

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Silver Strikers Club

C/O Leroy Rico - 1st VP
98-1617 Hoomaike Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782-2332



WWW.SILVERSTRIKERS.COM



SILVER STRIKERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue #53

Oct. /Nov. /Dec. 2008

Silver Strike Machines

16

Casinos with Silver Strike Machines

7

Silver Strike Club

Members

480

Check out our Website...

www.silverstrikers.com



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President's Remarks *by Ralph Fajardo*

All Members

This year is coming to an end and it's has been an excellent year for silver strike collectors. In addition to the Four Queens producing great tokens for members to collect, other casinos have also provided great tokens. The Palms, Binion's, Sam's Town and Planet Hollywood continue to support the club as well as provide excellent tokens.

Our and publicity chairperson Pam Martin has done an excellent job in contacting various casinos and encouraging them to re-activate their strike program. I believe that very soon there will be a few more casinos that will become involved in the program. Pam has also taken the time to convey some of the suggestions and concerns from members to the managers of the casinos.

Once again a reminder, if you have concerns, let the Board of Directors know and they will discuss it with the casino slot managers. The casinos do not need three or four hundred members calling them constantly just to discuss silver strikes. Millions of people visit Las Vegas and cater to different casinos as well as try different forms of gambling. These managers have various functions and duties to perform and are not there merely for silver strikers.

There are a number of \$200 silver strike tokens coming out shortly. Binion's, Sam's Town, The Palms and Four Queens are rumored to be making a \$200 token to be issued during the January Slot Tournament. Good luck to everyone in their quest to obtain one (or 20) of these strikes. Hopefully all members on the machines will be courteous

President's Remarks continued on page 12

Club Contact Information

Office	Name	Email
President	Ralph Fajardo	president@silverstrikers.com
1 st Vice President	Leroy Rico	firstvp@silverstrikers.com
2 nd Vice President	Dan Hanagriff	secondvp@silverstrikers.com
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Historian	Jeff Gaffke	historian@silverstrikers.com
Webmaster	Jim Quinn	webmaster@silverstrikers.com

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES ABOVE

Nominations for New Officers

Here are the nominations for the new club officers:

President	Bill Jollie
First VP	Cheri Jollie
Second VP	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Treasurer	Judy Barton
Secretary	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Thank you to everyone. There were other people nominated but they declined to run for the office. If anyone is interested in running for Second VP or Secretary, please let me know.

Sue Cohenour Email halloffameelectionschair@silverstrikers.com
 11206 Saticoy Street Sun Valley, CA 91352-4728

Voting ends midnight PST March 31, 2009

Please include the following information when you VOTE:

Your Name, Member Number and Your choices for each of the officers below:

President
 First Vice President
 Second Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary

Classified Ads

**Selling all silver strikes and bezels, including own collection.
 30% off listed price.**

E-mail Lisa Jung, lisa@lvha.net

For a list of strikes for sale, see web page: <http://chippermel.lvha.net>

Place Your Ad Here!

Advertise in the Silver Strikers Club Newsletter

COST of the Ads: \$15 per newsletter or \$50 per year (4 newsletters)

Ads can be a MAXIMUM of 60 words & numbers

DEADLINE for ads in the next newsletter is March 1, 2009

Send your Ad via Email to Dan Hanagriff: papadhanagriff@gmail.com

Mail Payment for the Ad to Judy Barton: 3917 Cartist Drive, Ft. Worth, Texas 76116-7703

Upcoming Gaming and Coin Related Events

1/20/09 7:30pm	Meeting So. Cal. Casino Collectors Club Jim Noll jenca@pacbell.net http://www.freewebs.com/scaclub	Hollywood Park Casino 3883 W. Century Bl. Inglewood, CA (310) 330-2800 (800) 888-4972
1/23/09- 1/25/09	Four Queens Slot Tournament (800)634-6045 or (702)385-4011	Four Queens Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV
1/30/09- 1/31/09	Super Show Jim Munding mun3335@aol.com	Alexis Park Resort Las Vegas, NV
2/17/09 7:30pm	Meeting So. Cal. Casino Collectors Club Jim Noll jenca@pacbell.net http://www.freewebs.com/scaclub	Hollywood Park Casino 3883 W. Century Bl. Inglewood, CA (310) 330-2800 (800) 888-4972
3/17/09 7:30pm	Meeting So. Cal. Casino Collectors Club Jim Noll jenca@pacbell.net http://www.freewebs.com/scaclub	Hollywood Park Casino 3883 W. Century Bl. Inglewood, CA (310) 330-2800 (800) 888-4972
6/24/09- 6/27/09	CCGTCC Convention Email: convention@ccgtcc.com	South Point Casino Las Vegas, NV

Editor's Note

If you would like to submit articles or pictures for future newsletters, please send to papadhanagriff@gmail.com and karcher101@gmail.com.

Silver Strikes Jingle, by Norm Wu

(Sung to the tune of Jingle Bells)

Dashing down the Strip
With a nearly filled up tray
O'er the slots we go
Laughing all the way
Strikes on slot reels spin
Making spirits bright
What fun it'd be to laugh and win
A chaser strike tonight



Oh, Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight
Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight



A red cap I did spy
I thought I'd take a chance
But sadly I had just
One dollar in my pants
The tube was lean but bright
The spinning left some doubt

I prayed that I would win that night
And then I got the shout

Oh, Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight
Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight

Oh, Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight
Silver Strike! Silver Strike!
Silver oh so bright
Oh, how great it'd be if I
Won a chaser strike tonight



Six Centuries of Silver by Bob Chambers and Lorraine Yancoski

- 1344 – Price of silver about \$400.00 per ounce
- 1477 – Silver value reaches \$806.00 per ounce (all time high)
- 1545 – Protosi mines open in North America (silver values begin a gradual decline)
- 1780's – Silver value falls below \$100.00 per ounce
- 1890's – Silver prices fall below \$50.00 per ounce
- 1980 – Silver price is about \$68.00 per ounce (Hunt Brothers try to corner the market)
- 1998 – Silver value at \$6.28 per ounce
- 2003 – Silver value \$4.07 per ounce
- 2008 – Silver value October, 2008 at \$ 9.60 per ounce

Four Queens Slot Tournament

(Note: This event is sponsored by the Four Queens, not the Silver Strikers Club)

SILVER STRIKE

Room Package & *\$10,000 SLOT TOURNAMENT

January 23, 24, & 25, 2009

Package Includes

- 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

*With 1st Place taking home \$4,000

Call for Room Package and Tournament Entry Prices

Schedule of Events

Royal Pavilion

Friday, January 23, 2009

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Welcome Cocktail Reception and Hors d'oeuvres
Slot Tournament Registration

(Sign in for scheduled tournament time must be no later than 10:00am)

Saturday, January 24, 2009

9:00 am Slot Tournament 1st Round

6:00 pm Free trading session

Sunday, January 25, 2009

9:00 am Slot Tournament 2nd Round

2:00 pm Slot Tournament Awards Ceremony with Cake and Champagne

Space is limited so call Room Reservations today at
(800)634-6045 (press #1) OR (702)385-4011

Ask for Rod, 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 and based on double occupancy. **Single and No Room Needed Packages Available—please call for details.** 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

Meet Jack Haddock: Silver Strike Pioneer by Bill Metten



The second in a series of articles about club members who started collecting silver strikes in the early days and have contributed to the club's success.

Jack Haddock –CHSS 131– was born in Reno, Nevada 67 years ago, spending 25 years working for a bank and 20 years running his own postal and shipping center business in Sparks. Growing up with gaming left him somewhat numb to its existence. “When I turned 21, I remember playing \$2 in pennies at Harold’s Club and since then it’s been a few dollars when out-of-town family needed to try their luck,” Jack explains.

Over the years Jack has collected coins, antique bottles, Nevada merchant tokens from the turn of the century, air race pins and more. Then in 1997, while waiting for his wife to arrive at the Reno airport, he saw the “Silver Strike Machine” and was very taken with the 5 tokens displayed. The plane was going to be 30 minutes late, so a roll of quarters seemed to be appropriate. About half way through the roll, he lined up three “5 BARS” and waited for his strikes. Didn’t happen! He motioned to the attendant who said, “yes, you hit a five coin payout BUT you apparently were only playing one quarter, and you need to play three to win a coin.” I had learned my lesson and I was hooked. When asked what he likes most about strike collecting, Jack replied, “the chase!”

After a visit to a local coin store to see if there was more to learn about these tokens, the viability of making a collection of them was apparent. “I was obsessed,” Jack recalls. “I hit all the casinos, talked with attendants and cashiers, was able to buy older strikes and even got many of the \$7 and \$200 strikes that were left over from the earlier days.”

He attended the 1997 CC>CC convention, becoming a member and looking for other strikers and information on the hobby. As the contacts developed, Jack was asked to provide strikes from northern Nevada to collectors who never traveled to that part of the state. “One of my first mailings included *Flamingo NO Word Bowlers* for \$15 each,” Jack proclaimed, adding “as it turns out, I made 12 collectors very happy.” He provided the “new strike service” right up to when all but the Delta machines were removed.

Jack’s wife, Linda, encourages him to collect as he wants and only got involved with silver strikes one time. One year, they drove to Virginia City, where Jack wanted to view the motorcycles, which were having a large gathering that day. He needed a few more “train” strikes for his clients, so he asked his wife to play the machine at the Delta while he walked the streets and looked at the bikes. You guessed it; she won seven “coin aligned” trains before running the machine out of strikes. “I’ve never told her how rare they are,” Jack said quietly.

“Many good times have been a part of this hobby, especially the many great people that one gets to know. Over the years, the strike machines have paid me a couple of \$1,000 jackpots and even a \$2,000 one from the Reno Flamingo.” Jack stressed for three weeks waiting to play the \$5 Caesars’ Tahoe \$200 machine. Three hundred dollars was the budget to win one of the \$200’s. He hit a winner times two, broke the machine and ended up way ahead though the extra Caesars’ two hundred sold for \$350. Those were the days! “I still have all the \$200’s issued and my office walls are full of my silver strikes with memories attached,” Jack said with conviction.

It was at the 1999 convention that Mary Lou Waterberry asked several of the strike collectors if they thought it was time to organize a club. Along with some other very enthusiastic collectors, the process to form a club was started. Jack volunteered to serve as interim president until the organization documents could be prepared and elections held. He had served as president of several service clubs, including forming new ones, so it seemed like a logical choice – of course, no one else wanted the job. “It was only appropriate that Mary Lou became our charter president, as she envisioned the future of the hobby. I was happy to serve the club as vice president for the club’s first four years,” stated Jack. The new club, with many energetic members, started a newsletter, the Strike Point message board, a club auction, the slot tournament for Strikers, incorporated the club, got casinos to issue silver strikes recognizing Strikers, and even produced their own coin. Jack designed the logo side of the coin, which includes the gold panner, stagecoach and the club name. “It was never officially approved, by the membership, but I felt we needed something for our club’s identity,” Jack said.

“I’m very proud of the role I played in growing the silver strike hobby and of being a part of the beginning of the Silver Strike Club. It is a very satisfying feeling when I see how far it has come and the way it has grown,” Jack remarked as he concluded the interview.

Silver Strikers on Vacation *By Jay Jollie*

My wife and I recently went on a short vacation, and I wanted to share my experiences with the club. We flew to Hawaii (that was an experience in itself – neither one of us fly). Ralph and Judy Fajardo met us at the airport; and the next day, the four of us picked up Tracy and Becky Bottemiller (congratulations on your recent marriage). We all stayed with Ralph and Judy. For the next ten days, the six of us kept very busy. We did all the Hawaiian sites – USS Arizona, Diamond Head, Punch Bowl, Waikiki, and swam a lot with the fishes. Becky led the way on our outrigger experience. We then met up with Leroy and Abigail Rico. We spent the day watching turtles swim in the waves, had shaved ice at Matsumoto’s, and ate garlic shrimp.

Tracy, Becky, Cheri and I flew to Kauai, where we zip lined through the trees 80 feet off the ground (and I’m afraid of heights). I had the time of my life.

We then flew back to Oahu where Ralph and Judy tried to teach us few words in Hawaiian like “humuhumunukunukuapua’a.”

Instead of learning it, I just got a hat with it on it.

The reason I am writing this story is because if not for the Silver Strikers Club, I would have never met these wonderful and giving people.

P.S. Becky and Cheri can pronounce “humuhumunukunukuapua’a.

(This is the state fish, and it is very small.)



Vegas Historical Facts *by Jeff Gaffke*

If you will be at The 4 Queens for the silver strike tournament, you may want to take note of some of the historic buildings that are located in and around the Fremont Street area:

1. **Golden Gate Hotel and Casino**, 1 Fremont Street

Part of the first two floors of this building opened in 1906 as the Hotel Nevada. In 1931 it was expanded and became the Sal Sagev. (read it backwards) In 1955 the Golden Gate Casino was opened.

2. **Vegas Vic**, 25 East Fremont Street

In 1951, The Pioneer Club erected this sign. Built by Young Electric Sign Company, it is one of the oldest and best known of the giant neon signs. The sign has been restored several times.

3. **Railroad cottages**, 600 block on Casino Center Street

The railroad had built 64 bungalow style cottages to house its workers. This location still has seven of the original cottages. They are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

4. **Apache Hotel/Horseshoe**, 128 Fremont Street

The Apache for many years was regarded as the plushiest hotel in Las Vegas. It stands behind the signs of Binions.

5. **Post Office/ Federal Building**, 301 East Stewart

This neo-classical structure was completed in 1933 as part of the federal government’s massive building program begun under Herbert Hoover. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Source: Preservation Association of Clark County

Jackpots! *Photos by Bill Cohenour*

Looks like some Silver Strikers got lucky at the Four Queens



Sue (11/1/08) and Bill (11/2/08) Cohenour



Gary Heinz and Jamie Martin (10/31/08)

Four Queens Halloween 2008



Joshua Lee incognito with Helen Lee

George Langley and Wes Rasmussen



John Zuniga, Jay Jollie, Terry Ronan



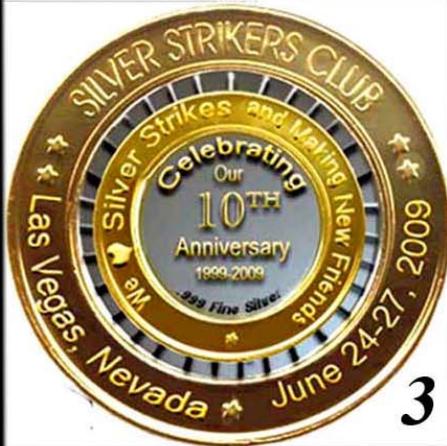
Bill and Ann Brooks



Gary Heinz, Chuck Singer, Norman Chrzanowski

Photos by Bob Chambers and Lorraine Yancoski

2009 Club Silver Strike Finalists



Recent/Upcoming Releases



Silver Clad Brass Strikes (below) do not have '.999 Fine Silver' on them.



Locations with Silver Strike Machines

Casino	City	State	Qty
Binions Gambling Hall & Hotel (machines are pulled while waiting for delivery of strikes)	Las Vegas	Nevada	3
Delta Saloon	Virginia City	Nevada	1
Four Queens Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	3
Johnny Nolon's	Cripple Creek	Colorado	1
Palms Casino Resort	Las Vegas	Nevada	3
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	3
Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Total Silver Strike Machines			16

Welcome New Members

Date	Name	Member #	Sponsor
Oct. 2008	Brad Frost	SS-1149	Silverstrikes.com
	Debra Frost	SS-1149-A	Silverstrikes.com
	Norman T. Kaitoku	SS-1150	Ralph Fajardo
	June Shobe	SS-1151	Richard Shobe
Nov. 2008	Pattie Hageman	SS-1152	Unknown
	Jennifer Perkins	SS-1152-A	Unknown
	James Fite	SS-1153	Club Webmaster
Dec. 2008	JoAnn M. Stoddard	SS-1154	Club Webmaster
	Louis L. Drayer	SS-1155	Richard Anderson
	Gary Drayer	SS-1156	Richard Anderson

All that Glitters is Not Gold *by Bob Chambers and Lorraine Yancoski*

Historically, silver has been used as a tangible commodity dating back as far as the ancient Egyptians and even the Sumerian Empire. Modern technological advances have increased the actual industrial demand for silver, yet the actual monetary value of silver has been in steady decline since the 1500's. Today, the demand for silver may be categorized: 30% for photography, 30% for Jewelry, and 40% for industrial uses. Silver pricing for investment is measured per troy ounce.

Did you hear about the new 3 million dollar State Lottery?
The winner gets 3 dollars a year for a million years.

VOTE: Silver Strike Design Finalists

We had 53 great drawings submitted. It was very hard to select only six. It is your turn to vote for the one strike that you would like to see as our **2009 Club Silver Strike**. Please be sure to include your Name, SS Number and the number of the entry that gets your vote. Votes must be received by **February 10, 2009**.

You can get a better view of the strikes at: www.silverstrikers.com

Send in your vote by Mail:

Jo Riefer

2283 Panoramic Dr.

Concord, CA 94520

Or Email to: silver.striker41@hotmail.com

Silver Facts *by Bob Chambers and Lorraine Yancoski*

Silver is being put into paper used in medical professions because of its antibiotic-like characteristics.

Silver iodide is used to make clouds produce rain.

Silver's melting point is 1761 degrees F or 960 C.

Silver can be eaten, though it is not advised.

Silver was mentioned in the book of Genesis in the Bible.

Silver is a very ductile and malleable coinage metal with a brilliant white luster that can take a high degree of polish.

Mirrors and batteries use silver.

Silver was used in money. You can be allergic to silver. It is in most jewelry.

Silver is used to represent the 25th Wedding Anniversary.

The name silver comes from the old English word "seolfor".

Silver is not a chemically active metal but if mixed with hydrogen in air, it will tarnish.

Silver is thought to be one of the very first metals used by the human race.

Silver is the whitest color of any metal.

Silver is harder than gold, but softer than copper.

Silver is a transitional metal that has more electrical conductivity than copper.

Ag is the symbol for silver. Ariana means silver.

Argentina was named from Argentum, the element of silver's Latin name.

Silver is one of the colors of the Oakland Raiders !!!

Silver is a precious metal and we all know that !!!

Pam's Corner

If there is one thing I have learned these last few years it's that silver striking is a hurry-up and wait process and everything is always down to the wire at the end. Bill and Linda Jollie went with Jamie and me to tour the new Sunshine Mint facility in Henderson, NV. It was their first day of production of the new Four Queens clad silver strike red caps. It was fun to see the start of a plain blank turn into a beautiful minted strike. Seeing the whole process from start to finish is very interesting. Both red caps for the Four Queens were minted that day, takes about 4 hours per 500 strikes.

We had lunch on the way home and stopped by a couple of casinos then back to the Four Queens just as the strikes had been delivered and put into the strike machines. I must say it was quite a thrill to have seen these strikes from start to finish and then win them all in the same day.

We also had the opportunity to stop by and see some of the silver striker's old friends and check on just how interested they were in starting up their silver strike program again. A meeting was set up with Sunshine Mint and the future looks good for them to reinstate their strike program but once again they are waiting for IGT and strike machines. I don't think it will be possible for all to be accomplished by tournament but before or by convention we strikers might have plenty of places to play for strikes. The Silver Strikers Club and Sunshine Mint are working hard on getting this accomplished plus a few more I plan on working with once these three are final.

Our October trip was very eventful, lots of strikes and some new members who have joined the Silver Strikers Club and will be at the tournament.

The Four Queens Silver Strike tournament is January 23-25, 2009 and it looks like there will be plenty of strikes coming. Four Queens will have the tournament token, new \$200 plus red caps. Binion's is working on their new Rodeo \$200 plus red caps, Palms is working on a new \$200 plus red caps and Sam's Town has one more red cap to release in their Mystic Fall Park series and the new \$200 which is also part of the Mystic Falls series.

Binion's, Delta Saloon, Four Queens, Palms, Planet Hollywood and Sam's Town have all taken a partial delivery of the new clear clad strikes but I don't know when these new strikes will start appearing in the strike machines. I am hoping we will see some of by tournament in January.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Four Queens Silver Strike Slot Tournament in January

Pam Martin, Silver Strikers

Silver Strikers Club Membership Application



Complete this application

below and send to:

Silver Strikers

C/O Leroy Rico

98-1617 Hoomaika Street

Pearl City, Hawaii 96782-2332

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: (_____) _____-_____ E-Mail: _____

Collecting Interests:

_____ All _____ \$7 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$40 _____ \$200

_____ All _____ Nevada _____ Colorado _____ Other

Publish the above information in the Club Roster? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you want the club newsletter E-Mailed to you (no extra cost)? _____ Yes _____ No

If Yes, E-Mail address to send it to: _____

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

_____ Annual Membership	\$	15
_____ New Member Processing Fee	\$	8
_____ Optional Spouse Associate Membership	\$	15
_____ Additional SS Club Roster	\$	10
Total Enclosed	\$	_____

Spouse's Name: _____

Membership Sponsored By: _____

Check out our website: www.silverstrikers.com

President's Remarks continued from page 1

enough to let other members at least get enough for one token and not hoard all of the strikes.

This attitude has been a sore spot in this club for ages. I've heard complaints from almost every member that some members sit on a machine until they empty the machine so they could get several of the \$200 tokens. It has to come from members themselves that this is a club and we should be helping each other.

As the year comes to an end, new goals are being set. These goals will be discussed with the incoming new leaders of the club and to see if there is feasibility in obtaining these goals. The first and foremost is to increase our membership. Unfortunately due to many members not paying any dues, these members were deleted from the club.

Our numbers have gone from over six hundred members to four hundred and seventy. Some non paid members were calling and asking as to why they did not receive a newsletter. When informed of their non paid dues, they hung up and never addressed the issue again nor paid their dues.

Another idea is to pursue making a silver strike museum. We have a lot of things that could be displayed for members as well as the general public to visit. This may encourage others to join the club. Bottom line is that all of this must have the approval of the Gaming commission.

Third is to pursue having a better newsletter with better photos. Dan Hanagriff and Kathy Archer have been looking into this matter and have discussed this with the print shop.

January 23rd will be the annual Four Queens slot tournament. Once again there will be a cocktail reception, an entry into the \$10,000 slot tournament and a limited tournament token. There will also be a new red cap and a two hundred dollar strike token to chase. Hope to see all of you there.

Remember, we are a club and we should be helping each other and having fun.

Finally, the annual party will soon be here. If members could bring an item from their hometown or state, these items could be used for either a door prize or auctioned off for the club. Membership cards will be checked at the door to assure dues have been updated. If you have any donations please contact one of the board members so a list could be made.

Thank you for your generous support of the club and its board members.

Ralph Fajardo,

President

Road Trip to Johnny Nolon's *by Rog De Vree*

August 11 Marlene and I were on our morning 3 mile walk and were talking about taking another car trip similar to the one we did 3 years earlier. We had talked about it earlier and decided not this year. The walk and weather must have been good because we decided we were going to do it and see if we could make it all work. Our goal was to see some of the things we had seen last time and to go places and see States we haven't been in before. These were the goals. See Nebraska, North Dakota, Iowa, Colorado, and Idaho if possible. Our rough plan got us close to an old Navy buddy I hadn't seen in 50 years and that got added. (another story all by itself). Saw on Strike Point that there was a mention of a strike machine in Colorado at Johnny Nolon's. I checked and yes it was the old style machine that Anchor used. That also got put on the list. Other things and other places also got added. We had it planned and reservations made within a week.

We left the house on our vacation on Labor Day, late enough so we wouldn't have trouble with the people who walk the Mackinac Bridge every Labor Day.

We stopped at a lot of casinos along the way, seemed like we needed a break about every time we saw one. Some we stayed at were in Harris, MI., Cass Lake, MN. Fort Yates, N.D. We also spent some days visiting in Montana and some National Parks in Montana and Wyoming. We arrived in Fort Collins, Colorado at our stop for the night at the Best Western. It was Sept. 10. The next day we were going to Estes Park to check on a place a good friend of mine used to work when he was on summer vacation from college. The thing he didn't mention was what it took to get to Estes Park. Understand Michigan is basically pretty flat. Estes Park is at 7522 ft. Yeah you guessed it, mountain roads and I swore off mountain roads 3 years ago but was hoping it would go better this time because I had done it before and the memory fades. We made it and my knuckles didn't quite turn white. Got the pictures of the restaurant (not the way he remembered) and left. Back down the mountain and on to Cripple Creek and the Strike Machine. Oh, oh, here we go again. More mountain roads and no super highway mountain roads either. Was much better on those. I can imagine what all the local and other drivers that passed me were saying about that old fart in the Michigan car going so slow. Wasn't slow to me. We made it and oh yeah, if you are wondering the elevation is 9464. Made darn sure to make note of it too.

Our reservation was at J.P. McGill's and got there at 3:30. First impression was a neat town and the drive reminded us somewhat of the drive to Virginia City. Didn't like that one either. We got unpacked and settled down. The nerves were better and I wasn't shaking. Time to find Johnny Nolon's and the strike machine.

Short walk across the street and there on the corner is the place. This was a big deal to me to find this last known machine in the States and play it. Open the door and less than a step inside on the left and here it is. Bright, shiny, 3 line Bar Machine. Line up Single Bars on a line and get 1 strike, 2 Bars 2 strikes, 3 Bars and yeah 3 of them. 3 Bars on a line and 2 Bars on another gives you FIVE strikes. Best I have ever seen but I heard of SIX. In goes the \$20.00. I can feel the old nervousness from playing them before. These machines many times had large swings one way or the other depending on when you got there. It seemed like I made it right after someone got a multiple. My brother-in-law Nels usually made it when it was ready to hit a multiple. It is all his fault I was there. He got me started in 95 playing the machines and getting these nice things to take home. He passed and I hoped he was watching from above and sharing his usual luck. Not to be. Zippo first \$20. Next \$20. Marlene, will you play some and maybe change my luck. That is when I got her picture playing the machine.

Second \$20, 2 strikes and not a pair. Time to leave for the day so I can calm down again. Better luck tomorrow? Came back the next day with a good attitude hoping that would help. In goes 20 bucks. NOTHING. In goes the next 20 bucks. Yeah, 2 strikes and 15 bucks left. Got my pair now and 2 others that don't make a pair. Leave, no, let's see if it gets better. No, 15 bucks and nothing. Tried to make a trade with the casino people but, no, they want you to spend more money. Nuts, I have my pair for \$80 and a couple of spares. Time to leave. Driving down that darn mountain wasn't any fun either, only a little better than going up. I still have my pair but gave the spares to 2 special people. Jim McFadden got the first one when we visited at his place in the beautiful city of St. George. We got the royal treatment from Jim and Pearl. Dennis Finn got the other when we visited with him and Linda. Dennis told me where he thought the strikes were made. I forgot even though I asked him twice. Sunshine told me they didn't.

Cripple Creek is a real neat place to visit. Casinos up and down the street in old store buildings. We were treated very well. If you are anywhere close you ought to stop. Even the mountain roads are worth it and if we get that way again I am sure we will be there. White knuckles and all.

This story is from someone who has sold all of his Silver Strikes more than a year ago. See what the bug can do. Oh yeah, I kept my Michigan strikes. Could use your help with the Chip-In 1997 Logo Bear. Last one I need for Michigan.



Museum of Gaming History (part2) by Mike Skelton

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www.museumofgaminghistory.org

The Visitor Experience

Visitors to the Museum will discover a vibrant, inviting place designed to provide a variety of experiences. Spaces will be flexible to accommodate exhibitions and events of various sizes and types. The experience will be multisensory to reflect the experience of gaming. Patrons will see artifacts, view moving images, hear audio tracks and have opportunities for hands-on interactions. The Museum will be fully handicapped accessible and provide services that today's museum goers expect such as a café and retail. The Museum will make its public spaces available for rental so that groups can have a unique and fun venue for special events such as corporate gatherings, parties and weddings.

Visitors making use of virtual opportunities will have access to collection information, on-line exhibitions and retail that complement time spent on-site. The website will be customizable so that people can create their own sets of data and interact with other users. These elements will all combine to create a community that will make visitors active participants in the Museum.

Content: Exploring a Diverse Past

Gaming has held a place in traditional and popular culture for centuries worldwide. The Museum will use a comparative cross cultural approach to create programs that present gaming on a global scale. This will create an environment in which international discussion can flourish. Rather than a purely chronological or regional perspective, the Museum will work to explore how gaming has been similar and different through side by side comparisons. While Las Vegas will be a primary reference, a visitor might see an exhibition about dice games from ancient Rome, Pakistan and the United States simultaneously and be challenged to think about what if any changes happened over time and why.

Using the Social Sciences

When motivations, style and technology change, gaming is adapted to serve the needs and desires of people. Artists represent it, writers discuss it, and destinations are built around it. The Museum will use methods of social science inquiry from psychology, sociology and anthropology to ask basic questions such as:

- Who engages in gaming and Why?
- What are the commonalities and differences between games?
- Where do we find examples of gaming around the world?
- When did gaming as we know it begin?
- Why do people invest time and money in gaming?
- How are rules decided in gaming?
- How have people cheated in gaming?
- How has gaming been monitored and regulated through time?
- What do we know about illegal gaming?



- How is gaming related to other aspects of culture?

Focused Subject Areas for Teaching

The Museum will use gaming as a basis for bringing together information from multiple fields of study. Professional staff and visiting scholars will create opportunities for exploration of questions in such varied subject areas as:

Art	Where and how has gaming been represented in art?
Architecture	How have spaces been designed to accommodate gaming over time?
Collecting	Who collects artifacts and information related to gaming and why?
Creative Writing	How is gaming represented by authors?
Design	How does design influence gaming and vice versa?
History	How do historians reference gaming in their work? Who are the major figures in gaming history?
Math	What are the mathematical properties of various games?
Science	What aspects of scientific knowledge are parts of game design?
Statistics	How do statistical properties factor into games?

In addition to exploring such subjects historically, The Museum will be a resource for current educators to use in inspiring today's students. Lesson plans will be created with teacher input and will meet curriculum standards for different topic areas and grade levels. Students will be encouraged to create new interpretations of gaming that add to the world's knowledge.

Tours

Guided tours will be a major component of Museum programming. Trained docents will lead groups through the exhibitions and discussions to encourage learning in an entertaining, accessible style. The Museum will partner with schools, tour companies, convention planners, event planners and interest groups to market multiple tour options. Self-guided tours will also be available and will include printed and audiovisual materials to enhance the experience.

Public Dialog

Gaming can be simultaneously celebrated or criticized, leisurely or addictive, legal or illegal. The Museum will provide a forum for multiple perspectives in order to help us to think critically about our past, present and future. Dialog and sharing of multiple perspectives in a respectful atmosphere will be encouraged. Opportunities on site will include public educational sessions, speaker series, and symposia. The Museum will also work with the media and others that want to reference the collections and gaming history from multiple angles.

Research

The Museum will provide ample opportunities for research about its collections and other resources. A library and archive will house items such as books, journals, articles, correspondence and photographs for on-site work by professional staff, scholars and members of the public. A digital archive will preserve the information in a format that ensures its longevity and allows distance learning via the web.

This is the second part of the MOGH article which we will reprint over the next few issues.