

# The Board Talk

News and Views  
from the World  
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 2

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 3206  
Alfred Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-321-0008.

February 1984

## The Hammer

You don't give birth to anything without labor pains and the birthing of *The Board Talk* was no exception. Like most births, the conceiving was fun...planting the seed of an idea, getting someone to share in the conception, gathering positive feedback for an unborn product, visualizing the enthusiastic greeting for the new "baby"...Yes! That part was great fun!

The actual birthing process was something else. First of all, could we afford to have this child? (Will shuffleboard sponsors respond with ad revenue support?) Second, what would the newborn's first words be? (Writing is easy; all you have to do is sit down at the typewriter and open a vein!) Third, what should it look like? (It must be pleasing to both players and sponsors.) Fourth, how do we get it delivered? (A real challenge when Mother Nature decides to throw up some roadblocks!) In short, *The Board Talk* labor pains were, indeed, painful.

We had some "midwives" during the birthing process, however, that pulled it through and they're deserving of some special recognition.

There were the shuffleboard sponsors who said, "Yes, it's a good idea; I'll support it with my ads."

There was Bob Gross, *Lansing State Journal* sports writer, who said, "Yes, I'll write a column for your first issue."

There was Michigan Farm Bureau typographer and graphic designer Cathy Kirvan who said, "Yes, I'll give up my vacation time to get this first issue of *Board Talk* off the ground."

There was John McDermott who said, "Yes, I'll get you some Pontiac area news and standings and help deliver the new baby to sponsors and players in that part of the state."

There was Bill Bogle and his crew from Farm Bureau's print shop who said, "Yes, we'll work it into our schedule to meet your deadline."

It was these people, without whose assistance we'd still be thinking about this great idea for a shuffleboard newsletter, who should be sharing the phone calls and personal contact expressions of support I'm getting. Bless them all!

Whether this child lives or dies is still uncertain. Certainly, the will to live is there. The nourishment it will need is the continued support of shuffleboard sponsor advertising and the contributions of news and views from shuffleboard players. In most cases, the saying, "The ball's in your court" would be appropriate, but, in our situation...

YOU'VE got the hammer!

George Wilber, Editor

## Tourney Talk

The new shuffleboard year opened with a bang at A. J.'s Saloon (Pontiac) on Jan. 7-8, where 10 of Michigan's finest put up \$100 each for a chance to win a spot in the Las Vegas tournament.

Lee McDonald of Lansing captured first place and the title of Michigan's ambassador to the first official world championship shuffleboard tournament. Four Detroit shooters — Lou Herfi, John McDermott, John Myles and John Tischler — finished second through fifth respectively.

The tournament was played as a best 2 out of 3 double elimination and provided lots of exciting shuffleboard. The top two players, McDonald and Herfi, played each other three times, with all three matches going the distance.

The next weekend, 20 teams gathered at the Wagon Wheel Tavern (Lake Orion) for a mixed doubles event. The tournament was a double elimination with the winners on each board advancing to the finals and the runners-up on each board playing for third and fourth places.

The south board champs, Cheryl Collins and John McDermott, defeated the north board winners, Dennis Wilson and Elly Canterbury, two games to one. McDermott and Collins won the tournament by posting a 15-3 win in the final game, giving Wilson and Canterbury second-place honors. Phil and Lenny McGrue took third. The father-daughter team of Marv Foster and Shelly Usik took fourth.

**Correction:** *Buth Bone* took third place in the November singles tourney at A. J.'s Saloon.

## Upcoming Tournaments

- C.G.'s Lounge, Edmore, Feb. 4. Doubles tournament, double elimination, \$10 per team. Starts at 2 p.m.
- Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Feb. 10. Lake Orion/Pontiac Women versus Lansing Area Women, 7 p.m.
- Art's Bar, Lansing, Feb. 18-19. First four-person team event. Double elimination; best 4 out of 7 games. \$80 per team entry fee. See ad this issue. Lots of specials, including shuffleboarder breakfast on Saturday and buffet luncheon on Sunday.
- Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Feb. 25-26. Mixed doubles. Double elimination. \$10 per team. See ad this issue.
- Dublin House, Detroit, March 9-10. Doubles tournament, double elimination. At Detroit's newest shuffleboard bar. See ad this issue.
- Showboat, Las Vegas, April 19-22. U.S. shuffleboard championship doubles tournament. More information in next issue.

# Women in Shuffleboard — From Sidelines to Center Stage

By Donna Wilber

"Women are ruining the game of shuffleboard for men," joked one male participant in the Wagon Wheel's mixed doubles tournament on Jan. 14-15 at Lake Orion. "They're getting so good, they're damaging our egos."

Women are, indeed, proving that skill, rather than physical prowess, can make them keen competitors on the boards. The number of women who are finding that shuffleboard is a sport that can move them out of the spectator seats into active participation is steadily increasing.

And, just as it's a sport that breaks the sex barrier, it is also a sport that breaks the age barrier. . . .

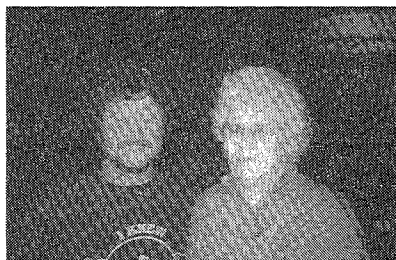
## Fun — and Good Therapy

Affectionately known as Grandma by the Wagon Wheel crowd, lively 81-year-old Elsie Lile was playing in her first tournament and having "a thrilling time." She'd been introduced to the game just a year ago by her daughter, Pat Bayes, and Pat's husband, Leroy, Wagon Wheel proprietors. She played a few times "just for fun" and then became a member of Pat's women's team.

Her relatively young partner, John Nelson, says he likes playing with Elsie "because we're good friends and we play well together." And it's friendship, according to Elsie, that's an important part of the game.

"You meet so many nice people. Just look around," she said, viewing the enthusiastic crowd that packed the Wagon Wheel. "There's no rowdiness — just good fun. I just enjoy being with these people."

Besides that, Elsie explains, shuffleboard is "good therapy" for her arthritis.



Elsie Lile, 81, played her first tournament with partner John Nelson.

## A Family Tradition

"He conned me into it." That's how 26-year-old Shelly Usik describes her entry into the world of shuffleboard. The person who did the "conning" was her father and mixed doubles partner, Marv Foster. Before Marv moved to Reed City, he played for the Wagon Wheel and Shelly was his faithful cheerleader. It wasn't long, however, before she was in the game at his urging, first as a sub and then as a regular.

Because of the reputation as a shuffleboard player he established during his 34 years of involvement in the game (starting when he was 18), Shelly was, and in many cases still is, tagged as "Marv's daughter." That identification has made for some special challenges in becoming recognized as a player in her own right, but one fan knows she'll make her own reputation — her Dad.

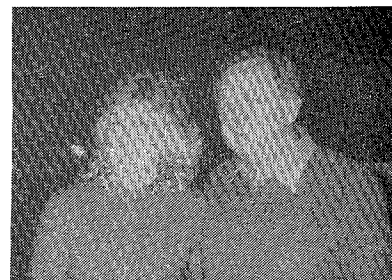
"She's a great competitor! Did you see that last game? She made all the points!" Marv said with obvious pride.

Shelly gives her dad credit for teaching her the game, but confides, "He doesn't always practice what he preaches!"

The attractive father-daughter team, clad in identical

bright red sweaters selected by Shelly especially for the tournament, stood out in the Wagon Wheel crowd.

"I made up my mind — even if we don't win, we'll look good losing," she said.



Father-daughter team Shelly Usik and Marv Foster took fourth place.

## Looking for Competition

Women are no longer sitting back waiting for opportunities for competition — they're out actively seeking it. Between games at the Wagon Wheel tourney, Elly Canterbury was busy making the rounds, stirring up interest in a match between Lake Orion and Lansing area women shuffleboarders.

That match will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at Stober's Lounge in Lansing. A return match will be scheduled at a later date.

Board Talk Editor George Wilber has volunteered to organize and coach the Lansing team. He thinks matches between women players should be encouraged by shuffleboard sponsors.

"Women draw bigger crowds than men do," he said, "and that means good business for the host bars."

Don't miss the first in what could become a tradition.

## Where Are Those Standings?

In order to provide you with coverage of the first world championship shuffleboard tournament, publication of *The Board Talk* was delayed until our return from Las Vegas. This delay made the league standings received outdated. We'll be on schedule next month, so send us your standings by Feb. 21.

## Letter to the Editor

Hi, George!

Doug (Stewart) sent me a copy of *The Board Talk* and I want to say VERY GOOD and keep up the good work. I'm driving from here (Florida) to Vegas with a fellow from here. I hear that Lee (McDonald) will be there and hope to see you there, too.

If you get toward this way, call me and we'll have a few beers together. A few boards around, but no good players.

James (Jimmy, the Cop) Kumpula  
Detroit Shuffleboarder  
404 E. Delaware  
New Port Richey, Fla. 33552

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Submit your views, bricks and bouquets to George & Donna Wilber, *The Board Talk*, 3206 Alfred Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906.

# SHUFFLEBOARD DIRECTORY

*Patronize These Shuffleboard Sponsors*

## **Vic's Hole in the Wall**

*Your friendly stop in Holt*

2004 N. Cedar, Holt

Phone 517-694-9897



## **Langston Bar**

*Enjoy shuffleboard, Euchre, TV*

1210 N. Grandville Road, Stanton

Phone 517-831-5424

## **Shop Stop**

*Try our brand-new shuffleboard*

114 Clare St., Lansing

Phone 517-482-7228

## **A. J.'s Saloon**

*Sponsor of Michigan's 1984 National Tournament Player*

10150 Highland Road, Pontiac

Phone 313-698-4080

## **Sholty's Bar**

*Shuffleboarders are our favorite customers*

1819 S. Washington, Lansing

Phone 517-374-0462

## **Wagon Wheel**

*Where shuffleboard is king!*

102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion

Phone 313-693-6789

## **Hoot Owl**

*Play on our new shuffleboard*

Lasher & Fenkell, Detroit

## **Rendezvous Lounge**

*We're trying to form a league — call us*

M-15 between Otisville & Millington

Phone 517-871-9708

## **Dublin House**

*Detroit's newest shuffleboard bar*

23906 Grand River, Detroit

313-531-5590

## **Gera Bar**

*We need shuffleboarders — men and women*

Frankenmuth, Michigan

Phone 517-652-8213

## **Walt's Bar**

*Where shuffleboarders play all night*

21346 Fenkell, Detroit

Phone 313-534-6328

## **Art's Bar & Grill**

*Home of the famous fried bologna sandwich*

809 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing

Phone 517-482-8328

## **Lake Pump Tavern**

*Lake Odessa's only shuffleboard*

1021 Fourth Ave., Lake Odessa

Phone 616-374-8960

## **Stober's Lounge**

*Home of the tri-state champions, 1978-79*

812 E. Michigan, Lansing

Phone 517-487-9790



## **Turk Lake Bar**

*Have a drink and a game of shuffleboard*

161 Pine Drive, Greenville

Phone 616-754-9676

## **Elly's Sportswear**

*Jackets-Shirts-Uniforms-Silk Screening-Embroidery-Transfer*

7979 Reese Road, Clarkston

Phone 313-625-4109

## **Our Tavern**

*Shuffleboarders welcome! Two boards!*

1219 Hamilton, N.W., Grand Rapids

Phone 616-454-1907

## **George & John**

*Shuffleboard tournament organizers*

Lansing, 517-321-0008

Detroit, 313-349-3893/352-9700

# NewsFlash!

*Art's Bar Presents . . .*

***The First 4-Person Team Event in Shuffleboard History!  
Two Boards — Double Elimination — Best 4 out of 7 Games***

**Saturday & Sunday, February 18-19, 1984**

**Art's Bar, 809 E. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing**

**Phone: 517-482-8328**

**\$80.00 per team entry fee**

- Auction starts at 11 a.m. sharp Saturday, Feb. 18
- Pays four places . . . 60% — 30% — 5% — 5%
- Must have entry fee and roster of players (two subs allowed) by auction time.
- Limit of 12 teams.
- Please call in reservations as soon as possible. Call Art's Bar at 517-482-8328 or George Wilber at 517-321-0008.
- Board will be reserved for tournament players *only* by Friday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.
- Bar opens at 7 a.m. Saturday morning.
- **Special Shuffleboard Breakfast** available 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday — juice, eggs, sausage or bacon, hash browns, toast, coffee — \$2.25.
- **Shuffleboard Buffet Luncheon** available Sunday afternoon.

***Prizes . . . Prizes . . . Prizes***

*Throw a hanger — get a drink for 25 cents!*

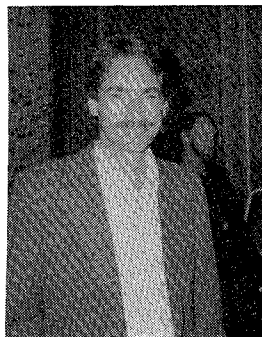
*3 drawings Saturday, 3 drawings Sunday for more prizes!*

**Art's Bar & Grill**

**209 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan 517-482-8328**

***Your Host — Tim Grisdale***

# Nelson Wins World Championship Shuffleboard Title in Las Vegas



World champion shuffleboarder Darrell Nelson took \$17,500 back to Oregon.

Ever watch a cobra respond to the irresistible music of a snake charmer? That's the best way to describe Darrell Nelson's rise to the top in his bid for first place in the first official world championship shuffleboard tournament, held at the Showboat in Las Vegas, Jan. 27-29.

Nelson, who hails from Eugene, Oregon, rose above names like Billy Mays, "Mac, the Greek," Doug Buhl, Ed Graves, Bill Melton, and many other nationally-renowned players to become the undisputed world champion. Could be that the \$17,500 first-place purse held some of the charm that kept him on his winning course.

You didn't have to be a shuffleboard expert to get emotionally involved watching these players bump heads. One throw of the puck could have turned things

around for most any of the outstanding players in this tourney.

Second-place honors and \$6,000 went to Ed Graves (better known as "Portland Eddy" from his former home) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who staged a tremendous comeback after almost being eliminated early in the tournament.

Third place and \$1,500 went to Doug Buhl of Bremerton, Washington, with fourth place and \$1,000 earned by K.D. Makarounis ("Mac, the Greek") of Portland, Oregon.

Bouquets are in order for tournament organizers Billy Mays, Doug Buhl and Bill Melton, tournament director Larry Cowan, and helpers Earl Kelly and Willie Wilson, and brickbats to the editors for not getting the names of all the other hard workers who made it happen in Las Vegas.

Billy Mays, who entertained the enthusiastic crowd with trick shot exhibitions when he wasn't competing in the tournament, requests that participants share their ideas for improvement. Send your suggestions to Billy, U.S.S.A., Rte. 1, Box 117-F, Kemp, Texas 75143.

Those of you who thought Las Vegas was great (or if you missed this tourney) will be interested in a national doubles tournament scheduled for April 19-22, again at the Showboat. Watch the next issue for further details.



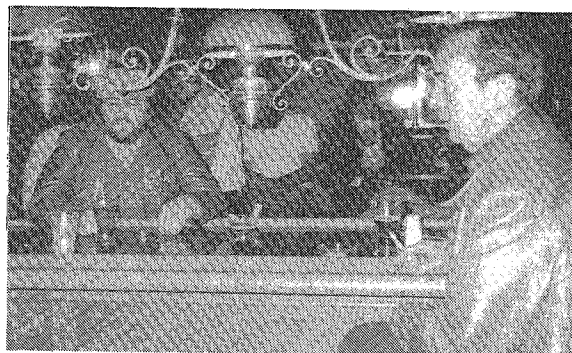
Ed Graves shows the stuff that earned him second place and \$6,000.



Fourth place winner K. D. Makarounis kids with shuffleboarder great Billy Mays.



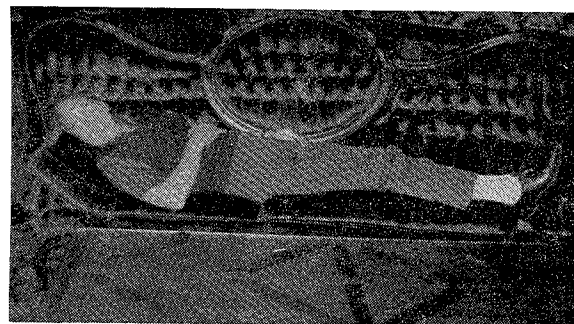
Doug Buhl's style took him to third place and earned him \$1,500.



Carl Daly (right) comforts Michigan's contender, Lee McDonald, at the airport bar with, "You can tell them back home that you beat Billy Mays!"



A rare break in the action for tournament director Larry Cowan.



The marathon shuffleboard tournament was a grueling pace for spectators as well as players, but the action kept most of them on the edge of their seats.

## Sol Lipkin

# Not Getting Older — Just Better

For one interested spectator at the world championship shuffleboard tournament in Las Vegas, the event brought back some fond memories. A dapper 78 years young, Sol Lipkin, sales manager for the American Shuffleboard Company, recalls a tournament he arranged in the late 1930s when Congressman Fred Hartley (remember the Taft-Hartley Bill from your history class?), an avid shuffleboard player himself, presented the trophy to the winner. So, if you had visions of being a trailblazer in a relatively new sport — forget it!

Sol knows, from personal experience, the complexities and advance planning involved in staging a tournament. In 1949, he organized a statewide tournament in Illinois. A total of 574 six-person teams participated — both men and women — with four subs per team allowed (that's a potential 5,740 people!). He placed 12 boards in a rented, newly-built Armory and used the services of an American Bowling Congress official to run the tournament.

What's bowling got to do with shuffleboard? "We knew in order for it to click, we'd have to run it on frames — 10 frames, five on each end," Sol explained.

And click it did. The single elimination, best 4 out of 7 tournament, involving 574 teams, started on a Friday and ended by 4 p.m. on Sunday. It took tight organization to make that happen, including hiring young people for \$1.50 an hour to post scores, verified by judges, on large scoreboards at the end of each board. Sol appointed a five-member grievance committee made up of well-known, highly-respected people in Illinois shuffleboard circles, but,

he reports, "We never had a dispute."

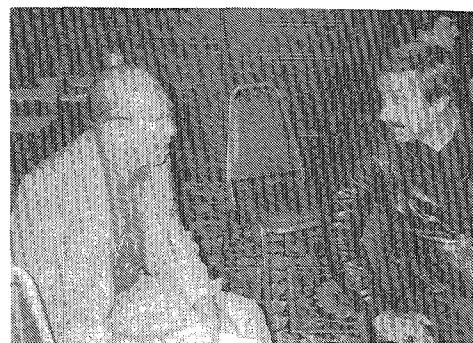
Some \$2,500 was to be split among the top eight teams with \$750 for first place — a lot of money in those days — and a new shuffleboard for the tavern owner who sponsored the winning team.

Sol has a complete record of the big event, including photos and a letter from then Illinois Governor (and later presidential contender) Adlai Stevenson, expressing his regrets that gubernatorial duties prevented him from attending the tournament.

Could such a tournament be staged today in other shuffleboard states, with the winners advancing to a national tourney?

"No doubt about it," Sol believes. "Shuffleboard is on the move all over the country and the trend will continue."

Sol ought to know about trends. His company is the only one in the United States today that manufactures shuffleboards and filling the increased demand keeps Sol and the other folks at the American Shuffleboard Company in Union City, New Jersey, pretty busy. Could be that helping to meet that challenge is what keeps Sol so young!



Sol (left) visits with Ed Decepoli of Sun Glo Corporation about Ed's father, who at 84 years of age, still works in the business 35 to 40 hours per week.

## Lakeside Lounge's Third Annual Mixed Doubles Shuffleboard Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25 & 26

•Trophies •Double Elimination •Two Boards

Fee — \$10.00 per team

Pay-Off — 60% - 30% - 10%

Auction at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call Elly Canterbury — 313-625-4109

## Lakeside Lounge

9500 Elizabeth Lake Road, Union Lake, Michigan  
Phone 313-698-4104

## Doubles Tournament at Detroit's Newest Shuffleboard Bar

## The Dublin House

March 9 & 10

Double Elimination

Starting Time — 1 p.m.

Pays three places —  
60% - 30% - 10%

Board reserved for tournament players  
beginning at 7 p.m. Friday night.

## The Dublin House

23906 Grand River, Detroit 313-531-5590