

The Board Talk

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

Vol. 14, No. 9

September 1997

Grand Masters Plus Another Hit!

- 100-Plus Players Participate
- \$24,000 Total Pot
- Jim Foran Inducted in Hall of Fame

By Bill Bailey

Teamwork -- the key word for success here! That's what it was all about during our 8th Annual Grand Masters Plus at the Whistling Oyster here at Quilcene, Washington.

They started arriving a week prior to our first event on Wednesday, July 30. They came in cars, trucks, trailers and motor homes. The "jungle" was full by Monday, July 29, the parking lot full by Wednesday, July 30, with 100-plus players all trying for a piece of the \$24,000 in cash prize monies.

After about 40 round robins, we got underway by Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. with an A-B-C Draw, with 19 teams participating. By 11:30 that evening, we were finished, with the team of Billy Melton, Oklahoma; Winston Jim, Oregon; and Norm McVeigh, Washington, taking first place honors.



Paul Weber of California, Mike Thorpe and Dean Mako of Washington took second in the A-B-C Draw.

Third place went to Darrol Nelson of Oregon and Jim (Caveman) Ward and Rich Shaw of Washington.

This event is growing in popularity here in the

Northwest. This was our second year for an A-B-C Draw and you will see it as a regular event on our tournament schedule.

By 11:00 a.m. Thursday, 23 players had signed up to do battle for the first six places of a \$10,000-plus purse for the open singles competition. By Friday afternoon, we were down to the six money places. As some of you may have already guessed, Oklahoma took home the biggest portion of the purse in that event.

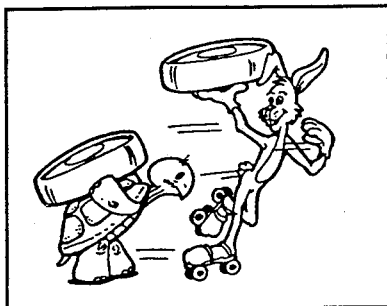


Hosts Bill Bailey (left) and Sandee Van Wagoner congratulate first and second place winners Billy Melton of Oklahoma, who went undefeated to take top honors, and Doug Buhl (right) of Oregon.

Sparky Sparkman and Chuck Norris, both of Oregon, took third and fourth. Fifth and sixth places went to Mike Thorpe and Jim Manders, both of Washington.

We got a late start on our Friday night "Animal Draw," so we set the format to single elimination. By the time the smoke cleared of 30 teams, we had our first through third place winners. Taking first spot were Dan Hitt and Rick Gindt of Washington. D.K. Kerr and Mark Minium of Washington took second, with Larry Pearson and Chuck Anthony of Washington in third place. Do you suppose that the Washington players have this Friday thing figured out?

(continued on Page 20)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

The Southwest Open: What More Could Anyone Want?

If you were not in Del City, Oklahoma, over the 4th of July, you missed a really great tournament. We all had lots of fun, good food to eat, and exciting games to watch and play in.

Ron and Sharon (Huddleston) really know what they are doing when it comes to planning and organizing a shuffleboard tournament. Everything ran smooth and efficient. There were games on every table from the time the doors opened until closing and, by the way, there were 21 tables. Most of the time we had one to two tables free for round robins or for practice. Hats off to you both and a big thank you for giving all of us a great time. Everyone was talking about how they hope the two of you will be back next year for a rerun of fun and games.

It had been close to seven years since I attended a tournament and I could not believe all the players that were here and how professional the game is getting. Two hundred of the best players showed up to play and have a good time. You could walk outside and see campers everywhere. The grounds are perfect for this large of an event. Motels are nearby for easy access and you could always find transportation if you needed to go somewhere and couldn't drive or didn't have a car. The rooms (at American Legion Post 73) were air-conditioned and arranged in a way you could watch games while sitting down and out of the way of the players. The workers were the best. They were friendly and patient with all of us. If you're still learning to shoot, as I am, you had no problem finding a great player to watch or, better yet, they would take the time to help you with your game.

I do not know who to thank for the new rating system, but it's just what shuffleboard needed. Now everyone can

participate in the fun and games. (Editor's Note: You can thank Ron and Debbie Bowers of Texas and their national network of volunteer raters.)

The Hall of Fame presentation for Bill Melton was very impressive. I have known about this person for years through Ronnie and his dad, but I did not know about all his accomplishments. The only thing that surpasses his talent in shooting would be his professional attitude and the way he conducts himself during a game. He gives each game his complete attention. We can all learn something from him.

Larry Creakbaum, Hall of Fame board member, gave a speech explaining what the National Hall of Fame is trying to accomplish. All serious players who want to see this sport get the recognition it deserves should be looking for ways to raise money to contribute to the Hall of Fame fund. One day a ceremony may be organized for you.

Remember, when the players are fun, when the food is good, and when the games are exciting, what more could anyone want? If you didn't come this year, you missed out on an event of the year!

Good shooting.

Joyce Gamble, Seminole, Oklahoma

We heartily endorse your salute to Ron and Sharon and their helpers, Don Crall and his American Legion staff, Hall of Famer Bill Melton, all the great shooters, and the Bowers and their raters for their contributions to the growth of shuffleboard. We also thank you for encouraging fund-raising activities for the Hall of Fame. It's going to take people like you at the grassroots level to make this great effort successful.

You're Invited to Shuffle on Down to Florida

I've been in Florida two years now and moved to Titusville last November. Shuffleboard has really taken off here. We have anywhere from 18 to 26 players every Saturday and Sunday.

(continued on Page 10)

--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!

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.

Rudy Stober: 1st Inductee in Michigan Hall of Fame

In a ceremony conducted at Rudy's 2nd Annual Memorial Tournament at Stober's Cocktail Lounge, Lansing, on July 26-27, the late Rudy Stober became the first inductee in the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



Betty Parrish (left), member of the Michigan Hall of Fame Committee, presented a plaque to Rudy's daughter, Linda Stober Humbert.

The plaque, complete with the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame logo, (see Page 16) designed by shuffler John Egan of Pontiac, read:

"Rudy Stober, one of the greatest sponsors in the history of our sport, for his unparalleled dedication to the growth of shuffleboard, his commitment to its future, and his caring and compassion for everyone he encountered. On behalf of everyone whose lives were enriched for having known him."

In a from-the-heart message, Betty Parrish told an appreciative audience that she was proud to be part of a team that is recognizing the leaders in the game of shuffleboard. "Rudy Stober was a leader, a promoter. Whether you were a pro or a beginner, he pushed, pulled and carried you and the game of shuffleboard in Lansing, the state of Michigan, and the country," she said. "Personally, Rudy was my mentor. He loved life and he loved people. He didn't categorize his customers; he treated them all with respect. He wanted to know about you, what made you happy or sad, what your dreams and ambitions were. He encouraged you, gave a little advice, and most of all, he made you smile. He wanted everyone to be happy and I was always happy here at Stober's. A lot of you I love like family, and Rudy made that possible."

In her gracious acceptance of her father's honor, Linda Stober Humbert told participants that while they shared her wish that Rudy could be there for this special occasion, every puck they delivered, every handshake or words of encouragement and/or congratulations they shared with fellow shufflers, would be a tribute to the memory of her Dad.

Mark & J.R.: "This One's for Rudy!"

Mark Holland and J.R. Lopez, two of Rudy's "boys" who play on Stober's Machos (one of two teams

sponsored by Stober's in the Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League) took first place in the doubles. In order to accomplish this, they had to beat the always-tough Indiana team of Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum.

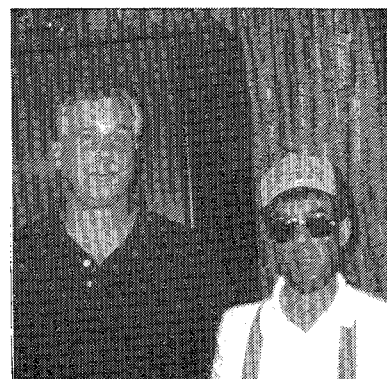


Doubles winners J.R. Lopez (left) and Mark Holland are congratulated by sponsor Jim Long, while Larry Creakbaum expresses his sentiments about second place.

John Myles Tops in Singles

John Myles of Livonia came out on top of a field of 15 shooters in the singles. John Tischler of Detroit took second place, with Buddy Broka of Indiana in third.

John Myles (right) was winner of the singles, with John Tischler taking second place honors at the 2nd Annual Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament.



Buddy Broka took third place monies back to Indiana.

A pig roast, a buffet of goodies provided by Stober regulars, and prize drawings handled by Director Carrie Clifton and husband Bill, rounded out the fun weekend.

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Indiana

2ND ANNUAL FALL OPEN AT AMVETS, PENDLETON, SEPTEMBER 20-21

The Fall Creek Valley Amvets Post 26 in Pendleton, Indiana, will host its 2nd Annual Fall Open on Sept. 20-21. Events include an open doubles, \$20 per player, on Saturday and an open singles, \$20 entry, on Sunday. Both are double elimination, 15 point games, with sponsor sale beginning at 11 a.m. each day and play immediately following.

Amvets Post 26, which has two boards and will open at 7 a.m., is located at 939 S. Pendleton Ave. Food and beverages are available.

For registration and lodging information, call Sonny Harris, 765-778-7224. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

30TH FALL TOURNAMENT, BOURBON AMERICAN LEGION, OCT. 4

That's not a typographical error! This will be the 30th Annual Fall Doubles Tournament at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana. The sale for this single game, double elimination event is set for 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3, with play starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday on five in-house boards.

The entry fee is \$50 per team and will be limited to the first 64 PAID entries. Make your checks payable and send to: American Legion Post 424, 202 S. Main St., Bourbon, IN 46504, Att.: Bill Niswonger or Terry Dowell.

For information and/or lodging recommendations, call Bill or Terry at the American Legion, 219-342-8100. Please post the enclosed flyer at your favorite shuffleboard site.

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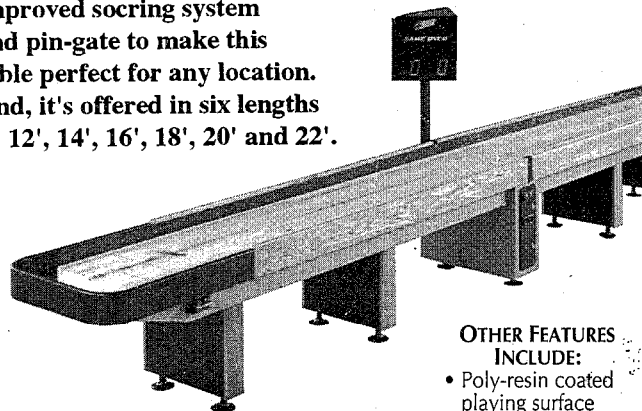
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

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--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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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

NELSON/BUHL DOUBLES, SHAMROCK TAVERN, LONGVIEW, OCT. 18-19

The annual bring partner tournament at the Shamrock Tavern in Longview (renamed the Nelson/Buhl Doubles because Darrol and Doug have won six times in a row) is scheduled for Oct. 18-19. The entry fee is \$50 per team, plus \$10 per player will be added to the pot. Two out of three 15 point games in the winner's bracket, one 17 point game in the loser's bracket. The sale starts at noon on Saturday, starring Hall of Famer Jim Foran, with play immediately following.

There will also be a round robin on Friday at 7 p.m., \$20 per player. The Shamrock has three good boards and features cooking by Bernice. There is some RV parking available and a motel within walking distance of the tavern.

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

The next big event at the Shamrock will be the 4th Annual 55 and Over draw partner tournament on Nov. 15-16, \$20 per player entry with \$10 per player added by the tavern.

Oklahoma

JIMMY L'S FALL TOURNEY, TULSA, SEPT. 26-28

Jimmy L's, 9520 E. 11th St. in Tulsa, will host Jimmy L's Fall Tournament on Sept. 26-28. Action will start on Friday with an open draw (no pros or 0's can draw up), \$25 entry, drawing at 6:30 p.m. with sponsor sale at 7 p.m., single game, double elimination.

On Saturday, following the open draw finals, there will be a Pro/Am bring partner event, \$50 per person, and no pros or 0's can team up. Best 2 out of 3 (subject to change in the loser's bracket due to time), double elimination. The 1997 Bowers Handicap System will be used to determine pros and 0's.

A \$10 registration fee will cover both events.

Jimmy L's has four in-house boards and there are hotel accommodations nearby.

For information, call Jimmy L's, 918-834-7544, or Cliff Goff, 918-245-8298.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Missouri

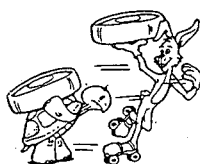
2ND SW INVITATIONAL AT BARBARA'S BEER GARDEN, SPRINGFIELD, SEPT. 25-27

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.

(More Upcoming Events on Page 17)

As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

That fun-lovin' Irish Joanie Millar is back home again after an extended stay in Ireland to care for her Mom. She returned to Canada on May 1 and became a grandma again on June 22 when her daughter Joanne had a baby girl. That's not news to players in the Pacific Northwest because she's already hit the tournament trail there. For the rest of our World of Shuffleboard, look forward to seeing Joanie at Reno. She's been dropping some hints to her kids that she'd like that trip for her birthday so she can "play her heart out and enjoy being with all my American and Canadian friends." Welcome back, Joanie! We missed you!

We're big fans of the A-B-C Draw because it expands the sport of shuffleboard. It gives beginners a positive introduction to the game and allows them an opportunity to savor the taste of victory. We salute Dee and Larry Hudson for holding their first such event at the Blue Goose in Washington (as Dee said: "Even I felt I could play in it and with the help of my two partners, we took first!") and to Woodie Cockrum (with the help of his sister Jolene Lembke of California) for staging the first A-B-C Draw in Missouri. We also salute Bubba Warren and Bob Brunskill of California for not only promoting this event for several years now, but also sharing the news and their expertise with the rest of our "World." It's a good thing you all are doing for shuffleboard.

As this is written, we are looking forward to our annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash at Houghton Lake, Michigan. One of the three events is an A-B-C Draw, a repeat of last year's first. We know it's going to be a lot more efficient this year because of the Bowers Rating System. At the risk of sounding like a broken record: Thanks, Ron and Debbie of Texas and your nation-wide network of raters for the great contribution you have made to The World of Shuffleboard.

While growth is vital to the future of shuffleboard, so is maintenance. We all recognize that leagues are the backbone of our sport and every area that has leagues is aware that maintenance is a problem. The stronger players always seem to band together to dominate the league and soon, those who finish last or near the bottom of the standings year after year get discouraged and drop out with a "what's the use of trying" attitude. And who can blame them?

Long-time shuffleboard (and Board Talk) promoter Dan Kelly of St. Louis, Missouri, is going to try an experiment to address that problem. He's going to form a short-term (six weeks) league of four teams using the draft team format that has been successful at some major tournaments. He's promised to keep us informed of the results. We salute him for trying to come up with a solution to what seems to be a common and unresolved problem.

A "wholesome dialogue" is how Jim Wolf of Pennsylvania describes the contributions of shufflers such as Ed Galke (New York) and Jim Manders (Washington) on the subject of gaining sponsorship for shuffleboard (see Notebook on Page 10). We like that description because that's how we've always perceived the purpose of Shufflers' Notebook to be and we intend to keep it that way. You'll note on Page 2 that we've added a notice of "Publication Content Information." Nothing new, really; it just serves notice that we reserve the right to reject any editorial or advertising materials that we consider inappropriate for The Board Talk. Occasionally, we receive (not often, thank God!) material which may be damaging to a person's and/or entity's reputation or well-being and that, to us, is simply unacceptable. What constructive purpose would such material serve? Not that people involved in the sport do not have the right to complain/object/challenge a person's and/or entity's actions, but the place for that is directly with who or what they believe is an "offender" -- not in a public forum. The printed word is powerful. Unlike radio and TV where it's "here today and gone tomorrow," the printed word remains forever. Let's keep those words "wholesome" and constructive for the game of shuffleboard and those involved in it.

Wanted: Information leading to the whereabouts of any shuffleboard establishments in the Pittsburg (PA) area. One of our long-time shuffleboard supporters from Michigan, Mike Tobin, has moved to that area and before he has a major withdrawal pain, please let us know of any establishments that might ease that discomfort. Help us help him!

There's not much more we can add to Bill and Sandee's (Whistling Oyster) tribute to Jim Foran, the latest inductee into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, or the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association's "We're proud of you" salute. Let us just say, very simply, that Jim is most worthy of this honor and we're delighted that he has been singled out for his contributions to The World of Shuffleboard. We're proud to have him and Michelle as our friends.

G & D

Marine/Hitt Winners of Shamrock Tavern's Mixed Doubles

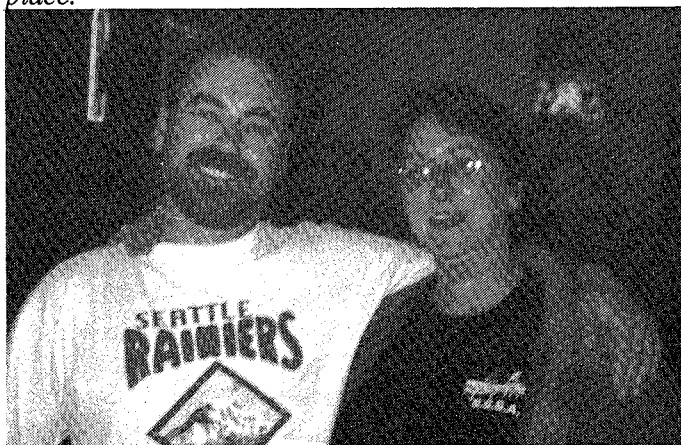
Twenty-Six teams participated in the annual mixed doubles at Shamrock Tavern, Longview, Washington, on June 21-22. With the \$10 per player added to the pot by the Shamrock, the total pot was about \$3700 and paid six places. As usual, the players were "fueled" by Bernice's chili.



Melody Marine and Dan Hitt of Washington took top honors.



Norma DeBois and Dick Heflin of Oregon took second place.



Rick Gindt and Jackie Anderson of Washington finished third.



Darrol Nelson and Ruthie Miles (good to see her back on the circuit) took fourth place.

Tina Olson of Washington and Sparky Sparkman of Oregon celebrate their fifth place finish.



Frank Power of Washington and Georgina Stallsworth of Oregon (her first win) took sixth place.

Reporter/photographer Ralph Duarte said the tournament ran very well, thanks to directors Doug and Norma DeBois. Ralph also saluted the then soon-to-be Hall of Famer Jim Foran. "Any tournament that he goes to, he's always there to help in any way that he can," he said. "If this great guy is not worthy of Hall of Fame recognition, then I don't know who is!"

-- MORE WASHINGTON ACTION ON PAGE 8 --

Blue Goose Holds 1st ABC Draw

The Blue Goose in Port Orchard, Washington, held its first ABC Draw Tournament on July 5-6 with nine teams participating. Hosts Dee and Larry Hudson added \$135 to the payoff money.

Taking first place honors was the team of Dennis Mulcahey, Drew Skinner and Dee Hudson. Frank Powers, Chuck Anthony and Pam Aardal (daughter of long-time shuffleboard promoters Vera and Gene Brown, in her first tournament) took second place. Tom and Jet Henry and Ralph Duarte finished third.

There were 14 shooters in Friday night's draw, with Jake from Canada and Gene Brown from the Goose coming in first.

The next major event at the Blue Goose will be the Sweetheart Tournament on Feb. 14-15, 1998, with a draw partner on Friday, the 13th.



Winners of the Blue Goose's 1st ABC Draw were Dennis Mulcahey, Drew Skinner, and hostess Dee Hudson, who said: "The ABC Draw was really fun; even I felt I could play in it and with the help of my two partners, we took first."



Frank Power, Pam Aardal (in her first tournament), and Chuck Anthony took second place honors.



Tom Henry, Jet Henry, and Ralph Duarte took third place in this first.

Nelson/Arndt Winners of Tim's Timber Tavern Open Doubles

There were 17 teams entered in the 4th Annual Open Doubles at Tim's Timber Tavern, Kelso, Washington, on July 12-13.

Coming out in front of the pack were Darrol Nelson from Oregon and Dave Arndt of Washington (Dave is a new member of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame). Tom Henry from Longview, Washington, and Chuck Norris of Portland, Oregon, took second place honors.

Third place winners were Tim Bonner, owner of Tim's Timber Tavern, and Tina Olson, also from Kelso. Finishing fourth were Don Mitchell (now known as Woody Lagg) and Joe Lavin, both from Kelso.

"Everyone had lots of fun and everything went smoothly," said Tim. "Special thanks to everyone for all their help and to Jim Foran. It was appreciated very much."

A Note From The Editors

Even though we have published our new address for several months now, we are still receiving reports at 421 rather than 503 E. Sheridan. This may delay delivery and you may miss a deadline. Please make a note: our address is 503 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906.

Also, we have received a number of renewal subscriptions recently at the old price (\$15). Please note that, as of Jan. 1, 1997 (9 months ago), the subscription fee is \$20 per year for the U.S.A. and \$25 for Canada.

Thank you!

Missouri's First ABC Draw at Woodie's "Double Dipper"

By Woodie Cockrum

There were three days of hard-fought shuffleboard in Cuba, Missouri, starting on Thursday at Diane's Lounge. Thanks to Jolene Lembke (Woodie's sister from California) for coming in and helping us kick off Missouri's first A-B-C Draw. Diane's Lounge is the "new kid on the block" in the Shuffleboard World. They have only had their board for four months and are already looking for another shuffleboard.

Winners of the ABC Draw were Donna Berry, Ed Vessels and Shelley Gregorik. Second place went to the team of Jolene Lembke, Bud King and Joe Capstick. Woodie Cockrum, Terry Craft and Wanda Ransom finished third.

Friday's Double Dipper A-B Draw and Saturday's bring partner event was held at Sonny Boys. The rumor that Judy Mull had sold Sonny Boys is not true. She took a short time-off for personal reasons, but she is back and she always adds some bucks to the entry pots of her tournaments and gives beautiful plaques to the winners not sponsored by some beer company.

Winners of the A-B draw were Pat Gainey and Donna Berry. Second place was the team of Jerry Sabourin and Bob Dorf. Chuck Muehlhauser and Ed Vessels came in third.

The Saturday double-dipper tournament was down on entries from the past, but the skill level was higher. We had some good players show up. Thanks to the Barbara's Beer Garden five who drove the 130 miles to participate and also to Mike Moran for coming from Arkansas. Barbara's Beer Garden should be a shuffleboard hot spot in Springfield, Missouri. The talk is she is buying a board from Bill Melton.

The finishing order for Sonny Boys bring your partner event was: Pat Gainey (again) and Jerry Sabourin, 1st; Chuck Muehlhauser and Charley Hart, 2nd; with third place going to the team that took it all last time, Moe Miller and Dean Pinkston of Houston, Missouri.

Ingram/Nolder Winners at Sportsman's Lounge Doubles

Fourteen teams participated in the doubles tournament at the Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie, Indiana, on July 26, vying for a total purse of almost \$2,000.

First place honors went to Glen Ingram and Tom Nolder. Marcia Brown and Ricky Royal took second, with Larry and Mary Brown (Deer Park Tavern, Fort Wayne, Indiana) in third place. "We told Larry if he played with his wife once in a while, he might get in the money," said reporter Marcia Brown.

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Marcia Brown and Ricky Royal finished second.



Host Steve Parrish congratulates Larry and Mary Brown for taking third place.

Watch The Board Talk for announcements of future tournaments at the Sportsman's Lounge.

REMINDER!

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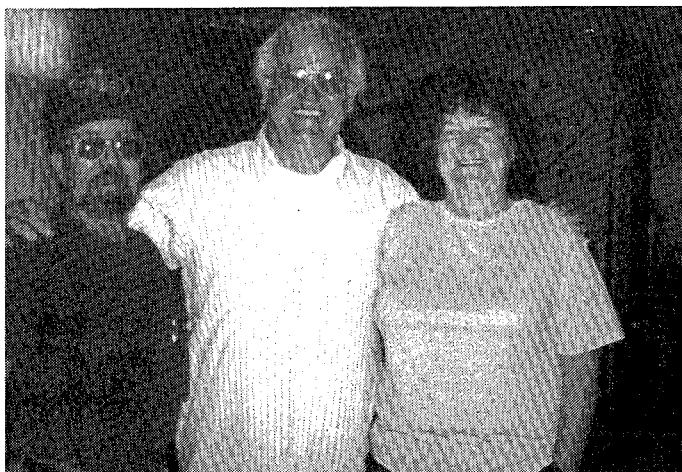
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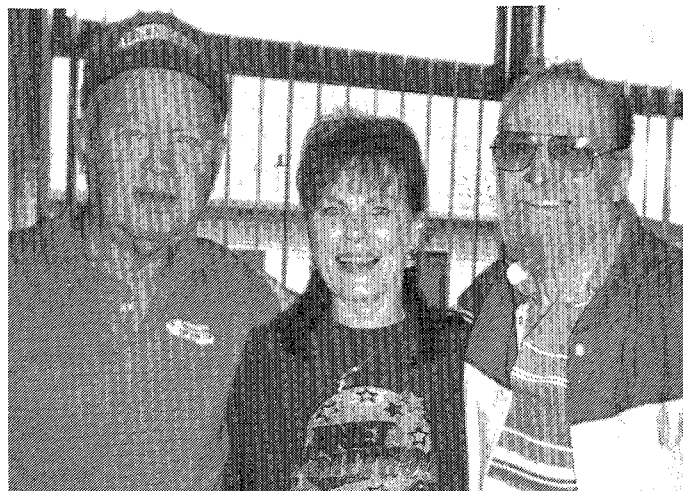
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Thank you!

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The Blue Goose in Port Orchard, Washington, held its first ABC Draw Tournament on July 5-6 with nine teams participating. Hosts Dee and Larry Hudson added \$135 to the payoff money.

Taking first place honors was the team of Dennis Mulcahey, Drew Skinner and Dee Hudson. Frank Powers, Chuck Anthony and Pam Aardal (daughter of long-time shuffleboard promoters Vera and Gene Brown, in her first tournament) took second place. Tom and Jet Henry and Ralph Duarte finished third.

There were 14 shooters in Friday night's draw, with Jake from Canada and Gene Brown from the Goose coming in first.

The next major event at the Blue Goose will be the Sweetheart Tournament on Feb. 14-15, 1998, with a draw on Friday, the 12th.

We encourage our travelling shufflers to take advantage of your invitation, Alvis, and also encourage them to drop a buck or two into your "Adopt a Family for Christmas" fund. What a great idea! It's caring projects like this that reinforce a positive image for our sport.

Jim Wolf: Spectators Equals Sponsorship; Try This....

Ed Galke and respondees have generated wholesome dialogue. Kudos to the Bowers for their rating system and to those tournament directors who are offering "rated" event(s) in their format(s). Jim Mander's article (July 1997) is excellent! Sponsors do insist on image.

My question is: How often is the final, climatic game of a league match or tournament played to an empty or an almost empty house? It is too often that we, the shooters, do not even watch that game! Why should we then express surprise and/or dismay when we do not and cannot attract an audience, a fan base, a sponsor? The easy answers for us not to watch are that we are tired, it is late, "I'm shuffled out." And as to fans, we say: "Our game is only a bar game." These answers are too easily given and too easily accepted. I propose that we examine our game in a serious manner and, to do so, we might look to pool for an example.

Nine ball is the game that launched pool onto TV as a sponsored event. Not eight ball, one-pocket, rotation, straight pool, or even the venerable game of billiards. Why nine ball? It is fast; games approximate 10 minutes, ranging from 5 to 15 minutes. It is not repetitive. Each shot is unique and purposeful and leads to the next -- simple and straightforward. Strategies employed are predictable and can be anticipated, allowing color commentary.

Nine ball is fast, simple and non-repetitive. It is

viewer-friendly. AND SPONSORS DEMAND AUDIENCE.

How do we change our game to be viewer-friendly? Locally, Ed Hammond has come up with a game that should receive shufflers' hands-on consideration. Ed calls his game "two-weight." It is its title for it is played with two weights per shooter and to the far foul line rather than the short one. Otherwise, this game is the same as "straight." Simply, this game is nonstop third and fourth weights of our standard game. Played to 15 points, this game offers the opportunity to be spectator-friendly because:

- It eliminates the repetition of the first and second weights.

- It is fast. A game of partners lasts approximately 10 minutes (singles a little longer because of the time taken to walk the board).

- Strategies are simplified and can be anticipated.

Try this game! We need to have a game that is viewer-friendly to attract sponsorship and Ed Hammond may have given us the game.

Jim Wolf, Darby, Pennsylvania

Thanks for sharing this unique version of our game, Jim. Readers: let's have some feedback on this idea to gain sponsorship.

Glen: "On The Road Again....."

As this is written (8/13/97), we are in Sacramento (California) at Bob and Vicki Hunt's home, sitting around the pool and enjoying the R & R. Billy Melton flew home yesterday to get to the tourney at Arlington over the Labor Day weekend.

After the Southwest Open was over, we met Billy and went to Visalia, California, and played Steve and Wes one night, then on to Longview, Washington, and played D.K. at the Chinese Village, where he has installed his board. We stopped by Dave and Bobbi Arndt's home for their party on Saturday. We enjoyed the stay and their hospitality and the party of about 30-40 shuffleboarders. Russ Miller and John were playing at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Jim Buhl and Criss were their opponents. So they put in a 24-hour day. It was nice to see Criss playing again.

At the Grand Masters Plus in Quilcene, Washington, Jim Foran was inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. All his friends and neighbors were there and put on a great show. Jim has been around playing since 1965. He resigned his position on the Hall of Fame Board of Directors, but will still be active in helping his successor, Dave Arndt. I say welcome to the National

(continued on Page 16)

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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
Amvets Post 26
Pendleton, Indiana

Sept. 26-28

Jimmy L's Fall Tournament
Jimmy L's
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS**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

JANUARY 1998**Jan. 16-18**

East Coast Winter Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

FEBRUARY 1998**Feb. 13-15**

Sweetheart Tournament
The Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

MARCH 1998**Feb. 28-March 2**

Mason-Dixon Classic
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

APRIL 1998**April 11-13**

Maryland State Championships
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Tournament

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Tavern

Washington

2

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da

BER 1997**Nov. 15-16**

Over 55 Tourney
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Nov. 21-23

Thanksgiving Shootout
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Nov. 26-30

13th Annual Thanksgiving
Classic
The Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

Nov. 27-30

5th Thanksgiving Tournament
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

Nov. 28-30

Pennsylvania State
Championships
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nov. 28-30

A-B Draw Tournament
BZ's
Burien, Washington

Nov. 28-30

Florida State Championships
Snuggery Bar & Grille
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Nov. 28-30

Michigan State Championships
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

New York State Champs Crowned

The Riverside Hotel in Earlville hosted the New York State Championships on June 26-28.



Rita Truax and Dale Law (right) went undefeated in the mixed doubles to take first place. Jane and Arlow Johnson finished second.



Host Roger Sawyer (second from right) congratulates the winners of the open singles: Marv Smith (second from left), first; Dale Law (left), second; and Dan Miner, third.



Winners of the draw partner event were (left) Fred Truax and Don Perry. Brian Loundsbury and Dan Miner took second place honors.



Winners of the open doubles were (center) Marv Smith and Dick Losee. Second place went to Milt Benedict (right) and Bill Jones. Bob Brooks and Tom Lattenhauer finished third.

Win a Year's Subscription to THE BOARD TALK!



This pair of legs was spotted during a July tournament. Be first to identify them and you'll win a year's subscription (\$20 value) to The Board Talk.

The last pair of featured legs belonged to Doug Buhl.
Clue: These are not his!

Quote of the Month:

"I encourage all states to form a Hall of Fame and honor those who have departed this life who made a difference and invested the extra efforts that it takes to be a leader. Recognize those who have passed on and then let's all get down to the business of making all of our shuffleboard legends -- LIVING LEGENDS!"

Betty Parrish, Committee Member
Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

More Notebook *(continued from Page 10)*

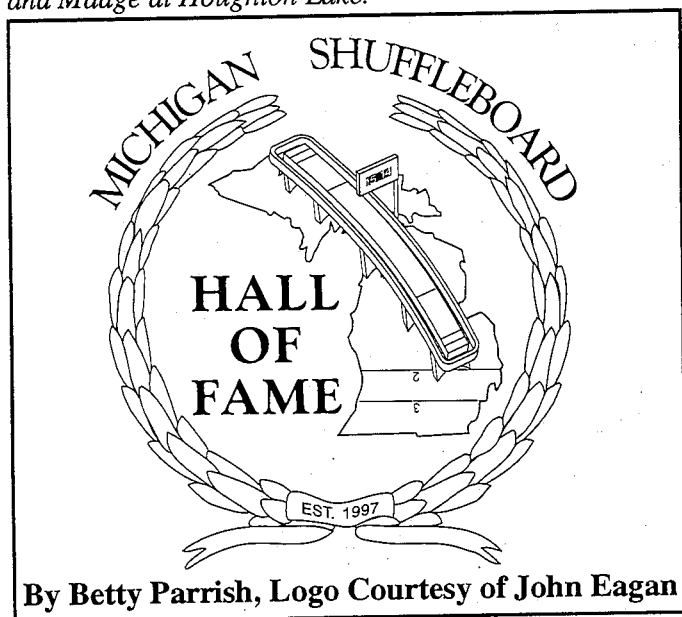
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Jim Foran!

Thanks to Bill and Sandee of the Whistling Oyster for the free spread of seafood. The salmon was the greatest, cooked on an open fire with songs and everything! It was nice to see Sparky and Linda again, as well as all the others we hadn't seen in a few years.

Thanks for a great tournament in the Great Northwest!

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Ah, we're green with envy, Glen. How we would love to follow in your "tracks" and visit Bob and Vicki, D.K., Dave and Bobbi, and especially witness Jim Foran being inducted into the Hall of Fame and be with our good friends, Bill and Sandee, and all those other great people in the Great Northwest! If we ever find some "subs" to take over The Board Talk for a month or so, we'll stick out our thumbs and climb aboard your motor home. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you and Madge at Houghton Lake.



On July 27, I had the honor of presenting the first award of excellence given by the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. The award was presented to the family of Rudy Stober at the 2nd Annual Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament.

It was a bittersweet experience for me. Rudy had been friend, mentor, champion and host to my family for many years and the time had come to present an award that I could not prepare myself for. The words that I was thinking and wanted to say were far more emotional than I could possibly express.

My heart still aching with the loss of Rudy, I looked around at the silent crowd and everyone there was hurting

with me. We had come this day to pay respect to a man we had known and loved, a man who had sponsored the game of shuffleboard and friendship among its players as a mother nurturing a child. Rudy believed that, if you were having a good time with the people you were with, the winning "just slipped in." We were all winners to Rudy, and Rudy was our champion.

Over the years, I had watched in awe as this man spun his magic, not wondering what his customers could do for HIM, but what he could do for THEM. Rudy mingled with his crowd, meeting everyone and getting to know them, all the while entertaining us all. He fed us, regaled us with his stories, his music and his wisdom. Rudy Stober was a host unequalled and yet, to him, it was just the way he lived his life.

I was very humbled that it would be to Rudy's family that I presented the award and not to the great man himself. In the words of John Tischler, a fine friend and player: "Rudy's award should have been made while he was still with us."

I agree with John, and I encourage all states to form a Hall of Fame and honor those who have departed this life, who made a difference and invested the extra efforts that it takes to be a leader. Recognize those who have passed on and then let's all get down to the business of making all of our shuffleboard legends LIVING LEGENDS! In Michigan, I think I'll make it a point to call it "Rudy's Rule."

The legend lives on.

The Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee thanks those who made it possible for our organization to get its start. The sponsors who let us sell the 50/50 tickets, the sellers and the buyers, we appreciate you all.

My heartfelt gratitude to the Wilbers of Board Talk fame and to John McDermott whose guidance and knowledge, resources and expertise in your field which you were more than happy to share, and especially for just being there to listen when we needed you. Thank you so much for the ideas, opinions and reassurances that have brought our group together.

A very special acknowledgement of appreciation to John Egan for taking the time to create the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame logo. Had we not had a logo, our first award would not have been complete. Michigan players -- buy Egan a Strohs. He certainly deserves it!

Betty Parrish, Waterford, Michigan, on behalf of the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee

We're very proud of the accomplishments of our home state committee in the short time they've been established. We have asked Betty to share some of the steps they took to get organized, the challenges along the way and how they met those challenges, how they

are structured, etc. Hopefully, their experiences will be beneficial to other states that perhaps have the desire to form Halls of Fame, but don't know where to start. Watch future issues for Betty's contributions. Also willing to help states are any members of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. We join you, Betty, in your salute to John Egan for the logo design, and we'll certainly buy him a Stroh's when we see him. A reminder to other states: the pages of The Board Talk are open to progress reports on your respective Halls of Fame.

Upcoming Events (continued from Page 5)

Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, CLUB CAR LOUNGE, DURAND

The Club Car Lounge, 111 N. Saginaw, Durand, will host the 12th Annual State of Michigan Championships on Nov. 28-30. This spacious facility is located just off I-69 with easy access from all parts of the state.

There is one 10 room motel in Durand (the Sunset, phone 517-288-7411 and ask for Sharon), but there is a multiple choice of lodging just 15 miles away in Flint. There will be limited RV parking at the Club Car (no hook-ups) and the Walnut Hills RV Park in Bancroft is just 5 miles from the tournament site. You're also just 7 miles from the Swartz Creek Race Track (but remember you're on the clock!).

The Club Car Lounge will be open at noon on Thanksgiving Day so come early to check out the boards.

This tournament is open only to Michigan residents. Watch the next issue for event details. Flyers will also be distributed at the Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash in Houghton Lake on Sept. 4-7.

Maryland

MEMORIAL TOURNEY AT HARVEY'S PLACE, STREET, OCT. 10-12

The 1997-98 shuffleboard season at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, will kick off with a Memorial Tournament on Oct. 10-12. Events include a draw partner, \$12 entry on Friday night; a bring partner on Saturday, \$30 per team; an open singles, \$25 entry, and an A-B draw, \$12 entry, on Sunday.

All events are 15 points, straight, double elimination, with payoff of 1 in 4.

For further information, call Harvey's Place at 410-836-8881.

The next scheduled event at Harvey's will be the Thanksgiving Shootout on Nov. 21-23. Please make a note of the enclosed 1997-98 Harvey's Place schedule and then post it in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about these fun-filled weekends on the East Coast.

Nevada

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 800-648-3553 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.

California

5TH THANKSGIVING TOURNEY, NOV. 27-30, THE DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY

The Dixie Belle, 9559 Imperial Hwy. in Downey, will host the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 27-30. The first event will be an open doubles, \$100 per team entry fee, 2 out of 3, double elimination. The sale is scheduled for Thursday at 8 p.m. with play beginning on Friday at 11 a.m.

The second event will be an ABC Draw, \$25 per player entry fee. The format will be 2 out of 3, double elimination, with a 21-point single game in the loser's bracket. The sale for this event will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday with play beginning at noon on Saturday.

Nearby motels include: Best Western, 562-929-8831; Empire, 562-923-5511; and Downey Inn, 562-862-5050.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Thanksgiving dinner will be available.

For further information, call the Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943.

Also, follow the "Belle" down the road to Reno. See details on Page 19, along with news from Dixie Debbie.

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Frisko Eddie had beaten "The Man" in a best out of three match for \$500. The Man (Glen Dawson) then challenged Eddie to another series, this time for \$1500.)

Lil's remark about Glen lagging off the board instead of trying for the "hit-and-slide" on Eddie's last weight (a short deuce) was going through his mind as the table was being prepared for the next series of games. The \$1,500 he had put up wasn't bothering him, but Lil's comments, coupled with how quickly his opponent proppeded they "jack it up" to the \$3,000 which was now at stake was. The money sat under an ashtray next to Lil.

Glen Dawson (The Man) seemed very relaxed now as they flipped for the hammer. Eddie called "heads" as usual (he knew that out of 1,000 quarter coin tosses, heads would come up with a slight edge). This time, however, the coin landed tails up. Eddie would shoot first.

The first game was a reversal of the last series, with Glen dominating the game. He made some extraordinary shots, winning hands-down, 15 to 11. A lot of money was changing hands on the side during these games and several cheers went up when Glen won.

The second game saw Eddie in trouble once more. It was a little closer this time, but Eddie still trailed 11 to 14, with his hammer. The board was clear for Glen's last shot. He placed a very short right-hand weight just over the foul line. He did this because Eddie had been relying predominantly on the right-hand lag.

With the score 11 to 14 against him on his last weight, Eddie's options were very limited. He could go for it all with a lag, or he could keep the game alive by making sure his hammer stayed on the board, and hope he could salvage something on the next frame. The way Glen was shooting though, it was highly unlikely he could get him in a trap. He decided to go for it all.

Eddie sized up the board for his left-hand lag. He had been hitting a spot pretty good with his left-cross, so he chose that for his last shot. After he sprinkled some wax on the left rail, he got set for his shot. His whole body was tingling as he released the weight. It felt good.

The crowd was totally silent now as Eddie's final shot sailed down the table. There was one muffled voice, though, stating "it's goin' off." The weight didn't look like it would stay at the end, but to the surprise of all -- it stuck. It was a four! Eddie again hollered out loud, "Yes!" as he raised his fist!

Glen was smiling and even shaking his head in humorous disbelief over Eddie's lag. Any time someone

can slide a 2" round puck some 20 feet down a slick wooden surface, and leave 1/8th of an inch or more of it hanging over the far end of that plank -- he has had help from above (or from below, depending on who lagged the weight)! He was snickering as he looked over at Lil.

Eddie didn't even try to confer with Lil after his lag. He felt he had enough confidence now to go all the way -- without her attitude to slow him up. He was really pumped up now!

The third or "rubber" game saw Eddie coming out very strong. All of his weights were doing exactly as he wanted them to. The game stayed close, though, until Glen set Eddie up with a left-cross "wrap." The score was 13 all and Glen's front weight was in the deuce zone. Eddie had the option of either going from the combo, or following Glen's left cross and either knocking his weight off, or "tucking" one in ahead of it.

Eddie took a moment to two to form his strategy. This was a \$3,000 shot -- the biggest one he had ever had to make entirely on his own (without Lil's help as a partner). The weights were aligned in a way that made ANY choice extremely tough. The crowd was deadly silent now. Eddie took a glance over at Lil, hoping for even a slim sign of support. Her eyes met his briefly, then turned down toward the floor in a totally dispassionate way. He felt like he was an actor standing center stage -- but they were starting to dim the lights and close the curtain.

He opted to go for the left-cross again. He carefully sized up the board, sprinkled some wax on the left rail, and then made his release. As the weight made its way across the board, it became obvious that Eddie was trying to tuck his weight even further ahead of Glen's deuce. The shot looked good; then, at the last second, the drift brought it in contact with Glen's front weight -- and Eddie's careened off the board. He had gently boosted Glen's weight into a three!

All Glen had to do now was throw a short weight (or even throw it in the gutter) with his hammer. The game -- and the series -- was over! Eddie was hanging his head in shame.

Glen strolled over to Lil. As she handed him the \$3,000 stake, he remarked: "Thanks, Doll. You're not going to pull your man up now, are you?" He had a glint in his eyes and a small smile on his face as he made a second remark: "After all, he might even come back and win a few games."

Similarly, with smiling eyes, Lil looked at him squarely and said: "Well, now, Glen, my man, I don't think I'm gonna have to pull him off." With that, she got up, made her way over to the center of the table, placed

Grand Masters Plus *(cont. from Page 1)*

On Saturday morning, just before we got the Grand Masters going, we had our first Washington player inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



In a ceremony conducted at the Whistling Oyster's 8th Annual Grand Masters Plus, Jim Foran (second from right) was inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. NSHF officers Glen Davidson and Dave Arndt were on hand to perform the honors.

It couldn't have gone to a nicer person or to anybody more deserving than Jim Foran. Special thanks to all involved -- Glen Davidson, Jim Manders, John Luhtala, Gary George, Michelle Foran and Dave Arndt.

This was, by far, the highlight of this year's tournament for me and Sandee and I'm sure everybody else who knew that this would be happening. You're number one with us, Jim!

On Saturday afternoon, we got underway with the Grand Masters doubles with 26 teams of Who's Who in The World of Shuffleboard. By Sunday evening, we had a new winning team to add to the Grand Masters trophy.



The Grand Masters trophy (which was so big it took both to display it) went to Dan Hitt (left) and Al Pease, both of Washington.



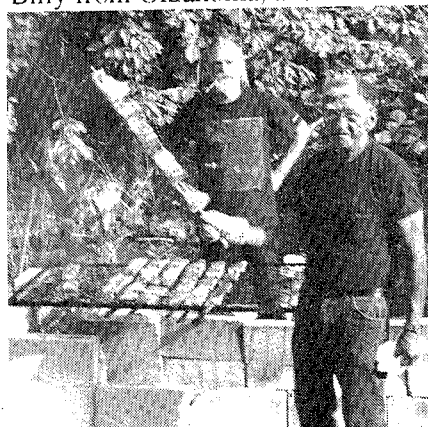
Darrol Nelson (left) of Oregon and Loren Lampley of Washington took second place honors in the Grand Masters.



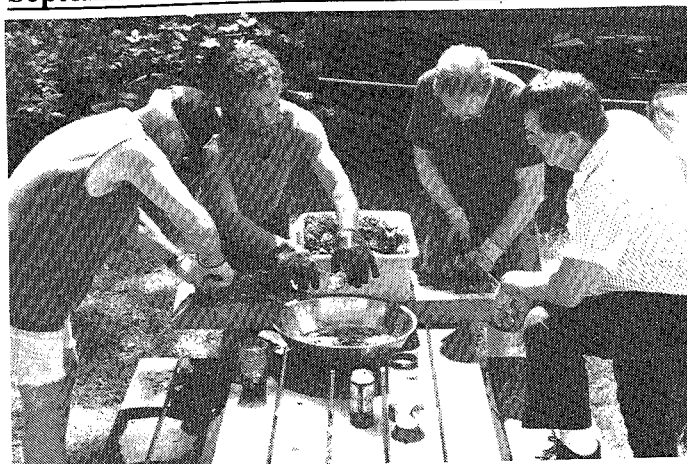
Madge Goff congratulates her Oklahoma heroes, Glen Davidson and Billy Melton, for taking third in the Grand Masters.

Fourth place went to Bob Shirley and Earl Cole of Washington, fifth to Doug Buhl and Jim Allis, and sixth to Gary George and D.K. Kerr.

Thanks to all the players who participated in this year's event. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and that they will all come back again. Special thanks to Paul Weber and all the Dixie Belle people -- Steve, Debbie, Chris, Doug, Hope, Wes and Eileen, Bellflower Bruce Hale. Also Frank and Cheri Schnarss from Frankie's in Olympia, Gwyn Orsi from Nebraska, Glen, Madge and Billy from Oklahoma, and Bob Lewis from Arizona.



Special thanks to the Wilbur brothers, Claude and Marvin, for doing the salmon and their helper, Wolfy.



Teamwork is what it's all about and thanks to those volunteers who helped shuck fresh oysters....

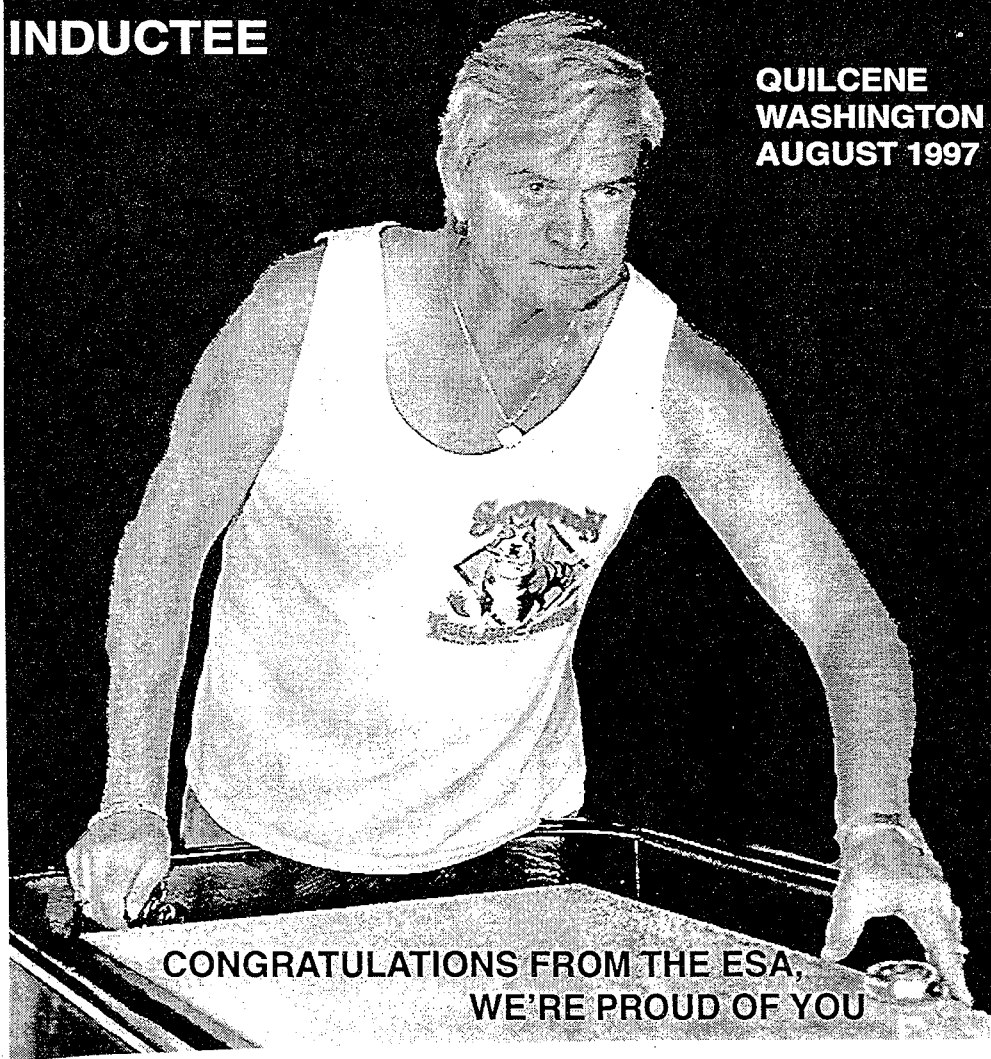


Thanks to our "team" -- John, Carol, Jenine, Shirley, and Moses and Frank (not shown)-- and my partner, Sandee.

JIM FORAN

**NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE**

**QUILCENE
WASHINGTON
AUGUST 1997**



**CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE ESA,
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU**

A big Number One to the people who helped do the brackets, sales, etc.: Jim Foran, Loren Lampley, Caveman, Russ Miller, Kevin Larkin, Mike Thorpe, Dick Martell, Mitch, Marilyn Buhl, Paulette, Melody, and anybody else I've forgotten.




Mitch (shown here with Cindy Powers), who loves to have his picture in The Board Talk, was one of the helpers.

Other notable mentions: Wolfy, Lloyd, Big Mike, Dick D. and Kevin. As anybody who knows how hard these things can be, there is one key word that applies -- "TEAMWORK."

**Mark your calendars now:
9th Annual Grand
Masters Plus
July 29-Aug. 2, 1998
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington**

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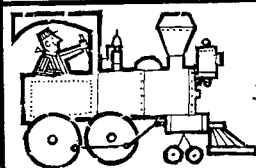
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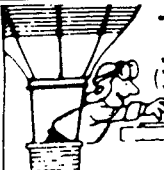
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- Sun-Glo Corporation
- Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies
- Gametime
- Fall Creek Valley Amvets Post 26
- Jimmy L's
- Harvey's Place
- Bourbon American Legion 424
- The Dixie Belle
- Shuffleboard Directory Businesses

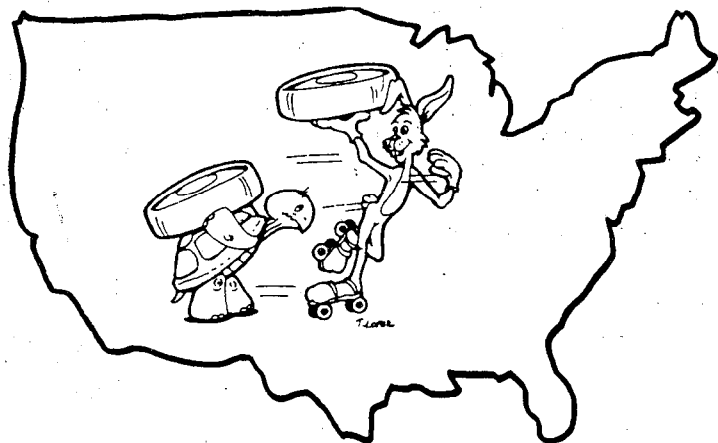
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