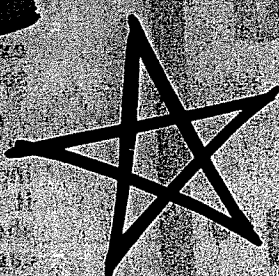


# SHOOTOUT AT THE PEN



It wasn't as bloody as our headline sounds. It was the Second Annual Alabama Slingshot Shooting Contest.

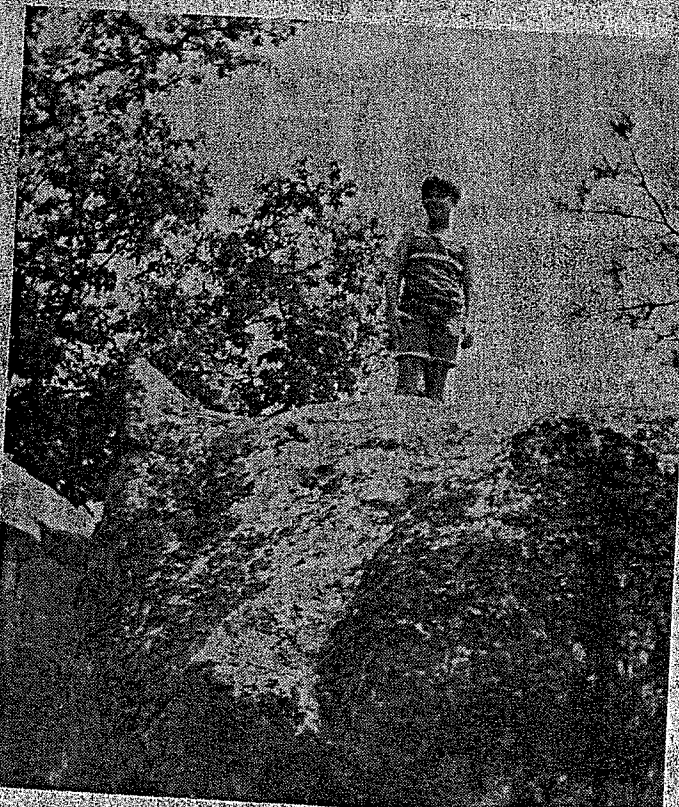
While it turned out to be harmless, the rivalry was de-  
serious. There was high drama in the hills!! — Horse Pens  
to be more exact. The Hensleys and Lovejoys renewed  
"feud" — at least Otto Hensley was there and Bob Lovejoy  
Centreville, last year's winner, was very much on hand.

This time, however, Grover Golson of Tuscaloosa came  
with top honors. Oscar Parker of Florence had to settle  
second, and Bob Lovejoy of Centreville was third. There  
was some talk of liberalizing the rules before next year's meet  
to allow the shooters a choice of ammunition. The conjecture  
was that this would attract more shooters and produce even  
more precise marksmanship than achieved with native gravel.

Mr. Golson, the winner, is an individualist. He pre-  
fers to shoot with a single strand of rubber — no handle. But he  
says, "If it ain't got a handle it ain't a slingshot." So G. G.  
takes a short handle out of a pine board, fastens it to his  
finger tubing and proceeds to shoot the pupils out of the bull's  
eye. — Watson T. Muserove promote



1973 CHAMP - Grover Colson of Tuscaloosa



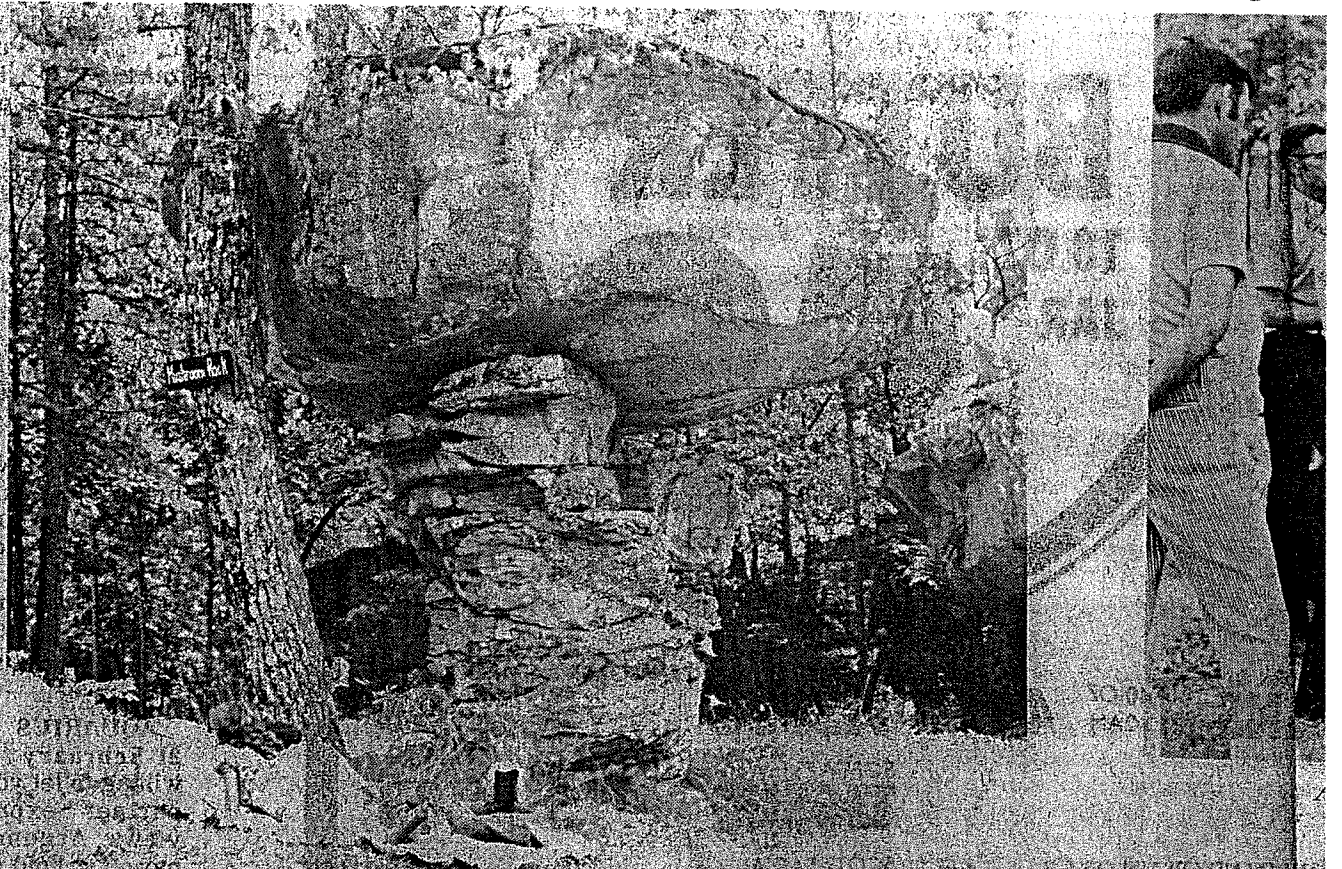
Information on the Pens may be gleaned from Mattie Lou Crow's recently published book, "History of St. Clair County." The Pens, located on the southwestern tip of Chandler Mountain feature free-standing, huge and intriguing sandstone formations which seem to have had their beginning with some upheaval of eons ago.

Their present state is the product of millions of years of erosion -- first the erosion of the earth around the stones, then the erosion of the stones themselves. Man tries, but never truly competes with Nature's own sculpture.

The name "Horse Pens" according to Mrs. Crow's remarkable book, comes from the fact that the people during the Civil War, hid their horses here to prevent their capture by the Damn Yankee raiders. (Mrs. Crow did not use the ugly word). The "40" is evidently from land measure terminology.

The Pens have been a popular gathering place for folklore -- arts, crafts, food and music -- since 1961 -- especially in the Fall.

The 1973 Fourth of July crowd was entertained by bluegrass music from two different groups. The bill-of-fare -- home, sorghum, cake and lemonade --



*'Togetherness' At Mushroom Rock*



*Mrs. Hazel Coffman Displays Bonnets*

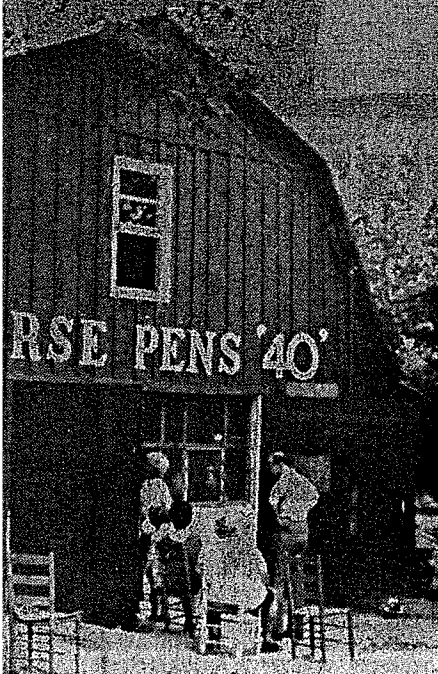


*Bluegrass Music*



*Fire When Ready!*

**Photos & Story By J. D. Meriwether**



*Horse Pens Barn*



*Warren Musgrove - -  
Horse Pens His "Brainchild"*