

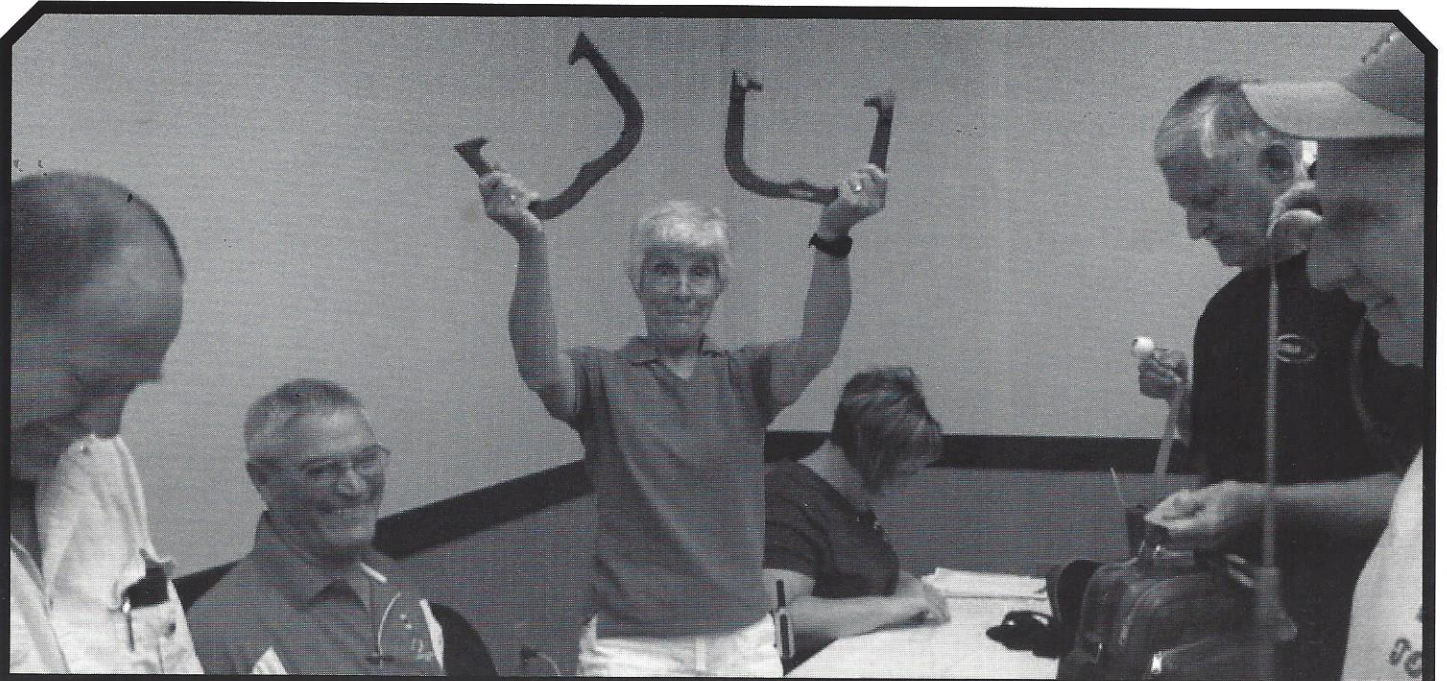


Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

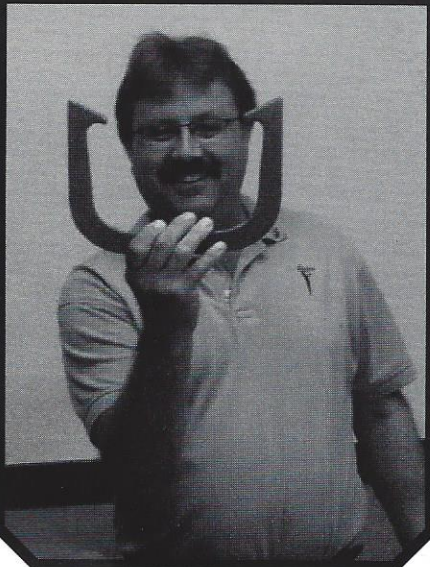
Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 26, NO. 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*Thank You
Debby*

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 5th Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. She should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 5th VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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NHPA NEWSLINE

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: PAULA SUMMERLIN
DESIGN/PRODUCTION: ASAP PRINTING, Okemos, MI

PUBLISHER'S POLICY: NHPA Newsline is the official magazine of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. The contents may not be reproduced in any manner without prior permission of the Editor. Six issues are published annually on a bi-monthly basis. Back issues or additional copies of Newsline, subject to availability, are \$3.00 each postage included, \$5.00 for World Tournament issue.

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LETTERS POLICY: Newsline welcomes communication and articles from the membership. Submissions should be provided on disk or e-mail in text format (MS Word preferable) or typed, double spaced and should include the writer's name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any letter or advertising material. All submissions are subject to editing, available space, and must be received by the first day of the month preceding the date of issue. Email address: paulaf@wowway.com NHPA Newsline, Paula Summerlin, P.O. Box 536, Webberville, MI 48892-0536 Phone: (517)984-6080

SUBSCRIPTION POLICY: The annual subscription price is \$12.00 in the United States which includes postage via discounted standard mail. Add \$12.00/yr. for First Class Mail. Canadian subscriptions are \$24.00 U.S. funds. All new subscriptions, renewals, payment and changes of address must be sent directly to: NHPA, 3085 76th Street, Franksville, WI 53126-9661 Phone/Fax (262)835-9108



Horseshoe Pitching
NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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Cover: Debby looks the other way when Stu checks in his shoes at the 2013 world tournament in St. George Utah.

Mouth opening 12"; weight 5 pounds 7 ounces.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Stu Sipma

Happy Holidays to all and I hope 2014 will be a great year for everyone!

As I sit here writing this article, Bismarck received its first snowfall which reminds me how beautiful the seasons really are. Yes, I cannot pitch horseshoes at this time, but it allows me to focus more on my job as your President.

I would first like to thank Debby Michaud for the time she has served on the Council and hope her hard work and dedication continue at the Charter level. Debby has been a great asset to the team and she will definitely be missed! Effective January 1, 2014, Bill Marvin will be replacing Debby as your 5th VP. For those of you who do not know Bill, he comes from the great State of Illinois. Bill was instrumental in the success of the 2009 World Horseshoe Tournament held in Springfield. I am looking forward to working with Bill and the new ideas he will bring to the Council.

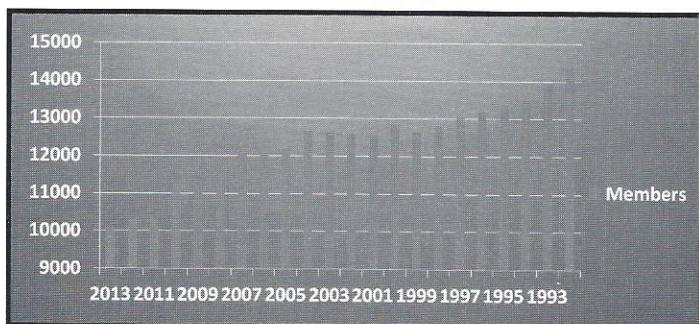
Each year, two Council members travel to the World Tournament site to meet with World Tournament team members and assist them with the planning and preparations necessary for hosting this event. In December, Jerry LaBrosse and I will be traveling to Buffalo for this site visit and we will present a brief report of our visit in the next issue of Newslines.

Our annual winter meeting is scheduled for January 23–25, 2014. This year we will be reviewing many topics and exploring new ideas for promotions and membership growth. Some of the other topics of discussion include 2014 financial budget, W.T. schedule, number of Divisions, Championship Payouts, National Sponsorship, Software updates and changes.

Another topic that is very important to our Council and one of our 2014 goals is Membership and what we need to do to increase interest and participation. As we all know, this is a great family sport, but how do we get more individuals involved? As you have heard me say in the past, it is up to all of us to do our part to spread the word, talk it up and get new individuals signed up. Tina Hawkins our Publicity and Promotions Director will be glad to send information and handouts upon request. Jerry LaBrosse, Director of Charter Communications, has been doing an excellent job in providing information to the Charters which can also be utilized in your promotion efforts. Charters, please utilize these Vice Presidents to get the word out.

Dick Hansen reported that our membership numbers have decreased slightly again. (See graph below.) Although the numbers have dropped, I am happy to say the junior's numbers have remained about the same with only a drop from 728 to 720 juniors reported.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT



As it stands now, membership numbers for the last four years are at 11,243 for 2010, 10,399 for 2011, 10,319 for 2012 and approximately 10,101 for 2013 with 99% of the Charters reporting to date. I want to take this time to thank all the Charters in getting your numbers to Dick in a timely manner.

On November 5-7, 2013, I attended the 2014 TEAMS conference in Salt Lake City. While attending this event, I attended forty-eight 14-minute appointments with CVB and Tourism groups from all around the US. I am happy to report our World Tournament event continues to be of interest to many cities. Following is a list of sites that have shown great interest in our event and some even have been exploring the bidding process. The sites include: Wichita Falls, TX and Charleston, WV; these two were unsuccessful in the bidding process for the 2015 World Tournament. Other interested sites include Montgomery, AL, Springfield, IL, Detroit, MI, Reno, NV, Albuquerque, NM, and Oklahoma City, OK. To date, we have not received any signed contracts; however, the parties have until March 15, 2014 to submit their bid packages to the NHPA.

Each year the NHPA recognizes members for their contributions to the NHPA, their Charter, and/or local club. The Council is asking all the Charters to provide a list of individuals who you believe would be a good candidate to receive an NHPA Achievement Award. These awards will be presented at the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, NY. To obtain a form, visit our website at www.horseshoepitching.com.

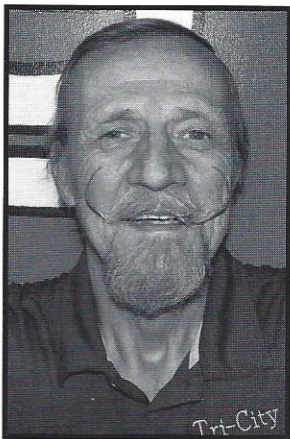
The NHPA is also looking for your assistance in providing candidates who you believe would qualify for the NHPA Hall of Fame Award. Candidates for this prestigious award must have been an NHPA member for at least ten years and may qualify based on their distinguished outstanding performances in World Tournament Championship play or as a person who has made significant and beneficial contributions to the NHPA. Nominations for this award should be submitted to our NHPA Hall of Fame Director Vicki Winston. This form is also available on our website.

I would like to remind everyone that elections are open for the positions of Secretary/Treasurer, 2nd VP, and 4th VP. Dick Hansen has decided not to run again for another term as the Secretary/Treasurer, so there will be an opening for anyone interested. According to our By-Laws, candidates for an NHPA office must announce their candidacy in writing no later than February 1, 2014. Announcements are to be received by the President and the Horseshoe Pitching Newsline Editor. I encourage anyone interested to announce their candidacy prior to the deadline.

People looking at attending the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, NY should begin making your plans and getting your reservations made. Information regarding the World Tournament can also be found on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all your efforts in making horseshoes what it is today. Either being involved at a local level, state level, or just a pitcher enjoying the game. Stay warm and look forward to seeing you soon!

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *by Bill Marvin*



My name is Bill Marvin and I was elected to serve as the 5th VP for the NHPA at the convention in St. George. Let me first thank the delegates for their vote of confidence in me, and hope that I can fill the shoes of Debby Michaud, who did a terrific job. Debby has been most helpful in the transition and has promised me that she will be available to answer any question or concerns that come up along the way. While I have never been a Regional Director, I am confident that the Regional

Directors will have patience and guide me along the way.

By way of introduction, let me give some of my background with the NHPA. I have been a member for 27 years, served the Illinois Association as President, Secretary/Treasurer, 1st Vice President, and am the Tournament Director for several sanctioned and non-sanctioned tournaments each year. Beginning in 2008 at York, Pennsylvania, I have assisted Jerry Labrosse in the set up and tear down of each World Tournament. This process has opened my eyes to the huge amount of preparation and coordination required to have this event. My wife Deanna and I have been married for 30 years, have five children, four grandchildren (number five coming in January), and she is the Junior Director for Illinois. We are a

horseshoe family, love the sport, and have made many, many friends in the horseshoe world.

Several RDs have contacted me concerning their patches for the coming year. I didn't realize the sheer number of tournaments held nation-wide. Nearly 13,000 patches will be awarded in 2014, and the RD in your area will make sure they are available. When you see this person, thank them for the work they do. Their countless hours keep the behind the scenes things running smooth.

Illinois has adopted the motto "RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT". Word of mouth is a great way to get new folks to become a part of horseshoe pitching, and it may take asking more than once to get someone to join you at the pits. We are all aware of the great times had pitching, and it is up to us to involve more pitchers. We have been members of the "horseshoe family" for many years, and getting more folks to participate is the only way to ensure the survival of the NHPA. Take a chance, ask, or better yet, buy their card for them and bring them with you to the next tournament.

As the new pitching year begins, I want to wish you all best of luck. Practice makes more ringers, and more ringers makes you happy.

Easy does it.

PUBLICITY / PROMOTION *by Tina Hawkins*

By the time you receive this issue of Newline, the New Year will be underway, and SPRINGTIME will soon follow!

What does that mean to the average horseshoe pitcher? It's time to dig the shoes out of the closet (or trunk of the car), grind the rust off and start practicing!

For the not-so-average horseshoe pitcher – the ORGANIZERS – it is time to start recruiting and planning all those tournaments and leagues that the AVERAGE pitcher enjoys so much!

Whether you are an organizer or one of the average pitchers, as the spring horseshoe season approaches and you are making plans, scheduling events... Be sure to visit the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association's website, www.horseshoepitching.com and take advantage of the information available there. Area information can already be found about your next family vacation destination, Buffalo, New York!

In fact, a WORLD of information can be found there. Take some time to visit and browse all the offerings on our own home on the World Wide Web...

You can start off by making sure you and your new recruits have the required number of qualifying events under your belts for the World Tournament. All adult entries must have four events, while juniors and cadets need only one. These must have been

pitched since the deadline for LAST YEAR's world event, but BEFORE the mid-May deadline for this year.

Here's how to check your individual statistics on the website. Pick the "Statistics" tab, then "STAT search," then pick your state and then your name. Your pitching statistics from the past twelve months will be displayed. Not only is this a great way to track your OWN progress, it is an excellent way to track your opponents' from all across the country!

In addition to National Statistics, you can find the League Red Book; NHPA Rules, Guidelines and Regulations; software downloads; world tournament videos; plans for building horseshoe courts; books, videos and photo galleries... You can spend all day – or SEVERAL DAYS – just browsing the website and learning about the NHPA and its programs and history.

You will also find a listing of Charter contacts and National officers and directors on the site. All of whom are eager to assist with all your horseshoe pitching questions and requests.

Don't let this valuable resource go to waste!

A lot of time and effort, as well as knowledge, lore, and resources are YOURS for the reading at www.horseshoepitching.com. All you have to do to get it is CLICK!

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS by Jerry LaBrosse

PROMOTION BEGINS WITH COMMUNICATION!!

I have a message for all charter officers ... keep the communication going with your members during the off-season! There are many ways this can and should be done. First of all, make sure your email lists, websites and Facebook pages are up-to-date, and send out short notices and reminders of upcoming meetings and events regularly. Consider putting together detailed (or even basic) directions on how to get to various tournament sites. This is especially helpful for new members. Take some time this winter to jazz up your newsletter. Consider posters for pitcher recruitment. "Brand" your materials to make them look more official ... more serious, as this is a fun, yet serious organization. When spring approaches, make sure you encourage your members to bring a friend to your spring meeting or just bring them down to the courts and introduce them to the game. Conduct an "Introduction to Horseshoe pitching" clinic free of charge, and work with your local community education people to get the word out. Remember folks, recruitment is best done on the local level, via word-of-mouth. By going these extra steps in communication, you're making people feel welcome and important.

Let's make 2014 a year of growth for your charter, and the entire NHPA!!!

Buffalo

I know it's early, but I'd like to give you some early encouragement to consider attending the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, NY. The facility looks great and the area has a lot to see and do. This tournament is expected to be larger than the past few years, so be prepared for lots of excitement! In my next article, I will give you a

first-hand report of the arena and other info.

World Tournament Experience Raffle

This year, I will be the chairman of the NHPA World Tournament Experience Raffle. We will be finalizing the details soon and lining up the ticket sellers. We have been improving our methods each year, and this year will be no exception. The drawing will take place at the World Tournament in Buffalo this year.

So, stay tuned for more details on how YOU can buy (or sell) chances to win these great prizes. The proceeds from this raffle will continue to help expand and develop the NHPA equipment technology, thus making our sport more appealing to the younger generation, the true future of our sport. Part of the proceeds also go to support the NHPF.

Email Lists

If your charter doesn't have a charter-wide email list, I strongly encourage you to find a person to do this task. Feel free to direct any interested person to me to get started. I will provide them with all the information and techniques they need to create and maintain a successful charter email group.

And as always, if you wish to be on the national Charter Communication email list, contact me and I will add you.

Lastly, I'd like to wish all of you a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

Jerry

INTERNATIONAL JUKSKEI FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP by Casey Sluys

The following was received from Professor Gerrie Jacobs the former chairman of the International Jukskei Federation. In a previous article published in this magazine we alluded to the fact that horseshoe pitching and Jukskei combined as Precision Throwing Sports went to Lithuania and participated in 'The Association For International Sport for All' TAFISA. Gary Roberts, Travis Sluys and I were fortunate enough to be part of that endeavour. In October TAFISA met for their annual convention in the Netherlands. Jukskei was represented with delegates from South Africa and Namibia. Regrettably we could not see our way clear to attend. We have been recognized by them as a member. Congratulations to all those involved with garnering this international recognition.

Dear International Jukskei and Horseshoe Pitching friends

It is with a huge amount of delight that I noted the decision of the General Assembly of TAFISA (at end of October in the Netherlands) to officially grant the International Jukskei Federation membership (as reflected in its attached newsletter). This is a wonderful occasion and it brings closure to the joint efforts of the IJF Executive Committee, its member countries and the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of the USA over the past few years to make this dream come true.

Congratulations Jukskei (and Horseshoe Pitching)! I hereby express the wish that we would always act in a way which is worthy of the recognition of Jukskei as an international sport. Please communicate this message to all countries, states, provinces, unions, clubs and

players - and especially to those (perhaps few) people who would rather prefer to (still) see Jukskei as an 'exclusive culture' that should be practiced by only a selected few.

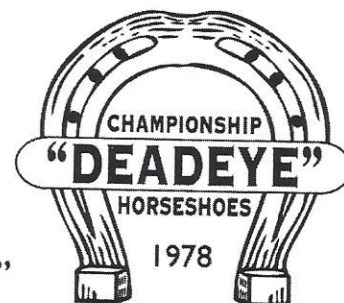
This is a wonderful achievement and the IJF Executive Committee deserves my hearty felicitations.

Kind regards and international greetings from Johannesburg.

Gerrie J Jacobs

Honorary member: IJF

"Clydesdale D. F."
"Clydesdale"
"N. T."
"Regular"
"E-Z Grip"
"Hi Temp Stay On"

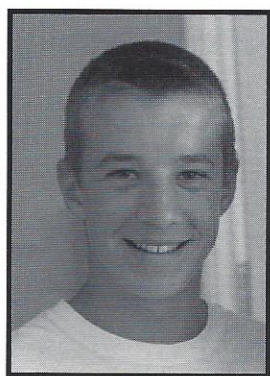


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JUNIOR PROMOTIONS by Aleena Cook



The Horseshoe Path to Success

Throwing his first shoe when he was only one and a half years old, to competing in his first tournament at the age of five, Travis Sluys is definitely one of a kind. Now a fifteen-year-old sophomore in Santa Rosa California, Travis is on his High School's wrestling team, plays baseball and has been for six years, and still enjoys the game of Horseshoes.

Starting in his backyard with his Grandma teaching him to throw at only one and a half, Travis was the kind of child who was willing to try anything. If he heard you talking about something, he wanted to know all about it and try it if he could. A few years later at five years old, Travis had stuck with horseshoes and started pitching competitively. Travis pitched along with this Grandma, Grandpa, and older brother. Though his family doesn't pitch anymore like they used to, they still support him in all he does as he continues with his horseshoe career.

Travis is also known at his high school for pitching. As a freshman, he demonstrated how to pitch horseshoes to the sophomore class. One student got so excited, he had Travis come over to see him pitch and get the praise from Travis himself for doing something well. The teacher was impressed with how well he was able to teach the other students. Travis was even able to go to another school in the area to show a P.E. class how to pitch. Travis also got one of his very good friends, Hayden Lee, into pitching horseshoes as well. Travis taught Hayden everything he knew and helped his friend increase his average by over thirty percent in only one year. These two friends compare games and are tough competition, but they are still friends and are there for each other on and off the courts.

When asked what he loves most about horseshoes, without hesitation Travis replied, "When we go to tournaments, especially World, it's like meeting family you haven't seen in a year. The sound of the clinking of the shoes when you're out there is indescribable. I just love the sound." At world, Travis loves being able to pitch with so many other pitchers around his age. Like most other pitchers, he mainly pitches against older adults in league and it's fun being able to be with so many other pitchers his age who love the same sport as he does while at World. It's a large family reunion.

Along with pitching, Travis also participated in the Jukskei tournament that was held at the World Tournament as well. Travis was able to meet many people from South Africa and Namibia and learned so much about these other countries. Though it was harder to play as the equipment is heavier and you need to throw a farther distance, Travis still enjoyed it. He just needed to practice horseshoes again before competition to get back in the groove.

So far Travis has won the California Cadet State Championship three times, the California Junior Boy's State Championship once, the Cadet World Championship once, and the Northern

California Championship six times. He has placed many other times in various tournaments including second at the 2013 World Tournament this last summer in Utah. Like any other avid pitcher, one of his main goals is to win the Junior World Title, his other goal before he leaves the junior class is to have his average above seventy percent. But right now his main concern at this point is to be fifteen years old, to have a good time and of course, to keep pitching.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2013 Income & Expenses Statement

Income

Donation from the Ed Domey Estate	\$5,000.00
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$300.00
Membership Dues	\$33,492.00
Newsline Ads	\$85.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$2,946.00
Sanctioned League Patches	\$20.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$12.09
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$26.74
World Tournament Raffle	\$4,860.00

TOTAL \$46,741.83

Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$3,090.98
Newsline Publication, Editing & Misc.	\$97.47
Sanctioned League Postage & Printing	\$145.25
Sanction League Tournament Awards & Expenses	\$2,135.55
Junior Scholarship Trusts	\$100.63
World Tournament Admin Cost, Printing, Supplies & Telephone	\$2,809.78
Hall of Fame Awards, Supplies & Expenses	\$1,334.09
Regional Director Postage, Telephone, Supplies & Printing	\$320.00
Sanctioned Tournament Patches	\$7,595.96
Equipment Purchases, Rentals & Repairs	\$1,640.78
Printing, Paper & Officer Supplies	\$870.40
Postage	\$711.47
Officers Telephone	\$199.85
Officers Travel	\$2,416.83
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$3,300.00
Presidents Allowance	\$1,000.00
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donations	\$2,950.00
Insurance	\$1,061.00
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$120.50
Publicity, Promotions & Ads	\$276.10
Refunds	\$1,179.00
Internet Access & Web Site	\$226.79

TOTAL \$33,582.43

From the books of
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS by Dave Loucks

Happy New Year to you and your families. Even though I'm writing this on the second day of December, it will be well into January before you receive and read this Newsline. The Foundation directors hope that the past holiday season was a joyous one and that 2014 will be a prosperous year for everyone.

In the last issue, I wrote about how the level of 2013 contributions were well below the yearly average needed to allow the Foundation to meet all of its mission statements. We can't be sure but it appears that after reading the article, a few of you decided to show your support. During the last two weeks of November, the NHPF received more member donations than the total of the previous two months. The Foundation directors are grateful for your show of support and hope that it not only continues, but others will mail contributions throughout 2014 and beyond.

The NHPF directors have been discussing some ideas and possible new programs that we believe could help our fund-raising. Right now, it is difficult to determine with any clarity, the percentage of membership that is aware of the Foundation, its work and goals. It's been many years since our first and only mass membership mailing. The association has seen a big change in the membership rolls and many people now use the latest technology devices to communicate. Grants to non-profits such as the NHPF may now be more available than they were years ago when we unsuccessfully applied. And, the NHPA now has a Charter Communication network that we can use along with this magazine to keep you informed. We'll provide more info on these as we get into the year.

I doubt that many of you have visited the NHPF website, www.nhpf.info/index.html. You can also access the site by clicking on the NHPF box at the top right corner of the NHPA home page. On the Foundation site, you can find brick order and contribution forms, financial data, NHPF Bylaws, grant information, contributors by month, \$500 level contributors and much more. The Foundation directors would like to thank former NHPA President, Paul Stewart, for his current and past donations that paid the renewal fees required to maintain the nhpf.info domain name.

With this article I have submitted the annual update listing of "How Your State Ranks". This list tells you how many

people or clubs (Contributors) sent in a check and how many Donations and dollars they've combined to give over the past 17 years. This list hasn't changed much over the past year, especially the bottom half. There were just 104 donations and/or brick orders sent in by the membership over the past year. Twelve of those came from first-time contributors. Together, those 104 donations totaled \$12,639. Some 23 States went the entire year without sending in a single contribution. Fund-raising needs are ongoing as the NHPF has a million dollar Hall of Fame & Museum facility to maintain, grants to be made and future goals to be met. You can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution to the NHPF Hall of Fame, 100 Bluestem Way, Wentzville, MO 63385. Orders for commemorative bricks should also be sent to this address. Brick order forms and contribution details can be found on the NHPF website.

The NHPF wishes to acknowledge and thank the following for their contributions that were received during the months of October and November.

Donating \$25-95

Bob Champion Dbles, CO
Mel Yockstick, CO
Ronald Deckard, FL
Robert Knudtson, MN
Southern Tier H.C., NY

Donating \$100-150

Balboa Park H.C., CA
Winter Haven H.C., FL
Lake Orion H.C., MI
Michael & Cathy Ardelean, MI
Lu Cave, MN
Paul Stewart, NC
Charles Bunner, WV

Donating \$300-350

Missouri HPA

Donating \$1500-2500

Iowa Hawkeye HPA
Estate of Ed Domey, MA

Bricks Purchased By

Connecticut HPA
Lowell & Phyllis Swick, IN
Peggy Ann Smith, MI
Filley Ringers H.C., MO
Quail Ridge H.C., MO
Eastern Nebraska HPF, NE (9 bricks)

Other Income

\$450 Nat'l Sanctioned Cl/Lg Tourn.
\$2810, 2014 W.T. Experience Raffle

HOW YOUR STATE RANKS

Contributors	Donations	\$
1. CA 129	385	\$51,591
2. MO 163	331	\$46,138
3. MN 60	348	\$32,291
4. NC 36	209	\$28,634
5. OR 26	155	\$24,549
6. TN 32	69	\$21,727
7. WI 46	165	\$16,625
8. MI 60	163	\$14,350
9. WA 37	97	\$11,760
10. FL 61	102	\$10,896
11. IL 65	129	\$10,888
12. NE 19	46	\$10,808
13. CO 35	99	\$10,014
14. OH 76	132	\$9,776
15. TX 36	66	\$9,375
16. GA 22	32	\$8,455
17. PA 39	79	\$8,350
18. IA 30	58	\$8,101
19. KS 29	61	\$7,271
20. WV 16	156	\$6,643
21. ND 10	40	\$5,850
22. MA 13	21	\$5,705
23. IN 33	50	\$5,643
24. ID 10	48	\$5,237
25. NJ 24	50	\$5,209
26. NY 41	65	\$5,057
27. VA 76	174	\$4,304
28. MD 28	46	\$3,914
29. LA 10	23	\$3,552
30. SC 13	33	\$3,070
31. OK 20	33	\$2,973
32. CT 17	30	\$2,822
33. KY 17	34	\$2,760
34. SD 17	31	\$2,649
35. NV 12	19	\$2,136
36. AZ 14	23	\$1,889
37. AR 11	16	\$1,535
38. VT 7	24	\$1,515
39. NH 4	9	\$1,390
40. NM 5	10	\$1,215
41. AL 7	11	\$1,125
42. MT 6	11	\$1,020
43. CAN 3	4	\$700
44. WY 7	7	\$632
45. UT 4	6	\$580
46. IRE 1	1	\$300
47. HI 4	4	\$250
48. NOR 1	1	\$200
49. ME 2	3	\$150
50. AK 1	1	\$120
51. DE 1	2	\$107
52. RI 1	1	\$100
53. MS 1	1	\$5

WORLD RECORDS

by Mel Yockstick – The Statman

The NHPA State Championship Tournaments are now finalized for 2013. I have updated the NHPA website (Our History-State Champions) page. This page lists Men with ten wins or more; Women with five wins or more; Elders, Boys, Girls with three wins or more and Cadets with two wins or more. Congratulations to Dale Lipovsky for his

30th Men's Minnesota State Championship title; a mighty accomplishment.

See the chart showing new 2013 State Champion pitchers added to the NHPA website for the first time.

2013 State Champions Added to the "State Champion" Website				
Women must have 5 State wins				
Wins			First	Last
5	Kathy Brazier	Alabama	2009	2013
Elder's must have 3 State wins				
Wins			First	Last
3	Art Ross	Idaho	2010	2013
3	Barry Chapelle	Oregon	2011	2013
3	Charley Woolery	California	2011	2013
3	Dick Cooke	Connecticut	2011	2013
3	Dufay Pearson	North Carolina	2010	2013
3	Paul Sarette	New Hampshire	2011	2013
3	Phil Plotke	Wyoming	2011	2013
Boy's must have 3 State wins				
Wins			First	Last
3	Chase Smith	Arkansas	2011	2013
3	Dylan Holmberg	Florida	2011	2013
3	Michael Harte	West Virginia	2011	2013

Girls' must have 3 State wins				
Wins			First	Last
3	Heather Feavel	Wisconsin	2011	2013
3	Katelynn Carmevale	New Hampshire	2011	2013
3	Macey Chambers	South Dakota	2009	2013
Cadet's must have 2 State wins				
Wins			First	Last
2	Brooke Lazaris	Wisconsin	2011	2013
2	Elijah Stull	West Virginia	2012	2013
2	Michael Littell	Minnesota	2012	2013
2	Noah Gabel	North Dakota	2012	2013
2	Quinn Ohms	Utah	2012	2013
2	Seth O'Nan	Kentucky	2012	2013
2	Taylor Colie	Georgia	2012	2013

SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE

by David Sidles

At the time of this writing, it's the weekend after Thanksgiving and I'm in York, Pennsylvania visiting my son and daughter-in-law in their new home. I'm not going to write a long article with a bunch of statistics and try to analyze them. That will be the next one. It's a time to be thankful for all the wonderful things we've been blessed with throughout the year.


suggestions, and the advice you gave me in my first two years on the NHPA Council.

I'm looking forward to another year on the Council and also playing this great game that we all enjoy. I also hope that York bids on the World Tournament again sometime soon.

As it relates to horseshoes, I'd like to mention just a couple of things that stand out for me. The highlight of the year for me, believe it or not, is the League Player Tournament in the fall of this year at Wentzville. I'm thankful for all the players that come to compete in this event and for the wonderful group of people from the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club that work so hard to provide the best environment in which to play horseshoes that I think exists anywhere. I am especially thankful this year by the entry of one player in particular, James Kinney Jr., who opened the tournament with the singing of the National Anthem. I also want to mention that the tournament had an official sponsor, White Distributors, and I can't thank them enough.


I'm thankful for all the wonderful friends I've made while attending the last three World Tournaments. Not only the players, but also the people from the host sites and the support staff that make everything come together.

I also want to say how wonderful it's been to work with Debby Michaud for the last two years. Thank you Debby for all the insight, the




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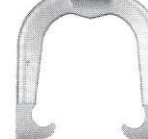
GABBIT




TRIDENT



WARRIOR

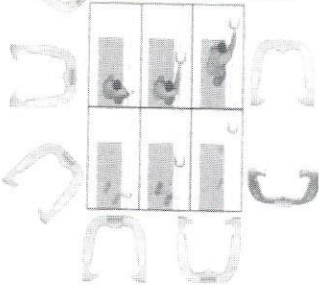


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PLAYING RULES AND **BYLAWS** *by Dan Sanders*

Both during and after our 2013 State Tournaments, I received a few e-mail questions about State Class Ties and the requirement for State Play-off games. Here is one of the more recent questions:

*"I have a question on State Tournaments...
Are 1st place ties required to playoff in all classes?"*

This question could originate from anyone who has pitched in a World Tournament where all Class ties (any Division, any Class) require a play-off game(s) to crown that WT Class Champion. But at the State level, this WT requirement for Class play-off games may not (and usually does not) apply, and is at the discretion of the local Tournament Director, or may be dictated by the Charter Bylaws. In either case, information about Class play-offs should be announced by State and local Tournament Directors (either verbally or in writing) prior to the beginning of all Class play.

I believe that for most State Tournaments, playoff games are contested only for Division Championships, and all lower Class ties are decided by overall ringer Percentage, who beat who in the round robin, or if still tied (a 3-way tie is possible in shoe-limit games, where A beats B, B beats C, and C beats A), by which pitcher was highest above their entering NatStats average, or closest to it if none were above.

Anyway, here is my interpretation of the passage (see Rule 11, Section B-2 in the RGS Book) that would apply for all State Tournaments, and which would also supersede any Charter Bylaws to the contrary:

"In State Championships, all ties for first place in the Championship Class (or 'top' Class) of a designated Division must be broken by a playoff game(s)."

All ties in the 'lower' Classes of a State Tournament Division (where a play-off game may not be possible or practical) can be

decided by the options of... *overall ringer percentage, who beat who in the regular round, or highest above their entering NatStats average*, with this order being recommended. These Class tie-breakers may also be used for all Classes of any local Charter tournament, though a play-off game for Class A contestants is common.

You may have noticed that *total points scored* is no longer listed as one of the recommended options for the breaking of ties, and for this reason... As a result of discussions among our NHPA Rules Committee members, and also based on the analysis of past tournament results, it has been determined that the use of *total points scored* as a tie-breaker may actually penalize the higher percentage pitchers. As an example, I watched a World Tournament preliminary game a few years ago between Alan Francis and Brian Simmons. These WT preliminary games are 40-shoe cancellation games, and the final score was 15 to 12. I don't recall which one of them won that game, but *neither of them scored very many points* because of all the cancelled ringers! This same thing can/will happen in any tournament, when the top pitchers in the Class meet one another. And so the better pitchers are not always the ones who score the most points for the tournament.

Proposed NHPA Bylaws Changes – An Update

Just a reminder that 2014 is our scheduled year for considering proposed Bylaws changes. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to read through our current Bylaws and who have sent in proposed changes. By the time you receive this issue of Newsline, the deadline for submitting proposals will already have passed, and our NHPA Council will have reviewed the proposed changes, some of which will be published in a future Newsline Magazine issue, and which will be voted on by Charter delegates at the NHPA Convention, to be held this year in Buffalo, NY.

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *by Bob Dunn*

1940 Canadian World Tournament Bid

Our records show that the first World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament to be held in Canada happened in 1997 as the event was held in Kitchener. But our history came close to being different as there was a bid from Toronto, Canada in 1940. Lee Rose was in his first year as secretary-treasurer of the NHPA and was in strong support of accepting their bid. In fact, he thought at one point the deal was done and announced to the NHPA membership that they would be traveling to Canada that year. Because all of this happened some seventy years, it is not common knowledge of what took place, and apparently it was not pretty. The national officers took a few shots at each other through the printed press known as the

Horseshoe World. One point should be mentioned to help us to understand what was at stake, there had not been a World Tournament held for five years and it was very important for the NHPA to demonstrate they were heading in the right direction and doing something on behalf of their membership. This is how it all started, with a Horseshoe World article by editor Raymond Howard. . .

Rose Favors Canadian City for 1940 Meet

Age-Old Question of Where to Hold the Tourney Springs Up Again – Toronto Makes Bid

"The annual question of where to hold a National Convention and Tournament come up again in 1940.

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

Former Secretary R.B. Howard did not become a candidate for election in 1939 because of the criticism directed at him for not holding a National Tournament and because of more pressing duties in other lines of endeavor. The tournament question is a tough one.

It was a disagreement over the holding of the 1933 World's Fair Tournament that led to the selection of a new secretary – or at least that was one of the reasons. The late D.D. Cottrell held many successful tournaments in Florida, but failed to find a sponsor for one in the North.

In 1933, the World's Fair management offered a proposition that met with approval of many pitchers but did not meet the specifications of the Association or the secretary. Howard, then vice president, assumed the responsibility of scheduling a tournament and it was a success. Another was held in 1935 and it was a success, as those who visited Moline that year well know.

In 1939, it looked for a time like a meet might be held at the World's fair in San Francisco, but this did not materialize, nor did efforts to secure enough money from the Iowa State Fair Board. In desperation, the officers called a convention in connection with the Mid-West Tournament at Des Moines. L.E. Tanner, then president and Mr. Howard, then secretary, felt this was the best thing that could be done.

Now the new secretary, Mr. Rose, is confronted with the same question and in a letter to Vice President Jack Claves and Alvin Dahlene, he indicates that he will accept the tourney offer of Toronto, Canada.

If it goes to Canada this will be the first time it has ever been held outside of the United States.

Mr. Rose states that he has been told the Iowa State Fair will bid \$800, but that he hasn't received that bid officially.

As this is being written the facts are not all known, but Secretary Rose requested that his letter to certain officials of the National Association be printed in the magazine. In it, he "raps" those who didn't reply to his request for a vote on the Canadian offer.

The Horseshoe World wants to be neutral in the matter, but prints Mr. Rose's letter in order that our readers may know his views. These columns will be open to those who may oppose taking the tournament to Toronto. The Rose letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sirs:

You are familiar with the offer from Toronto regarding the World Tournament. To date I have received only a post card from Mortenson and a letter from Gordon.

Mr. Gordon declares he is completely for a tournament at Des Moines. Before going on this any further I might say that I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFER FROM DES MOINES. The only notice I have is contained in a letter from Leland Mortenson in these words: quote 'The State Fair Board is going to make an \$800 bid for the World Tournament. To date I have Mr. Corey's promise, but of course, not official until the Fair Board meets,' unquote. That is the entire offer I have from Des Moines.

On the other hand, I have an officially guaranteed offer from Toronto, but this offer MUST be accepted BEFORE the 18th of February. To make it official in every way it is necessary to obtain the consent of at least two more of the Executive Committee. I dispatched each of them telegrams and airmail letters last Saturday. As I write this I have received only one answer, from Sam Somerhalder. Since the time for accepting the Toronto bid is growing short it seems that the matter is to be left entirely up to me, and here is my decision:

Since I have received only ONE offer for a tournament and since that offer MUST be accepted quickly and since other offers are yet on the doubtful side, I cannot turn down a fine opportunity such as this for something not yet known, so I am writing Toronto that they will have the official World Tournament.

There are many items in connection with the tournament, which



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NHPA Webmaster
PO Box 536

Webberville, MI 48892-0536
Email: webmaster@horseshoepitching.com

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

prompts my acceptance. Toronto is much closer to the majority of National Association members. Eastern players who went to Toronto last year returned home with nothing but praise for the way they were treated and will be anxious to go again. A tournament at the world's largest permanent fair would elevate the game to a position of greater dignity. The possibility of opening the entire Dominion of Canada for a field for American made pitching shoes is certain to appeal to and receive the support of a majority of manufacturers who are now paying stamp money for prizes. The bringing of the National Association and the Dominion Association into closer relationship cannot help but result in a gigantic boost for the game.

Let us sincerely hope that now that the tournament question is settled all parties will attend without offering opposition that can only do the game irreparable harm. Any differences can be settled in an open meeting at the convention."

Yours sincerely,
Lee Rose

The Horseshoe World carried several letters from NHPA officers, as it soon appeared Lee Rose was the only one of the Executive Committee in favor of the 1940 World Tournament being held in Canada or to be looking in that direction...

Tournament "Scrap" Continues The Horseshoe World Prints Both Sides

By (Editor) Ray Howard

There are times when a publication may be justified in "suppressing" news. The Horseshoe World may have erred when it offered a page to the secretary and other officers of the National Association for such use as they cared to make of it. The page has been used to air differences of opinion over the 1940 tournament. But good may result after all - at least we hope so. It may be that in giving both sides a chance to "say their piece" the atmosphere has been cleared and that this magazine may have had a part in bringing about the friendliness and peace that now seems to prevail. The last letters on the subject are printed this month and it should be borne in mind that they were written before the affair was settled - we only print them in order that all concerned be treated fairly and given equal space. But we are through.

It is time now - and all concerned are fully agreed - that we put our shoulders to the wheel and make the 1940 meet at Des Moines the best ever. We can also lend our support to the open tournament that Canada will stage. I am sure that the United States and Canada can be just as good neighbors in the horseshoe sport as they have been in everything else. If any misunderstanding has arisen, the same good sportsmanship that always makes horseshoe pitching a pleasure has quickly erased it. It looks like a big year for horseshoe pitching on the North American continent!

Obviously, Lee Rose would not give up easily, nor did he see when

he is fighting a losing battle, and fighting that battle while it might have been wiser to "give up the ship"! What he was attempting to do was historic and just might be a great opportunity for our sport, it was not going to happen in 1940...

The Secretary says:

In the last issue of this magazine it was stated that the official National or World Tournament would go to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Ontario. Since that time the Executive Committee has overruled the decision of the National Secretary and has just about decided to award the meet to the Iowa State Fair for the sum of \$800.00.


Toronto, however, has not yet given up hope and has stated that they will stage a world tournament regardless and will endeavor to raise \$2,000.00 in prize money for it. If this happens the Executive Committee will have a lot of explaining to do.

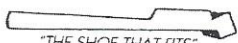
The best policy in a case of this kind should be to wait and see if the C.N.E. will really guarantee this amount and if such a guarantee is forthcoming it would only seem just that they should get the official world tournament and that the stamp money raised by the National Association should go toward increasing the prize money.


After all, the American pitchers stand a good chance of carrying away the lion's share of the prize money and since the Iowa Fair has stated that they would still hold the Mid-West meet for \$500.00, it seems that the horseshoe pitchers would benefit more if Toronto landed the big meet.

The National Secretary is endeavoring to get a guarantee from the C.N.E., and if same is received, one more attempt to persuade the Executive Committee will be made and it is hoped that the meet will go to the place making the best offer and that the offer will be judged on its merits alone.

Lee Rose, National Secretary

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HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

And now a couple letters, the first one from the NHPA President.

The President Says:

To All Members: N.H.P.A. of America

"I had hoped at this writing to be able to announce the site and all details in connection with the 1940 National Tournament. A few minor points remain to be decided upon at this time. The next issue of the Horseshoe World should carry the official announcement.

Regarding Mr. Rose's statement in the last issue: At present the committee has come to an agreement on the issue involved, but there remains a few statements, which need clarification. In the first place, no one had the authority to set February 18 as the last day on which bids would be accepted for the 1940 National Tournament. In the second place, I have written proof that each member of the Executive Committee either wrote or wired Mr. Rose in negative, so that the votes would reach the secretary's office not later than February 17. Thirdly, although Toronto may be nearer to the majority of members of the National Association, we of the executive must remember that this Association has members from coast to coast and border to border and to place a National Tournament nearer to one section of the country than another would be unfair to the prospective entrants in the far section. It would be very unjust to force an entrant from California to travel over 3,000 miles each way to the tournament, while the New York entrant traveled less than 1,500 miles both ways. A central location is fairest to all; therefore, we of the Executive Committee have rejected the Toronto proposal of \$500. We have however suggested that the Canadian National Exhibition conduct a Canadian-American meet for which we will be very glad to grant a sanction.

At present we have the bid of the Iowa State Fair for \$800. To this we propose to add \$300 of stamp funds, making a total of \$1,100 for the 1940 National Tournament. Des Moines is

centrally located and the Iowa State Fair Association has consistently offered high cash prizes for a horseshoe tournament each year since 1923.

Mr. A.R. Corey, the Fair Secretary, is an ardent supporter of the game and certainly deserves fair consideration for the first National Tournament since 1935. The Fair Ground courts hold practically all world records, each year bringing some new record achievement on the pegs. All who have attended the Fair Tournaments in the past have commented on the fine quality of the show, the newspaper and radio publicity in connection therewith and the fair and just manner in which the tournaments were conducted and the entrants treated.

Your President and Secretary are in accord that the Association for 1940 shall establish a precedent for achievement and cooperation. The Executive Committee are a group of two-fisted square shooters, insisting on justice, honesty and equality. What more is there to ask?

With your enthusiasm and cooperation, we can go places in 1940. Let's do it!"

Yours very sincerely,
C. LeRoy Page, President

Even though it has been announced that the 1940 World Tournament was to be held in Iowa, Canada wanted to be heard in the matter and some very interesting comments were made...

Dear Mr. Howard, March 18, 1940

I am writing you to clear up a few points regarding the Canadian bid for the world championship to be held in Toronto that seems to have been in some way distorted in the United States.

To sum up the Canadian offer: The Canadian National

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.

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HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

Exhibition, the world's largest annual fair, through an interview with myself on the offer, said that they would put up for a world tourney in Toronto, an indoor arena, which would hold about twenty courts and seat about 5,000 people, plus all amplifying equipment, \$500.00, trophies and a banquet for all visiting players.

Add to this, on the suggestion of the National Association, the sum of \$500 from the stamp tax and the sum of \$1,000, which the Dominion Association of Canada said they would raise and I think it adds up to \$2,000, which is not too bad an amount for prize money, although we may not have reached the peak that the National Association once raised.

Also the impression has been conveyed that because Canada is now at war, that anyone coming over here is liable, etc. At this point I would like to state that the borders of Canada are wide open to any United States visitor, with conditions the same as they were before the war and that our sport and living conditions are also the same. Then again, when the United States dollar is tendered here, one dollar and ten cents is paid back, which is an advantage to all visitors.

Apparently Mr. Leroy Page, through correspondence with Lee Rose, was not satisfied with the version that Mr. Rose had given to him on this bid, so he wrote to the C.N.E. asking for confirmation of it. The C.N.E. gave me full authority to act for them in the absence of Mr. Duthie, sports director and I wrote Mr. Page, giving him all details and to date I have not yet heard from Mr. Page, one month ago.

In my letter to Mr. Page and on behalf of the Dominion Association, we held out the hand of friendship to the National Association and stated that it may be the beginning of affiliation between the two countries and be of great benefit to horseshoe pitching.

Canada from now on will be pitching hooked shoes with the longer and softer pegs and all arrangements had been made to conform to National rules, regulations, with soft pegs to suit your style of shoes, so you may see that we were trying to make everything for the convenience of visitors and were willing to let Canadian pitchers take their chances on the change of their orthodox playing equipment.

It was merely the fact that we were willing to try to put the game on a higher level here and the thought that with affiliation in view, we may make the game on a comparable level to other sports.

In previous years, the Dominion Association has been as a ruling body, a dead issue, but very recently a group of men, with the thought of the game only at heart, have been taking control and are trying to modernize the game, make a bigger

appeal to the public and are now introducing the game into the army, even to the extent of giving the soldiers all horseshoe equipment to take overseas with them, with the idea of keeping the game alive and built up when the war is over. The only way that we can make horseshoes go is for all players and officials alike, to forget their selfishness and work together to one end.

To my many friends in the United States I have written this letter to clear up a point that may have caused considerable controversy and to say that, while we may not put on as big a show as the United States, it is our first real chance to try and we ourselves would not think of calling a mere \$500 a prize for a world tournament and we have done our best to work with the National Association.

I trust that this letter will be published in the Horseshoe World, worthy issue, which is gaining much popularity in Canada.

Yours sincerely,
Ed C. Steadman

After a 5-year gap of no World Tournament, the NHPA was obligated to present a World Tournament for its members and no doubt one in the U.S. There was the obvious excellent site in Des Moines with a track record of holding national scaled meets and drawing in the premier pitchers.

The efforts by Lee Jacobs to host a World Tournament in Canada came at a very inopportune time - just plain lousy timing. Lee was thinking outside the box. A Canadian hosted World Tournament would have given the sport an international flair and may have served both countries well in promoting the sport. Yet W.W.II may have eroded any progress gained as another 4-year gap (1942-1945) occurred because of the War.

Once 1946 came around, there were no more gaps in any World Tournaments. Horseshoe pitching was an active sport in both countries and Canadian players were participating in the U.S. held World Tournaments.

The 1940 World Tournament was held in Des Moines, but maybe the most important point should be restated, it was the first World Tournament held in five years. The efforts by Lee Rose were in vain and just may have caused him to lose interest in being a national officer. He served just one year as the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. By the way, Lee Rose was actually Lee Jacobs and was inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1984.

CHARTER CHATTER by Diane Ratliff

Hello everyone! Those of you reading this know that nearly every issue of our Newline features a Charter Chatter column. We have clubs and membership across the US and Canada, and in several other countries as well. You are encouraged to submit news and tidbits of what's happening in your area. We can learn and grow by sharing ideas. Most of your members would be delighted to be mentioned in our national publication. Those that don't yet subscribe might be encouraged to do so if they find they were a topic of interest and didn't see it, but only heard of it from someone else. Please consider sharing your happenings with other members!

I would personally like to thank Jane Smith for all she has done with regards to this column. She has been most friendly and very good at requests and reminders for this valuable venue. I am just getting my feet wet, but will do my best to continue in her path. If you have anything to report and/or would like to be included in my reminder emails, please send your contact info to Diana.ratliff@antek.com. Happy New Year to all! ~Diana

Northern California – Casey Sluys

One of the oldest clubs in Northern California once again hosted the State Championships. The Stockton Horseshoe Club did a fantastic job hosting this event. They applied for and received a grant from the city (albeit that the city declared bankruptcy last year) for \$500.00 to be used for expenses in running the tournament. After the fact, the Stockton Club was nominated by the city for a "merit award" for bringing people into Stockton, a small success story in these tough economic times. Winners were: Men's Champion Marcus Santinalla, Women's Champion Elaine Butcher, Jr. Boys Champion Hayden Lee, Jr. Girls Champion Sara Sanchez, and Cadet Champion Kevin Kyle, all first time champions! Elder Champion is Charles Woolery.

The Northern California Championships were held at the Vallejo HSC, another well established club in this charter that has for many years hosted major events. This year's winners were: Rick Bermingham Men's Champion, Elaine Butcher Women's Champion, Elder Tom Webb, Jr. Hayden Lee, WB. Sheila Gardner; MB. Mike Hammer, MC. Thomas Mandich, MD. Don Shuler.

The Northern California Club Team Championships was held at the Willows Club. The Club utilized two portable courts to accommodate the eight teams that made the finals on Sunday. All in all it turned out great, the Willows club held a BBQ for everyone. The Half Moon Bay Club team was the overall winner after all bonus points were totaled.

The year-end awards went like this: Player of the year, Tony Latino; Rookie of the year, Colleen Henne and Don Shuler tied for the honor; Most improved Hayden Lee from 28.45% to 59.49% a whopping 30.04% increase; Top Dog

and Jr. player of the year awards went to Travis Sluys with 40 tournaments entered. The Presidential award went to long time Secretary/Treasurer Gail Sluys.

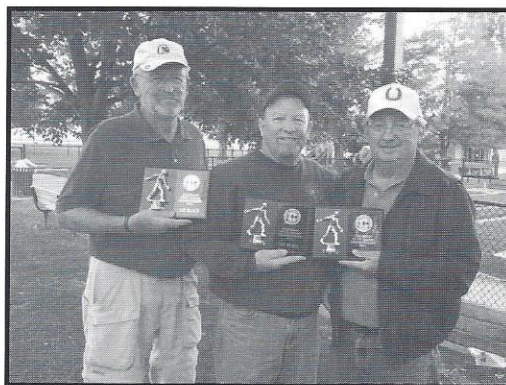
The charter also issues award certificates for 80+ percent games. Winners were Travis Sluys with seven 80+ games, Ken Woolery, Hayden Lee, Elaine Butcher, Frank Arroyo all with three, and Ed Cortez with one.

Southern California – Hal Griswold

For several years the Buena Park Horseshoe Pitching club has been attracting 30+ players to their monthly NHPA sanctioned tournaments. With only 12 courts in their horseshoe facility and wishing to hold a single session during the day, they were forced to structure their tournament play with lots of byes in the class round robins. So, this year club vice president Al Cardenas teamed up with the local Lions Club and put together a proposal to the City of Buena Park to add three courts to their facility. The proposal shared the construction costs between the Horseshoe Pitching Club, the Lions Club, and the city's Parks and Recreation Department. How could the city refuse Al Cardenas' silver tongue and the well thought out proposal? The City of Buena Park approved the project! Park personnel and club representative immediately went to work on the project and now the club has 15 excellent horseshoe courts for hosting their monthly tournaments. Good job by all involved!

Colorado – Bryan Wilson

Colorado held its annual State League Championship Tournament in September. Clubs throughout the state send their league champions to represent their clubs for the state title. This year we had seven teams in the competition. A round robin format was used, with the A player from each team making one class, and the B and C players, respectively, making two more classes. The winner of each class was declared the Class Champion and awarded a Class Champion patch. The team with the most wins was declared the State Champion and awarded State Team Champion patches and plaques for each team member.

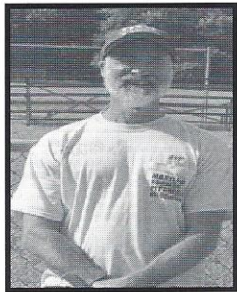


Congratulations to the 2013 winner, the Denver Metro League, represented by Jay Reinert, Phil Timberman and Mel Yockstick.

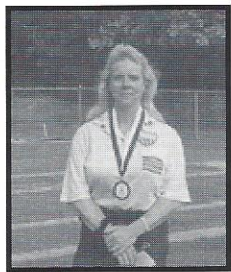
CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

Maryland – Diana Ratliff

The MDHPA is pleased to announce that Jerry Dean and Vicki Kunde were entered into the Maryland Hall of Fame in 2013.



JERRY DEAN - Jerry has been involved with horseshoe pitching for over 40 years and has been an active NHPA member for 21 years. He currently holds six Maryland State Doubles Championships. His average has been 60% or better over the past five years and he is ranked in the Men's Top 100 in the world. Jerry is a member of the NHPA-sanctioned ProTour. As a member, he helps to promote the sport of horseshoes and good sportsmanship. He has encouraged many players and is a great asset to our sport. He won his first ever Maryland State Men's Championship Title the day of his induction. Jerry resides in Mechanicsville, Maryland and is one of their best horseshoe players ever.



VICKI KUNDE - Vicki is an excellent pitcher and is very dedicated to the sport of horseshoe pitching. She is a five-time Maryland State Women's Champion and also holds four Maryland Women's State Doubles Championships. She is ranked in the Women's Top 100 in the world. Vicki is a member of the NHPA-sanctioned ProTour, in which she has also won a championship title. She is most thankful to the people who encouraged her to pitch and helped her become the player she is today. She now offers some of that same advice to others and enjoys all the people she meets along the way. Vicki lives in Severn Maryland. She has her own courts at home where she practices to maintain her talent.

Baltimore Metro held the second-ever Count-All Tournament at their facility in November 2013. It was an unusual format in that handicaps were updated after every two rounds. Tournament Director Larry Bunn said all went smoothly and a great time was had by all. Congrats to Tournament Champ Bob Rasmussen, and a big welcome to new NHPA member and first-time tournament pitcher Travis Kamberger. Metro, as well as all those in Maryland are looking forward to another great season in 2014.

See you in the Spring!

Minnesota - Gene Gross

Our State Tournament was held in Alexandria over the Labor Day weekend and was a great event thanks to Janet & Al Larson, Gary Boots

and the Alexandria gang. Winners were Dale Liposky - Men's, Tiffany Syring - Women's, Sig Armitage - Elders, Jacob Seppelt - Juniors and Michael Littell- Cadets.

Now that it is winter, Minnesota pitching is limited but thriving in indoor facilities in Upsala and Greenfield. Otherwise if you are a retiree or can get away there is Florida and Arizona. Jim David of the Bloomington and Savage clubs winters in Mesa, AZ. He tells me that is a hot bed for horseshoes. There are contests every day with lots of pitchers. I think that's where he honed his new 30 foot skills and really improved his ringer percentage. If he makes more improvement this year, watch out! Harold Bischel of the Bloomington club has found lots of horseshoe competition in Florida as well. I winter in Tucson, but quite far away from any winter leagues or tournaments, so must make do with a makeshift court in the rocks in my backyard. Nevertheless, I can get in some "spring training" so I get very little sympathy missing out on the cold and snow.

Our thanks go out to Jane Smith from our border state for her work with this column. And also thanks for Diana Ratliff for taking on this job.

Missouri - Donna Bastel

Our winter pitching schedule is well underway with 54 tournaments scheduled from October through April. We are very fortunate to have eight indoor pitching facilities scattered across the entire Show Me state.

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CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

We already have 87 sanctioned tournaments on our 2014 schedule with more to come. So, if you are planning a visit to Missouri, we can certainly accommodate you with a tournament or two to pitch in. Just visit our website, MOHPA.US, to find a complete list of tournaments and the appropriate contact.

I would like to thank Debby Michaud for all of the hard work she has done as our NHPA 5th Vice President. She has always been on top of everything and very responsive to any inquiries. Welcome to Bill Marvin who will be taking over her position on January 1st. He's already been inundated with thousands of patches to be mailed out to all of states, so he's getting his feet wet as we speak. Good Luck to you Bill.

New Jersey – Bill MacIntyre

There were three longevity anniversaries celebrated in NJ horseshoes in 2013. The Middlesex Club celebrated their 50th year, with a special tournament. The club, organized in 1963 by Hal Hanania, had 54 charter members. Through the early years the club hosted the 1971 NHPA World Tournament, the 1968 and 1976 National A.A.U. Championships. The 50th Anniversary tournament was won by Harry DeMott, Class B winner was George Egel and Class C was won by Joe Hubert. All class winners received special trophies, club anniversary hats and an extra \$50 dollars. The club provided sandwiches, snacks and soft drinks for all to enjoy.

It was the 60th anniversary of the NJ State Doubles Championship. This could possibly be the oldest state doubles championship in the NHPA. Anyone know for sure? The winners were Al Fenimore and Paul Sexton in Class A. Class B was won by Dave Samler and Bill Paziienza.

In the 80th anniversary of the NJ State Singles Championship, Bill Rizzolo won his second state title. Bill is the only player to be NJ State Champion with a flip shoe throw. The other winners were: Class A - Fred Barfield, Class B - Lou Cataldi and Elders Champion - Buddy Short, who pitched an 80%

game for a new Elder's Championship high game. The Mixed Short Distance Class was won by Charles "Chick" Davis. The NJ State Championships was the NJSHPA's first sanctioned tournament in 1933 played at the Trenton State Fair.

The awards dinner was held in mid-October. In addition to the State Champions and Class Champions receiving their plaques, there were other awards handed out. Pat O'Connor was elected to the Hall of Fame. Pat published the NJSHPA Newsletter for ten years, is a past state president and recent secretary/treasurer as a volunteer. Pat previously won the Service and Sportsmanship awards. The Service Award went to Mel Elmer for his work in the Vineland area. Sportsmanship Award went to Brenda DeMott. Brenda also won the Most Improved Player, topping it off with a 47% tournament. Bill Rizzolo won the Points Championship. Congratulations to all champion winners and award winners.

Gloria Saul, the publisher of the newsletter 'The Jersey Jargon', will be stepping down. Gloria has a new job that consists of 50+ hours a week. With the other things going in her life she feels she would not have the time to do the newsletter. Pat O'Connor, a past publisher, has volunteered to do the Jargon next year. Thank you, Gloria for your time and work on the Jargon. Thanks Pat for volunteering. Also we have Buddy Short stepping down from the website. Buddy is moving back to Florida. Thanks Buddy for your help. The website will be picked up by Anne Marie MacIntyre. She was the person who started the website. Thanks Anne Marie for volunteering.

Good luck to Bruce Conord and his wife Doris. They finally sold their house and will be moving to Florida at the end of December. Bruce served the NJSHPA in many ways: Regional Director, State Statistician, Auditor, Tournament Director, member of the council, promoter. We will miss you and your dedicated work.

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If you have missed an issue, limited copies of most back issues are available for \$3.00 (World Tournament issues are \$5.00)

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CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

Ohio-Brian Fisher

Winter is surely upon us now, and those of us that are so fortunate to live close to inside courts are hard at it. What a great time for fellowship, and tweaking our game a bit. This is also probably the best time to bring in new members. I have found, after calling everyone on our list from last year, that even if someone does not want to commit to pitching, I convince them to be put on a sub list. After all, when you sub, the person you are pitching for has paid for you to pitch. What a great opportunity to pitch, at no cost. We now have a good list of subs, thanks to this program. And at only 5.00 bucks/night it's still a bargain we think. We pitch a six-person team every night of the week, and split 18 weeks, so it counts as two tournaments. We also have a league playoff at the end of the 18 weeks that counts as another tournament. With our winter tournament the first weekend of February, one can get all four tournaments in for the world next year. Now is the time to prepare for Buffalo 2014.

I just signed up for a visitors bureau grant that most offer. It's really easy to do, just go to your local visitor's bureau and click on the grant section. You should all check this out, as now is the time to sign up. It's a fact that more prize money attracts more pitchers, and I'm going to do my best to boost our payouts, especially for the 2014 Ringer Classic. Keep watching the coming events category for an entry form, I will try and get it up early. I hope everyone had a Good Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, and safe traveling to all.

Wisconsin – Jane Smith

Wisconsin is still looking for a Membership/Publicity Committee. The call has been issued at the last two WHPA meetings. President Glenn Bogenschneider has talked to several members hoping they would volunteer. Seems time is a precious commodity!

Wisconsin has several year-long activities that end with the State tournament. These events have been existing in one form or another for at least the past two decades – some longer. Dick Hansen, as WHPA President, started the Pitcher of the Year Award. It began with one POY Award and has since grown to three divisions based on year end averages. Pitchers who finish 1st, 2nd, or 3rd receive points for their accomplishment. Tournaments listed on the WHPA Tournament list qualify for points.

President, Glenn Bogenschneider, took over the Junior Scholarship program from creator Howie Voiles. Sonia Cook has taken over the program and runs a very successful Junior Scholarship Raffle each year. Funds are used for the State Tournament Junior Girls and Boys Champions and Runners Up. Juniors may claim their funds for furthering their education past high school.

A third program is the State Tournament Club Team event. It runs concurrently with the State tournament Labor Day Weekend. Each club enters the contest with a minimum of five pitchers and an entry fee of \$15. Every pitcher is awarded points for their finish with a Champion of a class receiving ten points to last place one point. Points are tabulated for each club, divided by the number of pitchers, with the club with the most points the State Tournery Club Champion. Marshfield has dominated lately but was upset by first time New London Club. Competition was fierce and close as the first five clubs were separated by a mere .74 points!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Season. Happy New Year pitching many ringers!

NATIONAL HORSESHOE HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

by Jeanette Claas

Indiana Pitcher Pays Second Visit

It was a rainy spring day in Wentzville and we really weren't expecting visitors to visit the NHPA Hall of Fame during the downpour. Several members of the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club went about finishing some spring cleaning in the storage areas. Sometimes when you least expect it, company comes a calling.

Larry and Marie Farris, formerly of Indiana, were visiting friends in St. Louis and decided to pay their second visit to the NHPA Hall of Fame due to curiosity. He had just read in the last issue of Newsline Magazine about the touchscreen TV and he made it a point to come see it. It seems their daughter, Kristi Farris, pitched in several World Tournaments as a junior back in 1981-1982 when it was held in Huntsville, AL, Lafayette, IN and in Statesville, NC. We never found any footage of Kristi, but they

ran across several people that they knew pitching in the World Tournaments bringing back many memories of yesterday. Larry and Marie have a copy of the tape with Kristi pitching which was published by the NHPA. They are now going to have it converted onto a DVD so it can be included with the many other films that are now available.

Larry joined the NHPA back in 1978, making him a member of the organization for 35 years. He belonged to the Whiting Horseshoe Club in Whiting, IN and served as president over the years. It was the only indoor horseshoe club in Indiana at the time. The indoor facility was based inside a park that was owned by the city. After 31 years, the city decided they had to shut the club down. It was with heavy hearts that the club members had to see it go. With the amount of money that they had in the club's treasury, the members decided to purchase bricks in memory of

NATIONAL HORSESHOE HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

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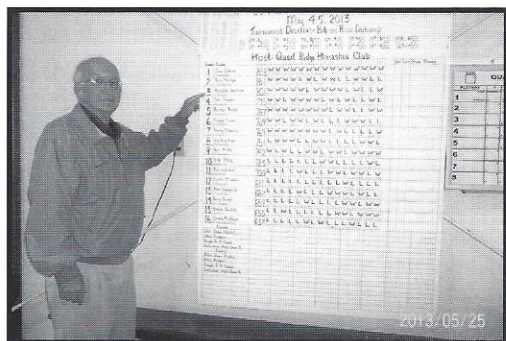
Larry points to his brick.

their horseshoe pitchers which you see in the pictures.

He recalled many horseshoe moments during this time. At one time he recalled a 20 year old Walter Ray Williams coming through town and wanting to pitch on their courts. Larry was glad to oblige him. It seems that Walter Ray's car had broken down shortly after he arrived in town. Larry, being the owner of an

automotive repair garage, was able to fix it for him. After a few days of staying with the Farris's, and pitching some shoes, Walter was on his way in a good conditioned car.

Of all the accomplishments during Larry's horseshoe career, one stands out the most in his mind. The Whiting Horseshoe Club was located almost on the border of Indiana and Illinois. Dennis Reid, of Illinois, would cross over the state line with his Dad to pitch some horseshoes. And then one day, Dennis was involved in a terrible vehicle accident that left him paralyzed and for several years was unable to do anything. He came with his Dad back to the club and Larry talked him into pitching from the wheelchair. It didn't work for him. Dennis' aunt gave him his first motorized chair enabling him to pitch.



Larry points to his friend Herschel Walters on the Hall of Fame Invitational Poster Board.

Once he started getting control of the shoes and felt like he could compete in a tournament, Dennis ran up against another obstacle. The NHPA had no rules to allow a handicap pitcher to participate. Larry quickly got on the phone with Donnie Roberts, an NHPA officer, and got some action moving to allow handicap persons to pitch in tournaments. We've all seen Dennis Reid on the courts

and know what he has accomplished and what an inspiration he is. We can give credit to Larry for inspiring Dennis to continue on with the sport that he loved in spite of his handicap.

Larry and Marie have moved to Las Vegas to be closer to their daughter during their retirement years. Larry has just moved up to 30 feet and is pitching about 42%. Living about two hours from St. George they made plans to attend the 2013 World Horseshoe Tournament. He enjoyed the WT finishing in 8th place, Elders Class I. While he was there Larry purchased ten tickets for the World Tournament experience for 2014. At the NHPA



Larry, Marie & Jeanette explore the Jack Freeman Memorial Brick Walkway.

Club/League Tournament in Wentzville, Larry's ticket was drawn winning 4th prize, an entry fee for the 2014 WT. Larry is looking forward to another exciting world tournament in Buffalo.

It was obvious to tell that Larry has a deep passion for the game of horseshoes. About the time the Farris' were ready to leave, it stopped raining and the sun was shining through the clouds allowing us to take

a few pictures of the bricks that were purchased by the Whiting Horseshoe Club. Larry was so proud of the bricks that were purchased in Indiana. As you will be too, when you see your name engraved in the Jack Freeman Memorial Brick Walkway. So keep on supporting the NHPF with your donations and brick orders. Send to: NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. It is the only way to preserve the history, showcase the present and build the future of horseshoe pitching – the game we all love and enjoy. In spite of the rain it turned out to be a lovely day at the NHPA facility visiting with a wonderful family of horseshoe pitchers from Indiana, now making their home in Nevada.

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TOLL OF TIME

Ben Wiedrich

Oregon

We have lost one of our good ones with the death of Ben Wiedrich. Ben was one of Oregon's all-time greats, consistently averaging in the mid to high 70's. He had pitched some in North Dakota as a young man, but after moving to Oregon in 1955, he didn't take up the sport seriously until 1979. It didn't take him long to become the dominant force in the Northwest for the next 20 some years. After losing the 1980 State Championship in a playoff with Lowell Davis, he won the Oregon State Tournament 19 times, including 15 straight from 1981-1995 and again in 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2002. He won the prestigious Pacific Northwest Tournament eight times in the 1980's and the big Hermiston Oregon Open money tournament 13 times in the 80's and 90's plus countless other events on the regular tournament slate, including Oregon's other money tournament, the Valley of the Rogue Open, and was a three time State Doubles Champion. He also won the Valley of the Sun winter tournament in Arizona. He pitched in the Championship Class at the World Tournament four times and finished as high as seventh. A special World Tournament game was in 1981, when he ended a Walter Ray Williams Jr. winning streak of over 60 games. In 1989, Ben won the Intermediate Championship at the World Tournament in Spearfish, South Dakota. In the latter part of his career, back problems forced Ben to move to the Elders category and he won three more State Championships, the last in 2008, after which he retired from active pitching. Ben pitched a very low driving 1 ¼ shoe and had a bulldog attitude. He did not like to lose, and that drive and determination made him an outstanding pitcher.

Ben was a cement mason by trade and owned his own concrete business until selling out and retiring in 1986. After joining the Oregon City club, Ben and his wife Irene were major contributors to that club and the entire OHPA. Irene was the club secretary for many years and Ben, using his vocational skills, was a key factor in maintaining and improving the entire Oregon City court facility. In addition, Irene and two of the Wiedrich children, Duane and Eileen, became active OHPA members. Unfortunately, Irene was taken by cancer in 1996 and the family involvement decreased after that.

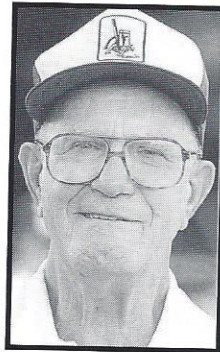
After Irene's death, Ben was fortunate to find a new companion. Their church organist had lost her husband and she (Cleo Hernden) and Ben married, combined resources and moved into her home. They enjoyed those years together, wintering in Arizona, spending fun times with family and friends and serving in their church. Ben was also an avid fisherman and he particularly enjoyed the thrill of hooking walleye in the Columbia River.

In May of 2013, Ben could feel his strength and stamina ebbing away. Kidney problems were diagnosed and they eventually led to his body just wearing down. With wonderful hospice support, Ben was able to stay at home and he passed away there on October 2, 2013 surrounded by many of those who loved him. He would have turned 88 in December. Ben was a strong family man and he

enjoyed being with them. He is survived by Cleo and her family and his own five children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. We will all miss him.

Robert Wolfinger

Michigan / Indiana



Robert R. (Bob) Wolfinger, 91, passed away October 26, 2013 in his home in Burr Oak, Michigan.

Bob was born in Constantine on October 27, 1921, a son of Samson and Amanda (Smith) Wolfinger.

Bob attended school in Constantine. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the European Campaign in Africa, Sicily and Italy.

On July 19, 1947, Bob married Evelyn L. Sawyer in Syracuse, Indiana. She preceded him in death on February 22, 1993. On April 4, 2009, he married Josephine (Mull) Stevens in Sturgis.

He worked at Elkhart (Indiana) Brass for 26½ years and for the SECO Manufacturing Co. in Wauseon, Ohio. He retired from Better Products in Elkhart in 1993. Bob was a member of the NRA and American Legion Post 210, Middlebury, Indiana.

He was a world-renowned horseshoe pitcher, having won several tournaments and world championships. He was inducted into the Indiana Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall of Fame in 1999. For his years of commitment, the Bob Wolfinger Classic was named in his honor and is played every September in Middlebury.

Bob was a former member of Grace Bible Church in New Paris, Indiana.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine Wolfinger of Burr Oak; daughter Brenda Wolfinger of Wauseon; sons Gerald (Mary) Wolfinger of Muskegon and David (Dianne) Wolfinger of Delta, Ohio; stepdaughters Grace Potter, Norma Rollins, Patsy Wolfinger and Casey Green; stepsons Clinton Cole, Alan Cole, James Wolfinger, George Wolfinger and Tyrel Schodowski; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a special niece, Elenore (George) Sura of Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Evelyn; sisters Maggie Evans, Mae Wolfinger, Lydia Wolfinger, Mary Schench and Gladys Collinsworth; and brothers Charles, Clifford, Herman, Chester and George Sr. Wolfinger.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Middlebury Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: RESULTS 2013

Florida State Championships

April 17-20, 2013

Clearwater, FL

Men 's Championship

1. Ron Deckard	6/0	56.33
2. Bob Gray	5/1	62.67
3. Dale Marteney	4/2	44.33
4. Mark Hendrix	3/3	38.67
5. Howard Hawes	1/5	40.33
6. Richard P Watson	1/5	36.00
7. Robert Hottinger	1/5	31.67

Women's Championship

1. Shalee Cason	6/1	61.14
2. Patsy Kontz	6/2	40.75
3. Hazel Ingles	5/2	38.57
4. Regina Hawes	3/3	40.33
5. Marcela Santoyo	2/4	34.67
6. Lois Hottinger	1/5	23.33
7. Janet McFarland	0/6	15.67

Elder's Championship

1. David Jagers	6/1	74.29
2. Tom Hall	5/2	76.00
3. Don Chamberlain	3/3	63.00
4. Robert Moulin	3/3	62.33
5. Toby Young	2/4	60.00
6. Larry Deck	2/4	60.67
7. Robert Zumbahlen	1/5	64.00

Junior Boy's Championship

1. Dylan Holmberg	4/0	49.50
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Junior Girl's Championship

1. Megan Polski	0/4	39.50
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(Jr. Boy & Jr. Girl pitched each other)

Men's Classes

A Bob Gray	5/1	64.17
B Mark Hendrix	6/0	36.67
C Randall Weaver	5/1	32.08
D Edward Polski	4/2	27.92
E Gary Hayes	5/1	27.92
F Charles Ball	6/0	40.00

Women's Classes

A Regina Hawes	5/2	32.50
B Mabel Adcox	6/1	13.93

Elder's Classes

A Robert Zumbahlen	5/1	66.25
B Larry Deck	4/2	58.33
C Edward Dunham	5/1	48.33
D John Tolman	4/1	47.20
E Roger Comtois	4/2	45.42
F Al Mueller	5/1	43.75
G John Bissonnette	5/0	33.20
H Lee Wilcox	5/0	20.40

Missouri State Singles Championship

August 31 - September 2, 2013

Men's Championship

1. Stan Griggs	11-1	72.5
2. Randall Grady	10-2	70.5
3. Michael Bowman	9-2	65.0
4. Steve Johnson	9-2	61.9
5. Tyler Elfrink	5-6	59.6
6. Jim Renfro	5-6	55.8
7. M.O. Turner	5-6	47.8
8. Virgle McCown	4-7	58.3
9. James Driver	4-7	55.3
10. Sam Carter	4-7	51.1
11. Mel Bruemmer	1-10	45.0
12. Kyle Bidwell	0-11	36.9

Women's Championship

1. Lachelle Cook	7-0	68.3
2. Rose Diekamp	6-1	74.2
3. Gina Baker	5-2	59.0
4. Cori Stoverink	3-4	51.8
5. Karen Goldizen	3-4	50.3
6. Donra McCown	2-5	54.4
7. Laura Johnson	1-6	44.5
8. Audra Craven	1-6	42.8

30 Ft. Men's Championship

1. Gregg Craven	7-0	74.0
2. Ronald LeGrand	5-2	72.3
3. Edward Pashia	4-3	72.5
4. Carl Folsom Sr.	3-4	69.8
5. Ray Plute	3-4	63.7
6. Bob Outt	2-5	63.3
7. Bob Renfro	2-5	57.5
8. Al Gwinn	2-5	56.9

Junior Boy's Championship

1. Nathan Evers	5-1	54.7
2. Noah Heathman	2-4	35.4
3. Andrew Lau	0-6	28.5

Junior Girl's Championship

1. Savanna Johnson	3-2	43.9
2. Kelcee Davault	2-3	39.0

Cadet's Championship

1. Ryan Schepers	5-1	52.0
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** Cadets pitched with Junior Boys for competitive competition.*

Men's Classes

A Dan Hobbs	7-0	47.6
B Andrew Reeves	6-1	48.6
C Michael Boyer	6-1	40.4
D Jimmy Higginbotham	7-1	45.9
E Jedd Baker	7-1	29.7
F Ronny Lee Mincks	5-2	26.1
G Tracy Archer	7-0	26.8
H Joshua Hendrix	6-1	34.3
I Brian Koss	7-1	28.4
J Richard Jarman	6-2	25.3
K Chris Evers	6-1	19.6
L Brandon Riley	6-1	21.7
M Roger Pipes	7-1	14.3

Women's Championship

A Mary Ann Yates	7-1	53.8
B Victoria Highley	7-0	40.0
C Donna Bastel	7-1	28.8
D Rachel Bohrer	8-1	22.5

30 FT. Men's Classes

A Mick Gillette	6-1	65.0
B Elwyn Cooper	6-1	47.9
C Bob Beaver	6-2	38.6
D Paul Parnell	5-2	31.1
E Mike Thomson	6-2	35.0
F Dean Constance	7-1	36.3
G Brady Craven	7-1	32.2
H Bob Cutright Sr.	6-1	16.7

Mixed Junior's

A Megan McLeod	3-1	15.6
B Jesse Wilson	4-1	4.5

Cadet's Class

A Madisen Gwinn	3-0	8.3
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STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: RESULTS 2013

Nevada State Championships August 24, 2013

Men's Championship

1. Lance Hahaj	8/1	30.52
2. Tom Engelhardt	7/2	28.95
3. Doc Hembree	5/3	34.18
4. Frank Blazek	4/4	22.14
5. Frank Mercadante	4/4	21.86
6. Don E Brown	4/4	21.56
7. Victor Williams	2/6	20.64
8. Ken Jose	2/6	17.62
9. Larry McGee	1/7	17.19

Women's Championship

1. Marie Williams	6/1	42.05
2. Betty McQueen	5/2	36.78
3. Karen Murphy	2/4	34.06

Elder's Championship

1. Tom McQueen	5/0	68.13
2. Harold Holbrook	4/1	50.49
3. Jim Costa	3/2	36.16
4. Don Gore	1/4	40.08
5. Larry Farris	1/4	26.21

6. Viegil Birgen	1/4	25.69
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Cadet's Championships

1. Emanuel Moreno	3/0	3.33
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Men's Class

A Michael Nicosia	5.5/0.5	24.17
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Women's Class

A Debbie Painter	6/0	13.89
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Elder's Classes

A Jack Prien	6/0	22.05
B Paul Davidson	6/0	14.44

Tennessee State Championships September 28, 2013

Men's 40' Championship

1. Lester Helton	5/1	51.76
2. Bill Brand	4/2	53.69
3. Joe Thomas	3/2	45.50
4. David Kell	2/3	47.54
5. Jerry Roberts	2/3	44.05
6. Dan Oliver	0/5	36.64

Women's Championship

1. Joan Elmore	4/0	82.50
2. Alla Faye Monday	1/3	60.40

3. Marlene Ray	1/3	59.14
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Men's 30' Championship

1. Bobby Fields	5/0	81.50
2. DW Story	4/1	67.18
3. James Cooper	3/2	69.11
4. Charles Gray	2/3	65.53
5. Doug Farnsworth	1/4	62.92

Men's 40' Classes

A Bobby Brown	4/1	39.29
B James Sizemore	5/0	35.00
C Larry Williams	4/0	46.50
D William Drinnon	5/1	29.17
E Richard Rosser	4/1	22.73
F Eddie Willoughby	4/0	15.00

Men's 30' Classes

A Doug Sullins Jr.	3/1	51.00
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30' Mixed Classes

B Jackie Smith	6/2	47.14
C Michael Hamilton	5/0	55.00
D Joe Duncan	4/1	31.00

HORSESHOE RING AMERICANA by Ted Kooser

American Life in Poetry

One of the most distinctive sounds in small-town America is the chiming of horseshoe pitching. A friend always carries a pair in the trunk of his car. He'll stop at a park in some little town and start pitching, and soon, he says, others will hear that ringing and suddenly appear as if out of thin air. In this poem, X.J. Kennedy captures the fellowship of horseshoe pitchers.

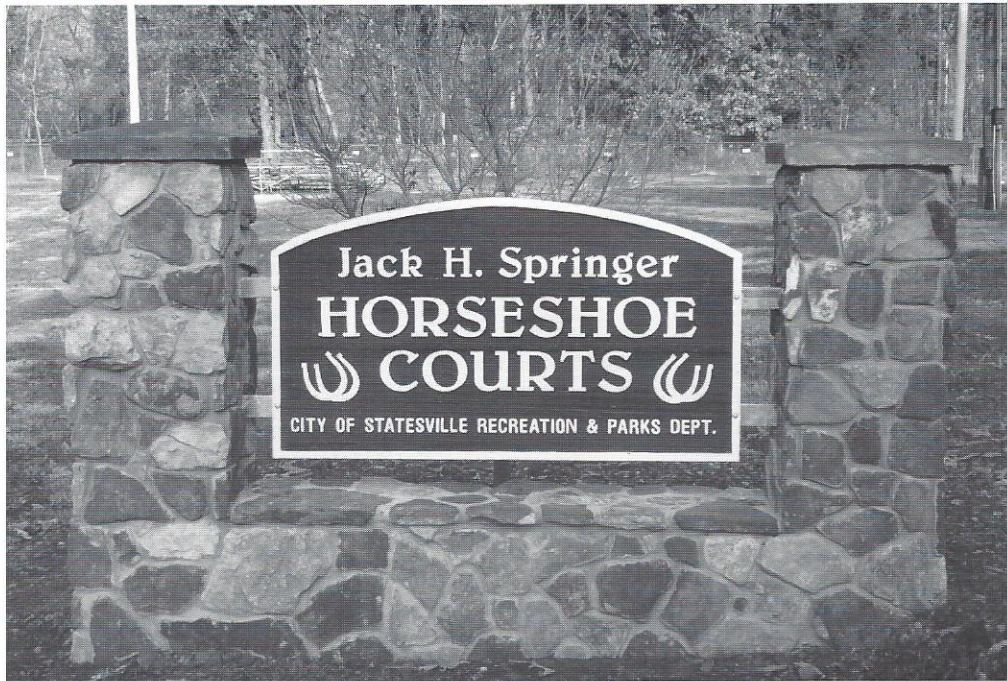
Old Men Pitching Horseshoes

*Back in a yard where ringers groove a ditch,
These four in shirt sleeves congregate to pitch
Dirt-burnished iron. With appraising eye,
One sizes up a peg, hoists and lets fly—
A clang resounds as though a smith had struck
Fire from a forge. His first blow, out of luck,*

*Rattles in circles. Hitching up his face,
He swings and weight once more inhabits space,
Tumbles as gently as a new-laid egg.
Extended iron arms surround their peg
Like one come home to greet a long-lost brother.
Shouts from one outpost. Mutters from the other.
Now changing sides, each withered pitcher moves
As his considered dignity behooves
Down the worn path of earth where August flies
And sheaves of air in warm distortions rise,
To stand ground, fling, kick dust with all the force
Of shoes still hammered to a living horse.*

(American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. Taken from the Argus Leader.)

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Statesville Recreation & Parks Dept.
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www.horseshoepitching.com

Tournament Director
Paul Stewart- 1-704-402-5755
nhpapaul@yahoo.com
Statesville Recreation & Parks 1-704-878-3429

NHPA NEWSLINE

VOL. 26, NO.1

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