

Pint-sized pinballer



THE END ZONE

Little Alan Gedde is a fellow pinballers look up to

While most kindergartners are content to watch television or play with toy soldiers or dolls, five-year-old Alan Gedde has a different way to amuse himself.

He's a pinball wizard.

Two or three afternoons a week, little Alan haunts Sandy's Quartermaster amusement center, where with stool in hand (to see over the tabletops) he'll take you on in anything from foosball to electronic cowboy shoot-outs.

But his favorite sport is pinball.

Alan got involved with pinball when the Quartermaster first opened last summer. He'd follow brother Melvin there, and according to Mel "just picked pinball up on his own."

Now, the pint-sized pinballer often wins three or four games in a row on his favorite game, Evel Kneival pinball.

"I just flip the flippers," says Alan of his success, which often gets a crowd of older kids watching him scowl and grimace at the machine as the little silver ball bounces around.

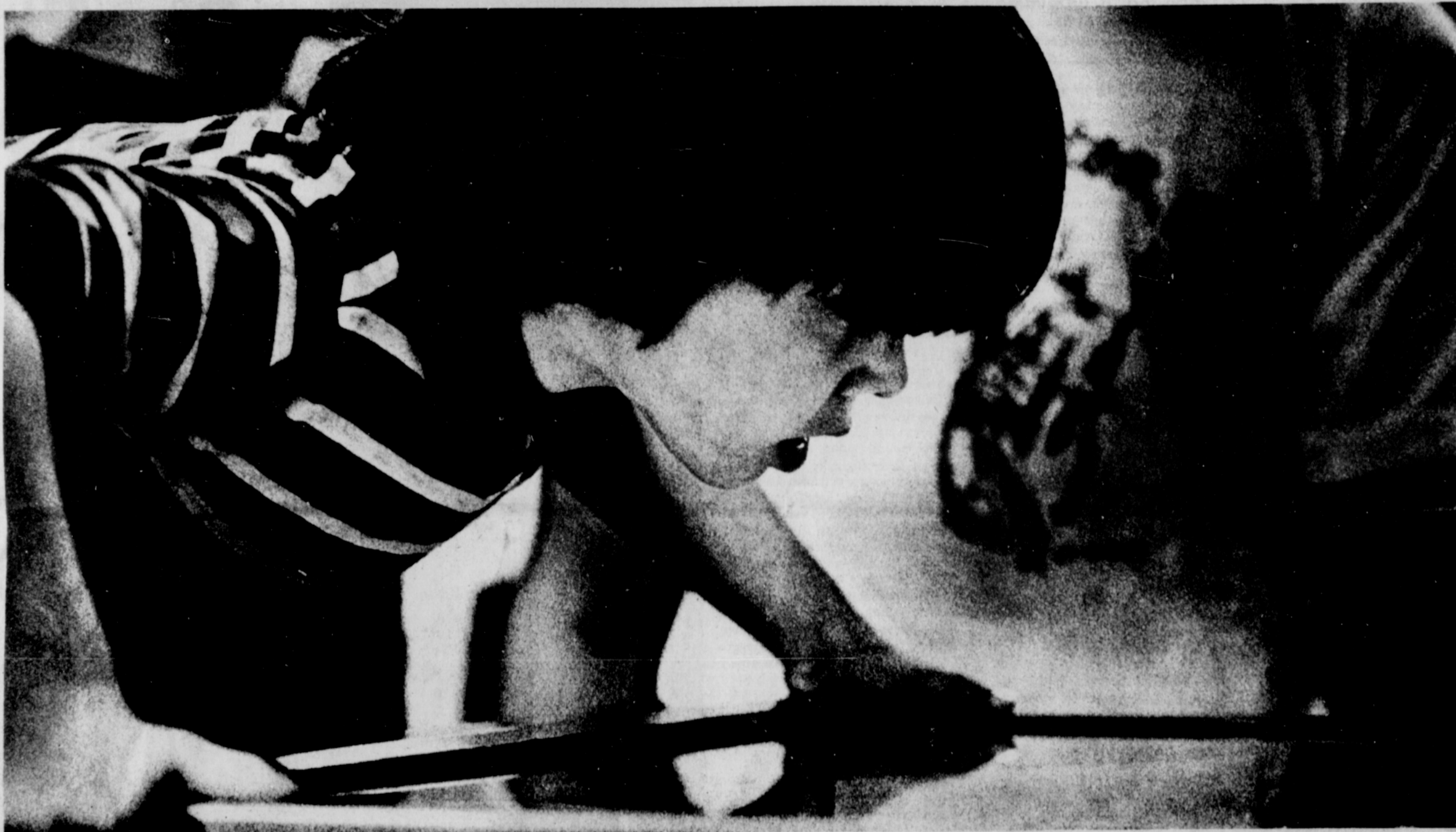
"It's really cute to watch him up

there on his little stool," says Quartermaster proprietor Jerry Ramsey. "He's better than some of the older kids."

In the future, Alan looks forward to playing pool. His size is something of a deterrent to that game, still.

He's also an avid basketball fan, and shows up at the Sandy High games to cheer the Pioneers on.

Alan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gedde of 20695 Greenleaf Drive in Sandy.



ALAN GEDDE: Sandy's precocious pinball whiz.



ALAN'S PLAY draws a crowd at Sandy's Quartermaster amusement center.

photographs and text by Douglas Gantenbein



LITTLE GUYS need help to see what they're doing.