

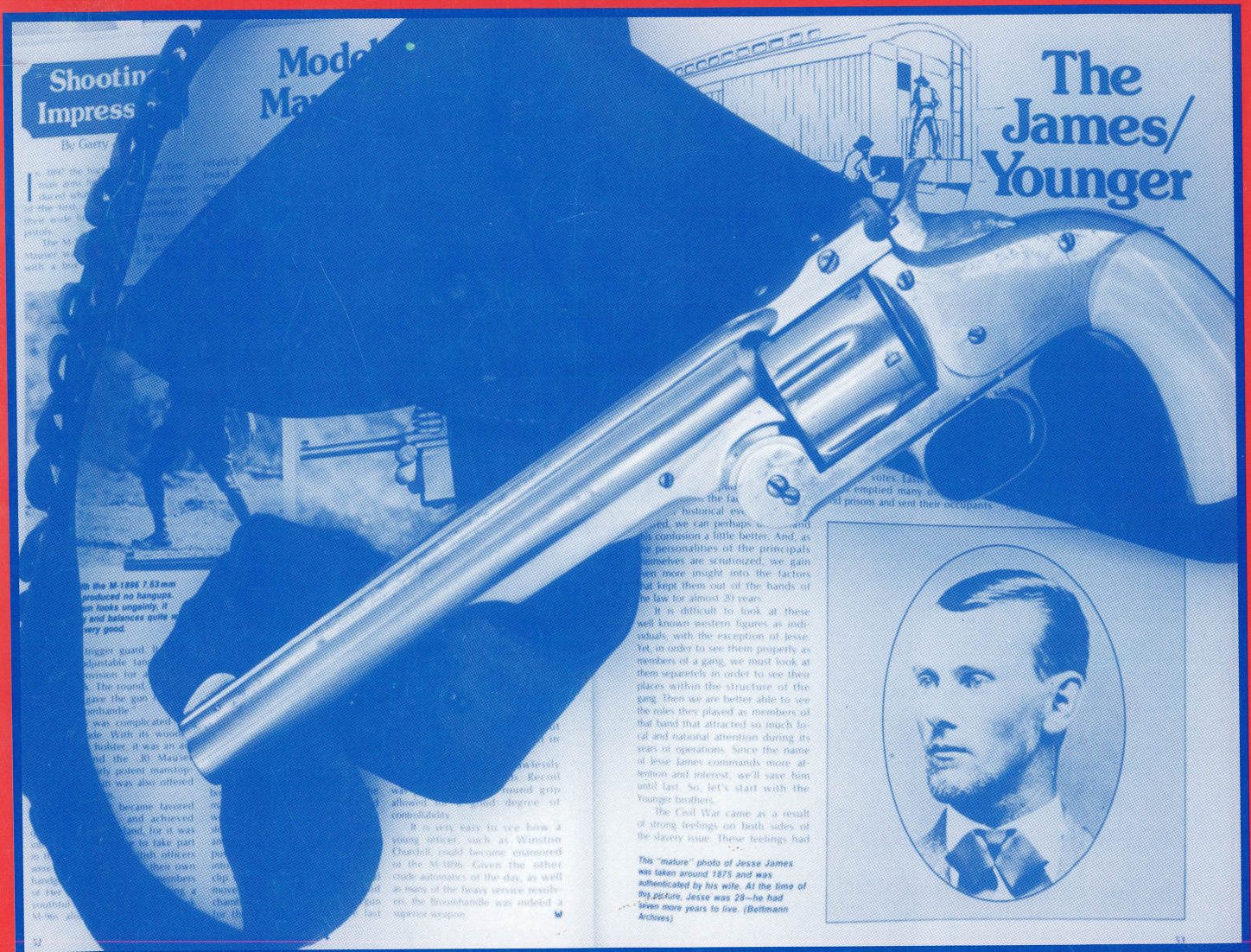
M·W·C·A

MINNESOTA WEAPONS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

VOLUME NO. 14

ISSUE NO. 2

DECEMBER 2001



Staff.....Dale H. Peterson, Stan Nelson, Nick Wheelock, and Lynn Kvam

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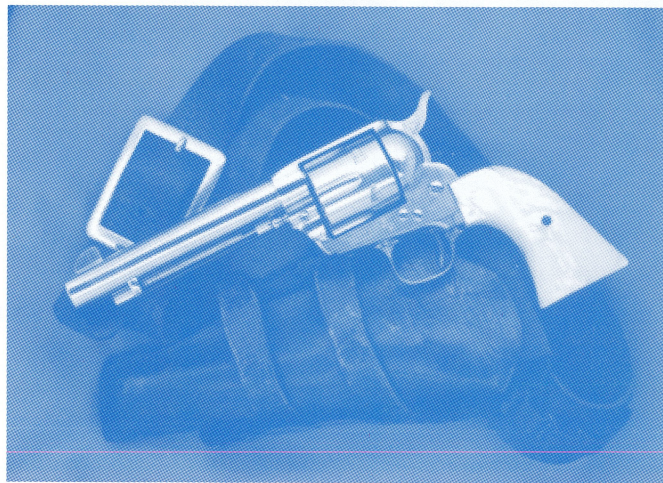
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GUESS THE GUN!

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

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Call Dale at 763-753-1663



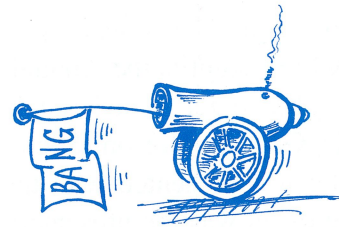
About the cover: Pictured is a Smith and Wesson Model Number 3 Single Action which was made from 1870 to 1874; this was the first large frame top break revolver they manufactured and preceded the Colt Single Action by three years. Historically it has a fine association with the Old West and some of its notable characters such as: Buffalo Bill, Wyatt Earp, Dallas Stoudenmire, John Wesley Harden and the James Gang. See page 10 for the "Guns of Northfield" article.

THE PRESIDENT'S SHOT

This year is rapidly coming to a close. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president this past year. Thank you all for your help and support. This year will go down in history as the year of the worst attack that America has ever seen. It will also be remembered as the time that Americans came together and united against the evils of terrorism. Let us always remember that freedom is far from being free. It has come with a very high price in the lives of those who have fought for it.

This past year has been a good year for the MWCA as we had some very good shows and the people seems to be very upbeat about the future of the MWCA. The September show in the Education Building, at the Fair Grounds, was a huge success and hopefully we will be able to have 2 shows there next year. The club will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in a little over a year so we would like to do something special at that time and would appreciate your ideas and input. We would like to honor all the living Charter Members and perhaps put together a display like we did for our 30th Anniversary. Thanks again for the past year.

Eric Strand
President, 2001



2002 Show Schedule

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Assn.

Post Office Box 662, Hopkins MN 55343 • Phone/Fax 612/721-8976 • www.mwca.org

100% Arms and Accessories

January	5 - 6	Annual Trophy Show with • Heritage Arms Society • American Sporting Collectables • North Star Blade Collectors	Mpls. Convention Center Exhibit Hall III
January	26 - 27	Rochester, Mayo Civic Center (New Exhibit Hall)	
March	23 - 24	Minnesota Fair Grounds (Coliseum Building)	
*Possible Show in April at		Minnesota Fairgrounds (Education Building)	
August	24 - 25	St. Paul RiverCentre - Touchstone Energy® Place	
September	28 - 29	Minnesota Fairgrounds (Education Building)	
October	5 - 6	Owatanna, Four Seasons Centre	
December	14 - 15	St. Paul, RiverCentre - Touchstone Energy® Place	

In the unlikely event a date or location is changed, watch for Red Show Card for permanent schedule.

Admission \$5.00
Under 18 not admitted
without parent

Show Hours: Saturday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The 2001 NRA Annual Meetings

by Alvin Olson

The MWCA once again had a display on "Collectors' Row". We had our first display there in 1977, and have only missed three years since. One of those years was due to the cancellation of the display floor, at Denver, due to the event at Columbine. While not the Club with the greatest number of stars (one issued for each participation) on our "Star Board"; we rank ahead of most groups.

This year's Annual Meetings were held at Kansas City, Missouri, May 18th through the 20th. The most of the exhibit hall is composed of the commercial exhibits, such as firearm manufacturers, and suppliers of shooting/hunting equipment. This event was held in Minneapolis, a few years back, and if you missed that you can come to see us in Reno, in 2002. There are many meetings and seminars, besides the Members Meeting.

Our "Crew", this year consisted of Fred and Judy Vandersnick, Eric Strand, Brian VanKleek, my wife and myself. A high point is the Annual Banquet, that is held on Saturday night. Hundreds of people attend, and we have been able to get "seats" (a table of our own) up front, for some years. This years Banquet speaker was the Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior. As usual we were given a rousing address. After the address she was presented with the 2001 NRA Flintlock Rifle, by Mr. Charlton Heston. Another memorable part of the event was the presentation of the "Colors", by the "Buffalo Soldiers", of Leavenworth, Kansas. The National Anthem was by Pam Tillis, and there was entertainment by Lee Greenwood.

It is truly difficult to describe all of the happenings; but without question our favorite thing in the exhibit hall was the reoccurring visits by my personal hero, Joe Foss, as he signs his name. For someone with his accomplishments, he is a "regular fellow", that my wife, and I, have known for some years.

This year the MWCA Display was based on the Winchester Model 12, with most (99%) of the items provided by Fred Vandersnick, and the following is a summation of his thoughts, and feelings of those days, in K.C.; which we will all remember, for a long time. Also, this year, as in most of the last few years, the MWCA returned home with an award. This one is labeled

"BEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT"
"COMBINED ARMS"

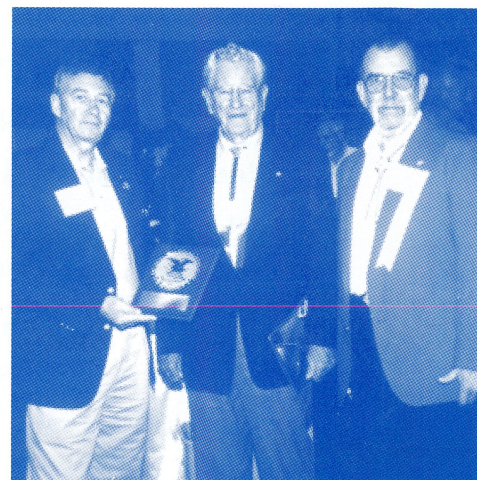
and "combined arms" means that the display included firearms that covered years before, and after, 1964.



Brian, Eleanora, Joe Foss & Alvin.



Eleanora & Alvin Olson with Fred & Judy Vandersnick & Brian VanKleek.



Our frequent visitor came to see us.

*Fred Vandersnick
25778 Lyndale Rd.
Renner, SD 57055-9618*

9-17-01

To : M.W.C.A. President, Directors, Members.
Re : NRA 2001, May 18-20, Kansas City, MO.

The Kansas City Convention Center and Bartle Hall is a immense facility in downtown Kansas City, MO. It has the capability to accommodate large numbers of exhibitors and thousands upon thousands of convention attendees without any crowding problems.

Thursday, May 17th was a hot and humid day in Kansas City and hundreds of exhibitors were moving into the convention center building. Our space was a 10' X 30' booth with a great location in the Collectors Row. After some difficulty and ingenuity on the behalf of Mr. Strand and Mr. VanKleek, we were able to secure a red carpet and start setting up our display of WINCHESTER Model 12's and related items on the elevated display rack and in the five glass cases.

Our thanks to Brian VanKleek for his expertise in providing a critical "judges eye" for arranging the items "just so" in the glass cases for the best viewing angle. Thanks to Alvin Olson for providing items from his WINCHESTER collection of shotguns, shotshells and memorabilia to make the display complete.

On Friday morning, the people visiting the exhibits and our M.W.C.A. sponsored display was impressive. We were very busy answering questions regarding the various items on display and receiving congratulations from viewers and fellow collectors alike.

We were pleased and honored to have several visits at our display by Mr. Joe Foss, WWII ACE, former Gov. of South Dakota and former President of the NRA. It seems that Joe had a Model 12 as a South Dakota farm boy and hunted with a Model 12 during his active hunting years.

The Saturday evening members banquet was exceptional with speakers and entertainment that was very moving and would stir anyone's patriotism. On Sunday morning we attended the Display Awards Ceremony which was somewhat drawnout with multiple longwinded speakers. When they finally got around to presenting the awards, we were most pleased that the M.W.C.A. Display received the award and plaque for the Best Educational Display.

Sunday afternoon was somewhat of a letdown after three days of high energy activities and knowing that we had to pack everything up at the close of the show. What had taken about six hours setup on Thursday, only took one and a half hours to disassemble and pack up to go home. Unfortunetly, it was pouring rain when moving the carts to the parking lot and everyone got soaking wet.

Judy and I extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Eric Strand, Mr. Brian VanKleek and Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Olson for their assistance and to the M.W.C.A. for providing the opportunity to display our WINCHESTER Model 12 collection at such a prestigious event.

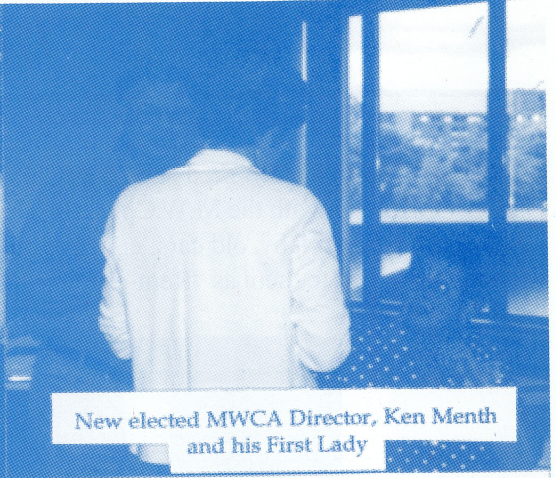
Sincerely,

Fred & Judy
Fred & Judy Vandersnick

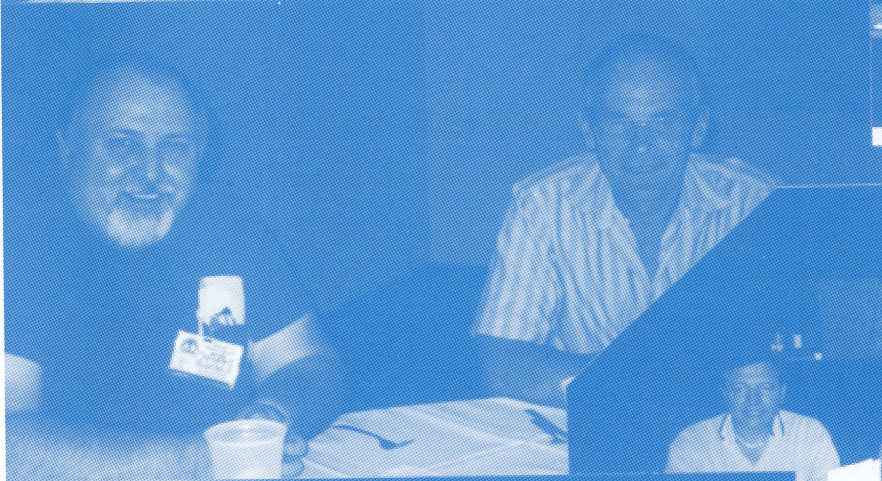
“Seen you in St. Cloud”

Our show in St. Cloud went well. The dinner was enjoyed by all and the program and door prizes added to a very enjoyable event. A big thank you for all of your contributions of prizes for the evening. As you can see, we will be a week later next year for St. Cloud. This show has been dubbed our club show - with the election of board members, the dinner and the annual meeting. It sure would be nice to see more members attend the meeting and dinner - great food!

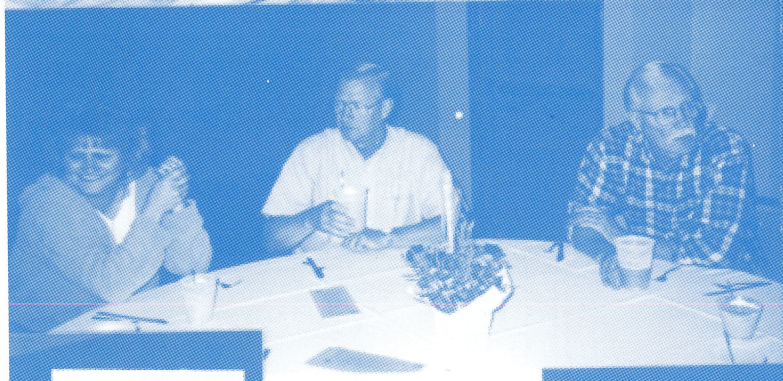




New elected MWCA Director, Ken Menth and his First Lady



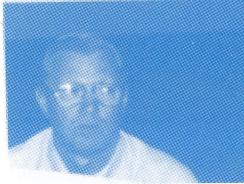
"Would you trust these two?"



"Still confused"



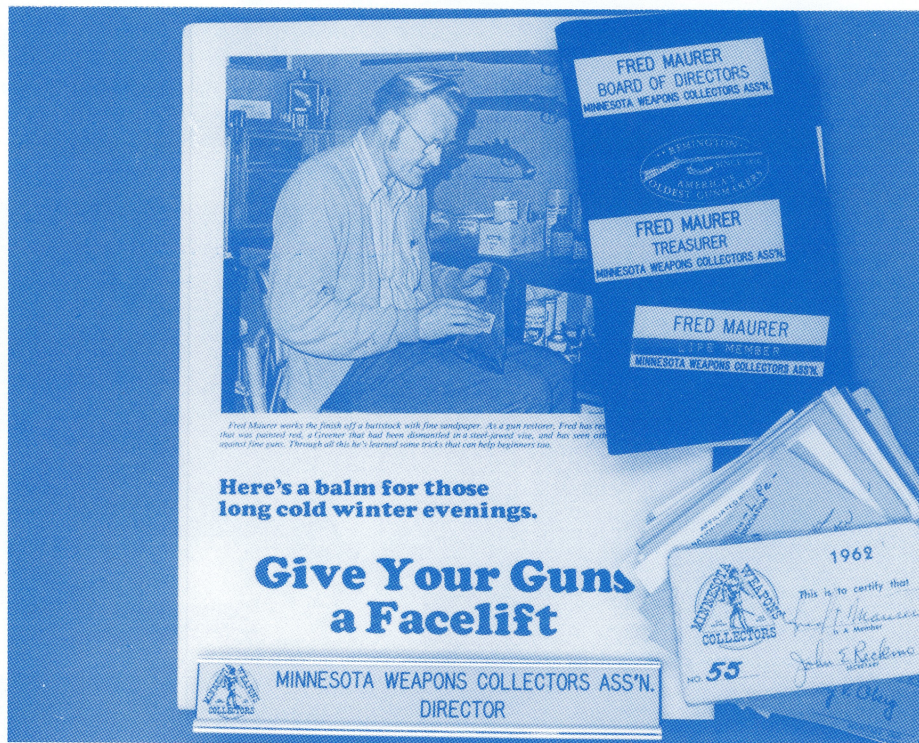
I won!
I won!
I won!



join the
NRA
today

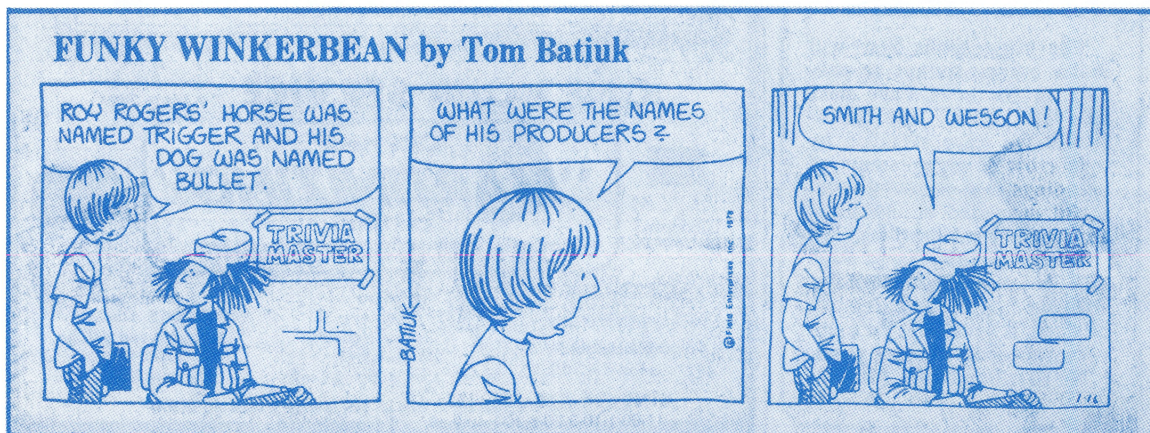
In Memoriam

We have lost another dear friend and former M.W.C.A. Board Member, Mr. Fred T. Maurer who passed away after a long battle with cancer. Fred served as Club Director, Historian and Treasurer for a number of years and was proud of his affiliation with the M.W.C.A., his pile of membership cards go back 1962. He had many loves, his family, cameras, photography, old cars, cribbage, and fine old "Shooting Irons". He especially liked old Remingtons and fondly referred to them as "Rem-er-tons"; he will be dearly missed for his big smile and gentle ways.



Fred loved to resurrect old shooting irons, he was featured in this Fins & Feathers Magazine article in 1977.

We also want to give our condolences to Eric Strand. His wife Phyllis passed away after a long struggle with cancer. Phyllis was very active in the Club and often worked at the front desk either taking tickets or working on the membership renewals.



Cartoon found on Fred's bulletin board.



In 1777, seeking to promote national pride and unity, the Continental Congress adopted the National Flag.

The Flag — it stands for what?

National Symbol

The flag is the symbol of our national unity, our national endeavor, our national aspiration.

The flag tells of the struggle for independence, of union preserved, of liberty and union one and inseparable, of the sacrifices of brave men and women to whom the ideals and honor of this nation have been dearer than life.

It means America first; it means an undivided allegiance.

It means America united, strong and efficient, equal to her tasks.

It means that you cannot be saved by the valor and devotion of your ancestors, that to each generation comes its patriotic duty; and that upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure as those before you have sacrificed and endured rests the national hope.

It speaks of equal rights, of the inspiration of free institutions exemplified and vindicated, of liberty under law intelligently conceived and impartially administrated.

There is not a thread in it but scorns self-indulgence, weakness, and rapacity.

It is eloquent of our community interests, outweighing all divergencies of opinion, and of our common destiny.

Charles Evans Hughes

Originally, there were 13 stars in a circle so that no one colony was viewed above another. 13 stripes represented the colonies. In 1818 a congressional act mandated the number of stripes to be fixed at 13 and that one star be added for each new state, on July 4th following its admission. The last star was added on July 4, 1960 for the state of Hawaii.

The Stars and Stripes, the unofficial answers:

*Color: **White** to mean purity and innocence
Red for valor and hardiness
Blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice*

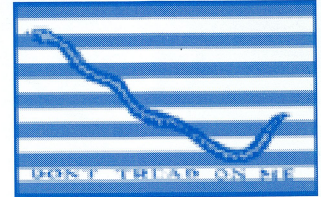
*Elements: **Stars** were taken from the sky
Red from the British colors and the
White Stripes signified the succession from England*

In every colony, citizens gained experience in self government, especially at the local level.

They knew what they wanted and had the wisdom to create a new nation of free men.



American ships in New England waters flew a "Liberty Tree" flag in 1775.

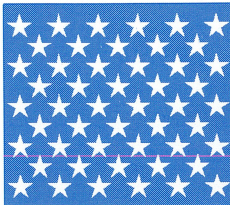


The Continental Navy used this flag upon its inception.

Colonization on the Atlantic Coast.

The British expansion to the new world: The date in parentheses is the year colonists settled. The states are listed in the order each ratified the Constitution. (From 1787 to 1789.)

The Original 13 Colonies

	(1638) Delaware
	(1682) Pennsylvania
	(1664) New Jersey
	(1732) Georgia
	(1636) Connecticut
	(1620) Massachusetts
	(1633) Maryland
	(1663) South Carolina
	(1638) New Hampshire
	(1607) Virginia
	(1626) New York
	(1663) North Carolina
	(1636) Rhode Island

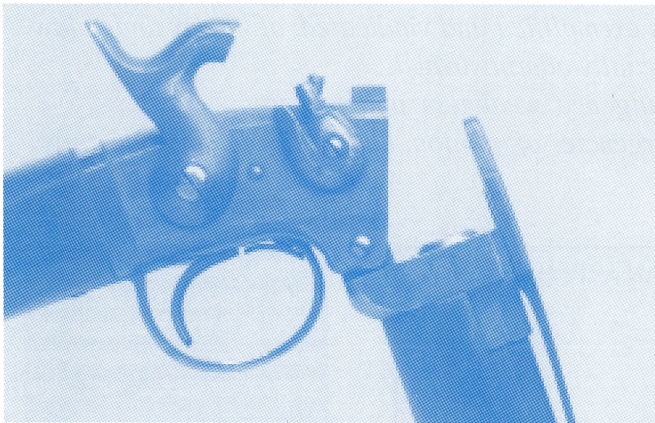
THE GUNS OF NORTHFIELD

by

STAN NELSON

In the 30th anniversary edition of the M.W.C.A. Bulletin, published in 1984, I wrote an article under the above title concerning firearms known to have been used by Missouri outlaws in an attempt to rob the First National Bank of Northfield, Minnesota on September 7th, 1876. In recent years a few more guns have surfaced which are associated with that much publicized event and an evaluation of these artifacts of history seems in order. What follows is essentially an updated version of the 1984 article.

Like other individuals with similar interest I have wasted a lot of time and gasoline money driving around our state looking for, and occasionally at, various 19th century cartridge revolvers purportedly used by members of the James/Younger gang during their bungled bank robbery. Of equal interest to me were the assorted rifles and shotguns of the civic minded citizens of Northfield and Madelia, who killed three of the gang and captured the three Younger brothers. While I did not add anything tangible to my own personal collection as a result of these peregrinations, I did absorb a lot of local history and reaffirmed my views of human nature.

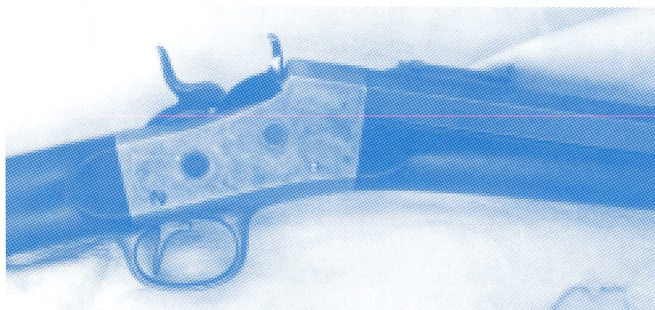


SMITH percussion breech loading carbine. This .50 cal. Civil War issue cavalry carbine was made by the Massachusetts Arms Co. and used a foil/paper cartridge. One of these was used by medical student Henry M. Wheeler to kill Clell Miller at Northfield.

The personnel of the James/Younger outlaw organization varied over the years of its existence, but despite claims of a recent book by John Koblas subtitled "Confessions of the Ninth Man," there were eight men in the group that converged on Northfield on that pleasant afternoon of September 7, 1876. These men were eventually identified as Frank and Jesse James; Cole, Jim, and Bob Younger; Bill Stiles (alias Bill Chadwell), Clell Miller, and Sam Wells (alias Charlie Pitts). They were well armed according to one eyewitness; "the robbers had two revolvers apiece, and some of them were ivory handled, nickel plated, the finest ever seen in this part of the country, and their belts were full of bullets." When three of these strangers entered the bank a couple of alert citizens gave the alarm and ran for their weapons and when the shooting was over six outlaws, some painfully wounded, were galloping south on the Dundas road, leaving Bill Stiles and Clell Miller

lying dead on Division Street. In the bank, acting cashier J.L. Heywood also lay dead, wantonly killed by the last bandit to leave the bank, all evidence pointing to Frank James as the guilty party. A bystander on the street was hit by a stray bullet which was to prove fatal. From the firing of the first shot by the outlaws, through the return fire by the Northfield men, to the departure of the frustrated and wounded six, the action was over in an estimated seven minutes.

There has been a fair amount of moralizing indulged in over the fact that this notorious outlaw gang was completely outclassed in the shooting department by a bunch of amateurs: merchants and farmers. This has helped impart an epic quality to the whole affair. But circumstance gave to virtue some practical aid in the triumph over evil on that September afternoon. Under most conditions revolvers are no match for rifles, and none of the raiders carried long guns. The townspeople were using shotguns and rifles and had the added advantage of cover and concealment. From the corner of a building, hardware store owner A.R. Manning killed Bill Stiles with one shot at an estimated distance of 80 yards with a

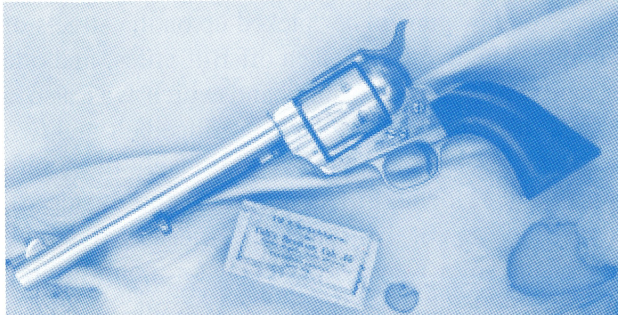


REMINGTON rolling block rifle. Northfield hardware store owner A. R. Manning used one of these to kill outlaw Bill Stiles.

Remington rolling block rifle. He also dropped one of the bandit's horses and wounded Cole Younger. Medical student, Henry M. Wheeler, firing from a second story window, killed Clell Miller with a Civil War vintage Smith carbine and shattered Bod Younger's right elbow with another shot. The outlaws never did locate Wheeler though he fired 3 shots.

The remaining six outlaws were seen in Dundas by local residents where they stopped briefly to wash their wounds before heading south. In a day or two organized pursuit forced them to hold up during daylight hours and travel by night.

Attracted by the rewards being offered by the state and several banking institutions, country roads soon swarmed with disorganized groups of men, and newspapers were rife with rumored sightings and close encounters with the outlaws. Somewhere near Lake Crystal the two James boys left Charlie Pitts and wounded Youngers behind and headed west to South Dakota and eventual escape. The chase for the remaining four ended on September 21st in a bushy bend of the Watonwan River near Madelia. Here five local volunteers, led by Civil War veteran W.W. Murphy and Sheriff James Glispin, closed in on the trapped outlaws, and blasting away at close range killed Charlie Pitts and put more lead into the already wounded Youngers.



COLT single action .45, 7 1/2" barrel, one piece wood grips, screw in frame to hold base pin. At least four of these were used by the Northfield robbers. One of Cole Younger's is known; serial no. 13757, manufactured in 1874.

In the two weeks from the aborted band robbery in Northfield to the surrender of the Youngers outside of Madelia, quite a few firearms were used, by both the good guys and the bad guys. For whatever reasons "outlaw guns" seem to attract more attention (and money) from collectors than do the guns of the law abiding. Even during my sporadic research I have come across five Northfield "outlaw" guns with good provenance, and found circumstantial evidence of three more. If, as eyewitnesses said, each of the eight robbers carried two revolvers apiece, we can trace half of them to 20th century ownership. Of the various shotguns, rifles, and carbines used by law abiding citizens of our state to rout

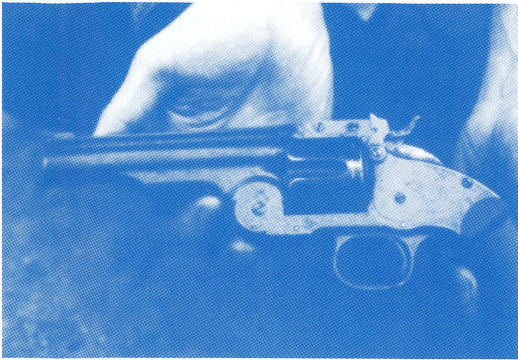
the Missouri outlaws, almost all have lost their identity. Only two, which have come to light in recent years, would seem to qualify as Northfield guns.

I visited the scene of the crime many times back in the fifties, looking for clues if not guns, for I knew many other scouts had preceded me. The Schilling Museum in Northfield was always worth a visit; old Bill Schilling didn't know much about old guns but he was steeped in local lore. Also he had acquired some significant artifacts for his museum: the original time-lock safe and a wall clock which were in the bank at the time of the raid. And in a glass case, tastefully arranged on either side of the shrunken right ear of Charlie Pitts, lay a model 1877 Colt double action revolver and a Moore "seven shooter." There is no question about the authenticity of the ear, which is still attached to a small piece of scalp neatly inscribed in faded ink. This was removed by a medical student (probably Dr. Henry Hoyt of St. Paul) for after the raid the bodies of all three slain bandits were embalmed and used in dissection classes at medical college. The firearms are a different matter. Although assured by Mr. Schilling that these revolvers had been "picked up on the streets of Northfield" after the raid, I had to assure him that the 1877 colt was not around in 1876. Manufactured during the Civil War, the Moore is certainly old enough but the provenance is shaky as an outlaw gun. In GUNS OF THE GUNFIGHTERS, published in 1975, there is an article by Ron Terrell in which these same two pistols are now said to have belonged to Cole Younger, the 1877 Colt being presented to the Schilling Museum by Cole himself, while the Moore came from a Captain Walsh, who claimed he took it from Cole at his surrender. A contemporary newspaper account of the street fight tells of the predicament of Mr. Bates, clerk in Hanauers's clothing store, who entered the fray with a loaded shotgun which he couldn't get to fire, and a "fine seven-shooter" for which he had no cartridges. This could well be the the Moore in the Schilling Museum. On a later trip to Northfield Mr. Schilling showed me a new acquisition, a Smith & Wesson new model Russian .44, serial #40369. With the gun came a notarized statement of recent date testifying that this revolver had been purchased from someone who had been told that it was taken from the body of Charlie Pitts at Madelia. This piece is old enough but notarized hearsay is still hearsay. I have seen three different revolvers, complete with notarized statements, that were used by Bob Ford to shoot Jesse James through the head.



SMITH & WESSON new model Russian. The Schilling Museum in Northfield had one of these, serial no. 40369, said to have taken from the body of Charlie Pitts at Madelia.

My hopes of seeing a genuine Northfield gun were briefly encouraged on a visit to the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. While looking through their card files on firearms I came across a yellowing, handwritten accession card listing a "Colt revolver, a relic of the Northfield robbery;" no date of accession or name of donor was given. Unfortunately the revolver itself was not there either, nor could the Historical Society staff enlighten me as to its whereabouts. A bank in Northfield also owns two single



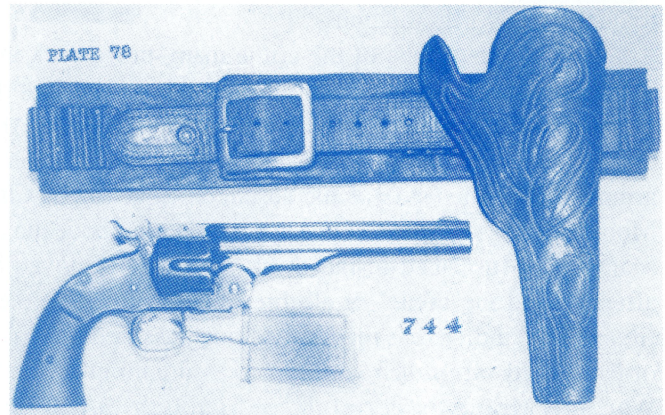
SMITH & WESSON 1st model Schofield .45, 4 3/4" barrel, serial no. 367. Taken from Bob Younger at Madelia

action Colt .45's "taken from one of the slain bandits" (this would have been Bill Stiles, since Cole Younger picked up Clell Miller's two revolvers) which "have been in their possession since the raid." Someone must have negotiated a trade for Stile's revolvers, however, since the two Colts displayed by the bank have high serial numbers and the push-button base pin release found on later single actions.

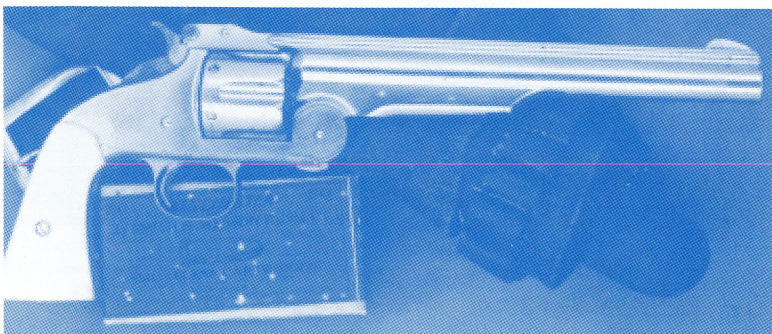
There were only three outlaw guns to be "picked up on the streets of Northfield" after the raid. The two Colts taken off Bill Stiles, and one that Cole Younger said was shot out of his hand which was also a single action Colt. Cole dismounted and took a cartridge belt and two revolvers from the dead Clell Miller, which were probably the Smith & Wesson .44's Cole had at Madelia. In 1915, a year before his death,

Cole presented a 7 1/2" barrel .45 Colt single action revolver to T.T. Crittendon son of the former governor of Missouri, stating that this was the pistol he had at Northfield. In 1938 Miles W. Standish, a Kansas City collector, bought three revolvers from the Crittendon estate: the above mentioned .45 Colt, serial #70432, a .45 Smith & Wesson Schofield, serial #366, given to T. T. Crittendon by the widow of Jesse James, and an 1875 model .44 Remington, serial #15116, surrendered to Governor Crittendon in 1882 by Frank James. All three of these pieces are illustrated in vol. 2 of F. Theodore Dexter's 35 YEARS SCRAPBOOK OF ANTIQUE ARMS, published in 1947.

In the early 1960's I carried on a correspondence with Miles W. Standish about these revolvers, which, incidentally, he no longer owned. Standish wrote me that he had been made the subject of considerable ridicule because of the Younger revolver. John Parsons in his book, THE PEACEMAKER AND ITS RIVALS (published in 1950), made available for the first time lists of serial numbers and dates of manufacture of all Colt single action model P revolvers made from 1875 to 1940. The Colt .45 supposedly shot out of Cole Younger's hand at Northfield in 1876 was manufactured in 1881, knowledge of which soon triggered the hilarity at Mr. Standish's expense. Feeling that there had been no intentional chicanery involved in his purchase of the Younger gun. Mr. Standish did some investigation of his own. He wrote me that he knew what had happened; Cole gave Mr. Crittendon the wrong revolver. Cole Younger was a sick man in 1915 when he presented a Colt single action .45, serial #70432 to T.T. Crittendon, a man who supported efforts to obtain his release from Stillwater prison. The real Northfield gun, which he had intended to give to Mr. Crittendon, went instead to the State Historical Society Museum in Jefferson City, Missouri, where it still is. This is a Colt single action .45 with a 7 1/2" barrel, serial #13757, manufactured in 1874, which also shows some damage to the ejector housing. Mr. Standish was convinced of this scenario, and it sounds reasonable to me. It should be remembered that the authenticity of the two James boys' revolvers from the same estate have never been questioned, having passed from the James to T.T. Crittendon to Mr. Standish.



SMITH & WESSON 1st model Schofield .45, 7" barrel, serial no. 366. Jesse James gun, belt, and holster, undoubtedly used at Northfield. Bob Younger's Schofield serial no. consecutive to this one of Jesse James.



SMITH & WESSON model no. 3, .44 russian cal., (known as old old model Russian) outlaw Clell Miller carried two of these, nickel plated, with ivory grips. One of these has survived, serial no. 28009. Another with wood grips was taken from Jim Younger at Madelia.

It was not until the early 1970's that I was to see a genuine Northfield raid gun here in Minnesota. I was digging around in the court house files in St. James, looking for information on Sheriff James Glispin (one of those who went into the brush after the Youngers) When I was introduced to a gentlemen from Madelia by the name of Carl Hage. He turned out to be very knowledgeable about the robbery attempt and especially about local participation in the capture of the Youngers. He not only introduced me to a man who as a small boy watched his father go into the brush for the showdown with the Youngers,

but took me to his home, and amazingly, produced one of Bob Younger's revolvers. Well, at least that was what he said. Considering the shenanigans I have encountered I had my doubts. The provenance was solid. When the Youngers surrendered and were disarmed, this revolver was claimed by T.L. Vought, one of the captors. Mr. Vought was owner of the Flanders House, a hotel in Madelia where the Youngers had spent a few days while on their way up to Northfield. This revolver had remained in the Vought family's possession until sometime before World War II, when it was presented to Carl Hage's Father, who was active in the Watonwan County Historical Society. It is a first model Smith & Wesson Schofield .45, serial #367, with about a 4 3/4" barrel, which had been professionally shortened from its original 7" length. It should be noted that the serial #367 is consecutive with the serial #366 found on Jesse James Schofield which Miles Standish purchased from the Crittendon estate. One is left to wonder where the Missouri outlaws obtained new U.S. Cavalry issue revolvers and ammunition for them, which was not commercially available at the time. Probably from a crooked quartermaster; stealing from the Government is a time honored practice, and the James/Younger home base, Clay and Jackson Counties, Missouri was just across the river from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, a major distribution center for the U.S. Army.



MOORE seven-shooter, .32 rimfire. Somebody had one of these at Northfield which wound up at the Schilling Museum.

A few other firearms have come out of protective custody in the recent past with what appears to be solid provenance. Among these is a very nice nickel plated, ivory handled Smith & Wesson model 3 in .44 Russian caliber, serial #28009. This impressive piece was sold at auction recently and advertised as being taken from Cole Younger by Sheriff James Glispin. Another Smith & Wesson model 3 .44 Russian caliber with wood grips was taken from Jim Younger. Two long guns have been identified which were decisive in the outcome of the attempted robbery in Northfield. One, the previously mentioned Remington rolling block rifle (caliber unknown) was used by hardware store owner A.R. Manning. Young medical student Henry M. Wheeler made good use of a Smith percussion carbine (a breech loader, using foil and paper cartridges). It would be nice to know more about the rifles, carbines and shotguns used by the "valiant seven" down near Madelia. Perhaps the continuing interest and increasing monetary value of these artifacts will bring a few more out of hiding.

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For 50 years, the Harvard Law School Forum has been sponsoring speeches by luminaries ranging from Fidel Castro to Gerald Ford to Dr. Ruth. Sometimes the speeches have generated a bit of media coverage, sometimes not. But one given two years ago by Charlton Heston has taken on a life of its own.

Heston, the actor and conservative activist, delivered a stem-winder to about 200 listeners about "a cultural war that's about to hijack your birthright to think and say what resides in your heart."

"He knew he was coming to a liberal environment, and clearly a group of his listeners was conservative and another was more liberal," said David Christopherson, president of the forum. "About half respectfully challenged him during the questions. It generated a lot of debate around the campus. But what happened caught us off-guard."

What happened was Rush Limbaugh's radio talk show. On March 15, 1999, Limbaugh read the entire speech on the air, only to find himself bombarded with thousands of requests for a copy of it. The same thing happened at Harvard Law. "We couldn't keep up with all the requests," said Mike Chmura at Harvard. "It really didn't have legs and might have been forgotten if Mr. Limbaugh hadn't decided to deliver it."

'Winning the Cultural War'- Charlton Heston's Speech to the Harvard Law School Forum, Feb 16, 1999.

Charlton Heston, speaking on 'Winning the Cultural War,' Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 pm, Ames Courtroom, Austin Hall. Sponsored by the Harvard Law School Forum, a student organization at Harvard Law School. For almost 50 years, the forum has been bringing to HLS noteworthy individuals from all fields to engage in exciting and wide-ranging exchanges of ideas. Forum programs are open to the public and generally consist of a speech or panel discussion followed by a question-and-answer session.

Mr. Heston:

I remember my son when he was five, explaining to his Kindergarten class what his father did for a living.

"My Daddy," he said, "pretends to be people."

There have been quite a few of them.

Prophets from Old and New Testaments, a couple of Christian saints, generals of various nationalities and different

centuries, several kings, three American presidents, a French cardinal and two geniuses, including Michelangelo.

If you want the ceiling re-painted I'll do my best.

It's just that there always seem to be alot of different fellows up here. I'm never sure which one of them gets to talk. Right now, I guess I'm the guy.

As I pondered our visit tonight it struck me: If my Creator gave me the gift to connect you with the hearts and minds of those great men, then I want to use that same gift now to re-connect you with your own sense of liberty ... your own freedom of thought ... your own compass for what is right.

Dedicating the memorial at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln said of America, "We are now engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." Those words are true again ... I believe that we are again engaged in a great civil war, a cultural war that's about to hijack your birthright to think and say what lives in your heart.

I fear you no longer trust the pulsing lifeblood of liberty inside you ... the stuff that made this country rise from wilderness into the miracle that it is.

Let me back up a little. About a year ago I became president of the National Rifle Association, which protects the right to keep and bear arms. I ran for office, I was elected, and now I serve ... I serve as a moving target for the media who've called me everything from "ridiculous" and "duped" to a "brain-injured, senile, crazy old man." I know, I'm pretty old ... but I sure lord ain't senile.

As I have stood in the crosshairs of those who target Second Amendment freedoms, I've realized that firearms are not the only issue.

No, it's much, much bigger than that.

I've come to understand that a cultural war is raging across our land, in which, with Orwellian fervor, certain acceptable thoughts and speech are mandated.

For example. I marched for civil rights with Dr. King in 1963 - long before Hollywood found it fashionable. But when I told an audience last year that white pride is just as valid as black pride or red pride or anyone's else's pride, they called me a racist.

I've worked with brilliantly talented homosexuals all my life. But when I told an audience that gay rights should extend no further than your rights or my rights, I was called a homophobe.

I served in World War II against the Axis powers. but during a speech, when I drew an analogy between singling out innocent Jews and singling out innocent gun owners, I was called an anti-semite.

Everyone I know knows I would never raise a closed fist against my country.

But when I asked an audience to oppose this cultural persecution, I was compared to Timothy McVeigh.

From Time magazine to friends and colleagues, they're essentially saying, "Chuck, how dare you speak your mind like that? You are using language not authorized for public consumption!"

But I am not afraid. If Americans believed in political correctness, we'd still be King George's boys - subjects bound to the British crown.

In his book, "The End of Sanity," Martin Gross writes that "blatantly irrational behavior is rapidly being established as the norm in almost every area of human endeavor. There seem to be new customs, new rules, new anti-intellectual theories regularly foisted on us from every direction.

Underneath, the nation is roiling. Americans know something without a name is undermining the country, turning the mind mushy when it comes to separating truth from falsehood and right from wrong. And they don't like it."

Let me read a few examples.

At Antioch college in Ohio, young men seeking intimacy with a coed must get verbal permission at each step of the process from kissing to petting to final copulation ... all clearly spelled out in a printed college directive.

In New Jersey, despite the death of several patients nationwide who had been infected by dentists who had concealed their AIDS - the state commissioner announced that health providers who are HIV-positive need not ... need not ,, tell their patients that they are infected.

At William and Mary, students tried to change the name of the school team "The Tribe" because it was supposedly insulting to local Indians, only to learn that authentic Virginia chiefs truly like the name.

In San Francisco, city fathers passed an ordinance protecting the rights of transvestites to cross-dress on the job, and for transsexuals to have separate toilet facilities while undergoing sex change surgery.

In New York, kids who don't speak a word of Spanish have been placed in bilingual classes to learn their three R's in Spanish solely because their last names sound Hispanic.

At the University of Pennsylvania, in a state where thousands died at Gettysburg opposing slavery, the president of that college officially set up segregated dormitory space for black students. Yeah, I know ... that's out of bounds now. Dr. King said "Negroes."

Jimmy Baldwin and most of us on the March

said "black." But it's a no-no now.

For me, hyphenated identities are awkward ... particularly "Native-American." I'm Native American, for God's sake. I also happen to be blood-initiated brother of the Miniconjou Sioux.

On my wife's side, my grandson is a thirteenth generation native American ... with the capital letter on "American."

Finally, just last month ... David Howard, head of the Washington D.C. Office of Public Advocate, used the word "niggardly" while taking to colleagues about budgetary matters. Of course "niggardly" means stingy or scanty. But within days Howard was forced to publicly apologize and resign.

As columnist Tony Snow wrote: "David Howard, head got fired because some people in public employ were morons who (a) didn't know the meaning of niggardly, (b) didn't know how to use a dictionary to discover the meaning, and (c) actually demanded that he apologize for their ignorance."

what does all that mean? It means that telling us what to think has evolved into telling us what to say, so telling us what to do can't be far behind.

Before you claim to be a champion of free thought, tell me : Why did political correctness originate on America's campuses? And why do you continue to tolerate it?

Why do you, who're supposed to debate ideas, surrender to their suppression?

Let's be honest. Who here thinks your professors can say what they really believe?

That scares me to death. It should scare you too, that the superstition of political correctness rules the halls of reason.

You are the best and the brightest. You, here in the fertile cradle of American academia, here in the castle of learning on the Charles River, you are the cream. But I submit that you, and your counterparts across the land, are the most socially conformed and politically silenced generation since Concord Bridge. And as long as you validate that ... and abide it ... you are-by your grandfather's standard-cowards.

Here's another example. Right now at more than one major university, Second Amendment scholars who are researchers are being told to shut up about their findings or they'll lose their jobs. Why? Because their research findings would undermine big-city mayor's pending lawsuits that seek to extort hundreds of millions of dollars from firearm manufacturers.

I don't care what you think about guns. But if you are not shocked at that I am shocked at you. Who will guard the raw material of unfettered ideas, if not you? Democracy is dialogue!

Who will defend the core value of academia, if you supposed soldiers of free thought and expression lay down your arms and plead, "Don't shoot me."

If you talk about race, it does not make you a racist. If you think critically about a denomination, it does not make you anti-religion. If you accept but don't celebrate homosexuality, it does not make you a homophobe. Don't let America's universities continue to serve as incubators for this rampant epidemic of new McCarthyism. But what can you do? How can anyone prevail against such pervasive social subjugation? The answers been here all along. I learned it 36 years ago, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., standing with Dr. Martin Luther King and two hundred thousand people. You simply ... disobey. Peaceably, yes. Respectfully, of course. Nonviolently, absolutely. But when told how to think or what to say or how to behave, we don't. We disobey social protocol that stifles and stigmatizes personal freedom. I learned the awesome power of disobedience from Dr. King ... who learned it from Gandi, and Thoreau, and Jesus, and every other great man who led those in the right against those with the might.

Disobedience is in our DNA. We feel innate kinship with that disobedient spirit that tossed tea into Boston Harbor, that sent Thoreau to jail, that refused to sit in the back of the bus, that protested a war in Viet Nam.

In that same spirit, I am asking you to disavow cultural correctness with massive disobedience of rogue authority, social directives and onerous laws that weaken personal freedom.

But be careful ... it hurts. Disobedience demands that you put yourself at risk. Dr. King stood on lots of balconies. You must be willing to be humiliated ... to endure the modern-day equivalent of the police dogs at Montgomery and the water cannons at Selma. You must be willing to experience discomfort. I'm not complaining, but my own decades of social activism have left their mark on me.

Let me tell you a story. A few years back I heard about a rapper named Ice-T who was selling a CD called "Cop Killer" celebrating ambushing and murdering police officers. It was being marketed by none other than Time/Warner, the biggest entertainment conglomerate in the world. Police across the country were outraged. Rightfully so - at least one had been murdered. But Time/Warner was stonewalling because the CD was a cash cow

for them, and the media were tiptoeing around it because the rapper was black. I heard Time/Warner had a stockholders meeting scheduled in Beverly Hills. I owned some shares at the time, so I decided to attend. What I did there was against the advice of my family and colleagues. I asked for the floor. To a hushed room of a thousand average American stockholders, I simply read the full lyrics of "Cop Killer" - every vicious, vulgar, instructional word. "I GOT MY 12 GAUGE SAWED OFF I GOT MY HEADLIGHTS TURNED OFF I'M ABOUT TO BUST SOME SHOTS OFF I'M ABOUT TO DUST SOME COPS OFF ..." It got worse, alot worse. I won't read the rest of it to you. But trust me, the room was a sea of shocked, frozen, blanched faces. The Time/Warner executives squirmed in their chairs and stared at their shoes. They hated me for that. Then I delivered another volley of sick lyric brimming with racist filth, where Ice-T fantasizes about sodomizing two 12-year old nieces of Al and Tipper Gore. "SHE PUSHED HER BUTT AGAINST MY ..." Well, I won't do to you here what I did to them. Let's just say I left the room in echoing silence. When I read the lyrics to the waiting press corps, one of them said "We can't print that." "I know," I replied, "but Time/Warner's selling it.

Two months later, Time/Warner terminated Ice-T's contract. I'll never be offered another film by Warners, or get a good review from Time magazine. But disobedience means you must be willing to act, not just talk. When a mugger sues his elderly victim for defending herself ... jam the switchboard of the district attorney's office.

When your university is pressured to lower standards until 80% of the students graduate with honors ... choke the halls of the board of regents.

When an 8-year-old boy pecks a girl's cheek on the playground and gets hauled into court for sexual harassment ... march on that school and block its doorways. When someone you elected is seduced by political power and betrays you ... petition them, oust them, banish them. When Time magazine's cover portrays millennium nuts as deranged, crazy Christians holding a cross as it did last month ... boycott their magazine and the products it advertises.

So that this nation may long endure, I urge you to follow in the hallowed footsteps of the great disobedience of history that freed exiles, founded religions, defeated tyrants, and yes, in the hands of an aroused rabble in arms and a few great men, by God's grace, built this country. If Dr. King were here, I think he would agree.

Thank you.

HOT OFF THE INTERNET

Give you one guess...

Can you imagine working for a company that has a little more than 500 employees and has the following statistics.

- 29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- 7 have been arrested for fraud
- 19 have been accused of writing bad checks
- 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses
- 3 have done time for assault
- 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit
- 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges
- 8 have been arrested for shoplifting
- 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits
- 84 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year

Can you guess which organization this is?
Give up yet?

It's the 535 members of the United States Congress.
The same group of idiots that crank out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.



After the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, which killed six and injured 1,000, President Clinton promised that those responsible would be hunted down and punished.

After the 1995 bombing in Saudi Arabia, which killed five U.S. military personnel, Clinton promised that those responsible would be hunted down and punished.

After the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 and injured 200 U.S. military personnel, Clinton promised that those responsible would be hunted down and punished.

After the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa, which killed 224 and injured 5,000, Clinton promised that those responsible would be hunted down and punished.

After the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, which killed 17 and injured 3 U.S. sailors, Clinton promised that those responsible would be hunted down and punished.

Maybe if Clinton had kept his promise, an estimated 7,000 people would be alive today.

An interesting question:

This question was raised on a Philly radio call-in show. Without casting stones, it is a legitimate question. There are two men, both extremely wealthy. One develops relatively cheap software and gives hundreds of millions of dollars to charity. The other sponsors terrorism. That being the case, why is it that the US government has spent more money chasing down Bill Gates over the past ten years than Osama bin Laden? It is a strange turn of events. Hillary gets \$8 Million for her forthcoming memoir. Bill gets about \$12 Million for his memoir. This from two people who have spent the last 8 years being unable to recall anything about past events! Incredible!!



Guess The Gun

We didn't have a winner to the last "Guess the Gun" Contest,

Another easily identifiable revolver but no one had the right answer. It was a Smith & Wesson "Schofield" model which was adopted by the US military in the 1870's. Schofields were issued to active units; reportedly to the 4th, 9th and 10th Cavalry. The 4th was involved in the Geronimo campaign; the 9th and 10th comprised the famous "Buffalo Soldiers". They fought in the Indian Wars including campaigns against the Apaches and served in civil disturbances such as the Lincoln County Wars. It received some exposure in the Clint Eastwood movie "Unforgiven" the kid with the bad eye sight shot the big guy in the outhouse with his Schofield.

GOOD LUCK WITH THIS "GUESS The GUN"

Wanted: Old Guns, Ammo, Military Items, Knives,
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