

WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

'89 STATE - BELOIT

JULY 1989

Beloit, long an area of dedicated pitchers, will host the 1989 Wisconsin State Tournament Labor Day weekend.

One and one-half years ago at the Fall meeting, we accepted the 1989 State bid from the Pitchin' Palace. This Spring it was announced that the Palace was closing. All clubs were asked to consider once again hosting the State Tournament. The Beloit club accepted the challenge. The decision was made early in May but this is the first formal announcement.

The tradition, of late, has been to select a site with twelve or thirteen courts to facilitate scheduling the near 200 pitchers. For the same reason, the three days of Labor Day have been preferred.

Never mind that Beloit has only nine courts. They will use an additional four portable courts set up on the grass area south of the present layout. Bud Renley, the club 'Jack-of-all-Trades', says not to worry. Plywood will make the platforms and snow fence will separate the spectators. No bleachers, bring your own chair. The portables will not be lighted and they are just now finishing the lighting setup for the existing nine courts.

The playing direction is East-West. Pull down those visors or just plain squint. There is no known machine or device large enough to turn the courts ninety degrees.

Although the courts are new, Earl Paulson is planning to replace some of the clay in honor of the occasion. In the present pits they have the original brown clay from the Pitchin' Palace. Oakfield, Green Bay, and Chenoa clays were considered with a leaning preference to Oakfield.

WHPA President, Dick Hansen, has volunteered as executive Tournament Director, in that he will do the scheduling. As yet the flyer has not been drafted and the entry fee not set. There are rumors of corporate sponsorship similar to the participation of GTE last year.

Four more permanent courts? Bud H.E. Renley, (Horseshoe Engineer) is considering that route. The management of the Hitchin' Post wants to reserve the area south of the courts for possible volleyball courts. They have given the go-ahead to use the area north of the existing layout if the club decides to make the four court addition. Whatever their decision, there will be thirteen courts at the Beloit State Tournament.

On the up side; the best thing the Beloit Club has going is their willingness to work this tournament that no other club wanted and their willingness to do whatever it takes to provide the proper facility and amenities conducive to hosting the State. Surely there will be many club work days this summer manned by Renley, Paulson, Al Schiem, Norm, the Mouse Beckius, Harold Laws, and the rest of the Beloit gang. In anticipation of a fine tournament, we of the WHPA wish the Beloit organization the best of luck in this their initial attempt hosting the State.

UPDATE: Beloit will build four more permanent courts.



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STATE AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO JOHN SECORD

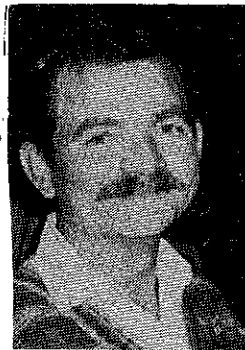
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WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER
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**DICK
HANSEN
WHPA
PRESIDENT**

The State Tournament site has been set and I have confidence that the Beloit Club will do an outstanding job as host of the 1989 State Tournament. Good luck to them and to all that enter our most important tournament.

I would also like to thank the Eau Claire Club and the Marshfield Club for their offer to host this years tournament. We hope they will consider the 1990 and 1991 tournaments.

The World Tournament is fast approaching and the list of WHPA members planning on attending is surprising. Wisconsin will again have a fine showing at the World. This year we have ten delegate votes allotted to us by the NHPA at this years convention. It is to be held Monday, July 24th. I have some spots left and if anyone would like to attend the convention as a delegate, please feel free to call me. If you do, plan on all day beginning at 8:00 AM. With the members we will have in Spearfish this year, ten should not be a problem.

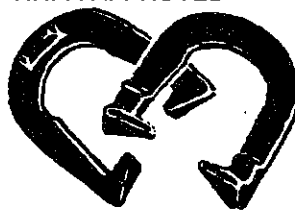
With the closing of the Pitchin' Palace, a new home is being located for the Hall of Fame. Two clubs have already expressed an interest in the displays of our finest players and promoters. They are Goldendale Club and the Eau Claire Club. In the best interest of the WHPA, I will hold off on this decision until the State Tournament meeting. If there are other clubs interested let me know before that time. It will require a lot of wall space and a secure building.

Hope to see you all at some of the local tournaments around the state this summer, good luck and good pitching.

DATES AND DEADLINES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| July 21-22-23 Tobacco Days | D/L 7-9 |
| July 22-23 Kewaskum Open | D/L 7-8 |
| July 29-30 Ye Olde Wayside Open | D/L 7-8 |
| July 29-30 Swen's Open | D/L 7-15 |
| August 5-6 Brothertown Open | D/L 7-22 |
| August 4-5-6 Eagle Open | D/L 7-22 |
| August 12-13 Janesville Moose Open | D/L 7-31 |
| August 12-13 Mountain Open | D/L 7-28 |

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JULY 1989

WHAT'S NEW

BY SUSIE PRITZLAFF

Have you seen all the horseshoe articles, cartoons and pictures in National magazines and newspapers? Also on the National TV networks, the visit to the White House by world champions and NHPA officers, President Dave Loucks appearance on the Pat Sajak show, junior horseshoe pitchers on ESPN's Sunkist Kids program and Dan Kuchcinski on Incredible Sunday.

Speaking of incredible, it's been that kind of year because of President George Bush's love of our sport. But let's not forget the time and work our NHPA officers and committee people have been dedicating to this world wide of events.

Do we care? One way to show that we're interested is by becoming an NHPA member. Other ways are to subscribe to the NHPA magazine, Newline. Get the complete story on these events. Sanction your tournaments and leagues. They need to know that horseshoe enthusiasts are behind them in their efforts to publicize horseshoes. There are other events being put together by the officers that as yet are too early to report on. In years to come 1989 may be looked upon as the "debutante year" for horseshoes, the coming out in the eyes of the public.

I heard about an indoor horseshoe facility being built at Plover which is a few miles south of Stevens Point. On a short trip up north recently, we went there and were very impressed. Not only horseshoe courts are in this new building, but also volley ball, racket ball, baseball batting cage, game room and a pro shop. A bar area which has viewing windows to sports activities and an entrance to a balcony overlooking the six horseshoe courts located in the floor of the volley ball court room. The horseshoe courts will have synthetic clay. We were fortunate to have one of the owners, Doug Berry, give us a tour of this great sports complex. Royal Wood Sports Center was still under construction but will be open soon.

While in Green Bay we stopped at the Watering Hole, another indoor horseshoe facility. The screened in five court area is on the second floor of the building. It also has a bar area next to the courts. The Green Bay Horseshoe Club is now pitching their summer leagues there as well as their winter leagues. On the Monday night we were there, the couples league was in progress. We had a nice visit with Cy and Wally Srenaski, Steve Wiegert and other club members

Recently I had the honor of being named Sanction League Director of the Year for 1988 by the NHPA. There have been many people supportive to me along the way. My special thanks goes to the league secretaries of the Goldendale Horseshoe Club for the past 11 years. Their precise and prompt reports are very much appreciated. League secretaries are very important people in any club.

Now that the summer leagues and tournaments are in full swing, we'd like to hear from you. What's happening in your area? This is your newsletter, help us out!



Ron Pritzlaff and Doug Berry at the Royal Wood Sports Center.

STATE TOURNAMENT

BY JOHN SECORD

Many times the question is asked, how do I enter the State Tournament? First you must be a Wisconsin resident six months prior to the State Tournament. You must be a full NHPA member by the July 31st entry deadline. The State Tournament is a NHPA sanctioned tournament. There are no complimentary cards or sanction league only participants. All must be full NHPA members.

To qualify for the State Tournament it is required that you have pitched in at least two tournaments on the State tournament schedule or Pitchin' Palace open schedule from August 1, 1988 through July 31, 1989. You may use your 1988 sanction league average as one average, only if you do not have the required two tournaments. You must have one tournament average along with your sanction league average to do this. Be sure to state this on your entry.

Juniors and 70 plus class pitchers are exempt from the qualifying rule.

The top three tournament averages are used to place pitchers in every class. The top three tournament averages are used to place all pitchers in every class. The entry fee must be in by the July 31st deadline.

BELOIT SPRING SINGLES

The scene at the Beloit courts is not what one would expect of a club located in a large city. The courts, neat and trim, are set under five old oak trees. And the area surrounding is wild or working farm fields. The gravel parking area, what there is of it, only adds to the country-like atmosphere. At dusk that tournament Sunday, five or six deer came out of the woody cover for the evening feed.

Meanwhile, back on the courts, class "B" was hurrying along trying to finish up before dark. It had rained earlier for an hour and that with some unrealistic scheduling made the day last a little longer than planned. But that's all in a day's work when comes to pitchin' shoes.

When pitching in the State Tournament there, pay special attention to the scoring devices: They are a little different. The name tags we used were not much bigger than a business card; O.K. for the people keeping score but too small for anyone trying to follow the game. It was helpful to hear some of the scorekeepers repeat the call adding the callers name assuring a correct marking. Maybe more of us ought to try that method.

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for sending me the June issue of your newsletter. I always enjoy reading of your activities. Keep up the good work.

Wisconsin is becoming a proud horsehoe state.

Sincerely yours,

Donnie Roberts

Donnie Roberts
NHPA Sec.-Treas.

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DALE LIPOVSKY

PITCHES HIS WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM THE MINNESOTA "RINGER DIGEST"

Dale Lipovsky never dreamed that his horseshoe pitching skills would earn him a trip to Washington D.C. to compete against the president of the United States.

But that event became reality on Saturday, April 1, when Lipovsky and seven other current or former world champions were invited to Washington for the opening of a horseshoe pitching court on the White House lawn.

The 34 year old Lipovsky has experienced and survived the pressures of pitching shoes against world-class competitors. The Bloomington man has won three world titles ('82, '83 and '87) and 10 state championships.

But Lipovsky admitted that he was more nervous awaiting his horseshoe pitching match with President George Bush than he was when he was during world tournament competition.

"It was a total shock when I first heard about being invited to the White House," said Lipovsky. "I thought it was an April Fools joke until my dad, Lenny, assured me it wasn't.

"But I knew it was for real when I heard from one of the president's secretaries who called me 10 days before the event. I was shaking when she gave me details of the day's activities and told me that they were going to do a security check on me. But she also told me not to be nervous and just be myself.

"I guess this whole thing came about when officials of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association heard that the president enjoyed the sport. They contacted the president and told him they would put in a horseshoe pitching court at the White House.

"The president accepted the offer and decided to have a barbecue luncheon to celebrate the opening of the horseshoe pitching court. And he wanted the best horseshoe pitchers in the world to be invited. Horseshoe pitching is the first sport to be initiated on the White House lawn," said Lipovsky.

The White House paid for half of Lipovsky's air fare and one night's lodging in a Washington hotel. He flew to D.C. on Friday morning.

"I was on my own Friday night," Lipovsky said. "But we had a busy schedule on Saturday. We met at the White House at 11:00 A.M. for warm-ups. At noon other guests and I went through a greeting line to meet the president.

"President Bush asked me who I was and where I was from. He must have found out that my dad is also a good horseshoe pitcher because he asked me why I didn't bring my father Lenny along."

"I told him that I didn't think we could bring along any other people. But the president said that my dad could come here any time."

Lipovsky got a chance to meet celebrities, governors, and other dignitaries during three hours of pitching shoes and munching on hot dogs, hamburgers and bratwursts.

"I was able to rub elbows with people like Lee Iacocco and Walter Cronkite. There were eight state governors also there. I teamed with Dave Butz of the Washington Redskins in doubles competition. He really loves the game and we beat our opponents 21-0 in one game."

Lipovsky had a ringer percentage of 83.4 percent when he won the '87 world title. But he wasn't quite up to that world-class effort at the White House.

"We had cool weather that day but I still averaged about 60 percent ringers," said Lipovsky.

His moment of glory came when the pressure was really on to perform well. "I got to pitch 10 shoes against the president. I made seven ringers on 10 throws. Bush hit his last shoe for his only ringer," said Lipovsky.

"The president seemed to be a down-to-earth guy who was easy going. We got along very well. He throws lefthanded just like I do. Before pitching he said, 'I don't care if I get beat because I like these lefthanders.' I really thought the president was a great guy."

LIPOVSKY CONTINUED

Lipovsky also had the opportunity to visit with Mrs. Barbara Bush during the day's activities. "She doesn't pitch shoes but I had a good chance to talk with her. She is a very nice person. Mrs. Bush told me about her thyroid problem and we talked about other things. She seemed to be another down-to-earth person like the president," said Lipovsky.

After the barbecue, Lipovsky got a chance to visit some of Washington D.C.'s historical sites. He toured the Aerospace Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Viet Nam Memorial.

He flew back to Bloomington the following day. It was difficult getting back to a normal routine when he reported for work on Monday as a grounds maintenance engineer at the Decathlon Club.

"That was an incredible experience, the greatest of my life. It is hard to believe I got a chance to meet somebody as important as the president of the United States just because I was a horseshoe pitcher."

If the president is looking for a horseshoe pitching coach, Lipovsky wouldn't mind taking a few more trips to Washington.



EDITOR'S NOTE: What a great adventure for Dale and the others! I hope you enjoyed this story as well as I did.

JR SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT TOURNAMENT
##28-89-007

The last two tournaments at the Pitchin' Palace, the Spring Open and the Jr. Scholarship Benefit were both sanctioned to provide Wisconsin pitchers an opportunity to qualify for this year's World Tournament. It was all that was needed to rekindle interest in the indoor events. Pitchers who entered demonstrated their interest in the NHPA sanction.

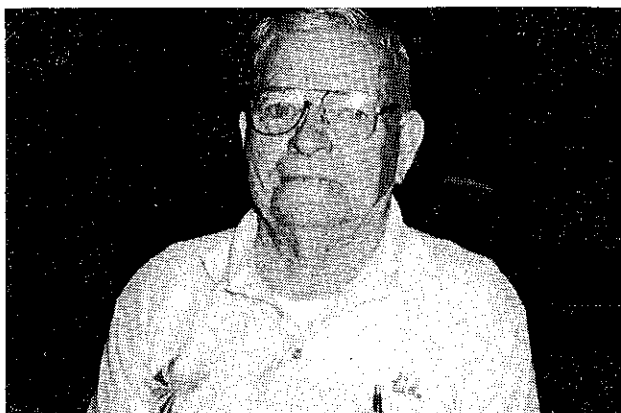
Sixty-four pitchers in the Jr. Scholarship Benefit Tournament donated the first sixty-four dollars to the Scholarship Fund. Another seventy-five dollars was dropped into the donation can. Lorraine Sternberg, on her maiden voyage as 'Fund' coordinator, took to the P.A. system to pry out some of those extra dollars.

Leave it to the ladies - who else could manage a three-way tie with only four in the class? Gerri Meistad was first eliminated. Carla McFarlane let Gladys Lila win and thankfully she made her cash award a gift to the 'Fund'. We need more players like those Class "A" ladies.

The Pitchin' Palace hosted this one. And next time it will be up to another club to pick up the benefit title as this was the end of a long line of tournaments at the Pitchin' Palace. Nobody had to announce it. We all knew we were pitching our last shoes here.

JR. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT OPEN #28-89-007

<u>CLASS A</u>			<u>CLASS A WOMEN</u>		
Rich Brower	6-1	58.5	Gladys Lila	4-2	46.3
Lou Bensingler	5-2	62.2	Carla McFarlane	4-2	45.6
<u>CLASS B</u>			<u>CLASS C</u>		
Larry Barber	6-1	56.5	Mike McDonald	7-0	46.5
Harry Johnson	4-3	52.0	Warren Knippel	6-1	44.8
<u>CLASS D</u>			<u>CLASS E</u>		
Dick Mühlenbeck	7-0	42.5	Bob Traber	6-1	40.8
Greg Wickershien	5-2	40.0	Bob Clavey	5-2	43.7
<u>CLASS F</u>			<u>CLASS G</u>		
Al Thomas	5-2	36.2	Bob Aumann	5-0	35.0
Norm Beckluis	5-2	35.4	Terry Sternberg	4-1	25.0
<u>CLASS H</u>			<u>CLASS A JR BOYS</u>		
George Ruffer	6-1	24.6	Jim Bird	5-1	25.0
Orville Baker	4-3	28.0	David Hansen	4-2	23.0
<u>CLASS A JR GIRLS</u>					
Pam Steinke	5-0	25.5	Renee Sternberg	4-1	13.5



TALKIN' HORSESHOES with...

SID ANDERSON

We were sitting on the deck of the Beloit, Hitchin' Post, trying get Sid to ourselves for a few moments. Naturally we were interrupted each time a pitcher walked by. They all say hi to Sid. We did not have to ask if he has made any lasting friends pitching horseshoes. They said it for us. Like, "Hey Sid where's Elsie?" When we see Sid we usually see his wife Elsie. You are 74, Sid, and presently pitching some fifteen percent better. How did you get started?

"Well, I'll tell ya, I started out when I was about 30 years old. I bought the farm up at Pittsville and Frank Viney, he was a farmer up there, and a pretty good horseshoe pitcher. And I hadn't pitched any shoes to amount to anything but he asked if cared to pitch with him two or three nights a week after chores. So I did. And so we got into the Township Play-day and that was the tough, toughest in the county, Porter Township, so we won that and we come to County Play-day, we won that, and we won the County Play-day every year but one. That time my shoes flew off the stake, and flew off the stake, and flew off the stake, so we got beat by one point. But then we got them (the winners) to play us one night over at our place at Cooksville under the lights. And I put on 22 ringers in a row. Geez I never did that before in my life ; I just threw 22 shoes and they were all ringers. So thats how I got started."

This all happened when you were in your thirties?

Yep, thirty to forty-five.

How about tournaments? They must have had some tournaments then.

We didn't get into any. I suppose there was some tournaments around but I wasn't going to get in. I didn't think I was very good then.

You were good but you didn't know it.

Yeah, I was shootin' pretty good. Then after I moved to Janesville, Wilbur Bloom and I started pitchin' tournaments. We started goin' to tournaments allover and we did allright, pitchin' forty or fifty percent. This was probably about 1965. We had a lot of fun pitchin' those tournaments.

You must have belonged to the Janesville club for a few years.

Oh yeah, we got it started down in Janesville. Will Blum and I pitched every Tuesday and Saturday at Goldsmith's courts in South Beloit with Don, Earl Ramquist, Ben Brosteun, and a lot more South Beloit boys. Then at Edgerton Tobacco Days I got acquainted with Wally Phelps and he helped get the Janesville Moose started. Virg Sockwell was on of the older fellas starting the move. We had a hard time at first. Only had seven or eight fellas, Jerry Schroeder, Jerry Nordlee, Ron Yttri, Stirling Martin, and a few more. Then we got more and more and finally got it goin' at the Janesville Moose. And now they got forty guys pitchin' doubles on Wednesday nights, fifteen pitchin' singles besides the women and juniors.

I'll bet that was a surprise to you to see the women and juniors start pitchin' shoes and thinking it was a guy's game.

Yeah, yeah, but it's a good thing and they're doin' allright.

I think you started pitching less than 40 feet the very year that you won the World championship in the elders class, 1987.

Yep, April the sixth I had my operation and I never pitched for two months. Then I had to start throwin' 35 feet because I could only hit the plank. I'd hit the plank and hit the plank and I couldn't get it up to the stake. So it was either quit pitching or shorten my stride. Four months after I had my operation, I won the World Championship. It was the best I'd ever pitched. I beat the fella who was champion before me: I put 20 out of 24 ringers on. It

SID ANDERSON CONTINUED

was the best I'd ever pitched in a tournament, 83 percent. But I practiced a lot before I went up there. I pitch about a half an hour every day just to stay with it.

A few class "A" pitchers called out, "Sid, we took a little vote down there and decided that today you are going to have to pitch the full forty feet."

That sounds like they want to nail me to the cross!

One thing I'd like to say...That Moose Club is a wonderful thing, very important to our horseshoe pitchin' because we got a lot of interested people pitchin' horseshoe today. It's helped our pitchin' terrifically. The Moose Club has helped us and we've helped them.

JANESVILLE SNOWBALL

Hot chocolate and hot coffee were the drinks in demand at the Moose courts of Janesville. Early May is a desperate time to pitch a tournament but if you need another sanctioned tournament to take to Spearfish, then this was the place to be. Temperatures were thirty-five to forty with a little wind and of course snow showers. Scorekeepers, brave souls, were hard to come-by so Bun Carley was marking X's and O's while Shirley did the W's and L's,- the two cold jobs no pitcher wanted.

Some players let the cold get to them. Paul Neumann, pitching in the 9:00AM shift gave his pocket handwarmers to the needy at Noon. Forty shoe games allowed for two more classes at 3:00PM. The cold continued. Red noses dripped while percentages sagged. No-shows could say they thought the match was on Sunday.

Entry, \$2.50, score marking was fifty cents and there were no awards other than the NHPA Champion patches.

We are glad we participated and equally delighted that its over.

JANESVILLE SNOWBOWL

<u>CLASS A</u>		<u>CLASS B</u>	
BUCK HUFFMAN	54.0	JIM HAUPT	53.6
RICH BROWER	48.3	LEN MAUTHE	51.8
<u>CLASS C</u>		<u>CLASS D</u>	
LAVERNE DOHM	42.9	PAUL FEDERER	33.6
JOHN BARDEN	41.3	NATE JOHNSON	35.0
<u>CLASS E</u>		<u>CLASS F</u>	
HANK ZEISSE	27.5	BILL HILDEBRAND	26.3
PAUL NEUMANN	18.5	AL DAVIS	21.8
<u>CLASS A WOMEN</u>		<u>CLASS B WOMEN</u>	
SALLY DIETZEL	32.0	GLADYS NICHOLAS	14.0
KAREN HOFF	26.0	GWEN UNZ	9.0
<u>JUNIORS</u>			
DAVID CARLEY	28.0	MARK MAUTHE	23.0

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Gerald Kloss, author of "Slightly Kloss-eyed", a Green Sheet column of "The Milwaukee Journal, took a shot at answering a readers question, "What did people do before Frisbees were invented?"

This Ha-Ha reporter claimed the question came from a presumably Irish lad with the impossible name, Aaron Gobragh. Thus he stages a most entertaining explanation of various activities like watermelon seed spitting, fly swatting, and making lemonade with real lemons instead of powder or frozen lemonade mix.

"Not everybody wasted time in this old fashioned way in the pre-Frisbee era. For example...Sir Issac Newton lived centuries before Frisbees were invented, but he was an avid horseshoe pitcher. He was resting under a tree after a hot game of horseshoes when the fateful apple fell on his head, inspiring his search for the laws of gravitation.

'Thank the Almighty that I wasn't involved in agame of wide-rangeing physical movement, such as chasing and flinging a saucer-like object with another person,' he opined in his journal. 'Games like that just knock any creative ideas right out of my head.

On the other hand, while pitching horseshoes in the classic deliberate manner, part of my brain was asking , subconsciously, 'What makes the horseshoe fall to the ground in so reliable fashion?' So my mind was prepared, so to speak, when the apple fell on my head. 'Hey,' I said to myself, 'I bet the same law of physics that makes the horseshoe fall to the stake caused the apple to fall onto my head!' The rest was easy."

IN THE PITS

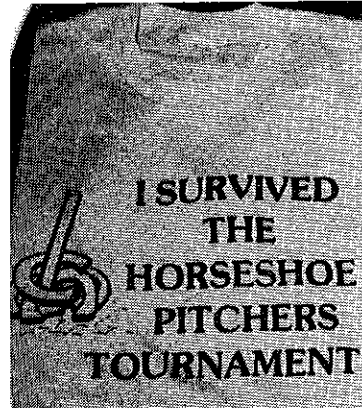
WITH PAUL NEUMANN

This time I would like to pay mine and all pitchers respects to good friends and real competitors, TEX TABAT and VAL BRUEGGER, who have gone to the great unknown and joined all the horseshoe pitchers that passed on from our midst to play the same game with spirits of ringers only. To Tex from the Eagle Horseshoe Club and to Val from the Oconomowoc Park Club, my "HATS OFF AWARD" posthumously. In their honor, let's all take a moment off before playing a round this year and give them a silent thought. We all will truly miss them both this year.

Now, let us take up the tournament trail again. My first outdoor one this year was in Balsam Lake. "Cold Doesn't Count", I changed it from "Close Doesn't Count". Why? Well, the wind chill factor was 5 degrees above zero, with rain, sleet and snow. Now I know why Jane Smith is referred to as one cool gal.

Last but not least, my present "HATS OFF AWARD" goes to those three people, who successfully ran their early tournaments this year. Jane Smith, Bun Carley and Earl (the Pearl) Paulson. Thanks for the excellent job lady and gentlemen, I truly enjoyed participating, in spite of the conditions

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MORE TOURNAMENTS

These tournaments are mostly doubles sent in by VINCE JAKEL.

June 18 - Withee Days
 June 24 -Black River Festival, Medford
 July 1 - Rip Lake Firemens Picnic
 July 4 - Loyal
 July 9 - Greenwood Dairy Days
 July 15 - Colby Cheese Days
 July 29 - Stetsonville Centennial Picnic
 August 5 - Curtiss Days
 August 20 - Little Muski Lodge, Woodruff
 August 21-27 - Gilman Area Fall Festival

GOVERNOR'S OPEN 1989 OHIO STATE FAIR

This tournament is held in Columbus, Ohio, August 4-17, doubles and singles. There will also be an invitational event August 18-20. Out of the Open Tournament, 2 women and 2 men will be eligible to compete in the Invitational Tournament by their highest point total. The purse for the Invitational is \$10,000.

The deadline is July 5th. For a registration form contact Sande Haldiman in the Special Events Office at 614-644-3247 or Earl Vansant at 216-285-2552 or Donnie Roberts at 216-650-2234.

NHPA PRESS RELEASE

President George Bush's interest in horseshoe pitching, one of the nation's oldest and most storied past times, could stimulate more interest in a sport that continues to grow each year. It is estimated that over 30,000,000 people have pitched horseshoes at one time or another at social gatherings, picnics, company outings, reunions and in their back yards. Of all these pitchers, 15,000 now hold membership cards in the parent organization, the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

Each year these NHPA members compete in leagues and weekend tournaments, building up to the Annual World Tournament in July. A record number of entries is expected to participate in the World at Spearfish, South Dakota under the watchful eyes of the Presidents at Mt. Rushmore. Maybe Bush will be the fifth in this location. The 1990 World will be held at Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta, Georgia.

Interest in the game has been increasing tremendously over the last several years and the membership has tripled over the past five years...and that was before Bush.

Ike did it in golf, the Kennedy's for touch football and Jimmy Carter for jogging...and now George Bush could make the presidential pitch for what could be the nation's next boom in leisure time activity...horseshoe pitching.

More than anything else, Bush is going to bring media attention to the sport. The press is very much interested in what the president does in and out of the White House but at this time not too interested in what horseshoe pitchers do. The National Association hopes to increase activity in all corners of the U.S. by urging its members, especially the league and tournament directors, to make a special effort to contact their local media.

President Bush will most likely be pitching horseshoes in a lot of locations in addition to the White House, Camp David and his out-of-Washington homes. He'll be invited to pitch in the World Tournament and other leading events each year...and he will attract attention wherever he goes. The next four years should create a "new society" for horseshoe pitching.

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with Jim Haupt

A Personal Observation...

This spring a few 'Horseshoe Enthusiasts' have received a tournament invitation from none other than Dan Kuchcinski, a three time World Champ about twenty years ago. He has since been on tour in exhibition at sport shows and apparently has an indoor horseshoe house in Erie, Pennsylvania. That's the return address. He describes this as the richest horseshoe tournament ever held. \$10,000 will be the first prize in both the singles and doubles events. (provided there are 504 entries.) The rest of the prize list is also impressive paying about 100 places. Entry fee is \$100 for each event. And \$10 more to join the "Ringers Unlimited International Association," henceforth known as RUJA. If one scrutinizes the prize lists it is evident that the entries will exactly cover that expense. The break even point is 10th, 11th, & 12th places, all paying \$100. The promoter has covered himself: He will not lose money through awards.

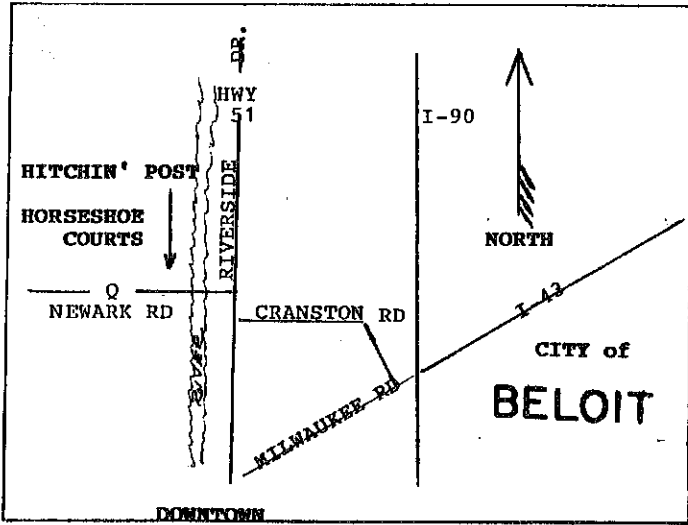
The Personal Part...

The similarity to a sanctioned NHPA tournament does not end here but there are some glaring differences. Scoring will be 20 shoe count all; game winners will receive 10 bonus points...My, My, it sounds like he's borrowing Donnie Robert's Ohio State Fair format.

Get a load of this. Points are measured at seven inches (7")! This Kuchinski guy is a rebel. (By the way did he or did he not win an NHPA World title on a roll-up point?)

If that didn't get to you, try this one, "Appropriate clothing must be worn at tournament. (This excludes: Hand lettered T-shirts, NHPA T-shirts, and Obscene lettered T-shirts, or shorts.)" He says no NHPA shirts! It's so ridiculous its actually funny. What is this a horseshoe war? The redeeming quality is NHPA shirts preceded the obscene variety.

Mr. Kuchinski, if you are after a divorce from the NHPA, let's add some distinctive rules, like - leaners count two - or - No NHPA Sanctioned Shoes Allowed. I honestly like your \$100 entry fee but that's as far as it goes. It was a little tacky of you trying to mail seven pages with a 25¢ stamp. I had to pay the postman 20¢. I sincerely hope registrations in the RUJA cover the postage you have already spent.



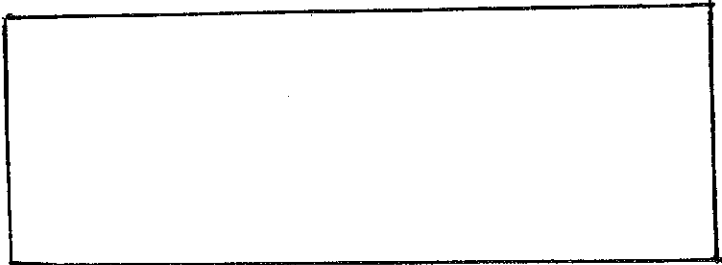
NHPA NEWSLINE

The President's report every month is of great interest. Bob Champion's Charter Chatter tells you what's going on in other states. Subscription fee is \$11.00 (\$12.00 if not a NHPA member) to:

Donnie Roberts
Box 278
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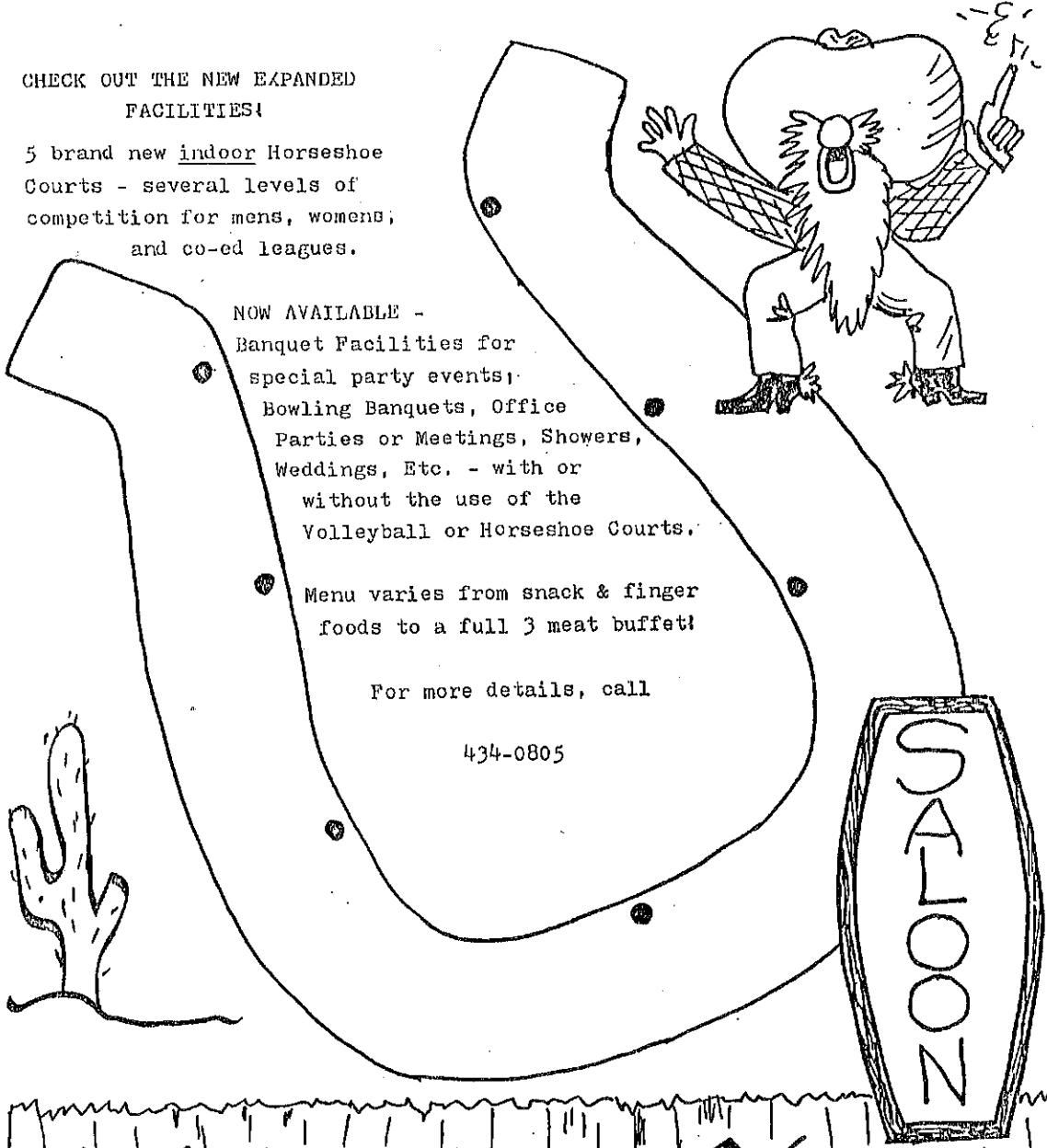
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