



Bulletin of the

Passaic County Historical Society

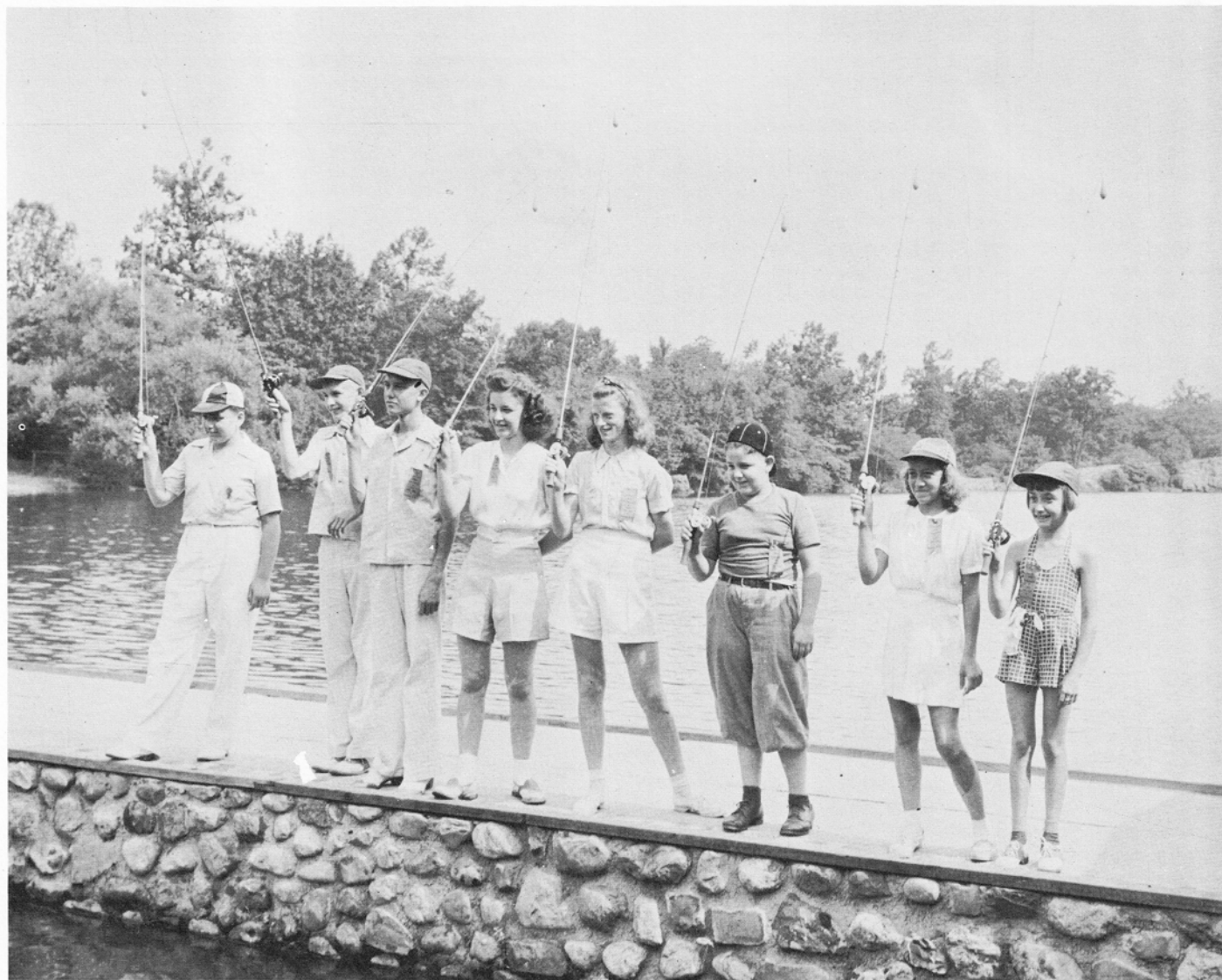
Museum and Headquarters
LAMBERT CASTLE
Garret Mountain Reservation
Paterson, N. J.

Vol. V-No. 4

APRIL, 1961

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FLY CASTING - A NATIONAL SPORT



Eastern Championship Fly Casting, July 27 and 28, 1940 held at Barbour's Pond in Garret Mountain Reservation. Left to right: John Pilone, John Bauer, Urban Bauer, Joan Salvato, Regina Bokar, James Salvato, Jr., Shirley Cosene and Dorothy Vogel.

Photo by Passaic Co. Park Commission



Dr. Phillip Gootenberg and "Dot" Vogel at Barbour's Pond, 1939

For several years, Archie Vogel of Paterson was well known for his casting ability. He was a member of the Paterson Police department and was sponsored by the PBA in casting tournaments. Little Dorothy, later known in casting field events as just "DOT," first took up fly casting lessons from her father when only eight years old back in 1937.

During the early years of fly casting, Dr. Phillip Gootenberg, sports editor of the Paterson Evening News, took a great interest in the youngsters who were learning casting at Barbour's Pond in Garret Mountain Reservation, a part of the Passaic County Parks System. Many competitive events were held at Barbour's Pond by the adult casting clubs, who wanted to interest the younger group, giving them all the instruction, so that in later years they might turn out some champion casters. Dr. Gootenberg was very active in giving encouragement to these youngsters.

In February of 1938, The Consolidated Sportsman of New Jersey made a request to the Passaic County Park Commission to build a dock for fly casting at Barbour's Pond. The Park Board notified Consolidated that this dock would be built, affording a permanent place for this popular sport. It was also stated that rest buildings of solid construction would also be included.

The last week of April 1938 was declared as the First Youth Week by Mayor Bernard Stafford of Paterson, when a fishing contest and pet show were held during the week at Barbour's Pond. During the fishing events, Dot Vogel won best fish for length, by landing a 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch trout.

On September 1, 1939, Archie Vogel of the Paterson Casting Club, announced events for juniors under 18 years, known as the State Junior Casting Tournament. This was slated to be held at Barbour's Pond on September 10th. At this meet three outstanding local casters were to compete: Regina Bokar, 13 years; Joan Salvato, 12 years; and Dot Vogel, 10 years old.

The $\frac{5}{8}$ ounce accuracy bait event was won by Dot Vogel and she also won second in the accuracy wet fly.

The New Jersey Casting championship tournament was held at the new casting dock, erected by the Passaic County Park Commission at Barbour's Pond, September 24, 1939. Archie Vogel of the Paterson Club took the all-around title.

The Eastern Championship casting events were held at Barbour's Pond, July 27th and 28th, 1940. At this meet, Regina Bokar, a 14 year old Paterson miss won the juvenile all-around crown.

At this time, 1940, Dorothy Vogel was to make her first appearance at the National Casting Association tournaments, then just a little girl of eleven years. Later during tournaments up to 1950, she had captured all-women's titles and a few world records.

Dot stated that it took a lot of practice, at least four hours each day consistently, was required to attain such perfection. The close attention to the instructions from her father and the encouragement of Dr. Gootenberg, were the inspiration to become a most perfect caster. And the following records during the ten following years of National tournaments will prove that she carefully followed all the corrections suggested by her instructors and that she was a good, attentive scholar.

"Dot" Vogel - Champion.



TEN YEARS OF NATIONAL CASTING

In 1940, Dot entered her first National competition, which took place in St. Louis, Mo. Being only eleven years, considered a junior, others competing objected to one so young being entered in the Women's class. However, it was ruled that she had the right to take part in these events. In the Ladies' Accuracy Fly event Dot finished in third place.

Ladies' Accuracy Fly		Juvenile $\frac{5}{8}$ ounce Accuracy Bait	
Mrs. Clarence Anthes	87	Robert Piro	96
Mrs. U. J. Bauer	86	Richard Sullivan	94
Miss Dot Vogel	84	Harold Sullivan	93
Mrs. Ott F. Reisman	84	John Bauer, Jr.	93
Dot won the toss for third.		Dot Vogel	93
		Sullivan won toss for third.	

The Northern Sportsman magazine stated: "Little Dot Vogel, a tiny youngster from Paterson, N. J., sure took the tournament crowd by storm when she stepped on the platform. This little girl will without doubt make it very tough for any of the ladies to win next year. She is a natural-born caster if there is one and will before long take her place in the all around."

The 33rd National Casting tournament was again held in Forest Park, St. Louis, Mo., for the 1941 meet. Here "Dot" topped all entries in the Wet Fly accuracy with a high of 98, and again won the Dry Fly accuracy.

The 1942 tournaments were held in Chicago, Ill. Due to the war restrictions on travel and gas rationing, "Dot" did not get to this meet.

Again in Chicago, Ill., in 1943 National Casting tournaments, "Dot" startled the casting world with a new world's record of 98 in the ladies' $\frac{5}{8}$ ounce accuracy bait event. This record she held until her retirement in 1950. The Wet Fly accuracy with a 96 was also won by "Dot" at this meet.

In 1944, meeting was back in St. Louis, Mo. and because of her age, 15, was re-classed as a junior. Again winning the Wet Fly with a 98 and the Dry Fly with 91 in the junior class.

These competitions were not only with ladies, for winning the Wet Fly with 98; second was Norman Taxman of Chicago with a 97; and second in the Dry Fly was Charles Sutphin of Indianapolis with 90 against Dot's 91.

Detroit, Mich. was the site of the 1945 National Casting Association. Having passed the age of fifteen Dot now was able to compete in all-women's events, winning the women's $\frac{3}{8}$ ounce accuracy bait event with 95.

The 1946 National Casting meet was held in Indianapolis, Ind., where "Dot" topped them all with a phenomenal Skish Fly high, a new National record of 97. Winning all four accuracy events and the ladies all-fly accuracy championship, and the all-around accuracy.

Won in:

Women's all accuracy	374 points
Women's accuracy flies	189 points
Women's fly	97 score
Skish fly	97 score

Also won were four second places:

The Skish Plug; The Wet Fly accuracy; $\frac{3}{8}$ accuracy plug and the Dry Fly accuracy.

At Long Beach, California, 1947 National Casting tournaments, "Dot" won top honors winning the following:

Women's dry fly accuracy	97
Women's wet fly accuracy	99
Women's skish fly	87

Combined championship:

Accuracy flies	196 points
All accuracy	375 points

The 1948 tournaments of National Casting were held at Fort Worth, Texas; and all reports stated they never had seen a performance equal to that produced by Paterson's "Dot" Vogel. In record breaking style, she took six titles and a second, including the ladies' all-around accuracy crown with 381 points.

In women's events, won by Dot:

Dry fly accuracy	
$\frac{3}{8}$ ounce accuracy bait	
Skish bait event	
Skish fly event	

Combined championship:

Women's all accuracy	381 points
Women's accuracy fly	193 points

Jeffersonville, Ind., was set for the 1949 National Casting events, and at this meeting Dot took three firsts and a fifth place tie.

Won: Dry fly accuracy	96
Wet fly accuracy	98
$\frac{3}{8}$ ounce accuracy plug	97

Fifth place was taken in the $\frac{5}{8}$ ounce accuracy plug.

In winning the all fly accuracy title, Dot created a new National record by scoring 194 points out of a possible 200.

Also another new record when she won the all-around accuracy with 382 points out of a possible 400.

Dot had now won this coveted title of the all-around accuracy championship for six straight years.

Dot entered her last National Casting competition in 1950, at San Francisco, California. So having won every championship event during the ten years, she retired from National Amateur fly casting after the San Francisco tournament. Dot had been asked to enter the professional field, and although strong efforts were made, Dot did not turn Pro.

Dot captured top laurels at San Francisco, and one record much prized was a perfect score of 100 in the Women's Wet Fly accuracy.

Dot's final score was to win:

Women's accuracy dry fly	98
Women's accuracy wet fly	100

Combined championships:

Women's all accuracy	387 points
Women's accuracy flies	198 points
Women's accuracy bait	189 points
Women's $\frac{5}{8}$ oz. bait accuracy	66 score
Skish fly	67



The Vogels presenting their trophies in the Music Room of the Museum at Lambert Castle, March 8, 1961. Left to right: D. S. Hammond, Archie Vogel, Dot Vogel and E. M. Graf.

Photo by Paterson Evening News

At the 1949 meet, Dot had 382 points in the Women's all accuracy and in 1950 passed this score by five points to finish with 387.

The world's skish fly score of 96 has been held since 1946, and her perfect score of 100 in the Wet Fly accuracy are much prized honors.

Dot was the only woman in the United States to win the Grand National Registered Casting Tournament Gold Star. To win this highly prized trophy, a caster must score an average of 95 or better in each of four accuracy events, in one registered tournament.

Between National Casting tournaments there were many local Casting Clubs that would hold competitions in various cities. The Eastern Association of Amateur Casting Clubs arranged many of these events to which many Paterson casters displayed their casting ability.

In 1945, The Capital Casting Club of Washington, D.C., conducted a casting tournament in front of the Lincoln Memorial. During this meet Dot Vogel won the Wet Fly event with a 99 out of a possible 100.

At Hartford, Conn., in 1949, Dot chalked a 98 of a possible 100 during the Dry Fly event in two minutes, although the rules allowed eight minutes to complete this event.

She nosed out her father, Archie Vogel, by four points, and he had made many records in casting through the years, having won many trophies. Dot also won the Skish event.

Also in 1949 a tournament was held at Central Park, New York, and Dot won the following events:

$\frac{5}{8}$ ounce plug accuracy

Wet fly accuracy

Dry fly accuracy

Bass plug accuracy

Dot has put on many exhibitions in casting during the times of National Casting competitions and after retiring from the National field. Many of these exhibitions were made for the boys in army hospitals during the war, and many compliments have been received from the Army Department for her services to these shut-in boys.

Many of the trophies won by Dorothy "Dot" Vogel were placed in the museum of The Passaic County Historical Society, which have been placed on exhibit, as the achievements made in one popular National sport, by a Patersonian.