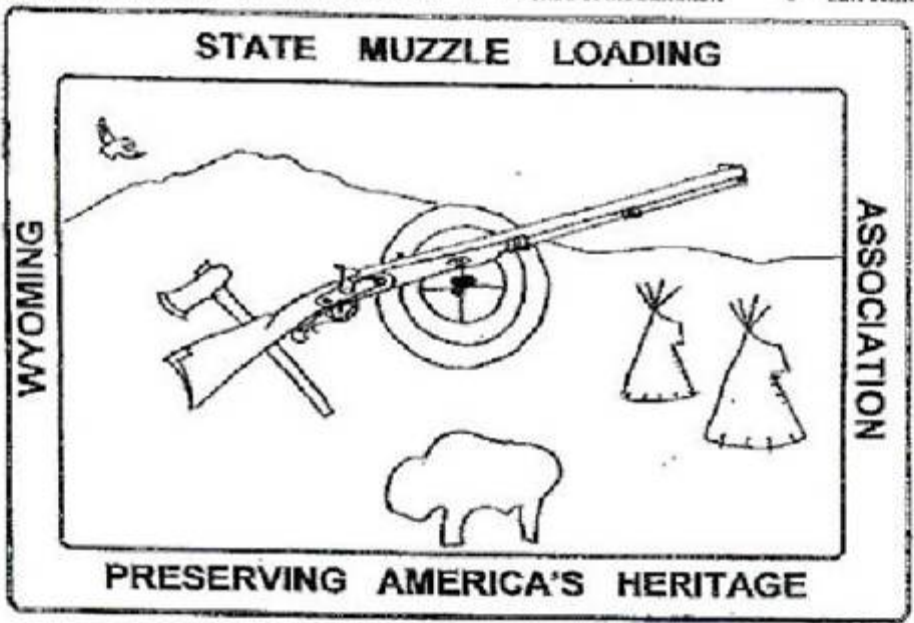


William (Bill) Jennings • Travis Bennett • Donald J. McCandlish • Jim White

Dave Wheeler • John A. Beech, Jr.



Dave Spothman • Fred Coster • Jim Pringley

Mark Warns • Red Roberts • Richard Sapp • Artie Joss

OCTOBER 2006



From the Editor

Well here it is past the middle of September already and something has been trying to pop into my mind that I was supposed to do before long. Wonder what it could be? I've already done all the things around the house that I usually do this time of year, like checking out the heating system for the coming winter, filling up the propane tank for my shop heater, caulking some cracks in the old caulking around my windows, cleaning and putting my stuff away after another Fort Bridger Rendezvous, etc., you know, the usual fall stuff that we always wait for cold weather to take care of. Wonder what the heck I forgot to do? Oh, oh, now I remember, another WSMLA Newsletter is due to be sent to the printer before the 1st of October. How did I ever manage to forget that one?

Anyway, here we are again folks, another summer easing it's way into fall; hunting seasons nearly upon us and even a few optimistic merchants bringing up the exact number of shopping days left until Christmas, in case it wasn't coming soon enough as it is. Where did the summer go? I know we had some great activities for black powder shooters in the last couple of months since our last newsletter but it's still hard to believe that another rendezvous and shooting season is drawing to a close for many of us.

For me, the highlight of the summer is my annual trek to Uinta County for the Fort Bridger Rendezvous. I have attended every one since it began and I still enjoy the danged thing as much as I ever did. I especially enjoy the unforgettable years when the weather cooperates completely, exactly like it did this year. For four day and nights the wind did not try to blow down my wedge tent, the rain didn't come in hourly squalls ranging from light drizzle to typhoon drenchings, the temperatures didn't drop below freezing and make me scramble for extra blankets, in fact as far as the weather goes I had absolutely nothing to complain about. Nothing except the fact that I missed my old trading partner A. J. White that is, and that will surely take some getting used to if I keep on going to Fort Bridger in the fall. For about 25 years or so we've shared the Fort Bridger experience, for whatever that may be worth, but now I have a new neighbor where Jim used to be. A sky pilot who deals in Sioux beadwork, sweet sage and dream catchers is not what I expected for a new neighbor but it's probably better than some of the reprobates that I've seen around the Fort over the years so I won't complain about that either. Some of the spots close by mine have also been taken by some quality folks from Wyoming and I've got some pictures inside

this newsletter that I took of them. Fort Bridger, whatever you might have heard about it, is still an experience that you should have at least once. For the long Labor Day week-end it is the third largest city in Wyoming and there is more plunder on the ground for sale than can even be imagined by most of us. There is a slate of activities taking place continuously for three days and some of it is really 1st class fare, with entertainment, speakers, contests, shooting, and sightseeing as well as the 150 or so trade blankets out and about. A rendezvous it ain't, if you're looking for absolutely correct fur trade activities, but it's an experience for sure and I still haven't had enough of it even after over 30 years. Which my wife claims is somewhat pitiful of course, but why start listening to her now?

Good to see you all again, hope you enjoy your October Newsletter, and remember, the next one comes to you in December, just a month before the big convention in Casper. Take care!

Travis

Wyoming Muzzle Loading Clubs

Big Horn Basin Muzzle Loaders Monthly Shoot 1st Sunday of each Month	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. 29th 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 Monthly shoot last Sunday of each Month	Roger Roebing 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 Monthly Shoot 2nd Sunday of each Month	Travis Bennet P.O. Box 1205 Riverton, WY 82501 307-856-6152	
Crow Creek Fur Co.	Mike Penz 117 East 3rd. Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001 307-635-0791	Chris Allen, 2920 Ames Ct. , Cheyenne, WY 82001 307-635-8425.
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

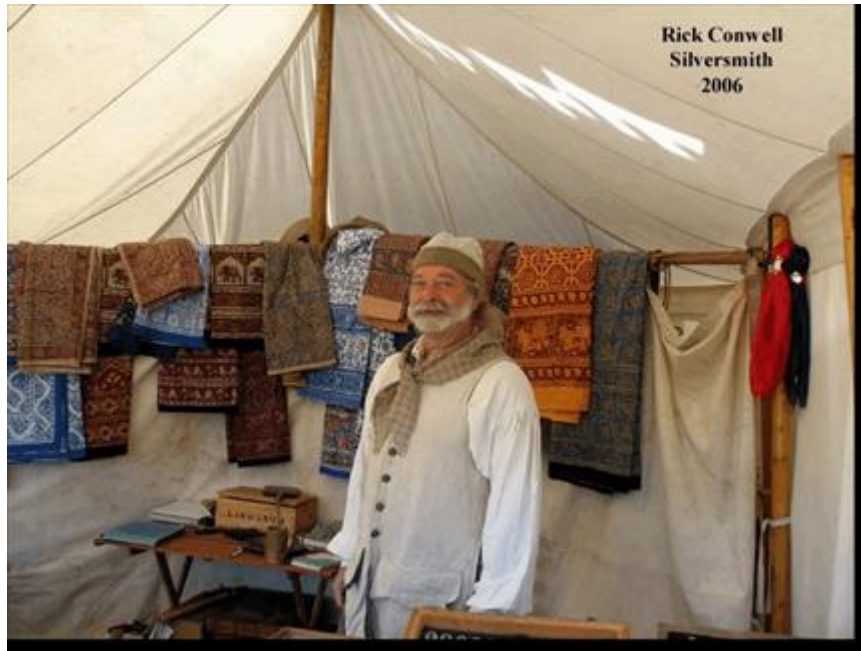
2007 Schedule of Shoots and Events

	Location
January, 2007	
<u>12-14, Wyoming State Muzzleloaders Rendezvous Convention</u>	Casper, WY

FORT BRIDGER
Wyoming Historical Site? Rendezvous? Trade Fair? Circus?
Cultural Event? Carnival? Pain in the Butt?
by TRAVIS BENNETT



I guess that if you would ask a variety of folks to describe the annual Fort Bridger Rendezvous that takes place every year over the long Labor Day week-end, you might hear any of the above descriptions, and with a variety of emphasis added for clarity. For me the annual affair has been some or all of the above list at one time or another but I just keep going back and enjoying myself (generally) year after year. The things that keep me going back, time and again, are probably that very same list so you probably have realized by now that I am an old fan of the event and don't mind defending it to its critics. My comments on the Editorial page of this issue pretty much cover my thoughts on the Fort Bridger Rendezvous, so I will just take this time to share some fine times that I experienced this year with you and show you some pictures that I took of various members of our group who attended and, I am assuming, had a great time. I know that I didn't get pictures of all who attended and for that I apologize, I'll try to do better in the future. But here's some of the ones who stopped to talk at my trade spot or that I found new in the neighborhood this year



Rick Conwell
Silversmith
2006



Slashback Canvas
Dock Bob and wife
Fort Bridger
2006



Rick Conwell came back again this year and was set up a few yards south of my little trade spot across from the Guardhouse. Rick left Wyoming a couple of years ago and Iowa's gain was definitely our loss as Rick is a longtime supporter of the WSMLA and other Wyoming things.

It was good to see Rick again and also see that he is doing so well in his business. The price of fuel to get to Fort Bridger this year had to be a shock to his being as well as his bank account but I hope that he did well enough this year to make it feasible to return in 2007. Good to see you Rick!

SLASHBACK CANVAS and the Evelands were in a new spot this year, just across the aisle from Rick Conwell and a couple of spots south of me. They have a huge Marquee with mucho trade goods and were kept busy by the thousands of potential customers who crowded their way over the week-end. They are a definite improvement to the area.



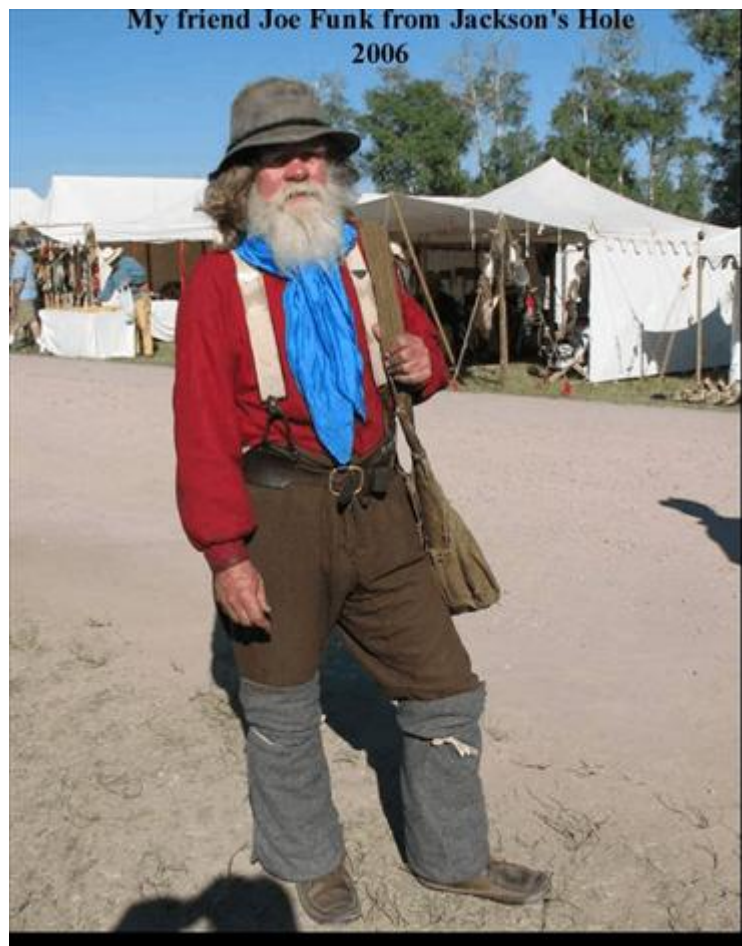
Rich Page, reknown as “Two Cups”, and his bride Sue were also in a new location, about a half dozen spots south of the Evelands. Their outfit, Cloud Peak Traders, has expanded quite a bit since I last noticed and they are doing extremely well.

Mike and Liz Irvin and kids look terrific as they pause in front of my trade blanket. This has to be one of the nicest families that I know and they are always a pleasure to be around. Mike helped us a bunch at the 1838 Rendezvous in July this year, putting on a seminar to assist beginning buckskinners and trekkers.



Gail Folston and Big Tedd Iverson stopped by to visit and I nailed them with a photo. I'm not sure about Big Tedd but Gail is the height of fashion with his "shirt of many colors" his mama sewed for him. Big Tedd is, well, just Big Tedd, what more can I say?

Joe Funk, Jackson Hole trapper and Mtn. Man.



Joe is one of the guys I always look forward to seeing at Fort Bridger. He is what a lot of AMM wannabees think they are but might have a ways to go.

Hope you enjoyed seeing some of the sights of the Fort Bridger doin's this year and hope to see more of you down there in 2007.

Travis



SEWING YOUR OWN MOCCASINS

Adapted from the column
The Art of Making Skins
by Kendall McDowell
published in earlier issues of
The Buckskin Report

The one thing that people tend to forget, or refuse to admit, is that moccasins are expendable. You wear them long enough, you wear them out. When you wear them out, you pitch them out. The exception might be the tops of a 2-piece moccasin, like the full beaded uppers of your dress parfleche sole moccasins. These might be salvaged for use on another pair.

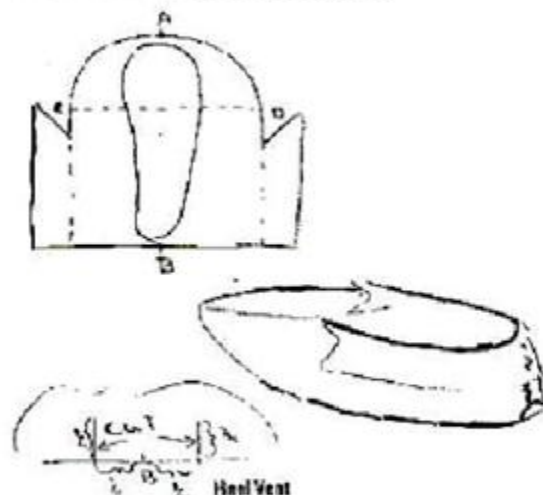
Included here are instructions on three different styles of moccasins. Two of these styles are nice because they are made to fit either foot. No right or left is made, as such. This designation becomes apparent after a day in the damp woods, or even ten minutes on dewy grass. There are two variations of the center seam woodland style, and the Plains two-piece, hard or soft sole moccasin.

The first thing any moccasin maker needs is a supply of brown paper bags from your local supermarket. They are handy for patterns. The next thing is enough leather for three moccasins. The first moccasin never turns out right, but adjust it and do better on the next two, giving you a pair of perfect moccasins.

The type of leather that works best for these styles of moccasins is heavy buckskin or a light cowhide of similar texture. The emphasis is on softness more than durability.

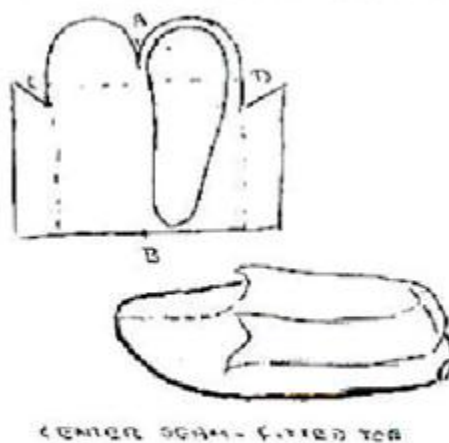
The best thread I have found for sewing this type is Dental Floss, well waxed and doubled. The dental tape works if it is well twisted while waxing.

CENTERSEAM — POINTED TOE MOCCASINS:



CENTER SEAM - POINTED TOE

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CENTER SEAM - FITTED TOE

The measurement A-B is the length of your foot plus a hair (1-48"). The C-D measurement is the circumference of your foot about 1 1/2 inches behind your big toe.

There is no right or left so the pattern should match when folded along line A-B. The moccasin can be made with or without a welt, which is nothing more than a piece of your moccasin leather 1/2" wide and as long as you need it.

Place the leather, smooth side down, fold along line A-B and begin sewing at point A. You can use a whip, glove or saddle stitch, with or without a welt in between the two sides you are sewing. Make your stitches one sixteenth to one eighth inch apart. Sew to a point 1-1 1/2" from where the flaps start.

Turn the moccasin right side out (rough side out) and slip them on. Mark the point where they fit snug at the ankle and cut off. Make a mark at the center of the back of the moccasin - Point B. Measure 3/4" either side of the mark and cut in 3/4". (See heel diagram) Sew down the back of the moccasin, fold up heel vent and sew.

These directions work for both styles except point A-B on the center seam fitted toe style is approximately 1 1/2" shorter than total foot length. Flaps can be from 1 to 3 inches wide. After finishing, you have a pair of moccasins with a seam over your toes and up the middle of your foot. Take a smooth piece of wood, slip it inside the moccasin and pound the seams with another smooth piece of wood. This will flatten the seams and make the moccasins comfortable to wear.

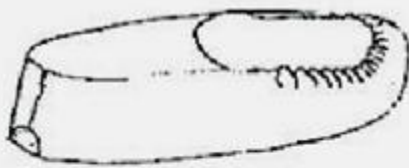
The first time you put the finished moccasins on they should be snug, almost uncomfortably so. Dampen the moccasins, put them on and wear them dry. This makes them fit comfortably and sets them for left and right foot.

WOODLAND STYLE PUCKERED TOE MOCCASIN:

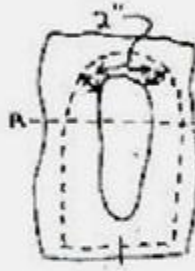
This style of moccasin, in its various modifications, has been credited to any or all of the following tribes: Iroquois, Ojibway, Chippawas, and a host of others. Take your pick.

Take your pencil scarred, bare naked foot and put it on your brown paper bag, then trace around it. Draw a line two inches out from your knobby toes, ending up with a pattern as shown in Fig. 1. Don't be too worried about the length at this point.

We now need a combination tongue and top. Take your piece of string that you measured the circumference of your foot 1 1/2"



①



②



The distance from C around to D is $\frac{1}{2}$ the distance from D around to E. Point D & E are about in the middle of the sole.

③



behind your big toe. If you have been playing with these patterns as we go along, you have it. If you are starting out fresh, make one. It isn't very difficult. Anyhow, the width of the tongue is about $\frac{1}{3}$ the distance around your foot. The width of the sole at point A (Fig. 1) and the width of the tongue will equal the length of your measurement string. You might give yourself about $\frac{3}{8}$ " extra to allow for stitching, although we can stretch the leather to fit. The length of the tongue should be one half the length of the sole pattern. The tongue pattern should look something like Fig. 2.

Again, there is no right or left patterns, so cut out a sole and a tongue or top, remembering the rough side of the leather is the outside of the moccasin. In sewing the top to the sole, the only problem is where to start. There is a ratio here that has to be studied a bit before starting. The distance from where you begin sewing the top to the bottom to where you finish should measure twice as far around the edge of the sole as the measurement around the edge of the top. Figure 3 explains it a heck of a lot clearer than the preceding sentence. This is the most important part of the whole deal. If it isn't right, the whole moccasin will end up looking funny.

When you sew use a glover's stitch and take twice as long a stitch in the sole as you do the top. If you make your stitches $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart in the sole, then make your stitches $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart in the top. If your stitches are $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart in the sole, then the stitches are $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart in the top. The thickness of your leather will, to a great degree, determine how long your stitches will be. See Fig. 4.

After you finish getting the tops and bottoms together, slip your foot in (hopefully you have a snug fit) and mark the point where your heel is. Cut the leather off square at this point. Hold the top edges together and mark where the center of the heel is (Fig. 1-B). Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ " either side of this mark and cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the heel tab (Fig. 5).

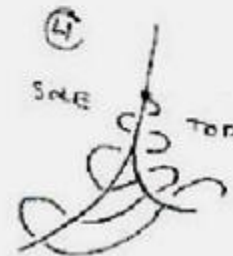
Now sew the back of the moccasins together. When you reach the bottom, fold the tab up and sew. You can also cut the tab off and sew a "T" seam. (See Fig. 6A and B).

In reality it has taken you longer to puzzle out these directions than it will to make the moccasins. Remember, you are making the first moccasin as a sample. If it fits and looks good — fine. If something isn't right, tear it apart, fix it, modify the pattern and do it again. Once you get it right, you have it right from then on.

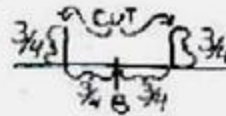
A few things to mention. You might want to use something heavier than dental floss for sewing the top to the bottom. If you do use dental floss I would suggest four strands well waxed and twisted. It takes some pulling to get the puckers right sometimes. The seams should be pounded after completion of the moccasins, smoothing up the inside.

The modifications mentioned earlier are in the width of the top and the accompanying variations in the width of the sole.

High tops may be added for additional ankle protection. If beading is to be done, it should be a floral design and sewn to the top before attaching it to the soles.



⑤



⑥



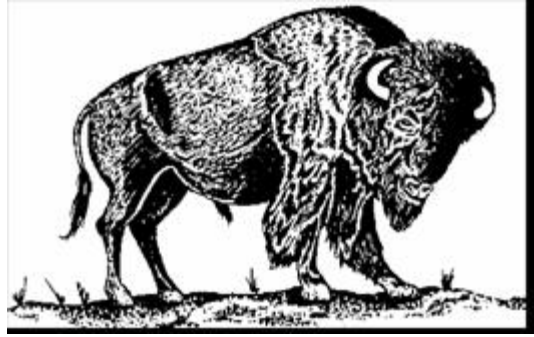
PLAINS TWO PIECE - HARD OR SOFT SOLE MOCCASINS:

Now let's move west of the Mississippi and make a pair of Plains style two piece moccasins. There are two variations of this style, the hard or parfleche sole and the soft sole. Both styles are covered here.

Get out your brown paper bag and stand on it in your bare foot. Draw the outline of your foot, taking care that the pencil is held perpendicular to the paper. Smooth out the lines around your knobby toes and this is the pattern for the sole — hard or soft.

Then take another piece of your paper, cut a T in it measuring 7 or 8 inches on the shaft and 2 or 2 1/2 inches on the cross piece. Slip this over your foot and mark the paper where it touches the floor. With minor modifications this is the pattern for the top for both styles. Even your lines up and cut out the pattern. You should end up with

Continued on page 43



COPPER LADY'S VITTLES

It's time to prepare for hunting - if your plans are all made, equipment ready, skip down to the recipes. If you want to renew skills or learn something new, read on. Pap and I hunted deer and antelope; he also hunted elk, rabbit and game with other friends. From his guidance and from the Game Cookbook by Geraldine Steindler come these suggestions.

- Sharpen your knife and hatchet; carry a sharpening stone.
- Make or buy meat sacks (2 yards of 72 inch lightweight canvas or unbleached cotton duck per sack).
- Clean your gun, and have plenty of ammunition on hand. Be sure your small gun for final kill is also ready.

To reduce gaminess during the hunt:

- When possible locate animals grazing on alfalfa or grass
- Avoid running the animal.
- Field dress with hind on if possible, being careful to keep hair away from the meat.
- Drain blood away from the meat.
- Remove the hide and protect the meat from flies by placing in meat sack.
- Hang away from cats, dogs and other predators. Cure for several days in cool weather, shorten time in hot.
- When cutting up the meat, trim off all fat, and bone to reduce wild flavor. Pack in family size portions and freeze as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

HAPPY HUNTING! AND HAPPY EATING!

Slumgullion (from Pap's old book, The Buckskinner's Cook Book by James A. Hanson and Kathryn J. Wilson:

Fry a half dozen slices bacon. Add three brokenhardtack crackers. Add ½ lb. Cooked corned beef and heat thoroughly.

Spotted Dog (from The Book of Buckskinning III)

6 Slices stale/old dry bread

4 eggs

2 cups milk

1 cup raisins

½ lb. Brown sugar

1 Tbsp cinnamon

1 tsp nutmeg

1 small onion, shopped

½ lb butter

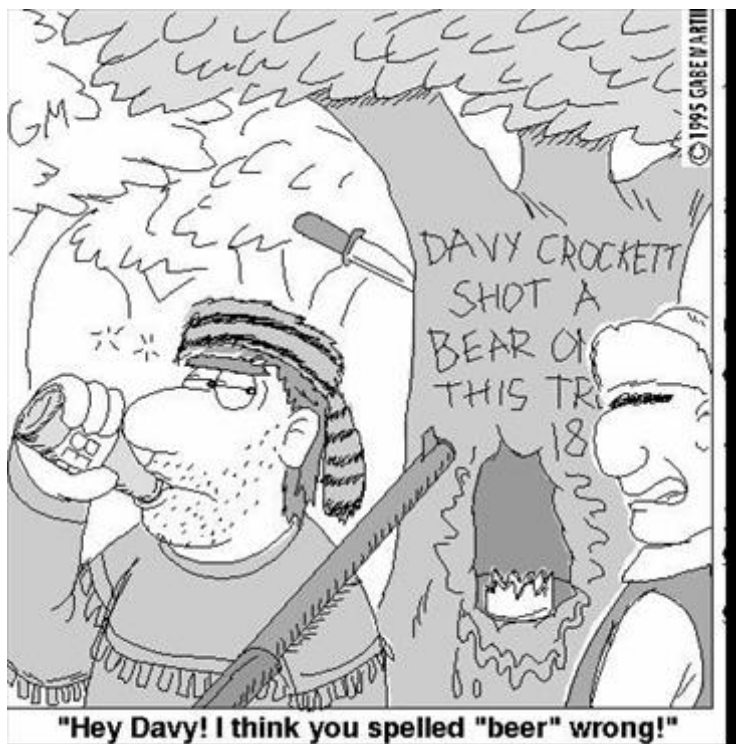
2 apples, chopped

Break bread into bite-sized pieces. Beat eggs well and mix with milk. Add raisins, sugar and apples. Mix well. Add onion and spices. Melt butter in two cups water, mix with bread. Add all to milk mixture and pour into well greased Dutch Oven.

Bake until solid (about one hour).

Some cooks add shredded cheddar cheese or ½ cop brandy or rum; some omit the onion.

Until December, June



This is a chapter from the book "BOWLER HATS AND STETONS" by Colin Rickards that was published in 1965, and it documents one of the most amazing hunts by Europeans in the American west. Keep in mind that this hunt began only 16 years after the 1838 Rendezvous on the Wind River, while the Oregon/California migration was only 5 years old and in its heyday.

THE HUNTER

IN THE summer of 1854 the city of St. Louis was electrified by the arrival of an enormous wagon train complete with forty professional guides and a genuine British baronet.

Drawn up in the main square were twenty-one two-horse charettes - commonly called Red River carts - one hundred and twelve head of horses, three milk cows, eighteen oxen, four six-mule wagons, two three-yoke wagons-and a brass bedstead. The owner of the brass bedstead and the reason for the enormous hunting party was Sir George Gore, eighth baronet, of Manor Gore, County Donegal, Ireland. Sir George in a deer-stalker hat and Norfolk jacket strolled about the camp, his ginger side-whiskers carefully brushed and perfumed. The quintessence of the 'huntin', shootin' and fishin' aristocracy, he was born in Brighton, Sussex, in 1811, the only son of Sir Ralph Gore and Lady Grace Maxwell. He was educated at Winchester School and Oriol College, Oxford, and succeeded to his father's Irish title at the age of thirty-one, in 1842.

He had hunted in Africa and Asia and in 1854 decided to equip a hunting party for the Western territories of America. From his house in Brighton he made up a list of what he would need. At Mound City, Missouri, he bought the equipment and hired guides. He filled a wagon with firearms, including seventy-five large bore hunting rifles, among them guns by Purdy, Westly, Richards and Joe Manton, as his private arsenal. His personal valet accompanied him. So did a man brought especially from Ireland to tie the flies when Sir George went fishing.

Sir George's personal accommodation consisted of a green and white striped tent ten feet by eighteen feet, complete with carpet. He took along his brass bedstead and canopy, for Sir

George did not believe in uncomfortable travel. For wet weather, when the pitching of the tent would have been inconvenient, a spring wagon had been converted to make comfortable living quarters. Solid silver drinking cups embossed with the family coat of arms were kept in a locked box whose key was held by the valet. To complete the personal effects were a carved marble washstand, an iron dining table and a large wooden bathtub.

In May, 1854, he was ready to leave St Louis for the West. His chief guide was Henry Chatillon, an experienced frontiersman who knew the Rocky Mountains as well as any man living at the time.

Captain Randolph B. Marcy, who had fought Indians and explored the country Gore was to travel through, wrote: 'The outfit and adventures of this titled Nimrod, conducted as they were on a most gigantic scale, probably exceeded anything of the kind ever before attempted on this continent.'

Passing through Leavenworth, Kansas, the hunting party was seen by a small boy named William Frederick Cody who was to become famous in his own right as hunter, scout, showman and friend of royalty under the name of 'Buffalo Bill'. Sir George's great friend Sir William Thomas Spencer Went-worth-Fitzwilliam, sixth Earl of Fitzwilliam, began the journey with him. Sir William had been Member of Parliament for Mal-ton (1837-41 and 1846-47) and was M.P. for Wicklow (1847-51). At this time he was serving as Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire (1853-92) and Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria (1884-94). But in 1854 he was just a wealthy young nobleman on holiday taking a leisurely trip round the world with his telescope. For Sir William was a keen amateur astronomer.

The hunting party reached Fort Laramie, Wyoming, in June and their passing was noted by the correspondent for the Daily Ohio State Journal at Columbus who sent a report to his newspaper which was published on 24th June.

'Between forty and fifty dogs, mostly greyhounds and stag-hounds, of the most beautiful breeds, compose this part of the expedition,' said the newspaper. 'He had a large carriage, and probably a dozen large wagons to transport provisions, etc. These require five yoke of oxen to each wagon. These, with the horses, men, etc., made up quite an imposing company.'

The dogs were, the paper assured its readers, 'the most magnificent pack of dogs there were ever seen in this country.' And Sir George Gore was 'a fine built, stout, light-haired and resolute looking man'.

When the train pulled out of Fort Laramie headed for North, Middle and Lost Parks in what is now Colorado, Joseph Chatillon, brother of Henry, was the chief guide.

The whole fantastic wagon train reached the Yapa River country of Wyoming and went into camp. Secretaries, mule skinner, guides, scouts, taxidermists and valet breathed a sigh of relief.

Sir William went his own way and Sir George began the first big shoot-out which was to net him two thousand buffalo, sixteen hundred deer and elk and over a hundred bears (including forty grizzlies) during the next two years.

He hunted deer with his pack of dogs. He hunted buffalo from a shooting stand and fired at the herds of the great lumbering beasts as scouts drove them into the valley.

Gun bearers handed Sir George loaded guns as fast as he could shoot. And afterwards Sir George strolled in the valley littered with the dead buffalo, picking the few that his taxidermists would mount for exhibition in his trophy room in Brighton.

They went where no one but the mountain men and the Indians had been before and Joe Chatillon attested later that they went right through Middle Park, crossed the Continental Divide and 'camped on the four sides of Pike's Peak'.

Sir George had heard of the wonderful fishing to be had across the Continental Divide but there was no road across the mountains. Undeterred, he hired an entire tribe of one thousand Indians to rip a road out of the wilderness. Three weeks later, he was enjoying the world's finest fishing.

Four years later silver was discovered in the area and thousands of miners flocked into it. But at the time Sir George passed through it was virgin country.

Louis Dapron and two other scouts with the party discovered gold some seventy-five miles southwest of Fort Laramie in what is now Albany County, Wyoming, and being rough, uneducated men thought to show it to Sir George. He laughed and told them it was mica and they threw it away.

Privately he told Chatillon: 'This is gold, but I did not come here to seek gold. I don't need it. This is a pleasure hunt.'

He struck camp at once and several years later when Dapron tried to re-locate his find he was unable to do so.

The party returned to Fort Laramie for the winter and there Sir George met one of the most colorful scouts and mountain men on the frontier. He was Jim Bridger, affectionately known as 'Ole Gabe', as renowned for his stories of wonders he had seen as he was for his skill as a trapper, Indian fighter and scout. Bridger had been the first white man to see the geysers in the Yellowstone basin and had mapped thousands of miles of wilderness. In the language of the mountain men 'Ole Gabe' had 'seen the elephant and heard the owl' in more strange places than most of his kind.

A. B. Ostrander, a young soldier who met Bridger a few years later, left a description of him which must have been much as he appeared to Sir George. 'His old battered hat had originally been of some light color, but now looked like smoke,' the soldier wrote. 'His sack coat was of a dark grey material, and his brown corduroy breeches were reinforced on the seat and inside the thighs with buckskin, evidently to protect those parts while on horse-back.'

Sir George, fascinated by the gruff, almost monosyllabic frontiersman, employed him as chief scout. Bridger had probably never met an Englishman before, let alone an English baronet. He flatly refused to call Sir George by his title but out of respect always referred to his bluff employer as 'Mister Gore'.

Sir George was charmed by the illiterate Bridger and liked to yarn with him around the camp fires at evening.

They were an exotic pair. In clearings hundreds of miles from the nearest town or frontier fort the English baronet in his Norfolk jacket read Shakespeare's *As You Like It* to the rough frontiersman in his greasy buckskins.

And Bridger enjoyed it. Sir George's company brought out the best in him and Sir George found that after one hearing, Bridger's amazingly retentive mind could absorb great chunks of any play or book read out to him.

Captain Marcy, who got his material first-hand, reported this phase of Sir George's trip later and particularly mentioned the relationship between the English nobleman and Jim Bridger.

'His [Sir George's] favorite author was Shakespeare, which Bridger "reckoned was a little too high-faultin' for him"; moreover, he remarked that he "rather calculated that thar big Dutchman, Mr Full-stuff, was a leetle too fond of lager beer", and suggested that probably it might have been better for the old man if he had imbibed the same amount of alcohol in the more condensed medium of good old Bourbon whisky,' Marcy said.

'Bridger seemed deeply interested in the adventures of Baron Munchausen, but admitted, after the reading was finished, that "he be dogond ef he swallowed everything that thar Baren Mount-chawson said, and, he thout he was a durn'd liar". Yet, upon further reflection, he acknowledged that some of his own experiences among the Blackfeet would be equally marvellous, "ef writ down in a book".

'One evening Sir George entertained his auditor by reading to him Sir Walter Scott's account of the battle of Waterloo, and afterwards asked him if he did not regard that as the most sanguinary battle he had ever heard of. To which Bridger replied, "Wall, now Mr Gore, that thar must 'abin a consideible of a skrimmage, dogon my skin ef it mustn't; them Britishers must 'a fit better thar than they did down to Horleans, whar Old Hickry gin um the forkedest sort 'o chain lightnin' that perhaps you ever did see in all yer born days!" And upon Sir George expressing a little incredulity in regard to the estimate Bridger placed upon the battle [of New Orleans], the latter added, "You can jist go yer pile on it, Mr Gore - you can, as sure as yer born".'

In the spring of 1855 they left Fort Laramie and headed for the North Platte. There they turned north to Caspar Creek and went up the Powder River to Dry Fork. It took them the whole year and as the new winter came on they went down Powder

River to its confluence with the Yellowstone River then followed it to the mouth of the Tongue River which they went up for eight miles.

They built a fort to winter in, despite the fact that they were in the heart of hostile Indian country. In January, 1856, a band of Piegans, a branch of the Blackfoot tribe, made a raid on the horse herd and ran off twenty-one of the best animals. Sir George's men tracked them for sixty miles but lost their tracks in a snowstorm. To add to their troubles, Alexander Culbertson, the canny Scottish Agent for the American Fur Company, heard about Sk George's fort and that his men were trading with the friendly Crow Indians.

A month later Culbertson incited the Bloods, another branch of the Blackfoot tribe, to attack the horse herds. But Sir George's men beat them off and Big Plume, Culbertson's brother-in-law, was badly wounded.

Culbertson protested to Alfred J. Vaughan, Indian Agent for Upper Missouri, complaining about Sir George. Vaughan reported to his superiors that Gore's fort was one hundred feet square and that he was engaged in illegal trading with the Indians.

Soon afterwards Henry Bostwick accidentally set fire to a stand of timber near the fort and the pasture was burned out necessitating new grazing grounds for the horses. Sir George left some men at the fort and moved to a new pasture with his favourite horse, Steel Trap. They lived in a cabin Sir George had built and Steel Trap was fed on corn meal while less fortunate horses had to forage on cottonwood bark.

In April, 1856, the party headed for the Dakotas and once again one of the scouts discovered gold, this time on the headwaters of the Belle Fourche.

Jerry Proteau recalled the incident later: 'One Sunday I went to the falls of the Swift or Rapid Creek with Lamourie,' he said. 'As we were standing by the falls I noticed some yellow-looking stuff in the water, and I said to Lamourie -' "By George, there's gold!" 'I took off my shirt and scooped up three double handfuls of the yellow stuff, and put it in my shirt. Then Lamourie and I went back to camp. Sir George noticed me as we went back to camp, and asked me what I had in my shirt. I said, "Gold". He looked at it a little while, when (sic) he said, "O, no, Jerry, that's not gold; that's mica". I was not very well posted about gold and thought Sir George was. He took it and put it in two black bottles, and placed them in his chest. The next day we marched out of the Black Hills, and two or three days after Bridger told me that Sir George told him it was gold. Sir George also told Lamourie that if he would prospect on the head of Swift Creek he would find rich gold there.'

If he had admitted that it was gold, the great Indian Wars might have begun two decades earlier. For it was gold seekers in the sacred lands of the Sioux that sent

the savage tribes on the warpath. Soon after this incident Jim Bridger left Sir George and his party to go about his own business.

The autumn of 1856-57 was spent in Fort Berthold and Sir George had troubles again. A man sold him some cattle at \$50 a head and then upped his price by fifty per cent when Sir George needed more beef. The Englishman bought fifty head from the man's competitor and gave forty-four to the Hidasta Indians. It was an object lesson.

Sir George went to live with the Hidasta chief, Crow's Breast, in a tepee for a while and then moved back into the fort.

He travelled to Fort Union and met Vaughan who challenged his right to hunt in Indian tribal lands. Sir George produced a passport dated 24th May, 1854, issued in St Louis by Colonel Alfred Gunning, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Central Division.

The six thousand mile hunt had cost the Eighth Baronet of Manor Gore nearly all the income from his Irish estates for three years and he decided to bring it to a close.

Sir George called on Alexander Culbertson at Fort Union and offered to sell him all the equipment of the expedition for less than a third of the cost.

Culbertson attempted to beat Sir George down by offering him only a tenth of the value. He was sure that he was on to a good thing as Sir George was anxious to return home.

But the canny Scots Agent bargained without Sir George's flaming temper and eccentric streak. The baronet stormed out of the room and left the fort. At his camp he gave orders for all the wagons to be hauled to the top of a high bluff where the river curved within sight of the fort.

He walked around the Indian encampment giving away beautifully engraved rifles worth hundreds of dollars and handing out stores and equipment enough to feed the entire Indian tribe for a year. The rest of the equipment he carried up onto the bluff where the wagons had been drawn up in a cluster. Then Sir George, carrying an enormous tarred stick, set fire to everything and stood back to admire his handiwork as the giant column of smoke from half a million dollars-worth of wagon train climbed slowly into the sky.

When the whole train was reduced to a vast pile of ashes, Sir George had the scrap-iron hurled from the cliff into the deep channel of the river so that Culbertson could not even salvage that.

Sir George's men built two flatboats to take the trophies to St Louis. He sent four men with them and then went overland himself with twelve men.

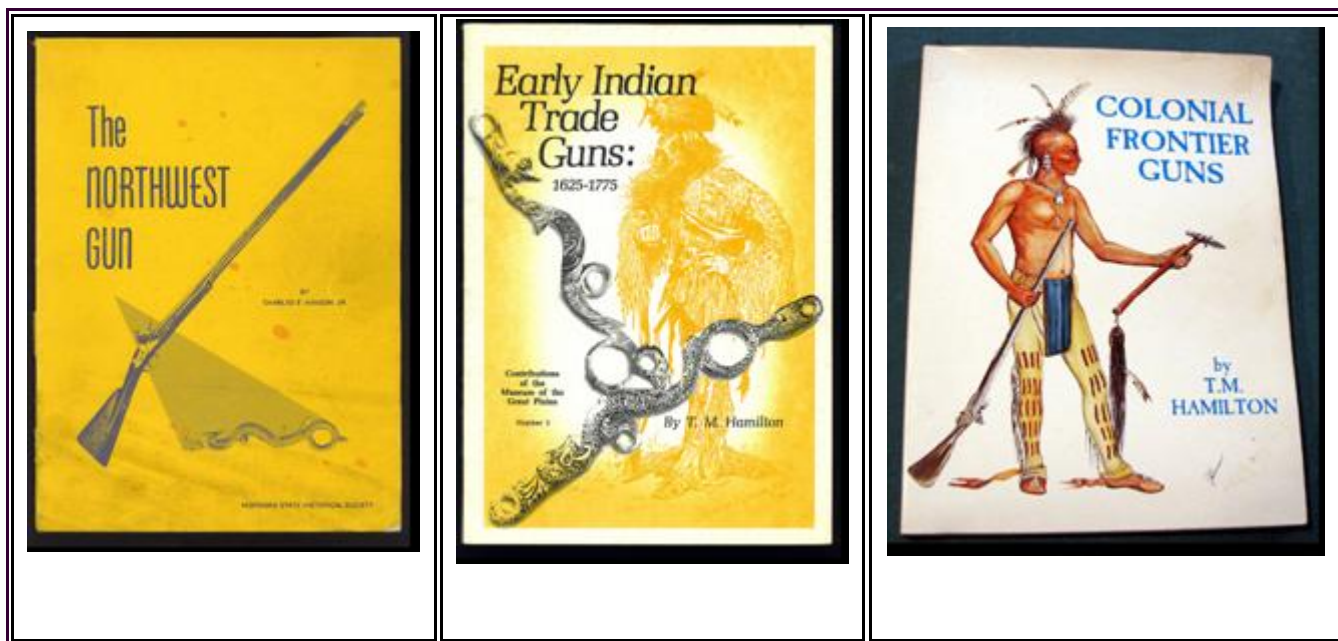
In 1875 he returned to America - but not to the West. He shot alligators and hunted birds in the swamps of Florida and then returned home.

On the last day of 1878 he died in Inverness, Scotland.

But today Colorado remembers him. The Gore Range of mountains and Gore Canyon are named after him. And nine thousand feet up in Colorado, at the top of Gore Pass, on State Highway 84, a few miles from the town of Kremmling, is a bronze plaque commemorating his crossing of the Continental Divide. It was unveiled in 1956 by the State Historical Society of Colorado and reads:

GORE PASS -Altitude 9,000 feet

Here in 1855 crossed Sir George Gore an Irish Baronet bent on slaughter of game and guided by Jim Bridger. For three years he scoured Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, accompanied usually by forty men, many carts, wagons, hounds and unexampled camp luxuries. More than 2,000 buffalo, 1,600 elk and deer and 100 bears were massacred for sport.



TRADE GUN MANIA

by Travis Bennett

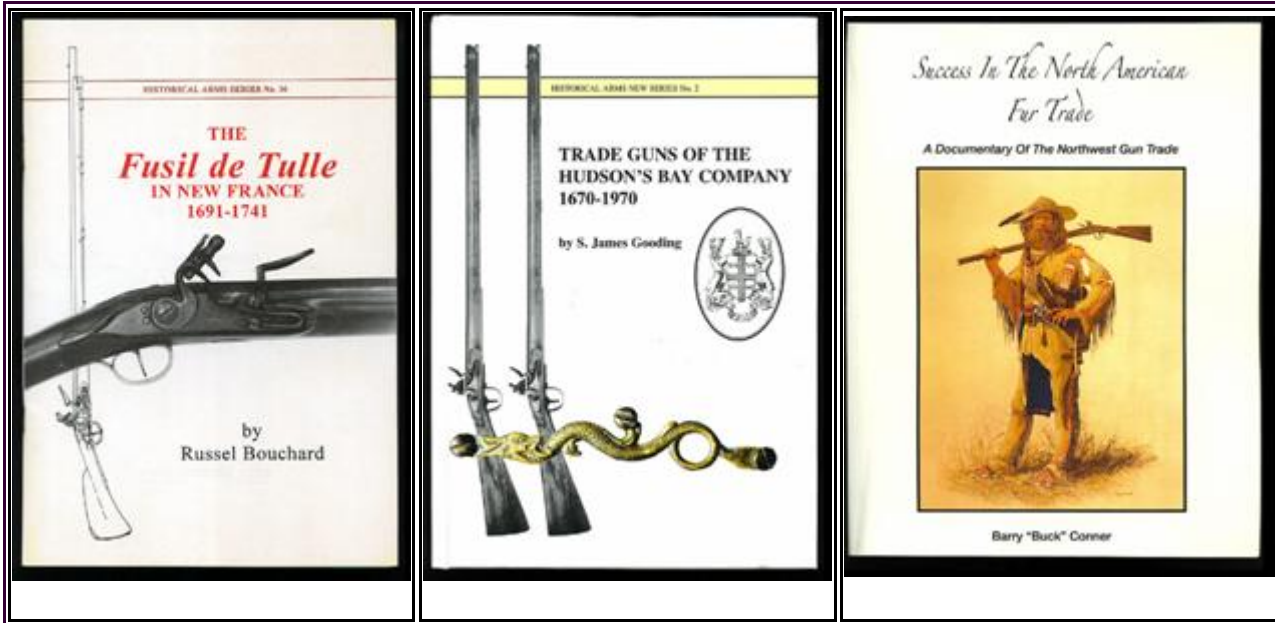
Does it seem to you that, lately, that when a group of muzzle loaders is just sitting around shooting the bull and talking black powder, that a lot of the discussions any more have to do with trade guns? It sure does seem like it to me and it just goes to show you that our sport, just like many others of the shooting disciplines, is constantly changing.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that only a few of the old timers in our group had much time for the old smoothbore Trade Guns and there just wasn't much interest in shooting them in matches or messing with the danged things. It seemed almost a given that the things were pretty cantankerous as far as dependability goes, not

very accurate past the 25 yard line, and that they weren't worth the trouble and pain to bother with as long as you had a fine rifled gun to fill your larder and shoot a bunch of X's at the range. Most of the guys carrying them did so to "look good", or so it seems.

Well, all of that has changed the last few years and there's hardly a day at the range goes by at the range that some of our bunch isn't shooting their smooth bores in competition with the rifled guns and having fun doing it as well.

(Cont'd)



Trade Gun Mania (Cont'd)

Pore Devil and Frank Elzay in our club, The Wind River Muzzle Loaders, were probably among the first to show up regularly with their Trade Guns for our monthly matches. At first there didn't seem to be much enthusiasm among the rest of the members for their nonsense and they were kinda written off as being their normal eccentric selves. But pretty soon you would hear Frank offer someone who showed a little interest, "You wanna try it, I'll load it for you"! And, like what has happened to all of us exposed to this danged black powder disease, as soon as the victim touches off a round and sees a hole appear in the paper, he's hooked! And guess what, the danged disease is not only incurable but it's catchy! In the last 5 or 6 years about all of the club has either bought, traded for, or built themselves some kind of Trade Gun. It seems like there's only two kinds of members of our club any more, those who shoot Trade Guns and those who are about to.

In the last 6 or 8 years the interest in Trade Guns and smooth bores has grown to the point that it's almost expected that there will be some kind of matches for them at almost every event in the state. The State Shoot this year in Glenrock, sponsored by the very able and dedicated Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders, was an

example of how far the addiction to these guns has spread. There must have been over 20 entries in the Trade Gun Aggregate matches and the competition was fierce. The “shooting flying” match with the clay birds, held in gusting winds, was challenging to say the least. But I don’t believe that I’ve ever seen any more camaraderie or enjoyment shared by the competitors than I did at this match. It was just plain fun! Frank Elzay ended up being the Trade Gun Champion for 2006 but he didn’t manage it as easily as he has in the past few years, that’s for sure, and next year there is sure to be even more competition as the spectators at this event were having as much fun as the competitors.

There are a lot of books out on Trade Guns, some of which I’ve pictured in this article, which shows the interest in the subject throughout the world. They range from books for the folks with a casual interest in the early history of our country and the Fur Trade era to ones who enjoy and demand highly documented and technical research on the subject.

For quite a while the best little book that I could come up with was “The Northwest Gun” by Charles E. Hanson, Jr., that was published in 1955 by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Charles Hanson, whom I assume everyone already knows started the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska, wrote this fine little book to clarify the history of these guns, assign them their place in history, and separate the many legends and misconceptions about them from the facts. He was able to use the extensive collection of the Museum of the Fur Trade to photograph, document and classify them into types, manufacturers, time frames, history, and distribution. It is a great book and you might notice that the many hours that I have pored over it’s contents show readily in it’s tattered spine, dog eared corners and stained cover. Oh well, books are meant to be read and pondered over, not just displayed to show their owner’s intellect.

Since Charles wrote his little book much more research has been done on the subject and a lot more books are out there for sale. I will review one of them later in this issue of the newsletter and another one in the December issue if there is interest. After that, even if we have a new Editor for next year, I will review the rest if there is sufficient interest. **Hope you enjoy my efforts.**



The 2006 Rendezvous at the original 1838 Site south of Riverton was held again this year from June 28th to July 2nd, about the same time of summer that we usually have it. About 10 Traders and 25-30 camps enjoyed a beautiful week-end of shooting, camping, visiting, learning, experiencing and trading that happened in the exact location where Jim Bridger roared into camp in July 1838 leading his brigade of 150 or so trappers and camp followers in a noisy tribute to another successful year in the mountains. There is none left of the original rendezvous sites that stirs the blood and excites the soul of a modern day student of the fur trade as much as this remaining tribute to the glory days of the mountain man and trapper. None of the post 1970's re-enactments, whether they be held in the east, south or west; by the American Mountain Men, the Association of Primitive Riflemen, the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, or any other group of wannabe hivernants, can boast of being held on THE original Rendezvous Site that is relatively undisturbed and undeveloped. The only sad part of the whole affair, to me anyway, is the lack of support and enthusiasm of most Wyoming folks that claim such love, dedication and affection for “complete authenticity and historic significance”.

Phil Nissen wrote a fine article for the August issue of the WSMLA Newsletter that reported his experiences in the 2006 Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous held this year high in the mountain near Creede, Colorado. It was indeed a fine doin's, with beautiful scenery, a huge primitive camp and Trader's Row, fine primitive shooting range and hawk stump areas, and even young girls selling site-made ice cream for two bucks a scoop. Phil, Millie and Susan Nissen and the Hubenka clan; Rabbit, Jan, Matt and Terra were mentioned in the article as being

the ones mostly representing the great State of Wyoming. A fine time was had by all and everyone agreed that it was an affair to remember. At the end of his article Phil mentioned that he'd like to see more WSMLA members attend and support future Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous. I know what you mean Phil, that is exactly how I feel when I see the general lack of statewide support for the 1838 Rendezvous.

At the 1838 we have an annual event, put on by Wyoming folks, at a genuine, certified original Rendezvous Site on the banks of the historic Wind River, mentioned in many original fur trade journals. The 1838 Rendezvous takes place each year, as close to the 4th of July (which is also the time of year of the original 1838) as is practicable, and nobody has to suffer Colorado (which had no original Rendezvous at all) to do it. It is held on the banks of the Wind River, down in the valley, like the original Rendezvous mostly were. You don't have to climb any mountains, ford any streams, blow out any tires, or travel thousands of miles on \$3.00 a gallon fuel to get there. Most of the events mentioned by Phil in his article are available at the 1838 Rendezvous of course, but it is certainly not like it in many respects. We do not exclude the public for one thing, choosing to invite them in to learn about a part of Wyoming's early history and enjoy it first hand. We do not look down and criticize the beginners who are not "authentic" enough to suit the critics and "experts", but have seminars and workshops to help them understand the satisfaction and enjoyment that can be had by doing things "right". We promote the shooting of traditional black powder arms and encourage beginners to learn about them, respect them and use them safely. We hope to encourage future interest in the very things that all of us in the WSMLA have enjoyed for years, both by young folks and heretofore uninterested adults. I hear complaints from former 1838 participants that "the mosquitoes are terrible this time of year, and the heat oppressive"! Well no kidding Martha, how unauthentic that must be. But for these sensitive individuals we have addressed the bug problem. No mosquitoes at all this year thanks to the City of Riverton's judicious spraying on the days prior to Rendezvous. As for the heat, I guess we'll just have to take what the Good Lord authentically dishes out, just like in the old days, huh?

I hear, "It's too close to town and not "primitive" enough"! Well it looks about like it did in 1828 and we didn't get to pick where Riverton got built. Being close to town is not all bad anyway, folks, especially if you need a doctor, an ambulance or need to be reached in an emergency, right? (Don't forget ice and snack either!) As for the primitive thing we are hoping to get more and more period correct as far as the participants go and I hope to have an area separate from the main camp where those who choose can be "absolutely correct" and camp with like minded

individuals. The general public and normal “riff raff” would be restricted from this area unless individually invited.

I hear “these guys at 1838 don’t know how it was in the old days”. Well they may be right, but the best thing for us and them would be for them to come and show us by example how it was and should be done. We’re willing to learn, just as every one of us have, and can always use more experience and knowledge. Teaching and learning promotes respect and friendships, both of which our little sport needs as much as possible. Besides, these critics are probably the same ones that bought \$2 ice cream from white girls at the Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous this year.

Anyway, consider this your personal invitation to come and enjoy the 1838 Rendezvous on the Wind June 27 through July 1, 2007. We’ll be pleased to have you and besides, we can use all the help we can get.

Travis Bennett,
Booshway, 1838 Rendezvous, 2007



Gail & Janet Folston, 1838 Booshway 2006 and lady

Traveling Trophy Forms: Sponsoring Clubs- Please fill this form out after your shoot, print and mail the form and proceeds to **Dave Lehto, 417 Summit Drive, Riverton, WY 82501**

Men's	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Women's	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Junior's	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Sub-Juniors	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
	Sponsoring Club Name: _____ President's Signature _____ Date of Shoot _____ Amount of Proceeds: _____

W.S.M.L.A. Membership Form:

Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Names of Children: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ WSMLA# _____

NRA# _____ Exp Date: _____

NMLRA# _____ Exp Date: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Enclose a check for \$20.00 made out the WSMLA with the above printed page to:

Carrie Gavin, 216 Valley Circle, Riverton, WY 82501

Change of Address Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please Print and mail page, Telephone or e-mail change of Address to Editor

Lyle R. Bader

1824 Sage Lane

Worland, WY 82401 lrbader@hotmail.com

Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association offers a video library for member of the WSMLA. Please contact Tony Larvie, P.O. Box 697, Lander WY 82520 307-332-4718 about viewing tapes. We are still looking to add videos to update our library.

Video	By
New Additions to Video Library (2006)	
The Sheep Eaters: Masters of the Mountains	Wyoming Heritage Project
The Sheep Eaters: Life in the Mountains	Wyoming Heritage Project
The Sheep Eaters: Gifts of the Mountains	Wyoming Heritage Project
Dutch Oven Cooking Basics	Diane Thomas
Outers Gung Cleaning Demo	Circle I Outfitters
Lost in the Barrens	Movie
Spectacular Showdowns	Marty Stouffer's Wild America
Photographing Wildlife	Marty Stouffer's Wild America
Hunters Education Training Course	Outdoor Life
The Guns that Changed the World	American Rifleman
3 Seasons Elk Call'n & Hunt'n	Carltons wild Country
Big Game Extreme: 100% Wild Fair Chase	American Hunter
Black Powder Cartridge Silhouette	Dixie Gun Works
Daniel Boone	Cabin Fever
Grizzly Adams	Movie
Kentucky Rifle	Movie
Previous Videos	
Building the American Flintlock Rifle	Hershel House
Assembling the Bud Silver Lock	Hershel House
Basic Flint Knapping	Larry Waldron
Muzzle loading Safety	NMLRA (Beta)
The Truth about Semi Automatics	NRA
School Presentation	Platte Valley ML
Basic Blacksmithing	Hershel House
Relief Carving the Kentucky Rifle	Wallace Gusler
Knife Making	William White
Bent's Old Fort	
Gunsmith of Williamsburg	
Eagles Wings	Movie

Cheyenne Moccasins	Mike Kostelnick
Tipi Setup and Tips	Barry Wood
Rawhide Par fleches	
Trails West Cookin	Sam Arnold
Robert Campbell	
Mountain Man Ballet	
NRA 122nd Annual Meeting	
Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle	
Hunter Warrior of the Plains	Grunko Films
Flint Knapping	B Brady
The Design, Construction & Function of the Using Knife	Ed Fowler
Muzzle Loading Safety	Glen Lau Productions
Dances with Wolves	Movie
Big Bucks	North American Hunting Club
Whitetail Pursuit	North American Hunting Club
The Mountain Men	Movie
Spirit of the Eagle	Movie
The Tree Lounge	Hunting Video
Your NRA	
The Sheep Eaters: Archers of Yellowstone	Tom Lucas, Wyoming Heritage Project
Flintlock Wapiti- Mountain Man Meat Hunt	Leo Hakola
Indian Sign Language	Larry Pendleton

Contact: Tony Larvie, P.O. Box 697, Lander WY 82520 307-332-4718 about viewing tapes.

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

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