

Wapiti Bowmen

January, 2021 Newsletter

Calendar Events

February 2nd - Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m., place to be determined.

SHOOT DATES for 2021

Wet and Wild - March 6 & 7

Cinco de Arrow - May 1 & 2

Youth Safari - May 29

Bonanza Safari - June 19 & 20

Mel Schmidt - August 21 & 22

Flashlight Shoot - October 16

January President's Message

To all Wapiti members,

This will be my last presidents message as I will be stepping down as president and a member of the E-Board.

I have served Wapiti Bowmen for over 40 years. During this time I have seen changes in our organization some good and some bad. I have watched the leadership age with very few younger members willing to take on the leadership of this club. Point in case is the vacancies in the E-Board for the coming year, there are several key positions that are not filled. If you want this organization to continue you might want to consider stepping up and fill one of the open positions.

The banquet scheduled for February 6th has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Watch your newsletter for when that will be.

Long time life member Jerry Killian passed away December 22 just nine days before his 100th birthday.

Without Jerry's help and guidance I serious doubt that our club would be where it is today. Jerry financed Wapiti when we purchased the property from Weyerhauser. He bought and donated the John Deer tractor and mower that we have. He spent countless hours designing and laying out the parking lot and the access road. All of the drainage ditches was done by his hand, He designed and made Wapiti.s entrance gate.

Jerry only had a fourth grade education but was able to engineer and fabricate from scratch many archery related items such as "the Killian sight", bow string jigs, hand held serving tools, all which are still used today. He designed and made Wapiti's climbing bear and moving fish targets.

Jerry loved to hunt and was very successful. Throughout his 50 years of hunting he took 39 elk plus numerous deer, bear and cougar. He hunted in the Starky unit for 46 years, this is the same unit that my group has hunted for several years. Just about every time we went into LaGrande we would run into Jerry and his son at the laundromat and would have a good time discussing our hunt. I for one will miss Jerry, he always gave me good insight and advise when it came to Wapiti Bowmen.

There will be a saying of the rosary at 10:30 and a memorial mass at 11:00 at St. Frances Church with an interment at the IOOF with full military honors on January 12th

All are invited to come and honor Jerry. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Glen - President



Gerald I. Killian

**January 1, 1921 –
December 22, 2020**

Gerald Ignatius Killian died peacefully at his home in Lebanon, Oregon on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 with his daughter, Lorene French, son, Mitchell Killian and daughter-in-law, Trina, at his side. He was just nine days shy of his 100th birthday.

Born on the first of January in 1921 in Fosston, Minnesota, Jerry, as he was known, was the youngest of the eleven children of Thomas Killian, a native of Fermoy, in County Longford, Ireland. Tom immigrated to Minnesota in 1892 at the age of 25. A few years later Tom married Lena Beaulieu, who died young, leaving him with two small daughters. Then he married Mary Lorene Vezina, Jerry's mother, and they had nine children together. They settled in Fosston, Minnesota to farm and raise their family.

Even as a very young child, Jerry was happiest working on the farm with his father. Most of the older siblings had gone on to live their lives, so in the fourth grade, Jerry decided to stay home to help his dad. No more school for him! Though he lacked a formal education, he had an incredible mechanical mind. He could solve any problem, create any machine part and fix anything with the combination of his mechanical insight and physical strength. It was this ability, combined with his passion for archery that led to a successful career as an entrepreneur and business owner. In the 1960's, Jerry was considered one of the best archers in the United States. He won just about every championship that he entered in his home state of Minnesota. He belonged to an elite group of outstanding archers known as The Toxophiltes. Jerry was a freestyle shooter, always using a recurve bow in tournaments. In the course of competing, he was constantly creating improvements in the sights on his own recurve bows. He realized there was a demand for these products among other competitors and hunters. Killian Chek-It, his new company, was born in response to this market demand. He successfully patented nine of his original designs for the bow and arrow. In 1971, at the World Indoor Archery Championships in Las Vegas, 97% of the contestants, including the winners, were using Killian Chek-it sights. The business continued to grow, with Jerry innovating and expanding every year until he sold it in 1977. Just this year Jerry was inducted into the Minnesota Archery Hall of Fame. He was also honored with a lifetime membership in Archery Ireland. He was a proud lifetime member of the Wapiti Bowman and the Sylvan Archers in Portland.

Jerry and his wife Midge continued to hunt elk in the Blue Mountains, southwest of La Grande, Oregon until her passing in 2005. He continued to go out for the 30 day hunt with his son, friends and nephews until just last year. The tree stands were 15 to 20 feet high.

His favorite was one he built for his wife, still known as "Midge's Stand". In the last few years, he hunted from the blind on the ground for safety's sake. He always looked forward to spending that time in nature with the people he loved, doing what he loved. He harvested 39 elk during his years in the Blue Mountains and is a proud lifetime member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Jerry served as a combat infantryman and paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division, known as the "Angels" in the Asiatic- Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was awarded two Bronze Battle Stars for his heroism in the liberation of the Philippines. He clung to life in New Guinea after contracting cholera, one of the few soldiers to survive ten days trapped in a foxhole, trying to avoid capture. He could never speak of the atrocities he endured during those campaigns. He was just grateful to survive the war, and be able to come home to marry the love of his life, Mildred "Midge" Gangle on November 6, 1946. He was a life member of the 11th Airborne Division Association, designated as Angel #76, and of the American Legion. He could be found there every Saturday night enjoying dinner with his fiancée, Lavon Gabrielsen, and his fellow Legionnaires.

Jerry was predeceased by his wife, Mildred (Midge) Gangle, his sisters, Betty Killian, Virginia Howard, Marie Erickson, Agnes Theis, Geraldine Hope and Vera Schulte and his brothers, Lawrence, Elmer, Leo and Camillus Killian.

He is survived by his daughter, Lorene Killian French of Lebanon and son, Mitchell Killian (Trina) of Portland, his granddaughter, Jennifer Clark and great grandson, Ryan Gerald Hennley. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends in the US and Ireland.

Recitation of the Rosary will begin at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 12th St. Edward RC Church on Main Street in Lebanon, where Jerry was a parishioner for the last 22 years. A memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 a.m. also at the church. Interment with full military honors will follow at the IOOF Cemetery.

Jerry had an imposing physical presence, always standing ramrod straight and tall, even in his last days. He was a quiet hero to so many people, beloved by family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

In Lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Rest in Peace Jerry...until we meet again. To leave an online condolence for the family go to www.hustonjost.com

OAK WOOD FOR SALE

There is about 1 cord of seasoned oak wood at the range available for purchase at \$200.00. It will be up to the buyer to arrange to pick it up. Please contact one of the E-Board members if you are interested.

BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR

Female - None

Youth - None

Husband/Wife - None

Male Bowhunter of the Year

1st - Phil Miller - 52 points

2nd - Don Smith, Glen Walker & Tim McCraven -
50 points

BANQUET

Due to the COVID restrictions in place, it was decided that we would postpone our annual banquet at this time. We plan on having it later in the year, as an outside event, so that we can have more options for social distancing. Please watch the newsletter and Facebook for more information.

Officers 2021

President: Marco Martinez 541-990-5621

VP Membership: Craig Starr 541-258-3582

VP Outdoor Tournaments: Open

VP Outdoor Maintenance: Open

VP Indoor: Marco Martinez 541-990-5621

OBH Representative: Jaryn Smith 541-971-9347

Newsletter Editor/Secretary/Treasurer: Colette Smith 541-619-9454

VP Bowhunter Ed: Don Smith 541-619-9453

Concessions Director: Fran McCraven 541-258-8733

VP Publicity & Outreach: John Smith

VP Bowhunting: Phil Miller 541-258-5625

Webmaster: Carrie Fournier 619-339-3056

POINTS FOR PROFIT: We will be getting involved with the Points for Profit program. We will be gathering receipts from many different vendors. You can find more information at www.pointsforprofit.org. Please begin saving your receipts from the following businesses.

Santiam Place Wedding and Event Hall

Smith Glass

Staples

Sugar Vibes Donut Company, Lebanon and Sweet Home

Taqueria Alonzo Albany & Corvallis

Taqueria Dos Arbolitos Lebanon

Willamette Valley Productions

Victory Pest Control

Oregon Web Press

First Travel Alliance

The Cellar

Reliv (Debbi Grenz)

Rife's Home Furniture

Cascade Farm & Outdoor

Jacopetti's Catering

LegalShield-Legal Service Plans Janice Jackola, Independent Associate

Linn Benton Tractor

Linn County Expo Center

Linn County Vision Center

Linn Lanes Bowling Center

NW Financial Insurance Group – Health-Life-Medicare Insurance

Country Financial – Michelle Morford

Elmer's Restaurant (Albany)

GameTime Sportsbar and Grill

Gillott Home Team-Keller William Reality Group

Homebridge Financial

InSpirit Marketing Inc.

Albany Canna Kitchen and Research

Beggs Tire and Wheel

Bi-Mart Stores & Pharmacy

Burgerville

Clean Keeperz

SpinWare

Timber Linn Chiropractic

Tupperware (Wenona Given)

Willamette Valley Christian Supply

Pixel9Design

Paparazzi Bling Patrol (Rebecca Smith)

Brookdale

Pizza Hut

Premiere Floor Covering

Qdoba Mexican Grill

Rich's Sew and Vac

Penny Power - Sam Rice

Jano's Trophies

KGAL and KSHO Radio

NW Apparel & Graphics

Central Willamette Credit Union

MoreInk of Albany

McAllister's Carpet Cleaning

Pinnacle Dental Associates

Expressions in Bloom

Heritage Mall

Albany Animal Hospital

Complete Business Solutions

J & C BBQ

CoEnergy Propane

Berlees Fancies

Browser's Book Store

Cascade Performing Arts Center

Your receipts can be turned into Phil Miller at any Wapiti Business meeting and soon we will also have a drop box out at the range. You may also bring in copies of your receipts if that is more convenient.

Wapiti Bowmen

PO Box 393

Lebanon, OR 97355