

Winter 2000
\$4.50 U.S. \$5.95 Canada

INSTINCTIVE ARCHER[®] M A G A Z I N E

The Lore of the Bow—The Flight of the Arrow...

**Getting Close
To The Quarry**

**Selfbow
Challenges**

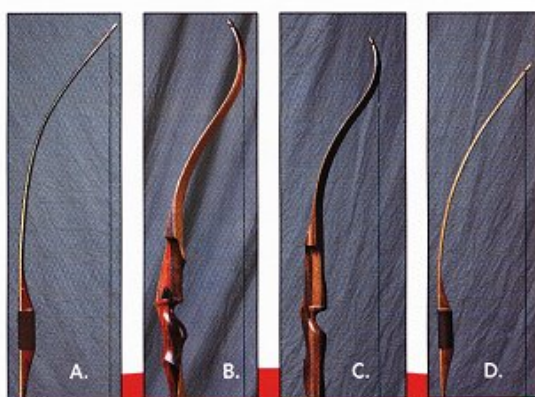
**England's
Hunting Heritage**





3 Rivers Archery

WORLD'S LARGEST TRADITIONAL-PRIMITIVE ARCHERY SUPPLIER



- A. THE ML-10 LONGBOW** #2341X Left Hand, #2342X Right HandREG. \$249.95 **SALE \$199.95**
B. SUPER DIABLO RECURVE 60" #2331X Left Hand, #2332X Right HandREG. \$349.95 **SALE \$299.95**
C. MARTIN SABER RECURVE 62" #2303X Left Hand, #2304X Right HandREG. \$339.95 **SALE \$289.95**
D. THE "TWIG" YOUTH LONGBOW #2313X Left Hand, #2314X Right HandREG. \$149.95 **SALE \$ 99.95**



BEAR ARCHERY VIDEO COLLECTION

Eight volume set #7521
 REG. \$116.00 **SALE \$89.95**



TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

By Sam Fadala #7011
 REG. \$17.95 **SALE \$12.95**

Limited Supply!

**TRUE FLIGHT
 NATURAL BARRED
 FEATHERS**
 Available in
 right wing and
 left wing,
 full length only.

\$10.00/Dz \$75.00/100

Sale ends 12-31-00. Items limited to stock on hand. Quantities limited.

3Rivers Archery • 219.587.9501 • www.3riversarchery.com

Quality Products • Fast Service • Reasonable Prices • 2800 Items in Stock • P.O. Box 517, Ashley, IN 46705

HAVE YOU BEEN....

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

NUVOTEC PRODUCTS

Time Pieces
Executive Desk Sets
Glassware
Candle Holders
Wine Cozies
Scooters
and More Unique Gift Ideas
Just in Time for Christmas!

NUVOTEC
The Art of Industrial Design

Customize Your Shafts With *Pulse Coat*
www.nuvotec-usa.com

1.800.727.LYNN

INSTINCTIVE ARCHER®

Winter 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Page 7



Page 53



Page 27

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 7 | Skeet Moore | By Wally Renner |
| 12 | The Day I Had to Work | By Nikki Wetzel |
| 14 | Selfbow Challenges | By David Netherland |
| 17 | Fit to be Bowhunting | By Joe Blake |
| 21 | A True Buck Story | By George W. Henrich |
| 22 | Archery Golf | By Bob Krout |
| 25 | Ol'e One Shoe | By Mark C. Lafita |
| 27 | England's Hunting Heritage | By Hugh D. Soar |
| 32 | The Ladder | By Terry Jamieson |
| 33 | Book Review:
<i>Chinese Archery</i> , by Stephen Selby | By Hugh D. Soar |
| 34 | Howard Hill Archery | By Scott Toll |
| 46 | Bow Tuning? | By Jim Ploen |
| 53 | You've Got Your Quarry Down,
Now What? | By Dan Simmons |
| 56 | Exotic Opportunities | By Ricardo Longoria |
| 62 | Cats and Dogs | By Tom Vanasche |

REGULAR FEATURES

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 5 | From the British Editor | |
| 6 | Letters to The Editor | |
| 51 | The Competitive Edge | Gary Sentman |
| 60 | Arrows from the Sherwood Glen | By Bob Wesley |
| 65 | Classified Ads | |
| 66 | Side Trails with Bob Martin | |



Page 51

INSTINCTIVE ARCHER® MAGAZINE

www.instinctivearcher.com

Editor
Rik Hinton

Assistant Editor/Chief Illustrator
Robert V. Martin

British Editor
Hugh D. Soar

Regular Contributors
Bob Wesley
Ricardo Longoria
Scott Toll
Gary Sentman

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTIONS:

P.O. Box 400,
Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629-0400
(208) 793-3408

U.S. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One Year: \$15.00
Two Year: \$28.00

CANADA AND MEXICO SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One year: \$22.00 U.S.

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One year: \$30.00 U.S.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

WE WELCOME YOUR MANUSCRIPTS, POETRY, ARTWORK, PHOTOS, AND SUGGESTIONS, however, you must send them with a stamped, self-addressed envelope (we assume no responsibility for unsolicited material). Send your contributions to *Instinctive Archer® Magazine* Editorial Office, P.O. Box 400, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629-0400.

Instinctive Archer® Magazine is published quarterly and provides a forum for many different views and opinions from around the globe, however, the information, articles, opinions, and advertising on these pages do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Instinctive Archer® Magazine*. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Instinctive Archer® Magazine*, P.O. Box 400, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629-0400. Copyright 2000 by *Instinctive Archer® Magazine*. All rights reserved.

Instinctive Archer® is a registered trademark.

Printed in the U.S.A.

From the British Editor



Hugh D.H. Soar, British Editor.
Drawing a 56-pound self-yew
English Longbow.

As I sit writing this editorial, the Sydney Olympic Games loom high on the horizon; when you read it they will have long passed. The dust will have settled, national prides will have been sustained or dented, and the athletes and their trinkets will have left for other shores.

Medals, whether in gold or baser metal, are fine, but their winning is a personal thing. Could it be that lucrative media sponsorship is the real prize? Put another way, whilst outdoing a fellow athlete arguably fits one to coach, is it a proper opener for hosting chat shows, debating national matters or advertising junk-food? Seemingly it is. Cynical comment? Perhaps, but watch the box.

Monetary interest in any sport is a two-edged weapon. I wonder whether the commercially fuelled, media-dominated circus which the modern Olympic movement is becoming, would be recognized by those 19th Century idealists: Dr. William Penny Brookes and Baron Pierre de Coubertin whose concept it was? It's not taking part that matters now, it's winning!

We who are traditionalists have left this scene and, I guess are happier by reason of it. Our humble world is barely touched by commercialism. We will not be asked to give an opinion on state affairs or be sought to promote a breakfast cereal. We are left alone, to enjoy nature in the raw!

"Hugh," said Rik the Editor, when inviting me to write my annual Editorial, "Tell 'em about the things you've enjoyed during the season and... try to keep off the heavy stuff." Happy thought! Although there's some pretty toothy matters on the horizon, it isn't difficult to resist controversy whilst tramping through wet grass looking for a missing arrow.

No more and no less than any other activity or sport, archery and the weather are intertwined. Faced this summer with hailstones six inches deep, and small tornadoes carrying with them substantial tracts of the Atlantic, the average Briton might justifiably cry "enough is enough" and retire to somewhere pleasant with a comforting can of Fosters.

But, British toxophilites are not your average archers. They don't consider a meeting complete without 4mm of rain and a Force-5 wind to liven the day. They are of stern stuff—the fools!

Looking over the year, I've met many friends and enjoyed their company. I've been roving in the Deer Park at Badminton, under the watchful eyes of Park Rangers, concerned that the local venison remained upright and on the hoof. I've enjoyed the nine score clout at Bournemouth and again at Meriden, when with seventy other longbow archers, I watched the concluding shoot-off clinched by a perfect shot in the clout.

I've looked on with awe and admiration at heavy war-bows lofting bodkin-pointed battleshafts over 12 score yards; and flight shots, too, when from a hand-held longbow one target arrow exceeded 330 yards, and another made 440 yards from a shooting machine.

At target tournaments, I've watched great scoring, but broken and mourned a fine yew bow; whilst at field shooting a dodgy ankle decreed that I be helped around the course by a flaxen-headed beauty half my years! I've taken part in speed events—managing to spray the target with twelve aimed shafts at 50 yards. At a fun meeting I've aimed flu flu's at the horizontal popinjay and "dinged down" a duck or three.

I've helped host a get-together of field archers and muzzle loaders, and handled and shot a smooth bore "black powder" gun, being told when the smoke cleared and the echoes died away that I'd hit the clay! I've had the pleasure of meeting fellow antiquarians a couple of times at the Royal Toxophilite Society ground, and learned with sadness of the theft of an irreplaceable silver collar from an ancient bow held in the museum there.

I have listened fascinated to technical chat between bowmakers and arrowmen at the Guildmote of Traditional Bowyers and Fletchers; and on another occasion, replete with scrumpy and venison, debated hempen strings and the laid-in Flemish loop around a wood fire in cedar-scented twilight.

In short, a halcyon year amongst friends. A compendium of all that makes British traditional archery the cosmopolitan activity that it is. But, I end with warning. There are clouds on the horizon.

To those who shoot in the simple bow, British archery seems in danger of becoming a soulless institution, governed by an elitist autocracy concerned only with international competition. An institution with which grass roots traditionalists increasingly do not identify.

I have a message for our National Masters, and it is a simple one. Do not marginalize or patronize us. We are your roots; succour us before it is too late. For when the roots wither, the tree dies!



COVER ART: "The Hunter" by B.D. Stewart / IMAGER,
Firestyx Bow "Jumpy" by Dean Torges, owned by Steve Cushing.

IMAGER: 221 Knox Cres., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 0K6 (613) 733-9226



Letters to The Editor:

Dear Rik,

Rik, I have learned a great deal about shooting from your articles by Jim Ploen. Please continue to encourage his contributions to your magazine.

—John Bull

Dear Mr. Martin,

This is just a short note to let you know how impressed I was with your Side Trails column in the Fall 2000 issue. As I read through it, I could not believe how well you addressed the multitude of points that make up the big picture of what is going on in this country. I sit here in increasing frustration as I watch these events unfolding. It is becoming clearer and clearer that all these strategies that are chipping away at our freedoms are part of a much larger picture that very few people recognize. Obviously, you can see what is happening and very eloquently have pointed it all out in your column.

As I try to speak to people about this happening, I get the deaf ear, the incredulous stare, the looks of disbelief and the smug dismissals from those who feel "that could never happen." I have often thought of trying to sit down and outline the whole scenario in order to give people something to read and mull over. I think you have accomplished just that with your column. Sincerely,

—Bernie Parson

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you to let you know how much I enjoy the articles written by Gary Sentman. I am about the same age as Gary and started bowhunting in the early 60s. Referring to his article "Learning the hard way," that was the case of many at that period in time, myself included. Gary Sentman articles are tried and true. As the old saying goes "Gary has been there and done that." Sincerely,

—Tom Ewing

Dear Sirs,

I read your Fall 2000 "Side Trails" with great interest. The statement that the United Nations (which has already been deeded America's National Parks) was, at the very least, Stunning! Where did this bone-chilling bit of information originate? Sincerely,

—Clyde F. Krouse

Dear Clyde,

The following is a quote from the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Resources, **American Land Sovereignty Protection Act:**

"Over the last 25 years, an increasing expanse of our Nation's lands have been included in various international land reserves, most notably Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites.

Over 68 percent of our National Parks, Preserves and Monuments have been designated as United Nations World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves or both. Biosphere Reserves alone cover an area about the size of Colorado, our eighth largest State. There are now 47 Biosphere Reserves and 20 World Heritage Sites in the United States. These international land designations have been created with virtually no congressional oversight, no hearings, and in the case of biosphere reserves no legislative authority.

The United States Congress--and therefore the people of the United States--have been left out of the domestic process to designate Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites."

For more information on the U.N.'s usurping of American treasures such as Yellowstone National Park, go the the following U.S. Government web site:

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/106cong/fullcomm/sovereignty.htm>

Dear Robert,

I just wanted to drop a note to tell you how much I enjoy and appreciate the fine art work which you do that graces the pages of the magazine each issue. It is a very refreshing change from the customary photos commonly used in other magazines. I think it gives the magazine a kind of historic look that harkens back to earlier times. The pieces you write are always interesting to read. The magazine has carved out a unique niche and you, Rik, and Tracy are to be commended on a fine job. Please keep the great illustrations coming. I take every issue and just browse through your work. Sincerely,

—David Mitchell

Rik,

I enjoy your magazine with all the interesting articles and Bob Martin's Art work. Thanks for you efforts. Best Regards

—John Mills

Dear Mr. Hinton

I was hoping it wouldn't happen. I was hoping your magazine wouldn't degrade into a political forum for biased rhetoric. Unfortunately in the Fall 2000 issue it did just that.

I am speaking of Bob Martin's Side Trails column in this past issue. Two pages of your usually stellar magazine were wasted on Mr. Martin's political philosophy.

I read your magazine for the archery history and shooting techniques described so well by your contributors. "The lore of the bow—The flight of the arrow." That's what I paid money for.

Please Rik, don't run articles telling me how to vote or how to think about social issues. Stick to the good stuff. Thank you

—Zeb Lamp

Dear Zeb,

We are sorry to hear that you didn't like our last Side Trails, but the truth is, we have never been very good at, or even interested in riding the fence or tucking our tails between our legs. We've also never been accused of being politically correct. Most U.S. publications print strong editorial opinions during presidential elections, and so do we. The concepts in the Side Trails article are of such far-ranging importance and the stakes are so high to the future of our country's freedom that we would be remiss if—having an opportunity and platform to defend the cause of liberty—we shrank from our duty as Americans to do so. We proudly stand with the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and pledge our honor and fortunes to the cause of freedom.

—Rik and Robert

Dear Editor,

Great article by Red Chavez "Draw, Anchor, Pause, and Relax. Also, "Panic - The Step-by-Step Cure" by Jim Ploen. Keep up the how-to articles. Thank you

—Richard Marsh

Mr. Hinton and Mr. Martin,

I was happy to see the strong stance you fellows took with the articles "Archery Control?" by Jamieson, and "Side Trails" by Mr. Martin. To use an obvious pun—You're right on target!

—Sincerely Steve Dye

Rik,

I just thought I'd drop you a line from Australia. Quite sometime ago I picked up a copy of this magazine (Fall 1998 to be exact), and would like to comment on what an information-packed magazine it is. There are no complicated hi-tech subjects or equipment and the projects are easy to understand. I really love the glorious black and white photography which has more character than colour. I'm making American Indian Bows without much success. It's easy to make works of art and easy to break them. Keep up the good work.

—Colin Potter

Dear Mr. Hinton,

I have been trying to research the composite bow, sans much success. I don't think that surprises you. Pope's description lacks. Robert Hardy only mentions them, Jay Massy's guide in his book The Bowyer's Craft, don't go far nuf. Yet it seems to be the best thing I've found so far. There's a drawing in Warfare in the Classical World by John Warry that's not too bad.

So this is a plea, indeed a beseechment, for information if you've published in your magazine any article, know any book, any person who can help me turn a hunk of hickory and two cow horns into a composite bow. I would be grateful. Thank you

—Paul Neimoyer

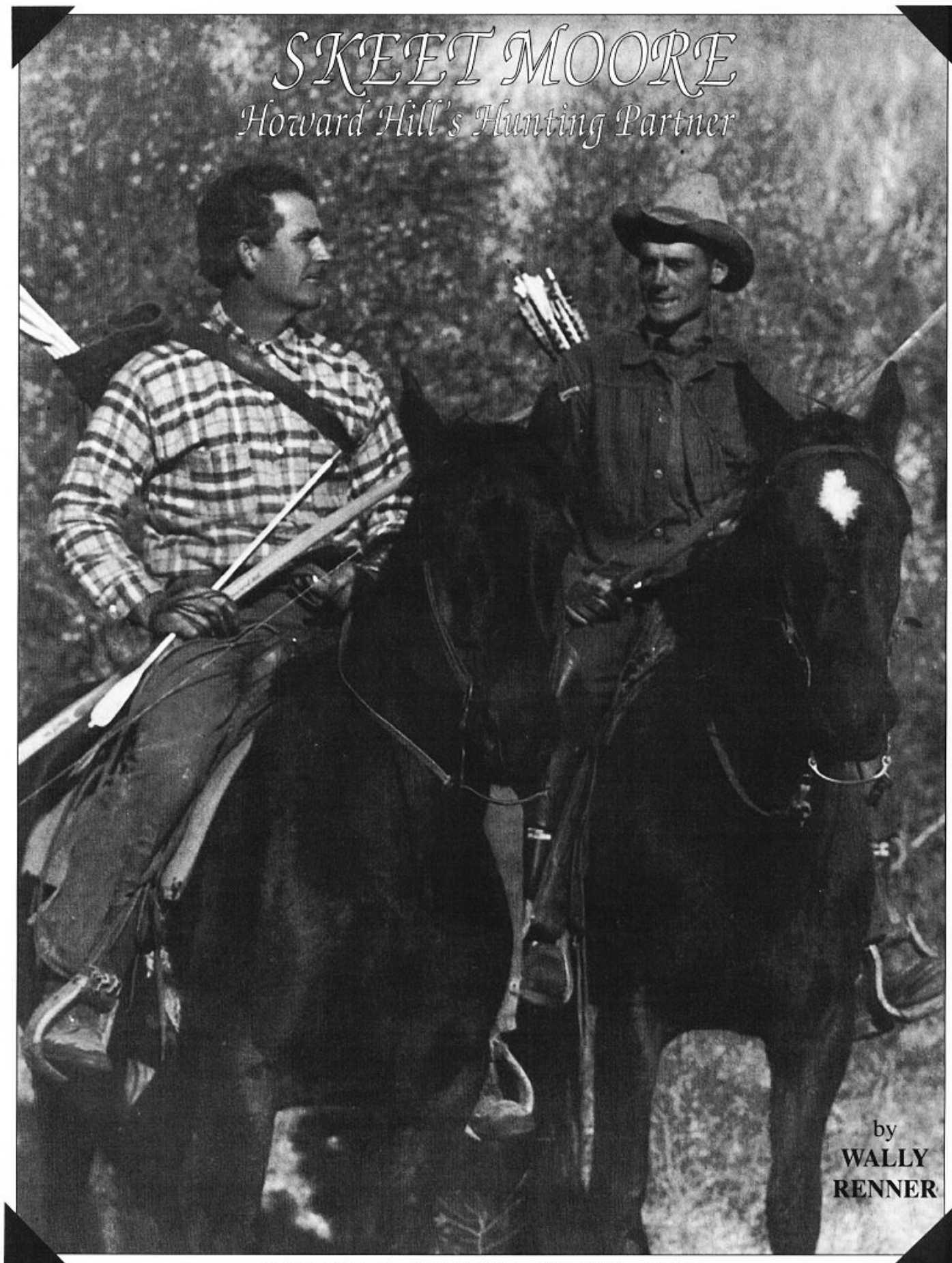
Dear Instinctive Archer Editor & Staff,

I have been a novice of traditional & primitive archery. I came across one of your magazines at Barnes & Nobles Bookstore and have really enjoyed the expressed love of the outdoors, the US Constitution, and archery. I have been sharing the magazine with my bowhunting, stump shootin friends.

Recently, we took a 2-week elk hunting escapade to Mt. Adams, Washington. I took the summer issue for elk camp and we all read the article written by Ted Fry. It was so refreshing and his gift of capturing the joy of being with the family and exposing his boys to the great outdoors was very well written. Between the fun and play of Elk Camp and laughter we felt like Ted Fry, his boys and the goats were right there with us.

Because of such articles, IA's love for the US Constitution, and a great appreciation of God's wonderful creation of the wilderness, I have decided to no longer purchase the Instinctive Archer at the book store but subscribe to it in support. Our hats off to you and Ted Fry. Keep up the excellent work. It's a true Art form. Happy Shootin'.

—Skip Miller



SKET MOORE

Howard Hill's Hunting Partner

by
**WALLY
RENNER**

"Nice to meet you Ma'am," he said turning to my wife. He tipped his hat and nodded his head in the way of the Old West as he left our motel room in dusty Wells, Nevada. "There goes a true gentleman!" remarked my wife, Pat. Skeet Moore is not only a true gentleman, an authentic man's man, and the embodiment of the romance of the Old West, he is one of the hunting companions of Howard Hill and as such, has become part of the Legend. And at age 86, he still likes to hunt and shoot the bow and arrow.

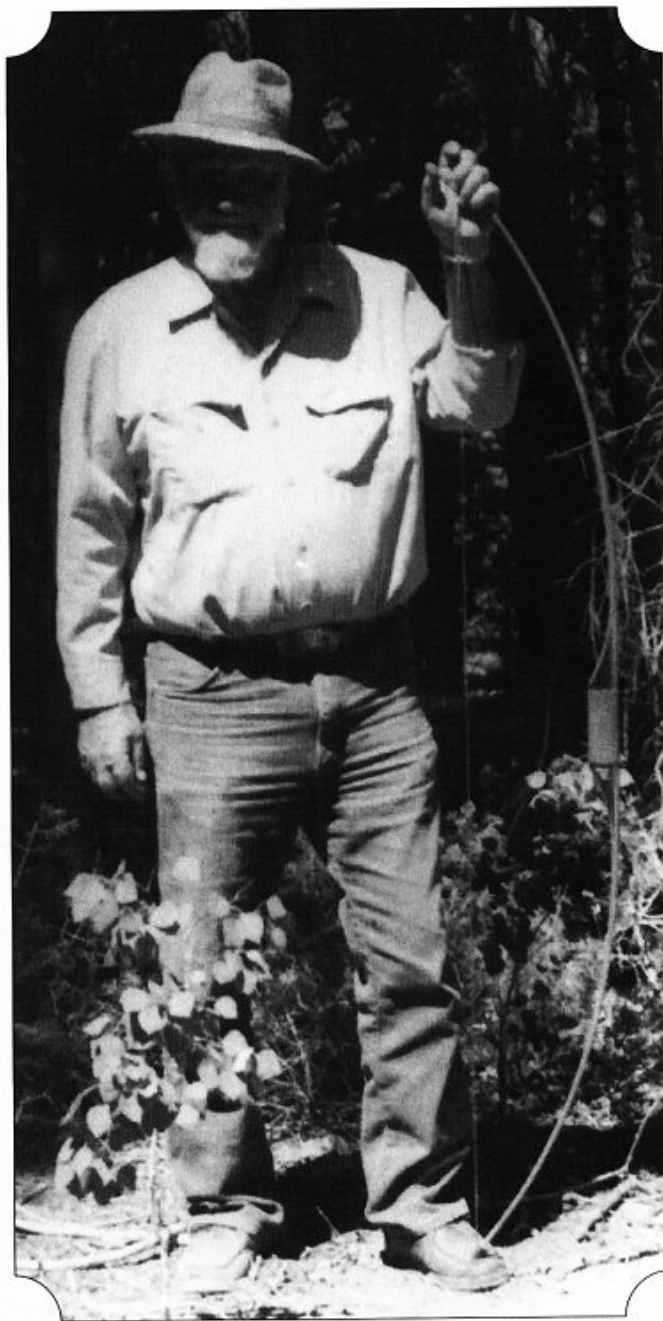
Keith "Skeet" Moore was born on an Iowa farm, February 20, 1915. Like most archery enthusiasts, his fascination with the bow and arrow began early. As a lad of five, Skeet's father made a small hickory bow for him. Later, his father bought a bow made of a steel spring, the arrow shot through a hole in the middle of the handle. Skeet learned to shoot "pinch finger" or "Choctaw style." At twelve, his father found an English longbow, six feet long, made of lemon wood and stacked. Never having seen one before they strung it backwards and shot it that way for two years until they saw a picture of one strung correctly. They strung it correctly, and he continued to shoot it for many years.

Even though there were guns on the farm, he enjoyed shooting the bow and arrow all throughout high school. The English longbow came with a small instructional booklet, teaching the three-fingers-under-the-chin target style. This did not work out well, especially for game shooting Skeet said. Later he took up shooting instinctively, which he still does.

Skeet and his father made their own bows and arrows. The arrows were cut from one-half inch pine squares and required hand-planing to round them to shooting size. Their broadhead ferrules were made from copper tubing, flattening out the part that would fit over the blade and drilling a hole in it. The blades were mostly barbed, since there were no game laws about kinds of archery equipment at the time.

In 1936, Skeet went out west and "cowboyed" for a few years. Back in Iowa, there were only badger and ground-hogs but in Nevada there were a "few deer" in Skeet's words. Of course, he brought his bow and arrow with him. Skeet served in the Navy in World War II and later became a game warden for the Nevada Fish and Game Service in the Wells, Nevada area where he still lives. In the early 1940s, Nevada experienced an explosion in the deer population, and it was through Skeet's efforts that the state established its first deer season. Five deer tags were sold that first year, and Skeet says he bought four of them.

In the late 1930s, he subscribed to "Ye Sylvan Archers," and it was from this early archery publication that he read about a hot-shot archer living in California named Howard Hill. Skeet wrote to Howard inviting him on a Nevada deer hunt. Howard jumped at the chance to hunt in Nevada and replied by return mail. The season in 1942 was a month long and Howard arrived the day before the season opened and stayed the whole month, buying his first Nevada deer license from Skeet.



Skeet Moore, 85 years young and still hunting with the longbow.

They became close friends and Howard, "Pappy" as Skeet calls him, came each season for several years to deer hunt. Skeet's friend had a cabin in Ruby Valley by the lake and Howard stayed there. It wasn't long before some of Howard's other friends joined these hunting trips. They fished, hunted duck with shotgun, and hunted deer with bow and arrow. It was fun being together, sharing friendships. They hunted without thought of trophies. During his early years of bow hunting Skeet had shot several mountain lions but only kept one skin. Keeping trophies didn't seem important to the Howard Hill hunting companions.



Skeet and Howard enjoying good times and great country during a mule deer hunt in Nevada.

During Howard's first trip to Wells, he made a self bow in just one evening out of a seasoned yew stave that Skeet had in his basement. Later on, he made three bamboo bows for Skeet. Howard would clamp and glue them up, tiller and heat-treat them by putting the bow in a stove pipe which was open at both ends. Then he would use a blow torch to achieve the proper temperature.

The first two of these bows broke, however Skeet's son, Jim, still has the third one. Some time later, the handle block came loose and it was sent to Howard Hill Archery Company where the handle was replaced. Jim still hunts with this bow. It pulls 80 pounds. It has what appears to be black fabric on the back and is made with five or six full length laminations. It measures six feet long and

has Howard Hill craftsmanship written all over it. Howard named the bow "Old Tough Dog." (See pictures). Skeet said the best shot he ever made was on a duck in flight. "I was shooting 'Tough Dog.' I came on target and the duck came down. The duck was out of shotgun range. Don Griffith, another member of the hunting companions mentioned in chapter 16 of 'Hunting the



WORLD'S FOREMOST ARCHER—Howard Hill of Los Angeles (center), who is recognized as the world's foremost desciple of the sport of archery shown as he was giving an exhibition of his prowess on the high school field in Wells last Saturday afternoon. Mr. Hill is acclaimed as having in true life accomplished everything with a bow and arrow that Robin Hood was supposed to have done. Accompanying Mr. Hill to Wells was Guy Madison (left), famous movie star. Shown at the right is Paul K. "Skeet" Moore of Wells, personal friend of Mr. Hill and also a devotee of archery. (Staff engraving)

Hard Way,' said if I made the shot he would eat that duck feathers and all. So I took it and gave it to him and said, 'Start eating.' It was just luck."

Because the deer were so plentiful in the Ruby Valley area, Skeet and Howard would catch fish and hunt ducks until the last three days of the season, then they would hunt deer. On one particular hunt, Skeet placed Howard on a pass on Pearl Peak where he knew deer were traveling. Skeet went around to push the deer up through the pass. When he reached Howard's position he asked, "Did you get one?" Howard replied "Yes, over here." Skeet got busy and field-dressed the deer. When he finished, Howard said, "there's another one over there." Skeet field-dressed the second deer. "There's another one over there," said Howard. He had taken all three deer

as they came up the pass and enjoyed playing a joke on Skeet.

On another hunting trip, a snow storm came up and turned into a "white out." They were heading for camp with Skeet following closely behind Howard. Howard stopped suddenly and took a step backwards, drew his bow and shot a deer that was coming in the opposite direction. They were so close that Howard had to step back to shoot, nearly knocking Skeet backwards.

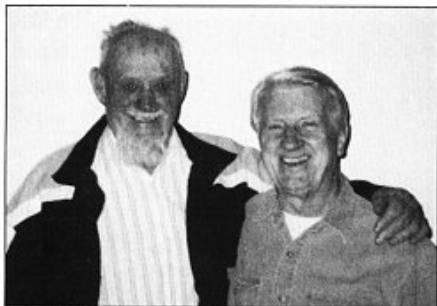
"White Eagle," was Howard's trick shooting bow and it pulled 75 pounds plus according to Skeet. Jerry Hill now has "White Eagle" as part of the collection of memorabilia in the Howard Hill Museum in Wilsonville, Alabama. "Grandpa," another Hill bow, pulled 90 pounds and Skeet says that Howard could pull even heavier bows without a strain.

One day, Howard and Skeet were watching another hunter shoot ducks which were being released from a "duck shed." "This fellow shot a whole box of shells and had taken only three ducks. 'I'll shoot that many with my bow if you'll pay for the ducks,' Howard said. The other fellow agreed and Howard took only six arrows and killed three ducks coming fast and straight at him."

We talked at length about Howard's preferences in regard to bowhunting and archery equipment. When it came to arrows, Skeet said Howard used only white shafts and barred turkey feathers. They were not interested in speed, preferred heavy arrows because they would penetrate better, made their own broadheads, and used any kind of wood they could find to make shafts, including birch. They always wore soft hunting clothes reasoning that rough or hard fabric made more noise when walking through brush. They never wore camouflage such as is popular today. "If you're color blind you can see right through camouflage," Skeet said. He had learned that in the Navy. Could it be the same for deer?

He talked about shooting, saying everybody's face is different and that individualizes where a person's anchor point will fall. For instance, Howard had a broad face but he hit the same spot every time. They practiced on moving targets, shooting small foam footballs, "Shoot right at the target and follow through. That will create the lead. The best way to learn this is by using swinging targets. Shoot at the end of the swing but go on through. On vertical shots, shoot at the peak or arch of the target. Howard had a rhythm: count one, draw and hold on two, shoot on three. Later on speed up the process. Howard would take a dozen broadheads and half dozen blunts and shoot small game, rabbits, etc., using this rhythm."

At one time, Skeet owned a Jim Darling recurve. He remembers when Stotler and John Shulz both worked for Howard. He tried some of the first aluminum arrows that came out but found them too heavy. "They would bow, and buck and bend and stay bent."



Skeet Moore and Wally hamming it up for the camera during the author's visit to Nevada.

At a Nubby Pate Desert Tournament many years ago, Skeet won a Bear recurve bow, a ham, some whisky, and wine. Quite a good day's shooting by anybody's standards. He kept the bow but gave the ham and spirits to Ed Hill. He chuckled as he wondered whatever happened to those prizes. The fiberglass, which was a new product at the time, came loose on the bow, so he sent it back to the Bear Company which sent him a new bow.

Eight or ten years ago, Skeet hurt his shoulder and experienced considerable pain which kept him from shooting. Unable to tolerate not being able to shoot his bow, he put a hook in the ceiling and strung a rope over the hook creating a pulley. With this device,

he exercised the injured shoulder pulling his arm to eye level. "It hurt like the dickens but I managed to get back to shooting."

At the time of our conversation, Skeet was shooting a 55-pound Stotler bow, however, he finds it a little heavy for him at his age. He ordered a 45 pound bow from Craig Ekin at Howard Hill Archery and had been using it while turkey hunting during the spring season. "I hit a turkey in the leg and I'm still looking for it," he chuckled. He continues working hard and believes he can work back up to the 55 pounder.

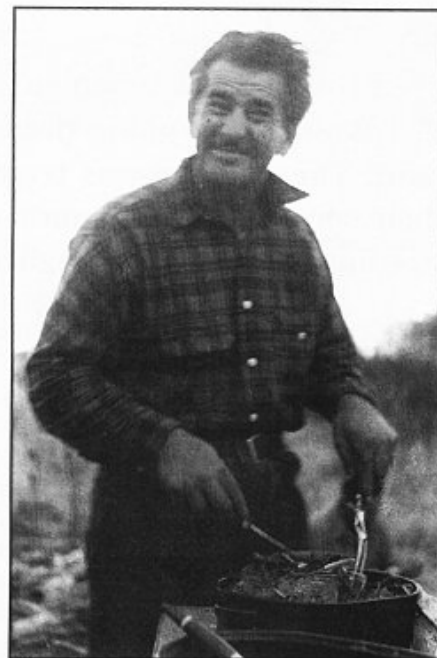
Skeet appears in the video "Hunting and Fishing with the Bow and Arrow" featuring his friend Howard Hill. A picture of Skeet and several of the "hunting companions" appears on page 161 of *Hunting the Hard Way* by Howard Hill. I asked Skeet to autograph my copy. When you're with Skeet Moore, you're in the presence of archery history and in some small way, you share in the legend that surrounds Howard Hill and his hunting companions. As I listened to the reminiscences of this member of that famous group, I felt that I, too, was right there with them and that some how, some way, I became part of the legend, too.



The author shown with one of the bows Howard made for Skeet. Howard personally inscribed the bow's name on the limbs—"Old Tough Dog."



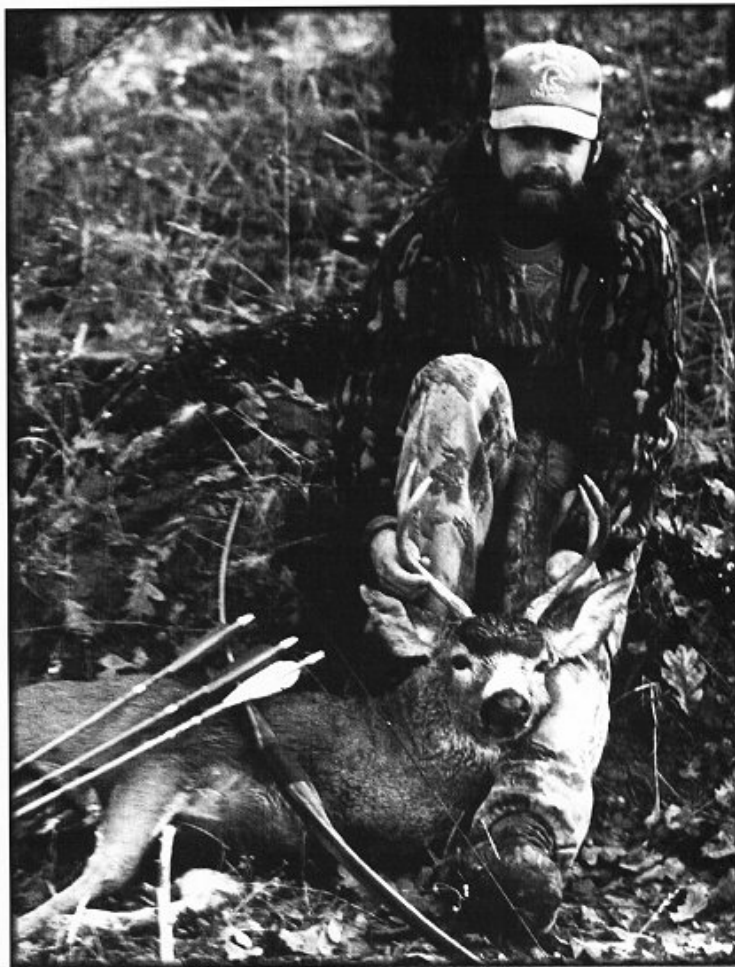
Classic Hill shooting form showing the low front shoulder and bent elbow.



"What's for dinner tonight, Howard?" (This lucky goose had the particular honor of being cooked by none other than the Culinary Master of Camp Cooking Himself—Howard Hill.)

The Day I Had to Work

BY
NIKKI WETZEL



It could only happen on a day that I had to work. My husband, Johnny, and I were planning on going deer hunting on some B.L.M. (Bureau of Land Management) land. The country was tremendous. When you arrive, you see steep hills that make their way into the mountain the way the rivers make their way to the sea—curving and winding, smooth and rough, all the way to the top.

This B.L.M. property was narrow but very long. There was a mixture of tall oak trees, all sizes of pine trees, and laurels spread evenly through the hillside. The dirt road itself followed along the top of the hills on the north side. There were many deer trails and tracks, as well as bear “poo poo.”

The reason Johnny and I were ever interested in this particular piece of land was because about three weeks earlier, we saw a good-sized buck scent-checking a nice-sized doe who was accompanied by a yearling. This happened very early into the rut but it was apparent this buck was ready. It was very dark when we saw this and could only stay a while. That day, we decided to learn more about the land and go scout it. Then we would be ready.

The date was set, bows were ready, the camera was packed, and the phone rang. “Nikki, could you please work for me for four hours?” my mother said. So of course I said “yes.” I took Johnny anyway. I dropped him off with his gear and a cell phone and told him to call if he got anything or if there was an emergency.

About two hours went by at the store and the phone rang. “Hi baby, whatcha doing?” He said mysteriously. “Not much, what are you doing?” He casually replied, “I’m just looking at a broken arrow and a blood trail!” He said more, but I will relay the hunt to you all through Johnny’s eyes.

“When you dropped me off, I began to walk up into the hills. As I was putting on my arm guard and making sure I was ready, the beautiful sound of nearby turkeys was floating through the air. They were cackling and clucking, as well as fighting

and making a ruckus of sounds. I listened for a while and then began to walk. I heard a deer spook, so I sat down and did some rattling. Nothing happened. I waited a bit, got up, and began to move deeper into the mountain. As I made my way around the bush I was sitting by, I saw a buck and a doe. He wasn't interested in anything else but that doe. So, like a reflex, I picked up my longbow and shot. When I picked my spot, my eye wandered, and the arrow nicked his back. He didn't even flinch. The doe spooked and he followed. I sat down right there and said a prayer. I prayed that the buck would be okay. A wounded buck was the last thing I wanted, and if He would, would He give me a sign that the buck was okay?

I got back up and began to walk a little more. Up and down and through the trees I went. I began up the hill toward the dirt road when I heard something. I made some deer grunts and raised my bow. Up the hill a ways, a doe began to walk out in front of me, being followed rear-end to nose by a buck. Every once in a while the buck would make a "woosh" sound almost like a deer would blow when in danger. I felt the usual buck fever and decided to wait a minute to calm down. They stopped up the hill from me and were feeding, so I waited patiently.

My arm was getting a little tired by now from holding my bow up. Just as I tried to lower my arm, the buck looked right at me, but more like, right through me. It was like he saw something but couldn't see anything. I decided that if he went back to feeding I would take the shot. I was ready and comfortable. And he did. He went back to feeding and I picked my spot, right in the crease, and let my arrow fly through the air like it had never flown before. As soon as the broadhead went in one shoulder and made its way through the other shoulder, the buck kicked both legs in towards his stomach. The broadheads and fletchings went straight up in the air.

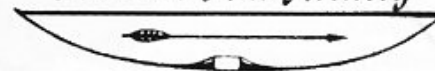
I was in amazement and only noticed the doe run down the hill. So of course, that is where I looked, only the blood trail didn't seem to go that way. I decided to call Nikki and tell her the news. After the call, I took a deep breath and followed the blood trail. To my amazement, the blood trail went up the hill, and there he was, my first buck ever, lying beside the dirt road. I called Nikki again and told her about the first-time luck I had and then began to clean him out. I also noticed a small nick on the top of his back. I really thanked the Lord for that, and called this huge forked horn my miracle buck. I was so happy. It was an awesome shot, he had a nick on his back from my missed shot, and I harvested my first buck with my longbow and wooden arrows."

Johnny's hunt was an experience I wish I could have witnessed. I am so happy for my honey that I couldn't have wished anything more than to share his experience with others. Maybe next time I write, it will be my story, but I would gladly write a million more for Johnny.



THE LEGEND LIVES ON!

Howard Hill Archery



54 North Canyon Drive
Hamilton, Montana 59840

(406) 363-1359

Fax: (406) 375-0228

Request your free brochure today!

Shoot with the
Equipment
designed, used,
and passed on to
you for over 40
years by
"The World's
Greatest Archer"

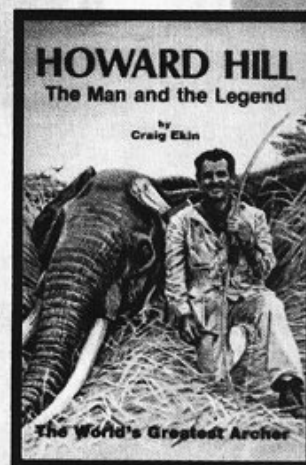
Take a look into the life of the legend :
order your copy of
HOWARD HILL

The Man and the Legend

\$16.00 (+ shipping)

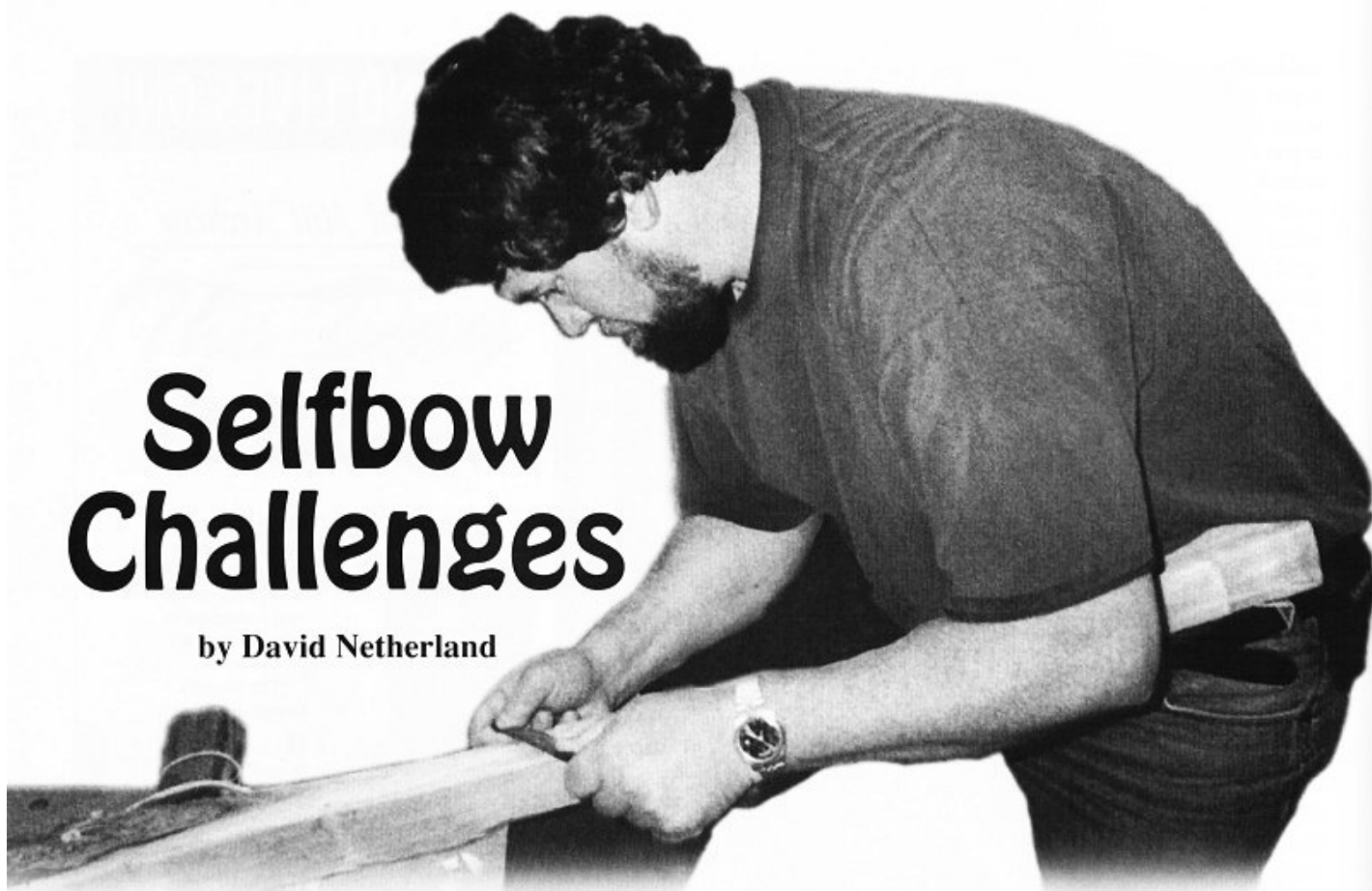
e-mail: hhill@montana.com

web site: www.montanahill.com/hharchery



Selfbow Challenges

by David Netherland



About a decade ago I sought real challenge in my hunting. I've been shooting archery equipment of one sort or another ever since I was seven or eight years old. I hunted Louisiana white tails exclusively with bows since 1980. My job brought me to Washington state in 1990 where I began building and shooting traditional archery equipment.

The wealth of information eagerly provided by local bowyers was enough to keep me cranking out bows and selling them cheap to friends in order to support my archery habit. I called myself "Red Eagle Archery."

Then I meet Ted Fry at a traditional archery 3-D shoot being held at the Columbia Basin Archery Club. Ted is the owner and operator of Raptor Archery, a very well known traditional archery shop located in Hood River, Oregon. Immediately Ted began challenging me to build a selfbow. Ted was very understanding, supportive, and critical of the laminated bows I built. He was also quick to challenge me again and again to use a more creative and challenging material, like a stick. After looking at some of those "sticks" Ted worked into absolute works of art, I just couldn't stand it any more. It was on!

My hunting partner and best friend, Scott Smith, talked and planned on taking a selfbow building class offered by Ted. Then Christmas holidays rolled around

and wouldn't you know it—Santa Claus, AKA, Ted Fry, had been talking to my wife, Sheila, giving her ideas of what was on mine and Scott's wish lists for Christmas. So on Christmas eve there under the tree, actually behind the sofa, were two very clean red elm staves. When Scott and I opened those packages we were stepping into a never ending passion for the traditional, primitive, unique, beauty of selfbows.

We made a vow to take it slow. So by early spring Scott and I had completed our bows and embarked on a short drive to Raptor Archery from our homes in Kennewick, Washington. We were both anxious to show Ted our finished selfbows and get important feed back of our successes and goofs. I'd rather not say which of us goofed. Besides Scott learned as much from that mistake as I did.

Again critical but supportive, Ted just couldn't leave it alone. He just had to push us both into the osage challenge. We looked with amazement at several osage bows Ted had built. It was on!

With suggestions of additional reading, "The Traditional Bowyer's Bible," a few not-so-well-kept trade secrets, and a good luck handshake, Scott and I returned home with three osage staves and visions of the perfect osage bow in our hands at the next 3-D shoot. There we

would present our new bows to Ted for inspection and critique.

My bow finished and shot 64 pounds at 28 inches of draw. A real beauty and a shooter. Scott's bow turned out well too, shooting 57 pounds at 28 inches of draw. Scott and I both felt confident when both bows not only passed the critical eye of Fry, but passed the test of hundreds of arrows prior to the meeting.

The next challenge was obvious. We would harvest a big game animal. With the 1998 Washington hunting season creeping in, all we could do was practice, practice, practice. We were ready.

The hunts were short that year. I did manage to harvest a nice 4x3 white tail. The hunting gods never quite smiled on Scott. However, just getting out there and shooting our bows seemed to be good medicine for both of us. When Ted heard that our freezer was not full he just had to throw out yet another challenge. How about a January pig hunt? It was on!

Ted had it all arranged. Private property, 30,000 acres, lots of pigs, and about 15 traditional archers to share the experience. The caravan of hunters met for breakfast early Friday morning with plans and high expectations for a week-end pig hunt. We were

all driving like stuck pigs just trying to keep up with Ted on some pretty nasty mountain roads.

We arrived at mid-morning but had plenty of time to stash our gear inside an old mobile home that would be ours for the duration of our hunt. With ominous clouds, high wind, and spitting snow, Scott and I couldn't wait to hit the mountains. It seemed that everywhere we went that afternoon was uphill. I think we covered every square mile of the ranch. With so many animals there to choose from, Scott suggested and I agreed that we would wait until the next morning to take our shots at animals. Scott practiced a stalk on one huge



Two challenges—two successes. The author with his first osage bow crafted with his own hands, and his first big-game animal taken with a selfbow.

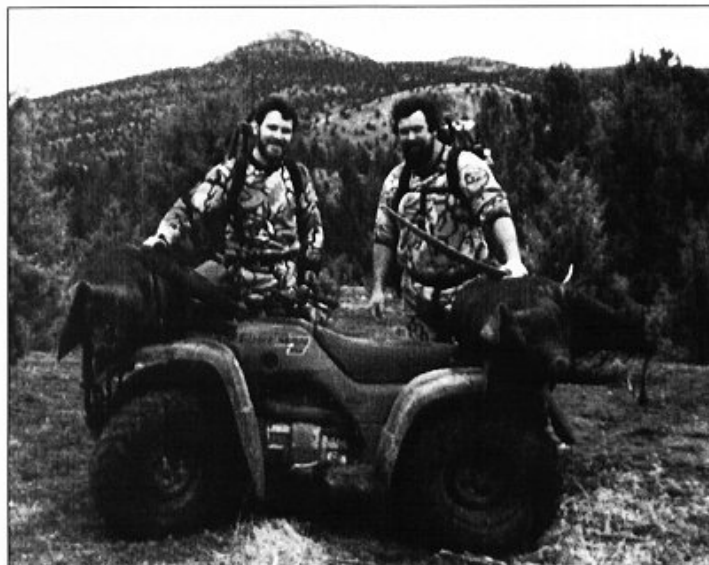
boar late that evening. At about ten yards I about scared the pudding right out of him when I tossed a small stick and hit the sleeping hog in the ear. Needless to say that hog was not in a good mood when he stood up. I can't ever remember Scott moving that fast. "Just good fun," I laughed. Later Scott would return the "adventure" in my direction.

As we trudged up a pig trail making our way back towards camp, I spotted a nicely toothed Russian boar. This guy was walking right towards us. I whispered to Scott, "Get your camera and let's step aside so he can pass by real close." With camera ready and me as a human shield, Scott snapped a shot of the boar at five steps. The flash of the camera set him off like a fire cracker. I wasn't expecting such a violent reaction with the first shot. He really came unwound with the second flash. I think the only reason he didn't charge straight into me was that he was blinded by the flashes. Of course Scott was now satisfied that he had adequately returned my little prank from earlier.

With that adventure done, we continued to a large clear cut that was only about two miles from camp. We sat for a few minutes just to see what might come strolling through. What a view. Two nice fat red feral hogs were rooting around on the opposite hill. We estimated them to be 300 pounds each. They were so fat, I thought they had already been microwaved to the point of plumping. We watched them go into a slash pile and made plans to be there at daylight the next morning.

At six a.m. we were scanning the hillside for our hogs. Two really big boars were already at the water hole, but not the two red hogs. At about seven a.m. the decision was made to do a slow still hunt through the clearcut, near the slash pile. Maybe we could find them still in bed. The hunch paid off.

I spotted a red patch of hair near a clump of sagebrush and sig-



Scott Smith (left) and the author, ready to head back to camp after putting their selfbows to the test. Did someone mention elk season?

naled for Scott. He was going to take the first shot since he hadn't had a shot at any game animals yet with his bow. The wind was howling, but we managed to get it to a cross wind. At 30 yards I held back as a backup and let Scott close the gap for his shot at the

stayed right beside the one Scott had shot, actually nudging it along to keep it moving. Now things were getting interesting as the two big boars that were at the water hole were smelling blood. I began my stalk on the second red hog.

At thirty yards I held back as a backup and let Scott close the gap for his shot. . .

hog. Just as he began to draw the hog stood up. Scott's mouth dropped open and he gave me the signal that there were two hogs. Not knowing what to expect out of one hog when hit by an arrow was making us both more than a little tense. But now we were concerned about the reaction of two hogs.

I nocked an arrow and motioned for Scott to take him. At seven yards Scott's arrow hit it's mark and penetrated up to the fletching. The hog stood up and began to walk off like nothing was wrong. Scott fired another arrow and got good penetration into the lung area. Twenty yards later the hog was down, but still very much alive. Surprisingly, the second hog

The wind was now blowing straight into my face. The distance was a perfect 20 yards with the hog standing broadside. There was the challenge and IT WAS ON! My arrow hit the mark with

amazing penetration. The hog went down within ten yards and it was over. The two boars lost interest in the possible blood feast of Scott's hog with all the commotion going on around them. Scott walked up to his hog for a final finishing shot.

After all the work was done and the bacon was in the freezer, it was nice to relive our adventure with friends and hunting partners. Do you really think the story is over? Did somebody, Ted, say "Elk season?" Well that's another story. Good luck with your own selfbow challenges. Pick a spot and shoot straight.



Fit to Be Bowhunting

By Joe Blake



Whether you're heading to the back yard to hunt whitetails or to far off mountains to chase sheep, being in good shape will make your hunt more enjoyable and successful.

At long last I was staring at a Dall ram, and a good one at that. Unfortunately it was after midnight, and the July sun was about to abandon this stretch of the McKenzie Mountains along the western edge of Canada's Northwest Territories. As my guide, Kevin Unrau, and I watched intently through the spotting scope, the full-curl ram and a smaller companion fed into a small basin directly across from us and disappeared behind a rock outcropping. When they did not reappear we made plans to be up and after them as soon as it became light enough to safely traverse the steep, rocky terrain that separated us.

Rising early we hurriedly set off for the area where we had put the sheep to bed the night before, without taking time to choke down another unappealing breakfast of dried milk and blueberries. The altitude, the exertion, the

lack of solid food, and the fact that we had not seen hide nor hair of a decent ram until now were all taking their toll, but with the promise of a trophy ram just one mountain away I set off with renewed energy as Kevin and I began our long hike.

By the time we had descended from our mountain top and crossed the wide valley that separated us from the mountain where the sheep were last seen I was sweating profusely under the heat of the midsummer sun, and as we began to pick our way up the steep ridge that led to the rams several thousand feet above, my energy levels were dropping fast. Halfway into our climb we stopped to catch our breath and have a much needed drink of water, and it was here that I lost all interest in killing a sheep.

At first I began to feel a little dizzy, but I didn't pay much attention because I figured it was just from the hard hike at an altitude that this flatlander from North Dakota wasn't used to. However, the feeling persisted and intensified until I began to have trouble breathing and started to feel a tingling sensation in the left side of my face which spread down my left arm until my entire left side felt numb!

I'm not sure who was more scared, me at the thought of having a stroke out in the middle of nowhere or Kevin at the thought of having to try and carry me out of the hell hole we had gotten ourselves into, but I know that there were some tense moments that morning on the side of that steep mountain.

Eventually Kevin decided that maybe I just needed to get some energy food into my system and we rested for an hour while I ate two chocolate bars and drank plenty of water, and before long the dizziness and tingling subsided and we were able to continue on after the big ram, which, of course, we never saw again.

The point of relating this story is not to discourage anyone from bowhunting for sheep, but to illustrate the importance of staying in shape for all hunters. Obviously, few people reading this article are likely to go on a sheep hunt, but staying healthy and keeping in good physical and mental condition are important aspects for any type of activity, hunting

included. Keeping your body and mind in tune should be the first step a hunter takes before heading afield, and the following suggestions can help you do just that.

Obviously, the type of hunting you do has a large bearing on the exercise regimen that is best for you, but regardless of whether you sit in a tree-stand a few evenings a week close to home or chase mountain goats up and down sheer cliffs, it is a good idea to be in the best shape possible. Staying in shape will not only make you feel better, but it will make you a better hunter as well. It will also make you a safer hunter by lessening the risk that exertions in the field will cause injury, sickness, or even death.

It would be easy to assume that I was not physically prepared for the sheep hunt mentioned at the beginning of this article and assume that this is what caused my problems that morning; but the fact is that I had been running two to three miles a day plus hiking regularly with a heavy pack on my back prior to this trip, so it wasn't that I was out of shape, I just was not in the right kind of shape for a sheep hunt.

Tuning your training to the type of hunting you have planned is impor-



Photos: Above, Backcountry hunting often demands a high degree of physical and mental preparation. Top left: Manitoba deer guide hikes out of the woods with a treestand on his back. High activity levels, especially during cold weather, can cause muscle strains and pulls.

Fedora's Bowmaking School

Come and learn the art of bowmaking for fun or business. Training custom bow makers for over nine years. Also **seminars** in instinctive shooting. We do not use heat boxes, masking tape, saran wrap or cut out limbs with bandsaw. Advanced procedures in bow building for the beginner to the experienced, by Mike Fedora, 39 years experience. Info that **cannot** be taught by videos or books. VA approved.

Call today for more information.



Fedora's Custom Bows

The finest in handmade recurve, long and flat bows for over 39 years.

Recently tested by Breck Smith, 59#@27" draw, 2018, 545gr, 212fps, with standard B-50 bowstring!!

Largest selection of exotic and native wood and lams — **your choice**. Custom made to fit your hand and draw length. Call today and order a true custom bow handcrafted for you.

Fedora's Archery Shop

115 Wintersville Road, Dept. IA • Richland, PA 17087 • (717) 933-8862 • fedora@nbn.net

tant, but the first step toward better health is to seek advice from a medical or health professional before you get started.

Following my own advice, I interviewed Dr. Thomas Hegstad, who practices medicine at Broadway Medical Center in Alexandria, Minnesota; here's what Dr. Hegstad had to say:

As a medical professional and an avid hunter, what basic recommendations would you suggest for the hunter wanting to get more out of his or her time afield?

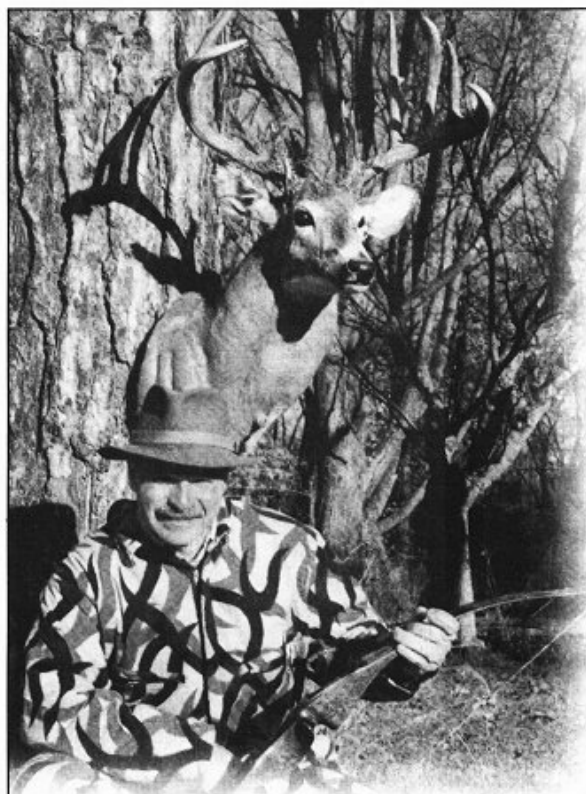
"Few, if any of us who consider ourselves hunters, get as much time afield as we would like. Many of us get precious little time because of various circumstances. Nonetheless, the time we do set aside stands out on our calendars and as we watch the days approaching, we concern ourselves with anticipation and preparation. We assemble the best equipment we can afford, always updating and improving, but too often we neglect the ultimate equipment necessary for any physical endeavor, that being our own health and conditioning.

"We continue to smoke knowing that it causes the loss of elasticity in our lungs, making us work harder to breathe. We let our weight creep up, increasing the workload of the heart, and let our muscle mass erode because of something called disuse atrophy.

"We need to reverse all of these trends and do it on a year 'round basis rather than just at crunch time a month before the hunt."

The most common exercises that most people use to get in shape are walking, running, biking, and swimming; what are the pros and cons of each type of activity and what would you recommend for the hunter who wants to get into better physical condition?

"As far as the best exercises, we need to understand that reconditioning takes more effort than maintaining conditioning. Walking is better than sitting, but we can walk all day long and not get our heart rate above 100. We need to exercise hard enough and long enough to keep our heart rate elevated over 100 for a prolonged period of time. Biking is fine and will elevate the heart



Choose the Best!

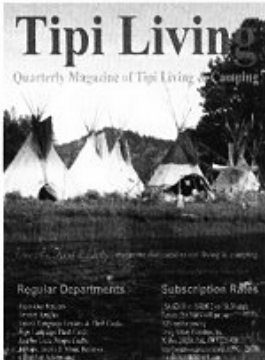
When that once in a lifetime shot comes, I wanted to be ready, so I chose the best, a Fedora Custom Bow equipped with a B-50 string. I could have put any string on my Fedora, but most new strings send out a high pitch noise. The B-50 sends out a low pitch noise, which does not startle the game.

Will McQueen
P & Y 183



Go with your instinct!

Brownell & Company, Inc.
tel 860 873-8625 fax 860 873-1944
www.brownellco.com



Tipi Living

Quarterly Magazine
Family Oriented

World's 1st & only tipis only magazine

Regular Departments

- From Our Readers
- Feature Articles
- Lakota Language Lessons
- Lakota Flash Cards
- Sign Language Flash Cards
- Just For Little People Crafts
- Movie, Books & Music Reviews
- Classified Advertising

Subscription Rates

USA: \$20/yr \$38/2 yrs

Single Issue: \$6.50 ea.

Foreign Add: \$14/yr

Make Your Own Tipi Book

\$14.95 plus \$3.00 S&H

A "connect the dots" craft book

The American Living History Resource Directory

1500s thru 1800s Over 1,400 listings

\$19.95 plus \$3.00 S&H

Send SASE for brochure

Living History Publishers, Inc.
PO Box 219281

Portland, OR 97225-9281

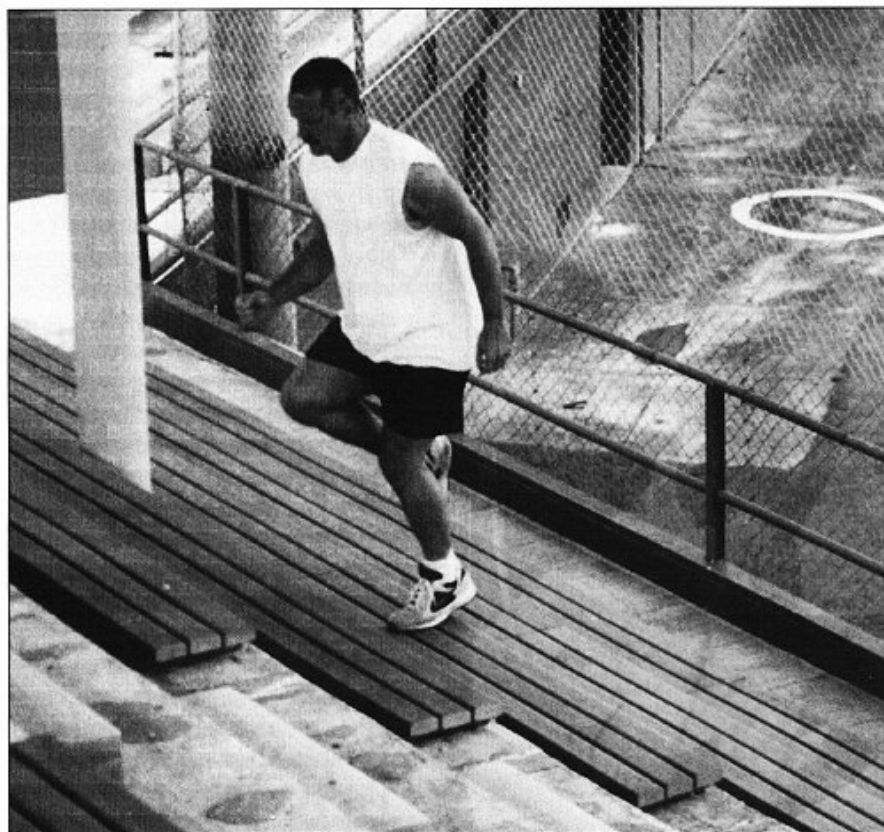
Phone/FAX: 503-643-1567

Web Page & E-mail

[http://hometown.aol.com/](http://hometown.aol.com/TipiLiving/Index3.html)

TipiLiving/Index3.html

www.tipiliving.com



Stair climbing, or in this case, stadium climbing, closely simulates hiking in the Rockies, where the conditioning of your calves and cario-vascular system are vital to your ability to climb steep ridges.

rate but the seat needs to be comfortable. Swimming is good as well but does not do as much for the legs as most other exercises, and water is not always available when we want to exercise. Running is an excellent exercise, but can be hard on the hip and knee joints."

What about exercise machines?
Many people don't have the opportunity to enjoy activities such as biking or swimming, so what type of work out machines would you recommend that

will fit into the average persons' apartment and pocket book?

"As far as the best equipment is concerned, I think we only need to look as far as the nearest cardiac rehabilitation center. There we find treadmills, bicycles, and stair machines. I think all three are good in-home equipment. The best and cheapest in my opinion is a flight of stairs. Fifty rapid trips up and down a ten- to 15-step flight of stairs does as much for the legs, heart, and



Raven Arrows

*Specializing in Genuine,
Natural Grey-Barred Feathers*

**Also, Grey Goose • Full-Length Die-Cut Feathers
Now Specializing in PREMIUM PORT ORFORD CEDAR.**

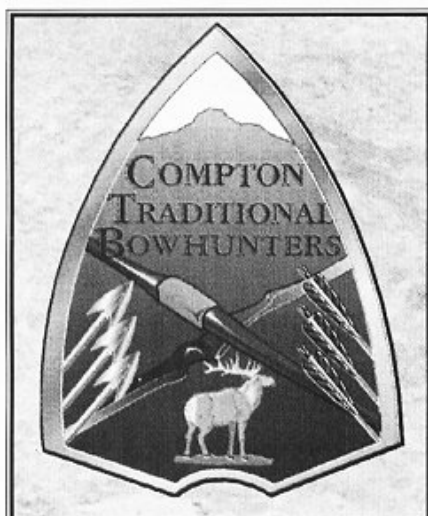
Call or Write for Information and Price List

Raven Arrows, 993 Grays Creek Rd., Indian Valley, Idaho 83632

Phone: (208) 256-4341



Regular, strenuous mountain bike rides are an excellent, low-impact way to keep your legs, heart, and lungs in shape year 'round for the rigors of upcoming hunts.



It's Time

A group of traditionalists from across the country has decided that we can no longer wait. Forces have gradually been sweeping us under the rug. They would like us to go away. The traditional archery community needs to be brought together to once again become a prominent factor. It's time to rise and take back our place in the sun. Those before us numbered in the tens of thousands, and they proved the traditional bows—recurve and longbows—a viable hunting tool. The record is clear. It is now time to insure the identity of the traditional way for future generations. The natural resources departments will once again see our short-range bows as a low impact management tool—this we will encourage and pursue. It is also a great source of hunting enjoyment. Come join us as a member of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters.

—Glen St. Charles, Board Member Emeritus

Compton Traditional Bowhunters
7190 S. Boulder Rd., Boulder CO 80303
(303) 494-0601 www.comptontraditional.com

lungs as equal time on any expensive apparatus.

"The best advice I can give is to just get out and do it, and do it on a daily basis."

Of course, there is more to a person's well being than just being in good physical condition. Mental conditioning is just as important and sometimes more important than physical conditioning. Being in the best shape possible will help make you a better hunter, but if your head's not screwed on straight your hunt might still be ruined.

Many factors can work against a positive outlook during a hunt: weather, lack of game, or plain old bad luck can cause doubts to creep into our subconscious and ruin an otherwise enjoyable trip. My personal recommendation for problems such as these is to avoid putting pressure on yourself prior to heading to the woods. Don't go on a hunt expecting to bring home a truck load of record class game because it isn't likely to happen. Instead, head into the field with thoughts of enjoying every aspect of your hunt foremost in your mind. Take notice of the beauty of the country, enjoy the camaraderie of friends, and just enjoy the hunt for the hunt's sake. Take time to smell the roses so to speak. The harvesting of an

animal should always be the icing on the cake, not your main reason for being there in the first place.

Hunting is a very personal sport and it means many different things to many different people, but one certain truth is that in hunting, just as in any endeavor in life, your rewards are directly proportionate to the effort you put forth.

As previously noted by Dr. Hegstad, it takes much more effort to work back into shape than it does to maintain our conditioning, so we need to strive for continued physical and mental conditioning on a year 'round basis. Getting into and then staying in good physical and mental condition will make you a better hunter. It will make you a more successful hunter, and it will ensure that you enjoy all your trips afield to the fullest.



*Serving the
Traditional and
Primitive Archer
since 1984*

Welchman Longbows
Mahaska Custom Bows
Blue Ridge Archery
Hollenbeck Archery
Robertson Stykbow
Howard Hill Archery
Medicine Stick Selfbows

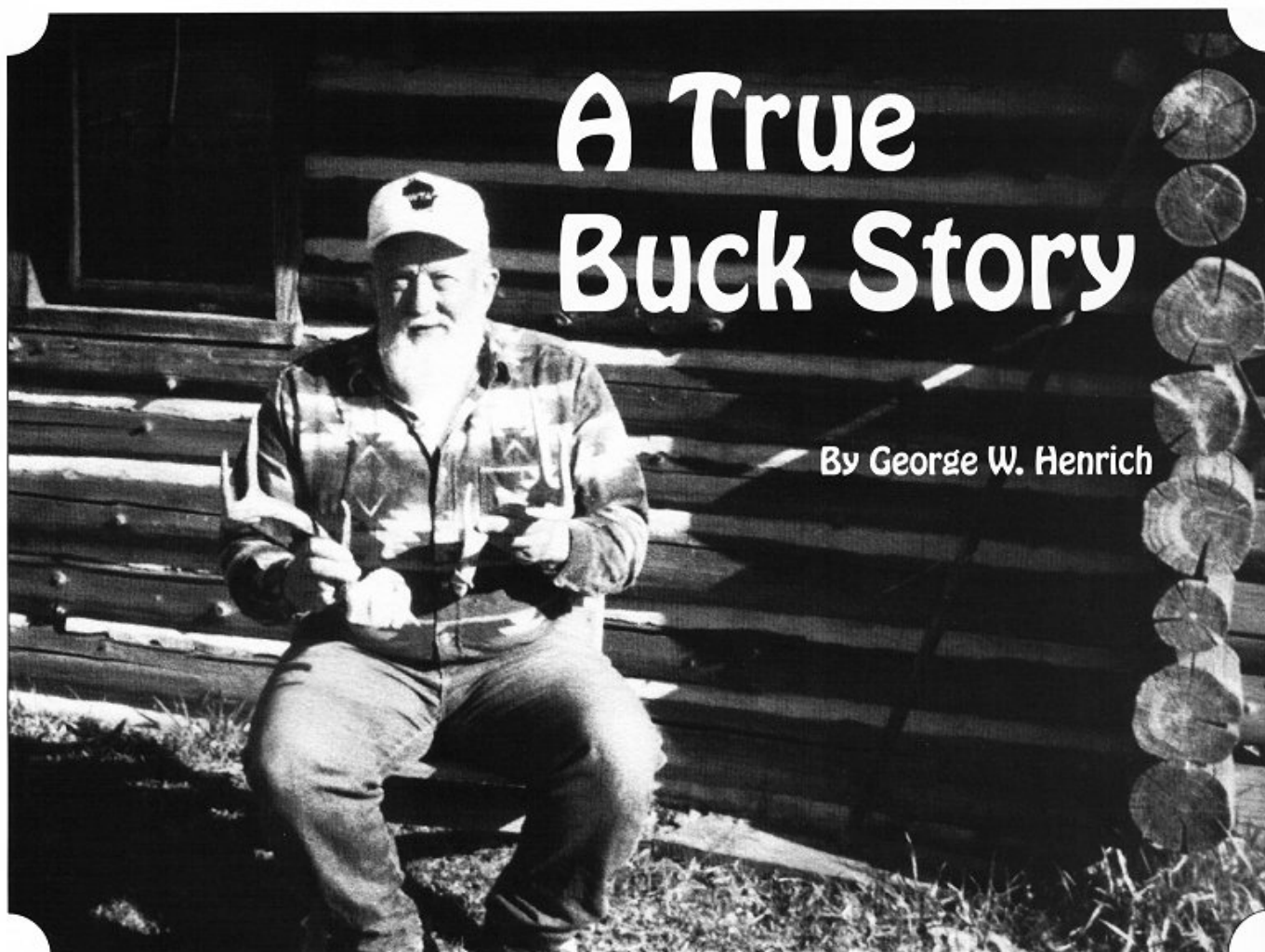
Custom Cedar Arrows
and Accessories

DISTRIBUTOR OF
Rose City Archery
Port Orford
Cedar Shafts

Send \$2. for catalog Worldwide mailorder Visa and Mastercard accepted

**SILVER ARROW
ARCHERY**

106 Fordway Ext. Dept. 1A
Derry, NH 03038 (603) 434-0569
www.silverarrowarchery.com



A True Buck Story

By George W. Henrich

This tale starts the last day of the early Wisconsin archery season. November 15th, 1998, found me in my deer stand for the last time before the Wisconsin gun season. It was sort of a nice morning about 18 to 20 degrees. During this time of the year in Wisconsin, it can be below zero with the wind and snow blowing in your face. I was passing the time by reminiscing the past season.

I had passed up some bucks early in the season. I also missed a buck, and was thinking that this is how the season would end. My wait wasn't long lived as a one-horned buck came trotting down a doe trail. The self-made recurve bow of 58 pounds was drawn and sent the Magnus tipped ash arrow on its way. The shot from around 25 yards looked good, and the next instant the buck was on the ground with a spine hit.

The buck had only the right antler with 4 points. The left side was broken off near the skull by fighting or accident. After thanking the Creator for the deer and taking some pictures, it was time to take care of the

meat. I like to get the hide off as soon possible to get the body heat out of the deer and to debone and freeze the meat. Sometimes we also can some of the meat and we also make a little sausage. When the last package went into the freezer I thought it was the end of the story.

375 days later found me at the neighborhood tavern. The 1999 gun season was on and I went in to hear some of the deer tales. After hearing a number of stories, the talk went to a bear skull and a deer antler that were found in the woods that day. One of the guys was making a deer drive when he stepped on the antler and it hit him in the shin. He could have left it in the woods, but decided to bring it along. I didn't think too much of it until I looked at it, and could see the antler was from the year before. It was 4 points from the left side and bleached out from laying on the ground through the winter.

The brow tine was also nipped a little. I looked at it I could see it was not a shed but was broken off. The break sure looked like a match for the deer I had shot the year

before. Then I thought "What would be the chance that this would be the missing antler?" It was found about one mile from where I shot the 1998 buck.

After leaving the tavern, I had thoughts about this antler all night. But it seemed to be impossible for this to happen. By fate or what ever, I had left my jacket at the bar, so the next day when I went down to retrieve it, I took the rack along. When I slipped the antler on the rack it fit perfectly. Many times after this I thought about how small the chances were for this to happen, but in this case it did.



Archery Golf

By Bob Krout



How grand! Ladies and Gentlemen in their sparkling whites, ambling about the manicured fairways. English-style longbows glittering in the sun, and white-gloved servants setting up tea and biscuits for a midday break. That is archery golf in the grand tradition. We just do it a bit differently!

This all started a few years back when some of the guys affiliated with that illustrious group known as the "Tri-County Traditional Archers" got to talking about archery golf as practiced by Howard Hill and other greats of our sport. All agreed that it sounded like a fun thing to do and would give us another excuse to get out and fling some arrows. The obsession started.

One thing became immediately and abundantly clear. No self respecting operator of any local golf course was about to let our uncurried crew loose to tear up their cherished greens! An alternative venue must be found!

What do you really need to set up a course for archery golf? Actually the only problem is finding a large enough

piece of ground so that we could shoot safely over at least a nine-hole course. One of the advantages of living in a rural area is the amount of open land available. One of the disadvantages in our litigation crazy society is the fear of liability lawsuits. After a few false starts we eventually came up with a perfect location. One of our group works for a large coal company. One of their larger strip mine locations had been exhausted of coal, back filled, contoured and seeded for new growth. The site is co-opted with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The coal company retains ownership of the land but they allow the game commission to manage the property for wildlife habitat and public hunting. The company is then relieved of liability should someone get hurt on the property.

The company gets some tax relief on property that is no longer producing income, the Department of Natural Resources knows that the game commission is not about to tolerate any pollution problems and the hunting public has another place to enjoy our sport. In addition the company establishes a great deal of rapport with both the DNR and the Game Commission and is better able to work with them on future projects. It is a win-win situation for everybody!

Once a more or less permanent location was found it was a simple process to set up the course. "Holes" were laid out with appropriate pars established for each one. Actually

"holes" is a misnomer. We ended up using bag targets set up with a tripod stand for each hole. They could then be quickly set up or taken down for each shoot. After some false starts it was decided to go with a nine-hole course. Eighteen was just too long a haul!

The younger guys loved it but some of us "more mature" shooters fell apart with an all-day grind. After all, it's supposed to be fun! Not an endurance course! The "billy goats" among us could always shoot through a second time if they had too much energy to burn.

It worked great! We have the shoot every spring, usually in April, which makes for some interesting times. Usually the weather is fairly nice for early spring. This year however, was a different story. It was 40 degrees and overcast when I left the house. When I got to the top of the mountain where the course was laid out we had fog, wet snow, and cold, intermittent rain. Not to mention occasional high winds!

Yes, mountains. Here in Somerset County, in southwest Pennsylvania, we have the highest elevations in the state. Our course is located on a high ridge at the top of the Laurel Mountains, about 2,800 feet elevation. That probably doesn't impress you Westerners, but it is certainly high up for us in the east.

In an endeavor of this type, where we might have as many as fifty shooters, safety is paramount. We always start with the same routine. My buddy Dave Lohr reads the safety rules and emphasizes the fact that each shooter is a range officer. If anyone sees a potentially dangerous or unsafe situation we are obligated to sing out! Because everyone is so safety conscious we have never had an accident to mar the fun. We try to keep the rules as simple as possible. The long shots must be taken at an angle of 45 degrees or more. All shots are to be from a full draw. When the target has been approached closely enough you may shoot dead on. It is everyone's responsibility to know who is shooting and to scream loudly if anyone is in the line of fire! If an arrow lands so close that the archer can reach the target with the arrow you may "tap out." One stroke is added for each tap out.

After the safety rules and scoring procedures are explained we are ready to start. We use a shotgun start where everyone shoots at more or less the same time. It sure is a thrilling sight to see all of those arrows in the air at the same time! We then proceed towards the first hole. Shooters make his (or her) second shot from the spot where their first arrow landed.

The fun really starts when we approach "dead-on" distance to the target! There is always somebody who misjudges the distance remaining to the target and/or just plain misses. The result is an arrow 50 yards beyond the hole. Then they must find their arrows and shoot back.

After everyone has completed the hole, the "official" scorer calls for the total from each shooter. It can be a little embarrassing to have to give out a total of eight or nine shots for a par four hole. Of course everyone has to make some comment at this point! But it is all in

good fun and is all part of why we look forward to the shoot each year

We usually have one or two holes that are only about 100 to 150 yards from the pin. Now we have some shooters who could probably make that hole with a straight on shot. However, because of our "45 degree" rule, everyone must try to "mortar" his or her arrow in to the target. One of these shorter holes is also designated as our "closest to the pin" hole. Everyone shoots as before, trying to lob the arrow to the target.

In the event that two or more shooters hit the target we have a shoot off, usually a shot contrived on the spot. The winner of this shot is awarded a 1950s style Bear Kodiak static recurve. This is one of the old Bears that had an aluminum lamination. A few years ago one of our members took this bow up to the "Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous" at Denton Hill near Coudersport Pennsylvania and had it



Association of Traditional Hunting Archers

We are pleased to announce the formation of the **Association of Traditional Hunting Archers**, a new national organization developed for the traditional archer. Its purpose is to provide a home where we can hang our hats, a home from which we can gain strength and grow. Though ATHA's focus is upon the hunting archer, its foundation rests upon the love of the same traditional archery tackle that unites hunter with rover, rover with recreational archer, and all of us with our past. ATHA aims to reinforce that foundation, to be a positive voice for archery, both within the community of archers and with state wildlife agencies, to present its true form and identity to the public, and to build its future.

For a copy of our mission statement, a list of our goals and a membership application, please mail to: Craig Oberle, C/O American State Bank, P. O. Box 197, Mellette, SD 57461

Please visit us at our website <http://tmuss.tripod.com/TA>, where this same information and a membership application are available, as well as a copy of our charter. Signed, ATHA Steering Committee, Doug Borland, Cory Mattson, Tom Mussatto, Craig Oberle, John Rook, Dale Sharp, Lon Sharp, Dean Torges, Mark Viehweg, Larry Yien, Jim Dahlberg, Chairman.



Dave Lohr again goes over the safety rules and scoring regulations. All shooters must be members of the Tri-County Traditional Archers. To become a member each person must raise their bow above their heads and repeat, loudly, **"Sights! I don't need no stinking sights!"**

signed by a number of archery notables including Len Cardinale, G. Fred Asbell, and a host of others. The winner gets to keep the bow for one year, then it is returned to be shot for again the following year.

And so it goes until the last hole is shot. Between all of the banter, difficult shots, and hill climbing, we eventually reach the end of the course. When all of the scores are added up we have a winner. As in regular golf, the person who completes the course with the fewest number of shots is the champion! Then comes our little ceremony where the champ is awarded the "Tri-County Traditional Archers Archery Golf Cup." This is possibly the ugliest cup in the

history of competition. I was fortunate enough to win it a few years back and had to stipulate that I would accept it only if I didn't have to show it to anyone!

Some of our non-shooting spouses have said that our little golf shoot is just another excuse to get out and "play Robin Hood" and fling arrows. Yes, it is! But it is much more than that. Do you have a new fletch that you are trying? This is place where you can see how it goes. I was trying some new arrows one year. I had won them at a shoot and they were real beauties. They had high maxi-fletch feathers and were beautifully crested and finished. It didn't take too many shots to find out that the extra high feathers turned those potential hunting

arrows into flu-flus! Every shot I made with them fell at least 30 yards short of where everyone else's arrows landed.

It is interesting to see also that draw weight does not play as big a role in distance shooting as I would have thought. One friend was shooting an old 45-pound Red Wing Hunter one year. His matched cedar arrows were sailing every bit as far as were mine from a bow that was more than ten pounds heavier.

Of course there are also those other situations that, at first glance, seem to defy explanation. One year we were shooting and every time "Big Jim" Roskos stepped up and shot, his arrow would sail out and land 40 yards or more past all of the rest. Jim was shooting a new little flat bow that I had not seen before. Finally curiosity got the better of me and I asked him what weight he was pulling on that little bow. He looked down at the stick in his hand and said, "Oh, a hundred pounds at 30 inches." That is why they call him "Big Jim!"

So if you get the urge to get out there and fling some arrows, try archery golf. It's fun! But watch that crosswind. You might end up in the rough!



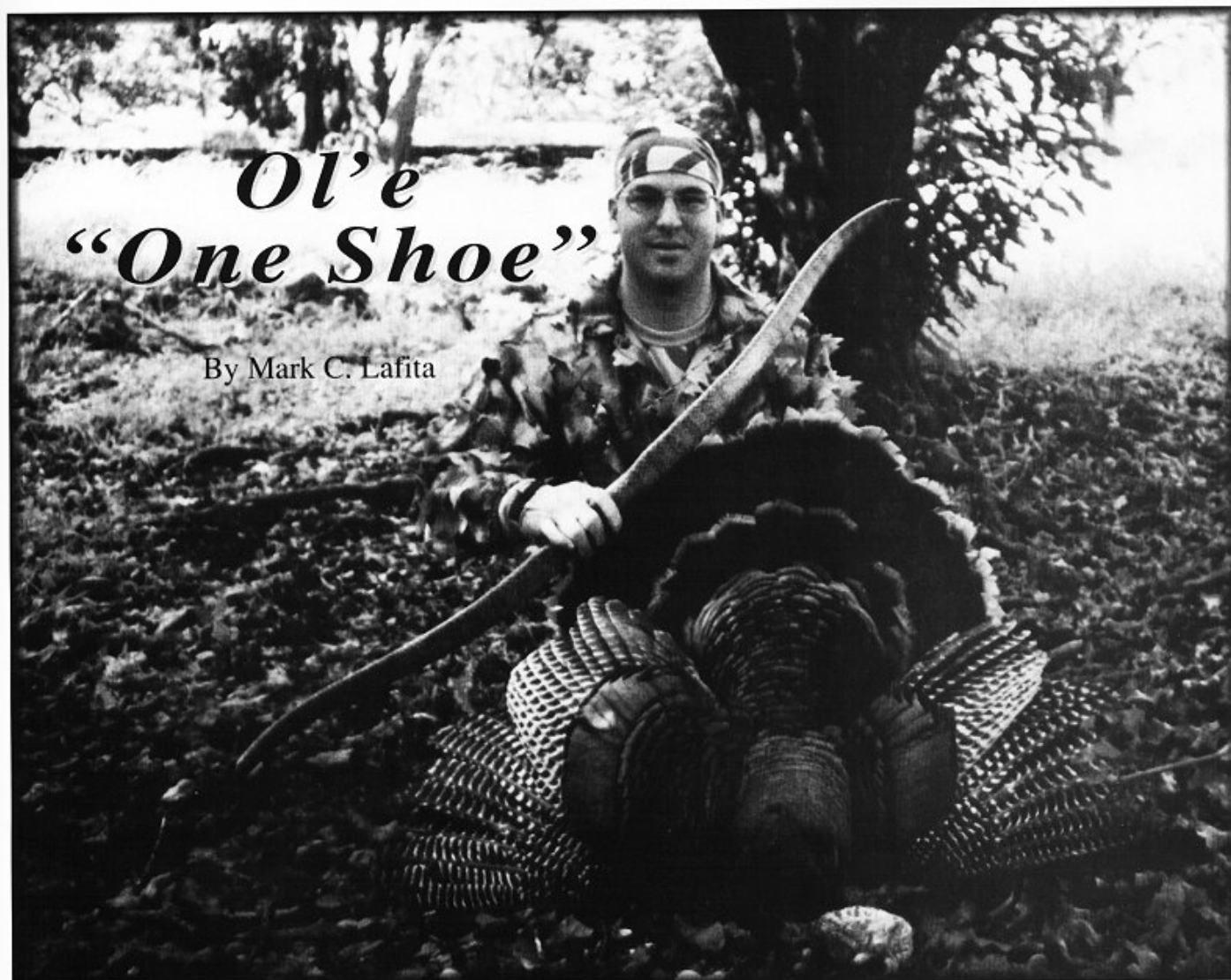
The author (right) accepts the "Tri County Traditional Archers Archery Golf Championship Cup," from Dave Lohr, one of the founders of the shoot and our official MC.

Foley
Custom
Bows

Hand Crafted Traditional Bows



Ron Foley
Rt. 2, Box 285-K
Groesbeck, Texas 76642
Phone 254-729-2248



By Mark C. Lafita

My wife's brother and his family flew to Hawaii for the Thanksgiving holiday and since I planned to hunt that weekend, I asked Todd if he would like to join me. He said yes, then like any good husband would do he turned and said, "Honey can I go hunting with Mark? I promise I'll take you to the volcano in the afternoon." A wise man believes in compromise. It also doesn't hurt if you ask nicely.

I packed gear that night in preparation for tomorrow's outing. Todd came in and asked what we would be hunting. I told him that it was bird season and the private ranch that we were going to had a great turkey population. If we were lucky, we would get one. Then he asked if I planned to call them in. I said that during the spring turkey hunt I usually did, but tomorrow I would be stalking them. He gave me a less than encouraging look, somewhere between disbelief and a chuckle, giving me the impression that he thought I was nuts. I gave him a brief description of the area we'd be visiting and mentioned that there were nice rolling hills and lots of cover. Somewhat reassured, he left the room a few minutes later grinning. I could tell I had sparked his interest.

At 5:30 the next morning we met David at his house. After the preliminary introductions, we headed up through his lot and onto his neighbor's property, all the while looking for

game. The freezing morning breeze chilled our faces as we trod along the dew-laden ground. Two hours of walking through the saturated grass yielded nothing. We hadn't seen any game and our chances looked thin. Although we periodically heard turkeys in the distance, they were on an adjacent property. We decided to adjust our strategy. Since we also had permission to hunt over in the next paddock we doubled back to the vehicle and headed for the other parcel where we had heard the earlier calls.

No sooner had we gotten out of the vehicle than the weather changed. It went from a tease of possible sun to thick gray fog in the blink of an eye. We proceeded to walk through a gulch covered with thick vegetation. We stopped every few steps to carefully look through the waiwi thicket to check for pigs. No sense in being surprised by a group of inhospitable boars. David soon spotted some hens several hundred yards across the pasture.

As he moved to get behind the flock, Todd and I crossed over a hill, attempting to cut them off. When we reached the top, we saw a dozen or more hens and a great big tom running away. I looked over at Todd and said, "At least we got to see them."

Turning from the retreating birds, I motioned to David to meet us back at the gulch. No sooner had we arrived

TURN YOUR HOBBY INTO YOUR BUSINESS

Archery is your hobby...take it to the next level. We are a manufacturer of quality wood arrow shafts and we are looking for a business partner.

Wolverine Manufacturing 1998 Ltd.
Box 560 Lac La Hache
British Columbia, V0K 1T0
Canada
E-mail: info@wolverine-mfg.com

Additional information about our company is available at our website
www.wolverine-mfg.com

Immigration Opportunity — Expanding Business

when the gulch erupted with squealing and grunts. We had spooked a herd of pigs! As we rushed to get to the action, I had a vague feeling that my left shoe felt a little funny. I didn't have time to pay any attention to it and continued to hop down for a closer look. The screaming was loud but I couldn't see a thing. Frustration was my only reward as I stood ready with a nocked arrow but no shot. A quick shout from David warned us that they were going down the gulch. Todd and I hurried to the bottom of the gulch and into the brush while David continued to the top. He planned to wait as a precaution in case any pigs exited there.

As Todd and I went in, I again noticed that my shoe felt odd and realized why after finally investigating. The bottom of my shoe had fallen out! The

entire sole was gone! Now I had a moccasin to go along with my sinew backed recurve. To add to the chaos, my side quiver kept getting caught in everything as we walked through the brush. Just another distraction to contend with.

Having moved deeper into the gulch, the slippery moss covered rocks further slowed our progress. I decided to take off the broken shoe in hopes of making the going easier. While sitting on a nearby rock to remove it, we discovered a pig trail. We felt we were due a change in luck so we followed it. It led us to a nice little watering hole, a cave, and an area covered with fallen guavas. All the comforts of hog home, but absolutely no pigs. Empty handed we climbed out of the gulch and met David. He said that no pigs had passed him so we decided to stop and eat before heading back to our original starting place to check the area again.

As luck would have it, just after we finished eating, we spotted a good-sized tom in strut. The bad part was we could not see the hens the tom was putting on the display for. David and Todd circled to my left, hoping that I could get in alone without being detected. I removed my cumbersome side quiver and withdrew two arrows before setting it down. I mirrored the tom's movements, shifting quickly whenever he turned his back toward me. After silently stalking him for 45 minutes, I reached the bottom of the big hill he was on but still had about 150 yards to go. I crouched down

low and continued my slow ascent. When I had almost reached the top of the hill, a hen that I had not seen hidden in the brush gave out an unsure cluck.

The flock did not scatter as I initially expected, but they did manage to fly over a barbed wire fence and into a macadamia nut orchard. As I watched, they started to comfortably feed again. When they disappeared behind some trees and bush, I moved closer and signaled the guys to move in. I eased myself behind a natural blind of waiwi trees and got into position as Todd joined me. David hopped the fence and was trying to get behind the birds to drive them toward us.

As I looked through the brush, I could see the turkeys steadily walking. I grasped my spare arrow between my middle finger and ring finger and nocked the other arrow. I waded through the brush, the grass and branches parting as I made my way. I found an opening through which I could shoot, but the problem was I had to shoot through the barbed wire fence. Suddenly I heard scratching along the dry leaves. The sound grew louder, indicating that our mystery bird approached. Breathing evenly I paused and could barely believe it when the tom appeared! I waited until he presented me with a broadside shot. As that moment arrived, I drew my sinew-backed recurve and felt the arrow slide across my hand, then the Super Glove hit anchor and finally let go. The arrow sailed just over the second wire; fatally hitting it's mark. The tom did not go far. David heard our voices and soon joined us. And I did this with just one shoe.



No Catalog



Hunters Rendezvous

LARGEST SELECTION OF MUZZLOADING FIREARMS AND TRADITIONAL ARCHERY IN NEW ENGLAND

Custom-Made Longbows, Recurves, Custom Cedar Arrows and Accessories

Handcrafted Muzzloading Rifles and Accessories

P.O. Box 260,
Pepperell, Massachusetts 01463
(978) 433-9458

Exit 31 off Rte. 495, 11 Miles West
On Rte. 119 — Look for the Log Cabin

Valley Traditional Archery Supply
3814 Blair Road - Whitewater, Colorado 81527



Visit our website & on-line catalog:
www.valleytradarchery.com

Send \$2 for our traditional supplies catalog (refunded with first order) or order direct with our on-line catalog.
MasterCard, Visa, Discover, COD.

"Home of Thunder Mountain Bows"
62" Coyote Flatbow - 66" Coachwhip Longbow

(970) 243-8144 - phone
vtas@gjct.net - e-mail

(970) 243-4366 - fax
1-800-874-3396 - toll free fax

ENGLAND'S HUNTING HERITAGE

BY
HUGH D. SOAR



*W*hen hunting with the bow in England was outlawed in the late 1960s by Statute Law, it brought an end to an activity which had been practiced legally by freeborn Englishmen (and women) for over a thousand years. No longer would the talk be of broadheads and blunts, of bird and beast stalked and slain, or of the hunting bows with which latterly they were sought.

Today, when the sport is but a distant memory to us oldtimers, and a mere chapter in a book to bowmen of today, it's worth spending a minute or two in contemplation of what were once, (before archers became a sitting target for bunnyhuggers) everyday topics.

In medieval England, hunting was a way of life. English foresters were masters of their art, and the English archers who stood at their fixed positions to cull the driven deer were expert in their tasks. The 14th century English poem: "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" is explicit of such a hunt.



***"The wild beasts quivered at the cry of questing hounds
Deer ran through dales distracted by their fear
Hastened up the high slopes, but hotly were met
By the stout cries of the stable, staying their flight."***

It is said that the battle-cry of the English troops at Agincourt was "Hey, Hey." A "Hey" or "Hay" was the name given the area into which the deer were driven to be killed; how appropriate that the French, pressed toward the men-at-arms by the stinging arrows of flanking archery, should be greeted with the cry given to driven deer!

Not all deer were slaughtered. With proper discipline, watched closely by the Master of Game, male deer were often spared to sire another generation.

***"They let through the antlered harts, with their handsome heads,
And the brave bucks too, with their branching palms.
For this fine Lord had forbidden, in fermisoun time (the close Season)
That any man should molest the male of the deer.
The hinds were held in the valley with "hey" and "ware."***

The "rascals," those youngsters and weak members of the herd, were "voided," or driven to one side, to make way

for the does and the succulent meat they bore on their saddles and haunches. These were the true prey.

***"The does driven with din to the depth of the dale,
Then shimmering arrows slipped from the bowstring and slanted,
Winging their way from every tree in the wood, Their broadheads pierced the bonny flanks of brown,
The deer brayed and bled, as on the banks they died."***

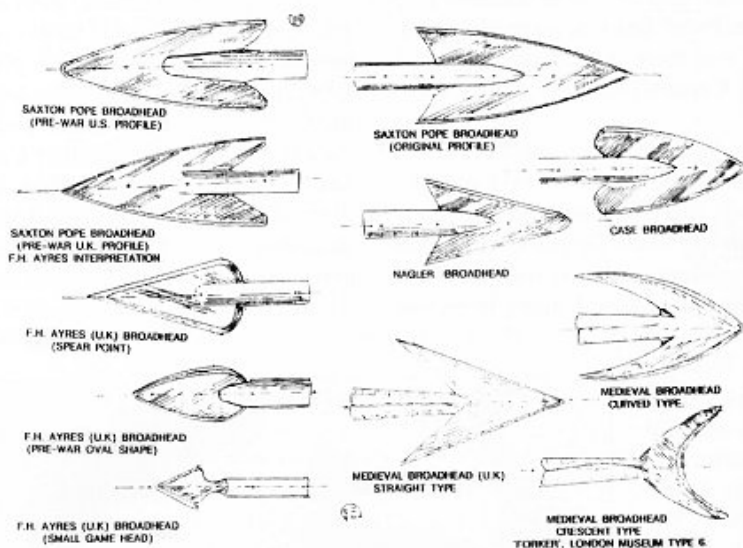
Hunting was a ritualistic occasion. As far as was possible all was precision. When noble lords, or even kings and queens, were involved, then matters were arranged to a careful plan. In 15th century England, Edward, Duke of York, defined the process in his book "Master of Game."

Vital to the day's success was the positioning of the king and queen. The Master Forester, and the Master of Game got together early in the morning to decide this. The stands of the archers were then selected, and the fletcherers with their greyhounds were positioned. The yeomen of the king's bow had arrived by now and they too were given their places. The Book is quite explicit about it all.

"... And if the huntynge shal be in a park alle men shuld abide atte park gate, sauf (save) the stable that oweth (needs) to be sett or (before) the kyng come and their shuld be sett bi the parkers or forsters. And the mornynge erly the mayster of game shuld be at wode (wood) to se that alle be redy, and he or his lieutenante or which of the hunters that hym lust (wished), oweth to sette the grelhound and so be tesours (teazers: see Note) to the kyng or to the quene.... And then the mayster forstere or parker oweth to shewe hym th kyo-gges stond (stand), and if the kyng wold stonde with hys bowe and where al the remenaunt (remainder) of the bowes shuld stond and the yomen (ysoman) for the kynges bowe owen to be there to kepe and make the kyng's stondynge and abide there without noyse to (until) the kyng come. And the gromys (grooms) that kepen the kynges dogges and chastised grelhoundes shuld be ther with hym... Note: A "teazer" would chase out deer that had gone to ground in bushes or rough ground.

When male deer were hunted it was the Hart that gave most sport. Robin Hood, our outlaw hero, often seeks out a Hart for his forest banquets of venison. When at the "curee" a deer was cut up, ("unmade" was the old phrase) the entrails or "umbles" were always reserved, either for the king, or for the chief person present, and he would give these delicacies to his favourites. When in the old ballads, Robin offers umbles to his "guests," he is emphasising his position as "lord of the forest." The subtlety would not have been lost on a medieval audience.

The bows used by those at the stable stands may not all have been special, perhaps just "bough" or "hedge" bows. Ideally however their lengths were 6' 6", and we know their draw-weights to have been less than for the war-bow to allow them to be held partially drawn. The "king's archers" and the king himself would have used superior weapons of yew, box, or other wood—there is an early reference to laburnum as material for a prized bow. Strings of silk were used for elastic-



English Hunting Heads

ity and quietness.

The arrows recommended were 30" in length and armed with broadheads to the breadth of four fingers from barb to barb, and five fingers overall. Formidable weapons, if perhaps not representative of what was in general use.

Not all hunting was organized of course, neither was it always legal. In fact, from the constant references to malefactors in medieval venery courts, it is fairly certain that as much illegal as legal activity took place in the forests of England. The Robin Hood ballads are a microcosm of what could—and no doubt did—happen. Robin is apprehended in the forest in suspicious circumstances. He is carrying a bow and arrows, a crime for which the early penalty was either blinding, or indeed death. Under some duress he accepts a bet from Foresters that he cannot kill a deer grazing two hundred yards away.

"Yet I'll hold you twenty pounds quoth Robin, before that I do go, That I do strike down yonder Hart, two hundred yards me froe..."

Robin then nocks a shaft, draws up his bow and looses.

"...Of the neer side he did brake two ribs, on the farr side he broke three..."
Not only did he kill the deer, but by the strength of his shot

"His arrow being sharpe and keen, quite through the Buck did flee, By the force of Robin Hood's strong arm, it girt into a tree..."

Some guy, Robin! Some bow, to slam a broadhead through a deer at 10 score yards.

A bit of confusion here incidentally. A Hart is a male red-deer, a Buck is a roe-deer. They are not truly interchangeable terms.

Poaching with the bow continued at least into the late 17th century. The handgun, and the crossbow might have been more accurate weapons, but the bow had one major advantage—it was silent. Crossbows with primitive latches were noisy affairs, whilst most of the fauna for a mile around would have had its head well down on hearing the discharge of a gun.

Although noisier than the longbow, the gentry turned largely to the cross-bow for the popular sport of "rooking" during the 18th and early 19th centuries. It is possible that the hinged bow described in the Summer Edition of I.A. was a sporting weapon but it would have been in the minority.

Bow hunting with the longbow in England revived during the early 20th century and, although never strong, had a faithful following who regaled each other with tales of daring do against rabbits and similar furry beasts. A deer was occasionally slain however, to great excitement; and if their stories are to be believed, potential hunters who carried bows overseas often did rather well at the expense of the native fauna.

Those seeking reasons for this lack of interest should recognize that archery in Britain did not become a truly egalitarian activity until after the second war. Pre-war Britain was still largely class-oriented. The activities of the old-established clubs and societies were influenced to a significant degree by the leisured classes, and more particularly by women. Target archery was predominant. Field archery, an import from the U.S., was in its infancy and—one ancient archery Society excepted—clout shooting, a main-stay of present long-bow activity, was virtually unknown in England before the war.

For those inclined to hunt however, some basic advice was at hand. Brigadier A.E. Hodgkin's book "The Archer's Craft" was first published in 1951, and in this he devotes a short chapter to hunting. It has been reprinted twice and remains a best-seller half a century later, although largely because it contains advice on the making of simple tackle.

AUTUMN LEAVES, a Bowhunter's Life

A book by Mark Siedschlag in a style of writing that's been described as "timeless." Nineteen stories that could be a part of any bowhunter's life.

\$15.95 plus \$3.00 shipping from Adventure Trail Publishing,
P.O. Box 1493, Thoreau, NM 87323-1493, or see your dealer.



Game licenses (at £3 or \$5) were necessary before the action; and what hunting took place was personal and largely unorganized, although at least one "Bowhunting Club" was formed. At Fontmel Magna, in deepest Dorset, however a "Western Hunting Camp" was set up in 1954 to which in August, nineteen aspirant bow-hunters (including four women) made their way. From the contemporary account, although the village shop provided most of the fare, and all of the cider, a thoroughly frustrating but seemingly jolly time was had by all. After various misses at 20 yards, and some excitement when a member got too close to a fox for its comfort, a communal effort provided the week's bag of just one doe. Shot with a 38-pound Apollo "Kestrel" steel bow, this provided a satisfying August Bank Holiday lunch.

The circumstances of the camp brought out the inevitable critics however, and the debate about bow-hunting rumbled on through the pages of the "British Archer" magazine for what seems years, ceasing altogether only when the Deer Act put an end to such activities altogether.

A little curiously, because bow-hunting was never a really significant 20th century English activity, the pre and post World War II archery manufacturers turned out a surprising amount of equipment. Leading the field in the 1930s was F.H. AYRES Ltd, of London. Their Catalogue for 1933 includes four types of "Game Arrow" each differing by shape. An "oval"; a (Saxton Pope) "barbed" profile, and two "spear shaped" points. No specific hunting bow was offered, but since bows could be custom-made to weight, the prospective hunter chose one that he could manage.

A thought-provoking article by knowledgeable specialist archer Bill Paterson in 1953 summarized the advantages and otherwise of killing heads, particularizing the dimensions recommended by Forrest Nagler in "Archery Review" of 1933. He compares these with Saxton Pope's, and Case's heads and favours the latter.

Curiously, British manufacturers ignored his advice and to a man plumped for something else. The

American makers came nearest to a "Saxton Pope" head, at least dimensionally; it was these that armed the arrows used by Captain Jack Churchill in World War II.

In the dark days of 1940, when Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany, and our battered armies were re-grouping after Dunkirk, the local defence forces included many archers whose weapons were hunting bows and broadhead shafts. In passing, it is strange to think that 600 years after the English long-bow and the English bow-man first made their mark on Continental battlefields, they stood ready to once more play their part.

As time passed, steel equipment appeared. Although to the writer's knowledge Accles and Pollock, principal English steel equipment makers, did not market metal hunting arrows, in 1953 they did offer their Apollo "Condor" steel bow as a hunting weapon in two draw weights of 60 and 65 pounds. Broadheads on metal shafts were made and sold by Purlé of London though, whilst Jacques of London sold wooden

J. B. Harrison Longbows

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED-EDITION LONGBOWS

- Black Wolf (Take-Down)
- El Lobo (Take Down)
- American Wolf (One-Piece)
- HHC (One-Piece)

<http://www.harrisonlongbows.com>

All bows made exclusively from imported European (German) woods, carbon fibre, stainless steel, and precision handcrafted.

R. Cardo Longoria with his Black Wolf Take-down and the WORLD RECORD SOUTHERN ROAN ANTELOPE

Old Riverside Depot

Bed and Breakfast Inn on Idaho's Payette River

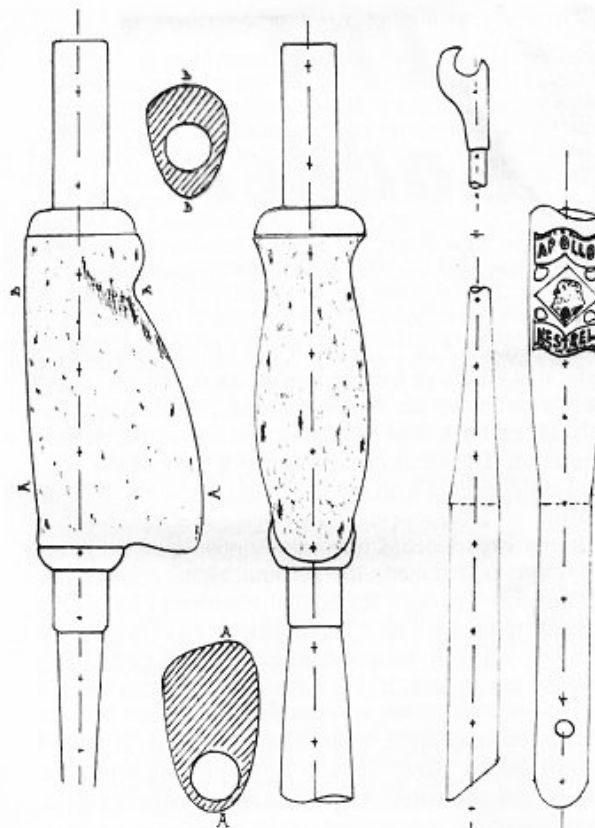
The warmth and charm of this 1916 train depot in Horseshoe Bend invites you back to pleasant memories of special places in your past. A place that was cozy and comfortable, friendly and serene. A place you always looked forward to visiting. Daydream by the river's edge, on the deck or in the hot tub. Relax with a good book or listen to the peace and quiet. While you are in the area, enjoy **river rafting, biking, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, or hunting. There is so much to enjoy... year-round!**

105 Riverside Drive, PO Box 98, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629
(208) 793-2330 • Fax (208) 793-2214

hunting shafts armed with "Saxton Pope" look-alikes.

The 1966 Deer Act put an end to all that however, and although in the year 2000 some vestigial hunting still takes place on private land against vermin, professionally made hunting shafts are now rare pieces, prized amongst collectors. Heads have to be imported from abroad. Our major archery dealers include broadheads amongst their tackle certainly, but with the ominous words "Export Only." Indeed, if the present licensing debate amongst factions within one major British National Governing Body goes a certain way, then that qualifier may have a much wider application than it does at present.

To end on a cautionary note. One can only hope that those in favour of bow bureaucracy for whatever reason, will either keep their views under wraps, or find an activity more in keeping with their restrictive perceptions; for if not, in a decade target bows and arrows could become as rare as their hunting counterparts.



"Apollo" steel bow (early nocks) by Accles and Pollock.

NEW Custom Recurves & Longbows by Various Bow Makers.

We also carry Bighorn bows.

Jim & Marcia Rebuck

J & M Traditions



All
Traditional Supplies
Recurves
Longbows
New & Used
Bow List \$1.50

RR2, Box 413
Sunbury, PA 17801
(570) 286-7887

Flemish Strings
Custom Arrows
Aluminum
or
Rose City
Cedar

Northern Mist Longbows



Steve Turay
280 Gold Street
Ishpeming, MI 49849
(906) 485-5480

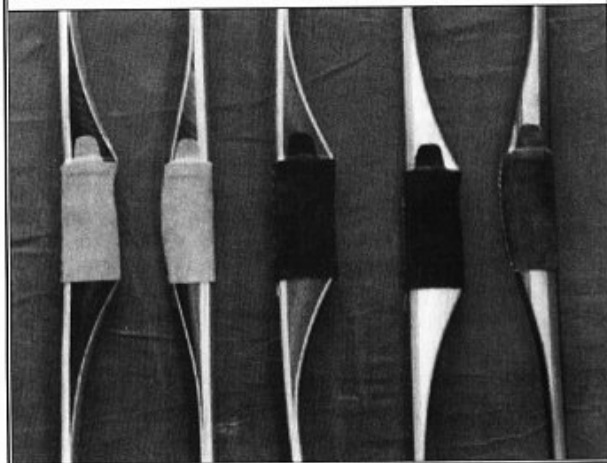
CUSTOM
LONGBOWS
and FLATBOWS

SHAFT SHOOTER MFG.

Make up to 4 doz. premium arrow shafts per hour, in your own shop!

- 3/4 hp motor
- Uses 3/8" stock
- 5/16, 11/32, & 23/64
- Creates a smooth, quality finish
- Comes pre-assembled & adjusted
- Makes fletched shafts a breeze!

SHAFT SHOOTER MFG. & ARCHERY
473 South Fork Road
Raymond, WA 98577
(360) 942-6155



The Ladder

By Terry Jamieson

I have spent the last 12 years of my life in the coaching profession and have had the unique opportunity to coach many different sports such as baseball, football, basketball, soccer, track, and even have had some time dealing with badminton. I have enjoyed this work at both the high school and college level with the finest and the worst of talent to work with.

In my experience, I have developed a coaching theory that has also helped me in my personal archery endeavors. Shooting instinctively with traditional equipment has given me the chance to incorporate this philosophy and I hope sharing it with you will help your shooting as well. Bear in mind that it is only my approach, but I feel that you can benefit also.

The coaching angle I am sharing with you is what I call the spirit ladder. Three steps to help you concentrate on the act itself and ultimately block out those factors that so often cause failure.

Step 1. The Tool Bond—When a hitter in baseball is trying to focus on a 95-mile-per-hour pitch, the last thing on his mind should be the bat. In fact in my experience I have coached more young people who spend too much time worrying about the wood than the ball. It seemed at times that they were each more focused on the look of the bat and the gloves than the thrown ball. I say that the hitter must develop a bond with the tool of the trade, one that is so perfect that when hitting, he never thinks of it in his hands. The bat is beautiful and no doubt essential, but only a small part of the grand portrait.

A bow is a tool of similar magnitude to its holder. It must be finely tuned and fit like a bat in the hands of a refined hitter. Concentration on the equipment takes the focus away from the serious task at hand—shooting straight. Do not spend time thinking of the tool when shooting. Sure it is an instrument of allure, and fun to look at, but I am trying to make you a better shooter. Tune it to fit you as perfect as possible, then move to step two.

Step 2. The Alpha Mechanism—You need something to launch the mental and physical process of the act. In baseball it is called a triggering start, and a place kicker might call it a step point. When I kicked in college, I was truly at my best when my step point was a solid mental point on the ground where my non-kicking foot landed every time. I was therefore assured that my angle was correct and the ball flew true. Can archery really be any different?

An instinctive archer must locate that first move that begins the entire process that will end as suddenly as it started.

In my case, I like to touch my cheek with my shooting fingers on every shot, with my index knuckle gently touching my cheekbone. I think of this point well before I

ever draw the bow and that insures that I am technically tuned on absolutely every shot. That thought is my mental starting mechanism. What is yours? Think about it for a moment and try to locate a mental step point when you shoot.

I had the opportunity to play badminton with a young man from Indonesia who conveniently kicked my tail daily. He had incredible skills—with one glaring characteristic that was impossible to miss. He always tapped his right leg with the racket before swatting the shuttlecock back at me at obscene speeds. When I asked why he did this his reply was that it assisted him in starting his swing at the birdie from low to high and not different places each time. Now this may mean nothing to you on the surface, but to a coach it is clear that his leg tap was a means to start the process of striking the object of his desire. I think accuracy is best obtained when you have a routine which begins with a triggering mechanism.

Step 3. The Developing of a Competitive Soul—

Now I know that traditional shooting need not be competitive, but go with me on this one. To get the very best out of yourself I feel you must set a rung on the spiritual ladder to reach for, and to properly maximize your ability you cannot even begin to think that you will miss when the bow is drawn.

The finest shooters in basketball, such as Larry Bird or Michael Jordan, simply do not visualize what will happen if they miss. When the ball is caught they are already focused on steps one and two and the ball is away, sent by a hand that is fueled by a mind that is competing with itself. These guys know it is going in the hole. A miss is unacceptable because they do not think of it. They have set personal standards that cause the individual competitiveness to rise to the top of each moment they are taxed.

When you are shooting your bow, let yourself know that the arrow is going to hit its mark. Not only focus with your eyes but truly aim with your mind. I swear I have seen Larry Bird shoot at the basket while looking away as the ball was released, and he sunk it. Is that supreme confidence or what? Sure, he is talented, but the reality is that anyone can develop mental skills that enhance confidence, and archery is the ultimate sport for this soulful wilderness.

Instinctive shooting is an intellectual approach any way, so why not meditate to the point of bow and arrow and mind marriage. I have developed my own archery skills by following my own advice and these three steps have worked to help me remember.

Now that you have allowed me to pass this on, ask yourself these questions before you shoot again.

1. Is your bow so perfectly tuned and does it fit you so well that you can honestly say you do not think of the tools when you shoot?
2. Do you have a routine that includes an alpha or starting point that is the same every time you draw?
3. Are you able to focus on the target of your desires so profoundly that you aim with your mind, and your soul knows you will not miss?

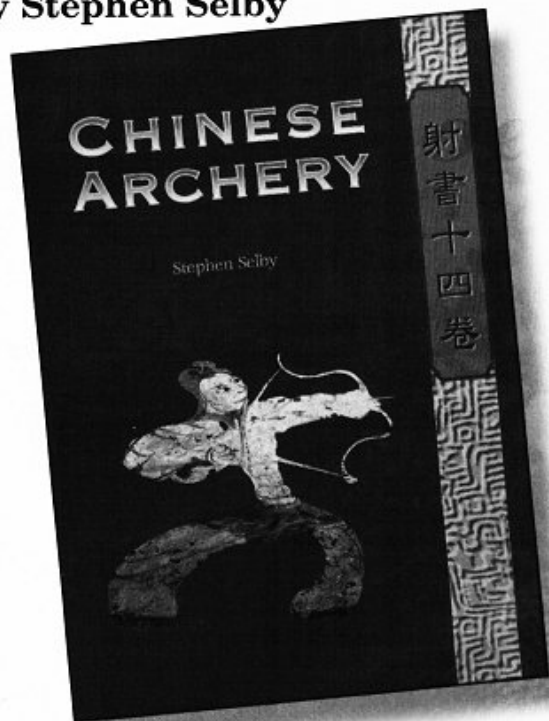
Go out and shoot, but only after you have had a chance to have some quiet time and digest these words. They work to enhance my personal shooting skills, and they may help you as well. Remember that instinctive is another way of saying spiritual. Now climb the ladder.



Book Review—by Hugh D. Soar

Chinese Archery

By Stephen Selby



Stephen Selby, the author of this fascinating book, holds an MA (Hons) Degree in Chinese. His work in Hong Kong for the past two decades has brought him into direct contact with Chinese culture. He has a keen interest in Asiatic archery, and this with his specialized knowledge of language has enabled him to translate texts relating to bow-building, archery, and cross-bow shooting techniques from very early Chinese sources which would otherwise have remained unknown to all but classical Chinese scholars.

These translations together with their original texts for those who are bi-lingual give vivid and detailed explanation of the solemnity with which those long-past archery tournaments were held. The result is an intriguing compendium which brings together a magnetic mix of archery-related fact interwoven with historical anecdote, legend, and myth spanning some 4,000 years.

Early Chinese history is well documented; far more so than that of Western nations and it will come as a welcome surprise that skill at bow building and shooting with the bow and arrow was venerated by ritual from the earliest recorded times. Contemporary attitudes towards it and the major part it played in the formalized ceremonies leading to selection of candidates for posts in civilian Government at the highest levels will also surprise we Westerners who see archery as fundamentally a disciplined recreational pastime. An activity whose origins in hunting and warfare were lowly and mundane.

May we as Western archers appreciate the complexities of the archery ritual? I think so, although study of them will alone confirm the thought. There are curious solutions to problems. The scorer, who is positioned by the target, calls out the scores from a kneeling position. He indicates by waving a flag high and calling in a high-pitched voice when a high score is made. A low flag and a low-pitched voice follow a low score. How simple, however, for all the stylized Oriental ritual the Master of Shooting is obliged to caution the archers, "No shooting at the scorer." "No intimidating the scorer." (Don't shoot the pianist, he's doing his best!) There are Western Similarities here after all.

We are accustomed to reading of other archery cultures, and there are many books that have been published. Traditionally these cultures have been described with meticulous precision by specialized observers for presentation to Western eyes. Stephen Selby breaks with this formula however to present a broad view of traditional Chinese archery as seen through the eyes of a distinguished

and highly literate variety of historians—philosophers, poets, and practical men. Artists, novelists, and military strategists all have their say in a written story that starts in 1,500 BC but draws upon vastly older sources.

A brief introduction sets the scene. We are initiated into Chinese archery through the unlikely medium of Harlech Castle in North Wales, U.K., where through a narrow window beside which once archers stood, one summer day the author had his vision.

The book is formed of 14 parts. Archaeological evidence for early activity with bows and arrows precedes a chapter in which legendary archer heroes with their folklore tales—Chinese equivalents of our forest outlaws—are introduced.

The archer's magic and ritual, with records of the rites and their distinctive etiquette is followed by a practical description explaining in some detail how the Chinese bow and arrow makers, and the makers of targets went about their work. An enigmatic bow-handle fitting opens the chapter and invites speculation as to purpose. Whilst the six virtues of the bow are itemized for us to agree. Even glue is explained. I was intrigued to learn that glue made from rats is black, whilst that from rhinoceroses is yellow. We are not told whether the rhino is boiled to get it. Arrows of cane are dealt with in exact degree, whilst the construction of targets is described in detail. The reader will like to know that the correct invocation ritual for a successful target is achieved with preserved meat and pickles. British readers may recognize a "Ploughman's Lunch."

A chapter in which the Chinese crossbow—forerunner of the medieval Western weapon—is made and shot concludes with a summary of the military consequences of strategic archery, both on foot and horsed, particularly when used against Hun invaders. Fowling by means of stone bows and pellets, and with tethered arrows is briefly mentioned.

The "Archery Manual" of Wang Ju, an ancient and detailed summary of how and how not to shoot provides a fascinating insight into complex techniques developed when our own ancestors were still wearing skins. Preceding 16th Century Roger Ascham by a millennium, the stand, the nock, the draw, the hold, and the loose are commented on and discussed in some detail. Attempting these I was surprised by the foot position which requires the "bow foot" to be set at right angles to the "string foot," although after experimenting, I found that it improved posture.

Beside rites for archery on foot and on horseback with their military connotation, details of recreational games are included. Perhaps the most interesting is the "Nine Division Target." Each division contains the picture of an animal. Each archer holds a token representing that animal. The Chinese equivalent of "the bar is open." Shooting commences, and when he who holds the appropriate counter hits the corresponding animal, he takes a drink. The winner seems to be the one who holds his liquor best. As Stephen Selby remarks, through advancing intoxication the rest descend into an equal state of blissful incompetence. Scarcely in the solemn tradition of early ritual, but who cares.

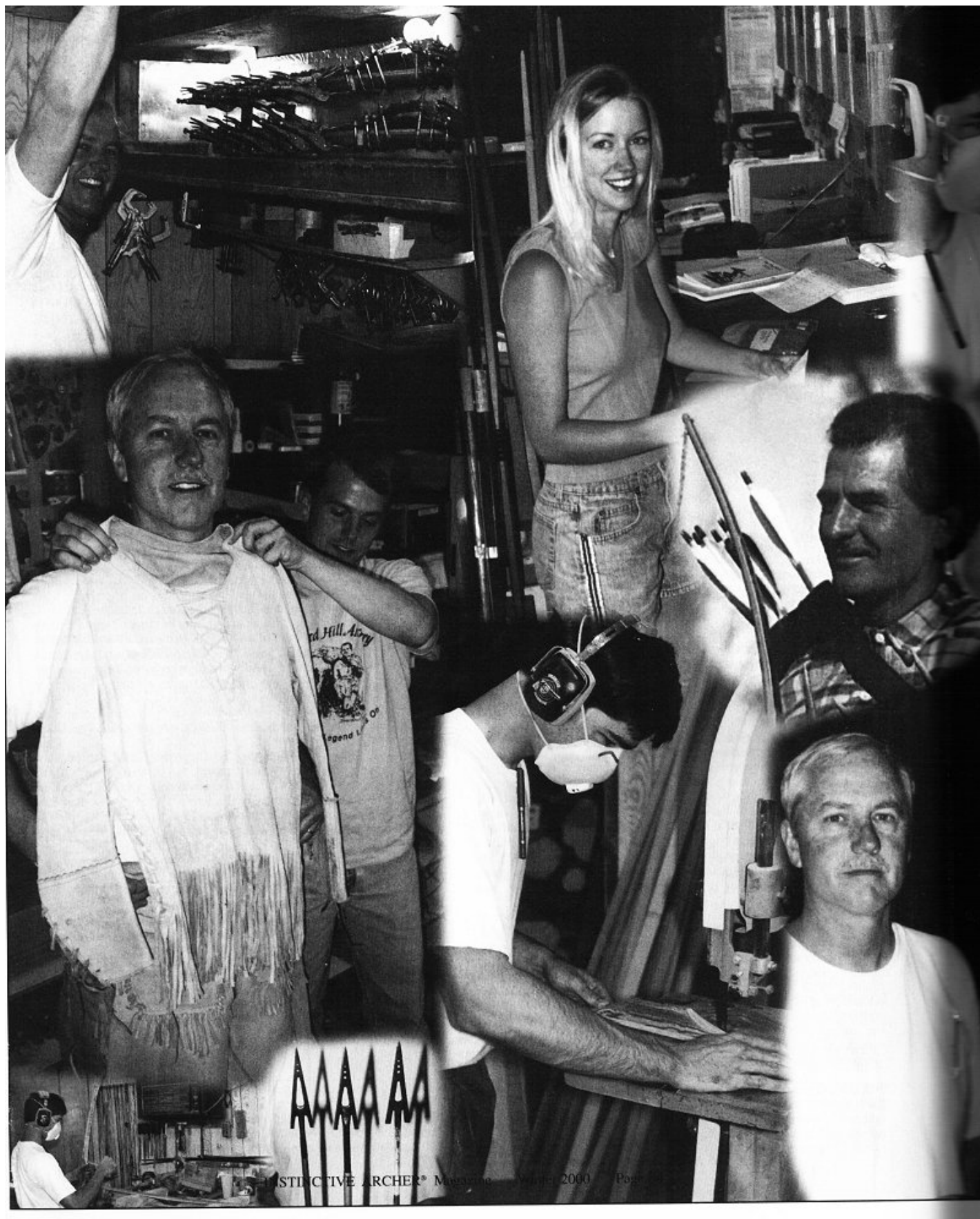
Within the 150 pages that form the final chapters is a wealth of detail, practical and theoretical relating to the shot. Impossible to summarize; suffice it for me to end by quoting a poem, written in 1820 by a contemporary Chinese woman novelist. It seems to me that this poem alone encapsulates the ancient philosophy in which this incredible book is steeped.

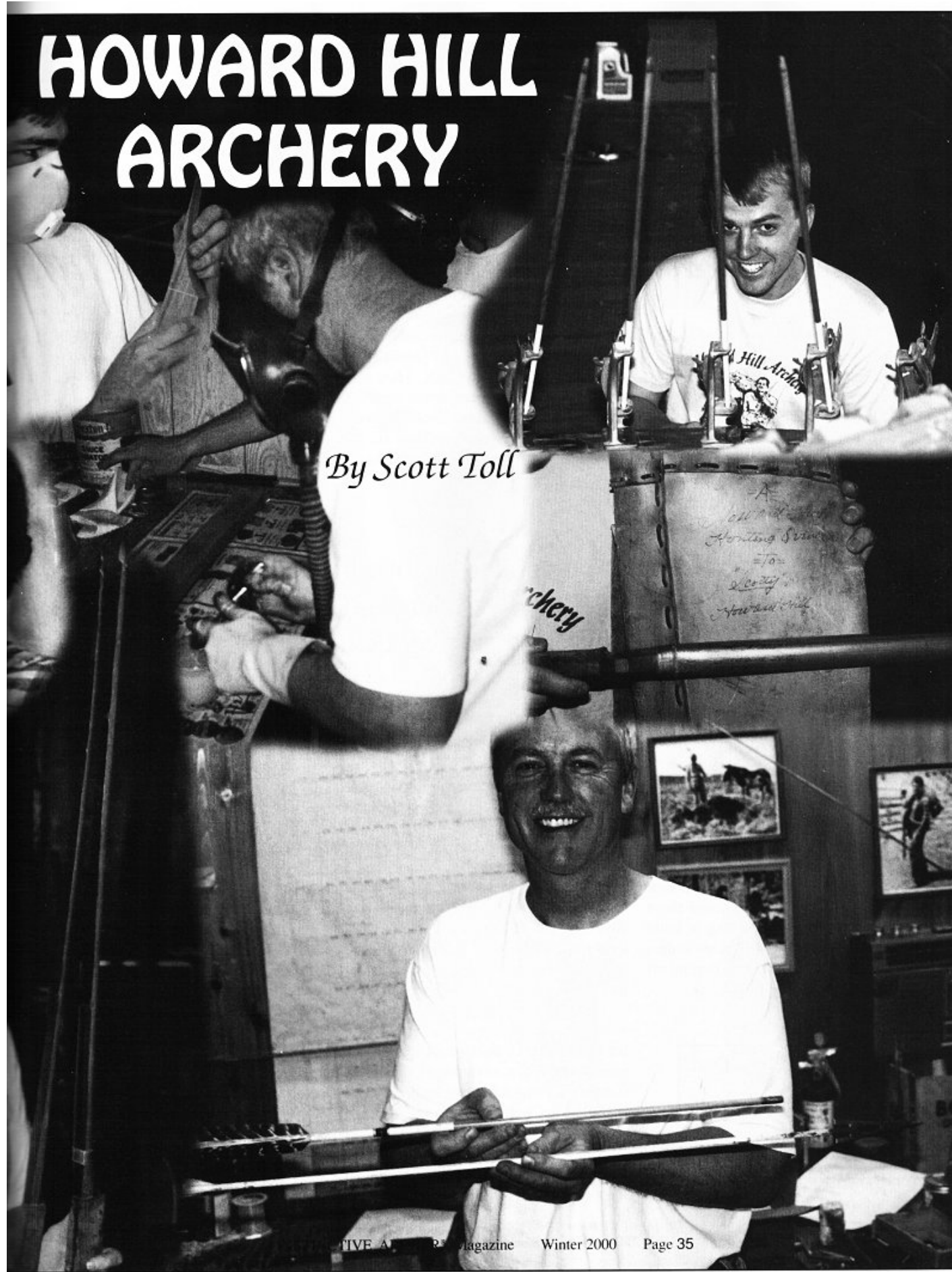
*To shoot with upright mind and stance is best
Your breath draw deep and long to fill your chest,
With five points level, three points close you draw,
Your feet as if to bear ten tons or more.
Bring back the string with ease, your mind at peace,
And calmly pause for thought before release.
The "phoenix eye" for draw-hand style is fit,
A full and steady draw ensures you'll hit.*

Enshrined within *Chinese Archery* is a synthesis of Eastern archer's lore. The distilled wisdom of a world long gone in time but as relevant as today is to tomorrow. Buy it and enjoy yesterday, today.



Hong Kong University Press: Pp:398. Soft Cover: ISBN962 209 501 1
U.S. Distributor: International Specialized Book Services FAX: (503) 280- 8832. alt: Coronet Books Inc: FAX: (215) 925-1912
Price \$25.40 UK Distributor: Drake International Services: FAX: 44 1869 338 310. Price on application.





Howard Hill Archery is one of the most successful traditional archery businesses in existence today. Their success may be attributed to having a most significant name, but there is more to this than meets the eye.

I went to Howard Hill Archery this summer to watch them build bows and learn more of their history. It was a valuable experience for me and I really enjoyed it. I like to shoot Howard Hill longbows, own three, and have harvested many animals with them.

Howard Hill Archery is located at the foothills of the Bitterroot Mountains, outside of Hamilton, Montana. Craig Ekin is the owner and he and his family operate their business at their home. When I arrived at their house, Jason Ekin, Craig's son, met me at the door of their basement where they handle their finished products. We had already met several years earlier at Jason's archery shop in Hamilton when Red Chavez, who builds Bitterroot Longbows, took me there. We were there to shoot the DART system which was set up inside. The archery shop had shooting lanes as well and was fully complimented with modern and traditional equipment.

Jason is very likable and I enjoy visiting with him. We discussed my trip and then continued with hunting stories and archery. He was leaving for South Africa in several weeks on a bow hunting trip and was very excited about it; consequently, he was having to build arrows like crazy and fill other orders before he left. The phone was ringing off the wall and he was hustling.

Photo Collage on Previous Page:
Craig Ekin (bottom Right),
Jason Ekin (Upper right),
Travis Koch (bottom Left)
Myndy Koch (upper center)

At first glance, the basement appears to be a typical archery shop with work benches, fletchers, and all sorts of supplies stacked everywhere, but it is far from ordinary. It is a huge working space with a high ceiling and it is overflowing with every conceivable Howard Hill product on the market today. The front of the basement is open at ground level with a driveway between it and the building where they make the bows.

The amount of products they move through the basement is impressive. Last year they sold 290 dozen arrows, 250 shooting gloves, 286 dozen Howard Hill broadheads, 60 Howard Hill quivers, and 130 armguards. They also sell large amounts of raw arrow supplies, bowstrings, bow cases, books, videos, and bow-building supplies. They are the only ones who sell this species of Japanese bamboo laminations for the "Do It Yourself Bowyer."

Its fragrance reminded me of a high school wood shop. There were huge quantities of yew wood, bamboo, and exotic hardwoods. One of the wall racks had more fiberglass laminations than I'd ever seen in one place.

Jason eventually sold his own archery business. He told me, "I ran it for two years and didn't have enough time for my own hunting, so I sold it. To be honest, things were going great and I enjoyed it, but I was working there 70 to 80 hours a week between my shop and Howard Hill Archery and didn't have time for anything else. I don't regret it a bit because it was a great experience for me."

Jason's experience is a valuable asset for their business now because of his knowledge of modern archery equipment—there are advantages in understanding a compound user before matching him up with traditional archery equipment.

I was eager to visit with Craig, who was building bows at this time, so Jason led me over to the bow manufac-

turing building to meet with him. They were as busy as ever inside but stopped when we arrived. After shaking hands with Craig, I was introduced to Travis Koch, (pronounced "Cook") Craig's son-in-law. He has worked with Craig in the bow shop for the last five years.

The bow manufacturing building is approximately 1,900 hundred square feet and was built in 1987. They moved into this facility from the original Howard Hill Archery business which was located a mile from there. They have modern machinery, plenty of working space, and separate rooms for wood storage, finishing, and, of course, bow-making.

There are racks, stacks, crates, and piles of bow-building materials throughout this building. Its fragrance reminded me of a high school wood shop. There were huge quantities of yew wood, bamboo, and exotic hardwoods.

One of the wall racks had more fiberglass laminations than I'd ever seen in one place. There were at least four floor-mounted belt sanders, several bandsaws, a table saw, and other pieces of machinery. Well-lighted workbenches are mounted to a wall with large windows in

it. There is plenty of work space around each work station and the shop is safe, even though it appears to be crowded.

I didn't want to interfere with their work, so they agreed to let me step back and take pictures. However, it took me several attempts to find a place to stay that was out of their way. They work hard and move constantly as they pass from one work station to the next. I spent the rest of the morning taking pictures, asking questions, and watching Craig and Travis work with groups of longbows.

As a team, Craig and Travis build an average of 40 bows a month. They separate work tasks according to which ones they are best at, and build bows in groups of four or six to increase productivity.



The cameraman couldn't have known he was recording the legend, the history, and the future of Howard Hill Archery all in one dynamic photo. Shown are Ted Ekin (left), Howard Hill (center), and Craig Ekin (drawing the bow), enjoying a day afield in the California foothills. The legacy continues to this day. . .

A major portion of the work that goes into building bows is in the preparation of the components used in their construction. Craig grinds limb laminations with a belt-driven thickness sander and a taper-board. The Japanese bamboo they use is shipped to them in large wooden crates. Each piece is full-length, nearly 1 3/4" wide, and 3/8" thick with the nodes protruding. They appear to have been split from a ten to 12 inch trunk. The laminations are marked and cut to length after they have been machined.

Travis prepares the riser blocks for the handle sections of the bows. Initially, a square block of hardwood is marked with a template then cut out to rough shape on a bandsaw. The edges are further shaped using a jig set-up on an edge sander. Finishing touches are hand done on a horizontal belt sander so that the fadeouts are paper thin and square.

There is a special room built for gluing-up bows, with a bow oven mounted on the wall above a built-in, layout bench. Craig and Travis glue up the bows together because the work is faster, preheated bow components stay warmer, and they can inspect each other's glue coverage.

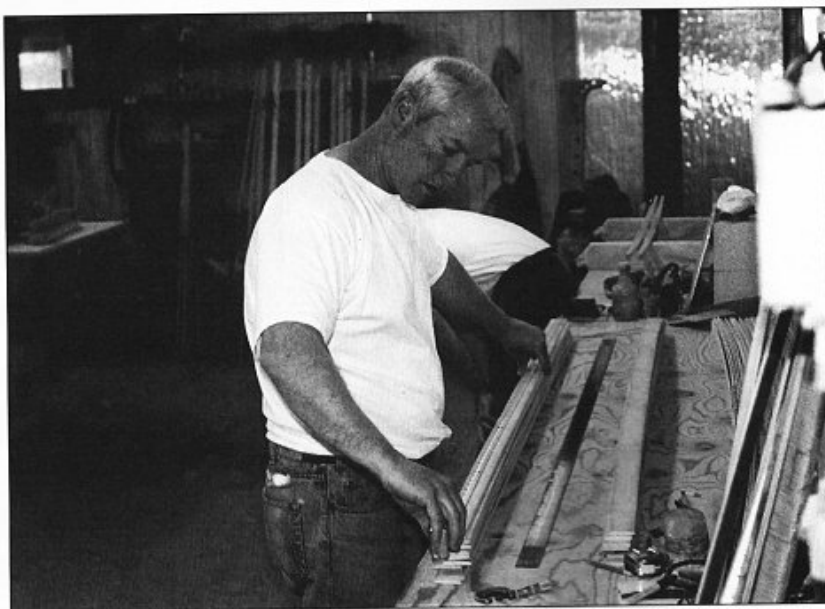
The components of each bow are stacked together in a sequence that facilitates their order of assembly, and then preheated in the bow oven prior to glue-up. They glue-up two bows per session.

Craig mixes enough Smooth-On epoxy for two bows using a grain weight scale that sits on the bench below the oven. When the epoxy is ready, the first group of preheated bow compo-

nents is removed from the oven, then, epoxy is carefully spread onto each piece as it is stacked onto the bow form. As one bow is completed, it is placed back into the oven, then the second set of components is removed and assembled in the same manner. The bow oven door stays closed as much as possible. I took pictures while they glued-up two, five-lamination, Wesley Specials. It took 30 minutes.

form is for building reflex-deflex bows. They have stayed with their same bow design for many years because it has worked out so well for them.

Their bow form is not built the same way as most bow presses are today. It is a simple piece of channel iron, preformed to their specifications. The shape of the form produces parabolic limbs with approximately 3/4" backset at the tips.



Craig Ekin laying out a Howard Hill longbow.

Craig will match the components of a bow according to weight and those materials the customer has specified. All of their bows are custom built except for having "stock bows," which they mostly sell at archery tournaments and bow shows. They have a wide selection of exotic woods, fiberglass, limb laminations, and materials for tip overlays.

There are only three bow forms used at Howard Hill Archery and two of them are identical. The other, shorter bow

Welders clamps, 12 per bow, are used to apply pressure to the limbs for glue-up. Flat iron is laid on top of rubber strips against the bellies of each limb to provide even pressure and a clamping surface. These are held under pressure with a series of J-bolts built for this purpose. To ensure a tight joint at the fadeout, the J-bolts here are tightened one last time before they are finished.

The glued assemblies are left in the bow oven for a specific amount of time to cure and then they are removed. At this time, the forms can be removed but it still takes more time for them to cool out enough for handling.

Then, Travis marks the shapes of the limbs with a template before he cuts them out on a tablesaw. Travis fin-



HorseBows

that prove to the archer's hand and eye that 5,000 years of development should not just rest in old graves. Reproductions in wood, leather, and fiberglass start at \$350.

Dealers wanted

Ed Gilbert 3314 Ridgeway Ave, Madison, WI 53704
608-244-2845 <http://www.horsebows.com>

ishes the shapes of the limbs with a horizontal belt sander before starting to work on shaping the riser.

Shaping the riser is no easy task, as they do most of the work by hand with rasps and files. The quality shows. The location of the arrow shelf is marked first and then a small amount of material is removed with the bandsaw. After this, the bow is clamped securely in a bench vice and carved out by hand. Travis is very good at this and once started, never slows down.

When the handles are finished, Travis does the initial weight check, then Craig takes over the task of fine tillering and alignment. First, Craig finishes the nocks which hold the bowstring, removing material with a Dremmel. This is a critical task and Craig's specialty. When the nocks are done a string is placed on the bow and its brace height adjusted.

A tiller board is used for balancing the limbs of the bow. Craig uses



Travis Koch in the Howard Hill Shop.

The location of the arrow shelf is marked next, and after Travis removes a small amount of material with the bandsaw, he clamps the bow securely in a bench vice and carves out the shelf by hand. Travis is very good at this and once started, never slows down.

The bow is sanded down next and given a final inspection before going to the finish room. The finish room is a dust-free area and vented away from the main working areas.

Besides a protective finish, each bow is marked for identification and then given a serial number. The serial number helps to keep track of the number of bows built and when they were made. Since 1982, they have built approximately 4,400 of what they call "serial number bows," but they build other bows as well. The kid bows do not have serial numbers and the Special Edition longbows have their own serial numbers.

The first series of Special Edition longbows was built in 1975, when Howard Hill passed away. It was called, the "Commemorative" and was built in his honor. Since then, they have produced five additional series of Special Edition longbows. The second series was called "The Rogue," 50 were built. The third series was called, the "Jungle Cat," only 40 of these were built. The fourth series was called "King of the North," 50 were built. The fifth series was called "Three Toes," 50 were built. Last year

(1999) they built a sixth series called the "Centennial." They built 90. Surprisingly, most of the Special Edition longbows are used for bowhunting.

The most popular bow sold at Howard Hill Archery today is called the Wesley Special. It has five, full-length bamboo laminations in its construction. The most popular bow weight sold at Howard Hill Archery is between 55 and 60 pounds. They are also selling more 66-inch longbows than ever before. This is an ideal length for the archer with a 26 to 27-inch draw.

Contrary to popular belief, Howard Hill longbows are as fast, and faster than most of the longbows being sold today when they are compared with equal-length longbows. When fast-flite string is used, they pick up an additional eight to ten feet per second. The shorter bows are becoming more popular because of their increased speed.

As with any bow, the working ranges of the Hill longbows vary with the draw length being used. I have found that a 68-inch Hill longbow works very well with my 29-inch draw, even though my own Hill longbows are 70. Howard Hill longbows can be purchased as short as 60 inches. Jason was taking a 65 pound, 66-inch, Wesley Special with him on his trip to South Africa. It casts his hunting arrows 188 feet per second at his 27 inch draw.



Yew wood patiently awaiting the bowyer's skill.

a wall-mounted tiller board and weight scale for this. There are marks on the board to indicate proper flex but much of this work is done by pulling on the bow and checking its feel through the handle. To reduce the weight in limbs, material is removed from the belly side of the bow.



This is just a partial selection of the bows that were ready to ship during Scott's visit.

After gluing-up the Wesley Specials, we all went to lunch together. Afterward, Jason and I went back to the basement. Jason and his soon-to-be safari partner had previously planned to shoot the archery range, which is located on the Ekin's property, that afternoon. Jason invited me to shoot with them.

The Ekin's home rests on a small ridge at the upper corner of a beautiful, seventeen-acre parcel at the edge of the forest. A small valley runs through the middle of their property which continues downward for several miles until it meets the Bitterroot River. Their place is scattered with pine trees, lush meadows, and large willow thickets

that spread out along a creek bottom. Hidden within this foliage is a 25-target archery range which includes a full complement of McKenzie 3-D animals.

Several years earlier, Jason and Travis had persuaded Craig to let them build the target range and let other people use it for a fee. Hamilton does not have an archery range, nor do they have an archery club. They knew that it would pay for itself if they built a good one, and they did. The range is open from daylight to dusk, all year, and for a nominal \$50.00 annual charge. They have an honesty box at the practice butts for non-members, or guests of members and ask for \$5.00. With Jason's business contacts,

they were able to purchase their targets at very reasonable prices.

It is one of the best 3-D courses I've ever had the pleasure to shoot. The stakes are set at reasonable hunting distances with its targets positioned in realistic hunting situations. There is a tree stand high in a tree above two of the targets. Most of the targets run along the creek and some require kneeling shots to gain clearance through brush. It is open to all archers of every sort, including traditional and compound bow users.

After we finished shooting the 3-D course, Craig, Jason, and I settled down in the living room. We discussed details about their business and personal feelings about archery. I met Craig's wife Evie, and daughter Myndy, who handle the bookkeeping for the business. Later, I met Chad, who is their youngest son. He is attending college and playing baseball.

COMPANY HISTORY

Ted Ekin, Craig's dad, started out in the archery business in 1953 when he formed a partnership with Dick Garver to open the Shawnee Archery Shop in Sunland, California. Their connection with Howard Hill started several years later when Dick met Howard at a property owner's meeting in Los Angeles, California. Dick was running for a position on the City Council and Howard was there to contest the building of a new freeway through his property. Dick helped Howard in his efforts, but needless to say, the freeway was built

Christian Bowhunters of America

Exalting Christ

as Creator! Saviour! Lord!

For membership information or to inquire about spiritual matters, write:

CBA • 3460 W. 13th St. • Cadillac, MI 49601

Genesis 1:1

John 3:16

Matthew 5:16



"PULLING BIG BOWS"

—The first in a series of videos on "Archery Fitness." Train at home with your bow and simple exercise equipment. Increase your bow poundage by as much as 25 lbs. in six weeks.

"I personally have never seen a really great archer who did not have a rock-solid bow arm. This video definitely helps give you better bow control, which equals better accuracy." **Paul Sparks, 1996 World Recurve Champion (left-handed)**

"I've seen a tremendous gain! I mean incredible! I now pull and finally anchor with ease my 60# bow. Such a sweet release now. When I ordered, I didn't know what to expect—but your video exercise program works!" **Craig Wallin, 1997 World Champion?**

\$19.95 + \$3.00 S & H. VISA/MC (915) 737-2343. Checks or MO to: Price Ebert, P.O. Box 1128, Dept. 1A, Sweetwater, TX 79556-1128.

anyway. Because of this encounter, the Garvers and Ekins became close friends with Howard Hill.

Howard, Ted, and Dick decided to go into business together in 1958 and so the Shawnee Archery Shop started to sell Howard Hill Productions equipment designs for the first time. Before this, Howard had never really been in the bow-building business. He built his own, of course, but only built them occasionally for friends and acquaintances. He sold his broadheads and performed shooting exhibitions.

In 1960, Howard Hill Productions was incorporated as Howard Hill Archery, Inc. and was moved to Sun Valley, California. Ted Ekin, Dick Garver, and Howard Hill all held shares of stock in this new venture. However, this adventure fell through in 1961, but the Shawnee Archery Shop, now called the Shawnee Archery Center, had continued to sell Howard's equipment. When the Sun Valley business fell through, Howard, Ted, and Dick agreed to continue selling Howard's equipment as they had before.

Craig was a young boy and worked at the store for his father during his summer vacations. At eight years old, he was responsible for building and stocking the kiddy arrow bins in the business. That was in 1958. They han-



(From left to right), Dick Garver, Sr., Elizabeth Hill, Howard Hill, and Ted Ekin, pose for a group photo while on an Utah Mule deer hunt.

dled all sorts of other sporting goods as well and he continued to work during his summers while he grew up.

In 1968, Ted and Betty Ekin sold their interest in the Shawnee Sports Center, but retained the rights

to produce and sell Howard Hill Archery equipment. They moved to Hamilton, Montana, and with advice from Howard, continued the Howard Hill Archery business.

In 1979, Ted Ekin passed away and Craig stepped in to help with the business. Howard Hill Archery did not build their own bows. In fact, they had

Whispering Pines Traditional Archery Camp

- Scenic setting
- One-on-one instruction on 3-D archery range.
- Pre- and post-camp video critique.



For free brochure contact:

**Bob Wesley • 348 Holliday Drive, Dept. IA
Poplarville, MS 39470 • (601) 795-8727**

Bob is a former president of the Mississippi Archery Association and was inducted into the Mississippi Bowhunters Hall of Fame in 1989.

PACIFIC YEW LONGBOWS by JAY ST. CHARLES

CLASSIC YEW LONGBOWS
BOWCRAFTING WORKSHOPS



website: <http://www.selfbow.com>

PACIFIC YEW INC. info@selfbow.com
P.O. Box 721
Fall City WA 98024 Ph: (425) 222-6726

always contracted with other bowyers to build their bows for them until 1981. That is when Craig started building bows, and after a couple of years built all of the bows himself.

Dan Schulz learned to build longbows from Howard, and was supplying most of the bow blanks when Craig took over. Dan taught Craig how to build the bows. Craig admitted that he has never seen anyone else but Dan build bows. Since 1981 he has built nearly 7,000 Howard Hill bows.

THE BOWS

One of Craig's beliefs is that an archer should never overbow himself. He shoots a 75-pound longbow himself, but is very capable of handling this much weight as I found out later. He told me, "There was a time when I pulled 172 pounds. I even had a 160 pounder that I shot, but not a lot. I was in my early thirties. I had minor injuries when pulling this weight but never anything that lasted more than two weeks. The main thing that I did was on my pulling hand; I strained a finger. Another injury had to do with having strained ligaments in my bow-arm shoulder socket because the arm would set so much further in.

Muscles grow quickly but not tendons and ligaments. So even if you are really strong and jump into heavy bow pulling, it takes much more time to build up the tendons and ligaments that support the stronger muscles."

When Craig used to pull heavy bows he used a 125-pound longbow to work out with. He did a several different exercises with it. One exercise was to pull the bow back and hold for as long as he could. He could pull a 125-pound bow back and hold it between 25 and 30 seconds. The other exercise he did was to pull this bow all the way back and then let it down, and keep repeating this until he couldn't pull it back. Generally 20 to 25 times.

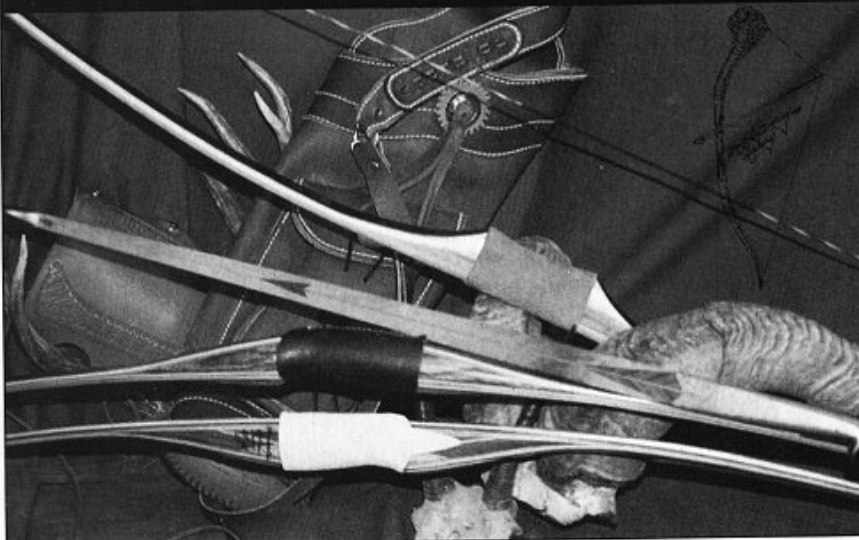
Whenever Craig cannot talk a customer out of too much weight he tells them, "Whatever you do, don't loose an arrow out of that bow for a week. Take the bow and work it like it were weights. Do this every other day by pulling it back until you can't hold it anymore. Then put it down. Do this five to six times throughout the day. On the other day, pull it back repetitiously until you can't pull it back at all." He tells them that after about ten days they will be into that bow unless they are outrageously overbowed. Craig continued with, "When they shoot com-

pounds, the muscles are there. They just haven't worked that last half of their draw before. I try to remind them that they haven't used those muscles when shooting a compound or have not been shooting a bow at all. They have to make sure that they do not develop bad habits by shooting a bow that is too heavy for them."

When Craig builds a bow that pulls more than 90 pounds he will not build it with any material other than bamboo. Other materials do not handle this kind of stress. He has built a number of bows which pulled between 110 pounds and 125 pounds, and a few between 125 pounds and 150 pounds. The heaviest bow he ever built was 207 pounds.

After supper, we went to the basement to play with some of their heavier bows. There were two, already strung, laying on the top of a bow rack which held more than fifty other longbows. One of these bows had a pull-weight of 90 pounds, and the other 110 pounds. Jason and I were pulling on the lighter of the two when I noticed Craig

J.D. Berry Archery
Handcrafting Fine Longbows Since 1980
 S. 303 Hallett, Medical Lake, WA 99022
 (509) 299-3029
 Send \$1.00 for brochure




Wilderness Bows
 Reflex-Deflex Design
 No Hand Shock
 Fast Shooting
 Excellent Craftsmanship

MODOC *Broadheads*



For Swaged or Wood Arrows
 • 125 gr.1" cut
 • 140 gr.1 1/8"

For Aluminum or Carbon Arrows
 • 105 gr.1" cut
 • 125 gr.1" cut
 • 140 gr.1" cut

Extremely Strong Spring Steel
Guaranteed Perfect Flight
Excellent Penetration

Wilderness Bows
 1015 C. Pit Lane • Nampa, Idaho 83687
 (208) 466-1827

pulling back the 110 pounder. He was toying with it! First, he would hold it back at his anchor, and then slowly let it back down. He was working with it in the same manner as the exercises he'd mentioned earlier. He just turned fifty this year and is certainly not overbowed by his 75-pound hunting bow.

HOWARD'S PERSONAL GEAR

We spent more time in the basement looking at various personal items which belonged to Howard. This was most enjoyable for me. There is a set of Cape Buffalo Horns hanging on the wall and a 13-foot snake skin, tacked out on a board, right above them, as well as an elephant tusk. Howard collected these trophies when he traveled to Africa in 1950. An arrow spine chart that Howard made for the business in the 50s hangs on the wall. It uses a graph-like format, with curved lines running throughout to indicate bow poundage. There is a wooden, eight-arrow, fletching jig Howard made back in the late twenties. It is more complicated than reading the spine chart.

It was a real pleasure for me to look at and handle longbows that Howard had actually built. They had several of these beauties, including two that he'd built for an NBA basketball player and his girlfriend in 1939. The basic dimensions are the same as those made today with an exception of having more backset in their limbs.

Craig brought out an old cardboard box containing a set of Howard's buckskins, which matched, in every detail, with those he wore in his earliest hunting pictures. They are sweat-stained and have cigarette burns on the front side. I had never noticed the built-in armguard on the bow arm sleeve before.

There is a worn out back-quiver of Howard's hanging on a nail in the wall. It contains several of the special arrows he used to use. One arrow is blunt-tipped, with high-cut feathers. It was an arrow he used for stunt shooting in the original filming of Robin Hood, with Errol Flynn. Another is an arrow he used for hunting ele-

phants with in Africa. It has a prodigious broadhead welded onto a five-inch, steel shank, which is inserted into an aluminum shaft.

Travis brought out a box containing letters, family photographs, news paper articles with Howard Hill in them. He had gathered the material together over several years by rummaging through the basement and gathering it into one place.

One priceless picture was a snap-shot of Howard sitting in a lawnchair with his longbow. It was taken in 1973,



and is the last known picture of him pulling back a bow before he passed away. We spent a great deal of time just looking over the unpublished photographs and discussing them.

The Ekin family's relationship with Howard Hill lasted for many years in business and as a friend of the family. Their genuine respect for Howard is still obvious in the way they speak of him and run their business today.

HOWARD HILL ARCHERY —TODAY AND TOMORROW

When I asked Craig what he thought Howard might think of their operation today, he replied, "He was always looking to make it a successful business. I'd have to say that he would be happy with the way things are progressing because we are doing our best to get well-made products to the people in a timely fashion. He always wanted that. I think he'd be proud of what is going on up here because it is probably more successful today than it ever has been."

"We are building the best bow that we can and as close to what Howard made with the materials we have today." I asked Craig if they had discussed any future plans for Howard Hill Archery. He smiled and said, "We've discussed the ideas of different bows and components, and we're in the process of putting together another book about Howard Hill. Jason and Travis are young and have new ideas; I'm gradually letting them go with it."

Jason's remark to this was, "Yea, we finally got the 3-D range!" I doubt that Craig will retire in the near future but, if he does, the business will certainly be left in good hands.

My trip to Howard Hill Archery was a great experience for me, and the Ekins are great people. I would recommend a tour to anyone interested in a Howard Hill experience, too. It is comforting to know that Craig and his family will continue to keep the spirit of Howard Hill alive by their efforts to build the longbows he liked so well.



**If you seek to master the longbow,
study this photo well. The World's Greatest
Archer still shows us the way.**

**The
Krackow
Company**

UNIQUE CATALOGUE OF INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

full color catalogue - four dollars

RD #1 Beechwood Road
New Wilmington, Pennsylvania 16142 USA

724.946.8332

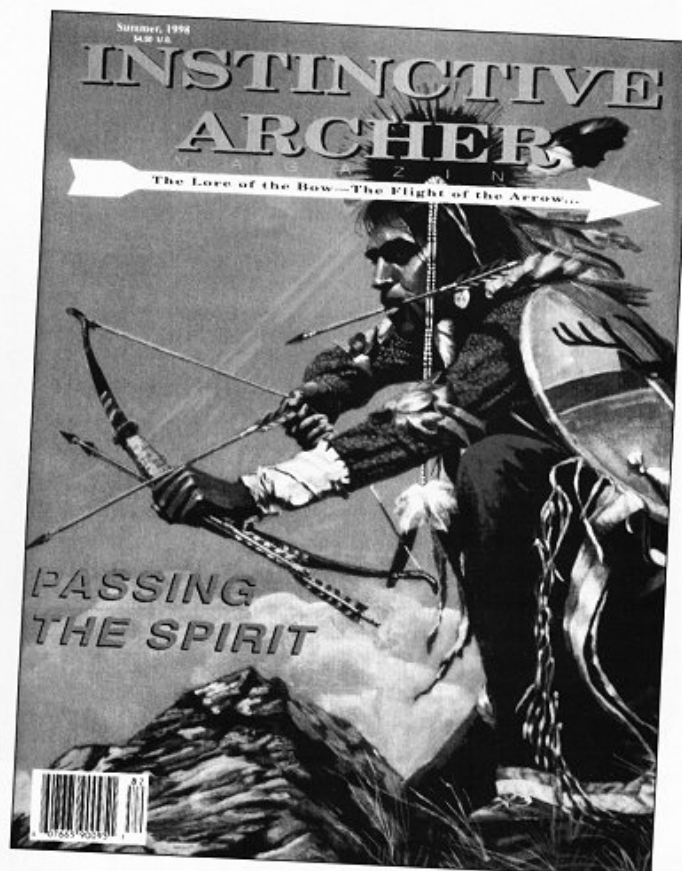
The Lore of the Bow—The Flight of the Arrow...

Subscribe Today

Experience a Refreshingly-Different Perspective.

The Hearty Magazine
For
Rugged Individualists

We Don't
Run with the Pack!



4-00

INSTINCTIVE ARCHER

M A G A Z I N E

The Lore of the Bow—The Flight of the Arrow...

Please select a subscription category (four issues per year):

☐ One-Year U.S. (\$15.00) ☐ Two-Years U.S. (\$28.00)

☐ One-Year Canada (\$22.00 U.S.) ☐ One-Year Foreign (\$30.00 U.S.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VISA/MC: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to:
INSTINCTIVE ARCHER™ Magazine
PO BOX 400, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629-0400 (208) 793-3408

Lore: A body of wisdom or knowledge, especially when it is of a traditional nature.

Begin your collection today!
Order the BACK ISSUES of
Instinctive Archer™ Magazine.

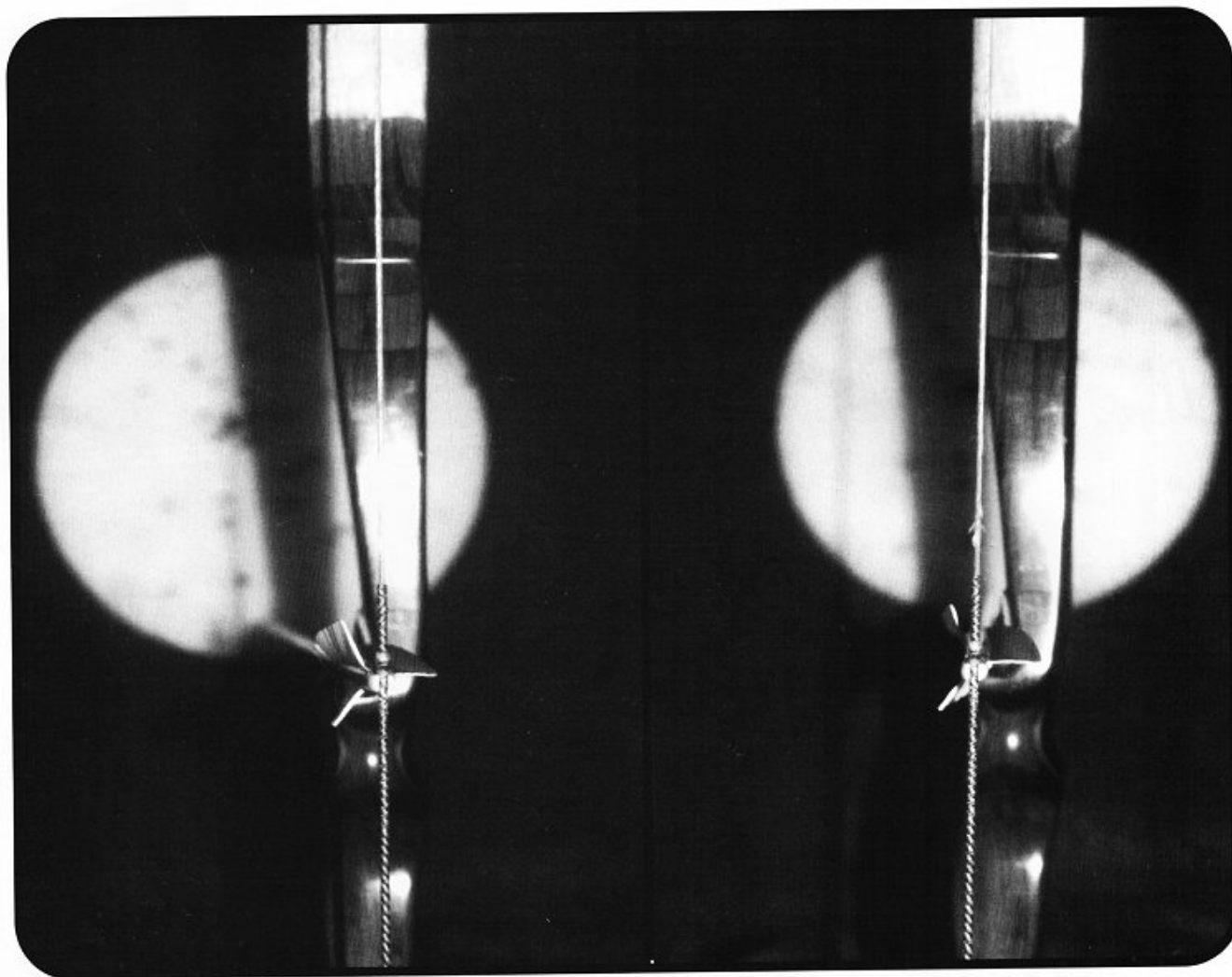
AVAILABLE ISSUES:

<i>Premier Issue</i>	Summer/Fall '96	Spring '97
Summer '97	Fall '97	Spring '98
Summer '98	Fall '98	Winter '98
Spring '99	Summer '99	Spring '00
Summer '00	Fall '00	

(price includes shipping and handling)

U.S.	\$6.50 each
Canada / Mexico:	\$7.00 each
Other Countries:	\$8.50 each

LORE: A BODY OF WISDOM OR KNOWLEDGE . . . ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS OF A TRADITIONAL NATURE.



Bow Tuning? Arrow Selection? Brace Height?

By Jim Ploen

After getting a feel for the bow, aiming the arrow, and shooting arrows at a target, other challenges are needed. So it is only natural to look for other targets—like a leaf on a bank or a can left in a ditch and how about that tuft of grass way out in the distant field? Once these urges have been satisfied it's back to the target to perfect a shooting style. We have purchased archery publications off the magazine rack, and have thus acquired information pertaining to suggested gripping of the bow, canting, finger pinch, swing shooting, selecting arrows, paper tuning, and the solution to all of our problems. Just look at the spot, concentrate, and after enough arrows are shot your instincts will awaken and you can keep the arrow on the target.

We also have the inquisitive archers who enjoy aiming the arrow and want to know how things work. They are aware of the arrow in their scenic view of the target. But they may not be hitting where they are looking and the arrow wobbles on its way to the target. "Gee! if I just could get those arrows to fly, I could hit that spot every time, my penetration would be so much better with an arrow that did not oscillate so much."

So we start to experiment, trying every solution written in books and articles as well as quotes from the internet and soon we are so engrossed in watching the arrow we forget to concentrate on the spot and slowly lost the consistency in our shooting form. When all else fails it's time to look at the basic

PHOTOS ON PREVIOUS PAGE:

(Left) Proper string alignment for a recurve—string aligned with the center of the limbs.

(Right) Proper string alignment for a longbow—string aligned with the center of the target and the tip of the arrow. This same alignment can be used on a recurve, but it may eventually cause the limbs to take an unwanted twist or set. This photo will help you understand why a selfbow or "snake bow" with lots of character will shoot very well, as long as the string is in line with the target and the arrow.

physics of the arrow/bow relationship and what is happening to the arrow while being controlled by the string and how the arrow reacts to the energy that's stored in the bow limbs when it is transferred by the string to the arrow upon release.

I keep reading articles stating how much more forgiving longbows are over recurves, but the scores being shot do not reflect that as being a very factual statement in target archery circles. It is more the versatility of the longbow that can be used with many different shooting styles as well as setups, as we will learn, that makes a longbow so much fun to shoot. There is a different technique required when shooting a long-bow or a recurve, and if one has perfected the shooting of a longbow and then tries the same style when shooting a recurve, there will be a learning curve to adjust to.

It is often stated that longbows are more forgiving and you do not have to be as disciplined in draw length, release, handgrip, and arrow alignment. Yet there are no basic rules of physics to back up these statements. These assumptions based on hearsay can be applied to ten-yard shooting over thirty yard shots as

the small miss alignments will still be close to the spot at ten yards but with progression to thirty yards could be off the target.

Longbow shooters seem to have two disciplines, those who demand how a longbow should look when being shot but with little discipline in shooting style. They like to shoot sitting, squatting, leaning, kneeling, and any draw length—preferring to shoot by feel and be called true instinctive archers that do not want to be aware of the arrow.

The disciplined archer likes performance not only in the bow but also in all aspects of setting up the equipment too, developing a disciplined shooting style. How the bow looks is not as important as long as it is fast, smooth in hand, and stable through the release, with a smooth draw that compliments a disciplined shooting style and hits where they are looking. That's why I personally would like to see tournaments that have the archers grouped, based on the archers scoring ability, rather than on the shoot-

ers style or look of a bow being used.

The information in my previous articles about aiming and target panic were designed to help archers become aware of their arrow in aiming and gain control of their shooting by overcoming target panic, the short draw and snap shooting, basically it was information for those who wish to become disciplined in their shooting style. The basis for experimenting when making equipment changes is a matched set of arrows and a consistent shooting style that allows you to group your arrows somewhere on the target. Without a set shooting style that is perfected in the use of your muscles (stance, alignment, reference point for aiming and anchoring your draw with the muscles of your back), was poor arrow flight or that miss caused by arrow spine, nocking point, your grip, or just a change in execution?

Let's start by looking at the design features of a recurve and a longbow, then make some comparisons and how they can be used or should be used to give us the most satisfying shooting experience.

Some of the design features of recurves are wider limbs—being wider means they can be thinner for efficient storage of energy, this also can create smoothness in drawing. The recurve tip that acts as a cam adds length to the overall bow when drawn, and may help some with string angle pinch. The cam

Horne's Hardwoods & Laminations

Wide selection of handle woods and laminations. We stock over 15 species of hardwoods. These woods are cut for their beauty, and ground for highest performance capability. We also stock glass, Smooth-On and Fuller Plast.

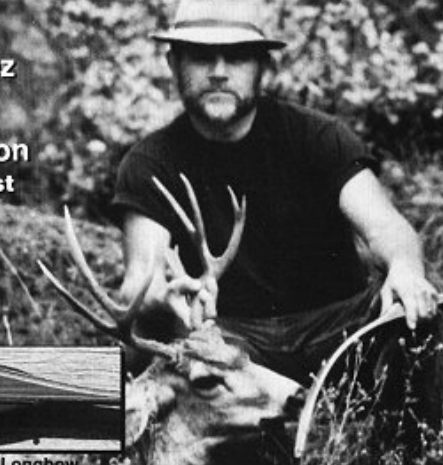
"Finish it yourself Bow Kits"

Horne's Hardwoods & Laminations

Mark or Sandy Horne
P.O. Box 1107
Boyd, TX 76023
(940) 433-5906



Bowyer
W. "Red" Chavez
Two-Time
National Champion
'96 & '97 Northwest
IBO Champion



New Bitterroot Take-down Longbow

Bitterroot — Bow
Custom Longbows & Static Recurves

PO Box 342
Hamilton MT 59840

(406) 273-0558
red@in-tch.com

action of the tip as it opens can be seen on a force-draw curve as a slightly flattened spot some times referred to as a sweet spot and the ideal draw length for that bow.

This string contact on the limb requires a string-tracking groove, therefore the bow should be held so that the string stays in alignment with the limb tips through the release back to brace height. The ideal setup is to have the sight window cut past center to aid the arrow string alignment at the arrow shelf as the string returns to brace height after being released. With a recurve, you are trying to place the arrow in line with the string and limb tips, cutting the sight window near center to allow for placing the arrow in alignment.

The logical question is "why not cut a longbow window past center to allow for string/arrow alignment with the center of the bow?" One reason for not doing so in longbows is that it could negatively affect the strength of the riser in some longbows.

With a recurve cut near center, holding it with a string aligned to match the arrow alignment with build out would soon twist the limbs, yet the bow will group if held the same way for each shot. A prime example of this was the shooting of a perfect 300 round at Las Vegas back in the 1960s. Standing behind the archer shooting one perfect end after another, watching the limb twist to one side on his Bear recurve

bow was scary, it looked as if the string would come off the limb tips each time he held at full draw and no one wanted to say anything for fear that it might break his concentration. Looking at the bow on the rack between ends was not a pretty sight, but the perfect score was great.

Brace height has many points to take into consideration. Increasing the brace height will increase the draw weight but will also stiffen the feel of the draw. This will be more noticeable with shorter bows. It will also slow the speed of the arrow, when the time the arrow is in contact with the string is shortened even though the draw weight increases, this is referred to as the power stroke. Lowering the brace height will increase the speed and lessen the draw weight but if the bow is not held right, the string pushes the arrow into the window of the bow, resulting in poor flight and arrows flying to the left for the right hand shooter.

A brace height that is too low can also cause string slap on the wrist and this is no fun. The recurve with its higher brace height is actually less critical in alignment because the arrow is not pushed off line as far when the string is held in line with the center of the bow and not the arrow. A longbow with a lower brace height will be more sensitive to arrow string alignment and kick the arrow farther to the left for the right hand archer. It will then be regarded as needing a weaker spine arrow to get the arrow around the bow and back inline with the

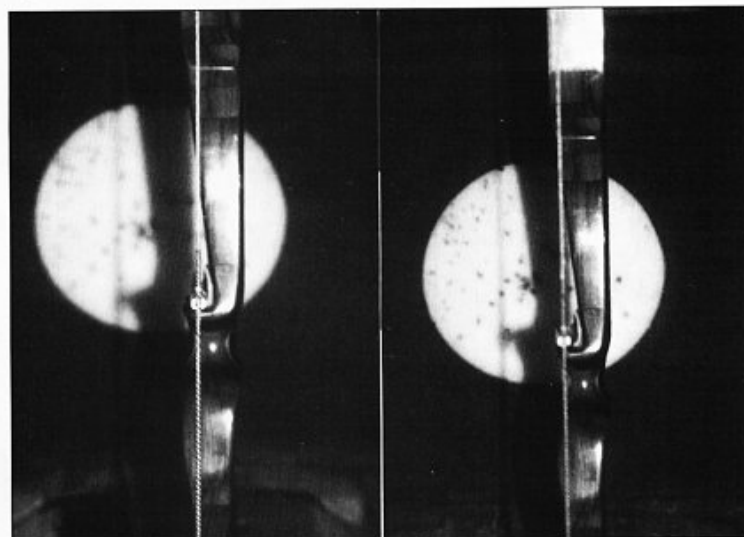
string. This is due to the archer's paradox, but if the bow is

held so that the string is in the same alignment as the arrow when the arrow leaves the string regardless of build out, all that you have to match is the inertia. The arrow at rest tends to stay at rest and being supported near the tip by the arrow rest and at the string by the nock the arrow will flex.

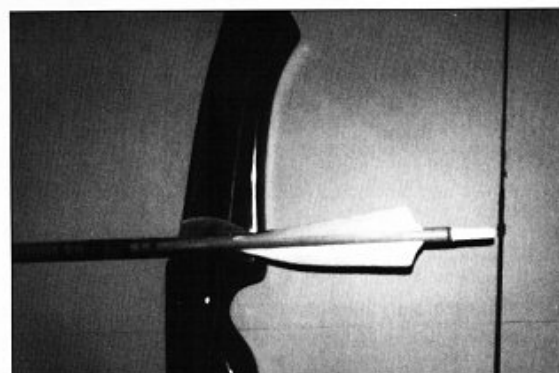
The amount of flex will be proportional to the energy imparted by the string and the spine of the arrow. Where the arrow's center of gravity is pointing in relation to its spine, at the time of string/arrow separation is where spine enters the picture. The arrow that is too stiff in spine will go left of where you are looking for the right-hand archer, and an arrow that is weak in spine will go to the right of where you are looking when you hold the bow so the string is traveling in the same alignment as the full length of the shaft when the arrow parted from the string, regardless of build out when string arrow alignment is used.

A recurve with an elevated rest certainly is a better set-up that provides better arrow clearance over shooting off the shelf of either a recurve or a longbow. This does not mean that you cannot achieve excellent arrow flight with a longbow shooting off of the shelf; it just requires a little more attention to set-up for arrow clearance. You are setting up the most efficient arrow performance when your bow is held at brace height with the limb tips, string, and arrow in line with the target, regardless of the amount of built out in your arrow shelf.

Let's follow the arrow's action as the energy stored in the limbs is being transferred to the arrow by the string. Inertia is our first problem that must be



Arrow placement/string alignment before build-out (left) and after build-out (right).



Heavy arrows may require a higher nocking point than arrows that are lighter in grain weight.



The result of one day shooting six-arrow groups at 20 yards with a well-tuned bow and arrows that properly match the bow. Do you really want to be able to shoot this well? If so, either your arrow maker will love you, or you will get a lot of exercise shooting only one arrow at a time. For many, the results of great shooting are well worth the cost.

looked at. It is the contention of many that the string travel is to the center of the bow, and the arrow spine allows the arrow to go around the bow to get in line with the string travel.

This seems impossible, and is, but the probability that it might be true is

referred to as the "archer's paradox" in archery. Where the arrow's center of gravity is pointing when clear of the string is affected by the arrow's spine.

If the bow is held so that the bow tips and the string are aligned with the arrow, the arrow does not have to flex

around the bow. Getting clearance for the arrow shaft is the biggest problem when shooting off an arrow shelf. To help us understand why this is a problem, we must first have an understanding of what the arrow goes through while in contact with the string. Because of inertia, an arrow at rest at full draw tends to stay at rest being supported at the tip by the arrow shelf and window, at the nock by the string. As the energy is transferred from the bow limbs to the arrow through the string, the arrow shaft bends. For a right-handed archer, if the arrow goes to the left of the spot, the spine is too stiff. If it goes to the right, the spine is too weak. You do not have to pay any attention to nock tip relation—only to where the tip hits in relation to where you are looking.

Also, ignore the vertical angle of the shaft at this time, as there is a separate test to set the nocking point. In my opinion, the most stable arrow will be one that is a little stiff in spine and hits the target just left of the spot you focused on when shooting right handed. There are a lot of variables involved that will give you varying results. If your bow arm anticipates the release, it will result in a left arrow. A release that moves out to the side away from the anchor will result in a right arrow for right hand shooters. Being aware of the arrow alignment with an inline release is required to make intelligent decisions. When the bow is held so the string is released in line with the arrow (even when the bow is canted), you will be able to shoot a wide selection of arrow spines. With today's more efficient longbow designs you will find that it will require 12 to 20 pounds more spine than the actual holding draw weight. Actually the spring rate of the different arrow shaft materials should require different spine charts to adjust for the inertia differences reacting to spring rate.

FLETCHING CLEARANCE

What happens when we add fletching to our shafts? Feathers add stability and arrow rotation when set at a slight angle to the center of the shaft or with a helical twist. Getting clearance for the arrow shaft is the biggest problem when shooting off an arrow shelf. To help us

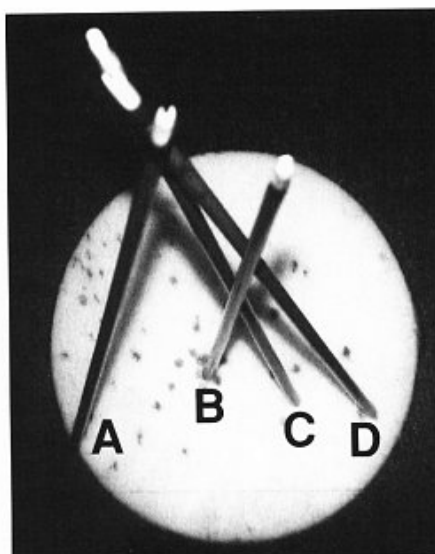
to understand why this is a problem, we must first have an understanding of what the arrow goes through while in contact with the string.

Because of inertia, an arrow at rest at full draw tends to stay at rest, being supported at the tip by the arrow shelf and window, at the nock by the string. As the energy is transferred from the bow limbs to the arrow through the string, the arrow shaft bends in toward the bow, the fingers releasing the string start this momentum. For every action there is a reaction, and this causes the arrow to flex (bend out) from the window far enough outside of the shelf to allow gravity to enter the picture. Depending on how your bow is set up, you may notice a wiping streak ahead of the fletching along the shaft where it rubs on the arrow shelf. The presence of a wiping streak shows the importance of having the string travel in line with the arrow and not travel towards the center of the bow, forcing the nock end of the arrow into the sight window. This can result in arrow kick; yet the arrow will hit its mark if the center of the arrow's gravity was pointing at the target when free of the bow and string, it simply oscillates around its center of gravity to the target. That's why some great scores have been shot with wobbly arrow flight when the arrows were matched and shot with a consistent form, so that each arrow did the same thing while being controlled by the string.

It's impossible to cover every situation that can affect arrow flight like a misaligned nock or broadhead, bent or dented shafts, etc. With a basic understanding of arrow dynamics, you will be able to recognize most of your arrow set-up problems and solve them with a minimum amount of effort.

SETTING A NOCKING POINT

A disciplined shooting form is paramount to setting up equipment, or you will not be sure if it was form or equipment and settings that caused poor arrow flight. First, set a nocking point on your string. The location will vary



Unfletched shafts with different spine weights shot from a 66" longbow—43 pounds at 27 inches. A: too stiff (73#), B: just right (62#), C: too weak (58#), D: very weak (48#). As you can see, it's more important to select arrows according to whether or not they actually hit where you are looking rather than simply selecting arrows based on a spine weight that "should" match the weight of your bow.

according to the weight of the arrow. Light arrows like aluminum and carbon will not require as high a nocking point as will be required when setting up for heavy arrows.

With the flexing of the arrow as it adjusts to overcoming the effects of inertia, the arrow also will be effected by

With a basic understanding of arrow dynamics, you will be able to recognize most of your arrow set-up problems and solve them with a minimum amount of effort.

gravity. When the arrow is flexed out from the bow, the tip is allowed to drop more than the nock end due to being in contact with the string. The heavier the arrow, the more clearance will be required at the arrow rest. This is compensated for by using a higher nock set on the string.

Start with bare shafts of different spines. While shooting at ten or twelve yards, look at a spot, pre-aim draw to a

solid anchor, release in line, and, for a right-handed shooter, if the arrow went left of the spot, the arrow is too stiff in spine. It's too weak in spine if it went to the right of where you were aimed. Remember, we are looking to match the arrow inertia at this point in our set-up.

With your selected shafts fletched, let's try them and get a feel for how they are shooting. After you are able to shoot groups, even if the flight is not exactly to your liking, you can set your nocking point by seeing if your bare shaft of the same spine will be the same height on the target as your grouping of fletched arrows (this test can be conducted out to 20 yards). If not, adjust the nock up or down so that the arrow is at the same height as the group.

This is still a trial setting that may change after you are sure of the shaft clearance at the arrow shelf. Keep looking at your shaft for that telltale sign that gravity is causing the arrow to slide along the shelf. If it is, move your arrow rest out until the arrow is just on the rest and with the bow held so that the limb tips and string end are in line with the arrow at its separation from the string. I think you will be pleased with the results.

If you do not want arrow-shelf build out, build up under the arrow an eighth to a quarter inch, but only have the build-up as wide as the arrow. This may require nock adjustment or, with the allowance for gravity with the build-up, may work just fine without further adjustments of the nock.

Don't be afraid to raise that nocking point when shooting off the shelf, and with a longbow with equal limb length you will have very little adjustment to make in your initial aiming of the arrow. If the limbs are of different length as in some designs for pre tiller, the bow has a natural tendency to tip in hand to match the balance of the bow, causing you to group high or low to match the design.

Learning to aim the arrow at the spot you are looking at can be very rewarding—and oh so much fun.



The Competitive Edge

by Gary Sentman

Traditional Archery Philosophy and Getting Close To The Quarry.

The term traditional archery is relatively new to my age group. In the sixties and seventies we were referred to as "bow hunters," since the compound did not enter the scene until the early 70s. In those years

I was a young man and I remember the "Old Salts" bragging about how close they could sneak in on their quarry and make a clean kill. However, the philosophy remained the same even for rifle hunting. "Sneak-in, get close, and make a quick, clean kill." I remember my Uncle Ed talking around the campfire about how he was able to sneak up on a buck while it was bedded down.

I was spending a lot of time in Alaska in those years and quite often during the hunting season I found myself carrying a rifle rather than a bow because harvesting an animal for meat was very important. The Alaskan natives quite often used rifles with iron sites, which might seem to be very inefficient compared to some of today's technologically equipped firearms. Still, they relied on their hunting skills to feed their families, and they did that very well. By calling the animal in, staying up-wind, and wearing the proper clothing, they were able to get in close and make a clean kill.

Around the campfires in the sixties, bragging rights belonged to the hunter who could get in the closest and dispatch the game quickly and efficiently. Maximum yardage for big game was 60 yards with a bow and 350 yards with a high-powered rifle. A hunter who shot much farther than that would have been ridiculed and probably asked not to join the hunting party again until he learned how to "get close."

My how hunting philosophy has changed over the years. Now, with magnums and compound bows, it seems the emphasis is put on the shooting and how far away the animal was when the shot was made. Whether it died quickly or not



doesn't seem to be a consideration. In too many groups, bragging rights go to the hunter who shot the farthest rather than the hunter that got in close. When hunting season approaches you will see again and again advertising for equipment to enable the hunter to shoot from greater distances.

As I see it, who needs a range finder when hunting with a bow if your shots are going to be within 40 yards? Who needs a 16x24 power scope on a rifle if your shots are going to be within 350 yards? Even at 3-D archery shoots here in the West, emphasis is put on shooting farther and farther, with trails often cut 6 to 8 feet wide straight to the target—as if that is the way it's supposed to be in the real world of hunting.

In the 60s and 70s, hunting philosophy was geared toward better hunting, education, and practice. Today the philosophy seems to be geared more toward high-technology equipment, with little emphasis on hunting skills. Some of the high tech compound bows that I see on the 3-D range aren't fit for bow hunting, because the arrows are too light (lighter than legally allowable for big-game hunting in some states), and the equipment is too fragile and sensitive.

GETTING CLOSE

Before camouflage clothing became a must on the hunting scene, mankind spent considerable time out-witting their quarry. Much time was spent observing the animals to find out where and when they fed, and where and when they went to water. There were two theories on this subject. Some

hunters believed that on a full moon night the game would feed all night and hunting would be slow the next morning. On the other hand, some hunters believed that on a full moon night the game would travel further from their bedding grounds offering excellent hunting the next morning when they were returning to their bedding area. I personally think both of these theories are worth taking note of.

The terrain and species of game are to be considered. I feel the terrain and game species will create a lot of variables in one's hunting technique of getting close to an animal. The white tail deer for instance is, may be a much more cunning animal than the black tail and mule deer of the west. On the other hand, the Alaskan moose is a very nomadic animal and you will increase your odds of harvesting the animal simply by covering more ground. In some cases I have found this to also be true here in the west when hunting the coastal Roosevelt elk. However the best chances for elk are calling a bull in during rutting season or by setting an ambush along a beaten trail the elk have used to go to and from a water source, a feeding source, or bedding source.

The number one most important consideration of the hunt is spending time in an area where there is a high concentration of the game animal you are hunting. No matter how skilled or prepared you are, if the game is not there in good numbers, your hunt will likely be unsuccessful. History discloses this when the pioneers were moving west, though they covered vast areas of frontier and many were skilled hunters, oftentimes many were faced with starvation because the game was not there to harvest.

Once I locate the game I wish to pursue, I will prepare myself for getting in close and making the kill. One absolute necessity is minimizing the human scent. Bathing with items found in natural surroundings would be ideal, such as sage, juniper, or even skunk cabbage if necessary. I have known avid hunters who would lie in an elk pissing station and rub elk dung and urine into their clothing.

The American Indians often used "scent pouches" when hunting. The pouches were cut from the hock area

where the scent is most strong. These pouches were kept well filled with strong natural scents. They were tied one to another by a thong and were worn around the waist or neck so to help cover the human scent.

I believe for modern man the most difficult thing to overcome when it comes to hunting is the time element. In the days when life was very simple, there was no time set for a hunter to harvest his meat for the following winter. Now we have many restrictions, and time to hunt successfully is limited. On the other hand, the animals are at home in the wilderness and they don't have a reason to be anywhere at any specific time. Therefore a hunter must be very patient in order to get close.

Listening to hunters in camp tell of their encounters, I have noticed that the hunter who usually sees and hears the most game is the one that is the noisiest and most careless in the woods. This person may not get the best and closest shots. However, there is another theory that says a hunter walking around making a lot of noise will not be considered a predator and therefore the game animal will allow the individual to approach very close because he isn't considered a danger. You will notice in movies of African game animals, many times the predators approach very close to the game with no apparent alarm. Not until the predator assumes a tense, pre-attack position is the alarm given. The reason for the alarm could also be scent connected, perhaps due to a hormone being released by the attacking animal.

I have often been asked what preparation I make for hunting here in Oregon. In closing let me mention a few standards that I have.

PREPARATION

- My bow will be covered with a military camouflage paste to remove the glare. This can easily be removed with soap and water after hunting season.
- My arrows will be aluminum, fletched with a dark-colored, 5" to 5 1/2" feather to add stability under rainy conditions. They will be tipped with a 2-blade broad head that is very strong and sharp.
- My quiver will likely be a large Latigo

leather back quiver that has been seasoned through several years of hunting. Besides carrying my arrows, the quiver will be equipped with a small 8" mill bastard file for touching up the sharpness of my broad heads periodically, and a pouch that holds an extra string in case I accidentally cut my bowstring with a broad head.

- I will wear a soft felt hat that has a 3" to 3 1/2" brim. This will keep the sun out of my eyes and protect me from rain, ticks, leaves etc. falling down the back of my neck.
- My shirt will likely be of cotton or light fleece if the weather is hot. When the weather is cool enough, I prefer wool for clothing. Not only because of the obvious warmth-retention qualities, but also because it doesn't have the UV factor that many materials have. Most of my hunting clothing will be green and black plaid with the exception of the coat. If needed, it will be camouflage patterned light wool. In the pocket I will carry a small capsule of black paste of which I will apply to my cheeks and chin.
- My trousers will be of a dark color, preferably wool, but if the weather is too hot, a cool, quiet cotton material. The trousers will be supported by an 1 3/4" belt which holds my hunting knife, and in some cases a handgun.
- My boots will be all leather, preferably with a crepe sole. Were I going into a tree stand or blind, I may consider all rubber boots.
- I will keep all of my hunting clothes in a plastic bag or storage carton when I am not in the field.
- When hunting I will not use colognes or deodorants, and I bathe with a non-perfumed natural soap.

Using these basics I should be able to stay with the traditional hunting philosophy that was passed onto me by the old timers and get in close.

—Good Shooting!

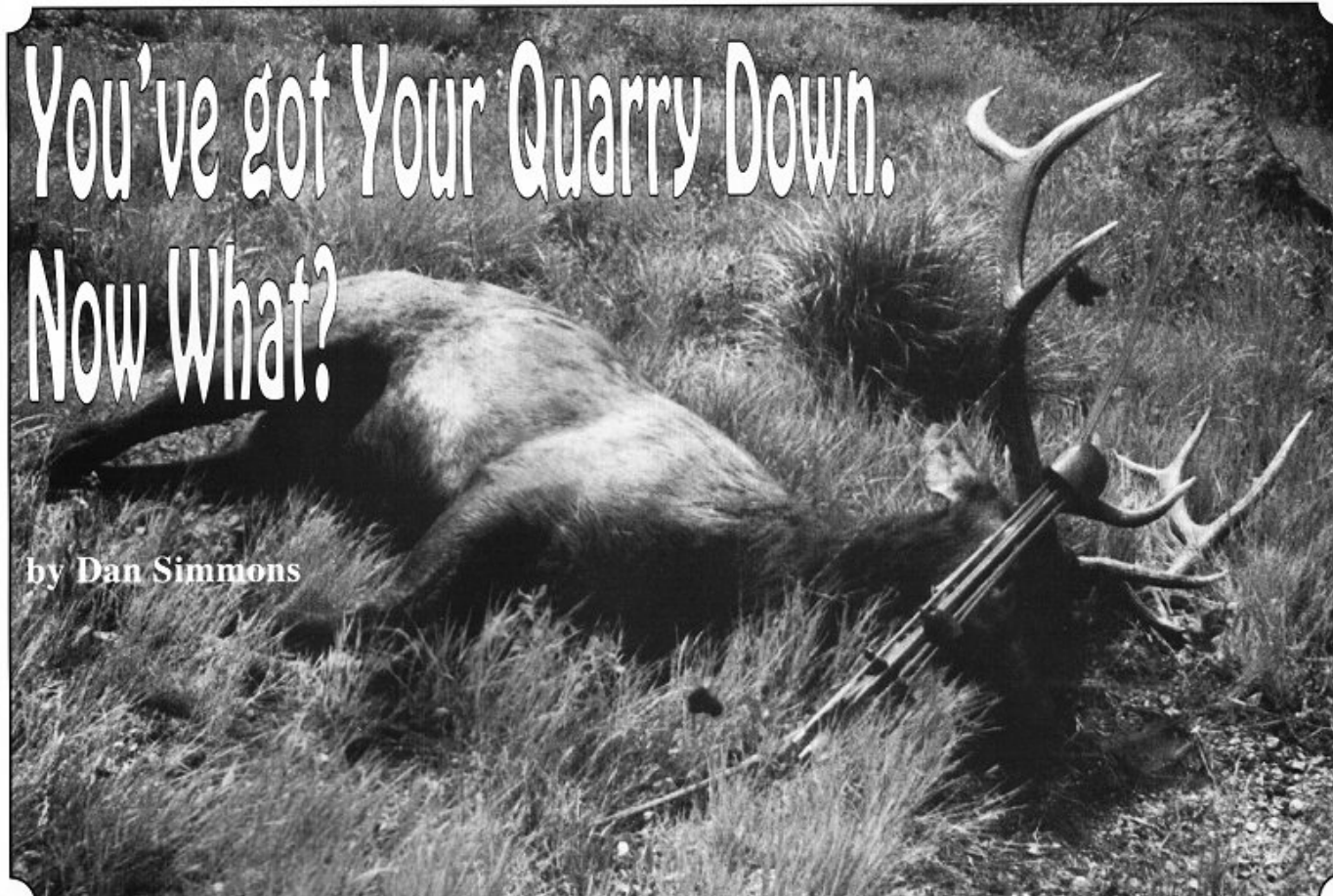


Photo by Rik Hinton

You have already slipped the string, dropped the hammer, pulled the pin, etc., made a good hit, and your game is down. If you think your work is now complete, think again. What you do in the next few hours will determine if you realize many fine meals as rewards of your hunt, or, an awful, nasty tasting meal even the dog won't eat.

Every year a percentage of people—good, ethical hunters—take that first bite from a roast, hamburger, ribs, etc. and throw the remainder of their meat into the nearest trash receptacle. Their reasoning for the bad taste of the meat? “Must have been an old buck, he was heavy into the rut, she was an old dry doe, etc. Wrong! Most often you get bad tasting meat because of one thing, improper care of the game in the field.

Of all the evils involved in the ruination of game meat, by far the worst is heat. Granted, there is not much you can do about the 85-degree temperature, but even in the hottest conditions there are steps you, the hunter, can take to insure your table fare is palatable.

Locate and get your animal field dressed as soon as possible. Success pictures notwithstanding, the animal should be opened and what is inside removed to the outside with all due haste.

This first step alone has saved many a Nimrod's bacon, so to speak. The removal of the viscera, and the heat they contain, along with allowing the body temperature to drop quickly by opening the body cavity, is your first most important step.

Some states allow the quartering of your game for removal from the field, if not, and you must check your game in intact, the introduction of a rapid cooling system, or material, steps to the forefront of importance. If you are going to be in the field for an extended length of time, there are a few additional steps that also become necessary.

If you are in a location that allows you access to bagged ice, you are in luck. Merely stuff the body cavity—with the hide still on—with as much ice as the cavity will hold, wrap the carcass in a tarp, and store the animal out of direct sunlight. I have kept meat like this for several days at a time with no spoilage to the meat. Just make sure you keep the ice replenished as needed.

While the topic of sunlight has been broached, lying or hanging the carcass in direct sunlight, even on cool days, can have a detrimental effect on the meat. If the daytime temperature is such that you can forego the ice application, make sure your meat pole is located in a shady spot. The hide of any animal is designed to hold in body heat, and most hides work

very well, even if the animal is dead. Direct sunlight can raise the meat's temperature to the danger point, and the animal's hide will help maintain that heat, even with the body cavity open. That is what the hide is there for.

The next most favorable consideration, for me at least, is after checking your game, to bone the meat and store it in a cooler, again with a liberal application of ice. There are couple different lines of thought here, some advocate that no water should come in contact with the meat, while others claim that washing the meat off as soon as possible is the best thing in the world to insure its preservation. I personally have done both and observed no adverse effects to the meat. Out-of-state hunters might wish to locate a meat locker that will store their game until it is time to start home.

Dry ice is a wonder, and packing the meat in dry ice will freeze it harder

than most freezers. Obtaining dry ice can be a little difficult at times, but it is worth the trouble of locating and packing your meat in it, if you have a long drive home. Here enters the instance of aging your meat. If you have access to a cold room where the carcass can be hung, you are in luck. If you must hang the meat in an enclosed building, make sure the temperature is below a high temperature of 38 degrees, and above freezing, avoiding

If you don't know how to butcher your deer or elk, it might be well worth the expense of purchasing a video or book that details the procedures.

direct sunlight. Many meat processors hang the animals they process with the hide on to prevent the meat from drying out. I have never personally noted any advantage to the aging process. As a rule, I try and insure the meat is boned, packaged, and frozen as soon as possible.

Another thing that spoils your meat is the carrying carcass around for a day or two, showing it to your family and friends. For those

friends and family not readily available to view your trophy, show them your pictures. Most of us work hard to obtain our trophies and we are justifiably very proud of them. Do not let the desire to display your animal ruin the meat for the table.

How you transport your game from the field to a processing plant or home can—and does—have a telling effect on the toothsome-ness of any meal from the animal. A carcass carried on top of a vehicle picks up the grime and filth from the highway, and injects it into the meat at 70 MPH, or whatever speed you happen to drive going home. Carrying the game uncovered in the back of a pick up is a little better for it, but just barely.


The best way to protect your meat is place it in an enclosed area, such as the inside of your camper during the trip home. If your game must be carried exposed to the elements, such as the back of your pickup, wrapping it in a plastic tarp will go a long way in protecting the meat. (Also, this insures that no politically correct person is allowed to view such a horrific site as a dead animal with blood on it, which could cause them to have a flash back producing a psychological bruise and causing them to go postal with an Uzi and take out half of Rhode Island.)

While on the subject of transporting your game, the low riding game carriers that carry the game approximately six inches off the highway or country road may be one of the worse things that can happen to the meat. Everything kicked up from the tires of your vehicle is again injected into the

Sentman Longbow

I have spent more than 14 years developing a true longbow to give the shooter the very best performance in the wilderness or in 3-d competition.

Nary Sentman




Guinness's World Record holder since 1975. Pulling a longbow of 176 lbs., 28 1/4 in.

Improve Your Shooting Video
\$21.95

Product Video
\$5.00

P.O. Box 85, Broadbent, OR 97414
Phone (541) 572-0938
E-mail, sentman@webenet.net



Long Bows and Recurves
 Manufacturing of Canadian Traditional Archery Products
HOME OF THE PACKBOW
 Lorrie Arnold-Smith
 Phone: (250) 962-6487
 6501 Olympia Place, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada V2K 4C4

Hummingbird
Custom Bows
New Line for 2000

DYNASTIC
Solid Phenolic Risers, Carbon & Bamboo Limb Cores

Send \$1 & SASE for Brochure to:
Ben Graham-Bowyer
9631 Vinyard Rd., Dept. IA
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124
(704) 436-2509

DYNABOW
Visa/MasterCard

meat. This includes, but is not limited to, rocks, glass, petroleum products, road grime, and parts of other dead critters already reduced to road kill Frisbees. I can think of nothing I like less, except maybe the resulting root canal work, than biting down a chunk of rock or glass that was embedded in the piece of venison I just put in my mouth.

So now you have properly cared for your animal, transported it free of foreign debris. What do you do now? Most would say, "take it to a game processor." Well, okay—if you must. However, just because you turn in what amounts to 45 pounds of well cared-for meat is no sign the 45 pounds you receive back will be fit to eat.

Some game processors make no differentiation between your meat and anyone else's. The yahoo that rode around with his deer on the hood of his

car for a week and a half might very well get back the meat from your deer instead of the fertilizer he turned in. Processors have no way to determine whose meat is used in the production of ground meat, sausage, bratworst, etc. You want 25 pounds of ground meat? No problem! Splat, 25 pounds comes out of the grinder and here you are. If one of the sources of meat in that particular grinding was rancid it is distributed through out the entire batch.

On two different occasions in two different states I have had meat processed at a commercial processor. On both occasions what I received back was not worth the effort to unwrap. There is no USDA certification of game meat.

I cut, wrap, grind, and freeze all my own meat now. I have found over the years that anytime I package my own meat I have never had a bad-tasting meal. If you do not know how to butcher your deer or elk, it might be well worth your expense of purchasing a video or book that details the procedures used in producing exceptional-tasting meat.

A note worth mentioning here: venison is not beef and should not be processed in the same manner. Beef fat adds juice and flavor to a good porterhouse. Venison tallow will turn rancid while the meat is being cooked, and adds a thick coating of yuck to your teeth that resembles hardened Vaseline with a little

used axle grease thrown in for consistency. Elimination of as much tallow, bone, or marrow dust from meat saws, and the majority of any and all connecting tissue, or sinew, as possible assures your meals will taste great, have no "gamey" flavor to them, and can literally be cut with a fork.

Bon appetit



The WOODSHED


Hi. Let me introduce you to the **WOODSHED**.

First, we have one of the best selections of archery woods available for bowyers. We purchase quality woods in quantities to get volume discounts, which means savings to you.

Second, we are able to produce **LAMINATIONS** to your specifications. Our custom lamination forms were milled to precise standards, which mean repeatable high quality laminations for you.

Third, shop around, compare prices and quality, then give us a try. Your satisfaction is guaranteed!

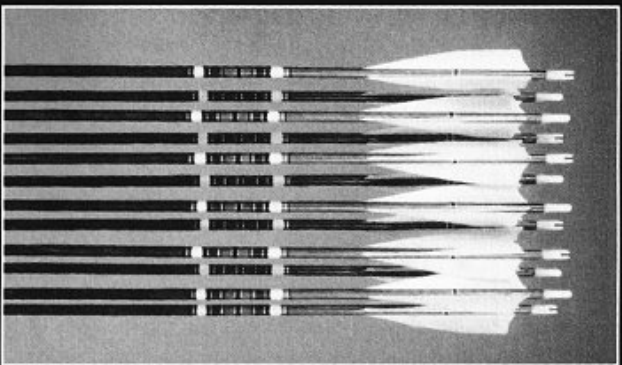
The WOODSHED
4585 N. Columbine St
Boise, ID 83713
(208) 375-2662
FAX (208) 376-7130
woodshed@interplus.net
www.rfd.cc/woodshed



Formerly Butler's

**...to meet
all your
traditional
needs**

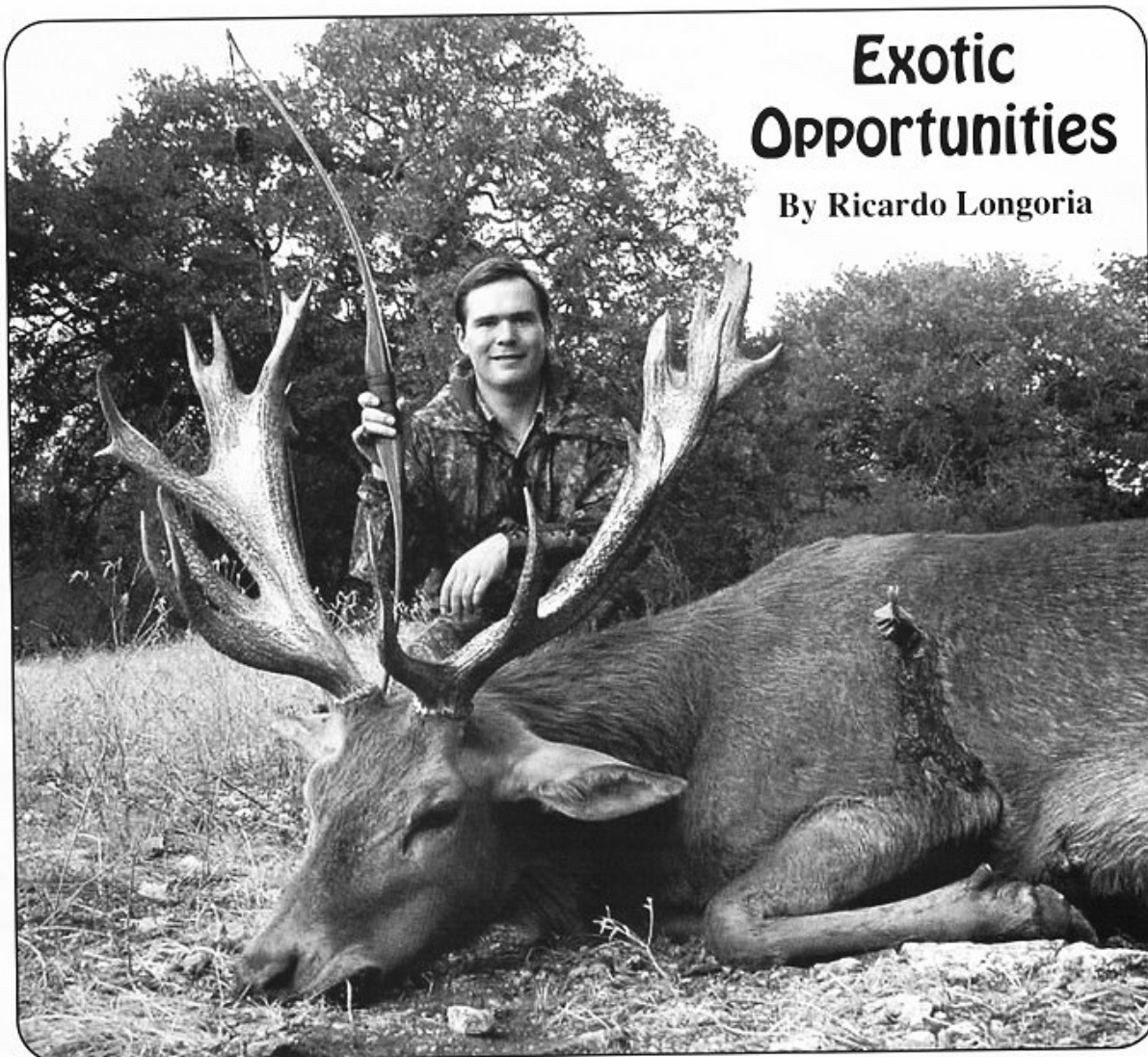
- Rose City Port Orford Cedar Custom arrows and shafts
- We carry Matlock, Sley, Lightning, Yellowstone, Lone Tree, Dowell & Martin bows
- New Boa constrictor quiver
- Direct "A" Scent bubble blow products



For the Very Best in Custom Arrows
Tapered • Barrel Tapered • Footed • Hollowtails

Wildcat Canyon Traditional Archery
1031 County Road 141 • Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-2894 • FAX: (888) 495-9159 • E-mail: beens@frontier.net

Send \$2 for a complete catalog



Exotic Opportunities

By Ricardo Longoria

Bowhunting is an outdoor activity that can take some people by storm. A mere hobby to keep you occupied during the weekends can sometimes turn into a full-blown passion and a way of life. Having the yearly white-tail and turkey seasons to look forward to might not be nearly enough for some. What do those of us with an overwhelming passion for bowhunting and the outdoors, a passion that demands that we hunt year round, with no concern for the weather or extreme temperatures, have as options as far as off season hunting is concerned?

One option is to travel to other destinations in the world, where the hunting seasons are in full swing at the same time ours are closed. Of these destinations, we would obviously include the African continent, where one can hunt from late April to mid October for more than 29 different species with approximately 155 sub-species. Another would be the South Pacific, which includes mainly New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii. In the case of New Zealand and Australia, their season is going strong in North America's spring, which is their fall, and banteng, water buffalo, feral cattle, chamois, Himalayan tahr, feral goat, feral sheep, blackbuck, red deer,

wapiti, sika deer, sambar, rusa deer, axis deer, hog deer, fallow deer, white-tailed deer, and wild boar are available.

These destinations are truly remarkable places to hunt and the people I know who have been there enjoyed the experience immensely. However, what I found interesting when analyzing a few of the off-season hunting possibilities was the fact that most, if not all, of the species that are available to hunt in these faraway locations, with the exception of Africa, are exotics. In other words, they are non-native, big-game species that were introduced to that particular area with the original intent of having a population of wild animals for subsistence hunting and, in more recent years, for sport hunting.

Being somewhat of a purist, the thought of hunting an animal outside of its native habitat did not appeal to me at first. However, the fact that hunting many of these species in their places of origin is either banned or is not reasonably achievable with a longbow, puts a new spin on the exotic hunting idea. For example, if I were to ever want to get an axis deer, which in my opinion is one of the most beautiful deer species, it would have to be an exotic in North America,

South America, or the South Pacific. It could not be in its native India, where under normal circumstances, it cannot be hunted.

Upon finding out that most of the species from New Zealand, Australia, or Hawaii were actually available for hunting in the Texas Hill Country around Kerrville, it seemed like a waste not to take advantage of this rare, off-season opportunity. This really made sense to me, especially considering the high costs associated with traveling to faraway locations as well as the time factor involved.

In my opinion, based on the fact that in both cases they are a non-native big game species that were introduced to the area, hunting a fallow deer or axis deer in New Zealand or Texas, except for the scenery, would be the same thing. Considering the cost factor, and the time constraints my intense work schedule presents, I would rather enjoy this unique opportunity close to home and have the vacation time available to use on hunts in either Africa or North

America. However, I would still embrace the opportunity to hunt the South Pacific in the near future as the experience, though hunting the same species, is said to be very different from a Texas hunt.

Probably the most common form of exotic hunting in North America by bowhunters is for wild boar. Not only are they distributed throughout many parts of the United States, but they were also the first exotic animal to be introduced to North America by its earliest settlers. Like most other places wild boar have been introduced, they have taken to this area well and have been multiplying at incredible rates. Many

newcomers to our sport have had these animals bless the event of their first harvest. Another well-known species that is hunted by some bowhunters on the legendary King Ranch is the nilgai antelope from India. These two species, however, are just a small sample of what is available.

There are actually more than 60 different species of exotic animals that are available to hunt in North America! Many of these are extremely rare and costly species to hunt such as the bongo, markhor, and Père David Deer. But there are also other, more common, and quite beautiful game species such as the axis deer, fallow deer, sika deer, blackbuck, aoudad, mouflon sheep, and cor-



After I began bringing home processed exotic meat, my family decided that it was the only type of meat they wanted and have.

sican sheep. These, being the more common exotic species, are quite abundant and affordable.

Among my personal priorities when hunting exotics is to hunt an area where the animals are not confined and that they are able to range freely. This does not necessarily mean that the area is not high-fenced though, as that is a prerequisite for keeping the exotic species under control. The size of the fenced ranch is important, but terrain and habitat have much more to do with the free ranging side of the equation than the actual size of the ranch. You should look for animals that are self-sufficient as far as forage and browse are concerned. If so, you will have a concentration of animals that is limited to the capacity of the land, and therefore will be hunting wild animals with acute senses.

When animals are fed on a daily basis and that is the main source of nutrition, then the quality of the experience will not be the same. By hunting a property of this type, there will be an unnatural concentration of animals that do not behave as in the wild—they are basically farm-raised animals.

Though many of the African animals are available for hunting at the exotic ranches, I would recommend that hunters pass on them. In my personal opinion, shooting a Kudu or Sable in

**Juniper
Mtn.
Longbows**

**One Man
One bow at
a Time**

**Over 41
years
as a
Bowhunter**

**"These Bows
Get it Done"**

Jerry Stout
2135 Deer Park Road
Vale, OR 97918
(541) 473-3812

South Texas has little merit. Being a realistic proposition in their native land, why would one want to hunt them in a non-native environment? I also wouldn't want anybody to cheat themselves out of the tremendous experience of taking free-ranging African animals on a real Africa Bowhunting Safari and not on a Texas hunt. Incidentally, the terribly high cost of hunting the African animals in North America makes the trip to Africa seem like a bargain.

In the case of non-native, but indigenous North American species, I feel the same way. Primarily, I am referring to Elk, Bison, and Antelope. It would be a real crime to rob one's self of the opportunity of hunting free-ranging Elk during the rut in a place like New Mexico or Idaho. Bison and Antelope are also readily available in their respective areas and there is no need to hunt an exotic ranch for these species.

Leaving the African species and the North American species aside, there are still so many others to consider. As I mentioned previously, I think that the exotics one should be focusing on are those species that cannot be either legally or reasonably hunted within their native environment. Some examples would include the blackbuck and axis that are native to India. There are actually more of these two species in Kerr County, than in all of India. Also, hunting them in India, even if a legal permit could be obtained, would not be a reasonable prospect with a bow. Another example would be the barbary sheep (aoudad) of North Africa. Hunting them with a rifle is very difficult and costly. Hunting them with a bow would be borderline impossible. Also, the sika deer from Japan and formosa is not legal to hunt in those countries, making an exotic opportunity the only viable alternative for collecting these animals. With there being so many species to choose from, I'm confident that any interested person can come up with what they might consider a few attractive prospects.

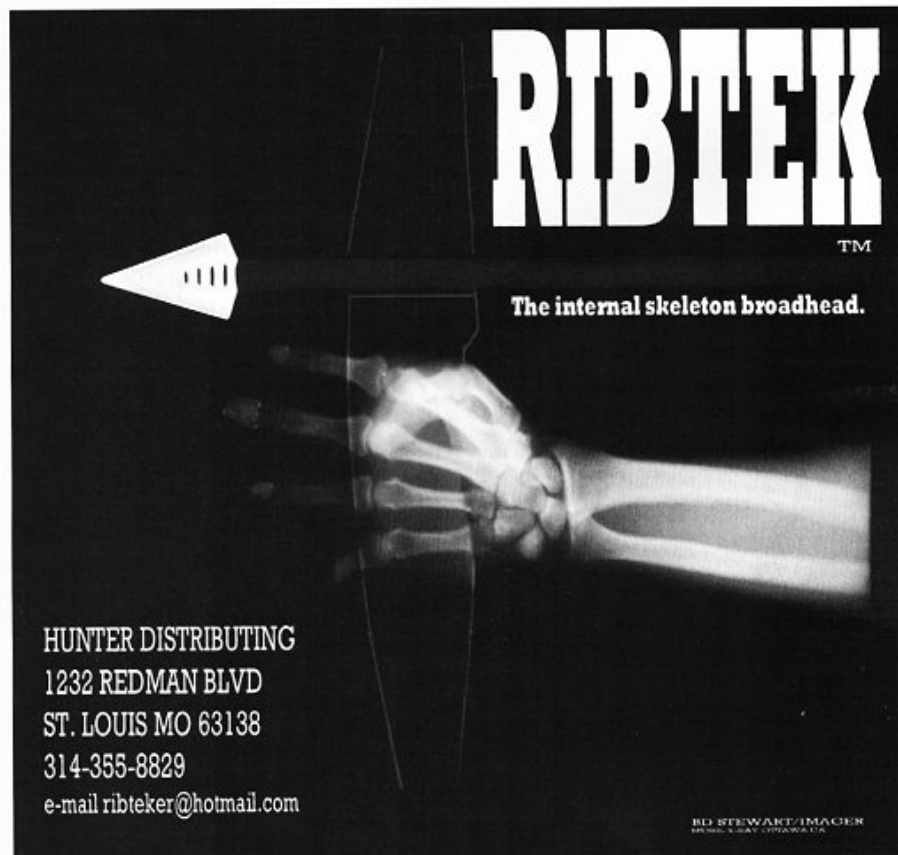
As far as the place to hunt and the type of hunt and services provided, there are many different options for one to choose from. They range from paying basically a trespass fee to hunt on pri-

vate property to hunting out of five-star lodges with full guide services. I will expand on the three most common options that one might encounter. Among these three options, there is probably one that will work with each person's budget and though the prices may vary substantially, any one of them can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

The most commonly bowhunted exotic ranches are those where one pays a moderate day fee to hunt unguided. This will often include the use of a trailer or cabin and the right to hunt the property. Trophy care and cooking are normally the client's responsibility. Usually the cost structure is about \$75 to \$150 per day, with a two-day minimum, and will include one exotic and one wild boar or javelina. As more days are added, the number of animals one can shoot increases. In spite of there being some operators who just sell hunts to collect day rates when there is little chance of success, there are also other places with high success rates and modest hunt prices. In this category I could personally recommend Carta Valley Wildlife, Dos Equis Ranch, and the T-Post Ranch.

Hiring a guide service is a great option. These guides have access to many different ranches and will take you where you need to be to get a good chance at the particular species you are after. Usually, a guide service will cost \$150 to \$200 a day. This includes everything except hotel and lodging as well as trophy fees. Normally a guide will pick you up at the hotel early in the morning, take care of you during most of the day, unless you decide to take a break at lunch, and then return you in the evening when the hunting day is over. Trophy handling and delivery to a local meat processor and taxidermist are also part of the service. It would be a good idea to discuss up front what is and what is not included in the guide fee to avoid any misunderstanding.

Personally, I have hunted extensively with David Lee of Mountain Home Hunting Service and have had many great hunts. David is based in Ingram, TX, just outside of Kerrville. David has access to nearly thirty ranches where almost any exotic species can be hunted. The main reason I enjoy working with David is that he is extremely



RIBTEK
TM

The internal skeleton broadhead.

HUNTER DISTRIBUTING
1232 REDMAN BLVD
ST. LOUIS MO 63138
314-355-8829
e-mail ribteker@hotmail.com

BO STEWART/IMAGER
PHOTOGRAPHY

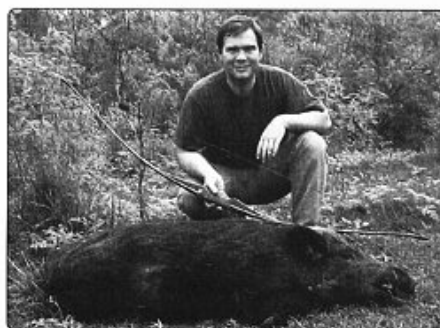
familiar with the area and the properties he hunts. By using his services as a guide, I am able to go to places I have not been and have a reasonable chance of success. David knows where the animals are and what the best technique is to use when hunting that particular species or area. Also, since I usually am only able to hunt exotics on the weekend, it is a big help to have him take care of getting the meat to the processor when it opens on Monday morning.

David Lee's hunts are mostly in the Mountain Home area, making it possible to use Kerrville as the base for the hunt. By being located in the heart of the majestic Texas Hill Country, it is also a great place to take the family to as well. With scenic vistas of the Guadalupe River and plenty of activities for women and children, combining a trip to this area with a family vacation is a real possibility. Kerrville is also about a one-hour drive from San Antonio where there are a lot of tourist opportunities such as the Alamo, Fiesta Texas, and Sea World that children will enjoy.

By far, the most luxurious and costly hunt is a fully guided and outfitted hunt on one of the premier exotic ranches like the 777 Ranch or YO Ranch. The lodging is comparable to any five-star hotel, and both the service and food are superb. If you are looking for a short vacation and want to be in the lap of luxury, this is the best option. Also, not only do these ranches boast five-course meals and luxurious accommodations, but they also have extremely high numbers of trophy-size exotic game animals. This type of hunt isn't for everybody and there might be those like me who prefer rustic charm while hunting versus modern luxury.

When looking at the lower-cost hunts, there are several things you should analyze carefully. First and foremost, is whether there is an adequate population of the species you are trying to hunt. A low day rate with no trophy fees might seem attractive until you realize there are very few animals on the ranch and that they have been receiving a great deal of hunting pressure.

A good way to get a feel for the number of animals and the relative



Wild boar—the most common exotic big-game animal in North America. They are smart, tough, aggressive, and a worthy challenge for any bowhunter.

opportunity of success you might have is to ask for references and talk to previous hunters. Find out what they saw and what they were successful in getting opportunities at. They can also help you out as far as pointing you in the right direction. Knowing what area you are going to hunt on any given ranch before you get there will save you a great deal of time as well as increasing your chances of success dramatically.

Also, another very important consideration when deciding where to hunt exotic game animals deals with how the population on the property is maintained. Is it a property where the landowner stocks animals for hunting and has them brought in exclusively for this purpose? If so, this will probably not be a rewarding hunt for most people. Ideally, any property should be self-sufficient in the production of animals. In other words, they should, for the most part, be relying on their internal production of game animals to meet the needs of their hunting operation. If they are buying game and stocking the property on a continuous basis, then the place is probably too small and has too many hunters running through it. Hunting stocked animals will probably not be a good experience for most people. Also, hunting a place with an overly high percentage of males to females, because "males are what hunters are looking for," will also not be as gratifying.

Having discussed the different hunting options, let's focus on the type of clothing you should use. First of all, hunting in South Texas in the months of

May through August, is extremely hot. For this type of weather, wearing bug net camo is most likely the best alternative. The temperatures can easily reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit, so be prepared accordingly.

Stalking the rocky terrain is really not a viable technique, so most hunting will be done out of ground blinds, tripods, or tree stands. For this reason, keeping well concealed is a major priority and a headnet and gloves are good to have.

Equipment choice would not vary from what you might use for any deer-sized animal. However, shot placement on the species from Europe, Africa, and Asia is very different. Their vitals are low and forward. The general rule used with African game is to come up the back of the front leg to one third up on the body. This same rule applies perfectly for the exotics as well. Also, many of these species have greater stamina than those in North America, so don't get discouraged if the recovery distance is not as short as with a whitetail.

The meat on the exotic species is superb. I have mine processed into hamburger, stew meat, filets, sausage, and jerky. There are many good processors that can take care of your meat and then send it via UPS at a reasonable price. After I began bringing home processed exotic meat, my family decided that it was the only type of meat they wanted and have. With delicious table fare in mind, even hunting moderately priced surplus exotic does is exciting. Furthermore, besides the meat, you can also use the beautiful skins on many of the exotic species to make quivers, arm guards, pillows, floor mats and other beautiful leather products.

I hope this information motivates you to venture forth and take advantage of some of the exotic opportunities that exist in Texas as well as a few other places within the United States. My off-season adventures bowhunting exotics are part of my most cherished hunting memories, and though the concept of hunting them may be a little different from most other game, I encourage you to give them a try.



Arrows From
The Sherwood Glen
by Bob Wesley

The Howard Hill World Longbow and Recurve Championship



Final tournament group gathering together in fellowship at the 2000 Howard Hill World Longbow and Recurve Championship.

*F*or the past two decades the hills and valleys around the small southern town of Wilsonville, Alabama have resounded with sounds of arrows whirring, loud laughter, and other happy noises which accompany traditional archers enjoying their sport. This past June 23rd, 24th, and 25th marked the final chapter of a wonderful event sponsored by the Jerry Hill family in memory of the great Howard Hill.

A full-size Elephant, Rhino, and Crocodile charging toward the archer at high speed were indicative of the shooting excitement which this unique event featured. This African theme was dictated by the actual ten-month safari by Howard Hill in the year 1950 while making the movie *Tembo*.

"Waaaaahooooooooo! The angry bull Elephant ran some one hundred yards or so and then stood up on his hind legs and turned and looked for me. . ."

I sat on Mr. Hill's front porch and looked into his steel blue eyes as he related one of his exciting African hunting adventures to me. The year was 1969 and I was speechless as I picked up on the excitement in his voice. What an exciting person!

Over the past twenty years the annual Howard Hill World Traditional Archery Tournament was an absolute must on my calendar. During the month of May, I sat in Dr. Jos. Varner's Surgery Clinic. Following an extensive examination he looked me seriously in the eyes and said, "Bob Wesley, you can't put this off—I'm gonna schedule you for a bilateral herniorrhaphy for June the 8th."

My heart sank in despair, "Doc, could we make it let's say—immediately after June 25th?" To make a long story short, I was able, chair in hand, to go from target to target and attend this last of the twenty commemorative Hill Tournaments.

What was it about this man Howard Hill that still draws archers in awe to participate in the mystique or legend of the man. Certainly his accomplishments would fill many pages, but having known him personally and patterned my shooting after his instructions, I would have to pinpoint his main contribution as his presentation of indirect instinctive aiming.

Howard Hill's shooting stood out in his fluid execution of a method of aiming which involved using consistent form, a rapid estimation of distance, and an accurate placement of drawn arrow point with indirect vision to establish the vertical height of his arrow flight.



Keith (with arms resting on tusks) can't decide where on the mantle to put the elephant.

Jerry Hill's tournaments were designed to encourage an application of the basics if one was to do well score-wise. The emphasis also included fair play with double-scored cards and a ring of wire to establish the precise value of arrow placement.

The top finishers of the final tournament are as follows (1st, 2nd, and 3rd):

MENS LONGBOW

Keith Bain, Bob Wesley, Jeff Gibson

WOMENS LONGBOW

Martha Varney, Judy Marston, Jeannine Marchesseau

YOUTH BOYS LONGBOW:

Chad McDonald, Chad Underhill, Hollie Jenkins, Jr.

MENS RECURVE

Levy Bryant, Charles Barnes, John Hoffman

WOMENS RECURVE

Edith Bain, Casey Lightsey, Judy Hammock

YOUTH BOYS RECURVE

Daniel Horne, Chase McLimore, Beau Reames

YOUTH GIRL RECURVE

Alisha Barnes

CUB BOYS RECURVE

Logan Carter, Matt Kilpatrick, Kyle Craig

CUB GIRL RECURVE

Brittany Bush,

MENS PRIMITIVE

Jacques Bonin, Tony Watson, Buddy Sanders

WOMENS PRIMITIVE

Linda Hutchison, Cindi Overbi, Gail Morrell



(left to right: Jeff Gibson (3rd), Keith Bain (1st), Bob Wesley (2nd))

YOUTH GIRLS LONGBOW

Danielle Wright

CUB BOYS LONGBOW

Cary Messer, Kaleb Stelly, Shelby Cauthen

CUB GIRLS LONGBOW

Asia Hammack, Jessica Hammack, Haley Skinner

Rev. Wallace Renner, known by all as "Bro. Wally" deserves special mention for his twenty years of service as World Tournament Chaplin. It was always a high point to attend Bro. Walley's Early Sunday Service. I formally salute you Jerry Hill, Jan Hill, Jerry Jr. and family for your honest and intense dedication to twenty years of quality traditional archery fun. I salute your unselfish devotion to a presentation of archery just as Howard Hill would have it—simple, fair, and fun.

Farewell and God Bless!



I had thought a lot about cougar hunting in the past and decided I just wasn't quite ready for it yet. I wasn't sure how it all took place and had heard of some very unethical practices. Then the "antis" came to Oregon and even though I defended the houndsmen and their hunting style, it was banned from our foolish state. It was of interest however, that the vast geographical area of Oregon voted to allow dog-assisted hunting, but once again, only because of the metropolitan areas of Portland and Eugene, it was banned. This same measure was taken to the people of Idaho, and the sportsmen there banded together and defeated their opponents at great cost of time and money. I began to wonder how long it would be before the "antis" would be back.

I did some research and discovered an Idaho houndsman with ethics beyond reproach; Ron Scherer. A member of the Professional Bowhunters Society and board member of the Pope and Young Club, Ron has been chasing lions in Idaho for decades. We got together at the PBS convention in Seattle and made plans for January 1999. I marked my calendar and started aiming up at the backyard trees.

I investigated and learned as much as possible about lion hunting and soon enough, January arrived. All one hears about is how "easy" hunting with dogs is, and of course every book and magazine article is a slam bang success story. I would be taught about patience and the critical role of weather. Ideally a small amount of fresh snow would fall, leaving obvious tracks and retaining the scent for our dogs. If there is no new snowfall, the remaining crust frequently becomes ice, leaving minimal tracks and a poor scent trail, while potentially cutting the dog's feet. The weather therefore becomes the most important variable.

When I arrived at Ron's home, it had not snowed in some time and conditions were poor. Ron covers a lot of territory on snowmobile, attempting to find a good track before letting his dogs loose. He has ingeniously discovered a relationship between lion stride measurements and maturity associated with male/female gender. He prefers to take large mature toms and if he can just put his dogs on those tracks, obviously he will save a lot of wear and tear on his animals, equipment, and the client as well.

My hunt was scheduled for ten days, thinking that in this time we should be able to get a few days of appropriate weather. The first five days there was no snow, and conditions were poor, though we did find several elk kills. At one site, we jumped a female and her three kittens on three different occasions. They were fascinating to watch as they slinked away among the trees. Ron calls them kittens, but they were as large as my black labs. We also came across a very recently killed cow elk while snowmobiling. It appears that the lion will eat first the base of the ears, the eyes, and then moves on to the organs, saving the meat for last.

Though the carcass was still warm, the meat was untouched. We returned the following day and pushed off a young cat; though he stealthily faded through the trees, he showed no sign of fear.

Initially disheartened by the weather, we inevitably knew it would change. We spent several days snowmobiling over virgin powder, enjoying incredible mountain vistas while the cats stayed hidden. Ron and Suzie are both great cooks and the evening would find us savoring another excellent meal, while talking bowhunting and just plain having fun. Ron also taught me how to make my own flemish string,

Cats and Dogs

By Tom Vanasche

which I would later put to good use. We would watch the weather news nightly in his cabin, hoping for that all important prediction of snow. Then it began; not the one to three inches hoped for, but a daily ration of six to ten inches.

As usual in bowhunting endeavors, mother nature became uncooperative. I was now to learn about the problems of too much snow. When it begins to accumulate significantly, the animals generally develop a "hunker down" mentality. Essentially, nothing was moving. The elk, deer, and lions were waiting out the storm before doing any significant traveling or feeding. Hence, there were no tracks to be found. We did continue to enjoy the scenic beauty of this winter wonderland, but our daily treks could not locate a lion and soon my allotted time was gone.

Of course I was disappointed, but I have returned home with an unnotched tag many times in the past. Ron was undaunted however, and we made plans for a return trip the following December. To whoever says that hunting with dogs is "easy," I would suggest that they seriously try it themselves. There may be some one-day successes when you hit the weather and conditions right, but I know other bowhunters who have gone lion hunting several times and have yet to bag their quarry.

I began to wonder if perhaps 1999 was just not going to be a good year in the field for me. I had spent ten days lion hunting, 21 days chasing bighorn sheep in Idaho [that's another story], and an additional six days in Idaho and seven days on Kodiak Island deer hunting. All of the above occurred without flinging an arrow at game. Stump shooting is great, but after that much time and effort you would like to be at full draw looking down over a broadhead.

Once again I arrived at Ron's with little snow in the forecast. We made our usual rounds without seeing a lot of sign, but there was always good food and great camaraderie to pass the time, as well as the peace and solitude that the mountains bring to renew your spirit.

One day we turned the dogs out on a fairly old (more than 24 hours) track. They did get enough scent to lead us to the top of the mountain and then get themselves lost. Another distinctive characteristic of easy dog hunts is that you may spend a lot of time searching for missing dogs. Eventually, Zak, a 13 year old Walker came back to the truck, while Ron was on a cross country search. I'm not sure if the dog was lost or if we were. In any event the lion eluded us.

Once again the weather began to change. Now for four days it continuously snowed in volume, putting the animals in a holding pattern. My luck

seemed to be continuing, as there always seemed to be too much or too little snow-fall. On the sixth day we struck out from the cabin. As usual, it was snowing hard, but we began to see the tracks of many species along the road. Perhaps they too were frustrated, and felt the need to finally travel. As we passed elk and deer tracks, lion paws also began to appear. Although none were those of a large tom, we had faith that with this overall activity, we might spot what we had been searching for all these days.

Finally there it was, that large clawed handprint in the snow. Though it had been left several hours ago, Ron was confident that his dogs were up to the task. We turned loose Bear, Ron's number one dog, Zak, the oldtimer, and Pat, a young pup, who had never been on a track prior to this day. They went off wailing, as hounds do, stumbling through the deep snow with Pat struggling to keep up. We listened for some time, but soon their distinctive calls faded away and we were on our own, as the woods became silent.

All of this fresh snow made for very poor hiking. We had put snowshoes on to avoid sinking deeply, but this led to multiple entanglements in the brush, as the lion led us through many willow thickets and creek crossings. He had left quite an interesting trail, moving up and down across the very steep landscape. The actual straight line distance from start to capture was not great, but it took us four hours of strenuous climbing and fighting snow that would fill your pant pocket on the uphill side of the mountain. After several hours of silence, finally we could hear the dogs barking that sweet sound of "treed."

Ron had earlier told me that generally the cats do not climb high, and that with the steep country, frequently one can get a short, near-level shot from the uphill side. As we approached the tree, we noted that it was on a flat bench and its limbs were thick and bushy. The dogs were howling triumphantly, however we could not see a cat in the tree. Eventually about 60 feet up, a tail was spotted and then a general outline was picked out through the tangled branches. This hunt was just not meant to be easy.

I had anticipated savoring this aspect for some time, and had brought both 35mm and video cameras. Do to the extremely cold weather however I discovered that my still camera was non-functional. This was most disappointing, as I had so much looked forward to this

moment. Even though the lion was barely visible and the light was poor, due to the continuous snow, I had prepared for the hunt with high hopes for getting a few rolls of good film.

Eventually, I perceived a clear eight-inch diameter route to the chest, and with Ron videotaping, released a fir shaft at an extreme angle from my 65-pound recurve. Up to this point, despite the bawling of the dogs and our compiling gear, cameras, etc., he had not even twitched. Now he sprang from the tree in a sudden and marvelous explosion of power and snow, casting himself out with the grace of a flying squirrel, breaking his fall on the snowbent limbs. Despite the height, he landed softly and bounded around the next short ridge.

Ron had tied the dogs up earlier and now he took Pat and Zak to pick up the chase. Bear and I awaited his signal to follow. Upon his command, I released Bear and stumbled down the steep snow drifted hillside, frequently falling, desperate to catch up to the tumultuous commotion below. As I rounded a bend in the terrain, there was Ron with the dogs retied. He motioned at some buckbrush 30 feet above our heads and said that the cat was making a stand there. Apparently he had not gone far, but would not tree again, indicating a mortal wound. He had however, tangled with Pat and Zak, inducing a few claw rips

GRIZZLY BEAR SPOTTED IN ASHLEY INDIANA!

That's right, there's a Grizzly bear as well as a lifetime of other bowhunting treasures now on display at 3Rivers Archery. As G. Fred Asbell recalls, at the time his bear was taken, it was only the seventh Grizzly bear ever taken with the bow and arrow. Mr. Asbell has had a bowhunting career most of us only dream about. In an effort to share his adventures with other bowhunters, he has agreed to have his mounts on public display, for a limited time, at the headquarters of 3Rivers Archery in Ashley, Indiana. How close will most bowhunters ever get to such magnificent animals? This is bowhunting history from the 1950's through the new millennium! Included are, an impressive Grizzly bear, Bighorn sheep, Dall's sheep, Mountain, Woodland, and Baren ground caribou, numerous Elk, Whitetail and Mule deer from various bowhunting encounters.

3Rivers Archery, world's largest traditional-primitive archery distributor, invites you to stop in, make yourself at home, and treat yourself to this bowhunter's tribute. We've just added a comfortable new showroom too, so plan a little extra time to browse through our antique traditional archery collection, and do a little shopping. If it's traditional archery, you'll find it all at 400 H.L. Thompson Jr. Drive in Ashley, Indiana. For more information contact us at 219-587-9501, info@3rivers-archery.com or visit our website at www.3riversarchery.com.

Want a FREE SUBSCRIPTION?

Have we got a deal for you!

We will extend your existing IA subscription for ONE FULL YEAR if you have one of your friends or relatives who has never subscribed to **Instinctive Archer® Magazine** sign up for a subscription. It's that simple. Either they can include your name with their subscription request, or you can send it in for them. The only rules are that the subscription must be for a person who has not subscribed before, and that you can only get one free year. Offer good until 12-31-00.

**Just think, a whole
year for free. What are
you waiting for?**

about their ears and foreheads but fortunately nothing serious. Our immediate strategy was to get above the cat. Though it is rare to have a cougar go on the offensive, one can never predict just what a wild animal may do.

We both got above the lion, but despite being only 35 feet away, I could not get a clear shot. The surrounding brush was minimal, but I was soon to see three arrows quickly deflected as they sped towards his chest. Ron would occasionally throw a snowball at the cougar, attempting to induce him to move to a more open spot, but he did nothing but bare his teeth, snarl viciously, and threaten us with his clawed forearm. It was getting dark or we would have given him some time before resuming the chase, as he had sustained a life-ending wound. Now however, I wished to finish him quickly for all our sakes. Though he had never shown mercy to his victims, that was his nature. It is my nature to be a predator as well, though I truly wished to be respectful to this great beast, for he deserved to die as proudly as he had lived. I maneuvered down the slick hillside, as he cautiously watched my every step with his piercing eyes. Now only 22 feet separated us as we stared intently at each other. Finally I spied a small opening in the brush. As I was pulling my last shaft back to anchor, I visualized its flight as it sped through the cougar's chest. He leaped up and took one final bound, before collapsing in the snow to move no more.

The dogs were now freed and Pat, the pup, stood over his first lion, as any proud dog would do. Pat would go on to tackle six more cats this season, the last of which he treed alone. Ron

was quite pleased to know that he had another superb dog in the kennel, as these are hard to acquire.

I had gone through a two-year, two-trip, 16-day adventure to get one of these "easy" lions. I certainly learned a lot about this marvelous cat, enjoyed the spectacular scenery of the winter mountains, and rekindled my spirit. As we wound our way down the canyons, several elk turned and nodded thanks to Ron, knowing that they would be a little safer this winter.

Zak passed away two months later to the continuous lion chase in the sky, but Bear is always looking for more action.

If you are looking for an easy hunt, I wouldn't recommend it; but if you would love a great time, great company, and an exciting adventure, give Ron a call. Ask for Pat.



Outfitter Notes:

Ron Sherer Ph. (208) 939-0469

After paying our respects to this magnificent animal, we took some darkened video, marked our location, and trekked out to our vehicle. Ron assured me that nothing would bother our cat during the night, and he was right.

We returned the following morning, removing the hide for a full body mount and boning the meat. Cougar is quite tasty, much like pork, though precautions should be taken, as it may harbor trichinosis organisms, as lions are of course carnivores. These may be killed by cooking until the meat is no longer pink, or freezing at -15 Celsius for three weeks. One reference I found stated that trichinosis in walrus and bears might possibly survive the freezing treatment. There was no specific mention of mountain lion, but I would lean towards cooking it well.

Editor's Note. I have known Ron Sherer for just about 20 years. If I remember correctly, we first met on a heavily rutted single-lane mountain road up near the Montana border during elk season, where he had just seen the 400-pound bear that I had been hunting for several days. That was back in the good old days, but Ron hasn't changed a bit—and despite his choice to only shoot and hunt with decades old (almost ancient) classic recurves, and despite the fact that he "may" have the world's greatest broadhead collection, and despite the fact that he gets to hunt more than most of the rest of us combined, you will have to look long and hard to ever find a better guide and outfitter. Now, if we could just get him to shoot a modern recurve. . .

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATE: \$1.00 per word, \$20.00 minimum.
USED-BOW ADS: \$10.00. One bow per ad, 20 word max.

ROVING HANDBOOK - by Errett Callahan (Editor). 1999.

A delightful field manual of reprints on the fascinating medieval sport of traditional archery roving. A challenging and fun alternative to hunting, field, and target archery, with a long and all-but forgotten history. 128 pages, 44 photos, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2", wire bound, soft cover. \$18 + \$2 S&H. Overseas and Canada \$30 USD (includes shipping). Dealers inquire. Order from: Piltown Productions, 2 Fredonia Ave., Lynchburg VA 24503. (804)528-3444.

QUALITY BEFORE QUANTITY WITHOUT THE KUSTOM PRICE. ROSE CITY CEDAR, CHUNDOO, COMPRESSED CHUNDOO AND EASTON SHAFTING, CUSTOM ARROWS, GASKET LACQUER, FEATHERS, NOCKS, POINTS AND BROADHEADS. Send for free brochure or check out our website at www.stickbow.com/arrowskp/. **ARROWS BY KELLY** 136 E. 600 North Rd. Rupert, Id. 83350 (208) 532-4416, fax (208) 532-4469, arrowskp@cyberhighway.net

SPINE TESTER - CANADA'S FINEST. By *Agincourt Archery of B.C.* For the Fletcher looking for high quality and accuracy. Red oak base, precision-machined components. 100 only Limited Edition units. \$150.00 U.S. plus shipping. Immediate delivery. Phone or send for details. Roy Day 26471 126th Ave. Maple Ridge B.C. Canada V2W 1C9. (604)462-1170 fax (604)462-1174.

"LIGHTNING LONGBOWS" Fast-as-Glass. Beautiful osage + bamboo or hickory. Quiet, consistent, durable. No hand shock. Many options. Free brochure: P.O. Box 67491, Los Angeles, CA 90067. Website: www.lightninglongbows.com (310) 659-1424.

TOBACCO SEEDS AND SUPPLIES. Grow Tobacco anywhere in the USA! It's easy! Seeds, kits, books, videos and much more. Everything you need! Free Catalog. 800-793-8186.

ALASKA WILDERNESS BOW SCHOOL! Build selfbows and arrows. Also, Flintknapping, fire making and more. Prime fishing on our property. Contact Doug Theiner at The Rock Shop, P.O. Box 871506, Wasilla, AK 99687. <http://rockshop.virtualave.net> rockshop@mtaonline.net

LEARN WOODEN BOW MAKING with ERRETT CALLAHAN. 50 years experience. Workshops in May (archery), June (flintknapping), and October (primitive technology). Write for details. Cliffside Workshops, 2 Fredonia Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24503 Ph: (804) 528-3444.

HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE-LOOPED FLEMISH TWIST BOWSTRING by Martin Maynard. **USING THE RIGHT BOWSTRING MATERIAL** by Dan Quillian. Get this illustrated booklet with Dan's recommendations for just \$9.50 which includes postage. Contact **BCY, Inc.** at 50 McDermott Rd, North haven, CT 06473 or call (203) 787-7970 now.

TWIG ARCHERY.

Raw shafting, pre-finished shafts, finished arrows. Cedar, pine, maple, "pass-through" hardwoods, and all new CHUNDOO. Parallel, custom tapered, barreled shafts. Arrow-building supplies. Tanned snakeskins, only \$12 - \$15, very nice!! Beautiful, hand-laced, leather quivers and accessories. Free brochure. **TWIG ARCHERY**, 45194 TR 432, Conesville, OH 43811. (740) 829-2847, Monday-Friday 4-8:30 p.m., Saturday 9-5 p.m.

WATER BUFFALO and GEMSBOK HORN.

Bamboo, hide glue, moose and caribou billets, knapping materials, rawhide, feathers, much more. catalog \$2.00, refundable with purchase. **The Rock Shop**, PO Box 463, Willow, AK 99688, (907) 373-3094, <http://rockshop.virtualave.net> rockshop@mtaonline.net

WOODEN BOWS From Ash to Zebrawood. Ancient, Traditional, and Current Designs. Smooth, Fast, and Durable. Quick Delivery. **PAUL RODGERS** (925) 634-1835 www.woodbow.com.

SUNDOWN PRODUCTS

Deer Leg Sinew (whole and processed), Rawhide (whole and strips), Hide Glue, Back Sinew, Beaver Silencers, AND MORE! Call or write for price list. Charles Homitz, 34 Meyers Road, Washington, PA 15301, (724) 222-5861.

O'E BUFF ARCHERY, Custom tooled leather products. Books: Arrow Smithing; A workable knowledge from Primitive to Traditional, The Osage Orange Static Recurve; A Workable Knowledge from Live Tree to Finished Bow. \$8.50 each plus \$2.50 S/H, 3790 Pecan Drive, St. George, KS 66535, TEL/FAX (785) 494-2797.

BOW STAVES, IMPORTED WOODS, HANDLE RISERS, SHAFTS, GLASS, LAMINATIONS, BOOKS, TOOLS, GLUE and BOW KITS, CUSTOM LONGBOWS. Catalog \$1.25. **WOODS UNUSUAL**, P.O. Box 1722, Hawaiian Gardens, California 90716-0722, (562)421-2171.

SALE - HICKORY BACKED LONGBOWS \$96.50. TAKEDOWN RECURVES \$159.00. Catalog \$2.00. Wood Arrows, Shafts. Dick Palmer Archery, PO Box 1632-I, Fayetteville AR 72702-1632.

TRADITIONAL ARCHERY CREATIONS - SALE, Overstocked Selfwood, English and Modoc Indian Bows. (716) 699-2876. 6869 Plato Rd., East Otto, NY 14729. E-mail Tocha@EZNET.NET.



With
Bob Martin

Optimism—my American Heritage dictionary defines it as: “A tendency to expect the best possible outcome or to dwell upon the most hopeful aspects of a situation.” Now that is my idea of what must make a bow hunter tick.

I was in a sporting goods store and overheard a conversation about elk hunting and rifle selection. The customer was perusing some large magnum elephant-size rifles with mistrust at their ability to kill an elk. The customer and salesperson chatted back and forth about the merits of the sausage-sized cartridges and the ability to knock an elk flat from as far away as the eye could see. The customer looked wistfully at the gun rack and asked the salesman, “Got anything bigger?”

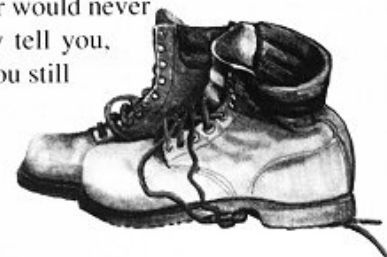
Hoping to help out this floundering soul, I related that such canons weren’t necessary for elk hunting. I tried to instill some confidence in him by relating how quickly elk went down when I shot them with my simple bow and arrow. I related how shot placement was what counted, not tank-like firepower. The customer handed back the .338 magnum to the clerk, “Got a .375 H&H magnum?” I walked away feeling sorry for him. He had no confidence in his skill or ability, and believed that the most powerful equipment was what counted. He was definitely not an optimist, and would never be a bowhunter.

The average bowhunter is not some egomaniac running through the woods thumping his chest. Unfortunately there are certainly some who do that, those who just don’t get it. But for the most part, we are quiet practitioners of our art and totally enthralled by the hunt.

The challenge lures us on like a siren’s song and we are driven to hunt with our bows and lose ourselves in the woods and mountains. We struggle with hardships and disappointments, unseen elation, and unreported misery. Those who don’t hear the same call come up with all types of theories about what makes us hunt the way we do, travel the miles we travel, and push ourselves to our limits. They are usually wrong about us.

In watching the recent Olympics, I was touched by the dedication of the athletes who struggle and train for years for those few minutes when they lay it all on the line. At some level it reminded me of the dedicated bowhunters I know who plan and train and practice with dedication all year, year after year. They save their money for trips they can’t afford; they venture forth against incredible odds and expend tremendous amounts of time, energy, and resources that they can usually ill afford. They find themselves alone on a nameless ridge, soaked to the skin, miles from a camp that no other soul on earth may even know of. They face their moment of truth alone, with a pounding heart.

If the game escapes unscathed or if the tag gets used, it is of lesser consequence than why the bowhunter was there. He was there to hunt well—to meet the challenge. Something in the soul manifests itself and the ethics and character of a man are revealed in the journey, not the destination. Bowhunting may reveal a person’s character, it doesn’t build it. What a person does with that revelation is what makes the difference. Some give up, some become cynical, but some find important meaning and connection that deals with a spectrum of issues the casual observer would never suspect. A runner may tell you, “I have to run.” A bowhunter may tell you, “I have to hunt.” If you don’t understand and we have to explain it, you still won’t get it.



Happy Holidays!



Palouse →
Traditional Archery Mfg.

**WHERE CUSTOM
TRULY MEANS CUSTOM**

- **"MILLENNIUM"** A full static-tip recurve. Smooth to over 30" draw and very fast.
- **"APOLLO"** A reflex-deflex-reflex longbow. Smooth, fast, and very little handshock.

Call, e-mail, or look us up on the web:
PO Box 44 • 945 Pine St. • Potlatch, ID 83855
(208) 875-2301 • dkenyon@potlatch.com
www.palousetraditional.com

RAPTOR ARCHERY®

*A Hunt Of A Lifetime, A Memory Forever,
Rely On Experience.*

RAPTOR ARCHERY®, INC.

"Archery by Trade, Traditional by Choice"



PaL

RAPTOR ARCHERY® • 541-386-4503 • 923 11th Street, Hood River, OR 97031 • www.raptorarchery.com