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This document contains the complete text for issues number 1-3 of "News-O-Rang" - the first newsletter about boomerangs ever published in the USA. Some errors may be encountered because the documents were scanned and converted to text using OCR software. The documents were not dated, but they were issued in the mid 1970s. This document remains a valuable resource for researching historical information about boomerangs.

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NEWS-O-RANGS #1

BOOMERANG MAN

311 Park Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201

HI! I hope that this first edition of NEWS-O-RANGS will be the first of many for you who are my friends and customers to receive, If you have anything that you'd like to share with other throwers, please send the thought on to me for future news. Boomeranging is new to the USA; with your help we can make it a national pastime.

The SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE in Washington, D.C. sponsors a boomerang competition every year on the Polo Field. This year's event was held on May 15th. Over 75 contestants and yours truly were there. Nope, I didn't win a top prize. I did meet many fine folks and I sure learned a lot, however. The highlight of the event was getting to meet and throw with HERB SMITH of Sussex, England. HERB holds the world's distance record of 108 yards out and 108 yards back for the catch. Long distance B's do require a good breeze for the best returns and conditions were not right for HERB to break his own record. Nonetheless, he made many throws of 80-90+ yards. Many people had at least 5 B's and some had over 15 B's with them. A few made their own B's which all flew well. One man had inlaid a dark walnut eagle into a light hardwood B. Another had a giant U shaped B made of steamed hardwood strips. It flew like a lopsided hoop but returned for the catch. And yet another had fashioned cherrywood branches into beautiful wood grained B's. Shapes were as varied as the branches he had used. There was so much to see and it was evident that almost any material or shape can be used for a boomerang. Customers will be advised in time for next year's event. As a throw-around target the Washington Monument holds an attraction for boomerangers. The base of the Monument is smaller than the distance that a good long range B can fly around in. Even so, very few folks have made complete flights around the Monument. There is always a strong breeze which splits around the Monument in two directions as well as blowing up the sides. There is an outlet circle of U.S. flags around the Monument and at times the wind is blowing the flags at one another. On top of the wind problems, one must get there before the guards arrive in the morning. HERB SMITH got a good flight around it (a guard was there and finally made him leave.) I got 3 flights out of 5 tries on the next morning. I got there at 6:00 A.M. MORRIS MAXWELL of the AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION (he's Club Secretary) also

got in some flights. HERB used an 8 oz. weighted hook, MORRIS used a weighted 12" wood hook made by GEOFF RAWSON, while I used the fiberglass SPORT COMEBACK 22 made by WILLIE URBAN of Germany. Next year, I'd like to try for 5 or so consecutive throws and catches.

FLYING TIPS: Most standard shaped B's return best when thrown and released at eye level; most hooks should be thrown no higher than eye level and a bit more layover is good to use as well as lots of wrist action and a minimum of arm effort. I've found that the Lewry standard shapes must be thrown well above eye level and more layover is needed, while at the same time, less arm power is used. They fly well in a breeze, once you get the hang of them. Adding a bit of weight can improve not only the distance that a B will travel but can help it to fly in strong winds. HOT STUFF glue is great for in the field weight adding.

Pennies and dimes work well 9 pennies to the ounce. Add weight about 1 1/2" to 2 1/2" from the tips as well as at the elbow. **CAUTION:** Do not add more than 1/3 of the B's weight in extra ballast. For example, 6 oz. B just add no more than 2 oz. (A tip from HERB SMITH.)

DOUBTING THOMASES: If you have written for my catalog and not ordered, I've got a deal for you. First, maybe you don't believe that B's do work. O K, take 2 wood rulers (taper edged ones are best), place one over the other mid-ways in an X shape, tape or tie to each other, hold vertical and throw. It should return. Now, place one ruler end over the other end forming a 90° angle and again tape together. Hold vertical and throw. It should also return. If something so simple works, why not a real boomerang? "It's the real thing!"

THAT DEAL: It is surprising how many people have expressed an interest in boomerangs by writing for my catalog, yet have not made an order. Perhaps they were surprised at the prices of good boomerangs. Is this a hang-up with you? Just go price the best tennis racket, golf club, or bowling ball! Then realize that for \$3.00 to \$20.00 and under, you can own one or more of the World's best boomerangs. Due to demand for sport and hobby shops, I've had Gundawarra Company design and make a fine, but less expensive line of B's. These will not appear in my regular catalog; this may be your only chance to purchase one. EMU (like the #460) just \$4.50; POSSUM (like the Kangaroo) just \$5.00. The photo illustrated throwing manual is included. By October, I will also have a special BOOMERANG MAN HOOK (like Gunda's \$8 hook) which will sell for just \$5.00. It is a very easy to fly/ catch B. Beginners and experts alike will enjoy it. This will be in my catalog as a regular item. I'll be happy to accept your order for this now and will rush it to you as soon as my supply arrives.

GETTING CONTESTS: One way that we can get Boomeranging going is to form small throwing clubs or groups from our neighborhood, school or town. Seven to ten people will make a nice size membership. You can have throws among yourselves and you can even visit other like groups for area contests. The AESTRALIAN BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION is just 6 years old and it has only about 70 active members. They'd like to challenge us Yanks in a few years. First, they need some active competition. I'm not a show-off (much), don't brag (much) and I also have no objection to seeing my picture and name in the local sports newspapers or on television (a lot!) How about you?

NEW PRODUCTS: I was really impressed with the boomerangs of HERB SMITH. Herb makes them as a hobby and not really for resale. His work is excellent and the markings he uses on each boomerang are very "eyetractive." I'm very pleased to announce that Herb is now making a few of his boomerangs available for my customers. The supply is limited! I have them two ways: competely decorated and finished by Herb; and stained and painted by the Boomerang Man. Herb has written an excellent booklet on B's that covers the making, throwing and history of the sport. He also shares the secret to getting extra long distance B flights. The back cover pictures all of his

models. Thirty-two pages is just \$2.25 for HERB'S BOOMERANG BOOKLET (\$2.00 if ordered with any boomerangs.)

	Herb's finish	B'man's finish
HERB'S BIG RED HOOK= 18" 6 oz. 70-90 yds.	\$20.00	NA
HERB'S SMALL HOOK= 14" 3.5 oz. 40-50 yds.	\$12.00	\$10.50
HERB'S GEM STANDARD=18" 3 oz. 35-50 yds.	\$9.00	\$7.50

FLYING IMPRESSIONS: I own one each of Herb's B's and will confess that I had to learn how to ease up on my throwing power. I was not getting returns and I knew that it was my error. After letting beginners try the SMALL HOOK AND GEM with good results, I started using extremely easy tosses. Happy day! I got good flights and catches. I now use all the power I want get good great out ranges and very good one handed catches. The BIG RED HOOK takes up all the flying field one can find and then some; but what a sight in the air! A 3-5 mph breeze is needed for best results as well as a mite more power in the throw. An almost flat righthand layover (something you should never do with other styles of B's.) A one hand catch is best with BIG RED. I enjoy flying Herb's small hook as much as I enjoy flying Lewry's distance hooks and wouldn't want to be without either.

SPLINTERS AND REPAIRS: Some of you have reported that your B has broken. Often you only got a few flights before this happened. "Is this normal?" I've been asked. No it is not. 99% of all B breaks, cracks are the result of malfunction of the throwing apparatus YOU! Sometimes the wind will carry it off and cause problems. In truth, you did not compute properly as your Boomerang will only do what you program into it. It's flight is a reflection of the thrower. Isn't it neat how I place the blame on the thrower? I've broken my share of B's and must admit that all breaks were due to my errors. This may not make you feel any better if you have just broken your first B. So fix the thing. In Washington D.C. one man had a fist full of HAWES M-17 B's that he had broken, some in three places and he just glopped on the Epoxy and kept on throwing. For best repairs: Fit the 2 pieces together and see how they will match up. Exopy is O.K. but I like Ambroid model airplane cement. Spread a thin layer of cement over both sides of the B and at least 1" on either side of the joint; let dry 30 minutes; cut a strip of old bedsheet, or like material, about 6" long and 1" wide; apply another coat of cement; while this second layer is still wet, wrap the material around the B, working the cement into the fabric; pull the material tight; place the B on some wax paper, place more wax paper over the B and lay on a heavy weight to keep the B flat; let sit for 24 hours. Most breaks will hold up with this type of repair. If you don't wish to fight it, send the B back to me with \$1.50 to cover return postage and time. In the field, keep a piece of sandpaper to smooth any nicks. Always seal any exposed wood to keep out moisture with nail polish, etc.

JUST RELEASED: ALL ABOUT BOOMERANGS by Lorin Hawes. At last, the definitive book on the subject of boomerangs! Hard bound, glossy paper, lots of pictures and the true facts about boomerangs. Covers aerodynamics, how to make and fly them, as well as statistics on records and performances. Entertaining and easy to read. A MUST BOOK! \$9.95 post paid.

WARPS: Every part of the country has certain weather conditions that affect the share of your boomerang. Sometimes your best B will not fly as it once did. Check it for a warped arm by placing it on a flat surface. If one arm is higher than the other, you have a warp. **TO CORRECT:** On a flat surface, place a pencil, put the warped tip on the pencil, but be sure that the B is face down; now place a heavy object on the B so that you make a reverse bend; let sit over night. This is not a permanent correction, yet it will last for several days. Always store your B in a cool, dry place. Keep it flat!

GET A GRIP ON IT! Getting a good, comfortable hold on a boomerang is very important. I must admit that the pinch grip I use is not an easy one for learners to use. Try holding the B as you

would a pencil; perhaps 1" to 2" from the throwing tip. As you release the B, your index finger "trips" the B, giving it a good spin.

Folks, I've enjoyed typing at you!!! Till NEWS-O-RANG #2.....

Richard Harrison
BOOMERANG MAN

NEWS-O-RANGS #2

BOOMERANG MAN

311 Park Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201

WELL HOWDY' Here's #2 in response to all of you out there who enjoyed Our first Newsletter. Will there be a #3? Sure, if you fine folks will just keep writing in. I do wish to thank those of you who have purchased B's and are letting me know how much fun you are having. I'll do my best to keep the selling out of Our newsletter; do let me share the following comments with you:

"Got to try out the 2 B's and the hours flew as fast as the B's." Chris Collins, Canada. "Just wanted you to know I'm having wonderful time with the Hawes M-17 and Wyche hook; both fly well, no problems." Dave Mullican, Georgia. "My boys have enjoyed greatly their birthday B's. Oldest partial to Lewry Hook, but Wyche Hook equally popular, lovely crafting." Eugene Arnow, Maryland. "Thanks for all the fun we (adults/kids) have been having with your B's." Terry Burt, La. "I love my boomerangs' Hope you hear me talking about them on the air." Eric Tracy, New Orleans. "Your boomerang presentation most enthusiastically received and appreciated. We look forward to your visit next year." Col. D. Hartley, Aerospace Workshop, NLU.

Many more kind notes from lots of happy customers and friends. I say friends because I believe in giving personal service. In these times of such fast "pay and git out of the way" business, I want you to know that I am interested in you. Nuff said'

WHAT'S HAPPIN' IN THE BOOMERANG WORLD - More and more people are finding out that B's really do work and are fun' It is interesting to note that many adults are very interested in the sport, more so than youngsters. Until now, they just couldn't find interesting B's that worked very well.

The states that have shown the most interest are: Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, Louisiana (of course), Florida, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Maine, New York. In the dead of winter, yet! Won't be safe to step outside when the Spring thaw hits, I'll bet.

Way down yonder in New Orleans, a group of men have formed the GREATER METAIRIE BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION. Several other groups have now formed as well. One day the GMBA was throwing and a member of the NEW ORLEANS AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CLUB saw them and asked if they would like to have a contest. Over 30 people met and enjoyed a great afternoon. The A-NZ almost beat the GMBA (with only a few hours of practice.) Yes, they even got some TV coverage!

The Engineering Departments of numerous Universities have expressed interest in the B as a teaching tool. Some teach Frisbee (University of Texas, for example). Perhaps in the Spring a young man's fancy will turn to the boomerang. The ladies are into the sport, and can be pretty tuff with their throwing skills.

“Enclosed is check for JOE’S HOOK, really flies well.” Ted Bailey, Aero-Engineer, Cal. “I received the #460, very nice; B-MAN HOOK dead accurate “ Hephaestus, N. Mexico.

I GET QUESTIONS “Can I hunt with your boomerangs? I want to hunt ducks.” My answer is just a simple, “No” What I sell are for sport and the only one that could possibly be used as a hunting boomerang is the nylon COMEBACK 22. It has the strength and range; but to hunt with a returning type B you need a clear field of throw, stand in the proper direction to the wind, and be sure that you can find the B in the grass. I suggest using a 2 x 4 instead. I would like any true reports of hunting with B’s or throwing sticks for future NEWS-O-RANGS. First hand reports only!!!

INCOMPLETE RETURNS seems to be a problem with some B’s. It’s one thing to throw the light and easy M-17. As you know, dead calm is best for it. To throw the 5-6 oz. JOE 21 or COMEBACK 22 is another throwing experience. Strength and practice, as well as patience, are the keys to good returns. One reason why people get hooked on B’s is that they find there is a challenge offered by some B’s and they mean to control the B. Using too much power can cause you to lose throwing form; sorta like raising your head as you complete your golf swing. I don’t golf, but my throwing area is also used by the “bucket-ball” golfers and I see what errors they make. I’ve yet to hit a ball with a B throw, darn!

FRANK DONNELLAN, the legendary Australian boomerang maker and thrower, traveled in many areas giving exhibitions, selling his boomerangs, and competing against others. W. Carl Naylor, Brooklyn submits the following from a letter of Frank’s over 20 years ago. During his travels, Donnellan, as visiting expert, would challenge any local thrower to beat Frank’s Throw. To make things interesting, he would deposit a 50 pound note to be given to a local charity, should his throw be beaten. Coming to the town of Broken Hill during their Silver City Festival, he was matched against a 65 year old aborigine. As Frank stated, “couldn’t he throw!” The first evening the old man threw 80 yards, the second evening an astounding 106 yards! “I like to have left the “Silver City” there and then,” said Frank. “But I finished up with my old Super-charger, throwing 128 yards -- and I couldn’t throw another yard better”, Frank’s letter concluded. Carl states that he still owns a couple of Frank’s whalebone boomerangs. Carl won a contest at the ‘76 Smithsonian Contest using an M-17. Those long legs helped you, Carl!

I THREW MY BOOMERANG INTO THE AIR, WHERE IT LANDED RUN! THAT PICNICER KNOWS WHERE!

BLUEY WILLIAMS, also known as KING BILLY made some of the best weighted hooke; they had great out range, flew low down and were easy to catch. He passed away a few years ago; some Of his B’s are still around. Should you ever find one, make a deal with the owner and get it! I don’t own one, wish I did! Wyche hook comes closest to the size and shape of a William’s hook.

SMITHSONIAN ANNUAL BOOMERANG CONTEST will probably be conducted in mid-June this year. While I’ll send an announcement out to all of my customers, if you will send me a self-addressed stamped envelope, I will also let you know. You can also write to The Institute - Attn. Tina Parker.

CORRECTION BAA or BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA is correct; ABA as stated in O-RANGS #1 is wrong. BAA is comprised of individuals interested in promoting the Sport. ABA is a commercial interest backed by a plastic B maker in Australia. You buy his brand and you’re a member.

NATIONAL USA BOOMERANG CLUB - Ain’t no such thing and won’t be, if left up to the Boomerang Man. Many of you have expressed an interest in forming or joining some kind of National Club. As much as I would like to see B’s as a National Sport (wouldn’t I really sell the

B's then) I'm for keeping commercial interests and their control out of the Sport. As the NATIONAL CATAPULARY ASSOCIATION (slingshots) has learned, the big manufacturers are interested in sales first. What the real enthusiasts want is not even a close second. Friends, I enjoy the B too much for me to let crass commercialism ruin it. Build your own throwing group. I'll be happy to make suggestions and even support a contest to some extent. Let's keep it fun and loose!

FRISBEE THROWERS are finding that B's are very interesting. Let's not put these blokes down. A good F'bee thrower can really put his strong wrist action to work with the B. DR. STANCIL JOHNSTON of FRISBEE BOOK fame met Herb Smith last year and they did a bit of throwing. Stancil really enjoyed the Smith distance hooks. I don't think Herb was as turned on to the F'bee as Stancil was to the B's. Washington, this June, Stan?

NEWS-O-RANGS #1. A few copies are still available. New customers may request one with their order for as long as my present supply lasts.

SHIPPING INFORMATION - United Parcel Service (UPS) provides fast service to all parts of the USA. Packages of over a pound - 3 or more B's - will be sent UPS when possible, however they cannot deliver to a P. O. number, just streets and routes. CANADIANS: orders of under \$10 come to you either duty free or very low duty. Should you want more than this amount of B's just divide the order into \$10 amounts and add 75¢ postage for each package. One customer had a \$40 order, I sent 3 packs. Most orders are sent out the same day received - Uncle Sam is the slow-poke.

NEW PRICES AND NEW BOOMERANGS are listed on a separate sheet. Check the price of Gundawarra Hook and Rangaroo and a few others perhaps. Make the change in the Catalog.

FROM THE EXPERTS - Lorin Hawes (Now Sir Hawes, Royal Boomerang maker) has a disdain for those who claim themselves World Champion. Not that he's against a World Champion, it's just that anyone can hold a contest, win it and then claim a Champion title. He feels equally dismayed at some distance claims saying that all modern distance records were done in strong winds; "Even a bunch of grapes will come back in a strong enough wind," he writes in his book. A flight of over 50 yards out with perfect return, on a windless day, at sea level is Lorin's criteria for a good distance throw. Robert Stone in Boulder, Col. and at 6000 ft. altitude and Hephaestus in New Mexico at 12,000 ft. say they can really get some great out ranges. Thin air and no drag, and lots of power is the trick. Stone comes back down to sea level and finds that he uses too much power, and gets too much lift for good returns. Ease up, Bob!

NEW WORLD DISTANCE RECORD 110 yards out range made by Bob Burwell of Australia. 600 spectators watched Bob throw over a premeasured soccer field. Unknown to Bob, the contest organizer just wanted to exceed Herb Smith's 108 yard record and wouldn't measure Bob's more than 110 yd. throw.

Bob won last year's BBA Championship by scoring 138 points out of a possible 140; nearest score to him was 120 pts. Bob started throwing at the tender age of 32 months and by his 3rd birthday was throwing well enough for 20th Century to film him for MOVIE TONE NEWS. Today he makes his own B's as a hobby. His fame as a thrower and maker keeps him busy supplying all he finds time and inclination to produce. Some things he can sometimes do is throw 6 B's in one throw; catch with his feet; get 12 in the air before the first lands; but only once has he thrown 2 at once and caught them (I got you there, Bob, how about 3 at once?) Bob sent several of his "sticks" to me and all who threw them just had to have one! Hopefully by April I'll be stocking 3 of his special designs for you, the price should be under \$10.00.

A FUN LETTER RECEIVED - John Holeman, Schenectady, NY wrote about first seeing B's at the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Expo 50 years ago. At the Aussie exhibit a small celluloid B was demonstrated and sold. John bought one, but could never make it work. For many years after

whenever he saw a B for sale, he would buy it. "but none of them ever flew", he writes. One night at a theatre he saw Mason the Magician throw dozens of 4 & 6 wing B's out over the audience and catch them on return. John went home and made some of this type - they didn't fly either! He gave up on B's until 10 years ago he met a Dr. Skelly who said he'd been throwing for several years. Out to the field they went with about a dozen B's;- the results being that Doc Skelly was off his form 6 not a one returned, some even got lost in the trees. With one left in the bag, John grabbed it & threw it lefthanded just as Kelly yelled, "not that way' Use your right hand!" It was too late. The B was on its way. Making a 60 foot circle, it landed at John's feet. "Well, D___," exclaimed Skelly, "that must be a left hander!" All the throwing he'd done, yet didn't know a left from a right! Skelly has since learned to make his own Aussie type B and sells them. John and his granddaughter give B demos at area schools and scout groups. One trick is that he throws LH and she RH at the same time, the B's cross in flight and they catch each other's B. I might add that several right handers have learned to throw a LH B from their right hand and do the same trick by themselves. Boy, it really confuses spectators. Thanks, John & Bonnie.

TIL #3 and hoping to hear from more of you and your stories. Rich the B-MAN!

NEWS O-RANGS # 3

1977 SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BODMERANG CONTEST - best yet! Over 100 contestants and 350 spectators turned out for this annual event. The breeze was clocked at over 30 MPH (great kite weather), but the skill of many of the throwers proved that B's can be thrown and caught under such adverse conditions!

BEN RUHE, Tourney Master, and TINA PARKER and her Smithsonian Associate helpers hosted an excellent four event contest..and lots of nice awards, too. Three events: 10 yd. circle catch; throw to peg; and most throws/catches in 60 seconds were conducted at the same time~ With the high winds causing contestants to run all over the Polo Grounds, spectators had difficulty following much of the action.

Consecutive Catching, the fourth event, proved to be the real crowd pleaser. Imagine 100 throwers in single file; one steps forward, throws, then runs around trying to make the catch. In this sudden death match, a miss and the thrower is out! It didn't take long until just 12 men were left. Ben had them line up and throw simultaneously. Would you believe 12 B's in the air under such conditions? After several rounds only 6 men were left, then 4. Finally it was a face off between LARRY RUHF using a Hawes M-17 and RICHARD HARRISON throwing a weighted Wyche Hook. After some 20 throws/catches HARRISON won the event by catching a few inches closer to the scoring line than RUHF did. Winners of the other events are listed in the AP report on the reverse of the B-MAN'S BOOKSHELF list.

BOOKS ON BOOMERANGS now abound and there really is no reason for your local school or public library to lack them. Just pass the BOOKSHELF LIST on to your librarian.

HERB SMITH of Sussex, England writes: I was giving a boom display at the annual Arundel Fete. Everything was going well, considering the strong wind, the sun in my eyes, and having to throw over the heads of spectators while ankle deep in mud! Apart from these small hazards, everyone was thrilled to bits! Afterwards, an Australian approached me and said, "What part of Australia do you come from Mate?" When I replied, "Sussex." he exclaimed, "Cor! I've never seen distances like that back home; you should go out there and show them how to throw!" "It's funny how people think you are from Australia, if they see you throwing a B," Herb notes. Herb is the holder of the GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS book-distance boomerang throw-108 yds. He plans to attend the '78 DC contest. Perhaps he and I will get to throw around the Washington Monument again. Right, Herb?

COMMENTS: "Thanks for the fine stuff! Your service excellent; very fast. Have never seen anything like it!!!" Ted Hanson, New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Enjoyed the Washington experience-both chance to meet affable folk as yourself and the chance to fling a few B's!" Nick McAuliffe, Amesbury, Mass.

"\$30.00 for a boomerang!!? Rich, when you gonna have \$150 ones? My \$30.00 check enclosed." Dwayne Patterson, Millers Creek, North Carolina.

WHAT'S NEW IN BOOMERANGS: For one thing no BURWELL'S as yet! Someday?

BAKWOOD 51 \$8.00. This strip laminated ash B may just be the strongest, all wood B yet. Does well in a light breeze and is very accurate.

DONNELLAN CONTEST MODEL \$3.50. A quality Australian plastic B. An ideal B for wet throwing (in snow, at the beach, wet grass). Takes a strong snap, I can't recommend as a beginner B. Certainly a good knock about boom.

B-MAN'S GULL #6, #8, #9. \$6.00. A new U shape hook, that is a beauty in flight, very accurate and super easy to catch. An excellent contest B.

HERB SMITH has sent several new hooks and traditional shapes. Prices are \$16.00 to \$25.00, but due to the short supply I can't list them here. How does a weighted hook (medium size) with an out range of 70+ yds. and dead accurate using one hand catches sound? Look for flyers in your B orders as these are available.

"WOW. \$30.00 BOOMERANGS are what it's all about! That Gerhards weighted hook just fantastic." Dwayne Patterson, Millers Creek, North Carolina. Dwayne said it all right there. I won a Gerhards hook in DC and have really been turned on by his B's since. Making B's is Al's hobby, so supply is limited. Constructed of laminated strips of hardwood (locust, cherry, chestnut) and weighted, you can expect 70+ yds range. For experienced throwers only, please! Look for advertising flyers on other new booms as I can locate and get in stock, in your orders.

RETRACTION TIME. In N-O-R #2 I made mention of a plastic B maker claiming that, "You buy his B and become a member of his Australian Boomerang Association." Mr. Stephen Silady of the ABA is rather unhappy with my statement, and he informs me that he is an amateur boomeranger & not a professional; having never sold a B that he has made. Worldwide, he does claim thousands of happy ABA members. Stephen is a tool and die maker and he made the molds for the plastic Donnellan B. He also has several interesting points about B contests, and I hope to devote space on this subject in a future N-O-R. Mrs. Silady operates their business.

MORE CONTESTS were held after the '77 DC event. Dave Robson, a high school teacher, conducted an event at his school in Baltimore in late June. A well designed 3 blade type B took top honors, I'm told. This beauty had extreme range for this type and was dead accurate! 3 & 4 blade B's are not usually permitted in contests.

Eric Darnell, inventor of the most advanced wood heater, The FREE FLOW, hosted 65 avid B throwers to a contest in a copper mine pit in South Stafford, Vermont. Conditions were ideal in spite of fog banks that drifted across the mine.

A new game was introduced: Team throwing. A team of 5 throwers using one B would begin by having #1 man throw, #2 man catch and throw and so forth, until #5 would do his catch and throw; to complete the cycle, #1 would catch #5's throw. A stop watch determined the fastest team.

THAT FLORIDA BOOMERANG that was dug up and in the news is not a true returning B after all. Both upper and lower surfaces are curved making it impossible to return. It is somewhat L shaped and the head (bottom of L) measures 18CM with cross section thickness ranging from

12.5mm to 1Amm where the handle meets the head. Customer Gary Martin, Rocky Mount, NC made a working model from the picture in his newspaper. He said that his model worked very well. Gary didn't know about the curve surfaces on both sides.

THROWING PROBLEMS can occur when you switch from a traditional B (like Hawes M-17) & try to throw a hook (like the Wyche) using the same grip and release. I find that the pinch grip works well on light hooks and that most hooks do best when pitched out at eye level or lower. Traditional shapes can be released higher and still return (better than a hook so released.) Throwing harder and harder in an effort to force the B to return is wrong, too. Best advice I can offer when this happens is for you to stop, exhale, relax and cool down. Then using very easy throws, gradually build up your throwing power until the B starts doing properly. I know 'cause I've been there. Study the instructions! Which reminds me of the cartoon about the two little kids who were trying to make soap bubbles. 1st child, "I've been sucking bubbles for half an hour...all I get is a mouth full of soap." 2nd kid, "Perhaps it's broken." "Typical," replies the 1st.

DANVERS, MASS. CONTEST was held in October 1977. (Yours truly managed to attend.) 25 brave throwers competed in a cold, driving rain from 9:00 A.M. to after 5:00 P.M. enjoying? the unique fellowship that B-ranging seems to foster. I really can't recall who won what and winning really wasn't all that important; but making it to the party was! Two new events were tried and enjoyed (r'11 accept credit for the ideas.) One entailed throwing and catching while seated on a very short camp stool (about 18" high.) Very frustrating to have your B miss your out stretched fingers and arms. A triangle shaped scoring area was used for the other event. Triangles are much easier to lay out than circles are. Use a 10 yd. base and 15 yd. altitude, draw smaller 1 yd. triangles in each corner and a 1 yd. one in the center of the big Triangle. Award most points for catches in the smaller triangles. You not only have to keep your eye on your B but need to know where your feet are for best scores. B's of particular interest at this event: Carl Naylor's unweighted distance hook going out over 70 yds; Darnell's polypropylene hooks did great in the high breezes of the day; Gerhard's large, 103 yd. range distance hook; and Barnaby Ruhe's 9 ply maple pod shape B by Peter Ruhf.

HOOKS! WHO MADE THE FIRST ONE? Jeff Lewry relates that the term 'King Billy' was applied to aborigines who threw B's at fairs, shows, etc. Ralph Sinclair of Melbourne was presented a 100 year old aborigine hook upon winning an early Boomerang Association of Australia contest (late '60s). This antique B had been made by an aborigine who had thrown his B at the weather vane of a sly grog shanty along the banks of Yarra. He was carted off to the gaol (jail), a bystander picked up the discarded B and this was passed down thru his family until it was presented to Ralph. A copy of this was fashioned by Ralph and painted black to become the original "black hook." Morris Maxwell altered the design to suit his throw. Jeff Lewry had Morris make a left hand for him, but Jeff couldn't get as spectacular a flight so modified it to suit his needs. By coincidence he finished up with an almost identical shape to the "black hook" of Ralph's. Jeff points out that there's a lot to B design, but in the end there's really nothing new under the sun.

COPIES OF NEWS-O-RANGS #1 & #2 are still available and will be enclosed in your order, if you request. N-O-R's are not dated as this seems to keep the news fresh.

FITNESS & HEALTH THRU BOOMERANGING is possible. Many customers are over 25 years old, work at inside, behind-the-desk type jobs. They enjoy B's as a light stress exercise and tension relieving sport. Spend 1 hour daily, 3 to 5 days a week & you'll tone up some muscles and perhaps shed a pound or so..watch the diet! A brisk B workout can burn off 400-500 per hour. Vitamin C taken daily not only helps your body stave off ills, but aids your system in warding off the effects of Winter~s cold. Vitamin E daily is excellent for joint aches caused by over throwing your B's or by straining your knees while chasing your B around the field. Allow 3-4 weeks before noticing any good effects from proper eating and health habits. Ask your doctor about your diet & vitamin needs first.

POSTAGE CHANGES: Please add 50c to your order, if under \$6. DO use the Order-rang.

PRICE CHANGES: Hawes colored CM-17 \$6; Colored Hawes CSL \$3.50; Joe hook etched or painted \$8.25; Gundawarra Hook \$7; Gunda Kangaroo \$6. B-MAN decals available upon request. Extra B-MAN pins 25¢. MOOMBA