

The Horseshoe Pitcher's News Digest

Official Publication of

**THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

MAY, 1959

Vol. 3

No. 5

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Volume 3

May

No. 5

MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

The Membership Honor Roll which lists the State Chapters and their Secretaries who lead in three different membership categories was omitted in the April issue because of a lack of space.

After a fast start in January and February the number of memberships received took a big drop in March and April. Now that spring is here it is time for the horseshoes to start flying again and also time for EVERYONE to get out and boost N.H.P.A. membership.

WE ALL KNOW HORSESHOE PITCHERS WHO ARE NOT N.H.P.A. MEMBERS. LET'S MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO SIGN THEM UP.

Brightest spot in the membership picture is Southern California, which appears in all three Honor Rolls. Jim Weeks is doing a swell job there. It is easy for a state with a small membership last year to sign up new members, but when Southern California with the third largest total last year signs up 21 new members already this year it proves it can be done.

Sanctioned tournaments is the best way to pick up members. The records of California, Florida and Arizona, where weather permits early season activity proves that.

Here is the Honor Roll as of April 28.

1959 MEMBERSHIP TOTAL TO DATE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Jim Weeks, 74 members.

INDIANA, Earle Wilmore, 71 members.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Carl Moskalik, 34 members.

OHIO BUCKEYE, Sam Goodlander, 34 members.

PERCENTAGE COMPARED TO LAST YEAR'S TOTAL

FLORIDA, R. B. Woodrow, 141.7%

ARIZONA, Chas. Carson, 103.3%

SOUTH DAKOTA, Leigh Dunker, 92.9%

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Jim Weeks, 82.2%

MOST NEW MEMBERS

NORTH CAROLINA, Randall Jones, 27.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Jim Weeks, 21

NORTH DAKOTA, Rudy Lykkens, 16.

MONTANA-DAKOTA, Roger Barnaby 14.

YOUR ATTENTION LADIES, MURRAY CALLING

By MAURINE COOK, 4th Vice-Pres.

A warm welcome is extended to all horseshoe pitchers and fans, and special attention is directed to the ladies.

Please get your shoes out and start practicing so that we can show the men that we are behind them 100% when the National tournament opens in Murray, Utah on July 22nd at the Salt Lake County fairgrounds.

I am happy to report that the wheels of progress are in motion here in Murray and I hope that this year will be our biggest and most successful year of horseshoe pitching.

A report from the Stokes family finds Mrs. Stokes in very good health and anxiously awaiting each and every one of you. Please do not disappoint her. Every one come and have a good time.

NOTICE TO ALL STATE SECRETARIES

Numerous requests for information has made it imperative the National Secretary, Bob Pence, be informed what amount each State Chapter adds to the \$3.50 National fee.

Our N.H.P.A. rules allow each State Chapter to add any amount it desires to the annual National fee for use in the State Chapter. This amount varies greatly in the different states and the information is needed in order to answer inquiries about membership.

WANTED — NEW FACES AT MURRAY

There will no doubt be plenty of new faces appearing in the 36 man World Tournament and the 24 man Class B at the Salt Lake County Fair Grounds in Murray, Utah, July 22-29.

Quite a number of the old familiar ringer tossers have indicated they will be unable to be present this year for one reason or another, which means their places will have to be taken by newcomers to the "Big One" in Utah. This list of missing players will be headed by Glenn Anderson of Illinois, who was killed in an auto accident last fall, and the veteran Ed Sharp, Indiana State Champ, who has been forced into retirement from competition by illness. Also missing will be Lou Siebenaler of Nebraska, who took the official films last year.

There are plenty of others who will also be missed. This is the case every year to some degree. Last year the feature of the tourney was the showing of a large number of youngsters who made their presence felt in a sensational manner. Roger Vogel of Illinois, Don McCance of Nebraska, Dave Baker of Missouri, Virgil Taylor of Indiana, Bob West of Oregon, and Ralph Hall and Arvil Jennings of Utah made the old timers step last year.

There are a great many top notch ringer tossers in this land of ours who have never competed at the World Tourney in Murray. It is hoped a great many of these show up at Murray this year.

Apart from the competition itself the scenery, the weather and the sidelight attractions in Utah are wonderful. It is a swell place for a horseshoe pitcher and his family to spend their vacation.

Below is the prize list. The A Class is a 36-man round robin and the B Class will be played in two flights of 12 men each.

A CLASS — Total Prize List \$3,384.00

1.	\$435.00	19.	\$ 50.00
2.	335.00	20.	48.00
3.	285.00	21.	46.00
4.	235.00	22.	45.00
5.	182.00	23.	44.00
6.	157.00	24.	43.00
7.	137.00	25.	42.00
8.	127.00	26.	41.00
9.	117.00	27.	40.00
10.	107.00	28.	39.00
11.	97.00	29.	38.00
12.	87.00	30.	37.00
13.	77.00	31.	36.00
14.	67.00	32.	35.00
15.	62.00	33.	34.00
16.	57.00	34.	33.00
17.	54.00	35.	32.00
18.	52.00	36.	31.00

B CLASS — Total Prize List \$424.00

1.	\$28.00	13.	\$16.00
2.	27.00	14.	15.00
3.	26.00	15.	14.50
4.	25.00	16.	14.00
5.	24.00	17.	13.50

NEW FACES — (Continued)

6.	23.00	18.	13.00
7.	22.00	19.	12.50
8.	21.00	20.	12.00
9.	20.00	21.	11.50
10.	19.00	22.	11.25
11.	18.00	23.	10.50
12.	17.00	24.	10.25

LADIES

1.	\$23.00	5.	\$6.00
2.	18.00	6.	5.00
3.	13.00	7.	4.00
4.	8.00	8.	3.00

MONTANA-DAKOTA TOURNAMENT*By Roger Barnaby*

The Wibaux County Horseshoe Club of Wibaux, Montana will stage an NHPA sanctioned tournament for members of the Montana-Dakota Division, June 20 and 21. in Wibaux.

There will be two groups of eight players each which will play round robins with the two top men in each group playing off in a round robin for the title.

Roger Barnaby, secretary of the Montana-Dakota division also announces that there will be a sanctioned Montana State tournament to be held in Wibaux sometime the latter part of August.

SIXTH ANNUAL OZARK OPEN, NEOSHO, MO., JUNE 13-14

The sixth annual Ozark Open tournament will be held at the Smith Park courts in Neosho, Missouri on June 7th, 13th and 14th. It will be open to anyone holding an NHPA card.

Each entrant will pitch 100 shoes for qualifying. Qualifying round starts at 1:00 P. M. June 7th until dark resuming again at 8:00 A.M., June 13th closing at noon. Missouri cards will be available at the courts. Entry fee will be \$5.00 and cash prizes go to finalists. Rules of the NHPA will prevail.

Class "B" of 8 men will go to the post at 1:30 P.M., Saturday, June 13th, while Class "A" made up of the defending champion and the 11 next highest men will take to courts, Sunday, June 14th starting at 9:00 A.M. Both classes will play round robins.

For any further information contact John Elkins, 503 Park, Neosho, Missouri.

CANADIAN NEWS

The Canadian Horseshoe Pitchers Association has a lady Secretary-Treasurer as a result of the annual meeting held in March at which Ted Burrows resigned the post because of personal business duties.

Mrs. Carrie Boswell of Hamilton, Ontario succeeded Ted. She was active in organizing the local club at Eastwood Park, and extends a cordial welcome to all N.H.P.A. members from the States traveling in Canada to stop at the Eastwood Park courts.

Ted Burrows of Port Credit, Ontario, will continue to participate in the organization's activities and will be the President for 1959. Frank Corbin of Hamilton is the Vice President.

Members of the Executive Committee are: Reuben Roeder and John Boswell of Hamilton, Kenneth Reed of Port Credit, Bill Stewart of Ridgeway and Baird Bryant of Woodvridge. Harold Blackman of Toronto will continue as Publicity Chairman.

When Ted Burrows resigned the post of Secretary-Treasurer, which he had held for many years, he was presented with a horseshoe-clock trophy in appreciation of his services in the past.

The Association has 40 T shirts with the C.H.P.A. insignia and it was voted to give one with each brand new membership signed prior to June 1.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN — CLASS "D"*By JAMES WEEKS**GROUP ONE*

	W	L	R	S.P.	%
George Easterling, Los Angeles	4	1	149	312	47.8
Jiggs Gasaway, Baldwin Park	4	1	136	316	43.0
Fulkner, South Gate	4	1	122	290	42.1
Clem Birkenbach, Baldwin Park	2	3	105	312	33.7
Harry Platt, Maywood	1	4	89	304	29.3
Jay Pickens, Sun Valley	0	5	99	322	30.7

GROUP TWO

Harry Nelson, Venice	4	1	128	284	45.1
Russell Norman, Santa Monica	4	1	124	292	42.5
Clark Bell, Covina	3	2	141	298	47.3
Edwin Carl, Pasadena	2	3	115	290	39.7
Archie Gregson, Crestline	1	4	121	296	40.9
Erwin Klessing, Lynwood	1	4	120	300	40.0

The top two players from each group played a four man round robin to decide the championship.

George Easterling	3	0	94	200	47.0
Jiggs Gasaway	2	1	78	160	48.8
Harry Nelson	1	2	90	196	45.9
Russell Norman	0	3	47	144	32.6

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN — CLASS "E"*GROUP ONE*

	W	L	R	S.P.	%
Clem Birkenbach, Baldwin Park	4	1	114	282	40.4
Mel Lingenfelter, Fontana	3	2	127	348	36.4
Harry Platt, Maywood	3	2	117	334	35.0
Billy Crick, Los Angeles	3	2	94	310	30.3
Ernest Ericson, Downey	1	4	88	308	28.6
M. Oestereich, La Puente	1	4	84	326	25.8

GROUP TWO

George Lowe, Culver City	4	1	127	294	43.2
Glenn Dias, Asuza	4	1	124	290	42.8
Al Papke, Covina	3	2	99	316	31.3
Glenn Brown, South Gate	2	3	99	296	33.4
Oscar Sandberg, Covina	1	4	117	322	36.3
O. Oestereich, Whittier	1	4	83	274	30.3

The top two from each group played a four man round robin to decide the championship.

George Lowe	3	0	75	144	52.1
Clem Birkenbach	2	1	77	190	40.5
Mel Lingenfelter	1	2	65	182	35.8
Glenn Dias	0	3	81	220	36.8

Ted Allen Horseshoe Co., Boulder, Colorado

GOOD NEWS. You can again get the shoe that owns the records. Write for prices. It was a long and sometimes discouraging process to get it back in production. 'Tis a happy thought to enjoy the game with your favorite shoe. Man! What a feelin', to get on the court and once more see that well balanced shoe floating to yonder peg. It's turning just right and you can see the finger all the way.

**DENVER FORD CALLS ON MR. GEORGE MAY, FORMER WORLD'S
CHAMPION AND
HOLDER OF
"SPORTS HALL OF FAME"
AWARD IN
SUMMIT COUNTY, FLORIDA**



By DENVER FORD

A short time ago I called on Mr. George May, former world's champion, now residing at the Frost Proof Trailer Park on a beautiful little lake at Frost Proof, Florida.

Mr. May is credited with being the first man to learn the proper hold to throw an open shoe and was thus able to greatly increase the percentage of ringers. He designed it and had it patented after which it was manufactured by the National Standard Horseshoe Company of Akron, Ohio.

In 1920 he won the National title at St. Petersburg, Florida, a year after he won the Ohio state championship. However, after winning the World title he no longer took part in the Ohio tournaments. In 1921 he captured second place in the National which was held at Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1923 he regained the World title with 80% ringers at the National held in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. May would no doubt have continued for many years as one of the top horseshoe pitchers in the country, but due to his duties as a fireman in Akron, Ohio fire department he was unable to get away to attend the tournaments. It was a custom in those days for the fire laddies to pitch horseshoes to pass the time between fire alarms.

He competed against such notables as: Frank Jackson. Harold Falor, Fred Brust, Joe Wilkinson, Hugh Palmer and Scotty Rowan. Mr. May has gold medals for each of his National titles, one of which was set with a diamond. These medals are among his most priceless possessions.

In recognition of his contribution to sports, Mr. May's name was placed in Summit County Florida's "Sports Hall of Fame" awarded in 1957.

Mr. May is now 70 years old, but due to a heart ailment he is no longer able to pitch horseshoes, but as you can see by the above picture, he has made friends with the squirrels in the park. In spite of his ailment he still enjoys talking about our grand game — horseshoes.

MIDWEST "RINGER ROUND UP"

The fourth annual Midwest "Ringer Round Up" will be held at Dorner Park in Frankfort, Indiana over the Fourth of July week end using the "no qualifying" plan as outlined in the March issue of the News Digest.

Players must be registered and have their entry fee paid by 10:30 A.M. Saturday morning, July 4, unless they have previously sent their entry fee in by mail in which case they must be on hand by 12:00 noon.

ALL STATE CHAMPIONS WHO ENTER AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY FOR CLASS A ALONG WITH DEFENDING CHAMPION, CURT DAY.

Since the "no qualifying" system is new to most entries several points have been brought up which need clarifying. Entries on whom we have no data on which to rate them will be asked to pitch 50 shoes to gain a rating. However, of the 91 entries in 1958 there were only two completely unknowns in the field.

Players who feel they have been under rated will have the privilege of pitching 50 shoes to gain a higher rating.

Prize money will be paid under the "Pickering Plan" which gives a specified amount for each game won in all classes in both the group play and the finals.

All entries will be placed in a class and take part in round robin play. Anyone with any questions should address inquiries to Bob Pence, 341 Polk Street, Gary, Indiana.

TED ALLEN GIVES SOUND ADVICE ON TRAINING PROCEDURES

(Not to be reprinted other than for this magazine)

It would take volumes to write about every angle of this game, in every little detail. Conditioning, itself, requires years of study and experience to prepare for either a tournament or a short 36-shoe exhibition on a stage or outdoor show. Each requires little, different technical problems. It is not necessarily so that if one is giving daily exhibitions he will be in great shape for a world's tournament. It will help in many ways, but there are other things to do for shaping up that if you do not add to the daily performance you are apt to lose one of the first three games of the tournament in a hurry. It took me about two or three years to learn how best to be able to dash out in the arena and right from scratch begin throwing ringers as if I had been warming up for some time. I tried various warming-up processes before finally hitting upon the right one that was dependable. And to this day, men will remember that I seldom warm up for the first tournament game, no more than a few shoes. Nor between games, and the same for the qualifying trials. In all sports, particularly the rodeo game, all the top stars have their own learned ways of getting ready for their event. It is as important as in preparing to open up a show.

There is much to be done in training for a tournament but I will touch upon a little of it. Debunking a belief that if you do nothing else but pitch shoes you may have heard, "no wonder he is good, he has never done anything else but pitch shoes". I once experimented the whole summer long during a barnstorming year with doing nothing with muscles except to pitch shoes. Not only did I become stale and tired of the game, but I became weak and uncoordinated. There was no balance in my delivery, not to mention getting any fun out of other living. There are exceptions to the rule, but I am no exception. So I reverted back to my custom of doing all kinds of exercises, many of which I learned from football calisthenics, boxing, golf, and all sports combined, a lot of basket ball. Originally I started with hard work on the farms and ranches, which I like to do occasionally, yet. My brother and I had an opportunity to participate in everything that we could. I have even taken an occasional job in the lumber camp or sawmill camps. That is as tough as you can get them. carrying huge slabs to the dump pile, hurrying to saw edgings, now and then rolling the logs to the saw-man. For weeks as the "Skid-man", up and down the steep mountain sides all day behind horses dragging the logs down. Another exercise which you see mostly now in the contests, which I consider one of the most grueling body builders is the art of shucking corn in the fields by hand and a wagon team. I started before the corn-picking machines came. It is grueling if you work at it to make wages by the bushel.

In between runs of exhibitions of the past I have taken various jobs to fill in. I am a believer in a strong body for the best coordination. But like many sports that require relaxed muscles and nerves, you should have the knowhow to adjust them for pitching shoes. How much experience does it take? That depends upon the individual, and the power to concentrate, conditions, and elements. Many of you have that problem, some days it is easier, to change over from your daily job to pitching good shoes in the evening. It may take years, or it may come natural, or you may fall right into it.

There are three young men in their teens or early twenties, today, doing unusually well in tournaments at home and also the World's tourney. Who have admirable qualities of poise, coolness, natural athletic ability and self control. In last year's meet for instance, never have I seen a better example of it than when these three played in the tough spots. Illinois' Roger Vogel, Missouri's David Baker (maker of records there), and Indiana's Virgil Taylor. I do not wish to put them on the spot but they are an asset to any sport or vocation. Three very tall men on the court.

A variety of interests is necessary for good balance of the mind. So, a variety of exercises gives better balance and control. Hard work is no harm to better pitching. You only have to know how to adjust over, how to take the kinks out. We all have times when something bothers us. So do not worry about it.

Jack Dempsey was the man who chopped and sawed in the timber to get in condition. Do you hear of any fighter doing it nowadays? Old Fashioned corn shucking would be the best conditioner a fighter could take. The fighters of today or any time would do well to try it for a fall or winter bout. Find a good corn field and put in about a month of two before. And he will find a new kind of training no other fighter, to my knowledge, has ever tried. He will find he wasn't so tough as he thought. To

start right he should choose well his equipment such as gloves or mittens, the peg, instead of the hook, work fast, but he will learn that it first takes skill that isn't learned easily, if he expects to get a load, loafing along would not help him. He would learn to pace himself to be able to stand the gaff, and yet get something done. I know of no other exercise to help him more. The constant moving, reaching, wrist action that requires great strength or it will make them so, stooping now and then for ears on the ground, swinging, tossing. The stamina it requires is from never losing stride while the ear is being shucked, all day long. It actually takes years to learn to be a champion corn shucker, and he must be one of the greatest athletes I know of. It requires great strength in arms and wrists, in fact the whole body. And a smooth rhythm. A fighter who trained that way would be tireless, and move at a deceptive speed. He should get first advice from an expert to prevent injury at the start, that is, to his wrists and fingers.

I am so glad that this game has a governing body to set up fair rules and regulations. But even today and in the years past I have driven in out-of-the-way places and found people playing the game with any kind of shoes and odd courts, and any crazy old way of counting. But you will find that in any sport, where for fun the picnickers, or outdoor gatherings want to have fun in a backward way. On two occasions I ran into such places last fall in the mountains. Once, on the way to Utah, on a side trip to fish, in a church yard there was a group of fellows in western garb tossing away, and drawing casually on their smokes. I had gone several miles before I got nerve enough to turn around and go back to kibitz as much as I dared. I found them to be a Square Dance club from Steamboat Springs, on their annual outing of dancing and pitch'n horseshoes. So I guess the old fashioned rules fit there. The top rail from which I sat to start my "pitch" was also a safe place from an amateur heave. I should have known; telling them I was on my way to the Murray contest brought an invite to climb down and toss a few. Surveying the hilly court should have told me I should have kept my mouth shut and kept on going. It wouldn't help my repute of skill any. With up and down hill, (I saw places that would have been more level close by) (but no bother), the distance uncertain, and the footing decidedly picked to throw one off balance. I never had more butterflies on a show than I did there. It must have been instinct. The first two and only shoes were ringers. I climbed back over the rail and scooted on, to where only fish might see a wild cast on the next pitch.

I am afraid I must close this and continue on another story for next month. (Are you still there, Jerry Clark?). Among my stories I will include one of the first instructions to any absolute beginner, particularly youngsters, both boys and girls from 16 on down. Another on the origin of the "Barnyard Golf" name, which the modern horseshoe pitching sportsman look upon with the same attitude as does a golfer to the name "Pasture Pool".

Have just got word from Bob Pence. There is a man who is another "dyed-in-the-wool" through and through. He is starting a collection for the N.H.P.A. which has long been needed. A complete file of all history books and publications on the game. Write him and offer any spare copies you own that he may need. He will give you a list. This collection is imperative for the preservation of our sport. Many of the old timers and officers have had publications in their possessions, being private collections, and never passed on to the incoming officers. Perhaps a descendent of the officers before our time can help. I once ran one down only to find that they desired to keep the books in the family. I now have a copy of the old history books, but no spares. To help you to know what to look for, here listed, at least the first that I have:

1. "Grand League, American Horseshoe Pitchers' Association". "Constitution" laws and rules. Printed in 1914, Headquarters in Kansas City, where the first National Assoc. was formed.
2. Official "Horseshoe Pitching Guide", Copyrighted 1920 by the Nat. Horseshoe Pitchers Assoc. of the U. S.
3. "Barnyard Golf", first publication of its kind in America, official Organ Nat. H.P. Assoc., I have a copy of April 1st, 1922. Printed in Akron, Ohio by a small newspaper.
4. "Horseshoe Pitching — How to Play the Game", one of the most complete books ever put out. Mine is badly damaged from fire and water. Put out some time in the early twenties.
5. "Horseshoe Compendium", published 1940.
6. Two publications of Roy Smith's "Science at the Stake,,. The first was red, the 2nd, blue.

LAKESIDE, OHIO OPEN TOURNAMENT, JUNE 26-27

By W. J. WOODS, *Publicity Director*

The Ohio Buckeye State Association has set Friday June 26 and Saturday June 27 for the Sixth Annual Open at Lakeside, Ohio.

One important change is planned to conserve time, and make it possible for *all who come* to pitch in the round-robin which will begin as soon as possible after 9:00 A.M. on Saturday. (*No pitching* on the Methodist Church grounds on Sunday). The change is that the usual form of qualifying will be *dispensed* with and instead the most recent past year sanctioned tournament ringer percent experience will be used to classify the entrants. When such a record is not immediately available, the Tournament Committee will make special arrangements to classify the player.

All who expect to enter must be signed up and ready to go at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday. As many as can possibly do so are urged to arrive on Friday June 26, especially those players whose tournament records are not immediately available. Also, those who arrive on Friday can get in some practice during the day, or under the lights, the time for which is not to be had on Saturday. Overnight accommodations are very inexpensive and it's a great time to get-together anyhow.

The classes will be divided A-10, B-6 or 8, all other 6 men. Last year there were 46 entries in 7 classes. More are expected this year under the plan of assured participation by *every entry*. Harold Reno, Sabina, Ohio, is the defending champion with Arthur Dugle of Chicago the runner-up.

The Lakeside Management again cordially invites all the players to their beautiful grounds on the lake shore, and the Ohio Buckeye State Ass'n in turn welcomes all NHPA members to enjoy this event. Both trophies and cash prizes will be distributed. Entry fee \$5.50. Itt would be appreciated if players who intend to enter would drop a post-card to Sam Goodlander, No. 5 Roth Avenue, Reading, Cincinnati 15, Ohio.

GORDON — "Spin-On"



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AN OLD TIMER SPEAKS

By CLAUDE A. BENEDICT

We all know by this time, or should, that our game is, primarily, one of participation, and also one of too much individualism, in the past and the present, and all promotion should be approached from the standpoint of those two basic principles, as they do affect all horseshoe activities. More later on this subject as my 10 point, 10 year program, to be offered for adoption at the national convention in July, will when adopted, revolutionize the horseshoe game and the entire structure of promotion over anything in the past or present. However, I know before hand that there will be those who will say and think it sounds too fantastic and say it will not work, as always in the past, without knowing too much about it and perhaps little about proper promotion. However, if it is the desire of the majority to do something different to advance the game and also do something about it, then you will see a different horseshoe game in the next ten years or 5 years or less. It is said that you cannot teach anything to a person 35 years of age or older if he does not want to learn. Perhaps that has something to do in the matter of our horseshoe game, too satisfied with things as they are and not desiring any changes.

The horseshoe game has too big a potential to continue on as is. We have made and kept the game too cheap, so what more can you expect? We get out just about what we put in. My interest in this, as stated before, to see the game advance to the point it should and could, under proper relationships as it seems down thru the years, and no doubt now, there have been too many factions fighting each other instead of "FIGHTING" for each other which brings to mind the old adage "United we stand — divided we fall." It is a pity that when you stop to think — after all these years — of the membership which we have, when most any state of many of our now 50 should and could have more members now than that of the whole combined United States and they will whenever we decide it shall be, details later, for under certain arrangements we would have a sustaining incentive for all persons interested in the game and conducive to proper relationship for sponsorship, should that be necessary.

My first national tourney and convention was 30 years ago at St. Petersburg, Fla., in 1929 during the days of C. C. Davis, Bert Duryea, the Jacksons, Blair Nunamaker, who won, and others. The game flourished for awhile in Ohio after that and soon faded out and by 1940 there were no members in Ohio and only one officer, Dave Chess of Cleveland who hung on still thinking, as many others, that there was a way out. Dave heard I was to attend the 1940 meet at Des Moines and appointed me president of the Buckeye State H.P. Ass'n to represent Ohio at the meet. On my return home — my statement was this — if I'm to be president we are going to have action and state tournaments.

To do so, it was necessary to invite membership competition among those cities interested in holding the state meet. Two cities came forward on a membership drive — Canton won and held the meet there in 1941 which resulted in Ohio having an annual state tourney since in some form. Note — my article in the 1941 issue of The Horseshoe World.

It was my pleasure to work with our governor Herbert in 1947 and our then State Fair Mgr. Mr. Ed Bath in an endeavor to bring the national meet to the Ohio State Fair, but Mr. Bath was not interested at that time in that phase of the game but did build new courts for me to operate the Ohio State Fair Horseshoe Program for the general public who could come to the fair and relax, if they desired, in a friendly game which they did and paid to pitch. It was a success to the point he built more courts for the following year and the governor and other notables with State Fair Mgr. all taking part in the activities which was building up to what he originally had planned — more later on this — we then brought the state tourney to the fair grounds in 1950, which was the wrong thing to do, sorry to say, which was proven later, due to several circumstances — will not mention now — tho we did hold some very fine tournaments there including the Eastern National with the state building new courts and furnishing a good purse for all fair activities, but, was it all appreciated by the horseshoe pitchers as it should have been? There is much proof that it was not.

My third national tournament was at Milwaukee in 1948 and our whole group of state officers attended and many know why and what the cause and yet when we really analyze the matter from the beginning the direct cause was one of actual promotion of one idea over another, but the whole problem was one of approach and all that was

OLD TIMER SPEAKS — Continued

needed was a combination of both into one tho some times two may be better than one but not when they affect the over all picture that results in retarding both — more on this later —. It is high time that our horseshoe game reached the point of standing on it's own feet, that all horseshoe pitchers invested something — their time or money or both in the future of the game that it will enjoy the rating that it deserves.

(Continued next issue)

MINNEAPOLIS CLUB HOLDS ORGANIZATION MEETING

Thursday, April 30th was a big day for the Minneapolis Park Board Horseshoe Club of Loring Park. It was the sixth anniversary of that organization. The meeting was held in the Loring Park Recreation Center building. Ralph Lundberg is president, Clint Lofgren, Secretary-Treasurer together with Ron Hurst of the Park Board Recreation and Gene Alexander assisted by many other fine members of the club.

Memberships were taken, leagues outlined and new men given dates to practice and qualify. As usual each player was assigned to a league to fit his ringer-making ability. Requests for team sponsors were made. The cost to be thirty-five dollars.

Twelve courts are to be maintained this year which will require considerable sweeping together with keeping the clay wet. Each player should do his bit to continue the high standards of court neatness.

The secret of our success as a community recreation program has been our fundamental policy of treating all members fair and equal regardless of playing ability. It is the desire of all to continue this fine attitude of health and happiness from horseshoes.

"PEEKE'S PITCHING PALACE" ON WCCO-TV NEWS PROGRAM

Minneapolis' new indoor pitching courts at 2201 East Lake Street made the ten o'clock evening news on WCCO-TV on Easter Sunday. It was described as "Peeke's Pitching Palace" and showed mostly state champion John Yernberg and state president Ben Trollen pitching. However, it remained for a class C pitcher, Bruce Anderson, to steal the show. With glaring floodlights shining right into his eyes Bruce threw two perfect ringers. Then the cameraman moved behind the stake and asked him to throw two pitches for a full forty feet shot. Again Bruce laid on a perfect double!

WHITEY LEAVER WINS MESA HANDICAP

By WALTER B. STEARNS

The National Sports Jamboree Committee of Mesa, Arizona, included a horseshoe tournament in its big ten day all sports events, April 3 to 13. They provided four beautiful trophies to be presented to the four top finishers, in the 12 man round robin handicap tournament.

The winner was Whitey Leaver of Mesa, 68 years young, who pitched brilliantly and swept through the eleven games without a loss. LeRoy Miller also of Mesa copped the runner-up spot with a 9-2 record. There was a three way tie for third place between Giff Thompson of Tempe, and Art Kamman and Walter Stearns of Mesa. In the play off, Stearns won the third place trophy and Thompson took home the fourth place trophy to Tempe. The lower percentage pitchers especially enjoyed this handicap play.

Whitey Leaver, Mesa, Arizona	11	0
LeRoy Miller, Mesa, Arizona	9	2
Art Kamman, Mesa, Arizona	8	3
Giff Thompson, Tempe, Arizona	8	3
Walter Stearns, Mesa, Arizona	8	3
Willard Phillips, Tempe, Arizona	5	6
Al Jennings, Denver, Colorado	5	6
Wayne Webb, Mesa, Arizona	5	6
Tom Darrough, Scottsdale, Arizona	4	7
Jim Melton, Toledo, Ohio	0	11
Paul Wykoff, Tempe, Arizona	0	11
Pete Null, Tempe, Arizona	0	11

FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE PINE TREE STATE

By H. G. Bowman

In the October, 1958 issue of the "Digest", there appeared the announcement that "Mildred Bowman of Hebron Maine, daughter of a former Maine champion broke a tradition by being the first woman to compete in N. E. tourney." Though the writer is in no position to deny the parentage of this young woman, he must refuse to accept a distinction to which he has no just claim. Had it been said that he had played the role of a champion of every horseshoe player's just rights and that with the support and assistance of loyal and able co-operators he had been successful in establishing an improved system for Maine tournaments, he would have indeed been well pleased and highly appreciative. But he cannot condone such erroneous and sensational reports as above mentioned however well intended by their originators.

In passing, it might be said that the high honor of a scoring position was accorded this "former Maine champion" (?) rather than to allow him to compete as a player in one division of Class D, in which there was an odd number and each had to sit out one game. Certainly the title of "former Maine champion" was not needed to compensate for the loss of opportunity as a player, if so intended by anyone. For the above honor as scorer, his humble thanks are now long past due. His gain was not to soil his prized shoes in the sticky inedible porridge of clay courts.

In justice to the daughter, it should be explained that she experienced an off day as other players do and that her poor showing on that occasion, far below that in past Maine tournaments, where she was champ in a woman's division for several years until her physical condition necessitated a partial retirement from the game, may have been due in part to that fact. It is also likely that clay courts contributed somewhat to the results, for she had never played on such and like some other Maine players does not find them to her liking. No criticism of the Portsmouth management is intended, for it made faithful effort to keep courts in good condition. Rather should it be deplored that a satisfactory substitute for clay or that a better method of handling it has not been found in this locality so as to avoid the unsatisfactory conditions found by many who have been accustomed to the use of sand or ordinary dirt.

The hope is that at no far distant day the N. E. group of distinguished horseshoe pitchers will be better organized as are many other groups and that an improved method of classifying players for its tournaments will be adopted that will be fairer to many with the time saving feature that is so essential to the highest satisfaction and success for all classes competing. In these days of development and rapid changes, the time may come when the shoe pitching test in its several numerical variations may be as unpopular generally as it has been popular in the many years of its use.

NEW JERSEY SCHEDULE INDICATES BIG SEASON

By LEE DAVIS

Although the weather in New Jersey has been pretty sharp (at this writing) for pitching, a few hardy souls have been out. Following is a list of the tournaments to be held in New Jersey this season.

May 23 100% Handicap Englewood Open, 3 P.M.

June 7 Union County Open, 12:30 P.M.

June 21 Rosselet Memorial Tournament, 12:30 P.M.

July 12 100% Handicap New Jersey Open, 12:30 P.M.

July 26 100% Handicap Essex County Open, 12:30 P.M.

August 16 New Jersey State Championships, All Classes.

Sept. 13 New Jersey State Doubles Championships, All Classes, 12:30 P.M.

In our handicap tournament we have a minimum of six players in any class group where the ringer average is more than 5 percentage points apart then that group will play without handicap. When handicap is used then the player must have at least 3 percentage points difference before the handicap will be used. Also the person receiving the handicap must have at least one shoe within scoring distance to receive his handicap in the inning he should receive it.

Handicap horseshoes may not be to the better pitcher's liking but the sooner they go along with it the better off they and all the rest of us will be. We are still trying to improve on any of the loopholes and we are sure that handicapping will bring more players into our tournaments.

COMING EVENTS

State secretaries and tournament managers are asked to list their tournament dates with Bob Pence, National Secretary, in order they may be included in this list in the June issue. A great many more events have been scheduled than have been reported.

- May 23 — Handicap Tournament, Englewood, New Jersey
- May 23-24 — Springfield Open, Phelps Grove Park, Springfield, Missouri.
- May 24 — Baldwin Park Class A Added, Baldwin Park, California.
- May 30 — Spring Warm Up Open, Lawrence Park, Rock Falls, Illinois
- May 30-31 — Ft. George Spring Open, Ft. George Courts, Manhattan, N.Y.
- May 30-31 — Bryant Memorial Open, Laurelhurst Park, Portland, Oregon.
- June 7 — Class B Added Tournament, Long Beach, California.
- June 7 — Indiana Newcomers Regionals, Frankfort, Indianapolis, Bethel, Muncie, Kokomo, Gary and Goshen, Indiana.
- June 13-14 — Sixth Annual Ozark Open, Neosho, Missouri.
- June 13-14 — Portland Rose Festival Centennial Open, Laurelhurst Park, Portland, Oregon.
- June 14 — Connecticut Open Tournament, Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, Conn.
- June 14 — Class C Added Tournament, Ontario, California.
- June 13-14 — Ozark Open Tournament, Neosho, Missouri.
- June 21 — Indiana Newcomers Finals, Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana.
- June 26-27 — Sixth Annual Lakeside Open Tournament, Lakeside, Ohio.
- June 27-28 — St. Joseph Open Tournament, Noyes Field, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- June 28 — Class D Added Tournament, South Gate, California.
- June 28 — Richardson County Tournament, Falls City, Nebraska.
- July 4 — Quint County Tournament, Sterling, Illinois.
- July 4-5 — Midwest "Ringer Round Up", Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana.
- July 5 — Semna Nautica Open, Santa Barbara, California.
- July 11-12 — Four State Open (Kan., Ia., Neb., Mo.), Falls City, Nebraska.
- July 12 — Special Class A Open Tournament, Ontario, California.
- July 22-29 — World Tournament, Salt Lake County Fairgrounds, Murray, Utah.
- July 26 — Northern Indiana Qualifying, City Park, Wabash, Indiana.
- July 26 — Central Indiana Qualifying, Heekin Park, Muncie, Indiana.
- August 2 — Amateur Tournament, Baldwin Park, California.
- August 1-2 — Northern Indiana Finals, City Park, Wabash, Indiana.
- August 1-2 — Central Indiana Finals, Heekin Park, Muncie, Indiana.
- August 5-6-7-8 — Eastern National Open, Fairgrounds, Clearfield, Penn.
- August 8 — Class E Added Tournament, Harvard, California.
- August 16 — South Gate Open Tournament, South Gate, California.
- Aug. 18-19 — Illinois State Tournament, State Fair Grounds, Springfield, Ill.
- Aug. 19 — Illinois State Boy's Tournament, State Fair Grounds, Springfield, Illinois.
- August 22 — 60 Years and over Tournament, Long Beach, California.
- August 22-23 — Massachusetts State Tournament, Moxie's Grove, Holyoke, Mass.
- Aug. 22-23 — Connecticut State Tournament, Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, Conn.
- Aug. 22-23 — New Hampshire State Tournament, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- Aug. 22-23 — Indiana State Tournament Qualifying, Four regionals.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — New England States Tournament, Westfield, Massachusetts.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — Nebraska State Tournament, Panhandle Club, Kimball, Neb.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — Ohio State Tournament, Location to be announced later.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — Indiana State Tournament, Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — Michigan State Tournament, Location to be announced later.
- Sept. 5-6-7 — Pennsylvania State Tournament, Erie, Penn. (tentative)
- Sept. 7 — Rock River Valley Open, Lawrence Park, Rock Falls, Illinois.
- Sept. 12-13 — Clinton County Tournament, Frankfort, Indiana.
- Sept. 13 — Whiteside County Tournament, Lawrence Park, Rock Falls, Illinois.
- Sept. 13 — Championship Class E, Harvard, California.
- Sept. 20 — Championship Class D, South Gate, California.
- Sept. 25-26-27 — Norwood Open Tournament, Norwood, Ohio.
- Sept. 27 — Championship Class C, Long Beach, California.
- Oct. 3-4 — Victorville Open Tournament, Victorville, California.
- Oct. 11 — Championship Class B Tournament, Baldwin Park, California.
- Oct. 18 — Championship Class A, South Gate, California.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Your editor recently competed in the ABC Bowling tournament held at St. Louis, Missouri. While there he was scanning the names of bowlers who were fortunate enough to get their names on the board. Among those bowlers was name of Ralph Kampschroeder of Ottawa, Kansas together with his partner, N. Brown also of Ottawa. They were in 8th place in the doubles, with 1309 as of that date, April 18th. Ralph posted a neat 716 while his buddy came in with a 593. Ralph will be remembered by many of those who have attended the Murray, Utah classic, together with his lovely wife, who is former official of the NHPA.

WHERE TO PLAY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

It is planned to revive and bring up to date the old page that listed horseshoe courts all over the United States and Canada. Such a list is very useful to NHPA members on vacation trips.

If State secretaries, local club officers and individuals will prepare and send to the National secretary, Robert Pence, 341 Polk Street, Gary, Indiana, a list of the courts in their areas, the News Digest will run the complete list as soon as possible.

In each case list the names of the state, the name of the park or courts, the name of the city in which located and indicate the number of courts and if it has lights. For example: INDIANA — Dorner Park, Frankfort, 16 L. If the courts do not have lights leave off the L.

National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association

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