



RALPH MAYLAHN

Ralph Maylahn was introduced to horseshoe pitching at the age of thirteen when his parents moved to Milwaukee's northwest outskirts. There were several horseshoe courts and soon, using the three-quarter turn at 40 feet, Ralph was able to defeat the local competition.

Ed Schimek, who became a lifelong friend and opponent, introduced him to the one and one-quarter turn. Within two years, at age 15 and throwing the one and three-quarter turn, Ralph won the City Men's Class A Championship. He won the title six straight years until World War II intervened. Ralph emphasizes that it was a high caliber of pitching at that time, several pitchers averaging 60% and over, the best being Harvey Elmerson. Ralph says he may have won an occasional game but Harvey was tough, over 70% average.

Of the many years away from horseshoes, four were spent in service, three of them in Africa, mainly Egypt. There he won the table tennis championship of the American Forces in the Middle East.

After his years in the service Ralph had little interest in horseshoe pitching because there was only one tournament a year, that being State. However, on reading in the Milwaukee Journal about the many tourneys in the Northeastern Wisconsin area, with emphasis on Swen Bowman's leadership, Ralph began to practice and pitched regularly in Wisconsin tournaments, winning the 1972 State Championship at Green Bay.

Ralph has been a club president, a World Championship Class contender, a Wisconsin State Champion, and has held the office of WHPA president.

Ralph, a graduate of Marquette University, was employed by Employers Insurance of Wausau for 35 years, working as Field Audit Manager, overseeing and approving the work of eight auditors. He and his wife Helen have been married for twenty-four years and have a son, Andrew. Andy recently graduated from UW-Platteville.

We congratulate Ralph on his participation in the sport of horseshoe pitching and his excellent pitching throughout the years and are happy to present him with this Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame award for 1990.