

*The History
of the
Chicago Bow Hunters Inc.*

Bolingbrook, Illinois

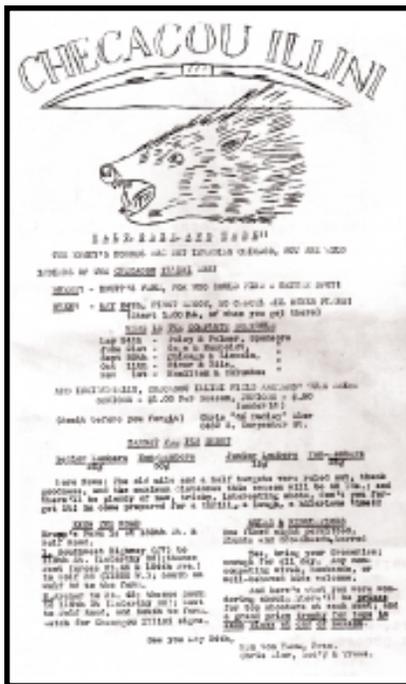
1939-1971

AS WE WERE

by Bob Jarosz

The year was 1939, child actress Judy Garland appeared in the musical "Wizard of OZ", movie "Gone with the Wind" comes out, first nylon stockings are marketed, Germany invades Poland and the Chicago Bow Hunters is born.

Just south of Palos Heights on 130th and Wolf Road on a farm that was known as "Krupps Place" a group of men were undertaking the formation of an archery club which was known as "**CHECAGOU ILLINI**". Today known as the Chicago Bow Hunters Inc.



First Newsletter

The men Rex Middleton, Jack Gardner, Bob Simmons, Fred Clark, Dr. Paul Baldwin, A.G. Russell and Ken Smith went about setting up and laying out a 28 target 'Rovin Range'. In 1939 there was no field archery as we know today, that didn't happen until the 1940's. Instead all the shoots were novelty's of some kind or another. During 1939 there were five shoots, a far cry from all the archery events we enjoy today.

The dues were an exorbitant \$1.00 a year, shooting fees were 25 cents for an adult member, 50 cents for a non member, juniors paid 10 cents. The range was rented for \$10.00 a year, this was the taxes on the whole farm.

The first officers of the club were president Rex Middleton, vice president Ken Smith and Sec. Treas. Jewel Gardner. They adopted as their emblem an Indian with bow upraised.

Before long the membership began to enlarge with the addition of about thirty new members including long time members Ernie and Peggy York (Life members living in Mo.), DeWayne and Evie Gardner (Life members living in Wisc.), and the Late Donald Schram (Founder and owner of the Custom Archery Shop in Forest Park, IL)

Throughout the war years in the 1940's the **CHECAGOU ILLINI** managed to hold shoots at Krupps farm range and later on land near 127th Street in Orland Park owned by Dr. R. D. Paul now a member. The range was setup early in the morning and taken down and stored after a day of shooting. The contests were varied with marked distances and the Rover Round with unknown distances, when a bowman who won the last target picked the distance for next one as they progressed around the course. Such practice led to a certain standardization.



Earl Ewert in the 1940's

In the mid-forty's the club changed its name to the **CHICAGO FIELD ARCHERS**. And in 1949 the IAA FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP was held at their range in Palos. The president that year was Dr. Paul Baldwin and Vice Pres. was Earl Ewert (CBH Life MEMBER now living in Florida).

1950's

THE FIFTIES....Those fabulous fifties, General Eisenhower became our 34th president, the Hula-Hoop was invented and the top song for 1951 was "Tennessee Waltz" by Patti Page. On the archery scene, the recurve bow is beginning make itself know

By 1951 the members "CHICAGO ILLINI" changed the club's name to the CHICAGO BOW HUNTERS, in 1952 and they were once again homeless, as the land the club's range was on, was up for sale. About this time, three members, Evie Gardner, DeWayne Gardner and Jerry Amster shot with Julius Butler at Oakbrook . 1953 President Donald Schram was introduced to Mr. Butler by Jerry Amster and finally a section of his land in Oakbrook was leased to the club for it's range. It was located west of York road, north of 31st street, with Salt Creek on its west boundary, Julius Butler was honored as the club's honorary vice-president, a title he held for many years.

In about 1955 the club hosted a novelty shoot. the targets were hand drawn and painted replicas of North American animals done by our many talented club members. On the morning of the shoot in April, rain almost submerged the range, with the Salt Creek going to flood stage, the contestants likened it to shooting in a swamp, the name stuck and from then on the shoot was called the SWAMP SHOOT".

1959 saw the club holding a series of club shoots and invitationals, among them was a tournament called a "**Blackout Shoot**", archers went out on the field range after dark with flashlights and shot usually 14 targets, they were great fun and were all well attended. Among the winners of the June 13th Nite Shoot, in the CLASS, FREESTYLE-MEN, were George Frost with a score of 123 and DeWayne Gardner whose score was 112 and listed as winner in the class "Archer Men" was Harry Keck with a score of 66.

Also in 1959 the very first CBH Junior Shoot was held and listed as a 'howling success. There were 25 registered, with medals and ribbons awarded to the lucky winners. The youngest archer was just three years old. A special children's course was set up and adults were advised not to shoot on it. This much needed program was run by Jerry Monnett, with the help of 1959 president Ted Sward.

On Halloween 1959 the club's Social Committee organized a Masquerade Party, the food and drink were delicious and plentiful and the costumes were masterpiece's of hard work and imagination. Pat Schram was most appealing as a Skunk and won the ladies first prize of a martini, Jean Reimers won second prize of a clutch bag for her portrayal of "Daisy Mae" of Dog patch fame. Men's first prize went to Bill Smith for the impressive makeup job in his portrayal of a Mad Doctor, Earl and Barb Foster took second as a pair of Egyptians.



CBH members personal accomplishments in the 50's were; George Chamberlain-1958 Aggregate Bow Hunting Champion of the IAA, Special Merit Plaque from IAA for work on animal awards, IAA President. DeWayne Gardner-1953 Aggregate Freestyle Champ of IAA, 1954 Aggregate Freestyle champ of IAA. 1957-57 IAA President. Evie Gardner-1953 Target Senior Champion of IAA-140 yards Clout Shoot. Don Schram-1952 Aggregate Instinctive Champ of IAA, IAA President. Bruno Dudonis- 1953 Aggregate Instinctive Champ of IAA, 1953 Instinctive Target Champ of IAA. Marilyn Myrick- 1953 Aggregate Freestyle Champ of IAA.

1959 ended with the **Chicago Bow Hunters** membership soaring to almost **600** members.

1960's

1963-CBH introduces a bold new concept for an archery tournament. **THE 3D ANIMAL SHOOT.....**

Swamp Shoot 1963 was the first time an archery club in this area and perhaps the entire country held a complete 28 target archery shoot using freestanding 3D animal targets.



The previous year, 1962 saw the attendance of the club's biggest shoot drop to 294 shooters from 408 in 1961. Several reasons were cited for the attendance drop. **1.** The weather, (it was overcast until noon). **2.** A trophy shoot elsewhere. **3.** Only medals given as awards. Whatever the reason, the club officials were concerned.



That year, club member and Broadhead Range officer, Carl (Swede) Hultgren was developing a new type of target, the three-dimensional animal target. It was constructed of a wire skeleton, stuffed with excelsior and covered with burlap and paper-mache then painted the color of the animal. As a test, his creation was incorporated in the Swamp Shoot that year (1962). It was placed on target number 15, the target Carl routinely maintained. The results were that the archers loved it, and so the idea of holding a complete 3D Shoot was born.

In the July 1962 **"BOW BANTER"**, Vice President John Krbec wrote the message for vacationing president Jack Steinhof. In his letter to the members he wrote, *"maybe it's time we start promoting some super-duper colossal type shoot to improve our attendance"*.

And so with blessing of the Board and the hard work of the members, 28 3D animal targets were constructed, under the direction of **Carl Hultgren** and Tournament Chairman **Tony Drewitz** and his committee.

The word of our 3D brainchild spread quickly throughout the archery community and at the 1963 Swamp Shoot we hosted 468 fellow archers (back then it was a one day shoot).

The next year, 1964, was even better as bus loads of archers from all over converged on CBH's Swamp Shoot. When it was over, 589 archers attended. The favorite target that year was a 10 foot standing bear, which was shot at from across the club's pond. To retrieve one's arrows from a high hit a ladder had to be used.



Early Handmade 3D Targets

In the spring of '64 we received notice from Julius Butler and Company that the lease for the range would not be renewed beginning in 1965. A land acquisition Committee was set up headed by Donald Schram and Bob Mull to find a suitable location for a new archery range. But until they did and for most of 1965 we were once again without a home.

1965

*"As the years go by, these two words, **"founding members"** will become more meaningful. When new archers join our ranks and see the badges containing these words, the prestige should be well deserved and earned. This is the shining hour for our club and where we go from here depends on each and every one of us."*
(Peggy York, Secretary-March 1966)

Our newly appointed Land Committee, headed by **Don Schram**, was busy reviewing some 90 plus pieces of property made available to us through personal contact and from an ad placed in a major Chicago paper. In March the choice was narrowed down to two locations, and the membership was briefed on the choices.

Meanwhile club president **Bob Mull** and his staff of officers had the difficult task of trying to keep the members interest up even though we were without a range. Other clubs in our league, sympathetic to our situation offered CBH members use of their ranges for open shooting. This gesture was well accepted by the club.

At the banquet in January, which was held at the Midwest Country Club, some 90 archers and friends were on hand to applaud the accomplishments of fellow CBH members. Twenty members received Big Game Awards for taking 19 deer and 4 bears. In addition 13 Small Game Pins were awarded. The 1964 Aggregate Champions were also crowned. They were, Instinctive shooters, **Bob Mull** and **Terri Czekanski**. Over on the Freestyle side, **Stan Swiston** and **Pam Krbec** were the winners. In February we entered both instinctive and freestyle teams to shoot in the **Chicago Sports Show** archery tournament and took a second place.



1965 CBH Sports Show Team

Finally in June, the Land Committee's choice was unveiled to the membership with a meeting featuring, movies and slides of the property. It was located two miles north of Rt. 66 (now I-55) and 3/4 mile east of Rt. 53. In his letter to the members, **Don Schram** writes, *"Our purchase will be 30 acres and a 1 1/2 acre easement or road into the area. The 30 acres lie in the back end of a horse farm and is covered with large oak trees-a creek runs through the center and we are bordered on two sides by woods. The terrain is ideal for our sport and will provide everything we desire, I doubt if we will ever get our feet muddy again..."*

With just 80 members (**founding members**) participating, negotiations began in earnest. Finally in late summer the deal



Doc Hopkins

was finalized and the work of building a range and club began. A fence had to be erected around our perimeter. And in just two weekends the field range was built. By mid September all was ready, President **Bob Mull** had the honor of shooting the first arrow on our new range. There were several invitationals and club shoots held late that year. But we were still without a clubhouse. On December 11-12, 1965, twenty CBHers dismantled the clubhouse in Oakbrook, and under the supervision of **Bob Mull** and **Pat Maude**, prepared it for transit to its new home. On a cold, snowy January weekend in 1966 it was erected by willing, hard working members. (this clubhouse was moved in 1977 to make way for our new building, and is now our repair and storehouse)



With **Tony Drewitz** the new president and **Harry Keck** VP, the attention now turned to the road leading into our property and the parking lot. **Jack Steinhofner** and **George Chamberlain** began getting bids to have the road and parking lot graded and finished with stone. The lowest bid was accepted and club member **Doc Hopkins** loaned the club the money for the project. Later in the year **Pat Maude** came out with his tractor and put in the bunkers for a broadhead range.

The year ended with a venison dinner held at the clubhouse. There was no electricity as yet, so **Jack Steinhofner** furnished the power with his generator. **Doc Hopkins** brought candles for each table. **Ernie** and **Peggy York**, **George** and **Anita Chamberlain**, **Doc Hopkins** and **Marilyn Hassiepen** spent the afternoon getting the clubhouse in order along with cooking the venison. There were door prizes for the adults, and gifts for the children. It was also young **Carol McGarvey's** birthday so **Evie Gardner** presented her with a decorated cake.

In his final letter to the membership as his term of office expired, Pres. **Tony Drewitz** writes, *"it has been a very productive year, and looking back at some of the things we did really proves it. The road, the finishing of the clubhouse and the personal pride that people have taken in maintaining their targets, leaves me with a feeling of pride in our club."*

1970's

1970, **Art Monnett** began his second term as CBH president and **Stan Swiston** was VP. The Tournament chairman that year was **Chuck Maloney** and Range officer **Al Preslicka**, with **Don Dvorak** the Broadhead range officer.

On April 12th, TV actor **James Drury**, (*TV's Virginian*) traded in his guns for a bow and arrow when he paid a visit to our range and shot the field course with several members. Mr. Drury, an avid archer who was appearing in a play at Pheasant Run Playhouse was also a member of Fred Bear's Sports Club.



James Drury, TV's Virginian

In preparation for the Swamp Shoot which was to be held on May 30 and 31 that year, several animal building work parties were organized, both at **Bob and Diane Fruhwirth's** home workshop and at our range as the weather got warmer. By now our the animals were made out of arrow saving Styrofoam.

The Swamp Shoot saw CBH playing host to the Chicago Tribune, a photographer and reporter were in attendance to record the days events for that papers Sunday supplement *Magazine Section*. The article entitled "**Move over Robin Hood**" came out in August and featured **Mike Filipiak and Susan (Marshall) Filipiak**.

On June 21st, in conjunction with an invitational 28 target Hunters round, the first annual **FUN FAIR** was held. This was a carnival type affair with games, arts and craft, white elephant and food booths. It was to be an annual affair and continued on for several more years.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

The year 1971 saw the beginning of a "Junior Archery Program" at CBH. All children 10-14 years of age are eligible to join. The Junior Archery class began on Sunday, April 4, and from that day they were to have their own every second Sunday of the month's Club Shoot. Sunday.

SWAMP SHOOT was a 28 TARGET SHOOT which was the "Junior Club Championship". Field, Swamp and 3D animal targets were shot from distances equal to Junior level. Lucky winners of first place trophies were Dean Hill, Steve Preslicka, Karen Preslicka and Gabe Gorge. Open on September 12th a Mini-Swamp Shoot was held. The same format (28-3-D animal) was used, but they were shot from mini-distances. A lot of excitement was building in our field as the day went on. It seemed as though a job had just been done for days since the beginning between Steve Preslicka and Dean Hill. The winners were not known until the very last target on the course a regular work from about ten yards. At twenty's and young Steve Preslicka was our victor.

 Chip Steinhilber	 Beth Fruhwirth, Nish Neuman, Karen Preslicka	 SherryLee Paeffl	 Dean Hill
 Jeff Jarosz	 Nancy/Andy Gorge	 Michael Neum	 Karen Neum
 Stephanie Taylor	 Carol/Ann Robinson	THOSE NOT PICTURED are Robert Allen, John & Heather Neuman, Lianne Neum and Daphne Fruhwirth.	
JUNIOR Committee - Bob & Diane Fruhwirth, Bob Gorge, Bob Jarosz			

1971 Junior Archers

1971, the president now was **Earle Ewert**, with **Jim Preslicka** VP. Jim was also named the SWAMP SHOOT co-ordinator for that year. That year also saw the reinstatement of the Youth Program, absent for several years. A committee made up of **Bob and Diane Fruhwirth, Bob Gorge, Bob Reed and Bob Jarosz** met and went about setting up a 14 target Junior Archery Range, a scaled down version of the adult range. Classification cards were issued to 21 children participating in the program. The shoots began on April 4th with a junior Field Round and were held thereafter on Club Shoot Sundays. In August a Junior Championship was held and the winners included **Dean Hill, Karen Preslicka and Jeff Jarosz**. September saw a Mini-Swamp Shoot being held, complete with 3D animal targets set at Junior distances.

Nineteen-seventyone was also a year laden with heavy expenses for CBH. The remodeling of the two ranges (Field and Broadhead), for reasons of safety because of the urban development of the property bordering our range by Centex-Winston Development Co. The erecting of a six foot chain-link fence made necessary by the new environment thrust upon us and the installation of electricity. To offset the added expenses the social activities program was expanded to include, a Flea Market and Box Social, Fun Fair, Las Vegas Night and Square Dance. Plus a raffle and also prepayment for all the years' club shoots by all the members was made mandatory that year. This plus the usual 6 Invitationals help ease the clubs' financial burden.

At the club meeting on April 30th, **Evie Gardner, Pat Racine, Diane Fruhwirth, Mary Lou Merz** participated in a clever “TURN ON” skit written by **Dot Ewert**, to commemorate the official turning on of our newly installed electricity. **Earle Ewert** writes, “Electricity-something we’ve long dreamed of has finally become a reality, so has **electric bills** and a 6 foot freezer, refrigerator.”

Pres. Ewert wrote in his letter to the membership for the **BOW BANTER**, “*Would you believe We have a newly painted kitchen. Most new bales are now in target boxes. New tables are ready for the picnic area. Many new animals have been made and many more repaired. Much of the fence line has been cleared in preparation for erecting our new fence. Much of this work has been done over the past couple of months. We also had two fine work parties in the past two weeks. A good portion of our members are aware of these accomplishments because they did all this work. I believe CBH is the best archery club in the state.*”



1970 Club Champs

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*****Research material was back issues of the Bow Banter, History pamphlet “CBH in REVIEW” published in 1971 and an article entitled “HOW WE CAME TO BE” by long time Club Historian Annette Hamilton.***
