

# CHAIN SAW AGE

WORLD WIDE SINCE 1952

OCTOBER 1978

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Stihl Sports Santa Kit

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Dolmar Japan Dealers Meet

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McCulloch Slashes Prices

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The Arkansas Chain Man



### HOMELITE TOURNAMENT OF KINGS

	WORKING CUTTING	PRECISION CUTTING	TRIM FEELING	NOSE SKIPPY CHISEL	SHOCK SHOCKING	SPEED CUTTING	TOTAL
David Geer	7	1	9	1			
Dennis Athearn	4	5	6	6			3
Roy Booth	9	6	8	8			11
Melvin Lentz	3	2	4	2			26
Harry Boedeker	2	9	10	5			18
John Bolduc	6	4	5	3			31
Jack Stewart	10	7	7	7			23
Ron Johnson	1	10	3	10			1
Tom Bildeaux	8	3	1	9			19
Russ Gates	5	8	2	4			





They called it the "Tournament Of Kings" and hosted top U.S. chain saw champions last month in North Carolina. For Homelite and the loggers, the name was appropriate.

From the arrival, America's top ten saw competitors were treated like kings—Cadillac

limousines took them to their hotel and they were provided with luxury suites.

This was Homelite's move for acceptance in the professional market where the Textron subsidiary has felt a real lack of effectiveness in the past few years.

Surprisingly, they bill the tournament a chain saw "kings" event and during the three days of activities, Homelite put the competitors in front and kept a low profile on the product name.

To Homelite, it was a real test for the loggers and the response from all ten of the nation's best was pure excitement, nervous stomachs until the contest was through and competitive plans to make the trip next year for the world championship against another 10 international competitors.

Two of the competitors, including Ron Johnson of Connecticut, who won two of the events, were chain saw dealers. The other dealer was Harry Boedeker of Ohio.

All the competitors were winners or qualifiers from 10 logging contests around the country and were covered by Homelite and the local press wherever they competed to win a spot to the Carowinds championship site.

Airplane flights to Charlotte were scheduled to a tee and the contestants, plus numerous magazine representatives, all arrived within three hours of each other. The arrangements were to run like clockwork throughout the three days of festivities.

All the top Homelite executives were on hand to meet the competitors during a Thursday night arrival cocktail party and buffet dinner. The following morning started the first full day with a logger's style breakfast and then a tour of Homelite's manufacturing plant at Gastonia.

Following lunch, the competitors were taken to Homelite's corporate headquarters where a standing room only press conference was held and the television cameras rolled. Then the cutters proceeded to test the two new Homelite 550 chain saws they would be using the following day and sharpen the new Carlton Magna-chisel saw chain Homelite specifically ordered for the event.

It was easy to tell who the hot saw winners were with their unusual approach to sharpening the chain down to virtually nothing.

A roasted pig highlighted the evening barbecue at Carowinds, sight of the following day's competition and a huge amusement park that is the pride of the Carolinas.

When Saturday arrived the contestants were anxiously awaiting the start and a few expressed butterflies. After all, they were to be the first ones to compete in chain saw's equivalent of the Super Bowl, World Series or World Cup.

### ON THE COVER

*Homelite's Tournament of Kings ended on a successful note last month. The competition included, top row from left, John Bolduc speed cutting; Tom Bildeaux preparing his chain; middle row, tree felling and the competitors gathered together for rules; bottom row, up-to-date event totals and the new Homelite 550 Professional Chain Saw. The Homelite story starts on Page Four.*



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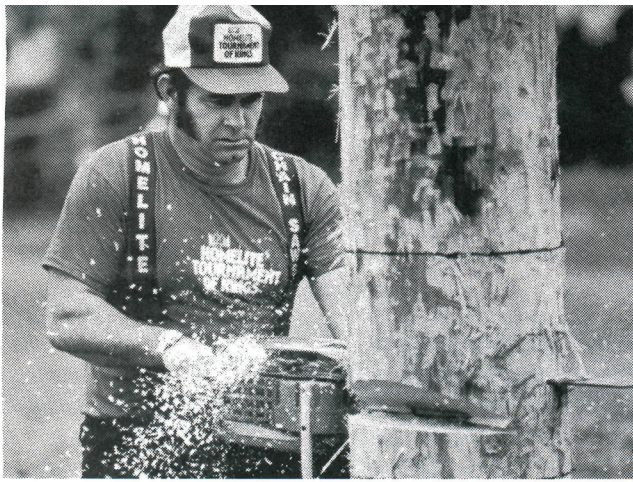
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Along to view the festivities were *Sports Illustrated*, CBS Television, NBC Television, United Press International and Associated Press. Along for the whole affair were *Popular Science's* Al Lees, *Popular Mechanics'* Harry Wicks; *Outdoor Life's* Dean Smith and Jim Dean; *The Family Handyman's* Gary Branson, *Workbench's* Jon Bogart; *Timber Harvesting's* Paul Griffin, *Timber Producer's* Carl Theiler, *Dixie Logger's* Jane and Jack Smith and *Northern Logger's* George Fowler, who also officiated and supervised the ten regional qualifications.

Prize money for the first of what Homelite plans to be a world championship annually was the largest for any chain saw event ever held. First place was \$1,000 with \$500 for second, a \$250 third place prize in addition to a plaque and Homelite 550 chain saw for each contestant valued at over \$400 each.

The contest featured six distinct events designed to test speed and precision cutting skills with a stock chain saw. And those skills were indeed tested with the lead jumping hands continuously. In the first event, competitors had to bore through a log with speed and accuracy to burst balloons and cut within a limited area. Jack Stewart won the event to take an early lead and then Ron Johnson captured the precision cutting event following a line with both upward and downward cuts. Tree felling followed with Boedeker dropping the log on a stake. Then in the modified steeple chase which featured five cutting stations with five different saws, Johnson came back to take the lead. The final two events were disc stacking with contestants slicing the thinnest 10 pies winning. Tom Bildeaux won that event and then Russ Gates won the speed cutting event with his version of a sharpened chain. Roy Booth captured two seconds and three thirds to garner the first prize.

—JMS



ROY BOOTH, Sr., La Grande, Ore., makes felling cut in 20-foot tall pole en route to winning the first United States chain saw cutting championship at the Homelite "Tournament of Kings," in Charlotte, on September 23. The competition created by the Homelite division of Textron Inc., brought together 10 regional chain saw cutting champions to test speed and precision-cutting skills with a chain saw in six cutting events.



CROWNED Tournament of Kings champion by Homelite President Bev Dolan, left, is LaGrande, Oregon's Roy Booth, center, while Homelite's Chip Tomlinson holds up the first place check and contestants watch from the stage background.

# Chain Saw King Crowned

Roy Booth, Sr., of La Grande, Oregon, became America's first national chain saw cutting champion while winning \$1,000 first-prize money in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the "Tournament of Kings" competition created by the Homelite division of Textron Inc., the nation's largest manufacturer of chain saws.

Jack Stewart, Meridian, Idaho, was second, winning \$500. Tom Bildeaux of Silver Bay, Minnesota, was third, winning \$250.

A crowd estimated at 20,000 was on hand at Charlotte's Carowinds Theme Park.

The event marked the first time that a national championship chain saw competition was held and the \$1,750 prize structure was the most money ever offered in an event involving chain saws. New Homelite 550 professional chain saws were used by the contestants in all events.

To win the title Booth wielded his chain saw throughout six events specifically designed by Homelite to test logger skill and precision cutting with a stock chain saw. The events included tree-felling, modified steeplechase, boring, precision and speed-cutting and disc-stacking.

He scored 47.5 points, based on a ten-point-first-place system, winning by 7.5 points over Stewart. Bildeaux had 39 points, one point behind Stewart.

The total entry list included ten

contestants who had gained the final in Charlotte by qualifying in designated chain saw events at major logging shows held across the country earlier this year as part of the overall "Tournament of Kings" competition.

The 45-year-old Booth, a professional logger in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon for more than 20 years, qualified for the "Tourn-

ment of Kings" by winning the stock power saw contest last June at the Big Sky Loggers Championship in Kalispell, Montana. The six-foot, 213-pounder was a model of consistency, scoring nine out of a possible 10 in both boring and speed cutting, eight points in both tree felling and steeplechase, seven-and-one-half-points in disc-stacking and six in precision cutting.

Runner-up Stewart, 41, has been a timber feller the last 11 years, felling trees in the Idaho mountains that are two to three feet in diameter and up to 100 feet tall. He scored a perfect 10 out of 10 points in boring, but lost his chance in the fifth event, scoring only three points in disc-stacking.

Third place winner Bildeaux finished strongly in the last three events, scoring nine points in steeplechase, a perfect 10 in disc-stacking and eight in speed cutting. The 44-year-old, six-foot logger registered only three points in precision cutting and only one in tree felling.

The complete order of finish: Booth, 47.5 points; Stewart, 40 points; Bildeaux, 39 points; Harry Boedeker, Zanesville, Ohio, 37; Russ Gates, Lincoln, Montana, 36.5; Ron Johnson, Jewett City, Connecticut, 34; David Geer, Lisbon, Conn., 32; Dennis Athearn, Burlington, Washington, 24; John Bolduc, Fremont, New Hampshire, 22, and Melvin Lentz, Creswell, Oregon, 18.

## Carlton Laurels

"We Set The Standards In Saw Chain," is the theme of Carlton Company's advertising message and it has proven to be a winner.

The four/color advertising insert which ran in the April and May issues of Chain Saw Age featuring Carlton's Engineer Ren Atkinson looking at a progressive saw chain stamping, received an award from Readex (Reader Interest Research) of St. Paul, Minnesota for drawing a 48 percent readership response in the June issue of The Northern Logger.

The picture used in the advertisement was shot by Carlton Company Vice President Mike Carlton and the insert was designed and written by JMS Enterprises of Portland, Oregon.