

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, December 5, 2005

Where the Shooters Stayed and Where They Ate When Attending Marshall Tournaments: The affluent and more sophisticated shooters attending the Yorklyn trapshoots usually stayed at the Hotel du Pont, although the Simon Hotel at 8th & King Streets and the new YMCA were also recommended. Many liked the few tourist homes then available in Kennett Square and on Miller's Hill to the east, all about 5 miles from the Yorklyn Gun Club, where a nice room could be had for about \$1.50 per night. During the 1930s, three meals a day were available in the dining room at the gun club, most often catered by the women of the Kennett New Century Club, who were paying off the mortgage on their nice stone clubhouse. Watermelon and peach pie were special favorites. Esther Marshall always seemed to be managing the operation. The women hired a strong, tireless, and excellent cook and paid her \$10 per day for five days, almost unheard of in those days. Her name was Laura Dorlander, and she earned every penny of it, working on two woodburning cookstoves in a very hot kitchen with "fly paper" hanging from the ceiling. A screened-in "store" was a part of this concession, where homemade sandwiches, ice cream, and sodas could be purchased. It was always popular, especially in the evenings when the night shoots took place. With these night shoots attracting upwards of 200 shooters, it was not uncommon for 1,000 spectators to be on the grounds.

Some of the hardier shooters elected to stay on the grounds overnight. A large tent was pitched next to the parking lot, and about 20 iron cots with thin mattresses were available without cost. The bath and toilet facilities would be completely inadequate in today's world, but everyone made out. There was a men's restroom off the club room and a metal shower with no hot water in a rustic outbuilding. It seemed many of those staying over prevailed upon Clarence Marshall to let them sleep in the clubhouse instead of in the tent, so Clifford ("Cliffey") Murray would set up the cots there late in the evening and take them out the next morning before activity for the day picked up. When I was about 14, I wanted to stay there with the men in the worst way, but my parents did not allow it. By the time I was old enough to do so, my bed at Auburn Heights seemed highly preferable.

Who were the shooters who came? Some were the top shots in the country, such as Frank Troeh from Oregon; Ted Renfro from Montana; San Sharman from Salt Lake City; Jack Elliott from Kansas City; Forrest McNeir, E. F. Woodward, and Fred King from Texas; Bob Coffey from Iowa; Hale Jones, Mark Arie, and Sam Jenny from Illinois; Doc and Ned Lilly, Karl Maust, and Fred Ford from Michigan; Phil Miller, Herschel Cheek, "Red" Hawkins, and the Jenkins brothers from Indiana; and a score from Ohio, including the best of them all, Joe Hiestand. These Class AA shooters were pitted against the best we had in the East: Steve Crothers, Walter Beaver, Fred Tomlin, Roger Fawcett, Ernie Chamberlain, and "Cap" Grier. The big names were here and were real drawing cards for the spectators, but the real supporters were the "average" shooters from communities all over New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Some were here for one day, some for two, and some for three or four, but they are what really made the Yorklyn shoots successful.