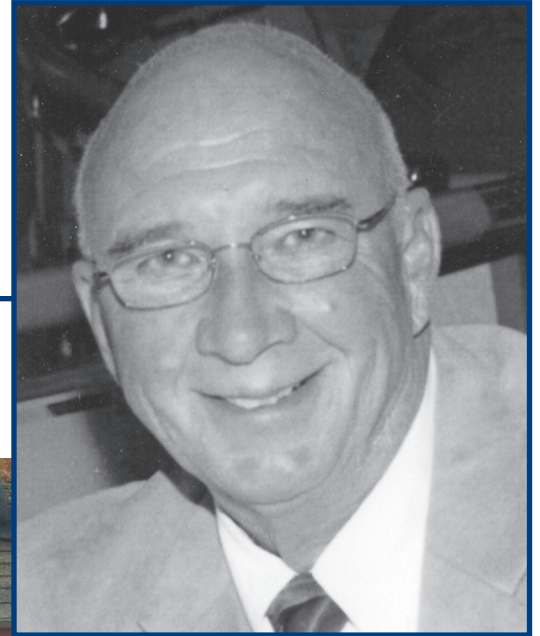


An Interview

with

**John Marvin
Hanson**

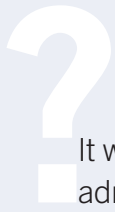


HUNTING CAMP 52

Tales from
**A NORTH WOODS
DEER CAMP**



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Wisconsin Historical Society Press Why did you decide to write *Hunting Camp 52*?

It was simply an act of love. I had always admired my father and the four other men who appropriately called themselves The Jolly Boys, and I wanted to honor their

memory and legacy by telling their story on how one should properly run a deer hunting camp to keep it in commission throughout the generations. I felt theirs was a story that should be shared with others that have the same “love of the hunt.”



WHS Press What do you want your readers to understand about Wisconsin’s hunting traditions from reading this book?

The hunting tradition is much more than tramping through the woods in search of that trophy buck (which is only a small portion of what the Wisconsin deer hunt is all about). I think that most hunters would agree that the

hunting tradition is also about camaraderie, fellowship, memories, and the common bond that develops between the hunters along with the simple joy of getting away from the normal routine of life and spending some quality time enjoying the experience of reconnecting with nature. Bagging a deer is primary, but it’s probably a secondary for most of us that hunt.



WHS Press What do you find most fascinating, endearing, or interesting about the Jolly Boys?

That these five men from different walks of life could come together as a group with a common purpose and form a common bond to experience the successful ownership of their own hunting camp.





WHS Press How can this book serve as a guide to Wisconsin history and hunting history?

The book begins with a description of what it was like to live in northern Wisconsin in the mid-1950s and the importance of the annual

fall deer hunting season for the majority of the residents in the area. The book also contains facts on the number of deer hunters from that era and the difficulties deer hunters were experiencing harvesting deer due to a limited deer herd.



WHS Press What are the ways in which this book is a uniquely Wisconsin story? In what ways does it tell a Midwestern or national story?

Wisconsin is noted for its tradition of whitetail deer hunting each fall. However, in researching information for the book, I was

surprised to learn that Wisconsin does not necessarily have the exclusive bragging rights on this great tradition. Texas, Pennsylvania and many other states have a similar love on this sport and based on statistics the sport indeed is an annual national happening in almost every state.

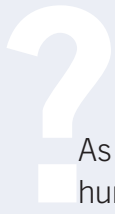


WHS Press How did you accomplish the research for your book?

Along with The Jolly Boys' hunting camp logs, I read numerous books on deer hunting. I quickly decided my book was going to detail

life in a deer hunting camp rather than just relating stories of bagging big bucks. I also interviewed numerous old-timers in the Hayward area about their memories of the camp and asked them to help me identify people in the photos.





WHS Press How was writing this book a personal experience?

As I read through all the entries in the three hunting camp logs that had been kept by The Jolly Boys over 50 years, I came to realize just how enduring this hunting camp was to me

and all of those that have been connected with Blue Heaven since its inception in 1955. I realized just how important all those memories were to me and the others. The hunting camp is a big part of who I am and why I have such an appreciation of this great Wisconsin tradition.



WHS Press What is the most memorable feedback or comment you've received from someone who reviewed your book?

My best memory comes from Mary Rogers, who was one of the very talented people that was involved in editing my book. She had purchased several copies to give to friends and said to me, "Just think, John. You have

now sold more books than just about anyone else on this planet." Her comment was somewhat confusing to me and that comment didn't hit home until the next day when I realized what she had said. She was telling me that there's only a very small number of people on this planet that have written a book and I had the honor of being in that elite group!

