

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, May 25, 2015

Testimonial Shoot for T. Clarence Marshall, 1940: On Saturday, May 25, 1940, just 75 years ago today, a testimonial shoot was held for my father, who had been president of the Amateur Trapshooting Association of America the previous year. Nathaniel C. "Nat" Longmire made his Brinton Lake Gun Club near Concordville available, and the committee promoting the event consisted of three veteran shooters, Charles H. Newcomb of Philadelphia, George D. Baldwin of West Chester, and Clarence L. Walker of Wilmington. Brinton Lake was a wonderful place to shoot, and it had hosted the Pennsylvania State Championships in 1938 when five shooters broke 200 straight on Championship Day. It was also one of the clubs in the Penn-Del Twilight League.

The committee decided on a program consisting of 75 16-yard targets, 25 handicap, and 12 pairs of doubles. Coming out of the Depression, many shooters balked at longer programs, as ammunition and clay targets were relatively expensive compared to their incomes.

The weatherman furnished a perfect late May day, and 65 shooters took part. Paul E. Holloway, a very popular shooter from Pine Valley, New Jersey, had the highest overall score, 120 out of 124. I was pleased with my score when this 16-year-old broke 117. My father received a sterling silver plaque with the names of everyone who attended engraved thereon. It hung on the wall of his office at Auburn Heights for the remainder of his life.

Before 1940 was over, my dad acquired the "Becker car," a 1913 Stanley Model 76 touring he had sold as a dealer when it was new. As World War II began and progressed, his major hobby changed from trapshooting to antique automobiles. Although he continued shooting and running the Yorklyn tournaments until 1950, there was no question which one was his major interest. The Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights, built originally in 1947, is the result.

We wish a very pleasant Memorial Day to all. Please don't forget its true meaning.