

ONE LEFT OF '66 CUE TOURNEY

Tom Foley Only Survivor to Tell of Event Long Ago.

WON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Phelan Organized Contest on Site of Chicago Opera House.

BY JACK PROCTOR.

Nearly forty-seven years ago, on the spot now occupied by the Chicago opera house, the first Illinois state billiard championship was staged in Smith & Nixon's music hall.

The original building was a wooden church which stood back from the street, and around this was built a four story structure. Near the end of the civil war the church property was leased by Smith & Nixon, a Cincinnati theatrical firm.

During 1864 Michael Phelan, the father of American billiards, then a member of the New York firm of Phelan & Collender, started to organize a series of state championships, and through his efforts the Illinois event was held June 14 to 21, 1865. It was played on a 6 by 12 pocket table, four balls being used, and the caroms counting two or three. Each game was at 300 points.

Foley Only Survivor.

Of the eight players who finished, Thomas Foley, the veteran Chicago roomkeeper, is the only one alive. The other contestants were Jefferson Ferguson, Albert Le Brun, Henry Rhines, Cyrus Coan, Edward Page, Charles Masters, and Marcus Donohue. James Furlong, who assisted in running the tournament, is living near New Orleans and at last reports was running a hotel. D. E. Gavitt, the scorer, and Michael Phelan, the promoter, died many years ago.

Rhines, who died in 1904, had a room on Adams street for a number of years. The room is at present run by George Sutton, the former 18-1 and 18-2 champion. Masters at one time was in partnership with Charles Rector, who subsequently attained fame in the restaurant business. They had a billiard room on Van Buren street. Marcus Donohue and also Rhines worked for Harvey L. Doty, the dean of Chicago billiardists, who now is employed by W. P. Mussey. Doty at that time occupied part of the Light Guard Drill hall, located at the southeast corner of State and Randolph streets, the present location of Marshall Field's retail store.

It was in the Light Guard hall that Ellsworth's zouaves drilled. This body of soldiers toured America in 1860, and was conceded to be the finest drilled company in the world. When the civil war broke out every man received a commission.

Coan Once Roomkeeper.

Cyrus Coan kept a billiard room on Washington street, and Le Brun, who died about nine years ago, held a position in the recorder's office for twenty-five years.

Tom Foley won the initial championship, winning seven straight games with a grand average of 8.57 and high run of 101. Foley's best average was 13.04. Ferguson, who finished second, won six games, had an average of 8.08 and high run of 50. Le Brun was third, with five wins, a grand average of 7.35 and high run of 78. The others finished as follows: H. Rhines, Coan, Page, Masters, and Donohue.

Foley received as first prize a gold mounted cue, which was buried in the big Chicago fire, when he had a room located on the present site of the Saratoga hotel. In addition to the cue, Mr. Foley was presented with an amethyst ring on which are his initials set in diamonds. This was given him by Michael Phelan, and Tom has worn it ever since.

Big Money Wagered in Old Days.

In the days of the tournament Chicago was a typical western town in the matter of backing opinions and, according to Mr. Foley, a lot of money changed hands. Reverting a little farther back, Mr. Foley recalls the match between Michael Phelan and John Seerletter of Detroit, played in 1859 at Detroit, where the stakes were \$5,000. In those days the players used to practice behind closed doors and if they thought they had a chance to win they were willing to back themselves far more readily than the experts of recent years.

WHIST QUERIES.

To the Editor: "The dealer at my right dealt and bid one spade. I said two diamonds, and then said I meant to say one diamond. One of my opponents immediately said that the deal goes at one diamond and your partner cannot bid in this deal. We played the deal accordingly and made a good score, but not game, my partner having a strong hand at 10 trump. What I want to know is, whether my opponent had a legal right to claim the penalty, which he did. J. A. C.

Answer.—There is nothing in the laws of auction bridge to cover the point named. Legally you incurred no penalty, and your partner could have made any bid higher than two diamonds. In equity, I think your opponents were right, as your correction gave your partner certain information which would have enabled him to take you out of your false bid of two diamonds, and the question should have been settled on that basis. If your opponent claimed the penalty as a legal right you should have disputed it and allowed your partner to bid anything he pleased.

To the Editor: "In regard to the hand that you had illustrated in last Sunday's 'Tribune,' I should like to ask one question, and that is, why did south discard the king of spades on east's leading an ace of diamonds, when he had the queen and jack of spades in his hand? It seems to me that the proper discard for him to have made would have been the queen of spades, to show his partner he had the king. In bidding, which is proper, one diamond or one diamonds? C. O."

Answer.—I cannot understand how the discard of the queen of spades would have shown the king. The discard of the king must always show one of two things. Either the only card which the player has in that suit or the top of a sequence. The discard of an ace always shows an entirely established suit, and the player who makes the discard must be able to take every trick in that suit without the help of the ace.

In the deal mentioned the ace of spades already having been played, the discard of the king was the same as the discard of the ace would have been originally. The discard of a queen would deny the king in every case. In reply to your second question, the singular form is correct.

ABE LANGTRY COUNTING NATIONAL BOWLING ENTRY.

A. B. C. Secretary Retires to Milwaukee to Tabulate Results—Over 600 Five Men Teams in Big Tourney.

Secretary Abe Langtry of the American Bowling congress went into retirement last night when he left Chicago for his home, where he will make out the schedule of the twelfth tournament of his association. Before he left he issued a statement showing the enormous total of 550 clubs in his hands already, with a grand total of more than \$40,000 actually paid in for entrance fees. Of this between \$27,000 and \$28,000 will be available for prizes. The figures will not be reduced by any later count, but look as if they will turn the 600 mark on Monday morning, when Langtry will return and reopen his Chicago office.

Chicago's part in the monster list reached the almost incredible total of 225 fives, with about ten more clubs confidently expected, the local entry running away ahead of even the most sanguine predictions. The best records at former meets for the home town were 147 for St. Louis in 1911, 63 for Detroit in 1910, 95 for Pittsburgh and 96 for Cincinnati in former years.

The seventy-eight Chicago clubs, which arrived early on Saturday, were as follows:

Ed B. Steibers,	Union Bags,
Rosebuds,	Lincoln League,
Viola Collins,	South Waters,
Chicago Feather Dusters,	Bull Frogs,
Manny Stars,	Munson's Stars,
Standards,	Columbian Knights No.
Edward F. Dunnes,	20,
John P. Gibbons,	Rubins,
Tom Hunters,	Washington Shirt Co.,
Schindlers,	Lorenz No. 1,
Robert M. Schweitzers,	Lorenz Colts,
Wronski Billiards,	Raetz Rivals,
Eckarts,	Bensinger-Monroe,
Flenner's I. X. L.,	La Esperas,
Mussey's Cosmes,	McCormick Foremen,
La Salle Hotels,	McCormick No. 2,
Stratford Hotels,	Harvesters,
Brevort Hotels,	Deerings,
Peter Barten's County	Diocean Union,
Attorneys,	Crane No. 1 and No. 2,
South Chicago No. 1	Doc Oxley No. 1 and No. 2,
and 2,	Romeos,
Freys,	Colonials,
Jiruska's All-Stars,	Wellsteins,
Jiruska's Windy City,	Cabinets,
Novak & Sebeke,	Bensinger-Randolphs,
Martineks,	High Life Millers,
Birk Bros.,	Selpp's Extra Pales,
Mendels,	Beach & Winzenberg,
Bingos,	Warrens,
Rossows,	Headlights,
Petersens,	Centurys,
Garden City,	Newton & Holt,
Primators,	Heywood Bros. & Wake-
Kellys,	field,
Zealoras,	Ammerpohl,
Halls,	Utah Braus,
Flenners,	Automatic Telephones,
Grand Theaters,	Seven Illinois Athletic
John E. Waymans,	clubs,
Anderson & Drews,	Madisons,
Stetler,	Hector No. 1 and No. 2.
Carpe Diem,	

Indications now point to Washington, D. C., as the place for holding the next national tournament.