

John Jenkins  
Competitive Shooting Career  
1940–1956



John began  
shooting  
competitively  
as a young  
teenager.





# REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

CABLE ADDRESS  
HARTLEY, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
ALL CODES USED

MANUFACTURERS OF  
FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, CUTLERY  
TRAPS TARGETS

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AMMUNITION WORKS, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
BRIMSDOWN, MIDDLESEX, ENG.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

W. G. HILL, SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
92 HENRY ST.,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

*Cambridge Mass. May 27, 1940*

*Dear Johnny:*

*I again want to congratulate you  
on your splendid performance at Norfolk  
yesterday.*

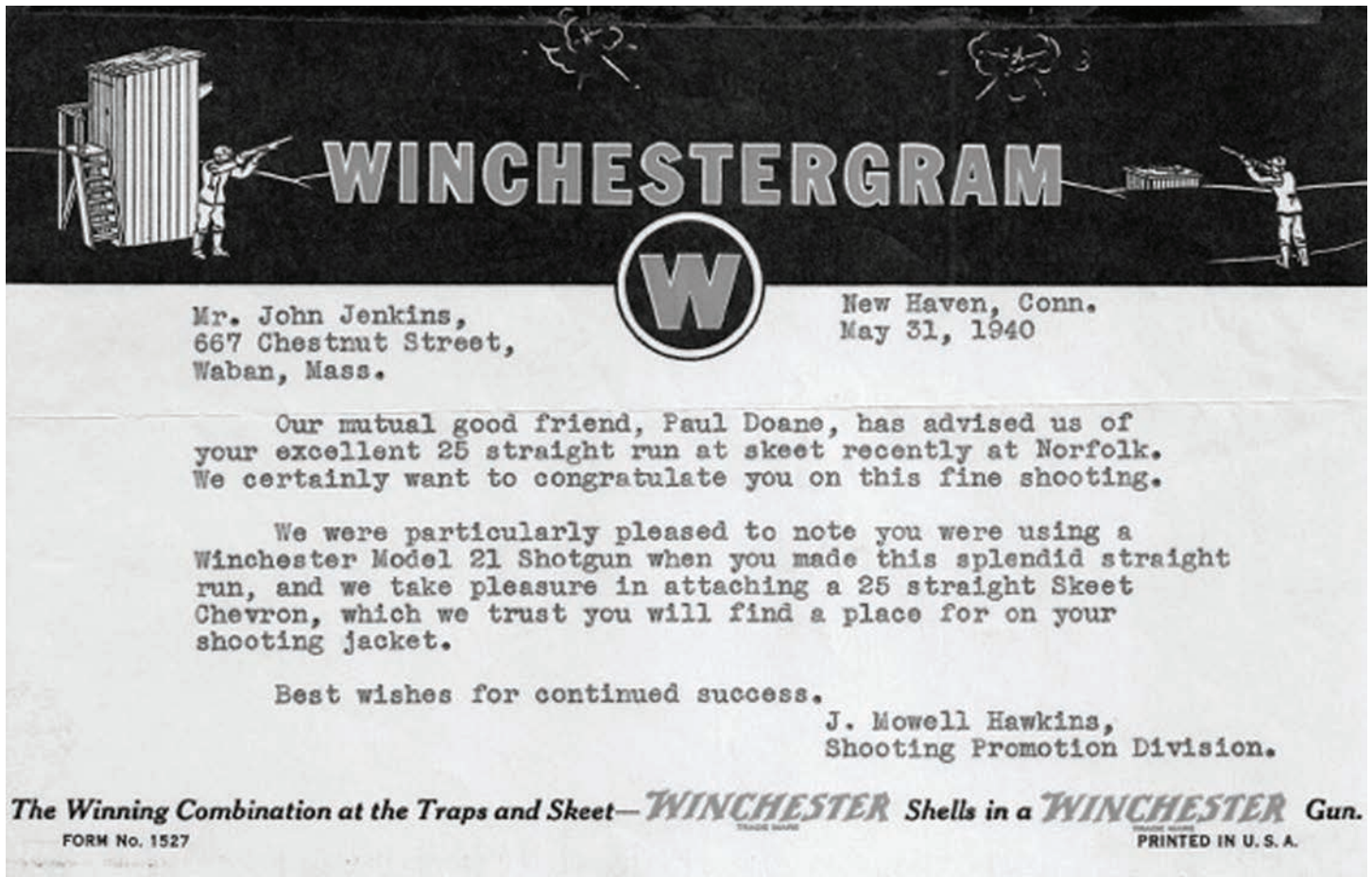
*You certainly did a fine job in winning  
your match. No one could have done better!*

*I am writing to the Remington Arms Company  
today asking them to send you a 25 straight  
Chevron which you will receive in a short time,  
and I am sure it won't be long before you will  
be breaking a 50 straight. Good luck and  
more power to you Johnny.*

*Sincerely,*

*Billy Hill*

In 1940, at the age of 13, John is congratulated  
by Remington Arms for shooting a straight 25.



Winchester sends John a telegram with accolades for shooting a straight 25 with his Winchester Model 21.





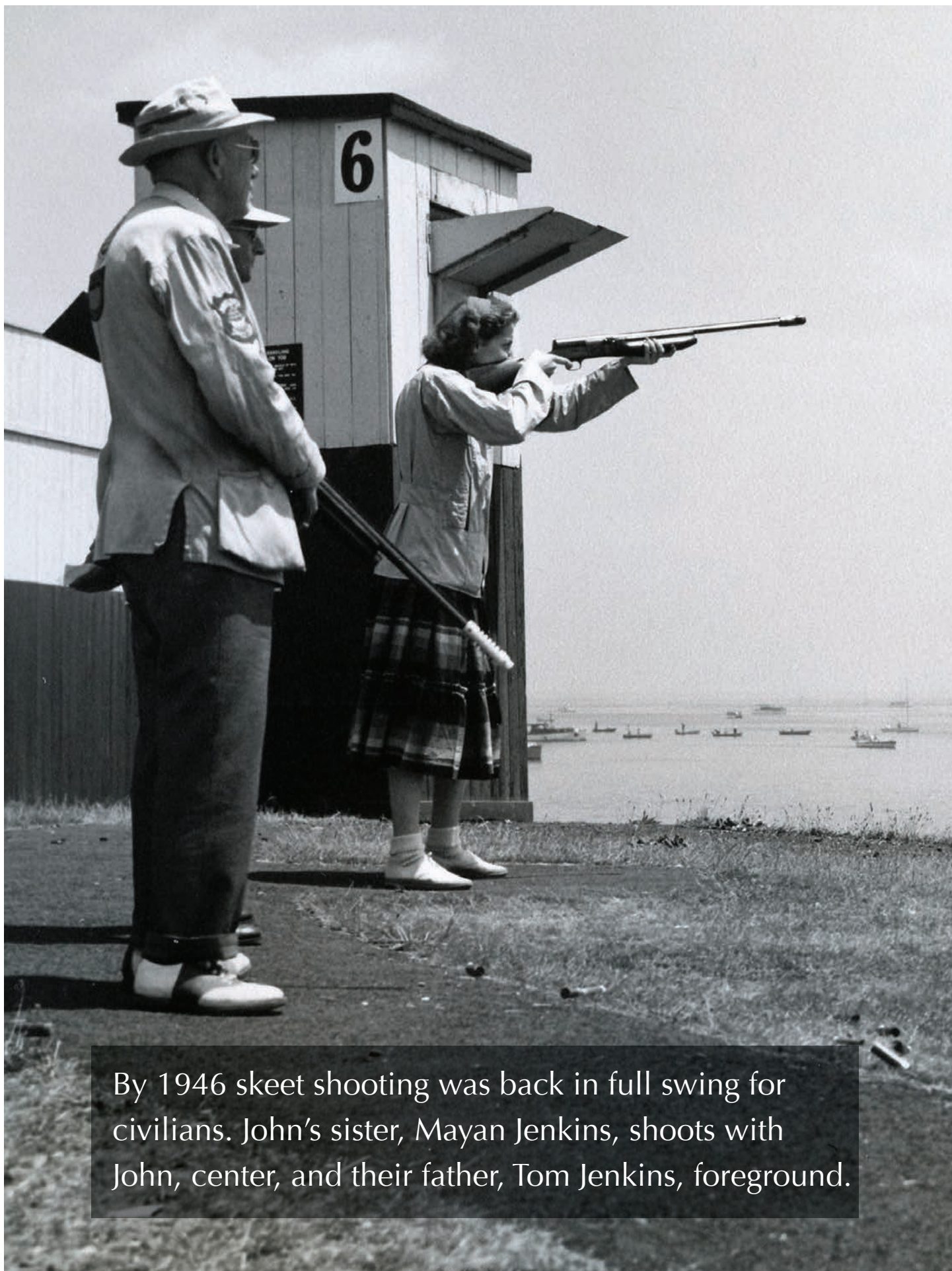
During World War II gun clubs closed and civilian skeet shooting became nonexistent.

The military used skeet to teach servicemen the principle of leading moving targets.

From 1941 to 1945 John attended the Maine Maritime Academy and entered the Merchant Marine awaiting a commission in the Navy.





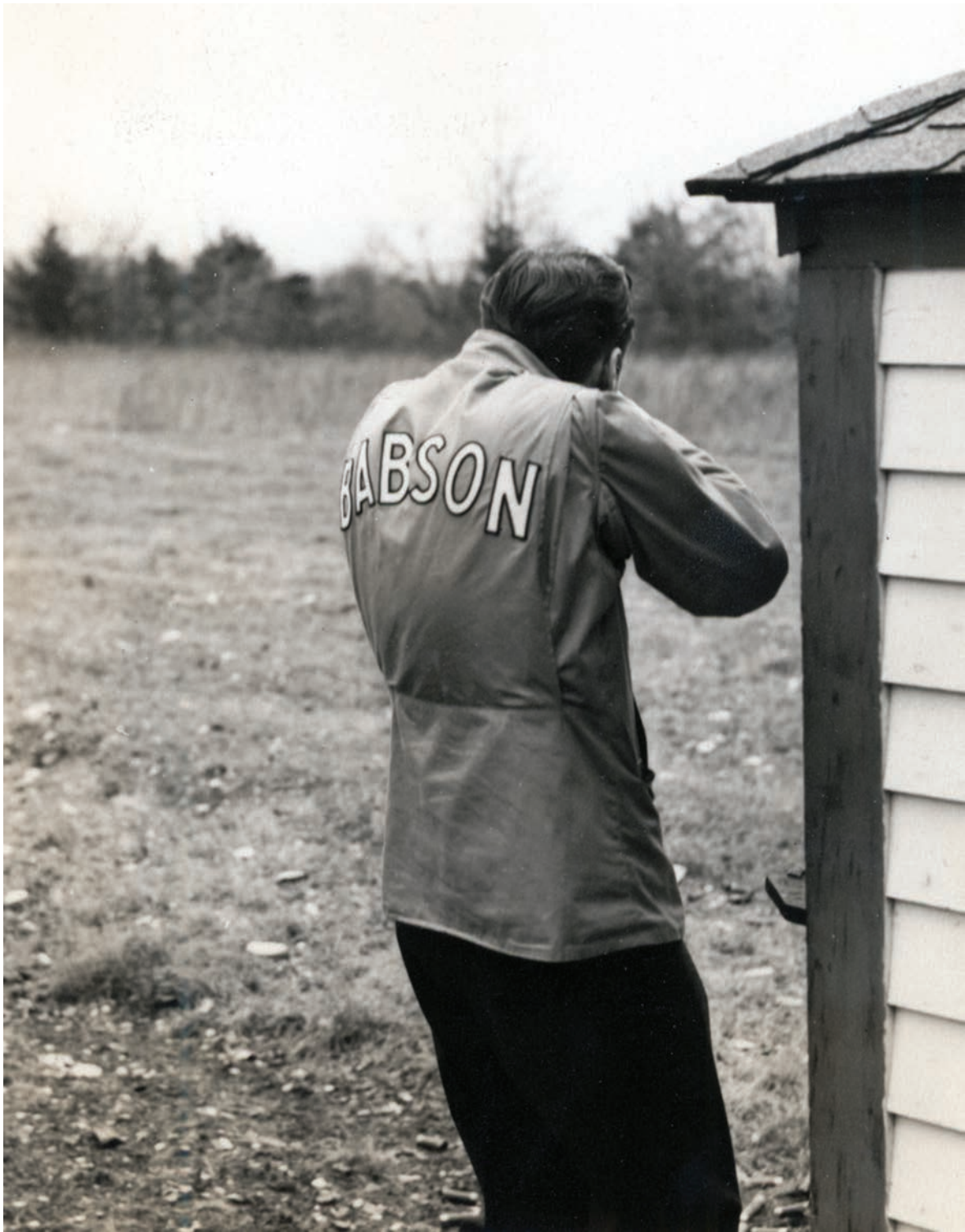


By 1946 skeet shooting was back in full swing for civilians. John's sister, Mayan Jenkins, shoots with John, center, and their father, Tom Jenkins, foreground.





After the war civilian skeet fields were active with Marine and Navy shooters receiving instruction from Dick Shaughnessy, the coach of Harvard's new skeet team, and Tom Jenkins.



In 1946 John helped found intercollegiate skeet shooting in New England. He formed a skeet team at Babson College.





John, shooting for Babson College in 1948.  
By then collegiate skeet teams in New England  
include Yale, Harvard, and West Point.





### SKEET TEAM

*Front Row:* T. Weller, R. Rodey.

*Back Row:* R. Christy, J. Jenkins, R. Shaw, T. Wynne.

### Babson College Skeet Team

At the 1948 Intercollegiate Championships at Lordship Gun Club in Stratford, Connecticut, Babson College's Five-Man Team wins a sweet victory over Harvard and Yale.

Harvard's skeet squad was then coached by Dick Shaughnessy, shooting friend of John and two-man team partner of John's father, Tom Jenkins.





PROVINCE OF QUEBEC  
2 MAN TEAM CHAMPIONS 1951  
J. DOWNING AND J. JENKINS  
HOLYOKE FISH AND GAME CLUB. HOLYOKE, MASS.

In 1951, John was Two-Man Team Champion with J. Downing at the Second Annual Province of Quebec Skeet Championship in Montreal, representing Holyoke Fish and Game Club.

John had moved to Detroit as a sales representative for Boston-based LaPointe Machine Tool Company, manufacturers of broaching machines for the automotive, aircraft, and firearms industries.

HOLYOKE FISH AND GAME CLUB. HOLYOKE, MASS.



PROVINCE OF QUEBEC 5 MAN TEAM CHAMPIONS 1951

ERIK OHLSON	F. W. BENN	E. DOCHERTY	J. DOWNING	C. DOCHERTY	F. SCOTT	J. JENKINS
REFEREE	SCORER					

John, shooting with the Five-Man Team  
Champions at the Second Annual Province of  
Quebec Skeet Championship in Montreal,  
representing Holyoke Fish and Game Club.



In 1951, John's younger sister, Mayan Jenkins, wins the Massachusetts Skeet Championship in the women's division.





At the Bay County Conservation and Gun Club's Annual Shoot in 1953, Chet Crites was eliminated with a 49/50. "Johnny" Jenkins and Howard Confer tied with 50/50s.

This "Detroit Trio" of shooting friends would become the core of the Michigan Wreckers, the five-man team that would clean up in 1954.





PROVINCE OF QUEBEC  
2 MAN TEAM CHAMPIONS 1953  
P. GASNIER AND J. JENKINS  
DETROIT, MICH.

Representing the Detroit Gun Club in 1953, John Jenkins and P. Gasnier win the Two-Man Team Championship at the Fourth Annual Province of Quebec Skeet Championship in Montreal.



John wins the Empire State Open All-Bore honors after a tie with Gerry Gavin. They both shot 99/100.

John prevailed in the shoot-off 25 to 23 to win the All-Bore Championship title in 1954.





# REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.



MANUFACTURERS OF  
SPORTING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION

ARMS AND INDUSTRIAL TOOL WORKS  
ILION, N. Y.  
AMMUNITION WORKS, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
CABLE—HARTLEY, BRIDGEPORT—ALL CODES

TRAPS TARGETS  
INDUSTRIAL TOOLS

BRIDGEPORT 2, CONN.

PETERS CARTRIDGE DIVISION  
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
TRAP AND TARGET WORKS  
FINDLAY, OHIO

August 26, 1954

Mr. John S. Jenkins  
10410 East Jefferson  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear John:

Our Sales Representative, Mr. C. H. Smith, advised us of your winning the Empire State Open All Bore Championship with a score of 99 out of 100, while using Remington Ammunition and a Remington Model 31 Shotgun.

We certainly want to congratulate you on your shooting ability, and in recognition of your achievement we are pleased to enclose our Remington SHOOTING STAR chevron for 1954, which we hope you will accept with our compliments.

Thanking you for using our products and wishing you continued shooting success, we remain

Sincerely yours,

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

*R. J. Dickey*  
R. J. Dickey  
District Manager

RJD:AT  
ENC.

Remington sends John a letter and a shooting star chevron to congratulate him for winning the Empire State Open All-Bore Championship with a score of 24-25-25-25-25.



The Detroit Gun Club's Howard Confer, F. E. Gilmore, Chet Crites, W.G. Tomlinson, and John Jenkins captured the All-Gauge Civilian Five-Man Team Championship at the Clark Trophy Shoot in 1954.

Individually, John was second overall, shooting 100 straight but missing a bird in the shoot-off.



## 100 Straight In All-Gauge



—Photo by Wooliever

Never before in the annals of Michigan Skeet Shooting can it be recalled that participants in the all-gauge event ever fired in such red-hot competition as in the recent Chief Pontiac Open. The above four shooters, John Jenkins, Hamp Curry, Chet Crites, Howard Confer, and Ed Scherer, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, went 100 straight. Jenkins finally won out in a heated shoot-off.

“Never before in the annals of Michigan Skeet Shooting can it be recalled that the participants in the all-gauge event ever fired in such red-hot competition as in the recent Chief Pontiac Open. These four shooters, John Jenkins, Hamp Curry, Chet Crites, and Howard Confer, plus Ed Scherer of Waukesha, Wisconsin, went 100 straight.”



John collects trophies for High Overall shooter and All-Gauge Champion at the 1954 Chief Pontiac Open, after a heated shoot-off with his fellow Michigan Wreckers teammates for the title.





The Michigan Wreckers capture the 1954  
*Field & Stream* Five-Man Team Championship.



Detroit Times Photo

Michigan will pin its hopes for five-man team honors in National Skeet tourney at Waterford on Detroit Gun

Club. Chet Crites (from left), W. G. Tomlinson, Howard Confer, Johnny Jenkins and Hamp Curry won trophies.

John, second in line, shoots with the Detroit Gun Club's Michigan Wreckers Five-Man Team at the National Skeet Tournament at Waterford, Connecticut in 1954.

The Wreckers won the National Five-Man Team Championship.



WORLD'S LARGEST SPORTSMEN'S MAGAZINE

**SPORTS  
AFIELD**

*Jimmy Robinson*

MIDLAND BANK BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

January 17, 1955

Dear Johnny:

This is to inform you that you have been chosen as a member of the All-America Skeet Shooting Team. This article will appear in an early issue of Sports Afield.

Please send me a good 8 by 10 photo of yourself.

Your emblem will be mailed to you as soon as it is made.

Good luck to you in 1955.

Your friend,

P.S. Please do not mention to anybody that you have been selected on the All-America team because it may get out to some newspaper, as it has in the past, and destroy my Associated Press story. This happened some years ago when an enthusiastic shooter gave the story to his local paper and the AP picked it up and destroyed my big story. Please mail me the names of the outdoor or sports editors who you think will use a story on you, and I will write them.



Letter to John from *Sports Afield* shooting editor Jimmy Robinson announcing his selection to the 1955 All-America Skeet Team.



*Sports Afield* 1955 All-America Skeet Team members.





John, in a *Detroit News* publicity photo, 1956.



In 1956, John polishes his gun next to his trophy haul in this *Detroit News* photo. He is 29. Behind him is his 1954 Michigan State Championship trophy. In a year and a half, John will be married and living in Chicago. By 1960 he is settled in Wayne.





John, in 1965, at the Minute Man Sportsman's Club in Burlington, Massachusetts.

He is standing in front of a plaque where he is honored for being named to the 1955 All-America Skeet Team.



During the 1960s, John enjoyed traveling to Nebraska and Canada for one-box bird shooting competitions.

At the 1964 Nebraska One Box Pheasant Hunt, John's Illinois team is edged out by the California Marine team, who bagged 12 ringnecks to Illinois's 11.





The One-Box Sharptail Hunt in Ashern, Manitoba, is scored by species of grouse: 3 points for a sharptail, 2 points for a partridge, and 1 point for a spruce grouse.

Shooters have 25 shells, a guide, and a dog. Shells are allocated to shooters at the guide's discretion.





John, shooting at the fourth trap station, competes against other teams as a warm-up to the 1968 Ashern, Manitoba One Box Sharptail Hunt.

John's Illinois team won the trap shoot competition "with a comfortable margin," according to the *Manitouwapa Times*.





John's team, chosen by the Governor of Illinois in response to a challenge from the Governor of Manitoba, wins the One Box Hunt with a score of 43 points using 23 shells. North Dakota was second at 26, then Kansas at 21. The Canadian teams did not fare well.





The Illinois Sharptail team cleans up both in their attire and in their haul, winning the 1968 Ashern One-Box Sharptail Hunt.



To my good  
friend "Johnny," a  
great shot & a  
grand guy.

---

"Jim"

Jimmy Robinson

Trap Shooting and Skeet Editor

*Sports Afield* 1956





John shoots against the wooded backdrop of the old White Gates Skeet Club field, 1970.