

# *Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return*

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert*

*(In last month's episode, Eddie and Lil had gone to the Horse's Head Saloon, hoping for some action. The "Texas Kid" had just entered the establishment and Lil warned Eddie he'd have his hands full with this shooter.....)*

The man they call the "Texas Kid" (whose real name was Tommy Starks) strolled into the Horse's Head Saloon, but he hadn't noticed Lil or Eddie yet. This gave Eddie a chance to size him up a little.

The man was impressive-looking -- tall, about 6 foot two, and very slim. He was dressed in Western clothes: Levi's, a fancy shirt, a cowboy hat, and an expensive-looking pair of boots. He was obviously well-known at the Horse's Head, because several of the patrons gave him "hi's" and "howdies." After several greetings, the Kid noticed Lil. He immediately got a smile on his face.

He came right over then, extended his hand, and said: "Well, how about you, Long Beach Lil. It's been a long time. You look just as sexy as ever." Lil was smiling also as she replied: "Looks like you've been taking care of yourself, too."

After some small talk, Lil introduced Eddie as "a kid she was trying to show how to play the game of shuffleboard." The two men stared intently at each other as they shook hands. Texas Kid asked: "What brings you to town, Lil -- pleasure or business?" Lil replied: "Both, my man. It'd be a pleasure to do some shuffleboard business with you. How about we get something on?"

The Kid answered Lil: "Well, now, how about I make a call and we'll see if we can accommodate ya', Lil." He went to the phone at the rear of the bar then.

After he was out of ear-shot, Lil told Eddie: "Here's what's going down, Champ. He's goin' back there to call his partner, and probably also to call his 'backer.' He has a man named Daniel Goldman, who some call 'Dollar Dan - the Money Man,' and he puts up his stake for him if he needs it."

Eddie kind of laughed at that, but Lil reproved him by saying: "Listen close now -- these guys aren't anything to fool around with, especially the 'Money Man.' He's mean, and he hates to lose. We're going to have to be very careful here, O.K.? Don't volunteer anything, and just follow my lead, or this whole thing could blow up on us." Eddie was a little puzzled, but he said: "O.K., Lil, whatever you say."

After a few minutes, Texas Kid returned and said: "I called my partner and he's on his way down. It'll be a short while -- why don't we have a drink in the meantime?" He motioned to the bartender then, who produced

a bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon with his name on it. He held up three fingers and received three shot glasses in return. He said: "Will you join me in a drink?" Lil nodded her head and Eddie followed her motion. They "toasted" then, with the Kid saying: "Here's to some good shuffleboard action."

The two boards were split on either side of the half-racetrack shaped bar. Lil selected the one closest to the entrance door. They began some practice shots. The board was very fast and "low-centered." The left and right cross-lags ended up several boards in and close to the center of the table. However, Lil noticed that the left-cross from her end would "ride the rail" if you hit on just the right spot. She pointed that out to Eddie, along with some other little curves that could be used to advantage.

The Kid poured himself another shot of Wild Turkey, as he watched them try to learn the board. He especially kept his eye on Eddie's style of shooting. After Eddie and Lil were satisfied with their practice session, they sat back down. One of Texas Kid's followers got up to tend the board. He spray-waxed it first, and then applied a fresh coat of "Lightning Flash" powdered wax.

Soon after he was finished, three men walked in the door. One was a fellow Lil knew. He was the Kid's partner, a very short, heavy man called "Fat Max." The second was a huge "ape-like" looking guy who Lil didn't recognize, and the third was the one Lil feared might show up. It was "Dollar Dan - the Money Man."

*Don't miss the next exciting episode to find out the results of Eddie's first encounter with the "big guns" on Lil's itinerary. Does she have good reason to fear the Money Man?*

## **Attention, Readers:**

*If you're enjoying Balboa Ron's Frisco Eddie series, or if you have some story ideas for him, please drop him a note to tell him so:*

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**THE BOARD TALK**