

# 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. 11

November 1994

## The Hammer

Thanksgiving 1994 brings a lot for us to be thankful for! A review of this issue, Vol. 11, No. 11, illustrates why.... First, Tourney Talk and the Calendar of Events shows how "healthy" our sport is today and will continue to be. Second, the number of ads indicates that suppliers/tournament sponsors have recognized this newsletter as a viable communications vehicle to The World of Shuffleboard. Third, the letter in Notebook from Cano Graham proves, once again, that the "caring" for one another is more intense in this sport than any other.

Last, but certainly not least, that we all have to be thankful for, is the opportunity to have had somebody like Mickey Mickens in our lives. The outpouring of tributes that we received following his death on Sept. 15 (after we had gone to press with the October issue) was truly a tribute to his life (see Notebook and full-page tribute from Al Ryan). Our only regret is that we didn't have the opportunity to record all the wonderful stories he had to share about his experiences as a shuffler from the '50s and thereafter.

On this Thanksgiving Day 1994, we're thankful for each and every one of you who have become an integral part of our lives, particularly those who write us those "good work, keep it up" notes with your renewals (you think those are taken for granted? Not!) and those who spent a few hours in our home (like Mike and Matt Melton, Glen and Madge).

May your Thanksgiving Day be as special as ours.



***We're  
Thankful  
for YOU!***

***George & Donna  
Wilber  
Publishers***

## Tourney Talk

### **2nd Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Tournament, Dixie Belle, Downey, California**

This PCSA-sanctioned event is scheduled for Nov. 24-27 at the Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, California, and will include two events on four boards.

The first is an open doubles. Entry fee is \$100 per team, limited to 16 teams, 2 out of 3 double elimination. Sponsor sale is set for Thursday, Nov. 24, 9 p.m., with play starting on Friday at 10 a.m.

The second event is an ABC draw, \$25 per player entry fee, limited to 60 players, also 2 out of 3, double elimination. Sponsor sale will be held Friday at 8 p.m. with play starting at noon on Saturday.

A complimentary buffet will be served on Saturday between 2 and 6 p.m.

For information, contact Debbie or Eileen at the Dixie Belle, 310-803-4943.

### **10th Annual Thanksgiving Classic at Gold Nugget, Arlington, Texas, Nov. 24-27**

The Gold Nugget Club, 2602 W. Division, Arlington, Texas, will be the site for the 10th Annual Thanksgiving Classic Tournament on Nov. 24-27.

Action will start with a draw partner event on Thursday at 7:30, \$50 entry fee. Single game, double elimination, and no two pros or 0's may draw up.

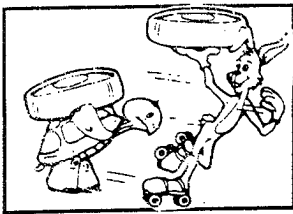
On Friday, 7:30 p.m., the bring partner is scheduled to begin. \$100 per team, single game, double elimination, and no pros may play together.

On the agenda for Saturday at 5 p.m. is the draft team event, patterned after the successful one held at this year's Southwest Open. \$300 per 6-person team. Everyone from pros to 5's will play and the draft will be held in private so no one will know in what order they were picked. This event is double elimination, best of 9 games.

For information, contact David Williams, 817-451-9583, or Bobby Williams, 817-496-8972.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

*(continued on Page 4)*



# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views  
from The World  
of Shuffleboard

## An Ode to Mickey Mickens

For 30 years I've known ya,  
A thousand miles I've traveled with ya,  
Hundreds of games I played with ya,  
A lot of championships I won with ya.

The spoils of victory I shared with ya,  
The disappointments of losing I cried with ya,  
A hundred games I walked ya,  
A few times I beat ya.

I learned sound fundamentals from ya,  
I had many disagreements with ya,  
Sometimes I really got mad at ya,  
But most of all, I'll never forget ya.

From East to West and in between, everyone knew  
about ya,

Billy and Darrol and all the other fine players  
respected ya,

Claire and Theresa will dearly miss ya,  
Your friends will always remember ya,  
Even those who couldn't beat ya.

This great game won't be the same without ya,  
A great champion we'll always call ya,  
May The Good Lord be with ya,  
Love ya.

Bill Lally, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*First of all, thank you for your phone call just as we were going to press with the October issue that allowed us to let The World of Shuffleboard know that we had lost one of our "greats." We're sure your beautiful words will bring comfort to Claire and Theresa and all those Mickey left behind.*

## — 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.)

## John Wants Recognition for Mickey

Mickey Mickens was the best shuffleboard shooter on the East Coast for the past 30 years. All the players who knew Mickey know he was the BEST! Please, for East Coast shuffleboard players, can we get Mickey recognition in the Hall of Fame? I know I speak for every player on the East Coast.

John Lukas, Millington, Maryland

## ...And So Does Bernie Martin

After reading the article a few months ago about Mickey Mickens, Stosh, Meatball, the Herrmann brothers, etc., little did I realize I'd be seeing them again so soon, all together -- but not under such sad circumstances. There were people from the New York area, Delaware and beyond that I haven't seen for years.

Mickey's occupation was listed as an automobile salesman and, for sure, he was a darn good one. He sold at least four cars to my family alone. But Mickey's lifetime vocation was shuffleboard. He was a funny man, a Lou Costello for the night and Claire usually was there at his side encouraging "Himself" to break out in a song -- "Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder," "The Rose of Tralee" or "Danny Boy." It was party time with Mickey around. He enhanced my life and everyone else's, young and old alike.

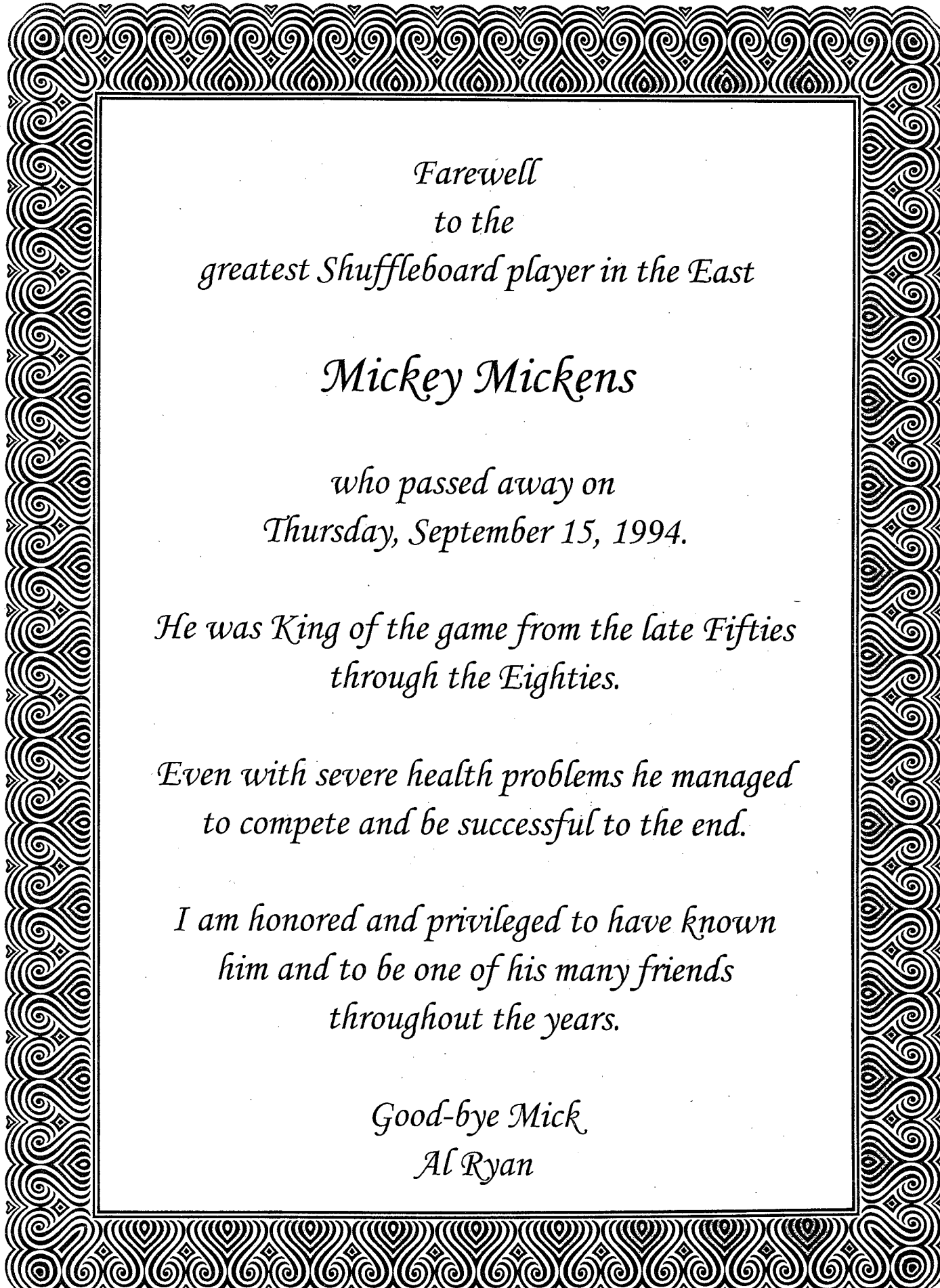
The automobiles will rust and rot away, but Mickey's memories and legends will live on and on. Claire and family should be very proud.

Please use the enclosed check to help defray the expenses of setting up some sort of memorial in his honor. He certainly was one of the greatest in the shuffleboard world.

Bernie Martin, Villas, New Jersey

*We are awaiting word of the formation of a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee that will have representation from all parts of the U.S.A., including the East Coast, and we're certain Mickey Mickens is a very viable candidate for induction. Your contribution, along with that of Bill English of Colorado, and the ad revenue that Al Ryan paid for the full-page tribute to Mickey, will be passed along to that committee as soon as they have met the legal requirements and have appointed a treasurer. Your letters, along with our endorsement, will be submitted to that committee for the induction of Mickey Mickens into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. As a personal tribute, our 11th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, scheduled for June 12-18*

*(continued on Page 7)*



*Farewell  
to the  
greatest Shuffleboard player in the East*

*Mickey Mickens*

*who passed away on  
Thursday, September 15, 1994.*

*He was King of the game from the late Fifties  
through the Eighties.*

*Even with severe health problems he managed  
to compete and be successful to the end.*

*I am honored and privileged to have known  
him and to be one of his many friends  
throughout the years.*

*Good-bye Mick  
Al Ryan*

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

### **The "Moose Will Be Loose" at Bay Country, Queenstown, Maryland, Nov. 11-12**

A favorite place for East Coast players and visitors from across The World of Shuffleboard is the Bay Country Moose Lodge #831 in Queenstown, Maryland. Those friendly folks there will host a tournament on Nov. 11-12, featuring a draw partner and a bring partner.

The draw partner, \$10 per person entry fee, is scheduled for Friday night, with drawing and bidding at 6:30 p.m. and play immediately following. The bring partner, \$25 per team entry, starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Bay Country has three good boards and great food, so don't miss this weekend of shufflin' fun! Advance registration is suggested. For information, call 410-827-9832. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment to spread the good word. And mark your calendars now for their next event: Aug. 11-12, 1995.

### **Frank Hepler 55 and Older Tourney, Shamrock Tavern, Longview, Washington, Nov. 25-27**

A tournament in memory of Frank Hepler, a popular Washington player who passed away just after he had turned 55, will be held at the Shamrock Tavern, Longview, Washington, on Nov. 25-27. It will be a 55 and Older Draw Partner event, starting at noon on Saturday. Come early for the \$10 round robins on Friday night.

A popular feature of this shuffleboard tournament site is the famous chili by head chef and bartender Bernice.

There are motels within walking distance of the Shamrock. For information, call the tavern at 206-577-7774, and ask for Jerry Berquist.

### **2nd in Beef's "Series of Five" Doubles, Nov. 19, Kendallville, Indiana**

By the time you receive this issue, participants will already have scored points in the "Series of Five" doubles events at Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana, for a chance at the \$2,000 Playfair, Inc. and Dale Gushman have added to the total pot. Watch the December issue for news about who scored the most points in the first match, held Oct. 15.

The second in the series is set for Nov. 19. Entry fee for each of the series is \$40, with sales at 11 a.m. If there are over 16 teams registered, it will be mark 4, play to 15, until money games. Payback is: 1st, 50 percent, 4 points; 2nd, 30 percent, 3 points; 3rd, 15 percent, 2 points; and 4th, 5 percent, 1 point. "Poor Beef" will also present jackets to the first-place finishers of the five series.

The next in the series of five will be on Jan. 21. Other events at Beef's, in addition to the series, is a Doubles on New Year's Eve, and an open singles on April 29. For information, call Beef or Marge, 219-347-9965.

### **6th Annual Indiana State Shuffleboard Championships, Nov. 25-27, Chance's "R", Muncie**

Open to Indiana residents only, this event will include an open singles on Friday, Nov. 25, \$20 entry; open doubles on Saturday, Nov. 26, \$50 entry; mixed doubles, \$30 entry, and women's singles, \$15 entry, on Sunday, Nov. 27. Payout will be 40-30-15-5.

The tournament site, Chances "R", is located at 3421 S. Walnut in Muncie, just two blocks west of the Holiday Inn, and has four boards. To register, call your hosts, Bob and Karen Schounce, 317-284-0855, or tournament director Steve Hart, 317-485-4368.

*H.I.N.W. 288-1911*

### **9th Annual State of Michigan Championships, Pasquale's, Lansing, Nov. 25-27**

Open to Michigan residents only, the State of Michigan Championships is scheduled for the same weekend as Indiana's event, Nov. 25-27, at Pasquale's in Lansing. Events will include a mixed doubles, \$30 per team, on Friday, Nov. 25, with sponsor sale at 7 p.m. and play immediately following; a men's and women's singles on Saturday (played simultaneously), \$25 entry for men, \$15 for women, with sale at noon. The bring partner doubles, \$40 per team entry, is set for Sunday, with sale at 1 p.m. and play immediately following.

Pasquale's, 918 W. Saginaw, will be open on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, so you'll be able to practice the three boards. Your hosts are owners Joe and Linda Coscarelli.

For information regarding the tournament, directions, and lodging suggestions, contact George Wilber at The Board Talk, 517-371-2538.

### **Sunde/Blade Tops at Stober's, Lansing, Mich.**

It was a small (12 teams in the doubles, 10 in the singles) but filled with fun (give George a microphone and Rudy a tamborine and it's chaos!) tournament at Stober's Lounge in Lansing, Michigan, on Sept. 24-25. The competition on Rudy's two boards was hot, as participants vied for a share of the total \$3320 pot.

When the shuffleboard wax settled, it was Bjerne Sunde of Madison Heights (reigning champion of the Board Talk/Skip's singles tournament) and Frank Blade of St. Clair Shores (Michigan will never be the same again!), who teamed up to take top honors in the bring partner event. Mark Holland and J.R. Lopez, both of Lansing, took second place, with Frank Parrish and Jerry Hershman, Waterford and Union Lake, in third.

Sunde and Blade duked it out in the singles, with Frank finally prevailing over his strong competitor (in poker as well as on the boards, we've heard!). Board Talk George finished in third, and unpaid spot (with Donna crying all the way home because she bought him and he didn't buy back any of his share -- and she was going shopping!).

Tournament director George Wilber extends appreciation to the talented Ken Gay for his able assistance in the sponsor sale, Jeff and Penny Cottrell for their help, the Indiana players who came across the border to give the Wolverine staters a run for their money, to Linda, Heidi and Rudy and their crew for their hospitality, and all shufflers who participated.

### **Week-Long Labor Day Tourney at Blinky's Nets Crowd of Winners**

There were six events over nine days, with a total prize fund of \$17,600, at Blinky's Sports Cafe in Santa Clara, California, Aug. 28-Sept. 5.

The tournament started on Sunday, Aug. 28, with a Champagne and Roses doubles draw event for the women and some spirited play. Top honors went to a local, Pam, and Jolene Lembke from Southern California. Suzie Jones from Southern California and Lu, a local, took second, with locals Robin Powers and Renee in third.

Eleven teams participated in Tuesday night's amateur doubles/draw, with locals Chris Wayt and Skip McCaslin taking first place. Locals Dale Pirlot and Steve Luttrell finished second, with Gary Jones from Southern California and Marion Bailey from Visalia in third place.

On Wednesday night, the amateur singles involved 14 players and when the smoke cleared, it was Marion Bailey in first, Chris Wayt in second, and local Ted

Fowler in third place.

Thursday night's pro/am doubles attracted 13 teams, with locals Pat Bayless and Dale Pirlot taking top honors. John Fisher from Southern California and local George Main took second, with Darrol Nelson of Oregon and LeRoy Wagner from Southern California in third place.

Locals Paul Parks and Pat Bayless came out on top of a field of 12 teams in Saturday's pro doubles. Southern Californians Karl Spickelmier and Dudley Hutcherson finished second, with locals Rick Thomas and Dan Mourgos in third.

Twenty players competed in the pro singles on Sunday and Monday, with Darrol Nelson capturing the crown. Dudley Hutcherson took second place honors, with local Nelson Jennings in third and local Pay Bayless in fourth.

"As always, there are many, many thanks to be distributed," said director Rick Thomas. "To John McDermott and The Shuffleboard Federation for their sponsorship and for supplying the wax for the week-long tournament. To Miller Lite/Showermans for their participation as a sponsor, providing gifts such as t-shirts, hats, mirrors and clocks for the winners. To the Miller girls who made several appearances during the week and also handed out gifts to players and spectators. To A.Z. Turnbo for supplying the great boards to play on and for his ongoing support.

*(continued on Page 9)*



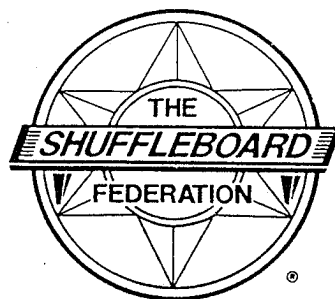
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## Notebook (continued from Page 2)

at Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland, will be held in his honor. Hopefully, announcement of Mickey's induction can be made at that event.

### Cano Has High Hopes for Expansion of World of Shuffleboard

Aren't you two something! And what about Brian Crowl (Playfair Shuffleboard)? To say the least, you've got a whole bunch of inmates in Sheridan F.C.I. excited. A few of our lead artists are pouring over the renderings that have been sent. We're convinced we can build a beautiful shuffleboard that will last for as long as Sheridan stands -- and this is put together pretty good -- no weak spots so far....

For all of us to realize that you folks are so genuinely interested in our request is truly inspiring. We haven't actually gained permission to build our shuffleboard yet. Our warden will make that decision. We have a new Recreation Department head coming to Sheridan soon. We're constructing a detailed proposal of the project for both to consider. We have a lot of days where the weather keeps us inside so the real need is present for something so fun, for so many, and (as you so accurately pointed out) at the same time, stimulates discipline and good sportsmanship. I assume it's still true -- that the great advantage in this game lies not in the size of the arms, but what is between the ears.

I can't imagine any shuffler not wanting to share the fundamentals and finer points of the game with anyone who is interested. I really enjoyed the letter from Louise Freer of Lansdale, Pennsylvania. It's been said that "you can't give what you haven't got," and it seems to be also true that the only way to keep it is to give it away! It's sort of a cliché, but then it's because of the universal truth of a thought that it got to be a cliché in the first place.

If we are successful, some of us will have the privilege of teaching hundreds all we know about the game. In a few years, we should be able to field a team that will be competitive. We have softball and football teams from the outside come in -- so why not top local shuffleboard teams from around Oregon? It could happen.

As I said, if you can't tell, you've got us excited and inspired. It seems to me that we're about to throw a hanger!

Cano Graham 97079-012, F.C.I Sheridan 2-A  
P.O. Box 5002  
Sheridan, OR 97378

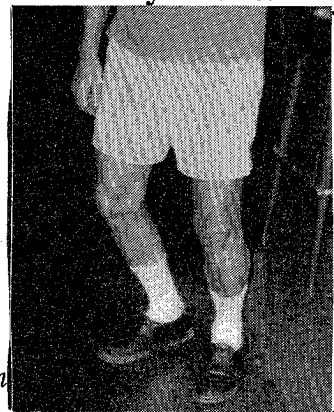
We wish you well in your quest, Cano. If there is anything else we can do to make it happen, let us know. We are printing (something we don't usually do) your full address because we think there are others out there in The World of Shuffleboard who would like to lend their support.

### Whose Knees Are These? Somebody Knows!

We would like to guess that the "best knees" belong to Doug Buhl.

James K. Reed and  
Sherry M. Allen  
Springfield, Oregon

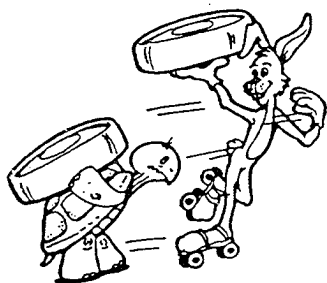
You're absolutely right, James and Sherry, and you win a year's subscription to The Board Talk.



Our only other guesses came from Betty Parrish of Michigan who thought they belonged to Bellflower Bruce of California, and Phil DePree of Washington who thought they belonged to Kenny Wochnick from Oregon. They must have pretty good knees, too!







## As the Puck Turns...

As we prepared for our retirement from our regular jobs and looked forward to spending full-time on *The Board Talk*, it seemed like a good time to clean the office. That meant methodically filing in three-ring binders all our previous issues since Vol. 1, No. 1, dated January 1984. We couldn't help compare that issue with Vol. 11, No. 10.

In that first issue, we had three tournaments listed on the Upcoming Events; last month, we had 34! That calendar of events was first published to serve as kind of a "clearing house," so tournament directors wouldn't be competing against each other. It still serves that purpose and we encourage you to list your event well in advance. While we've found, over the years, that The World of Shuffleboard can, and will, support several events in several parts of the country on the same dates, scheduling tournaments at the same time of others in your vicinity can dilute your participation. While we certainly encourage tournament sites to advertise their events via ads and flyers, it does not cost a cent to appear on the calendar. We must receive the information by the 15th of the month to appear in the following month's calendar.

In our first Shuffleboard Directory, we had eight businesses listed (and to most of those we gave the space just to get it going), and in last month's issue, we had 14 *paying* listings. From phone calls we've received this month, it appears that we may have to expand that full page Directory! For those of you who may be considering this avenue to promote your shuffleboard support, it only costs \$100 a year (12 months listing) for a single space and \$150 for a double space.

In August of 1985, we published our first contribution from "Balboa Ron" Schweikert of Las Vegas about Frisco Eddie and his dreams of being a force

to be reckoned with on boards across the country. Eddie was a janitor at the Blue Moon Lounge then and couldn't even make the establishment's league team. But he had his dreams and today, Eddie is all grown up, a partner in the Blue Moon, and has an invitation from Long Beach Lil to go "on the road" with her.

We appreciate Ron's unpaid contributions of both the Frisco Eddie series and his cartoons. When you see him at the PCSA Extravaganza in Las Vegas, please tell him YOU appreciate them, too!

In February of 1986, we published our first "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing of shuffleboard sites that were subscribers. There were 13 states represented by 38 locations in a modest half-page listing. In this issue, we have a special 4-page pull-out section for travelling shufflers that gives them information on hundreds of shuffleboard locations in 20 states, plus Canada!

Is your favorite shuffleboard site on this listing? If not, why not? What does it cost? A \$15 a year subscription gives them a FREE listing four times a year -- a pretty small investment for the business it brings in!

\*\*\*\*\*

You'll note in this issue that we have two states -- Indiana and Michigan -- that hold their own state championship tournaments. We encourage other states to do the same. If they did, then the winners of the state tournaments could meet head to head in a national tournament. We think that's a step in the right direction. Think about it, and get something going in your state!

\*\*\*\*\*

Christmas is just around the corner and if you're agonizing over what to get your favorite shufflers, how about a subscription to *The Board Talk*? We'll send appropriate Christmas greetings along with their first issue, indicating it's from you! It's a gift they'll enjoy all year long....

And -- if you're tired of addressing, signing, stuffing, and paying postage on all the Christmas cards you send to your shuffler friends, consider buying an ad in *The Board Talk* to deliver Holiday Greetings to them all. We'll furnish appropriate design and art for Christmas ads at 10 percent off our regular rate. See enclosed ad.

George & Donna Wilber  
Publishers, THE BOARD TALK



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

"Thanks, also, to Nelson Jennings, who ran the sponsor sales all week long and, as usual, did a super job. To Donna Cox, Sue Gregg-Jennings and Kathy Thomas for handling and distributing the prize funds. To Don Cox for his help all week long -- waxing boards, etc. To Karl Spickelmier for his expert assistance with the bracket boards.

"Thanks to all the players who traveled from Northern and Southern California for their participation, support and good play during the tournament: Hal Perry, Steve Perry, Bobby Hunt, Joe Hudson, Don Cox, George Camara, Loren Maxham from Northern California; Karl Spickelmier, John Fisher, Bubba Warren, Dudley Hutercherson, Billy Maxwell, Leonard Dominick, LeRoy Wagoner, Jolene Lembke, Gary and Suzie Jones, Marion Bailey from Southern California; and, of course, Darrol Nelson from Oregon.

"Thanks to Wes and Eileen from the Dixie Belle; their visit was enjoyed by all!

"Special thanks to the owners and hosts, Dick and Barbara Arreger, for their enthusiastic support of amateur and pro shuffleboard and for providing a great barbeque on Saturday night for all the players and guests," said Rick.

### **Waters/McKinnan Winners of Old Edison Inn's 4th Annual Draw Partner, Edison, Washington**

Mike Waters of Tacoma became the first repeat winner at the Old Edison Inn's 4th Annual Draw Partner event in Edison, Washington, on Sept. 17-18. Waters, a co-winner last year, was paired with the smooth-shooting Danny McKinnan of Marysville, Wash., and the duo outlasted 14 other teams to claim the major portion of about \$2200 in prize money.

The darkhorse team of Russ Miller, Mount Vernon, and tournament newcomer, Jim Kyle of nearby Bow, gave Mike and Danny a stern test in the 2-out-of-3 final to take second. Jim and Russ had come back from a 20-16 deficit in the semi-final loser's bracket game to hand brothers Marv and Claude Wilbur, Laconner, Wash., a third place finish. Mark Sullivan of Bow and Jeff Adams of Seattle picked up fourth place money.

Tying for 5th and 6th, just out of the money, were Margaret Brise of Canada and Vera Brown of Port Orchard, Wash., and Nels Anderson, Shelton, and Murl Kindle of Stanwood, Wash.

"Once again, the tourney ran without a hitch," said director Phil DePree. "Kudos to Sherm Anderson, auctioneer; Bill Bailey, bracketeer; Jim 'Caveman' Ward, for his help with preparing boards, general janitorial services, and a perfectly barbecued King salmon; Diz Schimke for the super seafood chowder;

Clara Kyle, chief cook, waitress and bottle-washer; Blau's Oysters for the door prizes; and, of course, Joanie Millar, who closed the festivities and brought down the housse with another Irish songfest," said Phil.

"The tourney was the last for long-time hosts, Jim and Roxy DePree, but new proprietors, 'Mini' Calomine (who competed into the second day) and Sandy Stanley, pledge to keep shuffleboard a mainstay of the venue at the Old Edison Inn."

The next scheduled tournament will be the 11th Annual Mixed Doubles in March. Watch the Calendar of Events for dates.

### **Wow! Over \$45,000 Purse at Texas Open**

The Texas Mist in Austin, Texas, hosted the Labor Day Open on Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Host Don McCurry reports: "It was a spectacular six days and nights in Austin for the second edition of the Texas Open. Showing little fear and regard for better-known competitors, they came 110 shufflers strong and battled for a \$45,358 purse."

An A/B Draw set the stage for openers on Wednesday, Aug. 31. Mike and Lisa Melton were the happy winners when they beat Gwyn Orsi and Tina Wade in the finals. Harvy Kidd and Brenda Watts were third.



*Lisa Melton drew brother Mike to take top honors in the A/B Draw.*

On Thursday, it was a He/She partner event that went to Gwyn Orsi and Bobby Voorhis. Bill and Lisa Melton came in second, with Alfred Suarez and Dianna Milligan in third.

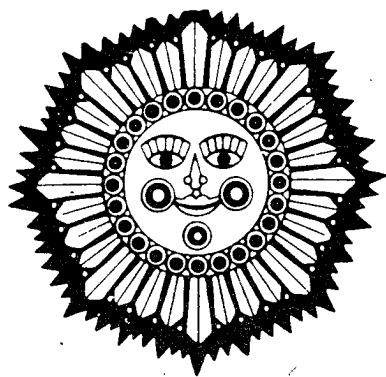
From Friday through Monday, the remaining events, played on nine boards, began assuring everything that a great tournament was certain.

The only pro event (singles) saw Bobby Voorhis of Indiana living up to his world-class billing as he defeated hometown Don Valk in the finals. Bob Shaw finished in third place.

Other tournament results were: 1's and 2's singles -- John Wiggs, 1st; Joe Spielman, 2nd; Ray Marshburn, 3rd.

3's and 4's singles -- Flynt Preston, 1st; Oscar Villegas, 2nd; David Porterfield, 3rd.

*(continued on Page 14)*



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## Notebook *(continued from Page 7)*

### Mickey Mickens: The King of Shuffleboard

Recently, I had the opportunity to read a newspaper article whose headline proclaimed, "Meet Mickey Mickens....The King of Shuffleboard." The newspaper write-up was an excellent profile on one of the game's highest profile players. The reader came away knowing that Mickey was exciting, funny, and, above all, the consummate showman and shuffleboard shooter.

As a player, Mickey had few, if any, equals. For over 40 years, he devoted himself to the game of shuffleboard, and for those 40 years plus, his name was synonymous with shuffleboard.

For those of us who came after (which is most of us....now), Mickey was the Mount Everest of players, an unscalable challenge none could best. He traveled far and wide, leaving an indelible mark on the minds (and wallets, too) of those he encountered.

Everyone has their own favorite Mickey Mickens story. Some were flattering, some colorful, and some were downright unbelievable -- but we all remember Mickey.

When Mickey Mickens passed away on Sept. 15, 1994, it was far too sudden, and far too soon -- he was only 64. For those of us who knew him, it was quite a shock. In the manner of children, we figured since he had been around forever, he'd be around forever. Unfortunately, wishing does not make it so.

May we find comfort in that Mickey will be around forever -- in our thoughts, in our memories, and in his contributions to the game of shuffleboard.

Though he may be gone, Mickey Mickens will always be the "King of Shuffleboard."

Louise Freer, Lansdale, Pennsylvania

*What a beautiful eulogy, Louise! "....we figured since he had been around forever, he'd be around forever." That simple phrase reminds us all to pay tribute to those who have made significant contributions to shuffleboard to do it NOW -- while they're still "around" to realize that, yes, they did make a difference. All too often, we wait and wait and wait, until only those left behind collect the accolades. We're just as "guilty" as anyone else; we still have a plaque with Mickey Mickens' name on it for winning 2nd place in the open doubles at the 5th Annual Board Talk Tournament in 1989. We've hung onto it, planning to present it at a tournament out on the East Coast. With all the other titles he won during his lifetime, that plaque might not have been so important. But it sure would make us feel better if we could have presented it to him while he was still "around."*

### Mickey Baugh Gets Things Going in Trinity!

Thanks to both of you, George and Donna, and all shuffleboard players, young and (yes!) old, too, for making the game what it is today. Keep it up!

I live in an area of very few shuffleboards, but the interest here is great. Since my hand problem, with very limited playing, I have started a league in this area and it is growing. There is now 32 players where it started with eight just three weeks ago.

You will be hearing from this area soon. I'm trying to help all I can and plan to hold lessons soon.

The interest here is real strong and I will certainly try for Board Talk participants.

Mickey Baugh, Trinity, Texas

*A Board Talk salute to you, Mickey, for what you are doing to spread the World of Shuffleboard (and The Board Talk) in Trinity. Nobody said it better than Louise Freer did in last month's Shufflers' Notebook: "Many people....are quietly, without fanfare, doing their part in helping other people learn to play and love the game." You're one of those she's talking about!*

### On the Road with Dixie Debbie

Isn't this a grand time of the year? The weather has turned cool, the leaves are golden red, almost ready for raking and, of course, the fall tournaments are coming up. Wes and Eileen are taking entries for our Thanksgiving tournament at the Dixie Belle and the places are

*(continued on Page 15)*

## WANTED!

*There was an article in the August 1994 issue of The Board Talk regarding the then upcoming Sherburne, New York, tourney. Buddy Brammer was mistakenly identified as being the culprit who flattened that big (really BIG!) sign in the front yard of the American Legion Post. Sorry, Buddy!*

*In the meantime, Dallas Hayman has been laying low, because he's the true perpetrator. Rumor has it that "Wanted" posters have been hung far and wide in the states of Maryland and Delaware, and Buddy is offering big bucks for Dallas' capture. Alive....one hopes! Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Dallas and signs him up as a subscriber will receive a free year's subscription to The Board Talk! (we promise not to give Buddy his address)*

G & D

# 1994-95 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

## **NOVEMBER**

**Nov. 5-6**

Draw/Bring Partner  
Mickey's Place  
Henderson, Maryland

**Nov. 11-12**

Draw/Bring Partner  
Bay Country Moose #831  
Queenstown, Maryland

**Nov. 21**

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

**Nov. 24-27**

State of Michigan  
Champion ships  
Pasquale's Bar  
Lansing, Michigan

**Nov. 24-27**

2nd Annual Thanksgiving  
Weekend Tournament  
Dixie Belle  
Downey, California

**Nov. 24-27**

10th Annual Thanksgiving  
Classic  
Gold Nugget Lounge  
Arlington, Texas

**Nov. 25-27**

Frank Hepler 55 & Older  
Draw Partner Tournament  
Shamrock Tavern  
Longview, Washington

**Nov. 25-27**

6th Annual Indiana State  
Championships  
Chance's "R"  
Muncie, Indiana

**Nov. 26-27**

Thanksgiving Doubles Tourney  
BZ's Sports Bar & Grill  
Seattle, Washington

## **DECEMBER**

**Dec. 2-4**

Winter Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**Dec. 10-11**

Annual Christmas Tournament  
Harrington Moose  
Harrington, Delaware

**Dec. 31**

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

**Dec.**

Annual Santa Classic  
Baloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

## **JAN./FEB. 1995**

**Jan. 21**

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

**Jan. 28-29**

Pro-Am Draw/Bring Partner  
Mickey's Place  
Henderson, Maryland

**Jan. 31-Feb. 5**

PCSA Extravaganza VII  
Alladin Hotel/Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Feb. 18-19**

Sweetheart Tournament  
Blue Goose  
Port Orchard, Washington

**Feb. 18**

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

**Feb. 18-20**

Presidents' Day Tourney  
Blinky's Sports Cafe  
Santa Clara, California

## **MARCH 1995**

**March 3-5**

3-Event Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**March 18-19**

Shuffleboard Affair Doubles  
Town Tavern  
Sequim, Washington

**March 24-25**

2nd Annual Florida Open  
Huddle's Sports Cafe  
Pembroke Pines, Florida

**March 25**

5th in Series of 5 Doubles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

## **APRIL 1995**

**April 14-16**

Spring Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**April 29**

Open Singles  
Beef's  
Kendallville, Indiana

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use it to plan  
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## **THE BOARD TALK**

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

# 1995 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

## MAY 1995

**May 19-21**

Spring Tournament  
Glenn's Tavern  
Funkstown, Maryland

**May 27-29**

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

## JUNE 1995

**June 12-18**

11th Annual Board Talk  
Shufflers' Reunion/Mickey  
Mickens Memorial Tourney  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**June 17-18**

Invitational Tournament  
Shotze's Rock-N-Roll  
Everett, Washington

## JULY 1995

**July 22-23**

Singles Tournament  
Town Tavern  
Sequim, Washington

## AUGUST 1995

**Aug. 3-6**

6th Annual Grand Masters Plus  
Whistling Oyster Tavern  
Quilcene, Washington

**Aug. 11-12**

Summertime Tournament  
Bay Country Moose 831  
Queenstown, Maryland

**Aug. 27 - Sept. 4**

Labor Day Week Tourney  
Blinky's Sports Cafe  
Santa Clara, California

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\*\*\*\*\*

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## THE BOARD TALK

421 E. Sheridan Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48906



## Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 9)*

1's and 2's bring partners -- Joe Spielman and Gwyn Orsi, 1st; Dave Shuler and John Wiggs, 2nd; Gregg Tedford and Tony Howard, 3rd.

3's and 4's bring partners -- Frank Huffman and Oscar Villegas, 1st; Dianna Milligan and Tina Wade, 2nd; Jack Scott and Lillie Kidd, 3rd.

6-member team event winners -- Steve Burkett, C.W. Walker, Johnny W. Crawford, Joyce Holmes, Bill Nichols, and Gwyn Orsi.



*Gwyn Orsi of Nebraska and Bobby Voorhis of Indiana teamed up to take top honors in the He/She Partner event. Bobby also took first in the Pro Singles.*



*John Wiggs (left) was winner of the 1's and 2's singles, and Flynt Preston (right) won the 3's and 4's singles.*



"Ron and Debbie are to be extremely congratulated for their hard work and long hours in directing the Texas Open. They did an excellent job," said Don. "Other listings of contributors, helpers, and participants can be found on the two-sided flyer in this issue. If we overlooked anyone or made any errors, please forgive us. We thank everyone very, very much!"



*Gwyn Orsi and Joe Spielman won the 1's and 2's bring partner event.*



*Frank Huffman and Oscar Villegas, winners of the 3's and 4's bring partner event.*

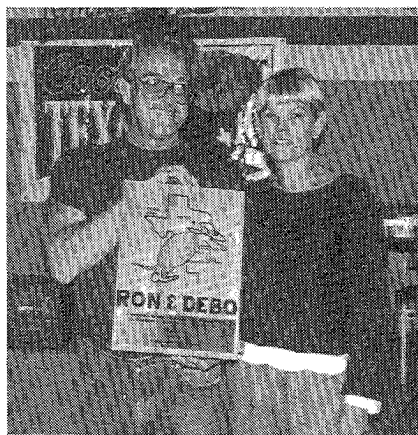


*6-Member Team Event winners (front row, left to right): Bill Nichols, Joyce Homes, Gwyn Orsi, (back row), Steve Burkett, C.W. Walker, and Johnny Wayne Crawford.*



*Local shufflers presented appreciation plaques to Texas Mist host Don McCurry (left) and tournament directors Ron and Debbie Bowers. Auctioneer Bill Wooldridge (center) did the honors.*

*Texas Open tourney directors Ron and Deb Bowers will surely find a place to proudly display the plaque of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.*



*(Editor's Note: A Board Talk salute to the players who honored Don, Ron and Debbie for their efforts, and our sincere appreciation to the Texas Mist for its advertising support!)*

## **Notebook** *(continued from Page 11)*

starting to fill. We hope to see as many of you as possible. It's going to be a great time!

While I'm writing about tournaments, there is another one in the not-to-distant future that we Dixie Bellers are looking forward to. It's the Las Vegas tournament at the Alladin in February. So far, we have three teams going, plus a growing cheering section. It looks like the action won't be limited to the casinos. Joe Muniz, Paul Weber and Karl Spickelmier are working hard to make this a fine tournament. I think it's wonderful the sport of shuffleboard has such dedicated people promoting it. I just spoke with Joe and he was all jazzed over this year's pins. He says they did a fine job on them and they should be a great collector's item. I've talked to all three of these gentlemen and they are all looking forward to seeing each

and every one of you who can make this great tournament. I also hope to see you there.

I was doing some traveling in October and was lucky enough to be in upstate New York for a week. I was also lucky that Jim Anderson had mentioned a great place called the Dew Drop Inn. I did just that -- dropped in. What wonderful people! Doug and Elsie Fridley and Doug Jr. made my sister-in-law Betty and I feel right at home. It happened that another well-known shuffleboard couple -- Jane and Arlo Johnson -- were also there that day. We sat and gossiped, dropped names and they told a few stories.

One was their adventure in California with our own Peanut Jack and Peanut Johnna, who at one time owned the Peanut House here locally. Jack and Johnna had, and still have, a gift of making people at home if they have to drag you to their home to do it. This is just what happened to Arlo and Jane while stranded here one Thanksgiving, and they still haven't gotten over how we friendly folks in sunny Southern California can have Thanksgiving dinner outside on the patio. I now have my own memory of first meeting these fine people. By the way, Jack and Johnna will be part of our Dixie Belle entourage at the Alladin in February and they hope to see lots of old friends there.

Doug, Elsie and Doug Jr. just bent over backwards to make my visit memorable. While I was there that Saturday afternoon, there were, of course, a few round robins going on. Everybody here at the Dixie Belle knows that while I am a great fan of shuffleboard, I have yet to learn to play (although I am now working to acquire some amount of prowess in this area). Leave it to say, I had played a couple of games, but never in a round robin. I tried to explain this to Doug Jr., but he would hear nothing of it -- I was playing. The luck of the draw was with me and Jane was my partner. It wasn't such a good day for her, I'm afraid (something about a late night the night before?). We were lucky and got a bye on the first round, but the second we played Doug Jr. and one of their local players, Teresa (Tee). We got creamed! After that, we played Elsie and her partner. Thank goodness Jane is a great player and she shot the eyes out of them and made me look good in the bargain. We ended in third and broke even. More important to me, I played my first round robin and was thrilled to do so with such fine players and people.

Doug Jr. has a new fiance, Denise Cooley, who is a lovely woman. Brenda and Connie, the two bartenders I met and Samantha, who I spoke with on the telephone, are friendly and, like everyone at the Dew Drop, do their best to make you feel welcome. Doug and Elsie are two of the nicest people I've ever had the privilege to meet. Thanks to everyone at the Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New

*(continued on Page 18)*



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

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

Eddie had just hung up the phone and had told Long Beach Lil to "call for some ice....I'll be there in 30 minutes." He instinctively felt he was making a mistake, as he had also promised Shelli he would see her as soon as he got off work.

On the drive to Lil's hotel, Eddie entertained some thoughts about what it might be like if he went on the road. He wanted the "action." He wanted to be able to prove to himself how good he really could be, and he was also excited over the notion of hustling full-time. He arrived at the hotel and found Lil's room. He tried to ignore the #13 displayed on the door. He needed the drink she had promised, and his emotional level rose over the prospect of what awaited him inside that room.

Lil's voice responded to Eddie's knock: "Come on in, Eddie; it's open." He entered to find Lil waiting -- with a glass in her hand. She really looked fabulous. She was dressed casually, but in a way that accented her fantastic body. She said, "I'm glad you're here, Eddie, really glad." Her eyes said all the rest. As she handed him the glass, she said, "I noticed what you were having last night. I hope this is O.K."

Eddie answered, "It'll be just fine. Thanks!" and then added: "Is it just me -- or do you look even better now than you did last night?"

Lil smiled then and replied, "Thanks for the compliment, Eddie. Maybe it's just because we're not competing now, and you see things in a little different light."

Eddie would have liked the "spell" to last longer, but he snapped out of it when he recalled the time restraints he was under. After he took a long pull on his drink, he said: "I'd like to make this a real social visit, but could we get down to what you had in mind? Shelli is probably steaming by now."

Lil looked a little disappointed as she said, "Anyway you want to play it, Eddie. Let's get down to business ...Here's the way things look to me, Champ. I won't go over everything, but what I have planned is that we take off and hit all the hot spots and pick off the 'fish' at selected cities. I know where to go -- and who to play. I know how to work the 'marks,' and I know how to do it -- without them even suspecting they're getting hustled. I'll show you all the 'scams,' and how to set up the marks. I'll show you the ropes on the physical techniques -- things that will put us way ahead, even before the quarters go into the slot."

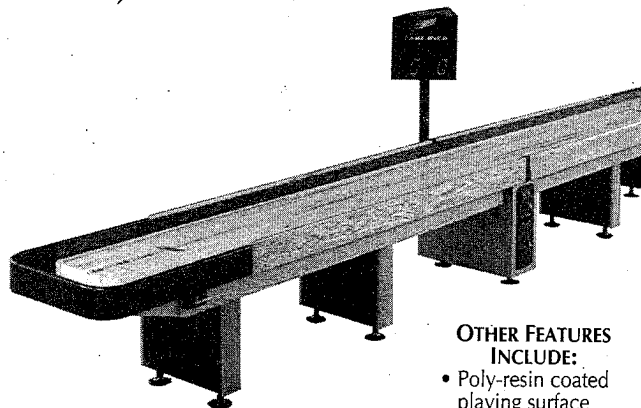
She looked at him carefully then -- and saw that he was taking it all in. She continued: "You could take a couple weeks to straighten things out here, so you don't leave Bob in a strain. Then you'll just have to make Shelli understand it all!" She added: "I feel good about this, Eddie. This plan will work out real fine. Now, what do you think? Are you willing to give this thing a shot?"

Eddie looked her intently in the eyes, but then shifted his gaze down to his watch. He said, "I'm really late; I have to leave now. Thanks for the drink." Lil's eyes drifted down to the floor then in disbelief. When Eddie got to the door, he hesitated and slowly turned around. He regained her eye contact and said: "By the way -- I'll see you in two weeks, Lil. I'm in."

*(What happens next? Don't miss the next episode of Frisco Eddie's Revenge in the December issue!)*

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## **Notebook** *(continued from Page 15)*

York, for their hospitality and a great afternoon. It's my recommendation that if any of you are in or visiting the upstate New York area -- Dew Drop Inn!

While I was gone, our Dixie Belle shuffleboard league began and, unfortunately, I missed the first two weeks, which is very bad form. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my substitute, Ruben Sanches, for the fine job he did while I was away. I am going to have a lot of work to do as well as he did for my team.

As always, for Wes and Eileen Eades and the Dixie Belle, we hope to see as many of you in the future as possible, players and friends alike. Shuffleboard is full of friendly, fine people, and we are proud to have become a part of it.

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

*A few years ago, we had the opportunity to visit the Dew Drop Inn, Dixie, and agree with all you have said about the folks there. We encourage other travellers to share their experiences at any of our "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." shuffleboard establishments (included in this issue).*

## **More Tourney Talk**

### **Melton/Shaw Tops at Bourbon Tourney**

Unofficial results of the Bourbon (Indiana) American Legion Fall Doubles on Oct. 1 indicate that Billy Melton of Oklahoma and Bob Shaw of Texas were the winners. Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Bill Melton of Oklahoma took second place honors, with Buddy Broka of Indiana and Bob Perry of Illinois in third.

Watch next month's issue for full results.

### **Shuffleboard Action Back at Darlene's Place (formerly Ware's Ours & Yours)**

JoAnne Ware is pleased to announce that Darlene's Place (formerly Art's and JoAnne's Ours & Your Place) in Sudlersville, Maryland, will host its first annual Fall Classic sometime in the near future. As we go to press, dates are not yet finalized, but you can find out by calling tournament director JoAnne at 410-482-6756, or Louise Freer at 215-661-0108.

Events will include an open draw on Friday night, \$10 entry; a ladies' singles on Saturday, \$10 entry; a bring partner on Saturday, \$25 per team; and a mixed doubles, \$25 per team, on Sunday.

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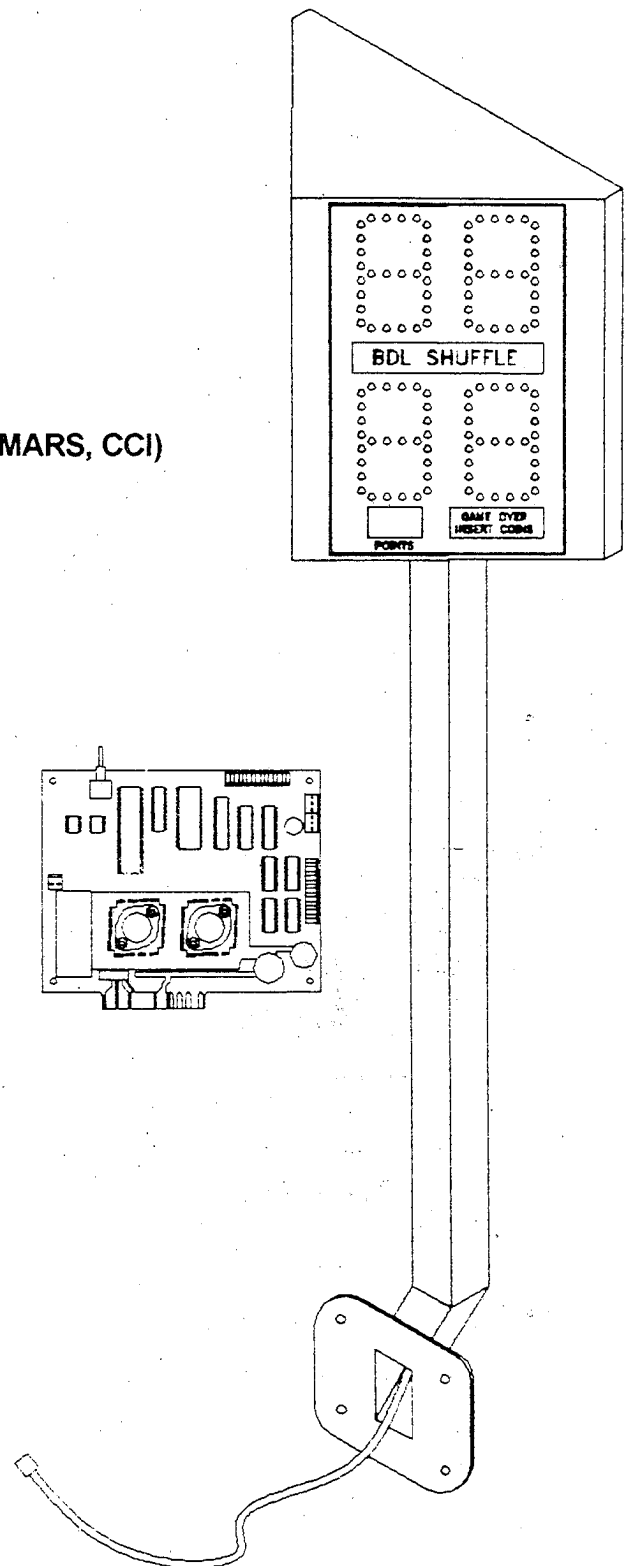
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personal expectation, and desires of one self.

Most of these misfortunes are self inflicted, if one  
does overrule his better judgement, or does not properly,  
evaluate the problem, concerning the situation.

Life in itself, seems to be at times, like an adventure, you  
should never stray away to accomplish your intended goal.

You should always, nurture your better judgement  
and wisdom, and apply it wisely because life  
in its mysterious beautiful Godly design, is really fair.

As we travel through time, it is more urgent,  
to constantly challenge, and question our actions, and deeds.

To accomplish our goal in life successfully, it will come  
about only, through sensible planing, and well directed  
effective action by yourself, rather than depend on,  
divine magic alone, because with or without our knowledge,  
man can create a noble image of himself, that is  
through his ideals, deeds, strenght, or his human weakness.

If we give up doing, that we begin, we send ourselves obsolete.  
Life is like the palm of your own hand, with Gods blessing,  
it will mold, your very Heart and Soul.

By

Rudolf Stober.



When Rudy Stober isn't operating Stober's Lounge, a favorite shuffleboard site in Lansing, Michigan, and promoting the sport with commitment and dedication, the German-born import writes poetry in his own style calligraphy.

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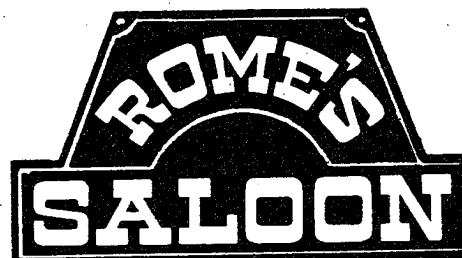
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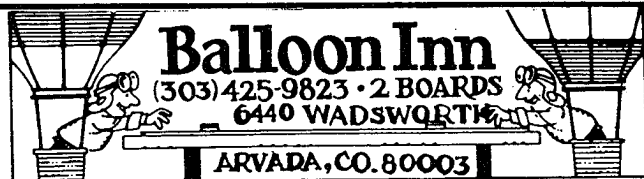
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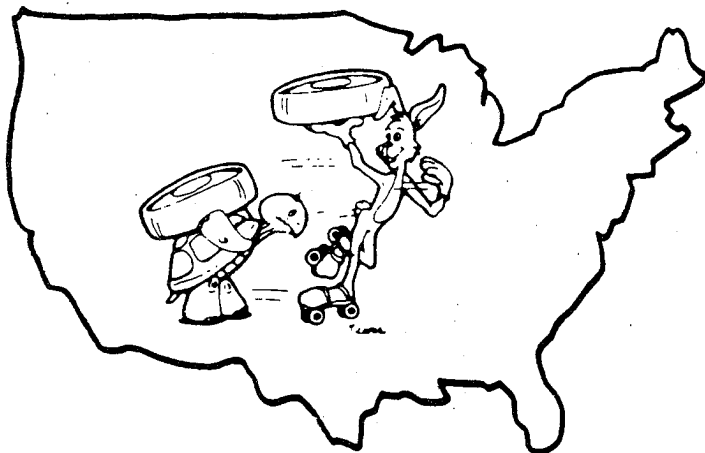
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