



## Just Hunting

by Steve Brewer

My Dad used to say, the best kind of camera in the world is your mind. It not only takes a picture, it lets you recall it on a second's notice and replays the story. Kind of days like this make me glad my memories are still with me. We have been sharing memories together for the last few weeks, and if you like, let us once again go down memory lane.

My dad had a best friend; all of us called him Mr. Sword. Dad called him, Brother Sword, Henry, Shorty; but most of all, Dad called him friend. Mr. Sword, who was our closest neighbor, hunted with

us all the time.

We are going back today, in the "Way Back Machine," hunting with Mr. Sword in Pulaski County, along the Rockcastle River, one of our favorite places to hunt and camp. At night, we could just throw our lines in the river, using our left-over squirrel parts; fishing for catfish. Come daylight, we would be well gone from camp and waiting at some oak or hickory for the squirrels to show up for breakfast.

We were usually a mile or two apart, hunting, but for some reason, this morning, I thought I could smell the faint odor of Mr. Sword's after shave. He shaved every day as soon as he got from bed, no matter where he was. I just knew, either I was smelling his after shave or I was losing my mind.

Well, we all know how uneven the terrain along rivers is, and I was in what I would call a sinkhole. I heard limbs above me breaking and thought, either a groundhog or a deer. Then, I heard the voice of Mr. Sword; I had not been losing my mind after all. Mr. Sword, who was always calm and collected, sounded in distress. A few yards and I would be at the top of the sinkhole and could see what was going on. Mr. Sword, like my Dad, always hunted with

the finest of firearms; Browning for hunting, Smith and Wesson for home protection. Mr. Sword had his favorite Browning, a "Sweet 16".

As I topped the sinkhole, I saw Mr. Sword shoulder his shotgun and heard him say these words, "Now, Kitty, you better back up, I will shoot you, I promise." He lowered his shotgun, and I glazed beyond him. There was a monster skunk, and it wasn't happy that something was between where it was and where it wanted to go. It would back up a few feet, Mr. Sword would lower his shotgun. It come closer, he would shoulder it again. I noticed it was getting daylight enough, I should have been at the tree I was going to hunt minutes ago. I was having fun watching this show; remember, hunting is not about the kill, it is about the memories we keep. After about half an hour, I noticed the skunk was moving off in another direction. I looked back at Mr. Sword, who never knew I was there. He took out his drying cloth, removed his hat, wiped his face, and raised his eyes toward heaven. This happened in 1964; his words while looking up, I remember like it just happened, "Thank you Lord, for showing that kitten a better route to go." Mr. Sword has long left us, but what he taught me about living is as fresh as if it just happened.

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## Stickeler's Answer

### Stickelers Answer

1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-e, 5-b

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## Invitation to Bid

### \*\*\* Invitation to Bid \*\*\*

The Estill County Conservation District will receive sealed bids for a contract experienced **Equipment Manager** to service and maintain the equipment owned by the District. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Estill County Conservation District Office 1505 Richmond Road Irvine, KY 40336 (606-723-5104) by mail, hand delivery or email to ECCD@outlook.com until Friday, February 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

**Must provide own tools.** District will provide parts. Will be paid monthly. Must show proof of liability insurance, if contracted.

**Please include the following in your bid:** Hourly rate for Maintenance, Hourly Rate for Repair, Service Call information/rate if mobile repair is an option.

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