

President's Column

by David Campbell



"The only thing you take with you when you are gone is your reputation."

—Bill Medeiros

Over the years when I traveled with Bill or listened to him on the phone complain how he had lost his last game at Grass Roots, he nearly always included many thoughts and stories about life. I heard many of the stories countless times, but he loved telling them. The quote above is one of the things he would say over and over—and it is something that will stick with me forever.

When I play at muggins tournaments I never mug anyone. I do this for several reasons. I feel you are already rewarded by people missing points. I do not want to embarrass them. And usually when you mug someone, they slow down drastically.

Many times I have not qualified because I would not let people false claim a game, thereby giving me a game that I deserved to lose. I am not saying that



Bill Medeiros

everyone should do as I do. I am merely stating how I handle these situations.

I learned this lesson the hard way a few years ago when I was playing **Beatrice MacAulay** (Dorchester MA) at a New Hampshire

tournament. Beatrice is **Rob Medeiros's** ninety-nine-year-old nana. Sadly Beatrice passed away a few weeks ago, and she will be missed by all of the players who ever had the pleasure of playing her.

On this Sunday, while playing Beatrice in the last game of the day, I was one of the last people to finish. I knew that if I won the game I would win all of the side pools.

Halfway through the game I am leading by twenty or so holes. All of a sudden Beatrice's grandson walked up behind her to watch, and he shared some of the famous Medeiros luck with her. She got a 24-hand, followed by a 20-hand. We get to the end of the game, and Beatrice had 12 points but was 13 out. She accidentally counted it as 14, and I said, "Recount it, Beatrice; don't take 14." She recounted and said, "I don't care. I get 14 so that is what I am taking"—and she pegged out.

This is now a nightmare because there are ten people watching us and because I know that by winning the game I am going to win a lot of money in side pools. I call for a judge and they move her back 15 holes, so she is now 16 out.

I deal the next hand from 7 holes out. I easily have enough to go out with my hand and crib. Then karma took over, and Beatrice was dealt A-A-2-3, and we cut a 3. So not only did I lose once to Beatrice, I lost twice to her in one game and got exactly what I deserved—a loss. **CW**