

**The California
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame**

**Induction Ceremony
to honor**

Bobby Goldsmith



**Presented at
Mr. G's
Visalia, California**

May 23, 1998

Bobby Goldsmith



THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

BOBBY GOLDSMITH

This Is Your Life!

Bobby was born in Marmaduke, Arkansas, but when he was seven years old, someone told his father, "Go West, young man!" so they packed up the family and left.

If you have ever seen the movie, *Grapes of Wrath*, Bobby said that depicted his family perfectly. The only difference was, the old truck in the movie made it all the way to California, but the Goldsmith's didn't. It gave up the ghost in Kingman, Arizona, so the family sold all their belongings, and they put Bobby's little sister Robbie and his mother on a train, then Bobby and his dad hitchhiked from Kingman to Visalia, California. They settled down just two miles from the place where Mr. G's is located.

Through the years, Bobby has been involved in a wide variety of interests. He played semi-pro baseball, raised a few horses, raised a whole lot of pigs, did a few rodeo shows as a calf roper, fought a whole lot of roosters, and collected old Cadillacs, clocks and antique guns.

In 1964, Bobby bought a bar, The Hut, which had a 17-foot shuffleboard in it. When his customers went down the road to play on a regulation size shuffleboard, Bobby quickly learned that his was not regulation size. Well, needless to say, out went a wall, he extended the building, and in went a regulation shuffleboard. Thus began the long story of the game of shuffleboard for Bobby Goldsmith.

It was a common occurrence for Bobby to set up sessions at the old Hut and later at Mr. G's. Many

greats graced the door there, where they always knew there would be action. Just to name a few: Bob Miles, Glen Davidson, Rod Cameron, Glen Young, Troy Tolbert, Leroy Ledford, Hal Perry, Big Norm, Cable Car Dennis, Billy Mays, Portland Eddy, Pee Wee Ramos, A.Z. Turnbow, Billy Chiles, the list goes on and on.

Through the years, the game of shuffleboard has given Bobby many thrills, such as playing Billy Mays for 26 hours straight, and best of all, *winning!* Bobby never kidded himself into thinking that he was the player that Billy was, but, as he says, "I was, for one day!"

Bobby's family is, and has been for many years, involved in shuffleboard. His dad, "Curly," was the horse collar player. His mom did a lot of cooking for the players when they came to town. His sister Robbie plays the game like a real trooper. Son Warren and son-in-law Russ play. His wife Charlene and daughter Leslie also play, but they like it best in the rooting section.

A serious heart problem has curtailed Bobby's active shuffleboard playing, but nothing has lessened his love for shuffleboard. His heart will always be with the game and the many friends and associates that he has become so close to through all his years in shuffleboard.

Bobby feels the big tournaments in Reno and Las Vegas have been a godsend to the game. It is his hope that they will continue to unite the players in a great sport that deserves recognition. It was once said that for ten years, Bobby was the glue that held the players together in California, and he loved every minute of it.

CITY OF FARMERSVILLE

147 E. Front St., Farmersville, California 93223
Phone 209-747-0458

To the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Mr. Bobby Goldsmith has been a business owner in the City of Farmersville for many years. In the time that I have known Mr. Goldsmith he has shown great pride in his community. He has worked along with the city and other businesses to make Farmersville a better community.

Bobby has worked with the City in various functions. He was active in the Farmersville Chamber, when he donated \$5,000 to the Chamber for a swimming pool. At this time, the new high school will be opening in September, and with that \$5,000 in the swimming pool fund, perhaps someday we will have that swimming pool.

A personal experience I have had with Mr. Goldsmith was last December. The Police Department had a toy/food drive for needy families. After the list was completed, three families came in. Instead of turning these families away, the women in our office decided to try to put together donations for these families. I contacted Mr. Goldsmith and told him about the families. A few days before we were to deliver the packages, Mr. Goldsmith delivered several VCR's, along with Sega machines and games!

It is people like Mr. Goldsmith that remind you that a small community is full of pride, honor and comradeship.

Sincerely,

LaRue Quine
Farmersville City Clerk

From Bobby's Friends . . .

Shuffleboard isn't Bobby's only love. He has a beautiful collection of about 40 antique grandfather clocks, and probably has one of the largest collections of collectable Cadillacs in the world.

Bobby enjoys a wonderful family life with his wife Charlene, and thinks he has three of the greatest grandkids ever. He has taught them and most of the neighbor's kids how to play shuffleboard on his board at home.

Bobby is thought by some to be a very frugal person, and by others, an out and out tight-wad. In reality, however, he is one of the most sensitive and charitable person you would ever want to meet. He adores children and has given generously to the children of Farmersville, when he knows they are underprivileged or needy. He also contributes money annually for food and clothing.

Bobby was the first contributor, with a very large donation toward a public swimming pool. Also, he sent the wrestling team to Sacramento, paying all expenses. He has taken other groups of kids to his party barge at Lake Kaweah, and to amusement parks. He also sponsors other athletic teams and events each year. The list of his good deeds is too numerous to mention.

Bobby would, if there were a Hall of Fame for the best person, husband, father, grandfather, and yes, a best brother, qualify for them all.

— *Robby Gann*
Bobby's sister

About Bobby Goldsmith . . .

I remember Bobby telling stories about shooting shuffleboard and all the great players he has played. The one I remember the most was when my father, Bobby and myself were talking about the old times when money was tight and times were hard. Bobby and Mr. G's were holding a tournament and Bobby put up an extra \$500.00 prize money. All the great players came for the prize money. They came from everywhere.

When it came down to the calcutta, my Dad bought Bobby's calcutta and it went fairly high. Bobby said, "Ray, do you know what you are doing?"

My dad said, "I sure do."

Bobby played like a real champion not to let his home town fans down and especially my dad, who had just spent the next three months rent money of Bobby's calcutta. Bobby went on to win *First Place*.

He then turned to my dad and asked, "Why in the world would you spend that much money on my calcutta?"

My dad grinned and said, "Bobby, you put up \$500 *extra* dollars for the tournament. I knew that somehow you were going to win."

Being around Bobby for a lot of years, my first experience was when we went to Las Vegas to a tournament and we took second place. there were a lot of great players from all over the United States. I remember beating a team from Oklahoma.

Before the match they were laughing at us because Bobby was carrying his weights in an old "tube" sock, while they had custom-made cases for theirs.

We won over that team, but lost to a team from Arizona. When it was over, we were standing around talking and Bobby said, "Let this be a lesson. People play great players all the time, and sometimes they win, and that's what they talk about in life. I don't remember all the great ones I've played and won, but I sure as *hell* remember the ones I've lost to, and I remember the shot they made to win. So, with all that, it's not important "who" you have beat, but its real, real important to remember the ones you have lost to, and it will make you a better player down the road."

—Wes Martin

Bobby Goldsmith's Major Accomplishments

- ☆ Took First Place twice in Tulare County Championship tournaments between 1964 and 1978 at "The Hut" and "Mr. G's."
- ☆ Won Sportsmanship Trophy at Sacramento State Tournament, took 3 teams (2 men's and one women's team).
- ☆ Took Second place in the 1968 State Championship tournament.
- ☆ Won two Doubles Tournaments open to the world at "Mr. G's" between 1970 and 1978. His partners were Jack Ahern and Tommie Tompkins.
- ☆ Won Second Place with his sister Robbie in the Open Tournament between 1970 and 1978 at Mr. G's.
- ☆ Won the Doubles Tournament with son Warren at the Peanut House around 1995.

**Contributions by Bobby Goldsmith
to Preserve and Promote
Shuffleboard Through
the Years**

1964-1978

Promoted the Tulare County
Championship Doubles and Singles
Tournaments

1968

Promoted the California State
Championship Tournament.

1967

Took three teams to the California
State Tournament at the
Fairgrounds in Sacramento.

1967-1978

Bobby always had a nine-man team
for the annual match with Les and
Lu's Club in Dinuba.

1970-1978

Mr. G's promoted the annual
Thanksgiving Tournament open to
the world. Bobby always
guaranteed \$2,000 but he never
had to make it good. Mr. G's
promoted out-of-town players from
North and South by guaranteeing
action on weekends.

Comments from Bobby's Friends . . .

The first person I thought of when I heard there was going to be a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was Bobby Goldsmith, so hang in there, my friend. We are going for the Gold—State today, National tomorrow!

—*Jolene Lembke*

I have not met a better sportsman or a better man than Bobby Goldsmith. He is also a very good player. I have known him for 35 years.

—*Al Stewart*

Bobby Goldsmith has been instrumental in the growth of shuffleboard in California, as a player, promoter, and tavern owner. Congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—*Paul Weber*

Bobby Goldsmith is a very special person who is being presented a well-deserved award. Thanks to you, Bobby, I will always know what time it is.

—*Joe Muniz*

California shuffleboard and Bobby Goldsmith are synonymous. He could not only play the game but he also promoted it. He is one of the great men of the game. His induction was inevitable.

—*Harold B. Perry*

Bobby was the first promoter of the game of shuffleboard in the late 60's. He held a tourney at the fairgrounds in Tulare County, a team event. Afterwards in the 70's, he held tourneys at Mr. G's in Visalia until he retired in the late 70's. Always a promoter, a great player and supporter of the game.

—*Glen E. Davidson*

More from Bobby's Friends . . .

Congratulations, Bobby Goldsmith! I'm very happy to see you inducted into the Hall of Fame. You are very deserving of the honor.

I can't remember when Bobby wasn't my friend, going back to the time when Bobby and his dad Curley remodeled a small house into a beer bar and card room called The Hut.

There was always a long waiting list to have your turn on the shuffleboard. Business was so good, the Hut became too small. So my two friends Bobby and Curley took on the challenging chore of remodeling a vacant bar east of Visalia, which became Mr. G's.

I remember hustlers coming to town regularly and leaving with the local players money in their pockets. But, no problem! Bobby would always loan us money to play shuffleboard until payday. Thanks, Bob.

But as play continued, the locals became more skilled, not needing a loan from Bob so often.

Bob always had a funny comment or two to tell when he entered the room.

Bob was an excellent player, ready to give action to anyone who came into town. Bob loved shuffleboard and did a great job of promoting the game.

It makes me very happy for Bob, on his well-deserved induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Marion S. Bailey

More from Bobby's Friends . . .

I did not play with or against Bobby G in his heyday, but what I do know of Bobby was, he was a professional all the way.

From the stories I've heard, he is without a doubt deserving of induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—*John Fisher*

I have known Bobby for thirty years. He has been a credit to the game and he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame.

Good luck, Bobby, in your life in the future.

—*Loren Maxham*

Bobby said he had a list of everybody that had beat him. When I played him at Ted Z's place, my name was not on the list. After we played, Bob said he would put my name on the list. I hope there were not too many on that list.

—*Frank Bentley*

Bobby, it has always been a pleasure to play with or against you. You are a gentleman either way. Congratulations on being elected to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—*Tony Soza*

I was not around in the heyday of Bobby Goldsmith, but the stories are legendary. I have been fortunate enough to meet him, and he is truly a class act.

—*Steve Perry*

More Comments from Bobby's Friends . . .

Bobby Goldsmith is one of the most deserving people to be elected to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He was one of the first shuffleboard promoters in California when shuffleboard was big.

I've had the pleasure of playing with him and against him. He is always a classy person and a plus to the game of shuffleboard.

—*Steve Floyd*

Bobby was a fine player himself, but also Bobby was one of the best promoters of shuffleboard tournaments. You could always find someone to play in Visalia and Bobby treated everyone with respect.

—*Nick Chaffin*

Bobby was a player-promoter before my time, but I've played many matches with the man with the stories about the old days and matches we play I can say truly, he's a competitor and a gentleman. He's helped me in my game with strategy and philosophy.

I'd like to tell him thank you.

—*David Kalhote*

Bobby is a great ambassador for the game of shuffleboard. As a bar owner and promoter of the game, he greatly helped tournaments get their start in California. A great gentleman and promoter of the game.

—*Rich Warner*