



PITCHER
PROMOTER

Write up sheet for John Merrill

John's love of horseshoes began as a boy, when his father taught him to pitch horseshoes "left-handed", (which he still does today,) thereby giving him the nickname "wrong-way". Through the years he pitched shoes, even when he was in the Service.

In the early 70's he joined the NeOsCo Club in Pulaski. He encouraged his friends and family to also join in the sport. In 1986, John won the title of NYS Champion in some heart-stopping action in Falconer, N.Y. In the following year, he started his own league, called the " Mid-State 4-Dead Horseshoe Club" in his "horseshoe building" in back of his home in Fulton. For many years, friends and family pitched there. His 2 daughters also started pitching and earned state titles for themselves. He was a member of the Pioneer Club in Syracuse for a number of years also. In the early 90's, John had to have a couple of surgeries, one to his right elbow and one on his left shoulder, limiting his ability to pitch as much as he wanted to Never-the-less, John endured and learned to pitch left-handed, and STILL maintained a decent average.

One of John's dreams was to pitch in a World Tournament, and in 1994 his dream came true when he took first place in Men's Class A 3 in Syracuse, N.Y.

Besides pitching, John enjoys spending time with his family and doing carpentry work. He retired from Alcan in November of 2004 and now can enjoy traveling with his wife and pitching shoes in the winter months in Florida.

John has been a pitcher AND a promoter of this sport for many years, therefore we the above signed and his family, believe he belongs in the NYS Horseshoe Hall of Fame.

Thank-You.