

Wendell Endicott



Theodore J. Holsten
EMERITUS MEMBER
Boone and Crockett Club

H. WENDELL ENDICOTT — Philanthropist, Sportsman

Born in 1880 into the prominent Massachusetts family that founded the very successful Endicott Johnson Shoe Company, Wendell Endicott was a member of several sporting clubs as well as the Boone and Crockett Club. He traveled extensively worldwide on hunting and fishing trips and wrote several books about his experiences.

Endicott made trips to southeastern Alaska in 1927 and 1930 where he hunted grizzlies, Dall's sheep, caribou, and other game. His 1927 trip by pack train included several old-time guides and wranglers whose interesting stories about Alaska during the gold rush days are related in his book *Adventures in Alaska and Along the Trail*.

Endicott liked everything about Alaska, and he wrote glowingly about his experiences. He later sponsored a major sled dog race, the H. Wendell Endicott Sweepstakes, a 17-mile sprint, that began in Fairbanks in 1928 and was discontinued in 1933.

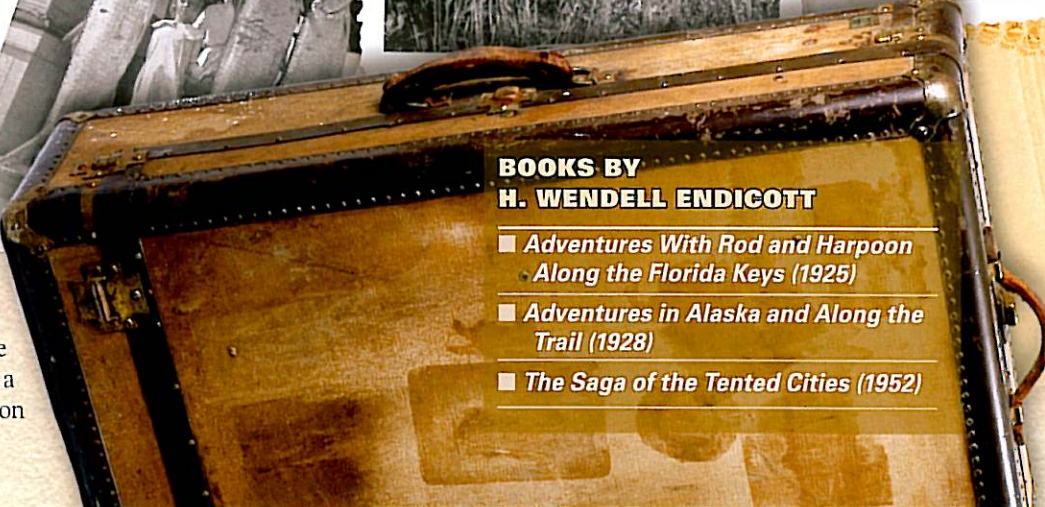
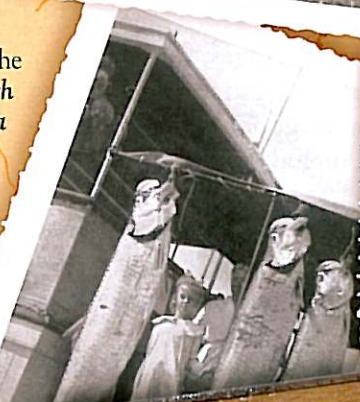
An avid fisherman, Endicott pursued tarpon, sailfish and bonefish in the Florida Keys, where he made some notable catches. He was handy with the harpoon as well, as he related in his book *Adventures With Rod and Harpoon Along the Florida Keys*. It details his experiences with swordfish, sharks and giant rays secured with the harpoon, including some exciting episodes with gigantic fish.

Endicott was a close friend of Avra M. Warren, an American diplomat and sportsman, whom he had met in New Zealand during his early years. In 1951, Warren, who was then U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, invited him to come for a sporting trip the following January. It was a never-to-be-forgotten experience. As a guest of the ambassador, Endicott was treated in a royal manner on a tiger hunt, a bison

hunt on elephants, and a waterfowl hunt where an armada of small boats in a grassy lake was used to drive the birds to the gunners. His group of four downed 274 ducks in a day's shooting.

A highlight of the Pakistan trip was a wild elephant round-up in East Bengal. A long network of beaters and fire is used to drive the animals into a carefully disguised corral call a Kheddah. There the animals go through a forced domestication. However, on this occasion one of the beaters fired off a gun by mistake, and the herd of elephants was spooked and sped off. Endicott's experiences in Pakistan are related in his book, *The Saga of the Tented Cities*.

Wendell was an avid horticulturist. In 1931, he purchased a prominent estate on a rocky hilltop above the Charles River in Massachusetts, where he built an elaborate mansion and expanded the already extensive 25-acre garden. After his death in 1954, the estate was offered, as specified



BOOKS BY H. WENDELL ENDICOTT

- *Adventures With Rod and Harpoon Along the Florida Keys* (1925)
- *Adventures in Alaska and Along the Trail* (1928)
- *The Saga of the Tented Cities* (1952)