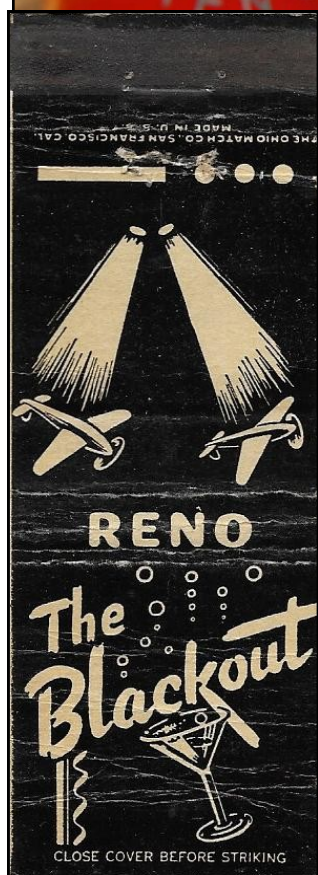
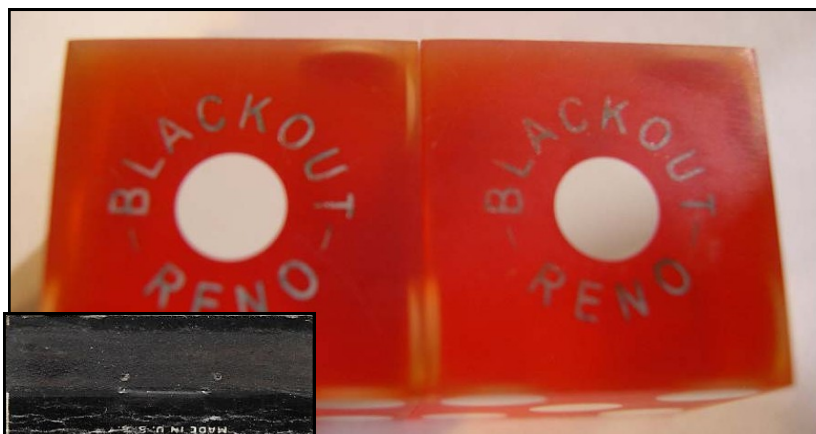


## The Blackout Bar

*[Here's one for those of you who like early Casino covers]*

Bill Harrah came to Reno in 1937, and from that date to 1943 he ran several different bingo parlors. In 1943, he opened a little joint called the Blackout Bar, which was his first venture that had slots and table games. It was located at 230 1/2 North Virginia Sts and also had a rear entrance at 231 Lincoln Alley. The joint was so named because of the blackouts brought on by World War II. It was at the Blackout that Harrah hired his first entertainment - Jack McCarg, known professionally as "Jackson," who appeared there several times. He said in later years that Jackson brought thousands of customers to the Blackout Bar. He never forgot this because when he opened Harrah's Tahoe he included a large section of the casino as the South Shore Room, where he headlined all of the best performers in the country.

In 1946, Harrah lost his lease and that ended the short life of the Blackout Bar. Anything from the Blackout has become highly collectible because of its short life and because it was Harrah's first real taste of any type of gambling other than bingo. *[Thanks to Jim Rauzy, CA, for this info. Jim also has several pieces of memorabilia from the bar, some shown here.]*



*Ed. Jim also shows us, here, that you really have to do your research when dealing with early Casinos.*

*I wonder how many such covers I've let slip through my hands due to sheer ignorance!*

