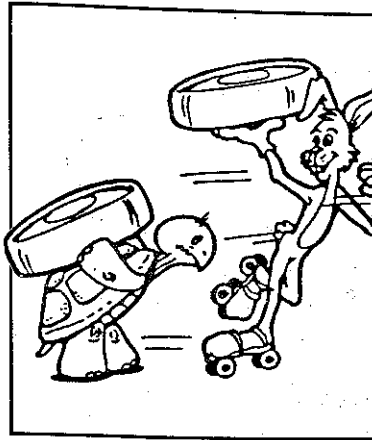


JUNE 20



# The Board Talk

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

Vol. 15, No. 6

June 1998

## Hale/Wilcox Inducted in State Halls of Fame

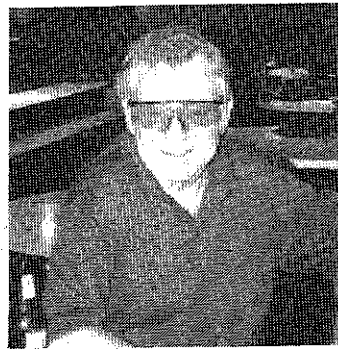
*This One's for You, Bruce!*

*Emmett: "The Obvious First Choice"*



Ten years ago, at the 1st Arizona Open, Bellflower Bruce Hale started his tradition of presenting roses to every lady attending tournaments. On April 18, the tables were turned on Bruce as three dozen ladies each gave him a rose and a kiss. It was part of Bruce's induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, held at Oskar's in Bellflower.

It's a long road filled with potholes from being broke and building a wood and cardboard shelter in an alley in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles to being the sole owner of a successful plastics company. This  
(continued on Page 8)

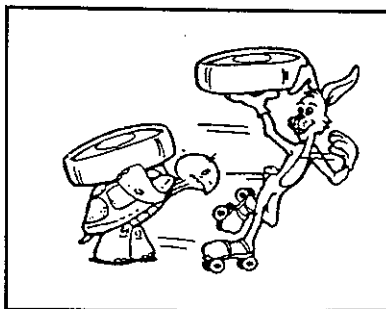


Emmett Wilcox became the first inductee into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at the Bourbon Spring Doubles on May 2. Terry Dowell presented him with his plaque and called him "the obvious first choice" for induction.

Up until May 2, 1998, one of the most memorable wins for Emmet Wilcox was at Bourbon in 1959, where he received a 4-inch trophy and half of the \$280 pot (sale included). This year the pot was \$10,000 and he didn't win a share of that, but he did receive an honor no other Hoosier had captured before -- induction into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He became No. 1!

Long respected by his peers in the Midwest as a player and a teacher, Emmett charged \$1 each for his lessons during the '60s. He said his advice was free but lessons cost; that way you would always remember them. By the late '70s, his "price" had increased to \$5. Of his new crop of students, he observed: "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser."

The '80s brought better players and bigger pots and he still won more than his fair share. "By the late '80s, his interest in playing had dropped a little, but his interest in improving the game had peaked," said a student and friend named Bill. "By the early '90s, he was polishing weights so a player could get the most out of them. He then built a new style climatic that would permit you to change one side of a board, but  
(continued on Page 8)



# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

## Appreciation from the Forans

It has been a good year for shuffleboard in our neck of the woods and from reading The Board Talk, it looks good all around. Your magazine is as good as ever and getting better all the time.

Jim and I would like to let you know that we appreciate the efforts you put into the publishing of The Board Talk. I can't even imagine the time it must take to organize all of the different articles, pictures, etc. Keep up the good work. We look forward to our monthly magazine.

Hope to see the two of you in Medford this summer at the Hall of Fame Tournament.

Jim and Michelle Foran, Tacoma, Washington

*Thanks for your kind words; they mean a lot to us. Yes, it does take a lot of time and effort, but it couldn't be done at all if it weren't for the time and effort invested by the sponsors/directors/reporters to send us news and views and photos, plus the financial support of our subscribers and advertisers. Bless them all!*

*We would love to be at the Medford Eagles Lodge West Coast Hall of Fame Tournament. It's been a long time since we've been in your beautiful part of the country and that experience will always be a highlight in our book of memories. However, we are committed to have our 14th Annual Board Talk Shufflers Reunion at the Texas Open, Gold Nugget, Arlington, Texas, over the same weekend. It's also been a long time since we've been to the Lone Star State, so we're looking forward to that, too.*

**Your News & Views are Welcome!**

**Send to The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan,  
Lansing, MI 48906.**

## --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!

## Why We Weren't in Bourbon

We have received so many notes expressing disappointment that we were not at the Bourbon (Indiana) Spring Doubles that we thought we'd better give an explanation....

The Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League had its annual banquet on the same day and George was to receive a lifetime achievement award. It was a surprise and therefore took a lot of undercover work on the part of league officials and others (including Donna) to convince him he should attend instead of going to Bourbon.

There will always be another Bourbon tournament; there's only one lifetime achievement award!

George and Donna Wilber, Publishers  
The Board Talk

## A Heavenly View from a Former Virgin....

I haven't written anything for a while because I've been quite ill with heart trouble. In mid-February I suffered heart failure. While they were shocking my heart back to beating right, I was dead for eight seconds.

While I was dead, I dreamed I was young, healthy, thin and pretty, and was skipping down a sidewalk in Boston with Rick Yingst on one arm and John Cason on the other, with Steve Burkett clearing our way saying: "Move over for some very important people coming through." There we were skipping along, laughing our heads off, with Bill Holly along behind saying to the people as we passed: "There goes the World Champions of Shuffleboard!"

Boy, was I having the time of my life, when the doctor shook my shoulder and said: "Mrs. Lewis, are you awake? Are you awake? Are you awake?" Well, I didn't want to wake up because I was having such a good time where I was.

Later, the doctor asked me how I got interested in shuffleboard and I told him the first time I saw Rick  
(continued on Page 21)

## 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.*



# ***"THANK YOU!"***

*I wish to thank all of my wonderful friends in The World of Shuffleboard for honoring me at the prestigious induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.*

*A special thanks to Jan Manes for the nomination, Jim Martin for the videotaping, Marilyn McCracken for compiling the booklet and all of the rest of the people who worked so hard to make this day a wonderful memory.*

*Though I sincerely believe that there are others who are more deserving, I certainly appreciate and value the great honor bestowed upon me.*

*Love to you, all of my friends, my family.*

**BRUCE H. HALE  
(BELLFLOWER BRUCE)**

## Upcoming Events Across the Nation

### Oklahoma

### "WARM-UP" TOURNAMENT, ACTION LOUNGE, BROKEN ARROW, JUNE 19-20

Bud Hillburn invites you to WARM UP for the big Southwest Open by participating in a tournament at his Action Lounge, 81st & 145th Sts., Broken Arrow, on June 19-20.

Events will include a \$20 round robin draw (no handicap), single game, double elimination, on Friday, June 19 (you must be signed up by 7 p.m.). A handicapped bring partner event, \$20 per player, single game, double elimination is scheduled for the 20th, sale at 11 a.m. with play starting at noon. The bring partner event may extend into Sunday.

A \$5 registration fee covers both events.

For further information, call Bud at 918-258-1773.

Also, mark your calendars now for Bud's annual Labor Day tournament. Watch for a flyer in next month's issue.

### SOUTHWEST OPEN, AMERICAN LEGION, DEL CITY, JUNE 28-JULY 4

This is your LAST CALL for this 4th of July Tradition. Reports are that reservations are coming in at a steady pace so don't get left on the sidelines while others have all the fun and rake in all the big bucks! Action starts on Sunday this year and all events will be finished on Saturday night. There are two days where no new events are scheduled. They will be used to finish events started the previous day and if you have lost out early, you might choose to take the day off or play in one of the many round robins or pea games.

Directors Ron and Sharon Huddleston and host Don Crall recommend the LaQuinta Inn (800-531-5900 or 405-672-0067). When you call, ask for the "Shuffleboard rate of \$49 plus tax for the Del City, OK hotel." This rate is for a room with two beds and up to four people per room and has a swimming pool.

Use the enclosed flyer to pre-register for the tournament. Questions? Call Ron at 405-843-1615, or the American Legion, 405-677-9393.

### 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."

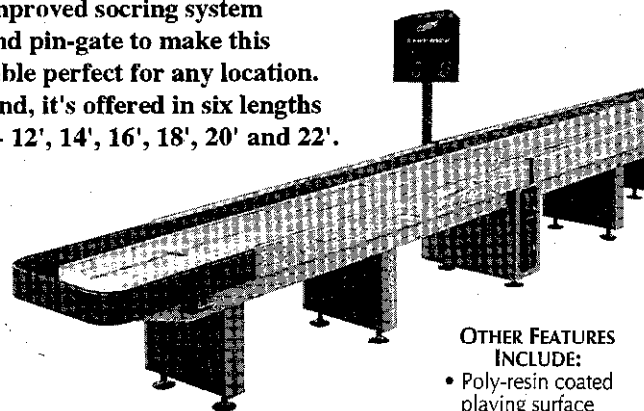
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

*"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

### 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
- Optional light kit

We refinish all brands of shuffleboard. Call for details.

# GAMETIME

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

Colorado**9TH ANNUAL BALLOON  
OPEN, BALLOON INN,  
ARVADA, JUNE 12-14**

The Balloon Inn, 6440 Wadsworth, Arvada, will hold its 9th Annual Balloon Open on June 12-14. It will be a bring your partner, \$120 per team entry, 2 out of 3, double elimination. The sponsor sale is set for Friday at 8 p.m., (blind draw following) with competition starting at noon on Saturday. The tournament director will be Jody Slack.

For information, call the Balloon Inn, 303-425-9823, or 303-421-9332.

See the ad on Page 26 and welcome the new owners with your participation.

Pennsylvania**PHILLY OPEN, J & C'S  
TAVERN, JUNE 12-14**

J & C's Tavern, 6601 Lansdowne Ave., Philadelphia, and the Orfanelli Family will host the 1998 Philly Open, directed by Jim and Rita Yank and their staff, on June 12-14. All shufflers are invited to participate.

Friday's event will be an open singles, \$25 entry, starting at 7 p.m. On Saturday at 2 p.m., there will be a bring partner event, \$30 per team entry. An A-B draw will be the Sunday "getaway offering" for \$20 per team, beginning at 1:30 p.m. All events will be 15 point games, double elimination, played on J & C's three boards. Sponsor sales will begin promptly at each event's announced start time. The A-B draw sponsor sale will be limited (\$100 maximum, \$10 increments).

The Orfanelli's will provide a limited buffet on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and a variety of Italian entrees may be purchased from their menu. Economical lodging is within minutes at Summit Motor Inn, 351 Township Kine Road (Rt. 1), Upper Darby, PA.; phone 610-449-6000.

Pre-registration is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by calling Jim or Rita Yank at 215-879-0840, or Jim Wolf, 610-583-0841.

New York**4-EVENT TOURNEY AT DEW  
DROP INN, WATERLOO,  
JULY 30-AUG. 2**

The Dew Drop Inn, 37 Virginia Street, will host a 4-event tournament on July 30-Aug. 2. Action will start on Thursday night with \$5 and \$10 round robin draws.

A mixed doubles, \$30 per team, is on the agenda for Friday night. There are two events on Saturday -- an open singles, \$25 entry, at 9 a.m., and a draw partner, \$15 per person, at 4 p.m. On Sunday, there will be a bring partner event, \$30 per team, starting at noon.

For further information, contact John or Tracie at the Dew Drop, 315-539-5729. Use the enclosed flyer to make your reservations. These events have been sold out in past years, so it's important to get your spot saved now!

Canada**1ST CANADIAN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS, QUALITY  
INN, WINNIPEG, JULY 2-5**

The 1st Annual Canadian Shuffleboard Championships, presented by the Canadian Shuffleboard Congress, will be held on July 2-5. Location for this first will be the Winnipeg Quality Inn, 635 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Events start on Thursday, July 2, 6 p.m. with a "Meet and Greet" fun evening, \$10 per player entry, with partners drawn at random. On Friday will be the men's singles, \$100 entry; and ladies' singles, \$50 entry. The men's doubles, \$100 per player, and ladies' doubles, \$50 per player, are scheduled for Saturday. The final event, on Sunday, July 5, will be a mixed doubles, \$50 per player entry. All events will be limited, so be sure to get your reservations in early.

The format for each event will be A-B. If you lose in A, you drop to B, 2 out of 3 games in the A, 1 game only in B. B plays A winner. B winner must defeat A winner twice without losing once to claim the championship.

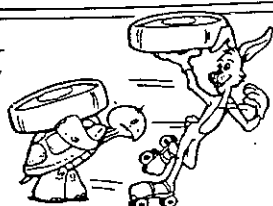
The Winnipeg Quality Inn is offering a special tournament rate for June 30-July 5: \$55 (Canadian funds) for single/double or \$65 for triple/quad, per night, plus taxes. You must book before May 30 and tell them you're with the shuffleboard tournament. Call 204-453-8247 or FAX, 204-287-2365.

For other information, call Donald Heaton, 204-793-2977; Steve Williams, 204-771-7893; or Harold Schmidt, 204-791-1111, or FAX to Raye Gerardy, 204-957-7704.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this first. You do not need to be a "Crazy Canuck" to participate, but you must abide by Canadian Congress rules.

**(MORE UPCOMING EVENTS ON PAGES 10, 16, 20,  
AND 30)**

## As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

There's just a minor change in our standings of the Top Six Shuffleboard states listed on the back panel, with Michigan pulling ahead of Indiana. However, there's a story behind the story on the leading contenders. Everybody who is anybody in The World of Shuffleboard knows the Melton Family of Oklahoma. Well, the "little" (are any of them little except for Mom Rozanne?) Meltons are growing up and flying out of the nest. Three of them moved to Texas and, of course, Dad Bill signed them up as subscribers. What that did was to push No. 2 Texas into within one subscriber of tying No. 1 California, while Oklahoma still rests in the No. 6 spot. You Texans treat Bill with a high degree of respect for putting you within striking distance of gaining the title of Top Subscriber State in the Nation!

\*\*\*\*\*

Several months after the fact, it has been called to our attention that there was an error in our report of last year's North American Championships. In the Deuces Wild event, there was a tie for first and second places: Dave Arndt's team of Don Stallsworth, David Keithan and Robert Vonbargen, and Bill Melton's team of Frank Zavala, Dave Fleming and Eric Chiles, with Darrol Nelson's team of Linda Meyer, Bob Leitritz and Marcia Walker in third. Now, we'll wait to see if that report is contested.

The Shuffleboard Federation staff and we agree that our deadline for the December issue is simply too close on the heels of the NAC. With the magnitude of this event, pulling together all the stats in a brief time span increases the chance of errors. Therefore, this year's NAC results will be printed in the January issue.

In the meantime, mark your calendars now for Nov. 1-8, and we'll see you in Reno! The first flyer is in this issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone who could use your prayers and good wishes is Jean Cockrum, wife of shuffleboard and Board Talk promoter Woodie Cockrum, and sister-in-law of Jolene Lembke, president of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Jean is recovering from emergency heart surgery and other complications. Let her know you're thinking of her: 4108 Valleywood Ct., Columbia, MO 65202.

As soon as we knew of Jean's challenge, thanks to Harvey Walden of Tennessee, we called Woodie and

got his answering machine (likely, he was at the hospital at Jean's side). A few days later, we got a letter updating us on her condition: *"The many shuffleboard players who know she is sick have responded 100 percent. Without all their phone calls, cards and flowers, I don't know how I could have made it this far. If we rated Jean as a shuffleboard player, she would be a 10. But, as a shuffleboard person, she is a -1. She is the backbone of everything I do outside of my game. I never write a report that she doesn't go over and correct the spelling and dot the i's and cross the t's. She helps me with the tournaments and leagues. She is my best fan and I just can't see my future without her."*

Any time you think your expressions of caring don't matter, just read Woodie's words again. We urge you to reach out and touch the Cockrums. They desperately need your caring!

\*\*\*\*\*

While it certainly is an awesome experience to be honored at the state and national levels, there's nothing quite like being recognized by your peers at the local level. That's what happened to George recently at the Greater Lansing Shuffleboard League banquet. He received a beautiful plaque that reads: "Congratulations on 25 years of dedication and commitment to the game of shuffleboard, George Wilber, from all us shufflers, Greater Lansing Shuffleboard League." It is proudly displayed along with our Michigan Hall of Fame and Sol Lipkin Award from The Shuffleboard Federation plaques. We thank all the league players for this great honor!

\*\*\*\*\*

And, speaking of Sol Lipkin, it was (as always) delightful to visit with him at the sneak preview of the opening of Dave & Buster's in Utica, Michigan. What a guy! We hope you will enjoy the article regarding that special occasion on Page 15.

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again, we salute the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee for staging another outstanding induction ceremony -- this time for yet another worthy individual -- Bellflower Bruce Hale. The dedicated members of this committee are so very fortunate to have the creative support of Jim Martin and Marilyn McCracken to make these inductions extra special. Another California induction (Bobby Goldsmith) will be reported next month. Keep up the good work, California!

\*\*\*\*\*

A Board Talk salute to Indiana on its first induction, Emmett Wilcox, who was honored (a most deserving honor, we might add) at the Bourbon Spring Doubles. Watch for more from Indiana because they have a whole bunch of individuals in that state worthy of induction into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

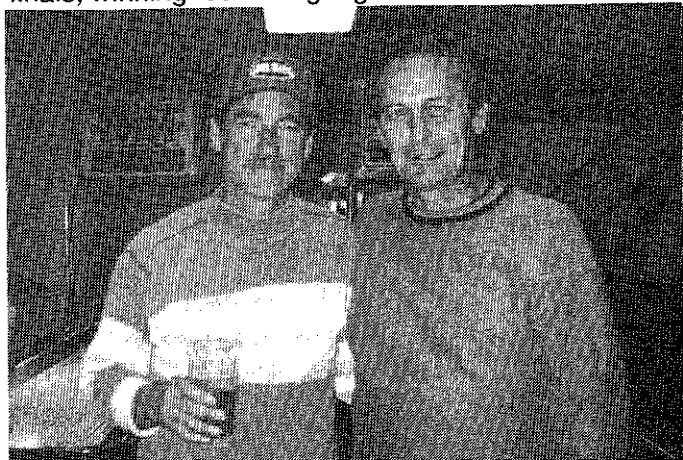
G & D



## Buhl/Nelson Win Classic at BZ's -- Again!

Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson of Oregon did it the hard way, but won once again in the 6th Annual Shuffleboard Classic at BZ's Sports Bar & Grill in Burien, Washington, on April 17-19.

After losing their first match to Chuck Norris and Jimmy Allis, they sailed through the loser's bracket and defeated Jim Foran and Gary George in the finals, winning four straight games.



*Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl, winners of BZ's 6th Annual Classic. "Is this another tournament that's going to have to be renamed the Buhl-Nelson Classic?" asked director-reporter John Musgrave.*

## California Hall of Fame

By Jan Manes

Thanks to the Silver Spur in San Bernardino for letting me and MaryLou have a 50-50 drawing for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at their Sweetheart Tournament. I had a great time. Wes, the party animal, was my partner. Thanks, Eileen, for letting me have your sweetheart for the day. I commend you for all the years you've put up with him (just kidding! Wes and Eileen are beautiful people).

As you know, we've already inducted two wonderful people, Al Stewart and Bruce Hale. Thanks to The Dixie Belle and Oskar's and everyone who helped make both ceremonies great.

If there is anyone in shuffleboard who would like to donate an item or items for our 50-50 raffles or an item to raffle off alone, please send them to me: Jan Manes, 8717 Boyne St., Downey CA 90242 (phone 562-869-6416) or President Jolene Lembke, 11050 Bryant St., Yucaipa, CA 92399.

We try to have raffles or 50-50 at every California tournament. We'd like to have a BIG one at the 4th of July tournament at the Dixie Belle. Please help us make the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame a big success so we can induct everyone who is deserving, past and present.

Seventeen teams participated for the \$3,000 pot. BZ owners Craig and Lisa Sherwood added \$20 per team.

Tommy Campbell and Carl Roush took third place honors, with Dan Hitt and Al Pease finishing fourth. Mike Thorpe and Mike Kinney, and Steve Wilson and Gary Orcutt tied for fifth.

In Friday night's A-B draw, a record 26 teams participated, with John Martin and Paulette McKinney gaining top honors. Loren Lampley and Jerry Mattson finished second; Alvin Orcutt and Sparky Sparkman took third, with Gary Orcutt and Rick Gindt settling for fourth.

Tournament director John Musgrave was ably assisted by Mark Minium and Jim Foran. Cook Dana Joseph turned out another outstanding fried chicken dinner for the shufflers on Saturday night.

BZ's next shuffleboard event will be the annual A-B Bring Partner tournament on Thanksgiving weekend.

## Denny Busch Passes

The World of Shuffleboard suffered a tragic loss when Denny Busch of Omaha, Nebraska, died on May 9 at the age of 40. He left behind his father, Art, sister Vicky, brother Chuck and sister-in-law Cindy, and other family members, as well as a host of friends and admirers in shuffleboard circles across the country. His funeral was held May 16. As this is written, the cause of his death was unknown.



Denny was first introduced to shuffleboard by Tim Piccolo (Piccolo's Bar in Omaha) in 1981. He soon became a key figure in Nebraska shuffleboard and later earned a "pro" status at the national level.

He was also a long-time supporter of The Board Talk and earned a set of weights for signing up 25 new subscribers when the publication was still a "toddler."

Messages of sympathy to the family should be sent to: Art Busch, 1473 N. 90th Ave., Omaha, NE 68114. Denny had no life insurance, so those who would like to contribute money toward his funeral expenses are encouraged to do so.

## **Hale Inducted** *(continued from Page 1)*

long road that Bruce Hale has travelled also contained some health obstacles to challenge his trip through life. Each time he hit one of those potholes, his unfailing spirit and positive attitude saw him through.

Perhaps it is because he's had to overcome so many challenges himself that makes him such a compassionate, generous man, whether it's encouraging a beginning player, helping shuffleboard establishments (like Oskar's) get up and going, making the ladies who participate in the sport feel special, or financially supporting a worthy cause -- charities, organizations and needy individuals.

Marilyn McCracken, who along with Jim Martin, have lent their creative talents to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee, summed it up well when she said: "Although his business has been plastics for the past 30 years, this man is truly made of precious metal. He not only has a heart of gold, but also has a silver tongue....."



*Bruce's "silver tongue" failed him when President Jolene Lembke officially inducted him into the California Hall of Fame. The sentiments he was too overwhelmed to deliver then are contained in his full-page ad on Page 3.*

Words of tribute to Bruce were eloquently delivered by Joanie Swenson, Paul Weber, Marilyn McCracken, Mike Sanderson, Tim O'Brien, Debbie (Dixie Debbie) Merhoff, Kathleen Wilson, Chris Brown (on behalf of The Board Talk), and Jan Manes. When VCR problems prohibited the viewing of a video salute produced by Jim "The Marlin" Martin, which contained a song called "Bruce," written by Joanie Swenson, The Shufflettes (Joanie, Mary Lou Deering, Jolene Lembke and Audree Rasmussen) were persuaded to do a live performance. As they got into the song, so did Bellflower Bruce, dancing in the aisles with several ladies.

*(Editor's Note: Our thanks to Chris Brown for providing the information for this report. Copies of the Bruce Hale video are available from the California Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 8143, Bellflower, CA 90706. The price is \$10, half of which is donated back to the Hall of Fame.)*

## **Wilcox Inducted** *(cont. from Page 1)*

not the other side. Next, he built an indicator with which you could tell how much of a valley or crown a board had in it. Another of his ideas came into being a couple of years ago, thanks in part to The Shuffleboard Federation for their cooperation in building titanium weights. He had the idea about 10 years ago, but didn't have access to the right components. Now he proudly displays his GOLD weights every time he plays.

"As proud as he is of those weights, he is even more so of the players he helped along the way. So if you are ever in Central Indiana playing a game and happen to make a bad shot or two and hear someone say: 'Boy, I wish he made \$1,000 a week and played me for \$500; we would both make a good living,' you just met Mr. Wilcox," Bill said.

Induction ceremony speakers included Terry Dowell, Jim Long, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Director Larry Creakbaum and NSHF President Glen Davidson.

## **Knox/Miller Top Field of 40 Teams at Bourbon**

The three top spots in the 37th Annual Spring Doubles at the American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, Indiana, went to Indiana shooters. Coming out on top of a field of 40 teams and taking the largest share of the \$10,000 pot were Jerry Knox and Ray Miller. Second place honors went to Glen Ingram and Jim DeWitt, with Greg and Tom Massie in third place.

Len Dell and Rick Niblett traveled from Maryland to take the No. 4 spot. Tied for fifth and sixth were Bobby Voorhis and Rick Royal of Indiana, and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma and Bob Perry of Illinois. Terry Dowell of Indiana and John Myles of Michigan, and locals Steve Slough and Dawn Chapman tied for seventh and eighth places.

As with all the previous Bourbon tournaments, everyone had a great time, enjoyed the good food, and were honored to witness the induction of Emmett Wilcox into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

**Support your state and  
national  
Shuffleboard Halls of Fame  
with your ideas,  
nominations,  
and contributions.**



## **Upcoming Events** *(cont. from Page 5)*

### **Michigan**

## **3RD ANNUAL RUDY STOBER MEMORIAL TOURNEY, STOBER'S LOUNGE, LANSING, AUG. 7-9**

The 3rd Annual Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament will be held at Stober's Lounge, 812 E. Michigan, Lansing, on Aug. 7-9. The event is in honor of the late Rudy Stober, a member of the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Round robins will be held on Friday, Aug. 7. An open doubles, \$50 per team, will start with the sponsor sale at noon, with play immediately following. An open singles, \$20 entry, is scheduled for Sunday. Sale and play starts at 1 p.m. Both events are single game, double elimination.

There will be drawings for prizes and 50-50 sales with half going to the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in Rudy's honor. A free spread will be served on Saturday.

For further information, contact tournament director Carrie Clifton, 517-482-1190.

### **Oregon**

## **West Coast Hall of Fame Tournament, Medford Eagles Lodge, Medford, Sept. 3-7**

The friendly folks at Medford Eagle's Lodge #2093 (Home of the Huggy Bear), 2000 Table Rock Rd., Medford, will host the West Coast National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament on Sept. 3-7.

Action will start on Thursday, Sept. 3, with a 6-person draft team event, \$25 per person entry. There are three events on Friday, Women's Div. 1 (\$50 entry) and Div. 2 (\$25 entry) singles, and the Pro Singles (\$100 entry). On Saturday will be the Div. 2 Bring Partner Doubles, \$50 per team entry, with a Hall of Fame induction scheduled for 4 p.m.

Two events on Sunday are an open bring partner doubles (\$150 per team) and the Div. 2 singles, \$25 entry. The grand finale on Monday will be an A/B/C draw, \$25 per person.

A \$10 registration fee covering all events will be charged and must be received, along with your entry fees, by Aug. 1. After Aug. 1, the registration fee goes up to \$25.

The renowned Rob Kern will be the bracket man.

There are a number of motels all within four blocks of the Eagles Lodge. When making your reservation,

be sure to mention that you are with the tournament: Windmill Inn of Medford, 541-779-0050; Rogue Regency Inn, 541-770-1234; Pony Soldier Motor Inn, 541-779-2011; Reston Motel, 541-779-3141; Motel 6, 541-779-0050. There is also RV parking available at the Eagles Lodge.

Please use the registration form that was in last month's Board Talk.

For further information, contact Lloyd Mann or Ed Fowler at the Eagles, 541-773-9056; Mike Kinney, 541-826-7793; Don Stallsworth, 541-582-0206; or Frank Mako, 360-274-4875.

### **Texas**

## **HANDICAP TOURNEY, TAZ COUNTRY, PFLUGERVILLE, AUG. 7-9**

Taz Country, 1406 F.M. 1825, Pflugerville, will host a handicap tournament on Aug. 7-9. Action will start on Friday night with a handicapped open draw, \$30 entry, single elimination. On Saturday at 1 p.m., the bring partner - total of 2 points -- will start. The entry fee is \$50 per person and will be double elimination.

A handicapped singles will start at 1 p.m. on Sunday, \$50 entry. This event will also be double elimination.

Taz Country has three boards. Special drink prices during the tournament and food served on Saturday. Recommended lodging is the Rodeway Inn, Round Rock, 512-246-0005. For information, call Ron or Debbie Bowers, 512-835-7256 or 459-1264.

Please check the flyer that was in last month's Board Talk.

### **Washington**

## **4TH ANNUAL EVERETT INVITATIONAL, SHOTZE'S, JUNE 6-7**

Shotze's Rack 'N Roll, 9602 Evergreen Way, Everett, will host its 4th Annual Everett Invitational Shuffleboard Tournament on June 6-7. Action will start with \$20 A-B draw partner events on Friday night. The main event will be an A-B draw partner, \$50 per team entry, 2 out of 3 in the winners' bracket, single game 17 points in the loser's bracket. The sponsor sale is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, with play immediately following. Recommended lodging is the Motel 6, just two blocks from Shotze's; phone 425-347-2060.

For further information, contact tournament director John Martin at 425-513-1053, or 1-800-821-8234.

*(continued on Page 20)*

## Revitalized Board Continues Service to Senior Citizens

By Donna Wilber

It was back in the spring of 1984 that George got an S.O.S. from the president of the Resident Governing Council of Friendship Manor, a government-subsidized senior citizen housing complex in Lansing, Michigan. The 14-foot shuffleboard that had given the residents so many hours of pleasure for many years was in bad shape. In their search to find a solution to their predicament, they learned about George through a copy of the newly-born Board Talk. Perhaps he could help. If he couldn't, what would they do on their weekly "Shuffle Night"?

George agonized along with the senior citizens when he checked the board. It looked pretty serious. Since we were planning a trip to visit the American Shuffleboard Company, at that time the nation's sole manufacturer of boards, we offered to take the ailing 14-footer to the real experts to see if it could be saved.

We wrapped the sick board in blankets, wedged it between the two of us in our old '74 van and travelled 700 miles to Union City, New Jersey. When we unwrapped our "patient" at the ASC plant, the specialists there gave their diagnosis: no hope for recovery -- doomed to wherever shuffleboards go when they "die."

The board wedged between us on the return trip to Michigan was a brand-new one, fresh off the assembly line. We had, in fact, watched the last finishing touches put on its shiny surface.

The Friendship Manor residents were ecstatic -- but concerned. What would the new board cost? How many bake sales and other fund-raisers would they have to hold? Would they, indeed, live long enough to pay for it?

"Don't worry until we get the invoice. We'll work it out some way," George assured them. But they continued to worry until word arrived that there would be no invoice. Moved by the plight of these elderly shuffleboard enthusiasts, the generous people at American Shuffleboard Company made a contribution that would give those senior citizens something to look forward to for many years to come -- their "Shuffle Night." In a thank-you letter to ASC, the senior citizens called their "superb board" a "Godsend."

### Fourteen Years Later: Another Call for Help

In the spring of 1998, George received a call from a Senior Citizens Community Center in Morrice, a small town not too far from Lansing. They had a well-used 14-foot board that was in sad shape. Could he help? His prognosis was that, with a refinished surface, the board could give them many years of

service. And, yes, the cost would be kept to the barest minimum possible to stay within their very limited financial resources.

What should have been a relatively simple job turned out to be a bit more than that. When we moved, we lost our big garage where George had refinished boards before he "retired" from that enterprise. The board had to be brought inside the house through a basement window. Our cats loved watching George sand the board and then cried pitifully when he shut the basement door while he applied the finish and allowed drying time between applications. Who needs cat paw prints and hair on a new finish? In the meantime, he developed a severe reaction to the finish. For weeks, he suffered with red, itchy, swollen eyes and a rash on other body parts -- not a pretty sight. Then spring rains flooded the yard outside the basement window where the board would have to exit.

Meanwhile, the senior citizens waited patiently for George to heal and the soggy lawn to dry.

### A Cooperative Effort

When the seniors finally got to play their first game on the delivered board, it was thanks to a cooperative effort: Sun-Glo Corporation for a set of smaller weights at a discount price, The Shuffleboard Federation for contributing wax, long-distance advice from Al Stewart in California, George's modest fee for materials and labor, and a neighbor's help in transporting and setting up the board.

When Ruby Dulock, who spearheaded the drive to get a playable board (and many other senior citizens' activities) for the center, presented George an envelope upon delivery, it was a fat one. He didn't count the money until he got home; he'd learned to trust and admire the ever-patient Ruby. It brought tears to our eyes when he opened the envelope. Inside was a stack of bills, mostly \$1 bills, raised through a number of bake sales. The total was the exact amount they had agreed upon.

### It's a Small World!

We didn't relate the board we brought back from New Jersey in 1984 with the one George refinished in 1998, except that they were both 14-footers. It wasn't until George asked about the history of the board that we found it had been given to the Community Center Senior Citizens by Friendship Manor after they had purchased another one.

The folks at American Shuffleboard should be proud that the board they donated to the "Shufflin' Seniors" at Friendship Manor 14 years ago is still "alive" and well, and will serve the "Shufflin' Seniors" in the Morrice Community for years to come.

# Hall of Famer Sol Lipkin Continues to Spread the Shuffleboard "Gospel" at Dave & Buster's

**By George & Donna Wilber**

At an age when he really ought to be sitting in his rocking chair on the patio of his New Jersey home, Sol Lipkin continues to challenge all the myths about "senior citizens." We were out of breath when we finally caught up with him at the "sneak preview" of Dave and Buster's opening of another of their unique facilities, this time just a couple hours away from home, in Utica, near Detroit. It was near 11 p.m. when we left him behind to "flirt" with the female staff that had so efficiently and hospitably served us our dinner. (At Dave & Buster's, you are a "guest," not a "customer," and are treated accordingly.) We wondered if we could make the trip back home; Sol was still glowing from the memories of dancing for three hours at a Detroit River establishment where Dave and Buster had taken their special guest the night before.

Sol's role, besides dancing until 2 a.m. and capturing the hearts of all the staff at Dave and Buster's, was to instruct selected "captains" how to teach guests the basic rules and techniques of playing shuffleboard on the four American boards that are part of this awesome facility. He has done the same at locations across the U.S.A.

"If people shoot their first game and the puck goes off the board time after time, they're not likely to play again," said Sol. "Our job is to show them how to keep those weights on the board and score. Once they do, we believe shuffleboard will become their chosen sport."

## "There's No Place Quite Like It!"

That's the slogan for Dave and Buster's and it's one that says it all -- correctly! It's difficult to describe.... In addition to generous drinks and delectable food, served by a staff that treats you like "guests" in their "house," there are rows and rows of games of chance machines in the "Million Dollar Midway" -- like a mini-Vegas except you get tickets instead of coins. It was fun to watch a happy lady hauling a stuffed animal taller than she was, proudly showing it off to all the dining room guests.

If you're a golfer, like Bill Meyer, you can play a hole at some of the best golf courses in the world at D & B's 19th Hole, or visit The Otherside, a high-tech simulator that blows your mind.

## Sol Says: "Attitude is Everything"

When we returned from the enchanted world of D & B's on May 3 to our hum-drum Board Talk office to

write this story, Sol remained behind to complete his "mission" that would last for another five days.

The lifelong shuffleboard evangelist was inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in May of 1996 on his 90th birthday. He began his career as a salesperson for the National Shuffleboard Company in the '30s, then became a representative for the American Shuffleboard Company (now American International Shuffleboard), where he still remains involved in the business.

Widowed for a number of years now, Sol reports that he's "still looking" (that will be one lucky lady when he quits looking and settles down). Where does he get his zest for life at 92 years old? No mystical Fountain of Youth, no magic elixir. The answer, plain and simple: "Attitude is everything!"

If you visit any of Dave and Buster's locations (listed here) and Sol isn't in the shuffleboard area, perhaps you can take up where he left off.... No way can you replace him, but you could be one of this Hall of Famer's "ambassadors" for shuffleboard.

## Coast to Coast with Dave and Buster's.....

**Dallas, Texas:** (1) "End of Restaurant Row," and (2) The Corner Shopping Center, Walnut Hill and Central Expressway

**Houston, Texas:** corner of Richmond and Fountainview

**Atlanta, Georgia:** North of Atlanta at I-75 and Delk Road

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Pier 19 North on Philly's historic Delaware waterfront

**Chicago, Illinois:** (1) I-355 and Lake Street, (2) Clark Street between Oak and Maple

**Hollywood, Florida:** I-95 between Stirling Road and Sheridan Street in Oakwood Plaza

**North Bethesda, Maryland:** White Flint Mall on Rockville Pike

**Ontario, California:** Ontario Mills Mall, intersection of I-10 and I-15

**Cincinnati, Ohio:** Off Interstate 275 and Route 747

**Denver, Colorado:** Intersection of I-25 and Colorado Blvd.

**Detroit/Utica, Michigan:** Corner of M-53 and M-59 in Utica

.....and just in case you're travelling to Jolly Old England, Dave and Buster's has a location in **Birmingham, England**, its first international site.

# ***1998 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS***

## **JUNE 1998**

### **June 5**

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

### **June 6-7**

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

### **June 12-14**

9th Annual Open Doubles  
Balloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

### **June 12-14**

Philly Open  
J & C's Tavern  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **June 13**

Billy Chiles Memorial ABC Draw  
Silver Spur  
San Bernardino, California

### **June 19-20**

Warm-Up Tournament  
Action Lounge  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

### **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 1-5**

4th of July Tournament  
The Dixie Belle  
Downey, California

### **July 2-5**

1st Canadian Championships  
Winnipeg Quality Inn  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### **July 3**

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

### **July 4-5**

ABC Draw  
Blue Goose Tavern  
Port Orchard, Washington

### **July 11-12**

Open Doubles  
Tim's Timber Tavern  
Kelso, Washington

### **July 18-19**

Open Doubles  
Town Tavern  
Sequim, Washington

### **July 25-26**

Amateur Draw Doubles  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

### **July 28-Aug. 2**

Grand Masters Plus  
Whistling Oyster  
Quilcene, Washington

### **July 31-Aug. 2**

4-Event Tournament  
Dew Drop Inn  
Waterloo, New York

## **AUGUST 1998**

### **Aug. 7**

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

### **Aug. 7-9**

Mixed Doubles Draw  
Balloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

### **Aug. 7-9**

Rudy Stober Memorial  
Stober's Lounge  
Lansing, Michigan

### **Aug. 7-9**

Handicap Tournament  
Taz Country  
Pflugerville, Texas

### **Aug. 13-16**

Crazy Canucks Tournament  
AN & AF  
Vancouver, B.C.

## **SEPTEMBER 1998**

### **Sept. 2-6**

Texas Open and 14th Annual  
Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion  
Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

### **Sept. 3-7**

West Coast Hall of Fame  
Tournament  
Medford Eagles  
Medford, Oregon

### **Sept. 4-6**

September Shootout  
Moose Lodge #644  
Baldwinsville, New York

### **Sept. 5-7**

ABC Tournament  
The Dixie Belle  
Downey, California

### **Sept. 5-7**

Labor Day Tournament  
Action Lounge  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

### **Sept. 12-13**

Open Doubles  
Tim's Timber Tavern  
Kelso, Washington

### **Sept. 19-20**

Open Doubles  
Old Edison Inn  
Edison, Washington

### **Sept. 26-27**

Amateur Draw Championships  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

## **OCTOBER 1998**

### **Oct. 3**

Annual Fall Doubles  
American Legion Post 424  
Bourbon, Indiana

# 1998 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

## Oct. 3-4

ABC Draw  
Corner Tavern  
Bow, Washington

## Oct. 9-11

Heartland Handicap  
American Legion Post 73  
Del City, Oklahoma

## Oct. 9-11

Bring Partner Doubles  
Balloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

## Oct. 17-18

Nelson/Buhl Doubles  
Shamrock Tavern  
Longview, Washington

## NOVEMBER 1998

### Nov. 1-8

North American Championships  
Sands Regency Casino/Hotel  
Reno, Nevada

## Nov. 14-15

5th 55 & Over Tournament  
Shamrock Tavern  
Longview, Washington

## Nov. 14-15

Mixed Doubles  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

## Nov. 26-29

Florida State Championships  
Fill-N-Station  
Mims, Florida

## Nov. 26-29

Michigan State Championships  
Club Car Lounge  
Durand, Michigan

## Nov. 25-29

Thanksgiving Classic  
Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

## Nov. 28-29

A-B Draw  
BZ's Bar & Grill  
Seatac, Washington

## DECEMBER 1998

### Dec. 11-13

9th Annual Santa Classic  
Balloon Inn  
Arvada, Colorado

### Dec. 12-13

ABC Draw  
Frankie's Sports Pub  
Olympia, Washington

### Dec. 26-27

Mixed Doubles  
Tim's Timber Tavern  
Kelso, Washington

### Dec. 27-31

Houston Holiday Open  
Hilton Hotel S.W.  
Houston, Texas

**This Calendar of  
Events is made  
possible by our  
advertisers. Please  
support those who  
support you!**

## **THE BOARD TALK**

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

## *More Upcoming Events*

### New York

## **SEPTEMBER SHOOTOUT, MOOSE LODGE #644, BALDWINSVILLE, SEPT. 4-6**

The Moose Lodge #644 in Baldwinsville will host a Labor Day weekend tournament on Sept. 4-6. Scheduled events will include a mixed doubles on Friday night beginning at 6 p.m. (entry \$30 per team), a singles at 9 a.m. Saturday morning (\$20 per person), a draw partner at 3 p.m. on Saturday (\$15 per person), and a bring partner on Sunday, starting at noon (\$30 per team).

The events will be played on four boards and will follow a single, game, double elimination format. There will be a sponsor sale for each event, with play immediately following.

For more information regarding the tournament or lodging recommendations, contact Rick Meyer at 315-451-5435 or John Canino at 315-695-7025.

**CHECK PAGE 30 FOR NEWS ABOUT THE  
NORTH AMERICAN SHUFFLEBOARD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN RENO, NOV. 1-8**

# Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

**(Editor's Note: Balboa Ron is taking a well-earned "sabbatical" this month. He'll be back all revitalized again in the next issue to continue his adventures of Frisko Eddie. In the meantime, let him know you appreciate his monthly contributions: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89123)**

## Focus of "Road to Reno" Series: Development of New Players

By Mel Hohn

Over the past year, there has been a lot of emphasis placed on the development of shuffleboard: rating systems, A-B draw tournaments, A-B-C tournaments, and handicapped tournaments. Wow! Somebody must be taking this development thing seriously. And why not? The more players we get involved, the bigger the pots, more money for the sponsors and, generally speaking, more fun for everyone.

The amateur tournaments at the Fir Cone Tavern, Shelton, Washington, is another stepping stone in the development of shuffleboard. The second 1998 "Road to Reno" amateur draw tournament was held on April 25.



The first place trophies were won by local Sheltonites LeRoy Austin and Dean Johnson.



Billy Hagman of Shelton and Jerry Gibson from North Bend, Washington, were defeated in the finals and had to settle for second place.



The Olympian connection of Bob Ingman and Scott Axtell played a great tournament and came in third.

Six other players qualified for the Amateur Championship: Marty Simmons, Frank Givens, Bill Sullivan, and Francisco Ahumada from Shelton; Bruce Givens and Cheri Schnarrs (previously qualified and owner of Frankie's Sports Pub) from Olympia.

This was the second amateur tournament this year and we ran into a few problems, but all in all, everyone had a great time. The original date was published in The Board Talk and everywhere else. The Evergreen Shuffleboard Association had a tournament on the same days. The ESA asked if the date could be changed and somehow there was a major confusion over the date. The ESA showed the date on their calendar as a week earlier than the original date. We planned the event for a week later than original. This undoubtedly had an adverse effect on the turnout. During the first amateur tournament, we gave out trophies, paid for by a local sponsor, and money. For the second tournament, we lost our sponsor, therefore had only trophies to present the winners. This caused hard feelings among some of the players. We looked up the word "amateur" in the dictionary; for those of you who are still upset, look it up.

At the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, we believe strongly in developing new players. There are a few older shufflers who have created some really good players. Just about three years ago, a couple of guys showed up and wanted to learn to play. Dick Doak explained to these guys how the game is played, and how to hold the weights. Two years later, these same two new players won the Div. II North



American Championship at Reno. Grant Manning and Mel Hohn won the games, but they didn't do it alone. Dick Doak got them started. Ed Olson, who no longer plays because he let his pride get in the way (Ed, if you ever decide to play again, there's a cold Kingsbury in the cooler for you) spent hours helping with how and when to make a shot. And, LeRoy Austin shared his wealth of knowledge and time

teaching the game. This is why we are so excited about the amateur tournaments.

Special thanks to the tournament director, Jeff Adams, who provided the guidance and patience to keep things moving, and to Jeanette Hohn who provided the excellent food to nourish the players.

The next amateur tournament is scheduled for July 25-26 and is open to all players rated 3 or higher.

### ***In Memory of Shufflers Past***

*If you would like to pay tribute to the memory of a shuffler in your area who has passed on, this space is available to you at \$5 for each space. Send to: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. We suggest you match that \$5 with a donation to your state or national Hall of Fame*



### ***In Memory of Three Wonderful Contributors to Our Sport:***

● **MARY BOGART** who kept the Retiree League going

● **"SUPER SUB" BILL FORSYTH**

*Both from The Club Car*

● **STAN DEDIC**, long-time league player from the Shiawassee County Conservation Club

*We lost them all this past year. All who knew them -- loved them.*

*Fondly remembered by Friends at The Club Car,  
Durand, Michigan*

*In Memory of*  
**BILLY CHILES**  
*The Posthumus'*

*In Memory of*  
**DICK "VICTORY" VANMETRE**  
*The Posthumus'*

*In Memory of*  
**BRIAN MULHOLLAND**  
*The Posthumus'*

*In Memory of*  
**PATSY FISHER**  
*The Posthumus'*

*This space available for  
memorials for \$5.  
Inquire regarding larger space.*

*In Memory of all who have left for shuffleboard  
heaven....  
Please, don't put my name on the board yet!  
Anonymous*

## Upcoming Events (WASHINGTON)

*continued from Page 10)*

### OPEN DOUBLES, TIM'S TIMBER TAVERN, KELSO, JULY 11-12

Tim's Timber Tavern, 213 Allen St., Kelso, will host an open doubles tournament on July 11-12. Action will start on Friday night, \$20 per player. Players must be signed up and paid by 6:30 p.m. with play beginning at 7 p.m.

The main event, \$50 per team, begins with the sale at 10 a.m. Saturday and play immediately following. Payoff will be 55-30-10-5. Money will be added according to participation. Food will be served on Saturday.

Suggested lodging is the Kelso Inn, 360-636-4610.

For information, call tournament director Maradee (Maude) Thomas, or host Tim Bonner, 360-636-2627.

The next event at Tim's Timber Tavern will be an open doubles on Sept. 12-13.

### GRAND MASTERS PLUS AT WHISTLING OYSTER, QUILCENE, JULY 28-AUG. 2

This will be No. 9 for the popular Grand Masters Plus, hosted by Bill and Sandee at the Whistling Oyster, 29403 Hwy. 101, Quilcene, on July 28-Aug. 2. Up to \$3,000 will be added, based on the number of entries.

The first event will be a women's singles on Tuesday, July 28, \$50 entry fee. The sale is scheduled for noon with play immediately following. Format is 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, 21 pt. spot 4 in the loser's bracket. Based on 18 players, \$400 will be added.

An A/B/C draw is on the agenda for Wednesday, \$25 per player with no sale. Play will start at approximately noon and the format will be single game, double elimination, 15 point games. \$300 will be added based on 20 teams entering.

On Thursday, there will be an open singles, \$100 entry, with sale at noon and play immediately following. 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, 21 pt. spot 4 in the loser's bracket. \$1,000 will be added to this event based on 28 players.

An open draw, \$25 per player, will be held on Friday. No sale, single elimination, 15 pt. games. If there are 24 teams participating, \$300 will be added.

The big Grand Masters, \$150 per team, will start with a sale at noon on Saturday and continue through Sunday. 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, 21 pts. spot

4 in the loser's bracket. \$1000 will be added to this event based on 28 teams.

The Whistling Oyster's famous seafood beffet will be served FREE to participants on Saturday and Sunday, and \$4 breakfast buffets will be available on both days.

Some RV parking is available. Nearby lodging (it's limited, so reserve early) includes the Maple Grove, 360-765-3410; Bayshore, 360-796-4220; or Quilcene Hotel, 360-765-3447.

Because this tournament has grown every year, pre-registration is necessary. Entries will be accepted until July 25 or until the first 32 paid spots in each event have been filled. Use the enclosed registration form to save your spot. **No late entries will be accepted!**

For further information, call Bill Bailey at 360-765-9508 or 765-3436.

### California

### BILLY CHILES ABC DRAW MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, SILVER SPUR, JUNE 13

The 1st Annual ABC draw tournament dedicated to the memory of Billy Chiles will be held at the Silver Spur, 25041 East 9th St., San Bernardino, on June 13. The sale starts at noon with play beginning at 1 p.m.

For directions and/or information, call Jolene Lembke, 909-797-9685.

### 4TH OF JULY TOURNEY AT DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY, JULY 1-5

The Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, will host its 6th Annual 4th of July Tournament on July 1-5.

Events include an ABC Draw, \$25 per person, on July 1-2, with play starting after the sponsor sale on Wednesday night. The sale for the open doubles, \$200 per team entry, is scheduled for Thursday evening with play on Friday and Saturday. An open singles, \$100 entry, will be played on Saturday and Sunday, with the sale on Friday night. All events will be 2 out of 3, double elimination.

On Saturday afternoon, the 4th of July festivities will include a barbecue.

Lodging suggestions are the Best Western, 562-929-8831, or the Downey Inn, 562-862-5050.

For further information, call The Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943, or E-Mail Dixiedebbie@AOL.com

## **Notebook** *(Virgin continued from Page 2)*

Jones' butt bent over a shuffleboard table, I knew I wanted to hang around, so I just might as well learn to play the game!

By the way, Rick Yingst and I won second at the Heartland Handicap Tournament in Del City at the American Legion. It was so much fun and Rick is great to play with -- so calm and cool!

Sue (The X Virgin) Lewis, Midwest City, Oklahoma

P.S.: Some of this story was not true. The heart failure and being dead for eight seconds was true. Winning second place with Rick Yingst was true. The rest was made up just to make the story more interesting.

*It's always a delight to get one of your contributions, Sue. We wish we had a cartoonist on staff to illustrate your after-death experience. Because we know the people you visualized, we could actually "see" all of you skipping down the sidewalks of Boston and it was hilarious! You take good care of that heart of yours so you can continue your "X-Virgin" stories. We look forward to seeing you in Del City in July.*

## **Thanks for our Shuffleboard Network Family**

Our many thank-yous over the years to you are always rewarded back to us. When we look in our little barn mailbox and see our Board Talk paper, it seems to be asking: "Take me home because I'm filled with the newest happenings."

Some of the articles are uplifting, some are past, some are present, some are future news. We also hear of sad happenings. These types of things make us a true network family and strangely enough, we never met one another. But the emotions are felt in spirit. Your world of caring to all of us in all parts of the U.S. is vastly difficult because pleasing everyone can be an overwhelming job. You surely deserve the love, care and awards of both material and lasting joys and treasures.

Every time I see our pictures in The Board Talk, I think about all your work and I say a prayer of thanks.

Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Maryland

*For those of you who don't know Brenda, she is a beautiful lady (both inside and out) and a true-blue supporter of shuffleboard activities on the East Coast. Not only does she provide us with professional photos, she also sends us personal greetings for every holiday and sometimes in between. Al Stewart might believe she, like us, has stock in Hallmark or some other greeting card company. Thanks, Brenda!*

## **News from The Dixie Belle**

The last two months have certainly been eventful for Dixie Belle players. In April, we were all present and playing at the first tournament put on at Oskar's in Bellflower. I'm proud to say that the ladies of the Dixie Belle and Oskar's bars far outnumbered the local men on the final six winning teams, with Jan Manes, Mary Lou Deering and Doreen Hawthorne taking first, second and third respectively, and Joanie Swenson and Chris Brown on the fifth/sixth place teams (boy, am I going to hear about this!).

Of course, we were all part of the packed room for the induction of Bellflower Bruce Hale into the California State Hall of Fame. A very emotional, but very special event.

Next on the agenda for the traveling Dixie Belle squad was the tournament at Family Billiards, The Bar, in Phoenix, Arizona. We lost a couple of people before we started, but finally 14 of us arrived, 12 players and a cheering section of two. Immediately made welcome by Al Salazar, Bob Lewis, and the rest of the gang there, we proceeded to get into play. It was a great tournament put on by great people. The food was delicious, the play competitive, and the party animals among us were contented. We managed to lose only one car on the way home, but Larry Cole strolled into the Belle finally at 7 p.m. Monday night, only 24 hours later than the rest of us!

In the final tally, we came home with five winners (AB Draw -- Chris Brown, first place; Wes Eades, second place; Sandy Flood, third place; Paul Weber, fourth place; ABC Draw -- Jim Anderson, second place).

With Mr. G's and Blinky's tournaments over Memorial Day weekend, the Billy Chiles Memorial Tournament in San Bernardino in June, the Spring Charity Golf Tournament (supported heavily by shuffleboarders), and the Dixie Belle's 4th of July Tournament, we plan to be playing and traveling a lot in the coming two months.

Dixie Debbie has been making a few changes around the Belle with food and entertainment, and plans to bring in a sixth board for the 4th of July Tournament. It looks to be an outstanding event, as always.

Hope to see you on the road somewhere soon.

Chris Brown for Dixie Debbie, Wes and Eleen, Jimmy and Evie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

*Congratulations to all the Dixie Belle gang for the important role they played in the induction of Bellflower Bruce Hale. A salute, too, for supporting the great group of people in Phoenix by participating in their tournament. Our best wishes for a successful 4th of July tournament.*

## Todd/Casula Take First at Rendezvous's Draw

By Dick Gorman

Lynn and Joe Hudak like shuffleboard and have held several one-day tournaments at their Rendezvous Inn, Perryville, Maryland. The last events were successful and they decided to improve. They have two boards and try to draw the crowd that likes to have a good time. One board left something to be desired and, after several futile efforts to improve it, they gave up and had it refinished. What a difference and what an improvement! This was all done under the watchful eye of shuffleboard enthusiast Jim Dennis.

On April 19, a one-day draw partner limited calcutta event was scheduled to test the newly-refinished board. The crowd wasn't the greatest, but boy, did they have a good time, thanks to hosts Lynn and Joe and tournament director Jim Dennis.

The event went off without a hitch with bartender Bill Cook taking the advanced registrations. For a Sunday afternoon, it wasn't a bad way to win almost \$500.

Taking first-place was first-time bigger tournament winner Wayne Todd of Newark, Delaware (nephew of the famed Scratch Todd) and his partner, well-known Don Casula of Wilmington, Delaware. Second place money went to Curtis Dean, Rising Sun, Maryland, and his partner, Lindsay Hall of Baltimore.

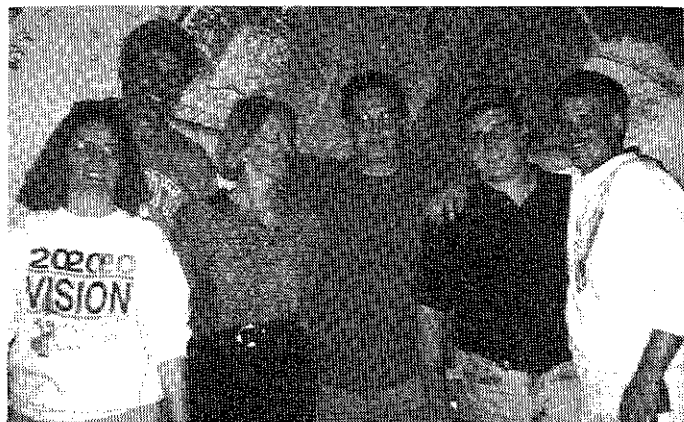
There was more than money involved! A menu offered to all participants -- free -- included roast beef, roast turkey and fresh broiled trout (caught the day before by host Joe -- one hellava fisherman to catch that much for that gang). Of course, all the vegetables, potatoes, etc. went with it. Barmaid Karen made sure everyone kept their whistles wet and that people were comfortable in their more-than-adequate seating place.

If you are heading south or north on I-95, a great place to stop is the Rendezvous Inn in Perryville, easy on-off exit about 1-1/2 miles for absolutely great food (try the crabcakes!) and a game of shuffleboard, if you want it.

## Spring Fling at My Way

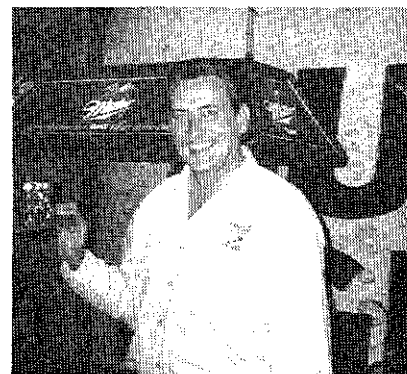
By Annie Sloger

The My Way Lounge in Omaha, Nebraska, hosted an open doubles handicapped tournament on April 17-18. Don Zahm, who did the handicapping, did a great job of running a smooth tournament. Thanks to Kevin Higbee, owner of the My Way, for adding money to the pot, and for supplying the players and fans with food.



Winners of the My Way handicapped doubles were: Shawn Gosnell and Doug "Cuz" Speckman (right), first place; Don Zahm and Shelly Meyer (left), second place; Jay Watson and Barb Zahm (no, she's not Don's wife -- center), third place.

A special award was also given to Jim Keller. Jim, who helped organize the Classic "A" League, as well as being its president for the past seven years, stepped down this year.



Jim was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1996, a well-deserved award. Not only is Jim a great player, but he is also a great teacher of the game. He has taken many players under his wing and taught them a lot, myself included. Thanks, Jim, for everything you've done for the sport of shuffleboard. By the way, enjoy the golf club you also received.

## ATTENTION RATERS!

Due to the lack of response on the latest addendum to the Bowers Rating System, Ron and Debbie have decided to publish once a year (July) and omit the mid-year addendum. Your ratings are due July 1. **You are welcome to bring them to the Southwest Open and give them to the Bowers at that time.**

**It is important** that even though you feel the players' ratings are correct, you must circle them to indicate that you agree. Otherwise, your "vote" does not count. If you are unable to be in Del City, Oklahoma, for the Southwest Open, send your ratings to: Bowers Rating System, 1111 Byers Lane, Austin, TX 78753 (phone: 512-835-7256).

Remember, you can receive the Bowers Rating on the web: [www.jump.net/~ronbowers](http://www.jump.net/~ronbowers)

# Oskar's Draws Record Entries for Inaugural Event

By Joanie Swenson

They say dynamite comes in small packages and Oskar's in Bellflower, California, has "exploded" into The World of Shuffleboard with its first tournament, held April 17-19. A record 21 teams in the Southern California area played in an ABC draw for total prize money of \$6155.



Host Oskar presents the fat envelope to the top teams: Jay Wilson, Andy Brorsen and Jan Manes, 1st; Tony Soza, Marylou Deering and Marie Coulter, 2nd; Paul Elliot, Tony Bastanchury and Doreen Hawthorne, 3rd.

Fourth place went to Dudley Hutcherson, Larry Newell and Siobhan Posthumus. The teams of John Fisher, Chris Brown and Mick Diana, and Joanie Swenson, Kathy Thomas and Mike Huber tied for fifth and sixth places.

The main attraction of this event was the Hall of Fame induction of Bellflower Bruce Hale. Bruce was so surprised by the many people who showed up to watch and participate in his induction, but why? He has done so much for shuffleboard and other things. He has touched so many of us in so many ways with his kindness and generosity. Bruce is truly an inspiration to all of us and it showed at the induction. People from all over California were here: Rick and Kathy Thomas from Santa Clara, Steve Floyd and his gang from Visalia, AZ Turnbo and Don Cox from Northern California, Andy Brorsen from Stockton, Dudley and Jennifer Hutcherson from San Diego, and all our friends from Huntington Beach, Orange County, San Bernardino, Temecula, Downey, and Bellflower.

On Friday and Saturday nights, Oskar's had Karaoke and what a delight it was to hear some of the Coulter Clan sing. If you didn't know Jim Coulter was singing, you may have thought Johnny Cash was live in concert!

We have a lot of people to thank for making this

tournament so successful. First of all, Bob Brunskill and Vern Booth for letting Oskar's host their annual Spring Tournament and what a great job they did in running the event. To Jim Anderson for coming down Friday morning to help out with the boards, and to Mike Aulph for taking care of the boards for the last couple of months. To Paul Weber for running the auction, Anna Brunskill for bringing many dishes to the buffet (Anna has always been a big contributor to many of the buffets in Southern California and what a great cook she is), and to Ernie Alvarez who did a great job cooking the Carne Asada and barbecue beef we all enjoyed on Saturday. Ernie's wife also made a cake in honor of Bellflower Bruce. The cake had a picture of Bruce holding roses. Somehow, someone sat something down on the box and ruined the picture before we brought it out. But the cake was delicious anyway. Many, many thanks to everyone else who brought dishes to the buffet and to everyone who played in the tournament.

## What Else is Happening at Oskar's?

Here's some background information on what's been happening at Oskar's since the boards arrived. On Thursday nights, we have an in-house league that just ended. First place honors went to the team of Jay Kimble, Sandy Flood, Audree Rasmussen, Allan Healey, Mike Ramos and Rick Kvernen. Our second in-house league will be starting soon and we're looking forward to another great season.

On Saturday nights, we have a Meat Shoot which attracts as many as 28 players. Some of the people who have won the steaks given away by Oskar's keep coming back for more. As Jay Wilson would say, they are grrrrreat!

At the beginning of this article, I said dynamite comes in small packages. Everyone who has met Oskar knows he stands about 5 feet tall. He may be small in size, but he is big in hospitality and making sure his customers are well taken care of.

The last Saturday of each month, Oskar's holds a birthday party for all the birthdays for that month. Bring yourself and your friends and the party is on them, with a buffet and cake to celebrate the occasion.

We are looking forward to holding more tournaments in the future, and other fun things for the customers. If you're in town visiting, stop by Oskar's. Many nights we have players shooting round robins, or just stop by to say Hello.

Oskar's is located at 13418 Woodruff Avenue in Bellflower. Check the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." in this issue. Oskar's is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.



# Best Ever Bill Gibbs Memorial Tourney in Arizona

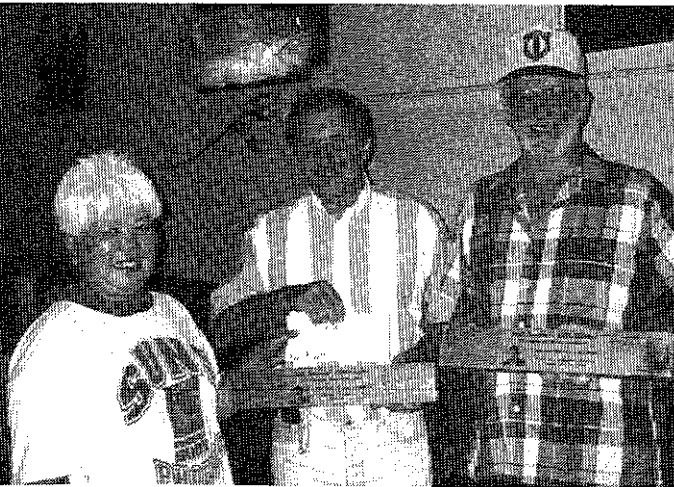
By Al Salazar

The 3rd Annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Tournament was held at Family Billiards (The Bar) in Glendale, Arizona, on April 24-26. Thanks to the participation of nine players from Southern California's Dixie Belle and eight players from the Santa Clara and Sacramento areas, it was off its best start ever. It is always a pleasure to see these friends and their families.

The A-B draw partners event started things off with 24 teams on Friday night and finished up on Saturday. This was a single game, double elimination format.



*Tournament official Alice Arredondo presents trophies and money to first-place finishers Chris Brown from the Dixie Belle and local shooter Wendell Herbison.*



*They had to double dip second place finishers Phil Gardner from Arizona/Oklahoma and Wes Eades, former owner of the Dixie Belle.*

Frank Monarrez of Arizona and Sandy Flood of California were third, and Paul Weber of Bellflower and John Ringo of Arizona were a close fourth.

Paul Weber handled the sale for the ABC and the open doubles on Saturday. Twelve teams competed in the single game, double elimination ABC event with \$2000 in prize money.



*The team of (from left) Mike Piper, Al Salazar and Clint Hibbs, all local Arizona "boys," were winners of the ABC event.*

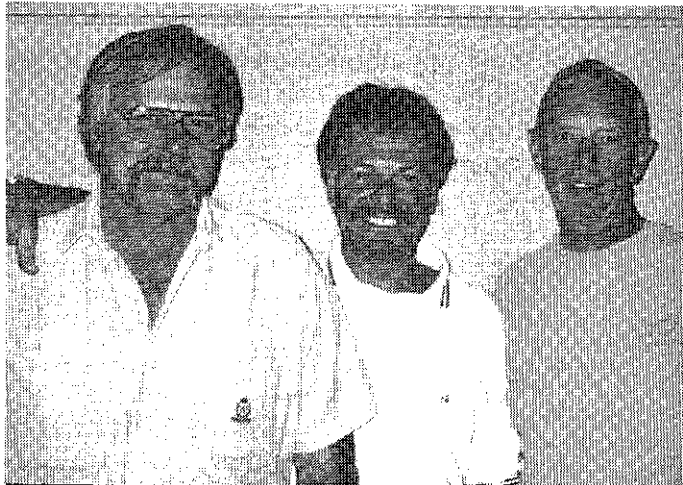


*They double-dipped the team of (from left) Nick Chaffin, Sacramento, Kevin (owner of Family Billiards) and Jim Anderson of The Dixie Belle.*



*Taking third were (from left) Paul Massina and Bill Thomas of Arizona and Chris Wayt of Santa Clara.*



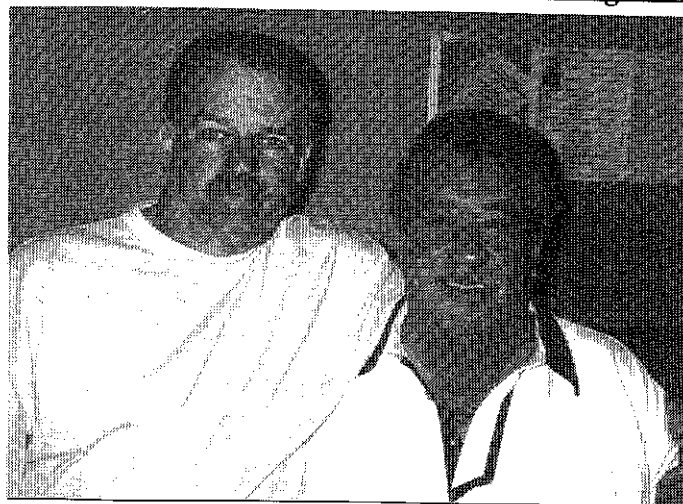


Finishing fourth in the ABC event were (from left): Ted Canada and Jim Stewart of Arizona and Bob Shirley of Washington.

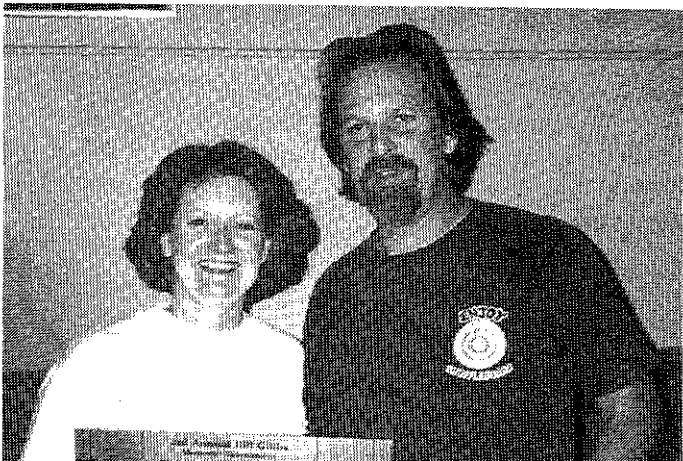
Next was the open doubles. Twelve teams matched their skills for the \$2300 pot in the best of three, double elimination format.



At the end, it was Phil Gardner and Nick Chaffin hanging tough all the way in the winners' bracket.



Heavy favorites Hal Perry and George Camara of California settled for second.



Cindy Clark and Mickey Lewis, both of Arizona, took the third spot.

Thanks to all of the participants and tournament personnel who made this the best Bill Gibbs Memorial to date.

## Avon's Toledo Open Another First-Class Tournament

If you haven't been to Avon's UAW Local 14 in Toledo, Ohio, for a tournament, you are missing out. Lots of room, great boards, very reasonably priced food and drinks, along with a very friendly host, Lavonne Bundy, who is working hard to put on first-class tournaments. This year's Toledo Open on April 17-19 was no exception.

"The turnout could have (and should have) been better," reports John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation. "Larry Brown wrote a great letter in last month's issue of The Board Talk about the fact that there were recently three tournaments in Indiana on the same weekend. This was the same weekend as the Toledo Open. At the time the dates for the Toledo Open first appeared in The Board Talk, there were no Indiana tournaments listed for that weekend.

"It seems that the time has come for the players and bar owners from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio to

get together and work out these scheduling problems. The Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (Pacific Northwest), now in its fourth year, has worked out an annual schedule that has benefitted everyone. Hope this will happen in the Midwest as well," John said.

The first event was the A-B Draw, in which Jerry Bryant of Michigan won his second consecutive such event, this time with Terry Broka of Ohio. They defeated the team of Greg Broka of Ohio and Betty Parrish of Michigan in the finals. Third place went to Frank Edelin and Steve Braunfels, with fourth won by John McDermott and Dan Fortenberry, who was playing in his first tournament.

In the doubles, first place went to Chris Passariello and Bud Spier, both of Michigan. Second place went to Steve Braunfels and Phil McGrew of Ohio. This was Phil's first tournament in a couple years and it

(continued on Page 26)

## **Toledo Open** *(continued from Page 25)*

was good to see him out playing again. Greg Broka and Jim Stockmaster of Ohio finished in third, beating out the team of Roland Harkless and Martha Hall of Michigan.

John McDermott took home first place honors in the progressive entry singles by beating Greg Broka in the finals. Greg and fellow Toledo player, Steve Braunfels, who finished third, both finished in the money in all three events. Fourth place in the singles went to Chris Passariello.

### **MORE NOTEBOOK**

## **"On the Road Again" with Travelin' Glen**

I took a couple of months off for "Spring Vacation," so to speak. In March I went to Houston, Texas, to work for Joe Spratt in the shuffleboard refinishing and placement business. At that time, Joe had 50 boards in clubs and taverns across and beyond Houston. At 82 years young, Joe showed me a few tricks about the "chore" of refinishing boards.

All the players of Houston shoot at Danny's Sports Bar, so you can guess where I spent my weekends. Diana Hagen, Dale and Mary Koteras, Johnny Ballard,

one of the directors of the Houston Holiday Open, say that event is set up again for December at the same place and, listen to this, they're going to have more choices of liquor than one. That alone means a lot to the social drinkers.

I got to see Howard Mouton and talk of the old times, and Flynt Preston, a sort of newcomer and he's almost there. It seems no matter who he plays, he shoots well and should be in the "Big Time" before this year is out. Another up-and-comer is Dave, a friend of Diana. Diana teaches all who ask and I'm sure we're be hearing about Dave before the year is over.

It was a real pleasure to be at the Bourbon tournament and be part of the induction of Emmett Wilcox into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He was the first and a very worthy recipient of this great honor. I anticipate much more activity by the Indiana Committee because they have many individuals who should be inducted.

By the time you read this, Bobby Goldsmith will be inducted into the California Hall of Fame at Mr. G's in Visalia over the Memorial weekend. The California Committee is doing a great job of getting all the deserving players of their state inducted. Bobby will be the third this year. Great job! Who would think anything else with the dedicated and talented people they have on their committee? A great crew!

**Balloon Inn**  
 (303) 425-9823 • 2 BOARDS  
 6440 WADSWORTH  
 ARVADA, CO. 80003

## **The tradition continues at The Balloon Inn**

### **9TH ANNUAL JUNE OPEN DOUBLES TOURNAMENT**

**HOSTED BY NEW OWNERS: HARRY & DIANA STONE,  
 BARBARA (CEE CEE) AND GLENN CHAVEZ**

**JUNE 12-14, FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**Bring Your Own Partner, \$120 per team**

**2 out of 3, double elimination**

**Sale on Friday, June 12, 8 p.m.**

**Play starts at noon on Saturday**

**Tournament Director:**

**Jody Slack**

**For Information, call: 303-421-9332  
 or 303-425-9823**

I have known Bobby Goldsmith since around 1969-70, when Rod Cameron and I came by the Old Hut, it was called then, and met Bobby. We went back one time and played Hal Perry and Bobby for an undisclosed amount of money. We beat Bob and Hal that session, but the story lives on...

Bobby got shuffleboard going in the '60s and staged a first of its kind tournament in a fairgrounds building. I think he said they had 16 boards and it was a team event. Bob said players didn't send their entries in until the day before the event and he got a little nervous. But the money came in and history was made. He promoted and played the game until the late '70s. He was always there and you could get action anytime you went to Visalia. You can still get action there. Through Bob's coaching, there is some great players there and many other players along the West Coast. I think the California Hall of Fame picked the right one. Congratulations to Bobby Goldsmith on a job well done.

We were saddened to hear the news of Denny Busch's death. I met him at the doubles at the Spurs Club in Oklahoma City, his first major tournament. I signed him up for his first Board Talk. We remained friends from then on. I played with him as a doubles partner at one of The Shuffleboard Federation's tournaments in Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as Bourbon, where we finished second.

Denny was a kind and considerate man. He always had a smile and a hand-shake for everyone. I remember him calling me an "Old Horse" when I made a combo or drove a weight. He became a great player over the years and won the "King of the Hill" two or three times in Colorado. He was a supporter of the game. Whenever you saw Denny, you saw a game going. I never heard him complain nor saw him quit until the game closed down.

We will miss you, Denny.

When I was in Texas, Gwen Brady of Amarillo reminded me that she bought the first Hall of Fame jacket we had for sale. This was some time ago and she said she couldn't find it in The Board Talk. I thought I had put in it, but even I make a mistake. Thanks, Gwen, a loyal supporter.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Boy, that Joe Spratt sure does put the rest of us to shame, doesn't he? We join in your salute to Bobby Goldsmith. Because his induction happened after we went to press with this issue, coverage will be in the July edition.*

---

***Your News & Views are welcome!***  
***Contributions must be received by the 15th***  
***of each month.***

---

## **Update on Jean Cockrum**

I would like to update you on my wife, Jean. There has been some progress. She can swallow, she knows everyone and what's going on. She can talk pretty good now, but at this point, she cannot read or write. There's still a ways to go. They are saying she will move from the hospital to a Rehab Center where she could stay up to three months.

She could say thanks to all the folks who have called and sent cards. I would also like to thank all you folks for your concern for a sweet old lady who can't play a lick of shuffleboard.

Woodie Cockrum, Columbia, Missouri

*Readers, check the "As The Puck Turns" column on Page 6 and send Jean a note.*

## **Some Great Ideas from Siobhan**

First, I would like to say that the idea for "In Memory of Shufflers Past" is truly a great one. I think it would be a nice idea for people to communicate throughout the year to shufflers they have met at some of the "big" tourneys, to say hello, get well, happy birthday, Merry Christmas, etc.

Second, I would like to thank you and your helpers for publishing this informative newsletter/magazine.

Finally, I would like to introduce another idea. My idea is to have a column where players can write in to ask questions or just make statements and let other shufflers respond to their letters. Questions could be regarding just about anything from plays to people to where's the best action in such and such town -- only publishing their initials and state, so people won't be embarrassed to write or respond. Idea for a title: "Ask Your Fellow Shufflers."

Siobhan Posthumus, Huntington Beach, California

*The "In Memory" feature was the idea of Betty Parrish, a member of the Michigan Hall of Fame Committee, and we're happy that folks are using it.*

*Thanks for your kind words. Since we don't have any helpers other than folks like you, your thoughts at deadline time, when we're frazzled and questioning if it's all worth it, are especially welcome.*

*We have tried a version of your fine ideas in the past, by introducing a classified section, an "Ask the Pros" column, and a "Best Place to Play" feature. They all failed because of a lack of response, but maybe it's time to try them again. Thanks for sharing your ideas. We're sure willing to try -- and we like your suggested title. You readers: start us off!*