

Family History: Harry J. Henn was born in 1895. Father, Frank Henn Sr. d. 1917, Mother, Katherine. Brothers, George, Frank, Bernard, and Albert. Sisters, Regina and Mary. Wife, Catherine, died in 1974. Harry & Catherine's kids: William "Bill" Henn (1927-2007), Wilford "Chick" Henn (1926-2014), Clifford "Tip" Henn, Velma F. Henn (1931-2013), Dolores Marie Henn (Houben)(1929-2020).

Personal Info: Harry was a veteran of World War I. Harry worked as an employee at a shoe factory. Harry was also a high average bowler.

Horseshoe Notes: Harry Henn pitched a right-handed $\frac{3}{4}$ Flop shoe, which is a combination of a $\frac{3}{4}$ turn and a single flip. Harry's pitch was referred to as a "dive bomber". He used Gordon horseshoes and even sold them for the creator, John Gordon. It is well noted that Harry's style caused him to lose a lot of ringers that bounced off the peg. It was noted in the "American Directory Of Horseshoe Pitching" that Harry pitched for 20 years, so if accurate, would mean Harry started pitched around 1930-31. Harry carried several horseshoe nicknames, the most popular of which seemed to be "Ringer". He was also noted as "Ringer Hamburger" and "Pops". Harry was also mentioned as holding office in the Kentucky State Association during the 1940's. What follows is selection of known horseshoe events that Harry pitched from 1934-1950, but by no means all of them. There are many references that were not included here due to being "undated" and others were not reported.

1934- It is obvious that 1934 was a pretty heavy pitching year for Harry, with 1935 references in Horseshoe World mentioning Harry as the 1934 Kentucky Champion. Referring to the Greater Cincinnati Championship, Horseshoe World also mentions Harry was beaten out by Allen Boles for 1934 title. In print, reporting of tournaments in Northern Kentucky had not really taken off as of yet, so detailed info is rare.

1935- Harry is noted as the 1935 Northern Ky. Champion in various references, although it was apparently not reported in print.

Sept. 11th (Reported)- Harry pitched on a Cincinnati team that defeated Hamilton, OH. 26 games to 10. Harry was 3-3 for 54%.

Oct. 11th- Players qualified for the Greater Cincinnati tournament. Qualifying was based on points with Harry as the 9th qualifier with 60% ringers. (Harry is noted as the 1935 Greater Cincinnati Champion.)

Oct. 20th- Harry Henn & George Moore were scheduled to pitch in the Greater Cincinnati doubles championship, qualifying 6th.



1936- Mecca Café team (seated) & Madisonville Ohio team (standing). Harry Henn (center, seated.)

1936- Harry was a member of the Hollyhock Horseshoe Club and pitched on the Hollyhock courts at Third & Berry Avenues in Dayton.

June 16th- League play begins in the Northern Ky./Greater Cincinnati area, with Harry as a member of the Mecca Café team. Harry averaged 57% ringers in the opening 200 shoes.

June 23rd (Reported)- Greater Cincinnati held an ALL-STAR East vs West event. Harry led the Eastern section which came up short in the match. Harry was top pitcher for the East and topped all pitchers from both teams in ringer percentage. Harry went 187R for 300SP, averaging 62.3%.

July 12th- Harry Henn's Mecca Café team pitched an exhibition match vs the Standard Club of Covington.

July 21st- Harry was mentioned as pitching in a Humbolt Park Sunday picnic tournament and finished 2nd to Allen Boles.

July 26th- Harry Henn captured the Northern Kentucky State Championship defeating Ray Wright in a playoff 50-16. Harry went 9-1 for 54% ringers. Played on the Hollyhock courts.

August 18th- Cincinnati team #1 vs Springfield Team #1, Harry's Cincinnati team takes the win 11 games to 9 and it is stated: "Harry Henn was the Cincinnati Star; He won all five of his games and averaged 63%. "When Harry is right, he is almost unbeatable."

Sept. 2nd (Reported)- A Cincinnati team was defeated by Springfield. All Cincinnati players, including Harry, pitched “well over” 50% in defeat.

Nov. 9th (Reported)- Harry finished 2nd in the Greater Cincinnati Championship after completing a final 3-way playoff. Harry averaged 56.5% in the playoff rounds. The tourney was held at the Lunken Airport courts.



Harry in 1937

1937- Harry participated in another league season as a member of the Mecca Café Team.

July 25-27- Harry competed in the first National AAU singles & doubles championships. Held at Parkway Arena in Cincinnati. He teamed with Louis Grant in the doubles.

Sept. 18th-19th – State Championship held in Newport, KY. on the Riverview courts. Harry finishes 3rd, 10-3, 56.3% and received a silver medal. Harry’s son Billy also competed in the event at 12yrs. of age. In 2007, Bill Henn shared this story about Harry’s competitiveness: *“I pitched in the State Tournament in 1937 at the age of 13 or 14 (12) but I threw 40 feet, I almost beat my Dad, as I threw a 50% game. (Bill also said it may have been 55-60%.) He beat me by one point. We pitched count-all, 50 shoes, he beat me 115-114. After the game he said “Why did you try to beat me, as you are not going anywhere, and I have chance to win this thing?” He finished 3rd and I finished 10th out of 14.”*

December- (Reported Horseshoe World) - Harry competed in the Greater Cincinnati Championship. He was 7th at 6-5 for 57.4%. Held at the Lunken Airport courts.

1938- A listed article from 1938, mentions Harry Henn & Charles Eha competing in the Greater Cincinnati Doubles Championship. They would finished 2nd at 6-1, losing only to the eventual champions, “Boles & Henderson”. This was mentioned as one of the best games of the contest. Harry would pitch 74% in the losing effort.

August 14- A “Cincinnati Enquirer” article referring to league pitching and the Northern Kentucky Team mentions Harry “returning to the horseshoe wars several weeks ago after a serious illness”. Harry is noticeably absent from some key tournaments and league play that was held in May, June & July of 1938.

Aug. 21st- Harry captured the Greater Cincinnati Championship going 11-1 for 57.5%. This event was held at the Riverview courts in Newport, Ky. Reported in the “Horseshoe World”: *“Harry Henn...showed rare form in tight spots to win the 1938 Championship. He pitched the best in the pinches when he had to bear down and came out the winner each time.”*

Aug. 28th- Kentucky State Championship in Newport, Ky. Harry ended up finishing 5th at 9-6 for 51% ringers. It appears that Harry’s illness from earlier in the year was either an ongoing issue or had returned. It was reported in the “Horseshoe World”: *Harry Henn, 1938 Greater Cincinnati champion, and former Kentucky champion didn’t do so well, due to a serious illness and loss of strength.; he could not stand the long grind and weakened the last part of the tournament.*

Sept. 25th- An article mentions Harry as one of the lead entries in the doubles battle royal taking place on this date, referring to the Greater Cincinnati Doubles Championship won by Joe Clore & Fred Weil.

December- Issue of Horseshoe World mentions that Harry was re-elected as Financial secretary of the Greater Cincinnati Horseshoe Club.



Northern Ky. Club in 1937. Harry is standing back left.



Harry in 1938



Northern Ky. Club- 1938, Harry seated right.

1939- Harry wrote an article that appeared in the April edition of Horseshoe World "Louisville And All Other Cities Of Kentucky Take Notice" in an attempt to unify all cities and Northern Kentucky into holding a more complete Kentucky State Championship.

June 1st (Reported)- Harry competed with the Northern Ky. Team in a match vs Townsend West. Harry tossed three undefeated games with 60% ringers.

June 7th - (Reported)- Harry pitched 5 undefeated games for Northern KY. in a team match vs Anderson, IN. Harry averaged 54.8% and Northern Ky. won 19 games to 6.

Aug. 23rd (Reported)- Northern Ky. won the State Team Championship held in Louisville's Central Park. Harry went 3-1 for 57%, which was the highest percentage posted in the finals vs Louisville's Stansanco Team.

Aug. 27th & Sept. 3rd - Harry competed in the Greater Cincinnati Championship won by Joe Clore.

Sept. 10th - Harry won the Northern Kentucky Championship going 7-1 for 51% ringers. "Henn pitched best in the tight spots".

Sept. 17th - Harry Henn & the Northern Ky. Team were defeated by New Albany IN. in a team match. Harry was 3-1 for 57%.

Sept. 24th - Kentucky State Championship, Louisville, KY. on the Central Park courts, Harry tied for 2nd with George Moore, going 7-1 for 51.1%. The two were scheduled to have a best 2 out of 3 pitch-off due to the fact that their game in the regular round robin of the State was found to have scoring errors.

1940- During the months of June through September, Harry pitched in the Northern Kentucky Horseshoe League as a member of the Cold Spring Klunks. His son Billy was also on the team. Harry also pitched in the Northern Kentucky Individual Horseshoe League.

June 23rd - Harry Henn, Northern Ky. Champion and Joe Clore, Greater Cincinnati Champion met at 2pm for a 10 game match on the Riverview Courts.



1940- Harry and a young Bill at the World Tourney.

Aug. 18th - Competed on the Northern Kentucky team, winning the State Team Championship, held on the Riverview Courts in Newport, Ky. Harry was 5-2 for 51.7%. Defeated two top Louisville teams.

Aug. 24-27 - Harry and his son Billy traveled to Des Moines IA and attempted to qualify for the World Horseshoe Tournament but failed to make the field.

Sept. 1st - Pitched with the Northern Ky. team in a match vs Ashland, KY., defeating them 29 games to 20.

Sept. 7th - Harry finished 2nd in an open tournament in Van Wert OH. With 6 wins and 2 losses for 70% ringers. **NEWS STORY** on this event from the "Horseshoe World", **Oct. 1940**: "The feature of the tournament was the thrilling pitching of Ringer Hamburger Henn's dive bomber shoe, Henn getting the bad breaks in the first two games with his dive bomber diving on then off again and losing his first two games, but from then on his dive bomber worked to perfection, for the rest of the field failed to get over

18 points, but Weil who got 31 points while Henn scored over 50, and when the fireworks were over the tournament ended in a tie for second place, Henn and Homer Maxwell, of Hicksville Ohio, who has been pitching in the World Tournament for the last eight or ten years. Maxwell saw that Henn was hot and refused to pitch off for second place. This brought the officers of the tournament to decide and the spectators called for a pitch-off so Homer Maxwell had to pitch it off. Henn again had his first six shoes come off, with Maxwell scoring 18 points, and tossed his next two on and told Henn to look at them and said, I guess you would like to divide the money now; but Henn told him the game wasn't over, and watch these two, and they dove on and stayed on and again he had his dive bomber working to perfection, and exploding on the peg nearly every time, and when the fireworks were over, Ringer Hamburger Henn had 50 points and Maxwell 27, and had 48 ringers out of his last 54 shoes. He had the spectators in an uproar! Henn pitched well over 75% ringers in the tournament.

Sept. 14th- Finished 2nd in the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, 6-1. Won by Elmer McCoy. Louisville Courier Journal excerpt: *“To win this he had to defeat one of the best pitchers in the state, Harry Henn, of Cold Spring, who finished second. Henn would have beaten McCoy if he could keep his shoes on the peg.”*

Sept 21st- Article in the Cincinnati Enquirer reported as “Nifty Pitching Flashed Before Horseshoe Fans”, states Harry pitched 80% and 82% game vs George Moore.

Sept. 22nd- Kentucky State Championship, finished 2nd, going 8-1, again losing to Elmer McCoy. Held in Louisville’s Central Park.

Sept. 29th – Harry won the Greater Cincinnati Class A Club tournament going 8-2 for 62.8%.

Oct. 13th- Harry finished 2nd in the Greater Cincinnati Championship with 6 wins and 2 losses. He defeated Bill Steinke in a pitch-off for 2nd. Horseshoe World notes Harry as “the Northern Kentucky Champion and the state’s best pitcher.”

Oct. 28th, Harry’s brother George, 43, and sister-in-law Louise, 54, were killed in an automobile crash. George was a fireman for the railroad.

******One clipped article from the “Kentucky Post” newspaper with an unknown date, Likely from the early 40’s states that Harry had a perfect ringer game in a five game match series vs Charles Eha at the Riverview Courts in Newport. He pitched 39 ringers out of 40 shoe for the third and fourth games and average 85% overall for the match.

1941- In 1941 editions of Horseshoe World, Harry wrote articles planning a large National Pitch-Off tournament to be held in Northern, Ky. at the Riverview courts in Newport.

During the months of June, July & August, Harry competed in the Northern Kentucky Horseshoe Pitching League as a member of the Cold Spring Klunks team. The League was held at the Riverview courts in Newport.

June 23rd – Harry’s brother, Albert Henn, dies on after a brief illness at 51 years of age.

Aug. 3rd- Harry squared off in an exhibition match vs Charley Hill of Middletown, OH. Harry won 4 of 6 games and pitched 196 ringers out of 300 shoes for 65.3%.

Aug 15th- (Reported) Harry & the Northern Kentucky Team lost a head to head match vs the club of Greater Cincinnati. Harry pitched 216 ringers for 350 shoes for an average of 61.7%.

Aug. 21st- Harry pitched for the Northern Ky. Team, winning a third straight State Team Championship. Harry was 5-1 for 66%.

Sept. 4th- Harry’s sister Mary dies after a long illness at age 57.

Sept. 14th- Kentucky State Championship, Louisville Ky., Central Park. . Another hard luck finish, placing 2nd to Elmer McCoy. Harry went 8-1 for 58.7%. Harry lost in a playoff to McCoy: *“The score was 24 to 22 in Henn’s favor, when McCoy threw a double and Henn threw both on but knocked his first one off, giving McCoy the game 25-24. Each player had 54% ringers in the playoff.”*

Oct. 24th- Riverview Horseshoe Club, Newport, Harry pitched a night exhibition match vs Caroline “Kate” Schultz from Chicago IL. She was attempting to throw 100 ringers in 15 minutes. Schultz was the 1933 & 1934 Women’s World Champion.

1942- During the months of May through September, Harry pitched for the Cold Spring Klunks team, in a weekly team league.

Sept. 8th- (Reported)- Harry competed in the Northern Kentucky Championship, finishing 5th, 10-3, 56%. Harry held the early lead in the tournament but faded down the stretch.

Sept. 12th -13th- Harry finished 11th in a 13 man field in the 1942 National AAU Championships held at the Riverview Courts in Newport, Ky. Harry was 3-9 for 53%. Harry also served as chief scorer for the event.

Oct. 14th (Reported)- The Northern Kentucky Newport team successfully defended the State Team Championship over Louisville. 23 Wins for Newport to 13 for Louisville. Harry Henn had 165 ringers in 300 shoes for a 55% average. It was noted that rival Elmer McCoy of the Louisville team was “off form”, losing every game.

1943- Date Unknown- Finished 2nd in the Northern Ky. Championship, losing in a playoff to James Johnson. Harry was 10-1 for 60%.

Sept. 4th -6th – Harry traveled to Chicago, IL. and pitched in the National AAU Championship. Lee Rose mentions losing a game to Harry.

1944- By 1944, Harry’s son Bill had entered the service, stationed in Camp Forest, TN. as a private.

Sept. 16th-17th – Harry traveled to Detroit MI. to compete in the National AAU Championship. Harry came up short, narrowly missing qualification by one spot.

1945- No data for this year. Due to World War 2, no World Tournament was held and horseshoe activity had dropped to a extremely low level. The National AAU event was held in Norwood, OH. and won by one of Harry's fellow Kentucky friends James "Pop" Johnson but there is no record that Harry attended either the singles or the doubles event.

1946- June 30th- July 4th- Mentioned as being a referee at the World Tournament in Des Moines IA.

Sept. 20th – 21st- Harry Henn & Guy Morgan finished 6th in the Doubles Championship of the National AAU tournament held in Norwood, OH.

1947- Aug. 25th- 30th- Mentioned as being a judge in the 1947 World Tournament. "To the referees Harold A. Hanson and the fence jumper Harry Henn who did an excellent job of measuring the close ones."

Aug. 10th - Harry faced Andy Schmerr, from Fairmount, in a head to head ten game 500 shoe match at the Gerden Grill, Cumminsville.

Oct. "HORSESHOE NEWS"- Reported Harry Henn story: **HENN OF COLD SPRING GETS HOT**, Horseshoe pitchers and fans, who were in Des Moines in July 1946 and Murray Utah, August 1947 remember Harry Henn of Cold Springs Kentucky, the running and jumping referee. He admits in a recent letter that something goes wrong with his game when he tries to qualify in a World's Tournament. At any rate he failed to make the grade in the last two but when he returns to his own backyard, it's quite different.

Henn operates in the Cincinnati Ohio and the Covington Kentucky area. The fans in that section rate him tops in the world. They are ready to put \$500.00 on the barrel head that he can trim any horseshoe pitcher bar none. No wonder they are willing to back him. They saw him in action October 26th, in a ten game 500 shoe match with Joe Clore. In the 4th game, he put on 42 ringers in the 50 shoes, in the 7th, 45 for a 90 percenter. He won nine games, 1253 pts., 385 ringers, 157 double ringers, 500 shoes for 77%. Clore 1087 pts., 312 ringers, 102 double ringers, 500 shoes for 62.4%. Immediately after this, Jim Johnson of Ludlow, Ky., former AAU champ, challenged Henn to a game. Harry won, 139 points to Johnson's 125. Henn's 45 ringers gave him another 90 percent game. The following Sunday, Johnson and Henn met for a ten game match but could only finish five. Harry won four. Henn had 76% to Johnson's 70%.



Handwritten year of 1948 on photo. This appears to be taken on the Norwood Horseshoe Club courts in Ohio.

1948- Aug16th - 21st- Harry attempts to qualify for the World Horseshoe Championship but fails, placing 44th out of 91 entrants. The top 32 made the field.

Sept 18th & 19th- Finished 2nd in the Northern Ky. Open, 13-2, 66.9%. Held at Shady Shores, Covington. Referred to in "The Horseshoe Pitcher" as a "straight-edge specialist".

October 4th- Mother, Katherine Henn dies at 88.

1949- Active as a member of the Shady Shores/Northern Ky. Horseshoe Team.

May 22nd- Competed with the Shady Shores team in a match vs Selway Cleaners of Canton, OH.

May 29th- Competed with the Shady Shores Ky. team in a match vs the Team Champions from Indianapolis, IN.

July 1st (Reported)- A match was booked between a team from Canton OH. To face off against the Northern Ky. Team. It was noted that James Johnson & Harry Henn would supply the "offensive threat" against the Canton team.

Aug. 7th - Finished 3rd in the Kentucky State Championship, 3-2, for 68.8% at the Shady Shores courts in Covington.

Aug- 15th-20th - Competed in the 1949 Men's World Horseshoe Championship Class and finished 32nd, with 7 wins, 28 losses and a ringer average of 55.5%. Held in Murray, UT.

1950- Mentioned as a member of the Northern Ky. Horseshoe club.

July 2nd- Mentioned as being a club member for the match vs a Wilmington, OH. Team.

Aug. 7-12- Attempted to qualify for the World Championships in Murray, UT. but failed. Harry was 60th in qualification. The top 36 made the field.

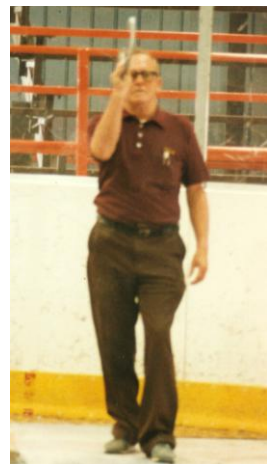
August 22-23- Finished 5th in the 1950 Northern Kentucky Open, 9-6, 66.9%.

Sept. 1- Likely but not certain, Harry would have competed in the 1950 State Championship held at Shady Shores in Covington. There was a field of six and only the winner, Pop Johnson is known.

1951- March 23rd-Harry Henn dies at Veteran’s hospital in Dayton, OH. at 55 years of age due to stomach trouble and pneumonia.

The death of Harry Henn seemed to leave a big hole in the Northern Kentucky Horseshoe Club in the following seasons. Organized pitching tied to the NHPA seemed to fade away in the Northern Kentucky scene. James Johnson and Harold McPhearson would carry on through the 1950’s pitching in various out of state events as the last men standing. Other prominent Club members of Harry’s era, Charles Eha and George Moore seemed to fade out of the horseshoe scene. Paul Rackers, NOKY Secretary in 1950 would evolve into the O’Fallon Avenue Horseshoe Club. There were no more State Championships in the Covington area after Harry’s death.

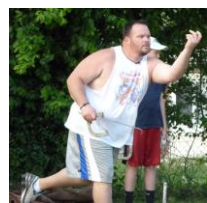
The Henn Horseshoe Legacy- From 1970-1978 a Harry Henn Memorial tournament was held at the Day-Bell Indoor courts in Dayton, Ky. After this facility closed, the tournament would continue on through the 1980’s and early 90’s at the O.K. Horseshoe Club in Cincinnati, OH. All three of Harry’s sons, Bill, Chick and Cliff would carry on in the family tradition throughout most of their life. Bill Henn would achieve the highest level of success, winning 7 State Championships:1969, 1971-1975 & 1984. Bill also won two Class titles:1983 Class B & 1994 Class D. Bill and brother Chick were Ky. State Doubles Champions in 1970. Bill, like his father, would also achieve a World Championship Class appearance in 1973, finishing 15th in the World. Bill had two World Class C titles in 1972 & 1976. Chick Henn was a regular competitor in the Kentucky State for several seasons, winning three class titles: 1970 Class B, 1974 Class B , & 1983 Class E. Chick also attended several World Tourneys throughout the 70’s and 80’s. Clifford Henn pitched for several Kentucky seasons, winning two State Class titles: 1983 Class C & 1999 Class D. Cliff also competed in many World



Wilford "Chick" Henn



Clifford "Tip" Henn

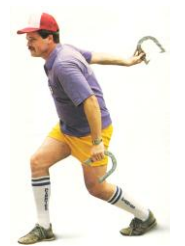


Kevin Henn

Donnie pitched as Junior during the 1975-79 seasons and pitched as an adult in the 1980 State. Chick Henn’s son Jeff was a third generation star, finishing as high as 2nd in the Ky. State Championship in 1986 with a 67.4% but hung up his shoes at the height of his success. Jeff’s sons, Kevin & Scott both pitched as Juniors in Kentucky and Kevin carried on intermittently through 2012, representing the fourth generation of Henn family pitchers.



William "Bill" Henn



Jeff Henn