november 1994

RePlay magazine

monthly journal for the amusement machine industry



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HOT OFF THE PRESS

GAME RATINGS

AAMA has voted to recommend that factory members put a parental advisory on potentially objectionable video games (see "News Digest," inside). AAMA President **Steve Koenigsberg** told *RePlay*: "I think most, if not all, manufacturers will use it and we'll see it come on line very quickly. It is an interim step, but a positive one." AAMA still hopes it can eventually work out a coin-op version of the rating system Congress likes, i.e. the one used by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board. "Congress' objective, to provide information to make consumers aware of product content, is appropriate and we can all support that," said Steve. "While taking time to examine the ESRB system and educate them about coin-op's concerns, we felt we could provide at least interim content description in form of a parental advisory." As for coming to terms with ESRB, "I think ESRB's Dr. **Arthur Pober**, by who he is and what he has done, has given coin-op manufacturers a much warmer feeling about the ratings idea," Steve said. "If we can keep working with him, I'm hopeful we can find solutions to the difficulties the home ratings would have on coin-op."

"KILLER" NEWS

Some big arcades will get Williams' ***Killer Instinct*** by Thanksgiving; full shipments start in December. Also, WMS has split its video line in L.A.: Betson's now got it, too. C.A. Robinson retains their pinball exclusive.

AAMA'S "BIG TENT"

At its board meeting in San Antonio (Sept. 21), AAMA decided to open its ranks to non-voting "associate members" who would come from the pool of manufacturers in foreign countries and related (non-coin) entertainment industries. "It's a recognition that we're getting to be a global business," said **Steve Koenigsberg**. "This move allows us to bring in other interested parties and ultimately help them develop their own local (foreign) associations." AAMA also hopes the wider membership will help create a broader range of exhibitors at its annual ACME Show. "There are a lot of buying publics out there," Steve observed, "and we've got to start catering to all of them."

DATA EAST REGROUPS

Having sold its pinball division to Sega, Data East USA has relocated its home video and redemption sales office to 1850 Little Orchard St., San Jose, CA 95125. Phone is 408/286-7080 ext. 20; fax is 408-971-0722. Opening this month is their new coin-op office at 260 Stanley St., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Ten year trade vet **Max Fujimoto** is now coin-op VP; **Kristin Mongtomery** is back as national sales manager, and **Steve Novak** heads operations, engineering and customer & technical service...By the way, Sega renamed its new acquisition on Oct. 14. The flipper firm's now called "Sega Pinball, Inc." Senior VP/GM **Gary Stern** said Sega Pinball will benefit from Sega's name-brand cachet, R&D budget and "technological synergy."

VIRTUAL REALITY

The "other Atari" (i.e., **Atari Corp.**, not the Time Warner Interactive bunch) has signed a deal to license **Virtuality Group's** VR technology, with the aim of developing and building a low-cost immersive VR headset. The headset, expected to cost under $200, will be used with Atari's 64-bit "Jaguar" home video game system starting in late 1995. A wide-ranging software agreement between the two firms should follow, execs said. Atari hopes VR will put "Jaguar" ahead of powerful new home systems which are coming from Sony, Nintendo, Sega and others...On the public location front, Virtuality Group says 21 nations now have dedicated VR centers using their machines, from Russia to Kuwait. Latest entry: Bangkok.

JUMPING THE GUN

RePlay apologizes to one and all for prematurely showing SNK's **Samurai Shodown II** on last month's "Player's Choice" software chart. The game's title was listed on our operator ballot, and many chart reporters apparently rated the game (we can only assume they confused it with the original title). At any rate, the dedicated sequel began actually shipping to SNK dealers end of October, with both kit and cartridge coming middle of this month. The kit, by the way, won't change your old cabinets to look exactly like the dedicated version that's out now, but will do a standup job anyway.

TCI & ACCLAIM

Sega and Nintendo aren't the only ones planning to sell video games on cable TV. **Acclaim Entertainment** and America's largest cable TV operator **Tele-Communications, Inc.** will form a joint venture "For the development and acquisition of entertainment software for broadband interactive networks, as well as for the promotion of a new standard broadband network game platform to be incorporated into advanced set-top boxes." TCI (which has TV operations in 48 states) owns 35% of the new firm; Acclaim owns 65%.

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RePlay

PLAYERS' CHOICE • NOVEMBER 1994

TOP GAMES NOW IN OPERATION, BASED ON EARNINGS-OPINION POLL OF OPERATORS

best upright videos

		MODEL/MANUFACTURER	RATING	DIST.
▶	1	**REVOLUTION X (Midway) (5)**	**8.89**	**28%**
	2	VIRTUA FIGHTER★ (Sega) (10)	8.61	41%
	3	MORTAL KOMBAT II+ (Midway) (11)	8.46	88%
	4	LETHAL II: GUN FIGHTERS (Konami) (7)	7.96	24%
▶	5	SOLITAIRE CHALLENGE (Dynamo) (4)	7.79	14%
	6	FINAL LAP 3★ (Namco) (13)	7.60	10%
▶	7	LORD OF GUN (I.G.S./H. Betti) (1)	7.33	9%
	8	NBA JAM: TOURN. ED.+ (Midway) (7)	7.26	66%
	9	LETHAL ENFORCERS+ (Konami) (25)	7.23	72%
▶	10	UNDER FIRE (Taito) (5)	7.17	6%

+ indicates game was produced in both dedicated & software forms
★ indicates game was also produced in deluxe form

best deluxe videos

(sitdowns, cockpits, arcade attractions)

▶	1	**DAYTONA USA (Sega) (6)**	**9.67**	**27%**
▶	2	CRUIS 'N USA★ (Midway) (1)	9.38	18%
	3	RIDGE RACERS (Namco) (10)	9.20	11%
▶	4	T-MEK (Atari) (3)	9.10	11%
▶	5	PRIMAL RAGE★ (Atari) (2)	8.63	36%
	6	OUTRUNNERS (Sega) (23)	8.59	19%
	7	AIR COMBAT (Namco) (8)	8.50	7%
	8	SUZUKA II 8 HOURS (Namco) (8)	8.38	18%
	9	LUCKY & WILD (Namco) (15)	8.18	12%
	10	STADIUM CROSS (Sega) (19)	8.00	10%

+ indicates game was produced in both dedicated & software forms
★ indicates game was also produced in upright form

best new games

STREET SLAM [software] (Data East/Neo•Geo)

best video software

		MODEL/MANUFACTURER	RATING	DIST.
▶	1	**DARKSTALKERS [H] (Capcom) (2)**	**8.51**	**42%**
▶	2	KING OF FIGHTERS '94 [S] (SNK) (2)	8.03	30%
▶	3	SUPER SIDEKICKS 2 [S] (SNK) (6)	7.87	15%
▶	4	GAL'S PANIC 2 [V] (Kaneko) (11)	7.60	5%
▶	5	RAIDEN DX [V] (Fabtek) (1)	7.40	5%
▶	6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS [H] (Cap.) (7)	7.38	43%
▶	7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR [H] (Capcom) (4)	7.22	37%
▶	8	NECK N' NECK [H] (Bundra) (19)	7.20	5%
▶	9	SAMURAI SHODOWN [S] (SNK) (16)	7.13	69%
	10	RAIDEN II [V] (Fabtek) (10)	7.12	43%
▶	11	KRAZY BOWL [V] (Amer. Sammy) (1)	7.00	7%
▶	12	TWIN EAGLE II [V] (Seta) (5)	6.93	15%
▶	13	FIGHT. HIST. DYN. [S] (D.E./Neo•Geo) (4)	6.91	11%
▶	14	AERO FIGHTERS 2 [S] (SNK) (3)	6.80	36%
▶	15	ZERO TEAM USA [V] (Fabtek) (2)	6.75	4%
▶	16	WORLD HEROES 2 JET [S] (SNK) (6)	6.64	26%
▶	17	BLOOD STORM [H] (Strata) (6)	6.57	14%
▶	17	WINDJAMMERS [S] (D.E./Neo•Geo) (8)	6.57	14%
▶	18	AGGRESSORS OF DARK KOMBAT [S] (SNK) (2)	6.57	7%
	19	ST. FTR II: C.E. TURBO [R] (Capcom) (21)	6.41	72%

[H] horizontal [V] vertical [S] system [R] retrofit

top pinball

▶	1	**FREDDY/NIGHTMARE (Premier) (1)**	**8.38**	**11%**
	2	STAR TREK (Williams) (9)	8.07	60%
	3	ADDAMS FAMILY (Midway) (32)	8.06	71%
	4	WORLD CUP SOCCER (Midway) (5)	8.00	34%
▶	5	FLINTSTONES (Williams) (2)	8.00	18%
▶	6	CORVETTE (Williams) (1)	8.00	16%
	7	DEMOLITION MAN (Williams) (7)	7.91	32%
▶	8	GUNS N' ROSES (Data East) (3)	7.57	29%
	9	RESCUE 911 (Gottlieb/Premier) (7)	7.54	18%
	10	TALES FROM THE CRYPT (Data East) (8)	7.29	23%

▶ *available brand new at certain distributors; number following brand shows months on chart including this one.*

RATING: *Operators were mailed "ballot sheets" listing games in active operation in U.S. locations and game centers and asked to "rate" the earning performance of each on the "1 to 10" measure: 10 for "power-house earnings," 9 for "excellent,' 8 for "very good game," 7 for "good game," 6 for "decent game," 5 for "just average," 4 for "below average," etc. The written votes were tallied up and divided by the actual number of times the specific game was rated. Hence, the decimal points.*

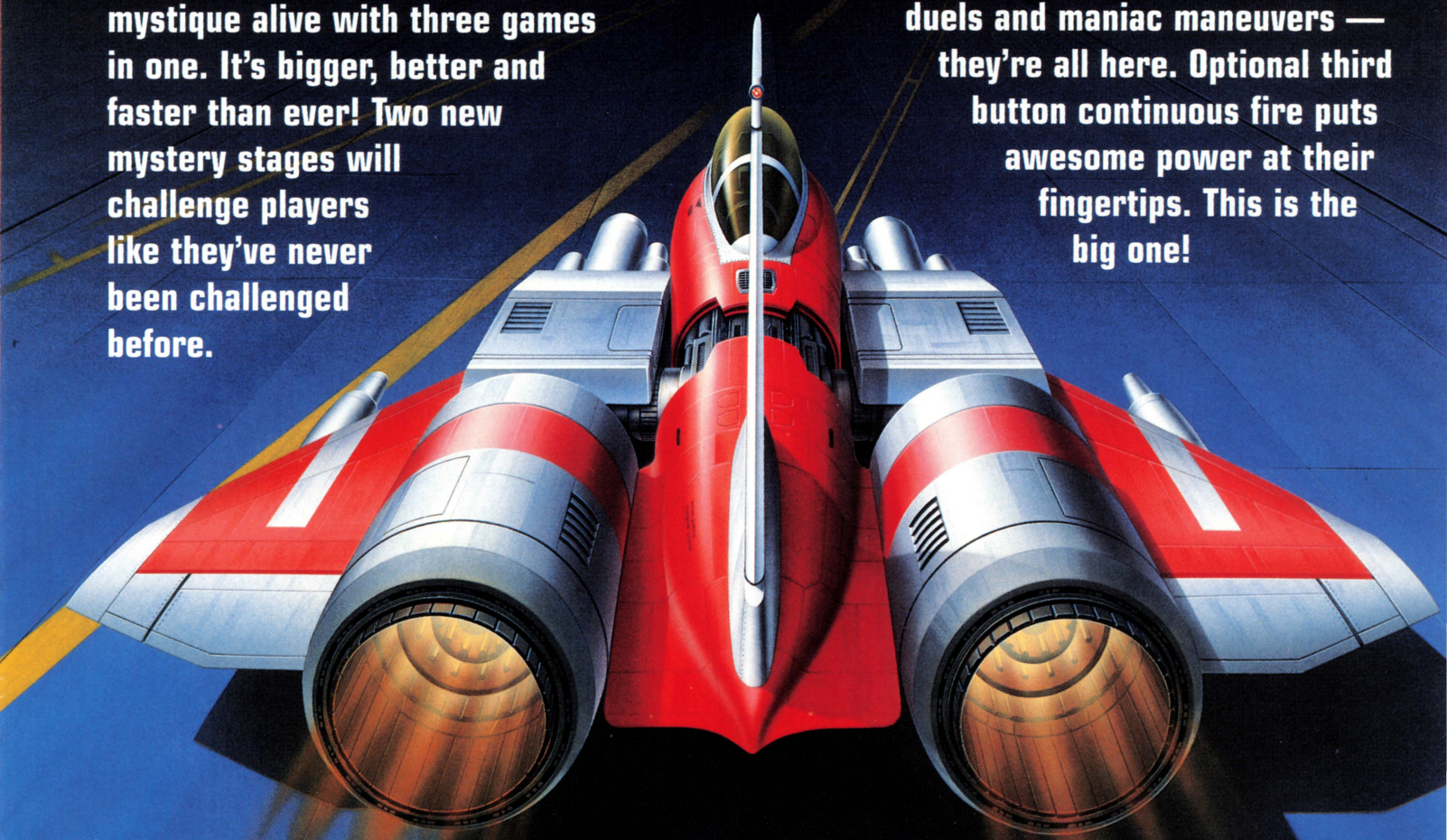
DIST.: *The percentage of the surveyed arcade and street location operators who have the item on location.*

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ON THE COVER

SNK's *Samurai Shodown II* has arrived! Shipping first in dedicated format (unique for this software company), it will be followed in both kit and cartridge around mid-November.

This sword-on-sword sequel to the number one original hit is reportedly deeper, has new characters (plus some returning "friends" from before) and should give quite a shot to the Neo-Geo world. The factory's so hot on the item, they put the first ones in a gorgeous upright. If you're hot to see it, check you SNK dealer for arrival dates.

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EDITORIAL

If you visited your distributor's open house in October, you probably saw some beautiful new equipment. You also bumped into an old acquaintance: higher prices. Former AAMA President Bill Rickett often named "a long-term decline in operator buying power" as the industry's number-one problem...causing soft machine sales, thinning distributor margins, and ongoing operator cutbacks. Buying power is still falling for many reasons: ridiculously low play pricing. Steep increases in new equipment prices (somebody's gotta pay for all that hi-tech!). The steady slide of the dollar on foreign exchange rates. Competition from home video. A growing list of "entertainment destinations" — from casinos to mini-theme parks — which continue to drain dollars and customers from traditional street locations.

Okay, which of these problems can we fix? Refreshing the route is vital, of course, but just buying new equipment isn't the total answer. As distributor John Gatens points out, some form of low-cost manufacturer financing would be a big help. Next, operators simply must raise play prices, with or without dollar coins. (Theme parks, FECs and even some arcades are starting to experiment with debit cards. As prices drop for this technology, it could be our play-price-hike vehicle.) Lower machine prices and protection from competing forms of entertainment would also boost operator buying power, but realistically we won't get them.

In that case, the industry's most necessary shift (as people from John Gatens to Tami Norberg-Paulsen have pointed out) may be in the mentality of existing tradesters. We're evolving from the "coin-op industry" to the "pay-for-play, location-based entertainment" industry. This industry has a fantastic future ahead of it...yet the very greatness of that future continues to draw more and bigger competition. If the market is turning into one where you must create an attraction, then create one! Try leagues, redemption, or networked games. Try to work with FECs; they are an attraction unto themselves. Despite all the changes in our industry, one fundamental truth remains: to earn the public's entertainment dollar, we have to be where the people are. These days, the trend is toward attracting customers ourselves, not depending on traditional locations to do it for us.

Marcus Webb

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NOVEMBER '94

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FAITH & BEGORRA
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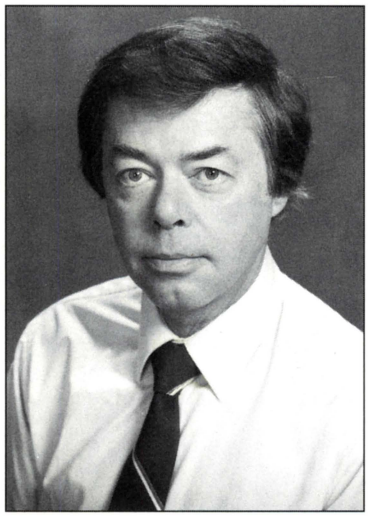
FUN EXPO
The fifth annual edition of this event, which targets family entertainment centers, was a smash hit. Buoyant moods, brisk sales and busy seminars abounded among some 5,000 showgoers.....pg. 146

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F R O M T H E

PUBLISHER



The fall '94 show season is over. The last sandwich crust is on its way to the dump from the last distributor open house, and the factory reps (home at last!) are soaking the feet and other travel-worn body parts after promoting their goods from here to Timbuktu. Now that the smoke has cleared (except for those of you who attend the Parks Show), why is that "chalky" taste of summer's slow collections and soft machine sales still in many mouths? Why do we have "some" people who think business is doing just fine, while the less-enthusiastic are wondering "What do they know that I don't?"

Over the past month, I've heard a lot of upbeat talk, as well as a lot of gloom, from people on all three levels of the business. Out of all this crowing, and all this moaning, about the only consensus I've reached is that the arcade side of the business is healthier than the street side. And, yes, I use the word "side" because there are a load of companies with both feet in one sector or the other, rather than one foot in each.

The machines you hear talked about the most are the expensive simulators. The big "location" stories are often about some arcade operation opening yet another magnificent family entertainment center. And when it comes to technological innovation, it's usually associated with something coming to the game room rather than Joe's bar. All rather "arcadey," no?

I have heard a lot of talk that the nation's route business is in dutch...that there's a consolidation of the stronger and disappearance of the weaker going on. If so, I think the stronger are in dart leagues, rotate their amusement machines with vigor, try things like countertops, recycle golden oldie games like Ms. Pac-Man, raise play prices where practicable and yes, often have one of their feet in an arcade situation or two. No, I don't think the small routes of America will go the way of the dinosaur. But I do say that any street operator who's resistant to change had better get a tad more aggressive in his approach to business, or else promote and "unleash" a trusted employee who is.

Ed Adlum

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VIEWPOINTS

FROM OUR READERS

Dear RePlay:

I just read, with great interest, your recap on the AMOA show in San Antonio, and want to share some thoughts. For we at The Latin Jukebox had decided not to take an exhibit booth at this Texas event due to the poor operator attendance at the previous AMOA show in Anaheim, California.

Right after that Anaheim show, we asked a number of California operators why they didn't attend what was literally a local show. Their answers ranged from 'knew nothing about it' to 'I was too busy to go' to 'they wanted a hundred bucks to get in!'

The poor attendance at recent trade shows can be attributed to competing shows, local distributor open houses and travel hassles. But I believe the predominant reason is that our industry prices its customers out.

I have personally attended dozens of shows put on by other industries, like the photo business, the close-out industry and the consumer electronics industry. These shows welcomed their customers to their events with either free entry or by charging a nominal $5 or $25 for a badge. Our industry, however, shuns its customer base by charging entry fees that are significantly higher than other industries.

Everyone I know agrees that the small operator comprises a significant percentage of our industry. Operators of all sizes would like to attend our trade shows. Manufacturers and distributors that go to the expense to exhibit their wares at our shows would like the opportunity to meet as many potential customers as possible, regardless of whether they're small, medium-sized or large.

Our show organizers should realize that 'more is better' in terms of attendance, specifically operator attendance, and that 'less is more' when it comes to entry fees charged. Who, after all, makes up the bottom line in equipment buying? The operator, of course!

I can easily predict a future of waning attendance. But, I can also predict a future of increased attendance if the matter of entry fees is properly addressed. I'd also like to see these shows moved around the country more. In the past eight years, only one show (the Nashville one) took place east of Chicago. Even though our shows are national in nature, they become regional in actuality, drawing the smaller operators who can drive in. How about Philadelphia, Washington DC or Atlanta?

As I said, we didn't exhibit in Texas, betting that the attendance would be light. I was right. We simply allocated those funds to other promotional efforts. My druthers, however, would be to exhibit to a strong showing at an AMOA function while enjoying the rest of the trade show festivities.

Howard Kopelson
The Latin Jukebox
Garden Grove, California

Dear Howard: AMOA's 1995 Expo will be held in New Orleans, where their 1990 show took place. Regarding Atlanta, you'll get your wish in 1997 when the show moves there. On attendance fees at these expositions, this issue has been debated back and forth and the AMOA board has opted for what you consider a high entry fee. It should be noted that membership in the AMOA association includes free badges to company principles and that concept has brought quite a few extra members to the group. But, yes, we've also heard about local non-member operators who gulp when they find out how much it costs to get into an Expo. In the end, it's an issue the AMOA decides and maybe after reading your letter, they'll discuss it again. —ed

Dear RePlay:

Please...let's see a little less doom and gloom in the magazine. At least the kids aren't asking for new games as much as they used to because they're not hearing about anything new.

Some are even asking for the older videos to go back in, which I have sitting out in storage.

Okay, I find my collections are less. But, so are my expenditures. Also, how can I find out if a new kit is *really* good? Naturally, the manufacturer is going to hype it. I still need to update the route, so I try to use your book as a guide.

Bert Engelbert
(street operator)
Escalon, California

Dear Bert: It's all here, including some gloomy stuff that's bound to "sneak in." In the main, we're hoping for brighter days this fall and (yes) there are good new games on the market to help that happen.—ed

If you've got something to say, we want to hear it! Send your letters to RePlay Magazine, *P.O. Box 2550, Woodland Hills, CA 91365...or you can always send us a fax: (818) 347-2112.*

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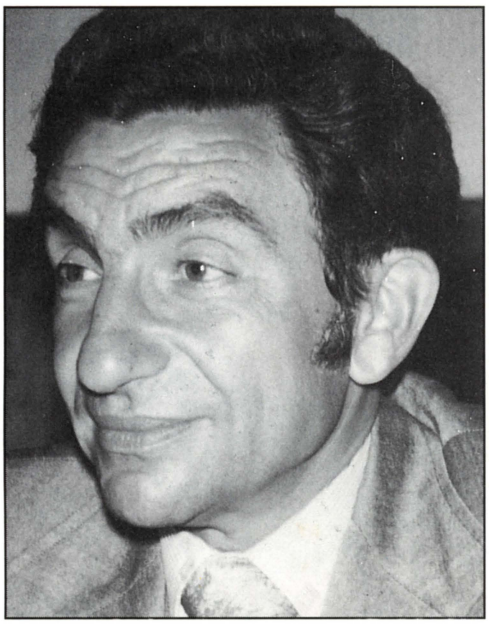
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STEPPING UP

AND SPEAKING OUT



ARE WE DOOMED TO REPEAT HISTORY?

BY MARVIN STEIN

PRESIDENT OF ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES OF FLORIDA (AND FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF EASTERN MUSIC SYSTEMS, PHILADELPHIA DISTRIBUTORS)

While I continue to read RePlay each month, I haven't written to the publication since 1982 when I unfortunately called the sour turn on the future of video games. At that time, I believe I even mentioned the importance of conversion kits as a way to use the good cabinets that were otherwise worthless. For as you know, the entire industry was threatened back then with the problems that followed the ridiculous introduction of so many games that were untested and offered unproved earnings.

I am now afraid that we are approaching another crisis. As the income from the *Mortal Kombat* and *NBA Jam* type games has declined, the operator is experiencing greatly reduced collections. Distributors, therefore, see reduced sales, and even more dangerous, and increase in accounts receivable and delinquencies in note payments.

Manufacturers once again seem to be operating with blinders on. The prices of video games are going into orbit. Suddenly, a $4,000 game is the "inexpensive" one. Now they are introducing $5,000 and $6,000 games for use in street locations, not to mention the $18,000 and up games for the small and large arcades.

How many street locations do they think can support games of this type? How many street locations, which make up the bulk of potential sales, will allow the operator to get the terms required to pay for this equipment? Will their customers pay 75 cents a play?

What the manufacturers fail to recognize is, unlike phonographs and pins, video games as a rule have little or no trade in value after a very short time. Therefore, the operator is forced to get his cost, his overhead, and hopefully a profit within the first six months or the first year.

If the manufacturers are basing their production on the collections of the dynamic $19,000 driving games placed in those very few top arcades, then I'm afraid they have repeated their mistakes of the 80's. Yes, *Mortal Kombat I* and *II* made a great deal of money, as did one or two others. But, what are they worth in trade now? What are the famous *Street Fighter* games worth?

Hence, with collections off as much as fifty percent in the past year, the operator is asked to try to rebuild his collections with games costing twice as much as some of the successful predecessors, with little hope that they can do any more in the cash box, *if* as much.

This is why I'm afraid we are doomed to repeat past history. We as an industry have not learned by the past, and unless the street operator who is heavily weighted in game locations is given equipment that can earn the required dollars to justify the cost, we are going to see a large number of business failures and the resulting damage to the distributors.

Well, I was called a crier of doom twelve years ago and I'm certain some of my old manufacturer-suppliers and their contemporaries will feel the same way now. After all, when your claim to fame is 54 years in the business, you're considered too old to understand today's marketing. I only know one lesson. The cost of the equipment can only be justified if...with the best terms available...the operator can make a profit.

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"The Most Insanely Immersive Challenge on Earth."







Prepare yourself for the most intense arena battle in the galaxy. Take on Nazrac the Eliminator and his Warlords for a chance to become the T-MEK Tournament Champion.

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NEW FROM LAZER-TRON

Players will scurry to find the keys and unlock the riches held in the treasure chest of Pirate's Gold™. Players use their skills to try and guide their coins through pins into target holes on this fast paced coin-drop game. Players win tickets for each target they hit and if they hit all 6 targets they win the jackpot.



Treasure chest jackpot

PLAY TILL YOU WIN!

Pirates Gold features a unique play till you win style which insures that every player is a winner. If the player's coin does not go into one of the targets, or the treasure chest, the coin will be returned to the player to be played again.



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Pirate's Gold™ is brought to you by Lazer-Tron, creators of the following hit games: Ribbit Racin™, Spin-To-Win™, Aftershock™, Jungle Rama™, Shake, Rattle & Roll™, Super Bank-It II™, Wild Thing™ and Flintstones©. Experience the difference!

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NEWS DIGEST

VIDEO POKER ON BALLOT IN TWO STATES

Voters in **South Dakota** and **South Carolina** will decide Nov. 8 if operator-run video gambling shall remain legal in each state. Nearly 8,000 VLTs in So. Dakota went dark in mid-August after the State Supreme Court ruled them unconstitutional; operators have spent over $1 million on a big PR campaign to convince voters to okay a change in the law and get the huge-grossing machines up and running again. Based on opinion polls, the So. Dakota Music Vending Assn. expects to win the referendum comfortably...In South Carolina, a statewide referendum will let some counties keep poker while others can outlaw it. Mixed results are expected, with some counties keeping vidpoker and others banning it. Payoffs on vidpoker games have been legal for years, so long as the winner's money was delivered by human hands, not from a machine. Rather than taking a cut of the cash box, the state collects several million yearly from costly license fees for each vidpoker machine and from taxes on operating businesses. A coalition of pro-gaming forces called The Committee for Small Business (including operators and locations) spent over $1.5 million on a pro-vidpoker PR campaign.

IT'S NATIONAL JUKEBOX MONTH! AMOA SAYS, "LET'S PROMOTE"

AMOA's Jukebox Promotion Committee reminds U.S. music ops that November is National Jukebox Month. Operating companies are urged to say something about it when answering the route phone (e.g., "XYZ Vending, where we're celebrating National Jukebox Month!"). It's also a good idea to get some quick signs made up and displayed in the location's front window and/or inside by the phonograph. A bunch of record suppliers are in the spirit, offering some nice discounts during Jukebox Month. **ATM Distributing** in Cleveland, for example, offers a choice of either "Rock of the '80s" or a country CD comp free with purchase of 12 CDs. Call 216/528-0405. **Don Records** on Long Island may have something going. Call 516/752-1770. Down at **Dolphin** in both Norcross and Jacksonville, they're offering special pricing on almost all 45s including price cuts up to 40% on all 45 overstocks during November. Call 800/390-5853. Pittsburgh's Mobile Record Service offers November Jukebox Month specials, too. Find out about their "Hits At Your Door" by calling 800/245-4805 (or faxing 800-458-0870).**The Latin Jukebox** of Garden Grove, Calif. has special pricing on Vincente Fernandez discs (he's a big Latin star). They also plan discounts on Gloria Estefan items including "Mi Tierra," winner of this year's AMOA Latin CD of the Year award. Call 714/895-5250. **Mountain Coin** has a novel "grab bag special" of 1,000 45s for $150! Selection includes country, pop and oldies. Call either 303/427-2133 or 800/654-2646. For more compilations, **Hot Hits** in Nashville offers a special CD comp featuring songs all using the word "jukebox" in the lyrics and/or as the theme. Their promo, as well as printed materials, features words saluting National Jukebox Month. Call 615/259-3234. And at **Spotlight Hits,** the great Pittsburgh emporium, a November promo discounts $1 per CD off their two-volume "Top Jukebox Singles of All Time." Spotlight is also saluting Jukebox Month on printed materials during November. Call 800/631-4155.



NEWS DIGEST

AAMA WANTS SEPARATE GAME RATINGS...FOR NOW

From the Oct. 14 edition of AAMA's newsletter *Loose Change:* "AAMA's board of directors approved a resolution at its September meeting in San Antonio calling upon video game manufacturers to implement an interim parental advisory system in connection with new coin-operated video games. Manufacturers received information from AAMA about this system last week, and are encouraged to implement the system with their next video game release." The AAMA system would have factories throw a rather mild "parental advisory" message and a few different descriptive phrases on the attract screen if games contain potentially objectionable content. Of course, this basically means self-evaluation rather than independent review. Congress wants coin-op to adapt the same rating system that cartridge-type home video games now use, the one administered independently by **Dr. Arthur Pober's** Entertainment Software Rating Assn. For its part, AMOA favors a "modified" version of that system for coin-op (i.e., without explicit age numbers). But ESRB may have trouble with any changes to its trademarked rating symbols, such as removing the numbers. "I've consulted with some top attorneys and this thing could be a legal nightmare," said one pro-ratings tradester close to the process. "What happens if we put age numbers on games, then a local city council passes a law that no minors shall play 'mature' rated games...and some 10-year old plays one anyway, then commits a violent act and blames the game for his behavior? The operator and manufacturer could both be wide open for terrible lawsuits." AAMA continues to consult with AMOA and with ESRB on these thorny issues.

HBI SUPPORTS TOMORROW'S CHILDREN FUND



H. Betti Industries raised $45,000 by sponsoring its fifth annual Lou Avoglia Memorial Golf Tournament on Sept. 12, drawing 124 golfers from around the USA to the White Beaches Golf & Country Club in New Jersey. Jeff Hudson (left) got the low gross score while Paul Wiederaenders got low net. Spirited competition extended to the follow-up auction of sports memorabilia, with proceeds supporting the fund-raising effort. This year's tourney honored the memory of Ed Ernst. All funds were donated to the Medical Center's new cancer research wing, dedicated to study of cancers which strike kids and young adults. Congrats to everyone involved!

NANI MOVES TOWARD TEST

AMOA's National Amusement Network, Inc. (NANI) continues tweaking its technology and finalizing internal regulations and protocols. "We have equipment talking to the network now," NANI president **Craig Johnson** reported on Oct. 18. "We have many details to work through, but we believe we will begin tests somewhere from Dec. 1 to Jan. 1. We'll test about 50 pieces total, split roughly even between Ohio and Kansas." By mid-November, NANI is expected to announce which operators will participate in the test. Meantime, NANI's marketing and tournament committees continue to develop programs, while NANI officers are finalizing details of the operator agreement which will enable ops to join up. "We had a lot of interest in NANI at our convention, disseminated many sets of technical specs and it looks like we're in good shape to have follow-up software from other manufacturers as we get the program going," Craig added. Williams/Bally-Midway has already committed to provide the initial game for NANI.

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Prepare yourself . . . This isn't just a game! ! !



You must be brave... You must be strong and above all... You must show no mercy!



Mullah Abba is calling you. He needs you to choose an Assassin to do battle with Koldan The Conqueror. You must recover the ancient Ink of Ghize; a morphus fluid organism which transforms into real objects for brief moments when applied to humans as tattoos. Be warned!!! Koldan's legions are loyal to the death! They will not allow you to pass without first being vanquished!

Be warned! Koldan's legions are loyal to the death! They will not allow you to pass without first being vanquished!



Data East, the creators of the first interactive fighting video game has joined forces with Bob Gale, creator of *Back To The Future I, II, & III* to bring you the video event of the year! TATTOO ASSASSINS! Using state-of-the-art digital processing and an Academy Award-winning crew, Data East and Gale have created a game so life-like, it'll have you wondering where reality ends and fantasy begins! Choose your champion from a group of 5 special characters and 9 highly skilled Assassins, each with hundreds of special moves and Killer-Kombos.

Sturdy plywood construction, rigid PCB security, vandal proof control panel and a tamper-resistant line cord makes Tattoo Assassins practically indestructible.
The BSMT-2000 Three Speaker True Stereo Sound System draws players into the action like never before! A speaker below the control panel was added for music that the player can feel as well as hear!
Operator adjustable violence settings allow you to set the action so this game can play in any location!

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Koldan's waiting . . . are you ready to begin your quest?
Tattoo Assassins! Action so hot . . . it sizzles.
Dimensions: Hieght 73.5" Width 25.5" Depth 40.75" Weight

DATA EAST

Data East USA, Inc.
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Phone 708-345-7700 Fax 708-345-7718

Hollywood meets Coin-op . . . The Making of Tattoo Assassins.

A crew of 41 movie makers, 15 programmers, 2 weeks of filming and literally thousands of hours digitizing images have gone into the making of Tattoo Assassins.



Academy Award-winning special effects make-up artist Bob Short reviews action ideas with Bob Gale and Prism (William Zipp).



Rhina (Ms. Universe contestant Joanna Lee) gets some posing instructions from Bob Gale.



Director/creator Bob Gale and stunt coordinator Eddi Wilde give tips to Koldan (Kevin Knotts) during filming.



Bob Gale wants Deke Kay (William Zipp) to get into his character!



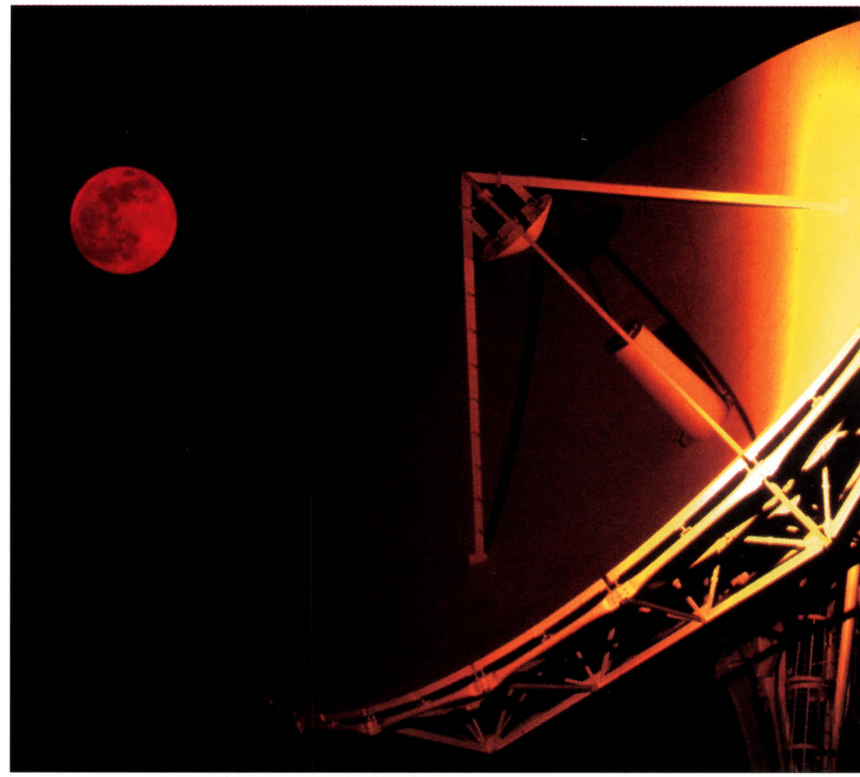
Data East's head game designer Joe Kaminkow along with video programmers John Carpenter and Jack Liddon looking over the playback of the days filming. In the background are Bob Gale, Bob Short and Producer Mike Marvin.



How do they make those characters fly on the video screen? That's Maya (Melanie Baer) going through her moves on the trampoline!

ARCADES LINKED FOR REMOTE INTERACTIVE GAMEPLAY; XBAND LINKS HOME PLAYERS

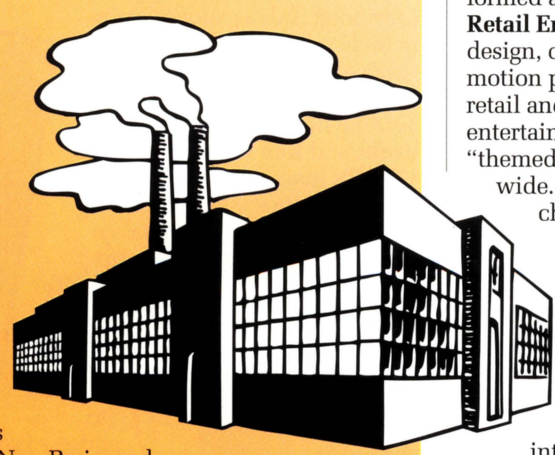
NEWS DIGEST



Virtual World simulation centers in Dallas, Chicago, San Diego, Las Vegas and Walnut Creek, Calif. are now equipped with "Sitelink," a transmission network that lets players in different states compete with each other. Games cost $7 to $9 for half-hour of play, with $3 for Sitelink connections, says *Video Store Magazine.* Virtual Worlds began life as Battle Tech Center (Chicago) and was purchased by Tim Disney (Walt's nephew) who's invested $10 million and led the expansion to new sites...Meantime, Sega's 16-bit Genesis home vidgame systems will be linked via modem into the "XBAND" network created by Catapult Entertainment (Cupertino, Calif.). The capability will be offered for Sega systems this Christmas and expanded to Nintendo next year. Players will use an 800 number and can choose random or specific opponents, paying $69.95 for the modem and $7.95 per month for basic service. This from Alexander & Assoc. *Interactive Update* newsletter.

FACTORY NOTES

"**Atari** Drops **Sega** Charges for $90 Million" was a recent headline in *Amusement Business* (Osaka, Japan). It's the best sum-up of the resolution of a legal action filed by "other Atari" in October 1993. (The Atari Games/Time Warner Interactive firm had nothing to do with this.) The compromise agreement, announced Sept. 29, lets both firms exchange each other's game software for home video. Sega got some Atari stock as part of the settlement deal...**Capcom's** "Street Fighter" movie arrives in theaters Dec. 23 with a rap music soundtrack by 49er's defensive back Deion Sanders and top recording stars like Ice Cube, Nas, Paris, and Hammer. Soundtrack album hits retail Dec. 6...**Acclaim Entertainment** noted record revenues of $481 million for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1994. That's a 47% jump over last year. Net income rose to $45 million. They're still on track to bow *Batman Forever* as their first coin-op video; that division is under **Tom Petit** who was meeting and greeting behind the scenes at AMOA Expo '94.



SONY TO OPERATE LOCATION-BASED ENTERTAINMENT

Sony Corp. of America is already involved in video games, tying up with **Namco** to produce the forthcoming Sony PlayStation home video platform (Namco's using technology from this machine in some of its new "System 11" coin-ops, too). Now Sony has formed a new company, **Sony Retail Entertainment,** to design, develop and operate motion picture theatres and retail and location-based entertainment centers with "themed attractions" worldwide. Sony development chief **Stanley "Mickey" Steinberg** has been named chairman, and former Sony Pictures topper **Larry Ruisi** is president of the new concern. The firm will operate 3D, interactive and IMAX theatres, motion simulator attractions, retail outlets and restaurants. The company will also pursue joint ventures with third parties to develop related entertainment-oriented projects. "All of these businesses rely on site acquisition, product design and development, and the licensing of product and characters, so it makes tremendous sense for us to incorporate them into Sony Retail Entertainment and maximize our collective strengths," said Mickey Steinberg. "Sony Retail Entertainment will combine the prestige of Sony Theatres and the style and synergies of Sony Plaza, and utilize the deep merchandising resources of Sony Signatures in this exciting new entertainment and retail operation." Sony Theatres is the seventh largest theatre chain of North America with approximately 1,000 screens in 15 states. Sony already has some experience operating public, interactive locations: their New York based "Wonder Technology Lab" provides an interactive technology environment for students of all ages. Sony Plaza is a unique retail complex and public space in midtown Manhattan. Sony Signature has merchandising rights for a broad list of properties and entertainers including Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, the Grateful Dead, the House of Blues, Godzilla and Forrest Gump.

NEWS DIGEST

SENINSKY MARKS 25TH YEAR IN COIN-OP

Popular industry guru **Frank Seninsky** began his coin-op career 25 years ago this month, setting up pinball machines in his college fraternity. Today with close partner **Joe Camarota,** he runs Alpha-Omega Amusements, one of the nation's premier street routes (including the largest chain of college-based game rooms in the eastern half of the country). In addition, Frank writes for all the trades (including *RePlay),* co-chairs the AMOA Government Relations Committee, honchos the industry standardization program, gives countless educational seminars, does consulting and game operation for theme parks and FECs, and much, much more. He's also one of the nicest guys in the industry, which proves you can be an independent man of integrity and vision while still maintaining solid friendships and alliances in all spheres of this industry. Alpha-Omega (Edison, N.J.) celebrates this Silver Anniversary with a big blowout mid-month; dozens of industry heavyweights are expected to attend. Seen here is Frank with his "first lady," the lovely (and oh-so-sharp) **Karen Nagle.** Warmest congratulations to Frank and Alpha-Omega from all of us at *RePlay*!



PUZZLE GAME HITS 300 UNIT SALES MARK



Century Vending & Distributing's *Paint 'N' Puzzle* has just been approved for use by a major worldwide fast food chain. The move comes as Century celebrates the game's 300th unit sale, advised president **Jerry Monday.** "With all the worry about violence in video games today, here's the perfect family-oriented game that kids can play and parents love," Jerry said. "We've sold it worldwide and it crosses all cultures." Seen here are Jerry and Century VP **Mike Robinson** with the popular touch-screen puzzle game.

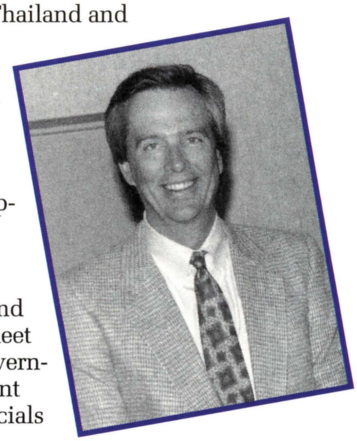
GLASCO'S MASTERPIECE PROMO

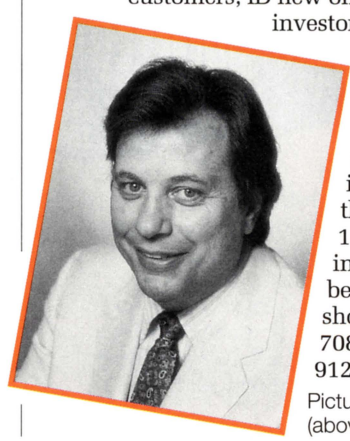
Glasco distributors are midway through the Missouri vending machine maker's current "Masterpiece Promotion" incentive program, which runs thru Nov. 30. Phase one: buy any *GS-1, GS-2* snack merchandiser or *GSC-8* can/snack combo and get a free gum & mint unit valued at $160. Next, ops who buy a *GFD-4* hot drink machine get the Gourmet International Coffee option free (a $280 value). Finally, for the arty set, if any operator buys any two of the *GS-1, GS-2, GSC-8, GFD-4* and/or *GCF-2,* he gets a set of three limited-edition original modern art prints (each is framed, numbered and signed by the artist). These paintings continue the art theme that's been displayed on current Glasco vending machines.

SOUTHEAST TRADE MISSION FOR AAMA



AAMA's approved creation of an association-sponsored trade mission to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. A delegation of coin-op trade people interested in exploring those markets will visit there between April 1 and 16. Heading the group will be **Mark Struhs** and **Ron Cararra,** both of AAMA's foreign business development committee, along with AAMA's exec director **Bob Fay.** Mission purpose: to meet current customers, ID new ones and investors, meet government officials (to address issues impacting on industry growth) and promote their AAE Show (June 7-9, 1995 in Hong Kong). Anyone interested in meeting the members of this AAMA delegation should contact Fay via phone 708/290-9088 or fax 708-290-9121.





Pictured: Bob Fay (Top), Mark Struhs (above), and Ron Carrara (left).

Okay... We dealt ourselves a few extra cards.



Every extra card we could, actually. All so our jukeboxes won't be readily obsoleted by advancing technology.

Look at the way most every kind of information is being handled these days — words, pictures, sounds, whatever — and you'll better understand why we're building our jukeboxes with the kind of flexibility that we are ... why we're dealing ourselves some extra cards, so to speak.

For example, entire sets of encyclopedias are now being stored on a single compact disc. People are flipping through their family photo albums on computer screens. And we're only seeing the beginning.

That's the reason we dealt ourselves the extra cards ... for flexibility

For example, our HyperBeam™ CD changing mechanism could care less what size or shape a CD is ... or becomes. The mechanism simply changes trays ... trays that the CD's rest in. Inexpensive, easy-to-change trays.

In fact, the entire changer that stores and plays the CD's is just an approximate 8″ x 18″ box ... a component that can be unplugged and replaced in a few minutes.

The point is this. You can buy today's NSM jukeboxes with confidence.

NSM operators will not be readily obsoleted. In fact, from everything we see, operators that are prepared will find their earnings increasing in time to come ... and location opportunities increasing even more!



With NSM, you <u>can</u> win the music game.

Call, FAX or write for a free copy of our new booklet: "Technology that works. And keeps on working."

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NEWS DIGEST

RALPH WINFIELD DEAD

Ralph Victor Winfield, one of Canada's most prominent operators whose Winfield Group also controls dealerships in both Canada and the U.S., passed away Oct. 13, 1994 after a brief but serious illness. He was only 51, and the news shocked and saddened many who were not even aware that he'd fallen ill just this past September.

Winfield came into the business some 27 years ago after a brief career as a professional hockey player. Over the years, he'd built up a huge operation that included kiddie rides clear across Canada, as well as traditional machines in several cities and towns there.His Winfield Group of companies is also the majority shareholder in Canadian Coin Machine Distributors in Burnaby, B.C. (Canada) and in American Con Machine Distributors (Portland & Seattle). He had also owned Ralph's Automatic Coin Machine Services in Burnaby. Both Mike McWilliams (American Coin) and Jim Niblock (Canadian Coin) were among the many mourners who said farewell to this soft-spoken but super-successful gentleman at the Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Oct. 19.

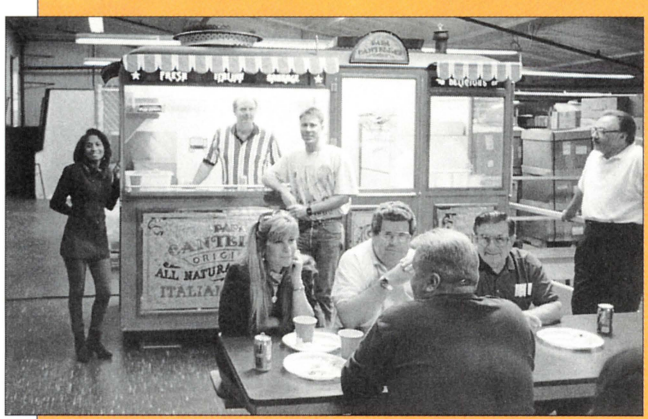


He is survived by his wife and active partner Ann Winfield, who has assumed the position of chief executive officer at the Winfield Group. Their daughter Laurie is the Group's comptroller. He is also survived by another daughter, Valdean, and his mother Martha. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in Ralph's name to the Canadian Cancer Society. May he rest in God's peace.

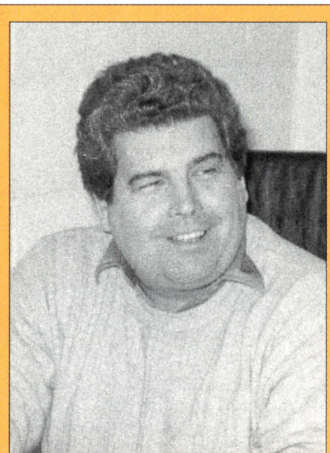
NINTENDO ON THE INFOBAHN

Nintendo of America is merging onto the information superhighway to launch its 1994 flagship video game, *Donkey Kong Country,* for the 16-bit Super Nintendo Entertainment System (Super NES). Nintendo's entry into cyberspace marks the first time a high-profile hardware and software video game manufacturer has utilized on-line technology to launch a new product. Nintendo's three-month on-line campaign, available exclusively on the CompuServe Information Service, features four interactive activities leading up to the game's worldwide release on Nov. 21. CompuServe is the leading worldwide information service with 2.3 million members. The on-line campaign began with a live conference hosted by Nintendo execs: **Minoru Arakawa,** president; **Howard Lincoln,** chairman; and **Peter Main,** marketing VP. Subsequent activities include an on-line trivia contest; an exclusive preview of *Donkey Kong Country* via downloadable video clips; and a live, technical on-line conference hosted by the game's developers and other experts answering technical questions and offering game tips...We hear singer **Tom Petty** also pulled off a "first" in October by breaking his new single — not via radio or jukebox — but on public-access computer networks. The bold marketing scheme underscores the hi-tech revolution that's shaking up all facets of the entertainment biz. Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) reports that "American songwriters are already at the forefront of the digital revolution. Their works are on the most popular interactive CD ROMs, are transmitted over on-line services, used to underscore entertainment and information in futuristic 'full-service networks' and are the lifeblood of digital music services delivered by cable, satellite, fiber and phone lines."

THE REAL GEORGE! ROCK-OLA FORGES AHEAD



At the lunch, Weymouth Distributing's John Schultz & Vicki Wysocki with Rock-Ola's Ivory Flowers, Chris Parker, George Haydocy & Frank Schulz and sausage man Tom Cantella.



Seen here is Rock-Ola's new national sales manager **George Haydocy,** whose picture was mistakenly swapped for WMS prexy Neil Nicastro's in last month's issue. (The computer did it!) Fortunately both are well-known so our goofup was easily spotted by readers. Sorry for the switch, fellows. As noted the first time, George's 35 years of trade experience brings an added dimension to the firm. R-O prexy **Glenn Streeter** cited George for his "well-deserved reputation for jukebox expertise and great rapport with jukebox operators." Happily, George has something good to sell: the company's *Rocket II: the Second Thrust* compact CD jukebox is now shipping with new hard pushbuttons and all-gold contacts, plus colorful new graphics on the glass and overlay. "We did very well on orders at the AMOA Show," said Glenn. "Everybody's ordering them in combination with our full-sized *Legends."* R-O celebrated on Oct. 18, hosting an employees' luncheon with company friend **Tom Cantella** who cooked hot Italian sausages for the whole firm. As you can see, R-O actually fork-lifted Tom's 10-ft. long, self-contained diner to the upstairs employee lunchroom!

It takes more than luck...
when it comes to your buying dollar



Benchmark Entertainment L.C.™
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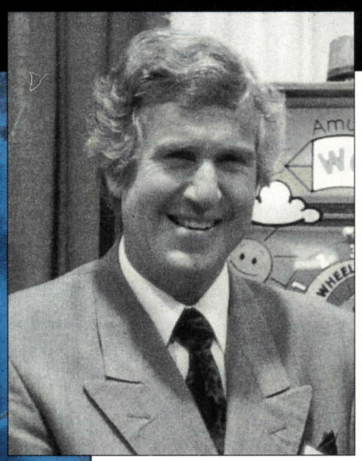
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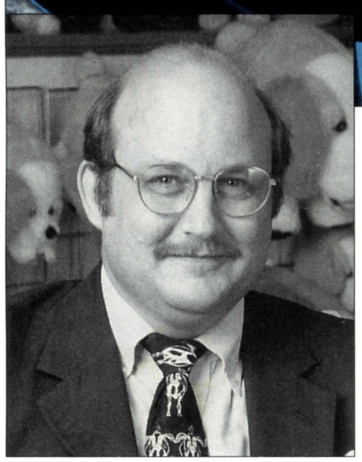




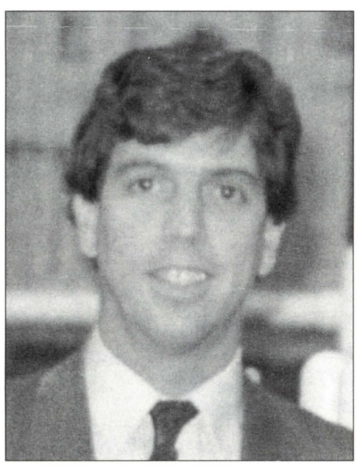
BOB DEITH



TOM KEIL



BRUCE CHAFIN



DAN DINNEBEIL

Bob Deith will become CEO of the enlarged Sega Amusements Europe where he'll expand FECs there, working with SAE's deputy chairman George Kieffer. Bob also retains his prior post as managing director of Deith Leisure, which says his new post entails "no change in our policy" of hard work to represent its various lines.

Tom Keil has joined Atari Games (Time Warner Interactive) as regional sales manager, serving under Mike Taylor. Along with Jim Newlander and Elaine Shirley, Tom has a specific North American section to cover. Most recently SNK's national accounts manager, Tom's best known for his 19 years with Brady Distributing (in fact, he makes his office right there in Brady's Charlotte, N.C. headquarters). Taylor cited Tom's "valuable experience."

Bruce Chafin has been promoted to GM of Play by Play and Laramie Interests, a new position. He spent 21 years in management at Six Flags, joining the Texas merchandising firm in 1991 where he's been a "major asset" in expansion and development. His new post will have Bruce in charge of all areas of operations including customer service, distribution, administration, purchasing and accounting.

Dan Dinnebeil, a 10-year veteran at Grayhound Electronics, has teamed up with Brian Petaccio at Classic, Inc. and been given the title president of sales. Classic makes a line of cranes (which Dan will sell) along with a variety of merchandise like plush toys and novelty packs. They also market a bill acceptor. Since Classic is located in the former Grayhound plant in Toms River, N.J., Dan can easily find his way to the job, having worked there all those years! "I spent some wonderful years at Grayhound," said Dan, "and now look forward to working with Brian and the people at Classic." Their crane line includes single, double, triple, jumbo and 5' models, candy crane and lowboy. Friends and customers wishing to say "hi" to Dan can call him at 908/286-1120 or 800/833-4667.

John Tweedy has departed from Virtuality Group PLC, the British-based leader in entertainment VR products, but will continue to have links to the firm. In his two years as business development director for their Entertainment Ltd. subsid, John spearheaded European sales and marketing. He called the move "a purely personal decision" and said he'd focus on various market opportunities for emerging technology. He'll also represent Virtuality as an independent agent to advertisers.

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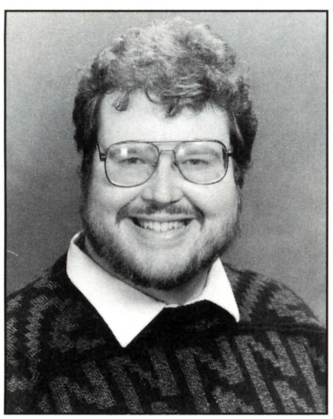
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BY MARCUS WEBB



OPERATORS: MANY IMAGES AND REALITIES

A couple of years ago we were thinking about creating a cartoon character for *RePlay*. We were going to call him "Joe Operator" and use him as a generic symbol of all American operators, to illustrate various news and features...kind of like Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty and other stock characters used in editorial cartoons. For some reason we never quite took the idea to completion, but it did spark some interesting conversations with industry figures. Subject: what should "Joe Operator" look like?

The importance of this question goes deeper than it may seem at first, because it really means "Who is the American operator...what is his public image... how professional is he...what is his future?"

When we asked AMOA's then-president, he paused and said: "I guess to be totally accurate, many operators should be represented in jeans and t-shirt. But I'd almost ask you to clean him up a little and show the operator as a businessman in coat and tie, because the better operators are becoming much more professional."

A leading distributor said: "Show the operator in black tie, top hat and tails, because he's a diplomat who must deal with cranky locations. Then put a big 'S' on his chest, like Superman, because it's such a tough job." A veteran street operator said: "Show the operator in jeans with keys on his belt. He's a working man, an honest laborer who usually doesn't earn a fortune."

Today it probably would be even harder to create a composite image of the "average" operator. In some ways, our typical reader is "that guy who runs a street route in Oswego, New York...he's got a set of keys on his belt and grease under his fingernails." That operator is still out there, no doubt about it. But as we hear constantly these days, he sometimes feels he's got one foot on a banana peel.

The other type of operator, the "new professional," is also increasing...the ones like Larry Hilimire of Stanton Automatics (also in New York, as it happens) who is more the "executive type" with a hardworking general manager overseeing the day to day business, computers on his desk, and a route of modem-linked dart games in the street.

The "black mask" stereotype of operator-as-unsavory character still lingers. A 1989 movie called "Betsy's Wedding" included a stocky, Italian-accented businessman in a 1940s style suit; he's shown going everywhere with his gun-toting bodyguard. This businessman, who couldn't walk down a city street without being sprayed with submachine gun fire, spoke of how "vending machines" were a wonderful life's work, along with refuse collection and other such professions.

But that image is fading. In her inaugural address to the AMOA annual business meeting, incoming president Tami Norberg-Paulsen said most of the public "has no image of us at all. When I meet someone and tell them what I do," she added, "their first reaction is often surprise: oh, is that a career? I never thought about it."

Tami's formed a new AMOA marketing committee whose job includes finding ways to create, project and polish the operator's image. It's a tough job these days, with all the headlines about video violence and gray area game enforcement. But AMOA has found in the past that we've got some powerful tools in the "image" game as well...like the jukebox. When NANI gets going, it may be the most powerful tool yet to create a positive operator image. After all, there's usually nothing better for somebody's image, than a great reality!

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SHORTAGE OF GOOD PCB'S OF CONCERN

There is growing concern among smaller European operators at the apparent lack of good PCB product coming from the Japanese and American originators. The concentration on dedicated product is viewed cynically as something which is great for those in Japan and the U.S. who make the games (because they make more money on complete games), but a disaster for those who operate.

The reasons are probably exactly the same as for those operators in the U.S. market who complain at a scarcity of good PCB product. The smaller operators cannot afford the prices of the dedicated games and in many instances, their locations cannot afford the room.

And the action of the anti-counterfeit squads put out onto the international circuit by the Japanese, American and British tripartate 'summits' are having an affect too. The Italian show is due this month and everyone is expecting it to be positively boring! The last game to be extensively copied by the Italians was *Mortal Kombat*. The Spaniards too have lost their taste for copying. It is felt that the reason is a combination of police activity and poor material currently on the market.

One trend which is showing some green shoots, is the indigenous manufacturers in Europe. The inability or reluctance (whichever it is) of the Japanese/American originators to come up with PCB games is perhaps opening the doors to smaller entrepreneurial figures in Europe to try their hand. Spanish developer Gaelco had a considerable success with his *World Rally* driving game and is planning a *World Rally II* for January, plus other games.

Sisteme in France has produced games of its own in the past and Nova, the giant German importer, is whispering about a whole new R. and D. company it has teamed up with for a startling new PCB product at the next German show.

So, it may be that the bid to switch the world off PCBs and into dedicated...if that is what is happening...may rebound on the game originators.

FRANCE

Bordeaux is the scene of Sega's new FEC. It is in the Virgin-Bordeaux mega store and is similar to that opened in the Marseille store. It is also opening at Festival Disney, at the entrance to EuroDisney in Paris.

Flanders Automatique, the French operating company, has opened a new amusement centre in Lille with a flexicard system to remove the use of coins altogether. Players buy credits on their card for between Ff10 and Ff30 (US$1.50-$6). All equipment is fitted with readers and the play price is deducted from the card each time.

Following the opening of his Sistemeitalie in Turin, Italy, French manufacturer Gerard Gros has established a new pool table factory under the company name EJL in Morocco. It is planned to produce 200 tables each month for the growing Moroccan market.

SWEDEN

Video lottery terminals are being made legal in Sweden and could result in up to 15,000 terminals going into operation after January 1 next year. Anywhere with a liquor license may take up to five of the units, and there are nearly 10,000 licenses in force in the country.

UK

Personnel changes in Britain include Barry Thompson moving from manufacturing director to technical director at Deith Leisure, with Andrew Tracey com-

BY CHRISTINE BUTTERWORTH

Once again, we present "Letter from Europe," brought to us by Christine Butterworth and her colleagues at InterGame, *a new UK-based monthly.*



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ing in to take over the manufacturing job. Meanwhile, Mick Blanche has left as sales director at Brent Leisure to join rivals Crown Leisure. His place at Brent has been taken by Gary Newman, whose Gary Newman Sales distribution company, around the corner from Brent, went into liquidation recently.

Sega plans to open its first European indoor theme park in the UK next year, with simulators and VR games similar to those seen in Japanese parks. The location has not yet been announced.

Kaneko of Japan is planning to launch its *Rally 2* simulator in January at the ATEI show in London, it has been announced. Currently the game is a single unit, but the new version will link up to four units. New graphics have been devised and as Kaneko has sponsored the Japanese GT Grand Prix for the past three years, it is entitled to use scenery from that race in the graphics.

GERMANY

Arachnid of the U.S. has concluded a deal with Bally Wulff, the giant German manufacturer, distributor and operator, for the German company to market is electronics darts line. The 25 Bally Wulff depots throughout Germany will be used to front the sales campaign.

Giant spare parts specialists Suzo has opened new premises at Alsdorf, near Aachen, Germany. The company also has offices in Holland, Belgium, the UK and Poland.

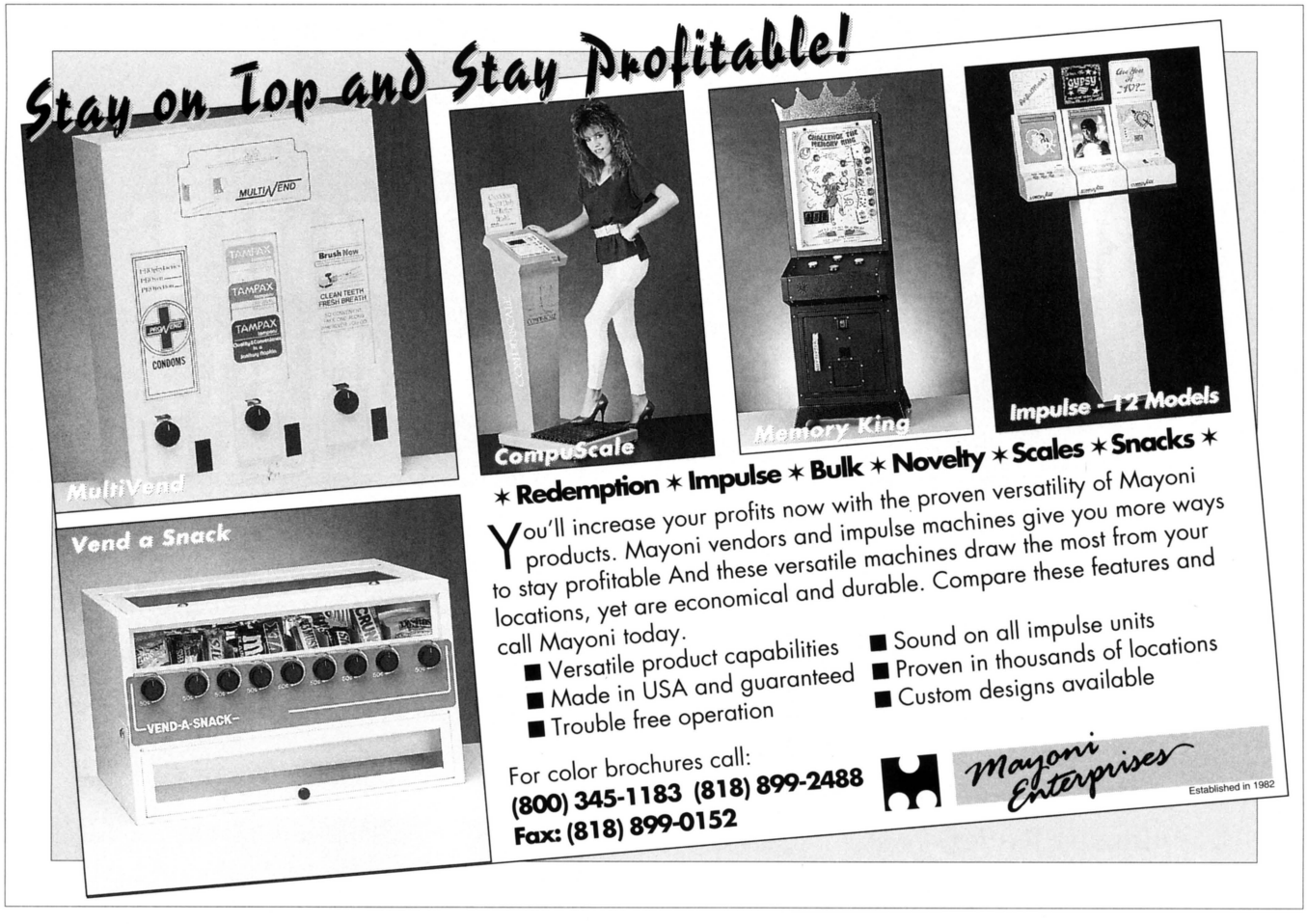
SPAIN

Spanish darts specialists Diana Marketing has come up with a new *Plus-Ultra* tip. It has two built-in screw threads enabling it to take the regular quarter-inch thread and also the smaller 2BA thread. The universal unit now has applications throughout the European market.

TURKEY

Vektor of Turkey has produced a 60-disc jukebox using a DDA (U.S.) kit and its own cabinet and power supply. The compact disc player has been developed for use in Turkey itself and also for the eastern European region.

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HOORAY FOR HOLLYCOIN

Hollywood & coin-op combine talents in Tattoo Assassins*; screenplay by Bob ("Back the Future") Gale becomes a video game*



"Games and movies are not that different," asserts Bob Gale (producer of the "Back to the Future" movies and co-author of such zany classics as "1941"). We spoke to Gale at AMOA Expo '94, where he was helping introduce his new hybrid film-to-vidgame product, *Tattoo Assassins.* Mild-mannered but intense, Gale says the basic craftsmanship of good storytelling always pays off, regardless of the vehicle. "In both media, games and movies, the goal is to entertain," he said. "You want to get the audience to laugh, to cry, to be excited, and be afraid. Content and character mean more than technology."

Gale recently got a chance to prove his theory when he teamed up once again with Data East Pinball (soon to be renamed Sega Pinball). The goal was to create a new type of video game...one which began life as a movie script.

"I had written this script about tattoos coming to life, jumping off the person's chest and killing his opponents," Gale explained. But a funny thing happened on the way to the silver screen: Data East pinball guru Joe Kaminkow got hold of the script. "Why don't we make this into a video game?" Joe suggested.

Bob Gale liked the idea. He had already collaborated closely — and very successfully — with Joe and the Data East Pinball crew on the making of their *Back to the Future* flipper game. "Of all the people who worked with us to create ancillary products," said Gale, "Joe and the Data East team were the only ones who really seemed able to appreciate the spirit of the original story, and who were able able to bring that story to life again in a new format."

As a video game fan himself, Bob Gale agreed with Joe's evaluation: the tattoo script would make a terrific game. As an artist, he was also intrigued by the chance to paint on a new, hi-tech canvas yet apply the universal rules of storytelling craftsmanship: "I wanted," he said, "to take what I knew about visual storytelling and put it into a game."

While Joe Kaminkow secured approval for the project from Data East Corp. in Japan, Gale approached "ace" low-budget movie producer Mike Marvin, who was already involved in making all-digital martial arts films. Gale asked Mike to help him make a movie which would be converted into a video game, using the tattoo concept and advanced computer technology. Mike readily signed on and began recruiting the cast and crew.

"We did the same thing to create this game as we would to make a full-blown Hollywood picture," Mike explained. "That includes hiring top crews for photography, special effects and so on." Among the talents recruited for *Tattoo Assassins* were kick boxing champ Maurice Travis, Ms. Universe contestant Joanna Lee, and stunt coordinator Eddie Wilde.

While Mike Marvin lined up the actors, stunt men and production crew, Bob Gale went to work with Oscar-winning makeup artist Bob Short to design the visual look of each character. *Tattoo Assassins* has 14 main characters, each with an unusual depth of "backstory" (character biography) and a completely unique personality and appearance.

"Doing makeup for a video game is a difficult challenge," Bob Short advised. In this game, where characters "morph" from one image to another, "The creative process gets to evolve, because the character doesn't look the same all the time," Short said. "It's a new level of work, and I really enjoyed the challenge."

When everything was ready, shooting began on a Universal Studios sound stage in Hollywood. Actors in full costume and makeup performed stunts and combat moves in front of a blue screen under Bob Gale's direction, with Joe Kaminkow looking on. (The blue screen allows moviemakers to take the actor's moving image and project it onto any background, same as your weatherman appears with satellite photos of Earth behind him.) Data East video programmers John Carpenter and Jack Liddon checked the video playback of each day's filming on computer.

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At *Tattoo Assassins'* opening night: movie industry vets Bob Short, Bob Gale and Mike Marvin with DEP's Gary Stern and Joe Kominko, and a few of the game's character actors.

Gale continued to insist that, although the film footage would be digitized and turned into video game material, the rules of good visual storytelling must be observed in this new hybrid medium. He insisted that the characters' faces always be visible. "Other games frequently cover the characters' faces with masks, or make them into robots or dinosaurs that can't express human emotion in their facial features," Joe Kaminkow pointed out. "We put hundreds of frames more animation into our programming, to present the faces." Commented Mike Marvin: "It's much harder work."

Filming ended in May of this year, and DEP's video game production teams worked round-the-clock to get the finished product ready for its Sept. 21 trade show debut. Filmed action was digitized, frame by frame, into computer bits and bytes so players could manipulate the character images. Artist Paul Ferris, whose talents have graced so many DEP pinball cabinets in the past, designed the cabinet graphics, including the tiger and dragon art.

Gameplay allows players to control one of 14 highly skilled martial artists whose magical tattoos allow them to "morph" into a variety of lethal forms. These include nine main characters, four secret characters, a major bad guy and "the tattooed lady"...whose symbol-laden back is shown as the selection screen!

Each character has tons of special moves, special weapons which reflect his or her character, and a "signature move" which is executed via the magic tattoo on his palm. (Players have to build up enough skill to rate the chance to use living-tattoo moves very often, but a novice can execute one tattoo move if he wins a round). The "Navy Seal" character has a shark tattoo; the special move involves the shark biting off the opponent's head! The "Jungle Girl" character has a tiger tattoo on her stomach and legs; it comes to life and devours the opponent. The "Leather Girl" has a spider tattoo which bites the opponent.

If this game were a movie, some of the game's story elements and humor would earn a PG rating at the very least. One character is described as a former lesbian prostitute and sex slave. And yes, one combination of buttons will cause your character to turn his or her back to the opponent, stick out his rear end and flatulate loudly...shades of "Blazing Saddles"! On the other hand, other humorous elements would be right at home on "Saturday Night Live" — like the "Figure Skater" who satirizes Olympic star Nancy Kerrigan. When she's hurt, she cries "Why me? Why me?"

Appropriately for a hybrid film-game project, Data East took out ads in the "Hollywood Reporter" and "Daily Variety." Under the headline, "What do we call it when a female Olympic figure skater beats the crap out of a biker thug, then strangles him with a living tattoo?" the copy goes on to say: *"Tattoo Assassins:* the arcade game is a spectacular blend of non-stop action, original new characters, incredible artwork, stunningly gorgeous women, outrageous humor, pulse-pounding excitement and Hollywood showmanship!" Credits are listed just like on a movie, except the Data East logo appeared at the bottom instead of Universal Studios or TriStar Pictures.

The game was slated for release in dedicated format around Nov. 1. Cabinet dimensions are 73.5" high x 25.5" wide x 40.75" deep. The company says sturdy plywood construction, vandal-proof control panel and tamper-resistant line cord make the game "practically indestructible." A BSMT-2000 three speaker stereo system adds to the powerful realism.

Video game industry founder and interactive guru Nolan Bushnell has been predicting a marriage of movies and video games for years. Bob Gale's and Joe Kaminkow's brainchild could be the best evidence yet that Bushnell was right about the industry's future direction. Kaminkow may have summed it up best: "With *Tattoo Assassins,* we have combined the talents of Hollywood and coin-op to bring a unique entertainment experience to the player, one that synergizes the best of visual storytelling with interactive gameplay." See it at your authorized distributor. ◆

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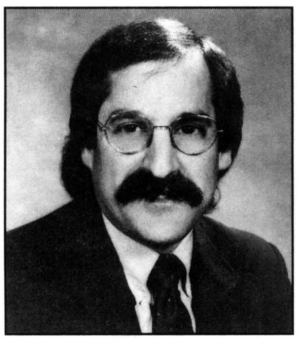
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FALL FLIPPERFEST

players, collectors and devotees of the silverball will gather in Rosemont, Ill. for the 10th Annual Pinball Expo

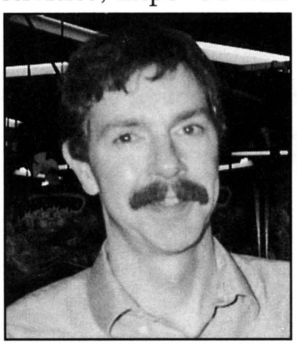


Pinball aficionados rejoice! Pinball Expo '94 is just around the corner and organizers are putting the final touches on what promises to be their biggest show ever, capping off a decade of successful annual gatherings. The 10th anniversary celebration takes place Nov. 10-13 at the Ramada Inn O'Hare (Rosemont, Ill.) near Chicago, the birthplace and headquarters for the pinball industry. This fitting locale will host thousands of pinball enthusiasts from as far away as Japan, Australia and Germany, making it a must-see event for fans of the silverball.



"This year, attendees can look forward to an all-new line-up of exciting pinball action, info and surprises," said Expo chairman Robert Berk. "We're outdoing ourselves in ways we never thought imaginable just one year ago. The ever-growing mass appeal of pinball is reaching a fever pitch and only at Expo '94 are both casual and spirited devotees alike able to mingle with luminaries of the pinball industry. Our guest list and event roster are jam-packed with an incredible array of pinball wonderment and exceeds everything we've ever done before."

Along with a bevy of fun activities, Expo '94 will present a double-header tour of both the Data East pinball factory, where such hits as *Jurassic Park, Batman* and *Tales From the Crypt* where conceived and produced,



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and the Electrical Windings Coil factory, the Donal Murphy facility where, along with the production of pinball components, is housed one of the hobby's most prized collection of games.

"The tour is considered one of the Expo highlights," Berk said. "But the real excitement begins when the exhibit hall, seminars, autograph sessions and tournaments get underway in the hotel. We've even arranged a hands-on 'class' of how to play better pinball. There are special tricks and techniques to achieve consistent high scores, and the instructors will be selected from past Flip-Out Tournament winners and top qualifiers. Even the best among the crowd will learn a thing or two."

Also among the crowd will be a number of well-known pinball designers, artists, authors and technicians. The show will be a gathering place for some of pinball's biggest celebrities, such as artists Dave Christiansen (Bally's *Fireball),* Greg Freres (William's *Star Trek: The Next Generation),* Python Anghelo (William's *High Speed)* and Kevin O'Connor (Bally's *World Cup Soccer).*

Fans will be able to meet and chat with esteemed book authors Roger Sharpe ("Pinball!"), Dick Bueschel ("Pinball I"), Heribert Eiden ("Pinball Machines") of Germany, and Gary Flower ("Pinball - Lure of the Silverball") of England, as well as the publisher of the *pinGame Journal,* Jim Schelberg. The industry's top designers from Premier/Gottlieb, Data East, Williams and Bally/Midway will also be on hand; these include Steve Kordek, Pat Lawlor, Joe Kaminkow and Jon Norris among others.

For the first time in its 10-year history, the Pinball Expo will be open around-the-clock from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening, with hundreds of pinball machines on display for play or purchase. Adding to this highly charged atmosphere is the exciting Flip-Out Tournament, where top players will battle it out for a brand new pinball machine. The event is further rounded out with a seminar on dot-matrix animation, an auction of over 200 pingames, and the awards banquet.

Originally intended as a one-time-only venture, the first Pinball Expo barely managed to attract 200 attendees. But the show's success over the last nine years reflects the growing popularity of the sport of pinball, and the 10th anniversary bash should be bigger and better than ever.

"Our proximity to the people who make pinball happen and the incredible support we receive from them are key elements to our success," Berk said. "We're very proud of our achievements during the past decade and hope to do more for everyone in the hobby in the coming years. Pinball Expo draws a wonderful crowd of people who are full of camaraderie and have a love for pinball. This translates into a wonderful experience for all."

For more information, contact Rob Berk at 800/323-3547 or 216/369-1192; or Exhibits chairman Mike Pacak at 800/321-2722 or 216/758-0565.

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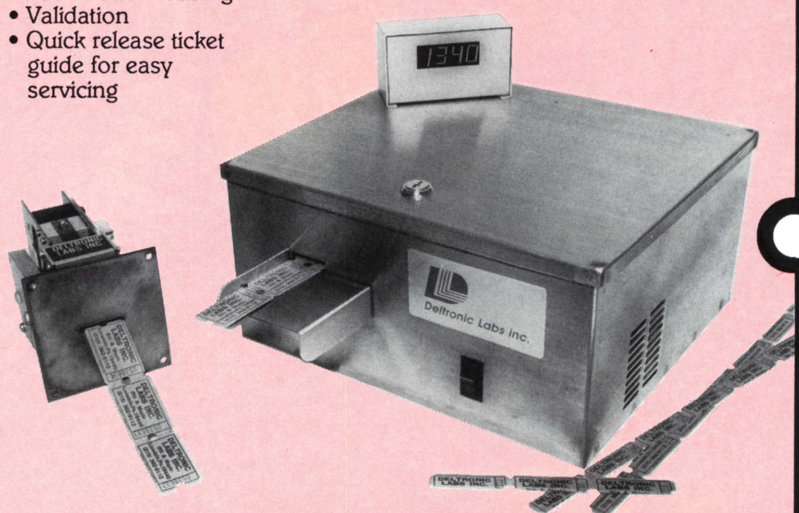
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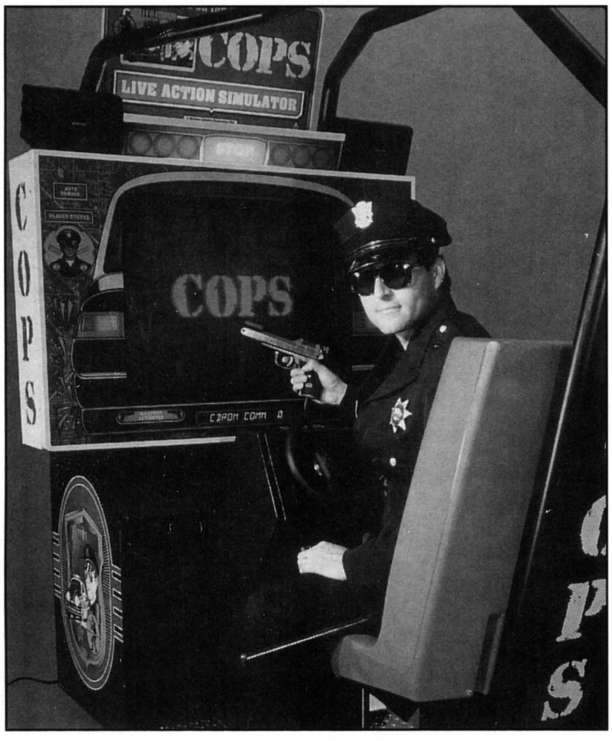
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RED HOT AND BLUE

based on the smash TV series, Cops *is a new live-action driving/shooting simulator from Time Warner Interactive*



Bad boys, bad boys. Whatcha gonna do? Viewers of the popularly syndicated TV show "Cops" have always had a front row seat when the men and women of law enforcement move in for a bust. But if you want to really get in on the action, then put down the chips, get off the couch and check out *Cops,* a live-action, interactive video based on the hit TV series, from Time Warner Interactive (Atari Games).

Premiering at the recent AMOA Expo in San Antonio, *Cops* is a one-player sitdown driver/gun game featuring actual video footage shot on location in Los Angeles with stunt drivers and actual police officers. Just like the series on which it is based, *Cops* introduces players to a world of tense high-speed chases and dangerous street encounters.

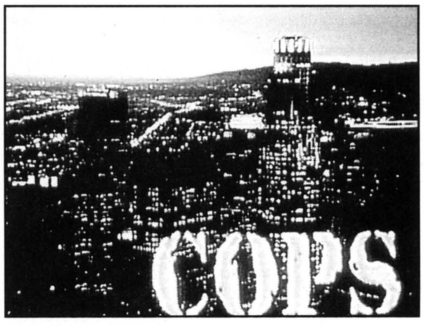
"The built-in awareness of the TV show is an immediate attraction to a wide range of players," said Mary Fujihara, TWI's vice president of marketing. "The live-action footage and 'Bad Boys' song delivers a fun and entertaining experience that is very new to players."

Players can select from one of three action modes: Driving, Shooting and a combination option. The driving scenes include a police training course, a high-speed night chase and a white-knuckle pass through a sniper alley. Shooting action includes eight unique attack waves, with different criminals and backgrounds. A realistic police car seat, authentic-looking handgun and feedback steering add to the thrills.

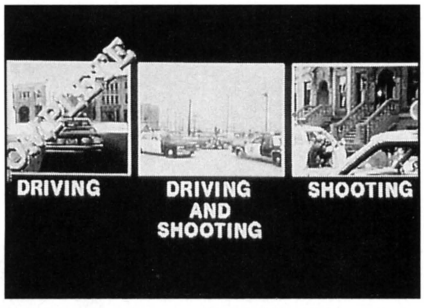
Other features include a deluxe cabinet complete with graphics and rollbar, a 33-inch monitor, digital sound effects and music enhanced by high-quality Bose speakers. A reliable Sony laserdisc player generates the action-packed graphics, and includes a one-year warranty on parts. "The overall package of this game," Fujihara added, "makes it a unique attraction piece that takes up a lot less floor space than other deluxe pieces."

In response to the growing number of family entertainment centers, *Cops* also includes a ticket redemption option. The unit has a built-in plate ready for standard ticket dispensers. Once the dispenser is in place, operators can adjust the number of tickets based on score thresholds.

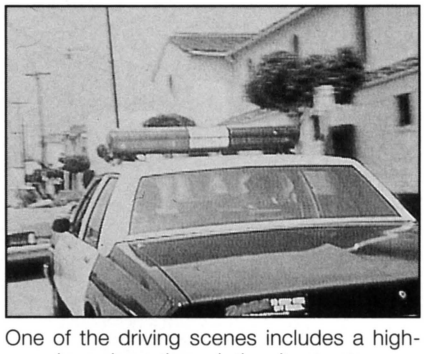
According to Time Warner Interactive, *Cops* will hit the mean streets this month. Also in production is the first of a series of updated discs for the new game. Currently shooting on location is "Cops in New York," and it should ready for delivery next spring. For more information, contact an authorized distributor.



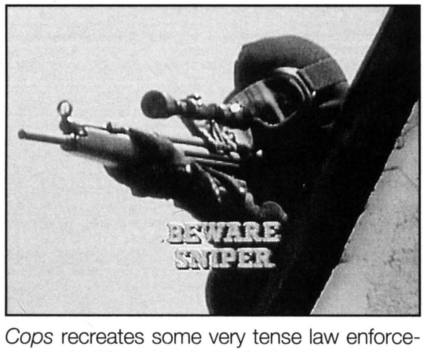
Like the hit TV show, the live-action footage used in *Cops* is shot in a real American city...this time it's L.A.



Players can choose either the driving mode, shooting mode or an action-packed combination of the two.



One of the driving scenes includes a high-speed car chase through the city streets.



Cops recreates some very tense law enforcement situations, such as finding yourself in a sniper's crosshairs.

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SEND IN THE CLOWNS

adored by multitudes of children, Bozo lends his everlasting charm to a pair of kiddie rides from Denver-based Kiddie Rides USA

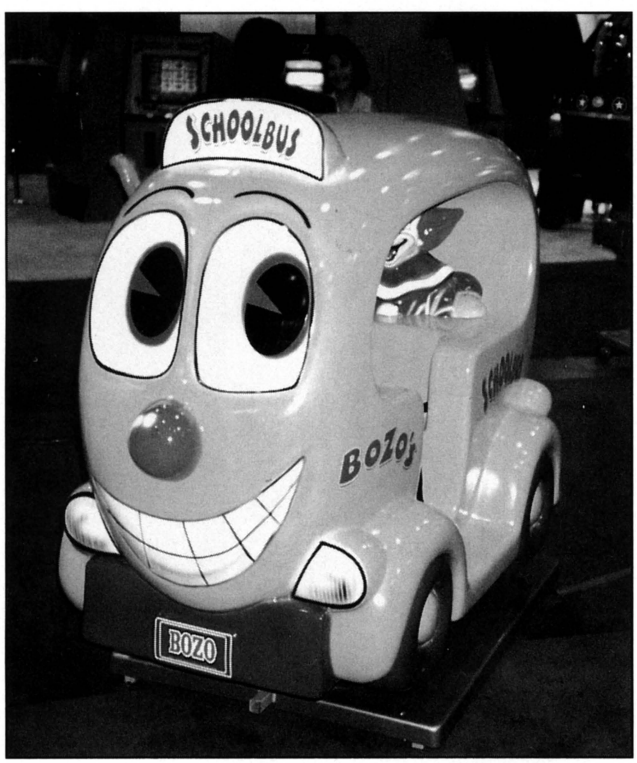
Emmet Kelly. Clarabell. Ronald McDonald. In the pantheon of clowns, one name rises above the rest — Bozo. For almost half a decade, Bozo has made a lasting impression on generations, becoming a favorite merry prankster for millions of children. In 1996, Bozo will celebrate his 50th anniversary, and both a feature film and stage show are in the works. Now, Kiddie Rides USA has teamed up with this world-famous TV star to create not one, but two colorful new kiddie rides.

"Kiddie Rides USA has created two whimsical Bozo coin-operated vehicles, which will hit the market this fall and bring a whole new structural dimension and excitement to the kiddie ride industry," said project coordinator Brain Carasik, who called it his company's most ambitious new product introduction to date.

"We started out with one *Bozo mobile,"* he added, "but the results were so unique and eye-catching that we immediately decided to move ahead with the second design, the *Bozo School Bus."*

Both Bozo products are manufactured at KRU's impressive new Denver facility, and are UL listed. They feature mechanical operation with forward-backward motion provided by a unique six-wheel system. There's an attract mode in which Bozo playfully asks kids to hop on board, and seat belts to hold them in place once they're ready. Children hear educational songs (for instance, there's one about counting) and messages promoting safety as they enjoy the experience.





Bozo creator Larry Harmon himself supplied the distinctive music, voice-overs and laughtrack for the rides. "We are thrilled to be associated with Kiddie Rides USA," he said. "With thousands of Bozo-licensed products to our credit, this counts as one of the more unusual and innovative. Children nationwide will really love a chance to ride these vehicles as much as they love to meet Bozo in person and be on the Bozo TV show."

The response to the *Bozo mobile* and *Bozo School Bus* at the recent AMOA Expo in San Antonio and Fun Expo in Las Vegas has been excellent, according to Brian Carasik, who noted that the company has increased production time in order to have the rides ready to ship within 30 days of taking orders.

For more information on KRU's Bozo products and other rides, visit an authorized distributor or call Kiddie Rides USA at 800/448-6888.

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THE BIG SPIN

Combining bingo with an element of skill, Skilo *is a new redemption games system that's exciting and easy to play*



A smiling Jim Pietrangelo, national sales manager for Skilo Bingo, waves from behind a row of *Skilo* player tables. Players use buttons to stop the spinning number wheel.

At this year's AMOA Expo in San Antonio, a new company entered the crowded field of redemption manufacturers with a unique game that borrows from an old concept familiar to virtually everyone and gives it a modern update.

Essentially a high-tech version of bingo, *Skilo* is a system of linked, multi-player units utilizing a central control panel and a large spinning number wheel that can be controlled by the players. According to the company, Skilo Bingo, Inc., this added element of skill makes the game available to all markets.

"We were very excited by the response to *Skilo* at AMOA," said coin-op vet Jim Pietrangelo, who is now national sales manager at Skilo Bingo. "It's my opinion that *Skilo* will be the game that breaks through to that segment of potential players who, until now, have had little reason to patronize FECs."

Just like traditional bingo, *Skilo* has players using markers to cover numbers on their *Skilo* cards in an attempt to line up five numbers in a row — either horizontally, vertically or diagonally. However, instead of having the numbers drawn at random, players control the game by starting and stopping the *Skilo* wheel with "stop" and "go" buttons located at each player station. Once the player has a winning pattern, he pushes the "call attendant" button, freezing the game. After the attendant verifies the win, the caller enters the winning number or numbers and the system will then automatically send the appropriate number of points to the winning table(s).

The *Skilo* player table consists of a $1, $5, $10 and $20 bill acceptor, two ticket dispensers (each containing different value tickets), an adjustable coin acceptor, a card reader, stop and go buttons, replay and cancel buttons, a *Skilo*/call attendant button, markers and bar coded cards. All of the tables have their own identifying number and are electronically connected to a caller station as a means to transfer data.

Money inserted into each table is held in the table bank, which is displayed on an LED. The can select cards by scanning the bar code on each card chosen; this automatically deducts money from the "bank" and registers the card as "in play." All of this information is transferred to the caller's table so that he knows how much money is being played on the total game, how many total players and what cards are being played.

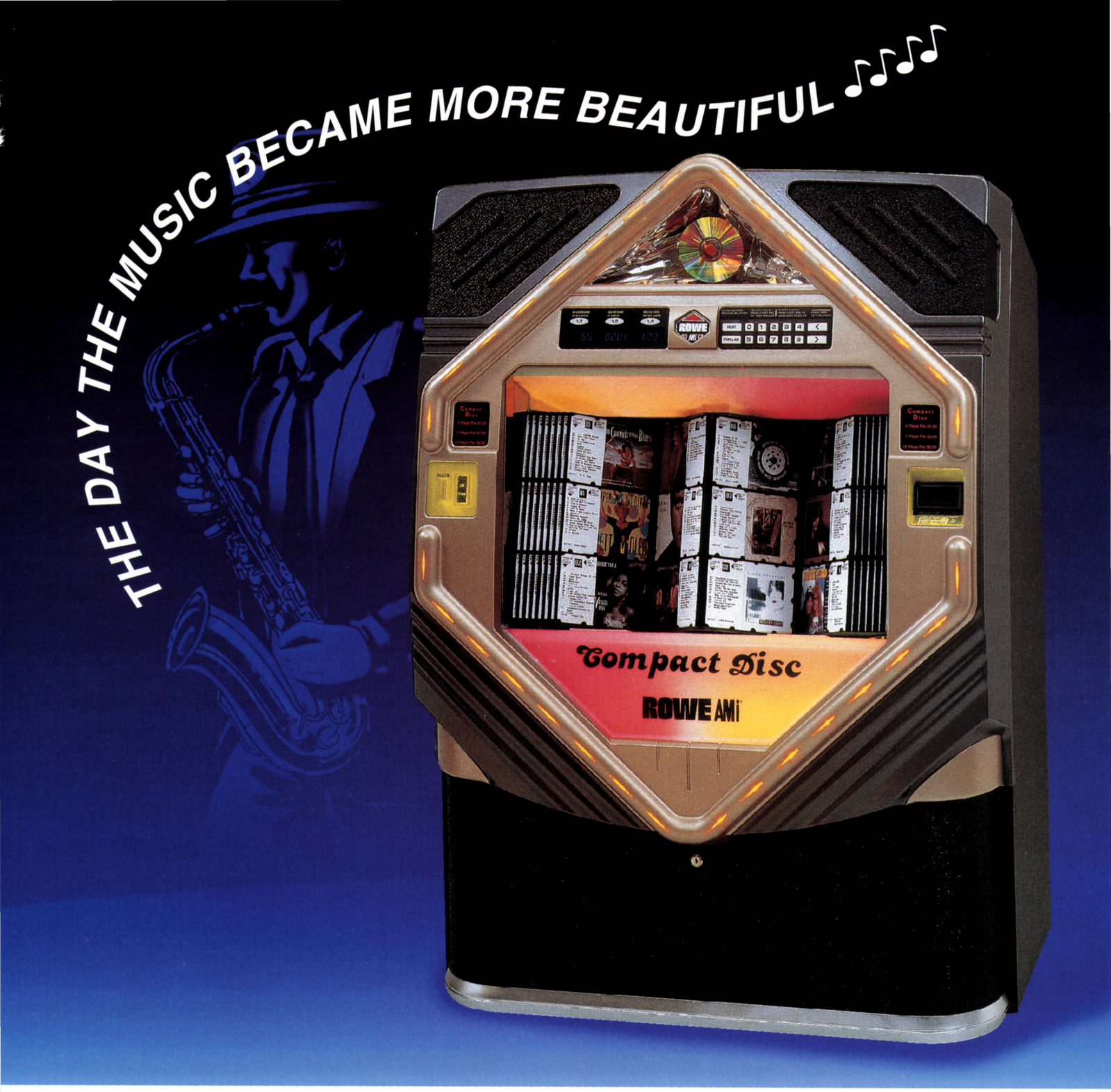
The master control panel at the caller's table consists of four buttons: "new game," "wheel enable," "start wheel" and "stop wheel." Other components included are a keypad, a two-line LCD display, a switchboard to light up a flashboard showing numbers called, and a pattern indicator switchboard. This is all that's needed to control the game.

The *Skilo* master system gathers all pertinent player information, calculates an adjustable percentage payout, then displays the number of points being played for on a tote board for all to see. The number of points won will show up on an LED readout at the winner's table. The system will also automatically award all players some tickets, thus ensuring a prize every time.

A computer interfaces with the master control panel, tracking all bookkeeping functions for each game, as well as giving a complete overview of the entire day. The computer is on-line at all times for information access, either on site or from a remote location, and, of course, it's password protected.

Skilo's comprehensive game system all began with an idea developed by Skilo Bingo president Lou Cappetta, who is also CEO of Arms International, Inc. (which provides support for *Skilo's* computer system). After a lot of time and effort, the original concept of taking something old and making it new became a reality. Citing the positive feedback he received at the game's AMOA Expo debut, Lou announced that "*Skilo* answers the industry's cry for a game that will appeal to all players — young, old and in-between."

For more information, contact Skilo Bingo, Inc. at 800/997-5456 or (in N.J.) 908/367-3434.



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In the photos on this page, we see some neat overview shots of the JAMMA 1994 show floor as well as the welcoming reception and tape-cutting ceremony. At the podium (above), JAMMA Chairman Hayao Nakayama gives his opening ceremony presentation. Below, industry dignitaries (including BACTA Chairman Roger Withers) cut the tape officially opening the JAMMA tradeshow.





STARS AT JAMMA

lower attendance, promising technology marks 32nd Tokyo show
by John Ryan, Asia correspondent

(The following report also appears in *Amusement Business Europe.)* The thought on the minds of most of the foreign visitors at the 32nd JAMMA Show was not "If only *Virtua Fighter 2* was ready by Christmas..." or "Which of the myriad of soccer games am I going to fork out for?", but "How on earth are my heart and my pocket going to survive two major shows in five days?" The only ones happy over the mix-up between JAMMA and AMOA were American Airlines, who made a windfall from the insatiable show-lovers travelling from Tokyo to San Antonio on the evening of the second day of the show.

Sega's president, Hayao Nakayama, made the opening speech in his role as JAMMA's chief. He said it was one of the duties of Japanese manufacturers to set up location operations overseas in order to advance the level of sophistication there. With spending in Japan's game centers down a whopping 13%, no wonder Japanese manufacturers are looking to open up foreign markets....The official show catalog stated the size of the world



At the Sega JAMMA exhibit we find (clockwise from upper left): *Tecwar* (Sega's virtual reality game), *Golden Axe the Duel,* the *Virtua Cop* shooting game, a bank of *Daytona USA Specials*, Sega's *Saturn* (consumer-use video machine). In the middle photograph, Sega's *Virtua Fighters.*



Products shown at Namco's exhibit (clockwise from above): *Tekken, Ace Driver* in both upright (with seats) and full sitdown deluxe models and *GunBullet.*

game arcade market in 1993 at 427 billion yen (about $4.2 billion dollars), and predicted annual growth over the next 16 years to average 1.2% for a market size of 608 billion yen in 2010.

ATTENDANCE WAS DOWN

This year's JAMMA Show, the second where overseas manufacturers were permitted to exhibit, saw America represented again by four manufacturers (Bob's, Lazer-Tron, Omni and Doyle); Europe was represented by none. In contrast, very few U.S. visitors were in evidence, while the usual European faces were out in force. The absence of American visitors was reflected in the number of overseas visitors (711 on the first two days of the show, compared to 935 last year).

As many Japanese people also left for the U.S. on the second day, overall attendance for the first two days was only 17,398...down from 21,049 last year. The clash of dates also robbed the show of the grandly-named summit meeting between U.S., Japanese and European powers-that-be, and the tape-cutting ceremony was given its international flavor not by an American but by the president of BACTA, Rodger Withers.

The numbers attending the show on the first day was down from recent years as a result of the AMOA factor and the efforts by Japanese



At the 1994 JAMMA show we find U.S. redemption experts Ted Sloan (of Bob's Space Racers) and Doyle's own Skip Doyle with some lovely ladies.

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Above, Jaleco's *World PK Soccer* game in which players actually kick a "ball" and, at left, their *Super Striker* video (also soccer play but video only).

manufacturers to limit attendance by their R&D staff to the second and third days. This left the salesmen on several less-popular booths chatting up the long-legged beauties hired for the day, instead of buttering up potential buyers. Few international visitors seemed to mind, however, as it made a pleasant change from the crowds and noise of the recent past.

NEW GAMES AT JAMMA '94

While the crowds were impressive and the technology hinted at a brighter post-recession future, the show lacked a real star product. There was no *Street Fighter II* and no *Virtua Fighter* and each visitor suggested a different game as a potential winner. The only common point was that there was no can't-fail, sure-fire winner. Some found Sega's *Virtua Cop* impressive; others put their faith in Tecmo's new soccer game. Data East's basketball game *Street Hoop* had several fans and Konami surprised many with its



At Taito's booth (clockwise from right): *Space Invaders DX,* Williams' *Demolition Man* and *The Flintstones* which were shown at the booth, Taito's *Real Puncher* novelty/video game, *Operation Wolf 3, Chase Bombers* & Taito's virtual reality game.

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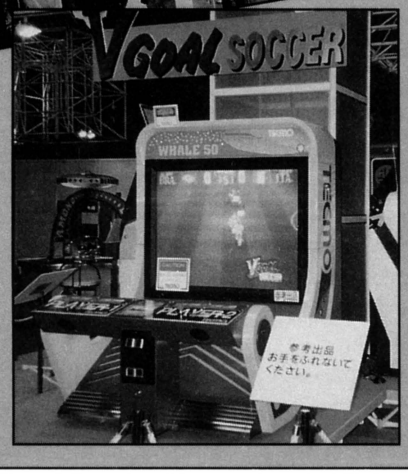
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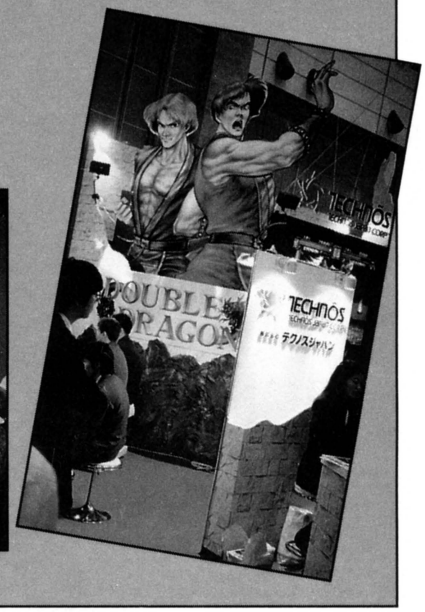
At Tecmo (left) a look at the firm's display for JAMMA 1994; below, the firm's *World Cup Soccer* pinball machines; below right, the *V-Goal Soccer* video with large screen.





TECHNOS

Technos Japan Corp. had a great display for their *Double Dragon.*



Speed King 360 degree simulator with texture-mapping graphics.

Rather than individual games, it was the glitz and glamor of the hi-tech machines, the colorful balloons, and flashing display of lights that were the most outstanding feature of the 1994 JAMMA Show. By the way, a significant trend at this year's show was the appearance of consumer machines on the stands of several manufacturers, especially Sega and SNK. Of course, JAMMA included many of the same coin-op products which Americans saw at AMOA Expo '94 (see *RePlay's* report on that show in our October issue). The following describes some — but certainly not all — of the products seen exclusively in Japan.

Sega led the field in terms of booth

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★ Poodles, Lions, Cubs
★ Bears, Monkeys, Cats
★ Elephants, Dogs, Tigers
★ Looney Tunes, Gorilla's

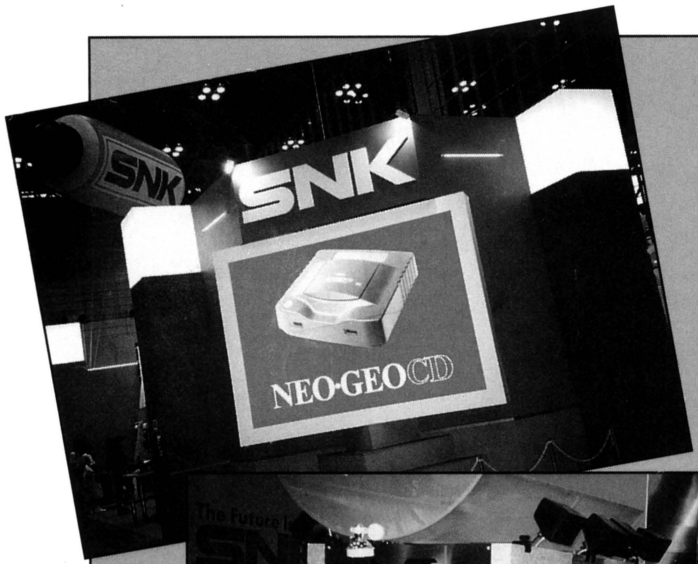
PRE-PACK'S
★ Plush Pak's 80¢ to $3 average
★ Sport Pak's ★ Football Pak's
★ Candy Crane Mixes
★ Christmas 100% Pak's

CHRISTMAS ITEMS
★ Pins, Jewelry, Necklaces, Rings ★ Musical Plush Toys
★ Talking Mr & Mrs Santa
★ Musical Watches ★ Stocking Hats

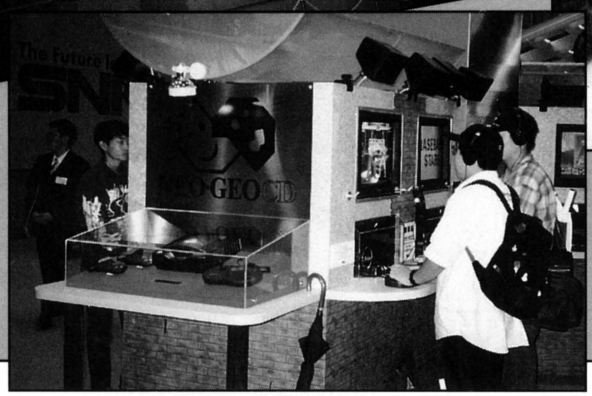
LOONEY TUNES
★ 3-D Watches
★ Key Chains
★ Plush Toys
★ Photo Buttons
★ Alarm Clocks
★ Footballs

BATTERY OPERATED TOYS
200 Items
★ Remote Control Cars
★ Talking Robots ★ Talking Parrot Plush
★ Musical Ice Cream Truck's
★ Racing Slot Car Sets
★ Fire Engine Trucks

SNK







SNK's booth showed off the *Neo•Geo CD* for consumer use (pictured upper left) and *Samurai Shodown 2* (pictured above). At left, is a look at showgoers trying out the *Neo•Geo CD*.



DATA EAST



Data East showed *Locked N Loaded* (titled here as *Gunhard*) pictured below, as well as their *Guns N' Roses* pinball in the photograph at left.



KONAMI

Available for play by JAMMA showgoers at Konami's exhibit, the awesome *Speed King* attraction (pictured below) and the firm's *Soccer Superstars* video game (above).





The lovely ladies of Capcom welcomed showgoers to their display (upper left). Above and left, game playing action at the Capcom booth on *Armored Warriors.*

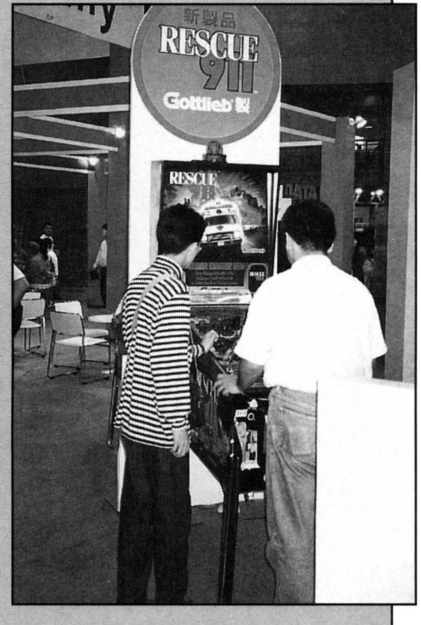
size, taking 136 units. They showed a long-awaited virtual reality game, *Tec War,* which is based on the VR game developed specifically for their Joypolis mini-theme park in Yokohama. Still under development, this includes Sega's own original design for a head-mounted display, and is expected to enable VR technology to be used in a greater number of locations. Sega also previewed the first two games for its forthcoming 32-bit coin-op game system (formerly called Titan, it's now designated ST-V): *Golden Axe: the Duel,* for an expected December release, and *Title Fight 2* which uses advanced computer graphics. Sega also showed its Saturn home video system, where the software uses the same chips as the coin-op version of the games. This allows the games to be converted more easily from coin-op to consumer use and also leads to cheaper prices for coin-op games due to economies of scale in chip production, said a Sega spokesman.

Namco and SNK showed the same products in Japan as they did at AMOA Expo. Taito showed a stock-car racing game, *Chase Bomber,* which takes demolition derby driving to new heights with a variety of weapons. Capcom showed *Slam Masters II: Ring of Destruction* for a late October release; it borrows several elements from *Street Fighter II* — for example, the first two get two out of three battles, wins. No sneak preview of Capcom's *X-Men* was given. Jaleco had a vertical shooting game called *Gun Bird,* while Data East showed *Dream Soccer '94* and *Street Hoop* (the latter is for Neo-Geo).

Dates for next year's JAMMA Show are Sept. 13-15. Those of AMOA? Sept. 21-23. Phew! ◆

SAMMY

American Sammy showed the Premier Technology Gottlieb pin, *Rescue 911.*



VISCO



At the Visco display, the firm's *Drift Out '94.*

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OFF THE ROAD

BY ED ADLUM



The author on holiday meets coin machine at Blarney Castle in its rustic "suit of clothes." Ed's wearing a video camera, not an Uzi (and that's no Blarney!).

TEARIN' UP THE GREEN

Aristotle Nusbaum, the great Brooklyn philosopher, once told me "there's more to life than coin machines, boychick; there's the ones that use paper money too!" And, there's Ireland...a place on the planet and a place in the heart which I finally visited after my work on our October Post-Expo issue was finally finished.

I'm one of those fellows who spent their working life convinced that I was among the "elite" that rarely took vacations. For reasons I won't go into here, I opted for a more balanced life in recent times to see what's going on outside of Los Angeles...if not outside the distributor's showroom...off the road," as it were.

I originally started "weaning" off the typewriter and into "vacationland" about two years ago, with a local trip to Lake Arrowhead, then a more courageous jaunt up to Monterey. Ultimately, I did a bit of Alaska, Hawaii and Baja. This time I took a bigger gulp and jetted off to see where the other half of my German/Irish ancestors came from.

I'd done Germany, but never Ireland. I'm happy to report it really is the land of "forty shades of green" and actually looks like the travel posters. It was one of the finest weeks of my life and I intend to return, maybe not in John Wayne style as in "The Quiet Man" movie (i.e. forever), but return I will.

As my friends know, I haven't had a drop in over two years, which is a grand thing because like grass, sheep and rocks, Ireland is loaded with pubs. Yes, there really are an incredible (as in "unbelievable") number of bars there (sometimes two and even three side-to-side on a street in a small city). But I was surprised at the number I visited (for coffee and atmosphere) that didn't have a single coin machine except the cigarette vender.

You might think since the Irish love their music and their Guinness, the country would be a jukebox operator's dream. Nothing of the kind, lad. Although I hardly did a "scientific survey," only a handful of maybe two dozen pubs I inspected had a music machine, let along a video or pingame. Pool tables? Yes, depending on location size. But music? When I did finally run into an actual CD machine, it was an event.

The explanation is a cultural one. It seems the Irish pub is far more than a watering hole. It's the "community center" where people love to gather and chat it up. And, apparently, a lot of them don't want that conversation interrupted by music.

As I said, this wasn't a scientific study, so I'd better leave that subject for more learned observers like Marty Dempsey. But one last observation: if the rest of the pubs *did* have jukes, the programming probably wouldn't be traditional Irish, gauged by the amount of American rock and country heard on the radio and sold in the stores (Willie Nelson was appearing in Cork as I was moving toward Tipperary).

MY NEW FRIEND PAT

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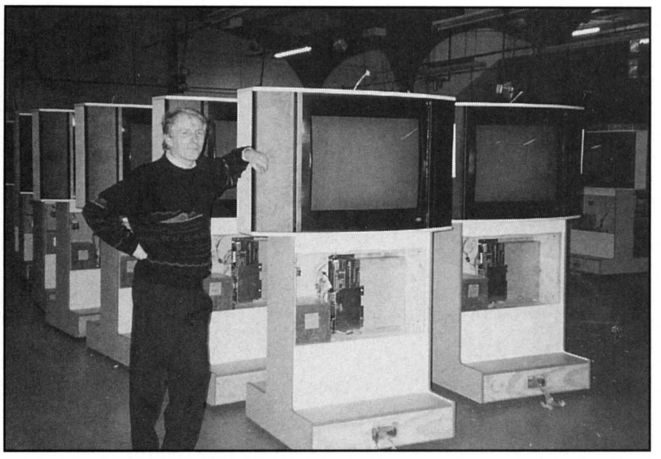
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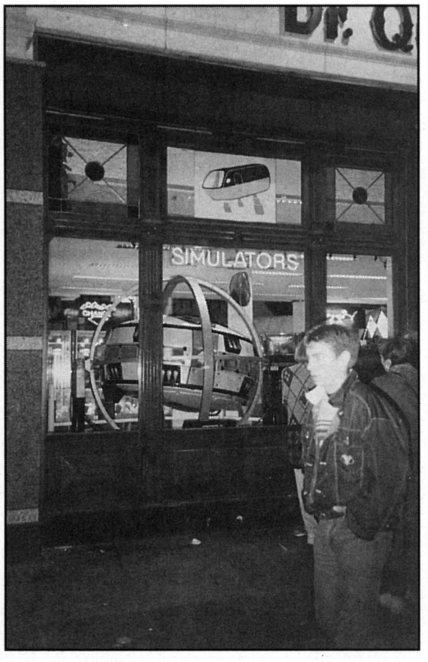
Atari Ireland's genial Pat Pickham more than typified the hospitable Irishman after waiting a hour and a half for Ed to show up at the Tipperary factory with not even a wee complaint!



Atari's *Primal Rage* will go into these *Showcase 33* cabinets. A run of *Rage* in Atari's "family" (upright) cabinets was completed previously.



Another *T-Mek* is skidded and after the front "furniture" is added, would be off to a customer somewhere in Europe.



Sega's *G-LOC* is upfront at McConnell St. game room in Dublin.

have to tell you it *was* a long way to Tipperary. The "coin business magnet" started pulling me there to see the Atari factory even before I got off the plane in Shannon. After a phonecall to set up a meeting with the plant's longtime manager Pat Pickham, I was an hour and a half late getting there, trying to keep my rental car out of the bushes on the left side of those narrow roads (they drive on the "wrong side" like our pals in the U.K.).

Bat Pat typified what I learned was another cultural trait of the Irish...hospitality to strangers. While the whole plant was shut down, he waited for me to show up, brushed off all my apologies and took me on a quick tour of this first class facility.

Formally called Atari Games Ireland Ltd., this 55,000 sq. ft. game and cabinet building plant not only turns out complete Atari games for the European and other offshore markets, but offers contract manufacturing for friendly competitors (e.g. Sega has used their excellent services to build some of its games). They also have supplied conversion cabinets to such European giants as Nova in Germany.

Atari's been in Tipperary since 1978 and Pat's been with them since 1980. He's justifiably proud of his plant, its harness-making operation and its enviable woodworking facility (the latter can be quite noisy when it's at full bore, but we missed this "music" because we were late).

Around 55 people work at Atari Ireland, but that can shoot up to 80 when required. With jobs at a scarcity in Ireland, and with good working conditions and a glamourous company name (not to mention a great boss), few if any show up late for work on Monday morning. Some visiting journalists might pick up the hint.

ON TO DUBLIN

Pat commutes to Tipperary from Limerick, a city I'd bypassed preferring to spend my time looking in the countryside and at the castles. But you can't go to Ireland without seeing Dublin...a major European city you have to be born in if you expect to successfully navigate the streets. Almost one out of every three Irish people live in Dublin!

I got lucky and was given a parking space by the manager of my hotel as he was going home. I think the nearest open space to that was in Tipperary. This city is crammed and jammed with people and little cars. They have some pubs too...and for the first time since passing through the city of Galway, I saw a couple of arcades...including one with a Sega *G-LOC* gyroscope ride right there in the front window at a place on O'Connell St. ($3.25 a ride).

So, after tearing up the green countryside for eight days, I gave Hertz their "weedwacker" back, checked in at the airport and converted to American money. On that last note, the Irish pound (worth about $1.62), is only circulated as a coin now. It's called the "punt," is heavy like the old American silver dollar, and it's regularly used. In fact, one gent in a pub told me one of the reasons they're used is because they're kind of heavy to carry in your pants pocket. AAMA, take note!

◆

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SECOND INWARD MISSION

trade writers get earful of U.K. industry in series of London meetings

BY MARTIN DEMPSEY

Fair Play and *Coin-Op News*

"The myth that British companies are only good at innovating and poor at marketing was well and truly exploded at the Second Inward Mission" said a dispatch from the BACTA association about this Aug. 30 to Sept. 1 visit to London by myself and sixteen of my colleagues from the world's amusement press.

An equal number of manufacturers and/or distributors who were selected by co-funders the Dept. of Trade and Industry joined us in this face-to-face examination of their industry. Said Peter Rushbridge, exhibition manager of the ATEI show: "If any of our guests harbored reservations about the commitment British manufacturers have in tackling international markets, they were swiftly won over."

I have to say that after meeting these people and hearing addresses by leading members of BACTA, ATEI, politicians and representatives of the DTI, the journalists went home with a crystal clear picture of what both the U.K. amusement and gaming industries and ATEI have to offer.

Amongst the manufacturers and distributors who participated in this Inward Mission were Deith Leisure, Electrocoin, Brent Leisure, Maygay, ACE, Project Coin, Bell Fruit, JPM, Virtuality Group, Tornado, Elton Amusement Pdts., Whittaker Bros., Pan Amusements, J.M. Kiddie Rides, Harry Levy and Jolly Roger.

The British amusement and gaming industries employ 125,000 people in manufacturing, distribution and operating...around the same number as British Rail. Amusement machines have a annual turnover of 9 billion pounds and overall, the industry contributes 100 million pounds per year in gaming machine license duty, and over 300 million pounds in value added taxes.

Machines to the value of 145 million pounds were produced in the U.K. during 1993. This contributed a 47 million pound U.K. surplus. Exports of new gaming machine equipment have increased by nearly 53% from Dec. 1990 to April 1993 and exports continue to rise.

It became obvious during the interviews with manufacturers that in addition to the well-publicized fruit machine manufacturing business, there also exists in the UK a very solid manufacturing business for kiddie rides, novelty games and redemption equipment. This is an area where much export business has been done and one, which until now, has gone largely unpublished.



Some of the coin-op trade journalists who participated in the Inward Mission prepare to board a restored 30 year old London bus for their visit to Parliament.



Lord Allen of Abbeydale, member of the House of Lords and former chairman of the Gaming Board of Great Britain, addresses the trade writers during their visit to the Houses of Parliament. Lord Allen is also an honorary member, and trustee of BACTA's Charitable Trust.

VISIT AT PARLIAMENT

During out trip to the Houses of Parliament, Ray Mingay of the DTI

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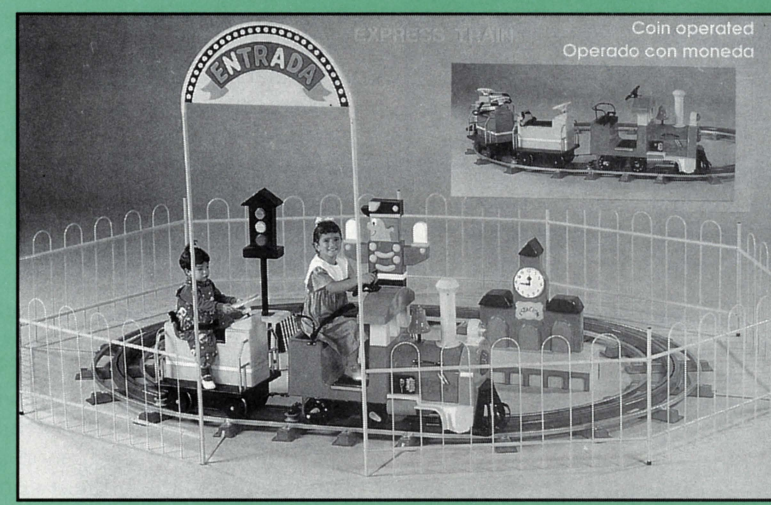
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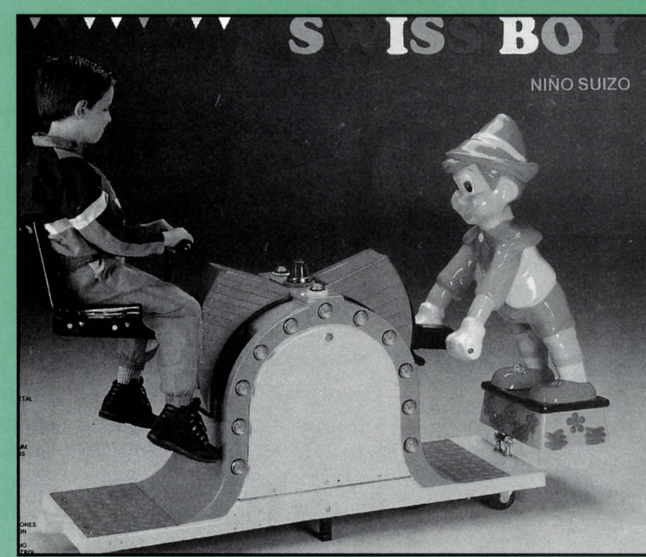
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Sir John Gorst, honored this year with a knighthood, has been a member of Parliament for over 24 years. Sir John has also been BACTA's political advisor since 1969, and he welcomed the journalists to Whitehall.



ATEI chairman Charles Henry addresses journalists at the Copthorne Tara Hotel dinner in London.



The author (r) relaxes with Alan Willis, general secretary of BACTA, at the welcoming reception.

told us the importance the U.K. government attaches to the role of the manufacturing industry in international trade, and the part it plays in the creation of employment and national prosperity.

He said that British industry has achieved a remarkable success in responding to the increasing challenge of international competition. In electronics, for example, which plays a large part in the products of the amusement machine industry, the UK has a long tradition of product innovation and development. Part of the success of the amusement machine sector is its willingness to innovate and respond to changing customer needs.

The government's relationship with British industry, and particularly that of the Department of Trade & Industry, is very much one of partnership, with the common aim of maintaining and improving the competitiveness of the UK industry.

The Inward Mission scheme is one example. In this instance, it involves a partnership between BACTA (the trade association), the Amusement Trades Exhibition International (who organize the annual international exhibition), the DTI and firms in the industry.

BIG SHOW COMING

The ATEI, which takes place at Earls Court 1 in London, Jan. 24-26, is anticipating an increase in international visitors, which last year consisted of 3,454 from 83 countries. Amongst the attractions for international visitors will be free admission, a free interpreter service in all major languages, assistance with travel itineraries and up to 50% room rate reductions (which have been negotiated with some of London's leading hotels).

The International Casino Exhibition, which takes place alongside the ATEI, has a strong case to put to potential exhibitors, with 70% of booth space already taken by this writing and all of last year's major exhibitors confirming their participation again. The event has the official endorsement of the European casino manufacturers and suppliers and a representative committee has once again worked with ATEI in planning the event.

BOLLOM ON BACTA

John Bollom, VP of the U.K. association BACTA, said his group is unusual in that "one trade association represents operators and manufacturers of coin operated equipment in all its facets. The ATEI, therefore, is not a truly commercial event in that it is organized 'by the trade for the trade,' without the over-riding financial pressures of a pure commercial event."

He cited the international feeling of ATEI and their involvement with organizations such as Euromat, The World Summit and International Regulators. He mentioned the first ever International Regulators' meeting and luncheon which was chaired by Lady Littler, Chairman of the Gaming Board for Great Britain, at ATEI '94 and the fact that they hoped to organize a similar high profile event again in 1995.

BACTA represents over 80% of UK operators and almost 100% of its manufacturers. In doing so, it looks to safeguard its members' interests in a range of companies from large multinational and public companies down to small family and one-man businesses.

He said that the UK is undoubtedly one of the world leaders in the design and production of gaming machines, including multi-player pushers and novelty machines, as well as being at the 'leading edge' of such technology as virtual reality.

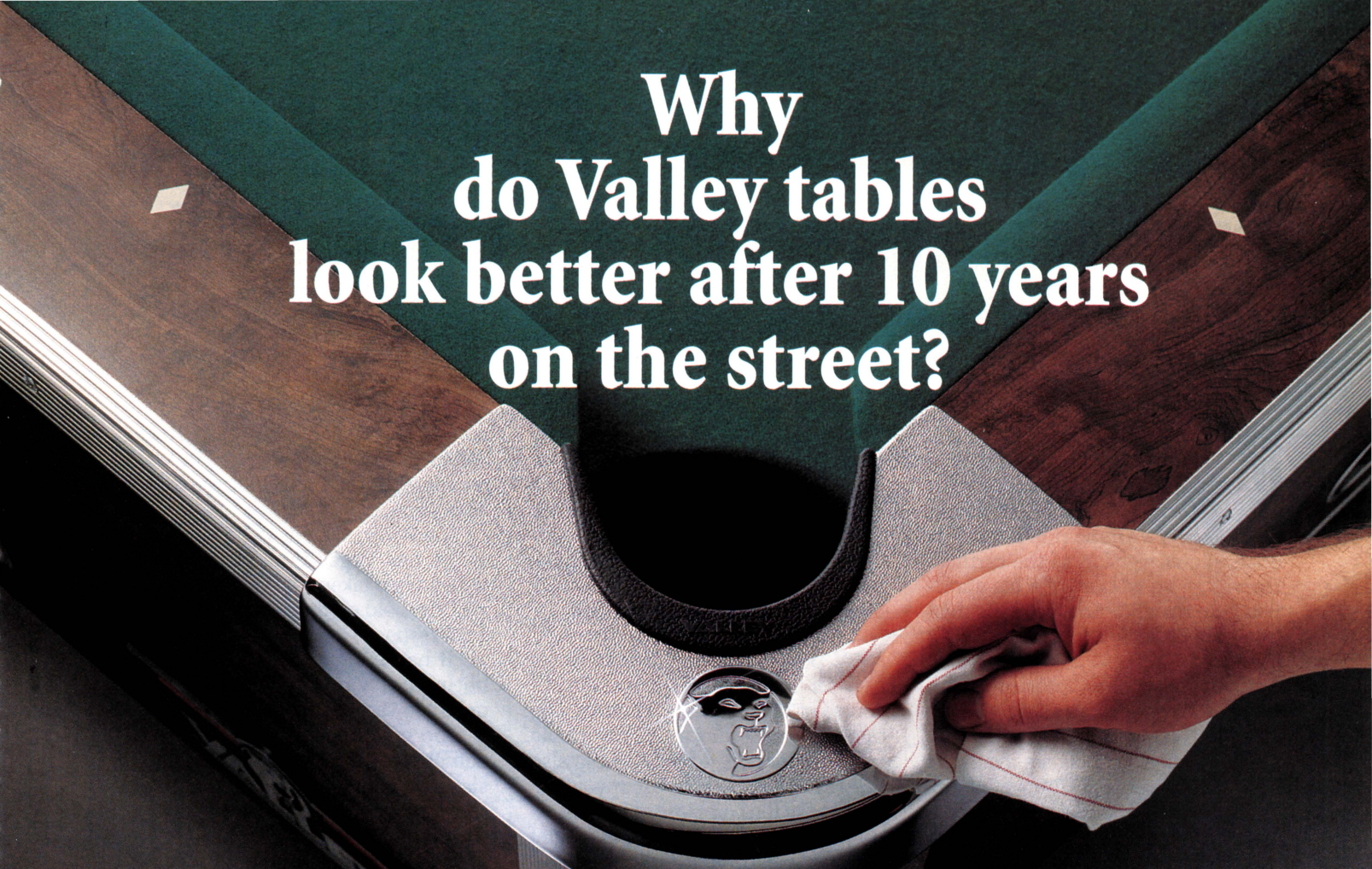
Brian Meaden, president of Euromat, gave his audience some background information of the organization's activities.

Euromat, which started sixteen years ago, in its present form, with six member nations, now has nineteen members throughout the European continent. It is actually a much wider based organization than the European Union, in that many of its members come from outside the Union.

Euromat's purpose is to represent the coin machine industry, principally in Brussels and to strive to project a favorable image for the industry. Meaden explained that the interests of the various speakers were not the same as Charles Henry was promoting ATEI, John Bollom was projecting the image of BACTA and he was representing the whole of the European industry from Finland in the north to Italy in the south and from the Czech Republic in the east to Ireland in the west.

He said it was the aim of Euromat to allow member countries to operate on a fairly level playing field within a well constructed, fair and just set of regulations. They are trying to raise the profile of the coin machine industry in Europe and are slowly but surely succeeding. ◆

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If copying someone is a form of flattery, we've been flattered silly over the years. But not very deeply. Look at all the little things and you'll find some big "little differences."

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THE WEENIE WHIP RIDES!

big attraction for family fun centers from Baltimore

Maryland game distributor Chuck Weiner is in the kiddie ride manufacturing business with the Weenie Ride Co., and their brand new *Whip* is a kiddie ride plus! This scaled-down version of the carnival circuit classic is more of a big attraction than merely a ride, yet it fits right into today's family fun center (FEC) concept.

With the space factor in mind, Chuck's Weenie Rides designed *The Whip* to occupy as little as 160 sq. ft., although larger models are available. The attraction comes with a platform, a colorful canopy and runs 6 to 8 kid-sized cars (depending on the number your order) around in the elliptical "whip" fashion.

Weenie Rides builds *The Whip* right there in the Baltimore area. Weiner states that both safety and structural durability are assured. Three Maryland ride inspectors participated in the project and the company's brochure says the product meets all national standard codes.

The Whip operates on standard 110V power and was designed for easy set-up at the FEC, the mall concourse or other suitable location. The operator can order a 220V variable speed motor if he desires. He can also customize the car and canopy colors from those the company offers.

Weiner said the attraction's chief designer was Bryan Ziolkowski and that his engineer Emil Germanos is a member of the Amusement Ride Safety Board. Werner Umlandt was responsible for the structural steel fabrication.

The Whip made its national debut at the Las Vegas Fun Expo where orders were taken (the exhibit model was also sold off the floor). "We had a great response at that show and now we'll be taking it to the IAAPA in both floor version and a trailer-mounted version," Weiner advised.

The machine can be purchased outright, while a special lease plan is also available. Parties wishing more information can contact Weenie Rides by writing them at 409 N. Warwick Ave., Baltimore, MD 21223 or by phoning 410/233-2600.



The Whip, set up for a photo shoot near Weiner's Baltimore headquarters, can actually take two kids in each car.

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OPS LOVE MERIT CTOPS!

that AMOA Award confirmed what street operators are saying:
Supertouch 30/MegaTouch *is that long-sought bar video*

The street operators of America have spoken! Merit's *SuperTouch 30/MegaTouch II* countertop video game was voted tops in the "most innovative new technology" category by AMOA members, it was announced at the 1994 AMOA Expo. Knowing how the voting works, we suspect maybe the award should have been titled "best new technology that we can really use in our number one location, taverns." Anyway that's exactly what Merit set out to build, and how sweet it is to gain recognition and appreciation from your customers.



Merit President Pete Feuer accepting AMOA award for "most innovative new technology" for *SuperTouch 30/MegaTouch II* countertop video game.

Based in Bensalem, Pa., Merit Industries has built countertops for many years under the direction of company founder and president Pete Feuer. They also make other tavern-oriented games like electronic darts and video lottery terminals (VLTs).

"We are very proud to be honored by the operators of the AMOA with this award," stated President Feuer. "Touchscreen technology is not new to us," he continued. "We have been manufacturing VLTs using touchscreen for most of the approved jurisdictions for several years now." But Pete pointed out that, regardless of the hi-tech under the hood, what really counts is what's in the cash box.

Merit countertops perform quite well in this arena, thank you (you really think AMOA would have voted that award if the machines didn't earn big bucks?) *SuperTouch 30* was introduced at AMOA '93 (Anaheim, Calif.) and quickly achieved a top reputation with tavern operators. Since then, Merit's bowed two new Game-Pak updates: one adds their blackjack novelty "Run 21," a bar favorite; the other is the *MegaTouch* program combining the best of *SuperTouch 30* with "Run 21" and "Great Solitaire." It's available to update any previously released Merit touchscreen amusement game.



This year's AMOA award coincided with the Sept. 27 release of the *MegaTouch II* program, available in their signature 13" touchscreen countertop format and as a 19" dedicated upright. The new program offers two new games: "Trivia Twister" (where answers are cleverly hidden in a maze of letters) and "Royal Flash" (players use card grid layouts to build winning poker hands, employing different strategies for different directions). Also added are new promotional possibilities though high score contests, with the location being able to clear high scores without needing access to the cabinet. Also, operators can now program up to eight games on the select screen from a menu of 11 games. "These new games and features make this unit our strongest countertop yet," said Merit.

Tons of operator input was gathered in the field, then incorporated into game design, according to Merit VP of Sales Dave Myers. "One thing we learned from operators is that 'less can be more.' Too many game choices can confuse the players, operators said, so we offer a six-game program plus the option for each location to tailor the menu to include the local customers' favorite games. We have covered all the bases."

Merit says its new countertops often provide the best ROI (highest tavern income, lowest cost and maintenance) for many street operators. And operators apparently agree. "The *MegaTouch* units are the missing link of tavern video," said operator Tim Jones (Midwest Electronics, Ellsworth, Ill.). "The only problem I've had with *MegaTouch* is that in several cases I've had to change my collection schedule from bi-weekly to weekly because the cash box was filling up in a week. But that's a problem I can live with!"

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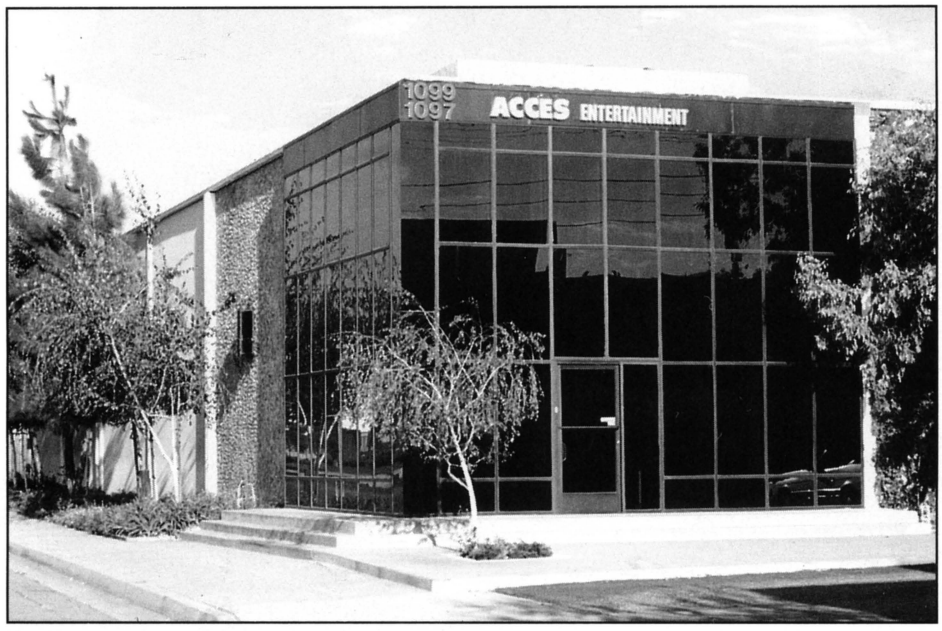
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HEEEEEEEEE'S BACK!!!

after horrendous motorcycle accident, Acces' chief returns to business



The new Acces Entertainment plant in Orange, CA.

Almost two years ago, Acces Entertainment's Eric Brashear was vacationing in Northern California when he was knocked off his motorcycle by a motorist making a left turn. He was left in a body cast, out of the office for nearly a year, and his business on hold.

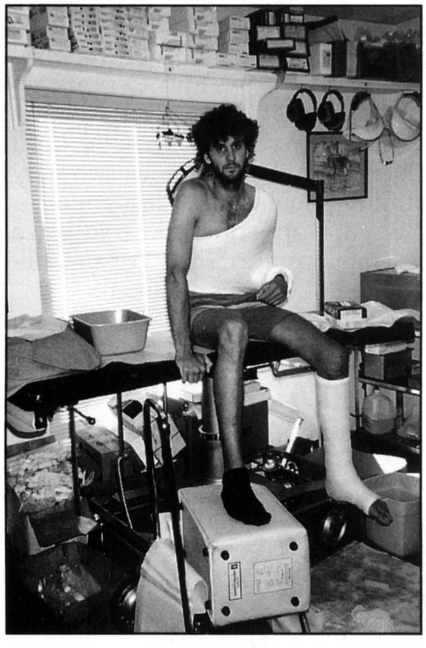
"The timing couldn't have been worse," Eric told us recently. "The company was just about to release its *Fastball* baseball pitching machine when I got creamed. Since I was the only person who could refine the game, it looked like we were sunk."

Eric's back in business today, building a total of five coin-op games (with two more on the way) at a new plant in Orange, CA, and there's a happy ending to the tragedy in more ways than one. It turns out that Rebecca Zerbst, the physical therapist who taught him how to walk again, became so fascinated hearing about his game ideas, she offered to rehabilitate his financially-injured company as well.

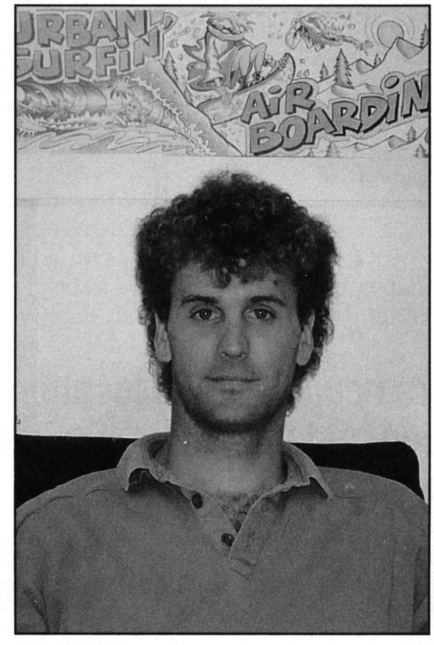
"The accident was really a blessing in disguise," Eric says today. "We were able to spend all last year just designing and refining product." Up and running several months now, Acces Entertainment's present lineup consists of their *Hoop* basketball, *Cashflow* money booth, *Puck Flair* air cushion hockey table and *Putter* golf game plus the upcoming *Urban Surfin'* video surfer and *Air Boardin'* snowboarding simulators. And, yes, they're building that completed *Fastball* pitching game.

The Acces Entertainment plant is located at 1099 N. Batavia in Orange. Right now, their most popular game is the new *Puck Flair*. "The recent AMOA and Fun Expo shows proved a big hit for us with this piece," Eric stated. "Our theory was, if we were going to compete against the other air hockey tables, which are all excellent, we had to make one we felt was better and would sell for less. We had a great response to the product at those events," he declared.

Eric got his start in the industry back in 1986 with Steve Shoemaker of Wedges/Ledges, working on Steve's successful *Challenger* crane. He then moved on to Adastra and worked with their fold-up basketball before going on his own. He started Acces with his *Hoop* basketball and was working on several other games when he decided to take that fateful vacation. Then again, he met Rebecca Zerbst and began a doctor/patient friendship that not only got him walking again but back designing the machines that are his passion. Welcome back!



Eric Brashear after his accident.



A healthier Eric today.

UPSTAIRS



Fun Centers recently completed game room and redemption center in El Cajon, Calif. This gorgeous two-story building houses — at last count — 180 coin-op games, a large prize redemption area, a snack bar and full-service Bullwinkles restaurant.

Visitors to the El Cajon location

Family entertainment centers come in all shapes and sizes, but few are as beautifully designed as the Huish Family

the Huish Family Fun Centers newest SoCal location is an impressive two-story structure with video and pinball up top, redemption below

DOWNSTAIRS

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The upper deck is packed a with fantastic selection of video and pingames; down below, patrons can enjoy a relaxing meal at Bullwinkles restaurant.



This view of the mall-like surroundings shows the glass elevator that takes players to the second floor play area.

must walk through this neon-lit structure in order to get to all the other attractions, which include baseball cages, bumper boats, go karts, three-hole miniature golf courses and a kiddie park. The center is designed to entice patrons to try the games as they pass by; for instance, the redemption area is located near the building's exit so that everyone sees the prize selection offered.

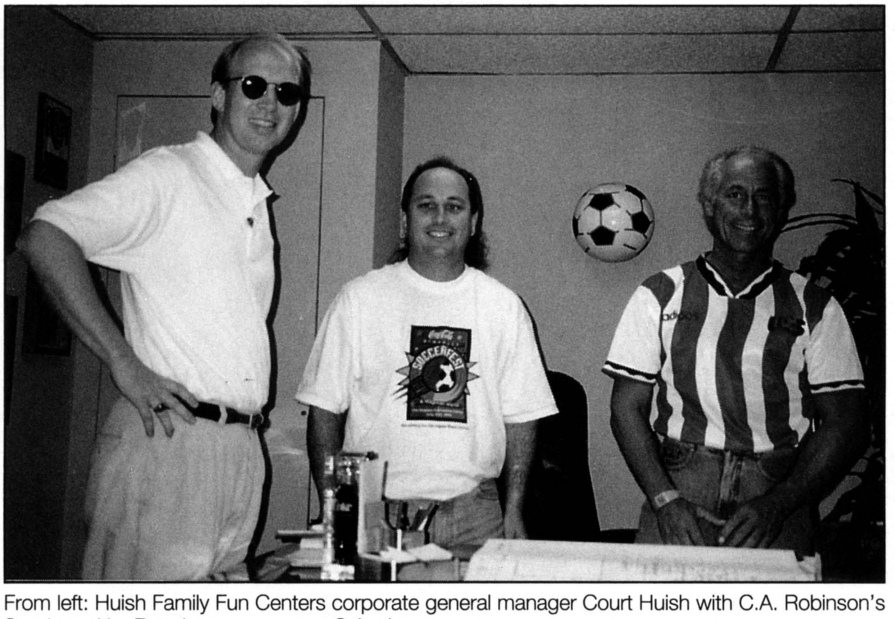
All of the redemption pieces are located on the ground floor, in a sunken area off to the left as you enter. For the safety and convenience of families, games for small children and kiddie rides are grouped together. Redemption games that appeal mostly to adults are also grouped, with games intended for players of all ages serving as a divider. "There are about 60 redemption games," said Tom Guagliardo, games manager for Huish Family Fun Centers, "with new trial pieces being added each month."

Up on the second level, accessible by both stairs and a glass elevator, are all the non-redemption video and pinball games. Operating these types of games on a separate floor "allows families with small children their own area and the other game players their area without the problems inherent in mixing the two," Tom explained.

Of course, placing the restrooms on the second floor ensures that almost everyone gets up there at least once during their visit.

The El Cajon center was designed by Shane Huish, son of owner John Huish, and took about one year to complete. Just prior to the El Cajon project, the firm built an equally stunning game room and fun center at Vista, Calif. They've also created a four-story, outdoor kids play area in Vista, and made plans to open their newest ride park in Anahiem this summer.

◆



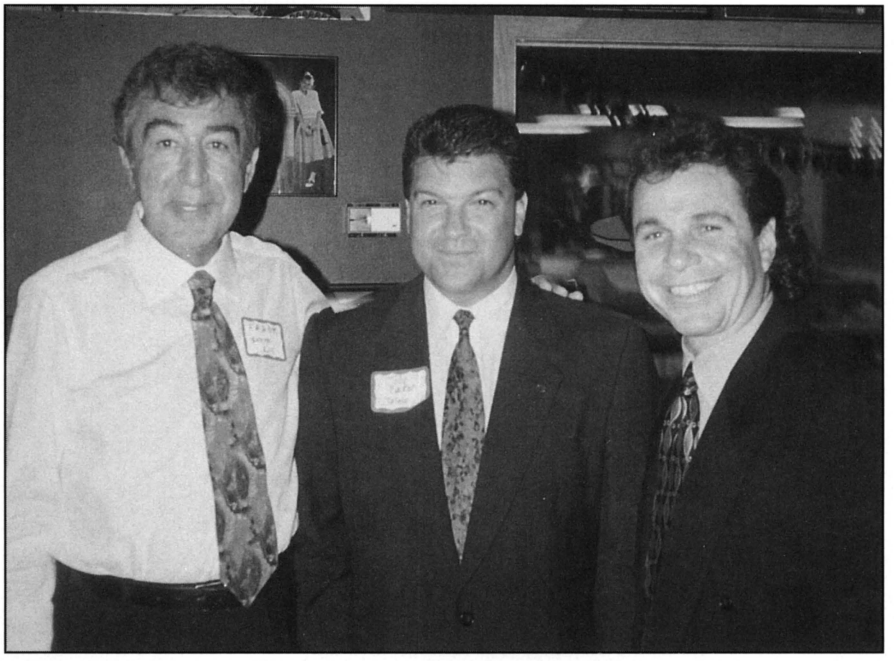
From left: Huish Family Fun Centers corporate general manager Court Huish with C.A. Robinson's Sandy and Ira Bettelman at a recent C.A. show.

It's

In everyone's life . . .

OPEN HOUSE

AVS SHOW HOT ON EXPO'S HEELS



AVS top Frank Gumma, Sr. (l) with Jolly (Jaleco) Backer and Rene Lopez, of Romstar fame, at the Elk Grove open house.

The trucks had barely left the loading docks at the San Antonio Convention Center when American Vending Sales held its post-AMOA product open house on Friday, Sept. 30th. Besides its timing, the AVS event was rewarded by what company veep Ron Bolger termed an "outstanding attendance and positive customer attitude."

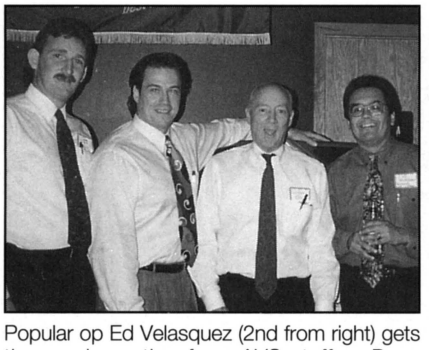
The party's fiesta theme (bringing San Antonio to Chicago) featured Mexican food while the product spread before customers featured many of the good new machines entering the fall market (among them, Midway's *Cruis'n USA* got hot response in its deluxe sitdown version). Many factory reps were on hand to explain game play on their new attractions (and were treated to dinner by Frank Gumma Sr. and Jr. and staff that evening at Carlucci's out in Rosemont).



Vending veep Vince Gumma (l) and Merit's Scott Dougherty with countertop displaying 21 game. Merit videos have been good on the street.



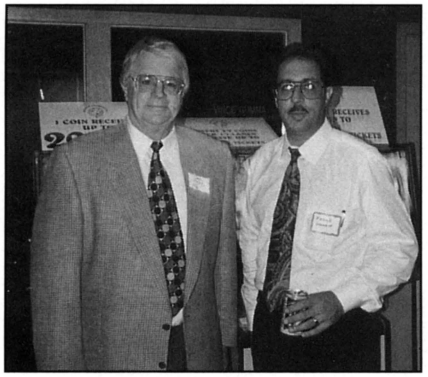
Western Automatics's Kem Thom (l) and AVS veep Ron Bolger flank Coastal's Sal Mirando by some of the latter's redemption units.



Popular op Ed Velasquez (2nd from right) gets the royal greeting from AVS staffers Dave Irwin, Ron Bolger, Leo Finn and Dan Clarton.



Frank, Jr. once again congratulates Rowe's Joel Friedman for bringing the *LaserStar Diamante* CD floor juke to the marketplace.



A&H Entertainers patriarch Don Hesch (l) spent some time at the AVS party with company Exec VP Frank Gumma, Jr.

Besides celebrating a solid open house (where business was written), the AVS bunch also toasted some recent company promotions. Frank Gumma, Jr. is now Exec. VP, Vince Gumma was upped to VP of Vending, Ron Bolger's VP of Music and Games, Jim McAllister is now VP and CFO and Bob Hallman's been promoted to VP of Operations. Congrats to those who stepped up and to the whole company for giving the territory's operators a taste of what San Antonio was all about.

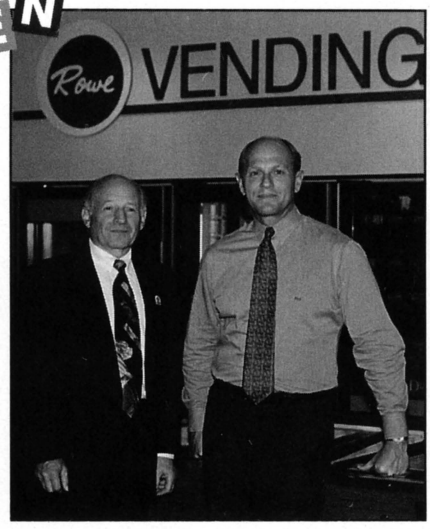
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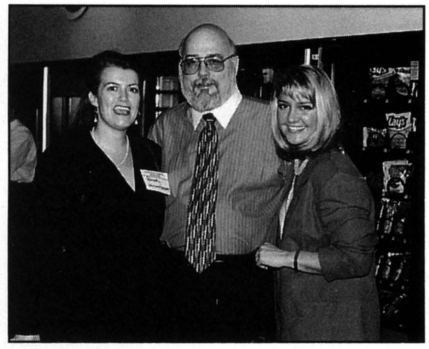
we all have 15 minutes of glory. . .

OPEN HOUSE

BETSON PACIFIC "LA" HOSTS POST-EXPO PRODUCT FIESTA!

Betson Pacific of Southern California (Buena Park) had their post-AMOA Expo product showing on Friday, Oct. 7. Operators from all over Southern California dropped by to inspect the latest machines – videos, pins, redemption, music, you name it! And, in addition to the new equipment and knowledgeable staffers and factory reps on hand, Peter Betti and the gang hosted the coin machiners to their famous mexican food buffet, complete with margaritas – yum!





At left, Betson topper Peter Betti (right) welcomes Rowe's Jerry Gordon under the Rowe Vending sign. Above, Williams/Bally-Midway's Rachel Davies, Bulldog's Bill Cravens and Premier's L.J. Greene visit with each other. Big news at the dealership is the addition of the heavyweight Bally-Midway video line.



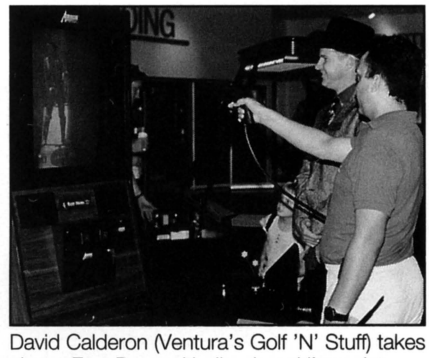
Visiting Minnesota distrib Harold Leiberman (Steve's son) with Tim Jackson, Reggie Moultrie & Rorie Keller in the redemption area.



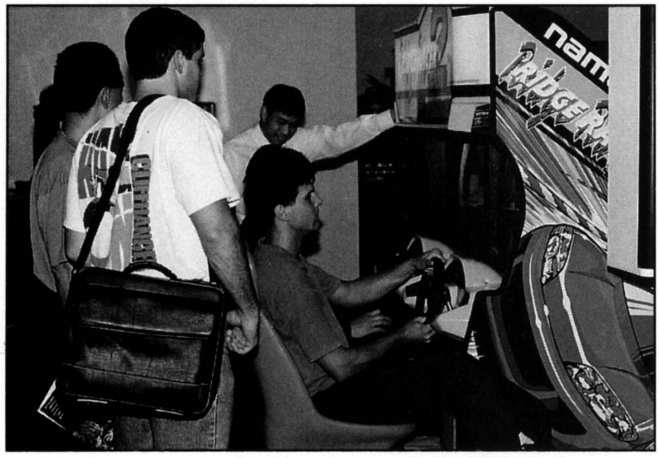
Meltec's John McEwan shows his new *Cavemania* to Gino & Judy Flawma.



Melissa Hokama, the dealership's Parts Manager, takes a break with Rowe's Dave Hall.



David Calderon (Ventura's Golf 'N' Stuff) takes aim at *Fast Draw* with Jim Jarocki's assist.



Randy Pressley of Blue Jay Vending (Lake Forest, Calif.) enjoys the driving action on Namco's *Ridge Racer* while other BP customers look on.



Sega's Barbara Nappi gave Betson customers the scoop on *Desert Tank*. It's going to have a limited production run, so don't wait long for it.

Here...

Your time is now. . .

ARCADE ACTION



SAMURAI SHODOWN II by SNK



The long-awaited sequel to SNK's mega-hit fighting game is finally here!

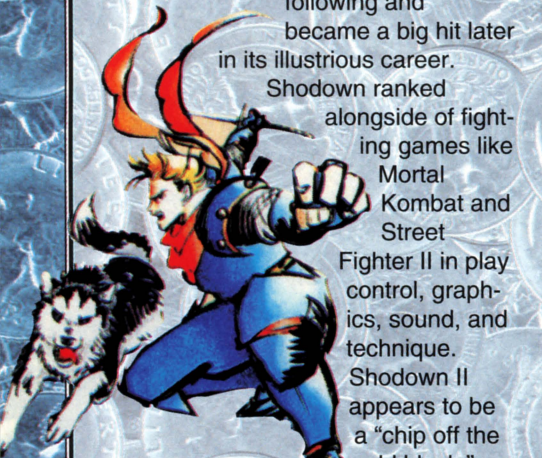


Most of the stages have been modified. It seems that the seasons have changed!



With all of the technique and play control intact, SS II will be totally hot!

They're baaack!!! SNK is planning on releasing Samurai Shodown II very soon, and arcade junkies everywhere are rejoicing! The first Samurai Shodown enjoyed an almost cult-like following and became a big hit later in its illustrious career. Shodown ranked alongside of fighting games like Mortal Kombat and Street Fighter II in play control, graphics, sound, and technique. Shodown II appears to be a "chip off the old block."

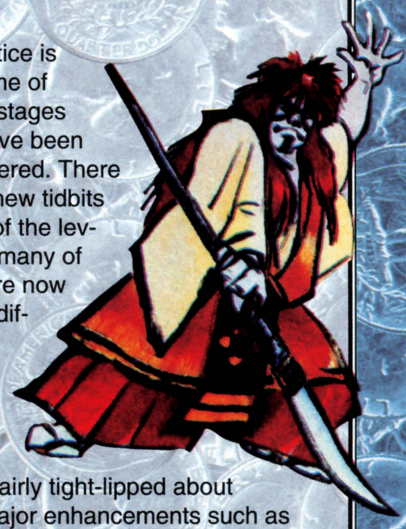


Apparently, all of your favorite fighters from the first Shodown are back to have another go at the title of the world's greatest samurai. In addition, there are four new characters joining the ranks. Some of these new characters are rather bizarre. One of the characters is a little old man who looks as though he couldn't hurt a flea!



Fortunately for him, he can inflict a lot of damage to the other warriors using wild combos and special moves. Another of the new characters, a huge, lumbering behemoth with an artificial hand, looks very ferocious.

Besides the new characters, there are some other refinements to this new Shodown. One of the biggest things that you'll notice is that some of the stages have been altered. There are new tidbits in most of the levels and many of them are now set in different seasons. SNK has been fairly tight-lipped about any major enhancements such as new moves, new stages, and a new end Boss. Expect to see some new enhancements, but don't expect Shodown II to be a whole new game.

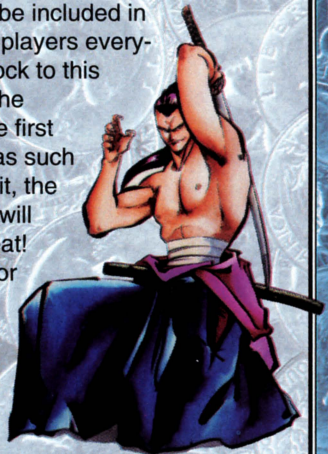


Needless to say, no matter what new goodies will be included in Shodown II, players everywhere will flock to this machine in the arcades. The first Shodown was such a runaway hit, the second one will probably great! Stay tuned for more on Shodown II in upcoming issues of *EGM*!



All of your favorite characters are back, including four new faces on the scene!





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You're not worthy? Maybe not, but you'll never know unless you try SAMURAI SHODOWN II.

The long awaited sequel to SNK's chart buster SAMURAI SHODOWN offers what you've been waiting for. . .

CONTROLability. . . Totally awesome! **VERSAT**ility. . . Available in many different formats. **AFFORD**ability. . . It's a **NEO • GEO** isn't it? **POW**ability. . . More awesome "**POWER**" moves than before. **YO DUDE**ability. . . Everyone will be talking about it! Enough said! Prove your worthiness. . . **FIND IT**. . . **PLAY IT**. . . **ACCEPT NO IMITATIONS**. . .

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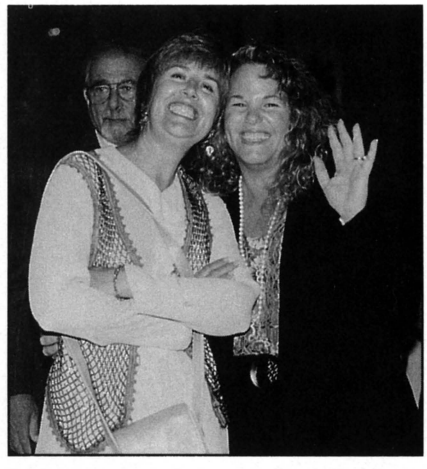
OPEN HOUSE

PRODUCT PARTY "C.A." STYLE!

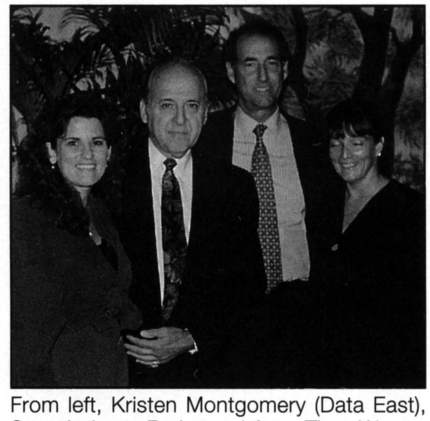
The Bettelmans and all the members of the C.A. Robinson & Company family once again proved that hospitality and professionalism thrive at their dealerships. Northern California tradesters were invited to the see latest machines (plus enjoy wonderful food and drink) at the dealership's San Francisco facility on Wednesday, Oct. 5. The following day, factory reps trekked down to Los Angeles for a delightful evening hosted by the Bettelman family at the Bistro Gardens restaurant in Beverly Hills. Then on Friday, the distributorship called on their Southern California customers to see the latest in coinbiz wares at their Pico Boulevard showroom. And per tradition, the warehouse was stocked with quite an array of lunchables! (Photos are from the Los Angeles events.)



A happy group of factory reps join C.A. Robinson's Sandy Bettelman in this from photo from the Bistro Gardens dinner party held in between the firm's San Francisco & Los Angeles open houses.



Fabtek's Jeanne Ballouz & Adrea Bettelman give us the nicest of smiles at the party.



From left, Kristen Montgomery (Data East), Smart's Larry Berke and from Time Warner Interactive (Atari), Jeff Holmes & Elaine Shirley.



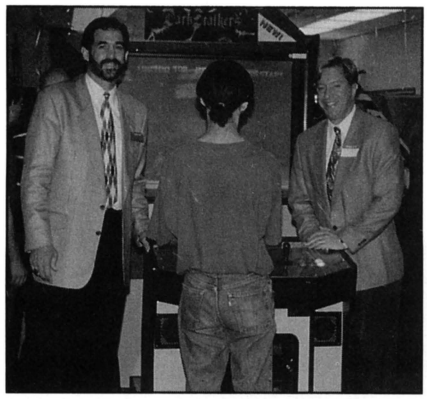
Drew Maniscalco says hello to Heh-Kyu Lee, Tim Jackson & Joyce Kaehler (the later three all used to hale from the same firm, Romstar).



Here's a nice group of industry gents, Capcom's Frank Ballouz, Sega's Al Stone, U.S. Game's Mort Ansky and Merit's Lamar Forque at the Bistro Gardens festivities.



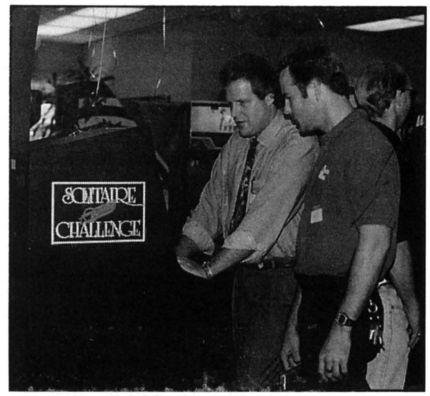
A fun table: Kristen Montgomery, Hank Tronick, Doug Shipley and Jerry Momoda.



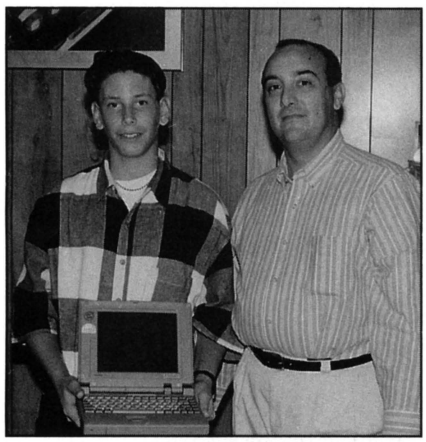
Capcom's Frank Ballouz and Mark Trotter show off the *Dark Stalkers* video.



Kristen Montgomery (back at Data East) with her *Tattoo Assassins* & *RePlay* pal Ryan Knight.



Dynamo's Damon Paramore gives Daryl Hicks of Palace Park (Irvine) a *Solitaire* demo.



At right, we find the Bettelman clan (minus Matt who had school) in the ballooned Los Angeles showroom. Both northern and southern California events were well attended. Above, Heath Bettelman joins C.A. Robinson computer expert Jorge Trigo. C.A. has recently branched out into the computer business, supplying retail outlets with all sorts of hardware & software (PC-compatibles, Macs, etc.) at bargain prices. If early goings are any indication, looks like it'll be a successful venture.

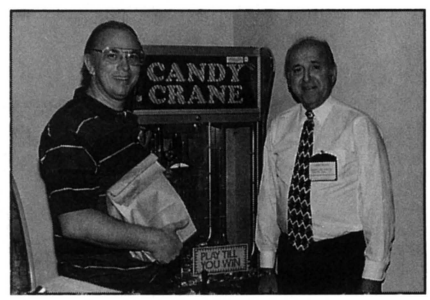




Sega's Doug Shipley greets Family Amusement's Harry Peck over by *Wing War.*



Bill Connaker learns about the Pog craze from Wedges' Kevin Flynn & Steve Shoemaker.



Smart's Larry Berke (r) shows *Candy Crane* to George Schaeffer of Palm Springs Vending.



Glen, Cindy & Annie LeSueur take a photo time-out from their Williams' *Road Show* playing.



Fabtek's Jeanne Ballouz with Heath Bettelman and *Raiden DX* (Heath loves the vid!)



Frank Ballouz & Mark Trotter with the *Instant Memories* (it has cabinet graphics options).

OPEN HOUSE

BETSON ROAD SHOW STARTS IN PITTSBURGH



Betson Pittsburgh's "pit crew" with factory reps surround black Corvette which helped set the "Road Show" theme at their Oct. 1 open house.



Betson's Lou Larson (l) chats with Ben Dobkins of Dobkin Bros. about the *Corvette* which helped set the "Road Show" theme at their Oct. 1 open house.



Betson's Bob Busche (l) and Dan Roberto of Dan's Amusements (Altoona, PA) with Rowe's music boxes including the *MMCD-1* price model.



Lou Larson in a rap session with Jim Skinner (J&J Amusements, Pittsburgh). Jim's was one of more than 75 amusement and vending companies represented that day.



Rich Vario and Tom Webber (the Betson parts guys) give the Arachnid *Cricket Master* the checkered flag, while keeping the day's theme up front.

Betson Coin-Op Distributing Co. began its post-Expo "Road Show" series of operator open houses at their Pittsburgh depot Oct. 1, one week after the close of the San Antonio national. Branch manager Jim Wittler said they selected the "Road Show" theme to complement the release of such Williams product as *Cruis'n USA* and the *Corvette* and *Road Show* pinballs.

Wittler said over 75 operating companies made it to their Pittsburgh gala. Besides viewing the new equipment, operators also enjoyed an exhibit of hubcaps and the brand new black Corvette car parked in the center of the showroom (loaned by Chevy dealer Jim Crivelli).



Merit's Bob DiPipi (r) presents Betson's Bob Busche an award for outstanding sales of Merit countertops during the day's festivities.

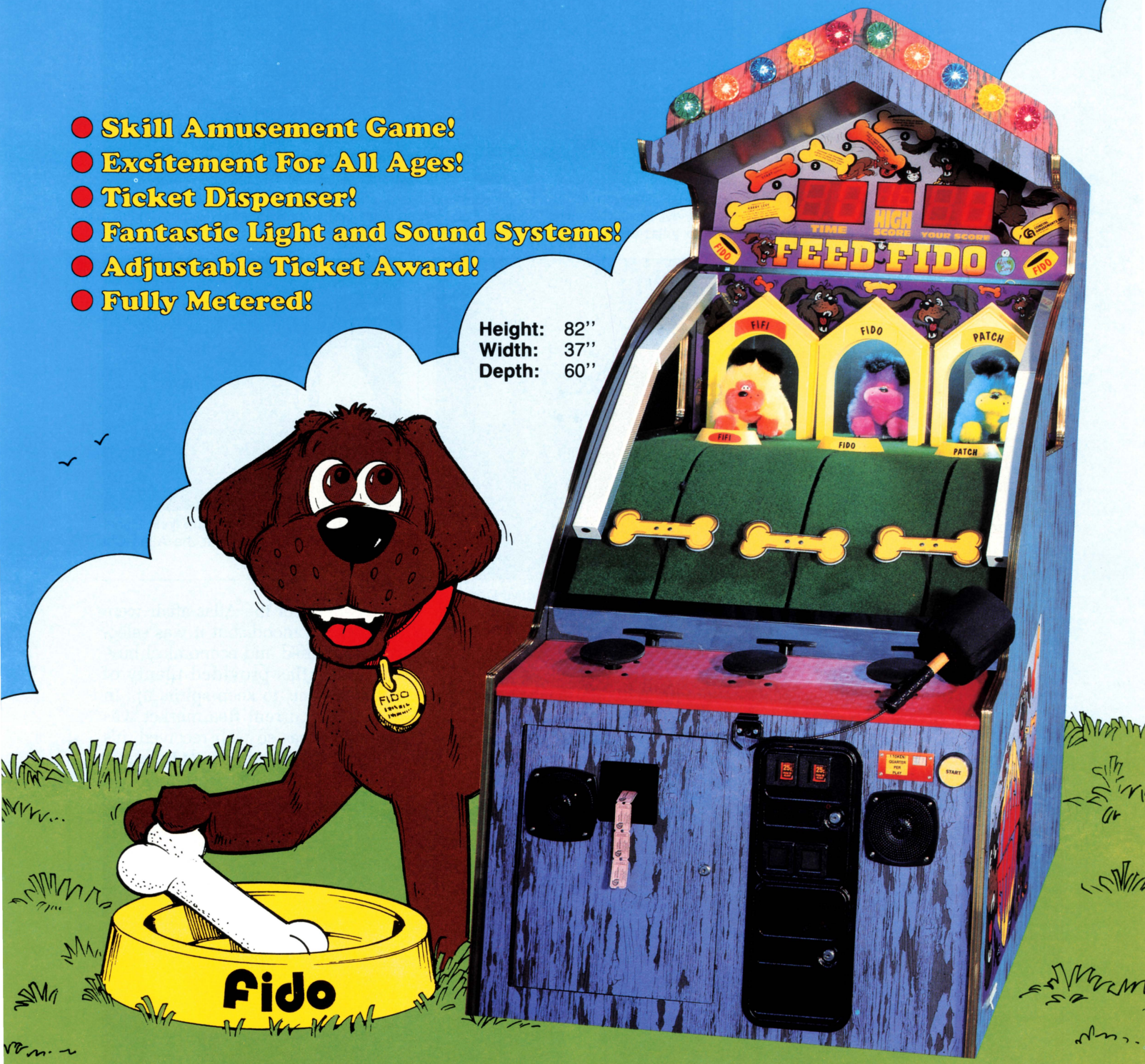
In addition, Betson's Rich Vario held a high score contest on the pins for t-shirts. Matchbox cars served as door prize tickets stubs and a "Lucky Wheel" gave out discounts on CD discs supplied by Mobile Records.

"We had an excellent turnout," said Asst. Mgr. Lou Larson. "They were impressed with a lot of the new pieces now available for street locations, but from what I gathered, the *Corvette* pin was the hit of the show." Betson's sales rep Lee Ivory said vending interest in Rowe's *550 Cold Food Merchandiser* was also high. All in all, Betson's "pit crew" ran a great show.

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OPEN HOUSE

ATLAS CARRIES THE DAY

fab turnout at windy city showroom sees new goods

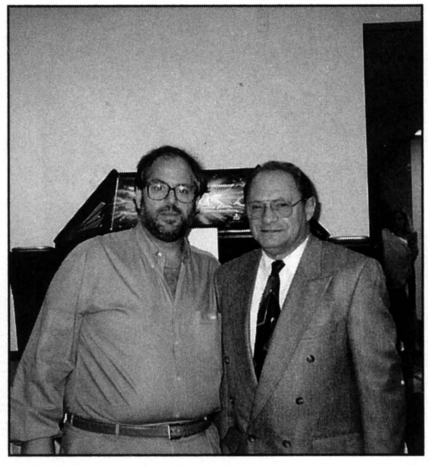
Stamp Atlas Distributing's post-AMOA open house a "Success." Held Thursday, Oct. 6th, the headcount was estimated to run as high as 350 trade people and guests, confirming for Atlas prexy Jerry Marcus that Thursday is the company's lucky day.

Operators ambled in from 8:30AM until last call at 6:00PM. While there, they checked out the new machines and bent the ears of the plethora of manufacturer reps on hand. The operators seem to have complimented the game makers on the play appeal of the equipment, but bristled at the high prices of many pieces.

"Looks good, but how can we afford it?" said one, maybe more than one. A couple of roast beef and turkey sandwiches and a cold drink temporarily eased the anguish (and a platter of lox didn't hurt either).



Gang's all here. From left at the Atlas-Chicago opener are Jerry Grotjan (Atlas-Cincy), Mike Minor (Atlas-Indy), Frank Cosentino (Namco), Bob Hansen (Atlas-Chi), Tom Siemeniec (Namco) and Jim LaRoux (Atlas-Mich).



Jerry Marcus (r) thinks Thursdays work out great for Atlas parties, and he was on the money again this time. Here he's with #1 Fun prexy Marc Kahan.



Hilton and Joe Franm of #1 Fun flank Planet Earth's Debbie Gonzales at the Atlas-Chi affair.

Operators at the Atlas affair were in a buying mood...but it was selective, restrained and economical buying. But Atlas provided plenty of show specials to keep spirits up. In fact, a concurrent flea market was held, and was so well received, it's run has been extended indefinitely.



Operator Skip Coghill (l) with Larry Donovan (Recreational Services) and Geno Giuntoli (Atlas-Chicago salesman).



SNK's Tracy Tate (l) with operators Roger Anfinsen and Lou Rawski. SNK's now in the process of releasing their brand new *Samurai Shodown II* video fighter.

L E G E N D

Few Things Attract More Attention





David C. Rockola left a indelible mark on the industry that literally echoed his name. For sixty years the Rock-Ola name has stood for qualit and durability at a resonable price. Legend has it that ever the term, "Rock'n Roll" was coined from the name Rockola.

Today, the heritage of music he left to millions around the globe is continued by another industry leader.

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OPEN HOUSE

CENTRAL POST-EXPO OPEN HOUSE

Though their new headquarters on the outskirts of Omaha has been open for business since March, Central Distributing's Oct. 21'st post AMOA operator party was also a "grand opening" of sorts, being their very first open house function at this new facility. In fact, Central doesn't have a tradition of opening their house after national trade expositions, so this affair was also special for that reason as well.

Around 45 operating companies were represented. Their personnel interfaced with 17 factory people, there to explain the virtues (plus prices and availability dates of the equipment on stage). Company chairman Lou Singer, his wife Harriet and their son and president Mark Singer, hosted the crowd.

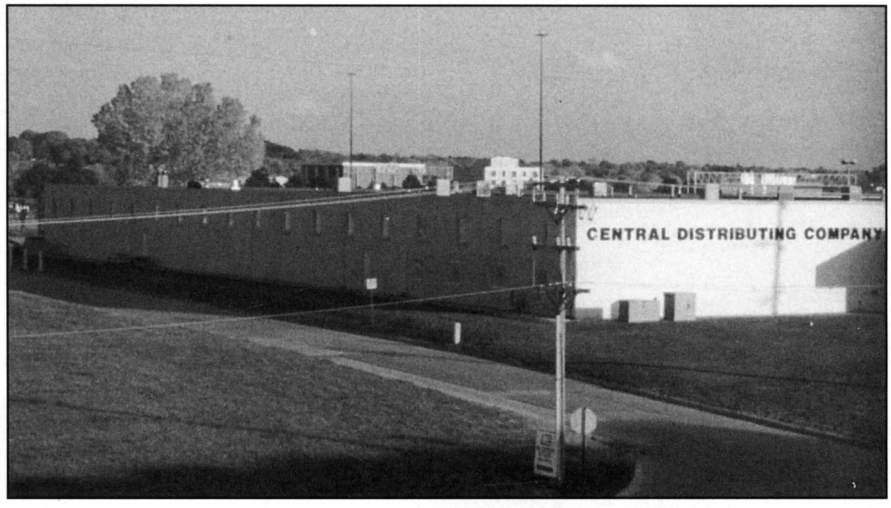
Besides providing a generous selection of new machines to inspect and the makers of those machines to chat with head-to-head, the Singers layed on food, drink and coffee. The pleasant atmosphere inside was complimented by sterling weather outside... well appreciated by those who drove quite a few miles to get to the Central depot.

Lou Singer said Friday is a busy day for route operators who are getting things in order for the weekend at locations, and he was grateful so many drove in. He was equally happy with the manufacturer turnout and had a bunch of them out for golf the previous day at Miracle Hills.

Central is one of the midwest's oldest coin machine distributing companies. They've been in Omaha since 1930 and Lou Singer himself will be celebrating his 49th year in business this December. He'd purchased a 50% interest in the company from founders M.H. Rosenberg and Tim Crummet 40 years back, and bought the balance 20 years ago.

The Singer family is proud of their impressive new building. As mentioned, they moved into it last spring after doing business at the former Farnam St. outlet for almost 25 years.

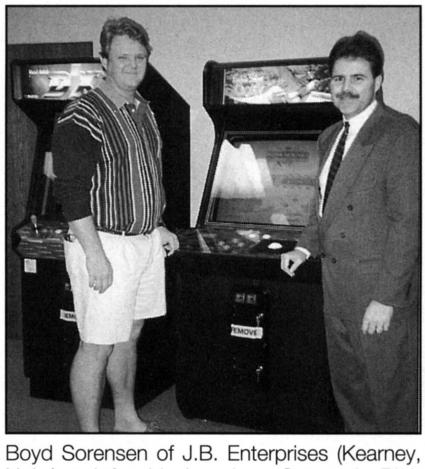
The new 45,000 sq. ft. facility is located at 609 N. 108th street and



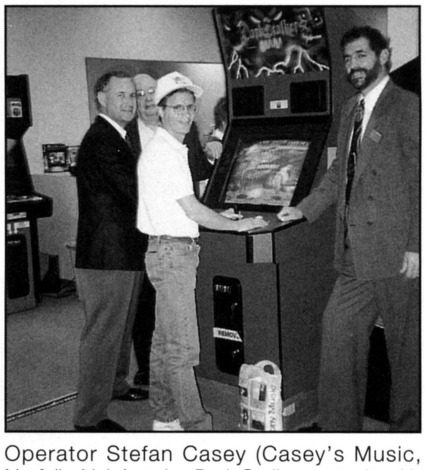
Central Distributing's new HQ at N. 108th St., scene of their Oct. 21st open house.



Factory folk gather 'round Mark, Lou and Harriet Singer, with Sammy's Rick Rochetti at left, Sega's Ken Anderson on right and Arachnid's Marcio Bonilla striking his traditional Al Jolson pose in center.

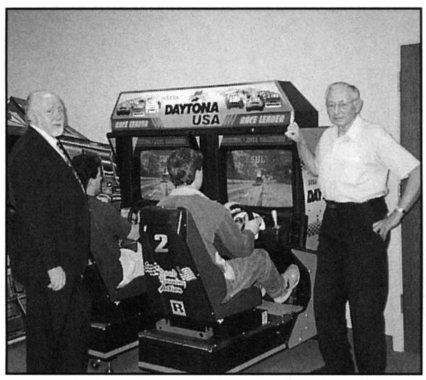


Boyd Sorensen of J.B. Enterprises (Kearney, Neb.) at left with American Sammy's Rick Rochetti at the *Eagle Shot Golf* conversion that's great for street sites (and arcades too).



Operator Stefan Casey (Casey's Music, Norfolk, Neb.) at the *Dark Stalker* controls with Capcom's Dennis Sable and Frank Ballouz, as Lou Singer peeks in from behind.

ALSO SERVES AS GRAND OPENING GALA



Industrial royalty walked through the Central doors when retired Nebraska op Ed Kort (r) showed up. Here he sees what's doing in today's business with Sega's Ken Anderson.



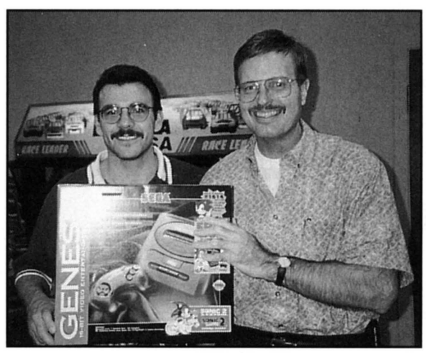
Door prize time. Fabtek's Jeannie Ballouz (r) helped the Central lads pull the winners. Cash certificates toward equipment purchases were donated by Smart, Konami and Capcom. Williams helped Central out with three TV sets, Fabtek popped a fine radio box, Arachnid gave a home dart board and Sega a home *Genesis*.

with that much space, they are truly full-service (beautiful showroom, generous warehouse, electronic and mechanical game repair, parts department and fine executive offices...still so new that Lou's needs a bit more furniture. Around 22 people work there, including those involved with their route.

It's all quite an improvement over Farnam for this veteran distributing company that sits practically at the geographical center of the U.S. And it was a great day for a venerable company and its customers to mingle, to bond, to learn and yes, to buy. ◆



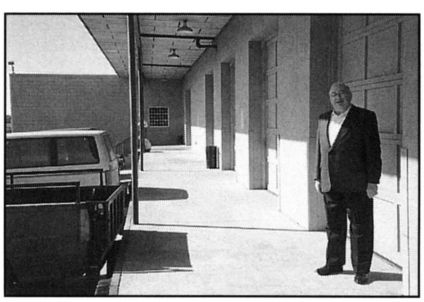
WMS' Bob Lentz, Central prexy Mark Singer and operator Rick Taylor (Amusement Services, Lincoln, Neb.) with the upcoming *Killer Instinct* dedicated video.



And the winner of that *Genesis* was Jerry Witt, seen here with his buddy Paul Hoagland.



Central's Keith Flemming (l) with operators Boyd and Kim Sorensen and fellow salesman Bob Vittitoe. The salesmen kept busy that day.



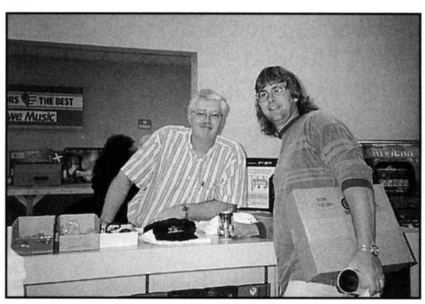
Lou Singer shows off his new shipping/receiving facilities. The building has two loading docks for semi's plus four more for pickups. The Farnam place only had one dock.



Atari's Tom Keil (l) and Mike Taylor flank Central salesman Bob Vittitoe by the *T-Mek* sitdown.



Kaneko's John Joyce triggers-up the *Roadshow* pin for Tony and Pat Benjamin (Mr. Lucky's). John helped ops to info on his own video products as well.



Parts manager Dan Applegate doing business with Rege Craft of Planet Pinball, Lawrence, KS. It's a nice, friendly place to buy spares.



Back in the warehouse, the Central chairman appears ready to effect another delivery, perhaps of the popular Rowe *LaserStar IV* phonograph, during guided tour.

OPEN HOUSE

MONDIAL COMBO IN HIGHTSTOWN

Springfield and Philly customers "meet halfway" at Ramada

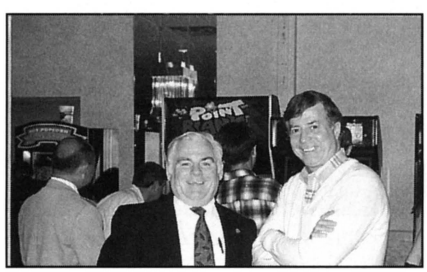
For this year's post-AMOA open houses, Mondial Distributing's Springfield, NJ people combined with their counterparts at the Philadelphia office to hold one joint showing.

Held at the Ramada in Hightstown, NJ, it was quite a drive for some customers, but well worth it for many as the dealership displayed a whopping 64 different products at the hotel.

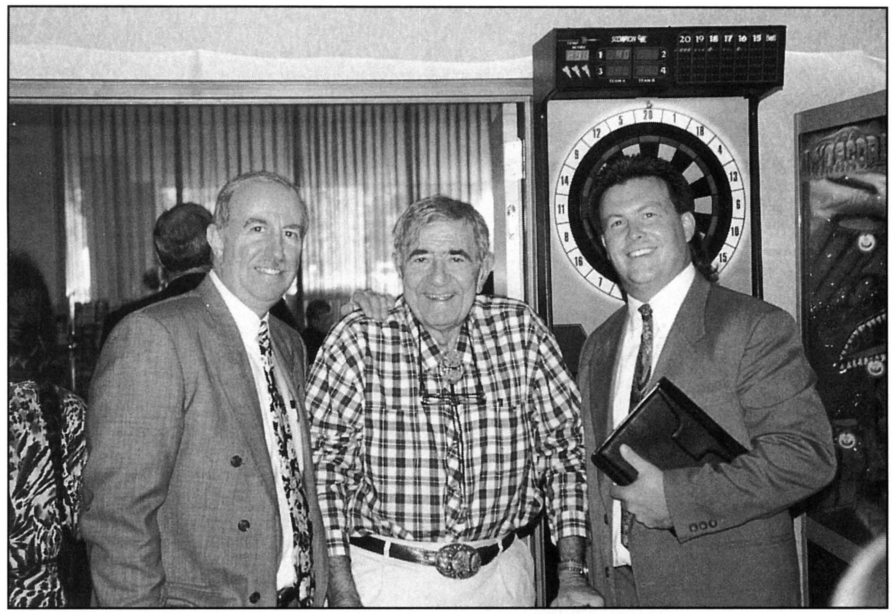
"The product spread created an air of excitement that lasted well into the night," Mondial/Philly's Chris Vecchione declared. Interesting idea.



Chris Vecchione (r) with Gary and Susan Leonard (Sugar Vending) and the SNK Neo-Geo.



Mondial/Philly's Gerry Boyle (l) and Aljons' Al Hope at the Ramada shindig.



Mondial's Irv Spinak and Joe Moffet flank industry patriarch Zav Housepian (Select-o-Mation) who may have been in the business before electricity.



Left to right by Sega's *Desert Tank* sitdown are Chuck Peitz (Tri-Corp), Irv Spinak, Alan Newell (Tri Corp), Tony Maniscalso and Ken Anderson (Sega).



From left: Joe Connor and Joe Moffett (MDI), Debbie Gonzalez (Planet Earth), unknown but happy child, Steve Russo (Capital City) and Niki Arakelian (MDI) by *Dinoscore*.



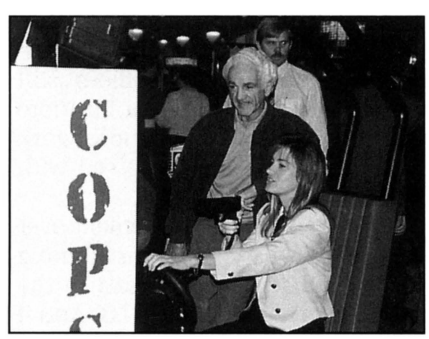
Joe and Marylou Costatino of Carlo's Amusements with little Cavin and Cara Mia by Skee Ball's *Hightops* junior basketball game.



From left: Mondial's Walt Bittal, Grand Amusements' Anita Scheller and Irene Puehl and MDI's Paul Donzella.



By the Arachnid lineup, from left: Julie and Vinnie Candullo (World's Fair Amuse.), Bob Mills (Arachnid) and George Moyer (George and Son Amusements).



Horace Macconi enjoys watching daughter Gina playing Atari's brand new *Cops* shooter/driver.

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TAKIN' IT TO THE STREET

Pennsylvania-based New Image Technologies has bar and tavern customers in mind with their classy line of touchscreen videos



Operators have long expressed the need for a game that satisfies the demands of their lucrative bar and tavern locations; one that has strong player appeal among "adult" patrons; is reasonably priced; and can bring in strong collections over a sustained period. One relative newcomer to the industry, Telford, Penn.-based New Image Technologies, has directly targeted this "street" market with its initial offering, and now adds two exciting follow-ups to its game lineup.

New Image arrived on the coin-op scene with *Street Games,* a unique multi-game touchscreen available in two cabinet designs: a compact countertop or an upright kiosk. The countertop was a sleek, low-profile unit made for easy placement on a bar; it featured a 14-inch high-resolution monitor, and a front-mounted and accessed coin mech. The kiosk featured a 19-inch high-res, slide-out monitor plus front and rear servicing, over/under dual mechanism coin door and an optional bill validator/ stacker.

Both cabinets were designed to use *Street Games'* revolutionary all-glass, damage-resistant touchscreen. A powerful computer was at the heart of the system and could hold over 70 different games. The games themselves had to be redesigned "from the ground up" to incorporate the user-friendly touchscreen technology.

Nominated by the AMOA for its "Most Innovative New Technology" award, *Street Games* quickly brought the company recognition within the industry. Now, the firm is introducing *Photo Play,* a new game for the bar market; one that utilizes both touchscreen and CD ROM technology. The CD ROM discs allow for the use of several thousand photos, which make up the trivia, reflex memory, maze, action games and more, plus thousands of questions.

Like its predecessor, *Photo Play* comes in countertop and kiosk versions, with 14- and 19-inch screens respectively. Along will being able to produce stunning graphics, the interchangeable discs make updating a snap. Game titles include Visual Trivia (match questions with pictures), Super Solitaire, Fun 21, Jigsaw Mania, Photo Concentration, Memory Master, Draw Poker and Blackjack. On-screen feature controls include bookkeeping and diagnostics. Play pricing can be set at 25 cents, 50 cents or $1 and there are 16 screens of advertising available.

Dimensions of the countertop unit are 15"(h) x 17.5"(d) x 19"(w), with a weight of 70 lbs. The upright measures 48"(h) x 25.5"(d) x 21"(w) and weighs 150 lbs.

In addition, New Image introduces their next generation *Touchstar Bonanza* , with touchscreen and 37 popular games, including Super Solitaire, Fun 21, Hangman and Dead Ant, along with Blackjack, Slots and Draw Poker. The game's Trivia Master features 12,000 questions in 18 new categories, such as Baseball, Basketball, Football, Hockey, World Records, Cartoons, Movies, Rock N' Roll, Science and Nature, as well as Sex I & II. *Touchstar Bonanza* is also available as an upgrade kit for *Street Games.*

For more information, contact your distributor or New Image Technology, Inc., 190 Keystone Dr., Telford, PA 18969; 215/453-8626.

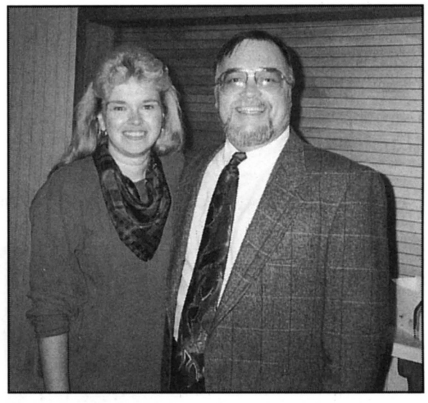


A FAMILY AFFAIR

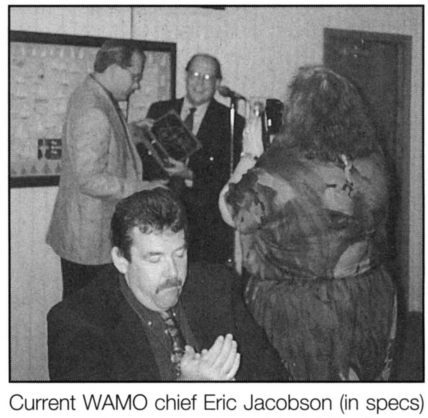
WAMO ops mix business with pleasure in gorgeous Door County



WAMO director Jim Groeschl & Rosalie Jacomet getting ready for a seminar during the meeting.



Former WAMO prexy Ralph Fleege and Sue Sentkowski announced their engagement during the meeting.



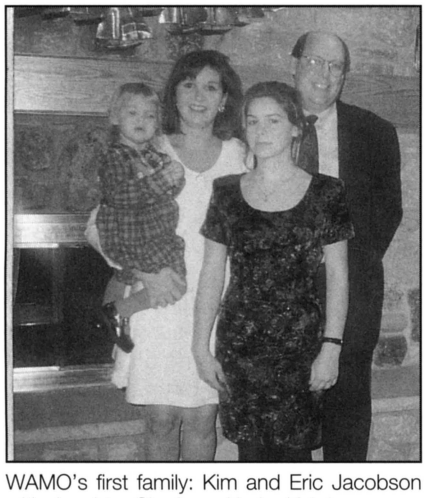
Current WAMO chief Eric Jacobson (in specs) presents plaque to past president Mike Bohrer as Exec. Dir. Jane Svinicki photographs the occasion.

Members of the Wisconsin Amusement & Music Operators association (WAMO) held their fall meeting at the Landmark Resort in Door County, which is one of the most beautiful places in the midwest at this time of year.

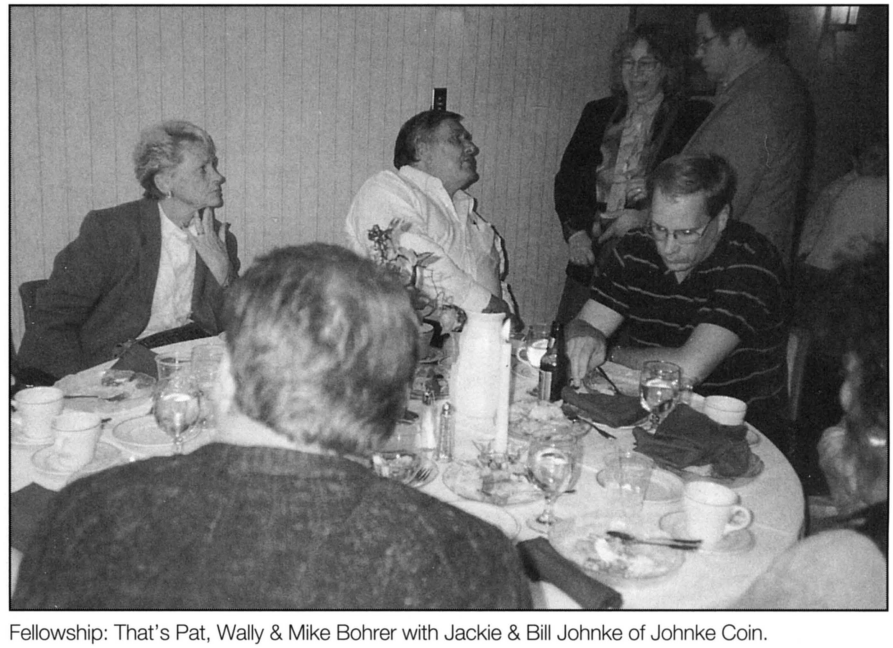
Located on the Wisconsin peninsula that juts out into Lake Michigan by Green Bay, the county offers 250 miles of shoreline and mile after mile filled with small villages, cherry and apple orchards and almost unbelievable color.

This fall WAMO gathering was full and successful from both the business and social standpoints, all held in a place that had everything for the operator and his family, and WAMO meetings have always been family affairs.

WAMO has around 120 operator members, and their spring and fall meetings are always well attended. This meeting's three-day agenda started with a three hour board meeting that lasted five (not unusual for WAMO since no one leaves until



WAMO's first family: Kim and Eric Jacobson with daughter Charis and baby Katelyn.



Fellowship: That's Pat, Wally & Mike Bohrer with Jackie & Bill Johnke of Johnke Coin.

everything is settled and agreed).

The roundtable business discussions were also productive and educational, all guided by new WAMO president Eric Jacobson and his new executive director Jane Svinicki. A new group called Citizens for Fair Amusement (CFFA) composed of operators (but not a part of WAMO) discussed their gaming ideas.

Another meeting, Building Political Muscle, called on lobbyist Jan Swanby to describe in words and by the use of slides how to get your voice heard in the political system. Here are just a few quotes brought up that might benefit readers:

"If legislators haven't heard from you, you don't exist."

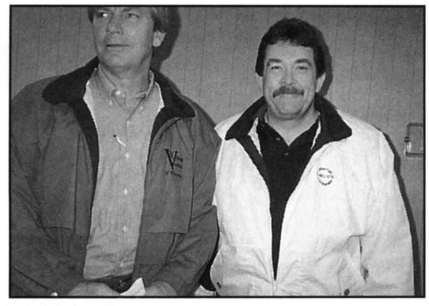
"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those that hustle."

"You pluck the feathers from the goose that does the least squawking."

The WAMO people did more than business, and every day offered something fun (swimming, golf, sight seeing) to do and something tasty to eat (the Door County Fish Boil). Like we said, it was a family affair. ◆



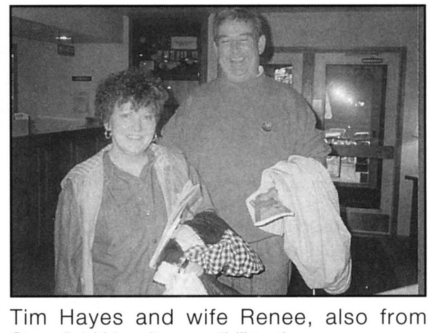
Long time Stansfield staffer Max Spaulding and wife Carol checking in.



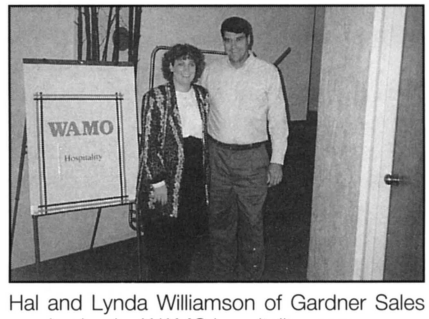
Happy golfers Jim Groeschi and RIck Tills.



Family time: the Kevin and Dan Stowe families from K.D. Enterprises in Oshkosh.

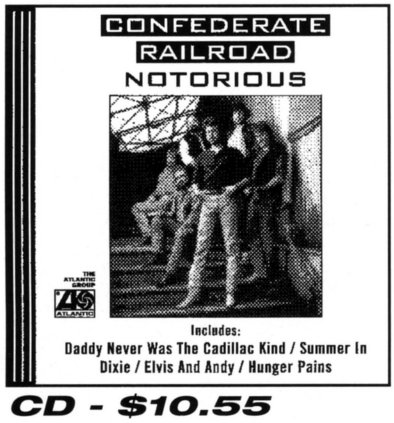


Tim Hayes and wife Renee, also from Stansfield Novelty, say "hi" to the cameraman.



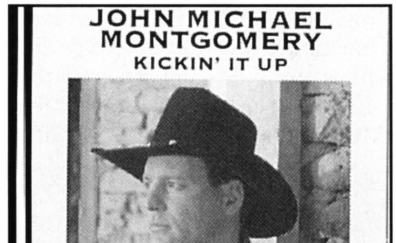
Hal and Lynda Williamson of Gardner Sales coming by the WAMO hospitality room.

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SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL

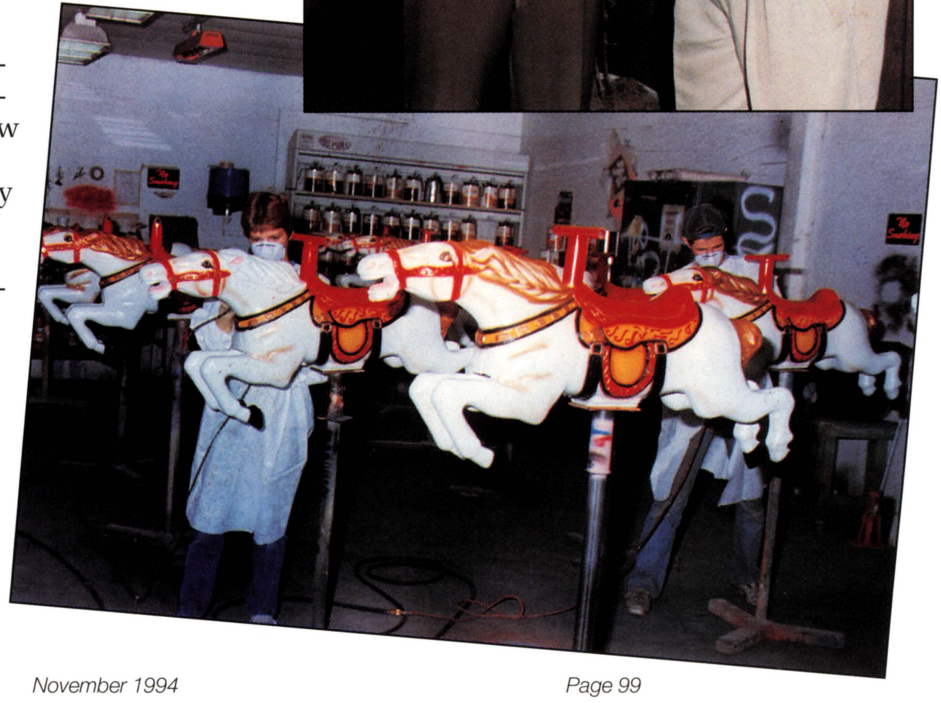
Carousel Int'l. marks its 25th year as a leader in the kiddie ride industry

SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Long overshadowed by other forms of coin-operated entertainment, kiddie rides have recently enjoyed a resurgence that's hard to ignore. Perhaps this has been due to the new-found interest in "family-oriented" entertainment or the simple rediscovery that the rides are provide steady revenue, yet are durable and require relatively low maintenance. Whatever the reason, one only need look at the growing number of kiddie ride exhibitors at recent trade shows to know that this coin-op "staple" is more popular than ever.

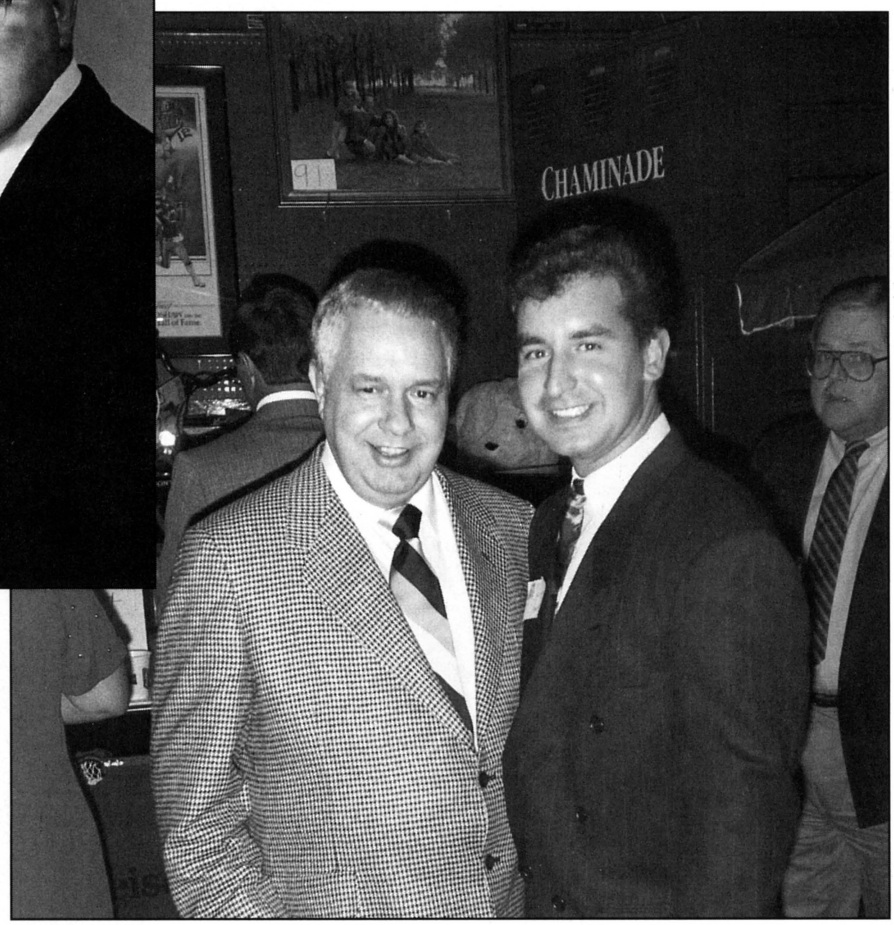
The kiddie ride boom couldn't have been timed better for Missouri-based Carousel International, a leading manufacturer of kiddie rides now celebrating its Silver Anniversary. For a quarter of a century, this family business has witnessed the ups and downs of the market to emerge as a company with a reputation for quality products and designs that have long-lasting appeal.

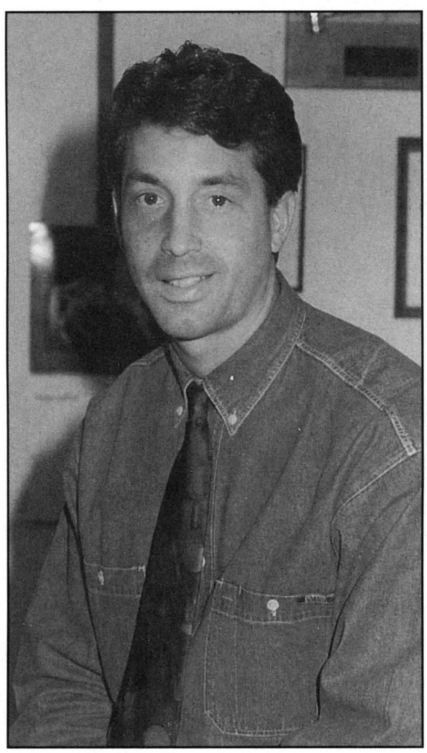


Photos this page...top: Factory headquarters in Eldon, Missouri for the 25-year-old Carousel International Corporation. Middle: company President Brad Veatch and Vice President Steven Veatch. Bottom: airbrush artists Janine Smith and Rick Williams apply stripes to the some of the factory's horses for rides.



Photos this page – left: Norwood E. Veatch, Sr. and his wife Frances. This photo was taken at their 25th wedding anniversary — they just celebrated their 60th! **Below:** Norwood E. Veatch Jr. with son Steven Veatch. Steven is Carousel's VP. **Below left:** The third generation takes the reigns: Brad Veatch, president of Carousel International.





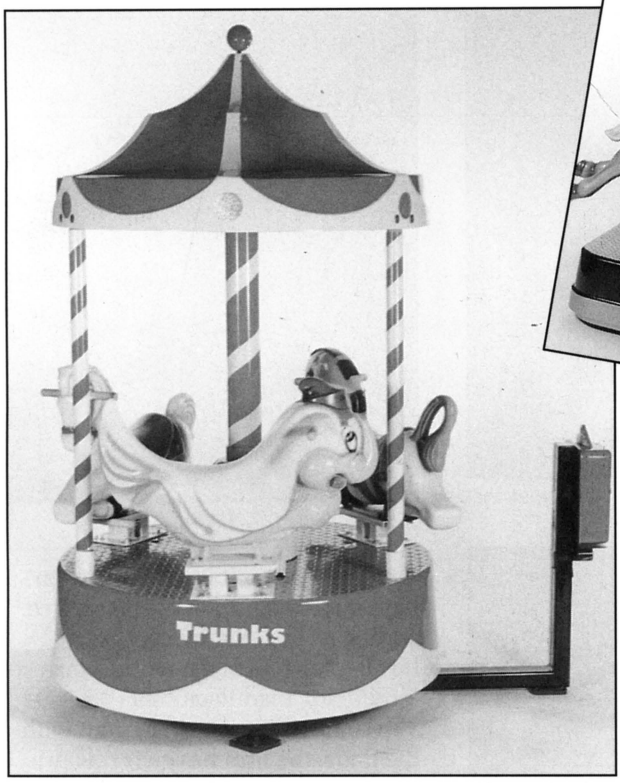
Founded in 1968 by Norwood E. Veatch, Sr. in St. Louis, Mo., Carousel made its debut with the introduction of a mini, coin-operated *Merry-Go-Round.* According to the company, this first product played a major role in the rebirth of the kiddie ride industry at that time. It seems rising costs had finally caught up to the venerable kiddie ride, and operators could no longer afford to operate them at 10 cents per ride...but customers were unwilling to pay more.

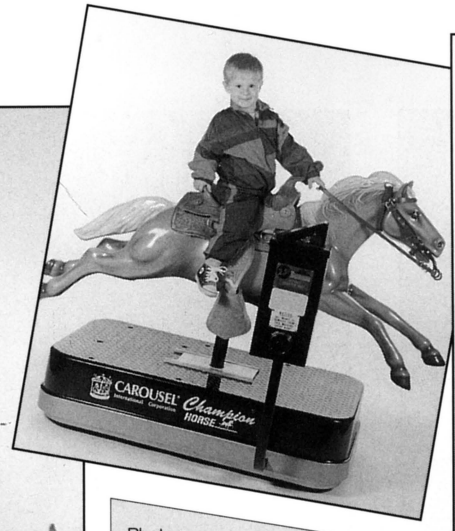
Veatch, Sr. found the answer in a multi-passenger ride. After observing the popularity of the carousels at county fairs and carnivals, he decided to design and build a mobile four-passenger coin-op merry-go-round that would charge a quarter per ride. The ride soon became a hit at one of the major discount store chains, resulting in the chain's management requesting that the new ride be installed at all of their store locations.

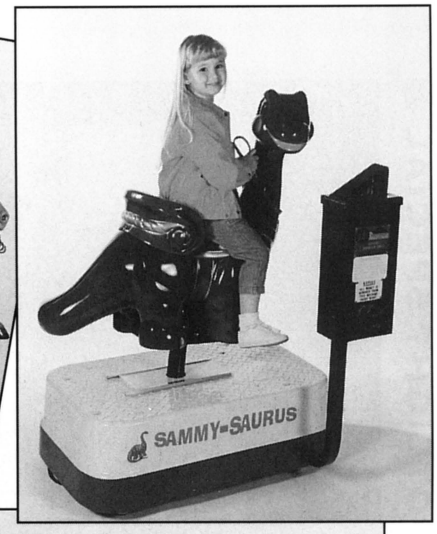
With this rapid success came new problems. High demand for the carousel ride strained the capabilities of the original contract manufacturer, which was eventually unable to meet both production and quality-control requirements. This led to the opening of Carousel's own manufacturing facility in Osage Beach, Mo., which was run by Veatch and his son Norwood E. Veatch, Jr. This facility was soon outgrown and operations were moved to a 40,000 sq. ft. building in Eldon, Mo., where the company is currently based.

Today, all of Carousel's kiddie rides are manufactured in an 80,000-plus sq. ft. factory. The plant provides facilities for fiberglass molding; vacuum and plastic forming; steel fabrication, cutting and welding; coating, painting and detailing; electronics manufacturing; assembly, shipping, teardown and remanufacturing; service, parts and engineering. All of the company's plant systems and delivery information are totally computerized.

Carousel's staff numbers from about 75 to 100 employees, depending on the season. In keeping with tradition, Brad Veatch, son of Norwood, Jr., joined the company in the mid-'80s after graduating from college. He was joined soon after by









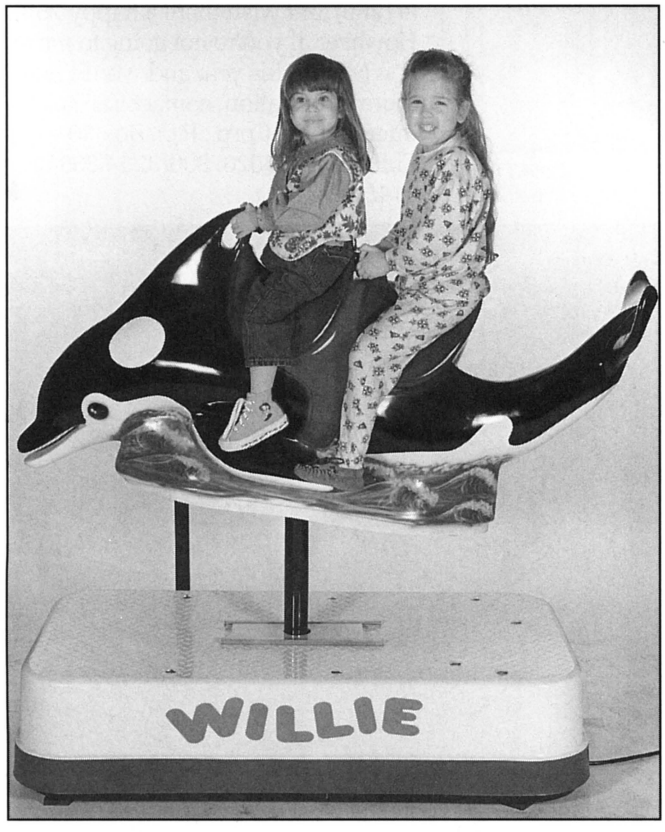
Photos
at top of page – left:
The one that started it all: Carousel's mini *Merry-Go-Round* in its latest incarnation. Next, they make horses, don't they? Yes, and here it is. Upper right, Carousel's new singing *Sammy Saurus* is one happy reptile that sings a very cute song. At right, the *Sleek Streak* sports car. Carousel can customize colors and graphics at the buyers request.

younger brother Steven, who came straight from college to the family business. Brad, who was named president in July, 1994, today devotes his energies to directing the company, while Steven, who is vice president, takes on the task of developing marketing concepts that will keep Carousel at the forefront in the competitive kiddie ride industry.

While Carousel may get its name from its one-ride beginning, the company today produces over 50 different rides. The product line also is available in many color variations and trim packages, making it possible for buyers to customize the rides for their locations.

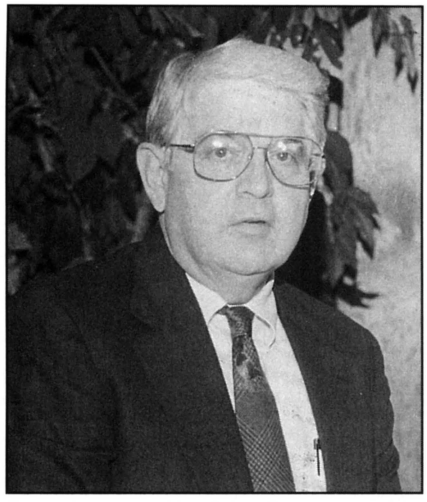
This versatile line-up includes realistic-looking vehicles and horses, as well as more cartoon-like dinosaurs and fantasy animals on its carousels. Customers will be pleased to know that virtually everything is in stock at all times, and is backed up by a huge parts supply.

Most of Carousel's rides are UL listed, and the company says it will have its products UL approved by the end of the year. Other safety features include a 12-volt DC power source for all lights, sounds and cash boxes. The cabinets are made of fiberglass with steel frames and bases, making the rides suitable for both indoor and/or outdoor operation. Almost all of them are mechanical units, using a

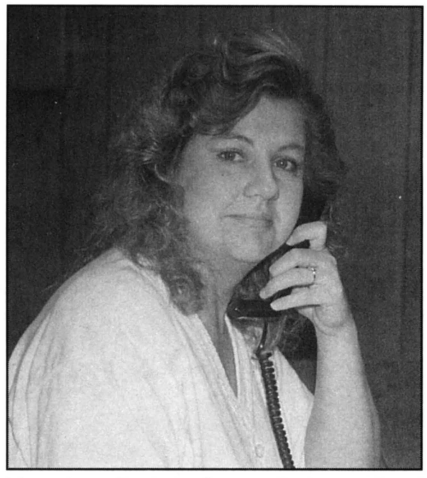




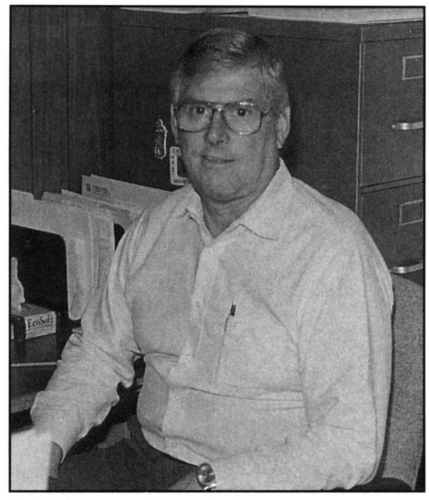
At left, the all-new *Willie* the dolphin ride has room for two. Above, Carousel's newest, *The Jungle King,* roars into the kiddie ride market.



General manager Ken Schaeffer.



Mary Jane Davis is Carousel's international operator.



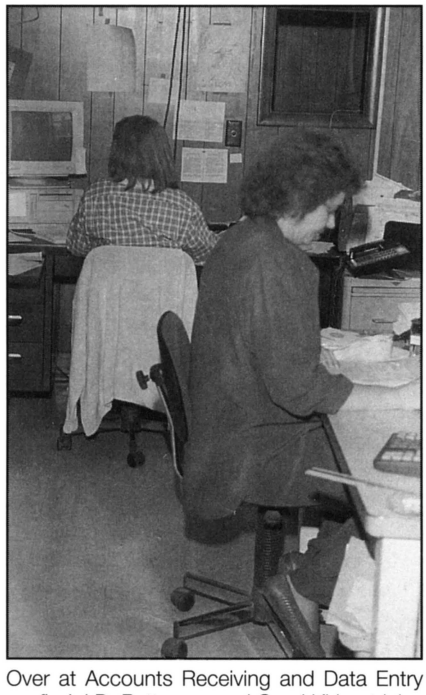
Sales manager David Weis.

rugged gear reduction box with no belts or pulleys.

"We've had operators tell us they have some of our first rides still on location without having to do anything to them." said Steven Veatch. "They know Carousel stands for quality, and always will."

However, if a customer does have a problem with a Carousel ride, help is just around the corner. The company maintains 15 "satellite service stations" strategically located across the U.S., which are staffed by factory-paid personnel, making service available to all 50 states — even Hawaii and Alaska! These centers support Carousel's complete distributor network of traditional coin-op dealers. A factory warranty als o comes with every ride.

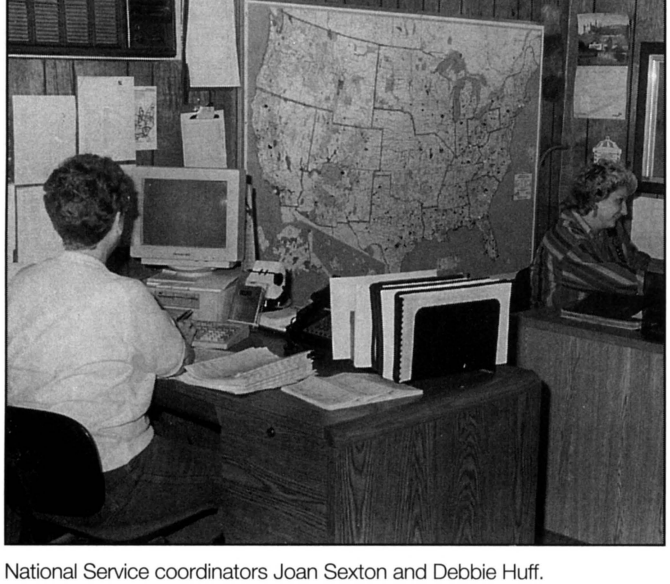
Throughout 25 years of making both kids and operators happy, Carousel has built its reputation on high-quality equipment and service, ending its first quarter century of business as one of the world's largest kiddie ride manufacturers.



Over at Accounts Receiving and Data Entry we find J.D. Patterson and Carol Kirkpatrick.

To commemorate this event with the trade, the firm has given away a beautiful, ornate "Silver Carousel" at both the AMOA Expo in San Antonio and Fun Expo in Las Vegas; the last one will be awarded to one lucky attendee of the upcoming IAAPA show in Miami after a special drawing at the show's conclusion.

If you're going to the IAAPA show, stop by Carousel's booth (#1269) and wish them a happy 25th. However, if you're not going to make it to Miami this year and would like more information, contact Carousel International Corp., P.O. Box 307, Eldon, MO 65026; 800/325-3353 or 314/392-7122. ◆



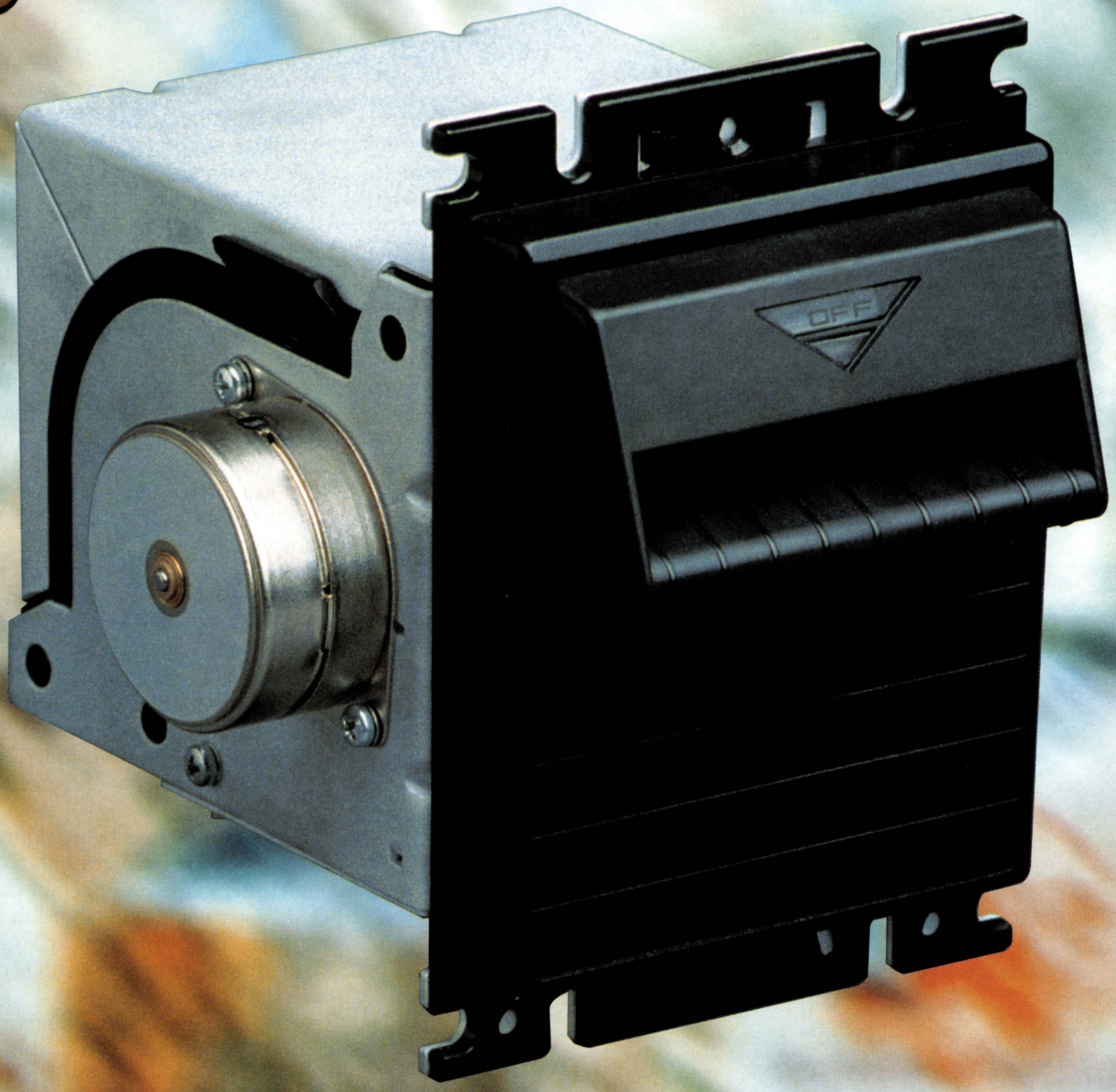
National Service coordinators Joan Sexton and Debbie Huff.



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Just Say NO!

says "yes" to their third family arcade in Louisville

Jack and Debbie Turner opened their newest "Just say No!" family fun center in Louisville, Ky. on Sept. 1st, giving this mom and pop arcade company three game rooms on their chain. Located out on Shelbyville Rd. in the Big's Middletown Station shopping center, the location occupies 2,700 sq. ft. and was well-received by the area's grownups.

Since it's opened, Debbie Turner said she's received a lot of positive compliments from moms and dads, like "this is great...we really needed a place like this." Since "Just Say No!" scrupulously maintains a clean and safe atmosphere, parents are happy to allow their youngsters to spend time (and money) there. In fact, mom and dad sometimes like to play too.



The compelling facade of the newest Turner family arcade in Louisville makes points with the area's parents.

Debbie says the rules at this and the other Turner arcades are the simple ABC's: "no alcohol, no bad language, no cigarettes or drugs and no exceptions." She says the arcade staff gets on any kids who use foul language, and if they don't quit it, out they go. "Believe me, we make up for that lost business by getting the family clientele. A clean and wholesome atmosphere pays," she advises.

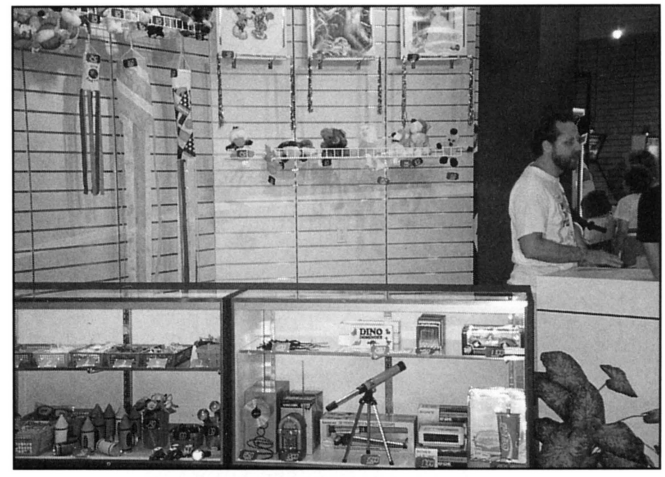
The place was open only seven weeks when *RePlay* chatted with Debbie. Despite the fact they didn't advertise the new arcade, business already has been very good. They're open from 1:00PM until 10:00PM on weekdays (so they don't interfere with school), from 10:00AM until 11:00 on Saturdays and from noon till six on Sunday.

The new store is managed by Jerry Warman, who came over from another Turner game room called the Galleria. Jerry commands four full timers and six part time people, but that could change as they're still sort of in the shake down period.

On the floor, the machines are just about evenly mixed between redemption and video/pin. Of the dozen videos, the big ticket right now is *Primal Rage*. They also sport a *Kid's Adventure Dome* up front and a



On the floor, Turner family members and friends gave the new game room a test workout just before their Sept. 1st opening (free tokens, natch).



Hard to see him, but that's Jack Turner at the right behind the redemption prize counter.



Ribbit Racing and *Simple Simon* provide color and challenge to the new center.



The "Smart" corner, with three roll up alleys and a *Toss Em* cage.



That's a dual monitor *Moto Frenzy* back there getting a workout from a pair of teenagers.



Prepare for battle, with *WrestleFest* and *Turbo Champ SFII*. Note artistic use of grillwork around the games.

Dynamo *Air Hockey*. It's all colorful, spacious, lots of fun, and clean!

The equipment for the new "Just Say No!" arcade was supplied by Kentucky Coin, who Debbie says have been very attentive to problems that have come up with some of the machines. She also says husband Jack has an electronics degree and has been able to adjust some of the glitches himself. "But I'd sure like to see the day when you can plug all these new machines in without worrying if they're going to perform correctly. Barring that, I'm glad Kentucky Coin's there to help," Debbie advises.

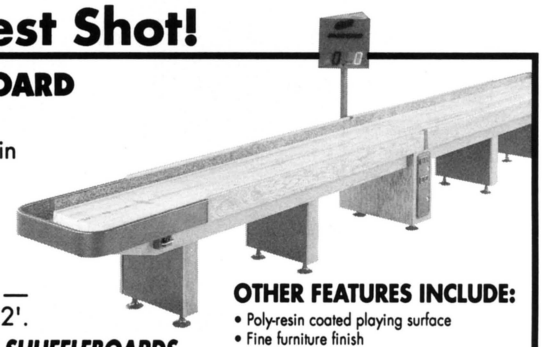
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COVER STORY



SNK'S SAMURAI SHODOWN II

As they say in the aerospace business, "we have ignition!" After previewing *Samurai Shodown II* at the AMOA Expo, SNK will now supply the North American industry with this sequel to their #1 hit *Samurai Shodown* nor only as a system cartridge, but as a conversion kit *and* in what they call a "dedicated upright."

The upright began trucking to the company's distributors the last week of October, with the kit and the cartridge coming in mid-November. To offer it dedicated as well as in software form is quite an event for SNK. Clearly, the game has strength, but in the words of company sales top Tracy Tate, "we also released it this way to help operators and distributors realize that Neo•Geo games are individual winners and not just great cartridge changes."

The upright is handsome, with colorful red-on-white *Samurai Shodown II* artwork on the cabinet sides and around the play station. Inside, it's driven by a Neo•Geo single-slot hardware system which means when operators are completely finished with the game, the cabi-

NEWEST NEO•GEO TO BE AVAILABLE IN THREE CONFIGURATIONS

net becomes a Neo•Geo system upright simply by peeling off the cabinet art and replacing it with a complete Neo•Geo graphics package the company will supply.

The conversion kit consists of the cartridge, hardware player, logo plex, monitor bezzle, control panel overlay, sticks and buttons and side graphics, all to turn an existing video cabinet into a *Samurai Shodown II*. The cartridges, of course, can be purchased singly for use in the many Neo•Geo system cabinets now in the field.

GAME PLAY

Tate says *Samurai Shodown II* has more depth, quicker action and new characters (plus some returning warriors) when compared to the original. Obviously, this sword-on-sword slasher evokes the spirit of the ancient samurai...to destroy all enemies.

The game takes the player back to the time long ago when the Katana legend was lived. Over 15 warriors, including the player's "alter ego," stand in his way as he tries to defeat the evil sorcerer. Fifteen individual endings and a highly detailed cinematic introduction to the last "boss" are featured in this sequel.

By changing and improving screen graphics and backgrounds, introducing four new characters jam-packed with individual special moves, and adding special moves to existing characters, *Samurai Shodown II* "avoids the classic 'upgrade' approach used by various video game companies," in the words of Tate.

Included among the new characters is a girl from the jungle who wields a boomerang and commands a monkey sidekick. Also, a new set of POWer moves (secret moves players must struggle to learn) adds another dimension to this innovative fighter. As the follow-up to the successful chart-topper, and by more than slightly improving on game play and graphics, *Samurai Shodown II* is a total package.

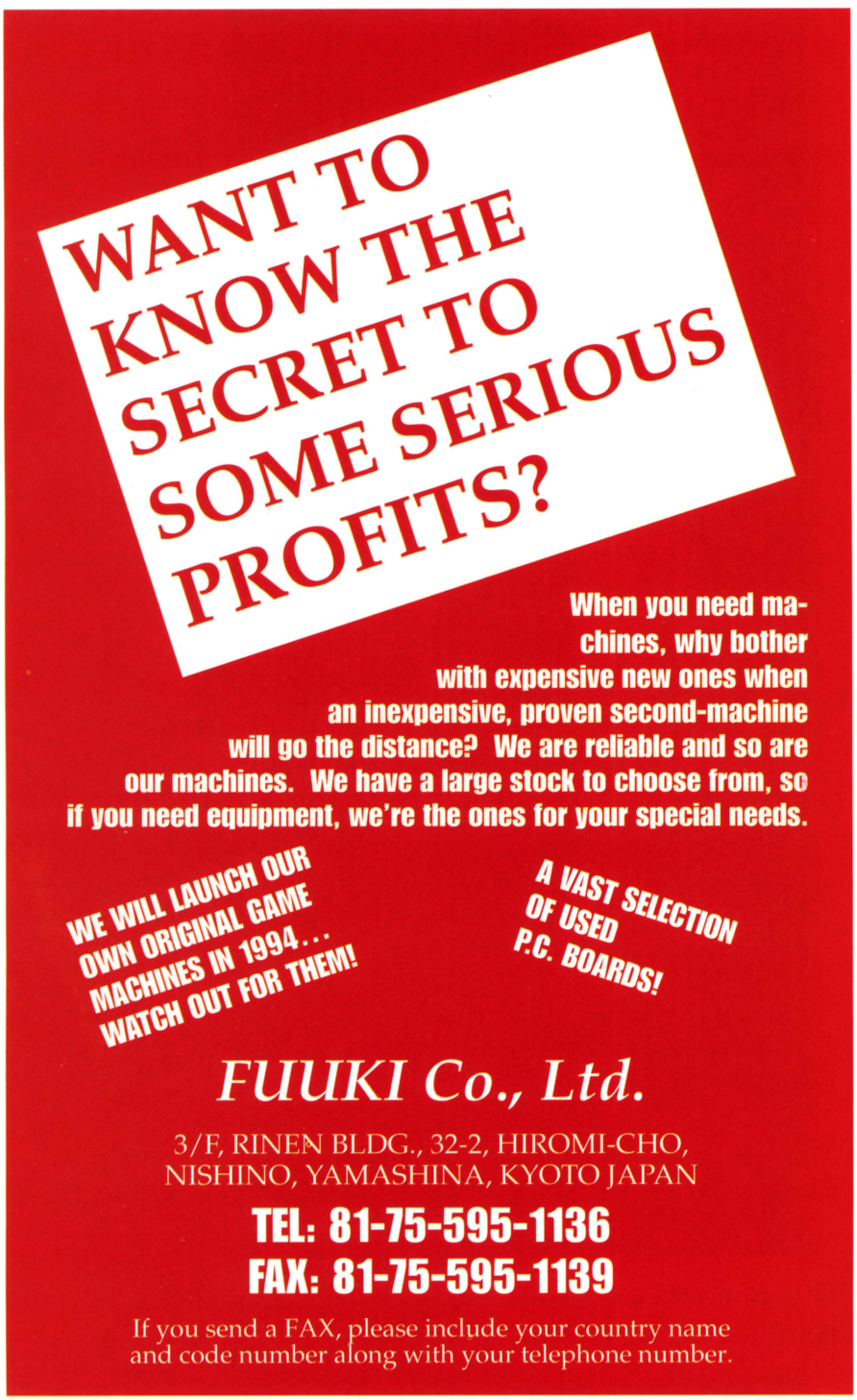
Neo•Geo games are manufactured by Japan-based SNK Corporation and marketed here by SNK Corp. of America in Torrance, CA. The system has proven to be the most successful cartridge-based software-change program on the coin-op market today.

Besides bringing out the three configurations of the new *Shodown*, the domestic office is also offering distributors game cartridges that include their brand new *Zed Blade* (space shooter/flier), *King of Fighters '94*, *Aero Fighter 2* and *Aggressors of Dark Kombat*. The 330 Meg Neo•Geo system features 380 sprites, 15 channels of symphonic stereo sound and can display 4,096 simultaneous colors.

For more information on their products, and for distributor referral, contact Tracy Tate or Heh Kyu Lee at SNK Corp. of American by calling 310/371-7100.

CLARIFICATION

As some readers know, *Samurai Shodown II* appeared on *RePlay's* October 1994 *Players' Choice* chart as the result of an error at the publication. We regret the confusion and restate that this new SNK game only began shpping in dedicated form the last week of October, and that its kit and its cartridge won't be coming to SNK's North American dealers until the middle of November.



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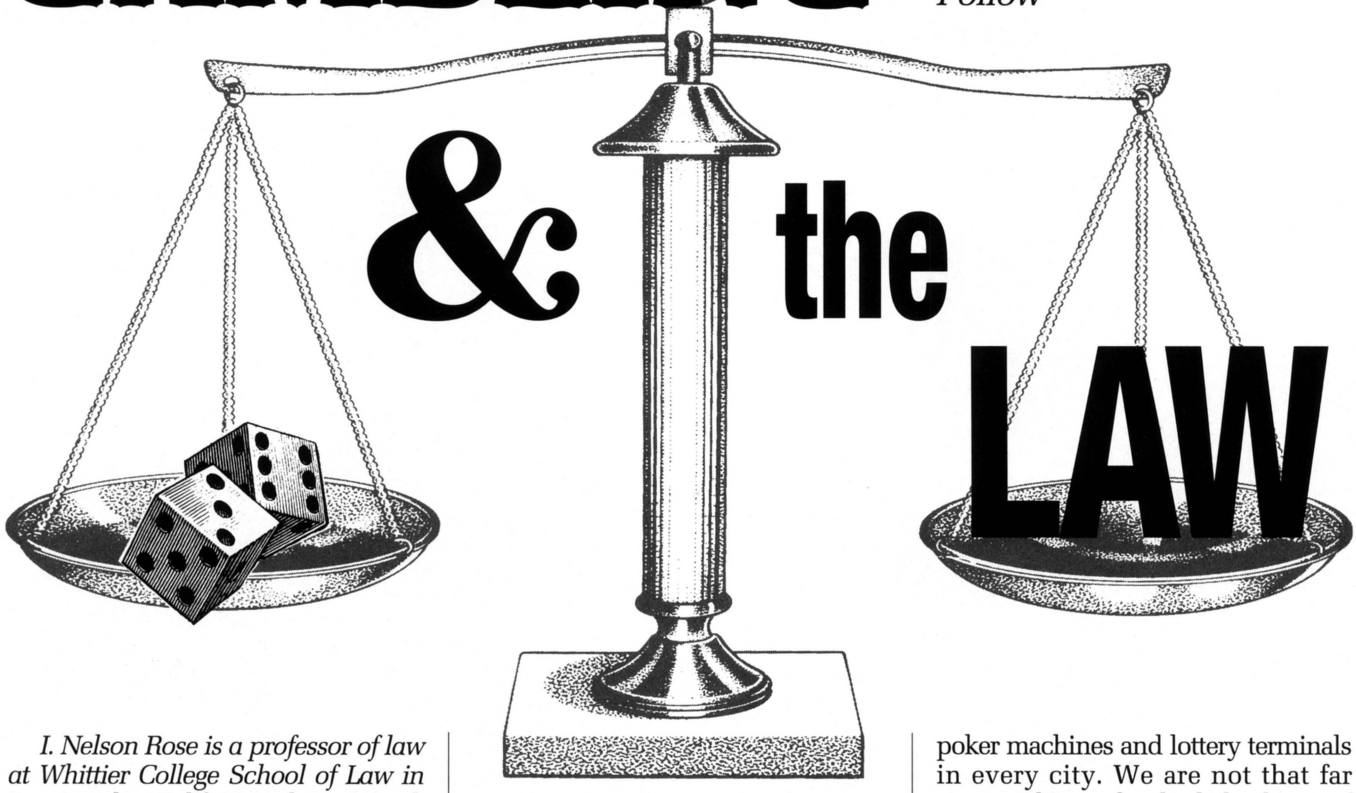
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GAMBLING & the LAW

Slots or VLTs Now Legal in 25 States; Rest of USA Will Follow



by I. Nelson Rose

I. Nelson Rose is a professor of law at Whittier College School of Law in Los Angeles, Calif. He's also nationally recognized as one of America's leading authorities on legal and political issues of gambling. What follows is one of his recent syndicated columns on the subject. — the editor.

Gambling begets gambling. Once one form of gambling has been legalized in a state — even in a neighboring state — other games follow. In the past, evolution took decades: racetracks had monopolies for years. Today, state lotteries progress quickly from scratch-off tickets, to lotto, to daily drawings, to keno, and — when they can - to video lottery terminals (VLTs). The only difference between a VLT and a slot machine, is that that the VLT pays off in credits redeemable for cash, rather than directly dispensing coins.

And, while states are getting into the quasi-casino business, the enormous political pressure for true casinos continues to grow.

Players always want games that are faster and easier, with at least the illusion of player participation. The faster and bigger versions of the state lottery have almost wiped out the instant ticket games; casino table games are dying out, with many casinos becoming nothing more than video slot warehouses.

If the future depended solely on advances in technology, the future gambling could be summed up in two words: "video poker." The video poker machine is the closest thing we have to a perfect gambling device. It is fast, fun, easy to learn, has the potential for large jackpots, allows even novice players to gamble without feeling intimidated, and provides at least the illusion that skillful play will change the results.

Eventually we will see video poker machines and lottery terminals in every city. We are not that far away. I have checked the laws of every state. By my count, gaming devices — either slot machines or VLTs — are already legal in 25 states and three U.S. territories. The following is a state-by-state rundown; states allowing machines under the law are marked with an asterisk (*).

Alabama: No casino gambling is allowed, so governor refused to negotiate with state's Indians. The tribe appealed and won the right to go directly to the Secretary of the Interior for casino regulations.

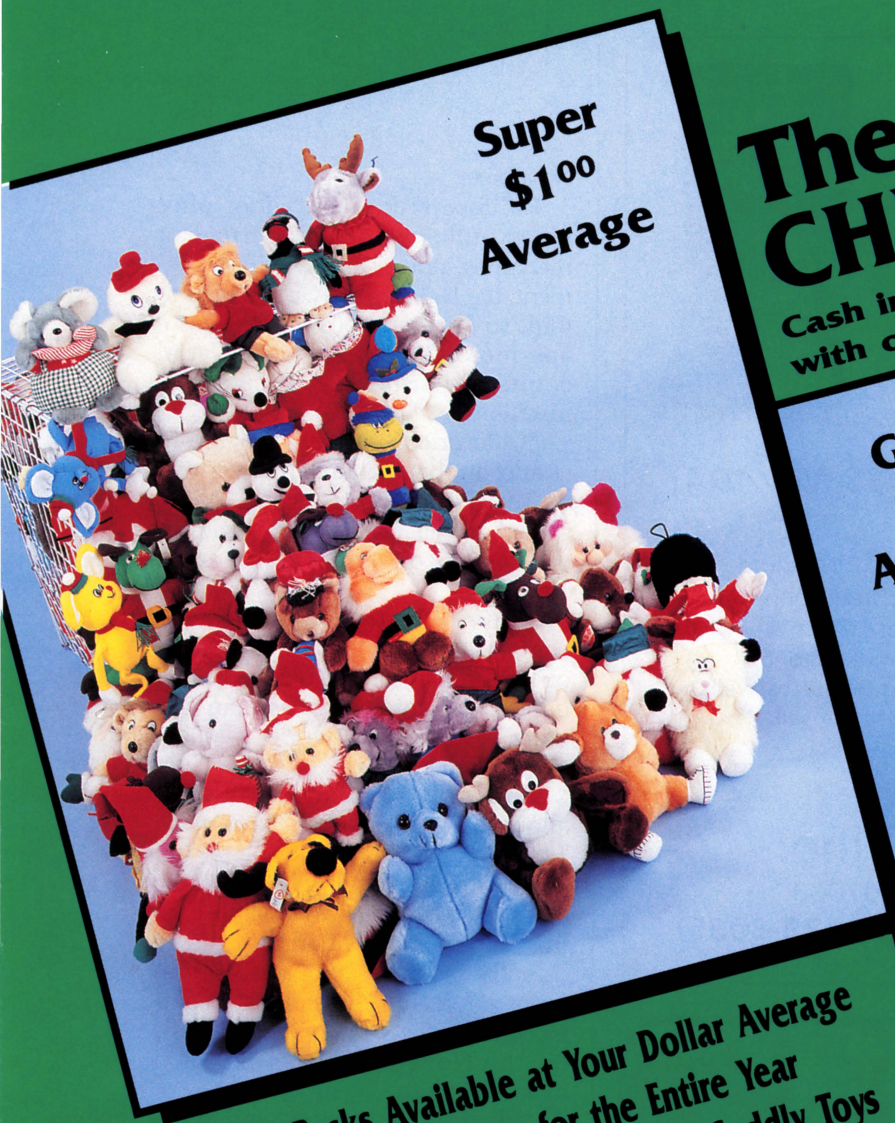
***Alaska:** Casinos are prohibited by state law; yet governor signed a compact allowing a tribe to have a full casino.

***Arizona:** Charities can once again have occasional "Casino Nights" with slot machines; Indian tribes can, and do, operate slots year-round.

Arkansas: Casinos would be legal if a proposed constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in

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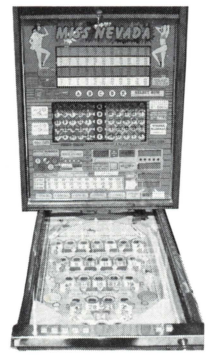
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November.

California: Indian casinos offer video pulltabs, including true slot machines, under stand-still arrangement; the U.S. Attorney agreed not to raid, so long as tribes don't acquire any more gambling devices. Trial courts have ruled tribes can have machines.

***Colorado:** Slot machines are in casinos in three mountain towns and on two Indian reservations. Widespread gray market video and gaming devices pay off, when police aren't around.

***Connecticut:** Governor signed compacts giving monopoly on slots on two Indian tribes. Foxwoods now has more gaming devices than any other casino in the world — 3,875 slot machines.

***Delaware:** Bill signed in 1994 allows each racetrack to have up to 1,000 slot machines.

Florida: A federal judge ruled the Seminoles cannot open casinos, yet the court of appeals said they can go directly to the Secretary of the Interior for casino regulations. Separately, an initiative to open casinos is on the November 1994 ballot. I expect it to lose.

***Illinois:** Slots are legal and in use on riverboat casinos.

***Indiana:** Slots are allowed on 11 riverboat casinos, but a trial court declared the statute unconstitutional in May.

***Iowa:** Slots are legal on riverboat casinos and at racetracks.

Kansas: State Supreme Court ruled state must negotiate to allow tribes to have casino games — specifically, gaming devices.

Kentucky: Lots of discussion, but not chance of casinos clearing legislative hurdles until 1996.

***Louisiana:** Gaming machines are everywhere. Truckstops used to be able to have hundreds of video poker machines; now they are limited to a maximum of 50 and they have to sell gasoline! Any liquor licensee can have machines. Casinos galore: 15 on riverboats, two on Indian land, and one authorized for New Orleans.

Maine: Nothing yet, but tribe will probably win suit, forcing state to negotiate a full casino.

***Maryland:** Charities are allowed to run casinos, including slot mach-


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ines. The state has no recognized Indian tribes.

Massachusetts: The governor signed a memo of understanding in August, 1994 that would allow a tribe to open a casino with slots, would sanction a privately-owned casino in western part of the state, and would let each horse and dog track have up to 400 slot machines.

***Michigan:** Slots are legal and operating in Indian casinos throughout the state.

***Minnesota:** Slots are legal and operating in Indian casinos throughout the state.

***Mississippi:** Law allows unlimited number of dockside casinos with slots.

***Missouri:** Riverboat casinos can have only games with some skill. So, video poker is in, slot machines are out. A constitutional amendment to allow slots, and other games of pure chance, is on the November ballot.

***Montana:** Legal video poker machines are everywhere.

Nebraska: Tribes are negotiating for full casinos. They may sue, and might win.

***Nevada:** Slots are in casinos and in many retail establishments throughout the state.

***New Jersey:** Slots are in casinos in Atlantic City.

New Mexico: Indian casinos have slots, but may be technically illegal. State has been ordered to negotiate with its tribes, but issue may be moot: statewide video gaming is on the ballot in November.

New York: Indian casinos are open, but without (legal) slots. State constitution can't be amended until 1997.

***North Carolina:** In August, 1994, governor signed compact allowing Cherokees to offer video gaming at one bingo hall. Machines must require some skill, yet cannot be video poker. What's left? Video chess?

***North Dakota:** State allows charity blackjack; Indians have full casinos, with slots.

Ohio: Casino bills and initiative failed, again.

Oklahoma: The federal Court of Appeals has ruled the state must negotiate for tribal Class II gaming, but not slot machines.

***Oregon:** State Lottery runs video poker machines; Indian tribes have full casinos.

Pennsylvania: Nothing yet, but riverboat casino bill expected to pass in 1995; leading candidates for governor not opposed.

***Rhode Island:** State runs video lottery terminals at racetracks. Governor signed a compact for an Indian casino with slots.

***South Carolina:** Video poker machines everywhere, with low limits, under strange law. Voters will decide whether or not to keep their local slots.

***South Dakota:** Casinos in Deadwood have true slots. In June 1994, the state Supreme Court declared the State Lottery's 6,000 VLTs unconstitutional. *[Editor's note: November's public referendum on VLTs could reopen market.]*

Texas: Federal court ruled tribe near El Paso can have full casino, with slots; state has appealed. Texans can't vote to amend their constitution until 1997, at earliest.

Vermont: A bill to allow casinos on railroads didn't leave the station.

Virginia: A riverboat casino bill sunk under the weight of excess baggage: Disney's proposed historic theme park got tacked on.

Washington: Some Indian casinos have slots. The federal courts ruled the slots illegal, yet the state has been ordered to negotiate.

***West Virginia:** State law allows VLTs only at Mountaineer Park Raceway and three other tracks. Riverboat casino legislation defeated, but will be reintroduced in January, 1995.

***Wisconsin:** Slots are legal and operating in Indian casinos throughout the state.

American possessions:

***Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas:** Casinos with slots allowed.

District of Columbia: Riverboat casino initiative failed to get enough legitimate signatures: of 45,000 signatures gathered, fewer than 15,000 were from voters.

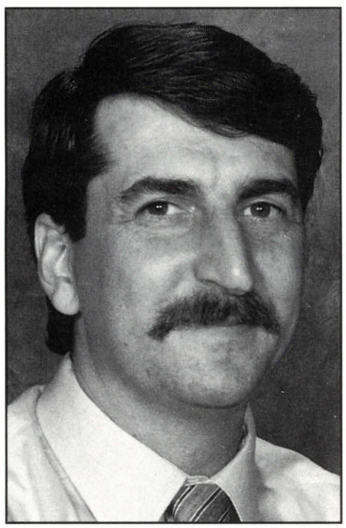
***Guam:** Gaming devices legal.

***Puerto Rico:** Full casinos with a strange twist: the government owns the slot machines.

◆

TECHNICAL TIPS

BY RANDY FROMM



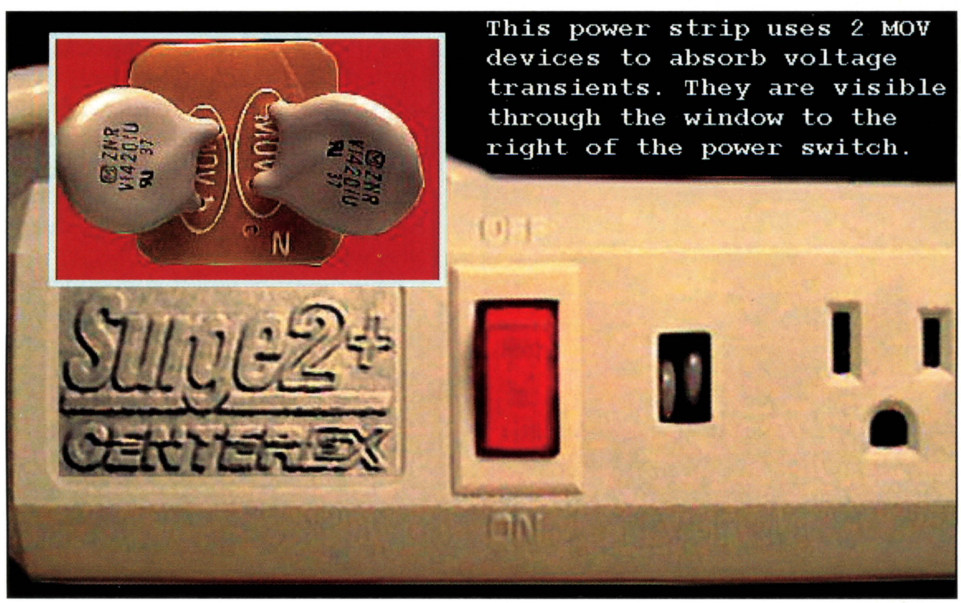
LIGHTING STRIKES ...BUT YOU CAN STRIKE BACK

Lightning and video games don't mix. Come to think of it, I guess lightning doesn't mix too well with anything. I never really gave lightning too much thought, other than to enjoy a rare and delightful light show over the mountains of San Diego now and again.

But lightning's potential for destruction really hit home a couple of months ago. My neighbor Fred's cosmic dice came up "snake-eyes" and lightning struck his 40-year-old pine tree. Holy mackerel! The bolt split the tree down the middle and blew splinters of wood (actually, deadly chunks probably would be a better description) for at least 100 feet in all directions. At the same time, the bolt shot through the railing of his redwood deck, superheating all the nails and blowing it apart as well. We found pieces of the deck in the front yard of the house, with neat little burned holes where the nails were. We never did find the nails. I assume they had been vaporized.

This past summer, the subject of lightning strikes came up a few more times in discussion with some of my technician buddies across the country. When lightning strikes a nearby power line, anything plugged into the line can be subjected to a momentary power spike of thousands of volts. The technical term for this brief, high-voltage spike is a voltage "transient." A voltage transient can easily exceed 1000 volts, possibly damaging anything plugged into the power outlet, whether the unit is turned on or not! Most on-off switch contacts are not insulated to withstand such high voltages. A nearby lightning strike can arc right across the switch, destroying the low-voltage circuitry in your radio/television/computer/game, etc.

There is a way you can protect your equipment from damage due to lightning. There is a component called a "Metal Oxide Varistor" or "MOV" that is used specifically for transient suppression. For the best protection, two MOV devices should be used for each game. One MOV is wired directly from the "hot" side of the 120 volt AC power (also known as the AC "line" and identified by a black wire) to earth ground (the green wire that is connected to the round pin of the AC outlet.) The other MOV device should be connected between line and neutral. Neutral is the 0 volt return wire and is white in color. Use MOV devices with an RMS rating of 150 volts AC.



This power strip uses 2 MOV devices to absorb voltage transients. They are visible through the window to the right of the power switch.

For those of you that are somewhat hip to electronics, an MOV works much like a zener diode. That is to say, the component doesn't conduct at all (it is "open") unless its maximum voltage rating is exceeded. When the maximum voltage is exceed-

ed, the MOV will begin to conduct and "clamp" the AC voltage at a level that is low enough to (hopefully) prevent damage to the piece of equipment it is protecting.

AC power strips are commonly available that have MOV devices built into them. They are often referred to as "surge suppression" power strips but that isn't specifically correct. A surge is a momentary increase in the AC line voltage itself. An MOV may have some limited ability to absorb a voltage surge but its primary function is to absorb the potentially damaging voltage transients caused by electrical storms and related phenomena. If your local regulations permit, plugging your equipment into such a power strip should provide some degree of protection.

It is not at all unusual to see an MOV that has literally blown-up. You may see just two component leads sticking up in the air where the MOV used to be and find the disk part of the component laying in the bottom of the game. This is an indication that the MOV has done its job by absorbing a transient. Because the MOV absorbs the transients by lowering its resistance, a brief but extremely high current flows through the device. Commonly, the type of MOV used in our industry can absorb 70-80 Joules (a Joule is a watt/second.) 80 watts may not seem like much, but imagine how hot a 75 watt light bulb gets when it's on. Now, imagine all of that heat concentrated in a time span as little as a nanosecond (one billionth of a second.) At its peak, the current can equal 6500 amps. That's not a misprint. That's 6500 amperes!

Now wonder the damn thing blows up occasionally. Interestingly, you may not even know that the MOV had activated and blown itself to smithereens until you happen to be looking inside the machine for some other, unrelated purpose and notice a piece of charcoal where the MOV used to be. The MOV absorbed the transient, blew itself up and protected your machine. In fact, that's why the MOV devices are mounted in a little window inside the power strip. Otherwise you might not know that the MOV had done its job (once) but is no longer in the circuit due to its demise.



This single unit supressor costs $6.45.

For those of you that live in areas where electrical storms are common, adding MOV devices now can save some costly repairs down the road. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Randy Fromm, at 1944 Falmouth Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020-2827; 619/ 593-6131 or fax 619-593-6132; my internet is randyfromm@delphi.com.

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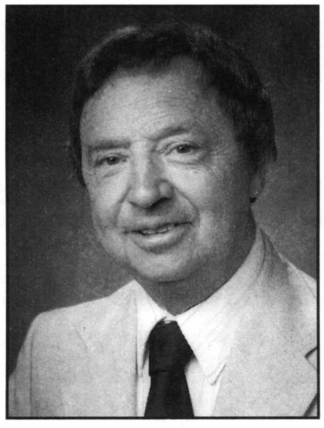
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"SEE YA' AT THE SHOWS" AMOA, SAN ANTONIO • FUN EXPO, LAS VEGAS • IAAPA, MIAMI

ON THE ROAD

BY BOB RONDEAU



FOND MEMORIES OF SAN ANTONE

The AMOA show in San Antonio was super! The "convention" actually began for my bride Bev and I when we boarded the plane and ran into a bunch of industry friends all waiting for the coffee wagon to start rolling down the aisle. When we got off the plane, we knew we were in Texas. Bev, who talks to everyone, asked the taxi driver if he was born in Texas and he said "nope, but I got here as soon as I could."

When we got to the convention center, it felt a little funny not to be representing anyone or work in a booth. But, it was still a time of learning, fellowship and fun for us as we met old friends, saw new things being offered by new companies and even caught a great floor show with Kenny Rogers complements of Bob and Geri Nims. All this and much more in a beautiful city Bev and I had always wanted to visit.

Simply stated, we had a ball in San Antone. But a lot of others in the business who could have enjoyed the same amount of fun and learning just weren't in town. It's always amazed me why anyone with machines in the street would take a pass on the AMOA show. Then again, it's always been a mystery why some operators don't even support their local associations whose only goal is their welfare.

I've heard lots of explanations from operators over the years why they don't go to this, or the other national show, ACME. Here are some of the more common ones: "It's only for the big operators." "It's too expensive." "I can't leave my business." "I can always see everything at the distributor." "I'll get all the information from the trade magazines." "I was there last year." And a newer one: "Indian casinos have taken all my money."

I went to a bunch of convention seminars and came away a heck of a lot smarter. The one on legalized gaming ran for two hours and provoked a lot of comments from people who are involved. Nothing was held back as we heard such remarks as: "If you think you're frustrated and irritated trying to get gaming legalized in your area, just wait until you get it!" Another echoed that, saying "Sometimes you lose by winning."

If I was still operating, this single seminar and the sharing that followed would have paid for my trip. I came away with a new outlook after hearing about the mistakes others were willing to exchange with the rest of us. By the way, this whole trip cost Bev and I less than $850.00 and that included our airfare (I figure if you're going to fly, take a plane). We even stayed an extra two days to enjoy beautiful San Antonio.

TALE SPINNERS

There's a group known the world over as the Burlington Liars Club. Every year, thousands of lies are sent in to be judged, and the best are picked by expert tellers of tall tales. I used to look forward to reading the winners.

Six, seven years ago, Al Rodstein, Steve Kordek and Ed Adlum gave our business the Half Century Club International where the idea was to gather industry oldtimers with fifty or more years of trade experience to their credit. Since that was kind of limiting, they immediately opened it to fellas and gals with 40 years, calling them "associate members."

Finally, at the last ACME show, they got more realistic, opened full membership to anyone with 25 years experience or up and changed the group's name simply to the Century Club. For that reason, among others, their meeting at the recent AMOA Expo in San Antonio was probably their largest yet, as were some of the war stories shared by these vets.

Steve Kordek is the Bat Man of this Geritol group and Jim McNeely his

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Marge, Gordy, Cidy and Joe Jacobson on the "Expo express" out of Green Bay with us. The "Amusement Devices" clan is proud that Eric Jacobson is the new WAMO president.



Some who made the gaming seminar so valuable: South Dakota's Jim Larsen, Dean Schroeder and Bob Correa with VLC's Dwane Frahm and attorney Bob Riter.

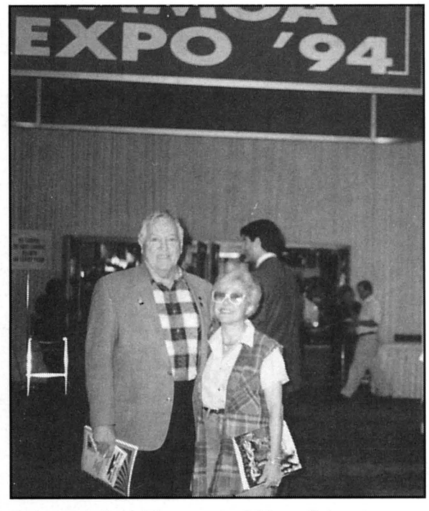
Robin. They and the rest are the guys and gal (Millie McCarthy) and won a lot of the battles for those who are operating now. Some are the fathers (or the mother) of some trade people, and in some cases, grandfathers.

Being so truthful and factual myself, it always amazes me when I hear them tell stories at these meetings, especially since the stories seem to change a bit every year. I asked Eddie Adlum if Millie's anecdote about the time she "bailed" him out of a jam years ago in Lake George, NY was accurate. "Close enough," Eddie smiled.

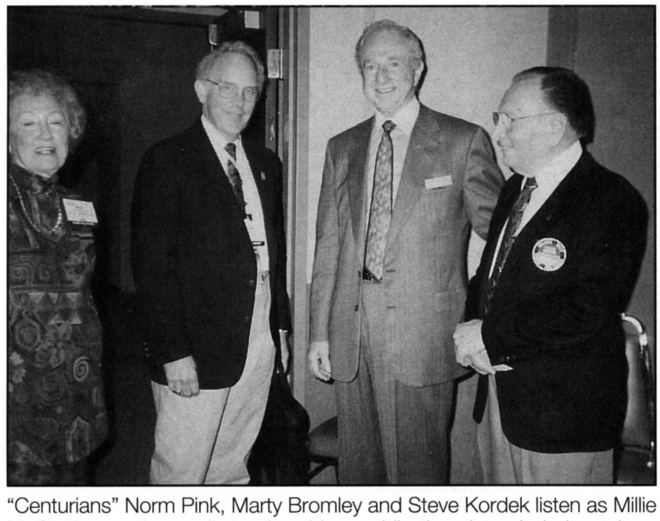
Steve Kordek's recollection of United Manufacturing's Lynn Durant sitting on a chair collecting cold cash from distributors as their trucks went in and out of the old Chicago factory loaded with *Shuffle Alleys* makes a wonderful story, but we wonder exactly how many times Lynn actually did that. But when you're participating in a Century Club gabfest, you have to listen with an open mind.



Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Shultz (big AMOA boosters) off again to an Expo.



Bob and Geri Nims out of New Orleans were among the many friends from around the country we bonded with at Expo.



"Centurians" Norm Pink, Marty Bromley and Steve Kordek listen as Millie McCarthy continues discussing things while the picture's being taken. This is one special lady!

After hearing this year's batch of tales, I wonder which side Stan Levin really was on during the war, if Millie ever got a medal for her finesse, did Marty Bromley really run for president of Hawaii and is Gene Urso really Italian?

To me, the Century Club meeting was the highlight of the convention in San Antonio. It was a time to brag a bit, reminisce, tell stories and listen to the masters talk. With so many now eligible for membership under the new 25 year rule, I know this club will grow. They meet at every Expo and every ACME, so watch the trade papers for the time and place of the next affair.

Personally, I'm grateful that I'm quiet and bashful by nature and that my honesty makes me sit back quietly and just listen. Well, maybe I did share a few words...okay, more than a few. But all the while, I kept remembering the words out of the past uttered jointly by Gil Kitt, Joe Robbins and Jack Burns: "Rondeau, you've got a lot to be modest about!" See you next year.

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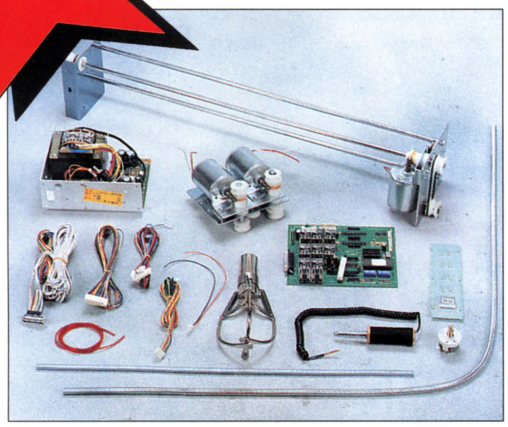
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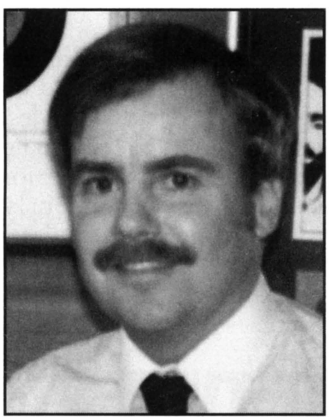
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LEGAL QUESTIONS

BY LAURENCE MERRITT & DAVID HAGEN



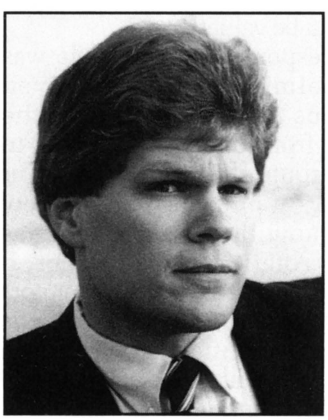
PART ONE

Buying and Selling a Route: How to Estimate the Right Price

Back by popular demand are two of Merritt & Hagen's hit columns. The topic? How to value a route for sale or purchase. (They originally ran in May and July 1988.)

Coin-operated routes are frequently sold between operators. Established operators use this as a means to expand their operations. Other operators may wish to sell routes for various purposes: to get out of the business; to raise capital; or to streamline their operations.

The industry uses various formulas to place a dollar value on a route. However, these formulas are not strict standards to follow blindly. The key factor in determining the value of a route are the quality of the operation and the security of its future income. The bargaining strength of each operation is also a major factor to consider.



ATTORNEYS LARRY MERRITT (AT TOP) AND DAVID HAGEN

PRICING FORMULAS

As a starting place, the following formulas may be considered as an effort to place a price on a route.

1. Music and pool table routes. These routes tend to be fairly stable and profitable. The machines may be on long-term leases and require little service. The average price for a music/pool table route is approximately 60 to 70 times the operator's weekly gross receipts from the route.

2. Amusement machines. An amusement machine route may have less value. The machines must be rotated, updated and repaired constantly, making the route more expensive to run. Consequently, the value of an amusement route may be less than 40 to 60 times the weekly gross receipts.

3. Cigarette route. Cigarette routes have less value today in many areas than they did a few years ago, because of the numerous ordinances that have been passed (and are being passed) to limit smoking in public places. In some areas, legislation is pending to prohibit cigarette dispensing machine entirely because (the legislators say) of their accessibility to minors. The formula we've seen used is approximately $1.25 to $1.50 per pack sold per week.

4. Combination routes. A route which combines all of the above types of machines tends to be the most valuable of all, because the business is more diversified. A large, diversified route provides a steadier income, which gives it greater value.

OTHER FACTORS

The type of machinery and weekly income are not the only factors to consider when evaluating the worth of a route. You should also explore the nature of the location agreements and plans of key employees.

The prospective purchaser should examine the written location contracts. Are they legally binding? The contracts should be examined to determine their average length of applicability. In general, contracts having longer terms are of greater value.

Prospective route purchasers should also determine the future status of key employees of the operator who is selling the route. Are they free to compete for the locations that are being sold? If so, the purchaser can have future problems. More than once, I've seen a business sold in which all of the customers of that business were stolen away by former key employees shortly after the sale.

The purchasing operator will frequently wish to operate the route on a

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four-week trial basis. The revenues earned during that time will be used to help determine the final purchase price.

The purchase of a route requires careful evaluation. A formula for the purchase price cannot be followed blindly. Well-run routes, supported by strong location contracts, have far greater value than the formulas would indicate. Poorly-managed routes, supported only by oral location agreements, have less value. The transaction should be reviewed by the attorney and accountant for both parties. Legal and tax consequences from the sale of the route must be considered carefully. The contract and escrow instructions should be carefully written to protect both sides.

A well-thought-out sale of a route can be a profitable transaction for both seller and buyer. A poorly planned transaction can have disastrous consequences. Keep that in mind the next time a "business opportunity" comes your way!

PART TWO

More Thoughts on Valuing a Route

Two months ago, I wrote about various formulas which are used by operators to place a value on a route. Those formulas are guidelines to establish perimeters within which routes can be valued.

The response to that article was overwhelming. I have received numerous calls from all over the country from operators seeking to value a route they were buying or selling. Most of them want to know exactly how the various formulas worked. After these discussions, it became obvious that most operators were placing too much emphasis upon the formulas. It should be remembered that these formulas are merely guidelines to help a buyer or seller establish the perimeters within which to place an approximate price.

The bottom line for any purchaser is whether the business will give an adequate return on investment. An investor can purchase certificates of deposit and receive a seven or eight percent return on investment without any risk or effort. The operation of a route can require a great deal of effort and risk; consequently, the rate of

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return on investment should be substantially more than can be obtained by a low-risk passive investment like a certificate of deposit.

The following factors should be weighed with the formulas when estimating the right price for the purchase or sale of a route:

1. The present level of interest rates. As interest rates rise, the value of a route decreases. When an investor can receive a high rate of return from a passive no-risk investment, the value of a business venture becomes less valuable.

2. The element of risk in the route should be carefully evaluated. The factors that influence risk include:

a) The number of locations in the route. If the route consists primarily of one or two large locations, the route is generally more risky. If one of those locations ceases its business operations, or if it has the right to terminate the location agreement, then the value of the route can be damaged greatly by the loss of one location.

b) The loyalty of the employees. If the employees have signed employee agreements not to compete with the employer, then there is less risk in the investment. Alternatively, if the employees are free to compete with the employer, then the route has considerable risk in it.

c) The diversification of the route. If the route is well diversified, containing amusement, music, cigarette dispensing machines and pool tables, then it is more secure. But a route that's totally structured with amusement machines is more susceptible to changes in consumer preferences and trends.

d) A route that is supported by long-term, written location agreements is a more stable investment. The income from the locations is dependable. On the other hand, if the route is supported only by oral "contracts," then the locations are free to leave at will. They may do so if their allegiance is held by the personality of the selling operator.

e) The stability of the coin-operated industry in the community is another risk factor. If the community is subject to unscrupulous operators attempting to steal away locations, then the route is at risk.

3. The existence of litigation between the route and locations, competitors or former employees can also affect the value of the route. The purchaser of a route should be careful that the agreement for the purchase of the route is structured so that the buyer does not assume the liabilities of the business. For example, there may be a lawsuit pending or about to be brought by a person who claims that he or she was injured by one of the machines. The buyer of the route does not want to acquire the liability.

4. The negotiating strength of the party in question will affect the value of the route. This is true in most transactions. If the buyer can purchase the business entirely with cash, and if the seller is desperate to sell, then the buyer will obtain a favorable price. On the other hand, if the buyer has little cash, so that the seller must accept a promissory note, then the seller is in a position to demand a higher price. The negotiating experience and abilities of each party will also come into play.

5. The age and quality of the equipment is a factor in evaluating a route. If the business owns a desirable warehouse, the latest equipment, a complete parts inventory and other desirable equipment, then the route has greater value.

Many more factors can be relevant to the appraisal of a route. Each route is unique. An evaluation made solely by reference to industry formulas, without regard to the unique factors involved in the route and the parties to the sale, will not provide a true appraisal of the business.

Laurence Merritt has been helping operators with their legal problems for almost 20 years, taking many matters to trial and obtaining large judgments. However, he feels his greatest accomplishments are the times when he has been able to obtain successful results without going to trial. Mr. Merritt is on the panel of arbitrators for the Los Angeles Superior Court and has served as a Judge Pro Tem in the Santa Monica Municipal Court. He has also taught several paralegal courses at Waterson College.

David Hagen has represented operators for a number of years. He has taught paralegal courses at Waterson College, as well as been an instructor in the MBA program at California Lutheran University. Laurence Merritt and David Hagen have worked together for many years and both welcome comments and suggestions. You can reach them at: Merritt & Hagen, Attorneys at Law, 6400 Canoga Ave. #311, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; phone: (818)992-1940; fax: 818-992-3309.



SAMMY'S GOT A FULL PLATE

Elk Grove gamesmith has the goods for both street locations and fun centers

American Sammy's two-pronged product line is making points this fall. Joining their inventive redemption line is a clever combination of token flip/pusher called *Lucky Ducky*. And for the street (though game room people like them too), their two video kits offer good fun at video conversion prices and flexibility (their *Krazy Bowl* bowling kit is vertically-oriented while their *Eagle Shot Golf* is horizontal).

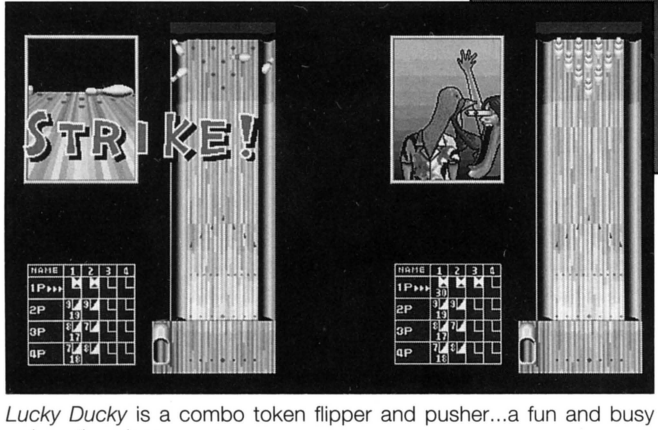
Both video kits are tailor-made for the street, with their sports themes, clear graphics and challenge. Each is played with a trackball, but operators can use joysticks if necessary as the games both have dip switches to accommodate this.

Lucky Ducky, their newest redemption entry, features a little gun that flips tokens or coins at targets on the backfield. Each time a token is flipped into one of nine targets, character voices like that of "Dump Duck" prompt the player on which combination of targets to try and complete.

Four bonus targets make the game play even more interesting by rewarding bonus tickets. And, the game's new dot matrix spinning reel display at the top of the marquee adds to the fun (if a player is a "Lucky Ducky", the ticket payout can be as high as 2,000 tickets).

The game also has a bonus car (like the bonus wagon in their *Coin Circus* game) and the anticipation of tokens being pushed off several ledges. There's a lot going on with *Lucky Ducky* and if you haven't tried it out yourself, check it out at the American Sammy distributor nearest your place of business.





Lucky Ducky is a combo token flipper and pusher...a fun and busy redemption piece.

Two shots of the Krazy Bowl screen. Like the old *Capcom Bowling*, this one's a natural for street sites.

For more information or distributor referral, call American Sammy at 708/364-9787 or fax them at 708/364-9831.

DISTRIBUTOR PROFILE



Headquarters for American Coin sits on a fine corner property in Portland at 700 S.E. Clay.

AMERICAN COIN MACHINE DISTRIBUTORS

MARKING THEIR FIRST YEAR IN PORTLAND AND SEATTLE.

They celebrated their first year in business this past Aug. 27th, but it seems like American Coin Machine Distributors has been in the industry a lot longer than that. The number one reason for that perception is that company management has been working the northwest market for other distributing companies even before the original video game boom hit the business.

American Coin maintains full service outlets in both Portland, Ore. and Seattle, Wash. While Portland is its headquarters and the office of the company's president Mike McWilliams, both Portland and Seattle (which is under the command of branch manager Jerry Estes) are almost "twins".

Each outlet employs eight people, each occupies around 12,000 sq. ft. of space and each offers the same machine brands (which include Arachnid, Atari, Automatic Pdts., Data East pins, videos and redemption, NSM music, Premier, Sega and Valley).

And they have a "foreign cousin" of sorts in Jim Niblock's Canadian Coin Machine Distributors (Burnaby, B.C., Canada) since all are part of the Winfield Group of Companies. While both McWilliams and Niblock are minority shareholders, both American and Canadian distribution organizations are principally owned by the Winfield Group whose founder Ralph Winfield tragically passed away Oct. 13th.

It was a poignant moment when *RePlay* caught up with Mike McWilliams to get the details for this story as he'd planned to fly into B.C. for Winfields' funeral the day after our phone chat. But in the Winfield spirit of "looking to the future", Mike gave us his undivided attention to talk about this new northwest distributorship he's so proud of.

FROM FOOS PLAYER TO GAME PURVEYOR

Mike McWilliams is a native of the seacoast town of Port Orford, Ore. where his folks still live. The graduate of Oregon State fell in love with foosball while in school. After graduation, he got involved as a player in the Tournament Soccer events, put some machines out on the street himself and even opened a foosball room called the Foos Forum in Portland.

Mike loved running tournaments and wanted to expand, but said he tried and failed to get the cooperation of a regional distributor for the loan of some soccer tables. So, the germ of an idea…to open a tournament-oriented machine distributorship…was put into action.

He closed up the Foos Forum and, along with his wife Faye and friends Marcio Bonilla, Steve Blattspieler and soccer pro Mike Bowers, opened General Leisure in 1978. Oddly, as foosball wound down, the dealer jumped into the mainstream of the coin machine distribution business. Over the next ten years, they built up a respectable lineup of factory brands, opened a branch in Seattle and offered the area's operators a good spectrum of music, amusement and

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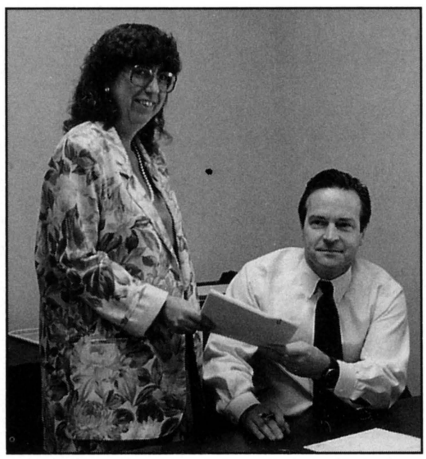
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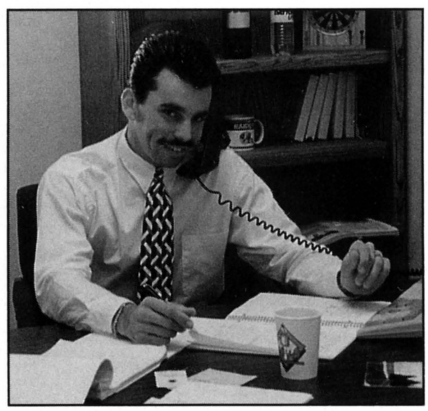
"Quality is our family tradition"



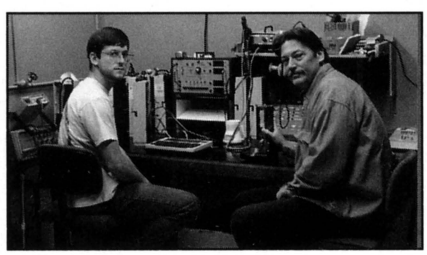
The Portland staff says "hi" beneath their beautiful dark blue awning.



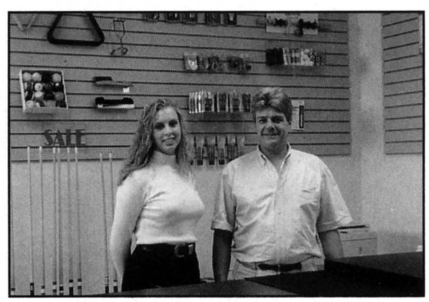
American Coin president Mike McWilliams with his office manager Helen Adams.



Jeff Crouse, domestic and international salesman, works the phone.



Trevor Hall (service) visits with American's service manager Bruce Wade.



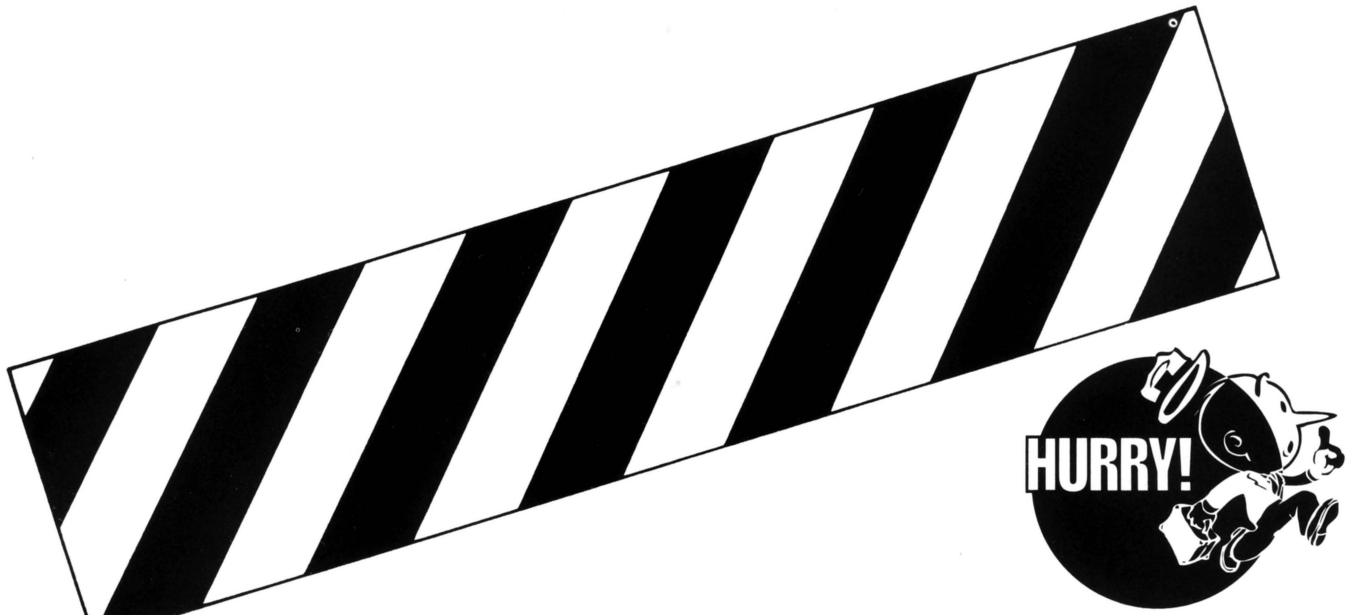
Erika Dreyer, with parts manager Darryl Spacek, lends charm to the parts counter.

vending machines.

Around 1988, Mike and Faye sold the company to large regional operator Craig Estey (Coin Machine Sales) and the organization changed its name slightly to General Coin. Mike stayed aboard, but in 1993, he decided to get out of it. He had no success trying to sell it outright, so he decided to shut it down. Enter Ralph Winfield.

Mike McWilliams had built up a good relationship with the giant Canadian operator and opened up conversation on starting up a new distributing company in the absence of General Coin. They ended up buying certain of General's assets, and on Aug. 27, 1993, opened American Coin at the very same General store at 25th and Nicolai in Portland. They also did the same thing in Seattle, again at the old General Coin location. The Portland office moved within two months to a corner property at 700 S.E. Clay, but Seattle remains on First Ave. South.

"Ralph was a guy who got things



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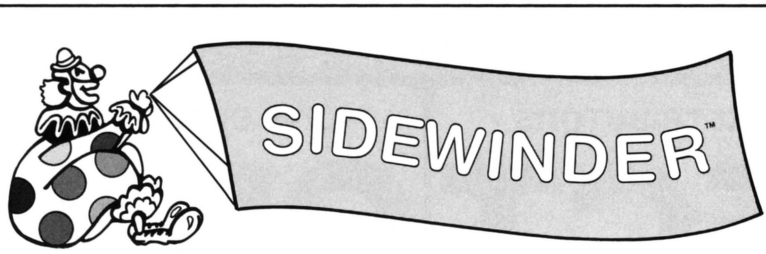
done," said Mike, recalling those original days. "He was a soft spoken man, but he had a manner of talking people into doing things that left them walking away with a smile. We all miss him very much here," he added.

In the company's first year, American Coin's done very well, despite the fact that state-run VLT games in Oregon are competing for the street operators' quarters. "The lottery is a tough competitor, very tough," said Mike. "In some locations, they can suck the expendable money dry. Some operators have become part-time operators; some others have quit the business entirely," he disclosed.

But, equipment sales have been good despite this. In fact, Mike says both Portland and Seattle offices had a fantastic winter/spring season and with all the complaining we've heard about the summer, American Coin said sales went fine.

"Some decent new product and some nice vending programs helped," he said. "Then, we had a number of new FEC's open up which we outfitted. And, of course, our new salesmen Tom Grieve and Matt David Davison pulled their weight, so we have no complaints about the summer of '94."

Business thus far this fall looks steady, but not outstanding. The big ticket items like *Daytona*, *T-Mek* and







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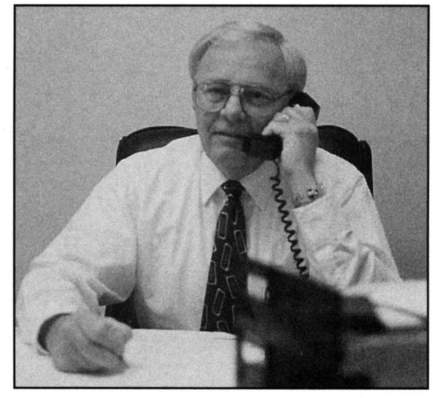
Bob's Space Racers™



Warehouse manager Joe Pyle with Trevor Hall and Bruce Wade.



The Seattle staff gathers for photo in front of their place at 3901 First Ave. South.



Seattle branch manager Jerry Estes is a true veteran of the northwest distributing business.



The Seattle showroom is spiff and well-outfitted.

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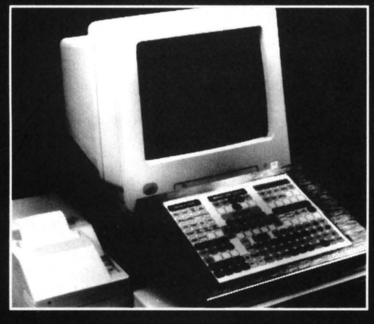
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Ridge Racer have done well for American Coin, as have some decent redemption pieces and new things like A.L.G.'s *Fast Draw* and the pogs (which are starting up). All this despite the fact that Oregon is not widely populated with game arcades.

In the street, music, pool and darts seem to hold their own against the VLT machine competition but others can and do suffer. "Remember that our company deals with a lot of operating companies in Idaho, Montana and up in Alaska besides here and Washington, so our customer base if not parochial, " he stated.

"And I'd like it on record that what some outsiders call the 'Oregon situation' where operators started the initiative to get legalized gaming only to lose to a source operation is not the fault of the industry here. Some people seem to think we made a mistake, but I can tell you we did everything just right and ended up getting the rug pulled out."

Throughout the territory American Coin covers, the operating business is quite stable now, Mike advised. "I don't see any more of a shakeout coming. The people in the business now are going to stay in the business. Of course, like me, they're all waiting for the next big boom to come," he laughed.

Most products sold by American Coin are new. Used equipment accounts for maybe 10%, 15% of their business and the company does encourage operators to bring in their good machines for trade-in. They offer repair services and sometimes will even go out to a customer's location to help him out.

But apart from the normal services a distributorship offers, American Coin is very hot to help its customers on game promotions. "Foosball, darts, pool tables, pins, whatever, we're here to help and we know a whole lot about promotions," Mike declared. "That's one of the edges we have in the distribution competition."

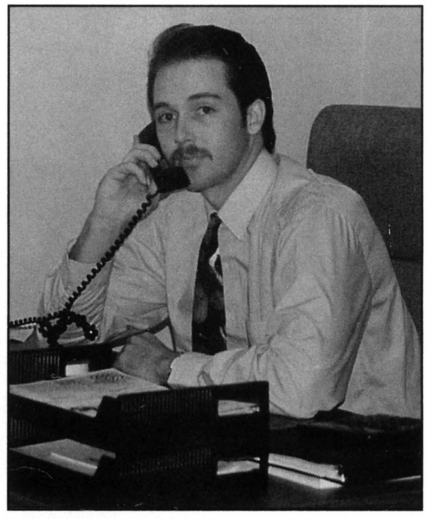
Another "edge" he says is the American Coin personnel roster... "some of the most experienced and enthusiastic people you'll find in this industry," he declared. How about the boss? Is he enthusiastic? "I love this business. It's been my life," he smiles. "I have a lot of faith in the future of this company and a load of fond memories of the past...like the days Faye and Mark Chan and I built that original General Coin up.

"I'm also waiting for the next big boom, but I'll settle for some boomlets while I'm waiting," he said. It's an exciting business...sort of like the Oregon weather since it seems to change every five minutes," he added.

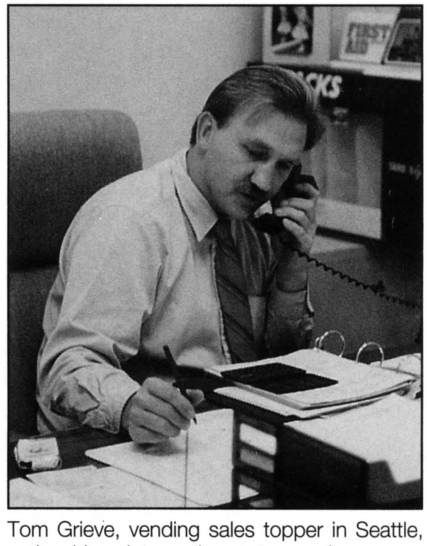
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Vending is important to this company and Automatic Products is important to vending.



Matt Davison, Seattle's amusement machine sales manager.

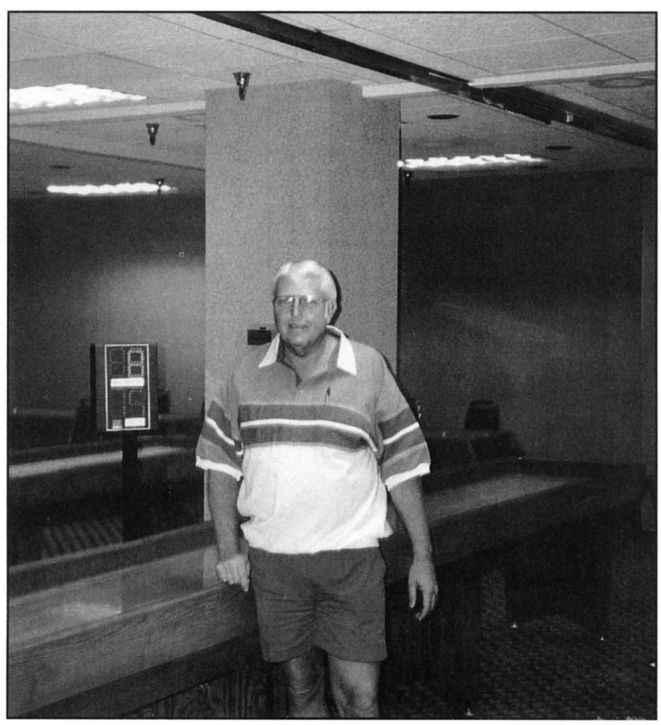


Tom Grieve, vending sales topper in Seattle, makes his points on the customer phone.

TOURNAMENT NEWS

the North American Shuffleboard Championships brings a week of intense shuffleboard competition to Reno, Nevada

SHUFFLEBOARD SHOWDOWN



Bill Melton of Oklahoma took first place in Pro Singles and Pro/Div. I Doubles (with Rick Boyer of Colorado).

The 1994 North American Shuffleboard Championships returned to the Sands Regency Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada, which sponsored the tournament for the fourth consecutive year. The event ran July 25-31 and gave players from across the U.S. and Canada a week of non-stop action.

More than $50,000 in prizes was up for grabs in the tournament's eleven events, which included competition in three different skill levels — Division I and Division II amateur events as well as the Pros.

The week's big winner was Bill Melton (Oklahoma), who took first place in Pro Singles, then teamed up with Rick Boyer (Colorado) to win Pro/Division I Doubles. Glen Davidson (Oklahoma) and Sheriff Hallberg (Texas) were the winning pair in A-B Draw. In Division I Doubles, it was Steve Wilson and Chris Danke (both from Washington), while in Division II Doubles, Bob Jacobsen and Larry Pearson (both from Washington) took the title.

Division I Singles went to Bobby Williams (Texas); Division II Singles saw Larry Pearson (Washington) take the title. Viola Reeves (Oregon) was crowned Ladies Singles champ.

The Team Event was won by the Texas Tornados: Sheriff Hallberg, Ron Bowers, Debbie Bowers, Betty Rickman, Tom Clubb and Bill Woolridge (all from Texas except Betty, who's from California). In Legends Draw, Joe Hudson (California) & Jim Kumpula (Florida) came out on top.

In addition to the general success of the tournament, a long-time goal of the The Shuffleboard Federation was finally



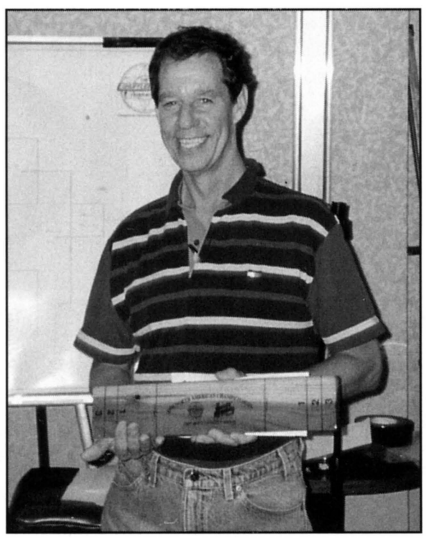
Team Event champs (from left) Ron Bowers, Debbie Bowers, Tom Clubb, Betty Rickman, Vicki Winchester, Bill Woolridge & (kneeling) Sheriff Hallberg.



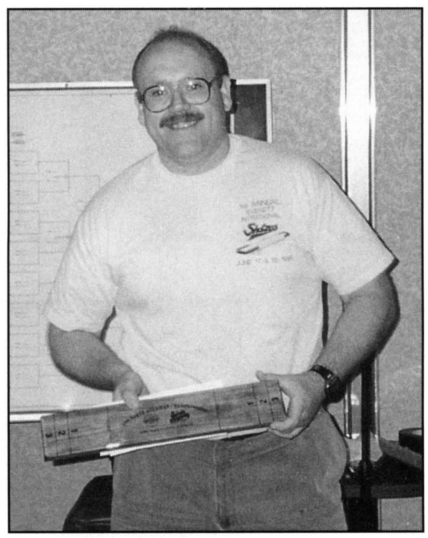
First place in Legends Draw went to Jim Kumpula of Florida and Joe Hudson of California.



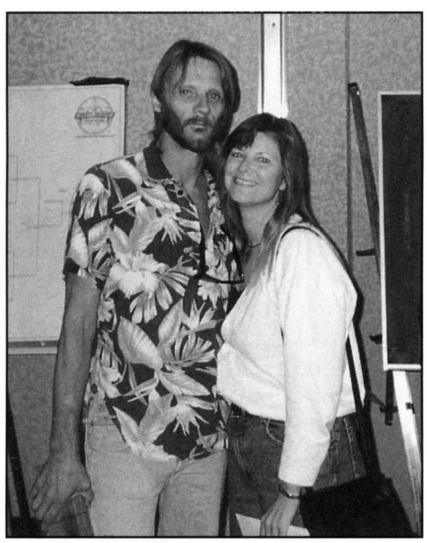
Ladies Singles champ Viola Reeves of Oregon proudly accepts her plaque.



Bobby Williams of Texas won the Division I Singles title.



Larry Pearson of Washington came out on top in Division II Singles.



Division I Doubles went to teammates Steve Wilson and Chris Danke, both from Washington.



Here's Larry again with fellow Washingtonian Bob Jacobsen; both took Division II Doubles.

realized: joint sponsorship from the shuffleboard manufacturers. American Shuffleboard, Gametime Corp. and Bill Melton Shuffleboard supplied 16 new shuffleboards for the big event. In addition to showing off some of the new features on their respective shuffleboards, reps from all three companies attended the tournament to check out the action as well as their competition.

Congratulations to all the competitors, sponsors and The Shuffleboard Federation for making such a successful gathering possible. ◆



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TEAM EFFORT PAYS OFF

this year's Bud Light National Team Championship drew 423 amateur pool teams to Las Vegas to compete for over $250,000



The American Poolplayers Association, Inc. held its prestigious 1994 Bud Light National Team Championship at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Aug. 2-6. The event, which is comprised of amateur players only, featured more than 423 teams — 387 Open Division and 36 Ladies' Division — from 46 states and Canada. The teams competed for more than $250,000 in total prize money.

All participants in the Championship are active members of the APA. Participating teams gained eligibility by competing in year-round weekly League play and winning their division in either the Summer, Fall or Spring Session this past year. Division winners then participated in the local team championship for a chance to advance to the National Team Championship in Las Vegas.

Tournament play took place on 68 Dynamo pool tables provided by Dynamo Corp., the official provider of the APA. Outside the tournament room there was plenty of action provided by the annual APA Team Shirt Contest, the annual APA 8-on-the-break contest, which raised nearly $5,000 for Muscular Dystrophy, and a pool emporium area featuring 21 exhibitors displaying their pool wares to both players and spectators alike.

The event culminated on Saturday evening, with the 1st Place Open Division Team, "The Spoilers" from Cape Girardeau, Mo., receiving $10,000 in prize money. The "Wild Bunch" from Metairie, La. placed second in the Open Division and took home $6,000. The 1st Place Ladies Division winners were "Barney's Babes" from Hamilton, Ohio, who received $5,000; second place and $3,000 went to "The Play Girls" from Thornton, Colo.

The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions one of the nation's largest amateur pool leagues, known as the Bud Light Pool League or American Pool League, and as the Dynamo Pool League in Canada. Membership in the League increased to more than 125,000 in 1993. The APA's newest tournament, The U.S. Amateur Championship, is open to anyone choosing to participate.

For more information, contact the APA at 314/625-8611.

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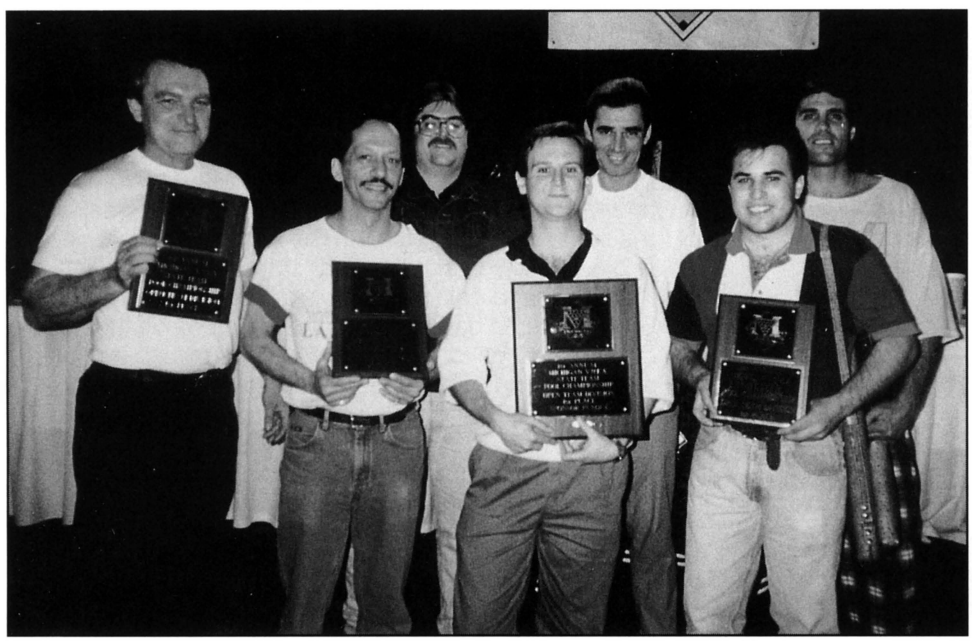
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TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS



MICHIGAN VNEA

For three days in early May, Bay Valley Hotel and Resort in Bay City, Mich. was the 8-ball capital of the state, when some 170 players competed in the First Annual Michigan VNEA (Valley National 8-Ball Assn.) State Team Pool Championships. Beginning on the first day with mini-singles for men and women, the event continued with women's teams and open teams competition, and concluded with finals on third day. Events were coordinated by four of Michigan's leading operators: All American Automatic (Flint), American Music and Vending (Bay City), Superior Vending (Sault Ste. Marie), and Union Music (Detroit). First place in Open Division paid $1,075, while second place was worth $775. In the women's grouping, $450 was the first place payout, while $280 went to second. "The success of the first VNEA tournament held here in Michigan is a real tribute to the dedication of these four operators," said VNEA exec director Gregg Elliot. The activities on the second day were highlighted by the appearance of touring pool professional Vicki Paski. She demonstrated her cue abilities by playing a series of matches, some with local celebrities. These matches had the goal of raising money for the Boys and Girls Club of Bay County.

VNEA CEREMONIES

During the opening ceremonies at the 14th Annual VNEA International Championships, held May 28-June 4 in Las Vegas, the newly-created VNEA Amateur Pool Player "Hall of Fame" received its first members. Receiving this honor, along with an exclusive Hall of Fame satin jacket, certificate and limited edition VNEA Hall of Fame trading card set, were (l to r, with plaques): Larry Martin (Gapter Amusement), Jack Dunbar (Derrick Music), Tony Liburdi (Town & Country Amusement), Dick Spitzer (Rushmore Amusement) and



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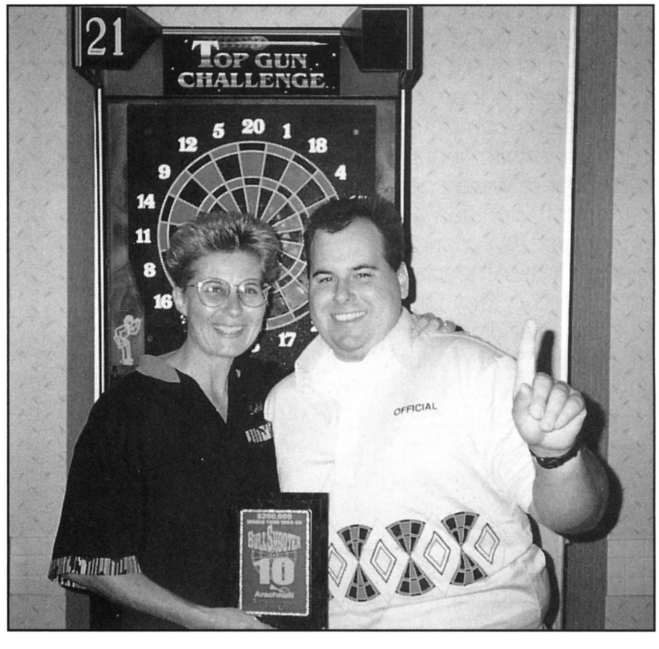
Janene Hague (Dahlco Music). Also honored at the Championships were three individuals who've displayed a solid commitment to the association. Valley president Chuck Milhem, Valley's Emil Marcet and Mr. Pool himself, Red A.M. Jones, received Lifetime Sanction Cards from VNEA exec director Gregg Elliot and VNEA prexy Gene Urso during the Annual President's Reception. Congratulations!

ADA CHAMPS

Thanks to the American Dart Assn.'s copyrighted "Neutralizer" handicapping system, amateur players were able to compete side by side with the best darters in the country at the 3rd Bud Light Dart League Championship. The event was held at the Clarion Hotel in Chicago, August 11-14, With more than 400 players competing for $35,000 in prize money in Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles; Men's and Women's Singles; and the six-person Team Event. The ADA also introduced two new concepts to this year's championship. First, like tennis and golf, players were "seeded" into Sunday's Singles events based on abilities from both league play and the national competition. Second, this championship also produced a Most Valuable Player Award, which was based on five categories: points-per-dart averages, win/loss percentage, 180's (three triple twenty's), nine mark (three scoring triples) and hat tricks (three bulls-eyes in three throws). The ADA is very excited about these developments and plan on using the same format at their three $5,000 regional tournaments set to take place in Austin, Tex.; Cleveland, Ohio (both in October); and Galilee, R.I. (November). For more information, contact the ADA at 314/625-8621.

BULLSHOOTER KICKOFF

Arachnid's $200,000 BullShooter Tour started off the 1994/95 season with their first $7,000 tournament at the Howard Johnson Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sept. 9-



Users' Reports

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Canadian 25¢	8,000	Venezuela 1 Bolivar	5,000
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Canadian Dollar	6,000	Ecuador 1 Sucre	4,000

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TOP HITS OF JAPAN

from Game Machine Magazine, November 1, 1994

TOP 25 VIDEO COCKTAILS

	Model (manufacturer)
1	The King of Fighters '94 (SNK)
2	Virtua Fighter (Sega)
3	Power Instinct 2 (Altus)
4	Puyo Puyo 2 (Compile/Sega)
5	Crazy Cross (Konami)
6	Darius III (Taito)
7	Quiz & Dragons (Capcom)
8	Super St. Fighter II Turbo (Capcom)
9	Ring of Destruction (Capcom)
10	V-Shoot (Namco)
11	Great Sluggers '94 (Namco)
12	Raiden DX (Seibu)
13	Mobile Suit Gundam EX (Banpresto)
14	Puyo Puyo (Compile/Sega)
15	Mahjong Prof'l "Kiwame" (Athena)
16	Aggrs. of Darkkombat (ADK/SNK)
17	Dark Stalkers (Capcom)
18	Groval Champion (Taito)
19	Fantastic Journey (Konami)
20	Super Real Mahjong P. IV (Seta)
21	Inchidant-R (Sega)
22	Raiden II (Seibu)
23	Shanghai III (Sun)
24	Shanghai II (Sun)
25	Aero Fighters 2 (Vid. Systems/SNK)

TOP 15 UPRIGHTS & COCKPITS

	Model (manufacturer)
1	Sports Fishing (Sega)
2	Virtua Cop (Sega)
3	Ridge Racer [deluxe] (Namco)
4	Daytona USA [twin] (Sega)
5	Virtua Fighter (Sega)
6	Daytona USA [deluxe] (Sega)
7	Ridge Racer 2 [std./del.] (Namco)
8	Desert Tank (Sega)
9	Star Wars (Sega)
10	Wing War [twin] (Sega)
11	Jurassic Park (Sega)
12	Final Lap R [standard] (Namco)
13	Speed Champ.-King/Quiz (Jaleco)
14	Out Runners (Sega)
15	Soreike Kokorogy 2 (Sega)

TOP 5 FLIPPERS

	Model (manufacturer)
1	World Challenge Soccer (Premier)
2	Royal Rumble (Data East)
3	Popeye Saves the Earth (Midway)
4	Addams Family (Midway)
5	Jurassic Park (Data East)

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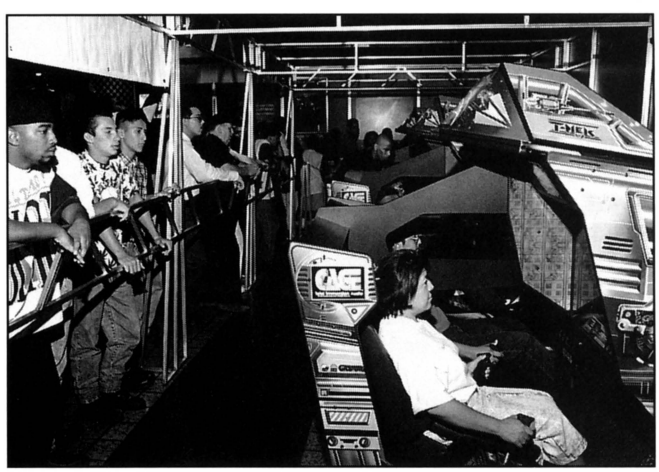
11. Arachnid distributor Southern Sound Music (St. Pete) co-sponsored the qualifier, which included eight events: Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles, Mixed Triples. Open Cricket, Men's Singles, Pro Singles, Women's Singles and Mixed Cricket. First through third place finishers qualified for the finals, set to take place next May over the Memorial Day weekend. The big winners at the Florida opener were Peter Mills and Mick Hedges, who both took first place in Men's Doubles and Open Doubles Cricket. Peter also won first place in Pro Singles after defeating Mick, and both players took first in Mixed Triples with partner Tee Leeson. Another big winner was Debbie Shutt (pictured above with Arachnid's J.D. Fako) of Orlando, who captured the Women's Singles event and took second in Women's Doubles with Patti Arden.

VALLEY GOLD AGAIN

Organizers reported an astonishing 50% increase in operator participation in this year's Valley Gold Championships, and credited the increase to a number of enhancements made prior to the qualifying events. These include reduced operator eligibility requirements, upgraded promotional materials, increased distributor field support and a dramatic presentation at the Las Vegas Championships. For next year, Valley Gold participants can expect more of the same, plus further enhancements, including better in-bar promotional materials, a "substantially-improved" operator's tournament manual, and a host of minor improvements. If you'd like more information on the '95 Valley Gold, contact an authorized Valley distributor or contact the Valley Gold Committee at 517/892-4536.

T-MEK TOUR

Nazrac the Eliminator has been challenging players across the country in Atari/Time Warner Interactive's nine-city promotional tour of their T-Mek video game. On Oct. 8, Nazrac paid a visit to the Tilt Family Entertainment Center at the Northwest Plaza in St. Louis, Mo. The tournament not only attracted plenty of players willing to take part in the intergalactic battle, but also drew of a lively crowd of spectators. The tour will be making stops in Miami on Nov. 5 and Los Angeles on Nov. 12 (a London date will be announced), and includes charity tie-ins, radio spots, celebrity appearances and press coverage. For more information, contact TWI at 408/434-3756. ◆





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★ 2. ***I'LL MAKE LOVE TO YOU,*** *Boyz II Men, Motown 2257*
★ 3. ***ENDLESS LOVE,*** *Luther Vandross & Mariah Carey, Columbia 77629*
4. ***BLACK HOLE SUN,*** *Soundgarden, A & M 8296*
5. ***ALWAYS,*** *Bon Jovi, Mercury 856227*
6. ***UNDONE - THE SWEATER SONG,*** *Weezer, Geffen 19378*
7. ***SECRET,*** *Madonna, Warner Bros. 18035*
8. ***I'LL STAND BY YOU,*** *Pretenders, Warner Bros. 18160*
9. ***WHIPPED,*** *Jon Secada, EMI 58237*
10. ***LUCKY ONE,*** *Amy Grant, A&M 0724*

POP PICK HITS

DANCE NAKED
John Mellencamp - Mercury 856343

LIVING IN DANGER
Ace of Base - Arista 12754

C/W

1. ***BABY LIKES TO ROCK IT,*** *The Tractors, Arista 12717*
2. ***JUKEBOX JUNKIE,*** *Ken Mellons, Epic 77579*
3. ***SHUT UP AND KISS ME,*** *Mary Chapin Carpenter, Columbia 77696*
4. ***SHE'S NOT THE CHEATIN' KIND,*** *Brooks & Dunn, Arista 12740*
5. ***WHO'S THAT MAN,*** *Toby Keith, Polydor 853358*
6. ***KICK A LITTLE,*** *Little Texas, Warner Bros. 18103*
7. ***WATERMELLON CRAWL,*** *Tracy Byrd, MCA 54889*
8. ***THE BIG ONE,*** *George Strait, MCA 54938*
9. ***THIRD RATE ROMANCE,*** *Sammy Kershaw, Mercury 858922*
10. ***WHEN YOU WALK IN THE ROOM,*** *Pam Tillis, Arista 12726*

COUNTRY PICK HITS

WHEN LOVE FINDS YOU
Vince Gill - MCA 54937

IF YOU'VE GOT LOVE
John Michael Montgomery - Atlantic 87198

R&B

★ 1. ***I'LL MAKE LOVE TO YOU,*** *Boyz II Men, Motown 2257*
★ 2. ***ENDLESS LOVE,*** *Luther Vandross & Mariah Carey, Columbia 77629*
★ 3. ***U WILL KNOW,*** *B.M.U., Mercury 856200*
★ 4. ***LET IT GO,*** *Prince, Warner Bros. 18074*
5. ***HUNGAH,*** *Karyn White, Warner Bros. 18121*
6. ***WHERE IS MY LOVE?,*** *El Debarge & Babyface, Reprise 18140*
7. ***THE RIGHT KINDA LOVER,*** *Patti LaBelle, MCA 54673*
8. ***WHEN CAN I SEE YOU,*** *Babyface, Epic 77550*
★ 9. ***ALWAYS IN MY HEART,*** *Tevin Campbell, Warner Bros. 18260*
10. ***ANYTIME, ANY PLACE,*** *Janet Jackson, Virgin 38435*

R & B PICK HITS

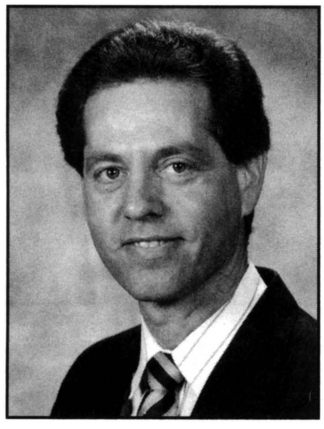
CDS

1. ***FROM THE CRADLE,*** *Eric Clapton, Reprise 45735*
2. ***MONSTER,*** *R.E.M., Warner Bros. 45740*
3. ***TUESDAY NIGHT MUSIC CLUB,*** *Sheryl Crow, A&M 0126*
4. ***II,*** *Boyz II Men, Motown 530323*
5. ***WHO I AM,*** *Alan Jackson, Arista 18759*
6. ***VOODOO LOUNGE,*** *Rolling Stones, Virgin 39782*
7. ***AUGUST & EVERYTHING AFTER,*** *Counting Crows, Geffen 24528*
8. ***DOOKIE,*** *Green Day, Warner Bros. 45529*
9. ***STONES IN THE ROAD,*** *Mary Chapin Carpenter, Columbia 64327*
10. ***YES I AM,*** *Melissa Etheridge, Island 848660*

★ = *significant crossover activity*

FRANK TALK

BY FRANK SENINSKY



FUN EXPO TOPS THE FALL TRADE SHOW CIRCUIT

To succeed in these challenging days, operators must be active in every market niche. This column has given that advice repeatedly. But following my own advice resulted in spending three solid weeks on the road at trade shows: the IAAPA summer meeting in Virginia; AMOA board meeting and Expo in Texas; the World Gaming Congress in Vegas; and (finally) Fun Expo, also in Las Vegas. Believe it or not, I could have stayed another three days in Vegas for the Water Parks Show...and at this writing, I'm gearing up for the IAAPA Expo in Miami! That's what is necessary these days to keep up with our many-faceted industry.

Of all these shows, the best and most exciting for me, without a doubt, was Fun Expo. I went in expecting to be exhausted, because it was last on the schedule. Instead, I was inspired and charged up by the entire Fun Expo experience. A special synergy exists between the new International Family Entertainment Center Assn. (IFECA) and this show. Seminars, exhibits and association business are tied closely together for a total effect that's educational, fun and downright exhilarating.

Attending were over 5,500 people who saw 660 booths of product, representing some 300 exhibitors. The feeling was "fun plus education." So many of the people who want to enter the FEC business, or who already belong in it, are successful business professionals from other industries. They are enthusiastic and information-starved. They didn't come to fritter away time in the casinos, but to learn and improve their businesses. They also came to make serious investments. Exhibitors were absolutely ecstatic with the orders.

In one short year, the IFECA has recruited 350 members, mostly FEC owners along with some manufacturers and suppliers. Believe me, the members and officers are "quality" material! President of IFECA is Joey Herd (Riverchase Golf & Games), who originated the idea for this association and the idea of tying it to a trade show. IFECA's vice president is Edison Bros.' general manager George McAuliffe. Secretary/treasurer is Lisa Voorhis (Jungle Jim's Playland). Membership chairman is Harold Skripsky of Enchanted Castle/ Discovery Zone. Board members include Shane Huish (Huish Family Fun Centers), Gary Warner (Coin Concepts Inc.), and show organizer Bailey Beeken. Instead of an association newsletter, IFECA generates a monthly fax. They gather up useful statistics for their members and keep the wires crackling with news bulletins and developments.

An FEC owner is basically another type of operator: they provide inexpensive entertainment. Many FEC people own their own equipment, but the trend is moving toward FECs using outside operators who are experienced with coin-op machines. You just can't beat the expertise. So even if you don't operate an FEC yourself, it might pay to attend Fun Expo: you could land some wonderful new accounts.

Fun Expo's program of 40-plus seminars, organized by Michelle Leberfeld, was tremendous. Michelle's done a great job of enlisting a huge variety of experts to talk about a terrific variety of topics. Up to 600 people attended the opening seminar on "the FEC basics." Formal title was "The Great Indoors: successful indoor fun center development." The session included presentations by consultant/builder Randy White (White-Hutchinson), designer/consultant Pat Esgate (Esage & Associates), FEC owner



Fun Expo came to the Las Vegas Convention Center from Oct. 1-4. Some 300 exhibitors took 600 booths and pulled in over 5,500 showgoers. Fun Expo has arrived in the big time!

Bob Morgan, and Shawn Dionne who's top VP at another large FEC.

Other outstanding seminars covered such topics as redemption for rookies, gathering demographic data on your FEC customers, safety management, food services made easy, virtual reality, party rental, sponsorships and joint promotions, alterna-

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Fun Expo founders Bailey Beeken (at right) and Michell Leberfeld have in four years brought Fun Expo to major trade show status.

tive financing, interactive kiddie attractions, group marketing, go-karts, business plan development, mechanics for managers, redemption merchandise, and on and on.

Association business was also done at the show. CCI's Gary Warner put together a "silent auction" which generated $35,000 for IFECA. This takes tremendous work, so here's a salute to new IFECA board member Gary for a job well done.

Fun Expo founder and organizer Bailey Beeken is a special lady, and so is her colleague Michelle Leberfeld. I've never seen anyone working so hard. They get right down on the floor lugging boxes and helping with booths. They conduct surveys constantly, seeking to learn more and make the show better in every possible way.

"Fun Expo is a fabulous show!" Bailey said, and she's not exaggerating. "It gets bigger every year. We were delighted to step into the big time of national trade shows this year with our Las Vegas venue and our superb attendance."

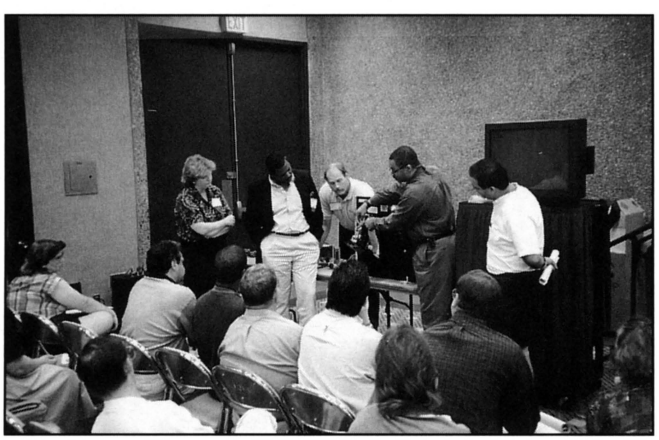
Every reader of this column should plan to attend Fun Expo next year at the Orange County Convention Center, from Oct. 7-10. It's well worth it! ◆



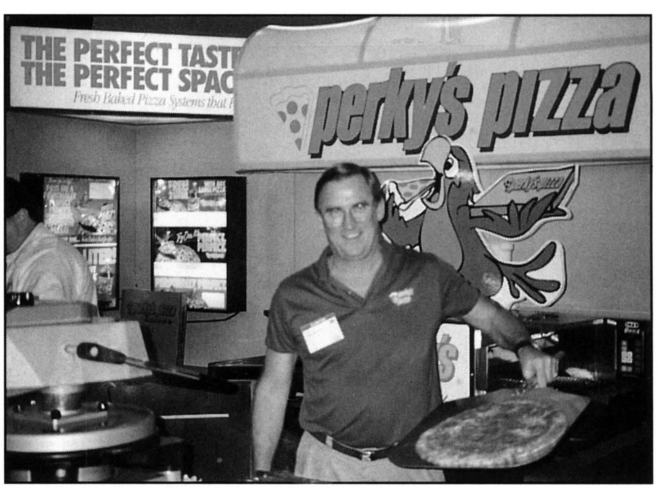
Coin Concept Inc.'s Gary Warner, at right, with CCI's Mike Pszcola and their *Home Run Hitter* which is itself a hit.



"We never grow up!" say Spirit Design/Century Vending's Sue Monday, seen here with NSM/EMT's John Margold among the latter's handsome kiddie rides.



Alpha-Omega Amusements' Frank Seninsky & Patrick Rooney give a "hands on" seminar called "Mechanics for Managers." Patrick is showing FEC owners and managers how to load and un-jam ticket dispensers.



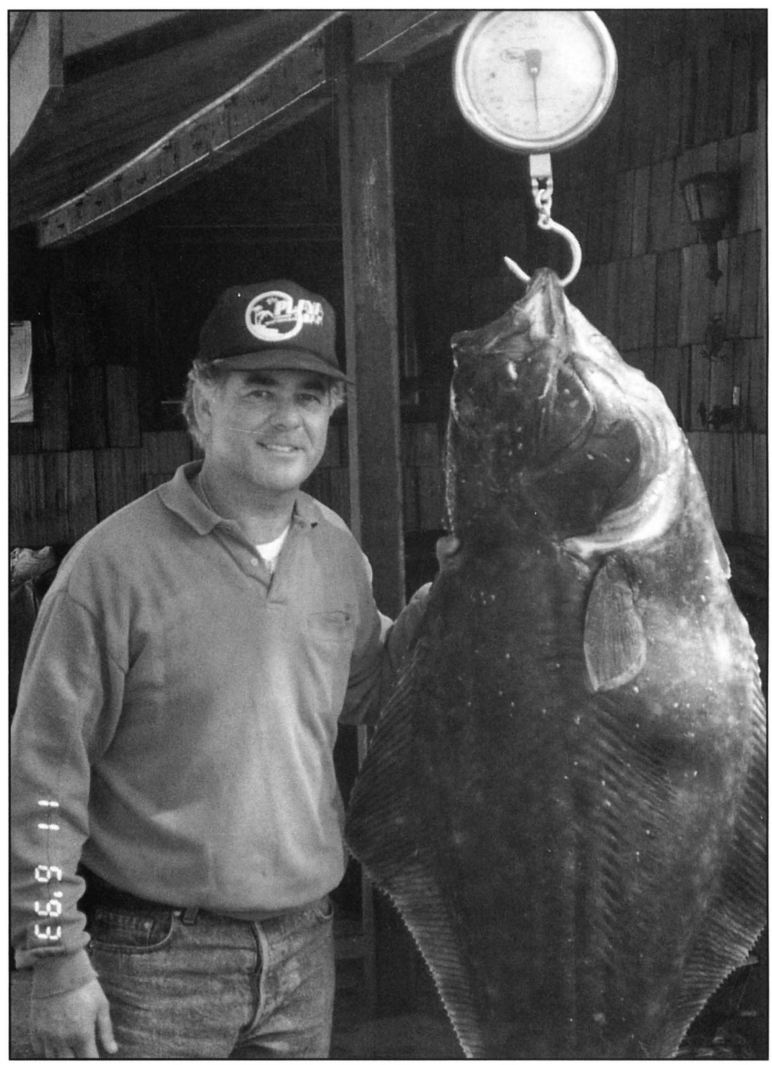
Bob Sullivan of "Perky's Pizza" demo's how to make a great-tasting pizza in under five minutes. And this pizza really does taste good!

THUMBNAIL

SKETCH

DUKE TARTAGLIO

PHOENIX STREET OP (TROY VENDING) SEEKS CHALLENGES, ENJOYS REWARDS OF THE COIN-OP AMUSEMENT BIZ



Some people claim there are two types of operators: the "still doing it like 1960" crowd (who are hurting)...and the "I'm adapting as fast as I can" crowd (who are hanging tough). If you believe that idea, Duke Tartaglio is definitely in the second category. Operator of Troy Vending, in Phoenix, Ariz., Duke realizes there are always new obstacles facing operators today, but that hasn't kept him from maintaining a diverse and growing business he proudly calls the largest street operation in the state. From leagues to new buying strategies, he's shifting his way of operating. High prices and DUI laws are plagues everywhere...but creative guys like Duke are finding ways to keep the profits coming in despite these challenges.

Duke has been a veteran of coin-op since about the time he was old enough to push a broom. His father, Tony Tartaglio, was the supervisor for Elum Music Co. in Massillon, Ohio, and introduced young Duke to some of the more mundane, day-to-day realities of running an operation.

"From a very early age, I went with him on the weekends, holidays and any time he would let me tag along," Duke said. "I cleaned offices, even walked the owners' dogs, then gradually learned to fix pool cues and recover pool tables." As he got a little older, Duke began working summers and school holidays, and when

THUMBNAIL SKETCH

he graduated he jumped into the business full time.

In 1974, Duke moved his family to the hospitable climate of Phoenix, where he worked as a sales representative for a tobacco company while at the same time, starting up his own vending company. "I started out with one cigarette machine, added another and another," he said. "Then a pinball here and there; a pool table, video or jukebox when I could afford it."

Today, Duke has no regrets about leaving Ohio. Arizona has been receptive to his business, and with the help of a first-rate management team and a dedicated staff, Troy Vending is able to bring its services to an area of approximately 60 square miles. The company has about 19 employees including Duke's son Troy. "My son is learning the business from the ground up," Duke said, "so he can take over the company, which was named after him when he was only one."

The bulk of Troy Vending's customers are taverns and restaurants. While these locations are still lucrative, they have faced big changes over the last few years due to both legislation and social pressure.

"DUI laws and cigarette bans have definitely made a negative impact on the business," Duke said. "To compensate, we have expanded the music operations and recently bought out our largest competitor of CD jukeboxes. We operate over 200 Rowe CDs alone, using the enhanced auto play to help promote plays."

"Another important aspect of our success has been dart and pool leagues," he continued. "About seven years ago we started our dart operations and have been constantly expanding ever since. We have about 130 teams and several different leagues throughout the valley."

Troy Vending is sanctioned by the National Dart Assn. and was able to send 32 teams to the championships in Las Vegas last April. Duke is also seriously looking at other forms of tournament promotion, and is now in the early stages of forming pool leagues, which he hopes will turn out to be as successful as darts.

Videos and pinballs also play a part in the business. Duke said that pinball machines have always been good earners, but today he only buys video games "when necessary." While not into redemption games at the moment, the company is taking a serious look at them as a potential source of income.

Despite all his efforts, Duke admits there are some areas of business that are in an irreversible decline. Unfortunately, the future for cigarette vending, which played a major part in Duke's early success, doesn't look promising, even with help from people who are very close. "My daughter, Traci, was chairperson of the Tobacco Coalition and played a big part in representing the industry against local legislation," he reported. "However, it has been a losing battle against the non-smoking activists."

Duke also voiced a concern shared by virtually every operator: the rising cost of equipment, especially pinballs and videos. "Solid-state pins were $800 when we started and now the cost is about $3,400," Duke said. "Our price per play has doubled (twenty-five cents to fifty), but the cost of pins has gone up 425%, plus service and maintenance has increased. Changing commissions splits is one answer, but due to constant competition this is not possible."

The rising cost of games has definitely had an effect on Troy Vending's purchasing patterns. Today it is much more difficult for the company to buy equipment on a large scale, and the firm is much more selective in their buying decisions. "We try not to load up on any one game," Duke explained. "We constantly rotate machines and are always looking for new ways to create additional revenues, either through promotions or price adjustments."

Yet rising game prices and other perils haven't completely discouraged Duke's faith in the industry. The future at times may seem uncertain, but new problems always bring about creative solutions, and advancing technology can open up great new opportunities for operators. "You can't be afraid of new technology," Duke said. "You must try to keep up with it the best you can or you will lose out. We feel this is a great industry and there will be a lot of new and exciting challenges for the aggressive operator. When you lose your aggressiveness, it's time to step down."

And what of the rewards? Due to success of Troy Vending, and giving credit to his capable and dependable employees, Duke said is able spend a couple of months each year at his summer home in Kenai, Alaska. "The halibut in the picture weighed 150 lbs. and was caught in Homer, Alaska. I hope to enjoy the halibut and salmon fishing for many years to come."

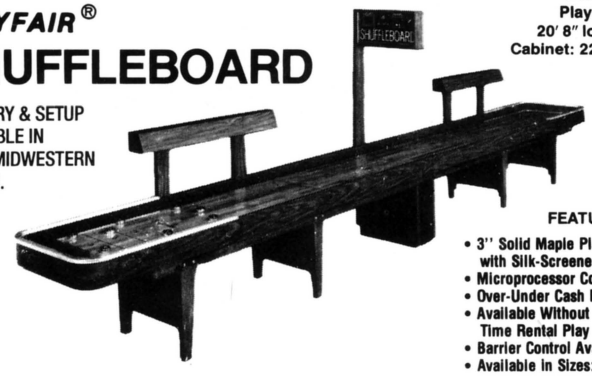
Obviously, running a street operation is a major investment in time, energy and resources. And for many, the investment goes well beyond the obvious. Folks like Duke, who've spent most of their lives in the business, who've seen the times change, and made the necessary adjustments, are the ones who will carry the street operator's banner into the 21st century. ◆

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BIG AL'S CORNER

BY ALAN FOSTER



WELCOME BACK

Summer is over, and so are most of the conventions. Did you attend any this year? I had the opportunity to attend the Fun Expo in Las Vegas and it was another success. Attendance was very good at the seminars, and the exhibit floor was filled to capacity with new products and ideas. Just a side note: Wouldn't it be nice if all the conventions were held in Las Vegas? Any future convention held there should have good attendance.

The sad thing about summer's end is the resumption of school and slow daytime receipts. Check out some past articles if you'd like a few tips on boosting income and customer attendance. No matter where you operate, there's always a way to increase profits in the winter months.

FUN EXPO '94

Once again, the Fun Expo had another successful convention. Many owners and operators that I spoke with enjoyed and learned a great deal from the roundtable seminars and meetings. The mood was always upbeat, with many owners stating: "If we made it through this recession, we can make it through another one." I think that sums it up for most of the country. There will always be slow times, but it seems the recession is over.

I couldn't believe the number of new products on the Fun Expo exhibit floor! Many new items had to do with food and its preparation. If you've ever been restricted by zoning or local regulations on food serving, don't worry. Now there are many greaseless fryers and cookers on the market that enable you to sell food that smells and tastes like it just came out of a deep fryer — you don't need much room either. If you thought you were too small to serve food, think again.

Also miraculous was the fact that many distributors are now leasing to own or selling equipment with no money down. That's right, no money down, and up to three years to pay. (Yes, I sound like a car salesman, but it works; offer a new product down and it will sell. Are you listening, major manufacturers and distributors?)

Another growing trend I noticed was manufacturers cutting out the distributor and operator altogether. I spoke with several manufacturers who have direct deals with mall owners for their products. No operator involved, no middle man. This doesn't mean operators are going to become extinct, but it does bring up a potential problem. How can an operator compete with an equipment maker turned operator? It's something to think about...and discuss in a future article.

Price was also on a lot of minds at the show. Many operators I spoke to are concerned with the price of the new technology and products arriving on the market. Many machines and or products now cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is not pocket change for the average fun center or operator. Some manufacturers recognize this problem and have adjusted to it, but most haven't. Some even know their product is so expensive that the average operator can't afford them. However, the product must still go to market, so this manufacturer says "bye-bye operator."

The market is still changing and so are products. As you can see, some equipment manufacturers are bypassing the operator, some game manufacturers are making their own game channels, and so on. It seems that every time you turn around, someone or something is trying to cut into your profit or destroy it altogether. But hey, that's life. One challenge after another. No matter what happens, those who have the ingenuity and forethought will survive and prosper. The owner/operator will always be around.

If you'd like the phone number for the Fun Expo seminar tape cassettes, or any other information regarding the Expo, feel free to call: 914/993-9200.

OPEN HOUSE

BETSON ROADSHOW DRIVES THRU

While Betson Enterprises' Chris Cirillo said approximately 400 people turned out for their Oct. 5 post-AMOA open house at the dealer's HQ in Carlstadt. NJ, their people in Syracuse were also pleased with their own party held the same day as was Rick Kirby with the affair he hosted at their New England Coin-Op on Oct. 12.

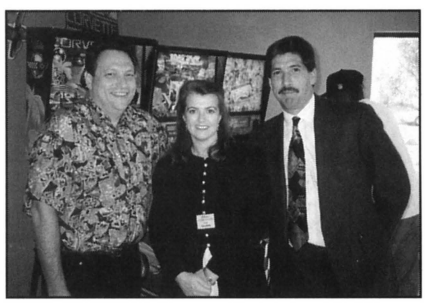
Cirillo said interest in redemption machinery is high at Betson/Carlstadt and with many of its customers, and this class of machine was nicely featured at their affair. In fact, their redemption specialist Ben Toro conducted two seminars on ticket machines during the course of the day. "Redemption's percentage of the coin-op industry is growing,." Cirillo declared.

Considering the size and influence Betson has in the Northeast market, numerous manufacturer reps came in to "man their machines" and discuss game play, prices and availability with the operators in the crowd. (Betson treated many out-of-town reps to dinner that night at Segovia over in their former hometown of Moonachie.)

N.E.C.O. echoed the spirit of the Betson "roadshow" Oct. 12 with people, machines and good food combining to make that Wednesday a good day to be in the Boston suburb of Norwood. Here are some snapshots taken at both the Betson, NJ and the N.E.C.O. events:



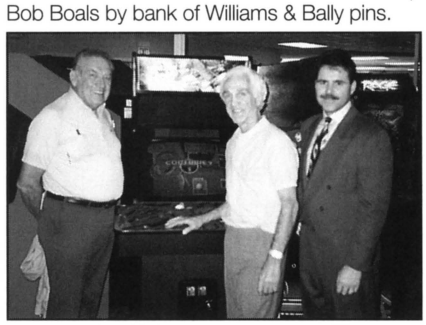
At Betson's Oct. 5 affair (from left to right): Chris & Joe Cirillo, special guest Willie Beamon (Giants cornerback) & Rowe's Joel Friedman with his *Diamante* CD jukebox.



Popular Broadway Arcade op Steve Epstein (l) with WMS Rachel Davies & Betson's sales top Bob Boals by bank of Williams & Bally pins.



Lazer-Tron's Ron Carrara (l) with Betson's Robert Betti & Chuck Morton, & Jaleco's Jolly Backer. (Chuck's head's in front of *Alley Cats*.)



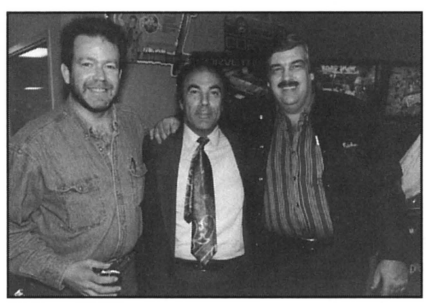
Homac Vending's Ted Stumpf & Horace Macconi meet Sammy's Rick Rochetti by the latter's *Eagle Shot Golf* horizontal video kit.



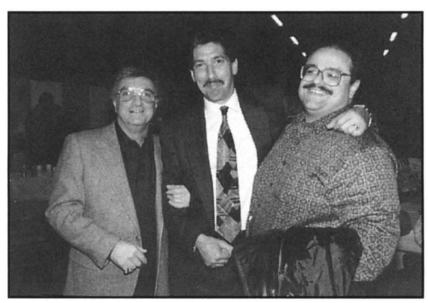
In the warehouse-ne-showroom, from left: Bob Boals, B&B Amusement's Barry Klinger & Todd Detrick with Dynamo's Mark Struhs.



Betson's Chris Cirillo (left) with Mr. & Mrs. Steve (Starlight Enterprises) Herman at the Carlstadt HQ post-Expo party.

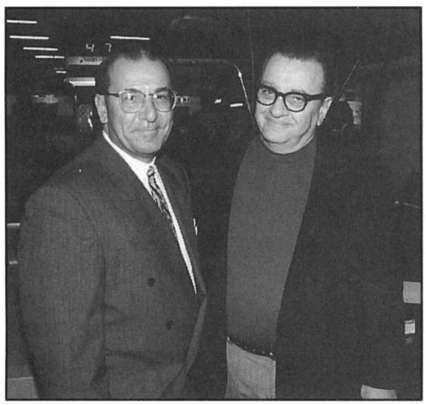


In this photo from left, Dick Haines (Vending Dist.), Betson's Vince Ghiberti & Barry Scheinthar (Sugar Amusement).

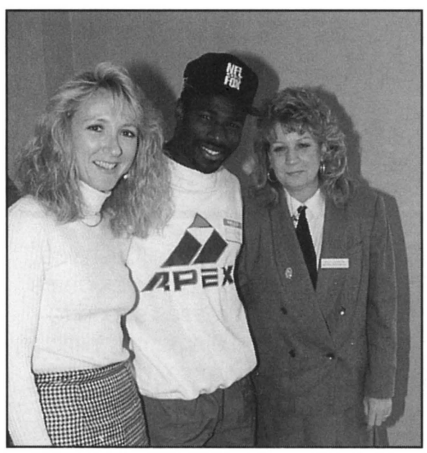


Electro Cigarette's Bob Tessinani (left) and Nicole Amusement's Glen Kramer flank Betson's Bob Boals at the affair.

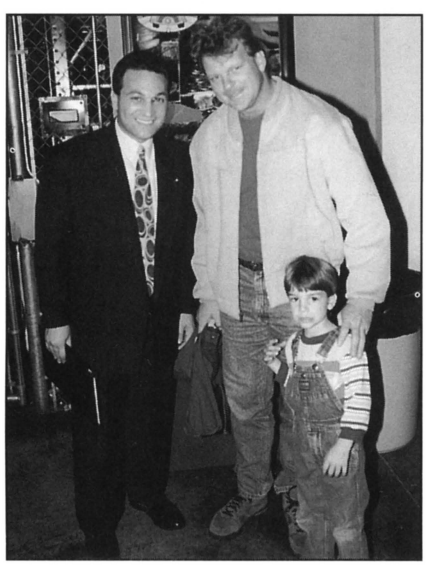
NORTHEAST; HUGE TURNOUT AT HQ



Betson Enterprises' prexy Joe Cirillo (left) & veteran op Gene Preschell (CMG Vending).



Betson girls Jennifer Short & Pat Lennon flank Giants cornerback Willie Beamon.



Joe Ingui (left) with Andy Pritt and his son Michael. Andy's with Resort Vending.



Up in Norwood, Mass., Betson's Chuck Morton (left) and Beck Games' Steve Beckler flank New England Coin-Op chief Rick Kirby at his Oct. 12 open house.



The maven of Mel-O-Tone Jack Kerner (right) with WMS' Rachel Davies and N.E.C.O. staffers Mark Capitanio and Mike Whall at the Norwood, Mass. outlet's own post-Expo product bash.



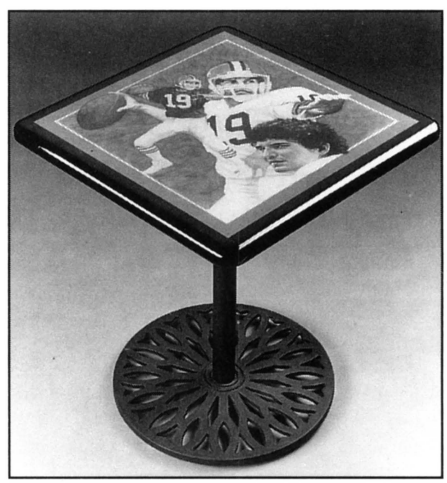
Time for a tune. From left to right, Rowe's Joel Friedman, Betson's Bob Geschine and N.E.C.O.'s Joe Santoro & Dick Donlan with a beautiful Rowe jukebox in Norwood.

NEW PRODUCTS

Custom designed tables from World Class Tables

World Class Tables feature custom designs with unique backgrounds. Logos, artwork, sports posters, cartoon characters, photo enlargements, poker chips, playing cards — any colorful graphic can be used to decorate the tops of these sturdy restaurant, food service and display tables.

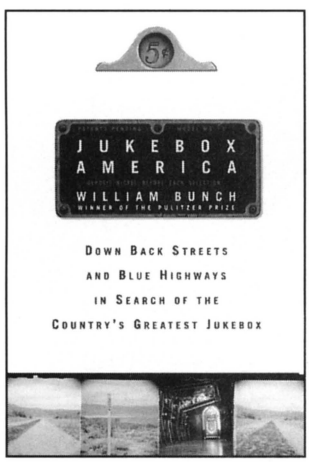
Some designs utilize a matte finish varnish for a hand rubbed appearance. Over 90 circular and rectangular standard sizes are available, along with booths and custom sizes.



All rectangular tables use standard 1.25" radius corners for safety. Bases are made of sturdy cast iron with a black wrinkle finish. Other materials include custom laminates, hardwoods, veneers, inlays, faux stone, granite and marble.

For more information on *World Class Tables,* contact Fred Visconti at 800/758-2253.

JUKEBOX AMERICA BY WILLIAM BUNCH from St. Martin's Press



As its titles suggests, Will Bunch's "Jukebox America" takes the reader on an entertaining ride "down back streets and blue highways in search of the country's greatest jukebox."

After hearing Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" from a jukebox in New York City, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer embarks on a two-year quest for the machine he calls the "Juke of the Covenant." Steering clear of modern CD jukes and cookie-cutter yuppy establishments, Bunch also seeks to recapture the restless spirit of his own particular Lost Generation — the Rear Guard Baby Boomers — before settling none too gently into suburban conformity and middle age.

While far from the definitive book on the current state of the jukebox industry, "Jukebox America" is a heck of a lot of fun. Traveling to such exotic locales as Hoboken, N.J., Westchester, Va., Greenville, Miss., Seattle and Chicago, Bunch finds plenty of strange but true stories, colorful characters and an eclectic range of scratchy 45s. Written with warmth and humor, "Jukebox America" is a reverent look at the esteemed place that the jukebox holds in American Pop Culture.

The book should be available in finer bookstores at $22.95 (hardbound). If you're having trouble finding a copy, contact St. Martin's press at 212/674-5151.



SPEEDBALL RALLY from Coastal Amusements

Coastal Amusements' *Speedball Rally* is a new rolldown redemption game that has players "race against time."

The objective is to roll as many balls as possible into a spinning wheel to complete a "100-mile journey" before the 60-second timer expires. As the player races to the finish line, the wheel changes gears and increases speed to add an element of difficulty and increase the excitement. Throughout the game, there are auto-racing sound effects, lights and voice dialogue.

Speedball Rally features a digital timer and a mechanical "clock odometer" located on the backglass. Runway lights placed down the playfield give it a raceway feel.

A proficient player completing the journey is awarded bonus tickets as a multiple of the seconds remaining on the timer. When multiple *Speedball Rally* games are linked to an optional Progressive Jackpot display, a player can win even more bonus points.

For more information, contact your authorized distributor or call Coastal at 908/905-6662.



PRIMAL RAGE
Updates from Atari/Time Warner Interactive

Time Warner Interactive's *Primal Rage* stop-motion dinosaur fighting video has barely had time to enjoy its successful intro before receiving two new EPROM updates. These updates contain program enhancements designed to keep player interest high, and will be available to operators free of charge.

The first update, available this month, will include additional finishing moves and allows players to use familiar algorithms from other popular fighting games to execute special moves. The second update, available in late January, will add a new character as well as more hidden sports modes and finishing moves.

Also on sale in November is the Official *Primal Rage* Strategy Guide, published by *Infotainment World.* The guide is a 128-page, soft-cover book that covers the game in-depth and takes players through step-by-step instructions for over 100 combination hits they can use to "devastate" their opponents.

For more information on the update kits, contact your distributor.

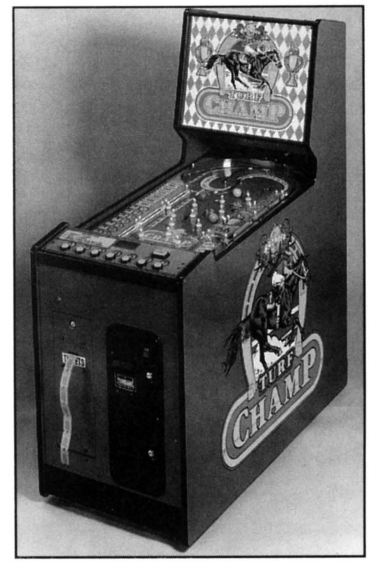
KIDS PRIZE KWIZ
from International Laser

Kids Prize Kwiz is an educational and interactive quiz game that dispenses a prize every play. Designed for kids from ages three to 13 and above, it's made by International Laser Productions.

The game features multiple-choice questions, with voice over and full-color pictures. There are 2,800 question combinations and new question programs are available on CD ROM. A percentage payout adjustment in built in.

Also available is *Kids Mini Kwiz,* a smaller ticket-dispensing version of *Kids Prize Kwiz* measuring 6.5 sq. ft. For more information, contact International Laser Products, Inc., 2166 South Mannheim Rd., Des Plains, IL 60018; 708/803-0400.

TURF CHAMP
from Bromley

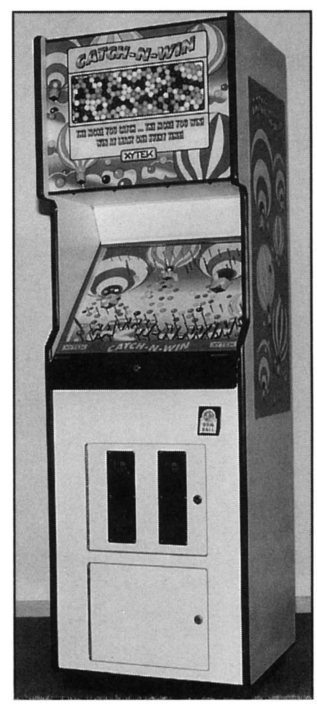


Bromley's newest addition to its redemption line-up is *Turf Champ,* a ball-launcher with rolldown action and a horse race theme.

Players can insert one to seven coins per play, choosing their favorite horses from a field of seven. Just press start and "they're off," complete with at-the-track sound effects. Up to a 1,000 tickets can be paid out.

Turf Champion features eye-catching graphics on a high-grade 100% "tongue in groove" plywood cabinet, and is backed up by state-of-the-art electronics with BSP quality stereo sound. Ticket adjustments are easy and there's a handy low-ticket light.

For more information, contact a Bromley distributor or call 708/438-3834.



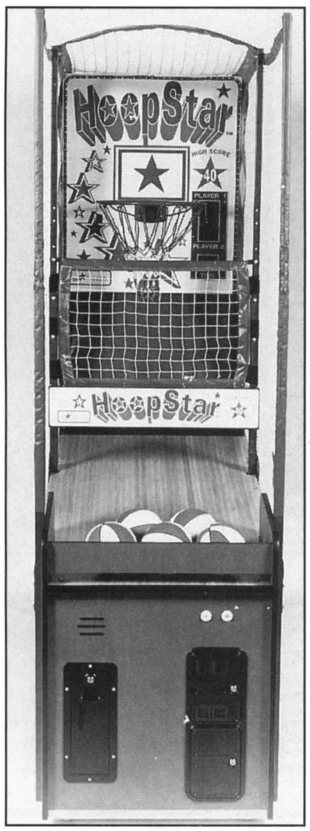
CATCH-N-WIN
from Xytek

Xytek introduces *Catch-N-Win,* the first in a new line of "Vendgame" machines, which combines the fun of of playing a game with the value and satisfaction of receiving vended goods.

Gameplay is similar to pachinko. Plastic balls drop through a maze of pins while the player uses two buttons (or a joystick) to move the catcher mech back and forth, trying to catch as many balls as possible in the allotted time. The more plastic balls the player catches, the more gumballs are dispensed (mechanisms for other prizes are also available). With at least one gumball vended during each game, there's a winner every time.

Catch-N-Win offers a wide selection of option settings so that the game can be operator adjusted for each location type and player base. Options include price/play, vend type (gumball, prize or ticket), attract mode, maximum win, number of catches/vend, time/play and difficulty level.

For more information, contact Phil Cornick, P.O. Box 518, 5033 Industrial Rd., Wall, NJ 07719; 908/919-7878.



Two new games from Purple Star

Purple Star, makers of innovative sports and redemption games, debuts two new products this fall: *Hoop Star* and *Blast Off.*

Like the firm's baseball pitching game *Strike Zone, Hoop Star* utilizes infra-red light beam technology in a one- or two-player basketball game. Players are challenged by throwing against the clock.

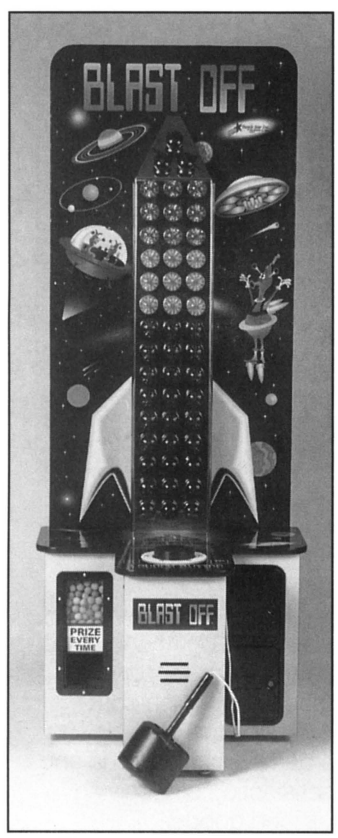
The unit features a tongue-in-groove, birch plywood and formica cabinet, tubular steel frame and easy access to components. Other features include electronic audits (resetable and lifetime, non-resetable), easy operator programmability, double coin mech with locking cash box, and digital quality sound and music. There's also an optional ticket dispenser, dollar-bill acceptor and revolving winner light.

Blast Off is a unique novelty/redemption game with a space ship theme that uses force-sensing technology. Using a mallet, players hit a button to launch the space ship, and win tickets, pogs, superballs capsules or jawbreakers.

Designed for both arcades and street locations, *Blast Off* features double coin mech with locking cash box, a low-ticket light indicator, electronic audits, and operator programmability for pricing, number of hits, sensitivity level and ticket payout. The game also has a large prize capacity.

Dimensions for *Hoop Star* are 33"(w) x 9'(l), with adjustable heights of 8', 8.5' and 9'. *Blast Off* measures 34"(w) x 30"(d) x 88"(h) with tickets, and 34"(w) x 37"(d) x 88"(h) with bulk vend.

For more information or distributor referral, contact Purple Star, Inc., P.O. Box 71274, Des Moines, IA 50325; 515/276-7500 or 800/525-7475.



New decorative lighting from Flex-A-Lite



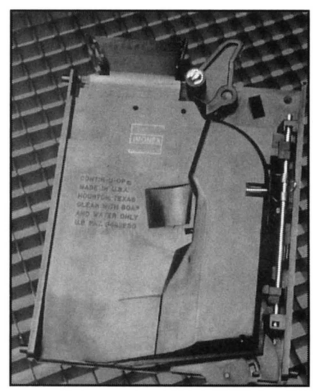
Makers of non-neon, UL-approved decorative lighting for outdoor and indoor applications, Flex-A-Lite announces the newest addition to their product line. *Flat Flex-A-Lite* is a series/parallel arrangement of bulbs spaced 1" apart, sealed in solid, flexible weatherproof PVC. The product is shown above on Bob's Space Racers' *Sidewinder* game.

The light can be ordered in 1/2" cylinder, 3/8" cylinder or the new flat strip design, and all models feature 30,000-hour performance. Unlike neon, they will not fail with the loss of one bulb, and sections can be easily replaced.

Available in white and eight colors, the unit features pre-drilled holes for fast, simple nail or screw-in installation; no clips are required for outdoor or indoor mounting. UL and Coast Guard approved cords, plugs and connectors allow single lengths up to 300', and unlimited length using multiple plugs and outlets. It comes in 110V, 220V, 12VDC or 24VDC.

For more information, contact Flex-A-Lite's Richard Rubin at 800/468-8693.

Manual coin acceptor from Imonex



Imonex's new manual coin acceptor processes coins without moving parts, which the company says significantly reduces jams and other common sources of downtime for arcade, redemption and pinball game operators.

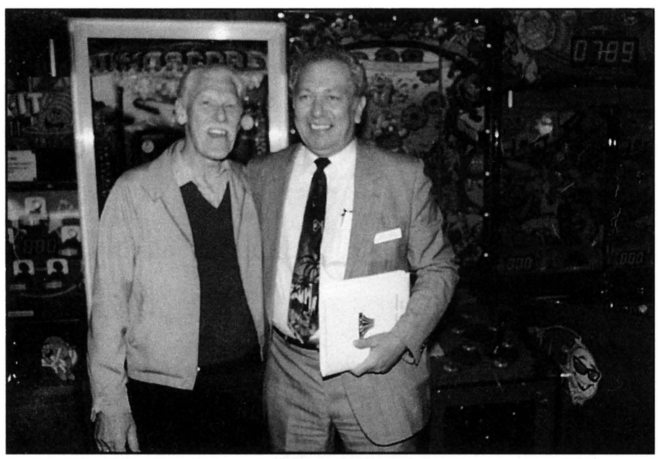
Constructed of a rugged ABS material, the unit is engineered to resist vandalism and provide long-term service. The coin acceptor is designed for easy and quick retrofit installation in the field and adapts to a broad range of equipment.

For more information, contact the Imonex Marketing Dept., P.O. Box 519, Katy, TX 77494; 800/446-2719.

GRAPEVINE

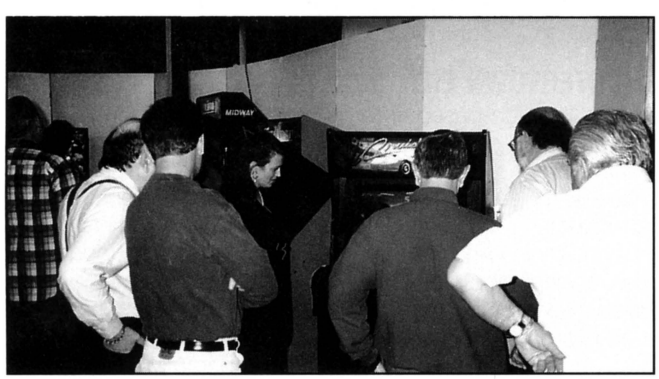
NORTHEAST

ALPHA-OMEGA AMUSEMENTS will be holding a gala 25th Anniversary celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Sports 'n Games in East Hanover, N.J. It's a family affair with bumper cars, batting cages, *Skeeball, Laser Storm*, vidgames, and food & beverages galore! The fun starts at 5:00PM and casual attire is a must. If you plan to attend, give Alpha-Omega a call today at 908/254-3773.



REDEEMING DAY — Betson's Oct. 5th open house was more redemption-oriented than ever, featuring two seminars on the subject for the approximately 400 people that attended. Among the visiting operators was Don Kramer (Family Gameland) above, left, shown with Betson's Ben Toro and a blaze of redemption product behind.

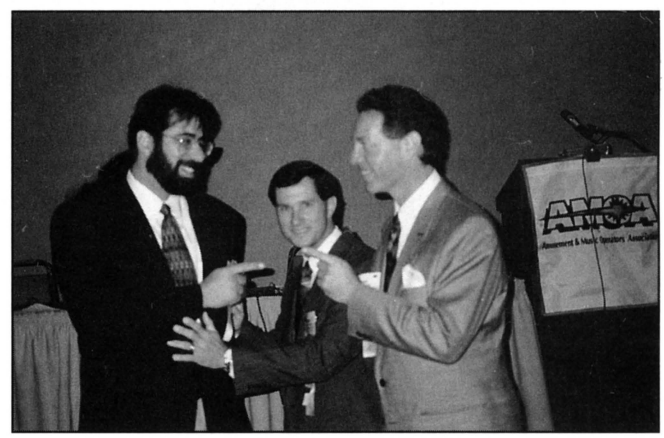
ATTENTION-GETTER — WMS' Rachel Davies and a pack of operators form around the new *Cruis'n USA* sitdown during Eastern Distributors' Oct. 4th post-Expo showing in Philly. Many ops from Jersey, Pennsy and Delaware turned out for the day, and a shot at door prizes donated by Rowe, Merit, New Image Tech, SNK and WMS (they also got a preview of Rowe's new *Eagle* wall-hung jukebox in the process).



SOUTHEAST

HOLIDAY GIVING — Give Kids The World, the Kissimmee, Fla.-based charity that grants special vacation wishes for children with terminal illnesses (and the focus of a recently formed AMOA Committee), has created two distinctive packages of holiday greeting cards. Each set sells for $15 and contains 20 cards, which depict traditional holiday scenes drawn by young children. The purchase of these cards will directly benefit the 4,000 families expected to visit the 35-acre Give Kids The World Village in 1995. For ordering information, call 407/396-1114, ext. 225.

MIDWEST

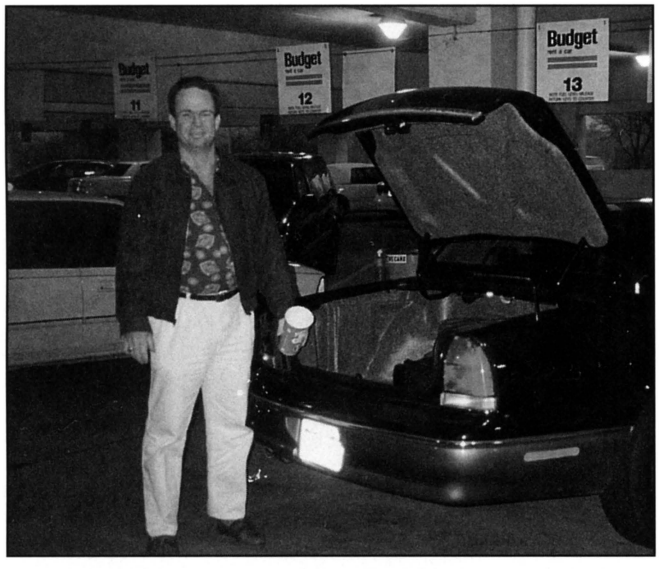


SQUARING OFF — One of the reasons the Redemption Seminar at the recent AMOA Expo turned out to be such a hit was because of the different styles presented by the panelists. That's Anthony Storino (Majestic Amusements) doing his best to keep Frank Seninsky (Alpha-Omega Amusements) and Michael Getlan (Amusement Consultants) apart as they make their own points. The seminar was a huge "draw" and all want it known that Frank, Michael and Anthony are actually good friends.

FAST DRAW CHAMPS — Also at the AMOA show, American Laser Games held a fast draw tournament on their newest liveaction vidgame, *Fast Draw Showdown*, and awarded Justin cowboy boots to the three fastest participants. More than 100 contestants tried their hand at the game, which has a built-in computer to calculate accuracy and speed within one-hundredths of a second. "We noticed

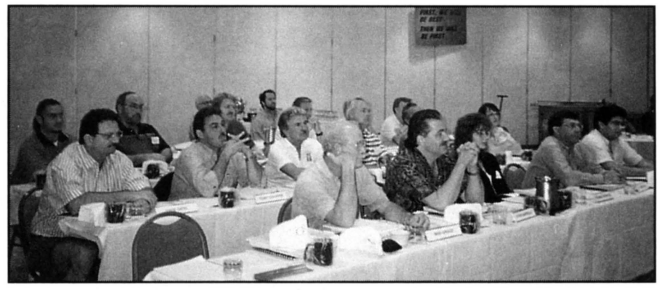


that the players winning times got faster with each day," said ALG's Stan Jarocki, "so they must have been practicing during the whole show." Pictured above are (l to r) ALG's Jim Jarocki, Thursday's winner Tim Jones of Midwest Electronics, fast draw world-record holder Wes Flowers, Tim's wife Sandy, and Stan Jarocki.



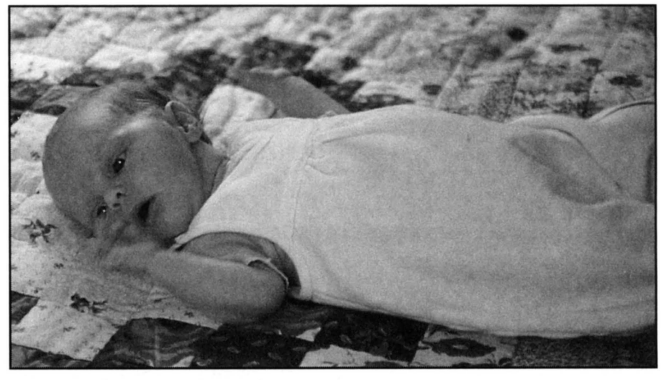
HOMEWARD BOUND — Early Saturday morning (Oct. 22), Merit's midwest regional rep Ron Hunt turned in his Budget car at the Omaha airport and flew home, completing his open house tour for this season. Other factory reps like Ron also wound up their own post-Expo dealer visits, completing this year's show season which began in late Sept. in San Antonio.

SUCCESS SEMINAR — Glasco recently invited all of its distributors to an intensive three-day "Art of Success" seminars. The sessions were attended by 40 of the distributors' top sales people and included a wide range of topics, including competitive equipment comparisons, the psychology of selling, hidden secrets of success, how to overcome objections, and selling techniques. Speakers included Joe Gilbert, vice president/GSM at Glasco; Andy Berry; Dale Carnegie; Bruce Witwer, Witwer & Associates; and Bob Pell & Pete Kallash of Glasco. Along with a special awards presentation, there were also a number of social events, such as a river-

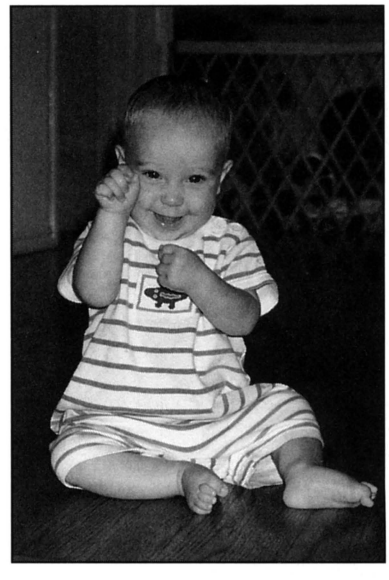


boat trip, a visit to a C&W entertainment complex, and the first annual Glasco golf tournament.

SOUTHWEST

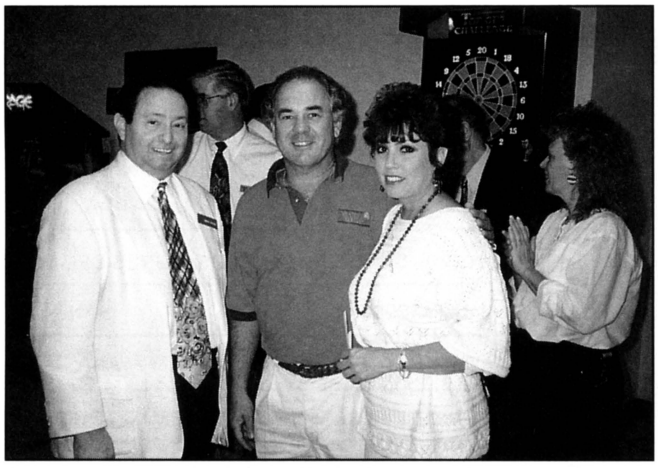


WELCOME to little Janina Rudolph, a 7-lb. cutie pie born to Silke and Lou (Dynamo) Rudolph on Aug. 19. Janina is the Rudolph's first child and a great way to start a family!

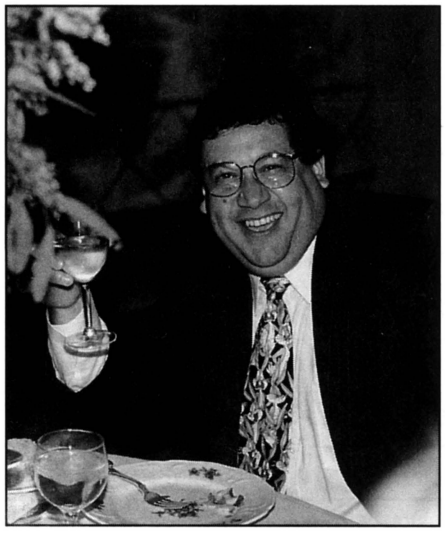


AND...a grand welcome to little Conor Hayes, born earlier this year to Anne & Kevin (Namco) Hayes. Their third child, Conor had a slightly rocky start after arriving three weeks early, but obviously he's rather anxious to get on with life now. Anne, by the way, sends her regards to everyone in coin-op. The former Atarian misses the business, but has her hands full with Conor, Molly (3) and Ronan (2).

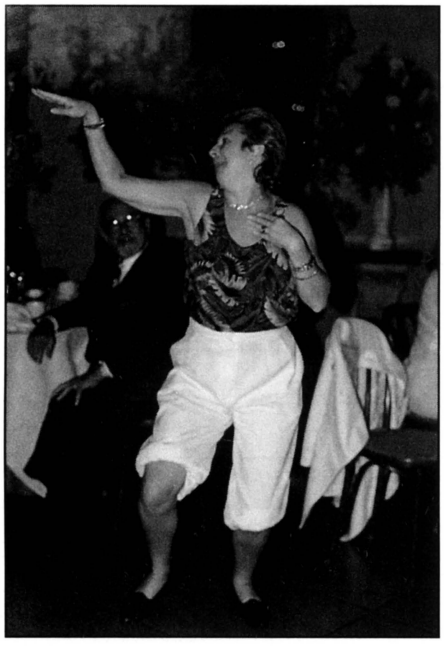
FIGHTERTOWN ENT., INC. of Lake Forest, Calif., operators of location-based entertainment, and *Omni Magazine* of New York City have reached an agreement to create joint marketing programs. Initial plans call for *Omni* to launch a national register for ranking the scores of squadrons that participate in virtual reality contests at Fightertown installations. *Omni Online* will also give 'round-the-clock updates on the rankings and provide a meeting place for Fightertown's pilots. The first Fightertown location, in Orange County's Lake Forest, opened in May, 1992, and the company plans to a second facility in January, 1995 in Santa Monica, Calif.



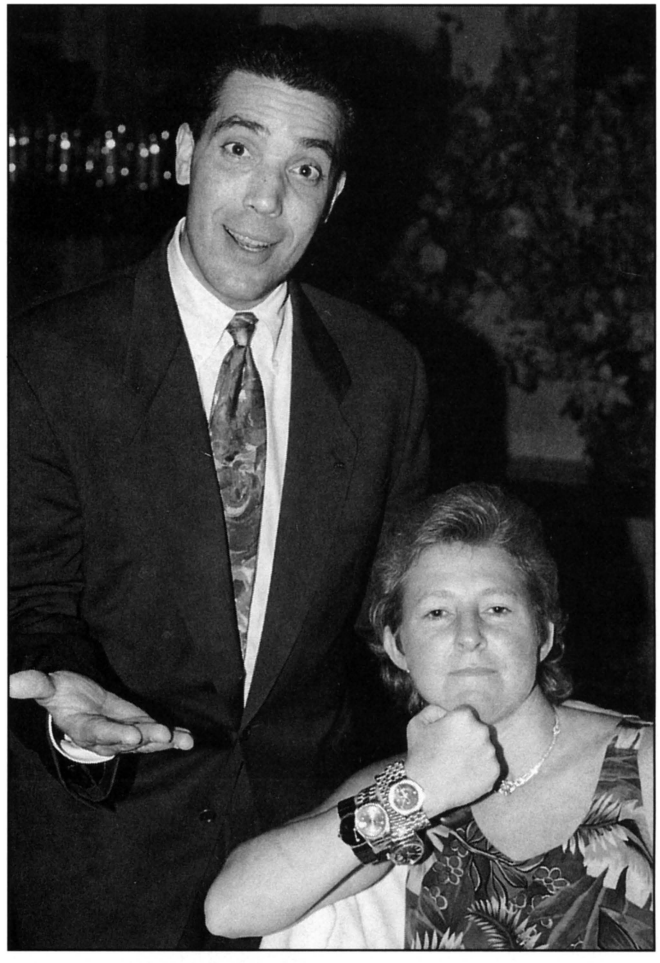
CD CROWD — Betson Pacific's Oct. 6 post-Expo open house in Phoenix was fun. From left: Irv Knigin, Duke Tartaglio and Judy Gunnerson. Duke and Judy are from Troy Vending, which, among other things, operates a big number of CD jukeboxes in the Phoenix area, maybe the most of any vending company down there.



BIRTHDAY BOY! — American Sammy's International Sales manager Emilio Cabrera (pictured here at the C.A. Robinson & Co.'s dinner party Oct. 6) celebrated his birthday on the road! As most reps do after a big show, Emilio and his compatriots hit the distributor open houses all across the country. His visit to L.A. just happened to coincide with his special day. We raise our glass to you, Emilio!



WHO'S THAT WOMAN? — The crazy kook pictured is none other than Lauran Bromley of Bromley, Inc. fame. She added to the fun at the C.A. Robinson dinner party Oct. 6 by not only swiping watches from anyone nearby (top photo: she's with Sega's Doug Shipley, who offers to make a deal), but also by doing the "redemption hula" (below). Ahoy? Oy!



NORTHWEST

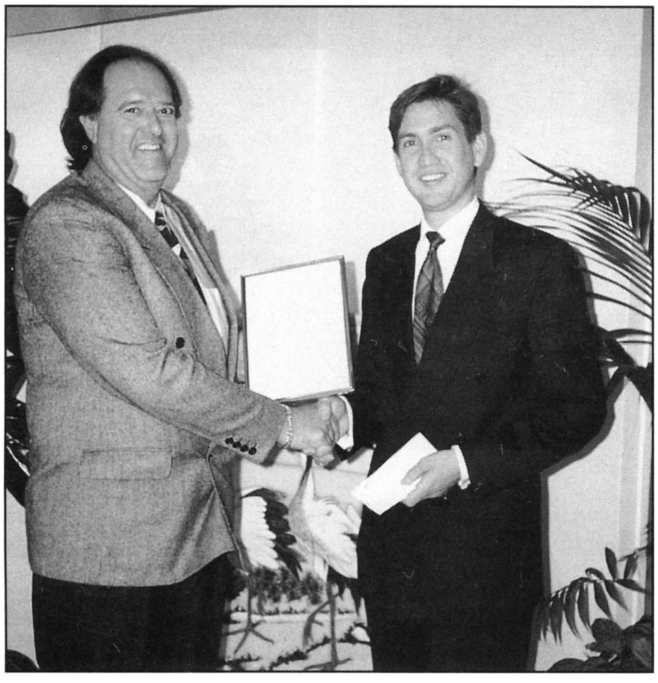
FAST TRACK — In a special annual issue, *Inc.* magazine announced their Inc. 500, a ranking of America's fasted-growing private companies. On the list this year was North Central Gaming of Great Falls, Mont., which ranked at the 480th position. North Central Gaming distributes and services amusement and gambling machines to taverns and casinos in North Central Montana. The company also owns the Fun Factory Family Entertainment Center in Great Falls. Congrats — it's nice to see coin-op make the charts!

INTERNATIONAL

THE L.A. TIMES recently ran an interesting feature story (Sept.26, 1994) on the growth of hi-tech amusement centers in Japan and the overall boom in the country's leisure industry. Contrary to the stereotype of Japan as a "workaholic" nation, many people now pursue a wide range of recreational activities, from karaoke to camping. While video games and specialized rides are as popular as ever, it is reported that one of the latest fads sweeping the country is fortune-telling machines — one hot-selling machine even predicts how long players have to live. Whatever form of "escape" people turn to, one thing is clear: the concept of leisure time is here to stay in Japan. As Namco chairman Masaya Nakamura put it, "man was placed on this Earth to play."

THE COIN BIZ **GRAPEVINE**

BACKING A WINNER — Pictured below is Leon Deith (r), who recently ran in the London Marathon, presenting checks for 5,000 pounds (over $7,500) to Robin Bloom of the Teenage Cancer Trust on behalf of Deith Leisure and BACTA. The London Marathon attracted 30,000 entrants and Leon finished the marathon in three hours and 54 minutes, which placed him about a third of the way from the top finishers. The combined sponsorship has gone to a truly worthwhile cause: The Teenage Cancer Trust's outstanding work in the London area for children is widely acknowledged.



NEW LOGO — Organizers of the Jan. 24-26 Amusement Trades Exhibition (ATEI) have unveiled a new corporate logo (below) in keeping with the show's growing status as one of the world's most international industry exhibitions. The logo, which depicts the London landmark of Big Ben and images of amusement industry products against a backdrop of the world map, will appear on all of ATEI's letterheads and printed promo material. For more information on the show, contact Peter Rusbridge at 44-71-713-0302.



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	2	--	JACARANDOSA	BANDA ZETA
	3	--	AYER Y HOY	ANA GABRIEL
	4	6	GRANDES EXITOS A LA MANERA	ALEJANDRO FERNANDEZ
	5	10	LASTIMA QUE SEAS AJENA	VICENTE FERNANDEZ
	6	2	RECORDANDO A LOS PANCHOS	VICENTE FERNANDEZ
	7	--	16 KILATES MUSICALES	LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE
	8	--	UNA EXPLOSION MUSICAL	LOS HURACANES DEL NORTE
	9	--	QUE BUENO	PEPE AGUILAR
	10	--	MEXICANISIMO 24 EXITOS	VICENTE FERNANDEZ
TROPICAL / SALSA	1	--	ORO SALSERO (No. 1)	OSCAR D'LEON
	2	6	ES UN ESCANDALO	SONORA DINAMITA
	3	--	BOTANDO CHISPO	LAS CHICAS DEL CAN
	4	--	RMM MEGA MIX	VARIOUS ARTISTS
	5	--	LOS RUIZ SENORES	REY & FRANKIE RUIZ
	6	--	VOCES DE PUERTO RICO	VARIOUS ARTISTS
	7	3	MERENGUEROS HASTA LA TAMBORA	VARIOUS ARTISTS
	8	--	THE BEST	CELIA CRUZ
	9	--	EXPLOSION CENTRO AMERICA	VARIOUS ARTISTS
	10	2	EXITOS DE LA DINAMITA CON MARGARITA	SONORA DINAMITA
POP	1	1	SEGUNDO ROMANCE (No. 1)	LUIS MIGUEL
	2	4	TE CONQUISTARE	LOS FUGITIVOS
	3	3	AMOR PROHIBIDO	SELENA
	4	7	SUPER EXITOS	LIBERACION
	5	6	VANIDOSA	LOS FUGITIVOS
	6	--	17 SUPER EXITOS	LA MAFIA
	7	2	VIDA	LA MAFIA
	8	5	THE BEST	ANA GABRIEL
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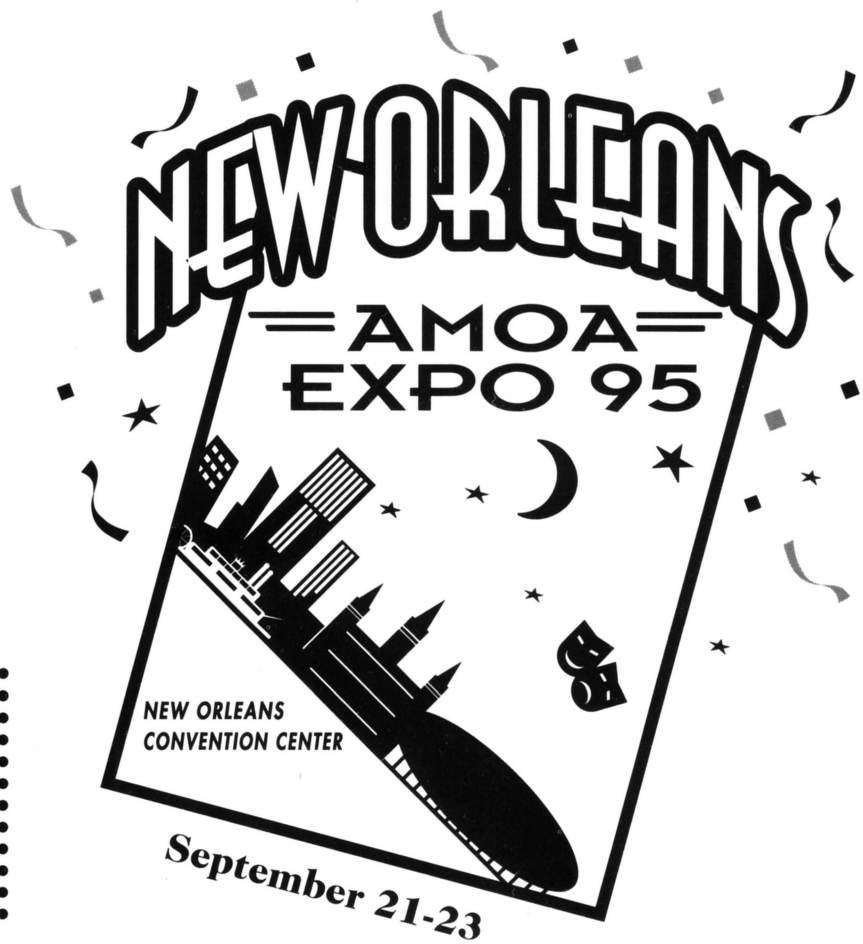
Thank You!

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Special Thanks to Hesch Foundation Contributors, Exhibitors and All Expo '94 Attendees

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See you next year!



And don't forget AMOA's Government Affairs Conference, May 20-23, 1995, Washington, D.C

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DATEBOOK

— 1994 —

NOVEMBER 1994						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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NOVEMBER

2-5: International Assn. of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) 76th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Miami Beach, Fla. For more information, contact IAAPA at 703/836-4800.

2-5: Amusement Machine Operators Assn. of Queensland (Australia) International Convention '94, Royal Pine Resort on Queensland's Gold Coast. For more information, call the AMOAQ at 61-7-841-1021.

2-5: VAN Expo (Netherlands), Delta-hal, Rai Centre, Amsterdam. For information, contact Anton Zondag at 31-41-033-944.

3-5: NAMA National Convention and Trade Show, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. For further information, contact the NAMA Convention Dept. at 312/346-0370.

10-13: Pinball Expo, Ramada Hotel O'Hare, Rosemont, Ill. For information, contact Robert Berk at 800/323-3547.

DECEMBER

7-10: FORAIN Expo '94 (France), Le Bourget Parc des Expositions, Paris. For details, contact Forain Expo at 33-1-47429256.

1995

JANUARY 19-21: Leisurexpo '95, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla. For more information, contact Al Barry at 305/448-7976.

JANUARY 25-27: ATEI show, Earls Court 1, London, UK. For information, contact Peter Rusbridge at 44-71-713-0302.

JANUARY 25-28: IMA '95 (Germany) show, Frankfurt Trade Fair Centre, Frankfurt. For details, contact Blenheim Heckmann GmbH at 49-211-901-9134.

MARCH 7-8: AmEx '95 (Ireland) trade show, Green Isle Hotel, Dublin. For details, contact Susan Feery, MD Associates, at 353-45-21190.

MARCH 23-25: ACME '95, Reno Convention Center, Reno, Nev. For more information, contact William T. Glasgow, Inc. at 708/333-9292.

APRIL 20-22: NAMA Western Convention and Trade Show, Reno/Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nev. For more information, contact the NAMA at 312/346-0370.

JULY 27-29: Billiard Congress of America Int'l Trade Expo, The Sands Expo & Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. For more information, contact Frank Zdy at 619/278-3877.

SEPTEMBER 21-23: AMOA Expo '95, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, La. For information contact the AMOA at 800/937-2662.

THE BLUE PAGES

BUYERS' BULLETIN

A COMPENDIUM OF USED EQUIPMENT ADS & OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COIN INDUSTRY

A number of video game manufacturers have been successful in enforcing their copyrights and trademarks in the U.S. courts against those who supply or use unlawful copies. Readers are warned of the risks involved when copies of video games are purchased from sources other than the manufacturer or one of its authorized distributors. We can offer no assurance that a video game or printed circuit board set purchased from all the sources of such are legitimate. RePlay asks its readers to write us regarding any complaints about a product or service advertised in this magazine.

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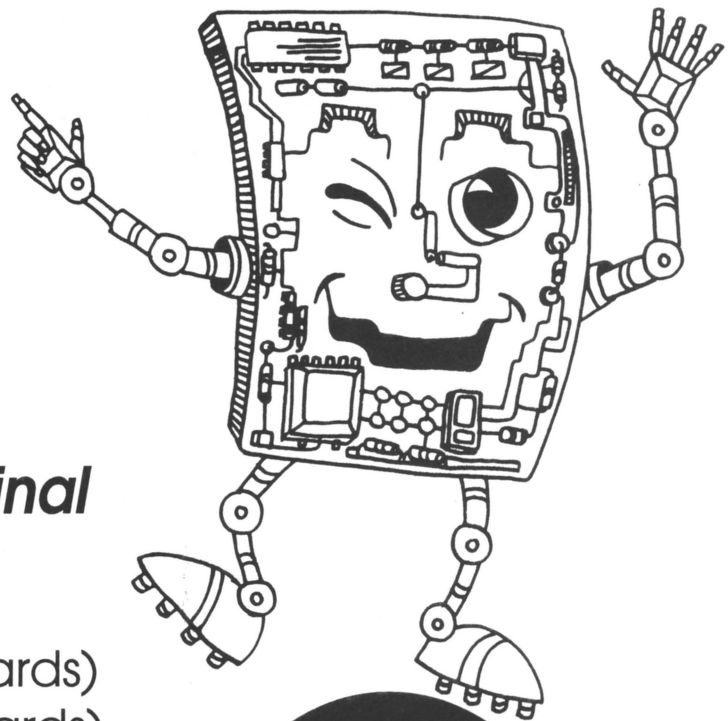
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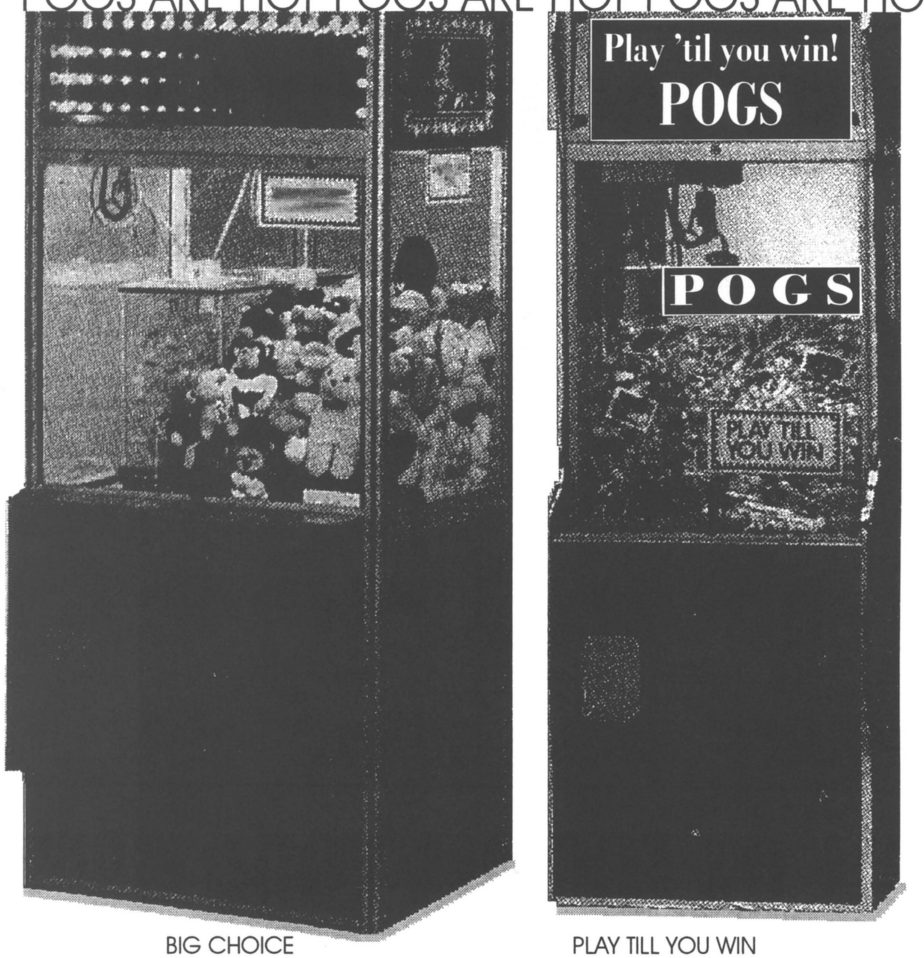
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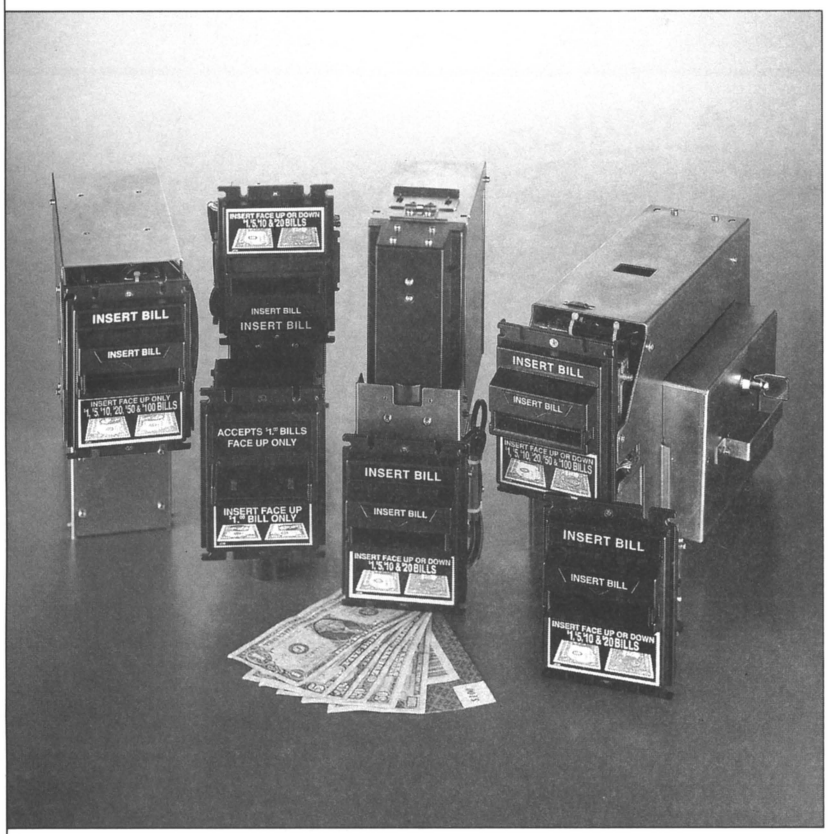
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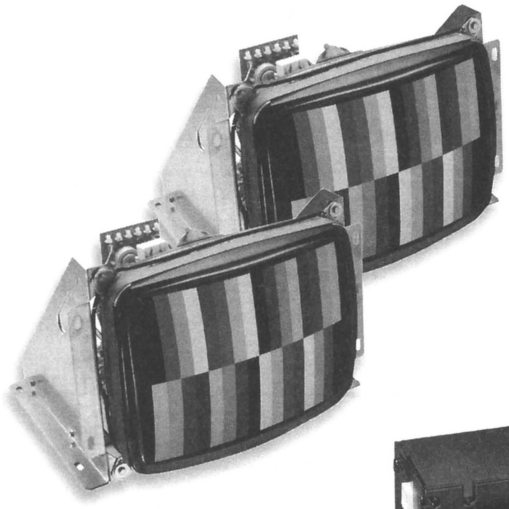
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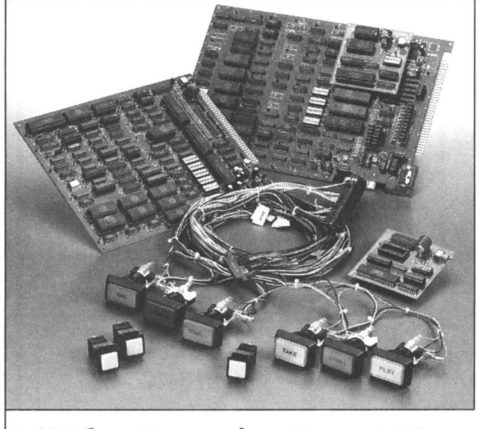


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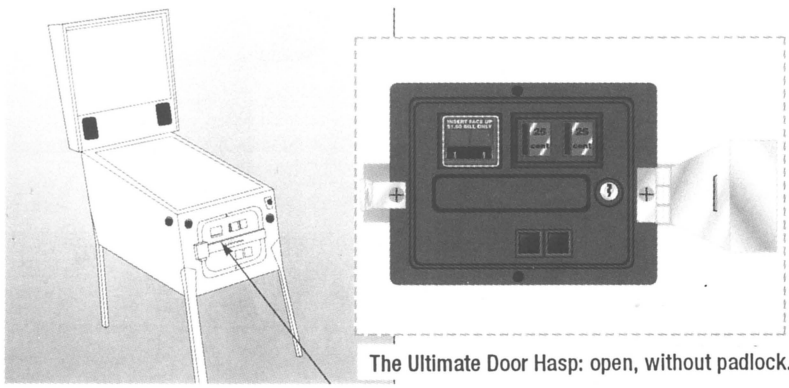
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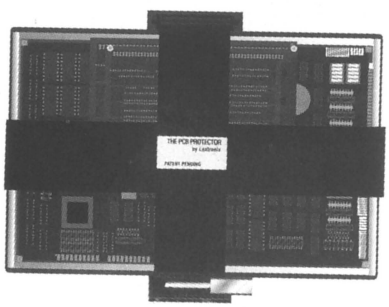


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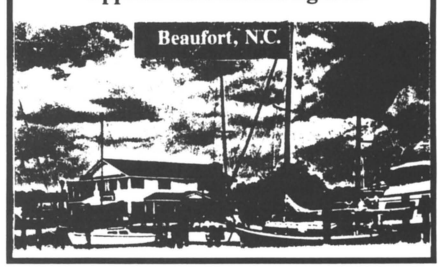
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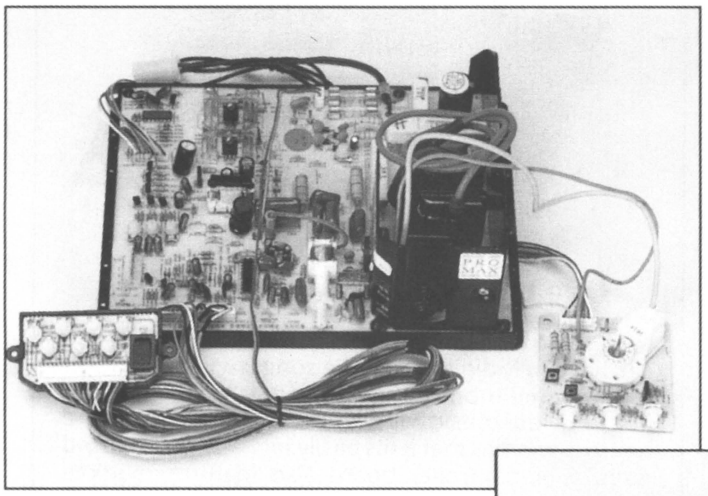
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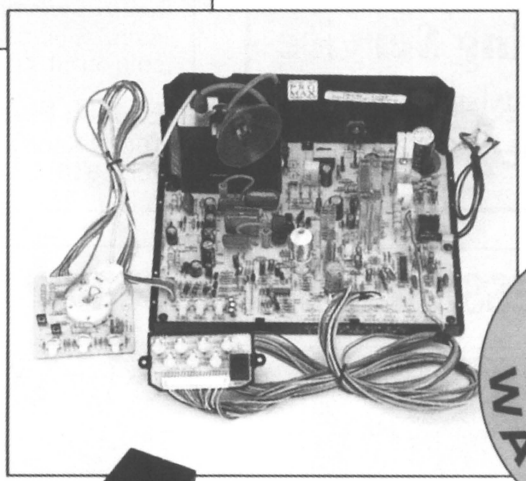
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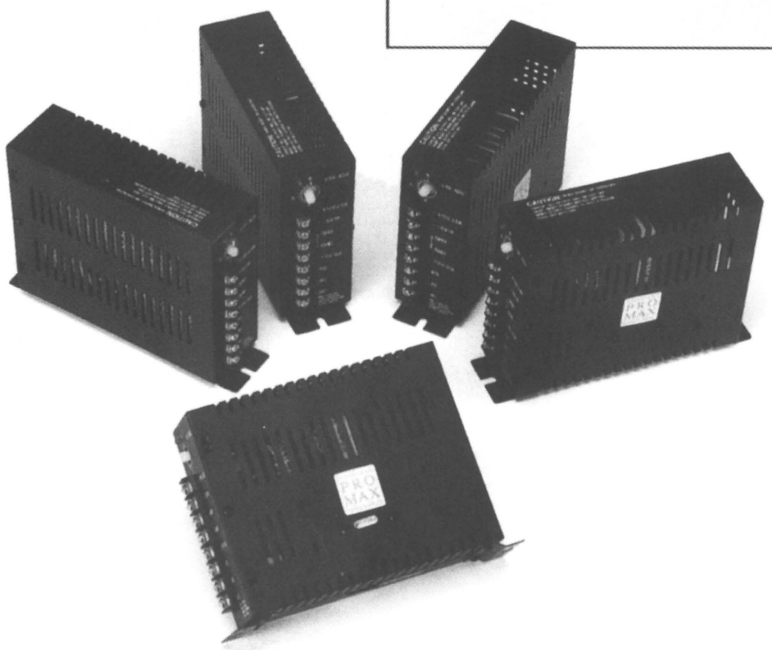
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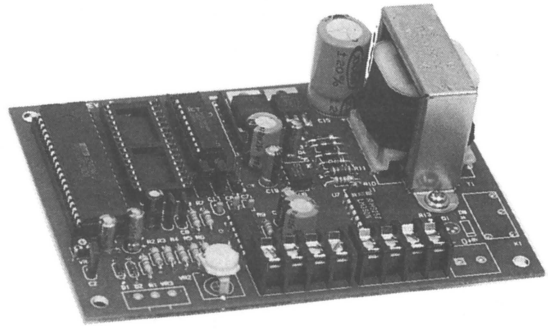
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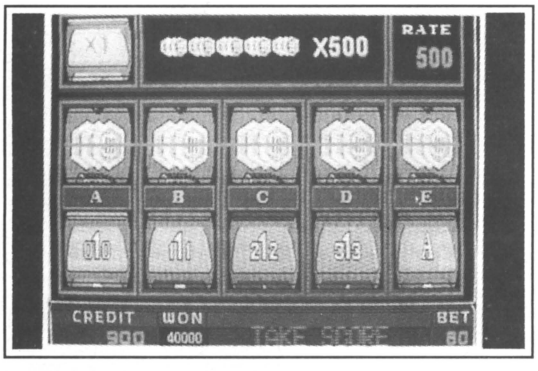


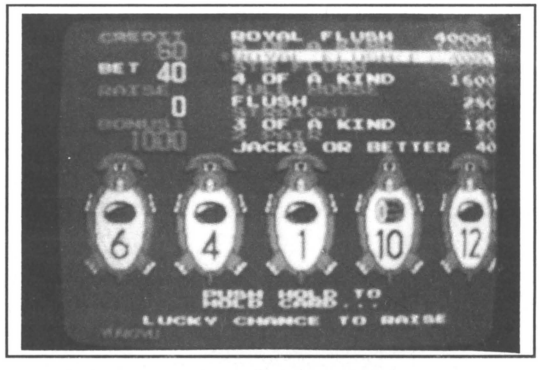
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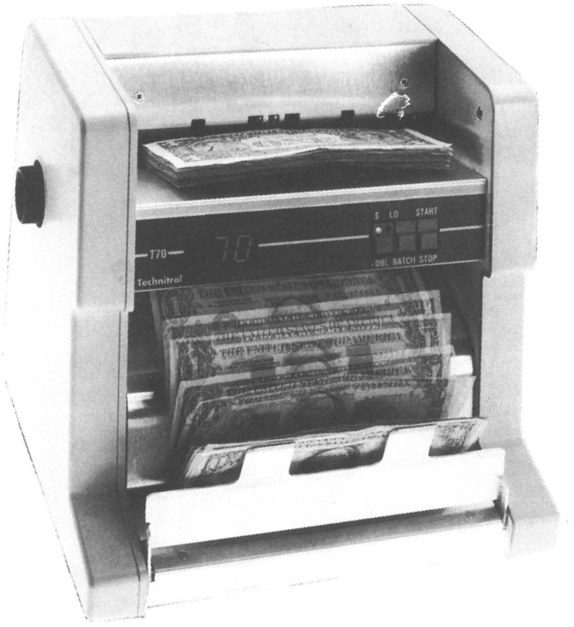
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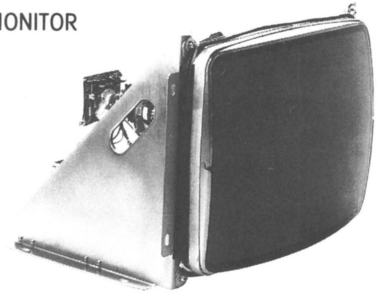
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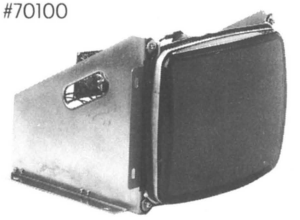
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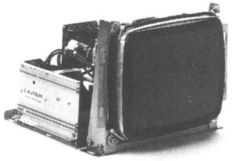
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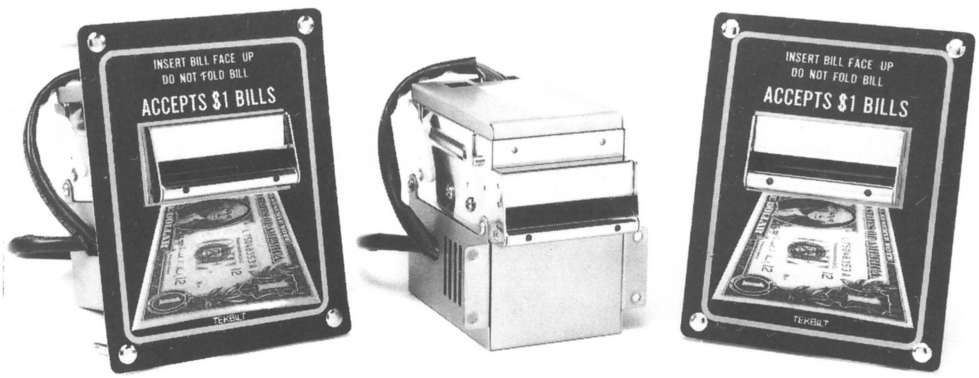
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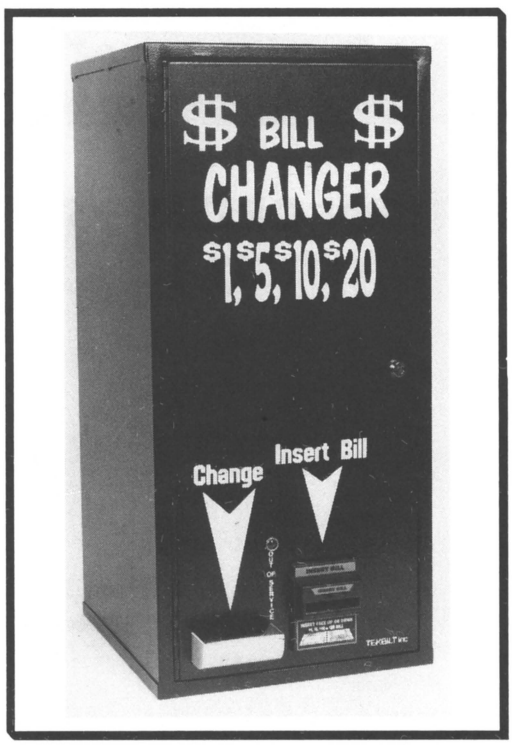
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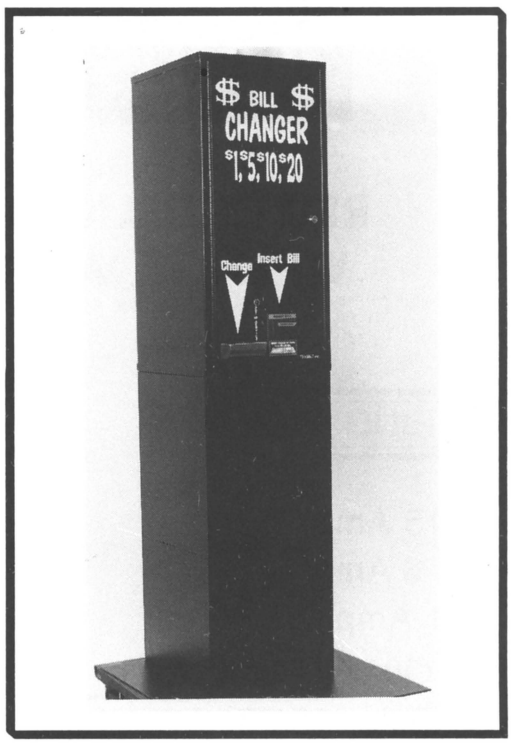
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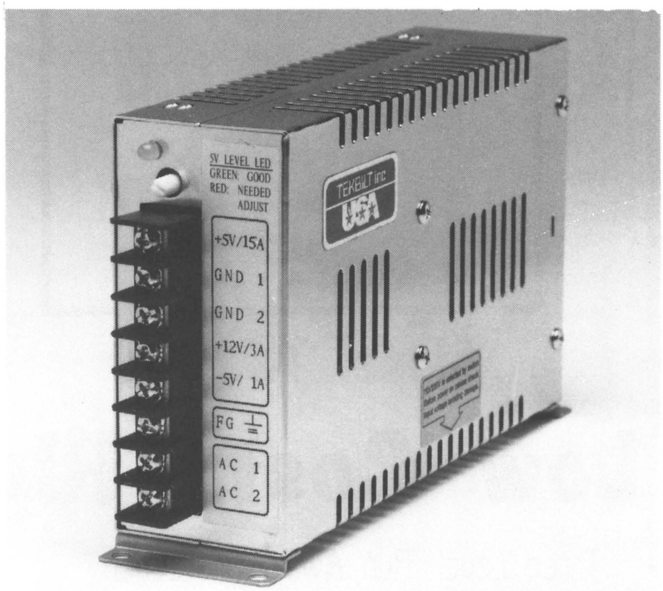
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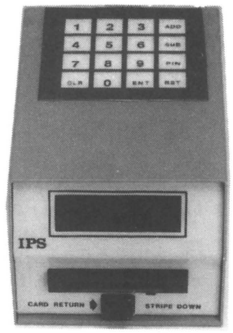
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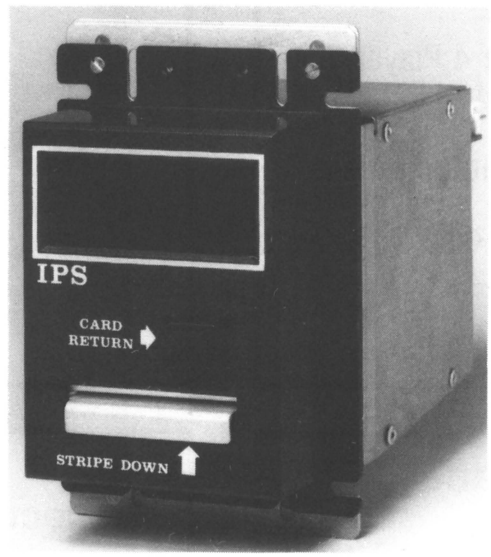
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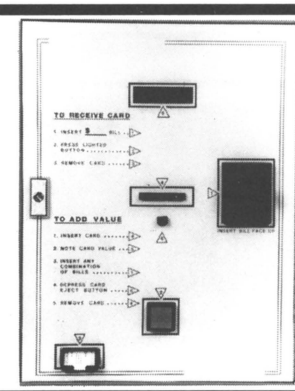


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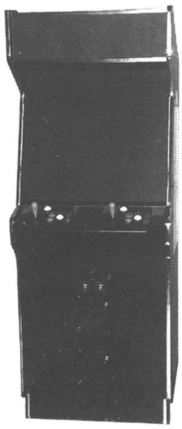
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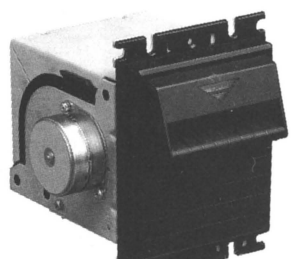
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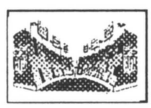
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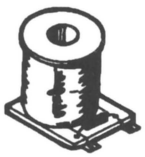
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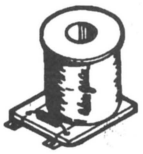
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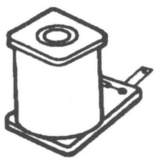
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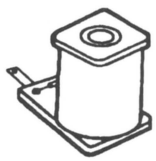


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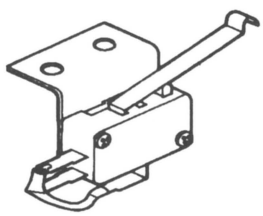
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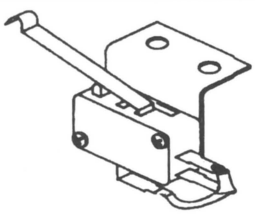




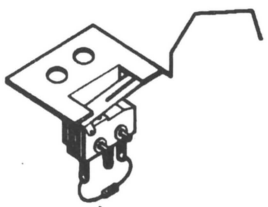
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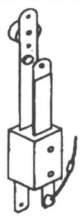
MSA-R03
Flipper switch assembly (right)



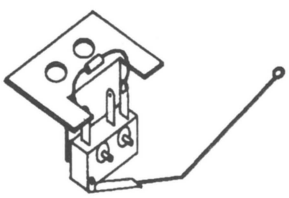
MSA-L03
Flipper switch assembly (left)



SBA-001
Roll-over switch



STR-005
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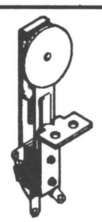


SPS-001
Spinner switch

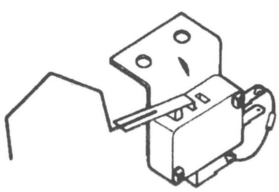
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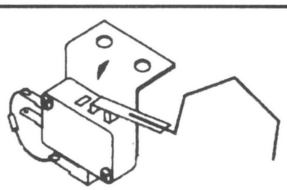
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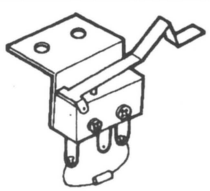
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Round target (Blue/Yellow)



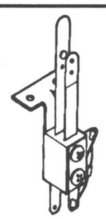
RSA-002
Roll-over switch (left)



RSA-003
Roll-over switch (right)



MSW-009
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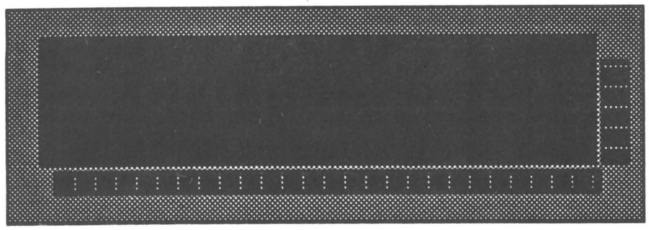
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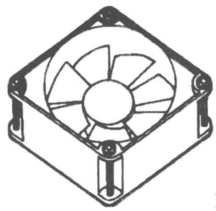
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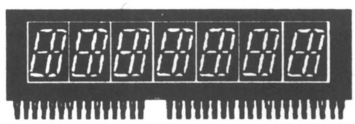
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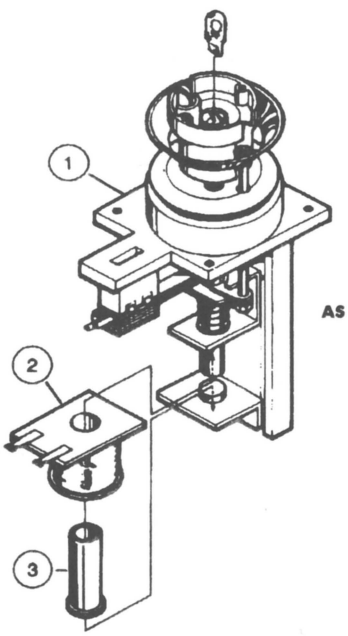
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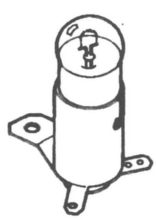


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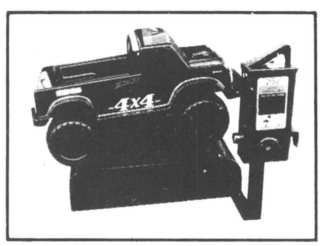
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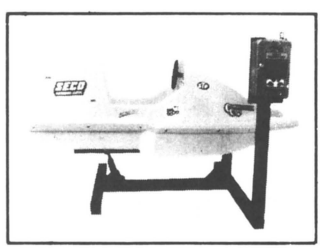
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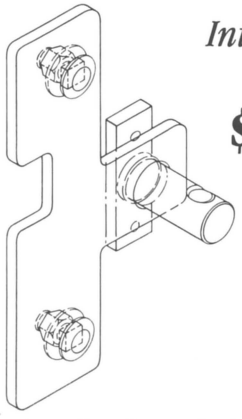
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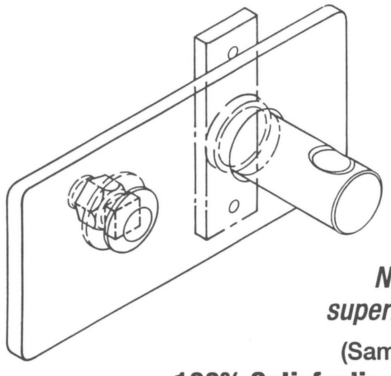
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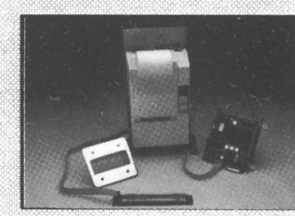
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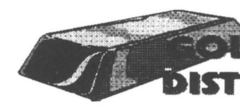
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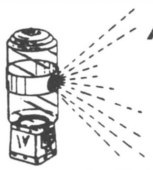
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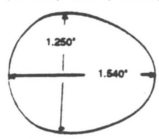


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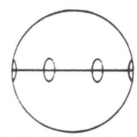


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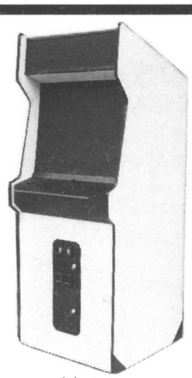
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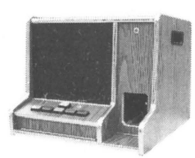
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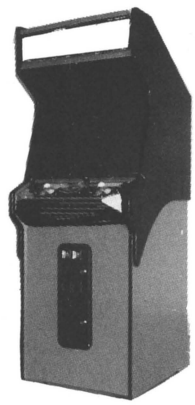
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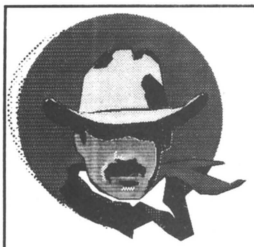
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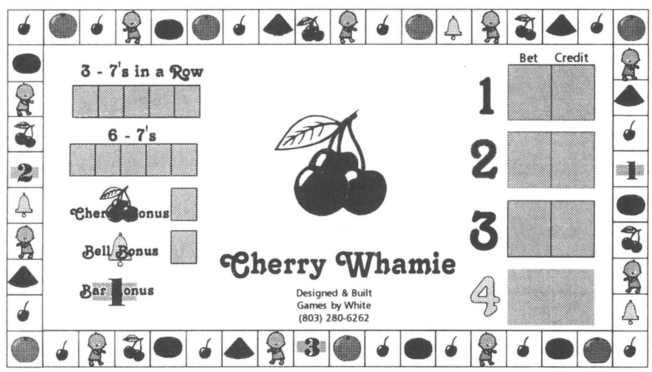
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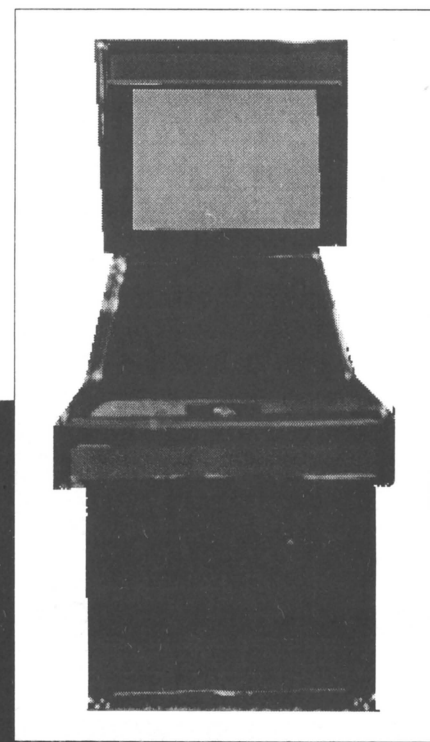
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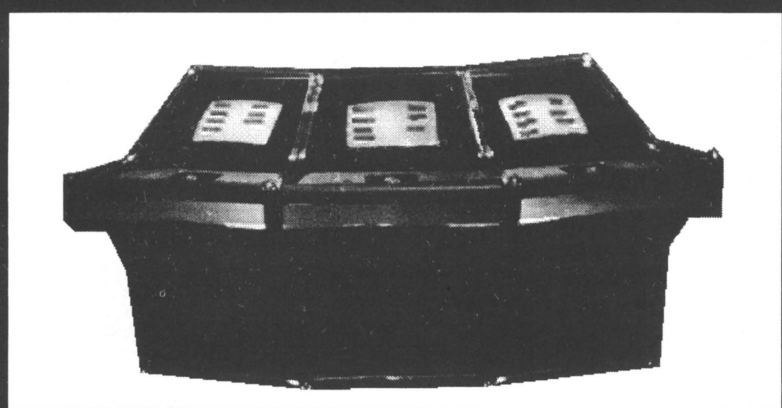
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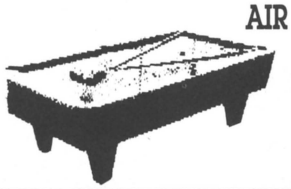
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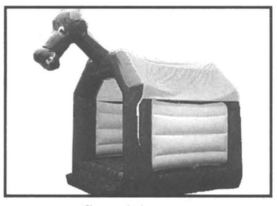


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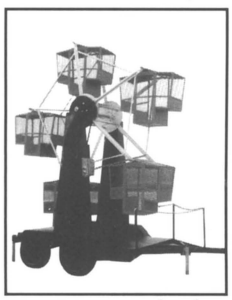
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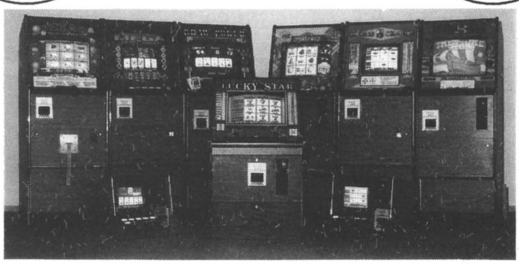
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December	**3** **Clementon, NJ** (East of Philadelphia) Route 30 Mart I-295 Exit 29 to Route 30 East 6 miles To Route 30 Mall on right	**10** **Indianapolis, IN** Our Land Pavilion Indiana State Fairgrounds Cellular: 317-432-7626 Reorder Tone Dial: 502-551-1866

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April	**1** **Columbus, OH**	**8** **Tampa, FL**	**29** **Indianapolis, IN**
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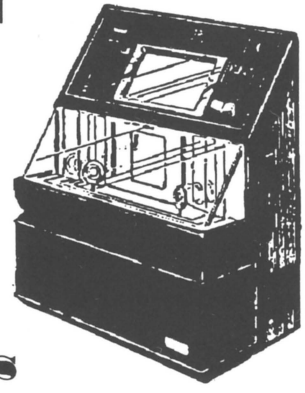
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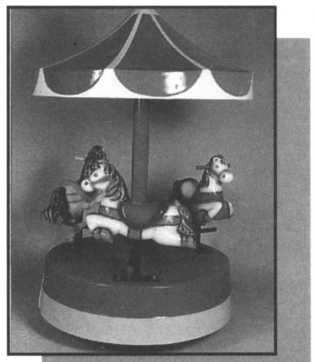
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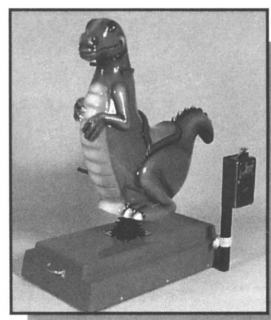
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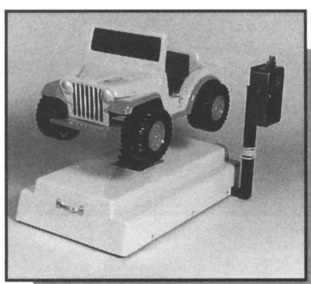
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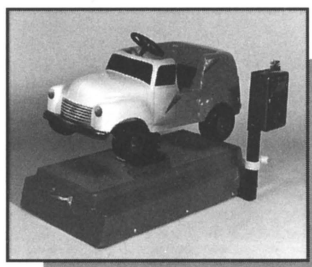
Carousel - 1600



Pepe the Dino - 1420 LX



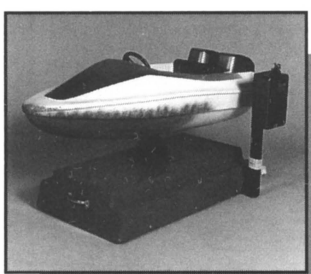
CJ5 Jeep - 1220 LX



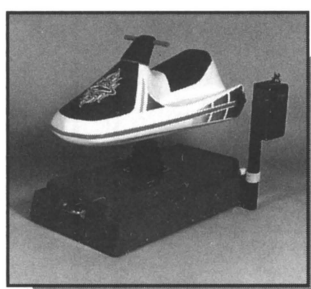
Mini Van - 1240 LX



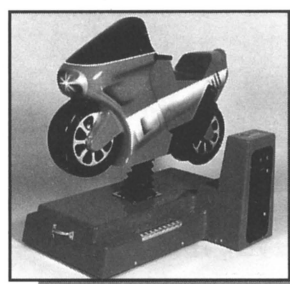
Circus Elephant - 1120 LX



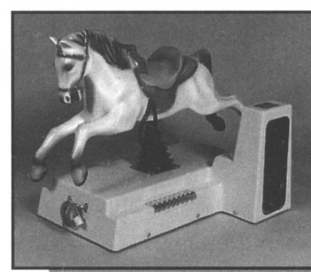
Speed Boat - 1311 LX



Waverunner - 1230 LX



S/S Moto - 1260 LX



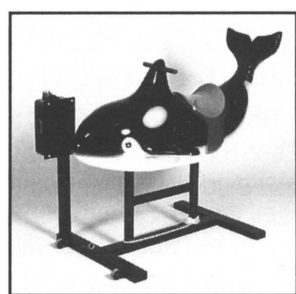
Pony Ride - 1020 LX



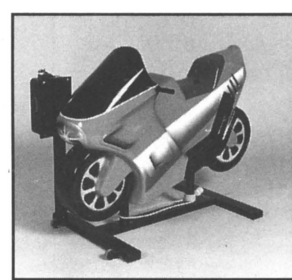
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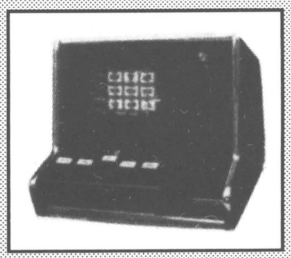
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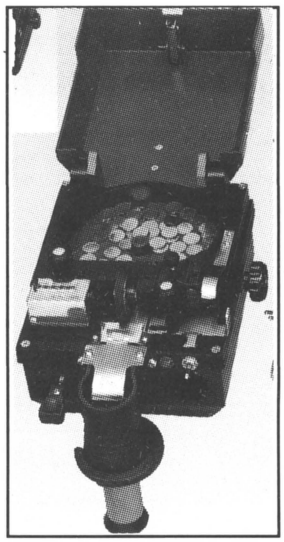
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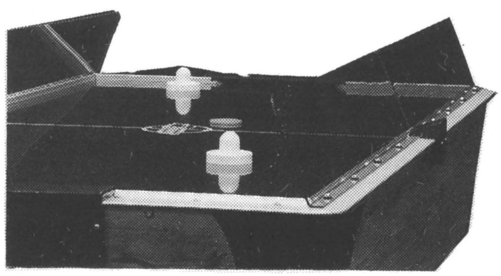
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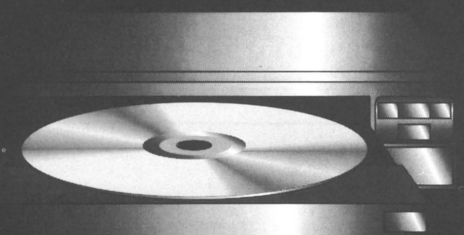
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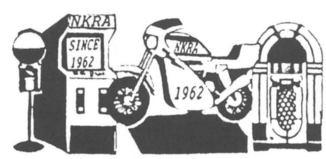
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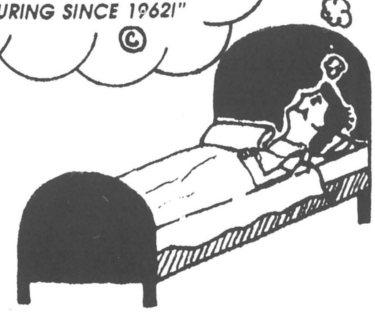
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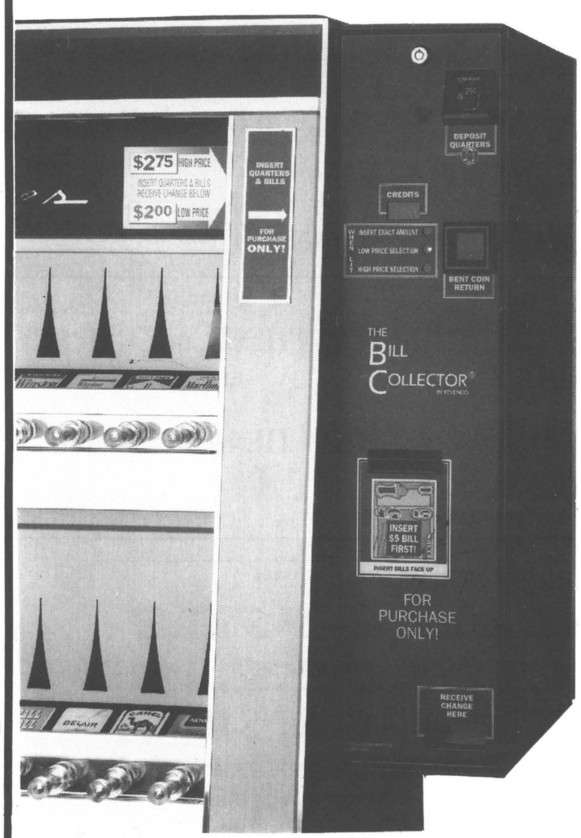
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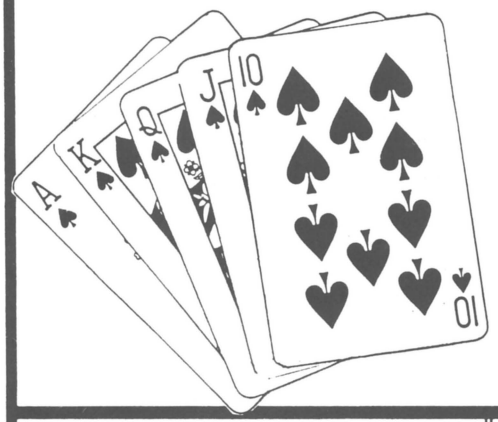
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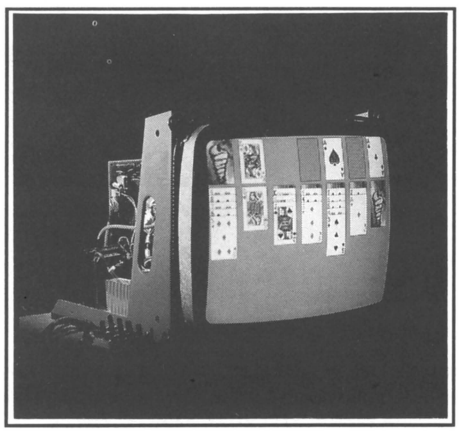
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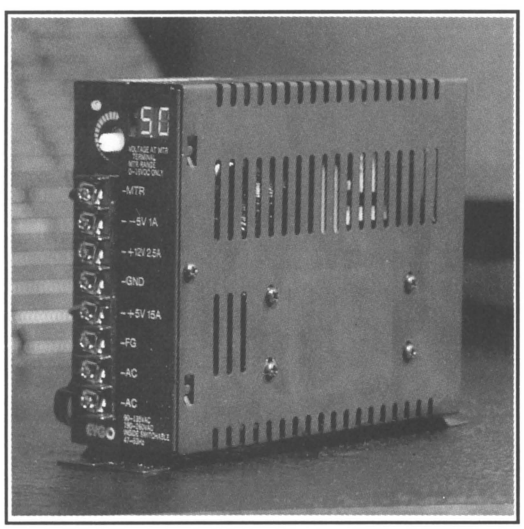
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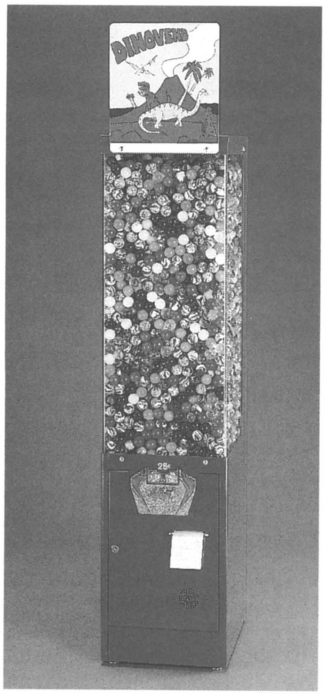
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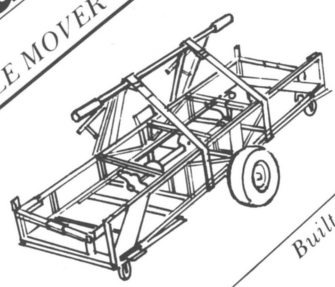
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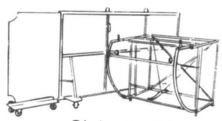
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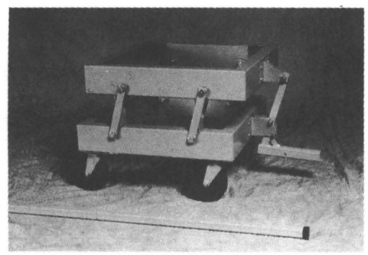
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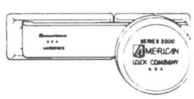
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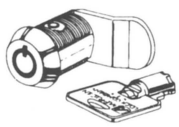
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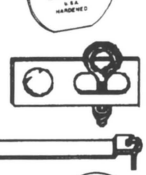
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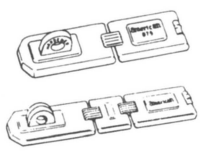
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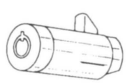
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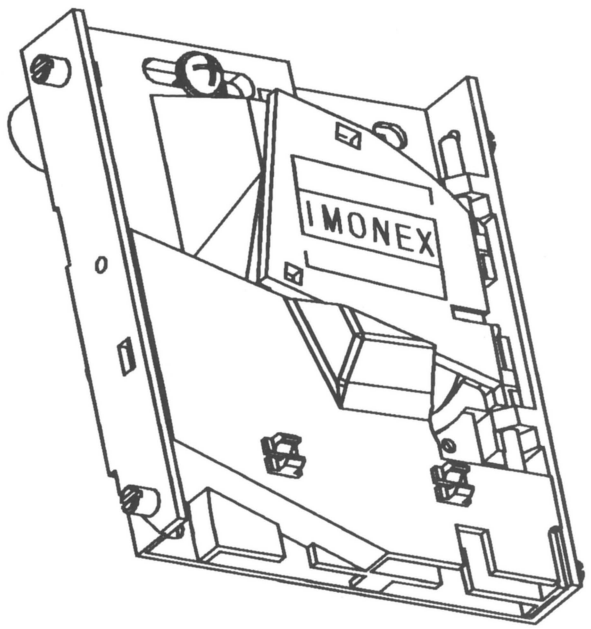
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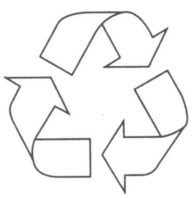
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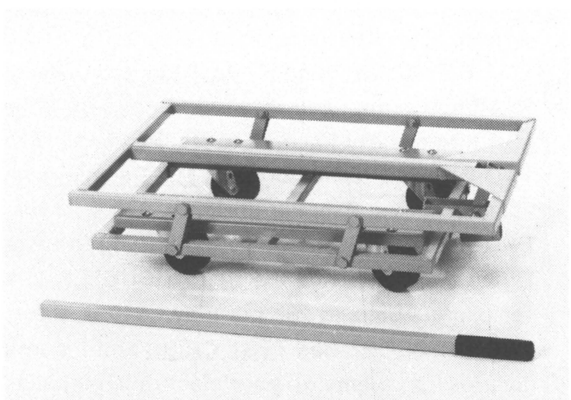
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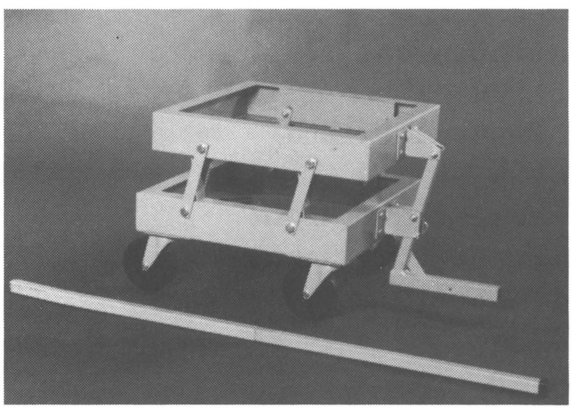
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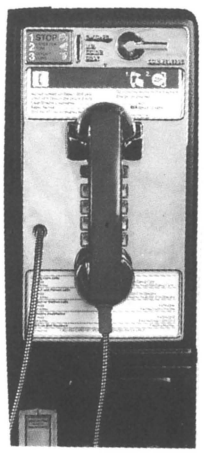
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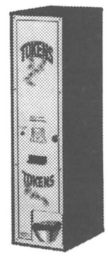
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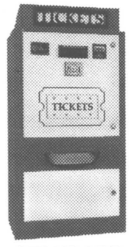
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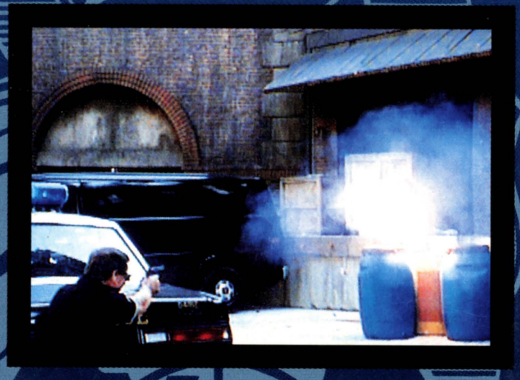
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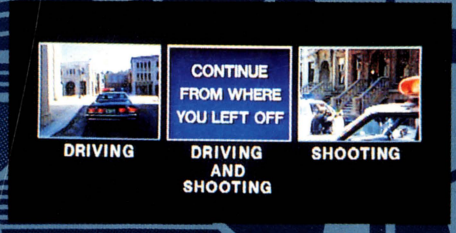
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