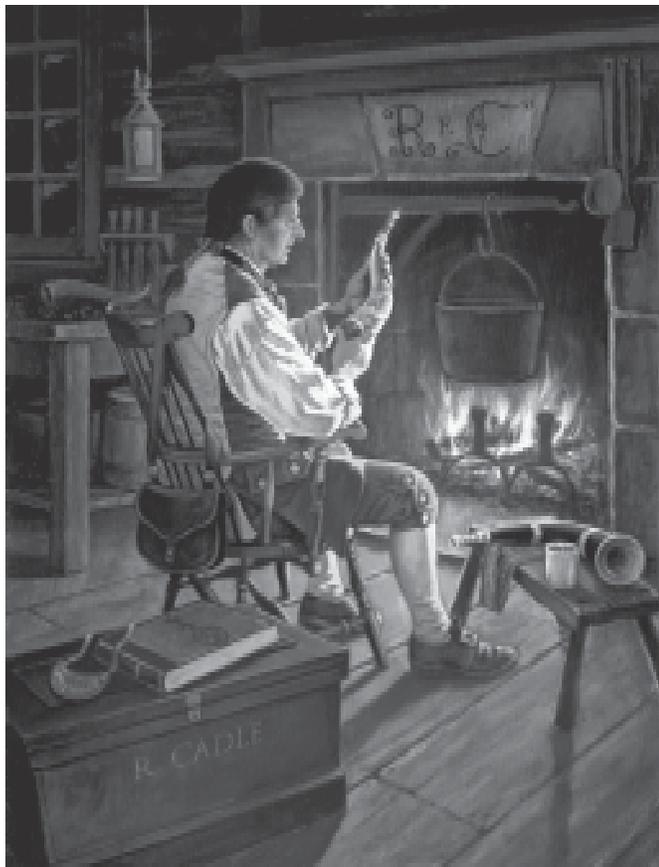


# The Guildmaster - End of Day *by William Carter*



## Background

The Honourable Company of Horners (HCH) came into existence in March 1996, through the efforts of Roland Cadle. There were originally 11 charter members. The first meeting was held at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, PA.

A meager beginning to be sure, but an idea was born, and from that a solid foundation for future growth was created. Since then the Guild has grown to approximately 400 members, publishes *The Horn Book* magazine three times yearly, established a state of the art website, published a book entitled *The Hartley Horn Drawings*, and has plans for a long range digital publication program that will be available in the near future.

Advancements of this nature don't just happen. The key element in the growth of any organization is leadership. This is where the HCH has excelled. Since its inception over 17 years ago, the Guild has had 13 Guildmasters. All have been exceptional leaders giving freely of their time and efforts to ensure future growth and stability. Our organization is truly indebted to Past Guildmasters Russ Young, Roland Cadle, Clay Smith, Lee Larkin, John Proud, Byron Smith, Willie Frankfort, John Kiselica, Billy Griner, Joe Becker, Mike Karkalla, Ed Long, and current Guildmaster Jeff Bibb.

The Guild, as with most organizations, has a simple transition of leadership. The outgoing Guildmaster introduces the incoming Guildmaster, the former is thanked for his service, a handshake exchanged, and the transition is complete. It should be noted that a Guildmaster has many demands placed on his time and family, a myriad of responsibilities, and added personal expenses associated with the assumption of office. So the ques-

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## *A Painting by Robert Albrecht*

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tion arose that after someone serves as Guildmaster for one or two years, is a simple thank you sufficient?

This was the major focal point of discussion that a small group of Guild members had after the 2012 Annual Meeting. Several Past Guildmasters were asked if they received any gift upon leaving office as an expression of gratitude. All responded no, as it was never expected and, as with any emerging organization, the organizations funds were primarily oriented toward the growth and development of the Guild.

After inadvertently becoming aware of this oversight, it was decided to do something to properly recognize every Past Guildmaster for all their contributions to the Guild. Four Guild members formed a select group to address this issue. They had no answers, much less the who, what, when, where, and how, to do whatever it was they were going to do. All that they knew was something had to be done.

## A Plan Formulated

So this committee set out to formulate a plan with the goal of having the project come to fruition at the next annual meeting in March 2013.

It was decided that the gift had to have the following attributes: It had to be a standard gift, one that adequately reflected each Guildmaster's time in office, something that all Guild members would look to with pride, and one that each Guildmaster would always treasure. Finally, it had to symbolize the office of Guildmaster.

After an exchange of several ideas, it was decided to do a painting, from which canvas *giclees* would be made and framed for each Past Guildmaster. Now the discussion centered on the basic theme of the painting. The decision: A painting showing a Guildmaster sitting by the fireplace at the end of the day examining his work. Placed around him would be the items symbolizing his office and craft.

The committee felt that progress was now well under way, for all felt this concept indeed reflected those five attributes they wanted the gift to embrace. They were ready to move forward, but it was paramount that the gift and its presentation had to be a complete and total surprise to both Past Guildmasters and Guild members as well. This event had to be a complete and total unscheduled surprise that would take place when no one could possibly stop it!

The project took a lot of time, work, phone calls, and secrecy. It soon took on a life of its own, for it was indeed a labor of admiration, respect, and thanks. If this could be accomplished, it would be a very rewarding and satisfying experience. In essence, a problem had been identified and a solution created, but the path followed was not without challenges.

Bob Albrecht, Guild member and accomplished artist, was asked to do the painting. He graciously volunteered to do the work. Time was running out, as the annual meeting was now only six months away.

Another challenge that arose was trying to get all Past Guildmasters to attend. Word went out that *The Horn Book* was doing an article on all Past Guildmasters and there was to be a group photograph taken at the banquet on Saturday night. This ploy was successful in that seven of the twelve attended

the banquet. For those unable to attend, mailings would be made following the annual meeting.

The painting complete, eleven canvas *giclees* completed and framed, it was now time to pack and head for the 2013 Annual Guild Meeting in Carlisle. All was going as planned and the project that had remained a secret for the past year was about to come to fruition!

### The Presentation

As always, the Annual Meeting was a hub of activity and finally Saturday arrived and things kicked into high gear. That afternoon the committee met in the banquet room, posted a guard at the door to keep everyone out, and went over the presentation for the first and last time.

The event was to follow a short award presentation given by one of the committee members. As planned, this was done so no one could stop the presentation, and insured that it would indeed be a complete and total surprise. All was now set and show time was drawing nigh.

All went according to plan, the secret had been kept for the past year, but as the award presentation ended, what was feared most might happen, did in fact happen. It was absolutely critical that control of the podium be maintained and as the award presentation was completed, the Guildmaster rose from his chair to assume his "master of ceremony" role. As soon as this movement was spotted, the ever ready and astute committee member immediately launched into the event presentation, thus saving the day!

With introductory remarks made, it was time for the individual presentations to each of the Past Guildmasters. As each name was called, they came forward to receive their gift from the artist, Bob Albrecht.



*Roland Cadle and Bob Albrecht*

The first recipient was Roland Cadle who was recognized as the Guild's founder and for serving twice as Guildmaster. This turned out to be the highlight of the evening, for as he came forward three significant events occurred. First, as he approached the front of the banquet room, everyone rose giving him a standing ovation that lasted quite a while. Second, it was announced that he would not receive a framed canvas giclee, but the actual painting. And third, this was perhaps the only time that many have seen Roland speechless, but his gracious acceptance of the painting and the acknowledgement and respect shown by all those in attendance spoke volumes.



*Past Guildmasters holding giclees*

Russ Young, Byron Smith, Willie Frankfort, John Kiselica, Joe Becker, and Ed Long were subsequently called forward and their names and the years they served as Guildmaster were announced. In recognizing each of these individuals, it was felt that a past inadvertent oversight had been corrected.

**The Painting and Its Symbolism**

It was obvious from the beginning that the title of the painting had to be “The Guildmaster.” However, after a series of e-mail exchanges, the title somehow got changed to “The Guildmaster – End of Day,” which all felt symbolized the end of one’s tenure in office.

It was agreed that no copies of the *giclee* would ever be sold. The actual painting would be given to Roland Cadle and the only ones to ever receive copies of the framed canvas *giclees* would be Past Guildmasters. This is, without question, a “limited edition” of the highest order!

To capture the full essence of Bob Albrecht’s painting, one has to take the time and fully observe all that is presented on the canvas.

- The central figure is Roland Cadle. He was selected as the subject to honor him as the Guild’s founder and for twice serving as Guildmaster. The horn he is studying is based on one of his famous Philadelphia Screw Tip powder horns.
- The fireplace is a smaller version of one Roland built, complete with his initials chiseled on the keystone.
- In the upper left corner hangs a lanthorn in recognition of the Guild’s “Lanthorn Award,” the title and symbol both recommended by Roland. It is the highest, most prestigious and meaningful award that the Guild could present a deserving individual.
- Below the lanthorn is the horner’s bench, tools and a horn for a future project.
- A hunting bag hangs off the back of the Windsor chair to denote another craft that many horners gravitate to, if only to make one for themselves.
- On the stool to Roland’s right front rests a blowing horn with strap which is used to call our Annual Meetings to order. The horn cup is used by each Guildmaster in proposing the opening toast at the beginning of each banquet.
- The horner’s tool box in the lower left corner has the name of

the Past Guildmaster receiving the *giclee*. On its top rests both the *gorget* denoting his status as Past Guildmaster and the Honourable Company of Horner’s Register. This hand-made leather bound book contains the record of each Master and Journeyman horner with biographical information along with their signatures and maker’s mark.

The overall painting symbolizes the satisfaction one derives as an artisan.

The evening was special in every sense of the word, as what initially started as a mere idea grew and eventually developed, achieving its established goal of honoring all Past Guildmasters. It goes without saying that our organization is indeed indebted to each one for their leadership and all the sacrifices they made in making our Guild the success it is today. As one can see from the painting, Bob Albrecht’s artistic talents truly achieved the goal of properly honoring and paying the long overdue tribute to all Past Guildmasters of the Honourable Company of Horners.

**The Artist: Robert (Bob) Albrecht**

Bob Albrecht is an accomplished artist and a life long resident of New Jersey. Both of his parents were artists, his father was an art director with a national insurance company





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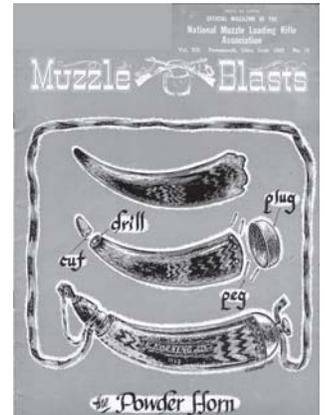
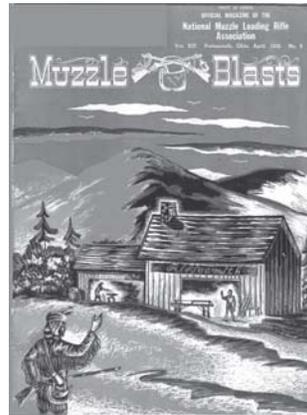
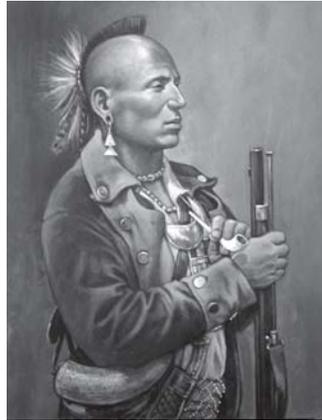
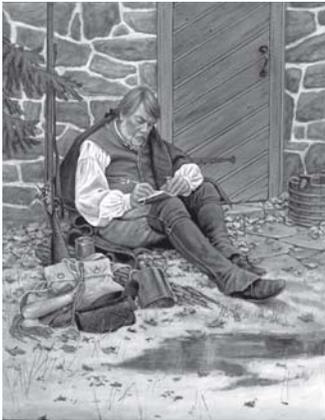
and department head of an art school, while his mother was a free-lance fashion illustrator. Bob and his wife Terri have two sons, who like their parents, also work in the design field – truly a talented family.

Educated at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, he earned a degree in illustration. It was during art school that his interest in 18th century and western art began when he made several trips to the Delaware Art Museum. Not only did he and fellow students see a lot of artists from the Brandywine School, but were allowed to visit the museum's archives, which housed many of the original paintings not displayed for the public.

Following graduation, Bob worked for 22 years as an art director at AT&T before he and Terri started their own design agency, Albrecht Illustration & Design, in 1996. Al-

though the agency focuses on corporate design work, Bob's first love has always been painting. The subjects that he chooses to paint reflect a variety of his individual interests and passions. His fondness for fishing, nature, and the outdoors are demonstrated through his paintings of landscapes and animals, many of which are directly inspired by his personal experiences and active lifestyle. Most recently, Bob's interests have been focused on historical themes of 18th century lifestyle.

Influenced by living in an area rich in historical significance provides great visual reference for many of his paintings. Not only has his work been featured on the cover of



this issue of *Muzzle Blasts* magazine, but also on the December 2006 issue as well. This is quite a coincidence, as

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Bob's father designed the covers for *Muzzle Blasts* magazine in April and June of 1952.

Besides painting, Bob has also been avidly involved in other traditional fine craft mediums such as building and scrimshawing powder horns and making early American hunting bags and guns. Bob stated that his "Dad was a gun and horn collector, and also did gunsmithing. I was raised around original guns and horns. Plus the fact that, like a lot of other guys my age, I grew up with Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone in the movies and on TV. In the mid-seventies I started building rifles and naturally had to have the bags and horns to go with them. I made my first horn about 1979."

When it comes to horn work, his favorite area is primarily powder horns, all different styles, with particular interest in engraving, and combining horn with accompanying metal work. "My favorite type of horn would be just about anything produced in the 18th (Golden Age) through early 19th centuries with the owner's name, history, map, story, rhyme, etc., on the horn. These I feel give you a bit more personal insight into the owner and where he and the horn have been."

Bob is an individual of many talents that also extend to bronze sculptures in addition to his involvement with flintlock rifles, shooting bags, and powder horns. Needless to say, he has won many awards at Dixon's Gun Makers Fair and from the Honourable Company of Horners. In addition, his work has been featured in the Contemporary Longrifle Association's magazine, *American Traditions*.

He is a member of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, the Contemporary Longrifle Association, the New



Jersey Ranging Company, and the Honourable Company of Horners of which he has been a member for ten years and has been co-dditor for *The Horn Book* since May 2006. Although he has been involved in many different horn related projects, the one that has had the most meaning was representing the HCH in making the 2010, NMLRA's "1 of 1000" Powder Horn.

To learn more about this talented artist and view more of his work, go to his website at: [albrechtart.com](http://albrechtart.com). You will find his work very reasonably priced and dependent on the size of the art, amount of detail, research, and planning. Orders for *giclee'* prints take two to three weeks for delivery. **MB**

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