

# The Board Talk

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

Vol. 10, No. 11

November 1993

## The Hammer

You'll note that the bannerhead of this publication reads Vol. 10, No. 11. That means we're close to completing our tenth year of endeavor and it's time, once again, to contemplate our future. Where do we go from here? As we reviewed past publications to serve as a measuring stick from where we started to where we are now to see where we might be a year, five years, 10 years from here and beyond, we came across this Hammer message in the September 1987 *Board Talk*. We think it's worth repeating because you, our subscribers and advertisers, have always served as kind of an informal "board of directors" for us and have as much at stake in the future direction of this publication as we do. So here goes....

**1983:** There was a lot of "pillow talk" going on in the Wilber household. George, a player and secretary of the Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League, was totally committed to the game. Donna was not a player, but she was an enthusiastic spectator and she was a professional writer. Both felt there was an information void in *The World of Shuffleboard* and believed they could fill that void. However, they had failed once in the publishing business and weren't anxious for a repeat of that experience. Should they go for it or play it safe?

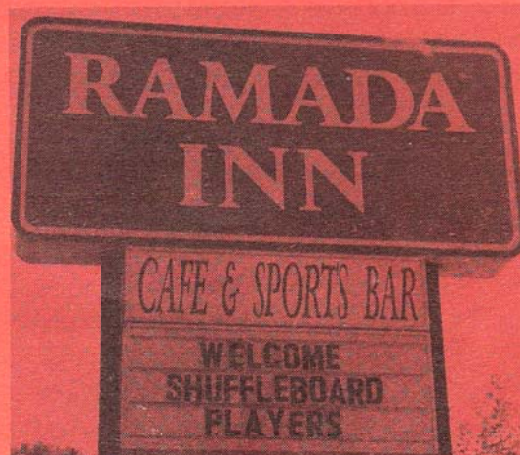
**1984:** Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The Board Talk* rolled off the presses in January. Designed to be a local or state shuffleboard publication, it contained results of tourneys in Detroit, Pontiac and Lansing, a column by the *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Bob Gross, some league standings, and announcement of a qualifying tournament in Pontiac for a really big tourney in Las Vegas.

In February, the editors accompanied the winner of that qualifying tournament, Lee McDonald of Lansing, to Las Vegas. They took along some copies of the first issue of *The Board Talk* and recorded the names of some of the participants who were interested in receiving the next issue. Overnight, *The Board Talk* "went national," a move that caused many sleepless nights for the editors. The new publication limped through the year with a meager list of subscribers and a couple faithful advertisers. The editors were glad to see 1984 become a part of history.

(continued on Page 13)

## Tourney Talk

C.C.'s Sports Bar Scores Successful First!



The Anaheim (California) Ramada Inn, home of CC's Sports Bar, hosted a very successful 1st ABC Blind Draw Tournament on Sept. 18-19. Thirty-six players entered and were divided into 12 teams with tournament directors Bob Brunskill, Vern Booth and Bob Lukens grading the players on their skills for the teams.

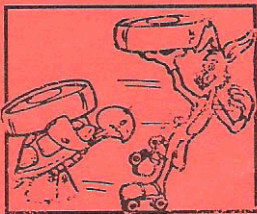


Happy winners Dave Huddock, Beverly Lukens, and John McGinnis collect their first-place purse.

Everyone had a great time from the sponsor sale on Friday through Sunday evening when the tournament ended with John McGinnis, Dave Huddock and Beverly Lukens taking first place. Don Watt, Ray Cross and Dorthy Counterman took second place, with Tony

(continued on Page 4)





# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views  
from The World  
of Shuffleboard

## Shuffleboard Headed in a Positive Direction in Southern California

Two new facilities have opened this past year in Southern California. Both are promoting shuffleboard in a very positive manner.

I am referring to the Dixie Belle in Downey, California, and CC's Sports Lounge in Anaheim, California.

The Dixie Belle devotes their entire banquet room, which houses four boards comfortably. They recently completed their first league. They are also currently holding a Sunday meat-shoot.

CC's is a Sports Bar adjoining and owned by the Ramada Inn on Katella Avenue and an ideal location for shuffleboard in the '90s.

Both places are cocktail lounges and both have hosted 3-person team events (A-B-C) recently. The 3-person team is one that allows the less experienced player a chance to have a very important role in a major tournament. There is a rotation of ends for each player, involving all six players in each game. It is my hope that 3-player teams will develop in league as well as tournament play in the future.

Tony Bastanchury, Garden Grove, California

*We join in your salute to these locations for their support and promotion of shuffleboard. Congratulations for being in the winners' circle at CC's recent tourney. See report on Page 1.*

***Is your favorite  
shuffleboard site on the  
enclosed "Play Your Way  
Across the U.S.A." list?***

### — ATTENTION —

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. To receive the next issue, you must renew by the 15th of this month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Check

(Use the enclosed form to renew.)

## Philadelphia Pro League



The Philadelphia Pro Shuffleboard League has been formed to increase shuffleboard interest and competition in the Philadelphia area. It is the goal of the League to (eventually) promote local, regional, and national tournaments to take place in the Philadelphia area.

Tournament rules apply to the invitational, blind draw events that are held twice a month. The schedule has been designed not to interfere with other league commitments nor regional tournament attendance.

An auxiliary membership list that includes shufflers from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware has been added to the list of Philadelphia-area members. Shufflers traveling into the Philadelphia area are welcome to join in the action. If interested, they can contact either Al DiBella (446-7340) or myself (661-0108). We'll be happy to provide dates, locations, etc.

The first official Philadelphia Pro Shuffleboard League event was held on Sept. 20. I'm pleased to announce the winners were Jim and Rita Yank, with the winners of the second and third events being Al and myself. Participants as well as spectators gave an enthusiastic response to the new league format, and we're sure that the League will continue to be a success.

Louise Freer, Lansdale, Pennsylvania

*You and Al are to be commended for all the effort you put forth to promote shuffleboard, Louise. Please keep us posted on the successes of the Philadelphia Pro League.*

### A.Z. Says: Too Many X's = -X!

There are some people out there who want to change our great game of shuffleboard -- the most skilled, two-handed game in all the world. From 15 point switch hammer, short foul line, to frames switch hammer, frames keep hammer, dueces wild, acey duecy, boobs google, 11 point, 17 point, single game elimination, single game double elimination.

This game change is all in the name of commercialism and profit. I have no objections to profit, but first let's take a look at what we have now.

Instead of changing the type of game to fit the format,

*(Continued on Page 14)*



## Frisco Eddie's Revenge

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert  
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*(Editor's Note: Back in 1985, Balboa Ron delighted readers with a series of short stories about a shuffler named Frisco Eddie. After recovering from two major hip surgeries, Ron is back at his typewriter with a "Frisco Eddie....The Return" series. Because we have so many new subscribers since 1985 who missed the original "Revenge" series, we're going to publish those before we start "The Return" series. Enjoy!)*

Frisco Eddie walked into the rear door of the Blue Moon Lounge on a clear and sparkling Sunday morning. He selected a bar stool which would afford the best chance to catch all the shuffleboard action.

(Man, they're all here -- Two-Hanger Fred, Texas Kid, Big Al, Oklahoma Jack....Must have been playing all night, Eddie surmised.) "What'll you have, Eddie?" asked Mike, the bartender. "Coffee for now," Eddie replied.

"Hey, Frisco!" shouted Big Al, "You want to get in on the action?" (All the hustlers laughed a little because they had taken Eddie so many times.) The \$500 bankroll Eddie had stashed in his Levis began to burn.

"I'm in. What's the game, suckers?" said Eddie. "Me and Texas Kid have the board. Want to walk it?" was the reply. "I'm not glued to this seat, man. Let's go," said Eddie. (This is my chance to get those high-rollers, he thought.)

After a few practice shots, the board was freshly waxed and the quarters put in. The game was underway. Eddie lost the toss. (The sideline responded with muffled snickers. They were all splitting the action against Eddie, a \$500 spread.)

The game began with Eddie having some trouble sticking on the deep left and right cross shots against Big Al. (I've got to settle down some, Eddie thought.) At the end of the fourth frame, he was down 9 to 6; Texas Kid's lag was working. The knowing looks on the sideline indicated the predictable -- Eddie would lose. Big Al and Texas Kid were methodically working him over.

By the end of the eighth frame, Eddie continued to trail. The score was 14 to 11. (This is it, thought Eddie, now or never.) He passed a short weight that Big Al had put up. Al stuck. Eddie tried the combination shot -- no luck. Big Al set up a deep left thumb shot -- a duece. It was then Eddie's last shot.

Everyone knew it was over now. They had beat him again. Eddie sized up the board; everything was blocked except the left hand. (This is the time now, man -- I'm going to do it!) Eddie waxed the fingers of his left hand for the "Jersey Lag," sprinkled a small amount of wax

on the left rail, and made his shot.

The release felt good; the weight was on track. (Jeez, it looks good, Eddie thought.) Two-Hanger and the rest of the hustlers started to get nervous as the weight sailed down the board. "Oh, my God! He's going to....he did! He lagged a...." Then came a voice:

"Hey, Eddie! You've been sitting on that bar stool staring at that damn shuffleboard for 20 minutes now," hollered Mike, the bartender. "Quit daydreaming and let's get going and clean this joint up before the Sunday afternoon tournament." Then Mike assured Eddie, "Don't worry, kid. Keep on practicing and we'll put you on the team next fall -- maybe."

The sun was still shining brightly outside the Blue Moon Lounge as Eddie went to the back room to get his mop and pail. "Someday," Eddie thought, "someday...." *(To be continued next month.)*

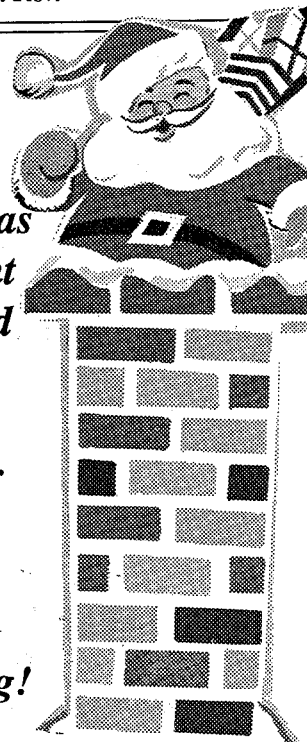
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*I would really like to thank "Laggin' Lee" Waggoner for coming to Las Vegas and helping me out following each of my operations, and to Al Stewart for stopping by to check up on me. -- Balboa Ron*

**Dear Santa:**

**What I really  
want for Christmas  
is a leather weight  
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crafted by Fritzi.  
Please check out  
the enclosed flyer  
and order mine  
today.**

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good all year long!**



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**219-858-2278**

## Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 1)*

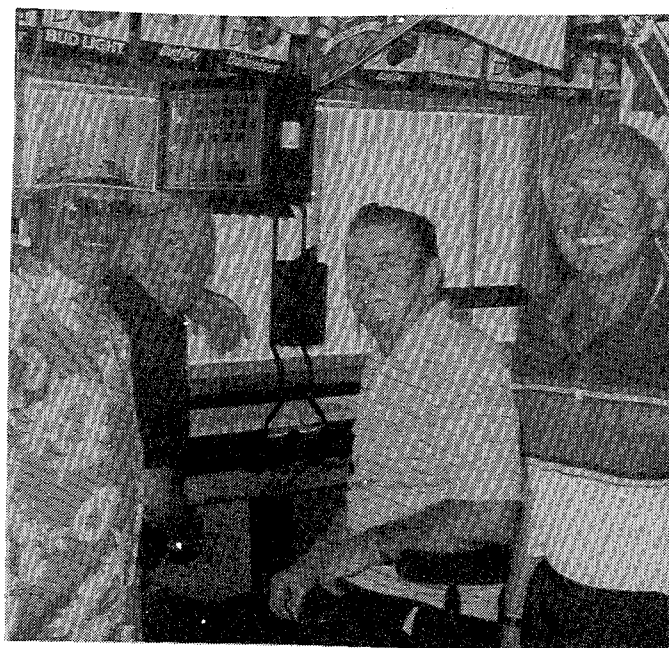
Bastanchury, Lou Lusero, and Linda Wright finishing third after playing some pretty tough players.

"A big thank you to the players from Amato's Bar in Huntington Beach and the Dixie Bell in Downey for their support of the tournament and we all look forward to the big Thanksgiving Tournament at the Dixie Bell," said hostess Beverly Lukens. "CC"s especially wants to thank 'Bubba' for putting the boards in excellent shape for the games and to the tournament directors for all the work they did to make it so successful, and to our home team players, a HUGE thank you for their participation and continued support of CC's."

Beverly reports that a few of the players chose to "stay-n-play" at the Anaheim Ramada by taking rooms for the weekend and not having to worry about drinking and driving.

"Again, thanks to everyone and we look forward to holding another fun tournament in the near future," she said.

*(Editor's Note: Check Tony Bastanchury's letter in The Notebook. Congratulations on your successful first. We encourage readers to stop in and thank CC's for their support of shuffleboard. Check the Shuffleboard Directory and the Play Your Way Across the U.S.A. listing for address and phone number.)*



*CC's regulars Ray Cross, Rowland White, Frank Bentley and John Frandsen invite everyone to come and play.*

### Sawyer/Waters Tops at Old Edison Inn

Veteran local shuffler Larry Sawyer of Anacortes was teamed with Tacoma's Mike Waters in the Old Edison Inn's 3rd Annual Draw Partner Tournament at Edison,

***Save Yourself Money, Time and Effort this Holiday Season!***

**Send your Christmas and New Year's Greetings to your shuffleboard friends through the pages of The Board Talk:**

**Full Page -- \$110**

**Half-Page -- \$60**

**Quarter-Page -- \$35**

**Classified Ad: -- \$5 for 25 words or less**

*(Example#1: WARMEST CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all our shuffleboard friends across the U.S.A. and Canada. May you find everything you want under your Christmas tree! George & Donna Wilber. Example #2: To Frisco Eddie, May all your dreams come true in 1994. Best wishes from Mike, the bartender, Blue Moon Lounge.)*

*Happy Holidays*



***For December issue, order by Nov. 15; for January issue, order by Dec. 15***  
***(Appropriate artwork and messages provided for display ads.)***

**THE BOARD TALK**

**421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906**

**Phone: 517-371-2538**

Washington, the weekend of Sept. 18-19. The pair responded with a near-perfect performance, losing only one game enroute to a first place finish in a small, but competitive, field of 13 teams, reports tourney director Phil DePree. Despite the relatively small turnout, total prize money approached \$2,000 as the many high-caliber players attracted spirited bidding in the sponsor sale.

Second place went to Darlene Docile of British Columbia, Canada, and Dave Arndt of Tacoma, while previous co-winners Mark Sullivan ('91) of nearby Bow, Washington, and Joanie Millar ('92) of B.C. settled for third place this time. Just out of the money in fourth place were Paul Major of Brier, Washington, and Phil DePree of Edison. Flo Goodall of B.C. and Danny McKinnon of Marysville, Washington, tied for fifth with Russ Miller of Mount Vernon and Diana Madsen of B.C.

Joanie Millar, as usual, provided the "closing ceremonies," and her medley of Irish ballads and bawdy ditties had everybody alternately teary-eyed and hysterical with laughter. "It would be hard to imagine an Edison tournament without Canada's 'Crazy Irish' songbird," says Phil.

Tourney sponsors Jim and Roxy DePree extend big thanks to the participants, many non-local, to Clara Kyle, whose bean-and-ham hock soup was a "gas," to the efficient bar crew, and to Sherm Anderson and Les Zahn, who, as usual, made Phil look good by doing all the little things that contribute to a smooth-running, successful event.

### Spot Tavern Hosts First All-Women's Tourney

The Spot Tavern in Pacific Beach, Washington, hosted its 1st Annual All-Women's Shuffleboard Tournament on Oct. 2-3. This "first" attracted a competitive field of players with Thais Svetch and Kim Boyd of Quilcene (Whistling Oyster) taking top honors. Lori Ferguson and Debbie Getchal of Pacific Beach captured second place, with Wanda Gregory of Moclips and Tina Healy of Aberdeen in third. Rounding out the winners' circle in fourth were Sandi Saux of Lake Quinault and Loreen Rosannder of Taholah.

"It was a great tournament, with excellent hosts and a fantastic big feed," reports Susie McNamara. "We hope the women shufflers from other locations will mark their calendars now for the 2nd Annual All-Women's Tournament at the Spot Tavern, Pacific Beach, Washington (on the beautiful Pacific Ocean!), the first weekend of next October."

### Labor Day Marathon at Blinky's Sports Cafe!

This year's annual Labor Day Weekend Tournament at Blinky's Sports Cafe in Santa Clara, California, consisted of six events over a nine-day period with a total prize fund of \$14,700. The tournament week started on Sunday, August 29, with a "Champagne and Roses" Doubles

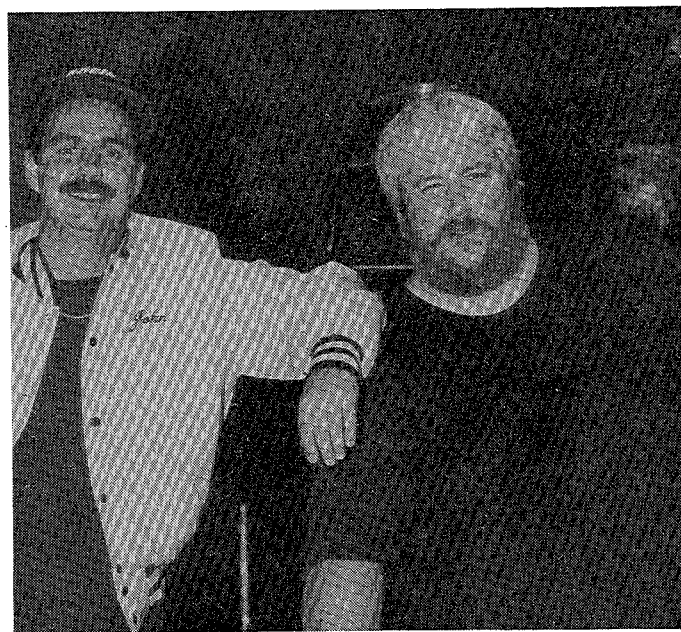
tournament for the ladies. First place went to Jane Mourgos and Kathy Thomas, second to Ruth (Mom) and Sheila, with third going to Evelyn Patton and Betty Hudson from T.G.'s Place.

Tuesday night was the scene of the amateur singles and amateur draw doubles. In the singles, first place went to George Main, second to Steve Luttrell, and third to Jerry Webster. In the doubles, Chris Wayt and Steve Luttrell took first place honors, with Dale Perlot and Jay (Blinky's) in second, and Kathy Thomas and Robin Powers (from Saratoga Lanes) in third place.

Wednesday's pro-am doubles proved an interesting event, with first place going to Hal Perry (Sacramento) and Jerry Webster, second to Loren Maxhim and Ted Fowler, and third to Steve Perry (Sacramento) and Jane Mourgos.

Thursday night was the pro/semi-pro draw, with Nelson Jennings and Rick Thomas taking top honors. Rich (Bubba) Warren and Ted Fowler from Southern California took second place, with Ritchie R  y and Steve Luttrell in third place.

The pro doubles event began on Saturday morning with nine teams participating. First place went to Rich (Bubba) Warren and John Fisher, both from Southern California, who came up through the loser's bracket and overcame a first game loss in the finals to prevail at the end by winning the next four.



*John Fisher (left) and Rich (Bubba) Warren came from the loser's bracket to claim the pro doubles crown.*

Second place went to local Nelson Jennings and Southern Californian Dudley Hutcherson (now of Florida). Third place went to the team of Karl Spickelmier from Southern California and local Pat Bayless.

*(continued on Page 6)*

## Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 5)*

The pro singles started on Sunday morning and ended on Monday afternoon with 16 players participating. First place went to one of the best up-and-coming young players in shuffleboard, Steve Perry from Sacramento. Second place went to local A.Z. Turnbo and third to Nelson Jennings.



*Blinky's Sports Cafe owner Dick "Blinky" Aregger (center) congratulates pro singles winner Steve Perry (right) and second-place winner A.Z. Turnbo.*

"Once again, thanks for all of the help: Bubba Warren for spraying the boards; George Main, Ted Fowler, Pat Bayless, John Fisher, Billy Chiles, Dale Pirlot and others for waxing the boards, etc., during the tournament; Nelson Jennings for conducting the sponsor sales, installing lighting, mats, etc.; Kathy Thomas and Sue Gregg for help with bracket boards and handling entry and sponsor sales; and Dan Mourgos and Karl Spickelmier for their help with the bracket boards," said Rick Thomas.

"Many thanks to John McDermott and The Shuffleboard Federation for supplying cleaner, polish, spray and wax for the tournament. More thanks to A.Z. Turnbo for supplying four great playing boards, and last, but not least, thanks to the hosts at Blinky's, Dick and Barbara Aregger, for their enthusiastic support of shuffleboard and for a great place to play.

"I would like to thank all of the other players from Northern and Southern California for their help, support and great play during the tournament: Hal Perry, Bobby Hunt, Lloyd Coffelt, Leonard Dominic and LeRoy, Loren Maxhim, and Jim Manders from Washington who dropped by to play an event on his way through," said Rick.

## Series of Five Doubles Underway at Beef's

As this issue of The Board Talk goes to press, the first in the series of five open doubles, double elimination, tournaments at Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana, has been held. (See next month's Board Talk to see who has stacked up the most points and who is wearing the jackets awarded by "poor Beef" to the first-place finishers in each of the series!) There are still four more to go: Nov. 20, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, and March 19. Each is \$40 per team entry fee, sale at 11 a.m., with play on two boards (if there are over 16 teams entered, it will be mark 4, play to 15, until the money games).

The first four teams to place highest in the series of five matches have an opportunity to try for a percentage of the \$2,000 added to the entry pot by Playfair Shuffleboard Company and Dale Gushman. Payback for each of the series is: 1st, 50%, 4 points; 2nd, 30%, 3 points, 3rd, 15%, 2 points, and 4th, 5%, 1 point.

For travelers, recommended lodging is the Economy Inn, 219-347-3500, or Days Inn, 219-347-5263. For information about the tournaments, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965.

Beef and Marge also invite you to celebrate New Year's Eve with them at an open doubles, double elimination tournament, Dec. 31, \$40 entry fee, with sale at 11 a.m.

## Pre-Thanksgiving Tourney at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, Nov. 19-21

Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland, will host a pre-Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 19-21. Four events are on the schedule: a draw partner on Friday night, \$10 entry; a women's singles on Saturday morning, \$10 entry; a bring partner on Saturday afternoon, \$25 per team; and a mixed doubles on Sunday, \$25 per team. For information, call Harvey's, 301-836-8881; or tournament director Dick Gorman, 302-994-0004.

Check the flyer that was in the October issue for more events at this four in-house board shuffleboard site.

## 5th Annual Indiana State Championships, Nov. 26-28

Chance's R, 3421 S. Walnut, Muncie, Indiana, will be the scene of the 5th Annual Indiana State Championships on Nov. 26-28. This tourney is open only to Indiana residents. Events include an open doubles on Friday, \$50 entry fee; mixed doubles, on Saturday, \$30 entry; open singles on Sunday, \$20 entry and women's singles on Sunday, \$15 entry. Sales for all events is 11 a.m. on Nov. 26. Four boards, double elimination. For information, call hosts Bob and Karen Schounce, 317-284-0855, or tournament director Steve Hart, 317-485-4368.

*(continued on Page 12)*

# 1993-94 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

## NOVEMBER 1993

**Nov. 4-7**

Shuffleboard Nationals  
Dew Drop Inn  
Waterloo, New York

**Nov. 8-14**

North American Championships  
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino  
Reno, Nevada

**Nov. 12-14**

3-Day/3-Event Tourney  
Bay Country Moose Lodge 831  
Queenstown, Maryland

**Nov. 13**

Constant Action Tourney  
American Legion 424  
Bourbon, Indiana

**Nov. 19-21**

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**Nov. 20**

2nd of 5-Series Doubles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

**Nov. 25-28**

5th Annual Thanksgiving Classic  
Corporate Image  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Nov. 27-28**

"Get the Rust Out" Doubles  
Acme Tavern  
Tacoma, Washington

## DECEMBER 1993

**Dec. 31**

New Year's Eve Doubles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

## JANUARY 1994

**Jan. 14-16**

Winter Tournament  
Glenn's Tavern  
Funkstown, Maryland

**Jan. 14-16**

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**Jan. 22**

3rd of 5 Doubles Series  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

## FEBRUARY 1994

**Feb. 1-6**

PCSA Extravaganza VI  
Alladin Hotel/Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Feb. 19**

4th of 5-Series Doubles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

## MARCH 1994

**March 19**

5th and Last 5-Series Doubles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana



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certificate to put in  
his or her stocking --  
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# 1993-94 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

## **APRIL 1994**

**April 8-10**

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**April 29-May 1**

3-Day/3-Event Tourney  
Bay Country Moose 831  
Queenstown, Maryland

## **MAY 1994**

**May 13-15**

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**May 20-22**

Spring Tournament  
Glenn's Tavern  
Funkstown, Maryland

## **JUNE 1994**

**June 10-12**

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

## **AUGUST 1994**

**Aug. 12-14**

3 Day/3-Event Tourney  
Bay Country Moose 831  
Queenstown, Maryland

## **OCTOBER 1994**

**Oct. 26-28**

Fall Tournament  
Glenn's Tavern  
Funkstown, Maryland

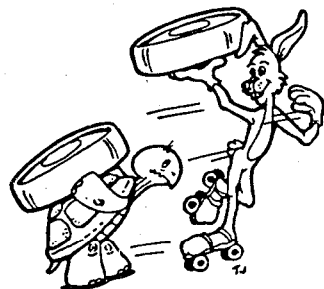
*Is Your Event on  
this calendar?*

**If not, why not? It doesn't  
cost a cent!**

**We don't discriminate  
against those who choose  
not to advertise, but we  
sure would appreciate  
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## **THE BOARD TALK**

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## ***More Tourney Talk:***

**"Get the Rust Out" Doubles,  
Acme Tavern, Nov. 27-28**

The Acme Tavern, 1310  
Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, Wash., will  
host a "Get the Rust Out" doubles  
on Nov. 27-28. Entry fee, \$50, sale  
at 10 p.m. on Friday with tourney  
starting at 10 a.m. Saturday.  
Payout: 52-24-12-6-3-3. Compli-  
mentary tavern feed on Saturday.

For information, contact tourna-  
ment director Jim Foran, 206-474-  
2724. Acme has two of the best  
boards in the Pacific Northwest.

Recommended lodging: Portage  
Inn, 206-922-3500; toll-free, 1-  
800-833-1800.

**PCSA Extravaganza VI,  
Aladdin, Las Vegas, Feb. 1-6**

Check the enclosed flyer for  
information about the PCSA's  
Extravaganza VI, scheduled for  
Feb. 1-6 at the Alladin Hotel/  
Casino in Las Vegas. Events  
include a 6-member pro team event,

an A-B Draw or Mixed Doubles  
(depending on player response), a pro  
singles and women's singles, a pro  
doubles, and amateur team event.

To participate, you must be a guest  
at the Aladdin. For information, call the  
PCSA, 310-926-2152.

Details are in the enclosed flyer.  
Check it out and enroll early.

Note to Michigan shuffleboard  
enthusiast and travel agent Sue  
Spack is checking on special rates. Call  
her at 313-227-1934 for information.

### **Shufflers to Remember:**

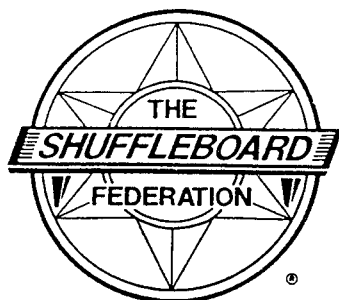
A couple of our shuffleboard friends  
who need your prayers and good wishes  
are:

Marissa Voorhis, daughter of Bus,  
owner of The Palace in Fairmount,  
Indiana, and brother of Bobby V and  
sister-in-law of Debbie....Send to 408  
W. Second St., Fairmount, IN 46928.

Art Ware, owner with wife JoAnn of  
Ours & Your Place in Sudlersville,  
Maryland, friend of Judy Iseman and  
other players from the East  
Coast....Send to Ours & Your Place,  
Rt. 300, Sudlersville, MD 21668.

Let Marissa and Art know you care.





"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"

## DEUCES WILD™

There have been many questions and much anticipation regarding our new game, DEUCES WILD™, since we first mentioned the game in this column.

By the time you read this, we will be in Reno preparing for the 1993 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS™, where DEUCES WILD™ will be introduced to the shuffleboard community.

As you may know, DEUCES WILD™ has been designed especially for league play. Since early this year we have been testing DEUCES WILD™ with small groups of players, and fine tuning the format based on their input. This process of fine tuning will continue for the next couple of years. Any changes made will of course be based on player input.

DEUCES WILD™ is played with four person teams. This format makes it relatively easy for a bar to have two teams, which means that one of them plays at home every week.

The DEUCES WILD™ format keeps all four players on both teams involved for the entire match, so there's no waiting around to play.

DEUCES WILD™ is a straight offense game that has some similarities to horsecollar. It will give you a chance to practice lagging, bumping and splitting weights and therefore improve the offensive part of your game.

A game consists of eight frames (one per player) of eight weights each and takes 12 - 15 minutes to play.

Each player shoots eight weights and tries to score as many points as possible (you must have at least one weight that is a deuce or better in order to score).

The DEUCES WILD™ format includes a copyrighted rotation system which has been well received and is a big reason that the test groups of players we have worked with have found the game to be so much fun.

DEUCES WILD™ also has a copyrighted handicap system which insures that every team a chance to win. Regular shuffleboard is tough to handicap, especially in league play where you normally play doubles. In DEUCES WILD™ league play, each player has an average, just like bowling.

One of the really great things we have found is that the game has been appealing to beginning players with no previous shuffleboard experience. It is not nearly as intimidating as having to shoot against someone who is already a good player because in a sense you are competing against yourself.

Most of you who are reading this know someone who went to Reno for the NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS™. Over 90% of the people attending the tournament signed up for the DEUCES WILD™ event, we suggest you ask them how much fun they had playing DEUCES WILD™.

Look for more information on DEUCES WILD™ in this space over the next few months and get ready to try it first hand. A DEUCES WILD™ League could be coming to a tavern in your neighborhood soon.

For more information, please contact The Shuffleboard Federation, 41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, Michigan, 48167, (313) 380-9300.

**"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"**

## Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 6)*

### Constant Action Tourney at Bourbon American Legion, Nov. 13

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, scene of last month's exciting Fall Doubles, will host a Constant Action Doubles and Singles Tournament on Nov. 13. Entry fees are \$50 per team for the doubles (limited to 24 teams) and \$50 for the singles. The sponsor sale for both will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

To see if there are still spots open, call tournament director Fritz Broka, 219-858-2278.

### 5th Annual Thanksgiving Classic, Corporate Image, Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 25-28

Looking for a great shufflers' Thanksgiving weekend event? Look no further! The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Rd., Fort Worth, Texas, will host their 5th Annual Thanksgiving Classic on Nov. 25-28. Events will include a draw partner on Thursday, \$50 entry (no two pros), single game, double elimination, with sale at 7 p.m. An open doubles, \$50 per person (again, no two pros), is scheduled for Friday, 2 out of 3, double elimination, with sale at 7 p.m., limited to 16 teams. An open singles, \$50 entry, is on the schedule for Saturday, 2 of 3, double elimination, with sale at 7 p.m. (If necessary, mark 4, play to 15, for all events). Round robins will be played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with a free Thanksgiving dinner served on Thanksgiving Day.

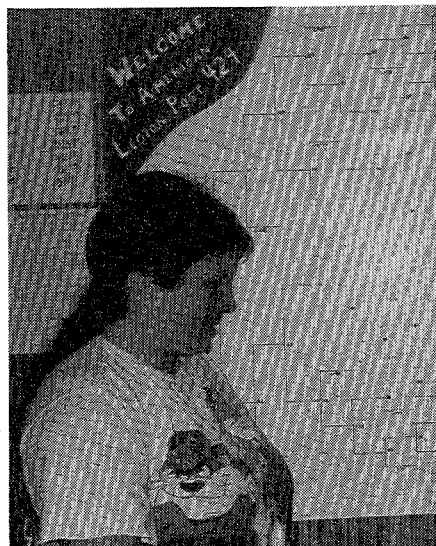
For information, call David Williams at 817-451-9583, or Roz at the Corporate Image, 817-451-0607.

### Okies Take Bourbon Crown

They did it again! There were 10 states represented in the 59 teams participating in the annual Fall doubles tournament at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, on Oct. 2. Coming out on top of the highly-competitive field of contenders were Mike Melton of Davis, Oklahoma, and Ron Huddleston of Oklahoma City.

Second place honors went to Denny Busch of Omaha, Nebraska, and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma City. Jim Stockmaster and Phil McGrew of Toledo, Ohio, finished third. Fourth place went to Bobby Voorhis and Dave Boaz (Fairmount and Anderson, Ind.), with Chris Passariello and Wayne Snellenberger of Saginaw, Mich., in fifth, and Larry Vance and Milt Vanulzen of Muncie, Ind., in sixth place.

"Even though our tournament is growing, it still has the 'party time' name it has always been known for," said tournament director Fritz Broka. "Everyone had a terrific time, especially the large group from Pontiac, Mich., which is getting larger every tournament, thanks to Vicki Gohl (what a party animal!), who continues to bring us more 'Bourbon Virgins.'



*The very capable tournament director, Fritz Broka, and her dedicated crew of helpers kept things moving smoothly throughout the one-day and very long night event.*

"I wish I could list all the participants, but the list is too long. You all know who you are and the American Legion and I thank everyone for the support you give us," Fritz said. "I also want to thank all my help: Steve Hart, auctioneer; Terry Broka, board waxer; Joyce Roberts, brackets; Bill and Lisa Gotham, for everything; Buddy, for hanging in there with me through all my weeks of preparation."



*This determined duo from Oklahoma, Ron Huddleston (left) and Mike Melton, finished tops in the 59-team field of contenders.*

"When the smoke cleared and I arose from a dead and much-needed sleep the next day, my heart was smashed," Fritz reports. "My brothers-in-law, Terry and Greg Broka, informed me that their weights were gone. Not only their weights, but also the case, which just happened to be the very first one I ever made. A gift to them! It is very disheartening to think that a shuffleboard player would do this to another player.

"I would like to add a special note for a fellow shuffleboard player and her family. Marissa (Voorhis), we are thinking and praying for you to be tough and

*(continued on Page 15)*



## *The Hammer* (continued from Page 1)

**1985:** The World of Shuffleboard took a "wait and see" attitude about *The Board Talk*. If it was going "belly up," why invest \$10 for a subscription? Potential advertisers waited until their audiences were large enough to make an investment. A "no win" situation for the publishers. The mailing list was slowly growing, but so were the print bills and the first-class postage charges.

In July, *The Board Talk* sponsored its first annual tournament. Participation was gratifying, but it was a costly venture for the sponsors.

Numbers of subscribers finally reached the point that allowed the editors to obtain a more affordable mailing permit, but the future of the publication remained uncertain at the close of *The Board Talk's* second year.

**1986:** The "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing of shuffleboard establishments that were *Board Talk* subscribers was introduced in February. March marked a "turnaround" for the publication. Subscribers, advertisers, and news from all parts of the country started rolling in. For the first time, it appeared that *The Board Talk* would become a viable publication that would not have to be subsidized by the full-time jobs of its publishers.

In July, the 2nd Annual Board Talk Tournament drew participation from seven states and Canada. In October, the first listing of the U.S.A.'s Top 20 Players was published, creating more feedback than any previous features.

**1987:** The February quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing had grown from 37 establishments in 12 states a year ago to 95 states and Canada. *The Board Talk's* mailing list broke the 600 mark and its largest issue -- 16 pages -- was published in May. The Top 20 Players listing changed to a Top 40 with ratings by division. A Top 10 Women's players list was added.

In July, the 3rd Annual Board Talk Tournament attracted players from 11 states. It was a good one!

There's still a lot of shufflers who like to read *The Board Talk* -- other's copies, that is -- but have chosen not to invest their own \$10. And there's some advertisers who put their *Board Talk* invoices at the bottom of the pile. The midnight and weekend oil keeps burning to put the publication together in our spare time without any salary. It's still a "kitchen table" enterprise, but the future, we strongly believe, is bright!

**1994:** *The Board Talk* has grown from a 4-page newsletter 10 years ago to a 48-page slick magazine with 4-color ads from every major company in the USA that manufactures products shuffleboarders consume. There's feature stories on the events and people who make up The World of Shuffleboard. Leagues in every city have a special insert with standings, announcements and other local "color" for their particular area.

*The Board Talk's* main office is occupied by a staff who actually answer the telephone in daytime hours. A travelling "office" takes the editors to major tourneys across the country so they can cover the events, in words and color photos, to their 10,000 subscribers.

Our grandson, who has been working for us part-time since 1990, is entering college, majoring in business so he can take over the reins when the time comes.

There are 500 shuffleboard establishments from 50 states on the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing. Each of them sponsors a qualifying tournament to send a representative to *The Board Talk's* national tournament, which is covered by all the major TV networks. Site of the tournament is a huge Shuffleboard Dome with an adjoining hotel complex and lots of attractions for participants' families. Closed circuit TV brings the action to hotel rooms so players taking a needed break know when they are "on deck."

The Shuffleboard Dome is also the site of the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Pioneer Sol Lipkin was the first to be inducted and his photo was on the cover of the January issue of "Sports Illustrated." In conjunction with the national tournament in July, three more inductees -- Billy Mays of Texas, Al Stewart of California, and Ed Estep (posthumously) of Michigan -- will be in the spotlight.

It's been a good year for shuffleboard!

We hope you'll be there to see if our projections for 1994 were just a dream -- or an achievable goal. We'd be happy with halfway between.

\*\*\*\*\*

Remember, that was written in September of 1987. As we review our 1994 projections, we have to realize we're still a long way from our "dream" and that those projections were not an "achievable goal." Indeed, we've yet to make it to the halfway mark or even a quarter-mark.

Yes, we have grown in size from a 4-page newsletter to last month's 24 pages plus several insert flyers. No, we're not a 48-page slick magazine with 4-color ads from every major company in the USA that manufacturers products shuffleboarders consume. Yes, we do have some feature stories on the events and people who make up The World of Shuffleboard. No, leagues in every city do not have a special insert with their standings, announcements and other "color" for their particular area.

No, *The Board Talk's* office is not manned by a staff who answers the telephone during daytime hours. That "staff" is still an answering machine and two part-time editors/writers/typesetters/subscription list overseers/advertising solicitors, john cleaners, etc. etc.

No, our grandson has not entered college yet, and his only experience with *The Board Talk* has been stuffing flyers, which has not endeared him to "take over the reins" of this narrow profit-margin private enterprise.

(continued on Page 14)

## **The Hammer** *(continued from Pg.13)*

No, our "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing does not contain 500 establishments from 50 states, but it has come a long way from the first map in February of 1986 when we had 38 shuffleboard sites from 13 states (see enclosed listing). No, each of them has not sponsored a qualifying tournament to send a representative to The Board Talk's national tournament, and no, that tournament has not yet been covered by all the major TV networks. And no, there is not yet a Shuffleboard Dome nor a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

While we've fallen short of our 10-year goals, we're still optimistic about the future of shuffleboard and *The Board Talk*. We do, however, have to get realistic about the future of the latter. Despite the fact that printing and postage costs have continued to rise, we have not had an increase in our subscription fee for five years and have never had an increase in advertising charges. We're going to hold the line on the subscription fee for another year yet and take some cost-saving steps instead, including cutting down on our "comp" list and our first-class mailings in between issues to those who just joined or re-joined our network, and being tougher on the "grace period" we allow when subscriptions are due.

Effective with the January 1994 issue, we will have an increase in advertising rates. Quarter-page rates will go from \$35 to \$40; half-page from \$60 to \$70; full-page from \$110 to \$120; and flyers from \$90 to \$100 (double flyer from \$125 to \$135). Shuffleboard Directory rates will remain the same: \$100 per year for single space; \$150 for double space.

That advertising revenue is vital to the future of *The Board Talk*, so we strongly urge all of you to patronize those businesses and tournaments that do advertise.

Thanks for your continued support.

*George & Donna Wilber, Publishers*

## **Notebook** *(continued from Page 2)*

let's take a look at the format that tries to cram more events in a given amount of time by shortening the game and taking the skill out of it.

You can only put X amount of people in X amount of space for X amount of events for X amount of time. Too many X's = -X. If you take the challenge out of the game, more people will quit playing and less people will start.

The challenge of the game is the reason most of us play. It has taken years to evolve the game up to what we have today. Don't digress it.

There has to be a stopping point. Who wants to spend two grand to go to a tournament and get to play two games? We need to keep our 15 point, switch hammer,

short foul line, 2 out of 3, double elimination, with a format that the players can live with.

There are a lot of people who are not going to like what I have to say, but I feel for the good of shuffleboard, it has to be said.

Everyone in the shuffleboard business has a responsibility to shuffleboard -- manufacturers, refurbishers, refinishers, vendors, bar owners, players, and tournament directors.

Obsolescent engineering is not the answer. Manufacturers have a responsibility to make a cradle that will not fall apart, and a plank that will play and not peel or crack in a few months of use. Refinishers have the same responsibility to turn out a finish that will last -- not an unplayable, high centered, dubbed off on the ends, peel, wear out, split and become unplayable in a few short months. Vendors and bar owners are not getting their money's worth. Shuffleboard refinishes and supplies are expensive and profits may be too small.

I try not to criticize without having what I think is a better idea. The problem with, and there are some problems with shuffleboard, is not the way the game is played. It is with boards, wax, weights and the players. You cannot get the game over with in a decent amount of time.

We need a board we can play -- not some high centered thing, rolled off on the sides, dubbed off on the ends, 2 to 3 foot faster from one end than the other, slow places 2 to 3 feet difference in speed. This is what makes a long game, one point a frame -- if you are lucky. One hour games, three hour sessions. We have to have a laggable board.

We have always been plagued with slow play -- 2 out of 3, 15 points, 3 hours to play. Give us a break. We need a rule: 30 seconds to shoot or a one point penalty.

Last, but not least, is the price of the game. All the places in San Jose where the players go is \$1 for 15 points. I have not had one complaint about the price. In most cases, the players asked to have the price raised to help the bar owners and vendors with the cost of wax and other supplies.

The playoff games of the A-B draw at Vegas were the most exciting games I've ever seen. Thank you, Bud Broka/Tom Hendrix, and George Ostrom/Mike Thorpe for giving all of us a performance in playing the real game of shuffleboard. No other type of shuffleboard game could have reached that crescendo.

The old axiom is that if you have some bad boards at a tournament, everyone has to play them. That is true, but what happens to the time frame? Keep forcing the players to play on inferior boards and no one will show.

Ask the players what they want. Don't give us what you think we want.

Without the players, the game of shuffleboard is

*(continued on Page 16)*



## Tourney Talk (continued from Page 12)

get well!" Fritzi said.

*(Editor's Note: If you've ever seen Fritzi's awesome cases, you'll appreciate what a loss this is. It's a shame this had to happen to anyone, but particularly when it was a gift to family members. We hope the responsible party feels adequately guilty.)*

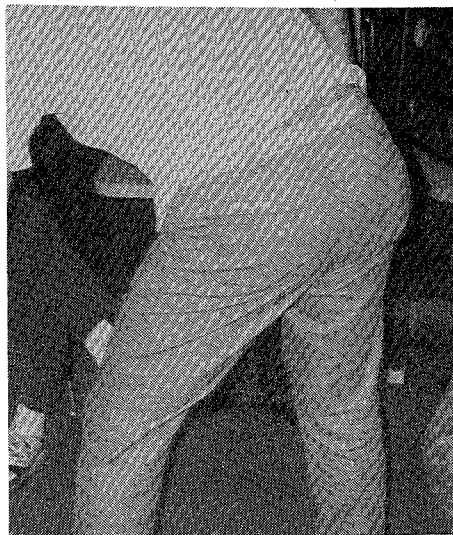
We join in your good wishes to Marissa. If others would like to drop Marissa a note of cheer, send to: 408 W. Second St., Fairmount, IN 46928.)



Among the out-of-state visitors at Bourbon were New Yorkers Doug Fridley Jr. and Sr. from the Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, and Jane and Arlow Johnson (center) of Jordan. "The Indiana folks come to our tournaments, so we felt we should come to theirs," said Doug. The editors think that's a philosophy other tournament hosts should adopt whenever possible.



When Sue Spack wasn't hustling business for her travel agency, she was busy rubbing Scott Miller's back, who obviously enjoyed it!

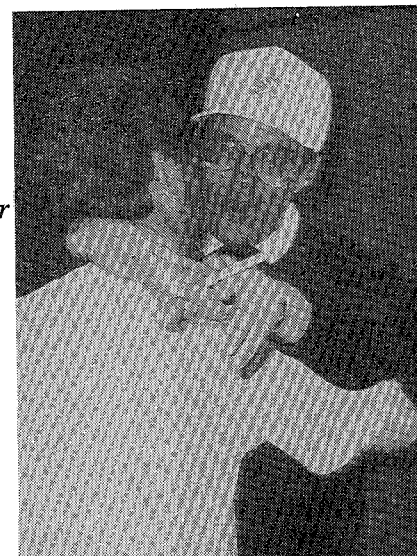


Some shuffler from the East Coast shows why he was voted "best buns" of the Bourbon Tournament. Too bad they didn't give trophies or money envelopes for that category!



Your editors feel like cupid! A relationship that started at the 3rd Annual Skip's/Board Talk Tournament in Houghton Lake, Michigan, in September, grew into an announcement made at the Bourbon tournament in October that Diana Hoffman of Ohio and J.R. (No! Not Lopez!) of Michigan are engaged! Congratulations!

The shuffleboard network is a very close family. Jim Stockmaster (left) of Ohio gives Rick Boyer of Everywhere USA a big bear hug. That was before Jim and his partner, Phil McGrew, took third place honors at the Bourbon Tourney.



## Notebook (continued from Page 14)

history. The players dictate the game of shuffleboard, type of game, rules, the future of shuffleboard. It is the players who furnish the bulk of the MONEY, not the tournament directors.

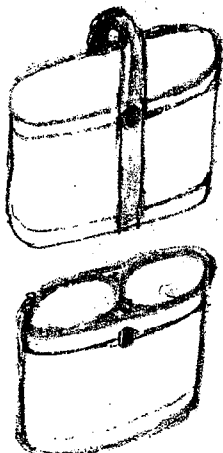
A.Z. Turnbo, San Martin, California

*Just one observation, A.Z., and then we'll "back off" and let others speak, as you suggested before. The reason we have gone to the mark 4, play to 15 format in our annual Skip's/Board Talk Tournament is to encourage, not discourage, increased participation. If we had stayed with the standard 15 points, there would have been many (some first-time tournament players) of the 74 who participated that we would have had to turn away. And out of that 74, we only had one complaint about the mark 4, play to 15. As for your last point, we know a lot of tournament directors, when you consider the long hours and effort invested, come out on the short end of the stick, much shorter than the players who just play.*

*Now, if we don't get some reader responses from your great Notebook contribution, we're going to be awfully disappointed. Thanks so much for your viewpoints.*

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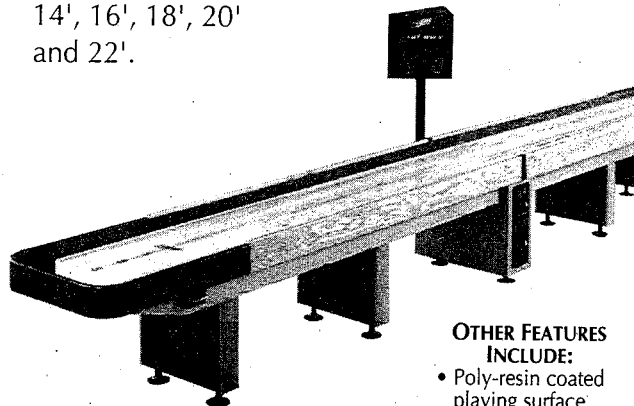
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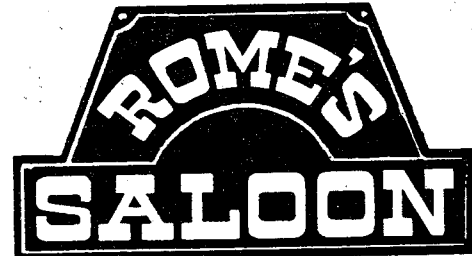
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