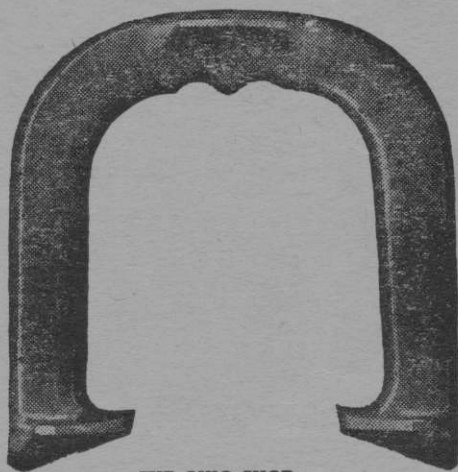


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of
The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
of America



THE OHIO SHOE

APRIL, 1952

Vol. 4

No. 8

EDITORIAL

In looking over some of the old issues of The Horseshoe World I find in the issue of May-June 1940 that part of the editorial of that number was the following—"This magazine does not get the support from clubs that it used to get in the way of subscriptions; if it folds up, who would have the nerve to start another? they just don't make money! We have struggled along since 1922 and we KNOW." This is just a case of history repeating itself. Since that time The Horseshoe World and The Horseshoe News have gone out of existence and it does not look too rosy for The Horseshoe Pitcher. Why not give us a bit of help? It does not seem such an impossible feat for every subscriber to get just one new subscription. See what you can do about it and I will publish a list each month showing who got one or more new subscribers. At the end of the year I will donate a new pair of horseshoes, your choice, to the one who has sent in the most subscriptions. How about it?

* * *

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

The article by Roy Smith in a recent issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher is an interesting and thought provoking one. National Secretary, Gregson, in another article in this issue of the magazine will clarify the distribution of stamp funds. However, one of the points that Roy makes, and one that all of us should be thinking about is—should we raise the dues of our association?

I am heartily in agreement with raising the membership dues in our organization. After all the cost of living has nearly doubled in the last ten years, and yet we are trying to operate on the same old basis. Our organization with a total income from dues and stamps of between \$1,000 and \$1,400 each year, is trying to pay a secretary and treasurer, buying office supplies, stamps and stationery, and releasing printed materials to members, and in addition is making refunds to the states out of this limited budget. Trying to finance a "B" Tournament, in addition to the above last year, proved to be more than our present financial construction could bear.

May I point out an example of the effect of increasing dues. In Southern California last year we increased our dues to \$2.50 for a combined membership card. In addition we set up a program of about ten tournaments so that all types of pitchers would have an opportunity to participate. Interestingly enough we found that just as many joined as had joined in the previous year. In addition nearly all of our tournaments required an entry fee, and we gave no prize money only trophies and medals. Money prizes that most of us give are insufficient and a trophy or medal has lasting significance to the winner.

The idea of increasing the dues was brought before convention last year and voted down because many delegates felt that their members would not pay additional dues. Perhaps if a more varied program were put on by each association the amount of the dues would not seem so important.

Our Association is a loose-knit organization, and only once a year can we get together and try to improve our organization. Nearly all of the organization's paper work is done by the secretary during the year, and the burden of promotion and tournament operation falls on a small

group of association officers who must make most of their decisions and plans by correspondence.

If we want help financially, we should help ourselves, and every member should pick up his share of the bill. Many of our players have done absolutely nothing to promote or improve the game either on a local or national basis. If we expect to improve our lot everyone must put his shoulder to the wheel and financially as well as physically lend a hand.

LOUIS DEAN

* * *

A CLUE TO THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS STAMP FUND

By ARCHIE J. GREGSON, Secretary

In the February issue of *The Horseshoe Pitcher*, there appears an article by Roy Smith, in which he questions the distribution of the stamp fund. I believe this questionable situation should be cleared up for the benefit of our readers.

In 1935, at the convention held in Moline, Illinois, a stamp fund was voted into effect in which the manufacturers of horseshoes were to purchase from the National Secretary, two-cent stamps and place one on each pair of shoes they sold and this was to be ear-marked for a National Tournament.

At Hotel Fort Des Moines, August 27, 1939, a convention was held along with the Midwest Open Tournament and a motion was made and passed to place a five cent stamp on each pair of shoes. This was still in operation and existence when the Pearl Harbor Incident occurred and since there was no conventions from 1941 to 1946, some of the manufacturers ceased to put the five cent stamp on shoes and claimed that they were not obligated to do so because of the three year agreement.

In 1946, in Birdland Park, Des Moines, Iowa, the first convention after the war convened. A motion was made by Leland Mortenson and passed in convention that the manufacturers place a five cent stamp on each pair of horseshoes and that the income from this sale be divided as follows:

25% for a tournament fund.

25% for publicity purposes.

25% be returned to states in proportion to the number of members they had.

10% to the President of the Association.

10% to the Secretary of the Assn., for the additional work.

5% for miscellaneous (printing, postage, etc.)

This was set up and put into operation in 1946 and is still in operation. When I again took the job as Secretary in 1950, I was advised by President Dean to continue on this basis until advised to do otherwise. If it is the intention of the association to discontinue this plan, it will be the duty of the members at convention to make the change in regular convention.

In 1941, when I first took this office, the secretary was being paid \$50.00 per month. If \$50.00 was a fair price to pay the secretary then, with our tournament prize money \$670.00 as compared to \$5,400.00 now, and the present cost of living being so much more, perhaps 25.00 per month is about right for the secretary's salary.

There is one thing I do want our readers to know and that is this: When I took office in August 1941, until I gave it up in August 1947, I only paid myself five month's salary—a total of \$250.00 and made two trips to the National Tournament on my own expense. I think the Association needs new blood. Katie and I feel we have given our share.

The list of receipts and expenditures in the December issue is incomplete as a number of states did not have a final report in until after the first of the year. Our final membership total was greater for 1951, than for 1950, but our sale of stamps to manufacturers was less.

Recently we mailed out checks to the various states' associations totaling \$131.20 for their portion of the stamp fund for 1951. I am appealing to you state officers to see that these checks are cashed and not held over until next year. It is very hard to keep records and balances straight when some of you don't cash your checks.

I hope all of you are looking forward to a big year in horseshoes and include in your schedule a trip to Salt Lake City in August and get some of the things done in convention which really need attention.

* * *

CALIFORNIA

By ELMER O. BELLER

President Southern Calif. Horseshoe Pitching Association

A few comments for consideration of the horseshoe members and all who are interested in improving the general welfare of the horseshoe organization.

First of all I think we should have some definite changes in policy. And also I must admit that I have nothing to offer to correct it in any small detail, much less a cure for all its many short comings. But what I do think is that we should try to get the best talent possible to try to work out some new ideas for consideration or perhaps for experimentation to see if we cannot improve the overall setup.

I would like to repeat a request I made in an earlier issue; when an article is printed in The Horseshoe Pitcher the writers mailing address be given along with name and State, thus enabling anyone interested to write a personal letter to that party on issues involved, if he so desires.

I believe many very good ideas have been presented in The Horseshoe Pitcher from time to time that should have consideration. To mention some there are the articles in the recent issues by Frank Casner of Indiana; Raymond Frye of Virginia; LeRoy Bryant of Oregon. (By the way I think this one should have an answer from the National officers to set him straight on national constitution.)

I believe Roy Smith has presented many ideas in the past few years that would merit consideration.

Doc Berman, of New Jersey, has offered some practical ideas, Chapple of Oregon has offered changes. Charles Gerrish who seems to have a good grasp of the situation has offered changes and as I see it no consideration is given him. Lee Jacobs outlines methods along the same lines. Ken Huber, Minnesota, no answer. Lowell Edmundson of Indiana in the Feb. 1950 issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher gave a detailed account on starting 72 men in a national tournament that could be played off in the same time as it takes under present setup. In my estimation, this plan has promising possibilities. Let us discuss it in convention or by committee. Russ Lynch, a sports editor of Milwaukee also enlarged on this plan in another issue.

John Elkins of Missouri has expressed some opinions. Leland Mortenson who seems a very reliable authority on horseshoes, has suggested some changes. I do not think we have given them fair consideration.

I am not suggesting that any of them have the proper solution for our ailments. Here is what stands out most in my mind. If everything was rosey and horseshoes was booming we should leave everything just

as it is. It is generally conceded by most all connected with horseshoes, both inside our organization and without, and including our officers, that our National Association is not growing as it should. Something needs changing somewhere. Surely we should explore every angle to see if we can correct some shortcomings. No doubt some of these ideas will prove unworkable. Nevertheless, no individual or small group should take it upon themselves to say this or that is no good without giving it due consideration. This especially holds true since the system we now have is not proving so satisfactory.

The top pitchers wish to get as much as possible of the prize money. This is only human nature. Still they must agree we need a large membership if the national organization is to prosper. In order to sell a large membership we must have something to sell worth the price of that membership to prospective members, who are not among the 50 top pitchers. We must admit only about 50 have the slightest chance of sharing in the national prize money. Many think the national dues should be raised. But the big majority would like to have something for their money. No matter if dues are \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00 or even \$10.00 (if we get \$10.00 worth everyone would be satisfied).

Must we get this value by playing entirely in our home State or local club or shall we get it by a method that will permit more to pitch in the National Tournament or a combination of both? People, regardless of who they are, do not for long spend their money unless they feel they get value received for what they spend. That is the whole crux of getting members. Have something to offer worth the price asked.

We need more time in convention than we have been able to allow when we gather for a week's tournament. Perhaps an extra meeting could be assembled one day in advance of the start of tournament. Or maybe something could be accomplished by committees there or in home States, to develop some of these many suggested changes. Then submit them to the executive board.

Whatever we do let us not stay in the same old rut. I am sure it can be improved upon, but I sure do not have the answer.

We have another issue that should be decided very soon if it is not already, so it can be publicized well in advance of the Murray tournament. Are we to have "B" Class or "C" or Junior tournaments? Many would like the answer to this so they can make their plans in advance.

It seems we had a very full slate last year that was a little hard to handle in the time we had up there. Many think it is too much. I felt that way myself when it was all over last August. But when I consider that 24 men had the privilege of a tournament after traveling that far, it meant so much to them. These men had also paid their \$5.00 to qualify. This \$120.00 if they had not pitched would have been a donation cast into the pot to help benefit the top pitchers.

If we do away with the "B" tournament I am afraid our entries will be cut nearly in half. By the way, here is something of interest. These 24 participants in the "B" tournament came from 12 different states from all parts of the nation; five from Iowa, four from Oregon, three each from California and Missouri, two from Illinois, and one each from Kansas, W. Virginia, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Utah, Montana, and Florida. I would say that is well distributed. A few of these no doubt were disappointed on not making the "A" Class. But the majority finished right where they expected to and were well satisfied. I believe there will be more entries this year than last if they know well in advance there will definitely be a "B" tournament. These entries will go a long way toward financing a "B" tournament.

I would like to have this question answered. When the Salt Lake Recreation Commission puts up the money for tournament prizes is it designated for the top 36 players or can it be divided between a greater number?

As to securing score keepers, perhaps we should not condemn the "A" pitchers too much for not wanting to keep score. Some feel they need time for rest of mind and body or other pleasure in order to play their best game. We should try to acquire the score keepers as much as possible from the wives and other visitors who are not pitching and from the home people and students in the community.

This article is not intended as a criticism of any individual or any group, but to try to stimulate the exploration of new methods with a desire to build up our organization, especially membership. We must some way show more progress if we expect to interest sponsors or promoters.

On a different subject, I was sorry the "Hoos Hoo" articles were discontinued in The Horseshoe Pitcher. We did not get one on all the officers. Mr. Chapple of Oregon suggested after the officers we go right on down the line on the top pitchers. Certainly an excellent idea, interesting reading for everyone.

* * *

CANADA

We are planning for a sanction from the Canadian National Exhibition for a Canadian Open Championship Event. We anticipate inviting about six or eight State champions here for this event and when our plans are completed, I will write Jake for the names and addresses of the near by State Champions. Also, we may decide to hold an Open Invitation tournament. When we are sure of our plans, we will send in a good write up for the magazine.

We have planned a good season for all players here and expect to hold the Ontario Championship at East York. Will send a complete list of dates and places for the "Coming Events" column which will cover our entire season. Carl Steinfeldt, of Rochester, N. Y., who is New York State Champion, is now arranging with Al Absolum, of Buffalo, for a Buffalo-Rochester-Toronto Meet. How about arranging a New York City team?

* * *

KANSAS

By ALVIN DAHLENE

—28 Years of Observation or what makes a pitcher click—

The old adage—You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink, fits pretty well into the realm of horseshoe pitching. You can take a pitcher to the finest courts in creation but you cannot make a champion out of him unless he has that certain makeup known as NATURAL ABILITY. I have read 4 articles now in the past 17 years on how to pitch horseshoes. The articles were written by Bob Brown former New York State Champion—Ted Allen many time world's Titlist—Roy Smith now of California and Charley Gerrish of the Eastern Sector. All of the articles were very interesting and the mechanics of pitching explained in minute detail. An ambitious pitcher to be, can read the treatise over very carefully many times—he can cram his cranium full of details—but the minute he steps up to the pegs, he has to be his natural self. He cannot consciously remember where to put his foot—how far back to let his arm go—how far to let it go forward.

Neither can he think about all the deft movement of the fingers which play such an important part in the art of ringer tossing. All the things you learn about pitching from a book have to be unified and become an almost unconscious effort on the part of the pitcher.

When a musician masters the piano or saxophone he does not think about his fingers—he does not have too—he becomes almost automatic as it were. I would say here and emphatically—do not try to “ape” some one else. None of us are built exactly the same although all of us created in the image of God do have the same muscles and organs. Some of us are more flexible than others and therefore can have a longer looser delivery. A lot of us due to our type of work have muscles that antagonize each other.

In my years of pitching I have had the honor and the privilege of pitching against the “TOPS” in the game of Horseshoes and right here and now will name the ones with great Natural ability. Just a very few of these men have become National Champions although all of them have the necessary makeup. I will name them in the order of their SUPERIORITY. I do not expect you to agree with me in every case and that is your American right or inherent right to think for yourself. I am picking them as I see them in my years of pitching and playing against them.

Of course as you would expect—I am picking as number ONE, the present Worlds Champion, Fernando Isais. He has held the title 6 times—1941-1947-48-49-50-51. If my memory serves me right he has won 188 games and lost 6 and in doing so has averaged around 83.5% ringers. That fellow horseshoe pitchers is real pitching. He is every inch a Champion and the greatest natural pitcher of all times. He is practically shatter proof—he does have his moments of concern but quickly snaps out of any nervous tension. Close behind him is the ringer pitching wizard from Kansas and now of Colorado the really fine star Ted Allen of Boulder. Ted is purely mechanical and so close to Isais that only a hairs difference exists between them. Take your choice. The next man is none other than Guy Zimmerman formerly of Sac City Iowa. Guy is truly a superb pitcher and should have won the title in 1941 at Des Moines except for a slip up in his game with Isais. He led Fernando about 44 to 24 and the Mexican just up and outpitched him to win. Isais was as cool as a Salt Lake evening and therein lies the tale. Never get careless with Fernando regardless of your lead. My next man is none other than likeable Casey Jones of Waukesha, Wisconsin. He is the hard luck boy of the horseshoe game. He has a beautiful rhythmic delivery—that is apparently easy for him—but for a lot of us would be hard. He looks unorthodox but he does get them on the stake and has a fighting heart. In 1946-47-48 he was runner-up—just a few more ringers in the right spot would have put him over the hump. From here on out the choice is hard—but we have C. C. Davis, Frank Jackson, Dean Brown, Lyle Brown, Roland Kraft, Alvin Gandy, Marines Tamboer (last 3 from Kans.), Ellis Griggs, Bob Bales, Jimmy Lucky De Leary, Roy Gatewood. There are some others but these are the ones who really shine in my memory.

Perhaps someone will come along that will eclipse the Great Fernando—but at present there is no one on the horizon who has a chance. Sure, someone can come up and beat Isais occasionally—but that is not what I am trying to put across. I am looking for that pitcher who can be consistently great over a period of years—not a FLASH in the PAN pitcher—but one like Isais and Ted who have been great since 1933, some 19 years. Do you know of one?

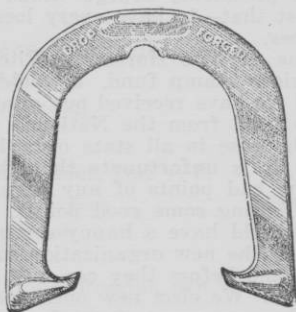
MINNESOTA

By FRANK J. DRASSAL

The Gopher State Association contemplates a great many things this coming summer and fall season. For approximately seven years we have been trying to organize horseshoe associations or clubs in the various cities in our state. At one time we had quite a club at Hibbing, Mankato, and Watertown, Minnesota; and once there was a great organization of horseshoe pitchers in Minneapolis, Minnesota; but as we go along, we can see that people change, and the war situation during the past ten years has made great dents in the cities and towns in the horseshoe families. However, that should not be the major excuse for not having organizations.

Organization work requires enthusiastic persons who take the sport to heart and surround themselves by other horseshoe players. Of course, in the state organization none of us are fortunate enough to have sufficient time, besides meeting our livelihood and the Government taxes, to go out to visit with the horseshoe pitchers in the various towns and cities of our state. However, this year we have been very fortunate in St. Paul to have selected Ken Huber as our president, and with him came John A. Yernberg, who is our public relations officer. These two men are determined to put the state organization on its feet and are promising to raise the membership to 150 this year for sure, and all that before our state tournament even begins. So far they are doing well and with small cost of correspondence and other publications, they seem to be succeeding in their endeavors. Ken Huber has gone out and already

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has approximately a dozen trophies which will be used in the state tournament. These trophies have been solicited by Ken from among business firms and good friends of horseshoe pitching in Minneapolis. Of course, we still have St. Paul to go and hope that by the time the dates of the state tournament roll by August 30th and 31st and September 1st, there will be ample number of trophies for all the class winners.

We also are planning to add one more class of horseshoe pitchers in our next state tournament, and that will be known as Class C. We feel that the men who are good enough to come and register and qualify should be given some place and some chance to measure their strength with those in their own brackets. We feel that we can run three classes of tournament on our sixteen well-lighted courts. If we don't finish the pitching in daylight, we will continue through the evening and thus we will probably create sufficient interests for those who are in the lower brackets to see some new ways and means of pitching and try to get up into the higher brackets in the years to come.

We have also talked of conducting a northwest championship tournament. This would involve any pitcher from anywhere in the Northwest and of course would first have to be sanctioned by the National Association. Such a tournament, we feel, might add to the horseshoe spirit in the nearby communities in other states, especially for those who can never reach the state or national tournament due to expense and distance. The time and place for this tournament has not been set yet. We are thinking about it a great deal and if we feel that it would help the horseshoe game, we would probably go through with it. Of course, there again Ken Huber and John Yernberg will be of material help. In fact, without them it would not be worth thinking about.

The St. Paul Horseshoe Pitchers Association is quite well set up this year, and I believe it will be stronger than ever in our five leagues. It has adopted the system whereby all its members will also be members of the state and national by paying the additional dues to their club to be turned over to the state association. That, of course, is a big step forward. The St. Paul Association's president, George Gibis, is ever alert and on the job to accomplish just that—to have every local member also be a national and state member.

I have noticed in your last issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher the stirring up of the case of the mysterious stamp fund. I would like to defend that just a little because I feel we have received our annual percentage from this questionable stamp fund from the National Association. Every year I suppose this is the case in all state organizations; I can not see any mystery about it. It is unfortunate that there are people who always manage to find the bad points of any organization officials without first looking for and finding some good points. If they would do it that way, I am sure we would have a happy organization. It always seems that we elect officers in the new organization and right after that we begin to criticize them, and before they can even answer the criticism, their term of office is over. We elect new ones and do the same thing over again. I can not see how we ever get any harmony and happy organization that way.

By ANDY MOEHN

My hat is off to you, Ray, for the two articles in The Horseshoe Pitcher. But, what else can be expected when WE, as members, allow the leadership of our organization to assume and carry on as it has been done since the 1949 convention? They are forgetting the fact that the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association belongs to the members and not the officers. We, the members, select the officers for the terms for

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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

which they are elected to office for the purpose of administering the duties of their respective offices, and not to dictate the policy of same. But—that is what we get for trying to do business without a strong constitution! We have now a 4-story building on a crumbling foundation. An organization that does not provide the right for the recognition of an honest minority opinion is potentially a dictatorship. In such an organization the opinion of the minority may become the will of a majority but the suppression of the original minority makes it impossible for the new majority to be recognized. We then, have a new minority dictating to the majority of the organization.

An organization of that kind is woefully undemocratic that does not give a legitimate and orderly minority the power to exercise the right of open discussion and persuasion. When this minority must try to organize secretly and in fear of retribution, or insult, then we have an acknowledgment that the entire organization is under the regimented will of a few conniving leaders.

The usual tactics employed by a willful group to dictate to an organization is to brand the minority as malcontents and to clearly prevent the minority from proving that they have grown to a majority. The rightful organization of a legitimate minority within an organization is a customary democratic procedure. Therefore, it should be clear to every member, that the need for a constitution, setting forth not only the object of the organization, but also, the duties of the officers as well. And in all well regulated organizations, the President names the Committee to draft such Constitution. But as the President does sit on said Committee, as he has designated THAT power to said Committee, he may sit in by request from the Committee, or as an ex-officio member but has no vote. And the full assembly at a regular annual meeting has the full and legal right to accept, change or reject as they see fit.

Any sort of Constitution, brought forth by the officers or cliques, and accepted by the officers as legal, is not constitutional. If, for any reason, by an oversight, some part or parts have been left out in printing, or otherwise, no one has the legal right or power to insert said left-out part, but the full assembly at a General meeting.

Building a sound and strong Constitution for our organization should be the first step, but, unfortunately, that cannot be done at this time, and do it legally inasmuch as the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association is incorporated, and in good standing. (By the way was the request of 1949 ever reported on?) There are certain rules and regulations that we should legally follow in order to continue as a corporation in conducting our business. But it does not stop us from building a fool-proof Constitution—one that sets forth the aim of the organization; also, the duties of officers. A closer relationship between the National and State Association. What do you know about what the State Association can do? Do you know what sort of Constitution they have—and are they living up to it? Or do they function to suit THEIR own fancy? It must also set forth the full extent of the duties of the President and of the Secretary—what we want for a report of the Secretary at the annual meeting—such as the number of the membership, moneys received from the membership by state, from Stamp Fund, entry fees, cost of running a tournament, cost of bonding fee, and to whom paid, etc., and with it a bank statement. Get back to an Auditing Committee system again—the last audit I have heard of was in 1946 and 1947.

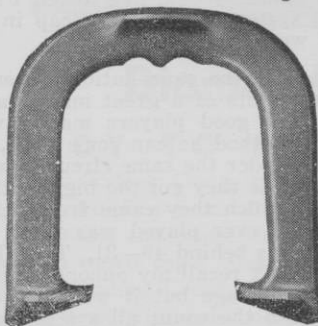
Our old Constitution, prior to 1949, could have been better. But do not forget it was far superior to anything we have had since, and how any one figures the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association can live,

grow and be recognized as a Top Sports Association—is too far-fetched.

In the first place, we have forgotten the object—the first and main duties: "ORGANIZING." It is now—just play or pitch horseshoes for a few days each year for the benefit of a few. The rest with his dues can stay put. There are two things that should be first in our minds: ORGANIZING — ORGANIZING. Then, the Showmanship Horseshoe Pitching—THE ATTRACTION!!

Do not be afraid to furnish full details of our activities. Do it the democratic way. Let the other fellows handle the mink coats. Publish the annual report—for all to see. Raise our dues, per year, to at least \$2.00—50-50—or \$1.25 to the National and 75 cents to the State Associations that hold Charters and living up to same by holding and practicing an OK'd Constitution by the National. If not, annul or withdraw the Charter, and forbid them to hold any State Tournament under the name or State or any other name that they may have used for a certain period of years. But any one may send his dues direct to the National Secretary for membership to National, so as not to deprive him or them to participate in the National Tournament during the suspension of his own State Association. Dispense with the under the bush meetings and hold them open to all. Establish and carry on with a committee of three to inspect and weigh all horseshoes of participants at National Tournaments, so that the members can have more time on the Convention floor for more vital subjects—than the caulks of a certain pair of horseshoes on the market.

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The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association is entirely too valuable to be used for a stepping stone for a self or local or State interest—unless we can get the idea that the Association belongs to the whole membership, by the members, and for the members, we cannot survive long

Why talk about the need of publicity for our Association, when we commit ourselves to one locality for life? Our national tournaments should be spread out among the States and Cities. Ours, the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Incorporation papers say, the officers shall call for bids (BIDS)—not bid—and close for the ensuing year. Maybe the big V would not be forthcoming each year, but I am sure the bunch of Pitchers are Real Sports, and gladly take less—now and then. Your appearance as a top horseshoe pitcher is Spring tonic to the City and State where you appear.

THINK IT OVER!!!

Yes, let's get down to issuing full reports annually. They will help, too. Speaking of reports: Was Class B the only Class that pitched horseshoes at the Annual Tournament in 1951 at a cost of \$297.81? What about Class A, Ladies' and Juniors ending up with a deficit? How about the 1950—over or under? Huh?

* * *

NEW JERSEY

The March issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher was made up mostly of articles from members all over the country. It is very interesting to me to read opinions and ideas of others. It not only is interesting but gives one ideas to ponder over to improve the game. Would like to tell Frank Casner that we have used the count all system with a handicap in our league for two years now and it works wonderful.

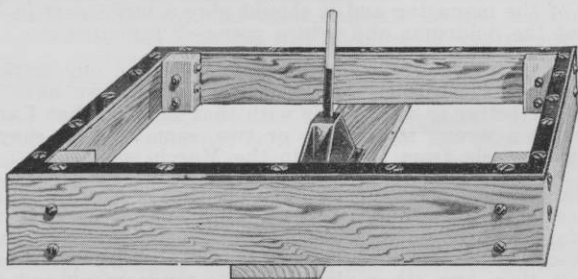
But I still say that for tournament play the cancellation system is the only way. This can be based on the results of a great many games if we have the complete score sheets. All good players may have a slump in a game and by the cancellation method he can come back, but in the count all, the games would be over, under the same circumstances. If you ask any number of players which game they got the biggest thrill from they will tell you it was the one in which they came from behind to win. One of the most thrilling games I ever played was years ago in a Class B game at Red Bank, N. J. I was behind 49—31. Then I hit a good streak and won out by 50—49. I don't recall my opponent or the exact number of shoes pitched or the percentage but it was well over one hundred shoes and fifty per cent. With the count all system many an interesting game of this nature would never materialize.

In the game Frank used as an example, I do not believe Zimmerman would have pitched a 100% game if it had been count all, for two reasons; first, in count all you either have total point goal or total shoe goal, which, in either case, would have been higher than Zimmerman's total. Also, with a big lead in count all you have a tendency to let down. Pitching against a 60% pitcher you can't let down because the 60% pitcher can suddenly become a 75 or 80% pitcher.

I can't believe with Frank that games like these are the undoing of a poor pitcher. 61.4% is not a poor pitcher and besides, the score shows he pitched a good game even when the score was 50—0. The point spread would have been practically the same. Personally, I would rather pitch 61.4% and lose than pitch 50% and win 154 to 153.



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Frank, don't get me wrong because I think that the count all system has its place in building up our sport and I like to use it in league play and in practice; but let us keep the cancellation system in tournament play.

It is still a little early but I have not had any comments on the Rosselet Tournament, pro or con. Fellows, let me have your suggestions and support for this tournament. Hope to see you all in Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, N. J.

* * *

OREGON

By CLETUS CHAPELLE

The Horseshoe Pitcher is a wonderful asset to the horseshoe game in that it allows us a chance to express our thoughts and ideas. Through the exchange of ideas and information beneficial results can be obtained by any individual, group or organization. This fact alone warrants the publishing of the magazine and it should play a large part in lifting the game out of the doldrums and into a game of prominence.

Mr. Davis of New Jersey urges that we make our criticisms constructive. In other words let's don't criticize unless we have something just as good or better to offer. It is with that in mind that I am writing, also to correct a wrong impression or two, some readers may have obtained by the article from Oregon in the March issue.

Our recent state tournaments have been more of an endurance contest or marathon rather than a test of skill. For instance, last year one man was forced to play twenty-seven games in two days only to lose out in a so-called final. Several years ago one player won more games and lost less than any other player in the tournament and yet placed third. Such things prove to me that there is no excuse to have a semi-final or a final round at the end of twenty man round robin. It's true, they could play an exhibition or for an added prize as a crowd pleaser, but it should have no bearing on the championship.

Experience is a good teacher but it charges like a specialist, which fact has been proved to us, but we learn slowly. This year we are progressing enough to eliminate the qualifying round and dividing the entire field into four brackets, two brackets to play one day and two brackets the next day. The two top men in each bracket then play an eight man round robin the third day and then the two top men of that round play for the championship. Involved? Yes. Few horseshoe pitchers would care to go through such an ordeal. It is the opinion of the writer that the ideal program would call for the winner of each bracket to meet in a four man round robin, two best games out of three, to play for the championship. Such a system would eliminate any two players meeting more than once in the entire tournament and yet be an adequate drawing card for any sponsor.

Mr. Bryants idea of a National Charter with the cost to be based on the number of members presents a new idea and should be explored further. I differ with him, however, in his statement that belonging to the National prevents us from having more members. Only pitchers interested in tournament play care to join the National or even the State organization for that matter. What would a State membership card mean to any player if he didn't use it. The fact there is a National organization should make the State organization that much stronger. In unity there is strength was proclaimed by our forefathers when they

united the thirteen colonies into the United States of America. If the NHPA were to be abolished, the whole horseshoe structure would collapse faster than I care to contemplate. Actually our membership is larger and we have a much stronger association since we joined the National than we had before. A statement was made that we should have two hundred members in our State Association. Actually speaking, we couldn't have that many members if we gave the memberships away, because there aren't that many active pitchers in the entire state that would associate themselves with any horseshoe organization.

Now I wish to present an idea of my own. I attended the National Convention last year, and I admit there wasn't much accomplished because there was no organized program. Likewise, each delegate voted as he saw fit rather than he might have voted if he had known the wish of those he represented. I suggest the President select a Resolutions Committee who would consider any and all resolutions suggested by the membership. Those deemed worthy of consideration by the committee should be published in The Horseshoe Pitcher from time to time so they could be discussed by the State Associations. Thus a definite legislative program could be formed and each delegate at the convention could honestly express by his vote the will of those he represented. I firmly believe such a system would present a more intelligent program, and the convention could be held with more decorum and more dispatch.

Fellows, the Horseshoe Pitcher is our magazine. If it weren't for the subscribers there could not be a magazine. The fact that we have it should make us want to use it, so get busy and write, write and then write some more. An idea here and an idea there may crystalize and something really worthwhile be formulated.

Happiness can be caught, sought, thought, but never bought. If we want something, we must work for it, and there is no better time to start working than right now. Let's go.

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA

By D. R. MAYES

Twenty-two years of horseshoe pitching in Huntingdon County, Pa! The first match of the County was held at Todd, Pa. and was continued there for three years then it moved to the Fair Grounds in Huntingdon. The game then was very primitive with barn yard rules, stakes having no lean and no clay or boxes either. Later, regulation boxes were installed and the rules of the NHPA were inaugurated.

Round shoes were dominant at that time. Then came the hooked shoe and along with that came keener competition. With the art of learning to control the shoe, percentages rose over one hundred per cent. The top pitchers in those days were the Moore brothers and then in 1934 came the Mayes brothers and to date we have kept the County on the map at the Harrisburg tournaments.

Today you can find horseshoe pitching in every section of the State on regulation courts with the pitchers all using official shoes. We are trying out the count all system. Besides our local tournaments, we play clubs in Lewistown and Williamsburg. If any of you boys happen to pass through Huntingdon County this Summer (the happy hunting grounds of the Indians) be sure to stop over for a game.

* * *

WASHINGTON STATE

With the weather rounding into shape in another month our Grays Harbor club will start organizing and turning out regular. Our ten new courts constructed last year will enable us to start our league competition in early May.

Have been reading all the various articles on the game and I hope they are continued. In our local league we turned to the handicap system of play and our membership doubled. Each year we study various points of the game taken mostly from the articles in The Horseshoe Pitcher. We have found that using rules to benefit the most players brings a larger membership. To get the public interested, tournaments should all be run off similar to other sport championships, starting with qualifying, round robin, semi-final and final.

We want to congratulate Tacoma, Washington, the voters passed a levy to improve the park which included covers and lights for their horseshoe courts.

Officers of the Washington State Horseshoe Pitchers Association for 1952 are: President, William McNely, Aberdeen; Vice President, William Tuomla, Aberdeen; Secretary-treasurer, Melvin A. Evans, 832 E. 48th, Tacoma, Washington.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Anyone wanting the address of any writer in this magazine can have it by writing to Jake for it. Putting the addresses at the head of each article would entail more work, use up more space and there are other reasons, too.

* * *

According to J. H. Browning of Meadville, Pa., they have what is probably the oldest horseshoe organization in the United States. The Meadville Horseshoe League was organized in April of 1899 and has been in the horseshoe business ever since. They formed their State Association last year. Can anyone beat this?

* * *

The Fort George Horseshoe Club of New York City is going to hold a Spring Dance at the Hotel Bradford on Saturday evening, April 26th. Tickets, including tax, \$1.50, can be had from Tom O'Gara, 131 Fort George Ave., New York, N. Y.

* * *

The Missouri State Champ. games will be held at Sedalia, Mo. at the Missouri State Fair, August 17-18-19. There will be ten men in each Class. A and B. Two hundred fifty dollars in prizes will be awarded. Earl Winston, President of the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Association was responsible for bringing this tournament back to the State Fair.

* * *

Dana Charles of New Hampshire says he wants to put in his two cents worth regarding the potential ringer access at the stake. He thinks Ray Arnold overlooked the fact that the better modern shoes have slanted heel caulks. Actually the seven inch total width of the open

shoe is potential ringer territory, or 6 and one half inches, let's call it, for a total of thirteen inches. The fact that the stake is there makes no difference. We New Englanders must stick together and I have to agree with Charley Gerrish.

* * *

In regards to President Dean's article of last month, Hal Fredricks, of Burbank, Cal., says this—I believe it is a good thought to do something for our hosts at Murray, Utah, this year. By doing something, I do not think the burden should fall on the officers or committees of the NHPA but on the players on the site of the tournament. My suggestion would be to get this matter done before the first shoe is tossed and my idea would be to purchase a plaque or a monument to be erected on the site of the courts.

* * *

The Inwood Horseshoe Club is going to hold their Spring Dance on May 17th at the Inwood Community Center. Any one interested can contact the Chairman, Mike Phillips, 500 West 215th St., New York, N.Y.

* * *

Harold Blackman, of Toronto, Canada, sent me one of Ripley Believe it or Nots which says—John Colao of East Orange, N. J., pitching horseshoes, scored 358 ringers in four hundred throws in Ogden Park, Chicago. That would be 89.5%. Anyone ever hear of him?

* * *

Left handed Don Titcomb wants to know if there were ever any south paw horseshoe champs in California! How about Louis Dean. Here in New York, our State Champion is a left hander and once before we had a south paw state champion. By the time you read this Don expects to be a father for the first time. Hope it's another Champ.

* * *

Here is some more on Casey Jones bowling prowess from his Missus. Casey stayed in first place in the All Events and won fifty dollars and an Elgin watch. His team placed sixth. He'll bowl in the National on April 1-2 and if he does anything good, I'll let you know. Blatz Beer is putting up ten thousand dollars in extra prizes to be used for high games on each squad. Over 7,300 teams have entered. Wish our National was that big. Maybe it will be some day.

* * *

If you have your schedule made up for the coming season, send it in NOW, and have it listed under "Coming Events."

A subscription or two to The Horseshoe Pitcher will be a welcome tournament prize to lots of pitchers who do not subscribe. Send me the name and address of someone whom you think would like a free sample of the magazine.

* * *

Now is the time to pay your dues to The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for 1952. The members of the Empire State Branch can send their dollar to the Secy-Treas., George Hart, 559 West 191st Street, New York, N. Y.

* * *

Did you move? If you did, send me your new address, because the Post Office Dept. does not forward this class of mail. Lots of magazines are returned to me each month because of this reason.

COMING EVENTS

- May 4, Long Beach, Cal.—Open, Class B
May 18, South Gate, Cal.—Open, Class "C"
May 30, New York City—Empire State Open
June 8, Long Beach, Cal.—60 Years and over
June 15, Elizabeth, N. J.—Rosselet Memorial
June 22, Elizabeth, N. J.—Split the Stakes Tournament
June 29, Ontario, Cal.—Open, Class A
July 13, Huntington Park, Cal.—Amateur
July 27, Elizabeth, N. J.—N. J. State Open
July 27, Long Beach, Cal.—Class A
August 5, Murray, Utah—World's Championships
August 17, Santa Monica, Cal.—Class "C"
Aug. 23-24-25 Hillsboro, Ore.—State Tournament
August 24, Elizabeth, N. J.—State Championship Meet
Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1, New York City—State Championship
August 30, Hemet, Cal.—Open, Class B
August 30 to September 1, Portland, Me.—New England Tournament
August 31, Hemet, Cal.—Open, Class A
September 14, Ontario, Cal.—Class B
September 28, Huntington Park, Cal.—Boys 18 and under

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WHERE TO PLAY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

- ARIZONA—Casa Grande Park, Casa Grande; Rendesvous Park, Mesa; Encanto Park, Phoenix.
- ARKANSAS—Fair Park, Boyle Park, MacArthur Park, Little Rock.
- CALIFORNIA—Community Center, Compton; Exposition Park, Los Angeles; Union Pacific Courts, Long Beach; Mosswood Park, Oakland; Golden Gate Courts, Candlestick Cove, Crocker-Amazon Courts, San Francisco; Memorial Park, South San Francisco; Lincoln Park, Santa Monica; McNear Park, Petaluma; Ives Memorial Pk., Sebastopol.
- CANADA—Dieppe Park, East York.
- COLORADO—City Park and Washington Park, Denver; City Park, Greeley.
- CONNECTICUT—Beardsley Park, Bridgeport; Pope Park, Hartford.
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Commerce Courts, Washington.
- FLORIDA—South Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg.
- ILLINOIS—Welles Park, Chicago; Athletic Park, Canton; Riverside Park, Moline; Mineral Springs Park, Pekin; Reservoir Park, Quincy; Long View Park, Rock Island.
- INDIANA — Brookside Park, Indianapolis; Dorner Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville.
- IOWA—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa; Crapo Park, Burlington; Island Park, Cedar Falls; Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids; LeClaire Park, Davenport.
- KANSAS—Forest Park, Ottawa; 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.
- MICHIGAN—Grand Rapids, Franklin Park.
- MINNESOTA—Como & Elfelt, St. Paul; Soldier Memorial Field, Rochester.
- MISSOURI—Municipal Park, Carthage; Neosho, Fair Grounds, Springfield; Grant Beach Park.
- NEBRASKA—Harmon Park, Kearney.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE—South Playground, Portsmouth; Ryan H. S. Club, Dover Point; Poy Ryans, 14 Central Ave., Portsmouth.
- NEW JERSEY—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Park, Newark; Wildwood, Beach Park.
- NEW YORK—Central Park, Inwood Hill Park, New York City; St. Mary's Park, Williamsbridge Oval Park, Woodlawn, Van Cortlandt Park, all in the Bronx; Parade Grounds, Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn; Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon, L. I.; Kirk Park, Syracuse.
- OHIO—Jermain Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky; Williams Memorial Pk., Wilmington. Community Park, Cedarville.
- OREGON—Laurelhurst Park, Portland.
- PENNSYLVANIA—District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Revere; Oakhurst Courts, Johnstown.
- RHODE ISLAND—Columbus Square, W. Warwick; Scharfner's Courts, Hamilton.
- UTAH—County Fair Grounds, Murray; Liberty Park, Salt Lake City.
- VERMONT—Stolte Field, Brattleboro; Memorial Park, Bennington; Ethan Allen Park, Burlington; Local Athletic Field, Springfield.
- WASHINGTON—Zelasko Park, Aberdeen; City Park, Bremerton; Woodland Park, Seattle; Wright Park, Tacoma; Fair Grounds, Yakima.
- WEST VIRGINIA—Bar B-Q Courts, East Nitro.
- WISCONSIN—Washington Park, Milwaukee.
- WYOMING—Union Park, Cheyenne.

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED HERE, GET BUSY!