

Rick,

Thank you for taking charge and putting up the website. Joe Mendham had mentioned you were looking for historical information as well as current events and suggested I might supply some. Sadly, I'm much too young to have been around in the early years. I didn't actually shoot in a registered match until 1976. Nonetheless, I'll endeavour to tell a few stories and give a few short bios from my perspective.

I started shooting in Clearwater B.C. which is located about 70 miles north of Kamloops. The club was started some years prior to my arrival with the prime movers being Jack Neufeld, Lawrence Giesbrecht, Charlie Womack and others whose names are in a foggy section.

At the time I was shooting at Clearwater, the regular attendees included those mentioned above as well as Alex Bulman, Harlan Govett, Jim Lott, Jim Fedorowich, Bob and Albert Forslund and occasional visitors from Washington State such as John Fry, Wally Siebert, Allen Bench, Manley Oakley and others I'll recall sometime when I'm not trying!

By the time I started shooting, my dad had been shooting at the Namaka club in Strathmore Alberta for some years. This club was probably originated by Al Mirdoch and Terry McCracken but early members included such people as Dennis Sorensen, Doug Whiteside, Bob Hobbs, Art Bourne, Frank and Evelyn Leffingwell, Steve Zeibreski, Jim Leeper, and more of the increasing number I can't recall all of whom are locked away in that foggy part of the Leeper brain.

The BRSC was kept more or less united by the publication of the BRSC News, which was edited by Reg Gale. Though it was sort of a minimalist magazine, I looked forward to its arrival in my mailbox every month. I think half the reason many guys competed was to see their name in print.

I attended my first match with a Ruger No 1 in 6mm Remington. I had done some shooting with a 40XBR so I knew the Ruger wasn't really competitive but it was one of those 1/2 inch rifles so I figured I would at least not be embarrassed. Shockingly, I shot 6 groups that day and only one approached the half-inch mark and it was closer to 9/16. A later attempt with a pretty good shooting 7x57 (Hart barrel on a 721 Remington smithed by Art Bourne) was a bit better but it was plain one had to use a real benchrest rifle to really compete so I bought a 40x in 6x47. This rifle wasn't a winner but it did let me learn a bit. By now I had started doing more of my own work so I was able to rejoin the fray the next year with a self built 6x47 with a Hart barrel and a Brown Precision stock. Things were looking up.

As much as the shooting, I enjoyed the shooters. Charlie Womack was a born entertainer as was Alex Bulman. The interaction between Alex and his brother-in-law, Harlan Govett was always good for a laugh as well.

Charlie had arrived in Deka Lake from Texas by way of California in the late forties or early fifties. You can't take the Texas out of the Texan and Charlie was a classic example. He had good equipment and was a fine shot.

Alex did his own gunsmithing and did a pretty good job of it too. Harlan did a lot of his own work as well but with somewhat less success.

Of those who built their own rifles, the Forslund brothers were at the top. They built their own actions, their own bullet dies, and their own bullets, of course. On top of this, they were very good shooters and were perennial winners. They were also colourful characters and free with their information and opinions. These opinions were generally given in language which was also colourful and a conversation with either of the brothers was likely to be X-rated and not for the faint hearted.

More later, Regards, Bill