



FLIGHT



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Office of The Field Vice-President

By Harry W. Bunting

(Ed. Note: This article was submitted by Harry for publication in *Flight*)

Below are listed some interesting facts and figures compiled from records maintained in the office of the Field Vice-President during 1961.

There were 291 tournament reports forwarded to this office during the past year. There were at least 15 tournaments for which this office did not receive reports, in all there were over 300 tournaments held in the state during 1961.

Average attendance at Club Shoots—26, Invitational Shoots—71. Attendance at the last State Shoot—237. The Shawnee Bowmen had the largest attendance for one Shoot—135, Broken Arrow was next with 130.

The highest scores submitted are as follows:

Men—

Field Round — Clifford Necessary—473
Hunters Round — Orbra Keese—489
Animal Round—Clifford Necessary—504

Women—

Field Round — Mary Lee Craft—404
Hunters Round — Mary Lee Craft—397
Animal Round — Doris Limerick—406

Jr. Boys—

Bobby Ryder, Jr., took honors in all three rounds—Field 418, Hunters 391 and Animals 372.

Several archers attended quite a few tournaments during the past year, however two archers lead the field in their category—they are Elmer Moore of the Warwick Bowmen who participated in 34 tournaments, and James Mitchell of Flat Top Archers with 31 tournaments to his credit. These figures include Club Shoots as well as Invitationals.

The most improved archer during the past year appears to be Bunny Key, of Flat Top Archers. Bunny entered a tournament on May 28 as an unclassified archer. On August 13, 10 weeks later, he shot a class "A" score.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Office of the Hunting Vice-Pres.

Final count for applications received is 122 deer and 3 bear. All awards have been presented or mailed, except 2.

At the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries meeting March 30, we presented our request for a 30-day Deer, Bear, and Squirrel season. As it now stands we will receive exactly the same season as last year. The explanation for this, as I got it, is that we have continually asked for more and more every year. Actually, this year's request is the same as the original request 5 or 6 years ago. We had 4 commissioners in favor of a 3-week season but this was not enough to swing the additional week for us.

All of this points out one thing. What is Archery giving in return for what we are asking? Most Archers think of themselves as Conservation-Minded individuals and certainly they cannot be classed as game hogs. What does the general public, and more important, in this instance, the Commissioners of the Game and Inland Fisheries think of Archers? What Archery needs is a good sound conservation program along with a public relations committee to keep Archery in the eyes of the public and the Commissioners. Timely items along this line in *Flight*, and adding the names of all the Commissioners to the mailing list will help.

Newspaper items on such things as March of Dimes Shoots, Teachers Workshop Program, Donations to the Big Levels Feed Patch Project, Records compiled on the total amount of Carp removed from our streams. These things and many more will help to keep Archery in the eyes of the general public.

The above mentioned are not A. P. items but if written up properly and presented to your local newspapers they will welcome them. Clippings could then be sent such magazines as *Virginia*

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Harry W. Bunting Dies While Attending V B A Meeting

The Virginia Bowhunters Association suffered a great loss when Harry W. Bunting died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack while attending the quarterly meeting of the VBA at Lynchburg, April 8th. Harry will be sorely missed by the Virginia archers, and all of us join in the mourning with his widow, Indie T. Bunting, and his two sons. Harry took over the job of Field Vice President, which he held at the time of his death, in the spring of 1960, and had done an outstanding job of organizing it and setting up the present archer card system that is working so efficiently.

Harry Bunting's enthusiasm for archery started back in 1937 when he was a member of the Target Archery Association. He joined the VBA at its conception and as a member of the Chesapeake Bowmen Club he served in various capacities from Range Captain to President. He was not only an enthusiastic worker, but was always willing to lend a helping hand to his many archery friends. In 1955 Harry was Vice President of VBA and also Editor of *FLIGHT*, and in 1956 he served as President. His devotion to archery continued until the time of his death.

Harry worked for the Navy Department as a supervisor in the planning-estimating section of the Norfolk Navy Yard. He had completed more than 34 years of Federal Service.

All of us who have the pleasure of working with Harry through the years in the Virginia Bowhunters Association will miss his wise council and his many ideas for the furtherance of the sport of archery. Our organization can thank Harry Bunting for his many contributions which indeed have placed it in the high esteem that it experiences today. Archery has lost a true friend and gentleman.

FLIGHT

News and views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.

Colonial Press Printing
in Fredericksburg, Virginia

VBA OFFICERS: Ted Grefe, President, Box 352, Fairfax, Virginia; C. J. (Woody) Woods, Executive Vice President, 319 W. Main St., Waynesboro, Va.; G. P. Booth, Jr., Hunting Vice President, 1812 Churchville Avenue, Staunton, Virginia; Gerti Lewis, Field Vice President, RFD 2, Box 190, Portsmouth, Virginia; Pat Hamilton, Recording Secretary, Rt. No. 4, Glen Allen, Virginia; Sue D. Price, Corresponding Secretary, 1712 N. Quincy St., Arlington, Va.; A. J. Lipske, Jr., Treasurer, 7414 Dickenson, Springfield, Virginia; Franklin M. (Ike) Lewis, VBA & NFAA Field Governor, RFD 2, Box 190, Portsmouth, Virginia.

Hunting Vice President

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Wildlife, Archery, Bowhunters, Flight, etc. The time element is important. When the money is appropriated to the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries for the Teachers Workshop program, that's the time an item should be written and presented to the newspapers. A March of Dimes sheet should be written up just as soon as the shoot is over and presented to the local newspapers.

A Conservation Program and a Public Relations Committee can get Archers the additional seasons they want.

Sometime in the past the VBA voted in favor of a Bowhunting license or stamp. Now is the time to present to the Commission a resolution, from the only State-organized Archery Association, in favor of such a stamp or license for them to use at any time in the future to act upon this matter. This could probably do more for Archery in the eyes of the Commissioners than anything else.

In the Valley, there is a new Sportsman's Organization, "The United Sportsman's Association." Any archery club or other public hunting club, west of the Blue Ridge Mts., is invited to join this association. Primary purpose of this association is to act as liaison between the sportsmen and the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. This Association backed our request for a 30-day bow season.

G. B. Booth, Jr.
VBA Hunting Vice-President

Tournament Procedure Suggestions

There have been numerous requests from archers throughout the State for some general suggestions on the procedures for conducting tournaments.

Listed below are a few of the more pertinent points to be considered when conducting tournaments at your club to insure a smooth operation.

1. Set up a registration table at least one hour before shooting time, and have it manned by 3 or 4 capable people.
2. One of these capable people at the registration desk will act as Tournament Secretary and will greet the archers and take from them their classification card and tournament fee. This is all you need from the archers. Then direct them to the practice butts immediately.
3. The person sitting next to the tournament secretary will take the classification card and enter the archer's full name and class on a tournament registration form which is designed by the club to answer their own needs.
4. It is best to have a tournament registration form sheet for each class and/or division, especially during a big shoot when there are lots of shooters.
5. The classification card is then passed to the third person at the registration table and he will write the archer's full name and classification and/or division on two score cards, which cards in turn will be separated according to class and/or division.
6. The fourth person at the registration desk can group the archers into shooting parties, taking care in not necessarily putting all "A" shooters together, but mixing them up somewhat and keeping the general shooting abilities together, and introducing the "E" and "F" shooters in with "B," "C," & "D" shooters. This is difficult, but a workable solution can be accomplished with a little practice.
7. A "must" for every shoot is a legible black board where the scores can be chalked up as the archers return from their shooting. While the archers are shooting their first round, a club member who is not shooting that day can post the participants according to class on the blackboard.
8. As the shooters come in from the first 28 targets round, one person at the registration desk will take up the score cards and call out the scores to two assistants at the blackboard scoreboard who in turn

will record the first round scores. By the time all the archers have finished shooting, the scores are all posted.

9. Shooters can be regrouped according to competition at the option of the host club for the 2nd 28 targets, but it is quite a job and should be started immediately after all scores are posted.
10. After the archers have proceeded to the field to shoot the afternoon round, one of the non-shooting club members should copy the scores on the club's tournament registration form from the scoreboard.
11. As the shooters come in from the 2nd 28 target round, follow the same procedure as number 8 above.
12. After all scores are posted and the totals for the day are added, check each archer's score for those who failed to shoot their class, and then determine your winners.
13. Now complete the club's tournament registration form by copying the scores for the 2nd 28 targets from the blackboard.
14. The V.B.A. Tournament Forms T#1 & T#2 can be easily filled out later from the club's tournament registration form and mailed to the V.B.A. Field Vice-President.
15. Keep the club's tournament registration forms for the club's record.
16. Keep a record of all the N.F.A.A. & V.B.A. "20" pins shot during the tournament, i.e., date, name, address, club, target, and distance. This is a ready reference in event of a foul-up somewhere along the line.

Field Vice President

(Continued from page one)

This office kept the Post Office personnel quite busy during 1961. Two hundred and two orders for tournament pins were received covering a total of 4587 pins. Eighty-seven pieces of correspondence were received. These covered a wide range of questions such as rule interpretations, policy, procedures etc. Each inquiry was answered promptly and I trust to the satisfaction of all who inquired.

In all we had a fine year and let's make 1962 even better.

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The Bear Facts

In your statistics for the 1961 hunting season, Feb. issue of **Flight**, I notice only three bear listed. It is with some pride that I recall that two of these three were bagged by members of the Two Rivers Archery Club of Front Royal, Virginia.

The first of the Club was by Emory Ewell Clifton, who made his kill in Bath County while hunting with a trio of Sherwood Archers from Roanoke; namely: V. P. Clifton, Tom Clifton and Bob Terry. A short factual story of this hunt will soon appear in **Virginia Wildlife**. A more complete story giving the author's feelings, and letting the chips fall where they may, will soon be published in the **National Field Archery Magazine**.

The second bear of the club was by Orlan Elsea, who made his kill in Warren County, home of T.R.A.C. Orlan's hunting companion was Paul Ruffner, another member of T.R.A.C. Orlan also got his deer which proved to be the largest killed by the club this year and won for him the Ewell Clifton Big Deer Trophy. This trophy is an annual presentation at T.R.A.C.

In celebration, a portion of bear meat was served to each of the seventy-odd members and friends present at the Two Rivers Archery Club's first annual banquet held at the Virginia Gentleman Restaurant in Front Royal. During the banquet, the club voted to present a bear trophy to each of the lucky hunters. For killing the first bear, Clifton was presented with a Kodiak Special bow. The presentation was made by William Coffman on behalf of Bill's Sporting Goods of Front Royal.

To V. P. Clifton, of Roanoke, goes the credit of having presence of mind to give the story of the Bath County hunt to the newspapers. As a result, many papers throughout the east published the story and gave some good publicity to archery. In addition to magazines previously mentioned, the **Norfolk and Western** magazine and the national publication of the Izaak Walton League published the event. I am glad that I could play a part in creating more interest in archery as a method of hunting.

To Vic Peyton, to whom I believe goes the honor of being the first V.B.A. member to down a bear in Virginia with the bow, I send my hearty congratulations. To all of you who will be looking for your bear next year, good luck, good shooting, and may that first arrow be true.

Emory E. Clifton
Two Rivers Archery Club
Front Royal, Va.

"20" Pin Winners" Feb. to April, 1962

35 Yards

Bill Adkins, Galax
John J. Banicki, Hampton
Hal Berke, Lexington
Ellis O. Clayton, Glasgow
Denver Drain, Stanley
Wesley Edwards, Port Republic
Billy R. Martin, Pilot
W. M. Martin, Wytheville
Wayne T. Morgan, Jr., Roanoke
Eldon Moser, Galax
Eckles Mullins, Coeburn
Sherril L. Overstreet, Bedford
Leroy Plaugher, Annandale
Carey G. Price, Arlington
Robert Ryder, Bridgewater
David Shirkey, New Market
C. L. Stockman, Rockland, Mass.
Robert H. Sumner, Fries
Lyn Sweeney, Arlington
James Tewalt, Sr., Front Royal
Ben Topham, Wytheville
Thomas S. Wood, Winchester

40 Yards

Robert B. Chenault, Amherst
Warren T. Cowles, Fairfax Station
O. Claude Davis, Wytheville
Thomas Frye, Leesburg
C. F. Kaufman, Yorktown
Donald Perdue, Staffordsville
Clarence Shrewsbury, Arlington

45 Yards

Wayne Armstrong, Sr., Bridgewater
T. C. Bishop, Norfolk
Voda Blevins, Clintwood
Jerome Keyes, Alexandria
H. L. "Lindy" Randall, Port Republic
(1 pos. and 4 pos.)
Vernon Rogers, Hampton
B. M. Shelor, Roanoke
Elwood Williams, Galax

"Think on This"

"Is anybody happier because you passed his way,
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
This day is almost over and its toiling time is through,
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word for you?"

Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of friendship or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think God would say—
You have earned one more tomorrow, by the work you did today?"

—Anon.

50 Yards

Wayne Armstrong, Sr., Bridgewater
Gerald S. Cook, Newport News
Thomas B. Frye, Leesburg

55 Yards

Robert W. Bouton, Lynchburg
Bunny Key, Bedford
William Taylor, Arlington
Leon Vaughan, Fairfax

60 Yards

Bennett Jack Coffey, Danville
Thomas Hancock, Purcellville
Murray Selby, Alexandria

65 Yards

John J. Banicki, Hampton
Gerald S. Cook, Newport News
Thomas B. Frye, Leesburg
Mike Zirkle, Edinburg

TOURNAMENT CHANGES

Blue Ridge Archery Club Shoot, May 13th, at Buena Vista range. The Oakwood Forest Club, Covington, Shoots have been canceled.

Announcing

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Blackhawk	_____	23.50 doz.
Hunting P. O. Cedar \$10.00 plus broadhead	_____	
Refletch & Recrest & Straighten Aluminum	_____	60 each

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CHANGES

By BILL ORTH

Time was when we older archers shot with homemade bows and arrows. Sometimes the arrows were good and flew reasonably close to the scoring areas of the targets. Sometimes they weren't so good and didn't come quite so close. Often they missed the bales. Then, too, the cast of our bows changed with the weather and with use. This, also, complicated matters. But a lot of us became proficient in the use of our tackle. We could score pretty well on our practice butts in the back yard. Some of us could shoot pretty well on our ranges even tho the distances to the targets might be off several yards. This was accepted at that time of day, for we were all, or nearly all, instinctive shooters. We enjoyed ourselves on both our own ranges and those of other clubs. Some of us enjoyed roving or stump shooting, where a near miss was almost as good as a hit. At hunting, even tho the kills were comparatively few, close shots and near misses gave even more challenge to the archer. Post mortems of the hunt were enjoyed by both the successful and the still hopeful. Hunting with the bow and its subsequent re-living is looked forward to each year and the sport is continually growing.

But changes have been creeping into the field courses. Equipment, first, became improved. Better bows are being made. At one time our self-bows, of lemonwood or hickory, sufficed to give us pleasure. We gloried in being able to pull a fifty or sixty pound bow. It took a Man to do it. Only recognized differences in stature kept us from holding in scorn those who shot lesser-weight bows. Our arrows of ash and cedar, often roughed out and worked down from square billets, were as heavy, in comparison, as our bows. The fletching of barred turkey feathers was

hand-cut, fastened to the shafts by hand and positioned by eye. The feathers were large. They had to be to guide the shafts of the size we used. Nonetheless, they flew surprisingly well and good scores were chalked up at the tournaments. Then came backing of sinew and, later, fiber for the bows. Following these, fiberglass appeared, along with laminated bows. Cast improved and it was found that the weight could be reduced. Maple replaced lemonwood and hickory. At the same time, Port Orford cedar for arrows came to the fore. Ash was laid aside as too heavy. We could shoot an arrow farther and straighter, now. And we liked it. More of the better tackle was manufactured wholesale and bought by the archers and less was made by hand. The tempo in the improvement of both bows and arrows increased sharply. Within a very short time we saw glass backing and facing and deflexed limbs. Then came recurved limbs and working recurves. The bows, themselves, became longer, making them more stable. Sight windows were cut into them.

"Center shot" bows made the spine of the arrow less critical. Next came larger handle sections and shorter working limbs. Cast is no longer affected by temperature and weather and has increased terrifically. Aluminum arrows, lighter in weight and with smaller fletching and lighter points further lowered trajectory. Few, indeed, are the shooters who still have to hold "way over" the bales to hit the targets. The better archers are using bow weights in the thirties and forties. It is only those restricted by stature or desire that shoot tackle that requires being held so high. Anchor points have increased in number with changing shooting techniques. Truly instinctive shooting, although not admitted to by some, has given way to the space-gap and point-of-aim method of shooting. The originally instinctive shooter is becoming a person of the past. In the field, hunting or roving, it is still used extensively altho, here too, more of the newer methods of aiming are coming into use.

(Continued in next issue)

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