

TROPHY TALK



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DIRECTOR
Big Game Records

B&C National Collection

As you read through the listings of the recently published 13th edition of *Records of North American Big Game*, you will come across trophies where the owner is listed as B&C National Collection (NCHH).

The NCHH (National Collection of Heads and Horns) is composed of 39 specimens of native North American big game, representing 35 different categories recognized by the Club. It is one of the Club's early conservation successes and played a key role in restoring big game population numbers. Within the collection are many top-ranking trophies, including four current World's Records and a number of former World's Records.

B&C's NCHH is housed within the Cody Firearms Museum of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC) in Cody, Wyoming. If you haven't been there, you should add it to your bucket list of places to visit, and stop the next time you're passing through the Cody area. The NCHH is worth the visit itself, but you can spend one or two days checking out the five different museums housed under BBHC's roof.

The NCHH, which was founded by Club members William T. Hornaday and Madison Grant at the Bronx Zoo in 1906, is as relevant today as it was to Club members back then. To really appreciate this significance,

you first need to put yourself in the shoes of the Club's founders back in 1887.

Hunting at that time was an unrestrained 24/7, 365-days-a-year activity participated in by many as civilization expanded westward. There were no bag limits or restrictions on the method of taking. Big game animals were slaughtered to clear the land for domestic animals; to feed families, armies, miners, and railroad work crews; and for the sale of hides, meat, and bones, etc.

All the NCHH founders were avid sportsmen who had been out West and

personally witnessed the demise of big game animals in their lifetimes. Bison, which had been estimated at 40-60 million when Lewis and Clark traveled to the West Coast and back during 1804-1806, had been reduced to a few hundred animals by 1887 that existed in only a few scattered pockets. All other big game animals suffered similar declines. As hard as it may be for us to imagine, big game animals were facing possible extinction or existence only in national reserves or facilities like Yellowstone National Park and the Bronx Zoo if someone didn't do something.

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S NATIONAL COLLECTION OF HEADS AND HORNS Buffalo Bill Historical Center - Cody, Wyoming

SCORE	CATEGORY	HUNTER	OWNER
22-13/16	Black Bear**	Loren C. Nodolf	On Loan****
	Grizzly Bear**	Richard P. Carlsberg	NCHH
	AK Brown Bear**	Richard P. Carlsberg	NCHH
28-10/16	AK Brown Bear**	AK Dept. of Public Safety	NCHH
30-2/16	AK Brown Bear***	Walter H. White	NCHH
27-9/16	Polar Bear**	Pat Auld Appersen	NCHH
16-3/16	Cougar	Gene R. Alford***	NCHH
16-1/16	Cougar**	Scott M. Moore	On Loan
95-6/8	Atlantic Walrus	Porter Hicks	NCHH
	Pacific Walrus	Arthur Carlsberg	On Loan
417-3/8	Typical American Elk	Merwin D. Martin	On Loan
	Non-Typical American Elk	Glenn P. Napierskie	NCHH
351-0/8	Tule Elk	Quentin Hughes	NCHH
216-2/8	Typical Mule Deer	Picked Up	NCHH
304-5/8	Non-Typical Mule Deer	Andrew Daum	NCHH
170-2/8	Typical Columbia Blacktail Deer	Dennis R. King	NCHH
121-6/8	Typical Sitka Blacktail Deer	James F. Baichtal	NCHH
126-7/8	Non-Typical Sitka Blacktail Deer	Dan L. Hayes	NCHH
192-2/8	Typical Whitetail Deer	Roger D. Syrstad	NCHH
212-5/8	Non-typical Whitetail Deer	Picked Up	NCHH
126-1/8	Typical Coues' Whitetail Deer	Robert McDonald	On Loan
158-4/8	Non-typical Coues' Whitetail Deer	Picked Up	NCHH
238-5/8	Canada Moose	Silas H. Witherbee	NCHH
183-4/8	Shiras' Moose	Norb Voering	On Loan
446-2/8	Mountain Caribou	Irvin Hardcastle	NCHH
419-5/8*	Woodland Caribou	H. Casmir de Rham	NCHH
465-1/8	Barren Ground Caribou	Roger Hedgecock	On Loan
400-6/8	CC Barren Ground Caribou	Dale L. Zeigler	On Loan
474-6/8*	Quebec-Labrador Caribou	Zack Elbow	NCHH
93-0/8	Pronghorn	Edwin L. Wetzler	On Loan
124-6/8	Bison	Lord Rendlesham	NCHH
56-6/8	Mountain Goat	Earl C. Haase	NCHH
113-2/8	Musk Ox	Picked Up	NCHH
111-6/8	Musk Ox	Robert H. Hanson	On Loan
195-0/8	Bighorn Sheep	Gold White	NCHH
205-1/8*	Desert Bighorn Sheep	Native American	Loaned by AZ Desert Bighorn Society
182-2/8	Dall's Sheep	Earl J. Thee	NCHH
196-6/8*	Stone's Sheep	L.S. Chadwick	NCHH

*World's Record / **mount only / ***skull only / ****On loan from hunter unless otherwise specified.



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When Hornaday and Grant established the NCHH, it was “dedicated to the vanishing big game of the world.” It was created by Club members for several reasons. First, the NCHH drew attention to the plight of these animals. Secondly, it was also meant to serve as an educational tool with zoological and geographical collections. Perhaps an unspoken purpose of the NCHH was to create a repository of examples of big game animals in case any of them went extinct. In other words, future generations like ours would be able to go to the Bronx Zoo and see what kinds of big game species inhabited pristine North America.

Fortunately, none of North America’s big game animals went extinct, and all exist in huntable numbers because of the early efforts of Club members. By the 1950s, the Bronx Zoo lost interest in the NCHH, because of a change in personnel and goals, and it was closed to the public.

In the 1970s, Club members became aware that the Bronx Zoo had plans to divest itself of the NCHH, and Club member Sam Webb was asked to approach the Bronx Zoo with a proposal for B&C to take over the North American specimens of the NCHH instead of sending them to the attic of another institution where trophies such as the Chadwick ram would never be seen again by the public.

In February 1978, Lowell Baier, Harold Nesbitt, and I went to the Bronx Zoo to pick up the 34 remaining North American specimens; SCI received the other 198 remaining trophies from the world’s other five continents. We also acquired the NCHH’s log books that meticulously listed thousands of specimens that were once part of the NCHH. An elderly Bronx Zoo security guard at the front door of the NCHH told us, “I wondered when they were going to get rid of the rest of

the trophies. They have been hauling them to the dump for years.”

The North American specimens were put on display in the National Rifle Association’s Firearms Museum in Washington, D.C., for a short time and then moved to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, in 1981 where they have remained ever since.

The NCHH is as relevant today as it was back in 1906. Instead of raising concerns about animals going extinct, the collection highlights conservation successes over the last 125 years.

NCHH Needs

In keeping with one of Hornaday’s original goals for the NCHH, the Club is always attempting to upgrade specimens in the collection and fill in missing categories (i.e. Roosevelt’s elk, jaguar, and non-typical Columbia blacktail deer). If you have a B&C trophy greater than the one mentioned in this list for any category or any missing category, please call me at B&C headquarters, 406/542-1888, ext. 205, if you have an interest in donating it to B&C.

Jack Reneau

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