



# *Pedersoli's* Blackpowder N<sup>o</sup>. 1. Magazine

6<sup>th</sup> Issue, March 2011

Tips and tricks  
**Cleaning your  
barrel**

**BPCR**  
**Buffalo hunting  
with the 45-120**

**BP hunting**  
**Rabbits with Bess**

**Range testing**  
**Pedersoli's New Guns**

# *Pedersoli's* **Blackpowder** № 1. *magazine*

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### *Dear Shooters, Collectors, Firearm Enthusiasts all over the World,*



*We are just leaving the winter behind. This spring is quite busy at our factory, as many new concepts are hitting the market now days. The Shot Show in Los Angeles, the IWA in Nürnberg are the places where the people can meet our new items face to face. However these shows cannot tell the complete story about our products, so in this issue we will try to give you a more detailed look how they really perform. This is why we included quite a few videos in our current issue.*



*We hope you will find our new items interesting. We designed them with the shooters', hunters', collectors' mind. The new Civil War musket line, the steam cleaner project, the Doc Holiday revolvers, the external hammer shotguns, the 45-70 lever action rifle, our new derringer pistol are all a bit of Pedersoli's vision.*

*Pierangelo Pedersoli*  
*editorial director*

*Balázs Németh*  
*editor in chief*





**PEDERSOLI**





**RANGE TESTING  
S NEW GUNS**



*Pierangelo's original 1886 Winchester rifle*

It is always fun to see new items at great firearms shows such as IWA or the Shot Show. However if you are a shooter or hunter, you must have felt that the visibility is just not enough in the case of these beauties. This is why we took a plane and flew to Gardone to test Pedersoli's new items.

The plane landed on a cloudy Wednesday afternoon on the small airfield of Bergamo, only 40 minutes from Gardone. After exiting the terminal, the first thing I saw was Pierangelo Pedersoli waving his hands towards me. He had already ordered a glass of beautiful dry Italian white wine for me – I guess this is the best way to start a good discussion about historical guns. I knew that the first day would only be about talking, but I just could not wait to put my hands on the new guns I had seen on the Internet and previous gun shows.

The factory itself is located in a small hidden wally called Trompia. - home of many big manufacturers: Beretta, Uberti, Tanfoglio, Fair.. I am quite sure that 90 % of the

inhabitants here work for the gun industry. The Pedersoli factory is a beautiful modern building, with several auxiliary buildings connected for different stages of gun manufacturing. The whole complex seemed to me like a labyrinth, with different buildings for metal finishing, barrel making, wood finishing, wood drying, assembly, logistics and offices. But the most important part for me now was the 50 m test shooting range under the main building.

Like a boy in the toy store, that's how I felt. I am quite familiar with Pedersoli's guns, as I shoot them in competitions and for hunting as well, but I did not have a chance to shoot the new items. Now it was time to correct this error. We quickly collected the ones I chose: the 1886/71 Lever Action, the An IX Gendarmerie pistol, the new Philadelphia Deringer, and the Doc Holiday SA Colt replica.

### **1886/70 Lever Action**

Some people grow up, some people remain cowboys. I guess I am one of the latter types. I remember my childhood, watching those old western movies in black and white with my father and brother. We were lucky because living in the Eastern block did not mean to be excluded from this culture. In fact the Eastern block of Europe had its own western heroes like Gojko Mitic, star of many East German westerns. The iron curtain separating east





and west was not so strong when it came to wild west movies; some say that even Stalin was a great fan of westerns. I must have been only 5 or 6 years old when I first saw John Wayne with a Winchester in his hands. I knew I wanted one. I wanted one so much that I never forgot to be a cowboy in any part of my life. I was 30 years old when I was able to buy my own 73 Winchester legally. It as the first ever 44-40 in my country and - please don't tell Pierangelo – it was a 73 Uberti Sporting rifle. I love that rifle, but as a hunter I have to say that the pistol round it uses is not really enough for big game in my country. Wild boar, elk and deer need more power than a 73 Winchester can ever give you. The only real hunting caliber lever action rifle on the market is the Marlin, but that rifle is too modern for. It was nearly 3 years ago when Pierangelo mentioned the new project to me. It took a few years to perfect the rifle, but now it is ready.

### ***The short story of the 1886 Winchester***

John Moses Browning is one of the greatest firearms inventors ever. The factory managed by him and his brothers started business in

1879 with single shot rifles – in cooperation with Winchester. In the coming 19 years, many world famous models were born thanks to the marriage of the two companies: the pump action shotguns and a line of successful lever action rifles such as the 1886, 1892, 1894 and 1895 models.

Thomas Gary Bennett vice president of the Winchester company knew they needed something against the Sharps company's big caliber rifles. By this time - in 1883 – Browning was

already working on his lever action rifle, the 1886 that became the favorite of Theodore Roosevelt. Winchester paid 50000 USD for the patent and right of production. Thanks to the success of this solid rifle and the powerful cartridges, it remained in production until 1935, and nearly 160.000 were manufactured altogether in various calibers ranging from .33 WCF to .50-110 Express.

The model 71 was a slightly modified version manufactured from 1935 to 1957. It was designed to accept the .348 Winchester cartridge. More than 47.000 pieces were manufactured from this model.

### ***The Pedersoli 1886/71***

Pedersoli do not make fictional guns, so before starting the project, the company acquired an original piece, that can be seen in Pierangelo's private work office. The original piece is a 1886 model in .40-80 caliber. I wish I could try this rifle as well, biz (but?) unfortunately its barrel was in really bad condition.

The Pedersoli gun was designed with the hunter in mind. It's rigged but light. It is

*Pedersoli 1886/71 lever action rifle*





*Click to watch our video on Youtube*

equipped with a pistol grip stock made of American walnut. The magazine accepts five 45/70 Govt rounds, plus you can have one extra in the chamber – more than enough for hunting. The hammer has a safety position, so it is safe to carry the gun in the woods with a live round in the chamber. The sights on the barrel are open sights. The rear sight is a traditional buckhorn adjustable in elevation and windage as well. The front sight is covered, so the light does not affect the aim. You can also find two holes on the breech block as well: they accept traditional style peep sight.

The rifle can be equipped with an accessory rail as well, that can accept a red dot sight or a rifle scope. It is not hard to dismount these sights so you can change whenever you want, according to the methods of hunting you prefer. Thanks to the round barrel and short magazine, the barrel is not really heavy. It's 3,7 kg weight is perfect for quick shots from instinct. The center of balance is just under the middle of the fore stock, so it is easy to pull the butt stock in to your shoulder fast. The stock is equipped with a rubber pad to absorb the recoil of the round. This model is only the first in the production line. Later other models and calibers will be manufactured, like the .444Marlin.

### ***Shooting the 1886/71***

We used custom 45/70 rounds loaded with 350 grain lead bullets and smokeless powder. Pierangelo started the demonstration of the action with 5 quick shots at the target at 50 m. All five bullets hit the target in a 25 cm circle – not a bad start. Of course, I am a precision shooter, so hitting the black of the target is just not enough for me. I don't really like buckhorn sights, they





are designed for quick shots not perfect aiming, but this rifle performed beautifully compared to the rest. The 4 shot group size was only 4 x 2 cm. Just excellent. The recoil is not heavy, but the cartridges we used were not loaded to the top pressure.

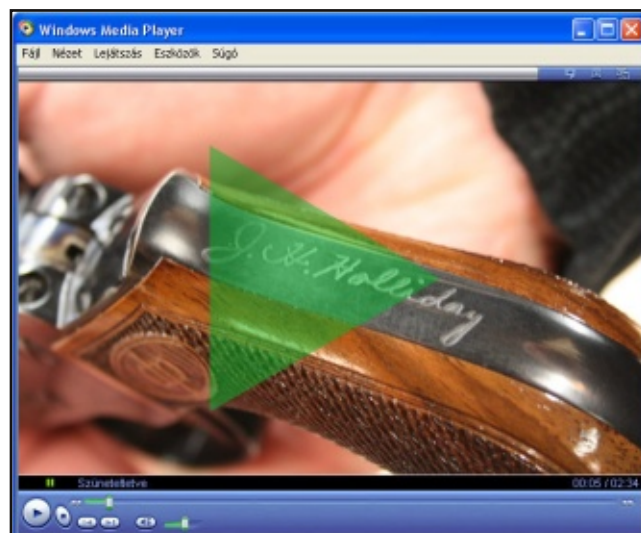
## ***Doc Holliday***

A new model to complete the Western trilogy started with the Pedersoli Lightning rifle and recently continued with the Wyatt Earp cartridge side-by-side shotgun. The revolver, clearly a Colt-inspired design, is being offered following several requests from Cowboy Action Shooting enthusiasts from all over the world and commemorates the famous John Henry Holliday (1851-1887), nick name "Doc" for his occasional profession as a dentist. Pistol shooter and gambler, Doc Holliday became famous after participating in the battle at the O.K. Corral of Tombstone, Arizona (October 26, 1881), siding with the Earp brothers.

The Doc Holliday revolver is chambered for the .38 Special cartridge, while offering a choice of barrel lengths (5" or 4.2") and a nickel or blue finish. The bird's beak grips are checkered and the upper side has the "dp" oval logo carved in the wood. The rifled barrel, made by the broaching process, the accurate trigger system and the ideal combination of weight and balance with a typical grip make this revolver a handy and precise gun.

## ***Shooting the Doc Holliday***

The action is smooth; that is the first impression you get if you take this gun in your hands. The cylinder rotating system is as accurate as can be. The trigger pull is light enough to use the gun as a target pistol as well, and it brakes where it has to. The grip itself is not the biggest I have ever seen, but this is not a big problem for me as my hands aren't the biggest either. I am not a pistol shooter, so I always admired the competitors hitting the inner ten 7-8 times out of 13 shots on international MLAIC matches.



So I did not try to shoot this gun from the hand. The group size I received was quite satisfying, however it is not easy to aim with the shining rounded fore sight. If the gun was mine, I would immediately reshape it to have a clear, sharp edge.

## ***Pedersoli Philadelphia Deringer***

The Pedersoli Philadelphia Deringer is a classic of gun history, becoming a true icon for its small dimensions and for its self defense role. When John Henry Deringer (1786-1868) opened his firearms factory in the 1806 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he could not imagine that one of his creations could have the success that inspired so many other gun producers until the beginning of 1900. The renown of Deringer's pocket pistols infamously increased towards the end of its production period due to a tragic fact of American history. A similar pistol, in







*Pedersoli Gendarmerie pistol*

fact, was found in one of the Ford theater's boxes in Washington where, on the evening of the 14th of April 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was fatally injured by John Wilkes Booth.

Deringer manufactured pistols and military rifles, also flintlock guns, travel and dueling pistols and production of about fifteen thousand units of this model started in the 1850s and ended in 1870, two years after his death. The barrel's length varied from 1 ½" to 6". Deringer style, copied by other producers, led to the identification of many pocket pistols named "derringer".

This Deringer Philadelphia is a faithful reproduction with brass furniture and case hardened lock, on the lock the original markings on two lines: Deringer / Philadela. The barrel, brown color, is equipped with a brass V aiming rear sight and blade front sight. The pistol grip is made of walnut, lacquered, with crossed checkered features. The gun is also available cased in a nicely shaped wooden box which also contains a small powder flask (C.945).

### ***Shooting the Deringer***

There are some replicas of this gun on the market, however they don't seem to replicate

the elegance of this cute little pocket pistol, packed with a heavy load of history. The pistol has a rear and fore sight as well, but of course it is not a target shooter, although the barrel is rifled. These little pistols were used from almost point blank range as a last line of defense. We loaded the gun with 24 grains of 3Fg Swiss and .445 lead round ball. It's quite interesting to see that the powder plus the round ball fills nearly half of the barrel. I always had to double check if the bullet is on the powder. Handling this gun is not easy. The 45 caliber round ball has a heavy recoil, so watch out for that miniature gun in your hand. From 25 m it was impossible for me to hit the target, but the gun was in the standard ISSF 50 m pistol target from 10 m. I guess it is much more than the "last line of defense" distance.

### ***The An IX Gendarmerie flintlock pistol***

The Gendarmerie An IX is a small and enchanting muzzle loading pistol replica, reproducing one of the best known pistol models of the Napoleonic epoch. As it happened with cavalry pistols, it was

manufactured in pairs and was produced until 1819 exclusively by the Imperial Manufacture in Maubeuge totalling 32,000 pairs. In spite of the production being assigned to the gendarmerie, these pistols were also equipping infantry officers. The original martial look does not prevent a certain elegance that combined with the small dimensions, give this gun an indisputable fascination.

The Gendarmerie An IX pistol can be supplied with a single pistol case or with a double case for a pair: a valuable complement that, thanks to the glass lid, will enhance the beauty of the gun.

### ***Shooting the Gendarmerie pistol***

If the Philadelphia Derringer is hard to shoot, then this pistol deserves at least the same categorization. Without sights, with smooth bore barrel you don't really have a chance from 25 m. But god, it's great fun to shoot it. Using 24 grains of 3Fg Swiss, it had a nice but manageable recoil. Be careful to aim low as, without the sights, we usually shoot very high above the target from short distances as well. The action of the lock and the ignition is quick. It's hard to feel the flash in the pan and the shot separately. Cleaning was quick and easy thanks to the highly polished metal surfaces.



## **AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX**

The 5th Austrian MLAIC Grand Prix will be held from Friday, 3 June to Sunday 5 June this year.

Locations:

Target Events - Shooting Range in Eisenstadt, Burgenland, Austria

Clay Events – Shooting Range Tattendorf, Lower Austria, Austria (about 20 km from Eisenstadt)

The shooters will be able to shoot nearly all 25, 50, 100 m and clay target events, with the team matches included. The registration fee is EUR 12.- per single target event, and 30 per clay target event. The latest date for registration is 1st May 2011.

On Saturday, 4th of June 2011 the association will organize a shooters buffet with specialties of the region. The price is € 25,- per person, drinks are included. The registration is obligatory.

Further info about the match:

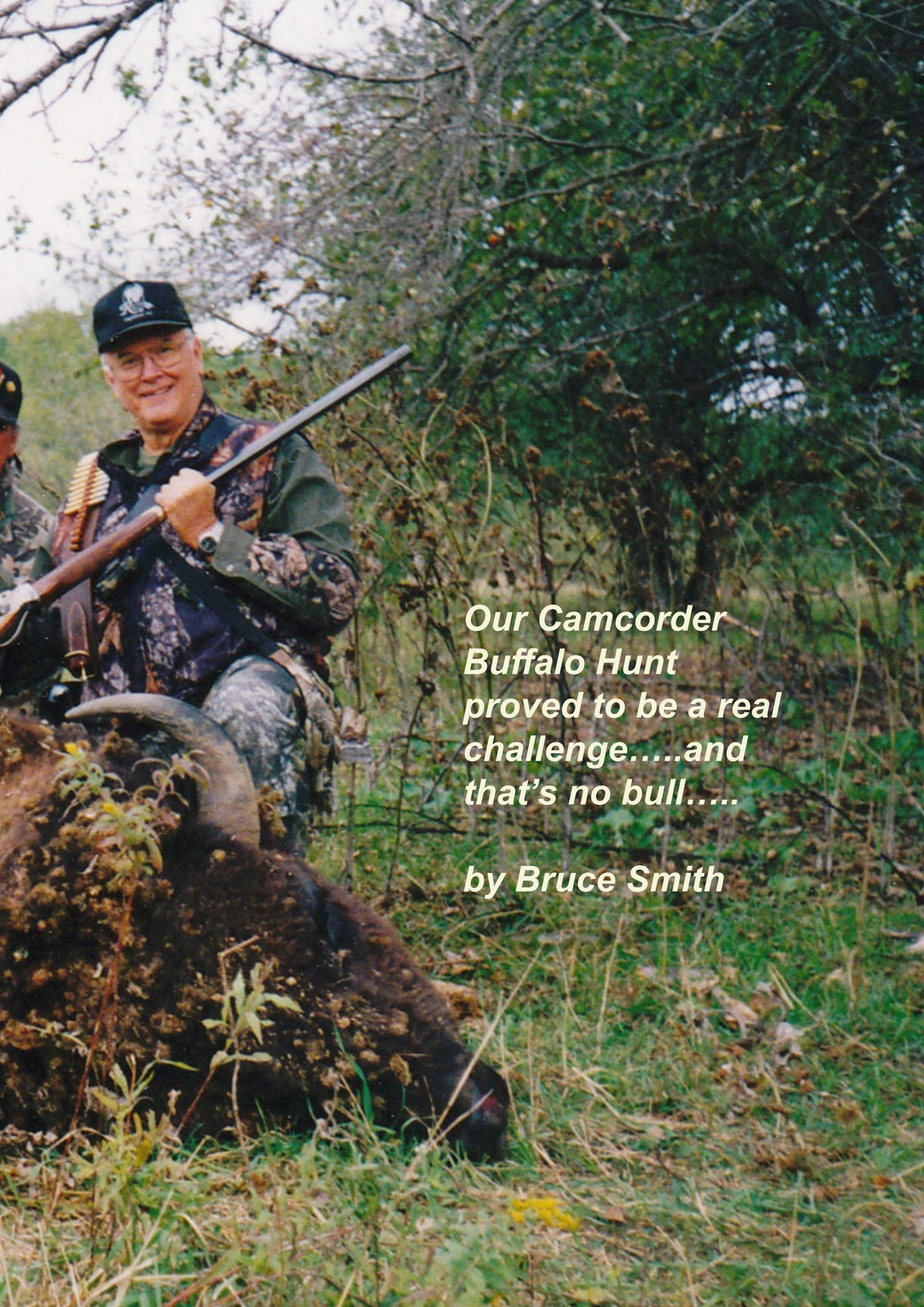




# Quigley Bison







***Our Camcorder  
Buffalo Hunt  
proved to be a real  
challenge.....and  
that's no bull.....***

***by Bruce Smith***



“ Why don’t we videotape the whole hunt for distribution?” Oops! I’d gone and done it now.....the words had rolled out of my mouth so fast, my brain hadn’t had time to slam on the brakes...That’s what happens when you fall in love with the sound of your own voice.....Oh well.

“ Sounds great!” Joe Richgel’s voice resonated at the other end of the line...” Any ideas ?”

I knew at that moment how Admiral Dewey must have felt at the mouth of Manila Bay, but rather than a “Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!” speech I settled for something a bit more anemic....

“ I’ll get back to you .” I replied, and then followed up with the classic understatement....

“ I’ll need a little more time.” A bit lame, but it would have to do.

At this point in time, perhaps I had best back up to the beginning of how I so magnificently managed to insert my foot in my mouth.

It was midsummer of 2002, and I had just received a most welcome call from Joe Richgels of the Red Oak Bison Ranch in Highland, Wisconsin. Joe was planning on

building onto his ranch and wanted to have a head and shoulder mount and hide of one of his huge trophy bulls on display for his incoming hunters. He asked me if I would be interested in taking one of the bulls with one of my Sharps rifles and getting some meat for the freezer.

Arm-twisting was not a necessity. I had the good fortune to hunt Bison on Joe’s ranch in December of 2001 with good friend and hunting partner, John Mayfield. We each wound up taking a nice bull in the 1,200-1,400 lb. range. John with his Springfield .45/70 and me with my .50/100 Sharps. It was on this trip that I was introduced to a whole new aspect of Buffalo hunting.... stalking them through thick Northern timber instead of the open prairies of the West. It was amazing to see animals that size just vanish into a timber like Whitetails. The truth is that Bison adapt and live just as comfortably in timber and forests as they do on the prairies. Their range extends into the forests of the Western Canadian Provinces to the Northwest Territories. It was a great trip and I looked forward to the chance to go back again.



Now that chance was here ...an opportunity to return for a really huge bull and the opportunity to make a commercial video (and DVD ) for Joe to use to promote his ranch and to send copies to prospective hunters wanting to know more. If this was going to be done right, I would have to have the right person by my side with the Camcorder.

The choice was easy: John Mayfield. He'd been there before, knew the terrain, and knew what to expect...No arm twisting was necessary here: one phone call and he was ready to go. A pleasant bonus to this was that one of John's friends, Mark Larsen, is a producer for the History Channel. He was more than willing to look at the final product of our filming and if it showed potential, he would use his editing expertise in helping us put out a top-notch video. Things were looking better all the time.

I now had to make the choice of which rifle to use. On the first excursion, I had taken my .50/100 Shiloh Sharps (a.k.a. the .50/90, a.k.a. .50x2.5") using a load of 100 grains of GOEX Fg powder and a 610-grain SEACO bullet. It was a lethal combination. There can be no doubt the "Big Fifty" is one of the finest big-game calibers available and it would be more than adequate for the job. However, this time it was going to be different. I decided on my 14-lb Pedersoli "Qiugley" Sharps in .45/120 with my own special load.

Several years earlier, I had found a powerful combination by loading a 715-grain bullet into the 3.25", .45 caliber case with 110grains of GOEX Fg powder. Most rifles on the market at that time had 1:36 rates of twist in their barrels and couldn't stabilize a bullet that big. However, the folks at Pedersoli had wisely chosen to use a 1:18" twist in their rifle barrels which are really conducive to the bigger, heavier bullets.

Casting softer lead at about a ratio of 25:1 in an N.E.I.-GC#351 mould, I was able to increase the weight of the .458 diameter, 645-grain bullet listing to 715 grains. Upon testing, I found them to be extremely accurate and could still throw them out at over 1,100 f.p.s. (see March, 2010 Issue of



Pedersoli's. " Blackpowder No. 1 " Magazine). With a combination of Winchester Large Rifle Primers and an Ox-Yoke felt wad over the powder, it proved to be a superb load. The big bullets were lubed with SPG.

My first success with this round was on a big 7x7 Bull Elk in the Missouri Ozarks at about 80 yards. Seeing it stop him in his tracks and back him up a few yards, I knew I had something. This, however would be the ultimate test. Elk are tough, but a mature Bull Bison will go over a ton and it was one of these bad boys Joe was talking about. However, I was extremely confident my creation would perform well. I was not to be disappointed.

During the next few months, we were able to complete most of the preliminary filming. The sighting-in of my rifle and the introductions segments all went well. As we progressed, we learned and re-filmed a segment when necessary. By summer's end, we felt we were ready for the trip North and the hunt .

Our biggest concern was the hunt itself. Anything else could go wrong and be re-





filmed: but with the actual hunt, there would be only one chance to get it right...Once the trigger was pulled, that was it. I rather doubt the rest of the herd would be willing to provide "stunt doubles". We also ruled out pushing over a cardboard mock-up. Everything would have to be just right before I'd even think of touching off a shot on one of these behemoths. Hunting with a camera behind you is a whole different scenario. We would have to stay really focused at all times....(I know, bad pun...sorry).

We were ready to roll in August, when a period of set-backs hit us. Several times we had to cancel because of severe weather or schedule conflicts. Then came the worst blow when John had to be hospitalized and there was a possibility he might not make it at all. However, "not" and "can't" are words that don't sit well with him. Much sooner than anticipated, he was up and ready to go. It was now Sept. of 2003 and we scheduled our hunt for the first week-end. However, more bad weather forced another delay. We were beginning to hope that the Buffalo wouldn't start dying of old age by the time we got there. That week-end the final decision was reached. We would leave on the 26th regardless and stay until the filming was complete.

Arriving in the early afternoon, we spent the rest of the day with Joe preparing for the next day's hunt and slipping into some stretches of timber to try and film some of the Big Shaggies, and did so very cautiously I might add.

Having lived in this environment for years, Joe's herd isn't particularly happy when

people intrude into their domain. Most of the time, they just make themselves very scarce, but on occasion, they can be downright hostile towards any puny, two-legged "trespassers".

Several years earlier, a group of them had turned on Joe as he drove down in to check on some of them and proceeded to turn his truck into a compact. Joe fortunately escaped any injury, but from that time on, he always went onto the timber with his Half-Husky, Half-Wolf dog, Cody. Being part-Wolf, the buffs would stay focused on Cody and give Joe the opportunity to take care of business without having to have eyes in the back of his head. This was definitely a herd of critters who liked their solitude and had no aversions towards an occasional display of anti-social behavior. Joe kept the truck (what was left of it) by the office as a reminder for all incoming hunters. It sent a very clear message.

That night, after dinner, we made our final plans. Joe would stay with John and me, providing back-up with his .30/06 if needed. Joe's son, Adam, would provide additional filming of the herd from a tree-stand and monitor their movements. He would have a much better over-all view than we would at ground level in the thick timber and hopefully, could spot their movement from time to time and relay the information to us.

The morning of the 27th brought a cold, harsh, swirling wind that made hearing anything at a distance almost an impossibility. Under these circumstances, we would have to be especially alert since in the thick cover, we could suddenly be on top of each other before we or they could be heard.

Obviously, this had the makings for a potentially sticky situation. A startled group of Buffalo at “point-blank” range is definitely an undesirable scenario and with the wind being what it was, with the limited visibility in the woods, the prospect loomed very real.

As we slowly moved through the timber, some amazing sights unfolded before us. Paths the Big Shaggies had made through the woods gave the impression that a boulder had rolled through. Along the sides of the pathways were many trees with many head-high patches of scraped-off bark where the big critters had stopped to rub and scratch. It was like looking at eye-level deer scrapes. Sometimes, you could stand at a spot along those trails and follow the scrape lines as far as the eye could see.

Three hours (and four blown stalks later) we were still no closer to closing the deal than we were when we had first set out. Every time we'd spot the Shaggy Quadrupeds and try to move in for a shot, one would spot us or the swirling winds would suddenly shift in their direction and they'd thunder off and disappear. Other times



they just seem to melt away. From Adam's elevated vantage point, he watched the herd circle us and disappear on several occasions...He must have found that amusing.

We had one rather close call and were lucky enough to capture it on film. As we stood in a small clearing, I was glassing some timber to the east of us when Joe approached me and suggested we move to the top of a nearby hill for a better vantage point. He had barely gotten the words out when not more than 30-40 yards away, about 25 buffalo came roaring over the top of the hill full bore. Seeing us, they veered east into the timber I was just glassing, putting as much distance between us as possible. John was just far enough behind us to capture it all on film.

It had all unfolded so fast there was no chance for a shot and now no sign of them. We were glad we hadn't decided to move to the hilltop ten seconds earlier. In that wind we would have been coming up our respective sides of the hill, neither one hearing the other and run smack together at the top....Not good.....

It was now change of strategy time. John and I would stay and set up in the clearing hoping the herd would eventually work their way through again. Joe was going to work his way back to Adam for an equipment check. I positioned myself under a scrub tree (naturally, the one with the biggest thorns) and John moved in behind me with the Camcorder about 30 yards back.

I had an ideal spot sitting under this tree. I was well concealed by shrubs and a stout limb protruded at shoulder height to make a perfect rest for the big Sharps. In front of me, about 35-40 yards away was a small rise with thick timber behind it. One of the main trails came within 20 yards of my tree. If they moved through either area, sooner or later, I would get my open shot.

Forty-five minutes passed before some movement caught my eye. A lone young bull appeared on the trail and cut across into the timber in front of me on the other side of the clearing. I took my binoculars and began



glassing the timber. Part of the herd was working its way toward us. I could only catch glimpses of them in the thick cover. No way to tell how many, but they were definitely heading our way.

Another twenty minutes went by, and two cows emerged over the top of the small rise....Like Whitetail does, cow bison tend to be the more watchful members of a herd and usually are in the forefront. I rose to one knee, leaned against the side of the tree and waited. Hopefully the big bulls were with this bunch.

Then suddenly, there he was! ...A huge dominant herd bull: there was no mistaking this guy for what he was. He ambled up the trail and cut in front of the rise, not 35 yards from me. I grabbed the Sharps and laid it across the limb. John brought his camcorder to bear on the bull. He knew what was coming.

The bull eased out from the last few branches that had partially obscured him and began to cross in front of me. I firmly steadied the .45/120 on the limb and readied it. The ball sight settled in behind his left shoulder, two-thirds of the way down, right where the lighter-brown hair of his shaggy mane ended and the darker-brown body hair began. I set the back trigger, gently squeezed the front and unleashed the thunder.

The Quigley bellowed and a billowing cloud of white smoke enveloped the landscape. The 715-grain slug rocked the giant and staggered him for about ten feet until he finally regained his footing. As the smoke cleared, he stopped, barely able to maintain his balance, the great head drooping.

As the second shot impacted, he lurched forward, staggered down behind the rise and disappeared. I wanted to run over and see what happened, but knowing there were more bison on the other side, ruled out that idea.

In a matter of seconds, two buffalo burst out from behind the rise and took off into the timber on our far side. "Good," I thought, "They're leaving him." I came out from behind



the tree and brush and walked smack into six of them that had just come out. We were about 30 yards apart staring at each other. For about 10 seconds we stood motionless (10 long seconds, I might add) then everything broke loose. Some 25 to 30 buffs came thundering out from behind the rise, heading for the far timber also in a huge swirling cloud of dust; the other 6 leaving with them. This was definitely a case when "Mob Mentality" was a good thing,

As everything quieted and dust dissipated in the swirling winds, there he stood, unable to go any farther. The great bull teetered 30 yards away, glaring at me while trying to maintain his footing..He was fading fast.

Wanting to end it quickly, I move into position for a clear shot. As the massive head dipped to his right, I touched off one last round between his neck and left shoulder. As the giant slug slammed home, the great monarch staggered and went down. From where he took his first hit to where he collapsed, he hadn't gone 50 yards.

As I stood there John and Joe approached from behind. Even though he was down, best never to rush in. I went to chamber another round and found it wouldn't insert...Never a dull moment. Once in a while with any blackpowder rifle, you can get an unexpected fouling build-up in the breech or a swollen

case. I have fired up to twelve shots in a row with this rifle and could probably a lot more on a given day. This one time however, for whatever reason, there was just enough of a fouling build-up to prevent the round from chambering.

I mention this because it is one of those unforeseeable things that can happen and one should always be prepared for the unexpected. I always carry a small "possibles" bag containing a pistol cleaning rod with a soft bristle brush attached and some patches. When this occurs, I wet a patch in my mouth, put it on the brush and swab out the breech.....A few quick strokes and round chambered smoothly. In this case it didn't matter, the great bull was dead.

The power of the .45/120/715 was truly impressive. As the bull was skinned and caped, we recovered two of the three slugs. The first had struck squarely behind the left shoulder, passed through the heart, and lodged in the skin on the right side. The flat-nose front of the bullet had expanded to .625" and still weighed 709 grains, a 99% weight retention factor.

The second had smashed through a rib on the left side, taken out both lungs, and imbedded in a rib on the right side. In spite of all this, the N.E.I. bullet still retained 84% of its mass at 601 grains and had expanded to a full inch in diameter.

The third projectile had impacted between the neck and shoulder on the left side and blew out through his right back leg passing through the entire length of his body and plowing a huge wound channel. There is no doubt in my mind that the Pedersoli .45/120 is one of the finest big game rifles I've used. The 715-grain bullet kicks it up to another level..

The bull was a brute at 2200 plus lbs., 10' long, and almost 7' at the hump. His massive neck measured a little over 8' in circumference. Joe would have an impressive office wall-hanger here....Not to mention the 1,000 lbs. of meat we got off him and split up amongst us.....and several grateful neighbors.

We wrapped up our filming the next day

and headed for home. It had been a truly great experience for me and I'm sure I could say the same for all of us. It couldn't have gone better if we'd written the entire script. Once again, I was lucky enough to have been in the right place at the right time .....The thrill of the hunt, the fine camera work of John and Adam, and Joe's efforts and energy to put it all together made for a winning combination. We had amassed more than enough footage to make a great video for Joe to promote his ranch....Sometimes putting your foot in your mouth can work out all right after all.

For anyone interested in a really different and challenging type of Buffalo hunting, you can reach Joe at the following address:

Joe & Patti Richgels  
4942 County Rd. Q  
Highland, Wisconsin 53543  
Ph. 608-929-7408 or 7836

Just ask Joe for some information.....Hey! You might even check out a Video or DVD.....

Good Hunting and Shooting





# Pedersoli News

## *The aim of IFG*

The economic crisis is starting to be boring as being used for an excuse for not doing anything. Even though the market is down due to the lack of cash in the customers' pocket, it is not a wise decision to go into defence. Pedersoli and 3 other firearms manufacturers decided to find a different approach to improve their customer service. The 4 companies – Pedersoli, Fair, Tanfoglio, Sabatti – teamed up to create a distribution company in the USA to strengthen their market presence and offer a quicker, more convenient customer service for the end user of their products.

## *The members*

Each member of the group is strong in its category, and together they offer a wide range of sport shooting, hunting, and law enforcement products. The development of the overseas distribution system will keep the logistic cost down, and shorten the distribution line from the factory to the user. The company will utilize the traditional distribution channels, and the option of direct selling as well. The new import, warranty and distribution facility will be located in central Florida.

## *Developement in te future*

The IFG's – Italian Firearms Group – presence in the USA is only the first step for the members. Their future plan is to develop this system in other regions as well, where it is necessary for better customer service.

## *Job offer*

We are looking for someone to work at our USA operation in sales and marketing of Pedersoli products. We require the following:

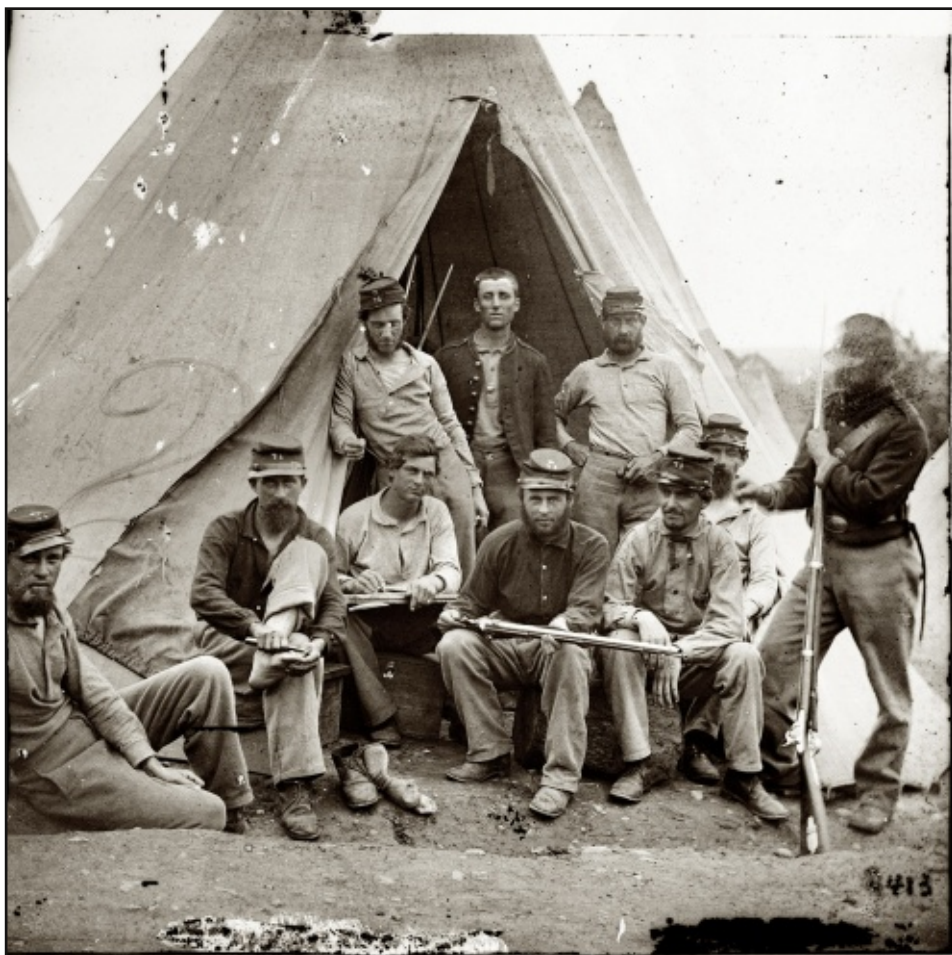


1. Must be knowledgeable in black powder and muzzle loading and breech loading firearms and accessories.
2. Must be willing to relocate to our Central Florida distribution center.
3. Must be willing to travel for sales and marketing as required.
4. Salary to be determined by experience.

Send your current resume to  
[info@davidepedersoli.com](mailto:info@davidepedersoli.com)



For shooters and re-enactors we don't have to introduce the Pedersoli military rifle product line. The 1857 Württembergischen rifle is winner of many MLAIC 50 m and 100 m matches. The Pedersoli Springfield and Richmond are well accepted with N-SSA shooters, re-enactors and hunters all over the world. Now it was time to move on. As the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is coming,



## ***Pedersoli's new Civil War long arms***

Pedersoli decided to launch a full line of Civil War rifle muskets with both the target shooters and the re-enactors in mind. The line will enter the market in 3 stages: first the new Springfield and Richmond, then the Enfield family, and last, the Mississippi and Zouave rifle family.

All guns will feature a barrel made with brooch rifling. All barrels will bear the PMG (Pedersoli Match Grade) proof. The stocks will be made from American walnut, all metal parts produced with Pedersoli accuracy. It is a really good news for all that the targeted consumer price range of these guns will be around 800 euros, depending on the models and barrel lengths. It is really affordable price for a Pedersoli rifle musket. These guns are made with the target shooter in mind, so the reduced price will not mean reduced performance. These guns will be capable of

serious precision shooting, they will be presented for N-SSA and MLAIC approval

The guns of the first stages are already in production, and it will not take too long for them to enter the market. We are sure that these guns will rewrite the Civil War rifle musket market. The complete line should arrive on the market in two years time.





# Words from Pierangelo Pedersoli



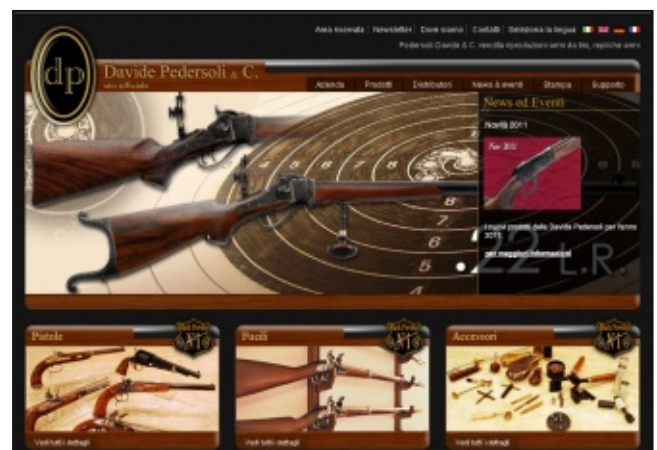
***We asked our editorial director Pierangelo Pedersoli which new products are being introduced and what new projects are being developed.***

He replied, improving the 1886/71 Lever Action rifle, one of the most interesting guns recently introduced, we also added a cartridge side-by-side shotgun in 12 gauge, the small Philadelphia Derringer which has a strong historical interest and, as already announced, the final versions of the Doc Holliday revolver with blue or nickel finish. Our company is still concentrating on the Indoor Shooting system which operates by replacing the nipple and using polymer resin balls. The interest in this product has been wider than any our most rosy forecasts and now it is offered as a kit including a cased pistol and accessories together with a target holder, designed for indoor shooting. Among the accessory lines, I would like to present our small steam cleaner designed for gun cleaning using steam at 130°C: The Turbo Gun Cleaner. Its use for both muzzle

loading and cartridge guns will be a real revolution in cleaning procedures, dissolving and removing black or smokeless powder residues, as well as helping with lead removal.

Our passion is continuous to update our company's web site, to offer our customers new captivating stimulus, to keep open and gain new contacts and to offer as much information as possible. The new graphic layout and interactive system keep the web site modern and we hope more stimulation for all visitors; There is also the on-line magazine "Black Powder N°1" is now available for immediate reading.

Special attention is being given to the link with the web site [www.davidepedersoli.ru](http://www.davidepedersoli.ru) addressing the Russian market, thanks to the magazine РУЖЬЕ (Gun Publishing House) which is promoting the muzzle loading world starting with basic knowledge and arousing great curiosity both for target shooting and hunting, without forgetting the re-enactment groups in this country rich in history. In 2012, for instance, there will be the bi-centennial of the Borodino Battle and to support the preparations Russia is making for the anniversary, a new commemorative gun will be produced for our "Ten Years of Collection" project.



# ***Cleaning your muzzleloader's barrel***

I really like to spend time with my blackpowder guns. I like it when they are clean, and of course I love to shoot them. But I have to let you into a secret. I don't like to spend too much time cleaning. I have many reasons for this. The first is that after shooting I am not really in the mood to clean 4-5 guns in a row. It's much better to have a cold beer in the summer sunset than cleaning the dirt from the old smoke poles.

Being a father and husband also means that my energy and time spent for cleaning must be limited to a certain level. This is why I always tried to develop practical quick methods for cleaning. I set a few rules for myself. I hope you will find them interesting as well.

## ***First rule: Do not always clean your gun!***

If I have a chance during the week to visit the range for some shooting, I usually do not clean the gun after the first session. It is not just the time saving I have in mind when I do so. Your gun needs some fouling in the barrel to be accurate. The clean, oiled barrel needs 2-5 shots to achieve this status, so you can loose some important shots if you have a competition at the weekend, and you clean your gun. If you follow this method, you have to be careful. First you have to know exactly how many shots you need for perfect accuracy. Second, you have to make sure that after practice, your barrel will not start to rust.

To fulfill the requirements of the first point you have to do some practice and make notes during shooting. For the second point you need some more knowledge also. Don't pull out the barrel after shooting with a wet or oiled patch. If you try to use a wet patch, you will push down the dirt into the powder

chamber, and the rifling will start to corrode. If you try to use a dry patch you still push down the dirt into the chamber, that will cause you trouble on the next shooting day. If you use the oiled patch, you are safe from rust, but you lose the accuracy of the first shots.

I suggest a different approach. After the last shot, use a corkwood plug to seal the muzzle, put a piece of leather on the nipple and put the hammer on it. Now you have sealed your barrel. If you oil the metal parts, you won't have any problem until the next shooting in a few days. Only use this method if you are sure that your are going to use the gun in 2-3 days.

## ***Second rule: Learn from the soldiers of the old times!***

Cleaning the muzzle-loading military arms back in the old days was a quick and easy process for the soldiers. In fact the process had to be very-very simple so the not so qualified poor guys could do it easily without damaging the gun. All of the contemporary manuals have certain instructions for cleaning these guns without removing any parts from the gun.

If you want to use this method – cleaning the gun without removing the barrel from the stock – you have to make sure that water cannot get between the wood and metal parts. To achieve this, the best way is to cover the underside of the barrel with a thin layer of waterpump grease. Before starting to clean, put a small wooden stick into the touch hole of the nipple and fill up the barrel with boiling hot water. Leave it till it cools, and pour out half of the water. Cover the muzzle with your hand and shake the rifle a few times horizontally, then pour out all the water. If you are done, fill the barrel again with hot water to flush out all the remaining





***Muzzle protector: never use your ramrod without it!***

blackpowder residue. Now place the muzzle on a rag or any soft surface, and leave the gun for a few minutes. The remaining drops of water will pour out from the breech. If your water was hot enough, the moisture will evaporate from the metal surfaces quickly.

Now it's time to pull out the barrel with some dry patches and then with oiled patches. This cleaning method is not the best you can have, but it's a good help if you are on a few days hunting trip, re-enactment or military shooting match, where you have only limited time to do the job.

***Third rule: always loosen the nipple or? touch hole insert after shooting!***

Never ever forget this part. Do it even if you have time only for field cleaning, or anytime when you are not sure when you will have the chance to clean your gun completely. It is much easier to unscrew the nipple when your barrel is still hot from shooting, and the black powder residue is not stiff, but still soft. If you don't do this, you can be sure that the nipple or your nipple wrench will break one day. If your nipple is already stuck in the breech, don't try to force it. Try a gentle approach: first put the breech in boiling hot water, or heat it from the inside with a steam cleaner. It is much easier to unscrew the nipple from a hot breech. This method works nearly every time, even if you have a rusted nipple. If you

want to remove the rusted nipple of an antique gun, try immersing the breech in brake fluid for a few days. After that you can try the heating method.

If these methods don't work, you have to get mechanical: call your gunsmith and he will drill out the stuck nipple for you. But I have to tell you that I have never ever seen any case where the threads in the breech or bolster were not damaged during the drilling process, so be careful! It's much better to spend the time unscrewing the nipple after shooting.

Before re-mounting the nipple, cover the threads with Teflon tape or copper paste (I think the Teflon tape is the best you can have).

***Fourth rule: If you intend to leave your gun uncleaned for more than 2-3 days, oil it!***

If you will not shoot your gun in the week, but you know that you can only clean it after a few days, pull out the bore with an oil patch, or at least spray some gun oil into the rifling. Loosen the nipple or touch hole insert, and wipe the entire gun with an oily rag. If your gun is clean, and you know you will not use it for a few months, it is better to use some heavy artillery to avoid unnecessary corrosion. In this case cover the entire gun with fine motor oil. This will make a thick layer of oil on all metal surfaces. It is better to store the gun horizontally, or with the muzzle pointing down, so the excess oil will not gather in the breech, but pour out of the barrel slowly.

***Fifth rule: If you clean your gun completely, give it time!***

In the next part I will tell you how to clean your gun completely. This is my method. I am sure that there are some better, more precise methods, but it worked for me in the last years, and did not ruin the condition of any of my replica or original guns. I do not really like

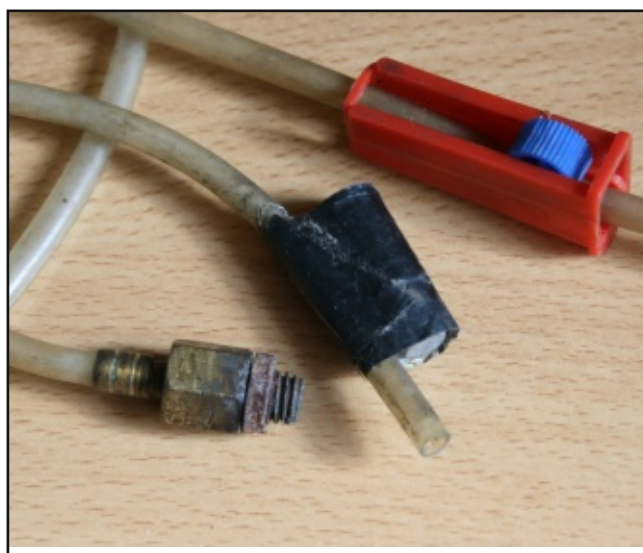
to take out the barrels of my full stock guns, so I only clean them separately in the case of hooked breech guns. For all the others, I grease the underside of the barrel, and clean them in the stock.

### Cleaning hooked breech guns

Get the barrel out of the stock, unscrew the nipple and put the breech into approx. 20 cm deep hot water. Put a tight patch on your ramrod, and suck up the water into the barrel like a pump. Do this several times, this will remove the majority of the residue and you flush it out into the water. This will also soften the residue in the rifling, so it will make the job of the brushes easy. Always use a ramrod that is softer than your barrel. But even if it is made of plastic, brass or aluminum, use a plastic muzzle protector to save the muzzle and the crown.

If you use your gun with patched round balls, it is usually enough to use bristle brush. If you use conical bullets, you will need the brass or bronze brush as well every second cleaning. This will help to remove the lead from the barrel. After you are done, put a dry patch on your ramrod and suck up some water a few times again. If your water is hot enough, the moisture will evaporate after you take the barrel out of the water. Use some dry patches to get rid of the water in the powder chamber or flash hole channel, but

*Well used cleaning tube with brass interface and weight on the neds*



do not be afraid if the patch is still not 100% clean. There is no point in cleaning the barrel to absolute cleanness.

Now it's time to oil the bore. Spray some gun oil into the muzzle, then wipe it out with a clean patch. With a few strong blows into the muzzle, blow out the superfluous oil. It will leave the touch hole channel as a small cloud. Wipe the barrel again with a lightly oiled patch and you have your barrel cleaned out.

### Cleaning the barrel without removing it from the stock

Many people do not like the type of guns the barrels of which are not equipped with a hooked breech. In fact, it is much easier to clean these guns than the hooked breech weapons. If your barrel is well greased on the underside, you won't have a problem for a long time. The magic tool you will need is a silicon pipe with a brass interface that can be screwed into the place of the nipple or touch hole. Take out the lock and screw the brass into the breech and put some weight on the other end of the pipe. This will keep it under water when your are using it. Use a clothespin to close the pipe, and fill up the barrel with hot water, and leave it to cool for a few minutes. Take out the pin and let the dirty liquid pour into a bowl. Now put the end of the silicon pipe into some hot water again and use a tight patch and your ramrod to suck up some water into the barrel. Do this a few times until the water coming out of the barrel is clean. Now it is time to use the bristle brush. Close the pipe again and fill 1/3 of the barrel with hot water, and rub the bore with the brush. Open the pipe, let the dirty water pour out and use some clean hot water to flush the barrel again the way mentioned previously. Remove the brass interface from the barrel and with a few strong blows, remove the moisture in the barrel. Use a few dry patches to finish the job and you can oil the barrel.



## ***Sixth rule: Horizontal is better than vertical!***

There is no shooter in the world who has not experienced a misfire during the first shot with a clean gun. This problem is usually caused by the oil gathering in the powder chamber or in the touch hole channel. This can easily happen if you store your muzzle-loader muzzle up. So, if at all possible, store your gun vertically, or if you don't have enough space, store it muzzle down. But always remember to place the muzzle on a soft surface so you don't damage the crown. To make sure your touch hole channel is clear, snap a few caps before shooting, or use a compressed air spray to clean the touch hole.

## ***Alternative cleaning methods – using the steam cleaner***

Nowadays we can see more and more shooters using steam cleaners on the range. It is a great help if you use it wisely. The small household steam cleaners hold only a few deciliters of water and can only generate 1-2 bar pressure. To clean a barrel completely you need a more professional approach. Choose a steam cleaner that makes at least 3 bars of pressure, can generate continuous steam for at least 5 minutes. I found the new Pedersoli turbo cleaner really useful with the 1,5 liter tank capacity and all the attachable accessories for cleaning long and short arms.

Cleaning the barrel is easy: place the gun on a table, with the muzzle pointing downward at 10-15 degrees. Let your cleaner warm up, and through the cleaning pipe start spraying steam into the breech. You will notice the black liquid flowing out of the muzzle. You need only a few minutes to clean the metal surface completely. Your barrel will get really hot – the temperature of the steam is around 130 Celsius – so watch out for your hands, always wear safety gloves. The barrel gets so hot, that any moisture evaporates immediately, so your barrel will be ready for oiling.

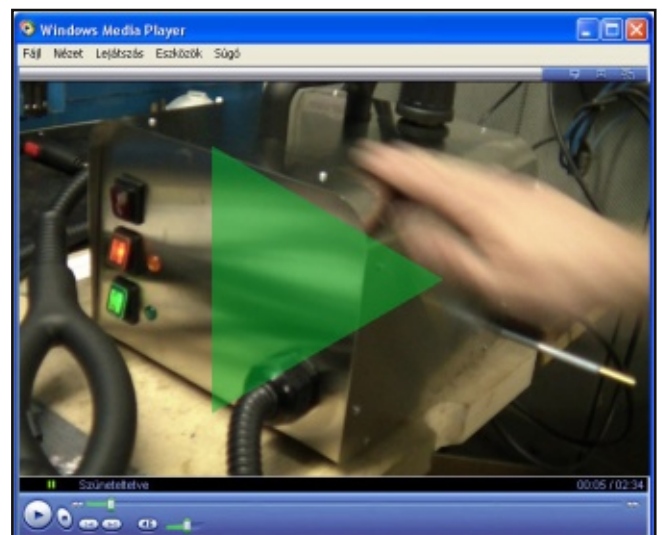
On replica arms you can even use it for cleaning the stock and lock. But be careful: have your barrel greased where it meets the wood, so you don't give corrosion a chance to.

### **Pedersoli's Turbo Gun cleaner**

Steam cleaning machine for all guns not just muzzle loaders. Consists of a steam boiler, flexible hose two meters long and a handle to connect the steel cleaning lance to direct the steam to flush out firing residue. The stainless steel lance is 93,5 cm long, with a diameter of 8 mm, equipped with a nozzle having three diagonal holes for optimal steam delivery for complete and thorough cleaning of the bore. The steam lance is Teflon coated to avoid any possible damage to the barrel. On request, there are also available steam lances 113cm and 26cm long: the latter has a nozzle with only one central flush hole.

Boiler water capacity: 1.5 litres, enables about 20 minutes of continuous steam delivery at maximum volume and at 130°C, the machine draws 1500 Watts, however an electronic control device enables reduced electricity consumption, once maximum temperature is reached; the max pressure is 3,5 bar. Steam machine body dimensions: 290x270x210 (h), weight 6 kilos; electric cable 2 m long. Warm up time to operating temperature: 10 minutes.

### ***Turbo cleaner in action***





*From Wm. Hovey Smith:*

## **Backyard Deer Hunting:** **Converting deer to dinner for pennies** **per pounds**

In a single volume, prize-winning author Wm. Hovey Smith explains every aspect of deer hunting from finding deer, hunting with a variety of equipment, cleaning the animal and cooking it. This book is designed to introduce new hunters to every aspect of the sport. Basic hunting and cooking instructions are provided for deer, small game and fowl along with 50 easy-to-cook recipes. For more information go to

**[www.hoveysmith.com](http://www.hoveysmith.com).**







*A successful hunt  
with Roger  
Kicklighter, son  
Kevin and Ham  
Bone*

## ***Rabbits with Bess, bismuth and beagle***

Stomping down briars while on a rabbit hunt with a tired 7-year-old, a beagle named Hambone that wasn't feeling well and hunting buddy Roger Kicklighter was not what I had in mind when I first charged Bess with 1 3/8-ounces of bismuth No. 2s. My intended quarry was geese, but geese were not to be this year – not because of any deficiency on Bess' part, but because of a lack of nerve on my part.

Despite her portly lines and homely appearance, I am fond of Bess, and we have experienced a number of hunting adventures together. I refurbished the Dixie Gun Works' Indian Gun after purchasing her at a club match. In my hands she has taken two deer, one swan, three geese, and ducks. The deer had been shot with .75-caliber round-ball loads, and the waterfowl were taken with steel shot. My original objective was to develop a more effective goose load using bismuth shot.

Even when shooting a flintlock, Federal law requires that nontoxic shot be used for waterfowl. Previously steel was the only acceptable substitute for lead, but the

1996-97 season was the first year that U.S. wildlife officials granted unconditional approval for bismuth shot. This metal is 23-percent more dense than steel, so I expected that a load of bismuth would transmit more impact energy to large birds like geese.

Trials of bismuth shot reported in several magazines were favorable, but for the first two years the shot was only available in no. 5 and smaller sizes. In 1996 a method was developed to form the balky material into larger pellets. Now loose no. 2 and BB shot as well as ammunition loaded with these shot sizes are available. The larger sizes promised to be as effective on geese as the no. 5 bismuth had been on ducks.

I remember how difficult geese were to kill with a 3-inch load of magnum lead no. 2s, and it was my hope the significant improvement bismuth loads offered over steel would be added insurance to help bring down these big birds. One goose I shot with Bess using steel shot was straight overhead. Roger saw the bird crump under the impact of the shot, but it continued to fly. The bird was crippled, and we recovered it later that

morning. I felt there was a good likelihood a load of denser bismuth shot would have brought it down.

Four pounds each of bismuth BBs and no. 2s were ordered from Ballistic Products, Inc. The bill came to \$72 after a writer's discount. This amounted to 56 cents an ounce for Bess fodder. If Bess needed it to do her job better, so be it. It was not as if I were going to shoot 500 rounds a day at trap. The cost for the half-dozen charges I might shoot at geese a year was an insignificant part of my costs per ounce of cooked goose, when you consider the annual depreciated costs of the gun, boat, motor and decoys to which are added the non-depreciatory costs such as transportation, food, licenses, scouting trips, etc.

### ***First attempts***

Many full-choked barrels are too constricted for good results with steel shot. Cylinder-bored guns like Bess have no such problems, and I developed steel waterfowl loads to use in both single and double-barreled muzzleloaders. Bess apparently preferred 90 grains of GOEX FFg, an 11-gauge over-powder card, 30 grains of Cream of Wheat filler, a MEC-122 plastic steel-shot wad, 1¼-ounces of steel shot and a thin shot-retaining wad.

Adapting my steel-shot load to



bismuth only required placing a 3/8-inch Winchester molded fiber 20-gauge wad into the base of the MEC plastic wad to take up the excess space and filling the remaining volume of the wad with shot. This gave a reasonable load with 101 no. 2 bismuth or 52 bismuth BBs. The bismuth no. 2s penetrated 380 pages of the Thomas Register and yielded 50 to 70 percent patterns at 40 yards. The muzzleloading steel-shot load of the larger BBs penetrated 350 pages at the same range. An old Super-X load of lead no. 2s passed through 428 sheets of the Register – still a far more effective load than either of the muzzleloaded assemblies. The smaller bismuth no. 2s gave a denser pattern than the steel BBs and had slightly greater penetration.

### ***The goose hunt***

For our first hunt of the season, Roger, Kevin and I ventured to two farm ponds in Hancock County, Georgia, where Bess had succeeded in previous years. I positioned myself in a gap between some tall trees thinking if the geese came from their usual direction they would fly to the pond through this opening in the tree line. Roger honked on his call, and in the gray light of the coming dawn, a flight of geese came in silently. They set their wings and passed directly over me. When the leading bird looked good, I swung ahead of his beak and pulled the trigger. Bess fired, but the recoil did not feel as stout as the test loads. The bird flew on. It was apparently unscathed, as not a single feather fell.

My shot caused the eight birds to disperse, and some flew near Roger who was standing under the eaves of a boat shelter in the lower of the two ponds. He fired and soon had his first goose of the year. Later he told me that he was not calling anything in particular, and my shot surprised him. When he saw geese all around him, he grabbed his gun and shot. He also remarked that my load sounded a little soft.

Our next attempt at geese was on the same pair of ponds, but this time a pair of





geese came over the dam and flew up the pond. I thought they were a little far for Bess, and I did not shoot. Roger bagged one of the pair as they passed within 15 feet of the end of the dock. In retrospect I think Bess could have made the shot. With two birds in line, I should have swung a bird length ahead of the first bird and fired. In better light I saw they were only about 35-yards out, and the shot would have been a reasonable one to attempt.

"Sorry about that Bess. That was my fault," I muttered. We saw no more geese. That pair was our last opportunity of the season.

Roger was shooting bismuth BBs loaded in 12-gauge cartridges, and I was very interested in how they performed. Shot striking the breast were spherical and intact, but one that hit a wingbone fragmented and left hard shards of metal in the meat. I had noted when testing the loads for penetration on book paper that some bismuth shot broke up on impact with the cardboard book cover and some of the penetrating fragments were quite sharp. When some lead no. 2s were shot for comparison, the lead shot deformed but did not leave splintery fragments.

### ***Bismuth and small game***

Intrigued by this aspect of shot performance and having no other opportunity to test bismuth shot on waterfowl, I asked Roger if he would like to try some small game hunting in February after goose season closed. He agreed and suggested a place where there would be opportunities for both squirrels and rabbits. This might also be an opportunity for Kevin to kill his first game.

Bess had bagged a squirrel before with a .75-caliber round ball which had taken the rodent's head off very nicely. This load was somewhat much for a squirrel, but the target offered itself, squirrels were in season and the gun needed to be unloaded. As a consequence, Bess had got herself a squirrel.

It would be somewhat different to try for squirrels with a load of no. 2 bismuth. Checking to make sure, I found that that no. 2s were legal for small game in Georgia. I thought it best to take a close look at the regs as I normally used no. 4s or 5s in Bess for squirrels and rabbits. The coarser shot patterned better in the cylinder-bored barrel than no. 6s.

The first squirrel came from behind, climbed a tree, jumped to another and was descending when I fired. After the smoke cleared there was no squirrel on the ground. I saw him scamper, apparently uninjured up into a tree.

"Hummm, this loaded sounded a bit puny too," I thought. The next squirrel was feeding on the ground about 20-yards away. This time the loads caught the squirrel well, and it did not move from where it had been hit. The next squirrel at about 30 yards was taken with a no. 2 shot in the body and one through the head. One aspect of using coarser than usual shot was that I was getting either a clean miss or a kill.

In the meantime Roger and Kevin moved from where they started and were, from the amount of shooting doing well. I heard one shot from Kevin's 20-gauge and 10 or more from Roger's .22. (With one shotgun round and an embarrassing large number of .22s they had killed one squirrel.) Bess and I were two squirrels for three shots – not bad, I thought. The sun was well up now and it was time to start after our principal quarry – rabbits.

Hambone was let out of his box, and the four of us proceeded to hunt some thick tangles of knee-to-waist-high briers, broom sage and honeysuckle. Hambone started pushing through the briers with enthusiasm, working a bit of cover we had just walked through. I suspected the rabbits were sitting tight, and so they were. The first broke from cover, I apparently missed with Bess, but Roger anchored the rabbit with a load of 7½s from the full-choked barrel of his newly purchased Parker Trojan-its first kill. When the rabbit was cleaned, one no. 2 shot had struck its rear leg, but it was the swarm of 7½s that had killed it.

This was also Hambone's first flush of game before a gun. He liked it and continued to sniff out the rabbit trail even though the rabbit lay dead in front of him. The beagle was so intent on his work that he paid no attention to the sound of the shooting or its effect.

Later in the hunt a second rabbit

swung around, and I took it with Bess at a range of about 15 yards. The load was still tight and mutilated the rabbit's hindquarters. For my purposes, however, the rabbit had caught a fair number of shot, and these would yield some interesting information when they were recovered.

Roger and I stomped a likely patch of knee-high briers about 15-yards square. We each got a rabbit from the tangle. In both cases they were sitting tight in the briers and could have easily been taken with a pistol. (One of my favorite ways to take late season rabbits after the leaves drop from the briers.)

Unfortunately, Kevin was having enough problems pushing through the brush to carry his Harrington & Richardson National Wild Turkey Federation Youth Model. He had fired the little 20-gauge shotgun with some light-recoiling reloads, but was still a bit fearful of the gun. For the present Kevin carried an empty gun when he and his father hunted. Under state law a child under the age of 14 may hunt with an adult provided the child in under close supervision at all times.

Hambone had a shot at the vet's the day before and was not feeling too well. That was the end of the hunt for him, and Hambone went back to the dog box. Kevin was fairly well done in too. This had been a tiring 2 hours pushing through the heavy cover. He had trudged manfully forward, but he was just about ready to call it quits. To have hunted much longer ran the risk of spoiling Kevin's enthusiasm for hunting altogether, so we agreed to call it a day.







### ***Further load development***

Considering my experiences with apparently underpowered initial shots from Bess, I decided further load development was necessary. On several occasions over the past 2 years, it appeared that the first shot fired from a clean barrel was softer recoiling than subsequent shots and had apparently delivered less energy to the target.

Having purchased an Oehler 35P chronograph, I now had a means for accurately measuring velocities. The first three shots indicated Bess' first round left a clean barrel at about 875 feet per second (fps), the second at 1,025 fps. and the third at 1,075 fps. Bess was cleaned as usual and two more series of three shots were fired. Most consistent pattern results were obtained when the velocity of the shot measured at 15 feet was in the range of 1,000 to 1,050 fps.

There were two potential solutions to promote more uniform performance between the first and subsequent shots. The first was to shoot a fouling shot and then reload. The second was to increase the initial load from 95 grains of FFg to 98 grains, which boosted the velocity towards the 1,000 fps. range and then cut back to 95 grains for subsequent shots. This loading change kept the followup shots from rising to 1,100 fps with a resulting decrease in pattern density.

Increasing the load for the first shot to 98 grains of FFg and decreasing the shot

count from 101 to 87 no. 2 bismuth shot resulted in patterns in the 70-percent range when fired from a clean bore. The velocity of this load averaged about 900 fps. The second shot fired from a fouled bore with a reduced powder charge of 95 grains resulted in patterns that averaged in the 60-percent range with a velocity of about 1,000 fps. Firing two shots, completely cleaning the barrel and firing two more shots, cleaning the barrel again, etc. became somewhat laborious; however, three repetitions firmly established that the velocity differential was real.

Some people report having problems with plastic residue remaining in gun barrels when plastic wads are used with black powder. I clean dirty black powder barrels with warm water soaped up with Dawn dishwashing detergent followed by rinsing with clear water. Plastic adhering to the barrel walls comes off as soft stringy masses that are easily removed by the cloth cleaning patches.

### ***Pattern testing***

Several trends were noted when the loads were patterned. Bess threw better patterns with plastic wads, larger size shot, lighter powder charges and more cushioning between the powder charge and the shot. None of these are unexpected outcomes. An old shotgunning adage goes, "Little powder, more shot, kills far, kills dead." Shoulder-busting loads in a cylinder-bored muzzleloader may be macho, but usually result in patterns having hollow centers. Increasing the shot charge to a nominal 2 3/8 ounces of shot as measured in an antique shot measure only resulted in 27 or the 78 BBs striking in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards for a 35-percent pattern. Decreasing the shot weight to a nominal 1 3/8 ounces saw 34 of 52 BBs register on the target – a 65-percent pattern. Patterns with BBs were patchy with dense clots of shot striking some areas while other large parts of the target received no hits. Best patterns with this load were obtained with 93 grains of FFg from a fouled

bore.

When the smaller no. 2 shot was used propelled by 95 grains of FFg, 54 out of 101 shot registered in a 30-inch circle when shot from a clean bore. Fired through a dirty bore the same powder charge gave 62-percent patterns. Although the percentage of no. 2s striking the target was less than the BBs, the more evenly distributed smaller shot caused me to prefer no. 2 bismuth shot over the BBs for birds the size of Georgia's giant Canadian geese.

### ***Shot performance***

The no. 2 bismuth shot that had passed through soft tissue between the ribs remained intact, but shot that struck the tough leg bones of the rabbits fractured into two to eight angular pieces. The performance of the no. 2s was reminiscent of the initial batches of no. 5 bismuth shot that were offered in the first stages of shot development. Making the larger shot sizes has presented another series of technical problems. Some have been solved, and I am sure the performance of bismuth shot will continue to improve. Even as it stands, bismuth shot loads have considerably better killing potential on big birds like geese, cranes and swan than any steel-shot load can achieve even if it was, and is, inferior to present loads of HeviShot fired through cartridge or muzzleloading guns. Bismuth shot still has the advantage that it can be fired through tightly choked barrels without causing damage, whereas the non-deformable steel and tungsten-alloyed HeviShot should only be used in modified barrels. In addition HeviShot is very abrasive and must be used with a heavy plastic wad to keep from scouring the barrel.

Bess and I found out some things and learned our lesson. Next time we go after waterfowl we are going to use bismuth shot and 100 grains of FFg for our first shot and then cut back to 95 grains so that the bismuth leaves the barrel at a more uniform velocity. Our path to knowledge took some unusual twists, but doesn't a lady always

come up with some surprises?

Bismuth shot is available in both loaded shotgun shells and as loose shot. For those who do not want to use plastic wads to prevent barrel abrasion from steel or tungsten-containing shot, bismuth shot is ideal for loading with conventional wads. The shot that I used has a heavy graphite coating and leaves more fouling in the barrels. Lubricating the edges of the wads with a product like Thompson/Center's Bore Butter will help prevent carbon build-up and make the gun easier to reload.

**Wm Hovey Smith**

### ***2011 MLAIC EC, Finland***

The official webpage of the 2011. MLAIC European Championships is on-line. You can gather important information about importing blackpowder firearms to Finland, accommodation, competition program. Click the picture below to visit the website.

This year The MLAIC European Championship Tournament is going to celebrate traditional firearms and shooting practices in Finland in the historical city of Hamina during 21.8.-28.8.2011

