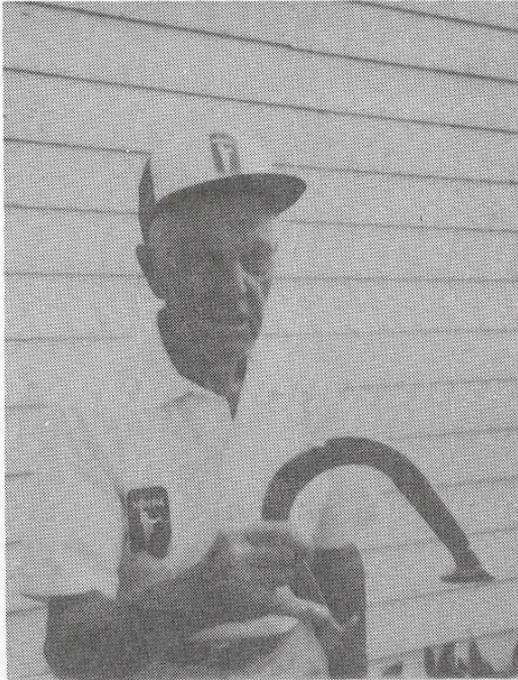


# ROYCE WRUCKE



Our 1988 Senior State Champion, Royce Wrucke, has been pitching horseshoes for 70 years. He was born on December 19, 1902 in Horicon and started pitching shoes at the age of 17 using the original shoes "right off the horse". Before long, he and his brother got two sets of "boughten' shoes, sorta round ones". They played in a league in Beaver Dam. Royce says he never won the State Fair Tournament as Casey Jones, Harvey Elmerson, Tommy Bartlen, Carl Pfeffer, etc., were too tough.

His first trophy was won at Eau Claire in 1968. He placed first in his division in six state tournaments from 1969 to 1980. After coming in fourth in 1987 in the senior class, he returned in '88 to defeat C.L. Ollerman in a playoff for first with a record of four wins, one loss and 41.6%.

Royce owns more than 100 trophies from tournaments in ten states. His average in the 70's was about 55% with a high game of 74.9%. He pitches the Allen shoe a one and one-quarter turn. He has been Vice President of the WHPA and has held various offices in local leagues.

The Wruckes have been spending five cold months at Arbor Terrace Trailer Park in Bradenton, Florida where they enjoy bridge, shuffleboard and bicycling. Of course, Royce's favorite pastime is horseshoe pitching. When they first went to Florida he and Swen Bowman build a regulation court along the park fence. Finding the light soil unsuitable for the pit, Royce began carrying clay from Wisconsin to Florida each winter and now it resembles a proper clay tournament court. He pitches every day and competes in five or six tourneys.

When the geese return to Horicon Marsh, Royce and Rosella, who have been married 58 years, come back to their 150-year-old home at 5246 Highway 33, Horicon, Wisconsin 53032. They have three sons: Royce, Jr. and John who run the farm, and Steve who lives in Miami, Florida. There are nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association is happy to present this Hall of Fame award to Royce Wrucke who is one of the best competitors and nicest people you could meet anywhere, but especially among an elite group — horseshoe pitchers.