

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 517-484-4976

Vol. 14, No. 8

August 1997

Southwest Open Sets Record!

- ●192 Players from 15 States
- ●\$142,540 Total Pot
- ●Bill Melton Inducted in Hall of Fame By George & Donna Wilber

It was HOT in Del City, Oklahoma, over the 4th of July week, but COOL in the air-conditioned American Legion Post 73. There was HOT action on the 21 boards days and nights prior to and throughout the Southwest Open, but host Don Crall, directors Ron and Sharon Huddleston and their staffs never lost their COOL. The latter had to be a challenge because Southwest Open No. 6 attracted the largest participation -- 192 players from 15 states -- of any shuffleboard event in recent history, and a total pot of \$142,540, not quite enough to top the 1996 North American Championships, but certainly appealing enough to keep competitors on their toes.

Okies Win "Warm-Up" Event

Billed as a "warm-up" event for those who came early, the Tuesday night bring-your-own 4-person team tourney turned out to be a major event with 18 teams (72 players) competing for a share of the \$19,700 pot. It took until Wednesday evening before a victor emerged.



It was good to see Sam Summers (left) back in action and he proved he's still got what it takes to be a winner. He led his Oklahoma team of Sally Goff, Fred Washington and Bud Hillburn to first place.



The Texas team of David Williams (right), Bobby Williams, Jeri Billard and Johnny Ballard took second place honors.



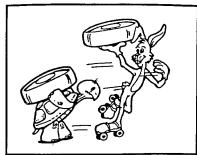
Rick Boyer (left), Morey Balins, Fred Compean and Kenny Hawkes, of Colorado finished third.

110 in Open/Pro Singles

An unprecedented 110 players signed up for the singles, 16 in the pro event and 94 in the open graduated entry handicap event.

The "cream of the crop" rose to the top with 0 rated players claiming the first three places in the open singles. Steve Burkett of Oklahoma claimed the biggest share of the \$20,800 total pot, with that tough lady from Oklahoma, Rena Fleming, hot on his heels. Buddy Broka

(continued on Page 8)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Rest in peace, B.C. We will miss you.

Billy Chiles Friends Honor His Memory at Tournament

The Silver Spur in San Bernardino, California, was the site of the Memorial Shuffleboard Tournament honoring the memory of Billy Chiles and showing monetary concern for his widow, Christine, by having a raffle and donating the entry fees to her. Approximately \$1800 was collected for her and Christine thanks all who participated in this effort.

Most of the local players who knew and loved Billy and played around the local taverns with him had never seen a tournament before. Jean Mays, bar owner Don Pope and I decided to have one they could play in.

As word spread, it became apparent this was going to be hard to pull off with only one board. Al Stewart (bless his heart!) called me and said he would bring in another board. Paul Weber said he would do the sale and raffle off all the prizes everyone donated. Bob Brunskill graciously took charge of the ABC format tournament.

With all this talent, Jean and I knew everything would go smoothly and we could relax.

Bellflower Bruce made it a class act by donating ten \$100 bills for the raffle and also gave the bar \$300 to buy drinks, plus generously tipping the bartenders. Impressed me!

Mike and Clydene Rowe did a fine job barbecuing everything that wasn't shooting. Vern Booth asked for a few moments of silence while we remembered Billy and sent a prayer for him.

Eric Chiles vowed he would win the tournament for his Dad, and he did, with team mates John McGinnis and Wes Eades. Second place went to Joanie Swensen, Linda Wright and Sam Blanco. Frank Bentley, Bill Ellis and Kathy Fleming came in third.

--ATTENTION--

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. Use the form inside to renew NOW so you won't miss next month's issue!

Jolene Lembke, Yucaipa, California

We salute you, Jolene, and all the others involved in making this memorial tournament a fitting tribute to Billy. We've often blessed Al Stewart's heart because he's always there when a need arises, just as Paul and Bob are generous with their time and talents. Bellflower Bruce? Well, he not only MAKES a class act -- he IS a class act!

Project Children Charity Wins as "The Feud" Continues

The 6th renewal of the Family Feud Shootout took place at Kelli's Bar in Philadephia, Pennsylvania, on June 22. Five 4-person teams met to claim bragging rights for the next year in this fun-filled event. After quite a stretch of shooting, HF's Misfits edged out Hamill's Battlers in the round robin event.

The real winner was the Project Children charity which received the proceeds of the event, which was begun by Joe Cooney in conjunction with Sister Francis Kirk to benefit disadvantaged children. With Joe's passing (see May 1997 issue of The Board Talk), his family agreed that the Shootout should continue for its stated purpose, and as a memorial to Joe.

In reality, everyone was a winner for the day: the participants who paid, receiving nothing in return; the bar which donated the food and beverages to all participants; and the Cooney family -- Colleen, Barbara, and Maria -- who participated and enjoyed renewing acquaintances with Joe's friends.

Anyone interested in contributing to this worthy cause may do so by sending to: Project Children, c/o Sister Francis Kirk, 7049 Charles Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135. And, for those interested, the Shootout will again take place next year at Kelli's on the weekend after Father's Day.

The Friends of Joe Cooney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A Board Talk salute to you folks for holding this event for a worthy cause. We encourage readers to respond to your invitation to contribute. We also encourage the friends of Joe Cooney to remember to contact us with details a few months prior to the event so we can help you broaden participation.

(More Notebook on Page 14)

Plenty of Shuffleboard Action at Colorado's Balloon Inn

Visitors Tops at Div. II Handicap, May 23-25

"It doesn't matter what their names are, anyone from Oklahoma or Nebraska always seems to take our money," said Ron Vogt, host of the Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado.

At the Division II Handicap Tournament on May 23-25, it was two visitors from Oklahoma who took the biggest share of the \$2850 pot.





Balloon Inn hostess Gwen Vogt congratulates singles winner Jim Kennedy (left) and second place finisher Phil Gardner



Third place singles winner Gail Cowan saved face for the "home team."



Host Ron Vogt congratulates "two very nice guys from Tulsa, Oklahoma," Jim Kennedy and Phil Gardner, for capturing first place in the doubles.

Locals Char Waugaman and Morey Balins took second place, with Gwen Vogt and Troy Sayers finishing third.





Char Waugaman and Morey Balins (left) took second place honors in the doubles, with Gwen Vogt and Troy Sayers (right) in third.

Balins Tops in 8th Balloon Open, June 19-22

"We must have scared everyone away or they wanted Colorado to keep their money for a change," said Ron Vogt regarding the results of the 8th Annual Balloon Open. All of the winners in this event, with a purse of \$2500, were from Colorado.



Winner of the singles was Morey Balins (next to Gwen), with Rick Boyer (center) taking second place honors and Fred Compean in third. Rick and Gwen took first in the doubles, and Morey and Fred finished third.



Ron congratulates 2nd place doubles winners Gary Longwell and Char Waugaman.

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Washington

3RD ANNUAL OPEN DOUBLES, OLD EDISON INN, EDISON, SEPT. 12-14

The 3rd Annual Open Doubles Tournament at the Old Edison Inn, 583 Cains Ct., Edison, is slated for the weekend of Sept. 12-14.

An A-B draw partner event kicks things off at 7 p.m. Friday night. Entry fee is \$10 per player.

The bring partner tournament will start at the conclusion of the sale, which is at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Entry is \$50 a team for the double elimination (2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, single 17 point game in the loser's bracket) event. This is a sanctioned point event for Evergreen Shuffleboard Association members.

A complimentary feed of cajun-style seafood gumbo will be served Saturday evening, and there will be the usual -- and often unusual -- door prizes, according to tourney co-director Phil DePree.

Last year's winners were Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl.

Some RV parking is available. Call the Edison (360-766-6266) for local motel recommendations.

OPEN DOUBLES, TIM'S TIMBER TAVERN, KELSO, SEPT. 13-14

Tim's Timber Tavern, 213 Allen Street in Kelso, will host an open doubles on Sept. 13-14. The sale will begin at noon on Saturday with play following. Payout is 55-30-10-5. Food will be served on Saturday. Tournament director is Kevin Larkin.

For further information, call the Timber Tavern at 360-636-2627.

Oregon

1ST SOUTHERN OREGON DOUBLES, EAGLES 2093, MEDFORD, AUG. 15-17

The Eagles #2093, 2000 Table Rock Rd., Medford, will host the 1st Annual Southern Oregon Doubles

GAMETIME SHUFFLEBOARD INTRODUCES....

(Black) •4-3-2-1
Novice to Intermediate Player
(Red) •3-2-1
Expert/Pro Player

1

2

3

4

....A new concept that allows "quicker play" and "instant handicap scoring."

All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

"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

Take Your Best Shot!

Gametime has taken the best in shuffleboard and made it better! We've added an improved socring system and pin-gate to make this table perfect for any location.

And, it's offered in six lengths
-- 12', 14', 16', 18', 20' and 22'.

OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE:

• Poly-resin coated playing surface
• Fine furniture finish
• Revolutionary scoring system
• Optional light kit

We refinish all brands of shuffleboard. Call for details.

GAMETIME

7100 Burns, North Richland Hills, Texas 76118; Phone: 817-284-3499 FAX: 817-595-1506

Tournament on Aug. 15-17. The event will start with a Friday night draw partners at 7 p.m. sharp, \$20 per person entry. The sale for the open doubles will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with play immediately following on four boards. Entry fee is \$50 per team.

"The members of the Eagles #2093 are very excited about this upcoming tourney," said auxiliary member Georganna Brand. "We have RV parking, good food, dancing, a hard liquor bar, friendship, and motels that are close buy. Come and join us. Meet new friends and reacquaint yourselves with old friends you have met over the years and haven't seen for awhile. We are looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you."

Tournament director is Mike Kinney, 541-826-7793, or for more information and lodging suggestions, you can call John King at 541-734-7254, or your hosts at the Eagles Lodge #2093, 541-773-9056.

This is an Evergreen Shuffleboard Association sanctioned tournament.

Missouri

2ND SW INVITATIONAL AT BARBARA'S BEER GARDEN, SPRINGFIELD, SEPT. 25-27

Barbara's Beer Garden, 2109 N. Glenstone, Springfield, will host the 2nd Annual Southwest Missouri Invitational Shuffleboard Tournament on Sept. 25-27. Events include a singles on the 25th, \$20 entry fee, and a bring partner event on the 26th and 27th, \$30 per team entry, with \$100 added. In the bring partner, -1's through 1's must bring a partner with a 2.5 or higher rating. This event will be limited to the first 20 teams paid so reserve your spot. Connie McCall will be the director.

For information, call Barbara's at 417-866-9871.

Canada

CRAZY CANUCKS 7TH PRO TOURNEY, AUG. 28-31, AN & AF 68, VANCOUVER, B.C.

The A.N. & A.F. Unit #68, 1837 Main Street in Vancouver, British Columbia, will once again host the Crazy Canucks annual pro tournament. No. 7 is scheduled for Aug. 28-31 and will kick off with the popular "Winston Jim" open draw doubles on Thursday night, \$20 per person entry (Canadian funds).

The singles, \$50 entry fee (U.S. funds), is set for Friday, with entries closing at 5 p.m. and the sale at 5:30 p.m. and play immediately following.

There will be \$1,000 added to the doubles, which

starts on Saturday with a 10 a.m. sale. Entry fee is \$100 per team (U.S. funds). The loser's bracket must come back and win 2 out of 3, 2 out of 3 to win over A.

Entries should be mailed to: Marg Okum, 4103 Welwyn St., Vancouver, B.C. V5N-3Z1 (Phone: 604-872-5373).

See enclosed flyer for more details and lodging recommendations. Spread the word about this fun tournament, which is an ESA sanctioned event.

Oklahoma

2ND LABOR DAY TOURNEY, ACTION LOUNGE, BROKEN ARROW, AUG. 29-SEPT. 1

Bud Hillburn will host his 2nd Annual Labor Day Tournament at the Action Lounge, located on the S.W. corner of 81st and 145th in Broken Arrow, on Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

Action will start on Friday night with a draw partner event, \$20 entry, single game, double elimination. Entries must be in by 7 p.m.

A bring partner tournament, \$50 per team entry, is scheduled for Saturday. Single game, double elimination.

On Sunday, there will be a single game, double elimination bring partner sweetheart draw, \$40 per team entry.

Trophies will be awarded in all events and free food will be served on Saturday and Sunday. Check the enclosed flyer for lodging recommendations and travel information, and post it in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this fun event. A one-time registration fee of \$5 will be charged.

Questions? Call the Action Lounge, 918-258-1773.

9TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY TOURNEY AT FULL HOUSE, WYNNEWOOD, AUG. 28-SEPT. 1

The Full House, 111 W. Robert S. Kerr Street in Wynnewood, will hold their 9th Annual Labor Day Handicap Tournament on Aug. 28-Sept. 1. Play will be on eight boards with round robins or match games between events or a board will be available.

The first event, a ladies' singles, \$10 entry, is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. A sweetheart draw, \$20 entry, will start at 5 p.m. on Friday. The open draw, \$20 entry, is set for Saturday at 5 p.m.

A men's singles, \$25 entry, will be held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by a bring your partner, \$50 per team,

(continued on Page 23)

Company of the Compan

As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

It cost us \$11,000 to attend the Southwest Open (if that sounds a little high, it's because we had to buy a car to get there), but it was worth it! Like Len Dell said, it was an OPPORTUNITY. For us, it was an opportunity:

- -- for George to draw Darrol Nelson for a partner in a round robin. Even if they hadn't won, this "first" would have been a great experience.
- -- to meet Virgin Sue Lewis, who is as witty in person as she projects in her articles, and her Shadow character, John Cason (we understand now why she keeps her eyes on him). In George's usual straightforward manner, he asked her if she really was a virgin and her answer was more than he bargained for!
- -- to meet Lois Lambrecht, who many years ago, was winner of the slogan contest for *The Board Talk*: "Places, Faces....Dates, Fates....News and Views -- Every player a winner with The Board Talk." Lois is still using the set of weights she won in that contest and doing very well with them.
- -- to meet Olga Vaughn, good friend of Joe Spratt, who introduced her to The World of Shuffleboard. This retired school teacher looks like she'd be spending her retirement shopping at Saks 5th Avenue instead of shuffling, but she certainly adds a touch of class to our "world" and makes the term "senior citizen" something to look forward to rather than dread.
- -- to meet Cindy Yarborough and Bob Houchin, new owners of The Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas. Their enthusiasm for and dedication to the growth of our sport is contagious and we wish them well-deserved success.
- -- to finally meet Ron and Debbie Bowers who have contributed so much to The World of Shuffleboard with their rating system.
- -- to meet many people who were names on our mailing list and now have faces and personalities. That was the ultimate in opportunity!

Quotes of the Week:

Beef Camp (Indiana) -- "Len Dell (Maryland) is the only guy that's moved me besides Ex-Lax."

Annie Sloger (Nebraska) to Board Talk George: "Old Man, you're getting on my nerves."

Jim Buhl (Great Pacific Northwest) on the subject of fighting for his own identity -- "I guess there could be worse things than being known as Doug Buhl's brother."

Special thanks to:

- -- Ron and Sharon Huddleston for the lodging and all the countless hours of hard work they invested to make this tournament a record-setter and a pace-setter.
- -- Madge Goff for loaning us her camera when ours manfunctioned.
- -- Don Crall and his staff for being the "hosts with the most" and especially for the "time out" dinner that sustained us for the rest of the marathan.
- -- Bud Hillburn for the super hamburg. Every year they get bigger and better!
- -- All of the subscribers who took the time to tell us: "Thanks for what you are doing; keep up the good work." We assure you -- that positive reinforcement is taken to heart!

Certainly, one of the reasons we invested a chunk of Donna's inheritance (Mom would have approved) in a vehicle that would take us to Oklahoma and back was the induction of Bill Melton into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

We are not over-stating the fact that if it had not been for Bill, our front page wouldn't be declaring: Vol. 14, No. 8. There were many times, during our first shaky years, when we said: "We simply can't do this one more month." Just when we reached those low points, here would come in the mail a packet of new subscribers from Bill, plus an ad or two from tournament sponsors. That income, plus his faith in us, kept us going.

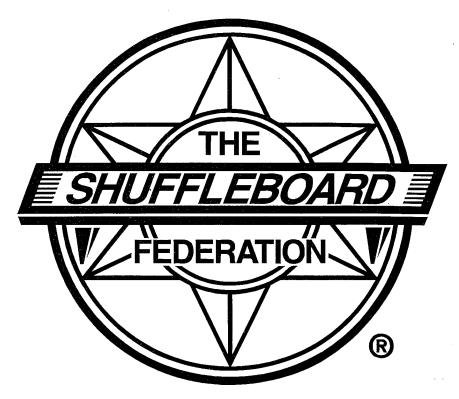
George was in the shuffleboard refinishing business back then and a call to Bill would always put him back on track.

Later, we had the opportunity to get to know his family, and see the positive influence he had on them and others in The World of Shuffleboard.

At the 2nd Southwest Open/9th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in 1993 at this same location, we saw Bill present his 1st place singles trophy to his mentor, Pete Polk, who had taken him under his wing at the tender age of 12. (Pete came to the American Legion early on the 4th of July and missed Bill, but we're sure the two will connect and share memories.)

Congratulations to Bill and Roseanne, his mainstay throughout his career, and to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors for recognizing the contributions Bill Melton has made to The World of Shuffleboard. How great it is that such recognition comes while Bill is still very much alive and has many contributions yet to make.

We didn't have a vote, Bill, but we sure do give your induction a hearty "second the motion."



"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"

Everything for your shuffleboard table - from the shuffleboard experts.

POWDERED WAX

1•2•3 CLEANER™

WEIGHTS & WEIGHT CAPS

LEAGUE RULE BOOKS

TOURNAMENT RULES

BOARD WIPES

SUPER SLICKTM SILICONE

1•2•3 POLISH/WAXTM

PLASTIC SHAKER CANS

TOURNAMENT CHARTS

WALL SIGNS

T-SQUARES

UNEQUALED QUALITY, COMPETITIVE PRICES & SAME DAY SHIPPING

**** SATISFACTION GUARANTEED ****

THE SHUFFLEBOARD FEDERATION, INC.
41761 ONAWAY DRIVE • NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN • 48167-2411
(810) 380-9300 • (800) 380-3033 • FAX (810) 380-9305

Southwest Open (continued from Page 1) of Indiana took third place, and Ron Blalock of Oklahoma finished fourth. Johnny Wayne Crawford of Texas and Larry Creakbaum of Indiana tied for 5th and 6th. Terry Dowell of Indiana and Bob Hunt of California took 7th and 8th.

In the 9 through 12 winner's slots were D.J. Lane of Oklahoma, Bobby Williams, Angie Snyder (a 3-rated player on her way up) and Dale Koteras, all of Texas.



Sylvia Martinez watches open singles winner Steve Burkett count his money.

The pros displayed the skills that have earned them that designation as 16 of the nation's best competed for a share of the \$21,400 pot. In some awesome, crowd-pleasing matches, the pro singles climaxed with Darrol Nelson of Oregon settling for third and John McDermott of Michigan pitted against Bill Melton of Oklahoma in the finals. Bill took the first two matches from undefeated John, then the two pros took an extended break for the marathon draw partner sale. In the third match, Bill decided to start his Hall of Fame induction celebration early by adding one more notch to his belt.

150 in Draw Partner Events!

If the singles go down in history as a super biggie, the 1997 SW Open draw partner events, with 150 entries, will be recorded right along side of it.

Forty-five teams of 2's through pros (no two pros could draw each other) and 29 teams of 3's, 4's and 5's kept the 21 boards humming until closing on Thursday night with survivors returning on the 4th of July morning to continue narrowing the field of contenders. At stake was a total pot of \$31,665 for the two events.

Pro Darrol Nelson of Oregon drew 2-rated player Tom Clubb of Texas and took top honors in Event I. Another pro, David Williams of Texas, and Fred Washington of Oklahoma finished second, with Lillie Kidd of Texas and Len Dell of Maryland in third place. Pro Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Ron Bowers of Texas took fourth place. Tied for 5th and 6th were Brian Walker of Texas and Chuck Muelhauser of Missouri, Tom Galvin of Nebraska and Larry Pearson of Washington. Frank Mako of Washington and Harvey Walden of Tennessee, Tom Hendrix of Oklahoma and Johnny Ballard of Texas, took 7th and 8th spots.

In the Beginners/Pretty Good Draw, Mahlon Nobles of Texas and Bobby Kimbro of Oklahoma were top winners. Shane Summers of Oklahoma and Del Ammerman of Texas took second place honors. Bill Wilcoxin of Indiana and Jorge of Texas finished third, with Pam Worsham of Oklahoma and George Best of Texas in fourth place.

162 Players in Draft Team Event!

There were 27 teams of six players each in Friday's draft team event, with pros and 0's serving as captains, vying for a share of the \$24,330 pot. In the highly-competitive, marathan event, it was Texan Bobby Williams' team of Harvey Kidd and Mike Renick, also from Texas, Mark Melton and Bob (Flash) Kimbro of Oklahoma, and Woodie Cockrum of Missouri, who took top honors.

Finishing second was Rick Boyer's (Colorado) team of Dino Fleming (Oklahoma), Gene McCleod (Missouri), Gwen Vogt (Colorado), Tre Cameron and Bob Houchin (Texas). Louise Freer's (Pennsylvania) team of Al DiBella (Pennsylvania), Mike Johnson and Bill Wilcoxin (Indiana), Jerry Sabourin (Missouri) and Nancy Rice (Texas) took third place honors. Rounding out the winner's circle was the team of Larry Pearson of Washington, consisting of Steve Burkett and Pat Kinard of Oklahoma, Bo Hyman and Anna Nguyen of Texas, and Phil Gardner, Oklahoma/Arizona.

115 in Three Event Tourneys

There were three events on Saturday, finishing on Sunday -- a bring partner handicap (with a total of 0 or more), a singles for 2 rated players, and a beginner/pretty good singles, with 115 players competing for a share of the total \$24,645 pot.

In the bring partner handicap, it was Jim (not Doug this time!) Buhl and Darrol Nelson of Oregon in the top spot. Taking second place were Bill Melton and John Breathwit of Oklahoma, with Dino Fleming and Billy Melton finishing third.

Jack Scott of Texas, one of the primary organizers of the Houston Holiday Open, was winner of the 2 rated singles. Shari Foust of Oklahoma claimed the No. 2 spot, with Jerry Sabourin of Missouri in third, and Chuck Muehlhauser, also of Missouri, in fourth.

"We're going to have to hire an armored car to take this guy home," said Bus Voorhis of the beginner/pretty good singles winner Bill Niswonger of Indiana, who along with sidekick Bill Wilcoxin had a pretty good week. Shane Summers of Oklahoma took second place, with Mary Brown of Indiana in third (Mary also won the drawing for The Shuffleboard Federation weights).

Other Highlights:

- -- Earning the most points for the added money, a round-trip airfare to Reno for the North American Championships, and the title of MVP went to Darrol Nelson of Oregon.
- -- Jerry Hancock of Texas was winner of the drawing for the Triple Crown weights. Madge Goff won the first drawing and donated the weights back to sell more tickets to benefit the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.
- -- The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was a real winner. Up until this event, the American Legion 424 in Bourbon, Indiana (represented at this tournament by Bill Niswonger), was the top contributor with \$1,000. Don Crall of the American Legion Post 73, host of the Southwest Open, met that challenge with another \$1,000 donation. Add to that the ticket sales and a 1/2% cut of the tournament entry fees and sales, and the total came to \$1,800 for this event.
- -- A total of 1,644 games of shuffleboard were played during the week-long Southwest Open. That compares with just under 1,100 last year and includes the constant round robins that were going on.
- -- Action halted on Sunday morning for a moving moment of silence for the late Billy Chiles of California. MC Ron Huddleston summed up the thoughts of the huge crowd at the end of that 60 seconds of silence (and it was silent) in that huge hall: "I don't know about you, but I saw that gentle man lagging a 4." The applause that followed verified that thought.
- -- The American Legion staff barbecued 270 lbs. of chicken for the 4th of July buffet, served along with all the trimmings, courtesy of Post 73. Host Don Crall said next year, it will probably have to be upped to 300 lbs.!





(left) Board Talk George congratulates director Ron Huddleston for a super tournament, while (right) Sharon's doggie, Maggie, wonders: "Why is Mom counting all that money instead of paying attention to me?"

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Update:

Larry Creakbaum (The "Red Baron") of Indiana, member of the NSHF, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Bill Melton induction. He reported the results of the Board of Directors meeting in Del City, attended by four of the six directors: Larry, Glen Davidson, Louise Freer, and Bob Hunt.

During this official meeting, Dave Arndt of Tacoma, Washington, replaced retiring Jim Foran on the Board of Directors.

The board voted to expand the board from the minimum of five directors called for in the by-laws to a more nation-wide representation. Larry called on "anyone who would like to serve in this volunteer position, and has the ability and resources to travel" to please step forward. If you are interested, please contact Secretary Louise Freer, 215-661-0108 or 610-397-7586.

The next NSHF meeting will be held at the North American Championships in Reno, Nevada, scheduled for Oct. 27-Nov. 2 at the Sands Regency.

Larry reported that no decision has been made on the location of a permanent Hall of Fame. Whatever that decision, he said, it will be an expensive venture and needs the volunteer contributions of shufflers across the country during 1998.

(For further background information on this event, see "As The Puck Turns," Notebook, the NSHF President's report, Ray Boyett's report, and "Faces."

Why They Come.... Why They Return to the Southwest Open

Kenny Hawkes, Colorado, a Repeater:

Kenny Hawkes of Colorado has missed only one (last year's) of the six Southwest Open Tournaments. Why does he keep returning? There are several reasons:

"First, when I came here, I learned what 'Heartland' was all about. I grew up in Chicago, where if you say 'hi' to someone you meet on the street, he's likely to grab your wallet or your woman (and not necessarily in that order). Here in Oklahoma, when you make eye contact with someone, you're expected to say 'hi.' It's the same on the road. If you're on a two-lane highway, slower travelers will pull over on the shoulder to let you pass. You don't find that kind of courtesy in other parts of the country," Kenny said.

"Second, this is the best facility in the nation to hold a shuffleboard tournament. Just look at it," he said, pointing to the spacious room with its air conditioners, smoke eaters, fans, and 18 boards (3 more in the bar).

"Last, but certainly not least, Ron and Sharon Huddleston run the very best tournament. They're fantastic! Everything goes smoothly and once the events (continued on Page 10)

Southwest Open (continued from Page 9)

get underway, they figure out which boards will be available for round robins or open play, so we don't have to wait for hours to play again."

Why did Kenny miss that one SW Open? He was saving to buy an RV to join others in the American Legion's 5-acre park. That goal was achieved and he's not likely to miss another!



From the West Coast, Larry Pearson:



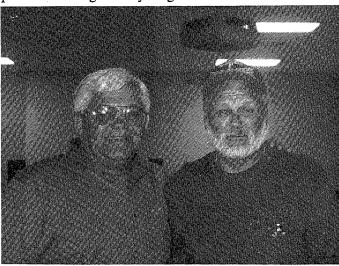
For Larry Pearson of Washington, participating in the 1997 SW Open was a first. He was one of a contingency of seven who made the long trip from the Pacific Northwest. "I am impressed," he said. "They have treated us royally here. The facilities are fantastic, the

boards are consistent, and it's just a great tournament!" (See more of Larry's observations in Notebook.)

From the East Coast, Len Dell:

It was also a first for Len Dell and Rick Niblett of Maryland. Len summed up the experience with one key word: OPPORTUNITY!

"This is an opportunity to play with and against the top players in the nation. When you play the best, you play better yourself. The competition here is great and the pride of winning is everything!"



Len Dell (right) and Rick Niblett of Maryland, first-time SW Open participants, earned themselves some respect during the week-long event. They'll be back!

And In Between, Woodie Cockrum:

Woodie Cockrum, long-time player and promoter from Missouri, sees formats like the SW Open and a growing number of other tournaments as the "salvation" of the sport of shuffleboard.

"It gives the 3's, 4's and 5's an opportunity to compete and even win. They're the future of our game. The pros, the -1's, the 0's, can't last forever. If the game is going to survive, we must have players to take their place. If we can keep those young beginners involved and



enthusiastic, some of them will become the pros of tomorrow," he said.

Woodie's sister, Jolene Lembke of California, was also at the SW Open and planned to stay with her brother and sister-in-law Jean for a week and help Woodie introduce local players to the A-B-C Draw.

A Word from the SW Open Director, Ron Huddleston....

One Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty-Four games of shuffleboard were played at the Southwest Open this year. We advertised this tournament as a shuffleboard vacation and 192 players showed up for a week of pure shuffleboard fun and competition. Sharon, Don, myself, and the American Legion Post 73, hope each of you had as much fun as we had in seeing everyone enjoying themselves and their vacation, playing a sport we obviously love.

To Dave and Rena Fleming, Cliff and Sally Goff—thank you! To the Oklahoma players who helped setting the boards—thank you! To Billy Poole and Madison, Inc. for the coozies—thank you! To Bill and Mike Melton for four planks—thank you! To The Shuffleboard Federation for the wax and spray—thank you! (I did not see one mush hit all week in 1,644 games. What does that tell us?)

For those of you who vacationed with us for the first time, we hope you left with a feeling of pride that shuffleboard competition has moved a step forward, and to those of you who recommended the Southwest Open to your fellow players, we hope you left with the feeling that it was as good as you told your fellow shufflers it should be.

We all should and could take a tremendous amount of pride in these three "little items" many may have overlooked this week: (1) Seven different times I had players come to me and tell me they had played a board I (continued on Page 16)

Bill Melton Inducted into Hall of Fame: Memories are Made of This!

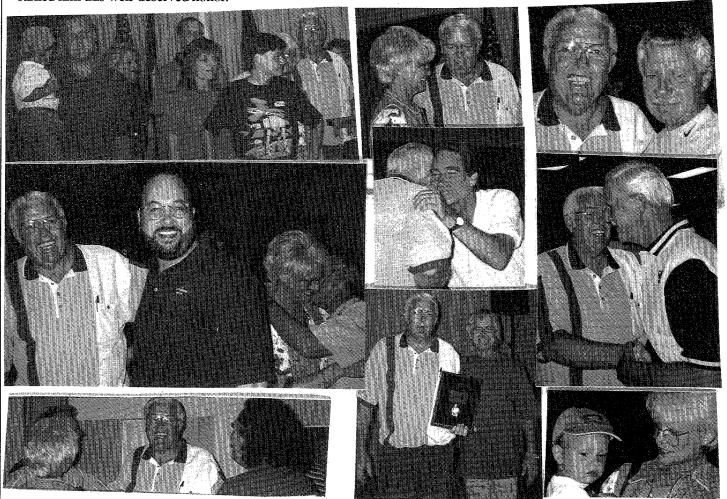
If there had been any fireworks inside the American Legion hall in Del City on the 4th of July, they would have been squelched by the tears of emotion that accompanied the induction of Bill Melton, Davis, Oklahoma, into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. From the opening Star-Spangled Banner led by talented singer Kelly Bartow to the grand finale when Bill made his way through the crowd to accept congratulations from his peers and admirers, it was a moving experience. It was evident that there were few, if any, in that large crowd, who didn't agree that he had earned that honor that placed him along with inductees Bob Miles, PeeWee Ramos, Earl Kelly, Mickey Mickens, Sol Lipkin and Glen Davidson.

A particularly moving moment came with the testimony from long-time friend and partner David Williams of Texas. Dave took first place in the doubles at The Black Cat in Oregon in 1979 with Bill, who took him along "because he felt sorry for me." Dave continued to be his doubles partner for the next 15 years until it came time for Bill's son, Billy, to take his place. "I was proud to have been his partner," Dave said.

It wasn't strictly the long list of achievements on the boards (a list that took one full page of the 4-page printed induction program) that earned Bill this honor. It was, first of all, his unquestionable integrity. Any time Bill's name was listed as a contact person, players felt confident that such tournaments deserved their participation and the game grew. In 1996, The Shuffleboard Federation presented him with the Sol Lipkin Award (its highest honor) for being "one of our sport's greatest players and promoters of the game." Even his non-shuffleboard peers in the dental technician association recognized him as a "true champion."

Second, he is admired for nuturing players who will one day take his place and assure the viability of the sport in the future. For example, in his own family, there were three generations of Meltons in the final 3-event tournament: father Bill, sons Billy and Mark, and grandson 12-year-old Tony Bennett, son of Lisa Melton. Tony was participating in his first tournament and Bill said: "He is the same age as I was when Pete Polk taught me the game, and he's a lot better than I was."

This humility, the modesty he displays about his achievements, his dedication to the future of the game -- that's what earned him this well-deserved honor.



Frankie's Inaugural Event Draws Good Participation

By Mike Thorpe

Frankie's Sports Pub in Olympia, Washington, held their 1st Annual Frankie's Open in May. The opening event, an A-B draw, on Friday night drew 31 teams with the winners finishing at 3:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The prevailing team was Larry Pearson and Hazel Thorpe, with Chuck Norris and Jim Watson finishing second. It came down to the final shot at 14-13. Hazel, with the hammer, needed to stick the deep weight to win. With the coolness and calmness of a pro, she stepped up and made the shot.



Taking first in the open doubles were Darrol Nelson and Jim Allis (the dream team).

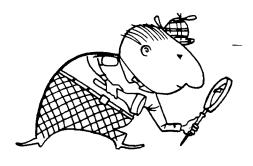


Mike Thorpe (left) and Dave Arndt (the Free Handers from Hell) took second place honors. Dave is the newest member of the NSHF Board of Directors.



Chuck Norris (right) and Tom Henry finished in third place.

(continued on Page 14)



Searching for the perfect gift for your favorite shuffler?

●Birthdays

•Anniversaries

Christmas

• Forgive Me?

● Just Because "I Love You"

•A Reward to Yourself

Look no further! The Ultimate Gift is a Fritzi Broka Original Custom Leather Weight Case!

100% hand-made in distinctive designs of your choice: logos, names, animals, cartoon characters, scrolling, scenes -- you name it -- it's a reflection of your personality!

Arrive in Reno in style! Order now to receive your case in time for

the North American Championships.

FULL MOON LEATHER WORKS

Fritzi Broka, Bourbon, Indiana 46504 Phone: 219-858-2689 If you're looking for QUALITY
-- in both products and service -at affordable, competitive prices,
look for this insignia......



It means we care about YOU!

❖YOUR SHUFFLEBOARD SUPPLY SHOPPING LIST❖

	_	Silicone Spray -Squares □Bo	□Glaze/Cleaner & Polish pard Wipes	l
□Quality Shuf	fleboard Speed P	owder (l lb. cont	ainers, 12/packs, 24/case, or in	24 lb. buckets):
	□Y€	ellow Ice I (Fast)		
	□Y€	ellow Ice II (Faste	er)	
	□Yel	llow Ice III (Faste	est)	
	□Bre	own Ice II (Faster	;)	
	□Bre	own Ice III and B	rown Ice III Plus (Fastest)	
*	□Ult	ra Fast White Ice	e Speed Regulator	
□Pre	ofessional Grade	Quality Weight	ts (Flat or Crowned Botton	ms)
		□Design Ca	aps	•

Order today: Toll-Free 1-800-827-0316

Your order will receive prompt attention by the "people who care"

-- Joe, Scott, Elaine, Floyd and JoAnne

TRIPLE CROWN SHUFFLEBOARD SUPPLIES

13406 Giles Rd., Omaha, Nebraska 68138

Phone: 402-896-0468

Toll Free: 800-827-0316 FAX: 402-896-0428

Frankie's First (continued from Page 12)

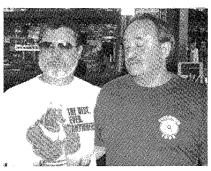


Dan Hitt (left) and Al Pease took 4th place in the open doubles at Frankie's Sports Pub.



Bill Shanahan and Grant Manning receive congratulations for their 5th-6th tie. (Grant lagged back-to-back 4's at 19-13 to win the game. It was a miraculous sight!)

Gary George and Mike Waters tied for 5th and 6th.



Thanks to Frank and Cheri, owners of Frankie's, for their support of shuffleboard. It's always nice when the owners of a tavern are involved in the game. Keep on pucking, folks!

More Notebook

(continued from Page 2)

Panic-Stricken Judy's Worries Eased as BT Arrives

My May Board Talk had a red check on it and between a weekend of shuffleboard in New York, a couple of weekends of country music festivals, followed by 2 weeks out of 3 taking classes for work and driving a hundred miles each way each day, I really felt panic when Len Dell told me he had his Board Talk for June and I didn't have mine.

After talking to Len, I immediately called my good friends, Donna and George, only to find out there's no answer. I realized they must be at The Board Talk Shuffler's Reunion Tournament in Indiana with the Voorhis Family. Now, whatever will I do? I can't get George and Donna on the phone and by the time they come back from Indiana, I'll be on my way to Reno to bowl, and all the spare copies were probably picked up by entrants in the BT tournament. I finally conceded that I probably would not get a copy of the June issue. Still not willing to totally give up, I decided to wait until you returned home from Indiana so I could call and see if you might have a spare copy left somewhere that I could pay you to send me by first-class mail.

Well, I hope you can imagine my excitement and joy the next day when I went to my mailbox. My very good friends, Donna and George, didn't stop my subscription. My June Board Talk was in my mailbox! I was like a kid in a candy store. When my Board Talk gets here, I just stop everything and sit down to read it, most times from cover to cover.

Now that I've rambled for entirely too long, let me get down to the real reason for this letter. That is to say thank you, Donna and George, for sending me my Board Talk. Actually, one thank you surely isn't enough, so thank you, thank you, and thank you some more!

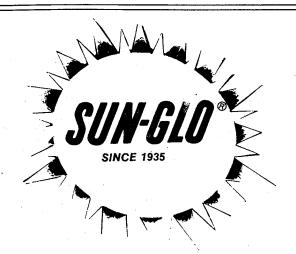
Judith Iseman, Chestertown, Maryland

Your kind letter made our day, Judy! We'll let you in on a little secret. Taking long-time subscribers off our list, particularly those we know are committed to shuffleboard and supportive of our efforts, is like an amputation. It hurts! We bleed profusely! Therefore, we're a lot more lenient than, for example, TV Guide. That's what our current logo is all about: "Big enough to serve you; small enough to know you." The TV Guide, with its millions of subscribers, doesn't know that George has a trauma when Donna gets too busy to renew his subscription. While we're certainly interested in growing, we hope we never get so big that we don't know our subscribers. We know YOU and we wouldn't let you down!

O' Shuffleboard Me....

Wish to play me? You can't let it burn. List your name and then wait your turn. I have some rules to be used as a guide --Play by these, embrace them with pride.

(continued on Page 17)



SUN-GLO

MEETING THE NEEDS OF SHUFFLEBOARD PLAYERS WITH QUALITY, CONSISTENCY AND SERVICE SINCE 1935

*Finest Quality Weights at Lowest Possible Price
Spangler Weights 2-5/8"
Style "C" Weights 2-5/8"
Spangler II Weights "Cadets" 2-1/8"
Shuffle Alley Weights 2-7/8" and Jr. Weights 1-5/8"
(ALL SETS AVAILABLE IN RED, GREEN OR BLUE CAPS)

*Plastic Scoreboards and "T" Squares

*Six Different Wax Speeds

*Combo Cleaner & Master Glaze & Paste Wax

*Shuffleboard Silicone Spray

*Deck Shuffleboard Sets and Accessories

CONTACT US FOR SPECIAL RATES FOR ORGANIZED LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS

Sun-Glo Corporation

111-115 Heckel St., Belleville, N.J. 07109

Phone: 201-759-4474 or 201-759-3321 FAX: 201-759-6157

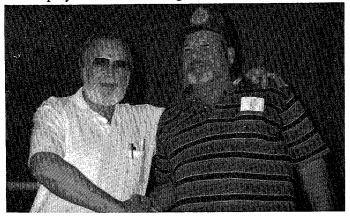
From Director Ron (cont. from Page 10)

called them up on and knew it was an oversight on my part. Sounds like the honor system in golf and it brings tears of pride just to be able to relate it to the rest of the shuffleboard world. (2) Two gentlemen put the fun and pleasure of 190 other players ahead of their own disappointment in one event. Heretofore, it would have been a big scene and dampened the happiness of the entire event. Those two gentlemen are Rod Cameron and Troy Thornton. It's a pleasure to have people like you two in our sport. (3) Give yourselves a hand on this one! Forget shuffleboard for a second and just think about a room full of 200 competitors who have been competing since 10 a.m. (some drinking at 9 a.m.) and it's now 14 hours later or midnight and it is the fourth day of this kind of schedule. Still, everyone is laughing, shooting their best game, shaking hands and congratulating winners, and wanting to know what time we start tomorrow. You bet we are proud to be a part of the shuffleboard family!

We think it is a combination of all these "small things" that we hope made your vacation week a pleasant shuffleboard experience.

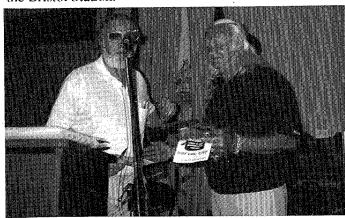
And from the NSHF Chairman, Glen Davidson.....

The 1997 SW Open is over and a record or two has been broken. Thanks to all the Hall of Fame officers for being there and to Larry Creakbaum for serving as M.C. for the Bill Melton induction. David Williams did a great job for his partner, Bill Melton, in the induction ceremony, with a tear or two, sharing how Bill had taught him to play and to win in the game of shuffleboard.



Glen congratulates Charlie Sawyer, local player and promoter, for receiving an outstanding achievement award from the NSHF for his dedication.

I met Charlie Sawyer in the early '80s at the Hilton Inn where we all played. He was there every week learning the game. We organized a league and Charlie was captain of his team for two leagues. He helped his team learn and play with good sportsmanship and fair play. After retirement, Charlie still runs a round robin every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Bristol Station.



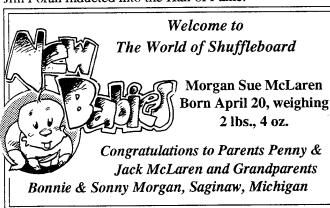
Pete Humphrey, a retired Air Force pilot and former owner of the Bristol Station, also received an outstanding achievement award during the Bill Melton induction ceremonies.

Pete has been the key figure here in Midwest City and Del City for shuffleboard players. I met Pete a few years back. He had an 18 foot board then. With a little encouragement from all the players, he bought a regulation 22 foot board, placed it against the West wall and it's been there ever since. Pete has put on tournaments as well as shuffleboard parties and kept the game going for 15-20 years.

Congratulations to both of these men for their contributions to the game. And congratulations to Bill Melton on his induction, and to all the winners at the Southwest Open.

Thanks to American Legion Post #73 and Don Crall fro the \$1,000 donation to the NSHF.

We're heading to Quilcene, Washington, now to see Jim Foran inducted into the Hall of Fame.



REMINDER! The new address for The Board Talk is: 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48906

More Notebook (continued from Page 14)

Play one-on-one or play two-by-two,
But let's keep it moving -- it's up to you.
Smoke if you will and puff if you must;
Keep them away -- it's right and it's just.
Drinks are your pleasure, some call it cheer;
Bring them not close, bring them not near.
Don't bang me with weights, I tell you they sting.
Keep me in shape -- don't chip and don't ding.
Please follow these rules; it's not a real chore.
I'm told if you don't, you will play no more.
Now winners rejoice and to the losers ensure
You've bested them true, but only in score.

Gary Oke, Fort Collins, Colorado

When Ron Vogt, owner of the Balloon Inn, sent us this poem written by one of his local players, it struck a chord with us. We think it ought to be posted on or near every shuffleboard in the U.S.A. and Canada. Perhaps it's because George was involved in the refinishing and maintenance of boards for so many years that he has a high regard and respect for those beautiful (and expensive) slabs of wood. He cringes when he sees someone abuse them. We've seen players who wouldn't think of "banging, chipping and dinging" somebody's dining room table, yet they seem to think that shuffleboards are public property. They are not and your quarters aren't enough for the owner to keep them in good condition. We're drinkers nd smokers, so we're not about to condemn anyone else who does. But those drinks and those cigarettes belong on the table behind the boards!

Too Many to Talk About....

There have been a lot of tournaments in Omaha this year, too many to write about. But I just couldn't let the season go by without mentioning the winners of each of them. If I happen to forget any, please accept my apologies now.

Champs Open Doubles: Bill Simants & Mike Roach Musette Mixed Doubles: Chuck Busch & Annie Sloger

D's Frontier Open Doubles: Denny Busch & Bill Frederick

Hart's Sweetheart: Jr. Butler & Lori Peters KoZee's Open Doubles: Mike Roach & Dave Dickerson

KoZee's Singles: Jay Watson

Baratta's Open Doubles: Denny Busch & Scot Rangel All Nation's Open Doubles: Larry Laws & Billy Vandeberghe

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all

the great players who entered. Special thanks to all the bar owners and the tournament directors for putting up with all the players and their antics.

Hope to see all of you in the Fall for another fun-filled season.

Annie Sloger, Omaha, Nebraska

P.S.: I had a ball in Oklahoma. Old man, you really did get on my nerves!

We appreciate your consistent reports of what's going on in Omaha, Annie. NAMES are what The Board Talk is all about! P.S. to your P.S.: See "As the Puck Turns" on Page 6.

Larry's Views on the Southwest Open and Another Topic That Needs Addressing.....

I'm always game for a challenge, but this one is tough. Throw all of the great experiences you had in Del City into a few paragraphs without leaving a few things out. Yeah! Right!

Del City (Oklahoma) on the 4th of July has about everything a player could ask for. There are a group of motels all within a mile from the American Legion, where the tournament is held. That ends up being about \$3 in cab fare, but never mind the fare. The tournament provided us with rides to the motel at night and picked us up in the morning. Beat that! On an even more hospitable note, Billy Melton loaned me his car overnight twice. Oh, by the way, Billy, I do have insurance — and thanks again!

If you love to play shuffleboard, and I mean a lot like I do, Del City had 21 boards (more next year) and they stayed busy all day long. We played all day long, too, regardless if you won or lost in an event. If you happened to miss that one critical 4 in your first game and your opponent lags another to go out, don't plan on going home. It's about time for the first pea draw to get started and you can make up for giving up 8 points by winning pots up over \$1,000. That's not bad for a \$20 entry. I'm not kidding; the pea draws were something else! I'm not sure I've ever played more shuffleboard in a week. And there's not a lot of waiting around. The Huddlestons run the show like true champions, smooth as silk and no playbacks.

If tough competition is what you thrive on, don't worry: you'll find it. The play doesn't get any better than the games I witnessed in Del City. One of the things I really liked about Del City, like Reno, is that it really

(continued on Page 20)

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

Attention Readers:

Balboa Ron is on vacation this month and will return with the adventures of Frisco Eddie and Long Beach Lil in September.

He asked that we pass along to you his sincere appreciation for your kind messages regarding this series.

If you haven't dropped him a note yet, please do so:

Balboa Ron Schweikert 1140 Coral Desert Drive Las Vegas, NV 89123.

Your appreciation for his efforts is the only compensation he receives.

To: Joe and Scott

From: George & Donna

It was a pleasure meeting you. You are great ambassadors for Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies.

Mom and Dad would be proud of you!

WH-UH. IJUST RANGERS OR SOMETHING?! WH-UH. IJUST RANGERS OR SOMETHING?! WH-UH. IJUST RANGERS OR SOMETHING?! WH-UH. IJUST RANGERS OR SOME GALL LAST NIGHT THEY CALL LONG BEACH LIL": LIVIS PRESLEY STANDS FOR THE F

Dixie Belle's 4th of July Event is a Real Winner!

The Dixie Belle's 1997 4th of July Tournament blasted off without a hitch, with players from neighboring cities and states joining in on the fun and tough competition.

Noted players from Washington State, such as Jimmy Allis, Chuck Norris and D.K. Kerr, all came in the money. Other well-respected travelers from Arizona, Santa Clara, Orange County, and Visalia, beat the field to take home well-deserved cash prizes.

The open doubles event kicked off the tournament with the heavily-favored team of Jimmy Allis and Chuck Norris taking the biggest share of the \$4,720 pot. The duo of Al Salazar of Arizona and D.K. Kerr of Washington took second place honors, with locals Bob Ruiz and Tim O'Brien finishing third.

Los Angeles local expert player Steve Perry battled it out with Ted Zariphes of Temecula in the open singles event. Ted was undefeated going in and was able to hang onto his winning streak to beat Steve in some very hard-

fought matches. Chuck Norris finished third, with Karl Spickelmier in fourth. The total prize money for this event was \$4,700.

Headed by Steve Floyd, a large contingency from Visalia's Mr. G's came to lend support for the new owners of the Dixie Belle, Mike Woo and Steve Budries. Great playing by Visalia's Wes Martin and Larry Bailey, with Steve Budries, helped cinch the ABC victory against the trio of Chuck Norris, Michael Sanderson and Theresa Linton. With the two out of three double elimination format, Wes, Larry and Steve had to overcome being from the loser's bracket when faced with the yetundefeated Chuck, Mike and Theresa. Each of the last six games fought were closely contested with not much more than a 2-point spread. Miracle shots and smooth lagging by both sides best describes the action that was witnessed during the last day of the tournament. Finishing third in the ABC Draw, with a total pot of \$4,955, were Bob Lewis of Arizona, Dotty Bastanchury and Mike Woo.

When everyone wasn't shuffleboarding, they were dancing to the live sounds of Clarke and Lou, the Dixie Belle's favorite country and western band. Marion Bailey was easily the favorite dance partner with all the ladies, with his unique style of jumping all over the dance floor.

The Saturday buffet spread with over 30 different potluck dishes was a feast for hungry eyes. It seemed like everyone brought out their favorite recipes to make this a special and memorable event. In appreciation for everyone's contribution and participation, the Dixie Belle will host a party for everyone during an upcoming weekend date. Leave your pots and casserole dishes home for this one!

Wes and Eileen Eades, former Dixie Belle owners, were all smiles to see the warm and familiar faces during the entire tournament. Hugs and kisses were exchanged, although it was noted that Wes was getting more than his fair share from the ladies. It was so because he helped slave over the Bar B Que pit all day along with his favorite beverage.

"Wes and Eileen, we all can't thank you enough," said Mike Woo. "A very special thanks to Paul Weber, who supported and ran the tournament from start to finish, and Joanie Swenson, whose dedication and love for shuffleboard has always inspired us all."

Check the ad below for announcement regarding a special "Road to Reno" running tournament between now and the start of the North American Shuffleboard Championships!

ESA Points Championship is Close Race

As of the first of July, the points race in the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association was a close one. Darrol Nelson of Oregon led with 127 points, followed by Mike Thorpe of Washington with 125. Dan Hitt ranked third with 122, with Al Pease right behind him with 121. Players earn points by participating and placing in ESA-sanctioned tournaments, and those points translate into dollars at the end of the season.

The ESA held a mid-year meeting at the Town Tavern (Sequim, Washington) tournament on July 19. Action will be reported in future issues.

Currently serving on the ESA Board of Directors are: Dan Hitt, Eastern Washington; Rick Gindt, Tacoma area; Gordie Smith and Pat Preymak, Canada; Russ Miller, Northwest Washington; Tom Henry, Longview; Chuck Norris, Oregon; and Mike Waters, Shelton-Olympia.

The "Belle" is Travelling down the "Road to Reno"..... FOLLOW HER!

PLAY BEGINS AT 7 P.M. EVERY MONDAY NIGHT UNTIL THE RENO TOURNAMENT....

Two Ways to Win:

1. By Most Points (A-B Draw Format)
5 points for 1st place

3 points for 2nd place

1 point for every play OR

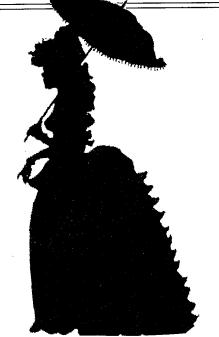
2. Win by raffle (1 ticket for each Monday night play)

TWO GRAND PRIZES: Two 3-day weekends at the Sands

Regency in Reno

TWO SPECIAL PRIZES: for consistent

participation in the D.B. tournament



Questions? See Joanie Swenson or call The Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943. Watch for announcements of new prizes as tournament progresses.

THE DIXIE BELLE

9559 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, California 90241

Phone: 562-80-DIXIE or 562-803-4943

More Notebook (continued on Page 17) provides better opportunities for the 2, 3 and 4 rated players. The team and individual event breakdowns were fun and really made things equal for all participants. One of the highlights was seeing East Coast play West Coast. Who won really isn't important, but, as expected, the game was great.

Already, I miss the good times, great conversations, great stories, the various personlities and the competition. We had fun, didn't we? Whose pool was that on the last night, anyway?

I would like to extend congratulations to Bill Melton for his great play and his induction into the Hall of Fame. What an honor -- and well-deserved!

One thing that's tearing at me right now is that this tournament conflicts with another that is also truly great. That's the Dixie Belle's (Downey, California) 4th of July Tournament. I'll tell you, honestly, people get absolutely no better than the crowd from the Dixie Belle and it's tough to have to make a decision between two great tournaments. If the dates can't be changed, as is often the case, I'll have to flip a coin every year.

God willing, I will be back to Del City and I will be back to the Dixie Belle.

Larry Pearson, Burlington, Washington

Thank you, Larry, for putting into words what so many of the Southwest Open participants were feeling. Thank you, too, for opening up a subject that we'd like to see addressed. Like you, we've been fortunate to be at both the Southwest Open and the Dixie Belle 4th of July event and, as you say, both are wonderful tournaments with wonderful hosts. Too bad that we have to flip a coin to see which one we'll attend.

Several years ago, we started publishing the Calendar of Events to serve as a kind of "clearing house" so directors/sponsors wouldn't conflict with each other. It worked O.K. for a short time (after nine years, we gave up our traditional 4th of July spot so we were not conflicting with other events), but then several sites discovered that they could compete with another event and still attract a pretty good crowd, and that speaks well for the "health" of shuffleboard. Today, we have many tournaments conflicting with each other, particularly over holidays.

While it's certainly good news that tournaments on the same dates can attract **good** participation, think about the **great** participation that would result if they were held at a time when another event wasn't drawing players away from them.

What's the answer? We don't know, but it's worth discussing. Your Evergreen Shuffleboard Association

has come a long way toward solving that problem by having sanctioned, point-earning events. A few organizers call us to see if we've received information for events to place on the calendar before they set their dates and that's a good idea.

Let's hear from anyone who has ideas on how to solve this problem -- if, indeed, it is a problem.

Your News & Views
are Welcome!
Contributions must be received
by the 15th of each month.
Send to:
THE BOARD TALK
503 E. Sheridan Road
Lansing, MI 48906

A Great Grand Finale
to your Summer
Shuffleboard Season:
The 9th Annual Labor Day
Handicap Tournament
at

THE FULL HOUSE

**Thursday, Aug. 28, Ladies' Singles

**Friday, Aug. 29, Sweetheart Draw

**Saturday, Aug. 30, Open Draw

**Sunday, Aug. 31, Men's Singles

**Monday, Sept. 1, Bring Partner

-- 8 BOARDS --

(See enclosed flyer for tournament details and lodging recommendations.)

FULL HOUSE

111 W. Robert S. Kerr St. Wynnewood, Oklahoma Phone: 405-665-2715

Shuffleboard Directory

Patronize these Shuffleboard Businesses and Establishments



WHISTLING OYSTER TAVERN

294903 Hiway 101, P.O. Box 580 Quilcene, WA 98376 FIVE VERY FAST SHUFFLEBOARDS EXCELLENT FOOD Bill-Sandee R.V. Parking

Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies, Inc.

Quality products, Quality service 3211 S. 130th Ave., Omaha, NE 68144 402-896-0468

Bob Lewis & Son Shuffleboards & Supplies

Boards Bought, Sold, Leased Electronic Scoring Systems for all Boards Bob Lewis, 1919 W. San Miquel, Phoenix, Arizona 85015 Bob Lewis, 1-602-242-6782 Mickey Lewis, 1-602-254-3447

Dicky's Dust

Shuffleboard Powder

Used exclusively at Houston Holiday Open Three 24-lb. buckets: \$100 plus shipping

Danny's Sports Bar

Weekly Shuffleboard Blind Draws - Money Added!

Fridays: \$10 Player's Night

Saturdays: \$5 Handicapped Tourney

Wednesdays: League Play

Three Boards -- Good Food!

12126 Westheimer, Houston, Texas

Phone: 713-558-8693

White - Brown - or Mixed

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

-- New Weights: \$95 --

CALL 713-541-6134

Distinctive Custom Leather Weight Cases



Club Car Lounge

3 Boards - Italian Food - Country Music 111 N. Saginaw, Durand, Michigan Phone: 517-288-9910

Bailey's Shuffleboard

Board Refinishing - Shuffleboard Supplies 3769 11th St., Moline, Michigan 49335 Phone 1-800-934-5192 or 616-877-4459

Bill-n-Lynn's Place

35 E. Fairview Avenue, Meridian, Idaho Phone: 208-888-4075 "Come Shuffle at Our Place!"

A & M Amusement Service

Shuffleboards • Service • Supplies • Since 1959 For Experience, Integrity and Care -- You Can't Beat Al Stewart! 2354 Mountain View, El Monte, California

MAJESTIC BAR & CAFE

156 OAKLANE AVENUE • PONTIAC, MI (810) 335-2581 your hosts.

CHARLEE & DON BOSTWICK

Home -- 818-442-5183 Business -- 818-444-3790

A.Z. Custom Refinishing

3-Year Guarantee Leasing-Sales-Service-Supplies-Maintenance Care 408-683-4513 or FAX 408-779-6657

Bellflower Bruce & His Friends Play Here, There and Nearly Everywhere!

Costa Mesa, California

714-549-1955



1997 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

AUGUST 1997

July 30-Aug. 1

8th Annual Grand Masters Plus Whistling Oyster

Quilcene, Washington

July 31-Aug. 3

National Tournament

Dew Drop Inn

Waterloo, New York

Aug. 1

A-B Draw

J & C's Tavern

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Aug. 8-10

Three-Event Tournament

Taz Country

Pflugerville, Texas

Aug. 14-17

Pro-Am Draw and Singles

The Balloon Inn

Arvada, Colorado

Aug. 15-17

1st Southern Oregon Doubles

Eagles #2093

Medford, Oregon

Aug. 15-17

Texas Open Qualifier

The Gold Nugget

Arlington, Texas

Aug. 25-31

Labor Day Tournament

Blinky's

Santa Clara, California

Aug. 27-Sept. 1

Texas Open

The Gold Nugget Club

Arlington, Texas

Aug. 28-31

Crazy Canucks Labor Day

Weekend Tournament

AN & AF Club #68

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Aug. 28-Sept. 1

9th Annual Labor Day Handicap

Full House

Wynnewood, Oklahoma

Aug. 29-Sept. 1

2nd Labor Day Tournament

Action Lounge

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

SEPTEMBER 1997

Sept. 4-7

Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash

Skip's Lounge

Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 5

A-B Draw

J & C's Tavern

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sept. 12-14

3rd Annual Open Doubles

Old Edison Inn

Edison, Washington

Sept. 13-14

Open Doubles

Tim's Timber Tavern

Kelso, Washington

Sept. 19-21

3rd Annual Ladies' Weekend

Wetlands Bar & Grill

Royal Oak, Michigan

Sept. 20-21

Weekend Tournament

A D ... 26

Amvets Post 26

Pendleton, Indiana

OCTOBER 1997

Oct. 4

30th Annual Fall Doubles

American Legion

Bourbon, Indiana

Oct. 9-12

Division I Singles & Doubles

Balloon Inn

Arvada, Colorado

Oct. 10-12

NASC Qualifier

The Gold Nugget

Arlington, Texas

Oct. 18-19

Nelson/Buhl Bring Partner

Shamrock Tavern

Longview, Washington

Oct. 27-Nov. 2

North American Championships

Sands Regency Hotel/Casino

Reno, Nevada

NOVEMBER 1997

Nov. 15-16

Over 55 Tourney

Shamrock Tavern

Longview, Washington

Nov. 26-30

13th Annual Thanksgiving

Classic

The Gold Nugget

Arlington, Texas

Nov. 28-30

Pennsylvania State

Championships

J & C's Tavern

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nov. 28-30

A-B Draw Tournament

BZ's

Burien, Washington

DECEMBER 1997

Dec. 11-14

9th Annual Santa Classic

Balloon Inn

Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 12-13

3rd Annual Deuces Wild

Wetlands Bar & Grill

Royal Oak, Michigan

Dec. 27-31

2nd Houston Holiday Open

Hilton Southwest

Houston, Texas

Dec. 27-28

6th Annual Mixed Doubles

Tim's Timber Tavern

Kelso, Washington

Upcoming Events (continued from Page 5) at 10 a.m. on Sunday (the sign-ups and sale for the bring your partner event will be held after the men's singles if time permits.

All games will be single game, double elimination, handicapped using the Bowers rating system (exception will be any 5's, who will be rated as 4's).

A \$10 registration fee will be charged and the 100% payback will be determined by the number of entries.

Check the enclosed ad and flyer for details and lodging recommendations. Questions? Call your hosts, Pat and Don Kinard, 405-665-2715.

Texas

3-EVENT TOURNEY AT TAZ COUNTRY, PFLUGERVILLE, AUG. 8-10

Taz Country (formerly Bumpers), 1406 FM 1825, Three Points Shopping Center in Pflugerville, will host a 3-event tournament on Aug. 8-10. An A-B draw, \$30 per player, will start at 8 p.m. Friday night, single game, single elimination. On Saturday, starting at 1 p.m., there will be a bring partner (total of 3 points) tournament, \$100 per team entry fee, single game, double elimination. The handicap singles begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday. In this event, if there are 16 players or less, it will be double elimination with a \$50 entry. With 17 players or more, it will be single elimination, with a \$30 entry. Play will be on three boards, there is no registration fee, food will be served on Saturday, and there will be special drink prices.

For further information, contact Ron or Debbie Bowers: 512-835-7256.

TEXAS OPEN SET FOR GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, AUG. 27-31

New owners Bob and Cindy will host the 1997 Texas Open at the newly-remodeled Gold Nugget Sports Bar, 2601 W. Division St., Arlington, on Aug. 27-31. There are nine events scheduled for the five days of this big event, played on 12 boards.

Kicking off the action on Wednesday will be a co-ed draw and a "left-over guys" draw partner, \$25 per player. On Thursday, there are singles events for Div. I, Div. II, and 2's, with graduated entry fees. Draw partner events are scheduled for Friday for Div. I and Div. II.

A 6-person draft team is set for Saturday, open to all players with a \$40 per person entry fee. On Sunday will

be bring partner events for Div. I and Div. II.

Check the enclosed flyer for tournament details. If you have further questions and/or need motel recommendations, call Bob, Cindy or Fred at the Gold Nugget, 817-277-4029.

Bob and Cindy will also hold a qualifer for the Texas Open on Aug. 15-17. Winners of each event will receive their entries paid into the same event at the Texas Open. They are also holding qualifiers for the North American Championships in Reno and the PCSA Extravaganza in Las Vegas. Check the Calendar of Events for these and other major events at The Gold Nugget.

With their weekly open draw partner events on Tuesdays and Fridays, and monthly handicap singles and handicap bring partner tournaments, plus their other events, their 1997-98 schedule adds up to 181 days of shuffleboard action!

HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN, HILTON SOUTHWEST, SET FOR DEC. 26-31

The 2nd Annual Houston Holiday Open has a new location this year -- the Hilton Southwest, 6780 Southwest Freeway, Houston -- on Dec. 26-31. Once again, there will be events (nine in all) for players of all levels of skill and experience and added prize monies. Another added feature this year -- players can spend New Year's Eve with their shuffling friends in round robin events.

Organizers have negotiated an attractive shufflers' package with the Hilton Southwest. A \$49 per night room with two beds includes free breakfast buffets for two, and free transportation to the Galleria shopping area.

Check the enclosed flyer for details and if you have questions, call Johnny Ballard, 281-922-1346, or Jack Scott, 281-398-3999 (work) or 281-558-0237 (home).

Michigan

SKIP'S/BOARD TALK FALL BASH, HOUGHTON LAKE, SEPT. 4-7

This event has been growing since it first started back in 1991 and there are several reasons why. First, Skip's Lounge, site of the annual "Fall Bash," is located in the heart of Michigan's Vacationland on the largest inland lake in the state. In this relaxed, "let your hair down" atmosphere, non-shuffling family members can take advantage of the many area attractions and, when shufflers aren't playing, they can fish, swim, or take a

(continued on Page 26)



DARROL SHOOTS

1ST WEIGHT

FOR COMBINATION

BUT STICKS JOHN'S

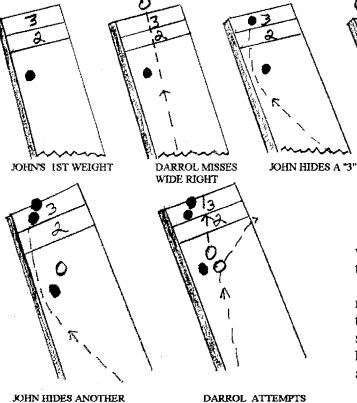
"Fantastic Ending" to Southwest Open's Pro Singles

By Ray Boyett, Miami, Florida

If you did not see the match between Darrol Nelson and John McDermott in the Pro Singles in the Southwest Open at Cel City, you missed one of the greatest endings I have ever witnessed.

This was the situation..... John had won the first game of the best two out of three match. Not too unexpected,

Darrol has command in the second game, leading 14 to 9 and has the hammer. John knows he is playing most shufflers' choice as currently the best player in the world. There was no quit in John. Shuffleboard may not be a spectator sport, but the following one frame was etched in most of our memories as nothing less than thrilling. Here is how it was played:



"3" AND BOOSTS ORIGIONAL

"3" TO A HANGER

John went on to meet the "old pro," Bill Melton, to decide who would meet John for the championship. Bill defeated Darrol and then double-dipped John for the title.

JOHN BLOCKS PATH

OF DARROL'S LAST

ATTEMPT

DARROL HAS TOO

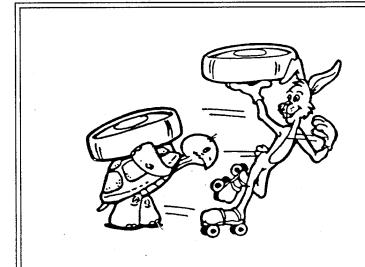
FOLLOW JOHN'S PATH

MUCH SPEED TO

In observing these matches, I believe the one frame in the match between John and Darrol influenced the outcome of these two matches. After losing the match to John, Darrol also lost some of the killer instinct he always has, and the result was his loss to Melton. In the final matches, John could not regain the adrenalin flow he had in the match with Darrol.

In my opinion, one frame decided the final standings for this Super Tournament.

Thanks, Ron, for the great tournament, thanks for the friendship in Del City, and thanks, John and Darrol, for the great games.



COMBINATION. MISSES

BY LESS THAN 1/2 INCH

JOHN WINS 15 TO 14

DON'T MISS THE SKIP'S/BOARD TALK FALL BASH SEPTEMBER 4-7 3 EVENTS!

SKIP'S LOUNGE

8895 W. Houghton Lake Drive Houghton Lake, Michigan Phone: 517-422-5631

Upcoming Events (continued from Page 23)

hike along the beach. Second, congenial hosts Skip and Carole Sliwa and their staff and the fun-loving locals create a party-time climate for visiting shufflers. And, third, the competition is great and the money isn't all that bad, either!

Traditionally, the tournament has started on Saturday, but since shufflers started showing up earlier and earlier each year, a third event has been added, starting on Friday, Sept. 5, with round robins on Thursday night. See the enclosed flyer for details.

For tournament information, call George at 517-484-4976 or 517-371-2538. For lodging recommendations, call Skip at 517-422-5631.

Last year's winners were Bobby Voorhis, Tom Leivo and Joanna Ingoglia in the A-B-C Draw and Bobby V in the open singles.

<u>Nevada</u>

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, SANDS REGENCY, RENO, OCT. 27-NOV. 2

Registrations are coming in at a steady pace for this big event (last year's NASC purse was a record-busting \$185,(000) so don't delay. Fill out the enclosed entry form and send it today to The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. All participants must be registered guests of the Sands Regency Hotel Casino (phone 800-348-7553 and tell them your group code number is SHU1026). Shufflers who have made their travel plans to Reno report that attractive room/airfare packages are currently available, so check with your local travel agent.

For further information, contact The Shuffleboard Federation at 248-380-9300.

Tell The World of Shuffleboard About Your Upcoming Events (and the results of those events) through the pages of The Board Talk!



Carrying on the tradition of quality you expect from the shuffleboard experts!

- ●Boards (our own exclusive finish)
 - Weights (shuffler's top choice)
- Products (try our American Lightning control speed wax)

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD CORPORATION

308 Railroad Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07602 Phone: 1-800-598-2881 FAX: 1-201-488-0770

Our Sincere Appreciation to:

- ●The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.
- **Sun-Glo Corporation**
- **●Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies**
- **●**Gametime
- American International Shuffleboard
- •Fritzi's Full Moon Leather Works
- **●The Gold Nugget**
- ●Crazy Canucks/AN & AF #68
- Action Lounge
- Houston Holiday Open
- ●Skip's Lounge
- ●The Full House
- The Dixie Belle
- Shuffleboard Directory Businesses

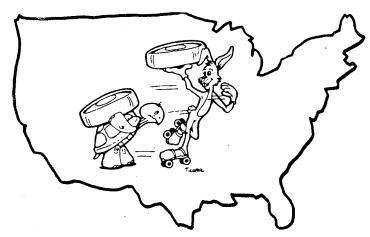
Your advertising support made this issue possible. We, and our subscribers, thank you. Readers, please patronize the businesses and support the tournaments of those who support your communications vehicle with advertising dollars.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers THE BOARD TALK

THE BOARD TALK

503 E. Sheridan Road Lansing, MI 48906

The Nation's Top Shuffleboard States:



#1 -- California

#2 -- Texas

#3 -- Indiana

#4 -- Washington

#5-- Michigan

#6 -- Oklahoma

If You're Moving.....

The Post Office will not forward your Board Talk if you move! PLEASE let us know your new address so you don't miss any issues.

I'm Moving!

Name

Old Address

City State Zip Code

New Address_____

Apt. or Space No.____

City____State___

Zip Code Phone

Send to: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, MI 48906 before the 20th of the month to receive the next issue.

> **BULK RATE** U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** LANSING, MICH. PERMIT NO.249

Bobby Voorhis 224 E. 1st St. Fairmount IN 46928