

BEAR HUNTING 1974

CARP LAKE WOODS

EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN



STATE RECORD BEAR was shot with a single arrow by Hawley Rhew of Carp Lake. Its field dressed weight was 613 pounds, beating the Michigan bow and arrow record by 58 pounds and

the gun record by one pound. The live weight was estimated at 694 pounds. It took 10 men to drag the big male out of the Carp Lake woods Saturday evening. (NEWS photo by Jim Doherty)

State Record 613 Pound Bear Taken by Carp Lake Archer

By JIM DOHERTY

CARP LAKE -- It took just one arrow from 35 feet away for Hawley Rhew of Carp Lake to lay claim to the biggest black bear ever taken by a hunter and officially weighed in Michigan by the Department of Natural Resources.

The giant male weighed 613 pounds after being field dressed and DNR officials estimated the live weight would have been 694 pounds.

It stood six foot, 10 inches tall.

The state record for a bear taken by gun dressed out 612 pounds, according to DNR officials at Gaylord. It beat the bow and arrow record by 58 pounds. The previous record was a 555 pounder.

Rhew, who works for Giant Supermarket, first weighed it at Giant on their scales which run on a track.

"It took 10 men to drag it out of the woods," Rhew said. "And you should have seen them huffing and puffing--and tumbling in a ball twice when our rope broke."

The men were 'harnessed' to the bear, five on either side. They loaded it into a pickup truck.

Rhew has been an archer for 17 years and has been hunting bear with a bow and arrow the past three. He got his opportunity at the state record Saturday about 7:45 or 7:50 p.m.--perhaps 15 minutes

before it would have been too dark. The bear was broadside, 35 feet away.

His arrow struck the bear in the front shoulder and pierced a lung. The bear ran some 400 yards and fell dead.

After field dressing it, the task of summoning help to drag the giant out of the woods in the dark began. They had to drag it 500 or 600 yards to reach the pickup.

The DNR wants the skull for a museum and Rhew plans to have the hide made into a rug to preserve this giant black bear. The age hasn't yet been determined by the DNR but it is believed to be a very old bear.

Dick Cushman, one of his hunting companions, also got a bear with a bow and arrow Saturday in the Carp Lake area. His dressed out 130 pounds--which isn't bad, but when stacked against a 613 pounder it's sort of dwarfed.

Rhew got another bear years ago hunting with a gun. But it didn't match the thrill of this one--taken from 35 feet with a bow and arrow that set a new state record.

Not everyone would care to try to bring a bear nearly seven feet tall with an arrow from that distance. Sort of like David and his slingshot against Goliath.