

## *Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return*

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

*(Editor's Note: In the November, December 1993 and January 1994 issues, we reprinted Balboa Ron's short stories about a shuffler named Frisco Eddie, originally published in The Board Talk back in 1985. In February, we were pleased to continue that series with "The Return." Last month, Eddie's girlfriend, Shelli, showed up just after he had been beaten by Long Beach Lil.)*

When Eddie turned to face his girlfriend Shelli, she had said, "What are we getting into here, Eddie?" Lil was standing by his side, and he said, "This is what we're getting into here, Honey," as he placed a \$100 bill into Lil's waiting hand. Then he gave her a hug and said, "Honey, this here is Lil; Lil, this is my gal Shelli." The two didn't shake -- as Lil kept the money in her right hand. The stares they gave each other were less than friendly.

Eddie broke the ice by saying: "Lil here thinks she can beat me at this game," as he gave Lil a snide look. Shelli countered with, "It looks like she just did a pretty good job of it, 'Slick.'" Eddie smiled at her and then led her to a seat. He told her, "I'll tear her up before this thing is over -- you just check it out." "I really want to believe that, Eddie," was her reply.

Eddie's confidence level went up a little now that Shelli was there. He won the next two games, but Lil came back and won the next one. They began to trade games on into the night. Finally (after it looked like the quarter-drop was going to be the only real winner), Lil said to Eddie, "It looks like we're not getting anywhere here. Could we all sit down and have a drink....and talk about what I REALLY came here for, Eddie?" Eddie said, "Well, O.K., I guess -- if that's what YOU want (he was kind of relieved actually; but he felt he could have outshot her if they had continued).

Eddie motioned to Bob, the owner of the Blue Moon, and he joined Eddie, Shelli, and Lil at a table. The shift had changed and Bob ordered a round of drinks. Bob was an old-timer. He had seen a lot of the big-time "hustlers" come and go, and he also had a lot of first-hand knowledge about the history of the game. Lil knew many of the players (and old stories also) and before she had a chance to get to her point with Eddie, Bob began to weave some tales about the "good old days" of shuffleboard. The area around their table quieted down as Bob began to tell some classic stories about the time the "East" met the "West"

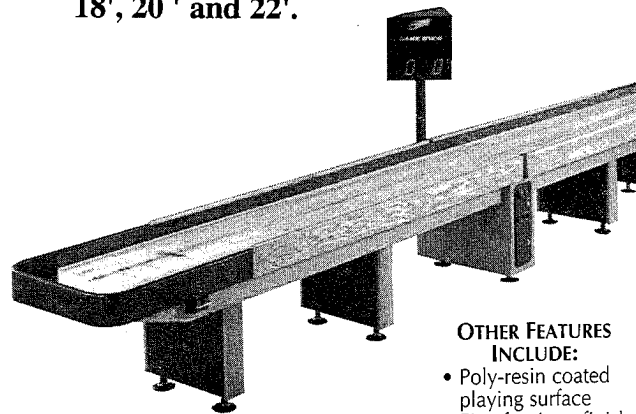
back in the early '50s. The main characters were a fellow called "L.A. Larry" and a man out of New Jersey whose handle was "Kid Spooks."

Bob began his saga: "Now, Kid Spooks' first appearance of note in the West was in 1950, at a place called the Stage 10 in Hollywood. At that time, you know, and during a period starting during World War II, shuffleboard was very big among the movie stars in and around the Hollywood area. In fact, many of the stars had private boards in their homes. You see, Spooks was a man of high standing -- and also the one who originated the 'Jersey' style of shooting. Of course, it's called that because that's where he was from. On this occasion, Spooks was waiting for an opponent in the bar. It was a Halloween night, and when the stage was set, in walked a man in full costume!. He called himself the 'Masked

*(continued on Page 18)*

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## ***Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return*** (continued from Page 17)

Marvel." After the laughter quieted down, Bob continued:

"When the initial cheers and 'ya-hoos' ended -- the game was on! Now, the Masked Marvel was actually a very good player. His real name was Bobby Driver and Kid Spooks had his hands full for awhile. What happened, though, was that the crowd kept on razzing the Masked Marvel until he started to lose and eventually had to quit playing. It ended up on a sour note."

Then he went on: "Kid Spooks wanted the BEST, though, and in 1952, he found him. His name was L.A. Larry and he was, indeed, the 'Best in the West.' All the fans and players had been eagerly awaiting a meeting between these two. They got their wish one Saturday night, as I said, back in '52, at a place called Hambones on Atlantic Blvd. Now, this was located in Lynwood, California. For sure, this was going to be the 'Game of the Century.'"

Everyone inched in a little closer as Bob began his tale.....

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't miss the next issue for Bob's description of this "Game of the Century." Balboa Ron has done a lot of research on his stories of past "hustlers" and while the names may be fictitious, the happenings are actual and are based on his interviews with people who were on the scene or had a good "first-hand" knowledge of the events. We've had a lot of positive verbal feedback on Ron's "Frisco Eddie" series, but we'd like some in writing so we can share it with him. It's the only "salary" he receives, so let's hear from you!*

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## ***Tourney Talk*** (continued from Page 8)

Tournaments at this site fill up fast, so you may want to contact Doug Fridley Jr. well in advance to get your name on the list. Call 315-539-1346 or 539-0256.

### **1st Annual Mixed Doubles, Liberty Bar, Pontiac, Michigan, June 18-19**

The Liberty Bar, 85 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Michigan, which has attracted good crowds for their Monday and Friday nights round robins, will host a mixed doubles tournament on June 18-19.

Entry fee for the single game, double elimination event is \$50 per team. The Liberty has two boards.

For information and/or to make your reservation, call George Wilber, 517-371-2538, or Vicky Gohl, 810-681-3761.

### **North American Championships, Sands Regency Hotel Casino, Reno, Nevada, July 25-31**

The Shuffleboard Federation's 1994 North American Championships will once again be held at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada, on July 25-31, with tournament play on 16 new American boards.

There are 12 events on the schedule (see enclosed flyer for complete details), with guaranteed added money of \$7,000 and \$17,500 added if there is a full tournament.

Please note that July 11 is the deadline for entries; if events are still open, a \$5 per event penalty will be charged for entries received after that date.

For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 810-380-9300.

## ***Notebook*** (continued from Page 4)

### **More Nominations for Bob Miles to "Hall of Fame"**

I have so many memories of Bob Miles I could fill two or three pages myself. I will put down what you see when he is playing -- cowboy boots and a towel hooked under his belt to wipe his hands on.

I would like to say one thing about the Hall of Fame. I sure would hate to see anyone's name ahead of Bob's. To me, he was the #1 player!

Al Stewart, El Monte, California

*The nomination of Bob Miles to the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in last month's issue prompted phone calls of endorsement from Bill English, Colorado; Billy Chiles, California; and The Shuffleboard Federation, which plans a special tribute to Bob at the North American Championship Tournament in Reno, July 26-31. We realize we didn't allow enough time for written responses to make this issue a Bob Miles Hall of Fame edition and are extending the invitation to May 15. Please send us those two or three pages, Al, and if anyone has photos of Bob, please share those. We will return them!*

## **WANTED!**

**Memories and photos of  
Bob Miles**

**Send to:**

**The Board Talk**

**421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906**

**BEFORE MAY 15**

*(Photos will be returned)*