



Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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NHPA Hall of Fame & Museum

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HONOR EARL CAUDILL BY D. MITCHELL		JIMMY ANDREWS PATSY ANDREWS	IN MEMORY OF EARL CAUDILL
			IN LAUGHTER 'BURLY' PAT STEWART

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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 site 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.

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**Horseshoe Pitching
NEWSLINE**

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Cover: A new column is introduced with this issue. Jeanette Claas will be submitting articles on a regular basis. See page 21 for her first column.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Stewart

As we start a new year, let the NHPA Executive Council and me be among the first to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2009. We, along with all of you, are looking for a bigger and better year in horseshoes in 2009.

The Executive Council has scheduled their winter directors meeting for January 16th and 17th at the Villages in Florida. We held our 2004 and 2006 winter meetings at this same location where the Villages provided us with a meeting room at one of their community recreation centers that was very nice and appropriate for our meetings. Thanks to Jim Strain, President of the Villages Horseshoe Club for making arrangements for us to use these facilities again this year for our meeting. The agenda for our meeting looks like a full two days of business.

A recent visit was made to Springfield, Illinois, site of the 2009 World Tournament, by Stu Sipma and Dick and Paulette Hanson to check out the facilities and make some more arrangements for our 2009 World Tournament. (More on this visit in an article by Stu Sipma, in this issue.)

I am happy to announce that we have filled the vacancy on the Hall of Fame committee that was left vacant when Gary Kline passed away. We have appointed Ron Deckard of Florida to the committee. We feel that Ron will fill this position well since he is the Hall of Fame Chairperson of the Florida Hall of Fame Committee and is familiar with how our Hall of Fame committee works. Thanks Ron, for accepting this position on our Hall of Fame Committee.

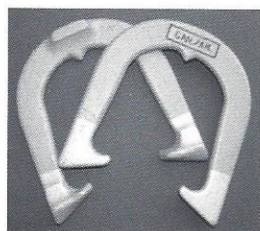
Election of Officers - At this writing I have received one announcement for candidacy for NHPA President, that being Stu Sipma, the current NHPA 5th Vice President. This means that the 5th Vice President position will be open for candidacy. I have also received announcements for candidacy from two incumbents for reelection for the offices of First Vice President and Third Vice President; that being Dan Sanders, for 1st Vice President and Lorraine Sternberg for Third Vice President. Please remember that anyone wishing to run for any of these four offices must have notification on my desk and the Newsline Editor desk by February 1, 2009.

Hall of Fame Work - The first week of December, our NHPA Historian, Bob Dunn, traveled to Wentzville, Missouri where he joined Joe Faron, Gary Buehler and Bob Rogers who spent three days inventorying the artifacts and magazines that are in storage at the Hall of Fame. It was a major project and for the most part completed. All donated horseshoes were label tagged, identified, evaluated and sorted for display purposes. All magazines were sorted and all copies recorded on Excel spreadsheets to be listed on the NHPA website at a later date. It was surprising how complete a set of all magazines that is in storage. Some very early day Horseshoe World issues are missing, but should be intact once Gary Kline's inventory is delivered. Another project is still needed to inventory and label all the hundreds of pictures that are at the museum.

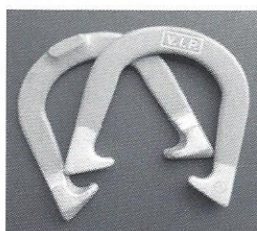
Again, Happy New Year to all and I am looking forward to seeing each of you on the courts soon.



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NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS

by Dave Loucks

As we enter the year 2009, let me offer each of you a New Year greeting along with a wish for good health and prosperity. The events of last year certainly brought financial hardship to some that in turn affected several areas of our sport and association. Tournament participation was down, some sponsors of local events reduced or curtailed their support and some clubs found their courts being closed down due to the shortage of funds and budget cuts in the local municipality. Let's hope that this year really does bring about some change and positive economic conditions that our newly elected President promises.

The NHPF certainly was not immune to the 2008 economic meltdown. Contributions from the State charters and members were down 58% from the year 2007. While the National Hall of Fame and pitching facility in Wentzville, Missouri completed its first full year of operation, it did experience some problems that needed the financial attention of the NHPF. The building had some roof leaks and damage to exterior siding panels due to high winds and the lack of interior insulation that caused some parts of the metal building support system to flex. Our building contractors addressed all the exterior problems and the NHPF had all the open interior walls sprayed with foam insulation. The building is now quieter and will be more comfortable during all seasons with an expected annual savings in electric costs.

Readers can get a quick overview of how your state has done in support of the NHPF by checking out the complete list of "How your State Ranks" in this issue. This list mentions the number of different contributors and the number of donations received from those contributors by state and by total dollars received since the formation of the NHPF in 1996. The State of Missouri now leads all states in total dollars contributed. California, which held the lead for several years, is now in second place. The poor economic conditions I spoke of earlier obviously hurt donations to the NHPF. During the year 2008, only the states of California, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin sent in \$1,000 or more in contributions. Twenty-five states recorded only one or two donations for the entire year while thirteen states, a full 25% of all the charters, did not send in a single contribution. Poor economic conditions or not, these numbers show a pitiful lack of support for the

National Hall of Fame facility and the charitable work of the NHPF in behalf of horseshoe pitching.

Our sport and association, which includes the NHPA and NHPF, is basically self-supporting. We have no national sponsors to pick up any shortfalls and while the immediate future may not look very promising for the growth of horseshoe pitching, I wish every success to the newly formed HP Pro-Tour and the six events they have planned for this year. The well being of horseshoe pitching and the NHPF needs you, the members, to be generous by giving your time, money and participation to show support for all the work and goals of our association. Attend tournaments in 2009, purchase an engraved brick at the Hall of Fame facility, send in a contribution or two to the NHPF and above all, try to recruit a new member to your club.

A contribution to the NHPF is tax deductible if you itemize and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are giving back something to the sport and association. Send your contributions and/or brick orders to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946.

During the months of October and November, just \$3,205 was received from member contributions and brick orders. Another \$16,361 was deposited from Building rent, the Sanctioned League Team Tournament and \$1.00/ NHPA member as approved at the 2008 delegate convention.

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NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS *Continued*

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Other Income

NHPA Sanctioned Lg Team Tourn, \$500
QRHC Building Rent, \$3,798
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HOW YOUR STATE RANKS

	Contributors	Donations \$
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2.	CA 118	290 \$36,492
3.	MN 53	280 \$23,278
4.	NC 33	178 \$22,552
5.	TN 32	68 \$21,677
6.	OR 25	115 \$16,762
7.	WI 40	139 \$13,897
8.	MI 54	138 \$12,140
9.	IL 59	110 \$9,243
10.	CO 30	84 \$9,079
11.	FL 55	86 \$8,691
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13.	OH 70	111 \$7,821
14.	PA 33	69 \$7,395
15.	GA 20	26 \$7,370
16.	TX 32	51 \$6,610
17.	NE 18	37 \$5,548
18.	KS 25	50 \$5,496
19.	IA 26	47 \$5,456
20.	MA 12	19 \$5,430
21.	NJ 23	44 \$4,409
22.	NY 39	47 \$3,705
23.	ND 9	26 \$3,655
24.	MD 26	41 \$3,364
25.	WV 13	89 \$3,358
26.	IN 27	37 \$3,353
27.	LA 10	21 \$3,152
28.	VA 49	93 \$3,047
29.	ID 10	34 \$3,007
30.	KY 17	34 \$2,760
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32.	SC 12	27 \$2,370
33.	SD 15	27 \$2,064
34.	NV 12	18 \$1,936
35.	OK 15	20 \$1,608
36.	AZ 12	20 \$1,389
37.	AR 9	12 \$1,025
38.	MT 6	11 \$1,020
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NATIONAL SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT

by Lorraine Sternberg

The National Sanctioned League Tournament was held October 4th and 5th in Missouri. This was the fifth year for the tournament. This year the championship plaque went to the Whitley County Club from Indiana. This is the second time that Whitley County has won the tournament. There were a total of twenty teams that entered, so we had a full house. The teams were divided in two groups of ten. The winner of each group played off for the championship plaque. The final game of the tournament was between the Whitley County Club from group one against the First Capitol Women's League of Missouri from group two. In the end Whitley County came ahead winning two of the three games.

Connie Reimer had the high game for the tournament of 74%. She also had the high game over average in group one and in group two, Danny Branson had the high game over average.

All in all it seemed like everyone had a good time and many were asking about next year's tournament. It was a beautiful weekend in Missouri. Too bad we couldn't have played outdoors. I think most did enjoy a walk through the brick plaza, which is in front of the Hall of Fame Building. The tournament finished up by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday and everyone was on their way home by 1:30 p.m. I would

like to thank Dan Sanders, NHPA 1st Vice President for coming to the tournament to help out.

Next year's tournament will be held in Indiana at the Atterbury Facility in Edinburg. The location is approximately 35 miles south of Indianapolis. The dates for the tournament will be October 10 & 11, 2009. So mark your calendars now. There will be room for 24 teams.

By the time this issue is out, the holidays will be over and 2009 will be here. For this coming league season I would like to see league reports submitted by e-mail rather than sending them in the mail. There are many that do submit there reports this way, but there are also many hand written ones submitted. This causes more mistakes being made as it is sometimes difficult to read some of the numbers and names of pitchers. So, I am encouraging all league directors to please do your reports on the computer if possible.

The top-ten list and the list of juniors receiving scholarships will be in the next issue of Newsline. I was hoping to have the list of juniors in this issue but the council is still finalizing them all and we did not have it ready before the deadline.

May you all have a Happy New Year!

Candidate for 1st Vice President - Dan Sanders

I'd like to announce that I will be seeking re-election to a third term as your NHPA 1st Vice President. During the past couple of years I've spent a great deal of time working on materials and supplying information to our Regional Directors about the sanctioning/re-sanctioning of horseshoe courts for all of our Charters. The Regional Directors have been great to work with and based on the reports that I have received back from them, most all of our horseshoe complexes have now been sanctioned, though a few have been granted temporary waivers for the completion of some basic upgrade requirements. In the meantime, sanctioned events can continue to be scheduled on these courts. I do believe that these court upgrade efforts should result in increased participation and membership for your Charter. During this past year alone, I've had to re-order Tournament Champion and Class Champion patches twice, so the number of sanctioned tournaments seems to have increased during 2008. I'd like to think that these court upgrade improvements have had something to do with this increased participation. Among the basic requirements,

properly marked foul lines, stakes at the proper height and angle, and other CS requirements are very important aspects of our sport which will now be monitored more closely. I will continue to work with our Regional Directors in encouraging all clubs to strive toward a full court sanction for their court complexes, as a top-notch facility can go a long way toward attracting and keeping new members.

My other current NHPA duties include communications with all Charter Medical Exemption Committees, and serving on the NHPA Rules Committee. I have enjoyed working with all of these groups as well as the NHPA Council and would like to continue with this work for at least another term. I would appreciate your support and also your vote for re-election at the 2009 Convention in Springfield, Illinois.

In horseshoes,
Dan Sanders, NHPA 1st VP
Powell, OH • dsanderling@yahoo.com

CHARTER CHATTER

by Tina Hawkins

MARYLAND

The MDHPA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Points Challenge for participation in sanctioned events within the State. The first place prize of \$100 goes to Vicki Kunde (for the second year in a row!); Second place prize of \$75 went to first year member Bob Rasmussen and the third place prize of \$50 was awarded to Roy Copsey. Congratulations!

The CRE Horseshoe League held its awards banquet on November 15th with sixty club members and one guest in attendance. The league supplied meat platters and chicken and everyone brought a side dish or dessert - what a spread! After dinner and awards, everyone danced to music by DJ Mike Mathews. A great time was had by all!

The FHPA held its league awards banquet at Mountaingate Restaurant. Awards were presented following a buffet dinner.

MICHIGAN

In the northern state of Michigan, cold weather is settling in. The indoor tournaments are under way in Jackson. There will be sixteen indoor tournaments on Saturdays, beginning in January and running through the middle of April in 2009. These tournaments require pre-registration, so if you are planning a trip to Michigan, check the website for the tournament schedule or contact Regional Director, Steve Summerlin, at (517) 455-7282 for entry information.

MINNESOTA

The winter schedule is set for the Gopher State charter, as well. The beautiful Upsala arena will host winter tournaments monthly beginning in December. This schedule will provide a great opportunity for qualification for the 2009 World Tournament in Springfield, IL. The Minnesota charter is pushing hard to have a very large number of entries in the next two world tournaments.

At the Greenfield Horseshoe Club the winter season is under way, and is full to capacity. They pitch two nights per week. One league is fully handicapped, and one is a cut-throat straightaway league, which attracts higher

averaged pitchers. The Greenfield site is also used as a testing facility for research and development of the new equipment purchased by the NHPA and used at the world tournaments.

MISSOURI

The MOHPA held a record breaking 124 sanctioned tournaments in 2008 - and 2009 is shaping up well with 90 tournaments already on the schedule. Many indoor facilities are being opened, offering the luxury of year-round pitching to many more members.

The Quail Ridge Club hosted its first MOHPA State Championship at the new Hall of Fame courts over Labor Day weekend. It was an outstanding event with over 250 entries in both doubles and singles formats.

In an unusual happening at the 2008 State Championships - not once, but twice - there was one class with a 5-way tie for first and another class with a 6-way tie!

When you make your plans to attend the 2009 World Tournament in Springfield, IL, be sure to allot time to visit the NHPA Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville, MO. It is just a few hours away and WELL worth the extra day! Don't forget to look for your name in the brick plaza!

OKLAHOMA

The 2008 OHPA Hall of Fame and awards banquet was held November 8th in Edmond, following the time-honored tradition of the "Turkey Shoot" horseshoe tournament.

Several awards were presented by the officers of the Oklahoma Association, including a Participation Award for the person who pitched the most events during the 2008 season - Burl Cox; a Ringer Award for the person who threw the most ringers - David Mallory; and a "Jock" award for the most outstanding athletic supporters - Karen Flora and Sandy Frederick.

The 2008 OHPA Hall of Fame inductee, Tina Hawkins, received a plaque and modeled the newly designed Hall of Fame jacket which will be made available to all Oklahoma HOF members.

Continued on page 9

Approximately thirty-five OHPA members and guests included one charter member of the OHPA Hall of Fame, Andy Mogus, who was inducted in 1985. Andy holds nine men's state titles.

Other HOF members in attendance were Homer and Ginger Cain, Tom Goff, Jerry Holt, Charlotte Bowen and David Montgomery.

The second annual "Non-Pitching Ladies" tournament was held after the Turkey Shoot. This event is designed to encourage the ladies who follow a friend or family

member on the circuit to pick up a shoe and participate themselves. There is no entry fee for the tournament, but NHPA membership is required. This year's event garnered five new lady members for the OHPA! There were no losers - all received a certificate of participation.

I am wishing you all a wonderful and prosperous New Year, with many ringers, much fun, and copious quantities of really good friends!!



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12 Time World Champ

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HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE

by Bob Dunn

In the last issue we read Part I of Leland Mortenson's accounting of the 1940's. When we left off, he had mostly covered the World Tournaments. Now in the final pages, Mortenson covers some of the political aspects and those involved. Now remember, this article was written in 1949.

THE 1940'S

By LeLand S. Mortenson

WOODFIELD AND HIS SPECIAL PROJECTS

Harry T. Woodfield is an untiring fellow, and there is no limit to his vision. He constantly thinks horseshoes, and as Dale Dixon of Des Moines, declared at the Milwaukee convention, "he has more horseshoes in his blood than all the rest of us together," and he also constantly is alert as to what he can do to help the horseshoe pitchers which causes one to remember a printed statement made by Rod Thomas, Washington newspaper correspondent, "In more than 35 years of working in the newspaper field and meeting people in all walks of life, Harry Thorpe Woodfield stands out as the person who is most earnest desirous of wanting to help his fellow man."



LeLand Mortenson

During his seven years as President of the association, Mr. Woodfield performed service after service, but two of them stand out brilliantly over the others, the Army Program and President Truman's pitching activities.

In the fall of 1944, Mr. Woodfield was successful in having the writer appointed Director of the Army Horseshoe Pitching Program. The result of the entire project was that horseshoe pitching by June 1945, was the third most played game in the Army, and the writer was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon for Outstanding Service.

A complete report on the army project is contained in the Horse Lover Magazine, as is a report on Jimmy Risk's exhibition before President Truman. A copy of the Horse Lover article is also on file with the War Department.

In 1946, Major General Vaughan had become impressed by the results of the Army program, whereupon he conceived the idea of suggesting to President Truman that he have a court installed at the White House.

As President Truman had pitched horseshoe as a boy, he was easily convinced that the general had an excellent idea. Before the plan could be put into effect, it was in the newspaper. President Woodfield read about it.

Mr. Woodfield thought that the President of the United States should have good courts and he wasn't trusting anybody about it, so he offered his personal services for building the courts. The offer was accepted.

Admiral Nimitz, a personal friend of President Truman, an ardent horseshoe pitcher, and a friend of Jimmy Risk, wanted to get things started right, so he invited Jimmy to come and pitch an exhibition before President Truman.

Risk, a colorful young man, a first-class salesman, a dapper dresser, and an excellent exhibitionist, threw all his best into the show and made a fine impression upon the President, upon the Army and Navy officers present, and upon the press which was well represented.

THE TOTAL COUNT PLAN

If the writer had been preparing this report a year ago, he would not have found it particularly necessary to mention the Total Count System. However, during the past year the movement behind this revolutionary plan has grown to threatening dimensions. This plan is often referred to as the Chess System, in deference to D.O. Chess of Cleveland, Ohio, an early and present crusader for its cause.

There is nothing mysterious about the plan, and it is basically sound. However, it removes part of the competitive attractiveness that exists in the scoring system at the present time.

The Chess System had grown like a mushroom the last year, having spread from Ohio into Indiana and Kentucky. But, from a national standpoint, it is still favored by only a very small minority.

A Mr. D.J. Cowden, Adair, Iowa, deceased several years ago and was advocating this plan several years ago, that the pitchers toss a certain number of shoe per game

Continued on page 11

and that the count be by the total scores and not by the cancellation system. He carried on his campaign largely by correspondence, but it was apparent that not a handful were impressed by his arguments.

Mr. Chess carried on a one-man campaign during the thirties, and because of his zeal, the plan became known as the Chess System. By 1939, Mr. Chess had picked up some followers in Ohio and sent them to the 1939 convention.

As a result of the appeal of Mr. Chess' followers, a clause was added to the National Constitution permitting the State Associations to use this method of scoring within their own states. No other action has ever been taken by a national convention to broaden the scope of the Chess System. It is not and cannot officially be used in a tournament which extends across the boundaries of states. It is therefore illegal from the association standpoint to use this system in any tournament admitting entries from more than one state unless both state associations agree to it, or if more than two states are involved. All of those so involved would have to agree. It is illegal for a notional tournament whether it is for men, women, or is a league tournament for teams.

In 1948, the followers of Mr. Chess were successful in getting Arlo Harris a zealous advocate of the Plan, elected president of the National Association. Soon after taking office he appointed Johnny Sebeck, also a Chess System supporter, to be his publicity chairman.

Mr. Sebeck had tackled his job of publicity director by publicizing the Chess System with a religious fervor that is causing some of the opponents of this plan to become worried about its possible ultimate victory.

THE EXHIBITION PLAYERS

For many years a few horseshoe pitchers have been able to devote all their time to exhibition pitching, sometimes on a salary basis. Others have been doing this on a part-time basis. The most successful full time operators have been Ted Allen and Jimmy Risk. Both have appeared at Madison Square Garden, Risk had been on three U.S.O. tours of the Pacific.

Some part-time exhibitionists are Guy Zimmerman, Casey Jones and Dean Brown, Long Beach, California.

The exhibition pitchers serve a very useful purpose in bringing the game to the eyes of people not otherwise accessible. Usually, the pitcher appears as part of a sport troupe and the fans present are people of all walks of life except the very poor.

An exhibition by Ted Allen at Madison Square Garden in the late thirties or early forties was seen by some men who later were officers in the Athletic Branch of the Army. They were so highly impressed by the skill displayed that they were later very vulnerable to the appeals of Harry Woodfield when he made his drive for Army support in 1944. And don't forget that the Army program was a factor in President Truman getting interested, sort of a chain reaction.

PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO HORSESHOE PITCHING

The first publication devoted entirely to horseshoe pitching was the Horseshoe World published by R.B. Howard, London, Ohio. This magazine extended into the forties, ceased publication while the United States was at war. It first came off the press in 1921, was a monthly magazine and the subscription price was \$1.00 per year.

(Editor's note: Mortenson misspoke a little. The actual first horseshoe publication was Barnyard Golf, published by Art Headlough (Editor) and Edward Twynham (Business

Continued on page 12



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Manager), Akron, Ohio. Barnyard Golf called itself the official organ of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association. The publication began April 1921 and continued into 1923, the subscription cost was 50 cents per year).

In 1947, Harry T. Woodfield started publication of the "Horseshoe News" a mimeographed magazine, still being published every two or three months.

On September 15, 1948, Byron Jaskulek, New York, brought out the first issue of "The Horseshoe Pitcher, an attractive booklet style publication.

It has been suggested several times that the Association run a page or two in some large magazine, thereby gaining more readers.

Roy Smith, the Los Angeles author, arranged such a plan with the Horse Lover magazine in the spring of 1947. Horse Lover continued the arrangement until the summer of 1948 when it was discontinued because the pitchers themselves were coming across with too few subscriptions.

Subscriptions to Horse Lover magazine were carried by most of the nation's leading libraries including New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha, Los Angeles and St. Louis. Real fans near those cities will still get a lot of enjoyment out of reading the articles which appeared in those issues from 1947-1948.

HORSESHOE PITCHING IN FOREIGN LANDS

While horseshoe pitching is far more popular in the United States than it is in any other country, it is played extensively in Canada and to some extent in Mexico, Germany and perhaps in other countries.

Dr. George Siebert, Giegen-Brenz, Germany represents the association in Germany. McKay Whittle, Australia, is contact man for that country.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING HORSHOE PITCHING

Since 1936, the A.A.U. has been conducting state and national amateur tournaments. These can be extended into the Olympics as soon as there are six nations able to put up horseshoe teams.

Nearly all over the country the park departments in all cities sponsor regular tournaments: service organizations,

like many other groups, sponsor tournaments for their members.

METHODS OF PROMOTION NOT ALREADY MENTIONED

In a few cases, cities have formed leagues to play against one another for the league championship. A plan of this type has been suggested for the National Association.

Back in 1922, 130 American colleges and universities included horseshoe pitching in their intramural sports programs. For many years, the National Association has felt that horseshoe pitching should be a regular inter-scholastic sport in the high schools and colleges, but not much systematic and consistent effort has been expended along this line.

In 1948, Bryon Stoney carried on such a campaign in Iowa and almost but not quite, saw his efforts crowned with success. W.A. Banta, Indianapolis, is one who has proceeded with the same effort in his city.

For many years our leading pitchers have appeared in sports shorts. These pictures have been a lot of value in promotion of the game.

Some thought has occasionally been diverted to the possibility of the association raising sufficient funds to pay Hollywood to write a moving picture of several reels which should tell the complete story of the game and really sell it to the public. The thought of the association showing the pictures, lecturing and otherwise selling the game has been discussed.

A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

As 1948 came to its close, horseshoe pitching had reached the greatest height of its short career.

But the members are not at all satisfied and most of them are looking forward to the day when horseshoe pitching will either pack in the cask customer at a profit to the pitchers or that the same end can be achieved by attracting more dues-paying members to provide cash to the association to be paid out as prizes to the players.

With a concentration on team-work, organization and good judgment, it seems that the march ahead can be of progress.

End of part two - To be continued

NHPA President Candidate Stuart Sipma

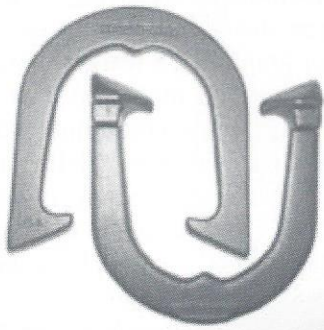
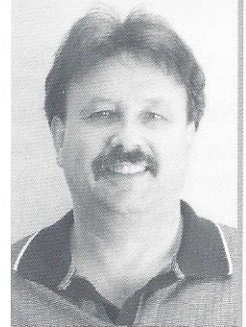
I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of NHPA President. In serving my three terms as the 5th Vice President, I have really enjoyed working with the other NHPA officers and look forward to serving as your President.

As your 5th Vice President, my major responsibilities included World Tournament Coordinator and Chairperson of the NHPA Rules & By-Laws. I have worked hard to provide members the opportunity to participate in world class pitching at world class sites. I was also the Chairperson of the Rules Re-write Committee which was instrumental in the rewrite of our NHPA rules which is currently the new RGS book.

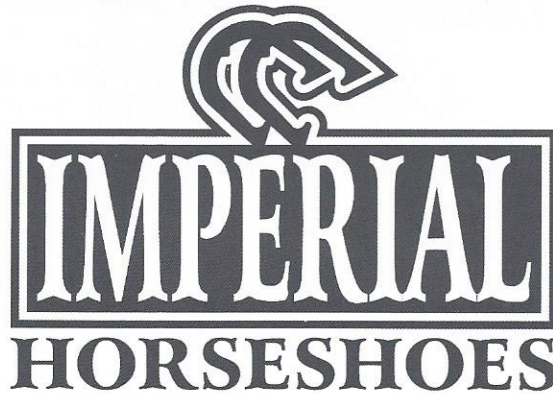
For those of you who know me, you recognize my work ethic and my dedication to the sport of horseshoe. I have always enjoyed the people associated with horseshoes and the camaraderie that goes with the sport. The years ahead will bring many challenges and opportunities for the NHPA and I look forward to these challenges in serving the NHPA and its members in promoting our great sport.

It has been a pleasure serving you as the 5th Vice President, and I would appreciate your continued support for NHPA President at the 2009 convention in Springfield, Illinois.

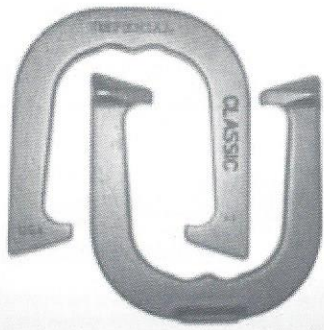
Thank you. — Stuart Sipma



ORIGINAL



PLUS

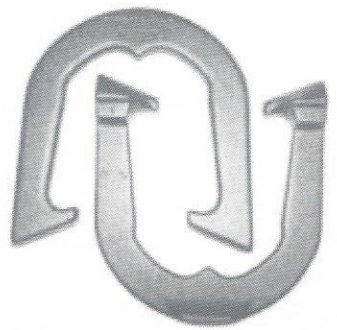


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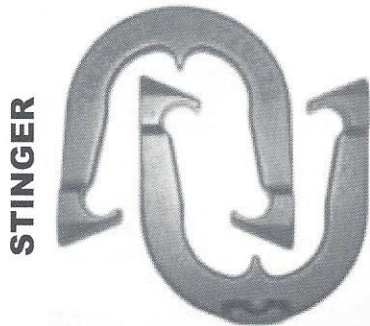
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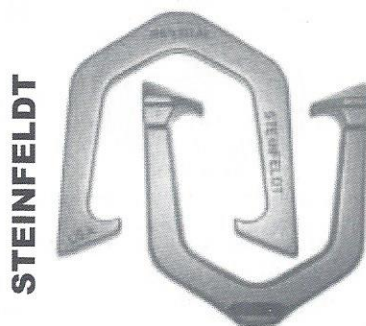


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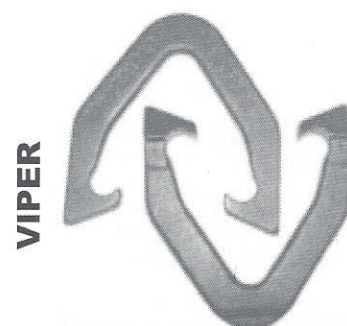
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VIPER

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

by Dan Sanders

New Regional Director

As many of you already know, Jerry LaBrosse has served the MGHPA for many years and in many ways; including the position of NHPA Regional Director. With his added duties as NHPA 4th Vice President, Jerry has decided to step down as the Minnesota RD. Thanks, Jerry for all of your work with the sanctioning of the Minnesota courts, as well as your other RD work! The newly-appointed Regional Director is Rob Hagman. Rob has held the position of state statistician for a few years now and has been very active in assisting TD's with the HS Master program. He is an active member of the Fridley Horseshoe Club where he has been a club officer and Tournament Director. Rob has also worked very closely with the Minnesota board of directors, and his RD appointment will now make him a board member. Congratulations, Rob on this new appointment, and thanks in advance for all of your future work as Regional Director!

Winter Pitching Facilities

While outdoor pitching in the Southern states is already underway and will continue through the Winter months, the number of horseshoe leagues and tournaments in the Northern states is limited by the colder temperatures and more severe weather. Many of the Northern states, however, are fortunate to have a few inside pitching facilities where leagues and tournaments can be held, and where pitchers can continue to improve their skills through the Winter months. Most of these inside facilities were not designed for horseshoe pitching, however, and it is often difficult to find a building that is affordable and that will provide adequate space for the three or four courts that may be necessary for running Winter leagues and/or tournaments. This situation is further complicated by some of the court specifications that are now required for the sanctioning of leagues and tournament play. As you may remember, the current *minimum* court specification requirements include properly-marked foul lines, stake size and placement, minimum pit size, and an approved pit material, but if some of the additional court specifications cannot be met, waivers can be granted for the use of these courts, in the interest of promoting our sport. Most of the problem areas with indoor courts have to do with 1) spacing of the courts that will provide for safety concerns and 2) delivery of the shoe without having to alter your pitch.

Spacing of Courts

Currently, the total recommended measurements for the playing area of each court is 10 feet wide by 50 feet long. These measurements allow for a minimum distance of 10 feet between the stakes of adjacent courts, 5 feet from the stake to the side walls of the building, and 5 feet from behind the stake to the back walls of the building (or to a barrier between back-to-back courts). But sometimes the dimensions of an existing building will not allow for court lay-outs of these dimensions, and the question becomes, "How close is too close"?


Side-by-side Courts

As stated in the current specifications, the minimum distance of 10 feet between adjacent courts is for safety reasons, so allowing distances of less than this will only add to this safety concern. Many of us may have pitched in facilities where the distance between stakes is 9 feet or even less, and the NHPA will consider granting CS waivers in most of these situations, but if the distance is much less than 9 feet, some additional safety barriers between the courts will very likely be required for sanctioned events. Another related problem with reducing this distance between adjacent stakes is that the distance to the side walls may also be shortened. This can create a "space" problem for some who may feel that they are too close to the wall for their normal shoe delivery.


Distance to Back Wall

The recommended distance of 5 feet from behind the stakes

Continued on page 15




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REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *Continued*

to the wall allows for ease of movement around and between courts, and for the storage of shovels, water, etc. But more importantly, this distance allows for the space that some "long-steppers" may need for the normal delivery of their shoes. Some pitchers (especially tall individuals) may stand at the very back of the Pitcher's Box for their normal delivery, and may also take a long back-swing. If the wall is closer to the stake than 5 feet, these pitchers will usually hit the wall on their back-swing.

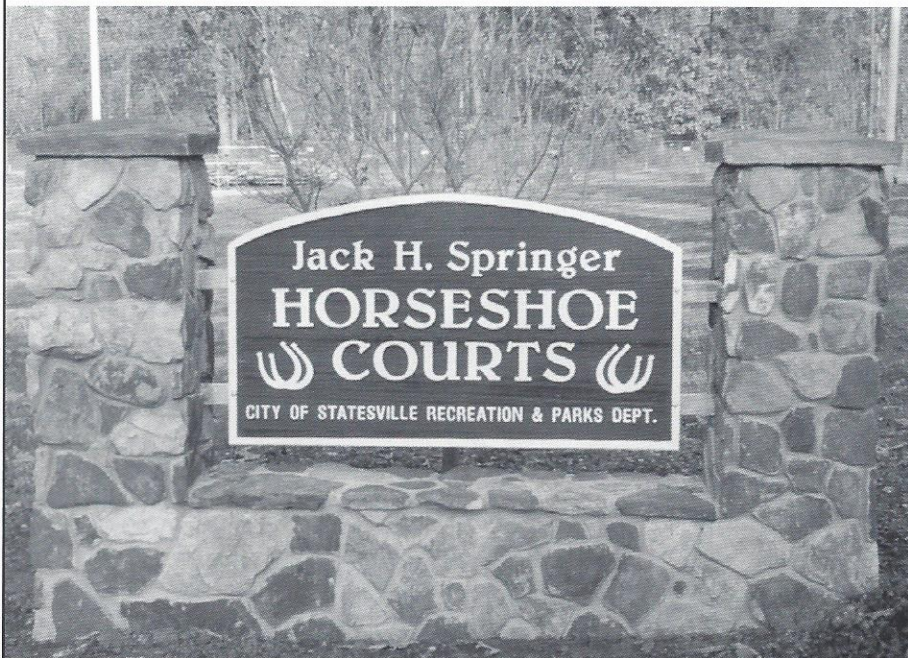
Ceiling Height

The current specifications for ceiling height state that indoor facilities "shall have a minimum twelve-foot (12') clearance to the lowest possible obstruction". This requirement would be in effect for any new building being designed for horseshoe pitching, but in many current facilities, the ceiling height may be as low as 10 feet, or even lower. CS sanction waivers can be granted for ceilings that are less than 12 feet high, but some pitchers will have to alter their normal delivery to prevent their shoes from hitting the ceiling.

Adapt or Drop Out?

Pitchers who may not feel safe because the courts/stakes are too close together, or who may have to alter their normal pitch to avoid hitting the back-wall or the ceiling, will have to make a decision about whether or not to participate. Some may not want to change their pitching style by throwing a lower shoe or by taking a shorter step. But there are many pitchers who can and will be able to pitch here without having to change their pitching style, and for those concerned about safety, additional safety features can be added. Of course, these concerns would not exist if all inside facilities met all of our court specifications, but this is not currently the case. So until such time that this may become a reality, the granting of some CS waivers is probably in the best interest of supporting and promoting Winter league and tournament pitching.

2009 Carolina Dogwood



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**Carolina Dogwood Festival
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In Statesville, North Carolina
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Jack H. Springer Horseshoe Courts
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PRE-REGISTRATION (REQUIRED) BY MARCH 1, 2009
TOURNAMENT IS LIMITED TO FIRST 224 ENTRIES!

Reminder, This tournament fills to capacity quickly.

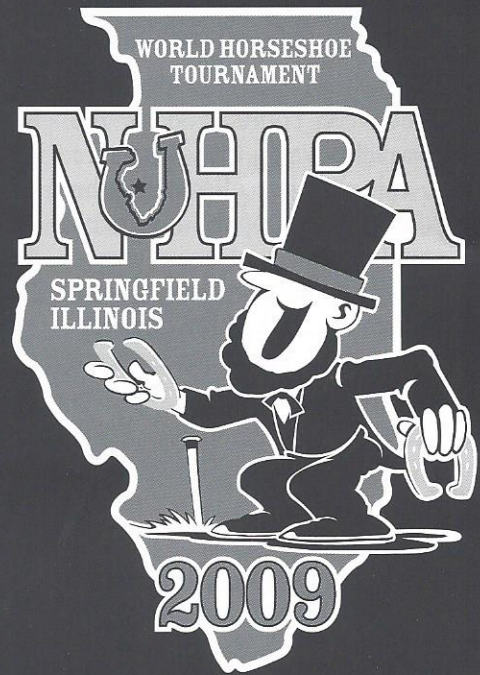
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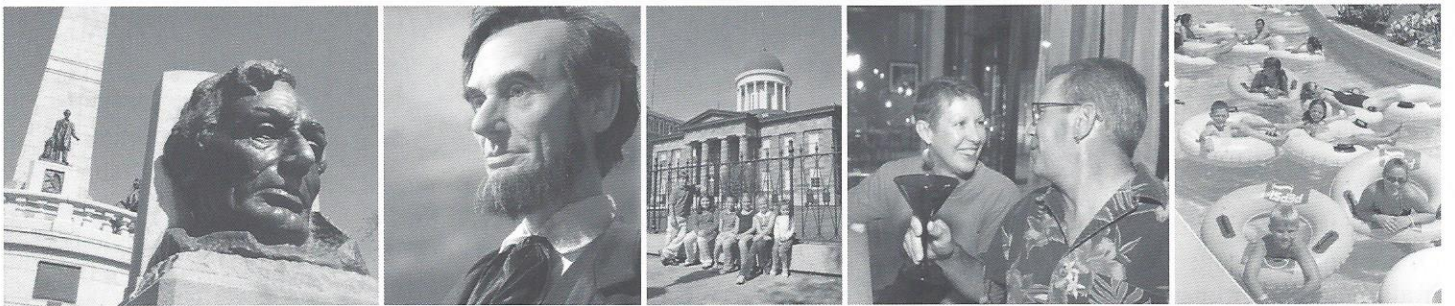
When you're not
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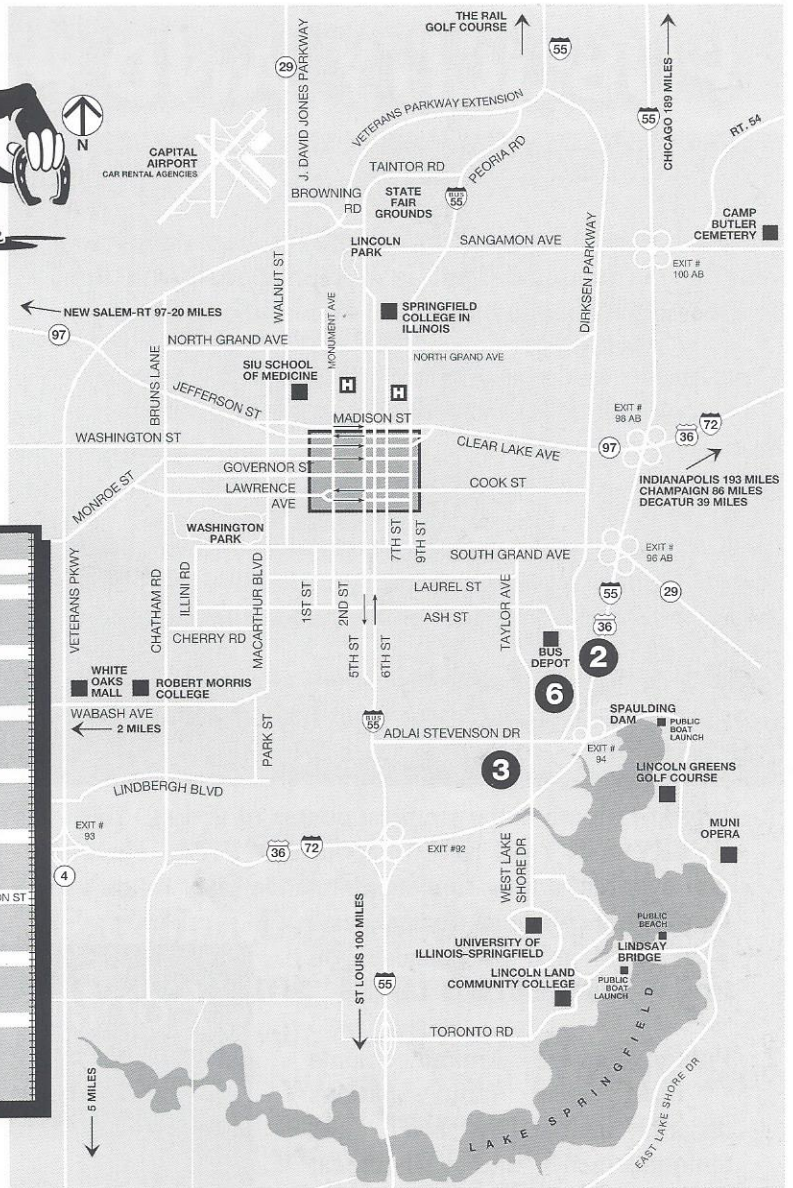
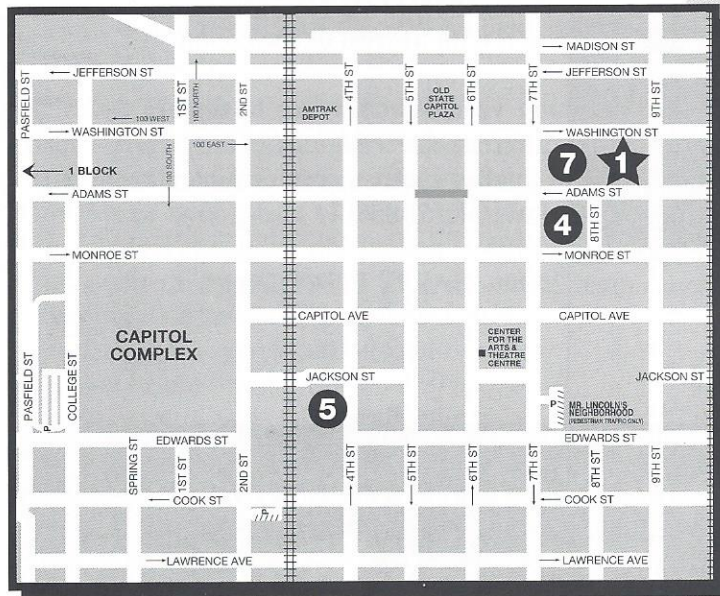


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- Sangchris Lake State Park** | 9898 Cascade Road Rochester, IL
217.498.9208

NHPA

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

by Tina Hawkins

The New Year is upon us and so are my new duties as your second vice-president. In this position, I will be overseeing the publicity and promotion of the NHPA.

There are lots of ideas to explore in this area – I have plans to help you publicize and promote on the state and local levels as well as plans for a more widespread campaign for the entire National Association.

I will be able to divulge more information following the council's winter meeting in January, at which point I will have a better idea of my capabilities and limitations.

In the mean time, here are some actions you can take now to help get the word out about your charter and/or local clubs and leagues:

1. Word of mouth is the simplest course of action. Tell **EVERYONE YOU KNOW** about the NHPA. Have you ever had a long-time acquaintance say, "I didn't know you pitched horseshoes." That could only be because you haven't told them!!!
2. Public Service Announcements – most local radio stations do not charge for brief PSA announcements and will repeat them several times throughout the day.
3. Community Calendars – Usually managed through the city's Chamber of Commerce. Again, this is usually free. Have your tournaments and leagues posted on the calendar of events. They are usually available on the internet and occasionally turn up on the tables at sponsoring restaurants. Newspapers also offer a calendar of events for the upcoming week.
4. Offer to set up portable courts at heritage day celebrations, craft shows and livestock shows – or

any other place where a large number of people will be milling around in no particular hurry. Be sure to have contact information ready to hand out!!!

I am looking forward to taking on the challenge of this position and to working with all of you who make up the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. Feel free to share **YOUR** ideas for publicity and promotion. If you have come up with a great plan to bring in more members, we need to share it with the rest of the country!

In the upcoming year, I would like to feature "success stories" from different charters/clubs in the NHPA – send yours to me at tinahawk@msn.com or Tina Hawkins Rt. 4, Box 52 Marlow, OK 73055.

Have a great 2009 – HAPPY PITCHING!!

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The NHPA would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone who generously sponsored the new equipment first used at the 2008 World Tournament in York, Pennsylvania. This equipment is going to provide world tournament pitchers with the best possible pitching conditions for years to come. There are 60 courts available for sponsorship. If anybody wishes to sponsor a court, please contact Dick Hansen. The NHPA executive council will continue to improve and provide its membership with the best world tournament experience possible.

The Stewlies
Charles M. Bunner, Fairmont, WV
Arlene & Don Boyer, Martinsville, IL
Minnesota, MGSHPA
Kenosha Horseshoe Club, Kenosha, WI
Bob Knudtson, Minnesota
NHPA Game Related Sales
L. Glenn Mitchell, N. Wilkesboro, NC
California Charters, NCHPA & SCHPA
Dallas Area Horseshoe Club, Dallas, PA
Colorado, CHPA
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Bismarck-Mandan HPA, North Dakota
The Sipma Family, Bismarck, ND
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Homer & Ginger Cain Family Court
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The Sanders Family, Columbus, OH
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Whetstone Hc, Columbus, OH
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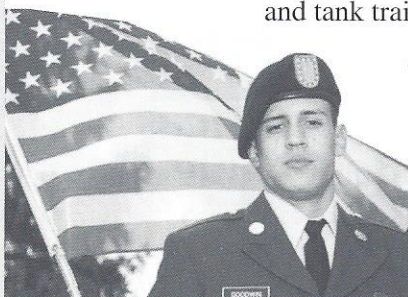


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Yancy Levi Goodwin

Yancy Levi Goodwin, (age 20) passed away suddenly on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. He was currently a SPC E4 in the United States Army National Guard with the 181st Brigade, Spokane, Washington. He had just returned home from a month of training at the Yakima Training Center. He was scheduled to report for advanced training on August 20, 2008 at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin before being deployed to Iraq in mid-October. He was so proud of being in the military and serving his country. He spent the summer of 2006 & 2007 at Fort Knox, Kentucky for basic and tank training.



Yancy was born May 14, 1988 in Spokane to Clint and Kathy (Williams) Goodwin. He was schooled at Northport, Washington until he started school at

Almira and later, Coulee City. He entered Almira-Coulee-Hartline High School in his freshman year, graduating in 2007. He enjoyed being a member of the A-C-H/Wilbur track team.

Yancy came to Hartline to live with his grandparents, Dave and Patti Goodwin in 2002. Yancy loved fishing and hunting with his Grandpa Dave and he especially loved his Granny Patti's cooking and hugs. He enjoyed the youth group meeting at his church and the friendships he made there. His friends, camping-out, playing X-Box and serving his country were his priorities. He was also a competitive horseshoe pitcher with the Washington State Horseshoe Pitching Association.

Memorials in Yancy's name may be made to the Washington State Horseshoepitchers Junior League, % Phyllis Quist, P.O. Box 517, Ferndale, Washington 98248, the Hartline Cemetery Association, or the Hartline Methodist Church where he was baptized in 1988.

Hall of Fame & Museum

WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE AND LEGACIES ARE HONORED!

by Jeanette Claas

Happy New Year from Wentzville, Missouri, home of the NHPF facility and the NHPA Hall of Fame & Museum! Dave Loucks received a letter from Ed Quigley, of New Jersey, suggesting some articles and pictures be printed in the Newslite Magazine so that you can see for yourself where your contributions are being spent. We realize that many of you will never have the opportunity to travel to Missouri to see this great facility and so it is my privilege to write a column bringing the NHPA to you so that it becomes more of a reality.

The NHPF/NHPA facility is opened to the public four days a week – Saturdays and Sundays - Noon – 5:00 PM and on Mondays and Wednesdays – 2:30 PM until 10:00 PM during league play. There is information on the front door showing a number of Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club (QRHC) members who can be contacted to open the doors for you in case you come at a time when the building is closed. There is more information on the front entrance informing you of our host motel, located within ten minutes from the site, where special rates are given to all horseshoe pitchers. Surely if you have traveled any distance to see the facility, you will want to pitch a few shoes – so don't forget to bring them with you.

As a member of the QRHC I would like to invite you to pitch in any of our tournaments as you are traveling through Missouri, which we are listing for your convenience. Contact the tournament director and we will work you in. The QRHC holds monthly tournaments all year round. At the present time we have two winter leagues and one summer league. During the past year we have held 17 tournaments. Some of these tournaments

have brought in some of the greatest horseshoe pitchers of our time, including World Champions Alan Francis and Sue Snyder. We also held the 2008 Missouri State Horseshoe Tournament over the hot four days of Labor Day weekend. Lucky for those who pitched inside the air-conditioned facility! The Mayor of Wentzville was present for the Opening Ceremony and threw out the first shoe! The QRHC members recently completed its 16 outdoor courts which are available for public use.

Playing host and or hostess to our visitors is quite an interesting duty. The first Guest Book is now filled and it shows that over 1,000 people have passed through its doors this year. We are now on the second guest book! Looking through the pages I see over 22 states have been represented. Each and every person seeing the facility for their first time is just amazed and so impressed by the entire facility.

With the World Tournament in Springfield, Illinois this year, located 120 miles east of the Hall of Fame, we are hoping that a lot more horseshoe players get to stop by. How about holding a pre Warm-Up Tournament on the way to Springfield? If this is of interest to you, let us know. djclaas@sbcglobal.net More news to follow in the next issue.

Keep on supporting the NHPF – it is the only way to preserve the history, showcase the present and build the future of horseshoe pitching – the game we all love and enjoy. Donations to the NHPF can be sent to P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946.

2009 Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club Tournament Schedule

DATE	TOURNAMENT	DIRECTORS	CONTACT
Jan. 17	Super Bowl Special	Mickey & Dorie Gillette	(636)456-1311
Feb. 14	Happy Hearts	Andy Foulds/Jan Kreienkamp	(636)583-6446
Feb. 28	Spring Team	Jim & Carol Howard	(636)441-7679
Mar. 7-8	NHPA Walking Doubles	Dick Hanson	(262)835-9108
Mar. 14	Shamrock Fling	Don & Gidget Rahe	(636)462-6337

Continued on page 22

THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS

Hall of Fame & Museum

WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE AND LEGACIES ARE HONORED! *Continued*

DATE	TOURNAMENT	DIRECTORS	CONTACT
Apr. 4-5	Liberty VS QRHC	Jim Riley-Don Claas	(636)447-3039
Apr. 25	April Showers	Kevin Neningen	(636)456-4996
May 2-3	Six Pac Invitational	Joe Faron/Bob Diekamp	(636)398-5028
May 16	Mayflower Marathon	Darryl & Pam Gettinger	(636)928-0083
June 20	Summer Heat	Larry Volo-Bob Reininger	(314)469-1103
July 11	Nite Owl Special	John Simms-Stan Bailey	(636)387-8000
Sep.4-7	2009 MO State	Andy Foulds	(636)583-6446
Oct 24	Fall Team	Jim & Carol Howard	(636)441-7679
Nov 21	Turkey Trot	Ralph Hummel – Gary Buehler	(636)798-6117
Dec. 5	Jingle Bell Rock	Larry Volo – Bob Reininger	(314)469-1103

TEAMS 2008

by Stu Sipma

On October 20-24, 2008, I attended my third TEAMS (Travel, Events and Management in Sports) conference at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Schneider Publishing has been contacting me each year to attend this event due to the enthusiasm shown at previous TEAMS conferences from locations wanting to host our event. Tim Schneider made it a point to tell me that the World Horseshoe Tournament is a great event to market at this conference. The size and duration of this event makes it very attractive to many cities.

This year TEAMS brought in over 205 exhibitors and approximately 70 different event organizers (like myself) to showcase their event. The majority of the members who attend World Tournaments (especially the voting delegates) should be able to see the results of this marketing trip by the quality of bidders and the facilities being proposed to host this event.

As an event organizer for the NHPA, my schedule was booked by the TEAMS staff with 12 minute sessions with Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)/Tourism groups from all around the US. These sessions started on Wednesday and continued through Friday.

The results of this year's TEAMS were once again very successful and I believe four locations will submit a bid

for hosting the 2011 World Tournament. These sites include Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana; Florence, South Carolina, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Charleston/Morgantown, West Virginia. Other locations showing an interest are Lindsay, California; Arlington, Texas and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Even though York held the 2008 World Tournament, the folks at TEAM Pittsburgh want it back and will be working hard to put together a package. I look forward to working with all these groups in trying to bring the World Tournament to their city.

For the Regional Directors, you may be contacted by your local CVB/Tourism groups as I had provided them your name to start the communication. I have encouraged them to team up with their local horseshoe clubs before starting the bidding process as I have found that teams comprised of both horseshoe and tourism groups seem to be more successful during the bidding process.

As I am writing this article, I have already been invited to the 2009 TEAMS in New Orleans. I look forward to this event and want everyone to know that I am working hard at marketing this sport throughout the US.

NHPA RULES COMMITTEE

by Jerry LaBrosse

By the time you read this article, the deadline for submitting rules change proposals will have passed. I can report to you now that there haven't been very many proposals received as of this time, which is a good reflection on the quality of the RGS booklet. The rules proposals that have made it through the process will be approved at the winter meeting of the NHPA Council, and then published in Newsline for your review.

I want to thank the folks who exercised their right to submit proposals. Some of them passed through the committee, and some did not. One proposal that did not make it was to make it mandatory for all tournament directors to handicap classes that had a percentage spread of 10% or more. The committee did not feel that this was the proper way to deal with this issue. Although this handicapping method is used in many charters, and is strongly encouraged for all charter tournaments where applicable, it is not mandatory. There are arguments pro and con on both sides of this issue, but it was felt that it should be left to the tournament director's discretion.

Equipment Update

I'd like to thank the members who offered their ideas and suggestions for improving the new courts. As you may know, the main feature that we are concerned about is the front bumper board of the new courts. The shoes that hit this bumper rebound in all directions. Recently I have heard concerns about the design of the front board, mainly the angle at which it is placed in the box. One thing I'd like to mention first off is that no matter what we do to the front of the court, there will always be errant shoes; that's just the nature of portable courts. Some of the more dangerous flying shoes are deflected off of the stake, and there is absolutely nothing we can do about that.

One of the main ideas of slanting the front board at 45 degrees was to give the appearance of it being lower. I have

used this design in my facility for seven years and have never seen this to be a problem. The rebounding problem wasn't expected to be an issue at all in York. Redesigning the position of the front board in the new courts is really not an option at this point; due to the major reconstruction it would take to change the assembly angle.

What we are trying to achieve is to lessen the rebounding and come up with something that will withstand the severe pounding these front boards take. After discussing this issue with several members and conducting a variety of tests, we've decided to go with a different front pad material. High wear conveyor belting has fabric layers inside and tough rubber layers outside. I've concluded that the bounciness is considerably less with this material. I thought that adding a layer of shock absorbing foam between the rubber pad and the board would be the answer, (and it does work better than the original design), but the belting material seems to perform even better.

The other problem we are trying to solve is the wear factor on the top edge of the board. At the present time we are trying a stainless cap on the top of the board. The sound

Continued on page 24

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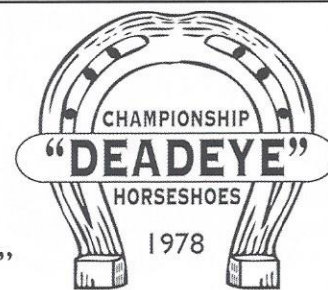
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RULES COMMITTEE *Continued*

made when hit by a shoe is the same as when a shoe hits the stake, so noise isn't a factor. We will continue to test this cap and decide on the best thickness to use, keeping in mind the weight and the cost. It appears at this point that the cap will be made of 1/8" stainless steel. Even this cap will get beat up over time, but we already know that these front boards will have to be replaced eventually.

I also have recently learned that there were some players and spectators who were hit by flying shoes, one even needing medical attention. I was not aware of these incidents and I sincerely hope that any injuries were minor. I can assure you all that we will do everything possible to correct this situation, as best that it can be corrected.

While in York last year, I was constantly surveying pitchers about the design of the courts. Some loved the 45 degree slanted front board, some did not, and many didn't have an opinion either way. I did hear some concerns about

pitchers tripping on the corner of the rubber pad while crossing over to the other side of the pit. This problem has been solved. We believe that we have also solved the problem of the boxes moving during the tournament.

I welcome any and all discussion and suggestions pertaining to the new courts.

Candidate for 3rd Vice President Lorraine Sternberg

I wish to announce my candidacy for re-election for NHPA 3rd Vice President. I would like to continue to serve on the NHPA Council and the Sanctioned League Program. I have enjoyed working with all the league directors and the other NHPA officers. I feel that there is still much to be done to increase our membership in sanctioned leagues and to improve the sanctioned league scholarship program. I would like to continue this effort and if re-elected, I will continue to help make it grow. I would appreciate your support and your vote for re-election at the 2009 convention in Springfield, Illinois.

Thank you!
Lorraine Sternberg

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

17-18-19th - Dogwood Tournament

MAY

15-16-17th - Team World

Income & Expenses Statement

October - November 2008

Income

Membership Dues	\$ 23,655.00
Newsline Ads	\$ 170.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$ 3,239.00
NHPF Donation	\$ 50.00
Sanction Club/League Patches	\$ 58.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$ 18.81
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$ 104.33
World Tournament Patches	\$ 9.00
Charter Dues	\$ 8.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,312.14

Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$ 3,968.87
Newsline Publication, Editing & Misc.	\$ 102.18
Sanction League Postage & Printing	\$ 566.30
Sanction League Patches & Awards	\$ 4,944.35
Sanction League Tournament	
Awards & Expenses	\$ 2,680.62
All Junior Trust Accounts	\$ 210.00
Regional Director, Postage, Telephone,	
Supplies & Printing	\$ 30.14
Publicity, Promotions & Ads	\$ 5,241.58
Equipment Purchases, Rentals & Repairs	\$ 597.58
Printing, paper & office supplies	\$ 2,482.92
Postage	\$ 52.10
Officers Telephone	\$ 325.60
Officers Travel	\$ 1,904.80
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$ 3,500.00
Presidents Allowance	\$ 1,050.00
Publicity, Promotions & ads	\$ 380.00
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donations & Support	\$ 12,113.00
Insurance	\$ 592.00
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$ 63.25
Refunds	\$ 8.00
Internet Access & Web Site	\$ 220.64
TOTAL	\$ 41,033.93

From the books of
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

HALL OF FAME

by Vicki Winston

By the time you read this, the holidays will be over. I hope they were an enjoyable time for everyone. Also enjoyable is the fact that the November elections are over. Whether our candidates won or lost, at least our phones are a lot quieter. A pleasant surprise in late fall and early winter has been the much lower prices of gas. Too bad the World Tournament isn't being held now when more people might be able to afford to travel.

It is my pleasure to inform you that NHPA President, Paul Stewart, has appointed Ron Deckard of Florida to fill the vacancy on the Hall of Fame Committee that has existed since the passing of Gary Kline. I know that Ron is very knowledgeable concerning the Florida Hall of Fame and his expertise should be a very valuable asset to our NHPA committee. I look forward to having Ron as a member of the team.

Also by the time you are reading this, nominations for the 2009 voting will probably have ceased and the committee will be getting ready to go through the voting process. At the time of this writing, we have received two new nominations that have been accepted for the ballot and three names have been removed for lack of votes during the voting process of the past two years. Nominations may be submitted at any time by a NHPA member or club. Just go to the Hall of Fame link of the NHPA website and print a copy of the nomination form. Look at the other Hall of Fame links also, so that you will have all of the necessary information.

It was my good fortune to be able to spend four days at the NHPA/NHPF Hall of Fame, Museum and Court Complex last Labor Day weekend. Even though the weather outdoors was extremely hot, the building was very comfortable. Tourists would come in everyday and I would direct them to the Hall of Fame room, if I happened to be the first person they saw. There were also some who wanted to know where the Memorial Brick Plaza was located. Unfortunately, they had to go back outdoors to view that. I still am almost overwhelmed that this dream of so many years has actually come true. At last there is a place to preserve the history of our sport and honor those who have contributed so much to it. Bob Dunn has

been busy creating a database of biographies of the Hall of Fame inductees. Another committee member has received all of the files compiled by Gary Kline and is attempting to preserve that information. It won't happen overnight, but hopefully someday at least some of this information will be available to those who visit the Hall of Fame.

Some members of the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club are working their tails off to see that this facility is kept in good shape and they are paying for the privilege to boot. These are some very dedicated and exceptional people. It takes funds to keep this complex open and it would be wonderful if more people from the horseshoe world would pitch in with some financial support, even if you will never visit the building. I gave a little contribution to help build the Bowling Hall of Fame and I'm not in it, nor do I ever

Continued on page 26

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plan to visit it. I just knew the importance of having such a place. There are several ways that funds for the Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame facility could be raised. One would be for clubs or charters to hold a benefit tournament once or twice a year. My own charter is donating 50 cents per adult member per year to the NHPF. Individuals or clubs could purchase more of the bricks that are still for sale. You could put your own name on them or you could honor someone who has been an important part of your life. Either way, you would be helping a good cause. Perhaps you would rather just send periodic monetary donations

or maybe you would like to remember the Hall of Fame in your will. It would be wonderful in this New Year to see horseshoe pitchers from all over the country really get enthused and begin to offer continuing support for this dream come true. It's too bad that many of those who first had the dream did not live long enough to see it become a reality. Those of us today have had the opportunity that they didn't have. Let's make the early dreamers proud of the way we support what has been accomplished for the sport of horseshoe pitching. Have a happy and healthy 2009!

SPRINGFIELD SITE TOUR

OCTOBER 30-31, 2008

by Stu Sipma

With the 2009 World Tournament rapidly approaching, Dick and Paulette Hansen and I visited Springfield, Illinois on October 30-31st. The purpose of the trip was to assist the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Springfield Horseshoe Club in finalizing plans for the 2009 World Tournament including the portable court layout at the Prairie Capital Convention Center (host site for the 2009 World Tournament).

We met with Springfield CVB members Gina Gemberling, Director of Sales; Amy Beadle, Sales Manager and Shirley Eck, Convention Services Manager. The meeting began with an overview of the World Tournament and how the Springfield CVB Directors would assist with the World Tournament. Shirley Eck outlined her duties which included handling motel reservations, signage, media, welcome booth, tours, name badges, inserts, and the opening ceremony. For the campers, you will need to go to the website and make your own reservations. Amy Beadle will handle all questions and concerns pertaining to the World Tournament. She will also be involved with the Information Booth which will be set up in the main lobby of the Prairie Capital Convention Center (PCCC).

After the meeting, we completed a walk through of the Hilton Tower and Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel. Both hotels are located one block from the convention

center. The Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel is very nice and the décor has a touch of history. This hotel is connected to the convention center through a basement tunnel. Across the street, is the Hilton Tower which includes a Bennigans and StarBucks Coffee. During the walk through of both hotels, we looked at the banquet rooms which each site had to offer. Both places have great accommodations with plenty of room to host our Hall of Fame Banquet and delegate meeting.

Later that afternoon, we visited the Presidential Museum which is just a couple of blocks away from the hotels. If you like history, especially Abraham Lincoln, you will really enjoy this museum.

That evening the Springfield CVB and the Springfield horseshoe officials had a gathering which included the city public officials. At this time, we had a chance to meet the majority of the City Association Sports Commission Members and the Mayor of Springfield. You can't believe how excited the city of Springfield is to have the Horseshoe Pitchers come to their town!

After the meeting, a group of us went to dinner at an Italian place called Saputo's (which is also within walking

Continued on page 27

SPRINGFIELD SITE TOUR *Continued*

distance of the convention center). This is an excellent restaurant for those who like Italian.

The next morning, we met at the convention center to go over the portable court layout with the Springfield Horseshoe Club volunteers. The main arena floor of the convention center will be large enough to fit 48 portable courts with two playoff courts. The courts will be spaced 10' apart (stake/stake) and 16' (back/back). The clay that Springfield is proposing is an "Eldon" blue clay, which is one of the top blue clays in the nation. (See the note below from Joe Benekyl.)

The building floor plans were also reviewed with the convention center staff to develop a layout for all the various activities associated with the World Tournament.

I believe the Springfield horseshoe club officials and volunteers have put together a great plan to host a successful 2009 World Tournament. Special thanks to Bill and Deanna Marvin. I believe this tournament will be just as good, if not better than, York in 2008! The whole town of Springfield is on board to make sure all the horseshoe pitchers are welcomed! Plan on spending a few extra days to take in all of their attractions as it is a beautiful town. The dates for the World Tournament are July 27th - August 8th, 2009. Tournament entry deadline will be May 14, 2009.

Illinois Blue Clay

submitted by Joe Benekyl

Illinois Blue Clay - Blue Clay is also known as blue shale in the state of Illinois and is used for pottery, modeling ceramic art, brick factories and for horseshoe courts. Good places to find blue clay is in excavations such as rock quarries, strip mines and building excavations. Chunks of blue clay is

extracted from the earth and then pulverized and placed in a large mixer and reduced to a fine powder material. It is then mixed with water into a soft pliable like putty. The best characteristic of blue clay is that it does not build up on the horseshoe like clay found in some other states. It also does not leave a soapy, slippery feel when delivering your horseshoes. The main purpose of blue clay is to cushion and hold the shoe when it lands instead of letting it bounce or slide.

Watering clay pits after they have been used takes a very light sprinkling of the top surface and then shaving only the top two or three inches with a shovel and turning it over; thus allowing the water to work on the underside of the clay while the next game uses the freshly turned surface of clay. This kind of maintenance after each game will keep the clay in excellent condition throughout an entire 2009 world tournament.

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WHITLEY COUNTY HSC, INDIANA



Team Standings for Group 1		Won	Lost
1.	Whitley County, IN. Connie Reimer, Carolyn Coyle & Larry Hively	21	9
2.	Independence, MO. Michael Gillespie, Roy Flatt & Terry Kampe	17.5	9.5
3.	Golden Triangle, MO. Jeanette Class, Donnie Rahe & Theresa Barry	16	11
4.	Kenosha, WI. Tom Endler, Jan Fisher & Rick Browner	14	13
5.	Marion, IN. Jenny Morris, James Morris & Sonny Franks	13.5	13.5
6.	Liberty Team #2, Mo. Lyle Samuelson, Elizabeth Furner & Floyd Roberts	12	15
7.	New Castle, IN. Ron Womack, Charles Luellen & Ralph Guffey	12	15
8.	Quail Ridge, MO. Roy Evans, Rich Altis & Mick Gillette	11	16
9.	Beloit Team #2, WI. Kevin Brekke, Dan Lessman & Russ Burns	11	16
10.	Lake of the Ozarks Team #1, MO. Donna Bastel, Robert Bastel & Pam Gettinger	9	18

Team Standings for Group 2		Won	Lost
1.	First Capitol Women's, MO. Mary Beeson, Ginny Weiss & Suzanne Evans	20.5	9.5
2.	Beloit Team #1, WI. Virgil Smith, Jesse Garza & Walt Houck	17	10
3.	Liberty Team #3, MO. Laura Johnson, Keith Johnson & Denise Bloss	16	11
4.	Lake of the Ozarks Team #2, MO. Danny Branson, Roena Branson & Harold Hoffmeister	14	13
5.	Combined Locks, WI. Bill Matey, Elaine Troullier & Cliff Troullier	14	13
6.	AVF Downers Grove, IL. Luke Thompson, Richard Andrysiak & Paul Zimmerman	13	14
7.	Four Stakes, GA. Jeff Coile, Jimmy Coile & David Coile	13	14
8.	Edmond, OK. Georgia Burke, Leonard Burke & Johny Vanderburg	12	15
9.	Heart of America, MO. Dee McIntire, Elwyn Cooper & David Kincaid	8.5	18.5
10.	Liberty Team #1, MO. Gina Baker, Bob Bloss & Daphne Happy	8	19

TOLL OF TIME

Warren "Don" Williams

Nevada/Minnesota

Warren "Don" Williams passed away on September 1, 2008. He had recently moved from Reno, Nevada to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Warren's first horseshoe was off a horse on his grandfather's farm in Woodstock, Minnesota! After high school graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and spent several years before he was service-connected medically discharged.

In 1974 he joined the Orange Horseshoe League in Southern California and has been a member of the NHPA ever since. In 1999 he pitched his first World Championship tournament in Greenville, Ohio and won the 40' Senior Class I. He got special recognition for a game of 18 ringers in a row and an 85% game. In 2007 he won the World Championship 30' Elders Class D in Ardmore Oklahoma. To win the 40' Class and the 30' class was one of his great accomplishments.

The Williams Family

Cam Shilling

Spencerville, IN

Camilla Shilling, 69, of Spencerville, Indiana passed away November 19, 2008. She is survived by her husband Jim Shilling, Regional Director of Indiana and game related distributor for the NHPA; a daughter, Sandra Bazini; and stepsons Ed and Don Shilling. She was co-manager of Classic City Indoor Courts for 24 years, Indiana state secretary and newsletter editor for several years. She received a national

award for promoting shoes, a league director award, and was a member of the NHPA for 26 years. She was a member of the Indiana Hall of Fame. She attended 26 world tournaments and has been a game related NHPA distributor with Jim.

Cam received her bachelor and masters degree in food and nutrition from Purdue University. She was CEO of the Purdue University program of "Have a Healthy Baby", and recently retired from the university's County Extension work.

She was very involved in various organizations in her church at both the local and state levels.

Jim has lost a loving wife and the NHPA has lost a faithful worker. But as we all know, God wants the good ones.

George Pilipovich

Indiana

George was born August 16, 1925 in Vermillion County, Indiana. He passed away May 22, 2008 at his Hobart, Indiana home. George was a resident of Hobart for 31 years. On August 26, 1950 in Clinton, Indiana, he married Betty Rose Bridgewater who survives along with two sons, two daughters, one brother, 21 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Continued on page 30

MORE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

2008 Nebraska State Tournament Columbus, Nebraska

Championship Men

1. Mills Lorin 50.20
2. Petersen Kelly 46.95
3. Thomsen Marcus 51.20

Championship Women

1. Thomsen Marion 49.00
2. Schneider Carolyn 44.40
3. Drozd Heather 35.17

Championship Men 30

1. Fuhr Gordon 50.37
2. Nelson Bill 48.81
3. Krueger Clarence 45.00

Championship Junior Boy

1. Pearson Cole 44.44
2. Limbach Seth 48.88
3. Drozd Steve 39.44
4. Hageman Tyler 32.81

Championship Junior Girl

1. Wysocki Samantha 28.57

Womens Classes

- A** Havlovic Janet 24.50
B Vesely Sara 18.00

Men's Classes

- AA** Alswager Merle 34.94
A Rosenbohm Al 36.78
BB Andel Eugene 31.07
B McCance Kent 28.92
CC Wroblewski Irvin 10.00

Men's 30' Class

- A** Moran Bernard 36.66

Junior Class

- A** Hageman Tim 10.35

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Ron & Polly Murphy

TOLL OF TIME *Continued*

George was a machine operator for Union Tank for 43 years, retiring in 1990. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. He was a member of the American Legion Post #260 in Portage, Indiana.

George was a really gifted athlete who not only excelled in horseshoes, where he exceeded the 70 percent plateau; he was a former member of the Brooklyn Dodgers and had been offered a position with the Detroit Tigers. He loved to bowl and to garden, sharing tomatoes with his horseshoe buddies. George will be missed by everyone who came to know him. We'll all miss his Slavic accent saying "Don't shoot-a-crooked!"

George was a member of the Indiana Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Porter Central Horseshoe League (Portage, Indiana), Westchester Horseshoe League (Chesterton, Indiana), and Shelby Lions Club Horseshoe League (Shelby, Indiana).

Joseph A. Graber

Indiana

Joseph Graber, 76, died July 25, 2008 after a five-month illness. He was born August 10, 1931 in Illinois, moving to Indiana when he was 16 years old. He married Dora Troyer on May 26, 1962.

He was an avid horseshoe pitcher for the last 20 years and a member and president of the Indiana Horseshoe Pitching Association. Joe enjoyed traveling to and camping at World Horseshoe and Indiana State Tournaments.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in the Korean War and a member of the American Legion Post 210, Middlebury. He was a member of the First Mennonite Church, Middlebury.

Survivors include his wife, Dora; daughter, Tonya (Mark) Everler; sons Joseph Scott (Joy), Jeff (Tamara) and Ted (Rolonda) and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother John (Annie).

West Virginia

John Akers, 84, of Ravenswood passed away on June 3, 2008. He was a 24-year member of the WVHPA/NHPA.

Edward "Tink" Gower, 82, of Clarksburg passed away on June 18, 2008. He was an 18-year member of the WVHPA/NNPA.

James Jones, 66, of Clarksburg passed away on June 25, 2008. He was a 13-year member of the WVHPA/NHPA and a 16-year member of the Stonewood Horseshoe League.

All of them will be sadly missed for the game of horseshoes in many ways.

Submitted by Charles Casey, WV Secretary-Treasurer

Richard W. Wisniewski

Richard W. Wisniewski was born December 30, 1943. He died November 16, 2008. The last eight months of his life were very difficult for him; he had two surgeries, the last one in November.

On May 5, 1994 Richard was given the ultimate gift of life, he received a heart transplant that gave him fourteen years in which he saw his family go through many memorable occasions. His optimism, courage and joyful outlook on life were an inspiration to all that knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Richard is survived by his wife of 39 years, Elaine; his children Jennifer (Jeff) Lichwa and Walter Wisniewski; his grandchildren, Joshua, Julianne and Jeffrey; siblings and many nieces and nephews.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents.

Richard had so many friends in horseshoes, one wouldn't know where to begin naming them.

As a final tribute to Richard, the family requests that you consider becoming an organ donor so others may benefit as he did.

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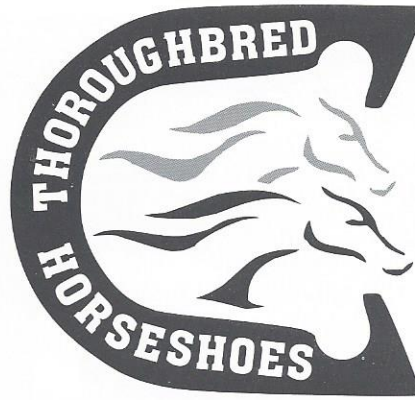
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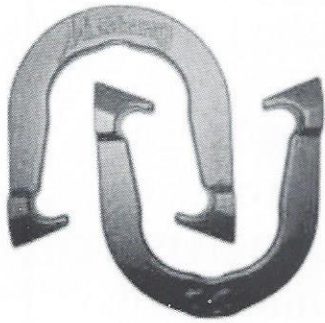
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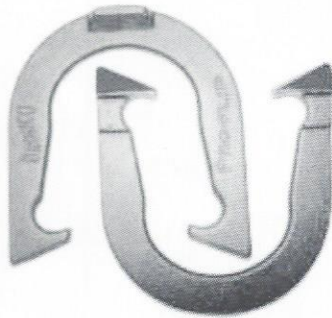


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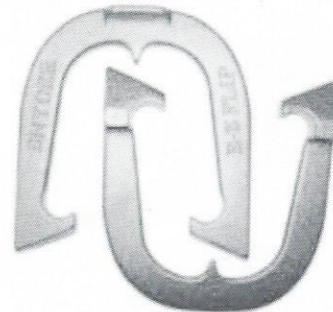
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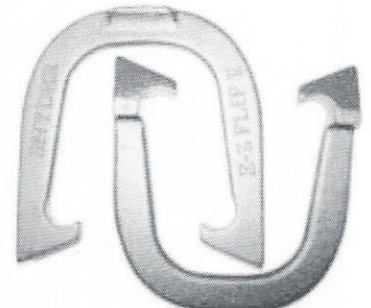
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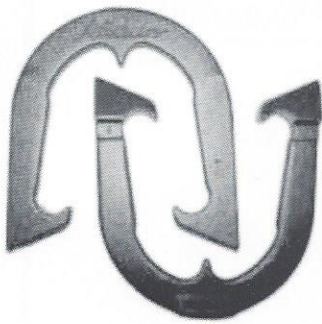
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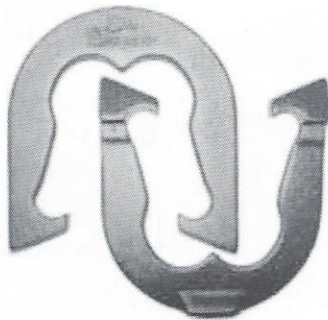
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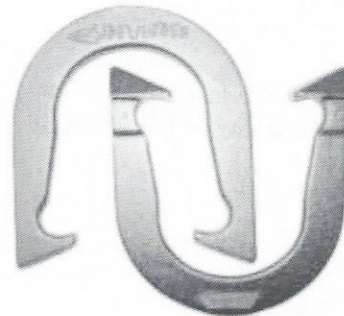
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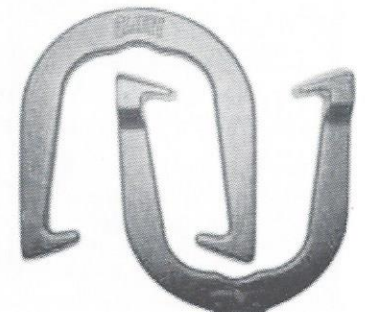
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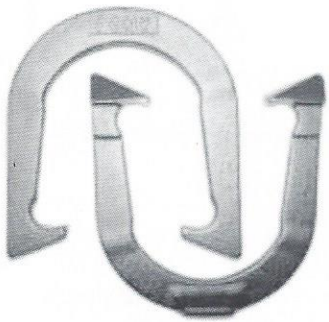
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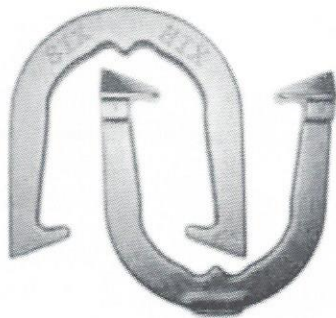
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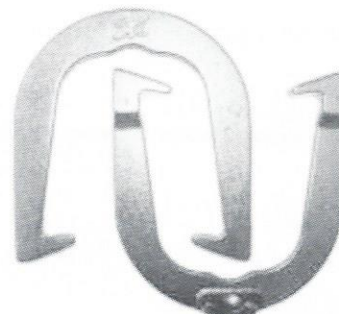
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