

# The Deer Have a Better Chance, and It's Exciting

## Sport With These Modern

# Robin Hoods



Broadhead arrows are honed razor-sharp and when a file is pulled across the blades to give wire-cutting edge. Sharpening his hunting bows for the morrow is Jim Livesay, Tulsa.

THE rugged Cookson Hills turned up their rocky noses last week at a handful of bow-and-arrow hunters, moving in for a five-day stay to stalk deer with primitive weapons.

Before week's end the wooded hill country had learned a lesson in sportsmanship it will not soon forget. The bowmen turned out to be real he-man woodsmen and not just a bunch of city sissies out for a lark.

One of them actually killed a deer with a bow and arrow and brought the 130-pound buck back to camp to prove it. It was the first deer to be brought down in three years of legal hunting by bowmen in Oklahoma.

Roland Barber, a government engineer from Tulsa, made the kill. His broadhead hunting arrow went clear through the big fallow buck at a range of 30 yards with so much force the arrow was never found.

More than 50 bow-and-arrow sportsmen were in the woods during the five-day hunt, and the old hills learned something from almost every one of them.

The art of trailing game; the magic of camouflaging to make the hunter melt away from sight into the colorful landscape; the trick of searching out deer signs; the work of camp

By Wally Wallis

cooking; all were carried on by the bowman in keeping with the highest traditions of fine sportsmanship.

Natives of the hills took the archers to their hearts before the season was two days old. They liked these hunters who scorned modern weapons and relished the hardship of seeking game against odds calculated at more than 1,000-to-1.

It was kind of like Gyp Haley said: "There's a bunch of fellows who play by the rules. You don't have to worry about them cheating you."

Gyp is a veteran game ranger who has seen in his day all kinds of hunters in the woods. After last week's archery deer season, the bow-and-arrow boys are tops on his list of sportsmen.

And the archers like the Cookson Hills. They plan to ask the Oklahoma Game and Fish department to set aside that area for them to hunt on each year. Game is plentiful and the area ideal for bow and arrow hunting.

This year the bowmen had 16,000 acres upon which to hunt. Thousands of other acres are adjacent and they would like the hunting region enlarged.

The request has not been received by officials at the statehouse yet, but it is almost sure to get favorable consideration. The first two deer seasons found the archers in southeastern Oklahoma after a week of rifle hunting which had the deer wilder than

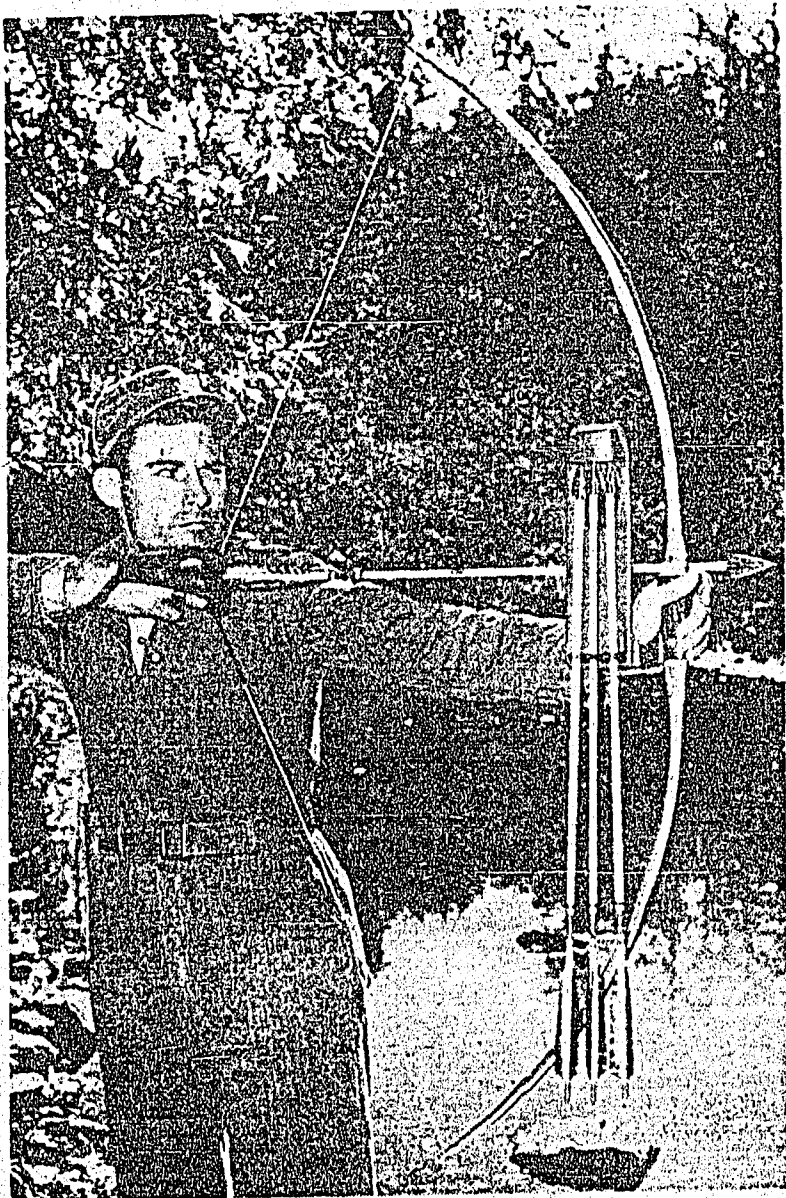
the mountainous country in which they hid.

This year the bowmen got a square shake and they appreciated it.

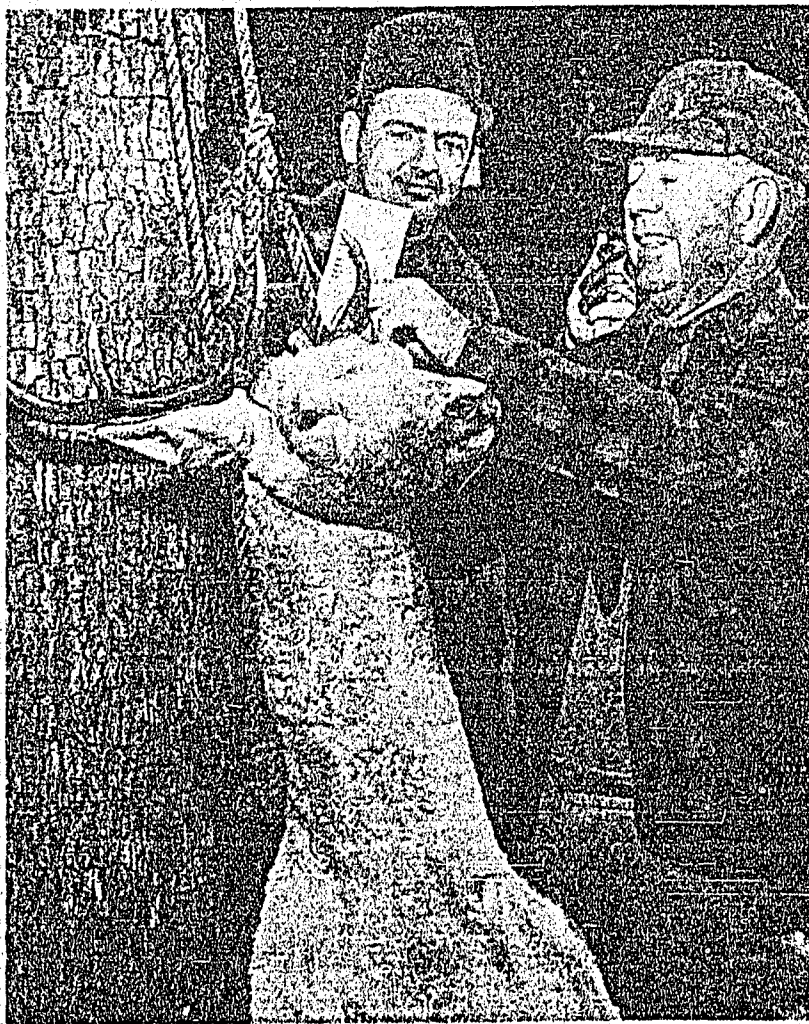
Fellowship was just as important part of last week's archery hunting as stalking deer. There were no lone wolf hunters in the woods. Few stayed in hotels at Muskogee or lodges at beautiful Greenleaf lake. The bow-and-arrow boys got out in the woods in groups of from three to five, built camps and lived in an outdoor wonderland of brilliant color painted by the heavy hand of frost across the wooded mountainsides.

Hunting equipment was simple. Bowmen carried a quiver of broadheads, a heavy hunting bow and a hunting knife. Bows by law are required to have a 45-pound pull. None that light were in use. Most of the hunters pulled bows of from 50 to 70 pounds. The hunting arrows in use weighed 500 grams.

While deer hunting accidents are common among riflemen, the archers are quick to point out that there have never been any accidents in bow hunting. Ranges up to 100 yards are effective and at that or a lesser distance the bowman can see his game very well before opening fire. If an archer can not see a deer well enough to identify it positively he definitely does not have a shot and will not launch an arrow at the target. Hunting arrows cost too much money to let fly with no chance of recovering the missile.



Ralph Barnett, Oklahoma City, demonstrates the newest gadget for the convenience of game hunting archers. It's a bow quiver which holds three hunting arrows. Archers never get more than four shots at game and the device eliminates the cumbersome quiver usually carried over the shoulder. The stream is Little Terrapin creek, winding through the Cookson Hills.



First bowman to kill a deer in Oklahoma since Indians roamed the hunting grounds was Roland Barber (left), Tulsa, who watches veteran game ranger A. D. "Gyp" Haley, Muskogee, lie on the tag of the Oklahoma Game and Fish department at the check station at Greenleaf lake. The 130-pound buck is a fallow deer. All deer killed either by bowmen or riflemen must be tagged by rangers.

