

Shortgrass Elders Recall Opposition To Use Of Firearms

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MERTZON — Revival efforts to control the ownership of firearms is once again causing Shortgrass people to fall back to the old fashioned principle of the Constitution. True to form, our citizens are questioning legislators' right to sovereignty over another tenet of what the oldtimers have always considered a part of the Bill of Rights.

Anti-gun groups aren't new in these parts. As the white men and the Indians were working out their differences, the redskin leaders used to complain vociferously about the dangers of palefaces' unrestricted possession of pistols and muskets. Long pow-wows were held to draw up plans for disarming the pioneers. A tom-tom tuner by the name of Trimmed Decibel went so far as to direct a proposal to the big white chiefs in Washington.

In his appeal, old T. D. claimed that his people were getting the wrong end of the squash vine every time they met up with the gun-packing founding fathers. He said the use of gun powder in log cabin burning incidents had greatly increased the casualty rate among warriors of the tribe, and he emphasized that the danger of powder kegs exploding during a raid was enough to make the braves' morale fall to near-mutinous levels.

Trimmed Decibel was also incensed because the pioneers were teaching pioneeresses and pioneerlets to use weapons. He cited a number of cases in which raids on a settlers' livestock had been turned into one-sided battles by musket-wielding women and kids. T. D. argued that ambushes were becoming so impractical as result of family rifle practice that in a matter of years the art of waylaying travelers would become forgotten.

Like a lot of other lobbying originating at lower levels, Trimmed Decibel's plea was lost in congressional paper-shuffling. For all the good he accomplished he might as well have been spending his time tuning drums and adjusting the tootle on tribal flutes.

Congressmen were a strange group in those days. Many of them kept a copy of the Constitution filed under their snuff boxes.

Now, my people are going to have to learn to adjust to this this progressive age. When they realize the burglars will gradually become less embittered against society as citizens stop rudely displaying firearms, they'll moderate toward gun restrictions. After two or three decades of practicing with slingshots, they'll wonder why they ever wanted a .22 rifle around the house.

Mainly, citizens of the rangeland are going to have to convert their codes to fit the "give and take" theory of government. That means we all must learn that when you don't render unto Caesar he's going to take anyway.