



Letter from Washington...February 24, 2008

Hello, Ann. Many thanks for including me on your mailing list! Herbie Shroeder, an old shuffleboard player I met recently at Oscar's Bar in California gave a letter he wanted sent to you to see if you might post it on your site to the players out there. He said, and I quote, "Mebbee that Ann girl can git this out fer me. I ain't got no learnin 'bout them internetsional machines, screens and such." Quote unquote. Thanks, Ann.

Grant Manning

FYI, if you are easily offended (and I do mean easily) please do not read this leter. AH

Well Howdy t'all you shuffleboard players out there yonder. My name's Herb Shroeder, but all my friends just call me Herbie. There used to be two of 'em but I do believe one passed on a might shortly ago. I'm writin' this letter just to say hello to all you shufflers, bumpers and drivers; passers and ladders; bangers and missers I've had the great pleasure of knowin' for quite a passle of time. Most wouldn't even remember ol' Herbie on no account. I got no ratin' worthy of one, but I know lots of y'all out there I've met up in Washington, Nevada, California, Oklahoma, Texas, and other such places.

Why, I recollect folks up there in Washington I've met are most of 'em pretty decent folk, maybe a little light on brains, thinkin' all that rain's supposed to be good for somethin' that ain't stilled, mixed, brewed, or used for knockin' off a weeks worth of grit. In fact I hear there's gonna be a 2nd big ol' shuffleboard tournament up there in May of '08. Here's the corker: It's put on by Vern Gonzales and some ol' boy buddy of his (I think he must have God's given name of Richard) who I hear was real flexible as a youngin). anyway, like I said, it's put on by 'Vern Gonzales and Ol' Limp Dick Shuffleboard', but I ain't had the pleasure of Ol' Limp Dick's acquaintance personally.

What I would say to y'all out there yonder is that I seen this casino and tournament last year and if there's a heaven for us shuffleboard lovers that has mighty fine boards, gamblin' and drinkin', with a whole lot of space to B.S. and tell some real whoppers in style, this is the place y'all will never forget! Cross my throat and hope to choke-if I'm lyin' I'm dyin'. This is right up there with my mama's rhubarb pie. I hear about 20 boards will be in play this year--yeehaw.

Now to y'all out there I've met but wouldn't remember me: Daryl, I hear the llama lady is back in town and she's still got that cute little birthmark she showed us at the Whistlin' Oyster; Bob Crum, do you still have them slow weights for sale, the self-propelled ones that move off the board without bein' pushed or slud? Did you sell used cars?

Devonna G., you're just about the best weight caller I ever did see, especially when I'm watchin' from your end--so to speak. My pappy always told me, sometimes the best job is to check the checker. Contrary to Jr. William's claim that only a pro should be callin' a weight, I'll have mine called by a lady every time. Lordy, I LUV this game! Dan Hitt I still got one a them 'logo' T-shirts of yours that says, Bangham Lagham and Wynn...Hell, I thought you was talkin' about an ol' girlfriend until someone set me straight; Cindy Clark, I might not like to play against you, but I surely do enjoy the view; and Alice, do you still have that little tattoo down there?

I could carry on but I'm goin' to check out for now. Next time y'all might learn more 'bout the rumor that Frank Blade's God given name is Gomer Fartenbaum, but he couldn't get nowhere in the game with that tag. ("Good lag, Gomer.") See what ah mean, Vern. I don't rightly think so!) So now Frank's got this James Bond soundin' name to make his game better. I jest call him Double 'O', Triple 'X'. I think mebbe he got this new name idea from ol' Doug Fridley outta New York. I ponder whatever happened to that ol' boy. Well, folks, keep the porch light on and a sandwich in the cooler, 'cause more 'n likely I'll be back. This is Herbie sign'in off for now. Hope to see y'all come May in Shelton.

Herbie