



by Howard W. Herz

During the Reno chip show this fall, I ran into an old friend of my family. He had worked for the Mapes hotel since it opened in 1947. As a cashier for almost 20 years he had an intimate knowledge of the casino's chips. I remember as a child going to see Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen when they appeared in the Skyroom. That evening after the show we walked past the gaming tables on the south end of the hotel's top floor to the elevators. Years later, when I began collecting chips and tokens, I would be intrigued by the double color combinations in the same denominations. I asked my friend if he remembered why they had so many colors. He replied that the Skyroom had their set of checks and the main floor casino had their set. With the help of Reno collector Larry Hollibaugh's color collection catalog, my friend identified the two sets. Every day, he would exchange the main checks and the skyroom checks that had migrated to the other casino. His insight finally has clarified which casino used which checks. \*



Mapes Hotel Skyroom



\$5 SmKey  
purple w/ 3-1/4 red



\$5 T's  
purple



\$5 T's  
purple w/ 4-1/4 red



\$25 T's  
green w/ 4-1/4 cream

### Mapes Hotel Skyroom



\$5 HRGLS  
blue w/ 3-1/2 alt.



\$25 HRGLS  
red w/ 3-1/2 alt.



\$5 SmCrown  
f-orange w/ 3-3/8r



\$25 SmCrown  
blue w/ 3-3/8r

### Mapes Hotel Main Casino



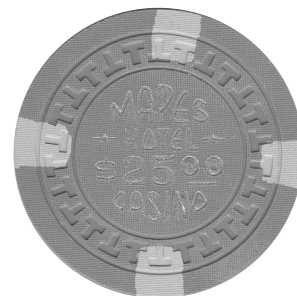
\$5 SmKey  
brown w/ 3-1/4 orange



\$5 T's  
maroon



\$5 T's  
maroon w/ 4-1/4 green



\$25 T's  
green w/ 4-1/4 cream



\$5 HRGLS  
maroon w/ 3-1/2 alt.



\$25 HRGLS  
green w/ 3-1/2 alt.



\$5 Sm Crown  
brown w/ 3-1/2 alt.



\$25 SmCrown  
green w/ 3-1/2 alt.