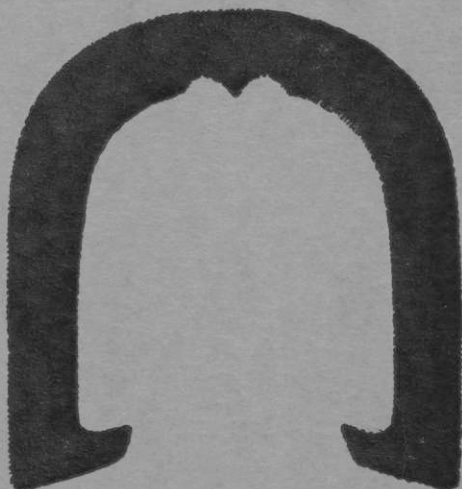


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

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



DECEMBER, 1953

Vol. 6

No. 4

EDITORIAL

Well, another year has rolled around again and it is time to wish all our loved ones and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking over last year's accomplishments in the horseshoe game it is very gratifying to note the added interest that was shown in our game. In looking over last year's editions of The Horseshoe Pitcher I find there were more tournaments held throughout the U. S. and Canada than in any year since this magazine was issued—1948. Last year more pages were printed than any year before it, and the circulation is now higher than at any other time. I am egotistical enough to think that all this improvement was due, in a small way, to the articles and news of the game printed in The Horseshoe Pitcher. Of course I could not take any credit at all if it were not for the subscribers and advertisers. My thanks to all of you. Just a reminder—now is the time to air your gripes and send them in for publication. I'm depending on you for reading material during the Winter months.

* * *

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Nineteen hundred and fifty-three is almost over. By the time most of you people read this, it will be during the Christmas holidays. A summary of the year shows it to have been a good one for horseshoes from the activity angle; for national membership—it shows a drop of 500-600 members.

From the Secretary's desk there has been more correspondence, more information given on the game, more copies of rules sent—than any year since 1941. I believe I have sent more sanctions for tournaments and certificates of championship this year than I have during any two years since I have been in office. It has, indeed, been a chore (it used to be a hobby) to try and keep up to date with the correspondence.

It has been a pleasure, the past few months, to receive a letter or two from one of our former officers—Carl von der Lancken, who has returned to the United States after an absence of several years. He is anxious to get back into the horseshoe realm. His address is: 44 Gleaner Lane, Levittown, New York.

This year, at Murray, Utah, we crowned Ted Allen champion. Ted set a new qualifying record and pitched championship style shoes throughout the tourney. I feel that this is good for the game. As in any other sport, when the title shifts around, its competition is just a little sharper. Next year we'll be saying, "Will Ted be able to wave off Fernando and the mob and defend his crown?" It will also be an opportunity for Isais to try and beat Ted's qualifying score—something he hasn't had an opportunity to do since 1947. (The Champion is not required to qualify.) I feel that we had one, if not THE strongest field of competition that we have ever had in a National Tournament. The Eastern National had its strongest field of competition this year, too.

Most of us will be anxious to see how our new method of national play will work out from the spectator's standpoint, sponsor's viewpoint, and the player's angle, and what effect it will have on the game as a whole.

As this Holiday Seasons nears, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Horseshoe pitchers of the nation a joyous Christmas season from the officers of the N.H.P.A., and to hope that 1954 will be your best year, also that 1953 will be one of pleasant memories.

It's Murray again for '54. The dates are July 22-29. Something new has been added, however—the method of play will be different. It was voted, in convention this year, to change the method of play. Three methods were suggested, which you read in the minutes of the 1953 convention. Our president, Dale Dixon, devised a method of play combining the three methods and presented it to Mr. Paul Rose (who represents the sponsor of the 1954 tournament). The sponsor was very much impressed and accepted the preferred method because of the appeal to the spectator. The new method is as follows:

QUARTER FINALS—Top 36 qualifiers

Divide into 6 groups of 6, seeding 2 men in each group. Others to be placed according to qualifying scores. (5 games) (1 night's play). Top 4 men in each group to go into semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS—24 Men

Divide into 3 groups of 8, according to percentage in quarter finals. (7 games) (2 night's play). Top 2 in each group to go in finals.

FINALS—6 Men *Round Robin 1 night* 5 games

handwritten Top 2 to play best 3 out of 5 for World's Championship. (1 night's play). 22 games maximum. Total of 5 night's play.

The Executive Board considered the three suggested methods plus this combined method. A vote was taken by mail and as a result we are to use the combined method as explained above.

* * *

ARIZONA

By WM. HUNT

	W.	L.	%
1. Deleary, S.	11	0	68.4
2. Hill, W.	10	1	54.3
3. Elder, G.	9	2	52.3
4. Phillips, W.	8	3	44.4
5. Hunt, W.	6	5	44.8
6. Van Zanten, W.	5	6	43.1
7. Carson, C.	5	6	47.2
8. Snyder, E.	4	7	42.8
9. Smith, G.	3	8	43.0
10. Hansen, W.	3	8	35.0
11. McNeil, C.	2	9	41.1
12. Harkins, B.	0	11	36.0

* * *

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INDIANA

By ROBERT PENCE

Allow me to express my appreciation for the pleasure your publication gives me and to give voice to a couple of ideas.

I live in a section of Indiana that is a dead spot as far as the game of horseshoes is concerned. There is not a regulation court in the entire city of Gary, or anywhere in the county as far as I know. I must battle 35 or 40 miles of city traffic to reach Garfield or Welles parks in Chicago in order to find real horseshoe courts and pitchers.

That has been my lot ever since I got my discharge from Uncle Sam's army in 1946. Consequently my only contacts with the game consist of an annual trip to the Indiana state tournament, where I absorb a lot of good shelackings, and my monthly issue of *The Horseshoe Pitcher*. The trimmings handed me at the state tournament give me as much pleasure as pain for I really enjoy myself meeting old friends of past years and meeting the new pitchers coming up. Besides I can always console myself by thinking I might do better if I could engage in some competitive pitching during the year. At that the results haven't been too bad for I have qualified for Class B each year in a field of approximately 100 pitchers. Last fall I posted a 332 score in the 150 shoe qualifying round.

Each issue of *The Horseshoe Pitcher* gives me nothing but pleasure for not only does it keep me up to date with events but enables me to keep track of old friends. Ted Allen for example, for whom I arranged several exhibition matches while I lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, back in the thirties and with whom I played in several tournaments back east while we were both still in uniform. Then too, there is Johnny Lindemeier of Chicago; also Ray Frye of Virginia with whom I played while living in Washington, D. C. years ago; also Vito Fileccia, Bill Kolb and other New York and New Jersey pitchers with whom I came in contact while in the arm in some tournaments on Long Island and in New York City.

Asst. Editor's Note: Bob you beat the daylights out of me for first place in a tournament held at Hempstead Lake State Park—remember?

It also makes me wonder what has happened to quite a few others such as Ruth Allen, the famous girl pitcher from Hempstead, Long Island, and Bill Moore, the former Illinois and District of Columbia champion, and Boo Henson of Virginia.

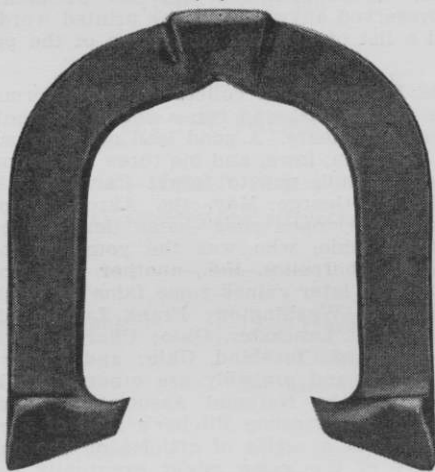
The almost total lack of space devoted to horseshoe pitching in the sports pages of our daily newspapers is another reason this magazine is a godsend to horseshoe pitchers for it is the only source of news of the game we have. I was greatly interested in Ted Allen's article in the July issue on that subject.

As a former sports writer I would like to give some advice to those who handle horseshoe matches and tourneys on a local level. If you

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write the articles yourself, seeing to it that they are typewritten and double spaced and give it to the sports editor in person, the chances are you will get good coverage. If, however, you phone in the results or send it in written in longhand you will get little if any space on the sports pages. This I know from experience, both as a former sports writer and as one who handled publicity for the Fort Wayne horseshoe club activities back before the war.

Another thing, get good coverage on your local events and when the wire services (AP, UP and INS) send the results of the World's tourney at Murray, Utah and your own state tournament the sports editor will probably use those stories instead of chucking the copy in the waste basket.

All of this leads me to another thought. The game has never had much written about it in the newspapers or magazines. It is the big commercialized sports and spectator games that get the fancy feature articles. As a result the history of the game and famous champions of yesteryear, live only in the minds of those of us who are old enough to remember them. Those memories are fast becoming only legends for they are not preserved anywhere in the printed word. I know of no place one can find a list of national champions of the past.

The Horseshoe Pitcher could collect all the information it can on the famous figures of the past and run a series of monthly articles on the careers of these old timers. A good lead off story would be that of Frank Jackson of Kellerton, Iowa, and his three horseshoe pitching sons, Hanford, Vyril and Carroll, not to forget Carroll's wife. Succeeding articles could take up George May, the Akron, Ohio fireman, who legend says invented the "open shoe" some time around 1920; Harold Falor, also of Akron, Ohio, who was the youngest to ever win the title; Jimmy Risk of Montpelier, Ind., another who won the National at an early age and who later gained some fame by pitching horseshoes at the White House in Washington; Frank Lundin of New London, Iowa; Charles Bobbitt of Lancaster, Ohio; Charlie Davis of Columbus, Ohio; Blair Nunamaker of Cleveland, Ohio; and finally Putt Mossman of Iowa. There may be and probably are others. Maybe a committee could be appointed by the National Association to delve into past records and establish a Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame.

Who knows but what a series of articles on the champions of the past and the history of the game might eventually be collected into book form and become a "best seller," non-fiction that is!

* * *

MAINE

FIRST PITCH INEQUALITY

By CHUCK SCOOP GERRISH

The N.H.P.A. rule on first pitch being won by the point-scorer each time, gives quite an advantage to the Winner of a game when the Loser makes a small score. This concern has been mulled over probably many times in the past by the early rule-makers on the Science of The Game.

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Cletus Chapelle, 4th V. P.
7018 N. Greenwich
Portland, Ore.

Mary Jones, Treasurer
Random Lake,
Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary
Crestline, California

and perhaps they decided the current way is easiest to apply and settle such a matter.

In looking over a few score sheets it seems that the pitchers get First Pitch about the same number of times under the present rules, if the score is fairly competitive, such as in a game when the loser gets 30 or more points. For instance a 50—44 score, got 17 first pitches to the loser's 16. In a 50—33 game, it was 20 first pitches to 18. In a 50—36 game, it was 20 first pitches to 16. Another 50—36 game, 19 first pitches to 17. In a 50—37 game, 14 first pitches to 15. In a 50—26 game, 22 first pitches to 14. In a 50—20 game 18 first pitches to 9. In a 50—12 game 11 first pitches to 4. Another 50—12 game, 14 first pitches to 6. Ditto, 13 first pitches to 8. In a 50—8 score ,14 first pitches to 6. And in a 50—6 game, 15 first pitches to 3. These last few seem quite an unfair difference. If you ever had a fellow beat you 50 to 6 or 8, you would feel that you just hadn't got a "chance to get going." Had you had the First Pitch an equal number of times through and through, it might have made quite a difference in your score, or even in your ringer recovery and the game's result. Having the first pitch at an empty stake usually has a good deal of value to a player. To get something in the way of the second player is worth a good deal.

Maybe some fellows play with equal first pitches. If so, please let us know about it. Can you get used to alternating every two stakes? Or do you continually get into first pitch confusions so it upsets your steadiness and ringer percentage? If others have some good ideas on this subject, why not tell us about them.

(How about having the no point pitcher always have first pitch?—
Jake)

* * *

MINNESOTA

By Frank J. Drassall

I should like to give a brief report of our activities this year. The St. Paul Horseshoe Pitchers Association is, I believe, the largest for a long way around, with a membership of approximately 160. It has finished a very successful season with the regular league tournament. There were four leagues pitching throughout the summer with a successful tournament also in the spring and fall, all ending up with a big horseshoe party, awards, and trophies.

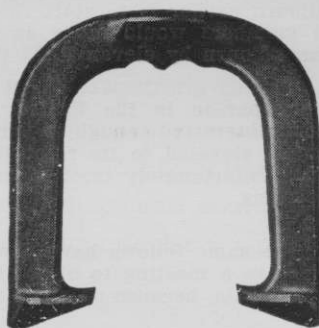
The officers are Bud Wadell, president; Ron Cherrier, secretary; and myself executive secretary and treasurer. This year the Association ended up with a balance of \$10.04 and a few small bills still outstanding.

The St. Paul Association has voted to drop out of the National Association due to various gripes, of course. Some of them were very much justified, and therefore our Gopher State Association, which was the National organization's representative, ended up with a total of

only ten members belonging to the National. However, a new organization was set up known as the Minnesota State organization, an independent organization from the National. The St. Paul members, and many others from throughout the state were very eager to pay dues there and belong to it. Therefore the Minnesota State Association has enjoyed a membership of 140 and has successfully conducted the Northwest Tournament, to which we drew 40 contestants, and also the Minnesota State Tournament, with 35 contestants. Both of these tournaments were a success with Walt Downs of Kelly, Iowa, winning the championship in Class A of the Northwest, and Art Engebretson of Fargo, North Dakota, winning the championship in Class B. The state championship went to Ron Cherrier of Hopkins, Minnesota, and the B championship to Ben Trolen of St. Paul, Minnesota.

With the rise of expenses, including trophies and a little prize money, the State Association ended up with a balance of \$1.69 in the treasury. The financial picture does not look too well, but knowing our horseshoe pitchers, I am sure that the new officers will get busy and bring in a lot of new members and dues for 1954. This perhaps will bring the treasury up again to the near mark of \$1,000 income in the city organization. Out of that we can figure on receiving \$1 per member for our state organization, which in addition to entry fees charge for tournaments, will carry us successfully through the year 1954.

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The Minneapolis Park Board has built a very nice set of eight courts in Loring Park, practically in the heart of the city. I am sure we will be able to organize a nice group over in Minneapolis. However, since the two cities are just across the river from each other, we may also have a good Twin-City League which we are planning to organize for the Class AA players.

Best wishes for success for the Horseshoe Pitchers Magazine.

* * *

NEW JERSEY

By **WALTER N. HARING**

At a recent meeting of our New Jersey Horseshoe Pitchers Association, we learned, through the reports of our officers, that we have enjoyed the greatest year in the history of our state association. We have surpassed all previous records in membership, finances, tournament activities and publicity.

However we have one great weakness which seriously threatens the continued progress of our organization, and that is poor attendance at our meetings.

There may be several reasons for this condition. Some fellows say that our meetings last too long. We have recognized that fact and are making an effort to correct the situation by holding more meetings during the year and discussing only a few topics at each meeting. Another way we can adjourn earlier is to start the meetings promptly at eight o'clock. If all members would make an effort to be at the meetings at eight we can adjourn by eleven P.M.

I am sure that every person in the United States who pitches horseshoes, and has become interested enough to join a state association, would like to see our sport elevated to its rightful place amongst the top sports of the nation. Unfortunately most of us are content to let someone else do the elevating.

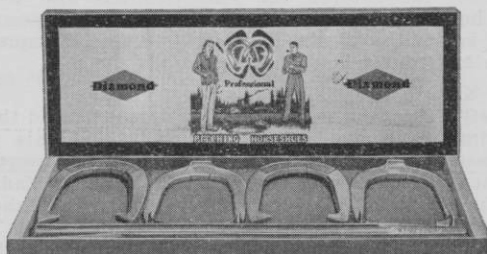
Here in New Jersey the same fellows have done all the work year after year, and when we have a meeting to elect officers we are forced to elect the same men over again, because no one else will come forward to serve.

If we are really interested in promoting our sport, we have two great mediums which we can do so. One is our state associations, and the other is The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine.

On behalf of state associations all over America I urge every member to attend as many meetings during the year as possible. You don't have to open your mouth except to yawn if you don't want to, but at least come out and let your officers know that you are interested. If you wish to leave before the meeting is over you may do so, and we will



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thank you for having attended. "Every pebble dropped in a pond makes a ripple." So come out and drop your pebble. You may be surprised at how big a ripple you can make.

I also urge everyone who hasn't done so, to please subscribe to the Horseshoe Pitcher magazine. Your sport needs the magazine and it needs you.

By "DOC" BERMAN

The Eastern National Horseshoe Pitching Championship was a well run tournament. The committee did a fine job, they put in a lot of time and effort. The following comments are not meant as criticism. I hope they will help to improve the tournament.

PUBLICITY — We entered the Fair Grounds and then wandered around for the horseshoe area. We asked three employees of the Fair before we could locate the courts. The lights were inadequate. Shadows of pitchers on other courts kept moving across the pits.

QUALIFYING—This tournament clearly demonstrated that qualifying is a waste of time. Fulton's 75% ringers and 243 points was in class "B" although he is Pennsylvania State Champ with an average of 82.5%. Lutter was runner up with 68.2% and also in class "B". Zadroga finished last with 63% in Class "A". At least three men with higher qualifying scores had a lower ringer percentage than Fulton's 75%. Fulton must be very honest and did not call shoes seven and eight inches from the stake, points. With 75% ringers he could have had as much as 250 points.

If the tournament committee feels that qualifying is necessary, they should assign scorers who will measure all close shoes and doubtful ringers. I watched several men qualify and not a single one measured a

close ringer or close shoe (that includes myself). The tournament could be held for three or even three and a half days with ALL ENTRANTS playing.

Materials are now available for horseshoe court construction that will make the area neat, clean and attractive enough to attract women pitchers. Rubber, added to surfacing materials, produces a rubbery surface hard, and yet not slippery when wet. The Bakelite Co. developed an odorless plastic clay called Pyrocon. It comes in brilliant colors and does not stick to the hands or soil clothes. Unlike the usual model clay it does not dry out but stays workable indefinitely without moistening.

* * *

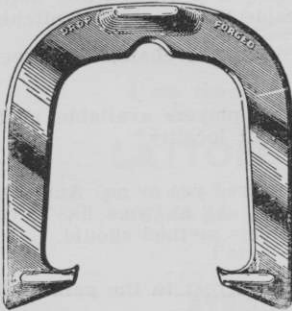
OREGON

By CLETUS CHAPELLE

We fairly well know what the fellows who attend the National Convention think about the game of horseshoes as it is played today. However, there is a vast majority who have never had a chance to express themselves about the game or about the N.H.P.A. With that in mind I have drawn up a list of questions which can mostly be answered yes or no. Each subscriber then could answer the questions and send their answers back to you. You could compile the results and print them in The Horseshoe Pitcher. Since you have more readers from outside the N.H.P.A. than from N.H.P.A. members, I think this a wonderful method of getting information from the pitchers in general. If the plan works it could be used again and again and the National Officers would have a means of learning what the pitchers are thinking.

1. Is the N.H.P.A. filling its proper place in the horseshoe picture?
2. Are the National dues too much?
3. Should the sponsor of any National Tournament be given more consideration in deciding the details for said tournament?
4. Should the count all system be tried in a national tournament?

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5. Should the thirty-six man round-robin as used in Class "A" in the National be reduced in number?
6. Would either of the three proposed systems for next year bring as many pitchers to the tournament as the system now used?
7. Should spectators be allowed "to rib" the players as in other sports?
8. Should the Constitution be amended to allow N.H.P.A. members to help promote and participate in non-sanctioned tournaments?
9. Should any change be made in the present scoring system?
10. Should first pitch be alternated?
11. Should the player behind in the scoring automatically be given first pitch?
12. Should men qualifying for a tournament be assigned a definite court and starting time?
13. Should a player forced to withdraw from a tournament, through no fault of his own, forfeit all his games?
14. Should a Class "C" be added to the National, allowing more men to play?
15. Should the winner of a round-robin tournament be decided by total points scored rather than by wins and losses?
16. Should the foul line be raised two or three inches to discourage stepping on it?
17. Do you think a handicap system would help popularize the game?
18. Should the rules be changed to allow a pitcher, while delivering a shoe, stand wholly or partially outside the box on the pitching side?
19. Should the two hundred shoe qualifying be change to three or four hundred?
20. Would a winter tour of the four best players available, such as the professional tennis tour, pay off in your locality?

Jake, these questions can all be answered yes or no. Answers should prove interesting as well as informative. At no time has a concerted effort been made to get the answers, as this method should.

1. What would add more spectator interest to the game?
2. How can we best interest more people in playing the game?
3. What would you desire the National Association to do to further the game?

Congratulations on the past five years as an editor. May the next five be more enjoyable and fruitful from a subscriber standpoint. I appreciate what you are doing and am sure countless others do also.



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- 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; Horseshoe Grounds, Ontario, Golden Gate Courts, Candlestick Cove, Crocker-Amazon Courts, San Francisco; Memorial Park, South San Francisco; Lincoln Park, Santa Monica; McNear Park, Petalume; Ives Memorial Park, 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. Big Creek Park, Canton; Laura Branley Park, Peoria; Bradley Park, Peoria.
- INDIANA**—Brookside Park, Indianapolis; Dorney Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville; 3rd Street Park, Bloomington; Greendale Park, Lawrenceburg.
- IOWA**—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa; Crapo Park, Burlington; Island Park, Cedar Falls; Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids; LeClaire Park, Davenport. Byrnes Park, Waterloo.
- KANSAS**—Forest Park, Ottawa; Gage Park, Topeka; Katy Park, Chanute; Huntress Park, Clay Center; Riverside Park, Iola; Klamm Park, Kansas City; South Park, Lawrence; City Park, Manhattan; Prospect Park, Wichita.
- 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; St. Joseph, Noyes Blvd. at Edmond; Forest Park, St. Louis; Liberty Park, Sedalia; Memorial Park, Sweet Springs.
- NEBRASKA**—Harmon Park, Kearney; Dewey Park, Omaha.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**—South Playground, Portsmouth; Ryan H. S. Club, Dover Point; Pop Ryans, 14 Central Ave., Portsmouth; White's Courts, 942 Woodberry Ave., Portsmouth.
- NEW JERSEY**—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Park, Newark; Wildwood, Beach Park.
- NEW YORK**—Central Park, Fort George, 193 Fort George Ave., Inwood 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.; Johnson City, Endicott-Johnson Courts; Kirk Park, Syracuse; Recreation Park, Port Chester; Edgerton Park, Rochester; K of C Courts Hoosick Falls.
- OHIO**—Jerman Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky; Williams Memorial Pk., Wilmington. Community Park, Cedarville.
- OREGON**—Laurelhurst Park, Portland; Bush Pasture Park, Salem; Atkinson Park, Oregon City; Columbia Park, Portland.
- PENNSYLVANIA**—District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Reverse; Oakhurst Courts, Johnstown; Playground Cts., New Freedom.
- RHODE ISLAND**—Columbus Square, W. Warwick.
- SOUTH DAKOTA**—McKenna Park, Sioux Falls.
- TEXAS**—Will Rogers Park, Amarillo; Elwood Park, Amarillo; Mason Park, Houston; Bellvue Park, Wichita Falls.
- 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; Wheeling Island, Wheeling.
- WISCONSIN**—Washington Park, Milwaukee.
- WYOMING**—Union Park, Cheyenne.

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED HERE, GET BUSY!