

Successful Return for "Rural American Open"

After a seven-year "recess," the Rural American Open returned to Winston, Oregon, over the Labor Day 2000 weekend. Played on six boards in two locations -- the historical 99 Tavern and Willee's Cafe -- the event attracted 74 participants from four states and two Canadian provinces.

"I thought the tourney went off well. It was our first in eight years and we were a bit rusty; yet, the feedback I received was 99% positive," said host Steve Fisher.

The event started with an ABC draw on Wednesday evening and 18 teams vied for a share of the \$3760 pot.



California visitor Paul Parks (right) led his team of John "JB" Burgess of Coos Bay, Oregon, and local Randy Foster to first place.



Jim Foran (right) and Frank Mako of Washington, along with Shari Hudson of California, took second place honors.

Jim Allis of Washington, Don Stallsworth of Oregon, and Bill Weir of British Columbia finished third.



Dan Hitt (right) of Washington, Kevin Callaway and John Mortenson of Oregon, finished fourth in the field of 18 teams.

Friday night's AB draw attracted 26 teams.



...And the winners were Doug Buhl (right) of Oregon and Gary Thompson of Washington.



Taking second place honors in the AB draw were Chuck Norris (right) of Oregon and local Jim Koch. (continued on Page 22)

**Congratulations, Steve Fisher,
on the successful return of the
"Rural American Open"!
The Board Talk Editors**

Rural American (cont. from Page 3)

Darrol Nelson (left) and Kevin Callaway took third.



Pat Bayliss (left) of California and Don Stallworth finished fourth.

"Both the open doubles and open singles sported a tough field on what turned out to be quick boards. There were many 'grinding' matches, with most being determined in a close game after arduous effort," Steve reports. There were 17 teams in the open doubles with \$6,210 at stake, and 10 in the open singles with a pot of \$4,390.

That dynamic duo of veterans Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl took top honors in the doubles.



California visitors Karl Spickelmier (right) and Dudley Hutcherson took second place.

Dan Hitt and Al Pease of Washington took third, with Chuck Norris of Oregon and Hal Perry of California in fourth place.

In the open singles, Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson split top honors, with Chuck Norris in third, and Dan Hitt in fourth place.



"Thank God that's over!" said Chuck Norris after a grueling three-hour loss to Darrol Nelson in the singles.



That beloved clown from California, Freddie Thuman (sporting his best attire and lookin' for a date) kept the crowd entertained.

"Thanks to all who supported this event, and special thanks to helpers Dan Holland and Randy Foster for contributing so much effort to the foundation of the tourney," said Steve Fisher.

Gus Casinger/Bill Fisher Inducted

In a moving ceremony during the Rural American Open, 76-year-old Gus Casinger and Bill Fisher (who passed away 24 years ago), founder of the 99 Tavern in 1951, were inducted into the Pacific Northwest Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

The pair's history together was traced back to 1952 when Gus from Arkansas came to Winston and proceeded to teach Bill and wife Bobbie all the finer points of the game. Gus and Bill eventually became partners and played all who dared throw their hat in the ring. If Bill had action elsewhere, it was Gus and Bobbie who took them on.

Gus and Bill didn't have to leave town to find action. "Road players" such as Bob Miles, Billy Mays, Porter White, and Mexican Tommy stopped on occasion. Many strong players spent time