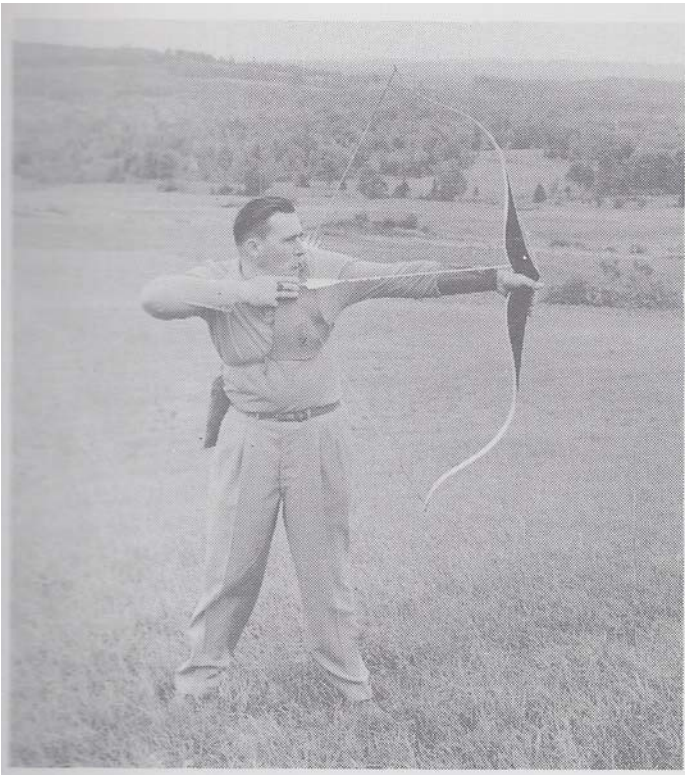




HISTORY OF STAGHORN ARCHERY COMPANY

Staghorn Archery Company founded after WWII by William and Elinore Pyle in Ridgewood, New Jersey. They married in 1944 while both were serving as Army Air Corps pilots. In 1957, they relocated residence and manufacture to northern Wisconsin. It was the beginning of another type of service and national orientation. Their independent style, as well as



learned and innovative skill made for five series of recurve bows comprising 23 models custom adapted to world-wide individual shooting styles.

Bill's knowledge and know how as a Bower became the third generation of bow making. His Grandfather Pyle (in Belgium Pyle means arrow shaft) studied and made bows in Belgium where highly competitive archery games were Sunday afternoon events while hardly known in the United States. Bill's father worked closely with his grandfather. Bill was born as an American citizen in 1920. Even at age ten, Bill's father taught him that the energy transmitted by

each limb best be put in careful balance respecting the shooter's grip, center line, sight window design *and* limb tiller for smooth and accurate performance. Their respective knowledge served Bill well making bows for himself and friends for games and hunting. Postwar interest in archery was increasing.

Bill Pyle was not satisfied with products on the market. He began making equipment, especially adapting rare woods in the riser when maple and walnut were the market convention. Bill became active in organized



Archery, studying center lines and conducting trials adjusting centers and tiller for a consistent way the bow is held so limbs would bend most efficiently. Bill and Eli's R&D was based on re-

sults and that performance then lead to art and history. They focused on balance, wood-glass ratios, design for strength and durability factors, customizing for the type of grip, choice of quality components, limits for depth of handle and height of sight window.

The Pyle design incorporated artistry without compromising function. Risers began to be sculptured with rosewood, ebony and purple heart inlays, with epoxy resins rather than lacquer.

After 1956, Speedflight models were submitted to an independent testing laboratory for rating by James Cavanaugh. ***The highest speed ever tested, highest efficiency of any bow tested***; an even draw between 22" and 30" and an "Excellent" on workmanship and finish became certified for a 42 lb. Speedflight with 400-grain arrows at 28". A like model was the nationally advertised Magnum. The 58" Tempest was in response to requests for the shortest hunting style Bill and Eli were willing to make. Handles became pistol style; fuller and contoured, Regular, California or Straight Wrist.

In 1960, two similar Staghorn models became the cutting edge, flagship symbol and defining force as a

Staghorn. The XP60" or XP62" bow by 1964 combined tournament stability, stringing ease and the minimum tendency for limb twist, yet known as the fastest hunting bow on the market.

During this same period the Advanced Design tournament Delta, unique with points on its back, featured the first low vertical weight in a 1961 catalog (adjustable, removable and interchangeable for greater length giving greater stabilizing effect). After 1962, only the Staghorn became quieter while being the fastest bow. It was also the only one with an easier



draw: By 1966 "Process I" and "Process II" were proprietary features, risers were sculptured with advanced inside point designs, and a "Tuner" was available. All this without compromising stability and without changing standard measurements or materials. A flat, fast shooting bow adds to 'efficiency'-- reduces up and down arrow grouping, increases accuracy and penetration.

"Process III" was a result of the selective use of the previous seven-year process advances combined in the Staghorn International having a 30" riser, maximum performance and smooth draw to 31" and an 8" high sight window.

The 1970's with steady production of the Badger, XP- 60 and XP – 64, Tempest, International and Tournament models. They were sent by direct order and through dealers throughout the United States and internationally. The select, but well known Staghorn feature for penetration was extending as well into the market place. During this decade in recurve history, two significant things happened :

The XP – 60 and the XP – 64 became distinguished by testimonials as the ultimate hunting bow.



Changes in mass marketing led to changes in glass quality by suppliers and the inaccessibility of a Staghorn choice of glass.

Recurve history during the '70's highlighted Staghorn as an ultimate hunting bow made in the US and in use internationally; market changes in suppliers of new materials, especially quality fiberglass; a burgeoning 'compound' craze; a maintenance period and an apprenticeship; then eventual new ownership in 1982.

The history of Staghorn became combined with the diverse and practical backgrounds of Roger and Dillon McMullen. At this time, both were members of Universal Engineering Corporation, a family held, Pennsylvania based, innovative organization providing consulting engineering ser-

vices. It had also been their fortune to have had relevant experience in many states, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

Roger B. McMullen worked with fiber glass, exotic epoxy and wood marine fabrication in Florida for more than 16 years. He had been privileged to work along side some of the arena's master craftsmen, from ocean racers to some of the worlds finest yachts.

Dillon G. McMullen was building his own archery equipment in the 1950's, grew up with the development of the field courses of southeastern Pennsylvania. He made a collection of native bows during his three years in southeastern Africa.

The second relocation of Staghorn Archery Company was kept at the same local but within a few miles of the previous shop. First on the farm of Dillon McMullen; one of the most elevated glacial formations and trails in northern Wisconsin. Then again on the farm and saddlery accommodations of Holly McMullen.

While bringing the same model bows back in production, a once archived but revived gem is the personal selection of material and style for a custom ordered Staghorn Trout Net. Specs, images, and information became available on Facebook.

William S. Pyle was one of a very few fighter pilots to have flown most every type of plane in WWII. Elinore Owen Pyle at the same time was a WASP test pilot for such reconstructed planes and honored in March 2010 with the Congressional Gold Medal. An important and generous relationship continued with Bill and Eli. His background in metal fabrication, ballistics and artistry, and both their war experience as aviators, were carried forward with otherwise conventional business acquisitions.

More than a legendary business it is now also a mission of stewardship in honor of the Pyle provenance – custom crafted quality for hand held proof-of-performance in flight.

