

# Gert Wilcziek – 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee



Gert was the youngest of ten children who were raised on a farm. They learned how to work as their chores involved milking cows, shocking grain, gardening, canning, baking, housecleaning and general self sufficient jobs. As a child Gert learned to crochet from her mom. She and her sisters were gifted in music and Gert played the clarinet, saxophone and piano. After graduating in 1960, Gert's career spanned many years working in the nursing home, bartending and playing in old time bands. Her present musical instrument of choice is the concertina.

In 1982 Gert met Ron Wilcziek and they were married in 1986. Ron was a professional painter and Gert helped when she was not working at the nursing home. They also gardened and preserved their produce.

Gert is a very volunteer minded person as she donates crocheted items to community fundraising events, plays the concertina in nursing homes as entertainment, and organizes her church Fall Festival. She also finds some spare time to practice her concertina and horseshoes.

In 1994 Ron was pitching horseshoes with the Eau Claire Horseshoe club. Ron invited Gert to cheerlead and keep score. As the season progressed, the Men's league needed a substitute pitcher so Gert began pitching. The rest is history.

Gert began pitching in 1994 as a member of the Eau Claire Horseshoe Club. She pitched league regularly with a highlight of 49 ringers of 50 shoes. In 1998 Gert became the ECHC Sanctioned League director. Gert's horseshoe pitching accomplishments have been impressive as she has won the Wisconsin State Ladies Championship nine times; she has placed in the top ten of the World Tournament Ladies Championship division seven times with the best finish of 4<sup>th</sup> place! In 2004 Gert and Ron won the Wisconsin State Doubles Championship. Her most historical accomplishment was pitching a perfect game of 26 ringers against a former WI State Champion at the 2007 State Tournament. This was the first perfect game pitched at a WI State tournament in 85 years.

Congratulations to Gert as a member of the Wisconsin Hall of Fame. She is a quality and talented pitcher that makes our state proud!