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241 HEMLOCK LANE,
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19063



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BILLIARD NEWS

DEDICATED TO BUILDING BETTER SPORTSMANSHIP

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JANUARY, 1969

Top Cue Stars To Participate.....

Hawk's Nest To Host \$7,000 Invitational

PITTSBURGH, PA. - On the strength of some fine, fine attendance during an early December exhibition match between two top-flight cue stars, Mr. Bernie Schwartz, popular proprietor of the Hawk's Nest Billiard Club, 1819 Murray Ave., has put together one of the greatest Star-Studded fields of pool talent in bringing to this city, The First Annual "Steel City Invitational" Straight Pool Tournament.

Schwartz, just back from a well deserved Miami vacation with his wife, has secured the services of veteran's Joe Balsis and Luther Lassiter, who only last month stunned the crowds that assembled to watch their many exhibitions during the early days of December, 1968. In these particular matches, Schwartz also participated as the third man.

Following two stars like Balsis, who hails from Minorsville, Pa., and Lassiter, who resides in Elizabeth City, N. Carolina, are other top pro's like Irving (The Deacon) Crane, the ever-popular Cadillac salesman from Rochester, N.Y., Lou (Machine Gun) Butera, Pittston, Pa., and the colorful Cicero Murphy of Brooklyn, N.Y.

With action scheduled to get underway on January 26th, and continue through February 2nd,



SCHWARTZ

the 'Play for Pay' boys will be shooting for a prize fund totaling something in the neighborhood of \$7,000.00. First prize alone will net it's deserving star a check in the amount of \$2,500. The format will be Double Elimination Round Robin and the games going to 150 points.

On Sunday's, action will take
(Cont'd on Page 9 - Column 1)

Jack & Jill Cue Club Hosting 2nd U.S. Open

ARLINGTON, VA. - With the opening days of the 2nd Annual U. S. Open Nine-Ball Tourney just getting underway, it's a bit early for us to report any of the scores as yet. However, in our February issue, a complete breakdown as to who won it and how much, will be one of our top features.

Bill "Weenie Beenie" Staton, popular proprietor of the Jack & Jill Cue Club, is playing host once again, and as announced in December's Issue of The Nat'l Billiard News, this years test carries a prize fund totaling some \$2,600.00.

Wednesday, January 17th was the opening day, with January 26th marking the final days action. To the lucky champion goes a cool \$1,000.00 check, plus, the usual winning trophy. Format for this 2nd Annual contest was announced at being Double Elimination.

(Cont'd on Page 8 - Column 5)



BILL "WEENIE BEENIE" STATON

Vegas Ready For 5th Annual \$33,000 Stardust Open

LAS VEGAS, NEV. - Once again the 'Fun & Games' capitol of the world, bawdy ole Las Vegas, will play host to the greatest of all the Billiard Shows, the 5th Annual \$33,000.00 Stardust Open, truly the world's classiest and richest cue show.

Beginning on March 6th, and continuing through March 22nd, Vegas will open it's huge neon gateway to welcome the world's greatest array of pool stars to ever assemble under one roof.

As in the previous four events, this 5th classic promises to be the best ever, landing a star-studded field of real professional cue talent.

According to George Jansco, this years test will undoubtedly be the best we've ever conducted. Jansco pointed out that there have been a few changes in this years format.

These drastic new changes in the Rules for the "Stardust Open" are designed to give every Middle Class Player a chance to win and share in the \$33,000 Prize Money. The New Rules are as follows:

STRAIGHT POOL

Straight pool will be one hundred twenty-five (125) points.

ONE POCKET

One Pocket will be played three best of five (3 of 5) and Loser Breaks, instead of four of seven

(4 of 7) and alternate break.

NINE BALL

Nine Ball will be played eleven best of twenty-one (11 of 21) loser breaks instead of winner breaks. Also, you must hit the ball instead of shoot-out. Failure to hit the ball on first attempt will be a foul. After every foul (except the break) the opponent will be given cue ball in hand.

PRIZE MONEY

The \$33,000 will be distributed in 74 Cash Prizes. Each division will have 24 cash prizes, even 24th place in each division will be worth \$100.

DRAWINGS FOR PAIRINGS

There will be a Public Drawing at the Stardust on March 5th for pairing in all three divisions.

This is the 5th Annual Stardust Open All-Round Pocket Billiard Tournament, sanctioned and endorsed by the Billiard Players Association of America. Play will consist of the three leading Pocket Billiard Games which are, "Straight Pool (14 and 1 rack)", "Nine Ball" and "One Pocket." Player's will compete for Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000.00) in cash prizes. There will be seventy-four (74) cash prizes plus trophies for each division and trophy for the final "Stardust Pocket Billiard

Championship."

STRAIGHT POOL

Prize Money \$9,500.00
Entry Fee 125.00
A Match Consists of 125 Points
1st Prize 2,000.00
2nd Prize 1,100.00
3rd Prize 700.00
4th Prize 600.00
5th Prize 500.00
6th Prize 500.00
7th Prize 350.00
8th Prize 350.00
9th thru 16th 250.00
17th thru 24th 100.00

It will be played in Double Elimination, (meaning a player must lose two matches before being eliminated).

NINE BALL

Prize Money \$9,500.00
Entry Fee 125.00
A Match Consists of 11
Best Out of 21 Games
1st Prize 2,000.00
2nd Prize 1,100.00
3rd Prize 700.00
4th Prize 600.00
5th Prize 500.00
6th Prize 500.00
7th Prize 350.00
8th Prize 350.00
9th thru 16th 250.00
17th thru 24th 100.00

It will be played in Double
(Cont'd on Page 6 - Column 1)



GEORGE JANSCO

1968 Saw Many New Stars! Will This Year Be As Productive?

By JOE MARCUS

Irving (The Deacon) Crane or Joe (The Meatman) Balsis. Take your pick as to who was the most outstanding pocket billiard player in the world during the 1968 season.

Fans of both the "Deacon" and the "Meatman" have good reasons to claim that their man was tops, and a look at the records for the year show that both men must be rated strong consideration as to whom walks off with the title of "Billiard Champ of the Year."

It was a year that saw Luther (Wimpy) Lassiter, who for four of the previous five years had a clear cut title victory only to falter badly last year, Crane, who has been amazing pool fans with his accurate shooting for the past 30 years, and Balsis, who once gave up the sport because he felt that he couldn't make a decent living out of pocketing balls only to come back five years ago stronger than ever, dominate just about every event decided on the green felt.

As a continuing service to our readers, the National Billiard News takes great pride in once again reviewing the top events of the 1968 billiard world.

The first big tournament of the year was the \$14,500 South-

ern California National Pocket Billiard Championships, which was staged by Charlie Milliken at Charlie's Cue & Cushion in Norwalk, California. The tourney was a 19-day affair, and was

won by Brooklyn's Frank McGown. McGown and Richie Florence wound up in a deadlock at the end of the regular schedule, and in the playoff, McGown won (Cont'd on Page 12 - Column 1)



MARCUS



While At The 'Hustler'.....

ONE NEVER KNOWS JUST WHO THEY MIGHT RUN INTO! Such was the case in above photo as camera caught Philadelphia's Al Coslosky, winner of the Straight Pool event, and Nancy Hart, who along with husband Gordon, operate the Viking Cue Co. in Wisconsin. In background is wall display of Cue Rack, and of course their all Viking Cue's. The Hart's announced that they'll be moving to all-new headquarters sometime in February. (See story on page 12.)

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Editor's Notebook

by EARL NEWBY

The first Pocket Billiard Tournament of 1969 is to be held at the Jack & Jill Cue Club, 2707 South Wakefield, Arlington, Virginia 22206, January 17th thru 26th. The U.S. Open 9-Ball Pocket Billiard Championship sponsored by Bill "Weenie Beenie" Staton and Bob Purdom. For complete details, write or phone (Area Code 703) 931-7671. This is the second annual Cue Classic to be held by the popular proprietor of a chain of restaurants, Billy Staton.

The second Pocket Billiard Tournament for 1969 is "The Hawk's Nest Billiard Club," 1918 Murray Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217, Telephone (Area Code 412) 521-9885, sponsored by Bernie Schwartz, who, by the way, is a fine Cue Star, recently having a victory over Harry Cohen. We were told this was the first loss booked by Cohen in the last five years. They are still talking about this pool match in Miami, Florida. The Steel City Invitational 14-1 straight pool Double Round Cue Classic starts Sunday, January 26th thru Sunday, February 2nd, starring World Champion Irving Crane, former World Champion Lutter Lassiter and Joe Balsis; also Cicero Murphy, winner of the Burbank, Calif., Tournament, and the greatest colored Cue Star living today.

Lou Butera has played great pocket billiards each and every year in The Billiard Room Proprietors' Association of America World's Cue Championship since 1963. Since Bernie Schwartz is a newcomer, this \$7,000 in prizes, \$2,500 to the winner, 8-days, six top cue greats booked for the Smoky City, the fans will be thrilled at each and every one of the 150-points matches. On Sunday, January 26th, and Sunday, February 2nd, matches will be held at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday, January 27th thru Saturday, February 1st, matches will be held 7:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. For your tickets and reservations, or full details, write or phone Tournament Director Bernie Schwartz.

The Big Daddy of Pocket Billiards, the \$33,000 Fifth Annual STARDUST OPEN, takes place at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 6th thru 22nd, and is sponsored by the Jansco Bros., of Johnston City, Illinois. It is possible for the winner to win \$10,000 for first prize. During this Cue Classic, the number of people who walk, drive a car, take a cab or bus, or fly by "The Strip" and read the fabulous neon sign on the front of the Stardust Hotel, outnumber those who see any other event in pocket billiards in the whole world.

The fourth Pocket Billiard classic is the Billiard Room Proprietors' Association of America World's 14-1 Straight Pool Tournament, which was won by Irving Crane last year. We do not have the release dates as yet.

Also the Billiard Congress of America U.S. Open, which took place in Lansing Michigan, last year and was won by Joe Balsis. We do not have the date for this tournament as yet, either -- Sorry!

Special to all our readers in Billiards. The finest thing to happen to Pocket Billiards, 3-Cushion, Snooker, Carom, etc., in 1968, was when Lefty Goff opened the Dale Mabry Billiards in Tampa, Florida, in August. This is a fashion plate for our sport, spacious, thoroughly modern, with 20 tables, making this the latest investment of a Tampa business man, William A. Watson.

Out of a portion of \$250,000 building, that includes a tournament room, Watson's organization, made up of veteran billiards people, also directs a Brunswick distributorship for much of the state. The opening, a week long special, in August, was fabulous. Mr. Watson invited Joe Balsis, a personal friend, down, and he stayed the full week giving twice a day exhibitions with Lefty (Junior) Goff, a veteran tournament player, and flashy young competitor Steve Cook. The tournament room seats 200 in brand new theater chairs, and it was filled at virtually all performances.

Also around was Richard Trapp, All-America flanker from the University of Florida, a campus pool champ and Buffalo Bills prospect.

Goff is the Manager of the facility, Cook an assistant. George McCorkadale, owner of Varsity Billiards in Tampa and respected billiards businessman and player, is the overseer of the operation, along with Jim Stewart, of the Watson firm.

Joe Balsis said he'd never seen "A finer room anywhere in the United States," saying this during the programs worked up for the two open houses.

It was during the program that the emcee, Tom McEwen, sports editor of the Tampa Tribune, a personal friend of Watson, and Watson brought out the trail of events leading to the evolution of Dale (Continued on Page 8 - Column 4)

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5TH ANNUAL

STARDUST

OPEN

All Round
 ★ Pocket Billiard
 TOURNAMENT

CONTESTANTS MAY
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 ★ STRAIGHT POOL
 ★ NINE BALL
 ★ ONE POCKET

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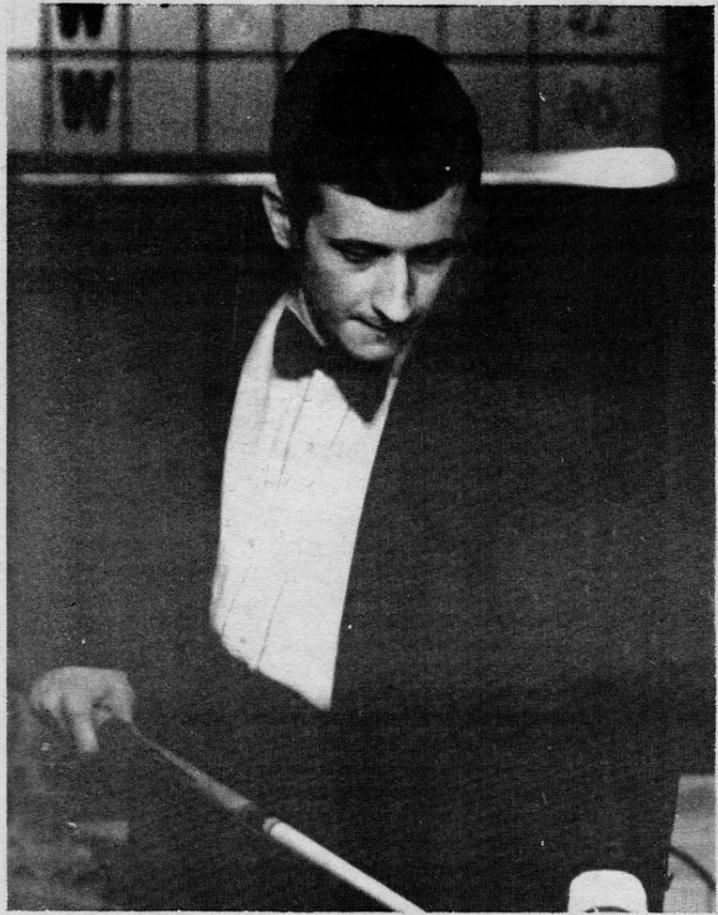
Cue Stars Perform At St. John's Home For Boys

By JOE MARCUS
Who says that the billiard pros don't have heart?
Not the youngsters at the St. John's Home for Boys in Rockaway Beach, New York.
For on Monday night, December 30th, the youngsters were treated to an outstanding exhibi-

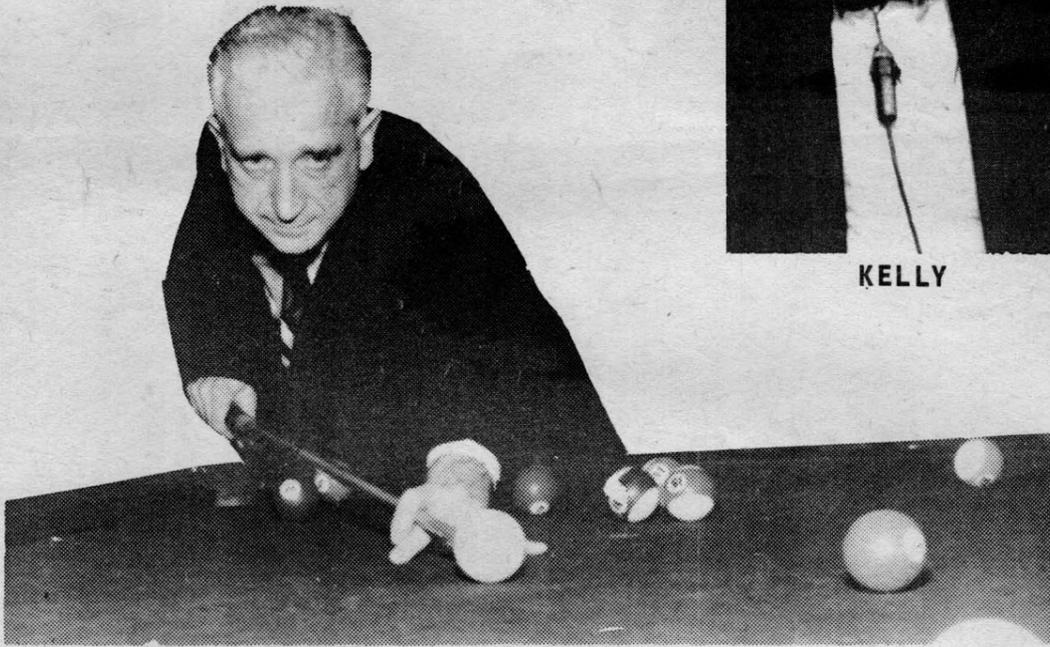
tion of shooting by three of the top names in the game today.
Cue Ball Kelly, the world-famous referee, was on hand with his array of trick shooting, while the billiard pros there were Al (The Silver Fox) Gassner and young Pete Margo.
"The youngsters were thrilled

by the show that we put on," said Cue Ball, whose heart is as big as his belly. "We look forward to these matches because we feel it spreads the good will of the game."
"I know that the youngsters also look ahead to these shows because it gives them some di-

version," Kelly added.
"We will continue giving these types of shows, both for youngsters and the many wounded and sick servicemen in the veteran's hospitals."
Keep up the good work, boys.



PETE MARGO



AL "THE SILVER FOX" GASSNER



KELLY

Leon Yonders: Ever Run 100 Balls? -Behind Your Back, That Is!

By JACK McDONALD
Anybody for pool? Only they call it pocket billiards now. Leon Yonders, a heavy-set gent of 60, is a world champion of sorts. What sets him apart from others in his profession is that he makes every shot holding the cue behind his back.

He's the first man in history to run 100 that way. Furthermore, he did it without his cue ball once touching a cushion on any shot. He did it recently at the Downtown Bowl and the small world of pool and billiards is still talking about it.

So is Yonders. An office visitor, his telling time was one hour and 15 minutes, about what it took him to achieve this feat. At that, he made better time than Tricky Dick Hyland, who once consumed two hours to describe an 85-yard run he made for Stanford in under 10 seconds.

Damon Runyon, who lived in an era when many boys learned the distorted facts of life in dingy pool rooms, once said, "Show me a man who shoots a good game of pool and I'll show you the product of a misspent youth."

Yonders was from this ear, but he learned to shoot pool in a YMCA at the age of 15, in Baltimore, his home. He went to the "Y" to take a boxing lesson but the brightly colored balls on the pool table fascinated him.

From that day on he spent all his spare time there, after putting in a 10-hour day in a shirt factory at \$9 a week. Soon he started coming home with more money than his salary. His mother thought he was stealing it. "Leon, you take that money right back where you got it," she told him.

But he didn't steal it. Nor did he win it betting. "I'm no hustler," he said. "I had backers who bet and they'd stake me. I've never bet on myself in my life."
By the time he was 22 he was

the neighborhood champ and good enough to turn pro. His brother called him a "bum" because he didn't have a steady job, but it was Leon's money that bought the groceries and purchased his mother's home.

Yonders doesn't play in the big tournaments. "They're kind of a closed corporation," he says. "They say I'm ineligible because I'm not seeded. Anyway, an honest player can't make big money. The national championship is worth only about \$1,500 to the winner and the strain is too great. Why battle those young guys and ruin your health?"

So he makes a good living giving lessons at the Downtown Bowl at \$5 an hour. Among his pupils is an 82 year old man. And he has a class of girls in their early twenties.

In his time he defeated five champions. Ralph Greenleaf, Andrew Ponzi, Irwin Rudolph, Jimmy Caras and Tom Heuston. His big match was against Greenleaf, who was pocket billiards champ 20 years.

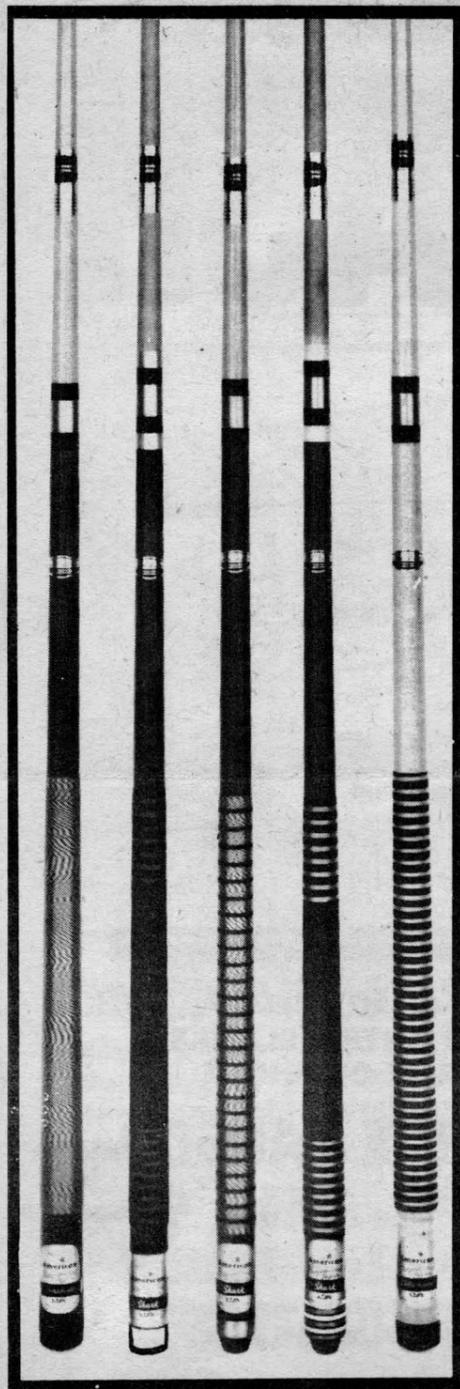
Yonders made a run of 12. Greenleaf followed with one of 94, only six short of a win. Hardest thing in billiards or pool is sitting in your chair while the other guy is having a long run, then getting up and out-shooting him.

"It took Greenleaf 35 minutes to make his run, but I got up and made one of 88 and the game was over."

Yonders says the hardest shot in pool is the long bank. "But I'm like Sam Snead whose problem shots are those short putts. Mine is trying to put the real easy ones in the pocket."

He plans his game 15 shots ahead. When he breaks 15 balls out of a rack he knows what the last of the 15 is going to be as well as the first. Biggest asset to a player is willingness to practice, to check errors and replay a shot until it is mastered.

"Willie Hoppe was the greatest (Cont'd on Page 12 - Column 4)



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by *Jack Hannen*

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WHAT IS THE BBIA?
Chartered in Chicago in 1940, the Billiard and Bowling Institute of America is made up of leading, independent manufacturers and distributors of billiard and bowling equipment in all sections of the United States and Canada. BBIA members are joined together in voluntary trade organization to promote the growth of bowling and billiards throughout the country. All specialized BBIA services and activities are aimed at promoting these two important sports, and at helping members sell more billiard and bowling products at a profit.

The BBIA is a proven association of progressive and independent manufacturers and distributors organized to promote, foster and advance the common business interests of the members, to increase the use of their products, to improve industry conditions, to collect and disseminate pertinent data relating to the industry, and to stimulate participation in billiards and bowling.

THE BBIA PROMOTES BOWLING

Since 1943, the BBIA has contributed substantial financial support to the vital industry-wide promotional activities of the National Bowling Council. A member of the BBIA Board of Directors serves as an active member of the governing body of the National Bowling Council, and the BBIA Executive Secretary serves as an advisory member. Voluntary contributions from BBIA members make possible the BBIA's financial support of the National Bowling Council.

THE BBIA PROMOTES BILLIARDS



Members of the new BBIA Board of Directors for the coming year are in a jolly mood as they pose at the Marriott Motor Hotel, in Dallas, following the annual BBIA business meeting. Left to right are retiring President, Mort Luby, Jr., National Bowlers Journal & Billiard Revue, Chicago; Frank Lanza, Jr., Victor Billiard Co., Philadelphia; First Vice President James F. Wilhem, Saunier-Wilhem Co., Pittsburgh;

New President L.N. Miles, Fort Worth Billiard Supply Co., Fort Worth; Second Vice President Samuel Glantz, Triangle Leather Goods Co., Chicago, and New Directors Gordon Murrey, Murrey & Sons Co., Gardena, Calif., and George Ziepfel, Vulcan Corp., Cincinnati. Absent when the picture was taken is Director Maurice Blatt, Blatt Bowling & Billiard Corp., New York.

participated actively in the founding and growth of the important promotional work of the Billiard Congress of America. Individual members and the BBIA itself

through its Billiard Promotion Fund contributes one-half of the operational budget to finance the Annual Boys' Clubs of America Billiard Tournament and the An-

nual Intercollegiate Billiard Tournament. In addition, the Billiard Congress of America publishes official rule books on billiards, sanctions billiard tourna-

ments, and prints a special instructional booklet on playing billiards. The BCA also has expanded its activities in recent (Cont'd on Page 8 - Column 1)



JOE BALSIS



CICERO MURPHEY



LOU BUTERA

FIRST ANNUAL Steel City Invitational Straight Pool Tournament

JAN. 26th thru FEB. 2nd

\$7,000⁰⁰ IN PRIZES

- FIRST PRIZE**
\$2,500.00
 2nd.....\$1,500.00
 3rd.....1,000.00
 4th.....800.00
 5th.....600.00
 6th.....600.00

DOUBLE ROUND ROBIN - 150 POINT GAMES

MATCHES WILL BE HELD AT 2 P.M. and 7 P.M. on SUNDAYS MONDAY thru SATURDAY MATCHES WILL BE HELD at 7 P.M. and 10 P.M.



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Who's Going To Win 5th Annual Stardust



HAROLD WORST

... 1st Stardust Champion - 1965



RONNIE ALLEN

... 2nd Stardust Champion - 1966

LAS VEGAS, NEV. - It just wouldn't seem right to start out this New Year without carrying the likes of the World's richest tournament, of course we mean, The Fabulous \$33,000.00 Stardust Open, which is in it's final stages of hosting it's 5th fine classic, action again taking place at the famed Stardust Hotel in this, the 'Fun & Games' capitol of the entire world.

And, as in the previous four extravaganza's, this 5th tilt will once again feature only the best cue stars the world of pocket billiards has to offer, baring none. It goes without saying, anyone who is really anybody in 'Billiards, will most certainly be at the Stardust Hotel during the month of March.

The format for this years meet will be three-separate tournaments, they are, Straight Pool, Nine-Ball, and, One-Pocket. All three events are open to every billiard player the world over. This annual cue classic is endorsed and sanctioned by the Billiard Players Association of America.

Should any one player go all out and capture all three titles, he will earn himself a cool cash award totaling some \$10,000.00. That's a real healthy chunk of the \$33,000 purse, all of which is Guaranteed. And, as in the past, the Jansco Bros., George and Paulie, will be the men doing all the promoting, which certainly assures one and all of a most successful all-around meet.

Over 70 cash prizes will be distributed to the winners, with the champions of each event receiving their usual trophy. This years 5th Annual Stardust Open is scheduled for action from March 6th through March 22nd.



GARDNER



BUTERA



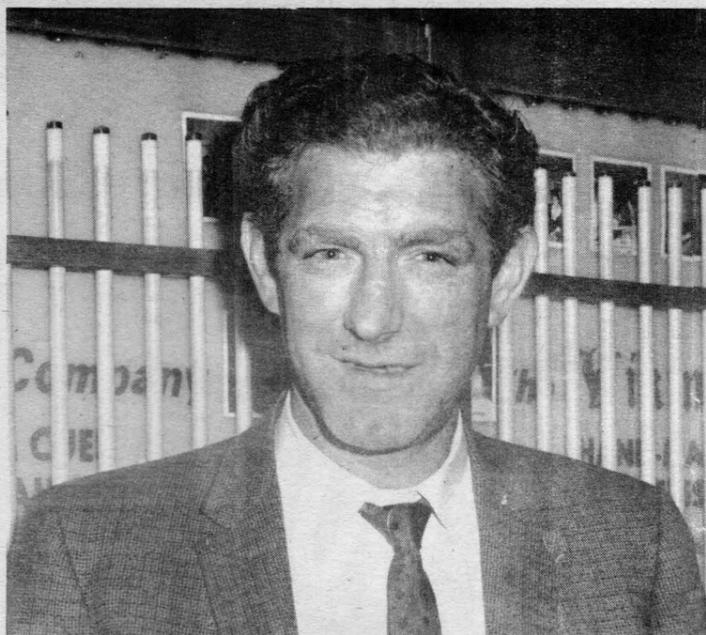
JONES



MC GEEHEAN



HUBERT COKES



BILLY BURGE



JANSCO

... Never Misses Stardust

VEGAS READYING FOR 5TH ANNUAL \$33,000 STARDUST OPEN

(Continued from Front Page) being eliminated).

Elimination, (meaning a player must lose two matches before being eliminated).

ONE POCKET

Prize Money \$9,500.00
Entry Fee 125.00

A Match Consists of 3
Best of 5 Games

1st Prize 2,000.00
2nd Prize 1,100.00
3rd Prize 700.00
4th Prize 600.00
5th Prize 500.00
6th Prize 500.00
7th Prize 350.00
8th Prize 350.00
9th thru 16th 250.00
17th thru 24th 100.00

It will be played in Double Elimination, (meaning a player must lose two matches before

Then, the three champions (Straight Pool, Nine Ball and the One Pocket) will meet in a three man Round Robin, playing all three different games for an extra Fourty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00). The winner will receive Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) plus a trophy, and the runner-up will receive Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Thus, it is possible for one player to win as much as Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

This is a high-class affair and players must wear tie and coat while playing. Unruly conduct and abusive language will not be tolerated. The rules, regulations, and governing body for

the tournament will be the Billiard Players Association Tournament Rules Committee. We sincerely recommend you join the Billiard Players Association of America, as it will help you to be invited to future tournaments all over the country.

Failure to show up for a match constitutes immediate disqualification.

All contestants eligible for prize money will reside at the "Stardust Hotel".

All three tournaments will be played at the same time. Players may enter any one, or all three of the tournaments. Please send entry fees as soon as possible, as I need them to draw up a schedule, scoreboards, and for publicity purpose:



CARPENTER



DILIBERTO

St Open, World's Richest Cue Classic?

In 1965, the 1st Annual Stardust Open was captured by the late, great Harold (The Tiger) Worst. Carrying a total prize list of just \$30,000.00, the Grand Rapids, Mich., cue artist stunned one and all as he displayed his fine cue talent in winning this fine, fine classic.

Still carrying a \$30,000 prize list for it's 1966 action, Ronnie Allen, Burbank, California, won the first place award and all it's glory. Allen has since been tagged with the nickname, 'Fast Eddie'. Allen is one of the more respected pro's that billiards has today.

1967 seemingly was just the right year for Eddie (The Knoxville Bear) Taylor, the talented cue star from Tennessee. For this was the year the Jansco's raised the purse to a guaranteed \$33,000.00, making it possible for one player to win as much as \$10,000, should he win all three events.

Last year, Pennsylvania's own Joe (The Meatman) Balsis displayed his cue artistry by winning this famed Stardust Open. Balsis, who gained his nickname, (The Meatman) as a result of once owning a chain of markets which specialized in meat products. Balsis hails from Minorsville, Pa., a town that measures about one-hundred miles from the city of 'Brotherly Love'.

Who's going to capture this year's 5th Annual Stardust Open? Well, it would almost be suicide to predict a winner. However, the past four years trend has produced four different champs, so lets just say from this corner that we don't expect to see anyone repeating themselves. (If additional information is required, please refer to Ad on page 3.)



EDDIE TAYLOR

... 3rd Stardust Champion - 1967



JOE BALSIS

... 4th Stardust Champion - 1968



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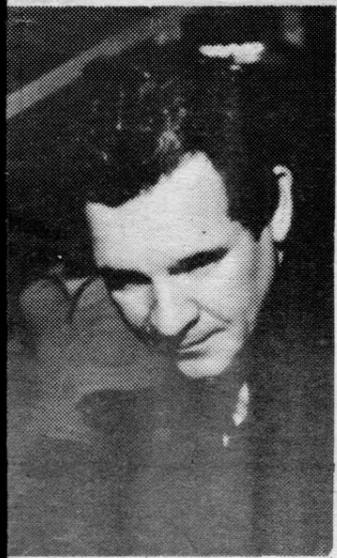
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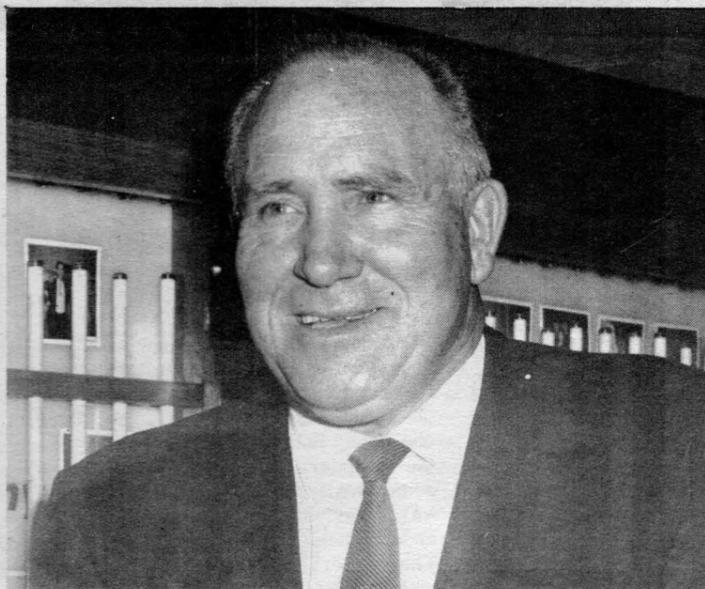
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years to include a membership section for billiard room proprietors and supplies proprietors with league play score sheets, instructional aids and other services. Over 10,000 men and women college students in 110 colleges and universities participate in the annual intercollegiate Billiard Tournament, while over 22,000 junior, intermediate and senior boys compete annually in the Boys' Clubs of America Billiard Tournament. These activities, as they expand and grow, will continue to stimulate increasing participation in the sport of billiards at all age levels.

The BBIA also furnished partial financial support for a special 26-week television series on billiards entitled "Ten-Twenty." This series ran for 26 weeks on a major Chicago television station, and subsequently has been televised in major metropolitan markets throughout the country. The continuing success of this series is resulting in direct stimulation of interest in billiards and billiard products among television viewers, ample justification for the BBIA's substantial investment in this program.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH BBIA MEMBERS

*Monthly BBIA Bulletin...The BBIA communicates with its members and the industry with its monthly BBIA Bulletin, featuring information on BBIA activities and programs, as well as summaries of major industry developments and events of vital interest to members.

*BBIA Product Directory...Published annually, the BBIA Product Directory lists BBIA officers, committees and members with complete addresses, as well as all major products manufactured by members. This directory is distributed widely to interested industry members.

*Billiard & Bowling Informa-

tion Aid...Published since 1960, this colorful four-page folder features pertinent information for architects and contractors to assist them in constructing or remodeling billiard and bowling establishments. BBIA members receive 100 copies of this brochure for distribution without charge.

*Statistical Information...Periodically, BBIA members are sent statistical and background information related to the bowling and billiard industries to assist them in promoting sales and marketing their products at a profit.

SERVICES TO BBIA MEMBERS

*Monthly Credit Reporting Service...Inaugurated in 1964, the BBIA's monthly credit service has been expanded into a major free service for members. The credit program features the distribution to members only of a list of past-due accounts submitted monthly by the membership. The BBIA also furnishes at no charge special stickers to attach to past-due invoices advising accounts that they will be turned over to the BBIA Credit Reporting Service unless the amount involved is paid promptly. This service has been termed invaluable by the majority of BBIA members in assisting them in the increasingly important area of credit and collections.

*Free Promotion Aids...The BBIA supplies members with a wide range of free promotional aids, including decals, advertising mats, electros of the BBIA emblem and mats promoting billiards.

*Distinguished Industry Service Award...Each year, at its annual convention, the BBIA presents a Distinguished Industry Service Award to an industry or national leader who has contributed substantially over the years to the promotion and growth of the

sports of billiards and bowling. This annual award receives national recognition for the BBIA and its activities.

*Cooperation With Industry Groups...The BBIA cooperates closely with all industry organizations to help promote industry growth and participation in billiards and bowling.

*Industry And Member Contacts...BBIA Headquarters in Chicago is a major clearinghouse of information between BBIA members, and answers hundreds of inquiries each year on the industry. In many cases, firms with specific problems or equipment needs are referred to BBIA members who can assist them.

ANNUAL BBIA CONVENTION
Since 1943, the BBIA has conducted an annual convention offering members an unparalleled opportunity to meet with fellow distributors and manufacturers, inspect new equipment, and discuss industry problems.

WHY STAND ALONE?

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*An Investment in BBIA membership will pay you Real dividends.

*Join forces with your fellow businessmen in membership in your industry trade association.

*If you are a Manufacturer or Distributor of Billiard and/or Bowling Equipment... "It Pays To Join The BBIA."

*The BBIA has three membership classifications, one for manufacturers, one for distributors, and one for publications.

(Editor's Note: I'd like to apologize for inserting the wrong picture with this story last month. However, after quickly being informed of our "Mis-Cue" we immediately ordered this re-run.)

ROY J. YOUNGBLOOD

BBIA News Bulletin



Clive Cottingham of New York, author of "The Game of Billiards," reports that over 50,000 copies of the book have been sold, and that sales are still running over 1,000 a month. He suggests to interested BBIA members that they give the book as gifts to customers, and stock it for re-sale. A 50 per cent discount is given on the paperback edition on orders of 500 copies or more. Further information may be obtained from Clive Cottingham, 581 Tenth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10036.

The following is an interesting letter to the editor of Sports Illustrated Magazine, which was published in a recent issue. It is titled "Billiards, Anyone?":

"To the Editor:

Rex Lardner's article on minor sports, 'Marble-Shooting, Ostrich Racing, Soaring, Boccie, Codeball, Paddle Tennis, Anyone?', Nov. 10, defines them as 'individual sports and also carry-over sports... that is, you can indulge in them (however badly) as a grownup after having taken them up as a youngster.' He lists over 20 such sports and discussed some of them. It seems remarkable, therefore, that he should have omitted all mention of two related sports that fit his criteria best of all: pool and billiards.

Pool and billiards are individual sports par excellence...so much so that most players, when unable to find an opponent, gladly indulge in long solo practice sessions. More important, pool and billiards have greater 'carry-over' value than most, if not all, other sports. One can play at or near his best well into old age, even to compensating for the hand tremors that often accompany old age. In this connection...and apropos of Mr. Lardner's fancy for 'rare records and facts'...one should note that the record time-span over which a player in any sport was still winning world championships is held by billiards. Willie Hoppe won his first world championship in 1906 and his last in 1952, 46 years later (whereupon he retired, at the age of 65). Although Hoppe's skill level may have been unique, he was by no means unusual in the number of years he was able to play his best. I have played many three-cushion players who were still superb players well past the age of 70. No significant loss of skill occurs unless and until the player's eyesight becomes uncorrectable even with bifocals.

A comparable situation exists in pool. The International Pocket Billiard (Pool) Tournament, held in New York City last September, had 16 players competing...and three of these were over 50 years old. This means, simply, that three persons over the age of 50 were ranked among the world's 16 best pool players. One of these three, Irving Crane, won the championship; another Onofrio Lauri, had fought his way into the tournament (via a previous elimination tournament) at the age of 71!

Three-cushion billiards has even more carry-over value than pool, because it requires mastering a much larger and more complex body of knowledge (the difference between the two games in this respect is like, say, the difference between checkers and chess).

A pool player learns about 95 per cent of what there is to know about the game in his first few years of serious play, and picks up the remainder over the next decade or so. A three-cushion billiard player learns about 85 per cent of the game during his first few years of play, and spends a lifetime learning the other 15 per cent.

Pool and three-cushion billiards, especially the latter, would thus seem to be the ideal 'minor sports' to which Mr. Lardner might give his attention."

The letter was signed by Ned Polsky, associate professor of sociology, State University of New York, Stonybrook, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(Cont'd from Page Two)

Mabry Billiards.

"Minnesota Fats was in Tampa about 18 months ago for some exhibitions at Sears stores, and I asked him along the way if he wanted to shoot a little on a really good table," said McEwen.

"Bill Watson here had just added a billiards room to his home and put in a top Brunswick table. Fats said he didn't mind if he did, if the humidity was all right, and Watson said come on out.

"I went to pick up Fats at the International Inn and Lefty Goff, whom I knew, was sitting there, he and Fats trying to out talk each other, and when we left for Watson's, Lefty went along.

"Sometime during the night, Goff mentioned to Watson that what this town needed was a good \$20,000 room, and that he had some time to teach a little pool.

"Well, in the next weeks, then months, Watson had Lefty out to teach him, and a couple of friends, C.C. Martin, for one, who'd windup building the new parlor, and Paul Courty, former Phipps Oiler basketball player. He also taught Mrs. Watson and most anybody in sight, meanwhile convincing Watson about the need for a new facility.

"The \$20,000 parlor turned into \$250,000 and the franchise.

That's the way Watson does things," said McEwen.

Balsis added: "We could use more like him in the game."

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Watson, recently, he told me that things were doing along splendidly, that they were pleased with the business during their first five months of operation, and the results far exceeded their expectations.

Special to all the Billiard Room Proprietors who mailed in ads in 1968, and to all our advertisers, the staff and I would like to say a hearty "Thank You." We ask for your support in the year ahead, because without your support, the National Billiard News would be impossible.

2ND U.S. OPEN

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Entry fee was set at a very moderate \$75.00, with the prize fund disbursement as follows: 1st place \$1,000.00, 2nd place \$600.00, 3rd place \$400.00, 4th place \$200.00, with places 5th through 8th winning an even amount of \$100 for their efforts.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting either Bill Staton or Bob Purdum at the Jack & Jill Cue Club. Telephone (AC703) 931-7671.

Hoppe, Schaefer Matches Were Common In 'Good Ole Days'

By CY PETERMAN

One of the lesser phases of man's injustice to man is found in the billiard business. Or should we say profession, game, or art? From the little we've seen of the sport, it appears to have combined some of each, with no little ingenuity expended to make it tough.

The injustice is derived, we believe, in the desperate efforts to surpass human skill and mastery of the various interpretations of billiards.

Any pool room dub can make a run at ordinary billiards. Yes, even your agent can make a run of one or two, and no more uncouth ripper of the green cloth ever had cue wrested from his grasp. To take the game from the low levels of such proletariate performance, the experts have devised for billiards several elaborations, among which fall cushion caroms, three-cushion, and the balklines, 18.1 and 18.2.

All, however, were quickly conquered by the maestros of the hardwood wand. Now comes 28.2 balkline, freshly imported from Europe but already on the run before the Messrs. Jake Schaefer and Willie Hoppe. For it is quite apparent, from the smooth, sure stroking of this pair, that something much more difficult than chalked areas on the green must be invented to stop them.

At Allinger's yesterday, where

the final block of their 1,500-point match was in progress, we tried to follow the play by which experts circumvent the devices set to foil them.

More Boundaries Than Europe's Balkline was designed to limit the player to two points in any one area before he must drive one object ball out of balk (across the boundary lines). This is done usually on the second billiard, and demands a through understanding of position play. The numerals 18 represent the inches from the end rail the chalk is drawn. The "2" stands for the number of billiards.

Thus in 18.1 balkline, only one point may be made before the object ball is spun out of the area. In the 18.2 game, however, there are nine areas with the central one out of balk. Whereupon men like Schaefer and Hoppe, nursing the balls into this square, click off points until bedtime without rolling the balls out of bounds.

It was for this reason the billiard rulers invented the 28.2 game, for it has only four areas and none are out of balk, meaning you take your two points and either roll out an object ball or you're done for that inning. But last night Hoppe rambled for 123, and Thursday night ran off 107 to show how he, with comparatively little practice, can quickly catch up on new wrinkles.

This was only the third match of the current tour, understand, Schaefer, considered by many to be the most brilliant billiardist in the country, with a liquid stroke and nerves steady as the foundations of a fort, won in both

Chicago and New York, but each time Hoppe, champion at the 18.1 and cushion carom branches, has been steadily improving.

Too Technical for Kids

Willie's attention in recent years has turned to three-cushion billiards, the game spectators find more fascinating. The ivories, whirling dizzily about the baize under the forceful propulsion of the "top English" stroke, provide an excitement not found in the exacting position of balkline.

Indeed, as one looked around the room, it was noticeable that not a single youth was in the gallery. This was the first balkline exhibition here in five years yet the young fellows didn't care. It's not their game; only experts can play it, and they, too proficient to be balked as it were, apparently don't provide the sort of entertainment poolroom youngsters crave.

For that matter, we too, thought the game rather technical, too advanced for average poolroom clientele. Balkline, 3-cushion, caroms—they were invented for a more courtly era; one can imagine the king and his favorites, back there in the era of Henry and Francis, or later in the time of the social Edwards, relaxing luxuriously while a Schaefer and Hoppe spaced the silence with periodic click of the spinning spheres.

There is an air of formality about the game, even so, since evening sessions call for tuxedos with soft shirts and turn-down collars worn by contestants and referee. At such times the

(Cont'd on Page 11 - Column 4)

Gilbert Heads Strong Field For 2nd Nat'l BFUSA Tourney

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.—Four sectional qualifying tournaments have been completed and the complete field can now be announced for the National Three-Cushion Billiard Tournament to be held February 12-16 at the Elks Lodge in San Jose, California.

This is the second annual national championship sponsored by the Billiard Federation of the U.S.A. The top two finishers will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Japan in April of 1969 to compete for the world title.

At the San Jose national, eight

challengers will try to take the United States amateur title away from defending champion Allan Gilbert, of Hollywood, Calif. The challengers were selected by taking the winner and runner-up from sectional meets held in Decatur, Ill., Lansing, Mich., San Francisco, Calif., and Los Angeles, Calif.

Coming from the Lansing tourney will be winner Virgil Healy of Niles, Mich., and runner-up John Bonner of Hamburg, New York. Bonner and Bob Ameen had the same won-loss record but Bonner was awarded the second-place position on the basis of total points. Close behind were host Bob Strange and last year's Lansing winner, Bob Letherby.

In Los Angeles the surprise

winner was the veteran pocket billiards player, Harold "Red" Baker, who edged favorite Bill Hynes in a playoff for the top spot. Hynes was second and host Romie Yanez third. Hynes had the best average in the tournament, .817, and the best game, 50 points in 42 innings. Baker had the high run of 9 and finished with an average of .720.

In Decatur the winner was Merle Smith of Chicago, who is well-known to tournament players in the Midwest. Second place went to Everett Kirk of Decatur, who scored an upset by finishing ahead of such strong campaigners as host Don Tozer and Bill Hawkins.

Bob Tracy of Alameda, Calif., was the class of the field in San Francisco, sweeping eleven straight games, almost all of them by wide margins, to take first place. He also had the high run of 9 and the best average, .700. Blythe Adams of Mill Valley Calif., always a high finisher in Northern California events and for years one of the top performers in the west coast Elks league, was the runner-up. Adams, who had the best game of 50 points in 51 innings and averages .68 overall, had to beat defensive strategist Jack Quan in a playoff game for the second qualifying spot.

Only three players are repeaters from last year's national tournament, Gilbert, Hynes and Bonner. Sectional hosts are paying transportation costs for their qualifiers, while living expenses for the players during the five-day, round-robin event will be handled by the Billiard Federation.

For reserved seat tickets write to the Billiard Federation of the

U.S.A., Press Club, 555 Post St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Among the mailings planned in the next few months to the members of the BFUSA will be posters programs and results of the 1969 National Tournament, as well as results of the World Tournament in Japan in April. To receive these mailings, as well as the

regular issues of the international magazine *Le Billiard*, you must be a paid-up member. If you have not yet renewed your first year's membership, send your \$5 fee to Billiards Federation of the U.S.A., 555 Post Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94102. There will be no other notice or reminder made to members delinquent in their dues.



ALLAN GILBERT

HAWK'S NEST TO HOST \$7,000 INVITATIONAL

(Continued from Front Page)

place at 2:00 P.M. and again at 7:00 P.M. Other matches will be held at 7:00 P.M. and 10:00 in the evenings, Monday's thru Saturday's.

Additional information per-

taining to this First Annual Steel City Invitational may be obtained by contacting Bernie Schwartz at the Hawk's Nest Billiard Club, by Telephoning (412) 521-9885.



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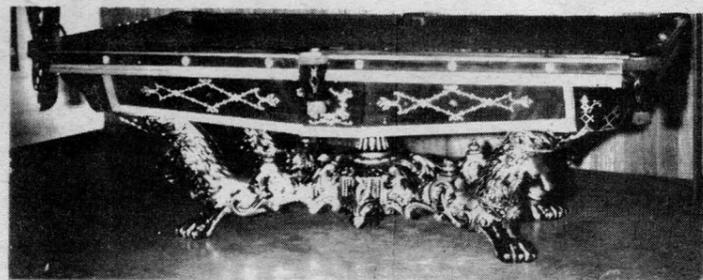


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For Additional Information, Please Contact

MR. EDWARD COADY

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'Fashions And Pool'



THIS PRETTY MISS was caught by the camera at a top-notch fashion show, recently, moments before she executed fine trick shot (Try playing pool in this outfit, men!).



ANOTHER OF THE NEW STYLES is this outfit (also worn by an unnamed model) at the same fashion show. Both gals are supposed to be very good with the cue.

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Cash with order. Add 20c per book for orders of less than \$5. Books sent postpaid. California residents add 5%. Libraries and schools will be billed. Dealer inquiries invited. Write for list of rare books and prints on billiards. Additional information Call (213) 438-2636.

BILLIARD ARCHIVES

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Don Willis Exhibits Cue Artistry In Benefit For Manington Minors Fund

WHEELING, W. VA. -- Don Willis gave an exhibition for the benefit of the families of dead Manington miners. It was played at the "Chalk & Cue," a fine modern room in downtown Wheeling, W. Virginia.

Don's opponent was Don Daniels, a reporter for the Wheeling paper, who originated the miner's relief fund. On his first turn at the tables, Willis ran 93 balls and had a miserable scratch on a break shot after breaking the balls all over the table. Local on-lookers remarked that it looked as if Willis might never miss if he had not scratched, as he had the balls under absolutely perfect control. Quite a sizeable amount was raised for the fund and Willis trick shots were received with enthusiasm.

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'Gentlemen, Your Cues'

Reprinted from Louisville, Kentucky TIMES, Dec. 12, 1968

By TOM FITZPATRICK
Chicago Daily News Service

JOHNSTON CITY, ILL.--The pool hustler lives in a subterranean world of stealth and anonymity. The true hustler hates to give his real name. The sight of a camera makes him leave the room.

It must be this way. In order for the hustler to survive, he must often spend three days in a strange town losing game after game for \$2 to \$5 a crack.

Then he's ready. On the fourth day his mark will finally get up the courage to bet \$1,500 on one game of straight pool.

That's when the hustler stops smiling, chalks his cue with extra care and runs 100 balls off the break. This done, he picks up his winnings, announces he's going to the men's room to wash his hands—and disappears.

All hustlers are supreme egotists. Each believes that there is not a man living who can beat him when his stroke is right.

Each year more than 150 of them gather in this tiny coal community to compete in the annual hustlers' tourney sponsored by George and Joey Jansco.

This year's tourney, recently ended, lasted four weeks.

Corn Bread Red was there. So was Weenie Beenie and Boston Shorty, Omaha Fats, Minnesota Fats, Daddy Warbucks, Tugboat Whaley, The Red Raider, Cicero Murphy, Handsome Danny Jones, and Ugly Prichett.

Maybe they figure they are all safe from public scrutiny here. The population of this Southern Illinois town is only 3,800, and it is a mile north of Dog Walk, 19 miles northeast of Wolf Creek and 30 miles west of Muddy. It is hardly the crossroads of the nation.

THE FINAL EVENT IS WORTH \$20,000

Individual champions were decided in one-pocket, nine-ball and straight pool. Each of these competitions took a week to complete, with the winners in each division meeting in a round robin to determine the winner of the \$20,000 final event.

As always, it took place in a small building which has a specially constructed pit with two tables surrounded by inclined bandstands.

The building is part of the Jansco recreation complex, which includes a restaurant, a nightclub, a billiards club that is open 24 hours a day, and a golf course.

Some of the biggest money changed hands not during tourney play but over in the billiards club, where hustler went against hustler with their backers' money exerting all the pressure.

Nine-ball is a classic hustler's game. The hustler prefers it to straight pool and any of the others because it can be won literally in seconds.

Only the first nine balls are

used. They are racked with the one-ball in the point of the diamond and the nine-ball in the center. The object is to sink the nine-ball, and this can be done at any time in combination with another ball.

The player who wins 11 games first wins the match.

The night of the tournament that everyone went away remembering best was the first night of nine-ball competition. One of the matches pitted The Red Raider against Kazuo Fujima of Japan.

The stands were packed as George Jansco, a tiny barrel of a man, stepped to the platform.

"Introducing Mr. Kazuo Fujima, the national champion of Japan," he said, and there was a polite round of applause.

"Also introducing," he said, "one of the most highly rated nine-ball players in the world, Mr. Jack Breit of Houston, Tex." In the hustler's world, Jack Breit is The Red Raider.

An enthusiastic round of applause followed, and now there was a rush to the rear of the room where a man was taking bets. The Red Raider was the big favorite.

Fujima stands 5 feet tall, weighs less than 100 pounds. The Red Raider is 6 feet 2 and weighs 225.

Fujima was impeccably garbed in a funeral black suit with a white shirt and dark tie. The Red Raider wore a brown sport coat with a light brown shirt buttoned to the collar.

Fujima earned the right to break first. He sank the nine-ball on the break and the crowd responded approvingly.

The Red Raider shrugged and smiled condescendingly at the beginner's luck.

He leaned over the table, sighting the lead ball for his breaking shot.

But the shot left the one-ball unguarded. Fujima sank the one-ball and ran the table to take a 2 to 0 lead.

The Red Raider shrugged again but this time he did not smile. Play continued.

There was a roar from the crowd now. Fujima had just won his 10th game and was leading by two. He needed only this final game to win.

The Red Raider, obviously nettled, slammed the heavy end of his cue stick into the wooden floor. Then he approached the table to break.

Once again he left the one-ball unguarded. And, for a final time, Fujima ran the table.

As Fujima walked back to the front of the table, The Red Raider's massive figure loomed over him, barring his path.

He extended a huge paw to his tiny adversary.

"You play pretty good," he said. "Pretty lucky, too."

The Red Raider turned and walked away—straight into the office of Jansco, the tourney



KAZUO FUJIMA

director.

"Well, I'm through with you creeps," he said to Jansco. "What kind of a game are you playin' when you let the loser break? Who was that creep you had racking up them balls so he could sink the nine-ball on the break four times? I'm gettin' out of here tonight and headin' back to Houston. I can make \$200 a day hustlin' there without any trouble."

He turned and walked out of Jansco's office.

Jansco sat there smiling. "That's the way it is with hustlers," he said. "Every time they lose, it's the rules, the lights or the tables. First thing they want to do is fight or play million-dollar freeze-out. An hour from now he'll be over it. He'll be back playing again tomorrow. Who knows, maybe he even lost that match on purpose to set up a mark."

RED RAIDER FINDS HIMSELF A 'MARK'

Jansco was right in one respect at least. The Red Raider stayed on for another week. And that very night he picked up \$1,300 in a game with a mark who thought The Red Raider couldn't play nine-ball very well anymore.

As it turned out, the tourney was a satisfying event to many.

Handsome Danny Jones from Atlanta took away \$3,600 for winning the all-around title in a play-off with Boston Shorty, a 5-foot-2 hustler whose real name is Larry Johnson.

But the biggest single winner of

them all was a young man named Fast Eddie Allen, from Burbank, Calif.

Fast Eddie, who is also called The Angel in the Outfield because he brings attractive young girls to watch him play, reportedly earned more than \$10,000 in pick-up games with the other hustlers in the billiards club.

"Can't understand it about Fast

Eddie," said Jansco after the tourney ended. "He didn't do very good in tourney play at all. With all those people watchin' he seems to get very bashful. But when he was playin' those other hustlers for big money, he didn't seem bashful at all."

"When the money was on the line, he showed what it really means to be a hustler."

HOPPE, SCHAEFER MATCHES WERE COMMON

(Cont'd from Page Eight)
crowd, sitting back in the shadow in critical judgment, suggests again the old time sports gathering, small, exclusive, comprised of those who know what it's all about.

Might Hide One Ball, Too

And yet, we are told, do what they will to make billiards complex they fail to daunt those who hold the game at cue's point. Schaefer, for instance, may have moments of carelessness but he still can run off more points—either right or left handed since all good billiard players must be ambidextrous—than the casual dabbler could achieve in several Watching, we could think only of one further solution: They might build the tables on lines of the late pee-wee golf courses, set up some hurdles, and really make the game tough.

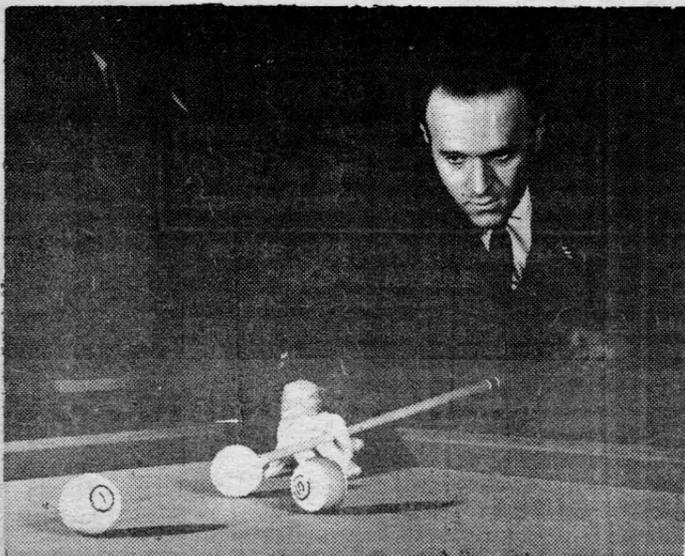
In this same elaboration, perhaps lies the secret to its limited appeal. No matter how much the billiard fan may love to play, such variations of the simple game as come in 3-cushion, balkline, etc., are beyond

his powers. Nobody, for instance, would play 28,2 at Allinger's unless a Hoppe or Schaefer drops in for exhibitions. Otto Reisel is a master at 3-cushion but even he plays little unless preparing for a tournament. Otto's duties consist in matching various players in the billiard room, and few are the occasions he is asked to pair up and handicap for 18,1 or cushion caroms, or other graduated games.

Take Your Knitting, Girls
So balkline and its billiard kinsmen seems destined to remain, like polar exploration, stratosphere flying, and Class J yachting, a sportive pursuit of the few with the gallery limited largely to those whose interest must perforce be academic.

To be perfectly truthful, the uninformed spectator would do well to take his reading along. Unless he is fortunate enough to be advised, he may sit through an entire block and never know who's ahead, what's occurring, or when the contest is over. It's too complex.

—THE EVENING BULLETIN



JACK "THE RED RAIDER" BREIT

1968 SAW MANY NEW STARS! WILL THIS YEAR BE AS PRODUCTIVE

(Continued from Page Two)

150-80, with a closing run of 51. Third place went to Lassiter, with Jack (Jersey Red) Breit placing fourth and Lou (Machine Gun) Butera, who had the tournament's high run of 120, finishing fifth, while Jimmie (Cowboy) Moore place sixth; Ed Kelly, seventh; Danny DiLiberto, eighth; Cicero Murphy, ninth, and Johnny Ervolino, tenth.

The Billiard Federation of the U.S. held its annual National Championship in San Jose, with Al Gilbert, of Hollywood, winning the crown and a spot in the

World's Championship. Gilbert, in winning, went through his seven games without a defeat.

Next on the agenda was the annual Stardust All-Round Championship in Las Vegas, put on by the master showman George Jansco.

The tournament, carrying a total prize fund of \$33,000, was once again divided into three divisions, Straight pool, Nine-Ball, and One-Pocket. In the Straight pool division, Balsis placed first, with Crane second; Florence third; Nick Vacchiano

fourth, and Danny (Young Green-leag) Gartner fifth. Crane won the Nine-Ball phase of the event, with Ted Ellis second; Billy Burge third; U.J. Puckett fourth, and Butera and Balsis tied for fifth. In the One-Pocket competition, Marvin Henderson was the winner, with Don Watson second; Ed Kelly third; Ronnie Allen fourth, and a tie for fifth between Florence and Sax Dal-Ponto.

In the playoff for the overall crown, Balsis posted a 4-1 record, with Crane second at 3-3 and Henderson third with a 1-5 record.

One of the most popular triumphs ever recorded came in the first annual Nine-Ball tournament held at Arlington, Va., where the 74 year old Dean of Pocket Billiard players, Onofrio Lauri, walked off with the crown.

Next came one of the most exciting tournaments in the history of the game when the BRPAA put on its annual World's Championship at the Statler Hilton Hotel, in Manhattan.

Lassiter, who was gunning for his fourth title in five years, appeared to have the crown won when the final day's action started. Only Crane stood in his way, and to win, Crane would have to defeat Lassiter twice in a row, something that the odds makers wouldn't have given you a bet on.

Lassiter forged out to a commanding 83 to minus 2 lead, and it looked all over. But then a funny thing happened. Lassiter started missing, and Crane, resorting to his many years of experience, pulled even and then out in front to win 150-98. A playoff was then held, and at 5:13 in the morning, Crane took dead aim on the seven ball, pocketed it, and won 150-24 to take the title. While Crane was winning, in the practice room McGown ran 150 and out against Balsis.

Third place went to young Steve Mizerak, Jr., with McGown, Butera, Balsis, Art (Babe) Cranfield, Dallas West, Jack Colavita, Jim Relham, Gartner, Murphy, Bill Amodeo, Pete Margo and Lauri rounding out the star-studded field.

The annual Collegiate Championships, held in Chicago, showed that the winners were Marshall Boelter, of the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle took the pocket billiard title; Gail Silums, of the University of Iowa, the Coed Pocket billiard title, and Larry Higa, of the University of California, the three-cushion crown. A field of over 12,000 students from some 187 colleges entered the tournament.

In Arlington, Va., at the Jack & Jill Cue Club, Balsis ripped Lassiter, 125-11, to go unbeaten in the double elimination tourney and win the first annual U.S. Masters Crown.

Angus Baker's Baker Billiard Academy, in Tampa, was the scene of the Tampa Open Nine-Ball tourney, and the winner was Don Watson, with Bob Sullivan second. The biggest surprise of the tournament was the failure of Lassiter, who placed 21st.

The focus of the three-cushion world was on Duren, Germany, and the annual 23rd World Three-Cushion Championship in which Raymond Ceulemanns, of Belgium, won the title with 16 points, followed by Japan's Koya Ogata; Austria's Johann Scherz; Belgium's Laurent Boulanger; Argentina's Marcela Lopez; Germany's Ernst Rudolph; Holland's C.V. Oosterhaut; Germany's Roger Hanoun; Gilbert, of the U.S., and Bert Tiedtke, of Germany.

In Lansing, Mich., the annual Billiard Congress of America's U.S. Open was held, with the winners being Balsis in straight pool; Dotty Wise, in women's straight pool, and Art (Boston Shorty) Johnson in three-cushion play.

The ill-fated EBA's Inter-

national Championship was held at the Hotel Commodore, in New York City, with the foreign delegation including players from Australia, England, Japan and Puerto Rico.

Crane took the title with a 13-2 mark, including a victory over Mizerak in the final game that avoided a three way play-off. Balsis, with 12-3, was second, with Mizerak and Butera each finishing at 11-4. Then came 10-5 records by Margo, Allan Kiehle and Cranfield, followed by West, Gartner and Lassiter, each at 9-6. Lauri, who was forced to withdraw midway in the tourney when he fell and broke his elbow during a practice session, and his replacement, Joe Russo, finished at 6-9, followed by Ed Charlton, of Australia, and Murphy at 3-12; Rex Williams, of England, and Kazuo Fujima, of Japan, at 2-13, and Puerto Rico's Tonio Montalvo at 1-14.

The last big event of the year was the annual Johnston City All-Round tourney in which Danny Jones, who won the Nine-Ball phase of the tourney also, defeated Straight Pool winner Al Coslosky and One-Pocket champ Johnson to gain the all-round title.

In all, it was an active year for the billiard professionals, and we look forward to 1969 as being an even bigger one for the men who earn their living pocketing balls on the green felt.

At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Willie Mosconi on his selection into the BCA's Hall of Fame, which he gained along with Jake Schaefer Sr. and Jr.

And to all our readers, I want to wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

'Lefty' Back At The Controls



Pictured above the way we always like to see him look is 'Lefty' Goff, popular manager of the Dale Mabry Billiard Lounge in Tampa, Fla. Goff, who was selected as the "Outstanding Man" for 1968 by The National Billiard News, recently had an operation, and is reportedly getting along just fine. This word was passed along to our NBN offices from one of the pretty girls that also work at the lounge.

LEON YONDERS: EVER RUN 100? -BEHIND YOUR BACK!

(Continued from Page Four)

perfectionist of 'em all. He trained for a title match like a boxer. He shunned movies lest they irritate his eyes. Did road work, just like a prize fighter. Wouldn't drive a car, fearing it might stiffen his wrists. "There will never be another Hoppe. Kids

today won't submit to such self-denial."

How about the fabulous Minnesota Fats, the famed hustler, around whom a movie was made? "I wouldn't call him a topnotcher but the more he had bet the better he played. He'd never play me but he told me once he had won over \$10,000 betting on me against others."

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Viking Cue Co. Lands New Home

MADISON, WIS. - Like any other major business operation these days, it's owner always faces the problem of having to relocate as his business hopefully and steadily grows and grows.

The Viking Cue Company, now located in Stoughton, will be completely moved into their all-new home within the next four-six weeks, giving them a whole new plant in which to properly handle their fine increase in business.

According to Gordon & Nancy Hart, popular proprietor's of Viking, remarked recently, "In less than a couple months we'll have our all-new plant all ready for operation. Our present location is about 16 miles from Madison, in a town with a population of around 5,000 people." Gordon added, "Our new home in Madison has a population of over the 200,000 mark. This alone should help our over-the-counter sales tremendously."

"Once we're moved in" added Nancy, "Our new address will be 871 W. Beltline Highway, in Madison, Wis. 53713."

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