



HENRY BARTEL

Henry Bartel, of Wautoma, is one of the recipients of the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall-of-Fame awards for 1983.

Henry started pitching horseshoes on the farm at the age of 15, using shoes from horses. He has promoted the sport of horseshoe pitching in the Wautoma area for over 20 years and, with the help of Leroy Krueger, now of Oshkosh, built courts in his own back yard, adding blue clay and lights in later years.

Tournaments were held on his courts Labor Day weekends for approximately ten years, starting small and increasing in size every year. Some of the best pitchers, including Bill Glass, Wally Saeger, and Ray West, came to the tournaments. Players and spectators used an empty lot, owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Belter, for parking. Without that, Henry says, it would have been impossible to hold tournaments. The last tournament at Henry's courts was in 1969; at that time it became too large for the backyard facilities.

On September 23, 1967 the state horseshoe business meeting was held in Wautoma. At that time an exhibition was put on by world champion Curt Day of Indiana and Tommy Bartlen of Milwaukee. Day had 93% ringers and Bartlen 65%.

Other WHPA meetings, including April, 1983, were held in Wautoma, Henry helping with the arrangements.

The Wautoma club played Ripon, Omro, Redgranite and other clubs during the years. Henry took young players to Combined Locks, Germantown and other tournaments to participate. It was Henry who kept horseshoe pitching alive in the Wautoma area.

Henry, who is 78 years of age, was a baker for 24 years, a salesman for the W. T. Rawleigh Company for 21½ years, and worked for Speed Queen Corporation for 15 years, some of this happening concurrently. His wife, Violet, helped in the bakery and Rawleigh businesses and has been a nursing assistant for over 23 years.

They have a daughter, Meris Mack, who is a registered medical technologist; their son-in-law, Ronald Mack, is supervisor of the cardiac stress ward at the veterans hospital at Wood; and their son, Travis, works for the State Job Service. They have three grandchildren.

In appreciation for his many years of deidication to the sport of horseshoe pitching, we are happy to honor Henry with the 1983 Hall-of-Fame award.