

TABLE TENNIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

El Paso Champion.....1953-1980

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

U.S. Open - Senior Men's Semi-finalist.....1974
U.S. Open - Senior Men's Winner.....1978*
U.S. Closed - Senior Men's Winner.....1978*
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place.....1980
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place-U.S. National Championships.....1983
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place-U.S. National Championships.....1988

*Only person to accomplish this.

ARIZONA TOURNAMENTS

Arizona Open - Singles Winner.....1958
 1959
 Singles Runner-up.....1970
 Doubles Winner.....1955
 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959.
 Senior Men's Winner.....1967
 1968, 1969
 Senior Men's Runner-up.....1971
 1973
 Esquire Singles - First Place.....1981
 Senior Singles - First Place.....1983
 Senior Doubles - First Place.....1983
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place.....1983
 Open Singles - Second Place.....1983
 Esquire Singles - First Place.....1984
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place.....1984
 Open Doubles - First Place.....1985
 Open Senior Singles - Second Place.....1985
 Class A Singles - Second Place.....1985
 Esquire Singles - First Place.....1985
 Esquire Singles - First Place.....1986
 Senior Doubles - First Place.....1986
 3500 Doubles - First Place.....1986
 Senior Esquire Singles - First Place.....1990
 Senior Doubles - Second Place.....1990
 Esquire Doubles - Second Place.....1990
 Esquire Singles - First Place.....1990

NEW MEXICO TOURNAMENTS

New Mexico Open - Finalist Singles.....1959
 1961
 Winner Singles & Doubles.....1962
 1963
 Winner Singles.....1965
 1966
 Winner Doubles.....1971
 Winner Senior Singles.....1971
 1972, 1973, 1974
 Winner Doubles.....1975
 Finalist Singles.....1975
 Finalist Doubles.....1976
 Winner Senior Singles.....1976
 Class A Singles - First Place.....1982

TEXAS TOURNAMENTS

Ft. Worth Open - Men's Finalist.....	1956
Texas Open - Men's Winner.....	1959
San Antonio Open - Men's Semi Finalist.....	1965
General Dynamics Open - Men's Senior Doubles Winner.....	1966
Senior Singles Winner.....	1966
Texas Open - Senior Men's Singles Winner.....	1968
Doubles Finalist.....	1968
Southwest Open - Senior Singles Finalist.....	1970
Midland Open - Singles Winner.....	1971
Southwest Open - Senior Singles Winner.....	1971
Tall City Open - Singles Winner.....	1972
Texas Senior Games - Singles Winner- Age 60-64.....	1990

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Tri Cities Invitational(Phoenix, Tucson & El Paso) - Winner.....	1955
Pacific Coast Open - Singles Finalist.....	1964
Doubles Winner.....	1964
Member of El Paso's Team winning the Southwest Cities Invitational (Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah).....	1967
Rocky Mountain Open - Singles Finalist.....	1970
Doubles Winner.....	1970
New Mexico Invitational - Singles Winner.....	1971

OTHER TOURNAMENTS

Caprock Open - Men's Finalist.....	1964
Caprock Open - Senior Winner.....	1973
Sun Carnival Open - Men's Winner.....	1974
Albuquerque Round Robin - Singles Winner.....	1978
Monzano Open - Singles Finalist.....	1978

NAME: Mac Horn

BIRTHPLACE: Virginia

UNIVERSITY: Texas Western-1950

EMPLOYMENT: El Paso Natural Gas Company-1952
Analyst-Regulatory Affairs Department--Retired

FAMILY: Married, Wife--Sue; Daughter--Tracy

SPORT: Table Tennis

Accomplishments after ⁴⁴~~57~~ years of competition

National Championships

Two

State Championships - Arizona

27 Firsts
10 Seconds

New Mexico

14 Firsts
4 Seconds

Texas

7 Firsts
4 Seconds

Other Tournaments

9 Firsts
7 Seconds

Over All

57 Firsts
25 Seconds

Other Winners

11 Singles
11 Doubles

Other Tournaments and Titles

1967----Arizona Open-Mixed Doubles Finalist

1971----Arizona Open -Mixed Doubles Finalist

1995----- U.S. National Senior Games
65-69 Mens Singles Winner

2004—Arizona Sizzler Open
Over 70 Mens Singles Winner
Over 60 Mens Singles Finalist

1998—Huntsman World Senior Games
Mens over 60 Doubles Finalist
Mixed Doubles over 70 Finalist

2006—Arizona Sizzler Open
1st Place-over 70
2nd Place-over 60

2007—World Senior Olympics at St.George, Utah
2nd in over80

Mac Horn is currently ranked #3 in U.S. in over 80
bracket age group.

Longtime table tennis club still swinging

By Bill Knight
El Paso Times

Tucked quietly away, it is. Stashed discreetly between the tractor-trailer rigs careening down the interstate and the frenetic traffic life on Mesa Street, they play their game.

Twice a week — used to be three times — they gather at the Westside Recreation Center to smash little white balls back and forth at one another. Men and women. Young and old. They bang the little white balls ... and somewhere beyond each smash is yet another story.

Table tennis is the name of their game. Pingpong, some people call it. But whatever you call it, there are some very good players who have been playing it in the El Paso Table Tennis Club — a group that has been going quietly about its way for roughly 40 years.

"You don't play this for the recognition," said longtime member Robert Compton. "You play it for the enjoyment."

Certainly, table tennis ranks among the world's more obscure athletic endeavors. But these people play it with a passion. And so do people all over the world. And, again, with each smack of the little ball, there is a story.

Take Henrietta Berger:

This lively, trim lady looks to be somewhere in her 60's. But she is all of 85 and proud of it. She has won her age group in the National Senior Olympics in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995. As you might have guessed, they hold these things every two years.

"We started this club in the 1950s," Berger said. "I played tennis originally. But I developed arthritis and couldn't hold a racket anymore. So I took up table tennis."

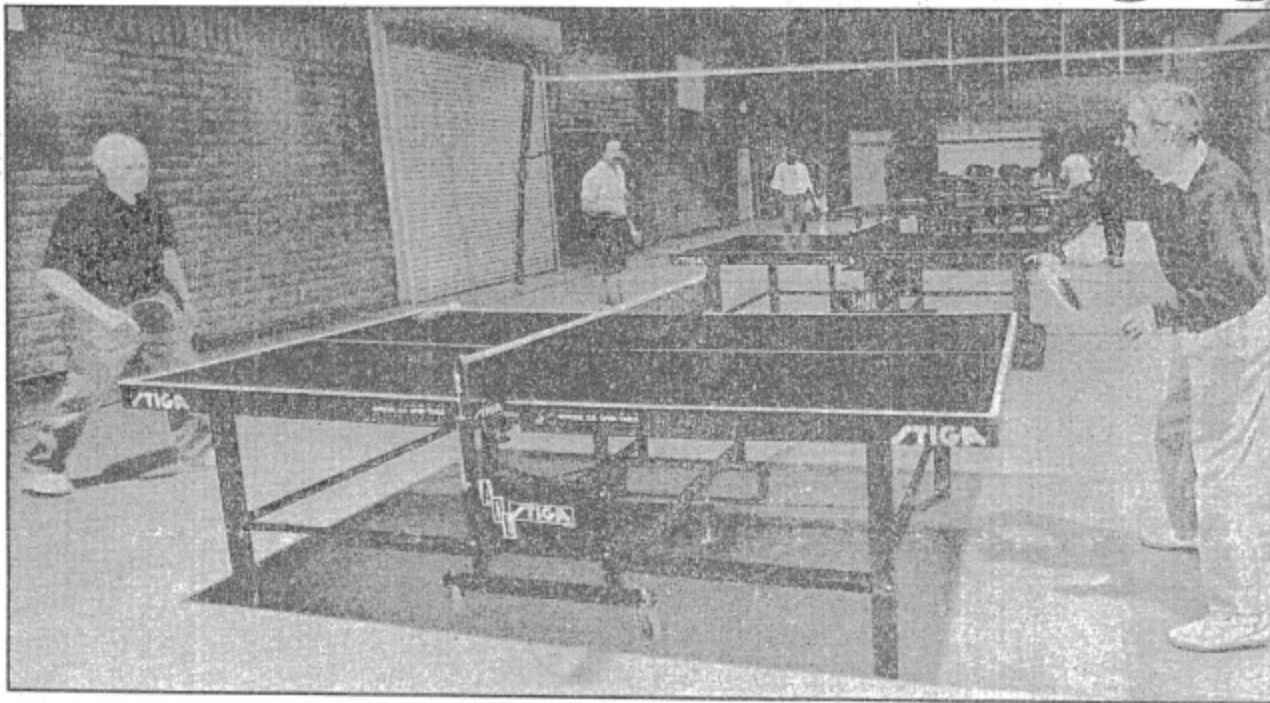
Berger is busy on these Tuesdays and Thursdays, trading slams with the men, giving them all they want for two hours straight.

"If you lose, you move down the table," she said. "We have five tables in here. We have people of all ages in here. I play these young kids ... I don't mind beating them."

Or take Edward Tracy:

This trim gentleman celebrated his 77th birthday with two hours of table tennis Tuesday night. He was the bronze medal winner in the 75-79 age group at the last Senior Olympics. But his table tennis activity started long before that.

"I started playing in 1937," he



Photos by Leonel Monroy / El Paso Times

El Paso Table Tennis Club members Mac Horn, left, and Ed Tracy got caught up Tuesday in an intense battle at the Westside Recreation Center.

said. "Started in a little place called Cameron, Texas. In those days, to have a United States Table Tennis Association club, you had to have six members. They had five and I played tennis. So they made me the sixth."

"I'm retired military, so I've played all over the world," Tracy said. "Japan, Germany, Italy, Okinawa ... lot of places. I tried going to a club in Japan to play. Their equipment was the bare minimum, but, oh man, could they hit it. I finally gave up playing there. Couldn't even see the ball, they hit it so hard."

And there is Cruz Talamantes, Jr., and Cruz Talamantes III.

The dad and his 16-year-old son are relative newcomers to the group.

"We started about three years ago," Talamantes, Jr., said. "I used to play in high school way back. I wanted to improve. This is a good sport and not an expensive one. My son won a trophy for table tennis over at Franklin High School. We both really enjoy it."

There is Mark King:

"I teach table tennis as continuing education over at El Paso Community College Trans Mountain campus," King said. "I



Ed Tracy will be competing in the National Senior Olympics in May.

come to both clubs and I also teach beginners. This is a very family oriented sport."

King and his wife Leticia compete in tournaments, playing all over the country. He even manages to help students at EPCC play against a robot to sharpen their game. But that is yet another story.

Mac Horn is still another story:

He quietly goes about his business, not much fanfare, not a lot of talk. It is clear he is eager to get on with his game. And his game has been a very good one for many, many years.

Horn won the last Senior Olympics title in the 65-69 age group. He has won a U.S. Open and a U.S. Closed title, taking national championships in 1978 for players over 40.

And we can't forget Robert Compton:

This small man is a two-time national champion and a two-time world champion. He, too, has traveled the world playing this game ... smashing the little white balls.

"I've been a member of this club since the 1970s," Compton said. "We have all ages and all levels here. Most people who come in here to begin with are people who have played in their garage or in their house and want a little more competition. That was me. I came here and I hadn't lost in two years — until I got here. That was a little hard to take."

On they play ... sometimes smashing that little white ball, other times spinning it or dinking it ... just playing the game.

New players coming in, creating new stories. Old players returning, creating even more stories.