



Raymond Hall

Pitcher

On May 8th 1929, Raymond Hall (Ray, as everyone calls him) was born. Who knew he would become such a devoted and talented horseshoe?

Ray is a resident of Coming, New York, where he has lived most of his life. Before that, he lived in Caton, New York where in 1949 he married Irene the love of his life. They had a son Daniel in 1952. Irene has gone on ahead of him, but he knows she is waiting for him. Their son Daniel joined Irene on May 5th of 2012, he was 59 years old.

For over 63 years Ray has pitched horseshoes and he is pretty good at it. Ray has a gentle country boy nature about him and he is the kind of person who would help anyone who needs assistance. If you are having trouble with the approach, the flip shoe, the one and a quarter shoe or the three quarter tum Ray will give you pointers. Everyone is honored to get the little pointers from Ray.

Ray has been a member of the N.H.P.A. for over 30 years.

As Ray traveled to various horseshoe tournaments Irene was always there to root him on. He not only went to countless towns and cities in New York state to compete in but he also traveled across the country. Other than New York state Ray has competed in, New Hampshire, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Florida, South Dakota, Georgia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and even Canada. He has played in 11 Wood Tournaments. In almost all of the tournaments he did not just play and walk away empty handed, he won or placed. He has 23 trophies and numerous plaques and certificates.

Ray has won the NYS Open Championships in his class in 1986, 1998, 2004, 2008, and a number of second and third place finishes. In 1995 he won the Eastern National Championship at Erie, Pennsylvania. In 2008 he placed first in NYS Class 8 Elders and in 2011 he placed third in the same division.

Ray has played in the Senior Olympics since 1995, taking first place 10 times and second place once. He has 13 Gold Medals.

In 2002 he became a member of the Tri-County Horseshoe Club in Groton, New York. As a member there he has played over 58 tournaments and has come in first, second or third most of the time. He took first in Class A in October and November of 2008 and first in Class B for the 2009 January Open. In 2010 he was inducted into the Tri-County Hall of Fame.

Ray has also pitched at the pits in Binghamton, New York for ten years.

He was greatly honored in March of 2009 when he was inducted into the Coming-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame for his Outstanding Horseshoe Sportsmanship and Participation.

Age and a few minor aches and pains have not stopped Ray from playing horseshoes. In 2011 and 2012 he played in the Winter Tournament at the Tri-County Club. In February of 2011 Doubles he came in tied for first and after a play-off in doubles he and his partner John Mosher came in second. In March of 2011 he took third place for Class B. In February 2012 he placed third in Class C. In March 2012 he and his partner Barb Gable came in second in Class B Doubles. In April 2012 he placed second in a playoff. In April 2012 doubles, he and his partner John Mosher placed second in Class C. In July of 2012 he played at the Dresser Rand tournament where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1991 and he came in first. August 2012 he placed third at LeRoy, New York. October 2012 he placed third at Tri-County in Groton, New York. October 2012 he and his partner placed first at the Tri-County doubles in Groton.

To this very day Ray independently maintains the horseshoe pits located on William Street Park in Coming, New York. He does this year round and at this own expense. The park is a public park and many residents use the pits, if anyone needs pointers Ray will help them out.

Ray has thrown a variety of horseshoes: Double Ringers, Diamonds, Ohio's, Dead Eye's, Steinfieldt, Imperials, Allen Francis, Gordon, Mustangs, Six Shooters, Red Henton, Challenger, Snyder EZ Flips and real horseshoes off his horses on the farm.

Ray's latest accomplishment, he donated all of his winter winnings (\$120.00) to the Buffalo World Tournament fund in hopes they could get the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, New York. They did!

Ray has that great talent and unending love for horseshoes but he also has other interests; he was an avid hunter and fisherman for 66 years. After 54 years he is still active in various bowling leagues. He also has a very healthy little garden and he can make delicious fudge from Irene's receipt.