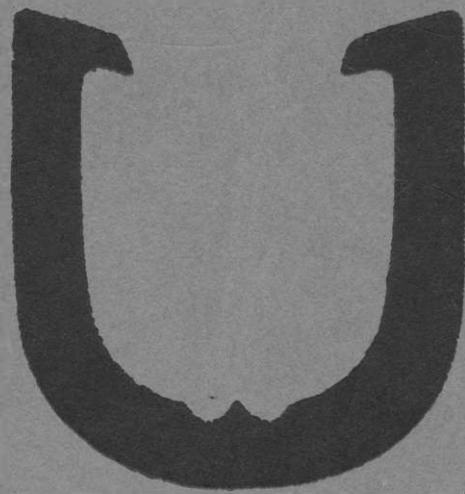


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



JANUARY, 1949 *24th*

VOLUME 1

NO. 5

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## EDITORIAL

Whenever anybody answers the sixty-four dollar question he wins sixty-four dollars. Well this little magazine seems to have answered the sixty-four dollar question as far as horseshoes are concerned because your editor received sixty-four Christmas Cards from horseshoe pitchers from Main to California and all points North and South. Besides this we received lots of well wishes for the continued success of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER and many new subscriptions. Thanks a lot. This publication is only five months old and I am so optimistic about it that I am positive that by the time the next Convention rolls around we will have well over a thousand subscribers. Most of you will remember when I sent out "dummy" copies, last August, I stated that I expected to have it come out in mimeographed form. If it were not for a red hot horseshoe fan in New York, I could never afford having it printed. This man in Norman Compton. For love of the game and his friendship for your editor and because he is in the printing game, he has undertaken the job of having it printed at a minimum cost to me. Here's hoping he continues to work for us because if he ever gets tired of being a Good Samaritan we'll have to depend on the typewriter. Here's hoping!

THE EDITOR.

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

We are entering the threshold of a new year; and as you have been reading in past issues of both horseshoe magazines, the ground-work is being laid for building up the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America to a membership never before experienced.

In the year 1949 we hope to establish a sound financial basis. In this respect we must observe the following:

1. Prompt payment of dues for National cards.
2. Every pair of horseshoes sold must carry a stamp tax.
3. Each member must observe and follow the constitution and by-laws of the N.H.P.A.
4. All tournaments must be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A.
5. We want all State Secretaries to contact their National Secretary, Mr. Harvey Clear, every thirty days for any desired information necessary for them to carry on their duties.
6. It will be necessary for each State Secretary to send Mr. Harvey Clear a copy of his state's membership list before August 1, 1949.

7. A copy of the constitution and by-laws will be sent to any member of our Association upon request to our National Secretary.
8. The Executive Council will handle all affairs of the Association and transact such business in the interest of the game as they deem advisable and not contrary to the N.H.P.A.
9. Plans for a National League are being laid. All those desiring entrance into this league please notify Mr. John Kovacs, 3303 Arbour Road S. W., Canton, Ohio, who will be in full charge of the promotion.
10. Johnny Sebek has been appointed Publicity Director for the N.H.P.A. for 1949. His address is 2236 Winfield Way N. E., Canton, Ohio.
11. Mr. Harry T. Woodfield, former President of the N.H.P.A., has accepted the chairmanship to promote horseshoe pitching internationally.
12. Your National officers urge that you subscribe to either or both "The Horseshoe News," 402 Oliver St., Hyattsville, Md., or "The Horseshoe Pitcher," 5 Terrace View Ave., New York, N. Y. Keep alive and keep active by reading these papers, and know what your Association is doing.
13. If your state does not have a charter, get in touch with your National Secretary immediately so that you can be affiliated with an organization that is "on the march."

Mrs. Harris and I want to thank all of you for the many beautiful Christmas cards received. I certainly hope to merit all the confidence you have placed in me, and I hope we can work together with as little friction as possible to iron out all our difficulties so that we all can enjoy the game more.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ARLO E. HARRIS, Pres.

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## CALIFORNIA

**By Harvey W. Clear, Secy.-Treas. N.H.P.A.**

I will be sending out the shares of the Stamp Fund to the State Associations right after the first of the year. Sorry, but there will not be as much per member as last year. Despite the membership having increased two hundred per cent, the manufacturers of horseshoes have bought no more stamps than they did last year. I want to impress the importance of seeing that the five cent stamp is on EVERY CARTON of horseshoes that you buy. There must have been lots and lots of shoes sold without having this stamp affixed because some of the manufacturers have not bought any stamps in 1948. Don't forget your dues for 1949.

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## **A SPORTS COMPARISON**

**By ROY W. SMITH**

**Author of "Science At The Stake"**

Horseshoe Pitching and Boxing are two of the oldest and most scientific sports in the world. While boxing is a body-contact sport and horseshoe pitching is a non-body-contact game, the fundamentals of each, such as the stance, footwork, swing and follow-through are quite similar. Each sport demands a considerable amount of physical and mental training. Each has a long, colorful history and many famous champions.

For example, Frank Jackson who won the first world's championship horseshoe pitching tournament back in 1909, and reigned for many years thereafter, may well be compared to John L. Sullivan of the bare fist era of the prize ring. Then came James J. Corbett, the master boxer, and George W. May with his scientific open shoe. Each of these men completely revolutionized and ushered in a new era for his sport.

The manly art of self defense was lifted from the smoky, ribald atmosphere of the river barges and ill smelling saloons and accorded a place of honor among the major sports. Box fighters were no longer regarded as brutal, brawny, barroom brawlers fleeing from the law. Today, a fight champion is greatly admired by millions of ardent ring fans. This is as it should be because our liberty was won, and has since been protected by the exploits of our brawny fighting men. The golden age of boxing was attained in the late twenties when Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney were the rulers of Fistiania.

The scientific art of pitching ringers has, after many years, been brought up from the barnyard and back alley to a place high on the rostrum of our major sports. A horseshoe pitcher is no longer regarded as a country bumpkin with a straw hat or a big chew of tobacco in his mouth. Beautiful, well kept courts are to be found in the recreational centers of most of the world's largest cities. A world's champion ringer flinger basks in the admiration of thousands of enthusiastic fans. This too is as it should be for it was the husky young pitchers from the village greens who helped to make our existence as a free nation possible. And they have helped defend this great heritage down through the years. Two decades after boxing entered its golden age, horseshoe pitching began coming into its own with Ted Allen and Fernando Isais the rulers of the pitching lanes.

As a science and body conditioner boxing is a splendid sport. As a profession it is often brutal and bloody, highly commercialized and dominated by gangsters, corrupt politicians and crooked promoters. Many youngsters are hopelessly ruined and even killed each year to satisfy the blood lust of millions of ring fans. In many cases pro foot-

ball falls into the same category. Such strenuous sports are for young, tough, well trained athletes who at the age of 35 are considered old men in the profession. Those who reach the top usually make a fortune—for someone else they foolishly squander their money and sink into obscurity. Only a very few are smart enough to save their money.

Horseshoe Pitching is also a splendid body conditioner. It is not, and probably never will be, highly commercialized to the point where a crooked politician will accord it even a second glance. It's a clean game, free from practically all newspaper publicity and thousands do not pay high admissions to watch the performance of a few professionals. It is not a bloody sport—that is unless someone accidentally gets hit in the nose by a wild pitched shoe. Very few, if any, fatalities ever occur on a horseshoe court although the way some players moan and groan over losing a ringer or a game may lead some people to think that the Grim Reaper is at work. Players are not too old at 35 or even 75 years of age. While tournament competition has become too strenuous for the older players, Grandpappy can still enjoy the game with the youngsters.

No young men are physically and mentally ruined from pitching ringers although their wives often call them "ringer happy." But when these "horseshoe widows" see a punch drunk fighter which is one of the most pitiful of all human wrecks, the ladies thank their lucky stars for a ringer happy husband

No ringer tossing champion will ever make a fortune either for himself or anyone else. His total prizes would not pay one days expenses for a fighter. A few crooked penny-ante promotors sometimes fleece a few pitchers out of a dollar or two but such instances are rare. As a rule, all those associated with horseshoes are square and honest. Heaven only knows we could use more promotors of the Tex Rickard and Mike Jacobs type in our sport! A few hundred ringside or bleacher seats at \$25.00 or even 25 cents would, indeed, be a most welcome change for our National's treasury which is usually as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard. When it comes to money, the comparison between boxing and horseshoes ends abruptly except that it can be said that the former is the richest of all sports and the latter is the poorest.

But the comparison can be continued in other ways. We have a horseshoe pitcher for the President of our country. His name is Harry S. Truman. He is a fighter and a war veteran and a Democrat. Back in 1901-09 a man who loved boxing was in the White House. Teddy Roosevelt was also a fighter and a war veteran. He was a Republican. Both men were Vice-Presidents before the death of their predecessors; both were retained in office by a confidence vote of the people.

The boxing sport was a fast growing one then and continued to climb until it reached the peak of its career in 1927-28. Today, with horseshoe courts installed on the lawn of our nation's Capitol, the

“grand old game” is on the threshold of the greatest period in its history. Will it be accorded the necessary support to enable it to attain its Golden Age? The country is full of fine pitchers and many potential champions. The Big Four cannot dominate the sport much longer. Their crowns will soon be wrested from them for most of them are nearing the 40 year age mark. Youth cannot be denied much longer even in horseshoes. And almost never in boxing.

The predominating factor in boxing is the knockout; in horseshoes it is the ringer. Each sport can now be scored by the point system. Boxing was a slow, slumbering and oft times uninteresting sport when the rounds were determined by knockdowns. The cancel method in horseshoes is equally so to many people today. Fight fans support their sport and are avid readers of all its publications. Up to now, horseshoe fans have failed to support a magazine of their own. The National and most other organizations are barely kept alive by a few for the benefit of the many.

Compare all other major sports with horseshoes. How many of them have been allowed to fall into a rut and stay there year after year with little or no publicity, financial support and intelligent organization? How many can be enjoyed at so little expense for equipment and transportation? How many of them can be played with so little chance of bodily injury? How many offer better chances of meeting people from all walks of life? How many are more scientific and healthful or more rich in fine traditions and colorful history?

It would be well for all players to start the New Year of 1949 by counting the blessings that our sport has to offer and then count out a dime for each blessing which will enable them to start the New Year with a National Membership card and a years subscription to “The Horseshoe Pitcher.” The year 1949 can mark the beginning of The Golden Age of Horseshoes. We have the officers, the champions, the greatest number of players in history and a fine magazine. Times are good and money is plentiful. We can enter the Golden Door or stay in the dark empty cellar of obscurity. Which will it be? Will we miss the chance now that the opportunity is here?

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## **CONNECTICUT**

**By MICHAEL VECCHITTO**

**Connecticut State Horseshoe League, 1948**

The Connecticut State Horseshoe League closed their season of active competition when the Manchester Horseshoe Club was crowned the Connecticut State Champions for 1948. Bridgeport Club finished in 2nd place and were the only team to tie Manchester, that being in the 1st round.

The following is the final team standing in both the 1st and 2nd rounds:

Team	Won	Lost	Ringers	D. Ringers	Pct.
Manchester .....	184	104	6011	1294	41.7
Bridgeport .....	176	112	5548	977	37.4
Stamford .....	135	153	5021	871	34.2
Meriden .....	126	162	5678	1008	34.8
Bristol .....	99	189	4584	865	34.0

Games being forfeit by team are included in won and lost column.

#### Season Records

High ringer percentage in game.....Jim Bessel, Manchester 82.5%  
 Most ringers in game (Team).....Manchester 992  
 Most double ringers in game (Team).....Manchester 246  
 High ringer percentage in game (Team).....Manchester 48.9%

Besides running off their league schedules, the Connecticut Association also ran off several of their yearly tournaments. They are as follows:

1. The annual State Championship which was held at Bridgeport; 28 players took part and were divided into three classes—12 players in class A; 8 in class B; and 8 in class C. G. Giorgetti, Jim Bessey and D. Smith were in a three way tie for 1st place. G. Giorgetti won the play-off while Jim Bessey took 2nd place and D. Smith 3rd place. Class B was won by S. C. Lane of Stamford, J. Dudek won the play-off from C. Reed for 2nd place. Class C was won by T. Bactram in a play-off from J. Kamszik.

2. The Fairfield County Tournament was held at Bridgeport and Joe Capro won the Class A title from B. Crofut in a play-off. Third place was won by F. Wagner. Class B was won by J. Kamszik, 2nd place went to J. Blomquist and 3rd place was won by J. Believe in a play-off from C. Reed.

3. City-wide Horseshoe Tournament of Bridgeport held at Bridgeport was won by Joe Capro.

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## KANSAS

By ALVIN DAHLENE

How about a standard height on horseshoe stakes at the next National Meet? In the recent National Event, I measured several of the stakes and they varied from ten inches in height to Seventeen inches. In fact, most of them towered around fifteen inches. Maybe that is the answer to all of the records broken at Milwaukee. It is much easier to hit a peg that is fifteen inches high than one that is only twelve inches in height.

At a recent State Meet in the midwest, a new one hundred shoe pitch qualifying record was set—the stakes being seventeen inches high. The old record that was broken had been made on standard twelve inch stakes. This was an injustice to the pitchers performing on the shorter stakes.

A record can not really be official if different heights of stakes are going to be used here and there. In Basketball you have a definite circumference for the ring and the ball, and the height of the ring. In bowling, you have certain size pins and length and width of alleys. In fact every sport that is worthy of mention has a definite set of rules and regulations that are adhered to. When are we going to quit “pussy footin’” and get down to business?

The referee at any National or State Meet should see to it that the stakes are of a definite height. I sincerely hope that I will never attend another event such as the one at Milwaukee with its towering totem poles. That isn't horseshoes in my book. How about it boys, do you want twelve inch stakes or shall we invent a telescopic stake that can be raised or lowered to any height suitable to the whim of each individual pitcher?

If a man can't qualify on a twelve inch stake let him stay out of the tournament. I recall how one such pitcher raised the stakes in a recent Meet so that he could “get in.” Whenever I get to the place that I can no longer qualify on a twelve inch stake, I will gladly drag my decrepit bag of bones off the courts and make way for those who can.

In the November issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, Mr. Henry Schlief asked the whereabouts of a few top-notchers of years ago. I think I can enlighten him on a few of them. C. C. Davis was at Moline in 1935 in which he tied for third and fourth place with Guy Zimmerman. Each won eighteen and lost five. Davis had 73.6 and Guy had 73.3 ringers. Davis' last horseshoe tournament was the K. C. City Meet in the late thirties (38 or 39) in which he defeated his opponents to win the title. Since then, Davis has retired from pitching and now resides in Kansas City, Mo. Frank Jackson is or was in Florida in 1946. Burt Duryee, a one time Kansas Great, participated in his last National in 1935. He failed to qualify. He has since suffered a nervous breakdown and has been confirmed to a sanitarium for several years. Lyle Brown of Iowa, died in 1942. Blair Nunamaker passed away in recent years also.

I might say in closing, these were fine pitchers, but most of them were past their prime when Isais, Allen and Jones came along. Have seen Allen pushed to the limit to beat Davis, four to three, in Kansas City, in 1934. Only the youth, on Allens side, saved him from defeat. These men were great in their day, but the 1948 records show that the game of horseshoes has improved year after year. I can remember

when 70.0% was superb pitching. Now-a-days you can't qualify in a National with that, or even come close. It has become a sport of intense concentration in which 90% games are common among such men as Isais, Allen, Zimmerman and Jones. These men are to pitching, what Ruth, Gehrig, Cobb, Speaker, etc., were to baseball. Given the right weather and other conditions we will some day see a 90% winner at the National.

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## **MAINE**

**By CHARLES S. GERRISH**

### **Title Matches to Add Vim to Game**

Since annual title tournaments are so far apart, maybe we could greatly liven the spirit and interest in the horseshoe sport by having individual matches where the title would "be at stake" as is done for example in boxing or bowling. This idea is to be in addition to tourneys, not to replace them.

I find good sport in hunting and fishing for ringers, and I believe that the horseshoe game ought to have a longer season than is being practiced by lovers of this sport. I am willing to risk my title any time to resident challengers. So I propose that I will offer my New Hampshire state title to resident challengers at any time during my holding of the title, fall, winter, spring and summer. I suggest the title to change hands to another champion IF said challenger can win in two of three possible public matches, to be held at any time within a three weeks period of the series' beginning. A match consists of a six-out-of-eleven wins of 50-point games. A different place would be used for each match. Any winning challenger would take title with the understanding that the dethroned ex-champ could have a return try for the title within one month, if he so made known.

With this set-up a challenge could be made through the press at any time of the year, and there would be an incentive for more effort and ringer development by any would-be challengers at all times. Moreover it should boost this excellent game and attract many more players.

The Horseshoe pitching sport could also be made more worth while for those with talent at the game, if tickets were sold for these matches, or collections taken, so a performer could earn something for his efforts. Most players devote a number of years to the game in order to become proficient.

To go on, while I'm talking with you here I want to speak of a matter that's been on my mind for years. I mean the pitching pit or stake box area. This varies too much everywhere. No two hardly alike. Fundamentally the rules always intended a 3 foot foul-line in front

of the peg. Rule 4a seems to never agree with 4c. The c rule allows a sufficient 15 inches each side of the peg, but the 43 in. length does not allow for 3 feet of dirt in front of the stake. There ought to be the three feet in front in order for players to have that much clearance of a foul. And many "hard surface" boxes are built with only about 2 ft. or 27 inches in front of the stake to the foul line. So it seems as if Rule 4 c ought to give at least a dirt or clay space of 31 inches by 52 inches. Anyway that Rule 4a provision 6 ft. by 6 ft. seems rather outlandish in size for today. It was a bright idea as a standard when originated years ago. Now a 5 ft. square box is enough, and far less cumbersome for placing and construction. Whatever is big enough for a "hard surface" size, is big enough for any box. We ought to have One Size for a box. That foul line distance is very important. Let's hold to some definite 3 ft., or 2½ ft. at least, in front of the stake for a foul line. If we permit say a 2½ ft. foul line, then we want to look out not to have another rule which may permit a player to step 3 ft. (or over the foul line) in front of the stake. Really the best thing is to have a standard rule to size of dirt or clay area for the stake, and allow any kind of stepping area to be made outside this stake space, requiring a certain peg to foul-line distance. The rules seem sort of double-talk as they are now.

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## **MINNESOTA**

**By ANDY MOEHN**

By checking back to number two of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER relative to the President's statement of the power invested in the Advisory Board: first, is the Advisory Board already created or is such action to be taken? It seems to me that when the delegations meet at their annual convention they elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer—in all, five officers to manage the affairs of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for the year. From my experience in organizations, and not horseshoe pitchers associations alone, that twelve appointees by the President makes excessive powers in the hands of one man and could turn out disastrous for the whole structure of our association.

I do not pretend to be a Parliamentarian, but my understanding is that any changes pertaining to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations for the betterment of any organization must first be brought out on the floor of the Convention Hall and fully discussed there by the members present, and if found advisable and favorable, so voted. Then it becomes the President's duty to name a committee (size to be determined by the assembly) such committee to work out a set of changes or a new constitution then bring it on the convention floor for debate by the full assembly for adoption or rejection and NOT by the President. I there-

fore, recommend that henceforth the N.H.P.A. adopt the use of the caucus system and that it caucuses the first evening and the regular convention two or three evenings later.

According to all constitutions, each elected officer has specific duties to perform during his term of office, and if the system of swearing all officers in and part of that to specify "to uphold the Constitution and perform his duties to the best of his ability," he would not be able to flaunt new changes.

I have stated before that our Constitution needs revising. There must be a law to prevent reactionary elements from taking charge, and if they do, there must be a clause in our Constitution to give the officers full power to prosecute and suspend such an offender. It should be made more explicit than at present. A grievance committee could be created for this purpose.

I further favor a uniform State Constitution to be drawn up and a copy of same to be forwarded to every State President and Secretary, and where new Charters are asked for and granted, a copy must be sent with the Charter. Many of the troubles originate from the lack of full understanding on how to organize a State Assn. off to a proper start.

The President further states in his message that "his duties are to have supervision and direction over all horseshoe pitching interests in National, State and City Associations in all matters within his jurisdiction." Well, that takes in lots of territory! By the way, what are the State and Local Officers for? It can be overdone you know. My honest belief is that any radical and sudden departure from our present form of government may lead us into more or less difficulties and tend to retard the N. H. P. A. progress. A careful study of the Constitution and revamping such articles and section that have come to be outmoded and not up to date with the Assn's progress would be for the good of the organization.

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## **NEW YORK STATE**

**GLENDAL, L. I.**—The Farmer's Horseshoe Club has just held an Election of Officers for this year. The new officers are Alfred H. Krafft, President; Harry Peters, Vice-President; Hans Ahrens, Treasurer; Raymond F. Dey, Financial Secretary; Robert Simpson, Recording Secretary, and Robert Bianco, Sgt. at Arms. They will be installed by one of their Past Presidents at their January meeting where they will have a big "blow out" for the members.

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**GLOVERSVILLE**—When Tommy Brownell was in New York City last July to win the N. Y. State Championship, he told your Editor that he and his Missus expected the birth in December of the 1970 N. Y. State Champion. Well, I don't know where he got the information, but at 10:30 a.m., on Dec. 13, 1948, his wife gave birth to the coming Champ weighing in at seven pounds and four ounces. He tells me they are both doing fine and here's hoping they continue to do so. His name?—Tommy Van Ness Brownell.

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If you have a horseshoe playing friend who does not subscribe to this magazine, send me his name and address and I will be glad to send him a sample copy, free for nothing.—Jake.

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Received the following announcement: Mrs. G. F. Selby of 4816 So. Victor, Tulsa, Okla., announces the marriage of their daughter, Margaret Stone to Ted Allen of Boulder, Colorado on September 24, 1948. Here's wishing you both lots of good luck!

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## **PENNSYLVANIA**

The Pennsylvania State Farm Show Horseshoe Tournament was held on January 13th at Harrisburg, Pa. Starting at 6:30 p.m., it was held in the large arena which seats nine thousand people. This tournament was won four times by John Fulton of Carlisle, Pa., in 1936, 1938, 1940, and 1947. As certain rules and regulations and the war kept him out of this tournament in the intervening years he only played these four times but came out on top every time. This will be his fifth try and we expect him to repeat. Will have the complete results in the next issue.

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## **WASHINGTON**

**By MELL ZUBER**

The State of Washington joined the National again after having been out for several years. After attending the National Meeting at Milwaukee I was tempted to drop it again. That was disgusting. Anyway, we had fifty-three members in 1948 and hope for at least seventy-five for 1949. Our State tournament was held in Bremerton and we had thirty-two men in it, sixteen in "A" class and sixteen in the "B" class. Lewis Getchell, of Tacoma, Wash., won the "A" class Championship winning all fifteen of his games with an average of 67.0%. Kenneth Smith of Seattle, Wash. won the "B" class winning fourteen and losing one. His percentage was 60.0%.

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## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Arner Lindquist, of Morgantown tells us that the University of West Virginia asked him and his wife, who by the way, won the Lady's Tournament at Milwaukee, to put on an exhibition to stimulate horseshoe pitching in the College. Of course they complied and it was very well liked and appreciated. Their performance was one act of the College's program, "Carnival of Champions" which included other sports.

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## **WYOMING**

**By A. L. McNEIL**

Why all the agitation about the "count all" scoring system? Seems to me it has been brought up in several Conventions and was always turned down. Isn't it time to drop it? Who wants a horseshoe game decided before the last shoe is pitched, which would often be the case in "count all" limited shoes pitched. Also, why are thirty-two too many entrants for a National Tournament? They are all good enough pitchers to have a shot at the title; in fact, it seems to me there were some more good ones that did not get in. Of course, as long as the "Big Four" stay in shape, one of them will win it although there may be one coming along that will crowd them and nose one or two of them out of third or fourth place, but one of the four will be rather sure to win the Title. Would like to have it put to a vote on how many players would rather win a game from any one of the "Big Four" than win a Class "B" at a National. Besides, a Class "B" would be a headache at a National.

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## **GIFTS TO EUROPEAN HORSESHOE PROMOTER**

Harry T. Woodfield, Chairman of the International Committee of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, has requested me to take up a collection from the readers of THE HORSESHOE NEWS and THE HORSESHOE PITCHER for the purpose of buying some Gift Food Packages to be mailed to Dr. George Siebert of Giengen-Brenz, Germany, who has been promoting horseshoe pitching in that Country among his High School pupils. Any amount, from ten cents up, will help the cause. Please mail your cash contributions to Leland S. Mortenson, 863 West 41st Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

## **Outline of the Horseshoe Pitching Life of Ted Allen**

**By BYRON JASKULEK, Editor**

Ted Allen first picked up the game of horseshoes while farming and ranching in Kansas. Living in the more remote sections of Western Kansas, he became interested in tossing horseshoes, because that and hunting were the only outdoor sports. He teamed up with his father, who was a well-known pitcher, having taken many state "open" prizes himself. Ted learned to beat the best of them and at the age of 12, he was thrilled to hear one expert say, "If I had that boy I would take him to Chicago." The man probably did not know himself why he mentioned Chicago, but by a coincidence, Chicago was the place where Ted first won a World's Championship at the World's Fair in 1933.

The family moved to Colorado in 1922. While farming and attending school, Ted won County and State Championships. He was state champ 8 years out of 10, losing the two to his brother Ira. Ted won the four Rocky Mt. Region open tournaments that were sponsored by the Denver Post and all the County tournaments except one.

The family again moved on to Oregon in 1932, planning to settle there. But after winning the Oregon State title that year, glowing letters from a horseshoe manufacturer in California led him to believe there was a "pot of gold" to be found in that state. So, with some persuasion from Ted, the family moved to California. After three trials, he was convinced that he had been following a wrong trail. Acts were a dime a dozen around Hollywood. Ted and his parents then moved back to Boulder, Colorado, in 1936. Ira Allen stayed in California where he has been ever since. The first few years there, Ira won several Northern California titles, and the State Championship once. It was his brother who always gave Ted his steadiest competition in the years they used to pitch in contests together. Ira took the Colorado State title away from Ted twice and the Oregon Open title once.

However, it was during Ted's stay in California, 1933 to 1935, that he won his first world's title in Chicago. All Ted's life he wanted to be somebody and he had an idea that his horseshoes would be the means of getting him some place. And the following years proved him right. And now he was ready to give it a try. The championship afforded him the first opportunity to advertise himself as the world's best. The year following his first title he took Fernando Isais, who is now present champ, with him on the barnstorming tour of horseshoe clubs in the middle-west.

Finding it to be a hard road to travel, Isais dropped out of it after that first year. But Ted wasn't yet convinced that it couldn't be done properly. He was sure that a fair living and a good time with plenty of traveling could be gotten out of it some way by hard work and

learning how. He considers those first few years hard ones to break into good show business. But he paved the way for those who later came pitching in shows since the war. His good appearance in shows made him in demand in sports shows from coast to coast and when he had to turn down some shows they procured Jimmy Risk and Casey Jones, and Guy Zimmerman.

But getting back to the first years, with the lessons learned from the first year Ted corresponded ahead for appearances, and went alone in 1935. He went all the way to the east states ending up the summer season in New York City, making the rounds of all the fine horseshoe club courts in the metropolis, guided by that man-about-town, "Pop" Schavel, for a solid month. Then after an interview with Brig. General Kilpatrick, Pres. of Madison Square Garden, he was engaged for one day at the World's largest rodeo, with the understanding that if the act went over well, they would "contract" him for the entire show.

Not only did it go over well, it played the entire 24-day show. He was also booked back each year at the same show for three more years. It was the first time a horseshoe pitching act was presented in that manner in the Big Town. It was considered one of the best acts that the Garden had ever booked. More people saw the act that way than any other possible way because the annual New York Rodeo draws more attendance than any other attraction there, now running nearly a month, annually. Ted was assisted by George Schavel of Brooklyn the first two years, thereafter he used cowboys.

It was a big event in Ted's life. And during those same years he also booked a few of the country's largest theatres, starting out with the once world's largest, the Roxy theatre in New York City. Then followed the best theatres in Boston, Providence, Chicago, Dayton, St. Louis, Washington D. C. and some smaller cities.

On his theatre appearance in Washington D. C. the late senator Lundee took Ted and his cowboy helper, Bob Mathews, of the act, to the Capital for an introduction to many notables, amongst them ex-speaker Bankhead, Mrs. Perkins of Labor, and others. They had dinner in the senators' dining room, a custom usually strictly forbidden. But a disappointment arose in not having time to stay and meet President Roosevelt; they had a show to do at the theatre. Usually the circumstances are reversed where the President is concerned. He doesn't have time to meet everybody. On another occasion when the rodeo was playing there, Ted helped to play host and entertain senators at a rodeo barbecue picnic.

Besides playing in the annual Midwest Tournament 1935 to 1939, which tournament took the place of an absent World's tournament from 1936 to 1939. Ted won all of them except in 1938, losing to Fernando Isais, who finally gained a victory over Ted, after many years of trying, but this did not mean losing his World's championship. He won the

Rocky Mountain title sponsored by the Denver Post, with top notchers from the entire western states competing, four years in a row 1929 to 1933, incidentally the only four years it was held.

In all the years of playing shows, Ted holds a unique record of repeating most of the shows he has booked. There is only one other act that has beaten his record of four straight years at Madison Square Garden; it was a High School horse act which played there 7 years, at the rodeo. But he did repeat at the Rodeo in Rochester, N. Y. 7 times. He was honored to play at one of the Army retired generals horse shows right after the war. But one (1941) of the fine shows which he played, where the elite of aristocrats attend, was the swank Santa Barbara Horse Show in Calif. in 1941. Only one act each year is booked as a special feature there. When an act plays that show it is lucky, indeed.

From the appearance at the Garden an offer from one of the country's best traveling rodeo shows, and the best in the east, came a yearly job with the J. E. Jim Eskew rodeo show for seven years, five were pre-war and two were post-war, starting in 1937.

Besides putting in his featured act of clowning the horseshoe pitching trick, he rode cow ponies whenever he was wanted to make it a better show and to fill in, as all show people do with a traveling unit. Another featured act in which he worked in the show was a rough and tumble comedy bucking ford as an acrobat, playing the part of a kid in knee pants. The rodeo made its appearance all over the eastern states and as far west as St. Louis and Chicago. In recent years, just before and after the war, this rodeo outfit teamed up on different occasions and at different times with both the Roy Rogers troop and the Gene Autry bunch. Both Movie cowboy Kings insisted that the horseshoe pitching and the Ford acts be included in their shows, as two of the main featured acts. Roy Rogers, himself, could easily have been an excellent pitcher if he had time. During the weekly shows at each city, Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers, indulged in tossing the shoes, four-handed games, with no scientific turns. Surprising to Allen was the good aim of Rogers, and in the first lesson in the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turn from Allen he never lost his aim, with about 50% ringers.

Although Ted had many interviews on his own over the air, that J. E. Show was the reason for many other such appearances over the air. Almost weekly the press agent used him as a radio attraction with other cowboys and cow girls to advertise the show. But while interviewing Ted, Fog Horn paid particular attention to telling the listeners where and how Ted won the Worlds Championship, some records, how the game was scored and played, mentioning how well organized the

game was. (All this serving a two-fold purpose; to show how popular the game is and a reason, then, why Ted was a popular champ, that he is from the ranch country, too, and worth while as advertisement.)

Among the nation's air hookups that interviewed Ted, are the Breakfast Club of Chicago, where he was on twice, once pitching at Don McNeil and using some of the sound effects. Clem McCarthy of New York City had him. Farm and Home hour had him twice on the National hookup, too. There have been so many smaller stations that have used him he cannot remember the names of some of them. Several newsreels featured him, the last one was with the Roy Rogers rodeo using some of the cowboys as scenery in 1947 in Chicago. He was top star in two movie shorts. One was a Grantland Rice Sport light. He was co-star in another one of a Camel Cigarette short with a famous diving champ.

Ted was the first horseshoe pitcher to make big time New York City in a manner that elevated the game in the eyes of the public. He was first in the good game to present it that way. He was first to put horseshoes in sports shows in a manner that put the game in a class with other sports. Being a well known fact that sports shows have been pretty particular what they use in their shows, the big Chicago Sports Show once tried a layout of courts and presented it as a side attraction. But Manager Kahler wasn't satisfied with the deal. Although making it hard for Ted to convince him that his act would have appeal to the audience, it later proved to be one of the top acts, so much to the pleasure of the management that he was billed again by the same man at Minneapolis. Rarely has he played a show without being contracted back again immediately for the following year, that in itself being a compliment to his manner of showing the people how well the game can be played and how well-appearing a man can be while playing it. Having played many of the finest shows throughout the country, it has often been his duty to give demonstrations, as a part of his contract, to hospitals, orphans' homes, charity and other extra free shows. Incidentally, just ask any kind of show act that when it is asked to repeat at a show that it is a high tribute to the performance of said act.

It was unusual and valuable experience that he picked up while barnstorming the first few years, because he made every large city and even the little whistle stops in most of the states. Playing everything from public square festivals, horseshoe clubs and tavern courts to alumni dances and banquets.

(To be Continued in the February Issue)