

The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

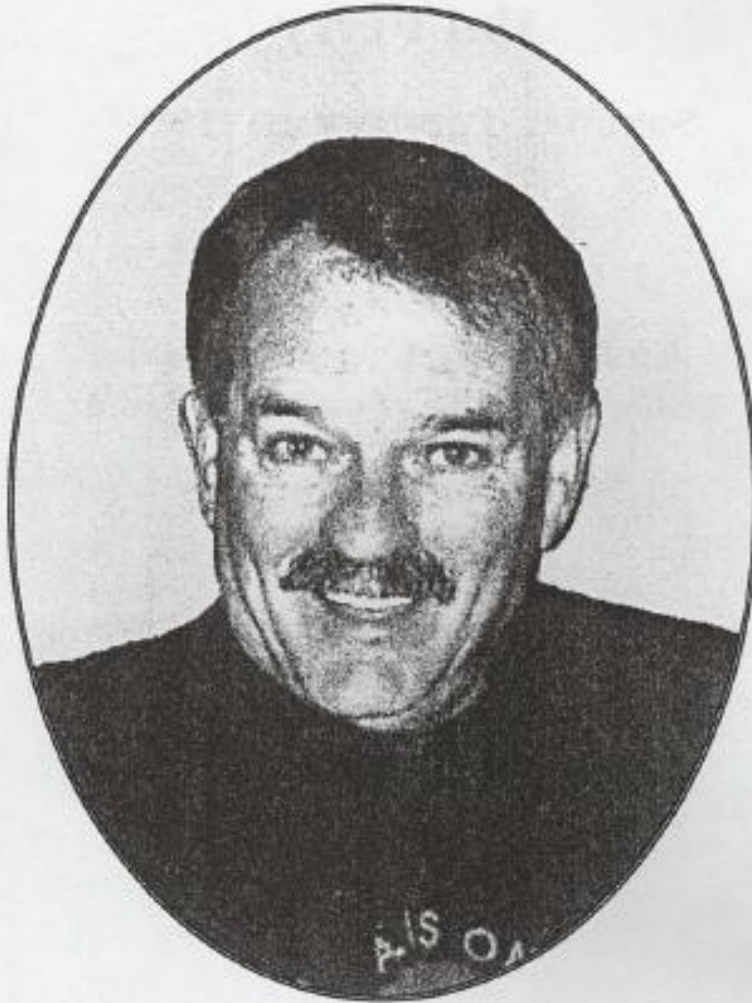
**Induction Ceremony
Honoring
Hal Perry**



**Presented at
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California**

February 13, 1999

**CONGRATULATIONS
HAL PERRY**



THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

HAL PERRY — THIS IS YOUR LIFE

by Rick Thomas

Hal Perry was born February 24, 1937, in San Francisco, California. His family moved to Sacramento, where he went to Del Paso Grammar School, and then Grant High School in Sacramento, where he graduated in 1955.

During his high school days, Hal became a pitcher for the high school team, and also played short stop. As a pitcher, he was the All-City M.V.P. in 1954-55. In his senior year he struck out 213 batters, a near state record. (Note: The state record was 215 by Don Drysdale, so I'd say Hal was in pretty good company.)

In 1956 he was drafted and signed for a \$4,000 bonus with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He went to spring training along with Roberto Clemente and Bill Mazeroski. From 1956 to 1959 he spent most of his time in Triple A.

In 1960 he quit, came back to Sacramento and went to work for the A-1 Door Company, where he has been ever since. During his first four years with A-1, he also played semi-pro baseball for the Roseville merchants. At the time he weighed a whopping 140 pounds. Highlight: In 1963, he struck out 24 batters (the previous record was 19); threw a no-hitter; and went 5 for 5 in the batters' box. How could you beat that?

He met Shirley in 1974 in Auburn, California, and they have been together ever since, for 25 years.

Hal was basically a self-taught shuffleboard player, beginning in 1960. He was a true traveling session player who traveled and played all over the country, and according to most of the players, he was a touch above everyone else. From the early '60s to the late '70s, Hal spent many a night in San Jose, namely at Bill Jennings' Happy Hour, where, according to Hal, ten or twelve of the top players played. To name a few: Pee Wee Ramos, Mickey Gomes, Ted Berger, Mountain View George, San Jose Ron Gisham, Ron Harrelson, Ritchie Rea,

Ron and Rich Selfridge, Chuck the Barber and Bill Jennings. Hal won a lot of money, and has many good memories of the Happy Hour.

One of the biggest wins he enjoyed was in 1965 when he played in a tournament in Lemon Grove, California, near San Diego. The tourney was run by Rod Cameron and Glen Davidson. Hal teamed up with Pee Wee Ramos to defeat Billy Mays and Tommy Gavin. In the finals, after the tournament, Hal teamed up with Rod Cameron in a money session and beat everybody, including Billy Mays, Glen Davidson, Bob Myles and others.

In 1968 Hal and Glen Davidson went to the Easy Pickings in the Los Angeles area and proceeded to get busted—lost all but a few bucks. After Friday, he borrowed \$50 and they went to the Dixie where over the weekend he won 22 games in a row before everyone quit. What a comeback!

Some other fond memories:

In 1977 at the World Series of Shuffleboard held at the Black Cat in Portland, Oregon, Hal teamed with Fred Johns to win the tournament over Fred Thuman and Joe Hudson.

In 1976 the World Team Championships were held in Longview, Washington at the fairgrounds, with 18 boards, over two weeks, with 90 teams.

The winning team was Hal Perry, Fred Thuman, Joe Hudson, Don Cox, Leroy Ledford and Billy Mays. This was one of Hal's most memorable and rewarding tournaments.

Other wins and accomplishments:

- 1978 with Billy Mays, won 1st Place Doubles, Dowers, Yuba City.
- From 1982 to 1989 Hal had limited play but came back to win:
- 1989 with Glen Davidson, took 2nd Place Doubles, Phoenix.
- 1990 with Diana Hagen, took 2nd Place Doubles, Denver.
- 1990 took 1st Place Singles, Corporate Image, Texas.
- 1990-98 took 1st Place Singles, Dowers. At this tournament, Steve Perry saw his dad play for the first time. It didn't take

too long for the next Kodak Moment—their first win together.

- 1996 Hal & Steve Perry, 1st Place Doubles, President's Day at Blinky's in Santa Clara. What a tourney! Steve and Hal took 1st and 2nd place in Singles also.
- 1995-97 Hal & Rick Thomas, Two 2nds, Doubles at Blinky's.
- 1997 Hal & Steve Perry, 1st Place Doubles, Phoenix
- 1998 Hal & Steve Perry, 1st Place Dixie Belle, Downey California on the 4th of July.
- 1998 Hal & George Camara, 2nd Place, Dixie Belle, on Thanksgiving.

Final Comments: In the middle 60's, Hal Perry is very fond of the treatment he received from Jim Foran, the players and the people in the State of Washington. He said they treated everyone very well.

Best Comment That Was Ever Made: by Bobby Goldsmith. "If I had only one game to play for my life, I would have Hal Perry shoot it!"

Best Story Proving They Will Do Anything: While waiting his turn to play shuffleboard, Hal Perry and several others decided to kick rocks in back of the Happy Hour in San Jose. A backer named Electric from Washington also got involved. Hal made some bucks when everyone said Hal had the best rock. Well, H.P. got called in to play shuffleboard where he won \$80. In the meantime, he sold his rock to Freddie Johns for \$15. Freddie proceeded to win two or three thousand dollars with this famous rock. Hal said he should have stayed out back kicking rocks. The rock remains encased on Freddie Johns mantel.

To a man who truly loves this game and is one of the greatest tournament and session players in the country, we thank you, Hal Perry, for your great contribution to the World of Shuffleboard and for enhancing all of our shuffleboard lives. Your charm and wit are legendary, and keep us smiling. We could never bestow enough accolades on a man with your integrity.

Hal Perry, thank you!

The Board Talk

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers
503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906

To: The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
Committee

Re: Induction of Hal Perry

We applaud your selection of Hal Perry for induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He has certainly earned this great honor, both as a player and for his many contributions to the growth of our sport.

Personally, we appreciate his long-time support for The Board Talk and his continuous encouragement of its publishers, and salute his years of service devoted to helping the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame grow from an idea to reality

It is always a delightful experience to meet Hal at the tournaments we've been fortunate enough to attend. He never fails to brighten the atmosphere with a joke or an antic, but we know that underneath that devil-may-care exterior, there lurks the heart and soul of a generous, compassionate, caring man.

Congratulations to Hal on his induction and to you for selecting him.

George and Donna Wilber

Hal's friends have the last word:

Before there was The Board Talk or The Shuffleboard Federation, stories of the great road players and session players were passed along by word of mouth. This is how we first became aware of Hal Perry.

Hal's prowess on the boards was known to us, more than 2,000 miles away, even though as far as we know, he had never played any shuffleboard in the Midwest. Those stories were of a man whose talent, competitive fire and will to win were matched by few others. In fact, the earliest memories of Hal came from Bud Broka who told of the sessions of 30+ hours of singles play against Billy Mays, a feat that is hard to imagine. Billy himself will tell you those were among the toughest sessions he was ever involved in.

But Hal is about much more than shuffleboard talent. His honesty, integrity and sense of fair play are also legendary. His name on any shuffleboard venture, be it the Player Policy Board, or the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, lends instant credibility. Having the chance to observe the meetings of Player Policy Board, which formed the rules that Shuffleboard Federation tournaments have been governed by for more than ten years was a chance to see first hand all the qualities for which Hal is admired.

Over that same time span, we have been fortunate enough to get to know Hal, and the things we have learned about shuffleboard and life have enriched us. so we take much joy in knowing that Hal, one of the great players in the history of our sport, is being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It is an honor that is well deserved and we wish our schedules would permit us to attend the special event. Although we are not physically present, please know that we are with you in spirit. We salute and congratulate Hal Perry, a man who personifies professionalism. In our minds, this award signifies what we have felt about you for many years—that you are a true Hall of Famer.

Sincerely,

*Phil Skover & John McDermot
The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc*

More from Hal's friends . . .

Hal was and is one of the all-time greatest players ever to pick up a weight. I believe I first saw Hal Perry at the Onyx Club in Roseville, California, sometime in the early to middle sixties. I think he was playing in a league then and his team came to play the Onyx team. He had on his team a person named Ernie Luna, one of the top players in the area at the time. When I remarked to someone how well Ernie played, they said that "Yes, Ernie did play well, but he was not the best player in the house." When I asked who could possibly play better than Ernie, they pointed to a thin, quiet man sitting at the bar, who was Hal.

Over the years, having the good fortune to reside in the same general area as Hal and the pleasure of playing with and against him, and also having watched him play against great players, I came to find out just how well Hal Perry could play the game of shuffleboard. There was never any weakness in his game that you could try to exploit, because he had no weakness. Hal could stick, roll, drive, chip, bang and finesse with the best of them with either hand. As for desire, I've never seen a player with a greater will to win, and when it came to getting out from nine, ten, or eleven, there was no one any better.

I remember a story I heard about Hal. He was playing out of town and one of the local players said, "I hear you're Hal Perry. I would like to play you for five dollars, just to see how good you are."

Hal replied, “Well, I will play you for five, but for five dollars you are not going to see how good I am!”

That is certainly the way it was. The more money he played for, the better he played.

I have mentioned board play, but the other aspect of the game—lagging—well, I don’t think there was ever a better lagger in the game. You could absolutely not block his lag. He could lag equally well with both hands from the rail, with a spon or a free hand. I am convinced he could lag a three with his elbow or his nose.

Another aspect of his lagging is worth mentioning. If he was ahead, say eight to four, he would not just sit on the lead like a lot of players do. he would pop that three on you and you would find yourself out of the game in a hurry.

Hal was a great session player. He could play at a very high level for a very long time. I personally believe that sessions are the fairest way to judge players. His sessions with the greats such as Billy Mays, Pee Wee Romas and Bob Miles are legendary. he also was, and is a very good tournament player.

To sum it up, by any means by which a person would want to judge a shuffleboard player, Hal stands right there with the greatest players. Hal obviously deserves to be inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Hal Perry was and is one of the all-time greatest players ever to pick up a weight.

—*Nick Chaffin*

More from Hal's friends . . .

It was thirty-plus years ago I met Hal Perry, and it would take thirty-plus pages just to begin what I know and think about this man, from the kind of person he is, his accomplishments in shuffleboard, his giving nature, to what he means to me personally, so I will try to sum it up in a few short definitions of all of the above.

Kind of person—a very giving man, an example to us all, as how we should be towards our family and friends. A person who never gave up when times got tough, and shared with all when times were good.

Accomplishments in shuffleboard—the first thing that come to mind is, *no fear*; second, *loved the game and people involved with it*; third, *the best lagger anyone has ever seen*; fourth, *a winner, not only of tournaments, but because of what he gave of himself*.

His giving nature—he's always there for you. If a person needed something, and he didn't have it, he would go out of his way to get it. Giving to others *without* something in it for him. He enjoyed watching people smile—that was his reward.

What he means to me—wow, this could go on forever. I love him, he has been my mentor, my teacher, a best friend, a doubles partner who, over the years, I can tell you, created memories that will be with me forever. From the rival matches for decades with Bell Melton and David Williams, to not getting paid when we won tournaments, to literally falling out of the sky in an airplane, on and on.

Hal Perry, it's with great pleasure I say congratulations on your induction into the State Hall of Fame. The wins, the loses, the time shared together, the fire in your belly to the love in your heart, you deserve the best. thank you for being my friend, my teacher, my mentor, and just plain, who you are. *Go, H.P.!*

—Fred Thumann

Hal's friends speak out . .

Hal Perry has been around forever. He was the best player in California in the 70's, and some of the 80's. He played everywhere and won his share of the tournaments. He's always been a great supporter and player of the game.

You could also say he is a pioneer and an ambassador for our game. Hal is one of the Directors of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

I remember our first road trip. We went to Monrovia, California to a bar called "Easy Pickens". After we left there, broke, we knew what they were saying to us. Next, we played at the old Dixie in Carbon Canyon, and somehow we managed to get even and leave with some money, enough to get Hal a plane ticket home. Those were the good times!

I endorse Hal Perry 100 percent for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Enjoy, ole' friend!

We'll have to get together and take that trip one more time, but we'll skip that damn bar they call "Easy Pickens!"

*—Glen Davidson, President
National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame*

Congratulations, Hal on your induction into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

You are very deserving, as a player, a very GOOD shuffleboard player over the years, a big supporter in the shuffleboard community and an avid promoter of the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Once again, congratulations!

—Al Stewart

More from Hal's Friends . . .

Hal is a friend of mine. He's one of the best shuffleboard players on the planet, and has been for many years.

—*Darrol Nelson*

Hal Perry is a must for induction to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He is a great competitor and a fierce competitor. He is recognized throughout California for his leadership qualities. He has given his time and experience to make shuffleboard successful statewide.

I'm glad to call Hal my friend.

—*Rich Warren*

Congratulations to a great player, and one who always has a comeback, whether he's playing or in a conversation of some colorful dialogue

—*Chuck Norris*

Hal—congratulations on your induction into the California shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Not only are you a great player and a fierce competitor, but a true gentleman and a friend.

—*Paul Weber*

Congratulations to an excellent player, and one with a great sense of humor.

—*Jolene Lembke*



A Special Tribute to Hal . . .

The phrase “great player” can sometimes be overused in any game and shuffleboard is no exception. What can define a great player can often times be a matter of debate, and though it cannot be defined, who a great player is can be substantially more clear. While conversations about who and what makes a great player are debated in shuffleboard establishments across the country, one thing is for certain...

Hal Perry is a great player. Period.

No matter what criteria you use to calculate what's the stuff great players are made of, Hal Perry will still come up on your list. Why? Because whatever ingredients you included in your recipe for a great player, he has it. Billy Mayes himself once told me, “Hal Perry had no weaknesses.” Billy should know, as they battled for years, and according to many, it was a dead draw.

With tremendous talent and an unrelenting competitive spirit, Hal has always been the prototype shuffleboard player. What impresses me most about him, however is not what he does on the shuffleboard, but what he means to the game.

The California Hall of Fame could possibly be the best tribute to what he has done for the game. You will get no argument as to whether he belongs in the National Hall of Fame, but it's the State Hall that best embodies Hal and his contributions. There is no one in the State that personified shuffleboard and its people better.

I have played the game for 10 years, and am grateful that we've been able to play together. Of all the tournaments I've won, none are as special as the ones I have won with him.

In life and in game, I am proud to call Hal Perry my father, and am happy that everyone else has had a chance to see and experience what I have all my life.

He is a better man than he is a shuffleboard player.

Congratulations, Dad, I love you.

—Steve Perry

More from Hal's friends . . .

Congratulations, Hal, from one Hall of Famer to another! Where would these kids be without us???

Good Luck!

—*Sal Lipkin*

Hal Perry is a great player, adds a great deal to the game. I only met Hal three years ago, but I had heard about him through Billy Mays and Earl Kelly. He is a gentleman and a lot of fun. I've been told that Hal was one of the top five players for many years.

—*Johnny Wayne Crawford*

Hal, congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I first met Hal Perry in the '60s when we were traveling through California. We were told about a player in San Jose that played at the Happy Hour in San Jose. We went there to play Hal Perry and Pee Wee Ramos. We played for a whole week, every day, with a few rest breaks. When we left there, I was convinced that we had played the best player in California, if not the world. Nothing's changed—I still think he's one of the best players in the entire world.

—*Bill Melton, Oklahoma*

I am extremely pleased that Hal Perry is being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Not only is he a great player, someone I would take as a partner against anybody, but also a classy gentleman and a lot of fun to be around. We all enjoy the man immensely.

—*Bill Maxwell*

Hal's Friends have the last word:

I've never played against Hal Perry, but I've observed his play—and I'm glad I haven't had to play against him. Put him in a game with his son, Steve, as his partner, and they're awesome!

Congratulations, Hal!

—Chris Brown

Hal—You're one of the best, and I hope to see you playing for many years into the future. Congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

—David Brenner

Through the years, Hal has been my partner in many major tournaments, and there has never been a better partner than he is. He is a true gentleman, and you can enjoy being around Hal, even when he is your opponent. Congratulations, Hal!

—Joe Muniz

What can I say? the greatest player that I have ever seen—true natural talent. He has played and beat all of the great players of the past and the present. He is certainly the most qualified and deserving player in the state to be considered for induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Hal!

—Bob Hunt

Congratulations, Hal!

—Sandy Flood