



CLAYTON GAGE – 2001 Hall of Fame Inductee

Clayton Gage began his pitching as a young child of ten years old. His father bought “real” horseshoes at auctions which he and Clayton threw back and forth. In 1935 a man from Indiana, staying at the Gage family resort, showed Clayton how to pitch a turn and quarter shoe. In 1945 Clayton married Dorothy, his wife of over 50 years. They had one son, Norm, and a daughter, Roberta, who was killed in an automobile accident when she was 18. Three granddaughters, a great granddaughter and a great grandson have brightened the Gage household. Clayton worked as a Grain Elevator Superintendent for Harvest States from 1941 until retirement in 1983. When Clayton was not working he was pitching shoes with the St. Paul Municipal Horseshoe Association, Ramsey League and Bloomington tournaments. Clayton served in the US Navy from 1942 to 1945. In 1983 he moved back to the resort property on Half Moon Lake near Milltown, Wisconsin and joined the Close Doesn't Count Horseshoe league.

During his pitching career in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, Clayton blazed quite a trail. He played in over 200 tournaments placing first at least 55 times and second 45 times. He averaged around 55% until he moved to 30 feet and improved his average to the mid 70% range. He played in nine Senior Olympics taking three golds, three silver and three bronze medals. Clayton has also won Elders Class A championships in the 1996, 1997, 1998 World Horseshoe tournaments. He has also won the Wisconsin State Elders Class Championship title for six years, 1995-2000. At the 2001 World Tournament in Hibbing, Minnesota, Clayton and Ed Kowatch pitched a game of 114 shoes, setting 11 world records. WOW!!! One of Clayton's most memorable moments was pitching his first 92.5% game at the Wisconsin State tournament in 1994.

Clayton attributes his successful horseshoe pitching career to his “World's Greatest Cheerleader” Dorothy, whose spirit and positive attitude pulled him through tough times on and off the court. Dorothy would be smiling proudly and bravely as Clayton is inducted into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame as one of the best horseshoe pitchers in the upper Midwest! Congratulations Clayton!