



Archery Icon

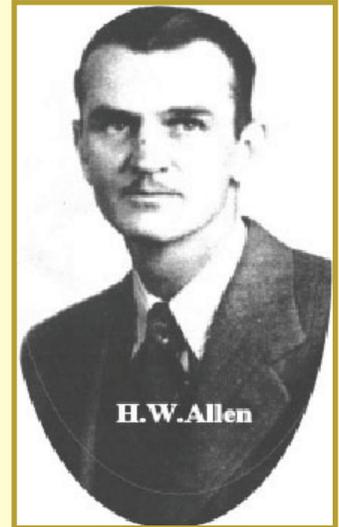


The Official Newsletter of The Archery Hall of Fame & Museum, Inc.

Volume 3 • Number 1 • Spring - 2010

Allen, Asbell, Compton, and Gandy chosen for induction into the Archery Hall of Fame, Class of 2010

Holless Wilber Allen, the person whose compound bow invention revolutionized the world of archery, and tournament great, Frank Gandy, have been chosen to be inducted into the Archery Hall of Fame, Class of 2010.



HOLLESS ALLEN
Innovator / Inventor
Contributor to the Sport



G. FRED ASBELL
Bowhunter

Joining them will be G. Fred Asbell, whose involvement in archery over the past 4 decades directly impacted the archery and the bowhunting community.

Rounding out the class of 2010 will be Will "Chief" Compton, who along with Ishi and Pope and Young, paved the way for the bowhunters of today.



FRANK GANDY
Competitor

How fitting that Asbell and Compton will be inducted in the same class as Fred currently is president of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, named for Chief Compton.

The Archery Hall of Fame is proud to welcome G. Fred Asbell, Holless Wilber Allen, William "Chief" Compton and Frank Gandy.



WILL "CHIEF" COMPTON
Contributor to the sport

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From The President

DEER STANDS AND TURKEY BLINDS can be ideal places for personal reflection and introspection. This is especially true on those unaccountably quiet woodland mornings when wily bucks and elusive longbeards are busy elsewhere and even the ubiquitous squirrels and forest birds have abandoned your favorite hunting site.



It was on precisely such an uneventful morning this past May, with not a single gobble to be heard echoing from the hills surrounding my camouflaged blind and turkey decoys, that I found my wandering mind recalling the International Bowhunting Clinic gatherings once held each June in Grand Ledge, Michigan. There I eagerly spent much anticipated and enjoyable three-day weekends joining in the company of some of our sport's finest and best known archers. Among the Clinic headliners were a number of bowhunters and archers with close ties to the Archery Hall of Fame.

M. R. James

For those readers who may not know Michigan history, the family-run Anderson Archery Corporation opened its doors for business in the 1950s with J. D. Anderson at the helm. The business grew to be advertised as "the world's largest archery center." By the late 1970s, Anderson Archery launched its first annual Bowhunting Clinic. It featured dealer booths, movies and instructional seminars, bow checks and tune-ups, and the opportunity to meet and chat with industry personalities such as the legendary Fred Bear. Several thousand people showed up. And at their peak of popularity in the 1980s, the yearly Anderson Clinics drew weekend crowds upwards of 20,000 bowhunters and target archers.

Sitting in my turkey blind, I thought of the swarms of people Papa Bear attracted and how he patiently signed countless autographs, shook extended hands, and posed for endless photos. Remembering, I also tried to men-

tally check off the names of other past and future AHOF individuals who turned up at the Anderson clinics which I attended.

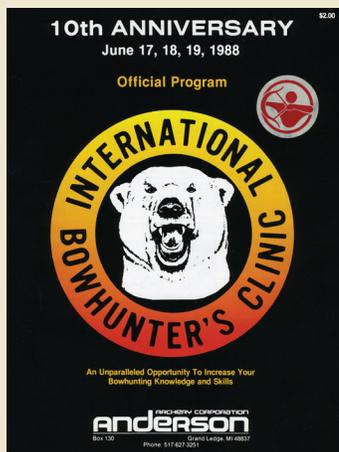
There was my longtime friend and AHOF founder, Dave Staples, whom I inducted posthumously into the



Archery Hall of Fame in early 2009; another good friend, Jim Dougherty, whom I had the pleasure of inducting in 1997; "Mr. Compound Bow," Tom Jennings and knowledgeable archery pro Sherwood Schoch; talented archer Ann Clark, another dear friend whose shooting demonstrations always awed the onlookers; archery's technical guru, Norb Mullaney; hunting legend, Chuck Adams; my good pal and *Bowhunter magazine* co-founder, Don Clark; Dr. Dave Samuel, a friend and *Bowhunter* contributor since the early '70s, whom I was proud to induct into the AHOF in 2007; and Michigan's own Floyd Eccleston, archery historian and broadhead collector extraordinaire.

Perhaps other Hall of Famers and AHOF officers turned up at the Anderson Clinics over the years, but those named above are the ones I distinctly recall. And by the late 1990s when Anderson Archery finally closed, the list of well known bowhunters and archers appearing there reads like a Who's Who of Modern Archery History. That once-popular Michigan event certainly helped give rise to the currently successful, annual celebrity clinics sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, as well as the Deer and Turkey Shows that attract tens of thousands to yearly gatherings in states where hunting is a way of life for millions.

Admittedly, I'd rather have called a strutting gobble that spring morning earlier this year. However, when that didn't happen, I found that a pleasant walk down memory lane proved to be the next best thing for a graybeard bowhunter whose remembrances of shining times with friends and fellow archers proved to be a true treasure indeed.



Holless Wilbur Allen Innovator / Inventor / Contributor to the Sport

It's hard to imagine that any other single invention has so impacted a sport like the compound bow has influenced archery. But Holless Wilbur Allen's new bow design did just that – it revolutionized archery and bowhunting. The invention didn't come easy.

Allen, a mild mannered Missourian, was frustrated, like many bowhunters, that whitetail deer could jump out of the way of his slow-moving hunting arrows. He set about trying to increase arrow speed by building bows and testing his ideas. He built a recurve bow, laminated with fiberglass, which he bonded to the limb core with epoxy. No luck. He tried fabricating a long handled bow with very short, extremely recurved limbs to increase arrow speed. Again, no increase in speed. He tried shooting a short, light weight arrow down a track attached to his bow and got some increase in speed but poor penetration; this testing broke his bow, too! But nothing gave him the speed he was looking for.



Wilbur Allen was a tinkerer, a problem-solver always bent on using what materials were available to find remedies. Once, his son Douglas relates, Wilbur was a counselor on a Boy Scout camp-out on Missouri's Osage River when the

word came into camp that the white bass were biting. He'd left all of his fishing gear at home so he drove to the nearest town, bought a forty-nine cent fishing rod, some ten-cent lures and a small spool of line. Not wanting to spend \$15 on a new fishing reel, Wilbur bought a thirty-nine cent egg beater, rigged it up to a coffee can and limited out on bass in short order!

Such was the innovative spirit that drove Wilbur Allen to wile away the hours contemplating a better way of building a bow that would shoot arrows faster. It really comes as no surprise, then, that lightning would strike one evening in 1966 while Wilbur was studying his drawings of a pulley bow, designed after reading up on kinetic energy in a physics book borrowed from a

neighbor.

"What if," he thought, "I positioned the pulley's pivot hole off-center?" That was it! Within two days, Wilbur Allen had built and tested his compound bow. It was crude, even by Allen's standards – the eccentrics were of wood, the handle of pine boards, limb cores of oak flooring, welded T-bolts held it together with the help of Elmer's Glue and epoxy-impregnated fiberglass threads. But, it worked!

Allen achieved significant increase in arrow speed over a recurve bow of equal draw weight, relaxation of draw weight at full draw of 15%, and a bow that would shoot lighter arrows than the equivalent recurve. His compound produced impressive performance.

Allen filed for a patent on his new bow on June 23, 1966. It was granted in 1969. By 1977, there were 100 different models of compound bows available, only 50 recurves. After only eight years in production, two thirds of the market was in compound bows.

Holless Wilbur Allen had laboriously contrived a rather complicated device that performed a relatively simple task – shoot an arrow fast. He fought hard to get approval from state game agencies for his new bow to be used for hunting and succeeded. Likewise, competitive archery organizations finally approved the compound for tournament shooting.

The rest is history.

G. Fred Asbell Bowhunter

G. Fred Asbell began shooting a bow in 1961 following military service. Two years later he was elected President of the Deer Creek Archers in Cloverdale, Indiana, and in 1965 was appointed Bowhunting Director of the 3,000-member Indiana Field Archery Association. As his interest in bowhunting steadily grew, Fred became the founding President of the Indiana Bowhunters Association in 1966, a position he held until 1970 when a job transfer took him to Colorado. There he soon became a director of the newly formed Colorado Bowhunters Association.

It was in the Centennial State during the 1970s and 1980s that Fred's passion for bow-

hunting took root even as his organizational and leadership skills blossomed. Over those decades he enjoyed a variety of accomplishments that directly impacted the archery and bowhunting communities. These included: Wing Archery Advisory Representative, Director, Pope & Young Club, Hunting Editor, *Bowhunter Magazine*, Contributor, *Professional Bowhunters Society Magazine*, Founder/President Bighorn Bowhunting Co., Makers of Custom Bows, President, Pope & Young Club, Author of the Book, *Instinctive Shooting*, 75,000 Copies, reprinted 6 times and published in 3 foreign languages, plus english.

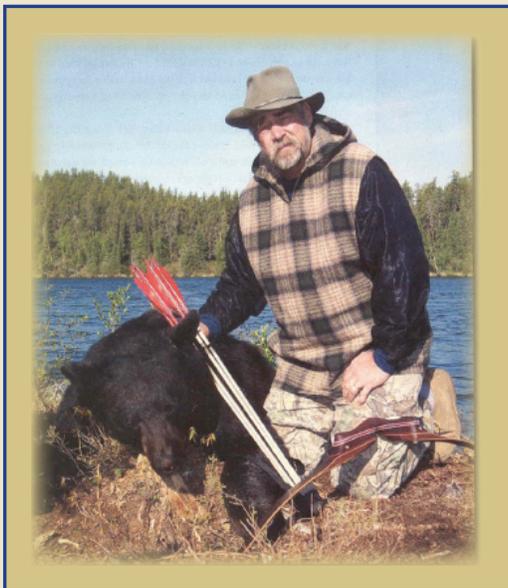
While President of the Pope and Young Club, Fred led the reorganization effort that resulted in the establishment of a permanent home in Chatfield, Minnesota. He oversaw the purchase of the Club's current headquarters and museum facility, as well as the purchase and eventual relocation of the Seattle-based Glenn St. Charles Museum to Minnesota. Under Fred's direction, the Pope and Young Club became financially stable, advancing from a hunting club operating in the red to a club with more than \$1 million in banked assets. Today P&Y is widely recognized as one of the nation's most prestigious pro-hunting and pro-conservation organizations.



An excellent writer, Fred has published more than 500 articles for a variety of state and national publications during the past 35 years. These include *Bowhunter*, *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine*, *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Petersen's Hunting*, and *Petersen's Bowhunting*, plus others. Fred fol-

lowed the success of his best-selling *Instinctive Shooting* (1986) with two other widely acclaimed books: *Instinctive Shooting II* (1991) and *Stalking and Still-Hunting* (1998). The former book sold 35,000 copies and was reprinted 4 times, while the latter sold 25,000 copies. Fred also produced a complementary video, *Instinctive Shooting* (1991), with some 15,000 copies in circulation. He currently serves as Shooting Editor of *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine*.

In 1999, Fred was a founding director of Compton Traditional Bowhunters and two years later was elected President of the traditional organization which currently has 1,200 members across North America. He also organized the Compton Traditional Rendezvous, which has become one of the world's largest archery events. The annual Michigan-based gathering recently attracted more than 7,000 interested and enthusiastic individuals.



During the past half century, Fred bowhunted in 32 states and 9 Canadian provinces, as well as 2 African countries, harvesting 19 separate species of big game. Traveling widely, Fred has routinely presented shooting and bowhunting seminars for decades; he also has

been a regular guest speaker at state and local bowhunting banquets throughout North America. Since 2000, he has presented annual Shooting/Tuning Schools at Black Widow Bow Co. in Nixa, Missouri.

A visionary archer, bowhunter, and leader who possesses an obvious sense of history and a deep appreciation for the pioneers of our sport, Fred himself has long served as an articulate and tireless ambassador, earning his rightful place beside the men and women previously recognized for their own service and contributions.

William "Chief" Compton Contributor to the Sport

William John Compton was born September 28, 1863 in Flint, Michigan but at the age of seven, his family moved to Norfolk, Nebraska, where the young Will lived among the Sioux Indians. From the Sioux he learned the ways of making bows and arrows, and of hunting with these weapons. He also gained much wisdom and learned humility, traits that would influence his pattern of life for many years to come.

In September of 1877, at the age of 14, he shot his first deer. Later that same year he took another deer with his bow. In the next few years Will would take up to 20 deer, four antelope, two elk and a bison,

