



Ray Billen

Ray was born March 4, 1922 and had two brothers. He married Delores Frank in 1942 and lived in Kenosha. They have 3 children (Pete, Jerry and Carol), 4 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. Ray is retired from his job as a vehicle body fender technician. He does volunteer work for the salvation army, the Shalom Center, the Earth Fest and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

In 1963, Kenosha county had 7 known horseshoe players. Ray put on many demonstrations and has taken many trophies that he'd won over the years and given them to tavern leagues. This noble act by Ray has given many players the incentive to keep pitching. In 1968, he was given a plaque for 20 years of valuable service rendered to the North Shoe Horseshoe Club of Illinois. Ray has contributed to the sport of horseshoes in the neighboring state of Illinois as well as Wisconsin.

Every Friday morning, Ray has his own "ringers only" league which started in 1984. Ray has contributed uncountable hours, days, years to promote the sport of horseshoe pitching. He has also achieved a remarkable pitching record with many first place finishes in tournament play. He attended seven World Tournaments and played in the Ringer Classic in Greenville, Ohio. Ray helped in forming the Kenosha Horseshoe Club in 1994 by attending every meeting. He accepted the job as Courts Chairman and helped layout the five Kenosha courts.

Ray is not only a willing and hard worker for the sport of horseshoes but also the kind of person you would be proud to have as a friend.