



Dick Hansen

1998 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

The name "Dick Hansen" brings to mind many pictures and ideas: a red rose, the Pitchin' Palace, a devilish smile, a hard worker, a gentleman (as well as gentle man), an innovator, a leader.

Dick just missed being a leap year baby being born on February 28, 1944. He grew up on a family farm pitching shoes at a very young age and not nearly tall enough to get them the 40 feet to the stake. (He occasionally has this same problem today!) Dick credits his family - wife, Paulette, and sons, Stuart and Tommy - in giving meaning to his many horseshoe awards and accomplishments. Without their support- (remember the red rose for Paulette and a few tears from Dick at the Beloit State Tournament?) the awards and accomplishments wouldn't have happened.

Dick began pitching shoes about 30 years ago in two non sanctioned leagues and without awareness of the NHPA and WHPA. He has pitched in many tournaments since, but his most memorable was when he was in the Championship Class in Green Bay. Though he can't recollect winning a game, it was an honor to be in the group. Dick moved from pitcher to tournament director for the Pitchin' Palace. Back to back hosting of the State Tournament at the Pitchin' Palace changed Dick's goals in horseshoes as he consented to run for WHPA President. Dick likes to credit John Secord and Rick Pritzlaff for their role in his involvement in the WHPA. AT&T's loss is definitely our gain!

Dick held the WHPA presidency for eight years. As a leader and innovator he established the Presidents Award and the Pitcher of the Year Award. These awards are still coveted by the recipients. He has also served on the WHPA Bylaws and Hall of Fame committees. His experience as WHPA leader has earned him two national offices. He was NHPA 5th Vice President for four years and NHPA Secretary-Treasurer for three years. At this writing he is currently the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. Dick has also served on various NHPA committees such as rules, and minutes approval. Again, thanks to AT&T's early retirement for Dick so he can "work" in promoting the great game of horseshoes!

Dick has received two awards that are especially dear to him. The Presidents Award presented to him by Ken Jaeger, WHPA president, and the NHPA Presidential Award from Dave Louks, NHPA president. Though Dick has made many new and lasting friendships across the country as a result of his horseshoe involvement, his Wisconsin friends are his closest! His devilish smile, and warm, gentle personality make Dick a truly great Hall of Fame member.