

# History of the National Field Archery Association – 1934-1974

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## Part 1 – The First 20 Years (1934-1954)

by John L. Yount

Original Secretary-Treasurer of the Association

After putting in a number of days going through the records of the NFAA in preparation for this job of writing the history of our organization, I have come to realize just how incomplete any history must be. I find that in spite of our youth it would require all the space in every issue of *Archery* for at least a year to give a complete and detailed history, and then no one would read it.

This leaves me with the job of selecting and recording only the most important events, and means that in many cases I can devote little if any space to a lot of hard-working people who have helped us make the organization what it is today. The only place where I am going to make an exception to this rule is in the pre-organization days. If it had not been for the help of this small group of broad-minded, far-sighted men, many of whom were not field archers, there would probably have been no NFAA today, and field archery would have been a sort of unwanted step-child of target archery.

Our history should go back to 1934 and a little club at Redlands, California, and so that is where I will begin. This was a club of target archers, not by choice but by necessity. There simply was no other kind of archery. The members of this club just were not target archers at heart. The same could be said of hundreds of others at that time, for no game ever pleased everyone. Where the Redlands club was different was that they decided to do something about it instead of dropping the bow entirely.

At that time the target archers of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oregon and probably other states were making quite a thing of their annual field shoots. These shoots were very much of the novelty variety. Actually, in many cases they could almost be termed the comedy relief following a season of serious target shooting. Nevertheless, it was from these tournaments that the Redlands club got the idea of a permanently set up field course open to members for practice, or tournament shooting throughout the year.

The first such course was built in the spring of 1934, and in spite of all its shortcomings was popular from the first. This course contained something over 20 targets, and was laid out in extremely rugged hills. Actually, I know of but few archers today who would shoot such a course. Many a target had a 50- or 60-yard climb up a 45° trail, and one shot was 160 yards across a very deep ravine that is still full of arrows. There were no straw butts on this or any of the other early courses. The target was simply pinned to a pile of dirt.

The next course built was at El Segundo, also in California, and knee deep in sand, for the entire course was in sand dunes. There was some question as to which was worse, the hills of Redlands or the sand dunes of El Segundo.

Just the same the sport grew. While these early courses were set up permanently and so were standard insofar as the local club was concerned, each was laid out to suit its own club members and there was no similarity between courses in the yardages of shots or even in the number of targets. It was only after a great deal of letter writing and a tremendous amount of cut and try — the Redlands club alone either built or re-built seven courses — that anything resembling the present course was built.

The targets on these early courses were the same as those used today, but the scoring at first was different. We scored 5 points for a hit with the first arrow, 3 for a hit with the second and one each for the third and fourth arrow. To this we added three points for each arrow in the bullseye. This method was discontinued because we found that even in those days all archers were not honest and so were claiming more first arrow hits than they were entitled to.

For the first couple of months no mention was made of shooting style. It was simply understood that this was a new game for a different style of shooting, and that the target archers trying it would enter into the spirit of the thing and shoot as the rest of the gang did, instinctively. Then one day a top target shot with a sliding sight completely upset a tournament, not only by shooting what was then a fabulous score, but by taking so much time to make sight adjustments that he slowed things from a fast walk to a slow crawl. From then on, until the organization of the National Field Archery Association, all sights were barred.

So much for the background. Now for the important pre-organization years — 1936 to 1939. During this time some members of the NAA were very active in their efforts to tie this husky new sport in with target archery, but always with the idea that field archery must be developed along lines that met with the approval of the members of the NAA, and not with the idea of developing a new sport so totally different that it could multiply the number of archers by attracting thousands who could not be interested in target archery. The following, from a letter written by a member of the field committee in 1939, makes this plain:

“This NAA association is the organization that should be the logical one to start and organize field archery. Why then has it not been done? For the simple reason that the demand for it has but recently been of sufficient strength to bring it to the foreground. An organization exists for the benefit of its membership NOT OUTSIDERS. When the membership of the NAA votes to have the Board of Governors get busy and have a National Field archery tournament then there will be one. That brings up two questions: Should the NAA do what the OUTSIDERS want done in order to enlarge its membership? Or should it do what its membership wants it to do? Personally, I believe that those who support an organization should have its benefits.”

It can be readily seen that such an attitude would have completely blocked the development of field archery except as a new and minor part of target archery. Because of this attitude by some NAA members we should be especially grateful for such broad-minded NAA leaders as Henry S. C. Cummings, Paul E. Klopsteg, William Folberth, Forest Nagler, Kore T. Duryee and Paris B. Stockdale, to name just a few. You who know only field archery of today can never realize just how vital apart these men played in our organization. You must remember that at that time the only organized archers were target archers. There was no field archery magazine and no list of field archers. In short, no possible way of contacting field archers except with the help of target clubs and associations.

When it was definitely known that the field archers wanted a separate organization in order to be free to develop games and to promote a shooting style — instinctive — that was so entirely different from target archery and thereby greatly increase the number of archers, this group got behind us with the help that was needed and the NFAA was on its way. The following, from letters written by Henry Cummings, Chairman of the Board of the NAA, will give you an idea of the kind of support we were given:

“There are always cranks everywhere and those who begrudge the success of everyone else! I know pretty well how the Board of Governors feels on the subject of Field Archery. Most of them by their vote have indicated their friendliness to the efforts of your group. They see in Field Archery, as I do, the vision of more archery being enjoyed just because of the variety of being able not only to shoot formally on targets, but to be able to roam through fields, cross-country and over the hills in quest of the romance of a different form of arrow fussing!

“There are those who prefer ‘conservatism’ to daring to expand; daring to pioneer; daring to cooperate with others who have different visions; daring to yield something that the whole may grow; daring to risk ridicule perhaps that no coordinated effort should be thwarted; daring to build archery so that it may appeal to more people in more places more of the time! I am very earnest in hoping that Field Archery will, during the next few years, crystallize into a very definite well organized branch of the sport.”

The cranks referred to were those who refused to acknowledge the right of any group of archers to organize except under the rules of the NAA.

A paragraph in a second letter reads as follows:

“I should like to most heartily congratulate you on having secured the requisite number of State Associations so that you are now in a position to get organized as a National Organization. I hope that the NAA will be able to assist you in securing the other associations in the Midwest and East so that the NF AA will be a truly National organization.”

The following quoted from a letter written in reply to one of these letters shows our gratitude and our intention of developing something new and so spreading the use of the bow rather than to offer just anew game for the same old group.

“I want you to know just how much I appreciate what you are doing. I am certain that if this plan can be put over that there will be twice as many archers in the Nation than there are at present. The new group will be just as fine a bunch of fellows as the present members of the NAA. They will just like their fun a little different. After all wouldn't it be tough if we all fell in love with the same lady?”

After receiving the official green light from the NAA a letter, part of which follows, was sent to all who might be interested in Field Archery.

“After months of consideration the NAA Committee on Field Archery gave a report, the substance of which was that Field Archery should be organized by field archers, with the NAA acting only as a good friend.

“The first thing we need is more field archers. The next is something concrete and definite to build upon — something of year around interest and of equal importance in all states. To reach a possible solution to these questions let us compare archery to a road, a very wide road. Yet strange to say. one with only the extreme outer edges being used.

“The one side has been well paved and kept in perfect condition for the past 59 years by the NAA. It is the highway of target archery, a dignified sport of whistles, silence, gadgets and precision. We say this not in derision but as a simple statement of facts. Those are the things that make the game, and we would be the last to have them changed.

“On the opposite side of the road we have field archery as at present shot. Strictly speaking, it is not a game. It has no rounds and consequently no rules or regulations. Its adherents shoot a bow for the sheer delight of seeing the arrows fly. To those who can see no fun in this sort of thing, I can only say that they are missing some of the finest fun in the world, and I am confident in my belief that it would do their souls a lot of good to climb down off their dignity once in awhile and do a little old fashioned field shooting.

“Now that we have covered the two sides of the road, let's see what possibilities there are in the middle. How about the majority of the American public who happen to be between these two groups? They are playing some other game, not because they are not fascinated by the bow, but because there is no archery game to their liking. Field archery offers the informality but not the game, while target offers the game, but one with too much formality. The answer should be some completely new games based on instinctive shooting. Games complete within themselves, games suitable for permanent courses and national competition.

“If such middle-of-the-road games can be made the means of multiplying the number of instinctive shots, we will have succeeded in greatly increasing the number of archery hunters. For that reason such games can well be made the nucleus upon which a Field Association can be built.”

The temporary constitution that accompanied this contained the following:

## “ARTICLE II

(From temporary constitution of 1939)

Purposes:

For those field style archers to whom target archery has little to offer, yet to whom no sport can be complete that lacks well regulated competitive events, this Association has been formed.

Its purposes shall be:

1. To develop rounds and regulations for competitive field style, or instinctive shooting; to conduct championship tournaments using these rounds; and, in general, to do all possible to promote the field style, or instinctive shooting.

In doing these things we shall not set our game up as being superior to other forms of archery, but rather as a complement thereto, and try at all times to work harmoniously with other organizations in presenting the grand game of archery to the American public.”

This all happened in 1939, and by the end of the year we had organizations in Washington, Oregon, New Jersey, Arizona and California, and a scattering of members from Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Michigan, New York, Minnesota, Kansas, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Texas. There were quite a number of fly-by-night courses and a few permanent ones. During the summer a number of field tournaments were held, some in states that still refused to admit that the NFAA existed. In some of these tournaments the scores were quite presentable even by today’s standards. Probably the best was a 310 score shot by Harry Glover of Oakland, California, while the Southern California boys were consistently shooting between 250 and 275. All these are 28-target scores.

This same year Michigan used the standard field round at their State Field tournament with Fred Bear winning the Instinctive division with a score of 460 for 56 targets, and Karl Palmatier winning the Free Style division with 308. This is the first time to my knowledge that the standard round was used in a two-division state tournament.

To give you an idea of just how mixed up things were at this time, Michigan was shooting the round developed and advocated by the NFAA, while still refusing to have anything to do with the new upstart. The organized Michigan archers of that day favored a tie-up with the NAA and Karl Palmatier was Chairman of the Field Committee of that organization. In spite of this target archery tie-up the archers of Michigan were trying to develop field archery in a manner that would attract the hundreds of unorganized instinctive archers in the state, as demonstrated by the following rule that was in force at that time: “The winner of the Instinctive Division, regardless of score, is considered the State Field Archery Champion.”

Early in 1940, following the decision of the NAA Board of Governors to get out of field archery and get back of the NFAA, the State of Michigan started taking a very active part in NFAA affairs, and became almost immediately one of our strongest and most active states. It was not until then that any effort was made to formally organize the NFAA. Everything before this had been on a temporary basis. We felt that if we were ever to become a truly National organization we should start as an organization of the field archers of the country, and not as a more or less local organization with large groups having no part in the job.

The constitution adopted was almost identical in purpose with that of the temporary constitution given earlier in this article, with the single exception that the words “Instinctive Archer” were left out. This change, as we viewed it then, is explained in the following letters from our first President, A. J. Michelson of Flint, Michigan:

“As I wrote you before, our big problem in getting the East to try field archery is the fact that they are sight or point-of-aim shooters. It may be that they can be persuaded to install field archery by adopting the classification of instinctive and free style as now used in Michigan. However, I do not believe that the NFAA should make any change in its definitions as to what constitutes an instinctive archer. The one fixed sight for the present should be a sufficient concession to get archers to shoot in the NFAA instinctive class. However, as far as their local rules are concerned, if they prefer to have a free style division I see no reason why we should object to it. In fact, as I wrote you previously, from our Michigan experience it won't take them long to switch over from free style into the instinctive.”

This brings up a subject that is misunderstood by many to this day. The NFAA did not at that time, and has not at any time since, denied a club the right to organize the type club it felt most suited to its needs. It could be an Instinctive club, a Free Style club or a club shooting both. To change this would require an amendment to our constitution.

In the summer of 1940, while still operating with a temporary constitution and with temporary officers, we scheduled our first official tournaments. This was a series of five mail tournaments for Instinctive shooting only, but with a single mark allowed and considered as Instinctive. The winner in the men's division was E. Hill Turnock of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, with an average score of 356 for 28 targets. The men's trophy was a beautiful silver bowl donated by our old friend, Henry Cummings, Board Chairman of the NAA. The winning woman was Naomi Baker, Inglewood, California, with an average of 196 for 28.

This also was our first year with an official magazine. *Ye Sylvan Archer* had been edited for some years by John Davis of Corvallis, Oregon, and was a mighty nice little magazine, just the thing for a small group where everyone knew everyone else. Believe it or not this magazine cost our members just exactly 50¢ a year. This, together with a dues of 50¢ made a grand total of \$1.00. Those were the good old days.

Another big event of 1940 was the Big Game award. Art Young, the foremost archer of his day and a fine sportsman died in the winter of 1935. The following year a group of bow hunters, headed by Paul Klopsteg and including all the leading bow and arrow hunters of that time formed the Art Young Foundation in his honor. This was a loosely knit organization with high ideals but no really active program, except to use its treasury for any good cause connected with field archery.

When the NFAA was definitely on its way Klopsteg wrote me to know if we had any specific program that would perpetuate the name of Art Young that could be helped along by the money remaining in the foundation. After some thought I wrote him that we didn't, but I believed we could start one — that in my estimation nothing would be more appropriate than a Big Game award and nothing would be more appreciated by the hunters. This met with his whole-hearted approval, and so with the approval of our officers the Art Young Big Game award became our most coveted award.

The final big event of this all important year was the election of our permanent officers in November. A. J. Michelson of Flint, Michigan became President; Paris B. Stockdale, Columbus, Ohio, Vice-President; T. C. Davidson, Springfield, N.J., Eastern Representative; Fred Bear, Detroit, Michigan, Midwest; Harold Macquarrie, Western; and Karl E. Palmatier was appointed Tournament Chairman.

This brings us to 1941 with things well organized and running smoothly. The big event of that year was the adoption of the old stump as our emblem. There is quite a little story connected with that.

In 1938 and 1939 Erle Stanley Gardner wrote several articles on the art of stump hunting in which he pointed out that the archer who went out for fun and didn't take his sport too seriously was the man who had the most fun. So when Bill Folberth sent me a number of sketches drawn by Dick Schroeder, a nationally known artist, an outstanding sportsman and an archer, from which to pick a design and when I found among them the old stump and arrow I knew we had what we wanted. Needless to say the design was unanimously adopted by the Executive Committee.

It was also in 1941 that the custom of having the association President write a column for each issue of the Magazine was started. Mike's column was "Blunts From the Old Stump." Right here I want to pay special tribute to Mike for his far-sighted leadership in those early days of the NFAA. He saw the picture as a whole and was not influenced by pressure groups who saw any radical change or rapid growth as a threat to their own private little dynasty. Those of you who did not know Mike missed knowing a great man, and those of you who knew him only in his later years when poor health and the press of business kept him inactive in the field of archery did not know the Mike whom we knew.

When 1942 and World War II came along we didn't do like some organizations did, and toss in the sponge for the duration. We felt that the sport was needed more than ever, and so it was our patriotic duty to keep right on plugging. The following from Mike's column of January that year shows how we felt about it:

“America is at war. How long the war will last no one knows. Our lives, our property, and our sacred honor are pledged to a successful prosecution of that war. Many of our archers are already in the service; many more soon will be. For those who are not called to the front there are many war time duties, not only in the production of war materials, but in civilian defense.

“But man cannot live alone by fighting, nor can he efficiently produce by working without rest day in and day out. There comes a time when fatigue, mental and physical, slows up production. To keep our minds and our bodies healthy and at the peak of efficiency there must be periods of rest and recreation. Rest and recreation are to our minds and bodies what lubrication is to machinery. Without it they wear out and deteriorate. In war time, sports are necessary not only in the armed services but in the home front, to keep up morale, to take our minds for a moment from the thoughts of war, to relax tired bodies and release stored-up nervous tension. From our sports we can return to our work with renewed vigor and energy.”

In March of that year we printed our first Handbook. It was a tiny book 3-3/4" x 5-1/2" in size with 120 pages, ads and all. Just the same it was a big thing in field archery. Before its publication we had no way of spreading the sport except by letter and a small amount of mimeographed material. Now we could send a Handbook. Largely because of this we reached a membership of 906 in 1942.

The other big event of 1942 was the 20 Pin. This was the brain child of the Northern California field archers. After giving it a good try and knowing just how popular this award was, they offered not only the idea but the pin design as well to the NFAA. This was the pin that was used by our organization until 1952, when the new design bearing our initials was adopted. This was necessary because so many different clubs were giving the original pin and under so many different rules that it had lost a lot of its meaning.

The big events of 1943: were the adoption of the Flint Indoor Round, the first Indoor Mail Tournament and the loss of our editor, John Davis, to the war effort. John was the kind of a Professor that the army needed, so with very little warning we found that he was an officer instead of an editor. By the greatest of good luck we had another man in the Northwest capable of taking over as a sort of pinch-hitter. This was A. T. (Bert) Wallis, our Western Executive Committeeman. Bert did a good job for the remainder of the year, but found the job added to his regular work to be more than he could handle, so the first of 1944 found us once again without an editor.

Things really looked dark until it occurred to a few of us that Roy Hoff was editing a small monthly for the California Bowmen Hunters and it might just be possible that we could talk him into taking over. About this time Michelson paid a visit to Los Angeles. This gave us a chance to get together with Roy and see if we couldn't sell him on the idea. It took considerable selling, but we finally made it, and "Archery" became the official organ of the Association in February of 1944. Now, ten years later, I can say that this has proven to be an arrangement that has not, for one moment, been regretted by either party.

Another major event of 1944 was the Small Game award. It was decided to make this a silver replica of the Art Young Big Game award, and name it the Art Young Small Game award. Most of our officers felt that this award should be more important to the Association than the Big Game award, in that it was the award that could be earned by any member in any state, and an award that would be of interest throughout the year, while the Big Game award, in spite of its glamour, had a lot of limitations. The average season is short, there is no big game in many states, and big game hunting is apt to be rather expensive for all except the few who live in favored spots.

Now a few more words on shooting style. In 1942 there seemed to be quite a demand for a Free Style division in our Mail Tournament, so in February of that year it was announced that there would be two divisions in the coming tournaments. The same announcement was made in 1943 and in both the 1942 and 1943 Handbooks. In spite of this there was no Free Style division either year. The Free Style archers did not want a separate division but the privilege of winning awards from the Instinctive archers. It must be remembered that at that time a Free Style archer was pretty apt to be a target archer whose principal interest in Field Archery was a desire to demonstrate his superiority.

In 1944 all effort to interest these fellows in a division of their own was forgotten, and we went back to the single Instinctive division until 1948, when the Free Style archers again insisted that they be recognized. In the belief that there was room in the NFAA for all field archers, regardless of shooting style, we gave it another try and had five entrants in the Free Style division of the first tournament. The clamor for this division was, for some years, entirely out of proportion to the interest shown, but for the sake of harmony the division was never again dropped, even though it cost our organization considerable money each year.

The big events of 1945 were the adoption of the gold and silver arrows as awards for the taking of additional game after winning the Art Young Big Game or Small Game award, and the origination of the "Order of the Bone" as an honorary society of those who pulled hunting boners and were sportsmen enough to tell about it.

We started 1946 with the following officers: A. J. Michelson, President; W. B. Wescott, Vice-President; Ray C. Laizure, Eastern Representative; Arnold O. Haugen, Midwest Representative; A. T. Wallace, Western Representative; Paul Janssen, Southern Representative.

I mention these officers because they were our officers during our second most important year, the year of our first National Tournament. At that time we had a membership of 4500, and Mike predicted that we would have a membership of 10,000 within five years, a prophesy that proved to be far more accurate than anyone anticipated. We passed 10,000 in less than seven years. This first tournament was held at Allegan, Michigan, and with its 476 contestants proved to be the biggest and most successful archery tournament ever held. Karl Palmatier was in full charge, just as he has been of all tournaments since, and did an excellent job. Another man who deserves a lot of credit was W. B. Wescott, who designed the medals for the tournament and presented the dies to the organization. These have been adopted as official and are given at all National Tournaments.

This tournament was a single division affair with all sights except the single mark barred. Following the tournament, Mike sent questionnaires to all contestants and reported as follows:

"Replies were received from 157 men and 28 women. 150 archers approved the present Instinctive and one mark rule for the National Tournament; 35 were against it. Those against the rule were either those who favored Instinctive shooting only or were for abolishing all sight restriction."

Our first National Tournament champions were: Dr. Erwin C. Fletcher, Bakersfield, California, men's champion, with a score of 2183; women's champion, Babe Bitzenburger, Los Angeles, California, with a score of 1152. Junior Girls, Kathleen Powell, Portland, Oregon, score 428. Junior Boys. Maurice Le Favour, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, score 1199. These scores are not comparable with those of today for only one of the three rounds remains the same.

In 1947 the National was held in Salt Lake City, and even though the attendance was smaller because of the distance from any big archery center, all parts of the country were well represented, and the tournament was a big success. It was at this tournament that our beautiful silver perpetual trophies for the men and women champions were first displayed. These again were selected by Mr. Wescott and were presented to our organization by the tackle-makers and the archers of Michigan. The Junior trophies were donated by the Utah State Archery Association and the Washington Bow Hunters Association.

Two other awards, neither of which had anything to do with scores, or for that matter with the tournament, were first presented at this time. The first was the Compton award. This award was named in honor of W. J. "Chief" Compton, the man who taught Art Young and Saxton Pope to shoot the bow, and to the man who gave modern archery its biggest boost, even though he himself was to remain in the background. This award was for outstanding and unselfish service to the sport over a period of years. This first award was made to George Brommers, the first member of the NFAA, for his work for our organization, beginning long before we had an organization.

The other award that was first given at this tournament was actually born at the tournament. The courses were built in rugged mountain country and some were crying about how difficult it was to hike and climb over the course. One man who wasn't was Nubbie Pate, a man with one leg off at the hip and

who had to use a crutch. I made the remark to Westcott that I thought we should have a sportsman ribbon to be given for that kind of sportsmanship. His reply was: "Do you want to go all the way?" When I said, "Sure, what do you have in mind?" he brought out a medal, showing only the reverse side of the Compton medal and said, "How about making this a medal for sportsmanship?" Needless to say, the idea met with my approval, and that of all the Executive Committeemen at the tournament, and the medal was awarded to Nubbie. Neither of these awards is given annually, but only when there is someone who deserves the honor.

Classes in the first tournament were hit and miss affairs, being based on scores shot the first day of the tournament — mostly miss. If I remember correctly, the winner in the Archer Class turned out to be an Expert Bowman with an incomplete first day score. In 1947, and ever since, the contestants have theoretically been required to turn in an average score, but up until now we have been too lax in enforcing this rule. We hope things will be different in the future.

There was nothing new of importance that needs recording in 1948 except that we had a swell National at Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

In 1949 the National Tournament was held at Pasadena, California. That was the year that arrow weights in the Hunters' and Broadhead rounds were eliminated. They had proven to be unfair to the fellow who shot 24" or 25" arrows, while putting no handicap whatever on the man who shot a 28" arrow. No use going into details, but it just didn't work out.

It was also at this tournament that the men's Expert Bowman class was added, and this was the last tournament with only a single division. By this time it had been definitely proven that even a single mark on a bow was an advantage, and the Instinctive archers were refusing to take part in tournaments. Because we tried to hold things as they were we lost hundreds of members that year, the only set-back the NFAA has ever had.

Because of this, it was decided in 1950 to make the National Tournament at Tawas and East Tawas, Michigan, a two division affair with all sights, even the one mark, in the Free Style, and nothing but bare bows in Instinctive. This proved to be such a success that in a single year we not only regained our lost memberships but finished the year with a good many hundred more members than ever before.

This was also the first year when our officers were elected by direct ballot of the membership rather than by the Board of Governors, which up until this time had consisted of the Presidents of the State Associations. Since these Associations were sometimes basically target, we had had Board members who were not only not members of the NFAA but not interested in field archery.

In 1951 we went to Watkins Glen, New York, for the 6th tournament. This was our first tournament in the East, and was the kind of success that has made that section our fastest growing spot for the last two years. At the time of the tournament our membership was 5700. Probably half of our next 5,000 members came from the East. Sad to relate, this year marked a new out-cropping of the same old trouble over shooting style. The Free Style archers were insisting on more rights than the Instinctive archers felt they were entitled to. This led to the Instinctors, Inc., and a lot of other things that had best be listed as unfinished business. We have lived with this argument since the day the NFAA was organized. It is our history and it is getting tiresome, but there doesn't seem to be any solution that doesn't run counter to the demands of some local group.

In 1952 we returned to the Midwest for our tournament, this time to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where everyone had a swell time and the pleasure of shooting on good courses.

The events from then on, including the 1953 tournament at Two Rivers, Wisconsin, are too new to need recording, and so in the hopes that this article has not been so long as to bore you to death, or that I have not left out too much of vital importance, I am going to close.

If there should be something that I have passed up that you would like to know more about I will be glad to put it in a later issue of the magazine.



## Part 2 – The Second 20 Years (1954-1974)

by Roy Hoff

Past Secretary-Treasurer and Founder of *Archery* Magazine

*[I feel flattered that President Ervin Kreischer requested me to write and produce this 32-page supplement to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Archery Magazine. I know anything pertaining to history is a bore to some of our readers. For that reason I have tried to write this in lay language in the hope it will hold your reader interest.]*

Secretary-Treasurer, John Yount, was in office until one certain day in October, 1958. This was NFAA election day. The day when the NFAA Secretary and his staff were to tabulate the results of membership balloting for President and Vice President.

Candidates for office in this election were Karl Palmatier of Kalamazoo, Michigan, who was running for a second term as President. He was opposed by Arnold Haugen.

Also on the ballot were Glenn St. Charles, Franklin Seford, Jr. and Joe McNutt, candidates for Vice President.

The scene was impressive as well as discouraging. Before continuing with results of this day, I should like to say a few words in retrospect:

My first visit to NFAA Headquarters was circa 1940, and has been repeated from time to time until the present day. I should like to describe the general set-up to you. ...

Setting several hundred feet back from Nevada Avenue, a country road near Redlands, California, in a forty acre citrus grove is the Yount home which, when I first saw it, looked much like many other farm houses in Southern California which were constructed around the turn of the century. It was soon rebuilt following the architectural motif and design of the early Missions which, of course, were built almost entirely of mud and tile. It certainly is an impressive lay-out midst countless species of cacti native to the desert area of Southern California and Arizona, and shaded by giant eucalyptus trees.

The Secretary's office, in the early days was in a corner of a bedroom. As the Association grew, a sunroom was added to accommodate filing cabinets and other facilities plus a desk for the Assistant Secretary who was, guess who, his wife, Vera. As time went on, in my estimation, the Assistant did more work than her superior!

The National Archery Association soon recognized the tremendous job this couple was doing to promote archery — both field and target — and awarded each a Thompson Medal of Honor, the highest award the Association offers. It is the same symbolic nature as the NFAA Compton Medal of Honor.

Years passed, the membership grew and the office personnel demanded larger quarters.

When John took over the family dining room for Association business, Vera demanded a halt to such goings-on. John compromised! He built a new building, consistent in architecture of the home, and moved Association records and merchandise into the spacious barn. A fine set-up, make no mistake about that. We all were proud and appreciative of the work these dedicated people were doing for our sport.

Sad to say, you can't win 'em all. We lost the Younts! Here is the story, as I viewed it on the aforementioned election day. ...

Having been appointed Judge of the election, I was spending most of my time in the Yount living room where the ballots were being counted. John came in from time to time and listened to the tellers recording the votes.

At a certain time, I walked out on the porch to stretch my legs and otherwise take a short respite. John joined me. I will report the dialogue which followed, as I recall it:

John: "Roy, I want you to know that if Palmatier is re-elected, I am resigning as Secretary."

Roy: "You've gotta be kiddin'!"

John: "I mean what I say."

Roy: "What do you have against Karl?"

John: "Nothing personal, but doggoned if I am going to mix target archery with field."

John, continuing: "Further, I want you 'to know that I am giving you (as NFAA Western Representative) notice that all property must be vacated within twenty-four hours!"

Roy: "John, ol' pal, you can't mean that. There's no possible way we could accomplish this in such a short time. Vera joined us and pleaded with John to reconsider. So here was his answer: "Okay we will give you thirty days, and that's final!"

History has recorded that Karl Palmatier was elected.

Following is the text of John's resignation, taken from his column in *Archery* (Nov., 1958):

"... I am resigning on my own judgment as to what is good for the sport and not because I might not be reappointed. ... I have tried for years, actually against my best judgment, to keep harmony between the free style and instinctive field archers. ... Now I know that what I was trying to do is impossible. ..."

An hour or so after our eviction notice, I started our car engine. My guests were: Audrey Rein, office manager, Dorothy Auman, bookkeeper, and my wife, Frieda. It was certainly a somber, dejected group who headed toward town in search of a new home for the NFAA.

We fared badly. We found only one vacant building in Redlands suitable for Association Headquarters. It was a nice place but the monthly rent was \$400.00. A figure which, in 1958, we could not afford.

Frieda and I headed for home, on a highway we well knew, as well as many buildings facing the boulevard. One place we had often observed with wishful thinking that we'd love to have it for our home and plant for Archery Magazine.

We were startled to see a for sale sign on the property. Almost in unison Frieda and I exclaimed, "Look! a new home for the NFAA!"

I noted the name and telephone number of the real estate man. It might have been just a dream, but we breathed sighs of relief and temporarily put our minds at ease.

Next day, I kept an appointment with a Mr. Anderson, the real estate man. My first request was: "How much?" The answer was typical of a salesman: "You are real lucky. The owners listed the property for \$30,000, but just yesterday they reduced the price to \$25,000.

The figure may have been fair and realistic, but to raise that much money seemed next to impossible.

I never have been much of a gambler, but I figured now was the time I should yield to temptation. I phoned Frieda for her blessing and immediately wrote a \$500 check for an option to purchase the property. The terms were \$1500 down with ninety days in which to raise it. The balance as to be amortized over a period of years.

That night I called Karl Palmatier and reluctantly told him how I had assumed considerable responsibility to which I probably was not entitled. I was real pleased and relieved with the President's remarks:

"What you have done is okay with me. In fact, if we have to forfeit our option payment, my wife, Cecile, and will stand half of the loss. Now let's go to work!"

Response to our appeals in Archery magazine was fantastic. Clubs held special NFAA Building Fund Tournaments. One donation came as a result a yard sale. The most spectacular support came from an old friend of mine, Charles E. Long, who died and willed \$1357.47 to the NFAA and me. As Secretary-Treasurer, I took the liberty of turning the whole amount over to the Association Building Fund. This transaction is documented in the March, 1959 issue of Archery (pg. 15). Total donations to the Building Fund, up until my illness, was \$16,503.71. Suffice to say, with support of our members, we met our financial obligation of \$7500 on time and received the deed to the present Headquarters property. Incidentally, this property measured 330 feet on what is now Interstate 10, by 249 feet deep, upon which were four buildings. It had been an elaborate home owned by a well-to-do Spanish family.

For the next week everything was topsy-turvy. NFAA office personnel abandoned their normal duties to help clean up the new home and arrange desks, cabinets and other fixtures to perform their assignments as efficiently as possible. Hired help, suppliers and workmen were practically bumping into each other, but time was of the essence. A home to be converted into an office to conform to county building codes, one which was costly and time-consuming, and which seemed to us be highly unnecessary, was

that electric wires from a nearby power line, which passed over the office building, had to be removed. We found it necessary to install a new power pole at a location far removed from the building. New wires were then brought the building from another direction. For beautifying the rear patio, we planted three non-bearing mulberry trees which were rooted by the nursery in gallon cans. Now, fifteen years later, they are most beautiful and rise much higher than the building, providing shade for personnel and guests.

The above brings to mind an Arbor day event at Headquarters. "Osage" Jim Murphy of Bakersfield, California, furnished and planted two Sequoia Sempervirens. They are thriving although slow growing. This species of California redwood is among the oldest of living things.

Speaking of donations, during my tenure of office, was the one offered by Al Van der Kogel, who was a member of the NFAA Executive Committee, representing the Northeast Section of the USA. Al started our Museum, which is entirely devoted to archery, when he donated his entire collection of Persian, Turkish and other rare bow specimens, plus arrows and accessories. The collection, at that time was valued at \$1500.

A short time later, Dr. Charles Grayson, outstanding flight shooter, donated his valuable collection which is of equal value and in the same categories as the Van der Kogel collection.

The above-mentioned Museum is open to all members of the NFAA and their guests. The street address of Headquarters and Museum is 31419 Highway 10, Redlands, California.

On July 29, 1959, the NFAA was again without a Secretary-Treasurer. Frieda and I were on our way to Bend, Oregon to participate in the 1959 National. We never made it to the airport. I was suddenly stricken with a heart attack. Clyde Crowell, our son-in-law, fortunately was driving our car, sped to the Los Angeles emergency hospital. After temporary treatment, I was removed to Murphy Memorial Hospital where I spent the next thirty days.

Mrs. Audrey Hein, NFAA Office Manager, was appointed Secretary pro tem by President Karl Palmatier.

During my tenure of office, other than promotion of the new building, there was little to document other than one item: The change of Animal Round faces from a circular kill area to the oval kill, plus hair-and-hide cut-off line. This was the general demand of the membership. Here is the Story:

In 1949 the Henry Maraviov animal targets were presented to the National. They received what appeared to be unanimous approval. This was motivated by our hunters who repeatedly asked the question: "Whoever 'heard of shooting at a deer with a circle face painted on its side?"

So, animal targets were provided. Then we received demands that the kill and wound area be changed to something more realistic. The hunters pointed out that you could get a "wound" if the arrow merely passed through the hair of the animal.

In response, we sent invitations to all known target manufacturers to send in their interpretation of what kind of target the hunters wanted.

At the same time all archers were invited to "Open House" at the new NFAA Headquarters. It was to serve two purposes: acquaint the membership with the new Headquarters, and to provide opinions as to just what and where should be located on the target face the kill and wound areas. Perhaps a hundred target faces were received. Office personnel helped me fasten these samples to the sides of the buildings and patio walls, so that the guests could study them and express their preference. The present official NFAA Animal Round faces reflect the consensus of opinion of the guests who attended the Open House event.

Acceptance of my resignation as Secretary of the NFAA is documented in President Palmatier's column of November, 1959 (pg. 11).

In 1961 Richard D. Freeman, Sr. was elected president; James F. Cavanaugh, vice president. Audrey Hein continued as Acting Secretary-Treasurer until August, 1961. The NFAA Executive Committee at its meeting during the National Tournament at Crystal Springs, Arkansas, July 27-30, appointed James F. Cavanaugh as full-time Executive-Secretary. According to President Freeman's announcement, the effective date was to be August 1, 1961.

An outstanding change in the rules took place during the Freeman administration. It was a controversial subject to say the least. The following appears on page 13 of July, 1962:

“Shall the Board of Field Governors ... amend the By-Laws to permit ... marking the distance on the shooting stakes. ...”

Results of the balloting appear on page 12, Nov., 1962. The yes vote carried by 69.4 percent of the votes.

For the first time, the National Tournament was repeated. The 1962, as was the 1961 event, returned to Crystal Springs, Arkansas.

Another first during 1962 was a reversal in the office of president and vice president. Freeman successfully won the vote for vice president.

For president, Gilbert Boenig of San Antonio, Texas, moved into this executive position.

The new president came on the scene at a time when the NFAA was at a low ebb financially. There had also been an extensive changing of the guard. James Cavanaugh had tendered his resignation and the office of Executive-Secretary had to be filled.

President Boenig is a businessman of no small talent, once advised of the situation, he immediately set about effecting a reorganization at Headquarters.

After placing his business activities at home into the hands of others, Boenig came to Redlands for a three-day inspection. George Rohrbach, a fellow Texan, was prevailed upon to accept the office of Acting Secretary. [Rohrbach was to serve later in the capacity of Executive Secretary until his resignation in 1971, when this important pivotal position was assumed by the current Executive Secretary, Ervin Belt.] Chia Woods, also of Texas, was assigned the job of NFAA Business Director.

One of Boenig's assignments by Dick Freeman had been to meet with me to ascertain terms for a possible purchase of Archery Magazine, in accordance with a proposed Statement of Purpose. I presented my terms for a purchase, but Boenig decided that the financial status of the Association would not permit further negotiation for the purchase of the magazine at that time. Also at that time, it was doubted that the publication of a magazine by the Association would be practical and economically sound.

Elsewhere in the History of the NFAA the deal whereby the Archery Magazine became the official publication of the Association is covered by Mr. Young. This was a gentleman's agreement and it endured for many years. But actual purchase of the magazine by the Association was still a number of years away.

It was under the Boenig administration that Sectional Tournaments were standardized throughout the eight sections, with NFAA providing the awards for these tournaments, and that the coveted Master Bow hunting Award was created. But President Boenig's first actions came after a meeting with the new Association employees when he visited Headquarters.

To stabilize the financial situation, the new president issued an appeal to all archers in February 1963 to “pass the hat” in an effort to bailout the NFAA. In response I quote the following:

“A joint statement by Gilbert Boenig, President of the National Field Archery Association, and Gilbert L. Amundson, President of the Archery Institute, announced a contribution by the Archery Institute of \$3,000.00 and also a loan of \$5,000.00 to the NFAA. This contribution and loan is the initial start of a fund to place the NFAA on a sound financial operating basis.”

The biggest change in NFAA policy took place during the Boenig administration. It was the reorganization of the NFAA through direct state affiliation and management. I attended the first meeting which was held in Chicago February 7-9, 1964. My report appears in the March issue of *Archery Magazine*.

It was at this time that Glenn St. Charles, former NFAA vice president, started the ball rolling toward a Bow Hunter Division. Later, this was voted into the by-laws by the NFAA Executive Committee. Actually, this was a new name for the old Heavy Tackle division.

George Rohrbach was officially appointed Executive Secretary of the NFAA in February, 1964.

The NFAA Freeman round was officially adopted by the Executive Committee in August, 1965.

In the fall election of NFAA officials, Charles E. Lutz of Ohio was elected president; Gilbert Boenig was elected vice president. Under Lutz, the word instinctive was changed to bare-bow to make room for the string-walker. The Bow Hunter division was modified to preserve a place for the style of the old in-

stinctor. The class system was deleted and replaced by the handicap — and dues were raised. Membership was at an all time high — 38,000 plus. The International round was adopted as an official game.

During my thirty years of publishing and writing for Archery Magazine there has been only two real critical controversies. They were methods of shooting, instinctive versus free-style. This era was circa 1950.

In August of 1969, the NFAA purchased and began publishing the *Archery* Magazine. An Editorial Board was created to administer it.

The year 1970 found adoption of the new Indoor round and Indoor league program. The Freeman target was replaced with the NFAA Indoor target.

During the late 60s and early 70s the NFAA has had to try to solve a multiplicity of difficulties, namely: How should an archer shoot his bow? How should an archer release the arrow? What form should be used in instinctive aiming? What type of bow should be legal or illegal?

Worst of the controversies occurred during the Wingfield regime (1969-1972). I shall not discuss these, but I do believe, for the record, I should mention them for clarification.

Release aids, other than the tab or glove, probably were the worst trouble-some. As of this date, most release aids have been approved for free-style, but prohibited in bow hunter and bare-bow.

Walking-the-string or “three fingers under” the nock was, for a time, prohibited in the bare-bow division. Presently the method has NFAA approval in all except bowhunter.

A new type of bow, called the Compound, made its appearance in the last decade, but did not cause much adverse criticism until the 1970 National Tournament at Aurora, Illinois, when the winner in the men’s free-style used a Compound bow. At present, the Compound bow is legal in all divisions.

Lon Stanton and Jim Bell set the pace in National Tournaments with an aiming system in the bare-bow division which consisted of changing the anchor point on the face. This method is okay in the free-style and bare-bow divisions, but illegal in bowhunter.