



Archery Icon



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHERY HALL OF FAME MUSEUM, INC.

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This issue of Archery Icon is dedicated to the memory of lifelong archery supporter, Dick Lattimer who passed away September 6th after an extended illness. The following are a few of the articles written by those who knew him best. These are their stories.



his hearty laughter as I looked at the cabin curtains where Dick had recorded dates and events of his Plum Creek visits. Actually, Dick was the first to leave the jottings behind when he, Fred Bear, and Glenn St. Charles visited in May of 1982 to hunt Nebraska turkeys. The old Bear Archery gang had been hunting here since the fall of 1976, before I'd built the cabin, and that's when Dick and I had forged a special bond of friendship.

On one of those early trips, Dick and Fred and Bob Kelly were in Nebraska to help us celebrate the one millionth bowstring we made for Bear Archery. On another, Dick laid out an issue of "The Big Sky," official publication of the Fred Bear Sports Club, that helped us save the Niobara River



A Tribute from Dick Mauch

IT'S 3:19 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 9 and I'm wide awake. Carol and I went to Plum Creek to check the cabin's gas bottles, the refrigerator, the freezer, and to pick to-



from a federal pork barrel dam project and ultimately classify the waterway as a scenic river. Still another time, Dick used his personal time and talent to take photos of our bowstrings to produce the art to help a good friend (me!) print his Cornhusker Archery Bowstring brochure.

matoes from our little garden. While Carol took the ATV to move mineral tubs for the cattle, I stayed in the cabin to tidy up with our Vizslas, Kat and Two. But I kept thinking about Dick Lattimer and all the fun times we'd shared here.

I could almost hear echoes of



In fact, Dick always kept his camera handy and frequently shared his

best shots from hunts with Fred and other Nebraska guests like Gordon Ford, Dr. David Strider, K. K. Knickerbocker, Judd Grindell, turkey hunting legend Ben Rodgers Lee, and even a local bowhunter or two. Back in the 1970s, many people felt the bow and arrow was inadequate for the big birds. But the Bear Archery Catalog of 1979 – with stories of our Nebraska hunts by Fred Bear and Ben Lee – was devoted to turkey hunting with archery tackle. The inside of the front cover and following pages included a challenge from Fred to try bowhunting wild gobblers. Dick’s layout incorporated the fine art of Rod Lawrence and on page eight Dick selected a topo map of our Plum

Creek property for the background of several Bear compounds. Dick, Fred, and Kelly later sent us a print of Rod Lawrence’s turkey painting and it still hangs in a place of honor on a cabin wall.

More memories flooded my mind. That same ’79 Bear catalog include plugs for several of Dick Lattimer’s personal causes. There’s a “Care about America’s wildlife – we do!” blurb for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on the inside rear cover. There’s also a picture of the American Archery Council board of directors with news of the AAC’s promotion of archery ranges being established around the country. Dick devoted considerable time and energy to these efforts.

Still looking at the cabin curtain, I see where Dick drew the Bear Archery logo in black and green ink. There are hunt dates and mem-

“You can do anything if you have enthusiasm, enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hope rise to the stars“ DL

ories, too, including one visit when Dick and his wife, Alice, stopped to spend time with Carol and me. And on the south wall of the cabin are two arrows used to harvest whitetail deer. One arrow is Ann Hoyt’s; the other is Dick Lattimer’s from a 1991 bowhunt. So many good memories!

Now, in the wee hours of a Nebraska morning, I am remembering and grieving for my friend. He left us too soon and I realize that I am the last survivor of our old Bear gang. Still, I do not wish Dick were back with me. He suffered much in these past few years and I know he wanted to move on. His faith, his life’s

record of accomplishments, and his actions on behalf of a sport he loved will stand him in good stead when he appears before that Great White Throne.

My sole regret is that I cannot attend his final memorial service. Yet I am blessed to have had him with me as my foster Fred Bear brother. Like Papa Bear, I loved the man!



Frank Scott, General Joe Engle, Ted Nugent, Dick Lattimer, and Dick Mauch

From The President

By M. R. James



DICK LATTIMER AND I shared more than a December 6 birth date, Indiana roots, and a passion for good writing. Our paths crossed countless times during the past five decades, and like most folks who knew him, I have lots of private memories of Dick and his many professional accomplishments.

Dick went to work for the Bonsib Ad Agency in Fort Wayne a few years before Don Clark and I laid the foundation for publishing the first issues of *Bowhunter* magazine in that same northern Indiana city. And when Dick began working as a Bear Archery account executive, and later left Bonsib to work for Papa Bear himself, our business connection was sealed. One of my earliest recollections of Dick was at an Archery Manufacturers and Merchants Organization meeting in Chicago. Though we didn't know it at the time, Dick later would become AMO president. His leadership qualities and organizational abilities would be hallmarks of Dick's pro-hunting, pro-conservation efforts throughout the years.

Mutual friends of AHOF's guiding light Dave Staples, Dick and I later served on the Board of Directors with Dave and I was there to witness Dick's induction in 1999. We both later served the AHOF as its vice president. Ironically, Dick became AHOF president upon Dave's untimely death, and I stepped in to replace Dick after declining health forced him to resign his leadership post.

Only five years my senior, Dick was always someone I respected and admired. Signed copies of his two popular books, *I Remember Papa Bear* (2005) and *Hunt With Fred Bear* (2006) rest on a shelf near my office desk. Additionally, an official certificate naming me a charter member of the Fred Bear Sports Club, signed by Fred Bear and executive director Dick Lattimer, dated August 1, 1972, is displayed in my same home office.

Jokingly referring to us as charter members of the "12/6 Club," because of our shared birth date, Dick inscribed his books "To My Old Friend, M. R. James, With Best Personal Regards."

Thanks for the sentiment and friendship, Dick. And personal thanks for all you did for our sport, always leading the way. Now you can rest easy while we shoulder the load you carried for so long and well. And finally, thank you, Alice, for sharing Dick with all of us. Archery and bowhunting are better today because of his involvement.



CLASS OF '99 -- I was on hand to congratulate Dick and fellow AHOF inductees Floyd Eccleston and Tom Jennings during an ATA Show in Indy.

From the desk of G. Fred Asbell ...

I just saw that Dick Lattimer died on the 6th of September, and I was deeply saddened. What a fine man. I spent a couple of days in his presence at a wildlife function in St. Louis a few years ago, and I came away realizing that we rarely know/understand much of/about people whose names and images we often see in the media.

Dick was genuine, and perhaps as professional as anyone I've ever known in this outdoor business. And while he made his living promoting the industry, the amount of volunteer work he did was inspirational. We can't say enough good things about Dick Lattimer. He was a class act and should be an inspiration to us all.

Les Brown remembers Dick Lattimer.....

It is with fond memories I remember my brief encounters with Dick Lattimer, mostly during my term as president or board member of the Professional Archers Association. I always found Dick an easy fellow to talk with, a good listener and extremely good natured. After everyone's retirement mail from Dick would find itself forwarded to me by some other knowing archer and often they would carry the news of the passing of someone I had known. Some close to home, some very good friends and archery associates. It was one of the caring things he did.

When occasionally traveling down I-75 I would always be aware when passing Bear Archery and thinking of archery friends that had been there. As the trees grew and hid the new factory from the I-75 expressway the people also disappeared.

Sometimes we are drawn to a place and don't know why, so I don't know why I was drawn to Cedar Key while staying in Crystal River, Florida. At the time I thought it was because of the isolation and the weather. I drove up to Cedar Key several times just to walk in the city park and feel the wind and air in my face and watch the sea gulls and waves. I did not know there was also an archer there who was in a great location to share his archery experiences with his friends and the world

and even outer space.

Dick Lattimer is to be commended for stepping up to the plate and continuing his part in "The Dream" as set forth by Archery Hall of Fame founder, Dave Staples.

On behalf of the past Board of Directors and membership of the Professional Archers Association, many of who never were aware of the part Dick played in our sponsorships, I offer to his family and friends around the world our condolences. To his wife, Alice, we thank you for sharing so much of his time with the sport of Archery.



A young Dick Lattimer supervises a 1967 Bear Archery photo shoot with Jim Pickering and Owen Jefferies.

Leslie (Lewis) Brown, Past President
Professional Archers Association

Frank Addington reports from Plum Creek.....



As I write these words a fire is burning down in our fireplace at the cabin here in Ponca State Park. This isn't just any fire, it was a tribute fire for Dick Lattimer, our friend who recently passed away. Dick and Carol Mauch are here with me and

retired Game Warden Dick Turpin was also here. We had a nice supper of venison backstrap Dick cooked on the grill along with special potatoes, homemade guacamole, homemade slaw, fresh tomatoes that grew on Plum Creek at the Mauch's camp, and corn. We were all seated at the large table here and in the Mauch tradition, a plate was set for our pal Dick.

After dinner and many funny stories by Dick and Dick, who both hunted with Fred Bear and Dick Lattimer a number of times, we went to the fireplace. I started a nice fire and as it got going Dick got Dick's arrow. He had found an old cedar arrow with a Bear Razorhead on it that Dick Lattimer had used to hunt turkey at Plum Creek. He also had the paper plate with the meal on it. He placed the plate on the fire first and then placed the arrow onto the fire. As we all silently watched it ignite Dick then began to recite "Death the Collector" by Edgar Guest. As he was finishing the poem, the cedar arrow burned in two and the feather end fell out of the fire. After a few moments, I read Dick Lattimer's eulogy he had written for Fred Bear. About the creatures of the forest who understood that the

crow had come to tell them of the death of the gentle bear... That was one of the most beautiful and moving eulogies I'd ever heard. I figured Dick would have appreciated having that read at this special occasion. The man who'd been Fred's right hand man for more than 25 years was now in Heaven sitting by a campfire with Fred, Earl Hoyt and other archers we have lost in recent years.

As the fire fades down I am enjoying this evening with an 84 year old legend, and one of the last of Fred's circle. Dick Mauch is a special, special man. Although saddened by Dick's death, he's also been able to laugh with us this evening while telling some of the funny stories about Lattimer, Fred and others. I wanted to write this now while it was fresh in my mind.



"I learned a lot from Fred Bear, but mostly I learned how to treat people. Treat everyone the same, from janitors to kings with equal respect interest and consideration. " DL