

# BOW & ARROW

The World's Leading Archery Publication

ICD

NOV.-DEC. 1970

60 CENTS

**Chuck Tyler**

**Tests The  
COMMANDO CROSSBOW!**

**Dougherty Reveals  
All In:**

**"When to Shoot!"**

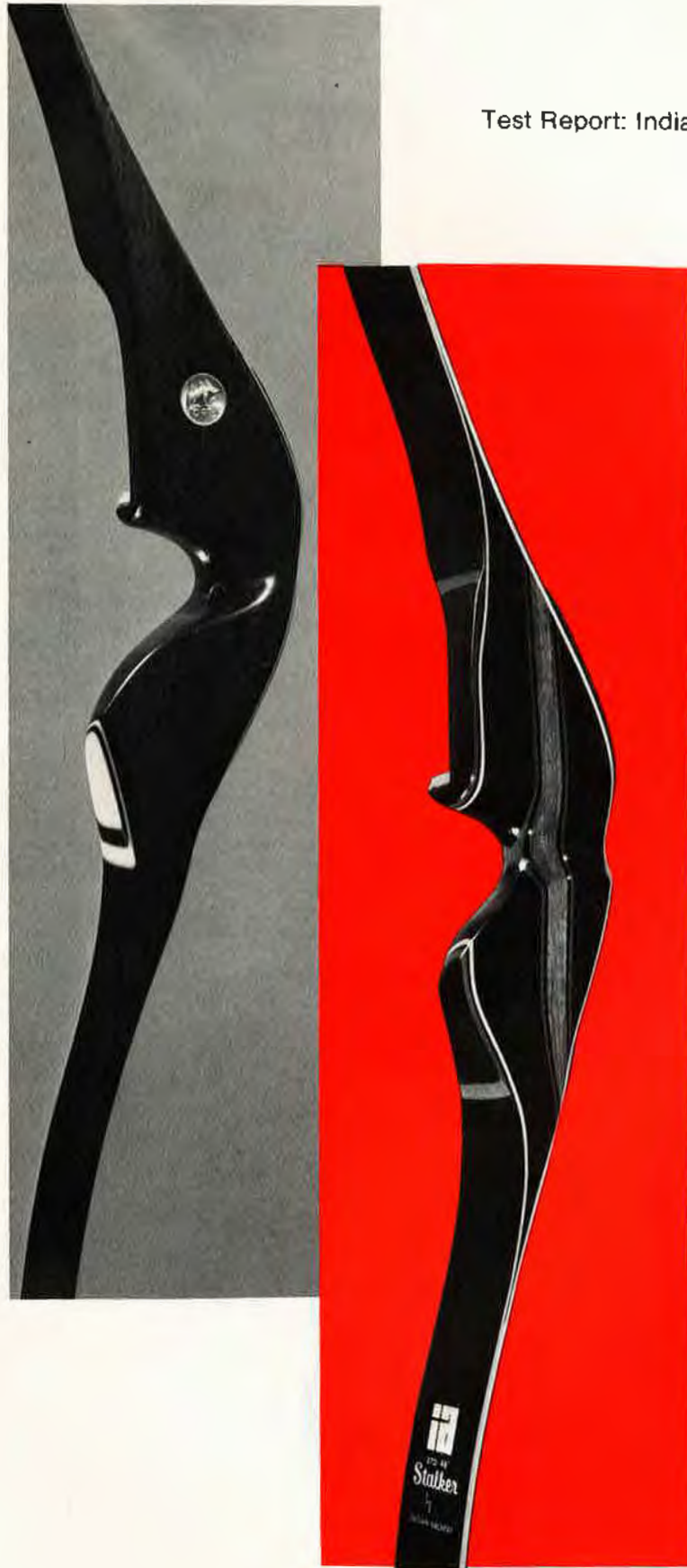
**Profile of a Champ: Bob Elliott**

**Tips For**

**Coon Hunters!**



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Stacking was checked on an automatic weight machine. Draw weights were the same through the 18"-30" range. Identical performance again.

Then we compared guarantees. Indian's is for a lifetime. Bear's isn't. Maybe you don't expect a bow to be defective. Still, that lifetime guarantee is nice to have.

All in all, the comparison didn't surprise us. We knew our bow was a beautiful weapon. We suspected theirs was as good. So your choice is really a toss-up. If \$45 doesn't mean anything to you.

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# BOW & ARROW

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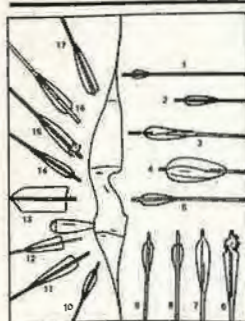
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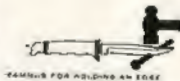


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## Mail Pouch

### HYPO ARROW

In response to the two letters in your July/August '70 issue that struck out against the use of pods for hunting in Mississippi, the writers stated that it "would make successful hunters out of those who would not have made the kill without this aid" and "the only reason we have a special deer season all our own is because we don't do the deer herd much harm." This hints that the use of poison will greatly increase the number of bow killed deer.

It appears to me that hypo-pod hunting could not greatly increase the number of kills, as the fundamental of bowhunting is getting close enough to the target and skill enough to hit it. Also, it reduces the amount of cripple loss — game hit, but not found that dies a slow, painful death — and isn't it the hunter's obligation to make the quickest and most humane kill possible?

Gary Steiner,  
Woodland Hills, California

*(Opinions on this type of hunting seem to be against it, but these, of course, are coming from those who have not tried the technique being used in Mississippi, therefore are not familiar with all of the ramifications.)*

### SENIOR CIRCLE

I would really enjoy seeing a Senior Citizens Archery group and in becoming a member. I am 72 years of age, been in archery for many years; I know I prefer to shoot with folks at my own age level, but we don't have enough archers of that age, so we are classed with the young people.

Grace Wolff,  
Ludington, Michigan

*(If enough people speak up, the NAA may get serious about such competition!)*

### MOOT MOOSE?

Thanks for many pleasant hours of reading, but in your January/February '70 BOW & ARROW, one statement by Jim Dougherty in "Gentle James And The Mousie Moose" forces me to put pen to paper!

The statement I refer to is: "A moose is a fantastic animal. This is the largest antlered animal ever to live on the earth."

The moose is one of my favorite animals, an opinion not shared by my wife. I mention this, in case you think this letter to be a bit of English or Irish sour grapes. But I doubt if Mr. Dougherty has ever seen the antlers of

Continued on page 07

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# HUNTING WITH Doug Kittredge

## THE BENEFITS OF NOISE

(Every so often, we find that readers have missed something in a past issue. They hear rumors or verification from friends and associates about the piece and suggest that we rerun it. We never have done so, but this column by Doug Kittredge, published now more than half a decade back, is one of those for which there has been great demand. But don't ask; we don't plan on reprinting another for at least another half decade!)

**N**OISE CAN HELP you get more game! The right sound, made at the right time, can be pure magic for the skillful bowhunter. The trick is knowing what sound to make and when to make it.

Sound plays a most important part in the life of wary

wild animals. Much of what action they take is based on the sounds heard...or not heard. Some sounds can be instantly frightening, while others get a reaction of alert attention, but do not frighten. Sound can arouse curiosity or soothe an alerted animal. Some can attract and bring the critter to within petting distance of the hunter making them.

Anyone can learn to make a number of useful sounds, using your natural voice, materials at hand, or a commercial game call. The knowing bowhunter can use sound to bring the animal to him, to stop him, or to move him into a better shooting position. Often times, sounds occur from other sources than the hunter, himself, and knowing how the game will react gives the hunter opportunity to put himself in an advantageous position for a shot.

Outdoor sounds fall roughly into four general categories: (1) Those that alarm and frighten into instant flight. (2) Those that alert and get attention, but do not cause flight. (3) Those that attract the game to come into the sound. (4) Those that calm, soothe and reassure. Sounds from all of these categories can be of valuable use to the bowhunter.

Sounds which alarm and frighten game are sometimes used to flush game from dense brush. In India, loud noise plays an important part in moving game to the hunter during organized hunts. How often have you passed a dense clump of brush or aspen patch and thrown a rock into the center of it to flush out game on the other side?

The popular Herter's Rabbit Flusher call is designed to make a high pitched scream such as a hunting hawk might make, a noise calculated to cause rabbits to move so the hunter can see them and get a shot.

Sound that alerts game but does not cause flight can be of use when a couple of hunters are working together. A couple of years ago I was working down a steep canyon

*Continued on page 48*

# TECH TALK

## DOUGHERTY'S CHOICE

Could you please tell me what kind of hunting tackle Jim Dougherty uses. I mean the complete information to include the bow, bow weight, arrows, heads, feather length of arrow, bow quiver, camo?

And what does Doug Kittredge use? Does he use camo head nets and gloves, white or barred fletch?

Mike Bankstone,  
Castro Valley, California

(Jim Dougherty presently uses a Ben Pearson Mercury Hunter in a sixty-pound weight. His arrows usually are 2020 Easton Aluminum, fitted with either Pearson Deadheads or the 003 which he helped to design. Feather length is 5 x 5/8-inch. He uses a Pearson eight-arrow bow quiver.

(Doug Kittredge uses a Howard Gamemaster at fifty-five pounds, 2018 arrows with 003 heads, and a Silent Stalker quiver. He doesn't generally use camo, but does wear a forest green shirt and green wool trousers, then uses camo paint on his hands and face. He uses white feathers to be able to see them easily in flight, but they are covered in the quiver using a camo head net clipped in place with a bull dog clip.)

## TOURNAMENT BOW

I'm a beginner, shooting less than one year, with a medium-priced bow, I score in the 260s, once a week in an indoor league. Would a bow like the HC-300 or Golden Eagle or one of the others with the stabilizing rod automatically improve my score or do I have enough stability in my bow? Or do I just need practice?

Brad Edgerton,  
Tampa, Florida

(We would expect that one of the finer tournament bows which are fitted with stabilizers would increase your score...perhaps a considerable amount. We assume that you have suitable aluminum arrows.)

## PEARSON HUNTER

I would like some advice. Presently I shoot a Pearson Deerslayer Special 58 inches and 46 pounds, at a 28-inch draw. I've been shooting a bow seriously for about fourteen months and want a bow with better trajectory. My present bow has a point of aim of about seventy-two yards coverage with broadheads.

*Continued on page 44*



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**TACKLE TIPS**  
by Emery J. Loiselle

**EFFECTS OF HUMIDITY**

Have you ever noticed on certain days that your arrows are hitting consistently high? This would be most apparent on the longer targets. At other times, you may have found the inverse to be the case. This condition is due in most cases to the effects of humidity.

In damp weather, the wood core in the limbs of your bow absorbs moisture and swells ever so slightly, making the limbs thicker and, therefore, faster shooting. Likewise, in unusually dry and sunny weather, the core will shrink, bringing the facing and backing closer together to make a lighter bow with less cast. On such days, your arrows will hit low.

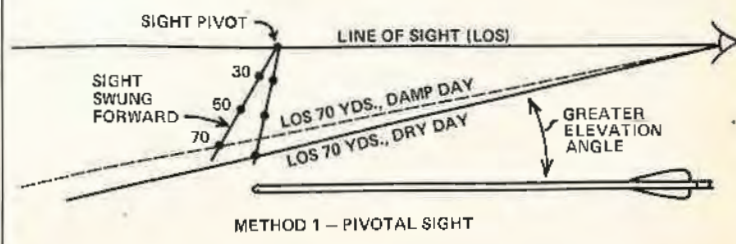
Lest some of your own observations label me a purveyor of untruths, let me hasten to add that there are times when a bow will shoot faster on sunny days and slower in wet weather.

To cite one condition of the paradox, consider the place you keep your bow. If you store the bow in a damp cellar, it has absorbed moisture from the ambient atmosphere and will shoot fast even though the weather is sunny. Take it to a one or two-day shoot, however, and you may find it will keep changing, shooting slower and slower as it dries out.

In the other condition of paradox, take your bow out on a day so humid that the moisture is falling as rain, in torrents. The bow which now should be shooting faster may actually hit lower than ever, depending upon how hard it is raining.

This condition is due to the extra load created by the clinging water. Waterlogged feathers and water on the shaft will cause drag detrimental to acceleration. Also water on the surface of the limbs will slow up recovery. I remember shooting in the rain when, with each shot, a shower would fall at my feet as the arrow broke away from its cloak of water. This friction, in overcoming adhesion of the water as the arrow breaks away, can shorten the trajectory considerably. The many little impacts of arrow and raindrops during flight also contribute somewhat to a shortened arc of travel. Some of these effects of rain occur independently of bow action and should not be considered relative to the bow's cast.

*Continued on page 50*



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The Super Diablo is truly a bowhunter's concept of the ultimate hunting bow. HOWATT designers actually consulted with many of the country's leading archery hunters to establish the absolute essentials of a superior hunting bow. Then, with the full approval of the experts, many additional qualities and features were added to improve the basic design.

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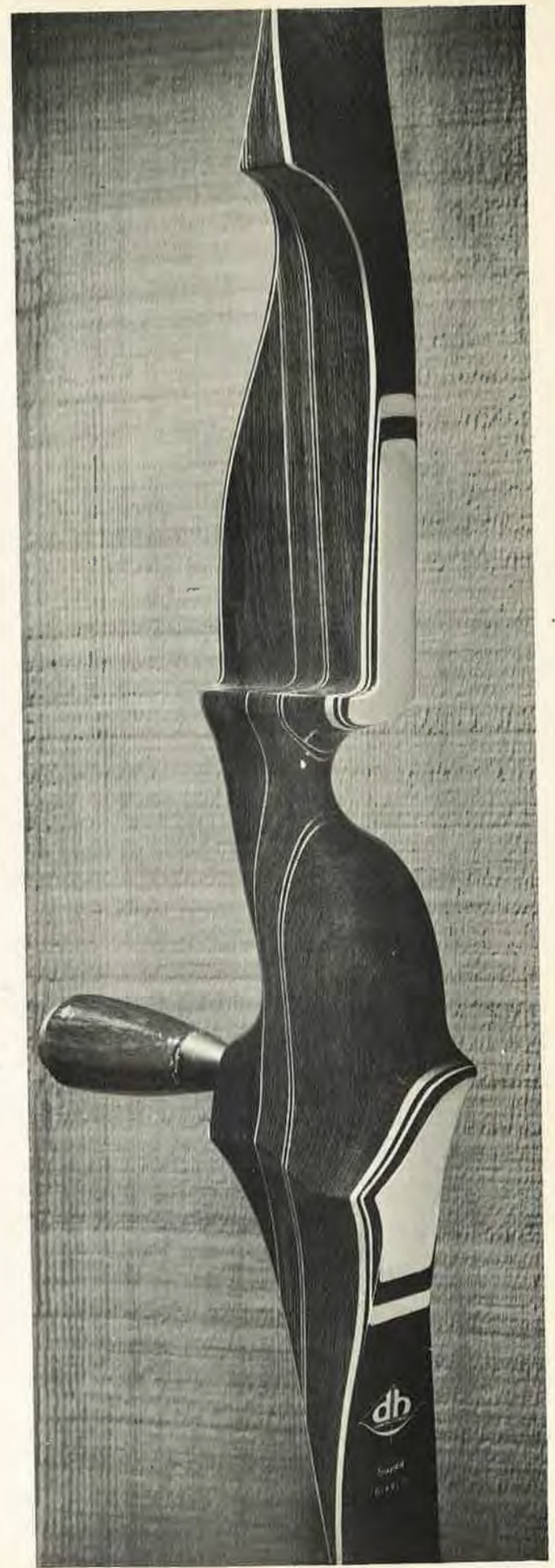
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Now, from the pages of BOW & ARROW...

**C. R. Learn's test report  
on archery's boldest  
new concept in bow design:**

# BUSHWHACKER I

Read it as he wrote it before you think another thought  
about what you're going to give or get for Christmas

"The Bushwhacker is different from most bows  
on the market today and newer than some of the  
older styles in a modern way.

"The riser is made of aluminum and finished to a bright polish.  
It is small and light with a reverse horn on the belly of the bow  
that the manufacturer mentions as being a damper for limb vibration.

"The bracing is simple and the bow seemed to have no stack. After weighing  
the bow, I went to the bale where a few trial shots were made to see  
how it performed at short range. There was no stack at my 27½-inch draw.  
I pulled it over my draw to see if I could find a stacking point and couldn't.  
Skepticism was being replaced with a bit of admiration.

"The main reason the solid fiberglass limbs won't stack is due to design in the  
glass. It is made longitudinal and the end result is an almost indestructible  
limb and bow combination. I disassembled one, then put it back together to  
check alignment. The limbs tracked true and stayed that way.

"The bows are sixty inches long and this pair  
each weighed in at fifty pounds.

"The mass weight of the bow wasn't objectionable  
or too heavy in the hand.

"The small riser eliminates some of the usual  
riser weight, but the heavy limbs put some  
of that lost weight back into the  
total. It isn't too heavy for  
hunting and, in toting it  
around on several trips, it  
proved no problem.

"The first few shots were  
at close range and the bows were  
doing as well as we could make them perform.  
They put the shaft where you wanted it.

"The Bushwhacker performed beautifully out to forty yards. After  
shooting heavier bows than the fifty-pound variety, it takes a bit of  
getting used to a lighter bow. This had nothing to do with the cast of the  
Bushwhacker; it put an arrow out well, but I had to change  
my thinking and aiming for the longer shots.

"The take-down bow fits into a two-foot case, assembles with one  
Allen wrench by putting two bolts into the cover plate, through  
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By Jim Dougherty

Some Outstanding  
Tips On How  
To Really Hunt

# WHEN TO SHOOT

This fall five million bowhunters will enter the woods in quest of game. Many of these hopefuls who walk the game trails established by Arthur Young and Saxton Pope will have their sights and their hearts set on downing a deer with a bow and arrow.

For some, the hopes and dreams of the long winter and summer season will become reality. For most, however, there will be only the knowledge of another season yet to come and recounting of tales about how the big one got away by jumping the string or how a fickle wisp of a vagrant wind changed at the wrong moment and a buck with a rack that spanned as far as the arms could reach took alarm and fled.

This is bowhunting, where the challenge is a close personal encounter with the game we seek. The odds of coming in second far outdistance the slim chance of success. Less than twenty percent of those who chose to hunt with a bow and arrow will be successful.

Bowhunting presents a range of problems. On some memorable occasions I have found myself sitting on the quiet carpet of the forest contemplating bending my bow and banging my head against the bark of the nearest substantial tree.

The man who wants to be successful with a bow will eventually eliminate most of these problems which are created in the main by his own mistakes.

One single factor I believe to be the most important in being a successful hunter of big game with a bow is knowing when to shoot.

All of the other factors are unquestionably important. Stalking ability, reading sign, patience, how to use wind advantage are essentials of which the bowhunters must be constantly aware. Yet these essentials become automatic so much faster and are easier to master and put into effect.

One develops a gentle blending of these elements into a program that hopefully leads to the precise moment when everything clicks. This is the supreme moment in bowhunting, the time when we win, the second when we lose.

Knowing when to shoot requires painful patience backed by studied concentration. The hours on the range or walking the woods stump shooting train in the mastery of equipment but never in this training period does the heart hammer between the ears. Never do you have to try to stop breathing or have the shaking knowledge that trembling knees no longer seem to want to hold you up. It makes no difference how many times you find yourself in a similar position. Each time is unique. Every bowhunter experiences the same sensation in some form — it is really what it's all about.

Knowing when to shoot is instinct built on experience and complemented heavily by a sub-theme that ties in to make one smooth transition from hunter to killer. In one brief instant each of us who hunts has to become an accomplished, effective executioner. You have to know when to shoot and at what to shoot.

You have to know where that arrow should go to do the most effective work quickly and humanely. At that moment the bowhunter must direct every muscle in his body, every nerve and every thought deep within the walls of his mind toward a single, positive direction — the target of the shot.

On the surface it is elementary. Get the game in the right position, shoot the arrow in the right place, simple mechanics. In reality the situation is not quite so easily put. Each animal under the variable conditions of the terrain presents a specific problem, no two are exactly alike. Each animal has a different attitude. One may be alert, seeking the danger his senses tell him is there while the next may be completely oblivious to man and the fact that he has entered his world, become a part of his woods and a dominant factor in his destiny.

Two deer in a row on the same game trail covered by the same blind under conditions that can be described as similar can present a different challenge. One will have his head up observing out of the corner of eyes all that goes on around him while seemingly intent only on getting from one place to another.

The next may be entranced by the faint suggestion of scent left by a passing doe, holding his head low over the trail while moving in the belligerent trot of a rutting buck, a trot that is motivated by tensed muscles but governed by slower senses. The deer



with his head down presents the better opportunity. His reaction time will be slower than the buck that walks erect. The elapsed reflex time is but fractions of a second, enough to spell the difference in a hit or a miss.

Watch the doe who has led two or three generations of fawns through the woods as she walks the trails. Compare her to the long yearling spike who has yet to learn and fully understand that the slight scraping sound of an arrow being drawn back is a sound that spells action.

Watch the tail of a deer who has its head down as you stalk. It freezes at the flicker that signals the head is about to rise for a quick but thorough inspection before once again dropping to feed. Take the shot on the feeding deer as soon as the head goes down rather than when it is up and alert. On the buck that walks to you with his head up, try to control the impulse to move until he is past. Take him going away waiting for the quarter angle.

Whenever possible avoid shooting at game that is looking at you. I believe this is especially true of deer between twenty-five and thirty yards away, for at these ranges they seem better equipped to jump your string, while at longer distances they do not seem quite so inclined to want to get out of the way.

A deer coming head on presents a poor shot. This problem is often magnified by the bowhunter who waits too long. Contrary to the opinion of some it is easily possible to let game get too close. This situation can suddenly turn into a nose to nose staring contest with the bowhunter at half draw, a horrible position to get yourself into. Now any slight movement will trigger the animal into motion in any direction, presenting a situation that at best is difficult to cope with, a sure fire formula for a miss or bad hit.

Probably more of the so called cinch shots at bread and butter ranges are missed by high arrows than by any other reason. Yet in a great many cases the arrows were not all that bad. Take a standing deer at twenty yards that bolts at the shot, the point of aim is right where the deer lives, about eight to ten inches below the top of the back. Subtract the normal tendency to shade a close shot a teeny bit high and that leaves you about eight inches from the top of the back.

When a deer standing erect makes a move to jump he has to gather his muscles in order to spring. To do this he has to drop down, bending his knees so to speak to gather the power capable of making the move. You shoot; the deer bolts, dropping as he does to gather the spring, the arrow goes high over the back and over the target area that was there a second ago.

Shoot low; place your concentration right above the belly line. On a white tail there is a built in focal line of white belly fur that runs up the

*The Flea, by K&P Mfg. Co., of Irwindale, California is a rugged machine that get the bowhunter into the back country but, once there, has no place in the techniques for stalking game.*



*In a low crouch, Dougherty filters through weeds and tall grass, noiseless as drifting fog: Every inch closer helps odds!*



sides bisecting the deer laterally roughly three inches from the bottom. That's the place at which to shoot, and when the deer jumps you're in good shape. If he doesn't jump you are still in good shape. Don't ever let anyone tell you a deer can't do some serious maneuvering at close ranges when he hears that bow go off. I have hit five bucks on the side opposite of that at which I was shooting. Four of them took hits in the exact spot I wanted the arrow to go and one clear back in the hips which could have been either a fast deer or a sloppy shot. None of these deer was over thirty yards.

I saw a bowhunter wait on a running deer that was coming straight to him. The fellow let the arrow go, and I don't believe the deer could have been more than fifteen to eighteen yards from him, straight on. The arrow caught the deer in the rump, slightly off exact center and the point popped out under his chin. There was a buck that did some fancy footwork. If he had made a ninety degree turn he'd probably be telling his offspring about that September day in the big quakie patch on Beaver Creek, instead of looking down on the hunter from the wall where he is properly mounted with a justifiable expression of astonishment!

Beginning bowhunters should make themselves thoroughly aware of the anatomy of the game they plan to hunt. Obviously the best place to go for is the chest. One of the poorest



*This fine muley buck, with horns in velvet, was taken by the author at thirty yards in full run. Despite size, such targets can be elusively hard to hit.*

*Two veteran archers show their form: Dougherty, at left, holds draw, while Ben Pearson is shown at instant of release.*



areas for a hit is the neck, yet it appears that many archers will try for a neck shot for two reasons. Most bowhunters are or were gun hunters, and gun hunters are neck shot oriented. The opportunity for a neck shot is presented often - deer looking out of a thicket, peering from behind a tree, standing in tall cover. The upper portion does not offer a vital target; a hit here generally creates only a flesh wound.

Study anatomy charts to learn the position of all organs, arteries and blood vessels. Go to the zoo to observe the animals at all angles. Determine where to put the arrow from every position. This study pays off when a snap decision has to be made. Automatic reaction to your study will focus your attention on the right spot. Don't shoot at the middle of an animal. Better to shoot through the hips or flanks than to punch one through the middle. If you can't get a clear shot at the prime targets, wait. Wait for a better opportunity or pass completely and wait for another animal. Stay as calm as possible without being in a hurry to shoot. Hurried shots are forced and forced shots are generally bad shots.

Knowing when to shoot does not mean just when to shoot at the animal, it is knowing when you are ready to shoot. It is part of the concentration game of mental preparedness, being physically ready to pull it all together.

*Continued on page 18*

# The QWIFFER

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### WHEN TO SHOOT

It requires poise under tough conditions, beating down the obstacles of trembling knees and short breath, gaining control, doing it right.

I recall a big buck bedded on a rocking point overlooking a side canyon of the Roan Creek drainage in Colorado last summer. It took me an hour to reach a small spruce uphill from the deer who had his back to the tree. The stalk was made in stocking feet over loose shale for the last sixty yards or so, each step a major effort. Each quiet grating of rock on rock echoed like cannon roars in my head. In a situation like this it seems as though you never breathe, and your jaws ache from clenching your teeth through those last treacherous steps.

Finally I made the tree, nearly collapsing from the relief of being on quiet, firm ground. I was in cover, thirty-five yards above the buck whose huge velvet-covered antlers stood out stark, dark brown against the blue Colorado sky. I pecked out to look at the buck trying to judge what type of shot I had; it was a beauty. I was as calm as could be expected as I checked everything carefully prior to drawing. I stepped out and everything went to pieces. The sight of those antlers blew my mind. I stepped back behind the tree. Twice this happened; both times I had a conversation with myself. Finally I was ready and on the next try the shakes vanished followed rapidly by the buck as my arrow plowed low, actually sliding under him as he lay in his bed.

There was no question that had I shot the first time out I would have blown the shot. Having cooled off, beaten down the tension that had built over the hour's stalk, I finally shot a deliberate arrow. There was no question in my mind when I turned the arrow loose that it was right. The fact that it was a rotten shot is part of the game. Obviously I kicked myself all the way back to the head of the canyon where I'd left my boots.

Had I shot the first time I would have considered leaping off the edge of the rim. In a sense it was a victory. Having made the stalk and beaten down the frightening symptoms of genuine buck fever, if one rationalized enough, one could almost call it a draw. That takes some rationalization, though!

The bowhunter learns by experience. The toughest lessons to learn are the ones that teach us to master our own physical limitations. The basic mechanics of good bowhunting technique come easy in comparison to mastering the urge to snap shoot or curing the habit of letting the eyes wander from the target area, or acquiring the patience to wait until everything is perfect, or having the wisdom to pass a poor shot. These are the bowhunters most valuable lessons. In the long run they will serve you far better than any others. ←



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# THE BIG CROSS UP!



**Our Crossbow  
Expert—  
Or Inexpert,  
As The  
Case May Be—  
Comes Up  
With Conclusions  
On Steven's  
Combat-Type  
Instrument!**

ABOUT A YEAR ago, the editors of BOW & ARROW charged their newest staffer, Chuck Tyler, with the task of testing a British crossbow. The ink was hardly dry on the pages of the September-October, 1969, B&A when we got the word from the king of the crossbow, George Stevens, director of the American Crossbow Association, in Huntsville, Arkansas. Steven's communique went like this:

"Thanks for the nice article, 'What William Didn't Tell' in BOW & ARROW. People keep asking if the American Crossbow Association has a publication. I can tell them that B&A has been kind to the crossbow with frequent articles." That's where he stopped being kind. The next graph read:

"However, tell Chuck Tyler that any time he wants to wave a red flag at me, all he had to do is call a bow a 'prod.' A prod (or prodd) is a light two-stringed pellet crossbow used largely to kill snarling vines on the manor walls of England without disturbing the mistress!"

To compound Tyler's problems, an electronics specialist, F.J. Bailey, Jr., of Merritt Island, Florida, pointed out that the chronograph test that Tyler and associate editor Dean Grennell had done on the company bullet machine should have read about two hundred

feet per second instead of the 520 fps that the neophyte had announced in print to the world.

Tyler was to get another chance at joining the world of crossbowmen, when B&A received a new model from the same George Stevens. The duty crossbow expert was told to run an extensive test on the latest from the Arkansas bowman.

Many strange things have come out of the Vietnam conflict and it's no surprising that, even in this era of space voyages, the enemy in South East Asia has made it necessary to revert to the crossbow for combat.

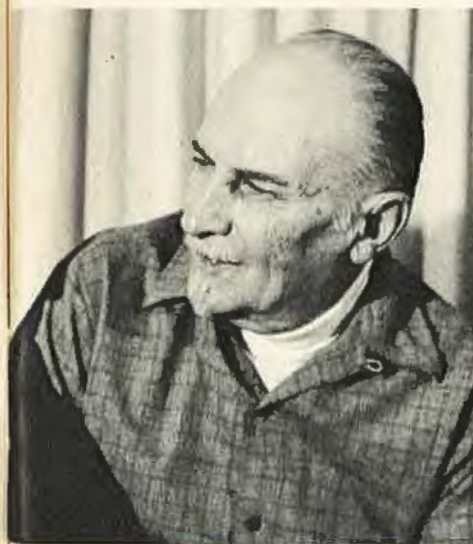
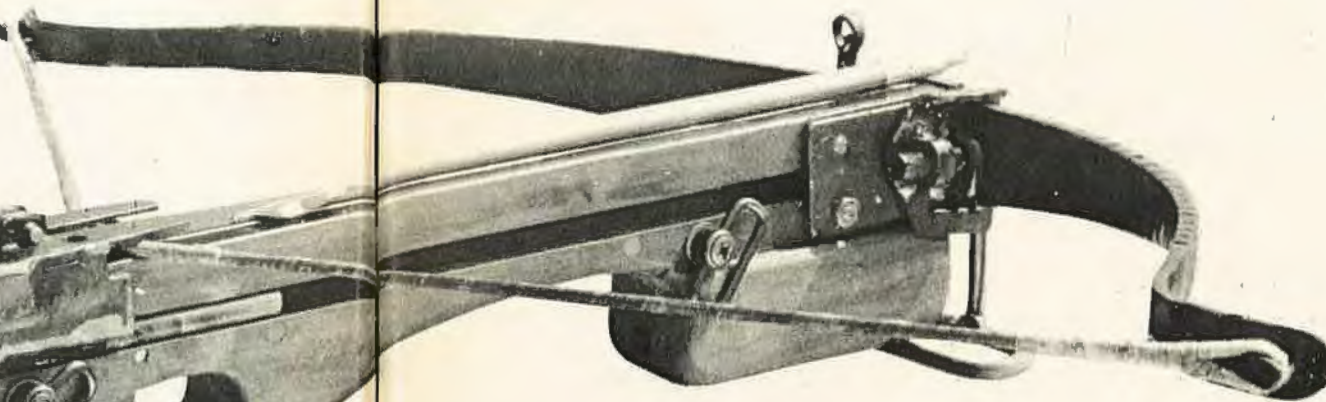
The Montagnard tribesmen of Vietnam and many villagers have defended themselves with crude, hand-made bows and, although they may have been able to down small game, these bows have been no match for communist firearms.

"The need for a combat crossbow has been felt seriously in the field and crossbows have been given considerable trial by individuals. We employ silenced weapons, but the crossbow is quieter and the psychology of an arrow is outstanding. As learned in Korea, the Chinese communists could take rifle fire, but a bayonet charge demoralized them.

"None of the crossbows tried stood up to the rough usage and were much too cumbersome to snake through

By Chuck Tyler

*Commando crossbow is designed with the idea of combat use in the jungles of Vietnam, when silent weapon is needed.*



*George Stevens has been a pioneer in updating the crossbow for modern use and shooting in U.S. competition.*

jungle growth — the idea was abandoned. I happened to think of you and knew if anybody could design one for our use, you could; and did! We followed your instructions to the letter and tried it out with unbelievable accuracy."

This letter was from a Marine Corps team leader, who felt the strong need for a combat crossbow. He asked George Stevens to design one that would take the beating of combat, yet have the accuracy of a target bow. This was what prompted Stevens to design this unique bow he has named the Commando crossbow.

The test model sent to B&A is one of the first three produced and appearance-wise isn't the polished and lacquered store-bought crossbow. This prototype was hand-made by Stevens,

has come up with a unique pair of nocking lugs as opposed to the standard single or double nocks at the limb ends of most crossbows. The lugs protrude three-eighths inch and are welded on the side of the recurve. As the bow is strung, the lugs move, when the bow is bent to engage the string.

The iron combat-type sights on the crossbow are unusual in that they fold into a recess of the stock when not in use. The front sight is a ring with a sight blade extending into the center of the ring. The rear sight has two holes drilled that are connected by a slot.

Stevens explains, "The old medieval rear leaf sight had three apertures for elevation. We found it much too easy to use the wrong one, if in a hurry, but by connecting them with a slot through which one can see the target, estimating the elevation is not confusing."

There are no sight adjustments that can be done mechanically. For one to zero the sights, the rear sight must be removed and bent slightly, replaced and tested, until the shooter has found the proper alignment for himself.

The maker also had installed a sling swivel on the right side of the bow so the user can sling the bow across the back and have both hands free.

Another feature that Stevens has incorporated is a cocking mechanism that is part of the sliding stock. When the lock is in the forward position, it automatically grips the string and, when the lock is pulled to the rear, the string rides with it into the cocked position. The stock is locked to the rear, when the cocked position is

designed and manufactured to be used in the jungle.

The first thing that catches the eye of the viewer on the bow is the steel tubular sliding shoulder stock. It resembles somewhat the .45 caliber "grease gun" used by airborne and tank troops in WW II and the Korean conflict.

One can appreciate the value of this disappearing stock for use in heavy underbrush, where a standard stock could hang up and would be cumbersome to navigate in jungle terrain.

The next eye-grabber is the steel recurve bow limbs. Before stringing, the tempered metal is bent in nearly a forty-five-degree recurve. Stevens also

*Safety on the left side of crossbow's pistol grip must be depressed through entire trigger squeeze to shoot it.*



reached. This eliminates the need to slide the stock back and cock the bow in two separate operations.

The trigger and safety are in the pistol grip and the safety must have constant pressure on it before the bow can be shot. It is not a switch type safety, but is spring-loaded so that the bow is on safe at all times, until the safety is depressed — and kept depressed — during the trigger squeeze.

The vital statistics of the Commando are: Weight, 5½ pounds; length with stock forward, 18¼ inches; stock at full length, 28¼ inches; draw weight, 140 pounds; draw length, 13¼ inches.

The bolts manufactured by Stevens for the Commando come in three types. The target bolt 12-11/32 inches long, with weight of 378 grains; the broadhead bolt, 14-11/32 inches, weighing 390 grains; the practice bolt measures 14-5/32 inches weighing 443 grains.

"Without trial and error in the field to go by, I think feathers are preferable to vanes. Feathers, put on properly, still work well even though half beaten up," Stevens feels.

"Sweetland compressed wood gives us a nice weight, even in so short an arrow. The so-called planing of the knifeblade heads is absent — I expect that planing is a misnomer, unless installed crooked. Rather, it is a distribution of lateral pressures, such as the often fatal spinning-in of aircraft back

in the Twenties," the bowman proclaims.

The crossbow first appeared as a combat weapon back in the Tenth Century. It was a smaller version of the siege ballista developed by the Greeks, the first bows made of horn, sinew and wood. They were bent by holding the front of the bow to the ground by placing a foot in the stirrup, while the string was pulled by a hook from the archer's belt.

The Italians were the first to become proficient in its use. The advantage was that the bow could be aimed accurately, without putting a strain on the archer and a novice could operate the crossbow effectively. Both naval and cavalry forces soon adopted the crossbow for warfare.

Pope Innocent II felt the crossbow was so lethal that, in the year 1139 A.D., he forbade its use, denouncing it as "hateful to God and unfit for Christians." The ban later was lifted, allowing Christians to use the bow against the Mohammedans.

Metal was introduced in the crossbows in the Thirteenth Century and they soon were being cocked mechanically by a goatsfoot, lever, windless or crank. The introduction of steel made the crossbow the most powerful weapon of war for about one hundred years, until the introduction of the handgun in the late 1400s.

Stevens' Commando, made with the aid of modern equipment, is a far cry



*Sliding stock picks up the bowstring, when pushed to the forward position. It cocks automatically by pulling stock to rear of the 140-pound bow.*

*This shot affords an idea of how a soldier might use the sling strap to carry the bow in an area of combat.*



from the crossbows used during the Crusades, but the same basic concept and ideas have been refined and the best have been incorporated into this Twentieth Century model.

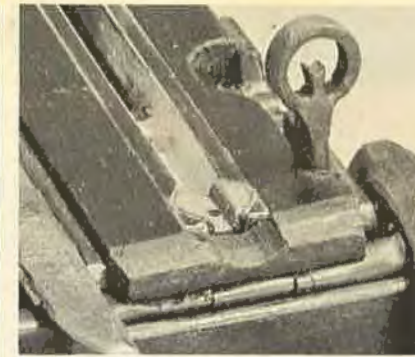
Stringing the Commando is accomplished by placing the bow tips on two boxes or blocks about a foot off the ground. Place one foot on the extended stirrup and press down with the foot, holding the bow steady by the stock and pistol grip.

Being sure the sliding stock is to the rear far enough not to interfere with the operation, secure one loop of the string on one limb and bend the bow until the other loop can be secured. It should be noted that Tyler hits the scales at a heavy 196 pounds and had to use a considerable portion of this bull to string the Commando.

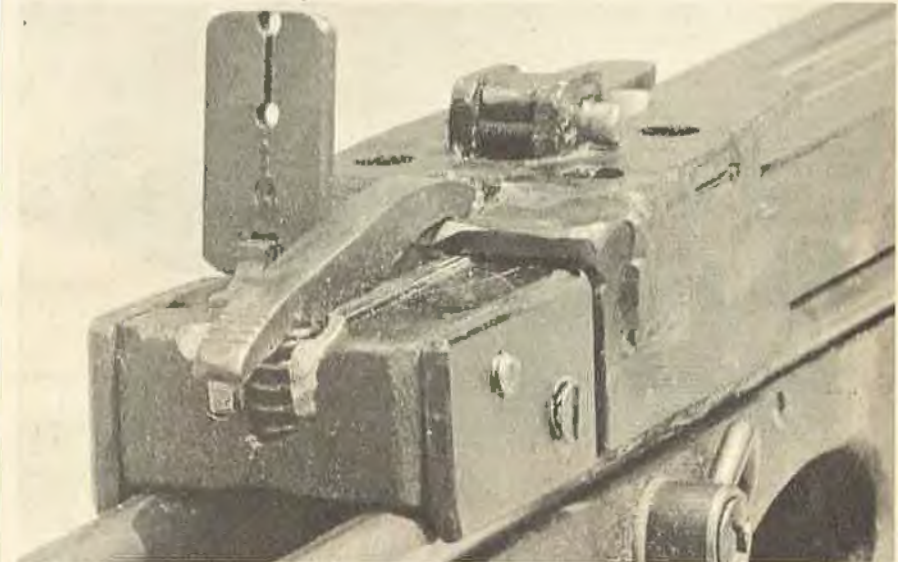
Cocking the bow is accomplished by pushing the lock all the way forward or until the detent is well under the string. Then, with the both feet on the stirrup, pull it back into the rear catch.

Stevens notes that it is important to see that the trigger is well forward and the safety is set before cocking. Tyler felt that one should be instructed that he must pull like hell, back into the rear catch. But Stevens explains that, being new, it will pull hard until worn.

The bowstrings are made by



*Combat-type folding front sight of iron made the Commando an accurate bow even in the hands of the novice.*



*Rear sight has two holes connected by a slot to enable the shooter to sight accurately at both short and long ranges without adjusting sight.*

*Stringing the bow is accomplished with two boxes of equal height, bending limbs until bowstring reaches the nocks. Steve Bennett illustrates how it is done.*



*Sliding stock pulled all the way to the rear, the bow is cocked and now is ready for the bolt to be nocked.*



Stevens from a special teflon material, then taped. The string should rest by releasing one end and adding twists, until the string rests at the right measurement.

As with all bows, never release the string without an arrow in position. To do so may break the bow, the string or even the stock. To let the bow down, release, hold the string with both hands and have a companion trip string or even the stock. To let the bow down, release, hold the string with both hands and have a companion trip action enough, according to Stevens.

Although Tyler grunted and groaned in cocking the 140-pound bow, shooting the Commando was a treat. Starting at fifty feet and using the lower hole in the slotted rear sight, he had no difficulty in putting five bolts in a two-foot square of cardboard of ten thicknesses. Moving back to one hundred feet, the bow shot with the same accuracy with only the slightest sight picture change.

Tyler moved back to the 150-foot mark to find that the Commando will keep them on the pasteboard with constant accuracy. Although he did experience a slight drift to the right, it was adjusted for by a change in aiming point. During the fifty-yard shots,

Tyler used the top hole of the rear sight.

"This Commando is accurate even in the hands of a novice," Tyler relates. "I would hate to be on the receiving end even at the fifty-yard range."

Tyler spent thirteen months as a Marine officer in Vietnam, sometimes nose to nose with the enemy, and says, "In all frankness, I can see a limited use for the Commando or any other bow in the combat situation we have in South East Asia. There are some reconnaissance patrols, where a silent weapon would be necessary so as not to give away a friendly position. However, it should be used only when backed up with firearms in case there is a malfunction or a miss.

"Another problem that we encountered in Vietnam was that, when shooting through the dense jungle growth, even the M-16 .223 caliber bullet was deflected easily by the jungle growth. At the slower velocities of the crossbow bolts they wouldn't stand a chance of penetrating the jungle mass without being deflected, while traveling to the target.

"However, were I to choose any bow for use in combat, I'd put my faith in George Stevens and his Commando." ←

The Sport Vehicle Field Is Growing In all Directions And Here's A Condensed Guide To Which's What!

# WHEELS FOR THE TRAIL

LUMPED ALL TOGETHER, under the general term of recreational vehicles, we find a bewildering variety of devices for transportation, where the going is steep, rough or difficult and/or for providing the comforts of home away from home.

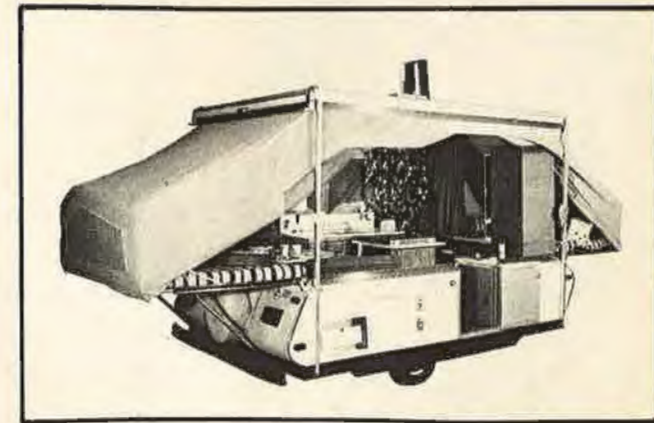
There are trail bikes and mini-hikes to take you where the game abounds; some being designed to permit portaging out animals as large as deer. Snowmobiles offer powered transportation off the highways in the winter months and some of these are designed for conversion to wheels after the spring thaws. Amphibious vehicles can take land or water in stride. Motor homes offer the convenience of a motel on wheels, while camper bodies provide the same facilities when mounted on a truck. Camp trailers can be towed behind an auto or truck and expand into a level of luxury that is surprising in view of their compact dimensions.

It all adds up to the fact that getting there can be a substantial fraction of the total fun!

Various types of all-weather covers are available for keeping the weather out of amphibious 6-wheel Terra Tiger.



Packed for towing, wheel campers such as this Lodgewagon offer great compactness.



Upon reaching your selected campsite, Lodgewagon 6 blooms out into considerable luxury, with Slide-in-out bunks, in-or-out LP gas stove and self-contained comfort unit known as a Porta-Potti; no swimming pool, but wait!



What do you do with a snowmobile when there's no snow, nowhere? A novel innovation known as the "wheel" permits warm-weather operation of Sno-Pony Convertible!



Hodaka is a name that's well regarded in trail bike circles as a competent, dependable machine.

Model 301 "Hunter's Dream" pickup cover has 100 cfm ventilating fan to assure canine comfort, is waterproof and lockable to boot.



Taco Trail 100 is a mini-bike designed to go where the going is tough and come back for more; 200cc 4-cycle Briggs & Stratton provides go-power.



Terra Tiger makes about 30 mph on terra firma, 2 mph on or in aqua wetta, offers fine place to fish or watch for mermaids!





Exclusive Mini-Matic transmission of Bonanza lets one bike fill two roles: a sure-footed hill climber, in low range, the shift is automatic on highways to 11% overdrive and 40-45mph pace. Comes with street-legal lights, optional front brake.

Do-it-yourself Bonanza mini-bike kit assembles in one hour — they say — to provide maximum fun per dollar of outlay. Kit price starts at \$69.95 (\$119.95, with engine) is complete, needs no welding.



Range Rover is deluxe version of familiar Land Rover, goes 90 mph on highways, slow but sure elsewhere with 4-wheel drive; seats five.



Trail-Breaker features 2-wheel drive, water-tight engine, gas/water storage in wheels — phenomenal capability.

Rupp TC-1 Scrambler has 150cc engine, torque-converter, standard spark arrester.



Alaskan camper, Miley horse trailer and Eaz-Lift hitch feature steel-reinforced fiberglass construction, telescoping camper top for compactness, headroom.



The "Flea," by K&P Mfg. Co., goes up to 30 mph with 4-stroke, 3.5-hp Tecumseh engine, has automatic centrifugal clutch.

"Trail Scout" is K&P's trail bike entry, geared at 12 to 1, its top speed is 15 mph and 1½ gallon gas tank provides about 200 miles cruising.



Dan levels on target high in tree. Arrows seldom are recovered in such high angle shots at night.

**D**RY LEAVES crackled under our feet like fresh cornflakes as we moseyed along the river. It was just two hours past sundown, and my hunting partners and I were in some blue ribbon coon country. Somewhere in the dark bottom land timber around us, two veteran coon hounds vacuumed the forest floor for the scent of a ringtail. The odds were good that we'd cup an ear to the sound of a trailing hound inside of an hour.

Iowa boasts some of the best coon hunting in the country. Raccoons flourish along the timbered river bottoms, feeding on corn, soybeans, fattened ducks and chickens, as well as their more basic freshwater menu. Many thousands are taken each fall by trappers and houndmen, but populations always bounce right back. My side-kick, Dan Mattes, and I were anxious to arrow one of those corn-stealing, bean-picking, chicken snatchers most zoo-goers know only as raccoon.

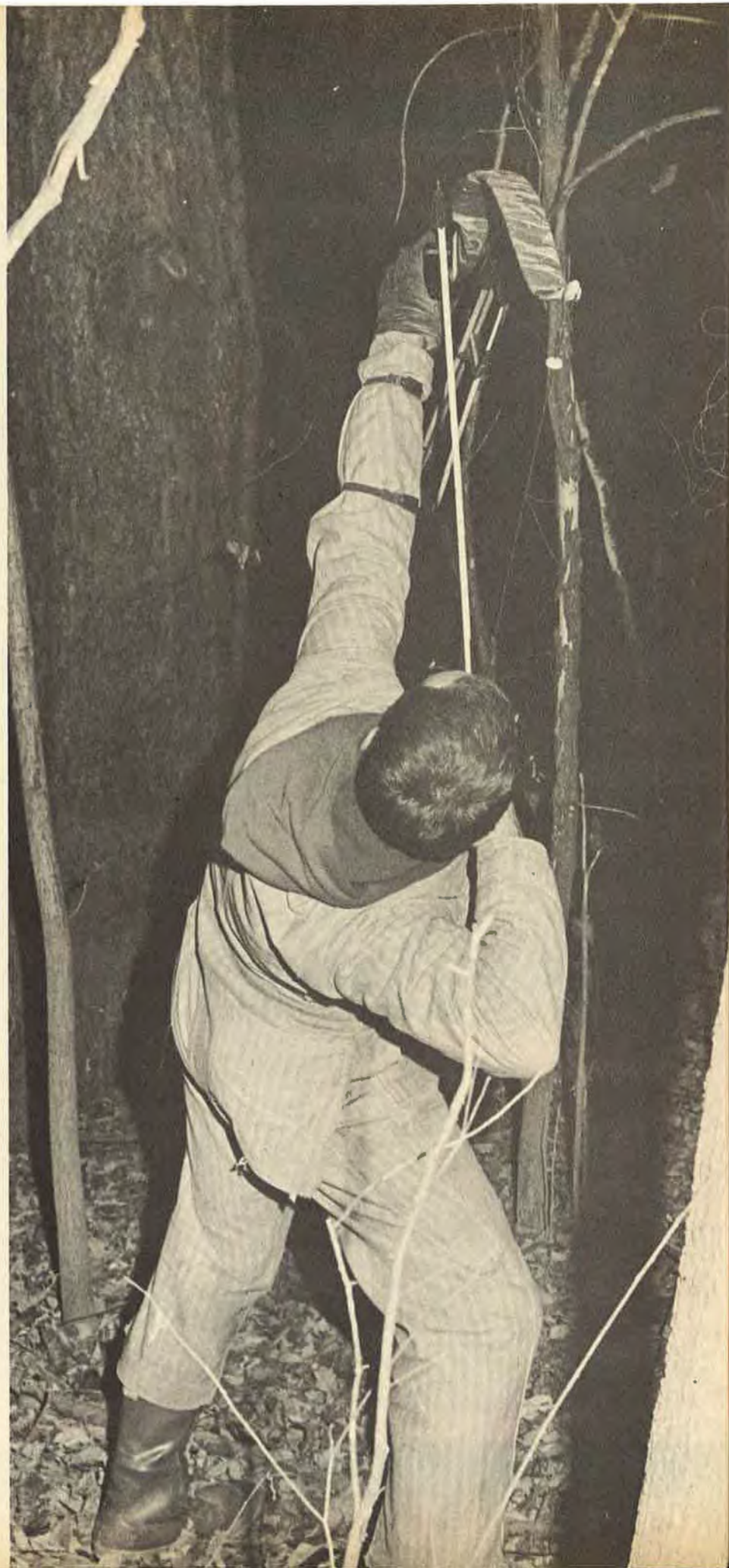
Walking the point of our patrol was houndman Al Yordi of North Liberty, Iowa. He is no newcomer to coon hunting. Yordi has owned and trained scores of hounds and has trailed their echoing cries for thirty-five years. He knows every coon trick in the book and studies his hound's music like the conductor of a symphony. At his invitation, Dan and I had joined him to try our luck at bowhunting raccoons behind hounds.

We had been lagging behind the hounds for forty minutes. Then Candy, Yordi's black and tan champion, cut a red hot trail and sent a long bass howl straining toward our waiting ears. Yordi, in tune to dog talk, heard it first.

"That's Candy, and she's hit a track," he said. "Let's walk east and be closer when she trees the coon."

Candy and her trailmate, Kelly, a big blue tick hound, are semi-silent dogs. That is, they trail a coon quietly, only barking occasionally, and thus are able to slip up on a tree the varmit quicker. But when the hounds tree br'er coon, their inhibitions vanish and they set up quite a racket.

A short trail and quick tree set off what was to be a good night for Dan and me. Candy and Kelly were on tree by the time we'd caught up to them. Both dogs were on the trunk, howling and clawing at the bark. Kelly's deep, bass chop was incessant. Candy threw back her head and let go with a



Author's first coon taken with the baying hounds weighed 18 pounds, a respectable trophy of its kind.

timber-rattling series that would have kept ten coons treed.

Yordi spotted the coon a good distance up. Dan positioned himself for a shot. The coon clung to a branch that drooped over a small oxbow. If he came down full of fight, the dogs would have to wrestle him in water.

Water fights give houndmen gray hair. More than once a coon has gotten the best of a big hound in a situation like this. There's quite an investment in hounds and training. A houndman can spend \$300 to \$400 for a good coon dog, and can go higher than \$1000, if he is so inclined. The hours of training that go into producing top-flight cooners make them seem almost irreplaceable.

It was up to Dan and his Groves Spitfire Magnum, now. He drew back a cedar-shafted broadhead and let it fly. The coon came down like a homesick rock. A perfect neck shot killed it instantly!

Yordi's hounds screeched to a halt at the shore of the oxbow and watched for movement, but saw none. We fished Dan's trophy from the water and turned the dogs out for more action.

Raccoons take a lot of killing. I'd



edge broadhead is adequate, as long as it's sharp.

Half an hour passed before the hounds hit another tree. But as often happens on coon hunts, the ringtail had chosen to hide in a den tree. The bark on the old cottonwood had been worn smooth by climbing coons. Its center was as hollow as a soda straw. It is disappointing to hunters and hounds to run to a blind alley, but Candy and

tive goggles and skid lid of a race driver, but I contained my comments, hoping we'd break into more open timber soon.

Yordi pulled up short of an old logging road and sat down on a log. His pet mongrel, that had heeled us the entire night, plopped down at his feet.

"Does that little pooch like to hunt?" I asked.

by Dennis R. Ballard

# The COON CAPER

*Candy Sings A Swan Song For Coons*

found that out early in my fourteen years of bowhunting in Iowa. My first attempt at collecting a Daniel Boone cap ended in complete failure. I bounced a bushel basket full of arrows off a ringtail's hide one night before I gave it up. A thick layer of fat protects the vitals of a fall coon and reducing one to bag takes a regular big game broadhead. Any two, three or four-

Kelly set out again like good dogs should.

Dan and I tagged behind Yordi as we headed upriver into deep timber behind the hounds. His carbide headlamp illuminated a wide path and made the going easy, except for the ear-splitting twigs that lashed back as we pushed through the undergrowth. Several times I wished for the protec-

"He sure does," he said. "Don't let his appearance fool you. This little dickens is a graduate coon killer. Thanks to Dan's instant kill on that first coon; little Skipper, here, has had it pretty easy tonight. You wait. He'll show you."

"What kind of a dog is he, Al?" I questioned.

"He's nothing special," Yordi



*Raccoon (in middle of circle) is a game animal that offers new challenge to many bowhunters who have not hunted him before.*

any sign of the coon's escape route. As she completed the loop around the coon tree, she gave the deep, choppy bark that meant treed.

"She's sure, now," Yordi yelled over the noise. "Search every limb for an eye or tail."

Just then Kelly, the big blue tick, charged into our circle of lights, hit the coon tree full stride and rocketed fifteen feet up the trunk, nearly making the lower branches. Candy's howls and our chatter had brought him at full tilt from some far corner of the woods. He wanted coon badly. Bark flew as he tore into the big birch tree a second time. The noise was deafening.

Our flashlights scanned every inch of bark. There didn't seem to be any place a coon could hide among the leafless branches, but a coon laying flat on a thick limb is a treasure hard to find.

"Here he is!" Dan announced. "Come around to this side. You can see him well."

Yordi and I pushed through thick



*The wounded raccoon rakes a dog's face with its claws, although it is near death caused by the author's arrow.*

sapling growth to Dan's position and trained our lights on the ringtail high in the tree.

"That thing is really up there, Dan," I said. "Do you think we can fetch him with an arrow?"

"What do you mean, we?" Dan replied. "It's your turn!"

Dan cleared a spot in the underbrush, so I could get an arrow away. The coon was in the crotch of a limb hanging almost parallel to the ground. I had a good view of the rascal's vitals, so a killing hit was possible.

I laid a razor-sharp, cedar arrow across my fifty-five-pound Bear Kodiak and nocked it on the string. A field archer could understand my predicament. Imagine that little short bunny target on the field range. Stretch it to about one hundred feet, angle it up at sixty degrees, then turn out the lights!

As Yordi zeroed his five-call flashlight in on the coon, I instinctively aimed my arrow and rolled my fingers off the bowstring. A sharp sinack came from the target area.

"Did I hit the limb or the coon?" I asked quickly.

"I can't see your arrow," Dan yelled. "Watch it! He's coming down!"

After the shot, the big ringtail scrambled down the limb, lost his footing and fell. Skipper, the little kill dog, flew into action. He caught the coon by the neck on the second



*The dogs are especially trained and bred and it is not uncommon for a coon hunter to have thousands invested. This hunt took place in central Iowa, along a river.*

replied. "A Heinz 57, I guess. I bought him as a tree dog from an Illinois dealer, but he never did tree coons. I could have returned him, but after I saw him wrestle a ringtail I decided to keep him. Besides, I kind of like the little mutt."

Skipper's face wore the marks of battle. His snout was streaked with scars and his ears looked like the fringe on a buckskin jacket. He wasn't much for size but, according to Yordi, he makes up for it with grit. Our dog talk was interrupted by Candy's bay.

"She's on tree, again," Yordi exclaimed. "Let's go!"

A steady series of resounding howls echoed through the timber from two hundred yards up the old road. Candy's baying sent shills of excitement down my spine as we approached the tree. Candy's barking stopped. Skipper was there, eyeing a giant river birch which approached the size of a redwood.

"Candy is checking," Yordi surmized.

"What's that?" I asked.

"She's checking to make sure the coon didn't hit the tree and come down again. Many times a coon'll try to fool a dog that way."

My flashlight picked up Candy's black form moving from tree to tree around the giant birch. She reached high on each trunk to check for scent. Her nose vacuumed the forest floor for

*One of the coon dogs tears at bark of tree, as others look aloft, seeking any sign of the hunted animal.*





The author's companion scales tree to recover arrows, while the treed opossum takes a dim view of plan.



From left: Dan Mattes, Al Yordi and the author admire a ringtail that was taken during the hunt. Note carbide lamp that is aid in spotting the elusive night target.



bounce. Then Candy laid into him with a hindleg hold. But this coon wasn't finished yet.

The fight had hardly begun, when Candy lost her grip and Mr. Coon wrapped himself around Skipper's neck like a coonskin muffler.

Skipper squealed as the coon nipped his scarred ears. Candy soon managed to twist the coon from around Skip's neck, and the melee started again.

Skipper and Candy circled the coon for an opening. Chicken-hearted Kelly kept his distance. His tree climbing antics were obviously a bluff. The coon had assumed a favorite fighting position—on his back, with every quarter guarded by teeth and claws.

Candy feigned an attack and the coon moved to counter. That was all little Skipper needed. One lightning-fast rush and a crushing neck hold ended the hunt.

Houndman Yordi led his lanky, forever sniffing hounds in the direction of the truck for a hundred yards and turned them loose. With two coons in tow, we hoped for another tree before we got to the vehicles.

Dan remarked, as we moved along through the dark woods, that the snap-on bow quivers we were using had been invaluable in negotiating the heavy underbrush. We had filled them with inexpensive cedar arrows, because most arrows loosed are lost.

"Hold it!" Yordi said. "I think I heard a bay."

We stood motionless in the dry leaves trying to filter dog talk out of the night woods noise. Owls hooted and a fox yapped in the distance. Skipper was on point, waiting for his comrades to send a message.

The message came. It said, "treed." We hadn't moved a quarter of a mile from the last tree and Candy and Kelly were already cussing another ringtail. There was no doubt about it; we'd have another chance at br'er coon.

We searched the treetops above the dogs for fifteen minutes before spotting the coon. He was a smart one. Rather than give us a reflecting glance, this rascal pointed his nose to the moon like a howling coyote. Only his ringed tail looked out of place against the gray-barred ironwood tree.

I nocked an arrow for another long shot. My first three attempts at this daring dandy hit limb, river bottom somewhere downstream, and limb, in that order. As I readied my fourth, the coon moved broadside on his perch, giving me a perfect target. I loosed my arrow and it disappeared through his vitals. A perfect strike! Within seconds he hit the ground, dead.

Not every hunt to come was as successful. Many arrows stand erect on the Iowa River bottom and several coon trees sprout new feathered branches. But we took our share. ←

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# NO NOCKING NONSENSE



By Steve Barde



## Some Opportune Ways of Nocking



Sometimes it pays to keep your mouth shut.

There were several of us on the range doing some practice shooting, when a man and two youngsters showed up, rigged with all the latest in hunting gear including camo. This is on a target range yet.

They were getting used to their new camo clothing and decided to wear it on the range. The man asked us to watch his new arrows fly. He had taken it upon himself to instruct his young proteges in the art of archery, and they were going to fill the freezer with the first deer that came their way.

He put a new arrow on his string, came to draw and turned for our approval on the flight of his shaft. It had gone pretty well at that. Then he asked us to watch the big difference between that new arrow and one of his old ones.

He placed the old arrow on the string and something hit me, there wasn't a nocking point on his string or on any of the strings the group had.

What to do in this situation? Be a real heel and blow his big image in front of the youngsters? Let him alone and hope he finds out from someone else? Good intentions can create hard feelings, so while he moved to the bales to pull his arrows I mentioned very quietly that he might check his nocking point. A perplexed look followed me as I left the field; he probably had never heard of a nocking point.

The situation isn't new. Many archers shoot with no knowledge about a nocking point for an arrow on a bowstring. If they do find out about it, the information is sketchy and some of it entirely wrong. There is an archery book on the market and four times the author mentions that the nocking point is at right angles to the string, perpendicular to the arrow shelf or shooting rest.

Hog wash! I would like to see him or anyone shoot with a nocking point in that position. Perhaps that should be rephrased; yes, you can shoot with a nocking point in that position, but it isn't correct, and your arrow flight should tell you that.

Where does the nocking point go? Where does the arrow go in relation to the nocking point? How many nocking points do you need? Is it the same for all bows once you have found it?

The nocking point on a bowstring is put there to enable you to have a constant point to attach that arrow to the string. If you don't use a nocking point you might be able to guess pretty well most of the time, and in an emergency you can shoot without one, but it is a simple matter to find the right place to put it. There are several methods for doing this.

The nocking point consists of a point, it might be a knot of thread, a piece of tape, a metal clip made by the

Saunders Archery Company and called a Nockset, a piece of heat-shrinking plastic, a section of soft rubber that slides over the string top and bottom to give a reference point in the middle, or any other device used to determine the same point each time you place an arrow on the string to shoot.

You must start someplace, so string your bow and place it on a bench. Take a square, a piece of cardboard or paper with a right angle will also work, and place the edge of the square on the arrow rest in the same position the arrow will take. If you shoot from the shelf, place the edge on the shelf. If you shoot from a side rest place it on the rest.

Take a pencil or marking pen and make a mark on the string at the point where the right angle formed by the square meets the string. This will be the ninety degree line or mark that you will start from in all instances.

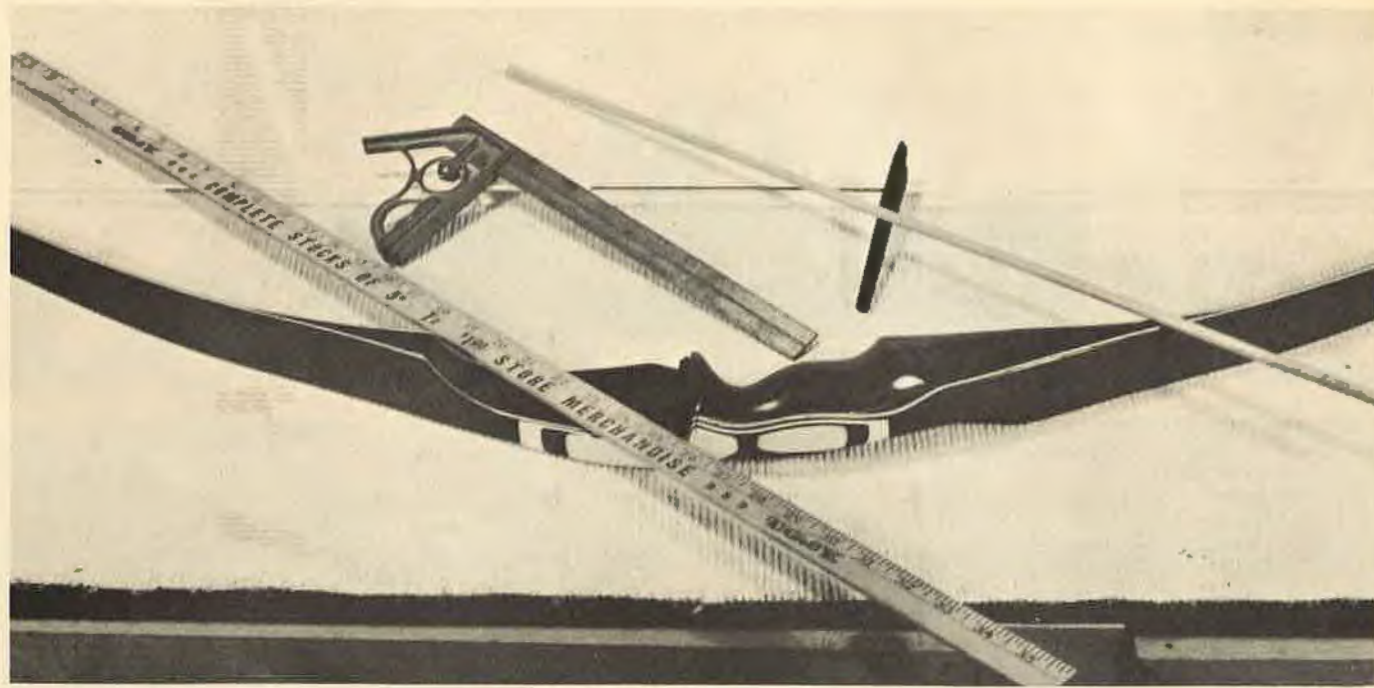
Now that the ninety degree mark has been established you can determine the proper height the nocking point should be above this point by measurements. Ask several archers how high they nock their arrows and you will get several different answers, even if they are all shooting the same bow. It isn't the same for everyone.

Take the arrow you plan to shoot and place it on the arrow rest in line but above the mark you have made on the

*A tied nock is handy, solid and can be done in the field with short thread or bowstring material. This nock has been made large for sake of illustration, author says.*

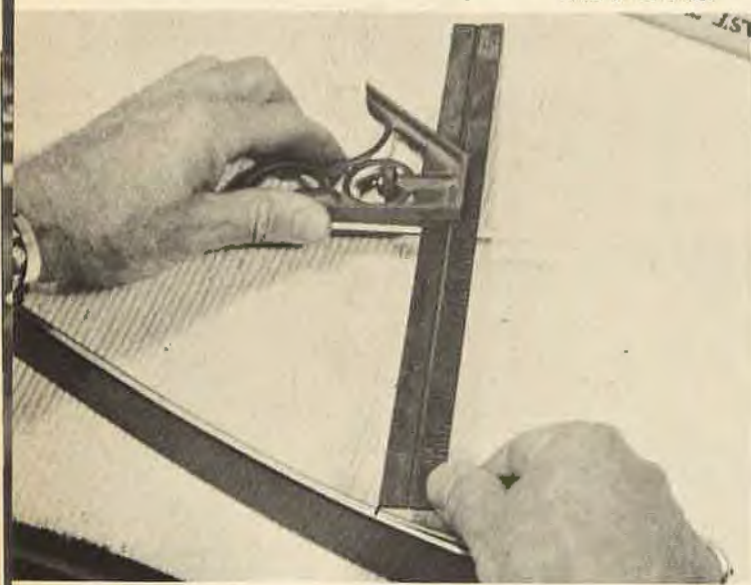


*Using Korky target, a target bow and unfletched shafts, author used Hamilton method to determine proper nocking point. Middle arrow is nocked properly, entered target straight. Shaft angled upward is nocked too low, while the third shaft has been nocked too high, he states.*



Materials required for Cushman nocking method include a ruler or yardstick, square, the shaft that you intend to shoot, marking pen. The bow is Wing Archery Thunderbird.

First, mark tip of bow to where riser feathers out; make marks on upper and lower limbs, use square to measure distance from right angle to string at marks on limbs. Upper limb should be deeper or measure longer than the lower limb, thus determining what is called the tiller. With square at right angle to shooting shelf or arrow rest, make another mark at this point on the bowstring.



string. Make another mark to determine the shaft thickness, not the arrow nock but the shaft itself, you will be shooting. To obtain your proper nocking point there are several methods. As a rule of thumb you could make a mark about one-eighth-inch above this upper mark, and you will be close to the right height for nocking. How can you tell when you are correctly nocked?

Max Hamilton has an answer for this. "Shoot some shafts without fletching at about six to ten feet. If they enter with the nock end up, lower the nocking



Place the shaft on string with one side by the mark, then mark the width of the shaft above that mark. Take half the difference between the distances - or tiller - of the upper and lower limbs and mark in on the string at this point.

point. If the nock end is low, raise it. Now you adjust the pressure point until they enter straight horizontally. As a final check go back to twenty five yards, shooting towards the sun, and with fletched arrows, check the flight and make any final adjustments that may be necessary."

The reference Hamilton makes to the pressure point refers to bows where the side pressure can be adjusted, either by a set screw or by a metal or plastic pressure point. If you don't have a horizontal adjusting bow, don't worry, the proper spine of the arrow will also correct the side movement.

The best thing about Hamilton's method is that it gives you a visual check in the bale. It is easy to see if the nock is high or low, but watching an arrow in flight is often tricky. Finger release and other factors enter into it.

You now have a point from which to start. You can determine your nocking point on the string, make a visual

check by using the Hamilton method and set your nocking point.

Do you place the arrow above or below that nocking point? You can put all types of advice on this. Many target archers prefer the arrow above the nocking point, since it removes some of the finger pressure and pressure on the nock of the arrow.

Hunters usually prefer to have the arrow below the nocking point, since you can place an arrow on the string, place it on the arrow rest of the bow and by looping the first finger of the bowhand over the arrow you can hold it on the string and rest and be ready for a quick shot.

After you see both types you will also see the belt and suspender types who have nocking point above and below the arrow. They are really cautious.

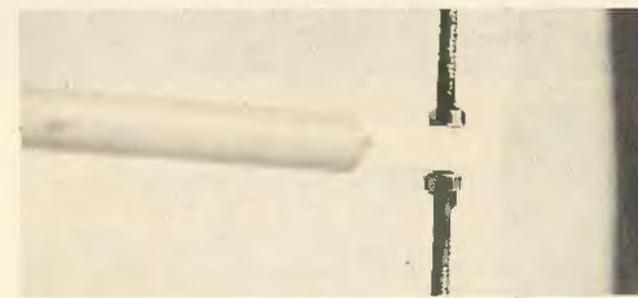
Whether you place the arrow above or below is your choice. Some hunters use the double so they can slip the arrow nock into the space between and never look at the arrow. The arrow below the nock shooter will counter that all he has to do is slide an arrow on the string, slip it up until it engages the stopping point the nock supplies and bring the bow up. There is only one reference point, and he can and does find it without looking. In the field with spooky game the less movement the better.

In case you want to be more technical and determine a nocking point for a bow without placing an arrow on the string, there is a method devised by Billy Cushman, of San Jose, California.

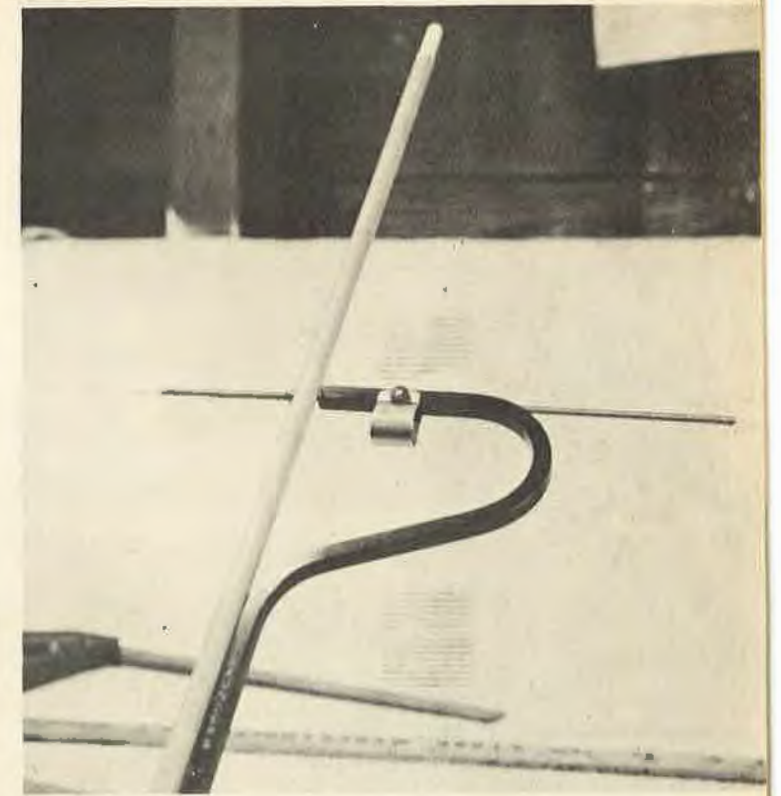
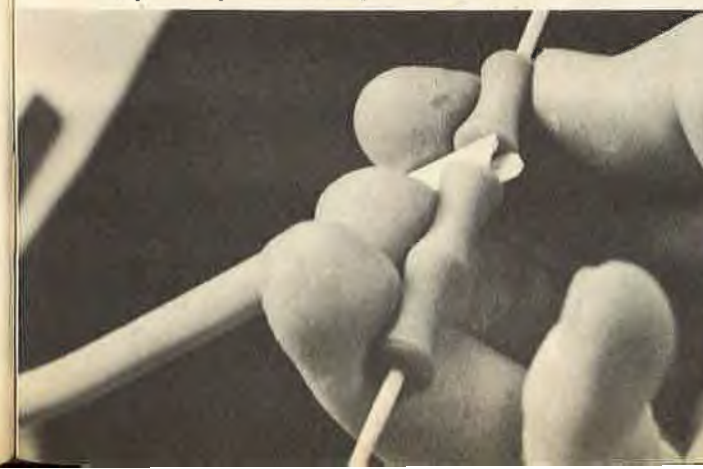
Take your bow and lay it flat on a bench, braced at the proper brace height you will shoot. Have the back of the bow facing you and measure from the tip of the upper limb to a distance just below the feather out section of the riser. Make a mark on the edge of the limb with a grease pencil and measure the same distance on the lower limb.

Take your bow square or shop square and put it on the string at a ninety degree angle to the mark on the lower limb. Write down the distance and do the same with the upper limb. The string should be closer to the belly of the lower limb from one-eighth to three-quarters of an inch.

Some archers prefer nocks both above and below shaft. This is slow for a bowhunter, as he must place the shaft between nocks and could get under both, if not careful.



Soft rubber grips slip over the string to provide the nocking point as well as a finger cushion, as shown in this photo of a Bear bow from Instant Archery kit.



Saunders bow square is calibrated to give proper nocking for most equipment. Place this square on the string, then place shaft above square and put Nokset at point above the width of the shaft. Here, too, arrow goes below nock.

This is called the tiller of the bow. It is determined by the manufacturer and may differ from bow to bow of the same make. Place the bow square on the string at a ninety-degree angle to the top of the rest. Make a mark on the string. Take the shaft you will shoot and lay it on the string at the top of the mark you made at ninety degrees.

Mark up the string the thickness of that shaft above the right angle mark. Now go up the string one half the static balance (the difference in the upper and lower limb or measured tiller), put the nocking point on and you will nock your arrow under the nock point.

How does that sound for a system? It may be a bit confusing at first, but if you work it out step by step it is relatively simple to use. Let's take an example. You make the required measurements and find the static balance, the difference between the upper and lower limb distance from the bow belly, to be one-half inch. You are using a shaft that measures one-quarter inch.

Now you mark up one-quarter inch from the right angle mark on the string and that takes care of your arrow-thickness. Now take one-half the static balance (it measured half an inch), which will give you one-quarter inch and measure up from the arrow thickness mark. This will give you the nocking point for that arrow and bow combination.

It comes out to be one-half inch from the right angle. If you are in doubt you can take your newly located nocking point and use the Hamilton method as a crosscheck. With this double method you should have a good reference and be able to find it on any bow, string and arrow combination you may have.

BOW & ARROW ran a two-page section showing you how to tie off the center serving. You can use the same method for making a string type nocking point. You only need a small reference point, about one-quarter inch at the

Continued on page 46



**That May  
Sound Like An Adult  
Movie Title And  
This Bow Test  
Seemed To Go According  
To The Script!**

**T**HERE'S ONE with a good set of horns and a beautiful cape. Want to try for him?"

The rams were on the hillside below us. They had seen us, but hadn't spooked. James Stanfield had no idea what they would do, since they hadn't been hunted in several months.

"They might stand and look, or they might run like hell," was his comment about the ram's habits. "We have shot them in a variety of situations, but they never react the same."

We were in the northeast corner of New Mexico on the Ed Bray ranch, hunting Corsican rams raised by Stanfield. He has over eight hundred fenced acres for his exotic imported game animals, and he caters to the bowhunter. The ram's terrain varies from rocky bluffs to creek bottom. Stanfield guarantees a ram on the hunt. Once you hit one, regardless of the horn or cape, he is yours. They are known to be hard to stop sometimes.

We had quite a group on this bow test. Jack Niles came from Albuquerque to see that his deer hunters were squared away for the coming New Mexico deer season. Bowen Weems, of Weems Wild Call fame, was up from Texas. He had along his movie camera and wanted to record the hunt on film. Jack McDowell from the New Mexico Fish and Game showed up, allegedly to check the deer population.



# The

# EXOTIC

By C. R. Learn

# Ones



method of attaching the limbs to the riser that he had used previously with great success on his other take-downs. The riser is of aircraft metal, light and strong, and the limbs were made with his patented Dyna-Stress technique.

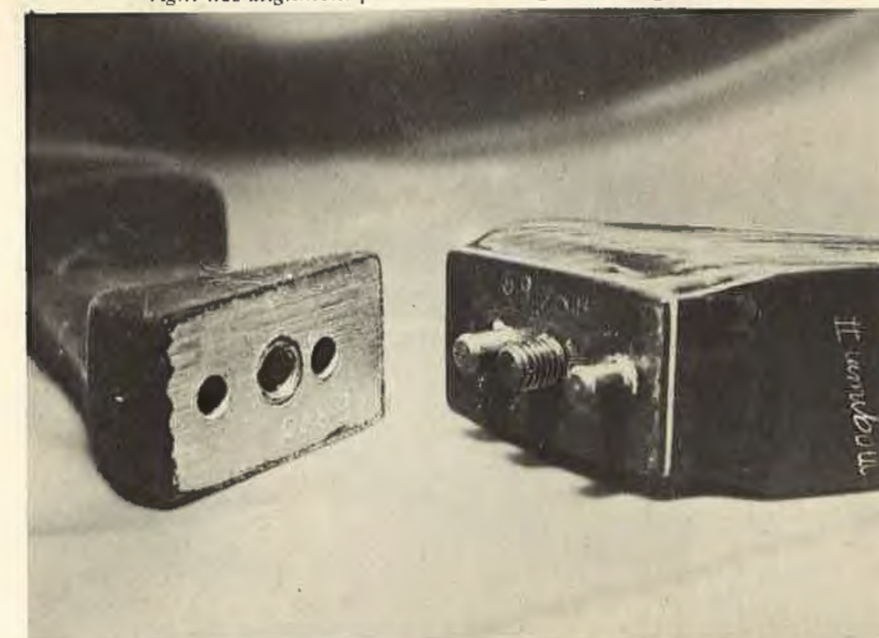
When the bow arrived prior to the hunt, there was no string in the package. I went to the string jig and made three to get what I wanted. The bow was one of the first to be made in the hunter model and was fifty-three pounds at twenty-eight inches and measured fifty-eight inches.

The limbs are attached to the riser

with an Allen bolt through the center of the limb base. It is a solid and functional method. Comparing this triple take-down with the two-piece take-down, I found it was built on the same principle with a shorter base. There are two locator pins to insure proper alignment when assembling.

The really new idea Groves had come up with was a fuzzy coating on the riser. This worried me at first, as I thought it might rub off. It doesn't. The process consists of coating the riser with epoxy, placing it in an enclosed area, then charging it with

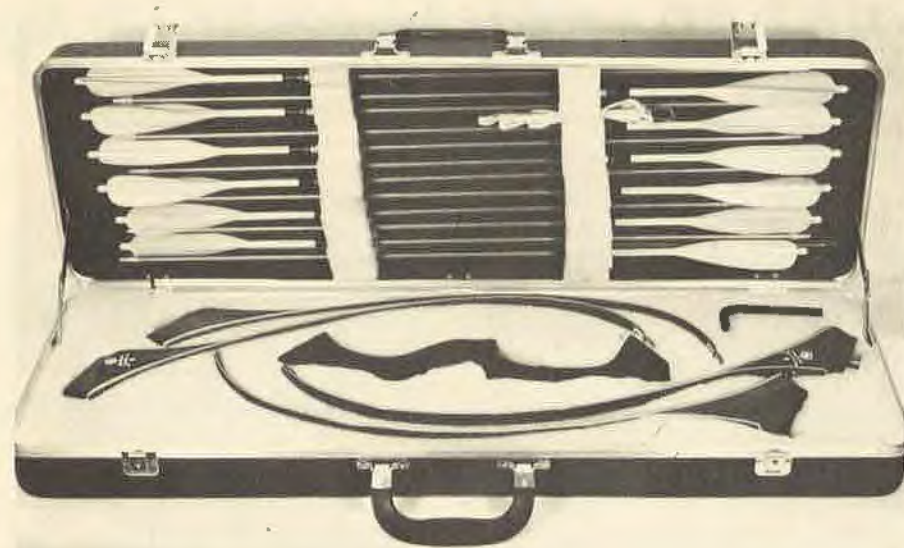
*The riser section on the left has alignment holes and retaining center section of steel. The limb assembly on right has alignment pins and retaining or holding bolt.*



It seemed more like a Hollywood special than a hunt. Harry Hawkins and Carl Davy, in from Florida for the deer season along with Wes Hazelwood of Missouri, were interested in the outcome of the Corsican hunt. They thought they might decide to take one themselves.

My tackle to down the ram was new in several respects. The Groves Magnum take-down hunter was to be the launching pad for Bear-Easton Magnum arrows tipped with an experimental broadhead. This combination proved deadly. When the head arrived it weighed in at 180 grains. Tipped on the Bear shaft, it made a total weight of 610 grains — a lot of weight to push with a fifty-three-pound bow.

Take-down bows aren't new to the Groves Archery Corporation of Albuquerque. They offer any of their bows in a take-down model, on order. What was new was the triple take-down. Groves utilized the assembly



The case supplied with Groves bow opens to show handle riser flanked by sets of 53 and 62-pound limbs. With one riser, limbs and resulting weights can be changed by archer.

electricity. The fibers adhere to the epoxy and stand up from the electric charge.

This coats the shiny metal and prevents glare and gives the hand a warm handle even in cold weather. It not only looks different, but makes the best camo I've seen on a bow.

The riser is small and is easily held. The first test shots proved the bow to be smooth-drawing and fast-shooting.

Groves made the riser small enough to keep it light, yet big enough to get a good grip in the handle section. The window is center-cut and equipped with a Hoyt rest.

After making and shooting several strings, I packed the bow, the Bear Magnum shafts and five of the new broadheads for the multiple test. The broadheads were of my design and were meant to shoot from a sixty-

The large allen wrench fits into the slotted bolt; turns are taken and three-piece bow becomes solid, one-piece.



pound bow. That was what had me worried. For back-up, I packed a few Black Diamonds and the four-bladed Black Copperheads.

We pulled a few bales from Ed Bray's feed lot and had some practice after we arrived. I took one of the broadheads, found an embankment by the creek that didn't have too many rocks and shot away. The limbs threw that heavy-tipped shaft beautifully. I backed up and felt that, if I could get within thirty yards of the ram, I would have not trouble.

Weems took a look at the vibram-soled Red Wing Saddle Tramp boots I was wearing and laughed, "If you can get close to anything making all the noise you do, it will be a wonder."

I had no reason to doubt the footgear. It had proven itself on many occasions. I told Weems he could name his wager, up to three beers, that I would have my cape in camp before he did.

We kept a set of binoculars at the trailer and scanned the hills looking for the rams.

"There are over fifty-five rams on that hill, not counting the ewes," Niles informed us. "They are probably in the scrub oak out of the sun and heat of the day."

We planned to wait for Standfield before going after the horned ones. He hunts with the bow, one reason he started the Corsican hunting area. He bought the rams, then made an agreement with the ranch owner.

At 2 p.m. we started seeing the rams. They were just under the rim rock of the mesa coming out of the scrub. They were too far away for us to check their horns for curl, but they were plentiful and of various colors. What I hoped for was one with a good horn and a deep red or roan coat. They don't have a beard like a goat, but the hair on the throat grows quite long and is referred to as a beard.

We were hunting in one of the oldest hunting areas known to man, where they had used a stone head that showed great craftsmanship in the Stone Age and included a blood groove, as we would now call it. These heads are in the history and anthropology books, but if my design of a broadhead worked as well, I would be happy.

Heading up the steep, winding road, we were almost to the top, when we spotted five rams huddled beneath the oaks. I found a ram I liked and looked at Weems.

"Do you want to go, or shall I?"  
"Why don't you try first, and I'll learn from your mistakes? If you



Bowen Weems inspects his one-shot kill. He is the maker of the game calls, which carry his noted name.

oyster crackers, spread them on a hardwood floor, then try to walk over them, you will understand my problem in trying to tiptoe through dry scrub oak. The group above was holding the attention of the rams. I nocked my Rounder on the Groves and moved in for the kill.

The rams caught sight of me as I moved into an open area so I could shoot. They started moving out to my left about thirty yards away. My ram was in the lead, and I had no idea if they were going to speed up or stop,

The velvet-like material covering the bow handle offered an unusual feel at first, but it doubled for camo.



manage to hit one, I'll record it on film, but don't take too long as I don't have that much film." Weems replied.

That did it. I picked up my Groves from the back of the pickup and checked my arrows. I had mounted a long riser Bear bow quiver on the Groves Magnum and had five of my experimental heads, plus the Copperhead Magnums.

I checked the small herd of rams with the glasses. They were still over two hundred yards below us, with the wind blowing from them to us. They weren't spooked, but Stanfield said they might go at any time. I told Weems that I would move off to the left, go around the brow of the hill and come up on them from the side, keeping the wind and oaks in proper position.

"If you can see that far, Weems, you'll find me by the time I'm ready to shoot. By the way, if you plan on filming this, please do it right." With this parting shot, I moved off around the hill.

The wind held. I could see the men in the pickup watching me and the rams. I was screened from the Corsican and planned to use the pickup group as a diversion to allow me to get as close as possible. The other group was back at the trailer watching with glasses.

Well, if you are going to do tests and want exotics, you often draw a bit of a crowd. Most of the time, I prefer not to see another hunter, but this was a special situation.

The herd seemed to be holding. Then I noticed Weems moving down the ridge from the pickup to set up his camera.

I came around the brow, saw the rump of a red ram that was in the group and cased through the scrub oak, trying to be quiet. It you take a box of

Groves' typical narrow tip has been reinforced with fiberglass overlays.



so I decided to take a running shot, something I seldom do on game. They weren't moving fast, but they were moving away from me at a good clip.

I brought up the Groves and put it on the head of the ram. He moved down around a brush pile about twenty-five yards from me. I followed him, and when I felt the lead was right for a shoulder hit, I let the 610-grain arrow fly. It took the arrow through both hips and dropped where he was. He either had been going faster than I thought, I hadn't followed through on the shot, or a combination of both, plus the heavy arrow.

I had obtained complete penetration, severing both femoral arteries with that Rounder broadhead. I tried for the shoulder and put two more arrows completely through the tough



Terrain that Texas Crossicans call home is in the rimrock, ranging from valley to the tops.

Author poses with Corsican ram taken during his caper. Test bow put arrow through femoral arteries.



ram. He was down and dead. This short hunt couldn't be equalled by anything before in my experience. There had been some head shaking at the mass of the arrow and the weight of the bow. The Groves had proved itself capable.

My ram had a good horn. There were bigger, but he had the combination of head, coat and beard I wanted. Stanfield and the others remarked on how the ram had dropped on being hit, the first one to do so since they had been hunting them. Weems was happy, as he had it on film. Niles felt elated, as he likes to see hunters fill and will help in any way possible.

"He was a fighter," Stanfield remarked, as he looked at the condition of the horns.

"Learn, where in hell are you?" Weems called.

"Back here in the oaks looking for those arrows that passed through. Those are the only five broadheads of their kind in existence, and I don't want to lose them after a kill like that."

I razzed Weems that my hunt was over, and he hadn't even started.

"I'll get mine, but it was worth it just to watch for a change," he decided.

I asked if he felt he had learned anything from watching me hunt. He said he had learned something and that was not to let me go first.

We spotted a group of three good rams in the shade under some oaks and Weems took off after them. Stanfield grinned, as Weems eased into a draw to start his stalk.

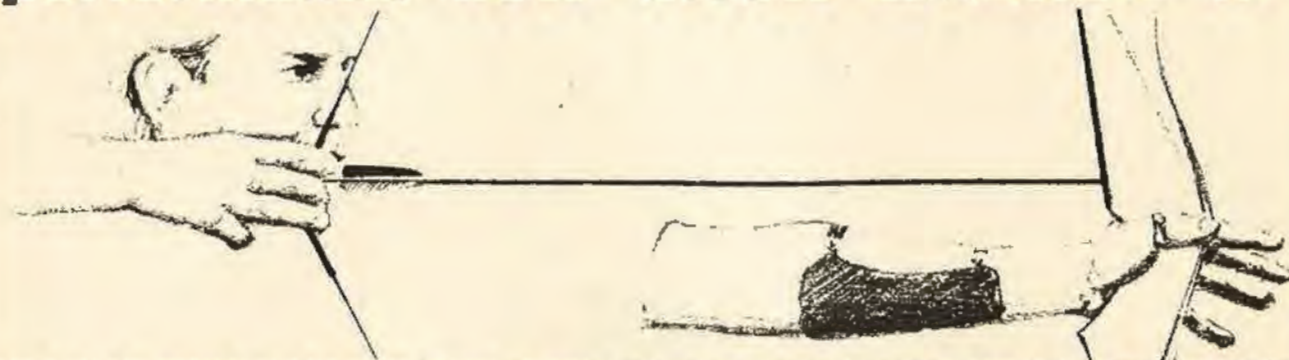
"Those are probably the three spookiest animals on the ranch, including deer," he said. Weems got a long, going-away shot that missed, and decided to finish his hunt the next morning.

After trying to sleep through the earth trembling snoring of Jack McDowell, morning didn't come soon enough. Weems spotted a good ram, and we spent the morning hunting him. You might think eight hundred acres of fenced land isn't much, but it is over a square mile of rough country. Just before noon, Weems eased over a brow and saw his ram running across the draw. He hit him cleanly. The ram went about thirty yards and dropped beneath an oak.

We returned to Albuquerque later in the week. I used the excuse that my Corsican had to age before being cut and wrapped, so I could enjoy trying the hot weather deer hunting. Weems and I took our rams to Raton to have them cut and frozen.

Weems headed back to Dallas, and I went to the West Coast with my ram roasts and sausage. Harold Groves had been forced to listen to the hunt at least twice. He now has the Groves Magnum Hunter in production, but has lengthened it to sixty inches. ←

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**TECH TALK**

Continued from page 9

During the past fourteen months of bowhunting, I've killed about every animal in western Kansas, the largest being a mule deer. Most of the hunting is in fairly open country. Do you feel that greater trajectory would be gained in a 60-inch bow over a 58-inch? I feel that a 60-inch bow could be used easily in this open terrain.

Another point I would like to bring up is the different style of bow limbs. What advantages do different bow limbs have over each other?

Steve Anderson,  
Scott City, Kansas

(Sorry, but we can't give you the information on the trajectory of different bows. This is so variable, depending on the weight of the arrow, weight of the string, the shooting technique of the archer, etc., that it is impossible to obtain.)

(We'd not get concerned about two or even four inches in length, as far as convenience is concerned. A bow is

unwieldy at best and even a four-inch difference means only two inches on each end. You would never even notice it.

(As for bow weight, a 50-pound bow is vastly superior to a 45-pound. We gather you have no trouble handling the 46-pound bow, and would suggest that you go to at least a 50-pound, maybe to 52 or even a 55-pound bow... We'd think you would have no trouble with any of these weights. The heavier the bow weight, the more penetration you'll have and the flatter trajectory. We'd also suggest going to moderately heavy arrows and pay particular attention to broadhead sharpness.)

**BOAR BUSTER**

I am convinced that I should go and hunt boar after reading your excellent article, "Pig in a Poke" in the March-April, 1969 BOW & ARROW. My

problem is that as a senior at college, I have limited funds and cannot afford to hire a guide.

I have been reading about hunting in the Los Padres National Forest but directions or hints on where to hunt are scant. You state that the area was Paso Robles. Is this anywhere near the Adelaida area or town that I have read about? The articles seem to avoid mentioning the care of the boar after the kill. For example, do they have glands that should be cut away or that will contaminate the meat? Cure of the meat isn't mentioned at all.

Lennic Espinoza,  
Santa Ana, California

(Boar hunting is a lot of fun. It is one of the few local animals obtainable that doesn't run away. It can also raise a few hairs on the back of your head if you aren't properly prepared. There is a fine, though short, article on how to hunt boar written in the Bow

hunting Manual, by Doug Van Howd. It is available through the Gallant Library, Covina, California 91722, for \$2.

(Most of the possible boar hunting in the Los Padres area involves private property. We don't know of a good public area to recommend, though you perhaps can get some information through the California Department of Fish and Game. Some of the best boar hunting in Southern California can be found either on Catalina Island or Santa Clara island. Organized bow-hunts are set up for both islands at a cost of about \$50 for a weekend. This would be your best bet. You can hunt boar and also sheep or goat, depending on the island, and your pocketbook.

(When cleaning a boar, cool him out quickly, as the meat will spoil more quickly than just about any game. Be sure to remove all glands carefully when you skin him. The meat can be excellent. The head makes one of the most unusual mounts a hunter can obtain. Do not hang a boar as you would venison; deal with it as you would any pork.)

**STRAP TAB**

About nine months ago, I was hit with muscular dystrophy. It affected my hands the most. I love to hunt with a bow, even with my crippled hands, and managed to kill two deer with a borrowed release. I have been unable to replace the release or find one like it. Could you tell me where I could find one or have one made?

It's made from leather and steel and fits around my fourth finger and inside your hand, then goes between your thumb and forefinger.

Alan Koch,  
Omaha, Nebraska

(A similar release is made by Wilson Brothers. It has sort of a palm section, similar to the old hook, coupled with flippers. It is called a Strap Tah and the retail price is about \$10.)

**CROSSBOW CONSTRUCTION**

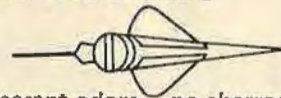
I have a great interest in crossbows and would like to build one. Could you possibly refer me to a manual containing the following information: types of wood used; making of strings which will hold under the heavier bows; special tools; finishes; fiberglass laminating for a recurve bow; trigger mechanisms; selection of materials for making bolts; specific measurements on the size of woods blank to use on the bow to obtain specific weights?

I am particularly interested in short, twenty-inch, one hundred-pound bows.

Don E. Lohr,  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
(You might contact George Stevens, American Crossbow Association, Box 72, Huntsville, Arkansas 72740. Stevens is one of the top authorities on the crossbow in the United States and also manufactures bows himself.)

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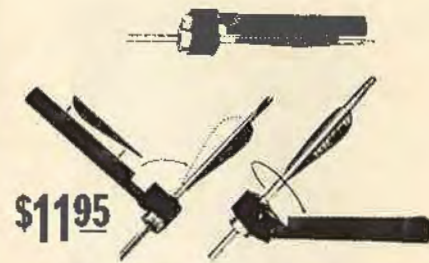
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**NOCKING NONSENSE**

Continued from page 37



Author feels that the Nokset works well and is handy. To install, place Nokset above line made in calculations. Noksets require pliers for crimping; arrow goes below it.

biggest. The Saunders Archery Company makes Nockset, a metal ring with a rubber inset that goes around the string and clamps to it with a special plier.

The new monofilament serving put out by Easton makes it hard to keep the nock from slipping, but by roughing with a bit of sandpaper at the nock area and adding a dab of contact cement it shouldn't slip.

The style of shooting makes the point vary, too. Bowlock shooters will find they nock lower than a three-fingered shooter. I have a center shot keyhole target bow made by Harry Drake. This can be shot only with a double flipper. The nocking point on this is very low, just above the arrow thickness above the right angle from the rest.

While shooting this bow and setting up a target sight my arrows started going all over the target. I thought it was the sight and started adjusting it. It didn't do any good. Then I noticed that my nocking point had slipped up the string a good inch. I couldn't put an arrow in the bale let alone the target. I reset the nocking point, adjusted my sight and was right back on target again.

The nocking point is a constant. With all the variables we have in the archery game, we can use all the constants we have working for us. You know your bow is X pounds, that is a constant, the string is X strands, another constant. You can now locate and make a constant nocking point. You can use a draw check or clicker for full draw consistency.

Your arrows can be literally split in grain and wall thickness along with point weight adjustment with the Easton shafts, so all you have to do now is put each and every arrow in the target. You have eliminated some of the problems with proper tuning of your tackle, but a proper nocking point is the first step in fine tuning your equipment.

If you don't have the time or inclination to try Cushman's nocking formula you can use a rule of thumb and make your nocking point one-half inch above the right angle mark. You can then place your arrow below the nock, shoot some arrows and see how this makes them fly.

Many archers who have been shooting for years can place a new string on a bow, put an arrow on the string and rest, hold the bow out at right angles from them at arm's length and judge their nocking point by moving the arrow up or down the string. They know the angle the arrow should make with the string for their style of shooting.

Until you can do this, you might prefer the Hamilton or Cushman method or a combination of both. After you solve your problems all you have to do is go hit the target. Nothing to it. ←

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KITTREDGE Continued from page 8

into a feed ground where several nice bucks were browsing. My hunting partner, Jack Howard, remained high on the opposite canyon wall so he could direct me through the maze of brush. All of a sudden from his violent motions I realized I must be very close to my quarry. After freezing for a few moments I cautiously started around a clump of scrub oak and found myself eye-ball to eye-ball with a beautiful old four pointer not fifteen feet away. He had me riveted with his eyes and I didn't dare bat an eyelash, let alone start to draw. Jack's application of an attention getting sound saved the day...he started whistling softly and waving his arms. The buck immediately turned his head to look up the canyon at Jack and I was left with the most perfect shot a bowhunter could want — a buck but feet away, with his full attention elsewhere. For the record, I missed...but that's another story!

Very often, though, hunting partners can make use of a whistle, a grunt or other sound to get the attention of an animal away from their partner...or the use of an alarm noise to move the animal towards the other hunter. All sounds mean something to a wild animal. He pays strict attention to every sound he hears. If the sound is recognized as dangerous and close to hand, he bolts; if farther away, he moves off more slowly. If the sound is known to be normal to the area and time of day, such as the squeak of a mouse, movement of other deer, call of a bird, etc. he pays no attention. When the sound isn't recognized, he comes to full attention and remains motionless until he determines whether it is friend or foe.

A sound which the animal immediately associates with a human is frightening and will cause him to move away from the sound...a cough, voices, ticking of a watch. A sound he doesn't understand, like the soft twang of a bowstring, will bring him to full attention until he determines what the sound was.

Animals can be brought towards a sound through its arousing their curiosity. Soft sounds which the animal does not know the source of and can't explain, often can cause him to investigate through natural curiosity. An old timer I once met in the back country told me that he could sit down patiently in rabbit country and by packing and scratching the ground gently with a stick, very often he would have a rabbit or other small animal slowly sneak up on him to see what was going on. The ticking of a clock left under a pile of pine needles will cause deer to closely investigate during the night as evidenced by the number of hoof prints found the next day. The use of a high pitched varmint call as a wavering bleat can call up all sorts of animals through curiosity...animals which are not predators, such as deer, antelope or pigs.

Most commercial game calls normally work by imitating the actual sounds of the animal being hunted. By talking his language, you can tell him to come in and see what's going on. You appeal either to his hunger for food, sex, or other animals of his type. There are game calls on the market for just about every species of game. The best way to learn to use one is to buy a record of the actual animal sound. Listening first to the record and then trying to imitate the sound with the call.

A sound which creates a situation of interest in the mind of the hunted animal will also bring him in. Rubbing and knocking together of antlers during the rutting season can be like a magnet to a pugnacious deer or elk who thinks the sound comes from a couple of his fellows butting heads.

The growing sport of calling predatory animals such as bobcat, coyote or fox is based upon making the sound of a seriously injured and frightened small animal which the predator could easily capture as a free meal. Here you make no attempt to sound like the animal you are after; instead you try to sound like the animal he wants to eat. Just the squeaking sound of a defenseless field mouse as though

caught in the crotch of a sage bush can call up a hungry hawk or bobcat.

Often the sound of an animal natural to the area can act as a calming agent to game the hunter has accidentally alarmed. During a stalk, a deerhunter might unexpectedly pop a small branch just as he is getting close to his quarry. The soft bleat on a rubber band deer call can sound like a small deer to the herd ahead and reassure them that there is no danger.

There are noises a careful bowhunter should guard against making. The wearing of hard surfaced clothing invites a loud scratching noise when the hunter moves through brush...a noise game immediately associates with humans. Better to wear soft woollens with a nap which deadens a scratching branch and makes it sound more like brush against animal hair.

A twig rubbing along your bowstring can make a very alarming sound which carries quite a way during a still morning. The sound of the arrow being drawn is a real attention getter, just at the wrong time. Every hunting bow should have a soft arrow rest and arrow plate. A piece of buckskin, bobcat hide, or simply a piece of mole-skin corn plaster will deaden all arrow noise, both of drawing and shooting.

Some years ago, I read Francis Sell's great hunting book, *Advanced Hunting*. A statement was made in the discussion on sounds to the effect that one of the most frightening to wild game was "no sound." There always is sound in the woods during any normal safe time. The only animals who move without making sound are those who are hunting such as a predatory lion or man, or those who are frightened and are quietly moving out of the area. When a deer feels something is about, yet there is no sound to identify it by, he immediately becomes frightened.

Sound can be associated with an activity and the animal pays little attention when it occurs. Fishermen working along a stream, or hikers on a trail can be talking to each other and making all sorts of noise yet run onto deer who pay little or no attention to them. I've seen one instance and heard of others where deer are intentionally walked right up to just by appearing to pay no attention to them and talking in a normal manner or making some other sound normal to the situation. A nice buck used to frequent the side of a fenced yard where a fellow would mow the lawn two times a week. A local hunter heard of this and tried several unsuccessful times to stalk the deer. Finally he tried pushing a lawn mower in front of him as he moved up on the deer...result: Venison in the locker. The minute the hunter did something that fitted into the pattern the deer was used to, the deer paid no attention.

One time, I was working my way along a deer trail into a lush feed area during the late afternoon and was not paying too much attention to what I was doing. All of a sudden, I became aware of a number of deer browsing the brush ahead of me still too far to get a shot. The brush was thick, I couldn't move without making some noise. I was right out in the open where my movement would be spotted the minute I got close.

Remembering Mr. Sell's advice about no noise being frightening and noise which is familiar to the area being okay, I decided I'd become simply another deer and see how this idea worked out. Getting down on hands and knees so my human outline didn't show, I slowly moved along the deer trail toward the deer. Every so often I'd pull at the browse as though I were nibbling at it. I allowed my wool shirt to brush the branches a bit. Like a feeding deer, I'd move a little way, then stop and browse. Gradually I gained on the deer. They would look down my way every so often, but paid little attention and certainly were not alarmed at all. In time I approached within good shooting range and got a nice shot. Noise can be a bowhunter's friend or enemy...it all depends on how it's used. ←

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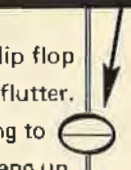
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## TACKLE TIPS

*Continued from page 10*

The slight variations in line due to changes in bow cast are easily adjusted on the spot simply by moving the pin or reticle to left or right. Adjusting for height is another matter. In a way, height compensation for humidity probably comes easier to the barebow shooter, as the arrow is within his field of vision as it sits on the bow and he has a more intimate relationship with it. I think the barebow shooter develops some kind of sixth sense about his equipment and is aided further by a bit of divine guidance. After a few shots, he can feel the faster or slower condition and consciously or unknowingly corrects for each distance with amazing accuracy.

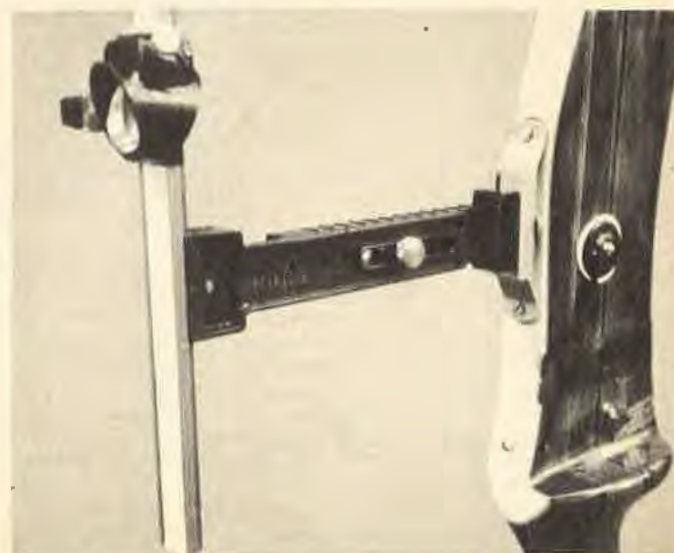
I know some sight archers who correct by moving the sight bar up or down. This, in effect, changes the "gap" an equal amount for all distances, which will not give the desired results. It is common sense that a new trajectory arc will require little or no readjustment of sight at rabbit distances, but may call for a considerable amount of adjustment at eighty yards.

The adjustment needed in the sight is something that will change the setting in a logarithmic manner — a little more for each distance as the distances get longer. Or to say it another way, the amount of the adjustment increases as range increases. I can think of three ways to accomplish this adjustment.

The first method is to tilt or slant the sight bar forward or backward. As you slant the sight bar to less than ninety degrees to the line of sight, the sight markings become proportionately closer together in the vertical plane to give the desired effect.

This function requires certain capabilities not generally found in the conventional sight. The Scanner bowsight by Scanner Products is an example of one which will let you make the adjustment readily. This sight has pre-marked reticles for the various distances and is mounted on a transverse pivot, allowing a changing degree of forward or backward slant.

The basic intent of the design is to allow rapid calibration of the sight when you first mount it. Consider this secondary function a bonus. It should be noted, however, that the pre-marked reticles are engineered for the conventional trajectory curve and would not suit an unorthodox trajectory as when using flu-flu arrows. The sight does not



incorporate all the features necessary in top flight target archery, but is excellent for hunters and neophytes.

A second method of adjusting for humidity is by moving the sight bar forward or back parallel with the arrow. A means of doing this is with an adjustable sight extender. By moving the sight forward (farther away), you bring the lines of sight for all ranges proportionately closer together as needed on a humid day. The rabbit shot setting will change little, the greatest variation being for the long targets at the lower end of the sight. Inversely, moving the sight back towards the shooter causes greater elevation on the longer targets for dry days.

My wife this year was using this setup with a Reynolds sight and adjustable extender and was enjoying nice height, but her line was suffering and it took us a long time to discover why. The Reynolds base in its latest design has a locking screw which secures the sight bar by forcing it against the angled surfaces of the dovetail ways. The larger flat surfaces are not in contact and the small amount of bearing at the angled surfaces is inadequate to precisely position the extender in line each time it is installed.

This serves to prove a point or two. Poor shooting is not always related to technique. Tackle always will remain a critical factor in score. It further proves that not all design changes are for the best in all phases of use. The Reynolds base previously had a locking design which squeezed the dovetail edges forcing the flat surfaces together for positive alignment.



It is not my intent to drag down any worthwhile product. The Reynolds sight is indeed a wonderful mechanism when sight bar and base are adjacent to each other. But in all fairness to those archers who use the combination described and have a bit of trouble with line, I felt obligated to report this finding. My wife still uses the Reynolds sight without the extender, but it's held out from the bow on a custom engineered (a fancy term for home-made) foundation which provides the advantages of the extender for accuracy. (See my column in the

*Continued on next page*



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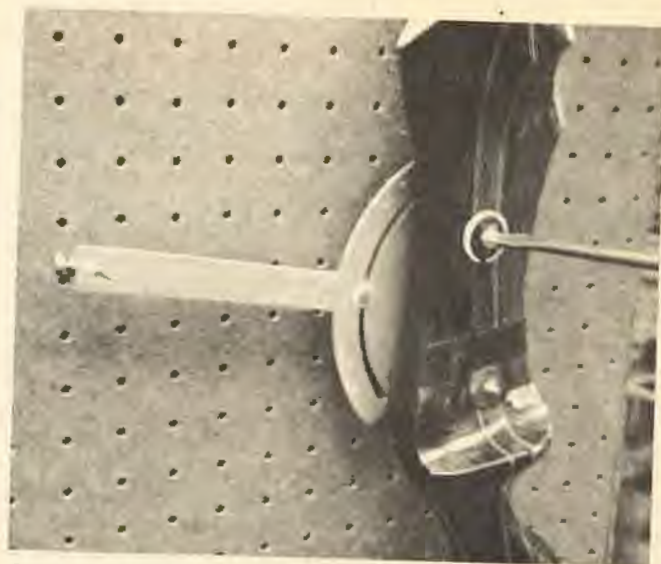
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## TACKLE TIPS



Changing length of draw by moving adjustable clicker to correct trajectory.

November/December 1968 issue.) She now obtains weather adjustments with the clicker method described below.

My bow sports a Comanche Longshot bowsight. To digress a bit, this device is a quadrant type sight, marked in degrees and having a vernier calibration allowing settings to tenths of a degree — accurate enough for the finest adjustments at all ranges. I like this sight, because it gives the desirable forward extended position of the pin without actually putting the whole sight out there, it eliminates some of the parts and mechanisms necessary with the slide bar type of sight and it folds up against the bow when not in use, allowing casing of the bow without removing any sight parts.

On long targets, the pin may even be positioned lower than the arrow; a shoot-through pin mounted on a fine spring wire is furnished for that certain distance where the pin may be in the arrow's path. With this sight, I use the third method of compensating, provided by a special clicker.

As most sights have neither a tilting nor a longitudinal sliding feature, this last method might well be the one for most archers. A clicker with a quick means of adjustment will allow varying the length of draw to adjust the trajectory arc. My clicker is a homemade affair consisting of a metal finger soldered to a slightly cupped washer. This is secured to the window of the bow with a single screw so that the clicker may be pivoted toward the front or rear at will.

Klik-Draw by Hit mounted with one screw and Adjustable by Arrowhead taped or screwed on are commercial clickers of the readily adjustable type for sight archers. The Bunker-Klicker having a quick-slide bar for changing length of draw and installed below the arrow is a legal type for barebow.

One drawback to the adjustable clicker method is that the slightly shortened or lengthened draw may affect line and technique a bit. For most archers it should not be too much of a problem, but this is for you to evaluate.

The best way to make your atmospheric adjustment is to try a few shots at a familiar target of fairly long range before the shooting session and zero in to suit. ←

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**T**HE HUSHED audience in the huge Las Vegas Convention Center exploded with a roar of approval as the last arrow flew for a perfect 300 -- a scene that was repeated seven times at the United States Open Indoor.

The first 300 belonged to California archer Tom Daley, and by the end of the next day he had been joined by Ivan Winder of Utah, Bob Lewis of California, Steve Robinson and Vic Berger. Lewis and Berger weren't satisfied to shoot just one 300; they shot two.

In both individual and team scores, California archers overwhelmed the competition. Six men of the top ten money winners and four of the five teams in the money were California shooters.

The American Open in Detroit's Cobo Hall was another California triumph. Tom Daley took the men's competition, winning a sudden death shoot-off from tournament

"It was really great," recalls Halter. "I could hold and aim, and the arrow was right there. It was like having a clicker in my hand instead of on the bow."

There were problems with it such as sore fingers. The release's ring cut into his finger, and after shooting 450 on a field round with tape-wrapped fingers, they were so sore and swollen he couldn't open the car door.

Halter decided there had to be a less painful way to

### Both Sides Behind The Record-Breaking Archery Innovation



*Vic Leach, PAA instructor, demonstrates use of release. He has brought up bow, set arm, lined up sight on the target; begins drawing, index finger braced by thumb.*

leader Ivan Winder. Denise Libby of Sacramento won everything in sight for the women with 296-295 individual rounds and, in the team shoot with Marge Lammers, a fantastic 299. Even the winners of the husband and wife trophy, Betty and Larry Clark, were Californians.

Some of the top scores were shot, I think, because these archers had mastered the plastic release.

What makes these plastic releases, more accurate than other releases?

"All other releases," says Dale Halter, original developer, "operate on a negative force. In other words, you must let up or let forward on them in order to release. This leads to loss of tension. With the plastic, you don't let up on anything. It's all positive force, because you are keeping a slow, constant tension coming back, giving a fast, clean release with no chance for your reaction to affect the arrow."

Like so many archers, Halter had trouble holding low on a target, then jerking the sight back to center as he released. He tried a prism and then the clicker, but was just exchanging one problem for another. A friend, Hank Roberts, introduced him a commercially made release.

shoot a release. In July, 1967, after some experimentation, he designed and made a plastic release, eliminating the ring. His field scores jumped into the 480s, but -- there were still sore fingers.

A year of trial and error developed a working design that suited him, although he wasn't happy with the plastic material of the release. During the 1968 California State Field Championship, the scores of Halter and Butch Rockford, a friend to whom Halter had given a release, drew much attention, and a number of archers went home with plastics in their pockets. One of these archers was Bob Lewis.

"By the end of 1968," commented Halter, "I had settled on three-fourths-inch plexiglass for the release material, cutting out the basic shape with a band saw. It takes a little over an hour to make each release, working it into shape with half a dozen different files, then buffing it to a smooth glass finish."

Betty Clark and Bob Lewis, now shooting his own modified version of Halter's release, spread the news about plastics during 1969 by winning practically every tourna-

ment. Betty won the state target, and took second in the state field.

She and Lewis both took firsts in the PAA-sanctioned Sacramento Open and Bonnie Bowmen Open. Then they headed for Las Vegas. At the United States Open both finished second, Betty only three points behind Ann Butz, and Bob a scant two points off the almost perfect weekend's shooting of Vic Berger.

After Las Vegas, Halter and Lewis decided to pool their ideas and resources in order to manufacture plastic releases in large quantities. This meant setting up a mold injection unit. Lewis located the mold while Halter spent ten hours filing and buffing a chunk of tool steel into a chrome-like finished release to use as a mold model. Now anyone can have a Halter & Lewis Original Hook.

Several archers who had obtained some of Halter's early

releases came up with variations of their own, most of which worked only for them. Two designs which have had success are the Score Release, used by Tom Daley and Ivan Winder; and the D-J Release, shot by Denise Libby and Vic Leach.

"The first thing I did when I decided to make a release," says Don Johnson, D-J manufacturer and Wilson Brothers representative, "was to try every release on the market, not just the plastic, until I formed an idea for a workable design."

The D-J is basically a horizontally held release, like Halter's, with the major difference in the one-fourth-inch longer hook.

The original design for the Score Release came from Mel Bradshaw, a non-archer, who overheard some fellow workers at Moab, Utah's Atlas Uranium Mine, discussing

# The Controversial Plastic Release

by Norma Ingalls

*From right: the development of the plastic release is shown, coming to final conformation for production type.*





At full draw, Leach is not settled in. Note that his three outer fingers still are extended slightly forward.

the plastic releases. Their feeling was to have a vertical release, held in the same position that the fingers were accustomed to holding the string, and an under-the-chin anchor. "Mel went home that night," relates Jim Carroll, California distributor for the Score, "and carved a model from a bar of soap. He showed it to Ivan Winder at work the next day. Ivan suggested some minor changes. They cast a release in plastic, and when Ivan started shooting it, he knew the idea would work."

At this point, Wayne Norton joined the group to do the fine designing of both release and mold, with Winder testing the various models until they arrived at the present design. With the addition of Bob Carroll, of Carroll Bows, to help set up distribution, the Score Release was on its way.

The big question is, can anyone pick up a plastic and shoot perfect scores with it?

Maybe, yes, maybe, no. No matter what kind of equipment is used, archery demands championship qualities to shoot top scores under the stress and strain of top money competition; a lousy shooter won't become an instant champion just because he carries a hunk of plastic in his hot little hand.

"The best way to master the plastic," says Johnson, "is to learn from someone who already uses it. Vic Leach is a perfect example of this. He's a top all-round archer, but he couldn't make the release work consistently. I stopped in at Frontier Archery in Sacramento, where he's the shop pro, spent half an hour watching him shoot and giving him pointers. A couple of days later he shot a 299 and since then several 300s."

Denise Libby, who set the archery world on fire in Detroit with her 299-296-295, has been shooting a plastic since February. What most people don't realize, however, is that she shoots almost as well with fingers.

"The advantage the release gives me," Miss Libby states, "is that it forces me to concentrate and aim. Anyone who shoots a plastic lives with the knowledge that the arrow is

gone if you allow your attention to wander for even a tenth of a second. And when an arrow is lost using the plastic, it may not even hit the target. It's kind of scary to use."

Even archers who have not been able to master the plastic (and there are a number of them) find that they benefit from just fooling around with one in their back yard.

"I'd developed a fine case of target panic," says one above average freestyler. "After shooting with a plastic release I found I could put that pin in the spot and really aim, even when using my fingers. But I'll be darned if I can group my arrows with any release I've tried."

Most archers aren't going to have a plastics expert around to give them aid and advice, so just how do you go about shooting a plastic release?

The plastic is held with the hook extending forward between the index and middle fingers, with the thumb bracing the back of the section on which the index finger is placed. The other three fingers are left slightly forward, barely touching the plastic.

If they apply any pressure before you're ready to shoot, the arrow will be gone, probably into the ground. Do your shooting about ten yards from the target. Be sure to use a bow or finger sling or you'll be treated to the sight of your bow bounding along after your arrow. At first it's helpful to use a lighter bow than you normally shoot.

Place the release's hook on the string below the arrow's nock, but don't begin your draw. Bring the bow up and set your arm, lining up sight and target; if you lose the arrow before you're ready, it now has a better chance of scoring. Carefully begin your draw, doing all the pulling with your index finger, being sure not to bring your hand directly toward your face.

If you trigger the release in mid-draw, your hand comes back with considerable force, and the nose and Adam's apple are prime targets.

Don Johnson displays his shooting form with his own D-J release. Some archers drill small hole in the plastic, place thong through the hole, then loop about the wrist.



Empire Archery group, first place team in U.S. Indoor Open with 1191 - only eight points off perfect - all use plastic releases. Clockwise from right are: Rich Dean, Don Moberg, Dale Halter, Bob Lewis.

Okay - you're almost at full draw. The angle of your wrist and hand is important in using the plastic, and you may have to exaggerate how straight you hold your wrist. Don't let it bend in toward your face.

At last you're all the way back. But where to anchor? This is a problem each archer must solve individually; usually you're at the normal low anchor with the string in front of your face, but the position of your hand is strange.

When you're settled in and your back tension feels good, check your aim and slowly bring in the other three fingers, gently squeezing off the release (in the same manner that you squeeze a gun's trigger). The arrow's gone!

Until you've mastered the plastic, you'll get a sharp backward snap of both head and hand. The arrow leaves the bow so rapidly there's no time for your reaction to affect its flight. From now on it's a matter of practice.

Vertically held release operates same as the horizontal; draw with index finger, braced with the thumb, squeeze off with middle, third fingers, as Skip Ingalls shows.



The D-J and Original Hook releases both are used in the horizontal hold, while the Score type is vertical, but all have aided top archers to rack up perfect scores.



Leach drops the outer fingers, is ready to start applying pressure with middle finger, as is explained in text.

There are drawbacks to using the plastic. Tremendous amounts of concentration are involved and it's plain scary to look at that hook on the string and know what you've got to do to make it work. Another problem is string breakage.

"It isn't the plastic so much that breaks the string," states Halter, "as the pressure on the nocking point and the arrow coming off the string so fast and clean."

Many plastic users serve their strings with monofilament, but Halter uses tightly wrapped thread serving with dental floss wrapped around an inch above and below a brass and rubber clip-on nocking point. His strings last the equivalent of 10-15 PAA rounds.

Don Johnson feels his string will last through a fifty-six field target round, while some archers go to the extreme of changing strings after each PAA round. The moral is - never get caught without one or two ready-to-shoot strings in your quiver.

Most archers who shoot plastics drop to a lighter bow in order to better control the release, which is a disadvantage for shooting outdoors, as is the fact that, when shooting a plastic release, you might lose as much as ten yards on your sight.

Contrary to most opinion, the plastics are not free of sore, swollen fingers when first learning to shoot with the release. One finger takes the full stress of pulling the weight of the bow, and until it builds up to the strain, will give the archer some trouble.

During the American Indoor, an unofficial petition to outlaw the release was put into circulation but didn't get too far. There have been occasional rumors and mutterings against the plastics, but according to the present definition of releases in the NFAA and PAA regulations, the plastics are the most legal ones in use. The only way the plastic

Continued on page 68

By Donna J. Meadors

# PROFILE OF A CHAMP: Bob Elliott

ONE-QUARTER Cheyenne, an almost straight A student at East Los Angeles College with a major in forestry and game management, 23-year-old Bob Elliott is a highly motivated ex Air Force staff sergeant. Several years ago he told his mother some day BOW & ARROW would profile him, and he got here by being the top national collegiate male shooter for 1970.

"I have been shooting ever since I was a little kid, but I didn't get really interested in the sport until I got in college. My dad and I used to shoot together, and he always beat me. I did want to beat him. Still do. We would shoot at cigarettes on boxes and hunt deer together.

"Dad was in a car accident, hurt his back and can't shoot now. He says for me to just wait, he will take it up again some day," says Elliott, who isn't standing still for anybody.

This year he took first place at Citrus College's SCJC tournament with a 236. He took third place in a Pasadena Star FITA shoot with a 1116 — his first effort with this shoot. He emerged winner of the recent U.S. Intercollegiate tournament with a 2108. Elliott racked up three first places at the Whittier Narrows in American rounds with an average of 754 and took third place at Montana State in a clout round.

In 1966, he took first with a 754 American in the San Bernardino Valley College Invitational tournament and this year his 786 was high American at East Los Angeles City College. In 1968, he took fifth place in the Salinas National with 2364.

His interest in the sport was encouraged by Mrs. Eva Crum who was teaching the archery class at East Los Angeles. "I bought a Pearson Lord Mercury, thirty-seven pounds. I started out with wooden shafts, then I bought a dozen Herter shafts. Finally I went to Kittridge's and bought some Easton shafts. I started with 24 RST, then I went to XX75, then to X718/14.

"I use a completely under the chin anchor now. I used to hook behind my



Elliott has returned to Richards bow, favors X718/14 Easton shafts, as shown.

ear. Mrs. Crum referred me to Norm Richards, a bowyer who gives lessons on an appointment basis. He is a one-man business. We don't go out on the field. I go to his shop and ask questions, and he gives me pointers.

"I would like to go to the University of Arizona. Cost is a factor for me, so I'm hoping for an archery scholarship. I would like to learn more. What I know about archery I have picked up by watching and reading," Elliott says.

He favors an open-hand grip. "I shoot a wide, open stance compared to most shooters. I picked up Keagy's power archery in an oblique way and feel comfortable with it.

## Father/Son Competition Aimed This Young Man Toward A Championship!

"I freeze right above the center of the target. I really have to force myself to bring it down. I don't know why I freeze, but I understand everyone goes through this at one time or another.

"I let myself freeze on the spot, then just tilt down from the waist. The important thing is to keep your shoulders straight and keep your head in line with the bow.

"I used to drop my bow arm, but corrected that by concentration. I would like to find a professional coach who could pound into my head what I'm doing wrong."

Elliott, from Montebello, California, is six feet, one inch tall with dark brown hair, blue eyes and a slender build. With a wild imagination, he has a sense of humor that livens the shooting line.

"At the United States Intercollegiate meet at San Bernardino I had a gold good luck medallion of praying hands. Half the people there were looking at it. It wrapped around the string when I was getting ready to shoot, and I didn't notice it. The arrow took off and so did the medallion. We found it laying behind the target. That happened twice. I had another one just slip off on me.

"Chuck Trafford had a tantrum mat made out of vinyl, and we would go and stamp on that when things went wrong," confides Elliott.

Elliott has gone from a forty-pound Indian hunter to a Lord Mercury — which was sent to him in the service and got smashed en route — to a Richard's Fantastic 37, then to a Pro-Medalist, with which he couldn't break 280 on which he finally discovered he had twisted the limbs. He went back to the Richards, and is waiting for Norm Richards's new take-down bow which is being made to his specification at forty-one pounds.

"I shoot at Downey Indoor Archery. I met Don White there who goes to Cyprus college. He shoots two points away from me. We work together and help each other's shooting.

"I changed my anchor, because I wasn't getting the amount of yardage I wanted. I could only get about fifty yards out of my Pearson. I saw everyone else using the under-the-chin and it looked good.

"I used to play football in school, but I enjoy archery more. You are not always getting bruised and beaten and worried about someone running over you.

"I think if the colleges tried a little harder, they could get archery really going. It needs a big boost plus more funds. Archery falls now into the women's physical education section. At our school, we had to fight to get an article on my winning the Intercollegiate title into the school paper. It seems to me the papers are willing to show demonstrations, but how often do you get the chance to see three or four hundred kids out on a field participating in a sport?" Elliott wonders.

He recalled the time several archers went to a nearby high school to give an archery demonstration and pleaded with the teachers and audience to call, if they needed any help at all. They aren't holding their breath anymore. This recollection was in answer to Don White's suggestion, which is often heard, that it would be a good idea to go around to the high schools and give archery demonstrations.

Both shooters raised their eyebrows over the new plastic releases. "Some newcomers come in, using the release and wipe us out. Here we are with our sticky fingers. However, you get some of them outside, and they can't hit the broad side of the fence," Elliott concludes. "I shot a Golden Key release and it completely ruined my style. When I quit using it, I had to start all over.

Bob Elliott is shown, at right, after an obviously successful hunt for mule deer in 1968. He was based in Montana with USAF at time.

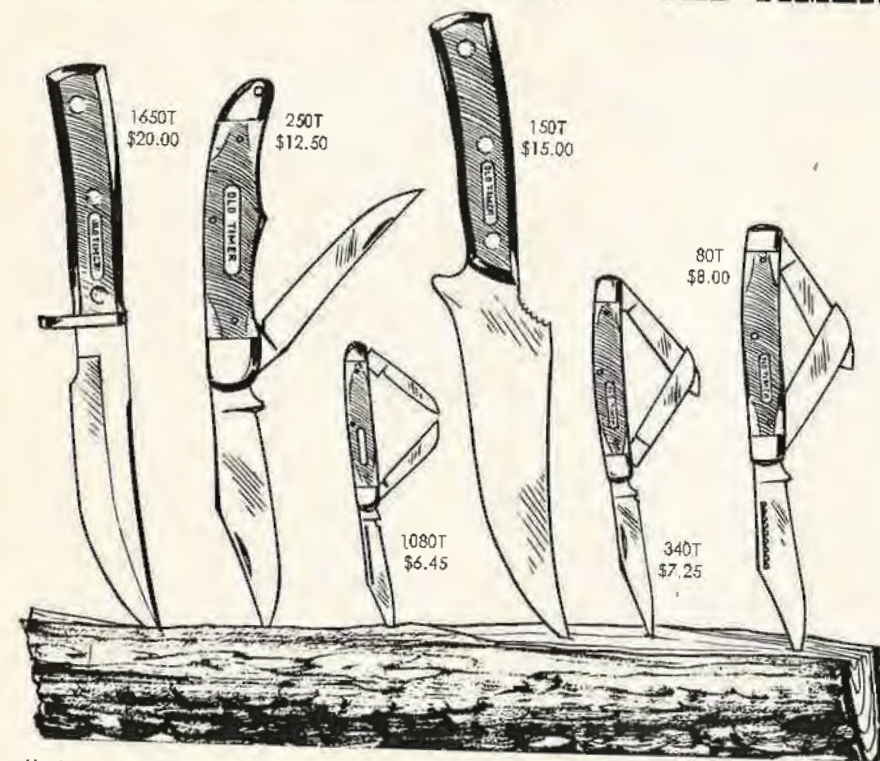


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## PROFILE OF A CHAMP

Continued from page 59

"I think a person really learns a lot from archery. Good sportsmanship for starters. A shooter learns how to conduct himself by watching others. Meeting people from other areas improves his personality. The idea of a goal, something to achieve, is important for a person. For instance, a person starting out now has a chance for the Olympics.

"I think colleges should have more tournaments. We tend to shoot only in the springtime, but this is one sport that can go all year around."

Last summer, Elliott worked as a volunteer archery instructor for the Boy Scouts, in Glacier Park, Montana. He worked at the park as a guide and set up the archery program for the Boy Scout camp just outside the park.

"I used to make up stories for the kid's evening campfire." He told them a story about an old Indian ghost that roamed the area, looking for all the parts of a body he had dismembered. Later that evening, Elliott put on his full Indian regalia, tied a chain around his ankle and went through the camp hopefully moaning, "Wwwwwhuh! Wwwwwhuh!"

"This kid stuck his head out of the tent and looked at me. I think he is still screaming. I thrust my head inside his tent and there were four little bodies just shaking," he recalls. "Then I worked my way up the age groups and when the older kids woke up they just looked at me and said, 'Aah, where's your horse, Tonto?'"

Elliott writes poetry, short stories, collects Indian stories and is a good story teller, a unique occupation nowadays.

"If I wasn't shooting, but stopped to watch where a few fellows were shooting and they were within a few points of each other, I would tend to watch the underdog and bear down for him," he says.

"My main point is practice. Don't give up. When I shoot, I use Hamilton P23 plastic vanes when shooting outside and 2 1/2-inch parabolic feathers inside.

"I first check my string hand, position my bow handle, extend my arm, draw back low to insure a full draw. As I settle down on the kiss button, I line the string up with the center of the bow. Then I sight, check the string, sight, and all the time I'm thinking aim and pull. As I hold and hold and hold and pull, I concentrate on the center of the target. In a tournament, I hold for at least five or seven seconds." His tongue has a tendency to come out about five seconds after his release, if that is any help to anyone else.

His theory: "A beginner should find someone better to shoot against. However, it doesn't matter how far along you are, if you shoot against someone better, you always learn something." ←

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The high rollers and sandbaggers will have some keen competition as well as a new flight assignment system. It has been devised to keep the sharpies on their toes.

By use of a flight system for scoring and prize distribution, even a mediocre shooter has a chance to get into the chips. And, with the craze over the new artificial releases that seem to be coming out in every size and shape, the old pros will have their hands full keeping a newcomer from busting the 600 mark and walking off with top money.

Here's a break-down on how the \$20,000 prize money will be divided among the shooters:

In the men's competition, there will be \$10,000 in prizes, running through twenty-fifth place. First place will be awarded \$2,000, while the shooter two dozen spots down the ladder will receive \$100.

For the lady archers, cash money will go to the first twelve places, with the top woman's archer receiving \$750.

In the team event, the top men's team can win \$400 and the winning girls can take home \$250.

The amateur shooter will be awarded trophies for men, women and team wins.

The 1971 shoot will prove to be even better than the inaugural shoot, especially with the addition of a new co-sponsor, the Thunderbird hotel. Note the room rates: they are far more reasonable than those at the '70 bash.

Joe Johnson will again act as tournament director and with the 1970 shoot under his belt, the '71 tournament should run like clockwork.

Register early to get in on the chance to win the all-expense paid trip for two.

# LAS VEGAS



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On the famed 'Vegas Strip' is the Thunderbird Hotel, the host hotel for the 1971 U. S. Open.

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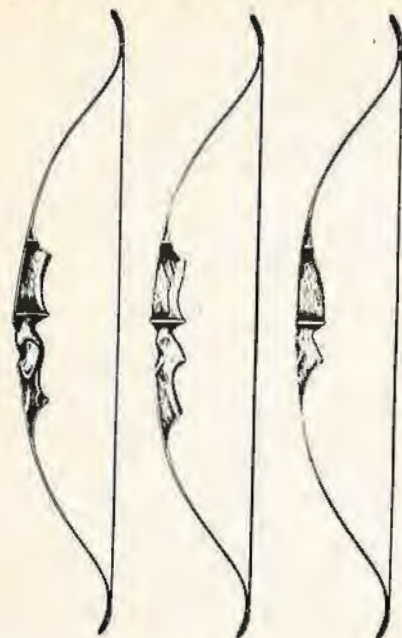
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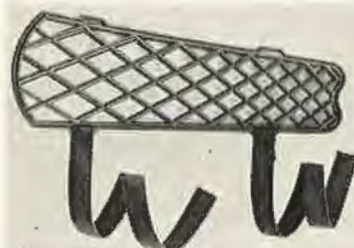
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**BOW BITS**



**MAIL POUCH**

Continued from page 6

the long extinct Irish eir. We have a pair of antlers from this beast in a local museum. They have been preserved in the peat bogs of Ireland.

They are fixed to the wall and still have sufficient strength to support their own weight, although there is a wire basket just below them. Their spread is over eleven feet and they weigh seventy-two pounds. Below is a mounted moose of moderate size, a large beast, I admit, but one could cradle the whole animal in the antlers of the Irish eir.

C. Palmer,  
Plymouth, Devon,  
England

(Which proves that the first one doesn't stand a chance!)



**FAMILY SPORT**

I have been hunting with the bow for four years and have gotten a doe and a spike buck. I taught my wife to hunt; she didn't get anything the first two years, but last year, on the first day of hunting season in Vermont, she got a five-point buck. We had our two bucks mounted side by side.

Beware, you men hunters; if you teach your wife to hunt, this may happen to you! But I am proud of her!  
Ray Huntley,  
Souhbury, Connecticut

**INVENTION ROUNDUP**

I have compiled a booklet covering archery inventions patented in the United States during 1969. A patent for an invention is a grant by the government to the inventor, his assigns or heirs of certain exclusive rights to his invention for a term of seventeen years, throughout the United States.

Patent Office records rarely show whether an invention is in production. To reach an inventor or his assignee, if the address in the patent summary is insufficient, write him in care of the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, being sure to cite the patent number.

Stanley Garil,  
Washington, D.C.

(Reader Garil is a research specialist, who deals with such patents and similar works. For a copy of his booklet, send fifty cents to Stanley Garil, 825 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Apt. 611, Washington, D.C. 20037.)

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PLASTIC RELEASE Continued from page 57



Now begins the slow squeeze that turns the release to the right, letting the string go suddenly with no chance for archer to react and affect the flight.

could be effectively outlawed is to do away with all releases.

"I just don't think it's right," comments one archer, "when guys like Vic Berger and Steve Robinson, who have worked hard for years to shoot like they do, are completely wiped out at a tournament by not just one archer, but two or three, that nobody ever heard of before, just because they're using that plastic release."

This archer feels so strongly about plastics that he learned how to shoot one (299 PAA) so he could argue intelligently against their use.

AIAA leagues and individual shops that pay money for 298-299-300 PAA indoor rounds will be hurting in the wallet as they get hit with more and more high scores shot with plastics. One way they can protect themselves is to lower the amount of cash awards and give one per year to an archer.

Various suggestions to decrease the chances for high scores are to make the PAA 5 ring smaller; shoot more than one round a day in money competition; and score the number of spots shot in the field and hunter rounds. But can this be done without penalizing the archer who chooses not to shoot the plastic?

Changes will have to be made and a period of adjustment will take place. Any technological advancement draws criticism and fear of change as with the aluminum instead of wood shafts and fiber-glassed recurves versus self-wood straight bows. Remember how just a few years ago an archer using a sight was an outcast in his own club?

"Archery has been trying to draw spectators," Dale Halter said recently, "and when you get spectators, television and newspaper coverage come with the crowd. The only way we can do this is to have more archers shooting top competition." ←



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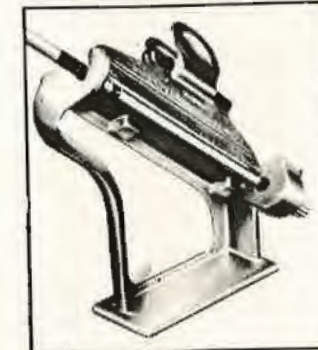
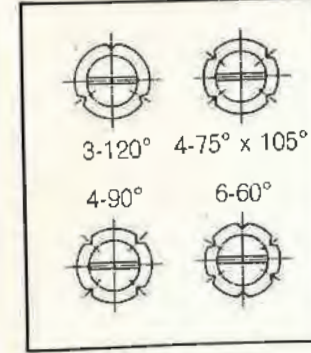
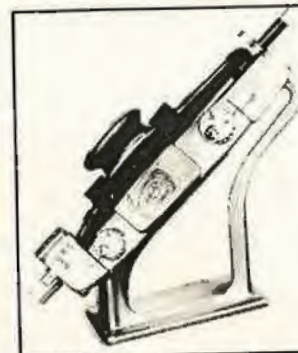
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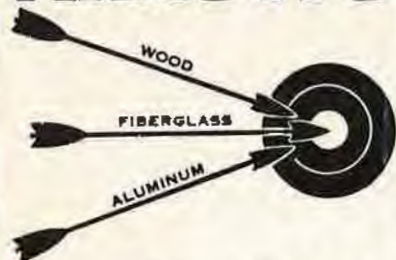
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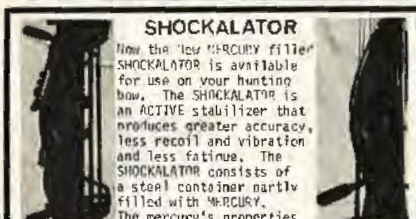
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## The Pro Score

### PREXY VIEWS

PAA president Dave Staples, writing elsewhere, states, "Archers seem to show more disappointment to lack of media interest than perhaps any other current phase of our sport." He adds to his thesis the contention that, "Archery must have the information that is to be requested available at a moment's notice. Right now, archery does not!" So true!

George Catlin, promotional director of the PAA, and president Staples have the correct attitude. While you are trying to build an interest in a sport, it is up to you, the individual or the group, to go to the media with all the information you have and be as accessible as possible.

The PAA is aware of and working on this most important facet of the sport. Unfortunately, the NAA still persists in disseminating its information in one organ, repeatedly ignoring requests for news. Their attitude is that it is up to the media to come to them. The staff at Bow and Arrow deplores this archaic approach and hopes that in the future the NAA will follow the fine lead established by the PAA in organizing on a national and local level, groups and persons whose responsibility it is to provide information and assist in all efforts to publicize archery activities.

### TARGET CONTRACT

The Professional Archers Association has signed a new contract for an outdoor target face. Saunders Archery Company of Columbus, Nebraska, will produce the official face for the PAA outdoor round.

Under this contract, significant changes have been made in the appearance of the target to enhance its value to the viewing spectator, according to George Catlin of the PAA.

"The five ring has been changed to an all-white area where there previously was a small white aiming spot. To further amplify the new white center, the demarcation lines separating the four and three rings have been changed from white to gray, moving the visual emphasis to the center ring," Catlin reports.

These changes have been in the making since 1967 and have been under extensive evaluation by both

shooters' groups and tournament officials. The target changes are expected to increase the effectivity of the outdoor round.

The new faces are being used primarily at PAA-sanctioned event for the 1970 summer tour to allow stocks of the old faces to be depleted at club levels and other non-sanctioned competitions. It is expected that current balances will be exhausted by late this year and the phase-in of the revised target faces will be complete at that time, according to Catlin.



### OLD PRO

Fred Bear's Museum in Grayling, Michigan, boasts a full-sized action mount of a leopard and a baboon in mortal combat, taken by bowhunter Dick Mauch of Bassett, Nebraska, last year in Mozambique.

The leopard measures seven feet four inches from nose to tail. His live weight was close to 200 pounds.

The baboon is a natural prey for the leopard who will chase him up a tree and follow him until he jumps out. Once on the ground again, the leopard's speed enables him to readily catch the slower baboon.

Wildlife observers report that when a baboon is attacked, members of the group will come to his assistance, and that three baboons with their sharp teeth can tear a leopard to bits.

Bear's Museum holds the collection of game animals he has taken with bow and arrow in over forty years on four continents. The museum houses not only a collection of animal mounts, but the world's largest private collection of archery artifacts and history. ←

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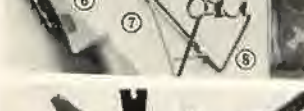
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  - Whisper Arrow Rest**—straight as a bullet flight, quiet ②
  - New Ventilated Arm Guard**—easy on, easy off, adjustable ③
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  - Nok-Set**—positive nocking point, can't slip ⑭
  - Brush-Off**—deflects brush, crawl in close ⑮
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## CLUB CALL!



### BRONX ARCHERS

The first Metropolitan Open was held this year with Nick Durso of Ozone Park, New York, winning with a 292 score. Bill Keyes of Elmira, New York, wound up with a second for 289, while Dave Kiang of Brooklyn took third with a 286.



### TRI STATE CHAMPIONS

The Chalk N'Cue archers of Joliet, Illinois, broke an eight-year team score record at the Tri-State shoot this year at the Chicago Amphitheatre Sportsman show. Their compiled score of 1702 out of a possible 1800 pushed them ahead of the Golden Arrow Archers, who took second with 1696, and the Hoosiers' third-place 1690.

Shown from left are Ken Kirkland, Ron Gabel, Wayne Burk, Tony Muhich, Larry Dooley, Erv Spencer and Chuck Ladas, sponsor, shown kneeling.



### VIETNAMESE CROSSBOW

Crossbows and lances boasting eight-inch iron blades are Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1 Field Force Artillery's latest additions at Nha Trang, the Republic of Vietnam.

They represent the unit's efforts to assist Cai Cai, a Montagnard refugee village located twelve miles south of Nha Trang.

"We set about putting our assistance on a permanent footing," said Sergeant First Class Donald L. Radford, a native of Lawton, Oklahoma, and one of the leading forces in the battery's work at Cai Cai.

The lances and crossbows stored in the artillery communications office are one example of these efforts. Both are traditional Montagnard weapons for war and hunting and naturally many a GI would like nothing better than to bring one back to the States as a souvenir.

Under an informal arrangement between the battery and the village, any crossbows and lances the refugees are willing to part with are turned over to the battery. It, in turn, sells them to the troops for roughly \$10 per lance and \$6 per crossbow and bamboo quiver of arrows. A penny-pinched GI may even select a particular crossbow or lance at the communications office and postpone payment until payday.

### TURKEY HUNTING

From the Silverado Archery Club of Napa, California, comes the following information: "A total of thirty-five states will offer spring and fall hunting this year. The turkey has been hunted ever since the pilgrim days and it naturally has become the wariest of game birds. It is said that when a turkey sees you, he turns and runs without looking back until he is in the next country - unlike other game, for example a curious deer. Also interesting is the note that fewer than ten percent of the hunters of the bird used calls, but those who did, killed eighty-five percent of the turkeys taken."

**Yes, I know about Saunders Matts but what's he done for target shooters?**



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  - New Saunders Kisser**—easy on, stays put ⑧
  - New Finger Sling**—allows fully relaxed hand ⑨
  - New Nylon Brush Rest**—cuts arrow wobble ⑩
  - Bow Mate Clicker** signals as full draw reached ⑪
  - Nok-Set**—easy to apply, positive ⑫
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- ...and there's Saunders 30" Matt—popular practice size; portable, arrow-saving, metal Matt Easel stand; a complete line of target faces; and your Saunders dealer can show you a few others. See him soon.

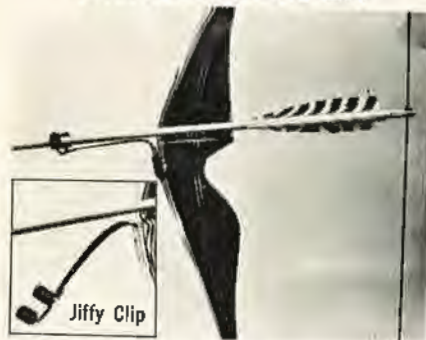
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## books for bowmen

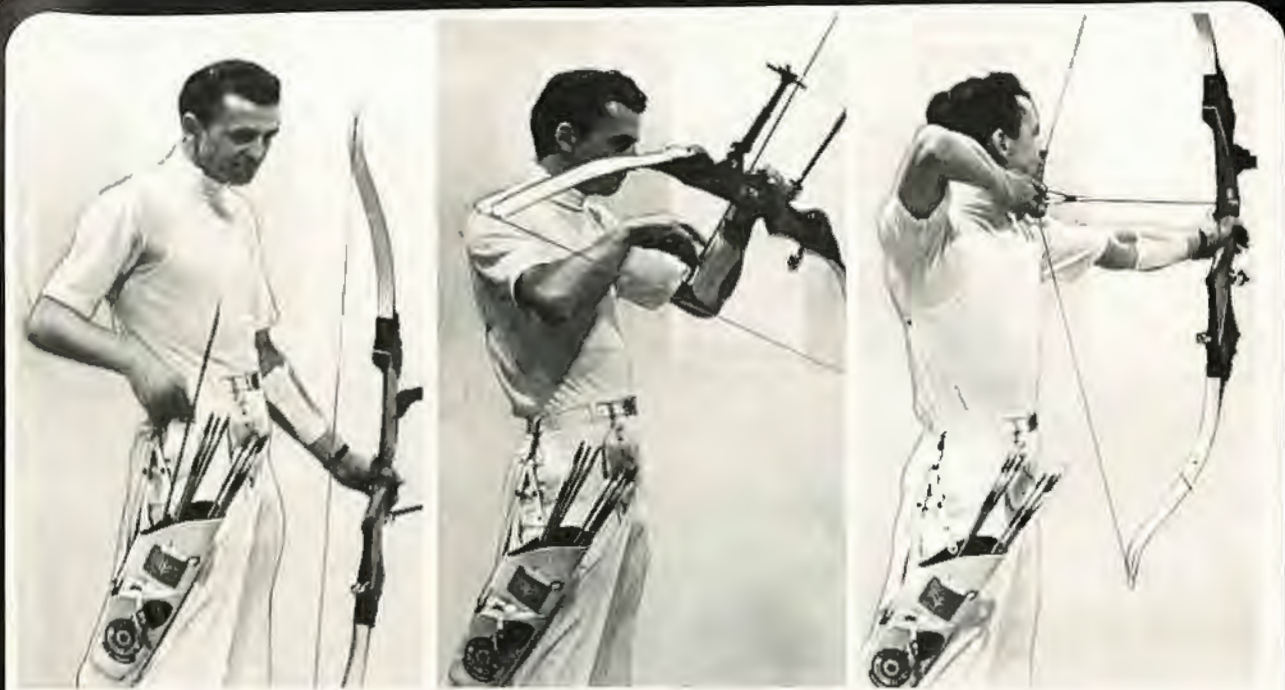


**POCKET GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKS;** Stackpole Books; \$2.95; 65 pp. While this book carries the name of no author, it does have an introduction by Marlin Perkins, host of the "Wild Kingdom" television series. He says, "I consider this volume of interest and value to all youths and to all outdoor-loving people, who enjoy hiking in the country. This is definitely a royal road to such knowledge."

This thin volume is divided into two parts, the first having to do with the tracks of small game, ranging from the field mouse through the wolf and cougar, while the segment is ended with a discourse on game tracking in winter by one Clyde L. Allison.

The second part is devoted to big game and covers sizes ranging from javelina through grizzly bear and elk. There also is a segment having to do with comparative tracks, illustrating the similarities of some and how they can be determined. It isn't likely that anyone is going to find any great comparison between the grizzly and the field mouse, but in some cases, it is difficult to tell the difference between two species.

Reproduction here of the accurate sketches of the various North American animals by Canadian artist Luis M. Henderson "offers an accurate visual identification," Marlin Perkins says in his introduction. "The sketches of tracks identify the signatures with the animals which made them. Pictures of comparative tracks are of particular value. The text gives facts, some of which are not widely known, about the creatures of nature." It won't be much good to the expert bowhunter, but it's a place to start for the neophyte. — DM.




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