

John T. “Jack” Utley

Inducted 1997

Inducted by Paul Wolf

Jack, as he was commonly known to his fellow shooters, was a graduate of the agricultural college in Texas before starting a career with the U.S. Forest Service. A long time resident of Flagstaff, AZ, Mr. Utley retired in 1987 as a timber specialist.

During his travels before arriving in Flagstaff, Jack spent some time in Tiller, OR in the early 1960's, where his daughter remembers picking up fired paper wads for reloading. Mary Louise also recalls spending a lot of time reclaiming hulls throughout their travels.

In 1965, the Utley family transferred to Cloudcroft, New Mexico where Jack met his long time friend, Sid Anderson, at the Roadrunner Trap Club. It was during this period, that Jack was first “introduced” to trapshooting. I say “introduced” because during this tenure in Oregon, Jack spent a lot of time duck hunting in the Klamath marsh area. Again, his daughter recalls Jack receiving his first shotgun from his wife, a Humpback Browning semi-auto that did not work too well for the left-handed shooter.

In 1971k, the family relocated to Holbrook, AZ and now hooked on trapshooting, traveled to Show Low to shoot practice. It was in Holbrook that he started “Jack’s Sporting Goods” and got his firearms license.

In 1973, the family finally settled in Flagstaff where Jack’s career would be completed. As a member of the Flagstaff Trap & Skeet Club, Jack was a driving force in developing the club, promoting more shoots, expanding facilities and introducing new shooters to trapshooting with his encouragement and influence. As a member of the local Elks Club, Jack was a key source in the promotion of the Arizona State Elks Trapshooting Tournament.

Mr. Utley registered his first ATA targets in 10967 and during his career, which ended in 1994, registered 60,400 singles targets, 57,575 handicap targets and 36,050 doubles targets. He was a life member of the ATA and the ASTA.

Mr. Utley served as a director and officer of the Flagstaff Trap & Skeet Club and an ASTA director for the years of 1977-81 and again from 1983-88. During the 1984-85 year, he served as Vice President of the ASTA. During his tenure as an Arizona Director, Mr. Utley was a strong representative of the shooters in the Northern Arizona area as well as actively promoting trapshooting in Northern Arizona.

During his career, Mr. Utley won numerous awards in the Arizona State Trapshooting Tournament, the Western Zone Trapshooting Tournament, the Spring Grand American, and local shoots.

During the years of service and a member of the Flagstaff Trap & Skeet Club, Mr. Utley was instrumental in the establishment and conduct of the Flagstaff Club as a permanent shoot site for the Western Zone Telephonic Trapshooting Tournament. As the owner of Jack’s Sporting Goods, Mr. Utley was a long time contributor of special awards to the Arizona State Trapshooting Tournament.