



The Way I See it

By
Doug Ponder

The current national debate on gun regulation became more localized last week when neighboring Jackson County Sheriff Denny Peyman said he wouldn't enforce any new federal gun laws in his county that he considered unconstitutional.

During a community meeting at a local restaurant in McKee last Saturday, Peyman told the crowd that no one in Jackson County would have to give up their guns as long as he is sheriff and that it's his job to protect the people who elected him even if it means going against federal law.

Peyman's response came as a result of numerous gun control bills being introduced in congress by lawmakers who still have the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut fresh in their minds.

In wake of the whole debate, I can honestly say I understand the reasoning behind both positions of the gun control argument.

I understand that people who are for gun control believe they can help prohibit dangerous people from committing mass shootings by taking measures such as banning certain sizes of assault rifle magazines, requiring background checks for all gun sales and banning online sales of ammunition.

However, I also understand that people who are against gun control believes that it is their constitutional right to own guns and that congress cannot infringe on the second amendment which guarantees citizens the right to bear arms.

Personally, I believe that no matter how hard they try, gun control activists will not be successful at keeping guns or high capacity ammunition out of the hands of dangerous people. Actually, I believe there would possibly be more mass shootings if any of these items were made illegal.

History has proven this theory with the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920's. During this time period, alcohol consumption by Americans rose to record levels never seen before in our nation's history. Alcohol consumption by women and children also increased dramatically during this time period.

The reason why the 1920's saw such a sharp increase in alcohol consumption is because thousands of bootleggers and organized crime leaders were making it more available to the general public by making their own illegal alcohol and in turn they were making millions off of it.

I am certain that we will see similar results if congress is successful with passing their gun control bills. Organized crime leaders and other petty criminals will simply start smuggling or manufacturing their own ammunition and guns to sell to the general public so they can in turn make a huge profit off of their illegal sales.

For our congress to say that banning certain gun ammunition and assault rifles will decrease the number of mass shootings is the equivalent of the 1920's

congress saying that banning the sale of alcohol will decrease the number of alcoholics in the United States.

As far as the background check goes, I can assure you that organized crime leaders and other criminals will have no problem selling guns or ammunition to anyone who doesn't have a clean background.

With that being said, I have never understood why some people want to blame the weapon for the mass murders and not the murderer themselves.

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh drove a truck to the front of an Oklahoma City federal office building just as they opened. The truck McVeigh was driving carried a 5,000 pound explosive device made of ammonium nitrate, nitromethane and motor racing fuel. When McVeigh detonated the truck bomb, it destroyed the north half of the building. The explosion killed 168 people, including 19 children, and injured 450 others.

However, after the bombing I don't remember lawmakers trying to introduce bills in congress to ban ammonia nitrate, nitromethane fuel or motor racing fuel.

Also, Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter Adam Lanza could have easily used a multitude of other weapons to kill children and teachers. During recess on a warm day, Lanza could have easily driven his car through the chain link fence on the elementary school's playground, running over and killing multiple kids during recess.

If Lanza would have chosen this route instead, would congress currently be trying to ban motor vehicles since he used it as a murder weapon?

Sorry to be so dramatic, but I cannot comprehend the logic behind trying to ban weapons that people use in mass murders. I understand that they are trying to ban these weapons for the betterment and safety of the people, but I still believe it leaves us spinning our wheels in trying to prevent mass murders from happening.

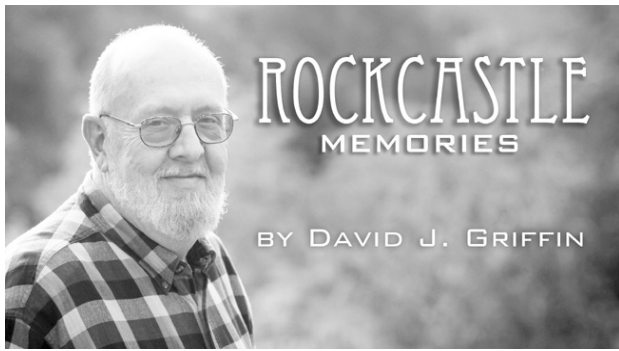
For these reasons, I believe the issue of preventing mass shootings and other mass murders is not being accurately addressed at the "core" of the problem, which are the murderers themselves.

Studies have shown that the majority of people who think about committing these mass murders often leave clues to people who are close to them.

Before the Oklahoma City bombing, McVeigh sent letters to multiple people explaining his plan about the bombing. He also asked one of friends to participate in the bombing with him. McVeigh's friend declined but he didn't inform the authorities about McVeigh's plans.

Prior to the 2012 Aurora movie theatre shooting, the sole suspect James Eagan Holmes met with at least three mental health professionals, while he was a stu-

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A Winter Day With A Happy Ending

I came home after work one day to take my sheltie (Shiloh) for his afternoon walk through the woods only to find it snowing like crazy on Furnace Mountain. As we walked through the woods, I noticed him opening his mouth to attempt to catch the large falling snow flakes. It reminded me of walking with my first dog when I was a small boy in Rockcastle County. His name was Frisky, and he, too, loved to catch snow flakes in his mouth. The entire scene took me back to a time in the early 50's.

Back in the day when Frisky and I were strolling in the winter woods, I would hear Bee (my mother) calling from the back door, "Son, come on in - it's supper time!" When Frisky heard Bee's voice, he shot off to the house in the blink of an eye. He did not even stop to see if I was coming behind him. He knew there would be something warm for both him and me waiting at the kitchen door.

On many of these frigid afternoon walks in the woods, Bee would have a steamy, hot bowl of Campbell's tomato soup waiting for me on the kitchen table. It was her opinion that Campbell's soup was some type of elixir that should be used to warm a body or to calm the stomach of someone with flu-like symptoms. Of course, chicken noodle soup was used for the stomach problems.

I am not sure if this is something women are taught at an early age. If not, it probably ought to be. In my humble opinion, tomato soup and chicken noodle soup are the topmost comfort foods. Actually, the first meal that Kathy served me was on a cold evening, and she prepared for me Campbell's tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich. That meal made me think of my mother. (Was she that smart or was it just a coincidence?)

I decided to take a look at some magazine ads from the 40's, and when I did, I took note of one for Campbell's Soup. At the top of the ad, it read: "A Winter

Day - with a happy ending." It displayed a mother wearing her apron, serving her husband and their young son bowls of Campbell's tomato soup. The caption under the photo was, "A soup that cheers you when you are cold!" So this was where my mother learned the secret to warming the men in her life! Oh, the power of advertising.

The company was started in 1869 by Joseph A. Campbell, a fruit merchant, and Abraham Anderson, and icebox manufacturer. In addition to soups, they also dealt with canned tomatoes, vegetables, jellies, condiments, and minced meats. In 1876, Anderson resigned from the partnership, leaving the company to become the "Joseph A. Campbell Preserve Company."

In 1898, Herberton Williams, a Campbell's executive, convinced the company to adopt a "carnelian red and bright-white color" scheme because he was a fan of the crisp, carnelian red color of the football uniforms at Cornell University. To this day, the colors of the Campbell Soup can have changed very little.

Several days ago, I was feeling out of sorts with a sore throat and general aching all over; I went to bed early. My wife asked what the matter was, and I explained. In a very short while, she appeared by the side of my bed with a hot bowl of tomato soup. It made my sore throat so much better. I, too, have become convinced that Campbell's soup is a form of medicinal treatment for general ailments. It has been helping me since I was a very young boy. Keep the soup coming, Kat.

As a matter of fact, last week I was strolling through Kroger's when I noticed the vast number of new soups that Campbell has developed of late. The list of varieties seems endless these days. Unlike the olden days, Campbell has vastly increased even the selection of the type of soups it offers. It now includes: Chunky, Chowders, Slow Kettle, Gourmet Bisques, Healthy Requests, 100 Percent Natu-

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Points East

By Ike Adams



I'm not absolutely sure what's causing it, but I suspect that a substantial number of factors have combined to bring on global warming. But I am sure that it's happening and that the potential impact on earth, as we know it, will, most likely, be devastating.

I don't pretend to be a scientist, but I know, for sure, that Kentucky winters are a lot warmer now than they were when I was a school boy in the fifties and early sixties. We simply didn't have weeks of January weather with daily high temperatures approaching seventy degrees when I was growing up on Blair Branch. If the temperature got above forty in January, back then, it was considered a heat wave.

At any rate, I can't recall any January days when we didn't need fires built at the school house.

Starting in 5th grade and continuing through 8th grade, I was able to land fire building jobs with one teacher or another while I was enrolled at Blair Branch Grade School.

The school had three rooms, three teachers, and, three big, pot-bellied, coal-fired, heating stoves that had to be stoked and cleaned every day during cold weather.

The teachers figured out which boys could get to school early, reliably build a fire, stay after school to take out ashes, carry in several buckets of coal and get ready for the next day without burning the building down.

They also figured that one stove was enough responsibility for one boy, so three of us landed these jobs. I doubt that anyone besides J.B. Blair and me ever built fires for four consecutive

years because the jobs were usually held by 7th or 8th graders. Building fires and performing the chores associated with keeping the building comfortable during cold weather took about an hour each day and we fire builders were paid a dime a day for our labor.

Each of us was entrusted with a key to open the padlocks to our respective rooms which meant that we had the building open at least an hour before any teachers showed up and we had to make sure that the building was empty when we locked up well after they'd gone home for the night.

I usually showed up much earlier than that because Dad had a mining job that required him to leave home at 4:00 AM. If I got up early enough, I could ride out of the holler with Dad instead of having to walk a mile and a half before daylight. I might also catch a ride with Lawson Brown or Lovell Blair, in their loaded coal trucks, if I didn't get up in time to ride with Dad. But usually I had to hoof it at least one day each week. I even had my own carbide light for those mornings when walking was the only alternative.

On those extra-early mornings, I would simply build a fire and get it going, turn the lights back off, then curl up on the floor and go back to sleep for a couple of hours until one of the other fire builders started banging around loud enough to wake me when they showed up at 7:00. Many times I would be so engrossed in a book, be it Zane Gray, Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, Daniel Defoe, James Fenimore Cooper,

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