

# The Board Talk

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

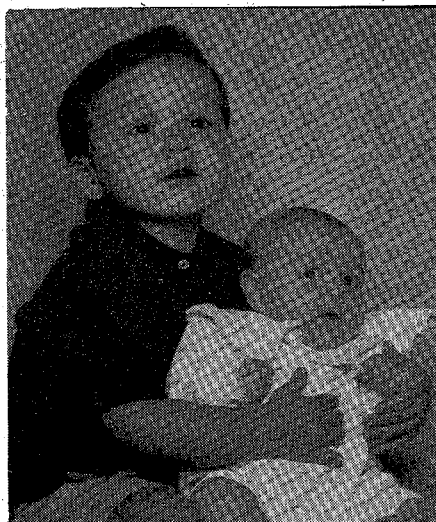
Vol. 11, No. 6

June 1994

## The Hammer

We were touched by a letter we received from Hal Perry after we had gone to press last month. Our hearts go out to Bob and Vicki Hunt. As grandparents ourselves, we can only imagine such a tremendous loss. We hope that The World of Shuffleboard will respond to Hal's request....

*On March 15, a terrible accident occurred which greatly affected one of our fellow shuffleboard players, Bob Hunt of California. His two-year-old grandson, Franco, fell into a swimming pool while playing in his great-grandfather's backyard. After a torturous and prolonged three-week stay in the hospital, Franco's little mind and body gave out and he passed away on April 5.*



*Franco and little sister Adele*

*Bob and his family have established a Memorial Trust for little Franco in the hope of raising enough funds to build a park in Sacramento that would be named in the baby's honor. If we all pull together, we can make a great showing to the family on behalf of shuffleboard players across the country. I know Bob and Vicki Hunt will appreciate it.*

*Forward your contributions to: Franco J. Billotta Memorial Trust, 380 Cedar River Way, Sacramento, CA 95831.*

*Hal Perry, Sacramento, California*

(More Hammer on Page 4)

## Tourney Talk

### Danke/Wilson Mixed Doubles Winners at Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington

The 9th Annual Mixed Doubles tournament at the Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington, on March 19-20 attracted one of the smaller fields of recent years, but was deep in terms of talent, reports director Phil DePree. The 14 teams entered competed for over \$2600 in prize money, due largely to strong bidding in the sponsor sale.

When all was said and done, Chris Danke and Steve Wilson, currently calling Vancouver (Washington) "home," improved on last year's third place finish to claim first this year by besting Joannie Millar of Richmond, B.C., and Sherman Anderson of Bayview, Wash., in the finals. Finishing third were Karen Robinson, Bayview, and Danny McKinnon of Marysville, Wash., followed by Eve Anderson, Burlington, Wash., and Paul Major, Brier, Wash. Diana Madsen, Surrey, B.C., and Billy Powell, Seattle, tied for fifth with Diana's daughter Paula and partner Jeff Adams of Seattle.

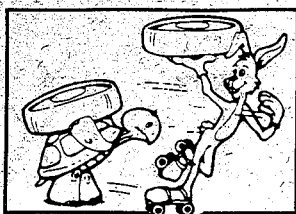
Joannie and Sherm seemed on their way to forcing a second round of games by winning the opener in the final round, only to see Chris and Steve come back to win two straight and wrap up the championship. "Best pure rail shooter in the business," grumbled Sherm, as Steve stuck nearly every deep weight the local veteran left on the board.

Tourney director Phil DePree had plenty of good help as usual, with Sherm conducting the sale, Dick Martell whipping out the bracket board in record time, Jim Manders powdering boards and watching games when Phil was too pooped, Clara Kyle for putting on a great feed Saturday, and the entire Edison crew keeping everybody's needs satisfied throughout the weekend. "Lyle Honeycutt didn't win the door prize oysters donated by local grower Blau Oyster Co., so he made up for it by devouring about a bushel of the raw bivalves during the buffet," said Phil.

The next tournament at the Edison is slated for Sept. 17-18, which will be the 4th Annual Draw Partners. Saturday draw partner meat shoots will be held throughout the summer.

(Editor's Note: Our apologies to Phil and the win-

(continued on Page 6)



# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views  
from The World  
of Shuffleboard

## A Shuffler After Our Own Hearts

I received a free subscription from the P.C.S.A. down in Vegas, and I feel an obligation to pay for it, so this is the way I am going to do it -- pay for someone else's (a new subscriber).

Daniel J. Hitt, Spokane, Washington

P.S.: L.T.B.T. Figure that one out.

*What a great way to help build the shuffleboard network, Daniel. Thank you! We hope our new subscriber enjoys your gift. L.T.B.T.? We hope it means: "Love That Board Talk." Are we close?*

## "Easyrider" Likes "Frisco Eddie"

I, for one, REALLY like Ron Schweikert's "Frisco Eddie" series. He ought to keep it going and make the whole thing into a book. I bet it would sell.

Stephen King says the hardest part of writing a book is knowing how to end it. Well, if Ron ever runs into such a problem, here's an ending he might be able to use some time: Godzilla rises up out of the ocean and eats the whole scene -- people, bar, everything.

I've used this ending many times in my short stories and novels. But then, I've never been published either. Maybe if Godzilla looked like Jimmy "The Cop" Kumpula....

Oh, well.

"Easyrider Bill," Daytona Beach, Florida

*We know you're not alone, Easyrider, and we really appreciate your putting in writing what a lot of people are thinking. We're sure Ron will appreciate your support and suggestions for a book. Donna is currently agonizing over how to end a book, but the Godzilla scene might not be appropriate for the*

## — 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.)

*history of the farm organization she works for. Well, maybe Godzilla could rise out of a cornfield and swallow up the farmers, tractors, animals, supermarkets, restaurants, roadside stands, food processing plants.... Oh, well.*

## Veteran Ralph Duarte Responds to A.Z.

In regard to A.Z. Turnbo's letter about money for shuffleboard tournaments, may I say this: The money is out there, I believe, but how does one get it? You could take the breweries and distributors around to places where the tournaments are being held and show them the amount of beer and wine that they go through. They would agree that we are about the best customers they have.

Believe me, from past experience, we can do a good job (of that) and still maintain ourselves a lot better than any others.

If most states are like ours (Washington), it is not allowed by the Liquor Commission for them to do this. They could lose their licenses and also pay a very big fine! I know. I used to run a tournament in Longview, Washington, where we had at least 18 boards. Jack Tyler first started this in the '60s. I took it over when he left and ran it for about 15 years or more. The only money we got was from the beer and wine we sold. Entry fees and players's fees paid for the trophies, plus out of the sales of beer and wine. We had to pay the building rent, officials and help, plus prizes, which weren't much.

But don't give up. Don't ever give up. There has got to be a way.

For the love of shuffleboard....

Ralph Duarte, Kelso, Washington

*As far as we know, Ralph, most states are like yours and we'd like to salute those LOCAL distributors who do what they are allowed to do -- give t-shirts, caps, and product prizes. Frankly, we're not as optimistic as you and A.Z. regarding the possibility of attracting NATIONAL support, at least not with our current conditions. Perhaps that's because we're a little bitter about the fact that we kept the major national distributors on our complimentary mailing list for 10 years to prove to them that the sport did have a "voice," that it was strong, viable and growing, and was worthy of support -- and not one responded. One of the problems, as we see it, is not that we don't have good consumers, but that we are not officially organized under a governing body like other sports. We're simply too fragmented. As we reviewed the material that Bill English sent*

*(continued on Page 10)*

# 1994 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

## JUNE

### June 10-12

4-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

### June 11-12

5th Annual Balloon Open  
Balloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

### June 18-19

8th Annual Nationals  
Acme Tavern  
Tacoma, Washington

## JULY

### July 1-4

3rd Annual Southwest Open  
American Legion Post 73  
Del City, Oklahoma

### July 1-4

1st Annual 4th of July Tourney  
The Brass Rail  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### July 1-4

2nd Annual 4th of July Tourney  
The Dixie Belle  
Downey, California

### July 16-17

1st Annual Mixed Doubles  
Liberty Bar  
Pontiac, Michigan

### July 23-24

6th Annual Shuffleboard Affair  
Town Tavern  
Sequim, Washington

### July 26-31

The Shuffleboard Federation's  
North American Championships  
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino  
Reno, Nevada

### July 28-31

Summertime Nationals  
Dew Drop Inn  
Waterloo, New York

## AUGUST

### Aug. 3-7

5th Annual Grand Masters Plus  
10th Annual Board Talk  
Shuffler's Reunion  
Whistling Oyster Tavern  
Quilcene, Washington

### Aug. 12-14

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

### Aug. 26-28

Summer Tournament  
Glenn's Tavern  
Funkstown, Maryland

*It's never too  
early to list your  
tournament on  
the calendar! It  
helps shufflers  
plan their itiner-  
aries. Let them  
know well in ad-  
vance.....*

## SEPTEMBER

### Sept. 1-5

Labor Day Tournament  
Blinky's Sports Cafe  
Santa Clara, California

### Sept. 2-4

Crazy Canucks Annual Labor  
Day Tournament  
AN & AF Unit 68  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

### September

Labor Day Texas Open  
Texas Mist  
Austin, Texas

### Sept. 9-11

4th Annual Skip's/Board Talk  
Fall Tournament  
Skip's Lounge  
Houghton Lake, Michigan

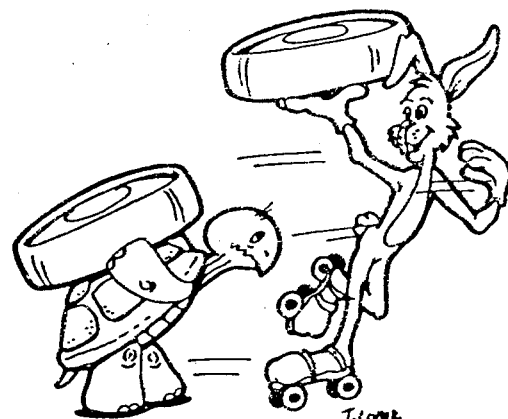
### Sept. 17-18

4th Annual Draw Partners  
Old Edison Inn  
Edison, Washington

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 1

27th Annual Fall Doubles  
American Legion Post 424  
Bourbon, Indiana



## THE BOARD TALK

421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906; Phone: 517-371-2538

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

We're proud to have the Bob Miles Tribute in this issue and thank everyone who contributed. Hopefully, knowing how much shufflers honor him as a player and a person will speed his recovery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note on the back panel of this issue that we have some changes in our Top Shuffleboard States. While California, Michigan and Texas retain their top three spots, Washington knocked Oklahoma out of fourth place into sixth, with Indiana moving up to fifth. One of the reasons that California, Michigan and Texas hang onto their top spots is retention -- with subscribers responding to their red checks in a timely manner.

We appreciate the efforts of all of you who are working to make our network grow.

\*\*\*\*\*

We received a delightful package of goodies from Bill and Bonnie English of Colorado recently. Some of it was just too great not to share with you and that's what we're going to do before we return their precious keepsakes to them.

One was the Vol. 1, No. 1 edition of "What's Happening in Shuffleboard," edited by Bob and Irene Hefler and Marv Renden of West Linn, Oregon. It's a 4-page mimeographed newsletter with news of the events and the

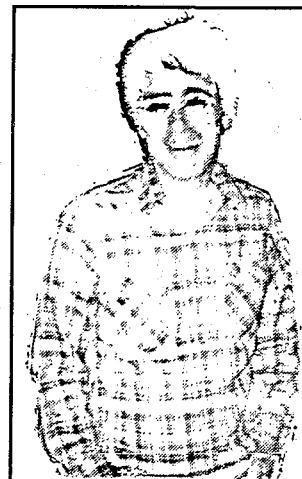
people in Washington and Oregon. It's dated February 1978 and there are some familiar names included. On the front page, the featured shuffleboard player of the month was none other than Darrol Nelson:

*"Last July 4, 1977, at the big tournament at the Hot N Tot Tavern in Portland, a star was born. Darrol Nelson finally put his game together, coming in second to the 'incomparable' Billy Mays in the men's singles and winning the doubles with partner Doug Buhl.*

*"Since coming into his own, the quiet Portlander has won every doubles tournament he has entered, including Hot N Tot, Rainier, Yuba City, San Jose and Lariat. In every one except Yuba City, he played with Doug Buhl of Bremerton, Washington. At Yuba, he won with Portland's Ron Harralson.*

*"A devotee of mental discipline called transcendental meditation, Darrol credits it largely (along with Doug Buhl) with helping him to become a winner."*

(continued on Page 10)



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

*ners of this tournament for overlooking this report last month!)*

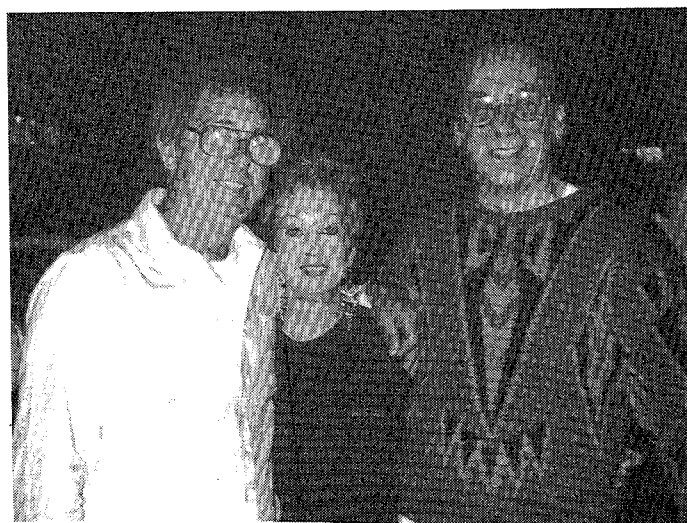
### Mouton/Harrison Winners at Third Base

Local Houstonites Howard Mouton and Kip Harrison took top honors in the open draw partner double elimination tournament held at Third Base, Clear Lake, Texas, on April 16. The underdog and crowd favorite team of upcoming Sylvia Martinez and Joey Petty took second place, with third going to Dale Williams and Flynt Preston. Twenty-eight participants from the Houston area and Austin vied for the \$4000 prize money.

"Thanks to all of the participants for making this a successful tournament," said director Ken Strong. "Many thanks go to Howard Mouton for preparing the boards, Dale Williams for making the arrangements to get an additional board and Sherrif Halberg and Brian Walker for helping with the draw and sales, and to Nancy Rice for photos. Special thanks go to Third Base host Frank Badali for providing food and supplementing the tournament with quarters for the boards and the expense for the additional board. Incidentally, Frank was just released from the hospital after undergoing triple-bypass surgery and was unable to watch any of the tournament.

"My apologies to Bill Brodie and Bobby Williams for unknowingly scheduling the tournament for the same weekend as the Earl Kelly Benefit Tournament in Arlington, Texas. However, Diana Hagen took up a collection for Earl. Hopefully, our lines of communication will be a little better in the future," said Ken.

*(Editor's Note: A good selling point, Ken, for people to get their tournaments on the calendar EARLY! Our best wishes to Frank for a speedy recovery. And -- how great to see our old friend Howard back in action again!)*



*Surprise visitor Billy Mays (left) with winner Howard Mouton and an unidentified fan..*



*First place finishers Howard Mouton and Kip Harrison and friends.*

### 6th Annual Shuffleboard Affair, Town Tavern, Sequim, Washington, July 23-24

Joanne Kidd and her grouchy husband Rex, hosts of the Town Tavern in Sequim, Washington, and tournament director Jim Manders, invite you to the 6th Annual Shuffleboard Affair on July 23-24. The open doubles, \$50 entry, pays six places and \$200 will be added to the pot.

For further information, call 206-683-3311, 683-1013, or 417-4013 (Jim's beeper). "You can practice for the Whistling O's tournament after you're eliminated here," says Jim. "Quilcene is only 30 miles away."

### 8th Annual Nationals at Acme Tavern, Tacoma, Washington, June 18-19

The Acme Tavern, 1310 Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, Washington, will hold its 8th Annual Nationals on June 18-19. It's a doubles event, \$50 entry fee, double elimination, paying six places: 52-24-12-6-3-3.

A complimentary tavern feed will be served on Saturday at 5 p.m. Recommended lodging is the Travelers Inn, 1-800-633-8300. Jim Foran and Rick Gindt will be the tournament directors.

For information, call the Acme Tavern, 206-272-1892.

### Dixie Belle's 2nd Annual 4th of July Tourney and Barbecue, July 1-4, Downey, California

The Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, California, will host its 2nd Annual 4th of July Tournament and barbecue, July 1-4. Events will include an ABC draw, \$60 per team (\$20 person), starting Friday night after the sponsor sale (8 p.m. for both the ABC draw and the open doubles); an open doubles, \$200 per team, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday; and an open singles, \$100

*(continued on Page 8)*

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

entry, starting at 8 a.m. Sunday (sponsor sale Saturday at 8 p.m.).

The ABC draw, which will be single game, double elimination, is limited to the first 12 teams paid. The open doubles and singles are both 2 out of 3, double elimination, with the doubles limited to the first 16 teams paid and the singles limited to the first 24 paid entries.

A complimentary buffet will be served on Sunday at 1 p.m. Suggested lodging includes the Downey Inn, 310-862-5050; Empire Motel, 310-923-5511; and the Best Western, 310-929-8831. For information, contact Jack or Eileen at 310-803-4943.

### **1st Annual Mixed Doubles, Liberty Bar, Pontiac, Michigan, July 16-17**

There's been a date change for the 1st Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament at the Liberty Bar, 85 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Michigan. The bring partner mixed event, single game, double elimination, is set for July 16-17. Entry fee is \$50 per team. The tournament will be played on the Liberty's two in-house boards.

For information and/or to make your reservation, call Vicky Gohl, 810-681-3761, or George Wilber, 517-371-2538.

### **3rd Annual Southwest Open, June 30-July 4, American Legion Post 73, Del City, Oklahoma**

Action in the 3rd Annual Southwest Open at the American Legion Post 73, Del City, Oklahoma, will start on Thursday, June 30, with an open singles, open to all skill levels with entry fees based on handicap: pros, \$200; 0 rated amateurs, \$100; 1 rated amateurs, \$50; and 2 and up rated amateurs, \$25.

The beginner and just pretty good draw partner is set for Friday, \$25 entry fee, along with the open draw, \$50 entry (no pros or 0s allowed to pair up).

Something new is on the agenda for Saturday, a pro draft team event with a \$25 entry fee. Each team will have a designated captain from the top 16 players. A list of remaining players signed up will provide a draft pool. Each captain will draft one player at a time in rotation until all teams have been completed. This should provide a good mix of pro, amateur, and pretty good players on all teams.

The beginner and just pretty good singles, \$25 entry fee, and amateur doubles, \$100 per team, is set for Sunday.

The tournament will feature 10 boards in the huge, air-conditioned ballroom, two of them for action play. The legion has a 5-acre park and self-contained RVs and campers are welcome. There will be a \$10 registration fee and 100 percent of all monies will be returned to players.

Those of you who stayed at the Coachman Inn last year, it has been changed to a Comfort Inn, 405-733-1339. Other nearby lodging is the Holiday Inn Holidome, 405-737-4481, Motel 6, 405-737-8851 and 737-6676.

For information, call Ron Huddleston, 405-843-1615; Dave Davidson, 405-845-2791; or Don Crall at the Legion, 405-677-9393.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this big event.

### **5th Annual Balloon Open Doubles, June 11-12, Arvada, Colorado**

The Balloon Inn, 6440 Wadsworth, Arvada, Colorado, will host its 5th Annual Open Doubles on June 11-12. Entry fee for the best 2 out of 3, double elimination event is \$100 per team and will start at noon on Saturday. Sponsor sale is 8 p.m. on June 10, and all entries must be in and paid for by 7 p.m.

For information, call Ron or Gwen at 303-425-9823.

### **North American Championships, Sands Regency Hotel Casino, Reno, Nevada, July 25-31**

The Shuffleboard Federation's 1994 North American Championships will once again be held at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada, on July 25-31, with tournament play on 16 new American boards.

There are 12 events on the schedule (see enclosed flyer for complete details), with guaranteed added money of \$7,000, and \$17,500 added if there is a full tournament.

Please note that July 11 is the deadline for entries; if events are still open, a \$5 per event penalty will be charged for entries received after that date.

For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 810-380-9300.

Remember, the Bob Miles induction into the Shuffleboard "Hall of Fame" will take place at this event.

### **Whistling Oyster's Grand Masters Plus/Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, Aug. 3-7, Quilcene, Washington**

Just a reminder that both lodging and entries are limited for the Whistling Oyster's Grand Masters Plus/Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, on Aug. 3-7, at the Whistling Oyster in Quilcene, Washington. If you've got an RV or tent, you're in good shape for lodging because there's plenty of camping space. However, if you haven't sent your entries in yet, better do so now (see enclosed reservation form) because all events are limited to 32 on a first-come, first-entered basis.

So, how do you get to Quilcene? A lot of people have been asking that question! Not to worry...Enclosed in this issue is a map to guide you to the Whistling Oyster,

*(continued on Page 20)*



# ***Bourbon Spring Tournament Sets Record -- 64 Teams and Waiting...***

The 33rd Annual Spring Doubles on May 7, 1994, at the American Legion Post 424 in small-town, U.S.A. -- Bourbon, Indiana, attracted 64 teams from 14 states, breaking all previous records. And the winners were (horn tooting and drum rolls) Hoosier Bobby Voorhis and Jimmy Allis of Washington! They beat out Bjerne Sunde of Michigan and Frank Blade of Texas, with Bob Perry of Illinois and Buddy Broka of Indiana in third. Others in the top eight pay-off places were: Denny Busch of Nebraska and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, 4th; Greg and Tom Massie, Indiana, 5th; Terry Dowell and Steve Blue, Indiana, 6th; John McGinnis and Joe Muniz of California, 7th; and Larry Creakbaum and Jerry Knox, Indiana, 8th.

Tournament director Fritzi Broka believes that with 64 teams involved, the top 24 teams deserve some recognition, so here is the rest of the line-up: Larry Vance and Rick Royal, Indiana, 9th; Bill Melton, Oklahoma, and John McDermott, Michigan, 10th; Steve Hart and Jim Long, Indiana, 11th; Danny Smith and Carl Silvey, Indiana, 12th; Phil Crowder and Blaine Yeagey, Indiana, 13th; Brian Collins and Paul Elliott, Indiana, 14th; Louise Freer, Pennsylvania, and Marv Smith, New York, 15th; Jerry Bryant and Ken Gay, Michigan, 16th; Slick Parrish and Jim Gentz, Michigan, 17th; John Mauk and Dave Holbrook, Indiana, 18th; Mike Melton and Ron Huddleston, Oklahoma, 19th; Lasca Dowell and John Cowen, Indiana, 20th; Terry Smith and Ted Burr, Illinois, 21st; Tim Meek and Gene Newman, Ohio, 22nd; Judy Iseman, Maryland, and Judy Gartland, Pennsylvania, 23rd; and Phil McGrew and Jim Stockmaster, Ohio, 24th.

The 14 states represented included: Indiana, 44 players; Michigan, 39; Ohio, 17; Oklahoma, 7; California, 7; Illinois, 3; Pennsylvania, 3; Nebraska, 2; Washington, 1; Missouri, 1; New York, 1; Maryland, 1; Texas, 1; and Florida, 1.

## **Bourbon "Blessed Again"**

"If you have never been to a Bourbon tournament, you probably will not understand this, but every event should include an award given to the person who has the most fun," said director Fritzi. "Bourbon was blessed this year to have California players Joe Muniz, Paul Weber, Dave Brennan, Chris Bonner, John McGinnis, and Jim Anderson. Oops! There were seven!

How could I have missed this one? Wes Eades. If I were to give that award for the most fun, Wes had a lock on it the second day he was here (pre-tournament). Wes is the owner of the Dixie Belle in Downey, California, host of a tournament on the 4th of July weekend. That is sure one I would like to be at, especially if Wes lights up the sky like he did at Bourbon!"

## **New Rules for Fall Tourney**

Because of the growing popularity of this tournament, director Fritzi Broka has had to set some entry rules for the next event, the October 1, 1994, Fall Tournament:

1. All entries must be mailed to Fritzi so they reach her by Sept. 26 (American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, IN 46504, Att.: Fritzi Broka);
2. No entries postmarked before July 1, 1994, will be accepted.
3. The entry is \$50 and must be paid in full when entering.
4. You may pay for a spot without a partner, but must call Fritzi (219-858-2278) before Sept. 26 and declare who your partner is or lose your spot.

## **Thanks from Fritzi and American Legion**

Tournament Director Fritzi Broka and the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, would like to thank all the shuffleboard players who participated in the May 7 event. Fritzi would like to especially thank her three helpers, Steve Hart, Joyce Roberts, and Steve Slough.

Fritzi would also like to give one more big, huge thank you to Buddy and their son Wolf for putting up with her the months prior to this event, and allowing her to do it.

She also extends congratulations to winners Jimmy Allis and Bobby Voorhis and to Don Bostwick of Michigan, winner of a new set of weights, and invites all of you to the Fall Tournament in Bourbon on October 1.

***Thanks, Fritzi!***

***That hand-tooled leather clock with the Board Talk logo has a special place above our kitchen table, the "heart" of our home. Come see it!***

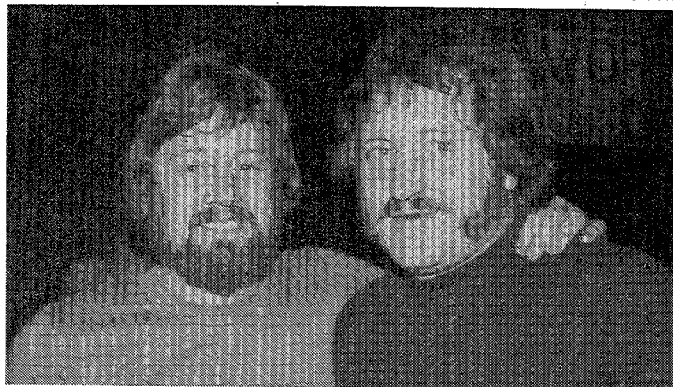
***George & Donna***

## The Hammer *(continued from Page 4)*

Isn't that great? There's another article from that publication in the Bob Miles Tribute. Here are a few photos from the English's box that will spur some memories:



*Bill Melton of Oklahoma at a tournament in 1978. Hasn't aged too much, has he? Must be that good, clean living! Bill and his partner, Dave Williams, versus Billy Chiles and Galen Gaunce were featured in a video tape of a play-by-play match narrated by Bill, another treasure in the English's box!*



*Billy Powell of Seattle and Portland Eddie Graves looking like winners in 1977.*

*Freddie Thuman and Don Cox of Auburn, Calif., ham it up at a 1977 event. While Donny has grown a little more dignified over the years, Freddie's antics at tournaments still keep everyone from getting bored.*



If we ever do get a real Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Bill and Bonnie certainly have some contributions. We thank them for allowing us this opportunity to look at the sport back through the years and share it with you.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

## Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

*us (see Hammer), we became convinced that shuffleboard was once at that point, when the American Shuffleboard Company sponsored and sanctioned events that would determine national championships. That didn't happen and the opportunity was lost when shuffleboard suffered a demise for a few decades -- at least on a national level. Every other sport that gets the dollars that allows them to gain national exposure through TV and prize monies has a "governing body" like the NFL and a commissioner who can fine players for unsportsmanship-like conduct. We don't have that and, in our opinion, we're a long way from having it because of the fragmentation. But, we agree with you -- don't ever give up -- there has got to be a way! The Shuffleboard Federation has made some inroads. The Sands Regency in Reno has added BIG money for the North American Championships for the past three years and is doing so again this year.*

### The Bays Travel Their Way Across the U.S.A.

We just returned from "Travelling Our Way Across the U.S.A." -- well, halfway anyway, and really enjoyed the trip, especially all the shufflers we met, thanks to *The Board Talk*.

We stopped at the Balloon Inn in Arvada, Colorado, introduced ourselves and told them we found them through *The Board Talk*. They all treated us like family. Some real good shooters there.

Our next shuffleboard stop was San Diego and Hoops and Chris's Lounge. Chris was tending bar. Happens that his mother's family is from Holdenville, Oklahoma, not far from Coalgate. This old world ain't much bigger than a good Bill Melton board when you start travelling it!

Next stop was Phoenix, Arizona, and the Dunes. Sue, the owner, is a wonderful person. She sat and gabbed with us for an hour or so. Really enjoyed it.

We're planning a trip to the Chicago area in June and, time and funds permitting, hope to get over Lansing way. We'll keep you posted.

You keep up the good work and we'll try to add our tiny bit.

Al and Carolyn Bays, Coalgate, Oklahoma

*You are exactly why we invest in printing our quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing of subscriber establishments, Al and Carolyn, and thank you for letting them know it works! Please check the listing in the May issue for some new locations in the Midwest as you plan your next trip. Hope to meet you along your way across the U.S.A. And, your "bit" is not "tiny" -- not at all! You're what it's all about!*



**"On The Road Again" with Glen and Madge**

We were at Jimmy L's for their Spring Tournament and I got to play with a fellow I'd never played with before in the draw partners -- Mike Bruza from Tulsa. He's been around since I started the league there in the '80s and he's always been a top player and still is. We beat Sam Summers and John Cason out of first place (thanks, Mike, for carrying me through that last game and I hope to draw you again sometime). It was 11-11 and Mike drew a 3. I'd say he's on the verge of being a pro if he wanted to be. Any time you're in that area and want to play a game, Mike is always around somewhere.

Billy and Lisa Melton were in the winner's circle in that tournament and then Bill goes to the Earl Kelly Benefit in Fort Worth, Texas, and wins that one. The Meltons are always in there close to the top notch, if not at the top. Old Bill has done quite a job getting all of his kids playing good! They raised about \$1100 for Earl, so I'd say that was a success and I'd like to thank everybody for showing up for Earl, an old friend and shuffleboard buddy of mine for over 40 years. I got Earl to shoot a few weights there and he drove a weight from the foul line into a 4. If you don't believe it, I've got it on film. Earl seems to be getting along better now. He had a few things wrong with him and had to get repaired. They've got him on a walking program to help his heart and he is looking real good.

On to Indiana, where I played at Lucky's in North Webster and O'Connors (formerly D.J.'s) in Warsaw, and then to Bourbon for the American Legion's 33rd Annual Spring Doubles where I played with Chris Passariello of Saginaw, Michigan. We just couldn't get the shots down good enough. The two Judys (Iseman and Gartland) beat us and I congratulate them. They said they were going to beat us and they got up and did it!

(Tournament Director) Fritz did a great job as usual. She keeps trying to improve the game, which she has -- 64 teams with a waiting list -- people must like what she is doing! A job well done salute to her and her helpers for making the tournament a success. There will probably be a lot more successes as long as she is running the tournament.

We're now at George and Donna Wilber's in Lansing where I am recording this to get it in *The Board Talk*. From here, we headed north, went across the Mackinaw Bridge and visited the sites up there. Stopped and visited with the Passariellos in Saginaw, then back to the Wilbers before heading for Tennessee to visit Madge's sister. From there, we'll head back to Oklahoma to wash clothes and pack up again for the Memorial Weekend Tournament at Blinky's in California, then on to Reno, Nevada, and Quilcene, Washing-

ton.

Hopefully, I will see a lot of the old players at the Bob Miles induction into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at The Shuffleboard Federation's North American Championships in Reno, Nevada, July 26-31. Hal Perry and I are going to go see him and do everything we can to get him there.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*It's always a pleasure to have you and Madge as guests in our home, Glen. We look forward to your next "episode."*

**News from the Dixie Belle**

Ah! Summertime is rolling around again and we at the Dixie Belle are gearing up for our 2nd Annual 4th of July Tournament. Wes and Eileen Eades are our most congenial hosts and, as always, bend over backwards to make this a great weekend for everyone, from beginners to pros. Of course, any great event wouldn't be complete without the support of the PCSA and some of its members. Their years of experience will make this a smooth-running, fast-paced event.

On to other news....April 16-17 found a few of our Dixie Belle regulars in hot competition at CC's Sports Bar in Anaheim. Our own Gary and Susie were on opposing teams during the competition but when Susie's team fell out, she cheerfully said to Gary, "Now, I'll root for your team." What sportswomanship! Our cheering section also had a great time. Thanks to CC's and all their staff for an enjoyable tournament. Hope to see all the players and friends here at the Dixie Belle on the fourth!

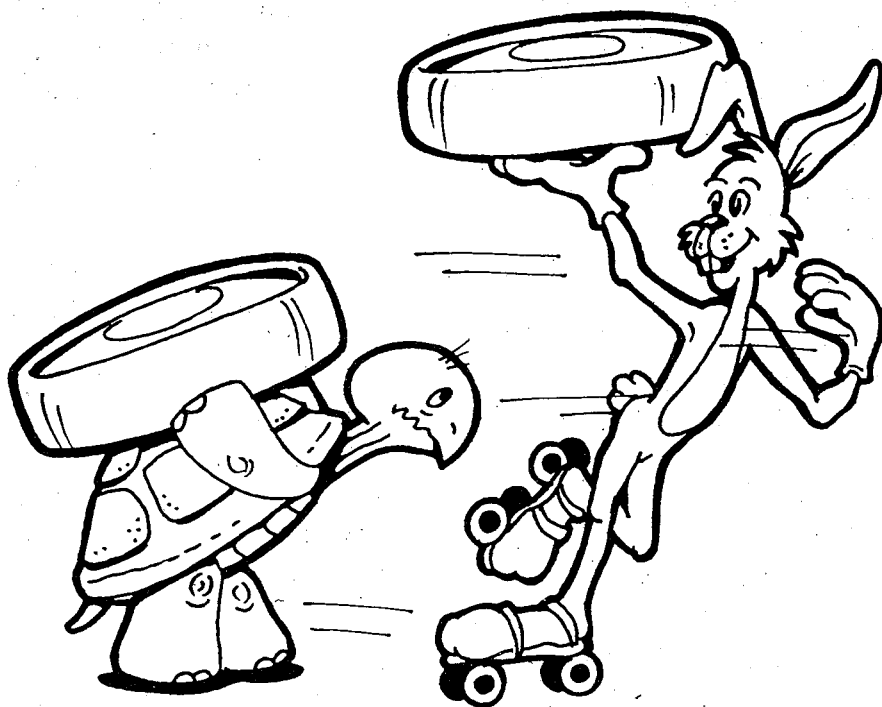
Our Thursday night league is going great guns. Tim O'Brien's team is up by four at this time, but we have a three-way tie and they are all hot for the lead. I am telling you readers, however, shuffleboard is not the only thing going on in the Gallagher Room of the Dixie Belle on Thursday nights. For instance, last Thursday found the Bud Lite Girl and her camera crew filming takes for a new commercial. She had Charlie Adams admitting he'd beach his boat for a Bud Lite while Big Dave was crawling across a football field for his. That sweet little Susie, however, won't share her last one with "nobody." It was great fun to be stars for a short while but, believe me, not even the Bud Girl can slow shuffleboard play Thursday night at the Dixie Belle.

I'd like to congratulate the people of Bourbon, Indiana. They survived the contingent from South California. Wes, Big Chris, Dave, Jim, Joe, John, and Paul all thank everyone for their hospitality. I hope we'll see some of you Hoosiers here at the Dixie Belle this 4th of July.

Along with Wes and Eileen Eades, here's wishing all your lags are fours....

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

**A  
BOARD TALK  
SALUTE  
TO  
BOB MILES**



**FIRST INDUCTEE TO  
THE SHUFFLEBOARD  
"HALL OF FAME"**

**JULY 1994**

# **A Tribute to Bob Miles**



**-- First Inductee to the  
Shuffleboard "Hall  
of Fame"**

## **Bob Miles: "A Real Class Act"**

**By Hal Perry  
Sacramento, California**

I have been associated with shuffleboard one way or another for 34 years. Having met Mickey Mickens five years ago, I now think I have either seen, met or played all the great players of this time frame. Certainly, one of the very best (there are more than you might think) was Bob Miles.

I really believe, like Jessie Owens of Olympic fame, Bob was way ahead of his time. He was a tremendous left-hand player, a great lagger, and had the heart of a lion. He was also a joy to be around, with a wonderful personality and always dressed to the nine's. I miss our battles and I miss Bob Miles.

I wish you well, my friend. You were truly one of the great players in the history of this game. And, you know what, Bob? If I listen real good, I can still hear you say, "You can beat me, but you can't eat me" in the middle of so many sessions.

Take care, Robert, I love ya!

## **Bob Miles: A Respectful Man**

**By Nick Chaffin  
Roseville, California**

Bob is a fine person. He stayed with me for a little while in 1979. I would listen for hours as he told me all the interesting shuffleboard stories from the old days.

We took a shuffleboard trip together and had a lot of fun. At that time, he was having some trouble with his health and it took something from his game, but he was still a tremendous player. I have seen him play in long sessions and wear down players who were much younger than he was.

He was a very neat person. We would come home very late sometimes from playing and he would always take the time to hang up his clothes very neatly.

I remember him telling me, if you went somewhere and made a few dollars, always stay around a little while afterwards and show the people some respect. Then you could always come back later and play again.

I think it would be good to have a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and certainly Bob should be one of the first persons selected.

I truly hope Bob makes a full recovery.

## **Bob's Red Seersucker Pants**

**By Les Simonds  
Yakima, Washington**

As one of Bob Miles' many admirers, I hope he gets well soon. I would like to relate a story about Bob that I will never forget....

I used to be a shuffleboard "hustler" back in the '70s and '80s. I started my shuffle career in Yakima, Washington. Then I moved to Seattle, Washington, where I perfected my skills at the game.

One time at the Northwest Regional Shuffleboard Tournament in Longview, Wash., I was playing on a team from Washington against Bob's team from Oregon. My team beat Bob's and after having a few beers, I started teasing Bob about his "Red Seersucker Pants." One thing led to another and I challenged him to a game for \$100.

I can remember when I started playing him, I was real cocky! But, after several games, I was very humble and broke! He made shots and lagged like nobody I had ever seen before.

Fortunately for me, the next weekend, I teamed up with Doug Buhl and won the doubles tournament, so I got some of my money back.

I'll never forget playing against one of the greatest players in the world.

Oh, those red seersucker pants!

## ***Friends Remember Bob Miles in the Good Old Days***

### ***Billy Mays Challenges Bob***

**By Jack Tyler**

#### **Desert Hot Springs, California**

In the mid '60s, I went to a tournament in Garden Grove, California. I was watching Bob Miles playing Billy Mays. Miles won the game.

Billy turned to Miles and said, "I'll play y'all one game for \$100 -- blindfolded." Bob looked at Mays and said, "You know, Billy, if you weren't such a curiosity, I'd shoot you."

I have laughed over this for years!

Bob Miles sure gets my vote for one of the greatest.

### ***Bob Miles: The Bus Driver***

**By Bill English**

#### **Loveland, Colorado**

Can you imagine a huge Greyhound bus making a U-turn on a California freeway near San Francisco? This is what happened, according to Bob Miles -- purported bus driver.

Bob, at the time, was a professed bus driver, which fit into his pattern very well -- free transportation to anywhere, and with his ability to gather up loose money, it was a natural. It happened that, since Bob was only using the Greyhound as free transportation, plus getting paid for it, he heard that in the great gambling town of Reno, Nevada, there was also some shuffleboard action. Checking the listing of schedules, he asked for the next trip to Reno. He had never driven a bus to Reno before, but that was of no concern to him. Anyway, he got the trip from San Francisco to Reno. He confessed to me that he didn't even know where the bus station in Reno was, much less the intermediate stops.

He left San Francisco in the huge bus and proceeded in the general direction to Reno. Just after he had crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, some lady jumped up and said, "Hey, I wanted to get off at San Rafael and you missed the turnoff." Bob told her he was sorry and immediately looked for an opportunity for traffic to allow him to actually U-turn that Greyhound bus on a California freeway just north of San Francisco! He got that turn accomplished without any casualties and delivered the lady to San

Rafael. Upon returning to the freeway heading for Sacramento, Bob informed all the passengers that due to extreme emergency for bus drivers, he was making this trip for the first time and did not know all the stops along the way, and would certainly appreciate any help from the passengers. He also informed the passengers that he only took this trip because the regular driver had been killed in a bus wreck and the company had to take whatever driver was available. He offered his apologies and got everyone's promise that they would not mention this trip to the Greyhound Bus Company.

After that explanation, most of the passengers were standing around the front of the bus offering all kinds of directions and instructions. He made all the stops, thanks to the passengers' help, and also picked up quite a bit of small money by picking up anyone along the road, collecting cash for the rides, but issuing no tickets.

He said that when he finally got to Reno, he had all the passengers not only telling him his route, but keeping him on constant alert for all speed limits, schools, cops, and other deterrents. With all that, he still arrived at the Reno bus station ahead of schedule.

He said: "Did you know that those damn Greyhounds will do 120 miles an hour with a full load of people?"

Yes, Bob Miles was not only a great shuffleboard player, he was a masterful storyteller -- and most of his stories were actually factual!

### ***From One Champ to Another***

**By Porter White**

#### **Winterhaven, California**

I want to thank The Board Talk for your interest in World Champion Bob Miles. I hope his knowing that people still remember what a great champion he was will help him in his battle with illness.

### ***Miles to be Inducted in Reno***

The Shuffleboard Federation is donating an award that will be presented to Bob Miles by his peers in a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the North American Championships in Reno, July 25-31. Be there for this FIRST!

## *More Bob Miles Memories*

## *From Those Who Knew Him When.....*

### *The "Bob Miles" Award*

From "What's Happening in Shuffleboard" Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 3 June/July 1978

(Courtesy of Bill English, Loveland, Colorado)

How to determine a "World Champ" is a difficult task. In 1941, this was resolved by having an eliminations, not as we know one today, but by using the following methods: The players had to play all of the players, playing "Keep Hammer" (until you scored, the hammer was yours). The boards were 28 feet long and the game was played to 50 points with the board being rewaxed at 25 points. They played 1-2-3 (there was one line on the board with a 3 being a hanger). After a long, grueling session, taking many days, the top 21 players of the world were rated and sanctioned by American Shuffleboard. From that point on, you lost your rating only by being beaten by the players below you and you could only challenge two spots above your rating.

The champs of that era were: 1941-1946, Jimmy VanOrden, Patterson, New Jersey; 1946-1947, Larry Botts, Paisac, New Jersey; 1947-1952, "Kid Spooks" (Leonard Pernowski), Patterson, New Jersey.

A rule change in 1952 was responsible for two world champs that year. The boards were being changed to have two lines on them (as we know them today) and 1-2-3-4 came into effect. This was known as the Western Rule. The Eastern Rule was 1-2-3. In 1952, "Kid Spooks" held the title by the Eastern Rule; John Fabre of Bellflower, California, had the title by Western Rule. In 1953, Bob Miles won both titles.

Bob Miles held this title from 1953 to 1959, defending it 16 times and retiring in 1959 as the undefeated champion. This was the last of what was known as a "Sanctioned World Championship."

What a tremendous and challenging undertaking this would be to have even a Northwest Championship event in which each player was required to play every player in order to determine their rating rather than the eliminations we now have.

### *The 30-Hour Marathan*

By Glen Davidson  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Bob Miles was one of the greatest players of all time and a gentleman all the way. They used to call him "Mr. Shuffleboard" and that was an appropriate name for him because he had class. The man never turned down a game. Even when he wasn't in the best of shape, he would still play and he would not quit. I've seen him lose 12 games in a row and he'd come back and beat them if they stayed hooked up long enough.

I saw him and Leroy Ledford play for 30 hours one time in Yuba City. After 30 hours, they were even up and neither of them could hardly walk. Thirty hours of walking a board is a lot of hours! Finally they were so tired, they could hardly stand up, but they wouldn't quit. So I made the suggestion that they each put up \$500, play 2 out of 3, and then go get some rest or you're gonna fall over dead. They looked at each other and said, O.K., let's do it. It went right down to the wire in the last game and Bob lagged a 2 or a 3 to go out.

Leroy said to me: I was doing all right until you came in here and suggested that we play 2 out of 3; you caused me to lose \$500. I said, well, it was either lose your \$500 or lose your life!

Another story about Bob Miles. Bob had a heart attack in the early '70s and hadn't shot much since getting out of the hospital. He walks into this bar in Longview, Washington, where this guy named Curt Kastigans had been beating everybody. Bob comes in and says I'll play anybody for \$1,000 on this board here. Curt had been playing on the other board, but he puts up his \$1,000 and starts playing Bob. It was getting down to the wire. Curt was 14 and Bob was 12. He had missed a 3 and Curt covered it with a 2. Bob missed that one and Curt put another cover on. Bob always lagged with his left hand, but he outlagged the 3 with his right hand for the \$1,000. Nobody in the house, including Curt, could believe it! Waving his left hand, Bob said: "These guys can't play!"



## *Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return*

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

Bob was telling his stories about the "Good Old Days" of shuffleboard. He had finished his tale about a meeting between "Kid Spooks" and the "Masked Marvel," which took place in Hollywood, California, back in 1950. He was about to begin his second story, where the "Game of the Century" was about to take place. The game matched up Kid Spooks with the best player in the West, whose name was "L.A. Larry." The game took place at a tavern called "Hambones" in Lynwood, California. The year was 1952.

Bob continued: "Like I said, it was a Saturday night, and Spooks walked in the tavern -- and found L.A. Larry. The usual action was taking place on the board, but the players gave up the table so they could witness this long-awaited game. After the "small-talk" ended, the game was just about underway. They had agreed to play for \$100 (which was like \$1,000 in today's money). The board was all set up, but just as L.A. Larry was about to flip the coin for the hammer, Spooks said: 'By the way, you know that the game is off, of course, unless we play by 'Eastern rules.'" Bob then explained: "Now, Eastern rules meant that the game would be played to 50 points, and a four counted as a three, a three a two, and a duece equalled one point. Larry looked Spooks in the eye, and said: 'O.K., I'll play by your rules. Hell, I can beat you even if we played on a cellar door!'"

Then Bob went on: "Finally, the stake was up, the side bets made, and the game was on. Now, a 50-point game took a long time to play, as they played by the keep-the-hammer rules back in those days. So after about 45 minutes, the score was 21 to 18 in Spooks' favor. You could hear a pin drop in Hambones that night. The concentration by the players -- and the crowd -- was totally intense. Then the tide began to turn as Larry started to catch on to the different rules. He actually began to pull ahead! The final score was 50 to 38, with L.A. Larry the winner. Kid Spooks had never been beaten like that before and, as Larry went over to pick up the stake, Spooks walked out the door. It was over in one game!"

Then Bob began one more story about L.A. Larry: "This session took place in Coos Bay, Oregon, and Larry was playing a fellow called 'Slim Dolan.' Slim was a pretty good shooter, you see, but he was no match for Larry. Slim had agreed to play for \$50 a game. Larry was slaughtering old Slim. It was so bad that after

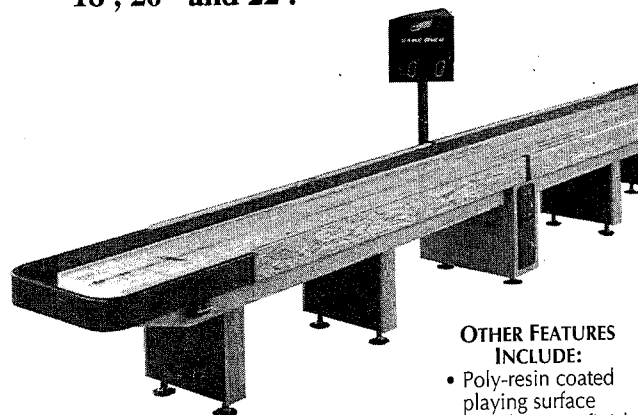
several hours of play, Larry was ahead 33 straight games! At the end of the 33rd game, one of Larry's sidekicks (whose handle was 'Freddie, the Dane') took Larry aside and said: 'Look, if you don't let this guy win at least ONE game, he's gonna quit you!' So Larry took his advice and 'dumped' the next game. What happens then is that Slim takes the \$50 from Larry and says: 'I'm gonna quit you now, Larry. I just wanted to be able to say I beat you...one game! Hell, I had \$1500 left in my bankroll!'" After the laughter died down, Bob added: "I'm telling you, though, it was a real experience to watch the man from L.A. shoot, and beyond a doubt, for at least 10 years, he was not only the 'Best in the West,' he was the Best in the World!"

Then Lil got in on the action, and said that she had one, too. She began: "I'm going to tell you a true story

*(continued on Page 20)*

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## **Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return** *(continued from Page 19)*

about a man who actually DIED from playing shuffleboard!" Eddie gave her a look of humorous disbelief and said: "We better have another round; we're gonna need it for this one!"

Lil assured them that this was a true account; and, after the drinks arrived, she began her tale....

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Don't miss the next issue for Lil's story about the man who died from playing shuffleboard. Balboa Ron has done a lot of research on his stories of past "hustlers" and while the names may be fictitious, the happenings are actual and are based on his interviews with people who were on the scene or had a good "first-hand" knowledge of the events.

---

## **Tourney Talk** *(continued from Page 8)*

whether you're flying into the Sea-Tac Airport or driving.

Over \$2,000 will be added to the pot for this big event and whether you win or not, you'll be guaranteed a good time at this "reunion." Drawings for prizes will be held, courtesy of printed program advertisers which, at this point in time, include: Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington; Sports Plaza Tavern, Everett, Washington (they are offering 2 for 1 drink and food specials for shufflers who bring in their printed program with them); Port Angeles Distributors and Budweiser, Port Angeles, Washington; United Distributors, Port Angeles, Washington; and The Board Talk, Lansing, Michigan. Hopefully, more will be joining the list before we go to press with that program. This will be a real keepsake with the winners of every shufflers' reunion tournament since 1985 listed. See how many autographs you can get while you're here!

So you don't win on the boards or in the drawings? You'll still go home a winner with Bill and Sandee's famous seafood buffets on Saturday and Sunday -- FREE! Check the enclosed flyer for tournament details, lodging information, and other Whistling Oyster amenities. Questions? Call Bill Bailey at 206-765-9508, 3436 or 3411.

*(Editor's Note: We've heard some "grumblings" about The Shuffleboard Federation staging their North American Championships so close to this event. Let us assure you that before that decision was made, Federation officials communicated with Bill and us. It was a mutual agreement that neither tournament would suffer as a result of that scheduling. Both were set far enough in advance so those who could only participate in one would have time to make a decision, and those who had the time and resources to participate in both could make*

*their travel arrangements accordingly. Both events offer their own unique attractions, both have a record of good participation, and both, we're convinced, will be successful.)*

## **Summertime Tournament at Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New York, July 28-31**

The friendly Fridley Family invites you to participate in their Summertime Tournament at the Dew Drop Inn, 37 Virginia St., Waterloo, New York, On July 28-31. Action starts on Thursday night with \$5 and \$10 round robins. The open singles, \$20 per person, is scheduled for Friday, with a mixed doubles, \$20 per team, and Draw partners, \$10 per person, on Saturday, and the bring partner event on Sunday, \$30 per team.

Entries are limited and tournaments at this site are usually sell-outs, so use the enclosed reservation form to save your spot.

A popular feature of the Fridley's tournaments is Elsie's open buffets, served to all participants. The Dew Drop Inn has four well-maintained boards.

For information, call the Dew Drop Inn, 315-539-1346, or Doug Jr. at 539-0256.

## **Sharon Maxwell Memorial Fund**

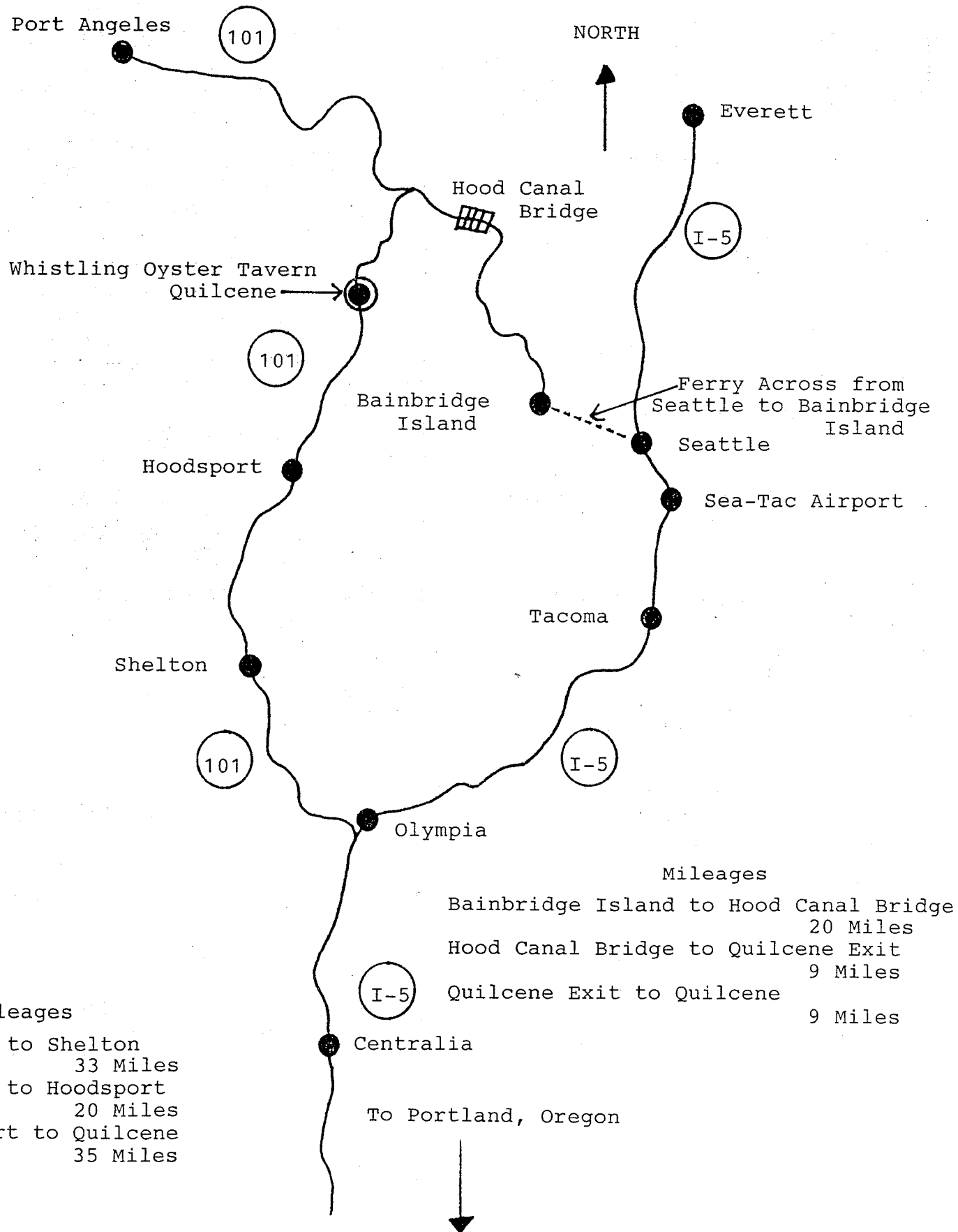
Under very tragic circumstances, California shuffler Billy Maxwell's former wife, Sharon Lee, was killed on March 26, leaving two children, Jamie and Nicholas, ages 7 and 4, motherless. Donations are being sought for a fund which was established to help Jamie and Nicholas.

Donations may be mailed to: The Sharon Lee Maxwell Fund, c/o Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association, P.O. Box 8143, Bellflower, CA 90706, or The Sharon Lee Maxwell Fund, Great Western Bank, 27450 Ynez Rd., Suite 100, Temecula, CA 92591.

The PCSA will be sponsoring a benefit tournament for Billy and Sharon's children in the near future. Watch future issues for details.

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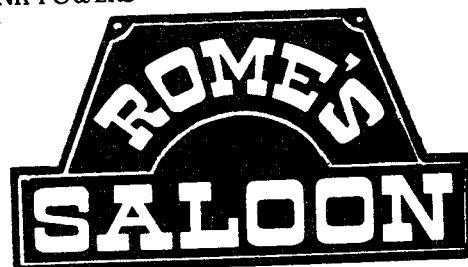
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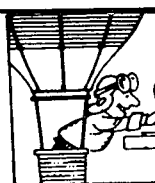
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