

# Many Happy Returns

Issue Number 52 An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Fall 1992

## *The Legend of Arthur Janetzki*



Many of the newer readers do not know of the "Janetzki" legend. Most of the old timers do. This article, written by Australia's premiere ambassador to the boomerang world: Brother Brian M. Thomas, is an important history lesson for all boomerang throwers. Lucky indeed is the collector who acquires a beautiful Janetzki boomerang with the "RJR" trademark for his collection. The story on the following pages is the reason why.



by Jim Jordan

As your new president, I am committed towards the further progression of the USBA in all of its endeavors. The board will be busy over the next year with working out the details for the 1993 World Cup, the Open/Nationals, and defining a format for novice participation in tournaments. In addition, there is an important area where the USBA can use your help. There are too many people who have never seen a boomerang return or have never experienced the thrill of throwing one correctly. We have all met people who owned a boomerang, but couldn't get it to return. They eventually gave it up, assuming that boomerangs are really a myth or some kind of fantastic lie. Even worse, these disappointed people have discouraged others from trying based upon their own experience. I am asking you to join me in giving these people an opportunity to experience the truth. Lets focus our attention on finding ways to share the fun.

**Betsylew Miale-Gix** organized the annual one day USBA Toss Across America where veteran throwers all over the US hold boomerang throwing/making lessons for beginners. We will be choosing a date for next years annual toss. Details will be published in the Winter issue of MHR. Many of you hosted your own toss last year, this year, or both. You are commended for your efforts.

**Keith Mullinar** is proposing that a boomerang merit badge system for the Boy Scouts be submitted by the USBA. This is an excellent idea and we will follow up on it. All of us may be not be able to host a toss event, or become part of the scout program. But we can all find ways to share the fun. Every time you

throw around other people, some are bound to be interested. You are their opportunity to experience the thrill; don't let them miss out! Take time to teach others to throw. Always have beginner boomerangs that you won't mind losing in a mishap. You may prefer plastic boomerangs that are relatively safe, won't break, and do not cost much if lost in a tree.

Give them something to take with them! You may carry boomerangs to sell, or at least carry copies of MHR membership forms which can inform them of the benefits of being a member of USBA. Do you now have USBA membership forms in your boom bag? If not, you can write to USBA headquarters and request an official form to copy and distribute. Make multiple copies and put them into your throwing kit. In the meantime, make copies the inside back cover of any issue of MHR which has all the information on how to join the USBA. As past publishing director of MHR, I know that the USBA membership has not grown significantly in the last several years. I have run into boomerang throwers that have never heard of the USBA. Lets let them know that we exist and that we have many benefits to offer.

**A Challenge.** Put your name on the MHR membership form as the sponsor of the potential new member. Our secretary in charge of membership, **Gregg Snouffer**, will keep track of how many new members you have sponsored into the USBA. In recognition for your efforts, I pledge to pay a year of USBA membership to anyone who sponsors 10 or more new throwers between now and the 1993 USBA Nationals tournament. Your efforts will also be recognized during the annual USBA meeting. Let's build the USBA together.

*What's In This Issue!*

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Do you think that MHR has a new look? You bet it does. **Jim Jordan** has appointed **Jay Emerson** as the new Publishing Director of MHR. Jay not only coordinates the publishing and mailing, he prints the newsletter with the gusto of a boomerang fanatic (like he is). The USBA hopes you enjoy the new look!

Please Note!!! A site for the 1993 USBA Nationals needs to be identified ASAP. If you have the resources and desire to host this event, please contact Chet Snouffer at the USBA address now !!!

The editor wishes to remind all readers that newsletter contributions should be submitted as soon as the material becomes available. A significant amount of material was submitted on or after the September 1 deadline. MHR #52 was already full by the last week in August. Much of the late material was not considered for publication. Page 2 of MHR #51 stated that priority would be highly influenced by the date that material is submitted. The editor wishes to remind all readers that priority will continue to depend on the submission date. The editor contributes a substantial amount of premium, uncompensated, time editing MHR for USBA. To provide you with a quality publication, the editor spends 1 or 2 hours every evening with added time on weekends to insure that MHR is packed full of entertaining information. Continued MHR quality requires that material be continuously available for editing throughout each quarterly period. Please submit materials at your earliest convenience.

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## Tongue-Depressor Booms

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by Peter J. Close

Boomerangs can be made out of ordinary materials such as tongue-depressors (TDs). The only materials required are tongue-depressors, wood glue, close-pins for clamps, and some colored tape (optional). These boomerangs are safe and can be thrown by children 5 years old and older without the need of supervision. Young children can also make these boomerangs, but will need some help.

TDs can be purchased at small town Pharmacies and most hobby stores (where they call them "Extra long - extra wide craft sticks"). Prices range from 2 to 4 cents a piece.

To make these boomerangs simply glue the TDs together to form one of the patterns on this page (I suggest starting with the T or X shape). Use the close-pins to hold them in place until they dry. Next, mark the top by drawing some design or your name on it. Now comes the tricky part. Grab the boomerang at the center with your left hand, so one wing points to your right and the top of the 'rang is facing you. Now, grasp the wing that is pointing to the right with your right hand and bend the tip toward you and at the same time twist the top edge toward you. Don't use too much force or the TD will break. Do the same for all of the wings. This process should cause all the the wings to be bent up at the tips and the leading edge of each wing to be twisted up when the 'rang is viewed horizontally. (Note: to make left-handed 'rangs switch right for left and left for right in above instructions.)

Now go out and test your boomerang. It should be thrown overhand, slightly upward with top side toward you, so that the plane of the 'rang is nearly vertical.

Watch the flight carefully. If the boomerang flies low and doesn't come all the way back, try giving the wing tips more twist. If the boomerang zooms high and then crashes, take some bend out of the wing tips. If the boomerang just seems to stop spinning and falls to the ground add some colored tape near the tips, as is shown on the T design, below. Don't get discouraged if it doesn't work quite right the

first few times. Just keep experimenting and you will soon figure it out.

### *Pete's Factory Thirds*

P. O. Box 156

Roberts, Wi. 54023

(715)-749-3867

*Editor's note: Peter Close sent MHR a few 4,5,6 & 8 bladed TD booms to sample. The flights were remarkable.*

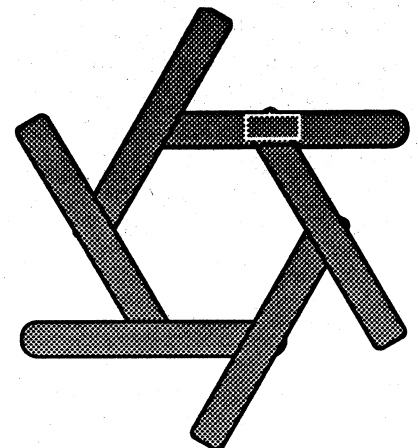
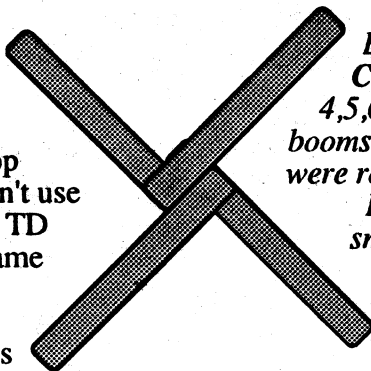
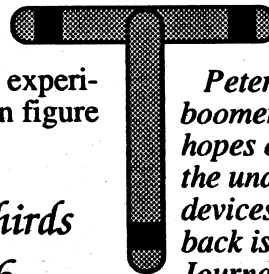
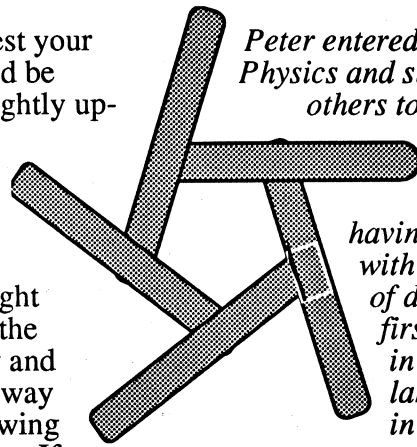
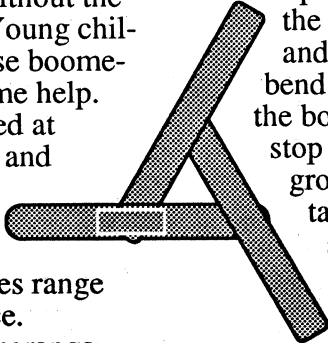
*Peter was born in a small Wisconsin town in 1960, where he and his 5 brothers were a significant percentage of the town's population. He bought his first boomerang in 1979 for \$3 and took 6 months to figure out how to throw it. He started making boomerangs to alleviate the fights that broke out over the only boomerang in the family. In 1987,*

*Peter entered college to study Physics and started introducing others to the sport of boomerangs. All of the designs he had were self created, having had no contact with any other throwers of designs except for the first one he purchased in 1979. In 1991, he landed a summer job in Boulder, Co. and stumbled into a "Into the*

*Wind" shop where he promptly spent most of his spare change to greatly expand his meager collection. His collection now numbers more than 100. Eighty percent are home built models. He signs his boomerangs as "Pete's Factory Thirds" to accentuate the fact that he only gives boomerangs away to enthusiasts who throw with him. He does not sell boomerangs at all.*

*Peter is currently studying boomerang flight dynamics with hopes of making a contribution to the understanding of how these devices work. Peter is studying back issues of "The Boomerang Journal" and previous contributions made by Felix Hess, Peter Musgrove and Carolyn Hakanson.*

*Peter intends to attend the 1993 World Boomerang Cup in Chatham, Ontario to meet other throwers. If you are in the Minnesota or Wisconsin area, give Peter a call and do some throwing.*



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## The Legend of Arthur Janetzki

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by Brother Brian M. Thomas

Few boomerang throwers around the world capture the imagination so much as Arthur Janetzki, the old man of the boomerang world. At 88, Arthur is still making, throwing, and catching boomerangs. Throwers feel privileged to own a Janetzki boomerang, and even more privileged if they can say they have met and talked with him. Those who have had that privilege realize what a quiet, humble person he is. He has no real idea of his widely acclaimed greatness. He is extremely friendly, a real gentleman, and ever ready to talk boomerangs with anyone in the world. What are the origins of this boomerang marvel? What is his story?

The time is the 19<sup>th</sup> Century . . . during the Confederate War in the USA. As he rolled his drums across the pigskin, drummer-boy Wicks must have winced many times as the deafening sound of shot and cannon blasted past him as he marched in the confederate army into the civil war that divided so many Americans. Around him, the cries of wounded and dying men must surely have made life more precious to him. Having survived this ordeal, he went to sea. And when the good ship was moored in John Batman's village of Melbourne, Australia, he decided that a better life was to be had here than on the ocean. So, quietly and quickly, he slipped over the side of his ship and swam ashore at Williamstown, there to begin a new life in a new country. This young American moved to the Northern Gippsland area where he eventually started a successful

mixed orchard, growing fruits such as pears and cherries. He wed a pretty Irish lass and from this wedding came two attractive daughters: Dollie and Mary Francis. Dollie married a handsome Polish gentleman by the name of Johann Gustav Reinholdt Janetzki, who ran the local store and hotel. This was a fruitful marriage producing Maud Julia, Herbert Harlow (who became a Doctor of Divinity in the USA), Ruby Ellen, Les, Harold, and Arthur Gustav Janetzki, the subject of this article.

Two years after Arthur was born, Dollie was due to give birth to their seventh child. But, sadly, both she and her new child died in childbirth, leaving a shattered family. However, this hole in the family was soon filled when Dollie's ever generous sister, Mary Francis Allanson, combined her family with Johann's to become Arthur's second loving mother. The new family was just as precious to her as her own. As Arthur says, "You couldn't have wished for a better mother!". If we are to judge by the results, she has certainly passed by flying colours!!

It was on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1904 that Arthur entered this world in the small town of Cowarra in Northern Gippsland, Victoria. He lived there until he was about 11, when his father died of TB. The family then moved to Melbourne, where settled in Punt Road, South Yarra. Arthur continued his education until he was 14, at which age, like so many others in those days, he entered the work force.

At school, young Arthur's main academic interest was in Geography. While on the sporting side he could run like a hare, and loved Cricket and Gymnastics. The Janetzki's were the right size for Gymnasts. Les, whom Arthur idolized, was especially gifted in the skill and even won a medal at St. Kilda for it. I [B.T.] photo-

graphed him at 82 years of age holding himself out parallel to the ground while holding on to the local sign post outside his house! If you think it's easy, try it some time.

Remember Grandpa Wicks, the Drummer Boy? Well, he was still around during Arthur's childhood and he taught the boys the use of the drum. Les became so good he was given the job of drumming the school into classes. One day Grandpa met the boys coming home from school with the drum. He took it off Les and began a mighty roll that frightened the life out of them. They thought he was going to break the pigskin!!

On leaving school, Arthur followed Les and Harold into the grocery trade at South Yarra, doing things that grocers don't do any more like cutting and packing butter. Harold worked for Moran and Catos, while Les & Arthur worked for Crooks National Stores where they had a tough Pommy Boss. No mucking around the store for them!

The three Janetzki boys were lively customers and soon took a common interest in learning the play the Marimbas and Xylophones, which they purchased from America for £1,000. Before long they had formed the famous Janetzki Trio, which was to perform on all the important stages around Australia and New Zealand. In Tasmania, they were the specialty act that went with the early movie "For the Term of His Natural Life". Not only did they play the big cities, but sometimes they were performing in tents in country area like Orange and Bathurst. The music they played was all done by ear . . . and much practice! Harold was the chief organizer and didn't read music, so they learnt their parts and practised hour after hour till they got it right. The tunes they played were

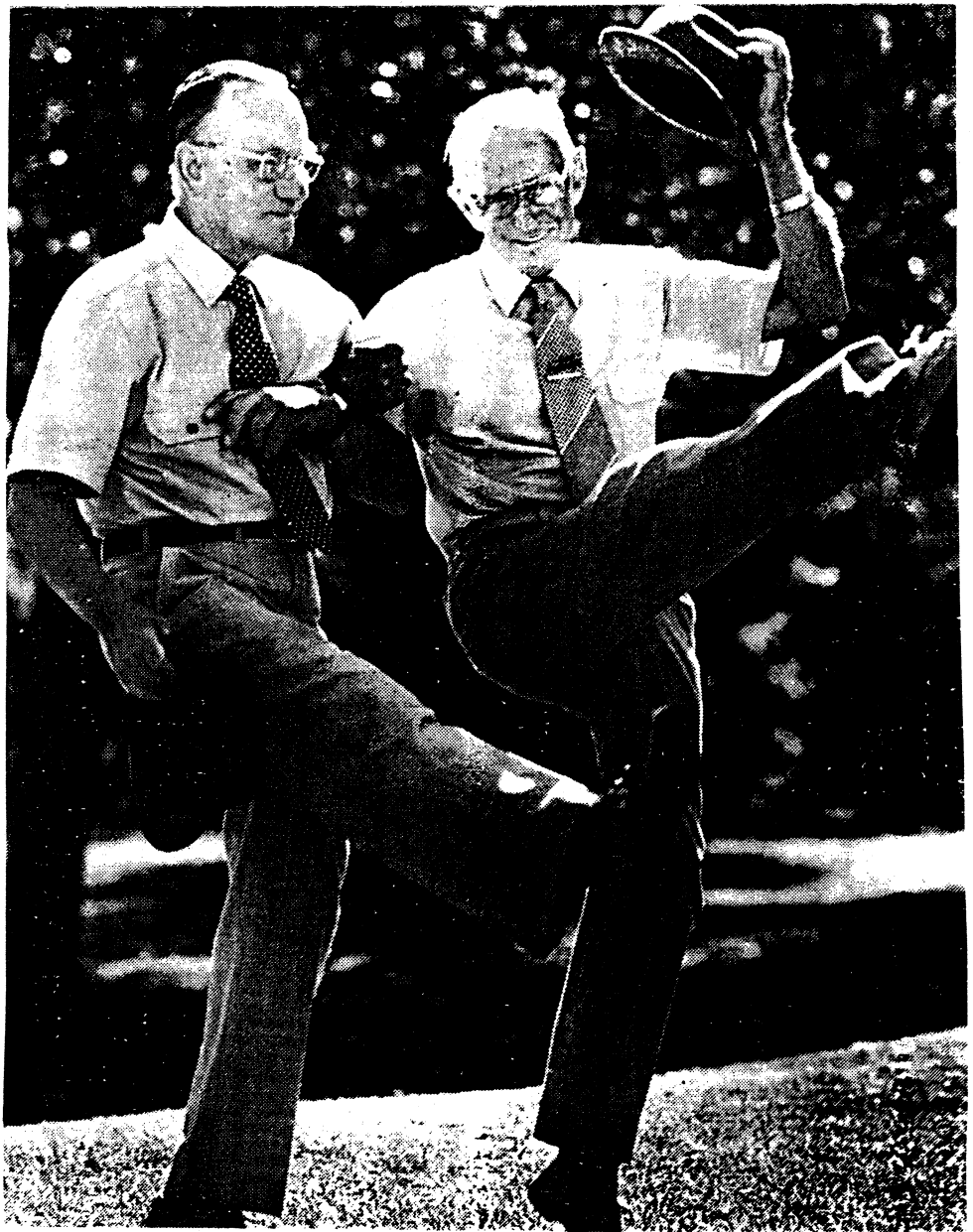
the common overtures (like William Tell) and the popular songs of the day. Their musical career spanned sixteen years. Work was gained for them by agent Perc Lodge and also through the Jack Musgrove theatres. The Janetzki's were the men of the Vaudeville days . . . and decided to call it a day when the "talkie movies" began to take over entertainment. Harold and Arthur ran a grocer's shop at North Sydney, while Les ran one at Crow's Nest . . . around 1937. For a short time Harold went out on his own in business and also on the stage, but his sudden and early death ended once and for all the performances of the famous Janetzki Trio.

During the Second World War, Arthur was nearly conscripted, but was exempted since he was running a one man business, which was considered essential to the country's welfare. At the end of the war, Les and Arthur moved to Albury, where they bought a mixed business on Jones Street and which they ran for fifteen years. Then Les, 65 and Arthur, 61 decided to call it a day and retire from the grocery business. In Albury, they had been joined by their elder sister Ruby, who proved to be a loving and faithful housekeeper for the *two boys*. Whenever I called to see them Ruby would say "The boys are out in the back, Brother". The back was their spotless garage, which also served as their boomerang workshop. The hallmark of anything to do with the Janetzki's was tidiness; be it their workshop, house, garden, clothing & boomerangs. When going to the park for a throw, they could just as easily been going to a fashion parade! They certainly gave the sport a gentlemanly image. For many years, they were keen fishermen and duck shooters. The best dressed and fished ever seen!!

Their marimbas were packed away in the garage ceiling until Ruby's death (at 86) in the mid 1980s, when they set them up in a room in the house. On request, the *Dynamic Duo*, Les and Arthur, would fascinate listeners with their skill, all the time claiming their melody maker, Harold, was missing. But we hardly noticed.

But how did Arthur (and Les) get into the sport of boomerangs? After retiring, they were shopping one day when they passed Jeff

Lewry's butcher shop. To say the least, Jeff was an unusual butcher since he would whip off some boomerangs on his buzz saw and put in the window for sale! The "boys" were intrigued when they spotted one of these and bought it. Arthur thinks it was made out of Peach wood. Albury can be very hot, and unfortunately the boomerang they had bought had warped in the heat and wouldn't function properly. Since Les was good at woodwork, he decided to make one himself, using Jeff's as a mod-



**Arthur, 80, and Les, 83, Kick Up Their Heels**



## Arthur and Les Janetzki With One of Their Larger Boomerangs

el. And that was the first of the famous Janetzki boomerangs ever made! Thank goodness for Albury's hot sun. Both Les and Arthur were in their sixties when they took on this unusual sport. Following Les, Arthur got into the making bug too. Of course, being the tidy people they were, they had to decorate their boomerangs well. Before long they realized they were duplicating processes, so it soon occurred to them that Les should do the woodwork while Arthur decorated them. Now Arthur had no knowledge of art or design, so he headed off for the Albury library in search of any books with Aboriginal designs. It was from these that he formed his own unique art style, which is now known as the *Janetzki Style*.

What was his style? After Les had finished, tested and finely smoothed the boomerang, Arthur would take possession of it. He would French Polish it four to six times until it had a high gloss on it.

He then painted his first colour on. He would let this dry (usually for a day since he used gloss paints) before painting the second colour of the design, and so on until the design was complete. It could take a week before one was finished this far. He then painted a couple of coats of clear gloss . . . and you had a boomerang that many people would say was too good to throw in case you scratched it!

Their signature on a boomerang has varied. Some are not signed at all. For them, the important thing was the boomerang, not the signing. They did not put the importance on the signature that we do.

Their first signing was just "JM" : meaning *Janetzki Made*. Then they named them after an Aboriginal tribe: the *Pintubi*. Individual shapes took on names of their own and so we have boomerangs named *Skippy*, *Long Tom*, *Dingo*, *Waltzing Matilda*, *The Admiral's Hat*, *Tom Thumb*, *The*

*Golden Hook*, *Gemini*, *Knobby*, and *The Red Baron*. "RJR" means *Janetzki Rolls Royce*. This was a signing I suggested to them after I had heard so many throwers refer to them as the Rolls Royces of the boomerang world. They were delighted with this suggestion.

Arthur is now on his own (Les died in 1987 at age 86 making a great hole in Arthur's life). He has to cope with housework and daily cooking, etc. This does not leave the time to devote to boomerangs that he would like, so things are kept to a minimum.

After Les's death in 1987, Arthur gradually took to making boomerangs again, but really just for himself. He uses the same timber Les used for years . . . old Gestetner packing cases that were thrown out, but made from good 4mm English ply. Les used to join two of these together. Sometimes he would strip off a layer or two - very slow and painstaking work.

Arthur has kept it simple . . . just one sheet of 4mm ply. His favorite design is one he calls *The Red Baron*. It is a fairly common type design these days . . . a V-shape with knobs on the end. The way Arthur makes it enables it to stand up to wind reasonably well, and it runs out of spin towards the end making it easy to catch. Like all Janetzki boomerangs, it has rather blunt features. He only decorates some of these. He also has branched into making some smaller ones with thinner chords.

The Janetzki throwing style is important to understand to know why they are made the way they are. Both Les and Arthur used to have a rather high throw and then they expected the boomerang to drop down until it reached them. For this reason, they were good accuracy boomerangs. They were not made for the hard, low throw that is the path of so many 'rangs today. Les and Arthur did not give great spin to their boomerangs (hard to develop when you start the sport over 60 years of age!). Hard spin is the essence of most of today's models for us.

During their competitive years of throwing, Accuracy was their competition specialty, as their many trophies witness. The qualities they brought to the sport were their gentlemanliness, kindness, patience, thoughtfulness, and respect for other throwers. No one was offended by them. They were so close to each other in their ways that they were known as *The Twins*, even by the ordinary town folk of Albury. When talking to them, one would usually repeat much of what the other just said. French thrower Jean Zuber was asked by Jacques Thomas if he met the Janetzki's when he was out in 1978, and he said "Yes, in stereo!".

It is impossible to tell Arthur's story without Les; they were so

close. Today Arthur will tell you how much he misses his brother, Les, who was so wonderful to him.

During my 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years in Albury, I used to throw regularly with them on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons at the Hovell Tree (the explorer William Hovell carved his name in the tree in 1824). If Les stopped for a mintie, so did Arthur; If for a smoke (before their heart attacks!), so did Arthur. They wore the same style of clothing, hats and even matching boomerang bags (a small black leather satchel with a kangaroo fur boomerang shape on the side)! Their bags usually contained about a dozen boomerangs.

Only one shop ever sold Janetzki boomerangs. It was a small gift shop on Dean Street in Albury. The lady took about two boomerangs at a time and displayed them in her window. I think she may have thought of them as good window decorations! In 1975 they sold for about \$6 or \$7 . . . What a difference in value today! I know of offers of \$1,000 and \$500 being made to owners of Janetzki boomerangs. Yet Les and Arthur sold very few in their time. They gave most of them away. To them, their boomerangs were a work of art in which they took great pride, something of personal value to give to others. They were not keen on taking orders for boomerangs. Being old, it put them under a mental pressure they preferred to be without. They just made boomerangs for the pleasure it brought to them.

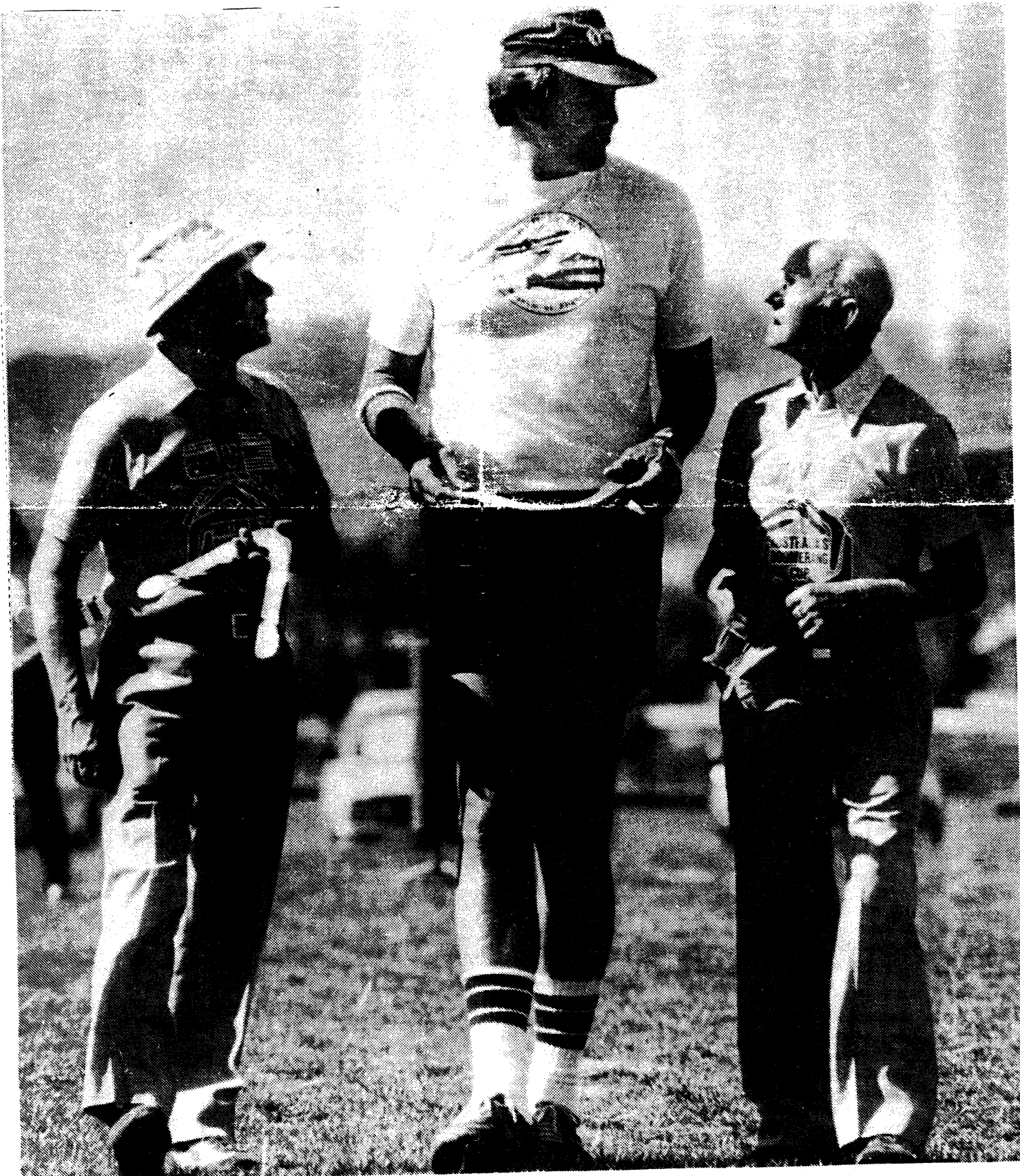
They were not great correspondents and did not greet mail from overseas with Joy, as many throwers do. They would say, "This chap has written to us and wants a boomerang. I don't know what to say. We haven't got time for that". Really, it was an embarrassment to them.

Arthur has suffered from Angina for about 15 years, but he takes his pills and keeps on throwing boomerangs. He is an inspiration for throwers to meet, and he can't understand why everyone is not keen on boomerangs and boomerang throwing. He finds the fickleness of children in their interest hard to follow. He loves nothing better than to have a chat with a true boomerang enthusiast.

In the modern history of boomerangs, Les and Arthur Janetzki stand alone in their contribution to the sport. Theirs has been a truly outstanding inspiration to us all.

They joined Jeff Lewry in forming the first boomerang club in Australia . . . *The Albury Boomerang Club*. In 1969, they were founding members of the B.A.A. (Boomerang Association of Australia), which is the official boomerang sporting body in Australia. They are the patrons of *The Boomerang Throwing Association of N.S.W.*, the state body of the B.A.A. Their boomerangs are proudly displayed in dozens of countries around the world. Yes, even Prince Charles and Lady Di own Janetzki boomerangs, which were presented to them when they toured Australia. In 1981, they were captain and vice-captain of the Albury Boomerang Team which defeated the powerful USA side. This was the only defeat the USA team suffered during its tour. The victory banner is proudly displayed in Arthur's workshop. Let's hope that Arthur will be around to lead the boomerang world into the Twenty-First Century!

**Brother Brian M. Thomas**  
Australian National Boomerang Coach  
**131 Birrell St.**  
**Waverley, N.S.W. 2024**  
**Australia**



This newspaper clipping from the 19 November 1981 edition of the *Border Morning Mail* was submitted by Rita Gerhards. Caption: Sometimes, a good man might not be able to match two good little men. In this case, Al Gerhards, of Pennsylvania and his US team-mates found their match at the hands of an Albury and District boomerang throwing team. The team included the Janetzki brothers, Arthur, left, and Les. The Albury team yesterday pulled off a narrow two-point win at the expense of the Americans, who will meet an Australian team in the second of a three-test series at Alexandra Park today. Al - 41, and 198 cm. - won the general championship event with 76 out of a possible 96 points. The Janetzki brothers, aged 77 and 81, are 157 cm. tall.





**Peter Ruhf, Al Gerhards, Carl Naylor, Barnaby Ruhe and Larry Ruhf** display the boomerangs they used to beat the Aussies at their own game in the first USA/Australia Test Match held in 1981. Surviving competitors from the first USA team are depicted 11 years later in the lower photo, supplied by **Ben Ruhe**, taken at the 1992 USBA Nationals. Pictured in Back Row from Left to Right are **Larry Ruhf, Doug DuFresne, Peter Ruhf, Carl Naylor** and **Al Gerhards**. Pictured in Front Row from Left to Right are **Barnaby Ruhe, Ben Ruhe, Eric Darnell** and **Chet Snouffer**. Missing from the photo are **Dr. Steve Miller, Ali Fujino, and Jerry Caplan**.



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## EXCALABOOM

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by Sir Brian Kemp

In days of olde when knights were bold - and women's liberation hadn't got off the ground, there was a knight called Arthur. Actually, his family wasn't sure whether to call him Arthur or Martha...but that's another story. Well, Arthur belonged to the knights trade union and according to their manifest he was supposed to go around righting wrongs and doing good. The trouble was Arthur was dyslexic and he went around doing wrongs and righting good which was a bit of an embarrassment to all concerned so they voted him in as shop steward to the Boomerang Benders Union in the colonies (namely Australia). Before he left his family insisted he change his name, so because his family owned six draught horses and were in the heavy haulage business he took the name of Bruce the Carter.

Off he sailed to Terra Australia and of course it didn't take long for him to be known as the Terror of Australia. Now, Bruce was a pretty dab hand with a sword, lance and mace and he had no trouble in filling an XXOS size suit of armour, but when he saw the locals ducking & dodging boomerangs he thought "Wow! That's for me". I can set a trend. Capture the market when I go back to Ye Olde Englande. So, he signed a contract with the feared Western

Australian: Sam the Blight. Soon, Bruce was competing in all the jousting and boomerang tournaments, but he could never quite get the hang of this boomerang lark so he began to hit the grog. He gathered a gang together and they spent their nights at the local tavern and soon became known as Nights Around The Table - a fore runner of the Hell's Angels. Their creed was to cause damsels distress and generally cause affray. His companions were the Lady of Shalot, The Lady of Garlic and The Lady of Spring Onion. Any of the three could kill a dragon at fifty paces with their breath. Come to think of it, Bruce's was pretty vile too.

Well, at that time, the local sorcerer was Merlin. He spent his time casting spells, making predictions and offering odds on all sporting events. He was the editor of the Union of Sorcerers' newsletter called Newts Front Ears, but it was colloquially known as *New Frontiers*. Anyway, as a publicity stunt he decided to organize a competition to choose the next king. He embedded a boomerang in a huge lump of rock and declared that whoever could pull it out of the rock would be the new ruler. The boomerang chosen had belonged to the famous Caleb, so it was known as ex-Caleb's boom or Excalaboom for short. Well, all the knights gathered around to try their strength. Robert the Croll, known for his great cunning in tournaments - went first, but no matter how he invoked the rules the boomerang wouldn't

budge. Then came Dennis the Maxwell - Slayer of the Yanks and leader of Iarrikans, but . . . . . no good. Then came Bunny of Read, Friar Brian Thomas, the black knight - Bluey Roberts, Brian the Kiwi Kid and Perry, the Roger (I won't bother to explain this last title, but apart from suits of armour, he had many suits of paternity). Even Bazza with his hairy son, Michael, from the streams and Fedde from the eng of the werd could not get this thing to move.

Down came Sir Peter, the buyer of ham and Doyle the brat from the river side town of Baaroo-gaa, but they also failed. Everybody huffed and puffed, but no one could move the boomerang.

Finally there came Ye Jolly Olde Bruce the Carter, a comely lad with the Viva Zapata moustache and he gave old Excalaboom a sideways wrench and snapped it off flush with the rock. "Yea verily", said Merlin, "This Bruce is one smart cookie".

Foul - cried Robert the Croll. Under rule 62, sub-section 4, paragraph 6, that's not allowed.

It wasn't aloud, said Bruce, I did it quietly.

Anyway it was agreed that the final decision would have to be made by the Executive of the B.A.A. (bloody awful Australians). Well, they had divisions, censure motions, royal commissions, but when the dust had settled and everyone had accepted Merlin's kickbacks, Bruce was duly proclaimed King of Oz and Merlin took the title of the Wizard of Oz cause

he could really blow up a storm, cyclone or tornado. So, Bruce was King of Oz and the owner of a boomerang with one arm longer than the other. "Just my bloody luck " said Bruce and heaved Excalaboom into his boomerang quiver.

As time passed and with the responsibility of ruling the great continent of Oz, Bruce took less and less interest in his boomerang tournaments and more interest in the grog and damsels. Then came the great day when the National Titles were to be held. Organized of course by Merlin. So to add a little excitement, Newts Front Ears decided to sponsor a new event for the longest flight of a boomerang. As the tournament progressed, the glories were shared between Rob the Croll, Perry the Roger (who really caused distress to the damsels) and Dennis who had been raised in status to Dennis the Maximum. Rob won the Faste Catche, Perry won Ye Tricke Catche and Dennis won the competition sponsored by the Oz Knights from around the table - called Ozzie Round. King Bruce was in a real fury and when he wasn't imbibing in the grapes of the realm he was kicking his wolfhound named Boomer the Jaws. Somewhere he had managed to displace his quiver of boomerangs and he had nothing to use for the great Newt Front Ears Trophy. "Try this", said Merlin and handed Bruce the famous Excalaboom. "It's bloody useless", quoth Bruce. "One arm is longer than the other". "It'll never fly". And

in his right royal rage he heaved it away. Up it went. Spinning and spinning. All the time gaining height. Ten minutes later it was still spinning merrily above the trees. But of course King Bruce had lost all interest and was searching among the empties for some wine. He strode around kicking the empty flagons shouting "Empty eh ?" "Empty eh ?" Just at that moment Friar Brian, chanced to ask him what style of boomerang it was that was still hovering above their heads. Bruce's only answer was "Empty eh ?" And so that type of boomerang became known through the realm and all Christendom as an M.T.A. Having observed Bruce and his inebriated state when he had thrown it, they assumed that the initials stood for Must Take Alcohol and so it became a tradition that before throwing that style of boomerang, one is expected to partake of Copious quantities of alcohol.

Thus it was that Bruce's original throw was never beaten. His time incidentally was one turn and sixty-four grains of the imperial hour glass. Instantly the news flashed around the world and Eric the Darnell sent envoys to purchase the patent and world marketing rights. Germany sent the Kangaroo Baron, Uli of the Roos but Bruce sent them all packing.

And so the years passed and Bruce was never defeated in an M.T.A. event. When he was close to death as indicated by the pink elephants he kept talking to, he decided that no-

body would get their hands on the famous Excalaboom. Early one morning when the mist was rising from the lake he rowed out in the royal punt and dropped Excalaboom over the side.

Now as luck would have it, the Court Jester, Barney the Rude was practicing his skin diving, or perhaps it would be more accurate to describe it as skinny diving because he had earned his reputation by performing a raunchy corroboree at an international tournament. Actually he was experimenting with a new theory he called SCUBA - Sink, Come Up, Breathe Again . . . but that's another story. So, just as Bruce cast Excalaboom into the water, Barney thrust his hand up out of the murky depths and caught it.

When Bruce saw that hairy great arm appearing out of the gloom, it was too much for his poor old heart and he collapsed and died.

When Barney realized his good fortune, he arranged a deal with the Puritans who had moved to the Americas and set up in the U.S.A. - Ultimate Sports Association - and they elected Ted the Bailey to be Keeper of the M.T.A.s from that day and henceforth. And so it was that the Yanks became involved in boomerang throwing. (Hasn't done them much good though!!!)

*This story was stolen from Issue #9 of New Frontiers to inform the readers of the true origin of the MTA. The editor wishes to apologize to the readers for the contents in advance.*



1992 has been an exciting year for competition in America. There were some stunning scores at tournaments and several World Records were set. This column summarizes the best scores of the season so far. Much of the information was contributed by **John Flynn** on the deadline using information from the 1992 USBA Rating System Data Base.

**Mike LaPrade** and **Rob Parkins** have become the latest additions to the *Super Catch Hall of Fame*. Both have improved their MTA throwing immensely and Rob has completed F/C times below 16 seconds in practice.

**Michael Girvin** won the first tournament of the year which took place in Oakland on February 23. Michael had a 69 in both the Endurance and Juggling events.

**Chet Snouffer** won his first tournament of the season at Swainsboro on April 25. Chet also took top honors at the Ft. Wayne tournament in June.

**Casey Larrance** took first place honors at the Evergreen tournament on May 23. **Betsy Lew Miale-Gix** set a US record in Aussie Round with 89 points. This would be a World Record if only a single round was considered. Other competitors also did well in Aussie Round. **Doug DuFresne** had 86 points and **Michael Girvin** had 81 points.

**Barnaby Ruhe** took top honors at the Northampton tournament on June 6 using his typical slime tactics. **Barnaby Ruhe** took first in Trick Catch with 17. **Dennis Joyce** had 48 in the Accuracy event, tying the current U.S. Record in Accuracy. **John Flynn**

followed in Accuracy with 47 points. **John Koehler** had 46 points and **Barnaby Ruhe** had 45 points. **Rob Parkins** took the lead in F/C with a time of 17.85 seconds. **Moleman** also broke the 20 second barrier with 19.84 seconds.

**Larry Ruhf** scored 57 in Endurance, which sounds mediocre until you add the fact that he beat **Rob Parkins**, **John Flynn**, **John Koehler** and several other Endurance hot dogs! **Bob Foresi** took top honors in MTA with a 47.74 second flight. **Paul David** set a new World Record in Juggling with 239 catches. Paul used tri-bladders made out of 3 mm plywood.

There was a second tournament at Evergreen in Olympia, Wa on June 13. **Michael Girvin** took top honors and even set a new Trick Catch Record with a score of 31. **Steve Kavanaugh** did exceptionally well in MTA<sub>100</sub> with a time of 51.84 seconds.

At the Webtown Classic Tournament on June 20, **Rob Parkins** took top honors as well as completing a F/C round in 17.35 seconds. Rob did 70 in Endurance and 113 in Juggling. **Gary Freedman** took Aussie Round with 78 points that included a drop.

**Rob Parkins** took top honors again at the Team Gel Ct. Comps. on June 27. **Rob Parkins** tied the World Record in Endurance with 73 catches. Working at a 80+ pace, he had 4 drops & a run to the 20m line. **John Flynn** followed

Rob and set a new World Record in Endurance with 74 catches. This would have been 75 except for an errant 75<sup>th</sup> toss. The World Record in Juggling fell again as **Paul David** juggled 356. **Rob Parkins** followed with a marvelous 208 Juggles. F/C times were hot as well. **Rob Parkins** had a time of 17.16 seconds. **John Flynn** had 19.73 seconds and **Keith Robson** had 19.80 seconds. Meanwhile, at the Team Gel Oakland Competition, also held on June 27, a European named **Ulf Hampe** won the day.

**Rob Parkins** continued his winning pace by taking top honors at two more tournaments: Boomfest, Md on July 11 and Kimball Union Academy, NH on July 18. At the Kimball Union Academy, Rob continued his sub-20 second run with an 18.98 seconds in F/C.

**Mike Dickson** called with news about the *North Ridgeville Tournament*. **Chet Snouffer** set a new World Record in Juggling with 480 consecutive catches. He would have gone further, but darkness put a stop to the rhythmic sequence. **Chet Snouffer** also took a first in Endurance with a score of 73. This included 2 drops. **Scott "The Kid" Barrett** took a first in the Accuracy event with a score of 39. Congratulations to young Scott for such a wonderful performance in his first tournament ever.

**Chet Snouffer** won the Delaware, Ohio (8/1) and Cuyahoga Valley (8/2) tournaments as well, putting him on a collision course with **Rob Parkins** at the upcoming USBA Open/Nationals and the International Team Cup in Germany.

**John Flynn** won the Holliston Mass tournament in winds that were so bad that **Eric Darnell** took a first in F/C with 52.95 seconds. **Paul Sprague** took a first in Juggling with only 4 catches.

The competition was fierce at the USBA Open on August 7/8. **Chet Snouffer** took first overall.

Chet set a Doubling Record with a score of 13. **Rob Parkins** set a new American Record in F/C with 16.74 seconds. **Chet Snouffer** followed closely behind with 17.98 seconds. **Michael Girvin** had a 19.80 seconds round in the F/C event. There were some great times in MTA<sub>100</sub>. **Will Gix** took first with an incredible 51.40 seconds. Close behind were **Moleman** with 46.61 seconds and **Mike Dickson** with 46.17 sec. **John Flynn** had 85 points in Aussie Round and **Gregg Snouffer** followed closely behind with 83. First place in Accuracy went to **Barnaby Ruhe** with 46 points and First Place in Juggling went to **Rob Parkins** with 254 catches.

At the USBA Nationals, which was limited to the top 12 competitors from the US Open, **Chet Snouffer** took top honors, followed by **John Flynn** and **Rob Parkins**. **Chet Snouffer** took first in Fast Catch with 17.80 seconds. **Michael Girvin** and **John Flynn** followed closely with 19.1 seconds and 19.71 seconds. **John Koehler** took first in Juggling with 104. **John Flynn** took first in Aussie Round with 86 points. **Barnaby Ruhe** followed closely with 83 points. **Rob Parkins** set a new World Record in Endurance with 75 catches. **Chet Snouffer** followed close behind with 69 catches. **John Flynn & Ben Owen** tied for first in Trick Catch with 12.

At the Swiss Nationals on 22/23 August, **Matthieu Weber** took

first place overall followed closely behind by **Chet Snouffer**. A new World Record in Juggling was set by **Chet Snouffer** with 502 catches.

Congratulations to USA Team II for winning the 1992 International Team Cup in Germany this summer. The team rankings are as follows:

- USA II
- USA I
- Germany II
- Germany I
- Germany III
- France I
- Australia
- Switzerland
- \* Sweden/Canada/etc.
- \* Belgium
- Italy
- France II
- Japan
- Bulgaria
- Great Britain
- International Women

\* tied for 9<sup>th</sup> Place

In the Individual Events, the ranking of competitors follows:

- 1 - Fridolin Frost - Germany
- 2 - John Koehler - USA
- 3 - Yannick Charles - France
- 4 - Chet Snouffer - USA
- 5 - Matthieu Weber - Switzerland
- 6 - Stephane Marguerite - France
- 7 - Remy Cheveau - France
- 8 - Gregg Snouffer - USA
- 9 - Barnaby Ruhe - USA
- 10 - Uli Konzelmann - Germany

**Chet Snouffer** was significantly ahead of everyone else until the last event - Fast Catch. During his round, the winds roared and the clouds poured. Shortly thereafter, things calmed considerably allowing others to overtake his lead. Chet is thus a victim of an European rating system which awards individuals for consistent mediocrity. In this European system, one bad performance can destroy a

competitor's marks for good performance in all the other events.

On the day following the individual events, a *Fast Catch Shootout* was sponsored by *Fosters Beer* from Australia. The winds were gale force with most competitors hardly able to catch even 5. By process of elimination, **Chet Snouffer** won the day and one of the grandest trophies ever awarded at a tournament.

Detailed results of the International Competition were not available at press time. Interested parties should look for more detailed coverage of this event and the American tournament scene in the next edition of *The Leading Edge* newsletter, due out shortly. If you are not on the mailing list, you should be. Write a letter of inquiry to Chet at the address on page 27.

MHR wishes to remind the readers that the competition season is not yet over. The editor learned through third party sources that **Barnaby Ruhe** is planning to host a tournament in the New York City area on October 17. No notification was sent to MHR and the editor had no address or phone number for Barnaby as of press time.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hampton Tournament is scheduled for October 10. For more info, contact Dennis Joyce at (804)-874-3536 or write to:

**Dennis Joyce**  
**392 Mohea Circle**  
**Newport News, Va. 23602**

MHR is currently negotiating with the USBA Board of Directors for the introduction of a Competition Yearbook that disseminates information on all known tournaments for the season and includes the USBA Rating System and post-competition analysis. **Rob Parkins** is currently slated to edit the document if it gains approval. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue of MHR if the project is approved.

Errata - In MHR #51, it was stated that **John Flynn's** two bladed F/C world record was set on the third round. This is not true for his famous two-bladed record of 18.74 seconds. The statement is true for an earlier F/C world record with an inferior time. The editor apologizes for any confusion that this may have caused to John and/or the readers.

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## 1993 World Championships

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### Introduction

Now that the 1992 International Team Cup is complete, most international competitors are putting their efforts into the 1993 World Championships.

**John Cryderman** continues his efforts towards organizing this event which is scheduled to take place at the Kingsman Auditorium & Memorial Arena in Chatham, Ontario, Canada on April 19-25, 1993. Chatham is located just 50 from the Detroit/Windsor border and is thus ideally situated as an international travel destination, especially with inexpensive air travel to the Detroit Airport.

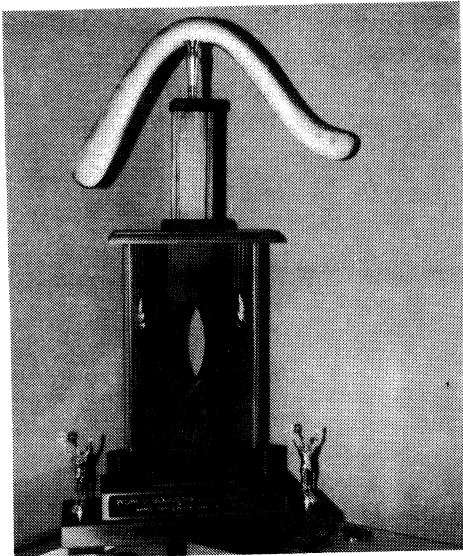
Teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Russia, Switzerland and the USA have already expressed an interest in attending.

Contested events will include: Accuracy, Australian Round, Doubling, Juggling, Fast Catch, Endurance, MTA<sub>100</sub>, MTA<sub>unlimited</sub>, Trick Catching and Long Distance. Team Events will include: Team Relay & Team Super Catch. A spectacular evening of Night Flying will complement the individual and team events, as will indoor competition and demos to complete the throwing venue.

Significant world wide press coverage is currently being arranged on several communication medias such as television, radio, special publications and tourist bureaus.

### Trophies

Beautiful trophies, as depicted below, will be awarded for both individual and team events.



### Competition Facilities

Two indoor facilities with an area of 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and four major outdoor competition areas having 15 acres of nicely groomed fields will be available for the competition.

### Workshops

Indoor workshops and other demonstrations will help to educate interested parties of the fine points of boomeranging. The Cleveland Boomerang School has suggested the possibility of setting up and attending such a workshop. There is no party better suited for this task that **David Boehm** and the Cleveland throwers.



**Boomerang Championship Organizer - John Cryderman**

IT'S THE BIGGEST EVENT OF ITS KIND *in the World*

the '93'

# World BOOMERANG Championships

APRIL 19-25

CHATHAM, ONTARIO  
Canada



**KINSMEN AUDITORIUM & MEMORIAL ARENA** *Combined With*  
*Turner & Rotary Park, Kiwanis Stadium & the C.K.S.S. Throwing Field (11.2 Acres)*

**MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB - WE'LL PAY YOU** if you or your Club would like to sell tickets on the gold and silver inlaid Herb Smith style boomerang and walnut case crafted by John Cryderman.

For individual tickets sold, clubs will be allowed to keep \$1.00 for their efforts in supporting the Competitors to the '93 Championships April 19-25, Chatham, Ontario, Canada. For each book of tickets sold, clubs can keep \$5.00 for their efforts. Clubs selling tickets DO NOT have to purchase them first.

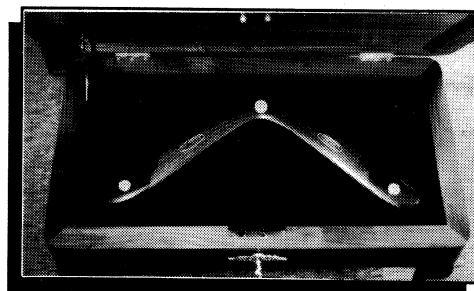
A special trust account under the name 'Boomerang Association of Canada' has been set up for all monies raised. By March 25, 1993 all monies from our fund raising efforts will be disbursed to the competitors or the Clubs sponsoring the Competitors travelling to Canada in April.

**PLEASE** when all your requested number of tickets are sold, each club or organization may deduct \$1.00 per ticket sold or \$5.00 per book of tickets sold. It is our way of thanking you for your efforts in assisting the '93 World Event. Please obtain a Canadian money order for the balance of the money to be sent to 'BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'. **REMEMBER** to send the numbered ticket stubs with the money order. If you require additional tickets please write or call.

**ALL MONIES RAISED MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF CANADA ON OR ABOUT MARCH 15, 1993.**

**NOTE:** Clubs and organizations do not have to pay for the tickets first from BAC, just state the quantity required and we'll send you the tickets.

**YOU COULD WIN!** A \$3,000.00 Gold & Silver Inlaid Boomerang with a solid walnut case representing the '93 World Boomerang Championships. **FOR ONLY \$3.00.**



All Net Proceeds To Fund The '93 Championships

Herb Smith Design - Laminated Canadian Walnut/Burled Rosewood/African Padauk & Purple Heart with gold and silver inlays with the Coat of Arms, City of Chatham Crest, World Championships Crest.

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE \$3.00 each; two tickets \$5.00; book of ten \$20.00** - U.S. and overseas purchasers please obtain Canadian funds - **Draw to take place Saturday, April 24, 1993.**

Due to Canadian Laws governing raffles and lotteries, tickets cannot be sold in Canada.

# ABOUT THE 93 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The '93 World Championships are well under way. To date the countries of Belgium, Japan, Holland, United States and Brazil have confirmed. A total of 20 acres is available for the World Championships which will house four throwing fields, indoor workshops, seminars and demonstrations, tools, supplies, domestic and exotic woods accessories AND the big names in the sport including the Cleveland Boomerang School. The World Boomerang Craftsmanship awards will be one of the high profiles of the week long event. Large trophies, extensive coverage and cash awards will complement the top five Craftsmen in the respective categories. Fundraising efforts supporting competitor travel are the raffle of an exquisite \$3,000.00 Herb Smith style gold and silver inlaid Boomerang and walnut case similar to the boomerangs made for Prince Charles (tickets \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00, book of ten \$20.00); the sale of boomerang literature; the sale of oak strip laminated Al Gerhards style boomerangs and UNnatural walnut elbows, both available in blanks or finished, ready to throw.

**MONEY FOR BOOMERANG CLUBS** - Clubs are invited to sell tickets on the \$3,000.00 Boomerang and retain a percentage of sales. FURTHER INFORMATION: CONTACT JOHN CRYDERMAN, BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, 136 THAMES STREET, CHATHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA N7L 2Y8 (519) 354-3984.

A special thank you to Al Gerhards for the use of his name and designs; to Ted Bailey for allowing the reprinting of Boomerang Journal; to the (U.S.B.A.) United States Boomerang Association for the reprinting of Many Happy Returns; to Stephane Marguerite for all his assistance and logo design; Jim Bradley of the Canadian Boomerang Association; Rogery Perry; Doug & Dianne Dufresne and to all who provided assistance to date.

## SOME OF THE BEST BOOMERANGS IN THE WORLD ... *are now on sale ...*

### STRIP LAMINATING • STEAM BENDING - *"Quality in Tradition"*



"Quality in Tradition" has long been the motto of John Cryderman of Ontario, Canada, who recently completed two boomerangs and their accompanying case for Prince Charles.

Cryderman, whose past love was reproducing turn of the Century furniture, has found a new initiative for the 90's and for the turn of the 20th century. Inspired by Al Gerhards of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, who designed and constructed many variations of strip laminated boomerangs including the record breaking long distance hook. Cryderman is currently reproducing 30 variations of Gerhards boomerangs including the 5 variations of the Big "U".

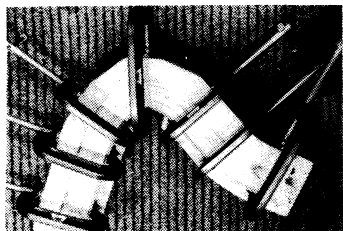
Cryderman was so infatuated with the design and subtle curves and gentle contours of Gerhards' creations that, with the express permission of Gerhards, Cryderman is currently reproducing these beautiful pieces. Quality in tradition does not come easy. Selecting straight grained air dried wood such as oak, ash and hickory, and cutting into 1/4" strips. Proper steaming and allowing the steamed strips to cool to shape in the molds is a critical step in the process. After a couple of days being clamped in the molds to take shape, the clamps are removed and the steamed strips are separated and allowed to dry thoroughly. Each strip is then properly painted with special water and heat resistant adhesives. The strips are left apart for approximately 30 minutes or until the adhesive becomes tacky. The strips are then pulled together in the mold, clamped and left to cure for a couple of days.

The clamps are then removed and a solid 1-1/2" blank is born. The blanks are then levelled and cut in thicknesses ranging from 5-7 mm. Each thin blank is then cut to the desired shape on the bandsaw and finished to shape on the drum sander. Contouring and further shaping is done by hand, each boomerang is then flight tested and finished.

**Note: All orders are individually tuned and tested. The Long Distance Gerhards style Boomerangs are so tuned that they may be thrown like an average boomerang with great flights and nice hovering returns.**

**Note: "B"s are made from 1/16 to 1/4" strips.**

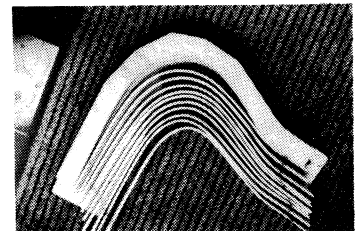
Some reproduction pieces like the Gerhards large hooks are weighted with lead or soft bronze. For Cryderman, constructing boomerangs fulfills a number of interests. Working with wood and finishes are contrary to pieces of furniture because each finished boomerang represents a product far more personal, almost a living, breathing art form. Having an interest in boomerangs represents an opportunity to learn of their history and the significance boomerangs played in the evolution of early cultures, as well as a great excuse to study a little aerodynamics.



Oak strips drying in molds.



The original Al Gerhards Tuning dish ... tuning the long distance "B".



Oak strips separated for drying.

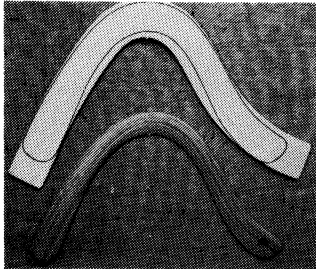
BUY DIRECT  
NO TAX  
FOR NON  
CAN. RESIDENTS



# WANTED...

**OUT OF PRINT BOOKS AND LITERATURE ON BOOMERANGS ... WILL PURCHASE "B'S AND RELATED ITEMS. Contact John Cryderman - WILL TRADE.**

Now on sale in **limited quantities** for the world market - beautiful strip laminated Boomerangs for recreation and for the serious professional. Made with the same pride as the "B's made for Prince Charles and the same traditional quality of oak as made by Al Gerhards. Beautiful to look at ... beautiful to throw ... great to own .... collectors series.



**16" S/L Oak Gerhards Style Hook -**

**Blanks \$15.00** Can. + shpg.  
\$3 donated to '93 World Competitors

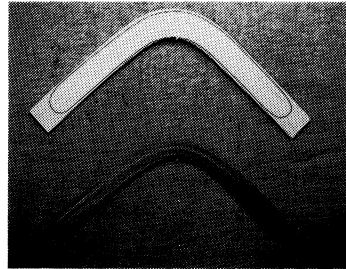
**Finished Models** CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

(Unweighted) **\$35.00** + shpg.

(Weighted) **\$45.00** + shpg.

\$5 donated to the '93 World Competitors -  
• specialy tuned for normal throwing techniques • Limited to 75 yds. long distance . Tuned to throw with 35° lay over.

GERHARDS DESIGN  
5.5 MM, 15" OR 16"  
70 YDS. AND 100-140 YDS



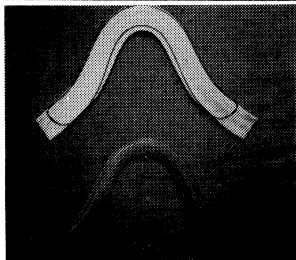
6 MM - 18"  
GERHARDS, DESIGN  
25-40 YDS

18.5" S/L Oak Gerhards Style  
Traditional

**Blanks \$12.00** + shpg.  
\$2 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

**Finished Models \$22.00** + shpg.  
Throw easy or hard for pro  
flights.

\$3 donated to '93 World  
Competitors CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.



**World Favourite Gerhards  
Style Omega** - fantastic distances, easy  
to catch

**Blank \$11.00** + shpg.

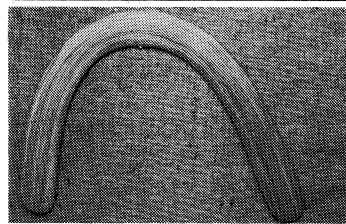
\$2 donated to '93 World Competitors

**Finished Models**

**\$25.00** + shpg.

\$3 donated to the '93 World Com-  
petitors CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

5.5 MM, 13.5"  
50-70 YDS



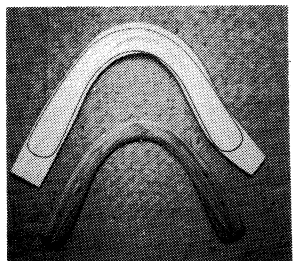
6 MM, 14", 25-45 YDS.

Gerhards Style  
Witches Hook  
**Finished Models**

**Only \$35.00** + shpg.

\$3 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.



**Gerhards Style Tear Drop**

**Blanks \$12.00** + shpg.

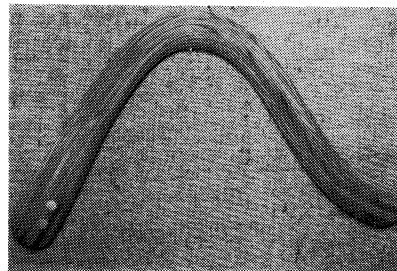
\$2 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

**Finished Models** - beautiful  
flights - easy to catch

**\$25.00** + shpg.

\$3 donated to the '93 World  
Competitors CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

6MM, 14"  
40-65 YDS



6.5 MM FAMOUS GERHARDS STYLE  
WHITE LIGHTNING  
95-145 YDS, 18" - 1/4" OAK S/L

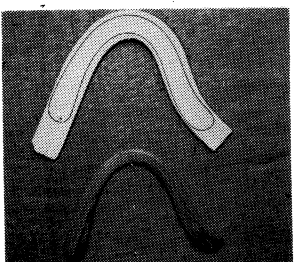
Magnificent Work of Art  
A Masterpiece in the World of  
B's. Although this one will be pre  
tuned, further tuning suggestions  
upon request. It's nice to have.

**Sold as finished model.**

**\$65.00** CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

Weighted \$75.00 with lead or  
(bronze when available)

\$5 to Competitor Sponsorship



**Gerhards Style Mini Hook**

**Blanks \$12.00** + shpg.

\$2 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

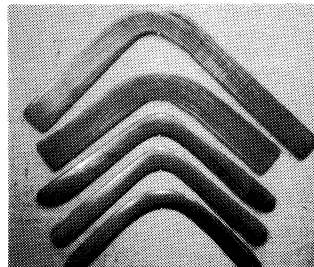
**Finished Models** - throw normally  
beautiful circular flight - great returns.

**\$25.00** + shpg.

\$3 donated to the '93 World  
Competitors CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

5 MM, 12"  
50-70 YDS

**UNNATURAL WALNUT ELBOWS** - Blanks & finished models  
Unnatural elbows are deliberately steamed to the required shape.  
This produces a grain that flows with the Boomerang Shape for  
superior strength and beauty. The result is greater density for in-  
creased inertia for greater more stable flights. Blanks are 3/8" thick:  
Blanks contour and sand easily and with minimum effort will sand to  
produce a mirror like finish. Perfect shapes for the Herb Smith  
Sycamore and Sportsman. Because of the extreme difficulty in  
producing these elbows, **30 ONLY** will be offered for sale for the world  
market.



These are the most  
beautiful elbows you'll  
ever own.

Av. Wing Width 3"  
Av. Tip Length 22"

**BLANKS**

**\$35.00** Canadian + shpg.  
\$3.00 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

**FINISHED MODELS**

**\$55.00** Canadian + shipping  
\$5.00 donated to '93 World  
Competitors

CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

## SHIPPING COSTS FOR BOOMERANGS

(CANADIAN RESIDENTS MUST ADD 7% G.S.T. & 8% P.S.T.)

**DOMESTIC** (Parcel Post) Packaging, Shipping & Insurance included

One Boomerang	\$3.00	■ Up to Five	\$6.50	■ Up to Ten	\$10.00
Boomerang Blanks	\$4.00	■ Up to Five	\$8.50	■ Up to Ten	\$12.00

**OVERSEAS** (Air Mail)

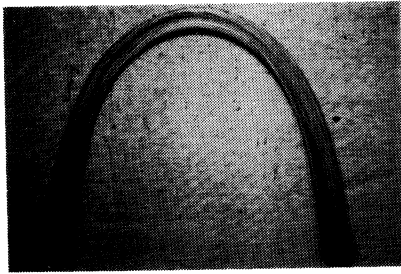
One Boomerang	\$15.00	■ Up to Five	\$25.00	■ Up to Ten	\$35.00
Boomerang Blanks	\$15.00	■ Up to Five	\$25.00	■ Up to Ten	\$35.00

**OVERSEAS** (Surface)

One Boomerang	\$6.00	■ Up to Five	\$9.00	■ Up to Ten	\$15.00
Boomerang Blanks	\$6.00	■ Up to Five	\$9.00	■ Up to Ten	\$16.00

Costs

off ... BOOKS & LITERATURE AS MARKED



The Gerhards Style Mighty "U"  
7 mm - 1/4" Oak S/L  
A unique flying machine

A Most Impressive  
Piece For Any Collection

**\$95.00** untuned

**\$125.00** tuned

**Sold only as a  
finished model**

\$15.00 donated to '93  
World Competitors

CAN. RES.  
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G.S.T.  
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## INFORMATION ON LONG DISTANCE

The long distance models are sold in two basic versions, either tuned to be thrown normally with a 5° layover (limited to 70 yds.) or tuned for 125-140 yds. thrown with 45-65° layover. **Please specify.** In tuning the L/D models, I have found it best to tune to approximate rather than specific because of so many variations in throwing techniques and other factors including weather conditions. It's best that any further tuning be done by the thrower.

# BOOKS AND LITERATURE



Nice Reproductions (bound) loaded with information and data.  
Permission to reprint courtesy of Ted Bailey.

**\$40.00** set of 8

(includes shpg.)

Overseas add \$5.00 surface

Air Mail add \$15.00

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Air Mail add \$4.00/copy

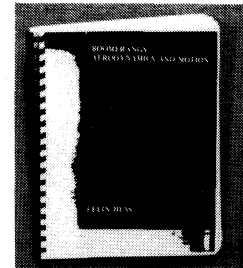
CAN. RESIDENTS ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

## BOOMERANG JOURNAL

"a collectors series" - NOW DISCONTINUED

\$1.00 from each issue donated to  
93 World Competitors

## FELIX HESS' THEORY



What an addition to any Boomerang Library. Nicely bound reproductions. Cost includes packaging and shipping

Within Canada ..... \$22.00

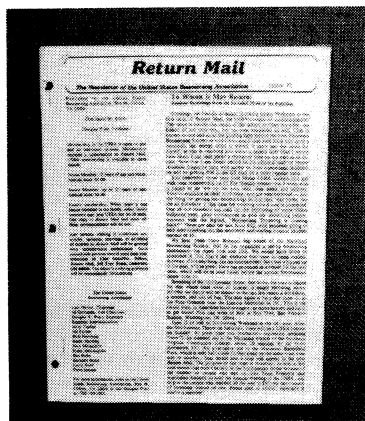
United States ..... \$24.00

International Surface ..... \$24.00

International Air ..... \$32.00

\$5.00 from each copy sold will go toward '93 World Competitors.

CAN. RESIDENTS ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.



Nice Reproductions  
Courtesy of the U.S.B.A.

## SINGLE COPIES

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Overseas air add \$3.50

Overseas surface  
add \$1.00

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1981-1992

CAN. RESIDENTS  
ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.



## MANY HAPPY RETURNS LIBRARY

Set of 42

From 1981-1992

**\$200.00** + shpg.

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Within U.S. .... \$19.00

International Surface ..... \$20.00

International Air ..... \$35.00

\$30.00 from each set donated to '93 World Competitors

CAN. RESIDENTS ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

## CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:

John Cryderman  
136 Thames Street  
Chatham, Ontario, Canada N7L 2Y8  
(519) 351-8344 • Home (519) 354-3984  
Fax (519) 351-8345

Donations amount will be deposited to:

The Boomerang Association of Canada which is a registered non profit trust account #030-04-000044737.

## The Al Gerhards Commemorative Series

**\$300.00**

Includes the Big 'U' (separate costs \$125.00), the White Lightning - weighted (separate cost \$85.00), Omega (sep. cost \$25.00), Witch Hook (sep. cost \$35.00), Traditional (sep. cost \$22.00), Standard Hook (sep. cost \$45.00), Mini Hook (sep. cost \$25.00).

\$67.00 from the sale of each set goes to Competitor Sponsorship.

**SAVE \$62.00** by purchasing the complete series for \$300.00. Separate cost is \$362.00. CAN. RESIDENTS ADD G.S.T. & P.S.T.

### Wood Working Show

The boomerang craftsmen will have access to a large wood show that will be held adjacent to the competition site. Approximately 14,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of wood working supplies, such as tools, finishing products and exotic woods will be offered for sale. Instructions on steaming, wood bending, gluing and other special techniques will be available from professional woodworkers on site.

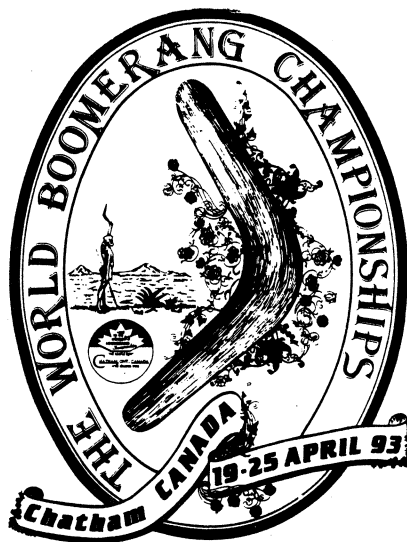
### World Craftsmanship Awards

First through Fifth Place Trophies will be awarded to craftsman in three classes: Adult, Intermediate (Grades 9-13) and Novice (Grades 5-8). Additional cash prizes, ranging from \$35 to \$200 will be awarded as a supplement to the trophies. Judging will be based on detailing, finishing, project difficulty, uniqueness, originality in design, proportioning and aerodynamic appearance.

Parties who plan on entering the craftsmanship competition are required to submit an application form with the small required entry fee before February 15, 1993. Boomerangs must be received before April 1, 1993. You do not have to attend the competition to enter your crafts for judging. Interested hobbyists should write to **John Cryderman** as soon as possible and request an application form which has detailed information on the craftsmanship competition rules. Craftsmen will have the option to sell their entries which can command exceptional prices at wood shows such as these.

### Boomerang Assoc. of Canada

A new organization called *The Boomerang Association of Canada* has been formed to support these efforts. All correspondence to the new organization should be directed to the address below:



**Boomerang Assoc. of Canada**  
C/O John Cryderman  
136 Thames St.  
Chatham, Ontario N7L 2Y8  
Canada

### Name the Kangaroo Contest

Efforts are underway to import a Mountain Kangaroo as a competition mascot. A "Name the Kangaroo" contest will be implemented for youngsters, aged 4 to 14. For a \$3 registration and entry fee, the winner(s) will receive a cash prize of \$200 and a television and radio appearance as well as extensive newspaper coverage. In case of a tie, the money will be divided. All proceeds in excess of the \$200 prize money will go towards WBA sponsorship. Write to **John Cryderman** for information on the "Name the Kangaroo contest".

### Fund Raising Products

The center four unnumbered pages of this publication are intended as a tear out information sheet which defines many of the products available for sale to help raise funding for the World Championships.

The editor has inspected many of the products offered for sale. This includes scale replicas of several **Al Gerhards'** strip laminated boomerang products. The quality is superb. John even uses **Al Gerhards'** original tuning dish to tune the finished products. Both blanks and finished boomerangs are offered for sale. A significant discount is offered on a complete set of 7 different strip-laminated boomerangs. Product information is listed in the center tear out.

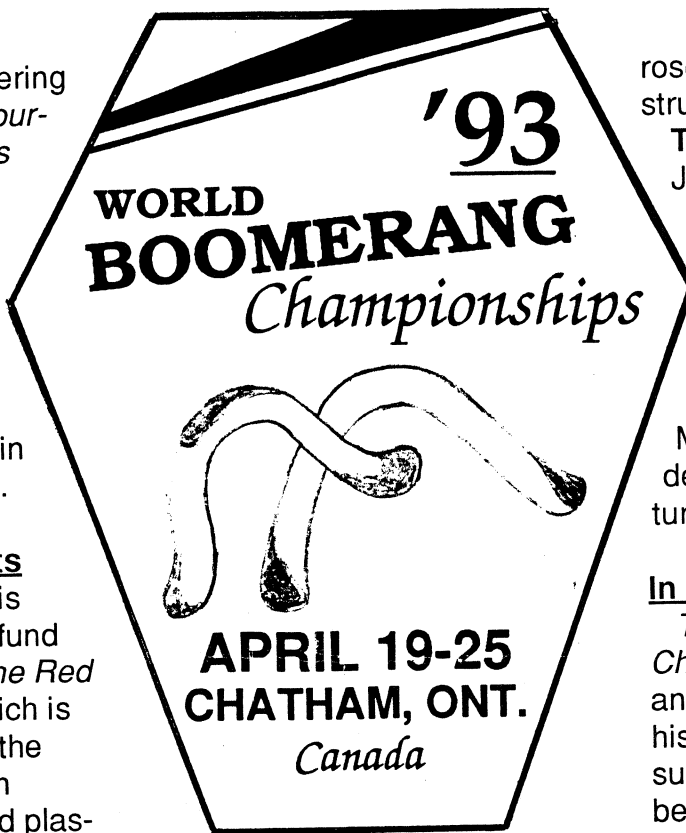
**John Cryderman** has crafted an exquisite boomerang made with exotic woods and gold & silver inlay. The boomerang, which is housed in a solid walnut case, is valued at \$3,000. An auction of the boomerang is underway to raise funds for the competitors. All international & domestic clubs (outside of Canada only please) are encouraged to sell raffle tickets for this fund raising effort. Tickets are now on sale for \$3 each or 2/\$5 or a book of 10 for \$20. The drawing will take place on April 24. Clubs are encouraged to write John Cryderman and obtain auction ticket books to sell to club members. Clubs are entitled to keep a portion of the proceeds for their own club treasury.

**John Cryderman** is offering reprints of *Boomerang Journal*, *Many Happy Returns* and Felix Hess' thesis: "*Boomerangs, Aerodynamics and Motion*". A significant portion of the funds from these sales will be donated to the 1993 World Championships. Details are listed in the center tear out sheet.

**Miscellaneous Products**

Another products that is available to support the fund raising effort includes *The Red Medalist* boomerang which is the Canadian analog to the American Wham-O/Lorin Hawes product. This red plastic boomerang is, however, an entirely different shape and is very easy to throw and catch. Production on this boomerang was halted in 1973. Each is numbered with a certificate. The price is only \$10 which includes shipping. \$3 from each sale will go towards '93 Championship sponsorship.

Embroidered Crests, as depicted above, are available at \$3.50 each. Boomerang Clubs have the option of keeping a portion of the proceeds for their club treasury. These patches will be a welcome addition to team uniforms or other garments.



**World's Largest Boomerang**

The world's largest boomerang, measuring 13 feet high and 22 feet wide, will be permanently erected on granite supports at the competition site and surrounded by a tulip and

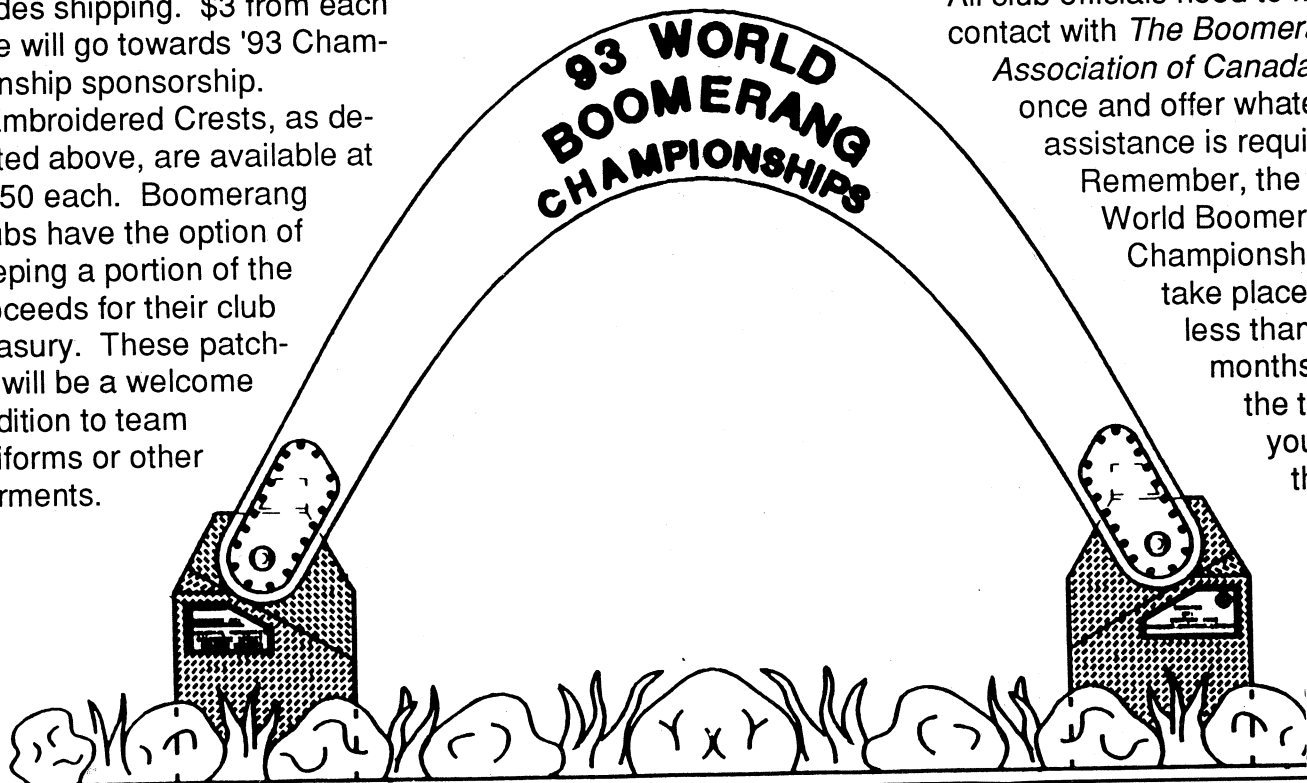
rose garden. A sketch of the structure is shown below.

**Tom Fitzgerald** challenges John's claim to the world's largest boomerang, saying that the city of St. Louis erected a much larger boomerang structure on the banks of the Mississippi two decades ago. See MHR #37; page 16 for more details on the St. Louis structure.

**In Summary**

*The 1993 World Boomerang Championships* promises to be an event like no other in the history of the sport. Large sums of money have already been committed towards making this championship the largest and best covered competition ever. **John Cryderman** has the experience and resources to make it all happen. But he cannot do it without everybody's immediate support. All club officials need to make contact with *The Boomerang Association of Canada* at once and offer whatever assistance is required.

Remember, the next World Boomerang Championships will take place in less than 7 months from the time you read this column.



# '93 WORLD BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the  
Kinsmen Auditorium  
and Memorial Arena Complex

CHATHAM, ONT.  
CANADA

April 19-25th

Handcrafted Laminated Wood  
Boomerang of Rare Exotic

## DRAW TICKET

Woods & Inlaid with Gold & Silver Complete with a Solid Walnut Case  
**VALUE \$3000.00.** A 22" Boomerang of the Herb Smith Sycamore design.

**CRAFTED BY JOHN CRYDERMAN**

Net Proceeds to Fund Travel Expenses for Competitors

TICKETS  **\$3.00 EACH**    **2 FOR \$5.00**    **BOOK OF 10 \$20.00**  
**TO BE DRAWN SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1993**

NOT TO BE SOLD IN CANADA

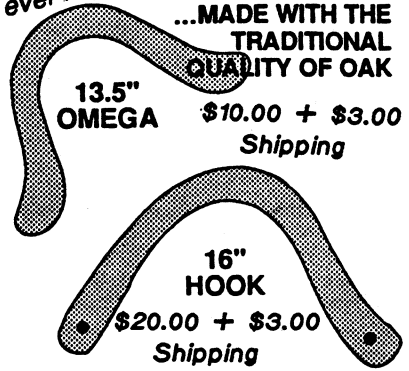
No SAMPLE

SUPPORTING THE '93 WORLD  
BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS  
APRIL 19-25  
CHATHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA  
PAYABLE TO: BOOMERANG ASSOC. OF CANADA  
c/o JOHN CRYDERMAN  
136 Thames St., Chatham, Ontario,  
Canada N7L 2Y8 (519) 351-8344

## Al Gerhards Blanks

Beautifully  
strip laminated

With the express permission  
of Al Gerhards I will be  
producing two of his  
finest THE OMEGA and the  
ever impressive LARGE HOOK.



...MADE WITH THE  
TRADITIONAL  
QUALITY OF OAK  
**13.5" OMEGA**    \$10.00 + \$3.00  
Shipping

**16" HOOK**  
\$20.00 + \$3.00  
Shipping

**ABSOLUTELY FLAWLESS!**  
and reasonably priced.

A good portion of sales goes toward '93  
World Championships April 19-25  
Chatham, Ontario, Canada

### CONTACT

JOHN CRYDERMAN  
136 THAMES STREET  
CHATHAM, ONTARIO  
CANADA N7L 2Y8  
(519) 354-3984

Receive info on '93 World Champi-  
onships and the Canadian Boomerang  
Association **FREE** just for writ-  
ing.

## Support the 93 World Boomerang Championships



CHATHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA

April 22-26

KINSMEN AUDITORIUM  
& MEMORIAL ARENA

Now  
on Sale!

### "THE RED MEDALIST"

Hard plastic (13") boom similar to Siladys  
early shape. Each boom is numbered (lim-  
ited quantity - 270) with matching numbered  
gold coloured document with purchaser's  
name, honouring the purchaser for their  
support of the '93 Championships. Last pro-  
duction run was 1973. No more are being  
made. \$10.00 Canadian funds, including  
shipping. \$3.00 from each boom sold will go  
toward '93 sponsorship.

### Now Available FELIX HESS' THESIS

What an addition to any boom  
library (photocopies only). Total  
cost includes packaging &  
Shipping.

- Within Canada - \$22.00
- United States - \$24.00
- Intl Surface - \$24.00
- International Air - \$32.00

\$5.00 from each copy sold will  
go toward '93 sponsorship.

### BACK ISSUES OF BOOMERANG JOURNAL

Everything you wanted to know about boo-  
merangs but were afraid to ask ... Issues #1  
thru #5, total cost includes shipping - \$5.00.  
\$1.00 from each journal sold will go toward  
'93 sponsorship.

### HAVE A COMPLETE MANY HAPPY RETURNS LIBRARY ... issues available at

\$6.00 each. \$2.00 from each  
issue sold will go toward '93  
sponsorship. Cost includes  
shipping.

**CHEQUES** made payable to JOHN CRYDERMAN  
136 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario, Canada N7L 2Y8  
(519) 354-3984 FAX (519) 351-8345

... NO COST TO YOU FOR SHIPPING ...



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## Toss Across America

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The second annual *Toss Across America* was held throughout the USA on 16 May.

The Detroit area throwers held their toss at *Mayberry State Park* in Northville, Michigan, helped by both radio and newspaper coverage. The editor visited to see how the local organizers were keeping busy. **Bud Pell** manned the information booth while **Norm Kern** kept the throwers busy on the field. At any given time, there were 10-20 curious park visitors doing their best to get a return in somewhat windy conditions. **Bud Pell** registered approximately 50 participants with 16 novices registering for additional followup information. The assistant park ranger, **Anna Sylvestri**, tried to throw without much luck. She took her boomerang back to the park entrance and demonstrated a great throw and her first catch. She was so excited, she returned back to the field to tell Bud the good news. The 19 May edition of *The Detroit News* carried an excellent followup on the Detroit area throwers. The cover of the sports page featured a picture (in color) of **Bob Kleiman** throwing a plastic Darnell Wizard. At least a dozens inquiries were received in the mail from curious readers after the article was published.

**Will & Betsy Miale-Gix** held their toss at the *Edmonds Woodway High School* in Edmonds, Wa. Notable throwers who attended included **Casey Larrance**, **Steve Kavanaugh** & **Dr. Clifton Furukawa**. Approximately 100 participants, which included 6 paired off Yuppies, entire families, and a 70 year old Grandma who left a reunion early to attend the boomerang throw. A core of approximately 20 throwers remained for hours. Media coverage included two radio stations and two newspapers.

On the East Coast, **Paul**

**Sprague** and the *Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society* held a toss at *The Science Museum of Connecticut* in West Hartford. Approximately 120 people participated in the activities which included: demos of the various events; discussions on everything from the basics to a lecture by a rotor-blade engineer from *Sikorsky Helicopter*; and of course the opportunity to toss a boomerang. The toss was held on Sunday, May 17, because the field was only available at that time. Paul said that was a good thing because of rain on both Saturday and Monday with sunny weather and a breeze on Sunday. **Rob Parkins** thrilled the crowd by launching one of his MTAs for an extended flight that flew over the heads of the spectators and landed on top of the museum's panther cage. Their radio interview caught the attention of the owner of a communication company. Negotiations are currently underway to obtain corporate sponsorship for future events.

**Fred Malmberg** held a toss at the *York Suburban High School* in York, Pa. WSBA Radio provided pre-press coverage which attracted 22 potential new throwers from the younger crowd. One was 4 years old! During the 5 1/2 hour demonstration and throw, Fred noticed that the younger throwers habitually threw horizontally resulting in interesting, but fast, returns.

**Richard Harrison** held a toss in Monroe, La., but many of the expected crowds were scared away by high & shifty winds during the mid-day schedule. In the evening, Rich enjoyed nearly perfect conditions while throwing by himself.

**Gregg & Chet Snouffer** were host to a toss at the ever famous *Mingo Park* in Delaware, Ohio. A total of 75 throwers participated in what can only be described as a *Free Throw*. Hundreds of boomerangs ere sold as the toss conveniently took place on the same day as the *Delaware Arts Festival*.

Also in Ohio, **Mike Dickson** hosted a toss in Canton's *Devonshire Park*. A lecture on safety and the history & science of boomerangs was accompanied by a throwing demonstration of tournament events. Significant media coverage, including the 12 May edition of *The Repository*, gave Mike excellent pre-event coverage. Approximately 50 participants, many of which expressed an interest in continuing throwing, were attracted to the throw. Perfect weather helped make this a great experience for all.

**Bob Kley** was host to a toss at *Mt. Valley Park* in Prescott Valley, Arizona. The 13 May edition of *The Prescott Valley Tribune* carried an excellent article covering the history of the sport and enticing readers to give it a try. **Ted Jelsema** from Flagstaff & **Chuck Paulausky** joined Bob to help with the toss. Unfortunately, windy conditions made it tough to teach the 15 inquisitive participants that showed up.

**Paul Sprague** mailed MHR the toss responses from the Internet computer network. **C. D. Taveres** attended a toss in Fitchburg, Ma. hosted by **Ed Costello** and family. Throwers were able to try out dozens of different boomerangs in variable breezes. Invitations were extended to join the *Bay State Boomerang Association*. **Bengt Palsson**, a displaced member of the *Swedish Boomerang Society*, attended the Detroit area throw and picked up a **Bob Burwell** Lark 14 omega that he almost lost when his eyes shifted towards a heavenly body that passed only a few feet away. **John Zola** from Cleveland, Ohio attended a toss at the *Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area* and met **David Boehm** of *The Cleveland Boomerang School*. John said he learned a lot from Dave on how to read the wind, how to throw, and how to make the bloody things. Boomerangs have improved for John immensely since the Cleveland toss.

## Boomerangs for Investment

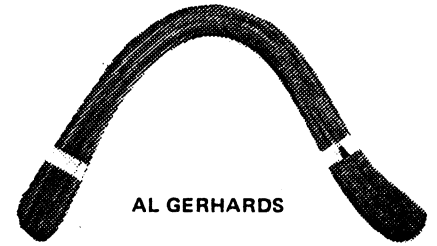
The Boomerang Man has initiated a new service for collectors: the auctioning of boomerangs that are no longer appreciated by their owners and deserve a new home. Last winter, the B'man auctioned off a large collection of Herb Smith 'rangs. This summer, a collection of about 40 boomerangs from a dozen manufacturers were offered by mail auction. This collection contained six Al Gerhards booms, including two premium weighted hooks. The prices realized in the auction follow: \$175 and \$145 for the weighted Gerhards hooks, \$90 for a Gerhards omega, \$35 for a Harding Satinwood V110, \$55 for a Hawes Silky Oak Spinner, \$60 for a Flynn Solstice Omega, \$40 for a Red Whittington Speed Stick, \$51 for a Reitbauer S/L Omega, \$89 for a Rod Jones Doubling Set and \$45 for a Bailey Lap Joint V. These prices are lower than what many collectors would have paid had they known of the auction. More auctions will follow in the near future. If you would like to be added to the bidder listing, send the B'Man a SASE (#10 envelope) in the very near future. If you have a collection that you would like to liquidate, you should consider auctioning your booms through the Boomerang Man to get top dollar and pass the booms that you no longer love onto someone who will appreciate them more. What is one man's garbage is another man's treasure. For more information on either selling or bidding on collectable boomerangs, call Rich Harrison at (318)-325-8157 or write to:

**The Boomerang Man**  
1806 No. 3rd St.  
Monroe, La. 71201

And what did these booms cost a decade ago? To the right are excerpts from a 1980 B'Man catalog!

AL GERHARDS holds the current world's boomerang throwing distance and returning record. Imagine throwing a boomerang 123 yards with complete and accurate return — on five consecutive throws! That's what Al did using his specially crafted hook "White Lightning". It weighs 6 oz. and measures 20". Gerhards doesn't make this size for sale, but he does handcraft a real pleaser in his 16" weighted hook:

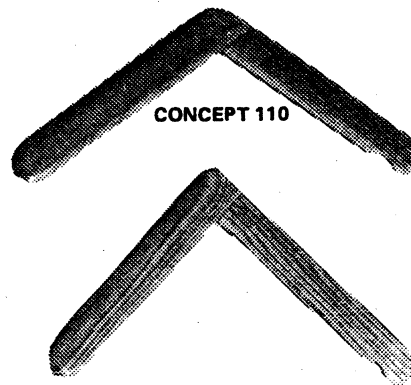
GERHARD HOOK is constructed of steam-bent hard wood strips (like Bakwood), laid up so that the grain of each strip is in reverse to the adjoining strip (for more strength), lead weights are mounted in both tips and the elbow, and a special polyurethane/oil finish is applied to enhance the beauty of the wood. Each is flight proven by Al and then sent to the B-MAN. Supply is always limited. Experienced throwers only, please! L-16", W-3.5, R-75+ yards (15 second flights not unusual) RH LH \$33.00.



AL GERHARDS

"Tell Gerhards that he's got another admirer! That hook's everything you said it was, and more."

Noble Carlson  
University Hts., OH



CONCEPT 110

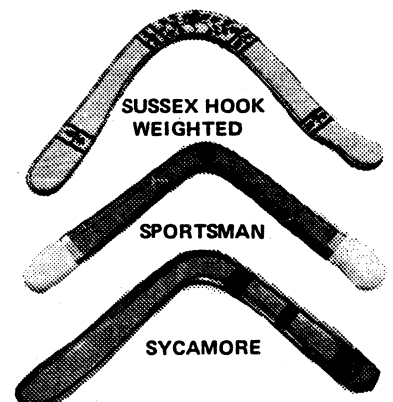
CONCEPT 90

CONCEPT BRAND USA. The first non-plywood production boomerang for the American thrower. Handmade from solid hardwoods, 6 dowels are firmly inserted in the elbow with Aircraft-grade epoxy for a guaranteed unbreakable joint! Note the notched handle allowing you to obtain extra spin and sure control. Each is fully tested prior to shipping. The maker signs and numbers each B he crafts.

Now available in two shapes: No. 90 and No. 110 and three woods: CHERRY, MAPLE, RED OAK. Please order by wood type and model number. L-17", W-3/4, R-35+. \$13.00. Specify RH or LH (Maker is a lefty)

HERB SMITH OF SUSSEX, ENGLAND held the World Distance Record (measured and certified) with a throw of 115 yards until 1979. He has little time to make B's for sale, but he does manage to get a few to the B-MAN. When possible he applies tasteful art to each and signs them as well. Supply is so limited that no back orders can be accepted on any Smith B's. If not available when you order, your money will be refunded. Recommended for experienced throwers.

Sussex Hook	18" 4 oz. 45+ yards	\$19.00
Sussex Hook		
Weighted	18" 5 oz. 55+ yards	\$21.00
Sportsman	19" 5 oz. 45 yards	\$18.00
Sycamore	21" 6 oz. 50+ yards	\$18.00



SUSSEX HOOK  
WEIGHTED

SPORTSMAN

SYCAMORE

## BITS & PIECES

### News From The USA

**Bob Quinn and Bill Moore** have started a regional club in Massachusetts called the *Bay State Boomerang Society* (BSBS). The club has initiated a newsletter called *The BSBS News*. In the (first) June 1992 issue, Bob relates his experiences at several New England events held this summer. The second newsletter focused on the August 1 Bay State Tournament and the windy conditions that prevailed. Bob mentioned that he has a computer program that will tally scores for the existing competition system. He will pass on the MS DOS Turbo Pascal 5.5 program to anyone who sends him a floppy disk. The program is limited to a maximum number of 40 competitors. For more information on how to get on the distribution list for the club newsletter or to obtain a copy of the computer program, write directly to:

**Robert X. Quinn**  
BSBS President  
18 Northway St.  
Holliston, Ma. 01746

**Bud Pell** wrote to tell MHR that the Michigan group of throwers has been very busy promoting the sport this past spring and summer. In addition to the *Toss Across America*, the following activities occurred: A month long

display of boomerangs was set up in the *Farmington Public Library* in May. **Bud Pell** gave a talk and demo at the *Ford Motor Co. Singles Club* on May 12. Bud also put on a similar show at the *Clague Middle School* on May 28. **Bud Pell and Robert Kleiman** spent an entire day at the *Bloomfield Middle School* instructing 450 students on how to make and throw boomerangs. On June 22, the annual *Summer Solstice Throw* was held at the *Bryant School* in Livonia. Approximately 20 throwers participated in night flying activities such as Accuracy and Australian Round. A *Night Bullroarer* with lights was successfully demonstrated. The light patterns rivalled those of the Northern Lights that appear in the winter skies. **Bud Pell** and several of the Michigan throwers put on a mock tournament for dozens of interested kite enthusiasts at the *First Annual Springfield Oaks Kite Fly* near Detroit on July 18. Everything went well until a thunderstorm ended the demo only a few minutes before the scheduled end.

**Norm Kern** sent in a column from the *Detroit News Wire Service*, dated 9 August. This article, illustrated to the right, gets the MHR award for the most negative boomerang news article of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It portrays a very poor image of our sport and does grave injustice to **Larry Ruhf's** efforts which received quite positive feedback from the competitors. **Andy Bourey** said his injury occurred

## LIVING IN AMERICA

### Aussie sport gets mouthy in U.S.

AMHERST, Mass. — You toss it, and then it comes back from the outback and gives you a smack. G'day, mate!

Americans competing at a three-day national boomerang championship insisted the sport will become more popular here — though it can be a bit tricky.

"This one hit me right in the mouth," said Andy Bourey of St. Louis. "I was bleeding during my whole first turn."

Participants tried to set U.S. records in distance, accuracy and endurance. They claimed boomerang tossing, a traditional activity in Australia, is gaining global attention.

Said Larry Ruhf, a former national champ: "Throwing out a stick, and it comes back — it has a kind of mystical quality."

Until it hits you in the mouth.

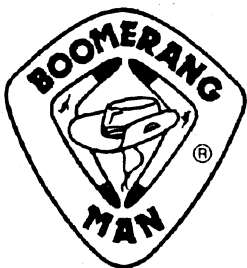
■ From Detroit News wire services. 8/9/92

### Bad Press Exemplified !!!

prior to the competition, not during the first event. The editor advises all readers to be careful what they say to reporters, especially if they are from Detroit. A lot of the contemporary press feeds primarily on negative issues. If a reporter doesn't seem genuinely interested in the sport, don't even give him the time of the day.

**Tom Fitzgerald** held a 4 hour boomerang demo and novice lesson session at the *St. Louis Science Center* during their annual *Flight Week* activities. **Andy Bourey, Mike Morton & Ted Bailey** assisted in the activities.

**Norm Kern** sent MHR a videotape of the new TV series about the sword swinging Zorro. In the episode titled "The Word", Zorro constructs a tri-bladed boomerang and uses it successfully to bring down a bandito who was shooting



Choose a job that you love and you will never work a day in your life - Confucius

### THE BOOMERANG MAN

"Giving fast, personal service since 1975!"

#### RICH HARRISON'S ANNUAL CATALOG

1992 Catalog featuring 50 USA & European Contemporary & hi-tech boomerangs. Ask about Australian Aborigine boomerangs; Aboriginal rock music; perfect for fast-catch background tempo.

1806 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., RM → Monroe, LA 71201; (318) 325-8157



a rifle at him.

There is a new kiddie commercial on Saturday morning TV with a boomerang theme. The Kellogg's *Double Dip Crunch* 30 second advertisement portrays a hockey playing youngster who breaks the blade off of his hockey stick and throws it through a window to snatch a box of the sugar laden cereal off of a kitchen table.

Dave Hetrick found an excellent text in his local library titled "WURLEY & WOMMERA; Aboriginal Life and Craft", authored by Janet Matthews. The text, published in 1979 (ISBN# 0-529-05501-5) by William Collins Publishing Co., has excellent illustrations of many different types of boomerangs with several pages of text describing uncommon facts about how the Aborigine made and used the various types of boomerang devices.

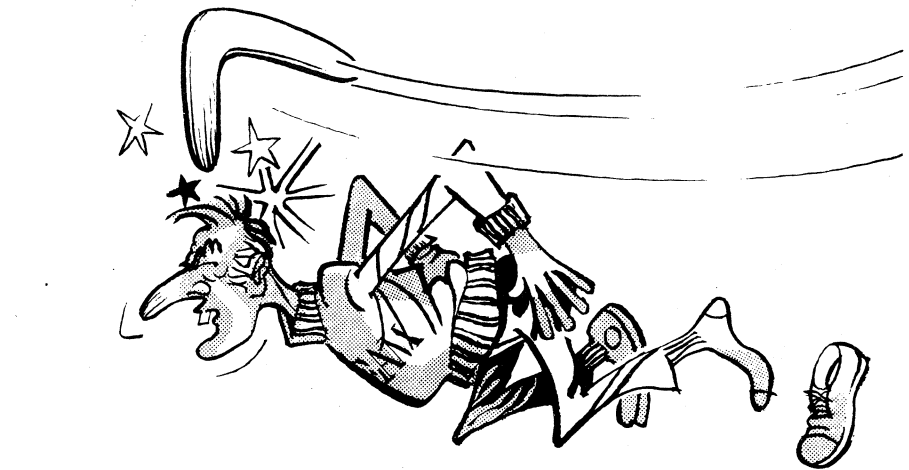
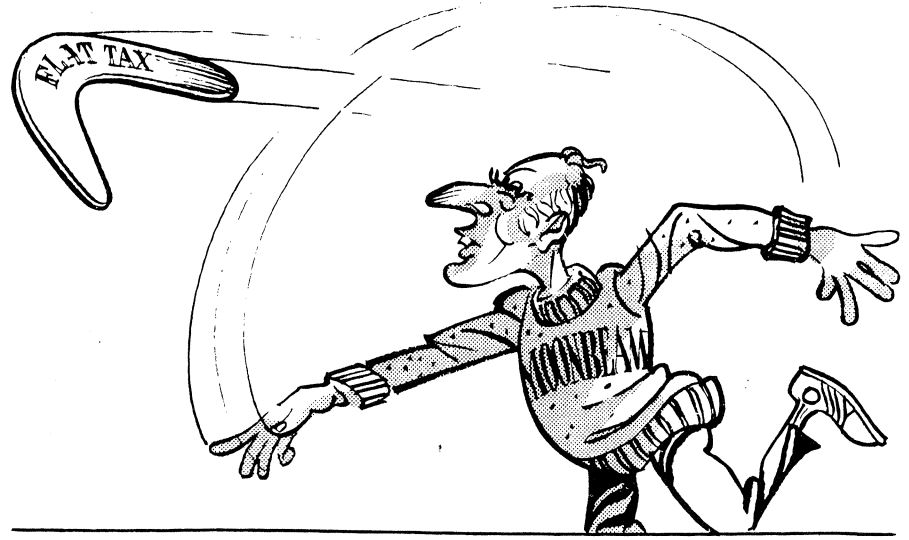
Another Comic Book with a boomerang super-villain has surfaced. The February 1989 issue of *Marvel Comics*' "Iron Man" (V1N239) features the bad guy named "Boomerang" in a story called "Unholy Ghost". Look for the back issue in your local Comic Book store.

We all know how well Jerry Brown did in the 1992 primary season. He didn't even win his own home state of California.

Dale Riendeau sent MHR the political cartoon, pictured to the right, from the 30 March edition of *The Sacramento Bee* newspaper, attesting to his boom-chucking skills.

Stephen Moore of Gainesville, Ga. captured the *Mother Goose and Grimm* cartoon, pictured be-

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



*Riendeau*  
Sacramento Bee

Boomerang

low, from the May 16, 1992 edition of *The Atlanta Journal*.

Jon Reynolds of Denton, Texas sent in the cartoon, shown on the following page, which features *Robotman*, by Jim Meddick. The cartoon was found in *The Rocky*

*Mountain News*.

*The Australian Catalogue Company* is a source for a wide range of essentially 100% Australian products. Items include figurines of Australian animals, Aussie food products (including *vegemite*, which the Aussies eat before competing against the American throwers), cookbooks, posters, maps, books, audio/video tapes, cards, calendars, didgeridoos, and even boomerangs. *The Australian Catalogue Company* also promotes the USBA. Members are encouraged to order a catalogue and experience the flavor of the *Land Down Under*. For

The Australian Catalogue Company sells a wide range of foods, cookbooks, and gifts from the "Land Down Under". Call (919)-878-8266 or write for a free catalogue today!!!

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more information, call Pamela Wood at (919)-878-8266 or write to the following address for a free catalogue:

The Australian Catalogue Co.  
7412 Wingfoot Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27615

Fred Malmberg found a new source for 1/4" Baltic Birch plywood. The company markets boards 60" long and 13" ± 1 1/4" wide with the grain running across the pieces. There are a few football shaped patches on the faces that do not compromise the strength. The wood is otherwise void free. The price is a very reasonable 5/\$20; 10/\$30 or 15/\$40.

This price includes UPS shipping to anywhere within the 48 U.S. states. The editor sampled a board and found it to be excellent for most boomerang projects. For more info, call (313)-440-3579 or write to:

Ms. Cindy Drozda  
2756 47th Street  
Boulder, Co. 80301

Anderson Int'l Trading remains one of America's best sources for premium Baltic Birch plywood. The prices are higher than from most other plywood sources, but a close inspection of the data sheets shows that their sheets are a full 61" X 61" (except for 4mm) instead of the typical 48" X 48". the number of plies may also be superior. Current stock of 3 mm birch plywood is 6 ply. 5 mm plywood is advertised as either 7 ply or 10 ply. More plies add weight, as well as flexural stiffness. 3 mm Baltic Birch plywood is \$1.98/ft<sup>2</sup>. 4 mm is \$2.45/ft<sup>2</sup>. 5 mm is \$2.70/ft<sup>2</sup> and 6 mm is \$2.99/ft<sup>2</sup>. The 6 mm has 11 or 12 plies. Another interesting plywood product that this source carries is *Appleply*. This composite has front and back

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Cindy Drozda  
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Boulder, Colorado 80301  
303-440-3579

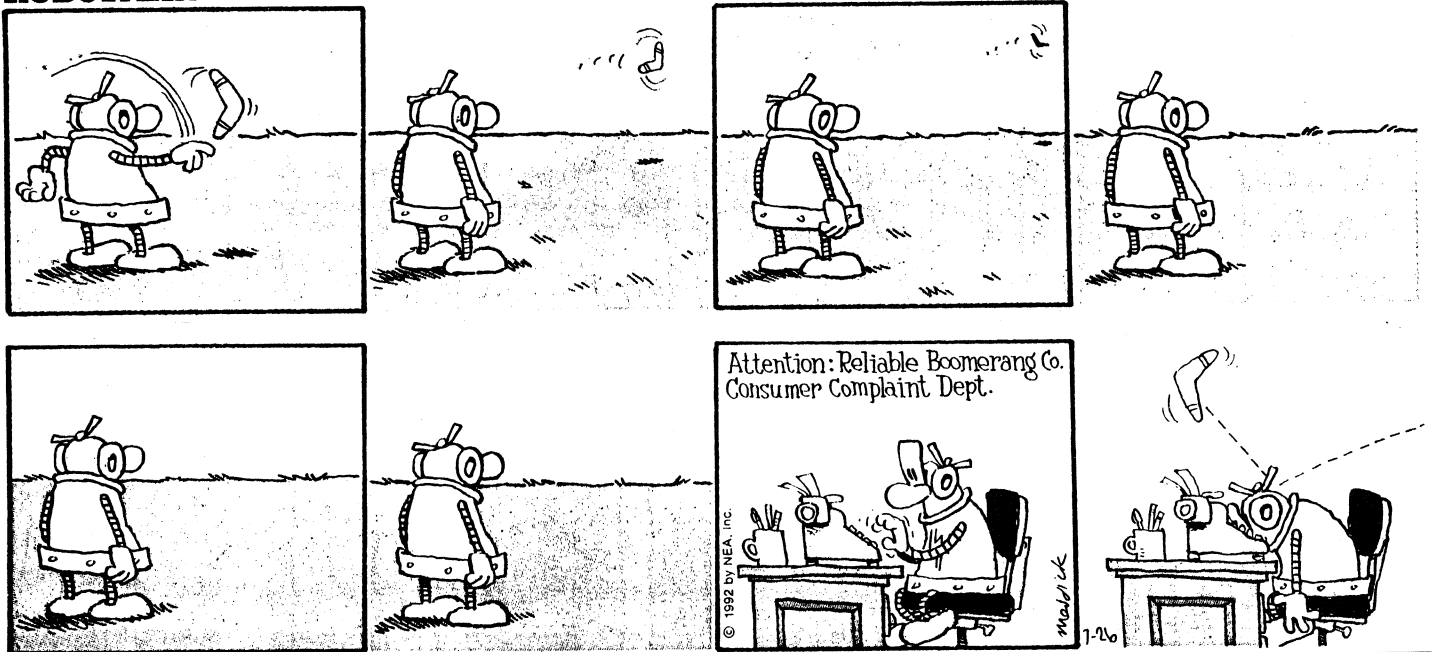
faces of hard *Maple* with interior plies of *Western Red Alder*. This plywood is essentially void free and 1/4" is available in five ply at a price of only 93¢/ft<sup>2</sup>. For more info on these products, call (800)-454-6270 or write to:

Anderson Int'l Trading  
1011 West Barkley Ave.  
Orange, Ca. 92668

Neil Kalmanson has designed a well-thought-out boomerang bag system, called *Boomer Bag*®, which is marketed by the *South Georgia Boomerang Club*. The main bag is 18.5"X15"X8". It is zippered with a stiff base that has foam rubber cushioning. At least 30 boomerangs can be placed in

## ROBOTMAN

by Jim Meddick



the bag that has multiple pouches and pockets. There are also 3 17.5"X13"X3" color coded nylon bags, each with 10 file pockets and three pouches. Each has stiff sides and close with a Velcro flap. The cost of the entire kit is \$195 and can be ordered by sending a check or money order, made out to *South Georgia Boomerang Club*, to the following address before 15 November. The cost includes P&H for either domestic or overseas orders.

**So. Georgia Boomerang Club**  
**237 Thigpen Drive**  
**Swainsboro, Ga. 30401**



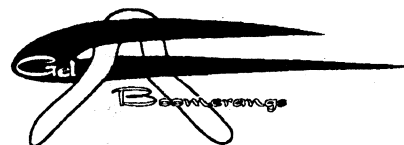
**South Georgia Boomerang Club Throwing Kit**

**Oriental Trading Co., Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 3407**  
**Omaha, Ne. 68103-0407**

**Ben Ruhe** sent MHR the photo of **Moleman's** latest hair style, pictured to the left. This is the Aboriginal analog of the *Mohawk* haircut that was popular with American kids who watched too much Daniel Boone in the 1950s. The new style cut will be used as a catching aid for the *left ear catch* which is expected to debut in next year's sequence of the Trick Catch event. You have to glue a piece of Velcro to the underside elbow of your boomerang and trim the haircut daily.

**Offshore Screen Printing** is offering two boomerang related products at attractive prices. The *Magic in Motion T-Shirt* has a large attractive boomerang (and a kangaroo) on the front with a large mosaic of the word "boomerang" on the back that resembles a *Spirograph* design from a distance. The T-Shirt is a quality *Hanes* 100% cotton product in black & white. This product is highly recommended by the editor. The other product offered is an audiotape called "Guitar Corral" by *Project 6*.

There are two songs on each side of the tape. The first song is titled "Boomerang Song". This is definitely music for the under 40 crowd. The tape is only \$5 Ppd. The T-Shirt is only \$15 Ppd. Interested parties can contact **Joel**

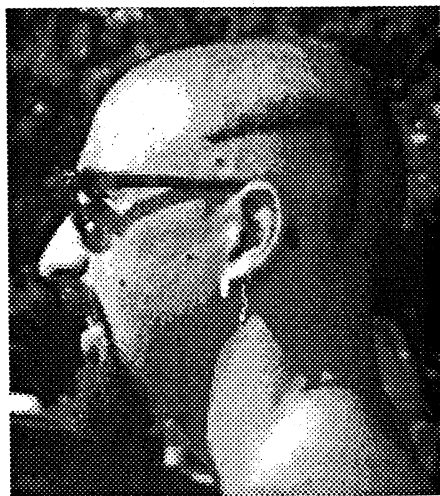


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 (510) 658-2469

**Oriental Trading Co.** is an importer of inexpensive imports originating in Asia. Their latest catalog features bulk plastic flying toys such as flying disks and boomerangs. The boomerangs appear to be similar to the famous *Whamo/Lorin Hawes* plastic standard that has been marketed since 1965. The price is 12 for \$8.40. It appears that they also sell a product similar to the *Aerobie Orbiter* called the *Flying Triangle* at a price of only \$3/12. The editor did not sample any of their products, but if you have an interest, call (800)-228-2269 or (402)-331-6800 for more info. Optionally, write to:



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1830 B Palmetto Ave.  
Pacifica, Ca. 94044

### News From Australia

**Brother Brian Thomas** writes to tell us that the number of throwers in the Sydney area continues to grow. **Robin Witika**, a *Maori* from New Zealand has started throwing again after a lapse of nearly 5 years. The *Blue Mountain Championships* are scheduled to take place on 15 November in the town of Mulgoa. Interested participants can contact Brian at the address below for more information:

**Brother Brian Thomas**  
Australian National Boomerang Coach  
131 Birrell St.  
Waverly, N.S.W. 2024  
Australia

**Roger Perry** writes to say that after the 1992 *International Team Cup*, he will retire from international competition and concentrate

on boomerang promotions, especially night demonstrations. The public response to night throwing has been terrific so far. On May 6, Roger departed for an 8 week tour of North-West Australia with 2 assistants, a truck, and 4,000 boomerangs. The tour encompassed 6,000 km with stops in 8 towns. Demonstrations and boomerang making workshops were conducted for more than 1,600 primary school students. On the weekends, night demonstrations were held for more than 15,000 spectators. The night boomerangs were powered by LEDs with lithium batteries, glow sticks and sparklers. On a stop in the town of Newman, more than 200 boomerangs were thrown simultaneously with lights for a spectacular display. Roger will be staging major demonstrations in London, Malaysia and Perth in 1992. Next year, Roger will return to England for a 3 month tour. A 3 month tour is also planned in 1994 within the USA.

The editor's brother is on a year long walkabout around Australia and several South Pacific islands. On a recent trek through Western Australia, **Bill Bailey** came across

several terrific sources for Aboriginal primitive weaponry. He said that the Australian government put several incompatible tribes on a single reservation. Throw sticks are rarely used for hunting at this location. Instead they are used to settle disputes. When there is a quarrel, the Aborigines go to a local trading post and buy up as many shields, clubs, spears & boomerangs as they can find. After the battle, they sell them back to the trading post. The cycle continues indefinitely. **Bill Bailey** spent time with one of the tribes and purchased several terrific throw sticks at a very low cost from an Aborigine in his 60s. The Aborigine was still quite accurate when throwing at a bucket placed at a distance of more than 30 m.

### News From Brazil

**Carlos Alberto Zugno** is a young Mechanical Engineer from Brazil who manufactures boomerangs in wholesale quantities as a part time business. His interest in boomerangs began in 1986 when he was working at FIAT in Italy. Two of his working companions were from Perth and they got him started in the sport. Following his tour in Italy, he spent several additional months in Australia where he learned even more. He eventually made contact with **Leziro Silva** from São Paulo, and through him made contact with the USBA and MHR. Carlos plans on attending the 1993 *World Championships* in Canada to meet as many throwers as possible. Eight other Brazilian throwers plan on participating in the championships as well. Carlos will make his boomerang products available in wholesale quantities to interested parties. For more information, write to the following address:

**Carlos Alberto Zugno**  
Rua Os 18 do Forte, 1935/5  
95020 Caxias do Sul - RS  
Brazil

## News From Belgium

Patrick Mestdag has written **John Cryderman** and confirmed that Belgium intends to send a team to the *1993 World Championships* in Canada.

## News From Canada

The *International Wood Collector Society* publishes an excellent monthly newsletter on wood working called "World of Wood". The August 1992 edition (V45N8) featured a cover photo and article on the *Royal Boomerangs* made by **John Cryderman** for **Prince Charles**. Annual membership is \$20 (USD). Send all dues (check made out to "The International Wood Collectors Society") to:

**A. Dennis Wilson**  
13429 Highway 84 North  
Cordoba, Il. 61242

There will be three grand wood shows in Canada in 1993. The first show will be held in Ottawa on March 19-21. The second will be held in Chatham on April 23-25 in conjunction with the 1993 World Boomerang Cup. The third will be held in Pickering on October 15-17. All three shows are an excellent opportunity to sell boomerang crafts. In the past, the few who have set up at these shows have sold out before the last day. For an application and general information on how to participate, contact John Cryderman at:

**Boomerang Assoc. of Canada**  
C/O John Cryderman  
136 Thames St.  
Chatham, Ontario N7L 2Y8  
Canada

## News From England

Gerhard Bertling passed on the news that **Herb Smith** is back to making and throwing booms after a several year leave of absence from the sport.

Congratulations to **Michel Du-fayard** who threw a boom 149 metres in the Distance event at the *Shrewsbury Competition* in July.

## News From France

The *France Boomerang Association* conducted a survey on boomerang competition rules among the various club members. A total of 316 members from 25 out of 28 clubs responded by the May deadline. A total of 92% of the membership were in favor of eliminating metal boomerangs from competition. Other decisions included: a minimum of 20 throwers from a minimum of 3 clubs required for a legal tournament; 4 out of 7 judges must be approved by the FBA; tournament announcement must be at least 1 month in advance; a 30 meter minimum range in Australian Round, except for women and juniors who will retain the 20 metre rule; the possibility of additional points for 10 metre circles beyond 50 meters in Australian Round; additional changes were approved for other events such as Doubling.

**Didier Bonin** of the *Boomerang Club Dijon* has informed **John Cryderman** that France expects to bring two teams to the World Cup '93 in Canada.

**Jacques Thomas** has announced the opening of the *Museum of Boomerangs and Flying Sticks History* in the town of Lure on June 20/21. A strong delegation of the *La Perouse Boomerang Club de France* and many distinguished dignitaries were present. Visitors to France are advised to make Lure one of their stop-overs if at all possible. The museum is open from May through October and can be reached by calling: 84-62-80-00 or by writing to:

**Musee Hist. du Boomerang**  
1, rue Henry Marsot  
70200 Lure  
France

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## WOOD HERBS

I'm interested in buying wood boomerangs by **HERB SMITH**. The older the better. Any style. Call **Jim** at **615-886-5300** after 6:00 EST

## News From Germany

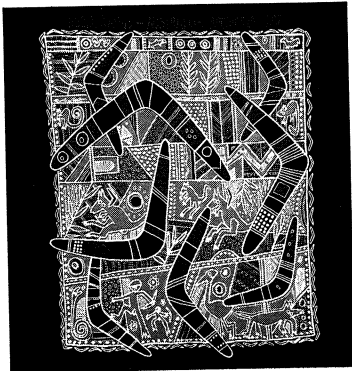
**Brother Brian Thomas** wrote with news that **Willi Urban**, the grand old man of German boomeranging, died at his home in Leutershausen on July 26. He was 85.

**Al Gerhards** has joined the MHR editorial staff as a reporter of German activities. Al will be reviewing both the *DBC Info* and the *Bumerang Welt* and passing info on to the editor. In the *DBC Info* #38, it was reported that **Günther Möller** scored an 87 in Australian Round in the March 22 team competition. **Fridolin Frost** scored a 65 in Endurance at the *Winnenden tournament* on April 25. In the May 30 *Herberchtinger City Championships*, 10% of the competitors were female. One had 8 catches in both Consecutive Catch & Doubling. **Paul Gajski** had a picture perfect MTA flight of 63 seconds.

## News From Holland

**Han Paesi**, Secretary of the ABO-Holland, has notified **John Cryderman** of the Dutch club's intention to send a team to the 1993 World Championships in Canada. The ABO-Holland is one of the oldest boomerang clubs in the world, but has only 30 members. Eight of the members are fanatics who travel abroad for the purpose of competing.

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## News From Japan

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu has informed John Cryderman that Japan plans on bringing a team to the 1993 World Championships in Chatham. Yoshi said an article in a local newspaper yielded more than 2,000 inquiries from interested parties. Japan could have the largest boomerang organization in the near future. The Boomerang Association of Japan is seeking the 1994 World Championships.

## News From Russia

Boomeranging is alive and well in Russia. John Cryderman has received word that possibly two Russian teams will compete in the 1993 World Boomerang Cup. For more info on boomerang activities in this newly discovered organiza-

tion, call U. N. Alecseev at (095) 9248741 or write to:

Russian Boomerang Assoc.  
Moscow, Nassen St., 2/2, 22  
Russia

## News From Switzerland

Kim Galeazzi is still pursuing the tri-blader MTA design. The shape is secret, but the name "Tas" has already been selected. Look for this new design in 1993. The Swiss Boomerang Federation is still alive and well. Beat Aepli remains the President. The Swiss team is stronger than ever with: Jürg Schedler, Thomas Stehreiberger, Oliver Kaiser, Pierre-André Goumaz, David Hess & Kim Galeazzi. The SBF newsletter is issued three times a year on a rotation basis between the clubs. Issue II/92 was issued by *The Greifensee Club*. Issue III/92 will be published by the Central Switzerland Club in September. Contact:

**Bruno Bucher**  
Bergstraße 47  
6070 Kriens  
Switzerland

The Boomerang Club St.-Gallens will distribute issue I/93 in January. Contact:

**Roger Aepli**  
Lörenstraße 12  
9230 Flawil  
Switzerland

The *First Swiss Boomerang Indoor Tournament* will be held in Mid-March at Greifensee, Zürich. Interested parties should contact the following address well in advance if they plan on attending:

**Swiss Boomerang Club**  
C/O Anh Kim Nguyen  
Burstwiesenstraße 41  
CH-8606 Greifensee  
Switzerland

## SUPER CATCH HONOR ROLL

Ted Bailey (6)  
Volker Behrens  
Gerhard Bertling  
Didier Bonin  
Rob Croll (7)  
Eric Darnell  
Doug DuFresne  
John Flynn  
Torsten Fredrich  
Fridolin Frost (8)  
Mike Forrester  
Kim Galeazzi  
Matthias Giesenschlag  
Michael Girvin  
Rob Greer  
Thomas Hartmann  
Axel Heckner  
Dennis Joyce  
John Koehler  
Uli Konzelmann (8)  
Jeff LaCount  
Mike LaPrade  
Ray Laurent  
Gerrit Lemkau  
Alain Mangin  
Mole Man  
Gunter Moller  
Rob Parkins (7)  
Roger Perry (6)  
Philippe Picgirard  
Jonas Romblad  
Barnaby Ruhe  
Larry Ruhf  
Tim Schallberger (8)  
Chet Snouffer  
Gregg Snouffer  
Olivier Vouktchevitch  
Matthieu Weber (8)

{ (#): No. of fast catches if more than 5 }

*For the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with the term Super Catch, the thrower must launch a MTA from the center circle, then complete a round of Fast Catch from the same circle. The thrower must then catch his MTA. The thrower has the option to throw & catch more than 5 times within the F/C sequence.*

Please copy this page and distribute to prospective new members.

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

# USBA INFORMATION PAGE

## Many Happy Returns

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Published by the:

**U. S. Boomerang Association**  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

**Mechanical Measurements:**  
Image area: 9.5" deep by 7.5" wide; 3 columns to a page; width of a single column: 2.25".

### Advertising Rates:

FullPage	\$200
2 Columns	\$150
1/2 Page	\$115
1 Column	\$80
Per Column inch	\$10

10% discount for four consecutive issues. All advertisements must be pre-paid in USD by check or M.O. to U.S.B.A. Camera-ready copy preferred. The editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason. The deadline for all materials is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively. Competition materials are due two weeks prior. Membership status or newsletter delivery inquiries should be directed to Gregg Snouffer. Info regarding tournament results should be mailed directly to Rob Parkins at least two weeks prior to the deadline. All other newsletter submittals, including advertisements, should be mailed to Ted Bailey at the address below:

**Ted Bailey**  
P. O. Box 6076  
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48106-6076

## USBA INFORMATION

The USBA provides information listings to members at a nominal charge. A listing of boomerang manufacturers; a listing of wood sources; and a listing of boomerang clubs can be obtained by sending a SASE. Allow one ounce postage per listing. A sampling of vendor catalogs or a USBA rulebook costs \$2 and a self addressed envelope (no stamps). Send all inquiries to:

**USBA**  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Chet will respond quickly to special inquiries mailed to: Chet Snouffer; 51 Troy Rd.; Delaware, Oh 43015. In an emergency, you can contact Chet at (614)-363-8332. The best time to call is 9 -12 AM EST.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in USD\$. Make checks payable to: U.S.B.A. Domestic and Canadian annual memberships are \$10 per year. A domestic lifetime membership is \$150. Annual overseas dues are \$20. A lifetime overseas membership is \$250. Check your newsletter expiration season/year which is printed on your mailing label. Mail all checks or money orders to the address below:

**U. S. Boomerang Assoc.**  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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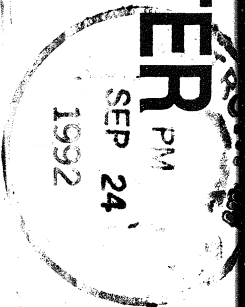
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UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, OH 43015  
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