



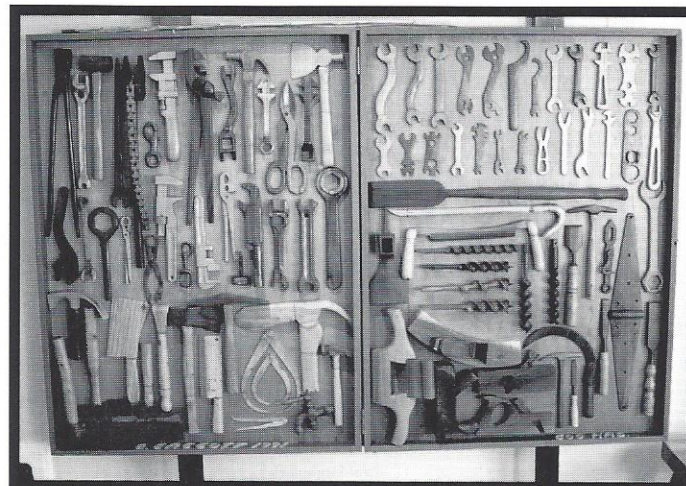
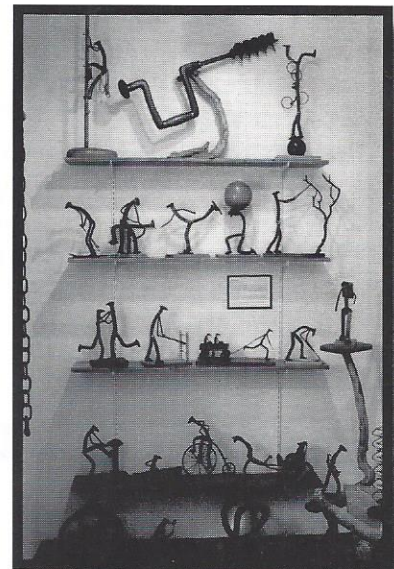
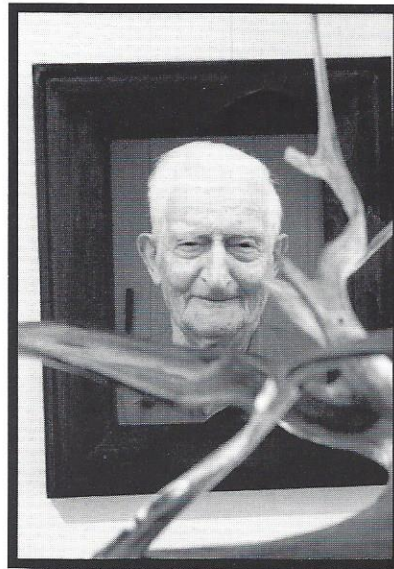
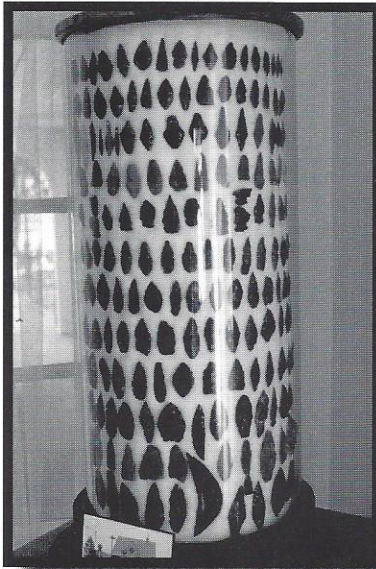
Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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JULY/AUGUST 2014

George Greerott 1910-2014



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. He 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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Horseshoe Pitching

NEWSLINE

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CONTENTS

Tournament Travel Contacts	2
President's Message by <i>Stu Sipma</i>	4
eNewsline Editor by <i>Stu Sipma</i>	4
Regional Directors Report by <i>Bill Marvin</i>	5
Publicity Promotion by <i>Tina Hawkins</i>	5
Sanctioned Club/League Report by <i>David Sidles</i>	6
A Letter From Ireland.....	6
Charter Communications by <i>Jerry LaBrosse</i>	7
Income & Expenses Statement	7
For a Healthy Pitch by <i>Debby Michaud</i>	8
Letter To The Editor	8
Horseshoe Pitching Facts and Folklore by <i>Bob Dunn</i>	9-11
Junior Promotions by <i>Aleena Cook</i>	12
Bob Dunn Book Advertisement	12
NHPA Rules & Bylaw by <i>Dan Sanders</i>	13
Attention All HSMaster Users.....	13
Support the NHPF.....	13
National Horseshoe H of F & Museum by <i>Jeanette Claas</i>	14-16
www.horseshoepitching.com	14
NHPF & The NHPA Hall of Fame by <i>Casey Sluys</i>	17
Charter Chatter by <i>Diane Ratliff</i>	18-21
Four Dead by <i>Owen McAteer</i>	21
Toll of Time - George Greott.....	22
World Tournament Experience Raffle.....	23

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Deadeye - Hi Temp Refractories.....	7
Mr D Horseshoes.....	11
Tommy's Shoe Shack.....	15
Hilfling Horseshoes	17
Gordon Horseshoes - Omega Horseshoe Company	18
Hummer - Strohm's Stained Glass.....	19

Cover Story/Photos: See page 22

The cover photos are of:

A picture of George with a branch of Manzanita wood that he shaped into flat branches.

The collection of wood tools George carved. He used these tools on his ranch.

A collection of railroad spikes that George welded together, plus a few wooden creations. Almost all his wooden items were carved out of a single piece of wood.

A collection of arrowheads, spearheads and various cutting implements George found while tilling the soil of his ranch.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Stu Sipma*

Well here in North Dakota, I finally can say Spring/Summer is here. Horseshoe leagues have started and have already pitched in one tournament and didn't even have to pitch on frozen clay!

The 3rd Annual HOF Invitational was hosted by the QRHC this past May at the Hall of Fame building located at Wentzville, MO. In talking to some of their staff, it sounds like it was a very successful tournament. I want to apologize to the participants and the QRHC for not being able to attend. The NHPA would like to thank all the sponsors who sponsored this event and look forward to another successful tournament next year.

The 2014 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 14th – July 26th at the Hamburg Fair Grounds located in Buffalo NY. Dick Hansen (W.T. Director) has reported a total of 1,265 pitchers will be participating over the two weeks. The NHPA is very pleased with the number and look forward to another successful tournament. The city provides a wide variety of attractions and things to do, so make sure you check out their website. Don't forget to get your passports so you can cross the border to Niagara Falls.

This year, the NHPA Council has approved to qualify and certify judges for the W.T. event. Your 1st VP Dan Sanders has taken the lead on this and, with the help from many others, they have put together a training session in which you will have to take a test to pass. The Council feels this is step in the right direction to make sure all players get the best experience while competing in this event.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, I feel the changes we have made during these last years has improved the event and how the event is being ran. I do want to take a moment to thank the NHPA Council

for all their efforts in making these changes and working together to make sure each and every W.T. is run smoothly. For those of you who have never attended a W.T., it is an experience you will never forget. Topeka, KS will be hosting the 2015 event so try to make your arrangements and get your 4 sanction tournaments in so you can qualify to participate in this event.

For those of you who do not know, Dick Hansen (and I have to include his wife, Paulette, for all her hard work) will be stepping down at the end of this year. Dick served a total of 21 years of which 20 years were as the Secretary/Treasurer and one year as the 5th VP. If you get a chance while attending the W.T., please take a moment to thank both of them for all their years of hard work and dedication to the NHPA. I for one will definitely miss them both!

As Dick departs from this position, we have two great candidates who will be running for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. The first one is our NHPA NatStats Director, Rob Hagman, from Minnesota and the other candidate is your 3rd VP, David Sidles, from Nebraska. Both of these individuals are very hard working people and will both do a good job in this position. I wish them both the best of luck.

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 Buffalo.

Have a safe summer and happy pitching!

Stu

eNEWSLINE EDITOR *by Stu Sipma*

Effective July 1st, 2014, Sara Otto of Minnesota will be assigned the position of eNewsline Editor. Sara has been the Minnesota Ringer Digest Editor for the past seven years and also has extensive experience in e-publications. She works for the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota (LFM), and has been in charge of their newsletter and other communications for years. Sara has transitioned both the LFM newsletter and the Ringer Digest to online publications, in conjunction with a vendor called Constant Contact, which she will be using for eNewsline as well.

Paula Summerlin, who has been the Newsline Editor since 2001, will continue on to complete the last printed issue of Newsline, which will be the November/December 2014 issue. The NHPA Council thanks Paula for her dedication and expertise in producing Newsline, which we all love to read.

Starting in January 2015, the printed Newsline magazine will be replaced with eNewsline, which will be free and will be delivered directly to email, allowing our members to read the publication in full color, on their computer or other devices. The email will provide more opportunities for direct communications with the

officers, as well as links to clubs, registration form and other information, even advertisers.

For those who do not have email, we will be suggesting ways for you to access the news, but the best way is to find someone who can print you a copy to read. eNewsline will also be made available on our NHPA website.

The increasing cost of publishing and mailing the printed Newsline, and decreasing subscriptions, has predicated this change to an newsletter. The NHPA will see a huge cost savings, yet will allow us to gain visibility, as well as bring news of the association to the entire membership at no cost to the members.

Speaking for the whole NHPA Council, we welcome Sara to the NHPA Staff and look forward to working with her.

Thank You,

Stuart Sipma
NHPA - President

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *by Bill Marvin*

Plans for the 2014 World Tournament have been finalized, the schedule has been set, travel plans made in anticipation of the biggest Horseshoe event of the year. For veterans of this extravaganza, it is looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances. First timers will soon realize the uniqueness of getting together once a year to celebrate our sport. If I seem over the top in describing the upcoming trip to Buffalo, it is partly because it will be my first WT as an NHPA officer. My family and I have participated for over 20 years, and the excitement of a trip to a new part of our great country is part of the experience. No matter where you are coming from, take your time and be extra careful on your way to and from and spend an extra day on the road if necessary.

I always advise folks to take an extra look at the schedule to be sure you know when you are pitching. It is sad to see

the disappointment in someone's face when they realize they have missed the first day of pitching due to not understanding how the times are arranged. The cover letter from Dick Hansen explains the check in process; shoe check, pictures and announcements that are necessary details to ensure that each pitcher understands how it works.

If possible, plan on attending the NHPA Hall of Fame Awards Banquet on July 20th. The evening is filled with swapping tales about pitching, recalling previous tournaments and for recognizing some of those who have gone above and beyond in promoting horseshoes, and for honoring those who merit election into our Hall of Fame.

Best of luck to all entrants this year, but above all, have fun and enjoy the moment. I look forward to seeing you all; I will be the guy with the Handlebar Moustache.

PUBLICITY / PROMOTION *by Tina Hawkins*

By the time you receive this issue of Newslines, it will be just about time to start packing for the World Tournament! Hopefully, you have already made your reservations, as there may be other events in town that will be competing for the hotel rooms.

Many people were not able to attend the 2014 World Tournament, for numerous reasons. Distance and expense, surely come into consideration... but another BIG factor is QUALIFYING EVENTS.

There are a great number of pitchers who are disappointed when the deadline rolls around, because they did not get the required number of events pitched – within the designated time frame. Some are confused as to what that time frame actually IS. Some THOUGHT they had enough and are disappointed to find out otherwise.

It is quite simple... Every sanctioned event you compete in AFTER the May 15 deadline to enter the 2014 World Tournament, UNTIL the deadline for the 2015 competition, will be a “qualifying event” for THAT tournament.

The best way to make sure you have enough events is to start pitching RIGHT NOW!! All tournaments and leagues you compete in THIS SUMMER and fall will be used to qualify for the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka, KS.

PLAN AHEAD!! Start qualifying NOW for the 2015 World Tournament! There is plenty of time to get 4 events under your belt, if you do NOT wait till the deadline draws near.

Those who ARE competing in the 2014 event will be able to enjoy indoor, air-conditioned pitching comfort during their competition, as well as for practice! There are plans for a secondary building with practice courts – with all the comforts of the main arena!

The final entry count for this year's event is 1,264, so your cooperation and common courtesy will be appreciated to help keep the practice area an enjoyable benefit for ALL.

Things you may expect to see to improve your overall experience while onsite for the tournament include:

- pitching schedule and court layout to help you locate those you wish to watch
- schedule of events and meetings
- message board
- score keeping and judging classes
- comment & suggestion box
- Daily Shoe newsletter
- NHPA officers and staff to answer questions and offer assistance

Plans are also underway for live, online video feed on the NHPA website! So whether you are there – or NOT – you will be able to see the action as it unfolds!

Those who are not attending the tournament are able to follow all their favorite players at www.horseshoepitching.com. Full event coverage will begin July 12th.

SEE YOU AT WORLD!!

SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE *by David Sidles*

This is the time of year almost all attention is focused on the upcoming World Tournament. It's also a time when many sanctioned leagues are in full stride.

So far this year ten new leagues have joined our ranks.

Flagler County Horseshoe Pitching Club - Palm Coast, Florida
- Ron Mehrwerth, Director

EPE Horseshoe Club - St Louis, MO - Roy Evans, Director

Bozrah #950 Horseshoe League - Bozrah, CT - Jim Hagen,
Director

Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers - Fairmont, WV - Charles
Bunner, Director

Truman Lake Horseshoe League - Warsaw, MO - Deb Harris,
Director

Moore Junior Horseshoe Pitching League - Moore, OK -
Johny Vanderburg, Director

Hibbing Horseshoe Club - Hibbing, MN - Jim Rebrovich,
Director

Color Country Horseshoe Club (Juniors) - Cedar City, UT -
Dennis Ohms, Director

Darwin Horseshoe Club - Darwin, MN - Mark Smith, Director

Defiance County Horseshoe Club - Hicksville, OH - Ed
Mendez, Director

It's exciting to see new leagues being formed all around the country, especially Junior leagues, and also to have former leagues renew their sanctions after a short absence.

Don't forget the Club/League Player National Championships this fall in Wentzville, MO. With the new team member requirements it hopefully will be easier to put together a 3-man team. Team members no longer have to all be from the same club/league. Instead, a team can be comprised of players who participated in any sanctioned league in either 2013 or 2014. They must however, all be members of the same charter. The tournament will once again be strictly limited to 20 teams. Get your entries in early to guarantee a spot. The two years I've been associated with this tournament have been exciting to say the least with both having very close finishes. And with record prize money, thanks to support from White Distributors and Thoroughbred Horseshoes, the NHPA and with a slight adjustment to the handicap system, this year could be the most exciting and closest yet. Two years ago, nine different states were represented. Hopefully it will be more than that this year. 2,980 NHPA members are eligible to pitch in this tournament. There's only room for 60. Entry forms are available on the NHPA website under Coming Events.

I mentioned the World Tournament above. As you probably already know, I am a candidate for the position of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to any and all of you should you have any questions, concerns or just want to talk to me about my candidacy. I plan to be present at the venue as much as possible over the course of the event. Feel free to look me up anytime.

A LETTER FROM IRELAND

Dear Paula,

My name is Michael Bolger and I am chairman of the Kildare & District Horseshoe Pitching League here in Ireland. I am in receipt of your publication, Horseshoe Pitching Newslines; the subscription was paid to you by Inge Byrkjerand from Norway who took part in the 2013 World Tournament and performed very well. Your publication is very very good and certainly promotes the game very well and shows the scale of the organization as a whole in the US.

We play the game here on a Club and individual and doubles basis and to a lesser degree, county games. Our league will commence in early May and conclude in July with various other competitions until about mid September. Several of our players are farmers and as harvest time comes around about August time, we have to have most games concluded by then. The season concludes in October at our annual dinner dance and prize giving. We play different rules, to yourselves. Our playing distance is eleven yards or thirty-

three feet and we play only on grass. And scoring is closest to spike. But we have ringers games during the season.

Also Inge has suggested to me we should have a European Championship. It would be difficult to organize, but could be done and he has also suggested we send Irish players to the World Tournament in Buffalo in 2014. Were this to happen what would the cost of accommodation be, etc.? At the end of the day it all comes to cost. If you have any information maybe you could let me know. It would, I am sure, be memorable if some of us could attend. I would like to purchase some American Horseshoes. Are there any particular ones you would recommend and prices if possible?

I will close for now, once again congratulations on your publication and to your organization a great credit to all concerned.

Yours in Sport,
Michael Bolger

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS by Jerry LaBrosse

World Tournament Setup

Many of you will be reading this just days before the world tournament starts in Buffalo, NY. This year the tournament is larger than in recent years, which will make it all the more exciting.

The court setup will begin Wednesday morning the 9th of July. If there is anyone out there who wants to be a part of this setup, we welcome your help and support. It's an interesting process, and fun to watch it all come together so quickly.

This year we are planning to stream live video of the tournament to the internet. The links will be posted on the World Tournament page of the NHPA website. So those of you who cannot attend will be able to get a peek of what's going on at the WT.

There will be practice courts set up in an adjacent building that is air conditioned. Please limit your practice to 30 minutes if there are people waiting. Another good idea is to invite someone waiting to pitch with you. Who knows..... you might just make another friend.

E-Newsline

I am repeating my appeal to all charter secretaries and officials to collect the email addresses of your members. Please do this and forward the lists to me once your spring registration is complete. It is vitally important that we collect these addresses so that everyone can receive the eNewsline starting in January, as well as other important "e-blasts" of information. The other great fruit of this effort will be that you will have a much more complete list of your own members to communicate important notices and information.

For those of you who will be in Buffalo, I would enjoy meeting and talking with any of you regarding Charter Communications, or anything else.

Best of Luck to all, and have a great summer!!

Jerry

APRIL/MAY 2014 Income & Expenses Statement

Income

2014 World Tournament Bid	\$5,500.00
HoF Banquet Tickets	\$60.00
Insurance Payment	\$500.00
Hall of Fame Shirts	\$15.00
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$300.00
Membership Dues	\$38,526.00
Newsline Ads	\$815.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$164.00
Sanction League Patches	\$30.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$27.66
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$26.76
World Tournament Entry Fees	\$149,537.83

TOTAL **\$195,502.25**

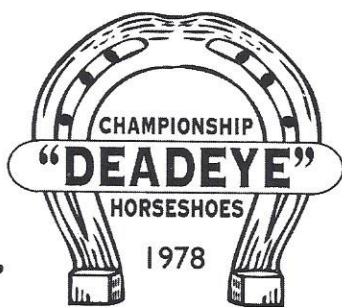
Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$3,063.23
Newsline Publication, Editing \$ Misc.	\$97.47
Sanction League Postage 7 Printing	\$101.66
Sanction League Patches & Awards	\$28.80
Junior Scholarship Trusts	\$656.31
WT Cash Patches & Trophy Awards	\$175.00
WT Refunds Fees, Dues & Overpayments	\$1,250.00
Hall of Fame, Awards, Supplies & Expenses	\$3,033.80
Regional Directors, Postage, Telephone & Supplies	\$16.02
Equipment Purchases, Rentals & Repairs	\$867.39
Printing, Paper & Office Supplies	\$212.31
Postage	\$101.07
Officers Telephone	\$240.85
Officers Travel	\$939.81
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$3,300.00
Presidents Allowance	\$1,000.00
Professional Fees, Accounting & Legal	\$8,450.00
Insurance	\$5,411.20
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$471.72
Internet Access & Web Site	\$226.79
Software Development	\$1,000.00

TOTAL **\$30,643.43**

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FOR A HEALTHY PITCH *by Debby Michaud, RN, B.S., Ex. Physiology*

Gotta say - good hydration is just dear to my heart! In my many years as a nurse and as a horseshoe pitcher, I have seen many examples of how dehydration can affect people negatively. In many of those instances, the person affected had no idea that dehydration was contributing to their problem.

The first problem for many is that they do not FEEL thirsty. The thirst mechanism is not that good. Ironically, as a person learns to drink more, and more often, that thirst mechanism is awakened. But if a person is chronically dehydrated, and as people get older, that thirst mechanism may not be trustworthy.

The symptoms can vary from just feeling a little fatigued or sluggish all the way to acute dizziness/lightheadedness or even passing out, a condition that can land a person in the hospital. High heart rates, feeling very warm and having a hard time cooling off, and feeling sluggish mentally can all be signs that your body does not have enough fluid on board. Think of your body as a car engine – it needs enough oil to lubricate all the parts. If you find out that you are a pint low on oil in your car, you do not hesitate to put some oil in. We humans need a dipstick!

Every cell in your body has fluid in it and every cell in your body receives nutrition and oxygen from your blood which, of course, is also mostly fluid. First, picture sludge trying to pass through a pipe and then picture water passing through that same pipe. Which type of flow would you like in YOUR blood vessels? I'm sure that most of us want our blood to flow freely and smoothly. If cells are slightly "starved" for nutrients and oxygen, of course they will feel stressed and fatigued. If THEY feel fatigued, YOU will feel fatigued. The racing heart

rate, the dizziness or lightheadedness and the inability to cool off are all potentially serious issues, especially if you have other medical issues already.

SO, what to do? Drink several glasses or cups of fluid every day. Drink BEFORE you feel that you need to drink. Drink a cup of water before breakfast and you might feel better just from that (remember you have been fasting for 8 hours during sleep!). Prior to any physical endeavor, like a horseshoe tournament, drink AT LEAST a pint of fluid, then drink at LEAST another two pints of fluid during the matches. More fluid will not be a problem. If it is hot and sunny, you will need more, probably a cup OR TWO of fluid every match. What is the best fluid? Water, water, water!! Alcohol and caffeine can dehydrate you so they are not the best choices. But a big tall Iced Tea or Iced Decaf coffee will do wonders for you as will a tall cool "low sugar" lemonade. Energy drinks are OK during a tournament but it might be better to dilute that energy drink for your body to absorb it easier. Soda is packed with sugar so it is not really a good choice during a tournament – carbonated water might work better as some studies indicate carbonation speeds up absorption in the body.

How do you know if you are drinking enough during a tournament and every day? If your urine is very light, almost clear, you are good to go! (Yes, check the color of your urine!!) (smile) If your urine is orange or dark yellow, you are dehydrated. Give this a try and note how you feel. For many of you, any increase in the amount of fluid you take in will be an improvement – I can almost hear all the cells in your body cheering! Good luck this year – stay healthy!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I always knew that my Dad, Claud Bray, had been bitten by the "horseshoe bug" early in his life. He is now 89 and pitches league 2 days a week. If there is a tournament anywhere close to Wichita, he's there, no matter what else is going on. He pitches in the State tournament every year, is a past State winner in Arkansas, and is in the Arkansas Hall of Fame. He can't wait for next summer when the World Tournament will be in Topeka. That's the closest it will be to Wichita, and he'll be there. When he can't pitch in a World tournament, he is constantly asking me to give him the daily reports from the website. He's always willing to help newcomers to the club and volunteers to help get the pits ready for play. He taught me to pitch and coached me to a Kansas State Tournament win.

But, I really knew he was bitten by the bug, when I received

a call from him last November. He told me he was in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. He had been crossing the street and was hit by a car. The next thing he said could only come from someone who lives and breathes horseshoes. While I'm wondering how hurt he is, he said, "I don't think I'm going to be able to make the horseshoe tournament." He was right. He didn't pitch for several months, waiting for the pelvic fracture to heal. Even though he couldn't pitch, he went to watch on league nights. He's doing fine now and practicing for the State tournament in the horseshoe pits my husband built for him in our backyard. We'll visit the National Horseshoe Hall of Fame in August on our way home from a family reunion. Of course, he has a brick, and we'll finally get a picture of him standing by it.

Claudia Ellerman

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE

by Bob Dunn NHPA Historian

Carl Steinfeldt

With the 2014 World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament being held in the state of New York, this couldn't be a better time to look back at the career of pitching great Carl Steinfeldt. Twenty-two times he qualified for the Men's Championship Class in World Tournaments (1953-1987), and even more astounding, twenty of those times he had top ten finishes, including placing runner-up five times. And of course, he did win the Men's World Championship in 1976. To go with those great statistics, he also was the Senior Men's World Champion times times, 1988, 1990 and 1991. And if that isn't enough, in 1978, he won the Intermediate Men's World Championship with a ringer average of 85.30%, which will stand forever as the highest average ever pitched in that division.

Maybe even more incredible, is that he has won more state championships than any other pitcher; twenty-two state titles in New York and 14 in Florida. His first championship in New York was in 1939 at age 22. His last championship in Florida was in 1998, at age 80.

Carl Steinfeldt was inducted to the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of fame in 1972 and was inducted to the New York Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1974.

The October 1939 Horseshoe World had an article covering Steinfeldt's very first state championship. That article is reprinted here:

Steinfeldt is New York Champ

First Round Robin of Class A

Player	W	L	P	OP	R	DR	SP	Pct
1. W. Hamann	18	1	955	424	851	318	1138	74
2. B. Brown	17	2	915	616	903	315	1290	70
3. A. Cope	15	4	866	675	911	282	1352	67
4. Steinfeldt	15	4	921	705	903	295	1350	66
5. V. Felliccia	16	3	903	537	850	290	1220	69
6. H. Seaman	13	6	891	671	808	253	1278	63
7. J. Grant	11	8	766	803	687	194	1250	54
8. D. Watson	11	8	828	769	841	273	1318	63
9. T. Brownell	10	9	837	823	852	276	1350	63
10. G. LaRose	11	10	889	871	858	237	1245	58
11. H Harrison	9	12	865	932	893	279	1480	60
12. S. White	8	11	813	857	747	214	1272	58
13. P. Pickard	8	11	736	805	756	228	1296	58
14. W. Brown	7	12	687	862	665	173	1224	54
15. M. Belsky	6	13	700	883	657	180	1218	52
16. F. Hessler	5	14	693	876	692	174	1266	64
17. J. Federico	4	15	665	932	602	155	1202	50
18. C. Graves	3	16	634	914	635	170	1188	53
19. J. Parischi	3	16	583	936	561	134	1214	51
20. W. Mattice	1	17	647	910	643	179	1204	53

LaRose and Harrison tie for 10th place and played a two game playoff to break the tie of who was seeded in Class A.

The New York State Horseshoe Pitching Tournament which was held at Playland Rye Beach September 2, 3, 4, was won by Carl Steinfeldt, Rochester, N.Y., defeating the defending state champ, young Bill Hamann in the finals, although Hamann won more games and had a higher ringer percentage than our new champion.

The outstanding games of the tournament were three by Bill Hamann and one by Al Cape. Hamann's ringer percentage in the three games were 84.6, 86.9 and 89.9. Cape's 86.8.

There is also to be remembered, the 15-year-old boy, Tommy Brownell, of Gloversville, N.Y. who made a great showing at the tournament and looks like a coming champion.

A lot of credit must be given to the sponsor, Gus Rasacco; Playland; the Tournament Committee; Frank T. Hanlon, chairman; B.C. Hamann, statistics; Miss Doris Russell; John Thompson; Worth Johnson, asst. statistician; Page Schavel, field supervisor; Andy Seaman, referee; Oliver Louis; Fred Egger, host; and Paul Morris, publicity, who all worked hard to make the tourney a success.

On Sunday evening, September 3, a meeting was held of all the horseshoe pitchers that had come to the tournament from all parts of the state, at the Recreation Hall, at White Plains. It was decided that no convention be held until the 1940 state tournament.

The Class B was won by Al Halzhauer, of Schenectady.

The summaries:

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

That may seem to be a bit much, especially compared to today's methods and process. In 1939, all tournament games were 50-point games and no ties were decided by ringer percentage or who-beat-who. Back in the day, pitching in a tournament could be difficult to endure. This event is a good example as all players pitched 27 50-point games over the three days. There was no comment about qualifying, but no doubt here were more than 20 players entered

in the tournament. Each player pitched 100 shoes and the top 20 made the preliminary round robin and the rest of the players had the choice of staying on to observe or go home. Sounds rather mean, but that was the process in 1939. In today's manner of conducting tournaments, the round robin probably would determine the state champion, not in 1939. Another round of nine 50-point games was played! And then playoff games were played to break any ties!

Class A

Player	W	L	P	OP	R	DR	SP	Pct
C. Steinfeldt	8	1	448	353	434	141	676	64
W. Hamann	7	2	428	309	435	157	620	70
A. Cope	6	3	438	284	456	161	642	71
R. Brown	5	4	409	353	447	177	666	67
D. Watson	4	5	366	423	434	140	686	63
H. Seaman	4	5	361	416	396	118	648	61
T. Brownell	3	6	347	444	356	109	616	57
G. LaRose	2	6	344	448	348	96	610	57
J. Grant	1	9	318	439	362	96	644	56
Playoff for Fourth Place								
V. Felliccia	1	0	54	40	56	20	80	70
R. Brown	0	1	40	54	50	16	80	62
Playoff for Sixth Place								
D. Watson	1	0	51	9	48	19	62	77
H. Seaman	0	1	9	51	33	10	62	55

Round Robin Class B

Player	W	L	P	OP	R	DR	SP	Pct
P. Beaton	13	0	669	327	418	114	765	54
M. Smith	10	3	602	427	398	79	870	45
A. Holzhauer	9	4	595	433	379	79	812	46
D. Sharky	9	4	587	435	349	82	770	45
C. Seacord	8	5	601	476	398	84	842	47
C. Grieco	8	5	612	468	407	104	792	52
J. McGuire	7	6	498	551	336	77	800	42
T. Hale	7	6	580	500	389	80	868	44
A. Carlson	6	7	516	553	311	61	681	45
A. Stone	5	8	518	564	368	70	858	42
S. Young	3	10	429	596	252	49	770	32
D. Gardner	3	10	388	575	264	41	756	34
H. McGuire	1	11	294	655	186	26	672	27
J. Ouret	1	12	318	647	223	28	778	28

Finals of Class B

A. Holzhauer	8	1	421	311	278	67	578	48
P. Beaton	7	2	435	255	282	77	510	55
C. Grieco	7	2	420	290	262	69	504	52
A. Carlson	6	3	393	336	263	57	556	47
D. Sharky	6	3	415	299	258	56	528	49
C. Seacord	5	4	369	390	265	58	268	46
M. Smith	2	7	349	407	284	54	592	48
T. Hale	2	7	254	406	187	36	482	37
H. McGuire	1	8	268	448	191	40	524	37
A. Stone	1	8	250	432	206	38	548	37

HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE

Continued

Playoff for Second Place	W	L	P	OP	R	DR	SP	Pct
P. Beaton	1	0	51	47	77	12	74	59
C. Grieco	0	1	47	51	41	12	74	55
Playoff for Fourth Place								
A. Carlson	1	0	50	26	26	7	47	54
D. Sharkey	0	1	26	50	20	4	48	41

There are a couple of other names in this competition that need mention. Both of these pitchers are in the New York Hall of Fame. Vito Felicca, one of New York's all-time great pitchers was a two-time New York State Champion, first in 1936, with a record setting 75.2% and in 1949 pitching 73.8%. He was inducted to the New York Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1974.

Also a New York Hall of Fame member is Tommy Brownell, just 15 years old at the time of this 1939 event. Tommy went on to win six state championships (1941, 1949, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956). He was inducted to the New York Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1974. Brownell went on to star in the famed World Tournaments of the 1950's in Murray, Utah. His record is shown here:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	%
1946	11	13	10	1073	1612	66.6
1947	9	25	10	1842	2486	74.1
1948	5	27	4	2015	2492	80.9
1949	7	27	8	2135	2748	77.7
1955	4	28	7	2135	2748	77.7
1957 SF	5	12	5	1056	1358	77.8
Finals	5	8	5	938	1166	80.4

Due to those performances, Tommy Brownell was inducted to the National Hall of Fame National in 2007.

Folklore Jottings By Bob Dunn

In the previous Newslines, hopefully you noticed the ad for a recent book published, "AAU National Amateur Horseshoe Pitching Championships." The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), which is the grass roots to our Olympic system, had a 40-year partnership with the NHPA to conduct national amateur championships. The book tells the story of the tournaments and champions during those 40 years (1937-1977).

In May, I attended the Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament in Wentzville, MO and the Team World event in Beloit, WI, promoting the book. As folks came by the table to check it out, I mentioned that no one is aware of the AAU involvement in our sport and that is why I wrote the book. That is until Saturday morning in Beloit. Guy Modde of Elgin, IL stopped by my table. The best way to put this is "I stand corrected." As I said no one is aware of the AAU involvement in horseshoe pitching, he said,

"Oh, I'm aware of the AAU." I hesitated, looked at him waiting to hear his next comment, and then he said he knew Frank Breen and pitched horseshoes with Frank Breen. You could have knocked me over with a feather. He went on to explain that he was from Elgin, IL, (the home town of Breen).


There was no doubt he knew what the book was all about. Frank Breen was one of the AAU national stars of the sport in the 1950s, and won more medals than any other individual pitcher.

That was a very enjoyable conversation for me. In the two years of researching for this book, I talked to a handful of pitchers that had participated in AAU events, only one had met Breen, a couple had heard of the three time national champion.

When I mentioned that Jack Stout was also an Illinois pitcher that had a couple national championships, Modde said, "Jack Stout gave me my first pair of horseshoes." Wow!

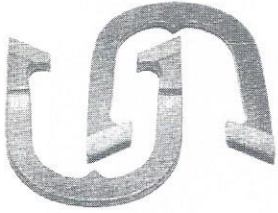
Guy bought a copy of the book, and so should you. It is an interesting story that "few know about." You will be surprised to read some familiar NHPA names and Hall of Fame members that actually got their start in the sport from the AAU events and then later joined the NHPA. A few are: Ralph Dykes, Bob Pence, Arlo Harris and others.

You can order on-line from the publisher, Beavers Pond Press and receive a 35% discount, by using the discount code - NHPA. For those attending the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, we will be there with a table set up to sell books.



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JUNIOR PROMOTIONS by Aleena Cook

Keeping It Cool

What do the Minnesota Vikings and LeBron James have in common? Not much, except that they are both liked by 15 years old, from Marshfield Wisconsin, Gunnar David. Even though he lives in Wisconsin, Gunnar is a true Minnesota Vikings fan. He has been a Viking fan ever since he was able to understand the game. He is currently a student at Marshfield Senior High where he hangs out with his friends and loves to hunt, fish, go camping, and play horseshoes.


Gunnar was five years old when he was at a State tournament watching his older brother pitch, there he bought his first pair of horseshoes and decided he wanted to pitch as well. Though his brother doesn't pitch in competition anymore Gunnar still pitches alongside his Mom and Dad. When asked if he prefers to pitch against other juniors his age or against adults, he replied "I like to pitch against adults. When I travel to different tournaments I hardly pitch against the same group of adults every time, whereas it's usually the same juniors." He likes the change in competition which keeps him on his toes.

Even through the cold, Gunnar tries to go out and practice once a week in the pits he has in his backyard. He gets his motivation from his hero LeBron James, "His haters motivate him. He will do things automatically and when something needs to be done he will just go out and do it." When pitching Gunnar throws the shoe naturally and concentrates on getting more ringers. Gunnar has won the Wisconsin Jr. Boys State title three times, the Wisconsin Cadet's State title two times and has placed various times at the world tournament. This last year in Utah he took sixth in the Jr. Boys Championship class. His goal is to win State as many times as he can. Gunnar's current average is right around fifty-six percent. He plans to keep increasing his percentage this year at World in Buffalo, New York.

Along with horseshoes, Gunnar also takes trips with his parents to Michigan where they take care of lighthouses and watch the ships on the water. He also goes fishing where his prize thus far has been a 35 inch Northern that he caught at Mondeaux Flowage. When he is older and done with high school and college, Gunnar wants to be a welder just like his Dad as he finds it to be relaxing.

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1937-1977

AAU

**National Amateur
Horseshoe-Pitching
Championships 1937-1977**

"Bob Dunn is an amazing researcher and writer. He brings the history of horseshoe pitching to the forefront in a manner that holds your interest. I always look forward to Bob's books and articles; he is captivating and so knowledgeable on the historical record of our great sport."
—Jerry D. Smith, author of *The Official N.H.P.A. History of the World Tournament - Volume 2 - 1981-2011* and *The Legendary Don Titcomb - His Life, His Game, His Way*

"This book covers an interesting phase in the sport of horseshoe pitching, which has gone unnoticed and nearly forgotten in many quarters. This is a marvelous research project by Bob Dunn."
—Ottie Reno, author of three books on horseshoe pitching who will set a new record by participating in his 55th World Tournament in 2014

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NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *By Dan Sanders*

Proposed Changes

In recent issues of Newline Magazine our Proposed NHPA Bylaws Changes for this year have been presented here for your information, and hopefully you have considered and discussed these proposals with your fellow pitchers and passed your opinions along to your Charter Officers and/or members who will be representing you at the Buffalo WT Convention as your Charter delegates. You may recall that there are a good number of proposed changes to be voted on this year, and in the next issue of Newline, I will be including a summary of the proposed changes along with the voting results.

Next year, 2015, is the year for proposed changes to the RGS Book which includes our Playing Rules and Requirements, Guidelines, and Specifications for equipment and court construction. I have already received a few proposed changes and if you have any proposals, they can be sent to me any time before the December 31, 2014 deadline.

Some Recent Concerns

Since the last issue of Newline I have received a phone call and an e-mail of concern about a couple of situations that have been observed on the courts during tournament play. Neither of these concerns is currently addressed in our Playing Rules, nor have they formally been received by me as a proposed Rules change, but they could be. The first concern was about the wearing of earphones during a game... the kind that nearly completely cover the ears. Should this be allowed? Certainly they would interfere with being able to hear and communicate with your opponent when discussing the call for each inning. And what about communicating the score to the score keeper?

The smaller and more popular 'ear buds' could pose the same problems, especially if they have the built-in technology for filtering out external noises. What do you think?

The other question/concern was about the use of electronic cigarettes on the courts. As you may know, we do have a rule about not using tobacco while in the confines of the court, but these new cigarettes do not contain tobacco and so 'smoking' them may technically not be a violation of our 'no tobacco' rule. This member reported as follows: "Personally, I have had a close encounter with one of these devices in our Winter league, and while I will admit there is no detectable odor, it still bothered me to have this visible vapor floating around my face." How about this one? Will this new technology result in a proposal to disallow the use of electronic cigarettes while on the courts? Only time will tell.

Training Sessions for Judges and Scorekeepers at Buffalo – an update

You may recall that in the last Newline issue I had announced that training sessions for judges will be offered at the WT in Buffalo for those who are interested. This is to help insure that we are providing more qualified judges for this competition. In a recent meeting, it was decided that we should also offer a training session on Sunday before the tournament starts, and on Wednesday before the second session begins. Other sessions will be offered on Monday and on Thursday of the first week. If you will be in attendance and are interested in one of these sessions, please listen for announcements and/or look for sign-up sheets which will include details of times and locations for these clinics.

ATTENTION ALL HSMMASTER USERS!

Kurt Whaley has a new version of the HSMaster program on the NHPA website. There are several fixes and many improvements.

Resources, Software, HS Master Program. You can also download from this page or from the Installation page.

You can read about the changes at www.horseshoepitching.com.

We strongly recommend all users install this new version.

Support the NHPF

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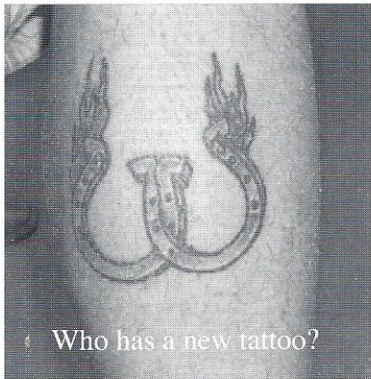
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Wentzville, MO 63385

NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM *by Jeanette Claas*

3RD ANNUAL HALL OF FAME INVITATIONAL HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

It was the merry month of May, but the weather felt like winter as the traveling horseshoe pitchers rolled into Missouri. One pitcher driving in from Florida remarked, "Is it ok to wear shorts for the tournament on Saturday? The closer I got to Missouri the colder I got. I nearly froze my behind off." Even the beautiful yellow daffodils that bloom in the park during springtime were frost bitten and gone by May 1st. But Mother Nature smiled down on us for the weekend bringing warm temperatures in the high 70's. They say, "If you don't like the weather in Missouri, stick around as it will change in another five minutes."



received so many nice compliments our buttons nearly popped.

Tournament Directors Joe Faron, Gary Buehler, Bob and Rose Diekamp met with their committee in early January making plans for the QRHC's biggest event of the year. Letters were printed and sent out to the top 100 pitchers in the 30' and 40' categories. By April we had received entries for the top 32 players and the QRHC was ready to put on another thrilling and exciting tournament.

Seventeen states were represented by the 32 talented horseshoe champions of the national and state levels participating in this year's 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Tournament. Our guests came from the northern coast of Washington to the eastern coast of Maine and all the way down to the southern coast of Florida traveling to the Midwest for some serious competition in hopes of winning the \$8,000 prize money that was contributed by 31 different sponsors this year. The competition was very tough for the two day tournament event.


In attendance was our new NHPF President Casey Sluys-CA and Secretary Phyllis Quist-WA, Vice President Joe Faron-MO, Treasurer Gary Buehler, and NHPA 1st VP

Dan Sanders-OH and NHPA Historian, Bob Dunn-MN. Also traveling from Kansas City was the MOHPA President Sharon Taylor bringing her infamous pecan pies for all to enjoy. Traveling from Hannibal, MO was MOHPA Zone 2 Director, Scott Raimer carrying a crock pot with a fabulous recipe inside. Several new pitchers made their first appearance in the tournament this year. In the 40' division were: Mike Creek-PA entering with 70%; Robert Faidley-PA 72.6%; and Gary Bearpaw-OK 67.1%. Making their debut in the 30' foot lineup were: Ed Pashia MO 75.9%; David Jagers FL 75.6%; Roger Vogel KS 71.0%; Doris Hieden TX 70.8%; and Kenneth Tate IL 70.3%.

The courts were opened on Friday for the pitchers to get a feel of that good ole Kentucky clay and to mix with their rivals before competition began on Saturday morning. Introductions and pictures of all 32 pitchers were made, the scorekeepers took their seats, and our 2014 Junior World Champion, Dalton Rakestraw, sang the National Anthem. Now it was time to "Let the shoes fly!"

After the end of competition on Saturday four pitchers in the 40' division were undefeated: Alan Francis-OH, Dan Watson-AL, Jim






National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

NHPA

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Natstats updated every Wednesday evening
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Questions and suggestions may be sent to:
Steve Summerlin
NHPA Webmaster
PO Box 536
Webberville, MI 48892-0536
Email: webmaster@horseshoepitching.com

NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM *Continued*

Walters-OH, and Mike Creek-PA. In the 30' division, two pitchers had only one loss, Joan Elmore-TN and Roger Vogel-KS.

On Saturday evening after the 40' division was done, the QRHC members and some guests began scrambling to get the tables and chairs on the North Courts ready for another great meal to share with our 110 dinner guests. The Rev. Bill Campbell of Texas gave his heartfelt blessings before




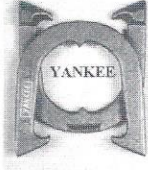
40' Pitchers

dinner was served. QRHC member, 82 year old Julia Jaeger, received a special award for serving as scorekeeper in charge for over 20 years. After eating all that wonderful food the pitchers with their tummy's full were ready to go back to the motel for a good night's sleep before pitching resumed on Sunday morning.

Upon completion of the tournament on Sunday, QRHC


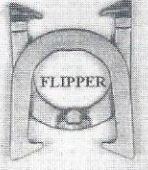
statistician Gary Buehler, had some fascinating and interesting results. For some of the pitchers who did not have usage of indoor courts during the dreaded winter, this would be their first tournament of the 2014 horseshoe season. It was a matter of "self-destruction" as they struggled with nerves to get their timing back into the game. Even the best of pitchers had their bad moments. For others who were on top of their game came the sweet smell of success. In the 40' division, 18-time World Men's Champion, Alan Francis-OH, claimed his 16th Championship Title of this tournament which began in 1994. With a record of 15-0, Alan finished with an 86.42% tournament average and high games of 90.0, 95.8, 93.8, 95.2, 91.76, 94.2, and 91.3%. His low game was 78.2%. Second place was earned by Mike Creek-PA. Entering with a 70% average and 8th seed, Creek finished in 2nd place with a record of 14-1 an average of 76.79% with a high game of 90.6%. See tournament results section for final results of each player.

The 30' division was exciting all the way until the last shoe was thrown. Going into their 14th game Joan Elmore-TN and Roger Vogel-KS each had one loss. On Court 12 Roger Vogel was in a very close game with Ron LeGrand-MO. After 72 shoes, LeGrand won the game 40/38. Now the 15th and final game would decide if there was to be a pitch-off, and Joan said she was in no mood for a pitch-off game. Elmore pitched against Virgil Rife-OH and was losing 21-33; Elmore realizing she'd better buckle down and win this game. She did and won the game 42-33. Winning her 5th


"Horseshoe Digger"




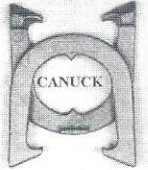




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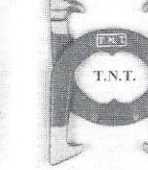





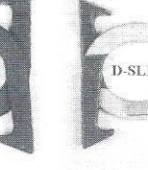


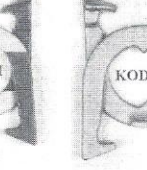












NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM *Continued*

Hall of Fame Championship Title since it began in 1998 was Joan Elmore-TN with 14 wins, one loss, an average of 78.92% and high game of 89.7%. Making his debut Roger Vogel-KS earned 2nd place with a record of 13 wins and two losses, averaging 76.88%. His high game was 84.72%.

Virgil Rife-OH pitched in the 1999 Six Pac Tournament as a 40-footer so this was his first appearance as a 30-footer. Rife was #1 seed going into the tournament with an 82.5% average and finished in 3rd place with a 75.71%. Kenneth Tate-IL entered the 30' division for the first time as #13 seed but managed to score the highest game of the 30' division, 91.7%.



30' Pitchers

What an exciting and fun-filled tournament it was! We wish to thank all our sponsors and out-of-town guests who traveled many miles to come to the tournament to pitch in the tournament or just to enjoy the game. The 2014 Tournament is now history and the QRHC looks forward to seeing you in 2015 and promises to offer you another exciting tournament just as this one has been.

3rd Annual Hall of Fame Invitational Horseshoe Tournament - 40' Division - May 3-4, 2014

NAME	W-L	RINGERS	SHOES	HIGH GAME	AVERAGE
1. Alan Francis - OH	15-0	598	692	95.8%	86.42%
2. Mike Creek - PA	14-1	622	810	90.6%	76.79%
3. Jim Walters-OH	13-2	583	794	91.7%	73.43%
4. Dan Watson-AL	11-4	563	806	77.6%	69.85%
5. Tom Williams-MI	10-5	544	782	81.8%	69.57%
6. Stan Griggs-MO	8-7	541	798	79.2%	67.79%
7. Robert Faidley-PA	7-8	573	872	73.3%	65.71%
8. Gale Greene-VT	7-8	491	770	89.3%	63.77%
9. Rick Howe-MA	6-9	533	846	79.3%	63.00%
10. Ron Deckard-FL	6-9	444	706	69.1%	62.89%
11. Steven Johnson-MO	6-9	476	772	78.1%	61.66%
12. Doc Rice-IN	5-10	480	796	68.3%	60.30%
13. Gary Bearpaw-OK	4-11	545	864	77.4%	63.08%
14. Randy Grady-MO	4-11	473	778	84.1%	60.80%
15. Gary Roberts-OH	2-13	452	762	71.7%	59.32%
16. Austin Bailey-IL	2-13	429	772	65.5%	55.57%

3rd Annual Hall of Fame Invitational Horseshoe Tournament - 30' Division - May 3-4, 2014

NAME	W-L	RINGERS	SHOES	HIGH GAME	AVERAGE
1. Joan Elmore-TN	14-1	715	906	89.66%	78.92%
2. Roger Vogel-KS	13-2	735	956	83.33%	76.88%
3. Virgil Rife-OH	11-4	639	844	87.04%	75.71%
4. Herschel Walters-IN	11-4	627	858	80.95%	73.08%
5. Ronald LeGrand-MO	9-6	583	854	78.85%	68.27%
6. Bobby Fields-TN	8-7	639	928	75.64%	68.86%
7. Edward Pashia-MO	7-8	630	882	82.86%	71.43%
8. Paul McGee-MD	7-8	609	876	77.94%	69.52%
9. David Jagers-FL	7-8	582	868	77.08%	67.02%
10. Oralee Jeardoe-KS	6-9	522	802	77.50%	65.09%
11. Sue Snyder-IN	6-9	525	808	76.92%	64.98%
12. Gregg Craven-MO	5-10	572	852	78.85%	67.14%
13. Doris Hieden-TX	5-10	465	758	72.22%	61.35%
14. Marlene Ray-TN	4-11	597	886	76.56%	67.38%
15. Kenneth Tate-IL	4-11	530	804	91.67%	65.92%
16. Terry Beagle-MI	3-12	526	810	78.13%	64.94%

NHPF & THE NHPA HALL OF FAME by Casey Sluys

Building for the Future While Preserving the Past and Showcasing the Present

On May 3, 2014 the NHPF board of directors met at the Hall of Fame tournament in Wentzville, MO. We hope to make this an annual occurrence as the amount of goodwill created by board members walking around chatting with folks is immeasurable. This meeting proved to be a productive one as our newest board member Phyllis Quist was able to see some of the intricacies of the building and its environs.

We finalized the new brochure, which will include the brick order form for ordering a brick that would be placed in the Jack Freeman Memorial Plaza. We also intend on sending a supply to each Charter President for distribution to their Charter clubs. We also intend on using these brochures at rest stops along major highways into and around the St Louis area along with various tour groups and perhaps motels and businesses.

There was some discussion on creating an additional revenue stream by allowing other non-horseshoe related parties to rent the building provided that adequate supervision is maintained. NHPA members could rent the facility for birthday parties and such. Contract details are being worked out as we speak.

We were able to watch some of the engraving of the bricks. It's quite a process they use, first a stencil is created in their workshop, then it is determined where the brick is placed then the stencil is glued onto the brick, the surrounding bricks taped off with duct tape to avoid sandblasting the neighboring bricks. When sandblasting onto the stencil from about 6-8 inches away the effect blasts the letters into the bricks, they are then painted with a special paint that is rolled onto the stencil and forced into the letters; this special paint has a 30 year warranty. The stencil remnants are carefully removed and the remaining pieces are picked off, all other tape picked up, a little solvent to wash the glue residue off the brick and your brick is complete. Then the new batches of bricks are charted on the brick display panel located at the entrance to the HoF building. Adjacent to this display is a list of all the engraved bricks purchased by each Charter.

Over the course of the last couple of years we incurred some expenses that were rather large. Fixing the various leaks in the roof proved to be a major undertaking with each fastener being inspected for tightness and all old silicon removed from each one. Then a new sealer applied to each fastener and all seams. The roof was completely coated with a coating call Puma xl. It carries an 18 year guarantee against leaks. We had some repairs and maintenance to the Geothermal Heating System. Two of the three systems pumps went out and needed to be replaced. There are six heating & exchange units in the building. In one of the six units we had to replace a compressor and evaporator coil. As you can see maintenance of a building such as this becomes a continued expense. Note: the building will be eight years old this fall, so we can expect some ongoing expenses.

That is where your donation will come in handy though and we sincerely appreciate your help.

The St. Charles County Parks Dept. is building a new road off of highway Z. It will make egress to the park much easier for everyone. Highway Z crosses Interstate 70 at a 90 degree angle and off of Highway Z it will be one turn into the park. Then about a one mile drive through the park to your Hall of Fame.

Come visit us at our booth at the World Tournament; we will be holding a silent auction on a few key items. We look forward with chatting with each one of you.

Remember; "It's your Hall of Fame."

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Gerald & Brenda Ramey, NC

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Nina Pearson, CO 1
Donald Wendler, TX 1
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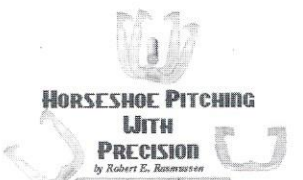
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CHARTER CHATTER

by Diane Ratliff

Salutations and greetings everyone! Wow! The year is already flying by. Know many of you are gearing up for the WT. Good luck to you all! I don't need to tell you to have fun, it's a given!

As of this writing, I just missed one of our Frederick tours to attend a wedding. The wedding was beautiful and I enjoyed it, but sure did miss being with my horseshoe friends. Never fails that on the rare occasions I have to skip a tourney, I miss out on catching up with at least one (more often a few) people that I haven't seen for a while – this one was no exception. But I did get a nice surprise at league the following Monday night. Larry Noel handed me his phone and said, "Say hello to Dave Holliday." Well now, I haven't seen or talked to Doc in quite some time and it was great to chat and catch up, even if just a bit. We may not be THAT far apart geographically, but life is a busy thing! I can't say enough how many terrific people I have met through our wonderful sport in the last 25 years. Thank you Jack "Pops" Moxley for recruiting me to be your partner all those years ago! Keep that in mind when you invite new people to pitch ... it can and most likely will prove invaluable to them in many areas for years to come!

Until next time,
~Diana

Northern California – Casey Sluys

As expected we received some significant rain as our pitching season began. It caused some rained out events, but we are thankful for the precipitation, even though we are only about 40% of normal.

Some of us are looking forward to travelling to San Diego for our State Championships over Labor Day weekend. It's "only" 550 miles away for us, a good 10 hour drive. That's the equivalent of going through five states for some of you. What we won't do for the love of this sport?

Not very many Californians are travelling to Buffalo this year, only about 20 are entered; then again that's a 2,700 mile trip. Look for Topeka, KS to have better representation from CA.

We have a new Regional Director for the Charter, it's Rick Bermingham and his assistant will be Travis Sluys. Our thinking here is to get juniors involved at all levels.

Colorado – Bob Champion (excerpts from the Double Ringer, Volume 32, Number 3, May 2014)

Mel Yockstick reports the following members who have received CO Hall of Fame Awards for both Pitching and Service, a remarkable accomplishment: Lou Conklin, Pam Cook, Brad Wilson, Sheila Shepard, Clarence Garner, Don Schneck, Noah Elich, Dan Martinez, Paul LaCrosse, Kevin Sturch, Fran Roth, Jimmy Bauer and Walter O'Dell. The 2013 CO Hall of Fame Inductees for service were Fred Shepard and Margaret Pineda. Sheila Shepard was honored to receive the CO Sportswomen Award, which honors Colorado's outstanding

female athletes in many sports. So great to hear that Sheila's horseshoe pitching accomplishments were included! Congrats and many thanks to all.

Passing along some of Bob Champion's "ramblings" (paraphrased):

Quiet Please - Game is On

Wouldn't it be great if, when a horseshoe match was ready to start, a judge or TD would announce to the crowd that there must be no loud talking? In most spectator sports, like tennis, golf and bowling, the spectators are quiet while the player is concentrating on his/her shot. In horseshoes, little respect is shown by the spectators (and most of them are pitchers!).

Pitchers are often talking with their friends about topics other than horseshoes. Little consideration is given to players on the courts. When the score is close and a pitcher is trying to block out all outside noise, it's harder to do if your opponent is talking to you or the scorekeeper, or if he has not taken the proper position behind you on the other side of the pit.

Horseshoes is a game of precision and perfection, and the mind must be able to concentrate. Something in the background can alter the shot. It may be unintentional, but it happens all the time. Let us all try to be more courteous to pitchers in tournament and even league play.

Whose Job Is It?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody

The advertisement features two horseshoes: a dark-colored 'GORDON' horseshoe on the left and a light-colored 'LEGEND' horseshoe on the right. The text below the horseshoes 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, AMEX, and other payment methods.

CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

(Thank you Bob, for a point well made! In most organizations, there are typically a handful of people that do the majority of the work. Eventually they may get tired of it and give up or get burned out. If everyone would pitch in (no pun intended, or perhaps it is) when and where they could to help out, all would benefit!)

Idaho - Dave Spears

Diana apologizes that the pictures shown under the MD Chatter in the last *Newsline* were actually from Idaho pertaining to the horseshoe pitching classes at the high school in the Boise area (last issue's column).

Maryland - Diana Ratliff

Larry Bunn, Baltimore Metro HC TD, had the following to say about the recent Grant Powers Open Tournament. Owen McAteer, a pitcher returning after a considerable absence, was a close friend of Grant "Pappy" Powers. Pappy was a 2005 MD Hall of Fame Inductee. After the tourney opening introductions, Owen asked if he could share his poem, called Four Dead (to follow this column if space permits). It was a fitting tribute and well worth the time. Then, in honor of the 200th anniversary of our national anthem, they played Whitney Houston's Super Bowl rendition. During the anthem, three birds flew overhead, just above the flag, as if in formation. An added treat and Larry was asked how much it cost for the fly over! The entire day was great. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the tournament. They welcomed two new pitchers, Cliff Conway and Mance Vance.

The Frederick HPA summer league is underway for the 22nd consecutive year. We welcome back our returning members. We are also pleased to have five new members join us this year: Debbie Auwarter, Maynard Bowman (new to our club and league, but not to NHPA!), Gideon Clayton, Kevin Drechsler and Tyler Hixon. Tom Robinson had been working with his 7-year old daughter Claire, and 5-year old son Ryan. They just may join the league as well, along with a couple of friends. We know we need those juniors to continue our sport.

The MDHPA is proud to have 10 pitchers (at last count) representing us in the 2014 WT in NY, wish it were more! We wish the best of health and successful pitching to them, as well as our friends from other states, both near and far.

A special welcome back goes out to James Wells, Jr. According to my notes, he's been MIA from our sport since 2003. Not sure if it's his dad, James Wells' doing or not, but we're glad to have you back! James (Sr) is moving to 30 ft this year, says he doesn't have the strength he used to, but that's okay ... we're glad you're still in the game!

Minnesota (and Arizona!) - Gene Gross

Several of us Minnesotans are snowbirds so our horseshoe experiences in the winter involve our winter state. In my case it is Tucson, AZ. My wife and I have a place in SaddleBrooke, a 4,000 home retiree community north of Tucson. In my previous

winters there I talked up horseshoes but never encountered anyone with an interest and there were no courts there. This year, much to my surprise, there was a photo on the front page of our local newspaper showing 20 people interested in putting in two horseshoe courts. When I called I discovered there were actually 50 people who expressed interest.

I then described my background with the Bloomington, MN club, the state organization and the NHPA. I was told I was the guy they have been looking for as none of the 50 people, while most had pitched in back yards or picnics, knew much about the official game. The homeowners association had agreed on a location for two courts and they were in process of installing them. I suggested a short road trip for four of us to look at another retiree community I knew had three courts and the downtown Tucson sanctioned club and courts. This helped show the value of concrete platforms, pit construction, etc. Our new courts are now in operation but without platforms, only dirt. We are working on getting concrete.

Because of the general lack of knowledge, I agreed to put on a pitching clinic. 17 people showed up. I was able to explain the 30 foot line for women and elders (which are many). This was new to most of them. How to measure close shoe points as well as ringers was also helpful. All in all it is going well. While we are a long way off from having NHPA sanctioned courts and club we are making progress.

All of us snowbirds are now back in Minnesota but my experiences show we can advance our sport even while away from home.

More Minnesota - Jerry Labrosse ... please check out the link to the "Ringer Digest" at www.minnesotahorseshoes.com for a wealth of info. Effective April 1st, the Ringer Digest has moved from print to an e-newsletter. Shawn Warnemunde announced the membership drive promotion - top prize of \$100 for the one who recruits the most new members (including returning members who have not held a card within two years). In addition to the grand prize, anyone bringing in five new members will have their 2015 state dues (the MN portion of the dues) paid for by the MGSHPA!

Missouri - Dee McIntire

Hello from Missouri! We have all been busy getting Summer Leagues going and going to tournaments around the state. Missouri has plenty of tournaments, 97 scheduled for 2014 (of which we have already had some) across the state.

I don't know how many of you have heard, but Missouri has had

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CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

a perfect game pitched by none other than Nick DiRaimo. Nick pitches in the Elders Division and on February 1st in the Independence Memorial Open Tournament in the Don Harris Arena in Liberty, he left his mark. Nick was playing in the Championship Class and only needed 40 shoes or 40 points to win his game. Nick brought out his best and in 14 shoes, beat Charlie Baker 42-0. Nick has been pitching in Leagues and Tournaments since 1995. Way to go NICK!

Mel Bruemmer tells me that MO had 5 teams and 21 people attend the Team World event in Beloit, WI. The #1 MO Team of Rose Diekamp, Ed Pashia, John Sapper and Steve Johnson finished in 2nd place. And MO Team 2 of Virgil McCown, Donra McCown, Cori Stoverink and James Driver finished 8th. We are very proud of all our MO players.

Daphne Happy of the Liberty Club tells me that on Saturday, April 19th there was once again a Liberty's Juniors Only Tournament. There were 23 juniors and cadets who came out for some spirited competition. There were even four pitchers from the State of Kansas who joined in. Gregg Craven also presented plaques to the club's three 2013 NHPA Scholarship recipients. Savanna Johnson received \$200, Megan McLeod received \$150 and Nickel Craven received \$100.

How many cities out there have a Corporate Challenge? We in Missouri are finding that it is a great place to recruit new pitchers. During Kansas City's Corporate Challenge horseshoe event, the Independence Club set up a booth to promote their league and the area clubs. There were at least four new pitchers who joined the Independence Club. This is a great way to get the word out.

New Jersey - Bill Mac Intyre

This time it is official, Buddy Short is back in NJ. After several years of rotating between NJ and Florida, Buddy has settled on NJ as Buddy and his wife would like to be near their family. Good move and welcome back...again. Buddy's drawback will be that he won't be able to defend his NJ Elder's Title as he has pitched already in the Florida State Championships.

The NJSHPA is celebrating its 80th year of being a sanctioned charter. The state had shirts printed up commemorating the anniversary. Also of note is the NJ Open that started in 1934 and is still being played today is the oldest tournament in NJ other than the State Championships. There was a 1933 NJ Open but it was not sanctioned.

On the NJSHPA website managed by Anne Marie Mac Intyre, there was a challenge offered. At Easter time she had Easter eggs placed in areas on certain pages. The first person to guess how many eggs wins a prize. This was to encourage members to read the website. There were 13 eggs and the winner was Pat O'Connor. Pat won a free entry to a tournament worth \$20 dollars.

The other challenge was to get members to pitch at other court sites other than their home courts. There are six sites to pitch at and Brenda De Mott pitched at all of them within a few weeks. Brenda won two traveling stainless steel coffee mugs. State President Harry De Mott would have accomplished the challenge also but at the first tournament was a doubles event. There was an odd number of player's so Harry, being the nice guy he is, chose to sit out and keep score.....wonder if Brenda will share with hubby.

NJ Regional Director Alex Lyszczasz reports that the Central Jersey League is in its 20th year of play and eleven plus years as a sanctioned league. The league pitches on Wednesday nights and it is doubles competition with 14 to 16 teams playing at the Edison Moose Lodge. Alex has been the director for those twenty years and also runs open tournaments there. The Edison courts have the best clay in the state which is a blue clay.

Ohio-Brian Fisher

First of all, good luck and safe travels to our pitchers that have made the choice of attending this year's world tournament. You will not regret it. I for one am really looking forward to this one, and it will be especially unique with our South African delegation that will be in attendance. The first ever international jukseki event will be fantastic.

The summer pitching is really starting to heat up. I myself will be pitching in three tournaments in June. So we should all pitch in as many as we can and support these local tournaments. And bring someone with you too. This is how we can grow our membership. Our membership will not grow on its own, we, the members have got to get involved.

Our Ohio HOF has always been in the Garst Museum in Greenville, but now we are losing our home. The museum is under different management and new leadership. We are seeking a new home located in the city park, which will be onsite where our state tournament is held. We feel this will be good for everyone at the state tournament and should entice more folks to enter. The reason I'm sharing this story is because having a state HOF is very important. If you're state does not have one, you should get one started. Also, it's important to have good relations with your local park board; I feel this will be a win-win for all parties. There are many shelter houses within the park, one of which already has our local Darke County Club's office. We would merely enclose more of the shelter house. Now the park board has to approve this option and we can get to work. I will keep you posted with this progress.

Southern Utah - Dennis Ohms

We have had a great spring with some new people winning championship first places. Gene Anfinson has been that new winner. Gene has only played a few years with us but of late his game has stepped up.

Never too old not to start pitching, Gene Hopkins, 96 years old, came up and said he needed a new thing to keep is life busy. His wife had to move to a rest home, so he wanted to pitch horseshoes as he had pitched when he was a kid over 30 years before. He is pitching in the St George Club League. Welcome Gene.

Speaking about horseshoe leagues, a Junior League is stating up in Cedar City at the end of May. It will only go for 3 weeks, in teaching some fundamentals. Browse our events at Utahhorseshoes.blogspot.com

Washington State - excerpt from *Shoes News, Volume 39, Issue #5, May 2014*

"I can Dream ... Can't I?" by Jerry Clark

Horseshoe pitchers everywhere, who are serious about the future of the game and what they can to promote it, have had a number of

CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

very good ideas throughout the years. I think one of the things that has hindered the popularity of the game is that it is not very spectator friendly. Think about it, the pitching courts are usually in rows, close together, which eliminates any seating or observation from the sides of the court, and out of respect to the pitchers, there are never any onlookers or distractions allowed at the ends of the court. The game simply can't be viewed very well from a distance, so the only people seeing very much are the competitors.

It seems to me, for the game to really "catch on" with the general public, it needs to be witnessed in person, or on television. That, I think, is the way that we will be able to perk the interest of the viewing public and give them the true appreciation of the talent and skill required of the participants. They will also witness how challenging it is to score points in a game of competitive horseshoes between two outstanding players.

All this being said, picture in your mind's eye the following: there are so many cable sports networks on the air today, all going 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which makes for a lot of air time to fill, much of which they currently fill with reruns. Suppose one of them offered the NHPA to put up the money to sponsor either an exhibition, or the men's or women's World Tournament Championship class competitions. Imagine the top pitchers in our sport going head to head with a gallery of spectators lining both sides of the court, watching along with a national television audition. Imagine the cameras catching every angle of the competition, even the flight of the shoes in slow motion, all the way to the stake. Imagine the body

language, and the pressure packed facial expressions, all caught on camera. The telecast could be interspersed with world class pitchers giving tips and demonstrations on how to pitch, as well as teaching the viewers the rules and etiquette of the game. The prize money could be very substantial and dispersed among all the competitors.

Like all sports, horseshoe pitching has its stars and superstars, and with the added pressure of the crowd and the spotlight, who knows, they may even miss a few more ringers, which would only add to the drama.

The exposure that something like this would bring to our game could be tremendous, and I'm sure the ripple effect would be felt all the way down to our local clubs. Television certainly had impacted other so called "minor" sporting and non-sporting events such as bowling, gymnastics, curling, hunting, even chess matches. Of course, the key to the whole idea is how television executives would envision horseshoe pitching and how well it would translate to our television screens. Would it be compelling enough to draw and entertain the viewing audience? If the answer to those questions is yes, horseshoe pitching could be in for a whole new rebirth of popularity such has not been seen in the game for decades.

Diana here ... we've got a huge number of people involved in our sport from all walks of life and professions. Maybe, just maybe, someone is in the broadcasting field and can take Jerry's idea and run with it. What a difference that could make!!!

FOUR DEAD *by Owen McAteer*

I just got back from a month long trip. This was the first message left on my phone. "Pappy died this morning. I know you were a good friend of his. And might not have known." My heart was heavy at those words, though I knew his end was coming on. Pappy's kind old heart was just too big, and his earthly giving was now all done.

"Four dead," was often heard in a tough tournament, just after those horseshoes hit. That meant no score, but you could expect no more, as all shoes were ringers on that last pitch

His shoes flew low and with high speed as they circled round that peg And few players could match him even when he was getting up in age

Pappy was the best horseshoe pitcher in the State, and the champion on those courts. He was just as good at darts, pool, ping pong, and just about any sports. He encouraged young and old, and taught as much skill as we could absorb. It changed the lives and attitudes of a lot of us, and we could ask for nothing more

"Four dead," was often heard in a tough tournament, just after those horseshoes hit. Pappy'd grin and called it "breakin even;" "still countin," as two of the ringers were his. His shoes flew low and with high speed as they circled round that peg. He coined the silent ones that didn't clang, what we call "sunday shoes" to this day.

Pappy was not my dad, that was just what he was called By hundreds of close friends that loved this big guy that gave so much to all. He was strong and tough yet kind and good, and ready to help, in any way he could. His example taught us sportsmanship with honor, that sort of made us all feel good.

Four dead, was heard today up at St Peters pearly gates on that I'd make a bet. As Pappy joined his wife Blanch, their young son John, and Blanch's brother Les. They were all good pitchers in their own right, and all were good as gold. Now Pappy's warmly joining them,, a sharp witted 88 year old.

Pappy was a hero in the Big War, shot down several times in France. He'd pick the daylights of of his old Martin guitar, didn't sing, but he could really dance. He was the best mechanic you could find, and he would help his friends for free. He never looked for trouble but could clean a bar of any bullies, that's only if need be

Four dead, was heard today up at St Peters pearly gates, on that I'd make a bet. As Pappy joined his "Cajun Queen," their young son John, and Blanch's brother Les. They too were all good pitchers in their own right, and all were good as gold. Now Pappy's more than "breakin even", as his life's score is totalled.

TOLL OF TIME

George Greeott
1910 – 2014

George Greeott left us only days before his 104th birthday. Far too soon for a man who epitomized the joyous enthusiasm of eternal youth.

George was a renaissance man whose intelligence, and passion, for learning, inspired work ethic, creative talents, and kindhearted spirit endeared him to all who were honored to know him.

George was born a mere five miles from my house on Alpine Road in Santa Rosa on April 30, 1910. His family ran a winery for many years until prohibition dried up the vino. George's father bought a ranch in 1928 in Healdsburg, a town just eight miles north of where he was born. George's siblings left the ranch, but George stayed and leased the ranch from his father in 1935. In 1950 George purchased the ranch from his father and began improving the irrigation, the slopes, and almost anything that would make the ranch less work. He became a forerunner of what are now called conservationists.

George and his wife had four children although none stayed on the ranch. George was fond of saying he belonged to the PGA, Prunes, Grapes and Apples, because that is what the ranch produced.

George became an excellent woodworker and made an assortment of things, most were decorative items. They are mostly stored in the Windsor Historical Museum for all to enjoy. His collection of antique bottles was something to behold also. George was so innovative that he kept everything and eventually found a use for it. He was also a welder of some renown. When he welded a broken shoe it would not break at his weld. He welded a few pair of my Ohio "Os", they lasted through many tournaments. Those shoes, when ground and painted, could not be recognized as welded shoes. He kept a selection of tools that he used on the ranch, and carved wooded replicas of each. The whole box in the picture took him 500 hours of work.

During the early 50's George rediscovered horseshoe pitching, a game he had enjoyed in childhood and would take to new heights as an adult, winning tournaments, breaking records, and becoming a highly respected champion. Always pursuing excellence, he invented a widely acclaimed horseshoe, the Greeott Grabber.

(Three pair were pitched at last years World Tournament, all were courtesy of George given to me from one of my visits to him; they were pitched by South Africans and Namibians.) In 1982, at the age of 72 he was inducted into the Northern California Hall of Fame. While some may have rested on their laurels, George did not; he continued to pitch horseshoes well into his 90's. He attended the 2002 World Tournament in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada becoming the oldest person in attendance. He became an instant celebrity when the news media held interviews with him.

George pitched primarily at the horseshoes club in Santa Rosa, but used to travel to each club in his prime. He did not move to short distance until he was 80, and then bragged that now he was going to pitch his age! I do not believe he ever attained that 80%, but it certainly was not for lack of trying. His biggest disappointment in his horseshoe career was not being crowned Sonoma County Champion. There were many good pitchers in this club in the years that George was pitching his best.

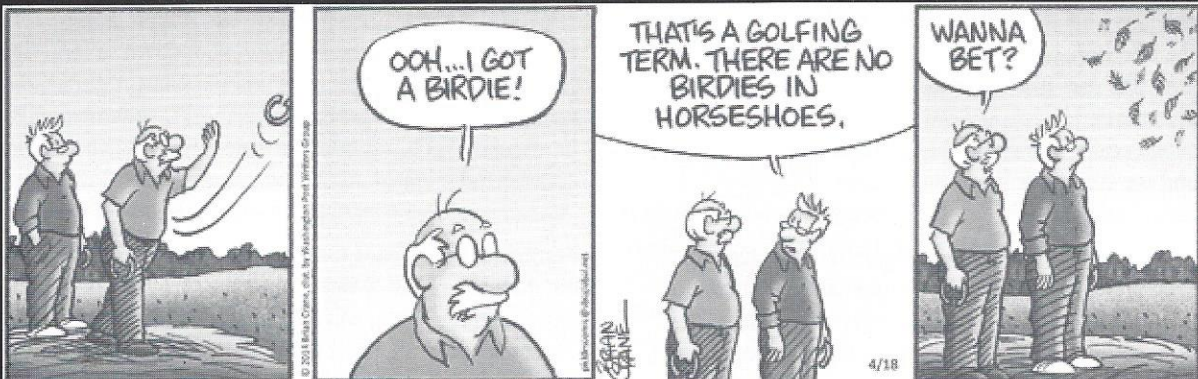
In horseshoes, George won and lost many games and was as gracious with a loss as he was a win. If you beat him he simply said, "you played better than I did." If you lost to him he'd say, "you pitched a good game, I got lucky." He had a positive word for anyone he met.

We held our George Greeott 104th Birthday Tournament in early April, but he always asked that we hold it closer to his actual birthday of the 30th. He attended his 103 birthday tournament and walked from the car to the gathering of people holding a cane in both his hands, saying, "The Dr. suggested I use a cane, so here it is." He would not use it as one would imagine, he simply carried it along. George stayed for about two hours watching and talking, had a piece of cake and went back to his ranch.

George is honored with a display called "horseshoes and art" in our National Hall of Fame in Wentzville, MO. He is also one of the \$500.00 donors and has his name on a plaque recognizing individuals who have achieved that status. He was a 50-year lifetime member of the NHPA

He lived a long fruitful life, but we in the Sonoma County Club will miss his kind and gentle manner.

Submitted by Casey Sluys



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WORLD TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE RAFFLE

World Tournament Experience Raffle

The 2014 World Tournament Experience Raffle (WTER) is in full swing across this great nation! The NHPA/NHPF deeply appreciates your efforts for the success of this project. This raffle will be for the 2015 World Tournament, held in Topeka, KS on July 13 – 25, 2015.

Our Purpose:

The WTER began as a way to raise funds for improvements and expansion of our electronic scoring equipment capabilities. The funds generated from this raffle allow us to continue to grow and expand our IT and equipment capabilities. This is a very worthwhile project, and proven successful.

Date of Drawing:

Saturday October 4, 2014 at the NHPA Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville, MO. Dave Sidles, NHPA 3rd Vice President, will conduct the drawing during the National Sanctioned League Tournament.

Need not be present to win.

The Grand Prize is:

Free entry into the World Tournament
One week free hotel (approximate \$700.00 value)
Free local **goodie package** (approximate \$450.00 value)
Merchandise from GRS (\$100.00 value)
Customized tournament shirt (\$50.00 value)
Free photo package from Bowdell Photography (\$15.00 value)
Free banquet tickets for two (\$60.00 value)
Total value over \$1500.00

Goodie Package Details:

All items listed are for 4 people, all values are approximate.

1. Topeka Civic Theater – ticket voucher for 4 (\$100)
<http://www.topekacivictheatre.com/>
2. Heartland Park tickets (\$50)
3. Fiesta Mexicana VIP package – Tostada, Taco & Enchilada plate (\$30)
4. Shawnee County parks and Recreation Extreme 4 pass (includes paddle boat rental at Shawnee lake, a carousel ride, a train ride at Gage Park, and a pool pass to any pool in Topeka!) (\$40)
5. Orange Leaf (\$25)
6. Golf package – Shawnee Lake Golf Course (\$110)
7. Skating pass (\$30)
8. Discovery Center (\$30)

WTER profits will be split equally between the NHPA and the NHPF.

Ticket Cost: \$5 each, or \$20 for 5 tickets

Grand Prize: WTE package worth over \$1,500

4 runner up prizes = World Tournament entry fee paid (all prizes are transferrable)

In addition to our sellers, the tickets will be available at the NHPF booth at the world tournament in Buffalo, and also by email and US mail.

To order, simply send a check to any ticket seller for whichever amount of tickets you wish to purchase.

Ticket sellers:

Jerry LaBrosse (MN), Bill Marvin (IL), Debby Michaud (MA), Larry Collette (KS), David Cyr (ME), Bob Hummell (OR), Charles Knotts (NM), Brian Poole (ID), Donna Bastel (MO), Ron Deckard (FL), Larry Collette/Mel Jeardoe (KS), Casey Sluys (CA), Chris Callihan (TX), Al Dodson, (LA), Lonna Green (NH), Phyl Quist (WA), Diana Ratliff (MD), Laura Ritchie (KY), Cindy Rose (OH), Pat Snelgrove (VA), JoAnn Stanford (TN), Ron Weiss (PA), Laura Johnson (MO), Karen Graham (NY), David Montgomery (OK), Ronnie Miller (GA), Dee McIntire (MO), and Dee Null (MO).

Thank you for your participation.

2015 WORLD TOURNAMENT



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