

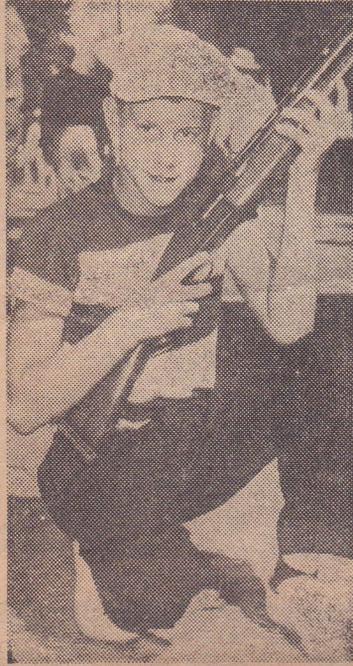
# THE OUTDOOR TRAIL

... Goes To The Grand American

By Dick Otte

Jimmy Mears, the 13-year-old Franklin gunner who broke 96x100 from 19 yards to lead junior shooters in the Grand, did it with the front sight loose on his gun.

"The sight twisted around and bothered me some," said



JIMMY MEARS

... might have hit more"

"I wasn't nervous," said Smith, "even after breaking 50 straight. But on that third trap I started to flinch just when I was ready to pull the trigger. I've been shooting trap 12 years and flinches have always been my weakness."

Smith, who is 63 years old, and shoots from the 18-yard-line, wasn't a bit disappointed over the five lost birds. "I'm proud of that 95," he said, "It's my best score in three tries at the Grand."

One of the most prominent non-shooters at the Grand was Logan (Hap) Harbican, Soo Narrows, Ontario. Harbican was 68 years old Thursday and missed competing in the big handicap for the first time in 25 years.

"I flew in here for the day because I just couldn't pass up a Grand even if I'm not able to shoot," he said.

Hap spent part of the day passing out slices of the huge birthday cake given him by the Maywood (Ill.) Sportsmen's club. He's a member of the club and wears the light green 10-gallon hat with the bright green band which is the club "uniform."

James Whisker, El Paso, Ill., really didn't lose much when Elmer Woods, the Williamstown farmer, came in with a 99 score to beat Whisker by one target in the Preliminary Handicap.

Woods won the championship trophy and \$2,673 but Whisker, who entered the optional purses, earned a whopping \$5,455.90 as "consolation" for his second-place finish.

The optional money goes to the top gunner entered and Woods had decided not to risk the extra 30-odd dollars because he "doesn't generally shoot that well."

John W. Schenk, who won the Grand American Handicap in 1948 with 99x100 from 20 yards came about as close to breaking tradition as and former winner has managed to do.

The Pittsburgh, Pa., gunner missed only three targets from 20 yards yesterday. Two more hits would have made him the first man to win the event twice.

Several other former winners did not fare so well but Frank Carroll, Brecksville, who smashed 100 straight in 1937, turned in a creditable 94 from 22 yards yesterday.

The defending champion, Orval Voorhees, Grand Island, Neb., came in with an 85x100 from 21 yards.

Jimmy. "I might have broken another target or two if it hadn't been loose."

Jimmy, who will be 14 next week, was third in last year's Preliminary Handicap but yesterday fired his best score in three attempts at the big prize. He's a member of Jimmy Robinson's All-American team and the only trapshooter in his family since his father, Frank, gave up the sport on the advice of his physician.

Jimmy will be a freshman at Franklin high school this fall and hopes to play both football and basketball.

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Five flinches — the kind that won't let you pull a shotgun trigger when you want to—cost David M. Smith a chance at trapshootings biggest prize.

The Tipton, Pa., grocer broke 25 straight in the first, second and fourth events but missed five birds in this third set.

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