



July, 2017

Mountain Man Monthly

The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

Regular Monthly Meeting
August 3, 7:00 p.m.

Club Primitive Shoot - Aug. 6

Grainger Paper Camp Out
August 19-20

No Club Paper Shoot - Sept. 3
Join us at State Shoot

Sept. 7 - Club Meeting
7:00 p.m. Potluck Supper &
election of officers

President
Joy Hicks

Vice President
Robert McCune

Treasurer
Gwen Blanchard

Secretary
Susan Weed

Membership Chairman
Ted Beaupre

Range Officer
Ted Beaupre

Primitive Exec.
Doug Davis

Assistant Primitive Exec.
Don Kenitzer

Cannon Master
Richard Stites

Mountain Man Monthly Editor
Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	August 3; 7:00 p.m.	regular club meeting
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	August 6	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Grainger Paper Camp Out & Shoot	near Victor	August 19-20	camping, potluck on Saturday, shooting fun and frolics; election
Camp Alexander Boy Scout Demo	near Divide follow signs	August 26 time TBD	will be lots of shooting & club furnishes ball & powder
CSMLA State Shoot	Ft. Lupton	September 1-4	fun for all
NO PAPER SHOOT	ON SEPTEMBER	3; LABOR DAY	HOLIDAY (<i>State Shoot</i>)
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	Sept.7; 7:00 p.m.	potluck supper & election
Muzzle Loading Hunting Season (deer/elk/moose)	Statewide	Sept. 9-17	Good luck to all our hunters as they pursue their game.
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Sept. 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 5	who knows what will transpire.
Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 14-15	camping Friday evening; potluck on Saturday night, auction
Regular Club Meeting and annual craft fair	American Legion	Nov. 2; 7:00 p.m.	bring your crafts of any kind and plenty of money to buy them up.
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME ENDS	NOVEMBER 5	CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR!!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 19	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting and ornament exchange	American Legion	Dec. 7; 7:00 p.m.	bring a wrapped ornament and your favorite finger foods.
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Dec. 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & Wild Game Potluck	American Legion	Jan. 4, 2018	bring your favorite "wild game" dish & utensils
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 7, 2018	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 442-0150 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
 Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org

PAST THINGS

The July meeting went off very well. Our Vice President Bob did a great job keeping us on track and moving forward. We had a short and sweet business meeting and then were treated to a listing of prepping materials by Susan Weed. If you missed this demonstration, you missed a very thought provoking and future forward thinking session. Susan displayed many items that we can all use for safety and in preparation for evacuation. Remember the fires and floods that have caused folks to have to leave their homes? The ideas that Susan had will make us all think about things like this for a long time to come. None of us are exempt from the future.



APOLOGIES.....

So you know how the best laid plans of mice and men (or women) can become derailed with very little effort? That is what happened with the last issue of the *Mountain Man Monthly*.

Some of you who had renewed your dues received letters with a sticker indicating that it would be your last issue because you had not paid your dues. It was all a bad timing and US Postal Service problem. In between the June meeting and the publication of the June newsletter, the list of unpaid dues was updated. However, the USPS did not deliver the new listing in time for the mailing of the June newsletter.

Therefore, several folks who had renewed and should not have gotten the sticker, received the sticker in error. We apologize to you all and hope that you will forgive us for the error. (Although if the USPS had just delivered the new list in the normal amount of time, it would not have occurred.)

We have updated all the listings and checked them twice to ensure that all of you who received the sticker and let us know we were wrong, are now on the current and paid up listing. Communication is always a troublesome thing!!!!

Paper Pistol Match July 2, 2017

by: Ken West

The temperature was very pleasant, but the wind was a bit gusty. This in no way explains my poor shooting! Five of us shot; the scores were:

Mary Beth Zaborowski	92-2x
Al Bartok	92-2x
Tom Gabor	85x
John Udovich	78x
Ken West	66x

Mary Beth is John's daughter - - and has won every match that she's shot with us! Learning an old trick, I put 11 holes in the paper - - - I've gotta' get a better set of binoculars!



Grainger's Primitive Camp Out

By Joy Hicks for Doug Davis

The July 15-16 Primitive Camp Out started with the Friday arrival being very.....WET.

We woke up on Saturday morning with a blue sky and a few good men ready to set up the range. Hardy souls showed up prepared to shoot. We had some new pilgrims wander in (they had met Don Stoner at the gun show); Frank and Sue Ellis and David and Lara McQuire. And then the rains came again, forcing a long lunch break. Unfortunately, the pilgrims had to leave before they could shoot but they did join CSML. When you see them, be sure to give them a great big welcome.

The afternoon blue sky made sure that everyone finished their targets. Singe introduced a young lady to the wonderful world of muzzle loading; Jen Welthore is hooked!

The shooting done and it being 6:00 not 6:00ish, Doug donned his top hat and the festivities of

the evening began. There were 17 people in attendance. The judging of the chili began. First was mildest and the winner was entry #1 -- Sandra Gabor. Next was the tastiest and the winner was entry #1 --- Tom and Sandra Gabor (sounded like they both had a hand in the prep.) Then the hottest winner was entry #1 -- Tom Gabor. The rest of us thought "we always have so much chili I'll bring something to go with it". Fortunately Sandra brought a BIG pot of mild, tasty, hot chili and everyone ate their fill of a well-balanced meal.

Doug moved the food and spread an array of prizes, giving all participants a plenty of great choices.

Prizes awarded, Doug rubbed his hands together and with an ornery grin on his face asked "Who did something dumb today?" and the fun began. New Mountain Man names were given.

Jacob Rathman	<i>Shoots at Anything</i>
Craig Thomas	<i>I Don't Know</i>
Cori Hopingardner	<i>I Can't Remember</i>
Jock Harmon	<i>I Can't Shut Up</i>
Jen Welthore	<i>Walking Wounded</i>

The weather on Saturday evening was good and everyone enjoyed visiting under the stars.

Sunday was beautiful and we had a grand breakfast; eggs by Sandra, buttermilk pancakes by Joy, fruit, sausage and other yummy goodies.

Some people were scared away from coming this weekend because of the weather. Our weather up there was better than down in town. We didn't have a lot of people but those who did come had a good time. Hope you will plan on making the Grainger Paper Camp Out August 19 & 20.

Camp Out Scores

Men:

Tom Gabor	31
Randy Ruyle	30
Jock Harmon	28
Jake Rathman	25 (shot with a pistol)
John Gloyd	22
Don Stoner	18
Craig Thomas	18

Ladies:

Cori Hopingardner	22
Jen Welthore	22
(New shooter brought by Richard Stites)	

Pistol:

Jake Rathman	18
Jim Murray	17
Ken West	12

See you all at the August Grainger's Camp Out. Remember we will have another potluck supper on Saturday at 6:00 or so and breakfast on Sunday morning around 8:00 a.m. or so. Don't be afraid to come on up and join in the fun!

+<+ +<+ +<+ +<+ +<+

Grainger's Primitive Shoot

by: Ken West

Only three of us shot pistol (not a lot of people were there). Jay Rathman missed two targets, Jim Murray missed three, and I came in last! There will be a half-pound of Swiss "Null-B" powder on the prize table for the Grainger's in August. This is the 30F flash powder (uniform grain size) that everyone is raving about.

Gossip: As the numbers dwindle at Grainger's, the camaraderie seems to increase. I overate, of course!

After two gunsmiths at Friendship failed to repair the set trigger of my target pistol, Bernie Penfield confirmed my suspicion that I

had worn it out - - the end of the bar that the trigger hooks over had become rounded. Bernie flattened it back out with a stone and told me that there is enough metal left for me to wear the set trigger out three more times. He set the trigger for a 2-pound trigger pull - - which seems ideal - - and added a drop of "lock-tite" to keep it there!!!

^&^&^&^&^& ^&^&^&^&^&

PREPAREDNESS TEST

Following are a few of the questions on a preparedness test that Susan Weed shared with us at the June meeting. These are very thought provoking and we all need to take a minute or two to think about them and possibly take some action.

If an emergency lasted for three days (72 hours) before help was available to you and your family.....

- Would you have sufficient food?
- Would you have the means to cook food without gas or electricity?
- Would you have sufficient water for drinking, cooking, and sanitary needs?
- Does each member of your household (including your pets) have a 72-hour evacuation kit?
- Will each person/pet be able to carry or transport their own evacuation kit?
- Have you established an out-of-state contact?
- Do you have a first aid kit?
- Do you have work gloves and some tools for minor rescue and clean up?
- Do you have emergency cash on hand?
- If the power goes out, do you have a way to heat at least part of your house?
- If you need medications, do you have a month's supply on hand?
- Do you have a plan for toilet facilities if there is an extended water shortage?

- Do you have enough food, clothing, and fuel to last you for 6 months to a year?
- Do you have a plan for how to deal with your pets and livestock in an emergency?

Some of the other questions are good to think about for general use as well as in emergencies:

- Is there a flashlight in every occupied bedroom?
- Do you keep shoes near your bed to protect your feet against broken glass or debris?
- Do you know how to turn off the water and gas valves in case of a rupture? Do these require special tools and are those tools available?
- Do you have duplicate keys and copies of important insurance and other papers stored outside of your home?
- If you have to evacuate, do all family members know where to meet up?

In this world as it is today, who knows what could or may happen and we could all be in a situation that requires some pre-planning for survival. Again, some things to think about as none of us are getting any younger.

#

The year is fast dwindling down. We are already in August and there are some things ahead of us that need our attention now:

September's meeting is a potluck and our annual elections. Think about what you want to bring and share with all. You might also want to think about being in attendance so that you don't get elected to an office in your absence.

October is the annual bird and buffalo camp out and shoot at Ft. Melchert. We have an auction after the potluck on Saturday and there are always some good things that make it for this sale. The only rule is whatever you bring that does not sell, you must take back with you. Bakers, the goodies always go well and disappear quickly.

November is the holiday craft fair. You can bring any

of your crafts or things to trade or sell to the meeting. Tables are free and you have no restrictions. This also means you might want to bring some money as you never know what may be up for sale.

December is the annual ornament exchange. If you bring a wrapped ornament you can draw a new one. This is a fun event and we bring finger foods to share while we enjoy the fun of opening the surprise gifts.

Then we will be in a new year - - - 2018!!!! Time to begin thinking about the 43rd annual Black Powder Shoot.

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

The Encyclopedia of Trade Goods PROVISIONS OF THE FUR TRADE

Provisions of the Fur Trade (\$110) is one of six volumes on fur trade material culture being produced by the Museum of the Fur Trade; it is the result of over 60 years of research. The book is nearly 500 pages long, with over 600 illustrations, most in color. Subjects covered include fur trade rations, feasts, and famines; bread and biscuits, grain including wild rice, fruits, sugars including maple; condiments, soaps, spices, fur trade gardening and husbandry, the Indian trade in meat, corn, and other foods; fish, preservation of foods, including pemmican, canning, drying, etc.

Other major chapters are devoted to the trade in liquor, beer, and wine; tobacco and beverages such as tea, chocolate, and coffee. The text and illustrations also deal with government rations intended to divert the Indians from their old lifestyles and into subsidized reservation existence. The entire North American continent is covered, from the earliest voyages to the end of the fur trade.

At this time three of the intended six volumes have been issued and are available. Complete your collection with *Firearms of the Fur Trade* (\$135), and *Clothing and Textiles of the Fur Trade* (\$150). Museum members receive a 10% discount. Future releases will include Tools and Utensils, Firearms Accessories and Hand Weapons, and Ornaments and Art Supplies.

Send check and order to:
Museum of the Fur Trade
6321 Highway 20
Chadron, NE 69337

Book Report

Hugh Glass: Grizzly Survivor

James D. McLaird. Pierre: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2016. South Dakota biography series; volume 5, 238 pp. \$14.95 (paper). Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.

This is by far the best book on the Hugh Glass story to date. McLaird evaluates the four principal sources of the Glass saga which narrate to varying degrees his early life, the mauling by the grizzly, his desertion by his fellow trappers, his survival, and his seeking retribution. These sources, James Hall, Lieutenant Philip St. George Cooke, Edmund Flagg, and George Yount each gained information from those who likely knew Glass personally. In addition, there are two brief accounts by fellow trappers, Daniel Pottsw and James Clyman. Although both men worked with Glass for the same Ashley/Henry trapping company, neither witnessed the grizzly mauling first hand.

Though some information written by his "biographers" lacks verification and each differs somewhat in detail from the others, there appears to be enough source material to verify the general authenticity of the Hugh Glass saga. Except for his survival after being mauled within an inch of his life and being abandoned by his fellow trappers without any means of subsistence, Glass himself was unexceptional in the trapping community. He appears as an ordinary trapper; he was neither a leader nor did he accomplish anything of note in the fur trade.

In successive chapters, McLaird gives us a sketch background of the American fur trade out of St. Louis to 1823, an evaluation of the Arikara attack on the Ashley brigade in June 1823, and Hugh Glass' subsequent history to his demise at the hands of the Arikara in the winter of 1832-1833. At the time of his death, Glass was working as a hunter for the Ameri-

can Fur Company out of Fort Cass at the mouth of the Bighorn River on the Yellowstone.

In his chapter, "Creating a Western Legend," McLaird examines the various fictional and biographical accounts and images of the Hugh Glass legend to the present. The story has endured and expanded to the novel, *The Revenant* (2002) by Michael Punke, and a recent Oscar nominated movie of the same name "inspired" by the novel. The bear mauling has evolved to a knife fight with Glass succeeding in killing the bear. One has only to examine James Clyman's original account of the bear attack written just a month after the incident to get a more authentic version. Though Clyman was not present at the incident, he had recently served with Glass and likely received information from members of the Glass party. According to Clyman, Glass provoked the bear attack with an initial shot and the bear was eventually killed by multiple balls from the rest of his party.

In his final chapter, McLaird examines the habits of grizzly bears and their encounters with humans during the 19th century when they roamed the Great Plains in considerable numbers. He states that most bear attacks from Lewis & Clark on, were the result of hunters first shooting the bear, provoking attack.

McLaird brings clarity to the Hugh Glass saga. It is well documented and evaluated. It is recommended to anyone interested in the story.

#####

Target Shooting on St. George's Day at Moose Factory

By: H.M.S. Cotter, late of Cumberland House

Editor's note: The following memoir was originally published in the March 1931 issue of The Beaver. It contains an excellent description of a nineteenth century fur trade shooting contest.

It was customary at Moose Factory in times gone by to observe St. George's Day. The custom dated back many years, and no doubt was introduced by some patriotic Englishman. A century and a half ago [circa 1780] there is evidence of the day being

kept, for in a document of the time it is recorded as follows: "Saturday 22nd April, 1780, Tomorrow being Sunday observed this as St. George's Day." The following year the scribe of the time says: "Monday 23rd April, 1781...when as usual exercised the men and gave them brandy and strong beer."

A great drouth appears to have set in following this period, for during the decade between 1879 and 1889, although St. George's Day was annually observed, it had simmered down to a half holiday, and the one and only event was target shooting.

The target was placed on the ice in the river and each man had three shots at one hundred and fifty yards or perhaps farther. Some remarkably good shooting was done. It was a test of skill and good eyesight, for rarely nowadays does one see shooting with the smoothbore as was displayed at that period. The writer has seen a great deal of native shooting, and it can be affirmed that those who have never handled a rifled firearm did equally as good as and sometimes better than those who were accustomed to using the .44 and the .38-55 Winchester.

And not only were those old-timers using the smooth-bore muzzle-loader, but also black powder, bullets or ball made from the lead of tea chests (with no tin added), and the guns were fired right off the shoulder with no rests, and yet "bull's-eyes" were not infrequent and "magpies" quite common. It was only the green hands who missed the target altogether.

Now, while there is a very fine and patriotic sentiment in the observing the day of the patron saint of Old England, it cannot be said that shooting at a target in honour thereof is odd or unusual, yet a very strange custom in connection with this shooting was annually adhered to. The target, [mounted] on one inch spruce boards and about five by four feet, stood possibly six and a half feet high when the legs were attached. As each man fired, his name was written over the bullet hole he made, and when the shooting was finished the target would be riddled with holes and covered with names. After the scores were reckoned up, the target would be put carefully away. When St. George's Day came around again, instead of making a new one, the old one was brought out, the bullet holes plugged and sawn off flush with the face, the names were then planed out and new rings and bull's eyes painted on. Had this practice prevailed for

a year or two, no comment could be made; but the shooting at and the plugging of the same target was an annual occurrence, and at the end of seven or eight years the reverse side had hundreds and hundreds of plugs sticking through about three inches.

St. George's Day was a red letter day, and always a time to look forward to our juvenile years; but, when I recall it now, a vision of this scraggy target always appears, looking for all the world like a hair brush on a large scale.

"The standard target of the period was a set of nine circles with an X or bull's eye in the center. The innermost circles, 7, 8, and 9, were painted black, and the outer rings were white. A bullet striking the division line between the black rings and the white rings was called a "magpie," and a black and white flag, divided diagonally, was used to signal such a score. How big the rings were is not stated, but assumedly the largest ring was about four feet across.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Ever since there have been muzzle loaders and people who shoot them, there have been discussions and even down-right fights about patches. The following article is taken from *The Buckskin Report*, March, 1981. The names are real and many of them have been in the muzzle loading sport for a long, long time.

"Patches and True Faith"

A Response from Sam Fadala

A couple of months back I wrote up some facts about the patch in a round ball shooting firearm and two readers/writers jumped on me like a hungry coyote pounces on a rabbit that has two broken legs. Don't get me wrong. I don't mind. This is America, folks, and I thank God that we can still disagree with each other without being blackballed, shot at, or tarred and feathered. I'm not mad at Walt Viggers and John Woolfolk. And I don't think they are made at me. Of course, being called all wet sort of ruffled my feathers for a minute, but sometimes I probably am all wet. Walt said I was all wet and John "Dryball" Woolfolk even ended up with an offer for a beer. Don't know if he wanted to pour it on me, or watch me drink it,

but I suspect it was the former.

First, what caused this outburst from Walt and John? Well, it was a fact I brought up about patches. They ain't gaskets, fellers, and never were.

Now Walt likes to talk in terms of "gut reaction" and "true faith." I don't know if John "Dryball" uses a chronograph or tea leaf readings for his information; however, in the case of gut reaction and true faith, let's look at it this way. If either Walt or John walked into his dentist's office and the dentist said, "Well Walt (or John), looking at those two front teeth of yours, I've got a gut reaction that they've got to come out. Don't have proof, but somehow the true faith of dentistry tells me those two front teeth just have to go." I bet Walt an/or John would run. Don't you think so? I know I would.

I'm all for faith. But let's keep our faith in the Great White Father. When it comes to teeth, or patches, I'll stick with science. I own two funny little machines. They are called chronographs. And there's a big old outfit that gives me another look at black powder guns using pressure machines. I'd like to tell who it is, 'cause they deserve a great deal of credit. But they want to remain anonymous lest all outdoor writers and gun writers, and everyone under the sun is one of these or the other, start calling them on the phone for free tests.

Well, if I recall my words, and I really don't have time to go back and look just now, I related some data to you readers. Period. I said that my tests (and it turns out that some more high powered tests showed the same results) showed that a patch is not a gasket. I also said, strenuously, TO USE A PATCH ALWAYS. Didn't I say that? I'm pretty sure I did.

And I believe I also pointed out that of the calibers tested, which are now .36, .45, .50, and .54, as well as .58, all of them showed the same velocity with a patch or WITHOUT A PATCH.

Before we get in trouble here, let me point out again. THIS WAS FOR EXPERIMENTATION, friends, and I am **not** telling anyone to quit using patches!

I'm awful sorry that it turned out the way it did. And I knew people would not believe me. After all, who wants to take a romantic thing like black powder and talk about it in terms of facts? Not me. In fact, I'm sorry I ever got started. It took me away

from a nice job as a college prof where I talked with wonderful young kids and got paid for it, and now I work seven days a week as a full-time writer. Furthermore, if I felt that bringing the facts to light really detracted from the sport, I'd stop doing this. In fact, if **REPORT** readers will voice this opinion, I'll promise to stop writing up my test data in the magazine, and I'm serious.

I knew that people would not believe me. In fact, I spoke with Bearclaw Jim O'Meara about it. He probably wondered when I said "Jim, take along any kind of patching you want and your .54 rifle and with or without patching, it will get the same velocity." Jim called me. He did it. He came out with me and he brought a couple of rifles with him. Tight patches and not so tight were used. I sued a .495 ball in a .50 with a patch so tight I had to hammer it down the bore. Got the SAME velocity with or without the patch, gentlemen. Now, that is just plain facts, friends, no guesswork, and no faith at all. In fact, Jim O'Meara checked the figures for himself. You can ask him what he saw.

We even used tight leather patches and got the same results.

Walt says there can be "absolutely no question" about patch use, and he says patches **are** gaskets. Really? Prove it! I think I can PROVE they are NOT. John says there is no such thing as an anti-gasket. I found that in some cases a tightly fitted ball with NO PATCH got higher velocity than a loose patch. In this case, John, a poor patch was worse than no gasket - - it was an anti-gasket. It worked AGAINST sealing.

Also, Walt got into target accuracy. I said that a patch imparted the value of the rifling to the ball, although I also said that we got SOME accuracy out of no patch loads. In short, what interested me was that if a mountain man really had to hastily load without a patch, he could have hit a large target at modest range. Know what else, friends? I collected some .495 balls out of a .50 Ithaca Hawken rifle, fired at long range into a box of old rags. Guess what? The balls had RIFLING marks on them! Try it yourself if you think I'm all wet.

Now John "Dryball" figures my work for "Stuff and Nonsense," to quote his title. Well, maybe, John. But how'd you like to come over and prove what you say? I'm ready to prove what I say. And remember what I said. Don't add anything to it. I also did NOT talk fine accuracy, and it would seem by the writing of my two detractors that I had told the world to stop using patches or that shooters could get good accuracy without patches. I don't remember saying that. But I said a patch is not a gasket. It isn't.

I love patches. I wouldn't stop using those dear little hunks of cloth if someone promised me a free elk

hunt with John Baird in big lonesome Montana. I love patches so much that I use TWO patches with my hunting loads or any load where one patch is burning out, 'cause when the one patch is burning out, it means gas is getting in front of the ball. The patch is an anti-gasket here. It actually allows for gas leaks that are more severe than when no patch is used. How do I know? The chronograph and pressure gun show it to be so. It's not a guess, fellow shooters.

As for target 3 work, use the tightest patch in the country. Hire yourself a weight lifter who is out of work and get him to jump up and down on the ramrod to seat the ball. I think the patch has an effect upon prevention of leading too, just as the paper-patched bullet did in the Sharps rifles for the buffalo hunters. But sometime I'd like to get a round ball that is of groove size and work it down the bore and shoot for accuracy. I wonder what would happen?

Lord, just remembered. Those slug shooters that get groups which make us all wonder if they are telling the truth do just that. They get the slug down the bore with modest engraving, and objurgation does the rest. Why did I bring that up? I apologize because it's just one more thing to go and test; and if I had any sense and could make a decent living doing something less controversial, I would, believe me, 'cause a championship game is on TV today and here I am writing about black powder.

Well, the Cowboys will win anyway. And that, friends, is based on gut reaction and true faith. In fact, I only have one thread of real evidence to back that up. I think the Cowboys will win because they are the better athletes. They might lose for a time, but in the closing minutes, when the other boys are tuckered out, young Danny will get about 5 minutes to toss the ball, and even I can find a receiver in that much time. I wonder if Danny shoots black powder? Oh, forget it, Dan. Stick with football. It's less controversial and you'll make more friends. When you are wrong, they'll feel sorry for you. And when you are right you'll be a hero.

Wrong or right? There is no wrong or right. There is only proof. Black powder shooting is a branch of physics, whether we like it or not, whether we wear buckskin shorts or not, and whether old Jed Smith knew it or not. It's mighty hard to prove many points in black powder shooting. But you can get some data. You can get some facts and work from there. That's all I am trying to do. And I know that my two Oehler chronographs, bless their glassy little faces, tell it like it is.