

From the KHPA History Files: Detailed History of Horseshoes in Millville & Frankfort, Ky.

History Of The Millville Horseshoe Club

This article tells the history of the Millville Horseshoe Club as told by its historian and long time court and club caretaker, William Jake Shirley Jacobs, in his own words.

1961- The 1st Tourney was located in Ezra Sanders backyard with 12 pitchers on one sand court.

1962 thru 1968- (*Jake & the Club pitched*) across from the Baptist Church where the parking lot is now situated. There was an old one room schoolhouse located there. We had four sets of sand courts with wood frames.

1967- The Juniper Hills courts were built. (*Juniper Hills Park was dedicated in 1956 and still exists today as of 2015 and has 3 horseshoe courts left.*) Chester Black, a carpenter, was responsible for getting this site and oversaw the building of the courts with Ezra Sanders, Jake Jacobs and others helping with the construction. There were eight courts in a beautiful location. The Millville/Frankfort league pitched there four years, from 1967-1970. The Kentucky State Championship was held there in 1968.



Chester Black in 1973.

Although the league was on these courts, other than the State (*Tournament*), no other tournaments were held on these courts. The (*Club*) tournaments were still double elimination and held at Millville. When the club built six courts

at the Millville (*Community*) Park, the Juniper Hills site was abandoned and a pavilion was built in the middle of the courts. they left courts 1 & 2 and 7 & 8 which were filled with sand.

1969- The Millville tourney (double elimination) was held in the school yard softball field next to the school. The courts had wood frames and sand. There were 89 pitchers and probably six courts.

1970- Courts were built in the Millville Community Park. There were six courts with sand and there were 118 pitchers in the double elimination singles, doubles and Maggie & Jiggs. The last double elimination tourneys were in 1971.

There was an A, B & C class with 20 men in each. Two more courts were added in 1971 with blue clay and lights for the first time. The State Tournament was held in Millville in 1971 with 105 pitchers in sixteen classes. The State was held here again in 1974 with only 48 pitchers. The State was here again in 1977 with 62 pitchers. The State would not be held here again at Millville until 1999 with 80



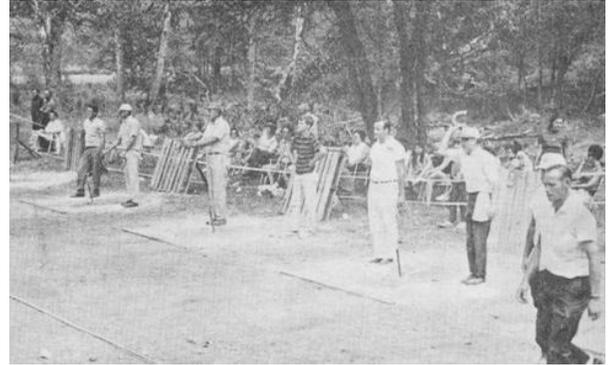
Ezra Sanders



What is left of the Juniper Hills Courts as of 2007. You can see the remaining concrete platforms between the court with the stake and the other two active courts where people are pitching. (Below)- Close-up of a remaining pit.



pitching. In 2006 the State had 90 pitchers at Millville. The Bluegrass State Games were held here for several years. Four more courts were added when the women started their own league. These were 30ft. with rock dust in the pitching area and rock dust packed down hard where the ladies stood. When the need arose for the club to have 12 courts to hold the state (*tournament*), these courts were moved back to the forty foot distance and built to regulation with concrete and clay. Another court was built beside the first eight in case of a broken peg or playoff games. This court would be called the “X Court”. There are now 13 courts. 10-foot walkways were added a short time later to all the courts.



The Millville Courts in the early 1970's.



William "Jake" Jacobs

The Millville courts are located in the Community Park which is owned by a horse farm on top of the hill. The horse farm has been sold several times since Bob Perry first leased the grounds for \$100 a year. The Sportsman's Club holds its breath each time it's sold, thinking the new owners will take back the land. Since 1970, we've been very fortunate we've got to keep the park. Another worry we have is the Glen Creek which floods the courts fairly often. In Sept. 2006, the worst flood in memory covered the courts and swept away all of the tables and everything in the path. The picnic tables were stopped by trees and could be retrieved. The water reached the top of the fence on the creek side and was almost to the Community Center!



The Millville Courts in 1983. Notice that the walkway extensions had not been added by this time

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Jake Jacobs

The court site is located on McCracken Pike in Frankfort Ky. across from the old Millville school house which has now been converted into a community center. The Millville site has been a fixture on the KHPA Schedule ever since the courts were built. During the mid-1990's the Millville Horseshoe was one of the



The Millville Courts in 2005.

largest in the State and produced the Women's World Champion, Becky Kemper, in 1998. Lou Colpitts has overseen the Millville league and caretaking of the courts the last several years.



Action taking place in 2006 on one of the four courts that are located to the side of the main layout. These courts are two side by side and back to back.