

Shoes News

Volume 45 Issue 1

January 2021

According to Theodor Mommsen, 1 January became the first day of the year in 600 AUC of the Roman calendar (153 BC), due to disasters in the Lusitanian War.

PICTURES: PAGE 1
PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS: PAGE 2
A FOND FAREWELL: PAGE 2
IMPORTANT ARTICLE FROM CHRIS: PAGE 3
ARTICLE FROM PHYL, ADS: PAGE 3
OFFICERS AND WORD SCRAMBLE: PAGE 4
A VERY LONG AND HOPEFULLY ENJOYABLE
ARTICLE: PAGE 4-7
CROSSWORD PUZZLE: PAGE 7

WELCOME TO 2021



President's Reflections



Happy New Year everyone. As we welcome in 2021 we are all hopeful, anticipating the vaccines for Covid 19 will be effective and broadly available as soon as possible and we will resume pitching in our clubs and in tournaments. There was a quote on the internet about 2020 that brought a smile: "Once you understand why the pizza is made round, packed in a square box, and eaten as a triangle...then you will understand 2020." Maybe in 2021 pizza makers will decide square pizzas cut in rectangles would be better. ☺

Our annual Executive Board meeting normally held at the State Tournament took place on December 5 virtually. We sat at home in front of our computers, lap tops, or whatever and took care of business. Thanks to Cindy Clausen for setting this up. We had a great turnout with about 12 members "zooming" from their devices. To summarize: NATSTATS is being replaced with eshoes starting Jan. 1; the 2021 State and Doubles Tournament will be held in Spokane; the 2021 tournament schedule will be the same as 2020 adjusting the weekend dates to the new year. Club tournament directors can contact Curtis Lee if they need to make changes. We do not know when we will begin pitching in tournaments. At this time the first few Winetrouts are questionable. The Seattle pits are closed and I do not know when they will open but I will let everyone know as soon as this changes.

Also we thank Jean Covington for serving on the Hall of Fame Committee. Her term is up at the end of the year and Vic Magnus has accepted the nomination to serve in the 5th position. Carol Sperber takes the 1st position in January. The elections for two Vice Presidents is normally held at our general meeting and since we did not have one, they will continue to

hold their positions until our next general meeting at our State Tournament. 2021 memberships are \$45 with a nominal fee for online payment to eshoes. By the way, thank you Rhonda for sending me the minutes and for all you do as our Recording Secretary/Treasurer. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone..."Happy New Year" has a whole new meaning for 2021.

A Fond Farewell

You need to be one of the old-timers to remember our friend and horseshoe pitcher Tom Bayne. Tom passed away on Dec. 4, 2020 at the age of 93. He was a faithful member of the Kitsap Club. He always had a smile on his face and was a joy to be around.

A quote from his obit said "Tom was a humble, straightforward man with an infectious smile. He never enjoyed being the center of attention in life and now in passing his primary wish would be for you to focus on the happiness of life". That really sums up who he was.

May you rest in peace dear friend.

Also this month, Vic Magnus lost his brother to Covid 19. We send out thoughts and prayers to you and your family.



 From Phyl Quist

I would like to give a shout out to all concerning our Hall of Fame award. It is probably the highest honor we bestow on our members.

The criteria for submitting a name for consideration of this award is laid out in guidelines in our State By-Laws. It is bestowed on those who have significantly contributed to the sport of horseshoes. The contribution considered is a combination of pitching ability, participation, including length of time, sportsmanship and promotion on a state wide level.

When a name is submitted, a committee of five votes on the entrants qualifications. A certain number of votes are necessary for induction.

When our HOF Trailer and Museum is at a tournament, check out the "Wall of Fame". It tells the stories of years and years of folks who gave their all for our sport.

If there is someone among us you feel should be honored for their service, write up a dossier of their accomplishments and submit it to the Chairperson of the HOF committee by May 1st.

Carol Sperber is the 2021 Chairperson (6924 Chico Way N.W., Bremerton, WA 98312)

SHOES NEWS is published bi-monthly.

Editor: Chris Martin

Email: jon4chris@gmail.com

Buy Horseshoes from

Jon Turnbull 360-826-5520

**joncarol29@outlook.com 32974 Skagit Valley
Hwy, Sedro Woolley WA 98284**



To The Readers of the Shoes News From Chris Martin

I am enjoying being your Editor, coming up with new ideas, researching information, entering pictures, finding articles, putting in scores and schedules, and somehow putting it all together.

But I need some help at this point. Please start sending me old photos of people playing in tournaments, pictures of and the names of places the tournaments have taken place, also pictures of anybody and everybody pitching shoes identifying each one, funny and silly photos.

Phyl has been kind enough to dig up and send me many photos that you have already enjoyed.

I would be grateful for this help from you and your Shoes News would be more personalised as a joint effort between you and me.

I thank you in advance,

God Bless You all, Chris

***WASHINGTON STATE HORSESHOE
PITCHING ASSOCIATION OFFICERS***

Jon Martin, President 206-226-7729, 10119 228th Pl SE,
Woodinville, WA 98077, martinjsox2004@gmail.com

Barry Gentle, 1st Vice President 206-459-1469, PO Box 2265,
Gig Harbor WA 98335 barrygent@ymail.com

Jerry Conklin, Statistician 509-930-8681, 2510 Lila
Ave., Yakima WA 98902-5034 tp1mech@hotmail.com

Cindy Clausen, 2nd Vice President 206-240-5300, 24300
32nd. Ave W, Brier, WA 98036 425-489-1951
csclausen@comcast.net

Sharon McLaughlin, 3rd Vice President 509-627-5019, 9139
W. Arrowhead Ave, Kennewick WA 99336
babbymolly@hotmail.com

Jon Turnbull, Promotions 360-826-5520, 32974 Skagit Hwy,
Sedro Woolley WA 98284 joncarol29@outlook.com

Rhonda Davis, Secretary/Treasurer 253-735-0213 16010 SE
322nd St, Auburn WA 98092 monstertrkdoug@aol.com

Bonnie Lewis, Jr. Promotions, 360-876-1055, 2005 Hillwood
Ln SE, Port Orchard WA 98367
bonnielewis688@hotmail.com

Phyllis Quist, HOF Committee, 360-384-4544, P.O.Box 517,
Ferndale, 98248 phyquist@openaccess.org

Hall of Fame Committee Jean Covington, Chair, 360-357-
6846, ldyvick1@aol.com

2019-2020 Committee Members (in order of rotation):
(Carol Sperber, Jon Turnbull, Matt Fuller, Phyllis Quist Vic
Magnus)

Curt Lee, Regional Director, 360-434-6420,
curtislee1955@gmail.com



(This was written before covid-19 started.)

**Die-hard horseshoe players keep
pitching through the winter**

For four winter months, the Maine Indoor
Horseshoe Courts in the Pepperell Mill in
Lewiston is the home of a typically summer
sport and a big 'horseshoe family.'
It's a frigid 9 degrees on a Saturday morning
and the last thing most people are thinking
about are summertime things. They're not
thinking about backyard barbecues. They're
not thinking about the beach. They're not
thinking about picnics and they're surely not
thinking about horseshoes.

Most people, anyway.
Deep inside the Pepperell Mill on this
Saturday, though, there's a lot of clanging
going on. There's shouting, too, and regular
outbursts of laughter.
Horseshoes are being pitched, no doubt
about it, but to get to the action, you'll have
to make your way through a series of dark
and dusty rooms and navigate tight hallways
crammed with paving equipment and other
hulking machinery.

Your best bet is to just keep following the
clangs and laughter and smack talk – if
horseshoes is your game, my
friend, than this is a bona fide treasure
hunt.

In a large and cluttered room somewhere in
the guts of the mill you will find a couple
dozen people gathered around the pits. A
dozen others are milling around in other

areas, cheering on their friends or just drinking beer and shooting the breeze. There's a ceiling, there are stone and brick walls and it might seem gloomy compared to a sunny backyard, but other than that, it's the same brand of horseshoes you know from back in the day.

Well, sort of.

"It's an old mill," says Gary Currier, "and it's not clean. We use clay and clay creates a lot of dust. It's a little bit dirty, right? This isn't cornhole."

Nope, it's definitely horseshoes, and the people who have gathered here every Saturday for five years now absolutely love the game.

"This place," says Robin Haley, of Auburn, "is awesome."

That's the general idea around the vast room. When Currier and his wife 4

opened [Maine Indoor Horseshoe Courts](#) five years ago, they found no shortage of people who were into the idea of pitching shoes in wintertime.

"There are definitely some die-hard horseshoe players out there," Currier says. "We usually have between 12 and 20 people here on Saturday and we do it every week. They're just pick-up tournaments and everybody throws in 20 bucks. And normally the people who win donate the money back so that we can afford the rent for another year."

There are six horseshoe courts with a dozen clay pits at Maine Indoor Horseshoe Courts. Although most of the people who show up on Saturdays have become regulars, the group has no problem at all with others popping in. "It is the regulars that keep us going week in and week out," Currier says. "We are always looking for more people at any ability level to join us. On any given Saturday anyone can stop in and play, except for two Saturdays during our season when we have National Horseshoe Pitchers Association doubles tournaments. On those days you need to be a member of the NHPA to play in the tournament."

The next tournament is March 21 when 28 teams will be competing. More on that in a bit.

'NOTHING LIKE THIS'

Currier and his wife, Leslie, are definitely not in it for profit. They rent the space for \$1,100 a month and have to pay another \$200 to store their materials, which mainly involves clay, wood and fencing at the ends of each lane to keep horseshoes from flying all over the place.

They rent the space from December through March. All told, they need to bring in roughly \$6,000 per winter to break even.

"My wife and I don't mind putting in a little extra if we have to," Currier says. "There are a few people who put in extra to make it work."

Even with their barely-breaking-even business model, the horseshoe pitchers still find ways to help out local charities when they can. After the tournament they held in January, for instance, the club [donated all the proceeds to the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society](#).

Nobody is in it to make money, that seems clear enough. They're in it because they love to pitch horseshoes.

On a regular Saturday, people flock to the indoor courts from various points of Maine. When they hold sanctioned tournaments, they'll have people coming up from Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well.

There just aren't many places to play horseshoes in New England when winter gets to doing its thing.

"There are places in Maine that have a garage or a barn where they have one or two pits," says Ron Thibeault, "but nothing like this. Nothing where you can hold 20 people."

Thibeault was one of several local people who jumped in to help when Currier decided to set up his indoor courts. Why wouldn't they want to help? If horseshoes is your game, the long winter months can be miserable. And as it turns out, pitching horseshoes indoors isn't much different than pitching them outside. It's really just the ambiance that takes getting used to.

"It's a little different, I guess," Thibeault tells me. "I think it's just the atmosphere. Everything's tighter in here. You don't have the sky above you."

"You don't see the sky or the trees or stuff in the background," agrees Marc Ritchie, a champion of some recent tournaments. 5

The ceiling is 12 feet high, which isn't a problem for most people.

Most people.

"I'm good because I don't throw a high shoe," says Rob Card, a longtime regular. "But there are quite a few people who will hit the ceiling."

Beyond that, it's more or less horseshoes as usual. Ritchie, like the others, just loves the game, inside or out. As it turns out, he kind of likes the whole atmosphere and the camaraderie that comes with it.

Providing a tour of the pits, Ritchie insists that the reporter throw a couple horseshoes just to prove he belongs. When the reporter complies and metal hits metal, dozens of onlookers cheer loudly.

"You hear all that?" Ritchie says. "That's what this place is all about. That's what makes it great."

I've got to give him that – though the games can definitely get competitive, it's mostly a jovial atmosphere in the room. That's kind of by design.

"What we try to do is, when we do a Luck of the Draw tournament, we take the guys who we know are really good horseshoe pitchers and we don't let them be on the same team," Currier explains. "They're picking people who are not as good as them so the teams end up being pretty even. Everybody has a chance to win this way."

"It's a lot of fun," Currier says. "The people who come, they like to drink their beer and play horseshoes."

'A HORSESHOE FAMILY'

Which is not to say that these horseshoe players don't like to win. When I first met Haley, she was red-faced and cussing. Turns out that she and her partner had won nine straight games but then lost the 10th. Who can blame her for ranting a little? It's kind of funny considering that Haley didn't even know indoor horseshoes was a thing before Ritchie, her fiancé, got her to come along on Saturdays. Now you'd have to drag her away from the courts. Like the others, Haley says it's about the people as much as it is about the shoes.

"When we go to tournaments, we all camp out together," she says. "We turn a one-day tournament into a three-day weekend. We

all hang out. Everybody knows each other. It's a horseshoe family."

Which is not to say they don't take their games seriously. When Maine Indoor Horseshoe Courts hosts sanctioned tournaments, there is more focus on individual skill.

"When we have those, we keep track of ringers," Currier explains. "So anybody who's in the [National Horseshoe Pitcher Association](#) has a ringer percentage. We have people pitching there that throw anywhere between 5% ringers to 60% ringers."

Those percentages are pretty important to some folks.

Rob Card, another regular, has been playing in tournaments for about six years. It's near impossible, he said, to maintain a healthy ringer percentage when you have to take winters off completely from pitching shoes. Currier and his group will be hosting a Saint Paddy's NHPA Doubles Tournament March 21. That's when genuine horseshoe talent fills the place, and the pitchers themselves come from all over.

"You'll see people at this place from 80 years old to 12 years old playing horseshoes," Currier says. In fact, there's a 13-year-old girl from Connecticut, he says, who maintains a ringer average of 70 percent or higher.

In addition to that, Currier and his wife will also travel to Monroe, Louisiana, later in the year for the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. Last year, they went to Texas for the tournament.

That, the regular Saturday meeting and a whole bunch of trips to Connecticut for other tournaments and it's clear these are people who take horseshoes seriously – and for a variety of reasons.

"It's nice to have something to look forward to," says Leslie, "and it's a great group of people."

For Currier and many of the others, there's also the nostalgic aspect of throwing horseshoes. Most of them played the game as kids and often it was part of a bonding experience with their fathers or brothers. From Aroostook County originally, Currier said he's always been active in sports, but at some point in the aging process, the hardcore stuff just isn't feasible anymore. 6

“I got old,” he said, “and this was easier than playing softball or something like that.” On this particular Saturday, the group in the bowels of the Pepperell Mill are mostly middle-age folks, either retired or closing in on it. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., most of them will play 10 games, although somewhere around the midway point they’ll take a break to chug a few beers, socialize and gobble up whatever is on the menu – on this particular Saturday, someone has whipped up a batch of beans and franks.

‘THE BEST HORSESHOE PLAYER EVER’

Horseshoes is probably bigger than you think. The NHPA isn’t the only organization committed to maintaining and overseeing the sport. Not even close, really.

“We also have a [Maine Horseshoe Pitchers Association](#) and there is a [New England Horseshoe Pitchers Association](#),” Currier says. “The Maine Horseshoe Pitchers Association started in 1926 and there has been a state champion for all those years with the exception of the WW II years. There are a lot of pitchers who do not choose to play in the NHPA sanctioned tournaments. They are considered ‘backyard’ pitchers and we are trying to find ways to get them more involved in the NHPA. I think the structure of the NHPA tournaments with keeping track of ringers and following rules is a turn off for some people while others like that structure.”

There’s also the Kennebec Valley Horseshoe Pitchers Association and a scattering of other clubs, although most operate in summer only. The Maine Horseshoe Pitchers Association keeps track of statistics such as the state’s top 10 players and year-end averages.

So if you’re big into the shoes and earnestly interested in things like ringer percentage and year-end averages, who can you emulate? Probably Alan Francis, a fellow from Defiance, Ohio, who has won the World Horseshoe Championship 24 times between 1989 and 2019. Regarded almost unanimously as “The Greatest Horseshoe Player Ever,” this is a guy who maintains a ringer average of over 90 percent, something no one else in the world has done.

In horseshoe circles, Alan Francis is Elvis, probably because he’s been playing near every day since he was 9 years old.

Which kind of goes back to Rob Card’s observation that nobody is going to become great if he has to stop playing horseshoes altogether during the winter months.

If you want to keep pitching shoes in Maine between December and May, your best bet is to get yourself down to the Pepperell Mill on Saturday mornings and navigate the dusty labyrinth toward the lusty sounds of horseshoes hitting pins.

It’s an unexpected little journey, and a heck of a lot of fun once you get there.

FILED UNDER:

[LEWISTON MAINE](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.SUNJOURNAL.COM/2020/02/23/](https://www.sunjournal.com/2020/02/23/)

THIS-ISNT-CORNHOLE/



Winter Crossword





Down:

2. Frozen water
3. Small
4. Myself
5. Small pig
6. Neck warmer
8. Chilly
9. Used to move snow
11. A season
13. Strong emotion
14. Ripped
15. Nil
18. Bath
19. Cloud of water vapour
21. Last month of winter
22. Wooden snow vehicles
23. Winter road condition
25. Be carried on
27. Locomotive
28. Carried along by wind
30. Piece of hockey equipment
33. Make this in the snow
34. Winter foot wear
36. Faucets can do this
38. You hear with this

Across:

1. Sudden cold breeze	24. Valentine month
4. Hand warmers	26. Thaw
7. Hanging spike of ice	29. Keeps drinks warm
9. Freezing rain	30. Small dog
10. Snow and _____	31. Winter Olympic sport
11. Conditions outside	32. Silky material
12. Flowering plant, colour	35. Breezy
15. Achoo	37. Ice sport
17. Not in	39. Foot warmer
20. Month of winter	40. Direct a vehicle's course
22. Carols, etc.	



Copyright © 1999 Jack Willson
www.SpellzofTheMonth.com

WSHPA 2021 Tournament Schedule

12/23/2020 Draft

Date	Tournament	Location	Director	Director Phone	Entry	Sanction #
9-Jan	Winetrot I (Enumclaw Host)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206 226 7729	\$17 001- 21-01
23-Jan	Winetrot II (Olympia Host)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$17 001-21-02
6-Feb	Winetrot III (Kitsap Host)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$17 001-21 -03
20-Feb	Winetrot IV (Skagit Host)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$17 001-21-04
6-Mar	Winetrot V (Bellingham Host)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$17 001-21-05
20-Mar	Winetrot VI (Potluck & Auction)	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	226-7729	\$17 0011-21-06
3-Apr	Open Date					
10-Apr	Tulip Open ***	Skagit Riverside Pk	Burlington	Turnbull, Jon	360/826-5520	\$20 001 -21-07
17-Apr	Tri City Open	Eastgate Park	Kennewick	Vic Magnus	509-554-2768	\$20 001-21-08
24-Apr	Odessa Spring Fling	Finney Field	Odessa	Heutink, Ron	509/754-5132	\$20 001-21-09
1-May	Kitsap Open	S. Kitsap Cnty Pk	Prt. Orchard	Lewis, Bonnie	360/876-1055	\$20 001-21-10
8-May	Open Date					
13-May	World Tournament Entry Deadline - Entry forms on NHPA website					
15-May	Open Date					
22-May	Columbia Basin Open	Eastgate Park	Kennewick	Vic Magnus	509-554-2768	\$20 001-21-11
29-May	Open Date					
5-Jun	Hanson Bros. Memorial	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$20 001-21-12
12-Jun	Strawberry Open ***	Skagit Riverside Pk	Burlington	Turnbull, Jon	360/826-5520	\$20 001-21-13
13-Jun	Skagit Memorial	Skagit Riverside Pk	Burlington	Turnbull, Jon	360/826-5520	\$20 001- 21 14
19-Jun	Rehard Open	Franklin Park	Spokane	Reeves, Kaiti	509/389-7781	\$20 001-21-15
26-Jun	Kitsap Memorial	S. Kitsap Cnty Pk	Prt. Orchard	Lewis, Bonnie	360/876-1055	\$20 001-21-16
3-Jul	Open Date					
10-Jul	Lakefair Open	Yauger Park	Olympia	Tutewiler, Dennis	253-271-6769	\$20 001-21-17
17-Jul	Ed Welsh Open	Franklin Park	Spokane	Reeves, Kaiti	509-389-7781	\$20 001-21-18
18 July	World Tournament Starts Winnemucca, NV					
24-Jul	Open Date					
31-Jul	Open Date					
30-Jul	World Tournament Ends Winnemucca, NV					
7-Aug	Earl Kettleston Night Tournament	Franklin Park	Spokane	Reeves, Kaiti	509/389-7782	\$20 001- 21-19
21-Aug	Bellingham International	Cornwall Park	Bellingham	Quist, Phyllis	360/384-4544	\$20 001-21-20
22-Aug	Bellingham International	Cornwall Park	Bellingham	Quist, Phyllis	360-384-4544	
23-Aug	Paid entries for WSHPA Doubles must be to WSHPA Tres.			Davis, Rhonda		\$15 ea
23-Aug	Cut Off date for State NATSTAT Entry Percentage					
28-Aug	Seattle Open &&&	Woodland Park	Seattle	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$20 001-21-21
26-Aug	State Classes & Schedules Posted on WSHPA Web Site					
4 Sept	WSHPA State Singles	Franklin Park	Spokane	John Martin	206-226-7729	\$20 001-21-22
5 Sept	WSHPA State Singles	Franklin Park	Spokane	John Martin	206-226-7729	
4 Sept	WSHPA Annual Meeting & Banquet			Spokane	John Martin	296-226-7729 \$25
5 Sept.	WSHPA State Doubles	Franklin Park	Spokane	John Martin	206-226-7729	001-21-23
8-Sep	Entries for Pacific Northwest Close at 9:00 PM					
11 Sept	Open Date					
18 Sept	Pacific Northwest	Eastgate Park	Kennewick	Quist, Phyllis	360/384-4544	\$15 001-21-24
18 Sept	PNW Annual Meeting & Banquet			Kennewick	Quist, Phyllis	360/384-4544 \$25
19 Sept	Pacific Northwest (Day 2)	Eastgate Park	Kennewick	Quist, Phyllis	360-384-4544	
25Sept	South Puget Sound Open	Yauger Park	Olympia	Tutewiler, Dennis	253-271-6769	\$20 001-21-25
1 Oct.	Odessa Open	Finney Field	Odessa	Heutink, Ron	509/754-5132	\$20 001-21-26
### Check in before 11:00 AM - Start pitching @ noon						
&&& The stats from this tournament will NOT be used for 2019 State Tournaments entries						
*** Tournaments have \$250 Added Prize Money						
Normal Entry Deadline at 9 PM on the Thursday prior to the tournament						
Check in before 8:30 AM unless otherwise notified						
					9/9/2018	