



The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association



NEWSLINE

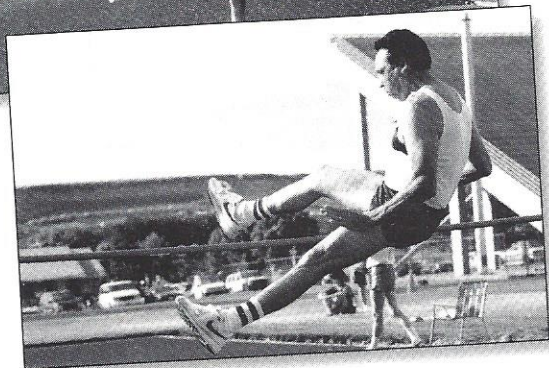
VOL. 9 NO. 4

JULY / AUGUST 1997



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ON OUR COVER

Current, past and hopeful winners.

President's Message

As you read in the last *Newsline* issue, Morgantown was forced to withdraw their bid for the 1998 World Tournament. We immediately began to contact other potential sites that had previously inquired or had hosted prior World Tournaments. After a month or so of many phone calls and exchanges of fax messages, three replacement bids were received for 1998. They were Charleston, WV, Albuquerque, NM and Ainsworth, NE. The Executive Council reviewed each bid and unanimously selected Ainsworth to host the 1998 World Tournament.

Ainsworth hosted the 1986 World Tournament. They have permanent outdoor courts and will provide at least 16 additional portable courts. They are in a nice park with RV parking and camping adjacent. A drawback is that Ainsworth has only about 125 motel rooms. However, as they did in 1986, the townsfolk will open their homes to provide spare bedrooms and bath and RV parking. Additional motels will be found in other towns 8-50 miles distance.

Every bid has drawbacks. Many times the people bidding have little or no knowledge of what is needed to host a World Tournament. The bidding authority often puts more emphasis on getting 1200+ entrants and families into their city to spend their dollars on food, lodging and entertainment than providing adequate tournament facilities. Sometimes the proposed pitching facilities are very good, but more often than not, if they are indoors, the city expects the NHPA to pay perhaps as much as \$2,000 per day for the use.

Charleston offered an indoor facility just large enough to squeeze 42 courts. They wanted \$1,200 per day rental plus paying the hourly wage of union help they had to have on the premises. They offered no cash bid, no trophies, no courts or fees toward NHPA courts and limited RV parking on black-top. The Albuquerque bid was to set up NHPA courts without

charge on their fairgrounds which would cost us \$23,000, a portion or all of which would be refunded, depending upon the number of higher end motel/hotel room nights sold to horseshoe pitchers. Only \$1,000 was offered toward trophies and awards. Ainsworth met the \$15,000 minimum bid plus trophies, has an RV parking area and is a nice little town that truly wants what the NHPA can bring to their community.

1999 is also without a bidding site for the World. The Executive Council has made contact with 3-4 potential sites. Two have already been visited by Council members. We expect to make a decision on the 1999 site by September.

The present method of selecting a World Tournament site by delegate vote in convention needs to be evaluated and in my mind changed. Too often we receive marginal bids from city authorities who cannot or will not provide the facilities and financial support we need. Delegates are often misled by pictures and promises of a bidder representative who has no authority to actually sign a contract. The signers are more and more often, the legal authority of the city who, until later, knows nothing of the bid and isn't about to give anything away. At times, it is almost impossible for me to negotiate a contract to include not only the NHPA tournament requirements, but the promises the delegates were led to believe would be included.

It would be far better to let the NHPA solicit and select the World Tournament site. We know what the tournament needs, what the entrants want, what the RV'ers want. Many delegates tend to vote for a site closest to home or where they want to go on vacation. That is not the way to determine the best site for a World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. Put the decision in the hands of the Executive Council who knows what is needed and what is expected. This will be a topic at the business meeting in Kitchener.

Dave's Court Report

■ After a few years of inactive NHPA participation, Northern Nevada has reformed a club that is up and running strong. Six sanctioned tournaments are on the schedule with a Grand Finale September 13-14. Under the guidance of President Jim Callon, three other officers and three directors, the club now has 24 members from Northern Nevada. They play on 26 courts located at Evans Park adjacent to the University of Nevada in Reno. This is a great place to visit for fun and horseshoe pitching. If you plan to be in the area, give Jim a call at 702-359-8840.

■ Kitchener drew 1740 W.T. entries. Canada was high with 415. From the States, New York led with 156 entries followed by Ohio 138, Michigan 101, Wisconsin 81, Pennsylvania 78 and Missouri 73. We have 8 entrants from Japan and 1 from Norway. A total of 46 states are represented.

■ The Bismarck HC of North Dakota was last year able to construct a canopy over 8 of their new 24 court complex. 8 more courts are planned to be covered this year and 8 next year. Presently, there are 3 locations in the state with covered courts. Mayville has 6 covered courts, Fargo 18 and Bismarck

8. Through the efforts of Harvey Steen of the Glenburn and Minot clubs, 8 new courts have been built at the Minot Moose Lodge complete with shelters over the pits and blue clay installed.

■ The Baltimore Metro HC put on a free horseshoe pitching clinic on April 19-20 at the club courts in Essex. The clinic covered the various methods of pitching, court layout, etiquette and scoring. Food and beverages were provided, as well as some complimentary copies of back *Newsline* issues.

■ Congratulations to Jim Solomon of PA and Bob Champion of CO. Both will be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame in Kitchener. Congratulations also to the following who will receive 1997 awards: Don Weaver of NW will receive the Stokes Memorial Award, Duane Goodrich of KS the Presidential Award, and Achievement Awards to Terry Sears of IN, the Beloit, WI Horseshoe Club and Horseshoe Ontario.

■ A total of \$128,600 in cash is scheduled to be awarded at Kitchener. \$47,000 will be split among seven Championship Divisions and \$81,600 to individual classes.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After a lifetime of high average bowling, I discovered 4 years ago, at the age of 60, this no-doctored lanes, very little luck, high skill requirement game of horseshoes. I became enthralled, tried the flip and turn shoes, managed to get to 42% and am still working to get better. I present these facts to make it apparent that I've studied and worked at the sport to gain a high proficiency and therefore success. In the process, it has become apparent to me that there is a glitch or imperfection in our game. That being the shorter shot of the 30 footer.

If you stand to the side, 50 feet or so away from two pitchers in a mixed distance match, you will notice a distinct difference in the trajectory of the shoes in flight. The shoe of the 30' pitcher may reach a height of 6 feet, though most throw straight at the stake with little or no trajectory. The 40' pitcher however, has to have between 6-10 feet of trajectory to be successful. Add to this two other factors, direction & open shoe, and what do you have? One of these two groups of pitchers is able to avoid one important part of the complexity of the game.

In bowling there are 3 factors in the shot. Speed, turn and angle of entry into the pocket. In horseshoes, it's trajectory, direction and open shoe. I would submit that the solution to our 30'-40' problem would be to add the missing trajectory component to the short distance game. You do this by backing up the 30 footer 3-5 feet, causing them to pitch the shoe as is intended by the very terminology of "pitchin' shoes."

Let's take the "throw" out of the game and put the "pitch" into it for all players, thereby reestablishing the integrity of the game.

Ron Lingard, Madison, WI

Dear Dave and Fellow Members,

I am writing in response to Sol Berman's letter to the editor; in the May/June issue.

I have been a dedicated member of the NHPA for more than 11 years; I have seen a lot of By-Law & Rule changes in that time; some I agreed with, others I did not; but nevertheless

I do my best to enforce all of them, for I am the Arkansas Charter President.

One thing that really gets me in an uproar in our sport is "nit-picking"; and as I see it, the proposed alternate method of scoring (True Cancellation) is one of the greatest forms of attempted nit-picking I have heard of in years.

The awarding one pitcher for throwing a "prettier" shoe than the other is ridiculous; it not only penalizes pitchers that are trying to get started in our sport; it would prolong games in all classes from championship on down.

I hope the Delegates to the '97 Convention can see this proposal for what it really is—nit-picking, and would not be good for our sport!

The other thing I would like to comment on is the ongoing debate on 30' vs. 40' pitchers. Come on people, get off it! You all know the rules and bylaws of the NHPA; so learn to live with them or stay on the porch, please.

I pitch against many 30' pitchers in Sanction Tournaments as well as in League play. If their NHPA average is close to mine, above or below, I do not see any advantage whatsoever. I feel that if a 30' pitcher has an average of 40% and I have an average of 42%, I should win the game. If I do not, it is because of my pitching, not the distance I pitched from. If your averages are close to one another, it is a fair game. Think about it. Please let's move on to more important business like the promotion of our sport!

Dear Dave,

Down with Proposal 23, Rule 8, Section A 1b that would score close shoes within 6" of stake as cancelled (p. 17). "Close shoe" is my forte! Next, someone will want points for shoes knocked "off" or "on" stake.

No score changes, please.

Rose Warren, Socorro, NM

Dear Dave,

I would like to address the 30' vs. 40' controversy. Each distance represents the game of horseshoe, but they are quite different, similar to hardball vs. softball, and should not be mixed.

All 30' players, elders, juniors and women should play only among

themselves. The 30' game is a different game and perhaps should even be scored differently. I would suggest count-all, no cancellation, and use of a handicap to equal any percentage spread that may exist at tournaments where the 30' entry level is low.

All pitchers can now participate in tournaments, but mixed pitching does not allow all pitchers to enjoy the games. Let's end this controversy before it destroys the game we all love. Horseshoes can be made fun again for all with no one's feelings being hurt.

Joseph M. Acerra, Red Bank, NJ

Dear Dave,

For the vast majority of NHPA members, our game is a form of recreation that gives us a chance to compete and interact with friends in local leagues, tournaments, state championships, and world tournaments.

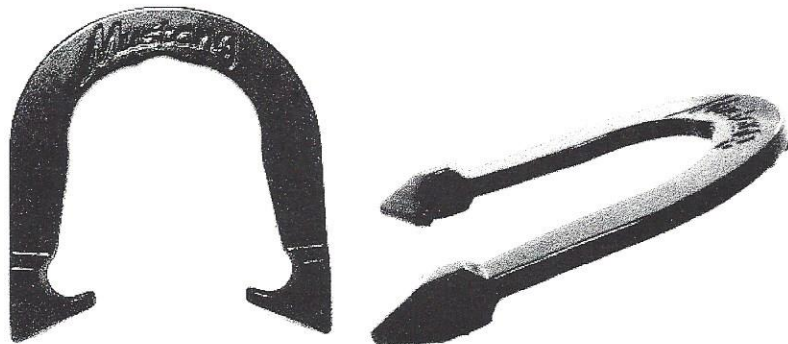
For many of us it is a chance to relax and forget some of the bitter disappointments of our lives and to share with our friends in their times of success or sadness.

Through the years the NHPA has legislated, negotiated and compromised in an effort to embrace all those from childhood to death who want and need the type of recreation, companionship and friendly competition offered by our game. In our efforts to embrace young, old, men and women, I don't believe we have done anything to adversely affect the chance any man, woman or junior has to compete for the title of state or world champion. In most cases we have offered more opportunity for intense competition among those talented enough to compete for championship titles.

We have, however, created a tremendous problem for those who feel they cannot compete for championship titles and are apparently more interested in their *self-centered* ideas about what would be perfectly fair for them, than they are in sharing their skills in friendly competition with others in the hometown leagues and tournaments.

Life is not always fair; most of us have seen or been a part of a battle with cancer, heart disease, alcoholism, mental illness, or seen the untimely

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Letters...

passing of a loved one.

Our game is not a macho man challenge. It's a game to be played among friends. Let's all forget our differences and our selfish desires to see the game made perfectly fair and concentrate our efforts on the real needs of our brothers and sisters that our game fulfills.

Brady Craven, Liberty, MO

NHPF Receives First Contributions

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) received the first cash donations after the announcement in the last *Newsline*. Checks ranging from \$15 to \$100 were received from William Henn, Bellevue, Kentucky; Wayne Luoma Sr., Burton, Ohio; and Elmer Otnes, Oregon City, Oregon. The NHPF extends its sincere thanks to these gentlemen and their families for their contributions which were the first of what we hope will be many.

The NHPF needs your financial support to build an endowment sufficient to construct and maintain a Hall of Fame, museum and the pitching facilities on the land in Joelton, Tennessee that was gifted to the Foundation by Doctor Jack Freeman of Nashville. This is a wonderful opportunity for organized horseshoe pitching to have a place to showcase the history, legends and championship tournaments. In addition, the Foundation, as a charitable corporation, is chartered to provide instruction and education to the youth and amateur participants seeking to involve themselves in horseshoe pitching. It will take several years to build the endowment, but in the meantime, we already have expenses relating to the formation of the Foundation and the annual maintenance of the Joelton property. If you love horseshoe pitching and want to see it prosper, please send a tax deductible donation to the NHPF, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945. All donations exceeding \$10.00 will be acknowledged in writing. Thank you.

Editorial: Have We Helped or Hurt the Game?

Years ago, the NHPA had one-half the current membership but twice the current number of top men pitchers. In 1964, pitching 35 games of 50 points, the top 13 men in the World Championship group all averaged over 80%. While that was the best ever, it was not uncommon to find 10-12 men averaging 78% or better in other years. However, in the 1980s, averages began to get lower despite increased membership. In recent years, it is difficult to find even 10 men above 75% at the World. What has happened? It could be an interesting subject to debate, but I fear no absolute clear answer would surface. Depending upon the length of time you have spent in the game may well determine your opinion.

I have been an NHPA member since 1951. A lot of change has taken place over the years, much of which is totally unknown to the membership of today. It used to be that to pitch in a tournament, local, State or World, you had to arrive early, pitch 100 or 200 shoes (sometimes twice) to get a qualifying score. If it was high enough, you'd be one of the lucky ones to be seeded into the tournament which rarely had more than 3 or 4 classes. If you failed to qualify high enough, you went home, practiced all week and

then tried to qualify higher at the next tournament. If you wanted to play regularly in tournaments, you did your utmost to improve your average.

Today, qualifying is a thing of the past. It is gone, and for the most part, so too is the pool of high average pitchers. Many have little or no incentive, beyond personal pride, to improve. In some Charters, you won't get any better prize (some special events excluded) for winning the tournament championship over winning the bottom class. We have reached the point of trying so hard to treat everyone equally that we have burned out in many, the competitive fire to excel, to be the best we can be.

It used to be that women and juniors had little opportunity to compete in sanctioned horseshoe pitching. That has changed dramatically. We now have an organization that provides every member, regardless of age or gender, the opportunity to enter and play in tournaments, but have we tipped the scale from one extreme to another?

Everyone has an opinion on mixed pitching. Many think that distance makes no difference. If that is true, why do nearly all men who move up and become short distance pitchers improve their percentage, some by as

much as 30-35%? The reason is clear and simple. It is easier to maintain accuracy at a shorter distance.

Most charters now embrace the concept of mixed pitching, as well they should, but have some gone overboard? Perhaps so, if all their tournaments have become mixed and the schedule no longer offers a near equal number of alternatives. Tournament Directors need the authority and inclination to form short distance groups and full distance groups where they can in 40-50% of the charter tournaments.

Mixed pitching has a place in the game, but it should not be indiscriminately imposed especially when it continues to be the number one point of contention in the NHPA. It has taken much trial and tribulation to reach the point of equal pitching opportunity for all short distance players. However, like some full distance players, not all short distance pitchers like mixed competition. We should therefore now devote comparable effort to see that full and short distance pitchers who want to avoid mixed pitching are given equal opportunity to have separate distance groups. Then and only then, can we claim the scale to be truly balanced.



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There Needs To Be A Starting Point

by Lorraine Sternberg

Lorraine Sternberg, newly appointed Junior Promotion Director, is addressing the membership for the first time. Her message, although brief, is direct, to the point, and no doubt is the most appropriate message that can be directed. The entire membership, club officials and charter directors are urged to follow Lorraine's leadership and on-going suggestions and guidance, for our sport and our organization will be better through your efforts.

As the new NHPA Junior Promotion Director, I have given a lot of thought as to goals and what can be done. After looking at the membership lists of 1995 and 1996, it is obvious as to what the main goal would be. In most states, we have seen a decrease in Junior membership. So, I believe the main goal is to increase the Junior membership. Of course, this is not an easy task and it's going to take the help of all the charters.

This is why each charter needs to select a Junior Program Director. If we all work together, this goal *can* be achieved.

Most of our Junior pitchers come with parents that pitch. Horseshoe is a family sport. This is where our recruiting should begin. So, parents, if you have children, get them involved! It's a good way to teach them good sportsmanship and they also meet many new friends along the way.



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PROMOTION JOTTINGS

by Bob Dunn

■ Jean Davenport, Texas, sent a letter which stated that they have started a scholarship fund for their Junior members. Every club's first tournament of the year increased their entry fee by \$1.00, which went into the fund. Juniors also pay the \$1.00. This gave them enough money for a \$250.00 scholarship for every Junior that graduates and meets their criteria. The only way money can be withdrawn is through a bank draft to the college or trade school of the Juniors choice.

■ Minnesota reports on how they do their Junior program. \$887.00 was raised in 1996 by having clubs contribute \$1.00 per member. Most of the funds will be used for purchasing Junior NHPA cards. \$200.00 will be awarded to the club with the most new Junior members for the season. The balance of the funds goes toward the state tournament cost for the Junior classes. There is no fee for Juniors to enter the state tournament and Minnesota averages well over fifty youngsters each year. \$200.00 of charter funds are awarded each year in scholarship to a graduating pitcher

going on to further their education.

■ The Wisconsin Scholarship Fund is mostly run by raffles at tournament. Items like crafts, handmade horseshoe boxes, etc. are donated. Individual and club donations are also received. In March, we had a special tournament—the Scholarship Fundraiser, \$3.00 out of everyone's entry went to the scholarship fund and we had a raffle set up also. Over \$230.00 was raised.

Each year four scholarships are awarded at the state tournament—\$300.00 goes to the Boys' and Girls' State Champion, and \$150.00 for second place in each championship class—a total of \$900.00. They receive their money after graduation if they go on to college or trade school. Recently, Penny Steinke received the total highest scholarship earned, \$1,200.00.

If other charters have scholarship programs and would like to share how they do theirs, write up a short outline for our Promotion Jottings. If you just want more information, fee free to get in contact. And I would like to hear from the Junior members also. Junior Promotion Director, Lorraine Sternberg, W206 N. 13520 Woodside

Lane, Richfield, WI 53076.

■ During the 1997 membership convention, several rule changes will be considered for adoption. One, in particular, is favored in view of promotion—the proposal of close shoes of equal value or “true cancellation.” The proposal is to add an alternative scoring method and as such offers no change to traditional cancellation of “close shoe counts.” The delegation is urged to approve the proposal, simply to allow this scoring method to be available for those who wish to use this variation in the leagues or tournaments or special events. The proposed scoring method may serve as an interesting alternative and add some variety to future events.

■ In keeping with the fanfare of the first World Tournament being hosted in Canada, this issue will look at a page of history as written by D.D. Cottrell in 1929. It is interesting to note that the early-day NHPA involvement with the Provincial organizations actually dates back to 1920. This is how it was described in 1929...

HISTORY CANADA

Alberta—There are horseshoe fans and some clubs in the following places: Calgary, Lomond, Milo, Ponoka, Turbin, Yetwood and some other villages. There is a horseshoe club at Travers, of which James Salows is secretary-treasurer. The National Association issued a sanction to the Edmonton Exhibition Association, Ltd., to hold a Provincial Horseshoe Pitching Tournament July 16-21, 1928.

British Columbia—The Greater Vancouver Horseshoe Pitchers Club was chartered last July by the NHPA. The president of this club is Arthur H.

Jones, 5306 Clarendon St., South Vancouver. Fred S. Davies, 1813 E. 33rd Ave., Vancouver, is one live wire, always up and at it fans in the Vancouver section and is doing much to popularize the game in southwest British Columbia.

Ontario—There are a large number of pitchers in and around Sarnia. W. Struthers and Walter Kanc, who live at this place, are Team Champions of Canada. There has been a movement started in Sarnia to organize the Ontario Horseshoe Pitchers' Association to have an organization which can

develop the sport in this province to greater popularity. At New Hamburg, there is the Lindy Horseshoe Club, of which J. Lightheart is one of the officers. There are a few players also at London, Inwood, Chesley, Paisley and some other cities. At Horrow, there is a horseshoe club, of which R.E. Offer is secretary-treasurer.

Saskatchewan—The Great Eastern Exhibition at Sherbrooke has been considering the sport and may put on a tournament. There are also a few players at Handel and vicinity in Saskatchewan.

Sanctioned Club/League News

by Bev Born

Not being a journalist, these articles seem to be more difficult to put together. It really racks my senses trying to come up with an interesting or informing subject, without what seems to be a lot of repetition. So, once again, could sure use some of you to help me. Tell me your questions, your stories about your individual or cl/lg news. What you do to recruit new members and/or how you keep current members motivated and encouraged to remain dedicated pitchers. Anything happening among your group, that might be of interest or help other groups or just pitchers, in general.

Want to invite anyone who may be interested in this program, whether a current member of a club or not, to look me up while in Canada. I would enjoy meeting and visiting with you and your ideas or opinions are always

Welcome to the first ever sanctioned club in the state of Rhode Island...

welcome. Also, you are all invited to attend the cl/lg meeting. Time and place will be posted in several places around the site.

I am still receiving some membership reports, that list one or more people, with no current NHPA card number. Please, DO NOT do this. Every name MUST have their cards before being submitted on any report. NO person, without a current NHPA card can be allowed to pitch, as a regular or Sub, for more than two weeks. Please, remember to submit member report

#1, as early as possible, EACH YEAR. Your sanction is not valid until this report has been received.

No member report means no insurance coverage. If you delay sending in the member report until you send in league end final reports, you have pitched the whole year/season without insurance. Because if I do not have the report and you should file a claim, your sanction would not have been validated for that year.

Although I always welcome all new cl/lg sanctions, I want to extend a special welcome to the first ever sanctioned club in the state of Rhode Island. This is terrific.

The following is a little news from the Sunflower Junior League in Wichita, KS. Seems they sent out invitational letters to area schools and were somewhat disappointed when they did not receive one single inquiry. They also ran public announcements in local newspapers inviting youngsters to pitch with them. They managed to keep their spirits high and had seven report to pitch in the first two weeks of the season. They were taught the "ropes" of pitching, including ways to speed up play and still enjoy the games.

It soon became evident that they were down to four regular pitchers and two occasional ones. Each pitcher improved during the six week session and all received commemorative plaques and patches at the club's Spring banquet. A couple of these also did well in two of the club's monthly tournaments.

It is really nice, and a good thing, when our adult pitchers devote their time and effort for our youngsters, spending their Saturdays or evenings to work with them. We must "tip our shoes" to these dedicated people. They are truly doing their best to help our membership and sport grow. Good luck and good pitching to all, at World or wherever you may be.

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Regional Director's Report

by Paul Stewart

Gene & Mary Van Sant Memorial Award

Given each year to the Regional Director whose attitude and initiative best fulfill his or her responsibilities to uphold and enhance the image of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

The Regional Director Chairman has to choose which Regional Director will receive this award each year. This is not an easy task, since there are a lot of hardworking Regional Directors that do a great job out there. If you are one of these hardworking Regional Directors that promotes horseshoes and keeps me currently informed on the activities in your region, then you are on my list for this award. If you don't win this year? There is always next year.

Allen Baptist of Colorado has been selected the Regional Director of the Year for 1997. Congratulations to Allen, he joins a group of distinguished members who have received this award in the past.

Recent past winners include: 1990 Len Lipovsky, MN; 1991 Sue Johnson, AZ, 1992 Marie Wetzell, PA; 1993 John Decker, MI; 1994 Paul Stewart, NC; 1995 Rick Rebman, OR; 1996 Elwyn Cooper, MO.

The Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors' meeting date and time will be posted at the world tournament. It now looks as if it will be July 19, on Saturday afternoon. All Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

There still seems to be quite a bit of confusion about the State Doubles patches. I agree with most of you, that there should be the word "Champion" on the State Doubles Championship patch. I am also checking with the company that makes our patches to see if we can design a State Doubles Class Champion patch. I plan to discuss this at the Regional Directors & Assistant Regional Directors meeting in Kitchener.

From The Mail Bag

R.O. Harris, Kentucky RD, reports that the Madison County Horseshoe Club of Richmond, Kentucky, again has been invited to present a horseshoe pitching exhibition for a delegation of thirty (30) Japanese visitors.

"This is the 4th year we have participated in this culture exchange program. We give a brief history of the game of horseshoes, demonstrate different pitching styles and turns, the flip, one and a quarter, one and three quarter turn plus a short game demonstrating the methods of scoring and game etiquette.

Each member of the delegation is given the opportunity to feel and throw the horseshoes. This is where the fun begins. We find many who want to see more and more of the game in Japan. The Madison County Horseshoe Club has introduced the game of Horseshoes to over 125 Japanese citizens in the last four years."

This sounds like a lot of fun, plus a very good way to promote our sport around the world. Thank you to all the Madison County Horseshoe Club and I hope you will continue this horseshoe promotion for many more years.

Allen Baptist, Colorado RD, reports that the Eagle Horseshoe Club is preparing to construct eight (8) new courts in Gypsum, CO, which is about seven miles from Eagle, CO. The city of Gypsum is giving us \$10,000 to build the courts and the Eagle Horseshoe Club is donating all of the labor to build the courts.

Allen also reports that on May 3rd the CHPA had their general meeting. During his report he talked about the NHPA internet website. Says that he has visited it lots of times and finds it very interesting. He gave out the website address, which will be in the next issue of the *Double Ringer*.

Rick Bolick, Sr., North Carolina RD, reports that tournament attendance at sanctioned tournaments is

off to the best start in recent memory even with less than perfect weather conditions for North Carolina. Fifty one pitchers showed up at the Troy Courts in March. With only 18 courts, it looked like a lost situation, but with the cooperation of the Biscoe Courts which is only about eight miles away, and the ingenuity of tournament director, B.J. Thomas and Assistant Regional Director Jake Hoff, the situation was resolved. They filled the Troy Courts and then loaded up two classes and moved them to Biscoe, where they pitched their games. With the cooperation of everybody involved, they pulled off what, at first, looked like a disaster and made it work. Also, as usual, the Carolina Dogwood Festival in Statesville had a turn away crowd with close to 200 pitchers from 14 states participating in the two day tournament. If the rest of the year continues as it has started off, this could be the best year ever for North Carolina horseshoes.

Cal Cordes, Arizona RD, has sanctioned eight new courts at Prescott Valley, Arizona. These new courts are the Central Arizona Horseshoe Pits. They are located north of Highway 69 off of Navajo Drive. Their first sanctioned tournament was held on April 26th with a good turn out of pitchers and local government.

Lance Twyman, New York RD, reports that the Waterloo Ringers Horseshoe Club is excited about their new organization and is looking forward to hosting the State Doubles Tournament on July 5th. They are getting ready to pour the concrete for their 20 courts, and hope to attract many of the 200 to 300 pitchers in the area and quite possibly rival the Syracuse Pioneer Club for size. Lance also reports that Tri-County announced that they have a shell for indoor courts and hope to have four courts in by winter. They are also pleased with the interest shown in their Junior program.

Hall of Fame

by Earl Winston

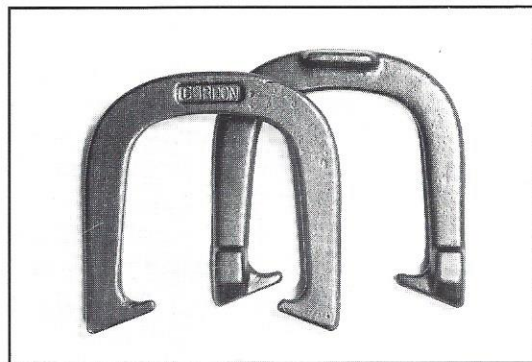
This year the Hall of Fame Committee has elected two deserving gentlemen to be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame during ceremonies to be held in Kitchener, Ontario Canada. I hope that many of you will be there to congratulate them on their achievement.

BOB CHAMPION

Bob, our current NHPA Publicity Director, is well known to those who attend the annual World Tournament. Here are some of the reasons the committee has chosen him for this high honor.

Bob initiated the Colorado State Horseshoe Hall of Fame program in 1982 and has been involved in its affairs ever since. When a Hall of Fame building was obtained, Bob has become the curator of this museum. He has also shared material with the NHPA Hall of Fame chairman and I am now in possession of nearly two dozen scrapbooks awaiting placement in our Hall of Fame building when it becomes a reality. Bob spent many years putting this material together.

The NHPA President appointed Bob as the NHPA Publicity Director in February, 1986. He soon organized a press headquarters at each World Tournament. Many have come to look forward to the daily news bulletin that Rob and his committee make available during each World Tournament. They do this when they aren't busy readying material for the news media.



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Although Rob served the Colorado State Association as its treasurer in the early 1980s, he was a writer by heart. He and a friend (John Huntzinger) started a publication called the Double Ringer. Pitchers in many states continue to enjoy that newsletter today, as Bob continues to work hard to promote the sport of horseshoes.

With the legendary Ted Allen having lived so many years in Colorado, Bob thought it a fitting tribute to Ted to begin a Ted Allen Memorial Award during the 1980s.

As Publicity Director, Bob contributes material for *Newsline's* "Charter Chatter." He also assembles and updates material to be used in each World Tournament Souvenir Program Book, with help from a few friends throughout the USA.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome this tireless NHPA servant into the Hall of Fame.

JIM SOLOMON

A right-handed pitcher, Jim is one of the very few who ever achieved great success with the unique style of stepping forward with this right foot instead of his left. When he made his first World Tournament appearance at Greenville, Ohio in 1964, it was very evident that he would become a strong competitor in the years that followed. For his first showing, Jim placed 20th out of 36 players in the Championship Class and averaged 78.4% for his 35 games. Many of his opponents were impressed by the talent of this "newcomer." Jim well remembers one game where he pitched 137 ringers out of 158 shoes for 86.7% and only scored 25 points. He returned the favor the very next year when he treated the very powerful Floyd Tool (Arkansas) to a dose of his own medicine. With the score reversed from the year before, Jim pitched 108 ringers out of 118 shoes for a 91.5% game. He also added four more games over 90%, ending his 35 games at the 1965 World Tournament at Keene, New Hampshire with a ringer average of 83.7%.

Jim played in a total of thirteen World Tournaments, all of them in the Championship Class. In 1966 a different format was tried, but didn't go over well. There was a 3 group prelim, then a two group finals, but the second group had no chance at the World title. Jim made the top group and finished 10th with a 80.3% ringer average. In pitching a total of 435 World Tournament 50 point games, Jim's career ringer percentage stands at a hefty 75.42%.

For many years, Pennsylvania was blessed with some very talented horseshoe pitchers and Jim managed to best the competition on four different occasions. He won the State Championship in 1964 with 81.2%; 1977 with 80.9%; 1978 with 81.5%; 1979 with 81.9%.

In 1976, Jim experienced a 15 year dream come true when he acquired a building large enough for indoor pitching and hosting tournaments. At that time it was one of the best indoor pitching facilities in the United States. While he continued to play and promote horseshoes, Jim was also serving the NHPA as its auditor. He carried out this duty for several years, donating all of his services.

For his great accomplishments as a pitcher, for his promotional efforts with his own building and for services donated to the NHPA, I am pleased to be able, this year, to welcome Jim Solomon into the NHPA Hall of Fame.

A Word From NatStats

by Glenn Jamieson

Mail is still being sent to Oliver Smith, the founder and former NatStats Director who died over a year ago on April 1, 1996.

Please advise all of your tournament directors and members to send all tournament results and requests for average verifications to me, the current Director, at the address listed on page 3 at the front of this magazine.

During the last week of May, I received 5 pieces of mail that had been sent to Oliver's address.

I will be leaving for the World Tournament on Tuesday morning, July 8. If you have any kind of request for averages to help set up your tournament, please get your request in to me early. If you will be attending the World, you may bring your tournament results and deliver them to me in the Stat room. I will have my portable computer with me and will be able to keep up to date on any results given to me. All other mail that is sent to my home address will be waiting there for me until my return on August 1.

A few comments about tournament results that are sent in to NatStats. I do need, for each tournament, a sanction number, date or dates the tournament was played, and a name of the tournament or the city it was played in. Also needed, is the NHPA # of each pitcher,

full (first and last) name, category, and the amount of ringers and shoes. Most of this sounds simple enough, but you would be surprised to see some of the results that arrive.

I also need to know when people re-qualify and change their pitching distance, from either Junior Boy to Adult, or Open Men to Elder. If you include the Place Finish, Won/Lost and Ringer %, that is OK. I would rather have too much information than not enough. As you know, your average is figured on ringers divided by shoes. I can only put ringers and shoes into the computer and the computer will then figure the %.

Also, from the Charter Secretary, I could use a note when the ladies get married and change their names, and also when a member moves into your state and has an average from another state. I need to combine the two files into one. If you have moved from one state to another within the last year, you might want to contact me and see if I have your current average file combined with your file from the other state.

I hope NatStats is working out for everyone. I know I sure spend a lot of time trying to keep it in order. If I am not home when you call, just leave a message on my machine and I will get

back to you as soon as I can. Please don't wait until the last minute to request averages, as I may be away for a few days and won't get your message until it is too late.

In some reports I put out, you may find your average does not reflect the same figure you have. It may be because the tournament results are not being sent in on a timely basis. Believe it or not, I have received some tournament results that are 4 to 6 months old. We are now posting the whole United States (NatStats) averages on the internet approximately twice a month. I send a computer disk to Duane Goodrich in Kansas and he does whatever he does. You can thank him at the World when you run into him. Some of you Tournament Directors can now access people's averages by turning on to the WEB.

If you see me at the World, say hello!

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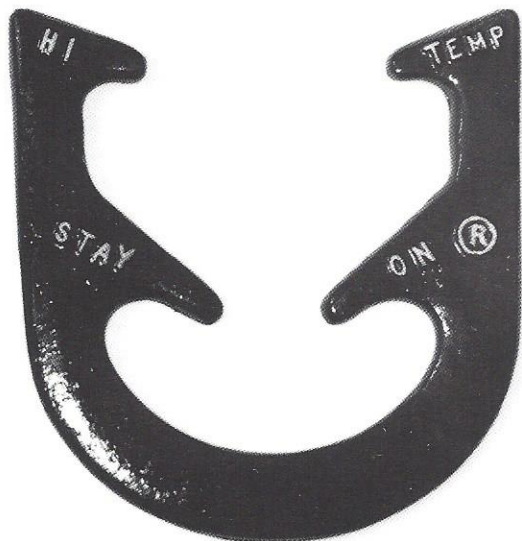
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Charles M. Bunner

Horseshoe Odyssey of West Virginia

Charles M. Bunner began pitching horseshoes while in high school and continued while in the military. While in the army, Charles pitched in Alaska, South Korea, South Vietnam, and West Germany. In 1977, Charles began his lobbying efforts to organize horseshoe pitching within Marion County. The Monongahela Valley Horseshoe Pitchers Association was formed. After the dissolution of the Monongahela Valley Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Tri-County Horseshoe Club, Inc. was formed with Charles' help. The Annual Head-of-the-Mon-River/Memorial Weekend Tournament was organized and directed by Charles several years as well as indoor tournaments and leagues.

In 1979, Charles received an Outstanding Community Achievement Award from President Carter for his activity in horseshoes. In 1982, Charles directed NHPA sanction leagues for the Tri-County Horseshoe Club, Inc. Charles became involved with the formation of the Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers—Marion County Parks & Recreation Commission. In 1991-92 Charles initiated the first NHPA Northeastern Regional. Charles received the NHPA Achievement Award for his work and contribution at the local level.

Charles has also contributed to the NHPA *Newsline* magazine. Charles lobbied for the NHPA Hall of Fame Shrine in WV. HB 4228 was enacted, but no funds were included, so Tennessee was awarded the Hall of Fame Shrine. Last year Charles Bunner helped get the 1998 World Horseshoe Tournament for Morgantown, WV, only to see the city withdraw. He then lobbied for Charleston in their attempt to replace Morgantown.

The Power of Publicity

by Ed Quigley

It all started when the editor of *Jersey Jargon*, Anne Marie MacIntyre, faxed the results of the New Jersey State Horseshoe Pitchers Association Championships to the *Star-Ledger*, New Jersey's leading newspaper.

The *Ledger* then published a lead article about Joe McCrink, the 1996 State Champion. McCrink set two records in winning the championship for the 7th time. His 77.47% ringer average over 12 games was the highest ever in NJ State Championship play. In addition, he had a record-breaking high game of 94.7%.

An ABC-TV researcher spotted the *Ledger* article, and that set into motion a horseshoe pitching demonstration by McCrink at the West Essex Handicap Horseshoe Pitching Club in West Caldwell to be broadcast live.

On a rainy Friday, November 8, 1996, the Channel 7 TV crew (the weatherman and two technicians) arrived in the Eyewitness News truck at the courts at 5 a.m. The first of 22 TV bits was to occur at 5:30 a.m. We were ready with three well-lighted courts, the "Fashion Shoe" on display, an enthusiastic crowd, plus donuts and hot coffee.

Over a three-hour period, McCrink put on a super demonstration for the live audience at the courts and the million or so live TV audience. Each time the weatherman, Bill Evans, gave a report from the courts, horseshoe pitching was demonstrated from the courts by McCrink, club members and guests. The TV crew also participated in the pitching.

Included in the morning activities were five day weather forecast on camera by five members of the West Essex Club, a Fashion shoe segment where many horseshoes were displayed and a teaching demonstration by McCrink.


The audience was constantly changing over the period from 5:30 a.m. to 8:40 a.m., as people who came early left for work only to be replaced by new faces. Town residents, who were tuned into Channel 7, rushed over just to "be there."

Despite the fact that McCrink had to


pitch in a stop and go style, to fit the weather report schedule, his pitching and commentary were outstanding. Joe was the perfect representative of our sport on National TV. The entire program, on and off the screen, was much greater than our expectations, and the weatherman and his associates seemed

to enjoy the experience.

As the weather report on "Good Morning America" occurred and we presented each of the TV crew with a lucky horseshoe, the weatherman commented that the TV crew would like to visit the New Jersey group again in 1997.



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Team World 1997



MINNESOTA AGAIN!

KENTUCKY NEXT – ONTARIO THIRD

by Jim Haupt

Say it loud and clear, one more time. Minnesota wins the Team World tournament for the seventh time—five in the last six years!

After 23 preliminary matches, the Minnesota team of four stood third going into the step ladder final rounds. They had been outdone by Ontario and Kentucky. The defending champions had won 75 and one half games. Ontario won two more. Kentucky led the field with 80 wins of a possible 92. "Either of these top two proven teams was the smart pick to win. Never count Minnesota out" was heard, but the road of the prospective finals looked too tough for the upnorth crew to navigate.

Minnesota's third seed on the ladder required them to wait while four teams vied for the chance to be fourth, a chance to play the defending champions.

In the pre-lim play-off for fourth, a new team, sixth ranked Ohio, with World Champion Alan Francis and Amy Francis, stopped the Indiana team, winning 3-1. Missouri and Illinois tied their match at 2-2, but the total point nod went to Missouri by five. (When team matches are tied in wins, eyes are on the total score of all

four players. The top team-total wins.) Holding onto fourth, Missouri next tied Ohio while counting 19 more total points. On adjacent courts to decide 6th and 7th, it was Illinois over Indiana. Although tied in wins, Illinois won the match by a whopping margin of 53 points.

Because of the pre-lim play-off, Indiana starting fifth, wound up seventh. Illinois moved from seventh to sixth and the former sixth rank of Ohio turned to fifth. The tournament was over for Missouri in the first ladder match against the Minnesota team who aced it 3-1. Ontario, out of character, gave Minnesota all four wins, in their only appearance on the ladder. Suddenly Minnesota was going for it all facing the top team, Kentucky. The pairings within the match were set in percentage order.

Top pitcher Lois Webster of Kentucky met World Champion Bev Nathe of Minnesota. Webster clicked for 80%: Nathe responded in kind, also 80% with points for one Minnesota win. The remaining games were one sided. Mark Bauman, MN swamped Charlie Meredith of Kentucky. Ron Powell, KY, gave it away to Dale lipovsky for Minnesota's third

win and the match. Sue Snyder earned Kentucky's only win walking over desperate Lu Cave of Minnesota. Except for the Webster-Nathe game, the losers saved their lowest performances of the weekend for the finals.

"Never count Minnesota out." The seven-time Team World Champions have allowed other states to champion the title just one time each and seem to have some kind of lock on the trophy. Alan Francis carried high tournament average with 82.5% winning all games but one. Lois Webster's 77.92% ranked second high. Mark Bauman has this writer's nomination for MVP. He was the most productive team player actually exceeding his entering average and giving up only one tournament game. Bev Nathe lost just two games. Stan Leis of Ontario and Charlie Meredith of Kentucky also dropped just two, but experienced their second losses in their final games at the hands of Minnesota.

Thirty-seven ringers in forty shoes is 92.5%. Several Team World pitchers hit the high game mark. Meredith and Nathe did it one time. Alan Francis put a pair of 92.5% games back to back, slacked off with a game of 82.5%, then pitched his third 92.5 Game.

Wisconsin, one of the top eight seeds and a ladder team of 1996 did not live up to expectations finishing a sorry ninth. Minnesota-2, finishing eighth, won the race for top #2 state team followed by two Missouri teams in a heat for the tenth spot.

Other standouts at Team World were the ranks of scorekeepers. Twenty-four markers per game shift earned a total of \$2,266. Players pre-paid twenty-three dollars for their pre-lim games. Harvey Wobbe and Six Pac horseshoes sponsored all scorekeeping in the finals. Most of the markers were local enthusiasts, some were players waiting for their next rounds, and a few came from out of state expressly to keep score.

During ceremonies prior to the finals, the Indiana team manager and 4th VP of the NHPA, Bonnie Seibold, made a surprise announcement. Actually, she read a letter from NHPA president Dave Loucks, addressed to

Earl Paulson, secretary of the Beloit Horseshoe Club. It said, in part, that Paulson's presence was requested at the NHPA awards banquet in Kitchener, Ontario. The Beloit Horseshoe Club had been successfully nominated for an NHPA achievement award due in a great part to their contribution in presenting this premier NHPA horseshoe tournament over the last eight years. Paulson and the deserving people of the Beloit Club were taken completely by surprise. It provided a visible uplift for all concerned. Congratulations were many.

Ralph Dykes made a cameo appearance at the Team World courts Saturday afternoon. His longtime friend and Illinois neighbor, and a former top pitcher himself, Jack Stout was chauffeur. Dykes is turbo-charged now, always with an air tank in tow. Dolores and Ray Billen arranged for a reception with cake and coffee in the lobby. Many of the active players, his

friends of a lifetime dropped in to hear the latest in Dykes humor and shake his hand one more time. Early in June, Ralph and Delores Dykes will be moving to Florida. In typical Dykes fashion, he declared his sanity may be doubted, but never dreamed he'd be sleeping with an 80 year-old woman.

In years to come, tournament officials may issue sombreros to scorekeepers, not as a sunshade, but more in line with protective headgear.

It should be established that the Edwards Sport Center is an ice hockey arena with a substantial roof, but mere fabric side-walls. The place harbors a fair number of birds. It is, in fact, a bird condominium.

A horseshoe activist and mate of the NHPA secretary-treasurer, Paulette Hansen is a sometimes scorekeeper. From personal experience she advises those who care to mark score to pick a chair not directly under a ceiling pipeline or other natural roosting spot.

Team World 1997 Results

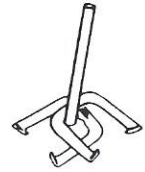
Sanction #28-97-009

1 MINNESOTA	71.23	7 INDIANA-1	63.90	13 MICHIGAN	56.30	19 INDIANA 2	48.86
1 Bev Nathe	77.40	7 Chad Hyatt	60.70	13 Jim Campbell	54.57	19 Bob Wolfinger	53.15
1 Dale Lipovsky	73.65	7 Mark Seibold	67.20	13 Larry Kemp	58.70	19 Darrel Taulbee	53.26
1 Mark Bauman	75.77	7 Curly Seibold	73.20	13 Rod Tanner	53.80	19 Dorcey Rice	46.09
1 Lu Cave	58.08	7 Ralph Guffey	54.50	13 Ray Hill	58.15	19 Joe Graber	42.93
2 KENTUCKY	73.33	8 MINNESOTA 2	62.74	14 WISCONSIN 2	54.46	20 MISSOURI 4	45.57
2 Sue Snyder	68.33	8 Phyllis Negaard	65.54	14 Edie McKinney	65.11	20 Ron Deno	50.83
2 Lois Webster	77.92	8 Dave Hughes	57.28	14 Jane Smith	41.09	20 Steve Schuck	33.89
2 Charles Meredith	77.60	8 Edie Holland	64.46	14 Gus Schram	48.13	20 Jerry Francis	37.12
2 Ron Powell	69.48	8 Gerry Stangland	63.70	14 Larry Barber	62.50	20 Bob Thompson	41.88
3 ONTARIO	68.60	9 WISCONSIN-1	61.56	15 IOWA-1	55.33	20 Ken Pogue	64.13
3 Sandy Jansen	74.48	9 Clayton Gage	73.26	15 Charlie Ellis	59.02	21 ILLINOIS 3	45.24
3 Stan Leis	67.29	9 Lorraine Sternberg	59.17	15 Marvin Engsler	56.85	21 Michelle Thornton	47.93
3 Steve Hohl	66.35	9 Don Kangas	60.11	15 Bob McKee	50.22	21 Charlotte Renick	56.52
3 Kevin McLachlin	67.08	9 John Udelhofen	53.68	15 Marvin Woollums	55.22	21 Jim McDaniel	37.73
4 MISSOURI	66.85	9 John Barden	46.79	16 COLORADO	54.51	21 Joe Waterman	38.80
4 Stan Griggs	69.71	10 MISSOURI 2 (tie)	58.48	16 Rich Pintor	69.89	22 IOWA 2	45.92
4 Lou Rector	71.73	10 Charles Kilgore	58.91	16 Don Wild	65.76	22 Leo Buell	43.37
4 Sam Carter	65.48	10 Tracy Sherman	61.63	16 Dan Schneck	47.28	22 Leroy Law	47.28
4 Rose Diekamp	60.48	10 Bob Diekamp	55.22	16 Allen Baptist	35.11	22 Stoney Jackson	46.96
5 OHIO	65.20	10 Loree Meier	58.15	17 ILLINOIS 2	50.67	22 Betty McGregor	46.09
5 Alan Francis	82.50	10 MISSOURI 3 (tie)	57.90	17 Dennis Reid	64.21	23 ILLINOIS 4	39.46
5 Amy Francis	74.90	10 Jim Howard	51.41	17 Larry Fettes	53.81	23 Dalton Simmons	33.91
5 Fred Brown	39.50	10 M.O. Turner	64.02	17 Mike McBride	52.13	23 Luke Thompson	37.83
5 Tina Tonous	63.90	10 Jan Kreinkamp	56.96	17 Ron Hopman	44.34	23 Craig Zuehlke	46.41
6 ILLINOIS-1	64.85	10 Ron Hassler	55.98	17 Thomas Reid	38.85	23 Hallie Romanelli	39.67
6 Cliff Baker	69.20	12 INDIANA-3	58.37	18 WISCONSIN 3	49.70	24 IOWA 3	34.51
6 Charlie Webb	66.50	12 Bill Ungetheim	57.61	18 Carolyn Stittleburg	55.98	24 Russ Martin	35.76
6 Jerry Dumstorff	57.00	12 Al Morris	55.33	18 John Koeppe	53.04	24 Herb Hansen	31.20
6 Larry Knop	66.70	12 Dale Henry	60.65	18 Jim Larson	43.70	24 James Jackson	36.30
		12 Warren Woolsey	59.89	18 John Crook	46.09	24 Harold Garner	34.78



Bob Champion's

Charter Chatter



Although about 20 charters have responded to the requests for list of state champions—men, women, juniors, elders—and Hall of Fame inductees, a lot of space still remains in the notebooks for more. May I urge charter officers to complete these lists as soon as possible, since this data should be an important part of state records.

It may be possible that some states will have to do some digging to discover all the records needed. However, if this is the case, send what you now have and supply the balance when "discovered."

Many states do not have Hall of Fame lists, and only a few have buildings to house the pictures and memorabilia. Now is the time to start thinking about this important part of horseshoe pitching...the records.

Colorado did not start its Hall of Fame until 1982, and it took nearly a year to read meeting minutes and "pick the brains" of some of the old timers to obtain the information.

ARIZONA

The Central Arizona Horseshoe Club worked feverishly to complete their new pitching complex in Prescott Valley. They lost their Prescott YMCA courts due to a new swimming pool and other facilities. They have eight new sanctioned courts located in the American Legion Park. Their members put in new stakes, pitching pads, double walkways with decomposed granite on top of plastic sheeting. All the work was accomplished by about a dozen members. State president Gary Minnick attended the ribbon cutting April 19. He presented the Hall of Fame plaque to Dale Arionus for his many years of contributions to the sport.

Minnick also presented a scratch pad folder with attached plate to Paul Anderson inscribed "In appreciation for your Dedication to the Sport of Horseshoe Pitching, AHPA April 19, 1997."

The CAHS Club certainly owes a great big Thank You to Joe and Rosie Kubiak for their initiative and planning with the Legion and the City of Prescott Valley in obtaining the area and making this a reality.

Various firms donated materials, plus cash donations from some members. This same spot is where Everett Oxley and Anderson put in six courts in 1987.

CALIFORNIA

Great Junior pitching news: Mo McNally recently received approval to build six horseshoe courts at Springtowne Junior High in Vallejo and teach horseshoe pitching as a physical education activity.

This is the second middle school in Northern California to set up a horseshoe pitching program as a P.E. activity. The first was in Reedley, where Chuck Seal developed a very active program that enabled Chuck to bring 3 of his students to the W.T. last year. One of them finished 5th in the A-1 Division.

Here's a joiner! Chet Carter, associate member of the Vallejo club pays about \$150 each year to join ALL the 25 NCHPA clubs.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA: The Quesnel Club has been awarded the 1998 B.C. International. The Prince George Horseshoe Club is working to make the B.C. Championships one of the best. The Williams Lake Club is on the move. In April the club set up in a shopping mall for two weekends selling tickets and memberships. They raised \$1,600.

NOVA SCOTIA: The founding members of the Nova Scotia Hall of Fame Selection Committee have inducted three honorary members, who have had a great impact on the sport of horseshoe pitching in the Province. They are Elmer Hohl from Ontario, Diane Cantin from Quebec and Edward Murray from British Columbia.

Hohl claimed six World Championships and 19 Canadian Men's titles. He gave horseshoe demonstrations in 1984 throughout the Province to show his amazing skills in the sport.

Cantin has been one of the premier pitchers in Canada and the World for many years. She won the Canadian Championship 8 times, recorded a perfect game in the Championship in 1989 and posted a still standing percent of 88% for the complete tournament.

Murray from B.C. has been instrumental in promoting and assisting horseshoes in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada. He introduced the 40-shoe handicap system in 1987. He also is the founder of the Canadian Yearbook as we see it today.

The Founding Members are Jim Vickers, Cecil Mitchell, Jack Glennie, Russell Barnes, Helen George and Jack Whiting.

COLORADO

Paul LaCrosse, who finished fifth at the World last year in the Championship class, has won four Valley of the Sun titles since 1985, including wins in 1996 and 1997.

Rich Pintor from Idledale, won the annual Colorado Tournament of Champions, closing with a 74% effort. Darlene Shirley of Wellington won Class A and Jerry Potter, Loveland won Class B.

Nine women have won state championship titles headed by Virginia Sandival with six. Margaret Tarket has won five and in third place is Fran Roth with four titles.

Ray McGrady and Josiah Coulter won the 13th Annual Four Dead Bowling Tournament in April. High single game honors went to Bill Ostrom from Boulder with a 267.

FLORIDA

Top Ten percentages in the men's group is headed by Glen Hoppes, Naples with 61.3, just a shade ahead of second place Glenn Rains, Homestead with 60.4. Finishing the 10 in order are James Hill, Beverly Hills 60.1; James Peterson, Orlando 58.1; Edsel noble, Homosassa Springs 57.5; Gary Gardner, Apopka 56.3; Don Titcomb, Palm Bay 56.3; Tom Fields, Miami 56.1; Robert Zumbahlen, Tarpon Springs 55.6

CHARTER CHATTER

and Ron Deckard, Tampa 55.5.

Linda Kaercher, Hernando with 60.5 tops Marge Spray, Palm Harbor with 59.5. In third place is Carrie Carpenter, Bradenton 55.9 followed by Joyce Coles, Inverness 53.3 and Judy Oliphant, Sebring 46.4.

The five highest elders from top to bottom are James Adcox, Homosassa 57.9; Russell Lobuzzetta, Sarasota 52.6; Bob Downey, Bradenton 50.0; Samuel Kestenber, Dunnellon 50.0 and Eugene Rock, Beverly Hills 49.5.

GEORGIA

Since 1967—30 years through 1996—only nine men have won the state championship. After Joe Dubie won the first title in 1967, James Evans won three, Glen Portt won nine, Larry Morton won seven and the current champion, Richard Williams has won five. The highest complete percentage was registered by Williams in 1993, a 77.87% effort. The high single game was registered by Portt in 1984, a neat 90.6%.

The women's title has been spread around a little more with Iris Sandham, the current champion, winning titles in 1986, 1988, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Milton Vinson has a lock on the Elders crown, having won the last five in a row since 1992. Junior Lee Presley has won the last four junior titles, but back in the early 70s Mickey Thomas annexed seven championships from 1970 to 1977. He would have won an eighth title in 1976 but they did not have a class for juniors that year.

They have not had a class for girls the last three years, but Erica Morton was a double winner in 1988 and 1989.

IDAHO

Each year state statisticians Ralph and Sandra Ruebel compile a list of starting percentages for the coming year.

Topping the list is Clarence Webb with 69.27. Others in the top ten include Don Moser with 65.34, Linda VanGorder 62.17, Howard Homme 60.40, William Rust 57.51, Clyde Marquez 55.17, Gary Kollmann 53.46, Keith Thomas 53.22, Bill Brown 52.59, Jim Taylor 52.07, Robert Thackery 50.96, David Spears 50.86.

The Idaho newsletter *Four Dead* ran a picture taken by Don Heidt of Kellog at the 1996 State Tournament. It was taken after most folks had left—only the diehards remained. The newsletter offered \$20 to the first person who went in the identity of every person in the group photo. Wonder who won the money? There were 23 pitchers in the picture.

ILLINOIS

Talk about longevity! The state can boast a state champion who won 10 titles in a span of 35 years. Ellis Griggs won his first crown in 1935 and closed his reign in 1970.

Seven other pitchers have won three or more championships headed by John Lindermeier, Ray Martin and Roger Vogel with four each. In the triple win category are Art Dugle, Earl Bomke and Truman Standard.

The top overall tournament percentage is a tie between Dugle and Martin with 81.6%. Martin also had a 79.0 figure. Griggs highest overall figure was 78.6 in 1967.

Members of the Hall of Fame committee are Chairman

Leo Brantland, Danville; Don Bailey, Springfield; Louis Gschwendtner, Gardner; Dave Shreve, Cahokia, Dale Ferguson, Willow Hill; and Bill Marvin, Mechanicsburg.

A motion was made at the last membership meeting to establish a scholarship fund. It will be financed by a \$1 surcharge on anyone entering a sanctioned tournament in Illinois.

KANSAS

It is great to have a tournament named after you, especially before the Grim Reaper makes note of your age. In Kansas they have the "Pop" Tamboer Mixed Open.

Dennis Edgington of the Sunflower Club's "Pitchers' Press" says he might get into trouble about this one. The second day of "Pop's" tournament, Chet and I were eating biscuits and gravy at Braums, when Chet brought up the similarities in Ray CLAY and BRICK Roberts' names. My mind went to work and from somewhere came "maybe they had the same MORTAR." Uh, err, sorry about that.

Mary Ann Peninger continues her attack on the state with a 7-2, 76.43 effort to win the championship class in the St. Patrick's Open. Other winners from A through D were Ray Pollard, Tom Swain, Frank Schulte and Mark Barr.

Phen Ven won Class A2, 6-1, 38.75. Jerry Holt was second, 5-2, 65.0. Tesa Turner won Junior Class A, 6-0, 16.67.

MASSACHUSETTS

Of the five 1996 State Champions there were three who won for the first time, one in her first ever NHPA tournament! Congratulations.

John Kapnis, the sports "Gentleman of the Courts" again won the Men's Championship with a nice 74.17 average. Robbie Laptewicz, a junior, defended his championship with a neat 50.0 percentage.

Among the new winners was an ecstatic Barbara Hanson, who won the women's crown with a solid 71.19, her first over 70%, with a perfect won-lost record.

Elder statesman Amos Whitaker, 80 plus years old, surprised and delighted everyone with a win in the top age group. He saved his best game for perennial champion Angie Cieslak and averaged 50%. He carried his new confidence to another win in the New England Tournament three weeks later with an even better 57%.

In the Girls' Division, new comer Bonnie Kruczek won a champion's trophy with a 9.05 ringer percentage.

MICHIGAN

Dean LeClair and Doug Bailey are neck and neck in top averages department as of the May, 1997 listings. Dean has 65.70 and Doug 65.41. Third through sixth are listed Jim Wiltse 62.53, Bob Williams, Jr. 60.53, Jim Campbell 60.45, Larry Kemp 60.41.

The high percentage goes to Anne French who tops the state women with 72.11. Kathy Yaworski is second with 67.15 followed by Judy Curtiss 64.0, Judy Dennis 62.56, Becky Perryman 58.45, Dorothy Falk 56.33.

Claude Shannahan tops the Elders with 68.03, followed by Kent Rundell 64.20, Bob White 64.12, Rudy Beracy 58.45

CHARTER CHATTER

and Robert Dove 54.61.

Jim Urie's 50.46 leads the Juniors. Second place is Daniel Tanner, who has 47.95. In the top five are Frank Quillen 46.35, Diane Gore 42.99 and Collin Gibbs 25.47.

MINNESOTA

Due to the contributions of many members, the Junior Promotion program will be reinstated during 1997. \$887 was contributed by clubs in 1996, allowing the executive board to approve the program.

All NHPA Junior membership cards will be paid for by the funds raised in 1997. Also \$200 will be awarded to the club that brings in the most new junior members.

The remainder of the Junior funds is allocated to the cost of the 1997 State Tournament Junior trophies.

MISSOURI

Four state pitchers have been honored as Most Improved Pitchers for 1996. Regi Jonak of the NCHC topped all the "Improves" raising her ringer percentage from 12.43% to 35.94%, an increase of 23.51. The most improved male pitcher was Cal Jaeger of NMHC going from 32.34% to 49.77%, up 17.43. In the boys group, John Ellerman raised his percentage 4.37% from 29.68% to 34.05%. Jana Conley from the Independence Horseshoe Club topped the girls by increasing her percentage from 8.90% to 14.26%.

The State's Hall of Fame committee is getting ready for the 1997 inductees and are asking for nominations.

Charter members of the Missouri Hall of Fame are Ezra Beard, Jack Claves, Dan Cook, Billy Crick, Sr., Frank Crumm, C.C. Davis, F.L. Ludemann, Tom Meagher, William Pfender and Lawrence Robinson. They were elected in 1984.

Members of the Hall of Fame Committee are Jerry Griggs, Chairman, Bob Barnes, Bob Harris, Tim Henderson, Larry Langewisch, Bill Waisner, and Val Eikel.

NEW JERSEY

Some people have yard sales and garage sales. But in New Jersey the Warren County Horseshoe Pitchers Club had their "Big Barn Sales #3" over a weekend in April. Haven't seen any financial figures, but with all members contributing, the should have increased the club fund.

Their flyer had this to say: "To contribute, drop off your old treasures at the indoor pitching facility, at the Harmony Fairgrounds...and don't forget to come shop for some new treasures on Saturday and Sunday. We will offer consignments for 10% of the amount received."

The top ten pitchers listed by average shows Joe McCrick on top with a 74.4 figure. In second place is Bob Brown 63.35 Followed by John Forti 63.16, Bob Manzoni 56.53, Robert Shelton 52.64, Wayne Harrison 52.21, Nate Shelton 50.87, George Egel 50.64, Larry Thomeson 50.0 and George Patrick 49.68.

NEW YORK

The state's Hall of Fame committee met during the Spring break to determine who might be elected to the select group. Dick Ellis of the Northern Horseshoe Club, was the only can-

didate elected this year. Dick has contributed greatly to horseshoe pitching in New York over the years. He was one of the driving forces in preparing the facilities at Waddington for last year's state tournament. Dick will be formally inducted into the NY Hall of Fame as a promoter Sunday, August 31 at Camden during the state tournament.

First Vice President Bob Hayes and Secretary-Treasurer Lance Twyman were the only candidates for their respective offices. The incumbents will retain their offices through September 1999.

In the championship group at the Dogwood tournament in Statesville, Art Tyson finished fourth, 7-4, 71.29% and Bob Hayes was seventh, 66.89, with a 5-6 record.

In Group A were the top two finishers, John "Bulldog" Bogardus and Bob Jones. Bulldog went 11-0 with 71.35 and Jones was 8-3, 68.06.

NORTH CAROLINA

The 29th Carolina Dogwood Tournament and Festival is history, with Rick Cale of West Virginia winning the championship class. Ohio's Jim Walters was second.

However, in the tournament highlights are two games of note. The first was a game of a lifetime between NC Women's State Champion Rivers Prewett and former World Elder's Champion, Frank Bohun. It went 114 shoes with 29 four deads. Frank had 95 ringers and Rivers had 91. Frank came away with a much earned victory.

Another game which also involved Frank was his contest against Renee Cowan from West Virginia. Frank had a perfect game up to the final shoes and had the winning shoes on the stake. Renee's first shoe missed the stake and her second shoe also missed the stake, but on the way past the stake. It knocked one of Frank's ringers off. There was a big sigh of disappointment from the crowd. It had cost Frank a chance at a perfect game.

Tom Westbrook from SC also had the game of a lifetime...Tom missed only one shoe in a game against Bob Hayes from New York. Tom also defeated Art Tyson, the defending champion for the second time in a row.

OKLAHOMA

Although the state pitchers finished on the short end of the annual Texas-Oklahoma Shootout Tournament, some individuals were on top of their class.

Katherine Johnson won Class C with a 7-0 record and 45.5 ringer percentage. Becky Williams took Class F with an 8-2 record and even 40%. Oklahoma runner-up went to Michelle Jarrett in Class B (6-2, 51%), with a third place showings by Wanda Morris in Class A (5-2, 63.0); David Davis, Class C (4-3, 44.6%); J.R. Bowen, Class D (4-2, 38.8%); Brick Roberts, Class H (4-3, 27.1%).

Jerry Holt, formerly from Medford, had won three Oklahoma Class A titles through 1988. Since records from the state officers from 1988 to the present time were not available, Chatter did not report last issue that Jerry had also won the 1989 title. In addition, he won the 1987 indoor crown plus the Kansas State championship in 1995.

Regional Director Ronnie Frederick reports that Kathi

CHARTER CHATTER

Burns of Oklahoma City will be attempting to get horseshoe competition in the Summer Sooner State games and possibly indoors at Myriad next February.

Twelve courts are being rebuilt at Choctaw.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Following a successful Jackpot Tournament in 1996 with a total of \$2,842 awarded, the charter is working on 1997.

The present jackpot stands at \$665 after only eight tournaments. At this rate this year should be another big year. Pitchers need 10 tournaments to qualify for the year-end jackpot tournament, and the state doubles and state singles count as two tournaments each.

To build up the jackpot, two dollars from each regular season entry fee and half of each ringer jackpot contribute towards the prize money.

In 1996, everyone competing in the tournament took home something, from \$75 for the eighth place team to \$321 for the first place team in every division.

The team of Jimmy Broome and Randy Hudson dominated the championship class with a 6-1 record. It so happened that on a frosty November morning their overall urge to win overshadowed the weather.

At the Dogwood Festival tournament, John Workman in C, Ron Williams in H and Jamey Gordon in K earned first place honors.

TENNESSEE

Jack Conner, with a 4-1 record and 61.33 ringer percentage captured his third indoor state title in a playoff with Shannon Banks. Winning the women's indoor title for the fourth time was Maxine Griffith with a 3-1 record and 74%.

Jack Freeman won Class B (6-0, 56.67). Winning Class C in a playoff was Fred Perry with a 5-1 record and 38%. Waymon Edmonds captured the Class D crown with a 5-0 record and 23.6%.

The contest for Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year continues and as of March 31, the four top contenders are Frank Jones 106 points, followed by Joan Elmore 99, Hank Irwin 98 and Het Birchfield 97. Competition ends with the August 16 tournament at Caryville.

TEXAS

The Lone Star state was the big winner at the annual Texas-Oklahoma Shoot-out horseshoe pitching competition in Denison. Of the 12 divisions of competition, 10 were claimed by Lone Star state representatives.

There were 34 Oklahomans entered in the event while the Texans almost doubled their total with 64.

Texas wins were gained by boys' 1996 World Champion Jeremy Umphries in Class A with a 7-0 record and 78.1 ringer percentage. Other "Star" wins were garnered by James Dodson in Class B, Alice Chandler in Class D, Dean Campbell (E), Ronnie Johnson (G), Rick Robason (H), Johnny Crecy (I), Dan Moody (J), Hugh Traweek (K), and Amy Umphries (L).

Although records from 1989 to the present time have not been received the Chatter, men's state champions up to 1989

show that E.J. McFarland from Houston won 17 titles with Marvin Burgess, Ballinger annexing 10. Coke Bowker from Azle through 1989 had nailed eight and may be in a position to add to this total.

UTAH

The name "Steffen" pops up regularly in most of the tournaments in the southern area of the state. The explosive team of J.J. and Shirley have been making horseshoe news in the state for many years.

Recent news published in the February newsletter of the SUHPA shows J.J. is the men's state champion. J.J. and Shirley finished one-two in the SUHPA Championships, Shirley won the Tournament of Champions with J.J. finishing third with Shirley having a high 70.8% single game.

Add to this, the number one finish for Shirley in the Autumn Open with a 5-0 record and 53.12%. Her high was 65%. In the Memorial Open she topped the group with a 6-1 record and 55.0%, and added the Dixie Open with a perfect 5-0 and 53.38%.

Shirley won the 1996 women's state title with a 9-1 record and 63.25%. She finished fifth in the St. George Open, but had the high single game of 72.5.

Don Moser won the World Senior Games with a 9-2 record and 59.25%. Closing out the top five were Mont Lewis (7-5, 47.38), Duane Archibald (6-6, 48.57), Bud Schardine (4-7, 44.75) and Richard Parry (2-3, 31.25).

WASHINGTON

Joe Wolf, was the winner of the Winetrout Trophy for traveling distance. He participated in 5 of the 6 Classic tournaments this year, an amazing feat when you consider the winter weather they have had at his hometown, Spokane.

A thank you in the form of a special jacket was presented to Phyllis Quist for her years as WSHPA secretary. Everyone knows Phyllis has a warm heart and now she has a jacket to keep that heart warm forever.

Winners of the Winetrout Classic for 1997 are as follows: Bob Cook, Men 40 foot; John Reedy, Men 30 foot; Carol Sperber Women; Brandon Lund, Juniors; Joe Wolf, Travel Distance; and Arnt Jacobson, Most Improved.

Actually, everyone who pitches in a Winetrout tournament is a winner. The pitchers owe Winnie a big "thank you" for his sponsorship of these tournaments over the years. The pitchers enjoy the event.

Chatter was surprised to see the name of Victor Magnus in the Washington newsletter *Shoes News*. Vic is from Colorado, has won the Tournament Director's award, and was instrumental in getting Grand Junction, Colorado back in the horseshoe pitching circuit. By the way, he went 7-0 with a 40.7 ringer percentage to win Class G in the Winter Winetrout Classic Number 5.

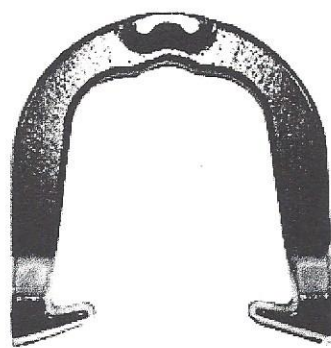
WEST VIRGINIA

Charles Bunner, who for the past five years has provided more news clippings for NHPA scrapbooks than any other person, says that the State is still trying to host the 1998 World Tournament. They are working on Charleston, WV to replace

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CHARTER CHATTER

Morgantown to host the tournament.

Ten-year old Adam McIntire won Class E, his mother Sharon took first in Class B and his father Paul won the "D" class in the Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers MCPARC "Spring Fling" tournament. Nothing like keeping it in the family.

In April, Beverly Tiano, Davis "Catfish" Woodward, Charles Osburn and Bunner discussed safety aspects and pitching skills of horseshoes at the West Fairmont High School during physical education classes. Each student pitched a minimum of four shoes and those scoring two points per inning were issued ribbons and any student pitching a ringer was provided the official West Virginia Horseshoe Pitchers Association state patch, courtesy of Bunner.

They used portable courts at the school, that will remain there until the end of the current school year.

WISCONSIN

During the 1996 state tournament, Randy Rein, the eventual tournament champion, was playing a newcomer in the championship class, Rick Poppe. They began with four dead and then another. Rein kept it going while Poppe managed just one ringer per inning. For the first 22, Poppe averaged near 73% while Randy remained perfect.

The critical shoe was the 32nd. Had it been on, it would have been the game. Perfect! Rein pitched 33 for 34, a 97.06%. Poppe 55.9.

The "Sandbar" Sports Arena is located in the Wisconsin River Valley about 28 miles west of Madison. It is called Sandbar because of Dave Forseth's Canoe rental business headquartered there—about 50 boats. But this place is more than that.

Eight clay horseshoe courts occupy only a third of the space. Folks of all sorts can play horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, video games and pool, attend dances, wedding receptions and banquets. You can come for Hawaiian night, Halloween, New Year's Eve or Super Bowl Sunday.

When the sun goes down and the younger members of the family begin to prowl, the amplifiers come out..and they can blast your socks off.

THE HORSESHOE TRADER

Collectors: Here's Your Chance To Expand Your Collection

by Bob Dunn

This series was initiated to enhance the hobby of collecting antique pitching shoes by NHPA members. Now it has come to view that some charters are even into the sport of collecting and maintain charter museum displays. This is a tremendous development and sets a marvelous example for all other charters. This issue features the collection of the Oregon Horseshoe Pitchers Association under the direction of Lee Wallace.

Lee also has some shoes that he has acquired that can be offered in trade, so you SHOE TRADERS can also contact Lee directly regarding these shoes. Lee is looking for any old shoes not listed above, but especially Isaacs, Betson, C.C. Davis, Detroit Flyer, Lucky Ringer, Martins and Mossman. Available for trade: Leaders, Diamond Official, Standard, Blue Diamond, Eagle Ringer, Double Ringer, Royal, Wonder, Champ, Ringer, Big Buck, Sportcraft and Competitor.

TRADER NOTES

■ Since this series began, the NHPA collection has gained some new shoes: Diamond Double Ringer (dated 1945), hookless Double Ringer, Blue Diamond, Giant Grip Champion, Leader, Champ, Eagle Ringer, Ringer, Royal and Top Ringer. If you have a donation for the NHPA archives contact Earl Winston.

■ Wm. Weis of Columbus, Ohio, had a pitching shoe ad in 1920. It was not a picture ad, so it is not known if these shoes carried a brand mark or not. Should anyone have information of Wm. Weis, please forward that on so the information can be shared.

■ In 1922, the Lucky Ringer Company of St. Louis, MO, manufactured the Lucky Ringer shoe. They were an incredible model for the brand name covered the entire top side of the shoe. No Lucky Ringers have been announced in collection, to this point anyhow. Does anyone have a Lucky Ringer shoe?

OREGON'S COLLECTION

Oregon may have been one of the first charters to begin a pitching shoe collection. Lee Wallace approached the charter's membership with the idea in 1990. By 1991, Frank and Clara Moan donated a 19' travel trailer. Members joined together to gut out the trailer, constructed cabinets and con-

verted it into a traveling showcase of the charter's and our sport's history. Bill Graham, OHPA vice president, and Lee Wallace serve as co-curators. The trailer now travels to numerous tournaments. No fee is charged to visit the display. Donations have so far covered the costs and the donations of exhibit items has been remarkable, according to Wallace.

The museum contains more than 200 shoes, representing 56 different models, old trophies, tournament posters, patches, various memorabilia and, of course, Hall of Fame plaques. Each club has an album to which pictures are added each year.

The Oregon collection includes many wonderful finds. A list follows. If you have some shoes that add to their collection and wish to donate to their cause, contact Lee Wallace, 505 S.E. Hawthorne Ave., Dallas, OR 97338.

Hookless	Tournament	Modern
Allith	Allith	Allen
Blue Diamond	Billard	Clydesdale
Diamond Official	Diamond Jr.	D & B
Diamond Jr.	Double Ringer	Durham
Double Ringer	Eagle Ringer	Easy Grip
Good Luck	Good Luck	Esco
Leader	Gordon	Greot
Mont. Wards	Giant Grip	Gordon
Natl. Standard	Health Guardian	Hugger
Octigon	HealthWays	Imperial
Ohio	Hensley	M&M
Sears	Hercules	Norwegian
Standard	J.C. Higgins	Ohio
Star	Lattore	Ohio Pro
Sure Ringer	T.J. Octigon	Steinfeldt
	Ohio	Too Dead
	Phoenix	
	Pro Shot	
	Ringer	
	Roberts	
	Royal	
	Spaulding	
	Sure Ringer	
	Top Ringer	
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Membership Dues	\$36,714
<i>Newsline</i> Subscriptions	4,975
<i>Newsline</i> Advertising	473
Misc. Patch Sales and Income	53
Annual Horseshoe Sanction Fees	300
1997 W.T. Entry Fees	83,602
Bank & Affinity Card Interest	1,665

Total Income 127,782

Expenditures

<i>Newsline</i> Printing and Mailing	\$4,714
<i>Newsline</i> Editor Allowance	620
Sanctioned League Postage and Printing	611
Sanctioned League Office, Supplies, Phone	26
W.T. Patches, Cash & Trophy Awards	302
W.T. Administrative Costs	1,042
W.T. Refunds, Fees and Overpayments	555
Regional Directors' Postage, Phone, Supplies	875
Regional Director Allowance	150
Equipment Purchases, Rental, Repair	420
NHPA Office Printing and Supplies	2,890
NHPA Postage	1,124
NHPA Officers' Phone	754
NHPA Officers' Travel	920
Secretary/Treasurer's Allowance	3,100
President's Allowance	930
Publicity and Promotion	205
NatStats Administration	697
Misc. Bank Charges, Refunds and Fees	187

Total Expenses 20,122

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen.

Mystery of the Metal Peg

Was this a marked grave? Or, possibly the stake for a fox trap?

The mystery deepened...

This is a true story. It happened some years ago in a remote wilderness area in Nova Scotia.

Story by Ed Murray

As the game warden drove his vehicle along the winding backwoods trail one warm summer afternoon, he suddenly pulled to a stop. He couldn't believe his eyes. A small clearing in the forest lay some distance from the road, but right there in the clearing was a peg driven in the ground

This was ideal deer country and the warden was on a routine patrol, checking for hunters shooting deer out of season. This part of the country was known for poachers and illegal trappers. That peg certainly looked like something a trapper might use to fasten a trap to for catching a fox.

The warden scratched his head as he examined the peg and the small clearing around. The peg was made of steel, and the ground around it had been dug up. The loose dirt would be an ideal spot to set and camouflage traps. But none seemed to be tied to the metal stake, and there was no sign of bait.

The warden decided to go back to town and return tomorrow with a round-nosed shovel to dig in the loose dirt and examine the area more thoroughly.

Next morning the game warden told the police about the strange dug up spot and the metal peg. He had also noticed a second peg some distance from the first one. Something strange was indeed going on in that small clearing and the police also became interested.

The warden, accompanied by a policeman, drove out to investigate the mystery. Although the warden maintained it must be the set for a fox trap because he knew these backwoods were full of fox, the police officer argued it looked more like a grave. A body must be buried there and the peg was a marker. A second body is probably under the other distant peg. "Look!" said the policemen, "The dug up area is six feet long and the width of a grave. Let's start digging."

The two men took turns digging

with the shovel, but soon discovered the dug up area around the peg was only about a foot deep. Underneath was hard, untouched soil. No body was found and there were no traps. The mystery now continued to deepen. Nobody lived anywhere in this wilderness region. Why was this tiny clearing in the woods disturbed by strange diggings, and stranger yet, the metal pegs.

The warden gave up and walked back to his parked vehicle. The police officer trudged along behind, murmuring to himself. He would tell his fellow officers about the strange goings-on here, and return again later.

Next day, while having coffee in a restaurant, the policemen told his fellow officers about that strange spot in the woods.

A fellow sitting at the next table listened intently and overheard the whole conversation. He got up, walked over to the officers, and said "What you seen in the clearing there is a place to play a game called Horseshoes. Here, look at this!" The fellow took an instruction booklet from his pocket and handed it to the police.

"Go back there," he said, "and take a measuring tape with you. You'll find that those two metal pegs are exactly 40' apart. I'm a horseshoe pitcher and you'll find in these instructions how to construct a layout for the game."

The police didn't know anything about a game called Horseshoes. But after further investigation reckoned the horseshoe pitcher was right. It was also discovered that a small cabin lay hidden in the heavy forest some distance from the clearing. Someone had been using it as a summer resort.

That someone was a fellow named Jack Whiting. Today, Jack lives in Dartmouth, and is President of the Nova Scotia Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

Jack Whiting's hidden cabin, and his horseshoe pitch caused quite a stir that summer day when the warden and policemen tried to solve the *Mystery of the Metal Peg*.

NHPA World Tournament

by Donald Pratt

*For two weeks in the summertime,
competitors appear.*

*But unlike the Olympians,
they gather once a year.*

A horseshoe player's paradise.

*The ultimate display,
where men and women, boys and girls
are pitching night and day.*

*They pitch within a certain class,
according to their skill.*

*An equal opportunity
to feel a winner's thrill.*

*Each class has 16 athletes,
who shoot for 3 days straight.
With ringer after ringer made,
the competition's great.*

*Some hold the shoe so it will flip,
while others make it turn.
But putting it around the post
is what all players yearn.*

*There's nervous stomachs everywhere
and sweat upon the brow,
anticipating all the joys
that winning would allow.*

*When all the matches are complete
and all the shoes are hurled,
we get to see who is the best
at horseshoes in the world.*

*It's not the grand Olympic Games,
but those who go can see
this tournament means everything
to horseshoe nuts, like me.*

NHPA FINANCIAL REPORT

**National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Statement of Activity and Changes in Net Assets
Regular Account (Secretary/Treasurer)
Years Ended March 31, 1997 and 1996**

Revenue	1997	1996
Membership	\$ 162,447	\$ 165,399
World Tournament - Schedule (1)	110,657	99,915
Horseshoe sanction fees	5,500	3,900
Sanctioned league - Schedule (2)	161	—0—
Miscellaneous, sales and charter dues	235	553
Visa card and miscellaneous income	802	1,185
<i>Newsline</i> - Schedule (3)	39,832	36,208
Refunds	30	502
Donations	1,200	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenue	\$ 320,864	\$ 307,962

Expenses:

<i>Newsline</i> - See Schedule (3)	\$ 33,247	\$ 30,792
Sanction League Expense - Schedule (2)	9,348	11,135
World Tournament Expense - Schedule (1)	155,464	107,516
Regional Directors' allowance & expenses	7,180	7,054
Tournament patches	11,238	10,580
Equipment purchases, rentals, repairs	5,665	5,125
Printing, paper and office supplies	5,985	8,512
Postage	4,637	6,340
Officers' telephone	3,315	5,511
Officers' travel	6,709	13,614
Secretary's allowance	20,655	16,500
President's allowance	5,591	5,580
Vice President's allowance	4,659	4,650
Publicity, promotion, advertising	2,532	3,047
Professional fees, accounting, legal	4,153	3,549
Misc. fees, bonds, bank charges, refunds	1,465	826
Insurance	16,144	17,557
NatStats administration	3,624	3,098
Awards - national championships	2,053	1,682
Depreciation	2,957	1,469
Donation to NHP Foundation	160,353	—0—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$ 466,974	\$ 264,137

Revenue in Excess of Expenses (146,110) 43,825

Other Income:

Interest income	12,547	11,134
Net Revenue in Excess of Expenses	(133,563)	54,959
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets, beginning of year	399,504	344,545
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$ 265,941</u>	<u>\$ 399,504</u>

**National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Statement of Activity and Changes in Net Assets
Game Items (Domey)
Years Ended March 31, 1997 and 1996**

Revenue	1997	1996
Shipley	\$ 21,848	\$ 29,452
Smith	12,922	14,497
Seibold	17,860	14,838
Ohms	13,529	11,704
Pro Shop	19,142	30,066
Domey	63,019	49,373
Senger	8,117	9,450
NHPA	22,013	25,826
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenue	\$ 178,450	\$ 185,206

Expenses:

Game related items	14,156	25,294
Office & miscellaneous expenses	\$ 5,990	\$ 3,217
Commissions	13,922	11,598
Horseshoes	117,335	120,910
Telephone	725	736
Postage	946	568
Freight	11,182	10,140
Advertising	214	15
Shirts and caps	3,461	2,261
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$ 167,931	\$ 174,739

Net Revenue in Excess of Expenses before Other Income 10,519 10,467

Other Income Interest Income 1,185 1,269

Net Revenue in Excess of Expenses 11,704 11,736

Net Assets, beginning of year 150,411 138,675

Net Assets, end of year \$ 162,115 \$ 150,411

NHPA FINANCIAL REPORT

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Statements of Financial Position
 Years ended March 31, 1997 and 1996

ASSETS	1997	1996
Current Assets		
Cash		
Regular Account (Sec/Treas)	\$ 260,195	\$ 236,855
Game Related (Domey)	71,298	68,820
Memorial Fund	3,618	2,564
Total Cash	<u>335,111</u>	<u>308,239</u>
Certificate of Deposit	-0-	155,000
Accounts Receivable (Domey)	13,444	9,301
Inventories (Domey)	69,144	64,061
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 417,699</u>	<u>\$ 536,601</u>
Equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation	10,357	13,314
Total Assets	<u><u>428,056</u></u>	<u><u>549,915</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Net Assets - Unrestricted		
Beginning Net Assets	549,915	483,220
Net Fund Activities	(121,859)	66,695
Ending Net Assets	<u>428,056</u>	<u>549,915</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 428,056</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 549,915</u></u>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Schedule of Activity—World Tourney
 Regular Account (Secretary/Treasurer)
 Schedule (1) Year Ended March 31, 1997 and 1996

Revenue:	1997	1996
Payment against 1990 W.T. debt	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,295
World Tournament entry fees	76,272	56,140
World patch and miscellaneous sales	661	—0—
Hall of Fame Banquet	2,615	480
Perry World payments	—0—	5,000
Gillette World payments	—0—	15,000
Kitchener World payments	12,000	5,000
1998 World bids (GA, NE, WY)	—0—	17,000
1998 Morgantown bid	5,000	—0—
World tournament finals fees	2,450	—0—
World tournament results printouts	492	—0—
World tournament photos	1,167	—0—
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 110,657</u>	<u>\$ 99,915</u>
Expenses:		
Cash, trophy, patch and trust awards	\$ 118,707	\$ 93,492
Administrative expenses	12,397	6,855
Hall of Fame, awards, supplies	4,162	1,469
Bid & entry fee refunds and overpayments	8,190	5,700
Officer's travel expenses	7,008	—0—
GA world tournament refund	5,000	—0—
Total World Tournament zexpenses	<u>\$155,464</u>	<u>\$ 107,516</u>
Net Expenses over Revenue	<u><u>\$ (44,807)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (7,601)</u></u>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Schedules of Activity—Sanctioned League
 Regular Account (Secretary/Treasurer)
 Schedule (2)
 Year ended March 31, 1997 and 1996

Revenue:	1997	1996
League patches	\$ 161	\$ —0—
Expenses:		
Sanctioned League -		
Patches and awards	\$ 6,145	\$ 8,042
Office supplies, phone	1,017	1,393
Director allowance	963	450
Junior Scholar trust	1,223	1,250
Total expenses	<u>\$ 9,348</u>	<u>11,135</u>
Net Expenses over Revenue	<u><u>\$ (9,187)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (11,135)</u></u>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America
Schedule of Activity (Newsline)
 Schedule (3)
 Years Ended March 31, 1997 and 1996

Revenue:	1997	1996
Subscription income	\$ 29,504	\$ 29,039
Advertising income	10,328	7,169
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 39,832</u>	<u>\$ 36,208</u>
Expenses:		
Printing, postage, supplies	\$ 29,520	\$ 27,072
Publication, editing and misc.	3,727	3,720
Total expenses	<u>33,247</u>	<u>30,792</u>
Net Revenue over Expenses	<u><u>6,585</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,416</u></u>

The Toll of Time

RAY BROTHERTON

New Hope, Minnesota

Ray Brotherton, author of *All You Have To Do Is Come Close*, passed away February 1, 1997 at age 88. His book on how to and how not to pitch horseshoes is one of the few books on our sport and is the most widely distributed. His book is in nearly every library in the U.S.A. Following losing his wife of 60 years to cancer in 1991, Ray began volunteering for the hospice program of North Memorial Medical Center. He was honored for his work in the program and continued volunteering until he suffered a stroke in the Fall of 1995. Ray made a marvelous contribution to our sport because he loved it, and those of us that knew him personally will miss him.

RUTH G. HEYDEN

A Livermore, California resident for the last 44 of her 77 years, Ruth Heyden died of natural causes on May 9, 1997. Ruth retired in 1983 from the Livermore Public Works Department where she was a secretary. With husband Roy, Ruth was very active in horseshoe pitching. As members of the Tri-Valley HC in Pleasanton, they gave much of their time to the club and sport. Both played a big part in the success of the 1988 World Tournament held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Ruth is survived by her husband Roy, son Jack, daughter Diane, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. All Northern California members will miss Ruth and her warm, friendly charm.

Horseshoes, Taste of the Town

The March 11, 1997 edition of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* ran an article complete with a bold picture of the chef at Norb Andy's restaurant in Springfield, Illinois, which features the town's favorite dish—horseshoes. Take note that we're not talking about the game, but a nutritional abomination that is a local delicacy served up in different variations at more than 2 dozen eating establishments.

It seems that Springfield residents, by newspaper survey, are so fond of them that there is an annual reader's poll to determine the best Horseshoe in town. And these gut busting meals of about 1,000 calories each, have been around for over seven decades. Just what is an edible Horseshoe? Well, it is technically an open-faced sandwich often laid out on a pizza plate. It's a meat and french fry concoction swimming in cheese sauce, soup and side dishes piled on top to create a teaming mound of calories. A wide variety of meat can be used in the Horseshoe, from hamburger to turkey, chicken, ham, bacon, fish, shrimp, pork, steak and vegetarian substitutes. The only rule is that whatever the main ingredient, it must be laid out on toasted bread completely drenched in a cheddar-based sauce and topped off with a mound of french fries.

People can go bonkers with variations and size. Most establishments offer a "Ponyshoe" which is a half portion roughly the size of a normal full meal. A regular Horseshoe is so big that the waitress normally carries the thing to your table with both hands. Most sources seem to agree that the Horseshoe had its start in 1928 at the

Leland Hotel where they ladled heavy yellow sauce over horseshoe shaped ham & eggs with fries, representing the nails of the horseshoe. So, if you're in the Springfield area, hungry and don't worry about cardiac arrest, order up a Horseshoe.

Recipe for Horseshoes

INGREDIENTS FOR SAUCE

Makes 4 Servings

1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup flour

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon fresh ground

black pepper

2 cups light cream

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
(sharp or mild)

Melt butter in a sauce pan, blend in flour, and cook on low heat until smooth and bubbly. Remove from heat and stir in salt, pepper, cream, cayenne and cheese. Return to heat, stirring constantly until smooth. Keep warm until sandwiches are ready.

INGREDIENTS FOR SANDWICHES

8 slices toasted bread

Sliced or shaved ham, turkey, chicken, cooked ground beef patties or other meat.

Cooked french fries

Place two slices of toast on the plate, top with meat, ladle with cheese sauce, and mound fries over it. Serve hot.

Source: "Honest to Goodness: Honestly Good Food from Mr. Lincoln's Hometown," 1989, The Junior League of Springfield, IL.

Decision Making: Make Sure You Have All The Facts

One night at sea, the ship's captain saw what looked like the lights of another ship heading toward him. He had his signalman blink to the other ship: "Change your course 10 degrees south." The replay came back: "Change your course 10 degrees north." The ship's captain answered: "I am a captain. Change your course south." To which the reply was: "Well, I am a seaman first class. Change your course north." This infuriated the captain, so he signaled

back: "Dammit, I say change your course south. I'm on a battleship!" To which the reply came back: "And I say change your course north. I'm in a lighthouse."



"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it."

—Joseph Joubert (1754-1824), French essayist

Ainsworth To Host '98 World

Ainsworth, Nebraska won a 3-way bidding race to play host to the 1998 World Tournament. On relatively short notice, Ainsworth, along with Charleston, WV and Albuquerque, NM, put in bids for the NHPA Executive Council to consider as a replacement for Morgantown. The dates of the 1998 event will be July 20-August 1.

Representatives of Ainsworth will be in Kitchener to answer questions. Motel rooms are very limited in Ainsworth, but like 1986 when they were also the World Tournament site, the people of the town will open their homes and personal RVs to folks who otherwise might have to room in another town. The Ainsworth committee will have further details in Kitchener and *Newsline* will print particulars in coming issues. For those who wish to reserve their motel room early, the following lodging list is provided.

Motels and Hotels

AINSWORTH	Area Code 402
Super 8 Motel	387-0700
Remington Arms	387-2220
Lazy A Motel	387-2600
Ainsworth Inn	387-0454
Skinnners Motel	387-2021
LONG PINE	
Hidden Paradise Resort	273-4144
The Pines	Cabins 273-4483
Pine Valley Resort	Cabins 273-4351
BASSETT	
Bassett Lodge	684-3376
Sandhill Motel	684-3791
Ranchland Motel	684-3340
SPRINGVIEW	
Larrington's Guest Cottage	497-2261

Special Events Calendar

JULY 1997

4-6 Greenville Ringer Classic—Greenville, OH. Ladies Championship July 4th. Men's Championship July 5 & 6. Contact Joel P. Loy, Secretary, Darke County Horseshoe Club, 628 Southbrooke Dr., Greenville, OH 45331. Phone 937-548-4320.

12-13 Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers—MCPARC, Worthington, WV. Entry fees plus \$1000 added. Full distance classes and mixed short distance classes. Preregister by July 2nd. Adults \$10, Juniors \$5, payable to Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers MCPARC, 508 Ohio Ave., Fairmont, Marion County, WV 26554-4155. 304-366-7986

14-27 World Tournament—Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. Preregister by May 1st, \$50 adults, \$10 juniors. Must use official NHPA entry form in this magazine or available from your Charter secretary.

AUGUST 1997

1-17 Ohio State Fair—At the Whetstone Horseshoe Club, Columbus, OH. Clay courts. Purse \$6,000, mixed play except for 30' and 40' finals. Preregister by July 3. Fee \$25. Limited to first 144 entries. For info. and registration forms, contact Ohio State Fair at 614-644-4040 or Don Sanders, Tournament Director, 6687 Merwin Rd., Columbus, OH 43235. 614-761-3357 (eves only).

NOVEMBER 1997

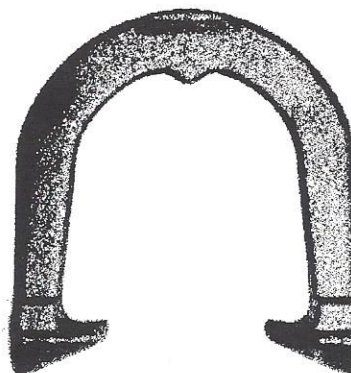
1-2 Music City Team Tournament—Joelton, TN. 3-person teams limited to 24 teams. Mixed event, no jrs. Players must have NatStat avg. showing at least 3 NHPA-sanctioned tournaments in 12 months prior to 9/1/97. Total combined % of 3 team members shall not exceed 215. Entry fee of \$90 per team must be received by Sept. 15th. Tournament Director not responsible for loss of income or expenses incurred in anticipation but not one of 24 teams selected. For info contact Mary Bastian, 3730 Old Charlotte Pike, Franklin, TN 37069-4791, 615-794-5620. Fax 615-591-0833.

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"The Rolls Royce of Horseshoes"

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Murrysville, PA 15668

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ORIGINAL \$49/Pair
PLUS \$45/Pair
Call for Quantity Prices

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 state information, you might want to write 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.

REGION REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 1. Washington | Rick Rebman
Rt. 5, Box 5257
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-8560 | 15. N. Dakota | Clint Bryson
901 Custer St.
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
(605) 892-2195 | 33. Tennessee | Dexter Stallings
731 Reed Drive
Powell, TN 37849
(423) 947-7865 |
| 2. Oregon | | 16. S. Dakota | | 34. Georgia | Jerome Kennedy
419 Grovania Rd.
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
(912) 987-3759 |
| 8. Idaho | | 17. Nebraska | Pat Wemhoff
255 6th Ave., S.
Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 564-7323 | 35. Florida | Ron Deckard
7302 Brookview Circle
Tampa, FL 33634
(813) 884-2932 |
| 3. Northern California | Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
(707) 538-3128 | 18. Kansas | Duane Goodrich
1244 SW 32nd
Topeka, KS 66611
(913) 266-4745 | 36. Ohio | Earl Vansant
244 Deer Drive
Chardon, OH 44024
(216) 285-2552 |
| 4. Southern California | Dave Garbani
317 E. Wilson Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(619) 375-6376 | 19. Missouri | Elwyn Cooper
6920 N.W. 78th Street
Kansas City, MO 64152
(816) 741-0043 | 37. West Virginia | Herb Murray
1303 Clyde Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 428-5646 |
| 6. Hawaii | John McCormack
91-941 Kalapu Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 689-8033 | 20. Oklahoma | Ronnie Frederick
1015 19th Street
Woodward, OK 73801
(405) 256-2759 | 38. Virginia | Kevin Snelgrove
P.O. Box 625
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
(504) 337-4689 |
| 7. Nevada | Don Weaver
2206 Sunnyslope Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 736-7348 | 21. Arkansas | Jerry Kahle
75 Table Rock Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631
501-253-6879 | 39. Pennsylvania | Frank Kallay
24 Tanager Drive
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
(412) 331-2472 |
| 9. Utah | Bud Schardine
354 Brookside Drive
Springville, UT 84663
(801) 489-6351 | 22. Texas | Hazel McCall
4000 Huaco Lane
Waco, TX 76710
(817) 756-0771 | 40. N. Carolina | Rick Bolick Sr.
1882 Union Grove Rd.
Lenoir, NC 28654
(704) 728-8523 |
| 10. Arizona | Cal Cordes
140 S. Pleasant Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
(520) 445-2859 | 23. Minnesota | Len Lipovsky
14741 Guthrie Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
(612) 953-0888 | 41. S. Carolina | Ron Taylor
116 Knox St.
Clover, SC 29710
803-222-3990 |
| 11. Montana | Rich Paul
P.O. Box 1012
Lincoln, MT 59639
(406) 362-4659 | 24. Iowa | C. Leo Buell
1234 Arthur Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 338-8256 | 42. Maryland | Ray Matlock
202 Wellesley Ct.
Walkersville, MD 21793
(301) 846-3483 |
| 12. Wyoming | Pat Bacus
440 W. 3rd
Lovell, WY 82431
(307) 548-6593 | 25. Mississippi | Bill Calhoun
1307 Clearmont St.
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 745-2356 | 43. Delaware | Lance Twyman
6320 CR 27
Canton, NY 13617
(315) 386-2404 |
| 13. Colorado | Allen Baptist
Box F
Edwards, CO 81632
(970) 926-3381 | 26. Alabama | Ron Latiolais
12102 Turry Road
Gonzales, LA 70737
(504) 647-4992 | 44. New York | George St. Pierre
26 Beacon St., Unit 38B
Burlington, MA 01803
(617) 273-4007 |
| 14. New Mexico | Charles Knotts
P.O. Box 361
Logan, NM 88426
(505) 487-2248 | 27. Louisiana | Jim Haupt
5075 N. Elkhart Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53217
(414) 964-2735 | 45. Maine | |
| | | 28. Wisconsin | Dave Shreve
2127 Lynn Street
Cahokia, IL 62206
(618) 332-2599 | 46. Vermont | |
| | | 29. Illinois | Steve Summerlin
198 O'Doherty
Brighton, MI 48116
(810) 220-4558 | 47. New Hampshire | |
| | | 30. Michigan | Jim Shilling
5044A CR 64
Spencerville, IN 46788
(219) 238-4879 | 48. Massachusetts | |
| | | 31. Indiana | R.O. Harris
112 Eastern Hills
Richmond, KY 40475
(606) 623-4659 | 49. Connecticut | |
| | | 32. Kentucky | | 50. Rhode Island | |
| | | | | 51. New Jersey | Ron Vogel
8 Orchard Road
Middlesex, NJ 08846
(908) 356-2046 |
| | | | | 52. Alaska | Pete Imhof
9031 Tern Dr.
Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 746-2030 |
| | | | | 61-72 Canada | Jack Adams
35 O'Neil Crescent
Saskatoon, SK
Canada S7N 1W7
(306) 373-5184 |

GREAT PRIZES



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777 W. Midvalley Road
Cedar City, Utah 84720
(801) 586-9352

CURLY SEIBOLD
1043 Grayston Avenue
Huntington, Indiana 46750
(800) 356-3489

GEORGE ANDERSON
1869 Mourning Dove Drive
Palm Harbor, Florida 34683
(813) 786-1128

DAVE & PAT SENER
6052 W. Broadway, Apt. 1
New Hope, Minnesota 55428
(612) 533-8140 Local area
(800) 584-0194 Out of area

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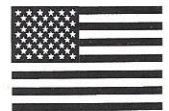
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