

1979

Wm. "Chief Compton  
"Osage" Jim Murphey  
Dr. Erwin Pletcher  
Doug Walker

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WILLIAM JOHN "CHIEF" COMPTON

September 28, 1863 - May 16, 1938

HUNTER - BOWYER - ENTHUSIASTIC ARCHER

Born in Flint, Michigan. As a boy of seven, Will, who later was to accept the accolade of "Chief" with great humility and pride, moved to Norfolk, Nebraska where he spent much time with and was adopted by the Sioux Indians. He drove the first teamload of freight into Laramie, Wyoming in 1881. and settled near Medford, Oregon in 1983. Will moved to California around 1900, living here the remainder of his years.

It is ironic one must do considerable research to discover this humble man, expert bowyer and enthusiastic archer was, more than any other, responsible for the modern introduction of archery to the West Coast. Primarily a bowhunter, Will killed his first deer at age 14 and hunted with the bow 30 years before Ishi first stimulated Saxton Pope's interest in Archery. Saxton credits Will with taking numerous small game, bird in flight, many deer, elk, moose and even a buffalo with a bow. Compton and Pope shot with Ishi until his last illness. It was Will who met the expert rifleman and hunter Art Young and introduced him to the bow and to Saxton Pope. After Ishi's death the three shot and hunted together many times. Although acknowledged by Saxton Pope in his writings as the "better shot of the three of us," it was Young's colorful exploits with the bow and Pope's writings that caused Pope and Young's names to become more famous than their teacher was. The "Chief" brought Pope and Young together, gave them his wisdom of his years of hunting and instilled in them, and many others, a love for the primitive use of the bow.

In 1947, the National Field Archery Association recognized "Chief" Compton's contributions through its highest award, the N.F.A.A. Medal of Honor, "which shall be known as the Compton Medal of Honor and it shall be bestowed sparingly and only in recognition of outstanding and unselfish contributions to Archery in any of its phases."

"Chief" Compton - the truest of Bowman Hunters.

Inducted 1979

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JAMES "OSAGE" JIM F. MURPHY

MARCH 22, 1891 - MAY 10, 1967

"ARCHERY ENTHUSIAST"

Born near Clarksville, Texas, moved to Bakersfield area in 1892. Jim developed an early interest in archery through his father who learned to shoot a bow hunting with the Choctow-Cherokee Indians in Texas. He started making his own archery equipment at approximately 12 years of age. Jim

acquired the nickname of "Osage" later in his life, from the type of bow he shot. (Osage orange wood.)

Although not an Indian, early in his life, besides archery. Jim acquired an interest in Indian artifacts and adopted a chief's headdress and garb with which he became a familiar figure in archery in central California.

It was "Osage" Jim and his friend Chief Sky Eagle who "discovered" the National Field Archery Association's emblem stump, the "rabbit patch", in an area south of Bakersfield where they and their friends had hunted for many years.

In 1935, Jim co-founded the Bakersfield Archery Club, later to become known as the Kern County Archers, whose annual shoot, the Pow-Wow, became synonymous with Osage Jim and archery in California.

Jim Murphy was responsible for introducing untold numbers into archery in the Kern County area. He not only taught the correct methods of shooting, he would teach any who were interested in how to make archery equipment. Jim was particularly active in teaching archery to young people.

"Osage" Jim Murphy-Dedicated to the promotion of archery.

Inducted 1979

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ERWIN C. PLETCHER, D.D.S.  
1915 -

"CHAMPION ARCHER"

Born in Long Beach, California, December 29, 1915, Erwin became interested in archery at an early age. While he enjoyed hunting with a bow, Erwin's achievements relate to tournament archery.

From 1945 to 1950, shooting a long bow instinctively, Erwin won many local and regional tournaments. He was three times California State Champion (1946, 1947 and 1949) and was never beaten in National competition.

Dr. Erwin Pletcher was the first N.F.A.A. men's champion, winning the first N.F.A.A. field tournament which was held at Allegan, Michigan in 1946. All prior tournaments were mail tournaments. He successfully defended his title in 1947 at Salt Lake City, Utah, but did not compete in 1948. In 1949, the California State field tournament was held in conjunction with the National tournament in Pasadena. Erwin won the tournament, becoming for the third time the California State and N.F.A.A. Champion.

Shooting unmarked rounds of 56 Field, 56 Hunter and 56 Broadhead (the Broadhead round was shot using 12" field faces at all distances) and using a straight long bow, Erwin shot the following scores in N.F.A.A. National competition.

Field Hunter Broadhead Total

1946 712 691 780 2163

1947 801 699 845 2345

1949 775 858 875 2506

Dr. Erwin C. Pletcher, D.D.S. - First N.F.A.A. Champion.

Inducted 1979

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DOUGLAS ERNEST (DOUG) WALKER

May 9, 1930 -

LEGISLATOR, HISTORIAN, BOWHUNTER

Born in Visalia, California, Doug became interested in Archery in 1948 and has actively continued this interest and participation in California Archery through the years. Basically a Bowhunter, Doug has been very instrumental in helping to shape organized Archery in California. He helped to form the fourth region in our state, C.I.B.A. and was its first Vice President and delegate to CBH. Doug served as President of CBH and FAA, serving two terms. During Doug's tenure as President, he presented the plan to organize the CBH Big Game Club and established three state Vice Presidents, each in charge of a special branch of CBH. He was instrumental in dividing California into three sections and creating a team of Legislative Representatives to better protect Bowhunting. As N.F.A.A. delegate, Doug co-authored the N.F.A.A. preamble found in the front of the N.F.A.A. Constitution and By-Laws. After leaving the Legislative field, Doug served as official CBH Historian and as a Director for California Archery Hall of Fame.

Honors achieved by Doug:

- Life memberships in: Fresno Field Archers, CBH and FAA. and N.F.A.A.
- First Recipient of: N.F.A.A. Master Bowhunters award and CBH Big Game Club 7 diamond pin.
- One of Pope and Young's first regular members and directors (later served as Executive Secretary and Records Committee Chairman).
- Archery Incorporated: Award of Merit.
- 1978 awarded the N.F.A.A. "Medal of Merit" by CBH.

Doug Walker - a dedicated archer.

Inducted 1979

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