



## Our History, Our Heritage, and Our Heroes

To understand the story of the Pope and Young Club, we must begin by looking into the past. There, we will find the underlying purposes and deep-rooted reasons for its creation. As we approach the Pope and Young Club's 50th Anniversary, it is worth contemplating how we have arrived at this point in our history.

### PART 1

Widely considered one of the three most important developments in the advancement of early mankind (next to fire and speech), the bow and arrow has been in constant use for hundreds of thousands of years. As an implement of survival and warfare, the bow has been used by practically every culture to have existed, spanning the entire breadth of recorded history.

The abilities to master the art of shooting the bow and refine bow-making marked dominance of various cultures and clans throughout the world's history. The Chinese, Mongols, the Turks and, of course, the English-masters of the longbow-exerted power through warfare and mastery of the bow.

Native Americans had used the bow as a hunting and survival weapon for thousands of years prior to the "discovery" of our continent by Europeans. With the proliferation of firearms and the settlement of America, use of the bow steadily waned over a very brief period of time. North America's first bowhunters, Native Americans, gave up their crude bows and flint-tipped shafts. By the mid-1800s, bowhunting as a means of survival had all but vanished.

By the 1800s the bow had given way to firearms in England. Its use, however, still existed-mostly in the form of lawn archery games. Toxophilite clubs and societies held ongoing competitions and games.

Lawn archery laid roots on American soil as well, with select societies and social events.

At the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, two Confederate soldiers-brothers Will and Maurice Thompson-returned to their homeland of northern Georgia. The arduous journey on foot was complicated and slowed by Maurice's wounds (shot in the chest a year prior). Like much of the rest of Georgia, they found their old family plantation destroyed and in ruins. Without means to make a livelihood, stripped of their rights to own firearms by government regulation, and with

Maurice advised by doctors to live in the open air for the benefit of his permanently injured lung, the brothers took to the woods. They turned to the bow and arrow as their means of survival.

A few years later, Will and Maurice wandered south in Florida seeking milder climate and more abundant game. It was here where they really mastered the art of shooting bows. Focusing most of their hunting/food-gathering attention on birds, they became skilled at wing-shooting. From their adventures in Florida, Maurice would write the classic, "*The Witchery of Archery*." Later in life, Will would become a lawyer in Indiana and Maurice an accomplished author.

Thompson's book, *The Witchery of Archery*, stirred the imagination of thousands and sparked a resurgence in archery in North America. The Thompson brothers helped form the National Archery Association (NAA) in 1879, with Maurice being named the NAA's first president.

By the end of the Nineteenth Century, target archery was gaining small but significant popularity in North America.

At this same time, a different movement was developing-the idea of conservation was taking root in America. The conservation movement (read Pages from the Past in this issue) was being formed, chiefly by sportsmen, as a result of our country's century-old manifest destiny destruction and exploitation of wildlife and habitat. Integral in the conservation movement would be a "new" concept-a Sportsman's Code-of ethical, respectful hunting behavior.

Consider reading:

*The Witchery of Archery*, by Maurice Thompson (1878)

(Editor's Note: A downloadable PDF of the original book can be found at: <http://www.archive.org/details/witcheryofarcher00thomuoft> )



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## PART 2

A chain of events in the early part of the 20th Century shaped the rediscovery of the forgotten art of hunting with the bow and arrow.

In 1911 near Mt. Lassen in northern California, an Indian wandered south out of the wilds and was captured. Anthropologists brought this wild man to the University of California to study him. It was determined that he was from a thought-to-be extinct tribe, the Yahí, a small band of isolated Indians who had almost no contact with the "civilized" world.

The wild man was referred to as Ishi, which simply means "man" in the Yahí language, though no one knew his real name because he would never speak his own name. Ishi is considered to be the last truly primitive Indian in North America. He became the fundamental link transcending the gap between the primitive and the modern day rituals of hunting with the bow and arrow.

Dr. Saxton Pope arrived at the University as a surgeon and medical instructor in 1912. He was assigned as Ishi's physician. The wild man called Ishi was studied in great detail and lived at the University as an actual "living exhibit." Despite obvious and cumbersome language barriers, Pope and Ishi developed a friendship and Pope took an immense interest in the Yahí culture and how Ishi made bows and arrows and his hunting methods. In their few years together, Ishi would confide in Pope his knowledge of life, his people's ancient art of making bows and tools, and the rituals and ways of the hunt. Ishi considered Pope to be some sort of medicine man-not because of his medical expertise, but because of the sleight-of-hand magic tricks that Pope would perform.

The news of Ishi attracted Will "Chief" Compton, who met Pope and began assisting in teaching Pope shooting and archery equipment making. In 1915 at a Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco,

Compton met a young newspaper man named Arthur Young who took an interest in a Japanese archery exhibit. Young was a tremendous athlete-he played water polo, was a champion competition swimmer and an exceptional competitive shooter with both rifle and pistol. Compton introduced Young to Ishi and Pope, and, in the time that followed, the four made several trips into North California hunting-with Ishi and Compton as the teachers and Pope and Young as the eager students.

With no natural immunities to "white man" diseases, Ishi became more and more sick. In 1916, just five years after stepping out of history, he succumbed to tuberculosis.

Of Ishi's death, Pope later wrote: *"And so, stoic and unafraid, departed the last wild Indian of America. He closes a chapter in history. He looked upon us as sophisticated children - smart, but not wise. We knew many things, and much that is false. He knew nature, which is always true. His were the qualities of character that last forever. He was kind; he had courage and self restraint; and, though all had been taken from him, there was no bitterness in his heart. His soul was that of a child, his mind that of a philosopher."*

Consider reading:

**Yahí Archery**, by Dr. Saxton Pope (1918)

<http://www.archive.org/details/yahiarcherysaxton00poperich>

**The Medical History of Ishi**, by Dr. Saxton Pope (1920)

<http://www.archive.org/details/medicalhistoryof00pope>

**Ishi in Two Worlds**, by Theodora Kroeber (1961)

**"A Remembrance of Ishi"**, by Saxton Pope II, in the Club's 1st Edition record book (1975)

**"The Ishi Award"** in the Club's 1st Edition record book (1975)



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As noted in Part 2, a chain of events in the early part of the 20th Century shaped the rediscovery of the forgotten art of hunting with the bow and arrow.

## PART 3

After Ishi's passing in 1916, Young and Pope continued to share a common...and growing...passion for archery. They made their own hunting tackle—aggressively experimenting and refining their equipment. They experimented and refined their hunting abilities—chasing deer, black bear, cougar and small game in northern California. In 1920 Pope and Young undertook a legendary expedition to Yellowstone, Wyoming, backed by the California Academy of Sciences, to hunt and acquire grizzly bear. They successfully hunted and shot, with bow and arrow, three grizzly bears—a feat almost unimaginable at the time.

With an adventurous spirit and a mindset to prove it could be done with a bow and arrow, the two bowmen journeyed to the untamed continent of Africa in 1925 to attempt hunting big game there with a bow. During the five-month expedition, they succeeded at taking African lion, gazelle, wildebeest and eland, among others.

Art Young made journeys to Alaska in 1922-23 to hunt brown bear, the giant moose and white (Dall's) sheep, during which he made a motion picture film of this trip (the first of its kind) entitled **Alaskan Adventures**.

A gifted writer, with numerous scientific manuscripts to his credit, Pope wrote several books on the subject of archery and bowhunting...the greatest being the epic **Hunting with the Bow and Arrow**.

During the late '20s and early '30s, Art Young toured the nation constantly, giving lectures and presentations about hunting with the bow and arrow and his adventures. He was known to present a consistent message about "clean living, good sportsmanship and fair play," as evidenced by the coin he would present to attendees. The exploits of Saxton Pope and Arthur Young began to spark a new, and larger, generation of potential field archers. Through Pope's prolific writing and Young's energetic lecturing, they shared with the nation a passion for this long-forgotten, romantic and challenging form of hunting. They were the pioneers of modern bowhunting.

Coincidental meetings had a profound impact on the growth of bowhunting into the next generation. In 1924, a young man in California read the newly-published **Hunting with the Bow and Arrow**, built his own bow and, while shooting it in a park, encountered the author Saxton Pope. This chance meeting had a profound impact on Doug Easton, who would go on to form the corporate giant of the arrow industry.

At one of Art Young's lectures in Detroit, Michigan, a young automobile worker became enthralled with the idea of hunting with the bow and arrow. That young man was Fred Bear.

Consider reading:

**A Study of Bows and Arrows**, by Dr. Saxton Pope (1923)

**Hunting with the Bow and Arrow**, by Dr. Saxton Pope (1923)

<http://ia311036.us.archive.org/0/items/8hbow/8hbow10h/8hbow10h.htm>

**The Adventurous Bowmen**, by Dr. Saxton Pope (1926)

**"Hunting Moose with the Bow and Arrow,"** by Arthur Young, reprinted in the Club's 3rd Edition record book (1987)

**"Killing Grizzly Bear with the Bow and Arrow,"** by Dr. Saxton Pope, reprinted in the Club's 3rd Edition record book (1987)

**"Hunting Big Game with a Bow and Arrow,"** by Arthur Young, reprinted in the Club's 4th Edition record book (1993)

**"Hunting with a Longbow,"** by Dr. Saxton Pope, in the Club's **A Traditional Journey** (2007)

The DVD **"Alaskan Adventures"** by Arthur Young is also available from the Club







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### PART 4

The exploits of Saxton Pope and Arthur Young sparked an interest in a new generation for this long-forgotten, ultra-sporting idea of hunting with a bow and arrow. Aroused by the excitement and challenge portrayed in Pope's popular books, Young's 1923 silent motion picture film and Young's tireless promotion, this new generation of would-be bowhunters took to the concept with gusto.

Early entrepreneurs like California's Doug Easton and Michigan's Fred Bear fed this growing interest and need for crafted, quality archery equipment—prior to which, most archers made their own hunting equipment.

Through the '30s and '40s, more and more people were taking to the bow and arrow, not just as a target sport, but also with a passion for "hunting the hard way." But, it was a struggling uphill climb to gain acceptance. "The stick and the string" was looked down upon by most of the hunting community as nothing but a kids' toy. Game agencies, nationally, were not convinced that the bow was an effective weapon for hunting. Keep in mind, that the bowhunting seasons and/or bowhunting areas that we take for granted today, were not in existence at that time.

The first major breakthrough occurred in Wisconsin, when the Game Commission changed their hunting laws to recognize the bow as a legal weapon in 1930. The following year, Wisconsin archer, Roy Case, was the first person to harvest a deer in the legalized season. Then, thanks to the efforts of Case, Aldo Leopold, Carl Hulbert and others, a bowhunting-only area was opened in 1934. A few other states slowly and gradually followed.

Organized practice for bowmen...field archery, per se...was fast gaining momentum. So much so, that the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) splintered away from the National Archery Association (NAA) and founded in 1939. The new NFAA took many influential and active west-coast bowmen with it, including such players as Karl Palmatier, John Yount, Roy Hoff and Kore Duryee. Fueling between the target archers and the bowmen hunters continued and increased, setting the stage for coming events.

Over the next multitude of years the NFAA began work to elevate the image of bow and arrow hunting. In 1948, NFAA President Arnold Haugen, of Michigan, wrote an important paper entitled "Bow and Arrow Hunting - Good Conservation." It would gain much attention.

During this time, the exploits of Howard Hill drew national attention to archery. The lure of the Arrol Flynn movie "Robin Hood" (for which Hill did the trick shooting) captivated the populous.

Efforts to gain acceptance of bowhunting were underway in such states as California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan and Ohio. In Washington, Kore Duryee was leading the effort. By 1941, Washington had experienced three brief bowhunting only seasons in a separate area. Future seasons seemed inevitable. However, the State Game Commission, in the spring of 1941, suddenly and seemingly without reason eliminated legal bowhunting. Kore Duryee and a bowyer from Seattle, Glenn St. Charles, were present and had to scramble and work hard and got the decision reversed. That setback and humiliation, though, were motivations for the efforts that would be undertaken in the coming years.

Consider reading:



**Hunting the Hard Way**, by Howard Hill (1953)

**Billets to Bow**, by Glenn St. Charles  
(available for purchase, see ad in this issue)



**Bows on the Little Delta**, by Glenn St. Charles  
(available for purchase, see ad in this issue)

**"How it All Began"** by Glenn St. Charles,  
in the Club's **Bowhunting Big Game Records of North America**, 1st Edition (1975)







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### **PART 5**

In 1948, Glenn St. Charles was elected the NFAA Vice-President, serving under Dr. Arnold Haugen of Michigan. He served a term and then took over the position of Northwestern Representative to focus more-directly on bowhunting legalization efforts. In California at the time, Roy Hoff, editor of Archery Magazine, was playing a large part in the bowhunting promotion effort. Hoff, and others, worked for years and finally made a significant breakthrough with the California legislature.

Then, in 1956 Karl Palmatier became the NFAA President. Although he was truly tournament oriented, he saw the need to consolidate efforts of the states in their drive to gain recognition for bowhunters and to obtain archery seasons. He realized the NFAA must show that they were truly concerned with bowhunting and give bowhunters a reason to belong and join forces. With this in mind, Palmatier established the Hunting Activities Committee with St. Charles as Chairman. The other active members were Paul Jeffries of Missouri; Nort Schensted of Minnesota; and Stuart Wilson, Jr. of New York. The leadership choice was a good one.

Past experiences had taught St. Charles that dealing with a far-flung national committee could be both time-consuming and difficult. Consequently, he took the initiative and organized a functional task force in Seattle comprised of Warren Berg, William Brown, Audrey Bryan, Wayne Hathaway, William Jardine, Dr. F.H. (Fair) Kenagy, Jesse Rust and Bill Soudan.

In the year which followed, questionnaires were developed by the St. Charles committee and sent to state associations, game departments and other interested parties. By the returns, it became apparent that bowhunters really needed to better their image. Despite the gains made by bowmen, the public and conservation departments needed additional proof that bowhunting was truly an efficient method of harvesting big game and that bowhunters themselves were sincerely interested in the conservation policies which would ensure wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

Many answers from their questionnaires pointed to the need for a quality type club with which bowhunters could identify themselves. Thus, the Boone and Crockett Club idea came into focus. It was not a new idea, but one that had been kicked around as a partial answer in the NFAA Prize Buck Contest where one antler only is scored for winners. St. Charles, a long time admirer of sportsman-conservationist Teddy Roosevelt, knew of the role played by the former President in founding the Boone and Crockett Club and the respected position that club held in the eyes of the hunting clan. He reasoned if such an organization would work for one group, a similar one could work for bowhunters.

St. Charles and his inspired committee eagerly began to compile records of all bow and arrow animal trophies they could locate. Eventually rules were established and a bowhunting program for trophy hunters developed. Obviously, the limitation of the bow compared to the gun dictated lower minimum scores for determining trophy class animals. As the true picture began to take shape, objectives and conditions were formulated which underscored the concern for the conservation of our nation's wildlife heritage. At last, when the entire record keeping program appeared ready, it was presented to the NFAA Executive Committee for approval.

While waiting for an official okay, the Hunting Activities Committee upgraded the NFAA Art Young Award System to eliminate many lesser animals. This was an overt effort to change the image of participating bowmen to one of true big game hunters. Meanwhile, St. Charles obtained permission from the Boone and Crockett Club to use their time-tested system in compiling a listing of bowhunting records.

After approval from the NFAA Executive Committee, the new program was presented to bowhunters in the February issue of Archery in 1958. Response was immediate, positive and gratifying. St. Charles sums it up with the comment, "We knew we had a winner from the beginning."





## PART 6

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Once the records program was introduced to the public in the February 1958 issue of Archery Magazine to high enthusiasm, work immediately began in the actual processing of entries. The first Awards Program was held in June 1958 at the NFAA annual tournament in Grayling, Michigan. At that time, the top scoring trophies in each of the accepted categories of big game were officially recognized as the first World Bowhunting Records.

Entries poured in from all over the country. Bowhunters, everywhere, were delighted to have something that they could relate to at last. It was also clear that bowhunters understood the need for, and value in, providing substantiated evidence of the effectiveness of the bow and arrow, and the hunting archer. Newly elected to his second term as NFAA Vice-president, St. Charles determined a separation of the workload associated with the records keeping function, from the NFAA Hunting Activities Committee, was necessary. Under his leadership, the Seattle-based group focused on the records program.

State conservation departments besieged the Seattle group with requests for information and data concerning these bowhunting records. Libraries and individuals began asking when a future book might be published.

1960 brought another Awards Banquet in Grayling, Michigan, again the site of the NFAA tournament. Proposals had been advanced so that the bowhunters gathered in Grayling could discuss the possibilities of a separate organization to guide the records program. Thirty-five interested bowhunters gathered at tournament time and were in agreement that a separate organization was the answer. Based on St. Charles' earlier research and questionnaires, it was determined that a club, similar to the concept of the Boone and Crockett Club, was the best solution. And, it would be named

as a lasting tribute to pioneering bowhunters, Dr. Saxton Pope and Arthur Young. The Club would be dedicated to scientific records keeping, sound conservation practices, quality hunting and fair chase. Recognizing the ongoing efforts and the need for a solid base, the group immediately sought to obtain the 1957-60 records compiled by St. Charles' NFAA Hunting Activities Committee program. St. Charles presented the aims and desires of the "Pope and Young" group to the NFAA Executive Committee, who reluctantly, but graciously, agreed to release the important records.

Six months, and considerable work, later, the Pope and Young Club actually came into being on January 27, 1961. That first formal meeting of the Club took place in Seattle, at Northwest Archery, which was to be the organization's headquarters for years to come. St. Charles was elected Temporary Chairman, William Brown as Temporary Treasurer and Rosalyn Remick as Temporary Recording Secretary. St. Charles then appointed Wayne Hathaway, William Jardine, G. H. Malinoski and Jesse Rust as Temporary Directors.

A National Advisory Board was established to advise, and approve or disapprove of action taken by the Temporary officers. Board members included Fred Bear (Michigan), Harvard Ebers (Missouri), Elisha Gray (Michigan), Martin Hanson (Wisconsin), Dean Henbest (New Mexico), K. K. Knickerbocker (Virginia), Robert Lee (Texas), Ben Pearson (Arkansas), Wayne Trimm (New York) and William Wright (California).

It was determined that membership in the Club would be limited to 50 Regular Members and purposefully require a high level of membership requirements. Bowhunters could join as Associate Members while waiting to obtain the Regular Membership requirements.