



CARL VonDERLANCKEN ↗

1974

-12-

CARL VON DER LANCKEN
2 Manitou Trail
White Plains, New York,

Two hundred pounds of personable, promotional dynamite is a fair explanation of the chairman of the New York State Hall of Fame Committee, and Carl Von der Lancken is cheerfully gracing New York State with just that.

From 1925 through 1937 Carl acted in the capacity of the first "pro" of any major horseshoe club when he assisted Dick Hitchens in organizing the Chautauqua Horseshoe Club, and it grew to over 500 members. In promoting, he played exhibitions with such greats as C. C. Davis, (1928), and then World champion, Blair Nunnemaker, (1936). In 1929 he travelled to Cleveland to help Nunnemaker promote the Wade Park Club, and in 1936 he gave the first exhibition of horseshoes in England, France and Spain.

From 1926 to 1937 he busied himself with organizing the Southwest, and as president of the Tulsa, Oklahoma Club, he became the first secretary of the Oklahoma H.P.A. He then travelled to Texas and Arkansas promoting, and originated the first Oklahoma State Tournament. He staged many exhibitions in Oklahoma with such greats as the Jackson boys, and Guy Zimmerman.

Still promoting, Carl became the first champ. of the Washington, D. C., area indoor league, and assisted "Pop" Woodfield in developing the game.

Asked by National Secretary, R. B. Howard, to become a "roving promoter", and "trouble-shooter" throughout the country, he became a household word in the homes of almost every horseshoe pitcher.

In 1938 he assisted Tom O'Gara in promoting the Knickerbocker Horseshoe League of N. Y. City, which became the largest horseshoe league in the nation for metropolitan areas, and was the N.Y. City parks champion that year.

His promotions took him to the Chicago League in 1942, and he worked with the Center Club of Chicago until 1947

From 1950 to 1953 he introduced the sport in Brazil, returning to the N. Y. City area in 1954 where he re-vitalized the sport in the Long Is-

CARL VON DER LANCKEN (continued)

land area through 1961.

From 1961 to date, Carl has busied himself with the problems of New York State by getting recreation directors in nine cities interested in the building of regulation clay courts with lights to accommodate night pitching. Not contented with just the construction of the courts, he organized three leagues with, in excess of 150 pitchers, participating. Play still continuing in these leagues.

Carl served as president of the Westchester County Pitchers Association for 5 years, and in 1967, was elected president of the New York State Association, where he supervised the State Tournament in New Rochelle, N.Y.

In 1969 he was asked to serve on the National H. P. A. Hall of Fame committee, and in 1972 he received votes for indoctrination to the Hall.

His design, proposal, and production for an N.H.P.A. tie-tac pin was accepted by the National executive committee, and is now one of the various items for sale by the body.

At the State convention in 1973 Carl was asked to chair a committee for a New York State Hall of Fame, which he accepted. Appointing Carl Steinfeldt and Bill Hyland as his assistants, and their joint efforts saw the Hall of Fame become a reality in 1974 at Dunbar Park, Pulaski, N.Y.

Carl von der Lancken
2 Manitou Trail - White Plains, N.Y.

1925-1937 As the first "pro" of any major horseshoe club, he assisted Dick Hitchens in organizing and promoting the Chautauqua Horseshoe Club, Chautauqua, N.Y. for 11 years. This club attained the largest membership of any club in the USA except for possibly the St. Petersburg, Florida, club. It achieved over 500 members. Carl played exhibition matches with C.C. Davis in 1928 and Blair Nunamaker in 1936 at Chautauqua. He organized and led a Chautauqua team that played matches with teams all over western New York State and Pennsylvania, including Don Bickerton's Buffalo team and Sam White's Erie team. In 1929 went to Cleveland to help Nunamaker promote the Wade Park Club. In 1936 he gave the first exhibition of horseshoes in England, France and Spain.

From 1926 to 1937 he first organized horseshoe pitching in the Southwest. As president of the Tulsa, Oklahoma club he became the first secretary of the Oklahoma Horseshoe Pitchers Association. He traveled to Texas and Arkansas to promote the game, also organizing the first Oklahoma State Tournament. He staged many exhibitions in Oklahoma with Guy Zimmerman, the Jackson boys, and many others

In 1930-31 von der Lancken became a leading factor in developing the game in the Washington, D.C. area. He helped promote the D.C. Indoor League and was its first individual champion. As a member of the championship team he toured eastern United States, playing matches to promote the game. Later he assisted Harry "Pop" Woodfield to develop the game.

1938-1941 Carl was asked by National Secretary R.B. Howard to serve as roving promoter and trouble-shooter all around the country. He came to know more horseshoe pitchers than almost anyone else in the game. He proposed the "life membership plan" for financially stabilizing the N.H.P.A. which created nationwide discussion.

In 1938 he went to New York City to settle problems arising from two New York State Associations, remained to assist Tom O' Gara to promote the Knickerbocker Horseshoe League, the largest metropolitan league in the nation. In 1938 he was also the official New York City parks champion.

In 1939 Carl went out to California and aided the Exposition Club of Los Angeles, working with Gordon, Dean Brown and others.

In 1941 he served as a N.H.P.A. vice-president under Jack Claves. He continued to travel around the country promoting the game.

1942-1947 Worked with the Center Club of Chicago, Ill. and with the Chicago League.

1950-1953 Introduced Brazil to horseshoes with demonstrations.

Carl von der Lancken (continued)

1954-1961 Revitalized horseshoe pitching on Long Island, encouraging the promotion of new tournaments.

1962-on. In Westchester County, N.Y., promoted clinics and exhibitions in every town and city. Succeeded in getting recreation directors in nine cities to build clay courts with lights for night pitching. He organized three leagues (A, B, & C) with well over 150 pitchers participating, whereas there were no pitchers before. Play still continues. Carl served as president of the Westchester County Horseshoe Pitchers Association for five years, and in 1967 was elected president of the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Association. In the same year he supervised the New York State Tournament at New Rochelle.

In 1969 he was asked to serve on the N.H.P.A. Hall of Fame Committee. For the years 1970-71 he served as chairman of the national Hall of Fame Committee. In 1972 he was one of those receiving votes for the Hall of Fame.

In recent years he was authorized by the NHPA to discuss the promotion of the game with a leading public relations firm of New York City, and on a number of occasions has had tentative plans for televising the national tournament. In 1974 his proposal, design and production of a NHPA lapel pin or tie-tac was approved by the national executive council. (see cover of June issue of Nws Digest). Carl is also one of the authors of the "How to do it" Horseshoe Pitcher's Manual, now on sale through the National Association.