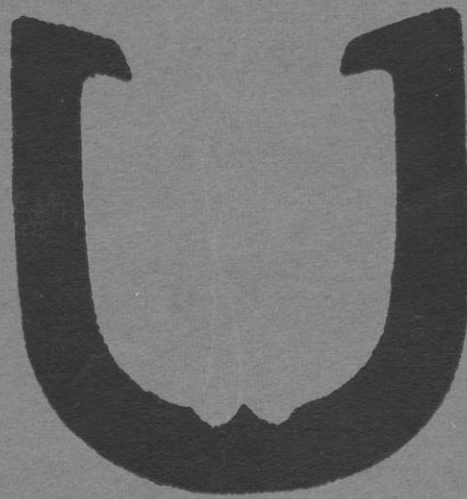


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



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VOLUME 1

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EDITORIAL

Here is some bad news! Up to and including the December issue of this magazine, your Editor was mailing each copy at the rate of one cent each. Since January first of this year, Uncle Sam has boosted the rate of postage exactly fifty per cent. Now it costs one and one half cents and an additional fee of ten dollars per year to mail them. As I have barely been able to keep myself out of the red under the lower rate of postage, I know I will be unable to do so from now on unless I can get in a little more revenue. So, beginning with this issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, the subscription price will be \$1.50 per year. I want to stress the point that it is very much against my wishes to have to take this measure, but it is the only way I can continue. Hope you can see it my way, fellers!

BYRON JASKULEK, Editor

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

It is very gratifying to know that the committees which have been appointed by your President are functioning 100%. It is also wonderful to know that our memberships are coming in in volume for 1949. To give further proof of the success of our new year we have already received a large number of entries into our National League, which has come into being this year under the leadership of Johnny Kovacs.

Congratulations are in order to the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Indianapolis Horseshoe Association for being the third of this type organization in the nation. Best of luck to their new President, Mrs. Chester Wires.

A definite day for the world's tournament has not been set; we hope to receive more bids soon from any prospective sponsor. We'd like to get a definite date soon, so vacations could be planned accordingly.

In the article "Gifts to European Horseshoe Pitchers" Harry T. Woodfield, Chairman of the International Committee of the N.H.P.A., has requested that Leland Mortenson collect cash contributions from our horseshoe pitchers. I understand that Mr. Mortenson had refused in the January issue (or perhaps the December issue) to act on this committee. Why, then, should he receive contributions? I would like to stress that this is a non-profit organization. Time and effort is freely given, because we love the game, and we want to reach the height enjoyed by other sports.

ARLO E. HARRIS, Pres.

* * *

CALIFORNIA

By Harvey W. Clear, Secy.-Treas.

No doubt, by now, all State Secretaries have received their membership cards and their checks from the stamp fund. I do hope you will cooperate with us by sending in your money for cards sold, regularly. Mr. Harris has modified his decision on this matter so I have sent you these cards without asking for payment in advance, so please show your

appreciation by making prompt returns. I want to ask you all to send me the names and addresses of all your officers at once for I know that you would all like to have all clubs know the names and addresses of your officers. Just as soon as I receive them I will make and send a list to you. Please DO IT NOW! Always look for the little red stamp on that carton of horseshoes you buy. That is your means of knowing they are OFFICIAL.

* * *

AN OPEN LETTER TO N.H.P.A.

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

Alvin Dahlene and Charles Gerrish should receive gold medals for their two sixty-four dollar questions which they so ably brought out in their articles in the January issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. These questions dealt with the height of the horseshoe stakes and a standard size for the pitching boxes.

When I read or hear of seventeen inch stakes and foul lines of equally outlandish distances, I get so disgusted that I feel like tearing my National Membership card to bits and never buying another. As if the infernal din of the roller coaster and having to play 32 men on 12 courts wasn't enough of a headache there at Milwaukee! The so called promoters there should crawl off and hide. A year or so ago, the stakes were said to have been mostly Ford axles at Des Moines.

If a small place like Murray, Utah, can install some of the finest courts in the world, Milwaukee and Des Moines have a lot of nerve to even make a bid for a National Meet and expect the players to perform on their "barnyard" courts. The players should absolutely blackball such courts and refuse to pitch a shoe on them. When is N.H.P.A. going to wake up and quit kidding itself? Each year the players return from the national meets full of disgust and vowing never to attend another. And N.H.P.A. goes on blithely making feeble excuses to justify its existence. It is always quick to brag that it is "the only governing body of the horseshoe pitching sport in existence." Well, why doesn't it begin to GOVERN and show a little authority?

The Rules Committee are quick to throw out a pitching shoe that does not conform to exact weight and size. Then why are the sizes of the stakes and courts ignored? One piece of equipment is just as important as another. The official rules say so in plain language. Now, what is the reason why these barnyard promoters aren't shoved back in their stock yards and hobbled so they can't continue to run loose and spoil the game for everyone as they have been doing? Many of these so called National Meets are really national hoaxes and do more to harm the game than anything else. Again, I say the players should blackball them and refuse to attend. As long as the players put up with such bungling and poor conditions, the longer such things will exist. And in the face of all this, the boys are expected to set new pitching records each year. AND THEY ARE DOING IT! What could they do under decent conditions? The 90% average for a world's meet would soon become a reality. Guy Zimmerman has already pitched a 100% game and it is not improbable that someone might soon toss a perfect qualifying score of 100 consecutive ringers.

Another matter that I wish to discuss is The International Committee. Pop Woodfield has been appointed to head this and has asked me to serve on the committee. While it will be several weeks yet before I can devote much time to this, I am willing to help this committee pro-

vided the N.H.P.A. shows its willingness to back and cooperate with such a group. And I mean that this cooperation must extend beyond that of mere lip service of which there is so much. In my opinion, N.H.P.A. should supply this committee with printed letterheads and other necessary items to give it the proper prestige to function as it should. There is no use creating such a committee to promote the game on an international basis and then render it impotent by casting it adrift to flounder along as best it can. If N.H.P.A. refuses to back up this group, it merely proves that the time is not ripe to attempt promotion on a world wide scale.

Counting both time and money, I have put hundreds of dollars into the game during the past few years. My booklets have been mailed to Australia, Hawaii, South America, Germany and Canada. All such contacts are valuable to the game and N.H.P.A. Sports can provide a fine medium for all the peoples of the earth to become better acquainted with each other. Men who play together soon begin to trust each other. There are no boundary lines in sports, geographically or otherwise. I don't promise to pull any miracles out of a hat but the committee as a whole MIGHT be able to do some good things.

Pop Woodfield has a lot of talent and N.H.P.A. should continue to utilize it. Retiring him as President does not mean that he should be cast away like an old shoe. Some say he has made mistakes. No doubt he has and so have we all and we will continue to make them. With his limited means Pop has done a lot for the game. During the war N.H.P.A. became almost as extinct as the dodo bird. With the slackening of hostilities the returning service men and those of us in war work began to poke around in the ashes to try and find a spark showing that N.H.P.A. was still alive. The combined membership had shrunk until there were only 17 members left at one time! Pop did more than any other one man in helping to keep the feeble spark alive in N.H.P.A. Installing the White House Courts was the greatest shot in the arm the dying game could have received. His effort on behalf of the wounded veterans alone merits the 100% cooperation of N.H.P.A.! It's so easy for many of us to forget now that things are becoming normal again.

It seems to me that N.H.P.A. could well afford the little aid necessary to help Pop and the International Committee in the face of all this. If not, I for one, refuse to waste my time with such a committee. The printer of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER could print these letterheads and N.H.P.A. would be helping the magazine which is so ably representing it. Furthermore, the N.H.P.A. should lose no time in adopting THE HORSESHOE PITCHER as the official organ of the organization.

The greatest need in the horseshoe game today is that of proper and intelligent promotion. AND IT IS A TRAGEDY THAT THIS FIELD IS THE ONE THAT IS BEING THE MOST SADLY NEGLECTED! While we are all trying in our various ways to promote the sport, we are so divided in our opinions as to how it should best be done that none of us are making much headway. A little teamwork, minus all the petty jealousies and split factions, could work wonders. The N.H.P.A. has a lot to do here at home yet!

* * *

INDIANA

By Mrs. Barbara Vaughan

An organization meeting was held at Brookside Community Center, to form a Ladies Auxiliary to the Indianapolis Horseshoe Association. Mr. J. C. Joseph acted as chairman and organizer.

Officers elected by the ladies were: Mrs. Chester Wires, President; Mrs. Berniece Harris, Vice Pres.; Mrs. Barbara Vaughan, Secretary; Mrs. W. A. Banta, Treasurer—Organizing Committee: Mrs. Henderlighter, Mrs. Hemmer, Mrs. Kreck, Mrs. Grason, Mrs. Sparks, Mrs. Thibo, Mrs. Branson and Mrs. Hodgins.

The ladies adopted the count all point system for scoring and the N.H.P.A. rules. The yearly dues for the National and local card is two dollars. A deadline for the entries will be around March 15.

Enthusiasm was high and it was decided that Mrs. Lindquist, our National Champion would have to practice dilligently to retain her title next world tournament.

An announcement was made that Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Risk, famous trick pitchers would be in Indianapolis to show their wares in the Sportsman Show, around March 20.

To start league pitching Mr. Hodgins, Mr. Hemmer, and Mrs. Banta pledged one team each consisting of five pitchers. The organization committee are going to try and interest the local church groups, ladies clubs and factory workers.

Short speeches were made by Mr. Reavis, City Manager, Mr. Memerlighter, Mr. Hodgins, Mr. Wires, Mr. Evans, Mr. Thibo, State President, Mr. Horseshoes Banta, and Mr. Harris, the National President.

Auxiliary finances were started by a collection among the men present. This gave the treasury six dollars and twenty-five cents on hand for postage.

Our next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Branson, 1103 North Jefferson Street, Tuesday, January 18, at 7 p.m.

The meeting was closed by our President, Mrs. Wires.

* * *

MICHIGAN

By Frank Lewandowski

We have formed an Indoor Horseshoe League, here in Port Huron, for the balance of the Winter and have drawn up rules and regulations governing it. We hope, in this way, to get in a little extra practice so we won't be so rusty when we start outdoor pitching in the Spring. Jule Winter and I convinced the boys that if they got sponsors for their teams and the sponsors want to buy Tee shirts with the N.H.P.A. emblem on the front of them like the type we received in Milwaukee it would be O.K. We would like to know how and where we could procure these Tee shirts and also whether the N.H.P.A. would let anyone, such as sporting goods stores or our City Recreational Director purchase them, if possible. As soon as I have some standings and scores of regular league play, I will forward this information to you.

At a meeting of the Port Huron Recreation Association Indoor Horseshoe League held at 7:00 p.m., Monday night, January 10, 1949, on the second floor of the Port Huron Recreation Building, Wall Street, the following officers were elected:

Jule Winter, President; Roy Harris, 1st Vice President; Henry Apley, 2nd Vice President; Frank Lewandowski, Secretary; Howard Birdsall, Treasurer; John Tomshack, Jim Greene and Charles McKinnon,

Trustees; Jule Winter, Jim Greene and Roy Harris, Banquet Committee. The banquet is to be arranged by the committee. All those present favored holding it at the end of the indoor season, instead of the first or second week in February as has been the custom in the past. At that time there would be less interference with other outside activities.

* * *

MINNESOTA

By Jim Skarshaug

I am a young horseshoe pitcher who started pitching with Ron Cherrier two years ago. Since I am one of the run-of-the-mill horseshoe pitchers, I would like to have my views published, although many fellows in the horseshoe game will probably disagree with me.

First of all I will say that ever since I started pitching I have been very enthusiastic over the game, and whole heartedly support anything I believe is for the betterment of that finest of all sports, horseshoes. To begin with, in regards to the controversy between the Ohio system and the cancellation system of scoring, I would like to say that although both systems are good, I favor the cancellation method for National tournaments. I learned the game under that system and at first greatly disapproved the count-all method. However, on study of the Ohio system, I found it had numerous benefits. We need more money in the game, especially for State and National tourneys and that would probably help.

I would like now to present my reasons for my decision in favor of the cancellation method over the count-all system.

Although one of the selling points of the Ohio system seems to be that the best player always wins, this is not necessarily so. In fact, it is much more true that the best player always wins under the cancellation system. The best player is not always the best shot maker as many players seem to think. Row W. Smith and many others have pointed out that horseshoes, more than any other sport, is a pressure game, a game of nerves. Other factors than pure ability such as vitality, mental attitudes and other factors are important. The cancellation method gives your nerves a much better chance to show their stuff than the count-all way. Many players can pitch a dozen straight doubles in practice but in a game they go to pieces. Jimmy Risk can throw ninety ringers out of a hundred on an open stake, which is fine, but apparently he cannot do that with other iron on the stake. Therefore, to me, he is not an exceptional player. A good player is one who can pitch about equal in practice and tough tournament competition.

If the count-all system is used for any tournaments of major stature, one hundred shoes should be the basic amount, for two important reasons. First, figuring percentages would be much simpler, as would other statistical considerations of many kinds. Second, for a good pitcher one hundred shoes is a much fairer game than the shorter eighty shoes. There would be a better chance for a top notcher to come from behind and win in the one hundred shoe pitch. It is a foregoone conclusion that the best player will play better over a longer period of competition than the poorer player although either one may play well for a shorter period of competition.

Of course, the above is written on the assumption that the count-all method would be used in a somewhat different manner than it is now used; that is, that each match would be a win or loss instead of the

total points for the entire tourney determining the winner. As it was used at the Indiana State tourney it is, in my opinion, no good.

I think the N.H.P.A. stamp value should be increased to ten cents and be fully enforced. As for World Tournaments I would like to express my opinion. Mr. Lynch, of Milwaukee, does not seem to think this tourney is run correctly. He seems to believe our present system is more of a marathon than it should be. I think our present method is EXCELLENT. Thirty two finalists give many leading players a chance to participate in the finals. Despite the fact that I failed to win a tourney I played in because I was too tired, I believe thirty-one games is fine. If a player loses from playing too long, it is his own fault. He should be able to play all day without getting tired, IF HE IS IN SHAPE. If he isn't, he should not play. Being able to outlast one's opponent in regards to stamina is as deserving a quality as ability to place ringers on a stake. If I were a contender for the World's Title I would advocate a round robin of thirty-two finalists as that is the fairest way.

I am absolutely against any division of players into classes "A" and "B" for World tourneys. It would be a small honor to win a Class "B" World's tourney. This is O.K. for smaller tournaments, although winning a lower class award is not my idea of an accomplishment.

The plan whereby sixteen men are placed in each of two groups and play a round robin of fifteen games after which the two top men in each group play off is fairly good, but I do not believe it quite comes up to the thirty-one game system that we now have. All plans based on regional tournaments, after which, say four men play off for the World's Title are inferior to the present method. I do not say this because I am not a top flight player. I am basing my statement on what I would want if I were World's Champ or a competitor for the title. If those who play in the World's tourney can't take the strain, physically or mentally, they should not enter it. Guess I have written darn near a marathon article, but I had to get it off my chest.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS ON NEW YORK

Our boy from the Bronx, George M. Lagon, is spending the Winter months in St. Petersburg, Fla., and most of his time is taken up at the horseshoe courts. They have an outfit down there known as the Sunshine Pleasure Club who go in for horseshoes in a big way. Their officers are D. L. Lane, President; E. Savage, Vice President; F. Walton, Secretary; and Mrs. Helen North, Treasurer. Mr. Savage is chief clerk of the Vermont State Assn. and runner up for the State title for 1948. He is in charge of the horseshoe activities of the club. Jimmie Risk was down there too and he put on a show on January 22. On the 26th, he left for Chicago. Mr. Lattore is also spending some time in St. Pete.

* * *

Lou Ziegler is still on the sick list and he would be tickled to have some of you lads call him up. His 'phone number is FA 4-2908 so get busy!

At the Dance of the Inwood Horseshoe Club, held on January 15, the Metropolitan H. P. A. Championship Flag was presented to Charles Secord, President of the Hilltop H. C. This was the third successive year that the Hilltop's won the flag.

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Spring is just around the corner, so when you buy that new set of shoes, LOOK FOR THE LITTLE RED STAMP ON THE BOX, it means OFFICIAL.

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The Sunnyside H. C. held their Installation of Officers on Saturday Eve., January 22. Their new officers for the year 1949 are Maurice Barry, President; Michael Houlihan, Vice President; Wm. P. Crawford, Treasurer; Wm. Bell, Financial Secretary; Patrick Franklen, Recording Secretary; Jas Mullervy, Corresponding Secretary, and Thomas Tunny, Sgt. at Arms. The ceremonies opened with Mrs. Tobin singing the National Anthem followed by Assemblyman Clancey swearing in the new officers. Then came refreshments, entertainment and dancing to the strains of Jimmie Gallagher's Orchestra. Some fun!

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This magazine goes to subscribers in thirty-two States of the Union. The largest amounts go to the following States in this order, New York, Ohio, California, Minnesota and Illinois. How about you other states trying to catch up to or displace them?

* * *

EMPIRE STATE MEMBERS—Your 1949 dues card is now ready. Just send me your dollar and I'll mail it to you.

Byron Jaskulek, Secy.-Treas.,

5 Terrace View Ave., N. Y. 63, N. Y.

* * *

OHIO

The National League

The National League will again be in operation for the first time since 1941 when Indianapolis won the league title. The league was originally started in 1940 through the efforts of Lee Rose, who was then N.H.P.A. Secretary. In 1940, Detroit beat Canton two games out of two in a home and home series. In 1941 there were four teams in the league—Detroit, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Muncie. There were no more games until 1948 when the Selway Carpet Cleaners of Canton, after having won two State League titles in a row, challenged the Indianapolis team to the National Team Title. Indianapolis won the first match 3931—3747, then Canton won the second match 3664—3636. The third match was played on a neutral court in Covington, Ky., in which the Indianapolis team retained their title by winning 3725—3696.

Arlo Harris, the President of the N.H.P.A., has selected Johnny Kovacs, of 3303 Arbor Rd. S. W., Canton 10, Ohio, to organize the National League in 1949. At this time, Canton, Detroit, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, and also Covington, Ky., have expressed their desire to enter a National League. The following are some of the suggestions for entering the league:

- (1) Secure a sponsor to help defray expenses and to give your team a name.
- (2) Find at least five players and a maximum of ten for team.

- (3) Players must reside within 30 miles of City from which team originates.
- (4) Teams may enter from anywhere within the U. S. A.
- (5) League will be divided into Divisions as nearly as possible.
- (6) Winners of Sectional titles will play for the National Championship in a play-off series at end of season.
- (7) If possible, home and home series will be scheduled, but if the teams are located too far apart and only one division is possible, league will be scheduled on a home and home series extending over a two year period.
- (8) The entry fee will be \$10.00 per team. Of this amount, \$8.00 will be used for a Championship trophy and \$2.00 per team to the league Secretary for expenses. The league Secretary will be selected by the Captains of the teams entered.
- (9) Deadline for entries will be May 1, 1949 and schedules will be mailed to all Captains, if possible, within 15 days from the deadline. Entries must list the team name, captain and players' names and addresses. All players must carry the combined State and National Cards.
- (10) League will be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A. and the league Champion will receive a Certificate of Championship from the National.
- (11) Play will be under the point system.
- (12) Teams will use five players and play five games round-robin.
- (13) Total points will decide winner of games.
- (14) Teams must wear uniforms to dress up the game.
- (15) Captains must mail scores of match immediately to the League Secretary and he will have all results and standings published in THE HORSESHOE NEWS and the HORSESHOE PITCHER.

All teams interested, please contact Johnny Kovacs at the above address, and more detailed information regarding league will be in the next issue, please write as soon as possible.

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DISCUSSION OF COUNT-ALL SCORING

By John D. Sebek, Publicity Director

Since 1921 the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association has plugged along with a playing and scoring method of favoritism for those at the top which the average players would not support by paying annual National dues. 1948 has been the best membership year so far and 1949 is expected to be still better because the State Associations have promised their players that something will be done at the 1949 National Convention to eliminate this favoritism.

Ohio has done its full part for the past 25 years by keeping a promotional program in continuous operation which in 1936 culminated in the method in use today and being enjoyed by several States because it not only eliminates all favoritism but provides equal chances for all

players whatever their ability. By scoring all points earned with a definite number of shoes pitched per game it provides: In single games; total finals in tournaments; leagues, seasonal individual records, etc., the following: (1) Total points and percentages; (2) Point difference between total points made and a perfect point score and that percentage which makes for 100% Point operation; (3) Total ringers and percentages that are real; Double Ringers; (4) Total Shoes Lost and percentages; (5) Total Close Shoe Points and percentages, each of which totals up to 100% Ringer operation. All these advantages, in addition to giving a complete analysis of each shoe pitched, provides the means of rating players and activities in a realistic manner in all departments of the sport, none of which is possible with the 50 point cancellation game method which does not even have a real Ringer percentage, having to take credit for all ringers pitched "including cancelled ringers" to make it impressive.

It is quite evident that some States are not only doing nothing now about a program that would elevate our sport to where it belongs, but oppose any and all programs for that purpose, yet, in our Country it has in the past, and at the present time, is overflowing in programs leading to greater and greater progress in both Industry and other sports until today it leads the World and will continue to do so as long as the American people have the will to have it that way, however, there will still always be a few who will oppose all progress, but fortunately they do not always represent a majority of their State memberships, of which the Wyoming article in the January 1949 issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER is a good illustration and is hard to believe, coming as it does from such good sports.

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AN OPEN LETTER

By John Sebek

In reading the December issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER I noticed some inaccuracies in regards to the Combined Card operations. I will give the three essential steps in procuring a National card:

1. A person must join his club. If no club is available then he must find the nearest available club.
2. The club he joins must be affiliated with the State Association.
3. The State Association must be affiliated with the N.H.P.A.

The club secretary accepts a man's dues and forwards to the State Secretary, who then forwards the money to the N.H.P.A. Secretary.

A man cannot belong to the N.H.P.A. unless he belongs to a club and State Association.

Where there is NO affiliated State Association in existence, then the dues can be sent to Mr. Clear, the N.H.P.A. Secretary.

It seems to me there is undue concern over the ability of Mr. Arlo Harris to follow the Constitution. I have read several articles which reminds Arlo of the powers that the President can or cannot assume. I say to Mr. Harris: Full steam ahead! The constitution as it now stands is indefinite and has contradictions. Besides, it penalizes any state with a very large N.H.P.A. membership by limiting its delegates. The constitution, as it stands, is a tournament document and not much else. Many of us know the background of the Constitution of the N.H.P.A. and how it was promoted and put into effect at the convention at Des Moines in 1940. The voting on it was illegal. Everyone in the room voted, including non-delegates and non-members.

I have this to say, that in view of the state of Indiana's accomplishments in promoting the sport, I think it is perfectly safe to let Arlo Harris LEAD the organization and to interpret the constitution as broadly as he can in order to get the National out of its doldrums. If all states could show the results, the way Indiana shows them, then you would have something. As it now stands, the N.H.P.A. is a professional organization. Mr. Frank Menke, in his encyclopedia of sports, states that fact. And there are many of us who want to see the N.H.P.A. patterned after the American Bowling Congress, not just a tournament organization as it now is. Lots of leagues could be organized. It does take work to promote leagues, but the results are satisfying and enduring. Especially where handicap leagues are concerned.

In reading the President's article, I notice that stamp money for only 900 pairs were turned in last year. And since 450 pairs were sold in Indiana and at least 300 pair were sold in Ohio, that would leave a total of 150 pairs sold in the other 46 states. Someone is chiseling the N.H.P.A. out of stamp money and I would like Mr. Harris to publish the names of the manufacturers who are not sending in any stamp money at all.

Speaking of horseshoes, it comes to mind that thousands of pairs of shoes were used by our Armed Forces. Since the N.H.P.A. was instrumental in promoting the game in the Armed Forces, it seems to me that the N.H.P.A. should have benefitted from it. Perhaps Pop Woodfield could explain to myself and others what kind of shoes were used by the fighting men? If they were unsanctioned shoes, why were these allowed to be used? If they were sanctioned shoes, naturally there should be stamp money by the thousands of dollars. And our treasury would be pretty well fixed. At the 1946 tournament, I heard of a company which sold 450,000 pairs of shoes. This company had an agreement with the N.H.P.A. to put 5 cent stamps on each pair. At 5 cents a pair the amount would be in the neighborhood of \$22,500. I will not name the company as yet, but will do so after I hear Mr. Woodfield's explanation on this.

Perhaps these shoes were not sanctioned shoes, then as I have said before an explanation is due as to why.

Somewhere along the line, the N.H.P.A. took a beating and an explanation should be forthcoming to the members as to why their interests were not protected.

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA

Fulton of Carlisle Sets Horseshoe Event Record

By Curtiss Demmy

From the Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa.

A gentleman's champion. That's what they called Johnny Fulton of Carlisle last month, as the good-looking horseshoe pitching specialist crossed the Arena at the Farm Show Building with his fifth State title under his belt.

Johnny had just defeated John Baker of Bedford by a count of 51 to 34, but his white shirt was unmarked by dust or dirt, and he looked "fresh as a daisy."

Smiling much like Gene Tunney, the gentleman champion of boxing, Johnny took the cheers of the crowd of 10,000 a little uneasily. "I don't even hear them when I'm pitching," he said, "but looking up there now scares me just a little."

The crowd had good reason to cheer. Johnny had set a new ringer percentage record in winning the title. He tossed three out of every four over the pin for an average of 75 per cent, besting the mark he himself set in 1940 when he had 69 per cent.

Unable to compete last year, Johnny nevertheless has not let up in practice and attributes his title to conditioning and lots of practice. He won the title in 1947 and automatically was ineligible in 1948. But he came back last night to sweep aside the finest pitchers in the State and reign over the Farm Show's top sports event.

Twelve pitchers were entered in the horseshoe event and from the start it looked as though Johnny was the man. He passed Virgil Sharpe of Fulton County in the first round, breezed by Rodney Groff of Perry County, 53 to 25, in the semi-finals and then took a commanding lead to defeat Baker in straight games in the finals. The first score was 51 to 36 and the second 50 to 12.

With Fulton the winner and Baker in second place. Groff and Mayes played a one-game set to decide third and four places. Mayes won by a score of 54 to 43.

First round results were: Baker over Elmer Dickey of Butler; Mayes over Earl Cole, Bradford; Groff over Dick Irvin, Jefferson, and Fulton over Sharpe. Baker defeated Mayes, 51 to 34, to enter the finals.

In preliminary tests to fill out the first round bracket, Sharpe defeated Kenneth Burris, Center; Dickey won over Emerson Goss, Indiana; Murrel Rowes, Clearfield, won over Clair Brown, York, and Dickey won over Rowes.

The event was won last year by Ivan Lute, of Barnesboro, Indiana County, who was ineligible this year. Fulton had won the contest in 1936, 1938, 1940 and 1947.

First prize in the event was \$25. Four other prizes of \$20, \$15, \$10 and \$5 were awarded.

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RHODE ISLAND

By Charles A. Bassett

Mr. Albert S. Hudson of West Warwick, R. I., is President of the newly activated Rhode Island Horseshoe Pitcher's Association. He was also the first President of the old association as well as being a former state champion. There is no more capable person in running a State Association or tournament, than Mr. Hudson. Peter Heroux is the present state champion and has won the state championship several times.

We are now trying to get batteries of courts in our state and can put a very strong team in the field and would like to accept home and home games from any nearby states.

We are holding our annual meeting during February for the election of officers and to make plans for the season of 1949.

* * *

WYOMING

By E. J. Thompson

The article by Mr. Alvin Dahlene of Kansas contains a timely suggestion that of getting down to business in the matter of details.

It seems that if the organization as to the details especially of the courts, embody these details in the constitution after careful consideration and approval by a majority, then we would have something definite and more permanent to depend upon.

The suggestion by Mr. Andy Moehn of Minnesota relative to Parliamentary practice seems to strike at one of the most glaring weaknesses of our organization. Too much seems to have been left to individuals. This is one of the points where an organization begins to fall apart. On the other hand, if our organization, our clubs and committees will proceed along democratic lines—control by majority—then will we be pulling together.

This must be based on a definite and complete constitution and by laws and an adequate parliamentary guide and not opinions or dictates of individuals.

In order to prevent National Tournaments on non-standard courts, would it not be a good idea to submit specifications of standard courts to those wishing to Sponsor a National Tournament and request adherence to the specifications.

* * *

THE TED ALLEN STORY

(Continued from last month)

While in the army the War Dept. turned down two requests for his transfer to special service to give exhibitions for the soldiers, because of his male nurse training for hospital work, at least until after Germany fell. Utilizing a golden opportunity to get the transfer through while he was home from overseas on a T. D. Furlough, he then was put to play-

ing for hospitals, and building horseshoe courts at Camp Carsen Hospital for convalescents. Later to New York City to go overseas after the war, and made a couple of appearances at Camp Shanks with Joe Louis. Discharged a month later he was immediately contracted by the Garden to stand by to play there if a certain high school horse failed to make his appearance.

Three times Ted Allen sustained injuries in the rodeo work. The first two times it affected and hampered his practice seriously, just before the years' largest tournament. The first injury was in 1938, before the midwest National contest in Des Moines. His injury caused a shortening of his swing without any "follow-through" whatsoever. That was the only time he lost the Midwest National and it was to Fernando Isais. By the following year his injury had healed sufficiently to have him back in good form and he won all of his 36 games.

The second injury, and a serious one, came just three weeks before the important World's tournament in 1947. In Gerry, N. Y., a well-broken horse suddenly went on a bucking spree and Ted dislocated a hip and had several torn ligaments. Practice had to be cut to six short days.

Many people attributed his losing that year to a bad case of poison ivy, but Ted says that the injuries to his leg and hip did more to tear down his stamina than anything else, as he was unable to walk until a week prior to the tournament. Yet his contract called for his appearances as usual, and Ted was enough of a trooper that he did not desire to be left out of the show, but his speed was restrained to hobbling.

It was after the tournament when he received his most serious injuries. It was in the "bucking Ford" act in September at Philadelphia. Ted had a dislocation of the collar bone from the sternum, torn ligaments and muscles, a transverse fracture of a vertebra and a vertebra out of place. Although, hospitalized and ordered by the doctors to remain behind, he refused, and five days later moved with the Roy Rogers Rodeo to Detroit making the move in a specially-built bed in the back seat of his car. It is typical of a rodeo man to go along even if he has two broken legs.

In Detroit his employer asked him to try pitching on the opening night, but remained out of the Ford act for two weeks, in spite of the injuries, as it was the rodeo's first appearance in Detroit, and a lot depended upon a good show as it was being televised. Later, a horseshoe pitcher spectator, mentioned that it looked as though Ted Allen had changed his form of delivery. No wonder. It was only by extreme slow-

ness and concentration that he was able to get, happily, about 75% ringers to make it look good. It was unfortunate that in both of his shoulder injuries the fall was on his right shoulder. In another month his soreness lessened up a little, but he never regained his easy delivery until the following summer of 1948. He has had to stay off a horse for a while. But he figures that by the summer of 1949 all his usual form and stamina will have been regained, without letting down during the tournament. Yet in spite of his injuries the past two years he has made several new world's records.

He was the first man to pitch in television. It was at the first all television show immediately after the war in Buffalo. It must be said here a fine compliment was paid to his act and to the game of horseshoes when the television projector men spoke unanimously that his act showed up on the screen best of all and therefore they enjoyed taking it more

than some other things. Altogether his act has been televised in four places. Besides the above mentioned he was shown on it at the Roy Rogers Rodeo in Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Chicago. On one occasion also he also sat with the television announcer to explain the rodeo to him as it progressed for the listeners benefit.

Ted took his championship responsibility seriously, believing that it was his job to look and act respectable, that he must look the part of a clean champ. Yet it must be said that horseshoe pitching did not make him that way. He was practicing what he had always been practicing while going out for school sports and really believed that by living cleanly he would be able to stay on top of the heap a lot longer, at least he figured his chances would multiply. Knowing that many eyes would be on him during his tour of exhibitions, he kept a careful check to see that the young children respected him for clean living. He believes that he has attained at least two of his goals. To have become a champion and to have traveled a good deal. His first years at barnstorming the country was the hardest, but he gained a lot of experience. He spent a great deal of each day answering hundreds of questions. And those were the years for most of his autograph fans because of personal appearances. On one occasion in Detroit, he was crowded and jostled by hundreds of kids for autographs. He climbed a big sign, hoping to get above and reach down. It was impossible to write on the ground. But the kids climbed there too and the sign fell over.

In all of his exhibitions and personal appearances, not counting millions who must have seen his five newsreels and two movie shorts, as near as can be calculated by the attendance at the different shows he has played with, there have been around 17,947,000 people who have witnessed his act, besides there have been around 200,000 who have seen him in action in tournaments. Due to the fact that he entered the show business when certain kinds of it were having its best years, he continued to perform in top shows for 18 years. He has set a record of public appearances never equaled by any other horseshoe pitcher. And it will be hard to beat that record because Ted made it his ambition to break into the show business. And, too, he performed longer than most champs of other sports in the best shows. He endeavored to keep his favorite sport pridefully and respectably up to standards of other sports. He has repeated time and again that the game should hold out for money where possible to do so, to help better the game's prestige and organization.

Some have laughed at him because he thought \$300 was a small offer for a sports show. He argues that if those people knew show business and that a sport show is well able to pay more, and that other acts get more than that and a holdout for more would up the respect for the

game and that a showman's life is anything but low cost of living, they might understand why it isn't much. To a person who need not travel very far to the show and may be only taking the show on the side besides his regular job, or if the man needs the job badly, then it is indeed a lot of money. But when one makes it his business to stay out on the road as a trooper, three times as expensive, in the long run anyway, and trying to keep the prestige of the game on a par and trying to keep his own prestige and wage price up with the average act, yet not attaining the wages usually earned by other sport champs, who sometimes retire on money earned in their short career, or set him up in business. To a man such as Ted with the expense of hiring a man, advertising and agents, huge amounts of photographs used for advertising, taking the layoffs between shows, such a salary doesn't add up to much, over a long period. An average show-working year of actual work is a very few weeks.

He says that those who accept the low prices for pitching are then marked for the rest of their lives in that line of shows, for that price; not only them, but it stops any other horseshoe pitcher from getting a better price. It keeps down chances of horseshoe pitching becoming on equal regard with the show managements, as to other sports. And endangers the chances of future champs after our time. Ted said he has been pushing the game with all his wits and trying to pave the way for a financial betterment of the game. He has already proven that he has been right for many years. Now a former National Officer of our Association admits Ted knew what he was talking about. Also another man, an exhibition player part time in shows, is now also convinced of Ted's wisdom. It doesn't pay in the long run to play for temporary expense money. The sooner the game can get more money and the tossers get more money for their exhibitions the better it will be. This is Ted Allen's view, at least.

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ROY W. SMITH

**1442 East 153rd Street
Compton 3, California**

ELEGY OF A HORSESHOE PITCHER

There was a man in our town, and he was wondrous great,
Tossing horseshoes was his game—he never missed the stake;
He practiced hard, both day and night, till he felt he had 'em
working right.

He beat all the farmers back in the wood,
And says he to himself, "I must be good."
After beating 'em all around his section,
He finally reached the point of perfection.
So he pitched 'em and flung 'em, and tossed 'em on high
And then started crowing "What a great man am I."
He'd have been all right if he'd been more reticent,
But to win didn't satisfy—it wasn't sufficient.
So his horseshoe pitching went to his head,
He talked it all day, and dreamed it in bed.
So he bragged and crowed, and yelled loud and long
Till the boys became tired of hearing his song.
His percentage was so great by the early fall
That they didn't ask him to the play-offs at all.
Competition was so poor that he started to soften
And blew his big mouth off just once too often.
It was up at Wilkie Park one night,
And the master was hooking 'em left and right,
When a fellow stopped in—LaRose by name,
And Chris lured him in to a fifty-point game.
Chris stepped to the stake, with a frightened air,
Like a doomed man awaiting the chair;
His first toss was a double, and he laughed like a sinner,
And he pictured himself an early winner.
He turned to his friends, with his cocky demeanor,
And says, "Watch me take this guy to the cleaner."
But Frenchy stepped up and without any trouble,
Quickly nullified Chris' double.
Then George put the next two clear to the hilt,
And as Chris gazed on these he just started to wilt;
Chris tightened up then, and was a little bit tense
As he tossed the next two just over the fence.
The game kept progressing, 'twas plain Chris was sunk,
And it wasn't half over when he smelled a skunk.
The shoes were traveling so thick through the air
Chris thought he was watching the games at the fair.
By the look on his face a blind man could see
There were other places he would rather be.
Frenchy's lead was so great 'ere the game was half through
There wasn't much the great one could do.
We could readily see by the look on his face
He'd be real content just to grab second place.
When the game was over, and the score was read
Chris mumbled something, and bowed his head;
The visitor's score was really quite nifty
He just nosed Chris out, one point to fifty
Chris turned to his friends, and said "I'm not denying,
He's a pretty fair pitcher, but I wasn't trying."

JACK O'REE

The hero of this true-to-life poem was George (Frenchy) LaHose, three times Inon County champion, 312 Rich St., Syracuse, N. Y. The goat was Christopher Eslenbalm.