

The
Horseshoe Pitcher's
News Digest

Official Publication of

**THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

FEBRUARY, 1959

Vol. 3

No. 2

National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association

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MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

By HOWARD J. WHITE, *Membership Chairman*

A Membership Honor Roll will be printed in the "News Digest" each month listing the State Chapters and their State Secretaries who have the most outstanding membership record to date, thereby giving due credit to those on the Honor Roll and establishing a goal towards which the other State Chapters can work.

Here is the Membership Honor Roll as of January 15, 1959.

1958 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

INDIANA, Bob Pence, 175 members.
OHIO BUCKEYE, Sam Goodlander, 110 members.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Jim Weeks, 90 members.
ILLINOIS, Ellis Cobb, 79 members.

1959 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

INDIANA, Earle Wilmore, 61 members.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Jim Weeks, 33 members.
OHIO BUCKEYE, Sam Goodlander, 28 members.

PERCENTAGE OF 1958 MEMBERS RE-SIGNED

SOUTH DAKOTA, Leigh Dunker, 92.9%
ARIZONA, Chas. L. Carson, 90%
FLORIDA, R. B. Woodrow, 58.3%
IOWA HAWKEYE, Mrs. Charley Hopkins, 56.3%

MOST NEW MEMBERS

NORTH DAKOTA, Rudy Lykken, 16.
MONTANA-DAKOTA, Roger Barnaby, 9.
SOUTH DAKOTA, Leigh Dunker, 9.
OREGON, Bob West, 6.

ALONG THE MEMBERSHIP FRONT

New Mexico may soon have the newest N.H.P.A. state chapter. Parker Burns of Albuquerque reports enough horseshoe activity in his area to warrant such an organization and is busy rounding up recruits and getting courts built. He is a former Indiana player now living in New Mexico. He belonged to the well known Fall Creek Club of Indianapolis back in the Hoosier state.

Still to be heard from on the list of prospective new state chapters this year are North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. Latest word is that formation of the Tennessee Chapter is in actual progress.

LATE FLASH — Florida became the first state chapter to exceed its 1958 total with the recent list of members sent in by R. B. Woodrow, Florida State Secretary.

Earl Winston showed the films of the 1958 World Tournament in various Missouri cities the past month during a membership drive in that state.

PERSONAL COMMENT BY THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

The letter by Alfred O. Smith, Missouri State Secretary, in the January issue of the "Digest" was an excellent one for it was both thought provoking and constructive, and he quite accurately put his finger on one weakness of the N.H.P.A. — that of no official means of recognition of clubs or players below the state level.

One misconception contained in his letter is to be found in the question of N.H.P.A. members participating in unsanctioned tournaments. There is no clause in the constitution that prohibits a member from taking part in an unsanctioned tournament for such a clause would be unrealistic, unenforceable and make N.H.P.A. membership a liability instead of an asset in many cases.

N.H.P.A. members are free to compete in unsanctioned events such as those sponsored by local clubs, industrial leagues, recreation departments, fair boards, etc. The TV program, "Championship Horseshoes," was unsanctioned yet every participant was an N.H.P.A. member.

The preamble of our constitution states the purpose of the N.H.P.A. is to promote and develop the game and I believe that this means all members should support and participate in local activities even tho they are not 100% N.H.P.A. affiliated, unless, of course, such events are designed to destroy the effectiveness of the N.H.P.A.

Mr. Smith's point about players and associations below the state level should be studied and given serious consideration. We all know there are many players who have only a passing interest in the National and state picture and whose interest is confined chiefly to their local park, industrial or other setup. To them National dues, plus state dues, plus local dues may not be too much but they prefer to keep a larger portion in the local treasury, since they have only a limited interest in the over all structure.

Consequently I am convinced the N.H.P.A. would do well to consider a multiple membership plan.

I would suggest retaining the present combined state-national \$3.50 membership with each member receiving the "Digest" and his card entitling the holder to enter all sanctioned tournaments.

To this I would suggest adding alternative, less expensive, less comprehensive membership to attract the purely local players. This card could be of a different color and design and be available at a fee of approximately \$1.00. For this card the holder would be entitled to participate in sanctioned events BELOW the level of the state tournament, and would receive the annual report on the World Tournament plus that of his own particular state. He would NOT receive the "News Digest" and would not be eligible to play in sanctioned state tournaments, the World or National Tournament and specified open tournaments involving players from more than one state, such as the Mid West "Ringer Round Up", New England Open, Eastern National, etc.

"Certificates of Championship" would be issued to class winners in all sanctioned tournaments of both categories, and all would be entitled to use of the N.H.P.A. films on the same basis.

Such a plan would, I believe, attract a great many members we are unable to contact now and make them ripe for full and complete membership the following year. It would also enable the state associations to establish a closer relationship with various local clubs and do a better job of promoting the game in their own area, just as Mr. Smith suggested in his letter.

I realize such a plan would add to the work of both the state and National Secretary, but it would be worth the effort. Also I am aware that such a plan would have a different impact in some states than others. The deciding factor should be the overall result and not what it would do in Missouri, or Indiana, or California or Rhode Island or some other particular state.

Lack of space will probably prevent printing all comments in the "News Digest", but all will be welcomed, studied and taken into consideration. Any official action is of course up to the annual convention of the N.H.P.A. next summer.

BOB PENCE, National Secretary

In Memoriam

* * *

John A. Gordon

June 5, 1872

January 12, 1959

* * *

*"... and He led them out as far as to Bethany,
and while He blessed them He was parted
from them and carried up into heaven . . ."*

* * *

Once again the Creator has caused his hand to touch the arm of one of our fine members and supporters. The passing of John A. Gordon, owner of the Gordon Horseshoe Company, on January 12, 1959 comes as a great shock to his many friends and all those that associated with him. The funeral was held on January 14 and he was laid to rest at Sunnybrook Mausoleum in Long Beach, California. He is survived by his widow, Pat, and three daughters, one in Oregon and the other two in Long Beach, California.

Mr. Gordon was always a great contributor to the game, both physically and financially. He gave many a youngster a start with a pair of horseshoes and was always willing to give a fellow pitcher a boost when it was needed.

Mr. Gordon was one of the largest manufacturers of pitching horseshoes — The Gordon Horseshoe Company. He was the first to design a shoe with hooks to help hold shoes on the stake. He was instrumental in getting the N.H.P.A. stamp placed on shoes sold by all manufacturers.

We are all going to miss him, but he left behind a lot of pleasant memories that will never be forgotten by his many horseshoe friends.

The officers and members of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association and the staff of the News Digest extend to the bereaved family their most heartfelt sympathy.

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES ON HORSESHOE ACTIVITIES

By *ELMER O. BELLER* — *1st Vice Pres., N.H.P.A.*

I am sorry I was unable to report, promptly, the passing of Mr. John Gordon. I lived rather closely to Mr. & Mrs. Gordon and kept very close touch. She kept me pretty well informed. Due to a stroke she had a few days prior to his death, she was unable to contact me. I have called on her a few times since at the hospital. She has entirely lost use of her voice. Elsewhere in this issue, Pres. Archie Gregson, will give you more on Mr. Gordon.

* * *

The Baldwin Park Club, the most lively club in Southern California at this time, put on a good Open tournament on their own with help from the fine local Recreation Dept. in their area. Baldwin Park has many members in N.H.P.A. This tourney will likely appear in detail in the "News Digest". But I would like to mention a few points of interest. It was a 12 man affair with Jim Weeks coming thru without a loss. It was no walk away for him. His heaviest competition was Dale Dixon and Louis Dean. We are quite honored to have Dale, the Iowa State champion, spending a few weeks with us here in sunny southern Calif. I tried to talk him into staying the rest of the winter, but he, with his charming wife, were anxious to get on the road and make it to Florida to take in their winter matches down there. Dale came thru' with only one loss in the finals. However, in the semi-s he dropped a game to L. Dean and one to Ned Shaver, the upcoming Baldwin Park pitcher. So several were able to get a small pinch of victory from the affair.

Fernando Isais, World Champion, arrived to see finals of this match. Fernando looks in good trim and says he is coming out to take part in some of our local matches. We know this would help our Southern California Association immensely. People enjoy seeing a World Champ in action.

We have a program of 23 tournaments scheduled for the season. Mr. Weeks, S. California N.H.P.A., secretary, tells me he has already received sanctions for all these from National Secretary, Bob Pence. We should be set for a fine season in 1959.

* * *

I would like to give a few opinions, as I see it, in response to Mr. Alfred O. Smith — New secretary-treasurer of Missouri State N.H.P.A. I agree with Mr. Smith wholeheartedly, that we need to build up as strong a local club as possible, hold inter club play and contests between clubs if possible in various locales. Perhaps he has received some information from N.H.P.A. officials or will thru' the pages to clarify some questions he presented in last issue. The N.H.P.A. does not bar its members from pitching in unsanctioned meets. However, we like to encourage sanctioned meets, especially meets that are considered tournaments of importance. But keep this in mind tho': if you receive an official sanction from the National secretary of N.H.P.A., and are putting on a tournament under this sanction, then all pitchers that pitch in said tourney, must be members of N.H.P.A. You will note on your sanction this is plainly stated. Don't confuse the issue — that members can pitch in unsanctioned meets, but non-members cannot pitch in sanctioned matches. There are always a great number of pitchers that do not care to join the Association. This is their privilege. By good will and friendliness in joining in games with them we will eventually add members to our Association. Make use of these contacts to explain advantages of our organization.

Real top pitchers are few and far between. The vast potential members are those that just like to compete in a sport they enjoy. These we need in the organization for their own good and ours. We find here in California, that if we put on a good sanctioned tournament for any class of pitchers, many onlookers come to see them. They come to see them because they are interested in horseshoes. From these we get new members when they see the fun enjoyed at these matches.

The N.H.P.A. does not eliminate or discourage organizations below the State level. Rather it should encourage them. It might be well to explore the advisability of doing more along this line as Mr. Smith suggests. In the 1950 edition of N.H.P.A. constitution there was some space devoted to setting up leagues play and inter-State play in some detail. In this last edition of constitution it was decided to drop this and leave it more up to wishes of the locals. This in no way should discourage such play. This we need.

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COLUMBUS 21, OHIO

Fred Brust, "Founding Father"

Fred M. Brust of Columbus, Ohio may not be a familiar name to the present crop of horseshoe pitchers, but he should be for he is one of the "Founding Fathers" of the N.H.P.A., the pioneer in the manufacture of pitching shoes, and a former World Champion.

His name will be in record books forever because of winning the World Championship, but more important he was closely identified with the forming of the N.H.P.A. and he was the first to manufacture horseshoes for the purpose of playing the game.

Born in Columbus 75 years ago, Mr. Brust became an expert player at an early age. He went to Florida for his health in 1917 and when the World Tournament was held at the Sunshine Club in St. Petersburg in 1919 he won the title with a record of 53 wins and one loss. Runner up in this tournament was Dr. Frank Robinson of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. and Hughey Palmer of Akron, Ohio took third.

At this time the National League of Horseshoe and Quoit Pitchers was formed with Mr. Brust as one of the officers. The following year the name was changed to the present National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America. Officers of this association included Harry Haynes of Akron, Ohio, President; E. C. Beach, St. Petersburg, Secretary; J. I. Ward, St. Petersburg, Treasurer; and Vice Presidents, Mr. Brust, Dr. Robinson, L. J. Byers of Coldwater, Mich.; Joseph Buckert, Binford, N. Dak.; and W. W. Henry of St. Petersburg.

Returning to Columbus Mr. Brust formed the Ohio Horseshoe Co. in 1921 and began the manufacture of shoes. During the following years he was closely connected with the N.H.P.A. and the growth and development of the game. He sold the Ohio Horseshoe Co. to Claude Benedict five years ago and later the present owner, Joe King took charge.

At the present time Mr. Brust is as active as his health will permit. He has taken up wood carving as a hobby and just as he did in horseshoe he has become an expert in his new field, for he serves as an instructor in wood carving once a week at the Senior Citizens Recreation Center.

The N.H.P.A. and the game of horseshoe owes much to Mr. Brust and should be ever grateful for work and efforts in the past.

CANTON, ILLINOIS, FALL FESTIVAL TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

By TRUMAN STANDARD

CLASS "A"

| | W | L | % |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| G. Anderson, Orion, Ill. | 7 | 2 | 71.6 |
| A. Dugle, Chicago, Ill. | 7 | 2 | 75.5 |
| B. Nielson, Dugger, Ind. | 5 | 4 | 70.0 |
| T. Standard, Canton, Ill. | 5 | 4 | 67.9 |
| D. Dixon, Des Moines, Iowa | 5 | 4 | 68.9 |
| G. Farnsworth, Potomac, Ill. | 4 | 5 | 70.7 |
| J. Lindmeier, Broadview, Ill. | 4 | 5 | 68.9 |
| F. Palka, Chicago, Ill. | 4 | 5 | 65.3 |
| G. Lawver, Canton, Ill. | 2 | 7 | 67.1 |
| R. Doogan, Willow Springs, Ill. | 2 | 7 | 58.6 |

Anderson defeated Dugle in a play-off for the championship.

CLASS "B"

| | W | L |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| H. Tooley, Valley City, Ill. | 4 | 1 |
| N. Vogel, Manito, Ill. | 4 | 1 |
| F. Hart, Jacksonville, Ill. | 4 | 1 |
| I. Eilers, Chandlerville, Ill. | 2 | 3 |
| V. Grager, Graymont, Ill. | 1 | 4 |
| W. Horner, Farmersburg, Ind. | 0 | 5 |

HOW TO GET A WORLD'S TOURNAMENT AND CONVENTION PROMOTED IN YOUR AREA

By *TED ALLEN, Former World's Champion*

To do it successfully may be easier or harder than you thought, depending upon whether you know where to begin. But it will take a lot of drive and desire to make it a good one.

"Successful" means in relation to the good the community gets out of it, also not losing money, and the most satisfying feeling that it was a wonderful event in the eyes of the locality and the players. It gives your soul a great lift to know that. The word does not necessarily mean that someone makes a lot of money from it. It is hard to say who would get the most benefit. It is for certain that the promoters or contact men, the responsible persons who would gain prestige and friends.

It has always been my belief that assuredly a \$10,000 tourney would have a better chance for success than a \$5,000, in all respects. Financially so, especially in specific areas of the U. S. My guess is that with \$10,000 for about four men's classes and a ladies' class you would draw three times as many entries as a \$5,000 for two classes and a ladies', especially if held anywhere east of the Rockies to the Hudson River, where you would have better access to the largest N.H.P.A. membership, particularly Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. It is likely that those states west of the Rockies and east of the Hudson could also more than double the contestants and wives. \$10,000, alone, with only two classes could not triple the number, but with more classes it could. And if a \$5,000 purse causes players to spend more than \$10,000 in the community (they figure that), then it is readily seen what the bigger purse will do.

Entry Fees, \$10.00.

Amounting from \$3,000 to \$3,500 (my estimate) some of the qualifiers would want to try again for the 2nd time at an extra \$10.00, now permissible under the present rules.

Gate Admission Charge

It would be to the judgment and the efforts of local to arrange it with the owners of the courts if it could be done. But I would advise that costs be cut to nothing or as low as possible. The amount of charge to see the tourney would take shrewd understanding of what is best and it would be wise to consider all possibilities first, because there will not be any second guess. At Moline, Ill., 1935, the gate receipts would have been good, except that it rained all of the best times when the public could have time to be there, on weekends. In spite of steady rain the tourney had to continue. Nowadays the tourney should be played under lights, all there is time for. The rest to be in the daylight, if you want to get the most people to see it.

Refreshment sales

Most players are athletes, or of a sort. Take care in selection of the items for sale for spectators and players. The latter do not like too much carbonated water. They like ice cream, milk, plain orange, and other delightful drinks.

Other details with the N.H.P.A. to be worked out.

CLINTON CO., INDIANA NEW YEAR'S DAY INDOOR TOURNEY

Fay Emery of Mulberry won the annual New Year's Day Indoor Tournament held by the Clinton County Association at Frankfort, Indiana. His record was 5 wins and no losses. Carl Atwell finished second with a 4-1 record, followed by Hubert Dick 3-2, Morris Briney 1-4, Kenneth Achors 1-4 and Sam Barker 1-4.

Al Quebe made a clean sweep in Class B followed by Elvin Cast and John Shuck, each with 4-2 marks. Earl Dick and Everett Unroe posted 3-3 marks in Class B and Ed Toney had 1-5 and Sam Barker 0-6.

Class C results were Joe Cannon 5-0, Ike Atwell 3-2, Bob Dilsworth 3-2, Jim Atwell 2-3, Dewey Lamberson 2-3 and Dale Woods 0-5.

. . . "TOP THIS ONE" . . .

By FRANK COTTON, Decatur, Illinois

Here's one for "Top this one." It happened at Frankfort, Indiana in the "Ringer Roundup" July 6 and 7, 1957.

In Class C which had six contestants there was a five way tie for first place after all shots had been fired.

| | Won | Lost |
|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Floyd Fowler | 3 | 2 |
| Leslie Long | 3 | 2 |
| Walt Horner | 3 | 2 |
| Marvin Craig | 3 | 2 |
| Paul Van Sickle | 3 | 2 |
| George McKinney | 0 | 5 |

The tied players agreed to use their ringer percentages to decide first place. they are completed.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION'S 1959 CALENDAR

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Feb. 28 & Mar. 1 | California Winter Open at Long Beach. |
| March 22 | Class A Open at Long Beach. |
| April 5 | Class D. Open at Harvard. |
| April 19 | Class E Open at Baldwin Park. |
| May 3 | Class B Open at Ontario. |
| May 17 | Class C Open at South Gate. |
| May 24 | Class A added at Baldwin Park. |
| June 7 | Class B added at Long Beach. |
| June 14 | Class C added at Ontario. |
| June 28 | Class D added at South Gate. |
| July 5 | Semana Nautica Open at Santa Barbara. |
| July 12 | Special Class A at Ontario. |
| August 2 | Amateur at Baldwin Park. |
| August 8 | Class E added at Harvard. |
| August 16 | South Gate Open at South Gate. |
| August 22 | 60 years and over at Long Beach. |
| September 13 | Championship Class E at Harvard. |
| September 20 | Championship Class D at South Gate. |
| September 27 | Championship Class C at Long Beach. |
| October 3 & 4 | Victorville Open at Victorville. |
| October 11 | Championship Class B at Baldwin Park. |
| October 18 | Championship Class A at South Gate. |

IDAHO STATE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Veteran pitcher E. J. Wiley annexed the Idaho State title again in the tourney played at Nampa last fall. Jim Kosterman was the runner up.

The meet was staged by the Nampa City Recreation Department with the Idaho Division of the N.H.P.A. assisting. Poor condition of the courts made ringer averages unusually low.

The 1959 Idaho State Tournament will be held in Pocatello. During the 1958 season the Idaho Association used a new handicap system in league play, but voted to go back to the handicap system devised by Art Lienes of Washington for next year's competition.

Results of the 1958 State meet

CLASS A

1. E. J. Wiley, Nampa
2. Jim Kosterman, Boise

CLASS B

1. Harold Holste, Emmett
2. Archie Boynton, Emmett

CLASS C

1. Harvey Hampton, Boise
2. Fred Anderson, Boise

CLASS D

1. Lynn Dennis, Nampa
2. Willis Norton, Pocatello



“From Out Of
The Mail Bag”

Horseshoe Pitcher's News Digest
1307 Solfisburg Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

January 6, 1959

Dear Mr. Cobb:

I would like to show my gratitude and appreciation to the publishers of the "Horseshoe Pitchers' News Digest". I have sincerely enjoyed receiving it each month and I think that the News Digest committee should be highly commended for the success of the magazine.

The people here in Murray were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Mr. Sibenaler and the tragic death of Mr. Anderson, two of our most loved players and associates. They will be greatly missed in our future tournaments.

I am happy to say that I spent a most enjoyable holiday vacation in Colorado where I visited with Miss Gertsie Lou Selby, former ladies' world champion. I also stayed at the home of Marlene Russell daughter of Harry Russell who has attended the world tournament here in Murray.

I am looking forward to seeing all of the horseshoe pitchers when they return for the next world's tournament.

Sincerely yours,

Janean Hilton
Murray, Utah

* * *

Mr. F. Ellis Cobb: Editor
1307 Solfisburg Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

December 30, 1958

Dear Mr. Cobb:

This article is being written to a grand sportsman as well as a fine gentleman, the name is Willie Paradis, who hails from Bristol, Conn. and the father of two girls and one boy. Mr. Paradis, Connecticut's new state horseshoe champion, was the most improved pitcher for Conn. players, who only last year, (1957) finished 4th place, class B in the annual State Tournament. I remember Willie saying to me after I was fortunate of winning the class B honor that his big ambition was to win the state's horseshoe title. Willie devoted more time to practice and to concentrate on the art of increasing his ringer percentage.

In 1958, Paradis participated in 7 tournaments, his efforts and hard work paid off, here are the results, (these are all for 1st places). Conn. state championship, class A; Eastern States, Mass. class A; (had 2nd highest qualifying score of 120 for 50 shoes, 121 being the highest.) Conn. Closed, class A; Rossetel Open, N. J. class B. His season's ringer average was close to 60%, an increase of nearly 20%.

Besides Willie Paradis horseshoe pitching ability, he is also a fine pool player, winning the city title, (Bristol) for the 7th time. Before coming to Connecticut, Willie is a top notch ski jumper while in Maine. His best jump was 180 feet!!! So again, I take great pride in this great champion and all around athlete and the Conn. Horseshoe Pitchers' Association are proud to have you as our new champion.

Sincerely,

Mickey Vecchitto
Middletown, Conn.

MONTANA-DAKOTA, NEW N. H. P. A. CHAPTER

The N.H.P.A. has a brand new Chapter to be known as the Montana-Dakota Division. Hub of the new unit is the Wibaux County Association located in the extreme eastern end of Montana which draws some players from nearby North and South Dakota. The Dakota players are located too far from the center of the centers of activity in their respective states, hence the new type designation.

The Secretary of the new chapter will be Roger Barnaby, Box 111, Wibaux, Montana. The Wibaux County group was quite active in 1958, the players being divided into two singles leagues known as the Beaver League and the Gopher League respectively. D. C. Lawrence won the title in the Beaver group and Bob Baird the Gopher League title.

At the close of the season a double elimination tourney was held with the following results: First, Dick Bushman; Second, D. C. Lawrence; Third, Victor German; Fourth, Bob Baird.

Charter members of the Montana-Dakota Chapter include Roger Barnaby, R. C. Thrans (Secretary-Treasurer of the Wibaux Club), D. C. Lawrence, Richard Bushman, B. L. Sherman, Robert Baird, Victor German, Jacob German, all of Wibaux, Montana and Anton Kubik of North Dakota, Roy Berg, Terry, Montana; Ira Jensen, McCabe, Montana; Otto Hansen and Herman Jensen of Culbertson, Montana.

NOTICE TO NEBRASKA MEMBERS

Wayne Enyeart, 640 South Walnut Street, Kimball, Nebraska, has been appointed temporary State Secretary of the Nebraska Association according to Sid Harris, President of the Nebraska pitchers.

A vacancy has existed because of the death of Lou Siebenaler who was elected Secretary to succeed K. C. Yohe last fall. The appointment of Mr. Enyeart is logical because the Nebraska State Tournament is scheduled to be held by the Panhandle Club in Kimball next fall.

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES OF TIME

By ALVIN DAHLENE, *Former Kansas State Champion*

While I am pecking out this story here in the midwest with a snow staring me in the face — probably some of my horseshoe brothers are flinging them at the stake in Southern California and Florida. It will be many weeks ere I toss a shoe here. This is a time of year to reminisce about pitching anyway — so here goes, back to yesteryear.

Back in 1933 when some of our younger stars were yet unborn, I had the pleasure of attending the World's Fair Tournament in Chicago, and seeing Ted Allen defeat C. C. Davis, the very fine pitcher from Kansas City, Missouri. It was Ted's first crack at the World title — but only the beginning of a great career that since, seems to have no ending. In fact since 1933 — 25 long years, the game has been dominated by two very great pitchers — Ted Allen and Fernando Isais. Allen is the world's greatest exponent of the one and one quarter turn — while Isais probably is the finest one and three quarter turn pitcher ever to step on a clay court. This court domination has been interrupted only once — in 1954 when a very fine pitcher, Guy Zimmerman from California stepped in to take the title in great pitching style. Casey Jones of Waukesha, Wisconsin has been a bridesmaid but never a bride. It was in 1948 that Casey had his great chance to defeat the superb Isais when he was leading 49 to 40 and needed one big point to annex the world title. But it was not to be as the California hot shot put on twelve consecutive doubles to win — remember that folks — it was under the lights at the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds.

I have had the pleasure of watching many great pitchers and will list them in the order of greatness (as I see them). Isais — Allen — Frank Jackson — Guy Zimmerman — Casey Jones and C. C. Davis. There are other greats but these stand out in my memory. Every one but Casey Jones won the title at least once. They all had something in common — a beautiful, rhythmic delivery and great competitive spirit.

Allen is the mechanical man among the group — no lost motion — just walks up to the stake, sights thru the shoe and lets her fly and there is another double staring at you. Isais is the methodical type of pitcher with the beautiful form delivery, probably the greatest stylist of them all. Frank Jackson was strong as a bull — just stood in his tracks and never moved a thing but his stout arm. He was great. Zimmerman — ah, here is the fellow with the beautiful rocking chair motion and could he manufacture ringers (I have faced him). Casey Jones, the Wisconsin ace, had the most unusual delivery in that his forward swing almost hit the concrete before he finally let loose of it in its flight toward the peg. Casey was capable of some of the "hottest streaks" in the game of shoes. C. C. Davis, the marvel from Missouri, was another rocking chair type pitcher with uncanny ability to hit the peg.

Now back to Allen and Isais — is there any pitcher on the horizon capable of breaking up this lethal duo? *That is the 64 dollar question.* There are some young men capable — such as Clive Wahlina and Don Titcomb. Twice Titcomb has had in his grasp only to finally get edged out. Maybe the young sensation from Missouri, David Baker can someday turn the trick. He is plenty good but must improve to a vast degree yet. Just what do Isais and Ted Allen have that sets them apart from the rest. Of course there is undoubtedly great native ability — a quality you can't beat. But along with great coordination they have fine physical strength. I would say that is then one great ASSET in a long grind of the tourney.

In closing I might say that because they dominated the game so long, it must be their *stamina*. Both of these men could have become great weight lifters in the bar-bell world with proper training. They have the stuff to do it. Ted is the chunky built man somewhat like the old Smithy under the chestnut tree — while Isais has the height and long muscles that he uses to great advantage. I doubt I will ever see in my time 2 *men* who can again dominate the game as they have. What do you think, young fellow?

NEWS AND NOTES OF HORSESHOE FOLKS

Mr. and Mrs. Arner Lindquist of Morgantown, West Virginia announce the marriage of their daughter Elna to Mr. John Eichenmuller of Morgantown. The marriage took place October 11, 1958 in the St. Paul's Lutheran church in Morgantown. It will be remembered that Elna participated in the World's Ladies' Tournament at Murray, Utah, in 1953 and 1954. We extend our best wishes to the happy couple.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HORSESHOE FOLKS

February was a rough month on the wives of N.H.P.A. officers. The wife of Bob Pence, the National Secretary, sustained a broken arm when she fell on an icy sidewalk, and Katie Gregson, wife of President Archie Gregson, cracked three ribs when the jeep she was driving skidded on an icy curve. Young Don Gregson, also a passenger, was uninjured and there was only \$7.00 damage done to the jeep.

Secretary Bob Pence asks that those who have correspondence with him overlook the tardiness of his replies while he is tied down by the unaccustomed role of "chief cook and bottle washer".

* * *

Archie and Katie Gregson are the proud grandparents of a new grandson born January 11th. He weighed in at 9 lbs. and 9 oz.

* * *

Tentative dates for the 1959 World's Tournament are July 22 to 29 inclusive, at Murray, Utah.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS

The January meeting of the Northern California Division of the N.H.P.A. elected new officers to succeed Earl Davis and Czar Marceovich who have guided the organization during the past three years. Czar will continue in his post as a Regional Director of the N.H.P.A.

The incoming president is a relative newcomer, Ed McConnell of the Arroya Viejo Club of East Oakland.

Carl Moskalik, 637 Taylor Street, P. O. Box 671, Sunnysvale, California, is the new Secretary-Treasurer. Carl is one of the game's young players who have come to forefront recently. He will be remembered by many for his excellent showing in Class B at the World Tournament in Murray last summer and for his work as a judge in the World Championship Tournament of 1959.

The Northern California Association held its annual Christmas Party in December and it was attended by 128 people. Films of the World Tournament were shown.

FLORIDA SUNCOAST OPEN TOURNAMENT, MARCH 2-3

A brand new tournament will get under way on Monday and Tuesday, March 2 and 3, on the Bradenton Trailer Park courts in Bradenton, Florida. This new event will be under the supervision of Ray Middleton, and will be known as the Florida Suncoast Open Tournament.

Qualifying will begin on Sunday, March 1 and close promptly at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2. Each entrant will have the privilege of pitching 2 sets of 50 shoes, taking his best 50 for his qualifying score. Entry fee will be \$1.00. The tournament will be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A. Appropriate trophies will be awarded the 3 top men of each class. An incentive award of \$5.00 will be given to the pitcher making the highest qualifying score.

Three classes of 8 players each will make up the round robin. Class B and C will begin play promptly at 1:00 p.m., March 2, while Class A pitchers will start play on Tuesday, March 3 at 1:00 p.m.

All pitchers from Florida and from out of state, are cordially invited to participate in this event. It is hoped that it will become an annual affair. If you are planning a winter vacation in Florida, include a few days to pitch in the Florida Suncoast Open tournament at Bradenton.

TO HOLD FLORIDA STATE OPEN TOURNAMENT, FEBRUARY 26-28

While the wintry blasts are ravaging through the northern half of our horseshoe pitching vineyards, why not enjoy a winter vacation under that warm Florida sun? Keep that pitching arm in shape by attending the annual Florida State Open tournament at St. Petersburg, to be held February 26 thru the 28th. Qualifying will start earlier in the week closing on February 26th. There will be two classes, A and B. Class B will start playing on February 27th with Class A pitchers following on Saturday, February 28th.

TITCOMB PENS AN OPEN LETTER

Occasionally mankind pauses in his journey and asks himself a few questions as to where he's going and how will he get there. It's at this point he finds out how much of a man he really is. He could say it is an easy path and I'll follow it, or he could realize that the path leads back to where he started and change his direction, even though it leads up-hill.

That is what I'm doing right now and that is where this fine game of horseshoes is today, at the CROSSROADS. I look back and remember my first introduction to the sport on my dad's florist grounds, where we would pitch together, not often enough for he worked seven days a week. But it did give me something that I needed, a sport that depended on how much I wanted to give, how much I wanted to learn. It was a good lesson and it is still a basic truth that we all follow.

When I look back on this last year and the years previous, I begin to wonder, and say to myself, have I given enough? People like the Stokes family, the Gregsons, the Chapelles, Elmer Beller, Bob Pence and Ellis Cobb. So many that have worked in their local areas just as hard and just as devoted as Davis, White, Standard, Marcevich and many more. But I am talking about our National game in an overall view. I wonder how many are going along for the ride? How many show up at tournaments, then disappear? What percentage of players attend meetings? How many people are quick to criticize what someone else has spent hours putting together? Today this game is stronger than it has ever been before, mainly because someone has sacrificed his time to help the sport along. How much further ahead do you think we would be if two would push the wagon instead of one, if twenty would push instead of five. If we would all push instead of those that are. You say it takes too much time? From what, television, nap time, bowling, golf, reading cowboy stories or murder mysteries? No, it doesn't take any more time than you are spending now, it just means helping those that are trying to help you. I have always found that when I had to do something, I found the time and also that it was not all work but enjoyed it if I found that others could share the same. It might be that my efforts at writing will be just like some of my games, not quite enough, but I am going to try and help put this game where it belongs, side by side with the other sports that have progressed because somebody cared. I know that I've yet to contribute the amount that others have. To name a few from a list that is very long, Zimmerman, Clear, Herrick, Gordon and Allen. I wonder if during 1959 we might all admit to ourselves, that to give is to receive, and unless we help while we have something solid to work with, we are going to end up receiving a big package of nothing. I hope that it never comes to pass.

YERNBERG, MINNESOTA CHAMP, WINS DEDICATION MATCH

By GENE ALEXANDER

John A. Yernberg of St. Paul, Minnesota State Champion, defeated Ralph G. Lundberg of Minneapolis twice, 50-32 and 50-42, as two indoor horseshoe courts were dedicated in Minneapolis Saturday, January 24th. The courts were constructed at 2201 East Lake Street by Charles Peeke, a horseshoe team sponsor in the Minneapolis park board league. Lundberg had won a playoff amongst four Minneapolis major league players for the right to meet champ Yernberg. Frank Stinson, former state champion and World's tournament player, had defeated Henry Filzen 50-41 in his opening match. Stinson lost to Lundberg in the semi-finals. Lundberg beat Art Holter, a new pitcher who has only been throwing for three years, in his opener. Holter, a right-hander, throws off on his right foot.

Bernie (Ben) Trollen, Minnesota National secretary and also state president, spoke and urged Minnesotans to get behind the National H. P. A.

GARFIELD PARK CLUB SEEKS TEAM MATCHES

The Garfield Park Club of Chicago would like to book games with any horseshoe team of six players or more. Garfield Park has just recently opened three new indoor courts. Write Arthur Dugle, 168 West North Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois.



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