

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert
Las Vegas, Nevada*

(In last month's episode, Eddie followed through on his commitment to go "on the road" with Long Beach Lil. When he arrived at the L.A.X. Airport, he got more than he bargained for when Lil gave him a very warm welcome. "This is either too good to be true -- or too true to be good," he thought. He felt like he had one foot in Heaven -- but the other one felt pretty hot!.)

Eddie and Lil finally got out of the airport. On the drive over to Lil's place, she gave Eddie a brief outline of what her travel plan was for the trip. She said she didn't want him to play in L.A. She wanted to save that for last. Her plan would take them first to Texas, then Michigan. From there, they would then try the East, or double back to Washington/Oregon, and work their way down the West Coast.

There was an "airfare war" on at that time and they had a very good bankroll between them, so Lil decided to fly, and then rent cars at their destinations. She had already booked their first two legs: to Dallas/Fort Worth, and Michigan. They would leave in the morning.

After they got to Lil's place, a spacious condo in Long Beach, Eddie settled in a little. He stowed his gear in the guest bedroom. Lil fixed them a drink then and they relaxed in her comfortably laid-out living room. Her whole place was really nice. They made plans to take a swim, and a spa later that evening. Lil reaffirmed that she didn't want Eddie even near a shuffleboard in the L.A. area before they left; that would come later. She wanted him to get the experience of the trip first. She also explained that the P.C.S.A. tournament in Las Vegas would be coming up, just about the time their trip would end. That was the big one!

Later, they went to a nice restaurant for dinner. Eddie was starting to relax and enjoy himself. After they got home, Lil suggested they change clothes and take that swim they had talked about.

Lil wore a robe to the pool and, when she took it off, Eddie saw what a knockout shape she really had. He knew then how strong a challenge it was going to be to remain faithful to Shelli.

There was a slight chill in the air, so the heated pool really felt good. After they swam for a while, they decided to try the steaming spa. They were close then, and Lil began to tell Eddie a little bit about her past. She said she was divorced, and was left with a comfortable settlement. She worked only when she wanted to -- as an accountant. She went on to say her "ex" owned a string of successful bars and restaurants in the city, and his name was Tony

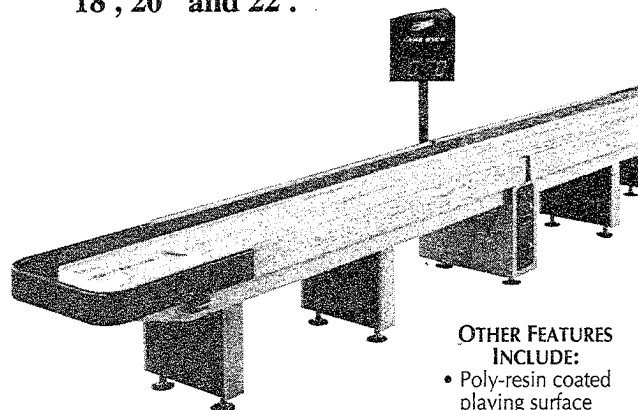
Russo. She said she had to be a little careful because he was very jealous -- and also very "connected."

It turned out to be a very fine night. They both focussed on the trip and the rest of their discussion was centered on their plans. This was fine with Eddie. He felt that if Lil would have come on strong at this point -- all his other plans may not have meant anything. She stuck to business...for reasons that Eddie would learn later.

In the morning, Lil called and arranged for a cab to take them to the airport. On the drive over, Eddie thought about how things were going so far. Not bad, really. In

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fact, he felt that it couldn't be better even if he had planned things himself.

The check-in and boarding went smoothly after they arrived. The sun was shining brightly as the plane broke ground and they began their climb-out. After they levelled out, and the flight attendant brought them their breakfast trays, Lil began to brief Eddie about the hustle. She began to explain some of the secret things, as she had promised (but she wanted them airborne and underway first). She started by asking him a question.

"Eddie, what's the difference between a hustler and a good 'con-man'?" Eddie replied: "Well, I always thought they were the same." Lil answered by saying: "No, wrong answer, Champ. The difference between the two is that the hustler has to leave town right away, after the deal goes down. But a good con-man -- now, he can stick around as long as he wants to, because he's so slick, the 'marks' can't even figure out what went down." She went on: "Now, we're 'hustlers,' Eddie, and we're going to have to move fast after we do our thing."

Then she asked him some more questions: "Have you ever heard of something called 'Tar-tar' -- or what effect common table salt can have on a game? Or how about a scam called the 'double-bet,' or 'push-bet,' Eddie?"

Eddie was baffled again and said so. Lil replied: "Well, O.K., my man -- here's how it works....."

How does it work? Tune in to the next episode of Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return, in the February issue to find out. And, remember, when you see Balboa Ron at the PCSA Tournament in Vegas, please tell him how much you enjoy his Frisco Eddie series.

DIXIE BELLE TOURNEY

(Continued from Page 8)

competition just a little more interesting. Then, there was Freddy Thumann; Freddy just gives a whole new meaning to the word fun," said Dixie Debbie.

"Last, but not least, we thank each and every player who participated in our Thanksgiving tournament." *(See more news from Dixie Debbie in Notebook.)*

CHANCE'S "R" 1ST ANNUAL OPEN DOUBLES, JAN. 14

Chance's "R," 3421 S. Walnut, Muncie, Indiana, will host its 1st Annual Open Doubles on Jan. 14. \$50 per team entry fee, with a limit of 64 teams. The double elimination event will be played on four boards and the payout will be 50-30-15-5.

The sponsor sale will start at 11 a.m., with play immediately following. Play will stop at 2 a.m. Sunday morning and will resume at noon if necessary.

For information, call hosts Bob and Karen Schounce, 317-284-0855; or tournament directors Steve Hart, 317-485-4368; Bob Brown Sr., 219-726-9408.

3-EVENT TOURNEY AT STICK'S, JAN. 20-22

Stick's Billiards, 13201 Pond Springs Rd., Austin, Texas, will host a three-event tournament on Jan. 20-22.

Action will start Friday night with an open draw, \$10 entry fee, single game, single elimination, limited to 32 entries. At noon on Saturday, the bring partner event will start, \$60 per team entry and no pros and 0's may be partners. Single game, double elimination, limited to 16 teams. Stick's will add \$250 to this pot.

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

For information, contact Nonie at Stick's, 512-335-9177.

HUDDLE'S 2ND ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN, MAR. 25-26

The 2nd Annual Florida Open will again be held at the Huddle's Sports Cafe, 7100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, Florida. Saturday is a bring partner doubles competition with a \$50 per team entry fee. Sunday is the singles competition and a \$50 per player entry fee. Both events are single game, double elimination, with sponsor sales prior to each.

Be sure to come early and participate in the open board play and draw partner jackpots all day and all night.

For directions, lodging recommendations, and registration information, contact host Charlie Fisher at 305-985-8382, or Marty Allen at 407-471-4053.

Watch for a flyer in the February issue and post it at your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this big event.

3RD OF BEEF'S SERIES OF 5 SET FOR JAN. 21

Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana, will host its 3rd in the Series of 5 tournaments on Jan. 21. Entry is \$40, with sales at 11 a.m. Payback is 50%-4 points; 2nd, 30%, 3 points; 3rd, 15%, 2 points; and 4th, 5%, 1 point. At stake is a \$2000 pot at the end of the series. For information, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965.

Last we heard, Bobby Voorhis and Dave Boaz were leading the field of contenders. But that could change!