

RIALS...

"KEEP PROGRESSING," says George Merz

"Shuffleboard was played as early as the 14th or 15th Century. It was played on shipboard in the early part of our century, then played ashore for the first time on a concrete sidewalk of a private home at Daytona Beach in 1913.

"It is not clear if this modern first-time land court was a copy of the shipboard rectangular version or of the present day land triangular layout. Nevertheless, ever since, shuffleboard has grown in leaps and bounds. It has become the prime medium for those in the more mature world who seek a mild form of exercise and pastime. It resulted also in developing into an extremely competitive sport.

"The phenomenal growth and progress is best illustrated in the Florida Shuffleboard Association's annual "PREVIEW" over the years since its first issue in 1952-53, which commemorated the Association's 25th anniversary. This publication introduced a news medium which has since its inception served the shuffleboard fraternity in a successful way. Thanks to the foresight of Mr. J. McKay Pinkney, then State Association President, it has over these many years published annually all of the facts and figures pertaining to this great outlet for those dedicated to this wholesome and healthful pastime.

"To reveal a few statistics, from 1913 to the pre "PREVIEW" years up to 1952-53, in Florida alone its popularity has grown from zero to 66 clubs, having 1,163 courts and 29,333 club members—this over a 39-year span.

"During the 15-year spread from the 1952-53 period to the present, the Florida picture has advanced to 243 clubs, 2,687 courts and 53,582 members. The publishing of the "PREVIEW" has in this same 15 years advanced from a 20 page issue to one of 104 pages.

"Nationwide shuffleboard has taken hold to the extent that there now are 10 State Associations enrolled in the National Shuffleboard Association with the result that the national picture, including Florida, totals 422 clubs, 3,727 courts and 56,800 club members.

"Much more can be said about the promotion of shuffleboard and its many other aspects, such as the improvement from time to time of the rules of the game, advanced court construction and relevant techniques; the introduction of the amateur class (a big step forward) and numerous other advancements, but at this writing let what has been said suffice, and let us give credit to those who followed in the footsteps of Mr. Pinkney in the publication of the "PREVIEW" and the officers of the National Association for their promotion of the activities on a nationwide basis to bring shuffleboard to its present status. They have been great workers and deserve the accolade accorded them.

"To the present and future editors and promoters, by all means continue this progress!"