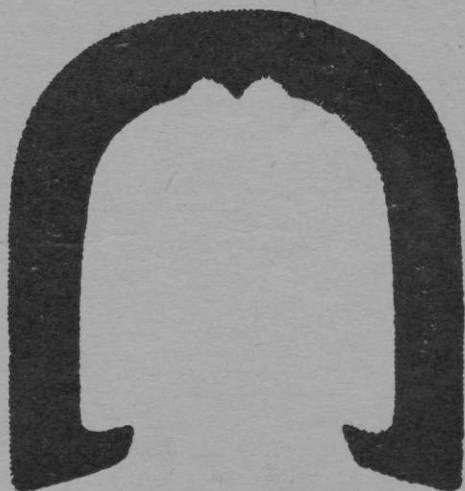


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



**JANUARY, 1950**

**Vol. 2**

**No. 5**

## EDITORIAL

The September issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER carried an article written by me stating how complimented I felt because the National Horseshoe Pitchers Assn. conferred the honor on me by making this magazine their official organ. Before and since that time I have been giving the horseshoe game and the National more publicity than horseshoes has ever received before. This was done gratis.

Having been barely getting by during this period without having any financial loss (my profit for a year amounting to much less than one hundred dollars) I asked our President to help support the magazine by paying for a monthly one page ad for the Association out of the funds of the National. I further pointed out to him that all National Associations who had an Official Organ helped the publisher in this manner.

Nothing having come of my request for this type of cooperation, I am, from this date, withdrawing the title of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER as the Official Organ of the NHPA of A. In order to continue publishing I will have to have more income. Since September I have received many letters from horseshoe players all over the country agreeing with me. Now that all of this has been to no avail, from now on the subscription price will be \$2.00 per year. I feel sure that the rank and file members will give me their individual cooperation even if the National Association does not.

Editor.

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## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

As we are launching on a new year, there are a few things that I would like to make clear, to all members, and officers of this organization.

I will send to all secretaries of the States associations a receipt book, put out by the National, when you pay your dues to the secretary you will receive a receipt, this receipt will be good for 30 days, in which time the secretary will send the money in to me and I will send cards to the secretary, who in turn will make out the card and give it to you, in exchange for your receipt. If the clubs wish to have the cards on hand and not use the receipt, they can do as a number have already done, send me the money for as many cards as they wish at a time, then they will have the cards on hand at all times. This is a new rule that was passed at the convention at Murray, Utah, this year.

Soon after January 1, I will be sending out the checks to the clubs for their share of the horseshoe stamp fund, this will be paid according to the membership of each club, so I trust that you all will send me your complete list.

I am asked very often for a list of the clubs in the association, and the name and address of the officers of each club. I have pleaded with you to send these to me as I want to make up a roster of them all and send to all of the clubs. I realize that many have their elections in July, or at other times during the year, but send me what you have, and tell me when there will be new officers elected. I am being criticized for not sending these out, and I simply cannot do this when I cannot get the clubs to cooperate, and send them to me.

Now last but not the least, I want to again try and clear up a mistaken idea that so many have regarding the money that they pay into this organization. Very often I hear it said that the money which the members pay into the association is used in our National Tournaments. Let me say now that not one cent of your money is used in any way, in our National Tournaments. Your money is used only in the promoting and building up of this association. The only money that we use in the National Tournaments is the 25% of the money collected for the horseshoe stamps, and the entry fees collected at the tournaments, all of the prize money comes from the sponsors of the tournament. I hope that this will clear up this misunderstanding, and that you are assured that your money is used only for the good of the Association.

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## **CORRECTION ABOUT THE NEW CONSTITUTION**

**By Peter Cartwright**

In October's THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, Harvey Clear, Secretary of the N.H.P.A., stated, in the beginning of the second paragraph of an article by him, "There were a number of things that were put through by our former President, Mr. Harris, in our new Constitution, some of which will be impossible to carry out."

That sentence is a complete misstatement. I served on the committee that revised the Constitution and By-Laws. I did the job of being Recording Secretary. Thus I know about everything that occurred during the committee's work. Doubtless, Harvey's misstatement has caused all of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER'S readers who were not at the Murray, Utah, Convention and World's Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, this last August, to believe that Harris dominated us eleven other committeemen—for there were twelve on the committee—and that we cravenly submitted to his dictatorship.

How completely untrue! Readers, here are the facts:

Three days before the beginning of the Tournament, in Murray, in the auditorium at the Murray fairgrounds, about two hundred feet from the big, fine, horseshoe court, there was a gathering, for a business meeting, of all of the N.H.P.A. delegates, who had come from all over the United States. President Harris presided over the meeting. For he still was president. The Convention's election of officers was not to occur until three days later.

Harris stated that the most important business just ahead, was for him to appoint a committee, to begin the revising of the Constitution and By-Laws of the N.H.P.A.—a big job that had long needed doing. Harris selected from among the delegates, the eleven he wanted to work with him, as a committee, on the revising. He omitted choosing Harvey as one of the committeemen. He made no explanation, why. Nor shall I make any conjecture as to why.

The main part of the meeting, was adjourned. The committee, with Harris presiding, immediately began working on the revision.

For three days, and until nearly midnight of each of the three, we committeemen worked hard and honestly on the revision. At no time, throughout all of our painfully long, hard, work did Harris make any attempt to dominate the committee's labor. He made no more suggestions for revisions, than did any of the rest of us. He did nothing that would give absent-from-the-committee Harvey the slightest justification for claiming that "There were a number of things that were put through by our former President, Mr. Harris, in our new Constitution . . ."

Harris was not the committeeman who authored the suggestion for the revision that raised the N.H.P.A.'s dues, and included a subscription to THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. Louis Dean originated that sug-

gestion. He presented it with what we other committeemen considered as logic; and he argued persuasively, and, we other committeemen thought, convincingly, that the idea would work out well. Louis' idea was not, and it was not the idea of any of the rest of us committeemen, as Harvey now wrongly claims, to "make it compulsory for each member to be a subscriber." Louis' plan, and the plan of all the rest of us, was that a subscription to the magazine, would be included as one of the several good rewards for the members of the N.H.P.T.

Harvey's wrong claim—and he not only has made it in THE HORSE-SHOE PITCHER, but he made it, too, to me, and to a number of my horseshoe-pitching friends, during the September N.H.P.A.-conducted Horseshoe Tournament at the fairgrounds at Pomona, Calif.—that Harris put a number of things into the new Constitution, is, by implication, an absolutely unjustified and unjustifiable disparagement of the character, ability, and integrity, of the eleven of us who served with Harris, on the revision committee. For we eleven would have had to be weaklings, indeed, distressingly lacking in intelligence and sincerity, if we had submitted to any such travesty on right. Whatever status, Harris has with you who read this, I know that you want him accorded justice.

Nothing went into the new Constitution, that was not approved by a majority of the committeemen. In most instances, we worked on debatable being-revised passages, until we had them in such shape, that our approval was unanimous.

The proof that the new Constitution and By-Laws are good, is the fact that when the revision was finished, and all of the delegates who were not on the committee, were re-assembled, and the proposed revisions were read to those delegates, for their approval, or disapproval—only two or three "conscientious objectors" objected to the sum and substance of any revised clause of whatever nature. Of course, the delegates made a number of good suggestions, for re-wordings, re-phrasings, and re-detailings—but except for those minor changes, the delegates voted for the new Constitution, with a near-unanimity that is rarely accorded any document.

With the revision work approved, and the pitching in the big Tournament, begun, a considerable number of the pitchers came to me, and told me that they thought the new Constitution was much the best that the N.H.P.A. had ever had—that the revising had long needed doing—and that they had begun to think it wasn't going to be done. Too, as the Tournament went on, several of my fellow-committeemen told me that a number of pitchers had said the same complimentary thing, to them.

I've no doubt, Editor Jaskulek, that you will receive other protests from other committeemen, against Harvey's claim that Harris put a number of things into the new Constitution, that will have to come out.

I feel sure that my fellow-committeemen have the same attitude, I possess—that none of us want to stir up trouble. But we have intelligence enough to know that if our National Secretary's wrong assertions are allowed to go unchallenged, and not corrected, a plethora of trouble will be stirred up, by the N.H.P.A.'s members being permitted to believe that the new Constitution was written by eleven incompetent committeemen, working under the dictatorship of the N.H.P.A.'s president.

Indubitably—perhaps, even now; and, as time goes on—minor defects will be discovered in the new Constitution. As they are, let them be plucked out, and improved substitutions, occur. But may no one be permitted to wreck a Constitution and By-Laws which the whole body of N.H.P.A. delegates, assembled in Murray, last August, was voted much the best that the N.H.P.A. has ever had.

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## Open Letter to the Readers of The Horseshoe Pitcher

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the position of the Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association and the majority of its members. I believe that the majority of the pitchers in Ohio prefer pitching the cancellation system over the point system—this was shown in the poll taken by Byron Jaskulek last summer where the Ohio pitchers who voted, showed 5 to 1 in favor of the cancellation system. (I do not know whether six pitchers voted or 360, but regardless of the number, I believe it is fairly accurate.)

When the Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association was organized, the method of pitching was thoroughly discussed by the organizing group, which included State Champions and future Champions that since the primary purpose of the Association was to promote horseshoes in Ohio, this could best be accomplished through league play which allows more pitchers to take part in our sport than if we just held tournaments at the end of the year. We also decided that if league play was to be continued year after year, with the chances of breaking up cut to a minimum—it had to be conducted under the point system where there is a chance of handicapping the beginners so as to make it interesting for the beginner to take part.

Under the cancellation system, the Champions stand out as almost unbeatable, and they shine as a "Star." But under the point system, the Champions appear only as a player with a higher average and he does not stand out as he would under Cancellation.

I believe that since most State Associations and also the National Association is composed of and most conventions are attended by Champions and near Champions, that, these Champions and leaders are a little selfish in upholding a method of play where their ability shines the brightest.

The Champions of Ohio and the organizers of the Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Associations were willing to forego the honor of being a "Standout Player" in order to promote Horseshoes for all who want to pitch in the State of Ohio. Promoting horseshoes should not be just promoting a tournament at the end of the year, but it should promote horseshoes throughout the year through league play, then after the players have established averages, conducting tournaments, for their respective classes.

The Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association will continue to promote horseshoes through league play using the point system, even though the majority would prefer to play cancellation individually, and unless more State Association leaders and their Champions are willing to forego the honor of shining as "Stars," these State Associations will continue to show only a small membership.

Johnny Kovacs.  
Sec'y O.H.P.A.

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## OVER THE COFFEE CUP

By Leland S. Mortenson

For want of a better title, this column will be known as "Over The Coffee Cup." It will bring up any subject matter that might be discussed when two or more horseshoe pitching fans gather together, whether it be over a cup of coffee in the scorekeeper's tent, and whether it be in Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, or under any other circumstances.

Speaking about public interest in a horseshoe pitcher, I remember no one with greater appeal than Putt Mossman. Almost everywhere he went, people would gather around him just for curiosity sake. In 1930

for example, I went with Putt for a week of exhibitions, and one evening we stopped at Roland, Iowa to say hello to Joe Hill and Maurice Hill, well known Iowa tossers. A crowd of about 50 males ranging from ages of 12 to 20 gathered around us and then followed us as we walked around the business section—just to idolize what was to them “the great Putt Mossman.” Putt enjoyed it and remarked: “They do that wherever I go.” During the remainder of the week I found his statement to be according to fact.

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Two articles in the November issue of this magazine merit some special comment. One, the editors message regarding the expense involved in publishing THE HORSESHOE PITCHER; the other, Bill Nellis' suggestion that the Association pay for making a moving picture about our sport and then send out a contact man with four exhibition pitchers on a salary.

It seems to me that the need of getting behind this magazine is a first order of business, and that the original plan to give the magazine with memberships should be followed, and that the Association should subsidize the magazine in addition. I am not in a position to suggest what amount to subsidize as I don't have the least idea as to how much money the association is deriving from the stamp funds or the expenses the association has been paying from these funds.

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It has never been the policy of the association to publish statements of receipts and disbursements, but I wonder if it wouldn't be a good move to change this policy so that all of the intelligence of the association members might be in a position to intelligently give some thought as to how best to use the money. Why wouldn't it be well to have a complete report on receipts and disbursements for the stamp act since it was passed in 1946; and also a complete similar report for the general fund for the past two or three years?

Unless we have such a report in publication, we are all more or less in the dark in trying to formulate plans for method of expenditure.

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Bill Nellis' suggestion is far from fantastic, although many readers may not agree. It is to be lauded, and we ought to have more people thinking along the same line.

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If any people thought an idea was fantastic, it was the military personnel of Camp Cook, California, when they learned that I was to be sent to Special Service Headquarters of the Army in New York City to direct the horseshoe pitching program for the army. The men seemed amazed and at mess the evening of October 13, 1944. I heard voices all over the building such as “horseshoe pitching;” “I know he is a good horseshoe pitcher but I can't understand.” I heard later that it was the subject matter that night all over the camp and even in a nearby town.

Of course, I considered the entire plan quite logical and long past due, as did the then National Association President, Harry Woodfield. Fortunately for the program, the top officers of the army were sold on the plan to the same extent as were Woodfield and I.

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President Louis Dean recently appointed me chairman of the committee to promote horseshoe pitching in Germany. You will recall that Dr. Geo. Siebert was giving instructions to students in the Giengen-Brenz High School and that the text book was “Science at the Stake,” written by Roy Smith. Harry Woodfield was handling the promotion from this end of the world as Chairman of the International Committee. Nothing has been heard from Dr. Siebert for about eight months. On

October 26, I wrote him a letter and asked if some sort of horseshoe contests might be possible.

I never cease to wonder why some well known pitchers, even association officers, with a record of extreme popularity, drop completely away from the sport. I am thinking right now of Sam Somerhalder of Guide Rock, Nebraska. He was a former Nebraska Wesleyan football star, and he was second vice-president of the National Association. He was champion horseshoe pitcher of Nebraska and in 1938 he won a game from Fernando Isais in the Mid-west National tournament, almost skunked him. We last saw him in the 1940 World meet, have heard nothing further concerning him. It was about 1938 that some of the contestants in the Mid-West national meet tested their strength in overhanded throwing of a horseshoe. Somerhalder outdistanced all of the others. If any of you readers know of Sam Somerhalder's present address, please let us know as we understand that he is not living at Guide Rock.

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## ILLINOIS

By Geo. J. Hilst

Let's make 1950 a banner year. First let's correct a mistake and let the rooters root. If it bothers any of the pitchers that is just the sport of the game. Sure, it would help the favorite to win. So what! The fans would come to see horseshoe pitching if they would get a kick out of it. I was sitting on the sidelines most of the time in 1949. I noticed how dead it was and if anyone came up who knew nothing about horseshoe pitching and started to root and have a good time, he was told not to bother the pitchers. He didn't stay around long. This is a mistake. No other sport does it. Why? Because they depend on their audiences to support the game.

Say you had a horseshoe tournament and there were some rich men watching and having a good time, it would boost horseshoes among the rich. Then you would get offers for tournaments, plenty of money. Let's put this in the national rules for 1950. Any pitcher that doesn't want the fans to root is a poor sport. If you go to a tournament and expect the fans to root it won't bother you as much as you think it would. Let's get a kick out of it ourselves. At Milwaukee I was leading Casey Jones 26 to 19. The announcer said there might be an upset on court 5. I didn't blow up then, but later when he said "the pitchers all look alike to Hilst" I blew up. Was I mad? No, I got a kick out of it. Why did it bother me and not Casey? Well, Casey expected it and was used to it where I never before had an announcer say anything about me. We would get used to the rooting and I believe we would try to become favorites so the fans would be on our side. We might even take some fans along to root for us like they do in basketball, baseball, football, etc.

Come on you horseshoe fans! Do something!  
I am going to try to put this over in Illinois.

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## OHIO

By A. B. McCoy

The Executive Board of the Buckeye State Horseshoe Pitchers Association met in Columbus, O., December 4, 1949, at the Y.M.C.A.

The Board, one and all, seemed to be very confident of having the best year we ever have had in 1950. Our secretary related that many players who had not taken an active part in the past have written in asking for membership cards for 1950.

Each County will be required to hold a County Championship tournament (we have 88 counties) then each District must hold a District Championship tournament (each District comprises 6 or 7 counties). We have District Commissioners in each District, and a county Commissioner for each County. We have tried this method out over a five year period, and we have found that 90% of our membership came from Counties WHERE THEY HAVE HELD THEIR COUNTY TOURNAMENTS and THEIR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS, therefore our method of getting the players all over the State into our Association and the National is sure fire, no hit and miss program. The reason the players will join our association, is very simple. The big majority of players feel that we do have a program that they can participate in, that they have a chance of winning their County and District Championship, and thereby receive a certificate of Championship from the National Association. I had the pleasure of mailing out several such Championship certificates this year (the first time this has been done) and the boys that received them all wrote me that they got more kick out of receiving their certificates, than anything that had happened to them since they have been pitching horseshoes, and that they would work hard to get all the members possible for our association in 1950.

We all know that only a half dozen players in the U. S. A. have any chance of winning the National Crown. We also know that the same situation exists in each State for the State Title, therefore, if we are going to have a membership of any proportion, we must offer something to the vast majority of players, and the County and District Championship tournaments is the answer, make no mistake about that.

There are several ways we have missed the boat in the years past, and now that we know most of the reasons for lack of interest in the game, why don't we do something about it?

1. Lack of fine Horseshoe Courts.
2. Where we do have a fairly good lay-out of courts; invariably they are never kept in condition to play on.
3. Lack of color or showmanship; most players want no part of any demonstration of interest in games where they are the performers. Here is a very bad situation insofar as ever getting the public interested in Horseshoes. Personally, I would like to see the day when the public and non-contestant's will be allowed to root and encourage or discourage the performers. When this happens we will be on our way to make the Horseshoe game something to write home about.
4. We are woefully weak insofar as publicity in our newspapers is concerned. It would seem that we are afraid to let the public know anything about our game. We never had one word in our papers here in Ohio about our last World Tournament. I am sure that we could get the proper publicity, if we went after it.
5. Last, but in my opinion a very important part of our game, is the subscribing of each player for THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. We have the following plan in Ohio, and we suggest that each State do likewise.

Each member, when he pays for his 1950 membership card, will be urged to subscribe to THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. Here is where some salesmanship will enter the picture—we must explain to each member, that to know what is going on in the horseshoe world it is necessary to have THE HORSESHOE PITCHER coming into his home each month.

I sold two (2) subscriptions Sunday. It was easy! Just asked them, and I received their money. Each player said he was going to subscribe, but had just put it off. We expect to really get going for THE HORSESHOE PITCHER in 1950.

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## KANSAS

By Marie Kampschroeder, 2nd Vice-Pres. (N. H. P. A.)

Those who read this magazine and know of any lady horseshoe pitchers, would you please send me their address, to Marie Kampschroeder, 656 West 23rd, Lawrence, Kansas. I feel there may be several ladies who pitch, living in the same vicinity, that do not know of one another and by writing to me I will try and arrange a meeting for them. This Fall I was very much surprised to find a good lady pitcher in Lawrence, who contacted me after reading in our local paper of my placing second in the National Horseshoe tournament at Murray, Utah. I would also like to create more interest in ladies attending the National Tournament and entering our tournaments.

For information to Lady Pitchers, which caused some confusion at the ladies tournament last year, the regulation distance to pitch is 30 feet, pitching the same regulation shoe as the men pitch.

I was very interested in the results that Pop Woodfield is having with his teen-agers in Maryland. After a round robin match, at our new courts, which are in the city park now, you can see the teen-agers coming out on the courts wanting instructions as to how to pitch properly.

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## MINNESOTA

By Andy Moehn

This seems to be a good time to take the old and the new N.H.P.A. constitution and by-laws for a check up; to find the changes and to compare your chartered constitution and to make sure you are up to date. If not, be sure to attend to this matter at once. You, who were elected at your last State Convention to serve as State Officers for the year of 1950 as leaders of your State Horseshoe Pitchers Assn., upon your shoulders rests the welfare of your men. You have the same responsibilities in your State as the National officers of the N.H.P.A.

They were elected with the full understanding that the new constitution obligated them to obey the laws as it stands whether to their individual liking or not and this applies to all State Officers as well. It seems reasonable to assume that National Officers should also know their State Constitutions. There should be no room for letting special interests interfering with your duties. The National has but one policy—the constitution. What do the National officers know about their State Constitutions? How about checking up on them. We cannot deny the fact that a loose leaf system has been in vogue. It seems that to get a Charter for a State, all that is necessary is to send in a few bucks and a few names, and that does the trick. No ability or character reference is needed, no particular instructions are needed on how to organize a State HPA under a Charter.

It strikes me that no business enterprise of any kind would be that careless if they wanted to start a branch store in some other State. They would not say "for ten bucks you can have the management of our business, we will furnish the goods, run it yourself and see what you can make of it." There is no doubt that the majority have done a good job of it for the National.

If we expect to build a bigger and better N.H.P.A. here in America, we should all know and understand what must be done, according to law, to run the States Assns. as a branch of the National and not allow any outside interests to interfere.

Closer cooperation between the National and States organizations will go a long way toward a better understanding.

Here is another thought or two—Jake and THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. He took a long chance when he started the sorely needed publication and never missed an issue up to this, the seventeenth number! I have no knowledge of the size of his subscription list, but there is general understanding that no daily, weekly or monthly paper or magazine that can long exist on the income of subscriptions only. Advertising is their only medium for staying on top.

From what we hear and read, the National Association and officers adopted THE HORSESHOE PITCHER as their Official Organ. In so doing, the N.H.P.A. is to some extent, obligated to see that the magazine is published regularly. Why don't they take a page ad each month for publicity purposes. Let's advertise our organization. I see no legal reason for the officers to wait for a constitution O.K. Jake is doing a good deed for the game and the Association. Start a campaign among all the State organizations to advertise in an effort to maintain this magazine. We need it. This will tend to wake up the horseshoe manufacturers and others closely affiliated with our game. Step on it!

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### CONSTITUTION COMMENTS

Your Editor will start the ball rolling! Insert "ten per cent of the stamp fund should be given the President each year to help defray his expenses."—State all the rules and regulations of the horseshoe game which will be official—Article 2, Section 6 should read Vice Presidents. Also "fourth Vice President" should be added—Add the same in Section 7. Section 12 should be changed to read "other six members of the Executive Council"—Section 4, Article 3, add "fourth Vice President"—Section 7, Article 3 should be "four out of the seven officers"—The following is VERY important. It should state that ALL entry fees for World Tournaments must go to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Assn.—the amount of dues to be paid and how the money from this and any other source is to be expended.

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The following suggestions from Lee Davis of Ridgefield, N. J.

Having read and re-read the new Constitution and By-Laws I think we should congratulate the committee on a job well done. Of course, we all have our own ideas as to the way the NHPA should be run, but when you have a committee of eleven people and they come out with results that seem sound in all respects, I, at least, think we should all stand in back of it 100%.

The important thing, to my way of thinking, is that they have made provisions so that if any part or all of it does not work, it can be readily changed through our delegates. What more can we ask.

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by Charles S. Gerrish

If the Constitution as printed in the Horseshoe Pitcher organ of December, 1949 is complete, it seems that some relative sections are separated and could be connected better. In Article 2, Section 2, it is stated that "No state shall have more than six delegates, if it has only one organization" (as if more than one organization might allow more than six delegates), and the next sentence refers to Article V where it must mean Article IV. Yet in Article IV, Section 2 it says, "In no case shall a state have more than 2 charters, nor more than 6 delegates . . ."

Article III, Section 11 mentions "first day of the convention", but one does not seem to find a place that stipulates what is the first day, etc.

It is fine to be putting the Constitution in order, clarifying and systemizing. The Rules of the Game could well be gone over too and perhaps be re-written and revised, as a good deal of improvement might be made there also. At present the task in hand seems to be the Constitution and By-Laws, so no doubt any pertinent suggestions in their regard are now in good order. As the writer has had experience in this phase of work, he is interested in this NHPA labor.

To begin with it is usually well when there are both Constitution and By-Laws, to be very brief with the former and very full with the latter. The Constitution needs only to declare the fundamentals of the society, with each Article numbered and definitely named. For example: a

1. The name of the Society or Organization.
2. The Object of the society.
3. Its membership and affiliations.
4. Its officers, manner of elections, length of terms and duties.
5. Time and place of meetings briefly, putting details in By-Laws.
6. How to amend the Constitution (with ample notice, 2/3 vote, etc.).

The By-Laws should be full, detailing the organization's government.

The usual points in By-Laws are:

1. Quorum stated.
2. Meeting time and place (if not fully covered in the Constitution).
3. Salaries of any officers.
4. Members' rights, duties and admission method.
5. Dues and fees of members.
6. Making and carrying motions. Motion is to be clearly stated and seconded before being opened to discussion, which is to be freely had by all until motion is re-stated by Chairman and then put to vote. Chair may require Written Motion when needful.
7. Roberts Rules of Order to govern conduct.
8. Order of business:
  - a. Call meeting to order.
  - b. Call roll of officers and delegates present.
  - c. Read previous meeting minutes.
  - d. Additions, corrections and approval of minutes.
  - e. Reports of officers, boards and standing committees.
  - f. Reports of special committees.
  - g. Memoranda of President: communications, notices, bills.
  - h. Unfinished business.
  - i. New business.
  - j. Good of Society, talks and entertainment.
  - k. Adjournment.
9. Method of amendment of By-Laws (or this item could be No. 6, and re-number the other items to follow.

We hope the By-Laws and most recent Game Rules will be in print soon.

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## 1950 Constitutional Comments and New Year's Message

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science At The Stake" and Secy.-Treas.  
Southern Calif. H. P. A.

Commenting on the Constitution as reprinted in last month's issue of this magazine, I notice that the original and not the final draft was printed. I presume this was because the final draft is not yet ready to be mailed out to all the clubs in the proposed mimeograph form. Several additions or amendments are contained in the final draft which the assembled delegates added when they voted on the new constitution and by-laws at the 1949 Convention in Murray, Utah.

The word "Incorporated" drew a lot of discussion and it was decided to hold this off for awhile. Our laws were incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio when they were first drawn up back in 1921. Under an incorporation, the whole body or business firm, not just certain individuals, are responsible; thus, in the case of NHPA, no certain member, but the whole Association, would be liable in case of a lawsuit that might be launched against it for some reason or other. The law varies in different states and some require the incorporation to be renewed every five, six or seven years or so. In the case of a taxable business enterprise, being incorporated makes said taxes lower. The laws and rules of a sport may be incorporated but I am pretty sure that they cannot be copyrighted by anyone because they are public property.

In Section 2, we allotted the specified number of delegates with the majority of the 48 states in mind thus preventing a centralization of power in one, two or three states having the most N.H.P.A. memberships. For example, New York City has the largest population of all our cities yet this does not give it the power to force all the others to accept and abide by the city government of New York City. In our national government, each state, regardless of population, is allowed only two senators. In short, we felt that a majority rule by states would prevent a minority from packing the conventions and establishing a dictatorship. While majority rule has its weakness inasmuch as 51 morons can place 49 learned scholars in a dungeon, this rarely happens. And we have no morons in our sport anyway so far as I know. Hitler and Togo and many other dictators in history have conclusively proven that minority rule cannot and will not work for any great length of time. Without the observance of majority rule, we cannot enjoy a democratic government of any kind.

In Section 6, there should be FOUR Vice-Presidents listed. These are: 1st V.P. G. A. Berger of Murray, Utah; 2nd, Marie Kampschroeder of Lawrence, Kansas; 3rd, W. F. McCleary of Midvale, Utah; 4th, Andy Moehn of St. Paul, Minn. These four Vice-Presidents, together with President Louis Dean of Pomona, Calif.; Harvey W. Clear of Santa Cruz, the Secretary; and Mary Jones, the Treasurer constitute the Executive Council as specified in Section 7. It was felt that seven officers were needed to break a tie that might occur in voting which could easily occur with six officers. Then too, it was decided to divide the offices of Secretary-Treasurer to (1) Lighten the work for the Secretary; (2) To create an odd number in the Executive Council as just stated above; (3) To follow the custom of lodges, labor unions and other organizations who have their offices of Secretary and Treasurer separate so that one person holding two offices at once cannot assume too much authority. In these organizations, the Secretary prepares the warrants, the President signs them and they are given to the Treasurer. Thus, the authorized signatures of three officers are required to draw funds from the treasury.

I want to state right now that this was not done because anyone on the committee had any doubts about the honesty of our officers. I know

that such a thought never entered my mind. I would stake everything that I have or ever hope to have on the honesty of Harvey Clear and Mary Jones. Evidently, all the other delegates felt the same way for they all voted to put Harvey and Mary in their respective offices. But, I think that most of the committee looked forward to the possibility that we might have a much larger membership with say, \$10,000 or \$15,000 in the treasury in the next five or ten years. Suppose this came to pass and some smooth individual spotted such a rich plum and decided to get himself elected for the two offices. He could take a trip around the world, spend \$14,999.00, leaving one dollar in the treasury and say his trip was to promote horseshoes on a worldwide scale. He could claim that he had installed a dozen courts at the North Pole for the Eskimo's at a cost of so much and that a hookup with the Northern Lights consumed the balance. Who would bother to go up there and check on the truth of his statement

So far as I know, there have never been any funds pilfered from the N.H.P.A. treasury because the sport has never been rich enough to attract a crooked promoter. BUT IT COULD HAPPEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW! For this reason, I would like to see an amendment added to the constitution requiring a complete financial report on the financial status of the Association at the end of each fiscal year. And this fiscal year should be changed to extend from July 1st to July 1st instead of from January 1st to January 1st as it is now. As it is, our fiscal year is split up with 6 months of old business to carry along with 6 months of the new. The Auditing Committee should know its business well and examine everything carefully before giving their approval. This is only good common and sound business sense and all successful business firms follow such a procedure. While, I am surely not a business executive, I believe that the sooner we adopt a solid and sound method of business practice the better off we will be.

The danger lies not so much in someone stealing the funds but in squandering them on some pet impractical scheme. We have many fine minds in the game; some members are lawyers, others are bookkeepers, teachers and business people who understand sound business administration and I think their talents should be used to place our sport on a solid financial basis. We have only to look at professional boxing, football and other sports, where large amounts of money are involved, to see the graft and shady promoters connected with them. The time to close our barn door is BEFORE our horses are stolen.

In listing the revised Roberts Rules of Order in Section 10, Rules 7 and 8 should be "The Good and Welfare of the Association" and "Financial Report", followed by "New Business" and "Adjournment."

In Article IV, Section II, in which we gave California as an example for states having two Charters, we gave Northern Calif. with its larger membership, the majority of our state's delegates and an amendment was added (and worded by me) to give the larger association the power to SANCTION all of our state's tournaments. Here again, we showed our desire for majority rule. Our two state groups get along well together and do not infringe on each others rights. We have our sectional tournaments and they have theirs and we all get along well at the state tournament. If California can do this, other states can too.

I would like to see the final drafts of the Constitution and By-laws reprinted herein to give all the readers a more clear and complete understanding of them. There are a few minor points in the By-laws that could be improved but as a whole, the documents have my approval because I believe them to be democratic and fair to the majority. That is all that can ever be hoped for; we knew that it was impossible to please everyone even though we could have succeeded in formulating a

perfect set of laws. It isn't easy to sit down for many tiresome hours, cast aside your pet theories, personal desires and prejudices and make impartial and intelligent decisions when you do not know the exact situations that exist in other localities. We did the best we could and it was not our fault that certain other members were not put on the committee as, perhaps, they should have been. President Harris had the right to appoint whom he pleased and he used his prerogative in doing so. Mr. Harris or no one else tried to dominate the committee. All submitted good ideas that were acceptable and when we disagreed—as we often did on certain things—we discussed our differences in a friendly and courteous manner. As I stated before, I have never worked with a finer group of people. They have fine minds and I respect and admire all of them. We had to make many difficult decisions and we all felt that we had to come out and stand for what we thought was right or we would fall for anything. I don't deny that we may have made some mistakes for we are all human. However, these minor errors can be corrected at future Conventions. Personally, I have no apologies to make to anyone for my decisions. If and when I am proved wrong, I will admit it right out before God and everybody. And I will disagree with others the same way.

Insofar as I know now this is all the comment that I have to make on the new laws. For some time I have thought that I am hogging too much space in this magazine. Others should have a chance to voice their opinions and I want to read what they have to say. Many of these folks are far better educated than I. They have a wealth of fine ideas to benefit the sport. I would like to see all the Vice-Presidents and officers come out with their straight-from-the-shoulder opinions. Let us know how we can cooperate more fully in helping to build a sound financial, well-knit and progressive organization.

It is too bad that a complete understanding was not effected in regards to the magazine. Ducking and postponing a problem only leaves a hangover for the next convention. I think all such issues should be met head on and settled when they arise. Personally, I would be more than willing to pay \$3.00 or even \$5.00 a year for a combined state and national membership card along with the magazine. What other sport can be enjoyed so cheaply for a year. One evening of bowling and an afternoon of golf or pool could easily run well over this amount. WE MUST STOP THINKING IN TERMS OF PENNIES and of squeezing them until a permanent wave is put in poor old Abe Lincoln's beard!

I have a lot of confidence in the abilities of our officers to work with the fine people of Utah in making the 1950 tournament one of the greatest ever staged and the fore-runner of even greater ones to come. The right kind of advertising, salesmanship and showmanship will do it and I hope to present some of my ideas about this in a future issue. Personalities and trifles should be relegated to the background and all pitch together on this. Team work is the Key to the Door of Success. The people of Utah have already put out the Welcome Mat and oiled the hinges well. I honestly believe that we can have a \$10,000 or \$15,000 tournament in 1951 or 1952. But to realize this fond dream, we must discard our negative thinking of "we can't do this or that" to a positive and confident attitude of WE CAN AND WE WILL"! An old Chinese proverb states: "To start on a long journey, one has only to take one step." Let's take that step. We know where we want to go and the sooner we start the sooner we will arrive at our goal. The road to The Promised Land lies directly before us. A Happy and Successful New Year For Our Sport and to All Associated With It!

\* \* \*

## JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Cletus Chapelle, president of the Oregon State H. P. A. says that plans are in the talking stage for the formation of a Northwest City League, composed of Bremerton, Yakima, Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., with Portland, Oregon. A home and home series will be played throughout the Summer. He says he is sure such a program will help to put horseshoes on the map in the Northwest. He adds that the pitchers in his part of the Country are dead set against the count-all system.

\* \* \*

Casey Jones and his wife, Mary are planning to do a lot for the game in their State of Wisconsin this coming season. They expect to take week-end trips around their territory to build up membership in the National by teaching the game to the teen-agers and give exhibitions.

\* \* \*

**Pitch horseshoes for profit. For tips and pointers on game income, send ten cents and stamped addressed envelope to C. S. Gerrish, P. O. Box 2, Portsmouth, N. H.**

\* \* \*

The Pennsylvania State Farm Show will conduct their yearly horseshoe tournament on January 12th and John Fulton, of Carlisle, Pa. (he is the Pa. State Champion) has promised to send us the results.

\* \* \*

On January 1st the Inwood Horseshoe Club of New York City held a combined New Year's party Installation of Officers for 1950. This affair was held in their club rooms at 500 West 215th Street. The new officers were sworn in by two well known members of the club; George Thompson and Tom McKeever. The new officers are: Bernard Rush, President, Donald O'Leary, Vice President; William Donohue, Treasurer; and Daniel Sullivan, Secretary. There was music, dancing and plenty to eat and drink.

\* \* \*

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\* \* \*

Know anyone who would like a sample copy Just send me his name and address.

\* \* \*

If you have changed your address let me know what it is because the Post Office Department does not forward this class of mail.

\* \* \*

Attention! Members of the Empire State Branch of the N.H.P.A. It is now 1950 and that means it is now in order to pay your dues. Just send a buck to your Secy.-Treas., Byron Jaskulek (Jake).

\* \* \*

Thanks for all the Christmas cards I received for me and the Missus.

\* \* \*

### SKIERS CRAZY? HORSESHOE CHAMPS TO PLAY JAN. 22

It's June in January!

At least that's the attitude of certain members in Portsmouth, N. H. horseshoe pitching sect.

Believe it or not! There's going to be a city championship play-off down at the South playground Sunday, Jan. 22. The ringer makers are go'ng to be there if they have to wring their hands to keep themselves warm.

Howard White, former city champ, issued a challenge to Charlie Gerrish, present city champion, from a thousand miles away. White, a sailor, is stationed at Norfolk, Va., and his claim to the city title emanated from that point.

White recently pitched an exhibition match in Newport News and came out with 77 ringers in 100 shoes, including 30 doubles, for 255 out of 300 points. He wrote that in the challenge. Better watch out, Charlie. The title match will be six out of 11 games, the first half to be played on the 22nd and the rest later.

In the meantime, those letters have failed to bother the sturdy Gerrish. He is willing to take on any candidate for his crown anytime.

Anytime is right! Even in the middle of January, when it should be cold outside.

\* \* \*

## THE INDIAN'S VERSION OF A HORSESHOE GAME

### White man ver' funny

White man he ver' funny; he make fun with little things; he get iron stick and put it in ground and dig by it; make ground soft like dirt in white man's garden. White man no drive stick in ground straight it lean little like smoke when wind blow slow; he put two sticks, maybe six sticks, maybe ten sticks in ground—heap foolish. Then he get horseshoe and throw at iron stick; sometimes horseshoe hit stick maybe stay on stick maybe go like wild cat when Indian shoot him with arrow and white man say like he mad.

When white man throw horseshoe, he say like crazy man; he say one dead; sometimes two dead but Indian no see dead man and white man no die. Indian no see tomahawk, no see gun but white man say—dead—white man heap much crazy.

White man throw horseshoe look foolish; Indian sit down smoke pipe get fat so Indian no crazy like white man.

Pale face man no use good horseshoe; he make ver' funny shoe ver' large and for no put on horse, no holes for nails and shoes white man play with have iron on like hooks.

When Indian play, he play little—white man heap dumb—play all day sometimes he make moonlight on wire and play long time while Indian sleep in his teepee.

Indian hear many funny things at white man's games; he no savvy what pale face say. Indian feel much head ache when fire water man say "Suckers lead." Indian no see sucker and he no see sucker lead but when he fish sucker bite. White man talk ver' crazy.

White man say more funny things, when he throw two horseshoes on stick he say double and he mean sometimes three, sometimes six so Indian make plenty fool of himself when he try to savvy white man's game—he no see what double mean.

White man more crazy yet, him say in hole but he play long time and he no get in hole. Too much for Indian he go and smoke and watch squaw work.

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