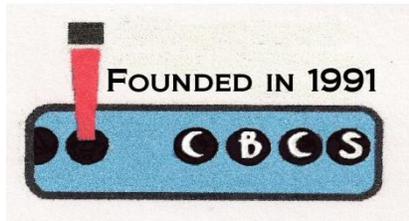




# MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRIBBAGE  
BOARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



Volume 22 Number 3 Founded in 1991 Our Twenty-second Year November 2012

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT – Ed McLaughlin

I want to thank everyone for attending the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Raleigh North Carolina. Jane, our family and I sure enjoyed hosting the convention. Read more about the convention in this issue. Hope to see you in Minnesota on September 27 & 28, 2013 (tentative date). Keith and Merlin Dwire will be hosting the convention.

Margaret Maron, author of “The Right Jack,” visited us on Saturday afternoon at the convention. The book is a murder mystery involving a cribbage game. She says, “Cribbage is a civilized game – murder can be too!” I believe Margaret and her husband, Joe, enjoyed looking over the collection of cribbage boards on display.

Terry and Cec need articles for the newsletter. Please give some thought to writing an article for them to use. Tell us what boards you’ve found and maybe you have questions about them. Terry Coons, as Research and Archive Committee Chair, wants to hear from you with your questions about boards. In this issue, we will begin featuring bios of our members, beginning with Marvin Maxell, CBCS #266.

Utilize the website <http://www.cribbageboardsonline.com> for information you may need. A member’s only blog is being researched as a way of communicating member to member. More on this later.

The Officers elected at the 13<sup>th</sup> convention are:

President – Ed McLaughlin

Vice-President – Cecil Bradshaw

Secretary – Phyllis Johnk

Treasurer and Membership – Jim Herzog

Web Master – Dan Betz

Research and Archives Chair – Terry Coons

Newsletter Editor and Producer – Terry Coons and Cecil Bradshaw

Members at Large: Wilson Gartner, George Catt, and Gail Schroeder.

Thank you all for serving – and **Keep on Peggin’**

Ed McLaughlin, (131) CBCS President

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**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CRIBBAGE BOARD SOCIETY CONVENTION** - Musings from Cec Bradshaw

North Carolina – the Triangle – Raleigh, North Carolina, the location for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual CBCS convention where all attendees had a wonderful time. Our hosts were Ed and Jane MacLaughlin and their kids and grandkids! Thank you Ed and Jane and extended family!

We had a chance to see and hear about great pieces from everyone’s own personal collections in the show and tell. We experienced excitingly competitive play during the tournaments and a little later I will cover the “winner” of the most skunked award.

Ed and Jane managed to convince Margaret Maron, author of the “Right Jack” to attend the convention and talk to our group. The Right Jack is a murder mystery that takes place during a cribbage tournament – most fitting. However, our group is far more civilized than to go down that road. Can you imagine playing in a tournament whereby the right hand will result in an explosive (literally) ending? Margaret explained that when she begins a novel rarely does she know who the villain will be. She just moves along with the characters and as they develop one of them just naturally becomes a murderer and someone else becomes – yes – an unfortunate victim.

I personally, am impressed with the research that some of our members conduct when finding a particular board. Terry Coons, our new research committee lead, provided several fascinating insights into special WWII, ivory, celluloid, and bone boards. After Terry’s report, she went around the entire room and provided historical remarks about those particular boards in the other member’s collections that were on display. Thank you Terry.

Marvin Maxell also did a great job describing many boards during his show and tell, but I was particularly impressed with his research on LeCount boards. I am very happy that I have wound up with several LeCount boards, most of them coming from Marvin.

Once again, I am personally intrigued with all the different cribbage boards that have been made over the years. This was my fourth convention and the variety of boards that our

members bring to display and talk about has always been very surprising and interesting. If you have not been to a convention, you need to make it a point to come! Keith Dwire and brother Merle are hosting our 14<sup>th</sup> convention in Minneapolis/St Paul next year September 27 and 28. Be sure to put it on your calendars now.

The convention board was hand made by the MacLaughlin family. The theme for this year's convention was centered on the "Research Triangle", Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. Of course, this beautiful convention board was designed to emphasize that triangle. So here it is;



### **The Triangle – 2012 Convention Board**

Ed McLaughlin handcrafted the board after receiving many ideas from his family. It is a once-around 121 triangular track. The base of the board is made from ash with a walnut track. The wood was harvested from their property after the May 8, 2008 windstorm. The board is finished with Watco Oil followed by polyurethane. The nails (escutcheon pins) are brass and silver colored which denote the traditional corners and layout the tracks used

by the brass and silver pegs. Courtney Jane McLaughlin, Ed and Jane's granddaughter, designed the triangle center. Courtney is also the youngest as well as one of the newest CBCS members.

### **The tournaments**

There are winners and there are losers. Some losers lose so bad they wind up with the title of skunked the most times. Well, Teddy – you were it this year. Can you believe it – Ted Jonhk skunked more times than anyone else? Congratulations to Betz Bradshaw, Merle Dwire, and George Catt for helping to elevate Ted to this esteemed award.



**Tournament Winners**

How does it look when the director of the tournaments becomes the winner of the tournament? Well, no questions asked, but George Catt was the director and winner of the tournaments. Keith Dwire came in 4<sup>th</sup> place, Karen Schaffner came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Jim Herzog came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**Contest Winners**

Well, I, Cec Bradshaw won the award for the most desirable. This was a triangle board I got from England. It is an inlaid tumbling block design.

I also won the award for the most unusual board. I picked it up at a consignment shop in Petoskey, Michigan. It is made from a half log and the legs are tree branches. The pegs are stored in the end of the board and are contained with a branch “stopper”

Jim Herzog holds the distinction of submitting what was voted as the ugliest board. It is made of what might be unpainted barn wood. A pattern is drawn in ink on the reverse side. It has a crude hole drilled on the top and an old shoestring for hanging.

		
<p align="center"><b>Most Desirable</b></p> <p align="center">Cec Bradshaw #238</p> <p align="center">English inlaid Tumbling Block triangle (\$205)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Most Unusual</b></p> <p align="center">Cec Bradshaw #238</p> <p align="center">Half Log with branches for legs and peg keeper (\$165)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Ugliest</b></p> <p align="center">Jim Herzog #9</p> <p align="center">Pattern is drawn on one side of old barn wood (\$1)</p>

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**ALERT! CBCS Convention 2013 ALERT!**

Welcome to the Land of 10,000 Lakes! Plans are developing for you to join us on September 27-28 in Minneapolis, Minnesota for our 14<sup>th</sup> annual convention. We anticipate that Jordan Wicklund, author of *Cribbageland*, will be joining us this year. (Feature article on Page 6)

Peter Leach has expressed interest in helping make this a memorable event as well. You may recall that Peter coordinated the very first convention a few years ago.

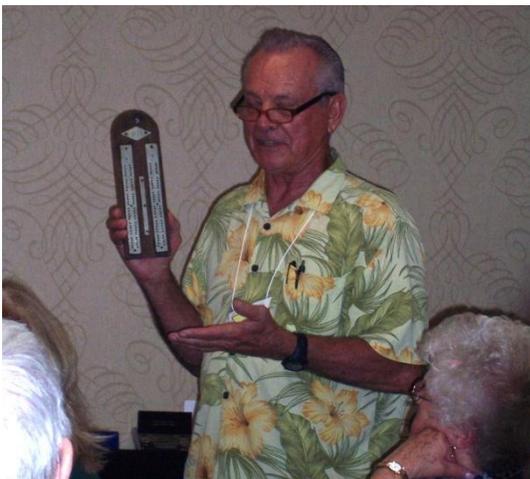
I am investigating facilities close to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and the nationally acclaimed Mall of America (MOA). Not only is the MOA a “shop ‘til you drop” experience, it houses the world’s largest indoor theme park – Nickelodeon Universe. If you are able to stay in the area a little longer, you may wish to spend a day at the nearby Minnesota Zoo, OR see a Minnesota Twins baseball game, OR go 200 miles north to Itasca State Park where you can walk across the Mighty Mississippi River (it originates there). If you are not wishing to fly or drive, Amtrak will bring you right into the Twin Cities.

Of course, our convention will offer the usual excitement – historical information, new finds, tournament, and buying/selling/trading boards – and gathering for a few days with the nicest people you’ll find anywhere. See you in Minnesota ☺.

Keith Dwire #243

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**MEMBER PROFILE – MARVIN HALVER MAXELL #266**



**Marvin** was born March 16, 1936 in a cornfield near Axtell, Nebraska. In '46, the family moved to a ranch in western Nebraska near Mitchell to raise cattle, wheat, and turkeys. Marv hates turkeys. In '50, Marv, his mother and sister moved to Palmer Lake, Colorado. He graduated from Lewis Palmer High School in Monument, Colorado in '54. Lewis Palmer High School was glad to get rid of Marv, congratulating his mother for her persistence and tenacity in raising him. Cy Bovard, the Mayor of Monument, taught him how to play cribbage during '54-55. The next five years found Marv working for a landscaping company in ritzy Broadmoor south of Colorado Springs, Colorado;

working in a saw mill, cutting timber and hauling logs and operating heavy equipment during the construction of the Air Force Academy. Marv’s life changed two weeks after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in '57 when he accepted **Jesus Christ** into his life.

Marv was drafted in '59, took basic training at Fort Carson south of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and spent the next 21 months at Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas. The Army made a man out of him. He was muscle and bone when drafted. After 2 years in the Army, Marv gained 30 pounds, was spit-polish sharp and totally organized. A month after he finished active duty, he headed for Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, in his '55 Chevy pickup with \$400 in his pocket. Following registration, he found that he was \$400 in debt to the college. He washed dishes in a restaurant, pumped gasoline and worked



A potter for more than 40 years, Peter's broad hands engulf the smaller boards as if they were pieces of candy. He has a booming, sonorous voice, an Old-Testament fire-and-brimstone bass, and it was a pleasure to hear him speak about a favorite past time. "When I first started out, any 2x4 with holes in it, I thought 'oh, cribbage board, I gotta have it!" His mania has since tempered, though, and he no longer considers himself an active collector—it would have to be a rare board indeed to make him think about buying it. Nonetheless, he has a remarkable collection of cribbage boards, each with their own story and history, and he keeps the majority of them in a special room.

The Board Room, of course. In the main hallway lies an inconspicuous little door with a polished brass oval labeled "Board Room." The plaque itself doubles as a cribbage board. "It's just the guest bathroom," Peter says. "It's no fun having a collection if it's all packed away in boxes. My wife [Nan] was amenable to doing it."

There are boards on every wall. Boards above the sink. Boards above the door. Brass boards and wood boards and marble boards, a hedgehog board and a button board, boards from the U.P., from L.A., from NYC. A cast aluminum board shaped like a conch shell and a wooden board like a boat. A board carved with a jackknife. The board he learned on, a fraternity board from the University of Wisconsin, with the Greek letters of "Sigma, Alpha, & Epsilon" painted across the face.



Hedgehog boards were patented by John Gill during the Civil War. Made of cast iron atop a polished wooden base, they're extremely heavy, and instead of two pegs to score each point, the board has all 120 pegs embedded on top of it, and more for keeping track of games. Whichever point you're on, you simply pull the appropriate peg up. Peter took it apart once and learned how it works: the pegs keep their tension

because a template within the board holds them upright and straight, while layers of felt help the peg remain immobile whether it's pulled upright or kept in its starting position.

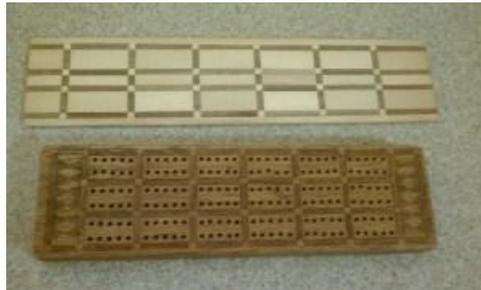
Next to the hedgehog board is the button board; like its neighbor, it was also made in the 1800s, and it works without traditional pegs. Rather, each player has 60 buttons affixed to a sliding track. When a point is scored, a button is moved halfway up the track. Moving all the pegs to one end of the track to the other constitutes half the game, and back to where they started constitutes the full game.

Peter is a Horn/McCrillis man; W.C. Horn, Bro. & Co. was the largest North American distributor of cribbage boards throughout most of the 20th century. Ronald F. McCrillis began making homemade boards in Norwalk, Ohio about 1910, and later got in touch with Bill Horn, a wholesale firm in New York City; they started selling under the Horn name about 1920. Each board is stamped with the make and model number, and also "McCrillis: Made in USA." Horn's main rival was the Drueke Company, a family-owned business for more than 50 years under

William F. Drueke & Sons, started in Michigan. Bought in 1990 by a company named Carrom, the boards are still manufactured today under the original name. Among collectors, you'll find loyalists from both sides; as with the Michigan Wolverines and Ohio State Buckeyes historic football rivalry, so with cribbage.

Our conversation leads to a good question: why do people *collect* stuff? I like to believe the act of collecting something, *anything*, tells us a little about ourselves. Our collections remind us of what's important to us. It's an excuse to get out into the world, to hear stories, to ask others *why*.

On the way out, I'm surprised by a simple gift from Peter—a mid-20th century homemade board, item number 163 in his collection, bought from an antique store in Red Wing, MN, for \$5.00, as well as an original Horn/McCrillis lamination, a thin slice of wood with 87 individual pieces glued together. Peter tells me the board was modeled after the earliest Horn laminations. It is a fine gift, one I am thankful for.

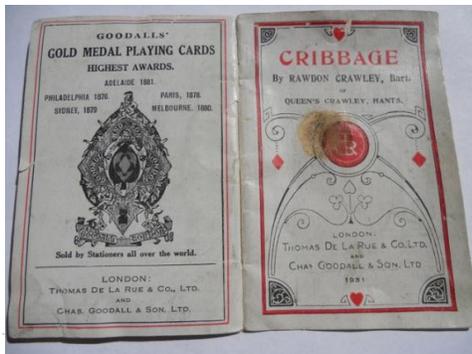


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### SEVEN CARD CRIBBAGE – REVISITED

In previous newsletters, I wrote about two seven-card boards I own. Both date from about 1900. One is a brass triangle board from Australia. The other is black Bakelite once-around board (it's long!).

I included a puzzle question in the last article but got no responses (y'all must be b-u-s-y...).  
**THE QUESTION: Aside from 19, what other hand counts are impossible in seven-card cribbage? (Answer will appear in the February newsletter)**



Anyway, what about the rules for Seven Card Cribbage? The rules were written up by Rawdon Crawley in this book "Cribbage" in the 1880's. I generously received a 1931 edition of this, as it turns out, booklet (thanks, Peter!):

He includes rules for five and six-card cribbage, three and four-handed games as well, along with hand counts. Here's what he has to say about seven-card cribbage:

"This game is, as I have said, played three times round the board, or 181 points. You hold five cards in your hand and discard two for the crib...The only difference is that you hold as a rule much larger hands and these are more difficult for counting. The highest possible hand here is 46 – two 4's, two 5's and two sixes."

**Terry Coons #187**

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## **CBCS MOVES ON ~ ~ \*\*LOGO CONTEST\*\***

**Hi, guys. We've been thinking our old logo (1991?) is a bit tired.**



**So we're asking y'all to put on your creative hats to help us design a new one. I know we've got some great minds out there.**

**The new logo will be used for our website (great changes coming!) and for our newsletter. Please send your ideas to me for compilation (see how optimistic I am? I know I'll be getting lots!**

**[terrydna@comcast.net](mailto:terrydna@comcast.net)**