

# The Board Talk

News and Views  
from the World  
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 10

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-371-2538.

December 1984

## The Hammer

With the pace of our regular jobs picking up considerable speed and the traditional family and business pre-Christmas activities, putting The Board Talk together seemed an insurmountable task this month. Placing a ready-made Christmas message in our Hammer editorial space seemed a good answer to ease some of the pressure.

But the easy way is not always the right way and some interviews we did and letters we received convinced us that we owed our readers more than that. How else would you know the impact you have on the finished product? And, believe us, you do have impact!

Probably the turning point in our decision-making process came with a simple note from Jolene Lembke, our Oregon reporter, proudly sharing with us a birthday gift from her husband, Roy. It was a business card telling the world of shuffleboard that she was a *Board Talk* reporter. How absolutely delightful! If this unpaid volunteer could run her leg (singular because she broke one) off getting us news and subscribers, how could we, the editors, do any less?

The people you'll meet in this Christmas issue of *The Board Talk* are very special. As Missouri reporter Woodie Cockrum so effectively shares with you (see Letters) — *The Board Talk* is not George and Donna sitting in a plush office of a high-rise building. It's a network of caring people and we're proud to introduce you to two of the people who make it happen, Cathy and Mickey, on page 4.

If subscriber (and now reporter) Ed Galke of New York knew he'd given us a Christmas present no money could buy, he'd dub himself Santa Claus. His contributions (see Letters and Action in the East) breaks one of the barriers to *The Board Talk* becoming a true voice for shuffleboard. Up until this time, we hadn't known where to start in that area of the country and we think his gift will open new opportunities, not only for the success of *The Board Talk*, but for all shuffleboarders who want to know where the action is.

Every editor looks for a special Christmas story for their December issue and we didn't have to look very far. We'd been planning, since Al Stewart became a *Board Talk* advertiser in September, to do a feature on his 25 years of business as a shuffleboard refinisher.

His story is special, but neither he nor we knew exactly how to share it without offending readers and/or advertisers because, very frankly, it has the potential of doing just that. Al's story, is, unapologetically, a religious story and anyone who finds it uncomfortable relating shuffleboard to religion had better just skip it. But if you do, you're missing something.

Al probably had more concern about how he could share his experience than we did on how to handle it. Let us assure you that it's not a judgemental story; that judgement does not lie with Al, your editors, or any of you readers. What we had to ask ourselves is whether there is room in the world of shuffleboard for Christians. The answer was simple: if there isn't, we're in the wrong business. We don't think we are.

George and Donna Wilber

## Tourney Talk

### Indiana —

- Bus's 504 Bar, 504 N. Washington, Marion, Ind., will host a Central Indiana Shuffleboard Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 8.

- The Palace Bar, 408 W. 2nd St., Fairmont, will host a C.I.S. tourney on Saturday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, March 2. Fairmont and Marion are about five miles off Indiana's I-69, 50 miles south of Fort Wayne. Marion has a new Sheraton Inn and five or six other motels are nearby.

- The Hog House, Ingalls, will host a doubles tourney on Dec. 15.

- Recent tournament results include: The Palace Bar Oct. 27 tournament attracted 24 teams, with prize money of \$1,650, was won by Jerry Warr and Bobby Voorheese, with 2nd going to Blaine Yeogy and Orris Hughes; 3rd place went to Mike Glass and Frankie McMillan and 4th was won by Batman and Emmett Wilcox.

- At the Hide-A-Way in Anderson on Nov. 3, 24 teams participated with a pot of \$1,465. In first place were Brian Valentine and Rom Hennis; 2nd, Jim Dewitt and Bob Brown; 3rd, Judie Henning and Lori Robinson; 4th, Tom and Bob Vorndram.

- At the Sportsmen's Lounge, Nov. 10, 32 teams vied for a pot of \$1,485. It was won by George and Bob Shouner; 2nd, D.C. and Randy Valentine; 3rd, Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox; 4th Jerry Warr and Bobby Vorheese.

- At Wertz's Place, Anderson, on Nov. 17, with prize money of \$1,050, Ron Wilburn and Curly Mc Nally took first place; Jerry Warr and Bobby Vorheese, 2nd; Dave Boaz and Randy Rice, 3rd; Ron Riggs and Rom Hennis, 4th.

- At the American Bar in Portland, Nov. 24, with prize money of \$1,635, Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox took first place; D.C. and George Shouner, 2nd; Tom and Bob Vorndram, 3rd; and Mike Glass and Frankie McMillan, 4th.

### Michigan

- At the doubles tournament at Wagon Wheel, Lake Orion, Nov. 11-12, John McDermott of Detroit and Bud Broka, Toledo, took first place; Leo Daigle and Gary Ludeman, 2nd; Marty Lietke and Mark Sims, 3rd; and Bud Cooksie and Marie Sweeney, 4th.

- J. R. Lopez of Lansing and Lee McDonald of Chicago took first place in a doubles tournament at Stober's Lounge, Lansing, on Nov. 11-12, with Rudy Stober and Bobby Lopez of Lansing taking second place honors.

- The mixed doubles tournament at Papa's Ace Lounge, Detroit, Dec. 1-2, was won by John Melson and Shelly Usik of Lake Orion; Greg Broka and Diane Hofmann of Toledo, 2nd; J. R. Lopez and Jami Hoffman of Lansing, 3rd; and Joe Kowaleski and Joyce Bullock of the Pontiac area, 4th.

### Opportunities Unlimited

- Guaranteed \$1,000 match doubles, singles or team events. Slickest and straightest boards available. For more information, contact Bill Melton, Davis, Oklahoma, at 405-369-2448.



## Letters to the Editors

All of us want to thank Red, who lives in Central Point, Oregon for the nice trophies he made for the shuffleboard league.

Fern Walton serves as president of our league and Bud Cummins is secretary. Our league consists of eight teams: Palm, Lory's, Friendly, Sher's, Mort's, Sam's Place, and two teams at the Club Pub.

Evie and Bruce Wechter  
Springfield, Oregon



Evie and Bruce (right), captain of the Palms Tavern team, plus Sparky and John, co-captain, are proud of their first place trophy made by Red.

### From New York

In reference to the decline of shuffleboard (Woodie Cockrum's editorial in the October issue), there are more boards being installed in clubs and bars than ever before. But if the bar owner or bartender are not players, the boards do not get the proper maintenance and attention. The proper promotion of play is a problem all across the country.

I feel the proper place to start looking for solutions is a publication such as yours. But you must have a much broader base of coverage. I feel this can be done only through the direct assistance of the beer breweries and distributors, liquor companies and distributors, American Shuffleboard Company, Sun-Glo Corporation and any vendors and operators who have boards on location.

We are only promoting the sport for their interest without much help or participation by the people who benefit most. You must get all these people to assist us in locating every shuffleboard location there is. At this point, none of them are doing anything directly for the players, the people who play the game and are the biggest consumers of their products and services. I think it is time we changed all that.

I am attempting to run eight regional tournaments per year and one national tournament annually. I would like replays from those areas that have enough interest to have a tournament in their own locality. But we need the assistance of those companies and distributors.

We need them to help us find every shuffleboard location in the country and they could do that with a simple questionnaire sent out with their billings or promotional literature. Only then can we really get national interest.

There must be a concerted effort by everyone involved in the game, but most of all, players must look for locations and send them to *The Board Talk*.

Maybe if we get everyone concerned and involved, we'll gain the recognition and attention shuffleboard deserves.

Ed Galke  
Oakdale, N.Y.

### From Missouri

After reading the November issue, I found the article, "Who Makes *The Board Talk* Happen" very motivating. I'm sure all the shuffleboard players who read the article have a good feeling about what Donna and George Wilber are doing with *The Board Talk*. Most of us pick up a magazine or newspaper and start reading its contents without giving a thought to what went into putting it together. If it were brought to our attention, we would think of a president's office on the top floor of some high-rise building with a lot of VIPs around and blue collar workers on the bottom floor doing the typesetting and design work.

The story of "Who Makes *The Board Talk* Happen" tells us that Donna and George are just two people who like to play shuffleboard and be around people like you and me. Chances are you could beat them as often as they beat you.

In their story, they have a projection as to where they would like to see *The Board Talk* two years from now. Maybe I'm asking a little more. I would like to see *The Board Talk* covering the USA, giving names of taverns that have shuffleboards. When I go on vacation, I like to relax in a tavern that has been recommended by some reputable informer like *The Board Talk*.

I have found that when the bartender and customers find out they have something in common with me, I feel right at home. I'm not a very good shuffleboard player. I get beat most of the time, but that's O.K. I meet a lot of nice people. I end up finding out where all the good fishing places are and what kind of bait to use. I never ask them where the pretty

### From Oregon

The Palm Tavern opened the shuffleboard league season on Nov. 3 playing their first game on the road at the Friendly Tavern. Palm broke open a close game, but coasted to a 5 to 0 win — even winning the beer frame. Captain Bruce Wechter and co-captain John Ressler are playing with the same team they had last year. Everyone is anxious to get back to work as a team to see if we can go all the way for another undefeated season.

Each shuffleboard team in the league wants to thank the tavern owners for sponsoring the players so we can keep shuffleboard alive in these two towns.

girls hang out, but if I did, they could tell me. Jean won't let me participate in that sport.

The way I see it, *The Board Talk's* success is not altogether up to George and Donna. It is up to those of us who enjoy and support their idea. For *The Board Talk* to become what all shuffleboarders want, it is going to take subscribers. It's nice to have *The Board Talk* delivered to your door. Most every shuffleboard player knows someone in another state who would enjoy *The Board Talk*. People like Ben Benjestorf, Jim Ferrier, Steve Hart, Ron Schweikert, Roy and Jolene Lembke, Sandy Jenkins, Marv and Rosa White and myself, are not employees of *The Board Talk*. We are 100% supporters of what *The Board Talk* can do and will do for shuffleboard. We pay \$10 for our subscription just like everyone else.

So, join us. Subscribe for your own *Board Talk*.

Woodie Cockrum  
Missouri Board Talk Reporter

**To All Our Shuffleboard Friends:**



**SO SMILE, DARN YA' SMILE**

**LeRoy Bayes and Larry Kelly  
Wagon Wheel**

**102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion, Mich. 313-693-6789**

### **From Indiana**

This is in response to Woodie Cockrum's editorial in the October issue regarding what other cities and states are doing to keep the game of shuffleboard active.

In Grant County, Indiana, with Marion the biggest town, there are nine shuffleboards in Marion; Jonesboro has three boards; Gas City, one board; Van Buren, one; Upland, one; Mathews, one; and the Palace Bar in Fairmont has two boards, making a total of 18 shuffleboards in a mile radius.

We have a Grant County Men's Shuffleboard League with 10 taverns in it. We also have six taverns in a Women's League.

It is my opinion that shuffleboard will continue to grow and players' skill improve as long as the tavern owners and the bartenders are interested and play shuffleboard. The owner and employees have to start games, furnish powder and wax, cleaner, a good board, etc.

In other words, a shuffleboard in a tavern where the employees don't push shuffleboard will just sit idle.

Charles (Bus) Voorhis

Palace Bar — Bus's 504 Bar, Fairmont, Indiana

### **From Oregon**

Receiving *The Board Talk* in the mail and getting a phone call from our realtor in California that escrow had closed on our house made for a very exciting day for Roy and me. We immediately began making plans for a fishing-shuffleboard tour. Destination: Eugene, Portland, the north coast and Longview, Washington.

We got to the Palms in Springfield the first evening. It was good to see our new shuffleboard friends again and, as before, we had tough competition and lost most of our games.

On to Portland the next day. Nothing going on at the Black Cat. Seems all their action is on Friday nights. We then went to Hal's Tavern. The challengers were lined up;

(continued on page 5)

## **Board Talk Reporters**

We're still looking for volunteer reporters. If you're interested, let us know. Send your news to your state reporter or directly to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

**California:** Ben Benjestorf, The Edgewood, 10122 E. Rosecrans, Bellflower, Calif. 90706, phone 213-866-9268

**Colorado:** Jim Ferrier, Lakewood Inn Good Times Saloon, 1251 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, Colo. 80215, phone 303-233-3257

**Indiana:** Steve Hart, 4503 Princeton Dr., Anderson, Ind. 46014

**Missouri:** Woodie & Jean Cockrum, 54 E. Cardigan Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63135, phone 314-524-1024

**Nevada:** (Balboa) Ron Schweikert, 1582 Amapola Dr., Las Vegas, Nev. 89122

**New York:** Ed Galke, 87 Chateau Drive, Oakdale, NY, 11769, phone 516-589-4392

**Oregon:** Jolene Lembke, 20356 Shahala Ct., Bend, Ore. 97708, phone 503-389-4888

**Texas:** Sandy Jenkins, 3947 Lenel, Dallas, Texas 75220, phone 214-741-5171, ext. 378 (weekdays), 214-353-9548 (evenings)

**Washington:** Marv & Rosa White, West One Tavern, W. 1 Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Wash. 99201, phone 509-747-9453

# Who Makes The Board Talk Happen?

*Editor's Note: The shuffleboard family is a close one even though its members may be miles apart. Love of the game is our common denominator, but beyond that, unless we hold an annual "family" reunion, familiar names remain just that — names without faces or personalities. We thought you'd be interested in who makes The Board Talk happen, so we'll be more than just names to you. Last month we introduced the editors and this month we'd like you to meet our immediate support system. In January we'll start introducing our state reporters (maybe by then our list will be so long it will take three or more issues!), and in subsequent issues, we'll highlight our faithful advertising supporters.*

"If Cathy had said 'no,' there probably wouldn't have been a *Board Talk*," said Donna Wilber, co-editor of *The Board Talk*. That's her tribute to the contributions Cathy Kirvan makes to the newsletter you're reading.



Cathy J. Kirvan, *The Board Talk's* graphic designer and typesetter, has some benefits on her regular job that this newsletter doesn't offer, such as a lunch break at a sidewalk cafe in Washington, D.C., during Michigan Farm Bureau's annual lobbying mission to the nation's capital.

Bureau information network. She's also an associate editor for the organization's magazine. Taking on the added responsibility of *The Board Talk* would mean at least another six hours tacked on to an already full eight-hour-plus day once a month.

"I said yes because I believed in what they were trying to do," said Cathy. "I get just as big a charge out of those letters to the editor *The Board Talk* gets as George and Donna do. They make it all worthwhile and make me proud to be part of it."

Cathy is not a shuffleboarder, so the language was new to her, but she's learning.

"When Donna first started telling me about watching George play shuffleboard, I thought she meant the kind senior citizens play in the park or on the deck of a cruise ship. My first reaction was, 'George isn't THAT old!' Then, I went along one night and found it was an entirely different game. It was exciting to watch and I had lots of questions," she said.

"The one thing I haven't experienced yet is watching a calcutta. They tell me it's like an auction which sounds like

fun. One of these days, I'm going to be there when it happens. Who knows? I might find something worth bidding on!"

"He cares." With those two simple words, George Wilber describes Mickey Montgomery's part in making *The Board Talk* happen.

Like the other three principals, working on *The Board Talk* happens "after hours" for Mickey, usually on a Sunday afternoon when he could be fishing or shooting a game of shuffleboard.

A former graphics teacher, Mickey has been with the *Lansing Labor News* for three and a half years, doing everything associated with the printing business except the actual typesetting.

"He wants the final product to look good," said George, "and he won't let anything come off the presses unless it meets his high standards. When both Cathy and Mickey feel that way, it takes a big load off us and we can concentrate on the content."

Mickey has been a shuffleboarder for about seven years and has played for Lansing's Art's Bar A-Team for five of those years. It was under his captainship that Art's won the city championship in the 1983-84 season. He currently serves as president of the Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League.

"It makes me feel good to be part of *The Board Talk*," said Mickey. "There's something special about watching the first copies come off the press and reading it before anyone else does."

"I love it!" is the way he sums up helping to make *The Board Talk* happen.



Mickey Montgomery, *The Board Talk's* printer, was captain of Lansing's (Mich.) city league 1983-84 championship team and is president of the Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League.

## Don't Miss the Next Issue!

In the January issue of *The Board Talk* we'll start introducing a vital part of our support system — our state reporters.

To make sure you don't miss it, send your subscription request in today.

Use the form on page 5.

# SPACE FOR SALE!

Send your New Year's message to shuffleboarders across the nation for one-half our regular ad rate.

Call George to reserve your space: 517-371-2538.

*P.S. It will be The Board Talk's 1st anniversary issue!*



We the readers and subscribers of Board Talk from St. Louis, Mo., wish all the shuffleboard players in the U.S.A. and Canada a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We wish you a Christmas joy-filled and blessed.

**The Board Talk**  
George & Donna

421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, Michigan  
Phone 517-371-2538

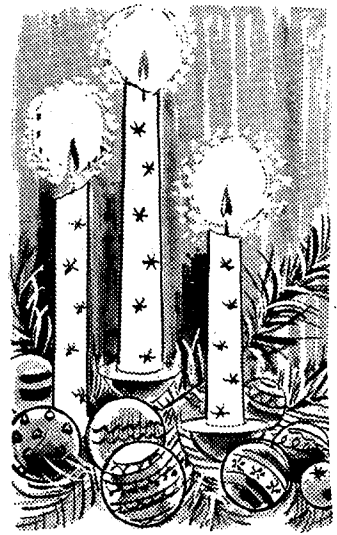
*Happy Holiday*

to shuffleboarders  
everywhere from  
Ben Benjestorf and  
all your friends at

## EDGEWOOD

10122 E. Rosecrans, Bellflower, California

Phone 213-866-9268



### From Your Friends At **Art's Bar & Grill**

**Ray Dorin**  
Owner

**Tim Grisdale**  
Manager

809 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan  
Phone 517-482-8328



Because Christmas is the time  
to remember good friends, we  
are thinking of you and  
wish you a happy holiday.

### **Stober's Lounge**

*Rudy, Heidi and Linda*

812 E. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan  
Phone 517-487-9790

## We Get Letters, continued from page 3

not much chance of getting on the board so we called Ruthie Mills and arranged to meet her at the Friendly Tavern.

When we arrived, she was playing Carl Baker for \$50 a game (games of skill are legal in Oregon). What a player Ruthie is! For once, I was glad I was still wearing a brace on my leg. I broke my leg in April and had a good excuse not to challenge her. We enjoyed watching the action and talking shuffleboard with the owner, Mike DeAngelo.

Next day, Sunday, back to Hal's for a Round Robin featuring the senior citizens of Portland. We didn't win that either so decided to try our luck fishing on the coast.

Spent three days there with Bruce and Evie Wechter fishing, picking blackberries and checking out the local boards.

Our next stop, Thursday, was Warrenton, Oregon. We parked our motor home in front of the Seafarer Tavern where we found three boards and lots of action, and won our share of games. The owner, Willard Hutson, and the other players made us feel very welcome and we look forward to playing in some of their tournaments.

We think: now we are ready for some "big time" action at Zach's in Longview. We arrived about Saturday noon. There were so many players there I thought they must be having a tournament. We met a lot of players who had only been names to us before, such as D.K. (Don Kerr), Fred Johns, Jim Allis, Jim Foran and Galen Gaunce. After watching those guys play, we opted to keep the proceeds from our house and just be spectators.

It takes a tour like this to keep a person humble. Oh, well, so we didn't make expenses, but we had a great time and we did win a lot of beer games. BURP!

Jolene Lembke

Oregon Board Talk Reporter



## Christmas Gift Idea!

You know how much you enjoy reading *The Board Talk*, so why not share it with a shuffleboard friend! Order now for Christmas and we'll enclose a gift card with the December issue. Use the form below.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00. Please send *The Board Talk* to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please Sign the Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with your check or money order for \$10, made payable to *The Board Talk*, to: *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.



## SHUFFLEBOARD DIRECTORY

### Taylor Brothers Stair Co.

Joe Muniz

1305 W. 132nd St., Gardena, CA 90247 213-770-2080

### The Boardwalk

3 boards second to none-darts-pool-good food  
3511 McKinley Ave., Tacoma, Wash. Phone 206-627-9436  
Your Hosts: Gare Wack and Bob Freeman

### Sun Glo Corp.

Manufacturers of Shuffleboard Supplies since 1935  
111 Heckel St., Belleville, N.J. 07109 Phone 201-759-4474

### Lakewood Inn Saloon

Kid Jinks Shuffleboard League — Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
1251 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, Colo. 303-233-3257  
Owner: Dan O'Malley

### Michigan Prep Sales

Uniforms — Jackets — T-Shirts — Silkscreening  
2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Mich. Phone 517-371-3090

### Greater Lansing Amusement Devices

Coin operated equipment  
5986 Martinus, Haslett, Mich. 48840 517-339-2086

### George's Shuffleboard Supplies/Service

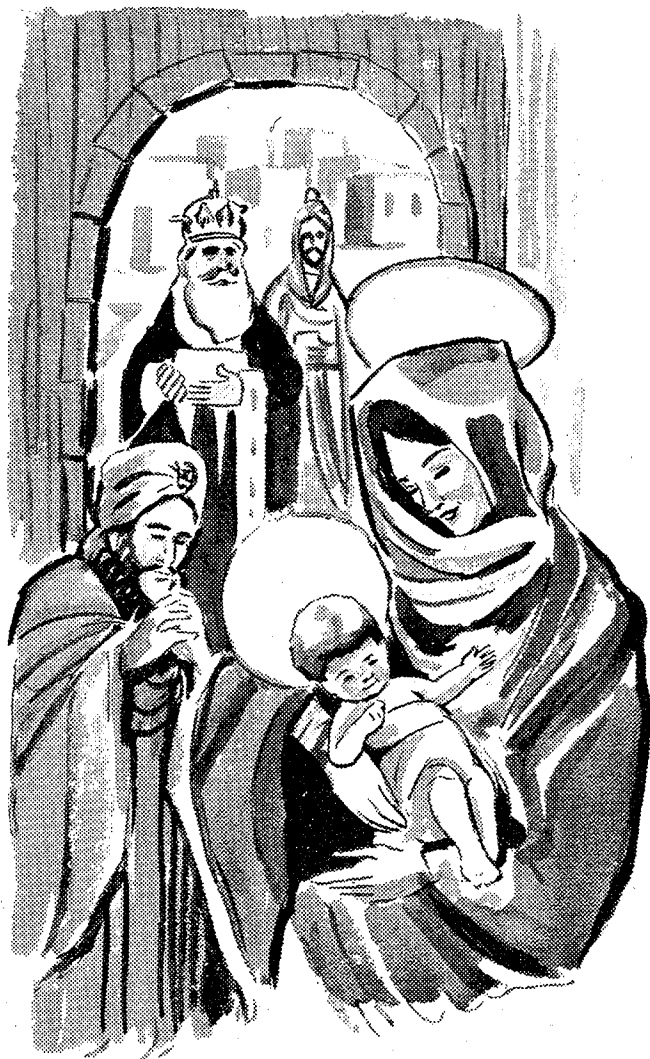
TLC for Your Board

421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. Phone 517-371-2538

### Billy Mays

Shuffleboard Refinishing & Supplies

Rt. 1, Boz 117-F, Kemp, Texas 75143 214-498-2415



# Christmas Blessings

CAPTURE THE TRUE  
MEANING OF THE DAY...

*from*  
**Al & Von  
Stewart**

## **A & M Amusement Service**

Shuffleboards • Service • Supplies • Since 1959  
Business — 818-444-3790 • Home — 818-442-5183  
2354 Mountain View, El Monte, California

- Frame Rebuilding
- Playing Field Refinishing
- Score Unit Repair
- All Parts Replacement
- Weights, Waxes
- Delivery Anywhere!

***For Experience, Integrity and Care —  
You Can't Beat Al Stewart***



# Al Stewart Has More to Celebrate Than 25 Years in Business

By Donna Wilber

'Twas the day before Christmas and in bars across the nation, people were toasting each other with glasses held high and hustling to get one more game of shuffleboard in before Christmas Eve closing.

That will be the scene in a lot of bars in just a few short weeks and many of us will be there when it happens. One person who won't be there is Al Stewart, owner-operator of A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, California, for the past 25 years.

Not that Al doesn't have a lot to celebrate: a successful business, a vocation he loves and a wife he describes as "the sweetest thing God ever created." But the former shuffleboard hustler won't be celebrating with a drink. Instead, he and his "partner, friend and wife," Von, will celebrate Christ's birthday in church that evening. It's been that way for 12 years now, since Al and Von became "born again" Christians.

Before that, the Stewarts didn't have much reason to celebrate. Booze and shuffleboard hustling had taken their toll. Drunken fights threatened their marriage; Al's shuffleboard refinishing business was on the brink of failure because of lack of attention. But all that changed and, according to Al, "Thanks to God, He saved our marriage and our business."

So how does a born-again Christian reconcile his "new life" with a business where 99% of his work is in bars. Isn't there a conflict of interest?

"Absolutely none," Al said. "I'm completely at ease with what I do and how I live. I made up my mind from the first that I would not preach to those people sitting in the bars. I've had some people who knew me before and have asked me about the change. I'm more than happy to tell them how it all came about but I don't throw it at them. Now the people who used to bring me a scotch and water or bottle of Coors come up with a cup of coffee."

## Learning Through "Trial and Error"

Al got into the shuffleboard business by "pure coincidence." He was working for an insulation company when his shuffleboard hustler partner, Freddy Anderson, broke off a key in the money box and asked Al to go with him to Los Angeles to pick up a screw lock from the American Shuffleboard Company.

"While I was there, a couple people called and wanted shuffleboards moved from one bar to another. I told John Weiss, who was the West Coast manager for American Shuffleboard, that I had a pick-up and could handle it. That's how I started — just moving boards," Al said.

Then came the demand for refinishing the boards. Since he had neither the facilities nor the expertise to do that, he hauled them to San Bernadino, had them refinished there, picked them up 8 to 10 days later and then delivered them. There had to be a better way, he thought.

"I quit my other job, rented a building, got all the sanders and spray guns and started from scratch, knowing nothing. I opened the shop in 1962. I was dumb, green," he said. "The first board I refinished was so slow, you practically had to hit the weight with a golf club to get it to the other end of the board. I did seven boards in San Diego and had to redo them all because all the paint peeled off.

"It was trial and error for a period there, but I just kept working at it. But I loved it and I still do. I love to get those old boards and when I get them fixed up all nice and pretty and someone asks, 'is that a new board?' — that really does something to me," Al said. "I've built up a pretty good reputation and I'm proud of that."

Al refinishes boards in nine western states and has gone as far as 1,700 miles to Idaho. He averages about eight refinishing jobs a month.

Al's stepson, Harold, better known as Bear, has just started in the business.

"I'm training him and he's doing a real good job. Within six months, or whatever time it takes, I hope to kind of step-back and let him do the work and be the shuffleboard man of A & M Amusement Service."

And what will Al do when Bear takes over? "I'm gonna work on my cars. I've got a slight collection of Thunderbirds. I like to polish them up and drive them around town," he said.

Al's "slight little" collection includes a 1955 Thunderbird, the first year they were made; a 1957 one-seat classic and a 1962. They are identified by license plates, Al & Von 1, Al & Von 2 and Al & Von 3.

## The Biggest Change is Speed

Al has seen a lot of changes in shuffleboard during the 25 years he's been in business and since 1949 when he first started playing.

"The biggest change is speed. They want them faster, faster, faster. We never used to use any silicone or magic glaze. We just used regular powdered wax. Then they came up with what we call half-and-half, then they went to the American speed. Now they've gone to the super-glide which is a can of roller bearings and they've got all kinds of silicone, Pledge and everything else to put on the boards that you can imagine.

"They want the boards faster and straighter and you can't have both. You have to throw the weight so slow that any type of imperfection in the board is going to show. With the slower wax we used in the old days, you had to throw it so hard to get it down there, you didn't notice any of the hooks or crooks in the boards."

Al believes the game of shuffleboard is, without a doubt, on the upswing. "It died out in the 60s when the pool tables came in. Nobody was promoting shuffleboard then. They stuck the boards in a room, sometimes the back room; and just let them set. It picked up a little in the mid-60s, then died out again and stayed pretty low until about five years ago. The last three years, I've been busy, busy, busy," he said.

## A Career High Point

One of the high points of Al's 25-year career happened just this past month when he rented a board to Warner Brothers movie studio for a sequel to "Police Academy." Al got to deliver the board on location, a bar set up in a warehouse in downtown Los Angeles.

"That was quite an experience — to think that I'm going to have a shuffleboard in a movie that will be shown all over the country," said Al. "I don't go to movies, but I'm definitely going to see 'Police Academy Two.'"



**We hope  
Santa comes  
to see you...  
and you  
come to  
see us...**

**Terry & Don  
Urquhart  
Dublin House**

23906 Grand River  
Detroit, Michigan  
Phone 313-531-5590

# Where the Action is in the East

*By Ed Galke, New York Reporter*

*(Editor's Note: We are pleased to add Ed Galke to our list of reporters. Up to this point, we had no information on shuffleboard action in the East. Ed does a great job of filling that void. Some of you readers will remember him from Bourbon, Indiana, where he came in second in the spring tournament with Jeff Cottrell from Pontiac, Mich., and first in the fall tournament with Jerry Siebert of Lansing).*

Most of your concentrated shuffleboard action in the East is centered around Philadelphia, Pa. The Herman brothers — Jerry, Ray and Ron — plus Al Kweeder and Stan Hmulewski will play all comers at the Bridesbury Tavern. The Sunset Cafe has a group of players that will play for small action. Bill Lally and Mickey Micheres will usually play just about anybody anywhere around Philly.

Up in North Jersey, the players to look for are Joe Kardas and Joe Tomehik. Kardas is one of the toughest players I have ever played. You can find them around the Dixie Cafe.

There are some very good players at the Hof Brau Bar in Sayre, Pa., and the Waverly Moose Club in Waverly, N.Y. Around Norwich, N.Y., and Sherburne, N.Y., Milt Benedict, Neal, Dick Jeffreys and Bill Jones are all good competition. You can always find a decent game at Al's Patchwork in Peru, 20 Main in Au Sable Forks, and Knotty Pine in Keeseville.

Around Boston, Mass., you will find the best place to be is the Stoughton Social Club in Stoughton. Ask for Stan Molinowski. He will play and will introduce you to the Portuguese players from the two Portuguese clubs in town. They are tough!

Up in the Burlington, Vt., area, an hour's drive from Keeseville, N.Y., you can find some action at Murray's Bar, Essex Junction. Ask for Don Everhart, the bartender. In Burlington, stop at the VFW and ask for Sonny Victor to get in touch with Dick Eddy, John Bloudin and Babe.

I have been to the Carolinas and saw no boards at all. Rhode Island has none that I am aware of. Pittsburg, Pa., has some boards but very little play and the boards are in pretty bad shape. I would say the most likely spots for action around Pittsburg are Chiodas Bar and Kretzler's Bar.

Ryan's Bar on Caton Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., is a place where you can get a game and good competition. Al Ryan and John Ryan Jr. are the players to ask for. All of the better players in the Philly/New Jersey area have competed here.

Around the Delaware, Maryland area, there are quite a few leagues and some pretty good players and action. In Milford, you can get a game at the Kent & Sussex Inn; ask for Gene Fitzgerald. In Wyoming, Del., there is the Wyoming Tavern. In Greenwood, you can find an excellent player in Marshall's Cafe called Scratch. In Salisbury, there is Rick's place with owner-player Rick Nesblitt, Jim Simpson and Hank Wyatt.

Of course, if any player comes to Long Island, N.Y., I will give anyone a game.

I believe one of the functions of your newsletter is to let active players know from state to state where the competition and action is. I travel the country and will write monthly to let you know where I have been and what shuffleboard action I have seen.