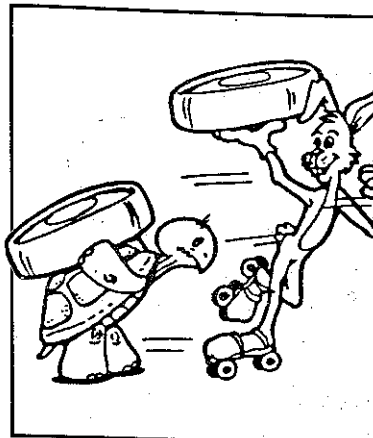


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# The Board Talk

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## Hale/Wilcox Inducted in State Halls of Fame

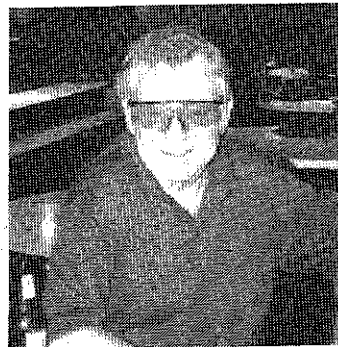
*This One's for You, Bruce!*

*Emmett: "The Obvious First Choice"*



Ten years ago, at the 1st Arizona Open, Bellflower Bruce Hale started his tradition of presenting roses to every lady attending tournaments. On April 18, the tables were turned on Bruce as three dozen ladies each gave him a rose and a kiss. It was part of Bruce's induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, held at Oskar's in Bellflower.

It's a long road filled with potholes from being broke and building a wood and cardboard shelter in an alley in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles to being the sole owner of a successful plastics company. This  
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Emmett Wilcox became the first inductee into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at the Bourbon Spring Doubles on May 2. Terry Dowell presented him with his plaque and called him "the obvious first choice" for induction.

Up until May 2, 1998, one of the most memorable wins for Emmet Wilcox was at Bourbon in 1959, where he received a 4-inch trophy and half of the \$280 pot (sale included). This year the pot was \$10,000 and he didn't win a share of that, but he did receive an honor no other Hoosier had captured before -- induction into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He became No. 1!

Long respected by his peers in the Midwest as a player and a teacher, Emmett charged \$1 each for his lessons during the '60s. He said his advice was free but lessons cost; that way you would always remember them. By the late '70s, his "price" had increased to \$5. Of his new crop of students, he observed: "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser."

The '80s brought better players and bigger pots and he still won more than his fair share. "By the late '80s, his interest in playing had dropped a little, but his interest in improving the game had peaked," said a student and friend named Bill. "By the early '90s, he was polishing weights so a player could get the most out of them. He then built a new style climatic that would permit you to change one side of a board, but  
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## **Hale Inducted** *(continued from Page 1)*

long road that Bruce Hale has travelled also contained some health obstacles to challenge his trip through life. Each time he hit one of those potholes, his unfailing spirit and positive attitude saw him through.

Perhaps it is because he's had to overcome so many challenges himself that makes him such a compassionate, generous man, whether it's encouraging a beginning player, helping shuffleboard establishments (like Oskar's) get up and going, making the ladies who participate in the sport feel special, or financially supporting a worthy cause -- charities, organizations and needy individuals.

Marilyn McCracken, who along with Jim Martin, have lent their creative talents to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee, summed it up well when she said: "Although his business has been plastics for the past 30 years, this man is truly made of precious metal. He not only has a heart of gold, but also has a silver tongue....."



*Bruce's "silver tongue" failed him when President Jolene Lembke officially inducted him into the California Hall of Fame. The sentiments he was too overwhelmed to deliver then are contained in his full-page ad on Page 3.*

Words of tribute to Bruce were eloquently delivered by Joanie Swenson, Paul Weber, Marilyn McCracken, Mike Sanderson, Tim O'Brien, Debbie (Dixie Debbie) Merhoff, Kathleen Wilson, Chris Brown (on behalf of The Board Talk), and Jan Manes. When VCR problems prohibited the viewing of a video salute produced by Jim "The Marlin" Martin, which contained a song called "Bruce," written by Joanie Swenson, The Shufflettes (Joanie, Mary Lou Deering, Jolene Lembke and Audree Rasmussen) were persuaded to do a live performance. As they got into the song, so did Bellflower Bruce, dancing in the aisles with several ladies.

*(Editor's Note: Our thanks to Chris Brown for providing the information for this report. Copies of the Bruce Hale video are available from the California Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 8143, Bellflower, CA 90706. The price is \$10, half of which is donated back to the Hall of Fame.)*

## **Wilcox Inducted** *(cont. from Page 1)*

not the other side. Next, he built an indicator with which you could tell how much of a valley or crown a board had in it. Another of his ideas came into being a couple of years ago, thanks in part to The Shuffleboard Federation for their cooperation in building titanium weights. He had the idea about 10 years ago, but didn't have access to the right components. Now he proudly displays his GOLD weights every time he plays.

"As proud as he is of those weights, he is even more so of the players he helped along the way. So if you are ever in Central Indiana playing a game and happen to make a bad shot or two and hear someone say: 'Boy, I wish he made \$1,000 a week and played me for \$500; we would both make a good living,' you just met Mr. Wilcox," Bill said.

Induction ceremony speakers included Terry Dowell, Jim Long, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Director Larry Creakbaum and NSHF President Glen Davidson.

## **Knox/Miller Top Field of 40 Teams at Bourbon**

The three top spots in the 37th Annual Spring Doubles at the American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, Indiana, went to Indiana shooters. Coming out on top of a field of 40 teams and taking the largest share of the \$10,000 pot were Jerry Knox and Ray Miller. Second place honors went to Glen Ingram and Jim DeWitt, with Greg and Tom Massie in third place.

Len Dell and Rick Niblett traveled from Maryland to take the No. 4 spot. Tied for fifth and sixth were Bobby Voorhis and Rick Royal of Indiana, and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma and Bob Perry of Illinois. Terry Dowell of Indiana and John Myles of Michigan, and locals Steve Slough and Dawn Chapman tied for seventh and eighth places.

As with all the previous Bourbon tournaments, everyone had a great time, enjoyed the good food, and were honored to witness the induction of Emmett Wilcox into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

**Support your state and  
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Shuffleboard Halls of Fame  
with your ideas,  
nominations,  
and contributions.**