



Jack Weichold Story

by Randall Thomasson

Hello fellow muzzleloaders, especially to those who enjoy shooting the heavy bench rifles. I'd like to show you one that I've had for about ten years that I picked up from Tuttle's Gun Shop here in Enumclaw, Washington. It's a full stock bench rifle built by Jack Weichold for Dick James in 1947. It was hard to find much info on Weichold. I've seen his name mentioned a few times in *Muzzle Blasts* and in the book *The Pictorial History of the Underhammer Gun* by Herschel Logan. I've also received a letter from Ken Bresien, who said that not too many of the "old timers" were left who remember Weichold. So, searching a bit, I then received a letter with an article and pics on Weichold from the Cincinnati Museum Center. The article is from *The Enquirer* and is dated November 18th, 1951 (I was 1-1/2 years old then). Here is the short article on Weichold written by Frank Kappel with photos by Jerry Cornelius:

"Got an old rusty, dusty flintlock rifle or pistol around the house? If so, maybe you'd like to shoot it as they did in Kentucky feuds of bygone days. Jack Weichold, 28 year old founder of The Weichold Arms Mfg. Co., 3825 Colerain Ave., is the man who can bring your antique into firing shape. Then you can join the 10,000 members of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, who use the 7 to 35 pound weapons in turkey shoots and contests. Mr. Weichold not only brings flintlocks into prime condition, but makes new ones. His output of newly made 'antiques' sold to customers throughout the country, averages approximately 500 a year."

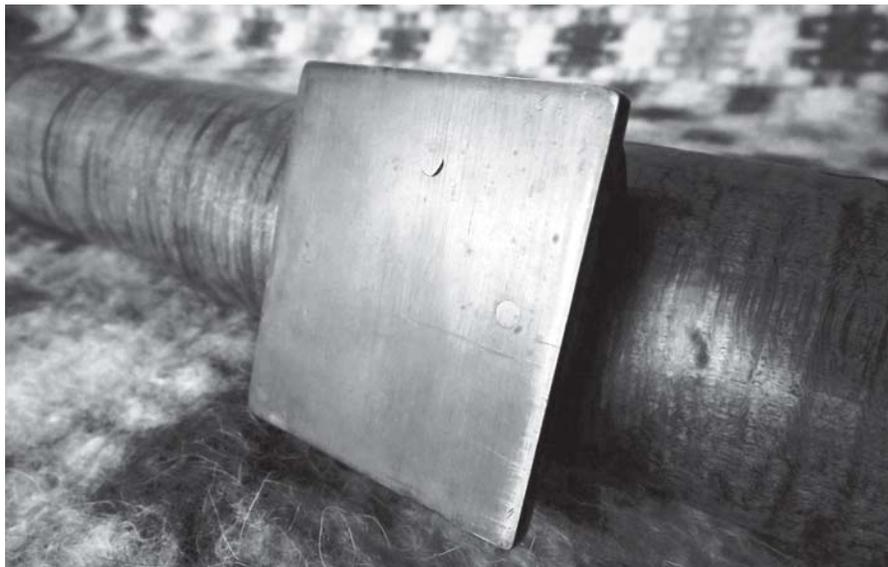


That was about all I could dig up on Jack Weichold. Now to the rifle: it's a .50 cal. with a 42 inch barrel including the false muzzle; it is 1 5/8ths inches across the flats, weighing in at 35 lbs. The rifling looks in excellent condition and is a slow twist. The sights are Redfield peeps with the Merit disc. The sights were off the rifle when I took the pictures. The false muzzle is missing the sight hider pin and the breech plug needs some work as the threads are sloppy and smoke puffs out, which is not a good thing! It has a nice ball starter. I will have those prob-



lems fixed soon. I had thought of adapting a sealed ignition, but decided to nix that and keep it all original. The trigger has to be set before the hammer will cock. It's an excellent trigger. The stock





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is tiger striped maple and it has all brass hardware with some engraving on the small side plates. You can also see scroll carving on the stock. The slider plate is made of brass. I love the way it looks and I hope you do, too.

I'd also like to include a pic of George Laverty who came out to California in 1980 to our Fresno shoot and he brought his .56 1/2 cal. Bresien barreled bench rifle. It really shook the metal awning when it went off and he took his share of prizes with it too. I was happy for him.

So I hope you enjoyed the story and pictures from this trip down memory lane. Comments are always welcome. **MB**

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