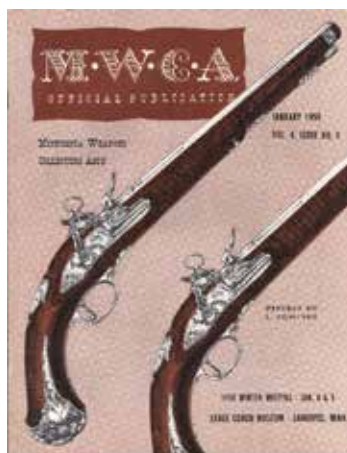
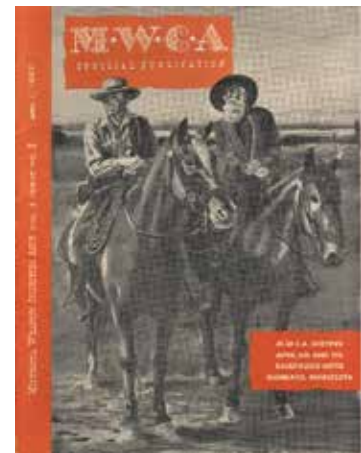
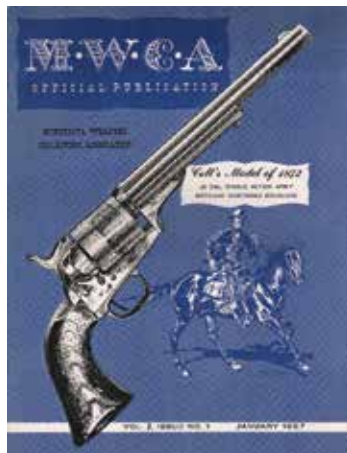
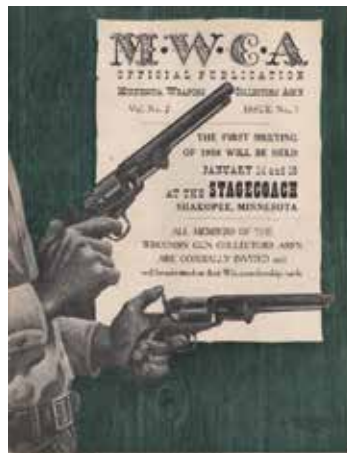
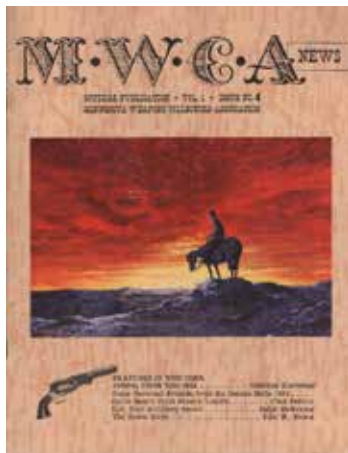
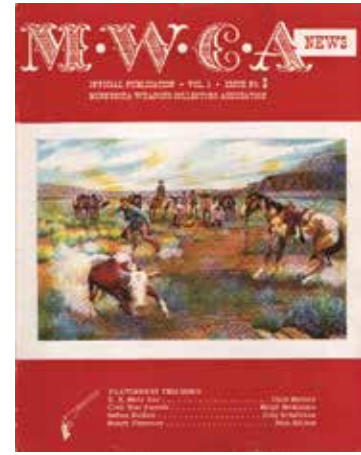
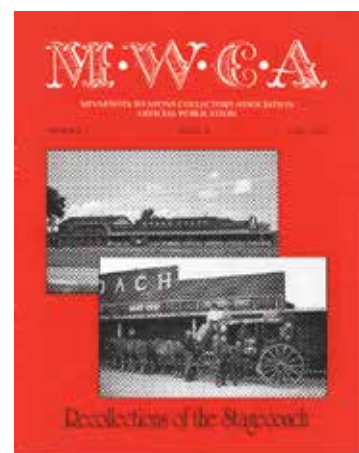
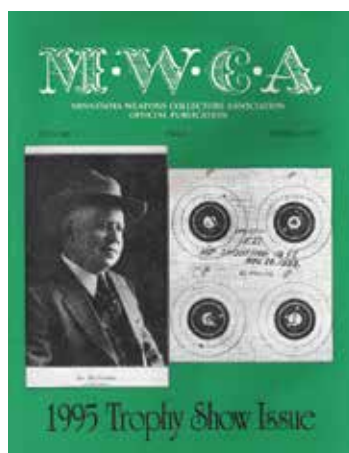
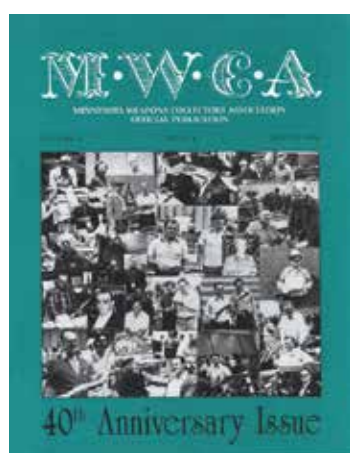
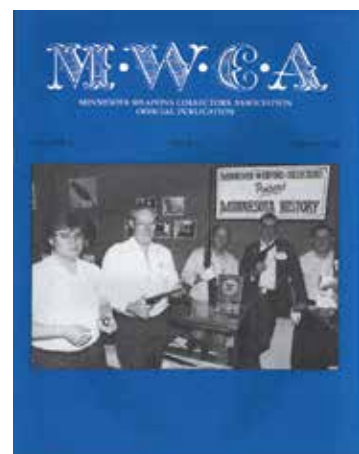
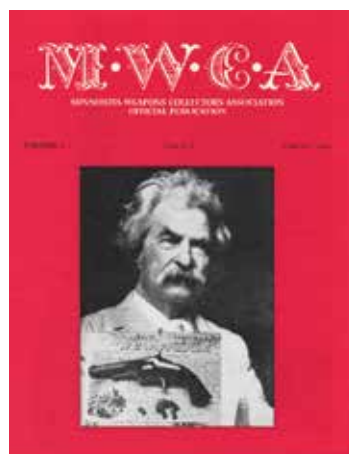
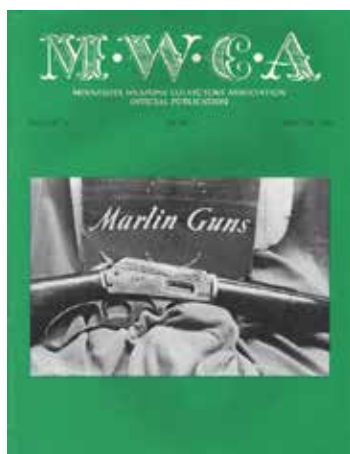
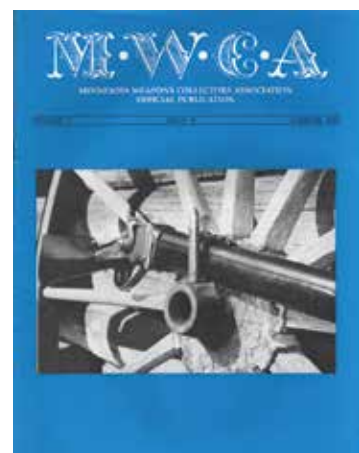
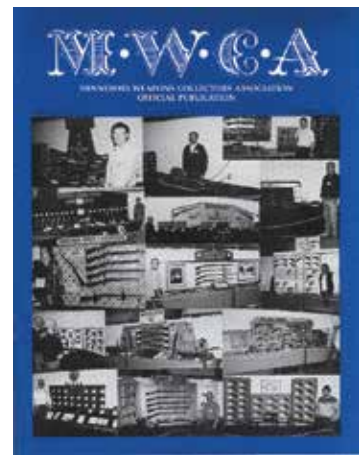
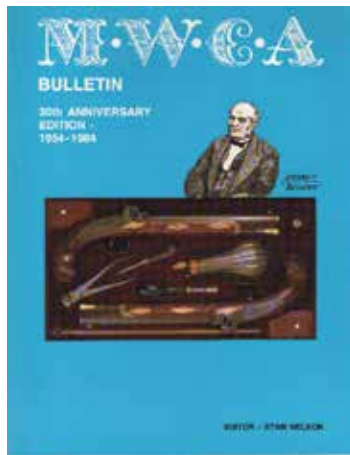


Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association – 60 Years





M·W·C·A

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Official Publication

VOLUME NO. 27

ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY 2014



“If Only They Could Talk.”

See page 18 for the rest of the story.

2013 Trophy Show Issue

M • W • C • A News

VOLUME NO. 27

ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY 2014

Official Publication of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

PO Box 662 • Hopkins MN 55343 • www.mwca.org • 612-721-8976

Staff.....Dale Peterson, Stan Nelson, Mike Foster

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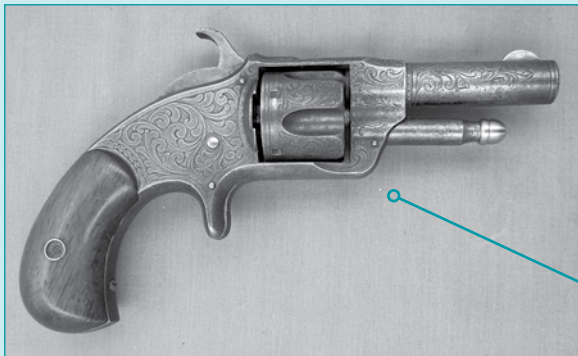
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GUESS THE GUN!

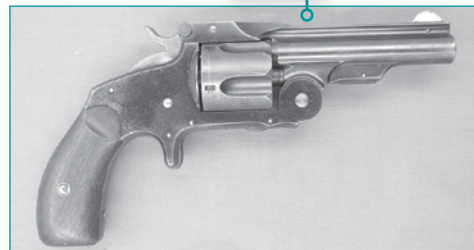
Win a FREE business card size ad (\$25 value).

First five correct entries win!

Call Dale at 763-753-1663



Last month issue's gun was identified by MWCA member Bruce Kenniberg. This is two in a row for Bruce; this guy really knows his guns. He probably recognized it because I sold him one several years ago. It is a Smith & Wesson 38 Single Action First Model, better known by collectors as a "Baby Russian." Manufactured 1876-1877, with a total production of 25,548.



Good luck on this issue's gun and remember the first 5 winners will receive a FREE business card ad.

The President's Shot



A Parting Shot from our 2013 President

We've made it through another year with our firearms rights relatively intact. Not to say that Obama, Bloomberg, Feinstein, et al., have warm and cuddly feelings for us - quite the contrary. But thanks to the eternal vigilance of the NRA and other gun rights groups plus the pending mid-term elections, nothing overly ridiculous has been proposed on a national level. Some states have overreacted as usual but we seem to be relatively unaffected.

That said, we certainly can't let our guard down as an Association dedicated to the collecting of firearms and other weapons. To that end, we (the MWCA) have made substantial monetary gifts to the NRA. Also, we have contributed sizable funds to numerous youth oriented groups. After all, they are our future.

This coming year, we will be paying closer attention to table contents in an attempt to bring our shows more in line with our stated purpose. We are a WEAPONS COLLECTORS association. Table holders, please try to remember that!

John Chappuie
2013 MWCA President

2014 "President's Shot"

Treasures vs Trinkets

There has been much discussion lately regarding sale table contents. Our gun show registration paperwork clearly lists what is allowed to be sold. It is everyone's responsibility to follow the rules and make good decisions. Our security staff's time is best used providing public safety and preventing the loss of merchandise, not monitoring sale table contents. Please make every effort to help us provide a high quality show for our members and general public to enjoy.

Politics and Participation

In order to maintain high quality MWCA shows, we need your help on another issue. I assume it's safe to say our anti-gun political foes in Minnesota and across the country will once again try to limit our freedom. Please protect your freedom by sending emails, letters, post cards and making phone calls. Consider donating money or your time to pro-gun candidates. Remember to thank the elected officials that are on "our side of the aisle."

Advertising Answers

This year marks the 60th year of the MWCA. Our charter members had the foresight to lay the foundation for a great organization. Today we are able to communicate via electronic media: DVD/YouTube information presentation; Upgraded website with links to timely topics and information; Access to board members by email; Television ads. Traditional advertising still includes print media, MWCA clothing, and the "red card" show schedule available at each dealer's table. Remember, it is everyone's responsibility to promote the MWCA.

60 Years and Beyond ...

Thank you to those that actively support the MWCA. Without your efforts, we would not have been able to donate \$35,000 to various shooting sports and firearms safety programs this past year. To honor our deceased MWCA/NRA members, memorial donations- in their name- will be made out to the NRA/ILA. It is an honor to serve as your 2014 MWCA President. I hope each of you have a happy, productive and safe year!

Mark Reese
2014 MWCA President

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:



The right to own and bear arms is guaranteed by our constitution and an American heritage that had its glorious beginning on Lexington Commons, where sounded "The shot heard 'round the world."

The prayers of Washington and the bloody foot prints in the snows of Valley Forge, left a mark on the National consciousness that we must never forget.

Soft living and softer heads are indeed a menace to future Americans. We must not allow our inspired beginnings to degenerate into rubber stamp regimentation, to be led by conniving minorities, unthinking "do gooders" and down right enemies of our country.

Reverend Harrison of Virginia states, "When the government can no longer trust its citizens with guns, then the citizen can no longer trust the government with authority."

Whether you like guns or not, the right to own arms and the right to vote, are the most powerful guarantees of a true democracy.

Contrary to public concepts, guns do not kill people. The urge to kill begins in the brain cells of man. Anti-gun legislation intended to halt crime, aimed at that inert object, the "gun", is a subterfuge . . . the product of muddled thinking.

Let's face it. No gun yet has leaped into position cocked and coordinated and fired without the premeditated guidance of the human brain, the true focal point and fermenter of the criminal act.

Why not aim at the cause and not the effect? Man is the "cause" the gun is "effect". When man criminally kills, the object used to perpetrate the act is certainly secondary. Jack handles, garroting, poison and that favorite weapon of the press, "the blunt instrument", and that modern juggernaut, the family car, are all secondary to the act.

Why penalize the rank and file of gun lovers and sportsmen with unrealistic legislation? It is most certainly an imposition on 98 per cent and a dubious restraint on the remaining 2 per cent. I believe it was the Infantry Journal that made a national survey on the effectiveness of gun registration (unconstitutional) as a deterrent to crime. Not in one instance could a case be cited where it helped to apprehend a criminal.

Let the ambitious and sometimes poorly informed lawmakers wipe the fog off their spectacles, sharpen their perceptions and desist impounding fire hydrants that the driver clipped. Using that old bit of American linsey woolsey, whimsey, "To padlock the barn after the horse has been stolen" is a useless bit of business; especially when you still hear the hoofs of the escaping evil doer. The moral of this homily is, "Get the horse thief, let that poor horse alone."

Osborne Klavestad

Support The NRA!

Sign up now! Call 800-672-3888 or go to www.nra.org



The
NRA Foundation
Teach Freedom...

Support The MWCA!

For membership application call 612-721-8976 or go to www.mwca.org

Charter Member



MWCA 2013 Trophy Show

Another successful Trophy Show with 16 displays. They covered a nice variety of collectable weapons including Antique, Military, Modern, Rare and Related Items. Thank you for the great displays, and thanks to the judges for their time and efforts.

We encourage all members to start thinking about next year's display. We have around 1,000 members, so we should have more than 16 displays.

There have to be more treasures in your closet, so bring them out and let the rest of the members enjoy them also.

The 2013 Winners are:



"Best of Show" to Vern Berning for one of his outstanding Colt revolvers.



1st place in Antique Hand Guns went to Dale Peterson's "51 Navy" display.



Modern Hand Guns, 1st place went to Dennis Larson's Smith & Wesson display.



Modern Long Guns award went to Alvin Olson for his Winchester 1 of 6 Model 12 "Cut-a-way."



Military Long guns 1st place went to Ed Phol's Mauser rifle display.

MWCA 2013 Trophy Show, continued



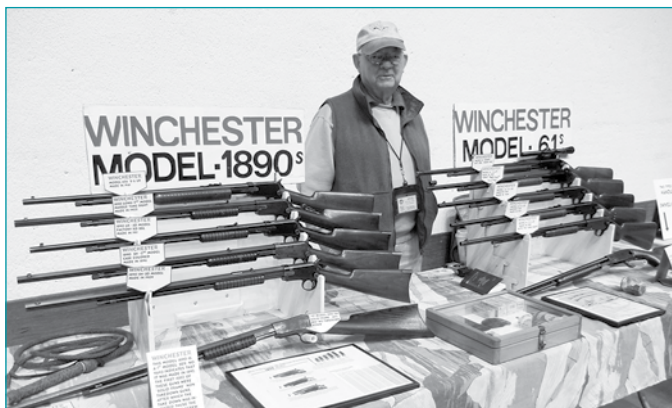
Fred Vandersnick got 2nd place in antique Long guns for his “WOOP” 16 gauge Model 12 Winchester.



2nd place in the Modern Hand Gun category went to Mike Splittgerber’s Ruger display.



This fine group of Cacano rifles got Rob Pfeffer 2nd place in the Military category.



Rex Brown received two awards, One for his Winchester display and one in related items for his “How to make a bullwhip” display.



Robert Rolander received two awards, 3rd in Modern Hand Guns and 3rd with his Colt Paper display.



Al Bohene received two awards for his excellent display of Springfield Weapons, 1st place in Antique Long Guns and the coveted OK Educational Award.

We had four “Best Gun” awards. The 4 judges could not agree on one gun so they picked 4 separate guns. The four winners were Vern Berning, Dale H Peterson, Mike Splittgerber and Ed Phol. Again, a big “Thank You” to the displayers and the judges. Without these gentlemen this show would not be a success. ... Dale Peterson

The 2014 Trophy Show will be held October 25 - 26 at the Minnesota State Fair Coliseum Bldg.

Merwin-Hulbert Reality Tests

By Stan Nelson

Not too long ago I obtained some back issues of MAN AT ARMS MAGAZINE (the NRA collectors publication) and in random reading I found an article on Merwin-Hulbert revolvers in the August, 1999 issue. I own a few of these well-made 19th century American handguns and am always on the lookout for worthwhile information to add to my files. Since we have no factory production records to guide us most printed material is based on gun collections, compilations of serial numbers, and 19th Century advertising; the latter being the basis of the article under consideration in this essay.

The author, Robert J. Rayzak, a collector since the 1940s had picked up a very nice Merwin-Hulbert 3rd model double action revolver in .44 M&H cal. plus one cartridge of that very scarce caliber. He had read Art Phelps' book and reproductions of Merwin-Hulbert catalogs and wondered about the advertised claims made for the performance of these revolvers.

Specifically, he questioned an early Merwin-Hulbert ad in the Sept. 11, 1880 edition of Harper's Weekly which stated in part, "Simultaneous and easy extraction of shells ... one or more shells may be extracted if desired without removing the loaded ones." And also "the - lines of recoil and resistance are so nearly alike, that they prevent any upward throw of the arm when fired." To determine the validity of these 19th Century advertised claims Rayzak decided to conduct a "modern" test using his 3rd model double action Merwin-Hulbert revolver.



Early claims for extraction and recoil..



Rayzak's "modern" test result.

This 'test' was meaningless from the beginning. Having only one of the hard to find .44 Merwin-Hulbert cartridges, he uses 5 unfired Smith & Wesson .44 American cartridges to simulate Merwin-Hulbert ctgs. Loading his nice M-H revolver with this mixture, he closes the loading gate, unlocks the barrel/cylinder and pulls it forward and is surprised when it does not work. Although the S & W .44 American will chamber in a M-H cylinder it has a larger rim diameter and Rayzak had to help them fall out of the cylinder while at the same time the lone M-H ctg had been squeezed past the extractor flange and thus not extracted. All this modern test proved was that you should always

use the proper ammo for your weapon. The U.S. Army Ordnance notes (of which Rayzak was aware) list no extraction problems during their rigorous testing of a lot model Merwin-Hulbert revolver in late 1877.

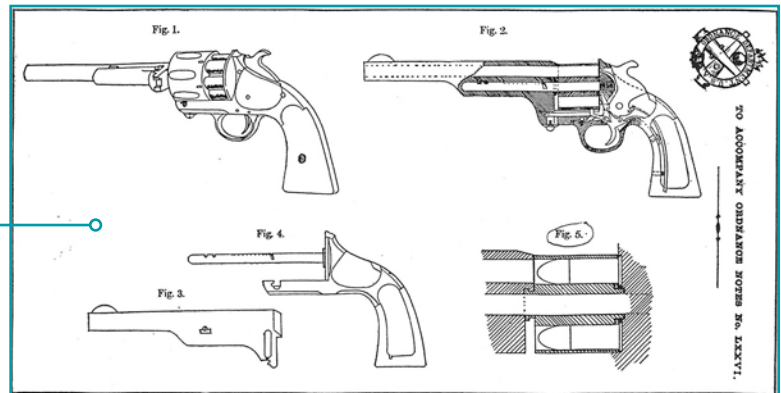
Of course Rayzak's interest was in the selective "extraction" and ejection of only fired ctgs, leaving the unfired ones in place, and I have wondered about that myself. I have fired thousands of rounds of black powder 44/40 ctgs in several of my favorite pocket Army model Merwin-Hulbert revolvers, and I remember that on a few occasions when I wanted to keep the cylinder fully loaded, the live rounds would drop out with the empties when I pulled the barrel all the way forward. I finally solved this problem by use of the original selective ejection method, sliding open the loading gate and punching out the empties with a small rod, just as I did with my sawed off Single Action Colt 45.

Where did the "selective" extraction advertising originate? The patents granted to Daniel Moore and Wm. A. Hulbert upon which the Merwin-Hulbert revolver design was based claim only positive and simultaneous extraction, nothing is said about retention of unfired cartridges during ejection. The U.S. Army Ordnance Dept.

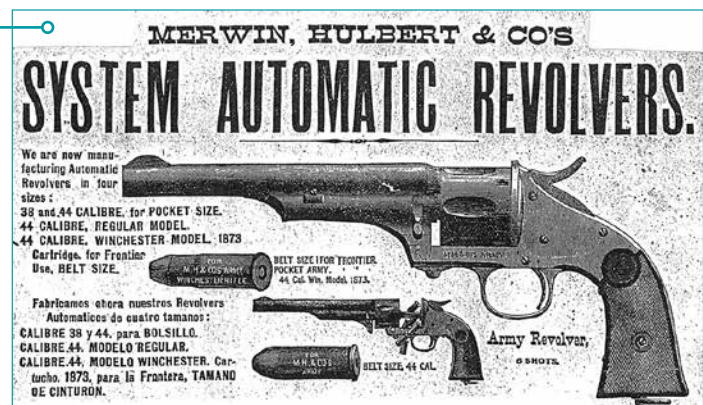
Merwin-Hulbert Reality Tests, continued

which tested one of these revolvers in late 1877 reported favorably extraction system but obviously did not experiment with “selective” ejection. Is the advertised claim an outright fabrication as Mr. Rayzak thinks? In rereading a lot of letters, articles, and advertising I think I have the answer, though this may only be of interest to Merwin-Hulbert collectors. And, of course, this is conjecture on my part.

Cartridges for the first Merwin-Hulbert .44 caliber revolver were manufactured by the American Metallic Cartridge Co. of Coventry, Conn. These were fairly long, loaded with 23 grains of powder and a 252 grain Bullet and pretty well filled the revolver's cylinder. My notion is that while firing their own .44 someone within the Merwin-Hulbert hierarchy discovered that the 252 grain unfired ctgs. didn't fall out with the empties during extraction. By the early 1880's this had become a viable sales pitch and was used in contemporary advertisements. However, in June, 1881, Merwin-Hulbert revolvers became available in the popular 44/40 caliber which had required lengthening the cylinder and frame to accommodate this longer cartridge, and these slight but necessary changes became standard on all Merwin-Hulbert Army revolvers regardless of the caliber. Thus, as I and Robert Rayzak can testify, claims for “selective” ejection were no longer valid, at least for those revolvers made after June, 1881. A last note on this tiresome subject: after 1890 the .44 M-H ctg. was made with a 220 grain bullet, making it a little shorter than with the old 252 grain bullet, thus negating any selective ejection claim.



From 1877 Ordnance test, note fig. 5, 252 gr. bullet fills cylinder.



Scarce California ad (1881) for M-H revolver in 44/40 cal.



The pocket Army in recoil, Bill Nelson shooting.

By the late 1880's Merwin-Hulbert advertising claimed only “easy and simultaneous extraction” for their various .44 caliber revolvers, but some ads were still saying “the lines of recoil and resistance being so nearly alike, they prevent any upward throw of the arm when fired”, in other words, no recoil. Mr. Rayzak wanted this unlikely claim tested also, but not having enough ctgs. for his 3rd model D.A. .44 Merwin-Hulbert revolver he relied upon the comments of cowboy action shooter Phil Spangenberg. In GUNS and the GUNFIGHTERS, L.A., Petersen pub. Co., 1975, Phil writes about trying out his Merwin-Hulbert 44/40 double action pocket Army model revolver. On page 85 he says it “kicked like a mule! You can really feel that big cartridge going off in that short barrel.” He goes on to say that accuracy was good shooting single action, but double action rapid fire shooting was almost impossible because the hard trigger pull and recoil caused the gun to shift in his hand. Spangenberg's remarks take care of the “no recoil” claim and no doubt made Mr. Rayzak happy, but I'd still like to know who wrote Merwin-Hulbert advertising copy.

Merwin-Hulbert Reality Tests, continued

I know who wrote the following endorsement of Merwin-Hulbert new (with top strap) 44/40 revolver. I would like to see Mr. Rayzak put these claims to a “modern” test. From the G.W. Turner & Ross firearms catalog of September, 1882, we read “This revolver will do the work of a rifle. We believe it to be the longest ranged revolver that has ever been made. It will kill buffalo at 300 yards every time, and is accurate up to 500 yards. We cannot say too much about this weapon, and we prefer it by all odds to any .44 cal. revolver in the world. We speak from experience, as we have personally subjected this revolver to tests that we believe no other



Ad from Century Magazine of Jan., 1889.

revolver could stand.” WOW! These claims should have appealed to the Merwin-Hulbert advertising copy writers. But, by 1890 those of us interested in such mundane things see a gradual change in the types of firearms being advertised in popular periodicals. Fewer big-bore rifles and belt revolvers. The buffalo were gone, the Indians on reservations, and social problems were primarily urban. Merwin-Hulbert ads were featuring their line of .32 and .38 caliber double action revolvers, calling attention to their use by several Metropolitan Police Forces.

In retrospect, I was shooting Merwin-Hulbert revolvers long before I had read anything about them. In the 1940's there was little in print for reference, and having been manufactured by the Hopkins & Allen Co., noted for their inexpensive pocket revolvers, there was little serious collector interest



A favorite pocket Army, serial 3071.

in them either. This was fortunate for me as their as their 44/40 Pocket Army model became my favorite 19th century revolver and I could afford a nice one when it showed up. I preferred the open-top 1st model for black powder shooting as fouling never caused problems, and, as with the Colt single action, in recoil the grip slips down in your hand and puts the hammer in place for quick shooting.



Stan Nelson shooting Pocket Army no.3071.

How things have changed; through years of study in pertinent source materials we have gained solid knowledge of the men behind the design and manufacture of Merwin-Hulbert firearms. We also have a good idea of when, and how many, of the various .44 caliber revolvers were actually produced. This evidence, though circumstantial in nature, has helped make up for the production records lost in the disastrous fire at the Hopkin & Allen Plant in Norwich, Connecticut on Feb. 4, 1900. Something else has changed too in these inflationary times. Now, when an exceptional Merwin-Hulbert revolver shows up at a gun show or auction I check my bank balance before even thinking of making an offer.



After the fire at the Hopkins & Allen Plait on Feb.4, 1900.

Sources not mentioned in text: Correspondence with Ron Shipman, Helmut Sakschek, and especially, Jerry Teesdale. My own notes from various 19th Century magazine advertising sections. Carder, Charles E., Hopkins & Allen Revolvers and Pistols, 1998.

Firearms Engraving

By Alvin Olson

This was both the title for an NRA Gunsmithing School publication that was authored by Mr. Hartliep, and for our display of a few of his works, at the 2012 MWCA Trophy Show and at the NRA Annual Meetings, in Houston, Texas, in April, 2013. The display was set up on “Collectors’ Row” along with other displays sponsored by various collectors organization.

While at the Tulsa Show, in November of 2012, I was asked by a member of the “Smith & Wesson Collectors” as to what the MWCA’s display would be at the 2013 NRA Meetings. I had to answer him that I was uncertain, but that sending the Neil Hartliep work was being considered. He offered to lend a rare revolver that had been shipped to Gopher Shooters Supply, at Faribault, MN. It had been engraved by Mr. Hartliep. A few weeks later a contact was made by another S & W collector who offered to lend another rare revolver; also ‘Hartliep engraved’, to enhance the display.

Mr. Hartliep had lived for a time in the Faribault area, and also had demonstrated his skill at some of our MWCA Shows. He was a northwestern Iowa “Farm Boy” that as a lad decided to be an engraver of firearms. He was self taught, and made many of his tools while on the family farm. He designed other engraving equipment during his career. He also taught his brother the art of engraving. He advertised his business at trapshooting events, and other events and times that firearm owners were present.

Mr. Hartliep liked to work on the large flat areas on shotguns, such as the Winchester Model 12, and would do some revolvers and other arms with less flat area. There are two distinct types of engraving. The most of the “Factory Engraved” works are in cataloged patterns, and are “incised engraving” which amounts to a shallow carving of the metal. A retired Winchester factory engraver that I communicate with said that hardly any, if any, artistic license was allowed for deviation from the cataloged patterns.

By far, the greatest number of Mr. Hartliep’s work is done in “relief engraving” which has more of a 3-D effect. Not being tied to “factory patterns” allowed more artistic expression for the engraver. Even the gold inlays in his work show some depth, and one piece in the display was described by him as “About the thickness of a dime.” All but one piece that are identified as Mr. Hartliep’s work are signed by him.

As to the gold inlays that were used, Mr. Hartliep mentioned in his publication the gold being heavier than steel could loosen and fall out if the firearm was used a great amount with heavier loads. For the firearm that was meant to be used, after engraving, one of Mr. Hartliep’s personal shotguns has shallow engraving and shallow gold inlays. He did not sign his own shotgun that we have displayed. He wanted it seen, at trap shooting, as a useful firearm.

In our display were five Smith & Wesson revolvers, three Winchester Model 12 shotguns and one Frigon Gun.

The Frigon Guns were ‘over/under’ double barrels, and were sold at trap shoots, etc., by Frenchy Frigon, and were of Italian manufacture.

S&W Pit-Model 15 “K-38 Combat Masterpiece” with 4” barrel, shipped January 30, 1952 - Engraved as a “Matched Pair” with the next listed.

S&W Model 17 “K-22 Masterpiece” shipped with a 6” barrel (later changed to a 4”), shipped April 7, 1953. It is engraved as the above “K-38” except for one screw head!



Firearms Engraving, continued

S&W Model 19-3 “357 Combat Magnum” shipped April 16, 1974, and has a gold wire inlay around the barrel brand/caliber marking and outlines of the frame.

S&W “.38-44 Heavy Duty Model of 1950” - Pro-Model 20, shipped December 24, 1958 to Gopher Shooters Supply, Faribault, MN. Nickle finish was restored after engraving. On loan from owner Bill Patteson.

S&W “Model of 1950 Target” - Pre-Model 24, shipped November 8, 1955, with “Checkered Walnut Grips,” which were replaced with ivory grips. It is .44 S&W Caliber.

Frigon Gun “Game Keeper” Model, 12 Gauge, Double Barrel.

Winchester Model 12,16 Gauge two Barrel set. The second barrel assembly appears to be “after market” but factory installed. The Simmons Vent Ribs and custom deluxe wood were added for enhancing its appearance.

Winchester Model 12,12 Gauge, “Trap Grade” made in 1925. This was owned by a Winchester employee and sold to a resident of Goodland, KS, who had Mr. Hartlicp (a friend of his) do the engraving in the early 1980s. Winchester Model 12,12 Gauge, made in 1963. It has custom trap wood by Alan A. Degner, Owatonna, MN.

The first owner is unknown.



2014 Show Dates

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

Celebrating 60 Years!

January 18 - 19 Rochester Mayo Civic Center

February 15 - 16 Minneapolis Convention Center

March 15 - 16 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

April 12 - 13 MN State Fair Education Building

August 16 - 17 Buffalo MN Civic Center

September 27 - 28 MN State Fair Education Building

October 25 - 26 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

December 13 - 14 St. Paul RiverCentre

From Alvin's Joke Book

Ve Couldn't Afford More

Two Norwegians from Minnesota went fishing in Canada and returned with only one fish. ‘The way I figger it, dat fish cost us \$400’ said the first Norwegian.

‘Vell,’ said the other one, ‘At dat price it’s a good ting ve didn’t catch any more.’

Music Solution

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it.

‘Oh,’ said Ole, ‘I persvaded her to svitch to a clarinet.’ ‘How come?’ asked Lars.

‘Vell,’ Ole answered, ‘because vith a clarinet, she can’t sing.’

Winchester Model 1897

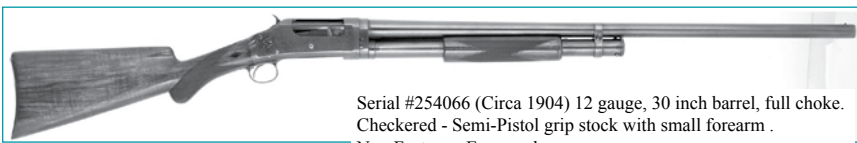
“Trap Grade” Takedown Shotgun

by David P. Bichrest
DACA Honorary Member

“Do we throw it under the bus or keep it as part of the collection?”

I was approached by the owner at the 2012 National Rifle Association Annual Meeting in St. Louis Mo. He asked me if I would look at his Winchester Model 1897 shotgun and give him my opinion of the gun. At first glance I could see the gun had been re-blued, and the engraving pattern was not a standard Winchester pattern. The breech bolt is engraved “TRAP (JUW which is correct for the period of manufacture. The stocks and checkering are also correct. He asked me if I could identify the person who engraved the gun. At a later date I received photos that assisted me when looking for information about the engraving. After contacting a former Winchester engraver, a Winchester Model 1897 consultant, and a Winchester historian all my efforts came to a

dead end. As you can see from the photos the engraving is very well executed. This shotgun was not engraved by a moron with a horseshoe and a ball-peen hammer.



Serial #254066 (Circa 1904) 12 gauge, 30 inch barrel, full choke.
Checked - Semi-Pistol grip stock with small forearm .
Non Factory - Engraved.

I contacted the collector and asked him to bring this shotgun to the 2013 NRA Meeting in Houston. TX. This second firsthand look confirmed the notes I had taken a year earlier. The factory records indicate that this 1897 shotgun had the serial number applied on August 10, 1904 and was received at the warehouse on August 17, 1904 and shipped the same day. From these records we also see the gun was returned for “Repair” on the following dates: October 20, 1904. March 10, 1905, March 29, 1905 and August 2. 1905. Unfortunately, the records do not indicate the required repairs. A factory re-blued gun in this time frame may be marked on the bottom of the barrel “REFINISHED.” The barrel on this shotgun is not marked refinished.

As collectors, we often dismiss refinished firearms and therefore do not include them as part of our collection. As an appraiser and consultant on Winchester and other American firearms, I too feel this may be the case. Sometimes we encounter firearms that we may want to give a little more respect. One gentleman I contacted while researching this shotgun immediately asked me, “Is the shotgun for sale?”

The Winchester Model 1897 shotgun was made from 1897 to 1957, outselling all of the competitors during the production of well over one million guns. The Antique and Pre-WWII Model 1897 shotguns offer an extensive range of variations for collectors.

As we all know, many Winchester shotguns have been non-factory engraved and upgraded over the years. Excellent examples of this are seen on the Winchester Model 21, 12, and 42. Very seldom do we come in contact with a Winchester Model 1897 that has been non-factory upgraded. Over the years I have been asked to examine engraved Winchester shotguns. The larger percentage of these guns was not factory engraved!

This Winchester Model 1897 shotgun intrigued me from the first moment I saw it. The period of manufacture, the variation and the excellent engraving are all features that peaked my interest.



Shotgun Win 1897 Receiver - right side engraving.



Shotgun Win 1897 Receiver - left side engraving.

Photos by trackofthewolf.com

Arming the Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866

By Stephen E. Osman

Civil War cavalrymen were the eyes of the army. Mounted on horseback they scouted, raided and protected the flanks of larger units. Most cavalrymen were armed with a short, breech loading carbine, a percussion revolver, and a saber. They were trained to fight both on horseback and on foot and although they rode to battle they were responsible each day to care for their horse before attending to their own needs. Cavalry weapons and equipment have long been in great demand by collectors.



Magliore Robideaux, Company K, Minnesota Mounted Rangers carries his Smith carbine on the issue leather shoulder sling with snaphook. Courtesy Robideaux family.

Minnesota fielded only three companies of cavalry - around 300 men - in 1861, the first year of the Civil War. But by 1864 the state had some thirty cavalry companies in the field, plus a full regiment of infantry temporarily on horseback. The tragic Dakota Conflict of August/September 1862 demonstrated the essential need for mounted troops to patrol the frontier and conduct massive summer expeditions intended to push hostile Indians west of the Missouri River. These troopers, a sixth of Minnesota's 24,000 Civil War soldiers, required steamboat loads of equipment, thousands of horses and mules, hundreds of supply wagons - and over ten thousand small arms including revolvers, carbines and sabers. All had to be shipped up the Mississippi River to Minnesota, because that is where every Minnesota cavalryman after September 1862 served most of his enlistment. When those men were mustered out as late as June 1866 - 14 months after Lee's surrender - they could purchase their arms at government cost. Many chose to do so and this has left a nice assortment of artifacts for today's collectors. But what did those cavalrymen carry?

Military units inventoried and reported their government owned gear in writing every three months. While clothing was allotted to each man and over or under issues tracked at payday, accouterments, weapons, ammunition, and camp equipage were tallied in Quarterly Returns of Ordnance. Starting with the fourth quarter of 1862, these hand written reports, though incomplete, are available on microfilm at the National Archives.¹ The returns show the type and number of each weapon in the hands of each company at the end of each quarter. Except for the three companies of Minnesota Cavalry serving in the south with the Fifth Iowa Cavalry from 1861, all the state's mounted units have a complete record through the summer of 1864. Let's look at what the returns say.

Minnesota's quota under Washington's two massive calls for troops in 1862 was met by a new twelve month unit known as the First Regiment Minnesota Mounted Rangers. Recruits were enlisting in squads and forming companies just as the Dakota were driven out of the state in September. The hard luck Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, surrendered by their colonel at Murfreesboro Tennessee in July, was exchanged just in time to help defeat the Dakota at the Battle of Wood Lake near Granite Falls. Soon a portion of that unit was temporarily mounted and issued newly arrived horse equipment and Sharps Carbines. Their hard riding ensured Brigadier General Henry Hastings Sibley's forces that Dakota warriors had in fact left the state. The new cavalry equipment was turned over to the Mounted Rangers in early winter as the Third Infantry again headed south.

The Rangers spent the long winter following the Dakota Conflict in small garrisons along a defensive line of quickly built stockades and sod forts running north to south. They rode dawn patrols daily to watch for



Obsolete rifled Hall Carbines were issued to Bracken's Battalion Minnesota Cavalry in 1861. This carbine was carried by Frank Vandiveer of the Second Illinois Cavalry. Courtesy MWCA member collection.

¹ The National Archives finding aid describing this collection is here: [http://www.brettschulte.net/CWffug/wpcontent/uploads/2011/02/M1281 .pdf](http://www.brettschulte.net/CWffug/wpcontent/uploads/2011/02/M1281.pdf)

Arming the Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866, continued

Indian sign in the fresh dew along the trails, and reported back to regimental headquarters at St. Peter. The next summer they trekked through a barren Dakota Territory with the Sibley Expedition. Minnesota Infantrymen and hundreds of supply wagons² endured heat and bad water with them, but with mixed results. When they mustered out in the fall of 1863 many men promptly reenlisted for three years in the newly formed Second Regiment Minnesota Cavalry. Early on Company B of the Mounted Rangers reported carrying 100 Sharps Rifles, still inventoried in March 1863. By then three other companies had Sharps Carbines. Six companies had revolvers. Five reported the 36 caliber Whitney Navy but 25 men of Company F carried what was described as the Whitney Army, Caliber 44.³ That same company carried the M1840 Cavalry Sabre, while most of the other companies carried the M1860 Light Cavalry Sabre. In July 1863, three companies carried Sharps Carbines (the rifles had been replaced) and eight carried Smith Carbines. A rubber erasing for one of their carbines was found in the Fort Snelling well, sealed over in 1862. By the summer of 1863 five companies had the Whitney Navy, five companies the M1860 Colt Army, caliber 44, one company half and half, and Company F still had four of those mysterious Whitney Army revolvers. What a nightmare for the poor ordnance officer!



Whitney Navy Revolver number XXX was one of at least two found in St Peter missing parts. Unserviceable revolvers may have been cannibalized and discarded at Mounted Rangers headquarters there. Courtesy MWCA member collection.



Joseph McCloud, Company M, Minnesota Mounted Rangers, was mapmaker for the 1863 Sibley Expedition. He is armed with a Sharps Carbine and Whitney Navy Revolver (though his company reported M1860 Colts.)
Courtesy MWCA member collection

The Sharps Carbine was the most widely used Civil War carbine with around 90,000 purchased by the government and issued to nearly 100 units by 1865. With a dropping breech block actuated by hinged trigger guard, the percussion weapon used a 52 caliber paper or waxed linen cartridge. Up to 40 cartridges could be fired in a little over three minutes - four times the rate of fire of an infantry rifle musket. The Smith Carbine was break action weapon that hinged open using a lever inside the trigger guard. Also percussion, it took a 50 caliber rubber or paper covered brass foil cartridge. Around 30,000 Smiths were purchased and issued to Union cavalymen, including some companies of the Minnesota Mounted Rangers and Second Cavalry. A few Minnesota companies carried the Burnside Carbine with its upwardly tilting breech block that took a 54 caliber brass, ice cream cone shaped percussion cartridge. Whitney Navy Revolvers were a practical competitor to the Colt and around half of the 25,000 or more produced in the second model went to the military. Most issued to Minnesota cavalymen were well used in four years of active service in the saddle. The large and powerful Colt M1860 Army Revolver saw widespread use, with over 127,000 being purchased under contract for the military. Around half of the Minnesota cavalymen carried these in their last year of service.

Major Edmund Hatch's Independent Battalion was raised in the summer of 1863 but not initially under control of Department of the Northwest, District of Minnesota Commander Brigadier General Henry Hastings Sibley. In October it marched to far off and frigid Pembina to prevent incursions of exiled Dakota warriors from Canada. Two of the Battalion's initial three companies carried Burnside Carbines with the third carrying Burnside, Sharps and Smith Carbines; all carried

² See General Sibley's Contraband Teamsters by Stephen E. Osman in Minnesota's Heritage, No. 7, January 2013 for an account of the large group of African Americans brought to Minnesota for the 1863 expedition.

³ Although an army model Whitney is listed in the ordnance returns, only the 36 caliber Navy model was produced and issued. What Company F of the Mounted Rangers actually carried is open to speculation.

Arming the Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866, continued



George Brent, Company D, Minnesota Mounted Rangers is armed with a Sharps carbine. He was killed by accident on the 1863 Sibley Expedition. Courtesy Wayne Jorgenson.

Colt Army Revolvers. The Battalion was soon joined by a fourth company, and by September 30, 1864 only Company A at Fort Abercrombie retained the Bumsides, with the other companies now carrying Smiths except for a handful of Sharps and Burnside's in Company C. Two more companies joined the Battalion in August and September of 1864. With quarterly returns missing for their period of service there is no easy documentation for their weaponry. Hatch's Battalion finally mustered out in May and June of 1866.

The Second Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry, a twelve company, 1200 man unit was raised in the summer and fall of 1863 for service in Minnesota. When it departed Fort Ridgely to join the Northwestern Indian Expedition of 1864 its silver bugle band, mounted on white horses, played *The Girl I Left Behind Me*. That summer Companies B and F carried Sharps Carbines while the other companies used Smith Carbines. Only seven companies were fully armed with revolvers, four with the Colt Army and three with the Whitney Navy, many undoubtedly recycled from the weapons turned in by the Minnesota Mounted Rangers.

Bracken's Battalion, Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry also went into Dakota Territory as part of the Expedition. The three companies with veteran experience in the south had started off with obsolete Hall Carbines, made in the 1850s and sold as surplus in 1861. Enterprising businessmen rifled the carbines and sold them back to the government at a huge profit. But by 1864 the Battalion was back home, reenlisted and bolstered by a fourth company, and now carrying new Sharps Carbines issued at Fort Snelling. Colt Army revolvers and sabers completed their weaponry. Both the Second Cavalry and Bracktt's Battalion would continue to serve a full year after the Civil War ended for most other volunteer units.

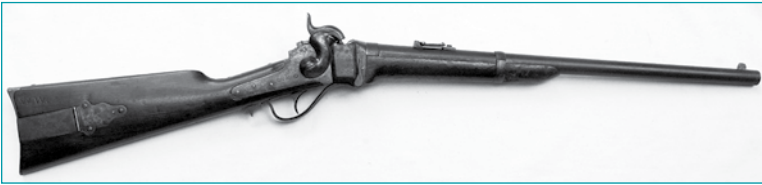
In the summer of 1864 the Eight Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer infantry had finished two winters in small garrisons protecting the center part of the state. Now they would take to the field with the Northwestern Indian Expedition, but as a mounted regiment. Previously only their Company K was on horseback (with no report of weaponry), but this entire Expedition would be on fast moving horses. The other Eight Infantry companies were now furnished small but hardy Canadian ponies and a full set of cavalry equipment - except weapons. They had to learn to balance their infantry rifle muskets across saddle pommels. Cavalry training was memorable for these seasoned veterans: "To mount a regiment of big infantrymen on these little green animals was a somewhat amusing as well as troublesome performance. The man generally was not a horseman; he had a long rifle, cartridge box, haversack and knapsack, besides his blankets and horse equipment. The horses and equipments were issued by companies, and, after getting them, the company would take the whole outfit out to the open plain, get them together and saddle the ponies, then mount, and the fun commenced..., in ten seconds some would be in their saddles, some tearing away, and some all tangled up—man, horse and equipments a confused mass of animation and curses."⁴ The Eighth played their part in the Expedition and the decisive



John Garvey was a 40 year old Irish immigrant when he mustered into Company I, Second Minnesota Cavalry. He proudly displays his new Smith carbine. Courtesy private collection.

⁴ William H. Houton, 'Narrative of the Eighth Regiment.', *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, St. Paul, 1890, 88.

Arming the Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866, continued



The Sharps Carbine was the most widely used carbine during the Civil War, Courtesy MWCA member collection.

Battle of Killdeer Mountain in Dakota Territory. They were still carrying the same M1861 Rifle Muskets when they turned over their horses and finally headed south in October 1864.

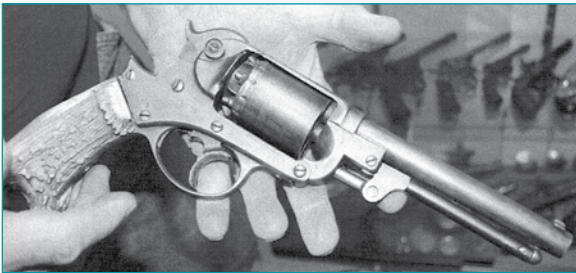
Documented examples of weapons carried by Minnesota cavalymen exist in collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and county

societies, and in several private collections. The Brown County Historical Society in New Ulm exhibits several examples. Unfortunately none of the extant Minnesota regimental or company record books, unlike those of some other states, list weapon issues by serial number. Collectors must rely on family provenance to identify carbines or revolvers that helped defend the frontier and encourage resettlement of the western counties in 1863 and ensure Minnesota's safety after the successful Northwestern Indian Expedition of 1864. The long and challenging service of those many companies of Minnesota Cavalry at hundreds of scattered outposts and marching thousands of miles chasing Dakota warriors is little remembered today. Although most of them never faced Confederates, they fulfilled a mission of far more strategic importance to their families and their state.

If Only They Could Talk

by Tom Stelter

Have you ever wondered about the history of a gun in your collection?



Take a look at this government issued double action Starr from the Civil War dated 1859 that has been used and abused over the years. I just want to know how and what this gun was used for.

If only it could talk. The gun always intrigued me and if it could talk, what would it say? If it was in the Civil War, where did

it go after the Civil War? It disappeared off the market place for many years and then it came back and found it's way into my hands.

I knew Art Shanabrook had purchased this gun at a flea market back in the early 70's for Twenty bucks. He told me that the gun had come from Montana. I found this gun to be very intriguing and told Art that if he ever wanted to sell it, I'd like to buy it.

The Shanabrook name died off and years later, I saw this gun on Dale Peterson's table at the Heritage show. I remembered this gun as the unique Antler handle was in rough shape like it had been used as a hammer. I just wanted to know where this gun had been. I told Dale that I knew a guy who had owned that gun. He did not believe me but I told him that I had seen this gun in the 1970's and wanted to buy it at that time. Dale sold me the gun that day. I still look at this gun in my collection and think, "If only it could talk," I would discover where this gun has traveled since the time of the Civil War.



Brief History of the Double Action 1858 Starr

By Dale Peterson

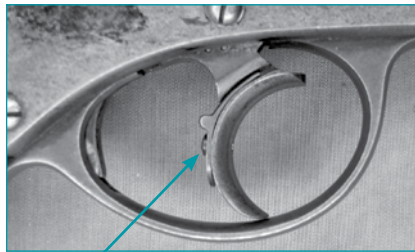
The Starr Arms Company was located in New York City where they produced the 1858 DA Starr revolver which was manufactured in the late 1850s - early 1860s - with a total of about 23,000 being produced. The



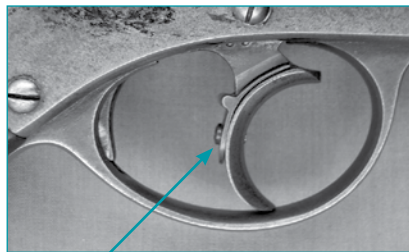
Cartouche Left Grip



Cartouche Right Grip



Single Action Position



Double Action Position

US government purchased the majority of the DA models for use in the Civil War, and these will be found with a cartouche (inspectors mark) on both sides of the grips. It is a six shot revolver in 44 caliber which was known as the Army Model and there was also a 36 caliber DA manufactured which was known as the Navy Model.

It had quite a unique patent as it could be fired either double action or single action. There is a device behind the trigger that slides up and down; when in the up position it is in the double action mode and when in the down position it can be fired as a single action revolver. When in the single action

position the trigger will cock the hammer but the hammer will not fall. The sear located to the rear of the inside of the trigger guard acts as the trigger and the hammer will fall when this is squeezed.

These double action revolvers were very expensive to produce and cost Uncle Sam \$25.00 each. Starr later produced an 1863 Single Action Army revolver with the same basic appearance of the double action but was much cheaper and the government paid \$12.00 each for these and purchased about 25,000 of them.

Ship Arms, Bark Galveston

2	Chas De Vincennes (Iron) Rifle Sabre Bayonet @ 3.50	7.00
10	Prussian Rifled Muskets & Bayonets Cal 69 @ 1.75	17.50
1	Remingtons Army Revolver "2d hand"	6.50
1	Starrs " " "	7.00
550	Musket Cartridges Cal 69 @ 2.50	13.75
2	Boxes Goldmarks Pistol Caps 1/10 @ .25	.50
2M	Musket Caps 1/4 UMC&Co @ 1.00	2.00
100	Colts Pistol Cartridges 44/100	1.50
	Cartage	.75
		50.50

Excerpt from Houze's Book "Arming the West"

It does not list them as carbines or revolvers but by the price listed I would say they are Starr revolvers.

I don't know if this helps Tom Stelter in deciding where his Starr went, came from or where it was used but the STARR revolvers played an active part in the forming of our county.

References: Civil War Firearms by John f. Graf, Arming the Westby Herbert G. Houze, Flaydernnan's Guide by Norm Fiaydernnan, Internet site Wikipedia.

In his book Arming the West, Herbert G. Houze lists Schuyler, Hartly & Graham's arms shipments to the American Frontier from 1868 to 1886. On pages 122 and 123 the list for Ship Arms, Bark Galveston on June 25, 1868 and July 1, 1868 included several Stags.

June 29 (Journal 1, page 12)

8	Roman Swords @ 1.00	8.00
1	Cavalry Sabre "Light"	2.00

Cartage .75

10.75

July 1, 1868 (Journal 1, page 13)

6	Starrs Army Pistols 44 Cal @ 7.00	42.00
6	Remington Navy " 36 Cal @ 8.50	51.00
600	Colts Cartridges 44 " @ 1.50	9.00
600	" " " 36 " @ 1.25	7.50
12	Boxes Goldmark Colts Pistol Caps 1/10 @ .25	3.00
6	Walsh 10 Shot Brass Mounted }	
600	Colts Cartridges #31 } @ 8.25	49.50
6	Boxes Goldmarks Colt Pistol Caps 1/10 }	

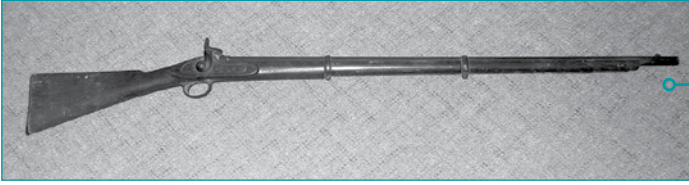
160.00

"The above goods are to be oiled and packed in box and marked Ship Arms "B"
No charge for Cartage and box goods to be sent to No 56 South St Invoice and and [sic] Shipping receipt to C. H. Mallory & Co
153 Maiden Lane -
"a/c Transferred to 19 Maiden Lane & bill shipped from there"
NOTE: The total cost for both shipments amounted to \$227.25.

Excerpt from Houze's Book "Arming the West"

Confederate Barnett Musket

by Dale H Peterson



"I can't believe it" was Scott Burliegh's comment as he pulled this musket out of the case. At the last HAS¹ meeting Scott brought an Enfield musket for show and tell and to his amazement another one showed up.

Scott picked up his at a flea market several months ago and I had purchased this one locally. I thought it unusual to find Civil War Confederate muskets in this area as I had several of them about 4 years ago. See the MWCA Bulletin article "Confederate Firearms" in Volume No. 23, Issue No. 1 Winter 2009. I figured that most of the Confederate firearms had been destroyed or confiscated by the Union but I guess the Union troops, just as the soldiers of today, picked up a couple of souvenirs to bring home.

The North, as well as the South, purchased many Enfield muskets during the Civil War. The Confederacy had no factories set up to produce firearms on the volume that was needed. Therefore, many were purchased from England. Major Caleb Huse C.S.A. was the Confederacy's chief purchasing agent in Europe, and the London firm of S Isaac Campbell & Co., a contractor and manufacturer of all types of military hardware. The purchases made by Huse were through this firm.

The Confederate muskets differ from the Union muskets in the inspector's marks on the stock. The cartouche, inspectors stamp, called the "Viewers" mark is located on the left side of the stock above the trigger guard. The "Viewers" job was to inspect rifles bought by the Isaac Campbell Co. through the various companies, making sure they were of the best quality. After inspection and checking the weapons, the "Viewer" stamped the gun with his "mark" passing them fit for service. The "IC" stands for the Isaac Campbell & Co. and the "IC" in the oval is the mark of Isaac Curtis, the "Viewer." Also found on various Barnett Enfield weapons is the stamp "CH". It is believed that this is the mark of another by the name of Hughes.



The musket in this article is by John Edward Barnett & Sons and it is an Enfield Model 1853. These guns were of superior quality with fully interchangeable parts compared to the poorer quality Birmingham small arms trade guns. Barnett was the biggest supplier to the Confederacy during the first two years of the war.

When purchasing a Civil war musket or any civil war item it is these small details such as inspector's marks that can truly help you determine the real value of the piece. The Isaac Campbell & Co. marks are found on many Civil War items such as shoes, belts, musket

ball bags, cartridge pouches, knapsacks, swords, buttons and trousers. The Confederate items are harder to find as they are few and far between thus being more valuable.

References: Major Caleb Huse C.S.A. & S Isaac Campbell & Co. by David Burt, Historical Arms Society.

Note from Steve Osman, Military Historian: Back in the late 1960s a firm called CSS Alabama, Ltd. stamped a large quantity of antique British military leather goods with spurious stamps, including S. Isasc Campbell. They also produced tens of thousands of fake buttons and belt plates with the same markings. Be extremely cautious with items thus marked, possible one of these fakes mass-marketed through SHOTGUN NEWS advertisements.

¹ HAS: The Historical Arms Society, a small group of dedicated arms collectors, formed about 20 plus years ago, who share a common interest in collecting antique weapons.

My Reflections on the MWCA

by Dale H. Peterson

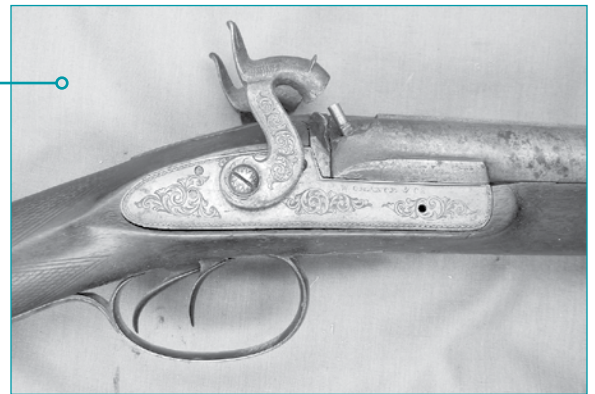
In the year 1954 two unrelated events took place in my life but the later event became a bigger part of my life than the first. I graduated from high school in 1954 and the MWCA was formed that same year, some 60 years ago. The first MWCA shows were held in the Old Stage Coach Restaurant in Shakopee, Minnesota by a group of gentlemen who had a mutual historical interest in old firearms.



Ozzie Klavastad, Al Dueis and Chub Bettles are the three men we have to thank for starting this organization; all have since passed away but their dream has lived on and as grown from the first 85 members to well over a 1,000 plus members today.

Ozzie owned the Stage Coach Restaurant and Museum and Al Dueis was a commercial artist who did the cover illustration for the first MWCA bulletins. Chub was an educator and researcher who had a historical interest in old firearms.

My interest in collecting did not start until the 1960s. My father-in-law gave me an old English William Chance double barrel shotgun that was in relic condition after hanging in his milk house on the farm for many years. I spent countless hours cleaning and trying to file out new parts to replace the broken ones but finally gave up. Concluding that I was not a gunsmith, maybe I would just gather up a few old firearms. The Wm Chance was the first piece I saved and it became the start of my collecting. It still sits in a corner of my gun room.



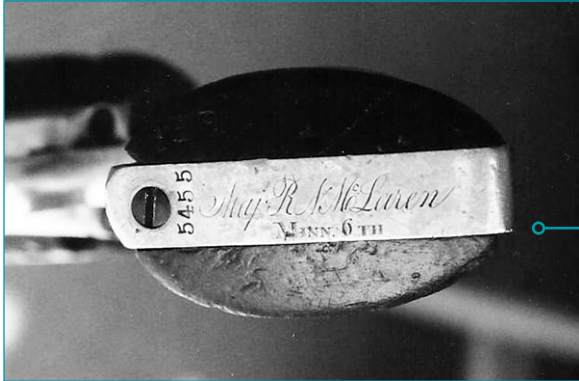
In the 1960s my work involved a lot of traveling to different states, so I was able to visit a number of gun and pawn shops, always checking out the bargains (cheap guns). I was able to pick up a few Saturday-Night Specials and small spur trigger revolvers that were priced in the \$7.00 to \$15.00 range. While on a trip to Kansas City, I found an 1851 Colt Navy that I purchased for around \$75.00. The shop owner let me buy in on-time payments and he shipped it to me several months later. \$75.00 does not seem like a lot of money but, as mentioned in previous articles, we had just purchased a house and had two small kids and there was not much extra money to be spending on such a hobby as gun collecting.

I attended my first gun show with my brother Leo at the old Stage Coach Restaurant in the 1960s. I was quite proud of my '51 Navy and took it to that show. I showed it to a dealer at the first table I stopped at. The dealer, Roy Swedland from Colorado, told me the barrel did not match the gun as it was off a Manhattan Navy. He offered to trade me a 1849 Colt Pocket for it and that seemed like a fair deal, so we swapped. I later found out the Pocket was worth around \$50.00 but it was my first genuine COLT. I guess a fool and his money are soon parted. It is always more exciting to buy the gun first and then buy a reference book later. I was lucky in most cases as things seemed to work out for me in the early years.

Eventually I joined the MWCA, I think in 1962 or 1963, and started attending the shows which were mostly held at the Anoka Armory. Clair Eigen was a big influence in my life. We became good friends and would travel and set up together at most MWCA shows. Clair has since given up the gun business and settled down in South Dakota raising Angus cattle. After Clair headed west I teamed up with Mike Stanton. We traveled together to major guns shows for over 20 years. Mike's philosophy was to buy good quality firearms as they never seem to lose their value. I've told many young collectors this same thing. Don't buy a Winchester commemorative rifle. Save your money and buy a nice old 1873 Winchester.

My Reflections on the MWCA, continued

Roland Olafson, who I bought my first 1873 Winchester from for \$80.00, was very active in the MWCA and held the treasurer position for a number of years. His son Paul still attends MWCA shows. That same 73 Winchester today would probably sell for around \$1,000.00 to \$1,250.00. Old guns are fun to own and in most cases are a good investment.



Chub Bettles, a charter member, and Fred Maurer were always interested in any new pieces I picked up for my collection so it was fun to share with them any new "treasure" I had found. Fred was interested in old Remingtons. One revolver in particular was an 1861 Colt Navy with an inscribed back strap "Maj. Robt. N. Mc Laren Minnesota 6 th". Chub sure got excited over that revolver as he was a real history nut. He kept pushing me to call the Minnesota Historical Society to research the revolver. I finally spent some time there and got a packet of information on McLaren who was involved in the Minnesota Sioux Up Rising and used the pistol in several battles. Chub was glad I checked it

out as he was sure there was a little history behind that old Colt revolver. Many old firearms can be researched either through your local historical society or by contacting the factory for a letter, such as Colt, Smith & Wesson, Winchester etc.

Some of the early purchases that I still have are a \$75.00 Smith & Wesson No. 3 American with the original rig. I purchased this from my hometown blacksmith. He said it belonged to his great-uncle who was a stage coach driver in the southwest during the 1870s. A letter from Smith & Wesson confirmed that it was shipped in 1870 so I believe it did belong



to his great-uncle. I bought a Starr .44 Army Single Action for an outrageous price of \$90.00, at the time that seemed like a small fortune. A small spur trigger H&A Victor Model 22 cal cost me about \$10.00 or \$15.00.



Most Lugers were around \$75.00. I remember a guy wanted \$75.00 for a 1911 and he would not take my \$50.00 offer, so I missed that one. Civil War carbines were priced from \$40.00 to \$100.00 depending upon condition. I paid \$20.00 for my first Springfield 45-70 musket. They were in ready supply. It was in real decent condition. Several years later I picked up a mint one for \$150.00. There were plenty of good quality collectable guns around at the time but it is all relative. I was making around 8 grand a year at the time which compared to the average salary today would be in the mid 30 to 40 range.

The biggest gun deal I witnessed was at an Anoka Armory show when Ed Kokoski paid Woody Hawkinson, from Circle, Montana, around \$20,000 cash for a Winchester Model 1873 "One of One Thousand." I guess the same gun today would sell for around \$150,000 plus. Woody said he needed a new Cadillac. Boy, that deal really blew me away.

MWCA shows have really changed over the past 60 years, from the small shows at the Stage Coach, Shakopee - Saulpaugh Hotel, Mankato - Hotel Saulding, Duluth - Hotel Kahler, Rochester - Anoka Armory, and the larger shows held in Wisconsin, Braemar Arena, Hopkins - Cottage Grove High School (where a 45 auto went off;

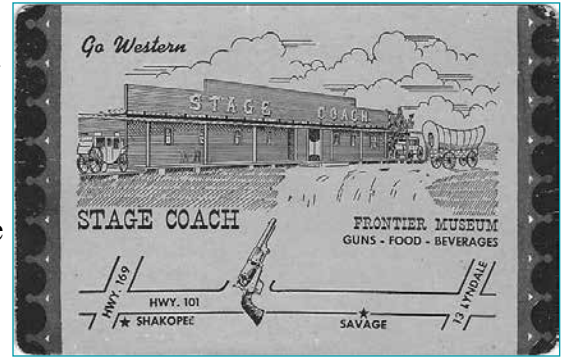
My Reflections on the MWCA, continued

thank God no one was hurt) - and Old Met Center, Bloomington. Our president at the time was George McGinnis, who fancied himself a big-time dealer. He invited all the BIG dealers from the east coast; even the BATF showed up and had a table. If I remember right, the show was a real bust. Minneapolis Auditorium & Convention Center - Rochester Civic Center (remember the old stage) - Horse Barn at the State Fair Grounds (where we had the show on a dirt floor, the tables sank into the dirt and the dust followed the people as they walk down the aisles) - Owatona - Hutchinson - and the St. Paul XL-Center.

If you were a purest you would have really enjoyed the early shows with all the fine collectable weapons that were available. At most of those early shows we had many exhibitors from different states attend the show. This brought a greater variety of collectables and characters to each show. We still have several charter members who occasionally attend some of the shows including Stan Nelson who worked at the Stage Coach. Stan still contributes articles to the MWCA Bulletin. Also Jim Jirle who was a bar tender at the Stage Coach and Don Galloway.

We still had guys who wanted to turn it into a flea market. One exhibitor wanted to sell chain saws because they were made by Remington. Others kept trying to include watches, toy military cars, kerosene lamps, and if the wife came along she seemed to bring some of her crocheting along to sell. I know we can not go back to those early days because of the number of tables we need to fill to make the show profitable, but it would be nice if some of the exhibitors would start policing themselves and leave some of the junk off their tables that seems to be filtering into the shows.

I have enjoyed my 50 some years attending the MWCA shows and hope to attend a few more before I retire from all this fun. I have met and made many good friends over the past years. Many have passed away, but a few are still around putting up with my cantankerous disposition, and I hope you will have to for a few more years.



The first MWCA shows were held in the Old Stage Coach Restaurant in Shakopee, Minnesota



Dale Peterson and Claire Eigen



25th Annual Heritage Arms Society's Antique Arms Collectors Show

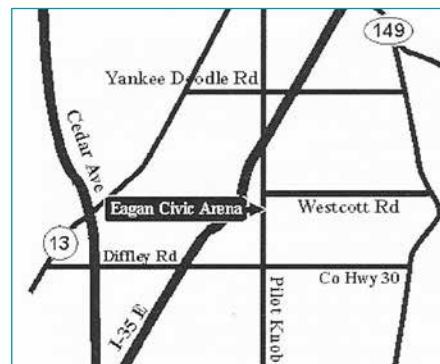
Friday, March 28, 2014 • 12:00 - 6:00 PM
(members & exhibitors only)
Public Welcome — Admission \$5.00
Free Parking all day

This is Minnesota's longest-running show dedicated exclusively to antique sporting arms, accouterments, ammunition, edged weapons and militaria produced from pre-Colonial days through WW 2.

This vetted quality arms show is sponsored and attended by leading collectors who offer and display historical, antique & collectable arms & related items.

Only legal historic arms and related items produced before 1945 are allowed.

Eagan Civic Arena
3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, Minnesota.
One mile South of 35E on Pilot Knob Road.
(3 miles South of 494)



Future Show Dates:
March 28, 2015
March 26, 2016

MWCA Contributes

Among the many contributions MWCA makes annually, shaping the future for our youth is of utmost importance. Examples include firearms safety and marksmanship training. We were pleased to contribute a total of \$35,000 to the following organizations during 2013:

- National Rifle Association Museum Fund
- National Rifle Association Foundation
- American Legion Richfield Post 435 Gun Club
- Capable Partners
- Minnesota Volunteer Safety Instructors Assn.
- Red Arrow Camp Youth Shooting Program
- Minnetonka Game and Fish Club
- City of Edina Firearms Safety Classes
- Anoka High School Clay Target Club
- Minnesota State High School Clay Target League
- Buffalo Minnesota Youth Shooting Sports
- Owatonna Gun Club Youth Programs
- Scott County Youth Firearms Safety
- Bald Eagle Sportsman's Association
- Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Waterville - Elysian - Morristown Clay Target
- Key Cities Conservation Club Youth Program
- Gun Owners Civil Rights Alliance
- South Metro Friends of NRA
- Minnesota Shooting Sports Association

“Women On Target”



MWCA's contribution to the Minnetonka Game & Fish Club helped over forty ladies attending the annual “Women on Target” get acquainted with a variety of firearms.

MWCA Contribution Recipients



Recipients of MWCA contributions in 2013 were invited to our December show to receive their checks and to be recognized for their work. Several are pictured here.

Tomahawk Boy Scout Camp BB Gun Range



Scott County Youth Firearms Safety



Edina Firearms Safety Group



Meet Your 2014 Board Of Directors

Mark Reese is the new President, Jim Moores is Vice President, Brian VanKleek is Secretary and Alvin Olson is Treasurer. If you have any question and/or suggestion about MWCA policies, show rules etc., they will be glad to answer them.



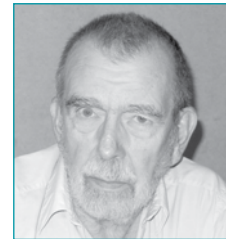
Mark Reese
President



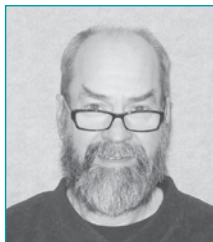
Jim Moores
Vice President



Brian VanKleek
Secretary



Alvin Olson
Treasurer



David Hinrichs



John Chappuie



Dale H Peterson
Directors



Ed Pohl



Larry Rogers

Date: August 5, 2013
To: Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Board of Directors
From: David Strand
Regarding: My Retirement from the Board

I have been a member of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association for 43 years, and I have served on the Board of Directors for the last 25 years. The MWCA is an outstanding organization and I have been proud to be a part of it.

It is now time for me to retire from the MWCA Board of Directors in order to make room for new members to serve on the board. Also, due to my health and medical reasons I find I need to retire from the board effective 8/7/2013.

I wish to thank the membership and the Board of the MWCA for the privilege of serving them on the board over the years.

Sincerely, David Strand

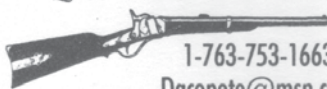


Dave Strand has resigned from the MWCA Board of Directors and Jim Moores was selected by the board to fill the remaining two years of his term. Thank you Dave for the many personal hours of your time that you served on the board.

When you see Dave at a future show, make a special effort to tell him
"THANK YOU!"

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

DALE H. PETERSON
ANTIQUES AND OLD GUNS


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In Memoriam

Bob Nemitz

Bob Nemitz, an early MWCA member from the 1960's passed away June 30th, 2013. Bob was born in Minneapolis on January 27, 1933.

He was a collector of historic firearms and artifacts. He assembled an outstanding collection of Minnesota associated firearms, many shotguns made or marked with a Minnesota address, and Sharps "Buffalo Rifles shipped and sold from St. Paul in 1874.

Bob continued to gather Minnesota guns but after hunting in Africa he started to collect early percussion rifles used in Africa for elephant, rhinos, and buffalos.

His interests included Winchesters, early Colts, fine English shotguns such as Purdeys, Westley Richards, and many other famous makers of "Best Quality" double barreled shotguns.

Bob hunted around the world, even in Japan while he was there in the U.S. Air Force. Africa 5 times, taking Cape Buffalo and Lion. Alaska 6 times for Moose, Brown Bear, and Mountain Sheep. Argentina, Scotland, and Ireland many times. In the fall he was always in the fields of North Dakota, the plains of Canada and the woods and fields of Minnesota.

His knowledge of firearms and hunting was available to any who asked. Bob was a friendly face at many MWCA and HAS shows. A great guy and friend to all. He will be missed.



Roger "Squeak" Braam

Roger "Squeak" Braam of St. Peter MN, longtime resident and business owner, passed away at the age of 64 on June 23rd, 2013. Roger was born on August 27th 1948 in Mankato MN.

Roger opened Shotguns Plus in 1991. He was a dedicated business man for over 20 years attending up to 47 gun shows each year. He was known as a staple by many other dealers as well as attendees of these shows. Roger was an integral part of many organizations in the St. Peter area including Pheasants Forever,

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association and the National Rifle Association.

Bert Sutton

Bert Sutton was a long-time member of the MWCA. He attended most of the shows and always had a few good Colts and Winchesters for sale. He, along with all of our departed fellow collectors, will be greatly missed. We wish to extend our sympathy to their friends and families.



Harlan Krinke

Harlan Krinke was a serious collector who attend most of the MWCA show for years.

