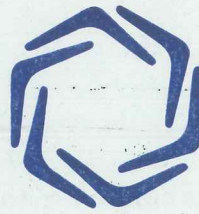


Boomerang

Association



BOX 2165 T, G.P.O.
MELBOURNE, VIC

of Australia

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BULLETIN

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President:	Jack Byham, Cobram, Vic.
Vice Presidents:	Br. B. Thomas, Albury, N.S.W. Bob Schroeder, Melb.
Treasurer:	Ralph Sinclair, Melb.
Secretary:	Morris Maxwell, 45 Rose Street, McKinnon, Victoria, 3204.

Wycheproof Centenary Boomerang Comp. 1976

October 23rd saw two rare occurrences - the eclipse of the sun and Wycheproof's Centenary Boomerang Competition. Throwers arrived from all over the state and a large contingent travelled from Albury, N.S.W. True to form, Wycheproof turned on a gusty day to well and truly test the fibre of all throwers.

The first Senior event proved to be quite memorable for Br. Thomas. In going for a catch just off the throwing area he jumped into a hole and twisted a bone in his right leg, which left him looking like Long John Silver for the rest of the events. The only thing missing was the parrot, but it would have been too windy for it to have sat on his shoulder any way! Despite all this he won the Consecutive Catching Competition. Dennis Maxwell won the Accuracy Competition, while Morris used his new Herb Smith hookie to perfection to win the shortest time for Five Catches Competition. Local hero and champion, Bunny Read won the General Championship with Dennis Maxwell second and Long John Silver third.

A word of thanks to Bunny Read for supplying some really beautiful trophies. It does make the effort of long travel seem worth while if there is something attractive to take away as a memento. Take note future organizers.

Darlington Point World Championships. 1976

Fires, floods and famine. These seem to be words we associate with comps. at Darlington Point. However, this year proved to be different, and there were no problems in getting there for those who wished to participate. And a good crew of throwers did turn up, although veteran Jeff Lewry was missed. An excellent crowd was in attendance to admire and symphize with all throwers.

The big problem was, as usual, wind. Leo Meier completed an excellent double in winning the Shortest Time for Ten Catches (they're not yet up to the BAA's new system of Five Catches) and won the distance throw with a record throw of 88 metres, using one of Jack Byham's "super" boomerangs. Well done Leo, and well made Jack.

The Accurate Return Competition saw two throwers trying to counteract the strong wind by using 3ft. boomerangs; this proved to be a successful strategy for Br. Thomas, who won the event using one of the giants that Les and Arthur Janetzki had made for him. Roy Johns was the other "Giant thrower".

Bunny Read from Wycheproof was once again strong on catching and won the Consecutive Catching Competition. It pays to have a barrel chest!

Things were close in the qualifying round of the General Championship. Those to qualify were Bunny Read 68, Defending champion; Jean Zuber 64 points Br. Thomas 57 points. Morris Maxwell just missed out by one point. Better luck next year Morris. The final proved to be a walk-over with Br. Thomas scoring 44 and 54 to finish with 98. He held all ten catches. Bunny could only manage 24 and 44 to score 68 and Jean scored 24 and 34 to end up with 58. A new "World Trophy" was sponsored and presented this year by Ampol. They are to be congratulated on their fine choice of trophies.

1976 Albury Boomerang Competition

Because of the Wycheproof Centenary Comp. in October, the Albury Comp. was put back to early December, and was held on a school day in the hope of enticing some of the local throwers to participate. The final roll call ended at 22 Juniors and 7 Seniors. Unfortunately all the Junior throwers were from the four Catholic schools only, despite the fact that all schools were circularized well in advance, and Albury High School was chosen as the venue to try and lure some of their throwers - and they do have some - to enter. Alas, not one did.

The interschool trophy, the Weatherall Trophy, was competed for by Aquinas College, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, and St. Brigid's. The results finished in that order, giving Aquinas its first win of the trophy. The Junior General Championship was won by Glenn Peachey, his first title, with Gary Ryan second and Chris Westall third. All come from Aquinas. The Girl's section was won by Louise Purtle of St. Patrick's with Judy Donlan second.

The Senior General Championship was won by Morris Maxwell with Br. Thomas second and Arthur Janetzki third. This was the first time that Arthur had ever qualified for the final of a General Championship well done Arkie! Colin Barnes and his brother came all the way from Hay to compete. Colin took back with him the Chubbs' Sports Store Accuracy Trophy. Les Janetzki finished third in this event. Colin's brother had a very interesting boomerang to demonstrate, it was aluminium hookie which was hollow inside. It had a long flight, but wasn't easy to return.

As usual for our competitions, the weather was shocking, wind, wind, and more wind.

Moomba ChampionshipsHeld Flinders Park Melbourne

Before I start this report let me tell you, that I've no idea of which order these competitions were held, also the Junior Consecutive Catches is not included in the report.

by Pauline Knight.

To start we'll do the Senior Accuracy.

First place was won by Bunny Read with a score of 10 points.

Second place was won by W. Robbs with a close score of 9 points.

Third place was won by Bill Knight with a score of 6 points.

Next is the Junior Accuracy.

First place was won by J Hodgeson with a score of 20 points.

Second place was won by M. Gleeson also with a score of 20 points.

Third place was won by R. Martin with a score of 14 points.

From what I can gather there was a throw off to decide the winner.

Now is the Senior Consecutive Catches.

First place was won by R. Croll with 27 catches.

Second place was won by Bunny Read with 14 catches, now here is a turn for the books, have a look at the results below....

well next is the Shortest Time for Five Catches.

First place was won by B. Read with 50 secs.

Second place was won by R. Croll with 57 secs., boy was that close....

and now for the General Results.

MOOMBA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF 1977 WON BY

CHRIS WESTALL with a score of 56 points.

Second place was won by T. ERSON with 30 points.

Third place was won by M. PEACHEY with 10 points.

MOOMBA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF 1977

and also last years champion BILL KNIGHT with a score of 98 points.

Second was R. Croll with 52 Points

Third was won by B. READ with 48 points.

I think everyone enjoyed his/her self that day and I would like to thank everyone who made it a fantastic day.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Held Aquinas College, ALBURY

The day started out rather chilly but as it progressed it turned out to be a very pleasant day.

The first competition of the day was the Junior Catching championships and the people who received a place were,

1st place GARY RYAN

2nd place CHRIS WESTALL

3rd place was won by three people and they were TREVOR RYAN, MICHAEL GLEESON and BERNARD FARRELLY.

After the junior catching had finished the Junior General championship and the results were,

1st place MICHAEL NICHOLSON

2nd place CHRIS WESTALL

3rd place MICHAEL GLEESON.

While the Junior General was being held on the right circle, the Junior Accuracy commenced on the left circle on the oval. Results were,

1st place CHRIS WESTALL

2nd place BARRY AKEHURST

3rd place RICK DOBELL

Closest to the pin was won by PAULEEN KNIGHT

Overall about sixty juniors competed and it was a wonderful turnout.

And now for the seniors.

First of all the Catching Championship.

The winner of the shortest time for 5 catches was won by BR. THOMAS, with a fantastic time of 35 seconds, which I think is a new world record, "well done Brother".

To me the most exciting part of the day was when BUNNY READ broke his Moomba record of 72 catches, to make a new world record of 112 consecutive catches. I'm sure that the Reid family are very proud of Bunny and so are most of us.

An interesting competition was the largest and smallest boomerang. The Long Distance Championship was won by BOB BURWELL, with a measurement of 86 metres, second place was won by LEO MEIER, and third was a draw between BR. THOMAS and JACK BYHAM.

And now for the Largest Boomerang to qualify and the winner of this was BUNNY READ with a measurement of 1520 mm. span.

The Smallest Boomerang to qualify was won by BOB BURWELL with a measurement of 98mm. span.

And now for the Accuracy Championship.

1st was BILL KNIGHT 2nd was ARTHUR JANESKI and BR. THOMAS, 3rd was CAROL LEWEY. Closest to the pin was RUSSELL SHULTZ.

Results of the General Championship.

Australian Boomerang Champion is BOB BURWELL for the second year,

with 236 points. Second place was won by BR. THOMAS, with 221 points. Third place was won by BILL KNIGHT, with 191 points.

We would like to thank Brother Thomas for "supplying" the grounds etc. and our thanks to everyone for attending the championships.
by P. Knight.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. held May 7th

A grandiose title for a competition which attracted 14 senior and 17 junior competitors, only 6 of whom had competed before. Some competitors in fact had their first throw of a boomerang on the day of the competition. The fact that seven of the junior competitors came from the two streets adjoining the ground, suggests that we should run a competition "down every street".

Tremendous publicity was given by the media and the association of the competitions with the Whyalla Hobby & Leisure Fair was appropriate. Wind conditions were difficult, varying from 20 to 35 km/hr. (as recorded on BHP anemometer.)

Bunny Read made a dash from Wycheproof, Vic. and took out the open championship. Daughter Leanne won the Junior Championship (and won the largest Photo in the S.A. Advertisers report of the competition.)

Dennis Maxwell and family made a school holiday trip out of it with a week in the Flinders Ranges afterwards. Dennis took out second place in the Open Championships and was a great help with judging and coaching both for the Saturday competition and the Sunday demonstrations.

A few locals with some promise were unearthed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Other than the Victorians, the only out of town competitors attracted were from Port Augusta. I had hoped for some interest from further afield.

A co-opted committee of 4 locals were tremendously keen and a great help in organising and running the competition.

Official Results.

Open Championship.

1st BUNNY READ with 72 points, 2nd DENNIS MAXWELL with 46 points 3rd RICHARD SMITH with 27 points.

Open Catching. BUNNY READ with 7 catches. Shortest time for 5 catches 97 second, also won by B. Read.

Open Accuracy: Highest score 15, MIKE HUGO

Nearest pin 2.5 metres MIKE HUGO.

Junior Championship. 1st was Leanne READ with 26 points, 2nd was RANDALL MATTHEWS with 10 points, 3rd was TIM BREMNER with 4 points.

Junior Catching was won by T. BREMNER, and Junior Accuracy was also won by T. BREMNER.
by B.J. Forsyth.

B.A.A. REPORT.

On Saturday 30th July at 1.30 pm. 5 members of the B.A.A. went to the Mulgrave Scout Hall to demonstrate Boomerang Throwing to 60 Cubs, from the Noble Park and Sandown Packs.

It was the Cubs Annual Football Match and before the game, we taught the boys how to throw boomerangs.

After the game and further demonstrations the Cubs had turns in throwing. Some boys learnt to throw quite well and for most their boomerangs "did come back."

We had a good day although it was wet and muddy and one member of the B.A.A. fell in the mud to the delight of other members (he would prefer to remain anonymous.)

It was a most enjoyable day for all especially the dear little Cubs.. although was later wondered how so many of our boomerangs had mysteriously disappeared???

SCOUTS HONOUR.

by Greg Jenkinson.

Wednesday Night 7th Sept. 1977

For two or three months now, there has been an annual meeting at Bill Knight's "joint".

The meeting is to let a boomerang thrower, throw their arm out/off. Specially Bill's new "fibreglass" boomerangs.

Once it starts to get dark and we start loosing boomerangs, we pack up and go back to Bill's for a cup of coffee (or something that looks like coffee.) and discuss boomerangs and other things (or a bit of T.V.)

Some days we have an indoor competition and the record is 225 consecutive catches held by Bill's daughter Sharryn.

by Frick (Rick) Dobell.

REPORT ON TRIP TO UNITED STATES MAY 1976By Morris Maxwell.First North West Regional Tournament.

This event was organised by Marjorie Gerrish with able assistance from Don Cross and other friends. Pre-publicity for the event included television press and radio coverage. The venue was a park consisting of several baseball grounds set in the picturesque hills of Portland Oregon. As an appropriate novelty, it was planned to use various zones of the baseball diamond for scoring. To explain-- the worn area around the pitchers mound was to be the centre circle, the inner grass field to be the next zone and the worn area either side of the baselines to be an outer scoring zone.

As it turned out on the day, the wind was coming from behind the safety fence structure, so we couldn't use the pitcher's mound as centre, this being too close to the fence. Quickly marking out a set of circles in the outer field, we got underway only to find that the public address system had broken down. However, this was the only disappointment for the day as the wind remained reasonable and we had a grand turn up of over 50 contestants, most of whom had not thrown a boomerang before. But they were quick to learn the basics with some on-the-spot instruction and a few extra practice throws before scoring.

I was astounded by the number of spectators which I was later told was over a thousand. We also had radio, press and TV coverage for the event which incidently was better than any media coverage to date. There were several different types of awards which increased interest for a variety of events. As the tournament was such a success, Marjorie decided to hold another this year and will have a report on this in the near future.

3,500 Miles Without any Traffic Lights.

The day after the Portland tournament and some late night celebrating Marjorie and I set off to drive across country for the Smithsonian event. Although I had heard about the American freeways, now that I was actually driving on them I started to realise how vast they really are. Our second stopover saw us at a skiing resort in the heart of the famous "Rockies". After the following two days of constant driving, Indianapolis was a welcome stop. There we had arranged to meet Dr. John Moe. Showing typical American hospitality, John took us on a tour of the city including a trip around the famous Indianapolis speedway (on the roads outside that is). With his family we indulged in a bit of boomeranging in a local park and later dined in a "rail car restaurant".

The next day we continued on to Washington D. C. where we were made welcome by Ben Ruhe and the rest of his "crew". A report by Ben on the Smithsonian Tournament follows.

Saturday, May 8

The Smithsonian Resident Associates hold their seventh annual workshop on the making and throwing of boomerangs. A group of some 65 convenes in the Natural History Museum auditorium for films, lecture, and chance to view fine boomerang collection; then it adjourns to the National Mall for carving and throwing. Each person has been given substantial literature, a blank to carve, and a boomerang by Dr. Lorin Hawes of Mudgeeraba Q'ld., to throw.

Al Gerhards, of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, shows up unannounced and helps out with the demonstrations and teaching. He hurls big, U-shaped boomerangs he has fashioned himself out of wood he laminated lengthwise. Since Al is big (about 6-4) and strong, he handles them with ease. They represent a new look in boomerangs for me since they are so slow-flying and strangely shaped. Al brings along, too, a remarkable aboriginal creation that is a kind of link between throwing clubs and the returning boomerang (never mind that it bypasses the obvious link, the non-returner, or killer stick). The lower half of this object is a round stick; the upper half, however, is a curved, flattened blade. Who can imagine what use such a thing was put to?

The weather is a bit windy, but warm, and things go well. Everyone will have a week to practice making boomerangs and throwing them for the tournament ahead. It is these annual workshops that have produced the cadre of fine throwers now to be found in the Washington area.

Thursday, May 13

Having driven across country in five days, including one all-night grind from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to Indianapolis, Indiana, Marjorie Gerrish and Morris Maxwell arrive in Washington.

Marjorie has brought with her a choice portion of the collection of boomerangs she and her late husband, Colonel John Gerrish, put together to donate to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. One or more of them will be put in the boomerang installation being readied for the giant new museum on the Mall; the remainder will be put in the museum's study collection.

The collection was begun by John Gerrish, an engineer and lawyer, in 1932 in Australia and includes two specimens from the Cunard Collection, circa 1840, acquired in London. This present by Marjorie Gerrish to the people of the United States is a most wonderful tribute to her husband. Boomerang fanciers studying the gift in the Air and Space Museum centuries from now will thank them both. As the person who suggested the gift and on behalf of the Smithsonian made the choices of boomerangs that were to be

accessioned, I add my personal heartfelt note of thanks, Boomeranging is many things besides sport, scholarship not the least of them.

On this same day, Richard Harrison (the self-styled "Boomerang Man") arrives from his home in Monroe, Louisiana, and Herb Smith of Sussex, England, and Giles Healy, of Big Sur, California, his sponsor, check in from New York City where both have arrived by plane.

Friday May 14

Dan Galo, a young scientist, from Brunswick, Ohio, arrives. Dan likes to tell about taking a car aerial neatly off with his Willi Urban Comeback boomerang.

By agreement, a boomerang group convenes on the Washington Polo Field at 11 a.m. for some throwing. On hand are Herb and Giles, down from New York; Dan Galo; Richard Harrison; Tina Parker, the Smithsonian coordinator seeing her first expert boomerang throwing and finding it pretty much fun; Eric Darnell, down from Vermont; Morris and Marjorie; and others. On hand is a television film team to do advance photographic coverage.

Who's who.

Giles Healey. Discoverer of the Mayan murals at Bonampak, Mexico. Had met Herb after seeing him perform on BBC television and enquiring. Herb showed up at his door. Turned out they owned houses a few miles away from each other in Sussex.

Eric Darnell. Once a carpenter, now an environmentalist, Eric has been coming to Smithsonian tournaments for at least three years. His boomerangs are among the finest anyone has seen, some carved of cherry wood. They perform exceptionally well too. Everyone's cupidity is aroused. Eric is approached about trades. (one wouldn't even think of asking to buy such handiwork).

Morris Maxwell. At 27, younger by far than I expected. Slender. Heavily bearded. Good sense of humor. We are honoured by his presence.

Herb Smith. Shortish, bouncy, hair brushed back into a peak. Vibrates charm and good manners. Herb has a whole kit of beautiful made boomerangs to his own designs. And he turns out to be in a class by himself as a thrower. Taking a step or two to get body swing, he launches with precision and a tremendous last-split-second snap. This gets great force and spin into the throw. Although it is calm, with wind at only 3 miles an hour or so, Herb is throwing out 70 yards or so and bringing back the boomerang easily; lighter boomerangs he tosses with a flick and brings back for a negligent left-handed catch. Everyone learns things watching him, and it is plain to everyone that his world distance claim of 198 yards outward, with a complete return

is undoubtedly valid. Herb has the boomerangs, the strong throw, and the fitness; all he needs is the wind. Washington weather in May being quite variable, we look forward to putting him to the test in coming days.

Our group adjourns to the Smithsonian Commons for lunch and talk. The feeling is festive. Boomerang throwing has assumed a charming new dimension with the gathering of people from across the nation, and indeed the world, specifically for a tournament; it's an atmosphere I remember from the Olympic Games in Melbourne. Thrilling.

Saturday May 15.

After two weeks of blue skies, briskly windy days and cold, a front has moved in from the west and the weather has turned more usual for Washington in May-- hot and distinctly muggy. (Washington was actually built on a swamp.) It also turns rather calm, a key factor. We'll throw in the rain, but postpone if there's a gale force wind.

By 10'clock the inner circle is out on the Polo Field, south of the Lincoln Memorial, and organising things. Seats have been previously installed on one side of the field, and there is even a judge's stand. The field, alongside the Potomac River, is quite handsome with its surroundings of trees, park, and memorials, such as the Washington Monument looming up in the distance. The nice care given the area reminds one of a golf course.

Drawing circles on the grass, we run out of lime and have to dispatch a smithsonian aide to find some. Then the remote control public address system keeps tuning itself into local radio stations; we send for a back up system.

Trophies, meanwhile, are laid out on a table. They are resplendent and plentiful - 31 in number. Quite a few have really substantial value. Five are big mounted aboriginal boomerangs from the Gulf Coast of Australia.

Registration opens at 3 and 72 sign up, more than expected. (Registration is free, although participants have to bring their own boomerangs).

Because we soon have at least 100 people throwing boomerangs on the field and a certain confusion developing, we clear the field at about 3:30 and start a demonstration.

First to be announced is Herb Smith, who draws oohs and aahs with his long range throwing and deft catching. Morris Maxwell is next and draws similar plaudits, and they are followed by other adept throwers

demonstrating different things. Eric Darnell throws a matched pair of hardwood boomerangs and brings them back for a double catch. Peter Ruhf and Barney Ruhe show off the game they've invented: both throw simultaneously, Barney right-handed and Peter left-handed, and then they weave around as they manoeuvre to catch the other's boomerang. It's nice to watch. Colin Ruhe, a 10 year old from New York City, throws with such snap he makes his boomerang whirl. He's as good as anyone on the field--an Olympics prospect.

Because of the heavy signup we start the competition early. Novices, about two-thirds of the enrollees, go first. (Competitors themselves designate the category they want to compete in.)

After warmups, each competitor gets a throw to test the wind, and then three throws for the record. Tested is accuracy and catching a catch with a foot on the inner nets maximum points, and so forth.

Advanced throwers then take to the field. They have three competitions--accuracy and catching, as above; throwing to the peg--the boomerang on return may not be touched and the closest to the centre peg wins; and consecutive catching. For the last, we line everyone up in a long line and the first person throws. If he drops, he's out; if he catches, he goes to the end of the line. This innovative competition proves to have show-business qualities. It's not fun only to compete in it's great fun to watch.

This event draws about 25 competitors. The rank thins to 10, then 6. On the way, there are spectacular high-flying boomerangs, multiple circles, and dramatic, diving catches; it is the fellows, though with the short-range boomerangs, who stay alive. Finally it's down to three people and the competition starts looking automatic because of the competence. Then there's a drop. Left competing are Joe Dougherty and Bill Brogan, teenagers and throwing pals from McLean, Virginia. They got involved with boomerangs originally by taking a Smithsonian workshop years ago. At about the 18th catch, with the crowd now a bit restive because the whole afternoon's competition has gone on a bit longer than expected, the announcer (myself) calls for simultaneous throwing, viz., both launch together and have to dodge each other to make the catch. At about the 20th throw for the two youths, Joe drops and Bill is the winner. There is fine applause for both.

We repeat the demonstration, and start totting up of scores; the work is greatly complicated by the fact that the volunteers who were doing it declare they must be off to dinner, and depart. Tina Parker, the Smithsonian coordinator, takes over under considerable pressure,

because there are so many awards and we want to give the various winners completely apt awards. "Next year" vows Tina, "I'm getting nothing but Smithsonian stuff." "Next year" I vow, "a backup P. A. system.

We finally get things sorted out and start the ceremony. Mrs Gerrish ceremonially gives 12 of her boomerangs to the Smithsonian and the gift is accepted by Mel Zisfein, Deputy Director of the National Air and Space Museum, with Don Lopez, Assistant Director for Aeronautics, seconding the acceptance.

Colin Ruhe wins the novice category with 20 points. Out of three throws he has made one catch with his foot on the centre point and two other catches. Pretty good.

Hank Schlosser, a teenager from Emmaus, Pa., wins the accuracy and catching award in the advanced category. He has been almost perfect with three straight catches, two in the inner circle and one right at the centre point for maximum points.

In a playoff, Barney Ruhe of Allentown Pa., wins the throwing to the peg competition. He reveals later he had spent the previous week practicing the gentle toss necessary for consistency. Barney is one of several of my relatives competing; the tournament has a distinct air of nepotism about it.

Bill Brogan gets the consecutive catching award and also the over all grand championship. Peter Ruhf is runnerup in over-all. It is Bill's second straight victory in the tournament .

Awards include four aboriginal mounted boomerangs, including one given by Qantas and another the Gen. Douglas MacArthur "I Shall Return" award, given by Cornelius Roosevelt; an aboriginal boomerang in a canvas sheath beautifully designed, sewn and painted with the four aboriginal earth colours by Gay Clading, one of Washington's finest artists; a stuffed koala and exceedingly handsome Australian wool blanket, given by the Australian Tourist Commission in New York; a stuffed kangaroo, given by the Australian Embassy; a handsome letter opener and scissors donated by Direct Mail Marketing Association, courtesy of John Daly; a framed computer printout of projected boomerang flight paths, donated by Felix Hess of the University of Adelaide, formerly of Groningen, Holland; a copy of the new Lorin and Mary Hawes' book on boomerangs, donated by the two of them; a silver boomerang charm, made and given by Al Gerhards; a stuffed boomerang pillow, given as her third annual birthday award by Polly (Ravenscroft) Roulac; numerous boomerangs, given by Steve Silady, of Sydney, Richard Harrison, Marjorie Gerrish, and others; and finally the Foster's Return Cup,

a beautiful pewter mug on a mounted base, donated by the people who market one of the better brands of Australia's best in the U.S. and given by Jeanette Fleischer and John Roux-Lough, who came down from New York just for the occasion.

Dennis Argal, political counselor of the Australian Embassy in Washington, serves as master of ceremonies.

Press coverage as usual is substantial, but pleasant this time, unlike last year when there were actually four television teams on hand at one time and each demanding attention, to the considerable detriment of an orderly tournament. Among a dozen others, on hand this year is a photographer from the National Geographic Society and George Leavens, of Stamford, Conn., covering for Sports Illustrated, the prestigious Time-Life publication. George is an Australian by birth and has collected boomerangs in Australia during his career as a Life magazine staffer.

With the tournament ending about 6.30pm. it is for food and drink, and invitees flood the post-tournament party given by this writer and chef de cuisine Ellen Phillips. Phillips lays on a gourmet spread including terrine and brie, white wine (Le Fleur in 200 centileter bottles) and Foster's. There are absorbed conversations, such as one between Carl Naylor of Brooklyn, who had purchased a boomerang from the Gerrishes in 1940s and discovers Mrs. Gerrish remembers his former address while Carl himself has forgotten it. (Carl, by the way, has given on old Donnellan boomerang he brought in the 1940s to the Smithsonian and it will be put on display shortly.)

In his absence, we drink a toast to Cornelius Roosevelt, chief patron of the tournament.

Partying goes on to about 2 am. with the indefatigable George Leavens one of the final holdouts.

Sunday May 16

With four hours sleep Herb, Morris, George and others head for the Washington Monument. On hand already, unfortunately, is a Park Service guard, who greets our proposal that Herb Smith be permitted to try to throw a boomerang around the Monument with distinct suspicion. His notion is to say no, because he sees tourists approaching in the distance, but he gives an approval for one toss and Herb quickly lets heave with a middle-distance boomerang. Already at 6.45, the wind is brisk and above all, it is contradictory wind, with one flag in the circle surrounding the monument flapping one direction, another flapping the opposite. Strange sight. Herb's throw clears, and appears

again on the left, landing in the grass to the left and behind him. Considering the difficult conditions, we pronounce it a highly successful throw.

We then adjourn to a field, in a light rain, so Herb can try long distance throwing, on a course measured for us the day before by a surveyor. But by the time we're operating the wind has dropped and a really long heave is impossible.

Later Herb entralls an audience by telling about how he got involved with boomerangs. A bowman so good he was in the top three in England, he palled on the sport and looked around for something else to study. He thought of boomerangs because of a childhood fascination with the devices. Knowing little more than about them that they did work (a crucial piece of information after all), he researched boomerangs at the British museum, found little help in literature, and on his own sort of invented and perfected the boomerang. Herb has capped this research by publishing a small book titled Boomerangs that is particularly useful for its explanation of woodworking techniques and its plans for long-range sticks.

In mid-afternoon, Herb and Giles depart for Pittsburgh, thence to Big Sur. It's been a diverting two days for all of us.

Monday May 17

Richard Harrison and Morris Maxwell, with Marjorie Gerrish decide to have another go at the Washington Monument test. Arriving much earlier than the previous day and with the wind lighter, both Morris and Richard manage throws completely around the Monument, while avoiding demolishing them on the tall metal flagpoles that ring the base. The Monument by the way measures 55 feet on a side. In a number of cases, Richard and Morris bring their boomerangs back accurately enough to catch them.

End of boomerang weekend. It has been notable for nice weather, camaraderie, pleasant competition. It has been notable too in boomerang annals; for the first time, a boomerang competition has drawn an international representation gathered expressly for the event. History has been made, we like to think. Many happy returns can be expected.

PRODUCTION OF FUTURE BULLETINS.

This was one topic for discussion scheduled for this year's Annual General Meeting in April. As members are aware, the National Championships were so popular that no time was available for the Meeting. So no immediate arrangements were forthcoming. As a result, this issue has been delayed another six months. However, the future looks a bit brighter.

EDITOR FOR BOOMERANG BULLETINS.

Hamish Robb, who did a fine job producing early newsletters is well qualified. He was unable to continue when he "moved shop" and started a new business in Wedderburn. He has put a great deal of effort into improving tourism in the area and also with assistance from his charming wife Lyn, "Gundawarra Boomerangs" has become well established. Now that things are running more smoothly, Hamish has volunteered to take on the editorial job.

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