



NYSHPA Hall of Fame Nomination XO
George Lovell

It is with great pleasure that we nominate George Lovell for election to the NYSHPA Hall of Fame.

George resides in Vestal, New York with Jean, his wife of 69 years. They have been blessed with three children, nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

George has a long and well-recognized history of pitching excellence, exemplary sportsmanship and extraordinary generosity. He first started pitching shoes in the early 1950's. He has remained one of the top pitchers in the Binghamton/Johnson City/Endicott area for many years consistently averaging 50% or better. He has been Champion of the annual Broome County Open five times!

In 1982, he joined the NHPA and commenced pitching in sanctioned events throughout New York State. Many, many pitchers have since recognized his ability to strongly challenge and often beat the best.

Finally, at the age of 87, George gave in and moved up to 37 feet. Then, at age 90, he pitched 48.35% to win the B-Class at the December, 2005 Tri-County Sanctioned Singles Tournament. Many clubs can boast of 50% or better pitchers, but few have matched George's lengthy and consistent reign.

For all this achievement, horseshoe pitching isn't what George is best known for. Instead, he is recognized as one of the few "true gentlemen of the sport". The ultimate model of sportsmanship, he never gets upset or irritated, never swears or curses, never makes excuses, doesn't complain and always compliments the other player. George enjoys the game and loves to win, but doesn't like to beat up on an opponent. After a win, he is often heard to say "I was just lucky". To hear George use those words is to be painfully aware that have come up short again!!!

For over 40 years, George has given much of his time and labor toward making horseshoe pitching in Broome County a success. He worked tirelessly for years developing and maintaining the Southern Tier Horseshoe facility in Binghamton known as the THE PITS.

George is suspected to have helped many clubs throughout the State by opening his wallet (you will never learn of this from George). However, the sponsors of this nomination know enough to say he has failed in his attempt to keep everybody in the dark.

The Tri-County Horseshoe Club was the recipient of his generosity even before he became a member in 1999, and then later inducted into their Hall of Fame this past January.

George's benevolence goes far beyond horseshoes. Each year he plants an extensive garden many times greater than his family needs. As it begins to yield, he shares with friends and neighbors. In addition, he makes almost daily deliveries of produce to Meals-on-Wheels and CHOW (Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse). That should be enough for one person, but not for George. He treks all over picking cherries, strawberries, peaches, etc. These too, he shares with others very unselfishly.

Then, in late summer, George starts tripping for sweet corn. These trips take him 75 miles north where he will pick 500-600 ears of corn to bring back for donation to Meals-on-Wheels and CHOW in Binghamton. This is an all day effort that George repeats three to four times a year at his own expense.

In summary, George is a person we can be proud of as both a pitcher and promoter in our Hall of Fame. The NYSHPA will be honored by his Hall of Fame membership while it honors his contribution to horseshoes.