



OUR TRUE PASTIME

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

It was a way of life once. As I write this I am traveling across this great country of ours to visit family in my home state of Colorado. As my wife and I drive across the now-tamed landscape that is these United States, I am reminded of our founding fathers, who forged the path for so many to come after them.

The harsher the terrain, the more I realize that we come from very stout folk. For them, hunting was not a sport but an absolute necessity. Although they did have covered wagons and could bring food along for the trip, it was a very limited supply considering it took anywhere from weeks to months or even years to cross the vast, uncharted expanse, depending on how far they were going. They did not have the luxury of stopping off at the Circle K to pick up some last-minute snacks; instead, they had to stop and set up camp for a while to hunt and restock their food supply.

Today, as we carry on the tradition of hunting, it is less about sport and more about paying homage to our heritage. Although hunting is no longer a necessity, it is still a part of who we are. It is important that we hold on to the traditions that have been passed down from those tough-as-nails settlers that came before us and created a country that is

The Morris Knives Classic Hunter is a great blend of bushcraft and hunting knife, and the beautiful wood scales give it a classic look that harkens to days gone by.

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loved by so many. By holding on to these traditions, we honor the hard work and struggle that early settlers endured in search of a better life for themselves and generations to come.

This year, as you find yourself on the hunt, take time to reflect on your forefathers and the struggle and strife they went through. Hold true to the lessons that have been passed down from generation to generation. Take heart in the importance of those teachings, because not too long ago, these lessons kept your ancestors alive so you could be here today enjoying one of our greatest pastimes.

Stay sharp and keep it real. **KI**