

# Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

*(In last month's episode, Shelli was competing in her first big tournament and had won the draw partner event. In the meantime, Long Beach Lil was deciding whether to come to Santa Clara and face Eddie and Shelli.)*

Long Beach Lil had made her decision before leaving the Southern Belle Lounge. She made a right-turn, and headed for Long Beach, and home. She had decided to spend the weekend playing in the events in progress at the Southern Belle, and postpone the inevitable confrontation with Frisco Eddie, and mainly -- his girlfriend (and now fiancée) Shelli. She knew they would have to face each other at some point -- unless, of course, someone just quit playing the game of shuffleboard.

Meanwhile, up north in Santa Clara, the action was beginning to form for the second day of play. Shelli was so excited about her win in the doubles event that she had been still talking about it in bed -- after Eddie had fallen asleep. The next morning, Eddie came to before Shelli was awake. He got cleaned up and went downstairs and brought back a bunch of coffee and various muffins and donuts the hotel provided. He really felt rough from the day (and night) before, and promised himself to take it easy today. After Shelli got ready, they took the short drive over to Sparky's.

Eddie and Shelli went for the highest in the calcutta for the Bring Your Partner event. Everyone felt that Eddie was the best player there, and they were also impressed with Shelli's shooting the previous day. They were on odds-on favorite; however, they didn't have a "lock" by any means, considering the field they were up against. Several of the best players from Southern California had shown up for this event now, and also for the singles games on Sunday.

Eddie had a couple of "belts" before the play began, just to "smooth him out" a little. Shelli frowned when she saw that, but she didn't say anything. The games went well for them, although initially Shelli had to carry most of the load. In the final game, they were matched against "Quickshot" Malone again, but this time he had his regular partner, "Fats" O'Brien. They were a very tough pair to beat.

On the final game, it came down to a tied score of 12 all. It was Quickshot's hammer and Shelli had left him with a clean board to lag on. The room was dead silent now. He sized things up and then made a right-hand "Jersey" release. The weight looked perfect on its way down, and it came to rest in the middle of the 3 zone! There was some clapping beginning to start, but it wasn't over just yet. The weight was still spinning, and on the "high-end" board they were on, it spun back gently, and came to rest,

just barely touching the 2 line!

With the score now 14 to 12, Fats, in an effort to put up a deep 1 for Eddie to lag against, went too far and it ended up a middle 2 on the left side of the board. There was no doubt what Eddie's task was now. He thought things over briefly and then shot the right hand. As predicted, it took out Fats' weight and slid over into the 3 zone. He was grinning a little as a cheer went up from the crowd. Also as predicted, Eddie took the singles event the following day. It was one of those days that he was so connected that the weights were merely "extensions" of his hands. He didn't have to think hardly at all about what he was going to do. He shot with "methodical magic," it seemed! He beat his final opponent, "Five Finger" Freddie, by a score of 15 to 11.

They were totally worn-out on the drive home, but there was a very wonderful and warm feeling between them. The whole thing was great -- so great! They took the next day off to rest, although Eddie had a little more than "resting" on his mind!

The weeks and months slipped by. They played mostly in the northwestern states when they went to the tournaments. Lil did most of her playing in the South and Midwest during those days, and they never did cross paths. However, it was now time for the Reno tournament.

Eddie and Shelli decided to take the four-hour drive up. They were making this their "vacation," and had also arranged for something else while they were in Reno. Eddie had finally asked Shelli if she wanted to make their arrangement a permanent one. Of course, Shelli very excitedly (and very passionately) accepted his invitation. They would be married right after the tournament was over.

It was time. The drive up was fine, except there was some snow when they got to the high mountains. It wasn't enough for chains though, and it made things really look beautiful. Lake Tahoe was especially nice, and their excitement levels began to rise the closer they got to Reno!

They arrived and checked into the Sands Regency. Fortunately, they had a very nice suite in the Towers, which was close to the elevator which led directly to the tournament rooms. There were hardly any people there yet, but Eddie decided he wanted to go down and check things out. Shelli said she wanted to clean up a bit and would be down later. She gave him an exceptionally long and passionate kiss before he left.

On the ride down the elevator, Eddie had mixed feelings. He was intensely anticipating looking at all those great shuffleboards and all the action that would soon take place, but he had another sort of

premonition as well, and wasn't entirely sure what it meant.

The elevator came to a stop, and Eddie walked over to the entrance of the main room. They were setting up the boards, and he really started to get excited at seeing his "workshop" being assembled. Then an unexplainable sensation came over him and, for some reason, he actually started to tingle a bit. He

knew why this was all happening when he heard the voice behind him that softly said: "Hi, Eddie." He turned around then -- to look directly into those beautiful blue eyes of.....Long Beach Lil.

--TO BE CONTINUED --

*The "inevitable" confrontation is about to take place in Reno. How will this effect the "play" -- on and off the boards? Don't miss the next exciting episode.*

## Balboa Ron Inducted into Nevada Hall of Fame

**By Connie Zavala**

"Balboa" Ron Schweikert was inducted into the Nevada State Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at Gabby's Saloon in North Las Vegas on Oct. 10, 1998.

Ron began playing shuffleboard in 1954 at the age of 19. He did most of his early playing at a bar called the "Club Balboa" in El Monte, California. Many of the top players in the nation would come to compete at the Balboa. These included the first inductee into the National Hall of Fame, Bob Miles; Al Stewart, Porter White, Billy Mays, Kid Spooks, Freddie "The Dane," Tommy Workman and Floyd Birch, to name a few. Many exciting, high-stakes games were held there among the best players of that day.



*Balboa Ron, first inductee into the Nevada Hall of Fame, in front of signage created by his sister and brother-in-law depicting his career.*

Ron's full-time shuffleboard hustling days were interrupted in 1958 when he started his 24-year career with the U.S. Army, the last 19 years as a pilot. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Science and a Masters Degree in Human Relations.

Ron has tried to promote our sport in many ways, including teaching newcomers whenever he can. His most significant contribution, however, is his continuing "Frisco Eddie" series which has appeared in The Board Talk for almost five years. "He writes with such sensitivity and knowledge that readers can relate to the thrills of victory and the agonies of defeat experienced by Frisco Eddie. There's not a single

serious shuffler on our subscription list who wouldn't like to share Eddie's 'revenge,'" said George and Donna Wilber, Board Talk publishers.

This was our first induction and everyone had a great time. Our Hall of Fame President, Frank Zavala, was the Master of Ceremonies and gave a great speech. Jolene Lembke, president of the California Hall of Fame, also gave a nice presentation. Ron was very appreciative in his acceptance speech and stressed the importance of all of us to promote our sport in every way possible and to "bring shuffleboard back" to Las Vegas. He thanked everyone involved in his induction "from the bottom of his heart."

The officers of the Nevada Hall of Fame (President Frank Zavala, Vice President Dorothy Johnson, Secretary Connie Zavala, Treasurer Ron Schweikert, and sergeant-at-arms Tom Dixon) thank everyone who attended the induction, especially Jolene Lembke, Charlie Detterbeck, Eileen Eades, Dixie Debbie and Doug Pancerev for making the trip from California. Thanks also to Paul Weber and Dorothy Johnson for each donating \$100 to our Hall of Fame. We apologize to the California Hall for not having the opportunity to thank them for the \$50 they donated at the Billy Chiles Memorial Tournament. Thank you all so much. Thanks, also, to Phil Minney, owner of Gabby's, for all he's done for us.



*Winners of the turkey shoot held at the induction were (from left): Rick Quigley and Jolene Lembke, 2nd; Audra Schooley and Frank Zavala, 1st; Connie Zavala and Dorothy Johnson, 3rd.*