

WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

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March - April 2000

AN AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION

Jim Haupt - Editor
Ken Kosky - Publisher

Inside this issue:

Current Events	2
Club Team	4
Presidents Column	4
Arena Doubles	7
Tommy Bartlen	9
WHPA Hall of Fame	12
Bob Wilke Letter	14

Special points of interest:

WHPA Outdoor Tournament Schedule for 2000 on pg. 15

Curt Bestul - WHPA Man of the Century

By Jim Haupt

Our pick for the WHPA man of the century is Curt Bestul.

We have seen better pure horseshoe pitchers in this state but wonder where they were when it came to organizing the State Association.

Harvey Elmerson was our first standout pitcher of duration. He came from Michigan as a young man and became a Wisconsin State Champion six times in succession before Casey Jones of Waukesha came of age.

Casey Jones then rode the top spot for nineteen years only occasionally allowing any other pitcher to share in the State Championship. Certainly Jones was the best pitcher this state has seen. His near misses for the World Title are legend.

Throughout the Elmerson - Jones years and beyond, one man organized and controlled the tournament to determine the State Champion - Art Klement. He directed the State Fair Championships and served as president of the Wisconsin State Horseshoe Pitchers Association for 36, of the 41 annual events conducted at the West Allis State Fair. Klement was recognized posthumously with the Hall of Fame award in 1982.

Some time before the 1967 State Tournament, a group of interested Wisconsin pitchers, including Jerry Kamps and Curt Bestul, lobbied the NHPA for State affiliation and NHPA sanction for the Wisconsin State Tournament. As a result a new organization was formed. Dropping the word "State," the new name became the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

In reality the first WHPA State Tournament occurred in Combined Locks at Kamps courts in 1967, went to Eau Claire the following year and has since been conducted at various locations throughout the state.

Curt Bestul was part of that first "A" class of 1967, remained active and eventually earned the State Championship title in 1981. It was said to be his life long dream.

Four years later Bestul was inducted into the Wisconsin Hall of Fame, along with his wife Beatty, for their enduring efforts as promoters and pitcher. That same year, 1985, Bestul received an NHPA achievement award for outstanding service.

Bestul received an NHPA achievement award for outstanding service.

Under his leadership the Eau Claire Club went on to host the 1987 World Tournament. Curt and Beatty, were recognized, that year of the Eau Claire World, with yet another NHPA achievement award.

Until recently, Curt Bestul has been the frontrunner for the Eau Claire Club directing their ongoing building campaign over the years while at the same time serving as an executive officer of the WHPA taking a leading role in revising our Bylaws to present form.

Curt Bestul, because of his dominant presence and lasting contribution to horseshoes in this state, is our selection for the most outstanding WHPA man of this last century.

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WHPA WEBPAGE <http://members.tripod.com/whpa>

Coming Events

March 12 RIVER VALLY RUMBLE at Sandbar
4-man team doubles \$60/team Limited D/L 2-27
Ron Berg 5375 Blue Ridge Barneveld, WI 53507
608-924-5574 **28-00-003** entry cap 180%

March 18 SPRING MEETING at the Sandbar
Bylaw book open for proposals. only open once every
two years

Open tournament same day by Tom Steinke

March 18 JR SCHOLARSHIP OPEN at Sandbar
\$20 **Limit 32** One day
Tom Steinke 155 S Charles St Waukesha, WI 53186
262-542-0252 **28-00-004** D/L 3-4

March 25 WI-MN Border Battle Upsala, MN \$25
Randy Rein 201 Second St Mosinee, WI 54455
715-693-1199 **NHPA Sanctioned** ASAP

April 8-9 ARENA SPRING SINGLES \$15
John Crook 6225 Hy Co TZ Spring Green, WI 53588
608-588-7392 **28-00-005** D/L 3-25

April 29 CLUB-TEAM in Beloit \$80/team
Jim Haupt 5075 N Elkhart Av Milwaukee, WI 53217
414-964-2735 4 or 5 player team **28-00-006** D/L 4-15

April 30 WHPA STATE DOUBLES in Beloit
\$40/team use entry form please
John Secord W6868 Brown Rd
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-922-0080 **28-00-007** D/L 3-31

May 6-7 BELOIT ENCORE
Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511
608-879-2304 **28-00-008** D/L 4-22

May 13 EAU CLAIRE EARLYBIRD; Carson Park \$15
Dennis Kieser 413 W Stanley St Thorp, WI 54771
715-669-5272 **28-00-009** D/L 5-5

May 13 MUSKEGO DOUBLES
Tom Steinke 155 S Charles St Waukesha, WI 53186
262-542-0252 **unsanctioned** D/L 5-5

May 14 MOTHERS DAY

May 19-20-21 TEAM-WORLD; Beloit \$200/team
Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511
608-879-2304 **28-00-010** D/L 4-15

"Game Related Items"

KEN KOSKY HORSESHOES



6007 Municipal Street
Schofield, WI 54476-4294

715-355-4628
kkosky@dwave.net

KEY Bold print date indicates WHPA approved event.
NHPA sanctioned tournaments also in **bold** numbers.
Note: Some WHPA approved events are unsanctioned.
Call, 414-964-2735 six wks. prior for free listing this col.

Team forms WI-MN Border Battle

March 25th

by Randy Rein

Here is our team for WI-MN Border Battle 2. It does not look as strong as last year but we have heart.

Speaking of heart, Don Kangas is coming back after a heart operation. Gert Wilcziek is coming back after problems with her pitching hand and says she feels good.

Jane Smith is scheduled to have knee surgery at the end of February but says she will pitch if needed. As of now it appears we will need her to pitch unless there is a 30 ft pitcher out there that has a 40% average or better and wants to pitch in Minnesota representing Wisconsin – here is your invite.

Our ace in the hole is Leroy Meyer from Appleton with a solid 40.8% average. He is better known as "Moose" Meyer.

40' A

Randy Rein
Don Kangas
Ron Brockway
John Crook
40' B

Gus Schram
Tom Endler
John Molling
Ken Heinritz
Alt Bun Carley

30' A

Clayton Gage
Lorraine Sternberg
Edie McKinney
Gert Wilcziek
30' B

Sue Helene
Elaine Troullier
Jane Smith
Leroy Meyer

Schedule Changes

The 2000 edition of the Official WHPA Outdoor Schedule (see page 15) has changed to some degree.

Archie's Classic, at Kewaskum usually conducted week before Memorial Day, has been squeezed out of that date by Team-World. It may go later but remains uncertain.

The Eau Claire tournaments are back in the capable hands of Dennis Kieser now living in Thorp, WI.

Marshfield One and Goldendale have changed directors. Dan David, Auburndale has taken over for Marshfield and Tom Costa of West Bend for Goldendale.

Steve Stevens, Marengo, is introducing a new sanctioned tournament in nearby Sanborn, WI. The ordinary August dates of the Ashland County Fair have been moved to July

The two Fourth of July tournaments at Mountain, preferred to be off-schedule; announced by flyer only.

The Sandbaggers of Arena have scheduled a workout tournament for the outdoor courts that are yet to be built.

World Tournament time, the first two weeks of August, has effectively moved the Beloit, Southern Wisconsin to a July date. August was formerly, most popular month.

Watch for a special tournament in Eagle River.

NHPF at Fieldhouse may select another date. Kenosha has chosen that last week in August.

World Tournament entry forms, now available, were accompanied by the following message from Dick Hansen.

"Entry fee and class prize remains the same as last year and entry fee includes all scorekeeping fees. This will be an indoor tournament on raised courts and the last word is the facility is air-conditioned."

New Season, New Shoes?

by Tom Steinke

Dust off those horseshoes! The new outdoor tournament schedule will be out soon (pg 15) new year, new winners. Every year I wonder if I should try a different type of shoe, but which shoe, and is the expense of the shoe justified for

the one or two times I might use them?

This year, at the Spring Meeting, March 18th, bring your old shoes to sell or trade with somebody else. I will put up a board with shoes that are available for sale or trade. Also, bring your really old shoes along for conversation and identification (sell, buy, or trade them if you want).

If you can't make the meeting,

call me about the shoes you have or might be looking for. After trying different shoes and finding ones you like, you can then buy new ones from Ken Kosky, if you want.

Thank you, Tom Steinke
155 S. Charles St. Waukesha, WI
53186 (262)542-0252

CLUB - TEAM by Jim Haupt

April 29, 2000 will mark the sixteenth year for the annual Club-Team tournament

What began as a five team event in 1985, emulating Team-World, has become a class divided contest fielding as many as twenty area or club based teams. Some clubs enter multiple teams without ever pitching the A class. Others have found eager participants for all three classes.

Club Team is open to all WHPA participants, male, female, and juniors without restriction.

A team representing a club should be composed of active club members, but may also be composed of players of the same county, or representing an indoor club, league, or sponsor for which the players are active members.

All teams and the source of their members are subject to final approval of the tournament director. Substitutions upsetting the balance of class seed will not be allowed.

Teams with junior players shall be responsible for proper distribution of cash awards.

The point is; there's room for everybody at Club Team. Four pitchers make up a team but five may be on the roster. Classes of six teams have proven to be the best way to go.

"A" class, playing for the traveling Club Team trophy, usually means an average of over fifty percent for the four players and is seeded accordingly. B and C classes follow with individual pitchers dropping into the 25%

range.

Close Doesn't Count, the club from north of Highway 8, is the defending champion. Their team members, should they all return, seem to be up for a repeat.

Because the Club Team precedes the State Doubles tournament by one day, many competition minded pitchers are expected to be in Beloit for the weekend. The Edwards Sport and Recreation Center will be the scene of action. Thanks to the Beloit Club, twenty-four portable courts will be set up in the huge hockey arena for a month to host the Club Team, the State Doubles, the Beloit Encore, and finally the Team-World.

In the case of the Club Team, twenty-four courts will allow 12 teams to pitch simultaneously. For the State Doubles, 48 teams will be able to take the courts together.

The expense of conducting the Club Team is greater than most other tournaments. Approximately \$2/person is spent on building rental. The tournament director withholds another \$1/person to pay statisticians. One more \$1/person covers the normal 50 cent fee to the WHPA and miscellaneous costs including postage and paperwork. Other than that, the rest of the entry fees go toward cash awards - about 80%. And, of course, each class is in competition for the entry fees they themselves generate.

With the number of teams traditionally entering, three classes work best but the courts are there and a four class Club Team seems destined for the future.

From Your President

The Spring Meeting will be just a week or two away when you receive this Newsletter. This is the meeting for bylaw changes. We have several important changes in the works that need careful consideration.

There is one change we will make to comply with the NHPA Bylaws Article 12, sec 3, which deals with the way averages are determined. We need to make some changes to comply. The current program that we have can not do it. There are two ways we can go, the Hasell Program, from Canada, which Ken Kosky has all setup and ready to go, or we can just use Nat-stats averages. The Hasell Program has a lot of added

features, and will cost about 200 dollars a year. A meeting of the Executive Council has been called for Mar. 3, to hash out the pros and cons of this and other important issues and we will have a Council recommendation on the average change at the Spring Meeting.

The format for the State Tournament championship classes as far as move ups are concerned. The issue of using the winner of class A, or the high percent of the class A will be voted on at the Spring Meeting. We have been taking the winner of class A for the move up.

Don't forget the Spring Meeting

Sat 1:00 p.m. 3/18/00

Your Pres. Ken Jaeger.

You Might be a Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitcher If:

collected by Jim Haupt

"Concessions" means charbroiled brats and cold beer.
 Packer Sunday means definitely no tournament.
 You bellyache about scorekeepers and then duck out after your class.
 You make a double ringer and your partner shouts, "Kahuna!"
 You made your own horseshoes at work.
 You have to ask if leaners count more.
 Your opponent tops your double and calls, "4 clucks."
 Your score-sheets have a beer frame.
 You think round shoes are designed for a turn.
 You call your Southern visitors "Flatlanders."
 You bring \$2 to a tournament and brown-bag it. .
 You won't drive more than 50 miles to a tournament.
 You lose to a 'Flatlander' and he becomes a "FIB."
 When your team wins, "It was like pushin' chickens."
 You measure your cash award against the entry fee.
 You say ringers are OK, but winning is everything.
 You're still using your dad's shoes.
 You think the other guy is a snob when he calls, "Two dead, one."
 You think a three point touch is close enough.
 You bought your shoes at the local hardware store.
 You still send a 'kitchen table' average to enter tournaments.
 You always fill in the DR column on your round robin card.
 You've pitched event where the round robin card was on a match box cover.
 You bring a cooler and six-pack to the tournament.
 You think anything finer than Levi's is for sissies.
 You blow your nose with your shoe-rag, more than once.
 You catch yourself calling, "Ringers alike, nobody home."
 You've heard, "A point and ringer for me and a ringer for him."
 Your tournament director has a no practice rule.
 You bring the paint you got by ShopKo, Never-Dry White.
 You quit wearing dark pants cuz it shows butt scratching.
 You have won all your subscriptions to the Newsletter.
 You never ever called a foul.
 You can recall the words of a song, "90 miles from Fonju Lac, Oh Oh Claire."
 Your home courts have bottle holders on the fence.

Your opponent fouls a lot and you say you don't care.
 You've got a mantle full of trophies and say, "Who counts?"
 Your fouling opponent wins; then, you call him on it.
 A 'Yoooper' is a guy from up-nort with a suspect average.
 You actually believe in the words, "Dead Soft."
 You have one family conveyance and it has duals.
 You see court improvements your entry fees sponsored.
 You wait for a good year before you buy your NHPA card.
 You and your partner select the "A" (or "B") shoes.
 You think "Concentration" is the magic word.
 You think Drop Forged, is a suburb of Duluth, MN.
 You think OJ made from concentrate will help your game..
 You think "Consistency" means mostly ringers.
 Everyone in your league pitches the same kind of iron.
 From October thru April you say come spring, you're really going to "giver."
 Your shoes are painted in stripes.
 You heard about singles but never tried it.
 You love play-off games, especially if you're 2nd with low percentage.
 You visit all your friends, and the outhouse between games and then you lose your shoes.
 You say, stuff like "Geeze" and "Cripes" a lot.
 You understand why F.W.D. may switch to cars.
 You've got a 'hipper' hidden somewhere off the court or know the guy who does.
 You casually mention wind to the opponent with the high shoe.
 You always count ringers but never count shoes.
 You played an event where there were more cows watching than people.
 You remember when pit crews turned the courts.
 You just found out there are other shoes besides 'Double Ringers'.
 You have always considered 21 points to be a championship game.
 In January, you want GB play-offs but settle for a hole in the ice.
 You are still paying 25 cents to your scorekeeper.
 And, you still think "trophies-only" is the absolute epitome of the horseshoe game.

"A dream grants what one covets when awake."

From The WAUKESHA FREEMAN Sports Page
Date of article July 13, 1963 same page headlines the Milwaukee Braves over the Mets 9-0, Burdette the winner; Aaron drove in 5 runs. Also has a piece about Cassius Clay. Researched and contributed by Rich Conrad, Waukesha.

Horseshoe Pitching Prospers

"Lively Bit of Americana"

by Rudy Pelecky

"The clunk of horseshoes hitting a well - ground stake is no longer confined to one horse towns.

But the aroma of the Fourth of July picnic, strains of "Moonlight Bay" and a straw hat and candy striped shirt still cling to this most American of sports.

Horseshoe pitching, in fact, has become so ingrained with other memories of things past that it claims to be more a tradition than sport.

Those stalwarts of small town Americana, the horseshoe pitchers, still operate in full bloom caring little if their pastime is a sport or a tradition.

The Tri-County Horseshoe league has six teams with three regulars each and a limitless number of substitutes. All the teams operate within a horseshoe throw of Waukesha.

Wally Saeger of Ixonia, whose team stands near the bottom of the league thinks horseshoes has grown in the past few years.

'There's good money involved in tournament competition.' Saeger said with the air of a man who likes this particular combination.

Saeger is the only man in the league with a three-quarter reverse. That, in pitching parlance, is a screwball throw that makes a three-quarter turn before landing on the stake.

Members in the league range from 18 to 55 and some of the younger set are doing as well as the veterans.

'All you really need is an arm and an eye.' Arnie Rupnow of Oconomowoc said.

'No horse with normal feet could ever wear a shoe used in pitching,' Saeger said. 'We get ours from Ohio. They're more square and don't have holes for nails.'

Rupnow, who has been secretary of the league every year, with the exception of one, since 1928 said horseshoe pitching takes a lot more skill than bowling. 'You have to get it right down the middle to make a ringer.' Rupnow said, 'Bowlers can hit 'em on either side.'

'A good horseshoer will ring between 45 and 65 percent of his shots,' he added.

'When two hard nosed players get together the game can last well into the night. A ringer by your opponent will cancel your ringer,' Rupnow pointed out. The winner has to work his way up to 50 points.

"Among the top point getters in the league are; Ed Weide, Val Brugger, and Joe Flanagan of Oconomowoc; Joe Madden of Waukesha; and George Steele of Okauchee.

Teams in the league include Oconomowoc, Waukesha, Okauchee, La Belle, Ixonia, and Fort Atkinson. Waukesha is the defending champion.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FIELDHOUSE

It was already the second day of the new year. Arriving without the anticipated fanfare, this was a day to count heads to confirm that we had retained all body parts, our bank accounts were still intact, and most importantly, the old family vehicle rounded the turn of the century unscathed.

Three tables of horseshoe people assembled at the Fieldhouse in Caledonia, Wisconsin either to celebrate the Packers last win, that afternoon, or the start of a new year in horseshoes. Distance was no obstacle to Ken Jaeger of New London and Ken Kosky of Wausau. Their trip made the Beloit run look easy. Earl Paulson and cohorts, Red Ferguson and Harry Laws,

were on hand after an afternoon meeting of Team-World staffers. Sandy and John Secord, also in for Team-World, took in the Fieldhouse affair. Frank Look, recently absent from the tournament circuit, and his wife, had to reintroduce themselves to some. Stuart Bennett, Paulette Hansen's son, introduced his fiancée. The Waukesha crowd included Ralph Maylahn, Tony Scrima, and Tom Steinke. From Richfield, Terry Sternberg escorted the new NHPA executive, Lorraine.

Hosts, Dick and Paulette Hansen, arranged for a menu of; a mixed garden salad, heaping plates of red potatoes, French fried potatoes, piles of fried chicken and barbecued ribs all served family style.

It's always rewarding to get together with those who speak your native tongue. The language of choice, the number one thing on the menu for this event, was horseshoe.

Arena Doubles

Tony's Doubles January 22

It was a full house, 8 teams in A and 9 teams on the back courts. Entry fees were adjusted to pay even money for each successful game.

Entry for A was \$7/man, paying \$4 for each win. Arnie Walton and Ron Lingard, the Madison bowlers, lost just one game for undisputed first. Ron Yttri and Gerry Weikert tied with the newcomer team of Ron and Gert Wilcziek of Eau Claire at five wins apiece. All of the eight teams in A class won at least two games.

The nine-team B class paid \$6/man entry receiving \$3 for each win. New this season, the Heinritz brothers, Russ and Ken put together a 7 for 8 record for first place. In a dead heat for second with two losses apiece were the teams of Ken Olson – Orville Baker and Ray Groskinsky – Jim O'loughlin. Sportsmen of the day have to be the Nord brothers, Mark and Steve, who were nice to all opponents dropping



Arnie Walton, Ron Lingard

Arena Doubles Leaders

final standings

(3 pts for a 1st, 2 for 2nd, 1 for a third)

Arnie Walton	11	Ron Lingard	11.5
Len Mauthe	8.5	LaVern Edge	8.5
Ken Olson	8.5	Orville Baker	8.5
Ray Groskinsky	6	Jim O'loughlin	6
Bob Power	6	Harry Nelson	5
Tom Endler	5	Chet Hermansen	5
Ron Yttri	4.5	Jeff Gustafson	4
Gerry Weikert	4	Julian Tijerina	3
Fred Decorah	3	Ken Heinritz	3
Russ Heinritz	3	Bill Dahmen	3
Jim Haugh	3	Kerry Morris	3
Hi Chaffin	3	Bun Carley	2.5
Ron Wilcziek	2.5	Gert Wilcziek	2.5
John Gregorich	2	Tip Wipperfurth	2
Ken Amble	2	LeRoy Hubbard	2
Bob Anderson	1.5	Jim Haupt	1.5
Ralph Maylahn	1.5	Sonny Cockroft	1
Bill Dahme	1	Al Huizenga	1/2
Herman Adler	1/2		

The point awards above were made individually for participating on a team that placed in the top three in any and all of the year's Arena Doubles Series.

Many pitchers shared in the win column this winter at Arena. No other dates have been scheduled due to the heavy load of coming sanctioned tournaments at the Sandbar.

Tony's Feb 26

The last of the scheduled Arena doubles series was a new experience. The leading pitcher, by prior arrangement, dropped out. Tony had conflicting dates.

Chet Hermansen was pressed into service handling the A group. He collected a \$6/man entry from seven teams (\$84). Paying \$4 per game won, Hermansen doled out the winnings mainly to four teams all of which had won four games. Every team had at least one win. When all the awards were made Hermansen found he had \$16 left over – unaccounted for.

Hermansen, it seems, has a gift that should not be overlooked. Money apparently grows in his pocket. He was duly appointed treasurer for future events.

The top teams in A were; Bob Power and Hi Chaffin, Jim Haupt and Ralph Maylahn, Arnie Walton and Ken Frame, plus Ron Yttri and Gerry Weikert.

The back courts also had a seven team roster but clear winners in the team of Ken Olson and Orville Baker. Second place, each with four wins were; Tip Wipperfurth and Bob Anderson, Bill Dahmen and John Gregorich, Ray Groskinsky and Jim O'loughlin.

The left over funds? Hermansen figured his own poke must have been leaking. It was returned to the source.

**"If you are patient in one moment
of anger, you will escape a
hundred days of sorrow."**

Chinese Proverb



"Tip" Wipperfurth, Herman Adler, Bill Dahman



Tony Scrima, Tom Endler, Harry Nelson, Fred Decorah

Tip's February 6th

A week after the Super Bowl Arena pitchers showed up in force to have another go at the doubles series.

Carl Gilbertson, with a weak knee, chose to watch. A quick substitution was made. 18 teams filled the house front and back. Entry fee was set at \$7/man. Shirley Carley volunteered to mark wins and losses and game awards were set at \$3. Surplus funds were slated for a case of spray paint for the house.

B class went undisputed. Kerry Morris and unseeded Jim Haugh broke in to the points column by winning all games. Platteville team of Ken Olson and Orville Baker lost just one time. Bill Dahmen, apparently off the sick list, and John Gregorich teamed for third place winning six games.

Those on the front courts had their ups and downs. In a total of eight games the front runners managed seven wins.

The Arnie Walton – Ron Lingard combo tied with Bun Carley and Chet Hermansen (each team earning 2 1/2 points on the season totals). Another deadlock for second place involved teams of Bob Power – Jeff Gustafson and Lavern Edge – Len Mauthe who have lately moved into the A class.

Al Holloway who begged off with two injured wrists just a month ago seemed to handle this contest OK.



"Bun" Carley, "Big Bob" Anderson, Ken Olson



Tip Wipperfurth, Jeff Gustafson, LaVerne Edge, Kerry Morris, Jerry Volz

Tommy Bartlen celebrates 83rd birthday

It wasn't billed as just another birthday party but all 60 some guests did sing Tommy Bartlen's favorite song. He is known for maintaining a birthday list for all his friends and fellow sportsmen. He, is the one usually making the announcement and leading the Happy Birthday song.

Bartlen's long time friend Bob Krey, who is Chairman of the Washington Park Dartball League, effectively organized a luncheon of appreciation for Bartlen who had been Chairman of the dartball league the past fifteen years. The party took place at Washington Park Senior Center in Milwaukee.

He's Vince to the dartballers and Tommy to horseshoe pitchers. The Washington Park Horseshoe Club turned out to honor Tommy, their past president of thirty years. Active club members; Jerry Mathwig,

John Harmeyer, Frank Korosec, Ray Lopez, Joe Lipperer, Harry Johnson, Keno Samudo, Harry Hub, John Leskovar, and Jim Haupt showed up for the festivities. Former members, Ralph Maylahn of Genesee Depot, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wendorf, of Glenbullah could be counted, as well as life long friend Wes Taylor of West Bend and NHPA secretary-treasurer, Dick Hansen, Franksville.

Bartlen's 1979 WHPA Hall of Fame presentation was recreated with fellow Hall of Fame member, Hansen delivering the original address and presenting the plaque borrowed from the Hall of Fame display for that express purpose.

Hansen remarked that a 1934 California tournament mark of 78.1% established by Bartlen, could have won the World that year and was not matched or exceeded in World competition until the year 1940.

Thanks to the Washington Park Dartball League. It's a big order to thank a man for his devotion of a lifetime.

THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN TOSSED

STATE WALKING DOUBLES

The entry form published here in January is in your hands. The year end averages, also published in January, will be the guide used to seed teams within classes. The WHPA is trying this event for the fourth time. Are you coming to the party? Pick a partner!

John Udelhofen and John Crook were the first State Doubles champions back in 1997. Ralph Maylahn and Tony Scrima took the title away the next year and last year Randy Rein teamed with Gus Schram for the present title. They would appear to be the team to beat this time around but a quick look at the year end average list shows other promising possibilities.

If the founding fathers of the State Doubles did one thing right it was setting the limit on A class entry average. Quite simply; those pitchers over 60% must choose a partner under 60%. It's not a problem for ordinary pitchers but it is the best thing that happened for the top class and our State Doubles contest as a whole. The 60-60 over and under

rule ranks with the choice of 40 feet between stakes, and 2 lb., 10 oz. shoes – it fits the game. Two select pitchers cannot run away with the title year after year. One more hurrah for the team of State Officers who developed that 60-60 wrinkle.

Walking doubles, the mode chosen by the state officers, as hosts, allows all pitchers to use their personal shoes. That's one excuse not available. Walking should make it seem more like a common singles tournament – another excuse wasted

A good time to sign up for the State Doubles will be at the March 18th Spring Meeting. John Secord, contact person, will be there in person. Deadline is March 31.

Now if we could only remember when to walk.

Off theCuff

"Now that I have two new hips/knees and a pacemaker, you might say I have become a walking junkyard!"

-Francis Schalk, Oxford

"What's the entry fee for seniors without a steady job?"

LaVerne Edge

Pitcher Profiles-NHPA Online

Eleven daring Wisconsin horseshoe pitchers have listed their profiles on the NHPA Online site. Comments are entertaining. Find sub-title, "profiles" under "Publicity."

T.C. says bowling is another favorite sport. Names Lorraine Sternberg as best pitcher seen. "She makes it look so easy."

R.H. avid bowler lists Sid Anderson as toughest opponent.

G.S. Couldn't put up a basketball hoop, settled for a horseshoe court; most influenced by Ray Hill.

D.D. is big on golf; practices 200 shoes a day.

J.H. pitching level, medium rare; tough opponent, the stake.

K.J. Method is concentrate, relax and follow through; by- word is "sportsmanship."

K.K. started in a tavern league; rarely practices; also likes hunting and traveling.

H.S. plays some volleyball; pitches Ted Allen shoes.

J.C. says practice , practice, practice; toughest opponent continues to be John Udelhofen.

M.S. pitches a flip says one of his other sports is

football.

S.W. credits Wally Srenaski for changing his flip to a 1-3/4; toughest opponents , some days everybody but most often a push between Randy Rein and Don Kangas.

This state, Wisconsin, has the largest number of profiles listed on the NHPA Online site. Nice response! Keep it up.

Be daring. The easy address is a search for: "HorseshoePitching.com"

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Arizona Horseshoes or 'Just for the Health of it'

By Ken Kosky

Ah, the "Valley of the Sun"! The winter home of countless people from the northern climes. Senior only RV parks and enclaves are too numerous to count. The average temperature in January and February is 65 to 70 degrees and this year it was rare to find a day cooler than 70. The weather is nice except when the wind blows and the dust flies.

Most of the parks have horseshoe courts and many of them have teams that join in league play and travel to other parks throughout the winter season. On weekends there is a tournament somewhere that attract over 100 pitchers.

In late January Quartzsite, AZ has a horseshoe tournament during what they call the "Main Event". This is an unbelievable "event" and horseshoes is only a side show. Rock collectors started the show years ago and it has blossomed into a flea market or tent sale like you have never witnessed anywhere else. People flock into the town by literally the hundreds of

thousands and RV Trailers and Motorhomes are parked all over the desert for 5 miles either side of town. Rumor has it that over a million people pass through this town during the 2 week event. Hundreds of booths are set up in several groups up and down the side of the Interstate selling everything imaginable.

And then there is the horseshoe tournament. This is the 8th year Gary Chalberg has put the tournament on and this year there were 180 pitchers in classes of 12 that pitched 11 games each. Everybody pitches two days. There were pitchers from 30 different states and 2 Canadian Provinces. This was a worthwhile experience.

There are other tournaments on almost every weekend until the "Snowbirds" fly north. Tournaments like the "Lost Dutchman" in Apache Junction and the "Valley of the Sun" tournament in Mesa, just to mention a couple, draw big numbers of pitchers although they say that like other tournaments "up north", the participation gets less every year.

Looking out my window in the morning and seeing cactus and sand sure beat looking at the snow drifting back in Wisconsin.

Y2K-001 *

A sanctioned tournament at Arena
by Jim Haupt

6/29

Class A		Class D	
1 Ralph Maylahn	65.71	1 Len Mauthe	41.79
2 Randy Rein	62.86	2 Fred Decorah	38.23
3 John Crook	64.64	3 Ray Groskinsky	35.00
4 Arnie Walton	60.71	4 Harry Laws	33.93
5 Larry Barber	51.79	5 Ken Kosky	28.57
6 Ron Brockway	44.64	6 Ed Hack	29.64
7 Gus Schram	49.29	7 Don Goldsmith	29.29
8 Tom Endler	46.43	8 R C Anderson	28.57
Class B		Class E	
1 Tom Costa	53.21	1 Mike Cone	42.86
2 Ron Lingard	51.07	2 Pete Kumlien	36.79
3 John Molling	49.64	3 Chuck Herman	38.93
4 Tony Scrima	44.29	4 Rich Conrad	32.50
5 Bernard Carley	51.07	5 Jim O'loughlin	27.86
6 Harry Nelson	47.86	6 Red Ferguson	18.93
7 Bob Power	43.21	7 John Gregorich	17.50
8 Ken Jaeger	37.86	8 Paul Wilson	27.50
Class C		Class F	
1 Lavern Edge	43.93	1 Ray Lopez	36.25
2 Tip Wipperfurth	43.21	2t Ed Wheeler	27.08
3 Jerry Volz	40.36	2t Ron Berg	27.08
4 Jeff Gustafson	39.29	4 Tom Dudenhoefer	28.33
5 Kerry Morris	36.43	5 Mark Nord	25.41
6 Julian Tijerina	34.29	6 Dave Miller	21.67
7 Duffy Brockway	33.93	7 Francis Schalk	15.00
8 Jerry Schroeder	37.86		

It was a day from Hell. Trying to squeeze six classes into a one day tournament went from dawn to dark. The tournament director apologizes for the long day.

Take a cursory look at the results column: Winner, Ralph Maylahn says, "Life begins at eighty." Randy Rein went into the tank trying to recruit Maylahn for the WI-MN Border Battle. John Crook is looking good pitching seven points over average, not an easy feat in A class. Arnie Walton is making a statement in this come back year. Tom Costa continues pitching well away from the practice courts. Lavern Edge is beginning to master thirty feet. Jerry Schroeder and Francis Schalk were just happy to be on the courts after recent medical problems. Mike Cone could have pitched up a couple of classes, eight points over average. Mark Nord of Franklin, most improved pitcher on the courts, bumped his own average 10 percentage points.

Al Holloway had to cancel out - broke BOTH wrists in a tumble.

If the Packers won't play, fire the coach. If horseshoe pitchers won't play, fire the tournament director.

A 40 shoe game takes twenty minutes; but figure twenty-five. Expanded, an 8-man class should take less than three hours. Now dump that in the waste basket and allow 4 hours for a class and you too can be the new director. Applications accepted: Line forms to the right.

KHC Invitational Tournament

by Joe Zoromskis

On January 15-16 the Kenosha Horseshoe Club held a KHC Invitational Tournament at their winter facility. There were twenty-six members and guests making up four classes. The format was 40-shoe cancellation with a payoff for four places.

Lloyd Johnson, pitching 48.2% with a 7/1 record took class A. Second place Glenn Bogenschneider finished with

45% and a 6/2 record. Harry Nelson finished third with high tournament average of 49.6% and a 5/2 record. Bob Power was fourth with 5/2 and 47.1%.

Class B went to Linda Johnson with a 5/0 record and 34% ringer average. Doug Bakkum placed second; 3/2 with 29.5%. In third place was Jan Fisher; 2/3 record an ringer average of 33%. Fourth place went to Rich Brower who had a 2/3 record and 28%.

Class C was a hard fought battle with one game difference between first and sixth place. The winner, Debbie Marshall, had a 3/2 record with 32%

ringers. Second was Dale Shamberg with 3/2 and 23.5% ringers. Third place went to Everett Stewart also 3/2 and a ringer percentage of 20%. Ted Padgett struggled to fourth place with a 2/3 record and 25.5% ringers.

Class D championship went to Greg Wickersheim who had a record of 7/1 with 28.6% ringers. Scott Muhlenbeck placed second; 6/2 and 21.4%. Wayne (Stogie) Wisnefski took third with 5/2 and 21.4%. Fourth place went to Marty Weidner; 23.2% and a record of 4/3.

WHPA HALL of FAME

This is another in the series of the "WHPA Hall of Fame Revisited".

ARNIE RUPNOW 1980

Arnie Rupnow is one of two horseshoe pitchers to be honored with the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall of Fame Award for 1980.

Arnie is a charter member and former secretary of the league which was organized as the Inter-County League in 1933, called the Land-O-Lakes Horseshoe league in 1936, the La Belle League in 1940, and named the Tri-County league in 1954.

He conducted a local tournament for 35 years. He pitched in class A and B in the State Tournament numerous times and placed second in class B a couple of times.

He has given up pitching because of a stroke nine years ago but still sponsors a team and attends the match every week.

Arnie is 72 years of age. He and his wife Viola have been married 49 years and have a family of three sons and two daughters. They have been active in many church activities.

Arnie was also the bowling secretary of the Ashippun Bowling League.

Arnie was born and raised on the same farm, in Oconomowoc where he now lives after dairy farming his entire life, until he gave up working the land because of his illness.

Her was nominated by the Tri-County League and the Washington Park Club. We are happy to present this award to one who has been involved, not only in the sport of horseshoe pitching, but who has also done much for his fellow man in church and community activities.

He who walks in another's tracks, leaves no foot-prints.

He who speaks the truth must have one foot in the stirrup.

Wally Saeger 1980

Wally Saeger has been named posthumously to the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame for 1980.

Wally Saeger was born in Ixonia, Wisconsin on June 29, 1920, lived in the community all his life. He started playing horseshoes at an early age with friends and relatives at home. He was a veteran of World War II and pitched horseshoes while in the army.

Wally and Delores Mallow were married on June 22, 1947 and built their home right across from the horseshoe courts. There are two children, a son and a daughter.

He set up the present courts in Ixonia Park and maintained them for over thirty years. The courts are called "Saeger Horseshoe Courts" in his memory. He put on exhibitions at the courts with Casey Jones and appeared on "Pitching Horseshoes" on WTMJ in 1955. He was with the Tri-County League for over thirty years and was president for many years. Wally was a member of the State and National Horseshoe Pitching associations for years and served on the board when the tournaments were held in Milwaukee. Wally entered the State Tournament for 31 years and was State Champion in 1964. He also was Jefferson County and Tri-County Champ many times. Win or lose, Wally enjoyed every one. He also played softball, hardball and enjoyed bowling.

Wally died suddenly of a heart attack on July 10, 1979. At the time of his death he worked for the Jefferson County Highway department. He was a founding father of the Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital and an honorary member of the hospital board. He was a member of the Ixonia Fire Department, Park and Recreation Board, and served as town constable for many years.

Because of his many years of dedication to the sport of horseshoe pitching, Wally Saeger deserves to be a member of the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame.

(Continued on page 13)

Bill Glass 1981


The Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association is honoring Bill Glass with a Hall of Fame Award for 1981.

Bill's Father was an avid horseshoe pitcher so Bill started pitching as a youngster in Ohio. Although his real interest was in playing ball, he pitched horseshoe on and off for 25 years. In 1960 he moved to a dairy farm in Wisconsin and after no horseshoe pitching for 15 years, decided to enter the tournament at the Wisconsin State Fair in 1966, winning the class B title. In fall of 1967 his dairy herd was sold so Bill had more time to play ball and horseshoes. He won the state title eight times, his first in 1968 and subsequently in '69, '70, '71, '74, '78, '79, and '80.

Bill entered many tournaments throughout the state winning numerous titles. The first time many of us heard of Bill Glass was at the Green Bay tournament when a huge banner proclaimed, "Bill Glass is Here." In 1980 he pitched in eight tourneys in Florida winning four of them.

Bill, who is 60 years of age, is a grain farmer near Vesper. He and his wife, Lois, have five children.

We have been saddened by the news that due to Lou Gehrig's disease, Bill will no longer be able to play horseshoes. We are happy to present the Hall of Fame Award to one who so richly deserves the honor.



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Carl Pfeffer 1981

Carl Pfeffer is being honored by the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association with a Hall of Fame Award for 1981.

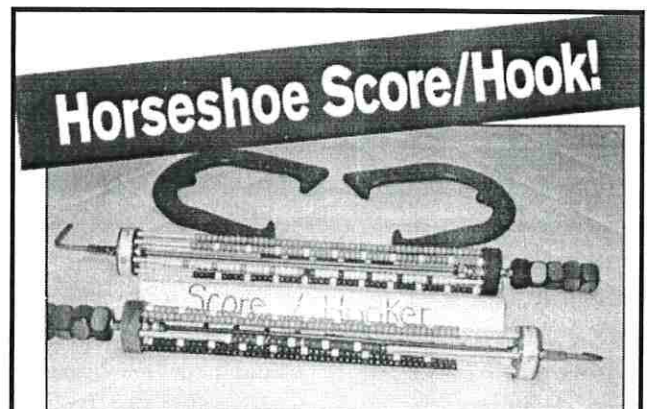
Carl started playing horseshoes in 1933. He won the class B title at the Milwaukee Auer Avenue Playground tournament in 1934, and the Major AAA title in 1937, '38, and '39. He entered the State Tournament for the first time in 1934, qualified in class A and placed second. He won the State Championship in 1956 and 1958.

He has been a member of the Washington Park Club of Milwaukee for the past 45 years, winning the club tournament twice and the handicap tournament twice. He is also a member of the Tri-County League.

Carl, who is 74 years young, worked for American Motors Corporation for 44 years and has been retired as a master mechanic for eleven years. He was a member of a six brothers bowling team from 1946 to 1956. He has a family of two sons, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

We congratulate Carl for his many years of participation in the sport of horseshoe pitching and are happy to present this award to him.

Deceased



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Pitching Horseshoes

by Bob Wilke

I was born May 6, 1909 right here on this farm where I'm living today and for the past 53 years I can say that when I go to bed at night, I am sleeping in the same room in which I was born 90 years ago.

My father (born May 8th 1870) had a favorite pastime, of pitching horseshoes. And that's how it happened that I got started playing this game, when I was just five years old. My father did some work as a blacksmith including horse-shoeing. That made it easy for me to always find the right size shoes that I was able to throw.

The old blacksmith shop was built on this farm during the early 1860's. Consequently there were lots of old shoes of all sizes hanging on its walls as well as that first little pair that I threw. They were first worn by that little pony that my two older sisters rode and drove before I was born.

From the year 1914 to 1923, I threw a lot of horseshoes, not only by myself and with my father but also with a lot of other old horseshoe pitchers. The kind of shoes that were being used during those years were old dobbins shoes - hence the name, "Horseshoe Pitching."

In 1924 my father came home from town one day with a set of Mossman shoes. Now these shoes were different. They were shaped just like our old horseshoes yet made not to be worn by a horse. Those four shoes were packed in a cardboard box with two iron stakes 24 inches long. On the instruction sheet it said they were to be driven into the ground until only 8 inches remained and they were to be 40 feet apart. Mossman was the manufacturer of these shoes. He was also the 1924 World Horseshoe Champion.

In the year 1926, at the age of 17, I was my father's partner in a doubles horseshoe pitching tournament held right here in

Berlin, Wisconsin. We went there in our old model T Ford as did some of the others. We threw our Mossman shoes but some of the others were still throwing their old dobbins shoes. I have some wonderful memories of that two day event.

In the spring of 1927 I bought my first car, a 1922 model T Ford touring car for 25 bucks. I went to Oshkosh to live and work at the Diamond Match factory, 8 hours a day, 5-1/2 days a week at 27-1/2 cents an hour.

Horseshoe pitching was now a very popular sport. Oshkosh had 5 fire stations, 4 of them had courts. Two parks had courts and one had lights. Oshkosh had a team managed by a fireman who was also a great promoter of the game. We had games with Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Wauwata. Fond du Lac's Taylor Park had lights. Consequently we had many night games between the two cities with rivalry at its highest and sportsmanship at its best - many fond memories.

In 1930-31 I joined the Fond du Lac boys in a game they had with Waukesha. That was the first time for me to pitch against Harold Sheets and that Waukesha boy by the name of Casey Jones who at that time was pitching his shoes from the 25 to 30 foot distance.

In 1932, at the age of 23, I entered the State Tournament for the first time. After all 37 of us had thrown 100 qualifying shoes, I found myself among the top 16 qualifiers, who on the following day, played a 16-man round robin for the State Championship. The games were all 50-point ringer cancellation and all played in one day.

And that, in a nutshell, is the way it was during my first 18 years of playing this game called, "Pitching Horseshoes."

THE 2000 OFFICIAL WHPA SCHEDULE OF OUTDOOR TOURNAMENTS

MAY 6-7 BELOIT ENCORE \$20 Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511 608-879-2304 bhc.tw@brodnet.com 28-00-008 D/L 4-22	JUL 22-23 SOUTHERN WIS OPEN; Beloit \$15 Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511 608-879-2304 bhc.tw@brodnet.com 28-00-028 maybe mixed D/L 7-8
* MAY 13 EAU CLAIRE EARLYBIRD sckpg ex .50/ga \$5 Dennis Kieser W 413 Stanley St Thorp, WI 54771 715-669-5272 dkieser@discover-net.net 28-00-009 D/L 5-5	JUL 31 thru Aug 12 WORLD TOURNAMENT \$100 Dick Hansen 3085 S 76th St Franksville, WI 53027 262-835-9108 nhpa.sec.treas@worldnet.att.com D/L 5-18
MAY 13 MUSKEGO DOUBLES \$20/team Tom Steinke 155 S Charles St Waukesha, WI 53186 262-542-0252 mixed unsanctioned D/L 5-6	AUG 12-13 MOUNTAIN OPEN \$15 Debbie Trossen 14840 Deer Run Trail Mountain, WI 54149 715-276-6041 deblee@ez-net.com unsanctioned D/L 7-24
MAY 19-20-21 TEAM-WORLD \$200/team Earl Paulson 7105 S Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511 608-879-2304 bhc.tw@brodnet.com 28-00-010 D/L 4-15	AUG 19-20 PLATTEVILLE OPEN \$15(A&B \$16) Norm Mauthe 865 Eastman St Platteville, WI 53818 608-348-9697 28-00-029 D/L 8-5
MAY 27-28 PLATTEVILLE NHPA SINGLES \$15 Norm Mauthe 865 Eastman St Platteville, WI 53818 608-348-9697 28-00-015 D/L 5-13	SEPT 26-27 KENOSHA OPEN \$15 Joe Zoromskis 6011 65th St Kenosha, WI 53142 262-652-6200 28-00-033 D/L 9-5
JUN 3-4 WOLF RIVER OPEN; New London \$13 Ken Jaeger N3539 Knight Rd New London, WI 54961 920-982-6287 Limit 72 Deershoe@aol.com 28-00-016 D/L 5-22	SEPT 2-3-4 STATE TOURNAMENT; Arena, WI Entry TBA John Secord W6868 Brown Rd Fond du Lac WI 54937 920-922-0080 whpa@execpc.com 28-00-031 D/L 7-31
JUN 10-11 EAU CLAIRE OPEN skpg extra .50/ga \$15 Dennis Kieser 413 W Stanley St Thorp, WI 54771 715-669-5272 dkieser@discover-net.net 28-00-017 D/L 6-1	SEPT 9-10 V.F.W. Doubles; Comb Locks \$25/team Don Navarrete 453 Woodlawn Ct Combined Locks, WI 54113 920-788-1633 or 788-4379 unsanctioned D/L 8-26
JUN 10-11 BELOIT SPRING SINGLES \$15 Earl Paulson 7105 S Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511 may be mixed 608-879-2304 bhc.tw@brodnet.com 28-00-018 D/L 5-27	SEPT 9-10 WET 'N WILD; Centuria \$10 Jane Smith 1481 180 Av Balsam Lake, WI 54810 715-485-3057 jmjsmith@spacestar.net 28-00-032 8-27
JUN 17-18 MUSKEGO OPEN \$15 Tom Steinke 155 S Charles St Waukesha, WI 53186 262-542-0252 28-00-019 D/L 6-5	SEPT 17 BELOIT DOUBLES unsanctioned \$20/TEAM Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511 608-879-2304 bhc.tw@brodnet.com limit 110% D/L 9-1
JUN 17- MARSHFIELD ONE rain date 6-18 \$15 Dan David 282 Rangeline Rd Auburndale, WI 54412 715-384-3612 may be mixed 28-00-020 D/L 6-6	
JUN 24-25 GOLDENDALE; Germantown \$15 Tom Costa 725 River Rd Apt 4 West Bend, WI 53095 262-338-6905 tcosta@worldnet.att.net 28-00-021 D/L 6-10	
JULY 1-2 WAUSAU OPEN; Ringle \$15 Ken Kosky 6007 Municipal Dr Schofield, WI 54476 715-355-4628 KKosky@dwave.net 28-00-022 D/L 6-24	
JUL 9 #1 ARENA WORKOUT \$15-\$17 at courts John Crook 6225 Hy Co TZ Spring Green, WI 53588 608-588-7392 crook@execpc.com 28-00-030 D/L 6-25	
JUL 8 SANBORN PIONEER DAYS; Memorial Park \$10 Steve Stevens (see next event) singles/mixed 28-00-023 D/L 6-26	
JUL 15- NORTHERN RINGER CLASSIC; 28-00-024 \$15	
JUL 16 ASHLAND DOUBLES; Fairgrounds 28-00-025 Gate entry Steve Stevens Rt 1 Bx 132 Marengo, WI 54855 715-278-3473 This year's tourney will be mixed D/L 7-3	
JULY 15 MID-EAST OPEN; CombLocks unsanctioned \$13; at cts \$15	
JULY 16 COMBINED LOCKS SANCTIONED limit 48 \$17 Rosemary Kamps 101 Kamps Ct Combined Locks, WI 54113 920-788-3229 Rjkamps@aol.com #28-00-026 D/L 6-28	
JUL 23 OXFORD OPEN SINGLES; VFW Oxford \$13 Francis Schalk 135 Edgewood Dr Oxford, WI 53952 608-584-5264 28-00-027 Limit 48 D/L 7-9	

By their presence on this official schedule, all tournament directors have committed to conduct their events according to WHPA guidelines including submitting **timely results** and rendering a **fifty cent per adult pitcher fee** to the WHPA Secretary.

WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

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Schofield, WI 54476

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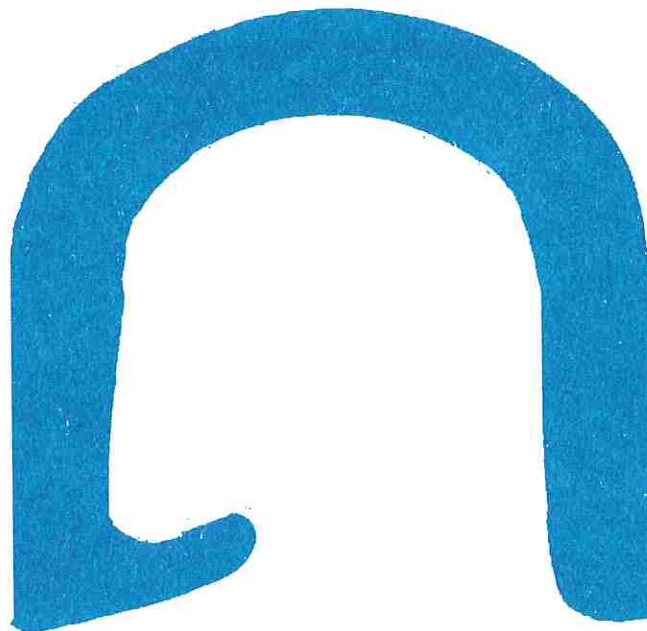
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