



THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

Norm Phillips

Presented at

The Wagon Wheel Saloon
Santa Rosa, California

May 22, 2010

THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME
WELCOMES NORM PHILLIPS

INDUCTION CEREMONY
at
THE WAGON WHEEL SALOON
SANTA ROSA, CA
SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010

HOSTED BY MARK MANDOLI and ROB BUNTING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

RICK THOMAS
VICE PRESIDENT-CSHOF

NORM PHILLIPS



Leroy Ledford and Norm Phillips – 1970's

Norm was born in Arkansas in the mid 1930's. He moved with his family to Mare Island, CA when he was 15 yrs old, and graduated from Vallejo High School in 1954. He married Carol, his wife of 53 years, in 1956. Norm spent several years as a toll collector for the Martinez, Benicia and Bay Bridges.

Norm learned the game of shuffleboard when he worked driving a beer truck in the 1960's. He would see the tables in

some of the bars he delivered to in Vallejo, and tried it out. After awhile, he would work Tues through Friday, delivering to Oakland, San Jose and Redwood City. He would get off work on Friday, and then play through the weekend.

In the early days, Norm partnered with Cliff Lincoln, another Vallejo player. Cliff, also known as "Big Linc," says that he was glad to have Norm as a partner, because he couldn't beat him. Norm and Cliff first met Hal Perry when Norm owned "Joe's Club" in Benicia, CA, which had a shuffleboard. Hal came in wearing a baseball uniform. Around 1965, after Big Linc had married and cut back on his play, Norm and Hal teamed up for many sessions in San Jose, Sacramento, Vallejo, Yuba City, Reno and Visalia. At that time, Norm says that he was the lagger of the duo; Hal was the "board player," keeping his end clean.

Norm first met Billy and Jeannie Mays in Martinez in 1968. He also met Bill Jennings and started playing at the Happy Hour in San Jose. That year, he was part of the Northern California Team at the State Championships, which included Hal Perry, Cable Car Dennis and Leroy Ledford.

Norm played many sessions in Visalia, first at the Hut, then at Mr. G's. Hal Perry says that they played there 30 times a year. Norm remembers playing against Marion Bailey, Bobby Goldsmith and Norman Woods. He also remembers

Robbie Gann, who he felt was one of the best women players in the game. During the 1960's & 70's, he also traveled out of state to play in Longview, Washington, the Black Cat in Oregon and Buddy's in Arkansas, to name a few. His wife Carol would sometimes travel with him. He says she played pretty well. She had a strong right hand, but weaker left hand.

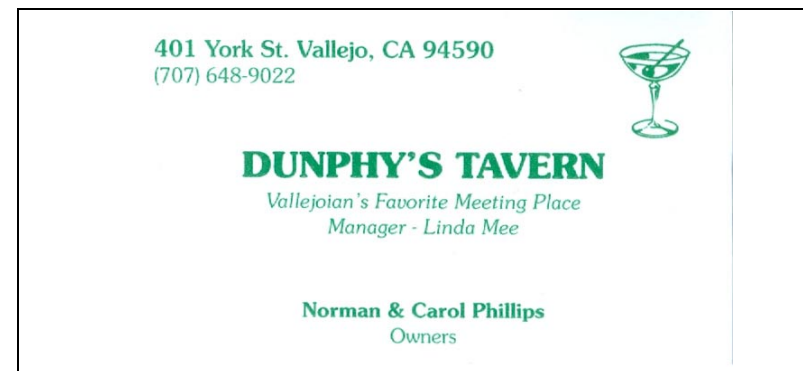
Norm also placed well in several tournaments between 1971 and 1977. In 1971, he won the doubles event at the U.S. Invitational at the Happy Hour in San Jose. His partner was Pee Wee Ramos and they beat Glen Davidson and his partner in the finals. He won the Singles event at Happy Hour in 1975, beating Billy Mays in the finals, 15-14. That same year he was on a team that placed 3rd at the Calif. State Championships in Visalia, CA.

The following year, he placed 2nd in the Singles event at the Calif. State Championships, held in Auburn, CA. This time around, Billy Mays beat him in the finals. In 1977, Norm won the Singles event at the Sacramento Open, held at the Sacramento State Fair. He beat Glen Davidson, Billy Mays, Leroy Ledford and Glen Young and others.

Glen Davidson mentioned Norm in two Board Talk articles, and said that Norm was one of the best players west of the Mississippi. He was noted for being able to span ½ the width of a shuffleboard with one hand, as well as his game ending lags.

Around 1979, Norm got a new job as a liquor salesman and started working five days a week. Because of this, he eventually stopped traveling but continued to play locally for many years.

Carol worked at the Travis Air Force Base for 35 years and retired in 1994. They have two sons and two daughters, as well as two grandsons and two granddaughters. They have owned the Dunphy's Tavern in Vallejo for the past 20 years.





A recent shot of Norm and his trophies

1971 Trophy 1st Place - Doubles (w/PeeWee Ramos)
U.S. Invitational Tournament, Happy Hour in SJ
Beat Glen Davidson & partner in the finals.

1975 Trophy 1st Place - Singles
World International Shufflbd Tourn, Happy Hour, SJ
Beat Billy Mays in the finals, 15-14.

1975 Trophy 3rd Place - Team Event
Calif. State Championship Open, Visalia Fairgrounds, Visalia
Team included Frisco Gene, Sammy the Greek, Dick O'Reilly,
and George Camera

1976 2nd Place - Singles
Calif State Championships at the Auburn Club, Auburn, Ca
Billy Mays beat him in the finals

1977 Trophy 1ST Place - Singles
Sacramento Open, Sacramento State Fair.
Beat Glen Davidson, Billy Mays, Leroy Ledford, and Glen Young,
among others

Testimonials

Norm, I never really got to know you or watch you play the game, but I feel I've come to know you better after speaking to several of your friends who know you well and did watch you play. I only wish that we could have played the game together in my past.

I want to take the time to congratulate you on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, and welcome to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Jim Martin

President, California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame



Robbie Scott-Gann & Jim Martin

Big Norm Phillips was one of the best players in my time. When he came to Mr. G's in Visalia, you knew there would be lots of action. He had an uncanny ability to lag that 4 when he needed to win the game.

I can't remember ever seeing Norm express anger or disappointment. He had a relaxed demeanor and no one could tell if he was winning or losing. I always admired that.

Congratulations Norm, you are truly deserving of this honor.

Robbie Scott-Gann

“BIG” NORM

Norm was my first pro shuffleboard partner. We teamed up around 1965 and took on all comers for about 10 years. Tournaments were small then with not much money, so we chased money games, mostly in action spots like The Happy Hour in San Jose. We played there a couple times a month. Top players then were Pee Wee Ramos, Neil Rose, Bill Jennings, San Jose Ron, Mountain View George, Mickey Gomez, Chuck the Barber, Tommy Bean, Firestone Dick, Ritchie Ray, Cable Car Dennis, Bill Vann, Glenn Davidson and Frisco Gene. Yes, at that time, the Happy Hour (thanks to Bill Jennings) was one of the best shuffleboard houses in the country.

We held our own with all of these great players, playing the dreaded sessions. You played until someone went broke. Sometimes these sessions would last 20 – 30 hours. It was simple, if you were losing, you wanted your money back and if you were winning, you couldn't quit until that final game when they ran out of money. We called that the old “gut” game. They would pay you at a later date. “Good luck!”

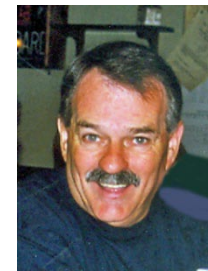
In the late 60's, we all fell in love with a place called Chuck's Back Door in Pleasant Hill. Why? Because they had an 18 foot board. We had a lot of action every Friday night and the most popular partner was Big Norm. It seemed like he could reach half way down the board when he would lag the 4th weight. It really seemed unfair unless you were lucky enough to be his partner. Yes, everyone tried to play with Norm. It was good for your wallet.

We Played Leroy and partners in Yuba City many times. Tough action, but good money. George (Little) was another good action spot in Stockton. He would always buy you breakfast after he relieved you of your money. But most of our road action was Bobby Goldsmith and partners in Visalia. Bobby would control how much money you could win. He didn't want his customers to lose more than they could afford. It was a great place to play, thanks to Bobby and Curley who kept everyone in line. All you had to worry about was playing good shuffleboard.

We took a few trips to Oregon and Washington where shuffleboard was the National pastime. I tell you, Norm and I had some great times in the great Northwest. But, we had great times everywhere we went as long as we were playing shuffleboard.

Norm was one of the great players of his time. Good board play and one of the most dangerous late game lagers of all time. When he set on 12 with the hammer, he was going to lag out more times than not.

Welcome, old friend, to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



Hal Perry

I don't remember the first time I met Norm Phillips. It may have been in Vallejo or somewhere else as he played all around Northern California.

I don't recall us playing a lot together, but we played a couple of sessions against each other. Norm was certainly a tremendous player. His board play was good and he was a very aggressive lagger. If you were up 14 to 12 and he had the hammer, many times he would beat you with a three lag. He played just about everyone in the area and did well.

Norm certainly deserves to be in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



Nick Chaffin



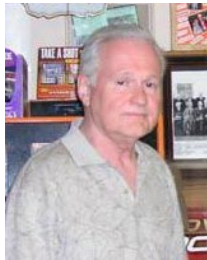
**N. California Team (1968) L-R front: Hal Perry & Cable Car Dennis;
L-R Back: unknown, Norm Phillips, unknown, Leroy Ledford**



Norm with Glen Davidson

Norm Phillips was a Bay Area session player of the 1960's and 70's who had no equal. Only Hal Perry and Billy Mays could stay with him in endurance and stamina. Norm never lost because there was no quit in him -- even after 24 to 48 hours of constant play.

He inspired many of us to become better shuffleboard players. Norm is a pro players' player, a true gentlemen, a genuinely great guy, and a pleasure to be around. Congratulations to you, Norm on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame -- a truly deserved honor.

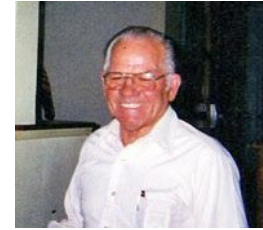


Bob Hunt

Norman Phillips, Welcome to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You are a good and welcomed addition into the Hall of Fame.

Norman was a great player. He could really shake you when he threw that long span shot across the board that was

the *Freight Train*. Norman was a tough nut to crack. I have won a game or two against him, but it was never easy. Norman was a good sport and an excellent player. He was one of the stronger players from the 1960's forward. Good going, Norm!!



Marion Bailey

It was in 1969 or 1970 that I met Norm Phillips at the Happy Hour Bar in San Jose, California owned by Bill and Bob Jennings. There was lots of shuffleboard action at the time. One thing I'll always remember about Norm was his thumb shot. He could reach halfway across the board. It was amazing. He was always a very good sportsman, win or lose. We did go to Vallejo on road trips to play Norm and his partners. I forgot the name of the bar. I know Norm would be a great addition to the California Hall of Fame.



Ron Harralson

I met Norm in the late 60's in an Auburn, CA tournament. I watched him play some guy that afternoon up into late that night. They went back and forth for a hundred dollars a game. That was a lot of money in those days, so I went on to the motel. They played all night.

I came back the next morning and they were still playing, but Norm was winning every game. That's how Norm played. You could stay even the first day if you were a good player, because Norm was a good player the first day. But, the next day and the next night and the day after that, he was a Great player. The longer he played with no sleep, the better he was. Norm would have all of your money at the end.

Congratulations Norm.
Your friend,

Don Cox



Norm, it was great meeting you recently. We had often heard "Big Norm" mentioned when people talked about former shuffleboard greats. It was nice to put a face to the legend. Congratulations!



Rick & Kathy Thomas