

George A McAteer



George McAteer was born January 7, 1915. He lived in Clarksburg and London, and for twenty-six years in St. Thomas, where he was the owner and operating manager of the Reliance Tool and Die Casting Company.

George shot his first registered target in 1951, and was a life member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association. He shot his 50,000th target on July 11, 1975 at Elliott's Shooting Park in Missouri, and at his death on November 16th, 1975 at age 60 he had registered 52,275 singles targets.

A member of the Canadian Indians, he won, in 1971, the elaborate silver King Edward VII Trapshooting Trophy, donated in 1910 by Henry Butt for the Handicap Champion in the Canadian Indians. For many years, he was the only Canadian to be a member of the Okoboji Indians. In September 1974, he won their Hommel Trophy at Evansville, Indiana, scoring 94 from 19.5 yards.

In November 1954, George was a member of the Canadian Olympic Trapshooting Team at the World International Tournament in Caracas, Venezuela, placing second in the 16-yard events to win a silver medal. He also made two trips to Europe as a member of International Trade Missions.

Much of his time and energy was devoted to promoting the sport of trapshooting. A Director of the St. Thomas Gun Club when it was incorporated in May 1952, George was elected Secretary in August 1955, and served as Secretary-Treasurer from January 1956 until his death. During those years, the club grew and prospered. A new clubhouse was constructed in 1956 with two electric traps. In 1958, two more were installed and by 1959, the club had nearly 100 active members. He took both the May 24th and the Civic Holiday shoots and turned them into successful 2-day shoots.

In the fall of 1960, instruction classes began for safe handling of guns and shooting, and a Labour Day shoot was undertaken. In 1965, a new addition to the clubhouse was built and the 3-day OPTA Provincial Shoot was held at St. Thomas. A record number of targets were thrown over the 4-trap layout for both Canada and the United States.

From 1968 on, three 2-day shoots have been held each year and in 1974, the club's facilities were improved and expanded to a 10-trap layout to meet the increased attendance at these shoots. In that same year, the St. Thomas Gun Club presented George with an Honorary Life Membership in appreciation of his contribution to the club and his years of service.

George served as a conscientious Director of the OPTA from September 1969 to June 1974, rarely missing a meeting. He was the ATA alternate delegate in 1972, and the ATA delegate in 1973. His hospitality was evident not only in St. Thomas but also at the Grand American in the Canadian tent. He attended a great many shoots throughout the U.S and Canada as a 'goodwill ambassador'.

In addition to trapshooting, George was also a well known fisherman, and fished in Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, and Labrador. He won Canada's Molson Cup five years in a row for catching the largest speckled trout.

He had two sons, Paul of Calgary, and Blair, also a trapshooter, of Pennsylvania.

Each August, in a memorial shoot, the St. Thomas Gun Club honours George A. McAteer, the man most responsible for its growth and success, a man who devoted much of his last 20 years to the world of trapshooting. George was inducted into the OPTA Hall of Fame in 1983.

George is buried in the Elmdale Memorial Park Cemetery in St Thomas with his wife Edna L. McAteer, who died in 1981



Henry Butt Trophy