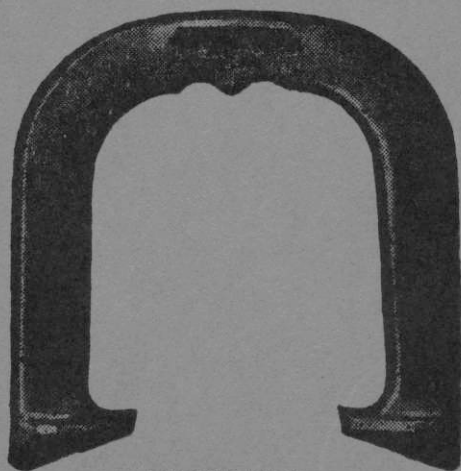


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of  
The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America



THE OHIO SHOE

SEPTEMBER, 1949

Vol. 2

No. 1

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

The National Tournament for 1949 is over and it was one of the most successful tournaments that I have had the pleasure of witnessing. Fernando Isais of Los Angeles was again crowned Champion but it was a more clear cut victory than the one that he had last year. Thirteen pitchers averaged over 70% and several others came close to the 70% mark in their final standing for 35 games.

The hospitality and friendliness of the people of Murray will never be forgotten by the many pitchers, families and friends of the game of horseshoes who were in attendance at the tournament at Murray. Roy Smith will write an article for the magazine covering the tournament and the fine time shown all of us by the people of Murray and Salt Lake County. To top this all off we have an offer of \$5,000 from the Murray group for the 1950 tournament.

A report is due the members of the association on what happened at the convention and what changes were made in the constitution and by-laws by the assembled delegates. To try to report on all of this at one time would be impossible so I will attempt to cover the high-lights in a series of articles during the next few issues of the magazine.

It was decided by the delegates to raise the combined dues to \$2 which would include a subscription to the official horseshoe magazine of the association. The executive committee awarded the title of official magazine of the group to Mr. Jaskulek for the next year. The magazine subscription should be an incentive for more pitchers to join the association and certainly the cost of \$2 for a magazine, national and state dues is not prohibitive.

It was also decided to make the cancellation or count-all system of play optional for all functions within any state and to keep the cancellation system in use for the national tournament. A few of the delegates were desirous of forcing the count-all system on all of the

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## EDITORIAL

Have received hundreds of complimentary letters since the first appearance of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, all of which were appreciated; but the finest compliment which I received, came from the delegates to our last convention held in Murray, Utah. They conferred the honor on me of making this magazine the Official Organ of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. This came at a very appropriate time because this issue starts its second year of publication. While the number of subscribers have increased each month, solely on its own merits, I am looking forward to a very rapid growth within the next year now that the National Association has seen fit to recognize its true worth as a medium for the advancement of the horseshoe game. I will try to make this magazine worthy of the confidence the officers of this association placed in me by making this the Official Organ.

Editor.

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players which is certainly not a democratic procedure. The majority of the states are using the cancelation system of play and are satisfied with this method. This question can always be reviewed at later conventions.

After long and careful consideration the delegates voted to permit two charters for any one state, not with the idea in mind of splitting states, but to strengthen the game. At the present time where one charter is permitted the group in the state having the charter may not be very active and drag along with little or no activity. If there is a live-wire group in the state who would promote the game it would have been impossible for them to secure a charter. Under the new constitution if a second group in a state wishes to secure a charter and has a membership of fifty (50) or more who wish to join the National Association they may at the discretion of the executive council of the National Association be granted a second charter. However, the delegates allowed that state for a National Convention will be divided between the two associations according to membership. This is only fair to allow a maximum number of delegates to a state regardless of whether they have one or two associations.

In a state with two charters, under the new constitution, it would be the privilege of the Executive Committee of the National Association to revoke the charter of either group which fell below twenty-five (25) members at any later date. In permitting a total of two charters for any one state it was the feeling of the delegates that the stronger association in the state would eventually swallow the weaker association and in nearly all cases the state would again revert to a one charter state. The delegates tried at all times to rewrite a constitution that would be fair to all forty-eight (48) states without letting any single states problem or any personality enter into the picture.

After the new constitution and by-laws were accepted by the delegates, President Arlo stated, much to the surprise of all of us that he would be unable to accept office as the membership in Indiana were unhappy with the way the Ohio situation had been handled. President Arlo left for Indiana before the tournament started which made it necessary for us to alter plans, for according to the new constitution which had just been accepted by the delegates the outgoing officers were to conduct the tournament and turn over their office to the new officers at the completion of the tournament.

President Arlo's leaving because of his commitments to Indiana was most unfortunate. All of us know how hard President Harris worked to promote the game during the past year and I know that we all appreciate the effort and sacrifices that he made to develop the game of horseshoes. It is the hope of all of us that the Indiana Association will accept the changes made in the constitution and remain in our organization. We must present a united front if we wish the game to grow.

Sincerely,

LOUIS M. DEAN

President.

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## MURRAY: "MARE MOCCASIN" MECCA

(Some Highlights of the 1949 Tournament As I Saw Them in Murray.)

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science at the Stake" and Secy.-Treas. of So. Calif. H. P. A.

All that is left of the World's Championship Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, held at Murray, Utah, August 14-20, 1949, is many pleasant memories. Although this was my first time to attend a National tournament, I believe that this 1949 Meet was, in many respects, the most successful in N.H.P.A. history. While I promised Jake, the editor of this magazine, a story of the highlights of this wonderful tournament. I scarcely know where to begin and I'll leave it up to our National Secretary, Mr. Harvey Clear to furnish most of the statistics. So many things happened and so many changes were effected at the Convention and tournament that it will be impossible to incorporate all of them into a single article.

On Thursday morning, August 11th, Mr. E. O. Beller packed five of us into his new Buick and we struck out for Murray at 11 o'clock. Besides Mr. Beller, our driver, our party consisted of Fernando Isais, the champ and his charming wife, Hope; Mr. Peter Cartwright, my writer friend and fellow delegate from Long Beach; Henry Harper of our Exposition Park Club in Los Angeles, and myself. Driving all night and experiencing a fun packed trip, we arrived in Murray at the ungodly hour of 5:30 A.M. just in time to enjoy the beautiful sunrise over the multi-hued mountains. Our lodgings, being reserved in advance at Easton's Lodge, were ready and we flopped into bed for a few hours of badly needed rest. We were aroused by our self appointed alarm clock, Henry Harper, about 10 o'clock and, after showering and eating an excellent breakfast at "Pete" Harmon's Dew Drop Inn we made our way to the courts where I had the long looked for pleasure of meeting many of the game's famous personalities and renewing my acquaintance with others, all of whom I'll mention later in this story or in future articles in this magazine.

The meeting of the delegates to revise the old and completely obsolete constitution and by-laws, was slated for 1 o'clock (Friday the 12th) and N.H.P.A. President Arlo Harris appointed the following persons on this committee: Besides Mr. Harris, there was Mrs. Marie Kamp-schroeder of Lawrence, Kansas; Mr. Harry Henn of Kentucky; Mr. Orval Harris of Indianapolis, Ind; Mr. Bill McCleary of Murray Utah and Messrs. Peter Cartwright, John Gordon, A. J. Byrns, Larry Geer, Louis Dean and Roy W. Smith, all of So. Calif.

After many long hours of friendly and constructive argument and several return trips to the convention hall, we finally completed the new and revised constitution and by-laws. Louis Dean and Mrs. Kamp-schroeder put in a number of additional hard hours of work in typing and mimeographing copies which were handed to the delegates to study for revision. With but few minor changes, the new constitution and by-laws were voted upon and accepted almost unanimously by the assembly. Because the majority of us on the committee were from So. Calif., we leaned over backwards in our efforts to make the new laws as fair and democratic for the majority as possible. And although these new laws aren't perfect, almost everyone present stated that they believed them to be a great improvement over the old ones. I want to say right here and now that I have never worked with a finer group of people than those who were on this committee. While several of the old timers

at the convention told me that it was the longest session of its kind they had ever experienced, there were no violent arguments or unpleasantness displayed by anyone. Mr. John Sebek of Ohio enjoyed the distinction of being the chief dissenter on most of the points involved and although he was overwhelmingly voted down time after time, he took his defeats in a gentlemanly manner and proved that he was an experienced and capable speaker on the convention floor. Since the new constitution and by-laws will soon be made available by N.H.P.A. in booklet form, I will make no effort to list and describe the various changes here at this time. While we all realize that many changes are yet needed, we feel that we have made a fine start toward a bigger and better and more unified N.H.P.A. and these additional changes can more easily be made at future conventions. When you read the new laws, please remember that Rome wasn't built in a day and don't hesitate to submit your honest and constructive opinions to "THE HORSESHOE PITCHER" which is now designated as the official organ of the N.H.P.A.

After the election of officers, the 1949 Convention was adjourned by President Harris at about 11:30, Sunday night, August 14th. The new N.H.P.A. officers are: President, Louis Dean of Pomona, Calif.; 1st Vice-President, Goff Berger of Murray, Utah; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Marie Kampshroeder of Lawrence, Kansas; Bill McCleary of Murray, 3rd Vice-President; Andy Moehn of St. Paul, Minn., 4th Vice-President. Harvey Clear was retained as Secretary and Mary Jones, wife of "The Mighty Casey" became Treasurer.

Arlo Harris, the outgoing President declined his renomination for President because of certain commitments that he had pledged to carry out for his fellow members in Indiana and Ohio. Saying that he was exhausted by a long 27 day trip through various parts of the U. S. and being eager to get back to his home and family, he and his three brothers left on the morning of the 15th without attempting to qualify for the tournament. Most of us know that Arlo put in a long hard year of work, full of frustration and heartbreak in his endeavor to put over his ideas for the betterment of the sport and we were deeply sorry that he did not stay and play in the tournament. While most of us entertain different ideas than Arlo, about various phases of the sport, we all agree that he is a hard worker for what he thinks is right and that he is a very capable executive in conducting an efficient and orderly meeting. Personally, I think that Arlo is right about several points pertaining to our sport and that time will prove it in the not too distant future. I heard many others express similar opinions. During my association with them I found all of the Harris boys to be gentlemen and I am proud to have made their acquaintance. This also goes for Johnny Sebek of Ohio and all those other fine people that I met at the tournament. I sincerely hope that they all feel the same way about me. As far as I am concerned, there is no room for pettiness and ill will in our grand old game, regardless of our differences of opinion as to how it is played.

Now for some of the main highlights of the tournament. Displaying near mechanical perfection, Fernando Isais won the World's Championship title for his fourth time, losing only one game on the last day to his fellow club member, Ray "Half Pint" Gatewood of our Exposition Park Club here in Los Angeles, Calif. At this writing, Isais' ringer percentage for the entire meet is 83.3% but this may be revised when Secretary Clear issues his final report. On Monday night, August 15, the "King of Swing" shattered the unofficial qualifying score, set by Ted Allen at Murray, two years ago. Isais topped Allens score of 551 out of a possible 600 to establish a new record of 557 with a ringer

percentage of 89.5% for 200 shoes, with 179 ringers, 81 doubles and 22 consecutive doubles. Since the champion is not required to qualify, this record must be considered an unofficial one. While the champ failed in his efforts to pitch a perfect game in the meet, he almost turned the trick by tossing 41 ringers out of 42 shoes for a percentage of 87.6 against Ron Cherrier of Minn. who was unable to score a point. Guy Zimmerman, "the old master" who pitched the only perfect game in national tournament history, last year at Milwaukee, was unable to attend this year's meet.

Stanley De Leary, the Arizona Ace, established the top official qualifying score of 529 and won 5th spot in the tournament. He tossed 17 consecutive doubles in one game but could not top Dean Brown's run of 18 straight doubles which was the highest in the meet.

Ted Allen, the former king of the pitching lanes, won second place in the meet, losing only two games to Isais and Jones. Allen pitched poorly against Isais and only hit a little 67%. Casey Jones won third spot and he too pitched poorly in his game with the champ. But both Ted and "The Mighty Casey" got going in some of their other games and rung up some very high scores.

Other high finishers in the meet were Dean Brown of So. Calif. and Don Titcomb of Northern Calif. who placed fourth and sixth respectively. Tommy Brownell of Northville, N. Y. and Ray "Low Pockets" Gatewood of So. Calif. tied for 7th. Louis Dean of So. Calif. and Roland Kraft of Kansas were 8th and 9th. Lowel Gray of So. Calif. and Alvin Gandy of Kansas tied for tenth position.

The Ladies Tournament, held Thursday morning, the 18th, ended in a three-way tie between Mrs. Arner Lindquist, the defending champion from Morgantown, West Va.; Mrs. Marie Kampschroeder of Lawrence, Kan. and Mrs. Pat De Leary of Arizona. Mrs. Lindquist pitched poorly the first day but came back strong Friday morning to win from her opponents by a wide margin to retain her world's championship title. Mrs. Kampschroeder won second and Mrs. DeLeary took third place.

Before passing on to the other highlights that marked my first wonderful visit here in Murray, I want to mention two young and very promising players who impressed me very much. These boys are Pat Brady of New York and Don Titcomb of Northern Calif. Pat Brady is only 18 years of age and was the youngest man in the tournament. With only two years experience under his belt, he played some very fine games and displayed beautiful pitching form. While he lost to Isais, the champ, by a wide margin, I think this was one of the best games of the meet. The large audience thought so too and gave young Brady a fine hand for his excellent performance and display of cool nerve. Don Titcomb is the most promising left-hander I have ever seen and is a protege of Guy Zimmerman, our California State champion. Titcomb is definitely on his way to the very top. If both he and Brady will take care of themselves and work seriously, I believe one of them will be our world's champion in the not too distant future. They both have the ability, youth and fighting guts that go to make up a champion. All they need is just another year or two of experience and seasoning.

Eighteen year old Pat Brady was the youngest man in the tournament and W. O. Maxwell of Hicksville, Ohio, being 68 years old was the oldest. This made the average age of all the qualifiers around 43. And since nearly all of them had their hair tinged with grey, I believe this average to be a conservative one. We need more young bloods in the

game! N.H.P.A. should get behind a 'Teen Age Program and push it to the limit.

One of the greatest highlights of our stay in Murray was the bus trip sponsored solely by "Pete" Harmon and his charming wife, the proprietors of the "Dew Drop Inn." Those two fine people have hearts as big as those Utah mountains. And they even supplied the refreshments for the trip too! I know that all the members of N.H.P.A. who made that trip to the mountains and to the awe inspiring Bingham copper mine, will never forget it. The trip through the 2 mile tunnel to the mine and the picturesque town there in those mountains near that great man-made hole in the earth is almost beyond description and I haven't the time and space for it here.

And there in Murray is Bill McCleary, chairman of the tournament; Goff Berger, the new N.H.P.A. First Vice-President; Garr Lester, Ray Gerrard, and Ray Ohms who were in charge of the Program and Publicity. Earl Howe, W. H. Adams, Jr. and James Silver were the Finance Committee. These men and their wives and many others all worked long hard hours to make the tournament a wonderful and most successful affair. There are so many fine unselfish folks there that I cannot begin to remember their names.

The greatest climax to this fine tournament was the beautiful banquet held at Maxfield's Lodge in Big Cottonwood canyon. A more perfect setting for this banquet could not have been found anywhere on earth. A clear mountain stream, fed by glaciers high up on the sides of the rugged mountain, runs down this canyon. The lodge is beautifully constructed by logs and natural rock. Many rocky paths and walls with cunningly built bridges run in nearly all directions from the lodge. The tall, stately trees furnished a green canopy over the two long rows of tables. And looking down on all this were the myriads of bright stars and an almost full moon peeping over the rugged shoulders of the great mountains to outline them against the blue-black Utah skies. It is utterly impossible to describe the glories of nature that exist there so I will cease trying.

After arriving at this scene in the caravan of cars, with a police escort leading the way, we were treated to the most appetizing chicken dinner that we ever tasted. It was done to a king's taste and while we enjoyed it, we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Steffan with some very fine accordion music. There were about 125 guests present and among these were several county and state officials. This writer acted as Master of Ceremonies and I believe that everyone enjoyed the speeches and program which followed the sumptuous dinner. Louis Dean awarded the prizes to the players and several special awards were made to those people who worked so hard to entertain us. The highlight of the banquet was the electrifying announcement that the fine people of Utah were prepared to make a bid of \$5,000 to bring the tournament back to Murray next year.

Besides our World Champion, Fernando Isais, California was well represented by a strong contingent of thirteen other players, three of whom were from Northern Calif. While I failed to qualify. I wasn't greatly disappointed or surprised. After spending so many hours in committee and having so much on my mind, I just couldn't concentrate and get going. I had my chance and failed so that's all there is to it. I had been pitching a pretty good 75% game up until the first of August and I know that I can beat several who did get in but that is beside the

point. Such breaks are to be expected and we have to learn to take them. I hope to have better luck next time.

Failing to get in, I shared in the broadcasting with Lou Sayre of the Salt Lake City radio station KDYL. While we were hampered by a very short cord on the mike, we did the best we could and the players and spectators were kind enough to express their appreciation for our efforts. Being a professional announcer, Lou did a nice job.

We were honored one evening by Mr. Goodman, a reporter from the New York Times and I turned him over to Jake who was handling the big score board of games won and lost. The newspapers gave the tournament a good coverage but for some reason or other a television hook-up could not be effected. I hope this can be accomplished next time.

While I didn't get the opportunity to say a last goodbye to many of the players who pitched in the tournament, I believe that all of them left in a friendly and optimistic frame of mind. All those to whom I talked stated their desire to return next year and they believe that Murray, Utah, with its fine spirit of friendliness, hospitality and enthusiasm has, in two short years, become one of the leading horseshoe pitching centers of the world. Besides all this wonderful cooperation on the part of the fine people of Utah, they have the perfect natural setting and summer climate for such activity. I further believe that their splendid spirit of progress and unity has permeated the National Association and that we are now stepping over the threshold into the greatest and most successful period in our history. With a newly revised and more democratic constitution and by-laws, N.H.P.A. is going places! And too much credit cannot be given to Utah for the fine part it is playing in helping the horseshoe pitching sport to come into its rightful heritage.

While mingling with the players and audience to gather notes for my broadcasting, I listened carefully to their comments and from all the information that I picked up in this way, I have the following recommendations to offer for the betterment of future national tournaments that will be staged in Murray:

(1) A simplified scoring system devised to keep the spectators posted on the progress of all games. This MUST be done if the horseshoe pitching sport is to be rated on a par with the other major sports. The lack of such a scoring system for spectators is the greatest drawback that exists in our tournaments today. This equipment should be standardized by N.H.P.A.

(2) Proper toilet facilities for men and women near the courts. I heard a lot of grumbling about this from many sources.

(3) Removal of the drinking fountain to a spot other than that which is so near the wire fence and gate at the north end of the courts. The kids, making countless trips to the fountain, bothered many of the players.

(4) The erection of additional bleacher seats to accommodate the crowd at the south end of the courts. Stair steps with a guard-rail at each end of the bleachers would permit people to gain seats without having to wade through those already seated. Canvas canopies over these bleachers would protect the crowd from the hot sun.

(5) The erection of a small building to serve as the office for the tournament manager and his assistants. This building to be roomy



enough to permit the storage of chairs and equipment and equipped with tables to facilitate the handling of score sheets and other tournament data.

(6) A large bulletin or information board to be placed on the side or near this building to advise the players and audience of all changes in schedule that may arise. Many players are so busy concentrating on their pitching that they fail to hear such announcements over the loud-speaker and others don't always read the newspapers in time to be kept informed.

(7) All players should dress the same with their names on either the back or front of their shirts so the spectators can identify them. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on spectator-interest and it is vital to the progress of our sport.

(8) The feature games in these tournaments should be televised by all means if possible.

(9) A comedy act, with some stunt pitching during an intermission, would serve to attract, hold and entertain a large audience. People like to laugh because it relaxes them and breaks the monotony of one tiresome game after another. Ted Allen discussed this feature with me before we left Murray and we could readily see the value of such a feature for the next tournament.

(10) A large banner, advertising the World Championship tournament, hung over the entrance to the park would attract many people traveling along the highway. Such a banner would do more to advertise the tournament than several newspaper columns. The absence of this fine way of advertising was the first thing I noticed when we arrived in Murray.

(11) Provide adequate covers and wet sacks for the clay in the pitching boxes. And, instead of wetting the clay around the immediate area of the stakes, the clay should be moistened from the outside edges and allowed to soak in toward the stakes.

The above points are not intended as criticism but are offered as constructive suggestions to improve future tournaments. I know that those fine boys there in Murray are alert enough to welcome all such suggestions in the same spirit that I have offered them. And I know that our hard working N.H.P.A. Secretary, Harvey Clear feels the same way. A fine job was done by everybody connected with the tournament and the state of Utah with its sunny skies and beautiful rugged mountains has become the Promised Land for horseshoe pitchers all over the nation. With such fine people back of it, N.H.P.A. has started to march forward into the brightest era of its history!

All who were in our party, say that they had the best time of their lives and are looking forward to returning next year. It was hotter than the hubs of Hades on our western trip. We spent the night in Las Vegas, Nev., "the city of one-armed bandits" (slot machines), arising at 4 A.M. to arrive here in Los Angeles at noon, just in time to enjoy a much needed rain which was accompanied by a thunder storm. We were thoroughly pooped but happy that our champ, Isais, had again brought home the bacon to California.

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## 1949 Tournament Results

Murray, Utah, August 15th to 20th, 1949

	Qual.	Won	Lost	%
1. Fernando Isais, Calif. ....	.000	34	1	83.3
2. Ted Allen, Colo. ....	.513	33	2	81.9
3. Casey Jones, Wis. ....	.507	31	4	80.4
4. Dean Brown, Calif. ....	.497	30	5	79.5
5. Stanley DeLeary, Ariz. ....	.529	30	5	78.7
6. Don Titcomb, Calif. ....	.473	28	7	77.9
7. Tommy Brownell, N. Y. ....	.523	27	8	77.0
8. Ray Gatewood, Calif. ....	.523	27	8	77.0
9. Louis Dean, Calif. ....	.518	26	9	75.3
10. Roland Kraft, Kans. ....	.501	25	10	77.1
11. Lowell Gray, Calif. ....	.512	21	14	72.8
12. Alvin Gandy, Kans. ....	.492	21	14	70.0
13. Pat Brady, N. Y. ....	.494	19	16	70.4
14. John Sebek, Ohio ....	.507	19	16	69.7
15. Dale Dixon, Iowa ....	.512	18	17	69.1
16. Ray Ohms, Utah ....	.465	18	17	68.9
17. Ervin Hosier, Calif. ....	.454	18	17	67.5
18. Merle Palmer, Wyo. ....	.502	17	18	68.2
19. Irwin Carlberg, Mich. ....	.454	17	18	67.9
20. Eine Tiilikainen, Colo. ....	.465	17	18	66.6
21. John Elkins, Mo. ....	.492	16	19	67.0
22. A. Lindquist, W. Va. ....	.501	15	20	66.9
23. Nels Peterson, Minn. ....	.463	15	20	66.5
24. E. J. McFarland, Texas ....	.486	14	21	67.4
25. Paul Meri, Calif. ....	.477	14	21	65.2
26. Henry Harper, Calif. ....	.472	12	23	64.4
27. Ron Cherrier, Minn. ....	.483	11	24	64.1
28. Cherry Bennett, Utah ....	.455	11	24	62.6
29. Jay Byrns, Calif. ....	.464	10	25	65.0
30. W. O. Maxwell, Ohio ....	.451	8	27	60.8
31. Harry Dolan, Calif. ....	.472	8	27	56.8
32. Harry Henn, Ky. ....	.436	7	28	55.5
33. Ray Arnold, Calif. ....	.460	6	29	57.5
34. Louis Larson, Minn. ....	.433	4	31	54.2
35. George Callas, Calif. ....	.431	4	31	53.8
36. Larry Geer, Calif. ....	.430	1	34	50.6

### LADIES TOURNAMENT

Anna Lindquist—1st  
 Marie Kampschroeder—2nd  
 Pat De Leary—3rd  
 Doris Dolan—4th

Delsa McCleary—5th  
 Helen Ohms—6th  
 Hope Isais—7th  
 Mary Jones—8th

HARVEY W. CLEAR,  
 Secretary, N.H.P.A.

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### CALIFORNIA

The California State Open Championship Horseshoe Pitching Tournament will be held in connection with the Los Angeles County Fair—September 24-25 and October 1-2, 1949. The Tournament is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Fair Association and the Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

**Eligibility**—Any residents of the State of California and a member of the N.H.P.A. is eligible to enter this tournament. No entry fee for the amateur tournament will be charged. Entry fee for the state open championships is \$2.00.

Entries should be mailed to Harlan Peet, Exposition Park Horseshoe Club, 39th and Menlo Avenue, Los Angeles, California, or Roy Smith, 1442 East 153rd Street, Compton, California.

Complimentary participant tickets to the Fair Grounds will be furnished by the fair management to contestants who qualify, for the days on which they are participating in the Tournament.

### PLAN OF COMPETITION

**State Amateur Championships**—Starting September 24 at 10:00 a.m., each entry will pitch 100 shoes for points. The twelve highest qualifiers will start a round-robin finals at 2:30 p.m. on September 24, playing five games that afternoon. The remaining six games will be played September 25, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Trophies or medals will be awarded to participants finishing first, second, and third. No person who has played in professional tournaments will be eligible to participate in this tournament. The winner will be declared the California Amateur Champion.

**State Open Championships**—Starting October 1 at 10:00 a.m., each entry will pitch 100 shoes for points. The twelve highest qualifiers will start a round-robin final at 2:30 p.m. on October 1, playing five games that afternoon. The remaining six games will be played October 2, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The winner will receive \$100 and will be declared California State Open Champion. Other prize money will be distributed on a graduated scale to the other 11 participants in the State Open Championship play.

Games won and lost will determine the winner in each tournament. Ties for first place must be played off. The rules of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association shall prevail. All questions and problems will be settled by the tournament committee.

Plan to attend the Los Angeles County Fair, September 16 to October 2, Pomona, California.

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## CONNECTICUT

By Frank Wagner

The Conn. State Horseshoe Tournament which was played on Sunday, Aug. 14, at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, was an event of many high spots this year. The State Title was sought by many, but the next to last round showed four men tied for it. The four men, James Bessey of Hartford, against J. Dudek of Hartford and John Bessey of Hartford, against G. Giorgetti of Manchester, last year's champion, went into the last round pitching as they never pitched before. James Bessey won over Dudek, and John Bessey won over Giorgetti, giving each of the Bessey's two losses for the tournament, thus making a two way tie for the title.

A play off of four games out of seven will be necessary to determine who is the better pitcher, father or son, for the State title. Neither have held the title and are looking forward to being the State Champion. It should prove to be a very interesting play off, and will be held in two weeks, August 27, at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, where the State tourney was held.

Jim Bessey's losses were to G. Giorgetti and his father. The game between father and son was one of the high spots of the tournament, as James Bessey needing this game to clinch the title was defeated by his father in a close game ending in a score of 50 to 41. Even though Giorgetti had the second highest ringer average of 56% he took third place. High ringer per cent average of the day was made by James Bessey who averaged 59% for the eleven games. High single game of 78% was pitched by J. Dudek.

Class B was another tie for first place. Don Harrison of Hartford won out after a playoff with C. Kaselauskas of Hartford, who also lost only one game. Kaselauskas' only loss was to Harrison while Harrison's only loss was to J. Blomquist of Stamford. Third place was a three way tie between C. Andrews of Bridgeport, J. Blomquist of Stamford, and S. Bartram of Bridgeport, and was earned by C. Andrews of Bridgeport who had the highest ringer percentage of the three men.

Class C was no different than the others, and the winner had to have a playoff for first place. Mike Vecchitto of Meriden won over Ted Bertram of Bridgeport, last year's 1st place winner, for his claim to the trophy. Each man had lost only one game in the round robin, Vecchitto to Bertram and C. Fullerton of Milford was Bertram's downfall. Third place was a three way tie as in Class B. Ray Barrows of Bridgeport was the winner over B. Kenderski of Bridgeport and C. Fullerton for that honor, having the highest ringer percentage.

This was an unusual tournament in more ways than one due to the fact that all those winning a trophy had never done so before. This includes the two top pitchers who will play for the title in two weeks. They all certainly had to do some real pitching during the tournament and in the playoffs to prove their worth. Those who did not win a trophy or a medal had the satisfaction of making it tough for the top players in each class, by winning those games which made the ties.

This year's tournament was the most successful since the new reorganization after the war.

#### LATE RESULT

John Bessey of Hartford taught his son, Jim, the art of pitching horseshoes too well for his own good.

The father against stiff competition went down to defeat in the playoff for the state championship of Conn., at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, Saturday, August 27 two weeks after their tie in the tournament.

John's highest single game was a 56% game, while Jim's highest game was 66%. Young Bessey won the first two games, his father the next one, in order to make Jim work harder for his four games and the title.

Jim Bessey is the youngest horseshoe champion Conn. has had in all its years of existence. He has played in many tournaments and league matches in Conn.

The Fairfield County Tournament got underway Sunday, August 21 at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, after a wash out the middle of July. There were some tie ups in this tournament as in the State tournament.

It seems Conn horseshoe pitchers like to do it the hard way for one of the top places by pitching a playoff to prove their skill.

Fairfield County champion is Ray Barrows of Bridgeport, who lost only one game in the tournament. That one game was won by Joe Capre of Bridgeport, last year's champion.

Second place was won by J. Capre who lost only two games, one to R. MacKeil of Bridgeport, and the other to F. Wagner of Stamford. Third place was a three way tie between C. Keeler, of Bridgeport, R. MacKeil, and F. Wagner, whose highest percentage won him the third place honor. His percentage of 448% was also the highest average in the tournament.

First place in class B was a three way tie. S. Bartram of Bridgeport, who inaugurated the game of horseshoes in Bridgeport 25 years ago, Bill Kamszik, also of Bridgeport, and John Belive of Stamford had to have a playoff as each man had lost only one game. Sam Bertram proved the winner in the playoff with Bill Kamszik in second place, and John Belive third place winner. Bill Kamszik's 70% game in the playoff against Bartram did not help him to win first place.

\* \* \*

## KENTUCKY

By Jas. H. Johnson

Sunday, August 7th, on the Shady Shores courts in Covington, Ky., James Johnson of Latonia, tossing 330 ringers out of 400 shoes for an 82.5% ringer percentage, won the Class "A" horseshoe championship of the State of Kentucky. Harold McPherson, also of Covington, finished in 2nd place, losing only to Johnson. Harry (Ringer) Henn of Cold Springs had to be satisfied with 3rd place as he went down before the slants of both Johnson and McPherson.

Dan Botkins of Bromley, with a 41.4% ringer percentage, was the surprise winner of the Class "B" championship, going through the tournament undefeated. Frank Daniel of Newport was 2nd with one loss and Pete Daugherty of Latonia was 3rd with two losses.

### CLASS "A"

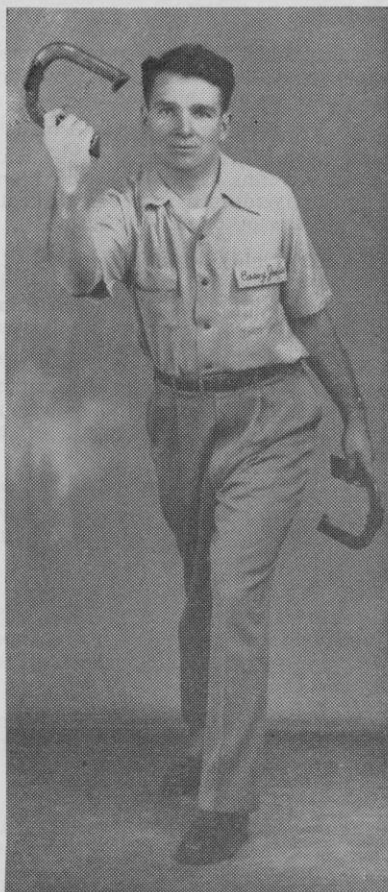
	Won	Lost	R. Per.
1. J. Johnson .....	5	0	82.5
2. H. McPherson .....	4	1	67.2
3. H. Henn .....	3	2	68.8
4. G. Moore .....	2	3	58.0
5. S. Eha .....	1	4	59.5
6. W. Cart .....	0	5	56.2

### CLASS "B"

	Won	Lost	R. Per.
1. D. Botkins .....	7	0	41.4
2. F. Daniel .....	6	1	36.8
3. P. Daugherty .....	5	2	35.4
4. J. Nuhn .....	4	3	30.3
5. W. Nichols .....	3	4	34.9
6. H. Suter .....	2	5	31.4
7. B. Ebaugh .....	1	6	30.3
8. C. Taylor .....	0	7	22.4

\* \* \*

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## NEW YORK

### SUNNYSIDE CLUB VICTOR IN HORSESHOE CONTEST

The Sunnyside Horseshoe Club registered the most stunning upset of the season yesterday afternoon at its home courts when it came from behind to defeat the Hilltop team of Central Park by a score of 18—14 in a crucial Metropolitan League match.

After the A teams collided in the first half, the local pitchers were on the short end of a 9—7 count. However, the Sunnyside B combine racked up an 11—5 triumph to more than wipe out the deficit.

After the final score was tabulated, Charles Seacord, president of the Hilltop Club, said that he would protest the match. The prexy claims that there is a league ruling which bans New Jersey residents from playing in the Empire State. The Sunnysiders used several Skeeter Staters. However, the locals are sure that the outcome will stand.

It was a hard-earned victory for Sunnyside which bowed to the Central Parkers earlier in the season for its only loss to date. The defeat was the first for the New Yorkers in four years of campaigning. They have won the championship of the eight-team league for the past three campaigns.

Sunnyside's second team was quite impressive. Norman Compton, Martin Poppe and Joe Frisco each copped three of their four matches in the round-robin affair, while Tom Tunney, a second cousin of ex-heavyweight champion Gene Tunney, took two.

In the A contest, Sunnyside's Vito Fileccia was the only man to triumph in all of his four games. The diminutive 36-year-old Brooklynite, who holds the state championship, breezed through his first game, 50—15 over Walter Bagley, but encountered much stiffer opposition in his duel with Ted (Red) Earley, Jr.

However, Fileccia, who won the state crown in 1936 and 1937, finally forged through to a 50—45 victory. Both men tossed 80 shoes, with Fileccia hooping 59 ringers while the loser bagged 57. Vito's average was 73.7 per cent.

In other sections of the round-robin, Sunnyside's three other points were divided among Bill Kolb, ex-New Jersey State titlist, John Garty and Andy Courtcock.

Hilltop's setback was in part attributed to the absence of two of its stalwarts. Pat Brady was at Salt Lake City, Utah, competing in a national tournament and Terry Pembridge failed to put in an appearance.

After the match, Fileccia put on a trick exhibition, which was appreciated by the crowd.

\* \* \*

### UP-STATE NEW YORK

By L. L. O'REE

The Syracuse City Horseshoe Championship was held on Aug. 7th and the winner was George LaRose with the runner ups being Francis Retybach and Tony Sauro. In the consolation play, Lloyd O'Ree and Bob Krause tied with 6 wins with O'Ree winning the play off match. The two top men in each group received trophies.

Onondaga County Horseshoe Championships—Saturday, Aug. 13th. George LaRose also came out on top by defeating the defending champion, Tony Sauro in a pitch off for the County Horseshoe Championship at Kirk Park. He won permanent possession of a trophy in competition 19 years by winning three legs. He will represent Onondaga County at the State Fair, Sept. 6th and 7th. Sauro also had two legs on the trophy. Raymond LaRose, Sr., was official referee. The tournament was under the direction of Lloyd O'Ree. O'Ree is the official in charge of the New York State Fair tournament to be held Sept. 6th and 7th.

Lakeport, Onondaga—Madison County Tournament. George LaRose did it again! He won with Tony Sauro and Bud Stivers trailing him in that order. LaRose's best run was 47 straight and 49 out of 50. In tossing 200 shoes, he scored 548 points out of a possible 600. He's hitting the comeback trail!

\* \* \*

## OHIO

The 1949 Ohio State Fair Horseshoe Pitching Championships will be held in Farm Lane—Day and Night—Saturday, August 27 through Friday, September 2. Trophies will be awarded in all classes.

Ohio State Fair Amateur Championship—Trophies for first and second.

Rules—Open to any horseshoe pitcher resident of Ohio who has not competed in the regular Ohio State Professional Championship Tournament during the past four years.

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Ohio State Fair Junior Championship—Open to any boy in Ohio under the age of 14 years who pitches 30 to 40 feet.

Trophies for first and second place winners.

Ohio State Fair Open Championship—Trophy for first place—Open to any horseshoe pitcher resident of Ohio pitching 40 feet.

This contest can be pitched any day or night of the fair.

Contestants report to booth pay \$1.00 entry fee and will pitch 100 shoes for high score counting all points made. Be sure to leave your name and correct mailing address so you will receive trophy by mail if you win.

Come to the fair you will enjoy pitching on these 10 fine courts. Day or night pitching.

Entry fee covers charge for use of courts.

Ohio State Fair Championship—Open to the various county fair champions, residents of Ohio pitching 40 feet. Trophy for first place.

Rules—This special event will be pitched on Governor's Day, Thursday, September 1st, starting at 9:00 a.m. in a round robin. Unless the entry list is to great. Should that be the case—some form of elimination may be used to fit the time element. In order to finish in time for the Governor to present trophy about 5 p.m. Entry fee \$1.00.

Ladies and Girls Championship—Open to any lady or girl in Ohio who pitches 30 feet or more. Trophy for first place.

Old Timers Tournament—Open to any man over 70 years of age who is a resident of Ohio. Trophy for first place.

\* \* \*

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## JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Sorry to report the following letter received by me:

Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Friend Jake:

Just a few lines to let you know that my father passed away on August 1. He had a heart attack and passed on very suddenly. He had this ailment several years but just kept on being busy in his garden all the time. Dad and I talked about the National tournament at noon, the day of his passing. He told me that he would like to see Casey or Zimmy win the National Meet. Dad liked Ted Allen and Fernando, but for the interest in the game, a new Champ now and then would be good for the game. Several years ago, when he was feeling well, he did lots of work on the Lawrence courts.

Your Friend,

Alvin Dahlene

\* \* \*

On Sunday, September 18, the Long Island State Park Commission will conduct its annual Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County Horseshoe Tournament at Hempstead Lake State Park. The qualifying rounds are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and the finals at 1 p.m. I'll be there!

\* \* \*

On his way back to Bremerton, Wash., from Murray, Mell Zuber stopped at Spokane for a couple of days. While there, he talked with their City Recreation Director. He said they were going to re-build all their horseshoe courts and make them regulation and install lights as soon as Mell sends him drawings for them. Mell says if their interest in Spokane holds, they will try to hold their State Tournament there next year. Here's hoping.

\* \* \*

Jack Erwin, Missouri State Champion, will defend his title in a special challenge match against John Elkins, of Stella, Southwest Missouri Champ. This match will be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A. and National rules will prevail. This match of seven games will be played for the Missouri State Championship of 1949. The date is Saturday, Sept. 24, and will be played at the Newton County Fair in Neosho, at 2:00 p.m.

\* \* \*

The Inwood H. C. of New York City, will hold their Annual Fall Dance on Oct. 15. If past performances are any indication, everyone who attends are in for a wonderful time. There will be good music, dancing and refreshments. Tickets, \$1.75 per person.

\* \* \*

Murray, Utah—the Best State—the Best Town—the Best People! This is just one man's opinion. These folks did not miss a thing that would tend to make our stay a welcome and thoroughly enjoyable one. I can still taste that chicken they served us at that wonderful banquet they gave us. We Easterners had to go 'way out West to get Southern fried chicken! I only had six cups of coffee with my meal; was sorry

I had no more room for an extra cup. The lights, the music, the scenery, the speeches over the mike, the M.C., Roy Smith. He did a swell job on the "mike." If I owned a radio station I'd sure offer him a job. Have no room to describe any more. Suffice it to say everything was perfect.

\* \* \*

On Sunday, Sept. 4th, the Sunnyside H. C. held an open tournament on their courts in Woodside, Long Island. It consisted of a ten-man round robin. Pat Brady topped them all by winning all nine games with a percentage of 68.1 Next came Zichella with a loss of only one game, pitching 64.5%. Third position was taken by Vito Fileccia, New York State Champ, losing two games and pitching 69.1%. The highest percentage for any single game was pitched by Joe Frisco who poured them on for 86.7%. After the tournament all the boys were invited to Sunnyside's club rooms where refreshments were served.

\* \* \*

This being the Convention number, those of you who sent in articles and do not find them will have to excuse me for the lack of space.

\* \* \*

## PENNSYLVANIA

By H. S. Gamble

### 27TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA STATE TOURNAMENT

August 13, 1949—Pittsburgh, Pa.

	Qual.	Won	Lost	%
1. Fulton .....	121	10	1	71.3
2. Murph .....	129	9	2	62.7
3. J. Clingan .....	126	9	2	64.8
4. Engle (1 N.P.) .....	132	8	2	65.0
5. Bigi .....	118	6	5	53.7
6. DiRocco (1 N. P.) .....	132	6	4	58.8
7. Metts .....	121	5	6	57.5
8. Solomon .....	119	3	8	53.9
9. Dean .....	121	3	8	53.5
10. Glinka (1 N. P.) .....	121	3	7	46.6
11. Craig (1 N. P.) .....		2	8	50.7
12. Van Cherrie .....	119	0	11	43.0

\* \* \*

### Horseshoe Pitching Seen in Comeback at District Courts

By Al Redo

The game of horseshoes is again making a comeback after having been put aside during the war years due to lack of leisure time among war workers. Those who have learned to enjoy the game wonder why it has never become as popular as other sports. Perhaps many believe it lacks excitement and speed. However, those who watch an evenly matched game between skilled players will find it can an exciting exhibition of skill.

The playing rules of the game are far more simple than those of baseball or football and the average person has no trouble understanding it thoroughly after the first game.

The game can be played by any man, woman or youngster. The regulation distance for men is forty feet and the weight of the shoes is two and one-half pounds. For youths and women the distance is thirty feet and the shoes from a weight of one and a half to two pounds. The needed equipment is simple and low in cost. All that is necessary is two iron stakes about thirty-six inches in length and one inch thick, four horseshoes and a level plot of ground ten feet wide by fifty feet long.

A permanent court can later be laid out with clay around the stakes and plank or concrete platforms. The addition of three lights over the courts enables games to be played until midnight (if the neighbors are good-natured).

Age is no barrier and it is common to see a lad of sixteen trying to match his skill against a cagy veteran of sixty. The only way to enjoy any game is to play it yourself. The players and members of the "Lucky Horseshoe Club" welcome you any evening after 7 p.m., at Center Street, Braddock.

\* \* \*

## WISCONSIN

By Rickey Buettner

### BARTLEN WINS "SHOE" HONORS

A newcomer to Milwaukee horseshoe pitching, Tommy Bartlen from Los Angeles, won the state championship Sunday at the state fair, and did it in such style that followers of the barnyard sport were talking about arranging a match between the new champion and Casey Jones of Waukesha, who could not defend the title because of a conflict with the national tournament. Jones finished third in the national Saturday at Murray, Utah.

Bartlen was beaten by Carl Pfeffer in his first game. His ringer percentage was only 75 but the whole field was down because of the poor condition of the courts.

Larry Powers of La Crosse won the class B title in a pitch-off with John Bower, Milwaukee, and Joe Madden, Waukesha, after all three tied in the round robin matches with 5-2.

The class A round robin results:

Tommy Bartlen, Milwaukee, 14-1; Stanley Kivlin, Madison, 12-3; Harry Reese, Fond du Lac, 11-4; Earl Ramquist, Beloit, 11-4; Carl Pfeffer, 11-4; Ed Schimek, Milwaukee, 10-5; Alten Van Iten, Green Bay, 8-7; M. Mahlum, La Crosse, 8-7; Floyd Rogers, Lake Beulan, 7-8; Gilbert Rank, Milwaukee, 7-8; Ed Weide, Oconomowoc, 6-9; Walter Fager, Ixonia, 5-10; Andy Klebuchar, Kenosha, 5-10; Bernard Soch, Sheboygan, 4-11; Art Patchin Albany, 2-13; Frank Filiput, Milwaukee, 0-15.

\* \* \*

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