

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Tacoma Tim was taking Eddie and Lil to their "moment of decision" -- where would they go for their next shuffleboard adventure?)

Tim's Bronco was approaching Interstate 5. They were on 512 and still hadn't made up their minds which way they wanted to go. Tacoma/Seattle was on their right, and Olympia and several other towns further south were on their left.

Lil decided to flip a coin. Eddie would call it. It came up "heads" (which was always Eddie's call). He pondered for a moment....then said: "I've never really seen the Seattle area except for the airport and the drive to Puyallup. Why don't we hang a right and give it a shot, O.K.?" Everyone was in agreement to that, so Tim swung onto the freeway and headed north.

Eddie wasn't exactly sure why he had decided to return to Seattle. He wondered to himself if that pretty girl named Tammi he met at the swimming pool when they were in Texas may subconsciously have had something to do with it. After all, she had said to look her up if he ever got in the area. He dismissed the fleeting notion then and said: "Yo, Tim, how are we going to work this thing?"

Tim replied: "Well, there's a spot up the road a ways that has the best action. It's called Gee Bee's. It's the weekend, so they'll have some kind of play going on. They always do."

They drove for about 30 minutes and then Tim exited the freeway. In about five minutes, he pulled into a parking lot and said: "This is it, guys. Let me go in by myself first and check the action. I'll be back in a few minutes."

Eddie could sense that feeling of excitement he was feeling more and more just before he was going to shoot. His nerves and senses were starting to peak. It was a wonderful sensation! After a minute or two, Tim came to the doorway and motioned for them to come up. They joined him just outside the entrance way. He told them that there was a lot of action going on inside and that they'd find it very interesting.

They all entered the place then, and no sooner than Lil got inside, she was acknowledged by several of the players. There were two of the players that Lil knew didn't come from that part of the country, and she surmised that they were there for the same reason she and Eddie were.

They waved to her and Tim between shots and hollered "hellos." Lil and Tim knew these guys were probably "trippin'" around the Northwest area, much the same as she and Eddie were. The one was of average

height, and the other was taller. They both wore glasses. They were playing a game of doubles with a couple of the local players and it was obvious that they had them way out-classed.

The three of them found seats and, after they got settled and had ordered their drinks, the taller of the two men came up to Lil and said: "Long Beach Lil, it's good to see you. It's been a long time." Lil extended her hand as she replied: "Well, now, Indiana Joe, I see you've got your sidekick, 'The Wrapper,' with you." The small talk ended when it was Joe's turn to shoot. The other one came up then and shook hands with Lil and Tim.

Now, these two were hustlers -- good hustlers, and Lil knew she'd have to scheme pretty good if they were going to get out of here with a score. Neither of them knew Eddie. That was obvious when they didn't even pay any attention to him when they entered. Her brain was starting to click now, almost instinctively. This was the part of the action she enjoyed almost as much as lagging out to win a game! Most of any game in these types of situations was won or lost -- even before the quarters went into the slot.

Indiana and Wrapper's game was just about over. There were no challengers because everyone knew they couldn't beat those guys, and much better players were now on the scene. Lil made her move then by placing two quarters near the center of the table and saying: "You two don't mind if we give you a challenge here, do you?" They both smiled and said: "No problem." They knew Tim hadn't competed seriously for a long time, so they figured they wouldn't have any trouble with him in the action.

The game ended with the locals losing by a good margin. Lil very quietly clued Eddie in on the action while the board was being wiped. She told him that one of these guys was from the Midwest and the other was from the Northeast part of the country, and that they teamed up from time to time. She told him to just look "innocent" and not let on anything about himself personally. Eddie asked her: "This isn't going to be a repeat of Texas or anything like that, is it?" She said: "Not this time, sweetheart. These two are pros. They'll take every penny we've got if they can....but there won't be any trouble. You just act like a bystander, O.K.?"

Eddie could barely overhear the other two guys as they were deciding on their game plan. They were convinced they wouldn't have any trouble because of Tim being in the game. They decided that the shorter one would play Tim and the other would go up against Lil.

Eddie felt kind of left out as he saw the board being waxed, and the quarters go in the slot. He wanted in the

action very badly. Just as the toss was being made, Eddie turned to the bartender and ordered a shot of Wild Turkey with a beer chaser.

He figured that, if he couldn't play one way, he would just play.....a different way.

-- TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH --

Balboa Ron wishes all of his many fans a very Happy New Year and sends special thanks to Ady Snyder and Glen Davidson (they'll know why). The editors encourage all you who will be at the PCSA Extravaganza in Vegas to take a minute to thank Ron for his many contributions.



Happy New Year

*Our wish is for a year of gentleness and peace for the
World of Shuffleboard.*

George & Donna Wilber

THE BOARD TALK

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