



# The Bent Stick Bulletin

Fall edition

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## Editors



## Notes

Greetings from the editor,

This newsletter will be short because I have only received a history article from Wade Phillips and the Old guy tidbits from Rod Aden. I stated in the first newsletter that the content of this newsletter is up to the members and board so if I receive little content there will be little content in the newsletter.

The archery world lost a true pioneer Sunday September, 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when Glenn St. Charles passed away. Glenn was the epitome of traditional archery and the driving force behind so much of what we enjoy today that it is mind boggling. Glenn will be very missed and our condolences go out to Joe, Jay, and Susan.

The NTA held their annual Labor day Rendezvous a couple weeks ago during beautiful weather. I believe there was somewhere around 154 shooters and the shoot was a success. The shoot takes a huge amount of work from a small number of people with damn little appreciation, so if you are ever asked to help remember that if the same people keep getting hammered with all the work, they may just give out and not help at all anymore.

Hunting season is upon us. I wish all success in all their endeavors.

Keep your stick bent!

Vince

## William "Chief" Compton - A Pioneer Bowman in Nebraska

by Wade Phillips

Will Compton is Nebraska's earliest well-known bowman of European decent. He was born in Flint, Michigan in 1863. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Norfolk, Nebraska where he was "adopted" by the Sioux Indians. The Sioux taught him their hunting methods and how to make bows and arrows.

At age 14, Compton took his first deer. Many years later, he wrote, "The first deer I ever killed was with the bow in 1877...". While still in his teens, he took 20 deer, four antelope, two elk and a buffalo while on horseback Indian style.

In 1894, at age 29, Compton moved to Medford, Oregon where he worked in the shop of the master bowyer F.S. Barnes. There Compton learned to make the English style yew longbow, and how to cut and season Northwest yew trees for use as bow wood.

In 1913, after Barnes' final illness, Compton bundled up "an endless supply of yew" and moved to California. There he met and became friends with Dr. Saxton Pope and Ishi, America's last wild Indian. Compton taught Pope the English style of archery, which Pope adopted in place of the methods he had learned earlier from Ishi.

In 1915, Compton met Art Young at a Japanese archery gallery at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. Compton taught Young the art of shooting the bow and introduced Young to Pope and Ishi. Within the group, Compton was affectionately nicknamed "Chief" because of his kinship with the Sioux in Nebraska and his role as the group leader. For the next year, the four shot and hunted together before Ishi succumbed to tuberculosis in 1916.

During the following years Pope, Young and Compton hunted and shot together in California. Compton took Pope and Young on their first bow and arrow hunt for deer, a hunt on which all three bagged a buck. In California, they took fish, birds, small game, bob cats, mountain lion, deer and black bear. While Compton was content to stay in California, give lectures on archery and promote the sport, Pope and Young ventured to Wyoming for grizzly bears and to Africa for lions and other game.

Young also went to Alaska and took brown bear, dall sheep, mountain goat, and moose with the bow and later took polar bear and walrus in Greenland.

In his writings, Saxton Pope credited Compton with shots of birds in flight, running deer up to 75 yards, as "... a master at the judgment of distance and the speed of running game", as the "better shot of the three of us", as the better hunter, and as taking the majority of the deer that fell before their shafts.

In 1926, at age 51, Pope died of pneumonia and in 1935, at age 52, Young died of a ruptured appendix. In 1938, the first and last of archery's greatest trio, Compton, died of a heart attack at age 74.

In addition to Pope and Young, Compton's students includes an endless list of other well-known old time bowmen. After Compton's death, Ray Hodgson wrote, "Compton instilled in his archery converts a love of the hunt. Compton never went in for publicity. He quietly went about helping others. He was a grand instructor and an enthralling lecturer. We were all his pupils and all of us old timers speak of Compton as being responsible for it all."

In 1940 Cassius Styles wrote of Compton, Pope and Young, "Friendship, real and very deep, has always been the lifeblood of archery in its heroic chapters... it was the friendship of the hearty California trio, Will Compton, Saxton Pope and Arthur Young, that made their broadhead a recognized big game weapon. I never heard one of the three cronies speak of any of the others but that he was lighted up by beaming happiness... Will Compton was indeed a hardy, flint-framed pioneer if I ever saw one... Indeed, everyone loved this stately bowman."

In 1947, the preeminent organization of hunting and field archers of the mid 20th century, the National Field Archery Association, (NFAA), created its highest award, the Compton Medal of Honor, in memory Compton's life long contributions to the sport.

In May of 1999, in Omaha, Nebraska, during the weekend of the Pope and Young Club Banquet, traditional bowmen from across America met informally, laid the groundwork for, and passed the hat for, charter memberships in a new national organization for traditionalists. That organization became the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, so named in remembrance of Nebraska's pioneer bowman who was the root and source for field and hunting archery in America.

Our beloved Will Compton is truly the Patron Saint of all Nebraska Traditional Archers.

### **Tidbits**

**Scents.** Stop paying good money for expensive scents. You have everything you need right in the timber. Go out and find the weeds that smell the most. I have never smelled them but I would stay away from poison ivy and poison oak. Pick the weed that has the most smell to it and pick enough leaves and stems to fill a small plastic bag. After you arrive home, start up the charcoal grill and put an old pot on the fire. It is better not to do this in the kitchen. You may not only get kicked out of the kitchen but out of the bedroom later that night. Put those stinky weeds in the pot, bring it to a boil (for those of you in South Florida, be sure to put water in the pot first). After boiling for three minutes, take an old spoon or a stick and crush all the leaves and stems to get all of the juice out of them that you can. Put a cloth over a jar and pour the contents into the jar. You can then pour a little into a spray bottle and spray your boots and pant legs before you go to your deer stand. Be sure to spray your pant legs. I have seen deer follow my tracks and everything is okay until they come to a bush where my pant leg has brushed the bush and they have turned around and run away.

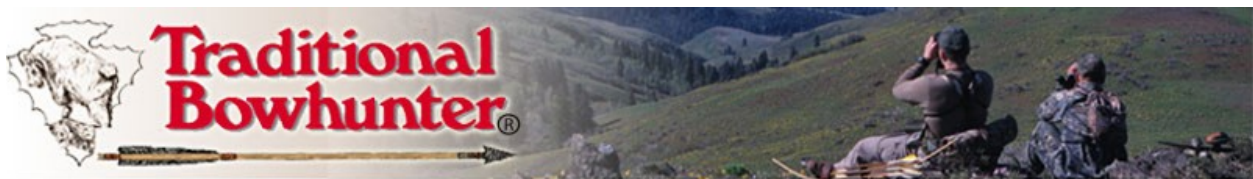
**List.** Make a list of everything you need before you leave your house to go to your deer stand. Keep your list in your truck and check it over right before you leave. In the course of the hunting season, you will be surprised how many times you see something on that list that you would have forgot if you didn't have it. One guy I know even forgot his bow one morning.

**Practice Arrow.** If you carry a practice arrow with you, be sure to spray it with your stinky weed spray before you shoot it. It only took me 15 to 20 years to remember to do this. I don't care where you shoot that arrow for a practice shot, there will be a deer come along, smell the arrow and take off on a dead run.

Good luck in your hunting season. I'll try to dream up something else for next time.

The Old Guy

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"Progress does not necessarily mean letting go of tradition."

