

	<h1>BULLETIN</h1>		
	PRESIDENT John Bachochin 15731 S. 4210 Rd., Claremore, OK 74017 918-342-0710	TREASURER Loren Moore POB 1181 Roseville, CA 95678 916-783-6822	
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Tahoe Casinos

by
Mike Prero

Casinos, as a category, have been hot for a long time...and then *sizzling*, with the boom in gambling across the country. Las Vegas, Reno, and Atlantic City, as the three main gaming spots in the nation, usually get the lion's share of attention. But, Tahoe, tucked away in the mountains of Northern California/ Nevada, can boast of a long history in the business, as well. And, certainly, any Casinos collector is familiar with Tahoe Casino covers.

In fact, Tahoe has had gambling for as long as tourists have been coming to the lake, and just pinning down which casino was the first is a challenge—First ever? First at the lake? First at the south end? North end? First with a license?

At about the same time that gambling was becoming illegal in California, “Lucky” Baldwin bought the Tallac House hotel and soon added a grand casino, now the Tallac Historic Site on the California side of the south shore.

According to a 1902 brochure, the casino was “the finest in America.” The brochure doesn't mention gambling at all [because it was illegal in California at the time], but there were slot machines lining the walls, and dice and roulette tables filled the center of the room. The casino had a contact in the sheriff's office in Placerville.



Anytime an officer headed out to visit Tallac, all the gaming equipment was hidden until the officer was wined, dined, and headed back to the office!

Gambling and drinking were seen as two sides of the same coin, so gambling continued to be illegal throughout Prohibition, but gambling continued on *both* sides of Tahoe, as law enforcement agencies just looked the other way. It wasn't until the 1940s, when Gov. Earl Warren cracked down, that gambling on the California side of Tahoe came to an end. In Nevada, however, as of 1931, gambling had become legal. Thus, in the 1930s, the most important spot at Lake Tahoe was the Cal-Neva Lodge, built exactly astride the state line at Crystal Bay on the north end of the lake. It had opened in 1929 and had a line painted across the floor to denote the border. Any time a raid was coming from one side, the gambling equipment was simply scooted over to the other side! Much later, the Cal-Neva remained, along with three other casinos, at the north shore: Tahoe Biltmore Lodge & Casino, Crystal Bay Club Casino, and Hyatt Regency Resort & Casino.

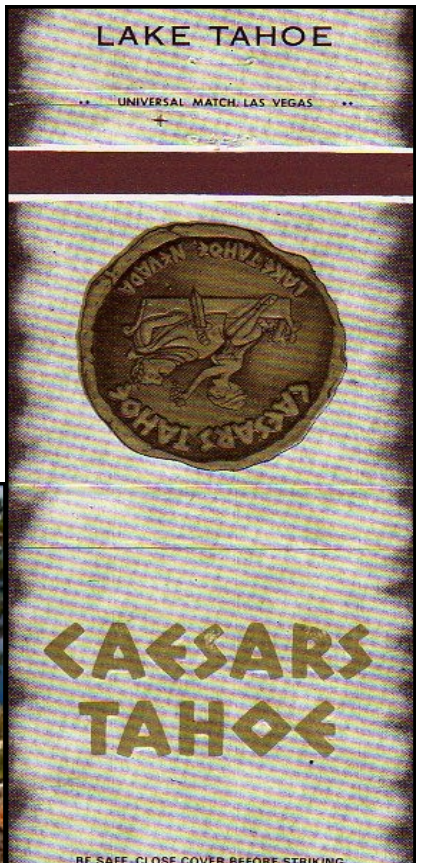
The south shore of Lake Tahoe developed somewhat more slowly because of poor access. The first licensed club at Stateline was the Nevada Club in 1931, followed a few months later by the Edgewood club, but the more modern casino, the State Line Country Club, was built in 1932. Harvey's, which started out as a saloon in 1948, is across the street, and the State Line Country Club became Harrah's. There are also the Lakeside Inn & Casino and the MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa.

By the late 1990's, there were ten licensed casinos on the Nevada side of the lake. In 1998, they earned their owners almost \$350 million in profits, but, in the bigger picture, things have changed since then. The advent of Indian casinos across the country and the economic downturn of the country have certainly taken their toll.

In 1939, all of the rural areas of Nevada, including Tahoe, accounted for 50% of the gaming action in the

state. That figure has dropped to some 3% today. In 2013, Nevada casinos lost \$1.3 billion, marking the fifth straight year without an overall profit, although the Tahoe casinos tended to do somewhat better than other Nevada casinos.

Barring the end of the world, though, the Tahoe casinos will always be there. The lake, mountains, skiing, and recreation will continue to draw millions of Californians to their doors each year, as well as tourists and gamblers from all over the world.



U.S. Currency

Yes, if you were a banker, financial advisor, etc., you might be especially interested in collecting Currency covers, *but*, since I'm especially interested in history, did you know...

- Just to start us off, paper money was invented in China, but, oddly enough, the first paper money the Chinese issued was actually on leather (probably lasted longer than paper).

- The Continental Congress issued the first paper money in 1775 to help finance the Revolutionary War. It lost its value very quickly since it was not backed up by either silver or gold. So people started the saying, "It's not worth a Continental" about anything that was worthless.

- In 1913, Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act. Federal Reserve notes (paper money) was issued by the Federal Reserve Board and was circulated by the twelve Federal Reserve Banks. These notes are obligations of the government and are redeemable only in lawful money—not in gold or silver. Federal Reserve Notes comprise virtually all of the currency presently in circulation.

- After the US went off the gold standard in 1933, the Silver Purchase Act of 1934 directed the US Treasury to issue Silver Certificates and to maintain silver to back them. By 1963, silver had become so valuable to Industry that the 1934 act was repealed. In 1964, the printing of Silver Certificates was stopped, and, in 1968, the redemption of silver certificates for silver coins ceased.

- The typical lifespan of currency depends on the denomination of the note. Here are the average life spans according to the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing:

\$1 bill - 22 months
 \$5 bill - 16 months
 \$10 bill - 18 months
 \$20 bill - 24 months
 \$50 bill - 55 months
 \$100 bill - 89 months

- Bills that get worn out from everyday use are taken out of circulation and replaced. Coins usually survive in circulation for about 25 years.

- Just under half of the notes printed \$1 notes.

- Martha Washington is the only woman whose portrait has appeared on a U.S. currency note. It appeared on the face of the \$1 Silver Certificate of 1886 and 1891, and the back of the \$1 Silver Certificate of 1896.

- The largest bill ever printed was the \$100,000 bill; it was actually a Gold Certificate issued in 1934. These notes were used for transactions between Federal Reserve banks and were not circulated among the general public. President Woodrow Wilson was depicted on the bill.



- A mile of pennies laid out is \$844.80. By this standard, America is about \$2.5 million wide, coast to coast.
- "E Pluribus Unum" is used on many of our country's seals and most of our currency and coins. During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress issued a three-dollar bill bearing the motto, "Exitus in Dubio Est," which translates to "The Outcome Is in Doubt." Despite congressional pessimism about the war, John Adams, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson proposed the more prophetic motto, "E Pluribus Unum" -- "One From Many." The motto first appeared on the Great Seal of the United States in 1782. The Great Seal, however, didn't appear on U.S. currency until 1902.
- The so-called "all-seeing eye" that sits atop the pyramid on dollar bills was included as a reflection of divine providence. This was not the only option that was considered to fulfill that desired theme. A depiction of the Children of Israel in the Wilderness was also discussed as a possibility.
- Our so-called "paper currency" is actually not paper, but is made of cotton/linen material. It consists of a 75% cotton/25% linen blend with silk fibers running through it. If it were made of paper, it would fall apart if you accidentally left it in your pants pocket and sent it for a whirl in your washing machine.
- Our "paper currency" is built to take quite a beating. The BEP says it would take 4,000 double folds (first forward, and then backwards) before a note will tear.
- Is a torn up dollar bill still worth anything? According to the BEP, it is. "The BEP redeems partially destroyed or badly damaged currency as a free public service. Every year the U.S. Treasury handles approximately 30,000 claims and redeems mutilated currency valued at over \$30 million. Experts examine damaged currency and can approve the issuance of a Treasury check for the value of the currency determined to be redeemable."
- No portraits of African-Americans have appeared on paper money, but commemorative coins were issued in the 1940s bearing the images of George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington, followed more recently by the release of a Jackie Robinson coin. Paper money does bear the signatures of four African American men who served as Registers of the Treasury (Blanche K. Bruce, Judson W. Lyons, William T. Vernon, and James C. Napier) and one African American woman who served as Treasurer of the United States (Azie Taylor Morton).
- The first paper notes were printed in denominations of 1 cent, 5 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents.
- The Bureau of Engraving and Printing produces 38 million notes a day with a face value of approximately \$541 million. That doesn't mean there is \$541 million more money circulating today than there was yesterday, though, because 95% of the notes printed each year are used to replace notes already in circulation.
- Though it would be difficult to tell without a magnifying glass, the hands of the clock in the steeple of Independence Hall (on the back of a \$100 bill) are set at approximately 4:10. Is there a significance to that time? I don't know.
- At the base of the pyramid on the \$1 bill you will find "1776" in Roman Numerals.

[<http://www.dailyfinance.com/2010/11/23/10-fascinating-facts-about-u-s-currency/>; <http://blog.lendingclub.com/2008/01/22/the-us-dollar-bill-50-fascinating-facts/>]

Great Ships of the Seas: *Ile de France*

While never the biggest or fastest of Atlantic liners, the *Ile de France* is still thought of as one of the dream ships of all time. She was distinctive, stylish, magnificently decorated, and very popular, but most noted for her superb service and cuisine. She was often described as “the cheeriest way to cross the Atlantic.” The *Ile de France* had that rare combination of ingredients that created the perfect ship.

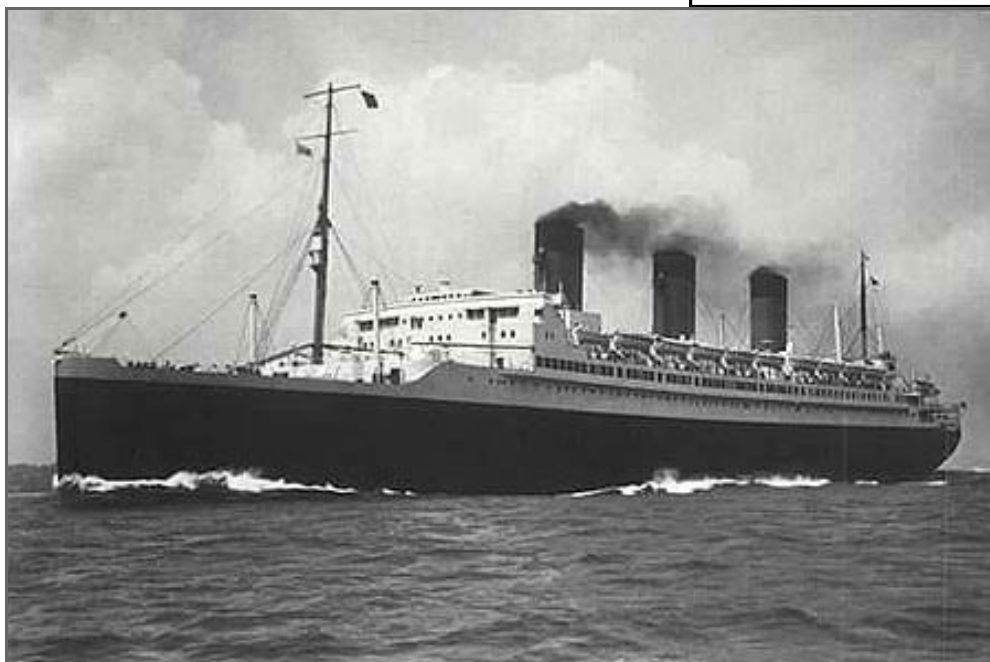
A French Line ship, she was built by Chantiers de L’Atlantique, St. Nazaire, France, in 1927. She was 792 feet long and 91 feet wide, with a gross tonnage of 44,356 tons. Powered by steam turbines and a quadruple screw, her service speed was 23.5 knots. She could carry 1,345 passengers (541 first class, 375 cabin class, and 227 tourist class).

The *Ile de France* was engaged in war duty for the Allied forces until September, 1945. She then turned to “austerity service,” sailing between Cherbourg and New York, as well as to troubled French Indo-China. In the spring of 1947, she returned to St. Nazaire for massive remodeling. She steamed into New York Harbor in the summer of 1947, on what amounted to her second maiden voyage, to renewed praise, still very impressive.

The *Ile* settled down to profitable service, uniquely flavored and still newsworthy. On July 26, 1956, she



rescued 753 survivors from the sinking of the *Andrea Doria*. In October of the same year, she was damaged in a huge storm. By November 1958, the great ship had reached retirement. The Hollywood film, *The Last Voyage*, was filmed aboard the *Ile*, in which she was partially destroyed. A few months later, the classic *Ile de France* sailed to Osaka, Japan, for dismantling. [Reprinted from 1995]





An American Tour: 89



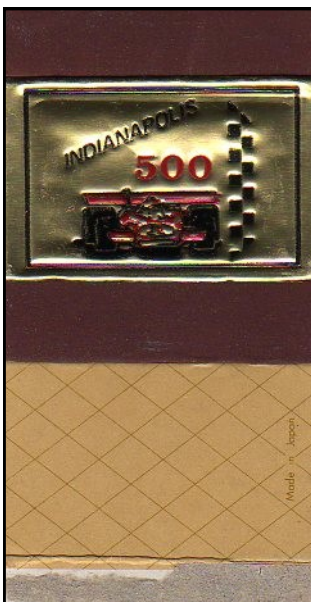
Indianapolis' Indy 500

The Indianapolis 500-Mile Race is an automobile race held annually at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Speedway, Indiana, an enclave suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. The event is held over Memorial Day weekend, which is typically the last weekend in May. It is contested as part of the Verizon IndyCar Series, the top level of American Championship Car racing, an open-wheel formula colloquially known as "Indy Car Racing."

The event, billed as The Greatest Spectacle in Racing, is considered one of the three most prestigious motorsports events in the world. The official attendance is not disclosed by Speedway management, but the permanent seating capacity is upwards of 250,000, and infield patrons raise the race-day attendance to approximately 300,000.

The inaugural running was won by Ray Harroun in 1911. The race celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2011, and the 98th running was held in 2014. Ryan Hunter-Reay is the defending champion. The most successful drivers are A. J. Foyt, Al Unser, and Rick Mears, each of whom have won the race four times. Rick Mears holds the record for most career pole positions with six. The most successful car owner is Roger Penske, owner of Team Penske, which has 15 total wins and 17 poles.

Female participation of any sort at Indianapolis was discouraged and essentially banned throughout the first several decades of competition. Female reporters were not even allowed in the pit area until 1971. There have been nine female drivers to qualify, starting with Janet Guthrie in 1977. Sarah Fisher has competed eight times, the most of any woman. Danica Patrick led 19 laps in the 2005 race and 10 laps in the 2011 race, the only times a woman has led laps during the race. Her third place finish in 2009 is the best finish for a woman. [<http://en.wikipedia.org>]



New Members

1005. Mark Hutcherson

1006. Mary Hutcherson

Reinstated

#965. Neros, Craig, 11120 16th St. NE, St. Michael, MN 55376

Collects: North Dakota, RR, Movie Star series

Ads

MILITARY LISTINGS! Just updated. Thousands listed. Army: \$15; Navy \$15; Marines: \$8; Air Force: \$10; Misc: \$8. .pdf files only. Mike Prero, rmsed@matchpro.org

Coming Up

SOUTHERN SWAPFEST 2015: March 17-21, 2015. Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs Conference Center, 350 Northlake Blvd., Altamonte Springs, FL (407) 830-1985. Room rate \$83+; Reservations: www.orlandoaltamontesprings.hilton.com Deadline is Feb.15 FMI: Gayle Hofacker, gaylelynn13@hotmail.com or 937-621-1700

AMCAL 2015 IN SAN DIEGO: Thursday and Friday April 30 and May 1, 2015 at the Lafayette Hotel in San Diego. The convention room rate is \$99 per night. The hotel is located at 2223 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego CA 92104, (619) 295-2101. The annual AMCAL meeting, cosponsored with Angelus and Sierra-Diablo matchcover clubs,

has drawn collectors from many locations in both the U.S. and overseas. FMI: Doug Fouquet, dmfouquet@aol.com.

TRANS CANADA 2015 SWAPFEST: April 30th - May 2nd. Radisson Hotel, 2960 King Street East, Kitchener, CAN (519) 894-9500. More details coming. FMI: Morris Pasternak pasternakmorris@gmail.com

UNITED EASTERN SWAPFEST 2015: June 3 - 6, 2015. \$79 + tax Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1718 Underpass Way, Hagerstown, MD 21740 301-797-2500; mention UES when making reservations. FMI: Linda Wolfe clavette324@aol.com 717-377-8291

75th RMS CONVENTION: August 16-22, 2015. Best Western Plus Lehigh Valley, 300 Gateway Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610-954-5000) www.lehighvalleyhotel.com; rooms \$89+tax-Double or King non-smoking. Reservation deadline: July 17, 2015. This is a two story hotel; NO ELEVATORS

AMCAL 60 is coming soon!

Come enjoy the sunshine and matchbooks in San Diego this Spring at AMCAL 60, April 30 & May 1, 2015.

Two days of auctions, displays, dealers, freebies, and friends! Please register ASAP if you plan on coming so we can

plan accordingly. And don't forget - if you want to secure the special AMCAL hotel rate of \$99 a night, reservations must be made by March 30, 2105.

To register and for more information, please visit the AMCAL website at:
thenewamcal.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me anytime at:

ohmyrtle7@gmail.com

Interesting Finds

I doubt if this was a phillumenic club, but it's interesting to note that there used to be *any* hobby club in Dar Es Salaam back in the 1930s/1940s.



Happy Birthday!

Bachochin, John.....	3-1
Fisher, Gery.....	3-1
Spivey, Lloyd.....	3-4
Mendonca, Raulin.....	3-7
Tate, Michael.....	3-7
Johnk, Janet.....	3-12
Crum, Dwain.....	3-16
Cole, Larry.....	3-18
Thomas, Bob.....	3-28
Gray, Tom.....	3-30
Barbieri, David.....	4-2
Cosentini, George.....	4-12
Scott, Bill.....	4-12
Bell, Larry.....	4-14
Morris, Mike.....	4-14
Hardin, Regina.....	4-15
Moore, Loren.....	4-16
Corrales, Greg.....	4-19
Moore, Scott.....	4-23
Turrini, Michael.....	4-23
Bouchard, Denis.....	4-24
Marquette, Don.....	4-29

The tobacco companies continue to turn out wonderfully interesting covers and boxes...overseas. Here's a great example: a Marlboro box in the shape of a tire. Very nice! There are also all sorts of examples of tobacco-related die-cuts, mostly from Swedish Match, that grace the collections of many a collector. You pretty much have to have a tie to European



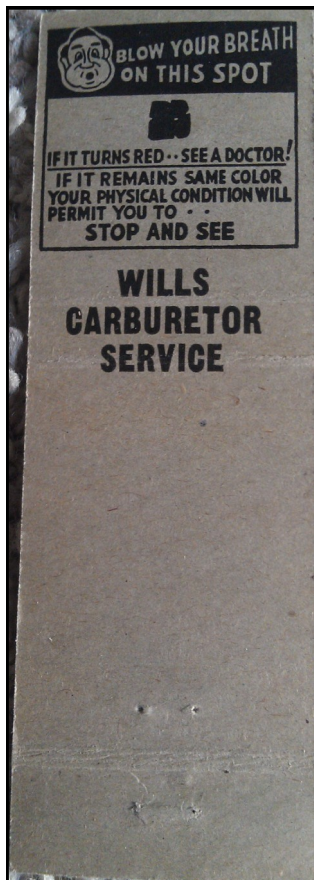
collectors, though, to get your hands on them.

AMCAL 2016?

AMCAL 2015 is right around the corner and promises to be another great get-together, but Sierra-Diablo is already well into gearing up for AMCAL 2016, which will be held in Roseville, CA (that's in Northern California, 15 north of Sacramento, in case you haven't attended before).

All these events take lots of planning and work. All the more reason for you to attend if at all possible.

March's Smile



....March Auction

Ohhhh! Lots of good items...as usual. We've got quality; we've got old; we've got interesting!

<http://matchcover.org/sierra>

The Sierra-Diablo bulletin auctions are the best club auctions in the hobby. Take advantage while you can!

COMING UP



Apr: "Easter"

May: "Superstition Mt."

Jun: "Bicycles!"

SIERRA-DIABLO...we're the hottest club in the hobby!

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