

"Back Country Brush Peddler" Weiler, Cops Gin Tourny

Arthur Weiler, owner of Weiler Nurseries and long time Midwest member, captured the fourth annual Charity Gin Tournament at Hackney's restaurant in Wheeling. The contributions from this year's "Classic" went to the Denis Straus Benefit Fund.

Denis, as many of you are aware, has been suffering through an extended illness that has left him with severe paralysis and a tremendous financial burden. He is a past Midwest President and held the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Rolling Green Country Club for many years. Since 1973 Denis has been affiliated with the Straus Nursery.

It was a cheerful day, "as usual" at Hackney's with over fifty friends of Denis showing up to give their support to him in the form of contributions totaling over \$3,000.00. Twenty four of the midwest areas top gin players showed up for a shot at a prestigious four foot high trophy, customarily donated by everyone's friend "Elliot".

The shoot out started with the typical first round losers Paul Voykin and Ken Goodman among others. Last year's runner up John Lebadeves made another strong showing, fairing better than last year's winner Vince "The Prince" Latham, who is still struggling from a X-mas blowout won by the "Bear". This year's MVP from the deep south, Ted "The Local Yocal" Mochel got to the eight cut before losing. Then it was down to the final four, which consisted of that big western cow puncher, Dave Meyer, Thorngates Brucie, Carl "The German" Hoppman and back country Weiler. In the final match that long, longtime darkhorse Hoppman (who has never won anything) went to the wire with the back country brush peddler Weiler. Hoppman jumped to an early lead grabbing three quick boxes but Weiler, displaying back country bush moves never before seen, persevered! Playing too defensive at first, then relaxing with the help of several cups of V.O., administered by our adept MC but inept gin player, Peter Voykin. The match was over in forty-five minutes.

Weiler, a Thorngate member, known throughout the District as a bandit at the gin table as well as on the golf course, stated in his acceptance speech, "this job is easy!" Then showing his generosity, after an embarrassing presentation by Peter Voykin, donated the winning purse to Denis Straus.

**John Berarducci, Chairman "4th Annual Classic"
Committee: Peter Voykin, Ken Goodman, Geege
Charity Gin Tournament held March 25, 1985**

Dear Mr Opperman:

Would you please convey my "thank you" in the "Bull Sheet" to all the guys who contributed to the benefit for Denis Straus. I don't have the address for everyone, so I hope most of them read the "Bull Sheet". I can't tell you how much the donation meant to me. Thanks so much to each and everyone of you.

Shirley (Mrs. Denis) Straus



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