

Nostalgia Corner

30 Years Ago ... by Paul Davison

Two Things Lost

1. Cobo Hall

The Bear American Indoor Archery Championship, also known as Cobo Hall or “Vegas East,” was the premier indoor archery tournament east of the Mississippi in the 1970’s. The NFAA was not yet involved in large indoor tournaments. Cobo Hall was a joint venture among Bear Archery, PAA, NAA and ALOA (Archery Lanes Operators Association). In 1972, Bear put up \$13,600 in prize money, while ALOA added \$1,000 for team winners.

It featured Men’s and Women’s Open (really PAA), Amateur Freestyle (really NAA), Amateur Barebow (sort of NFAA), and JOAD championships. Compound bows and release aids were not welcomed, which, along with the hall rental cost, are probably the reasons why Cobo Hall met its demise a few years later. Nevertheless, there were nearly 600 shooters — 150 each for the A and B lines, both morning and afternoon, on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, 1972. Coincidentally, this third weekend in April is when the new “Vegas East,” the Atlantic City Archery Classic, is held.



2. The *Real* NFAA Sectional Report

Soon after I joined the NFAA, I expanded my archery interests beyond the local level to the state, sectional and even national levels. Although I tried to shoot my best at the Outdoor Sectionals and Nationals, I always finished somewhere near the bottom of B Class. What made it fun, however, was meeting and shooting with people from other states and sections — especially those I had read about in *Archery* magazine’s **NFAA Sectional Report**.

In those days, before most states had their own newsletters, it was essentially mandatory that each NFAA

Section have a dedicated “reporter” to collect, edit and assemble reports from the state associations within each Section. Some of the reporters were actually current or future Councilpersons. For example, Phyllis Butters of the New England Section, made her mark as a very good archery reporter before she was elected to the NFAA Council.

Not all states and sections had news to report every month — remember, *Archery* was a monthly magazine in those days. Normally (depending on the season), eight to twelve pages of section news were published in every issue ... and *I read every page*. Except for the national and other major tournament reports, the **NFAA Sectional Report** was the first thing read.

It wasn’t long before the text version of the NFAA Sectional Report was dropped from the magazine. In 1972, we had a new editor, a new Executive Secretary, and, I guess, a growing lack of interest in both writing and reading. Today, we still have Sectional Reports, but they’ve become nothing more than tournament registration information and score tallies.

Alas, we have *reports* ... but no real *reporters*!

[Editor’s note: If you support the resurrection of narrative Sectional Reports, contact NFAA Headquarters or your NFAA Director.]