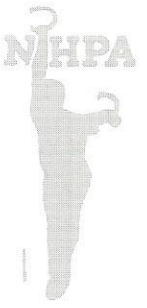




THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLINE

VOL. 12 NO. 2

MARCH/APRIL 2000

**Proposed
Bylaw Changes**

**Candidates
for Office**

**Publicity
Highlights**

**W.T. Entry &
Prize List**

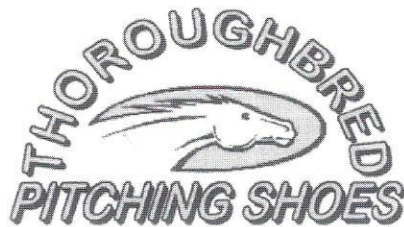
**'99
Membership
Report**

**Steve Summerlin
Brighton, MI
NHPA Webmaster**

Steve

All eight models are
NHPA sanctioned

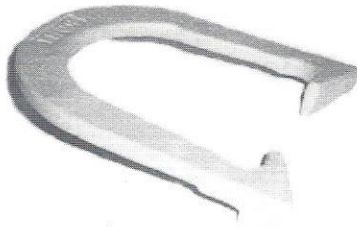
One year warranty
on all models



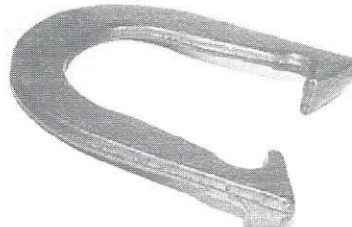
Made
In The
USA 

Pairs are matched to
within 1/5 of an ounce

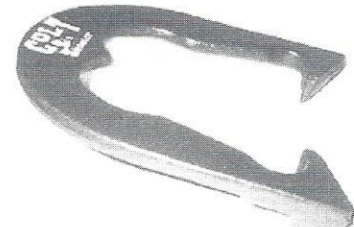
All models carry
a dead soft rating



PONY
Pro-Styled Light-weight shoe



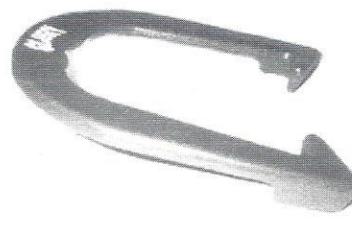
SIDEWINDER



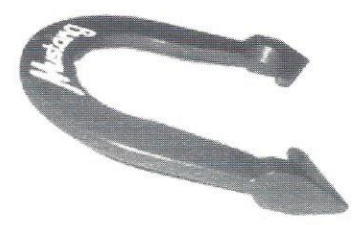
COLT SIX SHOOTER



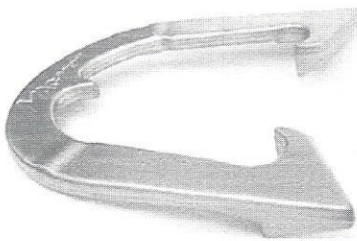
BRONCO PRO-FLIP



GLORY



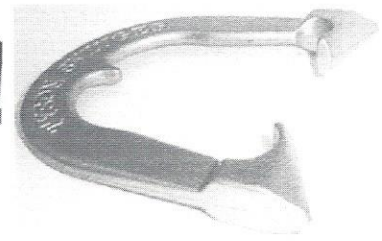
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NHPA NEWSLINE

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NHPA *Newsline*, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945

LETTERS POLICY: *Newsline* welcomes communication and articles from the membership. Submissions should be typed, double spaced or provided on disk or e-mail in text format (MS Word preferable) and include the writer's name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any letter or advertising material. All submissions are subject to editing, available space, and must be received by the first day of the month preceding the date of issue.

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NHPA, 3085 76th Street, Franksville, WI 53126
Phone/Fax 262-835-9108

CONTENTS

President's Message	4
Letters to the Editor	7
NHPF Contribution Update <i>by Dave Loucks</i>	9
Regional Directors Report <i>by Allen Baptist</i>	10
Hall of Fame <i>by Earl Winston</i>	11
Candidates for NHPA Office	12
Sanctioned Club/League News <i>by Lorraine Sternberg</i>	13
NHPA Internet Website	14
Junior Window	15
Focus On Promotion <i>by Bob Dunn</i>	16
Why Not A Horseshoe Course? <i>by Tim Bayerl</i>	18
Shoe Bits <i>by Maynard</i>	19
The Horseshoe Trader <i>by Bob Dunn</i>	20
Proposed Changes to Bylaws	22
Publicity Corner <i>by Billie Sue Pennington</i>	24
Does Your Charter Measure Up? <i>by Dave Loucks</i>	26
Financial Report	28
Special Events Calendar	28
The Toll of Time	29
Tournament Travel Contacts	30

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

White Distributors	Inside Front Cover
Imperial Horseshoes	10
Six Pac Horseshoes	12
Vanderburg Horseshoes	13
Ted Allen Horseshoes	16
Mr. D Horseshoes	17
Horseshoe Score/Hook	18
Six Pac Horseshoes	18
Deadeye Horseshoes	23
Gordon Horseshoes	26
St. Pierre	Outside Back Cover

ON OUR COVER

Steve Summerlin, NHPA Webmaster, Regional Director and Michigan Charter Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of *Newsline* offers some interesting reading on membership, publicity, bylaws, and the NHPF. The open letter to the membership by Jack Freeman in the last issue brought some favorable comments to the editor as well as several checks for the NHPF. With a proposed dues increase of \$25, it is a surprise that *Newsline* has not yet received a negative comment about Mr. Freeman's letter, nor has anyone yet posted a controversial comment on our website. It would be naive to believe everyone behind the NHPF favors a dues increase to support it. I've been around horseshoe pitchers too long to think that and I know the greatest majority rely on a small minority to make the contributions in time, work, cash, and support. But the NHPF project is extremely important to the NHPA and horseshoes and what could be a more painless method to support it than to accept a dues increase?

This subject was discussed at length by the Executive Council at our January Board meeting. We cover many subjects, but primarily reviewed the member-proposed changes to the Bylaws. There were actually three proposals to increase the dues. The council accepted, in principal, the idea of a dues increase but modified the amount to a middle range \$10. If approved, it would make NHPA dues next year \$22 with ten dollars of each going to the NHPF. We felt that anything much less (which was proposed) would critically delay efforts to get construction and

improvement projects underway. Anything more and we would seriously risk losing additional membership.

A dues increase reasonable enough to get NHPF projects underway may not have to be permanent. It could be that after five years or so, with major improvements finished, dues could be cut back. The NHPF could cover annual expenses and grants with the individual donations that continue to come in and the income received from the site attractions and RV Park. When you consider the bylaw proposals, please keep in mind that the NHPF and its needs are really the NHPA. Many basic goals are the same. It's just that the NHPF had to be formed as a charitable entity so individuals could make donations that were tax deductible for the purpose of building a Hall of Fame, further educating the public about horseshoe pitching and promoting the game around the country as a non-professional sport.

It has been stated since day one, that an annual contribution level of about one dollar per month per member would cover expenses. What we didn't expect was how little the average volunteer donation would be. Certainly some are giving hundreds of dollars but 95% have yet to donate anything. Take a look at the chart that accompanies the article, *Does Your Charter Measure Up?* on page 27. It shows that more than half of the charters are averaging a donation level of less than one dollar per year per member. We must do better!

DAVE'S COURT REPORT

■ The NHPF would like to invite all those graphic artists out there to develop and submit a logo design for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF). The Directors would like to see designs that depict horseshoes with a multi-colored emblem. We have posted this request on our website as well and hope to receive some creative designs. Drawings camera or near camera ready would be preferred. They can be sent to *Newsline*, Dave Loucks or NHPA 2nd VP, Casey Sluys. We would like to have all entries by April 1st. We will award a three-year subscription to *Newsline* for the selected design.

■ At the January Council meeting, discussion was held on the NHPA Speakers Bureau. It was decided to disband the bureau for lack of organized scheduled participation. Some members have made speaking appearances, as have some non-members. It was felt this could continue wherever those who wanted, made their own arrangements. We would like to thank the members who have served and encourage them to still be available to speak if called upon.

■ Lorraine Sternberg, newly elected NHPA 3rd VP, has stepped down from her position as Jr. Promotion Director. Fortunately, a capable family member was interested in taking over. I have appointed daughter Heidi Sternberg to replace Lorraine. Heidi is a former Jr. Girls World Champion who enjoys a good rapport with many junior pitchers. Heidi attends a lot of horseshoe events including the World Tournament. Heidi's address and phone number can be found on page 3.

■ During 1999, the NHPA turned over \$4,595.24 in trust money to Juniors who graduated high school and were preparing for the next step. This was the largest yearly amount redeemed since 1994 when over \$6,700 was claimed. Beginning in February, Brandon Lund received \$302.86 and David Johnson Jr. \$257.44. In March, \$232.58 went to Ryan Baldwin while Michelle

Newton collected \$1,798.04 in April. Matthew Kiefat received \$364.58 in August and September, \$1,208.78 was sent to Joseph Smith. The final two awards of 1999 were sent in November, \$224.38 to Richie Boll and \$206.58 to Anne Melchert. I want to congratulate these young people on their pitching accomplishments and hope we see them in the game as adults.

■ Joe Faron, president of the Missouri Charter mailed out a nice questionnaire letter to some 75 pitchers that didn't renew their membership in 1999. Entitled "Where Are You Now?" the letter asked why they didn't renew and gave several check-off options to answer. In addition, the mailing included a renewal membership form encouraging the folks to again become part of the state and national association. While we don't yet know the level of response, it seems that this approach is a good method to try and get a handle on lost membership. Perhaps other clubs or charters should consider doing something similar.

■ Natstats director Glenn Jamieson reports some interesting figures for 1999. There were a total of 66,305 entries into tournaments with 8,233,115 ringers thrown out of 26,520,268 shoes pitched for a national average of 31.04%. 336 members pitched in 20 or more sanctioned events with the top honor going to Chet Carter of No. California who entered 61. Another NorCal member, Ken Schulze, an Elder pitcher who entered 60 tournaments, closely followed him. The honor for most tournaments by a woman went to Francis Lopez of So. California who entered 44 events. Gail Sluys of No. California followed her with 42. There were 10 tournaments exceeding 200 entries. The W.T. led with 1488 followed by the New England Championship, with 294. Of the State Championships, California, had the largest entry with 279 followed by Missouri-250 and Minnesota-243.



2000 WORLD HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Bismarck, North Dakota

July 31- August 12, 2000

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CONTACT PERSON: _____ E-Mail _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

SIZE AND COST OF AD:	___ Back Cover (color).....	\$ 8508.50" x 11.00"
	___ Inside Front Cover (color).....	\$ 7008.50" x 11.00"
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	___ Full Page	\$ 4008.50" x 11.00"
	___ Half Page	\$ 2257.50" x 4.75"
	___ Quarter (1/4) Page.....	\$ 1253.50" x 4.75"
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* Signs will be moved to Wildwood's Horseshoe Complex for permanent advertising.

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DEADLINE FOR COPY: May 1 2000

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(1) The layout of the advertisement should be supplied as CAMERA READY copy. If camera ready copy is not available, send copy and rough layout. No proof will be provided and the Bismarck Horseshoe Association cannot be held responsible for any errors.

(2) A complimentary program will be supplied to all advertisers.

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**NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS
ASSOCIATION - 2000
BISMARCK-MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA
JULY 31 - AUGUST 12, 2000
HOUSING INFORMATION**



HOTEL/MOTEL	LOCATION	AMENITIES	RATE
Radisson Inn	800 S. 3 rd Street	306 rooms, AC, CATV, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, restaurant, lounge, game room.	\$65.00 Flat
Comfort Inn	1030 Interstate Ave.	148 rooms, AC, CATV, indoor pool, whirlpool, cont. bkfst, lounge, casino.	\$56.00 Single \$58.00 Double
Comfort Suites	929 Gateway Ave.	60 rooms, AC, CATV, HBO, microwaves and refrigs, 25-inch TV, indoor pool with waterslide, wading pool, whirlpool, fitness center, cont. bkfst.	\$70.00 Single \$72.00 Double
Days Inn	1300 E. Capitol Ave.	110 rooms, AC, CATV, HBO, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, cont. bkfst.	\$64.75 Single \$76.58 Double
Doublewood Inn	1400 E. Interchange Ave.	143 rooms, AC, CATV, indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, restaurant, lounge.	\$67.00 Flat
Expressway Inn	200 Bismarck Expressway	163 rooms, AC, CATV, HBO, outdoor pool, cont. bkfst, indoor spa, next to Kirkwood Mall, airport shuttle.	\$54.95 Flat
Expressway Suites	180 E Bismarck Expwy.	64 rooms, AC, CATV, HBO, indoor pool and spa, lounge, casino, microwaves and refrigs, plug-ins, meeting rooms, airport shuttle, cont. bkfst.	\$63.95 Flat
Fairfield North	1120 Century Ave E.	63 rooms, indoor pool, whirlpool, AC, CATV, cont. bkfst.	\$57.00 Flat
Fairfield South	135 Ivy Ave.	63 rooms, indoor pool, whirlpool, AC, CATV, cont. bkfst.	\$55.00 Flat
Holiday Inn	6th & Broadway	215 rooms, AC, CATV, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, restaurant, lounge.	\$65.00
Kelly Inn	1800 N. 12 th St.	101 rooms, AC, CATV, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, restaurant, lounge.	\$54.00 Single \$65.00 Double
Ramada Limited	3808 E. Divide Ave.	66 suites, AC, CATV, indoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center, cont. bkfst.	\$52.00 Single \$57.00 Double
Select Inn	I-94 & US 83	101 rooms, AC, CATV, Cont. bkfst, guest laundry, winter plug-ins.	\$35.90 Single \$45.90 Double
Seven Seas	I-94 Exit 152, Mandan	103 rooms, luxury suites, AC, CATV, indoor pool, whirlpool, restaurant, casino, lounge.	\$61.00 Flat
Super 8	1124 Capitol Ave.	61 rooms, AC CATV, HBO/ESPN.	\$65.00 Flat
The Ridge	I-94 Exit 152, Mandan	79 rooms, AC, CATV, whirlpool, restaurant, lounge, casino	\$40.00 Flat

Call Bismarck-Mandan CVB for Reservations 800-767-3555

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horseshoe pitchers are a wonderful group of people. At the Greenville W.T. my wife went into diabetic shock. Pitchers rushed to her attention, brought water and called an ambulance. Thanks to these people, medics were treating my wife within 10 minutes. Please accept this \$100 check for the NHPF from the Liberty H.C. along with sincere thanks and appreciation.

Lyle Samuelson, Liberty, MO

I regret that I had to quit pitching due to a degenerated back, but I'm living without surgery. The 1995 World was my last tournament, but I still follow the game in *Newsline*. My 1994 induction into the NHPA Hall of Fame was a highlight and I hope to see the building erected soon. Here's a \$100 to the NHPF to support it.

Harold Darnold, Burlington, IA

My *Newsline* renewal is enclosed. I really enjoy reading it and want to say thanks for a fine job. How many Hall of Fame members are there? Don't believe I've ever seen a complete published list. Maybe you could do it. I think it would be interesting reading.

Bill Kunz, Worth, IL

The enclosed check for \$88 is a donation to the NHPF. It is equal to 50% of my cash awards in my last 5 tournaments pitched in Florida and Pennsylvania. I started sending 50% of winnings just after the W.T. and will continue to do so.

John Wagner, Prospect, PA

I read Jack Freeman's letter to the membership in the last issue and enjoyed it very much. He said exactly what has to be done for the NHPF and I want to do my part for this worthy cause. A \$50 check is enclosed and I will continue each year to support this game I love.

Milton Vinson, Decatur, GA

A great article by Mr. Freeman in the last issue. Hope it helps to open some eyes and pocketbooks. I try to set aside something every month. Here's \$60 toward the cause.

Randy Joines, Newton, NC

Enclosed is a check of \$78 for the NHPF. It's from the Mt. Clemens H.C. and me. If we could get all organized clubs to donate a few bucks for every paid member and then have every member donate personally, we could get the Hall of Fame museum up in no time.

Dean Schmitz, Mt. Clemens, MI

Please find enclosed the NHPA check sent as payment for duties performed as a Regional Director. I've endorsed it over to the NHPF.

Ward Lutz, Rochester, MN

The Jack Freeman open letter was a real inspiration. He knows most of us horseshoe pitchers tend to be frugal and need a lot of persuasion. I support his challenge and hereby donate my first \$50 in honor of two Colorado pitchers, Bob Champion & Allen Baptist for their personal involvement and self-sacrifice for the game. For each year I have left, I will pledge a \$50 donation in honor of a pitcher I esteem. It's the least I can do for the game that has given me so much joy.

Mark Bergon, Pagosa Springs, CO

World Tournament Prize List for Year 2000

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY				CLASS PLAY			
Men/Women	Sr. M/Elder	Sr. W./Boys	Girls	12	14	16	
1.	\$3,200	\$1,500	\$600	\$600	\$300	\$300	\$300
2.	2,130	1,000	400	400	200	200	200
3.	1,600	750	300	300	150	150	150
4.	1,200	600	280	270	110	120	130
5.	1,000	500	260	230	100	110	120
6.	800	400	240	200	\$860	100	110
7.	650	350	220	\$2,000		\$980	100
8.	550	320	200				\$1,110
9.	450	300	\$2,500				
10.	400	280					
11.	360	260					
12.	320	240					
13.	300	\$6,500					
14.	280						
15.	260						
16.	250						
							\$13,750

Total Purse for all Championship Divisions=\$47,500

All Finalists in Championship Adult Divisions will pay added \$50 fee.

Juniors will have all dollar winnings deposited to a trust fund.

Registration Fees:

Adults \$100.00

Juniors \$25.00

Pitching Schedules will be mailed to all contestants by June 15th to the address you have listed on this form.

ENTRY FORM

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

World Horseshoe Pitching Championships

July 31st - August 12th 2000

Bismarck, North Dakota

Entry Deadline May 18th 2000

NAME (please print) First Last 2000 NHPA Card # (or Canadian)

ADDRESS SS #

CITY ST ZIP Date of Birth

COUNTRY POSTAL CODE

Telephone: Home # Work #

Circle the division you are entering - You can enter only one division (See notes near bottom of page)

OPEN MEN 40' SENIOR MEN 40' OPEN WOMEN ELDERS 30' JUNIOR BOYS JUNIOR GIRLS SENIOR WOMEN

I believe my current average is approx %

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, all officers, employees, agents and servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament

We reserve the right to disallow your participation if we discover errors on this form or if your records don't appear in NatStats, CanStats, or false or misleading information is on this form.

SIGNED DATE

MAIL THIS FORM with REGISTRATION FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA)

TO: NHPA 3085 76th St Franksville WI 53126

Direct Telephone Inquiries to: Dick Hansen NHPA Sect/Treas 262-835-9108

All Entries must be on this form and mailed with a postmark no later than MAY 18th 2000. Entries received with a postmark after May 18th shall be put on a waiting list and pay an additional 20% penalty if later accepted into this event. NATSTATS files must substantiate that you have pitched a minimum of four (4) sanctioned events in the preceding twelve (12) months, at your divisions pitching distance, prior to May 18th 2000, which is the last date NATSTATS will accept results to determine entering averages. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors. Participants will be required to show their 2000 NHPA or CANADIAN membership card when checking in to pitch.

REGISTRATION FEES: ALL ADULTS -- \$100.00 • ALL JUNIORS -- \$25.00 • U.S. FUNDS ONLY CANADIAN ENTRIES USE MONEY ORDERS REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES SCORE KEEPING FEES NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 31, 2000

You may enter at anytime prior to MAY 18th. All averages used will be the average on record in NATSTATS on MAY 18, 2000

READ CAREFULLY: Any adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the OPEN MEN'S DIVISION regardless of age, just as any adult female may enter the OPEN WOMEN'S DIVISION. To enter the SENIOR DIVISION, you must be 60 years or older as of July 30, 2000. Any individual 70 years or older or physically impaired person of any age, all of which must pitch from less than the full distance platform, may enter the ELDERS DIVISION. JUNIOR DIVISION entrants must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2000 calendar year.

INCLUDE a self addressed - stamped envelope if you would like confirmation your entry was received and a copy of your current average. (This will be sent to you by NatStats) The pitching schedule will be finalized by June 1st and will be mailed to the address you have listed above within 15 days.

NHPP CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

by Dave Loucks

Fifty-six contributions totaling \$7,249 have been received and deposited since our last *Newsline* report. It looks as though several people wanted to get something on the board before the year-end, perhaps for tax purposes, while others were moved to contribute by Jack Freeman's open letter to the membership. Whatever the reason, we thank you.

Five more have qualified for a \$500 level personal plate to be put on the plaque of major contributors. **Ken Schulze** of Santa Rosa, CA sent \$500 in December. **Robert Carlson** of Niwot, CO and **Jim & Barbara Culver** of Henderson, KY sent \$500 checks in January. Also reaching the \$500 plateau with checks that added to prior donations were **Charles Jordan** of Kerrville, TX and **Ward Lutz** of Rochester, MN. These latest contributors bring the count to 24 individual plates for donors who have reached or exceeded the \$500 level.

In 1997, total contributions to the NHPP were \$4,430. In 1998 they increased to \$33,145 and in 1999, we reached \$46,452. Already this year through February 7th we have deposited \$5,189. Let's hope that this growing trend continues. You can do your part by mailing a tax-deductible donation now. Send your check to the NHPP, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contributions received in December and January

Donating \$10-40

Robert Power, IL
Lee McCumsey, IL
Raymond Arabright, NC
Wayne Luoma, Sr., OH
Louis Colpitts, KY
Boyd Hageman, NE
Art Moran, MN
Raymond Welsh, OH
Gene Gross, MN
Leroy Law, IA
James Gorth, CA
Luke Braun, CA
Anonymous, UT
Eldon Bryant, IL
James Schneider, MI
Ron & Al Burgess, IA

Robert Yamnicky, CT
Norman Ameling, FL
Marty Dunn, CA
Bud Freeman, MD

Donating \$50-90

Dorothy Falk, MI
James Aleman, MI
Randy Joines, NC
Bob Graham, TX
Bill & Michele Trader, ND

John Wagner, PA
Dean Schmitz, MI
Kenosha H.C., WI
Bob Champion, CO
Vickie Lisco, CO
Milton Vinson, GA
Mark Bergon, CO
Dave Loucks, CA
Lloyd Johnson, WI

Donating \$100

Billie Joe Hall, LA
C. Leo Buell, IA
Harold Darnold, IA

Elmer Vogt, NE
Chenoa H.C., IL (in memory of Don Peters)

Anonymous, NJ
Carl Gutshall, MO
Julius Hamilton, SC
George Anderson, NJ

Donating \$250-300

George Greeott, CA
Mark & Rita Baumann, MN
Ward Lutz, MN
Charles Jordan, TX
Donald Wendler, TX

Donating \$500

Kenneth Schulze, CA
Robert Carlson, CO
Jim & Barbara Culver, KY

Joelton Courts Fees \$2187

642 Individual Contributions plus court fees, banquet tickets and miscellaneous cash donations total \$89,216 deposited through 2/7/00.

How your state ranks in number and dollars contributed

1. Tennessee, 21 for \$18,005	12. Ohio, 43 for \$1,706	24. Nebraska, 9 for \$609	35. Alaska, 1 for \$120
2. California, 69 for \$8,669	13. Florida, 26 for \$1645	25. New York, 8 for \$360	36. New Hampshire, 2 for \$105
3. Georgia, 6 for \$5,360	14. Texas, 11 for \$1,575	26. West Virginia, 9 for \$280	37. North Dakota, 2 for \$105
4. Massachusetts, 5 for \$3,965	15. Kansas, 15 for \$1,442	27. South Carolina 7 for \$235	38. Oklahoma, 3 for \$100
5. Wisconsin, 35 for \$2,775	16. Kentucky, 14 for \$1,300	28. Connecticut, 10 for \$216	39. New Mexico, 1 for \$100
6. Minnesota, 64 for \$2,759	17. Iowa, 14 for \$1,231	29. South Dakota, 7 for \$191	40. Arizona, 3 for \$89
7. Oregon, 23 for \$2,567	18. Washington, 14 for \$1,147	30. Idaho, 4 for \$185	41. Utah, 2 for \$80
8. Colorado, 22 for \$2,496	19. Indiana, 11 for \$985	31. Wyoming, 3 for \$182	42. Virginia, 4 for \$73
9. Missouri, 29 for \$2,395	20. Pennsylvania, 18 for \$852	32. Montana, 2 for \$150	43. Maryland, 2 for \$50
10. North Carolina, 37 for \$2,222	21. Nevada, 6 for \$840	33. Arkansas, 4 for \$135	44. Delaware, 1 for \$7
11. Michigan, 38 for \$1,970	22. Illinois, 25 for \$840	34. Louisiana, 2 for \$125	
	23. New Jersey, 10 for \$715		

REGIONAL DIRECTORS **REPORT**

by Allen Baptist

In my new position as Regional Director Chairman, I have some big shoes to fill following Paul Stewart and Dick Hansen's footsteps. Fortunately, I have a great bunch of Regional Directors to work with which should make for a smooth transition.

I would like to let all of the RDs know that when they send reports to me,—my deadline for *Newsline* is the 1st of every even-numbered month. I would appreciate your reports at least a week before my deadline. I would also like to remind all RDs if there is an addition or cancellation of a tournament in your area, you must notify me, your Charter statistician, and Glenn Jamieson of the changes. Please include the sanction number, date and the name of the tournament.

From the Mail Bag

Don Weaver, Nevada RD reports that Foster Kenton from Hawthorne has accomplished building 16 sanc-

tioned courts, complete with full concrete walkways. Don says Nevada's new plaque program went very well last year. They issued 20 plaques to class winners at a cost of \$600. Don reports that the Nevada membership held steady at 115 members for 1999. The Mesquite Star Hotel and Casino has 16 new-lighted courts in a beautiful setting that already held 2 sanctioned tournaments this past year.

David Spears, Idaho ARD reports that Idaho's membership finished with 128 adults and 4 juniors. The "Dave's Wood Works Open" horseshoe tournament held in Boise was a great success this year, which boasted prize money of \$2,500. Everyone that pitched received some money back. David also reports that they are building new courts in Kellogg and are renovating the existing courts in Coeur d'Alene.

Vey Allen, Washington ARD reports that the Bellingham Club and the Chelan Club both initiated successful

programs to introduce horseshoe pitching to students in their local schools. Terry Hanson and Duane Moller, along with their club members spearheaded this effort. The first ARD Shoot Out horseshoe tournament was held during the Pacific Northwest Championships. The final match came down to Vey Allen outscoring Dave Spears 43 to 34 in a hard fought battle. Elmer Schilperoot of Sunnyside won a \$50.00 cash prize and was awarded a traveling trophy for signing up the most new members into the WSHPA during 1999. Maybe this idea will be used in other Charters to bring in new members!

Myrtle May Kamoku, Hawaii RD reports that their State Doubles Championship's had a total of 22 teams entered. Hawaii's Junior Girl pitcher, Johanna Pantaleon pitched in more sanctioned events than any other Junior Girl in the NHPA. She pitched in 12 events in 1999. Hawaii started the new year with the Y2K Doubles Tournament Opener on Jan 15-16 at the Waianae courts in Oahu. The two-day event drew 20 teams in two groups of ten. The top five teams from each group advanced to a finals round on the 2nd day. When all was said and done, the team of Jesse Colon & Ioane (Keoni) Frias were the champions with an 8-1 record. During the event, Jesse had a very impressive 88% game.

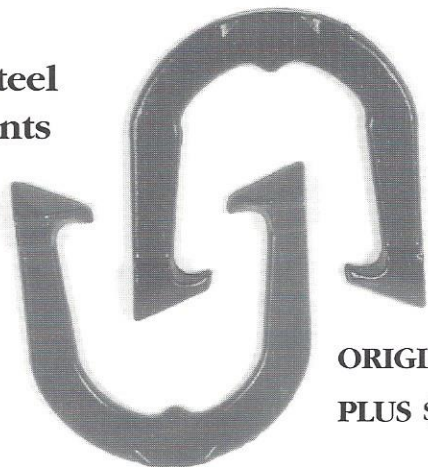
Ricky Bolick, Sr., North Carolina RD reports that attendance in their tournaments for 1999 was very good, with the greatest increase at their State Doubles Championships. September 11, 1999, the Blind Pigs Horseshoe Club officially opened their new horseshoe courts located at the Riverview Park in Wilkesboro. The Mayor of Wilkesboro and several city officials were present for the opening ceremonies.

C. Leo Buell, Iowa RD reports that the city of Mount Pleasant has put 9 new horseshoe courts in their park. He also reports that the city of Dubuque plans to host some sanctioned tournaments in 2000, which will be the first time in a long while, thanks to Mike Fishnick and Verne McGrath. Leo is also planning some NHPF fundraisers this year.

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HALL OF FAME

by Earl Winston

I'm sure there have been some of you horseshoe pitching enthusiasts who have visited the NHPA display at the Iowa State Fair, and have noticed the display of photo plaques of some of our Hall of Fame inductees. This is a project that was started by a former NHPA President—Glen Portt. He distributed those plaques with the request that a photo be placed under the plastic plate and the plaque be kept safe until the time when we would have a place to display them. There was a sticker on the back of the plaque that stated it was the property of the NHPA. During the last several years I have been able to retrieve some of those original plaques and I think now would be a good time to start collecting the others. If anyone reading this article knows the whereabouts of any of those plaques, your help in getting them returned to me will be very much appreciated.

Since the time the photo plaque project was begun, many more names have been added to this distinguished group of individuals. Therefore, I've had additional plaques made that are already engraved with a person's name and their year of induction. What I need now are good photos. Head and shoulder close-ups look very nice. Some people have sent action shots. To keep things as accurate as possible, a photo should be from a time no later than the person's year of induction. (My wife Vicki is still searching for a photo taken in 1970.) We have had some individuals who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame many years after their death. We would like to have a good photo that was taken of them during the years they were active in our sport, if this is possible.

The plastic plate that covers the photo area on the plaque measures 4 1/2" wide by 6 1/2" tall. Try to send a portrait photo near this size. It is my hope that I can display some photo plaques during the World Tournament in Bismark, ND. I probably will not be there the entire two weeks, but if at all possible, I do want to be present several days and especially want to attend the annual convention and the banquet. Plaques or photos

could be delivered to me during that time, if you wish to save postage.

The following is a list of people whose photo, or photo plaque, I need as of this writing. The list starts with the earliest inductees and if anyone can supply any of these photos, your help will be greatly appreciated. If you know you have already sent a photo, please advise and I will dig deeper.

1966—Archie Gregson, CA; Frank Jackson, IA; Fernando Isais, CA; Ray Howard, OH; Arch Stokes, UT.

1967—Guy Zimmerman, CA; Elmer Beller, CA; Putt Mossman, IA.

1968—Casey Jones, WI; C. C. Davis, MO; Harry "Pop" Woodfield, Wash.D.C.

1969—Curt Day, IN; Bob Pence, IN.

1970—Blair Nunamaker, OH; Ellis Cobb, IL.

1971—Jimmy Risk, IN; Laura Lanham, IL; Fred Brust, OH; Leland Mortenson, IA; John Gordon, CA.

1972—George May, OH; Carl Steinfeldt, NY & FL; Ralph Forsstrom, MA.

1973—Frank Stinson, MN.

1974—Harold Reno, OH; Dean McLaughlin, Ont. Can.

1975—Paul Focht, OH; Henry Franke, IL; Katie Gregson, CA.

1976—Dan Kuchinski, IN & PA; Sue Gillespie, IN; Dale Carson, MD.

1977—Bob West, OR; Don Titcomb, CA; Carl von der Lancken, FL; Stanley Manker, OH

1978—Glen Henton, IA

1979—Wally Shipley, CA; Lee Davis, FL; Wilber Kabel, IN; Lorraine Thomas, NY.

1980—Ray Martin, IL; Ralph Maddox, WV; Bernard Herfurth, MA; Ben Leighton, MN

1981—Al Zadroga, PA

1982—Carolyn Schultz Decker, OH; Arthur Headlough, OH; John Paxton, IA; Jim Weeks, CA

1983—Esther James, MI; Emma Focht, OH; Byron Jaskulek, NY; Ray Miller, OH

1984—Mark Seibold, IN; Lee Jacobs, MI

1985—Bonnie Seibold, IN; James Johnson, OH

1986—Donnie Roberts, OH; John Radamacher, FL; Henry Knauff, WA

1987—Jim Knisley, OH

1988—Walter Ray Williams Jr., CA & FL

1989—Phyllis Negaard, MN; Marion Lange, IA

1990—Mayme Francisco, OH; Merlin Potts, KA; Deborah Michaud, MA

1991—Harold Falor, OH; Mildred Brouillette, MN; L. E. Tanner, IL; Jack Claves, MO; Paul Rose, UT; David Loucks, CA

1992—Harry Duncan, CO; Opal Reno, OH & AR; Marines Tamboer, KS; Harvey Clear, CA; Harold Craig, IN; Glen Portt, GA; Ray Ohms, UT

1993—Barry Chapelle, OR; Art Tyson, NY

1994—Tari Powell, IL; Harold Darnold, IA

1995—Kevin Cone, IA; Vincent Yannetti, NJ; Louis Dean, CA; Dale Lipovsky, MN

1996—W. J. Seas, FL; Alan Francis, MO & OH; Lucille Hopkins, IA; Anna Lindquist, WV; Roy W. Smith, CA

1997—Bob Champion, CO; Jim Soloman, PA

1999—Dr. E. C. Beach, NY; Roland Kraft, KS; Walter Ray Williams Sr., CA

Candidates for NHPA Office

DICK HANSEN, SECRETARY/TREASURER

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for re-election to the office of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer. I enjoy the work and especially the interface with the membership. There is still much I hope to accomplish in electronically upgrading reports, membership and

reference files. The challenge remains to curtail our gradual slight decline in membership while finding ways to collect dues and donations through the NHPA website. We have to find ways to build our Junior membership and get more people involved in supporting this great sport and organization. The vision of an NHPA Hall of Fame in

Joelton is becoming clearer but we must become more aggressive in our pursuit of this opportunity. If re-elected, I promise to perform the duties of this office and pursue the goals of the NHPA to the best of my ability. Thank you for your support.

CASEY SLUYS 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

This is my 6th year as your NHPA 2nd Vice-President and chairman of the Rules Committee. It has been a privilege to serve you these past years. We have come a long way with the development of our own website and now our own domain. My name and address is published in various magazines as the contact for information on horseshoes.

Thus far, I have answered over 1,500 requests for rules these past six years. Most come from school children or various civic clubs and organizations. The last couple of years, I've corresponded with individuals in several foreign countries and introduced many to our great game. Great Britain is one who now has a horseshoe pitching association following NHPA rules. Promotion of our sport is a key to the success and growth of the NHPA. The Council members that serve with me are all dedicated to our future and I hope to continue working with them. I would appreciate your support and re-election this year. Thank you.

BONNIE SEIBOLD 4TH VICE PRESIDENT

It has been an honor to serve you as your NHPA 4th Vice-President for several years. I've enjoyed working with the other NHPA officers and carrying out my responsibilities as Insurance administrator, Bylaw change coordinator and chair of the grievance committee. I have always worked for the betterment of the NHPA and its members. The new millennium brings with it many new challenges and opportunities for the NHPA. It would be my privilege to continue serving and your support at the 2000 convention would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



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This past January I attended my first council meeting. I did find out how long these meetings can be but besides that I did learn a lot. It's an opportunity for all the members on the council to bring up some things that pertain to each officer's job. It's a good time to get different ideas and viewpoints. There will be some changes that I am going to make in the Sanctioned League Program in the upcoming future. I will soon be sending out letters to all the sanctioned league directors. It would be beneficial if all league directors would subscribe to *Newsline*. This would save lots of time and money. It is the best way to get information to you.

I have come up with some figures for the 1999 season. After comparing this with 1998 we have dropped in total cl/lgs. This past year we had 219 cl/lgs, with 4 put on hold until this year. There are 9 unreported cl/lg which means no 1999 reports have been submitted. So for 1999 we had 206 active sanctioned club/leagues pitch. The current list of canceled cl/lgs were 16, four of which were Junior leagues. There were 10 new sanctioned cl/lgs formed in 1999. After losing four Junior leagues and one on hold this leaves us with only nine active Junior leagues. The state of Missouri has the most

sanctioned league members, 740.

These were the unreported cl/lgs: 1. S.W. Arkansas, AR., 2. Portneuf Pitchers, ID., 3. Peoria, IL., 4. McGarrey's, IL., 5. Lincoln Park, MI., 6. Scottsbluff, NE., 7. All American, TN., 8. Ruther Glen, VA., 9. West St. Paul JR. Lg., MN.

If you are on this list please contact me.

I would like to emphasize that all league directors check NHPA cards to make sure all members have a current card for the year 2000. There has been some problems in the past with pitchers not holding current NHPA cards. In order to pitch on a sanctioned club or league you must be a NHPA member.

Please submit to me, any articles you may have from your club or league. I would be happy to see that it gets published. Those of you who have started your leagues already for the 2000 season have a good year. Lets try and make this year the year we increase our membership rather than decrease it.

Virginia, Branson Miller is stepping down, so to be able to focus his full attention on his schooling. He is currently attending Shenandoah University in Virginia, pursuing a career as a lawyer.

During the time Branson was the director, he held the first full league for Winchester, which was a total of 48 members in one night. While many have been members for some years, the club continues to grow with new people. They are all very dedicated members helping out at every tournament. The club is currently raising money and support of the park to rebuild some of the courts.

Branson, continues to promote horseshoes in the community. One way he has done this, is by teaching classes at the high school that he had attended. He has also been on TV promoting the sport.

This year Branson will pitch for the first time in the Men's Division at the World Tournament. Branson would like to thank everyone who has supported him during his Junior years. I am sure the Winchester Club is very proud to have Branson as a member of their club.

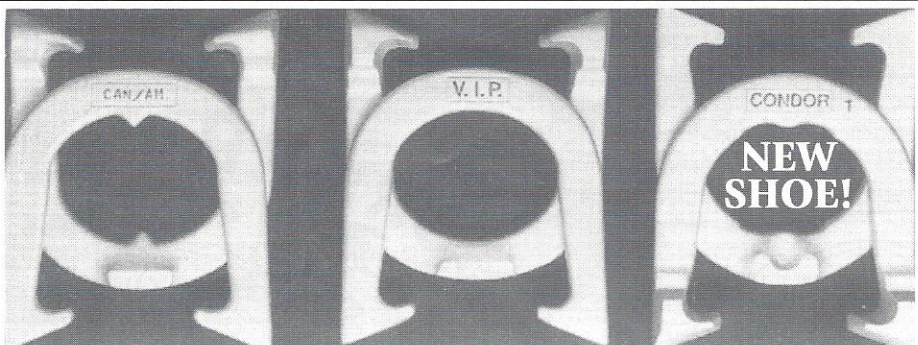
NEWS RELEASE

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If you haven't visited the NHPA Online and NHPA Publicity pages in the last few days, then you have missed changes and additions to the website. We are continuously making changes and adding new information daily to keep you current on anything and everything you ever wanted to know about horseshoe pitching.

We have added a new link on the front page (NHPF what is it?). This takes you to NHPF articles and provides you with a printable form with which you can mail your donations to the NHPF. Some day in the near future we hope to have a secure online form where you can make donations to the NHPF directly over the internet with your credit card. We now have several Charters set up where you can join the NHPA and your Charter online from your computer (see more on online

registration in the Publicity Corner article in this issue). I realize some of you are reluctant to use your credit card on the Internet. However, with the secure servers and forms, this is becoming the way of the future for doing business. I heard the other day that this is how most of us will be voting in Presidential elections in the future. So get aboard before you're left behind.

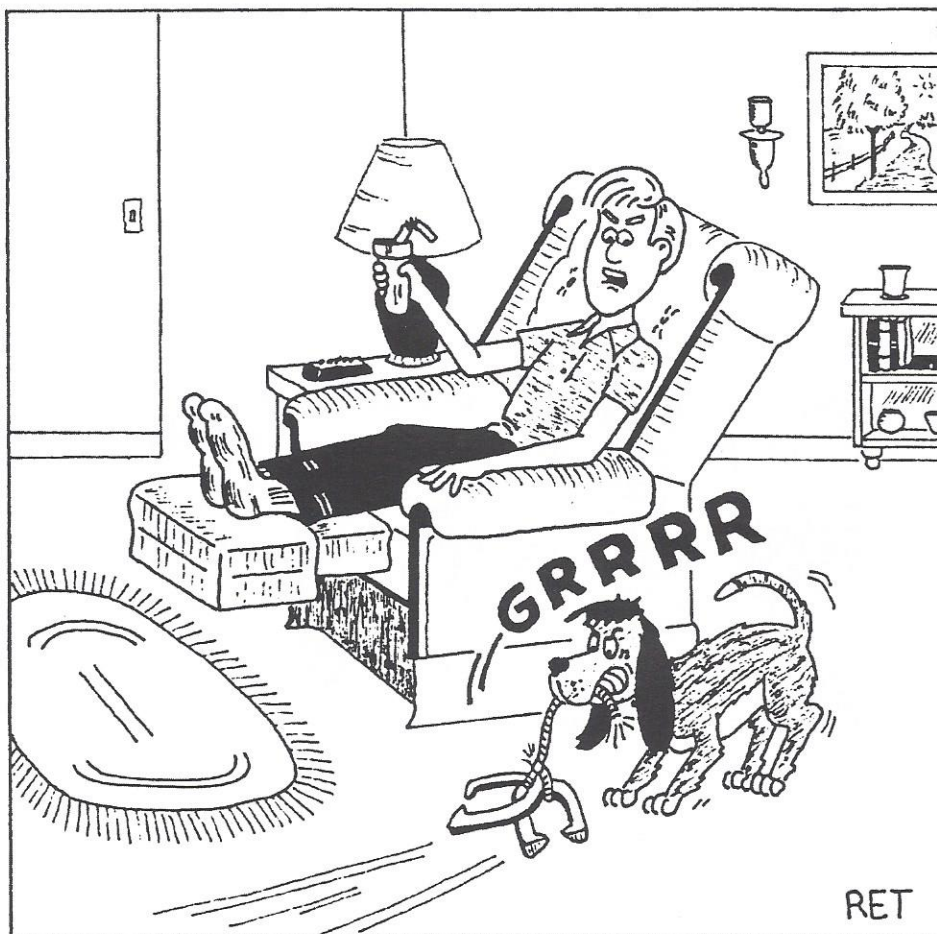
The Hall of Fame pages have had changes made in the past month. We have added pictures for most of the Hall of Fame members. Out of the 127 members in the Hall of Fame, we have managed to come up with 100 member pictures. Most were scanned out of past *Newslines*, *The Official NHPA History of the World Tournament 1909-1980* by Gary Kline, and several of Ottie Reno's books on horseshoes. Some of the pictures are not of the quality we would

like to see and some are from the older days past. I can't believe some of the members were ever this young! If you have a picture of someone we are missing, or one that is of a better quality, or is more current of a member, and you are willing to allow us to scan and return it to you, we will appreciate it very much. My mailing address is listed in the Officers section on page 3.

The *Newsline* link and related pages are another place where we have made changes. Now you can see the current cover and contents listing of *Newsline* and excerpts from several articles in the current issue by clicking on the cover of *Newsline*. You can also subscribe to *Newsline* or renew your subscription by filling out the form or printing out a form located here and mailing your check to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. Again, in the near future we are planning to have a secure form for your convenience, so you can renew or subscribe to *Newsline* and pay by credit card over the Internet from your computer.

Hey! Want to talk instead of typing on a chat program? You can do this at no added cost to your phone bill by using the new "Hear Me" chat program with which we are experimenting. You can find the link to this feature on the front page of the website. All you need to do is download the program, and have a microphone plugged to the proper jack to your sound card on your computer and have the microphone enabled. Help and instructions are listed on the program. If you don't have a microphone or just don't care to talk, you can listen to others talk or use the text chat portion that is part of this program. Go check it out. We plan to have several pre-planned subjects for discussion on the "Hear Me" chat program in the future. We will post a message in the Message Post when we are planning one of these experimental discussions. Come join us, it's lots of fun. Plus, you might learn something you never knew about something or someone in horseshoes!!

Remember, if you don't check the NHPA Website often, you will miss new and cool happenings in horseshoe pitching.



"NO! NO! I SAID HOUSESHOES,
NOT HORSESHOES"

THE JUNIOR WINDOW

Former Juniors At Work

by Lorraine Sternberg

How often have we said, "I wonder what some of our past Juniors are up to. Do they still pitch horseshoes, or better yet, are they doing anything to help promote our sport?" Yes, there are lots that have left the game after their Junior years, but then you find that later in life they return. One thing about horseshoes—it's always a game you can come back to.

I did find a few that are doing promotion work along with pitching.

Jessica Dunn, from Minnesota, is a past Junior who now runs the Brooklyn Park Junior League. She is the Sanctioned League Director for this league. Jessica is also the tournament director for the Junior Only Tournament held in Minnesota every year. She is one director that will take the time it takes to fill out all the forms to submit Juniors that qualify for the Junior Scholar Pitchers Awards. This year, Jessica submitted four Juniors from the Brooklyn Park Junior League for this award.

Jessica, along with her dad Bob Dunn, have always been great promotion people for horseshoes. They are one reason why Minnesota has the largest Junior membership.

Branson Miller, from Virginia is another great example of a Junior working for horseshoes. Branson won the Boys' World Title in 1998 and 1999. This past season was his last year as a Junior pitcher. He has been the Sanctioned League Director for the Winchester Horseshoe Club for the past two years overseeing some 50 pitchers.

Branson has always been a great spokesperson for the Juniors. When talking to him after the World Tournament in Ohio, he said he will continue to speak up for the Juniors and help promote horseshoe pitching. We hope to see Branson in North

Dakota this year as an adult pitcher.

Steve Morris of Pennsylvania is yet another former Junior pitcher who continues to stay involved. Steve, like Branson, with whom he had many a battle, has just advanced to the Open Men's division. He will soon be starting an extensive program in a computer technical school that will probably prevent him from appearing in Bismarck. However, Steve is already a computer whiz and acts as the Western PA statistician, webmaster for the WPHPA history website and edits the WPHPA weekly newsletter. He will continue all these tasks, plus act as club tournament director while attending DCI Career Institute.

From my own state of Wisconsin, we have Heidi Sternberg, former Girls' World Champion in 1994. She has

recently taken it upon herself to put together the Wisconsin website. She spent countless hours of her time putting this together for our state. She continues to update it every month.

Although Heidi has been away from pitching horseshoes for a few years, it has not stopped her love for the sport. She has now resumed pitching.

I would like to thank these former Juniors for their dedication and continued support of horseshoes. We will need many more young people like these, to continue the work of horseshoes for the future of our sport.

If you have an outstanding Junior you would like me to write about please contact me.

Let's all try to promote our sport just a little extra this year, and take on one of those jobs.

1998-1999 Junior Scholarship Awards

At the council meeting this past January, the Scholarship Award recipients were selected from the Junior Sanctioned Club/League pitchers who qualified.

First of all I would like to apologize for overlooking one of the Junior Scholar Pitchers that wasn't listed in the Jan.-Feb. issue. Thomas Bigelow, from Loon Pond, MA., age 14, pitching 2700 shoes with a ringer percentage of 10.11%. Thomas had a GPA of 3.50.

The four Juniors that were awarded scholarships are Molly Koppes from Brooklyn Park, MN. receiving the top scholarship of \$300 with a GPA of

4.07. Jenae Arledge, from Arledge's, OH. with a GPA of 3.91 received a scholarship of \$250. Two \$200 scholarships were awarded—one to Margaret Koppes of Brooklyn Park, MN., GPA of 3.53 and the other to Thomas Bigelow of Loon Pond, MA., GPA of 3.50.

**Congratulations to
Molly Koppes
Jenae Arledge
Margaret Koppes
Thomas Bigelow**

Tips From A "Man on the Street"

by Bob Dunn

Several years ago, a popular TV show featured a series of "The Man On The Street" interviews. While that show was a comedy, the concept of basic interviewing folks on the street could be beneficial to our purpose by gaining perspective from outside our organization. It could be beneficial to gain insight from the general public and hopefully ideas on how to deal with current promotion issues.

Some interviewing was begun and as luck would have it, an old retired professor was more than willing to participate. Here's how that conversation went...

Q. Professor, the NHPA members are working to recruit new members, but are struggling as far as success. In fact, over recent years, our membership has been on a gradual declining pattern. Why is it happening like that?

A. Well, I know your sport has been around for a long time, but I have never heard of the NHPA before. In fact, I remember when horseshoe pitching was becoming popular in the 1920s. There were fewer other sports then—baseball, some golf and some-

thing called kittenball. A lot of other sports have developed since then and many of them are now major interests in the world of sports and in public appeal. That is the crux of the issue.

Well I agree, but what does that have to do with our present problems?

Do you realize that your sport has always associated with the older segment of the population? At least that is the public's conception. For a long time, horseshoe pitching was known as barnyard golf. The sport also has a public image of something that retired men do in the park on summer evenings. The sport, and I guess the NHPA you talk about, has never truly achieved associating with the youth of America. Look at all the sports that are in our school systems.

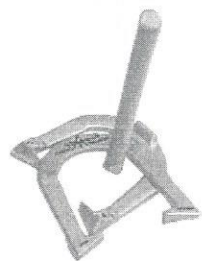
Do you think that just happened by chance? Somebody made decisions and people did things to get those sports into the school systems and none of it was by mere circumstance. Young fellow, your NHPA can be around another 80 years and there will be little change or improvement until the younger portion of the

nation's population knows of your sport and has had some exposure of it.

This certainly makes sense, but what in the world would be the first step? There would have to be major considerations to see our sport of horseshoe pitching become part of the school system and the physical education programs with all those other activities available and already in place. I have to agree, we are not part of a glamorous sport in the eyes and minds of the public, especially the young ones.

Horseshoe pitching is very economical in comparison to most of the other sports, and requires a far less expensive venue than nearly all the other activities. That is critically important in today's downsizing philosophy and budget-squeezing times. Every town with a horseshoe league that holds a tournament, has a mayor, and a school superintendent, school manager, or principal. These people are decision-makers! How many of those mayors have been invited to throw out the first shoe of a tournament to give a bit of ceremony to the event. How many of the superintendents have been invited to play a pro/am type game against the league hot shot or top junior pitcher.

While these figure-heads are on the courts, the sport spokespersons could describe the economics of the sport and the support the local club could provide in helping introduce the students to horseshoe pitching. Possibly the local courts could be available to the school programs. The school officials could be pleased to know there are Junior League Programs through the NHPA. Remember the superintendent and the school board are ultimately responsible to balance the annual budget. Your sport could be an assist to their cause. You know all those legislative people running around. They work with all the state tax funding to the public school system. I wonder how many have been invited to a tournament to throw out the first shoe. They love that stuff.



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PROMOTION PROFILE

For a number of years this series of articles has concluded with a bit of our association's history. The history experts have been from a long time ago, mostly in our sport's infancy. This feature has been well-received all along and so a new series is beginning. The information is coming from a 1940 booklet titled "Horseshoe Compendium," published by the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association and authored by then NHPA Secretary Lee Rose of Detroit, Michigan. There is fascinating information to be presented.

While the book was written 60 years ago, it is still recent enough that many of the personnel involved are familiar to present members. Certainly more names than in the earlier history reports. Even though the book was published more recently than the earlier history works, not all states were accounted for—only those who responded to the request for information and took the initiative to provide the information. This issue will see how the sport was reported by the charters in South Dakota and Utah. Hopefully all will enjoy taking a look back to how it was in 1940.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The present state association of South Dakota was organized in 1937, having been affiliated with the national association since that time. The president is Lee Washburn, of 402 Lawyer St., Lead, and the secretary/treasurer is L.O. Rigney, of Deadwood, Box 436. George Paulson, of Rapid City, won the state tournament in 1937. Leigh Dunker took the title in two previous years.

The South Dakota Association has been growing steadily since its formation and boasts that it will soon outstrip other more thickly-populated states in the matter of membership.

UTAH

Horseshoe pitching started in Utah in 1925, and the game flourished until the zenith was reached in 1932. From then until a couple of years ago the game waned, but now amateur pitching has taken a hold, and it is estimated that besides the professionals, there are 3,000 amateur pitchers in the

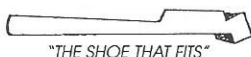
state. This is altogether a healthy state of affairs, for these players will eventually join the national association and we may find Utah our leading state in a few years.

The Utah Association is a member of the NHPA and is working hard to

promote the game.

There is a movement on foot to organize the students, both men and women, at the University of Utah. E.W. Wahlin, of Magna, is president, and C.M. Wilson, of Salt Lake City, is secretary/treasurer.

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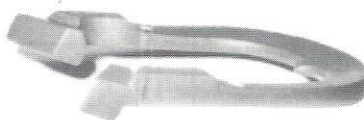
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THE MR. D. SHOE HAS EXTRA, EXTRA HEAVY HEALS
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THE TOE OF THE MR. D SHOE IS SMOOTH WITH A
GOOD SLANT ON THE TOP SIDE FOR AN EASY GRIP
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THE CALK ON THE BOTTOM OF THE MR. D SHOE
WILL INTERLOCK ONTO THE TOP OF THE FIRST
SHOE PITCHED, TO HELP PREVENT THE SECOND
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ARE YOU TIRED OF FLIPPING A SHOE THAT IS DESIGNED TO BE TURNED?

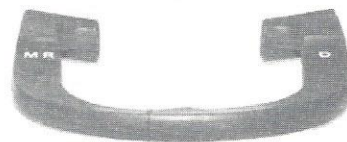
The edges of the Mr. D. Shoe are not round like they are on other shoes. The extra, extra heavy heels tend to keep the heels down as the shoe rings the stake, giving the square edges, and the calks on the bottom of the heels a better chance to grab the pit surface, or the other shoes on the stake, to prevent the shoe from turning around. This will lessen the chance of it being knocked off the stake.

An ideal flip has the shoe coming to the stake as it has just leveled out. Sometimes our aim is off just enough that the point, or heel, of the shoe will hit the stake as the shoe comes in. The points of the heel of the Mr. D. Shoe are at a slant, so that the first part of the shoe to hit the stake is on a plane with the bottom of the shoe. This forces the point of the shoe down, therefore; the extra, extra heavy heels on the Mr. D. Shoe will force the calks on the bottom of the shoe into the pit. The "dead soft" rating then entices the shoe to drop next to the stake for a point.

Because the heel of the Mr. D. Shoe is so heavy, sometimes the heel that doesn't hit the stake will jerk around the rear of the stake. This causes the other heel, that is now holding onto the pit surface, to hook the stake for a ringer as the shoe turns around the stake.

Shoes with hardened points, that hit the stake in this manner when flipped, have a tendency to jump away from the stake and spin to the rear, out of scoring range.

Shoes with blunt points, or shoes flipped with the slope of the heels going up, makes the top plane of the shoe to be the first part of the heel to hit the stake. This, more apt than not, will cause the shoe to flip over backwards and come to rest several inches from the stake - a lot of times out of scoring range.



Why Not A Horseshoe Course?

by Tim Bayerl

Horseshoe is played on a court with two stakes. When pitching "singles" a player must walk back and forth. I've even overheard Don Larson (Evansville, MN) greet an old friend saying, "I see you're still walking back and forth." The two stake court works well, but for variety, I'm wondering why not a horseshoe course?

A horseshoe course would be like a golf course where you move forward around the course. There may be some in existence—but not that I know of. I imagine a typical course would consist of 25 stakes spaced 40 feet apart, that would loop back on itself so you finish where you started. The course would be 1,000 feet in length and provide for a 50 shoe game. The course would need to be fairly level with not more than 6 inches rise or fall between stakes. The course direction could turn from station to station. Each stake would be leaning toward the position from which a player threw, but the pit and runways could be turned to allow the course to head off in a new direction toward the next stake.

A course with 25 stakes would be equivalent to 12-1/2 courts. The course would allow for league or tournament play. Two players would start, and once they are two or three stations down the course, the next two players could start, and so on. Players could carry their own score sheet. The

concept would slow down tournaments somewhat for two reasons. First, players could not move along faster than those ahead of them. Second, between games, players in an eight person class would have to wait for all to finish before starting the next game. The wait would only be several minutes (about 12 to 20 shoes).

I see the course concept as having two advantages over the typical court. First, I believe moving forward around a course would be more fun. Second, and maybe more important, I think this concept would make the sport more exciting for spectators. Instead of being able to only watch one or two games at a time, and many times only from a distance in larger tournament formats, fans could sit on bleachers at the course end (as well as other locations) and see the last 4 shoes or so of each game. As players came to the end, a scorekeeper could take the score sheet from the players and display it on a scoreboard for the last 4 shoes of every game.

I am interested in comments (pro or con) about this idea. Also, does anyone know of any existing horseshoe course?

Tim Bayerl
9083 State Hwy. 114SW, Alexandria, MN 56308



The **Score/Hook** is designed to serve as a pick-up stick and scorekeeper. It will record: points, ringers, double ringers, and shoes pitched for both you and your opponent. It can be conveniently carried all the time.

The **Score/Hook** is 27 inches long, has a diameter of 2 inches and weighs just a pound. The handle is adjustable to fit your hand. There are six color coded rows of beads to record the scoring.

The **Score/Hook** is priced at \$34.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. For more information contact

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SHOEBITS

by Maynard

COLORADO

Welcome to new RD, Don Conklin, taking the place of Allen Baptist, who is the new NHPA 1st V.P. An estimated 99% of Colorado pitchers wear name shirts at all tournaments they attend. *Double Ringer* editor, Bob Champion says the reason the NHPA is not growing by leaps & bounds is the fact that charter and club officers and tournament directors are not making the initial effort to contact newspapers in their communities. The new NHPA Publicity Director says, "Just Do Something" and Bob believes this is where you begin. "Just Do It."

FLORIDA

NHPA Publicity Director Billie Sue Pennington has been working to set up a system whereby members will be able to register and pay with a credit card via the Internet for the State Tournament. Next on the agenda is online payment of State & National dues.

HAWAII

President Jack Frias with son Keoni and secretary Warren Visser helped to coordinate a tournament for the Navy at Pearl Harbor. Admiral Cheryl Camp, who requested the event, was well pleased with its success and plans to make it a quarterly event. Jack and his wife Dolores were able to visit the office of former Admiral Nimitz and view the memorabilia of his horse-shoe pitching days.

INDIANA

This charter can already boast having 21 new paid members for year 2000 and it's still January. Way to go! At their State Tournament, 30' & 40' pitchers are mixed except for the championship classes. Seems to work okay. This writer is curious. What is the Indiana World Tournament Fund? The NHPF is \$500 richer for it and I wonder if it's something that could help other charters.

IOWA

Efforts are underway to survey possible major improvements to the horseshoe pitching facilities at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. The Iowa HPA Executive Board

requested that a committee look into the feasibility of constructing an open sided building that would cover the 20 courts and bleacher area. Estimated costs are near \$100K and would probably have to be carried by the IHHPA. They are now trying to determine how much money could be raised.

Harold & Lois Garner were the 1999 recipients of the Frank Jackson Award. John Brown received the Distinguished Service Award. Russ Martin was inducted into the IHHPA Hall of Fame for his promotion efforts. Chuck & Maxine Cross were presented with the President's Award for their many years of service.

KANSAS

Roger Potts reports that his dad Merlin, an NHPA Hall of Fame pitcher, had hip replacement surgery in November and is now doing fine. Merlin missed most of the 1999 season due to back surgery early in the year but expects to be back this year in good pitching condition.

KENTUCKY

Mt. Sterling has 12 new courts (laser leveled) with chain link fence all around thanks to Walker Construction who did the work at no charge with the Dept. of Parks & Recreation. New KHPA president Gwen Sharp has been working on a website for the charter and invites all to check it out.

LOUISIANA

The Bayou HPA recently held their 2nd annual Awards Banquet with top honors going to Linda Dodson as she was selected as 1999 Player of the Year.

MINNESOTA

Congratulations!! Last but certainly not least, the MGSHPA voted to become a one-card charter after years of having a second card for state members only. They expect major NHPA membership growth and hope to overtake Missouri as the largest charter. With the 2001 W.T. being held in Hibbing, it's a great incentive for all the previous state only members to join the NHPA.

TENNESSEE

Joan Elmore was crowned the 1999

Pitcher of the Year. March 16th will mark the ten-year anniversary of the 10 original Jack Freeman courts in Joelton. Jack, who pitched his first sanctioned tournament in 1988, was inducted into the THPA Hall of Fame. Don't forget the 3rd annual May Music City Team Tournament. There is room for up to 48 teams. Entry deadline is April 15th.

WASHINGTON

Phyllis Quist is the new WSHPA president. Carolyn Ferguson was inducted into the charter Hall of Fame because of her dedication and work for the sport. Also inducted (posthumously) were Prescott Kauffman and Ken Elvig. This charter is a big promoter of junior pitchers and offers opportunities to those who wish to continue their education. Contact Carol or Art Sperber for info by e-mailing ringer@tscnet.com. or phone 360-692-9315.

WEST VIRGINIA

Although Rick Cale did not win the '99 State Championship, he came out a winner by being inducted into the Hall of Fame along with Barbara Setliff. Jack "Hardrock" Bunner of Marion County passed away December 9 just 23 days short of his goal to live in 3 different centuries. Hardrock, 100 years old, was born 2/5/1899. Although not an NHPA member, he supported the game by providing funds to build courts, sponsored trophies, donated cash prizes and purchased advertising for tournaments held in Fairmont. He was considered an institution in Marion County for his involvement in all phases of the community.

WISCONSIN

Lorraine Sternberg leads the Wisconsin Ladies with a year-end high average of 73.5%. Randy Rein tops the Men with 73.37% while Clayton Gage heads the Elder group with 78.98%. Dustin Dahl is the top Junior Boy with 68.31% while Nicole Riehle heads the girls with 28.41%. March 25 is the date of the 2nd annual border battle with Minnesota pitchers. Wisconsin won BB1.

THE HORSESHOE TRADER

The Shoes That Sears Sold

by Bob Dunn

Research of early-day shoes far too often runs into dead ends. There are few sources to refer to. Then sometimes there is a wealth of information if one just keeps digging. Such is the case in the Sears & Roebuck Company. Finding one old Sears catalog (circa 1935) with an ad for pitching shoes, fueled the hunt for "The Shoes That Sears Sold."

Initially the hunt seemed to be an endless search for old catalogs in libraries and antique shops. Enough information was found, though, to be incentive to continue. After a couple of years, a major breakthrough occurred to complete the project. A number of contacts to the home office in Chicago found that a complete set of Sears catalogs on micro-film were archived at the University of Minnesota Farm Campus library. Good grief, almost in my own back yard.

After three weeks of going through film and making print-outs, there was a tremendous story to be told. So much of the history and transformation of pitching shoes was tracked by the picture ads. There were even shoes advertised and sold, which are not listed or even mentioned in any other publication. In other words, if it was not for the copies of old Sears catalogs, there are several early-day models of pitching shoes that we would have no knowledge of.

The first commercially manufactured pitching shoes appeared in 1921—by 1923 Sears & Roebuck was into the sport of horseshoe pitching. In the first ad, a pictured ad, regulation pitching horseshoes sold for \$1.25 a pair. The shoes were hookless, of course, and pairs were #1s or #2s. The first shoes were also brandless, but other research has identified that the Chicago Steel Foundry Company manufactured the shoes. These shoes were unique by the oval shape of the blade and since have been nicknamed "Ovals." There has been no other hookless shoe that copied that uniqueness.

The same shoe was advertised in 1924 and the price increased to \$1.45 a pair, but in 1925 and 1926 they were offered and sold for 98¢. In 1927, the shoes were still manufactured by the Chicago Steel Foundry but finally carried the brand name of Sears & Roebuck and another price decrease as the shoes sold for 89¢.

1928 brought some changes. The same "Ovals" were offered for 98¢, but the National Standard shoes, designed by George May, were also being sold through the catalog. The National Standard shoes listed for \$2.10. In addition, junior sized "Ovals" were advertised and they sold for 79¢. The junior models weighted 1-1/4 pounds but had a much

smaller size than later date junior shoes that maintained the official dimensions for regulation shoes. 1928 is the only year that the junior models were advertised and may explain why the shoes are so difficult to collect.

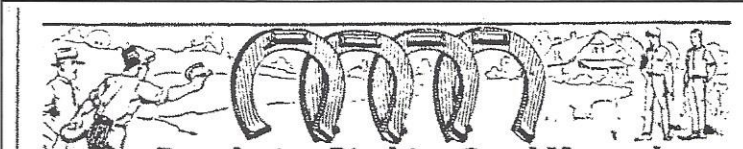
There was no change in 1929, other than a slight price reduction. The National Standard brand shoes now sold for \$1.98 and the "Ovals" were priced at 87¢. The fluctuation in prices no doubt was a determination of the commercial minds of Sears. What the determining factor was is a real question. Were the reductions an incentive for increased sales, or allowed due to already good sales and the lower costs could still maintain desired profit levels? We can assume sales were good for "Ovals," as they are readily found today by collectors, even though all were manufactured over 60 years ago.

A new shoe was offered in 1930, still of the hookless design. Rather than selling National Standard, a new brand was listed, called the President. Only two are known in collection, so needless to say the President is a rare shoe and would be virtually unknown if it were not for these pictured ads of the Sears catalogs. This shoe was listed for just three years, through 1932, and sold for \$1.39 a pair. The "Oval" shoes also continued for sale during this period, for 98¢ a pair.

1933 brought forward a revelation in pitching shoes, a shoe with hooks. While the hookless "Oval" was still offered, the Eagle Ringer by Diamond Horseshoe Company of Duluth, Minnesota was introduced for a price of \$1.59 a pair. The Eagle Ringer was the first model designed with a full-sized hook as we are familiar with today. There were a few other shoes with hooks in 1933, but none had yet advanced to the style of the Eagle. They still had smaller hooks, more of a picnic shoe design.

1934 was the final year the "Oval" shoe was offered. The shoes had been sold by Sears for ten years and probably with very successful sales which explains why today the "Oval" is readily found by collectors. With the development of the hooked style shoe, hookless shoes certainly were becoming

obsolete. Yet Sears listed a different hookless shoe in 1935—the Leader. Leader had been originally made by Octigan, which was purchased by the St. Pierre Chain Company of Worchester, Massachusetts. The Leader shoe was a two-pound shoe featured for youth and lady pitchers. Also in 1935, the Eagle Ringer was replaced by a new shoe—J.C. Higgins, which actu-



Regulation Pitching Steel Horseshoes.
Guaranteed Not to Break or Splinter.
Made of drop forged steel, heat treated, unbreakable, regulation weight and size. One pair stamped number 1, painted blue color, and the other pair stamped number 2, painted red color, so that each pair can be easily distinguished. A set of official rules included with each pair. Shipping wt., 6 lbs.

6R5967—Blue shoes, number 1. Per pair.....	\$1.45
6R5968—Red shoes, number 2. Per pair.....	1.45
6R5969—Regulation size steel stakes. Shipping weight, 12 pounds. Per pair	1.25

ally was of a lesser design and is still referred to as a picnic shoe.

The same Leader and J.C. Higgins shoes were offered in 1936 and 1937. Leaders cost 98¢ for four shoes, and the J.C. Higgins sold for \$1.39. In 1938, an interesting change—Sears added Gordon Spin-On shoes to their line of pitching shoes, but only for that year. A pitcher could buy a pair of Gordon shoes for \$1.85 in 1938.

T.J. Octigan shoes, a St. Pierre Product, were introduced in 1939. A set of four sold for \$3.39 as compared to \$4.79 for a J.C. Higgins outfit (the term used to describe a set of pitching shoe including stakes). Prices were noticeably increasing.

In 1940, the Gordon Spin-On was back in the catalog, replacing the T.J. Octigan. But in 1941, The Octigans were back on sale as well as J.C. Higgins shoes and the hookless Leader shoes, which were also offered in 1939 and 1940. Leaders were still available for 99¢.

There was no change in 1942, but the year is noteworthy for it was the last year pitching shoes were sold for the period of World War II. During the war, there was such a demand for steel for the war effort, products as horseshoes were banned from manufacturing. In fact, there were ads to bring iron items in for smelting. Those ads listed various items, including horseshoes. Just imagine all the jewels of horseshoe collecting that might be still available, but were sacrificed for the cause of World War II.

Sears began selling pitching shoes again in 1946, with J.C. Higgins being the sole model advertised. An outfit cost \$4.59 or a set of four shoes cost \$3.29. In 1947, the hookless Leader shoes were offered for the last time. The price of 98¢ for four shoes may explain why Leader shoes are so readily available to collectors. Gordon's were also sold for \$1.85 a pair or \$3.45 for a set.

T.J. Octigan replaced Gordon's in 1948 and were offered along with The J.C. Higgins shoes. Why Octigan and Gordon shoes were alternated so many times, must simply be the price breaks Sears could negotiate from year to year. A few pennies difference in price would determine which brand was offered in a given year.

During the 1950s, the prices certainly increased, and the line of shoe drifted away from the tournament models to what we recognize as picnic shoe. Sears could buy the lesser models cheaper and still maintain sales volumes to the general public. This did set up more opportunities for our shoe collectors, for it brought more different models into production. Some have turned out to be rather uncommon to find, if not rare. The J.C. Higgins was, for the most part, the lead brand, but the shoe was modified in design. The unusual length-wise heel calk was replaced with a traditional crosswise calk. Picnic specials were also advertised. The most common was a set of Royals (by St. Pierre) selling for \$3.89. The J.C. Higgins outfits sold for \$6.39. Previously all outfits had been sold in wooden boxes. In the 1950s the packaging was in cardboard boxes. Those wooden boxes are prized finds for collectors.

In the 60s, a novel set entered the Sears line—Nighttime Horseshoe Sets. Caskel Manufacturing (a Minneapolis company) designed a cheap picnic shoe that was painted with fluorescent paint for a glow-in-the-dark effect. Those sets sold for \$7.49. Few have been found, but when found with original paint, they are so ugly they are beautiful. One other significant change in the 60s—Higgins shoes were replaced

by a line of picnic shoe bearing the Sears brand name. So, when you find those Sears shoes, they certainly are collectibles, but may not be as old as you think. Today, a set of Sears shoes can be found for around \$12.00. If you bought a set out of the Sears catalog in 1965, just \$6.75.

Here is the tale of "The Shoes That Sears Sold." While Sears & Roebuck were involved merely for sale and profits, they did make a major contribution to our sport. In the initial years, a major portion of the general public was made aware of the advancement of our sport and that there were official pitching shoes available. There are many shoes available to collectors today because of the impact to American consumers by the Sears catalog and "The Shoes That Sears Sold."



TRADER JOTTINGS

■ More and more collections are being shared in showy displays at tournaments and other events. Here is a picture of a fine display by Jeff Gaston, Irving, Texas. Jeff is flanked by a couple of pitchers enjoying the interesting display at a recent tournament in Arlington, Texas. In the smaller picture, note the old-fashioned shoe box that Jeff has added to his collection of shoes. This particular box is by the Phoenix Shoes.



■ Just imagine the display that can be presented to the public when our NHPA Hall of Fame museum is completed. A display of pitching shoes is just a portion of the artifacts that will be on display, telling the story of the history of our sport. Your donations to the NHPF are needed to complete the project.

■ A big thank you to Stan Towne (Middleburgh, NY), for donating a beautiful pair of old rare shoes. The shoes bear the manufacturer's name Frazer & Jones Company, believed to be a New York company. These old hookless shoes could have easily been included in any of the "Rare Ones" articles, if there had been any knowledge that such a shoe existed. Receiving the shoes was the first ever known of the shoe. This shoe will be on display in the NHPA collection as soon as construction is completed. One will be part of my display in Bismarck at the World Tournament 2000. Thank you, Stan.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO **BYLAWS**

The following proposals submitted by members to the Council were deemed appropriate and with sufficient merit to consider discussion and vote by the delegates. A few proposals of very similar wording were combined with recomposed text for clarity.

1. ARTICLE III, SECTION 3

Change the dues amount from \$12 to \$22 and add a sentence saying *\$10 of which will be set-aside for the NHPF.*

Reason: To help support the NHPF

2. ARTICLE III, SECTION 7

Change first sentence to read: A membership card must be issued by the charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by *filing of Federal & State Tax Returns, voting and/or drivers license laws.*

Reason: To take care of the Snow Bird situation.

3. ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, (A.4)

Change to read: Assign or change specific duties of other officers.

Reason: Wording

4. ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, (A.7)

Change to read: *develop, revise and maintain NHPA Contracts, Standing Rules, Operating Procedures, and Travel Guidelines.*

Reason: Better and shorter wording

5. ARTICLE V, SECTION 3,

Change Header and description to read: TIME & EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT. *Individuals mentioned below shall receive a stipend to defray the expenses of using their home, utilities and equipment in serving certain elected and appointed NHPA positions known to require a great deal of personal time. Extraordinary expenses as outlined in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are exempt.*

(a) **Change first two lines to read:** *The NHPA Secretary-Treasurer shall receive \$12,000 plus 50.*

(d) **Change to read:** the NHPA Newsline Editor and NatStats Director shall each receive 20% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

(e) **Change to read:** The NHPA Publicity and Website Directors shall each receive 5% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

(f) **Add** after the word member, *reported as playing.*

(h) **Change to read:** *The NHPA National Promotion Director shall receive \$300 while specialized subordinate directors shall receive \$150 annually.*

Reason: To clarify wording for IRS purposes and add newly assigned positions.

6. ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

Add the word *adult* between the words "per" and "NHPA"

Reason: This will make the Bylaws correspond to Article VI, Section 1 of Guidelines For RDs & ARDs.

7. ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1

Change last line to read: Statistics and *Website.*

8. ARTICLE VII, SECTION 12

Add the following: *All sanctioned Club/League results shall be reported to the designated NHPA Club/League Director, promptly at the conclusion of any league, who will then forward results on to the NatStat Director.*

Reason: Nowhere does it say that leagues are to be reported and entered into NatStats.

9. ARTICLE X, SECTION 8

Change to read: All United States adult entrants to the World Tournament must have completed at least *ten (10)* NHPA sanctioned events at their division pitching distance in the twelve months preceding the cut-off date listed on the current World Tournament entry form.

Reason: Too many players pitch in limited sanctioned events just to keep their average low for W.T. entry but pitch much higher in non-sanctioned events. They are cheating just to increase their chances of winning at the World.

10. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 1

Change to read: All NHPA *Events* shall be sanctioned and All *Tournament Directors* shall hold current NHPA membership and be in accord with the published guidelines and/or directives of the NHPA .

Reason: If a person is a tournament director for an NHPA sanctioned event, he should be obliged to be an NHPA cardholder.

11. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3

Change to read: A *pitcher's ringer percentage* is computed by using the total ringers divided by the total shoes of the three highest, ringer percentage, sanctioned events pitched in the last 12 months. All events must be on the record of the governing state or national statistician.

Reason: Get rid of the "last ten sanctioned events" because using the last ten events discourages players from pitching in more tournaments if they are satisfied with the percentage in their last ten tournaments.

12. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3 (A)

Change first line to read: Any member without a *current average* in their Division shall pitch a

PROPOSED CHANGES TO **BYLAWS** CONT...

Reason: To clarify that a new player or one changing Divisions must establish an average for entry.

13. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3, B

Change to read: Members with less than 3 sanctioned events shall use the combined average of the one or two sanctioned events they have pitched.

Reason: Replacing word tournaments with events and adding words sanctioned events

14. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 4 (C)

Change to read: Short Distance Men—At least 70 years old at the time the current membership card is issued. Upon participation in one event at a short distance, the member shall remain a short distance pitcher for the entire membership year. This division shall include any age man with a permanent physical impairment that prevents him from pitching the full distance.

Reason: Division name "Elder" does not project a good image and group should be men only.

Note: If the above is approved, all other reference in the Bylaws to Elder shall be changed to Short Distance Men.

15. ARTICLE XII, SECTION 12

Forfeits: Change to read: In tournament competition, only statistics relating to percentage shall remain in the books for a pitcher who has to forfeit one or more games for any reason. If a pitcher forfeits for any reason, the pitcher will not be allowed to return to the competition and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards. Any person who forfeits games shall show a record of no wins/all losses and finish last. All opponents of the person who forfeits, who are scheduled to pitch against that person after he drops out, shall show a win for the game they should have pitched against that pitcher. All opponents who have already pitched against that player before he dropped out of the competition shall receive a win for that game regardless of who actually won the game when it was pitched.

Reason: Present wording not fair to the players who have already pitched the dropout and lost.

16. STANDING RULE 11

Remove the word "5th"



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LIGHT - MEDIUM - HEAVY**

*Clydesdale now available in
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UPS shipping included in new prices—Continental U.S. ONLY

**All "DEADEYES" are
now available in Med. Hard**

**E-Z Grips and N.T.s are now guaranteed for
2 years from date of original purchase.**

N.T.s now have better hooks and more weight to the front.

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are guaranteed one year.**

Guarantee valid in Continental U.S. only.

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Publicity Opportunities Knock

Publicity opportunities knock!

There are so many things to write about, so many ways to utilize the Internet to gain Publicity for the NHPA that it's difficult to find a starting place! Isn't that exciting? And, we've just begun to scratch the surface. In this article, you are asked to answer the "knock"—use the tools now available on the website to gain recognition for horseshoe pitching.

Team update!

The publicity team's effort to get the word out about Ralph Palmer, IA, who raised \$16,500 for two of his favorite children's charities was reported in the January/February *Newsline*. Using a press release posted on the Publicity website, many individuals contacted area newspapers through www.newspapers.com. That work achieved success! Clippings, carrying the story from OK, LA, KS can be found in the Online State Scrapbooks. Reports are that associated press picked up the story, but copies have not yet been received.

Reporting success, *after the event*, turned thoughts to "what could have been accomplished if we had done advance publicity on Ralph's "Pitching Marathon?" Perhaps national reporters, TV and radio news teams would have joined local teams whom Ralph said came with intentions of staying a few minutes and wound up broadcasting live from the site!

New publicity tool developed

Out of those thoughts a new publicity website tool was developed by Michiganians Kevin Smith, programmer, and Steve Summerlin, webmaster. Through their contribution, "new" news, human-interest stories, and details of your upcoming club activities can be made available for *advance* publicity. The tool, if used by you, could bring Publicity into the new age. Report *something* today! Access the feature "Publicity, Report Charter News" at www.horseshoepitching.com.

State scrapbooks online

This popular new addition to the Publicity site has created a lot of interest! Every state has one waiting to be filled. Some members have asked, "How do you do that?" Articles sent to NHPA Publicity, 39913 Sun Glo Ct., Lady Lake, FL 32159 are reviewed, scanned and sent electronically to the NHPA's domain directory. Webmaster Steve Summerlin electronically retrieves the files, retypes each article (yes, every last one of them!) converts them to web pages, and makes them available online. If requested, originals are returned to their owners. Others are maintained for NHPA paper records.

Having the articles online adds validity to our sport, and allows members the opportunity to share information. Enthusiasm is created when seeing, right before your eyes, that it is possible to get press coverage! Seeing angles used by

reporters will help you write press releases.

Is your state scrapbook empty? Share those treasures you've tucked away. Articles, old or new, may be sent to the address above, and will be returned upon request.

Online Player Profiles

Kevin Smith, MI, voluntarily devoted many hours in setting up this important system which allows players to input details about themselves and their pitching history. Horseshoe pitchers have not yet recognized the importance of Kevin's contribution. Perhaps a few words about this feature will increase its usage.

The Pitchers Profile section mirrors features found on Professional Bowling and Professional Golf websites. That alone is power packed!

Here are just a few of the many ways the profile information can be used in gaining media attention. Reporters can be sent to the profile section to gain insight into players from your state; pitchers can pick up tips from top pitchers; facts can be gathered individually or overall for press releases, newsletters and *Newsline* articles. Statistics, such as the number of pitchers who watch their shoe in flight, can be gathered. Names of local newspapers can be indexed, and there are many more uses too numerous to list.

Might charter officers be encouraged to help fill the Player Profile section? Perhaps one person from your area could enter profiles for pitchers who are not online? If there are major oppositions to this feature, the questions on the form, or some other unknown, please contact me at bspenn@mpinet.net or by "snail mail" at 39913 Sun Glo Ct., Lady Lake, FL, 32159. Your constructive comments are most welcome. If you're having problems accessing or using the website, please contact Kevin Smith, at Techsupport@beaconcontrols.com.

ActiveUSA, Largest Participatory Sports Listing Service includes HORSESHOE PITCHING!

A door to extensive publicity in regional magazines in every state, as well as USA Today, Yahoo and all their other affiliates, has been opened! Comprehensive plans are being developed to include us right alongside 60 other participatory sports such as marathon racing, swimming, skiing, cycling etc. The company provides, on their website, regional listings (of each sport) in three categories—clubs, events, and ongoing events. The benefits for charter involvement with ActiveUSA are very exciting!

The best part of listing with ActiveUSA is that the listing service is free to us to advertise the NHPA, Charters, and events! The second best part is that ActiveUSA makes sure our events are available to the media and provides tools for our results to be published. Participants who choose to reg-

ister for events online may use their credit cards and are charged a very small service fee. But hey, it's worth it, hassle free. No checks to write, no mail to send, and you receive immediate confirmation.

The key point here is that when a tournament director or charter official elects to make their event available for online registration through ActiveUSA, they will promote & publicize for us, whether participants use online registration or not! We know that as soon as pitchers realize the convenience of ActiveUSA's service they will use it. It's a win-win situation for the NHPA.

Three states, MI, FL, and NC are already set up to join the NHPA right online! Are you planning to go to the Dogwood Tournament in North Carolina? You can sign up right now—online! You can also sign up for the 2000 World Tournament—online!

Since October 1999, Juan Hanuszkiewicz, our Active USA representative, has been of great assistance in making this opportunity available to us. If your tournament schedule is on the Internet, Juan has been given permission to contact each charter by mail or telephone with more information and to provide you with details on listing with ActiveUSA.

Meantime, check out their website at www.activeusa.com. If the site is a little slow, it's because they're currently updating to an exciting new system. If you have an event you'd like to list immediately, or want information now, you may contact Juan, toll free, at (888) 309-1322 ext. 176, or by email juan@activeusa.com.

PUBLICITY begins at home.

Think about that for a minute. Another thought might be "are there people in my area who don't know that organized horseshoe pitching exists in this community?" If that's the case, it's time now, in the year 2000, for individuals, every member of every local club, to DO SOMETHING! "What?" you say? Here's a simple action idea to consider.

How do people in your town find out what's going on? Is there a list of activities, calendar of events, or a directory of local clubs? Is your club on that list? Is there a bulletin board at your local grocery store, laundromat, church, mobile home park? Are there "free classified ads" in your newspaper? Compose and post an ad that might look something like this:

HORSESHOE PITCHING
Free Instruction!
Families and Individuals welcome
Contact: (Your Name & Phone number)

Following is a "fill in the blank" sample press release that can be personalized and used to let people know about organized horseshoe pitching. Make sure your local newspaper has this available for times when they need a filler article.

A Little Pitch for Horseshoes!

Informational PRESS RELEASE

(Your name, YOUR CITY, your phone number)

The sport of horseshoe tossing dates as far back as the Roman era, when the soldiers used to pitch shoes dropped by their chariot horses. In modern times, the activity has gained adherents as a popular sport for the whole family. It is one of the few that can boast a national champion for men, women, boys, girls, seniors and elders.

Currently there exists a national group with regional associations to promote the sport and standardize the rules and equipment. The (your charter's complete name) has several chapters here in the communities of (name communities served by the newspaper). Many of their players are now qualifying for league play, and two tournaments are scheduled for (month).

This coming weekend (dates), there will be a tournament in (name of park) near (give vicinity directions i.e.; "at the corner of 4th & 5th"). For more information, phone (contact person's name) at (phone number). On (another date) there will be a tournament at (another park), near (vicinity); phone (another contact's name) at (phone number) for information.

The tournaments will help build expertise for the (enter the year) World Horseshoe Championships, which occur in (month and date) in (city and state).

Some of the (Association name) chapters that may be contacted for additional information on meetings, contests, free instruction, and programs are: (List all/some cities in which horseshoe clubs exist, along with contact's name, and phone including area code).

Additional information on how you and your family can enjoy horseshoe pitching is available on the Internet at www.horseshoepitching.com.



Does Your Charter Measure Up?

by Dave Loucks

The membership of the NHPA is made up of individuals who belong to and represent their State Charter in the overall view of things. Since 1991, when NHPA adult membership peaked at 14,707, there has been, every year since, a gradual decline to the 1999-year total of 12,652 adults. This decline has been a hot topic of discussion in several circles with many possible reasons tossed around. Some believe doing away with the sanctioned-league-only card at a cost less than full membership is the reason. Some say increasing the dues to include liability insurance and a set-aside for World Tournament funding is

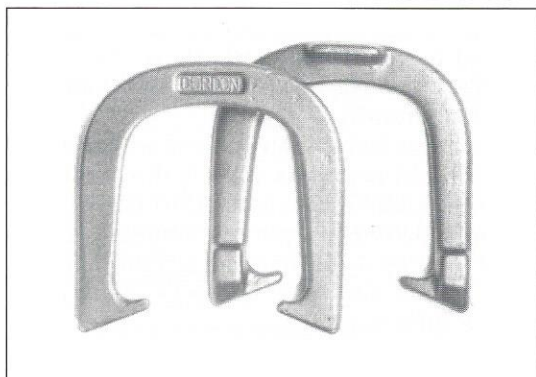
a reason. Still others believe mixed pitching plays a part.

It may well be that all of the above have played some small part in the decline, but so too has the ambivalence and lack of community effort within many charters to promote the sport and NHPA. Too many members display a total reluctance to get involved, to work in behalf of their club, charter or national organization. Growth will not come about by itself. We have to work at it, we have to promote, we have to get involved, and we have to sell horseshoe pitching. Not just the national or charter officers, but every individual within the NHPA. And this promotion, support and selling of the sport and organization applies to more than just membership growth. It applies to becoming a better-informed member. It applies to becoming a more productive and supportive member. It means that more people have to promote, more people have to subscribe to the NHPA magazine and more people have to contribute time and dollars to the task of growing and supporting the NHPA and its charitable entity, the NHPF.

The membership decline may not be as bad as it looks. Yes, the numbers say we are down from the 1991 peak total. But two years prior, the 1989 count was 11,531 members, 9.1% less than today. It jumped to its 1991 peak primarily because we went to one full membership card for all. This forced all sanctioned-league-only members to pay full dues. While the greater majority of sanctioned league players stayed NHPA, many in following years dropped out, as did many old timers who could not adapt to mixed pitching.

Should we return to the two-card system? Should we curtail mixed pitching? Should we reduce dues by doing away with insurance or the set-aside for World Tournament prize money? My opinion is that we should not. No organization can offer any and everything for all. We may not be experiencing the membership growth we'd like to see but that could well be because of the "someone else will do it" attitude displayed by so many. It is precisely this attitude that has slowed expectations and threatens the goals of the NHPF to build a Hall of Fame and take ownership of the premier horseshoe pitching facility in the world. I'm referring now to the land and Jack Freeman courts in Joelton, Tennessee, which is languishing for lack of broader financial support as discussed in an open letter to the membership in the January/February 2000 *Newsline*.

Ok, where does your charter stand in relation to others regarding membership growth, *Newsline* subscribers and financial contributions to the NHPF? Lets take a look as I have documented the performance totals by state. Look closely at the very low averages for contributions to the NHPF



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State	1999 Adult membership	10 Year Gain/Loss	10 year % Gain/Loss	Newsline Subscribers	1998/1999 Avg. NHPF \$ donation / member	Ranking member Gain/Loss	Ranking Newsline by %subscribe	Ranking NHPF \$ / member
Alabama	75	+32	+74.4%	13	\$0.00	17	37	Tie 45-50
Alaska	39	-25	-39.0%	13	\$1.54	32	5	15
Arizona	135	-82	-37.7%	41	\$0.33	46	11	36
Arkansas	101	-19	-15.8%	28	\$0.67	31	16	Tie 29-30
California	959	-67	-6.5%	203	\$4.48	44	31	4
Colorado	464	+258	+125.2%	58	\$1.99	2	48	12
Connecticut	328	+212	+182.7%	48	\$0.31	3	44	37
Delaware	24	+18	+300.0%	10	\$0.15	22	1	43
Florida	411	+82	+24.9%	122	\$1.97	11	13	13
Georgia	102	+17	+20.0%	37	\$1.52*	23	2	16
Hawaii	149	-45	-23.2%	12	\$0.00	39	50	Tie 45-50
Idaho	128	+14	+12.0%	19	\$0.72	25	43	27
Illinois	539	+75	+16.2%	194	\$0.67	12	3	Tie 29-30
Indiana	363	-87	-19.3%	109	\$1.36	47	12	17
Iowa	247	-123	-33.2%	67	\$2.37	49	17	11
Kansas	186	-12	-6.0%	58	\$3.88	29	10	6
Kentucky	163	-38	-18.9%	38	\$2.45	37	23	10
Louisiana	236	+98	+71.0%	37	\$0.26	8	39	39
Maine	87	-31	-26.3%	13	\$0.00	34	42	Tie 45-50
Maryland	231	+88	+61.5%	35	\$0.04	10	41	44
Massachusetts	308	+160	+108.1%	75	\$0.27*	6	20	38
Michigan	229	+22	+10.6%	75	\$4.15	21	7	5
Minnesota	699	+211	+43.2%	88	\$1.80	4	47	14
Mississippi	55	-60	-52.2%	12	\$0.00	43	28	Tie 45-50
Missouri	897	+368	+69.5%	122	\$1.28	1	45	19
Montana	105	-128	-54.9%	24	\$0.71	50	24	28
No. Carolina	159	+72	+82.7%	42	\$6.86	13	18	3
No. Dakota	247	+13	+5.6%	29	\$0.21	26	49	41
New Hampshire	129	-33	-20.4%	22	\$0.41	35	38	34
Nevada	114	+62	+119.2%	21	\$3.68	15	34	7
Nebraska	281	-57	-16.9%	60	\$1.04	40	30	22
New Jersey	197	+49	+33.1%	65	\$1.31	16	6	18
New Mexico	79	-35	-30.7%	25	\$0.63	36	8	32
New York	481	+115	+31.4%	117	\$0.37	7	21	35
Ohio	788	+174	+28.3%	229	\$1.07	5	14	21
Oklahoma	115	-10	-8.0%	27	\$0.43	28	22	33
Oregon	168	-18	-9.7%	37	\$7.64	30	26	2
Pennsylvania	453	-59	-11.5%	127	\$0.94	41	15	24
Rhode Island	33	+30	+1000%	6	\$0.00	18	35	Tie 45-50
So. Carolina	56	+25	+80.6%	12	\$1.21	20	29	20
So. Dakota	113	-121	-51.7%	39	\$0.85	48	4	25
Tennessee	86	+2	+2.4%	27	\$17.47*	27	9	1
Texas	472	+91	+23.9%	63	\$1.03	9	46	23
Utah	105	-81	-43.5%	19	\$0.24	45	36	40
Vermont	113	+17	+17.7%	25	\$0.00	24	25	Tie 45-50
Virginia	223	-30	-11.9%	46	\$0.16	33	32	42
Washington	219	-45	-17.0%	56	\$2.62	38	19	9
West Virginia	178	+30	+20.3%	33	\$0.79	19	33	26
Wisconsin	438	+70	+19.0%	96	\$3.11	14	27	8
Wyoming	138	-60	-30.3%	21	\$0.66	42	40	31

* Special contributions of \$3800 (MA), \$5000 (GA) and \$15000 (TN) are not included so as to not distort average

NHPA Income and Expenditures December 1999/January 2000

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$19,501
Newsline Subscriptions	6,384
Newsline Ads	4,042
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	3,700
NHPF Donation	50
Charter Dues	54
Misc Patch Sales and Income	97
Bank Checking & Money Market Interest	2,279
Total Income	\$36,107

EXPENDITURES

Newsline Printing and Mailing	\$ 4,728
Newsline Editor Allowance	616
Sanctioned League Patches & Awards	420
Sanctioned League Office, Supplies, Phone	152
Regional Directors Allowance	4,854
Regional Directors Postage, Phone, Supplies	972
Sanctioned Tournament Patches	794
Equipment Purchases, Rental, Repair	1,906
NHPA Office Printing and Supplies	484
NHPA Postage	326
NHPA Officers Phone	601
NHPA Officers Travel	555
Secretary/Treasurer Allowance	3,080
President's Allowance	924
Vice President's Allowance	2,079
Publicity & Promotion	624
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donations	50
Insurance	7,776
Refunds	126
NatStats Administration	924
Misc.Fees, Bank Charges	84
Internet Web Site Service	121
Total Expenses	\$32,196

SPECIAL EVENTS **CALENDAR**

APRIL 2000

29-30 Carolina Dogwood Festival—Statesville, North Carolina. \$5,500 in cash and trophies if maximum 180 entries sign-in. Pre-register by April 1, 2000. Send \$20 to Carolina Dogwood Horseshoe Tournament, Statesville Rec & Parks Dept. P.O.Box 1111, Statesville, NC 28687-1111. Tournament Director Paul Stewart, 704-528-5081.

MAY 2000

6-7 Beloit Encore Tournament—Edwards Activity & Sport Center, Beloit, WI. Prize money \$2000+. Entry fee \$20, deadline April 22, classes may be mixed. Mail entry & fee to Earl Paulson, 7105 So. County Rd. H, Beloit, WI 53511. Phone 608-879-2304 Email bhc.tw@brodnet.com

19-21 Team World—Edwards Activity & Sport Center, Beloit, WI. 4 person teams representing your state or province. Adults only, no more than 2 short distance pitchers per team. Entry fee \$200, deadline April 15th. Contact Earl Paulson, same address/phone as above for May 6-7 event.

27-28 Music City Team Tournament—Joelton, TN. 3-players per team, 48 teams maximum, mixed play, no juniors. NatStat average as of 4/1/00 shall apply, team combined average cannot exceed 160. Entry fee of \$105 per team must be received by 4/15/00. Send fee and team roster to Mary Bastian, 3730 Old Charlotte Pike, Franklin, TN 37069-4791. 615-794-5620, fax 615-591-0833

JUNE 2000

16-18 Eastern Nationals—Erie, PA. Total purse \$3500+ with 150 adult entries. No gender mixed. Below 35% play 30 pt games. Women handicapped below Class "A." Entry fee \$35 for Class "A" men, all other adult classes \$25. Juniors free, deadline June 2nd. Entries to Erie Horseshoe Club, c/o Sally Siegel, 4147 Stanton St., Erie, PA 16510. Phone 814-825-0666

JULY 2000

15-16 Danville Open—Douglas Park, Danville, IL. Good prize money, free towel to all entrants. Separate 30' and 40' "A" classes. Entry fee \$16, deadline July 7th, Checks payable Danville H.C. send to Leo Bratland, 41 Country Club Dr., Danville, IL 61832. 217-443-5818

31-Aug 12, NHPA World Tournament—Bismarck, ND. Entry fee \$100 adults, \$25 Juniors. Entry deadline May 18th. Must be on pre-printed form from this magazine or available from Charter secretary.

AUGUST 2000

14 Midwest Senior Classic—Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA. Mixed play open to men and women age 60 and over by August 14th. \$1500+ prize money with everyone receiving at least minimum payback of entry fee. Send for flyer/entry form to LeRoy Law, 1788 NW 104th St., Clive, IA 50325. Phone 515-223-4274

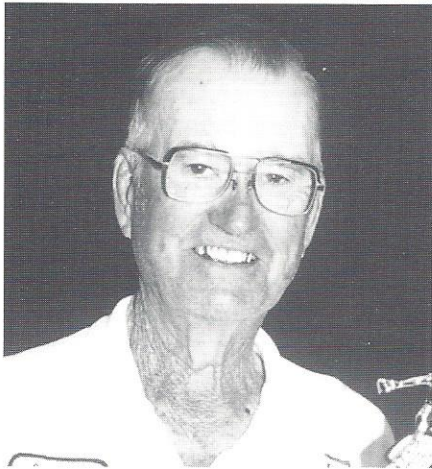
Promote your special event here.

If your tournament is set apart from the usual, to benefit charity, raise funds or has in excess of \$1,000 prize money, mail details to the *Newsline* Editor at least 90 days in advance.

THE TOLL OF TIME

JAMES EARL DAVIS

Tennessee member James Davis passed away January 25, 2000. A native of Knoxville and WWII veteran, James was instrumental in working with a couple of others to start the THPA. He was later one of the original members of the THPA Hall of Fame. He loved horseshoe pitching and commuted to events for 41 years with Dexter Stallings. James was 82 years old and is survived by Ruth, his wife for 62 years. Interment included military graveside services.



HOWARD RUSSELL GROOMS

February 8, 1922-January 27, 2000

H. Russell Grooms, a long-time Nebraska member, passed away as he approached his 78th birthday following a lengthy battle with cancer. Russ was born in LaJunta, CO, but moved at an early age to a ranch near Norden, NE. He married Sarah (Sally) Jones on May 28, 1944, and together they made their home and started a ranching career in the Norden area for 56 years. Russell loved family, ranching, and the great outdoors. He served his community for over 20 years and was always available to help friend and neighbor. Russell and wife Sally were well known to horseshoe pitchers in and around Nebraska. He participated in 17 World Tournaments and won his class in 1993. Sally, 4 daughters, a son, 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive him.

DONALD R. PETERS

June 22, 1931-December 27, 1999

Long time Illinois resident and NHPA member Don Peters died at the age of 68. He was at his son's home in Orlando, Fl, when he lost his two-year battle with cancer. Don was a Navy veteran and a retired Field Engineer with GTE. A member of the Chenoa, Illinois, Horseshoe Club, he was a familiar sight at the courts where for the past 17 years, he worked the annual July 4th tournament, ran a league and maintained the courts. Don was a Class "A" pitcher and class "A" gentleman who pitched in several World Tournaments. In 1995, he was inducted into the Illinois Hall of Fame. Two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren survive Don, whose wife died in 1996.

EDWARD P. SCHULTZ

Jan 15, 1919-Jan 3, 2000

At age 80, Eddie Schultz of Wayne, Michigan, passed away. A Michigan native and WWII veteran, Eddie worked 31 years for Burroughs before

retiring in 1977. For years he was an avid golfer but later in life, turned to horseshoe pitching where he won many tournaments and a state title. In 1998 he was inducted into the Michigan HPA Hall of Fame. Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, a sister, and several nieces & nephews.

Massachusetts reports the loss of two more members.:

BILL MACMAHON

Bill MacMahon, of the St. Moritz Club in Quincy, recently died after health problems. He and his wife Gracie, who died a few months prior, often traveled to tournaments, initially to pitch, but in later years just to watch.

BOB DRISCOLL

In January, the Loon Pond Horseshoe club lost member Bob Driscoll who was in all ways, a true gentleman. Bob was a natural athlete as well as a coach and Physical Ed teacher. New pitchers were always getting encouragement from Bob whose recent health did not permit him to pitch much. He will be missed.

Stay Informed—Keep Subscription Current

Don't let your *Newsline* subscription lapse. Check the expiration date on the mailing label. If it is 04/01/00, this is your last issue and you should mail a renewal now.

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If you have missed an issue, limited copies of most back issues are available for \$3.00.

Send all back copy requests with payment to

Newsline Editor, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945

TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CONTACTS

The following is a list of all NHPA Regional Directors and the states or territory they cover. Those of you who travel and want to get out-of-area tournament information, are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Director. Each RD maintains a full list of all NHPA sanctioned tournaments in their area. If your travel plans call for stops in several states and you need multiple state information, you might want to write the NHPA 1st Vice President who is in charge of all RDs. He should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 1st VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

REGION REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 1. Washington | Rick Rebman
80037 Rosa Lane
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-8560 | 15. N. Dakota | Clint Bryson
901 Custer St.
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
(605) 892-2195 | 33. Tennessee | Dexter Stallings
731 Reed Drive
Powell, TN 37849
(865) 947-7865 |
| 2. Oregon | | 16. S. Dakota | | 34. Georgia | Jerome Kennedy
Rt. 2, Box 1315
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
(912) 892-3885 |
| 3. Northern California | Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
(707) 538-3128 | 17. Nebraska | Pat Wemhoff
255 6th Ave., S.
Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 564-7323 | 35. Florida | Ron Deckard
7302 Brookview Circle
Tampa, FL 33634
(813) 884-2932 |
| 4. Southern California | Dave Garbani
317 E. Wilson Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-6376 | 18. Kansas | Bernie VanLerberg
12419 142nd St.
Bonner Springs, KS 66012
(913) 422-7095 | 36. Ohio | Dan Sanders
6687 Merwin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 761-3357 |
| 6. Hawaii | Myrtle May L. Kamoku
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(808) 822-4632 | 19. Missouri | Elwyn Cooper
6920 N.W. 78th Street
Kansas City, MO 64152
(816) 741-0043 | 37. West Virginia | Ken Wilhelm
406 Stealy Avenue
Clarksburg, WV 26301
(304) 622-1265 |
| 7. Nevada | Don Weaver
2206 Sunnyslope Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 736-7348 | 20. Oklahoma | Ronnie Frederick
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Moneta, VA 24121
(540) 297-9518 |
| 9. Utah | Bud Schardine
354 Brookside Drive
Springville, UT 84663
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Ozark, AR 72949
(501) 667-3078 | 39. Pennsylvania | Darle Esh
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Milroy, PA 17063
(717) 667-3108 |
| 10. Arizona | Joe Kubiak
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Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
(520) 772-3242 | 22. Texas | Randy Collins
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Lenoir, NC 28654
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| 11. Montana | Rich Paul
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Rochester, MN 55902
(507) 288-5182 | 41. S. Carolina | Ron Taylor
116 Knox Street
Clover, SC 29710
(803) 222-3990 |
| 12. Wyoming | Pat Bacus
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Lovell, WY 82431
(307) 548-6593 | 24. Iowa | C. Leo Buell
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Iowa City, IA 52240
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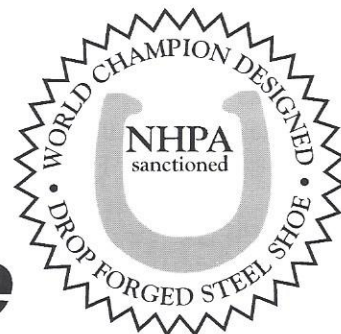
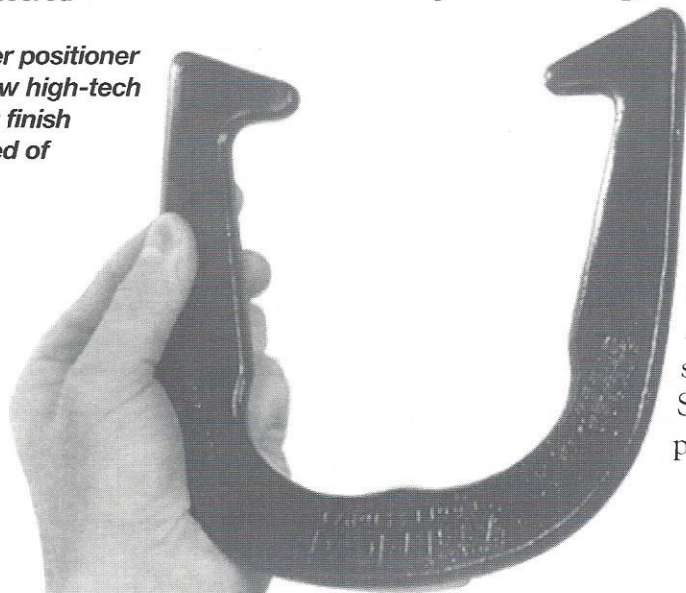
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