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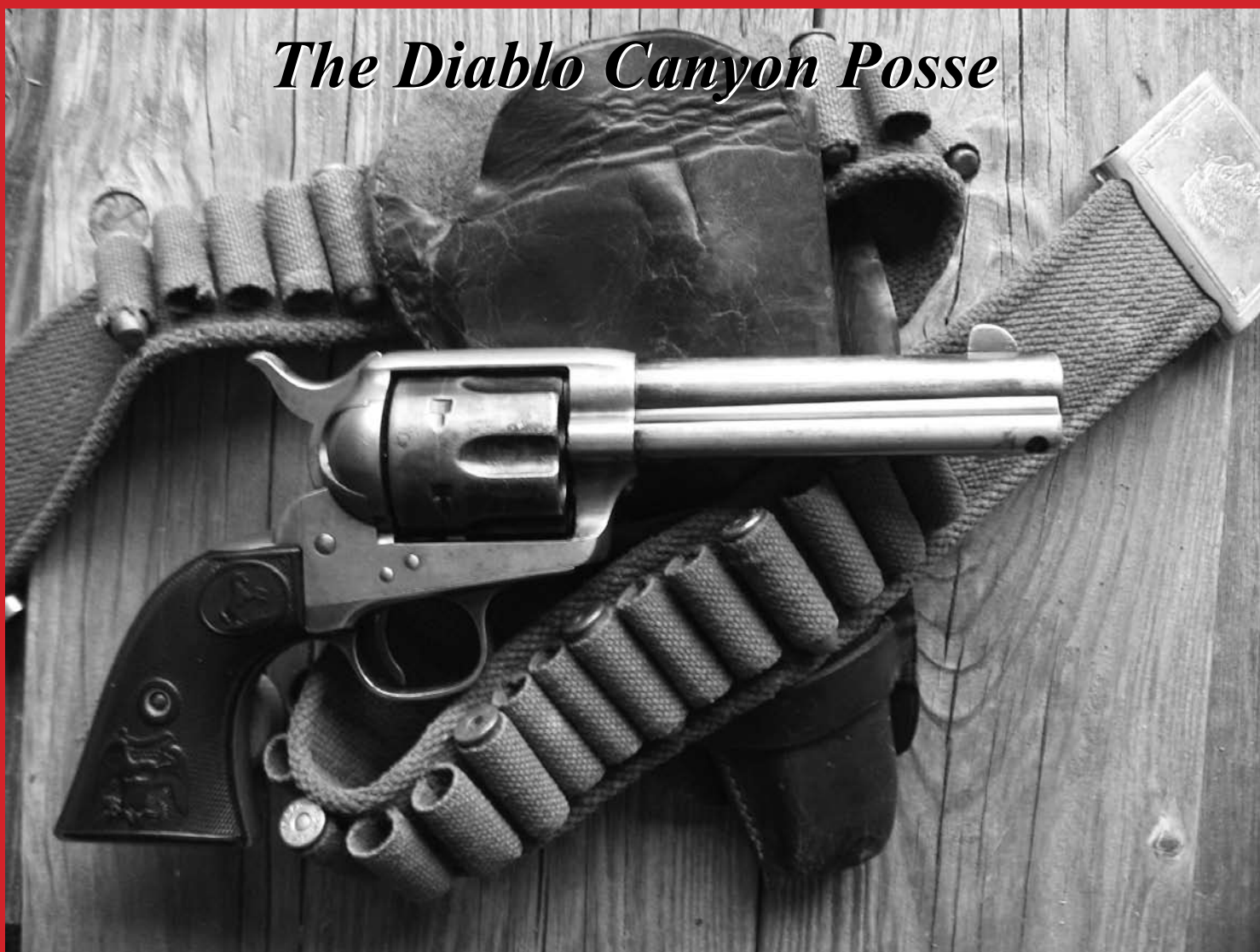
Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association
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FALL 2008

The Diablo Canyon Posse



by John Pfeifer

2008 Trophy Show Issue

Staff..... Dale Peterson, Stan Nelson, Lynn Kvam

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GUESS THE GUN!

Win a FREE business card size ad (\$25 value).

First five correct entries win!

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About the Cover

We want to thank MWCA John Pfeifer for his article on the Single Action Colt. He identified it as belonging to Jim Black who later served with Company "F" of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, better known as the "Rough Riders." Very interesting history behind this old Colt.

The President's Shot

This edition of the MWCA Bulletin” will have pictures and information about the combined NRA National Gun Collectors Show and MWCA Trophy Show. It was a “National” event as we had displays brought here by people from several states. If you missed it, you missed seeing displays that are shown around the show circuit. It might come back to Minnesota in five years. This was the thirteenth annual event.

The history of getting it to the MWCA is that at the 2007 NRA Annual Meetings at Saint Louis I spoke on behalf of the MWCA Board to the NRA Gun Collectors Committee and invited them to come to Minnesota. The invitation was accepted, and work began.

The MWCA Board spent a lot of time on the plans and Gail also spent many extra hours working on the project. Our phones rang several times a day. The effort was worth it as we had at least forty displays. I am certain that Tony Schwab also put much extra effort into it.

It may have been better. Two things are to be noted: 1st is the price of travel, and 2nd is the idea that MWCA isn't worth the effort. We can not do anything about the 1st, but we can work on the 2nd. We, as MWCA Members, should not degrade our own organization, but rather try to improve it.

We had an NRA Vice President here, as well as many members of the NRA Gun Collectors Committee in attendance. Phil Schreier, Senior Curator of the NRA Museum, also was here. Many of these gentlemen I have known for many years through contact with them at the NRA Annuals. From conversations with them, they seemed to have a good opinion of us and our area. We will work to get the NRA Annual here in a few years.

This event also helped many of us acquire an understanding of how to put together a better display of a part of our personal collections. Most of us are not ashamed of what we collect, so why not show some of it?

August has not been our best show month, but it allows our “Snow Bird” members to participate. The Board has decided to try to get more participation in the Trophy Show, by holding it in the warmer months.

At the 2008 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits at Louisville the MWCA sponsored a smaller version of my display of U.S. Militaria than I had shown at our just passed NRA/MWCA Show. We were awarded “Best Educational Exhibit” for Combined Weapons” which we had also won at the 2007 event. This category includes firearms that would be covered in ‘Antiques,’ ‘Classic’ and ‘Contemporary’ fields.

The MWCA Board usually considers offering to sponsor the winning exhibit at our Trophy Show, but this year the Trophy Show followed the NRA Annual. To be able to keep our presence on “Collector’s Row,” at the NRA Annual was the motive for the repeat showing. As with the MWCA, a portion of the display must contain items not shown before.

Lastly - it is election year! Heed the warnings about the loss of personal freedom! I mean the “Second Amendment Rights” as a part of my personal freedoms! The NRA has published an article in regard to the (usually unmentioned) plans of a Presidential candidate. Splitting our gun owners votes among candidates that have very little chance of winning could lead to a winner that is TOTALLY UNFRIENDLY to our heritage. I wrote the first “The Presidents Shot”, years ago, and hope others will keep it up.

GET OUT AND VOTE!

Alvin Olson

Some Very Wise Words

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
You cannot help little men by tearing down big men.
You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.
You cannot build character and courage by destroying men’s initiative and independence.
And you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they can and should do for themselves.

The Diablo Canyon Posse

by John Pfeifer



The Diablo Canyon posse (left to right): Carl Holton, Jim Black, Buckey O'Neil and Ed St. Clair.

The year is 1889, Jim Black has been hired as Deputy Sheriff, Yavapai County, Prescott Arizona. He reports to Sheriff Buckey O'Neill. The county was enjoying a period of relative calm with the removal of the capital to Phoenix. This was about to change.

On March 19th Will C. Barnes and William Broadbent rode into Winslow trailing four men that had robbed the Barnes ranch at the mouth of box canyon on the Chevelons Fork of the Little Colorado River, between Holbrook and Winslow. Little did they know about the bandits they were trailing.

The next day, twenty four miles west of Winslow, at Diablo Canyon, the robbers struck again. The eastbound Atlantic and Pacific train stopped at the canyon to replenish its woodbox. As the train stopped, four men boarded. Holding the crew at gun point they forced open the express safe, taking seven thousand dollars in cash and some jewelry.

The four bandits were J.J. Smith, William Sterin, John Halford and Danial Halford. They were all cowhands with the Hashknife outfit of the Aztec Land and Cattle Company. They were headquartered near the Mormon village of Saint Joseph, on the Little Colorado. Having left the ranch singly over a period of a week before robbing the Barnes ranch, they had gathered near the box canyon to make their plans.

Jim Black and Sheriff O'Neal were in Flagstaff when the Diablo Canyon robbery took place. On March 21st they traveled to the scene of the robbery. A reward of four thousand dollars was posted, which the Prescott Journal predicted would be paid to the officers who had so persistently followed the trail of the robbers.

Jim Black and Sheriff O'Neil were joined by Special Deputy Ed St. Clair of Flagstaff and Carl Holton, special detective for the A. and P. Railroad.

They followed the trail into the Painted Desert. There they met up with Will Barnes and his trackers on the Navajo reservation. Word was sent back to Winslow as to the direction the bandits had taken.

Not far out of the Wah Weep Canyon they found a carcass of a slaughtered steer and a deserted camp with ashes still warm. Following the tracks Deputy Black caught sight of one fleeing man. Sheriff O'Neil got off one quick shot and brought down the man's horse. In the return fire O'Neil's horse was struck squarely in the head. After being freed from under his horse O'Neil, Black and the special deputies pursued the bandits and soon had Halford and Sterin in irons. Smith and Harvick were captured soon after. The pursuit had taken three weeks and had covered 600 miles. The total cost was double the reward. This was probably more of an adventure than a new deputy had bargained for.

Many early law men were required to provide their own sidearms. I believe this was the case with Jim Black. The Colt SAA is .45 caliber with a 4 3/4 inch barrel and letters as such (shown on the cover of this publication). It still retains roughly 35% bluing. The grips are about 90%. I believe they are from another gun. I must thank a friend of mine for informing me that this colt was available for purchase from his family member and also for enough information that led me to Arizona to track down Jim Black and his story.

Also acknowledgement goes to the books by Dale Walker, "Rough Rider," and "Death was the Black Horse."

Jim Black went on to serve with the 1st U.S. Volunteer Calvary, better known at the "Rough Riders," in Company "F."



2009 Show Dates

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

JANUARY 10 - 11 • Rochester Mayo Civic Center

FEBRUARY 21 - 22 • Minneapolis Convention Center

MARCH 21 - 22 • MN State Fair COLISEUM Building

APRIL 18 - 19 (Easter is April 12) • MN State Fair EDUCATION Building

AUGUST 22 - 23 • Forest Lake Sports Complex New Location

OCTOBER 3 - 4 • MN State Fair EDUCATION Building

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1 • MN State Fair COLISEUM Building New Location

DECEMBER 12 - 13 • St. Paul RiverCentre

The date and location of the Trophy Show has not been decided.

MWCA/NRA 2008 Trophy Show

WOW! What a great line up of displays. Quite an effort on behalf of firearms collectors from all around the country. This year we held our annual trophy show and were joined by the NRA for their national display show under the direction of Philip Schreier, Senior Curator of the National Firearms Museum.

There were displays from Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Missouri, and local and out-state Minnesota. We had visitors from the Ohio Gun Collectors Assoc.; NRA directors; Ron L Schmeits 1st NRA VP; Jim Supica of Kansas; Wayne Anthony Ross of Alaska; John Sigler, 2nd NRA VP; and local and out-state Minnesota collectors and members. Minnesota Congresswoman Michelle Bachman helped with the presentation of awards. She gave the crowd a little pep talk and was really a breath of "fresh air."

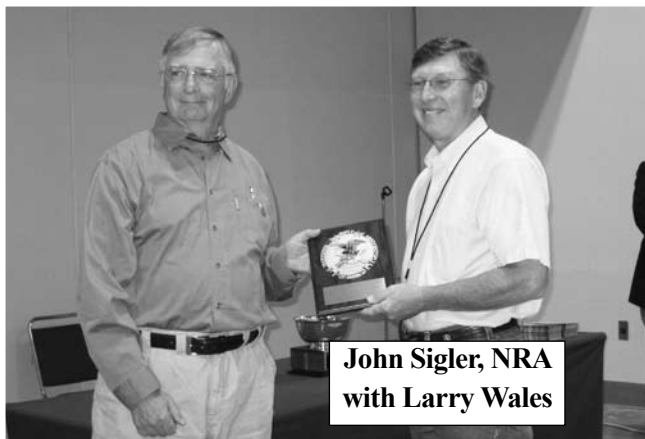


**Congresswoman Michelle Bachman,
Ron Schmeits, NRA
and Tony Schwab, MWCA**

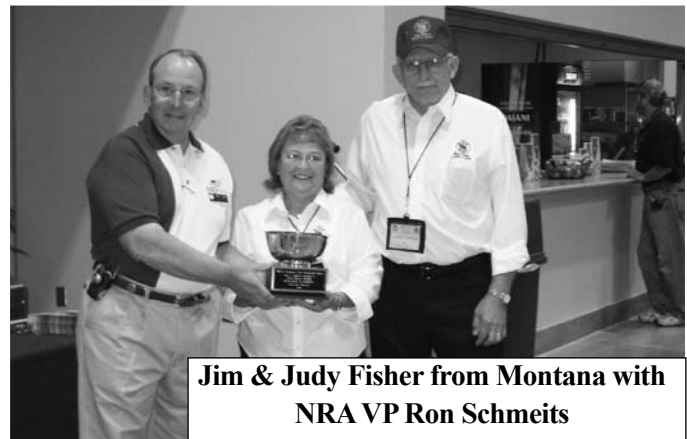


**Ron Mench who designed the WW1 Doughboy bronze for
the L.P. Bramer II Award along with Philip Schreier, NRA.**

NRA trophy winners receiving their awards:



**John Sigler, NRA
with Larry Wales**



**Jim & Judy Fisher from Montana with
NRA VP Ron Schmeits**

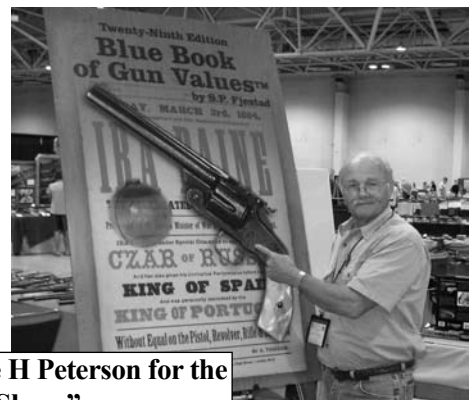
Some of the local Minnesota winners who were selected by the NRA judges are pictured as follows:



Dale Dalbotten



**Laurie & Jim Neigel and Dale H Peterson for the
"Best Gun of the Show,"
the Ira Paine S&W No. 3 Frontier Model.**



MWCA/NRA 2008 Trophy Show

The rest of the winners. They are all winners whether they received an award or not.



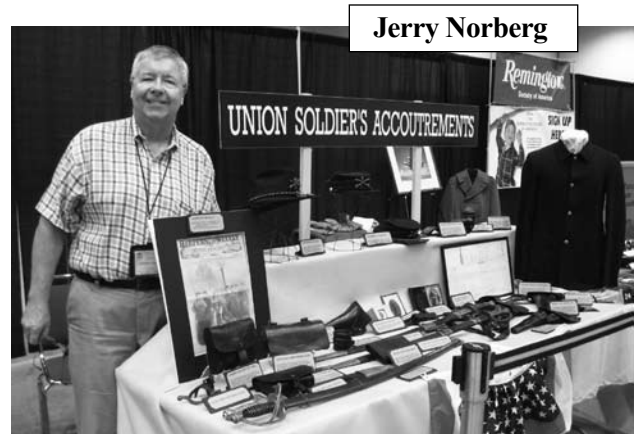
Richard Punchard



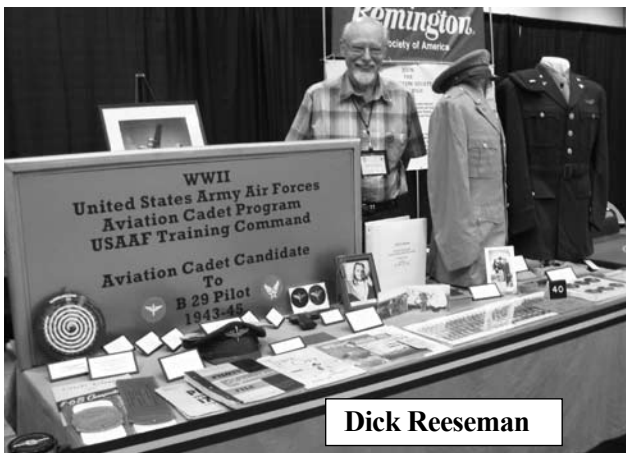
Charlie Mossefin



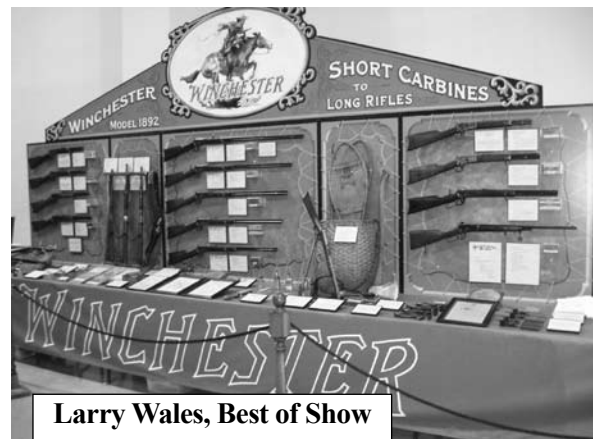
Loren Johnson



Jerry Norberg



Dick Reeseaman



Larry Wales, Best of Show

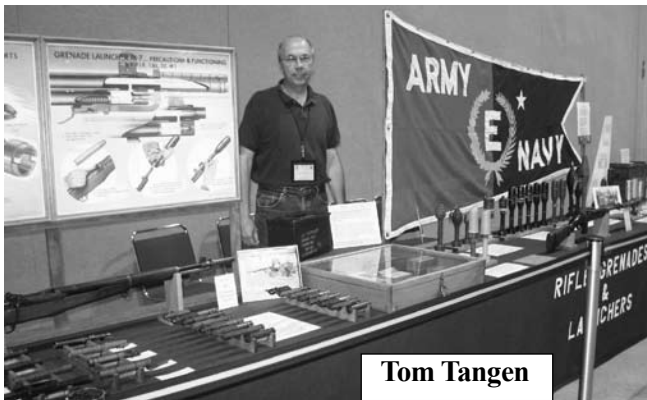


Laurie Neigel



David Licht

MWCA/NRA 2008 Trophy Show



Tom Tange



Bryon Lynse



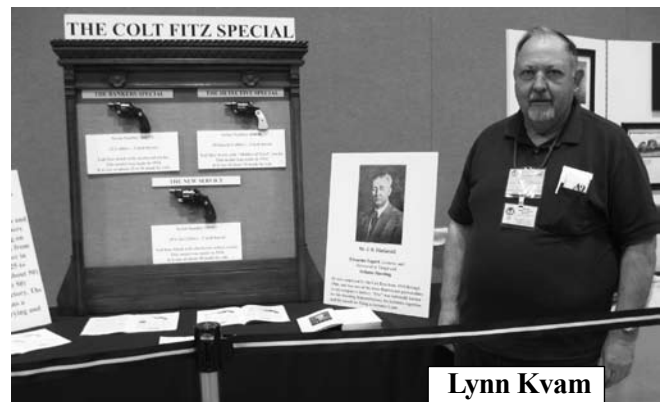
Alvin Olson's Related Items



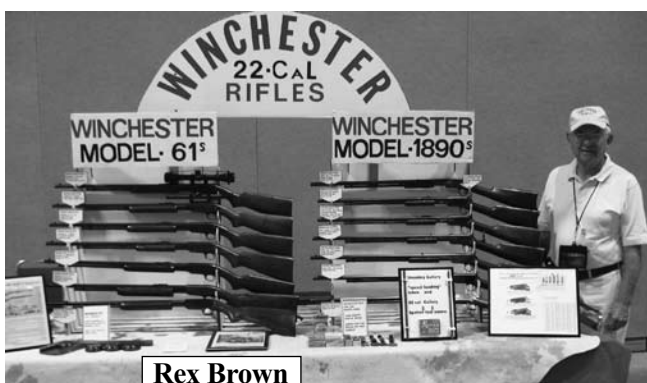
Dale H. Peterson



Vern Berning



Lynn Kvam



Rex Brown



Colt Collectors Assn.

MWCA/NRA 2008 Trophy Show



Bo Casseberg's Husqvarnas



Skip Houghton and bride



Fred Vadersnick's Related Items



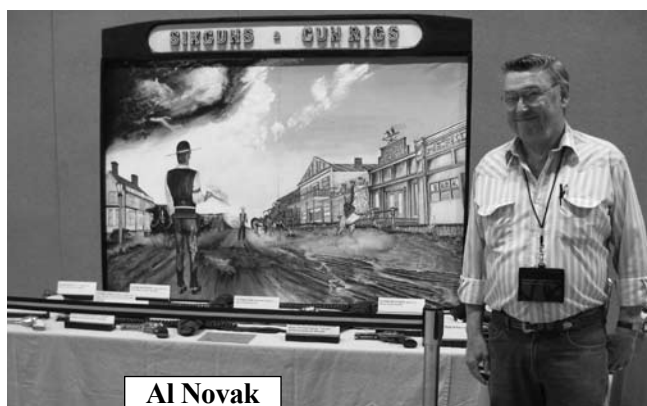
Springfield Rifles



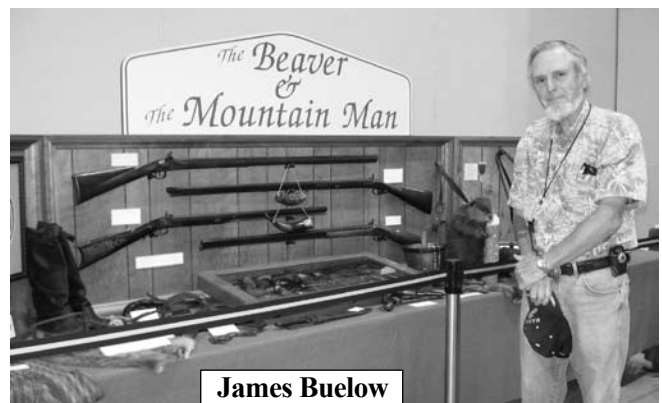
JC Higgins



Denny Larson

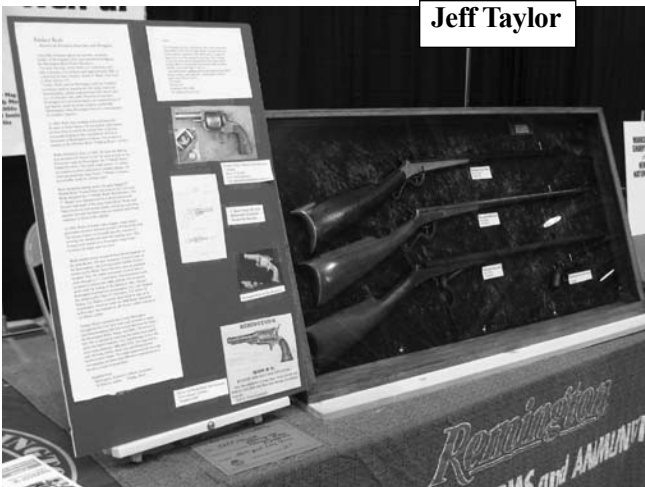


Al Novak

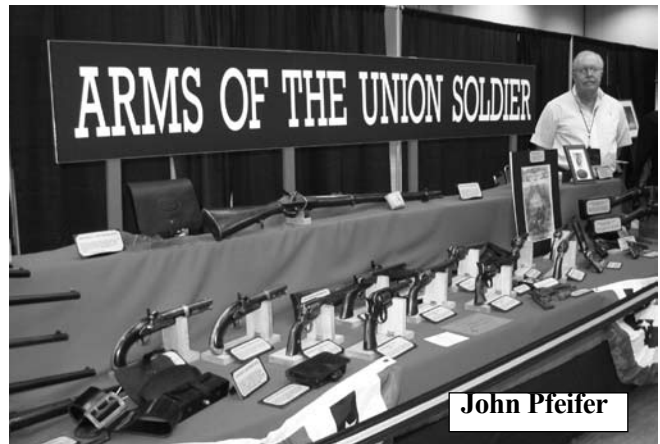


James Buelow

MWCA/NRA 2008 Trophy Show



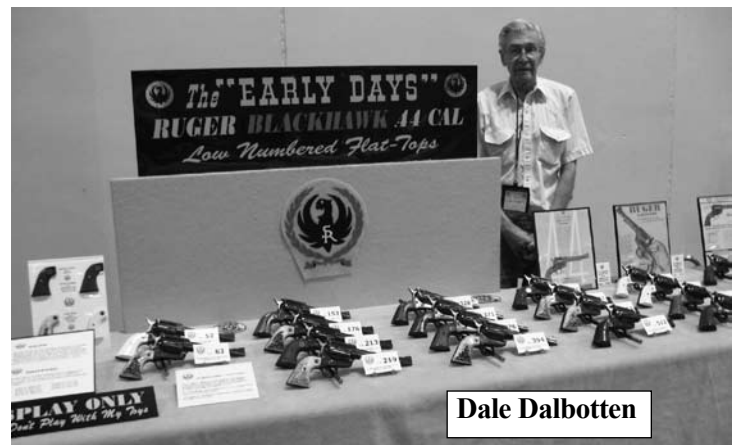
Jeff Taylor



John Pfeifer



Military Winchesters



Dale Dalbotten



The Big S&W NRA winners



Group of Ohio Gun Collectors

"Potholes" By Alvin Olson

Pete invited Ole to ride along on a little fishing trip to their favorite country lake. They went in Pete's old Ford pickup, and this rutted and potholed gravel road was in very bad shape. Ole congratulated Pete on his agile ability to dodge most all of the potholes. Pete answered "Oh, it's easy for me. I learned a lot about evading potholes years ago." "How did you do that"? asked Ole.

Pete answered "Well, it was like this. I met this good looking young lady. She was a beauty, and we got along very well. I proposed. She accepted, and we married."

Ole asked "What's that got to do with potholes?"

Pete replied. "We were young, and she was just learning to cook, and one day I said something that I now regret. I made an uncomplimentary comment about her cooking, and Connie took offense at my statement. She cleared the kitchen range off, cleaned the drawers out, and then we had potholes in the walls, ceiling and doors."

Pete went on, "So I learned to dodge potholes years ago! I learned a lot about carpentry, and I also learned how to keep my mouth shut."

More Thoughts on Gun Leather

By Dale Peterson

In our last issue Stan Nelson had a great article on gun leather (holsters). I especially connected with the line “It is unlikely that anyone engaged in the business of chasing down “bad hombres” would handicap himself with a cheap revolver and a “Montgomery Ward” holster.” I have an assortment of holsters which are not “brand name” and were probably used by the average individual that went west to seek his fortune. The farmers, cooks, store clerks, miners etc., people who were aware of or had heard stories of the violence on the new frontier and felt the need to carry a firearm.

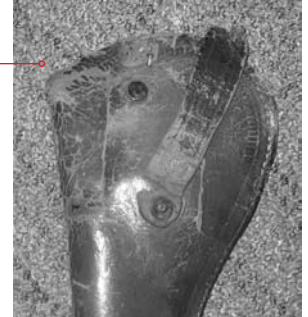
The construction and material of these lesser quality holsters was the reason for their cheaper prices. The leather was generally thinner than the more expensive rigs. Most of the ones I’ve encountered are russet leather with an embossed design. The belt loops were generally riveted on and in some cases sewn on. They were not made to fit the contour of a particular revolver but were more generic and would accommodate several different brands having the same barrel length or frame size. They would more or less just hang from the hip on a leather cartridge belt or military style canvas loop belt.



The first example is from the Montgomery Ward Co. of Chicago, Ill. and so marked. If you tried to pull the revolver the entire holster seems to slide up with the gun. It is constructed of russet leather with an embossed pattern and the belt loop was riveted on. The average Colt or Remington revolver weighs about 2 ½ pounds and as shown you can see that the revolver could easily be lost because of the weak design of the loop.



The belt loop which is stamped “44” and “109” (caliber and catalog number) was originally attached with two rivets and the loop broke so the owner tried sewing the top of the loop which failed also. The final solution was to cut two slits in the back of the holster to pass the belt through, this would enable the holster to be securely attached to the belt and



kept snug to the wearers hip. Being anything other than a gun slinger the individual would not be aware of the fact that is how it should be worn.



This holster is similar to the Montgomery Ward product and seems to be in much better condition, only because it was not used so often. It was made to fit several large frame revolvers of the same barrel length. It was originally designed with a flap but that has been cut off leaving the butt of the revolver exposed.

This is a Plain Jane rig with the cartridge belt and holster in a russet leather. The holster seemed to hold up pretty good but the belt is extremely weak and shows quite a bit of cracking near the buckle. A 1861 Colt Navy Conversion fits nicely in it, probably dating it around the 1875 to 1880 period. The belt is marked “38” and it accommodates 38 caliber ammunition.





Embossed with flowers, this smaller holster is sewn and riveted at the top with the belt loop riveted also and stamped “4” (Barrel length). It is designed for a double action revolver.



Diamond Brand holster is a little better quality with heavier leather and embossed design. The riveted belt loop is marked “4 3/4” (barrel length) and the catalog number 20. It handles a Single Action Colt very well.



This “Mexican Loop” pattern for large frame revolvers was sold by Montgomery Ward around 1915-1925. There is hardly an area of leather that has not been stamped with a design. The scene depicts a cowboy on his pony with the lower loop showing running deer. Probably it was purchased by the young city dude before his big trip out west for his first experience at a “Dude Ranch”. It is marked No. 2654 and a No. 6 for 6” barrel. Richard Rattenbury’s book “Packing Iron” Gun Leather of the Frontier West shows a similar holster on page 135.

Patented leather flap holster is military style and fits a large Colt revolver. The leather is rather thin unlike the regulation military flap holsters. It has a fancy button to hold the flap but I do not think that is original. This holster probably dates to 1860-1880.



“Mexican Loop” holster marked Montgomery Ward made for a Single Action Colt and is of much better quality than the earlier ones shown. It is stamped #114 on the top loop and 44 / 5 1/2 on the bottom loop. This is a better design as the upper leather folds back and the holster passes thru the two loops.



Unmarked “Mexican Loop” style made of russet leather and is sewn and riveted with an embossed design. The leather is thicker than the early russet leather holsters but still is of poor quality with the finish cracking and peeling off.

Catalog page from two 1920-1930 period hardware/sporting goods stores which show holsters similar to the ones in this article. Most were affordable and sold at a reasonable price, but the old adage “You get what You pay for” really rings true with these old gun rigs. The professional gun handler whether good guy or bad guy would not choose these holsters if he intended to survive.

MEXICAN STYLE HOLSTERS
Made of extra heavy brown leather, fine finish, and hand sewed ends.

No. 402. Made to fit all small frame revolvers, .32 and .38 caliber, 3-inch and 3½-inch barrels; each **.50**
No. 403. Made to fit all small frame revolvers, .32 and .38 caliber, 4-inch barrel; each **.60**
No. 32-a. Made to fit all small frame revolvers, .32 and .38 caliber, 5-inch and 6-inch barrels; each **.65**
No. 33-4-5. Made to fit Colt's army special S. & W. 381, & P. .38 and .41 caliber, 4-inch and 5-inch barrels; each **1.10**
No. 34-6. Made to fit Colt's army special S. & W. 381, & P. .38 and .41 caliber, 6-inch barrel; each **1.10**
No. 35. Made to fit .44 and .45 caliber revolvers, 4½-inch and 5½-inch barrel; each **1.10**
No. 36. Made to fit .44 and .45 caliber revolvers, 7½-inch barrel; each **1.10**
No. 36-6. Made to fit Iver Johnson super shot revolver, .32 caliber, 6-inch barrel; each **1.10**

OPEN TOP HOLSTERS (Heavy Russet Leather)
No. 202C. Adapted to .32 S. & W. Hand Ejector and .31 S. & W. Auto Ejector, .32 Colt's New Navy Pocket and Police, up to 2½-inch barrel; each **.40**
No. 202C. Adapted to same revolvers as No. 202C, up to 4-inch barrel; each **.45**
No. 204C. Adapted to same revolvers as No. 202C, up to 4-inch barrel; each **.50**

High Grade Fancy Holsters
For the sportsman desiring the best quality in holsters at a reasonable price, we list the following numbers. Made of first quality selected full grain steer hide.

No. 12. Plain tan leather, Mexican style, blocked to shape of gun and sized—for all large frame revolvers 4-6 and 7½-inch barrel; each **2.35**
No. 211. Fancy hand flower stamped on solid full grain leather, tan color, Mexican style. Edge lined with white lace leather. Blocked to shape of gun and sized. For all large frame revolvers 4-6 and 7½-inch barrel; each **5.45**
No. 251L. Plain tan leather. Semi-Mexican style, open top with stout safety strap and snap button to hold gun in place. Edge lined with white lace leather. Blocked to shape of gun and sized. For all large frame revolvers 4, 5 and 6-inch barrel; each **2.15**

POLICE STYLE HOLSTERS
Snap-on fastener which permits holster to be taken off without removing belt. Brown oil tan leather with safety strap and snap fastener to hold gun in holster.

No. 29511H. For .38 Colt Official Police Revolver 4 or 5 inch } **Each \$1.10**
No. 29611H. For .38 Colt Official Police Revolver 6 inch }
No. 1260DB. For .22 Colt Automatic Woodsman 6½ inch }

THE H. & D. FOLSOM ARMS CO., 314 BROADWAY, N. Y. 49

Embossed Holsters

EMBOSSED OPEN HOLSTER No. 947E Each
38 Caliber, 4 or 5 inches... \$1.15
38 Caliber, 6 inches... 1.35
M. & P. 4 or 5 inches... 1.15
M. & P. 6 inches... 1.35
Large Frame, 7½ inches... 1.50
Colt's Auto, 32 Caliber... 1.35
Pocket Colt's Auto, 38 Cal... 1.50
Military Colt's Auto, 45 Cal... 1.75

EMBOSSED FLAP HOLSTER No. 745E Each
28 Caliber, 9 or 5 inches... 1.80
38 Caliber, 6 inches... 2.00
Military and Police, 4 to 6 inches... 2.00
Large Frame, 7½ inches... 2.50
Colt's Auto, 32 Caliber... 2.35
Pocket Colt's Auto, 38 Cal... 2.35
Military Colt's Auto, 45 Cal... 2.50

EMBOSSED MEXICAN HOLSTER No. 548 Each
Military and Police, 4 or 5 inches... \$1.65
Military and Police, 6 inches... 1.90
Military and Police, 7½ inches... 2.25

EMBOSSED OPEN HOLSTER Mexican Olive, Hand Carved, Scroll Design, Extra Quality No. 951 Each
Military and Police or Colt New Army, 5 inches... \$3.50
Military and Police or Colt New Army, 6 inches... 3.75
Colt New Service or Single Action, 7½ inches... 4.50

EMBOSSED MEXICAN OLIVE Russet Leather No. 950 Each
Military and Police or Colt's New Army, 6 inches... \$3.00
Military and Police or Colt's New Army, 6 inches... 3.50
Colt New Service or Single Action, 7½ inches... 4.25

EMBOSSED OPEN HOLSTER Mexican Olive, Hand Carved, Scroll Design and Buck Sewed, Best Quality No. 952 Each
Military and Police or Colt New Army, 5 inches... \$4.50
Military and Police or Colt New Army, 6 inches... 4.75
Colt New Service or Single Action, 7½ inches... 5.25

References: Packing Iron by Richard C. Rattenbury
H & D Folsom Arms Co. Catalog
Burkhard's Sport Catalog

MWCA Contributes



Among the many contributions MWCA makes annually, shaping the future for our youth is of utmost importance. Here are some of those youth from the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America being trained in firearms safety and marksmanship.



Spur Trigger Pocket Revolvers

By Stan Nelson

As with most collectors, my early purchases were determined by my income, so I collected Merwin-Hulbert & Co. revolvers, rather than Colt and Smith & Wesson, something I have never regretted. Merwin-Hulbert & Co. revolvers were manufactured by the Hopkins & Allen Mfg. Co. and were of superior quality so I got interested in the line of spur trigger pocket revolvers also made by that Company. There was little information available on either Merwin-Hulbert or Hopkins & Allen at that time (post WWII) because of the lack of factory records destroyed in a fire at their Norwich, Conn. plant in 1900. But I felt they did not merit the “Suicide Special” classification given to all solid frame, spur trigger revolvers not made by Colt or Remington.

The origin of the term “Suicide Special is itself open to question. Some arms historians feel it to be an ironic reference to National Economic Depressions such as occurred in 1873 and 1893, leading to bank failures and bankruptcies. The implication being that using a \$1.25 revolver was quicker and easier than jumping off a bridge. Others think it means that firing a \$1.25 revolver could be suicidal to the person pulling the trigger. Regardless, to most gun collectors the phrase refers to a class of inexpensive revolvers which hit the market after expiration of the Rollin White patent in 1869 and were produced in great numbers by many arms manufacturers for the next twenty years. Quality and price varied considerably and since most were stamped only with a colorful trade name and no makers identification, general ignorance about their true manufacturers prevailed until the recent interest and resulting research has given us some useful information.

In 1958 Donald B. Webster’s book SUICIDE SPECIALS was published. This pioneer work deals specifically with the spur trigger, solid frame, nickel plated revolvers which some of us were interested in, and it was a good start. Webster identifies some twenty manufacturers of this class or type of pocket revolver, many of whom did not stamp their company name on their products using only a trade name or a number denoting caliber. He also lists about 200 trade names and provides information on specific manufacturing details which could help identify the makers of unmarked specimens. He also makes a couple of statements with which I disagree: “They have almost no historical significance.” ... “Their only purpose was to provide a gun-toting era with concealable armament at the least possible cost.” To me the latter statement has historical significance in and of itself. Taking personal responsibility for one’s own security has been an American pattern of behavior since at least the Westward Movement across the Alleghenies. Personal weapons changed with the times, from flintlock holster pistols to Colt percussion revolvers and Allen double action pepperboxes to Smith & Wesson cartridge revolvers. Demand usually exceeded supply, as Colt’s patent of Feb. 1836 posed problems for other arms inventors until its expiration in 1857, as would Rollin White’s patent of April, 1855 delay development of cartridge revolvers until its expiration in 1869. Smith & Wesson, who owned White’s patent rights during those critical Civil War years, seemed content to make and sell their pip-squeak .22 Model No. 1 revolver and the more adequate .32 Model No. 2, which did find some favor in the war as a personal sidearm.

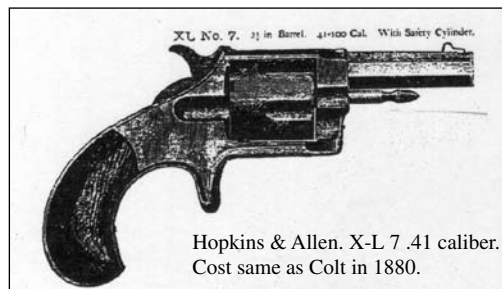
In the post Civil War years attempts by the U.S. Government, with a vastly reduced military force, to “Reconstruct” the South and “Conquer” the West expanded an already existing market for personal weapons. Male citizens in the West and South carried pistols by necessity, those in the more heavily populated North by choice. In the still unreconstructed South and the Frontier West the demand was primarily for large caliber belt revolvers, a demand initially met by factory conversions of the tens of thousands of .44 caliber Colt and Remington percussion revolvers left over from the Civil War and soon augmented by new model cartridge revolvers. The more numerous home seekers, settlers, and merchants following in the wake of Western frontiersmen usually preferred a smaller personal security device; something he (or she) could carry in a coat or hip pocket, under a pillow, or in a desk or bureau drawer. In other words, a pocket revolver.

Major arms manufacturers were certainly aware of the potential of the pocket revolver. Colt introduced its New Line series in 1875, followed by Remington in 1875 with the Remington-Smoot revolvers. Both firms offered these pocket revolvers in calibers from .22 to .41 rim-fire, with .32, .38, and .41 also available in center-fire. Because of their reputation for high quality, Webster does not include these Colt and Remington solid frame, spur trigger revolvers in his Suicide Special listings though they differ little in appearance or quality from some Hopkins & Allen, Forehand & Wadsworth, Whitney, and Bacon revolvers of similar style and caliber.

Webster apparently was unable to locate any dealer catalogs earlier than those he has reference to in his book, which date from the mid 1880's to 1900. If he had I think he would have been more charitable to some of the pocket revolvers he lists as Suicide Specials, for he seems to be equating price with quality.



Colt New Line .41 caliber.
Cost \$6.50 in 1880.



Hopkins & Allen. X-L 7 .41 caliber.
Cost same as Colt in 1880.



Made by Forehand & Wadsworth. Cost more than
Remington New Model No. 4.

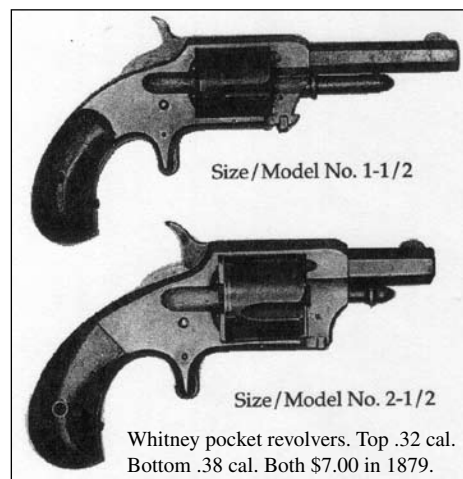


Remington New Model No. 4. Nickel plated.
Cost \$9.00 in 1877.

Forehand & Wadsworth revolver is illustrated which is available in three different calibers, all with different trade names. The .32 cal. Terror is priced at \$4.50, the .38 cal. Bulldog is \$4.75, and the .41 cal. Swamp Angel is \$5.00.

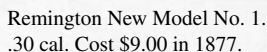
Certainly these earlier catalog prices indicate a parity among these various arms manufacturers; even Donald Webster says that in his opinion the Forehand & Wadsworth products "were greatly superior to even the Colt pocket revolvers of the same period." Perhaps what we need, as Norm

For instance, in an 1871 Great Western Gun Works catalog we find Allen's New Model cartridge revolvers available in .22 rim-fire for \$7.00, and in .32 rim-fire for \$9.00. These are sidehammer revolvers like the Allen & Wheelock percussion revolvers which preceded them. An 1876 James Bown & Son catalog lists the Enterprise revolver in .32 rim-fire at \$9.00, and in .38 and .41 rim-fire for \$11.00 each. A Remington catalog from 1877 lists their New Model No.1 in .30 rim-fire at \$9.00, and their New Model No.4 in .38 rim-fire at \$8.00, and in .41 caliber at \$9.00. The 1879 Great Western Gun Works catalog offers Colt New Line revolvers at \$4.00 for .22 rim-fire, \$6.00 for .32, \$6.50 for .38, and \$7.00 for .41 in either rim-fire or center-fire. Also listed is the Whitney No.2 revolver in .32 rim-fire, Whitney No. 3 in .38 rim-fire, both at \$7.00 each. An 1880 catalog from Homer Fisher (N.Y.) advertises a variety of pocket revolvers and prices seem to be going down. He has Colt New Line revolvers in .32 cal. at \$5.50, same price for .38 cal., and \$6.50 for .41 Cal. Hopkins & Allen X-L revolvers are priced at \$4.50 for both .32 and .38 rim-fire, and \$6.50 for .41 caliber. Harrington & Richardson revolvers are available in .32 cal. at \$5.00, in .38 cal. at \$5.50. A



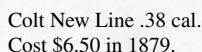
Whitney pocket revolvers. Top .32 cal.
Bottom .38 cal. Both \$7.00 in 1879.

(Smoot's Patent.) New Model.



Length of Pistol 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. All these Revolvers are finished in the BEST manner.

No. 1, 30 Cal., 3 inch, weight 10 oz.,	Blood	\$ 9 00
" " " "	Pall Plated	9 50
" " " "	" Engraved	12 00
" " " "	" " " "	12 00
" " " "	" Pearl	11 50
" " " "	" " " "	12 00
" " " "	Ivory, Engraved, Plated, Gilt	14 00
" " " "	Pearl, " " " "	18 00



This small size, big bore double action revolver proved popular in America.

Flayderman has suggested, is a new definition, or catchword, for these solid frame, spur trigger pocket revolvers, which, in any new studies, should include the Colt New Line series and the Remington New Model revolvers as well as some of the scarce James Reid revolvers, all of which meet the specific criteria established for this genre.

As an epilogue, I might add that the low prices seen in later catalogs for these pocket revolvers are an indication of the fierce competition among the manufacturers and dealers; lower prices mean lower profits. By 1879 Colt had discontinued their New line Revolvers, except for the .32 caliber which they dropped in 1884, another indication of things to come. But the major factor in the demise of the spur trigger revolver was the development of the double action pocket revolver, especially the inexpensive Belgian and American copies of the .44 caliber Webley British Bulldog, which had invaded the American market in the middle 1870's. By 1900 a "pocket revolver" meant a double action revolver.

Carder, Charles B., HOPKINS & ALLEN REVOLVERS and PISTOLS, 1998.

Flayderman, Norm, **FLAYDERMAN'S GUIDE TO ANTIQUE AMERICAN FIREARMS**. 9th ed.

Johnston, J.H., GREAT WESTERN GUN WORKS, catalog no. 22, 1879.

Satterlee, L.D., Ed., 10 OLD GUN CATALOGS, 1962.

Taylerson, A.W.F., THE REVOLVER. 1865-1888, 1966.

Webster, Donald B. Jr., SUICIDE SPECIALS, 1958.

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with short, light-colored hair and glasses. He is wearing a light-colored collared shirt and is smiling slightly. The background is dark and out of focus.

Bill Henney

Past MWCA President

Jeff Brown

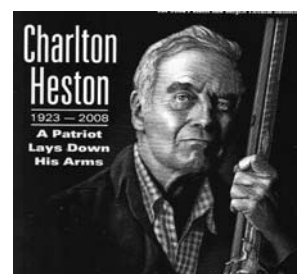
Aspen Hill Books

Robert Budolfson

Bill was quite a gentleman who led a well rounded life. He loved his family, friends, hunting, trap shooting, golf, playing cribbage and gun collecting. He was especially fond of his derringer collection, as he had each one fitted into small wood cases with their accessories. After selling his derringer collection Bill still enjoyed setting up at the MWCA shows to sell the balance of his guns that he had collected over the years. Bill and I set up together at many of the shows and I, for one, will miss our cribbage games, a couple of drinks and his bright smile as I know others will. We extend our regrets to his wife Betty and family. So long old friend ... Dale H Peterson.

Charlton Heston

Past NRA President



A True Threat To Freedom

By John C. Sigler, President, NRA



Right now, one of the most anti-gun politicians ever to set foot in Washington, D.C., may be just one election away from the Oval Office, and far too few gun owners realize the true threat to freedom this candidate represents.

No, it's not Hillary Clinton, we already know how bad she is. It's Senator Barack H. Obama, D-Ill., the man who promises "change" while pretending to offer "hope." But exactly what kind of "change" is Obama "hoping" for?

It is far too easy for gun owners to slip into a false sense of security, unquestioningly accepting the candidate's promises and proclamations regarding the Second Amendment; but the unreported truth is that Barack Obama has an atrocious record on your most fundamental civil right: the right to a firearm for self-defense.

Over the years, Barack Obama has either voiced support for, or voted to enact, laws to:

- ban all handguns
- ban the sale or transfer of all semi-automatic firearms
- ban the Right-to-Carry in every state, nationwide
- ban firearms in the home, even for self-protection

And he voted against a "self-defense exception," which absolves folks of violating gun bans when their reason for violating those bans is to fend off criminal attack in the home.

Go to Obama's website and you'll see his claims of respect for your rights, claims which are, at best, misleading.

Obama's website claims, "He will protect the rights of hunters and other law-abiding Americans to purchase, own, transport and use guns for the purposes of hunting and target shooting."

But as the bumper sticker says "The Second Amendment ain't about duck hunting."

In 1996, Obama's Illinois state senate campaign answered a questionnaire indicating his support for a blanket ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns in Illinois.

In 2000, Obama sponsored a "one-gun-a-month" law to ration the Second Amendment rights of the law-abiding citizens of Illinois.

Obama has supported bans on ammunition magazines, gun-lock mandates, renewal of the 1994 Clinton gun ban and California-style gun registration. He voted against confirmation of both Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito for the U.S. Supreme Court, and then refused to sign the pro-gun "friend-of-the-court" brief filed by 55 other senators and 250 House members in the District of Columbia v. Heller gun ban case.

In July 2005, Obama voted against the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, a vote against the rights of every law-abiding gun owner, dealer and manufacturer in America, and a vote against our national defense.

Obama even proposed a federal law banning licensed firearm dealers from operating within five miles of any school or park, nationwide! Imagine a map with a five-mile circle drawn around every school and park in the United States. Unless you live in the wilderness interior of Alaska, you probably couldn't find a law-abiding gun dealer anywhere under Obama's ban!

Yet, while Obama's disdain for Second Amendment freedom appears limitless, his attitude toward armed, violent criminals has been one of benign neglect, at best.

In 1999, on a vote in the Illinois senate on whether to try teenage gang-bangers as adults when they fire a gun on or near school grounds, Obama voted "present", the functional equivalent of "NO"!

In 2001, when Illinois lawmakers tried to control rampant gang violence by making gang members eligible for the death penalty when they commit murder to help their gang, Obama voted against the measure.

Responding to a Chicago Tribune questionnaire, Obama said he believed federal mandatory-sentencing laws used to put armed and violent predators behind bars should be abolished!

And if those same violent criminals attack you, Obama opposes your fundamental, God-given right to protect yourself. He opposes your Right to Carry. In fact, according to Obama's own hometown newspaper, the Chicago Tribune, Obama supports federal legislation to ban the Right to Carry for everyone but police officers!

Obama supported Washington, D.C.'s total ban on handguns in the home for self-defense; and when Illinois lawmakers introduced a bill that would exonerate citizens

Legislative News, continued

for violating local gun bans if they used a gun to defend themselves in their homes, Obama voted “NO”!

Even attorney Walter Dellinger, who tried to defend the Washington, D.C., gun ban before the U.S. Supreme Court, admitted, “It is a universal or near universal rule of criminal law that there is a self-defense exception. It goes without saying.”

In other words, Barack Obama’s position is even more anti-gun than the District of Columbia’s! Obama’s record

is clear. His concept of “hope and change” will surely result in anti-gun/anti-freedom changes bringing more hopelessness for the most helpless in our society.

Now is the time to act! Every gun owner in America must be alerted to Obama’s record. Please, tear out this page, copy it and distribute it to fellow gun owners, hunters, shooters, family and friends. Spread the word and get ready for the most important election battle of our lifetime.

A FIELD GUIDE TO GUN SHOWS

By The Elitist

Shawnee Hunt Club, Blacksburg Virginia

Hot off the Internet to help you make that educated guess on your next Gun Show purchase ...

Gun shows are an old and honored American tradition. The basic idea-putting sellers, buyers, and stock in the same room and letting Free Market Forces go to work-is as old as commerce, but the American form of gun show has evolved its own manners, vocabulary, and etiquette.

Gun shows are run by and for dreamers. Every dealer who sets up a table seems to think that the people who attend are half-wits who will happily pay 25% more than manufacturer’s suggested retail price for their goods; and all the attendees hold it as an article of faith that the exhibitors are desperate men who have come in the hopes of finally disposing of their stock at 30% less than wholesale cost.

In this environment it helps to have some idea what to expect; so for the benefit of those who are so unfortunate as never to have experienced this distinctively American form of mass entertainment, I offer this guide, the summation of what I’ve learned from 30 years of show-going. I’ve included a glossary of terms you’ll need to know, and an introduction to some of the people you’ll meet.

The following terms apply to items offered for sale:

MINT CONDITION: In original condition as manufactured, unfired, and preferably in the original box with all manufacturer’s tags, labels, and paperwork.

NEAR-MINT CONDITION: Has had no more than 5,000 rounds fired through it and it still retains at least 60% of the original finish. Surface pitting is no more than 1/8” deep, and both grip panels are in place. If it is a .22, some of the rifling is still visible.

VERY GOOD: Non-functional when you buy it, but you can probably get it to work if you replace 100% of the parts.

FAIR: Rusted into a solid mass with a shape vaguely reminiscent of a firearm.

TIGHT: In revolvers, the cylinder swings out, but you need two hands to close it again. For autoloaders, you must bang the front of the slide on a table to push it back.

REALLY TIGHT: In revolvers you cannot open the cylinder without a lever. Once it’s open the extractor rod

gets stuck halfway through its travel. On autoloaders, you need a hammer to close the slide.

A LITTLE LOOSE: In revolvers, the cylinder falls out and the chambers are 1/4” out of line when locked up. There is no more than 1/2” of end play. For autoloaders, the barrel falls out when the slide is retracted. If the barrel stays in place, the slide falls off.

GOOD BORE: You can tell it was once rifled and even approximately how many grooves there were.

FAIR BORE: Probably would be similar to GOOD BORE, if you could see through it.

NEEDS A LITTLE WORK: May function sometimes if you have a gunsmith replace minor parts, such as the bolt, cylinder, or barrel.

ARSENAL RECONDITIONED: I cleaned it up with a wire wheel and some stuff I bought at K-Mart.

ANTIQUE: I found it in a barn, and I think it dates from before 1960. Note that ANTIQUE guns are usually found in FAIR condition.

A Field Guide To Gun Shows, continued

RARE VARIANT: No more than 500,000 of this model were ever made, not counting the ones produced before serial numbers were required. Invariably, **RARE VARIANTS** command a premium price of 150% of **BOOK VALUE**.

BOOK VALUE: An ill-defined number that dealers consider insultingly low and buyers ridiculously high. Since no one pays any attention to it, it doesn't matter who is right.

IT BELONGED TO MY GRANDFATHER: I bought it at a flea market or yard sale two weeks ago.

CIVIL WAR RELIC: The vendor's great-grandfather knew a man whose friend once said he had been in the Civil War.

SHOOTS REAL GOOD: For rifles, this means at 100 yards it will put every shot into a 14" circle if there isn't any wind and you're using a machine rest. For handguns, three out of six rounds will impact a silhouette target at seven yards. In shotguns, it means that the full choke tube throws 60% patterns with holes no larger than 8" in them.

ON CONSIGNMENT: The vendor at the show does not own the gun. It belongs to a friend, customer, or business associate, and he has been instructed to sell it, for which he will be paid a commission. He has no authority to discuss price. The price marked is 50% above **BOOK VALUE**. All used guns offered for sale at gun shows, without exception, are **ON CONSIGNMENT**, and the dealer is required by his Code of Ethics to tell you this as soon as you ask the price. (A BATF study has proven that since 1934 there has never been a single authenticated case of a used gun being offered for sale at a gun show that was actually owned by the dealer showing it.)

I'LL LET IT GO FOR WHAT I HAVE IN IT: I'll settle for what I paid for it plus a 250% profit.

MAKE ME AN OFFER: How dumb are you?

TELL ME HOW MUCH IT'S WORTH TO YOU: I'll bet you're even dumber than you look.

In our next issue, we'll meet some of the characters who tend the shows.



Support The NRA!



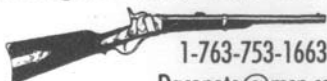
Guess the Gun

No winner from the last issue; either the readers are just plain lazy, not too smart or don't give a darn!!

It was a Colt "Lightning," .41 Caliber, also known as "The Thunderer." This was a reportedly a favorite of Billy the Kid. You all know who he was, the buck-toothed young killer from down New Mexico way who met his demise at the hands of Pat Garrett.

Wanted: Old Guns, Ammo, Military Items, Knives,
Civil War Items, Photographs, and General Antiques.

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Cash - We Buy Guns

Heritage Arms Society's 20th Annual Antique Arms Collectors Show

This is Minnesota's longest-running show dedicated exclusively to antique sporting arms, accouterments, ammunition, edged weapons and militaria produced from pre Colonial days up through WW 2. This is a quality arms show sponsored and attended by the area's leading collectors offering historical, antique and collectable arms and related items. Only legal arms produced up through WW 2 are allowed.

Friday, March 27, 2009 • 12:00 - 6:00 pm (members & exhibitors only)

Saturday, March 28, 2009 9:00 am — 3:00 pm

Public Welcome — Admission \$5.00 — Free Parking all day

Eagan Civic Arena

3830 Pilot Knob Road

Eagan, Minnesota.

One mile South of 35E on Pilot Knob Road
(3 mile South of 494)

Ask for special Gun Show rates:

Best Western, 651-454-0100

Yankee Square Inn

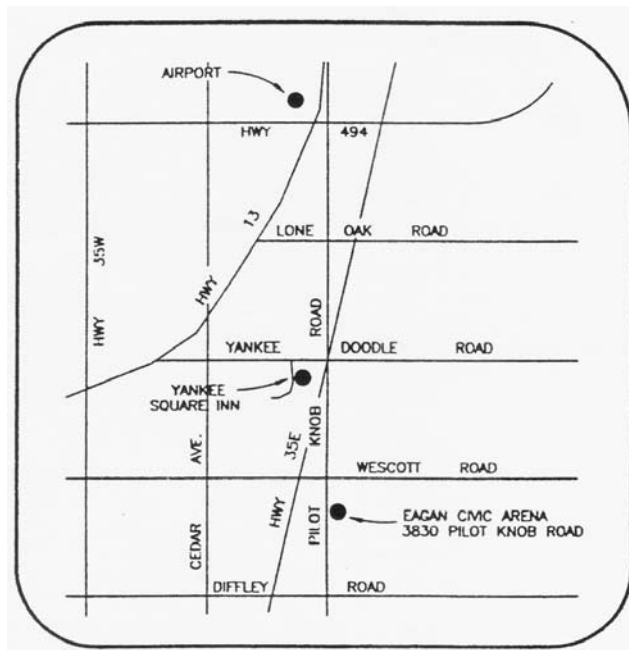
3450 Washington Drive, Eagan, Minnesota

Future Show Dates

March 27, 2010

March 26, 2011

March 31, 2012



Heritage Arms Society

Collectors' Arms Show - Space Reservation Application

Exhibitor Badge Rules: Each exhibitor is authorized two badges for the first table and one additional badge for each authorized table. Complete, sign and date this form and return it with your check to Heritage Arms Society, P.O. Box 20532, Bloomington MN 55420.

No space will be confirmed until full payment and signed form is received. All sales and display tables must remain open until 3:00 P.M. Saturday - failure to do so, without prior approval, will exclude you from future tables.

I have read and agree to abide by all show rules:

Signature
of Table Holder _____

Date _____

Additional
Badge Names _____

Reserve _____ sales tables at \$40 per table
(Sales tables for Heritage Arms Society Members are \$30 per table)

Reserve _____ display tables at \$10 per table

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (must accompany application)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

* No refunds will be made for cancellations received later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the show.