



CHARLES P. CHRISTOPLIS

Charles P. Christopolis, better known as Charly, started pitching horseshoes at the age of 50. He describes himself as a workaholic in his early years, building a couple of homes and a cottage, working as a barber and in other trades, starting in iron work in 1959. He retired at age 62 after fifteen years of that because he "began getting a little stiff jumping from beam to beam in the air."

Charly started pitching in a tavern league and, in 1968, entered his first tournament at State Fair Park. "Little did I know what I was getting into", he says. He qualified number two in class B before noon on Saturday, sat from 11:00 AM Saturday, all afternoon, all evening, until 11:30 at night to get onto the courts, then waited another half hour for a scorekeeper. He ended up in fourth place and returned home at 5:00 AM Sunday morning - needless to say, to a not too happy wife!

After this introduction to tournament pitching Charly still liked the game and brought up the idea of having their own tournament in Sheboygan. He pitched in the Combined Locks tournament the following year and then, with advice from Swen Bowman and others, they held their first tournament on two courts. The following year two courts were added, with lights and fences. Charly was the inspiration behind the success of the Sheboygan tournaments and, with the hard work and dedication of the league members, conducted yearly tournaments for about 17 years.

Charly says that through the years he had some good and some not so good averages - from mid 30's to high 40's, and some tournaments even 50 to 56%. He remembers one game of 78%. He pitched in about 95 tournaments and his wife Irma accompanied him to most of them. They have enjoyed meeting a lot of good people through the years.

Charly and Irma, who have been married 54 years, have three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. They were lifelong residents of Sheboygan until May 16, 1991 when they moved to California where they have a son in Anaheim. Their address is 680 Bahama Drive, Hemet, CA 92343.

Charly is keeping in practice by pitching on courts about ten minutes drive from their home and hopes to pitch in more tournaments. He and Irma will be missed by their many Wisconsin friends.