



THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

Robbie Scott-Gann

Presented at

Exeter Eagles Lodge
Exeter, California

July 4, 2009

CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY

For

Robbie Scott-Gann

July 4, 2009

Eagles' Lodge

Exeter, California

Welcome and Introduction of Past Inductees

Jim Martin

Master of Ceremonies

Wes Martin

Guest Speakers

Mike Quilla

Hal Perry

Larry Newell

Marion Bailey

Warren Goldsmith

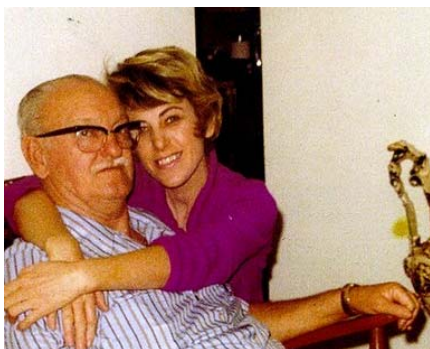
Troy Tolbert

Presentation of the Plaque

Jim Martin

Acceptance of Award

Robbie Gann



Robbie and her father, Lesley Marion “Curly” Goldsmith

BEGINNINGS

Mary Roblean Goldsmith was born in Marmaduke, Arkansas. Robbie was 18 months younger than her only sibling, California Shuffleboard Hall of Famer Bobby Goldsmith. When he was very young, Bobby couldn't say the word “sister,” so Robbie became “Sitter”, which she is called by many to this day. Robbie says; “We were always very close. Bobby taught me how to swim, drive a car and many other things.”

The family moved across country when Robbie was 4 or 5 to the Bakersfield-Visalia, CA area. Later, Bobby married Robbie's best friend, Charlene Peterson. Robbie married Bobby's best friend, Pat Scott. Robbie and Pat had two sons together; Jason, who is a teacher and Joe, a musician. Joe wrote and performed the song “Mr. G” for the Bobby Goldsmith CSHOF induction. Robbie and Pat divorced after 12 years.

Robbie worked at Southern California Gas Co. in the 1960's. She also did the books for her father & brother's card club, “The Hut” in Visalia, CA. She would go there each day on her lunch hour from 11:30-12:30 when no one was there. Robbie laughs: “My Dad didn't want me coming to the club at night because it was a bar, and I was only 31 years old.”

After awhile, she was able to finish the books in about 20 minutes, so with the extra 40 minutes she would practice on the shuffleboard her father had acquired. “I saw this board and these funny looking things they were throwing down it, so I tried it, and it got to where I could control it pretty well and it really intrigued me. That was the scuffle part of learning the game.”

She started going to the club at night when she knew there was going to be action; Glen Davidson, Troy Tolbert, or any of the better players, but she would just watch. “I would sit on the side and mentally say to myself, ‘I would make this shot or that shot,’ and that's how I learned what shots to make because I would see if I was right. I knew the better players would be right. That was how I learned the mental part of the game; when to play short weights, block a lag, hit and go, or stick.”

Bobby held a big tournament at The Hut that brought in good players to from all over. The entry was \$50, which was quite a bit of money to Robbie 40 years ago. She showed up and got Egghead as a partner (she can't remember his real name). Her dad and Bobby couldn't believe she was so foolish as to enter the tournament. Bobby and his partner took 1st place and Robbie and Egghead took 2nd. Bobby and Dad were astounded, because neither had ever seen her play before!



Bobby G



Bobby & Curly Goldsmith

PLAYING DAYS

The city of Visalia decided to outlaw card playing within the city limits, so Bobby bought Mr. G's which was outside the city limits. It became the hub of shuffleboard in central California and if you called ahead, the players would be waiting for you: Marion Bailey, Norman, Steve Floyd, Jim McDonald, Troy Tolbert, Larry Newell, Robbie and her brother Bobby.

In the beginning, she partnered up a lot with Ronny Graham – “he was the California State Champion when I started, and he taught me a lot,” Robbie says. “Hal Perry and I played a lot of tournaments years ago, and I played a lot of sessions with him. We were very good friends.”

Other good lady players at that time were Ruth Miles and Jeannie Mays. This was before Diana Hagen. Chris Danke came on during the final year or two of Robbie's playing days. Charlene, Bobby's wife and Norman Wood's wife Donna played a pretty good game, but weren't really into it. Robbie, Charlene, Donna and Betty Ferguson were the California State 1965 Women's Team 1st place champions. The others would play at Mr. G's and an occasional tournament, but Robbie was the only woman in the area who played all the time and would play sessions for big money.



1965 California State Ladies' Champions: Joyce Ferguson, Donna Wood, Charlene Goldsmith, Robbie

One of Robbie's best memories: “Once, back when Glen Davidson was the hottest thing going, he called me from Oklahoma City and asked me to be his partner for a big tournament that Bobby was holding. I was thrilled as many others would have loved to have him as a partner, including my brother. The night of the tournament I had been playing for 24 hours at \$500 a game against Les at *Les and Lu's* in Dinuba and was quite a bit ahead. Les wasn't ready for me to quit, and I had the perfect action and didn't want to quit. I called Glen at Mr. G's and asked him to find another partner for the tournament so I could continue the session, and he completely understood. On the one hand, I didn't like turning Glen Davidson down, but on the other hand, I loved turning Glen Davidson down.”

Besides the pot games and sessions with everyone who came to Mr. G's, Robbie also traveled with Troy Tolbert to San Jose, CA for more action against the likes of Pee wee Ramos, AZ Turnbo, Hal Perry and many others. It is rumored that she wore out a car on the road to and from San Jose.

Robbie's nephew Warren Goldsmith fondly tells this story: “When Chris Danke was under protégé with Troy, they went to look for action in San Jose and Chris asked her (Robbie) for a game. Chris told Troy that she had gotten them some action for money and he said, ‘Let's go! Who is it?’

She said, ‘That old guy over there with the beard (Bobby) and his sister.’ Troy said, ‘Are you crazy? Not no - but Hell no!!!’

Another time Chris Danke and Karl Spickelmier came to town on their way to a tournament. Steve Floyd and Robbie played them, and after being beaten two games, Chris didn't want to play anymore. It was a compliment to Robbie that Chris respected her game and knew when she was outmatched.

Robbie says, “I never hustled a shuffleboard game in my life, I didn't have to. I was a woman, and would play for whatever they wanted to play for. If I got them stuck, they wouldn't quit, where they would have if I were a man. They couldn't stand for a woman to beat them.”

Glen Davidson loved to play partners with her. After being beaten several times, often the other team wouldn't want to play against Glen anymore, but would offer to just play "her." They would jack up the action; Robbie would walk the board on them and beat them on her own. Glen always had part of the action, so he liked that.

She loved to play Bobby at the ranch; "But we never played for nothing – it was always at least \$5. You would think that the \$5 Bobby won almost every time was \$5,000." Steve Floyd walked the board against Warren and Robbie for 30 hrs one time and they beat him out of \$3,000. Robbie and Steve got very close because they played together a lot, and Robbie would often spend hours watching him play after she had quit the game.

According to Robbie's nephew Warren Goldsmith, "There are girl players now that are good, Diana Hagen is awesome. Claire Kenney, Debbie Voohis will play with the guys and are great. But, as far as getting into action, any amount, anywhere, in her day she was the original Queen of Shuffleboard, and that's a fact." Niece Leslie Langton adds: "She would play (barefoot) until her feet started bleeding."

THE GAME'S BIGGEST FAN

Robbie married Dean Gann about 10 yrs after her divorce. He was in Mr. G's only one time, he didn't approve of shuffleboard. He never tried to forbid her to play, but many games ended up in sessions that lasted all night and she didn't feel right about doing that anymore. Dean did a lot of traveling for work and she often went with him. Later, he got very sick.

Even though she had quit playing, whenever someone like Billy Mays was in town and there was going to be a big match, Bobby would call her and she would go watch. "I left the game, but I never quit loving it. I love to watch good shuffleboard, not as well as I love playing, but it's close. I am the world's greatest shuffleboard spectator."

"In Modesto a few years ago, I watched Hal play for hours...At Steve's induction last year, I didn't want to go to the bathroom, I

didn't want to miss that shot, and I usually had quite a bit of money on it." Steve Floyd would often offer her half of his action. Now she enjoys watching when Warren and Ty are playing.

About 10 years ago there was a big tournament in Exeter. Robbie told her husband that she wanted to enter it. Her husband said that she didn't play anymore, but to go ahead and make a fool of herself. "So I entered, and Larry Newell and I won the doubles. I couldn't wait for my husband to ask me how I did."

"Nobody loves the game more than me. I think that it is the most underrated game that we have. It's a game of skill, it is mentally challenging, and it's a direct challenge. In pool, someone can run the table on you, but in this game you can control it to some extent. My husband Dean never thought much of the game, but when he first took me to a golf course, I got a hole-in-one on my first shot. So, what's so great about that game?"

When Warren claimed: "Now that you are going into the Hall of Fame, it's not because you are Bobby Goldsmith's sister anymore, they don't put you into the Hall of Fame for that."

Robbie responded: "I am always - in the shuffleboard world - Bobby Goldsmith's sister....But there is nothing wrong with that."



Robbie & brother Bobby Goldsmith

TESTAMONIALS

I met Robbie in the 70's. We were a good doubles team, won a lot of money playing together. At that time she was the best woman player and my favorite saying was: "If you can beat her, you can bust me". Playing for money never scared her, she had more heart than most men.

She could still be playing well, but one morning she woke up and said: "I quit, family comes first." Therefore ended a career. Shuffleboard board really missed her and so did I.

Troy Tolbert

Congratulations, Robbie. The honor of your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is well deserved. You have walked that extra mile for the good of shuffleboard. You have earned yourself the recognition for nomination and acceptance into CSHOF.

I have played the game with Robbie since the mid-60's. She was always a strong shooter and a good partner to have on my team. Always the most honest and fairest lady in the game I have ever known. We need more people like you involved in our sport to keep it going in the right direction. Robbie has played in most of the tournaments around for many years.

I have had countless tough games against Robbie and also with her as my partner. Robbie is a spitfire, fearless player, always willing to play anybody, anytime there was a game. She liked to play for any amount, for long periods of time, after her socks were worn out with holes in the toes. She would probably end the match with your money in her pocket. That would be the time for counting.

Welcome in your induction for the
California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Always your friend,

Marion Bailey



Roblean "Goldsmith" Gann

I went to Visalia in the mid 60's to play shuffleboard. Guess what I found...Something odder than a flying saucer traveling upside down, an airplane in the sky with one wing missing, a race horse with three legs, or even a man married to a woman that pays attention to him. Yes, you know what they say, "if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it must be a duck". There in front of me was a person talking, walking and acting just like a shuffleboard player, only one problem, he was a *woman*! Yes, for the very first time I saw a woman that could play at a very high level, my favorite game. Wow!!

We quickly became good friends. We played a lot of doubles all over the state; Southern Cal, Visalia (naturally), Dinuba, Fresno, Clovis, San Jose, Sacramento, Stockton, New York, Chicago...well not the latter two. If my memory serves me right, we never lost money. We broke even a few times, but other than that we were cash cows. The biggest problem we faced was how unhappy we made the opponents feel having a man and *woman* beat them out of their hard earned money. In fact, in a red neck bar in Fresno, I told Robbie if there was trouble I would flip a coin to see which one of us would handle the giant side-better. Management kept him in line so we got out alive.

Mostly, it was a great time in my life. I thank Robbie for most of the action. They just could not see a man and woman beating them on that 22 ft. of wood. So with great memories of a great player, I say "Welcome to the Hall of Fame." Two Goldsmiths are twice as nice as one.

This is pushing fifty years later, so I believe that we need to call this wonderful player a pioneer for all the California women that followed. She opened the door so people could see how great women could play this simple game of shuffleboard. So give her a hug or share the hand. She's a pioneer!

Thanks for the memories, Hal Perry



Leslie, Warren, Robbie



Robbie, Mike Ringer, Penny S, Bill Landress



Robbie w/son Jason & his wife Delia



Warren, Jason, Leslie
Joe, Robbie's Mom- Euma Pearl



Jerry Harp, Larry Newell, Robbie, Steve Floyd, Marion Bailey



Robbie & Granddaughter Jolene



Robbie & stepdaughter Valerie



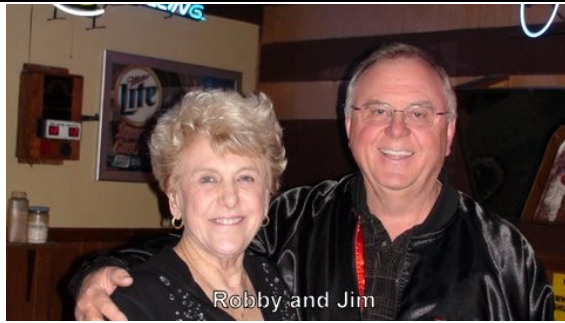
Bev Chaffin, Donny Cox, Robbie



Robbie & Dean Gann



Liz and Joe Scott



Robby and Jim

I never really met Robbie until she had already quit playing, but I've gotten to know her very well since. She is a class act. One of the nicest people I have ever met. I consider Robbie to be one of my best friends and look forward to be blessed with her warmth and wonderful wit for many more years to come. I know her well enough that I can truly say, welcome to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You are so very much deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,
Jim Martin

I had met Ruthie Miles and Jeannie Mays years ago, but didn't know that California had its own lady legend until recently. It has been wonderful hearing all the stories from the 1960's and 70's of the days when Robbie took on all the big players and often beat them. I really admire the guts and stamina it must have taken to play for hundreds of dollars over countless hours, not to mention the talent.

I especially enjoyed meeting Robbie over Memorial Day. She is a very classy lady and still a very good and heady player. I wish I could have seen her play 40 years ago.

Congratulations Robbie!
Kathy Thomas

Robbie Gann and I first met at the time of the California State Shuffleboard Championship Tournament held in Visalia on Labor Day weekend, in 1968, which was promoted by her brother, Bobby Goldsmith. She and I began playing as shuffleboard partners and we hustled the game throughout the San Joaquin Valley first and later in other cities.

Robbie was a great competitor and a very dependable partner. She helped to promote the "finger-held spread shot" that many players use today. She was also a great singles player and certainly one of the best in California. I've talked about Robbie, the player, but Robbie the person was equally outstanding -- a character of the highest integrity who always abided by the Golden Rule. Anyone who knew Robbie would be proud to call her a friend.

Congratulations, Robbie.
Your friend,
Ronnie Graham
Ca. State Shuffleboard Champ, 1968

Robbie,
Congratulations on your well deserved induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

Grant and Betty Watson

Well lookee here, if it isn't Bobby Goldsmith's little sister, and she races sailboats too---- Whoda thought!!! Congratulations Robbie, you really do deserve it.

Love,
Mike Quilla



Aunt Sitter,

You are such a fun loving person who has been a joy to know. I've always heard about your love of shuffleboard. I have, on several occasions, had the privilege of watching you first hand. It is so exciting to see this great honor bestowed upon you. Congratulations! Enjoy this very deserving moment...With much love,

Pamela Shaw

Aunt Sitter,

One of my early recollections of my Aunt Sitter (Robbie) playing shuffleboard was when she would pay me a dollar to rub her back after a long shuffleboard session. It made me a little spending money!

I loved hearing about her shuffleboard trips to San Jose (Happy Hour), to Canada, Les and Lu's, Brawley trips and holding her own with the top players.

When I became of age and watched her play, I marveled at the stamina she had and the grit to get up and play against the best in the house. She was a contender! My aunt deserves this honor; she was a pioneer woman of shuffleboard.

Aunt Sitter, I love you and I will never forget how you would put on a big floppy hat and drag Mooney Blvd. with us so that my friends and I could flirt with the boys.

Your favorite niece,

Leslie



To my beautiful Aunt Sitter,

Congratulations on this well deserved honor. I've heard all the stories and some I probably shouldn't have.

With all my love,

Your favorite nephew-in-law,

Russ



Russ Lankton with Kris Kristofferson & Leslie

Long before we were sisters-in-law, Robbie and I were friends. I was 13 and a friend of mine brought Robbie to my slumber party. I said it was OK – the more the merrier. Well, it's been merrier ever since! Robbie has always been known for her wit and sense of humor.

When Robbie was introduced to the game of shuffleboard, she instantly became a player. She needed another game to play because she already had the town sewn up on Pong and Liar's Dice. The Hut and then later, Mr. G's became a hot spot for shuffleboard and Robbie was right in the middle of the action.

I'm glad the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame has inducted you this day and forever.

Love always, Charlene

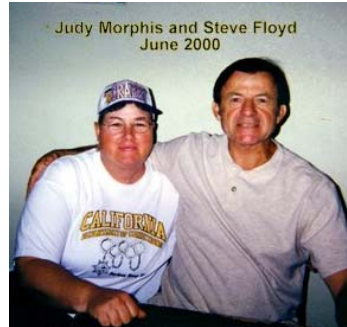


"Aint Sitter,"

Congratulations on your induction in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I'm glad you have finally been recognized for your love of shuffleboard. I can remember going to Mr. G's with Aunt in the morning to clean, and you would still be playing shuffleboard from the night before.

I wish Uncle Bobby could be here to share in your day. I know he would be as proud of you as you have always been of him over the years. Congratulations again, and I am proud to call you: "Aint Sitter"

Love, Judy Morphis



Robbie, you are truly one of my favorite people associated with the game of shuffleboard. I enjoy just being around you and the game.

Love you,
Steve Floyd

Aunt Sitter, I have always heard what a great shuffleboard player you are. Congratulations! "I love you."

Lesta Cantrell

I would say that inducting Robbie into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was not a tough decision. Why? Because Robbie is a good money player and a good tournament player. I am a fan of hers. I love to watch her beat the guys out of their money. She would say; "I don't know how I beat you that game, my hands are shaking so badly." As they were paying her the money she just won. Then she would smile and say; "Next!" The only thing shaking on Robbie was her head as she was saying: "Thank you." I played one tournament with Robbie and we won.

Congratulations!

Your friend,
Don Cox

Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith had a daughter, Roblean Goldsmith. They were a wonderful family, very close to each other. Roblean was always there for her family. I met Roblean Goldsmith when I was nineteen years old, at the Hut in Visalia. I was always mesmerized by her shuffleboard playing. I really admired her, and she was the world's champion in my eyes. I would stay up on the weekends just to watch her play. I knew she was the champ in Visalia.

I want everyone to know what a great person Roblean is, and always has been. She has always been so nice, and has treated me with respect. I would go into the bars just to watch her play; I wanted to grow up to be just like her. I actually got pretty good to where I could mimic her movements. On Thanksgiving weekend there would be big tournaments at Mister G's, and people would come from all over the world to play. There she would be, playing and I would go sit and watch, making bets on her all weekend

If anyone is to be inducted into the Hall of Fame it should be Roblean, she was always there playing. She would play men or women, it didn't make any difference. I hope she will always remember me as her friend. My life was changed when I met her, and for this I am forever grateful.

Ellie Mae Shaw

Robbie,
Congratulations on your induction into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You were, and still are, a credit to the game.

Paul Weber

Congratulations Sitter, on your induction to the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. And thanks for all the years of enjoyment watching you play in Vegas and Reno and of course, Mr. G's. We won't talk about how many years that has been.

Love, Wilma Morphis

Robbie Scott-Gann's induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is very well deserved. Her early contributions to the sport cannot be overlooked.
Congratulations!

Rich Bubba Warren

Doug Buhl and I played against Marion Bailey and Robbie many years ago. I remember that she was a really nice woman and one Hell of a player!
Congratulations Robbie.

Darrol Nelson

I met Robbie in Visalia, California when I was on the road playing with a partner. We talked awhile then started playing against each other. We played quite a few games.

From then on, whenever I went through there, I'd look her up and she'd take me around to Dinuba and other places. We also met in Vegas a few times.

I'm really glad the guys have found out about her and are inducting her into the Hall of Fame. I wish I could be there, but I've found I have early stage Alzheimer's. I am forgetting things but I remember her really well. She deserves to be inducted in the state as well as the National Hall of Fame. I hope you enjoy it, Robbie.

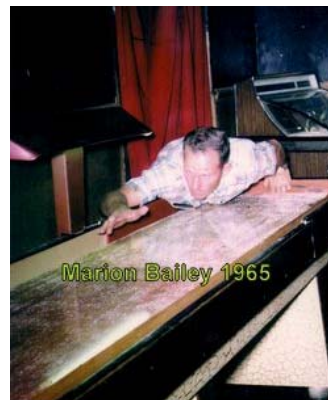
Congratulations!

Glen Davidson

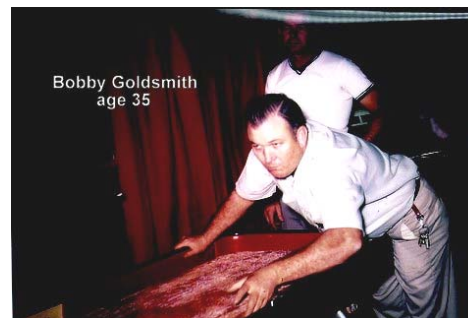
Congratulations Robbie, Its classy people like you that keeps the world of shuffleboard alive and well!!!

Your friend,
Vern Booth

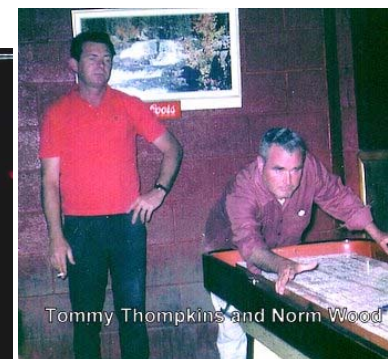
MORE PICTURES FROM THE HUT



Marion Bailey – 1965



Bobby G



Tommy Thompkins & Norm Wood



Norm Wood



Hut players, 1965

Robbie: first she was a very classy lady, always well groomed. She was a great shuffleboard player. She could shoot with the best of players, never afraid to shoot any one person. She was at the top of the game. Win, lose or draw, she would play head to head with any player and beat a lot of them. I have always cared a great deal for her and very much respected her play.
Congratulations Robbie, well deserved.

Patsy Floyd

I worked at Mr. G's as a bartender from 1970 to 1979. During all those years I never saw Robbie shoot a game of pool or ever sit in the card room. She always went to the shuffleboard section. You could tell she loved the game. She would play for hours, partners or walking the board in singles. Whether she was playing or watching, she was totally engrossed in the game.

She could be losing a lot or winning a lot, I could never tell. I know they played for lots of money. Every one of the players seemed to enjoy themselves. She was almost always the only woman shooting. They all liked Robbie and showed her a lot of respect.

My congratulations and admiration go to her for receiving this honor.

Onieda Runyon

To Robbie.....my favorite shuffleboard partner! Sometime in the 1980s I attended a wedding in nearby Orange Cove. I had heard of Mr. G's in Visalia and as soon as the wedding was over, I headed for the bar. Steve Floyd and Larry Newell were the welcoming committee ready to fleece an out-of-towner. Then Robbie arrived and we teamed up against those two. As I recall, we won a few and lost a few, but it was a fun memorable time.

Robbie is a great sport and a credit to the California shuffleboard family.
Congratulations Robbie, and best wishes.

John McGinnis