

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Eddie and Shelli decided to do a bit of gambling before the Pro-Am sale started. At a blackjack table at the Silver Legacy, Eddie had four 18 count pat hands against a 6 showing. He surprised the dealer and the crowd that had gathered to watch by asking for a hit on his last 18.)

Everyone was rather puzzled and amazed when Eddie announced: "Hold it -- I want a card...hit the eighteen." The dealer remarked: "You sure?" He said: "Yup, I'm sure alright." She peeled the next card off the top of the deck, then took a look at it for herself first. She was shaking her head, and had an unbelieving smile on her face as she laid the card down next to Eddie's last hand. It was a three!

There were some "ooh's" and "aah's" from the onlookers when they saw Eddie's "pat" 21-hand. Shelli released her grip on his leg then and with a "Whew!" put her arm around his shoulder and gave him a hug. The dealer reached down with her free hand then, picked up her 6 up-card and flipped over her hole card. It was a Queen!

Everyone was focused on the dealer's "make-or-break" card now. She hesitated for a moment, then dealt the card, gently laying it next to her six and queen. A cheer went up when she said: "The dealer shows 17 -- pays 18 and above." It was an ace! Eddie had a smile of both relief and joy on his face, but Shelli jumped out of her seat and hollered: "Four Thousand Dollars! That was a \$4,000 hand, Eddie!" as she gave him a big hug and a kiss.

After he got paid, he pushed forward his green chips in exchange for \$100 blacks. He "toked" (or tipped) the dealer one black chip and two left-over green chips as Shelli was hurriedly stashing all their black ones in her purse and pockets. The dealer gave him a big smile and said: "Thank you, sir!" Eddie replied: "It's been a pleasure." He looked over to the pretty Oriental lady on the other side of the table and said: "Good luck, O.K.?" She gave him a knowing smile and a little wink as she replied: "You too, Eddie."

Shelli had her arm around him as they left the table and made their way toward the cashier's cage. She said: "O.K. now Champ, I'm in the dark. Would you please give me the benefit of explaining exactly what happened back there?" Eddie replied: "It's a little involved. Can we discuss it later on?" She stopped them then and said: "Hey, I want to know. Can't you just give me the short version now?" Eddie smiled and said: "O.K., honey, but let's cash in first, then we can take a table at that lounge over there and talk." They had started with \$1,000. The cashier checked the chips very carefully, then counted out four stacks, each of ten \$100 bills and an additional \$300. They

were ahead \$3,300, not counting the \$150 Eddie had toked the dealer!

After putting the money up, they found a good table at the elegant little lounge they had spotted. After ordering drinks, Eddie began to explain some of the more intricate details about how the game of blackjack is played: "Now, you remember, honey, that I told you before we started that I would just kind of 'play around' until I thought the time was right to lay down the big bet. When I put the \$500 up, I thought it was that time. I have to add that I definitely hadn't counted on the pair of 8's showing up, especially FOUR of them! But you see, you don't count the eights because they're neutral cards and aren't factored in, so I had no clue.

"The deck was pretty 'rich' -- meaning there were a lot of aces and 10-count cards left to be dealt. Also, the deck was over halfway dealt out and I knew we wouldn't see another hand out of that shuffle. Now, there's no way we have the time for me to explain the whole 'counting' system to you, so I'll just hit the highlights. The 5's were all out but one. Now that's probably the most important card to keep track of. You know, she would have made a 21 with her 16 had she drawn a five. Anyway, the 'flavor' of the deck started to change when I made my first 18 hand." The drinks had arrived now and after taking a sip, Shelli inquired: "How's that, Eddie?"

He took a long draw on his, then explained: "Well, we have to assume the dealer has a 10-count card in the hole. Then the Oriental lady gave me the courtesy of making sure I saw her two 10's. But the count really changed when I drew the two kings, and definitely the last 10, to make up my four 18-count hands! In simple language, I was convinced that the next card out would be a low one. I was willing to take a chance and even 'sell-out' on my last 18 (if it were to turn out that way), take a 'quid pro quo' on my last two hands and still come out \$1,000 ahead on my first two 18-hands. The only two cards that could break me (if the dealer drew one) were a 3 or a 4, and as 'poor' as the deck had now become, I calculated it was time for one of them to show up."

He concluded with: "I'm not going any further for now, sweetheart, except to say I took a big gamble and it paid off. If she would have drawn that 3 (or a 4), she would have sat with 19 or 20, and 'busted-out' every one of my hands. There was a whole lot more going on with the decision I made, lover. Needless to say, we got lucky, honey -- real lucky!"

In addition to the obvious good fortune the extra money brought, it also provided them with more flexibility as far as the calcuttas were concerned, and

any "side action" they might get involved in during the tournament. They had budgeted a certain amount for the trip (and their honeymoon) and Eddie's good luck would make things that much nicer all the way around.

A cab was waiting for them and on the ride back to the Sands, Eddie said: "We're going to do just one more bit of casino gambling before the tournament is over, honey." Shelli responded: "Hey, aren't you going to quit winners at the blackjack?" He replied: "Sure, I am -- but there's a man I know that will be shooting some craps one night during the tournament and he really knows what he's doing with the dice. We're going to get in on some of the action when it goes down, 'Shelli Belly.'"

The flag went up when she heard that and she responded: "Hey, what's with the 'Shelli Belly' remark?" Eddie jokingly replied: "Don't get offended, now. It's just that it seems like you've put on a pound or two...mainly around your 'girth.' Ha! I know I've gained some, too. Maybe we should both cut down on the sweets or something, like all the cookies and milk and the ice cream before we go to bed!"

They were pulling into the entrance of the Sands now and Shelli lowered her head slightly and said: "It's not the sweets, Eddie. No, not for me anyway." He was getting excited and wanted to get out of the cab and get upstairs at that point -- so Shelli's last statement went right over his head. She didn't pursue the subject any further, as he helped her out of the back seat. She wanted to -- but she wasn't ready yet.

They made it just in time for the calcutta for the Pro-Am event. Ironically, Shelli was selected for Eddie's team and, further, was rated as third best player. They were auctioned off first and drew a really high price, mainly because of Eddie's notoriety. He left Shelli then with some players that they knew, so he could take care of business. After he collected all the team money, he went forward to the front tables to meet the guy who had bought them and turn in the team's share. He didn't know this man, but he introduced himself as Angelo. They only had time to exchange a few words, and he seemed friendly enough. When Eddie casually inquired, he said he was from Texas.

As he watched the guy walk off, he heard a soft voice from next to him say: "Keep an eye on where your man is going, Eddie. I'm sure you'll be surprised." It was Lil's voice, and she was standing very close to him now. He followed her lead, and watched as the man turned right at the bar, and then went all the way to the far corner.

Indeed, he got his surprise. The Angelo fellow joined two other men. These were men that both Eddie and Lil knew. The one was huge, and looked almost like an ape. The other one was sharply dressed, had a big cigar in his mouth, and was

wearing some very expensive men's jewelry. His real name was Daniel Goldman -- but he was better known as.... "Dollar Dan -- the Money Man!"

--TO BE CONTINUED--

Oh! Oh! Remember Dollar Dan -- the Money Man -- and his confrontation with Eddie and Lil in Texas? Surely, he will not forget the \$10,000 they won from him and perhaps he's back on the scene for his revenge..... And -- is Shelli's weight gain actually the result of too many cookies? Don't miss the next exciting episode. If you're enjoying Balboa Ron's series and like to tell him so, please write him at: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89123. Your feedback is the only "salary" he receives for his monthly contributions.

Missouri Tourney Photos

Photos for the Eagles Lodge 3911, Houston, Missouri, over the Thanksgiving weekend arrived after the report was published in the February issue.



Glen Davidson and Madge Goff (front and center) were winners of the bring partner event. Pat Gainey and Chuck Muehlhauser (left) took second, with Steve Kane and Mike Sampson (right) in third.



In the A-B Draw, Carolyn Johnston and Dean Pinkston (right) were the winners. John Stenger and Gary Sowell (center) took second, with Mick Moran and Lois Waters (left) in third.