

Promote **CONSERVATION**



SHOWN BEFORE THE MASSIVE FIELDSTONE FIREPLACE which is the center of attraction in the clubhouse are a few of the men whose activities have earned the Major Waldron Club its enviable record. Standing are Austin Griffin and President Studley Nesbitt, while Paul Knowlton, Richard Hall, John Grady and Fred Varney relax and listen to one of Mr. Varney's many reminiscent yarns about the club's early days.

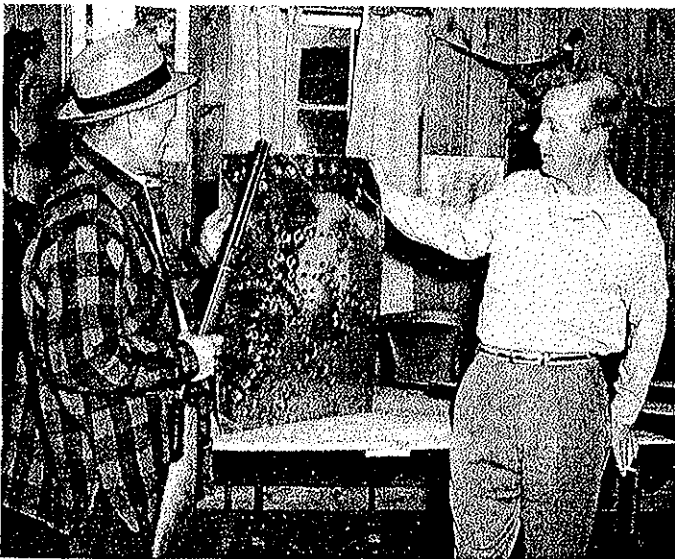
On a recent fall evening, a small group of members of Dover's Major Waldron Sportsman's Club were discussing, as hunters will at this time of year, the rapidly approaching deer season. When the inevitable reminiscing about past years' luck began, one of the men became the object of much good-natured ribbing on the part of his friends, for he had missed, in the space of a mere half hour, five clean shots at deer driven into his path by other hunters. "It almost looked," said one, "as if you didn't want to get a deer."

"Well, you know," smiled the beleaguered one, "I am sort of glad they got away!" Such a confession on the part of a confirmed hunter may sound strange to alien ears, but even more bewildering is the record compiled by this Shoreline organization in its quarter-century of service to the residents of the area around Dover and Barrington, and to those visiting anglers and hunters who frequent Shoreline woods.

While the primary function of this club, like that

of any sportsmen's group, is to promote the good fellowship and camaraderie that go hand in hand with outdoor living, it is not in a social sense that the Waldronites have gained their highest renown. One of the first principles of which they became aware, and one to which the club as a whole has devoted itself for its entire existence, was the almost shameful need for conservation of our game animals, fish, and the woodlands and streams where they live. Through their concerted efforts to promote sane hunting and fishing regulations, anti-pollution legislation, stocking and raising of trout, winter feeding of wildlife, and stream and forest maintenance, this club has earned for itself the praise of at least one Fish and Game Department official, who calls the Major Waldron Club "the greatest single force in New Hampshire acting to preserve our natural resources." What the Club members have done to achieve such recognition makes a story which parallels the growth in New Hampshire of hunting and fishing as major recreational — and economic — factors.

PART OF THE CLUB'S conservation work consists of a stream improvement program instituted at Mallego Brook in Barrington. Working here to create an artificial waterfall are "Speed" Nesbitt, Ev Day and Carl Ham.



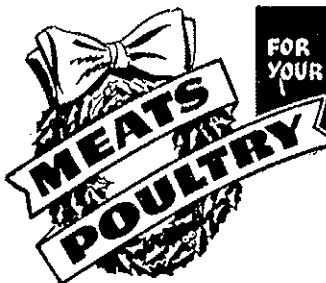
UNCLE SAM'S PROFILE, complete with top hat and goatee, is the subject of this sample of precision markmanship being examined by Sylvio Charette and President Studley Nesbit.

Twenty-five years ago, on the evening of November 27, 1927, a group of thirty-eight men gathered in the loft of the Varney Laundry plant on Waldron Street, Dover. On the third Monday of every month since then this group, increased in number now to over three hundred, has met, sometimes in that same loft, often in the Grange Hall, and since 1935 in a neat, white, frame building on the Dover Road in Barrington. This unbroken string of meetings is, perhaps, the greatest single evidence of the regard in which these men hold their organization.

Formed originally as a local branch of the Izaak Walton League, by 1931 the membership was prevailed upon by the nimrods in the area to open its doors to hunters as well as fishermen, and, fittingly enough, the name of one of Dover's earliest military commanders was chosen as a title for the resulting club. Major Waldron, however, had not confined his game to the deer, rabbits, and trout which abound in Shoreline woods; his pet pastime was Indian hunting, and he was so adept at this that the nearby tribes finally united in what became the bloody Cocheco Massacre, when the entire town was pillaged and burned, and every white person found was scalped.

One of the first projects undertaken by the club was the raising of fingerling trout provided by the State to legal size, and their distribution to ponds and streams in the area. With the establishment of State operated hatcheries, the preliminary stages of this work have been taken out of the club's hands, but their activities in transporting the grown trout continue. This year, for example, members of the Major Waldron Club stocked local streams with nearly a quarter-million State-raised fish. Prior to the formation of the club, in 1927, and the members' subsequent demand for action in this important field, the maximum number of trout stocked in the entire state was twenty-thousand. Fred Varney, in whose laundry the first meetings were held, and who has been a guiding light of the organization since its inception, recalls with a chill one cold winter when he and other early members made nightly treks to their breeding pond to chop through the ice and feed raw liver to the young trout. "When spring came," he relates, "the trout could recognize our footsteps coming down the bank, and they'd make the water boil coming to the surface for their lunch."

At present, the club maintains a pheasant rearing pen on its grounds in Barrington, where, during the past



S. S. Pierce Associate

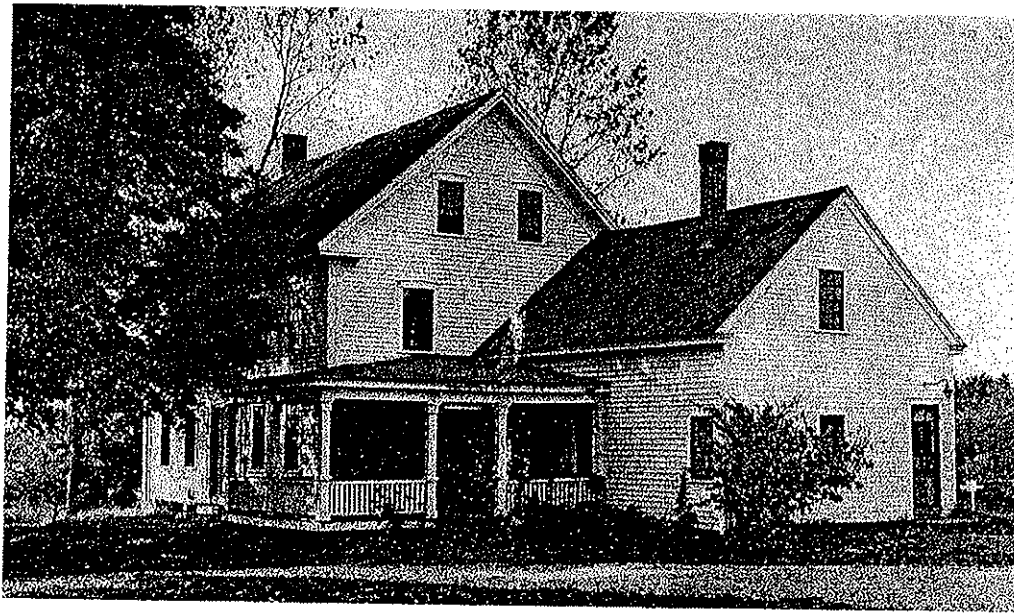
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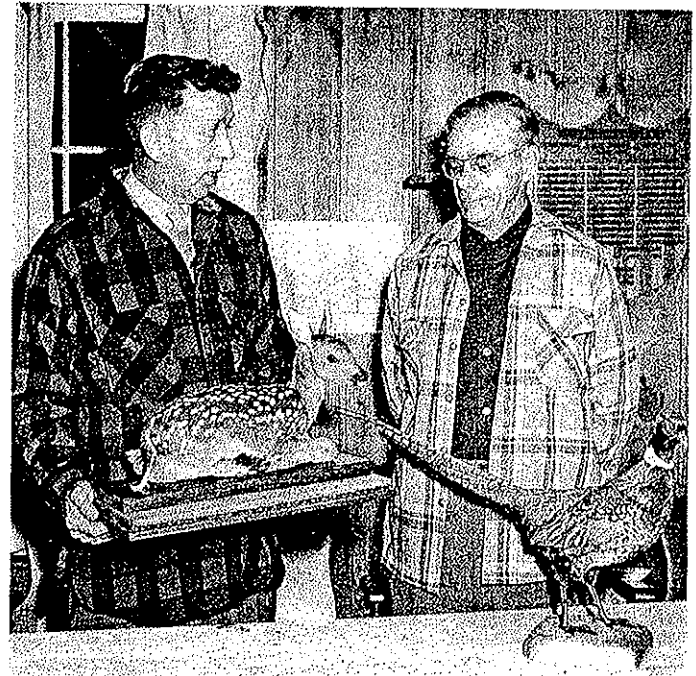


THIS PLEASANT white building on Route 16 in Barrington houses the headquarters of the Major Waldron Sportsman's Club. Completely rebuilt from a fire-damaged home by volunteer workers, this has come to be known as one of New England's most attractive sportsman's clubhouses.

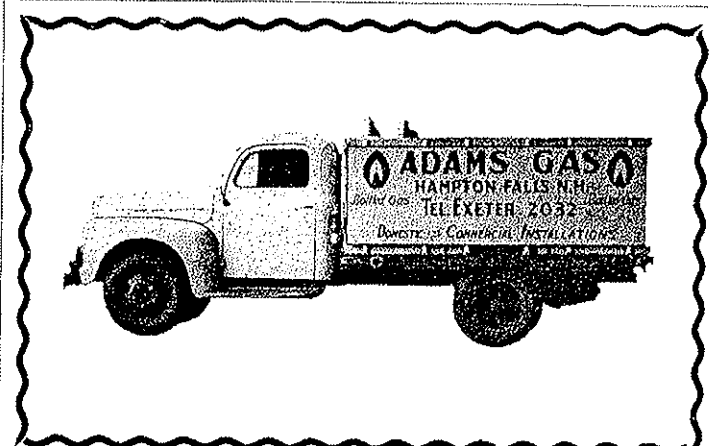
summer, 150 meaty Ringnecks were brought to maturity for release just prior to the hunting season. As an example of the type of conservation work which the club feels so important, the members have planted over five thousand pine seedlings on their grounds in a reforestation program, and are at present near the completion of a stream improvement project on the winding Mallego Brook, which traverses their property. Waterfalls, deep holes, sheltering brush, and other man-made refuges for the game fish in the stream have, in the words of one member, "made it tougher on the angler, but a lot better for the fish!"

A red letter day in the early history of the club was the spring morning in 1935 when, with only forty-five dollars in the treasury, the members decided to buy a club house. They had heard of a burned-out farmhouse in Barrington which could be purchased reasonably, and, after viewing the remains of what had once been a rambling colonial building, decided that this was it. Fred Varney and Paul Knowlton, who were president and secretary of the organization at that time (and who, incidentally, have between them nearly twenty years in the president's chair), set about on a fund-raising expedition. With the help of Austin Calef, whose Old Country Store abuts the club property, the farm was bought, and all through the summer the sound of hammers and painting replaced the more familiar whirring of fly reels as the entire membership worked to restore the building. The results of their efforts have provided a rustically pine-panelled meeting place which ranks with any in New England for its convenience and beauty.

If the activities of this unique group seem to consist mostly of work, that is because the job which they have done for hunters and fishermen throughout the state is the most striking thing on their record. There are, however, plenty of occasions when the members temporarily forget their conservation projects and take part in the usual pursuits of hunters and fishermen everywhere. On the club grounds are two of the most modern skeet fields in the East, where the New Hampshire State Skeet Shoot and the Northern New England meet are held yearly. The Major Waldron Skeet team, for many years champions in both of these shoots, always has ranked high in New England in the many competitions held. Under the direction of the current president, "Speed" Nesbitt, the members are building a steel-plated rifle range in the same laundry room where the initial meetings were held. When it is completed, it will provide instruction in the proper handling and care



ADORNING THE WALLS OF THE CLUBHOUSE are dozens of stuffed birds and animals, the result of members' hunting activities. Here Gustave Nesman holds a mounted unborn deer while Paul Knowlton looks on.



PRESENT OFFICERS of the club, responsible for the continuance of the many projects which the members undertake, are Vice-President Austin Griffin, President Studley Nesbitt and Treasurer Norwin Knowlton. Not present when the picture was taken, but equally active in the club's affairs, was Secretary Harry Cheney, Jr.



THIS GARDEN PATCH on the club's Barrington grounds is operated and maintained by the members to provide feed for their pheasant pen and other wild birds through the winter.

of firearms to all interested citizens. Thus, even in their leisure activities are these public-spirited men furthering the cause of safer and better hunting.

The high spot in the Waldron Club year is their annual game supper, held each winter at Dover's municipal building. Here over three hundred members and guests gather to dine on elk, bear, pheasant, duck, rabbit, trout and venison. "The menu," says Gustave Nesman, a past-president and active member, "varies with the members' luck, but it's always different from ordinary fare."

Firm believers in the principle that in order to preserve our present natural resources we must begin with the youngsters, the Waldronites sponsor each year a trip to the Bear Brook Conservation Camp for three local youths. And, to stimulate interest in the outdoor life among even younger children, they stock Bellamy Park's pond every summer with hundreds of hungry trout and hold a fishing derby for neophyte anglers under twelve years old. It is through such projects as these, where the younger people of the community are taught the benefits of proper care and use of our woodlands, that the Major Waldron Club seeks to re-establish the era of plenty which once made the Shoreline a favored region among the sporting fraternity all over the country.

Under the directorship of its present Board of Supervisors — which is composed of Studley Nesbitt as President, Austin Griffin, Vice President, Harry Cheney, Jr., Treasurer, Norwin Knowlton, Secretary, Fred Varney, John Grady, Sylvio Charrette, Everett Day and Earl Tuttle, this Shoreline club seems destined to go on through the years, spreading its philosophy of preservation through conservation, education and just plain hard work. Through the application of this precept, the men who comprise the membership of the Major Waldron Sportsman's Club have earned the gratitude of everyone interested in the outdoors — the fisherman, the hunter, and that most common breed of all, the woods wanderer.

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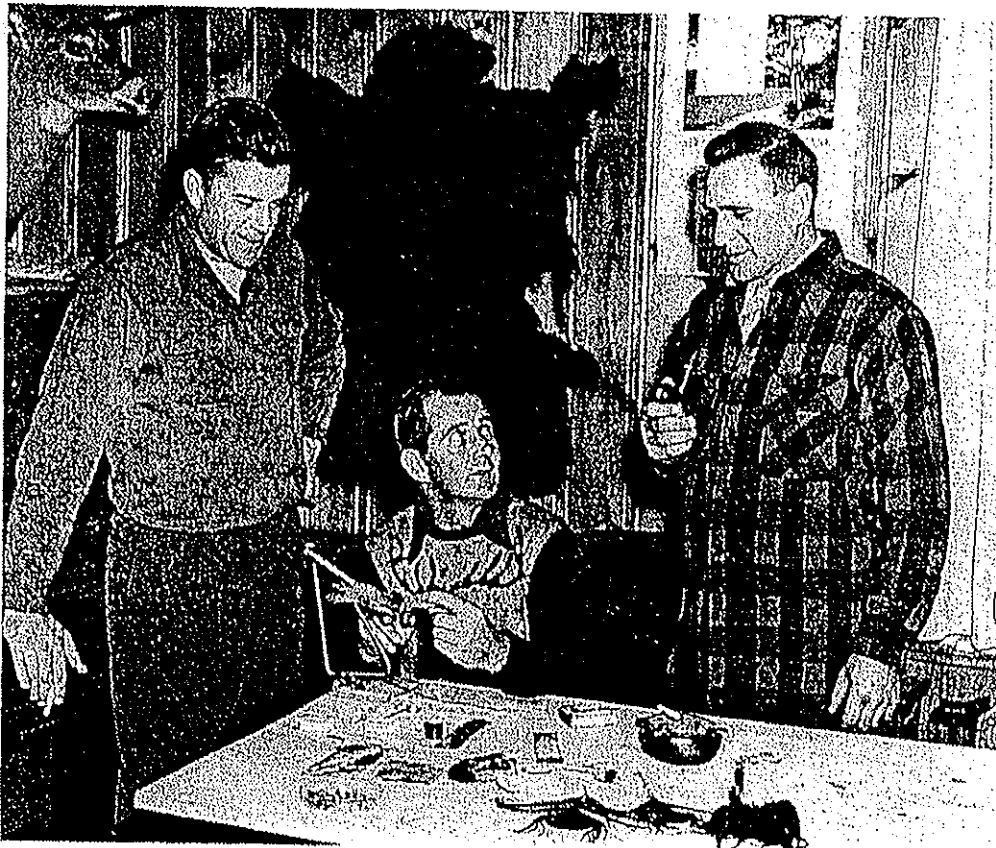
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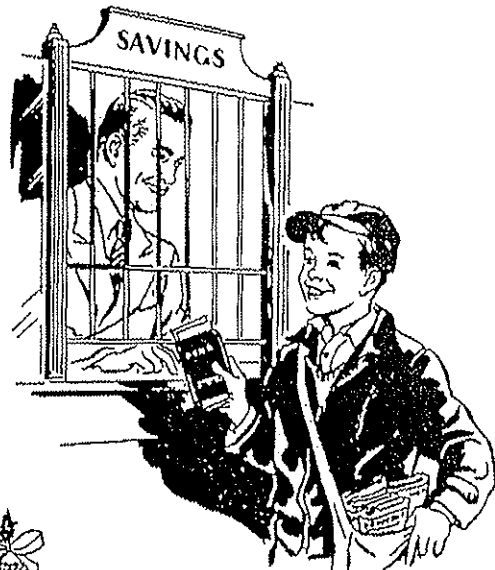
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A MAJOR FUNCTION of the Major Waldron Club is the instruction which it offers in the proper handling of firearms. Fero Studley Nesbitt and Everett Day discuss some of the finer points of skeet shooting at one of the club's excellent ranges.

DECEMBER, 1952



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