



The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

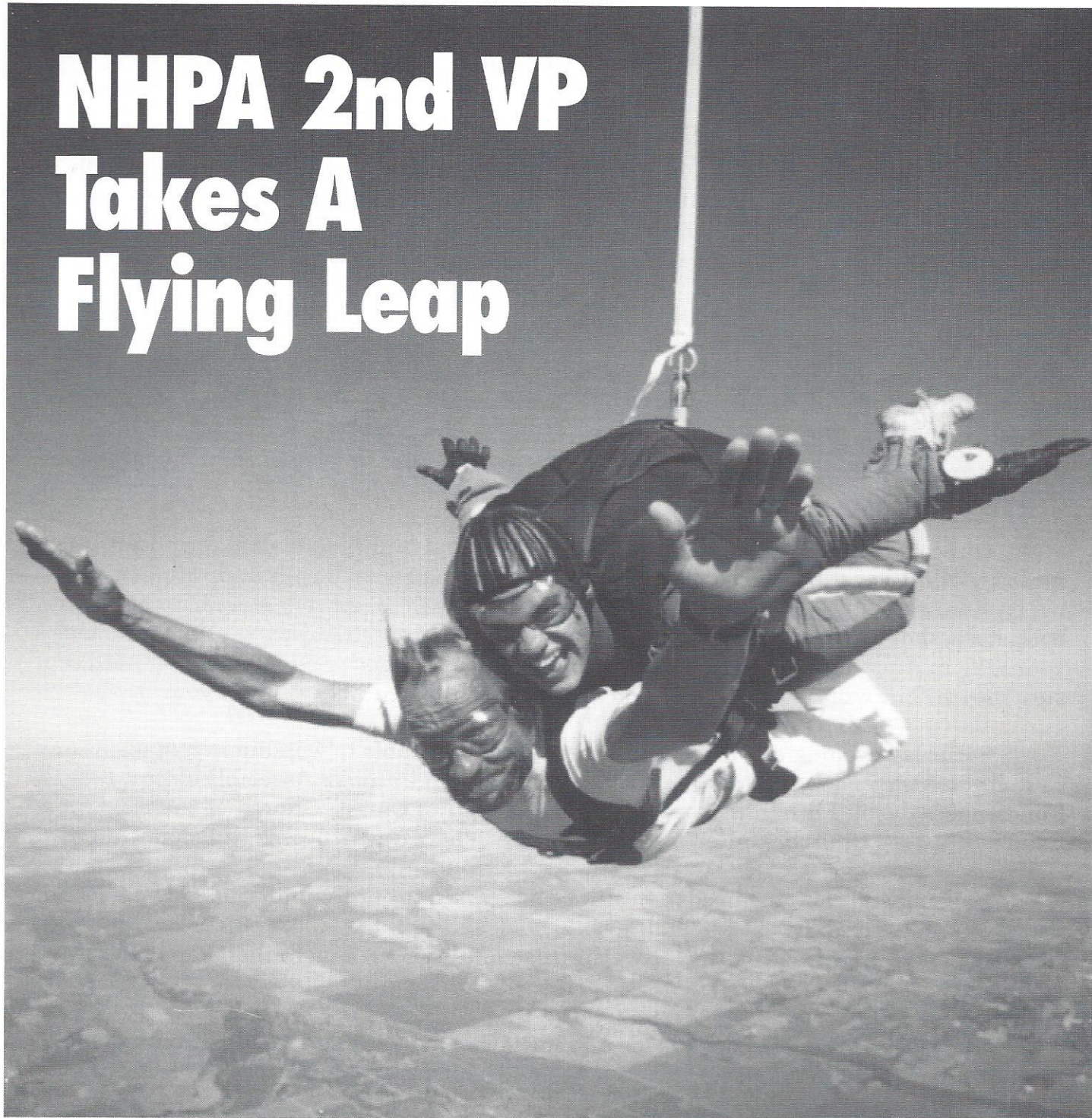


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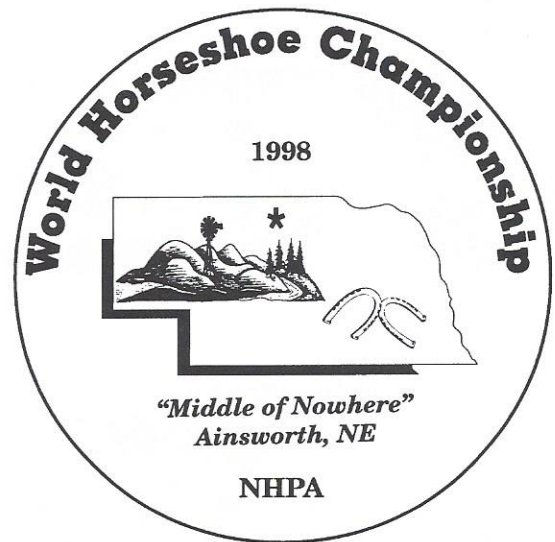
VOL. 10 NO. 2

MARCH/APRIL 1998

NHPA 2nd VP Takes A Flying Leap



**Welcome To Ainsworth ...
Host Site Of The
1998 World Horseshoe
Pitching Tournament
Ainsworth, Nebraska
July 20-August 1, 1998**



It seems like just yesterday that we found out Ainsworth, Nebraska ("The Middle of Nowhere") would be hosting the 1998 World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. All of our committees have been working very hard, hoping this will be a wonderful journey for you and your families.

Ainsworth (Brown County and Surrounding Area) has many opportunities awaiting everyone. From canoeing, tubing, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, tours, Casinos, working ranch tours, golfing, drive-in movie theater, hiking down the Cowboy Trail, museums, bowling, pitching horseshoes (of course), swimming, tennis, watching a ball game, or just sitting down for a cold glass of ice tea under the shade, or watching the beautiful sunsets in the Sandhills, we can guarantee there is enough to keep everyone busy, happy and most of all, glad they came to Ainsworth, Nebraska.

Our community is privileged to have good medical facilities, dentist, eye doctor, pharmacist, clothing stores, fast food places, steakhouse, restaurants, motels, radio station, newspaper, hardware store, lumber yards, mechanics, car dealers, grocery stores, jewelry store, book store, shoe store, automotive stores, electricians, just about anything you need to make your stay in Ainsworth a good one. If these businesses cannot provide what you need, I'm sure they will be willing to help you find someone who will be able to fulfill your needs.

Saturday evening or Sunday mornings, you will be able to worship in just about any church you wish -- New Apostolic, Faith Baptist, St. Pius X Catholic, Assembly of God, Berean Fundamental, Zion Lutheran, Congregational Church of Christ, Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Free Church, United Methodist or the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall.

Housing and camping needs can still be addressed to our Committee Chairman Carol Sears. You may reach her at (402) 387-1720, home or (402) 387-2883, office. If you cannot reach her, leave a message on the answering machine -- she will more than happy to return your calls.

We welcome you with open arms and hope we have all the needed patients to make this tournament worth the while for you to attend and hopefully make you visit us against in the future!

NHPA NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: DAVE LOUCKS, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-477-3335

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: EARL WINSTON, 10326 Highway D. LaMonte, MO 65337 660-563-3536

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: CASEY SLUYS, 1721 San Ramon Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 707-538-3128

3RD VICE PRESIDENT: BEVERLY BORN, RR2, Box 198-A, Shattuck, OK 73858 580-938-2406

4TH VICE PRESIDENT: BONNIE SEIBOLD, 1043 Grayston Ave., Huntington, IN 46750 219-356-3489

5TH VICE PRESIDENT: PAUL STEWART, 1043 Old Mountain Rd., Statesville, NC 28677 704-528-5081

SECRETARY/TREASURER: DICK HANSEN, 3085 76th St., Franksville, WI 53126 414-835-9108

PROGRAM & COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

GAME RELATED SALES: ED DOMEY, P.O. Box 298, Sutton, MA 01590 508-865-9477

NATIONAL PROMOTION: BOB DUNN, 6417 Georgia Ave. No., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 612-535-3884

PUBLICITY: BOB CHAMPION, 5505 Valmont #176, Boulder, CO 80301 303-449-8395

HISTORIAN: GARY KLINE, 605 Brantly Ave., Dayton, OH 45404 513-236-7206

NATSTATS: GLENN JAMIESON, 3231 Vineyard Ave., #17, Pleasanton, CA 94566-6359 510-462-6030

VIDEO SALES: SOL BERMAN, (Nov.-May) PGA National 1 Wycliff Rd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 407-626-8507

(May-Nov.) Clearbrook 319A Persica Plaza, Cranbury, NJ 08512 609-655-3471

BYLAWS: 4th VP, BONNIE SEIBOLD

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ON THE COVER

Casey Sluys. See story on page 15 in the Here & There column.

President's Message

Some Changes for World Tournament Bid & Play

It is no surprise to most NHPA convention delegates and readers of this magazine that getting people to bid for our World Tournament has become an increasingly tough procedure. Indoor facilities where most pitchers like to play a World have especially become difficult to solicit because the NHPA asks them to pay us for using their facilities in addition to virtually all other non-prize money-related costs. That is backward to them because tax dollars built their facility and they are expected to charge users a fee to keep them operating. The NHPA is not a deep pockets organization and under the present process, does not have a large enough membership or income base to pay World expenses outside of the prize money and general operating/administrative costs.

I spoke of this somewhat at the 1997 convention and stressed that changes had to be made. At that time, I asked the delegates to consider a possible change in 1998 that would put the site selection process in the hands of the Council who could best make contact with and assess the offers of sites against what is really needed to put a World Tournament together. My suggestion, as expected, drew mixed feelings. I believe the majority of delegates would like to keep the selection process dependent upon their vote. Thus, I spent considerable time in the last few months talking with past and potentially future sites about what changes (if any) in our present bidders' contract had to be made to bring forth a bid from them.

Naturally, you can imagine that most would like the NHPA to absorb all the facility rental fees and associated tournament expense. But that is just not possible given our small membership income base. Even though 1,500 pitchers and family members spend \$2.5-\$3 mil in the surrounding community, the bidding facility often can expect to receive none of this money. The motels, restaurants and service outlets love us, but unless some sort of sharing fund is set up or normally available, the bidding site gets little income from us other than RV parking if it has hook-ups available. Even then, it can often turn out unprofitable for them if the RVs don't come in sufficient numbers as happened in Perry, Georgia, a site many felt was the best overall.

What, then, can we do? Fortunately, some facility people indicated that a relatively modest swing of \$10,000-\$15,000 in what they were expected to pay could make a difference in how they evaluated the worth of bidding. To that end, I proposed and the Executive Council (Tournament Committee) unanimously approved the NHPA picking up the cost of trophies and deleting the \$5,000 portable court rental fee. These two items will result in about a \$10,000 savings to the host site. We hope it will also lead to more bidding interest as potential year 2000 sites have been advised. Both Ainsworth and Greenville, sites of the 1998 and 1999 tournaments had also asked us for some financial help. The Council agreed to pass along the described savings to both.

Only time will tell if this change goes far enough. With the NHPA absorbing some \$10,000 in additional cost, we

had to determine how to pay for it. Three dollars of every adult dues already goes to the Championship Prize Fund, so we had to find another source. The answer was to increase the World entry fee. Many have suggested over the years that \$50.00 was too little for a World Championship and the Council agrees. We did not go to the \$100 some have suggested, but settled on \$75.00 for all adults and \$15.00 for Juniors. In so doing, we will also increase the class prize money for a group of 16 from \$800 to \$1,000. Rather than pay just 5 of 16, we will now pay the top 6 places. This will also enable us to claim a bigger total purse which may help garner some increased media attention. Naturally, a portion of each entry fee will now be withheld to pay for the trophies and replace portable courts and mats which have a life span of 4-5 years.

1998—A Year to Consider Proposed Bylaw Changes

The membership sent in 39 proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws. As is the usual practice, the Bylaws Committee (Executive Council) met in January to discuss and debate the worthiness of the proposals. Fortunately, many were near duplications of ideas on the same subject. In these instances, we selected the best stated or understood proposal and voted as to whether it had enough merit to bring it to the delegates. Several proposals covered just a word or two merely for grammatical reasons. Such proposals where the intended statement of the Article or Section would not be compromised, can according to the Parliamentarian, be changed without vote during the next printing. When we had gone through them all, a total of 15 received majority approval of the committee and will be presented to the delegates for vote.

As NHPA president and *Newsline* publisher, I consider one of the proposals particularly important to the entire membership. It is again an effort to include the association magazine as a part of every adult member's dues, at least one magazine to every household. Communication, getting the word out, remains our biggest problem. Just over 20% of our members now voluntarily subscribe. How can we, as an organization, expect to grow and prosper alongside other sports if 80% of our members have very little idea of what is happening in the association and sport? How long does it now take for news of Rule or Bylaw changes to trickle down to the semi-active member before they realize it affects them? How do we tell everyone about all the wonderful benefits the newly formed charitable foundation (NHPF) can provide the game? How do we circulate the news of people, events, and features to all? *Newsline* is the only magazine totally devoted to our sport and the NHPA. It should be in the hands of all our members like most other association magazines. A member who isn't interested enough in a sport or association to care about reading about what is happening is a very marginal member indeed. Yet, these are the same people who are often first to complain or question an issue. A *Newsline* mailed to the household of every adult member doesn't guarantee it will be read, but it will bring the word to a lot more corners of the NHPA.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Dave,

Each time I see a Jim Haupt byline in *Newsline*, I know the readers are in for a treat. The January/February offering on Ralph Dykes was no exception. Thanks to you and Jim for giving us the opportunity to look back and remember Ralph and his inimitable humor, although it would appear that Jim could run Ralph a close race in that department.

In the same issue of *Newsline*, I also caught several references to the subject of membership remaining at a status quo and some charters wondering how they can increase participation in their areas. As I begin my eleventh year as Secretary/Treasurer of the Missouri Charter, I can only relate what has appeared to be the biggest boon in our charter. It is the number of sanctioned leagues that we have available.

Through the years I have witnessed the reluctance of some charters, and even some of the NHPA Executive Council, to tout the Sanctioned Club/League Program. The race seems to be who can hold the most sanctioned tournaments in a given period. Tournaments are an important part, but they should not be the sole focus of any horseshoe pitching organization.

I do not have 1997 figures available to me at this writing, but I can tell you that in 1996, Missouri had 951 adult and 40 junior members. Of that 991 total, there were 368 who had participated in one or no events. In most cases, that one event was a sanctioned league. I know where Missouri would be without sanctioned league play. We would be back with some other charters wondering how to increase our membership.

Yes, sanctioned leagues are hard work. Someone must do stats every week. In many cases only one or two people are left with court maintenance. However, league play is something that pitchers can do on a weekday evening, when perhaps they aren't able to devote a weekend to tournament travel. Beverly Born will tell you that leagues needn't be large. If only a small number of pitchers are available, the handicap system will help make up for the wide variation of averages that will be encountered. It is my belief that new

pitchers will be more inclined to sign up for league play than would ever start out cold turkey in a tournament.

Each year that I continue as a state officer, I am continuously made aware of how important our local clubs and leagues are to the well being of our state association. It is through their constant efforts and hard work that our Charter continues to thrive. I would ask Charters everywhere, "Do you have local clubs with permanent court facilities where sanctioned league play is not available?" If so, you already have one avenue to pursue as you seek to increase membership. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Vicki Winston, MOHPA
Secretary/Treasurer

Dear Dave,

I used to complain of too few tournaments where different distance pitchers were separated. Little did I know. Now that I live in Ventura and am in the SCHPA, it's a different ball game. Would you believe that there are no tournaments—NONE—where the different distances are separate. I cannot comprehend the logic.

"Horseshoes" will never reach it's potential under the existing 30 ft. mentality. It has actually regressed considerably. So many of our good pitchers

have gone to 30 ft., not because they couldn't pitch from 40 ft. anymore, but because they became tired of the charade. Until the rules are changed the game will continue to flounder.

In July I will be 70 years old. There will be no 30 ft. for me as I realize the stupidity of it all. I will go on to other things. No pitching against old men, women and children. They get to leave a sinking ship first, but I don't have to tolerate this nonsense. I'll drop my membership at all levels and not renew *Newsline*.

Shoes for sale,

Marlin Goodyear, Ventura, CA

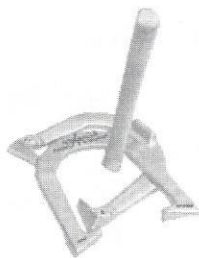
To the Editor,

The "NHPF" sounds like a wonderful opportunity for all members to support. I see it as a major step to educate the public and elevate our sport.

I will encourage the IHPA officers to either designate a tournament(s) or find another way to financially assist in the endowment and building funds.

As the Director of Tournaments held in West Des Moines and at the state fairgrounds, I plan on having copies of the NHPF Announcement available and will be asking and reminding everyone to send a donation.

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Sanctioned League/Club News

by Bev Born

CL/LG CANCELLATIONS

The following CL/LG Sanctions have been, or are now being canceled. These cancellations are either by cl/lg Director's request or because no 1997 reports were received and no answer to notices sent out in November 1997.

1. Allen Cty, HPA, OH
2. Spencer HSLg, WI
3. Kilkenny Jr. Lg., MN
4. Sidney HSC, MT
5. NE Plains, CO
6. High Plains, CO
7. Moose HSA, CT
8. Palm River, FL
9. South Florida HPA, FL
10. Socorro Double Ringers, NM
11. Roswell Wringers, NM
12. Springer Ringer, NM
13. Knox Cty, OH
14. Lake Country, OK
15. Choctaw, OK
16. Bullocks Creek, SC
17. Rapid City Ringers, SD
18. Lincoln Park, MI
19. Mitchell Winter Lg., SD
20. Carrollton Clinkers, TX
21. Sevier River Ringer Slg., UT
22. Signal Knob, VA
23. Wellington Jr. Lg., CO

This is always a sad chore for me. I truly dislike this aspect of my duties. I know that it does happen and many times it is no one person's fault. The reasons for dropping from the program are very wide and sometimes unavoidable. Although I hate losing any groups, it really is worse when it is due to just a plain lack of correspondence from the person in charge of reports. I do very much appreciate the people who are kind enough to let me know in advance or do take the time to answer the year-end reminders that I send out. If your club is in trouble of any kind, and may disband or just no longer wish to be part of this program, I would be extremely grateful to those who let me know as soon as possible.

So please contact me. Who knows, we may be able to work out a solution to your problem or put your sanction on hold for a year, while you work on reorganization, new courts, new members, whatever. For those who just will not correspond, there is nothing I can do but cancel the sanction.

This may come as a surprise to some when they get no credit or awards at the close of their season. Sometimes when a director of a group

decides to no longer do the paperwork, they also fail to inform the whole group and may not even try to find someone else to take over the work and reports. Some do try to find a replacement, with no success. There are too many who just do not want the responsibility. Too many who just want the fun, competition, pitch and go home. For any organization to succeed it takes the team work. Leaving all of the duties and work to just one or two will eventually lead to the failure of the entire group, regardless of what sport or activity they are a part of.

The work of running a cl/lg is not difficult and is not that time consuming if good weekly records are kept and reports are submitted in a timely manner. Whether you desire to be sanctioned or not sanctioned, PITCH IN AND HELP. By helping, you will insure the growth, fellowship and continued success of your favorite pass time. *Good luck, good health and good pitching to all.* A reminder—if you are an NHPA member and are pitching in any non-sanctioned event, league or tournaments, you are not covered by the NHPA insurance.

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Regional Directors Report

by Paul Stewart

We have one Regional Director change to report. **Hurb Murray** from West Virginia has decided to step down as the Regional Director of West Virginia. His replacement will be **Ken Wilhelm** from Clarksburg.

Jerry Kahle, RD Arkansas, reports that a new club in Plummerville, Arkansas has been formed. They have purchased land and are also planning other forms of recreation on the grounds. At present they have 12 courts. Plummerville is centrally located, just a few miles west of Conway, off Interstate 40. This should make a fine addition to existing Arkansas court sites. Many members have joined the NHPA and will conduct sanctioned tournaments in 1998. Rich Gronke is president of the club.

Gail Sluys, RD Northern California says "We have a member we all call 'Mr. Horseshoes/Mr. California.'" Chet Carter has set a new record for number of sanctioned tournaments pitched—67 in one year, 1997. When you look at the size of our state, you soon realize that is a lot of traveling each weekend. Not only did he set that record, but this gentleman (I think he is 75 years young and he still pitches from 40 ft.) is an associate member of all 25 Northern clubs and now has become an associate member of all Southern CA clubs. That shows not only his love of the sport, but that he is a great supporter of horseshoes in our state.

Jim Shilling, RD Indiana, reports that Indiana is fortunate to have indoor courts at three locations across the northern part of the state. The Whiting Horseshoe Club is in NW Indiana not far from Chicago. Stroh is in north central Indiana. And finally, the Classic City Horseshoe Club is near Spencerville in NE Indiana. All three clubs have been operating for several years. Whiting and Stroh each have four courts; Classic City has six. All of these clubs have league pitching (some sanctioned). Each of the clubs also hold sanctioned tournaments. Of the three, Classic City has the largest membership—nearly 100 sanctioned

league pitchers. Speaking as the owner and manager of the Classic City facility. Jim personally believes that we need more indoor courts across the country. It's a good way to go! The length of time that these three indoor pitching facilities have been in existence gives testimony to the popularity of pitching indoors during the winter months, at least in the colder regions of North America.

Allen Baptist, Colorado RD, reports that 1997 was another successful year for Colorado horseshoes. We held 30 sanctioned tournaments, even with a couple of cancellations. The Eagle Valley Horseshoe Club completed 8 new sanctioned courts this last summer with plans to hold a sanctioned tournament in August of 1998. Paul LaCrosse won his 14th State title, one game ahead of Rich Pintor. Bob Champion was the third person from Colorado to be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame, and I was privileged to win the NHPA Regional Director of the Year.

We are excited about what 1998 will bring will bring us. We have some new tournaments coming up and with the World being close to home this year, we are planning to send a large contingent to Nebraska. 1997 also had its sad moments. We had some pitchers pass on, including Janie Thompson, the 2-time defending State champion. In closing, I would like to wish all of the NHPA members and their families a successful 1998 season.

Dave Garbani, Southern California RD, reports that the annual SCHPA meeting was held at Orcutt, CA on November 22-23. It was announced that this coming year will celebrate the 25th consecutive year for the "Wally Shipley" Walking Doubles Tournament. Mr. Elmer Landis was recognized for winning a Gold Medal during the "Senior Olympics" which was held at St. George, Utah.

Burbank horseshoe courts are in the process of getting the concrete walkways replaced which will require that their tournaments be held at the South gate courts until completion of

said walkways by the City. The Orange Horseshoe Club is proposing to host a "World Invitational" sometime in the near future. This tournament will be held at the Fairplex (Los Angeles Fairgrounds), will be for men and women, will have a purse of \$20K and span 16 days.

Buena Park Horseshoe Club is attempting to increase their courts from 8 to 12. Apple Valley is hosting the 1998 California State Championships and will have completed all of their 34 courts in plenty of time. The NCHPA and SCHPA agreed during the State annual meeting that each organization will purchase a "large" trophy to be presented to the yearly state boys and girls champion.

These trophies are to be on display and updated yearly. Edyth Soward and Jim Atwell were both inducted into the Charter's Hall of Fame; both for their past "organizational" skills and for years of contribution and involvement to the SCHPA and the NHPA as a whole. Wally Shipley presented the award to Edyth Soward and President Darlene Fearon presented the award to Jim Atwell. Edyth's deceased husband, Doug, was inducted two years ago. Jim has been very active in the NHPA since 1954.

Roy Riggins was presented with the award for most tournaments participated in (53). This may be a new record for SCHPA.

Alice Bailey of the Ventura Horseshoe Club was presented with the award for Most Improved Player (27%).

Rick Rebman, Washington RD, reports that Washington State has been very fortunate to have members Phyllis and Jim Quist. Both received recognition for their dedication and support of horseshoes by their induction into the Washington State Hall of Fame. The junior program has benefited through efforts to raise money to assist Juniors in attending the World Tournaments. Washington State had the largest group of Juniors in attendance at the 1996 Gillette Tournament. Request for information about and donations to the Junior Promotions program have been received from all over the U.S.

Where Did We Come From?

by Bob Dunn

For the past few years, this series on promotion has had a bit of our history in each issue. A following has been developed of those curious or interested on how things used to be. Several charters have perked their interest of the sport's history in their more local area. Many comments have been received where we have mentioned relatives of present members or have rekindled fond memories of some of our elders. And, some have asked, "how does something that happened seventy years ago have anything to do with today?" That's simple. As we know our roots—where we come from—we better realize we are part of something even larger than what we see today, we become more proud. That can stimulate enthusiasm to promote our sport, for today and for our future.

The glimpse of our past in this issue is so significant, it is this month's feature article. To read this overview as written in 1920 by Art Headlough of Akron, Ohio, is to read the actual creation of what one year later became the NHPA. This is a marvelous story by Headlough of our beginning. While a few other state associations existed at the time and made contributions to the NHPA's being organized, it was the founders and leaders of the Buckeye Horseshoe Pitching Association of Ohio that blazed the trail of our organization and our sport's beginning. And now from 1920...

Horseshoe Pitching in Ohio

The game of horseshoe pitching was revived in Ohio in 1915. Up to that time, no organized effort was ever made to bring the game to the front. Although several men in the state pitched the game for pastime, no known rules existed. It was left to the Scripps-McRae League of Newspapers to give to Ohio the first state champion horseshoe pitcher of all states in the union. The game was boosted through their papers in all parts of the state. Rules were adopted, the distance set at 46-1/2 feet. A tournament was held in nearly every county in the state, the winner of which was sent to Columbus to meet in the finals for the state title. On January 3, 1915, George

McDonald, champion of Toledo; Ed Hardwick, champion of Cincinnati; Bert Crow, champion of Cleveland; and Charles Ray Cox of Columbus, met in the finals. The tournament was given a big boost. Governor Willis and Mayor Karb of Columbus pitched the opening game, the Governor losing 21 to 7, Charles Cox winning the title by defeating Bert Grow, the Cleveland champion, 21 to 15. The games were played by electric light, under the method of when a man lost a game he was out of the tournament, each man playing the best out of 4 games. 2,500 people witnessed the tournament.

After the tournament in 1915, the game took hold in all parts of the state and champions and near champions sprung up from everywhere, and the champion received challenges from every county.

In 1916, plans were laid for another state tournament, to be held at the State Fair, under the auspices of the Scripps-McRae newspaper and champions from 88 counties took part. There were 5,000 horseshoe pitchers in all parts of the state competing for county titles. The prizes offered at the state championship were: \$100 cash and a \$30 medal; second and third places, \$25 in gold and horseshoe stick pin, value \$15. The tournament was pitched in the open space near Grant's cabin. The title was won by Frank Eachus of Gallipolis, defeating Joseph Bicar of Canton, four straight games. One of the entries, Mr. J.R. Foust, a wealthy livestock dealer of Plain City, who was defeated by Bicar of Canton, was a surprise to the big crowd, and more so to his friends as nearly the whole population of Plain City came to root their townsman to victory. The tournament took place September 1 and was the big feature of the State Fair.

No other tournaments of note took place in the state until September 29, 1919, at Logan, where some of the most noted pitchers entered, such as Hughie Palmer of Akron, the state champion, Charles Bobbitt of Lancaster, Fred Brust of Columbus, the national champion and Frank Eachus, former state champ, who was defeated the year before by Hughie Palmer in a

special match for the title.

At Wooster, a tournament was held at the County Fair. There were some 30 entries, eliminated down to 16. George May of Akron won the tournament with a clean slate.

The game seemed to take new life and several special matches were held in the state in 1919. Hughie Palmer was defeated by Charles Bobbitt. On Sunday, October 19, one of the greatest matches ever held was staged by the members of the Akron Fire Department—George May vs. Charles Bobbitt. The match was given publicity in all parts of the state. It took place at Goodrich Field before a crowd of 1,000 people, May winning the match in straight games after losing the first game. On the following Saturday, October 25, May pitched Hughie Palmer for the state title, winning the match in six straight games.

Several hundred dollars were bet on these games, and the enthusiasm ran high, May being considered unbeatable. Plans were at once laid to send him to St. Petersburg, FL to compete for the national title. As the fall came on and the weather was not so good for horseshoe pitching, several of the boosters of the game began looking forward to putting the game on an organized basis.

On October 29, 1919, in the office of the Akron Realty Co. I.O.O. F. Bldg., South Main Street, Akron, Ohio, the following horseshoe boosters gathered and organized the Buckeye Horseshoe Pitching Association of Ohio, which name was suggested by Mr. William Weiss, of Goodyear. Action was taken at once and interim organizations in the country, and the first state organization of its kind in the United States. After several meetings, the organization was perfected, with the following officers:

President—Captain Austin Stair of Akron Fire Dept.
 Vice President—William Weiss, Goodyear Rubber Co.
 2nd V.P.—W.A. Johnson, Pres. Rubber Products Co.
 3rd V.P.—John T. Mertz, Chief Akron Fire Dept.
 4th V.P.—Frank F. Pilmore, Akron Grocery Co.
 5th V.P.—Fred E. Smith, President Akron Realty Co.
 6th V.P.—R.C. Witwer, County Treasurer
 Secretary—Art L. Headlough, Akron Fire Dept.
 Treasurer—J.M. Wylie, Secretary Rubber Products Co.
 Board of Directors—Harry G. Haynes, President of

the Kenmore Banking Co.; George May, State Champion, John E. Richardson of Ravanna; Fred M. Brust, Former National Champion of Columbus; Harvey J. Kryder of Akron; Clyde B. Mitchella, Goodrich Rubber Co., of Akron.

Plans were at once laid to boost the membership during the coming winter. Several news items and some publicity soon spread the name Buckeye Horseshoe Association. Before December 1, 100 members were on the charter roll. The game was boosted throughout the winter, several matches and exhibition games being played on the indoor courts of the Rubber Products Co., which was then donated to the game by Mr. W.A. Johnson. Before winter was over, the first local club was organized, at Barberton, Ohio, named the Stronghold Horseshoe Club.

By February plans were completed for the national tournament at St. Petersburg, FL. George May of the Akron Fire Dept., Joe Wilkinson of Firestone, Hughie Palmer of Goodrich, Scotty Rowan of Goodyear, were the entries from Akron and Fred Brust of Columbus. Thus Ohio was well represented. The game continued to boom and membership from all over the state were soon represented in the association. Horseshoe clubs were formed, and all horseshoe pitchers were lined up with the new state organization. A bid was sent to Florida for the next national tournament, which was successful, Akron being awarded the tournament for the summer of 1920. The association being on a good footing, necessary stationery, etc., were adopted, as also temporary constitution and bylaws.

In the Spring of 1920, a campaign was started to organize a state association in several other states and form horseshoe clubs in all parts of Ohio. After several months of effort through the Buckeye association, a state association was organized in California and in the meantime the Minnesota state association affiliated with the Buckeye association, as did the Grand League of American Horseshoe Pitchers, with headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas.

Ohio became the hotbed for the horseshoe pitching game. All the fans in the state soon became interested to the extent that hundreds of inquiries came in every week. The demand for information on the game became so great that the secretary spent all of every other day answering those who became interested. The association became so well known that inquiries

came from all parts of the country from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Stories in newspapers and magazines began to appear on horseshoe pitching. The Buckeye association met the demand for information to all who asked for it. At the present writing, state associations are in the making in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kansas, all through the efforts of the Buckeye association.

The national tournament being awarded to Akron, the association took hold to make it a real success. Committees were appointed, regular meetings held, and all details completed. On June 15, the tournament was approved by the Akron Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association. A campaign to raise funds to finance the tournament was carried out, support being given by the Rubber industries and other commercial business in the city. The athletic field of the Goodyear Rubber Co. was selected to be the place to play off the greatest national tournament ever held in the history of the game. A prize list to the amount of \$1,681. was offered, including three medals, twelve trophy cups, two pair of horseshoes and over \$1,000 in cash.

The tournament was given publicity throughout the country, entries coming as far as California. All details of the national tournament being carried out, a State Tournament at the State Fair in Columbus was planned. After receiving the cooperation of the Fair Board, who contributed \$250 for prizes, it was decided to hold the state meet on September 3 and 4. Medals being contributed by the Scripps-McRae Newspapers and trophies by businessmen of Columbus, the state meet looks to be one of the most successful in the history of the game in Ohio. Several boosters for the game in Ohio are Fred Reinke of Akron, Vincent Stevens of Lancaster, W.W. Henry of Lisbon, M.M. McCoullough of Lorain, Judge Marshall of Piqua, Martin Definbaugh of Dover, William Yocum of Zanesville, Frank Eachus of Gallipolis, C.E. Dickeson of Wellington, Edward Manncom of Niles and J.W. Walter of Wooster.

The game has a good hold and 1921 looks to be the banner year for the game. There will be no less than 25 horseshoe clubs in the state by that time. The Buckeye association, up to this writing, is affiliated with about 30,000 horseshoe pitchers in the United States, its one object being to

standardize the game and bring all the horseshoe pitchers in the country together under one national organization, to advance the game as a sport and recreation, for the old as well as the young. This can only be done through the cooperation of the horseshoe pitchers and boosters themselves. The Buckeye association is open to assist in any part of the United States to carry out these ideas. This is the contribution of the Buckeye Horseshoe Pitching Association of Ohio to the game and the horseshoe pitchers of the country.

PROMOTION JOTTINGS

■ So often, when speaking to a non-sanction club or an individual that is not an NHPA member, the question arises, "Why should I pay \$12.00 for a membership? What do I get out of it?" After reading this article by Art Headlough, it should be even more obvious to all of us that our membership is the opportunity and obligation to promote and foster the sport, and to pass it on to future generations. Buying an NHPA card is not about purchasing the "right to pitch," for we were granted that privilege through the efforts of those folks in Ohio back in 1919, and those who fostered the sport in the decades that followed. The start of the NHPA sport came from individuals dedicated to the sport, and since then, the sport has thrived through the efforts of individuals supportive and dedicated to the NHPA. When someone asks why they should be an NHPA member, just respond, "To make a small contribution to the organization that will carry the sport into the next century, the next generation and beyond!" It's that basic, carry on the message.

■ Following up on the President's Message from the last issue—a good service could be done if each charter newsletter would provide information about *Newsline*, how to subscribe and maybe even a subscription form. The subscription form could appear in each issue.

ENTRY FORM

NHPA

World Horseshoe Pitching Championships
July 20th - August 1st 1998
Ainsworth, Nebraska

Entry Deadline May 7th 1998

Name _____ (please print)
Address _____
_____ zip _____
Telephone Number, Home _____ Work _____

1998 NHPA Card # _____
(or Canadian)
SS # _____
Date of Birth _____

All Entries Must be on this form and mailed with a postmark no later than May 7th 1998. Entries received with a postmark after May 7th shall be put on a waiting list and pay an additional 20% penalty if later accepted into this event. NATSTATS files must substantiate that you pitched a minimum of four (4) sanctioned events, one of which may be a sanctioned league, in the preceding twelve (12) months prior to May 21st 1998, which is the last date NATSTATS will accept results to determine entering average. Participants will be required to show their 1998 NHPA or Canadian membership card.

REGISTRATION FEES ALL Adults - \$75.00 - All Juniors - \$15.00
NEW FOR 1998 - More Class Prize Money & Number Paid.
NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 28th 1998 (US Funds only. Canadians send US Money Order)

READ CAREFULLY; Any adult male pitching 40 feet may enter the Open Men's Division regardless of age just as any adult female may enter the Open Women's Division. To enter the Senior Division, you must be 60 years or older as of July 19th 1998. Any individual 70 years or older as of July 19th 1998 or physically impaired person of any age, all of which must pitch less than 40 feet, may enter the Elders Division. Junior Division entrants must be 18 years old or less for the entire 1998 calendar year.

You can play in only one division. PLEASE CIRCLE THE DIVISION YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR;

1. Open Men (40') 2. Senior Men (40') 3. Open Women
4. Elders (30') 5. Junior Boys 6. Junior Girls 7. Senior Women

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby wave, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, all officers, employees, agents and servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament.

Please indicate what you think your three (3) high average should be _____ % Circle how many sanctioned events you have competed in during the last twelve (12) months. 4 5-6 7-9 10 or more

We reserve the right to disallow your participation if we discover errors on this form or if your records don't appear in NATSTATS or CanStats, or false or misleading information is on this form.

Signed _____ Date _____
MAIL REGISTRATIONS & FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA) TO; DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRIES TO;
NHPA Dick Hansen NHPA Sec/Treas
3085 76th St. 414-835-9108
Franksville, WI. 53126

If you want confirmation that your entry was received and your entering average, please include a self addressed, stamped postcard.

Ainsworth World Tournament Briefs

Entry Fees have been increased as well as the total cash and number of people paid in each class of 16. Be sure to read the President's Message on page 4 for details behind this change

The Format of Play will be the same as recent years. Sixteen (16) players seeded to most classes by entering NatStat average. All will play a round robin over 3 days with W-L record determining final standing. Tie games will be 1/2 win/loss for each. Final position ties to be decided by percentage except first place which will be played-off. Trophies to position 1, 2, 3 and cash to 1-6. Groups of less than 16 will pay no more than 5 places. Junior Boys and Girls will again be mixed in class play. Senior Women will also be mixed with Open Women in class play. The top percentages of each will advance to separate Championship Division play.

The Pitching Schedule cannot be finalized until all entries are in. Basically, lower percentage Open Men will pitch the first 3 days. We will try to also schedule lower percentage women and all juniors during this week. Every entrant will be mailed a complete pitching schedule as early as possible in June. The NHPA will not refund any entry fee for any reason after May 28th. If you have to drop out before or after this date, notify Dick Hansen ASAP.

1998 World Tournament Prize List

| Class | M&W | Sr. Men | Boys/Elder | Girls/Sr. W | Class of | Class of |
|-------|----------|---------|------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | 12-15 | 16 |
| | | | | | Pay 5 | Pay 6 |
| 1 | \$3,200 | \$1,500 | \$600 | \$600 | \$270 | \$300 |
| 2 | 2,075 | 975 | 390 | 390 | 175 | 195 |
| 3 | 1,600 | 750 | 300 | 300 | 135 | 150 |
| 4 | 1,200 | 600 | 280 | 280 | 120 | 135 |
| 5 | 1,000 | 500 | 265 | 270 | 100 | 120 |
| 6 | 800 | 400 | 260 | 260 | | 100 |
| 7 | 650 | 375 | 255 | | | |
| 8 | 550 | 350 | 250 | | | |
| 9 | 450 | 325 | | | | |
| 10 | 400 | 300 | | | | |
| 11 | 375 | 275 | | | | |
| 12 | 350 | 250 | | | | |
| 13 | 325 | | | | | |
| 14 | 300 | | | | | |
| 15 | 275 | | | | | |
| 16 | 250 | | | | | |
| | \$13,800 | \$6,600 | \$2,600 | \$2,100 | \$800 | \$1,000 |

Total Purse for all Championship Divisions combined—\$43,600

All finalists in Championship Adult Divisions will pay additional \$50.00 fee.

Juniors in Championship Divisions will have winnings deposited into a Trust Fund.

Contributions to NHPF Increase

by Dave Loucks

After a poor showing in the second half of 1997, contributions to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation in the first month of 1998 took a big jump. Only 30 individuals made tax deductible contributions of \$10 or more for a total of \$4,430 in 1997. In January, we received 16 contributions for a total of \$6,830. While this is a significant increase, it is still well below the minimum \$10,000 per month average the Foundation needs to receive to meet its endowment fund goals through the year 2002.

The goal is not excessive and it is not out of reach if every NHPA member would just donate a minimum of \$10.00 per year. With that average the Foundation would have sufficient funds to construct the Hall of Fame museum building, begin modest plans for RV parking and grounds improvement. We would also be able to begin a program to sponsor instructional clinics, grant funds to clubs for public court construction and updating, increase junior promotion, develop scholarship programs and otherwise promote and foster the game through national amateur competitions. In addition, the Joelton, Tennessee complex, with its existing 38 covered courts, would be available to hold the NHPA World Tournament in years when no bids were received or on some pre-scheduled frequency.

The Foundation represents the greatest potential opportunity for horseshoe pitching we can imagine. It needs your financial support to succeed. Please do your part by pledging an annual contribution. Any amount will be appreciated. Donations of \$10.00 or more will be acknowledged in writing. Remember, your contribution is tax deductible. Send your check to the NHPE, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945.

We wish to thank the following for their contributions which have been received since our last published acknowledgment.

Donating \$10-\$25

Marvin & Deanie Reheis, KS
David Prestidge, IL
Ralph Funk, KS
Air Capital Horseshoe Club, KS
George Greeott, CA
Jerry Griggs, MO
LeRoy Law, IA
Leonard A. Murray, MN

Donating \$50-\$100

Allen Baptist, CO
Earl & Vicki Winston, MO
John Sylvester, CA
Minnesota GSHPA
Florida SHPA
Charles H. Jordan, TX
Arthur Holter, MN
George Egel, NJ
Richard & Paulette Hansen, WI

Donating \$200

Northern California HPA

Special Thanks to:

Walter Ray Williams Jr., CA \$2,000
Edward Domey, MA \$3,800

Proposed Changes

The following proposed changes were approved to come before the delegates in Ainsworth for vote. 39 were proposed, but only these 15 were deemed suitable or in need of vote to be accepted. Some that suggested grammatical changes (read President's Message) were approved and will be made in the next printing. Please read and carefully consider these proposals. The NHPA Executive Council recommends a "Yes" vote on all.

1. Article III, Section 2:

Change 2nd second sentence to read "Boys and Girls are eligible to compete as Juniors up to the age specified in Art. XII, Sec. 4f.

Reason: Eliminates possible interpretation error of slightly different wording now in 2 different places. Duane Goodrich

2. Article III, Section 3:

Change entirely to:

Section 3: Adult NHPA Dues a. Single Individual or Head of the Household.

1. A "Sanctioned Tournament Player" card shall cost \$20.00 per calendar year plus the amount of State dues set by their Charter. The \$20.00 shall include legal liability insurance, all Sanctioned Tournament and League playing privileges, average compilation in NatStats, a \$3.00 set aside for the World Tournament prize fund and the NHPA magazine, Newsline.

2. A Sanctioned Tournament playing spouse or unmarried adult child with the same household address (as 1. above) shall pay \$12.00 per calendar year, plus the amount of State dues set by their Charter. This amount shall entitle the spouse and/or adult child to all the above benefits except the NHPA magazine.

3. A "Sanctioned League Only" player card shall cost \$10.00 per calendar year plus the amount of State dues set by their Charter. This amount entitles the cardholder to all NHPA Sanctioned Club/League program benefits including legal liability insurance. It does not include the privilege of playing in sanctioned tournaments, having NatStats average compilation or receiving the NHPA magazine, Newsline.

Reason: To put Newsline in the home of every tournament playing member, thus enabling the NHPA to better communicate and disseminate association information. This, in turn, will make the member better informed and aware of what the association is doing and what they can do for it. Dave Loucks

3. Article III, Section 4:

Add second sentence: These dues entitle the Junior member to all normal Sanctioned Tournament and League Program benefits except receipt of the NHPA magazine, Newsline.

Reason: A statement of clarification.

4. Article III, Section 6:

Add second sentence to read: Charter Secretaries are required to send membership reports and dues to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer at least once every quarter.

Reason: Some Charters now send in just one report a year, often after the new year has started. This is poor book-keeping that can penalize members and delay the NHPA from finalizing several year-end reports. The Bylaws need a statement to which Charters can be held accountable. Dick Hansen

5. Article VII, Section 9:

Change all after first sentence to read: All classes below the Men's and Women's Championship class as well as all classes in any other Division may be mixed at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. When other Divisions are mixed in the championship class, the champion of each Division will be the highest finishing player in their respective Division. Handicap systems may be used in State Championship play but any Division Title must be determined by a scratch system of play.

Reason: To better define the mixing of Divisions. Also, it is possible to use handicap and scratch play simultaneously. W.R. Williams Jr.

6. Article IX, Section 4:

Change all after 1st sentence in 2nd paragraph. States or Countries without a Charter but with NHPA membership, may be represented by at least one delegate, or more, when using their total combined membership per Article VII, Section 6. These delegate(s) are to be appointed by the NHPA President with majority approval of the Executive Council. Such representatives shall be given all delegate voting rights at the convention.

Reason: Members without Charters should have some vote, as small as it may be. W.R. Williams Jr.

7. Article IX, Section 11:

Change entire wording to: The Executive Council shall examine all World Tournament bids and award the tournament to the bid/site most favorable to the association. In case no bid is received by the deadline, the Executive Council will award the tournament as it deems best.

Reason: To make the selection of the W.T. site more efficient and beneficial to the membership. Dr. Claude Bray

8. Article X, Section 2:

Change entirely to read: A World Tournament shall include separate Championship Divisions for Men, Women, Senior Men, Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Elders and Senior Women.

Reason: The Council should not be able to determine if Senior Women can vie for a title or not. W.R. Williams Jr.

to NHPA Bylaws

9. Article X, Section 2:

Add another sentence to read: *If class pitching performance is used as a "qualifier" for determining who will advance to Championship Division play, the Championship rounds shall be assigned a separate sanction number and both, Class & Championship play, shall count as tournaments pitched.*

Reason: Each is a separate and full round of competition against different opponents, at a different time, often days apart, and using different game limits (shoes & points). They should be recorded separately. Glenn Jamieson and Walter Ray Williams Jr.

10. Article X, Section 8:

Add before the last sentence: *Men moving to the Elder Division for the first time must have pitched at least 2 of their 4 events at the new short distance prior to the entry deadline.*

Reason: Article XII, Section 4c states that Elders must be 70 years of age prior to the day the tournament starts. We cannot always accept this for the W.T. as it would not allow a man just turning 70 to have any short distance average. Dick Hansen

11. Article X, Section 8:

After words "four (4) NHPA sanctioned event," change remaining sentence to read: *in the twelve months preceding the cut-off date listed on the current World Tournament entry form. All entrants will have their eligibility and entering percentage verified by NatStats.*

Reason: Delete reference to sanctioned league as NatStats program does not recognize a difference between tournament and league. Also, current wording conflicts with what is stated on entry form. Glenn Jamieson

12. Article XII:

Change title to: *All NHPA Tournaments/Leagues*

13. Article XII, Section 3:

After "NHPA sanctioned," change all to read: *events pitched in the preceding 12 months or the last ten sanctioned events during the same period, whichever occurs first. An average is figured by dividing the total number of ringers by the total number of shoes pitched for those 3 events.*

Reason: NatStats sees tournaments and leagues as one and the same (events). Clarify how an average is figured. Glenn Jamieson

14. Article XII, Section 4c:

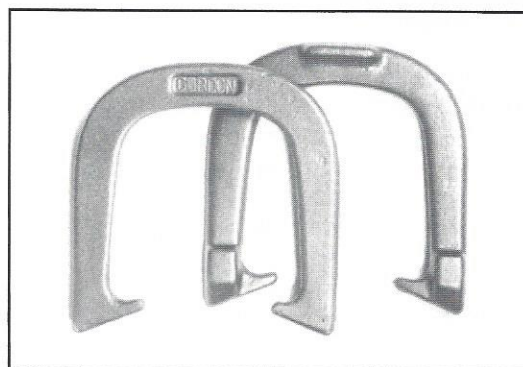
Elders, add third sentence: *Once a male member declares himself an Elder short distance pitcher by completing a 100 shoe qualifying round and one tournament, that member shall forever thereafter remain a short distance pitcher.*

Reason: To keep members from jumping back and forth per the Standing Rule adopted in January 1997 which now should be ratified as part of the Bylaws. Dave Loucks

15. Article XII, Section 7:

Change to read: *All ringers and shoes pitched under one sanction number, including additional shoes to break a tie and play-off games, shall be counted when figuring the totals for that sanctioned event.*

Reason: To clarify what NatStats actually compiles. Glenn Jamieson.



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THE HORSESHOE TRADER

DIAMOND

A Common Name In Horseshoe

by Bob Dunn

Diamond Tool & Horseshoe Company of Duluth, Minnesota is a common name in the sport of horseshoe pitching and has been for several decades. Collectors are constantly coming across Diamond shoes, which is evidence that Diamond was a major manufacturer of pitching shoes, dating back as early as 1924.

The company was initially known as Diamond Calk and Horseshoe Company and founded in 1908 by a Swedish immigrant—Otto Swanstrom. Swanstrom, once a blacksmith apprentice, learned his trade working in the lumber camps in the Duluth area.

The first Diamond model was the Official, a hookless shoe. Other hookless models followed, the Blue Diamond, the rare Black Diamond and Double Ringer. Yes, initially, the first Double Ringer was a hookless shoe. Fashioned after Putt Mossman's innovative patent, many new models of pitching shoes with small hooks appeared in the early 1930s. Swanstrom also designed a new model, the first shoe with full-sized hooks and lengthwise heel calks. A patent was awarded in March 1932. That design became the Eagle Ringer, a leading seller for four decades. There are early-day and modern versions of Eagle Ringers, the older, delights collectors.

The Diamond company was a major contributor to our sport through the manufacturing of pitching supplies and Otto Swanstrom, a major contributor as a promoter of the sport. He was instrumental in organizing the Duluth Horseshoe Pitching Association in 1925, and provided trophies and company manufactured pitching stakes to communities in outlining areas, encouraging new clubs and tournaments. Swanstrom served as state association president and was the driving force for the 1927 World Tournament being held in Duluth, Minnesota. He was later recognized by the NHPA for his involvement and generosity on a national basis.

The Super Ringer, a popular shoe of recreation pitchers yet today, dates back to 1940. This model, too, has an early-day version and a modern day style with smaller calks. Possibly only the experienced collector can notice the difference.

The Diamond Double Ringer picnic shoe may be the

largest selling single model of any brand. It was a line of nearly every catalog sales company and seen on shelves in nearly every hardware store across the country. Because of the overwhelming number of Double Ringers, they are not too popular to collectors, except the very first issue of the hooked version of Double Ringer, they are dated—1945.

Those dated shoes are a prized find to any shoe collector.

There are Diamond Junior shoes also. The older hookless models are uncommon and are prized finds. The more recent junior shoes of the 60s and 70s have hooks and are 1-1/2 pounds. There were a limited number of one pound "Midget" shoes made in the 1960s. They are rare and none known to be in collection.

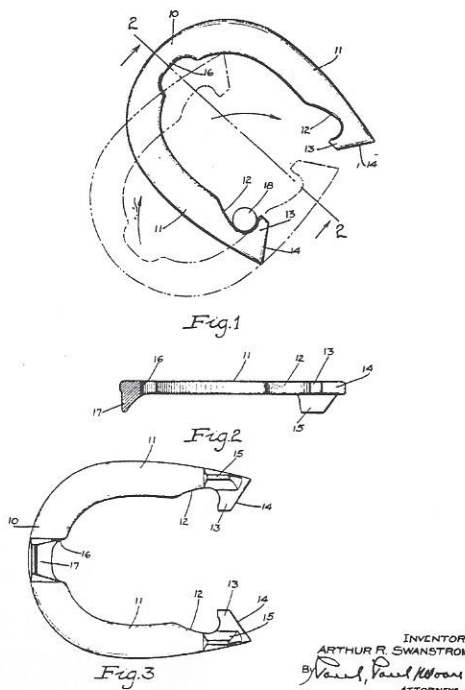
Before Diamond Tool & Horseshoe Company being bought-out and the eventual closure of the famed Duluth plant (1985), two versions of the Diamond Tournament model were produced but are collected as modern day shoes.

All Diamond shoes produced out of the Duluth plant are noted "Duluth." For a period of time, circa 1930, a plant was located in Toronto, Canada, and those shoes are marked Toronto. Just maybe some of our Canadian friends have some of those old hookless beauties to trade with those who have extra hookless Duluth made shoes!

March 22, 1932.

A. R. SWANSTROM
PITCHING HORSESHOE
Filed Feb. 26, 1931

1,850,816



TRADER NOTES

■ Plans are being set to hold a Horseshoe Trader booth in Ainsworth, at the 1998 World Tournament. Because of the outdoor setting, large collection displays will not be on hand, but considerable information will be available for all collectors and anyone just interested to talk about old shoes. Experienced collectors will be hosting each session to accommodate anyone who has an old pair of shoes they need identified or some information about. Any member will be welcome to just stop by and ask questions. Of course, all collectors are encouraged to bring trading shoes to swap or to show for bragging rights. Also, those who have shoes to donate to the NHPA archives, can bring them to the World Tournament to personally hand to Earl Winston.

Here & There

Dave Loucks reports happenings around the NHPA

Missouri

First NHPA Vice President, Earl Winston, now carries a Lifetime NHPA membership card. He has 50 years as a member and joins a very small and elite group numbering less than 10. Congratulations Earl.

Battle of the Sexes

A couple of months ago in a Pro Bowling rematch, Walter Ray Williams Jr. defeated Wendy MacPherson 654-570 in a three game showdown in Las Vegas. After splitting the first two games, Walter pulled away to win the third game and \$30,000, beating Wendy 267-193. It was a repeat for Walter, who beat Macpherson last year 765-732.

A Flying Leap!

What to do after you win your class at the World Tournament—I've already been to Disneyland!

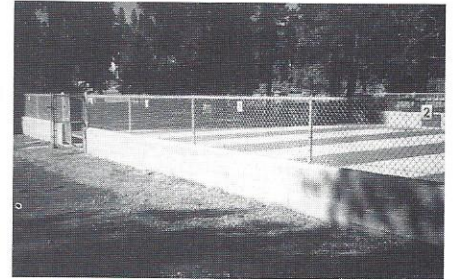
One has to wonder about the sanity of a person jumping from a perfectly good airplane from 13,000 feet (see cover photo). About six years ago, my daughter Kim and I were watching a program on TV about skydiving. I mentioned that it looked fun, she asked "would you do that?" I replied

rather callously, "sure." This year on Father's Day she gave me a gift certificate for a skydive. She had bought one for herself too. We both finally coordinated our schedules to meet at the airport on September 6th. Lesson one, be careful what you say to your kids—they may follow through with it. Lesson two, a 54 year old man is too old for these kids games. Lesson three, if the urge ever strikes me again, I can just plug in the videotape we purchased, and watch the great time(?) I had. *Casey Sluys*

Nevada City, California



The Gold Country Horseshoe Club had a bad and good 1997. Torrential rains in January turned a mild little creek into a raging 100' wide river that completely undermined and washed away the 10 existing horseshoe courts



in Pioneer Park, (photo1). By mid summer, club members were well underway reconstructing 12 courts on the same site with support and donated material from the city, (photo 2). By late Fall, the courts were completed (photo3) except for outside landscaping which will be put in this spring after the rains. Gold Country has scheduled six sanctioned tournaments for 1998, the first two of which will be played over Memorial Day weekend.

Country Craft Show

Saturday, July 25 • 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 26 • 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Ainsworth City Hall • Ainsworth, NE

North of the Elks Lodge on Third Street

Table Rental \$15.00 each • Tables are to remain through 5:00 p.m. Sunday

NO FLEA MARKET ITEMS

Sales tax permit must accompany registration.

First Come—First Served (8' x 8' spaces)

For more information contact:

Shirley Larabee, R.R.2 Box 197, Ainsworth, NE 69210 • (402) 387-1395

The "web" for horseshoe pitching information centers on the NHPA Website and all other horseshoe websites may "link" to it for universal information such as NatStats state-by-state files on 3-high averages, listing of NHPA Officer and Regional Director names and addresses, NHPA Game Related Sales Distributor names and addresses, NHPA Bylaws, NHPA Official Playing Rules, and World Tournament past and current reports, just to name a few.

Similarly, viewers of the NHPA Website may "link" to websites dedicated to the individual Charters to find information on charter structure, charter bylaws, charter tournament schedules and charter tournament results as well as any other information relative to individual charters.

Devotees of horseshoe pitching may use the combined following sources to always be currently

informed:

- NHPA official magazine *Newsline*
Subscr. rate=\$12 (\$20 Can)/yr.
- NHPA Internet Website
www.geocities.com/~nhpa
- Charter Websites—(see links on NHPA Website)
- NHPA publication pamphlets
(contact NHPA Sec/Trea)

At the present time, all charters do not have a "website" in place. Viewers may click the "H'shoe Links" hyperlink on the NHPA Website to view the list of current Charter website currently in place. Anyone wishing to develop a charter website may contact NHPA 5th Vice President, Paul Stewart (email: nhpa5th@bellsouth.net) for help. The goal is to have every charter represented.

A plan to have the NHPA Website operating "live" from the Ainsworth, Nebraska, World Tournament Site in July, 1998 is underway. A new feature

to be added to the website this year will be still and video pictures of World Tournament activities...capturing player and visitor pictures for viewers around the world to enjoy. Of course, daily tournament results will again be posted for views "back home" to follow their favorite player's results. If you aren't one of the 1,000 or more expected at Ainsworth, have you reserved your NHPA website seat yet? Remember, our website bulletin board and other message/chat setups will give viewers at home the opportunity to communicate with players and visitors at the World Tournament. Get ready to roar in July!

Don't Miss Out!
Subscribe to Newsline.
See page for form.

10th Annual Open Elmer Hohl Ringer Classic May 29-31, 1998—K.W. Khaki Club

RR#1, Wellesley, Ontario NOB 2TO • 519-656-2271 • Sanction #65-98-033

Added Prize Money—\$2,000+

ENTRY FEES: Men's and Ladies' A—\$30.00 Cdn. funds

All other classes \$20.00; Juniors \$2.00

Cheques or money orders to be made payable to Jean Markle and mailed with entry form to the address above.

Banquet will be in the clubhouse Saturday evening—bring along your talent. Proper dress code will apply.

Entry deadline April 24th—you will be notified by mail as to your day and time of play providing you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry. U.S. entrants add .45¢ to your cheque. Alternative—call the phone number above 1 week prior.

Breakfasts and lunches will be served on the grounds Saturday and Sunday.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Current Ringer % _____

Class entered: Men Ladies Jr. B Jr. G Elder 30'

Entry fee paid: _____ Membership paid Yes No

Enclosed: _____ Banquet tickets: _____ Do you wish

a campsite at the Khaki Club? With Hydro \$10. per night.

Without Hydro \$7 per night. Tent \$5 per night. These fees

are to be paid to Dorothy Drury before departing the site.

BED & BREAKFASTS

Firella Creek Farm c/o Adolph & Emily Hafemann

RR #2, Wellesley, Ontario, NOB 2TO

519-656-2974. 5 min. from courts

Bluebird Meadow Murray & Beth Schleuter

RR#1, Gadshill, Ontario, NOK 1J0

519-656-2731. 10 min. from courts

Night Owl Myrna & Lorne Leis

60 Main St. S., Milverton, Ontario, NOK 1M0

519-595-2128. 15 min. from courts

MOTELS:

Comfort Inn

2899 King St. E, Kitchener, Ontario N2A 1A6

519-894-3500. 15 min. from courts

Guest Inn Motel

2933 King St. E, Kitchener, Ontario N2A 1A8

519-893-7011. 15 min. from courts

Destination Inn

547-King St. N, Waterloo, Ontario

519-884-0100. 10 min. from courts

New Hamburg Inn

Hwy 7, New Hamburg, Ontario

519-662-3990. 10 min. from courts

Smaller, But Better

Last year, the Las Vegas Open was held in a large tent outside the San Remo Hotel & Casino. This year, the tournament was again at the San Remo but in a smaller tent that forced a limited entry. If you were one of the 1997 entrants that pitched in the cold windblown tent and felt that tent pitching couldn't improve much and stayed away this year, well, you missed a much improved event.

Director Don Weaver set up this year's tournament in a smaller but more rigid tent that had steel cross sections and even double glass entry doors. It was warm, comfortable and had good lighting. No more than 50' separated you from the main entrance to the hotel. 182 entries made this one of the smaller turn-outs for a Las Vegas Open, but it was also one of the more enjoyable. As usual, pitching on the synthetic clay caused a bit more bounce than normal, but if you came to have fun and enjoy yourself and didn't, it wasn't the fault of the tournament or conditions.

A big majority of the entrants attended the closing night dinner and awards banquet where the food was reported to be excellent. Don Weaver gave away prize money totaling \$8,400. There were 7 classes, each receiving \$1,200 which was awarded to the top ten finalists as follows: 1-\$300, 2-\$250, 3-\$200, 4-\$125, 5-\$75 and 6-10, \$50 each. Winning prize money in each class of 26 were:

| Pitcher | State | W | % |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Class A1 & A2 | | | |
| Jim Gibbons | CA | 12 | 55.50 |
| Ron Jenkins | NV | 12 | 47.11 |
| Edi Holland | MN | 11 | 60.58 |
| Robert Logan | IN | 10 | 66.15 |
| Claude Shannahan | MI | 8.5 | 56.67 |
| Iris Sandham | GA | 8 | 49.79 |
| Milton Vinson | GA | 8 | 53.54 |
| Ray Heim | CO | 8 | 41.46 |
| Betty McGregor | IA | 8 | 41.88 |
| John Buzik | CT | 7 | 42.71 |
| Class B1 & B2 | | | |
| Larry Riley | CO | 12 | 47.86 |
| James Hill | OH | 11 | 37.69 |
| Ralph Matchko | MI | 10 | 44.64 |
| Bert Peffers | NV | 9 | 45.58 |
| Jim Eskelson | CA | 8.5 | 46.25 |
| Russ Grooms | NE | 8 | 38.13 |
| Carol Hoppe | AZ | 8 | 36.46 |
| John Kozik | NY | 8 | 36.04 |
| Robert Moulin | FL | 8 | 32.92 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----|-------|
| Gary Wood | UT | 7 | 42.92 |
| Class C1 & C2 | | | |
| Joe Stencil | CO | 12 | 43.66 |
| Sherlyn Feltenbarger | UT | 11 | 45.97 |
| Patricia Strain | LA | 9.5 | 30.77 |
| Herschel Walters | IN | 9 | 35.96 |
| Millie Harvey | CO | 8.5 | 34.38 |
| Bob Dunsmore | PA | 8 | 36.46 |
| James Beyer | MN | 8 | 33.75 |
| John Stockstill | CA | 8 | 32.71 |
| Jack Price | MT | 7 | 39.38 |
| Teresa Donar | WI | 7 | 33.33 |
| Class D1 & D2 | | | |
| Revis McKee | CA | 13 | 37.32 |
| Wes Lambert | CA | 11 | 37.11 |
| Raymond Kinores | CA | 9 | 36.78 |
| Stuart Shepherd | WY | 9 | 36.92 |
| Ed Guyer | OH | 8 | 32.71 |
| Conrad DeAnda | TX | 8 | 31.67 |
| Earl Johnson | MI | 8 | 30.83 |
| Gerald Smith | WA | 8 | 30.42 |
| Raymond Sexton | WA | 8 | 28.96 |
| Roger Botting | NY | 7 | 36.67 |
| Class E1 & E2 | | | |
| Anita Mathieu | NV | 13 | 41.34 |
| Gordon Morreira | HI | 12 | 35.89 |
| Babe Brown | CA | 10 | 26.68 |
| Janice Knaub | CO | 10 | 32.69 |

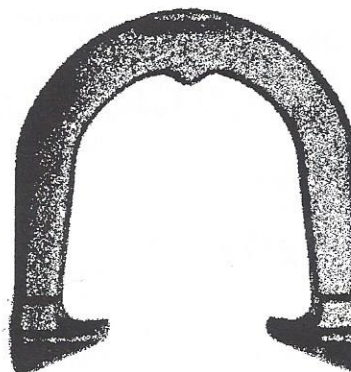
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|--------------------------|----|------|-------|
| Jeff Henkes | TX | 8.5 | 27.71 |
| Thadeus Kowalski | MI | 8 | 34.38 |
| Del Feltenbarger | UT | 8 | 33.75 |
| Rudy Martinez | TX | 7.5 | 28.96 |
| Donald Tiegs | MN | 7 | 26.25 |
| Margaret Kozik | NY | 7 | 25.42 |
| Class F1 & F2 | | | |
| Warren Williams | NV | 12 | 30.36 |
| Max Cox | NV | 10.5 | 33.85 |
| Eldora Weldon | MO | 10 | 25.71 |
| Richard Delgado | CA | 9 | 24.42 |
| Donald Clemens | MO | 9 | 23.33 |
| Melanie Nelson | NV | 8.5 | 34.58 |
| Larry Wyntjes | NV | 8.5 | 22.71 |
| Dave Cheyne | NV | 7.5 | 21.25 |
| Bob Harvey | TX | 7 | 29.17 |
| Edward Burnside | OH | 7 | 28.54 |
| Class G1 & G2 | | | |
| Judy Welzenbach | NV | 11 | 26.16 |
| Alex Mazur | SK | 11 | 10.17 |
| Robert Bieseemeier | CO | 10 | 22.11 |
| Greg Tabler | OH | 10 | 16.73 |
| Sandy Kelly | CA | 8 | 20.83 |
| David Prestidge | IL | 8 | 16.25 |
| Tom McGavock | IL | 7 | 18.13 |
| Nancy Shepherd | WY | 7 | 10.83 |
| Al Sandham | GA | 7 | 13.54 |
| Ron Bunch | GA | 6.5 | 25.83 |

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1997 Top Percentage Pitchers

Once again, NatStat Director Glenn Jamieson has provided *Newsline* a list of the Top NHPA tournament pitchers. A total of 52 men ended the year at 70% or above, down from 55 for 1996. Three new names joined the elite top ten. They are Elbert Shifflett, Matt Guy and Mark Baumann.

For the women, 38 averaged 70% or above, five more than in 1996. Lois Webster tops the list followed by Becky Kemper who was number one on the junior girls list last year. Kentucky women dominate the top ten which added three new names for 1997—Mary Ann Peninger, Sue Twyman and Brenda McLaughlin.

The Elders have 34 above 65%, two more than in 1996. Jumping into the top ten, all the way to 5th place, is Curly Seibold. Joining him as a new name to the top ten is Merlin Potts.

The Juniors saw the most movement which is to be expected as some moved on to adult groups. In the Boys, Branson Miller replaced Jeremy Umphries at the top, being the only junior above 80%. Breaking into the top ten names for the boys were Brandon Lund, Jay Landman and Urias Martin. While 5 more boys were above 50% than ended 1996, the percentage of tenth place was down 7%. For the girls, Michelle Jarrett took over the top spot, being the only girl above 60%. The only new name in the top five is Shalee Sebastian.

Top 52 Men—70% and Over

| Pitcher | State | Avg. | Tournaments |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Alan Francis | OH | 84.77 | 9 |
| Walter Ray Williams Jr. | CA | 83.56 | 13 |
| Brian Simmons | ME | 83.23 | 15 |
| Dale Lipovsky | MN | 80.90 | 12 |
| Rick Cale | WV | 80.02 | 29 |
| Art Tyson | NY | 78.75 | 18 |
| John Kapnis | MA | 78.50 | 16 |
| Elbert Shifflett | MD | 78.40 | 10 |
| Matt Guy | KY | 77.92 | 7 |
| Mark J. Baumann | MN | 77.35 | 10 |
| Paul LaCrosse | CO | 76.69 | 10 |
| Meredith Charlie | KY | 76.66 | 5 |
| Joe McCrink | NJ | 76.64 | 10 |
| Stan Griggs | MO | 76.54 | 11 |
| Doug Kienia | ME | 75.43 | 14 |
| Randy Rein | WI | 74.95 | 16 |
| Cliff Baker | IL | 74.90 | 8 |

| Pitcher | State | Avg. | Tournaments |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Jim Walters | OH | 74.85 | 7 |
| Steve Kuchcinski | PA | 74.83 | 12 |
| Elden Sarbaugh | OH | 74.70 | 22 |
| N.A. Moore | NC | 74.41 | 21 |
| Kevin Hollister | VT | 74.21 | 3 |
| Shannon Foster | TN | 74.17 | 9 |
| Charlie Webb | IL | 74.16 | 11 |
| Richard Williams | GA | 74.10 | 14 |
| Tommy Gann | NC | 74.02 | 20 |
| Norm Rioux | CT | 73.80 | 14 |
| Robert Domey | RI | 73.77 | 6 |
| Rich Pintor | CO | 73.69 | 11 |
| John Mathys | PA | 73.10 | 12 |
| Glenn Burris | PA | 73.02 | 6 |
| Mark Seibold | IN | 72.91 | 10 |
| Michael J. DiMartino | NY | 72.69 | 9 |
| Gus Martin | CA | 72.55 | 33 |
| Larry Knopp | IL | 72.44 | 10 |
| Norman Kelley | SC | 72.19 | 28 |
| Tom Westbrook | SC | 71.57 | 25 |
| Phil Fleshman | MD | 71.51 | 7 |
| Ricky Hall | VA | 71.39 | 18 |
| Gale Greene | VT | 71.17 | 10 |
| B.J. Thomas | NC | 71.07 | 10 |
| Chad Hyatt | IN | 71.06 | 14 |
| John Bogardus | NY | 70.88 | 9 |
| Sam Carter | MO | 70.76 | 15 |
| Robert G. Hayes | NY | 70.66 | 13 |
| Willard "Spud" Napier | CA | 70.66 | 7 |
| Don Kangas | WI | 70.45 | 6 |
| Kurt Von Kleist Jr. | PA | 70.45 | 35 |
| John Brown | OH | 70.32 | 15 |
| Dale Henry | IN | 70.11 | 19 |
| Herb Criss | WA | 70.9 | 9 |
| John Udelhofen | WI | 70.00 | 10 |

Top 38 Women—70% and Over

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|-------|----|
| Lois Webster | KY | 82.50 | 6 |
| Becky Kemper | KY | 82.42 | 17 |
| Sylvianne Moisan | PQ | 82.21 | 5 |
| Bev Nathe | MN | 81.33 | 11 |
| Amy Monday | VA | 80.38 | 17 |
| Mary Ann Peninger | KS | 78.50 | 11 |
| Gerry Brooks | ME | 78.44 | 8 |
| Sue Snyder | KY | 77.34 | 15 |
| Sue Twyman | NY | 77.04 | 6 |
| Brenda McLaughlin | WV | 76.91 | 10 |
| Carol Simpson | ME | 76.59 | 10 |
| Sandy Janssens | ON | 76.53 | 4 |
| Opal Reno | AR | 76.15 | 4 |
| Teddy Guillotte | CA | 75.48 | 26 |
| Cathy Carter | IA | 75.41 | 2 |
| Debbi Alexander | NH | 75.06 | 8 |
| Angeline Moisan | PQ | 74.42 | 5 |
| Lorraine Sternberg | WI | 74.33 | 10 |
| Joan Elmore | TN | 74.32 | 18 |

| Pitcher | State | Avg. | Tournaments |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Tina Tonnous | OH | 74.26 | 12 |
| Connie J. Filley | ND | 74.08 | 7 |
| Marlene Ray | TN | 73.87 | 11 |
| Amy Francis | OH | 73.80 | 7 |
| Eddie McKinney | WI | 73.60 | 16 |
| Anne French | MI | 73.35 | 10 |
| Myrna Kissick | AB | 73.07 | 10 |
| Lisa Maille | NH | 72.97 | 12 |
| Sharon Paddock | CA | 72.76 | 11 |
| Carolyn Rice | OH | 72.54 | 10 |
| Maxine Griffith | TN | 71.72 | 11 |
| Vicki Winston | MO | 71.66 | 5 |
| Ruth Rife | OH | 71.55 | 8 |
| Cathy Richards | TX | 71.41 | 16 |
| Diane Silva | CA | 71.29 | 7 |
| Renee Cowan | VA | 71.14 | 9 |
| Rivers Prewette | NC | 70.89 | 16 |
| Rose Diekamp | MO | 70.36 | 15 |
| Barbara Hanson | MA | 70.00 | 21 |

Top 34 Elders—65% and Over

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-------|----|
| Frank Bohun | PA | 84.61 | 6 |
| Jim Pagliarulo | CT | 81.55 | 5 |
| Clayton Gage | WI | 80.46 | 19 |
| Ray Santana | CA | 76.95 | 16 |
| Curly Seibold | IN | 76.83 | 15 |
| Don Harris | MO | 75.84 | 6 |
| William Lou Rector | MO | 75.70 | 15 |
| Merlin Potts | KS | 74.69 | 10 |
| Andy Van Dyken | MT | 72.91 | 7 |
| Jim Noble | KY | 72.78 | 11 |
| Pete Rebman | NE | 72.76 | 10 |
| Lowell Davis | OR | 72.48 | 22 |
| Jack Moore | WA | 72.35 | 20 |
| Warren Woolsey | IN | 71.49 | 15 |
| George Pilipovich | IN | 71.29 | 9 |
| Victor Ford | CA | 71.20 | 6 |
| Earl DeWald | OR | 71.05 | 16 |
| Milton Vinson | GA | 70.78 | 21 |
| John Reedy | WA | 70.68 | 19 |
| Clarence Webb | ID | 70.38 | 9 |
| Gene Sierks | NE | 68.72 | 8 |
| Don Wild | CO | 68.30 | 16 |
| Charles "Bud" Green | KS | 68.24 | 15 |
| Oden Sullivan | MO | 68.16 | 9 |
| Leldon Day | CA | 67.73 | 47 |
| Arnie Coleman | WA | 66.86 | 14 |
| Allan Hillman | KS | 66.73 | 5 |
| Joe Rinehart | PA | 66.46 | 10 |
| Bob Wight | CA | 66.20 | 6 |
| Henry Hostetler | OH | 66.09 | 17 |
| Howard Homme | ID | 65.67 | 7 |
| Charles Pringle | KS | 65.61 | 13 |
| Bill Whitley | KS | 65.28 | 18 |
| Bill Penland | SC | 65.06 | 14 |

Top 45 Junior Boys—50% & Over

| Pitcher | State | Avg. | Tournaments |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Branson Miller | VA | 84.70 | 8 |
| Jeremy Umphries | TX | 79.88 | 17 |
| Steve Morris | PA | 79.49 | 24 |
| Brandon Lund | WA | 74.71 | 16 |
| Marcus Mosness | MT | 73.08 | 7 |
| Lee Presley | GA | 70.76 | 15 |
| Joseph Smith | IA | 69.33 | 14 |
| Keen Allen | IN | 68.75 | 8 |
| Jay Landman | TX | 67.80 | 8 |
| Urias Martin | NM | 61.84 | 6 |
| Joseph Ramsdell III | ME | 61.50 | 5 |
| Karl Hix | VA | 60.99 | 5 |
| Ryan Roberts | OH | 60.88 | 11 |
| Marcus Thomsen | NE | 60.43 | 11 |
| Brian Bloms | ND | 60.36 | 7 |
| Codey Mitchell | TX | 60.08 | 3 |
| Richie Boll | IA | 60.03 | 9 |
| Roland Mariano | NM | 59.16 | 5 |
| Levi Wood | WA | 59.08 | 11 |
| Ron Murray II | CT | 58.31 | 12 |
| Tyson Langley | KS | 57.91 | 6 |
| Dustin Dahl | WI | 57.76 | 8 |
| Paul Butcher | PA | 57.59 | 5 |
| Alika Apela | HI | 57.21 | 5 |
| Allen Stencil | NE | 56.82 | 5 |
| Chase Battle | AR | 56.78 | 10 |
| David Bradley | IN | 56.78 | 5 |
| Cody Johnson | TX | 56.60 | 18 |
| Luis Hernandez | CA | 56.22 | 13 |
| James Urie | MI | 56.16 | 14 |
| Brent Keen | IN | 55.70 | 6 |
| K.C. Bayne | WA | 55.33 | 4 |
| David Johnson Jr. | OH | 54.81 | 9 |
| Josh Brooks | OH | 54.36 | 6 |
| Wesley Rein | WI | 54.32 | 8 |
| Robert Gillett Jr. | CA | 54.27 | 5 |
| Ryan McAtee | NY | 53.97 | 1 |
| Luis Escareno | CA | 53.50 | 1 |
| Frank Rodriguez II | CA | 53.21 | 7 |
| Chris Loranger | CA | 52.21 | 4 |
| Jeremy Burgett | IN | 52.11 | 7 |
| Barrent Dahl | WI | 51.50 | 6 |
| Clint Els | TX | 51.23 | 7 |
| Brandon Petro | PA | 50.96 | 10 |
| Lenwood Conner Jr. | VA | 50.75 | 2 |

Top Junior Girls—35% and Over

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-------|----|
| Michelle Jarrett | OK | 62.80 | 10 |
| Rebecca King | OK | 57.76 | 6 |
| Bridget Moody | KY | 52.00 | 6 |
| Michelle Newton | SD | 48.08 | 7 |
| Shalee Sebastian | PA | 40.22 | 7 |
| Stacey Sanders | OH | 39.96 | 4 |
| Charlene Hix | VA | 39.20 | 6 |
| Misty Pierce | IL | 38.74 | 5 |
| Tenesia Mayer | NY | 36.99 | 9 |
| Joy Sandquist | MN | 36.85 | 3 |
| Tori Eaton | CT | 36.11 | 3 |
| Diana Gore | MI | 36.10 | 3 |

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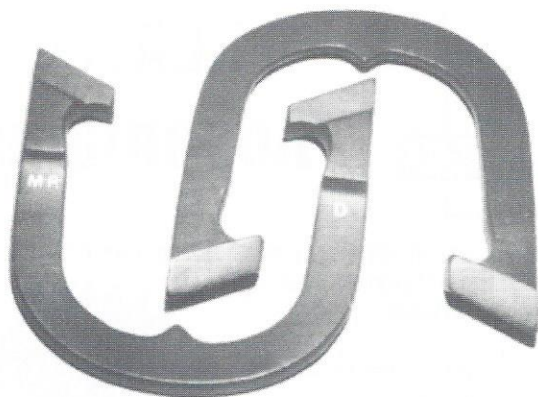
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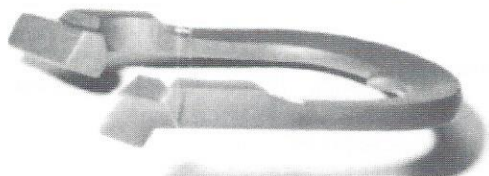
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Candidates for NHPA Office

Casey Sluys

Candidate for Re-election as 2nd VP

This is my 4th year as your NHPA 2nd Vice President. It has been a privilege to serve the NHPA these past two terms as VP and Chairman of the Rules Committee. I believe we have accomplished a great deal as an organization and move ever closer to some major goals with the formation of our Website and the NHPF. Several hundred requests for and clarification of Official Rules have reached me through the NHPA Website indicating a vast untapped pool of potential members. I enjoy responding, promoting the sport and our association. I also enjoy working with other members of the Executive Council for the betterment of the NHPA and would very much appreciate your support for re-election this year.

Thank you.

Casey Sluys

Bonnie Seibold

Candidate for Re-election as 4th VP

I wish to announce my candidacy for re-election as 4th Vice President of the NHPA. It has been a pleasure to serve you over the past years as a member of the Executive Council and Coordinator of the NHPA Grievance, Bylaws and Liability Insurance programs. I believe my years of experience as a secretary (retired) and long time NHPA member have served me well as I worked in your best interests and will continue to do if re-elected.

Thank you,

Bonnie Seibold

Dick Hansen

Candidate for Re-election as Sec./Treas.

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for re-election to the office of NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. It has been a difficult, yet very rewarding past two years. When I first took over this office I set some goals for myself. Some I have reached, yet many have not yet been accomplished.

I have completed a complete upgrade of the *Newsline* database. This has cut down the time it takes to print *Newsline* mailing labels from six hours to two. I have been working with Charter Sec./Treas. to get membership reports on computer disk and by e-mail and we are about half way there. I have been updating a membership database so that one day we will have a name and address for each and every NHPA member. I enjoy the day-to-day workings this position requires, but mostly enjoy the who, what, when, where and why questions I receive from you, the NHPA membership. I ask for your support so I may continue as your NHPA Secretary Treasurer and I wish to thank the rest of the NHPA Council for making this position so enjoyable.

Dick Hansen

THE JUNIOR WINDOW

The Determination of One Former Junior

by Lorraine Sternberg

In many cases, when our junior pitchers reach the age where they have to enter the adult classes, we don't see them very much anymore. Some just drop out completely, but this isn't so for a young lady named Becky Kemper. If anything, she is more enthused than ever.

Becky started pitching at the age of 12 with the help of her dad. Her first State tournament was in 1988 in the state of Kentucky, where she holds seven state titles as a junior. She has participated in six World Tournaments, her first one being at Columbus, Ohio where she pitched in Junior Girls Class A. After finishing fifth with an average of 41%, Becky began to practice full force. She knew what she wanted to accomplish. From then on, Becky was in the Championship class. Her best year was in Perry, Georgia where she took 2nd place after pitching 55.07%. This past year at Kitchener, Ontario was Becky's first year in the Women's Division. She started out in Women's Division B with an average of 71.88%. She pitched an impressive 82% to win her class. From there, she qualified for the Women' Championship class placing 3rd with an average of 83.12%. Her highest game for the tournament being a 96.9%. Quite an accomplishment for the first year in the Women's Division.

Now that Becky has a full time job and has little time to practice, she tries to pitch in a tournament every weekend where competition is the greatest. Becky has the best to compete against,



Sue Snyder and Lois Webster are also from Kentucky.

So, how did Becky improve so much? First of all, a lot of determination and a little coaching from Walter Ray Williams Jr. may have helped. Becky may have fallen short of her goal as a junior, but don't count her out just yet. With the determination and confidence she possesses now, I have no doubt one day Becky Kemper will fulfill that dream and become a World Champion. She is an inspiration to ALL juniors.

Where! Where!

The Middle of Nowhere

by Ed Domey

Ainsworth, Nebraska will host the 1998 World Tournament. Among the many things that are a must to do and see when you get there are Wurth's Restaurant with its All-You-Can-Eat, if it still exists, cat-fish fry on Fridays. The Lounge Restaurant at the airport for a Nebraska steak, one of the "Best in the World." Long Pine Nightclub where they host live music and a buffet that features everything. The Long Pine is about a mile and a quarter off the main highway. After you pass through a "Gunsmoke" type town with its wooden facades, where the police cruiser will be parked you travel over a dirt road (maybe paved by now) to this wonderful Los Pines establishment. Great memories!

The slogan "The Middle of Nowhere" was first heard by the people of Ainsworth as a disparaging remark by Walter Ray Williams Jr. at the 1986 World Tournament. Little did Walter realize that he was starting a legend. Ainsworth was not to be outdone. It quickly turned the community around and founded the "Middle of Nowhere Days" with all kinds of local activities. This is now one of the biggest events of each season, traditionally celebrated on the last weekend of June. When this year's World Tournament gets to Ainsworth, a wonderful community, maybe someone else will start another legend. Because no one knows when a legend begins and horseshoe pitching will be the spark to get it started. You may also note that this year's Tournament patch features the "Middle of Nowhere" slogan. Thank you, Walter Ray Williams, Jr.



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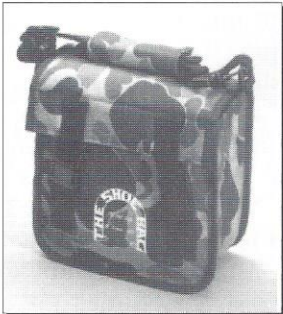
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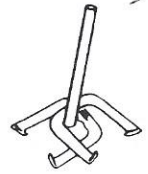
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Bob Champion's

Charter Chatter



Total amount of news in this column is less than previous issues since many Charters do not have newsletters during the winter months and most of the copy is taken from each state newsletters.

However, *Chatter* would appreciate any news from editors or officers in letter news form anytime, even when the state has published a newsletter.

News about your pitchers is interesting and we wish to cover every charter. Send copy to Bob Champion, 5505 Valmont #176, Boulder, CO 80301. (303) 449-8395. YEA, BRONCOS!

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Cloverdale Club is looking forward to hosting the 1998 B.C. Championships. They plan to cancel the annual Last Chance Tournament because the club wants to put all its efforts into making the Championships one of the biggest ever.

The Abbotsford Club has started constructing a roof over eight of their courts. Much like the Victoria Club, their covers will extend enough to provide shelter for the 30-foot pitchers. Due to municipal regulations, the covers cannot be permanent, but they will be secure to the ground.

The Victoria Club will host the Canadian Championships this year. The province is lucky to have a large club like Victoria big enough to handle the top tournament in Canada.

The 1997 junior champions in B.C. are Shane Greenside and Erin Greenside from Victoria.

CALIFORNIA

A note on psychology from the Northern California newsletter. It reads: People who get upset in a game are pigeons for everyone else. They try to get your "goat" so you are unable to pitch a good game and thus lose to them.

It is nice to win, but it is nicer to be friends with everyone. The big majority of the players are wonderful compassionate people. Many people resent pitchers who are really good, some remember every remark made to them and cannot forget these remarks or some treatment they have received. People—this is a sport. You play games. For every winner there is a loser. It is a one-on-one game.

Play your best, forget remarks, get to know people, and don't be blinded about things that upset you.

COLORADO

Fourteen time State Champion Paul LaCrosse from Englewood has posted a few records during his reign as State Champion.

Tied with former champion Harvey Ochsner from Burlington for high single game during state tournaments, the duo has posted 96.7% ringers. Paul is listed five times in the record books for high overall percentages in state, topping the list with an 80.4 overall in 1996. Second on the list

is the legendary Ted Allen with 77.7.

Horseshoe pitchers in Colorado are fortunate in having two fine indoor facilities. The 8-court Knaub Arena was built in 1985, and the 7-court rented building, the Pitchin' Post was first used in 1987. The pits used were purchased from the Eau Claire Club in 1987.

The state will hold its first team tournament April 25. It will include eight teams of four pitchers each...Class A—50-80%, Class B—40-49.9%, Class C—30-39.9% and Class D—0-29.9%.

FLORIDA

Glenn Rains from Homestead tops the men in the high-3 overall percentage of 64.0 as of December 1, 1997. Don Titcomb from Palm Bay had 61.4. James Pete Peterson, Orlando is third with 60.9.

Carrie Carpenter, Bradenton tops the women with 65.4. Marge Spray, Palm Harbor is second with 56.6 followed by Linda Kaercher, Hernando 56.5.

In the Elders group, Wayne Cowger, Dunedin rates the top with 63.0. Irvin Teeken, New Port Richey has 57.1 followed by Irvin Teeken, New Port Richey 57.1.

Florida pitchers who have been awarded 50-year patches by NHPA plus a lifetime membership are Sol Berman, Lee Palmer and Carl Steinfeldt.

IOWA

Here's another pitchin' idea. Leo Buell writes in the last Iowa newsletter received: "The push is on for team region. Well, it is a four-player team from each region in the state. These teams will compete for the regional championship at the State Fair. Make no mistake, this is not the team championship already in place at the State Fair. By no means do we want to interfere with this event."

Team region will take place Friday, August 21, the day before the men's state championship. Some of the rules are:

1. Four persons on a team (subs welcome).
2. Combined average of not more than 160%.
3. Member of the IHHPA in good standing.
4. To start play, captains flip a coin. Losers pick the courts, winners pick who pitches whom.
5. Four games in each round with four wins to be achieved.
6. 50-shoe count-all. Ties remain ties.
7. Contestants may be mixed—men, women and/or juniors.
8. Suggested entry fee \$15 per person. All entry fees will be paid back, plus the Fair's monetary contribution.

KANSAS

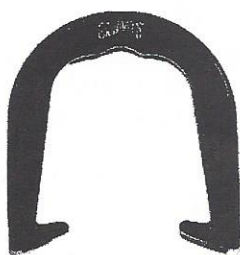
News from the Sunflower Club. Two very near and dear friends, Dick Kinney and Roy Smith were voted into the Sunflower Hall of Fame. These guys are legends in local horseshoe pitching circles. They promote the game as it was intended to be.

Mary Ann Peninger and Charles "Bud" Green were voted into the Kansas Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1997.

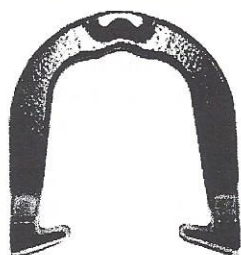
CHARTER CHATTER

Kansas President Gregg Turner writes about Mary Ann: "We've been waiting a long time to see Mary Ann receive the honors she deserved for her performance, both on and off the court. When I think of Mary Ann, I always think of the cheerful, giving person who scrubs our bathrooms at the indoor courts. That's one job I don't ever want to do, but she does it without batting an eye. She also decorates our bulletin boards each month before the tournaments. She placed seventh in the Championship class at the World Tournament for the second straight year. But this time she averaged over 80%."

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ILLINOIS

Eight new horseshoe courts are nearing completion in Tilton at Power Train Park. They will form a sanctioned league this Spring and will hold two sanctioned tournaments during the 1998 season. Supporting the endeavor is the Village of Tilton governing group.

Ralph Dykes, a fixture in Illinois horseshoes for 56 years has moved to Florida. His address: c/o W. Hixon, 28832 Tammi Drive, Tavares, FL 32778.

Now 84, Ralph lived in Illinois for the first 83-1/2 years.

He was president of the state association 20 years. He was one of three people inducted as charter members of the State Hall of Fame in 1977. The other two were Ellis Cobb and Henry Franke.

State newsletter editor Bill Marvin has been challenged by Pete Moseler to find interesting horseshoe license plates. A few samples already submitted are "I Pitch U," "Pitch n 6," "2 Ring VI," "Toring 6" and "Four Dead."

LOUISIANA

Re-elected to state office were 1st vice president Al Dodson and secretary-treasurer Jack Atchley. Dodson also is chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee.

The LSHPA membership for 1997 increased by 16 adults and seven juniors to reach the total of 204 and 11. The largest increase was in the Cajun Southwest area and the Waggaman Club.

Debbie Flemming won the state Class B crown and advanced to Class A, finishing second to Elise Atchley. The Class A men's title was won by Ron Latiolais, 6-1, 54.6%. He last won the crown in 1995. Elise's last title was in 1993.

In junior competition Bryan Carriere and Josh Richard repeated as pitchers in the junior finals with Carriere winning the 1997 crown. Josh finished third.

MINNESOTA

The state has a unique system for personnel every year. No less than 24 members are active in the operation of the organization.

The president is Dick Dvorak. Dave Imme is the treasurer and membership director. They have nine District vice presidents, also listed as Assistant Regional Directors. They are: Bill Grillo, Northeast; Jerald Hagen, Northwest; Gerald Stangland, North Central; Glen Sandquist, Central; Tim Bayerl, West Central; Bud Nelson, East Metro; Jerry LaBrosse, West Metro; Ken Howe, Southeast; and Mark Baumann, Southwest.

CHARTER CHATTER

Add to the above, the following job designations and you have an organization on the move. Dave Pederson is the Ringer Digest Editor; Dennis Carlson, Statistician; Len Lipovsky, NHPA Regional Director; Bill Brillo, Rookie of the Year Director; George Nick, Constitution and Bylaws; Lu Cave, Hall of Fame Director; Dave Imme, Scholarship Director; Mark Baumann and Rick Nelson, State Tournament Directors; Dan Girtz and Stangland, State Doubles Tournament Directors; Steve Stensgaard, Audit committee Director; plus a Junior Program Director to be named later. With this type of organization, no wonder they are rated one of the best Charters in the NHPA.

NORTH CAROLINA

1997 was a record year for the NCHPA in more than one category. Their membership was up 19% from the previous year with 185 members. The State Tournament had a record number of entries, and several of their sanctioned tournaments had a record number of participants, and they had more people pitching in sanctioned tournaments than ever before.

Melvin Howard was the last state member to be inducted into the NCHPA Hall of Fame. This was in 1995. No one was qualified the past two years. Mel Howard is perceived as a kind and gentle Christian, but when he stepped on the horseshoe court he could be a holy terror. He won the state singles the last 3 years he pitched—1962, 1963 and 1964. He averaged over 70% in all three wins, with a combined record of 28W-3L.

Howard won the state doubles in 1959 with Ed Stancik, and in 1960 with Darrell Eller when their record was 15-0. Mel also won the AAU Singles those last 3 years. His combined record for this accomplishment was 36-3. He also won the Carolina AAU Doubles three years—1959, 1961 and 1962.

Me was determined to excel in horseshoe pitching. He practiced for years before entering his first tournament in 1957 at age 27.

OHIO

May *Chatter* join the members of the Ohio to thank Francis Asher for all the years of dedication to the charter as Sec./Treas. in Ohio? This included his support and contributions to the game of horseshoes.

Bob and Loretta Garber included this short note in the October issue of the Ohio Horseshoe newsletter: "As you

know, this is the first attempt at printing the state newsletter. Your comments (good or bad) plus suggestions are important. Do you like having personal news items? Please send items concerning your club. Unlike many newsletters, the Garbers' include many tournament results, list of all officers and Regional Directors, and the Assistant RDs. Larry Woolace is the president, Ken Walters the secretary-treasurer. Vice presidents are Larry Mangan, Richard Honigford, Tony Coe, Tom King, and Jeannie Manns. Earl VanSant is the NHPA Regional Director.

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OKLAHOMA

Junior Girls' World Champion Rebecca King's dad is working with the Recreation Department of Sand Springs, Oklahoma to build 12 lighted clay courts in a city park with help of that area's horseshoe pitchers.

In Oklahoma they are now razzing Glenn King, by calling him "Becky's Dad" since she is the World Champion. Now, since both Becky and her mother Ardith won state championships, they have even more to lay on him. It's all in fun.

Bob Reese, the Oklahoma president taught horseshoe pitching at East Central University in October to a class of 38 sophomore and junior students on the "Techniques and Skills of Individual and Team Sports" under the watchful eye of Coach Mark Evans. Information was presented on the history of horseshoe pitching, plus rules, scoring and the video "The Basics of Horseshoe Pitching," by NHPA President Dave Loucks. Students were shown methods of delivery and finally competed in a tournament of their own by class.

OREGON

The final 1997 OHPA participant list shows 13 pitchers who were also active in 1979. In addition, 7 of them were active at the start of the 1971 season. The 1971 pitchers are Barry Chapelle, Lowell Davis, Floyd Gray, Bob Hildebrant, Ray Meyer, Rick Rebman and Willis Terry.

Active since 1979 are Esthel Benner, Elmer Otnes, Bob Rebman, George and Bonnie Schuster and Vern Wanless.

OHPA statistician Barry Chapelle has come up with the following high percentages as the state's pitchers enter the 1998 season. The top ten men are Ben Wiedrich 69.35, Ed Fogel 60.04, Bill Graham, Jr. 57.50, Rick Rebman 57.17, Barry Chapelle 56.94, Bill Graham 56.54, Jerry Gorton 56.36, David Brown 53.97, David Gorton 51.82 and Bob Hildenbrant 51.05.

The top five women are LaVerne Ewing 72.21, Earlean Passon 59.63, Bonnie Schuster 56.89, Patty Sapp 54.38 and Pauline Withrow 45.65. Leading the 30-foot men are Lowell Davis 71.52, Earl DeWald 71.06, Al Brennan 64.84, Marvin Tatchio 63.19 and Tuff Moels 61.57. The junior leaders are Tyler Inman 41.67, Shawn Johnson 28.57, Cletis Hull 26.81, Chris Bryant 25.88 and James Teasch 20.55.

PENNSYLVANIA

Kurt VonKleist heads the parade of pitchers who have competed in the most tournaments in the year. Kurt pitched in 36, followed by Warren Moore 33, Ron Weiss 31, Steve Morris 24, Ken Breisinger 22, Ron Sprague 21, and Gene Swogger 21.

Winners of the Team/Club Champions were the foursome of Tom Coon, Homer Browne, Carl Ealy and Larry Sneiner. One of the records in the tournament was a 90% game pitched by Kurt VonKleist.

Winning more State Championships in the history of horseshoe pitching in Pennsylvania is Glenn Burris, the reigning champion. He won his first Class A title in 1984,

and from 1988 through 1997 added nine more. His lowest winning percentage was 68.4 in 1993 and his highest was in 1988 with a 74.1 mark. He won with a 74.0 figure in 1997. Three times he had perfect 15-0 records—1993, 1996 and 1997. During his ten state championships he lost only a total of eight games.

TENNESSEE

Twin school teachers, Maxine Griffith and Marlene Ray were inducted into the THPA Hall of Fame. Dating back to 1982, with the exception of 1986 (Wanda Henson), 1993 (Alla Faye Rutherford) and 1997 (Joan Elmore), either Griffith or Ray has held the title of state champion.

The twins, natives of New York, are members of a sports-minded family. Both parents pitched horseshoes and in 1981, their father was inducted into the New York State Hall of Fame for horseshoe pitching. In 1983, Griffith and Ray were the first women to be inducted into the New York State Hall of Fame for high school athletes...mostly gymnastics. Their mother was a school teacher and their three brothers also teach school.

Het Birchfield is Tennessee's 1997 Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year. He won this title with 211 points and was presented with a plaque and a framed certificate by Jack Freeman. He will also have his 1998 membership dues and a subscription to *Newsline* paid by the THPA.

From the Tennessee newsletter: Horseshoe School of Marbles—"Get yourself a big bag of marbles !Practice—every time you pitch a ringer, throw a marble away. By the time you lose all your marbles, you're a horseshoe pitcher."

WASHINGTON

The State's giving is noticed nationwide. They have had calls and letters asking about their junior program. In Gillette, the brains behind the success of the program, Jim and Phyl Quist, write that the state was recognized at World for the most juniors in the program.

They have received a \$100 contribution from Ron and Kathy Hopman from Illinois, and just recently received a check for \$140 from Gene Burlingame of Iowa. Jim and Phyll add that "all the Washington supporters are making a difference...not only for our state youth, but also for junior programs around the nation."

The annual Winetrout Winter Classic, a series of 6 tournaments, was started by Francis "Winning" Winetrout in 1966. They serve a dual purpose—to encourage early renewal of State and National memberships and give members, hardy enough to brave rain, wind, sleet and snow and sometimes sunshine, to keep their competitive skills on an even keel.

WISCONSIN

The complete 1997 averages were compiled by WHPA State Secretary John Secord. The top ten men and the top five in all the other groups is as follows:

Randy Rein from Mosilee heads the men with 74.82, followed by Don Kangas, Colgate 70.67; John Undelhofen,

CHARTER CHATTER

Barneveld 68.0; Mark Mauthe, Platteville 64.17; Larry Barber, Rhinlander 62.12; Arnie Walton, Lodi 59.24; Steve Weigert, Green Bay 58.71; John Barden, Waunakee 58.53; John Crook, Spring Green 58.15 and Vince Jakel, Spencer 58.01.

For the women—Lorraine Sternberg, Richfield 74.92; Edith McKinney, Luck 74.09; Jane Smith Balsam Lake 64.93; Penny Steinke, Waukesha 62.16 and Suzanne Helene Webster 61.41.

For The Boys—Dustin Dahl, Trempealeau 59.56; Wesley

Rein, Mosinee 54.57; Barrent Dahl, Trempealeau 52.55; Eric Bottlemey, Owen 38.15 and Tom Costa, Jr., West Bend 26.73,

For the 30 foot Elders—Clayton Gage, Milltown 80.11; Ralph Maylahn, Gen Depot 68.53; Merwyn Sorensen, DePere 61.05; Ted Borgen, Mazomanie 56.20 and Herman Adler, Waunakee 52.63.

For the Girls— Nicole Riehle, Auburndale 24.69; Hope Berg 18.75; Lisa Heim, Holmen 18.47; Heidi, Pfeiffer, New Berlin 9.65 and Katie Pfeiffer, New Berlin 6.48.

New England Championships

The New England Championship Class A pitchers were, *from left front*—Kevin Hollister, Shaftsbury, VT; John Kapnis, Salem, MA; Norm Rioux, Montville, CT; Gale Greene, Bennington, VT; *back row*—Doug Kienia, Wells, ME; Steve Squires Jr., Derry, NH and Ray Charbonneau, Essex Junction, VT. Kienia won his second straight title and fifth overall.

The top four Class A Women pitchers in order of finish were Debbi Alexander, Peterborough, NH; Carol Simpson, Troy, ME; Gerry Brooks, Burnham, ME; and Lisa Malle, Nashua, NH. The event was hosted by the Keene Horseshoe Club.

Top Senior pitchers for 1997 season were Jim Pagliarulo, Bristol, CT, Class A champion; Angie Cieslak, Gardner, MA, runnerup; and Bob Ladd Sr., Bow, NH, third. Pagliarulo threw 77.7 percent ringers at the Labor Day title event.

Joseph Ramsdell III of Canaan, ME, won his third New England Junior Boys Championship as the 15 year old pitcher averaged 71.1 percent ringers. He is also the Maine state champion.



TOM BLAKE: PHOTOS

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The Toll of Time

WILLIAM (BILL) ALLREAD

Bill Allread, of Greenville, Ohio, died April 19, 1997. He was born June 12, 1933 in Franklin Township. Also deceased is his wife, Pat Allread, who died Feb. 1996. Both died from injuries as a result of an automobile accident. Bill retired from Hobard Corporation, Troy, Ohio. He was a Korean Navy Veteran, member of Woodington Christian Church and past president of Darke County Horseshoe Club.

Surviving are son Gary and wife of Columbus, Ohio, daughter Linda Glower and husband of California daughter Diana and husband of Arcanum, Ohio, four grandchildren, a brother Dick and Sharon Allread of West Milton, Ohio, and seven sisters.

ROBERT I. BEESLEY

Oregon pitchers were saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Beesley on January 20, 1998. Bob was 82 years old, a resident of Culver, OR and a charter member of the Central Oregon Horseshoe Club in Bend. A long time pitcher, he had previously been involved with a club in Redmond and was one of the few Oregon members to receive the "Mr. Congeniality" award. Bob enjoyed competition. He was a hard worker, friendly, quiet and a gracious loser. A member of the Oregon Honor Roll of pitchers, Bob is survived by his wife Ruth, daughter Juanita and many grand and great-grandchildren.

DALE E. BUCKINGHAM

Ohio member Dale Buckingham died January 17, 1997, just a month short of his 77th birthday. Except for service in the U.S. Navy during WWII, Dale spent his life farming in the West Alexandria area. He enjoyed baseball and spent several years playing and managing fast pitch softball, before surgery forced him to find a less strenuous sport...horseshoes. He won many awards and friends in the leagues and tournaments over the years. Dale was very civic minded. He served 4 years on the West Alexandria Board of Education, 32 years as a Twin Township Trustee, 5 years as Secretary, 5 years as President and 4 years as Vice President of the Preble County

Township Assn. Dale is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jane, sons Gary and Del, daughter Peggy Jean and two grandchildren.

VIRGINIA COBB

The horseshoe community has lost a true friend, worker and supporter with the passing of Virginia Cobb, 81, of Aurora, Illinois on Nov. 8, 1997.

Her daughter Terri Lynn Weir was driving her from Aurora to her home in Florida for a visit. They stopped in Mississippi overnight where Virginia became ill and even assistance from 911 could not save her.

Virginia was a non-player, but active in horseshoe pitching activities for over 45 years on the local, state and national level. She helped her husband Ellis, who preceded her in death 3-1/2 years ago, in many ways: assisted him as Editor of *The Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest* for 32 years and helped him over 30 years when he was State Secretary of the Illinois Association. She was inducted into the Illinois State Hall of Fame in 1979.

WALTER FENDER

Walter Fender, 86, of Greenville, Ohio died July 31, 1997. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. Survivors include a son Tom, a daughter Jane, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a brother William, nieces and nephews.

He retired from Greenville Sheet Metal, where he was the former owner and operator. He was a member of Hope Lutheran Church of Dayton, Ohio. Walt had received a lifetime membership in the Darke County Horseshoe Club, where he had held offices as president and trustee.

ROLLIN FUTTRELL

Rollin Futtrell, 75 of Greenville, Ohio died Feb. 9, 1996. He was born June 7, 1921 in LeRoy, Minnesota. He retired from Corning Glass Works in 1982, where he was plant controller and financial analyst.

Rollin worked very hard whenever there was a horseshoe tournament. He was chairman of the World Horseshoe Tournament in 1972. He was a member of the Ohio Horseshoe Hall of

Fame. He will be missed in helping with the 1999 World Tournament.

TOM MAYNE

Northern California and Stockton Club member Tom Mayne passed away Dec. 20, 1997 of lung cancer. Born 1932 in Pensacola, FL, Tom was very active in golf prior to retirement in 1982 when he began to travel. He was soon into horseshoe pitching, a popular pastime of RVers. Tom traveled the western states to pitch horseshoes and participated in a couple of World Tournaments. He was always willing to help out and especially enjoyed working with juniors.

BILL OWENS

WA State member Bill Owens of Burlington, passed away Jan. 18, 1998 at the age of 73. A member of the Mt. Vernon H.C., Bill served as the WA State HPA Pres. from 1976-78 and 1st VP several years thereafter. He was inducted into the WSHPA Hall of Fame in 1983. He had a keen interest in flying that allowed him to serve the Army Air Corps in England early in life and then later throughout Europe. He kept up his interest as a flyer and teacher in the Civil Air Patrol. Horseshoe friends all around the Northwest offer their condolence to his wife Marge and family members.

LILLIE JANE THOMPSON

One of the nicest and toughest women pitchers in Colorado, "Janie" Thompson died Dec. 31, 1997 of a brain aneurysm and stroke at the age of 58. Together with husband Keith, former 6-year President of the CHPA and current member of the NHPA Rules Committee, Janie traveled extensively to tournaments including several W.T. sites. She was the reigning CO State Champion having won the Women's title three times in 1989, 1996 and 1997. She served as State Treasurer from 1984-1987. In 1989, Janie was inducted into the CHPA Hall of Fame with husband Keith for service. They were the force behind the construction of 8 courts in their hometown of Strasburg. In 1996 she was again inducted, this time for pitching excellence.

Janie was an intense competitor, greatly respected on and off the courts, as demonstrated by the 300+ people who showed up for the memorial service. The NHPA extends its sympathy to husband Keith, three children, other family members and the CHPA.

1997 NHPF Financial Statement

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| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Transfer from H of F Building Fund CD . . . | \$160,352.76 |
| Cash Contributions | 4,430.00 |
| Bank Interest | 7,834.24 |
| | Total \$172,617.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Internal Revenue Service | \$465.00 |
| Year End (12/31/97) Account Balance . . . | \$172,152.00 |

NHPA Income and Expenditures December 1997 and January 1998

Income

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$20,783 |
| Newsline Subscriptions | 6,283 |
| Newsline Advertising | 5,273 |
| Horseshoe Sanction Fees | 3,000 |
| Misc. Patch Sales and Income | 5 |
| 1998 W.T. Ainsworth Payment | 5,000 |
| 1999 W.T. Greenville Payment | 5,000 |
| Bank Checking & Affinity Card Interest | 1,758 |
| | Total Income 47,102 |

Expenditures

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Newsline Printing and Mailing | \$4,814 |
| Newsline Editor Allowance | 618 |
| Sanctioned League Patches & Awards | 675 |
| Sanctioned League Office, Supplies | 64 |
| Sanctioned League Junior Scholar Trusts | 1,000 |
| Sanctioned League Director Allowance | 450 |
| W.T. Administrative Costs | 96 |
| Regional Directors Allowance | 330 |
| Regional Directors' Postage, Phone, Supplies | 457 |
| Equipment Purchases, Rental, Repair | 297 |
| NHPA Office Printing and Supplies | 222 |
| NHPA Postage | 945 |
| NHPA Officers' Phone | 661 |
| NHPA Officers' Travel | 875 |
| Secretary/Treasurer's Allowance | 3,090 |
| President's Allowance | 927 |
| Vice President's Allowance | 2,325 |
| Publicity and Promotion | 465 |
| Special Events | 99 |
| Insurance | 7,595 |
| Professional Fees, Accounting & Legal | 1,292 |
| NatStats Administration | 1,058 |
| Misc. Bank Charges, Refunds and Fees | 769 |
| | Total Expenses 29,124 |

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen.

Special Events Calendar

APRIL 1998

18-19 Carolina Dogwood—Statesville, NC. Jack Springer Courts, Lakewood Park. Limit 180 entries to return over \$2,500 in prize money. Entry fee \$20 (Championship & A/B extra). NatStat average applies. Pre-register by April 1. Send fee and Division (30' or 40') to Carolina Dogwood Festival Horseshoe Tournament, Rec. & Parks Dept., P.O. Box 1111, Statesville, NC 28687. Director Paul Stewart 704-528-5081.

MAY 1998

1-2 Beloit Encore—Edwards Activity & Sport Center, Beloit, WI. 24 indoor courts, singles tournament, classes may be mixed. Deadline April 18. Entry fee \$18., juniors free. Mail to Earl Paulson, 7105 S. County Rd. H, Beloit, WI 53511. Phone 608-879-2304

15-17 Team World—Beloit, WI. Edwards Activity & Sports Center. 4-person team must represent your state or province. Adults only, max. 2 short distance pitchers per team. Prize money \$3,000+, entry fee \$200 per team, deadline April 15. Send to Earl Paulson per above.

23-24 Summer Music City Team Tournament—Joelton, TN, 3-person teams, maximum 48 teams each limited to no more than 150 combined ringer percentage based on NatStats average as of April 1st. Entry fee is \$90 per team and total payback will be \$4,500 based on 48 teams. All team entries and fees must be received by April 15. Mail to: Mary C. Bastian, 3730 Old Charlotte Pike, Franklin, TN 37069. Phone: 615-794-5620.

23-25 Head-of-the-Mon-River—Fairmont, WV. \$3,000 in cash & awards based on 150 entries. Non-mixed event. Pre-register by May 8th. Entry fee \$25 adults, additional for championship group, payable to Tri-County Horseshoe Club, 1133 Sunset Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554. Phone 304-366-3819.

JUNE 1998

27-28 Dakota Sioux Casino Tournament—Watertown, SD. \$1,000 added plus 80% entry payback. All classes mixed, play two days. Entrants receive a free buffet and \$10 gaming coins & Blackjack play. Deadline June 20. NatStats averages used. Send \$25 entry to Clifford Ziehl, Box 1402, Mitchell, SD 57301. Phone 605-996-7986 evenings.

JULY 1998

3-5 Ringer Classic—Greenville, OH, conducted by Darke County H.C. Entry fee: Adults \$16, Juniors 0. Entry deadline June 20th. Large cash purse. Women pitch July 3, Men July 4-5. Fees payable to Darke County Horseshoe Club. Mail with NatStat average to Joel Loy, 628 Southbrooke Dr., Greenville, OH 45331. Phone 937-548-4320.

11-12 Danville Open—Douglas Park, Danville, IL. Purse \$1,000 added to entry fees plus free monogrammed towel to all pitchers. \$2,000 in awards based on 72 entrants. Deadline July 4. Entry fee \$15, includes scorekeeping. Checks payable to Danville H.C., mail to Leo Bratland, 41 Country Club Dr., Danville IL 61832. Phone 217-443-5818 or Martin Drummond, 765-793-4075.

July 20-Aug. 1 NHPA World Tournament—Ainsworth, NE. Pre-register only on NHPA Entry Form and mail with postmark no later than May 7th. Entry fee: \$75.00 adults, \$15.00 Juniors, payable to NHPA. Mail to NHPA, 3085 76th St., Franksville, WI 53126. Phone 414-835-9108.

SEPTEMBER 1998

19-20 Try County Horseshoe Pro-Am—Zanesville, OH. A benefit fundraiser for Genesis Hospice of Zanesville will match a top Pro player with an Amateur (under 50%). A charity pitch and Pro-Am dinner on Saturday and double elimination tournament on Sunday. \$700+ prize money. Pro Players selected by invitation only. Contact Donald "Fuzzy" Hittle, 740-796-6401 or Try County Club 740-796-6009.

Promote your special event here.

If your tournament is set apart from the usual, to benefit charity, raise funds or has in excess of \$1,000 prize money, mail details to the Newsline Editor at least 90 days in advance.

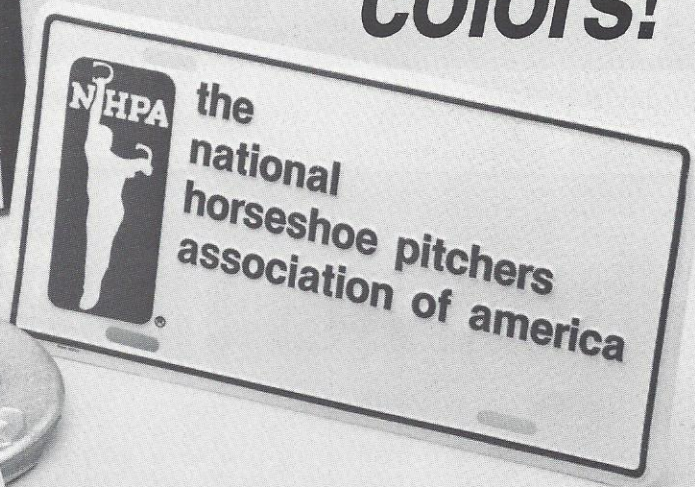
Tournament Travel Contacts

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 |
| 2. Oregon | Rt. 5, Box 5257 |
| 8. Idaho | Hermiston, OR 97838 (541)567-8560 |
| 3. Northern California | Gail Sluys |
| | 1721 San Ramon Way Santa Rosa, CA 95409 (707) 538-3128 |
| 4. Southern California | Dave Garbani |
| | 317 E. Wilson Ave. Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 375-6376 |
| 6. Hawaii | John McCormack |
| | 91-941 Kalapu Street Ewa Beach, HI 96706 (808) 689-8033 |
| 7. Nevada | Don Weaver |
| | 2206 Sunnyslope Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89119 (702) 736-7348 |
| 9. Utah | Bud Schardine |
| | 354 Brookside Drive Springville, UT 84663 (801) 489-6351 |
| 10. Arizona | Joe Kubiak |
| | 5525 Concho Drive Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 (520) 772-3242 |
| 11. Montana | Rich Paul |
| | P.O. Box 1012 Lincoln, MT 59639 (406) 362-4659 |
| 12. Wyoming | Pat Bacus |
| | 440 W. 3rd Lovell, WY 82431 (307) 548-6593 |
| 13. Colorado | Allen Baptist |
| | P.O. Box 190 Edwards, CO 81632 (970) 926-3381 |
| 14. New Mexico | Charles Knotts |
| | P.O. Box 361 Logan, NM 88426 (505) 487-2248 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 15. N. Dakota | Clint Bryson | 33. Tennessee | Dexter Stallings |
| 16. S. Dakota | 901 Custer St. Belle Fourche, SD 57717 (605) 892-2195 | | 731 Reed Drive Powell, TN 37849 (423) 947-7865 |
| 17. Nebraska | Pat Wemhoff | 34. Georgia | Jerome Kennedy |
| | 255 6th Ave., S. Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 564-7323 | | Rt. 2, Box 1315 Hawkinsville, GA 31036 (912) 892-3885 |
| 18. Kansas | Duane Goodrich | 35. Florida | Ron Deckard |
| | 1244 SW 32nd Topeka, KS 66611 (785) 266-4745 | | 7302 Brookview Circle Tampa, FL 33634 (813) 884-2932 |
| 19. Missouri | Elwyn Cooper | 36. Ohio | Earl Vansant |
| | 6920 N.W. 78th Street Kansas City, MO 64152 (816) 741-0043 | | 244 Deer Drive Chardon, OH 44024 (440) 285-2552 |
| 20. Oklahoma | Ronnie Frederick | 37. West Virginia | Ken Wilhelm |
| | 1015 19th Street Woodward, OK 73801 (405) 256-2759 | | 406 Stealy Avenue Clarksburg, WV 26301 (304) 622-1265 |
| 21. Arkansas | Richard Archer | 38. Virginia | Kevin Snelgrove |
| | HC 63 Box 189 Ozark, AR 72949 (501) 667-3078 | | P.O. Box 625 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477 (540) 337-4689 |
| 22. Texas | Hazel McCall | 39. Pennsylvania | Frank Kallay |
| | 4000 Huaco Lane Waco, TX 76710 (817) 756-0771 | | 24 Tanager Drive McKees Rocks, PA 15136 (412) 331-2472 |
| 23. Minnesota | Len Lipovsky | 40. N. Carolina | Rick Bolick Sr. |
| | 14741 Guthrie Ave. Apple Valley, MN 55124 (612) 953-0888 | | 1882 Union Grove Rd. Lenoir, NC 28654 (704) 728-8523 |
| 24. Iowa | C. Leo Buell | 41. S. Carolina | Ron Taylor |
| | 1809 Lakeside Dr. Iowa City, IA 52240 (319) 338-8256 | | 116 Knox Street Clover, SC 29710 (803) 222-3990 |
| 25. Mississippi | Bill Calhoun | 42. Maryland | Ray Matlock |
| 26. Alabama | 1307 Clearmont St. Opelika, AL 36801 (334) 745-2356 | 43. Delaware | 202 Wellesley Ct. Walkersville, MD 21793 (301) 846-3483 |
| 27. Louisiana | Ron Latiolais | 44. New York | Lance Twyman |
| | 12102 Turry Road Gonzales, LA 70737 (504) 647-4992 | | 6320 CR 27 Canton, NY 13617 (315) 386-2404 |
| 28. Wisconsin | Jim Haupt | 45. Maine | George St. Pierre |
| | 5075 N. Elkhart Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53217 (414) 964-2735 | 46. Vermont | 26 Beacon St., Unit 38B |
| 29. Illinois | Dave Shreve | 47. New Hampshire | Burlington, MA 01803 (781) 273-4007 |
| | 2127 Lynn Street Cahokia, IL 62206 (618) 332-2599 | 48. Massachusetts | |
| 30. Michigan | Steve Summerlin | 49. Connecticut | |
| | 198 O'Doherty Brighton, MI 48116 (810) 220-4558 | 50. Rhode Island | |
| 31. Indiana | Jim Shilling | 51. New Jersey | Ron Vogel |
| | 5044A CR 64 Spencerville, IN 46788 (219) 238-4879 | | 8 Orchard Road Middlesex, NJ 08846 (908) 356-2046 |
| 32. Kentucky | R.O. Harris | 52. Alaska | Pete Imhof |
| | 112 Eastern Hills Richmond, KY 40475 (606) 623-4659 | | 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 |

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