

Getting a bang out of retirement

By Rich Gwenson
staff writer

Orval Borders is finding out what life is all about after retirement. The 62-year-old Westland resident has found a new sport — trap shooting — and he's bound and determined to prove that he can compete with those half his age.

Last month, in his first trap shooting competition ever, he outscored more than 200 competitors by breaking 184 of 200 birds (clay pigeons) to capture the Class D (beginners) title at the Michigan State Shootoff in Mason.

"A lot of people just sit down and die after they retire," Borders said. "I started shooting just for something to do."

"It was really exciting to win in my first shootoff. I enjoy trap shooting — I like the sport of it. If I continue improving, I plan to do it big. I'm going to travel all over to compete."

TRAP SHOOTING is a shooting competition that tests a gunner's skill in breaking targets called clay pigeons that are tossed from an arm called a trap thrower.

The "birds" are thrown away from the gunner at various angles (straight out) from a traphouse located 16 yards in front of the firing line. The shooters try to break as many of the birds as they can.

Borders wasn't even aware that he won at Mason until a friend informed him of the good news.

"I didn't dawn on me that I'd won until a friend and some other shooters started gathering around me," Borders said. "When he told me, I thought he

people

was kidding. It felt really good after I realized what I'd done."

The competition was held on an extremely windy day, which Borders said was to his advantage.

"I'VE HANDED a gun and hunted all my life," he said. "It was very windy — you could hardly stand up out there. But it didn't bother me. My experience paid off."

Borders actually shot trap for a short time 35 years ago at the Wayne County Sportsman Club, but he said the sport was nothing like it is now — the shot, the rules and even the pigeons were different.

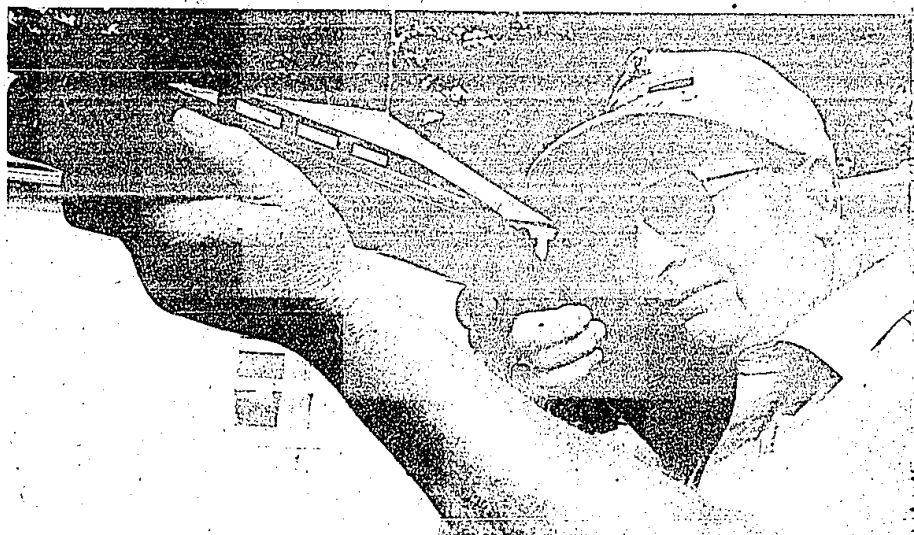
What is the same, however, is the camaraderie he feels with the men he shoots with. Borders is a member of the Rockwood Gun Club.

"It's a small club, but there are a lot of friendly people," he said. "I just like the competition and just shooting with the guys."

Though he's only been at it a year, Borders has improved tremendously. Now a Class C shooter, he is confident that one day he will be battling the top gunners in the state.

"MY GOAL IS to be No. 1," he said. "In anything I've ever done, I've always tried to be the best."

"I'm pretty consistent. I'd like to shoot 100 out of 100. But it doesn't bother me when I miss. When I do, I just try a little harder on the next one."



Orval Borders, a Westland retiree, took first-place honors at the Michigan shootoff in Mason last month. He broke 184 of 200 clay

pigeons to win the Class D title. He's off to the grand shootoffs this weekend in Dayton, Ohio.

National golf tourney at B'ham

By Rich Gwenson
staff writer

Some of the top senior golfers in the country will play in the 30th USGA Senior Amateur Championship next month at Birmingham Country Club.

The tournament, which will be played for the first time ever in Michigan, will feature 144 sectional qualifiers from across the nation who will compete for the prestigious Senior's title Sept. 17-22.

Players such as Grosse Ile's Glen Johnson and William Hyndman, last year's winner at Crooked Stick (Carmel, Ind.), will lead a field filled with previous champs and Walker Cup players.

Other previous winners expected to compete include Bill Campbell (1978 and '80) Ed Updegraff ('77), Alton Duhon ('83) and Dale Morey ('74 and '81).

RED RUN Country Club's Tom Draper, who won the 1971 championship at Sunnyside Golf Club (Plymouth Meeting, Pa.), may also play.

"We think this is a great tournament," co-chairman Dr. John Sigler said. "I've always thought Birmingham Country Club was the ideal spot for US Senior's Amateur. It's a high class tournament with a lot of fine golfers."

The nice thing is that the contestants who come here represent a large and active segment of the golfing world. They've really given a lot to golf over the years."

It's not the first time BCC has hosted a major golf event. In fact, it's the fifth notable tournament in which the tough course has been used. It all started with the Michigan PGA in 1929, won by golfing legend Walter Hagen.

BCC also hosted the True Temper Open (1936), the 1953 PGA National Championship, won by former Detroit Golf Club pro Walter Burkemo, and the USGA Women's National Amateur Championship in 1968, captured by Joanne Carner.

CARNER HAS since gone on to become one of the top woman golfers on the LPGA tour. "Our golf course is in pretty good shape," Sigler

said of the immaculate 6,467-yard facility. "It's about average in length, but the Rouge River comes into play on several holes. It's still tough."

Sigler and co-chairman Keith Bliss have worked closely with the USGA and greenskeeping staff at BCC to make sure the course is properly prepared for the big event.

"The course hasn't been changed that much, but we took down some trees and widened the little lake on the sixth hole to improve it. We've made a pretty hole out of it."

They've also allowed the rough and green collars to grow to conform to USGA regulations, making the course even more difficult.

UNLIKE MANY amateur tournaments, there's no prize money to compete for. And that's the way the golfers like it, Sigler said.

"It's another great mark of senior golfers," he said. "We play for the fun of playing. We don't have to worry about the TV cameras."

Local seniors have one last chance to make the 144-man field at Red Run's sectional qualifier the end of this month.

Sigler, a four-handicapper who qualified in 1975, '77 and '79, will try once again to make the field this year.

"It's one thing to qualify for the tournament and another to make the cut," he said. "I'm not too optimistic about qualifying. These senior players strike the ball pretty well."

For the first time this year, 64 players will make the first cut, twice as many as any year in the past. The winner will have to play six excellent rounds of golf in six days to bring home the Senior's championship.

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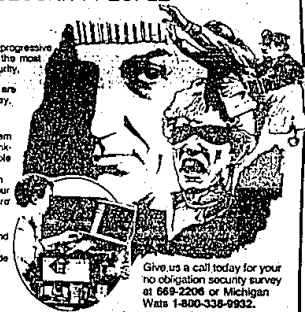
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