



September, 2015

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
October 1 - 7:00 p.m.**

Paper Shoot - Oct. 4

**Annual Bird & Buffalo
Shoot & Camp Out
Ft. Melchert
October 17-18**

**November 5 - Regular
Monthly Meeting &
Craft Fair**

President

Joy Hicks

Vice President

Roy Crouse

Treasurer

Gwen Blanchard

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Lois Schainost

Membership Chairman

Ted Beaupre

Range Officer

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Ted Beaupre & Marlin Johnson

Primitive Exec.

Doug Davis

Assistant Primitive Exec.

Tony Hecker

Womens' Primitive Exec.

Dee Beaupre

Cannon Master

Richard Stites

Mountain Man Monthly Editor

Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 1 7:00 p.m.	plan for bird & buffalo shoot
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 4	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Bird & Buffalo Fall Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 17-18 8:00 a.m. start time	long distance shooting, potluck, auction, and more.....
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME ENDS.....	NOV. 1 SET YOUR	CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	November 5 7:00 p.m.	annual craft fair; free tables
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	December 3 7:00 p.m.	annual ornament exchange and finger foods
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 6	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 3, 2016	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	January 7 7:00 p.m.	wild game potluck; tall tales told; trophy awards for game taken
CSML Board Meeting	Joy's House	January 12 7:00 p.m.	plan the year's events; set schedules; make decisions
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	February 4 7:00 p.m.	come and see what happens.
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 21	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 3 7:00 p.m.	business of the club; maybe a demonstration for all
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME BEGINS	MARCH 13	CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!!

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 632-7690 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

So, what happens when we have a meeting and an election and there is not a majority present???? That was the question of the meeting in September. Our Vice President came to announce his resignation as he is moving to Missoula, Montana. We waited a while to see if there would be a showing of members and then we waited a while longer.

While we were waiting, we also shared a few stories. Another interesting thing was that everyone either forgot it was a potluck meeting or they had already eaten. Your editor not only writes the newsletter, she reads it and had prepared a Spanish pork loin in the crock pot and brought cucumber and tomato salad. When there finally arrived about 9 other folks, we shared the food.

Roy then called the meeting to order and went very quickly through the normal process. All of a sudden we were at the time for elections. Doug did note that Bob McCune said he would run for Vice President. Gwen had sent word that she would continue as Treasurer if no one else wanted to take on the job. Other than these, the room was very quiet.

While we all know that the big train does run through the meeting annually when we conduct our elections, with only 9 members and 1 editor present, we determined that it was not fair to acclimate the Board without more members present. Those of us there decided to wait for the October meeting or the Bird and Buffalo event to finalize the elections and ensure that the rest of our membership has no problems with the one new addition to the old slate of electees already in place.

If anyone out there in the membership has any comments or wants to volunteer for a position on the Board, please let Joy or Doreen know so that we can ensure that the group is well represented. We don't like the idea of only one or two individuals making all the decisions and really look forward to new individuals on the board and at the meetings to help us generate more interest. Just like it taking a whole village to raise a child, it takes all of us as members to make the club viable and interesting. We really want our members to be a part of things that happen and to bring new ideas to the table.

We would also like to take this moment to remind everyone that we are always looking for presentations or things to discuss at the meetings. Share a book report with us, show us a skill you have, help us with our history, anything to make the meetings more interesting and help us to take away something from those meetings.

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# PRIMITIVE CHAPTER NEWS

by: Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

The Grainger primitive camp out had the usual rain before dinner but luckily, not a downpour.

The chili cook-off had 6 entries with a tie breaker for tastiest. Randy Ruyle won both the mildest and tastiest, with Janie Clark winning the hottest. Thanks to all who participated. Yes, Doreen, I lost control during the voting..... but Andres and Connor kept the gallery in order. Many thanks to these young men.

There was a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning. Lots of pancakes and other breakfast items to go with them. Thanks to all who contributed both food and prizes.

The range was set up on Friday in the later afternoon with the help of Fred, Tom, Randy, Ted, and Terry. Thanks to all of them for their invaluable help. The range did open around 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and stayed open 'til everyone was done. There was a short shut-down around 4:00 p.m. due to the rain, but it

reopened as soon as the rain stopped.

SCORES:

Men's Rifle:

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Fred LaChance (p) | 28 |
| Ted Beaupre       | 27 |
| John Udovich      | 27 |
| Randy Ruyle       | 26 |
| Terry Clark       | 24 |
| Fred LaChance (f) | 22 |
| Mark Serpa (f)    | 21 |
| Al Bartok         | 21 |
| Steve Sterner     | 14 |

Ladies' Rifle:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Petra LaChance     | 28 |
| Peggy Basdekas     | 23 |
| Delores Beaupre    | 18 |
| Gwen Blanchard (f) | 17 |
| Janie Clark (f)    |    |

Intermediate Rifle:

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Katie Basdekas | 15 |
|----------------|----|

Junior Rifle:

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Andreas | 23 |
|---------|----|

Sub-Junior Rifle:

Connor

Men's Pistol:

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Al Bartok  | 10 |
| Jim Murray | 8  |
| Ken West   | 5  |

Ladies' Pistol:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Petra LaChance | 6 |
| Gwen Blanchard | 6 |

Junior Pistol:

Andreas 8

Sub-Junior Pistol:

Connor 8

Thanks again to all who came and participated. We really were glad you were there and made this Grainger camp out a success.

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## THINGS .....

Lot of things were happening in September, among which is that your Editor will be out of the state. The newsletter is being sent to Joy for printing earlier than normal so that it can be sent out. This should give all you a chance to get your articles in for the October issue. Just because it won't be in this issue does not relieve you of sending the information for publication. Our members want to know about.....

Muzzle loading hunting success

Stories from the hunts

State Shoot

Labor Day activities

Muzzle loading instructor class

Put your pencils to paper, fingers to the keyboard, or any way you want to tell it. Submit your articles so that we will have a full and interesting October newsletter.

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## UPCOMING THINGS

**Bird & Buffalo event** - - - This is a long range shooting event and a shotgun event mixed with a primitive shoot. It is scheduled for October 17 and 18 but you can come dry-camp at Ft. Melchert on Friday

afternoon (16<sup>th</sup>). Be sure to park so that others can park next to you and share the space.

Events include the shooting, a potluck supper on Saturday night around 6:00 p.m. and our annual auction. This all means that in addition to the materials to shoot with, you need to bring a potluck dish or two to share and your eating utensils.

You can bring all your stuff for the auction and plenty of money to replace the stuff you brought. The only rule is that if you bring something and it does not sell, you must take it home with you. There are no other rules. This is always a fun event and we look forward to the heated competition that always seems to happen.

I'm guessing that we will again provide the all-you-can-eat chili for lunch. It seems to be a staple and goes well. If you have empty jars that you purchased in the past you can bring them to help us sell whatever may be leftover. Empty canning jars are always a good thing to have.

**November Craft Fair** - - The November meeting will be host to the annual craft fair. Tables are free and you can bring all your crafts to show and sell. Tell your friends to come along and join us. This is an excellent time to look for those special Christmas gifts and things that could bring joy to others.

**December Ornament Exchange** - At this meeting we bring a wrapped ornament and exchange them in a fun and interesting way. Everyone who brings an ornament will go home with a different one. Bring some finger foods to share while we play.

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EASTERN FREMONT COUNTY

A Well-Known Route for Early Explorers

By: Earl S. Mead

What was to become Fremont County, specifically the Arkansas River and tributaries, were well-used routes for early explorers venturing into the mountains and beyond in the eighteenth and

nineteenth centuries. That Native Americans had long used the river as a means to access the high country in Colorado is borne out by archaeology. Temporary as well as long-term migrations to and from the mountains in search of game and tool making materials is documented throughout the drainage.

The Arkansas River Valley was known to the Spanish during the Colonial Period (1598-1821) in the far northern colony of New Mexico. In 1706, Juan de Ulibarri, sent north to return Picuris Pueblo Indians from what is now eastern Colorado, reached the Arkansas River near modern day Pueblo. He named the river the Rio Grande de San Francisco, though he noted that the regional tribes referred to it as the Napestle. He described it as the best valley in New Spain, especially noting the agricultural potential of the area.

In 1806, Zebulon Pike followed the north bank of the Arkansas River as he and his party ventured west into the Colorado high country. At that time the Arkansas River was the boundary line between Louisiana and New Spain. South of the river, Pike camped in the wooded area where present Colorado 115 crosses the river east of Florence on December 4, 1806. The following day after skirting around Castle Rock near Florence, the party made it into the vicinity of what would become Canon City. After exploring the area, Pike camped near the entrance to the Royal Gorge, noting the spring at the end of the hog-back that would later be called Soda Springs.

After his explorations to the north, following Fourmile Creek and into the vicinity of present day Leadville, Pike continued south and east along the Arkansas River. After a difficult time in the Royal Gorge, Pike returned to the portal of the Gorge on January 5, 1807. It was not until he reached his camp of the previous month that he was to realize that he was on the Arkansas River. Since striking the river near modern day Buena Vista he had believed it to be the upper Re River. The group constructed a stone shelter where the now decommissioned Black Hills Power Plant has stood. Later, following Grape Creek, Pike would venture across the Wet Mountain Valley and into the San Luis Valley where he was captured by Spanish troops near present day Sanford.

Other exploring expeditions including those of Stephen H. Long, who also camped at the entrance to

the Royal Gorge on July 17, 1820, James O. Pattie in 1826 and Thomas Jefferson Farnham in 1839, followed Pike's lead in utilizing the Arkansas River as an access route from the plains to the mountains. Long, for whom the peak is named, returned east from the Royal Gorge area while Farnham continued north and west to the South Platte River in the vicinity of present day Hartsel.

John C. Fremont, for whom the county would be named, made several passages through our area in 1844, 1845, and 1848. In 1844-1845 Fremont, guided by Kit Carson and Thomas Fitzpatrick, came into the area on his second western expedition. He followed the Arkansas River and Fourmile Creek, a point visible today from the Arkansas River Walk. Upon his return in 1845, he came down from the north following the route of modern Colorado 9. Later, Fremont would visit the Hardscrabble settlement south of modern Florence before heading east.

Fremont's ill-fated fourth expedition also entered our area from the east following the Arkansas River before visiting the Hardscrabble settlement once again. Fremont was guided this time by Old Bill Williams because Carson was occupied at his home in Taos, New Mexico. Fremont and his party traveled over what is now Hardscrabble Pass before a near fatal experience struggling in the snowy La Garita Mountains. Eventually, Fremont managed to reach the home of his friend Carson in Taos, where he was nursed back to health.

It is not hard to imagine, as one walks the River Walk or hikes up Tunnel Drive, the panorama of history which took place near these spots. From Pike to Fremont and Carson, our area has witnessed some of the historic personages and events of the shaping of the American West.

A DAY AT A HAT FACTORY

(From *The Penny Magazine*, London)

The early history of our manufactures frequently excites a smile at the quaint and energetic

manner in which some of the old writers denounce the fashions of their times; but while we are often disposed to agree with them in ridiculing the strange forms of dress which have been adopted at different periods, we must withhold our assent to the principles of their commercial economy, which are often shortsighted in the extreme.

Philip Stubbs, a writer of the Elizabethan age, published, in 1585, his "Anatomic of Abuses," in which, among other things, the costume of the time is made the subject of censure. After anatomizing ladies' dresses, and discoursing on the iniquities of ruffs and furbelows, he visits the wardrobes of the other sex for a similar purpose, and thus speaks of the then fashionable hats; - - "Sometimes they use them sharp on the crown, peaking up like the spear or shaft of a steeple, standing a quarter of a yard above the crown of their heads, some more, some less, as please the fancies of their inconstant minds. Some others are flat and broad on the crown, like the battlements of a house. Another sort have round crowns, sometimes with one kind of band, sometimes with another, now black, now white, now russet, now red, now green, now yellow; fashion two days to an end. And thus in vanity they spend the Lord's treasure, consuming their golden years and silver days in wickedness and sin." But the material pleases him as little as the form and colour: - - "And as the fashions be rare and strange, so is the stuff whereof their hats be made divers also: for some are of silk, some of velvet, some of taffetie, some of sarcenet, some of wool; and, which is more curious, some of certain kind of fine hair. These they call *Beaver Hats*, of twenty, thirty, or forty shillings price fetched from beyond the seas, from whence a great sort of other vanities do come beside."

What would be the surprise of Philip Stubbs, if he could now witness the extent to which the "vanity" of "Beaver Hats" influences the commercial arrangements of England; - - the importation of beaver and musquash furs from North America, of nutria furs from South America, of wools from various parts of Continental Europe, of gums, resins, and dyes from almost every part of the globe! If he found, too, that one single firm gives employment to fifteen hundred persons in making hats of various kinds, and that the value of all the hats made in Great Britain in one year is probably not much less than three millions sterling,

he would perhaps cease to include "beaver hats" in his list of abuses.

To mark the advance of the world in this respect, since the time of Stubbs, we propose to consider the present state of the hat manufacture. With this object in view, we have visited an establishment where the processes are conducted on a very complete and extensive scale; and we will suppose the reader to be accompanying us through the various departments of that establishment.

The hat factory of Messrs. Christy occupies two extensive ranges of buildings on opposite sides of Bermondsey Street, Southwark. These we will term the east and west ranges, each of which is approached by a gateway leading from the street. On entering the gateway to the east range, the first object seen at the end of a long avenue is a lofty chimney connected with a steam-engine, and rising to the height of one hundred and sixty feet. Over the gateway is a range of warehouses for wool and other articles; and from thence, proceeding onwards, in seen on the left a pile of buildings, occupied by cloth cap makers, hat trimmers, and packers. On the right of the same avenue is another range of buildings, consisting of a fire-proof varnish storeroom, silk hat workshops, and shops wherein the early stages of beaver hatting are carried on. At the left of the great chimney is a building wherein common black glazed or japanned hats are made; and near it is an archway leading northward to another avenue surrounded by buildings. These consist of a turner's shop, where blocks for shaping hats are made; a shell-lac store, where the lac is bruised, ground, and prepared for use; a blacksmith's shop, for the repair of iron work used in various parts of the factory; a sawmill and sawing room, where machine worked saws cut up timbers into boards for packing cases required in the export department; a logwood warehouse, wherein a powerful machine cuts the logs into fine shreds; a fur room in which the beaver and other furs are cut from the skins by machinery; rooms wherein the coarse hairs are pulled from the skins; the team engine, with its boiler, furnace, &c.; a carding room, for disentangling the locks and fibres of wool; a blowing room for separating two qualities of beaver fur, or hair; together with various warehouses, storerooms, carpenters' shops, timber yard, &c. This bring us to

the northern extremity of the range; on returning from which we pass wool-warehouses and sorting rooms, wool and fur washing houses, stoving rooms, fur hat workshops, 'picking rooms', clerk's office, &c.

Crossing Bermondsey Street to the western range, we find a beaver storeroom, the dye house, stoving rooms, shaping and finishing rooms, &c.; the whole being, however, much less extensive than the east range.

It may excite surprise to hear of sawmills, blacksmiths', turners' and carpenters' shops on the premises of a hat maker; but this is only one among many instances which might be adduced, in the economy of English manufactures, of centralization, combined with division of labour, within the walls of one factory.

The nature of the operations carried on in the greater number of these buildings will perhaps be best explained by tracing the history of a beaver hat from the time when the crude materials enter the factory, till the hat, in a finished state, is warehoused.

If a dozen individuals to whom the subject is new were asked, "How is a beaver hat made?" it is not improbable that we should receive a dozen different answers. One would think it is cast in a mould; and shaped; a third, that the fur is in some way woven into a kind of cloth, and put on a stiff foundation; but perhaps not one would have an idea of the beautiful process of *felting*, which is the groundwork of the whole theory of hat making. A beaver hat consists mainly of two parts, - - the body and the covering; the former of which is made of fine wool and coarse fur, mixed, felted, stiffened, and shaped; and the latter of beaver fur, made to adhere to the body by the process of felting. Wool and fur constitute therefore the main ingredients employed. For hats of inferior quality, coarse wool is employed for the body, and coarser fur, or sometimes fine wool, for the covering.

The wool is brought to the factory in a dirty and greasy state, retaining much of the moisture derived from the animal. It is carried to a large washing house, on a level with the ground, where the steam rising from immense boilers and tubs indicates the great scale on which the process is conducted. The wool is soaked and washed, until the greasiness is removed, and is then subjected to the action of a screw-press, whereby all the water is expelled, and the

wool left in a clean state. From the washing house the wool is conveyed to a drying room; and, when required for use, it undergoes the process of *carding* in the carding room. In a former number (No. 498) we had occasion to explain the action of a carding engine in the cotton manufacture; and we need say no more of it here, than that such an engine, worked by the same steam engine which sets so many other parts of the working apparatus in motion, combs out the fibres of wool, and presents them in a light and tolerably disentangled state. The wool is then ready for the hatter; and we will trace the preparation of the fur up to the same point.

The term *fur*, in a general sense, refers to the hairy coating of such animals as the beaver, bear, marten, minx, hare, and rabbit. The skins of these animals, when merely dried after being stripped from the body, are called *peltry*; when the skin of the inner side has been converted into a sort of leather, by a peculiar process of tanning, the skins obtain the name of *furs*, in a restricted sense; and the term is still more restricted when applied to the hairy coating cut from the skin, and presented in the form of delicate filaments.

Now it is in the last-named form that fur is useful to the hatter; and the furs to which he gives the preference are those of the beaver, the musquash, the neutria, the hare, and the rabbit, of which the first is by far the most valuable. The beaver inhabits the districts of North-West America, where its peculiar habits of life have given rise to many marvelous tales, the truth of which is now more than doubted. The romantic details often presented in the lives of beaver hunters, as well as the mode of dealing between them and the fur dealers, have been described in two articles on the Canadian fur trade (Nos. 375, 376), and need not, therefore, be dwelt on here. The skins, as received at the factory from the Hudson's Bay Company are tolerably flat and stiff, measuring, generally, about three feet by two. The hairy surface is of a brownish colour, but is not that to which the hatter attaches value; for this animal has two kinds of hair on its skin, the innermost of which is short, implicated, and as fine as down, and the outermost thicker, longer, and more sparing. Of the separation of these two kinds we shall speak presently.

Neutria is the fur of a small animal called the *coypou*, the *quoyia*, or the *Myopotamus Bonariensis*,

found in various parts of South America. The long or coarse hairs are generally of a reddish colour; and the inner or soft hairs, brownish ash colour. It was not until about thirty years ago that hatters, influenced by the high price of beaver fur (which within a century has risen from 20s. to 80s. per pound), began to use neutria fur; but since that time the employment of them has become so extensive, that one million neutria skins have sometimes been imported in one year. This animal is yet little known to naturalists, but certain peculiarities in the skin beneath the fur have led to much conjecture among those who have frequent opportunities of inspecting the skins, concerning the structure and habit of the animal; for these points we refer to the article in No. 243, vol. v., p.2.

The *Musquash*, or *Mus Zibethicus*, is a North American animal, about the size of the common rabbit, and covered, like the beaver and the coypou, with two kinds of hair or fur, having different degrees of fineness. The name *muskrat* is sometimes given to this animal, on account of its secretion of a peculiar fluid having the odour of musk.

The fur of *hares* and *rabbits* is so well known as to render few words of description necessary. The rabbits fed on the wolds of Yorkshire are said to yield fur much exceeding in value that of the rabbits bred near London, by reason of the superior length and strength of the hairy filaments.

We have digressed a little, in order to show the nature of the furs employed by the hatter. The skins, or pelts, on being conveyed to the factory, are rather greasy and dirty, and are therefore cleansed with soap and water; this is effected in the same large washing house where the wool is cleansed. When the pelts are dried and required for further processes, they are carried to the "pulling room," where a number of women, seated on stools, are employed in pulling out the coarse outer hairs from the skins; these coarse hairs are utterly useless to the hatter, and, if preserved at all, are sold for stuffing cushions and such like purposes. Each woman lays a pelt on her lap, or on a low bench, and, by means of a knife acting against the thumb, tears out the larger hairs, her fingers and thumb being guarded by a stout leather shield.

(To be continued.....)

Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc.



ANNUAL BIRD & BUFFALO SHOOT

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015

WHERE: Ft. Melchert; 0086 K Street, Penrose, CO

WHAT: Long range buffalo, shotgun, primitive, pistol, and more!!!!
Range opens on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Chili lunch on Saturday; all you can eat with chips and fixin's for \$5.00

Potluck dinner Saturday night, followed by live club members donation
AUCTION.

Bring any of your old, no longer wanted "plunder" and donate it to our annual auction. Your used or unused "plunder" can be of great benefit to CSML and a true treasure to the lucky buyer with the winning bid. All proceeds go to CSML, Inc.

Dry or self-contained camping available beginning Friday evening.

BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY THE WEEKEND!!!

For more information, contact:

Joy Hicks: (719) 598-5715
Doreen Webb: (719) 275-8724

Ron Melchert: (719) 372-3286
Doug Davis: (719) 632-7690

