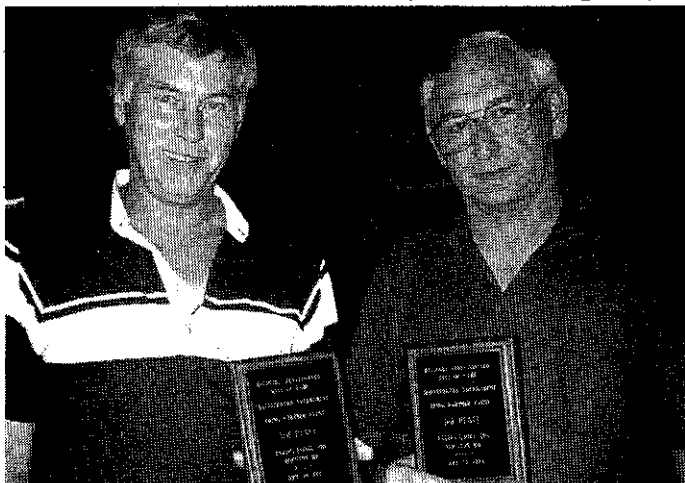


## 1st Missouri Hall *(cont. from Page 15)*



Third place in the 1st Missouri Hall of Fame Tournament went to Moe Miller and Dean Pinkston of Houston, Mo.



Tulsa, Oklahoma, visitors Cliff and Sally Goff (center) took fourth place honors, shown with tournament director Charlie Riley and Hall of Famer Woodie Cockrum.

Fifth and sixth spots were taken by John Cason (the Shadow) and Pete Pitzer of Tulsa, and Tony Pelton and Gene "Snuffy" Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Eagles Lodge 3911 was very proud to host this tournament and thanks to every person who helped make it a huge success. Perhaps you helped buy or prepare the ostrich, ham, turkey, beans, cornbread, salad, snacks, deserts -- thank you! It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to make something of this size run smoothly and for the most part, I think it did. If anyone left hungry, they have only themselves to blame. I am not going to mention any names because of the many, many people who contributed. Thanks again!

This was not only another shuffleboard tournament. It was a gathering to honor our very first inductee into the Missouri Hall of Fame -- the very deserving Don "Woodie" Cockrum of Columbia, Mo. I think everyone agrees he was the perfect candidate for this honor of being No. 1. This was evident by the

people present, the many written tributes, the taped endorsements -- or maybe you merely said: "Congratulations, Woodie!"

I will venture to mention some names of a few people who helped with the induction, the first being Jolene Lembke, president of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and sister of Woodie. Thanks, Jolene, we could not have made it such a nice event without your help. I would also like to thank Chuck Muehlhauser, Connie McCall, Rickie Pittman and Jean Cockrum for all of their help.

*Eagles Lodge 3911 is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.*

## Woodie Cockrum: No. 001 in Missouri Hall of Fame

*By Connie McCall*

How does one become the first inductee into a Hall of Fame? By doing what Woodie Cockrum has done for over 50 years. Woodie has given his time and talent to teach hundreds of would-be players the game, and has done it with love and sincere dedication to the sport and to the people involved. He has touched many during the years with his patience and knowledge of the game, always the humble sportsman.



With his wife Jean at his side, Woodie has put the game of shuffleboard on the map in the state of Missouri.

After months of hard work and many long distance phone calls, Missouri had its first inductee into the Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Selecting Woodie was the easy part, but keeping this a secret from him was quite a feat since he knows virtually everything there is to know about shuffleboard in Missouri. The ceremony took place at the Eagles Lodge in Houston, where the Missouri players were able to surprise (no, shock!) Woodie with the news of his induction.

The ceremony began with a comical tribute to Woodie from Dan Kelly who mentioned Woodie's

*(continued on Page 22)*

## Woodie Induction *(cont. from Page 22)*

generosity and never-ending dedication to teaching the game to anyone willing to listen. There were many heartfelt congratulations from Woodie's shuffleboard family.



Woodie was presented with an achievement award noting his place in the Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame as Number 001. The beautiful marble and brass plaque to honor his achievement was presented by Chuck Muehlhauser and he received a jacket from his family.

Other congratulations were sent by video tape from Ron Bowers, Bill Melton, Johnny Wayne and John McDermott, who were unable to attend.

Members of Woodie's family present included his sister Jolene Lembke, president of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Woodie was also honored in song by his son Donnie, who wrote and sang "Shuffleboard man." His son Sean read a letter from John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation expressing how deserving Woodie is of this honor as he has been a tremendous promoter and supporter of the game and stated that no one has had more impact on the game in this part of the country than Woodie.

Woodie has been a promoter of fair play and always welcomes newcomers with open arms. He is a teacher of the game as well as a tough competitor who can somehow make you feel good about losing a game to him. Testimonies from other players best explain why Woodie deserves to be the first inductee into the Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame:

*"Woodie has done more to promote and improve the game of shuffleboard than any one person I know. He always has time to help and encourage beginners."* -- Manny Lane, Arkansas

*"Woodie routinely gives selflessly of his time, knowledge and dedication to the sport of*

*shuffleboard from adjusting the boards to keeping records of tournaments and leagues. Woodie is a shining example of the spirit of shuffleboard."* -- Jim Stanley, Missouri

*"Woodie genuinely cares about each of us who pick up a puck."* -- Steve Lindsey, Missouri

*"Woodie's knowledge of shuffleboard along with his leadership has made shuffleboard fun and competitive for all members who participate."* -- Rosa Lee Hoffbauer, Missouri

*"Because of his 'caring and sharing' attitude and his affable personality, he has gained friends throughout the U.S. and Canada. We are grateful to be among his ranks of friends."* -- George and Donna Wilber; The Board Talk

*"You love to teach us, nurture us, and share your love of shuffleboard with us. Your passion for the game and the people has touched all of our lives."* -- Connie McCall, Missouri

*"Not only is Woodie one of the best players in the state, he has always been willing to spend that phone call or stamp and burn that fuel to travel where there might be some folks interested in our sport. He gives one of our most valuable assets -- time."* -- Charlie Riley, Missouri

Woodie was touched by the sentiments expressed and in true Woodie-style, he encouraged others to join him in the Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. There will be others joining him in the future, but he will always be number one in our hearts. Congratulations Woodie, on your well-deserved recognition and, most of all, thank you for bringing us into your circle of shuffleboard friends. We love you!



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