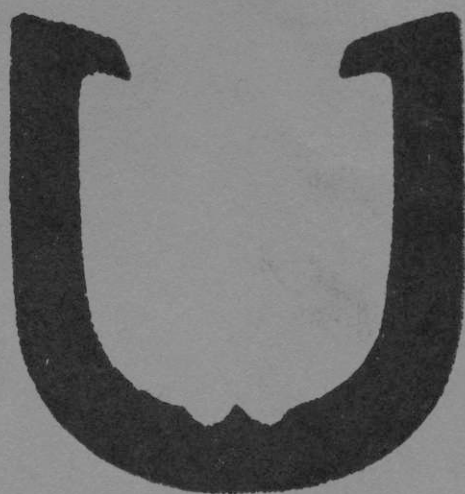


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



APRIL, 1949

Vol 1

No. 8

EDITORIAL

Up to now I have refrained from making any personal comments on any articles appearing in this magazine written by individuals. I wanted, and still do want THE HORSESHOE PITCHER to be used as an open forum for the readers. Following, is an article by Mr. Harris in which he discusses the Ohio situation. As the First Vice President of the N.H.P.A. I believe it my duty to the other officers of this association and myself to further enlighten you on the aspect of this situation. Therefore, I want to call your attention to my article following the "President's Message."

—Editor.

* * *

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (N.H.P.A.)

I have received a lot of correspondence from you, and there have been a lot of questions asked which I would like to clear up to the best of my ability.

In reply to Mr. Clear's letter of March 15, I cannot understand his question as to the Ohio situation. When I accepted the presidency I knew certain matters would have to be settled—including the "Ohio situation." All of you agreed with me that this question could not be handled at the 1948 convention and that we would get a decision before the 1949 convention. Accordingly, I appointed an Advisory Council, which is constitutional (Article II, Section 12 [Grievance]). I have letters in my file from each member of this Council. Each one stressed all the different viewpoints but agreed unanimously in conclusion that since the Ohio factions could not reach a peaceable solution and since they did not want two charters—each wanting the sole charter—the only thing possible was to give the charter to the group having the largest number of members.

Since I disliked handing down this decision—even though it would have been constitutional to do so, and since this is a democratic organization, I sent a letter to all members of the Executive Council asking if they were in accord with the decision handed down by the Advisory Council. In reply Harvey Clear, Byron Jaskulek, and I voted in agreement with the Advisory Council, and Louis Dean said he would go along with the majority; only Guy Wertz voted "no". I have just received a letter from Mr. Clear in which he asks, "What I would like of you honorable gentlemen is: Would you be for or against giving a Charter to the Buckeye Association?" I thought this matter had been settled as per the above. None of us liked making a decision as we did. We all hoped that Ohio could settle it themselves. I think the matter should be dropped.

There have been many questions brought up as to the National Tournament. I agree with Mr. Clear that we are "very late in laying our plans." This has been absolutely beyond my control. A little earlier in the year I was able to interest Sears-Roebuck in sponsoring the 1949 tournament. They were very enthusiastic; but after many conferences involving losing a lot of time and money from my job, they decided it was too big an undertaking for this year since I was asking for \$7,500.00. They are a good prospect, however, for 1950.

Then came my real heartbreak. Some of the local horseshoe pitchers worked with me in contacting the General Motors Corporation. We were really going to make this a big thing. They were going to give us at least \$10,000.00 and were going to attempt to bring President Truman to pitch the first shoe. I hate to think of the hours I spent until midnight and after compiling data which they requested, suggested prize lists, a complete program, an advertising campaign—everything necessary for the running of a really big tournament. Naturally, this was all done through our local corporation—Allison Engineering, a branch of General Motors. All of the big men were thoroughly sold, and we were even being contacted for newspaper publicity when Detroit, General Motors' home office, rejected it on the grounds that their budget was already made up for this year, 1949, and since they wanted to make it a really big affair, possibly including an automobile show and exhibition pitching by our ten topmost pitchers, it was just too much for this year's budget. In view of the above, it is quite probably that Indianapolis can secure a sponsor for 1950—especially if the organization's officers can learn to work together as a team and let the constitution be the referee.

Speaking of the constitution, we considered holding a constitutional convention about the first of February for revision purposes. However, I received many letters from delegates stating that if a convention were held then, many would be unable to take time off from their jobs, and in every case they thought the ideal time would be about two days before the actual tournament. Therefore, the convention will be held August 13 and 14.

I am writing this to let you know I have not been sitting down on the job as I spend nearly every free minute on some phase of horseshoe promotion. This week I am working with Jimmy Risk at the Sportsmen's Show where we have an Association booth.

ARLO E. HARRIS

* * *

A REBUTTAL

By Byron Jaskulek, 1st Vice-President, N.H.P.A.

In the above article, Mr. Harris refers to Article II, Section 12 of our Constitution and By-Laws which states in part, that the President may appoint a Grievance Committee. He did not state that this section also says the following "it is necessary that a majority of members of

special committees be actually in convention, only if a problem or problems arise which necessitates action from that particular committee, NO COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE AN ISSUE WITHOUT AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE CONVENTION PRESENT."

The committee appointed by Pres. Harris, which he calls the Advisory Council, numbers fifteen members: Four of these appointees are from Indiana, two from Ohio, two from California, and one each from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, New York, Wisconsin and Michigan. This committee was not actually in convention with a majority of its members present at the time they voted on the question as the constitution requires. It does state further, however, "should an occasion arise in which immediate action by a committee is necessary, the President of the association shall have the power to dissolve the existing committee and appoint a new one." This the President did not do although he apparently considered the Ohio situation an occasion in which immediate action by a committee was necessary.

It seems therefore, that any decision reached by this committee, whose members voted by mail, is not a legal decision. In that case, the votes of the officers of the Executive Council of the organization who voted with the recommendation that two Ohio Charters should be issued, as they have in California, is the only legal answer to the problem at this time with the authority granted them in the constitution under Article II, Section 4 which states:

"The officials, consisting of the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Executive Council of the organization and shall be in charge of its affairs. They shall be empowered to transact such business IN THE INTEREST OF THE GAME AND THE ASSOCIATION AS THEY DEEM ADVISABLE, providing such action shall not be contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of the association."

* * *

A STORY FROM YOUR NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

By Harvey W. Clear

Friends: It is not uncommon, when we read something from a story book, where everything always works out wonderful, but when these stories are a reality, that is something different. Before I tell you my story I want to say that our President, Mr. Harris, had worked very hard in trying to interest the Sears Stores in sponsoring our 1949 Tournament. For several months we have discussed this but nothing definite seemed to work out. Time was marching on and I was getting many letters from members wishing to know about our next tournament so as to plan their vacations. Having many friends, and being thoroughly familiar with the situation at Salt Lake City, as I put in six weeks there overseeing the building of those wonderful courts, I thought I would try something myself. On March 27th, 1949, I wrote a letter to my friend, Ray Ohms, at Salt Lake City and asked what, if anything,

could be done there to bring the tournament there this year. As I did not get a reply from Mr. Ohms, I decided to contact my good friend, Goff Berger, the live and up and coming Secretary-Treasurer of the Murray Horseshoe Club. Immediately I had a reply from him saying that he would at least give it a try. Friends, from what happened from that time till the next couple of weeks, we will have to imagine. Mr. Berger, single-handed, went right out and rounded up the Salt Lake County Recreation Department, The Salt Lake County Commission, The Salt Lake County Fair Board, and the Murray Horseshoe Club, and in a short time a letter from him, saying that they would offer the sum of \$3,000.00 to have the tournament brought there. They also requested that this be a 36 man tournament. I wrote Mr. Berger saying that in my estimation I felt that this was hardly enough for prize money, especially for 36 men. He immediately went into a huddle with his committees and I received a bid from them for \$3,500.00. I immediately wired Mr. Harris to see just what was doing regarding his sponsor there, and that I thought that we would have to act at once if we hoped to have a tournament at all this year. Mr. Harris wired me to proceed with my plans. I wrote an agreement and mailed it to Mr. Berger for his committee to sign, specifying just what we would expect, in order to bring the tournament there. My agreement came back with everything satisfactory, except the committee thought that in giving us the \$3,500.00, they should be entitled to collect the qualifying fees. I called Mr. Berger on the phone and told him that it was always customary for the National to collect the entry fees to use as prizes or for anything the committee saw fit. Again, Mr. Berger said I will see what I can do. Last night (in the middle of the night) my phone rang. I jumped up from a sound sleep and grabbed the receiver and a voice just said: YOU HAVE THE GREEN LIGHT. I said is this Mr. Berger?, and that was about all that I can remember except that by the time I got back into bed, I was wide awake, and continued that way for three or four hours, but I want to say that I would lose a nights sleep for such news as that. Folks, I want to tell you how grateful I am to Mr. Berger; he has really been the man behind the gun in engineering this tournament. Our vote of thanks to him.

The prize list which you will find in this issue is only my suggested prize list and has not been passed by the Board members. I would like to hear from them, and also from any of the club members, with suggestions and comments on this prize list. If this does not meet with the approval of the board then you will be notified in plenty of time. Personally, I wish that we had the money to make our prizes start at \$1,000.00 and range accordingly down the line, but as yet our money is limited, I feel that we should do a little more for the 65 and 75 per cent pitchers (who are by far in the majority), for after all it will cost them just as much to attend these meets as the 80 and 90 per cent pitcher. This is only my opinion, let us have yours.

* * *

1949 WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORSESHOE PITCHING TOURNAMENT

THE PLACE: Salt Lake City, Utah. . . . THE DATES: Aug. 14th to 20th

There will be at least \$3,500.00 in cash prizes.

Here is the tentative prize list:

1....\$400.00	10....\$80.00	19....\$70.00	28....\$60.00
2.... 300.00	11.... 80.00	20.... 70.00	29.... 55.00
3.... 225.00	12.... 80.00	21.... 65.00	30.... 55.00
4.... 150.00	13.... 75.00	22.... 65.00	31.... 55.00
5.... 100.00	14.... 75.00	23.... 65.00	32.... 55.00
6.... 90.00	15.... 75.00	24.... 65.00	33.... 50.00
7.... 90.00	16.... 75.00	25.... 60.00	34.... 50.00
8.... 90.00	17.... 70.00	26.... 60.00	35.... 50.00
9.... 80.00	18.... 70.00	27.... 60.00	36.... 50.00

ATTENTION . . . LADY HORSESHOE PITCHERS!

We want to conduct a Ladies Tournament in conjunction with the Men's Tournament. Drop me a line expressing your willingness to qualify for this event.

LADIES PRIZES

1.....\$50.00	5.....\$25.00
2..... 40.00	6..... 20.00
3..... 35.00	7..... 20.00
4..... 30.00	8..... 15.00

Do not plan to come to Salt Lake City without your membership card. You must have your card BEFORE coming in order to enter this tournament. Get it from your State Secretary. If you have no State affiliation, drop me a line and I will advise you; or send me one dollar and I will send it to your State Secretary who will send you your card. THIS IS IMPORTANT! This also goes for the Mid West Open Tournament to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, plans of which are in the making. Last year, ten horseshoe pitchers from different States bought their cards at Des Moines to enter that tournament. This adds extra work for the Secretary and furthermore, your own State needs your support. Get these membership cards RIGHT NOW and be prepared. REMEMBER, you MUST have that membership card before qualifying at Salt Lake City or Des Moines! This applies to the Ladies, as well. Make your plans NOW to attend this, the greatest Tournament of all, Salt Lake City has wonderful accommodations, and reasonable, too. Get in touch with Mr. G. A. Berger, P. O. Box 113, Murray, Utah, and I am sure he will arrange things for your comfort.

HARVEY W. CLEAR,
Secretary-Treasurer, N.H.P.A.
912 Melrose Ave., Santa Cruz, Cal.

GOLDEN GATE'S GREAT GUY

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science At The Stake"

This scene has been enacted at thousands of horseshoe clubs all over the United States: A large crowd is present at a group of horseshoe courts. A few pitchers are tossing shoes on some of the pegs. One court has been carefully spaded up, the clay watered down and packed smoothly around the stakes. No one is playing on it for it is being reserved. The players and spectators wear expectant looks on their faces and an excited murmur runs through the crowd. A poster on a wall of the club house announces that Guy Zimmerman, World Famous Trick and Fancy Horseshoe Pitcher is to stage an exhibition here on this date. Then follows a list of novel and entertaining stunts, many of which are extremely dangerous to Mrs. Zimmerman who will assist her husband with the act.

Suddenly, there is a burst of cheers and handclapping as someone shouts: "Here they are! Hi Guy, you old cuss! Have you come to take some lessons from us?" Other similar affectionate greetings are sung out and a lot of handshaking takes place. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman then begin to unload hoops, blankets, bottles, a stool and other assorted paraphernalia from their car. They make a very attractive couple, attired in their red shirts and dark slacks. Guy is about 5 feet 10 inches in height, of a slender build, with a tanned face and a friendly lopsided grin. Grace, (Guy's boss) is a rather small, comely woman with a nice smile and a merry twinkle in her eyes.

While Guy warms up to loosen up his arm and get the lay of the court, one of the leaders in the club introduces them to the crowd and enumerates a number of Guy's pitching records, many of which are the best in the world. After warming up with a few practice shots, Guy usually begins by playing a match with one of the local players. Guy pitches blind over a blanket which is taken down to allow his opponent full view of the pegs. Zim wins well over 75 per cent of these games. Then he proceeds to amaze his audience with such stunts as striking and extinguishing matches, throwing ringers around bottles, cigarettes, the legs of a stool on which Grace is sitting, and ringing the stake while she rests her chin on it. Then he hurls a 2½ pound shoe to knock a paper bag off her head. The shoe clears her head by only a few inches and the bag is gone with a whoosh as the shoe clicks home around the stake. Then he turns loose with a blizzard of ringers in pitching over her reclining body, through hoops, and makes the old mare's slippers do virtually everything but talk.

These are but a few of the stunts that Guy The Great has in his bag of tricks for he is one of the greatest pitching machines living today. I have often wondered if he wasn't born with a horseshoe in each hand and I have seen people, who are unfamiliar with the game, gasp and

refuse to believe their eyes as they watch him in action. I know that I almost fell over with amazement when I first saw him in my home town of La Grande, Oregon, back in 1932. Several of us who had just taken up the game traveled 50 miles over steep, crooked mountain roads to see Zimmerman, C. Jackson and their wives do their stuff that night. Jackson was the clown in the act and Zim furnished the fireworks. I'll never forget that exhibition there under the lights of the police and fire departments courts. Several weeks after this I met another wizard named Ted Allen but this is another story.

The next time I saw Zim was in June 1939 when he and his wife and two youngsters again paid another visit to Eastern Oregon. I met them in La Grande and helped them with their exhibition there: also in Elgin where I was working in a sawmill and in Wallowa which was then my home town some 30 miles on up the branch line. "The Old Master" looked bad then and had lost a lot of weight because he was suffering from a stomach ailment. But this did not seem to affect his ability to toss ringers. I still have the newspaper clippings stating that I pitched 76.6% ringers and the most I could get was 37 points. In a game at Elgin, I tossed 65% and only scored with three pitiful points! Guy threw 45 ringers out of 50 shoes in that game and I was lucky to even get on the board.

A full account of Guy's brilliant pitching career would make a good sized book so I won't attempt to list but a few of his outstanding records. He is so well known throughout the horseshoe world that his name is a byword among millions of fans who are thoroughly familiar with his exploits. In 1940, at the World's Meet at Des Moines, Iowa, Guy made the greatest bid on record for the championship of the world. He and Ted Allen hung up a record smashing performance that still stands as the greatest game ever played in a national tournament. A full account of this is described in my instruction book "Science At The Stake." (I hope the Editor won't notice this advertising plug). In this same meet Guy averaged 86.1% for the entire tournament of 31 games which was another worlds record that stood until it was broken by Casey Jones last year at Milwaukee. But not to be outdone, Guy hung up another record last year too. He pitched the only perfect game in national tournament history by tossing 44 consecutive ringers to keep his opponent, Henry Pergal from scoring a point.

Formerly champion of Iowa, Guy hails from Sac City and has been pitching in the nationals since his early teens. For the past 12 years he has been one of the top three contenders for the World's title, but it has eluded him by just a point or two on several different occasions. For the past several years he has lived here in California and has held the state title since 1942. The past two years he has defended this title against the onslaughts of Fernando Isais, the World's Champion and Eddie Packham, champion of Southern California.

After an operation a few years ago for his stomach ailment, Guy is now the picture of health. He has just turned 40 and is right in his prime. He is fully capable of winning the world's crown which has eluded him so long and he may do it at the next national meet. Like so many others, Guy's first marriage failed to work out but he is now happily married and living in the little town of Alamo which is not far from San Francisco. Guy is a plumber by trade and the letters M. P. after his name mean "Master Plumber" and "Master Pitcher." He leads the large Golden Gate Horseshoe Club of San Francisco and this fine group of Golden Gate boys are justly proud of their "Great Guy."

In the Spring of 1947, I visited my good friend Harvey Clear at Santa Cruz which is some 75 miles from San Francisco. Harvey was then President of The Northern California HPA and is now Secretary-Treasurer of the N.H.P.A. Guy dove down from Alamo and spent the night with us and the next day, which was Sunday, we visited the Golden Gate Club. I never saw such a grand bunch of fellows and such a live wire club. Although I was a sick man and half dead due to bad teeth, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my visit. That afternoon a bunch of us crossed the huge Oakland Bay Bridge to Berkley and attended a picnic to watch Guy do his stuff. Last Fall Guy and Grace attended the Southern Calif. Open Championship Tournament, held at Pomona. They played exhibitions on their way down and back. Guy won second place in this meet losing only to Fernando Isais, the World's Champion.

Like Ted Allen, Zim has long been a hero to me as he is to thousands of others. He is one of the greatest living proponents of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ turn and his follow-through is the most beautiful one I have ever seen. Guy has supplied me with a lot of valuable information which I have used in my writings in trying to create a better sport. "The Old Master" really knows his fundamentals and he always has time to help the poorer class of players with his friendly and constructive advice. This willingness to help others is just one of the many reasons why he is so popular among all the players throughout the country. He has done a lot for the horseshoe pitching sport through the medium of his exhibition work in teaching others the correct way to play the game. Guy is a colorful and flashy showman and I rate him as being the finest show and stunt pitcher in the world. He is a familiar figure on the firing line in the National tournaments and consistently pitches one of the highest ringer percentages in the world. For the past year the Zimmerman's have been sponsord by the Acme Brewing Company of San Francisco and their famous pitching act is the highlight at most of the leading Fairs and Sport Shows here in California.

In all the years that I have known Guy Zimmerman, I have never seen him lose his temper; nor have I ever heard him boast or alibi about winning or losing a game. Win or lose, he always displays a splendid

A couple of weeks ago Military Government showed our school some films of American school life. Ample space was given to all kinds of games and sports, such as baseball, swimming, boxing etc. After the show my students came up to me greatly disappointed asking: Why was there no pitching?—Well, why was there no pitching, I am asking myself and the N.H.P.A. When asked the same question the producer replied that there was no film available, but that he was quite willing to contact his boss for one. Since then I have heard nothing about it. In case the man should have forgotten all about the promise I was given it would be a gentle nudge to send him the above copy of this magazine, unless Mr. Mortenson chooses the direct way of sending me the film of the Milwaukee tournaments he had made me look forward to in his Aug 5th letter. As I cannot get a man of flesh and blood to coach my students I must try to make the best of a film!

Our Easter vacation being round the corner all I can do at present is to give the youngsters some theoretical training with Roy W. Smith's booklet as a basis. But as soon as the summer term begins my Headmaster will arrange for some weekly sports afternoon to be compulsory for all the students so that even those who live far away will have to attend. Then we shall go full steam ahead into the new season. I hope that in the meantime some help will have come from beyond the Atlantic.

(I have no more of the December issues. Anyone want to do a good turn and send their old copy to the above addresses?—Editor.)

* * *

NOTICE TO ALL STATE SECRETARIES!

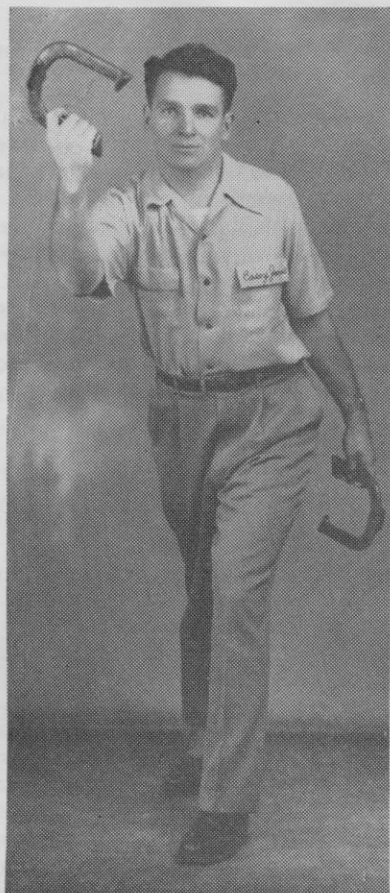
If you want your league games and tournaments sanctioned, I will send you the sanctions all filled out so that you will be ready when the time comes. These sanctions must be had before your tournaments. All entrants must be National members. Send me the following information—the dates of your tournaments, what City and County, if sponsored by your Association or otherwise. If you are having league games, send me the name of the sponsor of each team and the approximate dates of start and finish of games. I will mail you the sanctions as soon as I receive this information.

HARVEY W. CLEAR

Secretary-Treasurer, N.H.P.A.

**912 Melrose Avenue
Santa Cruz, California**

**Pitch Ohio Horseshoes and Increase Your
Ringer Percentage**



★

"CASEY" JONES champion horseshoe pitcher and holder of two great world's records (87½% ringers and 13 games of 90% and over in the Milwaukee National tournament), says, "I changed to OHIO shoes in 1948 and increased my ringer average over 5%. OHIO shoes are well balanced and stay on the stake. I recommend them to beginners and all players who want to improve their game."

★

Price \$3.50 per pair postpaid.
Write for quantity prices in
lots of 4 or more pairs.

★

(We use the 5c association stamps)

OHIO HORSESHOE COMPANY

(Makers of quality pitching shoes for 28 years.)

Station F

Columbus, Ohio

MARYLAND NEWS

By Harry T. Woodfield

Maryland should receive its charter from N.H.P.A. by April 2, and through The Prince Georges County Horseshoe Pitchers Assn. plan the 1949 program as follows:

- (1) A team in the Metropolitan Area League with other teams from Washington, D. C. and nearby Virginia.
- (2) Prince Georges County League for adults 18 years and older. This league will be headed by Wm. K. Cooper Secy. of Prince Georges County Y.M.C.A. who sponsored the Prince Georges County annual tournament of 1946, 1947 and 1948. This event was the direct cause of a revival of the game in this section of Maryland never equaled before.

The 1948 tournament was staged on four modern approved courts. It is expected early in May four more will be added. They are located in beautiful Magruder Park on Hamilton St. and 40th Ave. The City of Hyattsville furnished the materials and the horseshoe pitchers the labor.

- (3) 4th Annual Prince Georges County tournament early in September.
- (4) 1st Annual Maryland State Championship—September.
- (5) 1st Annual Prince Georges County Boys Club tournament, Seniors and Juniors.
- (6) 1st Annual Prince Georges County Girls tournament, Seniors and Juniors.
- (7) Women's Annual tournament.

Definite dates for all events will be published later.

THE TEEN-AGER PROGRAM

The Horseshoe News has been advocating for sometime the nation-wide cooperation of N.H.P.A. in a Teen-ager horseshoe pitching program and here in Prince Georges County, Md. is the perfect set-up of 34 units of Boys' Clubs sponsored partly by the citizens in their own communities, by an Executive Board and Directors and often by the boys themselves. They have an 8-page printed paper "The Boys Club Booster" that has a circulation of 8,500 copies each month distributed free. Each page is 3 columns wide. Each issue carries 7 to 8 columns of advertising.

Early in March Pop Woodfield and Everett Clift met with Mr. Smith H. Purdum, Past President and now Secretary of the Prince Georges County Boys Club. We suggested to Mr. Purdum that he add horseshoe pitching to the club's sports program for 1949. No doubt many of the boys would find it an ideal game especially those who could not make the teams in basketball, baseball football and boxing.

There was another reason. N.H.P.A. must build for world champions of the future. We must not wait for them to appear unknown. Of the four players in our annual world tournaments (Allen, Isais, Jones and Zimmerman) who monopolize the first four places in the finals. Only two (Tommy Brownell and Wayne Nelson) have come along in recent years as distinct threats.

It is the responsibility of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association to do something about it NOW. That its entire membership cooperate in a nation-wide promotion among the Boys Clubs of America. To see that proper equipment is provided and that expert instruction is given to these Teen-agers, in the beginning.

Mr. Purdum was for our proposition one hundred per cent. He wanted to keep all of the boys active in some sport. Horseshoe pitching would go a long ways to that end. In less than a week all of the units were informed by him that horseshoe pitching was coming. He appointed a Boys Club horseshoe pitching committee from among the Maryland members of N.H.P.A. He and the Committee met or contacted six of the units the first week. In the mean time plans of how to build an approved court have been mailed to all units.

By May there should be at least 100 courts spread all over Prince Georges County and our committee with enough instructors to start the boys off on the right or left foot (as the case may be) in the units that haven't them.

If we get ten boys in each unit started it will mean nearly 400. Multiply this by 50 other sections in the U. S. following this plan and from that number it is possible that we have started 6 future World champions on their way. That would be an achievement. By what we accomplish here in Maryland just outside the Nation's Capital it could well be the pattern for others to follow.

Maybe we will fail to get a new world champion, but if we get a couple of thousand boys interested in this grand old game. That would be well worth all the effort we put behind it. The Maryland delegates to our 1949 convention intend to present the Boys Club plan of promotion for N.H.P.A. nation-wide adoption.

Is there a Boys Club in your community? If so no doubt they have horseshoe pitching but do they have expert instruction? If not it's your job to see that they do. If you haven't a Boys Club in your neighborhood the next issue of Horseshoe News will publish full details of how and why you should have one. The author, is Mr. Smith H. Purdum of Hyattsville, Md. The fact that he and his associates practice what they preach is very evident in the model Boys Club they have established here.

* * *

NEW JERSEY

By Douglas Fogal

The New Jersey H.P.A. have decided on the following playing schedule for the coming season:

Note: The second date is the rain date.

May 15—May 22—Essex County Open, Branch Brook

June 12—June 19—John Rosselet Memorial Open, Warinanco Park, Elizabeth

July 10—July 17—Jersey Class B, Branch Brook Park, N. J. members B and lower

July 24—July 31—Jersey Open, Branch Brook, Open

Aug. 7 (tentative)—Jersey Invitation, Branch Brook, 20 best Pitchers in the East

Aug. 14—Aug. 21—Union County Open, Warinanco Park, Open

Sept. 11—Sept. 18—Jersey State Championships, Classes B and C, Branch Brook, N. J. Residents only

Sept. 18—Sept. 25—Jersey State Championships, Classes A and D

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Here is a copy of a letter I received:

The White House
Washington, D. C.
March 25, 1949

Dear Mr. Jaskulek:

This is to thank you for the copy of your magazine, THE HORSE-SHOE PITCHER, which you sent the President with your recent letter. It was thoughtful of you and good of you to offer to send the magazine monthly. I am sure the President will be happy to have it.

Sincerely yours,

Charles G. Ross,

Secretary to the President

* * *

Since the first appearance of this magazine there has been quite some discussion in its pages regarding two systems of scoring points; the Cancellation System and the Point System (Count All). To my mind, both systems have their good and bad qualities. To end this friendly argument. I propose to have a poll on this subject. Drop me a Post Card telling me which system you prefer. I will keep these cards on file and make a detailed report in the July issue of this magazine. This poll is open to SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

* * *

Here is the first Spring report of a horseshoe match. John Elkins of Stella, Mo., defeated Loy Ross, Oklahoma State Champion, at Carthage, Mo. on Sunday afternoon, March 20. Elkins won four games to the Oklahoma Champions' three. A very high wind kept ringer percentage low.

* * *

Some of the students of the City College of New York intend to hold a horseshoe tournament in the near future. There are nine courts available at Jasper Oval, near the college. Patrick Brady, of the Hilltop H. C. thinks that if enough colleges list horseshoe pitching as an intermural activity, perhaps we may some day see the game on an equal footing with other intercollegiate sports.

* * *

Regarding Official Stamps on horseshoe cartons, Mr. McNeil of Cheyenne, Wyo., has this to say—"you can go to any sporting goods store and find outlawed shoes for sale with OFFICIAL stamped all over them! Many a fellow who pitched before, or one who decides to pitch, gets a pair or a set thinking they are the same the Champion uses. Then he goes out to the courts and is told by someone who knows, that his shoes are NOT OFFICIAL and he cannot use them in a tournament. Well, he gets disgusted with the whole thing and decides he doesn't want to pitch horseshoes anyhow. I have seen this happen so I know what I am talking about. There should be some way to get the word OFFICIAL off the shoes that are not official.

* * *

Word comes from Des Moines, Iowa, that they will probably hold their World's Open Masters Tournament sometime in June. If you intend entering this tournament, you had better have your National Card in advance.

* * *

The Connecticut State H. P. A. met and plans were formulated for the coming season. Clubs in the circuit represent Manchester, Bridgeport, Stamford, New Britain and Bristol. The Manchester team is the defending champion. At the group's annual meeting, Guido Giorgetti of Manchester, the State horseshoe pitching champion, was elected President; Frank Wagner of New Canaan, was named Vice President and Michael Vecchitto, of Middletown, was reelected Secretary and Treasurer.

* * *

Members of the Empire State Branch! Send in your dollar for your National Card and I will be glad to forward it to you.

Byron Jaskulek, Secy.-Treas.

* * *

I'll send anyone interested, a sample copy of this magazine. How about some names and addresses of some horseshoe fans?

* * *

The boys in New York will have held a meeting by the time this reaches you. A schedule for the coming season will be drawn up and plans for the New York State Championship games to be held in July will be formulated.

* * *

I still have a few more pads of score sheets that are available for distribution to subscribers. Ask your Postmaster what three pounds of Parcel Post Mail will cost from New York. Then send me the postage and I will mail them to you, gratis. But the supply is not very large, so first come, first served!—Jake.

* * *

In the February number, I published the news of the five States who lead in subscribing to this magazine. Up to now, the same States are in the lead but Illinois has jumped ahead of Minnesota. Here is the line up—New York, Ohio, California, Illinois and Minnesota. If your State is not listed here, why not get busy?

* * *

Mr. Harris has to say this, too—Mr. Clear and I will be at Salt Lake City ahead of the tournament, preparing the necessary details for the pitchers. I am asking Mr. Clear to send out to delegates to be represented at the convention our present constitution for study before our convention opens (the 13th and 14th of August). Please take this old constitution and put in the changes you deem advisable for our Association. If you so desire, rewrite the entire constitution and incorporate your ideas so they can be presented intelligently at our convention. Please keep your ideas clear and to a minimum number of words, as we all desire a good constitution that will build us and carry us through the years to come with just as little friction as possible. Please send Mr. Clear as soon as possible the names of delegates that will represent you at the National Convention for 1949. To the Editor and Publisher of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER—"You are doing a swell job."

* * *

The Long Island State Park Commission is building ten new horse-shoe courts in Hempstead Lake State Park, Long Island. They will be ready in the near future. These are being constructed under the supervision of Mr. Stewart. They expect them to be the best courts on Long Island. They hope to hold a big open tournament there some time in September.

* * *

OHIO

By John Kovacs

Here is the 1949 program of the Canton Horseshoe Club. Canton will conduct four leagues this year. Each league will be composed of eight teams and each team will play as five-man teams. These leagues will be conducted using 100% handicap the same as last year. Each league will have a president and secretary—these men are hand picked,

i.e., they have been selected from their leagues because of either their executive ability or cooperation which they have shown the past year in conducting these leagues.

The State and Inter-City league is shown only because the Canton Club will participate to the extent of entering two teams, one in each league.

This is not the program of the Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association. As soon as I know definitely the leagues which are in operation throughout the State, I will outline the complete program of the State Association.

At the present time, the State Association will try to promote the following leagues:

Cleveland, two leagues (twelve and eight teams).

Canton, four leagues (total of 32 teams).

Wadsworth, one league (eight teams).

Massillon, one league (eight teams).

Cambridge, one league (six teams).

Toledo, one league (six or eight teams).

New Philadelphia, one league (six teams).

State Association, two leagues (five and ten teams).

Akron, three leagues (twelve, eight and six teams).

There are several other known leagues in operation in Ohio, but to sell a group of pitchers the idea of sanctions is very difficult, especially if they have been pitching without sanctions for a number of years.

The Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association will concentrate on the organization of new leagues, as they can be sold on the sanctions easier than leagues who have been operating—meanwhile we will try to interest these leagues in entering teams in either our State or Inter-City leagues and thus try to convince these players of the need of their support.

The Ohio Inter-City league was organized in Ohio by the Ohio Division of the N.H.P.A., Sunday March 13, at Akron. The league roster at this time includes Wadsworth, Barberton, Canton, Akron Goodrich, Firestone Park, Cambridge, two teams from Cleveland, and Akron Erie Freight. Entries are open till May 1st. The President is Lou Anthony, and Secretary, Halfred Fritter.

The league will be conducted on 80% handicap, using five-man teams. League will be divided into two divisions, starting May 22, and pitch

every other Sunday. Starting time 2:00 P.M. E.S.T. All players in this league will carry combined Club-State-National Cards, and will be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A.

The Canton Horseshoe Club elected the following officers for 1949: John Sebek, president; Herb Rhodes, secy.-treas.; Les Miller, 1st vice president; Howard Stevenson, 2nd vice president.

Four eight-team leagues will be scheduled this year, starting May 1. This will include the County, Industrial, City and Diebold league. Two rounds will be played. All leagues will operate on 100% handicap basis and all leagues will use rules as set up by the parent Canton Horseshoe Club.

The State Champion and second nationally-ranked Selway Cleaners will represent the Club in State and National Leagues, while the Morgan Motors will be entered in the Inter-City league.

The Club will sponsor handicap and county tournaments at the end of the regular season. The latter will have A, B and C divisions.

The National League

No entries have been received definitely as yet, but the league will operate for sure, regardless of the number entered. It has been suggested that teams play half-way between cities to cut down on travel, but it will eventually add up to the same mileage as if teams had played home and home on their own courts. It would be quite a project to make arrangements for two teams to meet on scheduled dates, at a neutral city. Sponsors are also desirous of having their teams play at home.

* * *

"SCIENCE AT THE STAKE"

This 66 page book is a complete analysis of the Scientific art of tossing ringers. Contains 1001 hints from the champions on how to improve your game. Well illustrated. No horseshoe pitching fan can afford to be without this book. Send only 50c in coin or (3-cent) stamps. No checks or C.O.D. orders please.

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HORSESHOE PITCHING

1940 - 1948

By Leland S. Mortenson

Introduction

In 1929 and in 1940, the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association published complete histories of the game up until those dates. The last publication, The Horseshoe Compendium, included practically all of the information included in the 1929 issue.

In order to write an accurate history, one should delay it until a number of years have elapsed from the time the events took place. By doing so, the writer gains a better perspective, and he generally is in an improved position to judge the significance of events.

Therefore, the writer is aware that in about ten or more years from now, he might emphasize some subject matter which is not so treated at this time, for which reason he has refrained from drawing conclusions in some situations.

The National Association Itself

When one thinks of a history of horseshoe pitching, he generally thinks first of the world championship tournaments, but as the tournaments follow the association, the constitution, and the rules, and the promotion of the officers and others, let's look at this angle from 1940 to date.

When the 1940 world tournament and national convention came to pass, the association was operating under the constitution which had been in effect for many years. However, at the 1939 convention, a regulation had been passed requiring that in order for the pitching shoes to be official, in addition to meeting certain specifications as to size and weight, the container in which they left the manufacturing plant would have to contain an association stamp showing that the association had received five cents from the manufacturer. The motion as passed called for it to be in effect for three years.

Just why nobody thought of making it a permanent regulation is unknown to the writer, for the rule automatically expired in 1942 after it had resulted in a substantial income to the association. And a sad result of the expiration was that the association missed out on a possibly attractive intake of funds when thousands of pairs of horseshoes were sold to the army during the war.

The regulation was re-enacted in 1946, on a permanent basis.

The officers at the time of the opening of the 1940 convention were Le Roy Page, Des Moines, president; Lee "Rose" Henry Jacobs, secretary-treasurer; Jack Claves, St. Louis, first vice president; Sam Somerhalder, Guide Rock, Neb., second vice president; and Alvin Dahlene, Lawrence, Kansas, third vice president. Of this group, Dahlene is the only one who is an active member of the association at this time. Claves passed away a few years ago.

At the time of the convention, President Page had not paid his association dues, and they were not paid until several weeks after the convention, and he was re-elected at the convention. The association is still being criticized about this matter. The dues at that time were 25 cents per year.

A few days before the convention, President Page appointed a young pitcher, an attorney, to head a committee to rewrite the constitution. This young man, J. Robert Tompkin, Dysart, Iowa, turned out a constitution which didn't differ much from the one he was supposed to improve upon. He was supposed to have produced an improvement, at least from a legal standpoint, but this he failed to accomplish. But the new constitution passed, and it has not been materially changed since that time.

Page was re-elected, Tompkin replaced Rose as Secretary, Claves was re-elected first vice president; Andrew Stolarik, Canton, Ohio, became third vice president; and Mrs. Archie Gregson, Los Angeles, was elected treasurer.

Johnny Sebeck, Canton, Ohio, has recently charged that the convention of 1940 was illegally conducted, that delegates and non-delegates both voted. Nothing could be further from the truth. This writer and Lee Rose both wrote individual reports about the convention at the time and these were published in the Horseshoe World. Neither of us mentioned such a thing. The writer was not a delegate, and like many others, he made no motions and he did not vote. Non-delegates were, however, permitted to arise and talk and we took advantage of that opportunity.

The privilege of non-delegates to speak at conventions was a privilege until the 1948 convention at Milwaukee when it was denied for the first time in the history of the association.

Mr. Page, like his predecessors, appointed several committees and just like those who passed before him, he paid no further attention to them, and they did nothing about the responsibility delegated to them.

But there was one exception. He miraculously appointed Harry T. Woodfield chairman of the Publicity Committee. Woodfield, of Washington, D. C., took the appointment with pride and went to work.

(To be continued in the next issue.)