

● Organization of the Wyo. State Rifle Association As Told By E. L. Crabb

One day while the Wyoming Civilian Rifle team of 1919 were loafing in camp at that mosquito ridden Camp Caldwell and looking out at the daily rain, the question of rifle matters in Wyoming was discussed and some one proposed that a State Rifle Association be formed and the motion suited the crowd and we decided that on our return home that action to that effect be taken, and as quite a number of the proposers were from the northern part of the state Sheridan was picked as the point of meeting. The original suggestors were J. A. Wade, C. M. Gettys, L. C. Luce from Newcastle, E. L. Crabb of Shoshoni, Frise and Weibel from Sheridan and L. C. Bishop, our present State Engineer and R. L. Esmay the present Adjutant General.

The actual work was started in July 1920 when a regular meeting took place in Sheridan and the first officers elected: President E. L. Crabb, Shoshoni; Vice President J. A. Wade, Newcastle; Treasurer A. J. Peedin, Sheridan; Secretary W. G. Kropp, Powell; Executive Officer L. C. Booth, Sheridan.

The first shoot took place at the same time and the winners of the matches were: 200 yards offhand—A. J. Peedin 42 using the old 8 inch target. State Championship—L. C. Luce, 194; and the Team match went to Newcastle with 656. The Shoshoni, Newcastle, Sheridan and Powell clubs comprising the Association. At this

meeting the Shoshoni and the Sheridan trophies were first competed for. The Association held its matches in the northern part of the state until 1928 when it was pulled off in Wheatland.

We hope to publish articles like the above from time to time—Let's have accounts of matches, both state and of former National Match State teams. Stories of the rifle range which you Old Timers recall would undoubtedly be enjoyed by all interested in this sport.



WSSA First President

Mr. E L Crabb >>>>>>>

WYOMING STATE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION
100 YEARS
1920-2020

In 1919, while members of the Wyoming Civilian Rifle team awaited the rain to stop at Camp Caldwell, so their match could continue, an idea was born.

Someone proposed the formation of a State Rifle Association, those present agreed and upon their return home action was taken.

The actual work started July 1920 when a regular meeting was held in Sheridan and the first officers were elected:

President E.I. Crabb, Shoshoni; Vice President J.A. Wade Newcastle;
Treasure A.J. Peedin, Sheridan; Secretary W.G. Kropp, Powell;
Executive Officer L.C. Booth, Sheridan.

The Shoshoni, Newcastle, Sheridan and Powell clubs comprising the Association.

The Shoshoni and Sheridan trophies were the first competed for. The Association held its matches in the northern part of the state until 1928 when they were moved to Wheatland.



A Certificate of Incorporation
of
Wyoming State Shooting Association

was filed in the state of Wyoming Dec 29 1981
with Thyra Thomson Secretary of State

This History of the Wyoming State Shooting Association was gleaned from archives, scrapbook, newspaper articles and letters.

If those reading this have more information and resources to share..
Please do share.



A GROUP of Cheyenne women became the first all womens team to compete in the National Trophy Team

Match, at Camp Perry, Ohio. A High Power Rifle Competition. Pictured from left are, Penny Million,

Doris Kolkman, coach Jerry Bresnahan, Debbie Childress and Ann Nelson.

LCCC's All-Women Rifle Team A First at Nationals

When Jerry LeVesque went from Cheyenne to Camp Perry, Ohio, to compete in the National Rifle Association's National Trophy Team Match, he didn't know what to expect.

"But when I saw that the front gate was bigger than our whole firing line, I started shaking all over," he said.

Last year, Levesque drove to Camp Perry with his father, Jerry Bresnahan. This year, they drove together again, but in a bus with a team of 10 shooters from Laramie County Community College, where LeVesques' father is a shooting instructor. The bus trip lasted two and a half days.

The Wyoming team produced a first for Camp Perry — the first all womens' team competing in the, National Trophy Team Match, a high power competition. The four women making up the , team' are rather amazed that they are the first womens' team to compete in the high power match, since the matches were first held in Camp Perry in 1907. And, as Bresnahan says, "There are more people in Toledo alone, than there are in the whole state of Wyoming."

The women on the team represent a cross-section, both in terms of shooting experience, and age ranging from 15 to 43 and in experience from one to 30

been shooting for 13 years.

Other ladies on the team include 15 year-old Penny Million, a student at Laramie High School, Doris Kolkman, 43, mother of nine and a business student at L.C.C.C. Debbie Childress 26, rounds out the team. Miss Childress started shooting at LCCC because she needed a Physical education credit.

Bresnahan has taught as few as eight students in a class, and as many as twenty. "I try to limit it to twenty for safety reasons, and so I can give more attention to each student," says Bresnahan. He recently began a High Power Rifle Class, after teaching Smallbore Rifle Shooting, for several years.

This area
is under
construction

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Gary Schoene,
Sports Editor

Wyoming State Tribune