

Mechanical Music Registry Project

Chicago Electric Brand Coin Piano Database Report

Indexed by Serial Number

Saturday, September 4, 2021

Originating data for this listing collected and compiled by Art Reblitz and Dana Johnson
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Total items listed in this report: 15

Style Notes: 1. A few Chicago Electric Model Casino cabinet style pianos have been noted that were originally outfitted with a Nelson-Wiggen spoolbox, pump, associated interconnecting drives and linkages, and xylophone, instead of the standard Smith, Barnes and Strohber layout using a Monarch spoolbox and pump. The "Mechanism Type" column shows either "S" for Smith, Barnes and Strohber installed components or "N" for Nelson-Wiggen components.

S/N	Model	Mechanism Type	Case Finish	Instrumentation Reported
-----	Casino	S	Walnut?	Piano, mandolin attachment, and reiterating xylophone.
Stack Type: Black with xylophone connections coming out of front side of stack.				
Art Glass: Rectangular plain glass.				
Comments: Monarch spoolbox and pump. Case appears (in photograph) to be walnut veneer.				
-----	Early Casino?	S	Light Oak	Piano, with mandolin attachment, and reiterating horizontal xylophone.
Stack Type: Black with xylophone connections coming out of top side of stack.				
Art Glass: Clear rectangular glass pane.				
Comments: Cabinet style in very early looking case with flat front and square side posts height of lower access doors with smooth acorn shaped knobs at top of protruding upper post brackets. Monarch spoolbox and pump. In the Chrocheron collection, circa 1970.				
-----	Early Casino?	S	Mission Oak	Piano, mandolin attachment, and horizontal reiterating xylophone.
Stack Type: Black with xylophone connections coming out of front side of stack.				
Art Glass: Single Oval beveled glass window.				
Comments: Cabinet style in very early looking case with flat front and square side posts height of lower access doors with smooth acorn shaped knobs at top of protruding upper post brackets. Monarch spoolbox and pump.				
106006	-----	N	-----	Piano, mandolin attachment, and horizontal xylophone.
Comments: Case similar to Chicago Electric, but with Nelson-Wiggen components.				
160576	Casino	S	Dark Oak	Piano, mandolin attachment, and horizontal reiterating xylophone.
Art Glass: Rectangular art glass of geometric design in upper panel.				
Comments: Small cabinet style "A" roll piano, not pictured in the Encyclopedia of Automatic Music. Plain case, painted a cream color by previous owner. Front opens up much like a small Coinola with the upper panel hinged to the lid. The roll drive gears are helical cut, probably to keep it quiet but unusual because it is expensive to cut this type of gear. Emerson motor #M 18253 (looks to be original). Instrument was found in the Northeastern states (Vermont, New Hampshire area) in the 1960s, by a couple who later moved to Florida when they retired and took it with them because it was so small.				

S/N	Model	Mechanism		Instrumentation Reported
		Type	Case Finish	
164996	Casino	N	Golden Oak	Smith, Barns & Strohber piano, mandolin attachment, and Deagan branded horizontal xylophone.
Stack Type: 3-tier stack of unknown manufacturer.				
Art Glass: Non-original rectangular geometric design.				
Comments: Originally fitted with a Nelson-Wiggen spoolbox, pump, and interconnecting drive and linkages, and a Deagan xylophone. Plays style A music rolls. Plate stamped above the tuning pins with "Property of C.A. Smallwood Piano Co., San Francisco." Handwritten note on stack stating "Recovered 1974, Bilon used, C. Smallwood." Piano sold in 1987 Butterfield Auction. Non-Original ratchet wheel type coin accumulator with carbon block electrical contacts and a Holtzer-Cabot motor, No. 421595, Type ST, 60 cycle, 1150 RPM, probably installed by Charlie Smallwood. Historical note reads: "From Charlie Smallwood's collection. He rebuilt in 1973. The piano spent time on the 'Eureka' [a walking-beam steam engine powered ferry boat on display] at Fisherman's Warf and also at the Train Museum. When I purchased it was equipped with a 25-cent chute in front, big bullet proof hasps bolted on all over, and was thoroughly played...I mean played out...Hope to get insides going one of these day...Lots of work in case and action...1920's." The instrument is unrestored as of this writing.				
Owner: Ken Lauderback (reported 8/30/2021)				
166024	Casino	N	-----	Reiterating xylophone inside top.
Comments: Wood plate covering Chicago Electric - Smith, Barnes & Stohber; June 1924 on piano action; Nelson-Wiggen spool box and other Nelson-Wiggen parts.				
168722	Casino	S	-----	Piano with mandolin attachment.
Stack Type: 2-tier, unknown maker but similar in design to a Standard Player Action.				
Art Glass: Clear single front glass.				
Comments: Serial Number 168722 or 158722. Monarch Tool & Mfr. Company roll mechanism and pump. Ratchet wheel type coin mechanism. Original Emerson motor, serial #18253, type #73610DK. The instrument has been worked on at some time, with what appear to be a few changes to the case. Date notation inside of case: S+SM 1/11/24 or S+SM 1/11/21.				
Owner: Phil Corso (reported 3/3/2015)				
181456	EL-2	S	Golden Oak	Piano with mandolin attachment.
Stack Type: 3-tier Simplex Player Action.				
Art Glass: 3 panel geometric shield design with central oval musical/mandolin motif.				
Comments: Uses style "A" music rolls. Tone Modulator control on top of the stack. Monarch Tool & Mfr. Company roll frame and pump. Ratchet wheel type coin accumulator (magazine). American Piano Company/Westinghouse Electric Co. motor, Model E. S. 137, S/N 3319246, RPM 1140. Piano used to be on display at Aunt Sarah's Pancake House near Richmond, VA. Sold at auction in 2008 to Daryl Smith, then to Andy Ott (2008), then to John Wrasse (2018), then to the current owner in August, 2018.				
181586	EL-1	S	Mission Oak	Piano with mandolin attachment.
Stack Type: 2-tier, unknown maker but similar in design to a Standard Player Action.				
Art Glass: Rectangular geometric design.				
Comments: Nice unrestored condition.				
187355	EL-2	S	Mission Oak	Originally piano with mandolin attachment.
Stack Type: Unknown black painted stack; appears to have been extensively modified.				
Art Glass: 3 panels; Art Deco floral design.				
Comments: Made into an orchestrion with a cabinet extension on top of the piano. Advertised as "Nickelodeon from a Midwest museum storage room. Manufactured by Chicago Electric, serial number 187355. Includes a snare drum, base drum, symbol, accordion, and block. Barn fresh. Will need restoration. Appears that everything is there but the coin mechanism faceplate will need to be fabricated. The stained glass has some hairline cracks."				
Owner: ObnoXious Antiques Web Site (reported 8/18/2013)				

S/N	Model	Mechanism		Instrumentation Reported
		Type	Case Finish	
187405	EL-2	S	Golden Oak	Piano with mandolin attachment. Stack Type: 2-tier, unknown maker but similar in design to a Standard Player Action. Art Glass: 3 panel geometric shield design with central oval musical motif.
188623	Casino	N	Dark Oak	Piano, mandolin attachment, and Nelson-Wiggen horizontal xylophone. Art Glass: Predominantly blue and green rectangular geometric design. Comments: Originally fitted with a Nelson-Wiggen spoolbox, pump, and interconnecting drive and linkages, and xylophone. Non-original trapwork consisting of wood block, tambourine, triangle, and cymbal has been added, also suggesting that the tracker bar has been retubed to play style G music rolls.
189214	EL-2	S	Mission Oak	Piano with mandolin attachment. Stack Type: 2-tier, unknown maker but similar in design to a Standard Player Action. Art Glass: 3 panel geometric shield design with central oval musical motif. Comments: Large center art glass panel replaced with clear glass.
191446	EL-1	S	Mission Oak	Piano with mandolin attachment. Stack Type: 2-tier, unknown maker but similar in design to a Standard Player Action. Art Glass: Rectangular geometric design. Comments: Restored by Ed Gaida, Texas.

End of Report - Total items listed in this report: 15