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HOKE MASHBURN

Local Gunsmith Turns Out Accurate Firearms

By NED COMOR

"I figured that if they could take a blacksmith's tools and build a gun that would fire accurately 150 years ago, I could take a few tools and build a gun also." That was the reasoning behind two beautiful hand-made, "lock, stock and barrel" made by a man of this section, one Hoke Mashburn.

Yes, Mr. Mashburn has made every part in these cap and ball guns in a shop at his home. And the guns will fire accurately. He has a target from a shooting match back in Hiwassee in which he has placed three shots in a spot that can be covered with a silver dollar. And this writer doubts that most shooters can do this good with many modern pieces and under these competitive circumstances, without telescopic sights.

With Mr. Mashburn, gun smithing has been a life-time hobby. An interview revealed that patience was one of the virtues of

a good gun smith. "All the power tools he uses is a machine lathe and a couple of hand grinders, and an assortment of hand tools. He used hexagon drill steel for the barrels, spring steel (forged on his own forge) for the locks, and hand worked walnut and maple for the stocks. To bore the barrel, Mr. Mashburn said he borrowed a boring tool from a gun maker in another county and to the amazement of this writer, this boring device is old and hand operated. But the end seems to justify the means. For he certainly has two guns that would be the envy of every hunter or gun lover.

At his home, Mr. Mashburn had a gun standing alongside a wall, and when we picked it up, were amazed at its weight. It weighed approximately 18 pounds and was nearly six feet long. To hold this gun on a target would take men such as founded this country. But Mr. Mashburn assured us that this gun wasn't built to shoot off-handed. That is, it is shot from "across a log." It takes a ball of .400". This gun is heavy enough to absorb any recoil that might wish to "flinch" the shooter when the charge of black powder is ignited with the cap.

Mr. Mashburn was asked about the size of the powder charge and he informed us that the charge of powder was measured in the palm of your hand by laying out a bullet and pouring powder over it until the ball was just covered. This is the ancient rule of thumb by which the War between the states was fought.

Another feature of these old gun smiths that has been discontinued is two triggers to fire the charge. Now to some of us youngsters, this is most unique. Most of us only know to cock the hammer and pull the trigger. But on these old guns, shooting accuracy was aided by the second trigger, which relieved the primary trigger of about 90 per cent of the pressure required to release the hammer, thus allowing the shooter to hold his sights on the target while waiting for the powder to ignite.

During our short span of years in the newspaper field, this

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Kidd Brewer's Raleigh Roundup

UTOPIA . . . They said it couldn't be done! It is a political axiom that it is impossible to secure the support of all major factions and diverse interests in a political campaign, but apparently young Terry Sanford has accomplished the impossible.

It is agreed that in winning the Democratic nomination for Governor last Saturday that Sanford had the backing of such contrasting interests as big business and labor, both the liberals and conservatives, the rural and city voters, the Negro and the whites, the teachers and other state employees, and those who will pay their salary raises through taxes.

MACHINES . . . Sanford had on his side the remnants of the Scott political machine, the Gardner machine, the McDonald machine, the Broughton machine, the Hodges machine, and any other machine we can think of.

He was supported by the Democratic Raleigh News and Observer, the Charlotte Observer which is now owned by the Knight family of Republican background.

Imagine, for instance, Charlie Cannon, Ralph McDonald, Luther Hodges, Ralph Scott, Watts Hill, and Millard Barbee, to name a

few, all in agreement on the same man for Governor.

GOODIES FOR ALL . . . Since Terry Sanford's election is going to benefit all the various people and all the various conflicting interests in North Carolina, then the only question is why didn't we get on to this before now?

Why have we been fighting among ourselves when we could have drafted Terry four years ago?

WELCOME . . . All those industries which have been waiting on the Virginia border afraid to move into North Carolina unless Terry was nominated, will now be swamping us with new buildings, new payrolls and new sources for taxes.

All of those farmers whom Scott got out of the mud will now get out of the hole and be welcomed in the Governor's office.

All the teachers who have been leaving the Old North State for better paying jobs in other states will be coming back to get some of the fifty million dollars a year increase which is to be spent on education.

GOOD CLIMATE . . . Labor in North Carolina will receive the

highest wages because it supported Sanford.

The state employees will get their raises. The Negro will get to "sitdown" and "wade-in" with us in our climate which will not cause the Supreme Court to send Federal troops in and close our precious schools.

COMMITTED . . . With a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor committed to all the good things for everybody and without it costing anybody, our only trouble is going to be having to wait until next year to get the "Man on the Go" to a going for us!

ALL PROFIT . . . The whole thing reminds us a little of an old story about the fellow who was going to get rich selling cat-hides to the furcoat industry.

He had it figured out where-by it would be all profit, after starting with an initial supply of rats and cats. He would feed the rats to the cats. He would then skin the cats, sell the fur, grind-up the carcasses of the dead cats and feed them to the rats, and repeat the whole cycle ad finitum.

We never heard how he made out, but we can't wait until next year to find out how we are going to make out with our new experiment in state government whereby everybody gains and nobody loses.

Come on 1961 with your better state for Betsy. We are raring to go!

EXPANSION . . . Most cities in the state are expanding their city limits by leaps and bounds. We heard a neighbor say the other day "I have moved out of Raleigh three times in my life and have wound up back in the city limits each time by being annexed. If I move any further West I'll be taken in by Durham!"

MORALE . . . Speaking of Durham, we were in Gladstein's store for fat men the other day and tried on a suit with pantswaist size 56 inches. It was the first time we have felt real thin in twenty years. Try it some time for your morale.

Is it true that Chapel Hill city schools, which has been subjected to more than its share of turmoil lately, is subject to be integrated by the admission of at least one Negro this fall?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor Cherokee Scout:

This article should not be necessary but I have seen the most beautiful maple trees in all the state mutilated twice here in Murphy in the past twenty year. I refer to the matchless maples on both sides of Peachtree Street from the Courthouse to the Hospitals.

These trees have finally recovered from the last mutilation and makes this street one of the most beautiful in the state. It is so revealing to see this fine stand of maples hacked down to a stump that one would think no person in his right mind would cut these trees as I have seen done for no reason other than a few limbs were in way of some of the power lines, which is no excuse at all as the lines can always be moved without destroying the beauty of a picturesque street right in the center of town. I urge the Citizens of Murphy to request the Town Board to never allow these fine trees hacked down to a stump ever again. That this article should be necessary is certainly no compliment on the taste of those who have ruined this street twice by destroying what any other town would give thousands of dollars to have.

V. F. TAYLOR

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