

The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

and

The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony Honoring

Porter White



Presented at the
Dixie Belle
Downey, California

July 3, 1999

PORTER WHITE, THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

Harold (Porter) Wayne White was born July 19, 1933 in Calipatria, Calif., where he attended school, and played football, basketball, ran track and wrestled on the high school team.

At the age of 15, Porter began playing shuffleboard on an old western board with a black top in the summer of 1948 at Williams Bar in Calipatria.

He was recruited for a team in Niland for the Club Bar by the best player in the Imperial Valley, Bryant Ringer. Porter was his partner because he could hit the weights, and because of his age and 95 lb. weight, they could get more action on their matches.

In 1950 he went on his first road trip to San Bernardino to play Hap Parkhurst at the Cockey Cactus. He was the best in town, but he refused to play Porter, who ended up playing a man named Tom who was third best in town. He took all Porter's money and sent him hitchhiking back home.

In 1951 Porter and his brother, L.J. went to Long Beach to visit Bob Tucker at the Saratoga Bar. L.J and Bob got to be good friends on hunting and fishing trips. Porter and his brother were not there to play, only to visit and watch Bob play.

Russ Crow, the owner of the Saratoga took them all to Santa Barbara for Bob to play someone at the Airporter in Goleta. When they got back to Long Beach, Bob got a call from Jack Tillson to come to El Paso, Texas to play shuffleboard. Bob was broke and had no car, so Porter borrowed his brother's car and \$40 and drove Bob to El Paso.

They met with Jack Tillson, Hock Ellis and Chuck Ferguson at the Hilton Hotel and went to Kilroy's Bar for Bob Tucker to play. No one there would play Bob, and

Jack Tillson asked him, "What can the kid do?"

Porter was 17 years old, looked 13, and weighed 105 pounds. Bob told Jack that Porter was there to drive.

He was a good player by then, but was not nearly as good as Bob, who was one of the best players in the world then, and for a lot of years to come.

Porter played partners with Jack Tillson and won money in El Paso. Then they went to Goldsmith, No Trees, Ft. Stockton, Pecos, Odessa and Midland. Porter did most of the playing, as everyone wanted to play him because of his age and size.

They all went to Hobbs, New Mexico, and Porter was matched to play someone for \$100, but the cops would not let 17 year old Porter go into the bar.

Bob Tucker and Porter left the others in McCammy, Texas and played in Alamogordo, New Mexico, Alamaho, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Okla. Bob beat Bob Franks and Porter beat one of the other players at The Little Gypsie. They came home by way of Phoenix, and met Clay chance and Sandy who were the best in Phoenix. They would not play Bob, and Bob would not let Porter play them. This was a good move, because Porter was not ready for that caliber of player.

September 19, 1951, Porter quit high school to join the U.S. Air Force in Yuma, Arizona, and was sent to Wichita Falls, Texas for basic training. While on a 12 hour pass, Porter played a staff sergeant at the Oasis Bar, who busted him. After basic training, Porter was shipped to Warren A.F.B. in Cheyenne, Wyoming. While there, he played in Kimbell, Neb., and Pine Bluff, Why, and Denver. He beat everyone there and while on a train for Christmas leave, he stopped off at Vegas and beat a few fellow airmen at the Lido Bar.

In 1952, he was transferred to Elmendorf A.F.B. in

Anchorage Alaska. He played at the D and D Bar and won several hundred dollars.

While in Alaska, Porter had to fly home twice, because he lost two brothers.

On returning to Alaska after his first emergency leave, he played in Stockton and beat Pat Stagno who was Stockton's best player at a bar called Sylvia's.

On his 2nd emergency leave, he spent a week in Long Beach. He beat Gene Birch who was one of the best players in California.

While in Long Beach, Bob Tucker took Porter to San Diego to play at the Rosecrans Cafe. He played all night and beat everybody.

On returning to Long Beach, Bob Tucker and Porter played Mickey and Art Bailey at the Colony Club in Hollywood. They were the State Champions and beat Porter and Bob.

Porter was at George Air Base 27 months. In 1953, he played around San Bernardino and Pomona where he ran around with Bob Kennedy (\$5 Bob) and Neil Rose

Next, he was shipped out of Fairbanks by train to Ladd A.F.B. There was a shuffleboard at the Airman's Club, with a no action going on, so all winter, 1952-53, Porter practiced.

In the spring of 1953, he was sent to George A.F.B at Victorville, and was there for 27 months.

At the Happy Hour in El Monte in 1953, Porter met Al Stewart and Don Pribles. He played Don the first of their many matches, and Don won that one.

In early 1954 he met Bob Miles in Long Beach, and was warned not to play him, as he was the World's Champion. Porter did play him, and Bob beat him 5 games in a row, then loaned Porter \$5 and sent him back to Victorville. Not long after that, John Favre called Bob

to come to Wichita, Kansas. this was the first of many, many trips Porter would take with Bob Miles, Pat Howard and John Favre.

Porter was discharged from the U.S.A.F. on September 21, 1955, and he went to El Monte to pick up Bob Miles, and they went to Oakland, Redding, Portland, and Boise. Porter did most of the playing and beat everyone.

When they got back to L.A. Bob, Floyd Birch and Porter were to go to Houston, Texas, but Porter ended up going alone. He played the three top players, Tommy Elis, Leon Yarbrough and Ray (Little Ray) Hartness. Tommy came out 3 games of frames ahead, Leon was one game ahead, and Little Ray and Porter broke even in 18 games.

Porter considered himself as a Los Angeles player, having played and grown as a player by going on many road trips with Bob Tucker, Bob Miles, Johnny Favre, Pat Howard, Bob Kennedy and Freddy the Dane, and Chuck Bromme (the Kansas City Kid).

While playing out of LA he ran with Al Stewart, Neil Rose, Leonard Dominick, Floyd Birch, Jim Caples, Bob Kennedy, Pat Howard, Freddy the Dane, Troy Tolbert, Billy Chiles and Clyde Jones.

In 1974, he went back to school, graduating from Imperial Valley College, graduating with honors with an A.A. degree in real estate.

Porter was active in the community, serving for several years on the Planning Commission. He was also a Director on the Imperial Valley Board of Realtors.

Porter has been a member of American Legion Post 135 for 38 years, and served as a Commander in 1971.

He has been a member of Brawley Elks Club #1420 for the past thirty years.

PORTER WHITE'S SHUFFLEBOARD CAREER

- 1950** Played in the Imperial Valley League for Hi-Ho Bar in Highland, CA.
- 1951** March, first road-trip with Bobby Tucker, thru Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Okla. In Sep. joined Air Force, played in Wichita Falls, TX; Stockton, Bay Area, Calif., Seattle & Anchorage.
- 1953** Transferred to George AFB. Played in So. Cal., San Fernando, Pomona, Downey, LA & San Diego. To Wichita, KA with Bob Miles & Pat Howard.
- 1954** Discharged from USAF. Second trip with Bob Miles to Northern Cal., Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada.
- 1955** Solo trip to Houston & Oklahoma City. Met Granville Humphreys., toured Missouri, Iowa, Illinois & Indiana.
- 1957** Trip with "Little Ray" Hartnes through Toledo, Philadelphia, Oaklyn, NJ., Long Island, Hicksville, NY; and Baltimore, Md. Four trips to Oregon. Partners were: Pat Howard, John Favre, "Freddie-the-Dane," & "Kansas City Kid" Chuck Brown. Trip with Bob Miles & Jim Kennedy to E. St. Louis, Mo., Indianapolis, and Detroit.
- 1958** Trip with Granville Humphreys to Oklahoma City, Springfield, Mo., Detroit, Canada, & Brooklyn, NY. Second trip with Kansas City Kid to Kansas & Texas.
- 1959** Trip with Ray Hartness & Bob Cammeron to Illinois and St. Louis.
- 1960** Played in Northern Ca., Oregon, and Vancouver. Took 17,000 mile trip through New England, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona & N. Mexico. Met "Tommy-the-Sailor," and "Long Beach," who went busted when Long Beach challenged "Minnesota Fats at the JJ Ranch in Johnson City, Ill. Watched first "One-Pocket" pool tournament.
- 1961** Trip with Bob Miles from LA to Wichita and Ft. Worth. Second trip to Amarillo, Detroit, Long Island, Baltimore and Hagerstown.
- 1968** Trip from Riverside, Ca., to San Jose and Chowchilla, partner

Texas Billy Mays.

- 1971** Trip to Visalia with Glen Davidson & Bob Miles, then to Gallup, NM; Tulsa, Peoria and Indianapolis. Traveled alone to Memphis, spent a week with Glen Young.
- 1972** Teamed up with Glen Young, left from Yuba City to San Jose, Portland, and Seattle/Tacoma area.
- 1977** Last trip with Bob Miles from Brawley to San Jose, Sacramento, San Diego & Portland.
- 1984** Last purely "road-trip" to Dallas, and Davis, Okla. Stayed for 3 weeks with Earl Kelly & Billy Mays.

TOURNAMENTS

- 1957** First tournament Pomona. Placed out of the money.
- 1960** 2nd place w/LeRoy Waggoner at Town Pump, San Francisco.
Took 4th place in Martinez
- 1961** Took 3rd in doubles w/Bob Miles at Rustic Tavern, Wichita.
- 1964** Took 3rd in singles, 2nd in doubles w/Billy Mays at Ft. Worth
- 1971** Took 2nd in doubles at Rodeo Room, La Mesa. Partner Chuck Kimbro. Lost to Billy Mays & Pee Wee Ramos.
- 1973** 2nd place at Happy Hour in San Jose. Partner LeRoy Ledford.
- 1976** 1st place, partner Ted Z at Moose Lodge, Montclair.
- 1977** 3rd place, partner Don Enger at Happy Hour, San Jose.
2nd place, partner Bob Miles at City tournament in Portland.
Placed 2nd, but ended up losing \$1,000.
- 1981** 3rd place, partner Tommy Gorman in Sacramento.
- 1991** 2nd place, partner Ted Z., at Best Little Warehouse in Temecula. Lost to Billy Chiles & Bellflower Bruce.

TOURNAMENT RECAP

- 1st** Montclair
- 2nd** San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Portland, Temecula
- 3rd** Wichita, Ft. Worth, San Jose, Sacramento, Bellflower

TRIBUTES FROM PORTERS FRIENDS

I have known Porter White since the late 60's or 70's. He came through Tulsa and Oklahoma City quite a few times. He traveled with Bob Miles across country when he was 17.

He is the only player I ever knew to do that at such an early age. He would play, and he would usually win when Bob couldn't.

Porter and Ray Hartness also played across country. Porter played up and down the West Coast from the 50's through the 70's, which were, I believe, his best years.

He also played with and against Rod Cameron and Granville Humphrey, who were two heavies in that era. Back east he and Miles played the Ice Man, Kid Gloves Bob Perry, Joe ____, and Ziggy.

Bob, Porter and I went to Visalia in the 70's. Bob and I could not beat the Goldsmith Cartel. We went to bed and Porter walked the board all night and got Bob and meour money back, plus some.

Thanks a lot, Porter. After that, he told Bob and me we were over the hill.

Porter and I went on a trip to Peoria in the 70's. Porter kinda phased out in the 80's.

A most deserving player and pro from the age of 17. I'm glad he will be with the rest of us in the National Hall of Fame. I know old Bob will be pleased.

*Glen E. Davidson,
President*

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

THE BOARD TALK

Serving the World of Table Shuffleboard since 1984

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

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To: California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

RE: INDUCTION OF PORTER WHITE

We gladly endorse your selection of Porter White for induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

While Porter's long list of achievements as a player occurred before we came on the scene, we do honor him as being The Board Talk's No. 1 subscriber. Back in 1984, he was the first to make a \$10 investment in a skinny little "baby," then stayed with us through our painful "adolescence" and as we grew into a healthy "teenager." We appreciate his years of support and his faith in us.

Our hearty congratulations to Porter. There is no greater honor than being recognized by your peers.

Sincerely,

George & Donna Wilber

Publishers

The Board Talk

TRIBUTES FROM PORTERS FRIENDS

I met Porter at Pat's Time-Out in El Monte in 1953/54. This was before the players moved to the Balboa Club.

Porter was stationed at George Air Force Base in Victorville, and came to El Monte every chance he had. We became instant friends! We played many, many games together, and against each other. If there was no action in El Monte, we would get in the car and head for Orange County looking for some ACTION.

The last time I remember going out together, we went to the Flying Saucer in Gardena. We played Bank Roll Bill and his partner, Joe. We didn't bust them, but they quit. Boy! That short board was tough.

Shortly after that the bartender asked all of us to get some beer and go to her house. We were there about 15 minutes and the other guys were in the kitchen throwing dice. About sun-up, we were going to head home when Porter said, "I wonder what is going on in San Diego?" I said, "Let's go find out."

We were near Oceanside when a cop stopped me and asked what the hurry was. I told him I was rushing Porter to his base. (I was going the wrong way for that, but I was making good time.) So I got a ticket for going 85 mph.

When we got to San Diego, we went to a park and slept on the grass for awhile. I don't know why we were sleepy—this was only Sunday and we had just slept some on Friday!

We started making the rounds in San Diego but we couldn't find one single game of shuffleboard. We ran into Indian Tommy, a horsecollar player, at the 222 Club. We knew he was tough on the short board and he wouldn't move to another board. Porter tried him out. We made a small donation and I took Porter back to the base (the *right one* this time).

I guess this little story is not as bad as the time Porter and Bob Tucker went on a trip to New Mexico and they wouldn't let him in the bar because he was too young. If he could have got to that board, they would have found out very quickly that he was not too young to play a very, very good game of shuffleboard.

Porter, knowing you all these years has truly been my pleasure!

Al Stewart

TRIBUTES FROM PORTER'S FRIENDS

I would like to say a few words about my friend Porter White. Porter was the first Professional shuffleboard Player that I met. Porter and Jimmy Cahills came by the old Hut one Sunday afternoon in 1965. We had a seventeen-foot board. I remember thinking they wouldn't last long because they didn't even know how to hold their weights. Of course, I found out later that they did, and their grip was called the Jersey Spin. It didn't take but a couple of games for them to teach me that there was more to the game than any of us local boys knew.

From that meeting, a friendship developed for 35 years. It was always so entertaining to sit and listen to Porter's stories when he was on the road with Bob Miles, Granville Humphrey and other old timers.

So, Porter, here is congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You made your mark in Shuffleboard and this is a deserving reward. Thank you for being my friend.

Bobby Goldsmith

In 1955, Porter was waiting for the Beacon Tavern to open when my wife Noelene walked up. After they went inside, Porter borrowed \$20 from her, saying he got tapped out the night before.

Later, Noelene's mother Ruth came in with some friends, and they all got involved in a horsecollar game at \$10 per person. Porter really was anxious to get into the game, but as long as Ruth was playing, he wouldn't. Eventually when Ruth quit, Porter jumped in and won quite a few dollars.

From what I know of Porter, he is one honest shuffleboard player, and an all-around nice guy. In 1955 he was one of the top players in the country, and deserves to be inducted into the California and National Shuffleboard Halls of Fame.

Floyd Birch

TRIBUTES FROM P PORTER'S FRIENDS

Porter White!

Now that name to me, means Shuffleboard. I don't mean *good* shuffleboard . . . I mean *Top of the Line* shuffleboard!

I can recall (some 40 years ago) watching Porter shoot at the Balboa Club in El Monte, California. He was playing with and against shooters, the likes of Bob Miles, Texas Billy Mays, Granvil Humphreys, Al Stewart, Floyd Birch, and Freddy-the-Dane, just to name a few.

I was mostly on the sidelines then, especially when the big (and I mean BIG) money games were played.

I can recall that when the two-o'clock curfew came on some Friday nights, the owner of the Club, Ralph Jones, would shut all the blinds on the windows, shut off the alcohol, and the games would continue on through Saturday night.

Porter was there, and for a time, only one man could really beat him—and that man was Bob Miles.

I learned much of what I know about shuffleboard from this "player-among-players" although the lessons were sometimes a little expensive (you surely remember that, don't you my man—ha!)

I'm extremely glad that you are finally getting the recognition you deserve—you truly have it coming, my friend. God speed!

All my best,
Balboa" Ron Schweikert

TRIBUTES FROM PORTER'S FRIENDS

Porter White was one of the top players of his time, and the nicest guy you would ever meet. If he busted you, he would give you money to leave town.

Congratulations, Porter, on your induction into the Hall of Fame.

Troy Tolbert

Congratulations, Porter! You deserve this honor.

Leroy Waggoner

Porter White was the first person my Dad thought should have been inducted into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Eric Chiles

I think I met Porter about 1957 at the Spotlite Tavern which at the time was one of "the" places to go to play shuffleboard.

He was one of the top players playing with the likes of Bob Miles, K.C. Chuck, Tommy Workman, Bill Holer (Bank Roll Bill).

He always conducted himself as a gentleman and is what, as far as I'm concerned, shuffleboard is all about—good clean fun and very competitive.

We all ran into each other almost every weekend at the Spotlite, the Balboa Club or wherever the action was.

I played with or against him for about 10 years and it is a pleasure to welcome him to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Porter!

Jay "Jaybird" Wilson

TRIBUTES FROM PORTER'S FRIENDS

I'm glad Porter White is being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and also into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Porter is not only a great player, but he is a great friend.

Rich "Bubba" Warren

Porter, congratulations on your induction into both of the Shuffleboard Halls of Fame. You are a credit to the game as a player and a supporter for these many years.

Paul Weber

Porter, congratulations on your induction into both the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

One great player and competitor.

Karl Spickelmier

Porter is such a nice guy, I couldn't think of one bad thing to say about him, no matter how hard I tried.

Donnie Hughes

PORTER'S FRIENDS SPEAK OUT

Knowing Porter over the years, having played against and with him at such places as "The Old Flying Saucer," in Torrance, to my place, "The Artesian," and a couple of years ago, when his partner tried to slip him in as a beginner at "The Edgewood."

He has always been a great player, and a true gentleman of shuffleboard.

It has been a pleasure to play with him at all times.

Good luck, Porter—you deserve the honor you're getting today.

Frank Bentley

Congratulations, Porter. You are truly one of the nicest, kindest people I've ever met.

I wish you the very best.

Jim "Marlin" Martin

Porter White is very well deserving of his California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and his National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame inductions today.

He is a great human being and a credit to the game.

Bruce Hale