

History of the National Taxidermists Association

by John Janelli

The National Taxidermists Association began as a thought, evolved from a dream, and was born of necessity during the first pilot meeting in April, 1972. Our founders were the inexhaustible Charlie and Lola Haynes. Together they fostered the beginning of an organization that would endorse education, solidarity, and standards for the entire taxidermy industry to embrace.

The first NTA convention and trade show was held at Butler Fair Grounds, Poplar Bluff, Missouri on Sept. 16th & 17th, 1972. With all of 17 display booths and 19 states being represented, the NTA began a new era with the dawning of seminars and structural advancements within the NTA itself. While Charlie Haynes is no longer with us, it is important to note that Ms. Lola Haynes and her family are still among the most viable supporters and pro active members of the NTA to this very day. They will forever have our appreciation and love for giving so much of their lives as a family unit so that the NTA could flourish as it has for the past 35 years.



Before the NTA there was very little in the way of quality supplies and/or manikins. The taxidermy suppliers have not neglected the opportunities and the responsibilities that they became aware of since those early NTA formative years. The taxidermist now had a place to obtain the education and knowledge in order to bring his or her work up to the quality

and standards that were literally kept in the dark for untold generations.

Gone were the days of guarded secrets and closed doors. As taxidermists we now had faces to put with the names of those we revered and aspired to emulate. As our thirst for knowledge grew so did our ranks. Today, the NTA boasts a membership of several thousand strong and from different foreign countries as well.



Under the superlative direction of President Bill Haynes, we have continued to effectively align ourselves with the most powerful pro-hunting organizations known in existence. We stand united to combat the threats and advancements of those who would regulate taxidermists beyond the means of sound biological wildlife management.

Joining the NTA brings with it the automatic benefit of camaraderie and the realization that as a profession and industry, we will always prevail. For in the words of our founders Charlie and Lola Haynes: "Never give up a dream because the blows of life interrupt your progress every now and then."

