



Ivan Carter, left, with client, Ted Jernigan, takes a well-deserved breather following a foot safari for elephant. "After days of tracking here, Ted and I were enjoying the moment, having worked so long and hard. It's a feeling hard to describe. On one hand, it is pure elation. On the other, it is a somber moment as one reflects on a magnificent animal. Sharing this moment with a friend on safari is simply the reason we hunt. Magnificent experiences in pursuit of truly magnificent game." Notice both hunters are wearing identical Russell Safari "PH" II boots with gum rubber shoes.

Photos by Richard Sanders



If you truly want to learn something about your product, ask a PH to use it or wear it for a season. We asked Ivan to put the moccasin-soled Thula Thulas through their paces. We placed no restrictions on how or where he wore them. After 10 solid weeks in the bush and some 217 foot miles over rocks, mountains, and every other kind of terrain, Ivan returned his test boots for resoling. This time we added a thin Vibram rock-climbing sole to make them "PH proof".

learn what we needed to know immediately. The extreme high temperatures and hot sand of Africa could not be replicated here.

I said, "Let's build a couple pairs of "PH" IIs for some of our PH customers and send them over to Africa. They still have half the season remaining. That's where we will learn how the boots perform - in Africa, on a PH's feet, hunting the second half of the safari season."

We emailed our PH friends whose foot measurements were on file and asked if they would be willing to do testing for us, specifically in hot, sandy conditions. Garry Kelley of Bonwa Phala Safaris and Paul Stones of Paul Stones Safaris agreed to test the new sole and glue combination.

We knew that Garry and Paul would probably wear the sole down to nothing in the three months of tough hunting they had ahead of them. The adhesion properties of the new glue compound were our primary concern. The gum rubber

sole, while extremely quiet, does not have the durability of our other soles. But if you want to be quiet, which always pleases your PH, the gum rubber sole is your choice. As a client hunter, you can wear your boots on safari and upon your return have them resoled by the Russell repair department. Your quiet safari boots will be waiting in your closet for your next safari.

When everyone gathered for the SCI Convention in Reno the following January, Paul brought his test boots to our booth. Sure enough, the soles were badly worn. But the glue held. Garry reported similar performance. What we learned in less than three months, thanks to our PH friends and boot testers, was invaluable. We were confident that the new cement had solved the problem. We resoled Paul's boots with a longer-wearing Vibram Air Bob sole and sent them back to Africa with him.

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We expect PHs to be hard on footwear because they hunt a lifetime every year. South African PH Paul Stones has worn Russell "PH" boots for years. He brought the pair pictured here to our Safari Club booth one year wondering if they might be saved.