

2004 Inductee
Earle Bateman

In 1949, his uncle gave him a 70# wood bow, which he could not pull back. At the age of 15, he strung it, pulled it back and broke it. In 1961, after work one day, a friend asked him to go to the archery range. That was the beginning. He bought his friend's old bow, and when that broke, he purchased a new Wing Bow. He joined the Bow Bend Archery Club in Pasadena. The members wanted to get together and buy some arrow components. Earle ordered and paid for 3,000 wood arrow shafts, nocks and 12,000 feathers. When the order came in, only 3 or 4 archers took their supplies. That was the beginning of Earle's archery business.

Earle had his shop in his garage. After joining the Baytown Bowhunting Club, Floyd Handy asked Earle about taking over his Root and Groves Bow dealership. By 1965, he had the Easton distributorship, and sold arrow rests, bows and accessories. During the 1960's and 1970's, Earle served as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of the Baytown Bowhunting Club. He was also active in the Texas Bowhunters, Inc., which preceded the Long Star Bowhunter's Association. He met with officials of the Scot Paper Company in East Texas about bowhunting and helped locate a place for "Operation White Tail".

Earle was one of the first Bowhunting Vice-Presidents of Texas Field Archery Association (TFAA) and served for two years. He was active in attending Parks and Wildlife Hearings, Waterfowl Conferences and Sportman Clubs of Texas Meetings. He met Major General Cross, Executive Director of Parks and Wildlife at a Waterfowl Conference. Earle was invited to go to Austin to discuss bowhunting regulations. The results after that meeting with Parks and Wildlife were; (1) An Archery Stamp, (2) Opening of doe hunting to Bowhunters without permits in 94 counties. This was instrumental in getting a special archery season for bowhunter's only.

In 1972, Earle quit his day job and went into archery business full time. His shop was a full-time pro shop with lanes. In addition, he was a certified NFAA instructor, measurer for Pope and Young Club, merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts, taught archery, furnished equipment and held exhibition shoots for such organizations as Boy Scouts, Houston Sportsman Club, Bowhunters Who Care, 4-H Members, Junior Olympics, and Pasadena High School. He was a service center for Bear, Jennings, and other companies. The first five years that Bear Archery had service centers, he serviced more bows than any other company in the U.S. He helped with new product design with Bear Archery and did testing on a prototype compound for Jim Ploem with Wing Archery.

In 1977 Earle, Fred Pape and Mel Stanislawski were asked to sit in with Fred Bear management personnel and customer service people at Grayling to go over problems with Bears compound bowline. Since Earle first got into archery, he was never satisfied with some of the available products, and his customers echoed his thoughts.

In the 1970's, Earle, with help from his friend, Mitch Vanya (who worked at NASA), came up with new ideas for quiver designs. One design was a target quiver belt loop pocket. He came up with an angle mount bow quiver and a back quiver with an adjustable angle. This was the beginning of his archery manufacturing business. He manufactured archery accessories such

as: tabs, gloves, target quivers, hunting quivers and bow quivers. Because of the demand for his accessories, in 1982, he sold the retail business, and moved to the present location at Canyon Lake, near San Antonio. His main business is with dealers and distributors both in the U.S. and abroad. He still does some retail sales over the internet.

Some of his archery accomplishments include the following:

SHOOTING

3 State Field Championships

7 Sectional Championships

1 State Broadhead Championship

1 National 3-D Championship

Ed Diess Award in 1969

Retired State Husband and Wife Trophy for Bowhunter

Won the Saunders speed round Individual and Team (with Mike McGarity)

PATENTED PRODUCTS

The "Puff" Silencer

"Adder" small game point

"Swinger" Arrow Rest

"Vari-Loc" Bow Quiver

ACCESSORIES DEVELOPED

The "Stay Put" tabs

"Quiver Mate" side quiver adapter

"Lasso" bow holders

"Lock-n-Load" hunting side quiver

"Lock Strap" holders

Adjustable angle target quiver in 1985

Earl is currently not shooting many tournaments, these days. He hunts every year and has killed over a 100 whitetail and other big game. He also hunts small game and likes to bow fish. He killed his first deer at Aransas Wildlife Refuge the first year it opened. He is a lifetime member of LSBA. We have known Earle and Flo for about 30 years. We have sat for hours at their home/shop or at a restaurant and listened to their stories. Suddenly Earle will lean over and say, "Lee, what do you think about this (his new project)." Then he will draw whatever it is on a paper napkin or scratch paper. The next time we see them, he will have a drawing to scale and a prototype!

Earle has contributed and will continue to contribute so much to archery; it is difficult to relate everything he has done on a few sheets of paper. Congratulations Earle - on being inducted into The T.F.A.A. Hall of Fame! It is well deserved.

(Earle was nominated to the Hall of Fame by Lee Gregory.)