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BILLIARD NEWS

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FEBRUARY, 1968

Jansco's \$33,000 Stardust Open.....

WORLD'S RICHEST TOURNEY

'Knoxville Bear' Ready To Defend Title; Winner Could Earn \$10,000.00



1966 Stardust winner, Ronnie Allen (right), poses with Mr. Al Benedict, Executive Director and one of the owners of the plush Stardust Hotel, site of the world's richest tourney.

LAS VEGAS, NEV.—With only a few days remaining before the huge sign atop the Stardust Hotel displays its welcome greeting for the world's greatest billiard players, George and Pauly Jansco feel sure that this year's fourth annual Stardust Open will be the best one yet.

This famed Stardust Open All-Around Tournament will start here on Friday, March 1st, and run daily through Friday, March 15th, with the winner receiving a possible \$10,000.00 first place prize. The giant neon sign sums it all up easily as it will read, "\$33,000 Stardust U. S. Open Pocket Billiard Tournament."

In the course of this fifteen day stay, it's estimated that as many as 12 million people will have passed by the huge marquee, by the many, many means of both public and private transportation. 'The Strip' as it is so well known the world over, most certainly rates second to none, when it comes to wanting only the classiest of entertainment.

This 'Fun and Games' capital of the world, has a new show opening everyday, and people all over the country come and go week in and week out, 'Just for the fun of it'. This vacation
(Cont'd on Page Two)



Eddie "Knoxville Bear" Taylor, 1967 winner and defending champion. A good bet to finish high in this year's final standings, if not the repeat winner.

4-Way Tie In Norwalk Cue Event

NORWALK, CALIF.—This late word just in from Charlie's Cue 'N Cushion, site of the 'Now In Progress,' California Championship Straight Pool Tournament, has no less than seven players tied for the number one and two spots, as of Sunday night, February 17th.

The three players involved in the three-way tie for first place are Lassiter, Breit and DiLiberto, all with records of 5-1.

Tied for second place are McGowen, Murphy, Moore and Florence with marks of 4-1.

"Machine Gun" Butera has the high run midway through this fine billiard classic with a fantastic run of 120 balls in a short span of just 17 minutes. (Nice going Charley.)

Charlie Miliken, popular pro-
(Cont'd on Page Nine)



Pictured displaying cue which earned him his Stardust Championship is the late Harold Worst. He won Jansco's first Cue Classic in 1965. At left is huge championship trophy.



Pictured, from left, are Luther Lassiter, World's Champion, and Ed Walters, the handsome young cue star and referee from the Star Dust Hotel, Las Vegas. Ed is one of the young stars who can hardly wait, each year, till this cue classic is in action.

\$33,000 STARDUST - OPEN, WORLD'S RICHEST TOURNEY
(Continued from Front Page)

desert city is a 'Must' on every vacationers list.

This year's Cue Classic will host an array of new talent, A few of the names are certainly making this, their first of many trip. Latest word from the telephone has at least seven new boy's who have already mailed in their completed entry form.

Al Miller is making plans to take in this Fourth Annual Stardust Billiard Classic. From the 'City of Brotherly Love', Mr. Al Coslosky has already purchased airline tickets and will make this trip in high fashioned, 'First Class', after riding the bus the last three times.

Word from the west coast has a new young star by the name of 'Tuscon Whitey'. This cue star is making himself a name, and seemingly has the bank roll to back it up. He most certainly should have a real field day when he checks in at the posh Stardust, and gets a look at all those great stars.

According to George Jansco, this year's test has all the top stars, aiming at a huge chunk of the \$33,000,00 guaranteed pot. It's possible for one player to win as much as \$10,000 said Jansco.

In 1965, the late Harold Worst captured the coveted trophy and

championship winners check. In '66, Ronnie Allen turned the trick and took home all the marbles. Last year's meet was won by Eddie 'Knoxville Bear' Taylor, who is ready and waiting to defend his year old crown.

This world famed Stardust, is sanctioned and endorsed by the Billiard Players Ass'n. of America (BPAA), and permits any and all players to enter any one of three divisions. Anyone interested in entering this year's 4th Annual \$33,000 Stardust All-Around Pocket Billiard Tourney, may do so by contacting George Jansco at the Stardust Hotel by dialing (702) 735-6111.

Editor's Notebook
by EARL NEWBY



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On January 28th we drove down to Arlington, Va., to see our very good friend, Bill "Weenie Beenie" Staton's new plush family billiard lounge, and see some of the games in play in the U.S. Open 9-Ball Tournament.

Arlington is a classy suburb of Washington, D.C. There are no factories, only one Government building, Department of Records, and a large shopping center, where Weene Beene's "Jack & Jill Billiard Lounge is located. It's a three hour drive via New Jersey Turnpike and John F. Kennedy Toll Road #95, one hundred and seventy miles one way. We parked and walked into the Jack & Jill, down one flight of steps. As we walked through the door entering the Lounge, we gazed at a most beautiful sight. It was 3 p.m., and every one of the twenty five Gandy Big G tables were in play and a waiting list at the desk. We do not remember how long we stood, just looking. The wall to wall carpet is a beautiful orange, the walls in pastel colors, also the tables in pastel shades. As we stood in front of the entrance, to the right was T. V. Weene Beene's private office. Next to his office was the famous name restaurant, to our left was the desk and time clock, and looking up at the Time Card Rack we counted 25 time cards in play. The Tournament and Exhibition Room is on the left from Time Clock and Desk Control. The first one to say Hello was the Dean, Onofrio Loria. We were happy to see him. Loria is truly one of the all time Great Ambassadors to sell our sport. The next one to shake hands was Charles Kelly. Cue Ball is a popular booking agent and referee nationally known. Eddie Taylor and his lovely wife were there. We always enjoy greeting our friends and meeting the new young cue stars. We were very pleased to meet Mrs. Chris Miller, one of the cue belles of B.C.A., who was an alternate contestant at the U.S. Open last year at St. Louis, Mo.

Our air flight to Chicago as guest of the B.C.A. was a treat. We want to say we had to leave in a hurry and were not there for our introduction. We apologize to the Staff of the B.C.A. We were delighted to meet our friend, Dean Chance, and the Champion Lassiter.

We stood talking to Minnesota Fats and up walked none other than Jack Thomas, Vice President of The Brunswick Corp. Without even a glance at me he put out his hand to shake hands with The Fat Man, saying "Minnesota, I am one of those B.C.A. Generals who don't know a Five Ball from an orange." Mr. Thomas was now laughing and not once did he look at me. Minnesota, one who is never at a loss for a word, said "Mr. Thomas," at the same time pulled out a letter mailed to him from New York City, "My T.V. Show has been rated Number One." Mr. Thomas glanced at the rating and still laughing, walked away. The Fat Man turned around to where Dean Chance and World Champ Lassiter were putting on an act for the photographers. Lassiter was batting with a cue and Dean was making the motions of throwing a pool ball as he would a base ball. We had a nice chat with Clive Cottingham. It was nice to say Hello to Harry Grove, one of Brunswick Corp's executive staff.

BEHIND THE 8-BALL

I have been reading in the daily press about inflation and listening to the politicians talk about deficit spending and balance of payments, and I've heard a lot of talk in pool rooms and subways, and taxi cabs, about the American dollar.

Everybody claims it doesn't buy what it once bought and, of course, they're right.

But one friend asked me, "Earl, what happened to the dollar?"

Here was my answer: "The dollar is behind the Eight-Ball."

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(Continued on Page Eleven)



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All Round Pocket Billiard TOURNAMENT

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The 'Dean' Adds Another Laurel With U.S. Open 9-Ball Victory

BY JOE MARCUS
Contributing Editor

'Great work, champ.'
'Congratulations.'
'We're all proud of you.'
That's really showing them.

These were just four of the greetings and salutations that Onofrio Lauri received as he walked into the Golden Q in Woodside less than 48 hours after he



KELLY

pulled one of the biggest upsets in pocket billiards by capturing the U. S. Nine-Ball Open Championship at Weenie Beenies' billiard palace in Arlington, Va.



MARCUS

You could tell by just looking at the ageless veteran Dean of Pocket Billiard Players that he felt great.

Always in a hurry he was a bit snappier than usual. His eyes glittered and those who know him said that he was indeed proud.

"The old man really showed them something," said Cue Ball Kelly, the world-famous referee and a lifelong friend of Lauri.

Cue Ball was on hand to witness the championship finish and he said: "The man certainly deserves that title."

"I think now that Onofrio is going to enter more nine-ball tourneys and don't bet against him winning some big matches.

"You have to admire him for taking part in Arlington. But it was the old story of nothing ventured, nothing gained and here Lauri gained a new respect that he can use to enhance his reputation which has been top notch for over 40 years."

That statement by Cue Ball pretty well summed up the feelings of some other players who were present for the Golden Q tourney match between Dan Gart-

ner and Al Gassner.

How does Onofrio feel about all the ado?

"The win and the accolades I received certainly feel great," said the man whom in the past has battled all the great ones like Erwin Rudolph, Ralph Greenleaf, Willie Mosconi, Irving Crance, Andrew Ponzi, Luther Lassiter and Jimmie Caras.

When he was a youngster in Williamsburg his father used to beat him whenever he caught him practicing at the table in the family candy store instead of at the violin.

But Lauri today says it is all worth it and the music he plays with the cue stick is a thing of beauty.

Congratulations champ!



ONAFRIO LAURI

'The Hustler' A Little Exaggerated Says Erwich

JOE MARCUS

Billiard Room Proprietors in the New York area are expecting another sharp gain in the number of youngsters and distaff competitors who frequent their establishments in the very near future.

When "The Hustler" was shown in the local movie hous-

es there was a burst of enthusiasm for the game and many a youngster and women as well as some of the middle aged gentlemen got their first introduction to the sport when they saw Jackie Gleason on the screen. They were amazed at the game and decided to come to their local billiard parlors and explore the sport in greater detail.

"A great deal of what was shown in the picture was a little exaggerated," said Charlie

Erwich, who at the time was head of the New York State Billiard Room Proprietors Association. "However, the lounge owners didn't mind as it was the old story of "call me what you want but make sure you spell the name right."

The name of the game was billiards and for the lounge owners it made a delightful sound as the cash registers were kept busy.

The boom started to fade out and the industry took on a stabilizing effect. Now along comes Minnesota Fats in real life all 275 plus pounds of him with an entertaining flair for the vast millions of viewers on the TV screens.

So the local lounges are finding that there is a falling off of business around 3 p.m. when the Fat Man takes the cue in hand against some of the finest celebrities in the game. However, the fans are quick to try out their game once the show goes off the air and Saturday night is proving a little busier than before.

The TV critics have been keeping a sharp eye on the show and the billiard fan is starting to compare his game to that of the celebrities who are brought to face the Fat Man.

The first week of the show saw Minnesota fight it out with Buddy (Cont'd on Page Seven)

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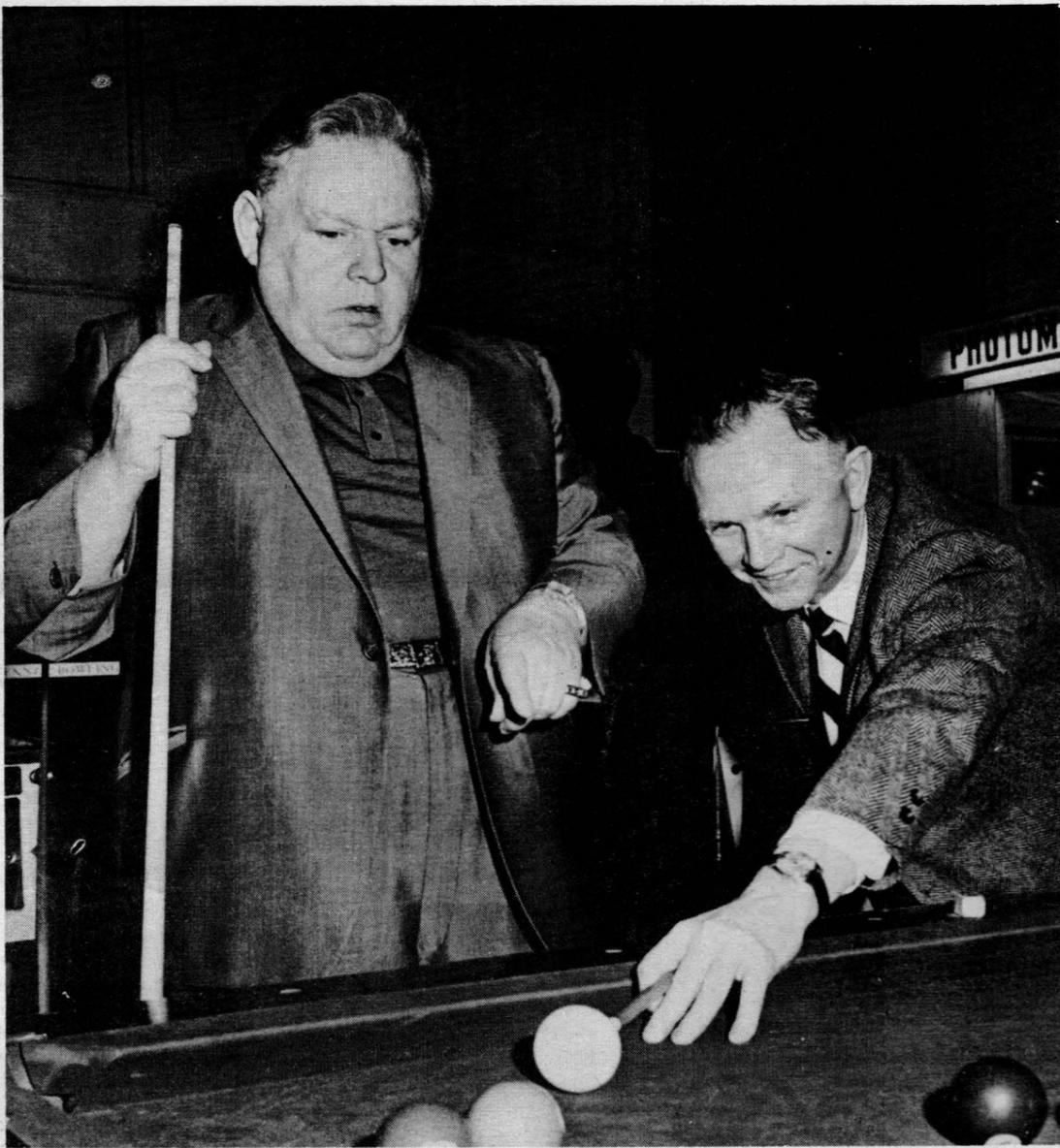
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Lucky For Minnesota Fats That Upper Darby Fats Missed One

BY JOSEPH F. LOWRY
All I can say is: Minnesota Fats is lucky.

I'm sitting at my desk late yesterday, doing a little politics. My thoughts are on Scranton, Shafer, Scott and Shapp.

My mind runs all the way through the S's and along comes this guy. He looks like Jackie Gleason, but not much.

"I hear you're getting a hefty slice of the action around here," he says to me. "They say you're running over 100 balls in parlors to the west of the big city."

NOW HE'S PHILLY FATS

I allow as I had annihilated Luther Lawrence three times the past week, then ask:

"Who are you?"

He raises an eyebrow and says: "I'm Rudolf Wanderone, best known as Minnesota Fats. My nom de guerre is determined by my locale of the moment. Right now, I'm ready to prove I'm Philadelphia Fats."

"Whatcha doing in Philly?" I slur, hoping to psyche him out --you know, scare the hell out of him.

"Promoting my TV show," he says. "I'm playing pool every Sunday for at least the next 17 weeks. Channel 10...WCAU Every week I meet a different Hollywood star. A half-hour go.

"This week it's Buddy Hackett. He's the Jersey comic, I

meet Mickey Rooney, Milton Berle, Bill Cosby, even Zsa Zsa Gabor and Phyllis Diller.

"To be frank, it's publicity I want. Care to meet me? Pick your field of battle."

HE'S CORNERED

I'm in a real fix. Everybody in the office is listening, even the Army editor, who seldom does. There's no backing out.

So I invite Fats onto my home grounds: 30th Street Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, where there are eight pool tables.

I'm a little nervous. So I talk a bit. I tell Fats I'm a poolroom linguist. But he doesn't get it and I explain that I make the cue ball speak more than English.

Fats is not only unperturbed, he's unimpressed. His reaction is:

"Don't give me all that who-shot-John stuff. Save the juice till we get over at your joint."

WEIGHS IN AT 265

I shuts up and Fats takes over. He tells me he is 55, five-foot-eight, 265 pounds and has been playing pool since he was two.

This is how he says it: "I played every circuit, cracked every record, broke Ponzi, Mosconi, Caras....all the top pros, I licked Harrisburg Whitey, Cornbread Red, the Cincinnati

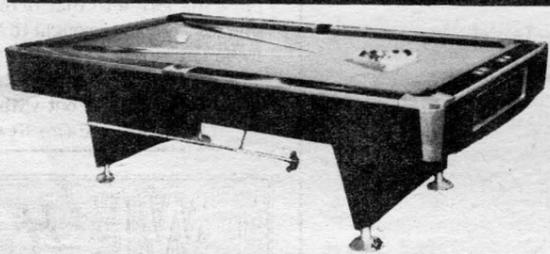
(Cont'd on Page Six)

Photo Courtesy of THE EVENING BULLETIN
MINNESOTA FATS, Rudolf Wanderone, points out a pool shot to Bulletin reporter Joseph F. Lowry, better known as Upper Darby Fats, at 30th Street Station.

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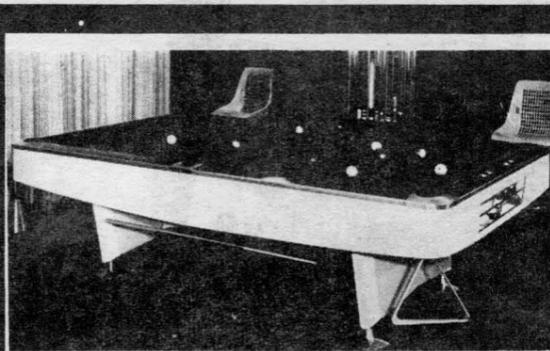
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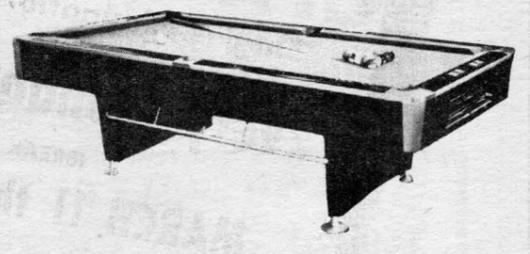
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Entries Rolling In For BRPAA World's Cue

NEW YORK, N.Y. . . Entries from players who will appear in the qualifying round of the 1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championship Tournament at New York's Statler Hilton hotel are "starting to flow into BRPAA Headquarters in 'very satisfactory' numbers," Joseph G. McGill, the Association's President, has disclosed.



MC GILL

Several former World's Tournament players have already evidenced their desire to play, McGill revealed.

Among the former star players are Mike Eufemia, holder of a record 371-ball run on a 4 1/2 by 9 table. Left-handed Eufemia, a distinct threat every time he goes to the table, will vie for one of the seven open "seats" and has a "fine chance to qualify," McGill mentioned.

The Dean of Pocket Billiards, Onofrio Lauri, has also indicated his availability to play. Lauri has appeared in over 20 World Tournaments and the 75-year old cue star is still a tough competitor with the cue!

From New Jersey, the slick-stroking Joe Russo, a room owner in Trenton, has applied, a couple of years back Russo ran a beautifully-engineered 112 balls against the great Negro star, Cisero Murphy and handed Mur-

phy a costly defeat. Russo will be another strong threat to win a place and gain entrance into his second World's Tourney.

There are also indications that several up and coming young players will "trode the Boards" at the Terrace Ballroom of the Statler Hilton Hotel.

Brooklyn's sensational young Johnny Ervolino has signified his intention to compete and will be a very serious challenger to all of the other entrants.

Ervolino has beaten all of the country's top players in various tournaments over the past year and is a greatly-improved player this year according to scouts who have been following his progress around the country.

Another fine young player from New Jersey, Petey Margo, will appear in the qualifying round. Son of a room owner, young Petey has played in several national

tournaments and has a fine future in the game.

Among other applicants are: Pete Pappas, a construction company executive from Amityville, N.Y., Basil Minickene, proprietor of a billiard room in Amityville and a player who has been identified with top tourneys in the East for over twenty years; Ray Martin of Fair Lawn, N.J., John Krajezar of Bethlehem, Pa., a talented player who operated a billiard room and Jimmy Fusco, a youthful star who won Earl Newby's room tournament recently with splendid "runs" in all his games.

It is expected by the BRPAA that somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 to 40 players will apply or win local room tournaments and come to New York City for the qualifying round.

"We may have to schedule some of the elimination matches in certain metropolitan rooms," Mr. McGill stated, "but we're prepared for that eventuality."

The Statler Hilton qualifying round entries, McGill pointed out, will probably consist of the first 30 players approved to play in the qualifying round by the BRPAA's Tournament Committee. Mr. McGill urged all players who are contemplating entering the '68 Tournament qualifying round to "signify their intentions at the earliest possible moment to BRPAA-headquarters."

"Either write or telephone our Executive Director, Stan Markusen, right away," McGill said.



JIMMY FUSCO

Billiard Room Proprietors Association of America APPLICATION FORM FOR ENTRY QUALIFYING ROUND 1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championship Tournament

I hereby indicate my willingness to enter the qualifying round of the 1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championship Tournament, to be held on April 12 and April 13 at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City.

If my application is accepted by the Tournament Committee of the Billiard Room Proprietors Association and upon subsequent official notification to me to that effect, I will forward my personal check in the amount of \$150 for my entry fee, made payable to "BRPAA," in time to reach BRPAA headquarters by April 1, 1968.

Send Application to:

STANLEY G. MARKUSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
500 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

(Area Code 212)

LONGACRE 4-8744

Billiard Room Proprietors Association of America
APPLICATION FORM FOR ENTRY QUALIFYING ROUND
1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championship Tournament

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Signature Date

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I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Further, I pledge to conform to the rules and regulations of the Association to the fullest extent of my ability. I agree to pay Annual Dues based on a charge of \$2.00 for each table in my establishment. These dues are tax deductible as a business expense. Dues cover your membership in the National Association (BRPAA). Payment for dues must accompany this application.

Application received by
Association Officer..... 196.....

SIGNED

Fusco 'Shoots Way' To New York City

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Jimmy Fusco will represent Newby's Billiard parlor, as he literally 'Shot his way' to New York City for the up-coming 14-1 tourney sponsored by the Billiard Room Proprietor's Association of America (BRPAA).

Fusco, a slender, well-talented cue artist from South Philly, seemingly mowed 'em down, as he won easily in the 150 point match of 14-1 double elimination at the Victor New Yorker equipped Newby billiard hall on Chestnut street in center city.

In his first match, the good lookin' Fusco met and defeated Al Coslosky by a 150-57 margin. In this match that lasted only one hour and twenty two minutes, Fusco posted a high run of 50 as he hit 100 and out.

In his second match, Jimmy met Joe Deleo and in minutes

short of the two hour mark, came out victorious, scoring a 150-118 decision. In this match, Fusco had back-to-back runs of 38 balls each.

Fusco's third opponent was Vic Stramlak, and like his two previous counterparts, Stramlak also went down to defeat by a 150-102 count. This match took some one hour and twenty-five minutes to play, and Fusco closed the door on Vic by shooting 90 and out to wrap it all up.

Jim's fourth and final meet paired him against John Okie. The red hot Fusco ended things quite rapidly by shooting from 74 and out, giving him a huge 150-40 victory over Okie, and a clean 4-0 record which led him to his trip to New York's Statler-Hilton, and a chance at the real big time tournament play.

LUCKY FOR MINNESOTA FATS

(Continued from Page Five)

Kid, Wimpy Lassiter.

"Why, that guy Wimpy learned the game from me. Now he's national champ."

Fats steps gingerly through the snow on 30th st., talking as he slushes.

GLEASON HELPED

He tells me Jackie Gleason

made him a lot of money portraying him in the movie "The Hustler." He explains:

"Gleason did a very good job for me. I wound up becoming the owner of one of the largest companies in the world--Minnesota Fats Enterprises. We have head-

(Cont'd on Page Twelve)

Classic At New York's Posh Statler-Hilton

'68 World's Pocket Meet Opens Apr. 12th

NEW YORK, N. Y. -- The 1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championship Tournament opens Friday, April 12th and runs eight days and nights, ending Friday night, April 19th.

This year's format allows a qualifying round of two days, Friday and Saturday, April 12-13. The country's best players are expected to compete for seven open "seats". There will be six days of "finals" play. Top-seeded stars include Champion Luther Lassiter, Jack Breit, Joe Balsis, Irving Crane, Frank McGown, Art Cranfield, Lou Butera and Cicero Murphy.

Look over very carefully the recent letter sent out to several star players, including some former World's contestants and a representative number of players who have done well in other tournaments. All proprietors are urged to conduct a "room tournament" in your establishment with your best local players. Your winner, no matter how you determine him, will be assured a place in the qualifying round play. He must pay the indicated \$150 entry fee, but he has a chance to gain one of the open "seats" and to enter the finals - where he will earn no less than \$400.

Every year the World's Tournament gets more expensive to sponsor. Again this year it will be held in the Terrace Ballroom of the Statler Hilton hotel here. To defray some expenses, we expect this week to sign a television contract with an outstanding company that will tape a 60-minute all-color film of the decisive championship game on the concluding Friday night. The film will be shown later in many cities and should boost billiards business wherever it is screened.

So, Mr. Proprietor, please try to conduct a room tournament and send your winner to New York City. If that isn't possible, get the very best player in your area to fill out the enclosed entry form, place your personal endorsement in a short note on that form, and mail back to the BRPAA. If you AS A MEMBER recommend a player, it is almost certain he'll be accepted by the Tournament Committee.

It is obvious that we need a fair number of player-entrants for the qualifying round. Otherwise, there would be no sense in leaving seven seats open to competition (we could automatically select the players as previously). We need your assistance as never before.

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The NAT'L BILLIARD NEWS



Vineland Youth 'Rackin 'Em Up'

VINELAND, NEW JERSEY - 12 year old Jose Garcia, pictured taking a few cue tips from well known Frank 'Zip' DiOrio, at the Q-Ball Billiard Lounge, 133 Landis Avenue, in Vineland. Garcia, a protege of DiOrio's, has a high run of 38 straight, and constantly registers runs in the low twenty bracket.

According to DiOrio, there aren't too many 12 year olds around today, either in Jersey or any other states, that can come close to matching young Garcia's fine cue talents. On his 13th birthday, Jose will receive a cue stick from DiOrio, valued at some \$70.00, and made by the Palmer Cue Company.

"This boy keeps improving each time he holds the stick" was the way DiOrio summed it all up. And without question, "He's sure to make a name for himself in the billiard world if he stay's with it."

DiOrio expects, in the not too distant future, to have Mosconi and Butera for a Sunday afternoon and/or evening match. However, should Mosconi be unable to make it, an invitation to Cicero Murphy would then be in order. Additional information and details about this in our next issue of the NBN.

'THE HUSTLER' EXAGGERATED

(Cont'd from Page Four)

Hackett in a best of five game of six ball which is a variation of nine ball and eight ball.

Taking no chance of getting upset Minnesota quickly won the first two games. No matter, if he admits it or not Minnesota actually let Buddy win the next two games. Between shots the live audience at the show, as well as the millions viewing the performance on television were kept laughing by the constant banter between the two men. Finally Minnesota took Buddy and the humper man who is a great star took the consolation \$500 and donated it to his favorite charity.

What followed was five minutes of sheer enjoyment as Minnesota gave a brief demonstration of trick shots.

The following week saw Fats pitted against Jack Carter and this time it was a best of three match called last ball. Carter was given the opportunity of breaking and then getting the next shot. Minnesota won the first game and true to form Carter took the next game although it was hard to see how the Fat Man could miss some of the shots he did.

In the finale it was all Minnesota and following his win he again gave a brief exhibition of the type he is famous for.

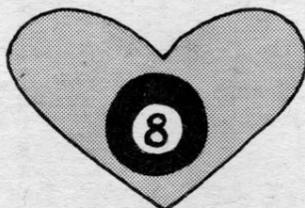
Talk at night in some of the leading billiard establishments around concerned the show and many of the fans described the action to others who had missed it.

Pen Pictures

By George

Pool Room!

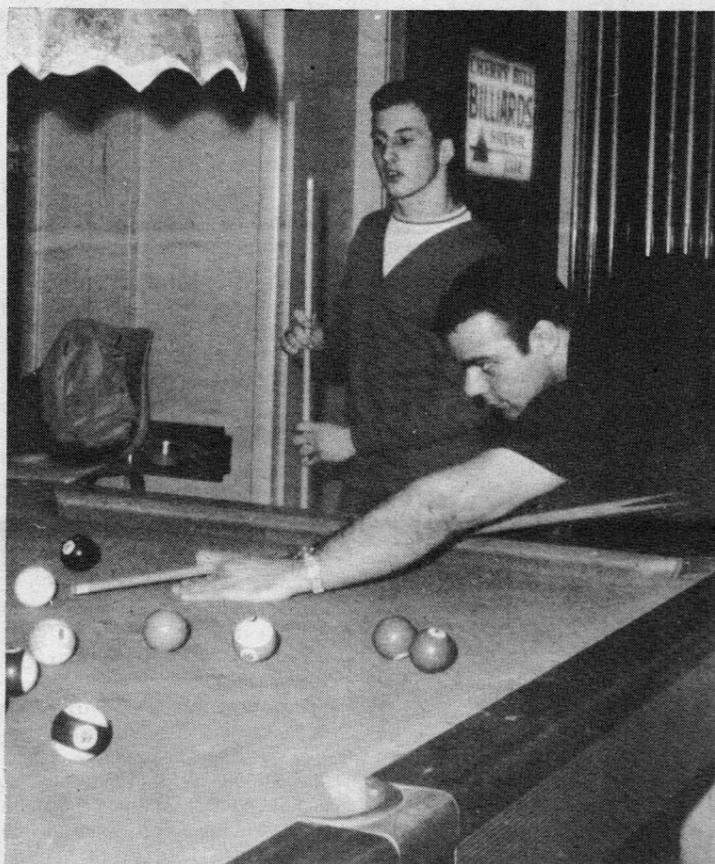
Did you ever think a Pool Room . . . was a sort of wordly school room . . . where you meet most ev'ry type of character . . . You can tell the kind of person . . . by his manners or his cursin' . . . and the other situations that occur . . . You can learn by all his actions . . . with the many diff'rent factions . . . and the way that he'll react to life, each day . . . So, a Pool Room is a school room . . . that can be a wise or fool room . . . where you'll learn to view each true man by his play . . . I have met a lot of fellows . . . there's the kind who raves and bellows . . . and makes himself obnoxious to the boys . . . and the guy who'll try to cheat you . . . and most any way to beat you . . . distracting you with all his constant noise . . . but, then, I've met the finest men . . . restoring faith in life, again . . . for, they have learned the game of life to play . . . as they know in acting fairly . . . and in treating others squarely . . . that love and brotherhood must light the way . . . It's just the same in ev'ry game . . . no matter what may be the name . . . you'll meet each kind of character you'll find . . . and the game of pool is skilful . . . where a player's wise or wilful . . . according to the working of his mind . . . So, a Pool Room is a school room . . . that's a fool or Golden Rule Room . . . where you meet characters of every kind.



Cherry Hill Anxiously Awaiting Return Of Viet Nam Youth



JERRY ADAMS



DANNY ADAMS & LARRY DEMEDIO



EDDIE SMITH

CHERRY HILL, N.J.-Pictured while eyeing up a shot at his Cherry Hill Billiard Lounge is Larry DeMedio, who seemingly is enjoying his match with Danny Adams, awaiting his turn, Dan's brother Jerry, (Upper left) is in Viet Nam where he's been for the past 14 months. Eddie Smith, (Lower Left), co-proprietor with

DeMedio, are eagerly awaiting young Jerry's homecoming, and some real hot matches on the ole pool slate.

Adams Father is the assistant traffic manager, (Eastern division), for Trailway's Bus Lines. Jerry also works for the Trailway's line with his Dad.



Lansing Awarded Pocket Billiard Meet

LANSING, MICHIGAN -- The 3rd Annual United States Open Pocket Billiards Championships were awarded recently to Lansing, Michigan, for the dates of October 6-11, 1968, by the Billiard Congress of America.

Over one hundred of the nation's foremost men and women pocket billiard players will be competing for respective national titles and \$16,300 in prize money at Lansing's beautiful Civic Center.

Joe Farhat, owner of the Velvet Rail Billiard Center in Lansing and National President of the BCA Proprietors' Association presented Lansing's successful bid.

Lansing will literally become the billiard capitol of the nation during the six-day event with the 3rd Annual Billiard Proprietors' Conference and Exhibit held at the same time along with the Annual Billiard Hall of Fame selection and induction.

The host, Billiard Congress of America with headquarters in Chicago, is the ruling body of billiards and will conduct local and state tournaments through-

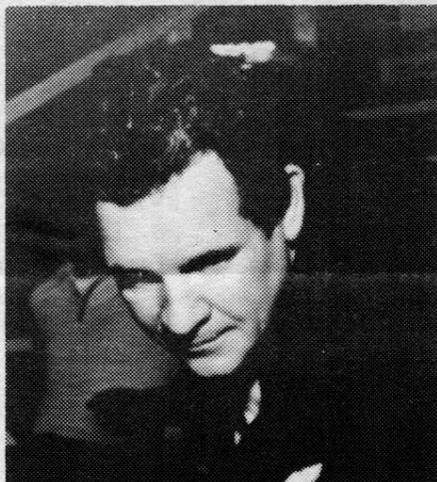
out the nation to determine the 64 finalists in the men's pocket billiards and 32 in the women's pocket division.

Defending national champions who won the 1967 titles at St. Louis' Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel are Jimmy Caras, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Dorothy Wise, Redwood City, California. The 1966 Open was held at Chicago's Sherman House with Irving Crane, Rochester, New York, running 150 balls in the finals to defeat Joe Balsis, Minersville, Pennsylvania.

National news media, press, radio and TV will be on hand to cover the tournament. Last year's tournament drew 10,000 billiard buffs. Michigan entries at the St. Louis event who are elated at Lansing's selection are: Tom Kolins of Westland and Alton Whitlow of Detroit in the men's division; Chari Fate of Williamsston, Jackie Gorecki of Grand Rapids, and Jeanne Ann Williams of Lansing in the women's division.

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LAMAN KING



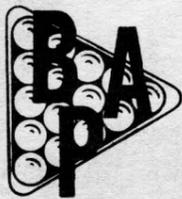
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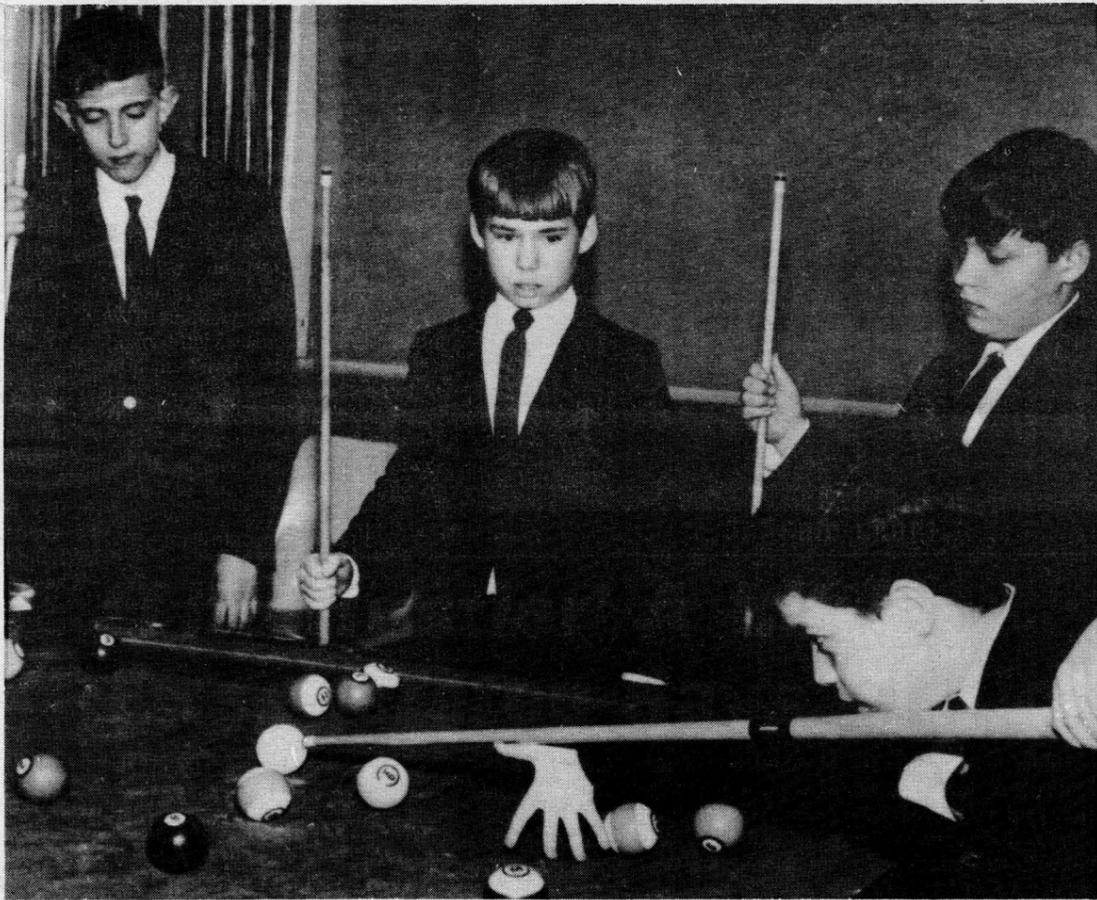


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Ten Youngsters In Billiard Competition



Nine-year-old Brian Asch, of Hillside, N.J., right, displays fine form while executing shot in new junior pocket billiards league at Hi-Cue Lounge. Waiting their turn, left to right: Dennis Flynn, 13; Pat Vetek, 11, and Mike Carrano, 13, all of Elizabeth, N.J.

Reprinted from Elizabeth, N.J., DAILY JOURNAL

ELIZABETH, N.J. - Billiards is a lot of fun to some kids, but it is becoming serious business for the 10 youngsters you find around the tables Saturday afternoons at the Hi-Cue Billiard Lounge, 333 Rahway Ave., in Elizabeth.

Aged 9 to 13, these boys are the entrants in the first Hi-Cue Pee-wee Tournament, a round-robin affair now two weeks into its 10-week stand.

"Most of the fellows are just learning," said Dave Rosenfeld, the manager at Hi-Cue, "but the way some kids handle their

sticks, they will be good. Sixty per cent of them have the makings of something if they continue."

"This is real competition - and it keeps them off the streets," Rosenfeld added.

Mike Asch, one of Hi-Cue's owners, set up the tournament for the youngsters just as he has for teen-age and adult competitors.

Most of the peewees learned the game from their fathers, who usually accompany them for the Saturday action.

- ATTENTION ALL READERS -

Because of our obligation to meet a monthly Press Deadline, we now must announce a deadline for both News copy, and Advertising content. Effective immediately, Deadline for our next issue will be MARCH 10th.

Earl Newby, Editor

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Induct Cue Maker Into Hall Of Fame

(Reprinted from the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES)

The late Herman J. Rambow of Chicago, the world's most renowned maker of cues, was honored at the Billiard Industry Awards Banquet Monday night at the Sherman House.

Mr. Rambow, who died last year at 86, having earned the title "Cuemaker of Champions," was posthumously inducted Monday into the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame.

Luther Lassiter of Elizabeth City, N. C., was singled out as the Pocket Billiard Player of 1967. Lassiter, 49-year-old leading money winner, pocketed an additional check for \$2,500 on the strength of his winnings of \$10,300 in four out of five of the major pocket billiard tournaments held in 1967.

Dorothy Wise of Half Moon Bay, Calif., the National Women's champ, received a check for \$1,000 as the ladies' Top Money Winner of the Year, with total winnings of \$650 in the U. S. Open held at St. Louis.



RAMBOW

Joe Balsis of Minersville, Pa., walked off with the \$500 award as a result of taking runner-up honors in the Men's Division. Jack Breit of Houston received the \$250 award for placing third.

Jimmy Caras of Springfield, Pa., was awarded a special plaque for his brilliant back-to-back triumphs over Lassiter last June in capturing the U. S. Open championship.

4-WAY TIE IN NORWALK CUE EVENT

(Continued from Front Page)

preitor and tournament director for this annual show, can most certainly be proud of the select field of top notch billiard pro's which are currently participating in this year's meet.

Last year Miliken's tourney featured only straight pool, but this '68 showcase also boasts

a 15-hand straight pool invitational, which was open to all players. Miliken also tried for a special nine-ball event, however, this was dropped prior to the opening date. The guaranteed prize fund of \$14,500.00 is still in effect for this BCA Sanctioned Double World Championship.

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Random Billiards Scene Of Classic Exhibition By Mosconi

BY JOE MARCUS
Contributing Editor

The crowd came early to get the best possible vantage point. Sonny Garrison screwed up his cue stick and started practicing. Then a sudden silence fell over the room as a gray haired distinguished looking man stalked into the room.

He went into a corner and talked to Teddy the manager of Random Billiards.

What they discussed was never revealed to the public but as the gray-haired gentleman stalked to the table to get ready for some practice he looked pleased.

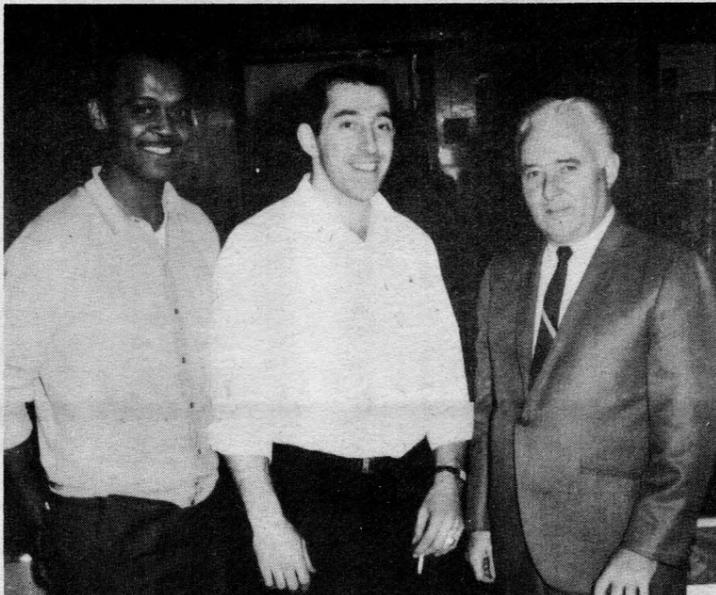
Willie Mosconi was there to make an impression on those fans who frequent Random and many of them had of course heard of the great man but many of them had never seen him in action.

"I looked forward for the opportunity of playing against this great player," said Sonny Garrison, who is regarded by many as one of the better semi-pro players in the New York area. "Just being in the same room with him is a great thrill. Playing against him is an experience that one can never forget for he is dynamic."

Garrison may have secretly entertained some hopes of beating the man that without a doubt is still the greatest draw in pocket billiards. However, once Willie uncoiled it was all over. After missing a couple of difficult shots he got the position he wanted and he was off and running. The referee kept counting and the balls kept finding the pockets. Draw shots, fade shots, bank shots, long easy ones, long hard ones, combinations, short shots, double banks. You name it and Willie kept putting them in the pocket. It was like watching a machine in action with every part of the body working perfectly.

Mosconi started his run with the score reading 45-6 in his favor. The run lasted through 204 and the final count was 249-6 and Sonny Garrison stood there with a gleam in his eye.

"I've never seen anything like this. The man is just great and you have to admire the way he keeps on going."



Pictured with famed cue artist, Willie Mosconi, (right), are Sonny Garrison, (left) and Teddy Eliodes, manager of the Random Billiards which hosted Mosconi's exhibition match.

People have been admiring Willie for a long time and there isn't a billiard establishment in New York that doesn't try and get the great man in for an exhibition performance.

At 54 Willie is showing no sign of letting up as he continues to work at promoting the game he loves so much.

Someone once described him as one of the best ambassadors that the game ever had and there are few who would criticize this even though on occasion Willie has been known to demonstrate a little of his high strung attitude. But with his credentials there appears to be a good excuse for this and those who follow him anywhere in the New York Metropolitan area come not for the man's personality but for his ability with the cue stick and there is no one in the game now who commands as much respect as Willie.

After he pocketed the run of 204 Willie then treated the fans to another one of his strongpoints--the trick shooting that he has made so famous over the past few years when he decided to quit tournament play and concentrate on giving exhibitions.

"It was a pleasure to see him"

one youngster said.

"Until today I had heard of what he could do with the balls but never in my life did I believe it. It seemed that the man was making the balls do exactly what he wanted them to do. It was like he talked to them and told them to wind up where he wanted them to. He had many easy shots but this must be credited to his position play. I know that after seeing him in action you feel sort of sick when you look at your own game."

As far as the fans were concerned Willie had scored again and immediately Teddy was asked when the great man would return.

"We're definitely going to try and get him back in the very near future," he said and the fans walked away with the knowledge that they would have another chance to see the great master of pocket billiards in action again.

Fifteen Players In Miliken 'Shoot Out'

NORWALK, CALIFORNIA -- Fifteen of the nation's top billiard players filed their entries recently for the 1968 World's Pocket Billiard Championships, the \$14,500 event which is set for a 17-day run, which opened Friday, February 9th, here at Charlie's Cue 'N Cushion.



"Wimpy" takes aim in Southern Cal meet.

Jimmy Moore of Albuquerque, Ed Kelly of Las Vegas and Danny DiLiberto of Miami signed in as challengers to defending champion Luther Lassiter, the Elizabeth City, N.C. cue stick artist who has dominated the game for the past 10 years.

A total of 15 top players will compete for the Billiard Congress of America-sanctioned crown, according to Norwalk promoter Charlie Milliken.

At the same time, Milliken announced that first place payoff has been increased to \$2,500, with the elimination of the nine-ball class.

"There is much more interest in straight pool (14.1) so it was decided to change the format and feature a round-robin straight pool championship," said Milliken.

The prize list will now scale down to \$400 for last place in the star-studded event.

Figuring to provide Lassiter

with his sternest challenge is Kelly, runner-up to the cool Southerner last year in Long Beach. Kelly is a winner of several tournaments and insiders say he is ready for an all-out battle with the great Lassiter.

Moore has held the perennial runner-up role, but may be set to break on top. He finished second in five world's championships. "Cowboys," as he is affectionately known by the players, is considered one of the most colorful competitors in the game.

DiLiberto surprised Southern California billiard fans last year as he won many key matches in the Long Beach event. He is a long-run specialist and many credit his pro boxing background for his tenacity.

Others entered in the year's first big tournament include Jack Breit, Houston; Richie Florence Torrance; and Larry Johnson, Frankfurt.



ATKISSON

The Gil Atkinson School of Pocket Billiards is already expanding their services.

Last week the school was open during the evening hours . . . plus weekends. Now dear readers, the school is open each weekday from 11 A.M. so you can take your lessons day or night . . . seven days a week!

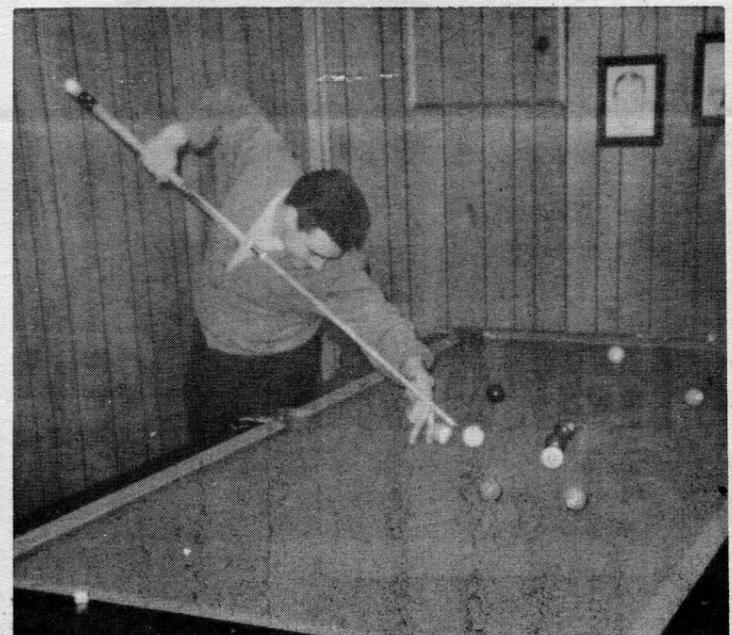
Another service for students we failed to tell you about is practice games at the school. Anytime the tables are not in use for lessons, you have the opportunity to practice for the

Gil Atkinson School Expands Daily Hours

nominal fee of \$1 per hour.

As far as I know, there are only two or three billiard schools in the world, so in all probability, you'll start beating your friends no matter where

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CHARLES MAHER

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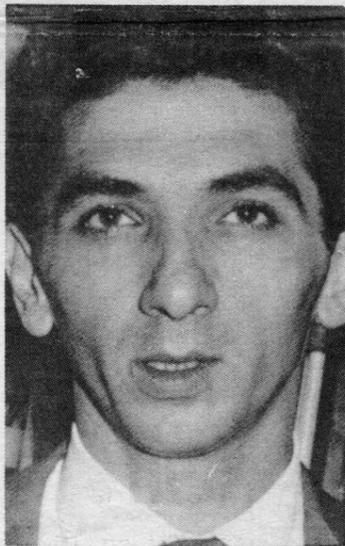
John Ervolino does not have what you would call a mahogany tan. In fact, he looks as if he might have spent 30 years on the Rock. Or under it.

John is a slightly-built, bushy-haired Brooklynite with a voice about five octaves deeper than a foghorn. Next to him, Everett Dirksen would sound like a coloratura soprano.

What John does for a living is shoot pool. That's all he has ever done for a living. In his 32 years, he has never worked a day outside a pool hall.

I found him in Norwalk, at Charlie's Place, where they are holding the 1968 World Pocket Billiard Championship. Ervolino doesn't figure to win the thing (defending champion Luther Lassiter seems to be the favorite). But John figures to finish in the top half-dozen. He made maybe \$40,000 at his game last year.

Ervolino, one of 11 children of a Brooklyn produce dealer, shot his first game of pool at the age of 10 in a YMCA. "I saw a pool table," he said, "and I liked pool. I wasn't any good at baseball. And I was a horrible football player. So I just played pool. It was the only thing I could do better than my friends."



ERVOLINO

When John was 13, he played for something called the U.S. Junior Championships. He finished second.

TOOK TO GAMBLING

"I played in the afternoons at the YMCA until I was about 16," he said. "Then I started going to pool halls. That's when I got started gambling on the game."

"I can't remember much about the first game I played for money. It was for something like \$10. But I can't even tell you if I won or lost."

John said he became a hustler, but not a shark. "I never played a game under false pretenses," he said. "They always knew who I was. I'd go into a town and set up a match with the best player in town. Or he'd come to New York and set one up with me."

"Years ago, hustlers would go into pool halls in disguises. But the day of the hard hustler is gone. For one thing, everybody knows the good players too well."

"For instance, I've never been in Portland, Ore., in my life. But a friend of mine from New York went to Portland and he told me there's a picture of me hanging on the wall of a pool hall there."

John used to hustle all over the country. "You can make a lot of money at it," he said, "but the expenses are tremendous. Traveling to and fro and paying the hotel bills and everything. Maybe \$25,000 or \$50,000 will pass through your hands in a year. But you don't see most of it because of the expenses. I used to live nice, though. And I was happy traveling."

Then, about 4½ years ago, John married a Brooklyn girl. Now he and his wife, Mary Ann, have two daughters. John knocked off a lot of the traveling after he got married. And he even took a job, managing a pool hall in Brooklyn. He will play maybe five tournaments a year, and take a few matches on the side. If a guy comes to New York looking for a game, John is always around.

Ervolino played his biggest match about two months ago, in Bellvue, Ohio. "It was a thousand-point match for \$7,000," he said. "The other guy was Teddy Elias. We played it in three days. We played to 300



CUE CUTIE - Actress Paula Lane lines up a winning shot at the World's Pocket Billiard Championships in Norwalk, Calif., as tournament promoter Charlie Milliken looks on admiringly. Paula is queen of the 17-day tournament, sanctioned by the Billiard Congress of America.

points the first day, 600 the second and then to 1,000. It took about 10 hours, altogether. I was behind the first day, but I won the thing, 1,000 to 552."

"I played some \$3,000 matches last October in Johnson City, Ill. That's where they have the Hustlers' Tournament. I won about 60% of them."

"I think a long match is about the only thing that proves

anything. If you know you're only going to play to 150 points, you can't relax and play your game like you can if you know the thing is going to a thousand points. In a 150-point game, a guy can get off a good run and it's over."

Ervolino has never been a drinker. "Can't stand the stuff," he said. But he did have a weakness.

"Horses," he said. "I bet pretty high and lost. I was known to win \$30,000 in Miami and then lose it in two days. The horses took all my cash. It hurt my game."

It was an expensive lesson, but a few months ago John finally got the picture. He quit the horses and returned to his only proven four-legged friend: the pool table.

(Reprinted from L.A. TIMES)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(Cont'd from Page Two)

Hilton Hotel. Joe McGill, President, said "if too many entries come in from all fifty states, the players will have to play in B.R.P.A.A. Lounges and Centers." Also you should run your World Junior Tourney so you can mail his entry in to Director Stan Markusen, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10036.

CORRECTIONS: In the January 1968 issue, on page 9, in the full page ad "Southern California's 'Double' World Championship Straight Pool Tournament 9-Ball open to every one." The 9-Ball event has been eliminated. The prize fund, \$14,500 for the two tournaments, is still the same for the Fourteen and One Straight Pool Championship. Also it is stated in this Ad that Ronnie Allen is co-sponsor. Mr. Charlie Milliken is the sole sponsor of this Cue Classic.

We received a telephone call at 4:30 a.m. giving us the results of the opening game and the second game. "Machine Gun" Butera, the fabulous Pennsylvanian, put on one of his many thrillers. His opponent, the good looking Jack Perkins from Las Vegas, broke the balls and Butera, with his machine gun action, rattled off a run of 122 balls in 17 minutes, to get a standing ovation and applause that lasted for five minutes. When we say "standing ovation" this might not be correct because it was a sell-out crowd. The Butera-Perkins game ended with the score reading 150 to 6.

Among the many spectators were none other than the Combo Brothers, George and Paulie Jansco of Johnston City, Ill. who are responsible for \$53,000 cue action for the pros and the younger stars who come yearly so they will be pros some day.

The second test was really a struggle. Handsome Danny Jones, the lovable Georgian, gave the mighty Wimpy, Luther Lassiter, World's Champion, a real work-out. It was a 90 inning game. When it was over the score board read Lassiter 150,

Good Looking 143. Atta boy, Danny.

We are pleased to see this Tournament get off to a fine start.

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BBIA BULLETIN

THE PLUSH DUNES HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA will be headquarters for the 36th Annual Convention of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America from June 24 to 27. Business sessions at the 1968 meeting will be refined versions of the highly successful meeting and forums introduced at the 1967 Convention in New York City.

FINAL PLANS ARE NOW BEING COMPLETED FOR THE BBIA'S 25th Annual Convention from May 8 to 11 at the Marriott Motor Hotel in Dallas. Detailed program plans, reservation forms and information on exhibit booths will be mailed during February to all BBIA members.

BBIA DIRECTOR FRANK LANZA, JR., Victor Billiard Co., Philadelphia, was injured in an

automobile accident on December 23. After ten days in the hospital, he returned home to recuperate.

An interesting marketing experience recently grew out of a conversation between Frank Lanza & Vince Sharbo of Victor Billiard Co., BBIA members in Phila., and radio station WIP in Philadelphia with veteran announcer, Bill Weber.



YOUNG BLOOD

Lanza and Sharbo wondered if a radio station could be used to stimulate billiard interest among housewives. The idea of an on-the-air promotional contest finally evolved. The only prize was to be a Victor billiard table. Chuck Dougherty, a WIP disc jockey, promoted the drawing on his 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. show three times a day for two weeks. He explained to his largely female audience that billiards was fun, a relaxing exercise and the "in" thing to do. More than 18,000 entries poured into the studio, and Helen O'Neill, who lives in a small Philadelphia row house with her husband and three children was the eventual winner.

"If one goes about thinking that the world is filled with crooks and schemers, the world is filled with crooks and schemers. On the other hand, if one believes that the world is filled with fine, neighborly, helpful kindly folks, one finds people of that class in the great society.".....Thomas Dreier

RJY

'LUCKY GEORGE'

George Brayton, co-owner of the Golden Cue, Bloomington, Minn., pictured with three young "Cue Debs," from left, Linda Kottke, Eleanore Cone and Blenda Shuck.

Brayton, whose partner is none other than Ace Minnesota Twins pitcher, Dean Chance, patiently shows Linda proper method of handling cue stick as other gals look on.



-ATTENTION PLAYERS-

For the latest and most accurate coverage of all Pool Tourneys, Exhibitions, and all the outstanding happenings in the world of Billiards, follow each issue of the National Billiard News, published on the 15th of every month. Deadline for Copy and Ad's is the 10th of each month. -E.N.

LUCKY FOR MINNESOTA FATS THAT UPPER DARBY FATS MISSED (Cont'd from Page Six)

quarters in Illinois and make the finest tables and pool accessories in the world."

I ask Fats if he ever had been to Philadelphia before. He scoffs:

"My dear opponent, Mr. Upper Darby Fats, don't you know Philly was my old stamping grounds. I played here in the twenties. When I came here I never played no eggs. I met only the top men...and laid them low.

"When I moved on this town, I went right to Allinger's (a billiard academy at 1303 Market st.). That place had all the top bananas. . .Mosconi, Ponzi, all the rest, I skinned them alive." UP TO A ZILLION

With a record like this, a guy would get the impression Fats is in clover. But he says no. And he says it this way:

"I have no idea how much I have won over the years. I might roll up a grand or a zillion, then I'd go to the track. Bango! I'd be busted."

Fats explains that a zillion is a lot of money, more than a jillion, and a jillion is more than you can count, then he continues his story.

"If you don't score for two or three weeks or if you get no action, you go down the drain. In this business you live out of your pockets. You never know.

"My biggest win? Maybe \$50,000. But when you win, there are a lot of people to divvy it up with. Before the game you give

a lot of guys a piece of the action.

LIVES WELL

"The same night you make a big haul, you might play poker. And the next day you are starting fresh again. Money has no home in gambling."

Fats admits he always has lived well, elaborating:

"I have four Cadillacs, a home in Dowell, southern Illinois. My wife Evelyn and I -- we've been married 27 years -- have 40 dogs and cats. No kids.

"I don't have a pool table in my home. That's because I'm never home. I never hit a ball in my showrooms. And there are tables all over the joint. It just never occurred to me to shoot. I can't play unless it's for money. I'm a dyed-in-the-wool money player."

I remark that Fats must have a lot of cues and trophies around his home. He punches his paunch and says:

"Upper Darby, I've never fooled with trophies. All I want is cash, no ornaments. As for the cues, I had many but used only one for 40 years."

NEWS TRAVELS

When we reach the poolroom in the station, a crowd is gathered. News travels fast, especially through a newsroom. Even a photographer is there.

Fats tosses his trench coat onto a slot machine. I puts 25 cents in the table and rack up the balls.

Fats plays it safe on the break. He is taking no chances with

Upper Darby Fats. I miss. Fats shoots again. He runs 104 and still hasn't missed when the crowd cries out:

"Show us some trick shots, Minnesota (to distinguish the player from Upper Darby Fats)."

Minnesota shows some running english, reverse english and draw english. The show is all his. He has given me the juice real good.

But he wouldn't have if something hadn't happened to my ball on the way to the pocket.

All I can say is: Minnesota Fats is lucky.

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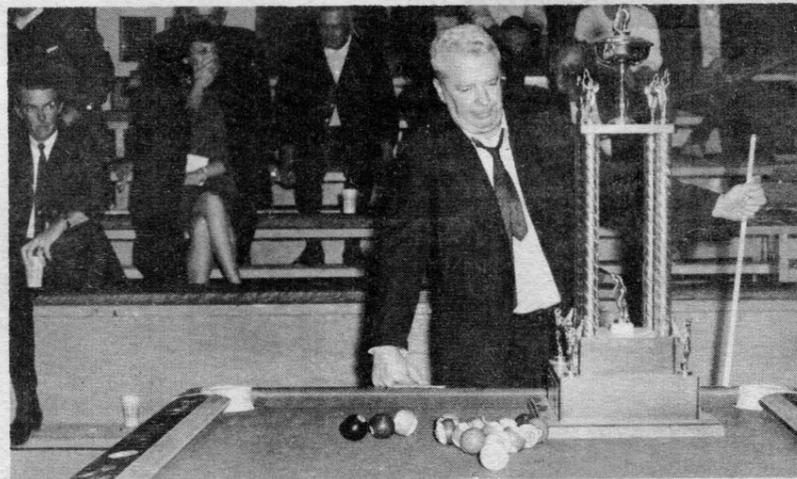
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Lassiter won the All-Round title on a Big G table.

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