



Aurora Gun Club records 2488

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Manuscripts and Archives

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URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Aurora Gun Club
Title:	Aurora Gun Club records
ID:	2488
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Date [bulk]:	1955-2006
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Abstract:	Aurora Gun Club is a private target shooting organization and social club. It has had six locations since its founding in 1895 by brothers Eugene du Pont (1873-1954) and Alexis I. du Pont (1869-1921), are all centered in the area around Wilmington, Delaware. The records of the Aurora Gun Club are comprised of records collected by the club presidents and treasurers from approximately 1955 through 2006. The records range from membership rosters, club bulletins and shoot results to financial records.

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Historical Note

Aurora Gun Club is a private target shooting organization and social club. It has had six locations since its founding in 1895 by brothers Eugene du Pont (1873-1954) and Alexis I. du Pont (1869-1921), are all centered in the area around Wilmington, Delaware. As the population of an industrial Wilmington grew past the city lines during the twentieth century and into the suburbs, Aurora was forced to move several times. However, it still continues to operate in close proximity to the site of its founding.

Aurora's founders held the earliest shoots at the property of Eugene du Pont and Alexis du Ponts' father. Eugene du Pont had long been an avid sportsman, and had become increasingly interested in trapshooting. The fifteen founding members of the club were all DuPont Company employees and du Pont family members. They together decided that membership would be by invitation only, no dues would be collected and of course with the requirement that members be "sportsmen interested in shooting."

Following World War I, the club would begin shooting at the 'Meadows on the Brandywine,' which was the home of Norman Rood. Just past the trap house, stood a stone marker denoting the Delaware - Pennsylvania state line as marked in 1892. Unique to this location was the fact that if you missed a left angle target in Delaware, probability had it that the target would land in Pennsylvania.

By the fiftieth anniversary shoot of the Aurora Gun Club, shooting was taking place near 'Dogwood,' the home of Eugene E. du Pont (1882-1966). On November 9, 1952, The Wilmington Evening Journal covered an anniversary shoot as even by then Aurora had the distinction of being one of the oldest active gun clubs in the United States.

The year 1955 saw the end of an era with the passing of Eugene du Pont late in 1954, a new president would need to be elected. A meeting was held at 'Dogwood' to determine who the next president would be. At the meeting, Thomas Edward "Ted" Doremus (1874-1962) was elected second president of the club.

With a new era of Aurora dawning under the leadership of Ted Doremus, Eugene E. du Pont was elected Chairman of the Board, a position he would hold for the rest of his life. Eugene du Pont III (1914-1995), son of the late president, was elected Vice President. Doremus also appointed Porter Schutt (1911-1999) to act as chairman of the membership committee.

In March of 1962, Doremus would retire as president in March of 1962, to be succeeded by Sam Baker. At the same time, Eugene E. du Pont attempted to resign as Chairman of the Board. His resignation from the position was declined by the membership and Eugene E. du Pont was made an Honorary Member of the club. Out of respect for Doremus, a new position was created, that of President Emeritus, for Doremus to remain active in club affairs.

Sam Baker resigned as Aurora President on December 14, 1965, to take effect January 16, 1966. At that time, long time club Secretary and Treasurer, Louise Swartz, would also step down. Aurora's third President, Jim Dunbar, would take the reins in January of 1966, with the new President, also came new Secretary/Treasurer, Elva Johnson. Dunbar also started the year with an increase in the annual assessment to \$35. After a successful career as President, Jim Dunbar would pass the reigns of Aurora to George Harrington in 1978 after just six years as President.

George Harrington would work from the start to spread the duties of officers and committeemen's duties. Harrington redefined positions to spread the duties more evenly across the board and in his first year as President, Harrington would also oversee the emergence of a new Aurora tradition, a competition with the shooters from the Vicmead Gun Club.

In 1983, Harrington raised funds to make repairs to the cabin such as fixing the cabin roof, replacing the porch floorboards, installing a fireplace mantel, and new caulking between the logs, as well as clearing brush from around the clubhouse.

Even with his success at raising the levels of attendance, Harrington pointed out that the majority of the responsibility for the operation of the club fell in the hands of the president. Not only was he preside over the shoots, he also was to manage the finances, buy targets and trophies and prepare a schedule that best suited the membership. Harrington suggested the election a Vice President, as well as a Secretary and

Treasurer, to spread the responsibility more evenly. With that task completed, Harrington announced to Schutt and Dunbar that he was retiring as President at the end of 1984.

As it turned out, the very man Harrington had commended for his work in committee, Rufus Bayard (1945-2018), was picked as the new President of the Aurora Gun Club in a secret ballot vote. His term would begin effective September 16, 1984. Upon taking the reins of Aurora, membership stood at forty-four with twenty seldom showing up for shoots, and over 40% of the membership over the age of sixty. Bayard would start out immediately with efforts to recruit new active members that would regularly show up for shoots. Shooting though would continue with the annual competition against Vicmead.

President Rufus Bayard announced his retirement and a new person to lead Aurora in 1993. Fred Fiechter was nominated and later accepted his new position being the man that would carry Aurora into its second century of shooting excellence and eventually would carry Aurora to a new location for the first time in sixty years in 2004.

The move to the site on Barley Mill Road would start in March of 2004 when Aurora was asked to find a new home. Henry B. du Pont IV, offered his property with the provision that Aurora would comply with his insurance company's regulations. The first shoot was on du Pont's Way Road property, shooting over a trap mounted on a trailer on April 25, 2004. Tough weather conditions added to the speed of the targets made for less than desirable scores. The second shoot on the property was held at a location less offensive to the residents of Way Ridge in du Pont's front field. This location was better suited for shooting with a natural noise screen and a woods background.

By October of 2004 work would begin on the new club house. Plans were presented by Charles du Pont and it was decided that members would make contributions to a building fund to equal the cost of construction for a log cabin similar to that of what was at the Hillside Road location. Nearly a year and half after the move, work was nearly complete on the new club house. Upon its completion, Henry du Pont IV was presented with a plaque honoring him for his contributions to the Aurora Gun Club.

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Scope and Content

The records of the Aurora Gun Club are comprised of records collected by the club presidents and treasurers from approximately 1955 through 2006. The collection documents the history of the Aurora Gun Club, divided into four series.

The Administration series includes important historical information and a copy of the club bylaws dating from 1995 to 2008.

Chronological files and membership series is comprised membership rosters, financial statements prepared by the treasurer, club bulletins, schedules, membership correspondence, shoot correspondence and results as well as other various information. Files are arranged by year and their original sequence dating from 1955 to 1999.

Shoots series documents club shoot's from 1946 through 1987, there are score sheets and notes on shoots, arranged by year. Also included are handicap records as well as the procedure for handicapping scores. There are a small group of club photos, predating the bulk dates of the collection.

Finally, the Financial series holds the clubs financial records from 1955 through 2005.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Manuscripts and Archives

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askhagley@hagley.org

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

Use Restrictions

Literary rights held by depositor.

Access Restrictions

Records less than twenty-five years are closed.

Litigators may not view the collection without approval.

Provenance

On Deposit from the Aurora Gun Club.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Trapshooting
- Game and game-birds
- Financial statements

- Private clubs
- Doremus, T. E. (Thomas E.), 1874-1962
- Du Pont, Eugene E. (Eugene Eleuthère), 1882-1966
- Reynolds, W. Glasgow (William Glasgow), 1911-1987
- Du Pont family

Collection Inventory

Administration, 1995-2008

Scope and Content

Includes important historical information and a copy of the club bylaws.

Title/Description	Instances	
Historical information including bulletins with important club events, committee listings, as well as general club operations, 1995-2008	box 1	folder 1

Scope and content

Folder of useful historical information, compiled from 1955 through 2008. Includes bulletins with important club events, committee listings, as well as general club operations.

Bylaws, 2001 July 1 [**Closed until 2026**]

box 1

folder 2

[Access to collection:](#)

Access to collection

Under time seal.

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Chronological files and membership, 1955-1999

Scope and Content

Included are membership rosters, financial statements prepared by the treasurer, club bulletins, schedules, membership correspondence, shoot correspondence and results as well as other various information. Files are arranged by year and their original sequence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Rosters, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Financial Statements, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Presidential Election, 1955	box 1	folder 3

Dated bulletins, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Shoot results, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Correspondence, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Roster, 1956	box 1	folder 4
Bulletins 11, 12, 14-22, 1956	box 1	folder 4
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1956	box 1	folder 4
Roster, 1957	box 1	folder 5
Financial Statements, 1957	box 1	folder 5
Bulletins 23-32, 1957	box 1	folder 5
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1957	box 1	folder 5
Entertainment Committee Appointments, 1957	box 1	folder 5
Roster, 1958	box 1	folder 6
Financial Statement, 1958	box 1	folder 6
Bulletins 33-46, 1958	box 1	folder 6
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1958	box 1	folder 6
Roster, 1959	box 1	folder 7
Financial Statement, 1959	box 1	folder 7
Bulletins 47-58, 1959	box 1	folder 7
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1959	box 1	folder 7
Trap repairs and clippings from newspapers on members, 1959	box 1	folder 7
Roster, 1960	box 1	folder 8
Financial Statement, 1960	box 1	folder 8
Bulletins 59-67, 1960	box 1	folder 8
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1960	box 1	folder 8
Letter from Norman Rood (owner of Meadows on the Brandywine property), 1960	box 1	folder 8
Roster, 1961	box 1	folder 9
Financial Statement, 1961	box 1	folder 9
Bulletins 1-13 (new numbering system), 1961	box 1	folder 9
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1961	box 1	folder 9
Survey on purchase of electric trap, 1961	box 1	folder 9
Bulletins 1-9, 1962	box 1	folder 10
Membership Correspondence, 1962		

	box 1	folder 10
Roster, 1963	box 1	folder 11
Financial Statement and Assessment Record, 1963	box 1	folder 11
Bulletins 1-4, 6-9, 1963	box 1	folder 11
Membership Correspondence, 1963	box 1	folder 11
Roster, 1964	box 1	folder 12
Financial Statement, 1964	box 1	folder 12
Bulletins 1-10, 1964	box 1	folder 12
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1964	box 1	folder 12
Roster, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Financial Statement, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Resignation Letter from Sam Baker as President, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Bulletins 1-8, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Correspondence regarding lack of club participation, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Shoot Correspondence, 1965	box 1	folder 13
Roster, 1966	box 1	folder 14
Assessment Listing, 1966	box 1	folder 14
Bulletins 1-11, 1966	box 1	folder 14
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1966	box 1	folder 14
Roster, 1967	box 1	folder 15
Financial Statement, 1967	box 1	folder 15
Bulletins 1-10, 1967	box 1	folder 15
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1967	box 1	folder 15
Letters regarding issues with Remington Trap, 1967	box 1	folder 15
Roster, 1968	box 1	folder 16
Financial Statement, 1968	box 1	folder 16
Bulletins 1-11, 1968	box 1	folder 16
Shoot and Trap Trouble Correspondence, 1968	box 1	folder 16
Roster, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Financial Statement, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Assessment List, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Bulletins 1-7, 1969	box 1	folder 17

Bulletins 9-12, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Membership Correspondence, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Shoot attendance lists, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Correspondence regarding the first Game Dinner, 1969	box 1	folder 17
Roster, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Bulletins 1-9, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Membership Correspondence, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Shoot attendance list, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Game Dinner invoice and first menu as well as guest list, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Special Bulletin on handling tie scores, 1970	box 1	folder 18
Bulletins 1-9, 1971	box 1	folder 19
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1971	box 1	folder 19
Roster, 1972	box 1	folder 20
Financial Statements, 1972	box 1	folder 20
Bulletins 1-9, 1972	box 1	folder 20
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1972	box 1	folder 20
Letters with Balfour regarding medals, 1972	box 1	folder 20
Roster, 1973	box 1	folder 21
Bulletins 1-9, 1973	box 1	folder 21
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1973	box 1	folder 21
Game Dinner Menu and Invoice, 1973	box 1	folder 21
Roster, 1974	box 1	folder 22
Financial Statement, 1974	box 1	folder 22
Bulletins 1-9, 1974	box 1	folder 22
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1974	box 1	folder 22
Roster, 1975	box 1	folder 23
Bulletins 1-9, 1975	box 1	folder 23
Membership Correspondence, 1975	box 1	folder 23
Shoot Attendance List, 1975	box 1	folder 23
Game Dinner Correspondence, 1975	box 1	folder 23
Roster, 1976	box 1	folder 24
Bulletins 1-9, 1976	box 1	folder 24

Membership Correspondence, 1976	box 1	folder 24
Shoot Attendance lists, 1976	box 1	folder 24
Game Dinner bulletin and Menu, 1976	box 1	folder 24
Bulletins 1-9, 1977	box 1	folder 25
Membership and Shoot Correspondence, 1977	box 1	folder 25
Roster, 1978	box 1	folder 26
Financial Statement, 1978	box 1	folder 26
Bulletins 1-9, 1978	box 1	folder 26
Membership Correspondence, 1978	box 1	folder 26
Shoot attendance lists, 1978	box 1	folder 26
Bulletins, 1979 JanuaryMarchMayJuly	box 1	folder 27
Bulletins, 1979 September-December	box 1	folder 27
List of shoots and winners, 1977 October-1979 April	box 1	folder 27
Membership Correspondence, 1979	box 1	folder 27
Game Dinner menu and related material, 1979	box 1	folder 27
Attendance list and invoice, 1979	box 1	folder 27
Survey, 1979	box 1	folder 27
Bulletins, 1980 February-December	box 1	folder 28
Game Dinner Menu and Cook-Out Correspondence, 1980	box 1	folder 28
Roster, 1981	box 1	folder 29
Bulletins, 1981 January-June	box 1	folder 29
Bulletins, 1981 September-December	box 1	folder 29
Membership Correspondence, 1981	box 1	folder 29
Game Dinner Menu and Announcement, 1981	box 1	folder 29
Letter from George Harrington to Mrs. Donald P. Ross regarding trophy for Aurora/Vicmead Shoot, 1981	box 1	folder 29
Bulletins, 1982 January	box 1	folder 30
Bulletins, 1982 March-June	box 1	folder 30
Bulletins, 1982 September-December	box 1	folder 30
Financial Statement, 1982	box 1	folder 30
Membership Correspondence, 1982	box 1	folder 30
Bulletins, 1983 March-June	box 1	folder 31
Bulletins, 1983 September-November		

	box 1	folder 31
Membership Correspondence, 1983	box 1	folder 31
Survey on wives attending shoots, 1983	box 1	folder 31
Cabin repair, 1983	box 1	folder 31
Game Dinner menu and report from meeting on membership and shoot prizes etc from George Harrington, 1983	box 1	folder 31
Bulletins, 1984	box 1	folder 32
Financial Statement, 1984	box 1	folder 32
Retirement of George Harrington as President, 1984	box 1	folder 32
Vicmead Shoot Correspondence, 1984	box 1	folder 32
George Ward Clipping, 1984	box 1	folder 32
Financial Statement, 1985	box 1	folder 33
Bulletins, 1985 February-June	box 1	folder 33
Bulletins, 1985 September-December	box 1	folder 33
Membership Correspondence, 1985	box 1	folder 33
Letter from Gene du Pont regarding Ducks Unlimited, 1985	box 1	folder 33
Game Dinner menu and related material, 1985	box 1	folder 33
Article on Delaware Trapshooters from the <i>News Journal</i> , 1985	box 1	folder 33
Roster, 1986	box 1	folder 34
Financial Statement, 1986	box 1	folder 34
Schedule, 1986	box 1	folder 34
Bulletins, 1986 February-June	box 1	folder 34
Bulletins, 1986 September-December	box 1	folder 34
Membership Correspondence, 1986	box 1	folder 34
Financial Statement, 1987	box 1	folder 35
Bulletins, 1987 February-May	box 1	folder 35
Bulletins, 1987 September-December	box 1	folder 35
Invite to Vicmead Doubles Shoot, 1987	box 1	folder 35
Game Dinner menu and related material, 1987	box 1	folder 35
Listing of shoot winners, 1987	box 1	folder 35
Financial Statement, 1988	box 1	folder 36
Schedule, 1988	box 1	folder 36
Bulletins, 1988 January	box 1	folder 36

Bulletins, 1988 March-June	box 1	folder 36
Bulletins, 1988 September-November	box 1	folder 36
Game Dinner invoice and correspondence, 1988	box 1	folder 36
Ducks Unlimited Shoot flyer, 1988	box 1	folder 36
Bulletins, 1989 January-June	box 1	folder 37
Bulletins, 1989 SeptemberOctoberDecember	box 1	folder 37
Wilmington Club dinner invoice, 1989	box 1	folder 37
Game Dinner menu, 1989	box 1	folder 37
Roster, 1990	box 1	folder 38
Financial Statement, 1990	box 1	folder 38
Bulletins - January, March, May, June, 1990	box 1	folder 38
Bulletins - August-December, 1990	box 1	folder 38
Schedule, 1991	box 1	folder 39
Bulletins - January-June, 1991	box 1	folder 39
Bulletins - September-December, 1991	box 1	folder 39
Bulletins - March-May, 1992	box 1	folder 40
Bulletins - September-November, 1992	box 1	folder 40
Invoice for Vicmead luncheon, 1992	box 1	folder 40
Bulletins - January-June, 1993	box 1	folder 41
Schedule, 1993	box 1	folder 41
Bulletins - August-November, 1993	box 1	folder 41
Game Dinner Menu, 1993	box 1	folder 41
Postcard recommending Edward du Pont for membership, 1993	box 1	folder 41
Schedule, 1994	box 1	folder 42
Membership List, 1994	box 1	folder 42
Game Dinner attendance list, 1994	box 1	folder 42
Bulletins - May, July, October, November, 1995	box 1	folder 43
Membership lists, 1995	box 1	folder 43
Menu from 100th Anniversary Dinner, 1995	box 1	folder 43
Schedule, 1996	box 1	folder 44
Bulletins - January, March-May, August, October, November, 1996	box 1	folder 44
Schedule, 1997		

	box 1	folder 45
Bulletins, 1997 FebruaryApril-JuneJuly	box 1	folder 45
Bulletins, 1997 September-December	box 1	folder 45
Membership Correspondence and list, 1997	box 1	folder 45
Game Dinner attendees, 1997	box 1	folder 45
Schedule, 1998	box 1	folder 46
Bulletins, 1998 January	box 1	folder 46
Bulletins, 1998 April-July	box 1	folder 46
Bulletins, 1998 September-December	box 1	folder 46
Bulletins, 1999 March-June	box 1	folder 47
Bulletins, 1999 August-December	box 1	folder 47
Schedule, 2000	box 1	folder 48
Bulletins, 2000 JanuaryMarchAprilJuneAugustSeptemberNovemberDecember	box 1	folder 48
Schedule, Bulletins, 2001 JanuaryMarch-July	box 1	folder 49
Bulletins, 2001 September-November	box 1	folder 49
Game Dinner menu, 2001	box 1	folder 49
Schedule, 2002	box 1	folder 50
Bulletins, 2002 JanuaryMarch-JulySeptemberNovember	box 1	folder 50
Membership List, 2002	box 1	folder 50
Bulletins, 2003 March-November	box 1	folder 51
Game Dinner menu and listing of attendees, 2003	box 1	folder 51
Membership Renewal forms (separate folder), 2003	box 1	folder 51
Membership List, 2003	box 1	folder 51
Bulletins, 2004 March-July	box 1	folder 52
Bulletins (with clubhouse plans), 2004 September-December	box 1	folder 52
Membership List, 2004	box 1	folder 52
Membership Renewal forms (separate folder), 2004	box 1	folder 52
Membership Renewal forms, 2005	box 1	folder 53
Membership Renewal Forms, 2006	box 1	folder 54
Membership Lists, 1958-1978	box 1	folder 55
Miscellaneous Pamphlets	box 1	folder 56

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Shoots, 1930193519401946-2004

Scope and Content

Documents club shoot's from 1946 through 1987, there are score sheets and notes on shoots, arranged by year. Also included are handicap records as well as the procedure for handicapping scores. There are a small group of club photos, predating the bulk dates of the collection.

Title/Description	Instances	
Score Book (by name), 1946-1953	box 1	folder 57
Score Book, 1957-1958	box 1	folder 58
Score Book, 1953-1960	box 1	folder 59
1966-1969, 1966-1969	box 1	folder 60
1970-1987, 1970-1987	box 2	folder 1
Record of Shell Sales (see box 3), 1972-1982	box 2	folder 2
Listing of Shoot Winners, 1955-1989	box 2	folder 3
Handicaps, 1979-1985	box 2	folder 4
Miscellaneous and Undated	box 2	folder 5
Photograph of squad on the Line (with Eugene du Pont and Ted Doremus), 1930	box 2	folder 6
Booklet of Photos, 1940	box 2	folder 6
Photo, Eugene du Pont and Bill Ellis, 1948	box 2	folder 6
Booklet of photos from "Meadows on the Brandywine"(see Box 3), 19351959	box 2	folder 6
Group Photo, 1977	box 2	folder 6
Group Photo, 1983	box 2	folder 6
Photograph of Aurora Squad(Mike du Pont, Charles du Pont, Henry B. du Pont, Victor du Pont, Edward du Pont), 2004	box 2	folder 6

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Financial, 1955-2005

Access Restrictions:

Access Restrictions

Portions of this series are subject to a twenty-five year time seal.

Scope and Contents

Clubs financial records through the year 2005.

Title/Description	Instances	
Deposit Slips, 1955-19851993-19951996-1999	box 2	folder 9
Statements and Related Material, 19721978-198419861988-2004	box 2	folder 7
Book of Receipts and Expenditures, 1955-1991	box 2	folder 8
Miscellaneous Receipts and Bills, 1957-1995	box 2	folder 10
Financial Statements prepared by club President/Treasurer	box 2	folder 11
Miscellaneous Shoot Records (financial), 1962-1978	box 2	folder 12
Assessments, 1967-1978	box 2	folder 13
Shoot Financial Reports, 1975-19781980-1988	box 2	folder 14
Check Registers, 1977-1995	box 2	folder 15
Budgets and Related Material, 1979-1985	box 2	folder 16
Record of Cash Account, 1979-1984	box 2	folder 17
Trophy Receipts, 1970-1978	box 2	folder 18
Deposit Agreements, Signature Authorizations, 1981	box 2	folder 19
Workers Compensation File	box 2	folder 20
Copies of Membership and Assessment Checks, 2003-2005	box 2	folder 21
Funding for Trap, 2004	box 2	folder 22
Dues and Assessment (clubhouse), 2005	box 2	folder 23

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Artifact, 1937

Title/Description	Instances
Ice bucket trophy - Alexis I. du Pont Memorial Shoot, 1937	box 4

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