

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. 3

March 1994

The Hammer

For the past 10 years, it has been our privilege to cover a lot of shuffleboard action. Most of those tournaments haven't been as "glamorous" as the one we just returned from -- the PCSA's Extravaganza VI in Las Vegas -- but each has been unique whether the facility was a swanky casino or a modest neighborhood bar. The one common denominator has been the great people who make up The World of Shuffleboard and each time we go home with a new appreciation for them.

In Vol. 1, No. 2 of *The Board Talk* in February of 1984, we had a feature on "Women in Shuffleboard -- From Sidelines to Center Stage" with interviews from a mixed doubles tournament at the Wagon Wheel in Lake Orion, Michigan (Cheryl Collins and John McDermott were the winners). One of the interviewees for that feature was 81-year-old Elsie Lile who was playing in her first tournament and said that she loved the game because of the people -- and because it was good therapy for her arthritis.

And in that same issue, we reported that Darrol Nelson of Oregon had won the "first official world championship shuffleboard tournament" at the Showboat in Las Vegas. We well remember that first Vegas tournament, organized by Billy Mays and the U.S.S.A. We were operating on a very thin shoestring, with no subscribers and no advertisers at that point in time. The trip took all of our savings and we had no quarters for the slots once we got there! But we felt an "obligation" to be there to accompany our Michigan shuffler, Lee McDonald, who had won his entry in the "world championship" at A.J.'s Saloon in Pontiac the month before (our intent then was to be a state publication). Had we known that Lee was terrified of flying and would sit on George's lap all the way there, we may have saved the price of a seat!

We thought Lee would be a "shoo-in," but even though he beat shuffleboard legend Billy Mays, he didn't place. Second-place honors went to Ed Graves (Portland Eddy) of Oklahoma, with Doug Buhl of Washington in third, and K.D. (Mac the Greek) Makarounis of Oregon in fourth. We were awed by the skill displayed by these winners. Little did we know then that we would still be awed by some of the same players 10 years later!

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Tourney Talk

A Florida First at Huddle's, March 25-27!

Sure, they've been playing that game called shuffleboard with sticks in Florida for decades -- but here is the state's first table shuffleboard open championships. It happens at Huddle's Sports Cafe, 7100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, Florida, on March 25-27.

Action will start on Friday night with blind draw round robins. A bring-partner event is on Saturday's agenda, \$50 per team, single game, double elimination, starting at noon. On Sunday, there will be a singles, \$50 entry fee, single game, double elimination, also starting at noon. A \$10 registration fee will be charged. Payoff will be 55-30-15 for all events.

For tournament and lodging information, call Marty Allen, 407-471-4053; Dudley Hutcherson, 305-925-2926; or host Charlie Fisher, 305-985-8382. A free buffet will be served to players on Sunday.

See ad in this issue and plan to participate. Help us spread the word about this new tournament site! Huddles has two great boards and lots of local shufflers just waiting to welcome winter-weary visitors.

Bring Partner Tourney at Rome's Saloon, Denver, Colorado, March 25-27

Rome's Saloon, 785 W. Mississippi, Denver, Colorado, will host a bring your own partner tournament on March 25-27. Entry fee is \$50 per team, limited to 16 teams, 2 out of 3, double elimination on two boards, 15 point games, Shuffleboard Federation rules.

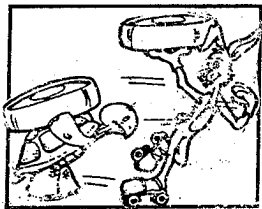
The sponsor sale will be held on Friday, March 25, at 8 p.m., with \$10 blind draws following. Tournament action will start at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Rome's is adding \$200 to the pot.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site and call Rome's, 303-778-9976, if you plan to participate.

Jerry D's Beaver Bowl, Dacono, Colorado, March 11-13

The 7th Annual Beaver Bowl (for women only -- but guys can buy) will be held at Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern, 604 8th St. on Highway 52, Dacono, Colorado, on

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Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Move Over, Dad, Here I Come!

We started our Eugene/Springfield (Oregon) league in October and finished January 9 with the Club Tavern in first, Tom's Tapper I in second and Breaux's in third. Thanks to Linda Breaux for the nice banquet. The Sportsman's trophy went to J.J.'s Tavern.

There was a play-off between the Club and Tom's Tapper and who should be on that winning team but Arin Nelson, Darrol's son! He was so happy that they took first place and suggested that a photo ought to be in *The Board Talk*. I told him "no way" but here it is.

Evie Wechter, Coburg, Oregon



"Hey, Dad, I'm Number One, too," says Arin Nelson (right) to his father, Darrol (center), one of the nation's top players.

We've been a fan of Darrol Nelson since 1984 (see *Hammer*) and we're just delighted that there is a second generation we can follow in the years ahead. We hope to meet Arin at our 10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in Quilcene, Washington, in August.

— 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.)

Jerry & Susan D: "Do Drugs -- You're Out!"

We feel the time has come to address a very touchy subject which is not only in Colorado, but throughout the nation -- a subject that has been ignored or heads have been turned as to not start a scene. The issue is drug use (abuse) by shuffleboard players.

Bar owners go out of their way to make things nice for players and spend many hours promoting those tournaments. There are some players who use drugs while playing in these events. Drugs are consumed in the restrooms and in parking lots. Do they have no conception of the danger they are putting the owners in, let alone themselves and fellow players? The bar is our livelihood and they are putting our license and business in jeopardy.

When confronted on this subject, some players have stated: "It's just part of the game," or "I just can't win without it," or "It helps my concentration." Well, our response is: ""B.S."

There are a lot of good people in this sport and it is ridiculous to subject them or the bar owners to this problem. Let's start getting the respectability back in the game! Our heads will no longer turn! Do drugs -- you're out!

Jerry and Susan DeNovellis, Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern, Dacono, Colorado

We salute you, Jerry and Susan, for having the "guts" to address this problem which plagues many bar owners. If we are ever going to get on ESPN, like so many believe we deserve, shuffleboard needs to clean up its act. Anybody who needs drugs (and that includes alcohol) to participate in any sport has no business being there! And anybody who doesn't realize the liability of their hosts needs to put their feet in those shoes. Violations can cost licenses and put shuffleboard sites out of business. Is that what they want?

Litz's Gets Well-Deserved Salute

Litz's Tavern, located in Spokane (Eastern Washington) just wrapped up its 3rd annual Shuffleboard Affair. Each year, we have a Vegas board and on Friday nights, players get together and have a draw partner tournament. Entry fee is \$6 of which \$1 per player is put aside for the board. Gary, the owner, adds \$1 per person towards the board and the rest goes to first and second place finishers/

All players automatically receive 1 point just for playing. Players coming in first, second and third receive more points accordingly.

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1994 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

MARCH

March 11-13

Annual Beaver Bowl
Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern
Dacono, Colorado

March 17-20

St. Pat's Weekend Tourney
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

March 18-20

Annual Spring Tourney
Jimmy L's
Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 19

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

March 19-20

9th Annual Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

March 25-27

First Open Championships
Huddle's Sports Cafe
Pembroke Pines, Florida

March 25-27

Bring Partner Tournament
Rome's Saloon
Denver, Colorado

APRIL

April 8-10

King of the Hill Tournament
Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern
Dacono, Colorado

April 9-10

19th Annual Bring Partner
Corner Tavern
Bow, Washington

April 29-30-May 1

Spring Tournament
Bay Country Moose #831
Queenstown, Maryland

MAY

May 6-8

4th Annual Draw Partner Event
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

May 7

33rd Annual Spring Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 13-15

4-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

May 20-22

Spring Tournament
Glenn's Tavern
Funkstown, Maryland

May 27-30

Memorial Weekend Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

May 30 Prims

JUNE

June 10-12

4-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

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 26-31

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

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

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

Sept. 9-11

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

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)

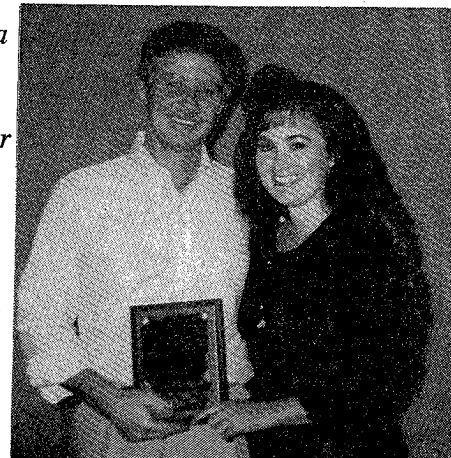
At that 1984 tournament in Vegas, we distributed our little 4-page, one-month-old newsletter and told participants to put their names on a sheet of paper if they'd like to receive the next issue -- at no cost. A few signed up and that was the beginning, with Porter White of California becoming our first PAID subscriber -- the first to take a chance on a very tentative venture.

We're very proud -- and grateful -- that Porter and Darrol and Doug and Eddy are still on our mailing list 10 years later, along with so many new subscribers gained at the recent tournament in Vegas and those in between. Without question, the highlight of every one of those tournaments during the past 10 years -- whether in Vegas or Reno or Bourbon or local bars -- has been the people who have said: "Thank you. If it hadn't been for you, we wouldn't be here." That's a very humbling experience, which we will never, ever, take for granted. Thank you for thanking us! It keeps us going and growing!

Another highlight for us at the 1994 PCSA tournament was the announcement by Joe Muniz that daughter Lisa Taylor will be back on his management staff for next year's Extravaganza. That's good news for all of us, particularly for her Mom, Marvel, who certainly deserves a medal for carrying a heavy burden these past few years.

Lisa is a beautiful (inside and out!) and capable young woman and it will be great to have her back.

Back in 1990, Lisa presented a first-place plaque to David Williams for his open singles win. (Doug Buhl took that honor this year.) Lisa will be back at her post at next year's P.C.S.A. Extravaganza VII.



Once again, our sincerest appreciation to Bellflower Bruce Hale and the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association for making our attendance at this event possible.

A warm welcome to our new subscribers. We hope you will use this communications vehicle to share your news and views.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers
THE BOARD TALK



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Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 1)*

March 11-13. It will be a blind draw, \$25 per person, double elimination. If time permits, a singles tournament will also be played. Two boards.

For information, call Jerry or Susan, 303-833-3469 or 833-3959.

St. Pat's Weekend Tourney at Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New York, March 17-20

You don't have to be Irish to participate in the St. Patrick's Weekend National Shuffleboard Tournament at the Dew Drop Inn, 37 Virginia St., Waterloo, New York, on March 17-20. The friendly Fridley Family invites you to join them for five fun events and lots of Elsie's good food.

Action will start on Thursday, 7 p.m. with \$5 and \$10 round robin draws. The open singles, \$20 entry, is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. There are two events on Saturday, mixed doubles, \$20 per team, starting at 9 a.m., and draw partners, \$10 per person, at 2 p.m. The bring partner tourney, \$30 per team, starts at noon on Sunday.

The Dew Drop Inn has four boards, but events are limited, so if you haven't sent in your reservations yet (flyer in last month's issue), better do so now because this one sells out fast! For information, call 315-539-1346.

Jimmy L's Spring Tournament, Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 18-20

Jimmy L's, 9520 E. 11th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma, will host its annual Spring Tournament on March 18-20. An open draw, \$50 per person, is on Friday, single game, double elimination, with drawing at 6:30 and sponsor sale at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, immediately following the open draw finals, there will be a pro-am bring partner event, \$100 per person entry, best 2 out of 3, double elimination.

A \$10 registration fee will be charged covering both events. There are hotel accommodations nearby and discount coupons are available for the Saratogo at Jimmy L's.

Check the flyer in last month's issue and if you need further information, contact tournament director Cliff Goff, 918-664-9573.

19th Annual Bring Partner Tourney at Corner Tavern, Bow, Washington, April 9-10

The Corner Tavern, 1255 Allen West Rd., Bow, Washington, will be the scene of the 19th Annual Bring Partner Tournament on April 9-10. Entry fee is \$50 per team. For information, call Nancy at 206-757-6113.

Jerry D's 4th Annual King of the Hill, April 8-10

Please note the date change in the 4th Annual King of the Hill Tournament at Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern, 604 8th St. on Highway 52, Dacono, Colorado. We were able to make the change on last month's flyer before it was printed, but not the calendar or Tourney Talk. It's on April 8-10, a singles with \$100 entry fee, winner-take-all, double elimination with \$200 bonus to the second place winner. The sponsor sale money will pay first, second and third places.

For information, call Jerry or Susan at 303-833-3469 or 833-3959.

Harvey's January Tournament: "A Real Blast!"

The East Coast gang gathered at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, on Jan. 14-16. The "blast" came from the north as temperatures dropped to -2 with a wind chill factor of around -15. Nobody wanted to go outside this weekend, but the competition heated up inside as the brave set of The World of Shuffleboard played on, reports Dick Gorman.

Friday night's draw partner event (which for the first time ever had to be concluded on Saturday morning) was taken by Mark Grove of Millington, Md., and Chuck King, Greenwood, Delaware. They stopped the challenge of Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, Md., and Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Del., who had to settle for second. Third place was won by John Lukas of Millington and Dewey Shortridge of Street. Fourth place went to Buddy Brammer and Mike Renzo (Lafayette Inn), both of Rising Sun, Maryland. Fifth and final money spot went to Lindsey Hall, Baltimore, Md., and Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pennsylvania.



Louise Freer of Pennsylvania took first place in the women's singles and first place with her partner Chuck King in the bring partner event.

A group of stout-hearted women braved the cold winds of Saturday morning. No surprise that Louise Freer of Lansdale, Pa., was the strong shooter and took first place.

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Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 5)*

It was a real good finish for Wendy Davis of Wilmington, who took second, with the always-strong contender, Judy Iseman of Chestertown, Md., in third.

The bring partner event on Saturday afternoon had some strong competitors but when the smoke cleared, it was Friday night's winner, Chuck King, teamed up with women's singles winner, Louise Freer, who took top honors after a two game finale. Second place went to Buddy Brammer and Dick Gorman, with Jim McDaniels of Darlington, Md. and Mickey Mickens of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey in third place. Fourth went to the team of Judy Iseman and Len Dell of Baltimore.

Judy and Len came back the next day to claim the lion's share of the mixed doubles pot, with Joann Ware of Sudlersville, Md., and Chuck King taking second place honors. Third and final money spot went to Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman.



Are these the faces of happy winners? Judy Iseman and Len Dell, winners of the mixed doubles, must have been thinking of the long, cold trip home in -2 degrees weather!

"A side note: Wendy Davis was in the hospital Thursday and Friday for a kidney stone problem, came out, played Saturday and Sunday, then it hit her again on Sunday," said Dick. "On Monday, she was hospitalized again. Hopefully, she will be out and back playing in the league where she is captain of her first-place team before you read this." *(Editors' Note: We both can sympathize with you, Wendy! Unless you've had one of those, you don't really know what PAIN is all about!)*

"It is still cold here with snow, sleet and ice, but no problems like our friends in the Los Angeles area are having as this is written. We hope all of them are spared," said Dick. *(Editors' Note: We talked with some of them at the PCSA Extravaganza in Las Vegas, Dick, and*

while they certainly felt the effects -- an experience most of us can't comprehend -- as far as we can determine, our shuffleboard friends are O.K. If anyone knows any differently, please let us know.)

"Harvey's next tournament is scheduled for April 9-11. Hosts Darlyne Belcher and Harvey Comer are really helping to keep shuffleboard on the move on the East Coast. Why not come try out at one of the upcoming 3-day tournaments in April, May and June. Call 410-836-8881 to reserve a spot. You will really like this place," said Dick.



If Len Dell won the mixed doubles tourney with Judy Iseman, why is he kissing this lady? Come to one of the tournaments at Harvey's Place (see calendar for dates) and maybe you'll find out!

Voorhis/Boaz Head Beef's Series of 5 Doubles

In the third of Beef's unique "series of five" doubles tournaments in Waterloo, Indiana, on Jan. 22, Hoosiers Bobby Voorhis and Dave Boaz were the winners, bringing their total point count to 8. They will be strong contenders for the \$2,000 added pot by Playfair Shuffleboard and Dale Gushman. But hot on their trail are Steve Blue and Larry Huffer who, with their second place finish, are at 6 points. Third place went to Jerry Knox and Jim Long, who are now at 4 points, and fourth to Buddy Broka and Terry Dowell (Buddy has 2 points credited to him and his life partner, Fritz, and 1 with Terry).

Larry Creakbaum of Indiana and Lisa Melton of Oklahoma were at 4 points ("Larry was hoping Lisa could make it back up here for another event," said Beef's better half, Marge). Also at 4 were locals Larry Vance and Rick Royal. After *The Board Talk* went to press, the fourth in the series had been held on Feb. 19, so the standings may have changed by the time you receive this issue.

"We were really happy to have Board Talk George, Rudy Stober and J.R. Lopez from Lansing, Michigan, and Jim McDaniel and Jimmy Wallace from the East Coast here for this tournament. We thank them for coming," Marge said.

The fifth and final event in this series is March 19 with an open singles on Sunday, March 20. Be there for the big pay-off! For information about the tourney and/or lodging recommendations, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965.

Because of the good response to this "first," Beef and Marge are considering making the "series of five" an annual affair.

4th Annual Draw Partner Event at Shamrock Tavern, Longview, Washington, May 6-8

Mark your calendars now for the 4th Annual Draw Partner Tournament at the Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, on May 6-8. Action will start on Friday night with \$10-\$20 draws. On Saturday, the draw and bidding for the open draw will start at noon. \$50 per person entry fee with \$500 added!

"Head chef and bartender Bernice will make chili again and if the air clears by Sunday, there will be more food," reports Ralph Duarte.

For information, call the Shamrock, 206-577-7444.

4th of July Tourney at Brass Rail in Vegas

The Brass Rail, 1000 N. Nellis Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada, will host a 4th of July tournament. Tentative

events include an open singles, draw partner, open doubles and mixed doubles.

For information, call Alan Cole, 702-452-5486, or Orie Munson at the Brass Rail, 702-453-7371.

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

Mark your calendars now and start planning for the 8th Annual Nationals at the Acme Tavern, 1310 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma, Washington, 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. Tournament directors will be Jim Foran and Rick Gindt.

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

5th Annual Grand Masters Plus/ 10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, Whistling Oyster, Quilcene, Washington, Aug. 3-7

It's official, folks! It's really going to happen and are we excited? You bet! The 10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion is going to be on the West Coast this year. After a high-level meeting between Bill Bailey and Sandee Van Wagenen of the Whistling Oyster and George and Donna Wilber of The Board Talk, held in the horse race betting parlor of Aladdin's in Las Vegas, it's cast in stone.

There has been one major change in the tentative schedule printed in last month's Board Talk. The mixed doubles on Wednesday night, Aug. 3, has been changed to the traditional Board Talk "George's fun event" (Phil McGrew of Ohio calls it "dreaded") -- the four-person team event. We've held it every year since No. 1 and found it to be a great "mixer" to get acquainted with all participants. You must have at least one woman on a team, so it's a good option to the mixed doubles. Try it; you'll like it!

This will be an entirely different scene from our previous Board Talk tourneys. Quilcene is, as Bill and Sandee described, in the "boonies." Granted, those "boonies" are beautiful, but lodging will be limited, so be sure to reserve early -- very early! If you are nature-lovers with RVs or tents, this will be your cup of tea. There's plenty of room for you travelers (no hook-ups but showers are available for a quarter), and the Whistling Oyster has picnic tables, horseshoe pits, fire pits, everything a real "outdoors person" could ask for.

Although we haven't experienced it personally, everyone who has been at the Whistling Oyster tells us that the free seafood buffet they serve is well worth the trip -- oysters, crab, smoked salmon, clam chowder, on and on goes the list and we can hardly wait! All you can eat breakfasts will

(continued on Page 8)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: A set of American Shuffleboard weights (pre-1993) in "brand new" condition. Call Louise Freer at 215-661-0108 if you have a set to sell.

APRIL 15TH is on the horizon. Are you ready for the IRS? If not, we recommend Jim Hoffman, Inlet Tax Service, 771 Pendergrass Ave., Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576; phone 803-651-3944. He's The Board Talk's Tax Man!

WANTED: Do you have a special message to deliver, a product or service to sell? If so, it only costs \$5 for 25 words or less in *The Board Talk's* classified section. Get it started!

THE BOARD TALK
421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-371-2538

Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 7)*

be available for \$4, including biscuits and gravy, french toast, sausage, bacon, juice, rolls and an unlimited quantity of hot coffee!

The Whistling Oyster boasts five great in-house boards. One other adjustment you regular Board Talk Reunion participants will have to make is this: everyone will use 1st class American house weights. Enter that information into your computers so there's no question once you arrive.

Enclosed is a flyer with detailed information and registration forms. Entries in all events will be limited to 32, first-come, first-entered, so don't delay, particularly if you need lodging.

Once again, we encourage you to use the 4th of July weekend (our usual dates) to participate in the Southwest Open or the Brass Rail Tournament and the Shuffleboard Federation Reno Tourney on July 26-31 while making your way to Quilcene.

Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

The first year this event was held, a newcomer to shuffleboard, Mark Tatham, took first place. He chose to take the money instead of the trip to Vegas to attend the PCSA tournament which was then held at the Showboat.

The second year, the pot got bigger. We not only offered a round-trip air ticket, but the person with the most points also received four-night's room. Steve Kalamanski ran away with top honors and not only took the trip, but he participated in the Acme Tavern team event.

1993 was a different story! More shooters participated -- some old and some new -- so needless to say, the pot was great and the prizes were greater.

The shuffleboard players in Spokane would like to congratulate first-place winner Mike Pond. He received: a set of American weights, a custom-made weight case purchased from Ted White of Portland, Oregon, and last, but not least, a round trip air fare to Las Vegas to participate in the PCSA tournament. Great job, Mike!

Second place went to Jim Cox, who received \$100 and decided to go to Vegas anyway and try his talent there.

We must not forget to mention 3rd place. \$50 went to John Rostallan, a true beginner and great newcomer to The World of Shuffleboard, with just a couple of points behind second place. Way to go, John!

But, of course, it doesn't stop here. A true supporter of our game is a wonderful lady we call BB (Bea Gilman). For many years, she and her husband worked real hard to keep the game alive. They ran leagues, would go to the different taverns and maintain the boards. They ran several tournaments for many years and we, the players,

to show our appreciation to a beautiful person, took up a collection, held a couple of round robin tournaments, and owner Gary added \$200 and BB is off to Vegas! We purchased a round-trip ticket with room.

Thanks for being you, BB!

All this starts up again in March. If you're in the area on any Friday night, stop in and join us. Litz's Tavern marks the spot and 8 p.m. is when we start.

Rosa White, Loon Lake, Washington

What a great idea, Rosa! If we ever get that Shuffleboard Hall of Fame going, you should nominate BB for induction. Wish we had met her in Vegas. Maybe when we come out West for the 10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in Quilcene, we can have that honor. In the meantime, shufflers, stop in at Litz's on Friday nights.

Michigan's 5 to 9 Win Erased: Cassie Protests

Well, Vegas was great again -- except for the Team Event officiating. The P.C.S.A. has got to find an official who will stand by his own decision. This is regarding a call that the official made on a match that was played by the Michigan Team and the Deluxe Team.

I had noticed that the Michigan Team had started on the wrong boards. I told the captain and this person went and got the official. He had talked it over with both captains and the official made the decision to keep playing the games as they were. So when those two games were over, with the Michigan Team winning both, the Deluxe Team cried protest.

There should have been no protest at all, especially after the official told them to finish the games on the boards they were playing on. But the protest was taken and the official told the Michigan Team that if it came down to the first two games to decide the match, they would have to play them over.

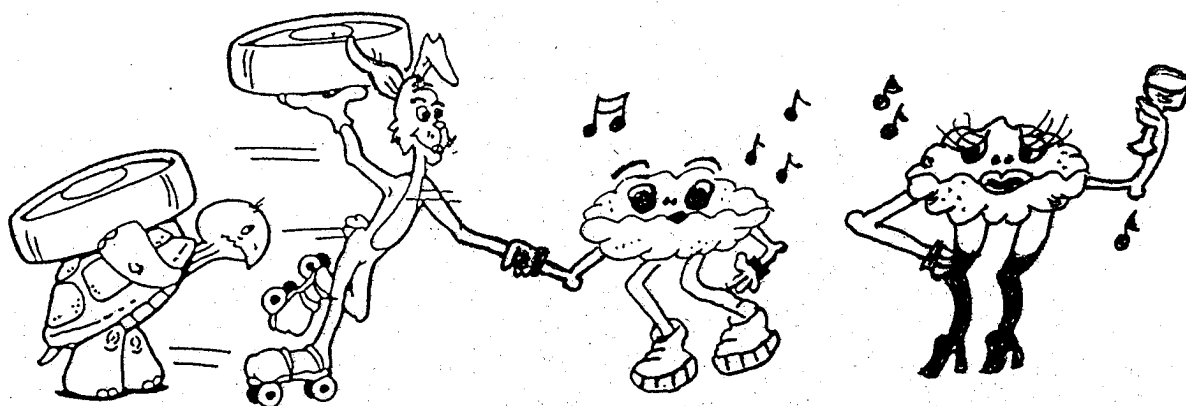
To me, the official did not stand by his decision. If he would have, the first two games would have counted. Since the official told them to continue the games as is, they should have counted. This bad decision cost the Michigan Team the winner's bracket. They win five out of nine and lose the match.

That, to me, does not make sense.

Cassie Kern, Pontiac, Michigan

***Your contributions to Shufflers' Notebook are welcome! Deadline is the 15th of each month.
Send to: The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan,
Lansing, MI 48906***

Joining hands to bring you one great tournament.....



**The 5th Annual Grand Masters Plus
and the
10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion
AUGUST 3-7
Whistling Oyster Tavern**

20251 Hiway 101, Quilcene, Washington; Phone: 206-765-9508

****Wednesday:** Board Talk's "dreaded, lots-of fun" 4-Person Team Event, \$100 per team
(single game, double elimination -- must have at least one, but no more than one, woman on team)

****Thursday:** Open Singles, \$100 entry

(2 out of 3, double elimination, 21 in loser's bracket)

****Friday:** Draw Partner, \$25 entry

(single game, double elimination, depending upon entries)

****Saturday & Sunday:** Grand Masters, \$150 per team entry

(2 out of 3, double elimination, 21 in loser's bracket)

-- FIVE IN-HOUSE BOARDS --

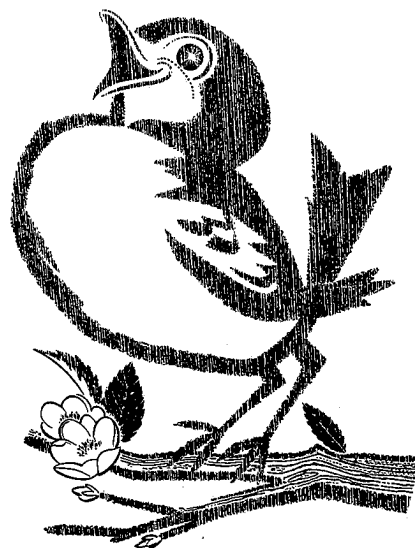
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March 26 and 27: Tournament action starts at noon each day.**

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SATURDAY MARCH 26th 12PM

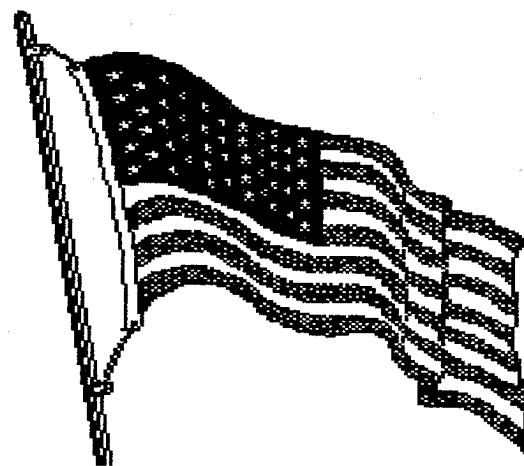
DOUBLES COMPETITION/BRING PARTNER. \$50.00 A TEAM,
SINGLE GAME, DOUBLE ELIMINATION.

SUNDAY MARCH 27th 12PM

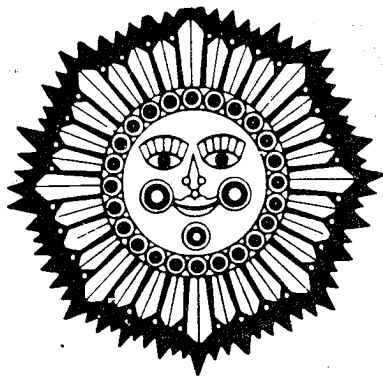
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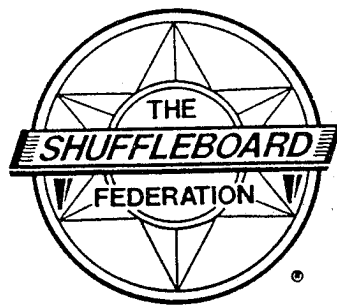
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NORTH AMERICAN SHUFFLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 25-31, 1994

Sands Regency Hotel Casino, Reno, Nevada

If the early reaction to the new dates for the North American Championships is any indication, this year's tournament should be by far the biggest we have ever had. On behalf of our sponsors, American International Shuffleboard and the Sands Regency Hotel Casino, we want to thank those who attended last year's tournament and welcome the new participants who will be coming this year.

Along with the traditionally strong amateur turnout, we anticipate a very good showing for the pro events. The number of pros coming to Reno has been increasing, and therefore, we will be adding money to the pro singles and pro doubles.

Changing the dates to the end of July put our tournament and the PCSA Extravaganza, which is held the first week of February, almost exactly six months apart. This should be good for both tournaments. Some exciting changes will be featured at the 1994 North American Championships, including a complete overhaul of the format for the N.A.S.L. Team Event.

Our goal in using a rating system for team competition was to provide a format that would give every team a chance to win. We had no idea how difficult, not to mention controversial that would turn out to be. Teams that came to the tournament usually felt their team was rated too tough, and the rest of the teams were rated too easy. Also, other players did not come at all because the team they wanted to bring did not qualify under the handicap guidelines. Many people think that everybody should just bring their best team and go for it. Well, that is exactly how we are going to do it.

However, the past success of the Reno tournament has been the result of the large number of average players who filled the Division II/III events, as well as representing the majority of players in the N.A.S.L. Team Event. So the changes we are making will not come at their expense.

As our past participants know, we put out comment forms during the tournament. We take the suggestions on them very seriously and our decisions reflect that. The consensus among Division II/III players is that they would like to have their own team event and, therefore, they are going to get it. Also, because the largest number of singles and doubles have been in the Division II/III events, they will have the highest limit on the number of players for singles and doubles.

Here is a quick outline of how the N.A.S.L. Team Events will work. Both will use six-person teams, with at least two ladies (but not more than four) per team, and play best five out of nine using the popular three-board format. For Division I, you can bring anyone you want who is not a pro. For Division II/III, no pros or Division I players allowed; other than that, bring whomever you want.

DUECES WILD, a definite crowd-pleaser last year, will be back, with a small change based on feedback from last year's participants. The four-person teams will still be determined by random draw, but all the pros and Division I players will be distributed evenly among the teams. Ideally, each team will end up with one pro, one Division I player, and two Division II/III players.

The flyers for the tournament were not ready by the deadline for this issue but will be in the April issue of *The Board Talk* and have been sent directly to all past participants and N.A.S.L. members.

If you have never been to the Reno tourney but are thinking about coming, we guarantee you a very well-run tournament in an excellent hotel. Anyone who has been to the tournament before will verify that. For more info, or to request an information/registration kit, please call or write The Shuffleboard Federation, 41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, MI 48167-2411, (810) 380-9300.

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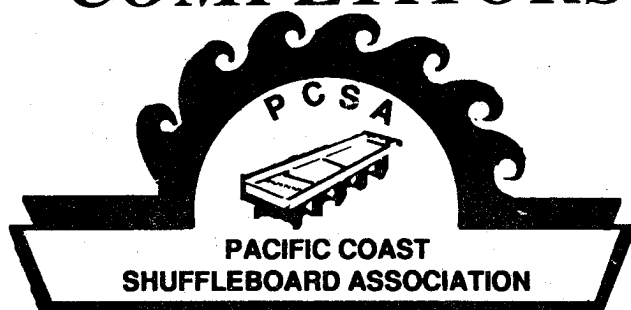
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EXTRAVAGANZA VI DRAWS TOUGH COMPETITORS TO TINSEL TOWN



By George & Donna Wilber

Whether they were players who have travelled to Las Vegas for every one of the P.C.S.A.'s six Shuffleboard Extravaganzas or a newcomer to the scene, all the participants who packed the big ballroom at the Aladdin on Feb. 1-6 came to win. There was tough competition from start to finish and some of those who couldn't win on the boards found consolation at the slots.

The six-member pro team competition launched the six-day event in grand style. Those who were there to watch Oregon and Oklahoma battle for top honors in the finals got their share of thrills. The team of Oklahoma -- Bill, Billy and Mike Melton, Glen Davidson, Ron Huddleston and Tom Hendrix -- needed one game to win but the valiant warriors from Oregon -- Darrol Nelson, Doug Buhl, Steve Wilson, Chuck Norris, Chris Danke and Galen Gaunce -- would not surrender.

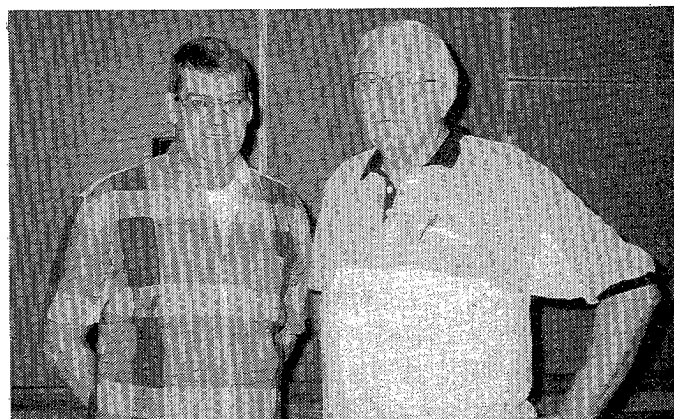
The center of attention was the match pitting Bill and Glen against Chuck and Galen. The score was 12-4 in Oklahoma's favor. Chuck had a 1 on the board, plus a hanger. The 1 wasn't blocking the hanger so Bill confidently took aim and fired -- and missed (so unusual a happening that the gallery gave a collective gasp). Chuck had the hammer and drew a 3 for a total of 8 points. The score was now tied, 12-12, then it was 13-13. With the hammer, Glen drew a 2 to win. During this grand finale game, Glen had drawn a 4, two 3's and a 2, proving he's not over the hill yet -- as he sometimes claims!

Because the A-B Draw was filled with 32 teams and the "stand-by" list kept growing, a second A-B Draw was added to the schedule with 16 teams.

A-B Draw #1 was an event of firsts for Milt Benedict of New York. It was his first trip to Vegas, his first plane ride, and his first time playing with shuffleboard powerhouse, Bill Melton. Sponsored by the American Legion Post 876 in Sherburne, New York, Milt drew Bill and experienced another first -- his first win at a P.C.S.A. Shuffleboard Extravaganza. Odds are he'll be back again to record some "seconds."



Extravaganza VI Pro-Team Event winners from Oklahoma: Billy Melton, Glen Davidson, Mike Melton, Bill Melton, Tom Hendrix and (kneeling) Ron Huddleston.



A happy Milt Benedict (left) after taking top honors in the A-B Draw with partner Bill Melton.

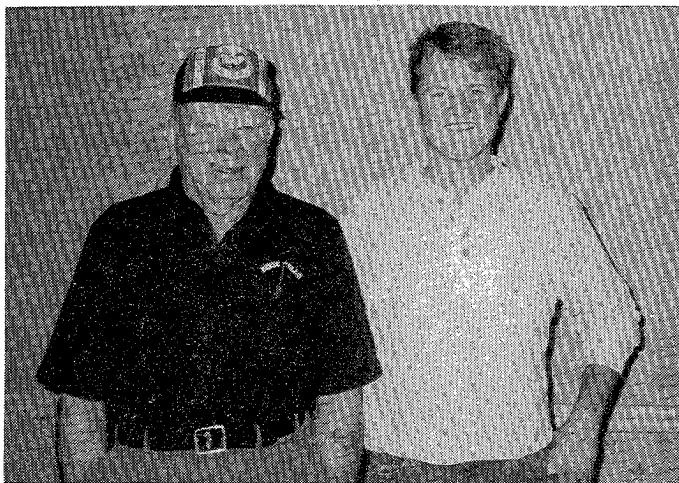
Other winners in A-B Draw #1 were: Buddy Broka and John Lathala, 2nd; Bud Hillburn and Rollie Westerhoff, 3rd; Rick Gindt and Paul Elliot, 4th; Fred Thuman and Terry Dowell, 5th; Bjerne Sunde and Dennis Bird, 6th; Gwyn Orsi and Larry Vance, 7th; Billy Melton and Jolene Lembke, 8th.

In the A-B Draw #2, Rick Royal of Muncie, Indiana, who has only been playing for two years, and veteran Jimmy (the cop) Kumpula of Florida/Michigan took first place and the biggest share of the pot.

Other winners were Bob Perry and Fred Washington,
(continued on next page)

Extravaganza VI *(continued from Page 13)*

2nd, Billy Maxwell and John Luke, 3rd; and Karl Spickelmier and Rod Fitch, 4th.



A newcomer to the PCSA Extravaganza scene, Rick Royal of Indiana, and a familiar face at events across the country, Jimmy Kumpula of Michigan/Florida, took top honors in the A-B Draw #2.

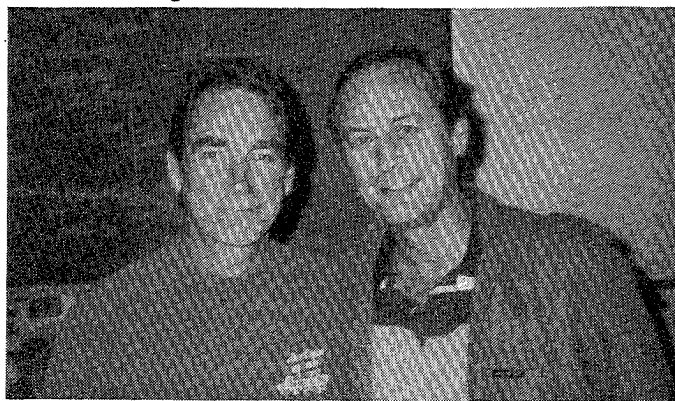
Coming out on top of a field of tough contenders in the Women's Singles was Rena Hendrix of Oklahoma, beating out second-place finisher Diana Hagen of Texas (last year it was vice versa). Gwyn Orsi of Nebraska finished a strong third, with Sandy Swift of Oklahoma in fourth place to round out the winners' circle.



Rena Hendrix gets a congratulatory hug from husband Tom for her win in the Women's Singles. Tom was on the winning Oklahoma Pro Team, so it was a pretty good week for the Hendrix family, including their grandbaby who got a special gift.

There were some heavy-hitters on the list of 32 players signed up for the Pro Singles and Doug Buhl of Oregon

showed the same winning style that impressed us 10 years ago (see Hammer), the first time we saw him in action. He took the title from defending champion Bill Melton of Oklahoma, who had to settle for second this year. Denny Busch of Nebraska (who displayed his skills as an auctioneer as well as on the boards) took third place, with the formidable Darrol Nelson of Oregon in fourth. Other winners were: Al Pease, Washington, 5th; Rick Gindt, Washington, 6th; Bobby Voorhis, Indiana, 7th; and Mike Pond, Washington, 8th.



Doug Buhl (right), the 1994 Pro Singles Champ, shown here with his oftentimes doubles partner Darrol Nelson, who finished fourth in the Extravaganza event. This duo also finished second in the Pro Doubles.

Snatching the Pro Doubles crown away from defending champions Jim Allis and Bobby Voorhis this year were no strangers to the winners' circle, Bill Melton of Oklahoma and Dave Williams of Texas. They beat out Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson of Oregon to take top honors. Tough Texans Diana Hagen and Bob Shaw of Texas finished third, with Billy Maxwell and Ted Zariphes of California in fourth place. First-time Extravaganza participants Milt Benedict and Dick Losee of New York finished in fifth place. Other winners were: Fred Thuman (selected by the editors as the most enthusiastic winner at all six Extravaganza events -- just ask Terry Dowell of Indiana and the gallery that got bowled over with his enthusiasm!) and his partner, Nelson Jennings, both of California, 6th; Leroy Ledford of California and Steve Wilson (last year's 2nd place finishers), 7th; and Rich (Bubba) Warren and A.Z. Turnbo of California in the final money spot.

It's always a "trip" to be present when the Amateur Team Event starts. The respectful, relative silence of the gallery, like in golf, that prevails throughout the pro events gives way to unbridled, partisan cheering, with every frame of action punctuated with shouts of encouragement and hand-clapping and feet-stomping. Our only disappointment is that the plane that takes us back to the world of reality always leaves before the finals.

This year, rising above a field of 19 teams (that's 171

players!) was the Acme Tavern of Washington -- Rosa White, Earl Cole, Bob Shirley, Steve Kalamanski, Doug DeBois, Michelle Foran, Dick Heflin, Billy Powell and Chris Danke. (Check out the list of winners! Did we choose the right state for our 10th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion?)

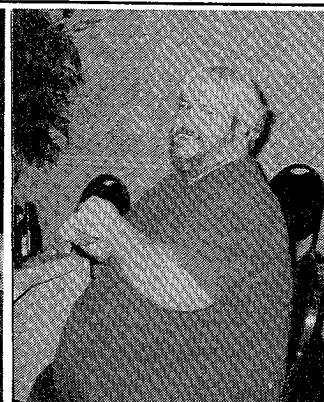
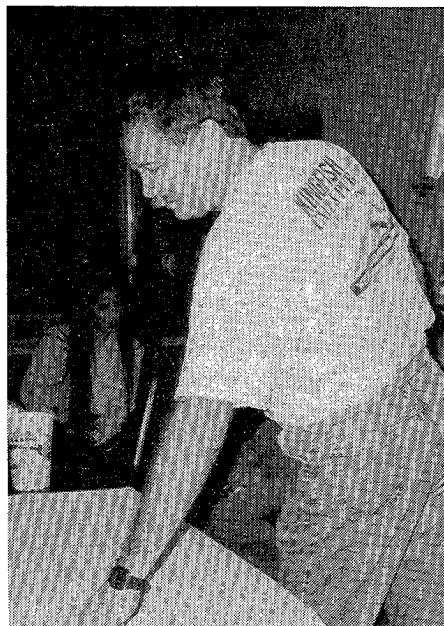
The Oklahoma Friends, who lost to the 50/50 team from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana last year, finished second again this year. Kimmell Inn #2 from Indiana took third place with California's Dixie Bell in fourth. The Gathering Team from Michigan placed fifth, with hometowners Deluxe Liquor in sixth and final money spot. *The Board Talk* extends a special salute to The Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, and owners Ron and Gwen Vogt for bringing three (watch our lips -- three!) teams to this event. Now, that's shuffleboard support!

P.C.S.A. official Paul Weber, taking the risk of missing somebody, extends thanks to the following people for helping to make Extravaganza VI another success: Al Stewart, A.Z. Turnbo, Rick Thomas, Sun Glo Corporation, Triple Crown Shuffleboard, Jay Kimball, Joanie Swenson, Bob and Anna Brunskill, Bubba Warren, Fred and Lois Thuman, Lou Lusero, Billy Chiles, Billy Maxwell, Jody Muniz, Bill, Mike and Billy Melton, Madge Goff, Dan Hitt, Chris Bonner, Kevin Larkin, Jim Anderson, Marvel Muniz, The Shuffleboard Federation, The Board Talk, and -- last but not least -- Joe Muniz and Karl Spickelmier.

There was a total of \$77,000 in the tournament pot, and \$60,000 in Joe's traditional crap game on Saturday night. The raffle for Bill Melton's board did not net enough to cover costs, so ticket buyers will receive their money back.

We join Paul in recognizing the contributions of the people "behind the scenes" who made it happen. We didn't capture all of them in action, but here are a few....

Karl Spickelmier, at his "bracket" station from early morn 'til late at night. How he keeps his "cool" throughout what sometimes is a "zoo," is beyond imagination.



Marvel Muniz, faced with the impossible task of keeping everybody satisfied, and Bubba Warren enjoying a very unusual break in the action.



Long before you arrive -- and long after you go home -- there are Al Stewart and A.Z. Turnbo to set the boards up, take them down again, and haul them back home -- this year in challenging weather and roads.

A nice touch, and a treasured memento of the P.C.S.A. tournaments is the printed program. We noted this message in this year's:

"Six years have passed since P.C.S.A. hosted Shuffleboard Extravaganza I -- six years! For a hundred nightmarish reasons and a thousand indelible memories, it seems like only yesterday...."

"Each year since has served to richly add to our already well-stocked store of memories..."

"There was shuffleboard played at its best by the legion of players who have graced our stage with their play."

"It has been an incredible experience. Thank you -- and 'Lag a Four!'"

(signed) Joe Muniz, Paul Weber, Karl Spickelmier

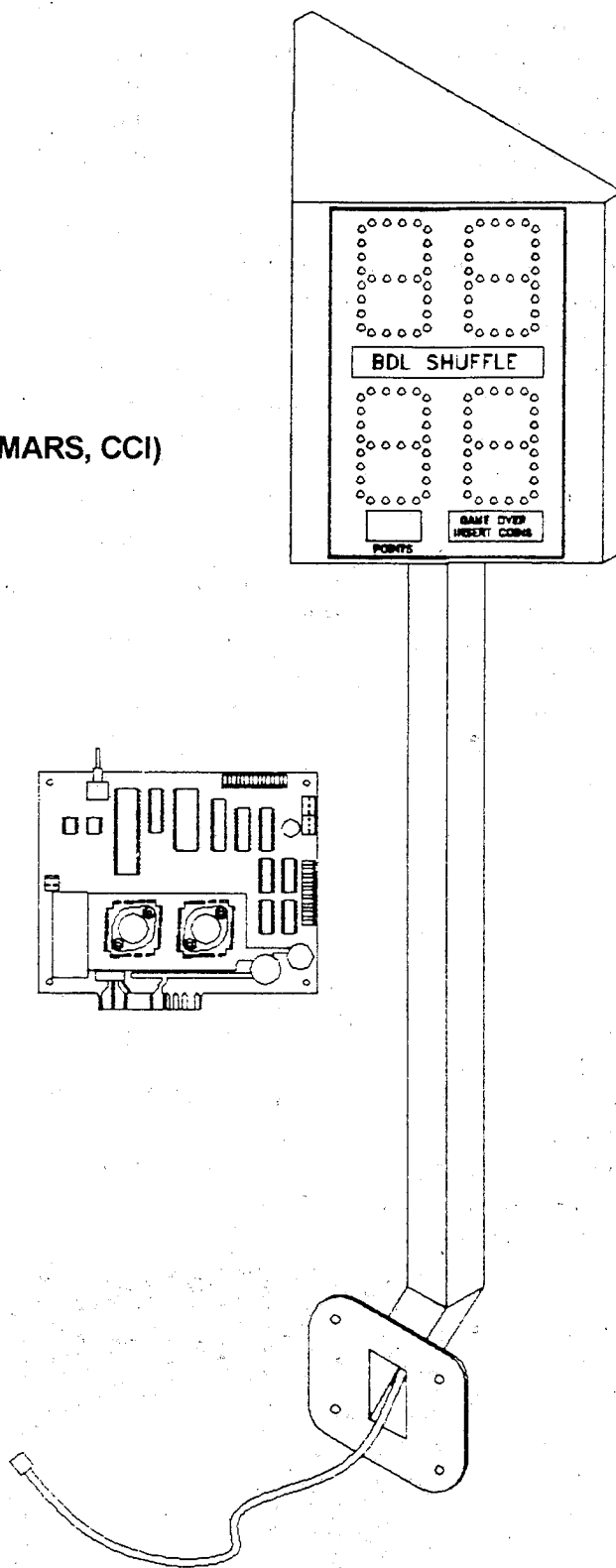
That pretty well says it all. We're glad we were there to record the action at Shuffleboard Extravaganza VI. Congratulations to the sponsors, the devoted workers, the winners, and all those who participated!

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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

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

(Editor's Note: In the November, December 1993 and January 1994 issues, we reprinted Balboa Ron's short stories about a shuffler named Frisco Eddie, originally published in The Board Talk back in 1985. In February, we were pleased to continue that series with "The Return." Last month, Eddie had just met Long Beach Lil, who had challenged him to a game.....)

Eddie had lost the toss (his mind was so messed up he called "tails" instead of "heads"), and he tested-out his lag on the first shot with a left cross. It was a deep duece. Lil kind-of smiled, and then stuck it with a perfect left-hand "jersey" shot. She knew that if she followed her opponents' shots, shooting the same shot they did, and "sticking" for a few frames, they'd soon get the notion that she could do everything THEY could -- and more. This proved to be the case here, and as Eddie looked into those steel-blue eyes, they were telling him somethingsomething he wasn't really sure he wanted to know.

After a few frames, Eddie saw Lil shoot everything in the book -- the jersey, the "expanded-thumb," and the freehand, to name a few. She was cold and calculating as she worked the board. She was silent then, letting her weights do the talking. Her concentration put Eddie on edge a little, and he even blew a couple of weights. Lil kind-of smirked at him then. It was as though she had called his shots for him.

The crowd had gathered now to watch the action. This put Eddie even a little more on edge because he was down. Lil kept the pressure on and the score was now 14 to 12 -- her favor, and Eddie's hammer. On her last shot, she placed her weight almost mid-board and centered. This essentially blocked Eddie's left and right cross lags. Eddie's mind was racing a mile-a-minute now. He was thinking, "Oh, man! This is a WOMAN I'm playing here; this is a nightmare!"

Eddie sprinkled some wax on the board as he planned his strategy. When he decided on his final shot, he took his No. 4 weight in his right hand, bent down to size up the board one more time -- and let it go! As the weight floated down the board, Eddie thought, "I've got to make this shot," and again reflected:

"Geez....It's only a woman."

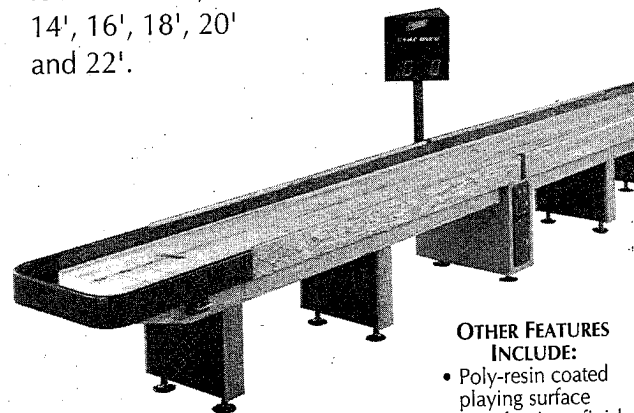
Will Eddie's shot make it? Or will Lil prove that his "It's only a woman" attitude was remiss? Watch next month's issue to find out what happens in this continuing saga.



"Frisco Eddie" author Ron Schweikert of Las Vegas enjoys some sideline laughs with photographer Madge Goff at the P.C.S.A. Extravaganza VI.

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More Tourney Talk....

Upcoming Action at Bay Country Moose, Queenstown, Maryland

That popular shuffleboard tournament site, the Bay Country Moose Lodge #831 in Queenstown, Maryland, has two upcoming events on the calendar.

The first is on April 29-30, May 1, and will include a draw partners on Friday night, \$10 entry; a bring your own partner on Saturday, \$25 per team entry; and a mixed doubles on Sunday, \$25 per team entry. There will be a reservation form flyer in next month's issue, so be watching for it. In the meantime, mark your calendars. For information, call Bay Country Moose, 410-827-9832, or tournament director Terry Gertz, 410-827-6755.

The next big tournament will be on Aug. 12-14, same format. It's on the calendar. Plan your summer vacation around this one!

Bourbon's 33rd Annual Spring Doubles, May 7

By the time you receive this issue, many of you will have just participated in the Winter Doubles in Bourbon and here is an invitation from Tournament Director Fritz Broka to come on back....

"The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, and I would like to invite one and all to help make this one on May 7 another record-breaker.

"It is a great honor for me to be given the chance to take over as director of the tournaments in Bourbon. It's been a year and a half since my first one, and the entries are still increasing. This tournament started in 1961 in my hometown when I was in diapers. It went on for 23 years before I ever knew what shuffleboard was. One of the winners of that first tournament is still with us and has brought his trophy back in for all to see. By the way, he said there were six teams in 1961.

"Through the last 32 years and many different directors, this has grown from six teams to 61 teams in May of 1993, my second tournament as director. WOW!

"The Legion has five permanent boards, cheap drinks, raffles, good food, and lots of friendly people. We play single game, double elimination, with no back-to-back games on the same board. There is a 64-team limit and I have had to put an entry deadline to help me be better prepared when Friday night arrives.

"Some of you are probably saying: there is no way this can be done in one day, but it is true -- it can! The Legion cannot be open on Sunday so I have borrowed a little bit of video technology from the world of bingo and have a system so that you can be anywhere in the building (upstairs or down) and still know when your game is coming up (as long as you know your game number).

"So, choose yourself a partner, pack your bags and

head on out to Bourbon for the weekend of May 7. The entry deadline is May 3, cost is \$40 per team. Sponsor sale starts at 8 p.m. Friday, May 6, with play starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 7.

"No one is rated at this tournament. There will be beginners getting their feet wet and pros drying theirs off, meaning the pros don't always win here.

"Make entry checks payable to Fritz Broka and mail to the American Legion Post 424, 202 S. Main, Bourbon, IN 46504 (Att: Fritz). Last May, we had over \$15,000 in prizes.

"P.S.: I would like to give the P.C.S.A. a big round of applause for a job well done in Vegas 1994. Congratulations to all the winners," said Fritz.

Southwest Open, American Legion, Del City, Oklahoma, June 30-July 4

The Southwest Open at the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma, will feature eight tournament boards and two action boards. There will be at least three events for each of the three different skill levels recognized in the format: (1) The Beginner and Just Pretty Good Players, (2) Amateur Players, and (3) Pro Players.

"See our flyer in next month's Board Talk for a complete schedule of events," said tournament director Ron Huddleston. "Last year, a player with less than one year playing experience placed third in the Beginner-Pretty Good Player singles. Everyone allowed in this event has a good chance of winning it. As usual, we have left the last day of the holiday weekend open to allow everyone plenty of time to return home safely. Start making plans now; this will be one you don't want to miss!"

A Salute to the P.C.S.A.

We just returned from the PCSA tournament in Las Vegas and wanted to congratulate Joe, Marvel and crew for putting together another successful tournament.

Our compliments to the Aladdin as we were very pleased with our accommodations and must say their staff was more than helpful to our Oklahoma group. Some of us arrived early in the week and split rooms until friends or spouses arrived. What could have been mass confusion in room changes was handled with a professional and pleasant attitude resulting in more than satisfactory rooms and service for each of us.

As for the change from the Showboat to the Aladdin, we like being on the strip close to other attractions and Sharon (who is somewhat claustrophobic) appreciated the fact that the elevators never stuck between floors and stopped at the correct floor -- as was seldom the case at the previous location.

Ron & Sharon Huddleston, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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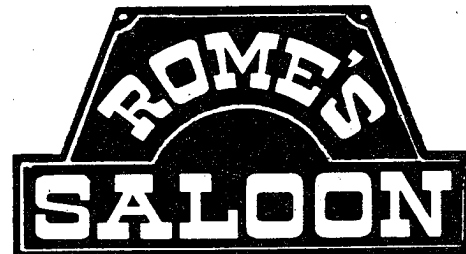
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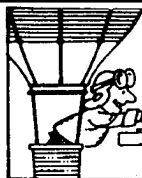
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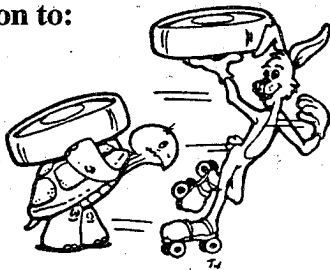
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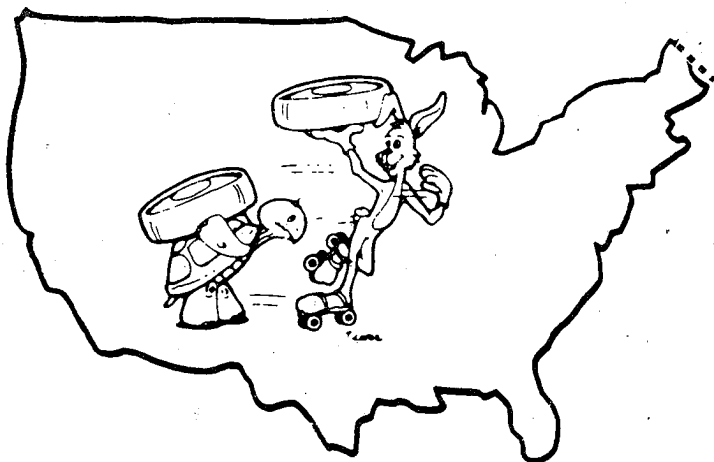
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