

Rural American (cont. from Page 3)



Darrol Nelson (left) and Kevin Callaway took third.



Pat Bayliss (left) of California and Don Stallsworth finished fourth.

"Both the open doubles and open singles sported a tough field on what turned out to be quick boards. There were many 'grinding' matches, with most being determined in a close game after arduous effort," Steve reports. There were 17 teams in the open doubles with \$6,210 at stake, and 10 in the open singles with a pot of \$4,390.

That dynamic duo of veterans Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl took top honors in the doubles.



California visitors Karl Spickelmier (right) and Dudley Hutcherson took second place.

Dan Hitt and Al Pease of Washington took third, with Chuck Norris of Oregon and Hal Pery of California in fourth place.

In the open singles, Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson split top honors, with Chuck Norris in third, and Dan Hitt in fourth place.



"Thank God that's over!" said Chuck Norris after a grueling three-hour loss to Darrol Nelson in the singles.



That beloved clown from California, Freddie Thuman (sporting his best attire and lookin' for a date) kept the crowd entertained.

"Thanks to all who supported this event, and special thanks to helpers Dan Holland and Randy Foster for contributing so much effort to the foundation of the tourney," said Steve Fisher.

Gus Casinger/Bill Fisher Inducted

In a moving ceremony during the Rural American Open, 76-year-old Gus Casinger and Bill Fisher (who passed away 24 years ago), founder of the 99 Tavern in 1951, were inducted into the Pacific Northwest Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

The pair's history together was traced back to 1952 when Gus from Arkansas came to Winston and proceeded to teach Bill and wife Bobbie all the finer points of the game. Gus and Bill eventually became partners and played all who dared throw their hat in the ring. If Bill had action elsewhere, it was Gus and Bobbie who took them on.

Gus and Bill didn't have to leave town to find action. "Road players" such as Bob Miles, Billy Mays, Porter White, and Mexican Tommy stopped on occasion. Many strong players spent time

learning in the town of Winston, players such as "Portland Eddie" Graves, Darrol Nelson, Glen Davidson and Chuck Norris.

The Pacific Northwest Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Directors said: "The combination of all Bill Fisher and Gus Casinger contributed to the spirit of the game are not measurable. One only need to look, listen and feel the shuffleboard energy in the little rural town of Winston to understand. Certainly, things would not be the same around Southern Oregon if it were not for the efforts of these two shuffleboard pioneers."



Tournament Director Steve Fisher nearly "loses it" during the induction of his Dad Bill, then gives a congratulatory hug to Gus Casinger.

Full House Hosts 12th Annual Labor Day Tournament

The Full House, Wynnewood, Oklahoma, hosted its 12th Annual Labor Day Tournament with players from Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma participating.

In the opening event, a sweetheart draw, Stephynne Renfro and Ted Polk were the winners. Taking second place honors were Shannon Tice and Brenda Watts, with Lynn and Tommy Tice in third.

In the open draw, Fred Boyd and Big B took first place. Lynn Tice and Brenda Watts were second, with Gerald Wood and Snuffy in third place.

In the bring your own partner event, Lynn Tice teamed up with Tony Pelton of Arkansas to take top honors. Bill and Billy Melton were second, and Skip and Eddie McCaskill were third place winners.

Tony Pelton took first place in the open singles. Host Don Kinard finished second with Rick Jones in third place.

"Thanks to all the players who participated in our 12th Annual Labor Day Tourney," said the Full House hosts. "Our sincere thanks go out to

tournament director Gerald Wood, secretary Vicki McCaskill, and bracketeer Chuck Williams. We look forward to seeing everyone again."

In Memory of "Pattycake"



This year's Labor Day Tourney at the Full House in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, missed long-time owner and participant, Pat Kinard. Pat lost her struggle with cancer this past June. She owned and operated the Full House since 1986 where she learned to play shuffleboard. She loved the game and entered many tournaments with Don. Pat had a zest for life. She was a person who lived life to the fullest. Pat touched each person she came across with her outgoing and compassionate personality. She will be greatly missed.

More Notebook....

Butch Wants to Win!

I want to win one!!! Man, I am just like the Nascar drivers when they come to Indiana for the Brick Yard 400. Everybody wants to win one of those races.

Yes, I would love to win the state's single championship. That would make my year. But on the real side, if I make the cut, some of my winnings will go to the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and the National Hall of Fame.

Good luck to Michigan and Florida in their state championships in November.

Butch Thomas, Noblesville, Indiana

You keep on playing, Butch, and you will win one! We haven't heard yet about your Indiana State Championships, which is always a big one. Give them a nudge, so the information can be in the November issue.