

M·W·C·A

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Official Publication

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JANUARY 2016



Colt Model 1908 .25 Caliber Pistols, Mother of Pearl Grip Variations. See page 20 for the story.

“The Ultimate Field Test”

See page 10 for the story.

M • W • C • A News

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Official Publication of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

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

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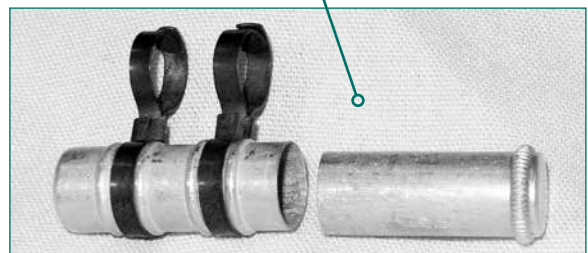
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GUESS THE GUN!



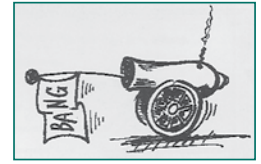
**Win a FREE business card size ad (\$25 value).
First five correct entries win!
Call Dale at 763-753-1663**

For the answer to last issue's "Guess the Gun,"
see page 23.



Good luck on this issue's "Guess the Gun" and
remember, the first 5 winners will receive a FREE
business card ad in the next MWCA News.

The President's Shot



2016 President's Shot

President Obama has failed to get legislation passed that is restrictive to gun owner's rights, so he decided to take executive action. His executive orders will be implemented by the ATF and by doctors whose doctor/patient confidential relationship will no longer exist. There will be court challenges and some of the orders may not be implemented.

What we can take from this is that the fight to restrict gun owner's rights will be significant in the upcoming elections. Gun owners and 2nd amendment supporters are only one Supreme Court nomination away from losing, as the recent court decisions regarding 2nd amendment issues have been decided by one vote.

As members of the MWCA, it is important to both exercise your constitutional rights and be vocal in your support of these rights. Be active in the political process by voting, contacting your current legislative leaders and discussing the issues with family and friends.

2016 is a critical election for us; hopefully, the 2017 MWCA President's letter can be a positive one.

David Hinrichs
2016 MWCA President



2016 Show Dates

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

Celebrating 62 Years!

January 16 - 17 Rochester Mayo Civic Center

February 27 - 28 St. Paul RiverCentre

March 19 - 20 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

April 16 - 17 MN State Fair Education Building

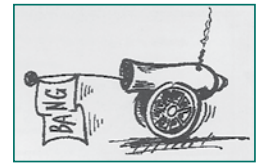
October 1 - 2 MN State Fair Education Building

Annual Trophy Show — Plan Your Display Now!

October 29 - 30 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

December 10 - 11 St. Paul RiverCentre

The President's Shot



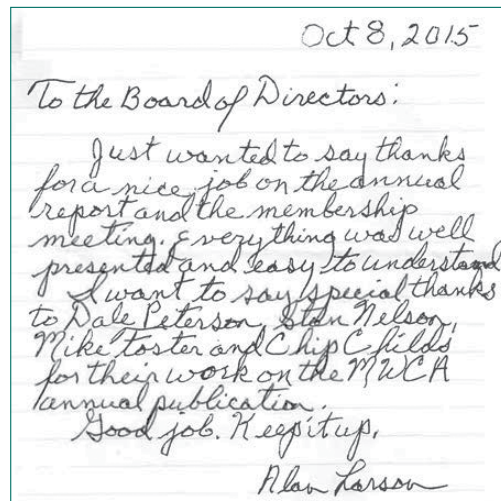
Parting President's Shot

Completing my term as MWCA President, I would like to thank each and every one of you. Your support for me and the MWCA resulted in progress for gun owners and our association.

As most of the country saw efforts to limit gun owners rights, The MWCA with the help of our lobbyist (Mr. Tim Spreck) and testimony from some of our board members resulted in progress in our fight. We managed to get legislation passed allowing the sale and possession of silencers/suppressors. We also managed legislation allowing our "over 60" hunters to use scopes on muzzleloaders. As an association we finalized our college scholarship program and will be accepting applications starting February 1, 2016. (Please see our website for details.)

As we move through 2016 we all must continue to be involved in the process. The upcoming elections could very well determine if we have a future as a gun owner / collector organization. As gun owners we must support and vote for politicians who will in turn support us.

Larry Rogers,
2015 MWCA President



Letter to the Editor

Dear MWCA members;

At the December show I believe an opportunity to promote the MWCA organization was missed. It is my understanding that some of the groups who receive donations from the club solicit them and other groups are chosen to receive the donations. A representative of the organizations receiving a contribution must attend the presentation in person to get their check, but I was quite surprised at the high attendance by the young participants in the shooting sports and other organizations.

These young people were not required to be there, but wanted to participate. I know getting interrupted during a sale isn't always convenient, but I felt that these young people and their leaders deserved a moment of our attention and maybe a round of applause or two. Not only are they going to be future members of the MWCA, but they are future customers as well.

If each MWCA member doesn't do what they can to promote the organization by encouraging our children, our children's children and even our neighbors children to participate in shooting sports and the collecting of firearms and associated accessories, we won't have to worry about legislation closing gun shows, we'll have done it to ourselves with apathy.

Sincerely,
Kathy Lambert

MWCA 2015 Trophy Show

The annual show was held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds on Oct 31st - November 1st in the State Fair Coliseum Building. There were 16 displays this year and 3,000 public, plus members, in attendance at the show. Congratulations to all the winners and "Thank You" to those that exhibited even if you did not win an award. You are appreciated by all for your efforts. Thanks to Ed Pohl who heads up the Trophy Show Committee and selects the judges and the awards. Again thank you to this year's judges for donating your time and efforts to make this another successful show.



Ground "0," where the action is.



MWCA President Larry Rogers presents Dale Peterson with "The Best of Show" award.



The Winners

MWCA 2015 Trophy Show, continued



Al Boehne's "Springfield" display took 1st place in Military Long Guns.



For Antique Long Arms Dennis Delzer captures 1st place with his Schutzen Rifle display.



The Ozzie Klavestad Education award went to Dale Peterson for his "Colt Conversions" display.



Vern Berning took 1st place in Antique Hand Guns for his Smith & Wesson display.



Rob Pfeffer's Carcano Carbine Display won him one of Best Guns at the show award



2nd place in Antique Long Arms went to Ingvar Alm for his unique brass air rifle.

MWCA 2015 Trophy Show, continued



1st place in Modern Hand Guns went to Mike Splittgerber.



Military Handguns of Bob Rolander took 1st place in that category.



Related Items 2nd place went to Bob Rolander.



Jim Moores' 1873 Winchester was awarded 3rd place in the Antique Long Arms category.



Happy Ed Pohl received 3rd place in the Military Long Guns Category.



1st in Modern Long Arms went to Wyatt Carlson.

MWCA 2015 Trophy Show, continued



Ed Pohl received 1st place in Related Items for his military flame throwers.



2nd place for Military Long Guns went to Scott Jensen for his "U S Military Training Rifles".



Bob Rolander's spread.



Tom Morrison and his fine Ammo boxes for sale.



Dennis Delzer and Dennis Larson.



Dr. Davis from Nisswa.

2015 NRA Annual Meeting

By Dale H. Peterson



The 144th Annual NRA Meeting was held in “Music City” Nashville, Tennessee. The streets of Nashville were crowded, especially the Honkytonks on Music Row with the 78,865 (actual NRA count) attending the meeting. There were over 650 booths crammed full of the latest products offered by the major gun manufacturers and any item related to the firearms, hunting, camping and shooting industry.

There were 23 booths reserved for the various collectors groups in an area called “Collectors Row.” The MWCA booth sponsored Rick Simonson’s display entitled “The Guns of Jeff Sweeten, Texas Lawman.” Rick was the winner at our last trophy show with his display. It was enthusiastically received, especially by the Texas crowd, whom the majority of them said that they had never heard of Jeff Sweeten. Those that did thanked us for the display and appreciated the recognition he received. MWCA received two awards: a Certificate of Recognition and a Best Education Display Award. Rumor had it we just missed one of the silver medals that were awarded to the ten best guns of the show. We handed out quite a pile of MWCA literature including magazines, show schedules, cards and silicone cloths. Many attendees at the show were there carrying bags that were handed out by various exhibitors which they filled with anything that was free. Generally they carry one or two bags. Well, this year, we had a “Four Bagger” come by the booth and took four of everything we had. I wonder if any of them ever read all the material they had gathered up or is used for starting fires. I hope a few of them get educated by reading it.

MWCA ranked 3rd among the collector groups attending the longest at the NRA Annual Meeting. Ohio Gun Collectors have been coming for 52 years, Texas Gun collectors for 41 years, MWCA for 36 years, Smith & Wesson Collectors 33 years, Winchester Collectors 30 years and Dallas Gun Collectors 29 years. Other groups registered from there on down with several attending their first year.

I’m proud to say that the MWCA is a major contributor to the NRA Collectors Group with our annual donation. Only one other group contributed to the NRA: North Carolina Arms Collectors. Attending the Annual NRA show is a great experience as it is well attended by gun enthusiasts from all across the USA along with foreign visitors as well. There are programs held daily throughout the complex with interesting speakers and entertainers who love guns and shooting sports.

Next year, the 145th NRA Annual Meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on May 20-22, 2016. I encourage any MWCA members to try to attend.



Rick Simonson manning the booth.



The MWCA Crew.

Thank you to the MN Weapons Collector’s Association (MWCA) for the opportunity to display my Sheriff Jess Sweeten’s collection at the 2015 Annual NRA meeting and convention held in Nashville. This display won “Best Educational Exhibit Combined Arms,” and also a “Certificate of Recognition.”

There were several highlights during the convention. One was listening to Ted Nugent (it was fantastic; Nugent is a great motivator); meeting some of the NRA board of directors was another highlight as well as visiting the civil war, “Battle of Franklin,” south of Nashville, where there were 9500 casualties, 2000 dead, 6500 wounded and about 1000 missing and 6 confederate generals were killed and 11 union soldiers were later awarded the Medal of Honor.

Sincerely, Rick Simonson

The Ultimate Field Test

By Stan Nelson

In 1897 the internationally respected German General Staff published a survey of world military forces. Although this study detailed such powers as Portugal and Montenegro, it excluded the United States Army. Apparently the American's 28,000 officers and men did not constitute an Army in any operational sense of the word (see p 264, Millet & Maslowski, *FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE*, 1984). The validity of that judgement would be soon known; in the next decade the U.S. Military would fight in two foreign wars.

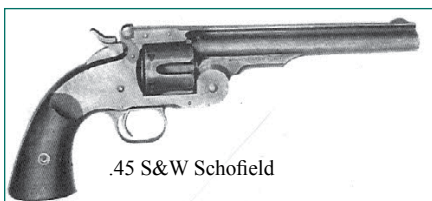
It was true enough that the general appearance of American troops had not changed much during the post-Civil War years when the Army regulars were again fighting Indians instead of Confederates. It took a long time to use up vast stores of civil war equipment. The Army had few friends in congress during this time also, which meant frequent delays in funding for some new training programs. Despite this ongoing ambivalence, by the 1880's enough progressive officers, aided by Commanding General M.T. Sherman, had organized to establish the base for a modern military force.



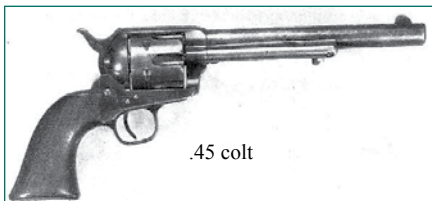
Cavalry and Infantry school, Ft. Leavenworth Kansas 1881.

Schools for both infantry and cavalry were developed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and in 1885 a group of Cavalry Officers founded The U.S. Cavalry Association. This was the first of several professional U.S. Military officer's organizations, and publication of their U.S. Cavalry Journal gave them the opportunity of putting their opinions in print. Needless to say, the word of veteran field officers had considerable influence on decisions made by the Ordnance Dept. in their efforts at modernizing the United States Army. This is a large subject, so this little essay concerns only a part of it, though an important one. Namely, how and why were the standard issue weapons of the period adopted and how effective were they in combat?

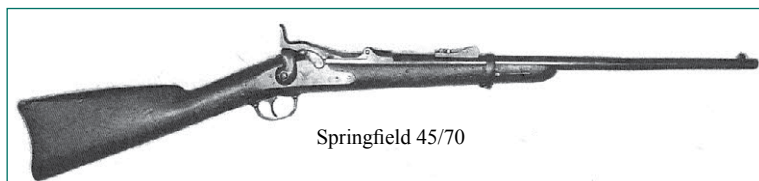
Issue weapons 1873-1892:



.45 S&W Schofield



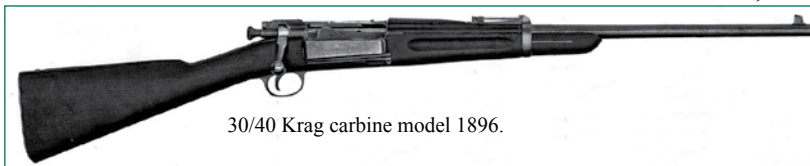
.45 colt



Springfield 45/70

U.S. Ordnance Officers had long been aware of the advances made in European military weapons, having acquired and tested quite a few of them. The trend was toward small caliber, high velocity weapons, both rifles and pistols. American inventors had been handicapped by a scarcity of the latest smokeless powder which had to be purchased in quantity from Belgium. Not until 1905 did the U.S. Army have its own modern smokeless powder plant (see p 264, Millet & Maslowski). In December, 1890 the last "battle" of the Indian Wars took place on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota at an Indian camp on Wounded Knee Creek and it was fought with black powder weapons. But changes were already being made in the standard issue weapons of the U.S. Army.

Extensive testing of various bolt action magazine rifles firing cartridges from .25 to .32 caliber had finally resulted in an agreed upon choice, the Norwegian Krag-Jorgenson rifle in 30/40 caliber. The deciding factor seems to have been the side magazine cut-off which allowed using the rifle as a single shot while keeping the 5 shot magazine in reserve (see p 487 in Parrington. The 30/40 Krag rifle and a later carbine would remain standard issue until 1903, and performed credibly in the Spanish/American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Because of its ultra-smooth bolt action it remained a popular sporting rifle for many years later.

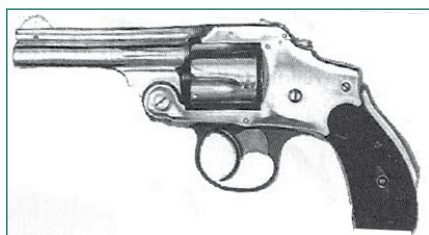


30/40 Krag carbine model 1896.

The Ultimate Field Test, continued

By the 1880's the issued handguns had become a subject of criticism in the Cavalry Journal: the .45 caliber colt and Smith & Wesson Schofield .45 revolvers which had been welcome replacements for the slow-loading .44 caliber percussion revolvers. Some of this carping seems to indicate a sudden awareness of problems inherent in the design of these weapons. Prior to this time there had been no regular target practice, on foot or horseback, to show the defects now being complained of. In March, 1889 5th Cavalry Capt. Wm. P. Hall thought the shortcomings of the Colt revolver "are so numerous, when compared to other revolvers on the market, it is a marvel how long it has been kept ... the S & W Schofield is, if anything, a more indifferent weapon." 10th Cavalry 2nd Lt. Powhatan Clark thought, in the June, 1890 issue, that "Neither of the revolvers now furnished are suitable for the Cavalry." Capt. Hall and Lt. Clark referred to the most common failings of the Colt being its failure to index properly while shooting rapid fire from horseback, and the breakage of small parts.

8th cavalry Capt. R.A. Williams wrote on March, 1889 that he and "Other officers thought that there might have been a falloff in quality of the Gov't issue revolvers compared to the civilian trade version." Capt. Hall wasn't just complaining about the issue revolvers; he was pushing his own favorite handgun. In March, 1889 he wrote directly to the Chief of Ordnance, Gen. S.V. Benet II have the honor to request that twelve hammerless

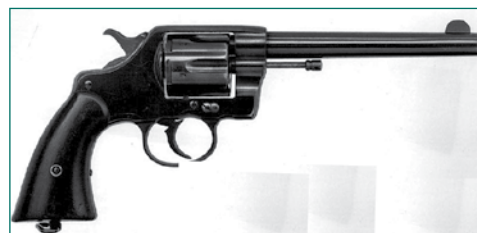


Smith & Wesson .38 double action hammerless revolver.

Smith & Wesson revolvers cal. .38 with six inch barrels be issued to my troop of the 5th cavalry for the purpose of testing their efficiency as a weapon of mounted work." Hall goes on to say that he has used two of these revolvers for over a year, firing several thousand rounds with no problems of any kind. Gen. Benet also heard from 5th cavalry Col. Elmer Otis with praise for the S & W hammerless revolver, having owned one himself. Gen. Benet knew that the Navy had recently adopted the new Colt double action .38 caliber revolver and evidently

this seemed to him an opportunity to assess the advantages of a smaller, reduced caliber sidearm. After some preliminary tests with a couple of these short barrel pocket revolvers Gen. Benet placed an order with Smith & Wesson for 100 of them with six inch barrels. These had to be specially made, so it was not until mid-1890 that they, along with 100 .38 caliber double action 1889 model Colt revolvers (borrowed from the Navy) were issued to various Cavalry Units for comparative field testing (For minute details see chapter 6, Farrington).

Over a year later the field reports from Cavalry officers of units issued these revolvers were on record. Of these thirteen Officers, eleven greatly preferred the 1889 Colt, one the hammerless Smith & Wesson, and one favored keeping the current issue .45 because of its greater stopping power. The major criticism of the hammerless S & W was its small trigger guard and also its 5 shot cylinder. The Colt had a 6 shot cylinder and could also be fired single action as well as double action. And so, in 1892, the .45 caliber Colt "Peacemaker" was retired from the United States Military Service, replaced by a modern double action revolver which would soon be earning its own critics.



Colt .38 double action revolver, adopted 1892.

The 1890s must have been tedious at times for officers and men of the U.S. Army, 80% or so of whom had seen action in the Indian wars. Daily life consisted of routine garrison duty, with a month or so of field exercises and a couple of weeks on the rifle range. The only excitement coming from an occasional call to break up labor strikes or other civil disturbances which state militia units were unable to contain, and in the majority of these incidents the sympathies of the enlisted men were with the strikers or other "trouble makers." Opportunity for the ultimate test of their new weapons came on Feb. 15, 1898 when the American battleship Maine blew up in the harbor near Havana, Cuba, killing 266 Navy personnel. The ship had been there ostensibly protecting American business interests on the Spanish-held island where the native inhabitants had been in revolt since 1895. Spain

The Ultimate Field Test, continued

had already been under attack for its harsh treatment of Cuban natives and the American press now charged it with the destruction of the Maine. The inevitable happened two months later, when Spain declared war on April 15th as did the U.S. on the 17th.

It proved to be a short war, primarily because of the U.S. Navy, which destroyed or blockaded most of the Spanish fleet, thus cutting off supplies to the island ground forces. The fighting on Cuba was sporadic and lasted only about four months, the heaviest fighting occurring in the hills around Santiago where the Krag carbines of several Cavalry regiments proved their worth. Like the much publicized Rough Riders, these troopers were dismounted, as only a few officers had horses. Revolvers saw little use in Cuba, but two known incidents are described by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt in his own book *THE ROUGH RIDERS*, N.Y., 1899. On page 155 he writes "1st. Sgt. Clarence Gould killed a Spanish soldier just as he was aiming at one of my Rough Riders, and about the same time I shot at two retreating Spaniards, missing one but killing the other." Roosevelt used a double action .38 Navy revolver from the sunken Maine, a gift from his brother-in-law, Navy Cpt. Wm. Cowles. He also thought his use of the revolver was unique, until he found later that Gould had also used a revolver. By August 12, 1898 shooting had stopped in this abbreviated war and the costs and profits were added up. Out of 5,462 deaths in the armed services during 1898, 379 occurred in combat, the rest, mostly volunteers, died from typhoid, cholera, and malaria, many in the swampy, unsanitary training camps in the S.E. United States. The real estate wangled from Spain in the Treaty included Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.



Philippine Gen. Aguinaldo.

The Philippines did not turn out to be much of a bargain; the Filipinos had thought we were there to help them get rid of the Spanish. As Russell Roth put it, "America's first Asian war was fought to deny the people of the Philippines their Independence" (see Hennepin County Historical Soc. spring, 1974). The Philippine Insurrection began as a fairly conventional war but after Philippine Leader Aguinaldo's organized units had been shattered by American firepower they changed their tactics, which became the ultimate test for the soldier and his issue weapons. In the introduction to his *PACIFIC DESTINY* N.Y. 1965, Richard O'Connor wrote "It was a long hard guerilla conflict, and a quarter of a million American soldiers and Philippine insurgents were killed between 1898 and 1902 ... and the struggle went on until WW I." Out of the 125,000 American troops involved, 4,200 were killed and 2,800 wounded. Since most of this jungle fighting happened suddenly and at close range the issue handgun became an important weapon, and the Army model Colt .38 often failed the test.

Most of the American officers were veterans of the Indian wars and thus were quick to condemn the .38 and carried their own personal side arms usually a .45 colt or Smith & Wesson. In their published memoirs, journals, etc. one finds comments on the failure of the .38 against the wild tribesmen of the Southern Philippines. In *SOME MEMORIES OF A SOLDIER* N.Y. 1928, Gen. Hugh Scott says on page 316 "One Moro of Jolo was

shot through the body by seven army bullets yet kept coming on with enough force to shear off the leg of an engineer more smoothly than it could have been done by a surgeon." Scott thought the only weapon adequate to melt a Moro in his tracks is a pumpgun loaded with buckshot." Writing in the March, 1905 issue of the *Military Institute Journal* Major R.L. Bullard tells of emptying his issue .38 Colt into several Moros who ran over him while escaping machine gun fire, knowing he had hit them but not hurting them. In the same melee another officer shot a Moro three times at close range and was severely slashed before the Moro was killed by others nearby.



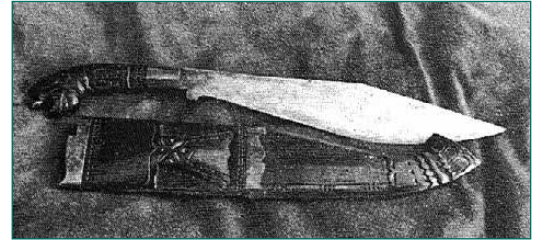
Col. Leonard Wood (back to camera) with his .45 Schofield.

The Ultimate Field Test, continued

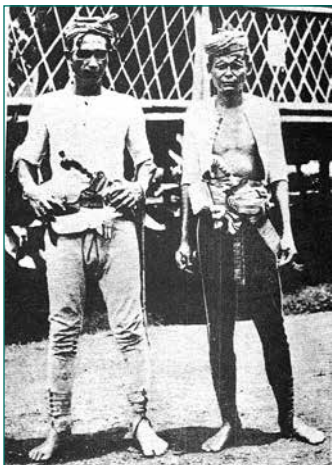


Hadji Abdula, Gen.Scott's well armed bodyguard.

These edged weapons used by the Moros and other tribesman in the Philippines were the same or similar to the bolo knives used to cut sugar cane on the Island plantations, with long heavy curved blades kept razor sharp. As Russell Roth says, on page 34 of the 3th anniversary edition of the M.W.C.A. Bulletin, "these were weapons designed to be used with maximal speed and surprise, as when the Moro pirate Jikiri and seven companions cornered in a cave on Pata Island on July 4, 1909 by forty heavily armed U.S. soldiers and sailors, suddenly appeared, barongs in hand, and in no more than ten seconds killed one soldier and wounded thirteen soldiers and two sailors before being killed themselves." As Major Bullard wrote "Give us a gun that will kill, not a pepper-box which when we use it so irritates an enemy that he comes and chops us with a knife." Army headquarters in Manila did what they could. Some units were reissued rebuilt .45 Colt single actions, and the Philippine Constabulary received a special order of 1902 model .45 Colt S (the 1878 d.a. with large trigger guard) even some New Service .45 Colt (civilian) revolvers were being sent to company commanders from home.



The dreaded Mora Barong.

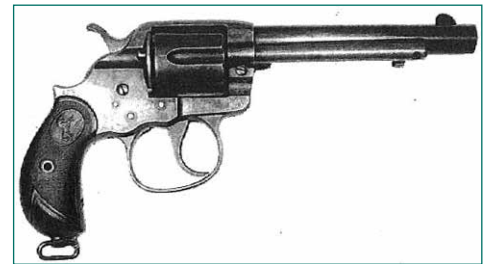


Ready for action.

While all this was going on the Ordnance Dept. had been testing a number of semi-automatic pistols and were impressed with a high velocity .38 colt model based on a Browning patent. They liked it well enough to order 75 of them, some of which were sent to the Philippines. I have found only one recorded instance of its use in combat there.

CAVALRYMAN OUT OF THE WEST, Caxton, 1944, by George F. Brimlow is based on the diary of Wm. C. Brown, a major at the time of this incident, attached to Gen. Funston on Luzon. He had obtained one of the Colt .38 semi-autos sent to Manila for field testing and often volunteered for scouting parties, hoping for a chance to use it. The chance came on Jan.25, 1900 while out with Gen.Funston and thirty other men on horseback, when they encountered some filipino insurgents led

by a mounted officer who fled. Brown wrote "I fired at him with my Colt automatic) and got in 7 well directed though rapidly fired shots at about 75 yards and he rolled off his horse to the ground. Upon examination we found my bullet had passed through the base of his heart and lodged under the skin." Brown extracted the bullet and later had it attached to his watch chain, and he kept the Colt automatic as a memento of his Philippine service. Although Major Brown and the other officers who had received these semi-autos for field test uniformly endorsed them it would take another decade of modification and testing to produce the issue sidearm of our (my) generation, the M1911 .45 colt automatic pistol.



Colt model 1902, 45 double action.



U.S. Amy model 1900, 38 semi-auto.

Finally responding to the complaints from the Philippines concerning the inadequacy of the .38 colt D.A. against the Islands Islamic warriors, the War Dept. adopted the .45 Colt New Service as an official sidearm for the Army, Navy and the Marines. Shipments of this large frame double action revolver began in May, 1909 and continued until late 1911, most of an estimated 15,000 going directly to Manila. (Estimates vary, see Bob Murphy's COLT NEW SERVICE REVOLVERS 1985.) Perhaps not trusting all the stories about .38 service

The Ultimate Field Test, continued



Colt .45 New Service revolver model 1909.

revolver failure, in 1904 with true scientific objectivity, the War Dept. scheduled a series of tests with available handguns. Conducting the tests were Col. John Thompson who did the shooting, and Col. Louis LaGarde of the Medical Corps who observed the shooting and recorded the results. The weapons used ranged from .30 cal. Luger to a .476 cal. New Service revolver. At close range Col. Thompson fired into (shudder) 7 cadavers (from a medical college) and 16 live steers and 2 horses (from a packing plant). These tests confirmed the testimony of the old Indian fighters: at close range bigger is better.

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Rationalization of Collecting

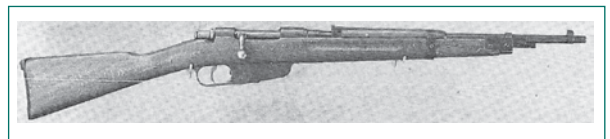
The following was recently found on Gun Boards regarding the decision to purchase or not to purchase a Carcano.

When you find yourself “on” the fence, it’s time to decide which side you plan to call your own. Do you want to live in the real world of stark, actual needs or the emotion-laden world of desire?

As your collection grows, as it acquires substance, it develops a gravity and vitality of its own. It imparts more and more impact on your life, and it’s increasingly a reflection of who you are. And who you want to be. It’s a force of your nature and one that you struggle to control.

That growing mass, that collection, the black hole of your conscious and unconscious thoughts, demands to be fed. As the collection becomes self-aware, as it awakens, its control over you

increases. You know you “want” the Carcano, but you tussle with the real life costs and implications. It’s probably been a few days or weeks since your last purchase, a few days since you last directed your focus on a target of acquisition.



It’s been too long, the collection whispers.

You are not aware as it happens, but your casual thoughts about the rifle transition to desire and seamlessly metastasize without warning into urgent need. That gnawing emptiness grows within you, demanding to be satisfied.

You know with absolute certainty now that the Carcano will please the collection. It will quiet the demands.

The Carcano really is a nice rifle after all, and even if the Finns didn’t appreciate it, you will.

The key to success as a lifelong collector is the unfettered, unapologetic ability to rationalize any purchase that piques your interest. You know you want it. You have no doubt now that you need it. You know the collection demands it.

And you know who must be obeyed. It’s time. There should be a graven plaque on the door of every gun room or safe: “*Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.*”

March Show Gun-Give-Away Winners

At the March Fair Grounds gun show we held a Gun-Give-Away contest, hoping to get show attendees to sign up with their email address so we could be in better contact with them about show notices and /or any gun related legislative action taking place that the membership should be aware of. We had approximately 1,800 sign up and we gave away two rifles. Erin Ipsen-Borgerson was the winner of a Ruger Take Down 1022 and Jethro Roemer won a Henry Lever Action Silver Boy.

Jennifer was in charge of the sign up sheet, shown here with one of the rifles to be given away.



President Larry Rogers presenting our two winners with their rifles.



Erin Ipsen-Borgerson



Jethro Roemer



27th Annual

Heritage Arms Society's Antique Arms Collectors Show

Saturday, March 26, 2016 • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Public Welcome — Admission \$5.00

Free Parking all day

**Friday, March 25, 2016 • 12:00 - 6:00 PM
(members & exhibitors only)**

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.

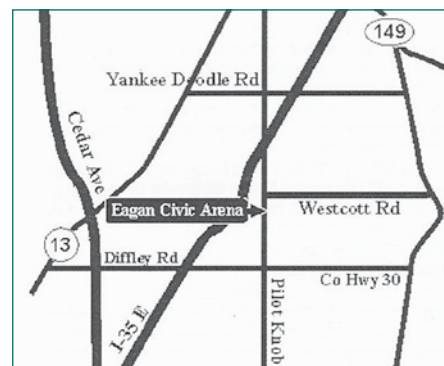
This vetted quality arms show is sponsored and attended by leading collectors who offer and display historical, antique & collectable arms & related items.

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

For table reservations call evenings 651-260-4532.

Eagan Civic Arena

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



Future HAS Dates: March 25, 2017 • March 24, 2018

Old Gun Catalogs

By Dale H. Peterson

Bannerman, Martin Retting, Robert Ables, Golden State Arms, Flaydermans and Dixie Gun Works are just a few of the dealers who furnished paper catalogues listing firearms, military paraphernalia and accouterments for sale. Over the years there has been quite a few changes in the presentation of weapons for sale. Big auction houses have come into play with illustrated catalogues of some well known individual in the firearms field that had reached a stage in his life where he or his relatives would sell off his collection.

I first started seeing these catalogues in the early 1960s. I would page through them and dream of the fine old firearms I would purchase if I only had the funds to do so. Francis Bannerman is probably considered the "Grand-Daddy" of all the old catalogues with his business starting in 1865. He advertised everything from stone age weapons, bows & arrows, cross-bows, match locks, wheel locks, flint locks, Civil War and European weapons, accouterments, swords, cannons and the list goes on, dating up to and after WW II. You could outfit a small revolution with the items he had for sale. Along with the items for sale, it served as a very good reference manual.

In his 1936 issue he advertised as having over 2,000 U.S. and foreign long guns and over a 1,000 different kinds of pistols and swords; this issue had over 350 pages. The 1949 issue was their 84th year in business and the catalog contained over 300 pages and still offered Flint lock muskets for a price of \$300.00, Colt Magazine rifles from \$35.00 to \$60.00, 1873 Winchesters for \$26.00, Sharps Borchardt 45-70s for \$60.00 and a variety of flint lock pistols ranging from \$17.00 to \$46.00. Also listed were items from the Spanish American War, WWI and WWII excluding Garand rifles or Army Caliber 30 carbines or parts for such rifles.



1936 Bannerman.

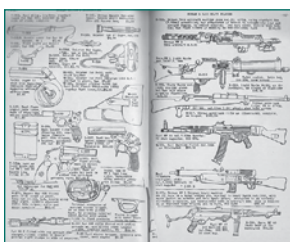


1949 Bannerman



Retting.

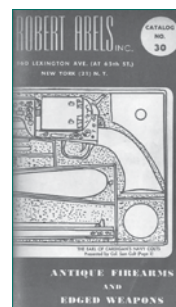
In his 1930 Bannerman catalog under the heading "Blowing Our Own Horn" he states the following: We purchased 90% of the guns, ammunition and other military goods captured in the Spanish War. We have on display 1,000 different kinds of guns, 1,000 different kinds of pistols, 1,000 different kinds of swords, and over 170,000 military uniforms of one particular kind. His motto was the "Golden Rule in Action" and no firearms are ever sold to any minor. He followed the Federal and State laws regarding firearms. This 1936 catalog sold for \$2.50 per copy, MAILED.



Retting.

Robert Ables and Martin Retting, both located in New York, started with hand illustrated catalogs in the 1940s -1950s. Robert Ables illustrated his own catalog No. 30. Both were supplied with items similar to Bannermans but on a smaller scale. With the company I worked for I did quite a bit of traveling, one week I was in New York City for a trade show and checked the yellow pages for Ables address. Having found it I headed for his business which was located in an old building on the second floor. It was near 5:00 PM and he was getting ready to close so I was not able to spend a lot

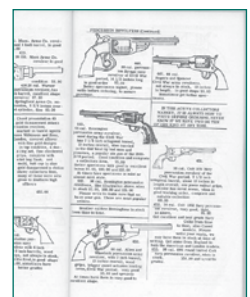
of time there. He sat behind a desk about 10' above the display area which was a narrow hall way with chicken wire running up from the floor to the ceiling. the items for sale were attached to the chicken wire. Since it was closing time the lights were dim, the guns and such were not real visible. He said he would be open tomorrow after 9:30 so I left and was unable to return as I was leaving town the next morning. I'm sorry to say I was never able to return.



Abels 30.

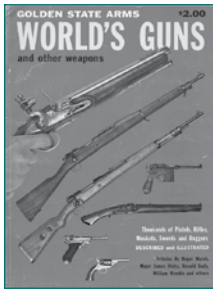


Abels 31.



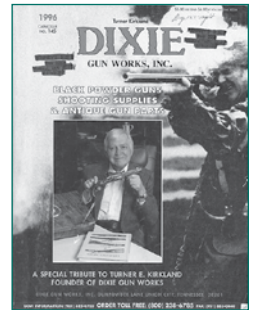
Abels Guns.

Old Gun Catalogs, continued



Golden State Arms "World Guns and other weapons" catalog was another one from around the late 1950s that served as a great reference along with items for sale. The copy shown was copyrighted in 1958; I don't know if there was another one published or not. There were articles on Collecting, Military Accouterments, Auto Pistols, Military Long Guns and Military Light Automatics.

Dixie Gun Works catalog had mostly gun parts for sale along with replica firearms, books and black powder shooting supplies. Later on they published a quarterly catalog of guns for sale which was promoted by Hunter Kirkland, the son of the original founder, Turner Kirkland. Since the passing of Hunter I do not know if this catalog is still in publication.



Dixie.

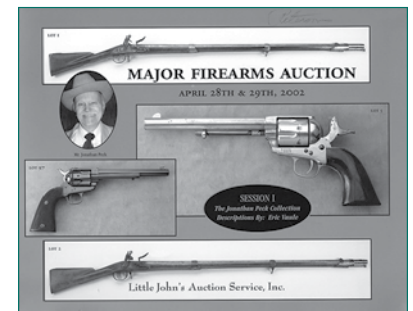


Cowans.



Rock Island.

There are still a number of individual dealers who publish a catalog but not on the major scale of the ones in the past. With the advent of the internet large gun auction houses solicit individuals to list their guns in their auction catalogs for a percentage of the sale. Some of the bigger sellers are, Cowans, Little Johns, Butterfield & Butterfield, Rock Island, Christies and a number of others. These auction catalogs are a far cry from the old black and white, hand illustrated ones of the past. With their full color, slick paper, beautifully photographed productions that sell for \$30.00 to \$50.00 and up. These are truly modern versions of the old catalogs and with the bidders watching and bidding on line the sky is the limit on the rare pieces.



Little Johns.

But if your from the old school like me it is still fun to page thru the old catalogs and wish you could have afforded some of the collectables that were available. ***They seemed so cheap!***

Cars Kill People

By Brian Fanning

Cars kill more people in this country than any other device created. We need to do something, anything, to reduce deaths by these instruments of mass death and destruction. Thousands of children and millions of people are injured or killed each year.

Since the maximum speed limit is 70 miles per hour in this country, there is no reason for any car to go faster than that. No one needs to have a muscle or sports car. There is absolutely no need. All cars that go faster than that should be banned as assault vehicles.

Also, we need more stringent licensing procedures to get a license to drive one of these death machines. Everyone needs to have a background check and a psychological evaluation before getting a drivers license.

We need to close the Car Show Loophole. The reality is that private sellers are selling cars to people who may not have a license. All car sales should go through a licensed automotive dealer.

But nothing will change as your politicians in Washington are being supported by the automotive and oil industries with campaign contributions. These profiteering companies will continue to take a profit at the expense of American lives.

When will this stop? Won't someone, please, think of the children? Cars kill people. Yeah, sounds stupid doesn't it?

Grip Marks on American Handguns

Early spur trigger revolvers and others are not always easy to identify, as many of them were only stamped on the top of the barrel with names like: Avenger, Blue Jacket, Blue Whistler, Bulldog, Czar, Earthquake, Little Giant, True Blue, Tramps Terror, etc.

In Donald Webster's book "Suicide Specials" he lists over 100 with such names. This article by Herschel C. Logan in an October 1962 magazine helps us to identify many of these revolvers by the designs on the grips.

Grip Marks on AMERICAN HANDGUNS

By HERSCHEL C. LOGAN

IDENTIFYING marks on obsolete as well as current American handgun grips can be placed in 3 general classifications: initials or monograms, geometrical designs, and animate subjects. These designs are most often found on hard rubber or composition grips. Occasionally they will be of metal set into the grips. Or they may be etched or stamped on the gun frame.

The idea of using an identifying mark

on the grip of the gun seems to have had its beginning here in the middle 1870's. An important innovation at that time was the introduction of molded hard rubber grips which permitted use of more elaborate designs than could be achieved with wood. These decorative grips reached their heyday between the 1870's and the early 1900's.

The designs are usually found at the top of the grip on either side. In a few

instances, however, they will be positioned around the central grip-plate screw. In addition to these identifying marks, a few arms carry a second design—usually at the base of the grips. Typical would be a bas-relief of Lincoln or Washington, an eagle, policeman and thug, and various geometrical designs.

The grip designs are representative. Some Colt markings have been omitted since they are so well known.

INITIALS OR MONOGRAMS



American Arms Co. Boston, Mass.; 1870—1893 Milwaukee, Wis.; 1893—1904. Revolvers



Colt's Patent Fire-arms Mfg. Co., Hartford, Conn. 1836 to date. Automatic arms



Davis - Warner Arms Corp., Assonet, Mass. Cal. .32 Infalible automatic pistol



Forehand & Wadsworth, Worcester, Mass. 1871—1890. Also found on some arms produced by Forehand Arms Co.



Forehand Arms Co. Worcester, Mass. 1890—1900. Grips are believed to have been left over from the preceding firm, Forehand & Wadsworth. Used on both exposed hammer and hammerless revolvers. Sold out to Hopkins & Allen



Andrew Fyrberg & Co. Hopkinton, Mass. Revolvers made by Meriden Firearms Co. of Meriden, Conn.



Harrington & Richardson, Worcester, Mass. 1871 to date. Revolvers



J. C. Higgins. Model 88 9-shot revolver



High Standard Mfg. Co. New Haven, Conn. Hi-Standard Model "B" automatic pistol marked "Property of U.S."



Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. 1868—1915. Pistols and revolvers



Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. 1868—1915. Safety Police Cal. .32 revolvers



Henry M. Kolb. Philadelphia, Pa. Circa 1897—1911. Baby Hammerless revolvers



Iver Johnson Arms & Cycle Works. Worcester, Mass.; 1871—1891. Fitchburg, Mass. 1891 to date. Revolvers stamped "U.S. Revolver Co."



Maltby-Curtis Co. New York, N.Y. Exact dates unknown



Maltby - Henley. New York, N.Y. Circa 1878—1890. Agents for guns produced under the John T. Smith patents. Spencer Safety Hammerless



J. M. Marlin. New Haven, Conn. 1870—1881. Early J. M. Marlin arms and some Marlin Fire Arms Co. arms



Marlin Fire Arms Co. New Haven, Conn. 1881 to date. Revolvers



Marlin Fire Arms Co. New Haven, Conn. 1881 to date. Arms carrying above marking and also J. M. Marlin arms. #32 Standard 1878 revolvers



E. Remington & Sons. Ilion, N.Y. 1844—1886. No. 3 New Line revolvers



Remington Arms Co. Ilion, N. Y. 1886—1902. Model 1890 .44-40 revolver



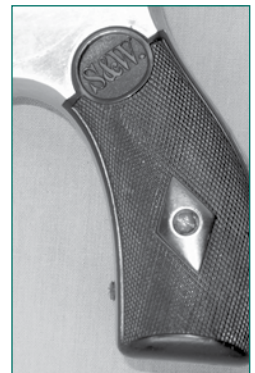
Remington-UMC Ilion, N.Y. Automatic pistols






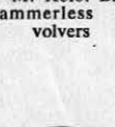









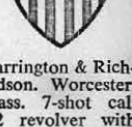

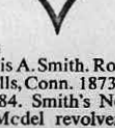

T. E. Ryan. Norwich, Conn. 1890—1893. Marquis of Lorne, Napoleon, and Retriever revolvers



Sears-Roebuck Co. Chicago, Ill. Revolvers



Grip Marks on American Handguns, continued

 <p>R. F. Sedgley, Inc. Philadelphia, Pa. Circa 1910—1938. Successors to Henry M. Kolb. Baby Hammerless revolvers</p>	 <p>Smith & Wesson. Springfield, Mass. 1857 to date. Standard trademark</p>	 <p>Dead Shot. Maker unknown</p>	 <p>Hood Firearms Co. Norwich, Conn. 1875—1880. F. W. Hood's Victoria Revolver</p>	 <p>Osgood Gun Works. Norwich, Conn. Circa 1880. Osgood Duplex revolver</p>	 <p>Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. 1868—1915. Czar, Blue Jacket 1½, and other revolvers</p>
 <p>C. S. Shattuck Arms Co. Hatfield, Mass. 1875—1918. Cal. .32 revolvers made under Shattuck patent of Nov. 4, 1879</p>	 <p>Smith & Wesson. Springfield, Mass. Baby Russian revolvers</p>	 <p>Eastern Arms Co. Chicopee Falls, Mass. Trade name for some guns made by Stevens Arms Co.</p>	 <p>Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. 1868—1915. Cal. .32 Dictator revolver</p>	 <p>Pioneer. Maker unknown. Distributed through Kruse Hardware Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio</p>	 <p>Iver Johnson Arms & Cycle Works. Worcester, Mass.; 1871—1891. Fitchburg, Mass.; 1891 to date</p>
 <p>C. S. Shattuck Arms Co. Hatfield, Mass. 1875—1918. Cal. .32 revolvers made under Shattuck patent of Nov. 4, 1879</p>	 <p>Turner & Ross. Boston, Mass. 1873—1885. Agents for arms made by Whitney at Whitneyville, Conn., and by Hopkins & Allen at Norwich, Conn. Czar revolvers</p>	 <p>Forehand & Wadsworth. Hopkins & Allen. Revolvers bearing either name</p>	 <p>Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. Arms made for Merwin, Hulbert & Co., agents</p>	 <p>ANIMATE SUBJECTS</p>	 <p>Reising Mfg. Corp. New York, N.Y. Reising automatic pistol</p>
 <p>C. S. Shattuck Arms Co. Hatfield, Mass. 1875—1918. Revolver</p>	 <p>Warner Arms Corp. Norwich, Conn. Cal. .32 automatic pistol The Infallible</p>	 <p>Harrington & Richardson. Worcester, Mass. 1871 to date. Aetna 2½ revolver and White Star revolver</p>	 <p>Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. Revolvers made for Merwin, Hulbert & Co., agents</p>	 <p>Cody Mfg. Corp. Springfield, Mass. Cody Thunderbird cal. .22 revolver</p>	 <p>Savage Repeating Arms Corp. Utica, N.Y.; 1895—1899. Savage Arms Co.; 1899—1917. Savage Arms Corp.; 1917 to date. Cal. .32 and .380 automatics</p>
 <p>C. S. Shattuck Arms Co. Hatfield, Mass. 1875—1918. Revolver</p>	 <p>Unknown. Pioneer brass-frame revolver, maker unknown</p>	 <p>Harrington & Richardson. Worcester, Mass.</p>	 <p>Hopkins & Allen. Norwich, Conn. Revolvers made for Merwin, Hulbert & Co., agents</p>	 <p>Colt's Patent Firearms Mfg. Co. Hartford, Conn. 1836—to date</p>	 <p>Savage Arms Corp. Utica, N.Y.; 1895—1899. Savage Arms Co.; 1899—1917. Savage Arms Corp.; 1917 to date. Cal. .32 and .380 automatics</p>
 <p>Sheridan Products, Inc. Racine, Wis.</p>	 <p>GEOMETRICAL DESIGNS</p>	 <p>Harrington & Richardson. Worcester, Mass. 7-shot cal. .32 revolver with patent date of May 28, 1876</p>	 <p>Kaiser. Maker unknown</p>	 <p>Harrington & Richardson. Worcester, Mass. 1871 to date. Boston Bulldog, American Bulldog, and Ajax Army revolvers</p>	 <p>Savage Arms Corp. Chicopee Falls, Mass. Model 101 single-shot pistol</p>
 <p>Otis A. Smith. Rock Falls, Conn. 1873—1884. Smith's New Model revolver</p>	 <p>Bliss & Goodyear. New Haven, Conn. 1866—1887. Hartford Arms was a trade name used by Bliss & Goodyear. Royal, Liberty, Gypsy and Bull's Eye revolvers</p>	 <p>Harrington & Richardson. Worcester, Mass.</p>	 <p>Maltby-Henley. New York, N. Y. Revolvers</p>	 <p>High Standard Mfg. Corp. New Haven, Conn.</p>	 <p>Sturm, Ruger & Co. Southport, Conn. Revolvers and automatic pistols</p>



The photographs show several of the grips identified in Logan's article.

Colt Model 1908 .25 Caliber Vest Pocket Pistol Mother of Pearl Grip Variations

By Skip Houghton

Colt Model 1908 .25 Caliber Vest Pocket Pistol Mother of Pearl Grip Variations By Skip Houghton For over 45 years I have leaned over the tables at various gun shows, in multiple states, in pursuit of different variations of the Colt Model 1908 .25 caliber pistol. My passion for collecting these diminutive pistols was first stimulated in the early 1970s when I inherited an engraved .25 caliber Colt pistol from my mother who had been given it by a friend who felt she would feel safer having it while my dad served overseas in WWII.

The model “N,” as the .25 caliber Colt was internally referred to at the Colt factory, was a favored choice for women to carry on their person or in their purses during the early 1900s and one of the special order items available for it was the addition of pearl grips. The Colt pearl grips are a little thicker than the standard grips, thus filling the hand a little more and making it more comfortable to shoot this tiniest of Colt pistols. Additionally, Mother-of-Pearl is a beautiful material. It is shiny and bright, has interesting nuances of other colors within it and adds great beauty to even the most mundane firearm, so it is only natural that pearl grips would become the number one special order for this model of Colt. However, that having been said, only 7,000 of the over 409,000 model “N”s produced left the factory with pearl grips. And since this grip is easily broken when a gun is dropped or otherwise abused, original factory pearls grips are not commonly found and are increasingly difficult to locate outside of existing collections. If available, however, they do command substantially higher prices than the Colt 1908s with standard hard rubber or wood grips.

Over the roughly 40 years the .25 caliber model 1908 had been manufactured by Colt, changes in the grips resulted in five different variations of the pearl grips being produced. Below I will site examples from my own collection of the five factory pearl grip options, and as closely as possible the time frame in which each was produced and available will be outlined. As with most things Colt, the dates and times are approximate and exceptions do occur. What will be presented can be used as a general guide should you discover a Colt .25 with factory original pearl grips and you wish to ensure the pearl grips match the time the pistol was manufactured.

Round Top, Plain (1908 – 1911): From the very beginning of the production of the model N, plain pearl grips with a rounded top were available as a special order – right up until April of 1911. Public sale of the Colt .25 began at the end of 1908 and the first pearl grips left the factory on a very early Colt, s/n 538. The Colt example from my collection of this earliest pearl grip, Photo #1, is s/n 27847. It has original factory nickel plating and is in fairly nice condition for a Colt that is 106 years old. The first nickel .25 Colt to be manufactured by Colt was s/n 23074 and it left the factory in December of 1909, making my example one of earliest nickel guns sold. When you consider that less than 2% of all model “N”s produced left the factory with pearl grips, I do wonder how many of these early Nickel .25 calibers left the factory with pearl grips. Certainly mine is one of the first dozen or so manufactured and shipped and, in my dreams, could possibly be the first. More research is needed to confirm or torpedo this hopeful reverie.



S/N 27847

Colt added recessed medallions to the pearl grips during the spring of 1911, and it is documented no Colt pearl grips left the factory after June of 1911 without medallions embedded in the grips. The earliest plain pearl grips for the 1908 are very scarce and the guns bearing them are pricey when located.

Round Top, Recessed Medallions (1911-1916): This first variation of original plain pearl grip is distinguished by a ½” circular metal medallion with the word COLT along the top of the medallion and a rampant Colt figure in the center of the medallion. Both COLT and the rampant Colt are slightly raised from the medallion face but the entire medallion is embedded and recessed into the pearl grip. The medallion is centrally located (longitudinally) on the grip, about ¼” from the top of the grip and remained so located throughout its production.

Mother of Pearl Grip Variations, continued

The example showing this variation from my collection is S/N 117072) and is another factory nickel-plated Colt .25. It is in exceptionally fine condition and came with a felt lined purse, which was not manufactured by Colt but which was very popular with the ladies during the early 1900 time period.

This style of grip was available until roughly the middle of 1916 at which time the pearl grips were made with a square or, also called, flat top design.

Flat Top, Recessed Medallions (1916-1920): This grip is identical to the previous except the pearl grip is not rounded off at the top; instead it is squared off making the grip slightly larger than the round-top versions.

This style pearl grip retains the same recessed medallion.



S/N 149850

The gun I have chosen from my collection to illustrate the earliest flattop pearl grips is S/N 149850. This is an aftermarket engraved Colt executed by Richard Washburn in the 1990s and it came with a crafted display box lined with purple velvet (also by Washburn) that beautifully complements the gun. This Colt was originally manufactured in early 1917.

The grips are factory original flat-top mother-of-pearl with recessed medallions and are correct to the time period of the gun's creation. The medallions are the same medallions as those used in the round-top recessed pearl grips.

In 1920 the use of flush, rather than recessed, medallions on the pearl grips began. Recessed medallions continued to be used until their supplies were depleted such that only a few have been seen on pearl gripped Colt 1908s sold after 1920.

Flat Top, Front Facing, Flush Medallions (1920-1924): In 1920 Colt ceased using the recessed medallions on pearl grips and replaced them with flush medallions. The flush version has the same Colt and rampant Colt markings/design as the recessed version but it is flush with the exterior surface of the pearl grip and has a brighter silver finish.

When Colt first produced pearl grips with flush medallions, two different medallions were used, one for the left side of the gun and one for the right side. The result was the rampant Colts on both sides of the model 1908 faced down the barrel toward the pistol's muzzle (as were the medallions of the earlier recessed variety also). Colt, probably for financial or logistical reasons, ceased making separate flush medallions shortly after their introduction, probably around 1924. The same medallion was used on both the left and right grips resulting in the rampant Colt on the left panel facing forward and the one on the right panel facing rearward. This remained true until the end of production. Given the very limited time that flush, front facing medallions were available, and the limited number of pearl grips produced during this period, acquiring a Colt 1908 with them is a real collecting accomplishment and a rare find.

I have but one example in my collection of this rare variation. The Colt is S/N 339182) and is a blued gun, in excellent condition, which left the Colt factory in 1924. It came with a collector quality Audley holster in very nice condition.



S/N 117072



Felt Lined Purse



S/N 149850 in Display Box



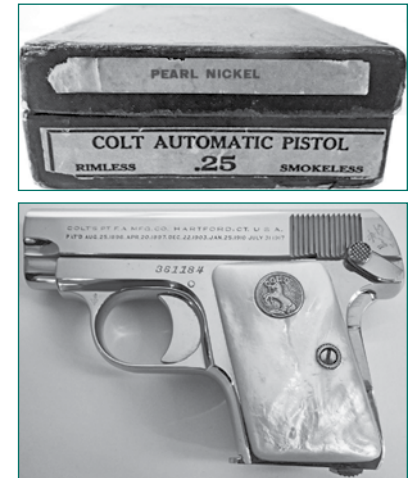
S/N 339182



Mother of Pearl Grip Variations, continued

Flat Top, Flush Medallions (1924-1941): S/N361184 is a mint Colt 1908 with a near perfect nickel finish that came to me in the original factory box which was serial numbered to the gun. It is in exceptional condition for a gun manufactured in 1927. The grips are pristine and have the same flush medallions on both sides of the gun. This would be a difficult gun to improve upon in any collection. Pearl grips of this design are much easier to find on Colt 1908s than the front facing of the early 1920s.

There were no more changes made in the pearl grips on the Colt Model 1908 .25 caliber pistol through the end of its production in 1941, when Colt was preparing to meet the arms needs of the Allied Powers in WWII. Research has indicated, however, that the earliest flush medallions were more clearly and distinctly stamped than were the later ones, perhaps a function of dies wearing out or perhaps of less quality control on the making of the later dies. This change is not marked by any date or time period, and to this collector, the change just seems to be gradual.



S/N 361184

In this article I have referred to “factory original” mother-of-pearl grips. Perhaps a few words about recognizing the difference between Colt factory pearl grips and aftermarket pearl grips, of which there are many examples, would be of some use. Factory grips are distinguished from non-factory grips by three factors:

- 1) quality – the lustrous appearance of factory mother-of-pearl outshines the duller and less complex appearance of non-factory pearl;
- 2) factory pearl grips always have nickel-silver escutcheons around the screw holes; and
- 3) factory pearl grips have hardboard spacers (either red or black) on the inside (backside) of the grips to help seat them properly to the frame of the gun handle. The spacers are screwed right into the pearl grip.

If a factory set of pearl grips is the goal, I would be very cautious about any Colt 1908 with pearl grips that does not display all three of these factors. I would also be very leery of any Colt whose wear on the pearl grips and metal surface does not seem about equal. This could indicate replacement pearl grips that may not correctly match the age of the gun and also may not be of Colt manufacture.

Collecting just one model of Colt has been difficult. But, in so doing, this collector has developed a great appreciation for all the changes, no matter how small, that have been made to so many parts of the .25 Colt pistol over the years of its production. Having a “complete” collection seems impossible, but it is a dream and a goal that I think keeps advanced collectors engaged, focused and on the prowl for the unusual.

Sources: John Brunner *The Colt Pocket Hammerless Automatic Pistols II*, Copyright 2009
Sam Lisker coltautos.com, website

We need articles for the next MWCA News.

We had 16 displays at the last Trophy Show. How about those of you that displayed, and others, sharing some of your knowledge about your personnel collections? That was the original intent of the MWCA founders. Don't worry about correct spelling and grammar as we have people to correct the articles submitted. If we didn't you would not be able to read some of the stuff I put together. Contact me, Dale Peterson, at 763-753-1663 or any of the MWCA board members.

Just in case you find any mistakes in this MWCA publication, please remember that they were put there for a purpose. We try to offer something for everyone. Some people are always looking for mistakes and we didn't want to disappoint you!

Trophy Show Guess the Gun Explained

By Dale H Peterson

There is a Difference

At the 2014 Trophy Show we had a “Guess the Gun Contest” and there were two revolvers that seem to have caused most contestants problems. They were both Smith & Wesson revolvers: the No. 3 American and the Schofield. There are a few differences that can be seen with a little closer inspection.

The American was manufactured from 1870 to 1874 with around 8,000 produced. Of this number, 1,000 were purchased by the U.S. Government and were stamped with a U.S. on the barrel rib. The majority of these were in the .44 American caliber, thus the name American Model. They had a square butt, locking latch mounted on the barrel, .44 caliber, long ejector housing and a standard 8” barrel that is flat on top with the address line. They were the first big frame revolvers available coming out three years prior to the Colt Single Action Army. They had a colorful history on the early western frontier with use in the Indian Wars and being carried by such notable western characters as Dallas Stoudemire, John Wesley Hardin and others.



Smith & Wesson No. 3 American



Smith & Wesson Schofield

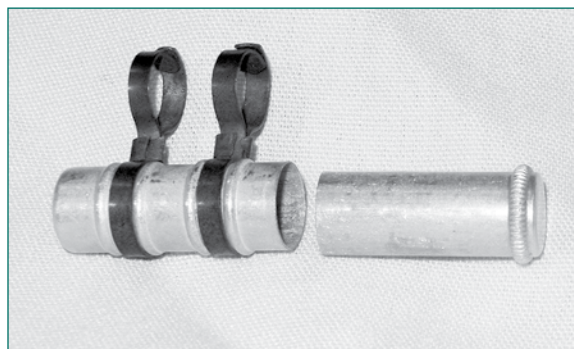
The Schofield was manufactured from 1875 to 1876 with around 8,969 produced in the two models. The majority of both models were purchased by the U.S. government. They had a square butt, locking latch was mounted on the frame, 45 caliber, medium length ejector housing and a 7” barrel that is grooved on top with the address on the side of the barrel. There was a U.S. stamped on the butt and the grips were stamped with a cartouche. Many Schofield models were issued to active units in the west including the 4th, 9th and 10th Cavalry, while others went to state militias.

Many of the surplus guns were purchased by Bannerman and Schuyler and Hartley & Graham. Some had the barrels cut to 5 inches and were plated. Schofields were reportedly used by Frank and Jesse James and their gang members. It is estimated the several hundred were purchased by Wells Fargo and were stamped “W.F. & CO’S EX.”

So there is a difference. The two revolvers used in the contest were a No. 3 American “Transition” model and the Schofield was a 2nd model.

Last Issue's Guess the Gun

We had one correct answer from Mark Reese, MWCA Past President. The item was from World War I. It was used to send messages via Carrier Pigeon. The two copper bands went around the pigeon's leg and the message went inside the small aluminum cylinder.



MWCA Contributes



Thank You **for your support of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association!** ***MWCA Contributed*** ***\$21,000*** during 2015.

We are pleased to have contributed to a wide variety of local youth-oriented firearms safety and skill development organizations and the National Rifle Association:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • National Rifle Association Museum Fund | • South Metro Friends of NRA |
| • National Rifle Association Foundation | • Cretin-Derham Hall High School Clay Target League |
| • American Legion Richfield Post 435 Gun Club | • Monticello Minnesota High School Trap Team |
| • Hastings Minnesota High School Trap Team | • Andover High School Trap and Skeet Team |
| • Red Arrow Camp Youth Shooting Program | • Byron Minnesota Sportmans Club Youth Program |
| • Mtka Game and Fish, Women on Target | • Bald Eagle Sportmans Club |
| • Buffalo Minnesota Youth Shooting Sports | • Capable Partners |
| • Owatonna Gun Club Youth Programs | • Gun Owners Civil Rights Alliance |
| • Scott County Youth Firearms Safety | • Wishes and More |
| • Edina Minnesota Firearms Safety Training | • Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America |

For 2016: All requests for contributions must be submitted in writing to the MWCA Board of Directors by October 1, 2016 to be considered in the MWCA 2016 budget. **In addition,** you must agree to have a representative attend the December 2016 show to receive that contribution.

MWCA Contributes, continued

MWCA Contribution Recipients



Recipients of MWCA contributions in 2015 were invited to our December show to receive their checks and to be recognized for their work. Several are pictured here.

“Women On Target”

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



Scott County Youth Firearms Safety



To the Board of MWCA,

Thank you so much for your donation to support our youth shooting program. We will use the money to help provide shell bags, targets and shells to those kids participating in our summer program.

Thanks Again!

The Board of Owatonna Gun Club

Support The NRA!

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



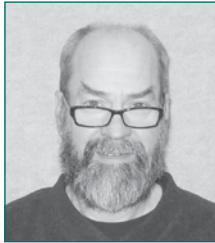
Support The MWCA!

Visit www.mwca.org for show, membership and other important info.



Meet Your 2016 Board Of Directors

Dave Hinrichs is the new President, John Chappuie is Vice President, Alvin Olson is Treasurer and Gary Kottke is Secretary. If you have any question and/or suggestion about MWCA policies, show rules etc., they will be glad to answer them.



David Hinrichs
President



John Chappuie
Vice President



Alvin Olson
Treasurer



Gary Kottke
Secretary



Larry Rogers



Mark Reese



Dale H Peterson
Directors



Brian VanKleek



Ed Pohl

Looking ahead to 2017, the first three shows:

January 14 - 15 Rochester Mayo Civic Center

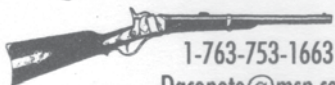
February 4 - 5 Jackpot Junction, Morton MN

**New
Location!**

March 18 - 19 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

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

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In Memoriam

In Memory of
Cedric L. Scofield

March 28, 1939
November 16, 2015

An Irish Prayer

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields
and, until we meet again
May God hold you in the
Palm of His hand.*

Cedric Scofield

Minnesota recently lost a very active Second Amendment Rights advocate. Mr. Cedric Scofield, a familiar face at metro area MWCA gun shows passed away in late 2015. Cedric spent many hours serving as a NRA membership recruiter and was very active with the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). Accordingly to Mr. Leroy Van Brunt, Cedric is credited with starting the South Metro Friends of the NRA chapter. Mr. Tim Spreck, former president of the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance (MOHA) and current MWCA lobbyist, stated Cedric religiously attended MOHA board meetings, as well as, MOHA's legislative caucus meetings at the Capitol.

For all of us who knew Cedric, we will miss him very much. That being said, it's time for all of us to step forward and continue the cause(s) Cedric spent so many years advocating. In honor of Cedric's memory, please consider volunteering your time in order to protect our freedom.



George Harrison

George Harrison of Straight River Knife, was a longtime gun show dealer with Crocodile and a member of MWCA. During his early adult life George worked in sales of heavy equipment in Arizona. Later in the 1970's George moved to Minnesota where he worked as a diesel mechanic for several decades. In the early 1990's George began selling collector knives and eventually created his business Straight River Knife. George took great pride and pleasure in his business and in his relationships with dealers and customers.

Bill Larson

Bill Larson a long time member of the MWCA, he was an expert on historic Class III weapons which he displayed at past trophy shows. He was also a new member off the Historical Arms Society.

Wayne Cowette

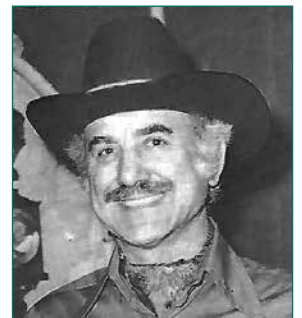
Wayne Cowette was a collector of fine double barrel shotguns and vintage shot shell boxes. Often he would set up a the shows with his good friend and Past President John Castor.

Don Heimerman

Don Heimerman was a Colt collector and also a member of the Heritage Arms Society, he appreciated new condition and fancy Colt Single Actions.

Ray Saign

Ray Saign was and early member of the MWCA and one of the three gentleman who purchased the Stagecoach Museum collection in the late 1970s. He was a fine gentleman and always added a little "class" to the guns shows with his quality merchandise and colorful cowboy hats.



Consider becoming a member of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association!

- **Responsible firearms ownership.**
- **The enjoyment of collecting.**
- **Firearms safety.**
- **Hunting and shooting sports.**

Without involvement of our current members and the encouragement of new members of all ages to join the MWCA, the enjoyment of firearms and interest in ownership that brings you to our shows will not continue to grow.

Help us to promote safe and rewarding firearms use and to contribute funds to other organizations that share and teach the same values.

As you can see from reading this publication, there are many reasons to become a MWCA member.

Visit our membership table at a show for more information about the benefits of joining the MWCA!

MWCA is the largest and oldest weapons collectors group in the state of Minnesota.