



The Story of “Big Buck”

By Judy Wigley

They say opposites attract. To me that is an understatement. My husband and I are personally as different as night and day. I make quick decisions and he has to let them simmer for a week or more. I am a night person, and you guessed it, he is a morning person. I always thought someone who woke up ready to face the day at 5:00 a.m. or earlier, had to be crazy. Over the years he has not changed me, nor have I changed him.

Let me say, I was a town girl. I was raised living in town and had never been hunting. Not just deer hunting but hunting in general. As a young bride, I was eager to please my new husband. If he wanted me to go with him to deer hunt, I gladly jumped out of bed and went with him, whatever time it was. On some mornings it was cold and wet. I learned quick to take a rain coat and to wear warm clothes with gloves. There was no going back to the pickup for more of anything. I also learned fast there are no bathrooms in the woods. Privacy is behind a big tree or shrubs if you can find them. He preferred that I waited until I got home. If I was in a tree stand, well forget about climbing down and then having to climb back up. I discovered after the first day of hunting he was not as nice as I had thought. He told me I had to- be- quiet- and- sit- still. Oh yes, that is another difference. I talk rather loudly and a lot and he is quiet and only speaks when necessary.

Over the years, we had two children and I was employed full time so it was hard to find the time to continue hunting. When our son was about 4 years old, I decided to give it another try. My husband, Jimmy, took me out for target practice, and I have to say I did pretty good. The scope took some getting used to but he thought I was ready. Now this is the good part. About 4 p.m. one afternoon he took me to a deer stand. The stand was in a tree but with his help I got into posi-



Judy and Jimmy Wigley with “Big Buck.” This big 15–point buck was taken with a .270 rifle west of Goldthwaite in 1965. He grossed over 143 Boone and Crockett points. The shoulder mount has hung in the Wigley home for over 45 years.

tion. He and our son drove over the hill, and the idea was to run something back in my direction. I sat and sat and looked and looked ... nothing. After what seemed to be about two days of waiting I finally heard them coming back over the hill. About that same time I saw a small buck coming my direction. You know what happened? My hands were shaking, I was sweating, and I forgot everything he had told me. By this time the buck was under my stand. I put the scope up to my eye and aimed my .270. Everything looked good, so I shot. I then felt something hot running down my nose. I laid the gun down and felt of my eye brow. Yep, blood. I then noticed the deer was still standing and

had not moved one inch. So I picked the gun back up and fired again. The deer fell without moving a muscle. About that time my family drove up and my husband jumped out of the pickup to see about me since he had heard two shots and now he could see blood on my face. I was so excited I had forgotten about the blood and wanted him to see my deer. He was excited for me and thank heavens he cleaned the deer and packed it back to the house where we hung it from a tree for all to come and see. Guess what? They wanted to know about my eye. Can you believe it?

Jimmy killed a very impressive 15 point Mills County buck in 1965. Yep, you guessed right again. It has

hung on display in our home for 45 years. Dust and all. We have moved five times and have taken “big buck” with us each time.

Mills County Historical Museum has a Natural History area. Flora and Fauna shown here. Everything from cotton and pecans to fossils and rattlesnakes. Larger displays are an Alaskan Bison with cape and a shoulder mount of a small white tail deer. We also have that same white tail deer back end mount, in other words his white flag is flying. Many interesting items including a big bass caught at Lake Merritt, a large rattlesnake also from the Lake Merritt area is located in its own case. A bear head and cape, mounted fox, armadillo, and ring tail. Many other animals that you will have to come to see for yourself. A large picture and story about the last jaguar killed in Mills County. (We have tried to get the pelt from the Smithsonian but they have told us it is not in any condition to be moved. They do have it in storage.) A Civil War bayonet and a cap and ball pistol carried through out the Civil War are displayed in a wall case. Also in the case is a Black Powder Loader. If you like the outdoors, we think you will enjoy your stay. We also have a 1906 Cadillac that might also interest you guys. It is really a beautiful automobile. We would love to have you come for a visit.

We do not charge a fee to visit the museum but we do still have bills to pay. Please mail or bring to the museum any contribution you would like to make, large or small. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Mills County Museum Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday

10:00AM – 2:00PM

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10:00AM – 4:00PM