



May 13, 1982

Mr. Paul Wilson, Hall of Fame Committee

Fifteen years ago August William Reich (Willie ) started down the horseshoe trail. He held all of the offices and some of them several times in his hometown club in LeRoy. Willie was instrumental in developing various scratch and handicap leagues along the way. He generally played in the leagues and for many years kept track of league standings in one of them.

Many seasons Willie wrote weekly columns for the local newspapers to help promote the game. Some tournament scores from LeRoy appeared in the News Digest and the larger Rochester newspapers.

Willie was instrumental in the construction of 6 beautiful courts that lie to the rear of the American Legion in LeRoy. He formed the courts and directed the pouring of the concrete as well as the erection of the chain link fencing.

Willie helped build another 6 courts in the village and one in Churchville for Mike DiMartino. He often gave directions to the location of beautiful spots or took the time to personally assist in getting the clay. Carl Steinfeldt sent several court builders to Willie and none were ever turned down. He saw to it that they travelled home with their truck loaded with grade A clay.

Willie once made up a bulletin board (4 sides) and put it on display in the spring in the Bank of LeRoy. He was then asked to leave it a second week and received many compliments. He then kept it until fall and displayed it at the clubs banquet. The information thing was mostly about local club players with a sprinkling of the top notch national players.

Willie played in Syracuse at the fair and in various and numerous tournaments over the years. You could often see him digging up the clay along side Bill Hyland or Paul Wilson and others. If he remembered his glasses he might even keep a little score.

Though Willie won a lot of trophies he only owns two plaques as of now. He just keeps giving them away with new plates to the juniors he loves so much. The two plaques given to him by his fellow players for service to the club are his proud possessions.

Willie helped Jerry Sojda a lot when he opened his indoor courts several years ago. Besides helping to schedule he ran probably the best junior boys tournament in the state. He turned around and brought the DiMartino boys, Sojda boys and young Crandall to LeRoy where the champ Crandall had to squirm to win it all.

Even at the end of the season Willie passes out good will as he generally M.C.'s the banquets and makes arrangements for door prizes such as cider, apples, coke, a large hubbard squash and other goodies. Most years a couple of guests are invited and along with their friendship a good time is always had by all.