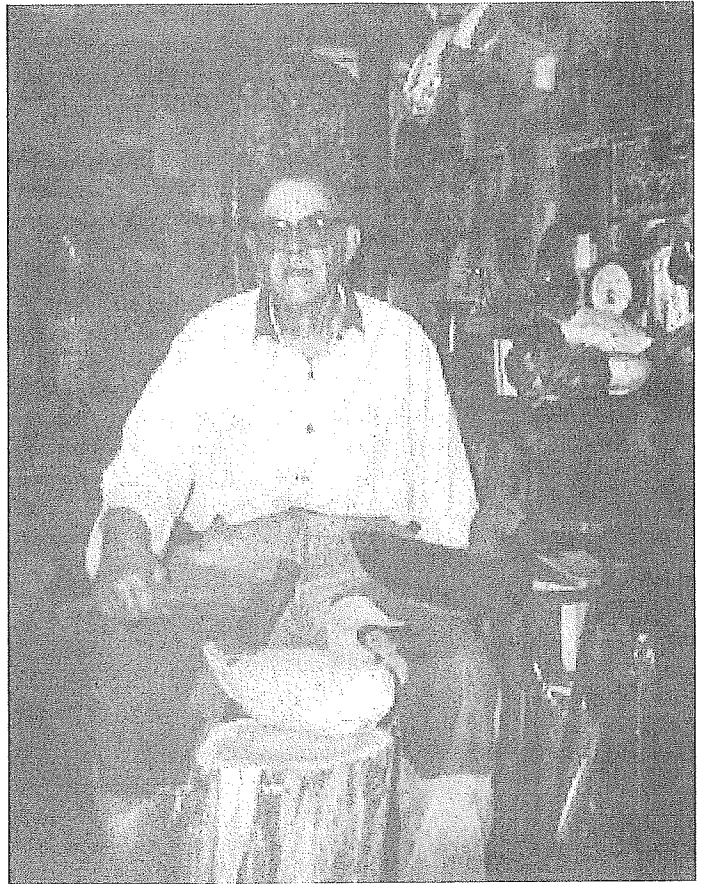




NELSON HOLLOWAY

As told to Lillian Hoey Gomez

Nelson Holloway was born 83 years ago in Lakehurst, N.J. His dad was a construction worker there and helped to build the large hangars.

At age 13, Nelson started gunning with his granddad at Dixon Meadows, which is where the Salem nuclear plant is today.

In 1940, he came to Lower Bank and gunned for Black Ducks and Canvas Backs at Log Bay with his L. L. Bean decoys. He took care of the waters and duck blinds for the Kovacs family. While there, his granddad taught him how to hunt for rabbit with his foxhound, named Music. He also hunted deer and duck on the Mullica. From there he gunned the salt ponds near Fortescue.

His dad had a home on the Choptank River, and they were always hunting. In those days he baited in the morning and hunted in the evening. He always had a supply of quail, black ducks and geese. He and his family ate everything they hunted. Sometimes when they had so much, they would pay the neighbors who were looking for work a dollar to pluck everything for them. An albino canvasback he once shot was a great find, so he had it mounted instead of for dinner.

During his life, Nelson oystered, crabbed commercially and gill netted for stripers. In 1979, the law kept baymen from overharvesting them, which was smart, when looking back.

Nelson's dad was a champion trap shooter. He was six times doubles champion. But Nelson could never get into that because it was expensive. He was raising a family and did best duck hunting. For decoys he used stuffed ducks and geese done by Harold Hall in Maryland.

Ronny Bozarth's father and Nelson both worked for Dupont and became friends. Nelson had clam beds off Great Bay Boulevard and used to clam them. One day, while driving home from a day of clamming there, his trailer wheels got too hot and he stopped at the Bozarth homes. Ron's father was just about to put a for-sale sign on his house next door when Nelson saw it and said, "Don't put that up, this house is sold. To me." And that is where he has been for all these years. ■