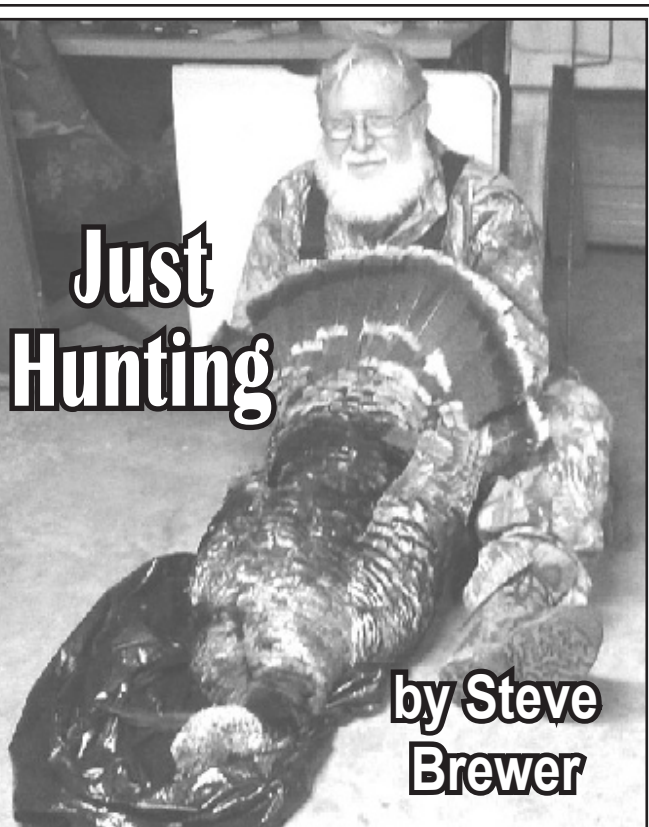


# Just Hunting



by Steve Brewer

Sometimes, we just can't get a break. It looks

## April 4-19 -- Transition Period #2

as though our Mexico hunt is about to be canceled again for this year. Word reached me late last night; the Department of Homeland Security has voted, once again, to keep the border closed until April 23rd. I am not for sure that would give me enough time if they open it for me to get my airline ticket and my hotel on the American side of the border for a night, as my hunt was supposed to start the week of May 11th. So, I am in a tight holding pattern. I have decided to put back on my trips, my hunt out west; at least the Kansas run.

I will be hunting with Rick Hardy of Estill County and Gary "Doomsday" Harper, formerly of this county. Life just doesn't seem fair, but, oh well, we will play with the hand we are dealt.

Time for class. Last week we finished with transition period one for turkey. I would advise you to cut out these periods from the Estill County Tribune for future reference. Keep in mind there is a five day window from each transition period.

Remember we are in Zone 2, for all of our purposes.

April 4th through April 19th, we are in transitional period number two. Gobblers break up and compete for harems of hens. Usually one gobbler and several hens, or two gobblers with several hens (the extra gobbler watches over the breeder). Hens start laying, but return and frequent gobblers daily. They usually slip away around mid-morning, after breeding, then return to the harem after laying. Extensive gobbling in the first hour is common; then usually a lull period for breeding hens. Subordinate gobblers travel around with the harem, but stay quiet when boss gobblers shutdown. The subordinate gobblers start gobbling around 9am, looking for lonesome hens.

Till next week, please get ready for the hunt. **You can email Steve Brewer at <Steve@EstillTribune.com> and message is automatically forwarded.**



**Chestnut Stand School Group, standing in front of the Estill Collegiate Building. Left to right, front, are: Hallan Neal, Estill Henry, Floyd Ballard, Tracy Neal, ? Neal, ? Neal, Fred Horn, Miller Bennett, Earl Neal, ? Neal, Charlie Neal. Second row: Teacher unknown, ? Neal, Ethel Ballard, Vinney Rea Henry, Ida May Ballard, Murty Neal, Lilly Neal, Mary Neal, Minnie Neal, Fred Neal, Burt Neal, Henry Harrison. Third row: Nancy Ballard, Charlie S. Neal, ? Neal, Polly V. Neal, Rosie Henry, Dollie Brinegar, Lilly Henry, Eavy Henry, and Suzanne Neal. The school was located on Chestnut Stand Mountain. The name is said to come from the stands of huge Chestnut trees which once abounded in Estill County. Photo taken about 1922-1923, according to ages of some students. This same photo is in the book, Schools of Estill County, Kentucky, along with a group photo taken in 1921 and a photo of the Chestnut Stand Church Group.**

## Reflections of Past Years



by Ellen Rogers

This was originally printed in the October 26, 1983 issue of The Estill County Tribune

Continued from last week...

Our historical log cabin would be compared as a crude structure to those being built in modern times. Most of them, in fact, were built as quickly and simple as possible. Most of them were done by sight rather than by levels used today. If it look right, that's the way it remained. The walls rarely intersected at right angles; windows and doors rarely came out the right size; and little time was taken for cutting the intricate mortises and lap joints that a more skilled and careful carpenter of today would take the time to execute.

It is a marvelous memory to observe the log cabin's foundation, sills, sleepers, puncheon floor, walls, corner notches, gables, lathing-roof, windows and doors;

and to think they completed the building before cutting out windows and doors; chinking, paneling made similar to shingles, but broader and longer; chinking mostly done with clay mud.

Let's try to turn back the pages of time and think, 'What would we do if we entered into a deep forest with an axe, cross-cut saw, a mallet, a chisel, and a wedge?'

How would we split and rive with only a pole axe, a go devil, large wooden wedges, a maul, a froe and a mallet?

How would you dress lumber with only a drawing knife and a shaving horse?

How would we drill holes with only one tool -- an auger?

These old-timers had to know their timber. They had a knowledge of hard and soft timber, how to remove the heart and bark. The wood itself was used either green or seasoned, depending not so much on what kind of wood is it was as on what it was to be used for. Handles for tools and items such as pegs, wheel spokes, fine furniture, baskets, yokes, peggings, chains, buckets, kegs and barrels had to be made from seasoned wood or they'd fall apart. For rafters, fence post and rails, shingles and rough furniture that did not have to fit so tightly, they could be constructed of green stock.

Think back again -- an early cabin without a fireplace was a cabin without heat. So was a cabin with a fireplace that wouldn't "draw." Both meant a long, cold winter or a smokey one. So, a good chimney-maker knew the art of being a stone mason. The rock too had to be quarried from the ground, hewn and dressed. Building a chimney was not an easy job; the trick, of course, was to make it draw. So you had to be sure of doing two

things: (a) the throat could be any size as long as the space behind and above it (the "scratch back") was larger. (b) The chimney should close down near the top to approximately the same dimensions as the throat, but they should never be smaller. If they were, it smoked.

The early settlers in this area brought no springs, beds or mattresses along. Forced to improvise, they made their own. The early mattresses were simply bed-sized cloth ticks filled with leaves, straw, shucks, or feathers. These were laid over a rope netting that was attached to a simple four-sided frame with legs, known as a carded bed or rope bed. Sleeping on a fresh, fluffy shuck bed was a real thrill or treat in summer and a nice, cozy featherbed added in winter (made from the feathers of geese and ducks that had been plucked right on the farm) and nice, soft feather pillows that cannot be equalled by any manufactured pillow of today. Simply no equalization.

Quilting bees and the friendship quilts were here long ago and now flourish again. Of course, there was a need for blankets. So, you raised the sheep, sheared them, washed and picked the wool, carded it and then spun it into thread and knitted it into mittens, socks, caps, shawls, and sent portions of wool to be made into blankets (could be done by sharing on the halves if you didn't have the money to pay for the work).

Chairs, rockers, baskets, churns, piggings, buckets, kegs and barrels were to be made. We find there were many gifted craftsmen. Barns, cribs, hog houses, spring houses, chicken houses, and smoke houses came into existence as the need arose.

Meat processing was from far from today. The homemade mixed sausage moulded into loaves and placed inside the shuck (where the ear of corn used to be) were tied and hung to rafters in the smokehouse. The rest of the meat was smoked by using hickory wood. The sausage and hams were tantalizing as



Cecile Patrick Patton and her mother, Dora Ann Patrick at their log cabin home at Cob Hill, Kentucky, late 40's.

well as appetizing. So, we could go on and on... Making homemade soap with our own made lye. Preserving your vegetables, berries and fruits. Making molasses. Weaving your own string carpets. Churning -- Making butter. Making hominy. Tanning and making your own shoes and boots. Doing your own blacksmith work. Too many to list. Our Colonial gals did everything and seemed to know exactly how it was to be done, and the taught their children likewise. They had a need, and used everything; they let nothing go to waste. A good motto to follow is "Waste not -- Want not," and don't forget the Heavenly Father for providing us with mental and physical endurance to survive. "Where there is a will, there is a way."