



December 30, 1980

Mr. Paul A. Thomas  
456 Pine Street  
Lockport, N.Y. 14094

Dear Paul & Committee:

We would like to present the following candidate to you and the Committee of the New York State Horseshoe Pitching Association Hall of Fame for your consideration:

Walter Shackelton, native of Walton, New York and Delaware County was born November 8, 1911 and resides at R.D.#1, Fish Hollow, Walton, N.Y., 13856, Phone No. 607-865-5869.

Walt started pitching horseshoes in 1924 under the tutelage of George Tweedie who was well known in the Rochester State Tournaments. He won the right in 1928, by winning the Delaware County Tournament, to pitch in the Amateur Championship Horseshoe Pitching Tournament for the State of New York under the sanction of the N.Y.S. H.P.A. He became the Amateur Champion for the State for that year.

He continued pitching in local tournaments and backyard competition whenever the opportunity arose and became recognized as one of the best in the County.

During the war years he used horseshoes furnished by the Army and pitched whenever there was an opportunity. After the war years, he married, bought a farm and raised a family but still found time to pitch in his own backyard with a few local men that enjoyed the sport.

In 1962 he promoted a Tournament at the Delaware County Fair at Walton with only a few participants. Since then the sport has grown to the point where there is three classifications, A, B & C, generally with 8 in a class who must qualify. Participants come from Chenango County, Otsego County, Schoharie County, Broome County, Fulton County, Sullivan County as well as Delaware County. In 1966 Walt formed a Committee to start a Tournament at the Otsego County Fair in Morris, New York. This was an annual tournament for 12 years but because of a decrease in State Funding, the Morris Fair Association felt they could no longer sponsor a Horseshoe Tournament.

In 1975 Walt was asked to help start a Horseshoe Tournament at the Afton Fair in Broome County. This is still an annual event with only one Class.

Walt has pitched in all of these Tournaments and has won many first place trophies. Horseshoe pitching became almost non-existent in this area until he started to organize tournaments in 1962. In the past 3 years he has participated in the State Tournaments as well as

Shackleton

the Lockport Eastern National Tournament, Pulaski, Canton, Camden and other N.Y.H.P.A. Tournaments.

His record of achievements is as follows:

- 1927 - Delaware County Fair - 1st Place
- 1927 - Delaware County Picnic - 1st Place
- 1928 - Amateur Championship Horseshoe Pitching Tournament for the State of New York under the sanction of the N.Y.S.H.P.A.-1st Place.

Delaware County Fair, Walton, New York

- 1962 - 1st Place
- 1967 - 1st Place
- 1968 - 2nd Place
- 1969 - 1st Place
- 1970 - 2nd Place
- 1971 - 2nd Place
- 1972 - 1st Place
- 1973 - 2nd Place
- 1974 - 1st Place
- 1975 - 1st Place

Otsego County Fair, Morris, New York

- 1966 - 1st Place
- 1967 - 1st Place
- 1968 - 1st Place
- 1969 - 2nd Place
- 1970 - 1st Place
- 1972 - 1st Place
- 1973 - 1st Place
- 1974 - 1st Place

Sullivan County Sportsmanship Show, Grahamsville, N.Y.

- 1970 - 2nd Place
- 1971 - 1st Place
- 1972 - 2nd Place
- 1973 - 1st Place
- 1975 - 2nd Place

Schoharie County Fair, Cobleskill, N.Y.

- 1971 - 1st Place
- 1973 - 1st Place
- 1974 - 1st Place
- 1975 - 1st Place

General Clinton Canoe Regatta Horseshoe Tournament, Bainbridge, N.Y.

- 1973 - 1st Place
- 1974 - 1st Place
- 1977 - 1st Place
- 1978 - 1st Place

Fulton County Invitational, Tom Brownell Tournament, Gloversville, N.Y.

1975 - 1st Place  
1976 - 2nd Place  
1977 - 1st Place  
1978 - 2nd Place  
1979 - 2nd Place

Fulton County Fair, Fonda, N.Y.

1975 - 1st Place

Hale Eddy Horseshoe Tournament, Hale Eddy, N.Y.

1975 - 2nd Place  
1976 - 1st Place  
1977 - 1st Place  
1978 - 1st Place

Afton Fair, Broome County, Afton, N.Y.

1977 - 1st Place

Chenango County Tournament, S. New Berlin, N.Y.

1979 - 2nd Place  
1980 - 1st Place

Today Walter Shackelton is still a promoter of the sport of horseshoes. His interest in the sport is lasting and aggressive. He has won and lost tournaments with ringer percentages as low as 37% and as high as 76%.

We know that he intends to participate in as many tournaments as humanly possible in the year of 1981 and also in the New York State Tournament. In addition, since his wife Wilda Shackelton retired, she has also been participating in the N.Y.S.H.P.A. Tournaments so that now it is a family affair.

We are enclosing a picture of Walter Shackelton -(the man standing next to Walt we believe you all know).



This information is respectfully submitted by Richard Tatar and Harold Zimmerman and many other friends in the area that feel that Walter Shackelton has contributed an unmentionable amount of effort to help make the sport of horseshoes what it is today.

If more information is needed, please contact me and I will try to compile it.

It would be very much appreciated if you could inform me as to whether or not there is a possibility that Walter Shackelton be accepted for the New York State Horseshoe Pitching Association Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

*Richard Tatar*

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