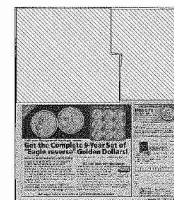


5,000 PEOPLE A DAY line up
to meet reality show stars



**'Pawn Stars' is
HOT TICKET
IN LAS VEGAS
& ON TV**

Corey, Rick and Richard Harrison.
At right, Austin "Chumlee" Russell



THE hottest attraction on Las Vegas' famed strip these days is not a billion-dollar casino or beautiful models...but a pawn shop.

Incredibly, as many as 5,000 people a day start lining up early in the morning at the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop – just 18 months after it became the home of the most unlikely runaway hit on television.

SINCE IT DEBUTED ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL IN JULY 2009, “Pawn Stars” has steadily become more popular – to the point where it recently became the most-watched show on cable TV.

“We’re overwhelmed – people come from all over the world to see where the show is filmed, and we’ve had to hire security guards to handle the crowds,” assistant manager Jason Heatwole told The ENQUIRER.

The store – a family business run by 70-year-old Richard Harrison (aka “The Old Man”), his son Rick and grandson Corey (“Big Hoss”) – was just another Vegas haven for casino losers until the History Channel turned it into a reality super-hit.

Viewers love the haggling over prices, the discovery of whether items turn out to be real or fake and the disputes among the Harrisons.

The show has also created a star out of Austin “Chumlee” Russell, 27, Corey’s bumbling childhood friend, who is the butt of the shop’s jokes but also its beloved mascot.

Chumlee likes to give his patrons the best deal and often takes their side – a trait that never fails to push Rick’s buttons. But goateed Chumlee is the store’s greatest attraction, says Heatwole.

“Everyone who comes in wants to meet him.”

by **DAVID WRIGHT**
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