

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,
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December 1997

Shuffleboard "Family" Gathers in Reno for North American Championships

- 286 Players from 19 States & 2 Provinces
- Record \$201,040 Total Pot
- Board Talk Editors Inducted

The 8th Annual North American Championships, sponsored by The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., was held at the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino in Reno, Nevada, on Oct. 27-Nov. 2. The big event surpassed the previous seven and any other tournament in recent history, attracting 286 players from 19 states and two Canadian provinces, with total prize money of \$201,040.

WELCOME, ALASKA!



A FIRST -- A seven-member contingency from Anchorage, Alaska, included Kay Hardon, Orien Hardon, Sheila Hardon, Roy Maddocks, Paul Reyes, Tom Cowen, and Marcia Walker. This group is working on staging a tournament in Anchorage in the near future. Watch future issues for updates.

Diana's Team Wins Pro-Am Draft

The first event on the action-packed agenda was the Pro/Am draft team. There were 28 teams signed up for this event, vying for a share of the \$30,000 pot.

Twenty-eight teams times six shufflers per team -- that equals 168 players!



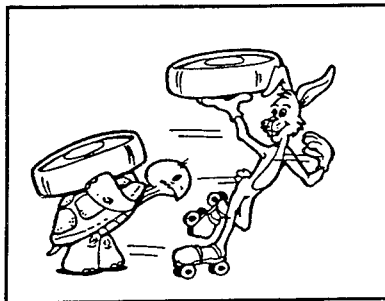
Diana Hagen's (second from left) winning team consisted of Lisa Freeman, Jane Reddinger, Harvey Kidd, Bud Osborn, and Gene McLeod.



Second place honors in the pro-am draft team event went to Darrol Nelson's (left) team of Mike Gonzales, Lorraine Bingham-Olson, Kevin Larkin, Marv Wilbur, and Dennis McPherson.

Finishing third in the 28-team field of contenders was Joe Hudson's team of Paul Parks, John King, Marty Allen, Don Kinard, and Jerry Berquist.

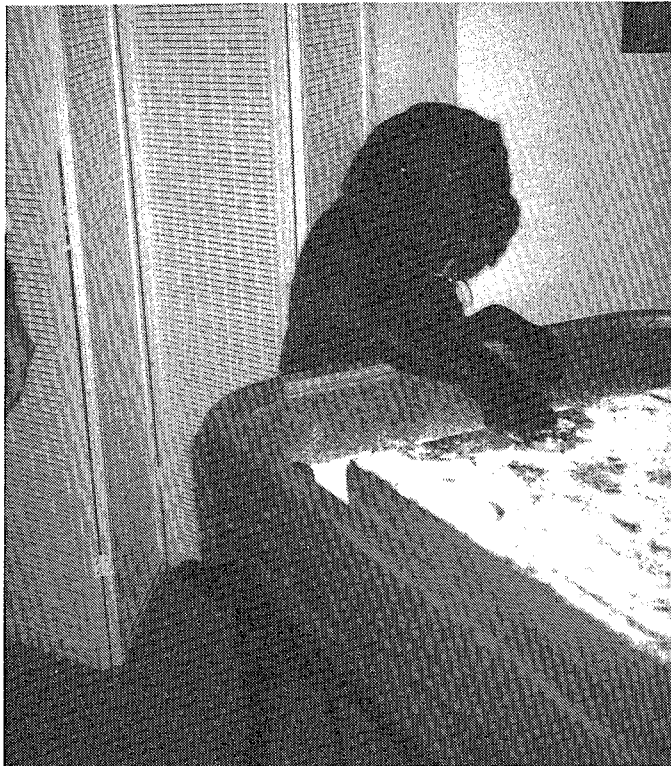
(continued on Page 16)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Move Over, Billy -- Here Comes Your Namesake...



Introducing my dog, Billy, an English lab. He was 11 months old this past August when this picture was taken. The only problem is his game hasn't improved. He keeps wanting to pull the weight back to him.

We have an 8 by 10 picture on the wall above the shuffleboard (next to Billy Mays). Will the real player please step forward.

Billy can probably be seen looking for a game at Third Base, a local sports bar.

Ken Strong, Houston, Texas

--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!

Your photo is a delight, Ken. Continue to work on his game. Perhaps we can arrange a match featuring your Billy and the grandsons of Bill Melton and Terry Dowell.

Debbie Gets Help from Sharon -- and Callie

I would like to thank Sharon Huddleston for her help in developing a way to get the rating sheets smaller (less postage) and for her help mailing out the final rating sheets (postage, time, etc.). This was not an easy task to volunteer for, but thank you, Sharon. It was greatly appreciated by Ron and me.



In the process of mailing out the first batch of rating sheets, I had help from our cat, Callie. Sharon's help was more beneficial and a lot less painful (scratch, scratch) than that of Callie's, but Callie did make the process seem more like play and a lot less like work.

Debbie Bowers. Austin, Texas

We can surely relate to the help of Callie in your rating endeavors, Debbie. We have two like her who "help" with the typing.....//[/]]]====, the collating, the mailing preparations, for The Board Talk, and even making the bed. We would gladly trade them for Sharon any day of the week, except she doesn't purr when petted -- or does she, Ron (Huddleston, that is!)?

Publication Content Information

The Board Talk reserves the right to reject any advertising or editorial contributions that the publishers deem unacceptable, either because of objectionable material or inconsistency with the newsletter's general editorial and advertising policies.

1st Annual Earl Kelly Memorial Tournament Held

The Harbor Point Club & Grill, Richardson, Texas, hosted the 1st Annual Earl Kelly Memorial Tournament on Oct. 10-12. The event was in memory of Shuffleboard Hall of Famer Earl Kelly, who passed away in January of 1994.

"The tournament was a huge success with an abundance of board talent competing for a total purse of over \$8,000," reports Nan Meharg.

Evelyn Harris and Johnny Wayne Crawford (right) were tops in the Sweetheart Draw. Penny Meharg and Eddie Guy took second, with Nan Meharg and Don Roper in third place.



George Leigh and Johnny (Skip) Skipworth were winners of Saturday's draw partner handicap event. Second place honors went to Bobby Williams and Jack Davis, with Pam Lee and Tommy McBurnett finishing third.

Carol Audett and Tommy McBurnett were winners of Sunday's draw partner handicap tournament. Chris Smith and Eddie Guy took third place.

"Thanks to Greg Hixon for helping Lyle set up the club and to Eddie Guy for being 'our man on stage,' handing various duties," Nan said.

Lyle and Nan thank all the participants, including the Gold Nugget gang, and look forward to another successful tournament in 1998.

The Harbor Point has three boards and holds weekly blind draws: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., \$10 entry; Fridays, 8 p.m., \$10 entry; Saturdays, 1 p.m., \$10 entry; and Sundays, 1 p.m., \$20 entry.

Tuter/Dorf, Sabourin/Dunn First at Sonny Boys Double Dipper

Gale Tuter and Bob Dorf teamed up in the A-B draw at the recent "Double Dipper" at Sonny Boys, Cuba, Missouri, to take first place. Second went to the team of Mick Moran and Donna Berry, with Roy Waddell and Richard Hemme in third place.

In the bring partner event, Jerry Sabourin and Jimmy Dunn took top honors. Second place finishers were Mick Moran and Donna Dunn, with Bill Green and Bob Dorf taking third spot.

"The bidding was high because of the great talent," reports Woodie Cockrum. "However, the turnout was low with only 17 teams. Thanks to the players from St. Louis and Springfield, also Mick Moran from Arkansas and Bob Jennings from Columbia, Mo. Bob is the only player from Northern Missouri to join in on any of our tournaments. The Jennings name is not new in the Shuffleboard World. Bob is the brother of the late, great Bill Jennings and the uncle of Nelson Jennings, one of the West Coast's top players. He has been out of shuffleboard for several years, but the talent and skills are there. Give him a few tournaments and he will be back.

"Cuba, Missouri, is just a small watering hole on I-44, 80 miles west of St. Louis and 130 miles east of Springfield. Without the help of the out-of-town players, there would be no Class A tournaments here," said Woodie.

**Is YOUR Favorite
Shuffleboard Site
on the enclosed
"Play Your Way Across
the U.S.A." listing?
If not --
WHY NOT?**

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Texas

HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN, HILTON HOTEL, DEC. 26-31

Check your calendar from after Christmas to New Year's Eve. Do you have anything planned that will be more fun than a big, friendly shuffleboard party? Well, this is your invitation to join 150 of your friends for some real Texas hospitality at the Houston Holiday Open, Dec. 26-31.

This year's Houston Holiday Open will be bigger and better than last year's event (last year's 98 participants played on seven boards for over \$74,000). The Hilton Hotel's opulent Grand Ballroom will accommodate the 12 newly-refinished tournament boards and provide ample room for socializing and spectating.

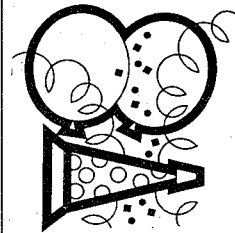
The Hilton's group room rate for the Houston Holiday Open is \$49 plus tax for up to four people per room (less than half the usual rate). They will also provide drink specials, two free breakfast buffets per room per day, house phones at the bracket boards (for those who wish to relax between games), and free transportation to and from shopping areas (for

after-Christmas specials). One-hundred percent of the entry fees will be paid back to players and 5% of the sales will be used for expenses and/or player prize money. Several events have been added this year so that all players, from beginners to pros, will be competitive every day. Check the enclosed flyer for all the events.

Organizers have invited several prospective major sponsors and media representatives to solicit their help in promoting shuffleboard in the future.

For additional information, call Johnny Ballard at 281-922-1346 or Jack Scott at 281-558-0237. To make your hotel reservations, call 713-977-7911 or 1-800-HILTONS.

Don't miss this one, tell your friends about this big Holiday happening, and post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard location.



**See the Old Year Out
and the New Year In
with your friends at
the HOUSTON
HOLIDAY OPEN!**

GAMETIME SHUFFLEBOARD INTRODUCES....

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

	1
1	2
2	3
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.

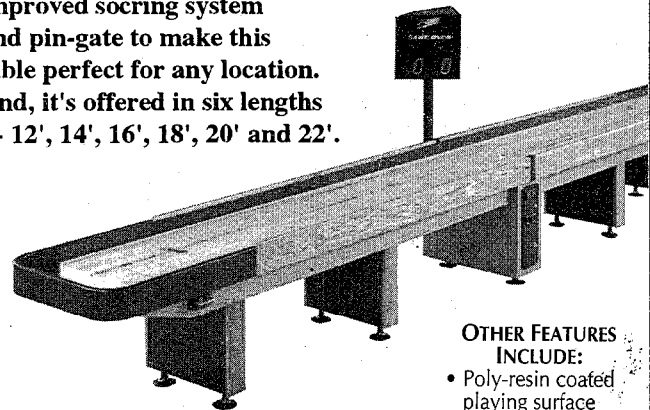
"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

GAMETIME

Take Your Best Shot!

Gametime has taken the best in shuffleboard and made it better! We've added an improved scoring 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
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We refinish all brands of shuffleboard. Call for details.

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

Florida**5TH ANNUAL FLORIDA
OPEN, SNUGGERY, PALM
BEACH, MARCH 27-29**

The 5th Annual Florida Open will be hosted by the Snuggery Bar & Grille, 2556 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach, on March 27-29. This event promises to be another great Southeast "shootout" and shufflers from across the nation and Canada are invited to participate.

Action will start on Friday with a draw partner, \$25 entry fee. An open bring partner doubles is scheduled for Saturday, \$100 per team entry. The grand finale will be an open singles on Sunday, \$50 entry fee.

Watch for a flyer with complete details in the January issue. In the meantime, for further information, call Marty Allen, 561-471-4053.

MORE NOTEBOOK**Gutsy Little Jan Lives,
Learns and Enjoys at Reno!**

Boy, did I have a great time in Reno! It was my first time there and I never dreamed I'd be in the money in the Ladies' Division II Singles. I told everyone I was just playing for the tournament experience and I'd probably get my butt kicked in the first two games. I figured after that I could do a little gambling. The gambling had to wait. I didn't come in first, but I was in the money. I wasn't the only woman player from the Dixie Belle; there were a number of us doing our best to give the rest of the country a little California competition.

Mary Lou Deering talked me into trying to put a team together for the team event (she didn't have to talk too hard!). We were putting the word out on this when we ran into Steve Floyd of Visalia. With his help, we put a great team together and from then on, it was play, play, play! Rick Gindt, Johnny Ballard and Bob L, thanks for taking a chance on a couple of "C" players. It was the best experience I've had in shuffleboard. I try to learn something more about the game every time I play so I can become the best that I can be. Playing with these gentlemen, I feel, really taught me a lot. I was proud to be part of the team. Next time, we'll finish a little higher up the ladder, O.K.?

It was great to see friends I hadn't seen for some time: Melody and Dan, Darrol, Pat and Gordy, Colonel and Sue, Larry Pearson, Smilin' Kevin Larkin, Dave Arndt, and so many others. It was great to see you all and I hope to see you at the Dixie Belle real soon.

It was wonderful to see George and Donna Wilber inducted into the Hall of Fame. They are both beautiful people and we all love them.

Jan Manes from the Dixie Belle, Downey, California

We love you, too, Jan and were proud of your finish in the money. You put into words very well how important it is for our more experienced players to take players like you under their wings. They are good teachers and you proved you are a good student.

**Debbie Sets the Record
Straight: Shuffleboard Alive
and Well at Dixie Belle....**

The Holiday Season is here once again and the Dixie Belle is alive and well as we enter the season. As I write, we are having a preliminary Thanksgiving tournament with the winners receiving entry into our Thanksgiving week-end event. Such a deal!

Boy, did I find some interesting news when I went to Reno. I found out we didn't have any more shuffleboard at the Dixie Belle. I said: "That's funny, we had FIVE boards when I left Downey yesterday."

(continued on Page 26)

***Peace on Earth
and Good Will to our
Friends Throughout the
World of
Shuffleboard!***

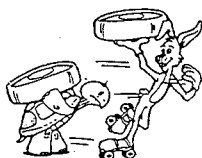


*Steve and Dixie Debbie, Evie and Jimmy
and all The Gang at*

THE DIXIE BELLE

**9559 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, California
Phone: 562-803-4943**

As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

Not all of you could be at the North American Championships in Reno, so we share the following, our response to the great honor of being inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.....

An Honor Shared

Unlike most honors, which are for individual achievements, this is one that must be shared with each of you because, without you, there would be no Board Talk:

- Our subscribers, the lifeblood of The Board Talk.
- Our advertisers, a vital ingredient in the publication. Subscribers may pay the postage, but the advertisers pay the print bill. We encourage you to support those who support your communications vehicle.
- Our reporters and contributors, those who send us information on upcoming events and reports and photos of the results of those events; those who share their viewpoints in Notebook so shufflers can have a dialogue about our sport from Coast to Coast, North to South; and Balboa Ron, who takes us along with Frisco Eddie and Long Beach Lil in their travels each month.
- John McDermott and Phil Skover of The Shuffleboard Federation for their years of efforts to bring professionalism, discipline and respectability to our sport and make us proud to be involved in it -- and thanks to them and our beloved Rob Kern and all the rest of their talented and dedicated crew for staging such a great tournament that brings so many people of The World of Shuffleboard together.
- The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors: Glen Davidson, Bob Hunt, Louise Freer, Larry Creakbaum, Hal Perry, Dave Arndt, and retired Jim Foran, for all their efforts to make a dream a reality. And all those who serve on state Hall of Fame committees, creating a grassroots network to make good things happen for deserving individuals.
- Three individuals who saw us through the tough times with support and encouragement: Sol Lipkin, Bill Melton, and Bellflower Bruce Hale.
- All the volunteers in The World of Shuffleboard, those who lend their time and talents and hard work, with no compensation, to leagues and local tournaments, the "backbone" and the "heart" of shuffleboard.

With all of you, we share this great honor.

*To each and every
member of our
shuffleboard network,*



*From our family
to yours:
We wish you a Holiday
filled with
love and laughter,
peace and prosperity!*

George & Donna

THE BOARD TALK

503 E. Sheridan
Lansing, Michigan 48906
Phone: 517-484-4976
or 517-371-2538

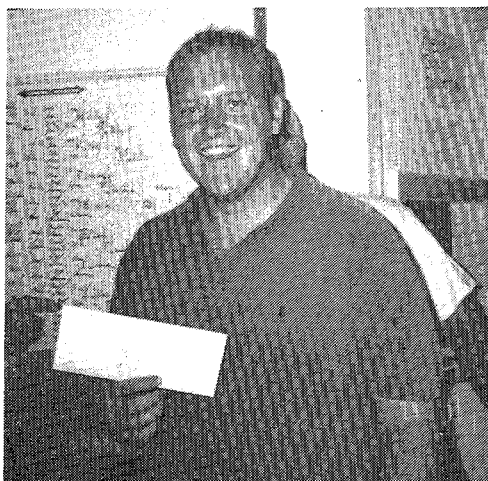
Full House of Winners at The Full House

The Full House in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, hosted its annual Labor Day Tournament, Aug. 28-Sept. 1.



Nancy Tice (left) of Pauls Valley took top honors in the women's singles. Vicky Motes (right) of Wynnewood finished second. Hostess Pat Kinard took third place in this event.

Billy Melton of Davis was the winner of the men's singles.

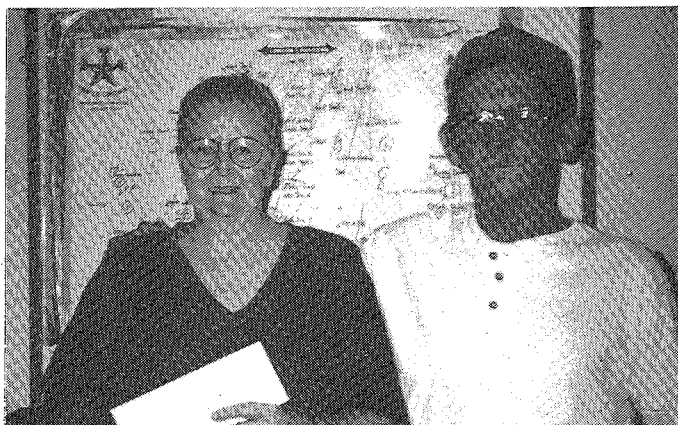


Taking second in the men's singles was Dave Davidson (left) of Tupelo, with third place going to Skip McCaskill (right) of Wynnewood.

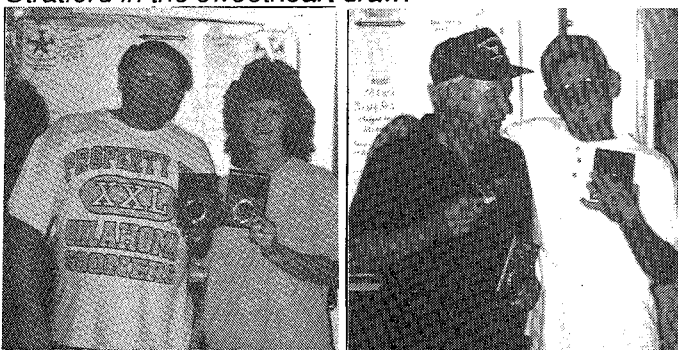
REMINDER!
Reports must be received by the 15th
of the month
to appear in the next issue.



In the sweetheart draw, Brenda Watts and David Renfro (left) of Wynnewood took first. Nancy Tice of Pauls Valley and Goose of Oklahoma City (right) were second.



And Sue Lewis of Oklahoma City lost her "virgin" status by taking third with partner Weldon Lambert of Stratford in the sweetheart draw.



In the open draw, it was Nancy Tice and Ron Gamble (left) taking first, with Weldon Lambert and Dave Davidson in second place.

Ken Storck of Oklahoma City and Bobby Kimbro of Wynnewood finished in third place.



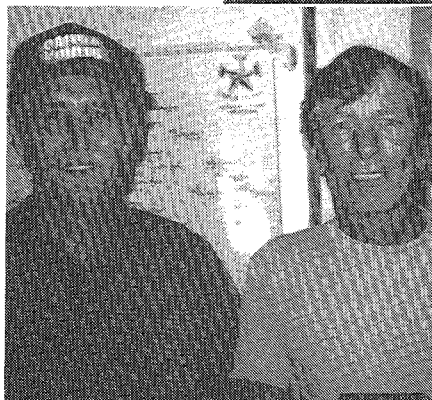
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Full House *(continued from Page 7)*



Goose McAfee and Skip McCaskill were winners in the bring your partner event at the Full House.

Out-of-state visitors Gene McLeod of Missouri and Randy Rogers of Texas took second place honors.



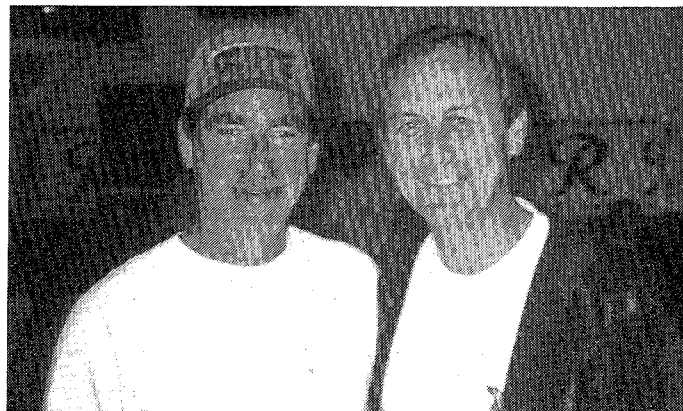
Joe Dickerson and Kenny Brewer of Wynnewood finished third in the bring partner event.

"There were a lot of people who put in long hours and hard work to make this a successful tournament," said hostess Pat Kinard. "Thanks to secretary Vicky McCaskill, auctioners Lynn Tice and Glen Carter, Brenda Watts and Chuck Williams for the bracket boards, Mike Melton, Betty and Justin for the boards, Gene McCleod for the shuffleboard wax, Odie Knight, Don Kinard, Michelle Kinard, Francis Carter, and my excellent staff: Ron Grove, Richard Simco, Janet Gregory, Kay Wells, and Starr Kinard. Thanks to all the participants and we are looking forward to seeing you next year."

**Support the
National Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame!**

Nelson/Buhl Make It No. 7 at Shamrock Tavern Doubles

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, renamed its annual October doubles the Nelson/Buhl Tournament a few years ago because that dynamic duo were consistent winners. This year, Oct. 18-19, was no exception as Darrol and Doug again came out on top of a field of 17 teams.



Earning their title for the seventh consecutive year -- Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl of Oregon.



Taking second place honors were Mike Thorpe and Dave Arndt of Washington.



Jim Allis of Washington (left) and Chuck Norris of Oregon teamed up to take third place.



Larry Pearson (left) and Carl Roush of Washington were fourth place finishers. Larry is the new secretary of the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association and editor of the *Shuffleboard Northwest*, the ESA's official newsletter.

Finishing in fifth and sixth spots were Al Pease and Dan Hitt, Ray Olson and Mike Olson, all of Washington.

There were 20 teams in Friday night's round robin. Darrol Nelson was in the winner's circle again -- but this time with MRS. Buhl!



Mike Thorpe and Ray Olson (right) were winners of the round robin. Darrol Nelson and Marilyn Buhl took second place. It was Marilyn's first time in the winner's circle. Watch out, Doug!

The tournament featured Bernice's chili on Saturday and sweet and sour meat balls on Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the **ESA** and
Editor Larry Pearson
on the inauguration of your new
"Shuffleboard Northwest"

George & Donna

*To Everyone in our
great World of Shuffleboard:*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*May health, happiness
and success be
abundantly yours and
may good friends always
surround you.*



AL RYAN

817 Friel Place
Brooklyn, New York

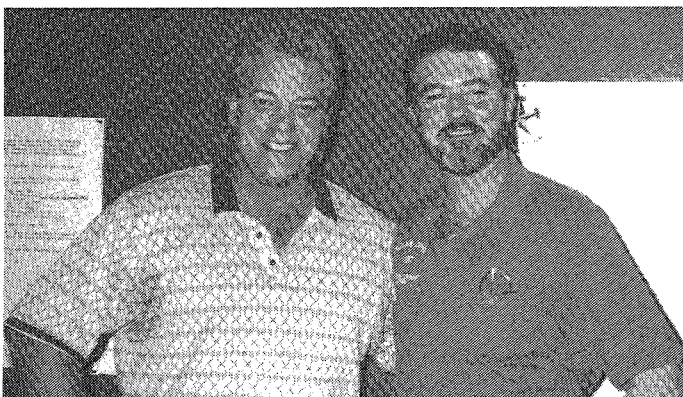
October Shuffleboard "Fling" at Houston's Danny's Sports Bar

Danny's Sports Bar in Houston, Texas (a Board Talk Shuffleboard Directory advertiser), hosted a Mid-October Shuffleboard Fling on Oct. 17-19, featuring a semi-A/B draw, a sweetheart draw, and a handicapped singles.

In the semi-A/B draw (-1, 0, and 1 rated players could not draw each other), 38 players vied for a share of the \$4,120 pot.



Placing first in the semi-A/B draw were Howard Mouton (-1) and Troy Thornton (3).



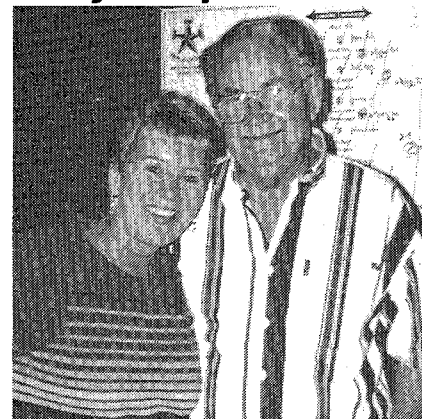
Flynt Preston (1) and Stan Stinson (2) took second place honors.



Gilbert Baird (2) and Kelly Cameron (1) (left) took third place, with Dale Williams (1) and Bill Rice (2) in fourth.

Saturday's sweetheart draw attracted 32 participants, with Diana Hagen and the legendary Rod Cameron winning after they lost their first game.

Sweetheart draw partners Diana Hagen and Rod Cameron took top honors in this event after losing their first game.



After getting double dipped by Hagen and Cameron, Mary Koteras and Harvey Kidd settled for second place.

Third place went to Sylvia Martinez and Bill Rice.



In Sunday's handicapped singles, 1-rated Flynt Preston (right) came out on top of 3-rated Del Ammerman (left). Diana Hagen took third place with a smile after having to spot the entire field.

(continued on Page 12)

Danny's Fling *(continued from Page 10)*

"Thanks to the staff of Danny's for the fine hospitality and good service and a very special thanks to the owners of Danny's, Danny and Rueben. Without them, we wouldn't have a happy shuffleboard 'home' in the Houston area. They make sure we have good supplies and treat us like royalty," said tournament director Brian Walker.

"Thanks also to my very own dear Ann for helping to collect entry money and Tre Cameron who helped take the sponsor sales money. I also thank Bill Rice and Ken (Doc) Strong for the great help in maintaining the brackets. Thanks to Diana for helping make some phone calls and anyone else who helped with the boards, etc.. The total purse for the weekend was over \$10,000. Not bad for just a weekend fling!" said Brian.

Brown/Camp Winners at Deer Park Tavern

Mary and Larry Brown hosted their final open doubles at the Deer Park Tavern in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Oct. 11. Larry and his "neighbor," Beef Camp (Beef's Bar, Kendallville), went undefeated to take first place. Second place went to the team of Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum. The Massie "Boys" -- Tom and Greg -- took third place, with Brian Collins and Terry Dowell finishing fourth in the field of 15 teams, with a total purse of \$1970.

"It was pretty hectic working and playing at the same time," said Larry, "and this tournament could not have happened without the help of Mike Johnson, auctioneer; Brian Collins, brackets; Tom and Greg Massie, board work; and Dale Gushman, too."

The Deer Park's last tournament, before Mary and Larry retire at the end of the year, will be a mixed doubles on Dec. 13.

(Editor's Note: We wish Mary and Larry the very best in their future endeavors. Big, tall Larry, who is never at a loss for words, and tiny, little, quiet Mary have supported tournaments throughout the U.S. and have made friends wherever they've gone. If you'd like to join us in wishing them well, send your messages to them at: 1921 E. Cedar Canyon Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46845-9725.)

More Notebook

From One Editor to Another.....

First, congratulations on being inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame! A friend of mine went out to Reno and brought back the ceremony booklet about you. I will be using many parts of that in my upcoming newsletters for our league (*"On the Board" -- News, Views, and Standings for the Cecil & Harford County Shuffleboard League*). Yes, I am still sole editor, writer and distributor but, like you, love every minute of it. At least the league now pays for the printing. That was a great write-up and I look forward to meeting you both one of these days.

Second, enclosed is the last issue of our newsletter, and I hope you will not be upset with my suggestion (*"If you feel you don't want to fork over a measly \$20 for a subscription, get a fellow shuffleboard friend and share a subscription. Now it only costs you \$10 and you both can read the same issue. Two for one price is better than none."*). My goal is to get our league players and the bar owners signed up to The Board Talk. We have such a great league in this area (Maryland/Delaware/S.E. Pennsylvania) and I just can't believe there are not more establishments listed in your "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." I know you prefer everyone have their own subscription, of course, but I felt if I can get them to at least share one, they might get "hooked" on it and start enjoying it as much as I do. And that brings me to Number 3.

Third, this has been only my second year as a Board Talk subscriber, but I have become acquainted with many of the players throughout the country. Because of The Board Talk, when I visited Las Vegas last June, I was able to find several great locations to play shuffleboard. Although I didn't get to meet up with him, it was your very own Balboa Ron Schweikert who told me where to go. I immediately made new friends and enjoyed several nights of great shuffleboard play. The Strip is nice, and the Casinos are great, but connecting up with shuffleboard players in several of the local bars was the best of all! I have also traveled in other parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania and had similar experiences because I look to go only to places listed in The Board Talk.

And one more great experience. I have come across some great blues music and found several new blues artists because of The Board Talk. Yes, because of your publication, I hooked up with fellow shuffleboard player and Blues Doctor, Bill Moore.

(continued on Page 24)

1997-98 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

DECEMBER 1997

Dec. 5

A-B Draw
J & C's
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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. 13

Mixed Doubles
Deer Park Tavern
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dec. 27-31

2nd Houston Holiday Open
Hilton Southwest
Houston, Texas

Dec. 27-28

6th Annual Mixed Doubles
Tim's Timber Tavern
Kelso, Washington

JANUARY 1998

Jan. 9

A-B Draw
J & C's
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Jan. 16-18

East Coast Winter Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Jan. 16-18

3rd Annual Round Robin Singles
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Jan. 23-26

Oklahoma State Championships
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

Jan. 24-25

Amateur Draw Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

FEBRUARY 1998

Feb. 13-15

Sweetheart Tournament
The Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 14

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

Feb. 21-22

Open Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

Feb. 20-22

2nd Saginaw Valley Open
McCabe's
Saginaw, Michigan

MARCH 1998

Feb. 28-March 2

Mason-Dixon Classic
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 7-8

Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

March 11

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

March 27-29

5th Annual Florida Open
Snuggery Bar & Grill
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

APRIL 1998

April 4-5

Open Doubles
Corner Tavern
Bow, Washington

April 17-19

Heartland Handicap Tourey
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 18-19

Amateur Draw Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

April 18-19

Open Doubles
BZ's Bar & Grill
SeaTac, Washington

MAY 1998

May 9-10

Open Doubles
Frankie's Sports Pub
Olympia, Washington

May 23-24

Open Doubles
Rod's Drive In Tavern
Spokane, Washington

May 23-24

Open Doubles
Tolo Tavern
Central Point, Oregon

JUNE 1998

June 6-7

A/B Draw Partners
Shotze's Rack-N-Roll
Everett, Washington

June 20-21

Mixed Doubles
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

JULY 1998

June 28-July 4

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 25-26

Amateur Draw Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

July 28-Aug. 2

Grand Masters Plus
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

July 28-Aug. 3

14th Annual Board Talk
Shufflers' Reunion
Avon's Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

(More dates next month)

Circle of Winners at NAC Largest in Recent History

(continued from Page 1)

Al Pease led his team of Carl Roush, Russ Miller, Jerry Ledent, Mike Rapp and Dave Ramold to fourth place.

Placing fifth and sixth were Mike Thorpe's team of Tommy Campbell, Tom Henry, Richard Larson, Sharon McDonnell, and Betty Parrish; and Bill Melton's team of Steve Burkett ("walking Book of Knowledge"), Frank Mako, Jack Davis, Bill Niswonger, and Sharon Huddleston.

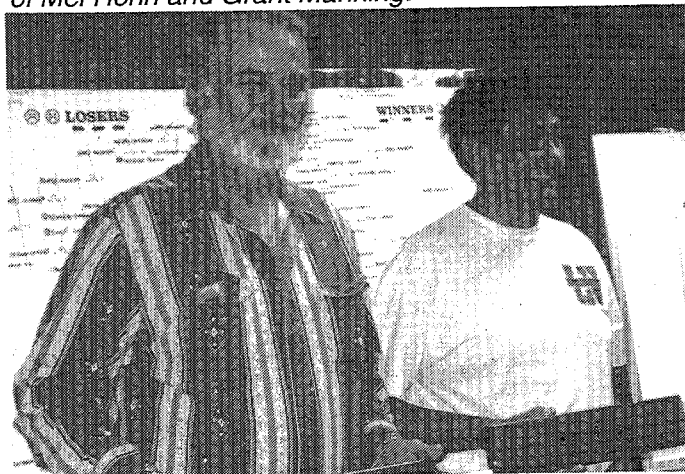
Taking seventh and eighth spots were Rick Gindt's team of Fred Boyd, Joanie Millar, Gwen Vogt, Anna Brunskill and Kathy Lloyd; and Hal Perry's team of Terry Dowell, Phil Gardner, Mary Brown, Balboa Ron Schweikert, and Keith Leonard.

Hohn/Manning Tops in Div. II Doubles

Mel Hohn, owner of the Fir Cone Tavern, Shelton, Washington, and his partner Grant Manning came out ahead of a field of 43 teams in the Division II Doubles.



Don Crall (left), manager of the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma, site of the Southwest Open, congratulates himself for investing in the winning team of Mel Hohn and Grant Manning.



Last year's winners Jerry Ledent and Marv Wilbur (not to be confused with George) settled for second.



Phil Gardner (left) and Jim Kennedy took third place.

Others in the winner's circle were: Ron Bowers and Randy Rogers, 4th; Joanie Swenson and Jolene Lembke, Harvey Walden and Woodie Cockrum Sr., 5th and 6th; U.J. West and Kenny Brewer, Marv Calhoun and Bob Myers, 7th and 8th; Shari Foust and Terry Gerrard, George Best and Angie Snyder, 9th and 10th; Jeanette Henry and Roy Minium, Kenny Hawkes and Tommy McBurnett, 11th and 12th.

Williams Brothers Take Pro/Div. I Doubles Title

Twenty-nine of the toughest teams in the nation squared off to take a share of the Pro/Div. 1 Doubles pot, with Texans David and Bobby Williams prevailing over contenders Darrol Nelson of Oregon and Diana Hagen of Texas. Dave Arndt and Mike Thorpe of Washington took third place honors. Fourth place finishers were Bob Shaw and Johnny Ballard of Texas.

Others finishing in the money were: Bob Hunt and Nick Chaffin, California, Bobby Voorhis and Ricky Royal, Indiana, 5th and 6th; Gwynette Orsi, Nebraska, and Harvey Kidd, Texas, Billy Melton, Oklahoma, and Chris Passariello, Michigan, 7th and 8th.



Bobby Williams and his "hero," brother David Williams, took top honors in the Pro/Div. I Doubles.

They beat the formidable team of Darrol Nelson and Diana Hagen.



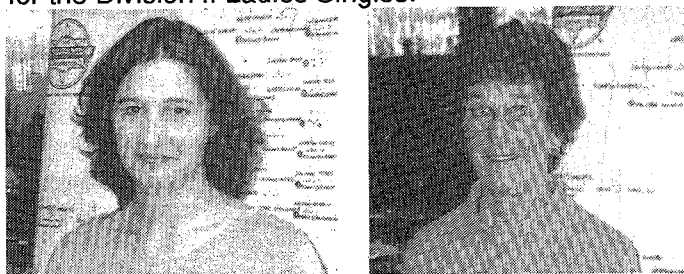
Andy Brorsen Wins Div. II Singles

Last year, there was a full house of 48 in the Division II Open Singles. This year, that "house" burst the seams with 64 contenders! It was Andy Brorsen of California who came out on top of that awesome field. Taking second place honors was Bill Niswonger, host of the popular, long-running tournaments at the Bourbon, Indiana, American Legion. Third place went to Jack Davis and fourth to John King.

Others finishing in the money were: Bruce Whitacre and Tom Henry, 5th and 6th; Jim Filkins and Richard Larson, 7th and 8th; Mel Hohn and Dick Smedberg, 9th and 10th; Jim Kumpula and Cindy Clark, 11th and 12th; Dennis MacPherson and George Wilber, 13th and 14th; Harvey Walden and Euel Jensen, 15th and 16th.

Jeri Billard Wins Div. II Ladies Singles

An unprecedented 40 women shufflers signed up for the Division II Ladies Singles.



Jeri Billard (left) of Texas topped the field. Dorothy Jacob of Victoria, B.C. Canada took second place honors.



Anna Brunskill (left) of California finished third, with Linda Meyer of Arizona in fourth place.

Others in the winners circle were: Joanie Swenson and Patricia Kinard (owner of the Full House, Wynnewood, Oklahoma), 5th and 6th; Lilly Kidd and Susan Teibel, 7th and 8th; Glenna Lavella and Sharon McDonnell, 9th and 10th; Candy Lepore and Jan Manes, 11th and 12th.

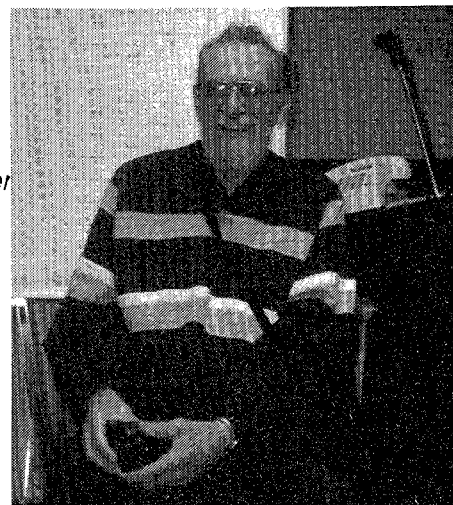
Dale Koteras First in Div. I Singles

Dale Koteras of Texas took the biggest share of the pot in the Div. I Singles, coming out ahead of a field of 43 contenders. Daring to challenge the male-dominated event was Rena Fleming of Oklahoma who took second place honors, with Johnny Ballard of

(continued on Page 21)

On the Sidelines at the NAC

A new member of The Shuffleboard Federation's NAC staff this year was official photographer Ralph Duarte of Washington. Ralph is also a frequent contributor of reports for The Board Talk.



While we poke good-natured fun at Larry Creakbaum's weight carrier, now we have a new target. Nestled amongst the classy wooden and hand-tooled leather cases is one belonging to Don Stallworth of Oregon -- a Velveeta cheese box! It's functional....



The NAC has become a great place for a family reunion for the Cockrum Family. Veteran shufflers Jolene Lembke (front center) of California and Woodie Cockrum (back center) of Missouri, enjoy a get-together with their sister, Nadine Price, brother Dale Cockrum, both of California, brother Delane Cockrum and his wife, Loraine, of Nevada, and Woodie's son, Woodie Jr., also an active shuffler.

(continued on Page 20)

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Frisco Eddie and Lil had spent two days at the Wet River Bar & Grill in Detroit, Michigan, shooting against some of the "big guns" from that state along with some visiting Hoosiers. On their trip back West, they made stops in Oklahoma and Colorado as Lil worked toward her goal of getting Eddie "seasoned" for the big Reno tournament. They had checked into the Sands Regency and headed for the shuffleboard room.)

Eddie was totally amazed when they walked into the main room of the Reno shuffleboard tournament. He had a feeling of awe, coupled with a feeling of assurance when he remarked to Lil: "...I have arrived!"

Lil gave him a knowing look and said: "It's pretty awesome, isn't it?" She took him across the hallway then and showed him another room, which was smaller, but filled with several more boards.

There weren't too many players around yet, as they had showed up early, and the crew was just finishing getting the boards set up. The players who were there, though, recognized Lil, and many "Hi's," hugs and kisses were given.

No one was allowed to practice so Lil suggested that they walk down the one flight of stairs to the main Casino and have a look around. There were more "Hi's" and hugs as they entered the main gambling area. Eddie noticed one rather tall, good-looking guy greet Lil with a hug, and a kiss that seemed to last way too long, and Lil was also returning that kiss! After the embrace, she introduced him to Eddie as Dick Moyer.

Eddie questioned Lil about the familiarity that was displayed there, and she just blew him off by saying he was no more than a "good, old friend." Eddie wondered just how "good" and just how old a friend he really was.

It wasn't long before things started to get organized and the "calcutta" for the Pro-Am team event took place. Eddie had now been rated a -1 due to the reputation that had proceeded him to the tournament. There were still a whole lot of people who had no notion of who he was, and what he could do with a set of weights.

Lil's team drew the highest dollar of the auction; they went for "many bucks." The team that Eddie led was ranked about 8th in the draw, which suited him just fine. His team was doing pretty good, with the exception of a couple of "cliff hangers" where it took a four lag to win. They finished 7th after several rounds of play. Unfortunately, they ended up losing money because of the stake for the calcutta. Eddie was getting warmed up, though, and began to concentrate now on the big event -- the pro singles. Lil's team won

the Pro-Am, which assured them a profitable trip, regardless of what else happened, due to the huge prize and calcutta money she had received. (She had also secretly bought out a couple of the other players on her team who happened to be a little short on cash.)

With few exceptions, all of the top players in the country were there for the Pro Singles event. Eddie didn't go for very much in the calcutta, mainly because he wasn't known that well. Again, this suited him just fine. He immediately bought his 50 percent back (at what he knew was a bargain price). Lil's sale was very high, as was expected. Eddie noticed that her "kissing cousin" from downstairs was also entered.

Before the singles matches actually began, there was another very important event that took place. The husband and wife team who publish the major shuffleboard magazine called the "Board Squawk" were inducted into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Their names were Don and Georgia Filmore, and it was a grand event indeed! Virtually everyone who was at the tournament came forward to congratulate them on their so well-deserved award. It was a very heartwarming and memorable experience for everyone.

It was a little humorous, though, when during the acceptance speech, Georgia thanked one of the contributors, who submits a monthly short story series, whose name was Laguna Don. He received a standing ovation -- but he was nowhere to be found in the room. It turned out that he thought the ceremony was over after the congratulations, and had gone downstairs to do a little gambling. The poor devil had lost his 10 seconds of fame!

Now was the time Eddie had waited for so long. He was on his own now, with no Lil, or anyone else to offer advice. It was kind of a good feeling to be free! He knew that at some point, he would be facing Lil as an opponent, but his confidence level was so high he wasn't worried about that -- or anything else. All he wanted to do now was play shuffleboard!

Eddie was sharp -- really sharp! He had that invincible feeling, the kind where you don't have to think about where the weights are going to go -- you KNEW where they'd go, and your mind was constantly kicking off an offensive plan. He was always two or three steps ahead of his opponents, and he was mowing them down left and right! He was hitting, sticking, sliding, wrapping, and lagging with unreal accuracy. After several games, he was starting to get a gathering of spectators who followed his play.

As it turned out, he didn't have to undergo the big face-off with Lil. The way things worked out, she was

forced to take third place -- by the man Eddie would have to play for the entire championship! His name was Robby Doorhers. He was known as "Robby D," and he was also the guy Eddie had come up against two weeks earlier in Detroit. After several hours, they had come to a stand-off.

They were down to the final game now....this was it! The game was totally intense, with each player executing much the same way a champion chess player would. There was silence in the area now, with the score at 14 to 12 in Eddie's favor, and Robby D's hammer. Eddie hit-and-went on his third weight. Robby took his time, and then lagged a duece, which ended up partially hanging off the right rail, and deep in the two zone.

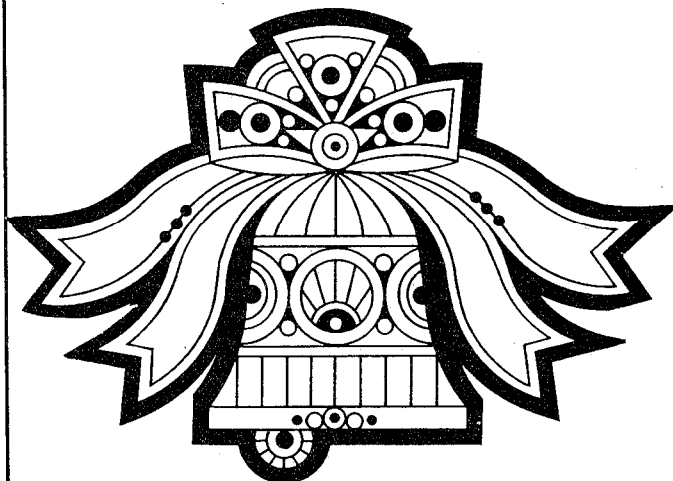
The pressure was on Eddie now, to either stick the weight, or hit-and-go, as he had his last one. He took a long time sizing things up. The tension was overwhelming. This shot could end up being the key to the championship!

He had the weight in his left hand for the cross, but then his whirling mind dictated the right-hand thumb shot, which he had relied on so heavily throughout the tournament. He would take the weight off and go, forcing the lag. If Robby's hammer was anything but a three or four, he had the championship sewed up.

He, his right arm, and his right thumb were extended over the board now. He drew the weight back and forth slightly a few times to get the feel -- and then he made his release. Man, it looked good -- it.....

--TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH --

***To All My Shufflin' Friends:
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***



**BALBOA RON
SCHWEIKERT**

1140 Coral Desert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89123

New Products

"Shuffleshot" Video Game Now Available

Incredible Technologies, Inc., 4010 Winnetka Ave., Rolling Meadows, Illinois, announces the availability of the new "Shuffleshot" video game, consisting of four different games based on shuffleboard action: ShuffleAlley, Bullseye, ShuffleBoard, and Bocce.

Players use the trackball to shoot their pucks into the highest scoring zone. The tension builds as the puck glides smoothly down the play field, gently slowing at the end of the lane. If the puck is "thrown" too hard, it will slide off the edge of the table and not score. Catchy background music and speech commentary add to the action and excitement as play progresses. Skill and strategy are necessary for offensive throws to high scoring areas, as well as defensive moves to block out the opposing pucks. Players get four pucks per round, with four rounds per game. The factory default for a game of four rounds is 50 cents and is adjustable by the operator.

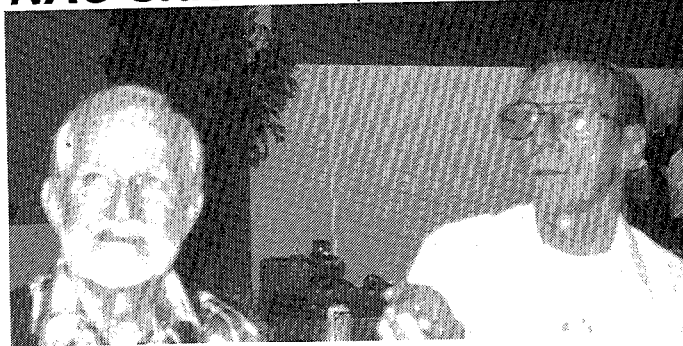
One to four players can compete at the same time on any of the four games in "ShuffleShot," making the game perfect for group play. A four player game, with up to 16 pucks on the table at once, becomes a game of cutthroat, where every throw changes the play field and player strategy.

Single player games have been designed to attract challenging skill play. Players compete against computer-thrown pucks, which are thrown in recognizable patterns. A player can learn these patterns and utilize them to optimize his/her score by blocking out the computer's throws, and using the computer to push the player's pucks into better scoring areas. In addition to a player's score, one player games utilize a unique point-spread system. The difference between the player's score and the computer's score is added in as bonus points. Therefore, players can improve their final scores dramatically by getting their best score possible, while making sure that the computer score is as low as possible. High score screens for all four games are displayed in the game's attract sequence.

"ShuffleShot" is available in JAMMA-compatible kit form, as well as dedicated upright, cocktail and countertop cabinets. It's ideal for tournament play, and audits, high score screens and operator-adjustable settings support locally-run tournaments. An ITS version of "ShuffleShot" is also in the works and national tournaments may begin as early as spring of 1998.

For sales information on "ShuffleShot" or any Incredible Technologies product, call your coin-op distributor or Bulldog Amusements at 425-869-6400, or FAX 425-869-6401.

NAC Sidelines *(continued from Page 17)*

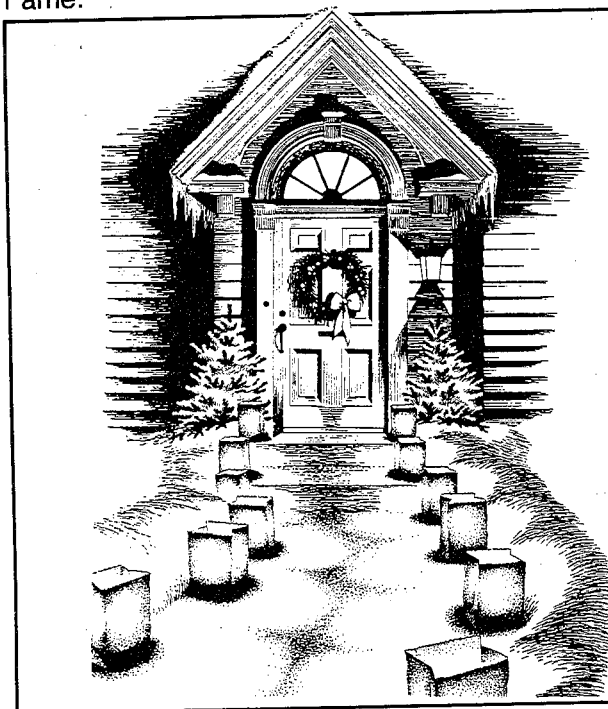


The legendary Galen Gaunce (right) of Black Cat Tavern (Oregon) fame shares some "back in the old days" stories with Board Talk George. Galen served as captain of one of the 28 Pro/Am Draft Teams.

Winner of the weights donated by Bill Melton for the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was Frankie's Sports Pub in Olympia, Washington. This new shuffleboard site is enjoying increased action, so they'll be putting those weights to good use. Proceeds from the ticket sales went to the NSHF treasury.

Winner of the platinum weights donated by The Shuffleboard Federation and raffled off to assist Ron and Debbie Bowers to continue their nationwide rating system was Terry Dowell of Indiana. Raffle ticket sales netted nearly \$700, with an anonymous donor offering to match that amount.

Hall of Famer Sol Lipkin was a favorite "sideliner" at the NAC, not only with his personal tales of the history of shuffleboard during his lifetime career with American Shuffleboard, but also with his intriguing photos of the sport in the '40s, '50s and '60s. That same anonymous donor has offered to pay for a method of preserving those photos for the Hall of Fame.



A Grand NAC Tournament!

This was the biggest and best ever tournament in Reno, Nevada. The "Big 3" did an excellent job of running this huge event: Phil who negotiated for the added \$\$\$ from the hotel, Rob who did a great job with the brackets, and John who handled all the headaches and problems.

There were some mistakes. Probably the biggest one was having the finals of the pro singles extend into the wee hours of the morning, which made it hard on the players and denied the other players an opportunity to view a great match between Bobby V and Darrol. This served no purpose as there were boards and time to finish the next day. *(Editor's Note: The "Big 3" agree this was a big mistake and have assured us this will never happen again!)*

This was a special tournament for me because I was able to win an event with my brother, who has always been my hero, and because of the induction of George and Donna into the Hall of Fame. They are special people and have done so very much for shuffleboard.

Bobby Williams, Fort Worth, Texas

We appreciate the years of unfailing support you and David have given us, Bobby, and congratulate you on your win together. While we may have been the "centerpiece" of that awesome induction ceremony, we hope it also provided the NSHF Board of Directors (they were all there and great representatives of The World of Shuffleboard) high visibility and increased support for their efforts. Hopefully, everyone in that huge audience will share the message "back home" that the NSHF needs and deserves their support.

From Our House to Yours.....

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

to all shufflers and their families.

May God Bless You All!

Ed and Judy Gartland

9332 Academy Rd.

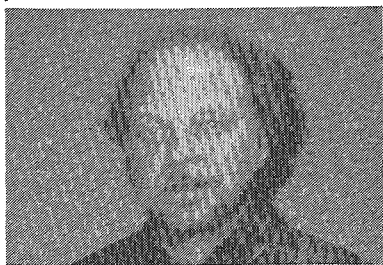
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19114

Phone: 215-698-9157

More Money-Winners at North America Championships

(continued from Page 17)

Texas in third, and Bob Hunt of California in fourth place.



Dale Koteris of Texas was No. 1 in the Div. 1 singles, with Rena Fleming of Oklahoma taking second place honors.

Other finishers were Larry Creakbaum and George Camara, 5th and 6th; Larry Pearson and Tom Campbell, 7th and 8th; Steve Burkett and Bill Meyer, 9th and 10th; Joe Hudson and Rick Royal, 11th and 12th.

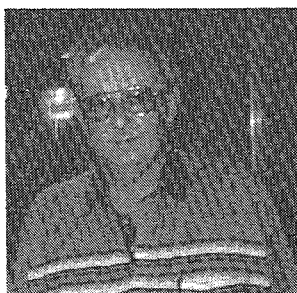
Bobby V Prevails in Pro Singles

For the diehards who could stay up until 6 a.m., the final match between pros Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Darrol Nelson of Oregon was a classic that will be talked about for years to come. In the 2 out of 3 double elimination event, it came down to the last shot of the final game to give Bobby V the victory, when Darrol elected to use the right hand rail instead of the left cross, to try to take off Bobby's 2 weight, which lay in the right corner, and missed!



"He's No. 1!" says sponsor Sam Summers about Pro Singles winner Bobby Voorhis (left). The battle between Bobby and Darrol went down to the wire.

Chuck Norris (right) of Oregon took third place honors, with Donny Cox of California in fourth. Dan Hitt of Washington and David Williams of Texas tied for fifth and sixth.



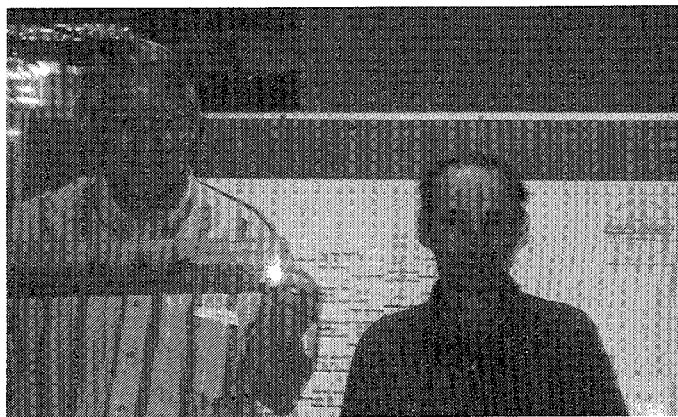
Booth/Pirlot Win Legends Draw

California players took the top three spots in the 32-team field of the Legends Draw. Vern Booth and Dale Pirlot were the winners, with Bob Brunskill and Nick Chaffin in second, and George Camara and Paul Parks in third place. Finishing fourth was the team of Jim Foran, Washington, and Jerry Herschman, Michigan.

Others placing were Don Kinard and Russ Miller, Jimmy Kumpula and Joanie Millar, 5th and 6th; Larry Creakbaum and Gene McLeod, Marv Wilbur and Rick Thomas, 7th and 8th.



Vern Booth (left) and Dale Pirlot were winners of the Legends Draw.



Second place honors went to Bob Brunskill (left) and Nick Chaffin.

Bobby's Bimbos & Boys Tops in Amateur Team Event

Under the leadership of Bobby Williams, "Bobby's Bimbos and Boys": Harvey Kidd, Mary Koteris, Tammy Denson, Jeri Billard and Rob Houchin -- took top honors in the Amateur Team Event, coming out ahead of 27 other teams.

Taking second place honors was "The Competition": Earl Cole, Carl Roush, Melody Marine, John Rostollari, Rick Shaw and Lisa Langston. Third place went to MVP Sports Lounge: Ron Buckley, Phil

(continued on Page 22)

NAC Report *(continued from Page 21)*

Gardner, Bob Jacobsen, John Martin, Cindy Clark and Linda Meyer. A late entry, aptly called "Just Walked In," consisting of Johnny Ballard, Steve Floyd, Rick Gindt, Jan Manes, Mary Lou Deering and Bob Leitritz, finished fourth.

Other winners were "Travis and the Monkey Slappers": Travis Anderson, Jody Slack, Kenny Hawkes, Harvey Walden, Kathi Lloyd and Candy Lepore and "We've Got Moore": Dale Koterias, Brenda Moore, Terry Gerard, Lilly Kidd, Bud Osborn and Angie Snyder, tied for 5th and 6th; "Oklahoma Friends": Bud Hillburn, Fred Washington, Jim Kennedy, Sally Goff, Shari Foust and Kenny Brewer, and "4 Easy Pieces and 2 Slugs": Gwynette Orsi, Kevin Larkin, Lisa Freeman, Gwen Vogt, Char Waugaman and Ron Vogt, tied for 7th and 8th.

Winners of the "best name" contest were the "Hollow Weenies": Joe Hudson, Bob Hunt, Nick Chaffin, Beverly Chaffin, Shari Bussey and Vickie Hunt. Team members created a stir with their costumes to mark the holiday.



Amateur Team Winners: "Bobby's Bimbos & Boys" -- Captain Bobby Williams, Jeri Billard, Melody Marine, Harvey Kidd, Mary Koterias, and Rob Houchin.

22 Teams in "Deuces Wild" Event

There was a tie for first and second in the grand finale event of the North American Championship, "Deuces Wild." The teams of Steve Burkett, Joanie Millar, Kenny Hawkes and Jim Kennedy; Darrol Nelson, Kay Hardon, Linda Meyer and Bob Lietritz took top honors.

Finishing third was Bill Melton, Frank Zavala, Dave Fleming and Eric Chiles. Fourth place went to Dave Arndt, Don Stallsworth, David Keithan and Robert VonBargen.

Darrol Nelson Repeats as North American Champion

Everyone participating in the NAC could earn points based on their finishes in each event, with

everyone eligible for five events. Darrol Nelson of Oregon was the top finisher, earning him the title of 1997 North American Champion, a trophy, and a free Jacuzzi suite for the 1998 NAC, a luxury he enjoyed this year for winning the '96 title.

The top three players in each division were paid \$300, \$200 and \$100 respectively -- and the winners were:

Pro Division: Darrol Nelson, 1st; Diana Hagen, 2nd; and Bobby Voorhis, 3rd.

Division I: Harvey Kidd, 1st; Carl Rousch, 2nd, and Bobby Williams, 3rd.

Division II: Jeri Billard, 1st; Jim Kennedy, 2nd; and Bill Niswonger, 3rd.

From the Sponsor's Perspective

In evaluating the 1997 NAC, The Shuffleboard Federation's officials, John McDermott and Phil Skover, were (naturally) pleased with the great turnout. "A highlight for us was the Div. II Ladies' Singles, which ended up 67 percent over the posted capacity. Look for a field of 48 next year," said John.

The large number of last-minute registrations created problems for both the staff and the players, they said, and are reviewing plans to address that problem: (1) moving the pre-registration deadline up to the last week in September; (2) raising the late fees ("we hope we don't have to collect any," said John); (3) starting on Sunday with the Pro-Am; (4) starting the set-up on Friday morning; and (5) hiring more staff.

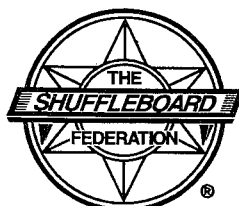
"We have been very fortunate to have a seasoned staff with no turnover, which makes all the difference in the world in the success of the tournament," John said. For example, Rick Boyer has been with them since 1987, Rob Kern since 1989, Eldon Baize since 1991, and Kory Hungerford since 1992.

Also under consideration is the publication of a post-tournament souvenir booklet, listing all the winners and photo highlights. Cost of such a project is unknown at this time. Your feedback would be appreciated so demand can be estimated. Call John at The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., 248-380-9300.

Board Talk Editors Inducted

In a moving ceremony conducted by the NSHF Board of Directors, George and Donna Wilber, publishers of The Board Talk, were inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame on Friday evening of the NAC Tournament. In addition to Directors Glen Davidson, Louise Freer, Larry Creakbaum, Bob Hunt and Louise Freer, tributes were presented by Sol Lipkin of New Jersey, Fred Thuman of California, Bill Melton of Oklahoma, and Joanie Millar of Canada.

See "As the Puck Turns" and "Shufflers' Notebook" for further details.



"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"



They made it happen

The 1997 North American Shuffleboard Championships is certainly the highpoint of the eleven years we have been in business. However, we would not be experiencing this euphoria without the help of the best tournament staff on the planet and the nearly three hundred players who participated. We would like to share the credit with those special people who help make it possible and hope everyone who attended appreciates them as much as we do.

With half of the events full two weeks before the tournament, there were tough decisions to make. Turn away players or open up the events? If we did open the events, would it affect the quality of the tournament?

A meeting was set up with our world class bracket man, Rob Kern, to review the scheduling and discuss what events could be expanded. After several hours and a couple of cups of strong coffee with Rob, it was decided, we would open up the sold-out events. It is a tribute to the confidence we have in our staff that we decided to do so.

We have been blessed to have zero turnover in our nucleus and hope that all of the participants realize how important that nucleus is to the tournament. Rob Kern, Rick Boyer, Lyndon Baize and Kory Hungerford have been with us for an average of seven years. On behalf of everyone who attended, thank you for another above and beyond the call of duty performance! We will continue to add more staff as the tournament grows. This year, the rookies were Scott Harrington who was a terrific addition, and photographer Ralph Duarte. We hope they will decide to become permanent members of our team. So much goes on behind the scenes to make the N.A.S.C. the tournament it is. One such example was the much appreciated efforts of Bubba Warren and Eric Chiles, whose early morning work (several hours before the auctions) of cleaning, polishing and vacuuming out the boards goes largely unnoticed.

The gritty work of setup and take down takes place out of the sight of most participants. It is a very high stress, demanding job even under the best of conditions. To have pulled it off again under the adverse conditions of starting at midnight, with the first event fourteen hours later is incredible. Joining Rick, Lyndon, Kory and Scott to get it done were A.Z. Turnbo, Lou Decker, Donny Cox, Ron Huddleston, Don Crall, Billy Melton, Fred Boyd and Tommy McBurnett. Super job and thank you!

We also would like to acknowledge Sharon Summers and Sharon Huddleston for all their help with the auctions. In addition to that important job, they make the tedious process of sitting through the auctions (and putting up with the auctioneer) a little brighter.

Debbie Turk has finally managed to figure out how to spend a little time with her significant other, Rob Kern. She volunteered to handle shirt sales. Thanks for your help and for not running from the feeding frenzy that occurred when the shirts were first brought out.

Unfortunately, family responsibilities have prevented Lisa Melton from attending for the last couple of years to get the applause she deserves for once again donating the beautiful trophies.

Last but not least, the shuffleboard tables used for the 1997 N.A.S.C. were probably the best group of boards we have ever had for this tournament. We are grateful to A.Z. Turnbo, Don Crall, and the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma for supplying them.

The Highlight

For many of us in attendance, the opportunity to witness first hand the ceremony to induct George & Donna Wilber into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was truly special. It is a moment in time that will be cherished for many years to come. Fred Thumann summed it up perfectly, George and Donna, through The Board Talk have made us a family. We certainly hope everyone who joined us in pledging to sign up a new subscriber to make their well deserved "retirement" a little more comfortable will make it a priority to do so.

A few final thoughts

The growth of the N.A.S.C. in the last few years has given us enough leverage with the hotel that they have re-arranged the scheduling of some of their other special events in our favor. Beginning next year, we will have an additional forty eight hours of set up time. This will take some of the pressure off of us and our staff and enable us to do a better job in achieving our goal to provide the best playing conditions possible.

When the number of players goes up by nearly thirty percent over the previous year, some growing pains are inevitable. We apologize for the long hours on some of the events and pledge to continue to do everything possible to continue to improve the tournament. Please do your part by filling out and returning the comment form that was mailed to you after the tournament.

Looking ahead

Planning for the 1998 N.A.S.C., which will once again be held at the Sands Regency, is already well under way. Play will begin a day earlier - on Sunday, November 1, and conclude the following Sunday, November 8. Several suggestions we received at this years tournament are being implemented for next year.

The most significant changes are in the doubles events. These include the addition of a third event. The Pro Doubles will be for -1's and 0's, with no two -1's as partners. The 1's and 2's will be grouped together, with no two 1's as partners. The 3's, 4's and 5's will be in the third event, no restrictions.

One of our biggest concerns relates to the Amateur Six Person Team Event, specifically, loaded teams. The whole point of using the ratings system is to give everybody a chance to win. It is pretty obvious that not all 2's were created equal. Therefore, we are going to use the decimal rating in addition to the rounded off number as part of the eligibility requirements. Teams will need to have at least ten points actual and a decimal total of at least 9.5 points. This event will also start a day earlier so that we can move the limit on the number of teams from twenty-eight to thirty-two.

Stay tuned to The Board Talk for regular updates on the 1998 North American Shuffleboard Championships.

From One Editor (cont. from Page 12)

Since then, we have exchanged several tapes of music with each other.

All of the above mentioned wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for The Board Talk and your efforts. Thanks and keep up the great job! I will try to do my part from this part of the country.

Another member of the Board Talk's Shuffleboard Family, Art Cassata, Elkton, Maryland

It was tough coming down to reality after the "high" we experienced in Reno, Art, but your kind words set the fingers flying across the computer keyboard again with renewed vigor. You had a great ambassador from your part of our "World" at Reno and it was delightful meeting and getting to know Keith Leonard. Better think about coming with him next year!

You give us far too much credit, Art. We may serve as the vehicle that gets the population of The World of Shuffleboard together, but it is people like Balboa Ron, Bill Moore, and the good folks in Vegas (could it have been Bill and Audrey Schooley?) extending the hand of friendship to their fellow shufflers who really make that World go 'round! We salute them.

We are not at all upset by your two-for-one suggestion. Since we've retired from our "paying" jobs, we have to be pretty selective about what publications we subscribe to, and we understand that sometimes \$20 is hard to come by. What we fail to understand is why any shuffleboard establishment would not jump at the chance for free advertising four times a year because, like you, travelling shufflers do use that listing (latest enclosed). Any shuffler who stops by drops at least the \$20 subscription fee, so it's just a good business decision.

Last, but certainly not least, we salute you for your continued efforts to publish a newsletter for members of your league. Communication is vital to the growth of our sport at both the national and local levels, and you fill a role that we simply cannot. YOU keep up the good work!

A Moving Salute from Betty

A very special THANK YOU to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for the memorable induction ceremony for George and Donna Wilber, creators and publishers of The Board Talk. There was hardly a dry eye in the packed house as speakers took turns at the podium with words coming straight from the heart, holding an appreciative audience transfixed by the solemnity of the occasion. The delightfulness of George's quick wit and humor replaced our tears with smiles and the ceremony ended with a standing ovation for the Wilbers and a wonderful receiving

line enabling everyone to offer personal congratulations and receive a hug from George and Donna.

George and Donna, through hard work, sacrifice and sheer determination, you have realized your dream. You have taken your publication beyond the local and state expectations you originally had hoped for and gone throughout the country involving not only the game of shuffleboard, but the lives of the players as well. Together, you have managed to bring into our homes the meaning of ambition, perseverance and hard work. Most of all, you have conveyed to your readers the importance of compassion and caring for our people. You have shown us how much difference we can make towards one another with a pat on the back, a helping hand, and perhaps a few words of encouragement when they are needed. Shuffleboard players from across the United States and Canada THANK YOU, George and Donna, for the opportunity that you have given us to call one another FRIEND.

This year's Reno tournament was absolutely FANTASTIC! Increasing interest and turnout quickly filled all events, some before the planned deadlines, with long waiting lists for all events. The monies were the highest ever, reaching over \$200,000, and we've had the "hint" that next year's tournament promises to be the best one ever with a possible added two days of play. A special thanks of appreciation to John McDermott, the two Sharons, and all those who worked for The Shuffleboard Federation during this event. You all did a great job!

Betty Parrish, Waterford, Michigan

Not many people render us speechless, Betty, but you're in a special class of the few who do, and if there are tearstains on Page 24 of this issue, it's your fault! We don't know the step-by-step procedure of our induction, but we'd have to be pretty naive not to recognize that you, as the driving force behind the Michigan State Hall of Fame Committee, had a gentle hand in this highlight of our lives. You help make shuffleboard the great sport it is today.

And from Glen for the NSHF

I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the induction ceremony of George and Donna. I'm sure now that they can kick back and enjoy being in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame as well as the Michigan Hall of Fame. I think they have been honored with every award possible in one lifetime. They deserve every one of them, and if any new ones come along, they'll get them, too.

The greatest honor a person may receive is to be recognized by their peers. Therefore, it is with great admiration and pleasure that your peers sought out

your standard of excellence in your overall endeavors with The Board Talk these past several years. Thank you for your total effort and dedication toward the betterment of our game. We here at the NSHF are glad we were there helping and giving something back to shuffleboard in its Final Frontier before our great splash on TV. Again, welcome to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, George and Donna, from all of us.

Thanks to M.C. Larry Creakbaum, Louise Freer, Bob Hunt, Hal Perry, Dave Arndt, former director Jim Foran, and speakers Sol Lipkin, Bill Melton and Fred Thuman for your part in the induction ceremonies.

As this is written, we are at Madge's sisters in Henderson, Nevada, after a short visit with my sister in Paradise, California, then on to see Bobby Goldsmith in Visalia. He is up and around and giving orders so he must be O.K. (*Editor's Note: Bobby had to be rushed to the hospital during the Reno Tournament and we are glad to hear he is doing fine.*)

Madge is on her way to New Orleans and I'm heading to the Dixie Belle for the Thanksgiving Tournament there and to help them form a Hall of Fame Committee in California. Hopefully, they will have a few ready for next year. I know of five to seven people there now who deserve to be in the Hall of Fame, state or national. All the paperwork went in for Billy Chiles to be inducted and we will help make it happen for the 1998 4th of July Tournament at the Dixie Belle. We'll keep all posted of our next Hall of Famer nationwide. I will leave the Dixie Belle and head on down to Houston in time to get someone inducted there at their tournament in December. Hope to see you all there.

Glen Davidson, Chr., National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Thank you for your kind words, Glen, but be assured we won't "kick back and enjoy being in the Hall of Fame." We'll just be working that much harder to deserve this great honor. We're glad you mentioned the speakers at our induction. Because we were so emotionally overwhelmed by their tributes during the ceremony, we are anxiously awaiting the video tape to "kick back and enjoy" -- including the musical tribute by our Crazy Canuck friend, Joanie Millar. She wasn't listed in the printed program and we'd like to let her know that even though we were kissing and hugging in the receiving line during her song, we were aware that she was there for this special moment in our lives.

Support your National and State Shuffleboard Halls of Fame with contributions and input!

Welcome, Hot Spot!

The old "Wintergarden Bar" here in Detroit on 8 Mile Rd. has some new life! I'm sure you can remember playing there several times at tournaments as they had three boards when they were the action spot in Detroit. They had Tri-State (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana) Championships years ago. They also had some great players "on tour" there, such as Darrol Nelson, Doug Buhl, Truman Adams and Portland Eddie.

When the boards were taken out several years ago, it turned into a swingers bar with music and dance. The other day, driving by it on 8 Mile Rd., I noticed a sign on the front awning: "Shuffleboard." I stopped in and noticed a new board and talked with the new owner, Dan, who recently took over the place and is making some changes.

He said: "Tell those players we have a board and will put in another if we need it." I called John Tischler and "One Arm" John to let them know and we got together and made some phone calls and started meeting Wednesday nights for some draws.

The place has a new name now: The Hot Spot Sports Bar. They are a member of your national shuffleboard network and I hope shufflers will stop by and play a game or two.

Jimmy Kumpula, Michigan/Florida

We're glad you let us know, Jimmy, that the Hot Spot is the old Wintergarden because when their subscription came in, we didn't recognize it as the place from our "early days" in the sport. We will be making a visit there in the near future and we encourage shufflers to circle this establishment on the enclosed "Play Your Way" listing as a place to visit.

In Memory of Ray Sneed

We've lost yet another shuffler. I am saddened by the news of the death of my ole playing partner, Ray Sneed. He will be missed. I bid you Peace.

The Blues Doctor,
Bill Moore
Hodgen, Oklahoma



Our sympathies to you, Bill, and to the family of Ray Sneed. We don't have any information on Ray's family, but if shufflers would like to express their sympathies, send your messages to Bill at H.C. 63, Box 5520, Hodgen, OK 74939, and we're sure he will forward them to the family.

Dixie Debbie *(continued from Page 5)*

It seems, somehow, rumors have been running rampant about the Dixie Belle this past year. I would like to take this time to try to let everyone know just "what is what" here in Downey, California:

First: The Dixie Belle now has another owner. She is equal partners with Steve Budrys. She bought Michael Woo's entire portion of the Dixie Belle. Her name is Deborah L. Merhoff, AKA Dixie Debbie.

Second: Steve and I plan to keep shuffleboard in the Dixie Belle for a long, long time. We will be having tournaments, weekly leagues, round robins. We will both be doing our best to promote the sport of shuffleboard. We hope to be able to bring new players into shuffleboard while maintaining a competitive house for the more experienced players.

Third: That was not us on the balcony overlooking the water in Quilcene. Where is the view of the water, anyway?

Now, on to other matters: John McDermott, great tournament! Everyone who calls the Dixie Belle "home" had a wonderful time. We all liked your format. It is wonderful to be able to have something for all players -- good competition for pros and amateurs alike. We are all looking forward to next year.

There are so many good things about shuffleboard, but I still contend the best thing is the great people who are involved. Going to a tournament where you get to be with people you might not be able to see a lot, but you still consider dear friends.

GOOD NEWS! We will be inducting Bruce Hale, AKA Bellflower Bruce, into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at our Thanksgiving tournament. I am proud to know Bruce. He is a fine humanitarian. I am sure he has touched many of your lives as he has touched ours here at the Dixie Belle. He has been a great boon to the World of Shuffleboard. Bruce is always helpful and encouraging to a less experienced player. Here at the Dixie Belle, he has participated in helping many a C player become a B player and many a B Player become, if not an A, at least a better player. Bruce has kindness for heart and generosity for soul. Congratulations, Bruce, we all love you.

My partner, Steve, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

Congratulations, Debbie, on your new partnership which will reassure players that shuffleboard will continue and grow at the Dixie Belle. As for Bruce, we say "Amen!" to your sentiments and much more. Many of his "beneficiaries," including us, look forward to your report of his induction. Wish we could be there!

"The Search" is Over!

Shuffleboard folks are caring, giving and thoughtful. If a loved one is in need, sick, or has died, shuffleboarders respond with money, cards, or a simple phone call. I'm proud to be associated with a great group of people. My situation is small in comparison....

After moving from Michigan to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I couldn't find a playable shuffleboard table. Thanks to the letter I wrote to The Board Talk, the calls and help started. Dan Kelly from St. Louis, Missouri, called. I received some great advice from Bob Scott, John Egan and Kris Chandler from the Wetlands Bar & Grill in Royal Oak, Michigan. Thank you, folks; I appreciate it.

My search and withdrawal pains are over! My wife, Christine, and I were in a local pub. Christine asked the gentleman next to her where we could find a shuffleboard table. He knew of only one table in the area. The place is called Krexlers. We got directions and off we went. Krexlers' table is an old American board. It's pretty worn out, but playable when the patrons aren't sitting on it or placing their beer glasses on the surface when the place gets busy. Shocking, eh?

Alas, it still felt good to have a weight back in my hand and hear the sound of a weight humming down a shuffleboard again. I thank everybody for their help!

By the time you receive this letter, I will have already played in the Pennsylvania State Championship. I hope I don't embarrass myself.

Mike ("Out of Practice") Tobin, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Once again, the shuffleboard network rose to the challenge of helping a fellow player in a time of need. We're proud of them!

Editors' "Bits & Pieces"

We received a number of phone calls recently from subscribers who did not receive their November issue, while others received theirs in record time. This problem may occur with more frequency during the Holiday season when mail carriers have an extra heavy load. They are allowed to leave bulk mail pieces back in the Post Office for a certain length of time. Before you call us, check with your mail carrier. He/She may think The Board Talk is simply "junk mail" and you won't miss it.

We've talked with Von Stewart (Al's "child bride") and she's having a rough time with her treatments. Cheer her up with a card: 11415 Cherrylee Dr., El Monte, CA 91732.

G & D

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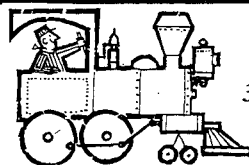
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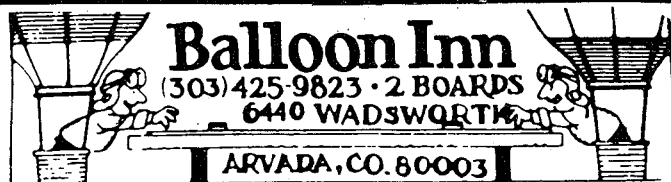
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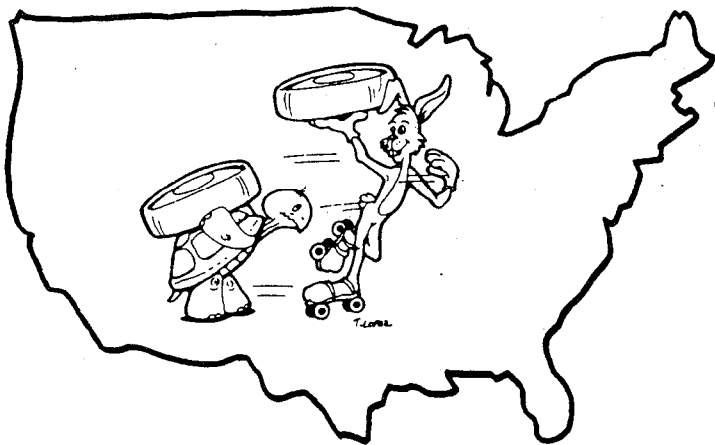
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