



# Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 24, NO. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2012

## REMEMBERING EARL WINSTON



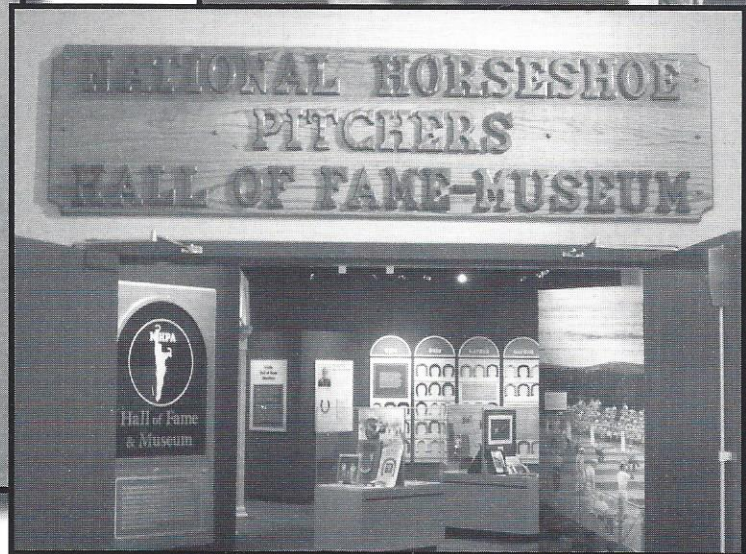
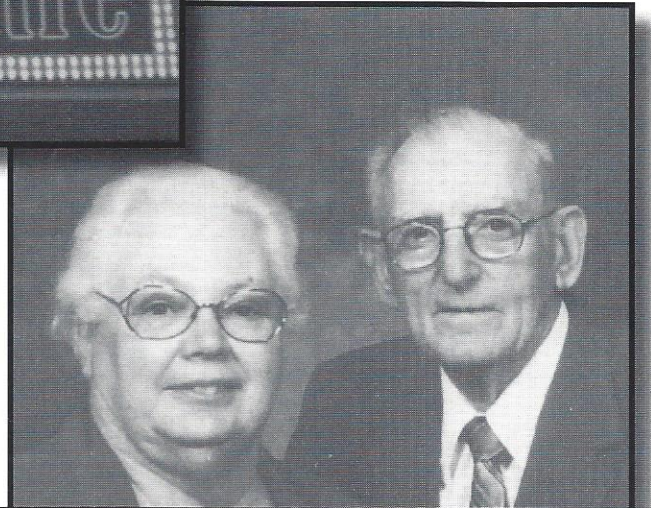
### Winston Theatre - In memory of Earl Winston

It was Earl Winston's long-time efforts collecting memorabilia that inspired the NHPA to seek a site for a National Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame and Museum. His dream finally came true with a temporary site in Joelton, TN, and then the permanent site located here in Wentzville, MO. Earl was also one of the original directors of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation, which was involved in making the hall of fame possible.

Earl was an avid horseshoe pitcher most of his life, and was a state champion. He was instrumental in reorganizing the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Association in 1950. While serving as president of the association for almost 30 years, he was able to get horseshoe pitching reinstated at the Missouri State Fair. He served as Superintendent of Horseshoe Pitching at the fair for over 50 years. He also became vice president of the NHPA and served in that position for 28 years. At one time he chaired the rules committee and later became chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. Earl was elected to the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1987 and to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1988.

Earl was a people person and never knew a stranger. He loved to visit with anyone and tell stories to entertain them. He was a walking encyclopedia of horseshoe pitching history. He was a good neighbor and helped people whenever he was able. Throughout his life he strived to make a difference in the world around him. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Earl Anton Winston was born in rural Knob Noster, MO on June 4, 1927 to the late E. Wayne and Leona Wheeler Winston. On June 10, 1960 he was united in marriage to Vicki Chapelle in Portland, OR, and they began a lifetime of working together in their farming operation in rural LaMonte, MO. Earl passed away on Aug. 8, 2011.



# 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 site information, you might want to contact the NHPA 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. She should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 5<sup>th</sup> VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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## NHPA NEWSLINE

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Cover Story: See page 15-16. Remembering Earl Winston.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Stu Sipma

In May, I was provided the opportunity to travel to Wentzville, MO to dedicate the Theatre Room at the Hall of Fame Museum in honor of the late Earl Winston. When Earl passed away last fall, many memorials were sent to the family in his honor. His wife, Vicki, asked the NHPA Council if they could use the memorials towards the upgrading of the dated computer viewing equipment. This dated equipment would be replaced with a new "touch screen" TV which would allow visitors to view videos right from the Theatre room. This dedication was very appropriate as Vicki felt this was something that Earl would have really enjoyed seeing. The NHPA provided the remaining funds for the purchase and installation of this upgraded equipment.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual HOF Invitational held May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the HOF Building, I had the pleasure of reminiscing with many horseshoe pitchers and watching everyone enjoy the new electronic scoring that was installed earlier. Many thanks to Rob Hagman and Jerry LaBrosse and all the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club for taking time out of their busy schedules to install the new electronic scoring system at the facility. The large screen monitors were very nice and I had heard many players wondering when they could expect this size monitor at the World Tournament! The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club did an excellent job of accommodating everyone throughout the tournament and providing a program for the dedication. My speech for the dedication on Earl's behalf is included in this issue of Newsline. I do want to mention that during the short time I got to know Earl, his heart was always in horseshoes. Earl served on the NHPA Council for 28 years and he and his wife, Vicki, have always been avid supporters of the sport.



The 2012 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center located in the center of downtown Knoxville, TN. Dick has reported a total of 1230 pitchers will be participating over the two weeks. This is very good to see our entry numbers back up. For those pitchers who sent in their entry fee, you probably noticed an additional \$5 fee. The NHPA Council voted to incorporate this onetime fee to put towards the purchase of the remaining electronic scoring equipment. Rob has reported that the equipment has been purchased and that "all" courts will have the needed electronic equipment to provide the players with electronic scoring. Kevin Snelgrove will be providing training for those interested in learning the system or needing some refresher training.

In conclusion, I look forward to visiting with everyone at the World Tournament and would like to hear from you on how we can make this a better sport for everyone to enjoy. I wish everyone a safe and happy trip to Knoxville. The city provides a wide variety of attractions and things to do, so make sure you check out their website. For everyone who makes the trip, I know you will not be disappointed and will enjoy the scenery from the Convention Center. It is absolutely beautiful in Knoxville!

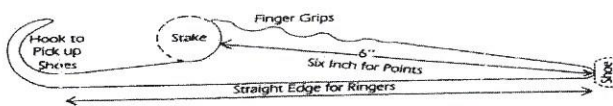
I wish everyone the best of luck in their horseshoe leagues. I know I am really looking forward to getting back on the courts since we were not able to pitch last year due to the flooding of the Missouri River.


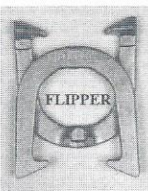
Have a safe summer and happy pitching!

Stu


## "Horseshoe Digger"




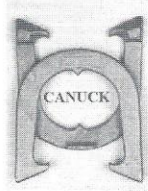




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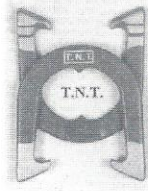








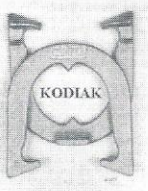












# NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS *by Dave Loucks*

As I have written here before, fund-raising tournaments for the NHPF can be a good way to support the Foundation. Charters, clubs or tournament directors need do little more than to designate one of their annual tournaments as an NHPF Benefit Open. That's what the Emerald Horseshoe Pitchers Club in Eugene, Oregon, has done faithfully for the past 12-13 years. Under the direction of Jerry Gorton, this annual benefit tournament has raised some \$7,500 for the NHPF. Tournament entry fees, scorekeeper fees, 50/50 raffles and individual donations turned over to the NHPF can make a nice contribution to the Foundation even with a modest amount of entrants. This year, the Benefit Open raised \$775. The NHPF greatly appreciates the work of Jerry Gorton and the support of the Oregon pitchers.

A \$200 check was received from the Bayou HPA in Morgan City, Louisiana. Their contribution was submitted in memory of Jerry Crochet. They host a memorial tournament every year in his name and send a contribution to the NHPF to remember not only Jerry, but also all the players in their area that they have lost. The NHPF thanks the Bayou HPA for this gift and their continued support.

The NHPF has over the past nine years issued 40 grants paying out some \$45,000. While there is no legal obligation to pay back the grants, applicants are asked to pledge to hold at least one annual fund-raiser for the purpose of returning some money so the NHPF can be sure that it will be able to help other clubs in need. Regrettably, only about half of those receiving grants live up to their pledge. Fortunately, there are those who take their pledge seriously. Some send in small amounts a few times each year while others occasionally send in a big check.

The latest big return of grant money was a \$500 check from the Little Elm Horseshoe Club in Little Elm, Texas. They received a grant in 2008 and put in six courts and a small clubhouse. Under the direction of Coyce Allen, the Texas NHPA Regional Director, Little Elm, with only 12 active members, hosts three sanctioned tournament a year. The courts sit in a lovely tree shaded area of Beard Park. Coyce has been fortunate enough to advertise the club for a few months on a large Clear Channel Digital Billboard. This highly visible form of advertising has brought numerous calls, a new member and several potential new members. Coyce suggests that the NHPA and/or clubs investigate digital billboards as a promotional awareness tool in other cities.

Are you going to the W.T. in Knoxville? If so, plan on stopping by the NHPF booth. We will be selling raffle tickets for the 2013 W.T. Experience and will have several very nice gifts available for modest donations of various levels. Just another opportunity for us to say thanks for your support.



If you can't donate as an individual, how about working within your club to schedule an annual fund raising tournament for the NHPF. As mentioned above, a few clubs already do this, but imagine how donations might increase if every charter held just one NHPF fund-raiser a year. Remember, this is your Foundation and it needs your financial support to give

back to clubs in need and support the NHPA Hall of Fame. Contributions to the NHPF are recognized by the IRS as tax-deductible and should be sent to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. The Foundation Board also extends thanks to those mentioned below for their contributions and brick orders received during April and May.

Donating \$50  
Chad Hyatt, MD  
Charles Bunner, WV

Donating \$100  
Tom Westbrook, SC

Donating \$200  
Bayou HPA, LA  
Timothy Woodden, OR

Donating \$500-775  
Emerald HPA, OR  
Little Elm HC, TX

Other Income  
\$3000, QRHC 1st Qtr Building rent

Bricks Purchased By:  
Alabama HPA  
Sonoma County HC, CA  
Hazel Ingles, FL  
Harvey Wobbe, MO  
John Gregory, MO  
Buck & Rivers Prewette, NC  
North Dakota HPA (3)

# PUBLICITY PROMOTION *by Tina Hawkins*

The 2012 World Horseshoe Tournament is just around the corner! Hopefully, many of you will be participating and enjoying the many attractions and activities that Knoxville and surrounding area have to offer!

Arrangements have been finalized for the annual NHPA Hall of Fame banquet – this year’s venue is the National Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. As an added bonus, the Junior party will be held at the same location! What a convenience for those who might not have had the opportunity to attend AND provide transportation for their youth to their event!

Be sure to get your tickets early, as they are sure to go fast! Admission to the Basketball Hall of Fame museum is included with the cost of the banquet. During the “meet and greet” time, prior to awards presentations, you will be able to take advantage of the self-guided tours of the facility.

Dinner will be catered by Sweet P’s Bar-B-Q and Soul House, which has been featured on the Travel Channel’s “Man vs. Food” with their El Gigante BBQ Burrito.

Your NHPA Executive Council is striving to make this the best World Tournament experience ever! Many of the concerns and suggestions you voiced through the “suggestion box” at the 2011 World Tournament are being implemented and addressed at this event – and the box will once again be available in a convenient location. This is YOUR event and your opinions are important.

Also be on the lookout for the World Tournament newsletter, “The Daily Shoe.” It will be produced each day of the tournament, until the start of championship play in the second week. It will again contain human interest articles, messages from your officers and directors, as well as upcoming events and activities that you won’t want to miss out on!

The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Knoxville has also put much effort into making this year’s tournament an event to remember! Be sure to visit their office, located just blocks away from the arena. The Knoxville Visitor Center’s Gift Shop, located in downtown Knoxville, is the place to find locally made pieces - like pottery, paintings, candles and more. Also, while shopping for personal gifts or presents, you can take a break and get something to eat or drink from The Coop Cafe, which is located directly next to the gift shop, or listen to live music every weekday at noon - compliments of the Knoxville Visitor Center. You may also wish to visit [www.knoxville.org](http://www.knoxville.org) for the official Knoxville “City Visitor’s Guide.”

While you are onsite at the Knoxville Convention Center, take time to stop by the NHPA offices and meet the people who work all year long to put this event together, and dedicate two whole weeks (sometimes MORE) of their family vacation time to keep things organized and running as smoothly as possible during the duration of the tournament.

While in the vicinity of the NHPA office, you may see examples of “suggested” new NHPA logos. The question was asked through the Charter Communications network, “do you believe the NHPA logo is in need of redesign?” Of those who responded, 74% felt it was time for some sort of change.

While this vote does not definitely mean the current logo will be replaced, it has given cause (along with recommendations from the University of Central Oklahoma’s marketing department) for the Council to investigate other options as well as the implications of redesigning our logo.

There is not currently a new design on the table. Once again, the input of the members is being requested in this project. What do YOU think would make an effective NHPA logo? Send your ideas - as a sketch would be most desirable – to [tinahawk@msn.com](mailto:tinahawk@msn.com). Ideas may be displayed for discussion during the 2012 World Tournament.

The following design criteria should be considered: A logo should readily identify the entity or organization. It should be easily recognizable, even by NON members. It should be simple and concise.

In the event that a new logo design is adopted by the NHPA, there would likely be a transitional period while the current logo is phased out and gradually replaced by the new – keeping expense to the NHPA at a minimum. The ultimate goal is an attention-grabbing logo that may attract new people to try the NHPA when they recognize that it is horseshoe pitching.

There are many things to look forward to at this year’s World Tournament!

With over 1,200 entrants, there should be many old friends to catch up with, and new friends to meet! If this will be your first time to experience electronic score keeping, be sure to visit Ann Hagman at the training station then claim your seat at center court!

Best wishes for safe and adventurous journeys to Knoxville, Tennessee!

# REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *by Debby Michaud*

The 2012 horseshoe pitching season is well underway in the northern and middle states. It almost seemed like a longer winter because it wasn't cold. It teased us into thinking we should be planning tournaments and leagues, but then winter would step in for a few days again to bring us back to reality. Now we are fighting the rain and the mosquitoes! But we are also planning for the 2012 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Knoxville, TN to be held from July 30 – August 12. We have over 1,200 entries, as you know, and it is going to be a great place to hold a World Tournament. We hope to see you there!

Before we see you there, we may see you in Wentzville, MO at the Hall of Fame building for the Red, White, and Blue Walking Doubles on July 7<sup>th</sup>. We have several entries already (by June 1<sup>st</sup>) and are looking forward to many more. As reported before, there were many more Doubles tournaments held across the country in 2012 – the wave of the future? We hope for a good entry into this new tournament.

I will soon be asking our Regional Directors for their help with the Shoe Check process at the World Tournament. Last year was very smooth, partly because we had so much help (thank you!) and partly because there were fewer contestants. This year it will be busier, for sure. To make the process easier and smoother, here are some suggestions for new pitchers at the World Tournament. The routine is actually pretty simple. You will sign in and register at a Knoxville booth when you arrive at the Civic Center. Do this as soon as you arrive, even if that is days before you are scheduled to pitch. In fact, if at all possible, try to register BEFORE your first day of pitching – one less thing to do on your first pitching day – you will receive a welcome bag when you register. On the day of your first scheduled competition, you will go to the Shoe Check room approximately two hours prior to your start time. We will check your NHPA card first, so please remember to bring it – good to laminate it and put it right into your horseshoe bag. (If you do not have your NHPA card with you, we will charge you \$20.00 until we can verify your NHPA membership – better to bring the NHPA card than to give up \$20.00! The \$20.00 will be returned to you as soon as your membership is verified). We will check to see if your last name and your state on the back of your shirt are printed clearly, check the shoes on your feet (for safety, no open toed shoes), and then check your horseshoes for weight and size. We will also check your hooks for overall length and for the length of the hook itself. So please wear the shirt and shoes you plan to pitch in, and bring the horseshoes and hooks that you will use, even if you might use one of several different types. Last year, one pitcher brought five (5) different types of horseshoes for us to check! The next step in the process is to receive instructions, as a group, about the pitching routines. Last but not least the group photos are taken. You will not be able to go to the courts until your shift director has given you the “go-ahead” as others may still be pitching on the courts. Good luck to all! We look forward to re-visiting many friendly faces and to meeting some new ones.

Received a call from Roy Evans in MO – they have recently installed electronic scoring at The Pits horseshoe club in Laurie,

MO. Jim Bainter runs these courts – they installed the electronic scoring patterned after the electronic scoring at Quail Ridge and the NHPA electronic scoring at the World Tournament. They were able to do it for less money per court partly because they only needed it for four courts. I think we will be seeing more and more of these electronically scored courts. It makes the competition so much easier! Now if we can figure a way to do it safely outside, we will be “golden”! Wishful thinking is the first step, right?

Also received a note from Darle Esh, RD of PA, with some updates and news from that charter. They have 60 indoor courts in Pennsylvania and some 62 outdoor tournaments scheduled for 2012. Two popular sites are Mifflin County and the Stone Creek Lions club which both average 65 pitchers in their tournaments. Pitchers like having two classes on Friday evening and the six classes on Saturday along with good, inexpensive food and shade trees. They also give out good cash prizes. The Stone Creek Lions club now has 15 courts, recently adding six courts to their facility, allowing them to host the PA HPA State Championships in 2012.

Other news from Pennsylvania is that Sellengrove, PA (in eastern PA) has a new indoor court facility which is big enough for five indoor courts. This building has 20 ft. ceilings (perfect!), good lighting, restrooms, heat and air conditioning. There are also outdoor courts there with an active league. A popular tournament there is their team tournament. Teams of six pitchers pitch doubles competition, playing seven 40-point games. They award a travelling trophy for this tournament each year. They serve free food and soft drinks for their tournaments (hard to beat that!) and the interest and spirit in this club are excellent.

Another success story to report again is that the Nashua, NH club, the Gate City Clangers, now has over 60 pitchers. We have written about their renewed success in a previous column – success breeds success, that is for sure. Thanks to Phil Bergeron and Nick Nichols and all of the active members of that club. Many of their courts are “sponsored” or “owned” by a member of the club. Each “owner” takes pride in keeping his court in perfect condition and that person's name is at the end of the court. Their format in singles league is to pitch two singles matches on each court. This runs like a walking doubles format and increases socializing within the league as there are four pitchers on each court.

Thanks to all of the RD's (and others) who call with questions, or historical information, or just to talk about horseshoes. I enjoy your telephone calls and now have more time to talk since I am “sort of” retired. I also enjoy the things that have been sent – DVD's and towels were received recently and it was really nice to watch the (historical) pitching on these DVD's – thanks to Mr. Jack McKinnon. I have also been given Horseshoe Digests back into at least the 60's and I am having a good time going through those. Thank you to all for keeping me busy! Have a great summer – pitch lots of ringers!

# SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT *by David Sidles*

I would like to announce first that I have a new e-mail address: [leagues@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:leagues@horseshoepitching.com). Please use this address if you are using e-mail to contact me or submit forms.

And now continuing; it is evident by the number of league membership reports that I am receiving now, as opposed to stats reports, that the winter horseshoe pitching season is pretty much over. Please make sure if you will be participating in a NHPA sanctioned league this spring, summer or fall, that your Director submit a membership report at the beginning of your season. As stated in the "Red Book" this should be done within two to four weeks of the beginning of your season, but no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. This is important for two reasons. First, your league is NOT officially sanctioned until this report is on file. This could have a profound effect if you ever have to file a claim under the NHPA insurance policy. Second, quoting from the "Red Book", any person NOT listed on a current membership report WILL NOT receive any earned or be entitled to any awards for that year. If you need copies of the NHPA sanctioned league program "Red Book", contact me and I will send them to you.

In all, there were 45 leagues that played over the winter months. A total of 873 players participated. Here are some numbers you may find of interest. The player category breakdown was like this: Men (426), Women (143), 30 ft Men (294), Girls (5), Boys (4), Cadets (1). The individual group ringer percentages were like this: Men (25.12), Women (27.07), 30 ft Men (37.25), Girls (14.77), Boys (29.06), and Cadets (13.59). A total of 1,602,160 shoes were pitched with an average ringer percentage of 29.18. The largest league had 94 members and the smallest had six members. A big thank you goes out to all NHPA members who played this past winter in a sanctioned league. Towards the end of 2012, I will have these numbers again and be able to see how much change there is.

I am pleased to say that so far this year, five new sanctions have been issued for new 2012 leagues. These leagues are in Springfield, IL; Houston, TX; Raleigh, NC; Pierre, SD and Mountain View, MO. We certainly want to welcome these new clubs into the sanctioned league program and wish them all a successful season.

You just read several references to the "Red Book". This small booklet is in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition and is described as the complete guide to the NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Program.

This program was originally started by a unanimous vote of delegates at the 1977 National Convention. It was an idea that came from the membership. Lorraine Sternberg kindly sent me a copy of the first official guide to this program. This first guide was prepared by Donnie Roberts and consisted of three pages and a cover. While some of the awards described in this first edition have changed slightly, most of the features of the program remain intact. There is one aspect of this initial program that caught my attention. There was a separate, lower cost membership for league players that allowed them to play in sanctioned leagues, but not sanctioned tournaments. If they wanted to play in a sanctioned event other than league, they could "upgrade" their membership. This may be something we want to revisit as a tool to help grow membership.

One of the things that the program recognizes is the longevity of its member's participation. Every five years, clubs that have maintained their sanctioned status, receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. This year marks a new milestone with six of the original clubs celebrating 35 years of continuous participation as a sanctioned club or league. They are, Goldendale, WI; Denver Metro, CO; Winchester, VA; St .Moritz, MA; Whetstone, OH; and Clearwater, FL. Well done!



The advertisement features two horseshoes: a dark-colored Gordon horseshoe on the left and a light-colored Legend horseshoe on the right. Above the Gordon horseshoe is a large stylized 'G' logo with the text 'GORDON HORSESHOES' below it. Above the Legend horseshoe is a large stylized 'L' logo with the text 'LEGEND' below it. Below the horseshoes, text reads: 'Gordon and Legend Horseshoes are pitched successfully by both flip and turn players. Order today and discover why World Horseshoe Pitching Champions have preferred them. Drop Forged (The only way to make Horseshoes) - Carbon Steel - Hardened Tips Medium Soft - 2.8 lbs - One year Guarantee - NHPA Sanctioned'. At the bottom, it says 'OMEGA HORSESHOE CO. 777 West Midvalley Road Cedar City, Utah 84721' and '1-877-865-1066 sales@gordonhorseshoes.com www.OmegaHorseshoes.com'. There are also logos for VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover, and PayPal, and a note: 'Also available from www.dennishorseshoes.com & NHPA Distributors'.



# CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS by Jerry LaBrosse, NHPA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President

## World Tournament Setup

We have arranged to have access to the arena on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, from 2 – 6 PM. This time will be used to partially unload the big NHPA trailer and get things organized for the setup. We will also be placing lines on the floor for the court layout. Wednesday and Thursday will be setup from 8 AM to 6 PM.

If there is anybody out there that would like to be a part of the tournament setup, just show up during these times, and thank you!

The plan is to set up a minimum of 50 courts inside the arena. One set of eight courts will be used as practice courts. Yes, once again we are able to provide our participants with air conditioned practice courts identical to the tournament courts. Please keep in mind that this may not happen every year, but we will do it when it makes sense. The practice courts will be available on all shifts except the first shift. The courts will be used for tournament play on the first shift and WILL NOT be available for practice, so plan your practice time accordingly. And PLEASE limit your practice time to 30 minutes if there are people waiting.

## Golf Outing

The NHPA officers and directors would like to invite all you golfers to join us for a little fun away from the tournament. We're forming a couple of golf outings for the first week of the world tournament. They

will happen on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> and Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>; both around 8 am. We've selected a beautiful course called Three Ridges and it is a great fit for all skill levels. Contact Tina Hawkins or Jerry LaBrosse at the tournament and let us know if you're interested. We'd like to know how many tee times to reserve. Come on out and golf with an NHPA Staff member!

## WT Experience Raffle

The raffle is in full swing, with ticket sellers spread around the country. You will be able to buy (or win) raffle tickets in Knoxville. The World Warm up Tournament will be held on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>, (Jerry Smith is the tournament director) and he is planning to include raffle tickets as prizes. Tickets will be available at the NHPF booth whenever they are open.

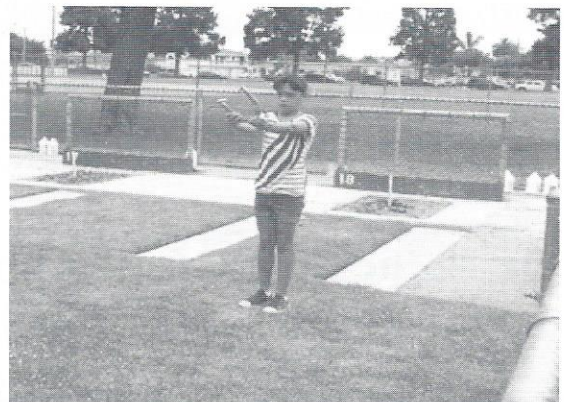
## Charter Communications Emailing

And lastly I would like to thank all of the charters that have included me on their charter email lists. There's an awful lot of "chatter" going on in many charters....which is a great thing!!! There will be many more CC emails coming out leading up to the world tournament. I believe we are reaching upwards to half of our membership using the CC email network. If you would like to be added to the NHPA CC email list, simply send your name and email address to me at [Jlabro6186@aol.com](mailto:Jlabro6186@aol.com) and I will add you to the list. You will always be "Blind Carbon Copied" on all CC emails to protect your address from hackers.

## ALEX GUBRA - SCHPA'S NEWEST MEMBER

Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association's newest member, nine-year-old Alex Gubra is shown practicing her technique and receiving her first pair of horseshoes from Revis McKee (Buena Park Horseshoe Club with Bob Mullins Burbank Horseshoe Club looking

on). Alex was very excited about the opportunity to join the NHPA and start pitching horseshoes. Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> was Alex's first tournament. We expect to see Alex at many more tournaments. Youngsters such as Alex is the future of horseshoe pitching.



# NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *by Dan Sanders*

## Revision and NHPA Council Enactment of the Forfeit Rule

Most of you will recall that during the last two or so years, our NHPA Council has enacted several new NHPA Rules (mostly revisions of existing Rules). An example would be the rule change which has allowed Elders to "move up" in October of the year preceding their 70th birthday, rather than on January 1st; three months later. This has allowed these Elders to have more time to get in their four required, sanctioned events for the World Tournament, as well as providing for an easier/smoothen transition from Open Men to Elders, in the middle (January) of Winter league play. In all cases, the Council voting on these enactments has been unanimous, or nearly so, and the new/revised rule becomes effective immediately, so that our membership can benefit from the rule change without having to wait one to three years for the more normal processing of Proposed Rule Changes (PRCs) that are thought to be more controversial, and that are voted on every third year. It is important to note here that when rule changes are enacted by the NHPA Council, our Bylaws requires that this rule change must be voted on by the Convention Delegates, at the very next Convention, and that the enacted rule must be ratified/approved by a two-thirds majority vote; the same requirement as for other PRCs. If a Council-enacted rule change (in effect) fails to be ratified by the delegates, the Rule will revert to the original wording on January 1<sup>st</sup> of that next year.

As for the recent NHPA council enactment of this Forfeit Rule, the most important details are provided here in the new text, and under reasons for enactment:

Rule 11 - Section G – Forfeits - Current Wording (also see pages 19 and 20 of the RGS Book):

In tournament competition, the wins and losses and all statistics accumulated shall remain in the books for a contestant who has to forfeit one (1) or more games, for any reason. A contestant may miss any number of games,

due to illness or other legitimate reasons approved by the Tournament/League Officials, and still be permitted to return to competition. If a contestant forfeits for an unapproved reason, they will not be allowed to return to the competition and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards for that event. Any contestant who forfeits games shall finish wherever their record puts them in the standings, unless they forfeit for unapproved reasons; then they shall finish in last place. If forfeiting for an unapproved reason, this member shall also be subject to a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see Bylaws for additional information).

Rule 11 - Section G – Forfeits – Enacted And Now In Effect (new text information is in bold, italic print):

*If, for any reason, a pitcher must forfeit a game prior to its completion, this player will receive a loss for that game and any accumulated statistics (shoes, points, ringers) for that game will be deleted from their records. His/her opponent will receive a win for that game, and if there are any accumulated statistics (shoes, points, ringers), they will remain in his/her records.\** A contestant may forfeit any number of games, due to illness, *injury*, or other legitimate reasons approved by the Tournament/League Officials, and still be permitted to return to the competition. Any contestant who forfeits *such* games will finish wherever their *W/L* record puts them in the standings, unless they forfeit for unapproved reasons (*see NHPA Bylaws, Article III, Section 8, a-d*). *If so, they will not be allowed to return to the competition, will be moved to last place in the standings, and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards for that event. If forfeiting games for unapproved reasons, this contestant will also be subject to a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see NHPA Bylaws, Article III, Sections 8-11); to be decided later by the Charter and NHPA Officers.*

*\* Please note: If a forfeited game is "in progress", a Pacer should be used so that this game can be completed, for the opponent.*

## Support the NHPF

The only horseshoe pitching related charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts.

### Deadlines for Grant Applications

*March 1 and September 1*

Mail inquires & contributions to:

NHPF  
P.O. Box 1628  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

# NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *Continued*

## Reasons For This Enactment:

- This rule change allows the statistics of games forfeited before their completion to be deleted from the records. It is logical that if a person has to forfeit a game in progress, that the accumulated shoes, ringers, and points for this incomplete game should not become a part of the official record.
- The new wording now specifies that the forfeiting player will receive a loss for that game, that the opponent will receive a win, and that the opponent's stats will remain as a part of his/her record.
- The new wording also references unapproved reasons for forfeiting as well as possible suspension information.
- Another good reason for this revised rule enactment is to help TD's across the country who use HSMaster. This problem (forfeiting of player's stats) is rare, but it can and does happen. We want to be sure it is being handled correctly across the nation.
- It should be noted here that the W/L record for all completed games of a tournament will not be affected by game forfeits.

in the text of the first two sentences of the revision (in italic print), which replace the first sentence of the current text. All other changes (also in italic print) serve only to clarify the meaning of the current RGS text, or to add more specific and helpful information, for TD's or for contestants/members. It is likely that other possible reasons for this change/enactment will be brought up and discussed on the Convention floor.

I would also remind you that there are many Proposed Rules Changes (PRCs) that will be discussed and voted on at the WT Convention this year. In addition to this recently enacted rule, all of the PRCs can be found in the last two issues of Newline, as well as on the NHPA Website and many Charter Websites. Please review all of these PRCs and let your Charter delegates know how you would like for them to vote. I am looking forward to the Convention and to this World Tournament! As you may know, we have had a great turnout this year with over 1,200 entrants, and with the Knoxville venue, this should be one of the best World Tournaments ever!

## Additional Information:

When comparing this revision with the Current RGS Wording, you will notice that the only change of intent is

## **Income & Expenses Statement / APRIL & MAY 2012**

### **Income**

2013 World Tournament Bid Payment	\$7,000.00
HoF Banquet Tickets	\$150.00
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$2,200.00
Membership Dues	\$47,396.00
Motel 6 Payment	\$1.82
Newline Subscriptions	\$2,920.00
NHPA Logo Use Fee	\$500.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$41.04
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$44.31
World Tournament Computer Scoring Donation	\$5,860.00
World Tournament Entry Fees	<u>\$146,800.00</u>

**TOTAL** **\$212,913.17**

From the books of  
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

### **Expenses**

Newline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$3,554.00
Sanctioned League Postage & Printing	\$44.92
World Tournament Refunds, Fees, Dues & Overpayments	\$1,980.00
Hall of Fame Awards Supplies & Expenses	\$1,399.44
Sanctioned Tournament Patches	\$79.02
Equipment Purchase, Rentals & Repair	\$14,246.30
Printing, Paper & Office Supplies	\$157.90
Postage	\$497.85
Officers Telephone	\$154.24
Officers Travel	\$1,009.88
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$3,300.00
Presidents Allowance	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$4,707.20
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$232.00
Internet Access & Web Site	<u>\$799.81</u>

**TOTAL** **\$33,162.56**

# CHARTER CHATTER by Jane Smith

## **Colorado - Double Ringer Newsletter**

According to the *Double Ringer*, the Boulder Horseshoe Club is the oldest in the state and has three leagues and two tournaments scheduled for this season. In 1961 Ted Allen and Bill Carlson led a group of pitchers in moving the courts from the library to its present site near the pow-wow grounds on Mapleton Street. This is a fine recreation area as the YMCA and a playground has been added to the sixteen courts area. Colorado is also one of the progressive states ordering shirts for their World Tournament Pitchers. Several states in the past have done this and it is impressive to say the least. Good idea that hopefully more states will copy. Colorado also has a Triple Crown Award. A pitcher must win three of five events. The winner receives a plaque and is announced at the State Banquet.

## **Maryland - Diana Ratliff**

Frederick HPA is pleased to welcome the five new faces of Ben Holtzclaw, Tammy Hutchisen, Jim Keefer, Andrew Long and Wally Stickley to our summer league this year. As of this writing, it's been a slow start to the season, with rain cancelling the first two weeks of league play, followed by the off-night of Memorial Day. The City actually closed the Park due to standing water! But we do need the rain and oh, how green the grass is (for now)! All are chomping at the bit to get out there and pitch on a weekly basis. The Balto Metro Club also welcomes new members Joe Banz, Woody Bryan and Mark Green. It's always great when new pitchers become like family members in our clubs. And of course, good to have our returning members back for another fun year. Congrats to Braydon Lucas who had a big day at the FHPA Veterans Tournament and placed first in the junior class. He was also the winner of the junior promo participation drawing in memory of Will Mabry, Sr., winning a pair horseshoes. Devin Burns placed second and Benjamin Lacey took third. FHPA Pres Larry Noel has been working to replace stock for our horseshoe and related merchandise inventory, so you might want to bring along some extra \$\$ for some new goodies and WT Raffle tickets when heading to the Frederick tourneys. At last count, I believe we have 16 members who will be representing MD at the WT in Knoxville plus lots of friends from other states, near and far. We wish you all well and know you will find it to be a fun and rewarding experience. Happy pitching ☺

## **Michigan - Keith Schafer, MHPA Publicity Chairperson**

Michigan's membership is looking forward to summer. The Berkley club hosted a tournament during the local Berkley Days celebration on May 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 39 pitchers on a sizzling hot Saturday of pitching, with good camaraderie, close games, and multiple class playoffs. We even had a rousing rendition of the Canadian national anthem by tournament director Mark Lankin, to fulfill a promise made to our Canadian participant. On the first

weekend of June, the St. Clair Shores club will be hosting the Memorial tournament. Pitcher turnout is expected to be over 40. The highlight of a visit here is looking at the plaques on their pavilion which honor former MHPA members who have passed on in recent years. The 40th annual Michigan/Ontario Friendship tournament will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Khaki Club, near Kitchener in Ontario. This friendly competition has evolved from a skirmish between two teams of 12 pitchers to the present four classes of competition, fighting for bragging rights and the honor of having their names on the traveling trophy as that year's champion.

## **Minnesota - Josh Olson, Bertha Horseshoe Club Director**

A New Life, some could say, has happened in the Bertha Horseshoe Club this year. We finally went back to being a sanctioned club once again. In Bertha MN we have a pretty good size indoor facility that has eight fully sanctioned horseshoe courts, and two bathrooms and a full meeting room/kitchen facility as well. The building is owned by the City of Bertha, but the Lions Club and Bertha Horseshoe Clubs are the main clubs/people that use the building. It's an awesome facility! We actually helped host the Alexandria Open, which is 45 minutes away from Bertha, this past Memorial Day weekend. We opened the building for the Alexandria Club if they wanted to use it on account of the rain that was here all weekend. So we also got a taste of how tournaments used to look inside the building. My dream is to have 2-3 tournaments each year, hopefully starting next year. I would like to also get another league formed hopefully soon, so we can have multiple nights of league going each week. Then once the city council has seen how much money the club can make by having tournaments, it sure would be awesome if they would let us work out a deal to get the building insulated so we could have a year round horseshoe club, and a heated building for horseshoe tournaments as well.



## National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

# NHPA

Come Pitch with Us



Visit our website for up-to-date information  
[www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com)

Natstats updated every Wednesday evening  
Individual Stat Search updated at least once a month

World Tournament Information  
Coming Events  
Local Contact Information

Questions and suggestions may be sent to:  
Steve Summerlin  
NHPA Webmaster  
PO Box 536  
Webberville, MI 48892-0536  
Email: [webmaster@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:webmaster@horseshoepitching.com)

# CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

## Ohio - Brian Fisher

Good Luck, to all the pitchers at Knoxville, from The Ohio Charter; many ringers to all. I want to focus on another southern Ohio facility, but move east approximately 100 miles as the crow flies. There, near Miltonsburg, just off State Route 800 you will find Kahrigs Red Barn, where they host four major tournaments every year January-April. Meredith Kahrig pitched in a tournament at the Joelton TN Facility back in 1995, where he received thoughts of a indoor facility of his own from none other than Jack Freeman who was a huge influence in the project. Grand Ole Opry and a horseshoe tournament all in one day. Wow!! So Meredith brought the idea from Jack back home and ordered the building where he constructed eight blue clay courts, that would have to rank right up there with the finest indoor facilities in the nation. It is truly a family affair. With brother Wilfred, wife Linda, and son Todd, Meredith has the support he needs to keep this facility growing, and on top of its game. Todd, who is also the Ohio state statistician, takes care of all the stat work for The Red Barns tournaments. Linda, who keeps Meredith in check and motivated, has been named one of the best cooks around. Some say they merely come to the tournaments to eat and keep score. The building has a full kitchen and dining area. Gary Roberts claims Linda bakes the best raisin pie there is. The location of this facility is perfect for pitchers from WV, PA and many other states nearby. If you have not had a chance to pitch here, please consider it, you won't be disappointed. As the outdoor tournaments really get going, let's take someone with us to the tournaments and get them interested.

## West Virginia - Charles Brunner

Charles Brunner, Tournament Organizer of the May 26, 2012 Head-of-the-Mon-River/Memorial Weekend Tournament held in the East Marion Recreation Park of Fairmont/Marion County, WV presented awards to the Class winners from the tournament. Tamara Burke took second place. She lost her final game with a score of 24-42 and made 72 ringers out of 90-shoes pitched for a 80.00 ringer percent average. She made a total of 261 ringers out of 368 shoes pitched for a 70.92 ringer percent average during the seven (7) each 40-point ringer cancellation games. She is the current Open Women Champion of the West Virginia Horseshoe Pitchers Association and has entered the 2012 World Horseshoe Pitchers Association World Tournament, being held at Knoxville, TN 30 July - 11 August. Winners of "D" Class are as follows: Lonny Summers of Rivesville; Johnny Workman of Bickmore; James Carpenter, Jr. of Lumberport and the first place winner; and Joe Leroy of Stonewood. "F" CLASS winners are Jay Cunningham, of Baxter, 2nd place; Walter Burtner of Auburn, PA, 1st Place; Terry Brunner of Fairmont, 3rd place and John Cummings of C-Burg, VA, that had high ringer percent game, as a non-winner.

## Wisconsin - Jane Smith

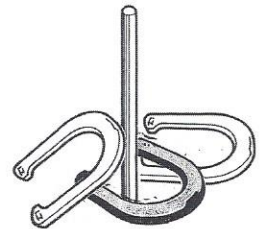
Several WHPA members contributed to my request for the latest from Wisconsin! WHPA President Glenn Bogenschneider is using his "shout out" in expressing

his excitement at a possible world tournament in Wausau in 2014. He is attending and is looking forward to meeting as many pitchers as possible to share his enthusiasm for the Wausau bid. Jim Haupt, fellow Wisconsin Newsletter author, suggests we share several news worthy items: 1) Horseshoes is finally recognized as a competitive sport as part of the Badger Games. This event will take place in Wausau in June. 2) Congratulations to the Wisconsin team – Gert Wilcziek, Pam Aiken, Martin Papasch, and Ken Heinritz – in winning the Team World event for the first time in the 28 year history of the tournament! 3) We have an efficient method of sharing newsletter articles with the use of the "Dropbox." Our second VP, Jimmy Paulson, after taking over for Pam Aiken has taken time and patience in teaching the WHNL staff how to make use of this opportunity.

If you have any chatter from your charter that you want to share with the other charters, please email to Jane at: [kirbys007@centurytel.net](mailto:kirbys007@centurytel.net)

## ? Mystery Money \$

World "Warm up" &  
Smitty's Famous Mystery  
Money Tournament



Where: Knoxville Convention Center

When: July 28, 2012 10:00 am

Details: NHPA Sanctioned Event  
\$20.00 Entry Fee

Mixed Classes, Limited to 96 entries  
100% payback less scorekeeping fees  
Current Natstats will be used for seeding  
8 person Classes

No handicap, 40 shoe games  
Electronic scorekeeping will be used  
\$\$\$ Win money each game \$\$\$  
Scorekeepers paid \$2 per game (2 courts)

Sign up on site

Registration 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Learn to keep score in prep for the WT  
Pitch on the WT courts, be prepared

Tournament Director: Jerry D. Smith

# WINSTON THEATRE DEDICATION SPEECH *by Stu Sipma*

It was Earl Winston's long-time efforts collecting memorabilia that inspired the NHPA to seek a site for a National Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame and Museum. His dream finally came true with a temporary site in Joelton, Tennessee, and then the permanent site located here in Wentzville, Missouri. Earl was also one of the original directors of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation, which was involved in making the Hall of Fame possible.

Earl was an avid horseshoe pitcher most of his life, and was a state champion. He was instrumental in reorganizing the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Association in 1950. While serving as president of the association for almost 30 years, he was able to get horseshoe pitching reinstated at the Missouri State Fair. He served as Superintendent of Horseshoe Pitching at the fair for over 50 years. He also became vice president of the NHPA and served in that position for 28 years. At one time he chaired

the rules committee and later became chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. Earl was elected to the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1987 and to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1988. Earl was a people person and never knew a stranger. He loved to visit with anyone and tell stories to entertain them. He was a walking encyclopedia of horseshoe pitching history. He was a good neighbor and helped people whenever he was able. Throughout his life he strived to make a difference in the world around him. He will be missed by all who knew him. Earl Anton Winston was born in rural Knob Noster, Missouri on June 4, 1927 to the late E. Wayne and Leona Wheeler Winston. On June 10, 1960 he was united in marriage to Vicki Chapelle in Portland, Oregon, and they began a lifetime of working together in their farming operation in rural LaMonte, Missouri. Earl passed away on August 8, 2011.

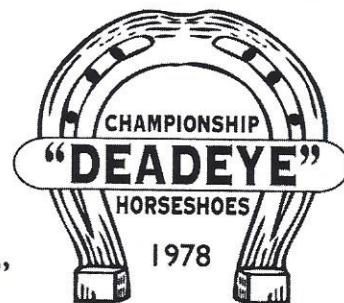
# WINSTON THEATRE DEDICATION *by Bob Rogers*

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# REMEMBERING EARL WINSTON *by Vicki Winston*

From the time he was a small boy, Earl was a seeker of knowledge always striving to learn more. He also loved to read whenever he had the opportunity. It was probably no surprise to his teachers in high school when he was valedictorian of his senior class. Since Earl was several years older than me, by the time we met and got married, he had been able to acquire a vast amount of knowledge about many things. He knew the Bible, he knew about farming and livestock, he knew about the subjects he had studied in school and what he had learned during his world travels while in the Army, and he knew much about the history of horseshoe pitching. He would continue to add to his mental library for many years. I spent many hours sitting on benches in museums as he read every placard in sight. He spent many hours trading stories with fellow horseshoe pitchers and other acquaintances and he continued his love of reading, although farming doesn't give a person much opportunity to do that at certain times of the year. He spent considerable time on the telephone with Gary Kline as Gary was researching material for the book he wrote on the history of the World Tournament. In later years, as Earl was chairing the Hall of Fame committee and Gary was serving on the committee, the two would discuss the history of various nominees and inductees. They also compared notes from various old horseshoe pitching publications.

Since we hadn't spent much time together before our marriage, it took me awhile to learn that Earl was also a collector, which became evident as more and more items piled up and he never threw anything away. It didn't matter what it was, there might be a use for it later. Therefore, when the first talk of a permanent horseshoe pitching Hall of Fame began to surface, Earl was all eyes and ears. As a member of the Hall of Fame Committee and probably the chairman by that time, this was of great interest to him. Somehow it became known to the horseshoe pitching membership that if a person had anything that might someday be of value to a future Hall of Fame, Earl Winston was the person to contact. From that day forward, we never went to a World Tournament without coming home with more items in our possession than we had when we had left home. UPS began to deliver cartons to our house every once in awhile and now and then the mail carrier would bring a package. As the venues for the World Tournament became larger and larger, I would spend considerable time hunting for Earl throughout the building(s) only to discover later that he had been out in the parking lot getting more donations for the Hall of Fame out of someone's car. That could take longer than necessary since there were also stories to trade in the process. He was on the NHPA Executive Council when Glenn Portt and Donnie Roberts passed out photo plaques

to everyone who had been inducted into the Hall of Fame up to that point in time. The inductee was to insert a photo under the plastic and hold the plaque until such time as a permanent facility was available in which to display them. It fell upon Earl to recall all of these plaques when a Hall of Fame site was imminent.

Due to Earl's acquaintance with Marion Lucas, the Director of the Iowa State Fair at that time, Earl was able to obtain free display space for a NHPA Hall of Fame exhibit during the two week run of the Iowa State Fair. This included the use of glass display cases to protect the items. Marion had been the Director of the Missouri State Fair before taking the job in Iowa, and he was a friend of horseshoe pitching. Each year Earl would load up some of the materials he was collecting and drive to Des Moines, Iowa before the start of the fair. Some Iowa pitchers would help him set up and they would man the display, visit with people and pass out literature for the next two weeks. After the Iowa State Fair concluded, then Earl would make another trip to bring everything back home. He was consumed with the desire to have the public be able to learn more about the history of our sport and to see some of the items that were of great interest to him. This display would not have been possible without the help of the Iowa pitchers who took care of it every year. This was done until it was time to take everything to the temporary site of the Hall of Fame in Joelton, TN.

It was Earl's collection of memorabilia that was getting larger each year that inspired the NHPA to get more serious about finding a Hall of Fame site. Finally it was possible to have a temporary Hall of Fame in Joelton, TN and with the help of our son, Carl, and his wife, Amy, we got everything carried out of our basement in boxes and ready to load in a U-Haul trailer that we had rented. Joe Faron and Gary Buehler came from New Melle, MO with a pickup truck, hooked onto the trailer and then we got it loaded. I fixed lunch for everyone and then the pickup and trailer headed back to New Melle. In a couple of days, Earl and I drove to New Melle and then rode with Joe Faron to deliver everything to Joelton where it remained until the present Hall of Fame was built in Wentzville, MO.

On October 5, 2007 Earl and I were able to attend the Grand Opening of the NHPA Hall of Fame and Museum at Wentzville, MO. It was a bittersweet moment, because while Earl found it interesting, his illness had progressed to the point that he didn't realize the magnitude of what he was seeing or how it had come to be there. After that, if I was working at a tournament held there, he always enjoyed looking at everything many times and it kept him occupied when he wasn't visiting with someone, but he

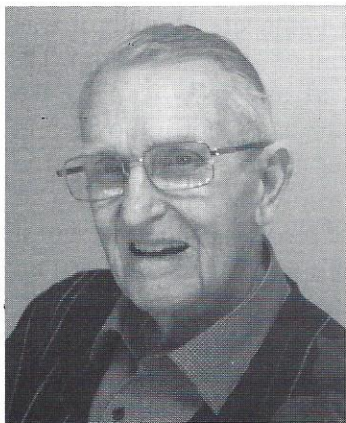
# REMEMBERING EARL WINSTON *by Continued*

was never able to experience the joy and satisfaction of knowing that his dream had come true.

The evening of May 5, 2012 will be one that my family and I will never forget. My son Keith, his wife Diana and kids Hailey and Mason were present, as was my son Carl, his wife Amy and kids Shane and Lindsey. I was happy that my brother and his wife, Barry and Barbara Chapelle, from Portland, OR were also able to be present. After the conclusion of pitching that day in the first annual Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament (previously the Six-Pac Invitational) many gathered for the evening meal and a program held right on the courts. Tables and chairs were quickly set up for the occasion. I was told there would be a little program honoring Earl. With Jeanette Claas in charge, I should have known there was no way it could be a "little" program and somehow it grew to involve me. There were flattering speeches and even a song written and performed for the occasion by Amy Francis, and her parents, Fred and Helen Brown. They said Alan helped with the lyrics. The NHPA President, Stu Sipma, and the NHPF President, Dave Loucks, were present and gave speeches. The reason for the occasion was that the viewing room in the Hall of Fame, that contains the touch screen monitor, was being dedicated in Earl's memory and is now known as the Winston Theatre. The signage was in place before we left the premises that evening. This is such a

tremendous honor that has been bestowed upon Earl. My family and I have been overwhelmed by the events of that evening. We are so appreciative that Earl has been recognized for his years of service to the NHPA and his years of pursuing the dream of a Hall of Fame that finally became a reality. As we sat and viewed some videos in the Winston Theatre, I couldn't help but think that somewhere on the menu there is footage from canisters of film that Earl sent to Dr. Sol Berman when Sol was working on his project of preserving film that eventually found its way into the Florida Hall of Fame. How fitting that film would now find its way back to the Winston Theatre. I am told there is one step yet to be accomplished before the touch screen setup is completely user friendly, but it is hoped to find a way to get that completed sometime in the near future. In the meanwhile, if you stop by the Hall of Fame and can find someone to help you get started, there will be more CD's for you to see than you will ever have time to watch. I thank the NHPA Executive Council and the NHPF Board of Directors for making the touch screen possible in memory of Earl. His wishes have now come true. There is a permanent Hall of Fame to preserve the history of our sport for public viewing and there is now also a place for the public to view some of the film taken of the legends of our sport, plus other selections. So stop by and sit awhile in the Winston Theatre. You will be glad you did.

## THE TOLL OF TIME



Walter Ray Williams, Sr.  
Florida

Walter Ray Williams, Sr. of Lady Lake, Florida, died early Tuesday morning on May 1st, 2012 in Ocala, Florida. Ray, as he was known by his family and friends, was born on June 28, 1933 in San Jose, California to Walter Whitman Williams and

Hazel Rae (Ashcroft) Williams. He was preceded in death by his parents, older brother Roland and daughter Cynthia Lee Von Tungeln. Ray is survived by younger brother Robert, daughters Deborah Joy Katz and Barbara Lynn Alsup, and sons Walter Ray Jr., Jeffery Allen, Jonathan Francis and Nathan Clay plus 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Ray graduated high school in 1951 and served in the army

for two years during the Korean conflict. A salesman in a variety of industries, Ray ultimately focused on selling wood products. While living in Campbell and Gilroy, CA, Ray was active in the Masonic Lodge and was the youngest Master installed for the region at age 27. In 2005, he received his 50 year membership pin. Following his passion for pitching horseshoes, Ray established several horseshoe pitching clubs including the Redwood Empire club based out of Eureka California, which hosted the 1973 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships, the first championship to be held indoors. Ray and his horseshoe pitching sons were featured in an episode of "On the Road with Charles Kuralt" and a chapter in the book. From 1973 until 1976 Ray served as the Secretary/Treasurer for the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association and he was later inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1999.

After Ray retired in 2000, he moved to The Villages in Florida where he enjoyed what he called his "simple life". The family held a celebration of life service in late June in Northern California.



# HSMaster OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE NEWS *by Jerry D. Smith*

The horseshoe pitching world is no stranger to the personal computer world. The personal computer (PC) showed up in the 1980 World Tournament (WT) statroom for number crunching and has been a part of every WT since. While the NHPA counsel does not endorse programs, they do expect that data for the Secretary-Treasurer and NATSTATS Director be transmitted electronically if at all possible. Many local horseshoe pitching programmers or computer buffs have created a variety of programs to: run tournaments, do stats, and track memberships. Most of these are based on spreadsheet, word processing, or database management software that is widely available and most have become highly sophisticated and powerful.

Back before these modern PC programs evolved, the operating system generally called "disk operating system" (dos) was hard to work with and usually left to the "computer geeks". When IBM jumped into the PC world in 1981, "dos" machines became a generic name for IBM personal computers. In these early times, World Champion horseshoe pitcher Walter Ray Williams Jr. began writing a "dos" based program that would computerize the running of horseshoe tournaments. I'm sure there were other programs developed during this time, but in 1988, Walter Ray's program was officially adopted as the stat program to be used to run the WT. Walter Ray's fine program was used continually until 2009.

Meanwhile in the computer world, Microsoft in an attempt to make the PC more user friendly started developing the "Windows" environment. The first several versions of Windows were slow and cumbersome and not well liked. Windows, of course featured the mouse and desktop icons and as it evolved into a comfortable and easy to use operating system, it pushed the "dos" environment out the door. Since Walter Ray's program was "dos" based, the NHPA had to maintain and haul around "dos" equipment from World to World. By the early 2000's "dos" equipment was getting scarce. This led to the need to go to a Windows based program. Kurt Whaley, a database programmer and horseshoe pitcher began writing

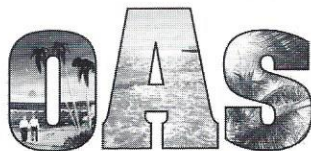
such a program in the Windows environment and developed it to provide a way for charter secretaries to track membership, state statisticians to do stats, and tournament directors to run tournaments. His program was named HSMaster. He would later add running leagues and all of these functions were compatible and able to transmit information to and from both the NHPA and NATSTATS.

Two months before the 2010 WT, the council made the decision to switch the WT stats program over to HSMaster to simplify the equipment problems and update to the Windows platform. With Kurt there to oversee and fix or adjust the program, the 2010 WT successfully used HSMaster and the associated program, "Scorekeeper", also programmed by Kurt, which allows the use of wireless and paperless scorekeeping.

After the 2010 WT, Kurt started the HSMaster Oversight Committee to help set priorities for improvements and to help "think tank" solutions to problems or bugs. The committee members are:

Program Author: Kurt Whaley - Kurt is currently the South Dakota Charter President and is a member of their HOF (2004). Kurt can be reached at 605-390-1974 or [k.whaley@sio.midco.net](mailto:k.whaley@sio.midco.net)

Technical support person: Paul Stewart - Paul is a former NHPA officer and President from North Carolina. He is a HOF member at the State level in 1994 and the National level in 2004. He can be reached at 704-402-5755 or [nhpa paul@yahoo.com](mailto:nhpa paul@yahoo.com). Paul is the Chairman of the Oversight Committee.



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# HSMaster OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE NEWS *Continued*

Member: Gregg Craven, Missouri - Gregg is the defending MO Elders Champion and a very active member of the committee. He has been in the Missouri HOF since 2008. He can be reached at [gregg\\_audra@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gregg_audra@sbcglobal.net)

Member: Ron Deckard, Florida - Ron works a lot with the leagues in Florida and is the Florida Regional Director. He has input into and tests the program especially with regard to the league functions. He is a member of the Florida HOF (2001) and has won the Senior Men World Championship four times. He can be reached at 727-286-8318 or [deckard34698@yahoo.com](mailto:deckard34698@yahoo.com).

Member: Rob Hagman - Rob is the current NATSTATS Director and works with Kurt mostly on scorekeeper and the wireless communication as well as the smooth interaction of the program with NATSTATS. Rob lives in Minnesota and can be reached at 612-600-3777 or [natstats@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:natstats@horseshoepitching.com). In 2011, Rob and wife Ann received an NHPA Achievement award for his and her outstanding work with NATSTATS.

Member and Help Desk Operator: Kevin Snelgrove - Kevin is a very active member of this committee and his "help" videos are outstanding. If you are contemplating starting to use or expanding your use of HSMaster, be sure to check out Kevin's "Help Desk" on the Virginia website. Kevin is the Regional Director and the VA charter webmaster. He can be reached at [hsmasterhelp@vahpa.com](mailto:hsmasterhelp@vahpa.com) or 540-337-4689

Member: Jerry Smith - I am the newest member of the committee: I am the current Idaho State Secretary/Treasurer and Statistician. I was asked to join the committee to help with the needs and problems of the WT statroom where I work each year. I was elected to the Northern California HOF in 1999 and can be reached at 208-467-2524 or [horseshoepitcherjds@msn.com](mailto:horseshoepitcherjds@msn.com).

The committee members are looking to improve the HSMaster program by fielding both suggestions and problems by helping Kurt with ideas and prioritizing the wish list.

At some point, I suppose, software programs or applications start out with version 1.0. As the program advances and/or is debugged, the author will change this version number. The HSMaster version

currently available for download is 1.1.43. To see what version you are using, click on the "ABOUT" word located in the title section of the program (upper left side) and it will display the version number. Every time Kurt makes a change he clicks the decimal forward i.e. 1.1.44, 1.1.45, 1.1.46 etc. Everyone should be using version 1.1.43 at this time. The version that the committee is currently testing is version 1.1.59 so lots of changes have occurred. Why don't we issue each new version? Because Kurt has been busy and the committee needs time to test the program. Sometimes the upgrade: causes other unforeseen problems, is more complicated than first thought to be, runs into problems with NHPA rules, or just doesn't work right. We are close to issuing the latest version and want to tell about some of the major advances. We think the program has leaped forward and hope that you will too.

The newest version has fixed many bugs and includes improvements in player import, a new forfeit function for tournaments and has created a way for the leagues to run a tournament and push the data from the tournament in the league data entry area.

Starting with the "Players" tab on the "Import" "NATSTATS Web Page" a new button shows called "UpDate Names". Using or selecting this when you import your NATSTATS will correct your database with the proper name and class for the selected players and match the exact name the NHPA is using. This improvement will help Rob Hagman a lot in providing consistence correct data.

Also on the import tab; an improvement to the Excel import feature which allows ringer percentages to be imported.

On the "Players" "Export" report, the charter memberships have changed to a CSV format. This corrected some issues that Dick Hanson had importing the data into the national file. The HsM program will still accept the older formats, but if you are a charter secretary or statistician we strongly urged you to update to this version as soon as possible when it's available.

In the "Tournaments" section, Kurt has fixed a few bugs regarding "Head-to-Head" (HtH) on both the singles and doubles events. A brand new function for "Forfeits" has been added to the tournament data entry

# HSMaster OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE NEWS *Continued*

screen which allows you to turn it on when needed. It will when used show as (F+) for the win and (F-) for the lose maintaining the shoes and ringer count that need to be reported. Cursor movements on the tournament data entry screen have been established so that depending on how you set up a class, it will put the cursor on the correct field each time you press "Enter". If your class was set up with unlimited shoes or a "0" in the "Shoes" question for use with "point" game classes, then when you are on the tournament data entry screen you cursor will be positioned in the shoes column to start each new line of data entry. If you chose a shoe limit game, "40" for example, the cursor will default to the points column after each finished data entry. This new function saves many key strokes and errors during point game data entry.

"Too many Shoes" or "Too many Ringers" were established so if you choose to not use "Score Checker (OFF position)" it will show an error message. This helps stop "Fat fingers" when you want 40 shoes but type 400 shoes by accident. When setting up a tournament, the selection for "Breaking ties" had a terminology change. The old choice was "Ringers" which was Kurt's way of saying "Pct.". It was confusing at best since "total ringers" does not mean highest percentage especially in point games. The choice is now "Ringer Pct."

"Saving Single Points" was added as a background field to now save the data in the single point column when "Score Checker" is on. This function makes it easier to find data entry errors when you try to accept a row in a game or if you go back later to fix something.

Improvement have been made so you no longer have to do a print preview before the print to get good results on the print out. This problem used to cause faulty or incomplete printouts.

League activities made leaps forward with several improvements. In order to activate these huge improvements see the section on "Setup". League Directors are going to love the new ability to create a round robin structure using the tournament side of the program. It allows the LD's to setup a base round robin and still be flexible from one week to the next. The only limit is 20 players per class when it is initially setup. That does not stop you from adding players into the class each week to fill in the holes from folks not showing up. Once you enter in each

week's data, a new tab called "Send to League" give you as LD the ability to send the data to the league side of the program. A true time saver for LD's, no more double data entering.

"Setup"/ "Settings" has changes too. There are some powerhouse changes at your fingertips and all have the ability to be turned "off" or "on". Since all the features are not used by everyone, for example, the above mentioned league play feature "Send to league" it must be turned on before the function for League Directors is activated. The same is true for the new "Additional World Tournament Warnings" which are very powerful functions designed around none other than the "World Tournament" statroom. The great thing about using these functions is that it will show new warnings to help eliminate "senior moments", "statroom fatigue" and specifically save paper and ink usage from un-necessary printing. Turning on these new WT functions gives your charter the ability to run and catch the many errors that happen at LARGE EVENTS. Giving you the ability to run your State event just like the "World"!

The Committee is working hard and hopes to continue helping Kurt improve HSMaster. Feel free to send in problems or suggestions and stop by the WT statroom for a look see. Kevin will be hosting an open seminar on the HSMaster program, with lots of example databases and hands on training. You can even bring your database on a memory stick and have it checked out for potential problems. Check your WT schedule for the times and locations. Most of the committee members will be at the WT sometime during the two weeks and all are looking forward to chatting about horseshoes.

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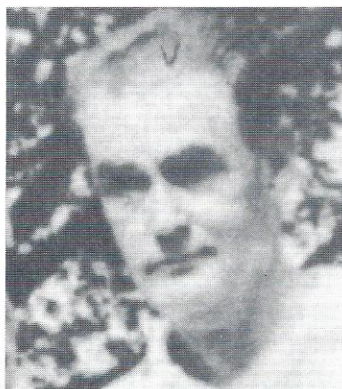
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# HORSESHOE FACTS & FOLKLORE by Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian



A Letter from Frank Stinson  
By Bob Dunn, NHPA  
Historian

*Frank Stinson was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1973. One of his claims to fame was his longevity. Frank entered the national horseshoe scene in 1924, by winning the Junior World Championship. Fifty-two years later, at age 66, Frank*

*won the Senior Men's World title in record fashion, averaging 74.3% ringers. In between those years, he qualified 14 times for the Men's Championship Class, winning 239 games which still ranks 31<sup>st</sup> on the World Tournament All-time Wins List.*

Frank Stinson was a popular player and over the years, he fascinated so many folks with his perfect recall of the early days. Recently while going through some of his files, I came across a hand written letter he wrote in 1979, telling about how he got into the sport and many tales about his career. His career is just amazing to read about, just imagine, he warmed up on a court along side Putt Mossman; watched C.C. Davis, Bert Duryee and Frank Jackson play; saw Caroline Schultz win her first World Championship; knew Casey Jones in the 30's; played against all the great players when the big events were in Murray, Utah in the 1950's; played in World Tournaments in seven different decades from 1924 to 1989 and lived and pitched in our time, so many of us had the pleasure to know him personally, and as a friend. What a journey this is to read about, so in this issue, we can all read Frank Stinson's letter...

FRANK STINSON  
1910 – 1989

"The way I got into horseshoe pitching happened because the man across the alley from where I lived worked in the barn for the Franklin Creamery and one day he brought home some old shoes that had been taken off the horses that pulled the milk wagons. Most all vehicles were horse powered in those days. The year was 1921.

So, the man's two boys and I pounded a couple of pipes into the ground in my backyard and started throwing at them. (One of the boys became a fireman later, the other a policeman and for me, I was a machinist at Honeywell for 36 years). We pitched approximately 30 feet.

We used to play most every day, counting 5 for a ringer and 3 for a leaner. The top ringer also got credit for all the ringers

underneath it – so instead of 4 dead ringers, the guy with the top ringer got 20 points. We only played to 21.

In those days I threw a reverse  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn. I had good luck in getting my share of ringers and so in 1923 my mother went downtown and bought me a pair of tailor made horseshoes – National Standards. But when I went to the park to play, the stakes were 40 feet apart, with the result that I couldn't get my  $\frac{3}{4}$  reverse to work right, so I finally settled for the  $1\frac{3}{4}$  orthodox turn, which I stuck with for 36 years.


After finally mastering that method, I entered the Boy's State Tournament at the Minnesota State Fair and much to my surprise; I won the 40-foot class, for which I received a 20 jewel Elgin pocket watch. That's when I really got hooked on the game. About this time I read in the *American Boys* magazine the story of Harold Falor, a 15-year-old who had recently won the men's national title. I must say that this was quite an inspiration.


In 1924, the World Tournament, then called the "National" was held at Loring Park, Minneapolis. The park board brought in bleachers and put up a canvas wall around the courts. At that time we had two sets of courts back to back, 18 in all. Tickets sold for 50 cents and as the game was real popular then, the tournament was a financial success.

The two top players in each class, men's, women's and boys had to meet in a playoff. With a capacity crowd on hand, Putt Mossman of Eldora, Iowa beat Frank Jackson, the "old Master" 3 straight games to win his first World title.

I played Emmett Mossman, Putt's younger brother and beat him 2 out 3 for the Junior World Championship. We both pitched the full 40-foot distance.

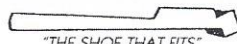
Putt Mossman toured the world as an entertainer and as far as I know, never had to work. He was a daredevil motorcycle rider, besides putting on horseshoe pitching exhibitions. Last time I saw him was at the World Tournament in Fargo, when



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AND A SOFT TOUCH DELIVERY

# HORSESHOE FACTS & FOLKLORE *Continued*

he was inducted into the National Hall of Fame. At that time he also put on an exhibition, pitching 30 feet. Many of the stages he pitched on weren't wide enough for 40 foot pitching so he had to cut it down. One of his tricks that day was to lay the shoes down at about the 20-foot mark and flip them on to the stake with the toe of his shoe. In 1927 I went to Duluth for the big tourney and as I was warming up on a court next up Putt Mossman I noticed he was using a funny looking shoe, not as round as mine and with hooks on the ends. I went over to him and asked where he got the odd looking shoes and he told me he had designed and patented them and was selling the new shoes for \$2.50 a pair and if I wanted to try a pair, just go over and take a couple out of the barrel. So I did and the shoes worked real good for me so I bought a pair. That was the first year of the hooked shoe.

The representatives of the other horseshoe manufacturers were very upset at this new development and hollered "foul" at the convention before the tournament and wanted to have this freak shoe barred. But the players voted that it should be allowed. Otto Swanstrom, president of the Diamond Horseshoe Company stood up and offered every player who would use them in the tournament, a free pair of his shoes and some players took him up on it, but those who used the new type shoes had a big advantage and C.C. Davis again won the championship using Mossman's new shoes. He had won the winter National the previous winter in Florida. Back then, from 1920 to 1927 a National meet was held both winter and summer. Davis wore a hard straw hat and golf knickers and long socks when he played.

One of the top players then was Bert Duryee of Kansas, who threw what they called a 'snake shoe' that really wriggled as it traveled through the air with a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  turn.

In 1929, when I was working on my first job in Lapeer, Michigan, they had a tournament in conjunction with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. They had announced that a watch would be awarded to the winner, but after I won, they gave me a \$1.00 Ingersoll watch. I still wonder if they pulled a fast one because they thought I was a 'ringer.'

In 1933 in the midst of the Great Depression the World Tournament was revived after a four-year lapse. Times were tough and a guy was lucky if he even had enough dough to buy a pair of shoes. (Any kind, even the ones that you walk on). This extravaganza was held at the Chicago World's Fair and it was in this tourney that Ted Allen, then of California, burst onto the scene, winning the World Championship with then unheard of ringer

average of 73.5%, winning over C.C. Davis in a playoff in two straight games. Allen was then 24 years old, now 70. Allen won that title with the 'Gordon Shoe.'

To the surprise of everyone, Putt Mossman and Frank Jackson both failed to pitch good enough to qualify for the 24-man tournament. Fernando Isais, who was to win 8 World titles, pitched a new world record game of 93.2%.

Caroline Schultz, of Illinois, easily won the ladies title with a 5-0 record and a new high ringer average of 73.8%. Prena Paglarini, Andy's sister was entered but failed to qualify high enough. She later died at a young age. (*Note: Andy Paglarini was a long time good friend and constant competitor of Frank's. He won 5 Minnesota State Championships including the 1926 Junior title and was the Intermediate Men's World Champion in 1975.*)

In 1937, I heard about a tournament to be held at Soldiers Field in Chicago, where the College All-Stars vs. the pros football game was held annually. I was kind of short of cash so I hooked a ride with a salesman. Arriving in windy city, I took a room at the Y.M.C.A. Hotel that cost me \$1.00. Next morning I walked to Soldiers Field, walked through the open gate and not a soul was there. Of course I was awfully disappointed and started walking away to the bus depot, when I saw a guy walking toward the stadium with a pair of horseshoes. Upon inquiring, he informed me that the Dairy Farmers of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana were holding a big field day that afternoon.

The tournament started about 1 p.m., with the stakes being pounded into the grass on the football field. Also there was a rolling-pin throwing contest, husband calling contest and a pig calling contest, with about 10,000 farmers and their families in the stands. All the contests had a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> of \$15.00. I beat everybody but a young fellow named Casey Jones, whom I had never heard of before. He went on to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> several times in World Tournament play and in the 1948 World tournament at West Allis, Wisconsin, set an all time tournament record, up till then, of 87.5% ringers and only finished second.

After he beat me pretty bad, he and I talked and he said I should move over to the left side of the stake when I pitched, in order to have my right arm more lined up with the stake. Also, he said the shoes I had weren't so good and he sold me his Gordons for \$1.00. He really was a good kid, only about 17 years old. I was very happy to get the \$25 second place money. Cost me \$5 to ride the bus back to Minneapolis, so I came out money ahead.

# HORSESHOE FACTS & FOLKLORE *Continued*

Maybe I should tell about the 'Great Burchfield Horseshoe Tournament.' This is back in 1945. Charlie Burchfield kept calling me every night, inviting me to play in a tournament he was putting on. Knowing Charlie for many years, I was kind of skeptical but to get him to quit bugging me I drove over to his house on Sunday afternoon. He lived in a house on a corner in south Minneapolis. He had a court on the boulevard, which was on a fairly steep hill. I decide as long as I was there I might as well toss a few so I got my shoes and did so.

Charlie soon came out with his shoes and suggested we have a game, so we did. After I beat him 5 or 6 games, I says "Charlie, where are all the other players?" "Oh, they'll be here," replied Charlie.

But I was getting kinda thirsty so I told him the tournament would have to get along without me and took off.

The next morning when I was looking over the sports section of the Minneapolis Morning Tribune an article caught my eye. "Burchfield wins Horseshoe Tournament – Stinson Second." I guess that oughta teach me not to be a dropout from a horseshoe tournament. *(If you knew Charlie Burchfield, you can understand that this really happened.)*

During the World War II years I only got to play a couple of times while in the Army, but in 1948 there were 6 of us from Minnesota who went to West Allis but none of us qualified high enough to make the 32 man World tourney. They only had 16 courts and just the one class. Of course there were a lot of disappointed players. The courts were just hastily put in, stakes not anchored, the roller coasters roaring by a few feet away and courts facing east and west, so the players had to look into the sun.

But for the next eleven years, Murray, Utah hosted the big tournament on courts that were perfect. No one else bid for the tournament during those years.

In 1951, I finally made the Men's Championship Class and

it was quite a thrill to play the likes of Ted Allen, Fernando Isais and Casey Jones – the big 3. After 138 shoes I finally lost to Ted Allen 50-44. I was really proud to come that close. But, Isais won the title, the 5<sup>th</sup> of his 6 consecutive World titles. That's one guy I never beat. My record that year, was won 14, lost 21, with a 72.1% ringer average. That year was the first year that a Class B tournament was held since 1935. Now everyone gets to play.

In the 1953, I played through a 16 man, 50-point round robin Class B World Tournament in Utah, all in one day, in which the sun was so hot I got sunburned right through my shirt. They had a large tub of ice with pop for the players – all free and I drank 15 cans of pop, one after each game.

In the 1954 World meet, Guy Zimmerman went undefeated in round robin play but that year the top two players had to play off and Zimmerman won over Isais in 3 straight games, averaging 87.8% ringers. Zimmerman died just a few years later. *(1960)*

In 1972, at Greenville, Ohio, at age 62, I beat 3 men in a row who either had won or were to win the World Championship – Dan Kuchcinski, Mark Seibold and Carl Steinfeldt.

About four years ago, Dale and Len Lipovsky, George Nick and I were invited to visit the Stillwater Prison to play against their 4 best players. The first few shoes we threw fell short, but when we woke up to the fact we had to put more oomph on them we shut the prison team out – they didn't win a game. When we measured the distance we found it to be 43 feet. I guess we proved to them the "crime doesn't pay."

Up at Hjalmer Johnson's indoor tournament last year one of the girls in the ladies class did something I had never in all my years seen or heard of. She threw a shoe that hit the top of the stake, bounced up in the air, came down and hung right on the top of the stake with the points of the shoe pointing down. It may have been the first and only time that ever happened."

## JUNIOR PROMOTIONS *by Aleena Cook*

"Just 4 Juniors"

As the world continues to become more technologically savvy, I thought the best way to get more juniors interacting was via the internet. "Just 4 Juniors" is a page on Facebook created for all junior pitchers who would like to meet other

competitors before and after tournaments. This is also a great place for everyone to update how they are doing and what they are placing in tournaments. Many have joined already, but I would love to have as many junior pitchers a part of this group as I can. But remember it's.... Just 4 Juniors!

# 1ST ANNUAL HALL OF FAME INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

by Jeanette Claas

May 5-6, 2012  
National Horseshoe Hall of Fame  
Wentzville, Missouri

Mother Nature was at her finest as the horseshoe pitchers arrived in Missouri for the very 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament. The yellow daisies were in full bloom, bright as the sunshine that greeted the horseshoe pitchers and visitors as they arrived at Quail Ridge Park. Even the barn swallows building their nest in the front door awning didn't seem to mind the interruptions as the visitors passed through the door. The QRHC members had done some spring cleaning, painting and pulling some outdoor weeds as we wanted to make this exciting event a special one for our visitors.

This exciting tournament included 32 of the top championship horseshoe pitchers from coast to coast. The tournament featured the 16-time Men's World Champion, Alan Francis of Ohio; Womens World Champion, Joan Elmore of Tennessee; Elder's World Champion Russ Phillips of Washington and former seven-time Women's World Champion, Sue Snyder of Kentucky.

The two-day event included a 40' men's tournament and a 30' mixed tournament combining the talents of women and men competing at thirty foot. The format for each tournament was a sixteen person round robin consisting of fifteen 40 point games – eight on Saturday concluding with seven games on Sunday. Prize money of \$4,000 was given to the top eight horseshoe pitchers in each division. Trophies for each division were made and donated by horseshoe pitcher Randy Grady of Missouri.

After months of planning, Tournament Directors for the 40' Divisions, Joe Faron & Gary Buehler and Tournament Directors for the 30' Division, Bob & Rose Diekamp

were anxious to get "this shoe on the road". Introductions began at 9AM on Saturday morning as each contestant was introduced on the courts. There were also some special guests that attended this event: NHPA President Stu Sipma, of ND, NHPA Hall of Fame Chairperson Vicki Winston of MO, Steve and Paula Summerlin of Michigan, NHPA Webmaster and Newsline Editor respectively, NHPA Historian, Bob Dunn of MN. Also attending from CA was NHPF President Dave Loucks, NHPF Directors Joe Faron of MO, Barry Chapelle of OR, and Stu Sipma of ND. Making their first appearance at Quail Ridge in this event were: Dan Watson-AL, Austin Bailey-IL, Virgle McCown-MO, Ron LeGrand-MO, Barry Chapelle-OR, Lachelle Cook-MO, Buddy Short-FL and Audra Craven-MO.

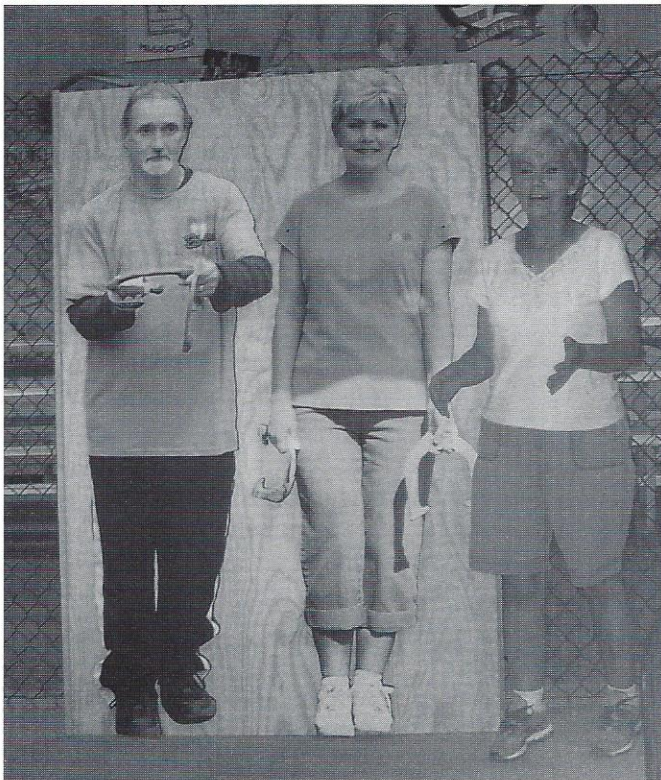
The National Anthem was led by Gregg and Audra Craven and it was now time for the shoes to fly. Alan Francis started his first game with a whopping 92.11% and Sue Snyder not far behind delivered a 90% game. At the end of competition on Saturday five pitchers remained undefeated: Alan Francis, Tom Williams, Russ Phillips, Sue Snyder and Marlene Ray.

After the competition on Saturday, a special program was held for the dedication of the Hall of Fame TV viewing room in honor of the late Earl Winston. Vickie Winston, her son Carl, wife Amy, children, Shane & Lindsey, another son, Keith, wife Diana and children Hailey and Mason were in attendance to celebrate this special occasion. Speakers, Bob Rogers, Stu Sipma and Barry Chapelle shared highlights of Earl's accomplishments and achievements during his horseshoe career. Memories of good times were shared by Stan Griggs, Gregg and Audra Craven and Amy Francis. A song, "Golden Shoes" written by Alan & Amy Francis, Fred & Helen Brown, was sung by the trio, highlighting this special day for Earl and his family. Mel Bruemmer of Jefferson City, MO spoke of his mission in trying to get the Winston's inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. If this passes, they will be the first horseshoe



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# 1ST ANNUAL HALL OF FAME INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT *Continued*



*Hall of Fame Statues*

pitchers to be inducted into this facility.

A special surprise was in store for Joan Elmore as she was selected to unveil what was behind the door. What she discovered was a statue of her and Brian Simmons that would be placed into the NHPA Hall of Fame as the current World Champions. After the program, the horseshoe pitchers enjoyed a delicious homemade dinner of a variety of dishes and good home cooked fried chicken by the QRHC members.

After a good night's rest, Amy Francis sang the National Anthem and the pitchers were back on the courts at 9AM to resume play. At the end of the play in the 40' division Alan Francis-OH was the grand champion with 15 wins, averaging 86.09% for the tournament, with a high game of 92.86% and low game of 80%. Tom Williams-MI took second with 14 wins, one loss to Alan with an average of 72.91%. With only 3 losses, Jim Walters-OH finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (73.96%) while Dan Watson-AL with 4 losses (69.02%) came in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

At the end of the 30' competition having three losses each, there was a four-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place making for some interesting play-off games. Joan Elmore lost to Herschel

Walters and Russ Phillips lost to Marlene Ray. Going for 1<sup>st</sup> place Marlene Ray defeated the defending champion Herschel Walters in an exciting match ending with a score of 42-34.

We wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions towards the prize money; Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, Holiday Inn Express, Staybridge Suites, Bob Dunn, Harvey Wobbe, Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Hill, Rick Haynes, Bob Rogers, the Cal Jaeger family, and the Wentzville Chamber of Commerce. Larry Langewisch, NHPA GRS, donated two pairs of horseshoes for raffle prizes.

Checks were given out to the lucky winners and the horseshoe pitchers were soon on their way home; some with good memories, some wishing they had had a better tournament. When you can pitch as well as these 32 pitchers can, you are never considered a loser. Our guests paid us many compliments on what a great tournament and good time that they had. We wish to thank all the NHPA/NHPF officials who brought their presence to our courts. A special thank you to all the QRHC members who in someway helped in preparing and putting on such a great tournament, one of the best in the world!



*Hall of Fame Brick Visitor*



# 1ST ANNUAL HALL OF FAME INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT *Continued*

## 40' Tournament Results:

Name	W/L	H/G	Ringers	S/P	Average	Prize Money
Alan Francis-OH	15-0	92.86%	572	660	86.67%	1- \$1,000
Tom Williams-MI	14-1	88.10%	630	820	76.83%	2 - \$ 900
Jim Walters-OH	12-3	85.00%	566	752	75.27%	3 - \$ 700
Dan Watson-AL	10-5	78.95%	598	852	70.19%	4 - \$ 500
Gary Urich-IL	9-6	72.50%	509	786	64.76%	5 - \$ 325
Charlie Webb-IL	9-6	75.00%	511	844	60.55%	6 - \$ 225
Randy Grady-MO	8-7	75.00%	530	802	66.80%	7 - \$ 200
Stan Griggs-MO	8-7	70.83%	484	760	63.68%	8 - \$ 125

Others participating in the 40' Division were: 9<sup>th</sup>-Rick Howe-MA, 10<sup>th</sup>-Ron LeGrand-MO- 11<sup>th</sup>-Ray Bedard-MA, 12<sup>th</sup>-MO Turner-MO, 13<sup>th</sup>- Steve Johnson-MO, 14<sup>th</sup>-Austin Bailey-IL, 15<sup>th</sup>-Virgle McCown-MO, 16<sup>th</sup>-Dennis Griesbaum-MO.



*Hall of Fame 40 Foot Group*

## 30' Tournament Results:

Name	W/L	H/G	Ringers	S/P	Average	Prize Money
Marlene Ray-TN	14-3	88.00%	801	1020	78.53%	1- \$1,000
Herschel Walters-IN	13-4	85.29%	694	938	73.99%	2 - \$ 900
Joan Elmore-TN	12-4	91.07%	797	1010	78.91%	3 - \$ 700
Russ Phillips-WA	12-4	85.71%	704	924	76.91%	4 - \$ 500
Sue Synder-IN	11-4	92.11%	660	868	76.04%	5 - \$ 325
Barry Chapelle-WA	11-4	86.67%	601	820	73.49%	6 - \$ 225
Bobby Fields-TN	10-5	90.00%	585	796	73.49%	7 - \$ 200
Paul McGee-MD	10-5	84.29%	593	832	71.27%	8 - \$ 125

Others participating in the 30' Division were: 9<sup>th</sup>-Gregg Craven-MO, 10<sup>th</sup>-Lachelle Cook-MO, 11<sup>th</sup>-Terry Beagle-MI, 12<sup>th</sup>-Bob Vandivier-IL, 13<sup>th</sup> Buddy Short-FL, 14<sup>th</sup>-D W Story-TN, 15<sup>th</sup>-Amy Francis-OH, 16<sup>th</sup>-Audra Craven-MO.



*Hall of Fame 30 Foot Group*

# HALL OF FAME

By Vicki Winston

I am pleased to announce that we will have a new member in the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2012. The committee has elected Will Gullickson to be inducted at the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet to be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Knoxville, Tennessee. Will has been elected in the promoter/organizer category. As of this writing, some of Will's family members are hoping to be present for the occasion. I hope that there will be a good attendance at the banquet as we honor this deserving gentleman. I will give you just some brief highlights about this man and his achievements.

Will Gullickson was born December 11, 1927. His chosen career as a sports reporter and writer would place him in the position of being able to give valuable coverage and publicity to the sport of horseshoe pitching. Not only did he enjoy writing about the sport, he also enjoyed participating in the sport and being a promoter of horseshoe pitching. Will was a pretty fair pitcher. His resume' says he averaged between 50 and 60% ringers. Will organized and started many tournaments and leagues in his area. Through his efforts the 1967 World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament was held in Fargo, North Dakota. Later he would have a hand in bringing the 1981 World Tournament to Genola, Minnesota.

It was at the 1967 World Tournament that a very young Dan Kuchcinski was crowned the men's World Champion. Will became intrigued by this young champion and became a personal manager for Danny, and arranged an appearance for Danny on the Johnny Carson Show in 1968. (Film of this

appearance is available for viewing at the NHPA Hall of Fame.) Numerous other exhibitions were arranged for Danny by Will, and he also wrote a book about Danny entitled "The Kid Champ." Will also arranged some exhibitions for Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Dale Lipovsky.

Will used his writing skills to produce monthly articles for the NHPA Horseshoe Pitching News Digest for several years. He served as editor of the Double Ringer, which was a bi-monthly horseshoe pitching publication in the upper Midwest. He also wrote articles for the Minnesota Gopher State Digest. During his many years as a columnist and writer for The Forum in Fargo, ND, that paper probably gave our sport more space than any other daily in the nation.

Will also took time to become involved with the administrative side of our sport. He served as a NHPA Vice President. He also served as the president of the Minnesota Horseshoe Pitchers Association, as well as being a league secretary.

For his many contributions to the sport of horseshoe pitching, Will was presented the Stokes Award in 1967 by the NHPA. He has also been elected to the Minnesota Hall of Fame. We will never know how many more contributions Will Gullickson might have made to our sport as he was taken from us too soon. Will passed away on January 8, 1990, just a short time after his 63rd birthday.

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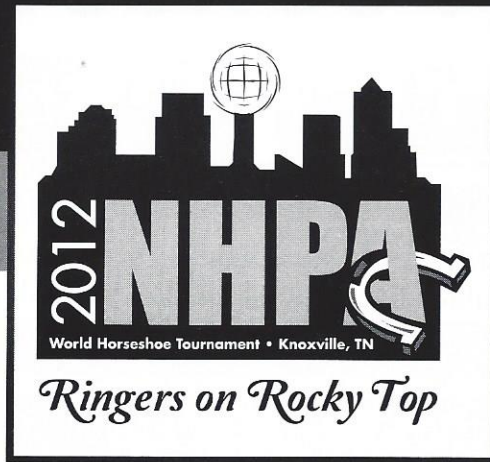
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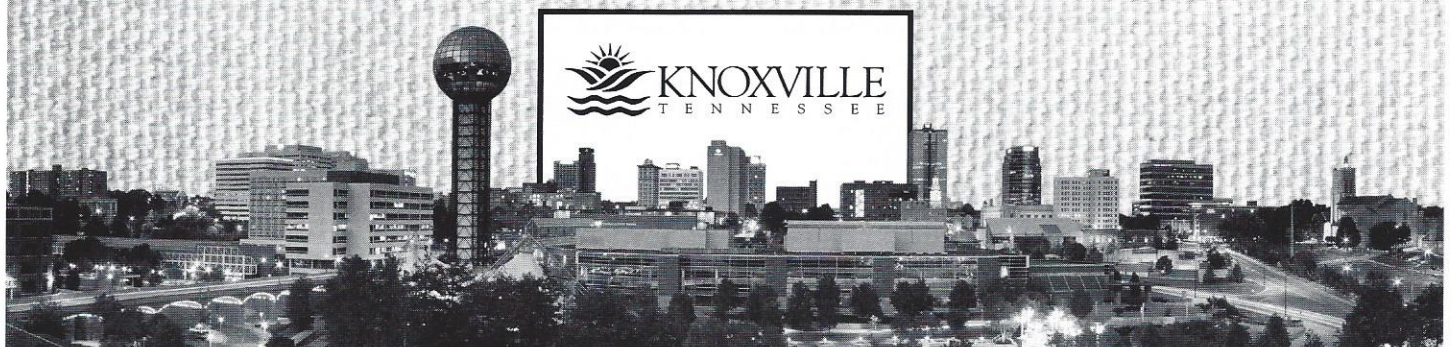
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