



September, 2019

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

TUESDAY, Oct. 1, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Final Decision on annual shoot
at October meeting

Next Club Shoot - Oct. 6

Ft. Melchert - Ted Beaupre, Host

Bird & Buffalo Event - Oct. 19-20

Nov. 5 - Craft Fair & finger foods

A final farewell.....

PRESIDENT

Ted Beaupre

VICE PRESIDENT

John Gloyd

TREASURER

Gwen Blanchard

SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP

Marilyn Stites

MOUNTAIN MAN MONTHLY

EDITOR

Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	Oct.1	Annual shoot decision/status
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Oct. 6	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot	Ft. Melchert Penrose, CO	Oct. 19-20	long-range shooting; potluck Saturday night; auction; & stuff
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME ENDS ON	NOVEMBER 3	SET CLOCK BACK 1 HOUR!!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	November 5	craft show & finger foods
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	December 3	annual ornament exchange; finger foods and fun!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 5, 2020	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	January 7, 2020	wild game potluck & award of trophies for animals taken
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & white elephant gift xchg	American Legion #209	February 4	bring finger foods and a white elephant to give away and get!!!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	March 3	who knows; come and see!!!
Daylight Savings Time	Begins Again on	March 8, 2020	set clocks ahead 1 hour!!
CSMLA Winter Convention	Elks Lodge Ft. Collins	March 14	tables of trade items, elections, awards, banquet, lots of fun
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	April 7	club business and fun!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	May 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	May 5	monthly business meeting
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	June 2	monthly business meeting
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 5	weekend of July 4 th /yes or no???

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

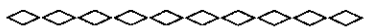
PAST THINGS

The September meeting was conducted very well by our new President Ted Beaupre. Welcome to all the new board members. We thank each of you for stepping up and helping to keep our group going.

We went over some of the changes that the club has made. We will only be hosting one club shoot per month and that will be on the 1st Sunday of each month. We also no longer have range officers conducting the shoot; we are using volunteers each month. Be sure to select your month and plan your shoot. It can be any kind of shoot you want; primitive, paper, a combination or whatever you choose to shoot.

We will be discussing the status of our Memorial Day Shoot at the October meeting. Be sure to be there so that we can get a good feeling from our members, as to what they want us to do. We will also be discussing the Bird and Buffalo event for October.

Be sure to keep our friend Don Mariani in your thoughts and prayers. He is dealing with leukemia and bone marrow transplant so he needs all the good thoughts we can muster.



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting September 3, 2019

There were 15 people present when incoming President Ted Beaupre banged the gavel and called the meeting to order. We welcomed Tom back as we hadn't seen him in a while. The group then pledged allegiance to our flag.

Ted asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Treasurer Gwen began her report with a note that the facilities at Ft. Melchert had been cleaned and paid for. A check for powder for the club armory and a check for the Grainger porta-potty rental were also written. Gwen noted that we had our check returned

from the gun show due to the gun show increasing the cost of the tables. There being no questions raised, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for acceptance of this report.

Membership Chairman Marilyn Stites noted that she now has all the membership information. At this time, we remain at the level of 63 paid member families.

Old Business: Grainger's paper shoot report noted that there was a target at 125 to 175 yards out. There were also notations of several fun shoots that took place. Everyone seemed to have a great time. There was no rain and the potluck supper and breakfast were both good. Shotguns after breakfast on Sunday was fun and there were some clays broken; according to Jim two full cases of birds. Everyone agreed that it was a lot cooler up at Victor than it was down in town.

New Business: Welcome to the new Board Members who were elected at the August Grainger Camp Out: President - Ted Beaupre; Vice President - John Gloyd; and Membership Chairman - Marilyn Stites. Gwen has remained as our Treasurer but we still have no Secretary.

One decision finalized at the August Grainger Camp Out was that we will be going down to one club shoot per month; the first Sunday of each month. Instead of a range officer doing all the work, we will have volunteer hosts for each of the club shoot. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer to take a month. The shoot can be paper, primitive, a combination of both, or whatever you choose as the shoot for your month.

Discussion held on whether to have a club shoot in October or only have the Bird and Buffalo event. It was determined that we will have a shoot on October 6 and Ted will host this event. Reminder given that we need other volunteers for the upcoming monthly shoots.

Bird and Buffalo event is rapidly approaching on October 19 & 20. Discussion held on what we want to do at this event and it was decided to host the long distance and regular shooting and we will have shotgun shooting with no limitations on the type of shotgun, on Sunday after breakfast.

Due to a change in the management of the local gun shows, cost for the tables are no \$80. Jay

Rathman and Don Stoner met with the new owners to discuss this fee and our use of the gun show for information only. The group reached an agreement that because we are a benefit to them we can have a table for \$35. Jay will check on the next show date and we will plan to have a table there.

The group was advised that Beverly Sandell, one of the club's cannons passed away in August, 2019. Her husband John Sandell passed in January of 2018. Our condolences to the Sandell families who have been long-time supporters of our group.

Ted brought before the group, the idea of resurrecting the Club Challenge Match and make a one day event of it. We will discuss this with other groups and see if we can make it happen.

Jay Rathman asked if the group would be willing to host an exhibition shoot for the Frontier Sportsmen and introduce them to muzzle loading. More details are needed, but there is an interest in doing it. Jake will work on the details and see if this can be made into a reality.

Since we are going to different hosts for the monthly shoot, the question was raised as to who would be the contact with Ft. Melchert to determine if the shoot would be a go or no go. After some discussion it was noted that we should leave Doug to that position as he then would know what to post on the website and send in the e-mails. Each monthly shoot host will need only to check their e-mails to determine if the shoot is on or not. Also remember that there is a 50 degree rule for the winter shoots. If it isn't predicted to be 50 degrees, we won't host a shoot. Again, check your e-mail for the details. Doug always sends the information out right after 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming events were noted. Reminder given that the November 5 meeting will be the annual craft fair so bring your items for sale.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. So done.

Respectfully submitted,
Temporary Scribe Doreen Webb



DON'T FORGET.....

The November 5th meeting will be the annual craft fair. This is the opportunity for all crafters to come and bring their goods for display and sale with no cost for the tables. It is also a good time to begin purchasing Christmas gifts to give. We will also be bringing our favorite finger foods and tasty items to share. Tell all your friends and invite them to come and bring their crafts as well!

We are planning at this time, to have our annual chili lunch for the Bird and Buffalo on July 19-20. There will be all-you-can-eat chili and fixings but we don't have the price yet. It should be about the same at last year, but we haven't gotten all the supplies yet.

You need to be cleaning out your attic, closet, garage, and wherever else you store stuff and get ready for the auction at the Bird and Buffalo. There are always some good and some great items for sale. Bring your money and plan to join us. There will be the potluck supper before the auction so be looking through your cookbook to determine what you will fix and bring to share. Be sure to bring your plates and eating utensils as well.

December's meeting is the annual Christmas ornament exchange. Time to be looking for that perfect ornament to share with someone else. Bring a wrapped ornament and you can take home a different one. We also ask that you bring goodies to share and eat while we have fun with the ornament exchange.

Those of you who were successful muzzle loading hunters this year need to give Joy the important statistics so we can award the Wild Game Trophies in January. January's meeting is the wild game potluck and tall tale trophy event. This is always a fun event and we look forward to the "wild" game that is prepared and shared, no matter where it is harvested from.

It is also time to begin looking for those treasured white elephants for the February meeting. No telling where they are hiding.....

A FINAL FAREWELL.....

This is probably one of the hardest things I have had to write in a long, long time. I have put it off because I had trouble accepting the fact that we no longer have our beloved *Petra LaChance* as part of our group.

As most of you know, Petra died on June 21 in a very tragic accident in Gunnison. We published what little information we had at that time and normally, would have followed up with more in the following issue of the *Mountain Man Monthly*. However, it was just too difficult to even think of writing something in her memory. While it was difficult for your editor to write, we are sure that it was just as painful or more for her family. We still keep Fred, Robin, and Steven in our prayers.

Petra was born in Mosbach, Germany in 1954 and was the youngest of four children. She became a U.S. Citizen in 1987. She was such a vibrant and caring individual, it is hard to think of life without her. Petra was involved in many sports activities with her husband Fred. They participated in archery, muzzle loading hunting and shooting, fishing, camping, and ATV riding.

On the home front, Petra was an excellent cook, gardner, and she loved to sew. Many of us were so impressed with her shooting apron that she designed and made. It was just the perfect thing for us lady shooters and held all the accouterments that are needed to shoot muzzle loaders.

Lots of us spent time on the firing line with Petra. She was an excellent shot and worked hard to complete the targets. It was interesting to watch her concentrate on the target and her sights and even more gratifying to see the scores that she posted. Even on her off days, Petra scored in the top two or three shooters. She shot at not only the local club events, but many of the State events as well. Petra's skill and accuracy were noted wherever she went.

Fred and Petra not only supported the Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, they also supported Bell's Fort Muzzle Loaders and the Santa Fe Trails Rendezvous. Early on, Petra volunteered to help Juanita Melchert in the registration tent and was an excellent hand and quick learner. Juanita used to remark on how accurate Petra made her writing and her figures were always accurate. When Juanita was

no longer able to lead this tent and its occupants, Petra willingly took over. She not only ran the Registration well, she designed and implemented several things to help it run even smoother and more efficiently. She also figured out how to track those folks that run a tab and ensure that all their costs could be written in one check. Her efforts were noticed by more than just the shooters.

Fred and Petra spent many hours and long days in refurbishing their home and shop area. Petra had a beautiful garden often visited by deer and rabbits as well as pheasants and quail. She grew large and lush flowers and picked the seeds to save for the next year's planting. Petra made you feel welcome any time we went to their home. She was always ready with a smile and big hello and immediately set you at ease.

Petra always shared food tips and health tips with all of us. She studied many different theories and tested some. When she found something that was both healthful and helpful, she shared the information with us. She was always conscious of her health and Fred's health, even when he didn't want it. She took great care of her family and friends.

Petra was found to be a competitive bidder at the bird and buffalo auction. When she saw something she wanted, she went after it. No one would scare her off if she wanted it and it fit within her budget. While being excited about getting the item, Petra was also mindful of the price and value of what she wanted.

It is awfully hard to condense a person's life down to just a few words. We have lots of memories of Petra and her participation with us. We thank the great spirit above for giving us those memories that we will always cherish. God made each of us unique and Petra was one of his most wonderful creations. She touched us all in many ways and never failed to share her faith and knowledge with us. We have a big hole not only in our hearts, but in our club as well.

God bless you Petra . . . you are missed.

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JOHN COLTER, MISSOURIAN

By: Jim Keefe

*(The following article is reprinted from **The Buckskin Report**, June, 1977. The materials is courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.)*

Here is the story of a man, not so well known as his neighbor, Daniel Boone, but who contributed much more to the opening of the *Gateway to the West*. He saw the wildlife of Missouri at what is fondly believed to be its peak; he wandered through the great river valley which reaches its climax here. He sought the beavers that financed this state's opening, and which are now re-entering the game picture. He was one of Missouri's first great hunters.

Until 1926, there was a small graveyard atop the Missouri river bluff known as Tunnel Hill. This eminence stands between Big and Little Boeuf Creeks, near the tiny town of Dundee, in Franklin County. Among the few graves there was that of a man who adopted Missouri as his home. His name was John Coulter.

Most Missourians never heard of him and little is known of his life, though two books have been written about him. He was not a "native" Missourian there was no Missouri when he stepped into territorial history as one of those who explored the lands of the Louisiana Purchase. But he adopted Missouri as his home and died here; probably some of his descendants still live here.

Colter's chief claim to fame was the discovery of what is now Yellowstone National Park. The thermal region nearby, in Wyoming, is still known as "Colter's Hell," and the story connected with its discovery establishes beyond a doubt that Colter was an extraordinary man.

The first positive information on Colter's life is a notation that he enlisted as a private in an enterprise since known as the Lewis and Clark expedition. He joined on October 15, 1803, at Maysville, Kentucky, without explaining just why he took part in this dangerous undertaking. He must have been a woodsman even then, members of the band were required to be "good hunters, stout, healthy, unmarried men, accustomed to the woods and capable of bearing bodily fatigue in a pretty

considerable degree."

The expedition wintered at Wood River, Illinois, during 1803-04. During the time Colter was among four members strongly censured for centering hunting activities around "a neighboring whiskey shop." On May 14, 1804, the band began the long ascent of the Missouri River. Colter was assigned to a keel boat, a vessel about 55 feet long drawing three feet of water. There was a large sail for use in a following wind; otherwise, it was propelled by 22 oars or hauled by a rope, called a cordelle line. Men walking the bank pulled the boat along. Progress, about 10 miles a day, involved the back breaking labor of scrambling over mud flats, root wads, driftwood, and sand, while suffering the tortures of the damned from flies, mosquitoes and the cutting cordelle line across the shoulder.

The party stopped at St. Charles, the last town before jumping off into the wilderness, to rearrange the cargo. St. Charles then had a population of slightly more than 400.

Shortly after leaving there, Colter became a hunter for the party, thus escaping the cordelle line. Missouri along the turbid banks of its chief river, must have teemed with game, because the party literally lived off the fat of the land. Elk, deer, turkey, geese and beavers fell to Colter's gun. The hunter usually ranged out ahead of the party and erected a river-bank scaffold on which he piled game for the men behind. Colter often spent days alone in the woods, scouting ahead of the group.

The expedition reached the Pacific and in time, retraced its steps back toward civilization until the Three Forks of the Missouri were reached. There in August of 1806, Joseph Dixon and Forrest Hancock met the party. These Illinois trappers had followed the Lewis and Clark trail up the Missouri in hopes of getting some good pelts. They probably were the first (known) of that host of trappers that was really to explore and open the West in the fur trade.

Dixon and Hancock wanted an experienced man to join them. Colter stepped out and asked Captain Clark to discharge him. The request was granted and what supplies the expedition could spare were placed in his hands. The partnership started out with 20 traps, tools for building a canoe, a two-year supply of ammunition, and personal effects.

Colter's pay, \$5 a month as a private in the expedition, had netted him the princely sum of \$179.33 for 35 months and 26 days of the toughest service any man ever had.

The trio of trappers stuck together just through the winter when there apparently was an argument. At any rate, in the spring of 1807, Colter set off alone by canoe down the Missouri River toward home. But destiny still had a part for him to play in the mountain country. He met an upcoming fur party from St. Louis under Manuel Lisa. Colter again was persuaded to trap and, as Bernard de Voto remarked, "marched into American legendry."

Lisa built a fort at the mouth of the Big Horn River and ordered Colter to bring in the Blackfoot Indians to trade. In the dead of winter Colter set out, a lone man against every terrible element the Rocky Mountains could muster. He made a journey so remarkable that for years it was unbelievable. He went up the Big Horn River and found the Stinking Water River, then the neighboring thermal area, since called "Colter's Hell." He crossed the Great Divide, the first white man to do so since the expedition, and discovered the geysers and other phenomena which were to become Yellowstone National Park. A lot of doubting Thomas's had to be convinced and a Congressional investigation team had to be sent out before that park came about.

In 1809, Colter and a hunter named Potts fell into the hands of the Blackfeet while running a trap line. Potts was killed but a grimmer fate was in store for Colter. He was stripped and ordered to outrun the young braves who would try to overtake and kill him. Colter bounded off with the tribe's fleetest runners at his heels. He had to cross six miles of cactus studded plain to reach the Jefferson Fork of the Missouri where he might be safe. Colter outdistanced all but one Indian but couldn't gain ground on this warrior. At last he turned to receive the spear thrust but the Indian, probably startled, stumbled and fell. Colter snatched up the spear, ran the Indian through, and hobbled on to Jefferson Fork where he dove into the water and hid beneath a pile of driftwood until the Indians gave up the search. Naked, unarmed, feet badly torn by cactus, he made the seven-day journey back to Lisa's fort with nothing to eat but the root of the prairie turnip.

After that Colter had his fill of Indians and the

dubious prospects of beaver. In 1810, just six years from the date of his journey up the river, Colter stepped from his canoe at St. Louis. It had taken just 30 days to come from the Three Forks of the Missouri - - again alone.

St. Louis numbered about 1,400 inhabitants then; it had a dozen businesses, a printing press and its existence was based almost solely on the fur trade. Colter got a bath and new clothes, looked up his old buddies, including Captain Clark, and collected a few debts. Congress had granted double pay to the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition and gave each of the enlisted men a land grant of 320 acres. There is no record of Colter ever settling his claim for a grant and it was taken up in 1829 by a John G. Comegys. Probably Colter sold his claim.

He looked around for a place to settle where there were still beaver to trap and finally chose Sullena Spring, a short distance above the junction of Big and Little Boeuf Creeks with the Missouri River. Across the river, near what is now Marthasville, stood the 30-family hamlet of Charette. The land where it stood has since been washed away by the Missouri.

Boeuf Creek was good trapping country, with beaver plentiful even at this comparatively late date. Colter set about adding to his farming income. Trapping beaver meant securing a big, ungainly hind foot and making sure the animal got into deep water where it would drown. Otherwise, it would release itself by pulling away the trap or gnawing off a foot, losing not only a beaver but a trap - - a real calamity when the nearest replacement was in St. Louis.

Beaver top hats were the caviar of clothing in Colter's time, though they began passing out of the picture shortly after and the trade declined rapidly after 1830. It has made few fortunes but it had opened the West.

Colter didn't know this. He went on trapping and farming and took a wife named Sally. His little holding on the great river became a stopping place for men seeking information. There are records of famous people stopping to question him on the little-known prairie and mountain country of the Northwest. He had lucrative offers as a guide or hunter but he had put the wild life behind him for good, turning instead to the Missouri frontier.

Colter stuck, perhaps held by watching his infant son, Hiram, toddle around the cabin. Then in the autumn of 1813, he developed jaundice. The years of wading icy streams, the hard life of the trapper and the diet of the frontier combined to aggravate the disease. He died in November, 1813.

He was buried in a little graveyard on a hill overlooking the Missouri River. That eminence is called Tunnel Hill now because the Missouri Pacific railroad dug a tunnel through the entire hill. Before local citizens could protest, the graves of early settlers had been scattered along the roadbed. John Colter, Missourian and discoverer of Yellowstone National Park, did not find peace even in death.

Now the beaver have come back to Big Boeuf Creek. Now, perhaps, the slaps of their tails on the water haunt his dream of death.

From a Trapper's Diary

By: Charlie Richie
(July, 1978)

The name "Blanket Gun" has always fascinated me. In fact, ever since I got into muzzle loading I've been intrigued by the sawed down or shortened versions of old black powder trade guns that I've seen in museums. For some reason these types were always the sinister killers, close range horse guns, etc. In short, they were intended for a specific deadly use.

I guess what really fired my appetite was a short piece by Ding regarding Curly Gostomski's new Northwest Trade Gun in the shortened pony version. As most of ya' already know, ol' Curly owns the North Star Enterprises place over in Dayton, Ohio. It turned out that Curly, is a pretty nice guy, and he sent me a kit for testing, hence ol' Richie gets to write about one of the prettiest little flintlock pieces he ever done seen.

Mr. Curly also sent me some fine research material on the Trade Gun, which states that the Northwest Trade Gun was first developed for use in trading with the American and Canadian Indians of the Northwest Territories. In fact, it was manufactured as far back as the 1600's, and was even produced as late as the 1900's. The Indian, and more than a few of the mountain men, found that it was a practical shotgun, large enough to kill the biggest of

game at close range, yet, light enough to carry with comfort and ease. Many say that the Northwest Trade Gun was the most used and wide spread gun in American history, yet, just as the Indian lost much of his culture, so was much of the lore lost pertaining to the Northwest Gun.

The Northwest Gun was principally sold or bartered by trading companies such as the Hudson Bay Company, the American Fur Company, the Northwest Company, and a few other companies active during this time period. From most of the journals, it reportedly sold for 20 to 25 prime winter beaver skins, and most of the heaviest trading was done between 1775 and 1870. The trade gun in some form or another was also used in treaty bargaining between the United States government and many Indian tribes, and was utilized as a form of compensation for moving a red man off his land.

We know that the Indian used his trade gun for hunting as well as war. He thought nothing of modifying a gun to suit his specific purpose in mind. One of the first modifications was the shortening of the barrel and stock.

History tells us that these first barrel and stock modifications were done to smuggle the shortened versions into such forts as Michilimackinac and Apache. Squaws smuggled the shortened trade guns into the forts by concealing them under their dress and blankets. These same shortened versions of the Northwest Trade Gun were also preferred by those on horse back, and at point blank range, the big smooth bores would knock a buffalo on his rump.

The blanket gun kit that Curly sent me has a 12 gauge barrel with tapered flats, wedding bands and was breeched with plug. The stock was 75 to 80% shaped, with the barrel channeled 3/4 diameter. The basic stock was also channeled and drilled for 3/8 ramrod. Since I'm not pulling any punches, and never will, the whole thing looked like Greek to me. So I did what I always do. I sent the kit to Ron Tye (Beaver Claw) at Eagle Creek Rifle Works, Palo Pinto, Texas., Now this here last statement ain't to say that a fellow or gal with reasonable craft talent can't build the North Star Trade Gun kit, just that Richie ain't got much building ability, other than making sandwiches, lies, etc. I feel kinda' ashamed to mention this, but I have ruined more gun kits than I care to remember, and I wasn't gonna' take any chances with the Northwest Blanket gun.

After several weeks, and a few telephone calls by Bear Claw, the Pony gun as I prefer to call it, finally became a reality. When it arrived, I hastily ripped into Ron's carefully wrapped box like a kid at Christmas. What greeted me was one of the most practical little black powder guns I've ever laid my mitts on. It is light enough to stick into your tack belt, and as I've already stated, versatile enough to bring down bear to birds at short range.

Since all I had asked Ron to do was fit the barrel, lock and trigger, I still had a sanding and finishing job ahead of me. After much pouring over of books, it became apparent that there were two shades of colors on trade gun stocks. I chose the lighter shade. Incidentally, the pony gun that I patterned mine after was taken from a dead Kiowa Indian in Texas, during the 1840 to 1850 era, and graphically illustrates the fact that the trade gun even reached down into the far Southwest. After carefully taking the gun apart and scribbling notes where each piece fitted back in, I sanded and stain finished my pony gun. A final coat of linseed oil gave it a nice appearance.

For all practical purposes, the little Northwest gun looked like it had been time tunneled into the 20th century direct from the fur trade era. Since I had wanted the gun for practical reasons, and not so much for show, one of my first missions was to test it at various tasks. One of the first was a rabbit hunt that Lewis Collins, my trapping partner, and this writer went on. Without boring the reader with how many drams of powder I used, and how many ounces of shot I poured down the barrel, just let me say that I used the shotgun instructions found in the back of Dixie Gun Works catalog for loading the pony gun. If I'm not mistaken, the lead poisoning was in the form of Lawrence #5 shot.

After loading the correct measure of Hodgdon Black Powder, mixed with wadding and lead, I poured a little 3f into the flintlock cup, and snapped the cover down. It was cottontail rabbit hunting time, and we did do a few in that day. I found that my best way to hold and sight with the pony gun, is to two hand hold it, such in the manner a big bore pistol is sometimes held. It's important to get the gun away from your face at normal "stock" length. Mainly because I don't want that much of any kind of powder blowing up in my face, and probably more important, because it is easier to sight in this manner. The recoil

is nothing, so don't worry bout' that a'tall. Now, if'n you are using 12 gauge round balls, then that might be a different story, but with bird shot, it's nothing to worry about. Needless to say, this pilgrim was pleased at the end of the day. I also had three bunnies for the pot, and two of em' were shot on the fly at 50 feet or so.

The next test involved the carrying of the pony gun on my jaunts into the woods when I ran my trap line. As some of you already know, trap lines can be long and tiring walks. The weight factor really becomes a problem when you are constantly picking up traps, carrying bait and scent bottles, and trying to lug a firearm along. I fixed me a strap which make the Northwest Pony Gun fit up snug against my back, and quickly found out that I could carry it as far as I could walk, and it wouldn't wear me out like some of the rifles and shotguns that I have tried to carry along on my trap line trips. Incidentally, the reason for carrying a shotgun, is because I prefer and use rabbits and unprotected birds as bait in many trapping sets. In short, the Pony gun is tailor made for the trapper and this purpose.

As I've briefly said before, most of my black powder experiences are on the practical side. I've never had a rifle or shotgun which did nothing but sit on the wall, and probably never will as long as I'm a poor boy. It became quickly apparent to me why the 19th century Indian preferred the short version of the Northwest Trade Gun. He wanted a lightweight, yet heavy caliber firearm, which he could use from a horse, in dense stands of timber, and other situations where he had to load fast and fire. The blanket gun fit the bill.

The North Star Enterprise's kit comes with a Lott replica flintlock, which is stamped with a sitting fox trade emblem. I've had no problems with the lock, and it is a better than average sparker, and this is in thing that I demand with a flintlock gun. Now, back to my comments regarding the trade piece kit. The barrel is also stamped with the sitting fox emblem. The stock is rough and only partially done, but with a little time and care, the inletting and finishing of this stock will come about. I understand that the new

versions of the North Star Kit feature better inletted stocks, and this is a boon to fellows like me who are all thumbs.

On the blanket or pony gun, there will be no butt plate, just as the originals were. Instead, you are furnished tacks to Indian or Mountain Man customize the gun. The trigger and trigger guard are interesting, mainly because of the huge trigger guard. The big oversized brass trigger guard was used in the winter because most Indians and Mountain Men wore heavy mittens and were unable to get a trigger finger into most conventional guards. The kit also comes with a brass serpent piece, which went on the other side of the stock opposite the flintlock side. The Indian almost got to where he demanded this item on his trade gun. It also comes with all the other needed things such as brass ramrod pipes, 3/8 hickory ramrod, screws and nails, barrel tenons, 1" musket flint, bottle of brown and a trade gun print.

It would be a misstatement to say that I am the last word in anything, but I do know a practical black powder weapon when I see it, and the North Star Blanket gun kit is a good'un in my books.

For prices and information concerning this kit, and other full size trade gun kits available from North Star, write Box 234/N, Dayton Sta.-2401, Guernsey Dell Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45404. Just tell Curly that Richie pointed ya' in his direction.

I might also add, that if you have a set of thumbs on both hands like I do, you might contact Ron Tye at Eagle Creek Rifle Works about building or inletting your gun. He's done it once for me, and I bet'cha he remembers the process.

Until next time, stay low in the saddle, and make the first ball count.

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G	S	U	B	L	E	T	T	E	P	Z	L	R	E	C
R	M	O	O	N	G	R	E	A	G	P	O	E	A	L
C	I	D	F	I	M	A	S	H	L	E	Y	N	R	Y
F	T	E	L	E	P	V	E	N	P	O	F	D	I	M
I	H	O	N	W	H	I	T	M	A	N	B	E	K	A
T	Y	G	L	A	S	S	D	X	T	E	F	Z	A	N
Z	A	M	C	A	R	B	I	N	T	R	I	V	R	P
P	S	T	H	O	L	O	G	F	I	C	T	O	A	G
A	H	V	E	L	B	O	W	I	E	O	Z	U	S	I
T	A	I	B	M	E	T	H	T	P	N	G	S	L	T
R	R	I	E	G	N	E	C	Z	E	M	E	E	K	R
I	P	M	A	N	T	Y	P	Z	T	F	R	A	E	B
C	S	O	R	A	O	R	I	V	E	R	A	E	H	O
K	Q	S	A	M	N	T	O	P	T	A	L	B	A	O
W	A	L	K	E	R	S	I	O	U	X	D	K	A	R

Each clue opens with a first name. The last name is buried in the letters, either right to left, or down.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Milt was knifed in fight over Bannock girl. | 9. Jim was a real cut-up. |
| 2. Bill died at the Alamo. | 10. John gave Hugh up for dead, as did he. |
| 3. William helped establish annual rendezvous. | 11. Tom was passionate about Manifest Destiny. |
| 4. High had an arrowhead in his back. | 12. Joe discovered today's Yosemite. |
| 5. Marcus cut out Jim's arrow. | 13. Joe settled in Merry Oregon. |
| 6. Jim sailed Salt Lake in a bull boat. | 14. Henry went with Jim. |
| 7. Tom had his leg removed by Milt. | 15. Tom was the last trapper to see Jed alive. |
| 8. Sylvester died in a Mexican prison. | |



Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association

ONE-DAY WINTER CONVENTION and TRADE BLANKET EVENT

March 14, 2020

Ft Collins Elks Lodge 1424 E. Mulberry Street Ft. Collins, CO 80524
(970) 493-3777 (West off I-25 at exit 269B)

Trade room will be open to the public on Saturday, March 14, from 8:00am to 4:00pm
9:00am to 3:00pm Classes and Demos
CSMLA Membership Meeting - Election of Officers 4:00pm Banquet, Awards 6:00pm

REGISTRATION FORM

For this special event the first space or trade blanket is FREE for members!! (based on an 8' front). Additional space cost is \$10.00, if space is available. **Do you want a vendor space or trade blanket?** Yes [] Number of additional spaces requested _____ x \$10.00 each = _____ (due at event). Do you need electricity ? Yes [] First come basis if available.

Banquet Reservation

Dinner will be Buffet

Total Number of Dinners: _____ x \$30.00 (includes 3.55%tax & 18% gratuity) = \$ _____

Name: _____ CSMLA member Y [] N []

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Return Completed form by February 16, 2020 to:

Joy Hicks
4820 Montebello Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Phone: (719) 598-5715
E-Mail: joy@TheEmpoweredWoman.biz

Gwen Blanchard
3 Balfour Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Phone: (719) 291-0995
E-mail: gwynbl57@gmail.com