

TROPHY TALK

An Era Passes



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"Trophy Talk" is normally dedicated to discussing various aspects of the Club's records-keeping activities, but this one is dedicated to a mention of the passing of an individual whose work during the 1940s through the 1960s helped lay the foundation for the Club's current, records-keeping activities. About two weeks ago I received word that Betty Fitz passed away on May 26, 1999, after an extended illness.

Unless you are a fellow "baby-boomer," the name "Fitz" may not hold much meaning for you. However, the names of Betty and Grancel Fitz have long been synonymous with the Boone and Crockett Club and especially trophy hunting.

Betty Fitz served as secretary of the Club's Records Committee during the 1950s. She was responsible for corresponding with trophy owners and official measurers on a daily basis while processing and accepting hundreds

of entries. In addition, Betty assisted with the early Competitions, now called Awards Programs, when they were conducted at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City during the 1950s.

Betty married Grancel Fitz, who passed away in 1963, in 1939. Grancel was a key figure in formulating and implementing the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system that was adopted in 1950. His articles on hunting and wildlife appeared in many of the popular sporting magazines of his day, as well as in the Club's early records books. I remember reading a number of his articles as a young boy, eagerly anticipating the day I would be old enough to follow in his footsteps and go hunting with the "grown-ups."

Betty and Grancel were so deeply involved in the Club's records-keeping activities that their address, 5 Tudor City Place, New York City, New York, was printed in the upper right-hand corner of the Club's copyrighted

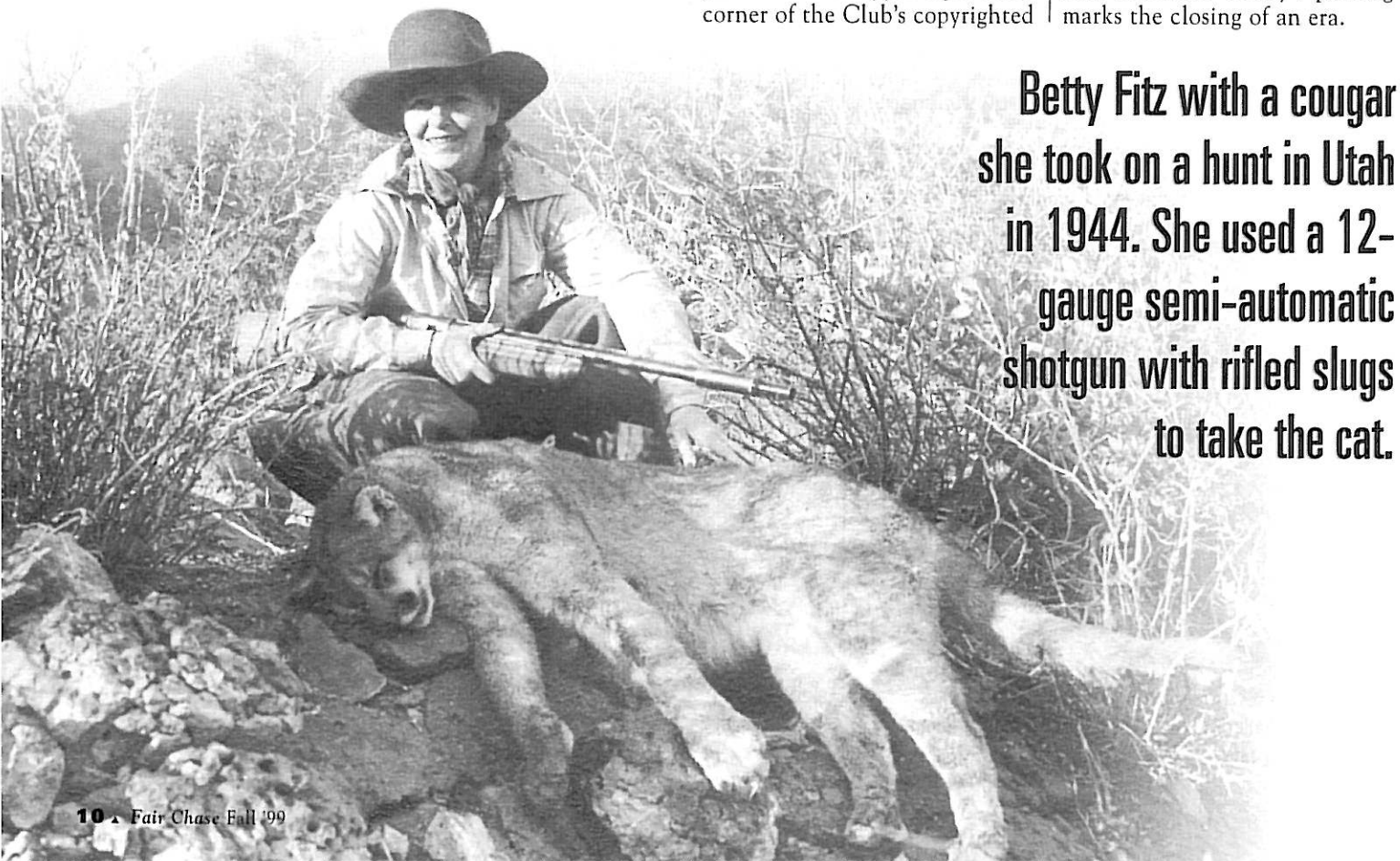
score charts for many years. Hunters from all over North America and the world were always welcome at their apartment.

Betty accompanied Grancel on a number of hunts from Alaska to Mexico and took several big game trophies, including whitetail deer, jaguar and cougar. The exciting account of her cougar hunt appeared in Grancel's book, *North American Head Hunting*, that was published by Oxford University Press in 1957.

After Grancel's death, Betty became very active in the used hunting book business, an activity she ran from 5 Tudor City Place for many years. At a time when computers and the internet didn't exist, Betty could find you nearly any book you needed. It might take her some time, but she didn't forget your request.

The Boone and Crockett Club and the hunting community in general owe a lot to the dedication and contributions of Betty and Grancel. Betty's passing marks the closing of an era.

Betty Fitz with a cougar she took on a hunt in Utah in 1944. She used a 12-gauge semi-automatic shotgun with rifled slugs to take the cat.



24TH AWARDS PROGRAM

The 24th Awards Program, which started January 1, 1998, is shaping-up to be one of the Club's finest.

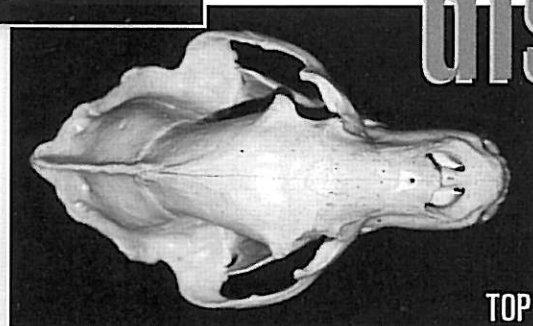
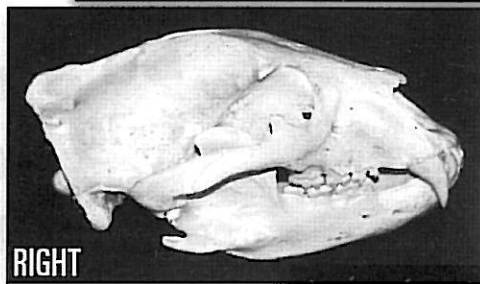
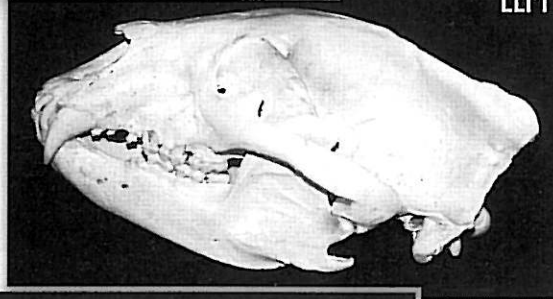
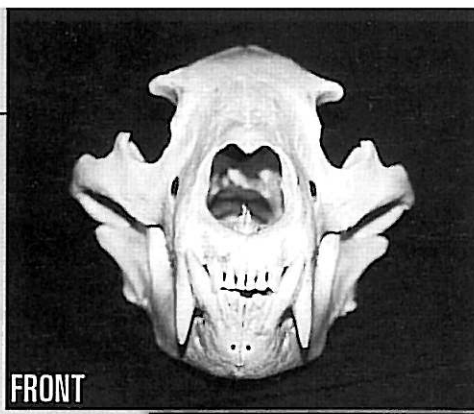
To date we have received and processed nearly 2,300 new entries in 33 different categories. Four hundred and twenty-five trophies, which have been accepted since the last issue of *Fair Chase*, are listed on pages 54-57. In addition, to accepting a potential new World's Record for the recently established tule elk category, we have also accepted potential new World's Records for Alaska-Yukon moose and mountain caribou. I have also received substantive reports from official measurers in the field who are aware of potential World's Records for typical mule deer and pronghorn. I will relay more information about those trophies in a future column when they are accepted.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BOOK

Since the 11th edition of *Records of North American Big Game* was released a few weeks ago, we have fielded a significant number of calls about the deadline for the next Awards book, which I want to point out is December 31, 2000. Trophy owners still have over a year to submit entries for the 24th Awards book. If past experience counts for anything, I would suggest that those who have a trophy to submit for the next book do so as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute. Send the score chart in now to allow plenty of time for processing in the event there are any unavoidable delays.

60-DAY DRYING PERIOD

There are many reasons acceptance of a trophy can be delayed, but two are a continual problem



Photographs of the front, left side, right side, and top of the clean dried skull must accompany all bear and cat entries. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM B&C RECORDS ARCHIVES.

that deserve special mention. The first concerns the mandatory 60-day drying period. Everyone who wishes to enter a trophy should remember the drying period starts from the day a trophy is harvested, unless the shrinkage process is either intentionally or unintentionally retarded.

The drying period for a trophy that is boiled starts the day it is removed from the boiling pot. If a trophy is frozen, or stored under any conditions other than normal atmospheric conditions, an additional 60-day drying period, under normal atmospheric conditions, must be observed before it can be measured. The drying period for freeze-dried trophies starts the day they are removed from the

freeze-drier. Any attempt to thwart the natural drying process is reason for automatic rejection.

CLEANED SKULLS

The second problem we encounter here in the office on a regular basis primarily concerns skulls. **All** bear and cat skulls must be cleaned of **all** adherent flesh, fat and membrane before they can be officially measured. There is a popular misconception among trophy owners, and even some measurers, that only the "contact points" must be cleaned to perform an official measurement. This is incorrect as the skull must be completely cleaned before it can be officially measured. A properly cleaned skull is ready for public display. ▲▲▲

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