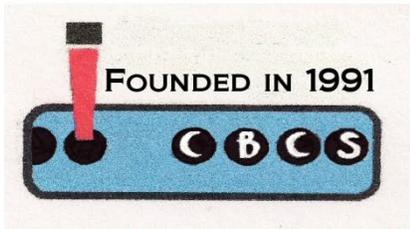




MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRIBBAGE
BOARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY
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In This Issue:

Message from the president – Keith Dwire

The 2022 Convention – Denver, Colorado – Larry Snow, Host

The “29” board – Jay Fulwider / Ed and Jane McLaughlin

Cotter Pin Compulsion – Joe Wheeler

Looking for Information – Terry Coons

Have Board will Travel – Larry Snow

Convention Registration Form

XX

President’s Message



My German Cribbage Board

My wife, Diane, and I just returned from a wonderful trip to Germany. I planned to feature a new German cribbage board in this month’s newsletter. Unfortunately, I have none to show. Germans are not partial to the game. I checked everywhere for a

Attention Cribbage Board Collector Society members, can you hear the whistle blowing? The train is about to leave the station. What train, you may ask. Why, the convention train, of course. Hello, my name is Larry Snow. I am hosting the CBCS convention in Denver, Colorado this September 16-17. Regulars already know how much fun we have at our annual rendezvous. This article is for those who are on the fence about climbing a-board.

I was on that indecisive fence eight short years ago. I had been collecting for several years and along the way acquired a limited-edition hardbound book about Horn Cribbage Boards written by Peter Leach. Peter's book inspired me to narrow my focus from shotgun-style collecting to marksman. In a newsletter (2014), I read that Peter was doing a presentation at the upcoming convention in Portland. I wanted to meet Peter in person. I will confess that I had the jitters about going. I am not what you would call an extrovert.

Despite my reservations, I made my reservations (pun intended) and headed to the Great Northwest. I checked in to the Crowne Plaza, lugged my luggage (again, intended, sorry) to my room, put on a nametag, and walked into a roomful (thirty-some) of strangers. I shook a lot of hands, shared hellos with host Terry Coons and presenter Peter Leach among others and chatted about the one thing we all had in common: the love of Cribbage. Who taught you the game? How old were you when you learned to play? Do you still have the board you learned on? Who manufactured it or was it homemade?

The next day's agenda included Member Presentations, Show-and-Tell sessions, and a contest: Most Desirable Board, Most Unusual Board, and the Ugliest Board. And, of course, there was a Cribbage Tournament. A round of thirteen games each, switch opponents at the end of each game, no repeats. It was a great way to get to know each other on an individual basis. The following day was much the same but concluded with a banquet at which the winners (and loser) of the tournament and the Good, Bad & Ugliest Board contest were announced. Last but far from least, the commemorative cribbage board (its design, as always, kept secret by the host) was revealed and distributed to each attendee.

By the end of the convention those thirty-some strangers had become my new best friends. Two years later I volunteered to host the convention in Denver. And, with the help of Peter Leach and Terry Coons, and more than a little trepidation, I pulled it off.

So, back to my original invitation. If you're still considering whether to attend this year's convention, I hope my story inspires you to hop off that fence, catch that bus, train or plane, and gather with folks who, like you, enjoy collecting obscure game boards with drilled sets of D-5 holes and tapered pegs and speak the language of fifteen-two, fifteen-four and more.

The convention will be held at the recently renovated **Hilton DoubleTree Central Park**, 4040 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80216. CBCS convention attendees have a special block rate of \$95 per night for King or Double Queen rooms opening on the courtyard. Use this link to make your reservation online: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/densndt-crb-594aca19-eeb8-4016-a88f-4ab1e16fcd62/>

Consider sightseeing while in Denver as the negotiated Hilton DoubleTree's block rates are good September 15th through the 20th. But **make those reservations quickly** as these rates are only good until Cut-Off Date August 15th.

Looking forward to hosting you in Denver,



Larry Snow (#292)

Cribbage Board of the Month BY JAY FULWIDER

The following partially repeats and builds on my July 2021 column about “29” boards. In order to place some newfound info about three handcrafted “29” boards into the history of this board, I want to first set the stage by returning to my 2021 column.

The classic “29” board is probably one of the most popular cribbage board designs ever. I featured this board • in my third CBOM column in July 2008. **Edward M. Hirst** (Burnaby BC) designed and registered his board in Canada. Edward had polio at age 28 and was confined to a wheelchair. From 1953 until his death in 1960 he handcrafted these boards in his workshop. They were mostly for family and friends, so the original boards are very rare. I have never seen one.

Following his death, Hirst’s family gave permission for two Vancouver BC companies (Ryco and Somerville) to manufacture his boards. The board pictured at right was made by Ryco Sales Ltd. Inside the card and peg storage area, Ryco included a history of Hirst and his board.

These boards are still manufactured today. They are mainly made in Taiwan out of a single piece of wood. They no longer have card storage or the history of the board. Because of how this board has evolved, the boards manufactured in Vancouver BC are also becoming rarer.

The “29” board is a 121-point cribbage board. It is actually just a curvy version of our ACC longboards. That makes the



newer, smaller boards perfect for travel. They will fit in a purse or briefcase easily.

I recently became aware of three handcrafted “29” boards. The first board (#1) came to me, on loan, from ACC member **George “Buddy” Beams** (Maryland NY). Boards #2 and #3 came to me, on loan, from Cribbage Board Collectors Society member **Larry Snow** (Denver CO).

I also reached out to other ACC and CBCS members for information, including **Wayne Albertson**, director of Grass Roots Club 340 in Surrey BC (very close to Burnaby, where Hirst made his first boards). Unfortunately, we have no historical provenance on these three boards.

So did Hirst make these three “29” boards? He made “29” boards between 1953 and 1960, and it is almost certain that his design and process evolved during the first few years. Once he worked out his board design, he registered the design and



Jay Fulwider collects cribbage boards in picturesque Washington State, where he also enjoys golf, fishing, and racquetball. His philosophy on the key to life: “Just keep your pegs moving.” Ideas for and questions about this column may be sent to budandotis@msn.com (put “Cribbage Board” in the subject line).

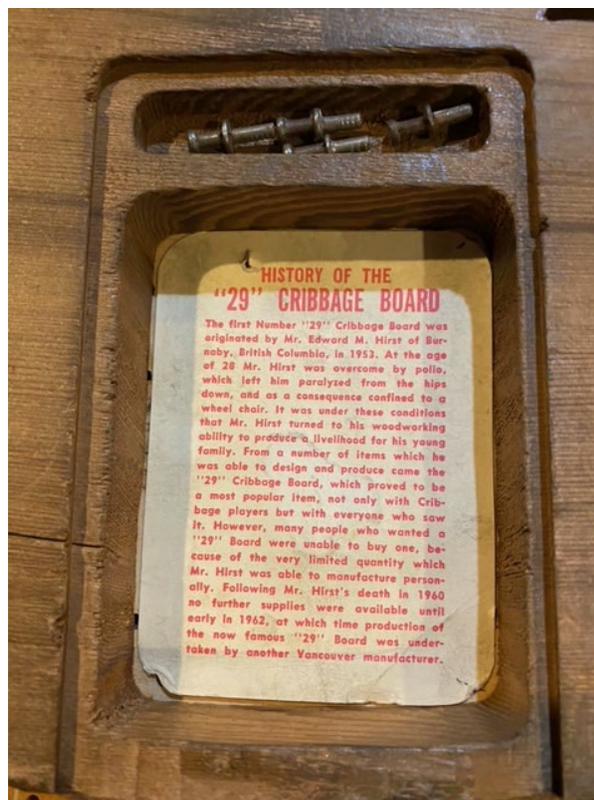
these boards. My guess is that one, all, were made by Hirst I have a tough time thinking that someone would otherwise so accurately copy Hirst's early "29" boards. Also why copy them once they were commercially available.

I hope this column will tweak some interest and provide added information on the wonderful "29" cribbage board. Please email me if you have anything to add or discuss.

From Ed and Jane McLaughlin

After seeing Jay Fulwider's article in the ACC magazine, I was looking at the "29s" in our collection. I believe we have a couple rare ones.

This wooden dark brown one is like Jay's with the story of Hirsh in the card storage box.



1) One year we were staying at a B&B on the north end of Yellowstone Park playing cribbage on the porch. The owner saw our cribbage board and then hunted one of her late husband's boards and gave it to us. It was the "29" rubber one. It is molded with a draw in the lower edge. She did not know any history about the board. 2) the brown and white plastic board made in Hong Kong with no cards pictured on it is another one we have not seen duplicated.

The others are made by Canadian Summerville company, pacific game company, Ryco, and Hoyle



It would be interesting to encourage members to bring any "non-traditional" 29 boards to the convention. Edward Hirst had a great design for his boards, and it would be educational to see some of the variations.

Cotter Pin Compulsion – Joe Wheeler

I do not know when I decided to try to corner the market on Cotter Pin hedgehog boards, but it started over 3 years ago when I saw the first example after a Reddit search for cribbage hedgehogs. Someone had posted a few pictures of a board that had been in their family for a couple of generations. I have always been into



collecting hedgehogs. Who does not want to own a Gill, Specialty Company, DeLaRue, etc., but a Cotter Pin one? I had never seen the likes of that, and it stuck in my mind.

Fast forward about 6 months, and what shows up on ebay, but a Cotter Pin hedgehog board! Not the same as the one from Reddit, but a nice example, so I jump on it and pay \$179. The seller attributes it to “Made by a Spanish Sailor”

from a note on the bottom. I am suspect of the origin, but the board is nicely made and probably more than one hundred years old.



Within a month, low and behold, another Cotter Pin comes up. It had some damage to one corner, and I get it for \$105. I fix the damage as best I can and give it to my wife as a present. It turns out to be her lucky board and I almost never win a game on it.



6 months later another Cotter Pin shows up, but the top is Bakelite or celluloid with a wood base. A more modern departure from the other, more traditional, hedgehogs mentioned above. It is listed as “Vintage.” Someday, I will get to show it to Terry, and she will know the exact material. I get this one for about \$125 and I am very happy with all the Cotter Pins I have gotten and the prices so far.



Now, a month ago, another one comes up and I get it for \$66 and this one has brass accouterments on the sides. I tend to think the brass adornment was added at a later time, but who knows in the crazy world of Cotter Pin hedgehogs?



These boards remain as much a mystery to me now, as they did on that day 3+ years ago.

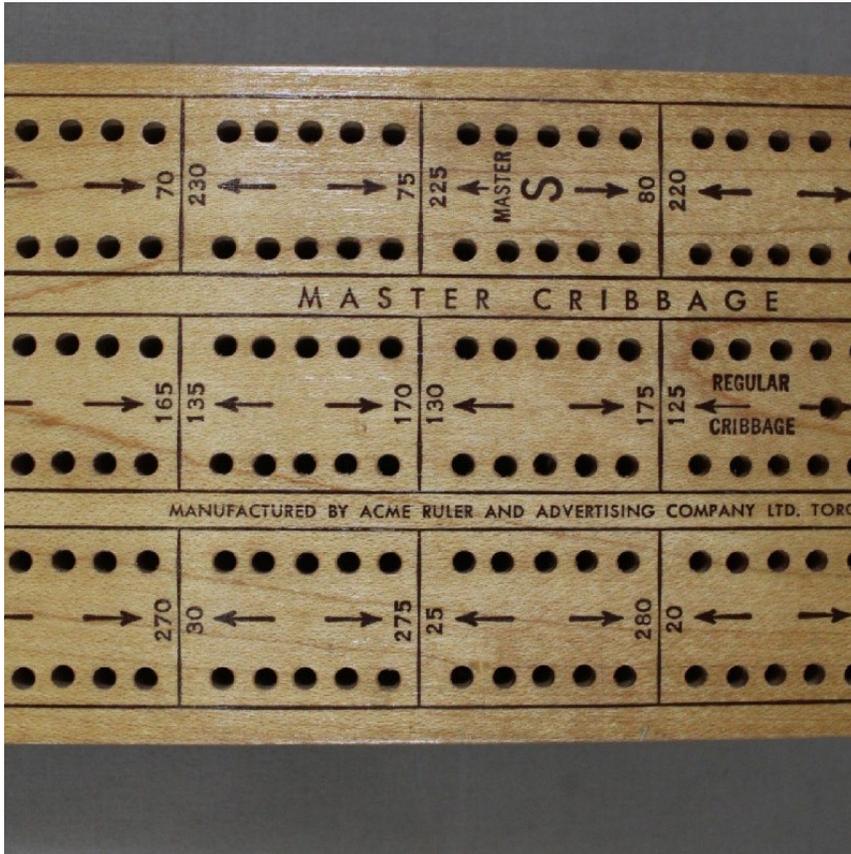
I did let another go on eBay a while back. At the time, I did not think I would be cornering the market. I do not remember what they wanted for it, but obviously I did not want to pay it. At any rate, of the 6 I have seen, I have four. Not bad. You cannot win them all!



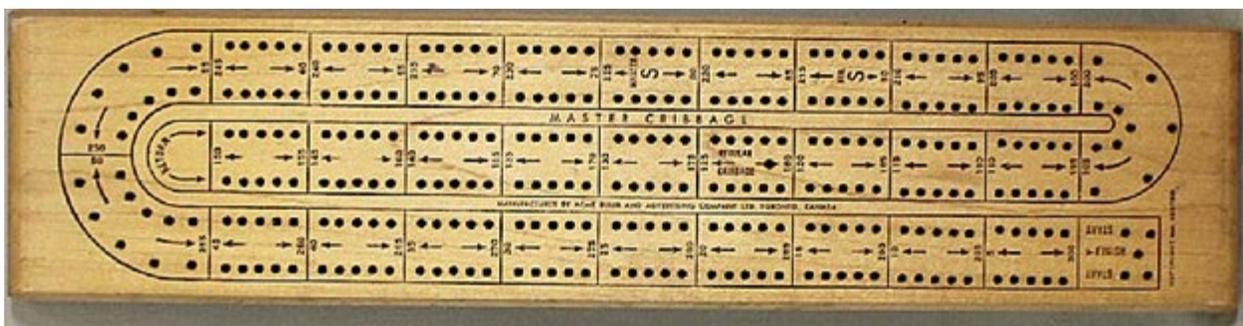
LOOKING FOR INFO... Terry Coons

As CBCS Historian, I get a lot of requests for help. Here are two that currently have me stumped

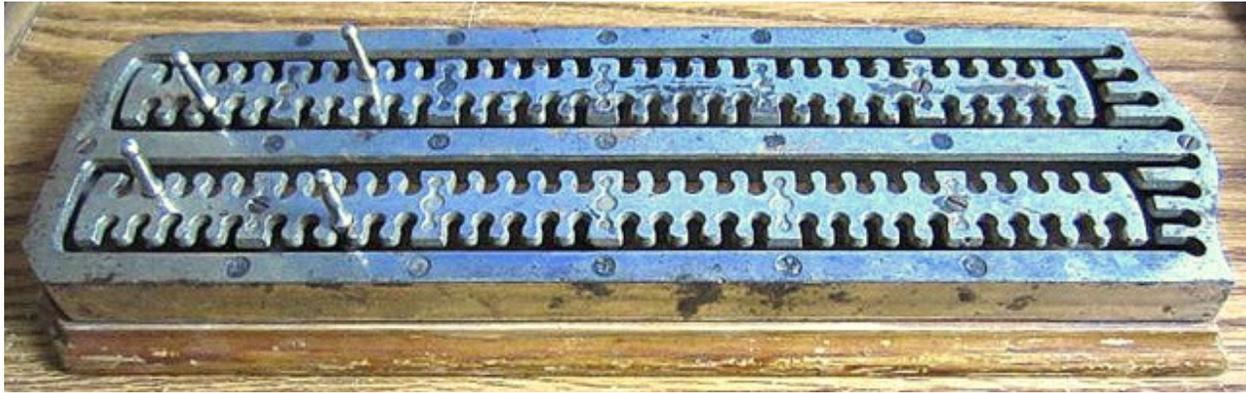
Acme Master Cribbage:



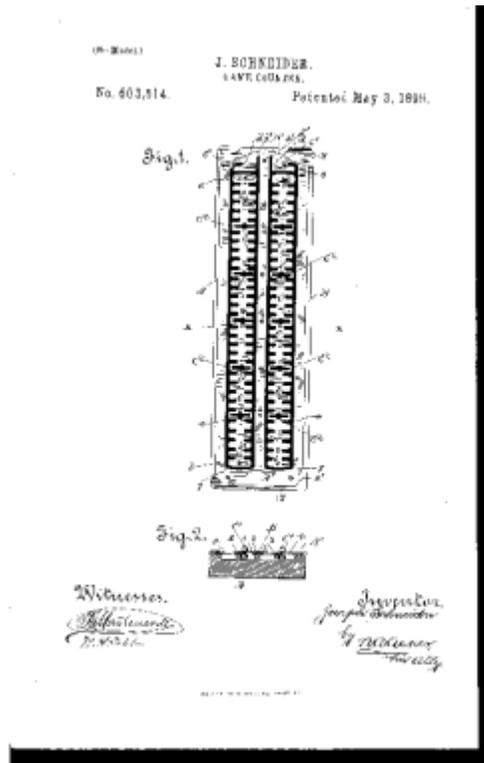
You may be familiar with the Canadian company ACME Ruler that made rulers but also many wood and plastic cribbage boards. I had an inquiry about this board and how it would be played. I have been chasing this all over the internet, and not found what I am looking for. Do you have info?



The Schneider: I saw this one in Jay Fulwider's column in the Cribbage World newsletter a few years ago. It is in my wheelhouse. Funny thing is, other than that mention, sent to him by a loyal reader, I have not found anything else...except the patent.



As sturdy as this is, you would think examples would pop up from time to time. Have you seen any or have info?



HAVE BOARD WILL TRAVEL - Larry Snow

Yes, COVID has been a constraint on travel. But some occasions are just too important to ignore. Some occasions, in fact, demand to be celebrated. Margie's 70th birthday for instance. December 28th, birthday of Margie's mother and younger sister by happenstance and cultural heritage, Irish being the case, a result of some form of exuberance related to Saint Patrick's Day. But I will not go there lest I be censored or (far) worse.

Celebration being in order, we loaded up our trusty SUV for a road trip and headed south, traveling some four hundred miles from Denver to Santa Fe. We arrived to find a dusting of snow blanketing the southwestern artisans' hamlet. We stayed at Casa de Tres Lunas, a boutique inn built in the early 1900's. Excursions included more than one trip to our favorite restaurant, Vanessie's, where we splurged on sumptuous meals of lobster and prime rib while singing along with the crowd at the hotelier's infamous piano bar. In addition to exploring art galleries, we visited a number of museums rich in history dating back to 1610 when New Mexico was a budding prince of New Spain.

Of course, no getaway would be complete without a game of Cribbage or twenty. So, while snow gathered on rooftops and turned streets and sidewalks of



Santa Fe to slush, Margie and I lit the logs in the fireplace, broke out the Horn C-16 board and put its 70-some year-old pegs to task.

Convention Registration and Membership Dues

Complete and send your 2022 Convention Registration / Membership form and check to:

Harlow Hansen, 2121 14th St. NE Faribault, MN 55021

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Convention Member Fee \$125.00 _____

Convention Associate Fee 75.00 _____

(Spouse or regular member living at same address)

2021 Convention Board Only 125.00 _____

Membership Dues \$10.00/year _____

Associate member Dues \$5.00/year _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____