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Vic - Patton has 2 years to go. We've established a precedent. Let's keep the ball rolling. Can we count on you to attend the Contemporary Longrifle Show in '02? This years was big, well run, well attended. Vic, what can we do in Oregon? You know I used to live there. Could we plan some photo ops with yourself and other people on our side? Can you name a governor you know personally who would have a photo op with us?  
 Write soon!  
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Well, Vic, here's a copy of our meeting with Gov. Paul Patton (KY). Yep, he's a Democrat. Look at the grin on his face, this wasn't just a P.R. meeting. He took as long as he could with us. Yours truly is in the white pants. You may recall you had checked your schedule and could not go to attend the C.L.A. show. Something fun happened. Gov. Patton said to the chap in the hat and beard, "Is that a double barreled gun?" "Yes." "Where did you get it?" "Well, I built it!" From then on the conversation was 18th Cent. flintlock technology. He only left when his secretary pried him away for more photo ops. He said, "I really like this one!"



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# Long shot on U.S. history

## Rifle enthusiasts display their craft at Heritage Hall

By Art Lander Jr.

HERALD-LEADER OUTDOORS WRITER

The American flintlock long rifle has come home.

"It's an honor for Kentucky to host this event and have all these fine rifles here," said Mel Hankla of Jamestown, president of the Contemporary Longrifle Association. The annual CLA show started yesterday in Heritage Hall and runs through Saturday.

These long-barreled firearms of the 18th century, also known as Kentucky rifles, were actually produced in Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas. Made famous by explorers and settlers who carried them across the Appalachians, Kentucky rifles were used to kill elk, bear and deer for meat and skins, to defend home and family, and to win independence from England in the Revolutionary War.

### If you go

The Contemporary Longrifle Association show continues through Saturday in Lexington Center's Heritage Hall.

The show includes about 300 exhibitors, manning 110 tables and 14 booths.

■ **Admission:** \$10 a person for the entire weekend; includes membership through 2001 and a copy of Flintlock Magazine.

■ **Show hours:** 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. today, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

■ **On the Web:** [www.longrifle.org](http://www.longrifle.org)

and the Carolinas. Made famous by explorers and settlers who carried them across the Appalachians, Kentucky rifles were used to kill elk, bear and deer for meat and skins, to defend home and family, and to win independence from England in the Revolutionary War.

The show brings together the country's top reproducers of 18th-century American art, embodied in the long rifle and its accouterments:

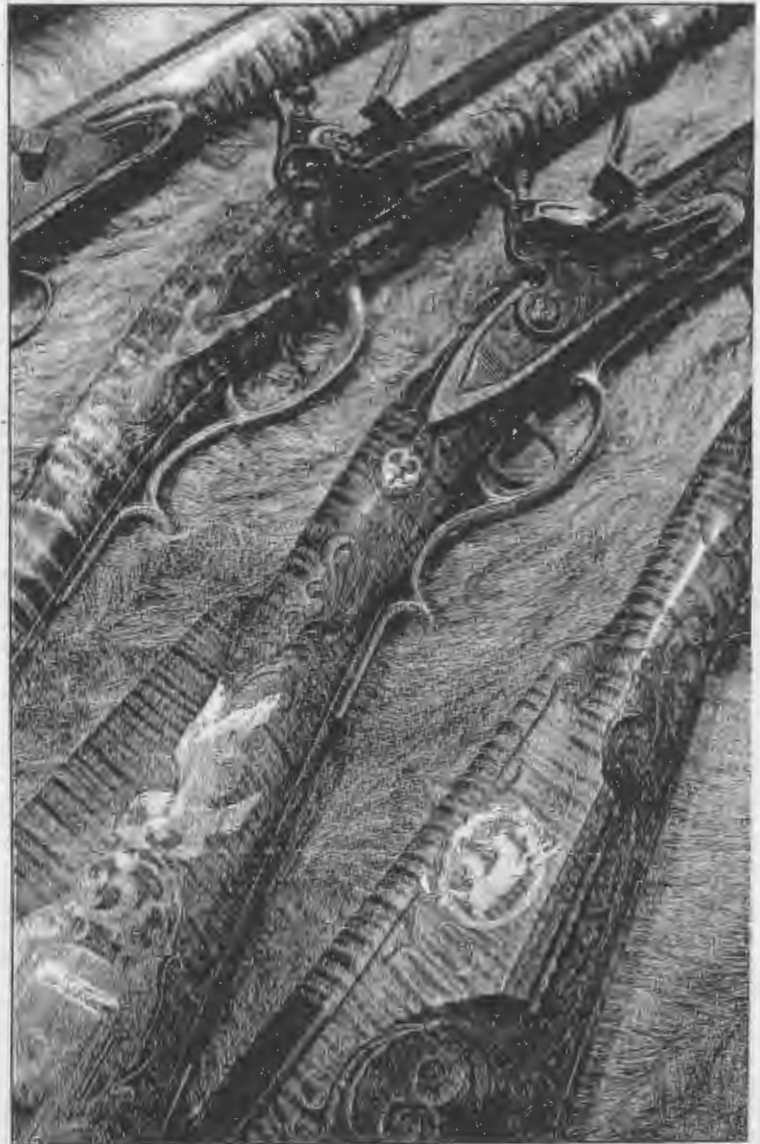
shooting pouches, powder horns, tomahawks and knives.

The show includes items for sale, private collections, and educational seminars. All the items were made by CLA members after 1950.

"Kentucky has as many contemporary gun makers and artists as any other states," Hankla said. "Because of the historical significance of (Central Kentucky), this is where our show should be held."



Chuck Foster of Mequon, Wis., checked out one of the long rifles for sale yesterday at the Contemporary Longrifle Association show. Foster said he came to shop for hunting rifles.



PHOTOS BY DAVID STEPHENSON/STA

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These long rifles are the work of Larry Gardner of Silver Spring, Md., a former commercial artist who builds the elaborately decorated weapons full-time.

# RIFLES: Show looks at other forms of art

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Many of today's gun makers, such as Larry Gardner of Silver Spring, Md., take the traditional one step further in terms of creativity. "I don't copy originals," said Gardner, who was a commercial artist for 30 years and has been building long rifles full time for the past nine years. "I draw an artistic rendering on paper and then put it on my rifles."

Gardner has a .50 caliber long rifle made in the style of J.P. Beck, a gun maker in Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War period, but it is highly decorated.

The rifle, judged best of show at the Dixon's Gun Builders Fair in Kempton, Pa., in July, includes raised and incised wood carvings, several eagle inlays, 18 feet of sterling silver wire, and 44 piercings, where wood shows through brass and silver inlays.

Wayne Jenkins, of Salyersville, a retired teacher, was selling custom rifle barrels he makes in his shop. "I've been making barrels for about three years, but I've been in black powder since 1960," Jenkins said. "I've done a lot of shooting with the Kentucky Corps of Longriflemen."

Jim Chambers, who lives in the mountains near Asheville, N.C., produces rifle and smoothbore kits that are historically correct in every detail, copied from originals.

He has been building flintlock long rifles for 40 years.

"I started at age 15 when I built a rifle for myself, and then I started making guns for others," said Chambers, who also makes and sells Siler locks, popular with gun builders. "I sell my kits to gun makers all over the world."

Despite economic woes, business is good. "Sales are up 40 percent this year," Chambers said. "When the economy is bad, people tend to stay home, and they've got to have something to do."

When the CLA was formed, the original idea was to focus strictly on gun making, but show chairman Paul Jones said the scope this year has been expanded to any early art form, including bead work, paintings and sculpture.

A collection of prints from originals painted by Robert Griffing depict the 18th-century life of



DAVID STEPHENSON/STAFF

**Bill Daugherty** of Englewood, Tenn., checked out the craft in the works of Jim Chambers.

explorers, Native Americans, and the English and French, who struggled over possession of North America during the French and Indian War.

For black-powder rifle target shooters, hunters and rendezvous enthusiasts, the show presents a unique opportunity to see and purchase items of the highest quality, including finished guns, and stock wood, locks and other metal hardware for making flintlock rifles, pistols and smoothbore fowlers.

There also will be a silent auction for handmade items, including a rifle, hunting bag, rifleman's knife and flintlock pistol.

A display titled "Four Centuries of the Longrifle," features antique original guns used during the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War, and in the settlement of Kentucky and the Western frontier. Also included is a collection of 18th-century pipe tomahawks.

Visitors can also purchase books, videos and tools for engraving and carving.

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