condition is not attributed to the door's position, then the upper lighted portion of the candle is activated for a slow flash rate at step **320** to signify a tilt condition caused by another operable condition. Correction of error codes or tilt conditions is primarily managed by the opening and closing of the access door **62** which activates the reset momentary switch, notably as provided for in decisional prompts **322** and **324**. In this regard, the access door awaits opening at step **322** and continues to cycle in this manner until such time the access door is in an open position. If and when the door is open, the decisional prompt at step **324** determines whether the access door is now in a closed position, and if so, a further decisional prompt at step **326** determines the nature of the error or tilt condition, namely one that is attributed to the currency acceptor **44**. If so, at step **328**, the currency acceptor is cleared of its operating variables before further evaluation is made at step **330**. At step **330**, the tilt state sub-routine is re-assigned to the prior state sub-routine operating before recognition of the tilt condition and appropriate outputs and displays are updated to the previous operative condition, including re-activation of the spin and max bet switches and spin lever as well as reinstatement of the number of credits accumulated during play or operation of the memento dispensing device **10**. If the access door is not closed as provided for at step **324**, then the tilt state sub-routine **168** is further evaluated by a decisional prompt at step **332** to determine the desire to enter into a setup mode for setting or re-setting of operating parameters. If so, operating parameters are changed or altered accordingly at step **334** to include for example the re-setting of denominations acceptable for input into the currency acceptor **44** and the like. After making the appropriate change to the operating parameters in this regard at step **334** or after a decision not to change such parameters at step **332**, further re-evaluation of conditions is made in the tilt state sub-routine at step **324** and thereafter until resolution of the tilt condition or internal error.

[**0064**] In operation of the present invention, appropriate denomination of currency is placed into the bill insertion slot **36** of the bill validator **46** or into the coin acceptor **48** which determines the validity of the currency to establish a credit reserve for display on the numeric display counter **42** and initialize process controller means to permit activation of either the spin or max bet switches or spin lever. Activation of either the spin or max bet switch **30**, **32** or spin lever **24** by the operator or consumer appropriately sets in rotational motion each of the reel wheels **18** appearing through the divided display windows **16** of the memento dispensing device **10**. The collection of reel wheels is permitted to operate and rotate for a timed interval while process controller means algorithmically computes case outcomes determinative of the reel wheels' stopped positions. Upon expiration of the time interval, process controller means **34** commands each of the reel wheels to stop in succession from left to right, after which time process controller means transmits an electronic pulse to the hopper controller **58** to activate the memento bin or hopper assembly **56** to release a memento therefrom. The memento's engagement with the hopper trip sensor or mechanical trigger inherently made part of the hopper assembly and controlled by the hopper controller permits the memento to pass through the chute **54** and fall and collect into the reservoir **60** for retrieval by the operator.

[**0065**] It can be seen from the foregoing that there is provided in accordance with this invention a simple and easily operated device, which is particularly suitable for operation at an establishment to dispense mementos while simultaneously providing an opportunity to the establishment to promote or advertise a certain product or service. The memento dispensing device **10** is capable of automated operation and readily dispenses mementos in the form of tokens, medallions, souvenirs, and other articles or objects having commemorative value. The memento dispensing device suitably serves to attract and entertain patrons and the like for a predetermined amount of time by the activation of lights, sound, and video. Patrons, during operation of the memento dispensing device, are further entertained by engaging in an interactive event which simulates play of a gaming machine typically known in the art as a slot machine. Since the memento dispensing device solely operates as a dispensing device and not as a gaming device, it can be readily placed in establishments for promotional purposes where slot machines and other games of chance are typically prohibited to operate. The memento dispensing device may effectively serve an establishment in creating added revenue streams to promote goods and services of other establishments. In other respects, the memento dispensing device can adequately serve as means for dispensing commemorative tokens having redemption value for a product or service at a later time, which may supplement an establishment's theme for an enhanced marketing campaign.

[**0066**] While there has been shown and described a particular embodiment of the invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and alterations can be made therein without departing from the invention and, therefore, it is aimed in the appended claims to cover all such changes and alterations which fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A memento dispensing device comprising:

a plurality of reel wheels;

a plurality of symbols pictorially displayed on each of said reel wheels, said symbols moveable with movement of said reel wheels;

means for rotatably driving each of said reel wheels in a controlled operable manner;

process controller means for coordinating activation and deactivation of said rotatably driving means to commence and consummate a reel spin cycle for each of said reel wheels;

an input interface device communicatively coupled to and substantially suited to prompt said process controller means to activate rotatably driving means and compute a case outcome determinative of a reel wheel's stopped position to display accordingly said symbol associated therewith;

a currency acceptor communicatively coupled to said process controller means and having means for validating the form and denomination of currency and means for storing into a memory module a validated amount of currency recognizable as credit reserve to initialize said process controller means to make active said input interface device; and