

**I am pleased to donate these bows to  
AL WILLS, Victoria, B. C.**



**Tom J. Smith, Saskatoon SK 1932**

These bows and arrows were crafted by my father, Thomas J. Smith, Optometrist/Optician, in about 1928 in Saskatoon, Sask. Around that time he and his friend Dr. A. Salter, dentist, formed the Saskatoon Archery Club (members: 2). They made all their bows and arrows, quivers, finger tips and arm guards, etc., by hand.

Our basement became the workshop. They used beefwood for the arrow splicing and notches, and our kitchen was strung with many feet of linen to make bow strings. Regulation standard targets were made from straw and the faces were painted in the familiar “bull’s eye” pattern.

My father made many different bows. Those for hunting bear needed to be very strong, with long, heavy arrows. These had regular tips but a long barb of steel was inserted. Bears were hunted, but none were seen in northern Saskatchewan.

The bows with silk thread detail were a gift to my father from a friend. Unfortunately, I have no information about them.

On Sunday afternoons my sister and I would go to the Archery Club and there we learned the basics of the sport. But few other people were interested in archery, so the Club lasted only six or seven years. After his interest waned, my father moved on to new hobbies, such as wood turning and joinery, metal turning, and fly-tying.

**Helen Weaver  
Port Alberni, B.C.**