvey was a lot of work, and time consuming. For Chuck it was nice experience, being he was able to communicate with fellow chippers who in turn helped support the cause. Bottom line, he believes that we help others in need when they are in trouble. The remembrance chip, that his son Greg designed, should be a reminder to help others in need when we have a chance to.

One last word from Chuck, " we as collectors of casino chips, have chips that have a monetary value to them. The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund chip has a priceless value in it's a reminder of helping someone in need out."

*Greg Gajewski &  
Chuck Gajewski*



# My Suggestion to Grow Our Hobby and Club Membership

By Rick Timmins R-7689



I have a suggestion about trying to grow our hobby and club membership. I know it is going to be controversial. I just hope people give it a chance and think about it. Before I get into that I want to introduce myself and tell you a little about my chip collecting and a hobby that I now love being a part of.

I love collecting chips. I have been a “chipper” for about 12 years. It started one night when I was playing Texas Hold’em at the MGM on the Strip in Las Vegas and when I quit playing around 2:00 am in the morning and was walking out of the casino, I thought it would be cool to collect a \$5 chip from all of the casinos in the area. I

literally spent the next hour walking around going into casinos to pick up a \$5 chip. While driving home I made two more stops on different ends of the Strip to buy more chips. By the time I got home around 4:00 am in the morning I had “amassed” my first 25-30 chips and my collection was started.

I had been a casual poker player for twenty plus years and decided that I liked to collect chips. Why did I pick a \$5 chip? Well, when I went around collecting those first house chips I really did not want spend \$25 per casino and I thought I could spend more than \$1 per casino so I settled on \$5 chips. This is why I am a \$5 chip collector!!!

I decided to primarily focus on \$5 Nevada house chips. This is the core of my collection. I have a desire to have a \$5 house chip from every Nevada gambling establishment that has ever been open. I am down to needing just 23 casinos from Nevada. I have a second goal in my collection to have a \$5 house chip from all casinos around the world. As a result of me collecting, I am now up to 8,500 chips in my collection and live in Austin, Texas close to my children and grandchildren. This is a lot of chips, but my real focus and enjoyment is Nevada \$5 house chips. Over the years I think I now have been fortunate enough to accumulate one of the most extensive \$5 Nevada chips collections in the world. I now often buy the rarest of the \$5 Nevada chips in Doug Saito’s Chip Chat auction. I buy rare \$5 chips from several of the dealers at the annual chip show. One of these days I will write an article about my \$5 chip collection. It’s a pretty good collection!!



After buying lots of chips on eBay I got exposed to sellers who were members of the CC&GTCC and I joined. It later led me to joining the Las Vegas chip club where I lived at the time and this is where I got my first exposure to other “chippers”. It was great. That led me to my first annual Chip Convention ten years ago and I have been going ever since then. I even had a table with my brother for about four years as I once bought 40,000 chips to add 400 chips to my collection!!



This led me to my second big discovery in this hobby. It is not just collecting the chips but getting to know other collectors. Over the years I have got to know many of them. They are great people to be around. I may not attend all of the social events at the annual Chip Convention, but I will spend all day just walking on the floor of the show talking to collectors, dealers and volunteers. Speaking of volunteers, I am so thankful for the volunteers in our hobby. There are so many people I should thank for making our Annual Convention and our hobby the success it is. They do so much and I am so appreciative. These are the folks who are the real heart and soul of our hobby. I also read the Chipboard every day and I am aware of the recent passing of several of my fellow chippers, which is very sad but I am glad I got meet many of them over the years. I really enjoy the conversations with all participants at the shows. I wouldn't miss an Annual Convention for the world. I have now become a volunteer myself at the show for the last four years, albeit only for 2-3 hours a year at each annual convention.



I too have seen a big drop off in attendance at our convention and have heard people lament about the demise of our hobby as fewer and fewer people are coming into the hobby. "We are all getting older" is the battle cry for the decline in our hobby. "Today's young people do not have an interest in collecting". We all talk about it. It is happening in front of our eyes. But what if we could change and grow our hobby. I believe we can. I have been thinking about this for a long time and I have a suggestion that I would like to share with all of you. Before I get into the details of my suggestion, I think it is good for all of us to see what the current membership numbers are of the CCGTCC dba the Casino Collectibles

Association. I am going to call it the CCA for the remainder of this article. Shown below is the four year trend of key membership metrics of the CCA graciously provided to me by Richard Huber, Membership Officer.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Members at End of the Year	1,315	1,275	1,183	1,164
Members Not Renewing	119	154	94	112
New Members Joining	96	79	68	71

There are a few reasons these numbers do not quite add-up that I will not get into now, but the trend is certainly there. As you can see from this information our CCA club membership is down almost 12% from 2013 to 2016. On average, 10% of members fail to renew their club membership each year and we are averaging about 6% growth in new members per year over the last four years. It should also be noted that 253 or 22% of our current membership are Lifetime Members. We all know that you do not have to be a member of the CCA to collect chips or other casino memorabilia. In fact, I probably collected the first 3,000 chips in my \$5 collection before I found out about the club and subsequently joined. We have sites like eBay to thank for this phenomenon.

I think all of us want to see our hobby grow. I was not around when the club started 25-30 years ago but I am sure there were many more members before it began a gradual decline. But I think we should all ask ourselves---why do I/we want the club membership to grow? Is it to create more demand for the chips in my collection and theoretically make them more valuable than what I paid for them? That will also make the prices higher theoretically for the chips that I do not own but I will eventually add them to my collection. No I think the real reason I/we want to see our hobby grow is because it is more enjoyable to be around a hobby that is growing and expanding. Mind you I like being at the Annual Convention each year but it would be much more exciting if there were five times the attendees there that currently attend now!! It is just more fun to be part of a growing hobby, sport, business, industry or for that matter any endeavor. Collecting casino memorabilia is no different.

Right now we rely primarily on the volunteers of the CCA to help us grow. The CCA Board, the volunteers at our annual convention, the people who volunteer to sign-up new members are all examples of how we do things today. But what if we could have a full time individual who could work for the CCA to help grow our membership and more importantly promote our hobby. So my proposal is this: Hire a full time Executive Director of the CCA whose mission is to grow and promote our hobby. This person would be working in Las Vegas. There is significant precedent for this type of arrangement. Let me explain.

We know that the coin collecting hobby through the American Numismatic Association has a full time Executive Director. The stamp collecting hobby through the American Philatelic Society employs a full time Executive Director. These organizations even have staff. In fact, these organizations have much larger membership and revenue bases so perhaps comparisons and references are not relevant. However, in many non-profit organizations there is often a full time Executive Director to help promote the organization to the community, grow the member base and address the core mission and objectives of the organization. These non-profit organizations raise the funds to afford this full time employee(s) generally through member dues, sponsorship or some combination of both.

I firmly believe we need a full time Executive Director, based in Las Vegas, to work on promoting our hobby and growing our club membership. I believe this could be done with a payroll and expense budget of \$75,000 per year. As part of this proposal I am also providing a potential CCA Executive Director detailed job description below.

## Casino Chips For Sale

List your preferences

**Steve Berry**

[steveyb307@aol.com](mailto:steveyb307@aol.com)

**Casino Collectibles Association**  
**Executive Director**  
**Job Description**

---

**Job Summary**

*The Casino Collectibles Association (CCA) is a members group with a mission of preserving gaming history. Our members collect chips, tokens, dice, slot cards, playing cards, etc. Our group currently has over 1,000 members located throughout the world.*

*The CCA is seeking a dynamic, highly motivated Executive Director (ED) to lead the organization through its next phase of growth. The ideal candidate will recognize the importance of engaging with members, community officials and members of the gaming ecosystem. The Executive Director is responsible for managing day to day activities of the CCA. The ED will also strategize and deliver new and innovative ways to grow the hobby and club membership. In addition the ED will be responsible in obtaining sponsors and advertisers for CCA events and the Club Magazine. The CCA is primarily a volunteer organization, with the efforts of the Executive Director supported by Board members, club officials and volunteers from the CCA membership.*

**Description**

*The Executive Director will be located in Las Vegas (along with working from the individual's home) and is responsible for all aspects pertaining to the management of the organization. The base pay for this position will be \$75,000 per year. The duties are noted but are not limited to:*

*Operations:*

- Member engagement—create educational events, social events, individual meetings and other activities to know and understand members*
- Maintain the CCA website and keep it current and up to date*
- Create an annual survey of all members to help ascertain the key needs of members and develop goals to achieve*
- Help drive agenda preparation for CCA Board meetings*
- Prepare an annual budget for the organization and regular communication with the CCA Board*
- Be responsive to member requests for information and active assistance with many member-led volunteer activities*

**Marketing/Community Engagement:**

- Create social media content for this hobby including a regular blog post and/or communicating on the website or Chipboard, the use of Facebook and Twitter*
- Create a regular CCA Executive Director Newsletter and publish to all members via email or other electronic medium on a monthly basis on the activities of the hobby and the ED*
- Build and nurture relationships with community organizations including the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Chamber organizations in other Nevada communities and possibly gaming communities elsewhere, gaming historians, LV Visitor's Bureau, other collectibles groups and associations, the World Series of Poker and other groups and organizations that can help to create awareness and growth of the hobby and our members*
- Build and nurture relationships with gaming officials and organizations around the state and especially Las Vegas. This includes casino executives and gaming manufacturing executives*

## **Member Recruitment:**

- Develop a comprehensive long-term action oriented plan to grow the CCA membership that the Board will support*
- Develop a member referral program inside the CCA*
- Ongoing engagement with members prior to membership expiration to encourage renewals and improve this metric from where it is today*
- Ongoing communication and engagement with potential members*

## **Key Qualifications**

*The ideal candidate will possess the following traits:*

- A passion for this hobby*
- Experience working in the casino collectibles area (desired but not required)*
- Excellent leadership skills and demonstrated management skills*
- Excellent project/event management skills*
- Excellent presentations skills (both written and verbal)*
- Experience interacting with a Board of Directors*
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively to achieve goals*
- A persistent attention to detail*
- The ability to exert appropriate influence within the organization and in the community*
- The ability to motivate and attract new members to an organization*

Well now you might be wanting to say---“well looks good, but how are we going to pay for it?” Before I get into that I want to review with everyone the current financial status of the CCA. In looking at the club financials, I only reviewed the 2015 and 2016 Income and Expense Statement as they appeared in the club magazine—Casino Collectibles News. I did not attempt to contact our club Board members, officials or the Treasurer. This is simply my look at these reports and figures.

In 2016 dues from members was just over \$33,000. Our annual dues are \$30 per member. If you choose to become a lifetime member, there is a formula to pay based on fundamentally your age. Convention revenue is just over \$41,000 and other revenues are \$17,000 for a total of \$91,000. On the expense side the club magazine costs us \$24,000, annual convention is \$42,000, the MOGH is just over \$15,000 and all other expenses are \$25,000 for total expenses of \$106,000. This equates to a deficit of \$15,000.

In 2015 the revenues and expenses are in the same range, although without a MOGH expense there was a slight surplus of \$6,000. Fundamentally an individual's member dues pays for the club magazine they receive. Again the annual dues are \$30 per person.

With this background of our income and expenses for the CCA, it is clear that unless we change something it is impossible to afford a full time Executive Director. To afford this person it is my recommendation that all members receive a special Executive Director Assessment fee of \$75 per year. With just over 1,100 members, this was raise just over \$82,000 and can comfortably afford this person, including the individual's payroll taxes and miscellaneous expenses. I know none of us agreed to pay this additional fee when we joined the CCA or even paid our lifetime dues. There may even been a burden on some. For those in which this creates a financial burden there may be ways to deal with that issue. However, with each of us paying the \$75 per year, I believe this will insure that our club, and more importantly our hobby, can turn around our decline and grow. This assumes our Executive Director will be successful in his or her job responsibilities, which I firmly believe will happen. Most of us also add to our collections each year and many times we do not think \$75 is too much to spend on a key chip(s) or other important collectibles. It should be noted that the creation of a full-time Executive Director and a special annual assessment fee of \$75 will probably require an amendment to the CCA Constitution.

In my professional life I spent 35 years working for two technology companies: Motorola and Cisco Systems. I was a Vice-President of Finance in both organizations. My experience tells me that when an individual with the right mission and support (and compensation) focuses on an issue or goal, than a great majority of the time they will be successful. I have also served on several non-profit Boards. All of them employ a full-time Executive Director to lead the efforts of the organization.

This article has been about me making a case for a full-time Executive Director to grow our hobby and our club. I think it is also important to hear from members of the CCA. To that extent I have created a survey that I encourage each member to take the time to complete. The survey link to complete is noted below:

<https://tiny.cc/cca>

I believe it will take five minutes or less depending on how many free form comments you would also like to provide. At some point I will compile the information and send it to the CCA Board for their consideration. By the way, I have not consulted with them on this recommendation or the writing of this article. Thank you all for reading. Happy chipping and collecting.

Rick Timmins  
R-7689

## Your magazine needs your help!

We hope you enjoy your magazine....we need help getting articles.

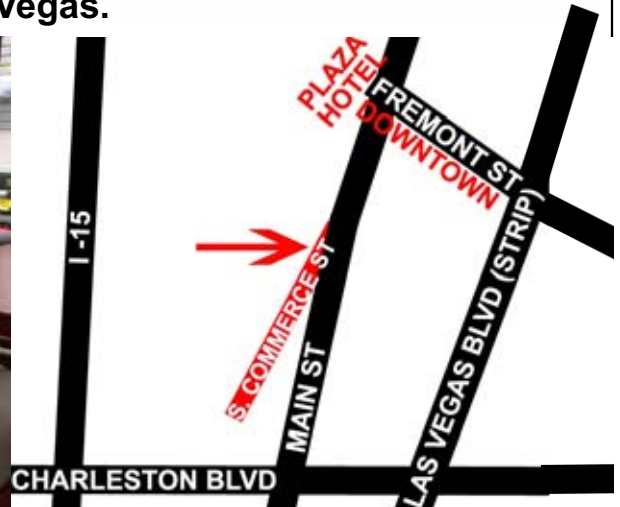
**No English Majors needed....**We need your input: how did you start collecting, interesting stories while collecting, what you collect, show off your collection, history of gaming companies, locations, or equipment, anything that interests you, will more than likely interest others. The article does not have to be long. It can be more photos than text. Give us an outline and we will flush it out. All articles are sent out to copy editors for grammar and context.

Contact either Steve or Robb at [editor@ccgtcc.com](mailto:editor@ccgtcc.com) for help, questions, submissions.

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# KNAPP ON BOOKS

Michael Knapp

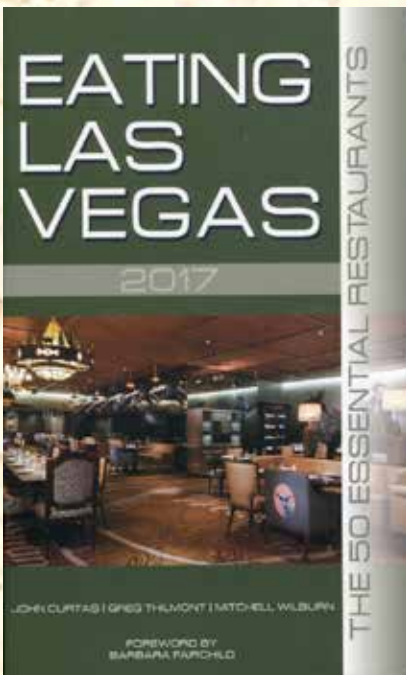
I must have books in order to review them, so if you're an author, let me know by sending me an e-mail at [ChipProf@aol.com](mailto:ChipProf@aol.com) to arrange for a review copy.

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions.

Here is another book which is completely non-chip related, and does not concern itself with collecting casino memorabilia.

Something else this book is not, is a guidebook for people who like to grab a quick bite between chip runs, gambling or convention sessions. It's not for those who look for the lowest-priced buffets where they can eat until they burst.

It's also not for those looking for "old Las Vegas atmosphere," because these authors are not impressed by places they refer to as "shrines to yesteryear" or derogatorily, "old school swankiness."



***EATING LAS VEGAS: THE 50 ESSENTIAL RESTAURANTS, 2017 Edn., by Curtas, Thilmont and Wilburn***

They are, however, impressed by well-prepared, well-served, innovative, expensive food in opulent venues.

The book is divided into several categories: the top 10 (8 of which are in Strip hotels), the best of the rest and additional recommendations. Needless to say (or maybe not), the majority of the 50 essentials are in the \$125 price range, not including wine. An expense account would clearly help.

The top 50 merit two-page reviews, usually a main review by one critic and a tag by one of the other authors. There are, however, many restaurants that get only a one-line, sometimes rather snide comment – too old-school, not trendy enough, etc., even though they may be expensive.

So what kind of food excites these authors and merits top ratings? "Skewered tidbits of unctuous goose liver are lightly dusted with nutty amaranth flour. Then they're playfully cocooned in circus-style house-made spun sugar." "Molecular olives," although I have no idea what those are. "Buttery spaghetti topped with soft-boiled egg, sea urchin and caviar." "La Caille – quail farci stuffed with foie gras and black truffle, perched in a potato mouselline 'tree' with black truffle 'leaves,'" as a few examples.

This is not food for those who are not adventurous, who may be picky eaters, and who do not have unlimited funds to spend on dinner

To be sure, there are a few affordable burger joints in the one- or two-liner review section, and a couple of buffets too. Only one South Point restaurant merits a review, and it's a one-liner. The entire review of Michael's reads:

"Old school swankiness at a steep price paid mainly by knaves, rubes and the nouveau riche." Or Hugo's Cellar, which earns two sentences: "This subterranean spot has seen many romantic dinners over the Vegas ages. The tableside salad is a local classic."

This is surely an interesting read for foodies, but it certainly isn't a guide book for the average diner.

Published by Huntington Press, the book is available at: <https://www.lasvegasadvisor.com/shop/products>

## Manufacturer Sample Chips

The \$25¢ Collector is now collecting Manufacturer Sample chips



Still collecting \$25 and 25¢ chips from all over Nevada, but now adding Manufacturer Sample chips to my collection.

*Please contact me if you have \$25, 25¢ or Manufacturer Sample chips to sell.*

**Nate Pincus**

P.O. Box 693, Havertown, PA 19083  
610-507-1115 nate@chipcollector.com

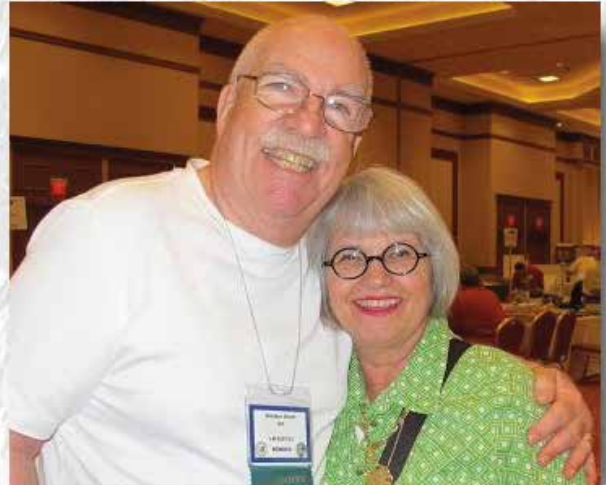
**\$25 \$25¢ \$25 \$25¢ \$25 \$25¢ \$25**

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!*

## Save the Dates

for The Club's 30th Anniversary Convention.

June 20 - 23, 2018

at the

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Hotel, Casino and Spa



# Visit the Greg Susong Digital Media Center!

**at the Museum of Gaming History**

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

Visit it today at  
**[museumofgaminghistory.org](http://museumofgaminghistory.org)**

## Museum of Gaming History

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



*Dedicated to the preservation and education of Gaming History*

### Visit The Museum of Gaming History LogoWear Shop!



From casual polos to fashionable long sleeve button down shirts, all items are offered in approved colors and styles, as well as decorated with the Museum's logo. The Museum of Gaming History invites you to browse the store and we hope you enjoy your shopping experience. All proceeds from the sale of these garments goes to the Museum of Gaming History.

Visit the Museum of Gaming History at [www.themogh.org](http://www.themogh.org).  
The on-line museum has many great features including "This Week in Gaming History",  
On line videos, plus, 1000's of photos and scans are being loaded.



by Erik Dauplaise #R-8053

I am very lucky - I have visited over 100 casinos in my life.  
In the summer of 2015 my wife and I traveled to Italy and went to our first European casino.  
And not just any casino - the oldest operating casino in the world.

As an added bonus I was in college working on a bachelor degree  
and had just taken two semesters of a foreign language - Italian.

I had not been this excited to visit a casino since my first trip to Las Vegas.

*Image of the Casino di Venezia as seen from the opposite side of the Grand Canal*

When you mention the city of Venice the first thought for most people would be the water canals filled with gondolas, followed perhaps by the Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge. Like many European cities it has a long history filled with political intrigue, colorful characters, wars, and natural disasters. Part of its history is the claim to have to oldest, continuously operating casino in the world: Casinò di Venezia.

---

**WELCOME TO CASINÒ DI VENEZIA**  
THE EMOTION OF GAMBLING,  
IN A UNIQUE SETTING

*Inaugurated in 1638, Casinò di Venezia is the world's oldest gaming house and its charm has remained unaltered over the years: today the rooms for elegant French games and American gaming tables are given over to the best professionals, whilst over 600 slot machines provide a more informal way of having fun, still set against the privileged backdrop of a unique setting.*

**CA' VENDRAMIN CALERGI**

The classic games room.

*The heart of Casinò di Venezia beats on the Grand Canal in Ca' Vendramin Calergi, the sophisticated theatre of the most classic games. In 1638 the Casinò di Venezia quickly established itself as the centre of entertainment of international notoriety while in the 1950s it moved to this location.*

*A perfect example of a renaissance style stately home, once the residence of the doges and Richard Wagner's last dwelling place, it is one of the most elegant buildings overlooking the Grand Canal.[1]*

[1]<http://www.casinovenezia.it/en>

Casinò di Venezia is located on the Grand Canal. Its front door is only accessible by boat. Its rear entrance can be accessed by Rio Tera de la Maddalena, a people "street" on one of the many islands that make up the city.

Casinò di Venezia certainly does not feel like a Las Vegas casino. The 500 year-old, three-story building (named Ca' Vendramin Calergi) took 28 years construct (1481-1509) and has a long history of ownership. The city purchased the house in 1946 and has been the Casinò's home since 1959.[2]

**OUR VISIT**

We knew they had a dress code from a previous attempt to enter the casino in 2001 in shorts so I wore dress slacks with a jacket and Carole wore a skirt. The welcome desk is on the first floor where we presented our passports. The entry fee is €10 (about \$12 US) which they gave back to us with a €10 chip or TITO.



The first floor of the casino has about 100 slot machines and a cashier cage. These slot machines consist of the games you would find in any Las Vegas casino. I did not notice if the instructions were in English or Italian. I think this part of the casino is open during the day.

[2]Portale di Venezia: Ca' Vendramin Calergi Archived 2009-10-15 at the Wayback Machine and Ca' Vendramin Calergi: La storia (via Wikipedia)



Table games are on the third floor. This area is only open from the evening into the early morning. They offer games that originated in Europe (Single-Zero Roulette, Chemin de Fer, Trente et Quarante, Punto Banco) and some that originated in America (Texas Hold'em Poker, Black Jack, Caribbean Stud Poker).



Casino di Venezia offers announced bets on the single-zero Roulette. These are different number series in roulette that have special names which cover a section of the wheel. These are a mix of bets on 1, 2, 3 &/or 4 numbers. Player place the chips on the table and call out the bet similar to announced bets Craps.

- \* **Vicini Dello Zero** (multiple of 9 chips bet) is the seventeen numbers between/including 22 & 25.
- \* **Serie 5/8** (multiple of 6 chips bet) is the twelve numbers between/including 27 & 33.
- \* **Orfanelli** (multiple of 5 chips bet) is the eight numbers not included in other two sections.



*Rear entrance and courtyard*



*Mosaic sign embedded on Rio Tera de la Maddalena pointing to the rear entrance*

## THE OTHER CASINÒ di VENEZIA

Casinò di Venezia has another location on the mainland.

*Ca' Noghera, Italy's first American-style casino, opened in 1999 not far from Marco Polo airport. It offers over 5,000 square meters of entertainment, including a new poker room for Texas hold'em Poker tournaments.*[3]

We did not get a chance to visit this location. Hopefully we will during our next Italy trip.

### WORD PLAY[4]

A word can have multiple meanings in the English language - Italian is no different.

The word casino comes from the word casa (house). The noun casino, with the accentuation on the "i", refers to a brothel.

The adjective casino, with the accentuation on the "i", means confusion, chaos or a mess.

Casinò, with a grave accent on the "o", is a place that offers gambling.

### I NOTICED SOMETHING

Later during our vacation I noticed something at a laundry mat in Florence; the tokens used on the machines have a slot or groove in them and the machine's coin slot had a little bump-out to match. I knew this design had to be a security feature to prevent a person using slugs and I knew I had seen this before on a casino token so I brought back a laundry token.

[3] <http://www.casinovenezia.it/en>

[4] some information from my college Italian courses, other information from <https://blogs.transparent.com/italian/che-casino/>



When I got home I compared it to a token I had from Vegas World. I bought or traded for the Vegas World token specifically because of the grooves without knowing why the token had been manufacture in this manner. Now I do.

### CONCLUSION

We went to the Casinò di Venezia two nights after we had dinner. The staff was polite and many of them spoke English.

So, if you find yourself in Venice some night, are appropriately dressed and want a visit a historic building with the world's old operating casino I highly recommend Casinò di Venezia.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Erik24@cox.net



*Looking east from the Casinò dock on the Grand Canal*



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

## CLUB MEMBER TONY KREUSCH WINS 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE EXHIBIT AWARD AT 2017 ANA DENVER CONVENTION

Tony's display in Class 6; Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens category titled; "RODEO CHIPS" was awarded a First Place. Congratulations Tony.

ANA presented 49 competitive awards at the recently concluded Denver World's Fair of Money convention. The winners were announced at the exhibit awards presentation and reception on August 4<sup>th</sup> and at the awards banquet that evening. 39 exhibitors of all experience levels, showing 51 exhibits competed in this year's program.

Hopefully more exhibits will be entered by CC&GTCC members in our gaming category next August when the American Numismatic Annual World's Fair of Money Convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Come on you East Coast collectors. Show us your stuff. "If you don't blow your own horn, nobody will look at your car".

## RARE 1794 DOLLAR REALIZES \$2.8 MILLION AT ANA DENVER AUCTION

Fewer than 150 examples are thought to be known of this rare date silver dollar, and one of the finest known examples of this first date of issue. Fierce bidding was the order of the sale conducted by the Stack's Bowers auction firm in August.



# 2017 ANA DENVER CONVENTION STATISTICS

- 8,638 Attendees
- Bourse floor featured more than 435 tables, representing 410 companies and 1,420 dealers and their assistants
- ANA recruited 188 new members
- Collectors and guests attended 35 hours of free educational programs
- More than 345 youngsters participated in “Treasure Trivia” and 41 Scouts attended badge/patch workshops
- The silent auction raised more than \$8,200 for the ANA’s Robert C. Locce Scholarship Fund.
- The official auction realized more than \$50 million

## **SILVER MEDALLIONS BEING OFFERED TO NEW ANA MEMBERS (while limited quantities of 2000 last)**

[http://admin.listpilot.net/mpower/showHtml.do?ac=money&id=au6vhkl\\_6d73656e](http://admin.listpilot.net/mpower/showHtml.do?ac=money&id=au6vhkl_6d73656e)

## MEMBERS’ RECOLLECTIONS FROM PAST CONVENTIONS

*Editors Note: This series was started in the Summer 2017 issue. If you have a recollection you would like to share with other members, please continue to send them in.*

Don Braid R1317 sends us his recollection,

A picture is worth 1 trip. The convention year was 2007. Being in the airline business I always had the opportunity to travel standby and would take advantage of that when the convention rolled around. My wife usually didn’t come with me on these trips but we had been to Las Vegas a few times over the years and most of those times we also took our son. A couple years prior, my son had taken a great picture from the plane either landing or taking off that really captured the strip. When I was talking of going that year, my son (age15) was saying he wanted to go. That would be great, but with just me going and not my wife, I really wasn’t thinking of taking him and having him just hang out at the hotel while I went on chip excursions. For me to have a chip in my collection, I have to have actually played in that casino so I was planning on hitting a few of the outlier places. I was really torn because I was thinking it would be kind of cool with just him and I, but then again he was only 15 and couldn’t be in the casinos. So the day came for my departure and I left work early to go home, grab my bag and head to the airport. I called my wife to let her know I was going solo. She just said “be prepared”. Well, remember that picture? When I got home there was a copy of it taped to the door. When I went in the house there was a copy taped on the refrigerator, and in the fridge, and one taped on the bedroom door, closet door, bathroom door, inside the shower..... you get the idea. I think about 20 total. So I asked him if he wanted to go and if so, if he could be ready in 30 minutes which was about 29 mins more than he needed. It turned out to be a great trip. He got to see the convention and was amazed at all the displays and even sat in on a couple seminars. We worked out a plan in the casinos for him to hit the food courts while I earned a chip for my collection. We saw a Rat Pack show and did the thrill rides on the Stratosphere. I still have a copy of that picture taped to the desk lamp in my office!

# Pedigrees and Hoards: The El Cortez Casino Collection

By Rick Bretz, Coinweek™



Probably no other state has brought as many “hoards & collections” into the hobby as the state of Nevada. Several have interesting stories, like the Binion and Fitzgerald collections, but all started out as hoards.

The El Cortez Casino Collection, however, was true to its name--it started as a collection.

The El Cortez Casino Collection once belonged to legendary gaming

pioneer Jackie Gaughan, the fourth owner of the El Cortez Casino in downtown Las Vegas. The El Cortez Casino has an interesting pedigree of its own; mobster Bugsy Siegel was its second owner. For many years, Jackie assembled a collection from coins found passing through the casino. While most were silver Morgan and Peace dollars, a few gold coins resided in his collection. I was told that the collection was on display at the El Cortez Casino for many years.

Jackie was the cornerstone of gambling in Las Vegas, and at one time owned 25% of downtown real estate. He also owned, had an interest in, or operated 11 casinos in the downtown area: the Pioneer Club, Las Vegas Club, Golden Nugget, Showboat, Union Plaza, Sundance, Nevada Hotel, Club Bingo, Gold Spike, Western Bingo--and his jewel, the El Cortez.

With such an expansive career, there are many stories about Jackie, and one of my favorites revolves around the mobster Irish Green. While the story seems to have grown in the telling, the version I heard was that when Jackie purchased the El Cortez he inherited a non-paying guest, Irish Green. Apparently, Mr. Green “did right by Bugsy Siegel” and was offered free residency at the casino for life. When Jackie learned of his “guest” he contacted Benny Binion (owner of the Horseshoe Casino) to try to talk Benny into taking Green off his hands. Benny’s response was, “Hell no, I have to feed him – you can house him.” And Irish stayed at the El Cortez until his death.



Rumor has it that the ghost of Irish Green still wanders the floor where he resided and maids have heard unexplained noises and doors open and close for no reason...

An interesting aspect of Jackie’s collection is its dearth of duplicates. In most cases you’ll find one date/mintmark for a coin. The only duplicates I’ve ever seen are common-date Peace dollars.

The collection also contained a few gold pieces, but they’re extremely rare and seldom seen at auction. The only gold piece I’ve seen is a 1924 Saint-Gaudens \$20 double eagle.

Gaughan sold his collection to Spectrum Numismatics International in December of 2007. NGC was selected as the authenticating agency to insure that the heritage of the collection was preserved and that collectors were getting the “real deal”. Over the next few years, pieces from the collection appeared in auctions and were quickly gobbled up by private collectors. Today, the coins are rarely on the market and command a healthy premium.

Jackie Gaughan died in Las Vegas on March 12, 2014, at the age of 93.

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# The Loot from the Vault

As i was researching the previous article on Jackie Gaughan's collection, i was lead to more interesting information on the complete collection that Jackie had assembled. Rick Bretz's article covered the numismatic items in the collection. Some of the more casino related items I will cover here.

The second part of the historical collection was the actual casino related pieces. Spectrum International purchased all of the collection including the custom made gaming tokens. Joe Woody, Vice President of Finance at El Cortez said it best in quote from the Las Vegas Review Journal, " You've got a gaming pioneer that collected this over the years, Nevada-specific gaming items, some unusual items that most people don't have."

These custom made tokens were made of gold and struck in 1988 for the El Cortez, Union Plaza Hotel, Western Hotel and Hotel Nevada.

Spectrum purchased all of the 10 \$1 Union Plaza tokens made along with 6 of the \$1 El Cortez tokens and 3 of only 5 of the \$5 El Cortez tokens.

Alot of these tokens were just stashed away in the vault and never diplayed so no one really knew of their existence until 2007 when Spectrum was involved in dealing with the purchase of the estate.

Well jump ahead to 2017, 10 years after the original estate purchase and 10 of the tokens are in a Heritage Auction Sale, 2017 November 2 - 4 US Coins Signature Auction - Dallas #1261. By the time you read this, the sale will be over so here are the prices realized for them. Maybe one of our members reading this will be the new owners of some of these pieces.



**\$1800**



**\$3600**



**\$1800**

A few previous sales of some of the tokens,

- 1988 Gold \$5 El Cortez Token. Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC) sold in 2008 for \$6,600
- 1988 Gold \$5 El Cortez Token Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC) sold in 2008 for \$4,200
- 1988 Gold \$1 Western Hotel Token Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC) sold in 2008 for \$2,640
- 1988 Gold \$1 Union Plaza Token Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC) sold in 2008 for \$2,400

# Museum of Gaming History

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



*Dedicated to the preservation and education of Gaming History*

## From Chip to ChipGuide

By Charles Kaplan, LM-115-148

As I write this article, there are over 190,000 items on the ChipGuide and we are still growing. Still growing as many as 100 to 200 items on some days. Many of you have participated in helping the ChipGuide to grow by either submitting an item for the ChipGuide as a Contributor or by processing ChipGuide submissions as a ChipGuide Administrator. This article ties in both what both Contributors and Administrators do to show what happens from Chip to ChipGuide.

### **Step 1 – Finding the Chip**

The first thing that needs to happen is that a collector notices that an item in their collection is not on the ChipGuide. Even with 190,000 items, there are still tons of chips and other collectibles not yet on the ChipGuide. If every collector when through their entire collection and submitted items not already on the ChipGuide, I am sure that we could easily double the size of the ChipGuide. I recently got a fairly rare \$1 chip from the New Bahamian Club in Nassau, the Bahamas. My chip has what looks like a drill hole, probably for a keychain, that broke. The same chip without a drill hole is already on the ChipGuide, but not the drilled version.



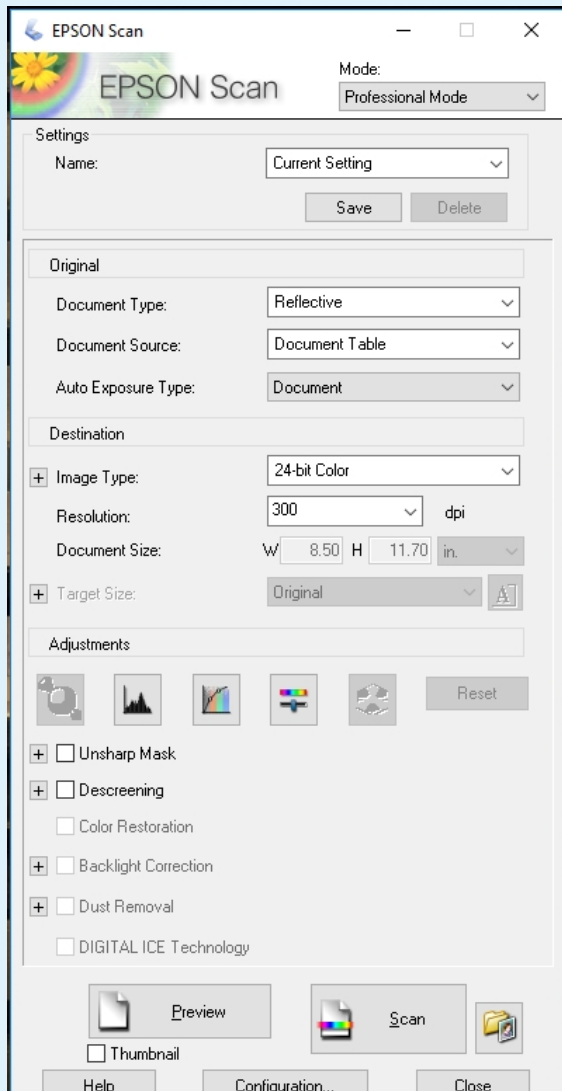
**CG077375**



**CG186480**

### **Step 2 – Scanning the Chip**

Place the chip on the scanner, try to align it straight up and down as best you can, the better you do, the easier it is later on. Put the chip about 1" from the top and the side of the scanner. If you put the chip right into the corner of the scanner, some of the edge of the chip might be cut-off from the scan. For the absolute best scan results, place a "neutral gray card" on top of the chip. The neutral gray card provides a reference color in the scan. Image editing software allows you to point to the reference color in the scan and then an adjustment is made to set the colors in the scan to their true colors. Neutral gray cards are inexpensive and available as a photography supply. Set the scanner program to NOT make any automatic adjustments, just give me exactly what it is. Scanners try to be helpful by automatically fixing common problems, but they do not understand casino collectors and often make things worse than they are. If adjustments are needed, the ChipGuide Administrators can make them as needed.



**Above left** – Scanner Settings

**Above right** – Full scan of the chip

**Bottom right** – Full scan cropped down to a smaller size for submission to the ChipGuide. All image editing programs let you crop, even MS Paint.



### Step 3 - Submitting the Chip

To submit a chip on the ChipGuide, go to the ChipGuide website, <http://chipguide.themogh.org/> And then click on "Submissions" in the column on the left-hand side of the webpage. Fill out the form the best you can. Press BROWSE to upload the cropped image from the scanner. When you are done, press the green SUBMIT button. Your job as a contributor is now completed, easy as 1-2-3.

**ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles**

## ChipGuide Submission Form

**Message:** Enter information and press **SUBMIT**

Submitter Name: Charles Kaplan (optional)

Submitter Email: chas@ckaplan.com (optional)

Casino Name: New Bahamian Club

Casino Type: Land Based

Region: Caribbean State: Bahamas

City: Nassau

Submission Type: Chips

Comments: Chip is holed, was probably on a key chain.  
If not apparent, describe the colors and other info needed to list the item

Image1: Browse... img149a.jpg

Image2: Browse... No file selected.

Two Sided?: No - Front and back are the same

Ownership:  I certify that I own these images or have permission to use them

Publish:  Publish my name as the contributor of these images

**Submit** Clear

### Step 4 – Administrator Selects the Chip

Your submission now goes on the submission To Do list. ChipGuide Administrators can view the list and select items to process. You'll see my submission on the top of the list, very most recent submission.

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### ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles

CGCM ==> Casino Chip **Submissions** New Today CasinoID Series Book People Log News Type State Fix Ctrb CGNS Member Help

Status: Open

Submitter: [Dropdown]

Casino: [Dropdown]

State: [Dropdown] Subtype: [Dropdown] Sort By: Submission# Sort Order: Descending Submit

Submit#	Submitter	Casino	City	State	CasType	SubType	Date	Time	Status
54139	Charles Kaplan	New Bahamian Club	Nassau	BS	Land Based	CHIP	2017-11-02	20:43:50	Open
54138	Robert Reno	Palace	Mong La	MM	Land Based	CHIP	2017-11-02	16:02:27	Open
54133	Chuck Mades	Casino Arizona	Scottsdale AZ	AZ	Indian	CHIP	2017-11-01	19:05:43	Open
54132	Steve Passalacqua	Harvey's	Lake Tahoe	NV	Land Based	CHIP2	2017-11-01	16:06:48	Open
54131	Steve Passalacqua	Sahati's Stateline Country Club	Lake Tahoe	NV	Land Based	CHIP2	2017-11-01	16:04:56	Open



## Step 5 – Image Download

The admin opens the item to see all the information that you provided and the scan. By right-clicking on the image, the admin downloads the image to their PC.

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ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles

CGCM ==> [Casino](#) [Chip](#) [Submissions](#) [New Today](#) [CasinoID](#) [Series](#) [Book](#) [People](#) [Log](#) [News](#) [Type](#) [State](#) [Fix Ctr](#) [CGNS](#) [Member](#) [Help](#)

Submission#

Processed By

Submitter

Email

Casino

City

State

Casino Type

Submission Type

Date

Time

Status



Update Date

Comments

Ownership  I certify that I own these images or have permission to use them

Publish  Publish my name as the contributor of these images

Two Sided

PIC 1	PIC 2
	

Show Add Change Delete Previous Record Next Record

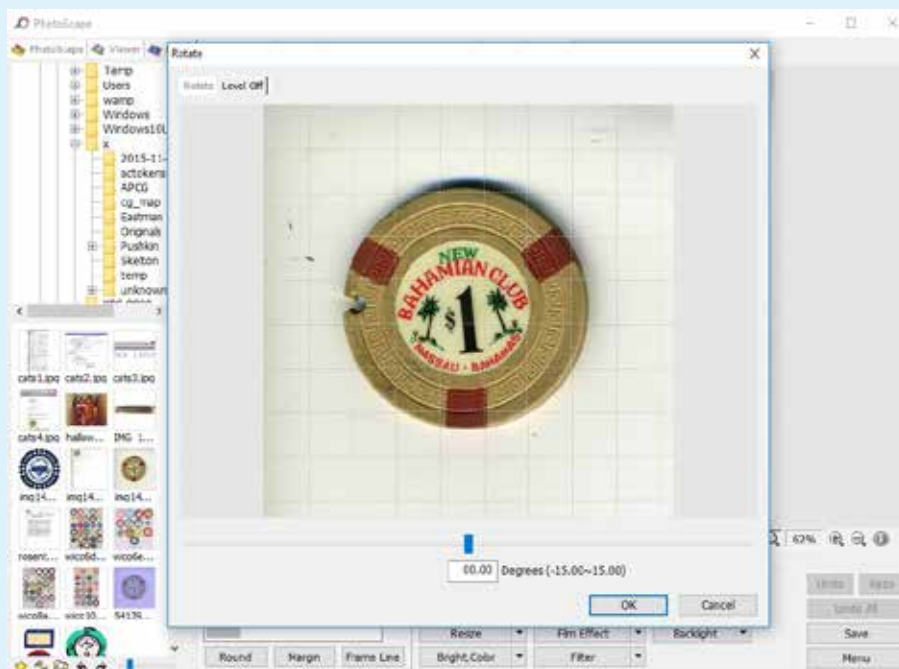
**Step 6 – Open the image for Editing**

I use PhotoScape (not Photoshop) for image editing, it does everything we need to do, does it easily and well and is free!

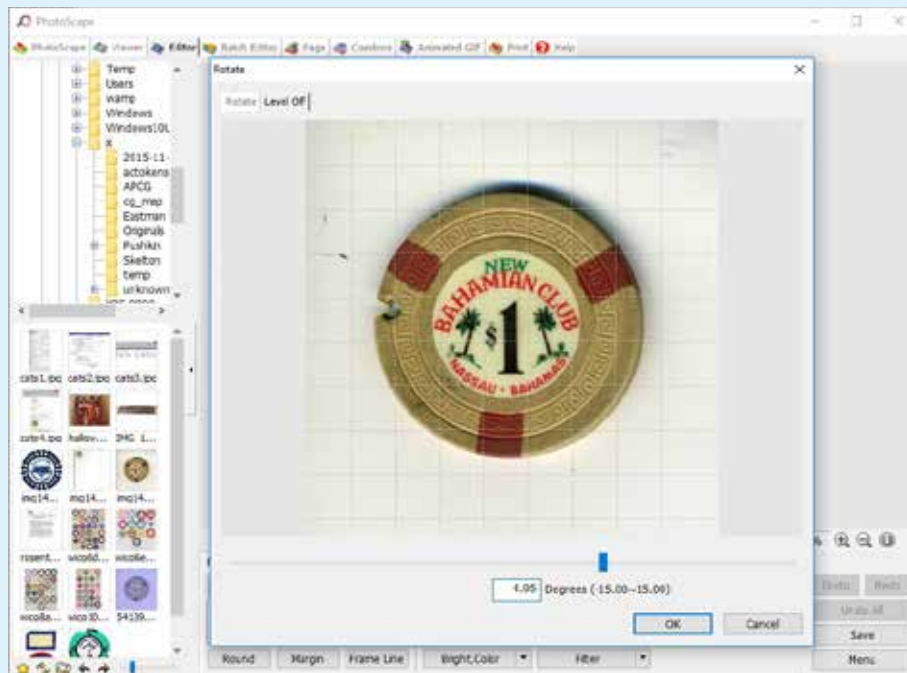


**Step 7 – Alignment**

The first step in Image Editing is alignment, to make the chip straight up and down. As you can see in this case, the chip is slanted a little counter-clockwise. We open up the alignment tool use the sliding bar to tilt the image in either direction.



In this case we need a 4.95-degree tilt set the chip upright.

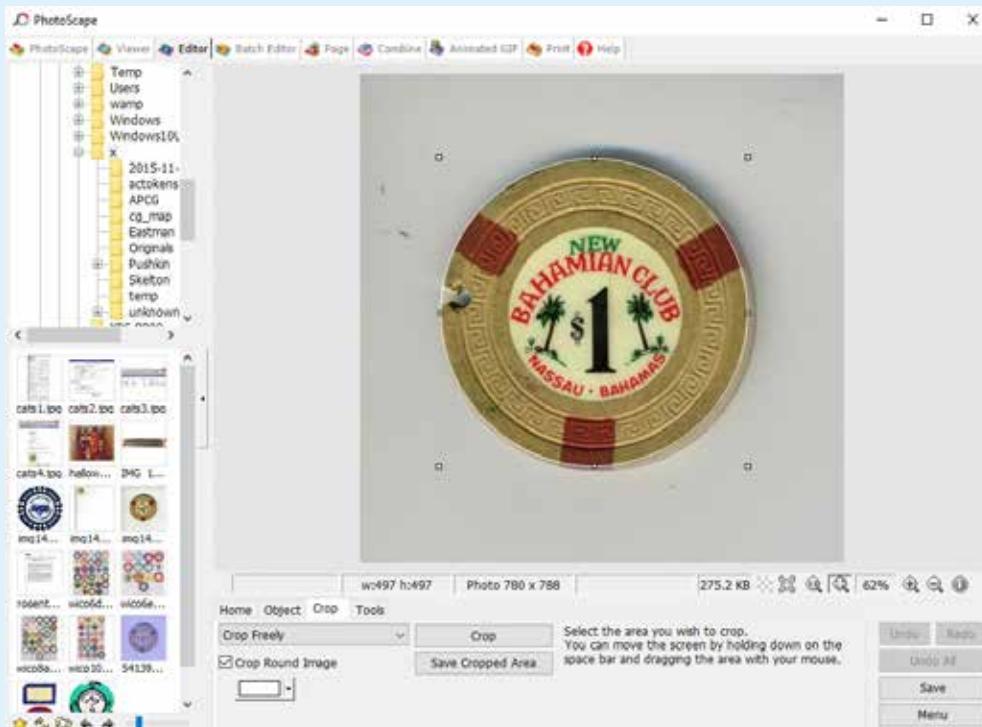


### **Step 8 – Crop**

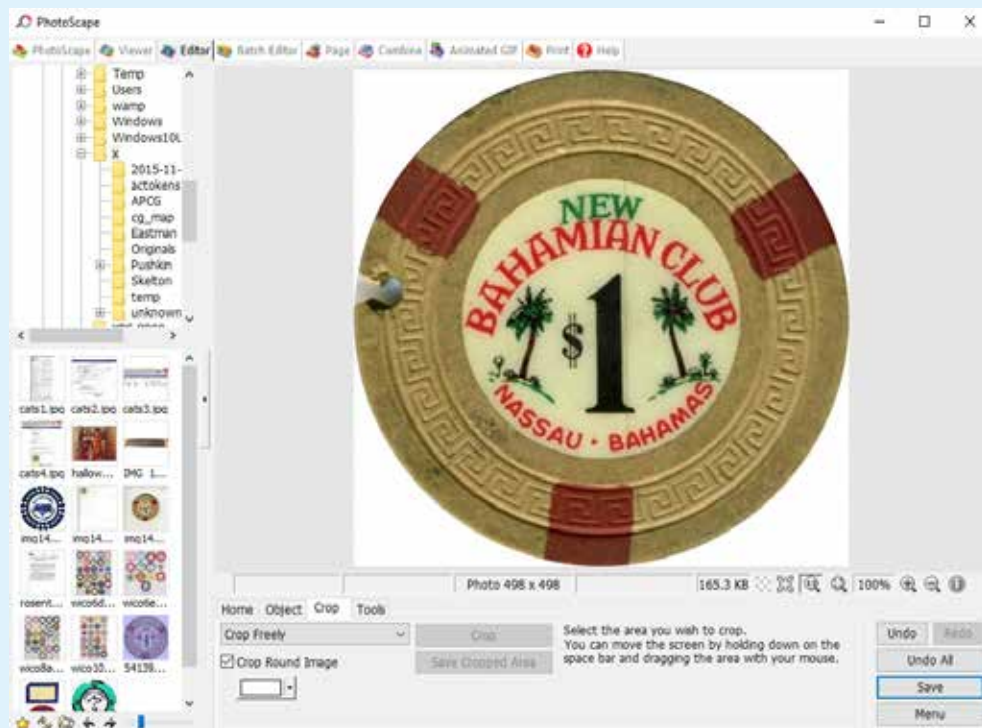
Cropping is removing everything from the scan except for the chip. We go to the crop tool by clicking on the CROP tab.



Since we are cropping a chip, we need to click on the “Crop Round Image” checkbox. Then we make a circle crop overlay by dragging the top, bottom, left and right anchors to edges of the chip. When we have a perfect circle the Width (W:497) and Height (H:xxx) are equal. In this case it is W:497, H:497.



When we press “CROP”, we remove everything from the scan, except for the chip itself, the background and shadows are gone.





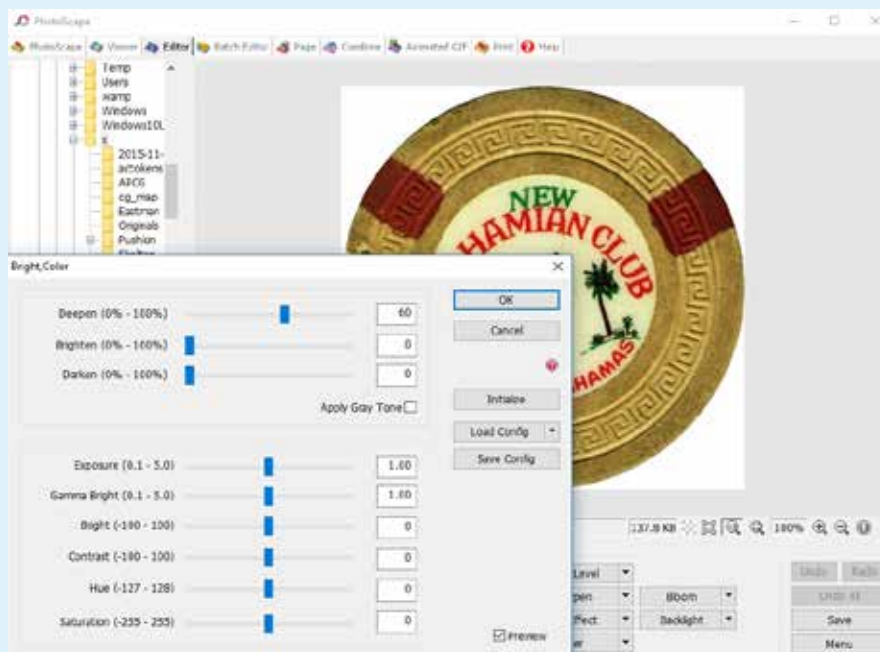
### **Step 9 – Resizing**

We want items on the ChipGuide to be a uniform size. For chips, and most other round items, we chose a size of 450 pixels. This is not an arbitrary number, it is a number that we need to get high quality when the chip is printed at full size. Resizing is easy. Just press the “RESIZE” button and type in the desired size.



### **Step 10 – Lighting Adjustment**

Scanners are not setup to scan casino chips properly. Usually the image is a little dark. You can tell by comparing the white border of the chip with white chip inlay. The inlay is too dark. To lighten the inlay I use the deepen slider, moving it to 60 gives me the right look.



### **Step 11 – Save the Edited Image**

The last step in image editing is to **SAVE** the edited image, it is now ready for the ChipGuide.



### **MoGH Projects**

#### **- Exhibits**

- The Mob Museum
- The Neon Museum
- The El Cortez Hotel and Casino
- The Plaza Hotel and Casino

#### **- Internet**

- TheMoGH.org
- ChipGuide
- Gaming Archive

#### **- Research**

- The MoGH Lending Library
- Convention Seminars
- Convention Exhibits

## Step 12 – Add the Image to the ChipGuide

The admin is now ready to add the chip to the ChipGuide. Since this is a variation of a chip already on the ChipGuide, I can save time by bringing up the un-holed version of the chip in edit mode, updating a few of the fields and uploading the edited image.

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ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles


CGCM => Casino **Chip** Submissions New Today CasinoID Series Book People Log News Type State Fix Ctr CGNS Member Help

Admin: Charles Kaplan | Last Admin: cg\_cg.php  
CGNUMBER: 077375 | Add Casinos | ROWID: 73330  
Casino ID: bsrb01 | Personal: |  
Add Date: 2007-12-31 | Change Date: 2008-01-02  
Denom: 1.00 | Currency: |  
Type: Chips | Event: |  
Sort Order: | Link: |  
Color: Beige | Inserts: 3 Red |  
Mold: SMKEY | Inlay: R-White |  
Series: 1 | Hide?: No |  
Catalog: NBC-1b | Logo: Palm Trees |  
Issue Date: | Chip Status: 1 |  
Contributor: Charles Kaplan | Quantity: 0 |  
Updated By: | OTY: | Winner:

PIC1 [bs/77375.jpg] Browse... 54139.jpg REMOVE?   
PIC2 [none] Browse... no file selected. REMOVE?  Missing?   
Copy Pic: Copy images from Submissions#  Swap Images?  Add Images

Comments: Chip is holed, was probably on a key chain.

Show Add Change Delete Clear Previous Record Next Record

 CG077375 - Series: 1  
Denom: \$1  
Color: Beige  
Inserts: 3 Rd  
Mold: SmKey  
Inlay: White  
Logo: Palm Trees  
Catalog#: NBC-1b  
Updates

When I press ADD, the chip is added to the ChipGuide and assigned a sequential ChipGuide number.

Comments: Chip is holed, was probably on a key chain.

Show Add Change Delete Clear Previous Record Next Record

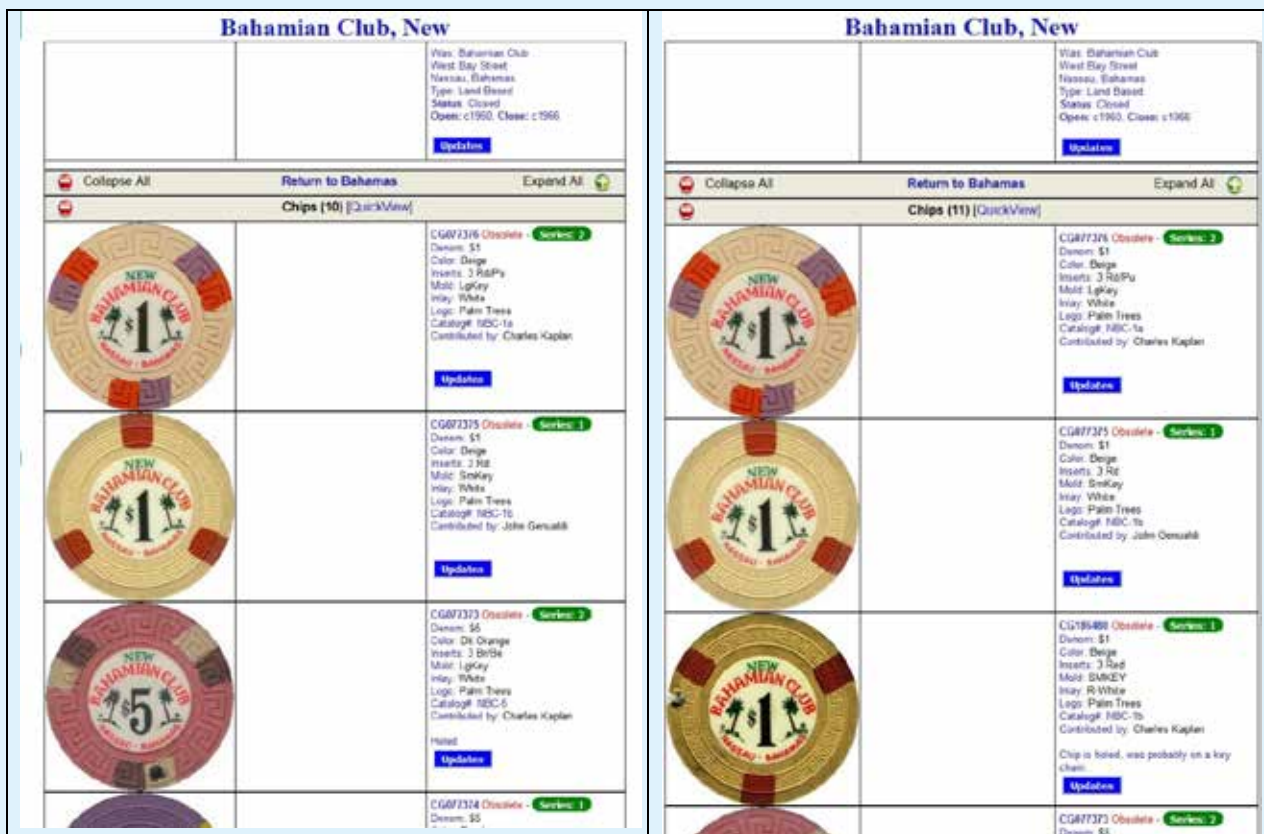
 CG186480 - Series: 1  
Denom: \$1  
Color: Beige  
Inserts: 3 Red  
Mold: SMKEY  
Inlay: R-White  
Logo: Palm Trees  
Catalog#: NBC-1b  
Chip is holed, was probably on a key chain.  
Updates

Message: CHIP CG186480 added

View Log Archive

**Step 13 – Verify the New Chip**

The admin now checks to see that the new chip was added correctly. Here are the old (left) and new (right) webpages. You will see the new chip, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the top on the right side.



**Step 14 – Updating the Submission**

The admin is now almost done, just two quick housekeeping chores – Update the Submission and Thank the Contributor. To update the submission, we need to change the submission STATUS from OPEN (waiting to be processed) to COMPLETE (processed) and then press CHANGE.

ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles

CGCM => Casino Chip Submissions New Today CasinoID Series Book People Log News Type State Fix Ctbr CGNS Member Help

Submission# 54139

Processed By Charles Kaplan

Submitter Charles Kaplan

Email chas@ckaplan.com

Casino New Bahamian Club

City Nassau

State Bahamas

Casino Type Land Based

Submission Type Chip

Date 2017-11-02

Time 20:43:50

Status Complete

Update Date 2017-11-02

Comments  
Chip is holed, was probably on a key chain.

Ownership  I certify that I own these images or have permission to use them

Publish  Publish my name as the contributor of these images

Two Sided No



Show Add Change Delete Previous Record Next Record

CGCM Email PC Email or Webmail

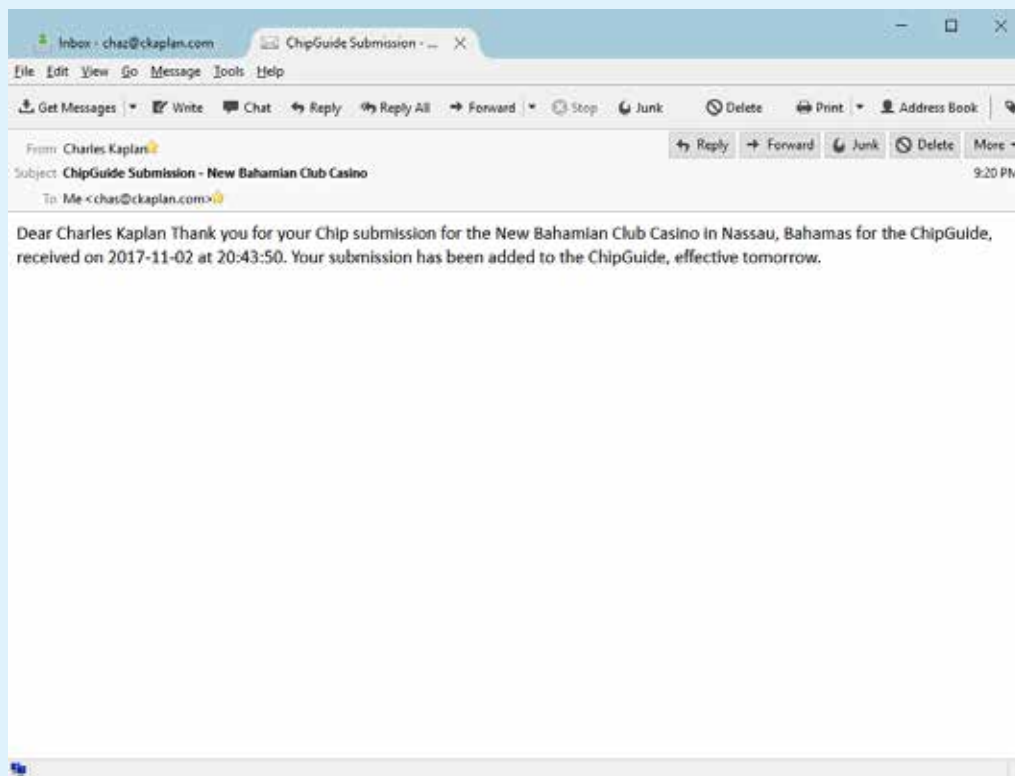
Message: Submission 54139 updated

### Step 15 – Thank You Email

The final step in the Chip to ChipGuide process is to send an email to the Contributor thanking them for their submission. Admins press the EMAIL button and a pre-formatted email is rendered. The admin can change it, if necessary, before sending it.



Here is the email received by the contributor.



**MoGH MEMBERSHIP**  
**Jerry Vergatos, Membership Director**  
**LM-8093-241 / MoGH LM-0001**

Greetings to all club members!

We have a real possibility of getting two new exhibits. That being said, now is a great time to consider upgrading your membership to Gold Level. Also for your consideration is the Life Member Level. Both upgraded membership levels will facilitate our continuing presence in all our locations.

**Nevada State Museum** – We are submitting a proposal which, by all indications, will be met very favorably. This has the potential of being our largest exhibit to date!

**South Point** – Requests are being made for a Jackie Gaughan exhibit. While still in the initial stages, this could be a possibility in becoming a reality very soon.

We need your help to get these projects off the ground. Please consider upgrading your membership.

If I can answer any questions, please contact me at [vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com).

Sincerely,  
Jerry Vergatos, Membership Director, MoGH

**The Museum of Gaming History**

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**Donation Amount**     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form with a donation (check or money order) to:

**The Museum of Gaming History**  
**1350 E Flamingo Road #594**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89119**

The MoGH also accepts donations of a casino collectible items, such as casino chips, dice or slot machines. Please contact a Board Member for additional information.

Rarely has a chip said so much with so little. The chips stamped “BHS” come from the state of Texas, and like the state itself, they hold a story that is bigger than life.



The hub mold chip from the Mason & Co was ordered in 1939 and sent to Sam Murray at Santa Paula Hotel in Dallas, Texas. With this information, deciphering the initials on the chip can be reasonably guessed – “S” for Sam Murray; “H” for Herbert Noble, Murray’s gambling manager at the Santa Paula; and “B” for Benny Binion, crime boss of Dallas and not-so-silent minority partner in the hotel’s gambling action.

But interestingly enough, the initials aren’t the only thing on the chips as the gamblers added a little flare to go along with the initials. With the benefit of hindsight, we are invited to interpret these designs and imagine that they aren’t just ornamentation, but are foretelling signs of times ahead.

Might the lightning bolts on the Mason chip be a mark of mistrust between the partners and a prediction of a coming storm? Perhaps the arrow through the center of the S-mold was a sign of ill will and possible threats between the men. It’s impossible to know for sure what the motivations were behind the chip designs, but the guesses would be logically considering what was about to happen.



Within a year of the Mason chip order, one of the partners would be betrayed and assassinated and the remaining two would start a war with the winner-take-all prize of becoming the Dallas’ vice czar. The conflict put a city under siege, leaving a wake of chaos and dozens of dead gangsters.

In this fight for supremacy between gambling giants there could only be one winner and the stakes could not have been higher. The victor would reign supreme not only in Dallas, but would eventually become a gambling icon with his name immortalized in lights. This is not

just a story of a few chips but one about the genesis of a gambling legend and the measures he had to take to get there.

This is the story of...

# BENNY BINION AND THE DALLAS GAMBLING WARS



by Ed Hertel



Benny Binion's path towards underworld boss was anything but guaranteed. The sickly child from a small north Texas town barely survived childhood and his numerous bouts of pneumonia kept him home and both weak abled as well as uneducated. It was well known, even later, that Benny Binion was barely literate, but to underestimate his intelligence would be a mistake. Even though he wasn't good with words, he was a master of numbers and odds.



Benny's education in the real world started early when his father taught him the art of the horse trading business. He learned how to not get hustled, as well as a few tricks to get one over on the next guy. With his new found skills, Benny traveled to El Paso and

tried to make a go of his new trade. His time there would be short, and much would be hidden in mystery as he was later hesitant to go into details about his time in west Texas. What is known is that it was here that he first dabbled in gambling, as well as some bootlegging, and spent some time locked up in the local jail. Whatever secrets Benny kept of his time in El Paso, he kept them close to his chest. Within a year of arriving, Binion called it quits and headed to Dallas.

Dallas, even back in 1922, was a larger city than Benny Binion had been used to and at eighteen years young, Benny must have felt like a small fish in a very large pond. With his newly acquired knowledge of gambling and his aptitude for numbers, Benny quickly found a place in the Dallas gambling underworld which was



Dallas skyline - 1920

currently being run by Warren Diamond's gambling syndicate.



Warren Diamond, Dallas gambling boss

Under Diamond's tutelage, Benny learned the ins and the outs of running a gambling empire. Many of Diamond's business strategies would follow Benny throughout his life. It was Diamond who taught Benny that there was room for more than one gambler in town – as

long as he was the top and got his proper cut. It was also Warren Diamond who would never refuse a bet, regardless of how much. Table limits were merely suggestions and a big bet was never refused. This would later become one of Binion's claims to fame.

Within four years, Benny had become one of Diamond's trusted employees. He had begun as a mere shill who steered gamblers into the games, but soon his ambitions were leading him into going into business on his own. With Diamond's blessing (and 25% of his revenues), Benny opened his first craps game in 1926.

The following year would prove another milestone as Benny started his first policy game in Dallas. Policy, sometimes called bolito, was a lottery type game where gamblers bet on numbers that were picked in some random fashion. It was popular in the poorer neighborhoods because bets could be as little as one cent and the payoffs could be as much as six or seven hundred times. These small bets would add up, and policy would become one of Benny's most lucrative, and therefore most heavily defended, businesses.

As the 1920s were winding down, Benny Binion was becoming not only wealthy, but powerful. His reputation

for defending his policy territory was well known and anyone encroaching would be dealt with quickly and harshly. Through it all however, Binion stayed loyal to his boss Warren Diamond. It was no surprise then in 1930 when Diamond announced his retirement and handed over the keys to the Dallas underworld to Binion. Now, with no limits to his ambitions, Benny would make Dallas his own and a new era in gambling was born.

Binion moved quickly to consolidate his power. He merged Diamond's old partners with some of his loyal gangsters and formed what would later be called the Southland Group which operated out of the downtown Southland Hotel which acted as both a headquarters and gambling casino.



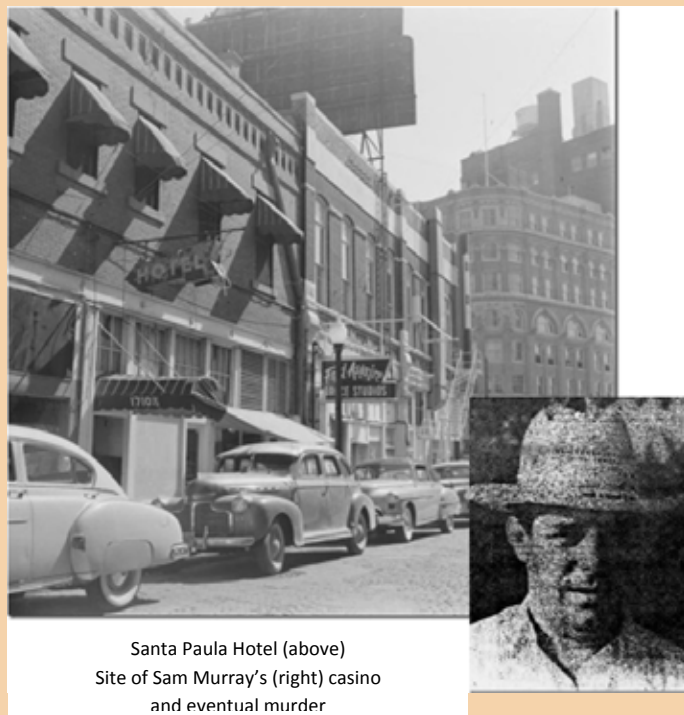
Southland Hotel  
Benny Binion's headquarters and gambling  
casino on the entire second floor

From the Southland Binion operated most of Dallas' gambling. Binion had his own games in various hotels around town, but independent gamblers were allowed to run their own games – with permission of course. For starters, Binion would be given a 25% cut of all the action. Failure to pay not only brought possible

retribution from Benny's gang, but also guaranteed harassment from the local police. Benny's contributions to local law enforcement made life much easier for those on his team. From police to judges, gamblers friendly with Benny were given an easy time.

As the gamblers shared the dice action throughout Dallas, Benny still held tight his zero tolerance for competition in the policy racket. One of the first people to test this was Sam Murray, operator of a craps game in the Santa Paula Hotel (and the one who ordered the BHS chips). Along with his manager Herbert Noble, Murray's casino at the hotel had been a success for years. He was content to pay his 25% protection money and welcomed the partnership with Binion until 1938 when he decided to reach a little higher. It was then that Sam Murray seized control of the horse betting business and then made the mistake of moving in on Binion's policy racket.

It was clear that threats were not sending a stern enough message, and Benny wanted to make an example of Murray to all the other would-be competitors. On an afternoon in June 1940, Benny received a call to inform him that Sam Murray was leaving the Santa Paula Hotel, unarmed and unescorted. Benny dispatched his right-hand man Ivy Miller to end the disagreement once and for all. Sam Murray, in front of witnesses, was gunned down in the street.



Santa Paula Hotel (above)  
Site of Sam Murray's (right) casino  
and eventual murder

There was no question what happened. The police arrested Ivy Miller, but he would never see a conviction for the crime. He claimed self-defense and the plentiful witnesses suddenly all came down with group amnesia. To everyone in “the know”, this was a gangland warning to stay away from Binion’s policy business.

The only question that remained was who tipped Benny off about Murray’s whereabouts? Although not known for sure, rumors swirled about Murray’s business associate Herbert Noble. He was usually in charge of protecting Murray, but on this day was nowhere to be found. And then there is the unusual amount of apparent rewards that Binion handed Noble right after the murder. Once just the manager of the Santa Paula Hotel’s action, Noble was given the hotel’s game outright as well as other places around town.



Chip ordered from Mason and Co by Herbert Noble (left) in 1935.

Regardless of how he became a gambling underboss, Noble was quickly starting to outgrow his shackles. He was coming in light on his 25% contributions and would be slow in answering inquiries. By the mid-1940s, Herbert Noble was becoming more brazen, and Binion was ready put him in his place. For Benny Binion, there was only one response to disloyalty and it would need to be served quickly.

In January 1946, the first shots of the Dallas Gambling Wars were sounded when Herbert Noble’s car was riddled with bullets and he barely escaped with his life.

Benny would take the first shot, but in not ending it that night, he opened the door to years of bloodshed that would rock the city.

With this single action, Dallas was split between the two groups – Binion on one side and Noble on the other. The city’s underworld was forced to choose sides in an important life or death decision. First one side would lose a man, then the other in a circle of retaliation that never seemed to end. What was once a city of cooperation was now divided between the two warring factions.

The violence was ramped up to such an extreme that the police could no longer turn a blind eye. Too much property was being damaged and far too much attention was now focused on their city. Word went out that on January 1, 1947, Dallas would be closed to gambling. The city’s gamblers shuttered some of their more visible games, and drove the others underground.

With the tide changing in Dallas, Binion decided to wait out the gambling lockdown out west in Las Vegas. Before he left, he assigned his gambling empire to various people loyal to only himself. Even though he wouldn’t be running the day-to-day operations, he wanted to make sure his craps games, and especially his policy empire, continued to bring in a good cash flow.

But there was one piece of unfinished business Binion wanted to make sure got handled while he was away. He didn’t forget who brought them to this point, and he made sure the order went out – Get Herbert Noble!

While Benny Binion was enjoying his time in Las Vegas running the Westerner Casino, Herbert Noble was doing everything he could to just stay alive. In May 1948, Noble was ambushed while driving home. He took a bullet in the arm, but managed to escape.

In the following February 1949, someone was spotted messing with Noble’s car outside of one of his clubs. An inspection found a pack of explosives around the car’s starter. The newspapers dubbed him “The Cat” because of his number of lives. Little did they know this cat had many more lives.

In September Noble’s car was forced off the road. Three gunmen emerged and starting blasting. Noble

grabbed a gun of his own, and even after taking a shot to his leg was still able to return enough fire to drive the men away. It must have seemed that Herbert Noble was unkillable. Whether you were on his side or not, he was gaining the respect of the entire underworld community.

Meanwhile, Binion received the news of Noble's miraculous survival with anything but respect. He was furious. His partnership in the Westerner was proving less than desirable and he quickly sold his interest and purchased the El Dorado in downtown Las Vegas. While he started the renovations that would eventually become of the Horseshoe, his men back in Dallas were doubling their effort to put a stop to Herbert Noble.

The day of November 29, 1949, started as one of celebration for Herbert Noble who was turning his hobby of flying into a dream of running a legitimate business. That morning found Noble at a local airfield signing a deal for its purchase. He had borrowed his wife's car because it was bigger and could hold his entourage of lawyers. Unfortunately, his wife was not as cautious as Herbert and didn't inspect his car before starting it. A well-hidden bomb killed Mildred Noble instantly.

Herbert Noble was devastated by the news. There was no question who the bomb was meant for, and in the underworld the identification of the bomber was well known. Police were told that Binion's henchman Lois Green was responsible, but no charges were brought. Regardless of his current residency in Nevada, Benny Binion could still protect his people from the local Dallas police. What he couldn't protect them from was an out-of-control Herbert Noble who was now furious. Less than a month after his wife's murder, Lois Green was gunned down outside a club in Dallas.

Feeling like he had little to lose, Herbert Noble tipped off the state police as to Binion's secret headquarters for his policy racket. In one raid, the police shut down his policy business and confiscated all his records showing years of enormous untaxed gains. Of all the fights Binion had endured to this point, none were as serious as those over taxes, and he knew it.

It was only three days after the Binion raid when the next attempt on Noble would be tried. On New Year's eve in 1949, Noble was met at his front door with a hail of gunfire. Bullets shattered his arm, but he escaped. He was taken to the hospital where his arm would be reconstructed. A week later, his peaceful stay at the



Noble's car explodes, killing his wife

hospital was cut short when a sniper from across the street took a shot through his upper level window. It was clear that Herbert Noble would not be allowed to find any peace what-so-ever.

With his world quickly spinning out of control, Herbert Noble was starting to show the signs of man with little else to live for. He moved out of his house and into his ranch, which he fortified with security and enough fire arms for an army. He was drinking heavily and taking pills which allowed him to stay up all night and others to put him asleep during the day. He didn't allow anyone to the ranch and his only companions were a pack of Chihuahua dogs and parrots he used as barking and squawking alarms. His mind was gone and the guilt of his wife's death weighed heavily on his conscious.



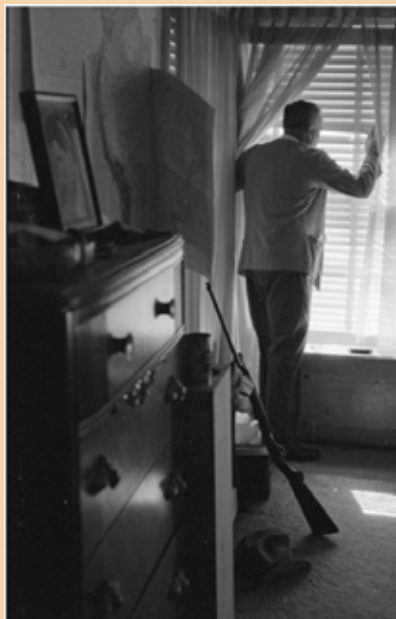
Noble's animal companions during his exile from reality

With Binion in Las Vegas and Noble locked in his fortress, it was up their associates to continue the war, which they did with a gusto. The violence was slipping over the border into neighboring Fort Worth where Binion's good friend George Wildenstein ran his Eastside Club. In the fall of 1950, the Eastside was robbed by men from Noble's faction, and it didn't take long for Benny to send a response. In late November, the peace in Fort Worth was broken with the sound of an immense explosion that took the life of one of the robbers. Unfortunately, also caught in the blast of the thief's pregnant wife. The publicity and outpouring of anger for the violence brought swift action from law enforcement who formed a grand jury to look into the area's gambling.



Benny Binion was finding it difficult to stay under the radar. The grand jury summoned him to appear, but he declined stating that he feared for his life. In reality, his fear was that once back in Texas he would be arrested on gambling charges stemming from the raid on his policy headquarters. Even without Binion, the grand jury handed down sixty felony indictments against gamblers. However, their efforts would, for the most

part, be thwarted by Benny and Noble's influences as most of the gamblers got off with little more than small fines.



Meanwhile, back in Dallas, Herbert Noble was still feeling the heat. His pride and joy, the Dallas Airmen's Club was destroyed in a late night bombing. Although

nobody was there at the time, the message was loud and clear – the war continues!

Benny Binion was finding the publicity of his illegal activities to be quite counterproductive to him getting his gambling license for his Las Vegas Horseshoe Club. He was originally denied on the grounds he was connected with illegal activities in Texas. His lawyer argued that his activities outside of Nevada should not prejudice his ability to get a license. The argument was persuasive enough, as well as possible payments to the commission, to finally get his approval.

If getting approved for his dream casino wasn't enough, August 1951 would prove to be celebrated by Binion for yet another reason. His war in Dallas was about to be concluded in the most violent of ways.

Herbert Noble's ability to keep one step ahead of his enemies was about to hit a stumble. On August 7, 1951, Noble pulled up to his mailbox and found not his monthly bills, but explosives. Before he could react, someone from a nearby hill flipped a switch and



Noble's mangled car after the explosion

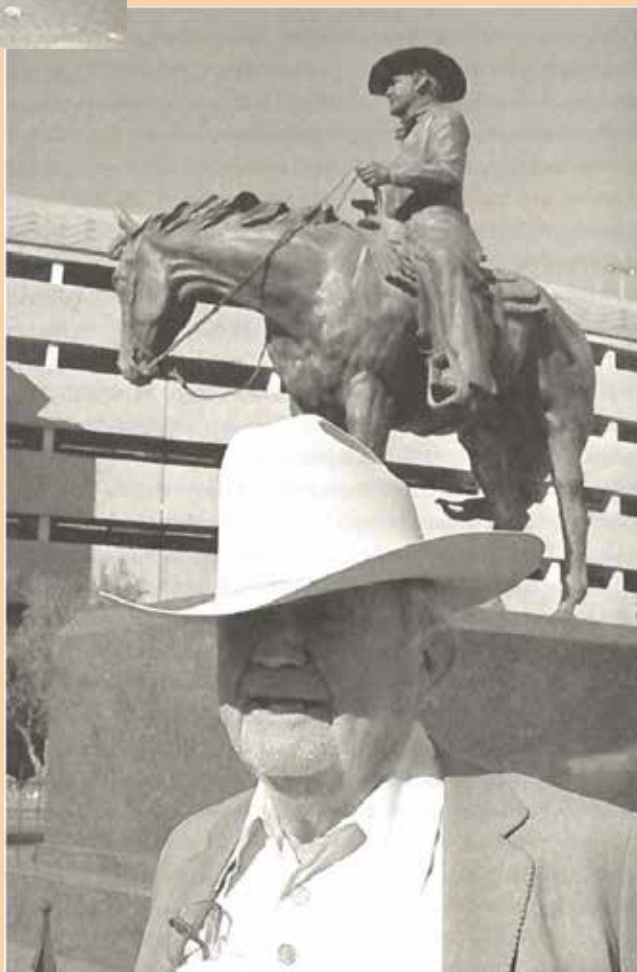
one of many gamblers, or return to Dallas and become the top man again?

In the end, Benny Binion would stay in Las Vegas. His larger than life personality and cowboy attitude was well suited for the Las Vegas crowd who quickly adopted him as one of their legendary fathers. Benny would grow his Horseshoe brand until it was synonymous with big-time gambling. Today, the name Benny Binion demands respect and admiration. From his humble beginnings to his legendary status, Benny Binion knew what he wanted, and he wasn't about to let anyone get in his way.

Herbert Noble was instantly killed in the explosion. It seems appropriate that the war that burned so long and so bright should end in blaze of fire. Benny Binion would later say in an interview about his war with Herbert "The Cat" Noble, "They said he had nine lives. Damn good thing he didn't have ten."

Life for Benny Binion wasn't all roses however. Even with his new Horseshoe Casino and the death of his arch nemesis, Benny was still facing charges stemming from his illegal activities in Dallas. In September 1953, he finally gave in and plead guilty to four counts of income tax evasion and one count of gambling. He received five different four year sentences to be serves concurrently and quietly did his time.

When he was released in October 1957, he had a decision to make. On the one hand he could return to his Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas that was under the care of his friend Joe Brown. Or, he could return to his roots and head back to Dallas. Gambling was in his blood, and in Las Vegas he could do it legally. But Dallas was his home, and with his enemies gone, that too seemed like a good option. Stay in Las Vegas and be



Benny Binion, standing in front of a statue of himself erected in downtown Las Vegas

# Chips from the Dallas Gambling Wars

## Southland Hotel

Commerce Street

Headquarters for Benny Binion and partners

Ordered by Ivy Miller, Benny Binion's right hand man



Ordered by Red Scarborough, Benny Binion's partner



Ordered by various Southland Group members



# Chips from the Dallas Gambling Wars

## Blue Bonnet Hotel

1302 Commerce  
Operated by J.C. Cheek and W.D. Walker, part of Binion's direct control



Ordered by W.D. Walker  
(date unknown)

Ordered by J.C. Cheek  
(1938)

## Various Binion Controlled Dallas Hotels



**Maurice Hotel**  
James Worsham  
(1940, 1941)

**Jefferson Hotel**  
Johnny Andrews  
(1942)

**St. George Hotel**  
Jack Darby  
(1941)

## East Side Club

Fort Worth  
Operated by George Wildenstein  
and Binion's headquarters for his Fort Worth operations



Ordered by Jack Darby  
(1950)

(date unknown)



# Chips from the Dallas Gambling Wars

## Santa Paula Hotel

1710-1/2 Live Oak  
Operated by Sam Murray (until 1940) and Herbert Noble



Ordered by Herbert Noble, 1935

Ordered by Sam Murray, 1939




Date unknown

Ordered by Sam Murray, 1939

## Campbell Hotel

Elm and Harwood  
Operated by Eddie Wroten, controlled by Herbert Noble



Ordered by Eddie Wroten, 1945

# THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NAMES – FREMONT

By John K. Kallman  
LM112-112



If you collect casino memorabilia of any type; you have probably heard of Nevada and perhaps even Las Vegas! Many collectors do in fact collect items from there. But what do you know about how the name of many of the places and casinos that you collect come from?

No doubt to some, it makes a little difference, but to others; it only adds to their enjoyment of this hobby. The more you know, the better collector you can be.

Fremont Street, the Fremont Street Experience, and the Fremont Casino are perhaps the epic center of the heart of downtown Las Vegas Nevada. You might even have a collectible or two with the name Fremont on it. But who was this person named Fremont and why are these, and perhaps other places named after that person?

Fremont was born in 1813 in Savana Georgia. During his life, he wore many hats, including those of a military officer; politician (serving as both a State Senator; Governor and a candidate for President of the Republican Party); and explorer among other careers during his lifetime. It is this career as an explorer that perhaps helps explain Fremont's association with Nevada and the places that bear his name.

During his first expedition in 1842, he teamed up with Kit Carson (more of him perhaps in another article; and if you can guess what was named after Mr. Carson; well you get an 'Atta Person' award)! The purpose of this expedition was to find and map the "South Pass" through the Rocky Mountains.

The first expedition lead soon to a second one that tried a different path in 1843; this time focused on the Oregon Trail. Mr. Carson was also along for this trip as well. Upon reaching present day Minden Nevada; they turned west and became the first Americans to see present day Lake Tahoe. They also found an unrecorded pass through the Rocky Mountains that Fremont named Carson Path.

On the return trip, after reaching Sacramento California; they headed east through Tehachapi Pass and present-day Las Vegas.

While there were other expeditions after the first two, it was the publication of these expeditions, along with excerpts of his notes and maps that helped to settle the areas that he visited; which helps explain his relationship to the places in Nevada that bear his name.

- Do you have a humorous casino story, collecting, or harvesting story?
- Do you have story about a member alive or who has passed that you liked, admired, or was a good friend?
- How did you get involved in collecting casino items?

Let us know at CCN so we can share it with other club members  
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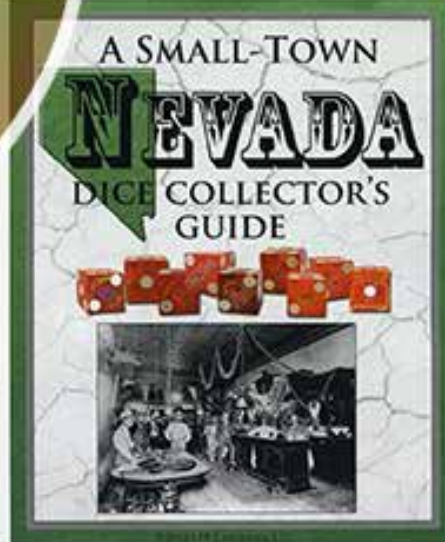
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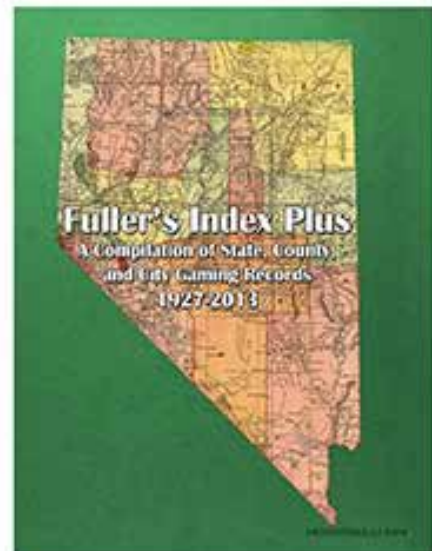
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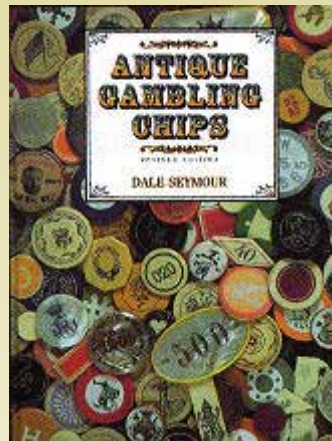
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**For more club apparel check out the ‘On-line Club Shop’ on the website [www.ccgcc.com](http://www.ccgcc.com).**

# Logo Usage Policy

The Club has certain logos and symbols which it must protect in order to protect its reputation in the collectibles community. No member is allowed to use the Club name, logo or symbol other than is approved by the by-laws or as otherwise specifically approved in writing by the Board of Directors.

- Only members in good standing may identify themselves as members of the Club
- Any member who identifies himself/herself as a member must affix or state their membership number so as not to confuse the public.
- “Identifies” includes advertising, announcements, business cards, internet websites, internet or live auctions, e-mails and any and all types of communication.
- Every member must make an effort not to confuse the public or lead the public to think that the member represents or speaks for the Club, other than those officers who actually do speak for the Club or those who have been authorized by the Board to speak for the Club.
- No event, show, auction or convention shall use the Club name, logo or symbol for any reason whatsoever unless it is an event, show, auction or convention run by the Club.
- The Board has approved a “Member’s Logo” which contains the member’s membership number. Only that logo may be used by members in their advertising, promotions, business cards, auctions, etc.
- Any other use of the Club name, logo or symbol must be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval prior to such use.
- The entities formerly known as “Chapters” are prohibited from using the Club name, logo or symbol as representative of their organization

Example



Please contact the Secretary for a copy of the logo with your membership number on it.



# CCA Claims Form

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

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

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

The process will work as follows:

1. Fill out the form completely, sign and date it.
  2. Forward it the Vice-President..
  3. Vice-President will make an initial determination on the Claim.
  4. If further action or investigation is warranted, the Vice-President will forward the form to the Claims Director to open a Claims Investigation.
  5. The Claims Director will work to mutually resolve the matter between the parties or if that is not possible, make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the appropriate action.
  6. The Board will act on the recommendation and the final report of the Claims Director. The parties involved will be notified of the final decision of the Board by the Vice-President
- IF you find it necessary to file a Claim against a fellow Club member, please help us to resolve the matter as quickly as possible by using the Claims Form.

\*The form will be available on the Club website at [www.ccgcc.com](http://www.ccgcc.com) for you to download and print out. We are working on a program that will allow you to fill out the form online and send it electronically to the

## Reward Fund

Several years ago, the Club had a standing offer to help deter theft of member's collections. Somewhere along the way it was either dropped, forgotten or just faded into obscurity. The Board has voted to reintroduce the reward offer. We would like to thank Jim Reilly for his research and assistance with this project. The terms of the offer are similar to those used by the ANA. Please contact any member of the BOD for further information.

The Club offers a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons charged with the theft of any part of a club member's collection.

The Club will pay a reward as follows:

If the retail value of the stolen property is less than \$5,000, the reward is \$260

If \$5000 to \$20,000, the reward is \$500

If greater than \$20,000, the reward is \$1000.

The purpose of this reward offer is to increase the likelihood of apprehending and convicting those who steal from club members, as well as to increase the likelihood of recovering the stolen property. The reward offer, however, is not intended to reimburse any club member's loss. It is each member's responsibility to maintain insurance against losses of this kind.

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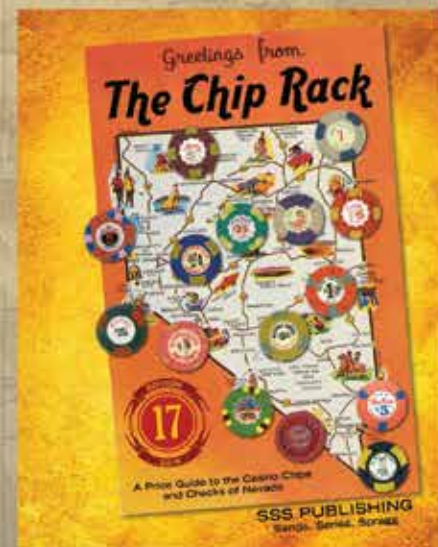
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# Casino Collectible News



Website

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