



Clayton Man Tells About Bear Hunting, Cost In Alaska *Story By Stephanie Swinnie*

North of Kodiak, Alaska, is an island of 450,000 acres. This island is home to one human family and a multitude of carnivorous brown bears. For tourists, who have a desire to be big game hunters, Luke, the owner of the island, guides them in tracking and killing these animals. The purpose is both for sport and to manage the growing bear population.

Justin Jackson, a McAlester resident and employee of DJ's Fundraising, applied for a permit to hunt bear in Alaska. After four years he had his chance and made the trip of a lifetime. He shared his experiences in a program for the McAlester Rotary Club on August 11. Justin's weapon of choice – bow and arrow.

To stress the danger in this sport, Justin said he was flown over an empty cabin on another island where Timothy Treadwell, called "grizzly man," and his girlfriend, Amy, were killed and eaten by a family of bears. Traveling with Justin and his guide, Luke, was Nathan, a videographer.

The video that he acquired will be aired on the Discovery channel in 2010.

Justin related that after two and a half days of hunting they finally spotted a bear in a vulnerable location on the water's edge. Luke and Justin docked their boat and, carefully stepped within 23 feet of the bear. Nathan came up behind with the camera. Nathan maneuvered around to get a better shot. A twig snapped underfoot. The huge nine-foot giant bolted to his feet and moved with startling speed. Justin fired his bow. The bear kept running. Luke made a bleating sound and the bear stopped just long enough for Justin to fire again. This time the arrow pierced the heart and the bear went down. Taking no chances, Luke ran up to the bear and to finish him with a 45 mm.

At Rotary Tom Lucas, an employee of First National Bank, assisted Justin Jackson as technical director for his slide presentation of this adventure.

To Work on Projects, It Appears Lowber Looking For Members; Plan Working?

Mike Lowber, the new president, talked July 14 about needs of the club. "We have enough projects...." he said. "Lots of people want to help people...."

He appeared to be saying that we need more members, and that is apparently what he is going to talk about this week.

He named the "Flag Project" at the top of the projects list. But he also named several others as good ones. And he talked about a "new internet program," which can be used to contact

members.

He plans to continue his description of what the club needs, this week or next.

He also talked about a "Work Day."

Once there is sufficient membership, and an internet method of communications established, "It's going to be wonderful," he said.

Membership, Communication Stressed in Second Program

Number 1, membership and number 2, communication. Those two things seemed to be the main needs of the local Rotary Club, according to new President Mike Lowber. Four "team closers" were named to talk with prospective members, once they were chose

"No instructions, no agenda," said one. But the "closers"

felt they knew their Rotary background. Two are former presidents—the latest presidents.

One is the new Vice President.

Two of them were "closing" last week. And first reading has been held for two prospects.

Bear Season Set In 4 Counties in This Area

Alligators, and bears and mountain lions? We've heard they were in Southeastern Oklahoma. But Bear Season?

It starts Oct. 1, in four counties. And it's the first bear season in Oklahoma.

Shane Fields and J.D. Ridge told us Aug. , about Oklahoma's first bear hunt. It is just in four area counties, and you must have a bear license.

There will be an archery season and a muzzleloading season, IF the archers have not bagged 20 bears.

The Wildlife Commission had set the 2009 harvest quota at 20 bears.

Hunters are to check in each day, especially if you have a bear, (or if a bear has you.)

Program Last Tuesday Brought by Sports Author



Peter Pierce
Photo by George Lampton

An attorney, banker, author, and sports aficionado brought us the program on Sooner State Sports, July 28. If you don't know what a sports aficionado is, you needed to be at the presentation Tuesday before last, by Peter Pierce.

Pierce had uniforms of Rockets' baseball players made, not to be uniforms, but to look just like uniforms. They were just to look at, (and enjoy.)

There were five owners of the Rockets. They were Paul Crowl Sr., Meleo Schene, Lawton Jones, Matt Patterson, and Irvin Gladstein.

Crowl was an officer of the League for eight years, and secured a working agreement with the New York Yankees, for which the Rockets were a "farm club."

Whitey Hertzog was a well known name in baseball circles in 1949 and 50. So was "Ruff" Snyder who hit 432 in 1953.

Hertzog was an outfielder at the time, but he eventually became manager of the Cardinals and a winning manager of the World Series.

There was shortstop Tommy Evans, who settled here and became a businessman; left fielder, "Russ" Hawley; Eugene (Jocko) Burnett, center field; Norman Rollins, pitcher; Fred Nachbar, second baseman; Charles Fontana, right fielder; A.B. Everett, third base; Ray Loiselle, pitcher; Vernon Brown, pitcher; Hosea Pfeiffer, catcher; Charles Nichols, pitcher; Leslie "Peck" Bush, pitcher; Bill Landers, first base; Jerry Schold, infield/outfield; Jess Childress, pitcher; Bill Neborak, manager; Bob Newbill, catcher; and Bill "Dud" Hollon, pitcher. Bat boys were Paul Crowl Jr., Lew Crowl, and the late Mickey Gladstein.

Pierce's 366-page book of photographs and statistical data was published in April by the Oklahoma Historical Association.



Peter Pierce with Rocket Uniforms
Photo by George Lampton

New School Superintendent Brings Program To Club

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New school Superintendent Tom Condict, who came to McAlester from Okemah, and Ringling, and Brokwn Bow, Okmulgee and Jones/Dewar, where he was football and track coach, taught Social Studies, was principal, assistant principal, superintendent, and "administration,"

brought us our program Aug. 4.

Condict was in his first post at Ringling, 24 years, before moving on. His last position was at Okemah, where he was superintendent for seven years.

Bear Season from Page 1

The Hunting Guide says, "After the quota has been reached, the season has closed."

If you are going to hunt bear, get an Oklahoma 2009-2010 Hunting Guide. And if you can't tell Bear License from Beer License, get new glasses.

And if you're not worried about hunting bear with a bow and arrow, ask Justin Jackson of Clayton to see his pictures of an 800-pound bear, and tell you how fast they can move.

However, when a bear shows up at Eufaula, and various places around Pittsburg and Latimer Counties, people usually figure it's time for a bear hunt. Some of the counties

He has two grown sons, Dale and Scott, and at least six grandchildren, who live at Wagoner and Pearland, Tx.

He and his wife, Pam, have been married for 38 years. His parents, Ray and Lena Condict, live near Cromwell, Ok.

School started in McAlester Aug. 12. Administrative staff has been there since Aug. 3 and 4.

Condict said there would be more "needs assessment" for safety and security, technology, facilities, and transportation.

get left out, but bears are pretty fast moving, the Wildlife people figure. So one that may be camping or fishing on Lake Eufaula last weekend, may be near the Red River a few days later.

The Wildlife folks also run into alligators, mountain lions, and an occasional black panther, or even a drug dealer, people tell them. But an infrared survey of night traffic in the woods usually keeps them pretty well informed.

At any rate, they will be just looking for bears, this October.

And, the bow-and-arrow hunt will be followed by the muzzle-loaders, if the first bunch did not get their quota of 20 bears.