

SILVER STRIKERS

CLUB

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2005

ISSUE #33

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Hello Fellow Silver Strikers,

First off I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. May all your rolls be sevens, cards twenty-one and your spins be winners. As I write this article I am preparing for my trip to Las Vegas for our winter event. The committee has done a fine job of putting this event together and it looks like it will be one of the Silver Strike highlights of the year. I would like to say to the members of the committee "A GREAT BIG THANKS" for Volunteering to put this event together.

The excitement is growing and I can hardly wait to arrive. Las Vegas is a place like no other on earth. The neon lights, sounds and fun are almost overwhelming. My reservations in Las Vegas for the weekend \$240.00, Round trip airline tickets from Houston \$340.00, Being in Vegas with everyone for the weekend. Priceless. Well almost, but one thing is for sure every time I come to Las Vegas for one of our events I sure do have a blast. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and doing a lot of trading. I am making a list and checking it twice. O wait that's not my line. It belongs to someone else. Anyway all of my traders will be listed along with a few strikes I am hoping to add to my collection. The new strike machines are in play all over the city and new strikes have been put into play in several of those locations. I can hardly wait to make a run around Las Vegas and try my luck on the new Silver Strike machines.

I am looking forward to playing in the Slot Tournament at the Las Vegas Club. This will be my first at the Las Vegas Club. I did not make it to last year's tournament because it conflicted with another event that I had to attend. No conflicts this year and I am all signed up and ready to go. I have been doing warm ups exercises on my slot machine here at home and I will be ready by the time I arrive in Vegas. If you have not signed up and are planning on attending the tournament you better hurry. Space is limited and I have heard there are only a few positions left. Contact information for the Las Vegas Club is elsewhere in this newsletter. That's all for now. See you soon in the Silver Strikers Gold Mine, Las Vegas.

Best In Collecting
Don T. Nesbitt, Jr., President

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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SILVER STRIKERS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2004-2005

We continue to grow though there are some past due on their dues. Please take care of that obligation as soon as possible. Our membership has grown past 600 with new applications coming in nearly daily. The BIG prize is still very much up for grabs. Sign up new members so you don't miss out on a chance for this great prize!

Here again is the info for the drive:

Our goal this year is 100 new members. The dates for Drive Qualification are July 1, 2004 thru May 31, 2005. This year, the prize is a \$40 Silver Strike from the Las Vegas Club. It has a Silver Strike Machine on the reverse and is numbered 250 out of 250. It was donated to the Club by James and Pearl McFadden. For every new member you sign up, you get a chance to win this strike. So, the more new members you sponsor, the better your chances. Make sure to put your name on any Membership applications you have so we will know to give you credit.

Kevin Pyles – 1st VP/MEMBERSHIP

NEW ADDRESS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2005

517 Howard Drive

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1136

ARTICLES WANTED!!

Thanks to Norm Wu, Rusty Udarbe, and Christy Gregory for your articles!

In order for this newsletter to remain interesting and broad in scope, YOU are requested to participate by sending articles – short or long – to be included here. Many of you have had interesting experiences while chasing silver strikes that would be great to share and others of you know something about silver strikes you've never seen any information on.

2005 CONVENTION

August 3rd through the 6th at the Riviera!! You'll want to be there for sure. If you can, try to put an exhibit together to popularize silver strikes. If you want to have a table, contact Jim Steffner. If you want to share a table, contact Jack Haddock and he'll try and match you up with another collector that wants half. Tables are \$295 and you must be a member of CC>CC.
jackhaddock@mindspring.com.

WEB SITES

There are a number of our members who have some great web sites. They have lists; general information and many have strikes for trade/sale. Here's the deal! Put information about the *Silver Strikers Club* on your web page and send us your web address and it will be listed in all future issues of this Newsletter. This can help us get new members. Our current supporters are:

ARCHIE BLACK

www.callzia.com/dghome/acchips/home.thm

ED CIESLA

www.mindspring.com/~taxesed/

DON NESBITT, JR.

NEW

www.silverstriker.info

JOHNNY LONG

<http://home.att.net/~Goju/SilverStrikes.html>

LISA JUNG

<http://chippermel.lvha.net>

RANDY MORTIMER

www.silver-strikes.com

ANDY HUGHES

www.NevadaCasinoChips.com

GEORG & PAT LINDERMAN

www.hometown.aol.com/linpatmar/myhomepage/business.html

DAVE RUFFELL

www./home.earthlink.net/~daveruffell

THE OFFICIAL SILVER STRIKERS WEB SITE

<http://www.silverstrikers.com>

SILVER STRIKERS BULLETIN BOARD

www.thestrikepoint.com

NV GAMING COMMISSION'S MONTHLY APPROVAL LIST

<http://www.geocities.com/rireno/Gaming.html>

SHORT-RUN STRIKE PRICING

By Norm Wu

Strike collecting is a great passion for many of us. We are enthralled by the beauty of the collectible, the camaraderie of other silver strikers, the thrill of the chase, and the satisfaction of building a collection that reflects countless hours of playing the machines, trading and buying.

Yet, no one that I know of has a complete collection. A few of you are very close. But building the complete collection is prohibitively expensive. Blame it on simple economics, supply and demand.

A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to acquire what may have been a one-of-a-kind \$10 prototype strike from a casino cage – a Rio Rita GDC that was approved by the Nevada Gaming Commission but never put into play before the mint closed. As a newbie to strike collecting, I realized that if I sold that single strike to a serious collector, I could use the proceeds to build up a much larger collection of common and rare strikes than I could otherwise afford. But what would be a fair selling price for that one-of-a-kind? And when spending the proceeds to buy other strikes, how would I know if I were “overpaying” or getting a “steal”? Clearly, I would have to pay more to buy a Circus Circus Reno Clown Error than the common Grand Slam Canyon, given that only 300 of the former were produced. But how much more? Fortunately, reference guides provide some idea, especially those that show recent auction price ranges by strike, like Bill Cohenour’s book. But as we all know, auction prices for a particular strike can be high one day and low the next. Much of it depends on who and how many of us are in the market for that strike at that time. That’s why a Cannon Airport P-51D Mustang sold at auction in 2003-2004 for as high as \$112 or as low as \$56, a two-to-one price range.

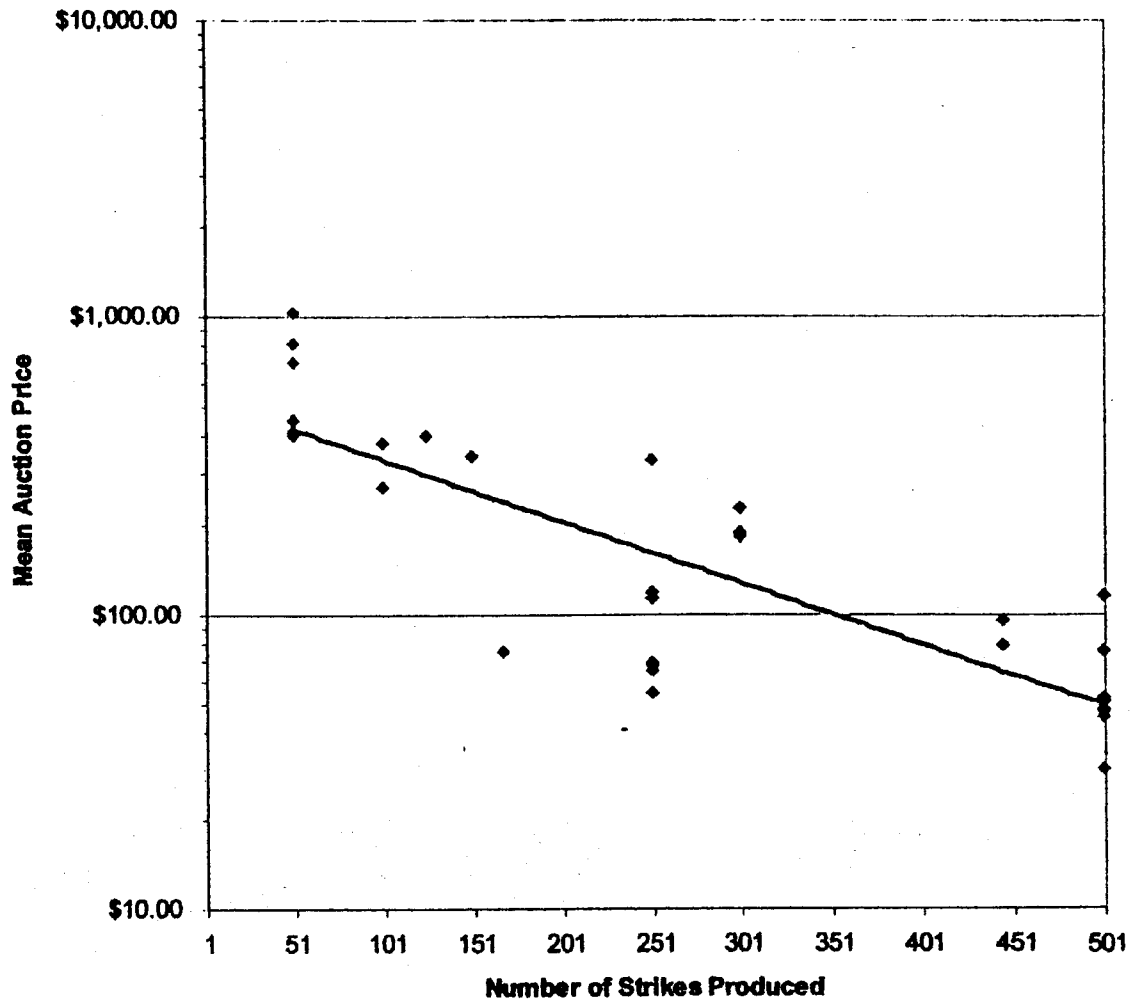
A recent discussion thread on the surprising values of certain limited production strikes started by Dennis Berry on the Strikepoint board got me thinking more about this pricing question. It seemed that there ought to be some way to use the data from the auctions to examine the average impact of supply on auction pricing, given a relatively fixed number of collectors within any one year time period.

Using data from Bill Cohenour’s guide, I put together some graphs on mean auction prices for short run strikes with 500 or less mintage. The idea was to try to understand how average prices would increase as the number of available strikes decreased. Conceptually, one would think that as the number of strikes approaches 100 or 50 or 20, the auction price would increase exponentially, as you have the same number of collectors chasing an even more limited number of strikes. Indeed, that is what appears to occur.

The graph below shows the logarithm of the 2003-2004 mean auction price vs.

the number of strikes believed to exist. In a few cases where no strikes were sold at auction in that time period, I used the 2002-2003 prices. You may remember from high school algebra that by using the logarithm of the price instead of just the price, an exponential curve will look like a straight line. The line in the graph is the trend line based on the data, as calculated by Excel.

Silver Strike Price vs. Quantity Issued



What does this graph tell us? There clearly is a basic correlation between price and the number of strikes produced. However, the correlation is not perfect by

any means. Often, the production run data is an educated guess, as Richard Rosales pointed out when I posted an earlier version of this graph on the Strikepoint.

A number of strikes fall significantly below the trend line, including the Stateline Battery Box, Goldenrod, Race Car #292 and Race Car #2D (which have a mean auction price in the \$55-69 range vs. \$165 trend line forecast for only 250 made) and the recent Silverton no-dates (which have been selling for about \$75 or \$100 vs. the approximately \$250 trend line forecast for only 167 made). Dennis has suggested that short run strikes that are not one-offs but part of a larger series like the Silverton no-dates may command less, all else being equal, since it is harder for collectors to build a complete set. Perhaps, as Norman Clem has commented, prices within the first six months may be different from longer term prices.

On the other hand, some strikes fall well above the trend line. These are typically strikes which are harder to procure than an equivalent short run strike. Examples include the Flamingo Reno Bowling no-date (Chuck Singer suggests the bowlers took a large percentage of the 250 production run leaving fewer for collectors), the O'Shea's Silver Strike Tournament Top 50 (you had to be one of the top 50 tournament finishers to get one), the O'Shea's 2001 Hand Pay (LTD 50, given out as a prize for hand paid jackpots) and the Plaza Twin Towers blue cap and Slots-A-Fun Welcome to Las Vegas pink cap (perhaps the limited number of strikes per fill made these harder to win and therefore more valuable than the other 500 production run strikes). A few others whose prices fall above the trend line may be harder to explain: the Atlantis Toucan/Angel Fish Error (\$701 for LTD 50) and the Golden Gate Trolley and Golden Gate Bridge strikes (\$230 and \$182 respectively for LTD 300). Also, judging from the experience I had with my Rio Rita GDC, I would conclude that when there are only 1-3 of a particular strike made, you can throw out the trend line forecast. At that point, it's really a seller's market and the ultimate price will be determined by a handful of the most serious collectors.

In summary, while it is clear that production run length drives much of the variation in short run strike prices, other factors such as demand by non-collectors, distribution methodology, fill rate, single vs. series, initial vs. long term collector interest, location (Nevada vs. non-Nevada, Las Vegas vs. Reno) or even design can affect supply or demand. In the end, it is we collectors who determine "market prices" and our behavior can sometimes be quite peculiar!

APPENDIX

Data used in the graph of short run strike pricing, courtesy of Bill Cohenour:

<u>Strike</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Auction Price</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Atlantis Toucon/Angel Fish Error	50	\$ 701.00	599 to 803 range
O'Shea's Tour. Top 50 Leprechaun	50	\$ 1,030.00	2002/03 auction
O'Shea's Dec 2001 Hand Pay	50	\$ 812.50	650-975 in 2002/03
Pioneer Annie Oakley Error	50	\$ 410.00	
Pioneer Doc Holliday Error	50	\$ 448.00	
Pioneer Jesse James Error	50	\$ 400.00	
Pioneer Saloon Girl/Cowboy Toast Error	50	\$ 403.00	
Delta Saloon V&T Railroad Error	100	\$ 376.00	
Sundowner (last series)	100	\$ 270.00	quite a range because p
O'Shea's Elephant Yellow	125	\$ 402.50	380-425 range
O'Shea's 1st Silver Strike Tournament	150	\$ 340.00	280-400 range in 2002/03
Silverton no-dates	167	\$ 75.00	
Flamingo Reno Bowling No Date	250	\$ 330.00	
Four Queens King/Ace Blue Caps	250	\$ 120.00	76-230 range
Riverboat Far West	250	\$ 120.00	101-139 range
Riverboat Sylan Dell	250	\$ 113.50	100-127 range
State Line Battery Box	250	\$ 65.00	
State Line Goldenrod	250	\$ 55.00	47-63 range
State Line Race Car #292	250	\$ 68.50	62-75 range
State Line Race Car #2D	250	\$ 69.00	63-75 range
Fitzgerald's LV Mr. O'Lucky SI	300	\$ 188.00	
Golden Gate Golden Gate Bridge	300	\$ 182.50	138-227 range
Golden Gate Trolley	300	\$ 230.00	179-281 range
Reno/Tahoe Airport Northern	444	\$ 95.00	80-110 range
Reno/Tahoe Airport Nevada	444	\$ 79.00	58-100 range
Peppermill/Casino Slot August Nights Error	500	\$ 52.00	
Plaza Twin Towers Blue	500	\$ 116.00	76-156 range
Riviera Comedy Club 1999 SR	500	\$ 51.00	42-60 range
Riviera Crazy Girls 1999 SR	500	\$ 45.00	
Riviera La Cage (Plain) 1999 SR	500	\$ 30.00	
Riviera Splash 1999 SR	500	\$ 51.50	43-60 range
Sierra Sids Pony Express 2002 Blue	500	\$ 48.00	34-62 range
Sierra Sids Pony Express 2003 Blue	500	\$ 47.00	31-63 range
Slots A Fun Welcome to Las Vegas Sign Pink	500	\$ 75.00	50-100 range

CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations for club officers will close on February 1, 2005 and ballots mailed with the March newsletter.

Send to: **Jo Riefer, 2283 Panoramic Dr., Concord, CA 94520**

DID YOU KNOW?

Richard Anderson has published a listing of all the strikes issued in 2004. Cost is \$10 plus \$2 postage. 9117 W. Desert Inn Rd. A-106, Las Vegas 89117-6389

Westward Ho waiting for NEW "blackjack" strike.

Monte Carlo to offer one strike, Andre's Restraunt, with their NEW machine.

Bill's Tahoe has three more of their series to go: Snowboarder, snowshoe hiker, and mountain biker. Estimated release is February.

Sands Regency in Reno is awaiting 3 new strikes: "Jazz," Country Western," and "Rock N' Roll." All a part of "Sands Sizzling Summer."

The Fandango Casino in Carson City is rumored to be getting a strike machine in 2005.

EXISTING SILVER STRIKE MACHINES

Las Vegas casinos:

*Mirage	Aladdin	Four Queens	Gold Coast
L. V. Club	Silverton	El Cortez	Stardust
*Monte Carlo	**Westward Ho	Golden Nugget	Plaza
California	Bellagio	Treasure Island	*Barbary Coast
Caesars Palace	*Palms	*Circus Circus	

Reno casinos:

Sparks Nugget	Reno Hilton	**Sands	Atlantis
Eldorado	**Bills Tahoe	Sierra Sid's	Peppermill
Mr. B's	Delta, VC	Caesars Tahoe	Reno Airport
Stockman's	Red Garter		
Fitzgerald's	Tamarack Junction		Silver Legacy

*NEW strike(s) in play and **bold** is NEW location ** NEW but NOT in play at the time of this publication

If you have additional info, let the editor know!

2005-GAMING SHOWS

1/21-1/23, 2005	<i>Silver Strike meet-tournament, LV Club</i>
2/3-4, 2005	Super Bowl Casino Show, Arizona Charlie's
8/03-8/06, 2005	CC>CC Convention – Riviera - Las Vegas, NV
9/16-17, 2005	Reno Show, Golden Phoenix

***SILVER STRIKE CLUB* January Get Together
and Slot Tournament**

**HOW ABOUT SOME COMMENTS ON THE TOURNEY
FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?**

TOTAL PURSE \$10,000.00 * PLUS **** EVERYONE WHO ENTERS THE TOURNAMENT WILL RECEIVE A *QUARTER POUND, TWO AND ONE HALF INCH DIAMETER, .999 FINE SILVER TOKEN* IN A PRESENTATION CASE, NUMBERED TO COINCIDE WITH PLACEMENT IN THE TOURNAMENT.**

In case you have put off entering the slot tournament at the Las Vegas Club this month, I'm told that they have about 170 sign-ups so far, so there is still a little room for you "last minute" folks. It promises to be fun for all and profitable for some, so join us! And who would want to miss one of the best trading sessions of the year? Bring your extras and "I need" lists and trade away!!

**Dates: January 21, 22 and 23, 2005
Las Vegas Club Hotel and Casino**

Schedule of events:

January 21 - Friday: Hotel check-in
\$10,000 Slot Tournament Registration, Welcome reception and
cocktails - 4:00pm - 6:00pm

January 22 - Saturday:

8:00am - Late Registration
9:00am - Slot Tournament Round 1
1:00pm - Slot Tournament Round 2
6:00pm - Brief meeting for Silver Strikers Club members
(dessert and coffee served)
6:30pm - Trading session open to all

January 23 - Sunday:

9:00am - Slot Tournament Round 3
2:00pm - Awards presentation

**For more information or to make reservations please
call 1 800 634 6532 or 702 385 1664 and ask for either
Sue Cardona ext 2104, or Emily Fitzsimmons ext 2057.**

Doug Conley
2nd Vice President

E-BAY RESULTS

<u>CASINO ISSUING STRIKE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>HIGH BID</u>
\$10 STRIKES		
Gold Coast, LV	"GDC" - Dice	\$160
Silver City, LV	Hearts & Stars, Panner	\$160
Sierra Sid's, Sparks	Open window - Eagle	\$133
Hilton, LV	Spacequest set	\$122
Golden Nugget, Laughlin	Janes Grill	\$55
Caesars Tahoe	4 in 1 - Sports	\$51
OTHER DENOMINATIONS		
Sierra Sid's, Sparks	\$200 Jackalope	\$355
Sierra Sid's, Sparks	\$200 Arch	\$307
Palms, LV	\$200 Welcome to LV	\$308
LV Club, LV	\$200 Gaughan	\$273
Aladdin, LV	\$40 Taj Mahal	\$90
Nevada Landing	\$40 card player	\$75
Stardust, LV	\$7 full reed	\$106
McCarran Airport, LV	\$7 LV Sign	\$51

NON NEVADA SILVER STRIKES – MINNESOTA

By Christie Gregory

Hello to all! This issue we'll cover strikes from casinos in the land of Black Bears, Firefly Creeks, Fortune Bays, Shooting Stars and a place called Mystic Lake, such a bunch of interesting names. Those names alone should entice you to collect non Nevada strikes. Minnesota is the state we'll go over this issue. Starting with:

Black Bear Casino in Carlton, Minn. In 1996, this casino brought the strike program onboard with the set of four, the Wildlife Series. The following year, they kept the same series but changed the date to 1997. All eight strikes have the GDC mintmark.

Firefly Creek in Granite Falls, Minn. first release of strikes was in 1996 with the popular Wildlife Series. In 1997, they changed to the Gamblers Series, set of four. All eight of these strikes have the GDC mint mark. The casino used these strikes until 2000 when they got inventive and produced an Indian series with a set of four Indian scenes. This set is very nice and consists of an Indian Dancer, Profile of an Indian on Horseback, an Indian on Horseback with a Rifle and a Buffalo Hunter with a Bow. This set has the G mint mark.

Fortune Bay Casino in Tower, Minn. really got into the strike program and issued quite a few unique strikes. The first set of four is some of my favorites. The Moose, Rabbit, Slot Loon and Fox take on a cartoon like quality that is different than any other issue of strikes. These have the GDC mintmark. Using the same logo, they also produced the Wildlife series, set of four. In 1996, they

added the date to the logo and put out the Train, Stagecoach, Panner, Pony Express and Assayers. I've been told this series was also produced without the date on the logo. These all have the GDC mint mark. The next set out was four cars, 1966 Cobra, 1969 Corvette, 1975 MG Midget and 1976 Mustang. These have the G mint mark. Another wildlife series was next but different from the usual old design. This set of eight is pretty neat with nice artwork. They are a Moose, Bear, Eagle, Grouse, Pike, Walleye, Trout and Bass. They continued the Sportsman Theme with next set of four, which is a Duck Hunter, Fisherman in Boat, Fisherman in Water and Fly Fisherman. These have the G mint mark. The last set in play was a Patriotic Series. These being Twin Towers, America Will Never Forget, Tribute to American Heroes, Statue of Liberty and Eagle with Stars. As far as I know, this set was hard to get and I haven't seen very many for sale. They have the G mint mark.

Jackpot Junction in Morton, Minn. had a total of eighteen \$10 silver strikes. The first set of four was the Wildlife Series, which had the GDC mint mark. In 1997, they used the Indian Chief Series – Medicine Crow, Santana, Big Tree, Sitting Bull and Chief Joseph. This series was also GDC. Next they used the same series but it had the S mint mark.

Mystic Lake in Prior Lake, Minn. is another casino that had quite a few strikes. The Gambler's Series was used first with the set of four. The next set was the Wildlife Series set of four. All eight were dated 1996 and have the GDC mint mark. Then they threw us for a loop and changed the logo slightly by adding a \$10 sign on the logo. The same two series were introduced with this logo. Again in 1997, they used the same two series but put 1997 with the \$10 on the logo. These all had the GDC mint mark. Later in 1997, they issued a set of eight cars. These being a 1965 Malibu, 1965 Mustang, 1965 Impala, 1965 Corvette, 1975 Camaro, 1975 Corvette, 1975 MG Midget and 1975 Nova. This set had the S mintmark. Mystic Lake also issued eight \$40 strikes but they have no dollar value on the strike. The first four have 1996 on the logo and were the Panner, Pony Express, Stagecoach and Train. They have the GDC mintmark. The other four are cars – 55 T-bird, 55 Bel-Air, 55 Desoto and 55 Victoria. They have the S mint mark and are hard to find.

Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, Minn. issued sixteen strikes. The first four is the Wildlife Series. The second four is the Gambler's Series. They all have the GDC mint Mark. Then came the last eight, which is a Fisherman, Golfer, Duck Hunter, Windsurfer, Pike, Walleye, Trout and Bass. These have the G mint mark.

Treasure Island Casino in Red Wing, Minn. made four \$10 strikes. They are a Toucan, Parrot, Macaw and Cockatoo. They have a GDC mintmark. Treasure Island also issued four \$40 strikes but they don't have any dollar value on them. They are seashells and are very hard to describe so I'll leave it at that. They have the GDC mintmark.

That's it for Minnesota. Next issue we'll start on Mississippi which I will break down into Northern Mississippi and Southern Mississippi because of the large amount of strikes issued in this state. I don't want to hog the whole newsletter so I'll do this state in two installments. Happy New Year to everyone and I hope to be seeing you all at the tournament.

MY BARBARY COAST \$200 STRIKE STORY

By Rusty Udarbe

Before midnight of December 22, I came across a couple from Victorville, California, who I had given a club membership application the day before. I was in front was a silver strike machine at the Stardust, when he told me that Barbary Coast still had a \$200 strike. My mind screamed "What? I was there on the 17th and didn't notice it?" He said that he wasted \$20 – no strike not even a single credit.

I rushed to the Barbary Coast and there it was - arrogantly displaying it - so close I could've hit my head if only I were tall enough.

After thirty-five minutes or so, I had twelve \$10 strikes when a gentleman (Doug, a coin collector from Indiana) came over saying that he just acquired two "big ones" earlier. We talked while working for more strikes - reciting the Silver Strike Club membership sales pitch. I handed Doug an application, as well as an interested gentleman from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over an hour later I got my 20th strike to trade for the \$200 strike (#0169). It was an expensive one. I probably could have bought it for less. Then Doug said he'd go for his third.

The following evening, I came across the gentleman from Ann Arbor (forgot his name). He said he also got one \$200 strike while Doug had gathered five altogether! I asked my wife to hurry with her shopping. She teased me about how fast I had lost interest in the evasive red caps from the Four Queens and Slots-A-Fun (which I hounded upon our arrival December 16). I told her twenty-seven strikes are enough for now. The big one at the Barbary Coast will soon be extinct. I was told the day before that the way it was going they would all be gone by the next week. Only two hundred were minted according to the man in charge.

Around 10:00 p.m. after ten minutes or so on the machine, I had fifteen strikes on hand (h-m-m machine was generous that time) when a casino tech, IGT tech, a change person came and stood on my right side. "What's going on?" With a puzzled look, I turned to my wife who shrugged and whispered, "They are looking at the big coin at the top." About ten minutes later a supervisor came and stood four feet behind me, according to my watch (wife) then had an off-and-on discussion with the techs for about five minutes then left. Then I overheard the casino tech verifying, "only five left including the display" over his radio. By now I had about thirty something strikes which were stacked in the tray. She handed me a second \$100 bill when my slot credits disappeared, whispering that they concluded there are only four left. A manager showed up and asked if I could take a break so they could take the big coin down. I agreed, asking the supervisor if I could

exchange my twenty strikes for it. The supervisor turned to the manager, the manager turned to the tech (I could swear I had a whiplash tracking their eye movements). "It's already been accounted for" the tech said as he glanced at the manager.

After a few minutes of fumbling they realized that it would take quite a while to complete their task. I then suggested letting me get one more strike (39 in hand). I then proceeded to use up my 158 credits . . . no strike. What a waste but brake time. After what seemed like hours passed I was back to the hot seat. In about twenty minutes I got thirteen strikes, then two in a row. A fellow who was watching me said that he met Doug right after I left that morning. "Doug talked like a desperate politician to the crowd about silver strikes and the Club. Dave Foster from the Bay Area got interested, played and got one big coin that morning. Regretfully, I should have given Doug a bunch of applications as he might have passed out more than a dozen of them out on his trip. Well, Dave had watched the strike removal activities and was now back for a second \$200. Since I had fifteen strikes and a stomach sounding like a bowling alley, I told him I'd take a ten to fifteen minute break, then I'll come back to get five more than the machine will be all yours. He thanked me and I wished him good luck.

When I returned Dave had used up his credits. The Silver Strikes that I needed came easily as my wife headed for her "ATM" machine. I rushed to the cashier asking for #0200. She handed me #178 and said, "and that's the last one". I disagreed and said that there should be two more. She went back to the person at the back – and had a little discussion. Came back and confirmed, "you are not the only one playing the strike machine and someone else traded earlier" her voice was now at a higher level. I explained, "I'm the only one playing and it's me who traded earlier. Is there another machine here?" I had checked the whole floor days ago and no others could I find. I left and checked where she pointed – entire opposite end of the casino - nothing.

I came back to Dave who was hard at work gathering the \$10 strikes. All pumped up now he states, "I'm gonna get my second one". I took a deep breath. "Dave, they said this is the last one." He turned to me in disbelief. Before he could utter a word the supervisor's out-stretched hand was peeling the decal. "Sorry, there's no more big coins left". "You" Dave stuttered, "can't do that." Dave turned to me his eyes asking for help. "Why didn't you take it off when you folks took the big coin down" I interfered, "or at least give a warning – this is just like false advertising". Dave's mouth was now open but there were no words; his eyes were red and watery. I argued that based on what I overheard from the tech with the radio, they didn't know what they were talking about. I stopped Dave when he was about to pull his player's card from the machine. "Get your twenty strikes – you'll need them just in case." I handed him a membership form and asked him to let me know what the outcome would be, but as of this writing, January 4, 2005, I haven't heard from him – but I've been wondering.

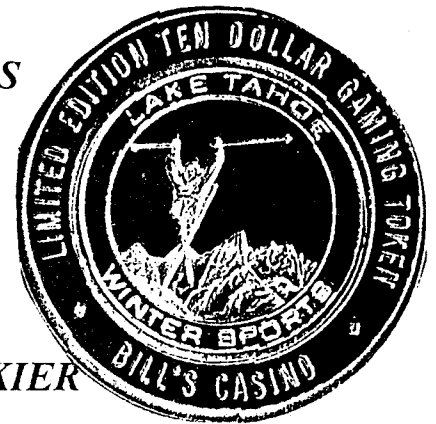
I located my wife, cashed her tickets and told her what happened. At the plane my wife asked me what I was going to do with over one hundred \$10 strikes, and four \$200 strikes. I had sold some white and red caps; cashed in about \$500 of whites from Slots-A-Fun, and the Four Queens. I had enough from my trip four weeks ago. "I'll trade it" mentioning the club event at the LV Club. Our topic home on the plane ride was the Barbary Coast incident and our conversation was full of "what if's".



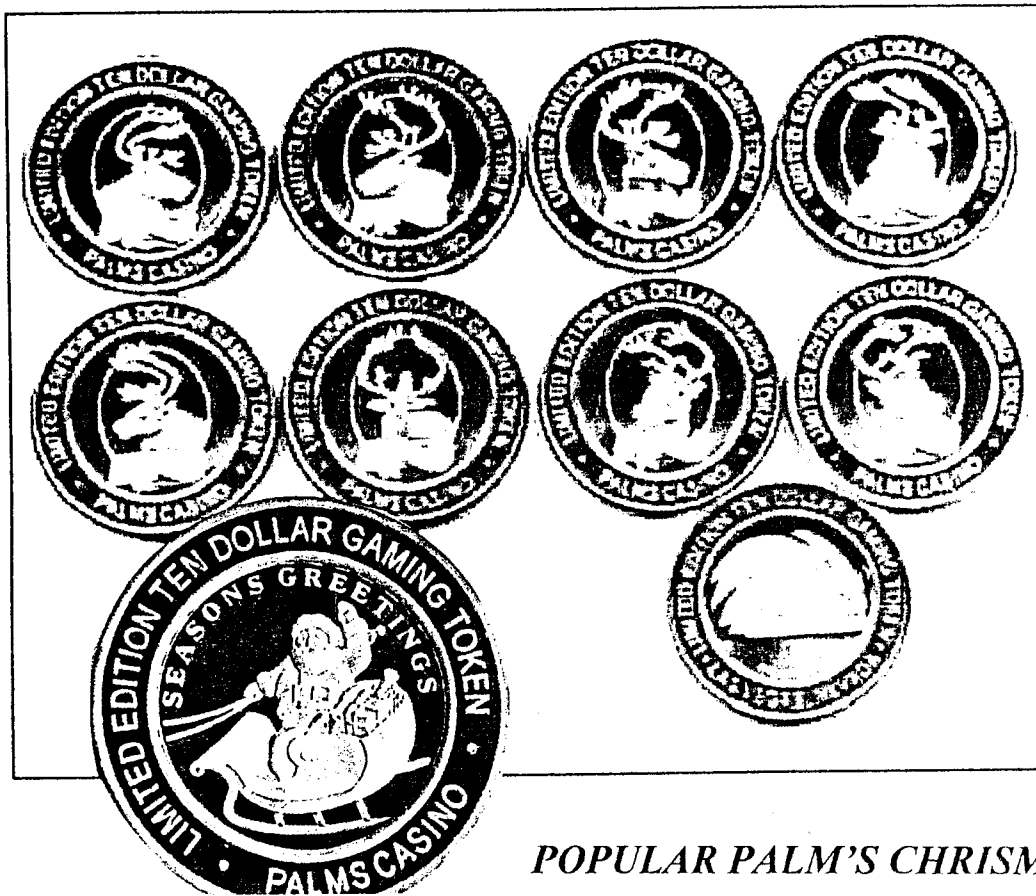
*NEW SILVER STRIKE CASINO – TAMARACK JUNCTION
(South of Reno)*



*CIRCUS CIRCUS, LASVEGAS
(1 of 3)*



BILL'S TAHOE – SKIER



POPULAR PALM'S CHRISTMAS SET

CLASSIFIED ADS

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