THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America



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EDITORIAL

California and New York were the first to compile the coming season's schedule for the tournaments they are to hold. Nope, it's not too early. I suggest all you other states do the same and send them in as soon as possible. This will enable you to change your dates in time if you see they conflict.

And how about bidding for the Eastern National Tournament? If you are under the impression that it would cost too much in cash for prizes this may ease your mind—any offer of five hundred dollars and up would cover everything.

This tournament has become very popular as evidenced by the large number of entries and the distances the pitchers cover so they may take part in these events. Maybe you could dig up a sponsor?

HORSESHOE PITCHING TROPHY FEATURED IN HILL AND HILL ADVERTISING

Louisville, Ky.—Attention all you who have enjoyed horseshoe pitching as your favorite backyard sport! You'll be seeing an illustration of the top trophy of the sport in our magazine soon—featured in Hill and Hill Kentucky Whiskey advertisements. It's the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association World's Championship Cup!

This world's champion cup is given each year by the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association to the winner of the tournament held in Murray, Utah. The man who received it—Guy Zimmerman of Danville, California—is the top horseshoe pitcher in America.

The sport of horseshoe pitching goes back to a time soon after the practice of shoeing horses was started by the ancient armies of Greece and Rome, but it was revolutionized in modern times by George May who, in 1920, changed the entire principle of horseshoe play and scoring. Seeing little point in concentrating merely upon getting close to the stake for one point, May decided to become a ringer specialist and get three points for his pitch. His new technique enabled him to ring the stake with amazing frequency . . , to win 24 straight games in 1920, and to walk away with the championship!

1

Hill and Hill, which has for many years built its advertising around sports themes, is featuring handsomely illustrated American sports trophies this year; among them, The Grand National Steeplechase Cup, The Tam O'Shanter Golf Trophy and the World's Heavyweight Championship belt.

MAINE

Here we are again, folks—There sure was plenty of good writ'n in the February issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher. With a few pictures Jake could get out a good Friday Evening Post. You know, to rival the one on Saturday.

That handicap idea must be a help to perk up the game. California and Texas (maybe more?) added to its praises this time. Its had a good word before, betimes. We want information on it, and want to try it out up here in these parts. We can stand something that will draw more interest for the game around here.

The Youth Movement should be a very helpful activity. Claude A. Benedict of Johnstown, Ohio, is going to program this out, so we're watching for it. Young players will gladly take part in our sport, if they're invited and given some attention. We expect quite a bit of school boy action, tournaments, etc., this year.

And we are not forgetting the women. Blessum, a number have already expressed a readiness to play—and the males are generally looking forward to seeing something on the part of the darling gals.

My sentiments are with Bob Pence of Indiana on that idea of seeing to it that all entries at a meet have a chance to play, "instead of just contributing an entry fee, pitching a few shoes in the qualifying round and then sitting on the side-lines as scorekeepers for the top players." Okay Bob-But them aint my sentimence so much for, "several more hours are usually spent chewing the fat with other players, watching others qualify and helping out as scorekeepers, etc." It has always been my experience that the players want to play pretty steadily and get the tourney over and done. Many of them reside distances away, and like to make return trip with some efficiency of time. Later on Bob's item speaks of Indiana's players coming from an area of some 30,000 square miles, and that pre-rating 100 pitchers without the solo qualifying might make "endless arguments and bickering." We have not seen this happen, and believe such fears are quite groundless. Wherever pre-rating is tried out, the saving of labor and time in pre-pitcher "qualifying" and eliminatins (disqualifying) seems to be well liked and satisfying to the players. Grade them into Classes or Groups on past performances and start playing games. That's what pitchers want: games.

If one may be rash enough to try an answer to E. Wiges of Iowa, in regard to indivduals challenging a champion, state or national, etc., here is a slant on it that's probably legit. Jake has printed a bit on this before I believe, but he may allow it again. The NHPA (Constitution and Rules Head) has always recognized the right for such a challenge. Probably this is a neglected pitching attraction that could add a good deal of excitement and interest for the game. Let players come forth to challenge the champion for his title. The writer has blared out for many years that any title he himself holds is open to challenge the year round. One would not seem much of a champion, if he wouldn't defend his championship against any and all eligible comers. There should be some fair system for such play, arranged and understood by all concerned. Here is a recommended method of play: To win 2 of possible 3 matches held a week or more apart. Likely in each player's towns, and favor wishes of defending champion in case third match is needed. Each match to consist of 6 out of possible 11 50-point games. The defending champion, if he loses, should have an early opportunity to try to regain title by challenging back. In case the defending champ was holding his title for his first year in or through an annual tourney, then he would continue as co-champion until the next tournament for title, or end of one year. But a champ who had held the title more than once might lose championship in such match play until he regained it by challenge or in tourney play. A purse or split purse, similar to boxing or other sport award, may be included in such a Match Play, if the defending champion so desires. Such title defense match is to be authorized by a majority of the Executive Committee of the managing association. A proper representative of the sanctioning association should be in attendance to have charge of such contests. Advertise, publicize and have fun. (There is some conflict in all this with a statement on all NHPA title Certificates: "This Certificate of Championship is valid until another such championship tournament is held under the sanction of said National Association." Yet it is valid in the Constitution and Laws to change title by individual match. Other inconsistencies are in the Constitution, etc., matters that should be straightened out by a Rules Committee).

We don't presume to debate with our able friend Alvin D. of Kansas, but he asks for opinions on calling a lower grade group a "Consolation Championship," instead of a "Class B", etc. round of play. My comment is that I've seen a very nice trophy labeled "Winner of Class B" (or Class C, etc.) and it looks very satisfactory. I rather think a winner in second or lower class would generally prefer a B or C letter rating and award to that of a Consolation title. A consolation champion title is not in itself specific enough as to grade and standing, it seems to me.

We can say that we are sorry too, that the blank page of January was due to pressing circumstances of our Assistant Editor, Norman Compton. It was very excusable. And you may be sure, Norm—you and Mrs. C.—of the sympathy of all readers of The Horseshoe Pitcher for those five weeks of Hers in the hospital. We hope also that those three of the next generation are OK, and that health and prosperity are now working out happily for all in that little household.

Assistant Editors Note: Thanks Charley for those nice words—it makes a guy feel like he's getting a magazine out for the nicest kind of people. Right now "mama" is home and feeling fine. The future generation are all OK too.

The Ohio writer, S. J. Manker, made some capable points in defense of Count-All. But I think he's really a Cancel man, and my criticisms of the Non-Cancel system in recent issues are still in good standing I believe, to most readers who would study and test them. Thanks anyway, S. J., for noticing and giving your judgment. My appreciation also for the kindly comments of L. W. Jones of Texas. It makes for a cozy world, when Maine, Ohio and Texas can get together so well (even in February).

That Oklahoma page by Guy Goddard gave me a "lift." I believe it did me good, and maybe others. We have tried in the past to talk the game as being an ancient one, whereas Guy points out that the modern scientific shoe and game are around only 30 years old, a sport that is practically "in its infancy." Thank you, Guy, that's a good way of seeing it. Let's carry on, help it live and grow—live and grow. Inside me I've always had a feeling that the game wil some day burst into an era of high appreciation and a glorious expansion. And we who play the game can enjoy the waiting for this era. "The game is for the players, not for spectators." I wonder. You may be right again, Guy, it's a good game anyway.

Truman Standard gave us all a good grin, with his last line to Jake under the editor's Jottings. Any of us would grin at losing such games, if we pitched like that 75 to 83 per cent, and lose. Keep going, T. S.

MISSOURI

By EARL WINSTON

Regarding suggestions for more spectator interest in forthcoming horseshoe tournaments, my father and I have some pointers along this line which some of you might think over. Might mention the fact that Mr. Tate of Illinois wrote an article somewhat similar to this last year but I never heard any more about it.

Since the World Tournament will be run off as a round robin with a four man final, I think the following plan would stimulate interest among both pitchers and spectators, add more color to the tournament and be an easy way for special prizes and more player recognition. Why not have some of the pitchers do some of the horseshoe stunts a good many are capable of doing? This could be done in between games or during a recess of regular games.

About writing articles for magazines—I've been wondering why a group of pitchers or writers can't get together and write a good article on horseshoes and get it published in some popular magazine that is found on all news stands. The Saturday Evening Post, Look and Colliers have carried articles on football, basketball, baseball, hockey, tennis and most any other sport one can think of so why not horseshoes? I would help by getting pictures or material or anything necessary to get the job done. If this were published in some magazine other than our own Horseshoe Pitcher and had a monetary reward, I suggest that it be put into the treasury of the N.H.P.A.

I'd just like to see horseshoes brought more to the attention of the public and am sure many others feel the same way. Let some one write this type of magazine article.

Dixon Victory Horseshoe

This shoe has been tried and approved by the best pitchers of the nation.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

By HOWARD J. WHITE

I received The Horseshoe Pitcher today and as usual it aroused my double ringer interest in the game 100% by all those fine articles that were sent in.

Being state secretary of New Hampshire I hereby make a motion that I write this article to let the other 47 states know New Hampshire is very much alive for '55.

1. Send Jake extra postage so that he can send out the magazine first-class to the ones that want it. First-class mail being much faster would give us more time to write articles for the next month. I used to do this in the Navy.

2. Every subscriber to The Horseshoe Pitcher should get another one to subscribe.

3. State secretaries should write an article for The Horseshoe Pitcher every month. Articles from every state would really liven things up. WE NEED PUBLICITY! Maine take note: Elect C. S. Gerrish for State Secretary. He is as regular as a midnight alley cat.

4. Each state should do more for Juniors. We in New Hampshire are planning a big youth program this year, something we never did before. I have written to Claude Benedict, Johnstown, Ohio, for details. Hurry up Claude so I can have them for our state meeting in March. New Hampshire has 100 National membership cards and 25 Junior's. How's that for a starter if we clean house. Indiana, watch out!

5. A special award should be granted from the national to the state having the largest membership, such as a plaque.

6. Cities that do not have horseshoe courts installed at their playground, do so. Charley Gerrish, James Guyette and yours truly will fight city hall next week for this. Will let you know how we make out.

7. More women in the game would work wonders. My wife Nancy went with me last year to all the tournaments and kept score. This year she will pitch and help out with her stenographical knowledge at our state meetings. Our little daughter Linda should find fun in the future years with her pitching parents.

8. State secretaries get on the ball and send in complete reports promptly on tournaments. Percentages are very important.

JOIN and SUPPORT

THE

NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION

ACCEPT NO HORSESHOES UNLESS YOU SEE THE N.H.P.A. OFFICIAL STAMP

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Arch Stokes, 1st V. P. 1310 Woodland Avenue Salt Lake City, Utah

Elmer Beller, 3rd V. P. III Via Buena Ventura Redondo Beach, Calif.

Random Lake Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary Crestline, California

9. Eye catching apparel should be worn by all players. I am proud to wear my 1954 state champion sleeve emblem this year. Compliments from our National Association.

10. Learn to know your Sports Editor well. Turn in nice typed up results that are accurate and don't forget to mention the tournament was sanctioned by our National Association, it's authentic then. Most people have never heard of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and last but not least, let us make a resolution to try and help the other fellow get into the game.

* * *

NEW JERSEY

By W. N. HARING

"A QUESTION FOR YOU"

A lot of articles have been printed in The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine offering some excellent ideas about what we should do to promote the sport of horseshoe pitching. In the past I have been the author of a lot of dribble in the form of articles which had little or no value other than to help fill up space during the winter months.

I have been looking over some of the back issues of the magazine and I have noticed that most articles offering suggestions for the promotion of the sport have one thing in common? And that is that the writer of the article suggests that we should do this, or we should do that to promote the sport, then he sits back and waits for someone else to take action. At least in my case I must plead guilty as charged, and so I have asked myself this question. "What have I done during the past season to bring favorable publicity to the sport of horseshoe pitching?"

I think that is a good question for each individual to ask himself. Last year I was instrumental in giving the sport some very unfavorable publicity. It happened while I was practicing pitching one afternoon. Some small children were watching and decided they would like to try a few shots. Hoping to pasify them and perhaps get rid of them I offered them each a shot, whereupon a small boy stepped up and flipped a shoe into the air. It popped his little sister on the head inflicting a wound which required three stitches to close. Horseshoe pitching was not very popular in that neighborhood for some time.

This year I intend to do more than offer lip service to the game. I have already contacted the director of parks and playgrounds in my home town and offered to work with him to introduce and promote the sport amongst the young folks. (If enough kids get popped on the head maybe we can pitch in peace around here.)

HORSESHOE PERCENTAGE TOTALS

By LEE DAVIS

Thought it may be of interest to show the percentage totals by classes. Exclusive of Canada, in your January list of percentages, there were approximately 740 listed percentages. Of this number there were:

3 in the 80% and up for .5% 34 in the 70% to 80% for 5% 113 in the 60% to 70% for 16% 188 in the 50% to 60% for 26% 185 in the 40% to 50% for 25% 132 in the 30% to 40% for 18.5% 55 in the 20% to 30% for 8% 10 below 20%—2%



The interesting thing to me was that over fifty per cent of the pitchers recorded, were between 40 and 60 per cent and as you go over the records of the men who do most of the work for state organizations and also in the brackets, of course there are exceptions. Well, it won't be long now before we will hear the old steel clanging round the stakes!

This past issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher had several very interesting articles and well written. Wish I had the ability to write a good article but will do my best to comment on a few articles.

The one article that I think most of us (with sincere interest in building up the game) is about 100 per cent perfect. That one is from our friend in Ohio, S. J. Manker. I for one agree with his last paragraph word for word.

Another very interesting and factual article was the one from Guy Goddard from Oklahoma. How true he is.

I wrote a letter to L. W. Jones from Texas and asked him for a set of his rules on the handicap system and also sent him one of ours. The more ideas we exchange the better I feel we will make our game. I would be glad to send our rules to anyone, anytime. All they have to do is ask and I will send them.

Of course I read Bob Pence's article and I just sent him a five page letter, commenting on how well it was written. Some of the high lights of my letter was to tell him that I was glad my predicting was wrong and hoped that his would be correct. Also I told him that I didn't mean to criticize his organization (so well handled) but was merely using the results of his tournament to bring out a point for non-qualifying. I pointed out to him it was true what he said about comparing ringer percentages when some are much better than others. Also pointed out that when men were placed in their rightful classes you didn't have that lack of interest. His point on courts and conditions is a very important point regardless of how the tournament is run.

I also pointed out the possibility of players laying down to get in a lower class because he wouldn't have a chance to win in the class he could qualify for.

Another point I stressed was the time factor, especially on one day tournaments. Even in his tournament the players had to give up two week-ends and the officials three including a long week end. With our system we would have three or possibly four tournaments over the same period of time.

I ended the letter by saying that I was glad that he disagreed with me and spoke as he felt. It's a good thing we don't all think alike or



we would all want the same girl for our wife, then we would be in trouble. And to keep up the good work and hope they would always have good tournaments in Indiana. Just a little reminder: I told him that we had over a hundred in one of our tournaments before the war, but now it was to a point where we had to do something and the nonqualifying seemed to be it.

HORSESHOE COURTS

By JAKE

They say the road to hell is paved with "good intentions." In my own case I believe it. Last year after I attended the Eastern National Tournament at Columbus, Ohio, I went to Frankfort, Indiana where they held their State Tournament. I was so impressed with the appearance of their courts that I told the boys there that I would describe them in an article in The Horseshoe Pitcher. Yep, my intentions were good but this is the first time since my promise that I find room for such an article.

Its been my good fortune to travel from Canada to Florida and from Maine to California and of course I saw horseshoe courts wherever I went. Some were good, bad and indifferent. The ones in Frankfort are really beautiful. They are situated in Dorner Park, originally the city dump. Then it was created into a lovely park. The boys all pitched in and built twelve courts; six back to back.

Between the two sets of six courts are set large blackboards for scoring. Each scorer sits under an enormous colored umbrella to keep the sun off him. The whole pitching area is covered with grass except for two concrete paths which the pitchers use in traveling from stake to stake. All the courts are surrounded with a high and fancy looking heavy wire fence.

Outside the courts, in the park itself, wherever you look, are grass, trees and myriads of flowers. In such a setting as this there is no doubt that it makes any pitcher play his best. Forgot to mention that there are plenty of good looking benches all around for the comfort of spectators.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

In the December issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher, Doc Berman made a suggestion of having Ted Allen, Dale Dixon, Isais or Zimmerman on the TV program "What's My Line" and that Isais was on "You Asked For It" two years ago. Wonder if he saw the Sunday, Jan. 6 program. On Sunday night Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. program "You Asked For It" James Lecky of Phoenix, Arizona put on one of the best exhibitions of horseshoe pitching. This was very good publicity for the game. At work, everybody remarked about it to me. Did you see it? Norman Smith.

* *

Denver Ford was the Class A winner and H. Anderson the Class B winner in a recent tournament held at the Bradenton Trailer Park pits in Florida. There were forty-five pitchers entered and each pitched fifty shoes. Pitchers were judged on a point basis. Ray Middleton managed the tournament. Class A finished Denver Ford, Roy Thorenson and Mike Ross. Class B ended with H. Anderson, L. Casebere and E. Edwards finishing in that order.

How about a subscription or two as prizes in your coming tournaments this season?

Know anybody who would like a sample copy of The Horseshoe Pitcher?

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To be a Champion, pitch the shoes the Champions do, pitch Gordon Spin-On Horseshoes!

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COMING EVENTS

April 3-So. Calif Open Class "A", South Gate April 17-So. Calif. Open Class "B", Ontario May 1-So. Calif. Open Class "C", South Gate May 15-So. Calif. 60 years and over, Long Beach May 22-So. Calif. Open Class "D", South Gate May 29-New York City, Season Opener June 5-New York City, Fort George Open June 5-Western Open, Long Beach June 12-So. Calif. Exera Class "B", Huntington Park June 26-So. Cal. Extra Class "C". Ontario July 2-3-4-Hoosick Falls, New York, New York State Championship July 10-So. Calif. Extra Class "A", South Gate July 17-New York City, Inwood Open July 20-27-Murray, Utah, World Championship July 31-So. Cal. Amateur, Long Beach Aug. 7-New York City, St. Mary's Open Aug. 7-So. Cal. Extra Class "D", Harvard Aug. 14-So. Cal. Class "B" Championship, Ontario Aug. 21-So. Cal. Junior Open, South Gate Aug. 28-So. Cal. Class "A" Championship, Long Beach Sept. 11-New York City, Fort George Open Sept. 11-So. Cal. Class "D" Championship, Huntington Park Sept. 25-So. Cal. Class "C" Championship

Oct. 9-Junior Championship, South Gate

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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, Petaluma; 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; Bradenton Trailer Park, Bradenton. ILLINOIS—Welles Park, Chicago; Athletic Park, Canton; Riverside Park, Moline; Mineral Springs Park, Pekin; Reservoir Park, Quincy; Long Viaw Park, Rock Island. Big Creek Park, Canton; Laura Branley Park, Peoria; Kings Park, Pittsfield.

INDIANA — Brookside Park, Indianapolis; Dorner Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville; 3rd Street Park, Bloomington; Greendale Park, Lawrenceburg; Jackson Park, Gary; Tower Park, Valparaiso.

IOWA—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa; Crapo Park, Burlington; Island Park, Cedar Falls; Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids; LeClaire Park, Dovenport. 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; Loring Park. Minneapolis.

Minneapoils. MISSOURI--Municipal Park, Carthage: Neosho, Fair Grounds, Springfield; Grant Beach Par; St. Joseph, Noyes Blvd. at Edmond; Forest Park, St. Louis; Liberty Park, Sedalia; Memorial Park, Sweet Spring; Phelps Grove Park, Springfield. 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., Ports-

mouth

 mouth.
NEW JERSEY—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Park, Newark; Wessel Brook Playground; Nash Park, Clifton.
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-Johnsonn Courts; Kirk Park, Syracuse; Recreation Park, Port Chester; Edgerton Park, Rochester; K of C Courts Woodlaw Hoosick Falls.

OHIO—Jermain Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky; Williams Memorial Pk., Wilmington. Community Park, Cedarville; Norwood courts, Norwood; St. Margaret Cartona, Cincinnati.

Cincinnati. OKLAHOMA—Oklahoma City, Wiley Post Park; Sapulpa. City Park: Tulso, Central Park. OREGON—Laurelhurst Park, Portland; Bush Pasture Park, Salem; Atkinson Park, Oregom City; Columbia Park, Portland; East Side Park, Eugene. PENNSYLVANIA—District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Revere; Oakhurst Courts, Johnstown; Playground Cts., New Freedom. Millsboro Hotel Courts, Milsboro. RHODE ISLAND—Columbus Square, W. Warwick; Olney Courts, Washington. SOUTH DAKOTA—McKennan Park, Sioux Falls. TEXAS—Will Rogers Park, Amarillo; Elwood Park, Amarillo; Mason Park, Houston; Relluve Park Wichita Falls.

TEXAS—Will Rogers Park, An Bellvue Park, Wichita Falls.

Belivue 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, Sprinafield. WASHINGTON—Zelasko Park, Aberdeen; City Park, Bremerton; Woodland Park, Seattle; Wright Park, Tacoma; Fair Grounds, Yakima; Lions Park, Hoquiam. WEST VIRGINIA—Bar B-Q Courts, East Nitro; Wheeling Island, Wheeling; Midelburg Park, Logan; Winisle Coal Coro., Chapmanville. WISCONSIN—Washington Park, Milwaukee; Jones Park, Fort Atkinson. WYOMING—Pioneer Park

WYOMING-Pioneer Park, Cheyenne. 'F YOU ARE NOT LISTED HERE, GET BUSY!