

THE HISTORY OF CORONADO SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB

The Years 1963 – 1980 by Jewell and Mabel Brent

Continuing the record, we note that during the 60s, there was much more activity playing for club trophies than at present. For example, the record mentions 12 trophies played for in the 1962 – 63 season. In the spring of 1963 the club added a new activity... "New Members Day." This was a tournament for first and second year members who had not won a previous trophy and included a "Get Together Lunch" for all members. It was played this year (1980) for the 18th time and each year has drawn an enthusiastic response. Each year it has been directed by Jewell and Mabel Brent who were the original sponsor of the event along with Secretary Gunn and Board Member Schas.

Also in 1963 our building which is generally referred to as the "dance hall" was constructed, but was not generally used for shuffleboard activities. It is now that part of the Civic Center which is at the west end.

In the spring of 1962 our club started plans for summer shuffling between our club, Mainland, and the new Edgewater club beginning what we now refer to as the Summer Tri-City Series.

At this point it might be well to go back in history and say a few words about early summer shuffling. Prior to 1960 the club was entirely closed from May to October with no organized plan for any summer activity. In the early 50s the very small number of club members were invited to go to Mainland having several more local residents than we did.

In the summer of 1956, Jewell and Mabel Brent felt that we should have a night and invited the Mainland club. Saturday night was selected and it has remained our night for summer play ever since. Of course we had no money available so we solicited free passes from the drive-in and the downtown movie theater to use as prizes.. About 1958 the club appropriated \$25. To be used for summer shuffling to the horror of some Northern members who wanted to know if "they were using our money in the summer." The club voted to remain open in 1960 and summer activities increased.

Plans were made for a plaque for President's names and providing a place for their photos, also Life Members.

Mention is made of our membership running over 300 and we apparently cannot get away from discussion of how often we should have ham dinners.

During these mid-1960 years with a club meeting every month, we find the minutes voluminous and full of everyday activities, dinners, card parties, getting trophies for tournaments, scheduling inter-city games, and deciding how to select players to play. Several methods were used and were needed for we have had as many as 35 teams wanting to play.

In the spring of 1965, the club went back to holding the election of officers in March instead of January as we had been doing for several years. We note that in every meeting there is talk of the possibility of a new building exclusively for club and some additional courts.

In the summer of 1965, after years of talking with the City about a new club room for ourselves and four more courts, it was reported that the City would tear down our cue room and construct a larger clubhouse on that site. Members were even told to get their cues out of their lockers. It sounded good. Of course nothing came of it. However, in the fall of 1965, four new courts were built (our 5,6,7, and 8.)

This necessitated the removal of an old grandstand and cutting off the end of the cue room by about 3 feet so the courts would be even with courts 9 – 12. Still talk of the city putting up a new building. Our club had wanted Mr. Nidy of Winter Park to build the new courts and we offered to pay the difference between the amount of his bid and that of a local contractor. The City refused our offer, so we got 4 courts with a surfact which was never satisfactory.

In 1966 Marvin Whitehair went back for the second time to start some more years as President, our first President to do so.

During the late 60s, it is noticed that there was increasing lack of interest in our club activities, especially card parties and club tournaments. We recall the general statement that as long as players picked their own partners, many would have no chance to win. Nothing was done at this time about this, but we will see in later years that something was done. However, during these later years of the 60s much interest was shown in intercity games and the club was winning anywhere from 28 – 30 and losing perhaps 4 – 6 games.

It was during the late 60s that the idea of using glass beads raised its ugly head and started arguments which has lasted to this day regarding whether or not to use them and how much.

During the summer of 1970, after more than a year of discussion about a new building, we finally find the “old green building” torn down preparatory to starting construction. This was a time of joy looking forward to a club room we could call our own instead of sharing it with many other groups, and there was some nostalgic sadness as we remembered all the good times we had enjoyed in it. To help pay expenses, the city raised our dues to \$7. This construction resulted in the Civic Center as we have it today.

In the winter of 1971 an attempt was made to clarify the meaning of “life member” and certain rules were drawn up and placed in our bylaws. The number not to exceed 3% of the membership.

In the spring of 1971 we had our first lady President with the election of Sue Beganwald. During her year in office efforts were made to decorate our clubroom with drapes, a clock (later stolen), and the club spent \$24 for acoustical tiles to cut down the noise.

At the meeting of April 3, 1972, President Sue Deganwald officially handed the club gavel to Elmer Allen, the new President, and he took the chair.

In 1973 the city began a program of building shade shelters which over the years resulted in covering most of the courts and the walkways. The club purchased 4 large umbrellas for south ends of 17 – 20 so the courts could be open to the sun on cool days and covered on sunny days.

Also at this time, at the request of President Allen, the club adopted the financial plan of appropriating an amount at each meeting to be drawn upon until the next meeting. This was not continued after Mr. Allen's term.

Another change in our by-laws reduced the number of meetings by the club to four: November, January, March, and April. This is still in use.

During the spring of 1974, our President after much negotiations with the City finally succeeded in getting our parking area black topped. This certainly reduced the amount of dirt blown on the courts. However, a certain amount of dirt was carried into the blacktop area and then blown onto the courts. So the club started asking the City to have the street sweeper used in the area occasionally. Despite numerous requests, this has only been done once in six years.

Another improvement secured only after years of negotiating with the City, was the erection of large light shades to direct more light onto the courts and less glare into the eyes of a person at the other end. The City continually saying they did not have the money. Finally we got our shades and under President Pierce a couple of overhead lights were added.

We have already mentioned a diminishing interest in shuffling including a complete lack of club tournaments, except for New Member Day, but during the mid-70s efforts were made to increase interest. President Allen included the Round Robin play as a regular part of our weekly schedule. This more relaxed type of play brought out extra players.

Also, Mr. Brent and he and Mabel would be glad to try out some 100% draw tournaments starting with the first of three Linda Johnson and Mr. And Mrs. James Mahon Tournaments. The Club accepted the idea and a great revival of interest was shown with 55 players coming our for the first one.

In the 1979 – 80 season, several tournaments were played with certain modifications to the 100% draw idea. In the spring of 1977, Jewel Brent declined any further nomination after having served as an officer of the club for 22 years, and the incoming administration under President Pierce gave him and Mabel an enjoyable party. Mabel having served approximately as many years as chairman of dinners, friendship cards, etc. They were presented with a beautiful plaque. Along with the resurgence of interest in shuffling in the mid 70s, and along with the appointment of Secretary Alma Drummond as social secretary, more interest was shown in pot luck dinners. This was probably due to addition of various forms of entertainment after the dinners. She was ably assisted by Master of Ceremonies James Mahon and pianist Ruth Hicks. Club card parties, which in the late 50s and 60s could fill 20 tables with players gradually died out entirely. Perhaps with our new President William Pratt and his wife Margaret, we may see some interest in card playing revived.

In the summer of 1979 after prolonged discussion with the City by President Pierce regarding painting or staining the courts, the City employed the Nidy Company to do the work. A very heavy, thick type of paint was now applied. We have to play on paint instead of cement. Also, in the fall after months of discussion, a vacuum cleaner for the club was purchased for \$364. It has since been used for Intercity Games and county tournaments.

Finally, men of the club took paint provided by the City and painted the alleys and walkways. This improved the appearance a great deal.

In writing a history of the 60s and 70s, everything cannot be included, but a reading of the minutes of those years as well as having actually lived through them, we realize we had a very vital club, striving for improvement, with a business-like standard. There were numerous changes in the bylaws to meet changing club needs. There were many meetings with the city officials over financial matters, especially club dues, which had a way of increasing as economics changed until they reached our present level. It should be mentioned that our relations with our City Recreation Director, Owen Davidson have been very pleasant and he has been quite cooperative in working to supply our needs.