



## RAY SPECHT

In 1953 Ray Specht became interested in horseshoe pitching and joined the Marshfield Horseshoe League. By 1957 he had improved until he was one of the better pitchers in the Marshfield area.

Ray encouraged square dancers in the area to become involved in pitching shoes and held tournaments at Square Dance Camporees in 1962 through 1965.

After a head-on collision in 1966, he was hospitalized for over five weeks and told he would never walk or use his right arm again. Through therapy, of which horseshoes was a part, he regained the use of his arm and legs. Ray, with his son-in-law as partner, were league champions in 1974 and 1977 and second place winners in 1973, 1975, and 1976. Each year Ray lead the league with the highest ringer percentage.

Upon retiring in 1980 he formed a boys' Junior League and spent two afternoons a week instructing and supervising them. In 1982 he was instrumental in starting an Old

Timers Day League, consisting of eight men, over 62 and retired. In 1985, working with a day care center, he spent one afternoon a week with the children seven years and over, teaching them the art of pitching horseshoes and also how to keep score.

Through all these years he was a dedicated pitcher and participated in two leagues each year. He served as an officer or director over all the years and has given his full support to the club and worked hard to make a success of Marshfield Open Tournaments and also the State Tournament in 1984.

He was not active in 1986 because of heart surgery but is back in 1987, pitching in two leagues.

Prior to Ray's retirement at age 62, he was employed by Mid-State Truck Service, Inc., a GMC and IHC truck dealership. His hobbies are horseshoe, bowling, fishing, reading, and woodworking.

Ray, who will be 70 in November, writes, "I have enjoyed 48 years of married life with one of the most lovely and wonderful women in the world." They are the proud parents of five daughters and they have eleven grandchildren.

The Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association is pleased to give this 1987 Hall-of-Fame award to one who has unselfishly dedicated so many years for the benefit of the sport of horseshoe pitching.