



EARL RAMQUIST

Earl Ramquist was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on July 18, 1910. He and his family moved to Beloit in 1920. He started pitching horseshoes in 1940 and began to take the game seriously while working at Fairbanks-Morse where he pitched on the makeshift courts during noon break. He was always promoting the sport and, with the help of others, constructed 12 clay courts at the Vernon Avenue Play Park in Beloit. He was involved in starting the Goldsmith Courts in South Beloit, Illinois; in 1985, with four lighted clay courts, these became known as The Beloit Horseshoe Club.

Earl pitched in many tournaments around the state, winning the Beloit City Tournament in 1949, the Goldsmith Doubles in 73, 74 and 76, and the Wisconsin State Championship at State Fair Park in 1955. Since the Wisconsin climate did not allow shoe pitching during the winter months, he took up bowling at which he excelled for many years. He was inducted into the Beloit Bowling Hall of Fame in 1974.

Earl and his wife Helen (deceased) were married in 1933 and raised three children, Gerald, Ronald and Karen. There are five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, several of whom have an active interest in horseshoe pitching. Earl lived a life full of sports (early favorites were baseball and golf), music, family and hard work. He played in weekend bands and sang in the church choir as well. He worked as a brick mason until his retirement in 1978. He died on June 10, 1983.

Winning the state title in 1955 was one of the highlights of his life, but what he loved most in life was sharing the good times with the many wonderful people he met and visited with over the years.

Earl was truly dedicated to the sport of horseshoe pitching and did what he could to promote it in the Beloit area.

The Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association is happy to honor the memory of Earl Ramquist with this 1990 Hall of Fame award.