

# THE HORSESHOE WORLD

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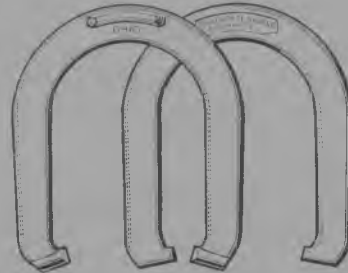


FEBRUARY, 1931

# ANNOUNCING

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## THE HORSESHOE WORLD

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# THE HORSESHOE WORLD



Vol. X

LONDON, OHIO

No. 2



WE are told by Secretary Cottrell that the winter tournament is doubtful . . . not so encouraging . . . but under the circumstances of depression we are not surprised that cities are not taking on any added responsibilities . . . and in this issue we are carrying a story, in a joking vein, about Governor Dillon, of New Mexico, and his horseshoe pitching activities . . . which only goes to show that it really is a game for men and women in all walks of life . . . Robert Brown, of Rochester, N. Y., discusses the outlook for 1931 . . . and there are a lot of other interesting articles this month . . . the magazine isn't as big as the Anniversary Edition and that's because our readers don't force all manufacturers of equipment to advertise in the *Horseshoe World* by patronizing only those helping support the official organ of our association . . . The more advertising revenue, the better we can make the magazine.

February, 1931

## A New Incentive

WE enter upon this year with a new incentive, a new resolve to higher goals.

This is a result of the Anniversary Edition published last month on which we received many compliments. These fine letters of friendship and appreciation, show us how much the *Horseshoe World* is really appreciated.

We want to merit this appreciation and promise our readers the best possible magazine during 1931.

We take this means of thanking all our readers for their kind messages of congratulation.

### OUR READERS COME FIRST

In publishing *THE HORSESHOE WORLD*, our readers come first. The magazine is printed monthly for them and every article is run with the idea of interesting them. Suggestions to the editor for the betterment of the magazine are always welcomed.

The time that your magazine expires is printed on the address slip, directly after your name, showing the month and the year.

Subscription price \$1 per year, cash in advance. Canadian subscription \$1.25; 10 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter, March 18, 1924, at the Post Office, at London, Ohio, under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

R. B. HOWARD,  
*Publisher and Editor*

Business Offices, Madison Press Co. Building,  
45 W. Second Street, London, Ohio.

Official Organ of the National Horseshoe  
Pitchers Association

## New Mexico Governor Likes His Horseshoes!

(Editor's Note—The following article was written by Tom Bursey, New Mexico State Tribune staff correspondent, and appeared in the Albuquerque newspaper in December.)

Sante Fe, N. M.—State officials have many ways to amuse themselves and provide recreation in their spare moments.

President Hoover and his cabinet toss the medicine ball.

For the moment I've forgotten the name of that man who invented horse shoes, but whatever it is, he did a great service for recreation.

Horse shoe pitching among the state officials at the capitol produced probably the best bit of humor which came out of the Dillon administration.

After Dr. Austin D. Crile had been appointed state land commissioner the capitol grounds soon began to echo with arguments between state officials kneeling around a horseshoe pitching post.

### Knew Horseshoes

Dr. Crile, a farmer of the Pecos Valley and once president of the Agricultural College, knew a lot about horseshoes and horses, but not much about the rules governing the game.

Being a thoroughgoing man, he insisted on having rules. Frank Staplin was intrusted with securing rules governing horseshoe pitching.

Governor Dillon and Dr. Crile soon became permanent partners and always pitched according to rules.

They lost the statehouse championship to the supreme court pitching team of Catron and Bickley.

Chagrined at the loss, they accepted a challenge of the champions of San Miguel county to a set match at the county fair.

### Meet Veterans

Here they were met by old time horseshoe pitchers. Six of the best of San Miguel county held a tournament of their own to select a pair to meet the governor and his teammate.

Before the match started, Dr. Crile and the governor examined the pegs and found them 40 feet apart. Taking out their rule book they found the official distance to be 30 feet and the pegs were changed accordingly.

With San Miguel county looking on, the match began.

Things went wrong. The governor

was wild, Doctor Crile was wilder. Their opponents were leading by a wide margin.

"Something has to be done here, Doc," the governor said, taking time out.

"Something must be done," Dr. Crile agreed.

"Do you have that pipe of yours with you?"

The doctor had.

"Light her up."

Dr. Crile lit his pipe. To use the governor's expression, it was stronger than a cucumber.

### Pipe Did Work

"Well," Governor Dillon laughed, recalling the experience, "that pipe did change things. It was so strong those farmers up there couldn't stand the smell. They got pale and began to throw wild in their pitching."

"The game from then on was a walk away."

"Don't you think that was taking advantage of your opponents, governor?" he was asked.

"Well, we had to do something. We were losing," he explained.

Returning to the state house, feeling cocky, the champions of San Miguel county penned a letter to the supreme court team.

It recounted the San Miguel county tournament and dwelt upon the fact that the game was won under official direction, according to rules. It explained at length that Governor Dillon and Dr. Crile were champions of San Miguel county.

"And that this honor and dignity should not be lightly carried," the letter read, "we wish to serve notice upon you that we can not under any possible circumstances, either privately or publicly, engage with any one or all of the members of the Supreme Court in the ancient and honorable game of horse shoe pitching until and after the Supreme Court shall have been invited to an official fair, and there meet, under the circumstances and conditions as we did, and play the game and be declared winners.

"And we further wish to estop and prevent the supreme court from in any way abetting or setting up any county fair for the purpose of entering into a game and by subterfuge or otherwise to win any decision except such a fair and honorable one as we won at the San Miguel county fair.

### Rise and Stand.

"And be it further ordered that by reason of the fact that we hold such dignity and that such dignity requires certain perquisites to be followed, we also wish to inform you that hereafter when either or both of said champions appear in public where any or all members of the supreme court are present, it will be proper for the members of the supreme court to rise and stand while we are in their presence."

The governor and the land commissioner had a great surprise awaiting them.

Justice John Watson answered, refusing to recognize their claims and adding:

"We have it on unimpeachable authority (no less than the word of His Excellency, your athletically powerful, but injudiciously frank, team mate) that the game in which you participated and upon which you base your, we fear, bogus championship claims, were played at a pitching distance of thirty feet. "Official Horseshoe pitching rules," as adopted by the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association of the U. S. A., enact, provide and prescribe as follows:

'Rule 6—The standard regulation distance shall be forty (40) feet from stake to stake, measuring where the stake enters the ground. For women in contests and tournaments the distance shall be thirty (30) feet.'

"Well knowing your sincere attachment to the principles of true sportsmanship, this suggestion will, I am sure, lead to a withdrawal of your claims, and render protest unnecessary. Should you see fit to claim the female championship, we should not be disposed to contest the point. We should, in that case, cheerfully stand in your presence and await recognition before presuming to offer any 'salutations.' Such are the privileges of the ladies."

The champions launched an investigation.

They discovered that Frank Staplin had ordered the horseshoe pitching rules from the Ladies' Home Journal.

The magazine naturally had sent him rules for women.

Trew & Harris, Fayette City, Pa., business men, are shoe fans.

# FRED STILL PITCHES 'EM



—Courtesy Columbus Dispatch

This is a likeness of Fred M. Brust, ex-national champion, and one of America's greatest horseshoe boosters. He is now sole owner of the Ohio Horsesho Co., Columbus, Ohio. Fred still pitches a "mean" shoe.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* PRINTERS' INK HAS \*  
 \* STORY ON HORSESHOES \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Printers' Ink, nationally known magazine, in its January 15 issue, has the following to say about horseshoe pitching:

"Today seems to be a day of revivals. Not the exhorting kind, but revivals of old pastimes and games. During October, November and December of last year one seldom flipped a magazine or newspaper page without running across an advertisement telling how the old game of backgammon was sweeping the country in popularity and sales. A

half dozen people wrote books containing rules of the game. A year or two ago, Ping Pong came back with a rush and still enjoys a great deal of popularity.

And now the Schoolmaster sees a new luminary on the horizon—pitching horseshoes. That is, it's a new luminary if the advertising in the trade papers is any criterion, for there were three different companies advertising horseshoe pitching outfits in one recent issue of a blsiness publication.

One advertiser, in full-page space, told of the game's popularity, spoke of the tournament it would be sponsoring and heralded three different styles in horseshoes — one for every purse.

Another advertiser showed the picture of a complete outfit which he sponsors. It contains four shoes and two stakes and is put up much in the manner of a Ping Pong outfit. This company publishes a booklet entitled: "How to Organize and Promote a Horseshoe Club."

All these advertisers stress the perfect balance of their horseshoes and declare that they are used by experts, both amateur and professional. Certain of these products are sanctioned either by the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association or the American Horseshoe Pitchers' Association. The former, by the way, is the organization supported chiefly by those professionally interested in the sport, while the latter organization is an amateur one.

In 1929 a newspaper survey showed that 7,500,000 people were interested in this ancient sport and a further estimate predicts that 8,000,000 will be playing the game this year. The big job in this field, say the larger manufacturers, is to get the public to recognize the merits of official horseshoes and through advertising and organization activity wean them away from the idea of using shoes that may be picked up in any blacksmith'

Because the Schoolmaster finds himself in a generous mood he offers the following suggestion to certain owners of miniature golf grounds: that they install a couple of sets of horseshoes (some did last year) when they open again for business in the spring, thus setting up a diversification of effort which may bring returns from those who still turn up their noses at golf and call it a 'sissies' game.'"



# Horseshoe Pitching Stages A Comeback

AN ARTICLE BY

Russell Fifer

Reprinted from the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Russell Fifer, who wrote this article for the Oklahoma Farmer - Stockman, is doing much to advance the game through that magazine. He is an Ohio boy, having formerly lived at Springfield, Ohio. He reads with interest articles in the Horseshoe World regarding the Willis Avenue Horseshoe Club of Springfield, since his dad pitches with the club when opportunity affords.

THE greatest game of "horseshoes" on record is the match between "Putt" Mossman and Bert Duryee, the "Kansas Cyclone" of Wichita, played in the final rounds of the 1925 national horseshoe tournament at Lake Worth, Fla. By winning, Mossman was crowned world's champion.

Mossman and Duryee had delivered their best for 30 carefully-timed-and-executed pitches until the score stood at 33 to 32, Mossman having forged into a late lead. Up to this point in the game, Mossman had planted 38 ringers to his opponent's 37.

Facing the opposite direction, Mossman again twirled the steel missives and both shoes settled down for a double ringer. Duryee casually covered them with two more ringers!

On the next pitch, both players succeeded in making doubles while the crowd cheered lustily. Another trial had resulted in no advance in score.

Both players continued to toss doubles for the next six pitches! The several thousand fans who were watching literally went wild with excitement for a ringer display such as this had never before been witnessed. The two men set a new record of 16 straight double ringers, eight each. The new mark far surpassed the old mark which had been six consecutive perfect innings. It added history to the grand old game of horseshoes.

The game of 50 points was later won by Mossman after a spurt of nine straight double ringers, by a

margin of nine points on the fifty-fourth pitch. In that memorable game, Mossman had tossed 80 ringers as compared to 75 by Duryee, consisting of 30 and 26 double ringers respectively. Of the 108 shoes twirled by Mossman in that game, 74 per cent were ringers. Who will beat or equal this spectacular attainment?

The game of horseshoes has advanced to the fabulous heights where the professionals who meet semi-annually to decide the world's championship can depend on a large number of their shoes ringing the stakes. They know the reason for this is not mere luck, but accurate skill gained after long practice periods.

The old sport is not merely a game for champions. It has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years until it claims thousands of followers in cities and villages from coast to coast and north to south. It is being played by statesmen, movie stars, farmers, bankers, presidents, their wives and sisters, and even by Lindbergh, America's favorite son. In fact, nearly every one is gifted with the potentiality for tossing the alluring Dobbin footgear. Every one is trying it.

The clanging, the clinking, the tinkle of shoe hitting shoe and stakes is audible at any well-managed picnic or gathering, and in many towns during the twilight hours. Some are not content when nature pulls down her blinds and have fitted courts for nocturnal use by the addition of artificial light.

Local clubs have organized to carry on horseshoe pitching among themselves and neighboring clubs. There is a National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association headed by H. L. Ermentinger to which a number of the local clubs are joined. D. D. Cottrell secretary of the national club, has compiled an 80-page manual which is now in its second edition and covers the game thoroughly from A to Z. Their official organ is The Horseshoe World, published monthly in London, Ohio.

This present widespread interest in horseshoes has not been a quick over-night development. The earliest form of the game traces back to 200

B. C. where quoit pitching was the pastime of the day. The poorer class of soldier pounded the horseshoe together when he could not afford the standard quoit and when this became a tiresome task, he began to use them just as they were. It is assumed that in this manner the game of horseshoes was originated.

In the Revolutionary war, the soldiers of both sides enjoyed their spare moments in a thrilling horseshoe match. It is rumored that when Lincoln was not writing his lessons on a coal shovel or splitting rails, he was pitching horseshoes. At the advent of the Spanish-American war with recruited soldiers from all parts, they returned to their homes and carried the spirit of the sport with them. Standard rules were first established in 1914 with the organization of the national body. Frequent changes have been made on these rules in recent years.

Thrusting itself into select society, it continues to be termed "barnyard golf" and if prevailing interest repeats during the next few years, it should contend strongly with regular golf for the name of the "great American sport."

Drastic changes have been made from the day when the shoe was merely thrown toward the other stake with a silent prayer on the tongue that it might hook. Horseshoes has become a game of science in which a ringer is no longer considered a phenomenon.

The up-to-date horseshoe pitcher holds the shoe in such a form that it leaves the hand and turns a certain number of times and lands at the stake "corks" forward. This is known among all fans as the "open shoe." The number of times that a shoe turns varies greatly according to the pitcher from the three-quarter to the one and three-quarters.

With the mastering of the open shoe and the use of a pair of regulation shoes that may be purchased at any hardware store, the average player can enjoy a good sport that is healthful and not too tiresome. As in other sports, to achieve any success, it requires an endless amount of practice when you must think and

(Continued on Page 5)



Tacoma, Wash., 1-28-31.

Horseshoe World,  
London, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Just a few lines. I want to say we certainly enjoyed your anniversary number of the Horseshoe World, and want to wish you all the best of wishes for your tenth anniversary. Would like to see the World that large every number. Mr. Sayre and I enjoy the World and read it from cover to cover.

We were very sorry to hear of our champion's death, as he was a prince of a lad and a good clean sport and very much liked by all who knew him, and he will be missed by us all.

The Tacoma and state association sends its sincere regrets to his many friends and relatives who are left to mourn their loss.

I also want to thank Mr. Esborg for the compliment he gave me in the anniversary number and want to assure him I will do my best to live up to it. I am very much interested in horseshoes, as my husband and daughter both hold championships. My daughter, Hazel, played horseshoe for the first time last summer and won Senior Girls' City championship, averaged around 30 per cent, and only played about a month before she entered. She throws a three-quarter turn and was 16 last November.

Tacoma hasn't any indoor courts at present, but is planning one this spring. Tacoma boys are keeping up their practice though and hope to have some fine games soon.

Last summer the state association and inter-city members kept up a round of meets at different lakes and resorts and had some wonderful games. There were as high as 60 to 80 players at some of the meets, and we hope to have many more of them this summer.

Some of the lake resorts have put in as many as 10 courts with boxes and sand. At these meets we have had players from Oakville, Centralia, Chehalis, Olympia, Ocean City, Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Tacoma. We are planning some interesting meets with Portland if possible soon, and al-

so with Seattle and Olympia.

Hoping to see the Horseshoe World continue some larger and finer issues, and again wishing you the best of luck in the future, I remain,

Mrs. F. W. Sayre,

Wash. State Sec'y and Treas.  
9644 East C, Tacoma, Wash.

Your January Anniversary number was splendid—worth the year's subscription price to any lover of the royal game of horseshoes.—Leon L. Cole, St. Bonaventure, N. Y.

The Tenth Anniversary book was the best ever. Congratulations.—Jack H. Claves, St. Louis, Mo.

## HOOSIERS WIN CHICAGO MEET

(Contributed)

The ancient and rural sport of horseshoe pitching became a national championship event in Chicago. Sectional and state champions from all parts of the country, tossed for the national amateur title, with a \$1000 silver trophy going to the winner of the men's singles. There were thirty or more in the competition.

Jimmy Risk, who hails from Montpelier, Ind., and is one of Indiana's greatest horseshoe aces, won first place in men's singles. Orville Harris and Henry Pergal won first place in men's doubles. In winning the championship the youthful Hoosiers had to win every match. Their team play was by far displayed the best in the tournament and they were favorites of the crowd throughout the games.

Bessie Schnedier, a Chicago tosser, won women's singles and paired with Zita Schupan, of Chicago, took the women's doubles.

One of the most outstanding events of the day was when Jimmy Risk and Orvil Harris clashed in the first game of the tournament, O. Harris winning first game by a score of 50-36. Risk immediately staged a comeback and took second game by a score of 50-32, that making the final game a toss-up, after a barrage of

ringers, Risk won by a score of 50 to 42.

Second honors went to Otto Fulner of Chicago, and R. L. Simmonds of Wilmette, Ill., who lost to the Pergal-Harris combination in the men's double finals.

Milton Pate, of Moline, Ill., took second in men's singles. Pate had a little tough luck while playing Risk and could not get to form.

For the official tourneys games, Octigan shoes were used by all tossers. Later a special match was held with each player using his own or any kind of shoe. Here Pergal and Harris finished ahead of the field, and Pergal defeated Harris in the play-off.

This is the first time Pergal and Harris have competed in national tourneys and officials of the association consider them as best prospects that entered the event in years. Harris and Pergal are also champions of the Wabash Valley.

### Prizes and Prize Winners

Men's Singles—National Champion Trophy, Jimmy Risk, Montpelier, Ind. Silver cup, Milton Pate, Moline, Ill.; Silver cup, Henry Pergal, Jasonville, Indiana.

Men's Doubles—Silver Loving Cups, Harris-Pergal, Jasonville, Ind.

Women's Doubles — Silver Cups, Scheider-Schupan, Chicago, Ill.

Women's Singles — Silver Loving Cup, Bessie Schneider, Chicago, Ill.

There was an exhibition match between Jimmy Risk and John Calao, the 14-year-old boy wonder. Small silver cups were given to contestants.

## HORSESHOE PITCHING

(Continued from Page 4)

throw ringers.

It has been announced that no active member of the national club has either suffered from or been operated on for appendicitis during the last ten years. Their slogan is "A game a day will keep appendicitis away." Maybe horseshoes are lucky!

In this machine age of ours with its corresponding number of tractors replacing the horse on the American farm it seems that a replica in memoriam of the "old gray mare" in the form of her revamped footgear will remain and continue to enthuse countless thousands for centuries to come.

Charles Moon, Joliet, Ill., likes his "dobbins" and enjoys a good match any day.

NEWS, OFFICIAL  
REPORTS, ETC.

From the  
**Secretary's Desk**

D. D. COTTRELL  
Secretary  
746 - C - 5th Ave., N.  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA

Congratulations, Brother Howard, on the beautiful January issue of the World—the Tenth Anniversary number. It certainly was a fine issue, representative of a great and growing sport.

At this writing it looks as if there would not be a National Tournament this year in Florida. Fort Lauderdale, who wanted the tournament last year, but were not able to finance it, thought surely they would hold it this year. This information comes to me from Mr. G. B. Strayer of that city who has been very active in the game in that section for a number of years and has been working since last year in hopes to get the National there this winter. I am informed by Mr. Strayer that the evening of Jan. 8th he attended the opening of the 32-court grounds of the American Horseshoe Products, Inc. This company has gone to great expense to fit up their grounds for horseshoe pitching similar to the way miniature golf grounds are made attractive. They charge 35 cents an hour for daytime pitching and 50 cents per hour for pitching at night. He also writes that he was told that Nunamaker, the world's champion, has been secured by this firm as instructor in horseshoe pitching. The grounds are located at Miami Beach.

\* \* \*

Arnold Maki, 321 Superior St., Hibbing, Minn., writes me, ordering a copy of "Horseshoe Pitching—How to Play the Game," on a letterhead on which he announces "amateur horseshoe exhibitions—fancy and trick horseshoe pitching—lessons given in horseshoe pitching." In his letter he says that he is strictly an amateur pitcher, playing only for the love of the game and to boost it as much as possible. He is state, northwestern and city champion. Mr. Maki certainly is doing a great deal for the game in his section. If we had more like him in different parts of the country the game would grow greatly in popularity and rapidly become a leading sport.

\* \* \*

In a letter from C. O. Kittlesen, secretary-treasurer, Yakima, Wash. Horseshoe Pitchers Association, says

that the State Fair Commission of his state wants information about holding a summer National Tournament at their fair this year. For the past four seasons they have held a North-western Championship tournament at the fair, assisted by the Yakima Horseshoe Pitchers Association and Mr. Kittlesen has had charge of the meets. Now he, with the co-operation of the president of the State Horseshoe Pitchers Association and a number of active horseshoe pitching clubs in the state want to entertain the National Tournament on the State Fair Grounds this year which are located in Yakima. He says that he can get the Chamber of Commerce to underwrite it. They have 12 good courts at the fair grounds. I am writing Mr. Kittlesen that the officials will be glad to consider the proposition the fair has to offer and if it is the best, everything considered, that is made, he would be awarded the tournament. No national tournament has ever been held on the Pacific coast, but that is no reason why one should not be held there and it would probably be for the best interest of the game to go to different parts of the country where these tournaments have not previously been held. Mr. Kittlesen incloses a newspaper clipping showing the products of the Yakima Valley to be more than forty million dollars in 1930.

\* \* \*

The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, published an article on "Barnyard Golf Stages a Comeback" in its November first issue. It was written by Russell Fifer, its Field Editor, and illustrated by pictures showing how to hold shoes to throw 1¼ and 1½ turns and also a diagram of how to lay out a horseshoe court. It is a very informative article on the game. Mr. Fifer writes me that the article aroused so much interest in the game that in an editorial conference it was decided to hold four or five sectional tournaments in Oklahoma, a couple in Texas and about three in western Arkansas which is in the territory in which the paper circulates. These sectional tournaments would follow county eliminations one or two of the best from each county being sent to

the sectional competition. The sectional winners would all be brought together probably at the state fair at Oklahoma City and the winner called the Farmer - Stockman champion horseshoe pitcher.

All of these tournaments would be under the personal supervision of Mr. Fifer. Such a plan as outlined would give the game a great impetus in that section of the country and is recommended to other farm and daily papers in other parts of the country. The American Agriculturist and the Buffalo Evening News have for the past number of years successfully carried out a similar program in New York state for a number of years. Success to the Farmer-Stockman. All horseshoe pitchers in their territory should at once write to them and offer whatever assistance they can give to help put their program over.

\* \* \*

I have been in correspondence with Mr. William J. Stratton, Recreational Director of the Jones Beach State Park, Long Island, N. Y., who wants to hold the National Tournament there during July or August next summer. He says that the State of New York is spending millions to make Jones Beach the outstanding beach resort in the east and that he believes it would make an admirable place to conduct a National Horseshoe Tournament. This beach is on the southern coast of Long Island in Nassau county. It would be a fine place to hold a National Tournament if the proper facilities and financial arrangements are offered. Your secretary is taking this matter up with Mr. Stratton and may have more to report about this and the propositions made at the other places being considered in the February World.

\* \* \*

Mr. Alex Cumming, first vice-president of the National Association sends me a clipping from a recent issue of the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, giving nearly a column write-up with the picture of Art Cumming, his son. Art will be remembered as one of the strong contenders in National Horseshoe Tournaments five or six years ago. Also as cham-



pion horseshoe pitcher of the state of Minnesota. Now he is considered as one of the best bowlers in his home city or in the state, although he began bowling less than four years ago. Art is also proficient in other sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, and baseball, in spite of the fact that he was almost miraculously saved from the loss of his right foot because of a cut a number of years ago, by wonderful surgical skill.

Congratulations Art, in your fine work as an all-around sport and athlete.

\* \* \*

Now is the time for the players in every county of the United States to go to the management of their local or county fairs and try to get them to put in their fair program this com-

ing season a horseshoe tournament for the championship of the county or section in which the fair is held. Most fairs will be glad to hold such a tournament if the players in their territory go to see them and ask them to do so. Last year more such tournaments were held at fairs than ever before. On application a sanction will be granted for such a tournament by the National Association and a certificate of championship will be issued to the winner, recognizing him as champion of the section in which the tournament is held, bearing the seal of the National Association. Get busy with your fair authorities. Write me for any necessary information about the plans and how to carry them out.

C. E. Sturm, Leesburg, Ohio, former part owner of the Horseshoe World, has been ill for several weeks at his home.

\* \* \*

The Madison Press Co. employees at London, Ohio, are beginning to plan their courts for the coming season, and if the snow doesn't remain too long, they will be in action soon.

WANTED — Some company to make me some samples of a new design pitching horseshoe, and later on manufacture same for me. D. P. Cerea, Stone Lake, Wis.

THERE IS ONE  
BEST  
IN EVERYTHING



THE SHOE THAT'S  
DESIGNED FOR  
RINGERS

## Get Ready Horseshoe Pitchers! Spring Will Soon Be Here

It's going to be hard to beat the boys who pitch Gordon "Spin-On" Horse Shoes. Better not try without them — Get them yourself instead! Place your orders early. Immediate shipment guaranteed.

Last Year Five State Championships Were Won With  
Gordon "Spin-On" Shoes!

Prices \$2.50 per pair west of Rockies, \$2.75 east of Rockies, \$3.00 east of Mississippi. Specify whether you want hard, soft or dead soft steel. Special prices to clubs. Write for information on attractive agent's proposition.

### GORDON HORSE SHOE CO.

Sole Makers

5701 Boyle Avenue

Los Angeles, Calif.

# OUTLOOK FOR THE HORSESHOE GAME

By Robert Brown, President New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Ass'n

JUST what is the outlook for the progress of the horseshoe game for the coming season? We are all wondering if the game is going to be more popular this year, and if there is going to be a little more recognition of it as a sport, by the newspapers. If the professional men are going to play it more, and if it will ever come into favor with the ladies.

I can clearly see now that the game is going to progress just as far as the enthusiasm of the players carry it. If you want the business and professional men to play the game then show them that it is worth their time as a sport and recreation. You can do this by showing enthusiasm in your pitching, by wearing decent clothes when appearing in public to play. Overalls, slouch hat, no tie, etc., give the game a black eye, and don't help you any. I am in favor of uniforms for all tournaments, state and national. They are inexpensive, and very neat. I am not in the business, but hate to see my favorite sport so handicapped by individuals who are so careless. I believe that a person like that is a careless pitcher, and never knows of the real joy of a feeling of well being and technique in pitching.

The business man wants something for his money. He will gladly pay the price, if he knows he is getting something in return that is worth it. No man likes to say that he belongs to a horseshoe club and get a laugh from all within hearing. There is no need of this sort of thing if the club puts on a little pride and lays out attractive courts, and requires a fee for membership that is large enough to induce people to want to join, and requires neatness by all its players who play on the courts. A club should run tournaments and offers prizes and schedules leagues and really get behind the game by constantly advertising it, by newspaper write-ups of the affairs of the club.

There is another phase that hurts the game. It is that when professional men take an interest in the game, it is always left to the amateur to show him the fundamentals of the sport. Very few 30 or 40 per cent pitchers have a good enough understanding of the sport to teach a beginner the real things that are so

essential for progress in the sport. If he clearly understood them he would not be pitching his 30 or 40 per cent. In order for any one to be good in any sport, one has to have a thorough understanding of the game, which will come to any one who practices on the real fundamentals. Proficiency comes as an enlightenment with hours of the right kind of practice. An analysis of your game by some expert will show you in what way you are wrong.

If the professional man, and the women want to play, and they will if the merits of the game is shown them, let the expert give the pointers to them. He can afford to lose a little time showing them the things that every player must know in order to progress in the game. The amateur needs his time for practice, and really isn't in a position to give recognized pointers on the sport.

I can suggest a form of teaching that works very successfully, and will make a player progress very rapidly.

1. Explain the theory of the open shoe to him or her; show the various holds for different turns. Let them practice off the courts if desired, just throwing the required distance, at no stake at all, just watching the turns of the shoes. A study of grips and releases is very important. Keep all players away from the usual three-quarter turn. It is unreliable, and causes discouragement when it fails to work, which is always just when you want it to.

Horseshoes, like golf, is based on TIMING, but in our case timing of the step and swing. RHYTHM is the essential thing, if distance, elevation, open shoes, alignment and consistency is desired. Ringers come only as a result of smoothness of form, which has been built up on the principles of timing.

3. A long pendulum swing is essential, and very accurate. Wrist snaps, swooping, jerky motions, awkward forms, are the things to be eliminated at the start. Rather not be able to pitch a ringer than throw one by accident, with any of the just mentioned faults.

4. Practice some every day, and not too long. More players are spoiled by hours of steady playing, which only tires them and makes

them careless. Rather have brisk drills of one-half hour daily, than one of two hours every four days.

5. Concentrate on that stake; study every shoe; pitch tough players, who will cause you to try hard. Don't ease up when you are ahead. Don't get careless because you have thrown a few ringers in a row. Take your time, and try to make every motion smooth, and as near like the ones preceding it. Work for consistency, and alignment, the latter comes by taking a cross overstep with the lead foot.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* HALF-BAKED HORSE- \*  
\* SHOES, N. G. \*  
\* By F. A. Good, Lincoln, Neb. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Will Marlenee—he's my next-door neighbor—railroads for a living and pitches horseshoes to make life worth living. So he and I lease a vacant lot hard by and as every other day Will is "in" and as our winter, so far, has been very mild, there is a well-defined trail awinding to the pegged field of battle.

Everybody knows Will and I are pretty evenly matched. I have a little disposition to plead diit on my spectacles when a little off and Will talks about cold fingers for his alibi when he fails to do repeats of two on.

Just a few days since and Will, who is ordinarily the soul of honor, shows up at the court and drops his shoes in the moist dirt about a peg and shoves them around with his foot. Now he is forced to confess his perfidy—he has warmed up his shoes on a gas burner, thus seeking to advantage his score—sure a hot idea.

Did the dastardly scheme avail? Hearken! The score stood 18 to 0 when Marlenee got the nigger with two on and the incident was closed in the next inning 21 to 1 in favor of the cold deal.

We don't want to crow over Will, but his pretty daughter, Pauline, made her papa a Christmas present of a year's sub to the Horseshoe World; some daughter; some magazine; but we don't much care what news he finds in it or even if it ain't news.

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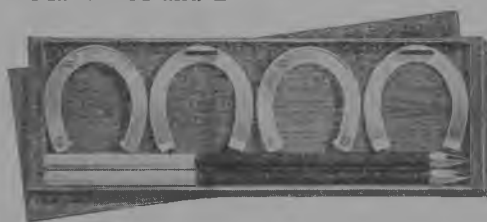
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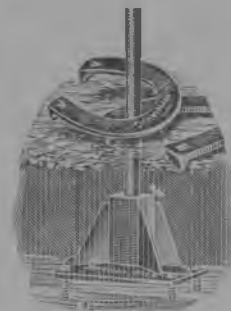
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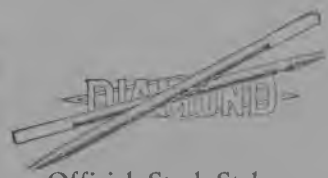
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