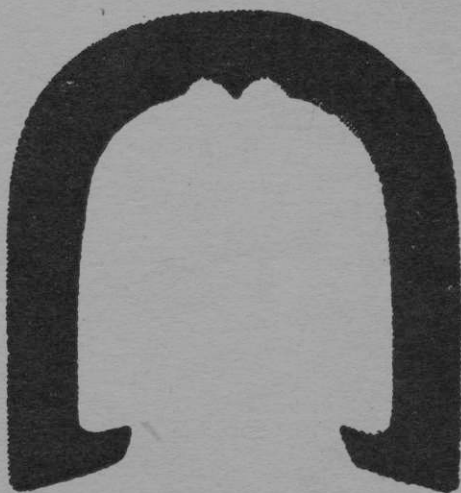


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of
**The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
of America**



MARCH, 1951

Vol. 3

No. 7

EDITORIAL

This is the time, now that a new playing season lies ahead of us, to ponder on the future prospects of the sport of horseshoe pitching. We have many good reasons to believe that this will be the most successful year we have ever experienced. Through the medium of magazines, newspapers, radio, television and our own association, we are in a good position to get more sponsors for tournaments, local and national in scope. Before we had all these means of publicity at our command, it was quite difficult to get sponsors interested enough to finance horseshoe tournaments, the principle reason being that no one thought there was enough spectator interest to warrant an expenditure of their good, hard cash.

Those days are gone forever! Let us go back as far as 1946. At the World tournament held then at Des Moines, Iowa, the sponsors came up with \$500.00 in prize money. Then, in 1947, Murray, Utah, put up \$2,000.00. 1948 saw Milwaukee, Wis. raise the ante to \$3,000.00 and then for three years in a row, 1949, 50 and 51, our good friends in Murray put up \$5,000.00. As there is going to be a "B" tournament also this year, I firmly believe the total cash awards will be higher than in the whole history of horseshoe pitching. After noting these facts, the doubting Thomas's should be convinced that horseshoes is an up and coming sport.

To you readers of this magazine who are not members of the N. H. P. A.—Why not join up NOW and do your share of promotion?

* * *

ADMINISTRATION: FLAWS IN OUR LAWS

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

Fellow members of the N.H.P.A., most of you know by this time that the new Constitution, By-Laws, and Playing Rules are now available in booklet form. The booklets are attractive. Perhaps most of you have a copy by this time. If not, and you are interested in the workings of our organization, ask the National Secretary, Archie Gregson, to send you a copy. Study it carefully, and let our officers know where and how the laws can be improved. Good laws are essential in all successful organizations.

I have studied the new laws pretty thoroughly and I believe that several improvements can be made. In some places, the wording is rather awkward. A few minor deletions and additions, here and there

would improve and clarify several sentences. It is not necessary to couch the language in a flowery manner or to employ a lot of legal-sounding terms. This would only tend to confuse, rather than clarify. Before I list the minor flaws that I have found, I want to comment briefly on my ideas of administration and the qualities that officials must have to run an efficient organization.

I believe that our organization is very fortunate to have the fine group of officers now serving. There are many fine men and women in our ranks who would make good officials. But, I believe we have the cream of the crop at the helm of our U. S. S. N.H.P.A., right now. They are all hard working, courteous, efficient individuals. Being good officers, they are vital to our organization. When President Dean accepted the Presidency of N.H.P.A., at the 1949 Convention, in Murray, he asked me to serve as his Administrative Assistant. I agreed to help all I could. He hasn't needed much help from me because he is well educated, and knows administration thoroughly. MUCH better than I do. But, insofar as I know, I am still his "administrative assistant," therefore, I believe he will not object if I state my opinion regarding our government. Here, in my estimation, are the qualities to look for in selecting officials:

There are many things that go to make up a good officer. First of all, and most important, perhaps, is his attitude. He must consider he is an officer to serve, not to rule. The man who, accepting an elective office, wants to lord it over the membership should be voted out at the first opportunity. If the job goes to his head, it merely proves that he is not qualified to accept responsibility. A good officer must be intelligent. It is not necessary that he have a lot of book learning or be highly "educated" as we generally consider the term. He should, however, have a good mind, capable of carrying on logical thought processes, reasoning clearly and deliberating carefully. He should have a good sense of judgment.

Beware of the bullheaded officer. Almost invariably, he will have the organization in a turmoil. **The ability to achieve a favorable compromise is essential to good leadership.** Many of the world's troubles today are the results of too many people being stubborn beyond reason and refusing to compromise or arbitrate. On the other hand, a too timid leader will soon lead the membership down the easy path of least resistance and the organization will become weak and ineffective.

Beware of the "good-time Charlie" officer who maintains his popularity by gladhanding everybody, who has such a likeable personality that no one can avoid falling beneath the spell of his personal charm. Watch carefully the man without any enemies. A good leader is bound to create at least some animosity. He knows that it is foolish to try and please everybody, and he won't attempt it. He abides by the wishes of the majority. **When one admits that he is bound by commitments to a minority group, he might just as well be honest about it and say, "I don't believe in majority rule."** Every ship leaves a wake and there is no forward progress without some friction. On the other hand, the pusher type, the man who can't let well enough alone, the man who has a host of enemies and very few friends (although he is always bragging about how many friends he has) will soon create enough friction to cause the spark that can set off the explosion to blow an organization skyhigh. Fortunately, this type of man seldom has enough

support to get himself elected. The "promise everything" and "do nothing" type is also, obviously, a poor risk.

The capable official must have a complete knowledge of the workings of the organization. Since most officers are elected from the rank-and-file members, this is, in most instances, automatic. A good officer has the ability to assume responsibility. He is not just a table-pounder, a smooth talker and a leather-lunged speaker and meeting conductor. He has enough personal stature to merit the respect of the members and the public, with whom he must meet often. His personal integrity must be beyond reproach. His sense of honesty and fair-dealing must be of the highest order. And, by the way, his external appearance—his shave, his haircut, (if he has any to cut) his clothes and his shoeshine—should be in proper condition. The public sees the entire horseshoe pitching sport mirrored in each officer with whom they come in contact, and first impressions are lasting!

Choose your officers critically. Observe them and their actions carefully. They are your servants. They represent you to the world at large. They must be faithful, friendly, zealous, honest, intelligent, personable, reasonable and capable. Make certain they are. I believe that all of our present officers measure up to these requirements. Again, I repeat that our organization is very fortunate to have such fine leadership.

Now, here are some of the discrepancies that I have discovered in our Constitution, By-Laws and Rules. Don't forget, I have said all along that they were not perfect. With so much to do, and so little time to do it—under rather unfavorable conditions—it was impossible for our Committee to note every error that occurred. To my knowledge, no member of the Committee was duped, doped, or dominated by anyone. Like all humans, we made mistakes, despite our sincere efforts to do a good job. Without further apologies for our work, I, herewith, submit the following list of errors and suggestions for corrections to the Executive Board, and the 1951 Constitutional Committee, for their consideration at the coming Convention:

Article III (Judiciary) Section II, (on page seven of the booklet) states: "All officers shall have their books, records, etc., belonging to the Association at Convention; or, if unable to be present, they must forward these to the President by registered mail, before the first day of the Convention." (This should be changed to read: "they must forward these **so they will reach** the President before the first day of the Convention." If the books, records, etc., are mailed a few hours before the first day of Convention, they will be useless to the President because they may be in the mail, miles away. The next sentence reads: "All officers shall turn over to their successors in office all records and property of the Association, that may or should be in their possession." (The two words "or should" should be omitted. **Suppose some property should be in an officers possession, yet it isn't. How is an officer going to return something he does not have?**)

Article VI, Sec. 3, (page ten). This paragraph binds the officers to the 90 day rule in accepting national tournament bids. But, suppose a certain bid was accepted, then, one week later, the Standard Oil Co. or the Coca-Cola people decided to sponsor a tournament and submitted

a much higher bid. The officers would either have to turn down the larger bid or break the rule. Can someone advance a better idea or plan to cover the bid situation?

Section 2, Article II of the By-Laws, (page twelve) deals with suspension for non-payment of dues. If some members are forced to drop out for a year or two, due to a protracted illness, injury, a foreign job, or service in the armed forces, would it be fair to make them pay all back dues before reinstating them? I think not.

Article III, Sec. 1, (page twelve) states: "In World Championships, the Cancellation System of scoring must be used." I would add the phrase, "except in qualifying by the **Count-all method.**" How can the cancel system be used in qualifying? Surely, a player does not cancel his own ringers when qualifying alone. He tries for all the **total points** possible with his 200 shoes.

In Section 2, (page thirteen) the last sentence states: "No World Tournament shall be held, in which less than thirty-two (32) pitchers take part." Comment—I wonder if the By-Laws should be tied up by specifying the number of players in a tournament. Of course, I realize that it is desirable to have the largest number of participants possible. No doubt, there may be some professionals selfish enough to want only eight or ten men in a tournament. But, suppose St. Petersburg, Florida, made a good bid for a winter meet, and only 24 or 28 players showed up for it. Would the meet be called off?

This same paragraph further states: "Likewise, in no case shall a tournament committee retain any method of procedure that is objectionable to the President of the N.H.P.A. of America." Comment—Any plan that does not violate the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules, should not be objectionable to the President. This Article conflicts with Article I, Section I, which states that the Executive Council is the Judicial Body.

Section 4, Article III, sets an official title match for the World's title as not less than 6 wins out of an 11-game match. Comment—In my estimation, 11 games are too many. Four (4) out of seven (7) is enough for a one night match. Why make a long-distance marathon or endurance contest out of it? An 11-game match would take all night, if each man should win 5 games apiece. And where would the audience be? Home, in bed, and fast asleep, of course. And wouldn't the sanction fee be rather hard to raise unless each contestant put up half? Why not remove the sanction fee? The publicity that such a match would receive would be worth more to the Association than the fee.

Section 8, Article III, (page fourteen) is merely a repetition of Article II, Section 1. Such repetition can lead many people to think that the problem of profane language is a major one on the courts. This section should be deleted.

Article IV, deals with the horseshoe maker and the shoe stamps. Why reimburse him with cash for unused stamps? Why not replace them with new tamps for the following year? The wording of the last paragraph in this article could be improved. And Article V, dealing with

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159 E. 7660 South
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Marie Kampschroeder, 4th V.P.
810 South Cedar
Ottawa, Kansas

Mary Jones, Treasurer
1006 East Main
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary
Crestline, California

National Leagues, could be briefed considerably. But, perhaps, it is better to leave well enough alone.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE OFFICIAL RULES

The words "dirt or sand" should, by all means, be removed from Rules 1 and 4, and wherever else they occur.

Our N.H.P.A. should recognize only clay as suitable soil for pitching boxes. As the rules now stand, any successful bidder for a National meet could use "dirt or sand" around the stakes and we haven't a leg to stand on or a legal rule to prevent it! The dictionary defines "dirt" as "filth, excrement; something that is dirty." If we retain those words in our official rules, we should hasten to make it mandatory for all players to wear rubber gloves for sanitary reasons! Sand is no good for pitching boxes and cuts a player's hand in a short time. How those two words got in there, I don't know.

Rule 4—Why use the word "approximately" when defining the height of the foul lines? While it is good to make laws and rules as flexible as possible, they must also be definite and authoritative. One inch is plenty high for foul lines. If they are made any higher, small pitchers like Ray "Low Pockets" Gatewood here, will have to carry step ladders with them.

Rule 5—"Stakes shall be one (1) inch in diameter—no larger." Why tack on the "no larger" phrase? The first part is a complete sentence and is sufficient. It sets a definite limit of one inch for the diameter. The words "no larger" are superfluous.

Rule 6—The sentence in parenthesis, referring to Section C is, also, superfluous. There is no Section C to which one can refer. Section b—"foul lines shall be clearly defined." It would seem that if they are "approximately" one inch high (as stated in Rule 4), they ARE clearly defined. Section b is unnecessary.

Rule 9—This rule previously stated that the pitcher must remain behind the foul line until the shoe **landed**. I believe this should be re-inserted because it would look better from the spectator's viewpoint. Then too, it would prevent many disputes about players stepping over the foul line before they should.

Now, the foregoing list of errors are all I have been able to find to date. Perhaps there are several more that others have found. If so, don't hesitate to submit them. In this way, the laws and rules can be perfected. **Constructive criticism** is welcomed. Remember, it is OUR Association. Yours and mine, it belongs to all of us. And we belong to it. Let's all work to promote and make it the best organization possible.

In comparing the N.H.P.A. laws with those of my Local Union here, I find that the union apportions its delegates to conventions exactly as we did those of N.H.P.A. The unions too realize the dangers of packed conventions and the resulting dictatorship!

After working on the N.H.P.A. Constitution and By-Laws and those of my Local Union here, I believe that I have my fill of such work for a while. It has almost wrecked my "constitution." Like the bug said when he splattered himself against the car windshield: "I don't think I'll have the guts to try that again for a long time!"

As a whole, I think our N.H.P.A. laws are good. The rough spots can be polished off without too much work. They may never please everyone. The best that any committee can do is to respect the wishes of the majority. Legislators should proceed with open minds. That is one of the reasons why the Creator put seven holes in our heads. After all, there are, at least, 48 states of mind in this great country of ours. Let's keep it that way. Without efficient, democratic government, we have nothing. We should keep striving to make our N.H.P.A. Constitution, By-Laws and Playing Rules as perfect as possible.

* * *

CALIFORNIA

By Luke J. Braun

The Candlestick Cove Horseshoe Club, of San Francisco, held their election of officers on February 7, 1951. The following members were elected to office: President, Earl Ziegler; Vice-President, Bob Felton, Secretary, Luke Braun; Treasurer, Ernest Hill; Court Custodian, Carl Steigleder; Team Manager, Ernest Hill; Sports Editors, Luke Braun and Bob Stevenson and Club Delegates, Ernest Hill and Richard Wilson. Team Manager Hill is getting right on the ball and is starting to schedule games with Golden Gate, Crocker Amazon, Santa Cruz, Vallejo, Oakland and Watsonville. Our seven courts are being renovated at present and when they are completed they are going to be courts to be proud of. We are looking forward to a full season of horseshoe pitching.

* * *

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MAINE

BY COLBY G. BERRY

Here are the records of the men we used as our first six man team in 1950. We hope to have a six man team in 1951 that will hold the season's average in the upper sixties.

	W.	Pld.	R.	D.R.	S.P.	Av. %	Hi. %
Joe Davis	53	65	1918	546	3486	55.0	73.8
Roy Crabtree	31	52	1272	247	3104	40.9	62.5
Sam Davis	30	54	1321	254	3208	41.2	63.2
Thos. Barker	33	49	1156	229	2864	40.4	55.8
Paul Conroy	8	20	396	60	1264	31.3	56.7
H. Archubald	9	11	239	40	700	34.0	42.6
Jos. Boucher	5	10	223	37	602	37.1	64.5

* * *

MINNESOTA

By KEN HUBER

I have been working on schedules, line-ups and the numerous things necessary to do before another season starts. We have our first meeting on March 8th. Our season opens on May 7th. This year we again hope to break all records—more sponsors, more players and a bigger and better Annual when its all over.

Evidently other leagues do not have Annuals or the ones who do did not answer my plea for a copy of theirs. Maybe some one will have pity on me and send me one yet.

I also am working on a plan to give away subscriptions to the Horseshoe Pitcher as prizes this year. I'll do all I can to boost the magazine.

When is the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association going to organize it should? According to the write-up Horseshoes received in "This Week Magazine," we have three million players in the country. If these players belonged to the National Association, we would have all the money needed to really expand and do things in a big way.

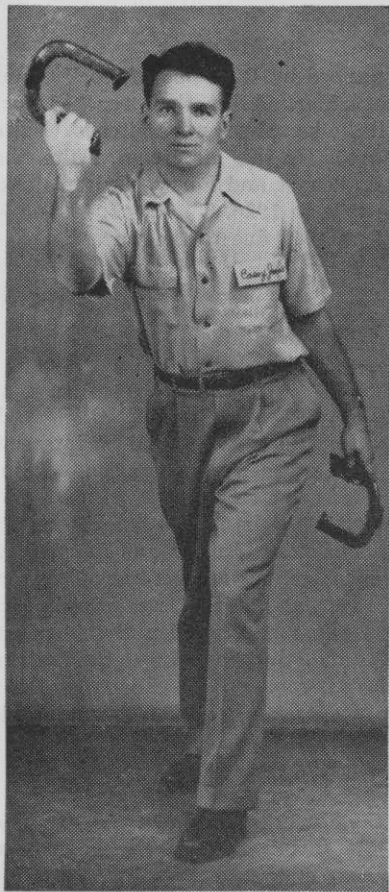
In my article in the November issue of the Horseshoe Pitcher, I outlined what I thought was a good idea for an up and coming association of players. No doubt others said the same things I mentioned but what good do we receive from just talking about it?

I again say that until all players belong to the National Association and all players take our National magazine—The Horseshoe Pitcher, we are not going to progress.

With another season breathing down our necks, I am going to quit writing articles. Being General Secretary of the fastest growing City horseshoe association in the country, my time will be taken up. By next year maybe something will be done to really push horseshoes up among the top ranking sports where it belongs. The National Association should bring this matter up at the big tournament this year.

* * *

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Columbus, Ohio

PENNSYLVANIA

John Fulton, thirty-five year old former Pennsylvania Champion, won his sixth title at Harrisburg, Pa. on Thursday evening, January 11th, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show horseshoe pitching tournament. By winning four games, he has now won twenty-five in a row. This record will probably stand for a long time.

His victory string was nearly snapped by R. Leppo of York County in the second game, which was a thriller. After they reached forty points the game was not decided until the last shoes were pitched. Fulton finally won out by the score of 50 to 46. To win his crown, Fulton had to beat Burris, Mayer, Neel, Sharp, Lukehart and Perry. Fulton's average was 70.4%. Fulton has won the title in 1936, 38, 40, 47, 49 and 51. There was no tournament from 1942 to 1947 due to the war.

* * *

HORSESHOE HOO'S HOO!

By ARCHIE J. GREGSON

This is the second in a series to be known as "KNOW YOUR OFFICERS". I believe that our membership at large will be interested to know the type of officers at the head of their organization.—Editor.

Archie J. Gregson, our Secretary, is the happy father of two fine boys and has a lovely wife, Katie. The boys, Jimmy and Donnie, are fifteen and eight years old, respectively. Archie was Secretary-Treasurer of the N.H.P.A. from 1941 to 1947 and was again elected Secretary in 1950. Over a period of four or five years he has been President and Secretary of the Montebello H. C. and the Los Angeles Municipal H. S. Assn. He is affiliated with the Moose Lodge. For a period of seventeen years, he had been a rubber worker for the B. F. Goodrich Co. and is now doing the same kind of work at the Norton Air Base in San Bernardino. He is a High School graduate.

In his twenty years activity in the horseshoe game he was champion of the Montebello H. C. His other interests and hobbies are Bowling (170 ave.), Hunting, Fishing, Baseball and Basketball. He is also a rabid fan on home movies. The rest of this information comes from his wife, Katie, but it looks to me as if she is prejudiced. He's a good husband and father, a hard worker, has a keen sense of humor, a grand disposition (couldn't have lived with me for twenty years if he didn't, helps me in the cafe either at waiting on the customers, cooking or pearl diving in his SPARE TIME; in fact he's just a good man to have around—Katie.

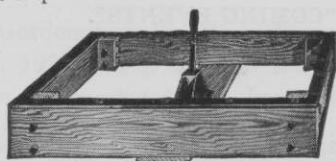
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JAKE'S JOTTINGS

The Editor and the Assistant Editor are very sorry that you received this copy so late, but due to conditions beyond our control we could not get your magazine to you on time.

* * *

Many inquiries have come to me regarding the prospective Eastern Open National Tournament originally scheduled for this coming August. Have heard nothing as yet but as soon as I do I will publish all the information I receive.

* * *

An old timer, Ralph P. "Kelly" Spencer passed away in Missouri in January. He was several times Oklahoma Champion and finished second in the National Tournament in 1922. Lots of you fellows will probably remember him.

* * *

Now is the time to send in your schedule for this season's activities to be published under "COMING EVENTS".

* * *

Remember to complain to your local postmaster if this magazine fails to reach you on time. Any delay of delivery is not on this end of the line. If you have moved, send me your new address because the P. O. Dept. does not forward this class of mail.

* * *

Make sure you will have your new pair of horeshoes for the coming season by ordering them NOW from your favorite dealer. Steel is on the restricted list. Speaking of horseshoes—you can get a FREE NEW PAIR of horseshoes, your choice, if you send me ten new subscriptions, all at one time. How about canvassing the members of your Club?

ATOEIRNIM HTUJUB * * * ZUNBYA SHARD IJLL

Address me or The Horseshoe Pitcher at Box 22, Kingsbridge Station, New York, N. Y. Know anyone who would like a sample copy of this magazine? When answering any of these ads, please let them know where you saw it.

* * *

Charley Gerrish of Kittery Point, Maine, thinks he is the oldest certified State Champion in the U. S. He is 63 years young and would like to have a match arranged between him and any other old or older State Champion.

* * *

Remember the "HORSESHOE COMPENDIUM"? This was a one hundred page paper backed book that was published by the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association some years ago. It contained records and lots of other horseshoe information that ended with the year 1939. Wouldn't it be a good idea to publish another one now and bring all the records up to date? The sale of such a book would pay for itself many times over.

* * *

"Watch for the New Gordon Spin-On Horseshoe"

The New Style Gordon Spin-On Horseshoes will be out on or about March 1st, 1951. They are now the best, and most well balanced shoe on the market today, have been tested and approved by the Champion Horseshoe Pitcher of 1950 and 1949, Fernando Isais, and have been approved by the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. They will bear the Association 5c Stamp on each pair.

Don't Miss It! Get Your Pair As Soon As Possible!

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COMING EVENTS

- April 14-15, Long Beach, Cal.—Pitchers 60 years and over.
- May 5-6, Ontario, Cal.—So. Cal. Open, Class "A".
- May 30, New York, N. Y.—Empire State Open, Class A, B, C.
- June 9-10, Santa Monica, Cal.—So. Cal. Open, Class "B".
- July 7-8, Huntington Park, Cal.—Amateur, boys under 18.
- July 21-22-29, Exposition Park, Cal.—Class A Championship.
- July 28, Wildwood, N. J.—Invitation Open.
- August 8-14, Murray, Utah—World's Championship.
- August 25-26, South Gate, Cal.—Amateur Championship
- September 1-3, Long Beach, Cal.—Western Class A Open.
- October 13-14, Ontario, Cal.—So. Cal Class B Championship.

* * *

"SCIENCE AT THE STAKE"

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

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- CANADA—Dieppe Park, East York.
- CONNECTICUT—Bearsley Park, Bridgeport; Pope Park, Hartford.
- DIST. OF COL.—Commerce Courts, Washington.
- FLORIDA—South Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg.
- ILLINOIS—Welles Park, Chicago.
- INDIANA—Brookside Park, Indianapolis.
- IOWA—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa.
- KANSAS—Gage Park, Topeka.
- KENTUCKY—Shady Shores, Covington.
- MAINE—Auburn, Riverside Courts, Bangor, Bangor Club, Farmington, City Park, Hebron, Community Courts, Portland, Deering Oaks, Rumford, High School, So. Portland, Wilkinson Park.
- MARYLAND—Carroll Park, Baltimore; Magruder Park, Hyattsville.
- MASSACHUSETTS—Municipal Playgrounds, Westfield.
- MINNESOTA—Como & Elfelt, St. Paul; Soldier Memorial Field, Rochester.
- MISSOURI—Municipal Park, Carthage; Neosho, Fair Grounds, Springfield, Grant Beach Park.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE—South Playground, Portsmouth.
- NEW JERSEY—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Pk., Newark Wildwood, Beach Park.
- NEW YORK—Central Park, Innwood Hill Park, New York City; St. Mary's Park, Williamsbridge Oval Park, Woodlawn, Van Cortlandt Park, all in the Bronx; Parade Grounds, Fort Green Park, Brooklyn; Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon, L. I., Kirk Park, Syracuse.
- OHIO—Jermain Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky.
- OREGON—Laurelhurst Park, Portland.
- PENNSYLVANIA—District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Revere; Oakhurst Courts, Johnstown.
- RHODE ISLAND—Athletic Field, West Warwick; Schartner's Courts, Hamilton.
- UTAH—County Fair Grounds, Murray.
- WASHINGTON—Wright Park, Tacoma.
- WEST VIRGINIA—Bar B-Q Courts, East Nitro.
- WYOMING—Union Park, Cheyenne.

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED HERE, GET BUSY!