Does this error with the DEL1 pattern only occur with this one table?

Can you send me the class.inc and dict.inc files for this table so that I can take a look?

The table class has the value 'unknown' loaded into $this->dbname in the abstract class by default, but this SHOULD be replaced with a valid dbname in the class constructor when it sets values into $this->dbname and $this->tablename before it calls $this->getFieldSpec_original();

Can you check the class constructor to see if it is doing what it is supposed to do? Can you check that this constructor is being called?