



THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

LEROY LEDFORD

Presented at
Exeter Eagles Lodge
Exeter, California
June 30, 2012

CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CERMONY

For

LEROY LEDFORD

Saturday, June 30, 2012

At

Exeter Eagles Lodge

Exeter, California

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Bob Hunt

SPEAKERS

Hal Perry

Don Cox

LEROY LEDFORD

By Zak Smith (Grandson)

Leroy Ledford was born November 19, 1939 in Oklahoma and passed away September 23, 2011. Leroy had been a Yuba-Sutter County resident for most of his life. Leroy was a loving and loyal Grandfather, Great Grandfather and friend to everyone who knew him. He was the owner of L & J Painting where he built a reputation and a huge following of customers for exceptional work at a reasonable price, but this is not what he is most known for. He was one of the greatest shuffleboard players California had ever seen and the nation had gotten to know. Leroy was known for his achievements in shuffleboard and always had a dream to be in the hall of fame. As a loving great grandchild and close friend, I would like to see his dream come true as I'm sure many shuffleboard players would.

Leroy leaves behind numerous friends, grandchildren and great grandchildren by whom he will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his lifetime partner Roselina Reed. They were together for years before she passed away in 2005. Together Rose and Leroy led northern California in shuffleboard.

Known as Leroy "Yuba City" Ledford, he put Yuba City on the map in the world of Shuffleboard. Up until his retirement from the game Leroy was widely recognized as one of the best Shuffleboard players in the world. Playing around the United States and especially in Yuba City, Leroy and Rose Reed were responsible for organizing dozens of nationally recognized tournaments at Dowers in Yuba City. He also loved to spend time on the river fishing for stripers.

Leroy began playing shuffleboard in the bars in Northern California and was instantly hooked. With hard work and dedication he would soon become one of the best to ever play the game. Leroy found a bar in Marysville, California called Dowers Tavern owned by Rose Reed. Leroy began to talk to Rose the owner/bartender and she soon offered him a job bartending. Leroy didn't know anything about bartending but was willing to let Rose teach him because he was in awe of how beautiful she was and this was his free ticket to spend time with her.

Leroy soon found himself falling in love with Rose and he started to teach her how to play shuffleboard. As time went on she realized how much talent Leroy had and began to be his promoter/manager. They teamed up and started to host tournaments at Dowers. In 1962 Rose and Leroy came started a regional shuffleboard tournament called THE MASTERS. Players came from across the nation and even from Canada to play. The entry fees were \$200 for doubles and \$150 for singles and paid 60-30-10.

The Masters continued for over 25 years, eventually taken over by the Ace of Clubs owners Jerry and Sharon Miller. Leroy and Don Cox dominated the doubles events from 1978 to 1987.

PARTIAL TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1962 Leroy and Rose hold the first Masters Tournament at Dowers in Yuba City.

1976. Leroy was on the winning team at the World Team Championships at Long View, WA fairgrounds. The event had 90 teams, 18 boards and lasted 2 weeks. Leroy's teammates were Hal Perry, Freddie Thumann, Joe Hudson, Don Cox, and Billy Mays.

1982 Leroy and Don Cox are in the finals at the World Series of Shuffleboard at the Black Cat in Portland Oregon. They played for \$6,000 against Darrol Nelson and Galen Gaunce.

1985 Leroy and Don Cox take 1st in doubles at the Memorial Day tournament at the Ace of Clubs, Marysville, CA. There were 11 teams.

1986 Washington's Birthday Tournament at Corporate Image, Ft. Worth Texas. Leroy and Karl Spickelmier took 3rd in doubles. 1st was Billy Mays and Earl Kelly ,2nd went to Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl.

1986 Thanksgiving Tournament at Stagger Inn, Bellflower, CA. 1st place in doubles with John McDermott. 2nd place - Billy Chiles and Teddy Z. 3rd place went to Bill Melton and Eric Waldman. Leroy also took 3rd in Singles behind Billy Chiles and Joe Muniz.

1987 25th anniversary of the Masters, now at the Ace of Clubs. Leroy and Don Cox took 1st place in the doubles (for the 2nd time that year), defeating Ron Harralson and Loren Maxham.

1987 Aug & Sept Leroy's ranking in the Board Talk – Pacific Division was 4th behind Darrol Nelson, Billy Chiles and Karl Spicklemeir.

1987 November – ranked 3rd In Board Talk Pacific Division behind Darrol Nelson and Don Cox.

1987 Thanksgiving tournament at Stagger Inn, Bellflower, CA. Leroy and John McDermott repeat as winners of the doubles event.

1988 Ace of Clubs Masters. Leroy and Glen Davidson took 2nd place, losing to Eric Waldman and Fred Thumann.

1989 5th in doubles at the PSCA Extravaganza at the Showboat in Vegas tournament with Freddy Thumann of CA.

1989 Ranked 11th nationwide in Board Talk point standings.

1988 The Washington's Birthday Tournament at the Corporate Image in Fort Worth, TX. Leroy Ledford and Karl Spickelmier 3rd

1989 2nd place doubles at Ace of Clubs Labor Day Master 's Tournament with Mel Currie of Canada. Lost to Doug Buhl and Frank Monarrez. Also 2nd in singles, losing in 3 games to Don Cox.

1993 PSCA Extravaganza, 2nd in Pro doubles with Steve Wilson, Oregon. The event was won by Bobby Voorhis and Jim Allis. Bob Shaw and Diana Hagen were 3rd.

1994 Blinkey's Memorial Day, 3rd in doubles with Hal Perry. Steve Perry and Bob Hunt were 1st, Paul Parks and Loren Maxhim were 2nd

What a team, Leroy and Rose. I'm telling you, they came from near and far to battle the talent and the money. Didn't matter who you were or how much you wanted to play for, you had a game. You couldn't out bet Rose and rarely did anyone out play Leroy. No one in the country could lag their board as well as Mr. Ledford. When he was in the "zone," he brought a lot of great players to their knees. And at that point, you had one chance. Do NOT let him lag. Fourth weight you needed to stroke a two or three and hope he would shoot at it. But, from many years of first-hand experience, I can say this; the big boy is not going to shoot at the f@#%ing deuce. Welcome to the LEROY ZONE!

I have loved Leroy and Rose for many years. I can't even guess the amount of times I played against Leroy in singles. Nor can I guess how many times I played against him in doubles with Fred Thumann or Joe Hudson as my partner. But what I do remember is what a great time it was. One event that comes to mind was around 1970. We played doubles for about 18 hours and then both our partners quit. Leroy and I were feeling well warmed up, and being the competitors that we always were, we decided to continue. We played each other for another twenty four hours at a thousand dollars a game. I had never come close to playing for that kind of money before. I don't believe he had either. Well, I can proudly say we both shot great. The only people in the bar for most of the session were Rose, Leroy and me. I think it was the most fun I have ever had playing. What an exhilaration to play against such a skilled player. It brought out game I may otherwise never knew I had.

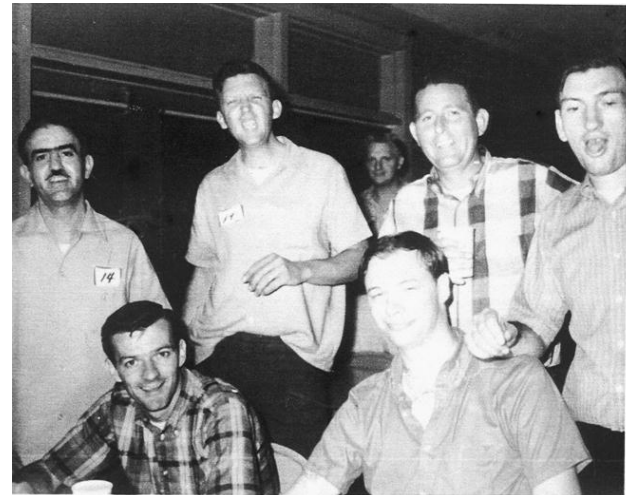
Sometime thereafter, we hooked up for a doubles session with Glen Davidson and Rod Cameron. We were still unknown "little guys" in the world of shuffleboard, so this was a big deal. We played about

twenty hours. Finally, they ran out of money, leaving Rose holding a large roll of cash for us to celebrate with. And believe me, we celebrated big time. We felt we had beaten the best doubles team in the country.

That spirit of the game and hunger to compete at the highest level. "Balls to the wall" was the Leroy and Rose that I loved. They're both gone now, but not in my mind. Some of my greatest victories include those two, Dowers Tavern and The Ace of Club. Great people, places and memories.

Missing them both,

Hal Perry



N. California Team (1968) L-R front: Hal Perry & Cable Car Dennis; L-R Back: unknown, Norm Phillips, unknown, Leroy Ledford

Friend, foe, always a friend, Leroy was a player's player – another one gone. In session play at Dower's Tavern in Yuba city, CA and the Ace of Clubs in Marysville, CA, he played the top players in the country of that era – Billy Mayes, Bill Melton, Glen Davison, David Williams, Bob Miles, Darrol Nelson and Hal Perry just to name a very few.

Leroy seldom lost – there was no quit in him. He would sometimes say after a match or session that his opponent suffered from lack of skills on that day.

I met Leroy at Dower's Tavern around 1972. He was wearing his white painters' pants. It did not take long to realize that this guy was the real deal.

At the Ace of Clubs, he and Don Cox dominated the annual Memorial Day and Labor Day tournaments for over ten years. Participants included the best of the best. This was shuffleboard at its finest.

Congratulations Leroy – he's up there somewhere - on your most deserving induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. A long overdue honor.

Bob Hunt

Talk about someone who played his home board. I don't think anyone could beat him there. Just ask some of the road players who tried.

I miss you and Rose.

George Camara

I first met Leroy Ledford in Marysville, California. He and I became friends in 1977 and teamed up from 1978 to 1989. Leroy and I dominated the Ace of Clubs' tournaments during that time. They had two Pro tournaments a year for over 11 years and Leroy and I won 18 of those 22 tournaments!

I can't think of anyone more deserving of induction into the California Shuffleboard of Fame than Leroy Ledford. Thank you for being my partner and most of all, thank you for being my FRIEND!

Don Cox



Leroy and Don Cox – perennial championship team



Darrol Nelson and Leroy



Arky, Leroy, Don

I met Leroy in the mid 70's in Yuba City at Dowers. Neil Rhodes, Mickey Gomes and I went there for some \$100 action. I didn't play much; Mickey and Neil had most of the action. Leroy ended up taking some of our money. Leroy and Rose were always good to me. I enjoyed competing against him. Darrol Nelson and I won a tournament at Dowers but I can't remember all our opponents. I did come in second one year to Bill Melton at Dowers.

Darroll Nelson and I came in second to Leroy and Don Cox at the Ace of Clubs in Marysville, CA.

Leroy was a great lagger and competitor. I miss him and all the other great players of that time that are no longer with us.

One thing funny I do remember about Leroy was when he waxed or powdered the board, he got more in his pants pockets than on the board.

Ron Harralson

When Bob Brunskill and myself first went to the Marysville tournament in the 90s, that's when I first met Leroy. I knew at the time I saw him play that he was one of the greatest players ever. Even though the induction comes after Leroy's passing, my congratulations goes out to Leroy for getting into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It is long overdue as we know in the shuffleboard world. Rest in peace, Leroy.

Jim Martin

As I remember, Leroy Ledford was definitely one of the top players in the country. If you came to play him in Yuba City, you'd better hitch up your pants because you had your hands full!

I played him a couple of times and I'm thinking, "God, I need to find easier action than this!"

With Rose backing him, he did not back down from any action. He played all the top players that came through Yuba City. On those fast boards with his soft stroke, he would lag something nearly every time. He loved those sessions. We don't see many players like that anymore.

Nick Chaffin

Although I never played against Leroy and only played in (my first) open tourney with him in the field, as I recall he and his partner won that tourney at the Gas Log Inn in Sacramento around 1991. I met him much earlier as a spectator during the San Jose tourneys. He and Rose were always so nice and kind to all of us non-players as well as the players. I once played "with" his weights and remember them being on the heavy/brick non-floating type! I loved hearing stories from all the old time players about Leroy and other old time money players. From what I've heard and seen, Leroy is much deserving of this recognition. Congratulations.

Sincerely, J. Chris Wayt