

THE LEGEND OF OLD TEX

Fifty years after Yellowstone National Park was created at the urging of the Boone and Crockett Club, park officials were caught in a dilemma. They didn't know what to do with the abundance of bison wreaking havoc on park resources. It's hard to imagine that around the time of Yellowstone's creation, bison were at an all-time low, with relatively low populations left on the continent.

Old Tex was a park bison that caused trouble by attacking guests and anyone in a park uniform. He was a plains bison, which tended to be more dominant and aggressive. He was the offspring of one of the cows that the Boone and Crockett Club helped to bring from the Pablo-Allard

herd in 1902. Officials used the relocated bison to supplement the remaining wild mountain bison that had taken refuge in the park. In 1926, Chief Ranger Sam Woodring ended Old Tex's shenanigans and "dispatched" him.

Old Tex earned his nickname because the rangers thought he came from another group of bison that came from Texas in 1902. However, further research in 1971 concluded that the bull was missing the distinctive "U.S." brand that all bison from that herd had on one of their horns.

OLD TEX IN THE RECORDS

There is record of Old Tex starting with the original *Records of North American Big Game* published under the auspices of the National Collection of Heads and Horns. However, that scoring system did not consider all the

measurements currently compiled by our Official Measurers. In that first records book published in 1932, the measurements listed the longest length of the outside curve, the largest circumference at the base, and the greatest spread. Old Tex held first ranking in our first and second books, but to be listed in our third *Records of North American Big Game* published in 1952, Old Tex had to be measured under the new measuring system developed by a special committee consisting of Dr. Harold E. Anthony, Milford Baker, Frederick K. Barbour, Dr. James L. Clark, Grancel Fitz, and Samuel B. Webb, Chairman.

This new system, the one still being used today, had to include enough measurements to reflect and credit each species' desirable and characteristic traits. This new system had to be easy enough for the average hunter to obtain a score accurately with a quarter-inch flexible steel tape and nothing more. This new system was developed with simplicity and uniformity, combining the best aspects of the two scoring systems Dr. James Clark and Grancel Fitz

TROPHY TALK



Kyle M. Lehr

B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER
DIRECTOR OF BIG GAME RECORDS

developed. As with any committee process, there was some give and take, improvements made, and new aspects incorporated. They even conducted field trials. The new score charts were distributed to over 250 individuals from different subsets of the outdoor world. Hunters, game officials, authors, guides, scientists, and taxidermists were asked for constructive criticism.

Once the committee gathered all the feedback, they enlisted a cadre of Official Measurers (although not specifically called that in 1950) to find and measure as many trophies listed in the first two records books for inclusion. These Official Measurers were selected based on their experience handling big game trophies and reliability to remain a disinterested third party, not to be swayed by the



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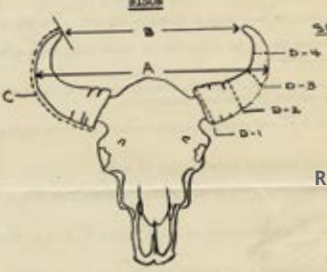
OFFICIAL
OFFICIAL SCORING SYSTEM FOR NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME TROPHIES
OFFICIAL

Records of North American Big Game and North American Big Game Competition

S. Am. Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York 24,

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

BISON



Read more about Old Tex online.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS	Supplementary Data	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
A. Greatest Spread	35 1/2"	Right Horn	Left Horn	Difference
B. Tip to Tip Spread	27"			
C. Length of Horn	21 3/4"	21 1/4"	21 1/4"	2 1/2"
D-1. Circumference of Base	16"	16"	15"	1"
D-2. Circumference at First Quarter	12 3/4"	12 1/2"	11"	1 1/2"
D-3. Circumference at Second Quarter	11 3/4"	11 1/2"	11"	1 1/2"
D-4. Circumference at Third Quarter	9 1/4"	8 1/2"	8"	1 1/2"
TOTALS		70 3/4"	70 3/4"	4 1/2"
AND Column 1 TO 2	Exact locality where killed	Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming		
Column 2 TO 3	Date killed	1951		
Total	By whom killed	Chief Park Ranger S. Woodring		
Column 3	Present owner	Fishing Bridge Museum, Yellowstone National Park		
Column 3	Address	Yellowstone Park, Wyoming		
Column 3	Guide's Name and Address	Sam T. Woodring		
Column 3	Remarks (Mention any abnormalities)			
FINAL SCORE	176 1/2	176 1/2		

I certify that I have measured the above trophy on September 25, 1951 at (address) Yellowstone National Park, City Yellowstone, State Wyoming and that these measurements and data are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the instructions given.

Witness: *OK* Signature: *[Signature]*

Learn more about the trophies in the National Collection of Heads and Horns.

trophy owner or the potential magnitude of the trophy.

In late September 1951, at Yellowstone National Park, trusted Official Measurer Edmund Rogers measured Old Tex's horns using this newly developed scoring system. At the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, he entered the score into our 5th Awards period, our 1951 Annual Competition for North American Big Game. Back then, we had annual competitions; now, we have triennial events called awards. The concept is still the same—the top-scoring trophies for the time period are invited to be displayed for the public to see. All trophies listed in the first two records books had

to be reevaluated using this newly developed system, some trophies did not rank as high, while others ranked higher or retained their standing. As for Old Tex, he was and still is the reigning World's Record bison.

Old Tex is one of only three trophies that retained their World's Record status when the Club switched from the old scoring system to the new one. The other two trophies include a woodland caribou in our National Collection of Heads and Horns, a gift from H. Casimir de Rham, and a Stone's sheep harvested by L.S. Chadwick, also in our National Collection. ■

[Signature]

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As of April 9, 2024

CONGRATS TO OUR TOP 10 PRIZE WINNERS!

1. Philip A. Herrnberger - 286
2. Stanley Zirbel - 175
3. Bucky Ihlenfeldt - 161
4. Ken Witt* - 113
5. Steven Taylor - 105
6. Dale Weddle - 90
7. Jerry E. Lunde - 58
8. John Bogucki* - 46
9. Matt Olson - 37
10. Robert Wood - 36

*deceased

SEE THE COMPLETE LISTING IN THE COMMUNITIES SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE.



EACH TIME AN OM GETS SOMEONE TO JOIN B&C WE PUT A CREDIT BY THEIR NAME!

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN

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- 10 Members - B&C Boyt Sling
- 25 Members - OM Wool Vest
- 50 Members - SITKA Gear (value up to \$350)
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- 150 Members - \$800 Gift Card to Bass Pro Shops/Cabelas!
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- 400 Members - Kimber Rifle! (value up to \$1,500)
- 500 Members - Hotel & registration plus \$500 travel stipend to the next Awards Banquet



Would you like to give an Official Measurer credit for your renewal? Let them know when it is your time to renew and they will provide their OMID number to include with your renewal so they will receive credit.