

The Board Talk

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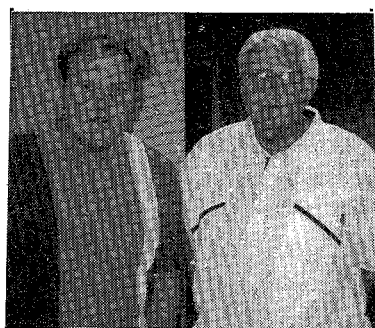
June 1995

Bill & Billy Melton Win at Bourbon

Shufflers from 12 states -- Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, California, Oregon, and Washington -- gathered in the little town of Bourbon, Indiana, on May 6 for the 34th Annual Spring Doubles at the American Legion Post 424. Out of the 12 states represented, at least one person from eight states made it to the top eight spots.

"Though we were a little short on filling the 64 spots, this was one of the toughest fields yet at Bourbon," said tournament director Fritz Broka. "Out of the 51 teams participating, the top eight spots were not all pros -- just going to show -- the pros don't always win here!"

However, it was the pro team of Bill and Billy Melton of Davis, Oklahoma, who took the number one position.



The father and son team of Bill and Billy Melton took top honors at Bourbon's 34th Annual Spring Doubles Tournament against 50 other teams.

Making a mark in shuffleboard history for women were second-place finishers Fritz Broka of Indiana and Louise Freer of Pennsylvania.



Giving the famous Meltons a run for their money were the determined Fritz Broka of Bourbon and her partner, Louise Freer of Lansdale, Pennsylvania (secretary of The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame).

Taking third-place honors were Steve Blue of Columbia City, Indiana, and Deb Voorhis of Fairmont,
(continued on Page 22)

TRAGEDY IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

By Ron Huddleston

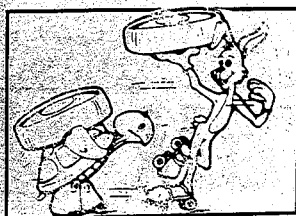
As most of you know, we recently experienced a national disaster in Oklahoma City. Fortunately, none of our players who work in the area were among the 170 killed in the explosion. Unfortunately, we did know people who were badly hurt or killed in this mind-numbing tragedy.

Thank you all for your concern. Many of your states (New York to California, Michigan to Florida) sent rescue teams in an enormous effort to save as many lives as possible in the round-the-clock effort. You might be as surprised as we were to know most of them were using vacation time in order to volunteer their help.

As to how it felt when the bomb exploded, my wife Sharon, who works six blocks away, thought an airplane had crashed into her building. I was 12 miles away and thought someone's house had blown-up in the neighborhood.

We can only hope that this is a singular event. Tornadoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes are bad enough, but to have an American kill 170 fellow Americans to make a point, has been quite a shock to the Heartland.

Imagine that your parents had gone to file for Social Security and never came home, or you dropped your 4-year-old off at day care and never saw him again, or that you go into work and in the middle of saying "good morning" It may sound a little dramatic, but that is what most people were doing Wednesday, April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m.



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Ed Galke Shares Thoughts on Hall of Fame and Other Topics

As I have written in the past, there is no doubt in my mind that *The Board Talk* has pushed shuffleboard to where it is today. This does not assume that I agree with your every philosophy, as I do not. I do, however, feel that in the interests of the game, we should all be able to amiably propose our thoughts as to what is in the best interests of the game.

Before I begin to present my proposals, I want to really express my feelings over the death of Mickey Mickens. I have waited almost a year now so that my thoughts would not be clouded by emotion.

Even though Mickey and I were not the closest of friends, I probably knew him longer as a player than most anyone. I had nothing but respect for Mickey, both as a person and as a great player. Mick's style and mine did not contribute to make us as formidable a team as we should have been. I have my thoughts as to why two players with the abilities we both possessed just did not mesh as a great doubles team. With his vast knowledge of the game and his shooting capabilities, Mickey took many different partners and won many tournaments. He, probably more than anyone else I know, really knew the intricacies of this game. I could go on and discuss more of Mickey's strengths, but most of the people who will read this already know of them.

Another one of the reasons I have waited to write this letter was because I suspected that there would be a memorial tournament for Mickey. I had no idea that it would be the annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion. I wanted to have the proposal that I now make fresh in people's minds.

I am personally proposing that Mickey Mickens be inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Mickey deserves this honor as much as Bobby Miles, and it should have been accorded him while he was still alive

to appreciate the sentiments of his peers. He deserves it and almost every person on the Hall of Fame Board knows this. I think there is no more appropriate nor better time than The Board Talk Reunion to induct Mickey into the Hall of Fame. There is no player that had my respect more than Mickey Mickens. He was one of the giants of this game and I miss him.

I also feel, as does Hall of Fame Chairman Glen Davidson, that Earl Kelley belongs in the Hall of Fame. I do not agree that either one of these two great shooters should have to wait until 1996 to be inducted into the Hall. It's a shame that these players could not have been considered before they could not be aware of the feelings of the players they competed against.

I well realize that any sports Hall of Fame should be a reward for only the players who truly deserve to be there. This does not make the assumption that there are many players still alive who should not be nominated now for consideration and possible induction.

I have been playing this game for 50 years and have travelled all over this country seeking out whatever competition that I heard, either from word of mouth or *The Board Talk*, who would be great competition. From my travels, I would say that number one: Billy Mays belongs in the Hall of Fame, as do Darrol Nelson, Doug Buhl, Bill Melton, Glen Davidson, Bobby V, John McDermott, and many others who are too numerous to mention. I think the people who have been entrusted to form the first Hall of Fame Committee are capable of knowing just which players are eligible for the Hall. I really feel there has to be more representation from both the East Coast and other geographical areas of the country.

Naturally, there will be many more proposals for induction than deserve it, but there should be input from as broad an area as possible. I know that some of these persons whom I have mentioned have not been playing for a great while, but their accomplishments warrant their being considered. I firmly believe that one of the primary considerations to be nominated should be that a player or person should have at least 25 years in the game. I also believe that they should be known or have played other than locally. It is rather easy to dominate a specific area as a local, so therefore one of the criteria should be that the player has proved himself in different locales and environment.

I would like to propose that one of the ways the Hall can realize monies to sustain itself is for each location or sponsor of a tournament be willing to contribute a certain

(continued on Page 10)

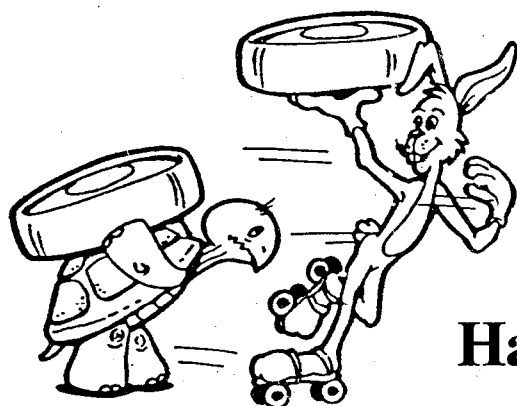
— ATTENTION —

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.)

--LAST CALL!--



11th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion and Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament

Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: JUNE 12-18

(Events subject to change depending upon player feedback)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sale/Start Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entry Fee*</u>
Mon., June 12	9:30 a.m.	Pro Singles	\$127
<i>(Open to all, 15 pt., double elimination, play starts immediately after sale)</i>			
Mon., June 12	1 p.m.	2nd Chance Draw Partner	\$12 per person
<i>(No pros; must be present for draw; play starts immediately after sale)</i>			
Tues., June 13	10:30 a.m.	Pro-Am 2nd Chance Draw	\$12 per person
<i>(Must be present for drawing. Some discretion may be used by Tournament Committee if there is an imbalance of pros and amateurs)</i>			
Wed., June 14	9:30 a.m.	Pro Doubles	\$204 per team
<i>(Play starts immediately after sale; open to anyone)</i>			
Wed., June 14	12 noon	Legends Draw Partner	\$12 per person
<i>(Must be 55 years or older -- and prove it. Must be present for draw and sale. Play starts immediately after sale. No pros)</i>			
Wed., June 14	None	2nd Chance Draw Partner	\$12 per person
<i>(Must be present for drawing at 3 p.m. Play starts after draw and when boards available)</i>			
Thurs., June 15	9:30 a.m.	Open Singles	\$22
<i>(No pros, play starts immediately following sale)</i>			
Thurs., June 15	12:30 p.m.	Pro Round Robin Singles	\$102
<i>(All players will play each other; each player receives total points scored up to 15 with total points for all matches determining winner)</i>			
Thurs., June 15	3 p.m.	Women's Singles	\$22
<i>(No pros, play starts immediately following sale)</i>			
Fri., June 16	10 a.m.	Draft 4-Person Team Event	\$12 per person
<i>(Most experienced players will be appointed captain. They will choose second person for lottery. Balance of team will be drafted in private, 15 minutes allowed for trades.)</i>			
Sat., June 17	9:30 a.m.	Bring Partners	\$34 per team
<i>(No pros, play starts immediately following sale)</i>			
Sat., June 17	None	Amateur Bring Partner	\$24 per team
<i>(No pros, play starts at 2 p.m.)</i>			
Sat., June 17	All Day	Pro Open Competition	None
<i>(At least one board and possibly more will be reserved for open competition between pros)</i>			
Sun., June 18	11 a.m.	4-Person Team Event	\$58 per team
<i>(No more than one pro, at least one woman, no substitutes)</i>			

**If you haven't pre-registered, call Harvey TODAY: 410-836-8881
or Dick Gorman, 302-994-0004**

Headquarters Hotel: The Comfort Inn, Perryville, 1-800-408-4748

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

California

4TH OF JULY TOURNEY AT THE DIXIE BELLE

The Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, California, will host a 4th of July tournament with three big events.

The first event will be an A-B-C Draw, \$25 per player, 2 out of 3 double elimination (time permitting). The sponsor sale starts at 7 p.m. Friday with play immediately following.

The second event is an open doubles, \$100 per player, 2 out of 3 double elimination. The sale is set for Friday at 8 p.m., with play beginning Saturday morning.

The final event is an open singles, \$100 entry fee, 2 out of 3 double elimination. The sale will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, with play beginning on Sunday.

A buffet will be served on Sunday afternoon.

The enclosed flyer lists lodging recommendations, along with costs. For other information, call 310-803-4943 and ask for Eileen.

Eileen, Wes, Dixie Debbie and all the friendly crew at The Dixie Belle are looking forward to seeing you there!

Washington

EVERETT INVITATIONAL AT SHOTZE'S, JUNE 17-18

The 1st Annual Everett Invitational Tournament will be held at Shotze's Rack 'N Roll, 9602 Evergreen Way, Everett, Washington, on June 17-18. It's a bring your own partner event, \$50 per team, with sponsor sale starting at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Shotze's is adding a guaranteed \$200 to the purse, with \$500 added if there are over 20 teams, and will also provide a Saturday night feed for participants.

For further information, contact tournament directors John Martin, 206-659-6590; Larry Pearson, 206-488-6664; or Bob Jacobsen, 206-744-0473.

DOUBLES AT SPORTSMAN TAVERN, JULY 1-2

The Sportsman Tavern in Stanwood, Washington, will host its 1st Annual Doubles Tournament, July 1-2, \$50 per

team entry fee, with sponsor sale at 10 a.m. Saturday. A draw partner, \$20 per person, will be held on Friday night starting at 7 p.m.

For information, call tournament director Murl Kindle, 360-652-5031, or assistant director Dan McKinnon, 360-659-4644, or the Tavern, 360-629-3930. Recommended lodging is the Arlington Motor Inn, 360-652-9595.

Maryland

11th ANNUAL BOARD TALK REUNION/MICKY MICKENS MEMORIAL, JUNE 12-18

Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland, will be the site of the 11th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion/Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament on June 12-18.

This week-long event will be filled with fun and fellowship for shufflers and fans alike, and board action for everyone, regardless of their level of skill. Special features include drawings for prizes donated by local and national shuffleboard supporters and a printed program listing the winners of the 10 previous Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion Tournaments, as well as tributes honoring the late (and great!) Mickey Mickens.

Harvey will provide free camping facilities for RV travelers (no water hook-ups) and tents. Call ahead!

For those who prefer the comforts of home, the headquarters hotel is the Comfort Inn Perryville, just 20 minutes from the tournament site, and offering a shufflers' special of \$46 plus tax for 1 to 4 persons per night. When you call for reservations (1-800-408-4747), be sure to tell them you're with the tournament.

For more information, call Harvey Comer at 410-836-8881, or Dick Gorman at 302-994-0004. See ad on Page 3.

Texas

THREE-EVENT TOURNEY AT STICKS BILLIARDS, JUNE 16-18

Sticks Billiards, 13201 Pond Springs Rd., Austin, Texas, will host a three-event tournament on June 16-18.

Action will start Friday night with an open draw, \$10 entry fee, single game, single elimination, limited to 32

REMINDER: Send information about your upcoming event to *THE BOARD TALK*, 421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906, to be received by the 15th of each month. Remember, send us the RESULTS, too!

entries (this event may have to be finished on Saturday morning). At noon on Saturday, the bring partner event will start, \$60 per team entry and no pros and O's may team up together. Single game, double elimination, limited to 16 teams. Sticks will add \$250 to this pot.

Sunday's event will be an A/B draw, \$20 per person entry, starting at noon, single game, double elimination. Pros, semi-pros and 1's will be rated A's; 2's, 3's and 4's as B's.

For further information, contact Nonie at Sticks, 512-335-9177.

Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST OPEN SET FOR JUNE 29-JULY 4, DEL CITY

An event that has become a 4th of July tradition is the Southwest Open, set this year for June 29-July 4, and once again at the spacious American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma.

There's an array of events for shufflers at every level of skill, including an open singles, a beginner/pretty good draw partner, an open draw, a draw team event, a beginner/pretty good singles, and a bring partner doubles.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffle-

board establishment to help spread the word about this event. For further information or ratings, call Ron Huddleston at 405-843-1615.

Pennsylvania

4TH OF JULY EVENT SET FOR J & C'S, PHILADELPHIA

J & C's Tavern, West Philadelphia, site of the most recent "Best of Philly" series, will host a 4th of July tournament, June 30-July 4. The five-day tournament will include a mixed doubles draw, an open bring your partner, a B bring partner, a round robin, and an open singles.

For further information, call J & C's, 215-978-7343.

New York

National Tournament at Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, Aug. 3-6

The Fridley Family of the Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New York, will host a national tournament on Aug. 3-6. Events include an open singles on Friday, \$25 entry; a mixed doubles on Saturday morning, \$20 per team; a draw

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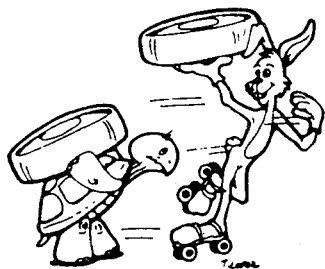


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As the Puck Turns...

By George & Donna Wilber

Thanks to all of you for your calls and cards to express sympathy to us for the passing of George's Dad and Donna's beloved father-in-law. As many of you know, the stress and time demands do not end with the funeral. Thank you for your patience with us returning your calls and responding to your correspondence. Special thanks to Phil Skover and John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation for their beautiful floral arrangement for Dad's funeral, and to participants of the Bourbon tournament for your generous expression of sympathy. It will be added to the donations of family and friends to the Ovid Public Library building fund. Dad loved his small town and we know he'd be proud to have a lasting memorial that will benefit generations to come. We sincerely appreciate your concern and support during this difficult period. We've always known you were special people and you've proven that once again!

We received several phone calls regarding the fate of our shuffleboard friends in Oklahoma City following that April 19 tragedy. Thanks to Ron and Sharon Huddleston for their contribution (see Page 1).

Their letter arrived while our 15-year-old grandson was spending the night and he was moved by their words. He asked if he could respond.

"Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Huddleston, for your informative letter and thank you for your sympathy for the loss of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We really appreciate it. We also send our sympathy to you and all the other people who lost a friend or loved one in the terrible Oklahoma tragedy."

"We are proud of the police officers and the volunteers who helped the situation in Oklahoma City after the explosion. We hope this will be the only incident of its kind to happen to Americans by Americans, or in any place in the world."

"We hope that all parties involved in this incident will be caught and prosecuted rightfully. May God have mercy on all who died and those they leave behind."

Kory Elkins

Ron closed his letter with this good advice: "Have fun at the Board Talk Reunion, **appreciate each other more**, and we hope to see you the 4th of July."

We call your attention to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame column which starts this month and will be a regular feature. We encourage your support of this worthwhile endeavor, both through contributions and input to the board of directors. These volunteers are very disappointed by the lack of response from The World of Shuffleboard. Don't let them down!

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 11th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion/Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, on June 12-18.

Because of those crucial dates -- June 12-18 -- that means we will be in Maryland rather than back at our office at deadline time. **The result will be a late July issue.** Hopefully, all of you who have July events have promoted them in this issue. We'll try to avoid that conflict in future Board Talk tournaments.

G & D

CLASSIFIED ADS

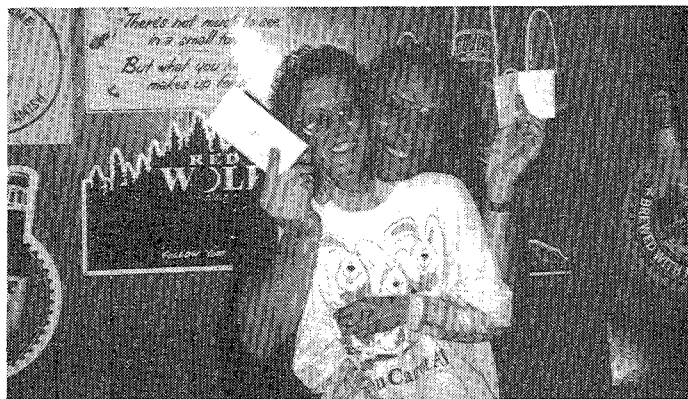
ROCKOLA SHUFFLEBOARD FOR SALE: completely restored; AZ-Dominick finish on perfect American plank. Biederman electronic scoreboard. Call Dominick in Carson, California, 310-830-2117.

WANTED: Got some product or service to sell? Remember, shufflers have a life beyond shuffleboard. They buy cars, RVs, TVs, VCRs, PCs, look for bargains in airline tickets, etc., etc. It only costs \$5 for 25 words or less to advertise in this classified section. If you haven't sold what you have to sell, try us! Send, along, with your check to cover costs, to be received before the 15th of each month.

THE BOARD TALK
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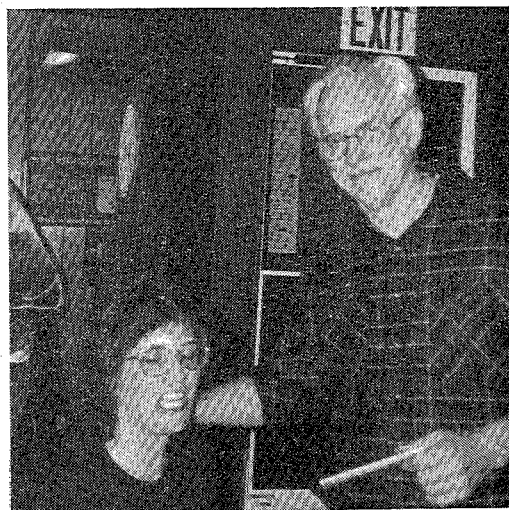
Larry & Mary Brown Win Mixed Doubles at Lucky's

Lucky's in North Webster, Indiana, hosted a mixed doubles tournament on April 15, with 14 teams participating. Hostess Carol Westerman reports that "it was one of the best tournaments in a long while."



Obviously pleased with their first-place finish and their fat pay-off envelopes were Larry and Mary Brown of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Taking second-place honors were the legendary Jim Long of Osceola and his partner, Vicki Morgan.



Larry Huffer of Leesburg and his partner Pat Kuhn took third place in the field of 14 teams.



Larry Brown illustrates to hostess Carol Westerman what happens when you buy someone in the sponsor sale and they lose!

Harvey's Place Wraps Up '94-'95 Schedule

The final tournament of the '94-'95 schedule of 3-day tournaments at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, was held on April 28-30. It served not only as the final, but also a tune-up for the 11th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion/Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament at Harvey's on June 12-18. (See Pages 3 and 4 for details.)

Friday night was the usual draw partner event with 32 players ready at 6:30 p.m. "Unfortunately, several entries were delayed in a traffic tie-up and missed the deadline, arriving 15 minutes late," reports Dick Gorman. "Starting times are starting times at Harvey's whenever possible."

First-time ever winner Blaine Douglas, Belair, Maryland, teamed up with Len Dell of Baltimore to take first place in this event. After going all the way through the winner's bracket, host Harvey Comer and Butch Kelly of Springfield, Pennsylvania, had to settle for second place.

Third place went to Lindsay Hall, Baltimore, and Bob Overbay, Darlington, Md. Fourth-place money went to Mike Kennedy (back after a long absence) of Philadelphia, and Wayne Nichols, Conowingo, Md. Dick Losee, Poolville, New York, and Hilda Poling of nearby Abbington finished fifth, with Ann Fender, Perryville, Md., and Arlow Johnson, Jordan, New York, in sixth. The top winners each picked up the traditional winners jacket from Harvey's.

The bring partner event on Saturday brought new faces and strong teams vying for the six place payoff. First place and new jackets went to the come-from-the-loser's-bracket and playing for the first time in a long time, Wanda Farris (glad you are back, Wanda) and Lonzo Knight of Hagerstown. Second place went to the team of

(continued on Page 8)

Harvey's Place Final (cont. from Page 7)

hard-fighting locals Willis Long and Jim McDaniel from nearby Darlington. Third went to the Philadelphia team of Jim Yank Sr. and Mike Kennedy (welcome back, Mike). Fourth place went to Mike's wife, Mary Ann Watson, and her partner, Jim Yank Jr. Fifth place went to the travelling team from Sherburne, New York, Milt Benedict and Dick Losee. Sixth and final money spot went to George Chamberlin, Perryville, Md., and host Harvey Comer.

Sunday was for fun and relaxing with the increasingly popular "Second Chance Draw." The top performance was paid in the form of cash and Harvey's Place jackets to hostess Darlyne Belcher and Len Dell. Second place was won by Jane Johnson, Jordan, N.Y., and Jim McDaniel. The second chance winners were Wendy Davis of Wilmington, Delaware, and Buddy Brammer, Rising Sun, Md. Taking second place were Blaine Douglas and Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, Md.

"In reflection, the four-tournament season was a very good one, with many format changes which have improved the enthusiasm and attendance," said Dick. "Of course, the highlight of the entire year will be the Board Talk Reunion and Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament on June 12-18. Call Harvey at 410-836-8881 to save your spot."

"Best of Philly" Series Heats Up

An expanded field of 32 players shuffled the second "Best of Philly" event on April 15. The team of Anthony "Conch" and Al Pinachio were best on this day, earning three points each. Two points for second were awarded to Pete Burba and Joe Froehling, who pushed the winners to that final game of this double elimination event. Earning one point each for their third place finish were Joe Williams and Jim Yank Jr.

"The Orfanelli family of J & C's Tavern in West Philadelphia were tremendous hosts for this event," reports Jim Wolf, director along with Louise Freer and Regina Smith of the "Best of Philly" series. "Their staff of Rita and Jim Yank Sr. and volunteers did a super job of setting up the second board loaned by Mike 'Slim' Kennedy and Mary Ann Watson and keeping the boards ready to play throughout the day."

The overall series standings are very tight. Nine shooters have earned points and are led by Anthony Conch and Joe Williams, 4 points each. Next is a three-way tie with 3 points for Louise Freer, Al Pinachio and Jim Yank Jr. There are three shooters with two points, one with one point, and a number of others looking forward to June 10 to get on the scoreboard in the bring partner Event #3 of the "Best of Philly."

(Editor's Note: We look forward to seeing the "Best of Philly" crew at Harvey's Place on June 12-18.)

Royals Win at Mississinewa

The Mississinewa Tavern, Eaton, Indiana, was the scene of a doubles tournament on April 8. The event, hosted by Arnold and Linda Cross and directed by Jim Rudick, attracted 12 teams vying for a \$1700 pot.

Taking top honors were Rick and Dave Royal of Eaton, with Bob and Bobby Brown of Portland and Muncie in second place. Marcia Brown of Portland and Milt VanOsdol of Muncie took third place.

ADDITIONS TO "PLAY YOUR WAY" LISTING

Shuffleboard establishments which have joined (or re-joined) the network after publication of the "Play Your Way Across the USA" listing in the May issue include the following:

California: Time Out Sports Lounge, 2601 Del Rosa Ave., San Bernardino 92404; phone 909-881-0389

Mr. G's Cardroom, 15742 Rd. #296, Vasalia 93291; phone 209-739-9702

Florida: Down The Hatch, 8010 49th St. N, Pinellas Park 34665; phone 813-547-1867

Sportaman's Cove, 10391 W. Fishbowl Drive, Homosassa 32646; phone 904-628-2448

Higgy's Town Hall Tavern, 1158 7th St. NW, Largo 34640; phone 813-588-7660

Correction for Florida: The address for Luci's Sports Pub in the listing has been incorrect. Please change to: 11620 U.S. Hwy. 19, Port Richey 34668. Our apologies to Luci's.

Michigan: Uptown Bar, 101 S. Main, Crystal 48818

New York: American Legion, South Otselic 13155; phone 315-653-7791

These establishments will appear in the next quarterly listing in August. In the meantime, please add them to your current list and stop in and welcome them to the national shuffleboard network.

A BOARD TALK SALUTE!

to

Al Salazar of Arizona

and

California Carl Greely of Florida

**Top Subscription Solicitors
for April & May**

Notebook (continued from Page 2)

fee, say a minimum of \$10, to the Hall and that each player participating pay a fee of \$1 per event or tournament. I am positive that no player will begrudge this modest fee for this worthwhile cause.

Now I am going to get into a controversial part of my letter, if I haven't already. While I fully recognize that both *The Board Talk* and John McDermott and The Shuffleboard Federation have done a large part in keeping shuffleboard where it is, I disagree with both of you in some of your philosophies

Cranking the Boards.

Just by familiarity with local boards, the local player at almost any tournament has an edge, both by his knowledge of these boards and the ability to lag the boards better than the travelling players. My feeling is that just the edge of lagging these boards is sufficient to give the local an edge in their games. I feel that due to the fact that the climatic adjustors were put on these boards to make them as straight for the players who are learning the game, there should be no cranking of these boards to suit any particular style of play.

I believe that any decent player who travels to participate in these various events has the ability to read or adjust to almost any playing conditions. Consequently, I believe that you would encourage people of lesser ability to participate by keeping the boards as straight as is humanly possible. John McDermott's repetitive statement is that he feels the game of shuffleboard is dependent on young players coming into the game through local league play. I fully agree that we need a broad base of young players to replace the aging and retiring players. I also feel that, as you all well know, the most common complaint nationally, as expressed in your publication, is that people want well-maintained boards. It is my contention that you will encourage much more play when a player can compete with some semblance of ability brought on by boards that are easier to learn on. Notice I did not say play on. I feel that once a player has the ability to feel that he can compete with the local players of superior ability, he will not find a very crooked board as much of a challenge.

Rating Players

I also feel that all of us have not made a very serious effort to start to rank players as to their capabilities. I feel that at every tournament there should be maintained a score sheet for every game played. I do not know how this can be accomplished as it would require someone to record each game as it is played. But, at the very least, all of the tournaments should have a ranking of the players by the opposing players. Each player should be required to rank each participant by a prescribed method such as

1, 2, 3, 4, etc., or by group such as A, B, C, D or E. This would at least give you a basis for some sort of a handicap system that I feel would really encourage many more people to play.

The Demise of Leagues

As much as you can attribute the demise of many leagues to certain teams dominating over a period of time, you can also observe the dropping off of local players by the participation of legendary players from other locales. You can see a specific pattern in each different geographical area emerging as the dominant players are most always at the top. Example: Darrol Nelson-Doug Buhl, Chuck King-Len Dell, Dick Losee-Milt Benedict, Billy Mays-Earl Kelley, Bobby V-Dave Boaz, Bill Melton-Sam Summers, etc., win the majority of the tournaments in which they compete. Any one of these teams should be a prohibitive favorite in specific locations. I am not saying that these teams are unbeatable at home, but their edge is tremendous.

Draw Partner Events

As you are well aware, one of the most popular events nowadays is the draw partner. I think that while there should be an effort to encourage any player to participate, a first-time player does not belong in these games. You take a player who has driven anywhere up to a thousand miles to compete and he draws a partner who someone has brought from some party, this is unfair. The only way I see of discouraging this is to make all games played for at least \$10 per player. The worst any one can be hurt is by losing \$20 if they go two and out. This may keep a player who has absolutely no knowledge of the game out, but it would make for a much better draw.

Using Today's Technology

With today's technology to communicate, such as computer modems, faxes, and the computer network, I think we all should be making much more effort to use these systems to enhance *The World of Shuffleboard*. I do not know what it would entail to accomplish this, but I feel we should all be looking for ways to speed up our knowledge of each and every shuffleboard location in the United States and Canada. There should be a "search committee" formed in every state now listed in your "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing every board known to them, be it local or out of state. I am positive that just this effort would broaden your base of subscribers and also be beneficial for the owners of any such boards revealed to local and travelling players. I know that I patronize every place where there is a board listed in *The Board Talk* when I am in that area.

Club Play

A few months ago, you commented upon the various feelings regarding club play. The only reply you received was from Bus Voorhis as to his sentiments regarding his costs as opposed to the clubs, and the ability to compete

against them based on this. While the clubs definitely do have an advantage over the local businessman by their ability to sell drinks for less than a person whose costs of doing business are much greater, I feel that there is tremendous potential in these clubs for the promotion of the game. The local businessman knows that if he presents his customers a decent place to play and drink, he will keep his loyal clientele, even when these clubs have an advantage. I know there are many clubs out there that are looking to stage tournaments. Any tournament play in any locality has to be good for all of the local businesses. Why there is not a journal prepared at every tournament, I do not know. Even if it were just a simple listing of a cooperative gas station, motel, drug store, or restaurant, it would be an enhancement to all, plus an additional defrayment of the cost of running the tournament.

"Tooting His Own Horn"

In all the times I have written *The Board Talk*, I have never sought to blow my own horn. Now I feel that I must make my feelings known regarding this subject. I have had offers by such as Don Perry to write you regarding my past history in shuffleboard and I have refused because I know what I have done and against whom. I did not really feel that it was necessary. I also know full well Al Ryan's sentiments for Mickey Mickens as a player and friend. But Al Ryan also knows my history and I felt that he should give credit where it is deserved, as well as Dick Smedberg and other East Coast players who know of my 50-year career.

I have travelled around this country and Canada probably more than any other player. I have held my own or better wherever I have played. I have won every singles tournament but one in which I entered, where I came in third to Butch Such and Mickey Mickens. I won the Bourbon tournament with a pick-up partner, Jerry Siebert, when there were 68 teams, single elimination, and came in second in the Fall with another pick-up, Jeff Cottrell. I have gone complete seasons undefeated in league play where we played 10 frames hold hammer where I had to spot the opponents one or two points per game. A one-point lead in hold hammer 10 frames should guarantee a win. In all of the years I have played on Long Island, New York, there were only two players other than Mickey Mickens who came here and one was Bobby Miles, whom I beat at Gateway Tavern, Valley Stream, and some big guy from Tennessee who shot the hardest weights I have ever seen.

My proudest achievement, though, is that for all of the 50 years I have been competing, I have been at the very top. It is very difficult to sustain a peak such as this, even in view of the fact that I probably do not play five games of serious shuffleboard per year on the Island; it's very difficult to remain tournament shape. I feel that all of the

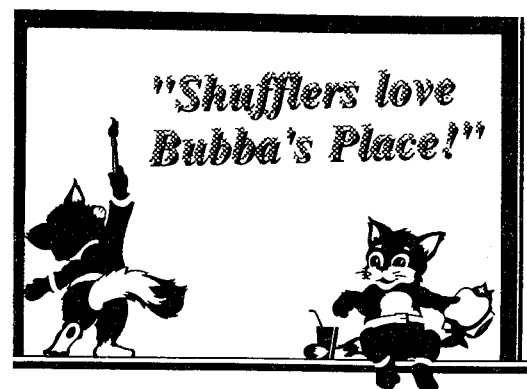
(continued on Page 24)

Evergreen Shuffleboard Association Keeps on Growing

The Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (serving players and sponsors in the Pacific Northwest) gained

(continued on Page 17)

Glen Cove's "Best Kept Secret" is Revealed!



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1995 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

JUNE

June 3-4

Doubles Tournament
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

June 10

"Best of Philly" Series
Bring Partner Event #3
Philadelphia Area

June 12-18

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

June 16-18

3-Event Tournament
Sticks Billiards
Austin, Texas

June 17-18

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

June 17-18

5th Annual Open Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

JULY

June 30-July 4

4th of July Tournament
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 1-2

1st Annual Doubles
Sportsman Tavern
Stanwood, Washington

July 1-4

4th of July Tournament
Dixie Belle
Downey, California

July 1-4

4th Annual Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 14-15

Deuces Wild 4-Person Team
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

July 22-23

Shuffleboard Affair Doubles
Town Tavern
Sequim, Washington

AUGUST

Aug. 3-6

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

Aug. 4-6

4-Event Nationals
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 5

"Best of Philly" Series
Bring Partner Event #4
Philadelphia Area

Aug. 12

Doubles Tournament
Tim Timber Tavern
Kelso, Washington

Aug. 12-13

Summertime Tournament
Bay Country Moose 831
Queenstown, Maryland

Aug. 12-13

Ladies' Only Bring Partner
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Aug. 18-20

6-Person Draft Team Event
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Aug. 27 - Sept. 4

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

Aug. 31-Sept. 3

Crazy Canucks Annual Labor
Day Weekend Tournament
AN & AF
Vancouver, Canada

Aug. 31-Sept. 4

Annual Texas Open
Location to be announced
Austin, Texas

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1-4

Labor Day Weekend Tourney
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

Sept. 8-10

5th Annual Skip's/Board Talk
Fall Tournament
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 8-10

Fall Tournament
American Legion
Sherburne, New York

Sept. 16-17

1st Annual Open Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

Sept. 22-24

ABC 3-Person Draw
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Sept. 30-Oct. 1

Mixed Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

OCTOBER

Oct. 7-8

Octoberfest Doubles Tourney
Corner Tavern
Bow, Washington

THE BOARD TALK

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

1995 Calendar of Shuffleboard Events

Oct. 14-15

Mixed Doubles Bring
Partner
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Oct. 21

"Best of Philly" Series
Bring Partner Event #5
Philadelphia Area

Oct. 21-22

Ladies' Singles/Draw Partner
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Oct. 21-22

PCSA Open Doubles
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Oct. 28-29

2nd Annual Draw Partner
Sportsman Tavern
Stanwood, Washington

NOVEMBER

Oct. 30-Nov. 5

North American Championships
Sands Regency
Reno, Nevada

Nov. 4-5

Bring Partner Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Nov. 24-26

10th Annual State of Michigan Championships
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Nov. 25-26

55 & Over Draw Partners
Shamrock
Longview, Washington

Nov. 24-26

Doubles Tournament
BZ's Sports Bar
Seattle, Washington

DECEMBER

Dec. 9

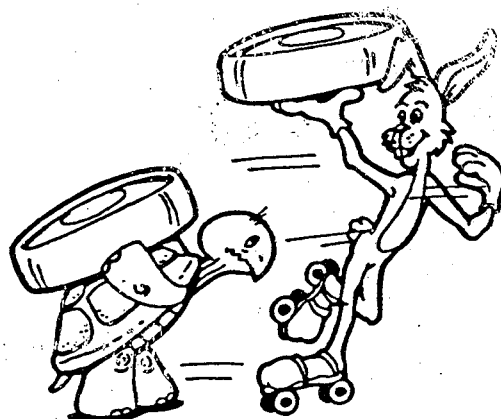
"Best of Philly" Series
Singles Event
Philadelphia Area

Dec. 16-17

6th Annual Santa Classic
Open Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 31-Jan. 2

New Year's Eve Extravaganza
Winnipeg Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



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Norris/Thorpe Top Corner Tavern's April Fool's Bash

The Corner Tavern in Bow, Washington, hosted its annual April Fool's Tournament, where Chuck Norris of Oregon and Mike Thorpe of Washington, were not fooled, and took top honors over a competitive 17-team field of shufflers from the Great Northwest.

Second place honors went to Jim (Caveman) Ward, local talent, and his partner Dave Arndt, who came a long way out of the loser's bracket. Third and fourth places went to John Martin and Marv Wilbur, and Nick Billings and Don Hudson respectively. Just out of the money were Rick Gindt and Al Pease, and Mike Waters and Nels Anderson for fifth and sixth places.

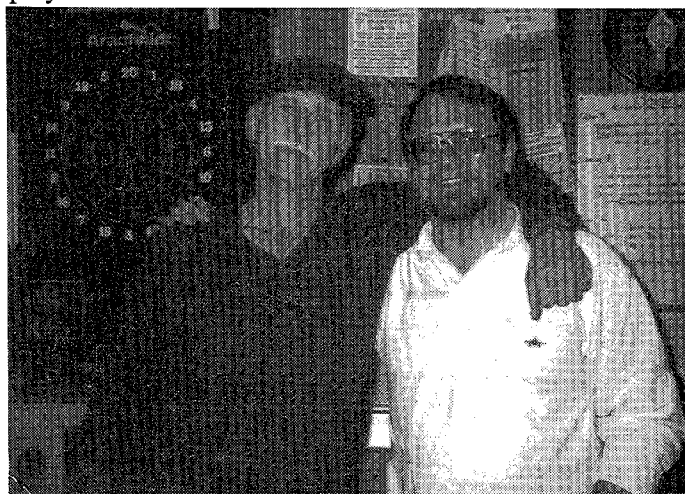


Mike Thorpe (right) and partner Chuck Norris, top winners, congratulate "Caveman" Ward (left) and Dave Arndt for their second-place finish.

Action at this fun-filled weekend started Friday night with a draw partner, won by Al Pease and Nels Ander-

son after a close final match with Dave Arndt and Larry Pearson.

The Corner Tavern's traditional buffet was served outdoors this year (because it didn't rain!) and featured barbecued chicken and ribs (chicken for Rick Gindt) and all the trimmings, plus a Sunday breakfast buffet for all players.



Tournament director Richard Larson (right) and sponsor sale director Bobby Thompson helped the Corner Tavern's April Fool's tournament run smoothly.

The Corner Tavern thanks everyone who participated and looks forward to seeing everyone at the Octoberfest tourney on Oct. 7-8.

Watch *The Board Talk* and the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association newsletter for details.

George/Litten Winners of Shamrock Tavern Draw



Gary George (left) and Fred Litten were winners of the draw partner event at the Shamrock Tavern, Longview, Washington, on May 6-7.

Seventeen teams vied for a total pot of \$2600 at the Shamrock Tavern's draw partner tournament in Longview, Washington, on May 6-7. Reporter Ralph Duarte says that, as always, Bernice's chili was the "hit" of the weekend event.



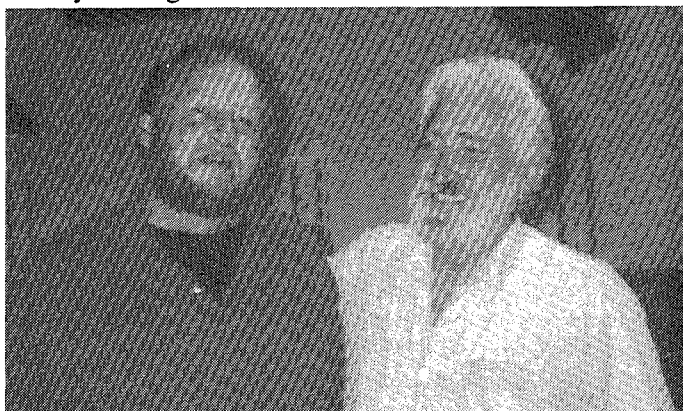
Taking second place honors were Chuck Norris (left) and Tom Henry.

"Tom and his lovely wife just moved up here from Vegas," said Ralph. "We're glad they did and hope they stay for a long time."

Third place went to Sparky Sparkman of Oregon and Russ Miller of Mt. Vernon, Washington.

"I know I have said it before, but here it goes again,"

Ralph said. "If there is a tournament going on in the state of Washington and Jim Foran is there, you can be sure that he will jump right in and lend a helping hand. Jim, we all thank you for all the help you have given to us. We think you are great!"



Sparky Sparkman (left) and Russ Miller finished third in the Shamrock Tavern's draw partner event.

To meet the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association's goal of avoiding conflicting tournaments, the Shamrock Tavern has changed its Oct. 7-8 PCSA-sponsored open doubles to Oct. 21-22. Watch for further details.

(Editor's Note: We salute the ESA and the Shamrock Tavern for their disciplined approach to avoiding

conflicting tournament dates. In a state like Washington, where action is so intense, that's vitally important. We hope other states will follow your example.)

Dew Drop Inn (continued from Page 5)

partner on Saturday afternoon, \$10 per person; and a bring partner on Sunday, \$30 per team. Come early for the \$10 round robins on Thursday night.

For further information, please call the Dew Drop Inn, 315-539-5729 (note the new phone number). Post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Michigan

DEUCES WILD 4-PERSON TEAM DRAFT AT WETLANDS, JULY 14-15

That popular tournament site in Michigan -- the Wetlands Bar & Grill, 1008 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak -- will host a Deuces Wild 4-Person team event on July 14-15, with a draft format. Don't miss this fun event! Call host Mike Papa at 810-543-2626 or The Shuffleboard Federation, 810-380-9300.

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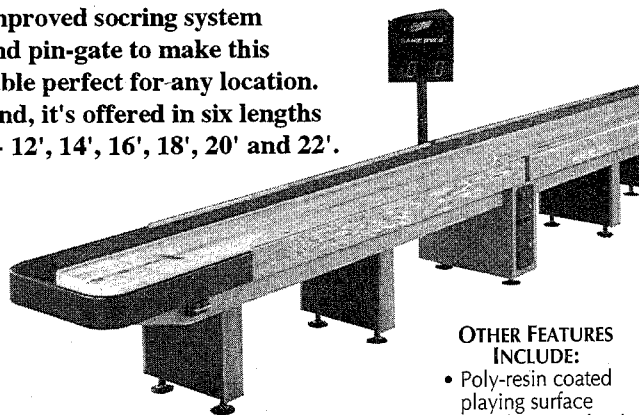
"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

1	
1	2
2	3
3	4

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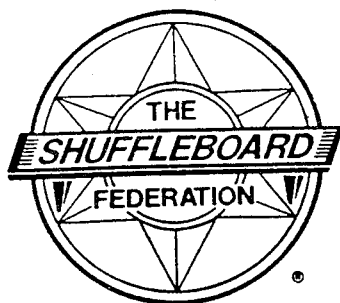
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ESA Keeps on Growing

(continued from Page 11)

eight new members in April, pushing our total membership to 43, including 12 sponsors. At least 50 percent of the (dues) money collected will be paid out to the point standing leaders at the end of the season with the other part going to pay for administrative costs such as postage for the newsletter/calendar.

Players don't have to be members of the association to play in tournaments or other events. Association members will share in the money by garnering points at association-sanctioned tournaments. *The Board Talk* wondered if residents outside of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia could join the association and get points when they play association tournaments. Sure thing, increased membership means increased strength for this group -- and more money in the prize fund.

Several players have approached me with the idea of giving a five-point bonus to the team (or players) which wins a sanctioned tournament. As it stands now, the first place players receive just one point more than the second place team. The second idea came from Mike Pond, who has volunteered to be our Eastern Washington representative. Mike would like to see the participation points be based on the miles a player travels to compete. He thinks it should be two points for every 100 miles. He has a point, because it takes a lot more effort for those players who don't live in the central I-5 corridor to get to our tournaments.

If you have thoughts on these two subjects, talk to your area representative: Gordy Smith, British Columbia; Russ Miller, Northwest Washington; Rick Gindt, Tacoma; Mike Pond, Eastern Washington; Doug Dubois, SE Washington; or Chuck Norris, Oregon.

Jim Manders, Secretary, Evergreen Shuffleboard Assn.

To join the ESA, send your check for \$15 (made payable to the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association) to treasurer Sandee VanWaggonen, Whistling Oyster Tavern, P.O. Box 580, Quilcene, WA 98376. Your membership not only entitles you to points at association-sanctioned events, but also the ESA newsletter containing a tournament calendar, association information, and a listing of point standings (as of May 1, Rick Gindt was in the lead with 48 points).

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

This is another reminder that the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is here to serve the shuffleboard community.

The response, to date, has been less than expected. After all these years of tournaments, leagues, match games, etc., the player is about to be recognized for the first time in shuffleboard history, and we're getting practically no feedback.

1. One of our by-laws is that the person being considered for induction into the Hall of Fame has to have played for 20 years or more, and must have 20 players from his/her area sign a petition for this person to be inducted.

2. Committees need to form in each area for this purpose. Anyone interested in chairing a 5-person committee, contact the representative on the board of directors for your area. Let's get this rolling!

3. There will be awards for (1) players, (2) directors, (3) promoters, and (4) people who have helped the game by good deeds and hard work.

I will add more information in this column each month. Let's all pitch in and get this done!

Glen Davidson, President/Chairman
9021 Moon Street, Midwest City, OK 73141

Other Members of the Board of Directors:

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Bob Hunt, Chief Financial Officer, 1400 S St. #201, Sacramento, CA 95814

Louise C. Freer, Secretary, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446

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Jim Foran, Director, 4025 McKinley Ave., Tacoma, WA 98404

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME!

**Send your contribution (checks payable to The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame) to
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189 Barry Ave., Lansdale PA 19446-6616**

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, on the first leg of their journey, Eddie and Lil had gone to the Horse's Head Saloon, looking for some action. They found it -- in the form of The "Texas Kid" and "Fat Max" with "Dollar Dan" -- the Money Man" there to monitor the action.)

"Fat Max," the ape-looking guy, and "Dollar Dan - the Money Man" spotted Long Beach Lil and the rest of the players as they entered the Horse's Head Saloon. The "Ape-Man" took a bar stool near the entrance door. The other two continued on down the bar for the greetings.

Everyone knew each other (except for Eddie), and they exchanged handshakes. Eddie was introduced then. When he shook hands with the Fat Man, they both smiled and it was friendly. As he shook hands with the Money Man, however, he looked into a pair of steely eyes and he actually felt a little chill.....from his expression, and from his icy hand.

The Texas Kid and Fat Max got on the board then and practiced for a few minutes. The Kid had planned things that way: to give them the advantage -- as the board had just been freshly waxed. Lil and Eddie had practiced when the board was slow.

While the Kid's follower re-waxed the table, the plans for the action were laid out: they would play doubles, starting for \$100 per player. The stake would be placed on the bar (right next to Dollar Dan) before each game.

Lil had arranged for Eddie to play against Fat Max and she would play against the Texas Kid. Just before they started, Lil drew Eddie aside and said: "Now, here's how it's going to work. I don't want you to lag anything but 1's or off the board -- O.K.? I can beat both of these guys and I'm going to shoot my best so they'll recall that. I know you don't understand the strategy here, but just do as I say. We can afford to lose some games if it turns out that way -- all right? No questions now -- that's it and that's that! Let's play."

Eddie was totally amazed now. He was used to playing to win! He figured that Lil knew what she was doing, though; and the plan didn't sound too drastic, so he decided to go along. Eddie and Fat Max took their positions and the game was underway.

Eddie won the toss; it turned up "heads." The first frame was weight-for-weight, and the Fat Man left a deep one in the center for Eddie to lag against. Eddie didn't have to "fake" the first lag -- it went sailing right off the end, due to the fast board.

Lil and the Kid went weight-for-weight on their first frame also, and the Kid left her with a very deep one left-cross, which was near the rail. Lil shot at the weight with

her hammer, gently nudging it off the board. She continued to make several good combos and other perfect shots, which impressed the crowd that had gathered to watch -- as it did the Texas Kid. He remarked to her: "Your shooting is slick as snot-on-a-brass-door-knob, Lil. You're getting better with age!"

At the end of an hour or so, Eddie and Lil were down four games to one. The difference came in Eddie's poor lagging. The Money Man actually had a hint of a smile on his face after they lost the fifth game. He thought he had a pretty good deal going; he could smell blood.

Lil took Eddie aside then and laid out their next move. She told him: "The doubles are over, Champ. I'm gonna arrange things to where YOU take on the Texas Kid solo, O.K.? I want you to win now -- but make it close, O.K.? You can beat this guy, but right now, you and I are the only ones that know that -- and let's keep it that way as long as we can."

She went over to where the Kid and Dollar Dan were sitting. She threw up her arms and said: "We can't beat you guys doubles. I'll make you a deal. I'll either play one of you singles, or I'll walk the board. That's the only way we can continue the action."

Texas Kid turned his head and looked over at Dollar Dan. The Money Man shook his head slowly from right to left and back. The Kid told Lil: "You're too hot today, Lil. No deal."

The Money Man whispered something into the Kid's ear then. He turned back to Lil and said: "Here's how it is, Lil. We either go on the way we are -- or I'll take on that young buck you brought along in some singles action." Lil responded: "I don't like the sound of that -- but let me have a talk with my partner."

Lil was smiling inside as she approached Eddie again. She explained: "You see how slick that came off? The bankroll is riding on you now, Champ. Just put everything together and it'll work out fine. I'll be watching your back, though, just in case." Eddie pondered that last statement as Lil went back to negotiate.

Lil had a regretful look on her face as she told them: "I don't like the idea of this, but we did come to play, so I guess the Kid and Eddie can get it on singles, if it has to be that way. We're down now, so we might as well make this interesting. I'll let my man play you a series of 'best 3 out of 5' for \$2500. How's that?"

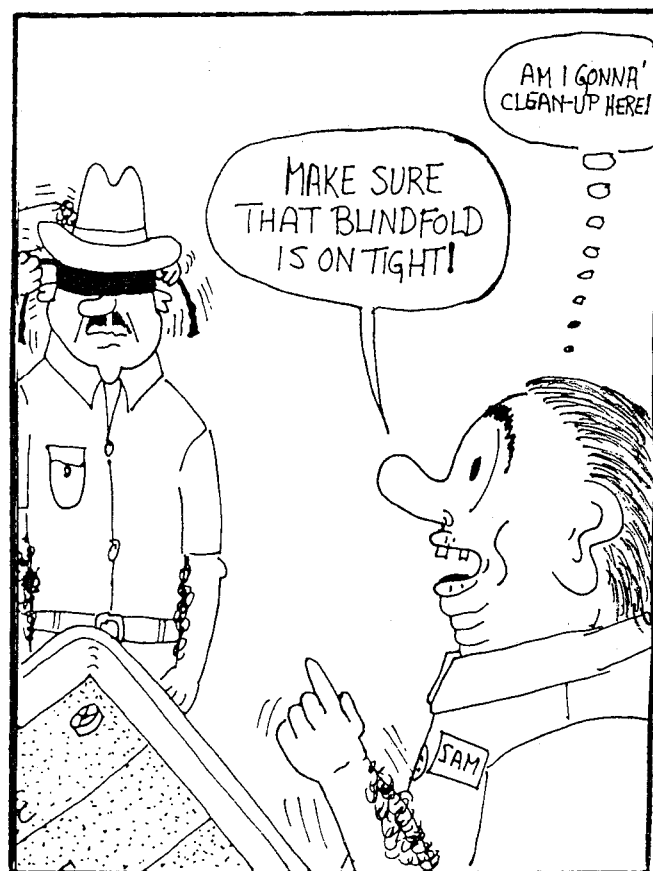
Texas Kid looked at the Money Man then, who stared intently into his eyes for a moment. Satisfied, the Man reached for his bankroll and, with a smile on his face, he peeled off \$2500 in \$100 bills and placed it on the bar. He looked hard into Lil's eyes then as he remarked: "You're

on, lady. May the best man win...and my man WILL be the best."

Will the Money Man's man be the best -- or will Eddie prevail? Don't miss the next exciting episode!

SHUFFLIN' SAM

by "Balboa" Ron



More Notebook

Thumbs Down to Male Ego-Driven "Jerks" Who Shrink The World of Shuffleboard

Here's just a quick THANK YOU -- plus a bit more.... First, let me try to tell you how much I love you folks! And thank you for being you!

"Real People" -- real friends -- seem to be at a premium these days -- even in The World of Shuffleboard. And that's the last thing I ever thought could be in short supply! Funny how the world and times change.

When I first started picking up the shuffleboard weights, just about the time *The Board Talk* was born, I had no way of knowing my great good fortune to be in just the right place at the right time to learn from champs! They were just "my friends at Dave's," I thought. And all those great field trips we took -- I thought they were just for fun. I had no clue they were serious team challenge meets. (Ah, the foibles of "youth" and missed chances.) So, here's a very belated, heartfelt "thank you, guys!" (At DeForrests, across from Saramento's D.M.V. -- a great, beautiful moment in shuffleboard history -- unfortunately, one that passed into history, too.) That was a special time, one that mustn't be belittled.

On the other hand, from the first tournament I entered, drawing partner Bob Hunt -- and we won -- there's been the downside of this sport. It always seems to be there (NOT from Bob, but from so many others). It's called MALE EGO -- the one that seems to need to control the single female (one "jerk" actually put into words the belief that I must like shuffleboard because I want to "get even" with men!). No, Mr. Neanderthal, I love this sport because when I picked up the weight, it "spoke" to me! No man was involved in this intimate bonding.

Yet, most often, when I've drawn a partner who happens to be male, he feels compelled to try to play my game for me! (Of course, a "mere woman" can't think to make her own move.) Such a partner invariably "blows" his own half of the match, making MY game look bad. (This tends to not happen when the partners are female and may or may not diminish if a woman is married.) But how in the world can I concentrate when someone keeps nagging and telling me what to do?

That tearing down of confidence, and all the little mind-games that go with it are a factor in why I was offended enough to need a "leave of absence" from this sport that I love.

Really wanting to re-enter The World of Shuffleboard, I just MUST give notice that I won't tolerate any of those stupid power-play-mind games! No more, and most of all, it's out of line to interrupt your associate's concentration

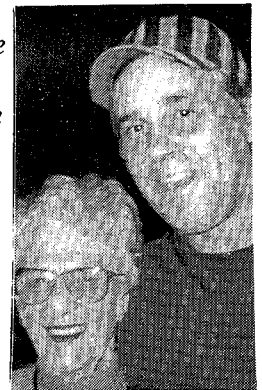
for her final shots with a remark like, "It's now or never." You know who you are who've done it -- and you should realize that's a dirty trick if it were even an opponent you said that to!

So, "Lords of the Realm," stand aside and don't interfere with a good match! Make your OWN move, hold up your OWN half, and let your partner do the same.

Ina Rogers, Santa Ana, California

You speak for a lot of women, Ina, and we're glad you had the courage to do so. We hope the guilty ones, and there are a lot of them out there, will take heed of your words, not only in terms of respect for their partners -- male or female -- but in the realization that by their offensive manner, they are driving people away from the sport -- and it can't afford that! There's broad recognition for the need for new, young "blood" to replace the aging "giants" (male, of course, in the minds of most), but there's also a need to get more women involved, not just in women's events (which are important, evidently, at this time), but in all events. We've always admired Diana Hagen for having the guts to be the lone woman in male-dominated events, and we cheered when Fritzi Broka and Louise Freer took second in the recent Bourbon doubles in a tough field of male contenders.

You will note, as we have during our travels, that the men who treat their female partners with respect are those who have confidence in themselves. They are there with advice and counsel when you need it -- but they don't control or belittle or destroy confidence. Pros, perhaps because of their own self-confidence with no need to belittle the abilities of their partners to build themselves up, seem more adept, more comfortable, with this than the semi-pros or amateurs. We don't mean to stereotype, because there are certainly exceptions. But it brings to mind a shining example of what we're talking about here. We strongly believe in the gift of confidence and experience a pro can give to an amateur, so a highlight of our annual Skip's/Board Talk Tournament is the Pro-Am Draw. Portraying all that we believe in was that "gentle giant," John Tischler, who gave his inexperienced partner all the benefits of his experience, but did so with respect, never diminishing her self-worth. We think you'll find that the "jerks" who show disrespect for their female partners in a shuffleboard game also show that same disrespect at home, in the workplace, and anywhere else in society. You are right on! We don't need to tolerate them!



Meltons Win at Bourbon's 34th

(continued from Page 1)

Indiana. Locals Mike Koontz and Dennis Kinsey finished fourth, with Bob Shaw of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Denny Busch of Omaha, Nebraska, in fifth spot. Others in the winner's circle were: Jimmy Allis of Everett, Washington, and Bob Voorhis of Fairmount, Indiana; Bob and Bobby Brown of Portland, Indiana; and Bjerne Sunde of Madison Heights, Michigan, and John Tischler of Detroit.

Winner of the set of weights was Jim Yank Jr. of Philadelphia.

Tournament director Fritz Broka and the American Legion Post 424 thank all who participated in this 34th annual event. Fritz also thanks the West Coast bunch for making the trip to Bourbon once again. "Wes, sorry you didn't get that ride on my Harley!" she said.

Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Gives First Awards at Bourbon

A highlight of the Bourbon tournament was the presentation of outstanding service awards to deserving people from that area. Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Director Larry Creakbaum presented awards to Mike Koontz, Steve Hart, and Fritz Broka.

"These people are those who dedicate a lot of their time to serve the shuffleboard community well," said President Glen Davidson. "They put a lot more into the game than they will ever get back."

Lots of Winners at Dew Drop Inn

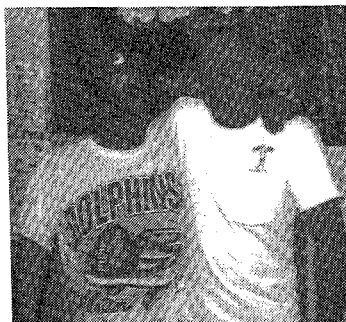
The weather was not the best, as even light snow fell this late in the year, but the shuffleboard tournament held on April 6-9 at the Dew Drop Inn in Waterloo, New York, was a great success, with players coming from as far away as Indiana, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, to compete on the four in-house boards.

Thursday night kicked off the shuffleboard weekend with \$10 round robins, with 24 players competing.



Keeping it in the family, Jane's hubby, Arlow (right) with partner Jim Fowler from Wolcott, New York, won the second round robin.

Jane Johnson of Jordan, New York, drew host Doug Fridley Jr. to take top honors in the first round robin.



Sixteen players vied for the top prizes of trophy, Old Milwaukee shirt, and half of the \$2,040 purse in the singles event which started Friday night.



Milt Benedict (left) and Steve Bennett, both of Sherburne, New York, took first and second places respectively in the open singles at the Dew Drop Inn.

"Upstart" Earl Durgan of Port Gibson, New York, upset some top players, like Chuck King and Steve Bennett, to take third place. Fourth and final cash spot went to Johnny Gardner from Maryland. Defending open singles champion Louise Freer just missed cashing and finished fifth. Tourney favorites Bobby Voorhis and Doug Fridley Jr. "bombed out" as it just wasn't their day!

In Saturday morning's mixed doubles, it was local shooters Theresa Gibson and Doug Fridley Jr. doing it the hard way, as it took two games in the finals before turning back Louise Freer from Pennsylvania and Chuck King from Delaware, who settled for second. Third and final cash spot went to the husband and wife team of John and Sharon Canino from Baldwinsville, New York.

Theresa Gibson and Doug Fridley Jr. were winners of the mixed doubles at the Dew Drop Inn. They beat out favorites Louise Freer and Chucky King.



The draw partner event held Saturday night and well into the late evening hours was a complete sell-out, with prize monies topping \$2,225. Again, it went two games in the finals, but with Rob Hummer from Waterloo shooting tough weights against the pro from Indiana, Bobby V, it was Rob and Doug Fridley Jr. earning first place. This was Rob's first-time ever cashing. Settling for second were Bobby and his partner, Dave (Red Dog) Shewbridge from Maryland. Earning third spot were tourney favorites Chuck King and Steve Bennett, with Louise Freer and Dick Losee from Poolville, New York, in fourth. Taking the fifth and final spot were Howard Arndt from Waterloo and Bob White from Sherburne, winning it in a very close playoff game against Doug Fridley Sr. and Milt Benedict.

Sunday's popular bring partner event attracted 32 players and the top spot and decidedly the best team in the tourney

was Bob Voorhis and Milt Benedict. They won with a strong showing. Turned back to second was the fine team of Dick Losee and Steve Bennett. Third spot went to Waterloo shufflers Marv Smith and Doug Fridley Jr., with the fourth and final spot going to Lenny Dell and Judy Iseman.

"Special thanks to Dee Cooley (who is doing a fine, fine job taking over when Elsie Fridley retired), who prepared super buffets for players and guests Saturday and Sunday; to Brenda Hoad, our daytime bartender who literally ran her tail off to keep up with her thirsty customers plus kept fresh-popped hot popcorn on the bar, and Todd Powers and Joyce Valder for handling the nighttime crowd," said Doug Jr. "Much appreciation goes to Old Milwaukee Beer for sponsoring this tournament and making it a big success. Our next National Tournament is Aug. 3-6. See enclosed flyer."

Gindt/Thorpe/Adams Win Washington State Titles

In a first-ever State of Washington tournament, held at the Whistling Oyster Tavern, Quilcene, Washington, on May 11-14, there were 20 participants in the singles (\$2200 pot) and 18 in the doubles (\$2,000 pot).

Rick Gindt of Tacoma, who only lost one game during the event that started on Thursday and ended at 3:30 a.m. on Friday, was the champion of the singles. Larry Pearson of Burien took second-place honors, with Paul Majors of Everett in third, and Carl Rousch of Shelton in fourth place.

Mike Thorpe and Jeff Adams teamed up to take the doubles championship, with Mike Waters and John Huhtala in second place. Rick Gindt and Jim Foran finished third, with Bill Bailey and Jim Buhl in fourth place.

With a small turn-out for the open doubles, which was open to players outside the state of Washington, a round robin was held, with Darrol Nelson of Oregon and Rick Gindt winning the first round, and Russ Miller and Jim Foran taking the second round.

A highlight of the weekend was the Whistling Oyster buffet, this time featuring a Mexican spread.

(Editor's Note: While Bill and Sandee are disappointed with the turnout for this "first-ever," we encourage them to "hang tough." It takes a while for a first to become a tradition and we're convinced that state tournaments will lead the way to a true national.)

6TH GRAND MASTERS, WHISTLING OYSTER, QUILCENE, WASHINGTON, AUG. 2-6

Pack your bags, load up your RV, and head for Quilcene, Washington, where the Whistling Oyster Tavern will host its 6th Annual Grand Masters Plus on August 2-6. *(Editor's Note: It was just a year ago that we were there and we can*

guarantee a good, good time!) The fun will start on Wednesday, Aug. 2, with a mixed doubles draw, \$50 per team, with no sale.

Next comes the very serious stuff on Aug. 3 with the start of the open singles, \$100 entry, with sale at noon and play starting immediately following.

Fun time again on Aug. 4 with the doubles draw, \$25 per player, and no sale.

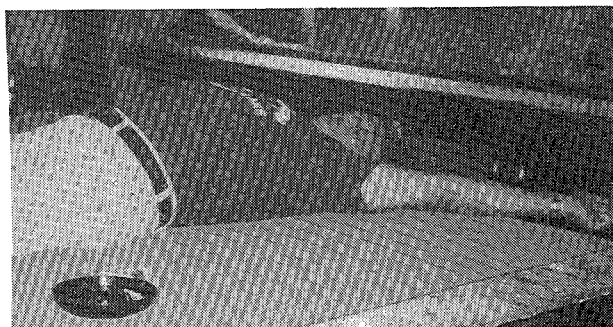
Then comes the really tough stuff -- the reason for the name of this tournament: the Grand Masters, on Aug. 5-6, \$150 per team entry, with sale starting at noon on Saturday.

Play will be on the Whistling Oyster's five fine in-house boards and with in-house American weights. Bill and Sandee's famous seafood buffet will be served on Saturday and Sunday, with \$4 breakfast buffets on both those days.

If you were a part of the fun-filled RV "pit" last year, you know all about that benefit. If that doesn't fit your style, try the Maple Grove Motel, 360-765-3410, Bay Shore Motel, 360-796-4220; and (reopened this year, just behind the Whistling Oyster) Quilcene Hotel, 360-765-3447. Lodging is limited, so make your reservations early.

For further information, contact Bill Bailey, 360-765-9508 or 765-3436 or Jim Foran, 206-474-2724.

***Almost anything can
happen at a
Skip's/Board Talk
Tournament
and it usually does.....***



**5th Annual
Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan
Sept. 8-10**

Notebook *(continued from Page 11)*

foregoing and much more qualifies me for nomination for the Hall of Fame and being I am 70 years old and realizing my mortality, I would so like to be recognized. I also full well know my reputation of being a hot-head and a hard-head. While I readily acknowledge that this is all true and that I deserve these sentiments, I also feel that personality -- or lack of it -- should not weigh against any recognition I may deserve. I also feel that my overwhelming desire to win every game I play has made me a better competitor. I do not believe there is such a thing as a good loser.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings

Edmund Galke, Oakdale, Long Island, New York

We're just going to make a few brief comments and then open it up to readers for feedback to your lengthy letter and if we don't hear from John McDermott, Al Stewart, A.Z. Turnbo, Dick Gorman and others out there with opinions agreeing and/or disagreeing with you, we're going to be terribly disappointed.

First, the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors has been pleading for feedback since it was formed in February of 1995. You've certainly provided that and instead of waiting until this is published, we are forwarding your letter to Secretary Louise Freer immediately. (All nominations to the Hall of Fame should be sent to the NHF Board of Directors -- not The Board Talk, which has no "vote" on who should be inducted. We are publishing your letter to hopefully end the lack of feedback to the board.) Please note Glen's report in this issue and the board's request for the formation of area committees and note also, in last month's issue, the list of contributors who made nominations for induction. All of us wish that Earl and Mickey could have been inducted while they were still with us, but there was no Hall of Fame at that time. We salute The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., for taking the initiative to honor Bob Miles and to Glen and his board members for taking one giant step toward making the Hall a reality. You have made some good suggestions which we know they will take into consideration. You will be pleased to know that a portion of every advertisement revenue in The Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion/Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament printed program will go to The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Regarding rules, rating, etc., we believe it will be some time before there's nationwide uniformity. But with the growing number of state and area associations and cooperation between them, there's hope for a national organization that would pull this fragmented sport together.

A Word from Glen

"I am going to finish the job we started with the Hall of Fame. We will have a good format for years to come and the younger generations will have something to look forward to. I would advise the young players to keep all records of the events you win and save for future reference.

"We still need someone to send in the history of Mickey Mickens, as well as you can for the past 20-30 years and send to Secretary Louise Freer (189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446). By the end of the year, we should have everything in place.

"Next month I will give you the history of two of our Hall of Fame gang and each month thereafter until all is done. Let's all pull together to reach our objective, to go as far as we can go to better the game of shuffleboard." (See Hall of Fame column on Page 17.)

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More Notebook

Dixie Debbie Salutes Bourbon

Bourbon, Indiana -- "Way Cool!" Fritz, Buddy, the American Legion and all who helped make your 34th Spring Tournament a success; thank you so much.

The California contingent had a great time. I had a great time. We arrived Thursday morning and, the minute we walked into the Legion Hall, were made to feel welcome. It is so nice to walk into an atmosphere that makes you feel glad you are there. The shuffleboard community is a rare thing. I am still a new kid on the block, so to speak, but I have been made to feel like I belong. One of the nicest things about travelling to a tournament is seeing the people you've met and become close to over the years. I was happy to see so many of the players I met in Las Vegas and also meet even more of the people I've read about in *The Board Talk*.

This is the first tournament of any kind that I have ever played in. I didn't plan on playing. When Fritz approached me needing an extra player because someone's partner couldn't be there, I told her what a terrible player I was and if there was anyone else who could play, they would be a much better substitute partner. I didn't get away with that and suddenly, I became not just part of the audience, but a participant. Jason Luke of Syd's Tavern, Nobles, Indiana, was my most gracious partner. We won our first two games. It was great! We lost our next two and moved to the party bracket.

I will never forget Bourbon, May 6, 1995. Has anyone forgotten the feeling of participating in their first tournament? Has anyone ever won while participating in their first tournament?

Thanks to my travel companions for putting up with me and being such fine friends; in alphabetical order: Jim Anderson, Chris Bonnar, Larry Cole, Jerry Davis, Wes Eades, Joe Muniz, and Paul Weber. I am especially glad that Chris and Paul were in Bourbon because it gave my partner and me the most exquisite privilege of knocking them out of the winner's bracket. It was also fun to see Patti and Christi beat Joe Muniz and Jerry out of the winner's bracket. Way to go, ladies!

Speaking of women, Louise Freer and Fritz Broka, you are awesome! Knocking out the high sponsorship team and then giving the Meltons something to really worry about. I heard Billy Melton mention before the tournament started something about never being beaten by a woman. Just after that, one of the members of the gentler sex showed him what it felt like. Billy, it almost happened twice in one weekend!

Congratulations to all the winners and players. It was a great time. We hope to see as many of you as possible

here at The Dixie Belle for the 4th of July (see enclosed flyer).

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

We're glad you had the opportunity to be in Bourbon, Dixie; everyone in The World of Shuffleboard should have that experience at least once, and we congratulate your California contingency for their return visit. Our only regret is that we weren't there as well.

How fortunate you were to partner with someone like Jason Luke! Evidently he wasn't like those described in Ina Rogers' letter on Page 21.

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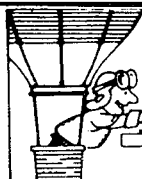
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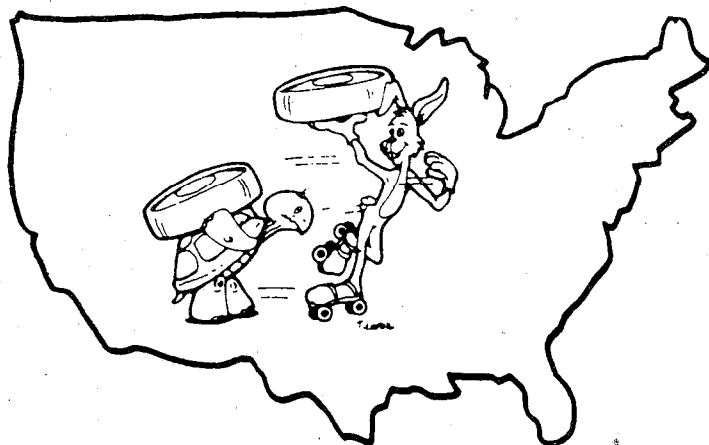
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