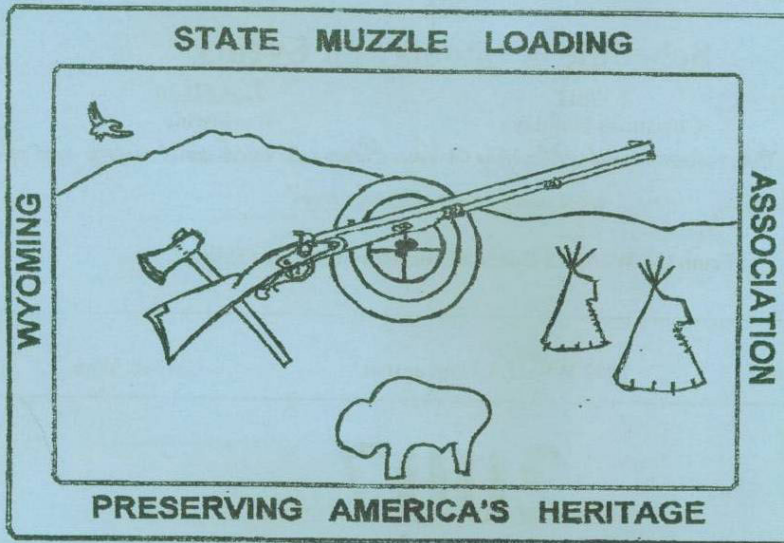


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Dave Wheeler • John A. Boesch, Jr.



Dave Spethman • Fred Costas • Jim Fralley

Mark Wams • Red Roberts • Richard Sapp • Artie Joss



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DECEMBER 2006

2006

Schedule of Shoots and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec. 25 th	Christmas Holidays	Worldwide
<i>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you and your loved ones!</i>		

From the WSMLA Board of Directors and your Editor!

Jan. 5, 6, 7, 2007

2007 WSMLA Convention

Casper, Wyo.

2007

**WSMLA CONVENTION
IN CASPER**

AT

THE HOLIDAY INN

JANUARY 12, 13, & 14, 2007

FOR RESERVATIONS: (307) 234-2531

OR

TOLL FREE: 1-877-576-8636

OR

FAX (307) 473-3115

OR EMAIL: mandy.soffe@casperhi.com

From the Editor

Here we are again, together after another memorable Thanksgiving feast, where all sorts of pleasant company shared it with us, looking forward to the next big diet busting meal at Christmas. I don't know about you but I just kinda try to survive between the important events that make up the pleasurable part of my life, like family stuff, holidays, shoots, garage sales, auctions, rendezvous, etc., etc. You know what I mean! Of course being retired might just add a little to the enjoyment of all of the above as I no longer have to spend all the time between happy stuff by, shudder, *working*! I won't try to tell you that I just automatically fell into full time happiness when I took my retirement, you probably wouldn't believe it anyway, but that's pretty much the way it is. There's just something really satisfying about having exactly the same responsibilities on week-days that I have on week-ends. It's pretty heavy stuff but I'm doing my best to deal with it.

There's been some confusion about the dates of the upcoming WSMLA Convention in January. Apparently one of the events previously published listed the convention as being the first week-end in January and now there's a bunch of hand wringing going on by folks worried that we'll have a Convention and nobody will be there. Soooooooo, will everyone please tell everyone that they might see, anywhere you might see 'em, even if they ain't interested, that our Convention is on January 12, 13 and 14 at the Holiday on the River in Casper, Wyoming, the same place as it has been for many years now. I would definitely suggest that if you do not yet have your reservations you should do so immediately. I heard the other day that the place is nearly booked up for the event and they don't expect rooms to be available much longer. In case it was your current Editor that made the grievous error concerning the misstated dates feel free to take it out of my check. If it was the previous Editor you are out of luck getting it out of his check, he has already resigned.

I attended a Turkey Shoot last week-end in Lander, at the Lander Valley Sportsmen's Shooting range north of town, and I have to tell you that it was a blast! Gail Folston put the affair on and it was definitely a fine job! We shot silhouettes at 100 yards for rifles and 75 yards for trade guns and there was surely some fine shooting going on. Where did all these dead-eye Dicks and Annie Oakleys come from anyway? But the weather was beautiful, the turkeys abundant, and everyone had a ball, even the losers like me who fortunately had already made accommodations for the holiday dinner not related to being a winner.

Well, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the absolutely Happiest of New Years in 2007. May all your dreams come true and every shot be in the ten ring. Bless you all! See you in Casper!



Travis Bennett

Smoke from The Past

I apologize for being remiss in not getting an article in the last newsletter. I guess I was preoccupied trying to get an elk with my new bow. I hope everyone else had a successful hunting season. I finally did get lucky on the opening day of the gun season. I shot a nice fat cow in the morning and a nice 3x4 mule deer that afternoon. That will probably never happen again in my life time and I sure appreciate the help of my hunting companions for helping me get the critters back to camp. I was only going to take one extra day this year due to a heavy work load so it couldn't have worked out better although I didn't want to leave camp so early and did miss taking the full week off.

I believe we left off with the year 2000 and the fine shoot put on by the Deer Creek Muzzleloaders.

The 2001 shoot was held at the range in Riverton over the Memorial Day weekend. I think this was one of the better Memorial Day shoots as far as the weather being cooperative.

Bruce Schwindt showed up and put on a fine display of shooting. He set a new record at 100 yards in the Flint match with a score of 43 on the way to winning the aggregate with a new record score of 172. Bryan Youngberg set a new record on the percussion 6 bull at 50 yards of 44x. Bruce was back again shooting off of cross sticks and shot a 50x at the 50 yard double buffalo on the way to winning the overall aggregate but coming up two points short of tying Ed Greens record. I believe everyone that participated had a good time with a lot of quarters exchanging hands on personal wagers.

I hope that all of you can make it the State convention this coming January. Until then, my family and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

'Til then, Thanks again,
Dave (He Who) Lehto



The three most fatal diseases in the West are:
Small pox, cholera, and the ignorance to argue
with a long haired, whisky-drinkin' bar

MSMLA 2001 STATE SHOOT RESULTS

Target	Category	Name	Score	Target	Category	Name	Score	
25 yd 6 Bull 50 yd 6 Bull 50 yd Single Buffalo 100 yd Lg Bull	<u>Men's Rifle</u>	Bruce Schwandt Pat McCoy Charlie Josephs Bruce Schwandt	45 41 47 43	25 yd Lg Bull 25 yd 6 Bull 50 yd Single Buffalo	<u>Junior</u>	Tye Wilczewski Walter Reid Tye Wilczewski Tye Wilczewski	43 29 39 106	
Aggregate		Bruce Schwandt	172	Aggregate				
<u>Men's Percussion</u>								
25 yd 6 Bull 50 yd 6 Bull 50 yd Single Buffalo 100 yd Lg Bull		Jeremiah Cash Bryan Youngberg Ed Green Frank Elzay Ed Green	45 44x 47x 39 160x	25 yd Lg Bull 25 yd 6 Bull 50 yd Single Buffalo		<u>Sub Junior</u>	Pete Hebert Trevor Drewny Trevor Drewny Trevor Drewny	34 5 30 58
Aggregate		Ed Green	160x	Aggregate				
<u>Ladies Rifle</u>								
25 yd 6 Bull 25 yd Lg Bull 50 yd Single Buffalo 100 yd Lg Bull		Janice Gornley Patty Tyrrell Alice Czarnicki Janice Gornley Janice Gornley	42 49x 43 34 163	25 yd DB Buffalo	<u>Men & Women</u>		Gregg Ward & Claudia Bonella	95
Aggregate		Janice Gornley	163		<u>Traveling Trophy Winners</u>			
<u>X-Stroke</u>								
50 yd DB Buffalo 100 yd Single Buffalo		Bruce Schwandt Ed Green	50x 42x	50 yd Lg Bull 100 yd Lg Bull	<u>Big Bore</u>	Roger Roebeling Vern Faus Vern Faus	45x 36 80	
Aggregate		Bruce Schwandt	92x	Aggregate				
<u>Men's Pistol</u>								
25 yd Pistol 50 yd Pistol		Ron Abbott Bruce Schwandt	93x 77	25 yd 6-Bull 50 yd Lg bull		<u>Small Bore</u>	Gary Gavin John Brocker John Brocker	46x 47x 92x
Aggregate		Gary Millhouse	163x	Aggregate				
<u>Women's Pistol</u>								
25yd Pistol 50 yd Pistol		Judy Lawrence Judy Lawrence	89x 55	25 yd Pistol 50 yd Pistol	<u>Junior Pistol</u>		Bart Short Bart Short	45 21
Aggregate		Judy Lawrence	144	Aggregate			Bart Short	66
<u>## Indicates New State Shoot And New State Record</u>								
<u>-- Indicates Tie For State Record</u>								

*** Indicates New State Shoot Record
** Indicates Tie For State Record

The Strange End of John Fubbister

by J. Gottfred

The True Story of a Most Remarkable Incident at Pembina River Post in 1807

It was four days after Christmas in the year eighteen-hundred and seven at the little fur post huddled next to the Pembina River in southern Manitoba.

Hanging low in the winters sky, the watery sun shone bleakly through the ice crystal fog and the snow lay deep around the aspens standing lonely sentinel along the frozen river. Only the occasional crack of a tree bursting with the cold penetrated the silence.

These were the darkest days of winter, when the men were confined by darkness and cold to their cramped shelters for more than sixteen hours a day. Many a strange tale is told of the queer happenings upon such lonely days. Why, did not David Thompson himself give up the game of checkers after losing a game to the Devil incarnate on such a long winter's night? Yes, strange things indeed happened to the minds of men in such isolated and lonely haunts.

Alexander Henry (the younger), the chief of the post, was worried. Early that afternoon a breathless messenger had straggled into the little outpost with the news that the Sioux had attacked the Saulteurs at Grandes Fourches, and had killed the company's friend, the great chief Tabashaw. Such news boded ill for business, and might also jeopardize the lives of his men.

Henry's thoughts were interrupted by a tapping at the door. Fearing more bad news, he motioned to one of his clerks to admit the messenger. The door opened, and an icy blast of air rushed into

the room. On the threshold stood John Fubbister, one of the men working for Henry's Hudson's Bay Company rival, who had been visiting for the New Year's festivities. Still barely a boy, the little Orkneyman's eyebrows were covered with frost, his eyes were moist and he suppressed a shiver as his nose dripped. "Damn your eyes man, shut the door! Henry bawled at his clerk. Grabbing Fubbister by the shoulder by the shoulder and hauling him inside, the clerk put his shoulder to the rough paneled door and slammed it against the freezing wind.

"Well man, speak up, what is it?" queried Henry to the trembling Orkneyman.

A knot of pain flashed across Fubbister's forehead, and he blurted out "Please sir, I...I'm not well sir. Might I warm meself by your fire sir?" Under Henry's impatient gaze, John's eyes fell to the floor.

One of the clerks by the fire spoke up indignantly. "Mind your place, Fubbister. You and your mates should be cozy enough in the men's quarters!"

Henry motioned for the man to be silent. He could read what was in the minds of his clerks. After all, who would want to abandon the place at the hearth to a man who might bring God-alone-knew-what contagion into their midst? Henry recollected all he had heard about John Fubbister. He had joined the HBC two years previous, hailing from the Orkney Isles. Fubbister's boss, Hugh Heney, had said that he had done good service although he was still just a lad. Still, it was an unusual request.

Perhaps it was the Christmas spirit still coursing through Henry's veins, or perhaps it was a sudden pity as another bout of pain racked John's body, but regardless, he motioned John towards the

fire. "It's all right. Sit down and warm yourself, man."

Avoiding the eyes of his clerks, Henry awoke with a start. He had dozed off, slumped over his tiny desk, pencil in hand. He leaned over to peer down the stair ladder at his clerk below. "What the devil is it now?" he queried.

"Fubbister would speak with you sir, if you'd so favor him."

Fearing that the worst might befall the man, Henry stepped down into the common room, his mind already forming some words of comfort for his stricken charge.

Fubbister was sprawled upon the hearth. A keening moan escaped his lips. He cursed, and grimaced with pain, and tears coursed down his cheeks. Upon the sight of Henry, he reached out his hands, and begged for mercy.

Henry stopped in his tracks, exchanging glances with his stern-faced clerks, standing over the stricken man. What was to be made of this? "He's done for, I reckon," said one. "Never seen such a display!", exclaimed the second.

Fubbister clutched at Henry's trouser leg, his grip like steel. "Hear me sir", he begged through tears and clenched teeth. "Take pity upon a poor, helpless, abandoned wretch! Treated cruel have I been sir! Oh God!" he shuddered as his body was racked with another seizure. "I'm having a baby sir!"

The men stood thunderstruck, staring at the figure on the floor. Impossible! An Orkney *girl*? *Here*?

"He's mad," said one of the clerks, slowly shaking his head. "The fever's gone to his head, sir."

"I'm no mad, damn you!" screamed the figure on the hearth. "I'm a girl!" And, so saying, he reached up, and tearing open his jacket, revealed a pair of round white breasts.

One can imagine the confusion of the next moments as these rough and bush-hardy veterans faced a situation that none of them had ever prepared for. Bears, hostile natives, drownings and freezings were all a matter of course, but Orkney girls whelping on one's hearth were quite beyond the pale.

Damning his eyes for him, Henry sent one of his men to fetch a midwife, while the other rushed to fetch a blanket and boil water, or whatever it is that one does in such moments of crisis. Meanwhile, Henry knelt next to a person he had recently known as John Fubbister, and heard the amazing tale of Isabel Gunn.

She was born in the Orkneys, and as a young woman had been debauched by one John Scarth, who had subsequently decamped for Hudson's Bay. This resourceful and amazing woman, learning that her lover was bound for the wilds of Canada, had signed on with the HBC as a man, and obtained passage to the Northwest. She had successfully maintained her cover for nearly *two years* before her condition revealed her true nature.

Within the hour, Isabel was delivered of a fine, health baby boy, whom she named James. Both mother and son were in excellent health and soon recovered enough to travel, so they were packed off in Henry's cariole that very afternoon to Grandes Fourches, where she was reunited with her lover.

And so ended the career of John Fubbister, and likewise, the amazing true story of Isabel Gunn, the first European woman to give birth in the Northwest.

Isabel Gunn was born in Tankerness, Orkney in 1781. Her lover was John Scarth from the parish of Firth. To avoid being separated, Isabel disguised herself as one John Fubbister, and signed on the the Hudson's Bay Company in June, 1806 at Stromness, Orkney. The pair sailed to Albany on Hudson's Bay aboard The Prince of Wales that summer. In 1807 she was assigned to a brigade under the command of Hugh Heney and traveled to the Red River area, where she gave birth to her son, James. After the birth, she returned to Albany, took the name of Mary, and worked as a nurse and washerwoman until being sent home in 1809. She died a pauper at Stromness, on November 7, 1861.

Bibliography:

Henry, Alexander (the Younger). The Journal of Alexander Henry The Younger 1799-1814. The Champlain Society, University of Toronto Press, 1988. ISBN 0-9693425-0-0. Volume 1, pp 299-300.

Henry, Alexander (the Younger). New Light on the Early History of the Northwest: The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry... Elliot Coues (ed.) Reprint-Ross & Haines: Minneapolis, 1965. Originally published 1897. P. 426

Van Kirk, Sylvia. Many Tender Ties: Women in Fur Trade Society, 1670-1870. Watson & Dwyer: Winnipeg, 1980. ISBN 0-920486-06-1, pp. 175-177.





Rocky Mountain Winters by Rufus Sage

From *Rocky Mountain Life*, by
Rufus Sage, 1846.

From his travels in the Rocky Mountains in
1841-44.

Page 291 - Wintering on Platte, camped in a large grove of cottonwood upon the right bank 1842-43

At this place it was our daily practice to fell two or three small trees for our horses, as we now considered ourselves fully established in winter quarters. Game was plenty, and wood abundant; nothing, therefore, remained for us to do but to recruit our horses, eat of the best the prairie afforded, drink of the crystal waters that rolled by our side, and enjoy life in true mountain style; nor did we neglect the opportunity of so doing. In fact, had the world been searched over, it would have been hard to find a jollier set of fellows than we. The effort of a few hours was sufficient to procure a month's supply of the choicest delicacies, nor is it marvelous that, to use a cant phrase of the country, we soon became "fat, ragged, and saucy."

Page 348 - Wintering in Colorado on Soublet's Creek 1843-44

The winter-camp of a hunter in the Rocky Mountains would doubtless prove an object of interest to the unsophisticated. It is usually located in some spot sheltered by hills or rocks, for the double purpose of securing the full warmth of the sun's rays, and screening it from the notice of strolling Indians that may happen in the vicinity. Within a convenient proximity to it stands some grove, from which an abundance of dry fuel is procurable when needed; and equally close the ripplings of a watercourse salute the ear with their music. His shantee faces a huge fire, and is formed of skins carefully extended over an arched framework of slender poles, which are bent in the form of a semi-circle and kept in their places by inserting their extremities in the ground. Near this is his "graining block," planted aslope, for ease of the operative in preparing his skins for the finishing process in the art of dressing; and not far removed is a stout frame, contrived from four pieces of timber, so tied together as to leave a square of sufficient dimensions for the required purpose, in which, perchance, a skin is stretched to its fullest extension, and the hardy mountaineer is busily engaged in rubbing it with a rough stone or "scraper," to fit it for the manufacture of clothing.

Facing his shantee upon the opposite side of the fire, a pole is reared upon crotches five or six feet high, across which reposes a choice selection of the dainties of his range, to wit: the "side ribs," shoulders, heads and "rump-cuts" of deer and sheep, or the "depouille" and

"fleeces" of buffalo. The camp-fire finds busy employ in fitting for the demands of appetite such dainty bits of hissing roasts as en appolas may grace its sides, while, at brief intervals, the hearty attendant, enchaired upon the head of a mountain sheep, (whose huge horns furnish legs and arms for the convenience of sitting), partakes of his tempting lunch. Carefully hung in some fitting place, are seen his "riding" and "pack-saddles," with his halters, "cavresses," "larriets," "apishamores," and all the needful materiel for camp and travelling service; and adjoining him at no great distance, his animals are allowed to graze, or, if suitable nourishment of other kind be lacking, are fed from the bark of cottonwood trees levelled for that purpose; and leaning close at hand, his rifle awaits his use, and by it his powder-horn, bullet-pouch, and tomahawk.

Thus conditioned are these lordly rangers in their mountain home, nor own that any creature of human kind can possibly enjoy life better than they.

ENDANGERED SPECIES!



During the Battle of the Wilderness, in the American Civil War, General John Sedgwick (1813-1864) was inspecting his troops. At one point, he came to a parapet over which he gazed out in the direction of the enemy. His officers suggested that this was unwise and perhaps he ought to duck while passing the parapet. "Nonsense," snapped the General, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist-----"

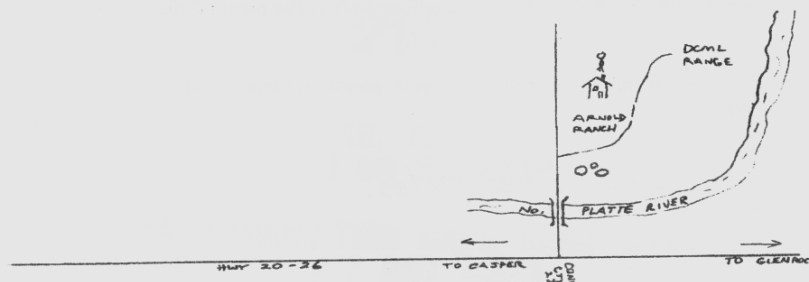
DEER CREEK MUZZLE LOADERS
Announce the
WSMLA WINTER CHALLENGE SHOOT
February 16, 17, 18, 2007

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Attention Muzzle loading Clubs and Individual shooters: The Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders challenge you to form your best teams of men and women and join us in a fun weekend match. Enjoy a late winter muzzle-loading shoot! Shake that case of cabin fever and dust off your muzzle-loading rifle and come over to the Arnold Ranch near Glenrock. If you are an individual shooter or are short of having a full team, we will sign you up and make up teams as they sign up. Men's teams are to be composed of 5 men; Women's teams are to be composed of 3 women. Women may shoot on a men's team but not vice versa even if a skirt is worn.

Matches & Entry fees: The entry fee per shooter is \$15. This will include a target packet of ten targets. A lunch will be available to shooters both days and is included in the entry fee. Medallions will be awarded to the top three men's and women's teams. So challenge yourself and try to best the records for individual aggregate and team aggregate scores. The DCML range offers challenging matches at 25, 50, 100 and 200 yards. You must use a traditional muzzle loading, hunting type rifle with open sights and use black powder or substitute and a patched round ball. No underhammer or in line actions or black powder cartridge rifles. NMLRA scoring rules will apply.

Camping: The DCML Range on the old Arnold Ranch offers fine primitive and modern camping areas in the cottonwoods. Wood is provided but you will need to bring your own water. Dogs ARE allowed but must be on leash and in control of an adult. No horses. Come have a winter rendezvous and burn some powder with us.

Schedule: Friday Feb 16 – Set up your camp, registration and shoot in afternoon
Saturday Feb 17 – Range open 8-5
Sunday Feb 18 – Range open 8-12. Awards at 1:00
Continue to enjoy a winter camp



Information: Dave Hein, 577-1071, Delbert Lesser, 436-8809, Paula Sorter, 237-3743

2007 WSMLA Photo Contest

The Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association will feature a photo contest at the State Convention in Casper on Jan. 12-14. This event is open to all members and your participation is encouraged.

Categories: A. Humorous (Relating to our sport)
B. Shooting/Hunting (black powder target shooting or hunting, etc.)
C. Camp life (rendezvous, primitive camps, scenery around camp)
D. Scenery (a picturesque view or landscape)

if your picture does not quite fit one of the above categories, we will, with your help, place it into one anyway.

Who may enter: All paid up members and their immediate family.

Rules: Photos must be enlarged to 8 by 10 and matted. Photo Copies and pictures that are framed will not be allowed. This is to make it fair to all participants. Please try and have your photos turned in to Ned Dunn by 10:30 A.M. on Saturday January 13th. A limit of three photos per category per person please.

Awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each category.
All around grand prize award for the best photo overall.
1st prize in each division is 15.00 dollars in Traders Bucks
2nd prize in each division is 10.00 dollars in Traders Bucks
3rd prize in each division is 5.00 dollars in Traders Bucks
Best of show will be awarded 25.00 dollars in Traders Bucks
(These prizes will only be valid for this years' convention)

Judges: All members (including family) will be allowed to vote during the viewing period on Saturday. You will vote for one photo per category plus the best of show. Judging will be closed at 3:30 P.M. to allow for a count of the ballots. Prizes will be awarded during the auction. Photos may be auctioned off at the owners' discretion.

If you have any questions about your photo contest, please feel free to call Ned Dunn at (307-754-4498).

Please read the rules.

Thanks
Ned

WINTER ON THE WIND

**CHECK OUT YOUR WINTER
SKILLS, YOUR
AUTHENTICITY, YOUR
DEDICATION, NOT TO
MENTION YOUR SANITY!**



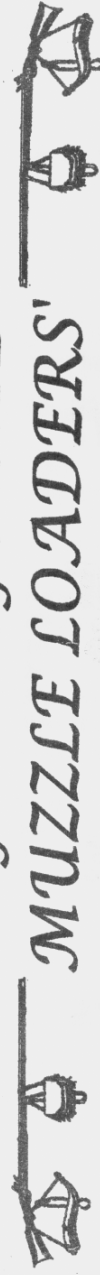
**ANNUAL PRIMITIVE
WINTER CAMP AT THE
WIND RIVER MUZZLE LOADERS
RANGE NEAR RIVERTON**

**JANUARY 19, 20 & 21, 2007
MEAT SHOOT ON SUNDAY THE
21ST**

**NO FEES FOR CAMPING, THE MEAT SHOOT COSTS
\$10 ON SUNDAY**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL GARY GAVIN
307 857 4221**

WYOMING STATE



MUZZLE LOADERS'

RENDEZVOUS &

TRADERS' FAIR

January 12, 13, 14 2007

January 12, 13, 14 2007

*Public Welcome ***** Free Admission*

- *Explore the items of the early 1800s
- *Traders Row for shopping
- *Seminars and Story Telling
- *Dinner and Dancing Saturday Night with the music of Prickly Pair!!!!

January 12, 13, 14 2007
Holiday on the River

Casper, Wyoming

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SUCCESS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN FUR TRADE

by Barry "Buck" Conner

A Book Review by Travis Bennett

In the October issue of the WSMLA Newsletter I wrote a little article titled "TRADE GUN MANIA" and listed a half dozen books on that subject that I have enjoyed. Probably the hard core members of our organization who are also devotees of trade guns already have most of the books that I mentioned, just as I do. But, since I asked for feedback on the subject and received none, I will now exercise my rights as editor of this little rag and explore the subject a little further, for those who may not be so blessed, by reviewing what I think is a great little book that I got about a year ago from it's author, Buck Conner.

Mr. Conner is a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Colorado in the early 1960's. He is a retired telecommunication design engineer and has a long time interest in muzzle loading and the Fur Trade in North America. He has owned and operated several muzzle loading and black powder stores and written articles in association journals and national magazines. His book is one that just grabs you, in my opinion, and is extremely hard to put down when once started.

*Success In The North American
Fur Trade*

A Documentary Of The Northwest Gun Trade



Barry "Buck" Conner

Mr. Conner has obviously poured a lot of time, interest and effort into researching this fine addition to our library. It is so chocked full of information and details that it is one of those books that just keeps you turning pages back and forth, happily absorbing new and old items and filing them in your mind for future reference. It is a 168 page, paper bound, 8-1/2" X 11" book with a slick, attractive cover bearing a reproduction of one of David Wright's paintings of an "all too clean", heavily bearded, beaded, and suitably grim "Wind River Man", as he has entitled it. A fine piece of artwork by an extremely knowledgeable, gifted and successful artist.

(I have never figured out how I can get so damned grungy and dirty in only a week in hunting camp, with all the modern amenities of civilization on hand, and these guys, like "The Wind River Man", can stay so clean after traveling thousands of miles and spending many months away from civilization, all of this while sleeping on the ground, cooking in the dirt, and riding horseback. Of course that's just one of the things I lay awake at night ponderin' over.. Pardon my digretion.)

Author Conner gives much credit to Charles Hanson, Jr. of the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska for his inspiration and help in the research of this book and had a special tribute to Mr. Hanson on page 11, and along with a great picture of Charles are reproduced letters written to encourage Mr. Conner in his endeavors. As you will recall, Charles Hanson was the author of "The Northwest Gun", written in 1955, which has been a long-time favorite Trade Gun gem of mine.

Conner starts the book out with a nice little explanation of how trade guns in general began and how they relate to each other as far as time periods and areas of use. He then goes on to document the evolution of the Northwest Gun from it's early years until it's decline in the early 1900's. He has many pictures and side notes

throughout the book that clarify his points and reinforces his conclusions. He does this all in any easy going and understandable manner that makes it fun to read but does not get overly technical and tend to overwhelm the average enthusiast. He has extensive lists of interesting data concerning the multitude of makers involved in the manufacture of these guns along with a bunch of pictures showing the great variety of details that mark the different time periods and stages of the gun's development. He also offers several pages of advice to potential trade gun builders on how to correctly choose the component parts for their gun, how to lay out the work, and how it should look when finished. And along with the plethora of trade gun information he includes really fine notes concerning various general fur trade items. A great read and a book to keep close by your favorite chair. I think that this book falls right along with and adds to the information contained in the super old book that Charley Hanson honored us with so many years ago. Thank you Buck Conner!

And thank *you*, for reading this.

If you can't find the book anywhere else you might try:

The Sitting Fox Agency
14071 W. Amherst Court
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 914-0367
<http://www.sittingfoxagency.com/>
or email sittingfoxagency@lycos.com

This is one of their Blanket Series Books

EDITORIAL **POLICIES**

**No charge for fliers or
announcements from membership
when results are sent in.**

**Please send ad and check made out
to WSMLA to the editor.
Business Cards will be run at \$1 per
issue or \$5 per year.**

**Trade ads are \$10 per page and \$5
per half page.**

**Classified ads are free for
members.**

**This newsletter is published during
the months of February, April,
June, August, October and**

**December The day you might get it
is determined by the competence
and dedication of the Editor and/or
Printer, neither of which are
necessarily competent or punctual.**

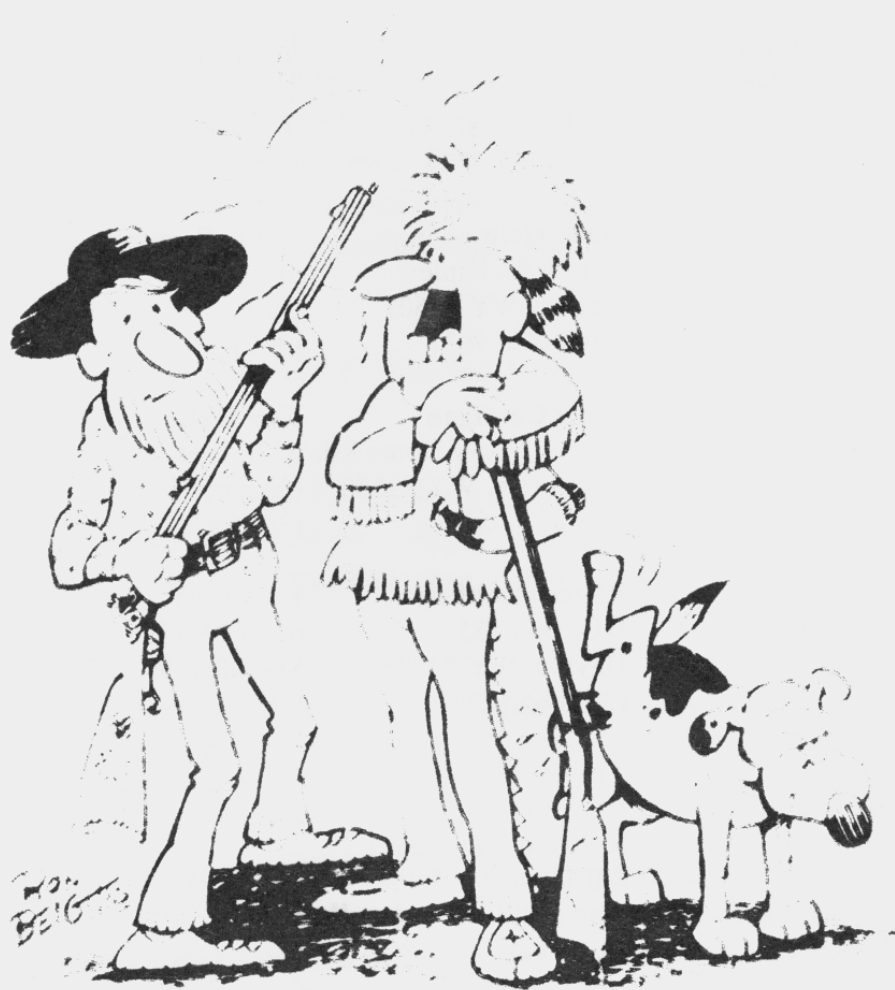
**Deadlines for publication in these
issues is the 20th of the month
before the next issue.**

All submissions should be sent to:

**Travis Bennett Ph. # (307) 856-
6152 or (307) 851-9265**

**Address: P. O. Box 1205, Riverton,
WY 82501**

**Email address:
trbennet@wyoming.com**



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IN THIS SUDDEN WEATHER... THERE'S NO
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Clubs at the Local Level

Big Horn Basin Muzzle Loaders	David Tyrrell P.O. Box 92 Shell, WY 82441 (307)-765-2289	Tom Brewster 1202 Road 47 Ten Sleep, WY 82442 (307)-366-2391
Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders	Dave Hein 731 N. McKinley Casper, WY 82601 (307)-237-9631	Paula Sorter 1448 W. 29 th St. Casper, WY 82604 (307)-237-3743
Rocky Mountain Free Trappers	Mike Corrigan 7459 E Geary Dome Rd. Evansville, WY 82636 (307)-237-5136	Ken Hall 6375 Westland Rd. Casper, WY 82604 (307)-472-4175
Sheridan Bullshooters	Roger Roebbling P.O. Box 535 Dayton, WY 82836 (307)-655-2583	Ed Green 655 E. Burkitt St. Sheridan, WY 82801 (307)-674-6343
Wind River Muzzle Loaders	Travis Bennet P.O. Box 1205 Riverton, WY 82501 (307)-856-6152	
Crow Creek Fur Co.	Mike Penz 117 East 3 rd . Ave Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307)-635-0791	Scott Jones 7910 Ketchem Rd. Cheyenne, WY 82009 (307)-638-8573
Sierra Madre Muzzle Loaders	Ed Kennaday P.O. Box 372 Saratoga, WY 82331 (307)-326-5059	Les Daniels P.O. Box 1051 Saratoga, WY 82331 (307)-326-8197

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
2007

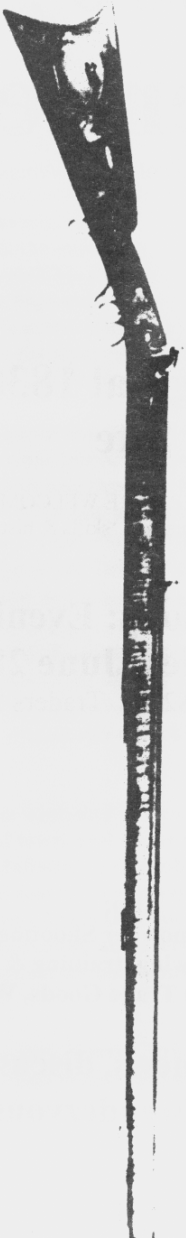
A FEW CONVENIENT ALIBIS

1. That group was made with buckshot, buckshot's no good; should have used cast balls.
2. That group was made with cast balls. Them's no good; got porous places in 'em and sprue to throw 'em out of balance, should have used buckshot.
3. That bad one was a hangfire. These caps (flints) are no good.
4. That one got off too soon, this set trigger don't always pull the same.
5. The wind blew up harder while I was gettin' the aim.
6. The wind went down while I was aimin'.
7. This gun mebbe was all right in Grand-pap's day but that was a long time ago and he didn't have nothin' better.
8. I guess Grand-pap shot the squirrels' heads off - sometimes.
9. The barrel got hot while they were changin' the targets.
10. The barrel got cold while they were changin' the targets.
11. Somebody kicked the back of the bench rest.
12. The powder got wet from the patch while I was puttin' on another cap after that misfire.
13. Powder ain't what it was when I was young.
14. Caps ain't what they was etc., etc.
15. Bar'l needs freshin' out.
16. Bar'l was all right 'til it was freshed out.
17. Patch cloth is too thick.
18. Patch cloth is too thin.
19. Can't get good patchin' nowhere no more.
20. Powder's too course. 21. Powder's too fine.
22. Powder's dirty, charcoal they used makin' it ain't as good as it was.
23. They don't care about makin' good black powder any more. Ain't no great call for it so they don't care.
24. Black powder nowadays is just miner's blastin' powder, ground fine and it's half coal dust.
25. A fly bit my neck jest as I teched the trigger.
26. A man can't shoot good with the sun shinin' against the back of his sight.
27. A man can't shoot good aimin' against the sun like this.
28. A man can't shoot good with the sun shinin' acrosst the bar'l like this.
29. The sun quit shinin' and I helt low.
30. That 'un way out there? Somebody must've shot on my target.
31. Add your own: _____

from "for BEGINNERS only" by B. M. Baxter, also printed in the May/June WSMLA Newsletter

NOTE: A FREE POSTER TO HELP KEEP PEACE IN THE FAMILY →→→→→→→→

**MY WIFE SAYS THAT IF I
DON'T GIVE UP MUZZLE
LOADING SHE'S GOING TO
LEAVE ME.**



**GOD HOW I'M GOING TO MISS
THAT WOMAN!**

2007

1838 Rendezvous!

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Change of Address Form

New Address:

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

Please Mail, telephone or email change of address to Editor,

Travis Bennett

P. O. Box 1205

Riverton, WY 82501

(307) 856-6152

trbennet@wyoming.com

Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Names of Children: _____

Address : _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

WSMLA# _____

NRA#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

NMLRA#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Please enclose a check for \$20 made out to W.S.M.L.A. with the above form and send to:

Carrie Gavin

216 Valley Circle

Riverton, WY 82501

WSMLA
P. O. Box 50441
Casper, WY 82605-0441

**WYOMING STATE
MUZZLE LOADING
ASSOCIATION**

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