

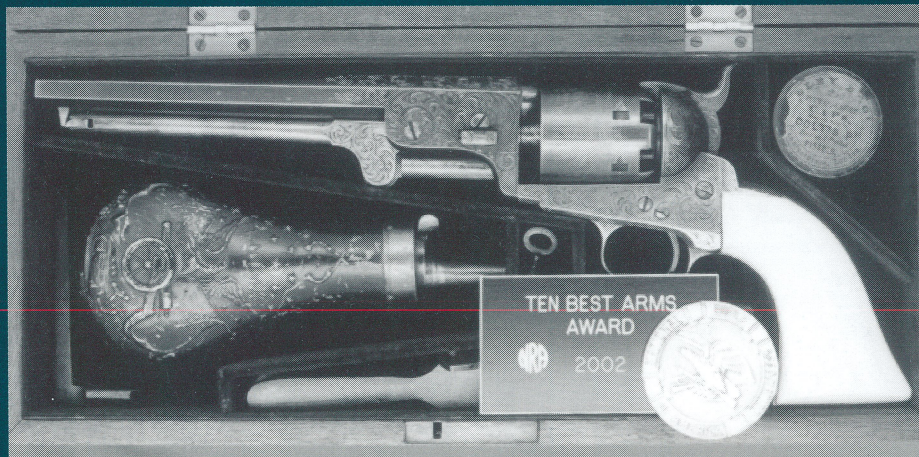
M·W·C·A

MINNESOTA WEAPONS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

VOLUME NO. 15

ISSUE NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2002



2002 TROPHY SHOW ISSUE

StaffDale H. Peterson, Stan Nelson, Nick Wheelock, and Lynn Kvam

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

Guess the Gun Contest.....2

In Memoriam2

President's Shot - MWCA President.....3

2002-2003 Show Schedule3

M.W.C.A. 2002 Trophy Show4

2002 NRA Annual Meeting *by Dale H. Peterson*11

Evolution of the Merwin-Hulbert .44 *by Stan Nelson*13

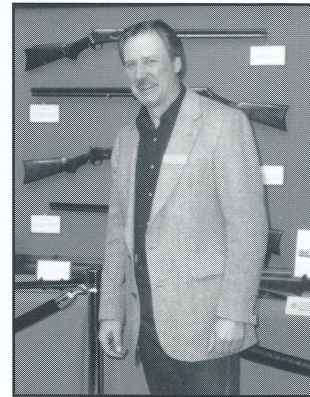
Charlton Heston Article14

GUESS THE GUN!

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



In Memoriam



We have lost another member with the passing of Mike Stanton. Mike served on the Board of Directors and was a past President of the MWCA; he also was a charter member of the Heritage Arms Society. Mike always had a smile for everyone and was willing to share his vast knowledge of fine antique firearms of which he was an avid collector. I will personally miss Mike as we traveled together to many national gun shows, he especially enjoyed the Las Vegas winter show. Mike was a big game hunter, Harley rider, a member of the Green Berets, a devoted family man and just a great guy. We will miss his big "Country Boy" smile and friendly laugh. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Bobbie and family. "Thanks Mike for being a good friend". —Dale Peterson

THE PRESIDENT'S SHOT

Most of the summer has now passed, and we will now get back to having MWCA Shows. In the interval, since the April Show, we had a display at the NRA Annual Meeting, at Reno. This turned out to be the most difficult one to "get on the road" that I have been involved with, and that spans the last many years.

The most difficult issue to deal with was the lack of insurance, for the display materials, while to and from, the showhall. The NRA did not provide any insurance coverage, as they had done in the past. It took two weeks of phone calls, and the help of one of the NRA Board Members, to get a workable plan that the MWCA could begin to afford. Mr. Bruce Stern is the Director that needs our thanks, and has received mine. I was informed that this would not be the case in years to come, and the NRA insurance program would be back in effect. They learned that they had some empty spaces on "Collectors Row" because of the insurance change.

We brought home one of the "Ten Best Weapons" Silver Medallions for an 1851 Colt owned by Mike Stanton. This is a real honor to have such an award.

In the matter of 'Trophy Shows', we, in my opinion, rank high. Several of the MWCA members were at the recent Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Show, in Kansas City. This was the NRA's 7th Annual National Gun Collectors Show, and the 32nd Annual K.C. National Arms Show. The show theme was to be "The Philippine Insurrection", and only three of the forty some displays actually dealt with it. They had many fine displays and passed out awards for Colt, Marlin, Winchester, etc; but made no mention of the "Theme" displays, during the award ceremonies.

There were quite a number of NRA Board Members, and NRA Staffers in attendance at this show. The displays were worth the viewing, and the show was, to the greatest extent 'Collectors Items'. It is a short trip worth taking, in spite of the 100+ degree temperature. At least this year we had air conditioning in the hall.

While there I had inquiry about our "Trophy Show" and was asked to send information to someone about it. The word gets around, and we do get people to bring great displays. We also have categories that are not aimed at any specific manufacturer, and related items can be in line for awards. After putting together many displays; I know that it takes a lot of effort and searching for items, but it seems to be worth the trouble.

Also, we are approaching our 50th Anniversary, and are still waiting for ideas from the Members to help make it an event to remember. The MWCA belongs to the Members, and the Board of Directors should have your input.

I get the comment that "the MWCA Shows are not what they used to be", and that they are "all full of Black Guns", and there are "no collectors items there". Well 'collectors items' are where you find them, and what you are looking for. A collector, in another state, recently added a \$1000+ piece to his collection for a few hundred dollars. The seller did not know what he had for sale. Sometimes it is a matter of being there when someone is 'cleaning house', and the bargains show up.

Alvin Olson M.W.C.A. President



2002-2003 Show Schedule

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

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

100% Arms and Accessories

Remaining Shows For 2002:

September 14-15	— St. Cloud Civic Center
September 28-29	— State Fairgrounds - Education Building
October 5-6	— Owatonna Four Seasons Center
December 14-15	— St. Paul Rivercentre

Shows Schedule For 2003:

January 25-26	— Rochester Mayo Civic Center
February 22-23	— Minneapolis Convention Center Annual Trophy Show w/Heritage Arms Society and Sporting Collectables Group
March 22-23	— State Fairgrounds - Coliseum
April 12-13	— State Fairgrounds - Education Building (Providing the building is ready)
August 16-17	— St. Paul Rivercentre
September 13-14	— St. Cloud Civic Center
September 27-28	— State Fairgrounds - Education Building
October 4-5	— Owatonna Four Seasons Center (Pending)
December 13-14	— St. Paul Rivercentre

All fees & set-up hours are the same for 2003 as 2002 • 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 2002 MWCA Annual Trophy Show

The MWCA annual trophy show was a little bit different this year because for this particular event we joined forces with the Heritage arms Society, the American Sporting Collectibles Association, and the North Star Blade Collectors. The result was a very interesting show with a great variety of arms and sporting items to suit nearly every taste. The show had everything from A to Z in sporting items and arms: fish hooks, duck decoys and calls, sporting goods advertising, collectible and custom knives, fine antique weapons, and modern arms and accessories.

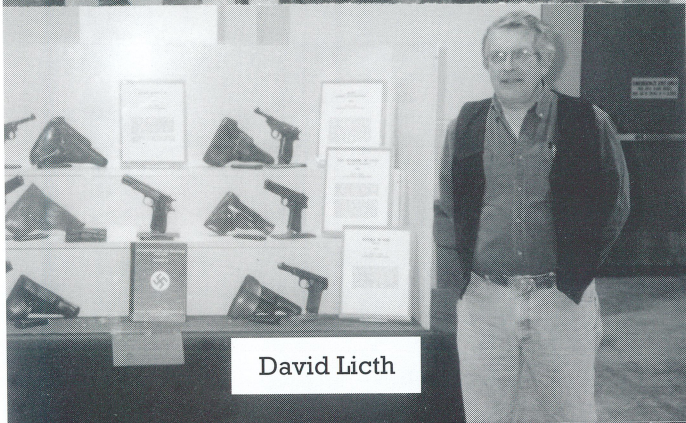
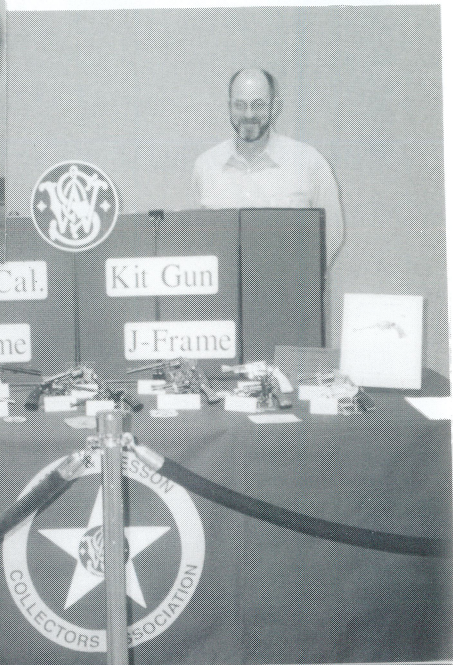
This cooperative show was the brainchild of Tony Schwab who approached each of the collectors' groups and asked if they would like to participate in such an event. Judging from the success of the show, it was a good idea and one that we will all seriously look at doing again. Following is a listing of the winners in the various display categories.

- Dick Punchard and Dale Peterson received both the "Best of Show Award" and 1st place in the Antique Arms category with their Colt 1851 Navy display. This is the same display that represented the MWCA at the NRA Annual Meeting and Show in Reno, Nevada, this past April.
- Kenny Lindquist captured the 2nd place honors in the Antique Arms category with his fine display of 1851 Navy Colts.
- In the Edged Weapons category, Charlie Mossefin carved out a 1st place award with his K-Bar knives.
- Blasting into 1st place in the Modern Shotguns category, Fred Vandersnick also garnered the "People's Choice Award" with his fine Winchester Trap and Skeet guns.
- In the Modern Handguns category, Dale Dalbotten's Ruger collection got him a 1st place, some awfully nice and relatively rare Fitz-Special Colt revolvers took 2nd place for Lynn Kvan, and David Licht's Colt Government Model Oddities got him a 3rd place award.
- In the Military Handguns category, Bob Edwardson got the 2nd place honors with his "The Big One" display, while Dave Licht captured 1st place with an unusual "Large Pistols of the 3rd Reich" display.
- 1st place in the Modern Rifles category went to Rex Brown with his display of Winchester 22s, and Bob Crump took the 2nd place award with his display of Steven's rifles.
- Awards in the Related Items category went to Al Rehder's powder horns (1st place), and to Alvin Olson's two nice displays (2nd and 3rd place.)

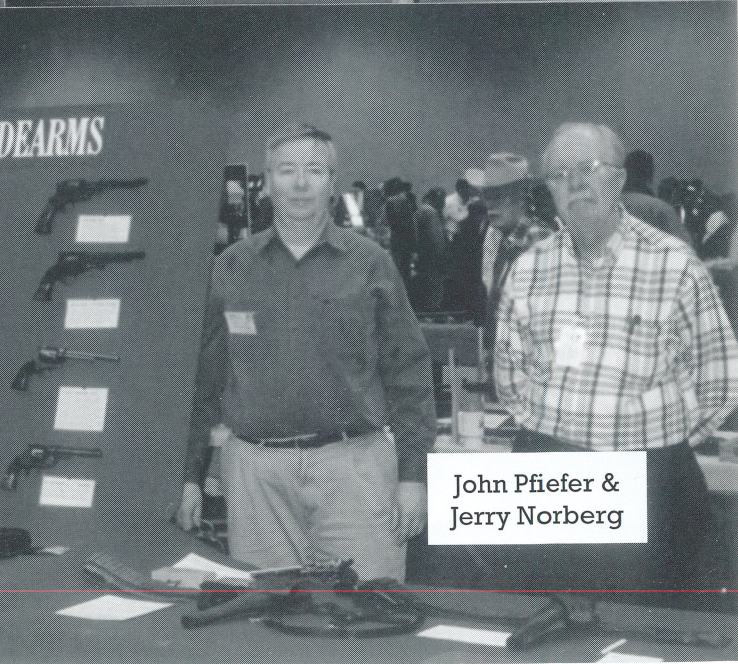
All in all it was an exciting, informative, and educational show - just exactly what a gun show should be. Thanks to all of the members who took time to participate by displaying their "favorite toys." We look forward to doing this same type of show next year, and we hope it will be just as good - if not better - than this year's.



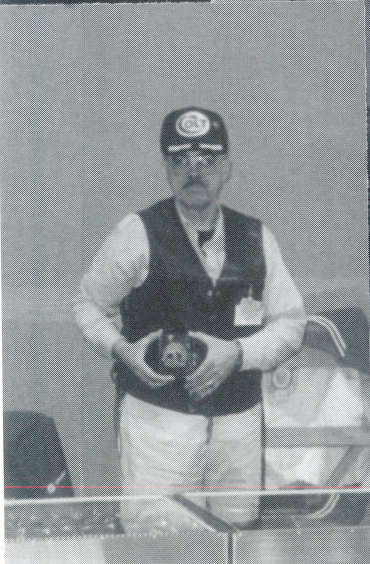
Trophy Winners



David Lichth

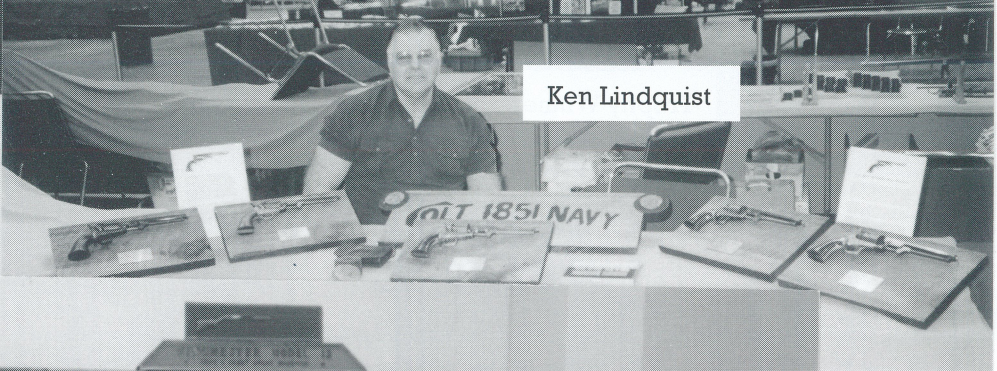


John Pfiefer & Jerry Norberg

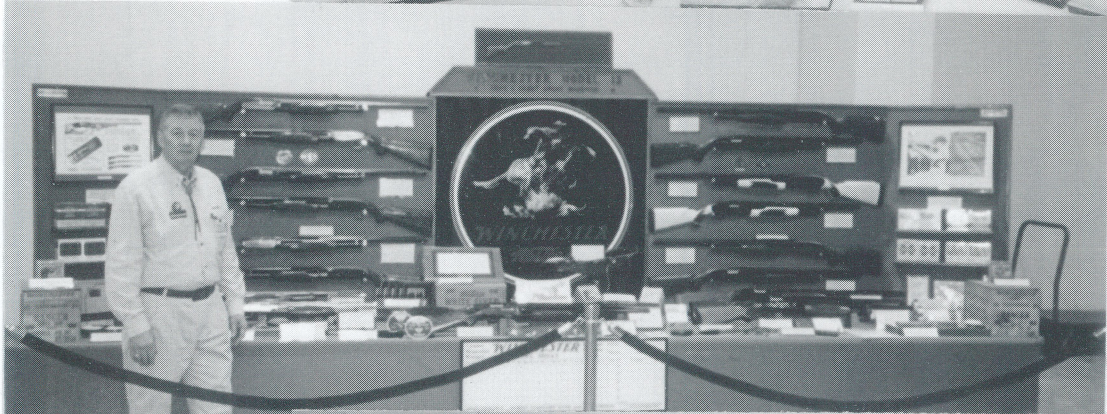




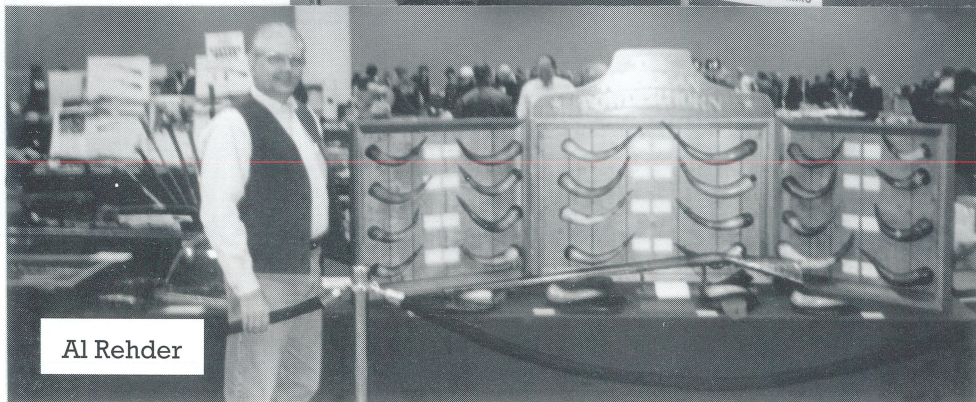
Dick PUNCHARD & Dale H. PETERSON



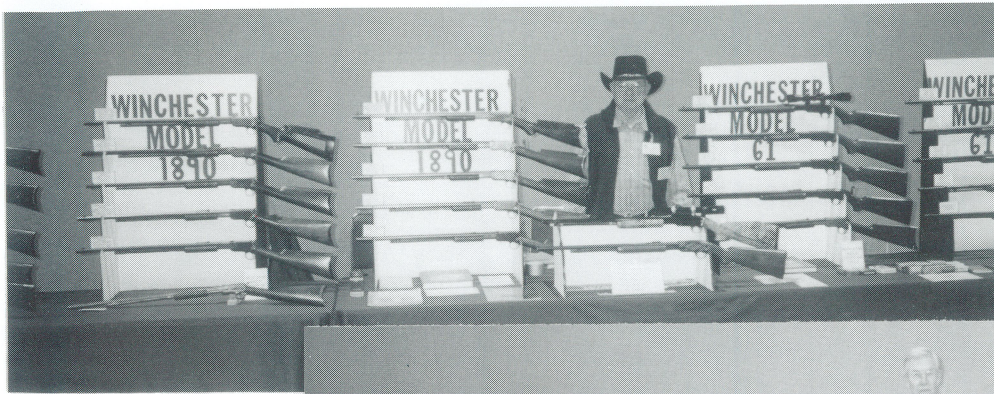
Ken Lindquist



Fred Vandersnick



Al Rehder



Rex Brown



Dale Dalbotten



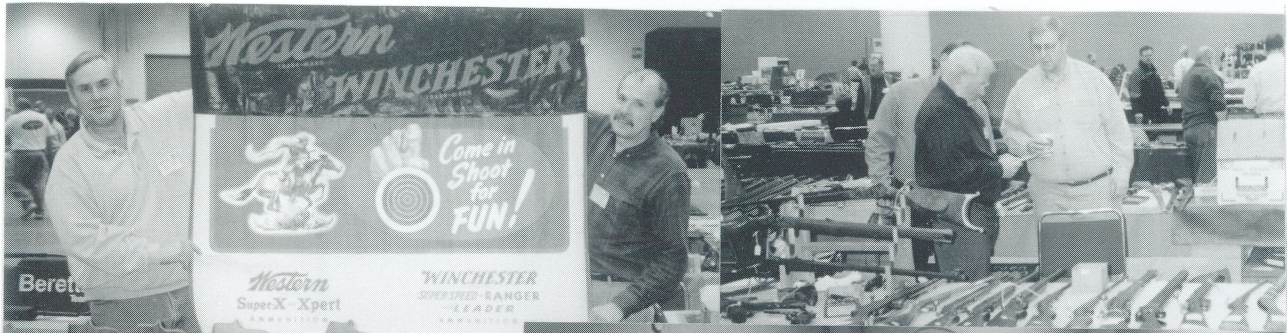
Lynn Kvam



Charlie Mossefin



Rita & Vern Berning

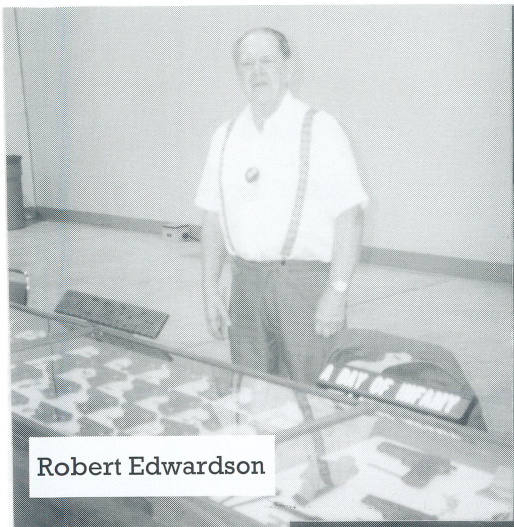


Sporting Collectibles

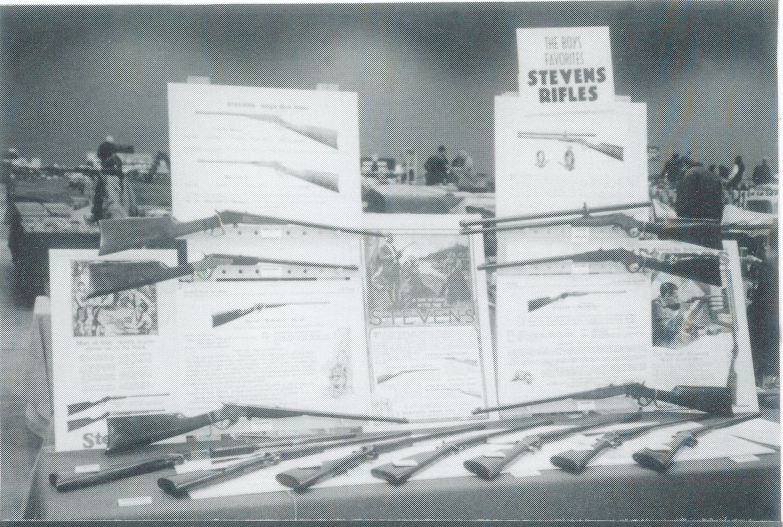


Alvin Olson





Robert Edwardson



The "H.A.S." Group





2002 NRA Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. April 26 through 28.

by Dale Peterson

Most people tend to be at ease when around others with likes and interests similar to theirs. I'm no exception and it's therefore no wonder that I felt quite comfortable at this year's NRA annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. After all, there I was amongst over forty-two thousand people with whom I had something in common -- my interests in gun sports and firearms collecting. Alvin Olson and I had driven out to Reno to set up and oversee the MWCA display during the three-day NRA event. We had taken our wives along to see the sites and to just get away for a while. Bruce Kinneberg, a MWCA member who attends many of the annual NRA meetings and volunteered to help us set up and man the MWCA display.

Setting up a display area at the convention center is a bit of a slow process as you are continually waiting on show cases, carpet, chairs, curtains, and the other items supplied by the convention service. Eventually, however, everything gets put together, and you are ready for the show to open. Our display booth was situated in Collectors' Row, which was lined on both sides with displays from many of the state arms collectors groups and displays devoted to collectible arms from many different manufacturers: Colt, Winchester, Smith & Wesson, Marlin, Glock, H&K, and Ruger just to name a few. In fact, there were over thirty different collector-group participants in the show this year. With this many collector's groups attending, there were plenty of fine old firearms to look at and admire.



Mrs. Olson was the big winner



Dale Peterson and Steve Fjestad, from the BLUE BOOK looking over some Colt copies.

The theme for the MWCA display this year was the 1851 Colt Navy. Examples of this fine firearm were drawn from the collections of MWCA members Dick Punchedard, Mike Stanton and yours truly. The Michigan arms collectors' group put together a very nice Lewis and Clark display with a number of arms and artifacts from the Lewis and Clark expedition period. Bud Clark, a fifth generation descendant of William Clark was at the booth and was dressed in period attire. At another booth, there was a display of over 100 Colt Woodsman pistols, many of which I had only seen before as pictures in reference books. All-in-all it was a great event, and the MWCA faired quite well as one of our Navies captured a silver medal for being one of the ten best guns at the show (refer to our cover picture).

The highlight of the meeting was the Saturday evening banquet, which was attended by over 2000 people. Comedian "T. BUBBA" Bechtol and the band of Vince Gill provided the entertainment for the crowd. The keynote speaker at the banquet was U.S. Senator and Georgia Democrat Zell Miller. Senator Miller told the crowd that he was a life member of the NRA and was darn proud of that fact, although he did admit that it was kind of unusual these days for a Democrat to be pro-gun.

He covered a host of subjects, ranging from the need to pass a national concealed-carry law to the necessity of giving the nation's airline pilots the freedom to choose to defend themselves, their aircraft, and their passengers and crew with firearms. His closing remarks centered on the Bill of Rights, the backbone of our freedoms and the challenges we face in preserving these freedoms for future generations of Americans. Among the freedoms he cited were those of the Second Amendment, which gives law-abiding citizens the right "to keep and bear arms." The 2003 NRA annual meeting is being held on April 25 through the 29 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.



Dale H. Peterson with R.L. Wilson, a former Minnesota boy and author of many Colt Books, visited our booth.



Alvin giving directions



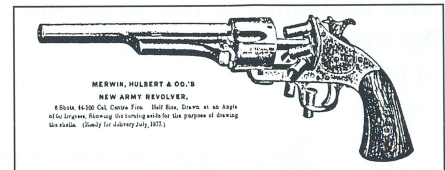
Alvin didn't like the food

Evolution of the Merwin-Hulbert .44

by Stan Nelson

Sometime in the year 1859 Joseph Merwin, erstwhile shoe manufacturer from Milford, Connecticut, opened a gun store at 267 Broadway in New York City. In 1861 he formed a partnership with Edward P. Bray, selling firearms and related supplies under the firm name of Merwin & Bray. This association probably did well during the Civil War years of 1861-1865, but Bray left in 1866. In 1867 Merwin found a new partner in Charles H. Simpkins, the firm operating as Merwin & Simpkins. About a year later they were joined by Charles Taylor, the organization now being advertised as Merwin, Taylor & Simpkins. But in early 1869 for reasons unknown, (was Joseph Merwin hard to get along with?) the Taylor and Simpkins names disappear from company letterheads and Merwin now is joined by Massachusetts born William A. Hulbert to form another partnership known as Merwin & Hulbert. Prior to this Hulbert had been junior partner in a firm dealing in paper products and may have had some needed capital. This association continued until early 1872 when another Hulbert, William's older half brother Milan, put some money into the organization and the business name finally appears as Merwin, Hulbert & Company, a name that would survive for the next twenty years, despite Joseph Merwin's death in November, 1879.

By the time of the Centennial Exhibition, which was held in Philadelphia during the summer of 1876, Merwin, Hulbert & Company seem to have been prospering. They had financial interests in and were marketing agents for the Evans Rifle Company and Phoenix cartridges and American Metallic cartridges, both manufactured by Henry W. Mason in South Coventry, Connecticut. They also owned about half the stock of Hopkins & Allen Manufacturing Company and were the sole marketing agency for their output, which at that time consisted primarily of a line of inexpensive pocket revolvers. Merwin, Hulbert & Company exhibited some of these revolvers at the Centennial, (probably the X-L series) and was awarded a medal for "general excellence of workmanship and beauty of finish." They were also getting close to marketing their first .44 caliber revolver, a prototype of which seems to have been displayed at the Centennial, for there is an illustration in an exhibitors catalog depicting an open-top Merwin-Hulbert revolver in the extraction mode. The caption on the engraving reads: "6 shots 44-100 cal. centre fire....drawn at an angle of 60 degrees, showing the turning aside for the purpose of drawing the shells. (ready for delivery July, 1877.)" Except for patent drawings that illustration is the earliest that I have seen of the open-top .44 which Merwin, Hulbert & Company had optimistically labeled their "new army revolver."

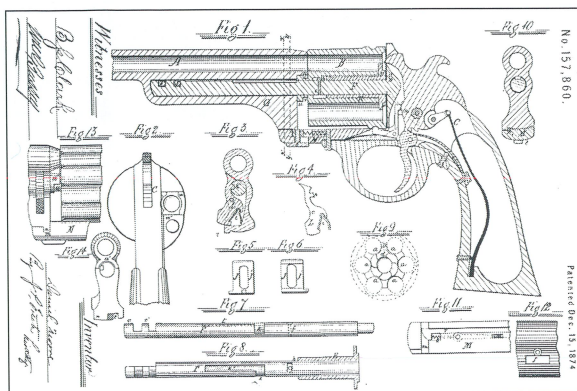


Merwin-Hulbert .44 prototype from a catalog of 1876 Centennial exhibits

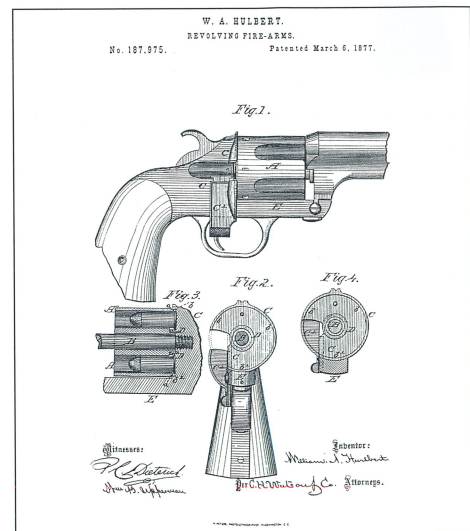
The design of this revolver was based upon several patents owned or controlled by Merwin, Hulbert & Company, the most important of which were #157, 860, issued to Daniel Moore on December 15, 1874 covering the extraction system and overall design, and #187, 975, issued to William A. Hulbert on March 6, 1877 for a flange around the perimeter of the recoil shield, without which Moore's extraction system would not have worked. This concept, in which cartridges are held by a fixed extractor, the empties dropping free when the cylinder is pulled forward is hardly unique as has been maintained by some writers. The Moore patent was in fact preceded by one American and two

British patents which describe essentially the same method of extraction. The American patent #50, 760, issued to Henry F. Wheeler on October 31, 1865, applied to a two shot pistol, but both of the British patents, #779 to J.

Thomas, March 13, 1869, and #1992 to Thomas Jones, July 2, 1869 involved revolver design. As an arms inventor, Daniel Moore was undoubtedly aware of these earlier

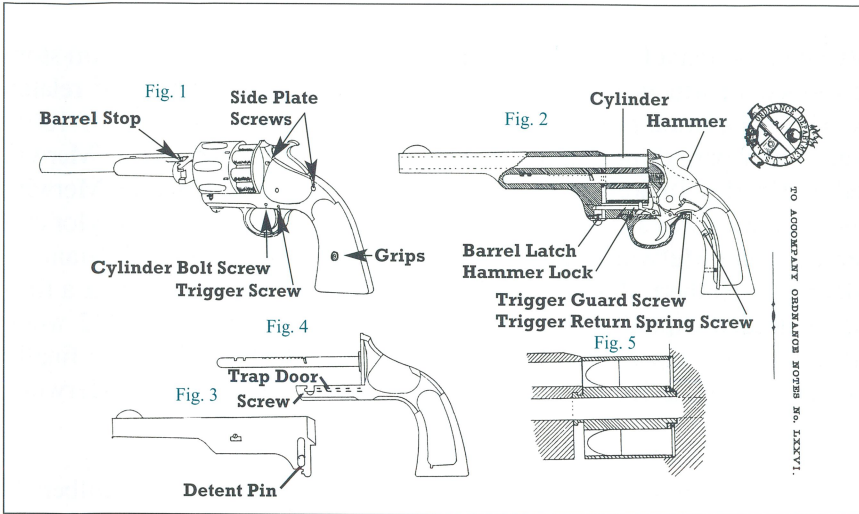


The Daniel Moore Patent



The William A. Hulbert patent

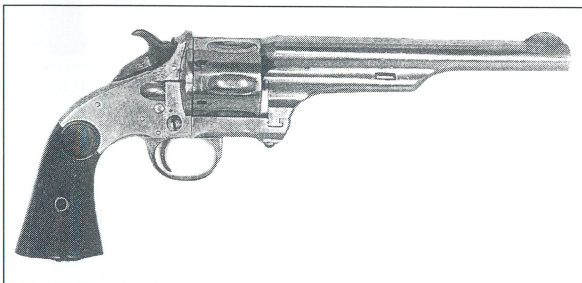
patents but in those days patent rights, like copyrights, were not honored internationally. Though not functional, another William A. Hulbert patent, #9, 386 issued on July 11, 1876 was a distinctive feature of the open-top .44-the oval cylinder flutes.



Pointing out features of the Merwin-Hulbert open-top revolver which were changed during its period of production, 1878-1882. See text for chronology of these changes.

Apparently in production by late 1877, Merwin, Hulbert & Company submitted one of their new revolvers to the US Ordnance Department for possible trial. It was accepted and tested at the Springfield Armory, the results being reported in Ordnance Notes no. LXXVI dated January 22, 1878. The specimen tested was chambered for the .44 Merwin-Hulbert cartridge (252 gr. bullet, 23 gr. powder) and as the report indicates, withstood the rigorous field tests quite well. It was criticized, however, for its two piece frame construction, its great number of parts, and the many different screws, requiring the use of several screwdrivers. In summation the report says: "On the whole, the board regards this as a very good pistol, it having endured the tests in a fairly satisfactory manner."

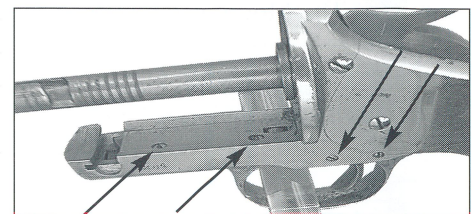
Evidently someone in the Merwin-Hulbert organization took this criticism seriously for steps were soon taken to correct what the Ordnance Trial Board saw as design flaws in their revolver. How soon we do not know precisely; it is too bad the board did not record the serial number of the revolver they tested. But by collecting serial numbers and keeping track of external and internal alterations a sequence of the changes made can be established. Arms historian, Jerald T. Teesdale,



Merwin-Hulbert "new army revolver", earliest type (in serial no. 500 range) with "hump-back" hammer, short trigger guard, problem screws, "trap-door" access plate, detent pin and red mottled grips.

who has been studying the anomalies of Merwin, Hulbert, and Company production for over half a century, estimates that not over 510 revolvers of the type tested by the Ordnance Board were produced before the first changes were made. These had to do with screws. Specifically criticized in the Ordnance report were the trigger guard screw and the trigger return spring screw both of which had to be removed from inside the frame. This had proved to be difficult and time consuming. To correct this both these screws were given the same size screw heads and made accessible from outside the frame. At the same time the two long screws retaining the side plate were shortened so they no longer extend completely through the frame. As noted, these changes were made after serial no. 510 and are visible externally if you are aware of them.

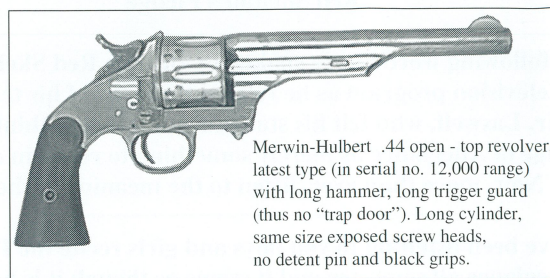
Two more obvious changes, neither of which had anything to do with the Ordnance report, seem to have occurred gradually. By about serial no. 5,000 the shape of the hammer changed, the early "humpback" hammer being replaced by the more familiar longer, upward curved hammer, which gives better leverage for cocking. Hopkins and Allen machinist, George W. Cilley, may have had a hand in this; he was largely responsible for the design of the Hopkins & Allen X-L no. 8 revolver, which has exactly the same hammer and a Merwin-Hulbert type loading gate. The other change, which is purely cosmetic, saw the mottled, reddish colored grips gradually give way to black hard rubber grips.



Showing "trap-door" access plate, also note different size screw heads.

Some time after about serial no. 6,500 a major design change took place. This is externally visible in the longer trigger guard which now extends forward under the barrel latch release, and the latch release button no longer has a slotted head. The small screw in the front end of the frame extension disappears and the cylinder bolt screw and trigger screw have been given larger heads; the latter now entering the frame from the right side. One size screwdriver will now fit all

exposed screw heads except the grip screw. Since removal of the new longer trigger guard gives access to the entire barrel latch assembly, the “trap-door” in the frame extension (under the cylinder) is no longer necessary. Also the barrel latch itself was simplified by removal of the side bar which locked the hammer during extraction, all of which reduced the number of parts, aided takedown and assembly, and surely speeded up factory production.



Merwin-Hulbert .44 open - top revolver, latest type (in serial no. 12,000 range) with long hammer, long trigger guard (thus no “trap door”). Long cylinder, same size exposed screw heads, no detent pin and black grips.

As noted earlier in this essay, Joseph Merwin, usually depicted as the guiding genius of Merwin, Hulbert & Company died in 1879 and, therefore, never saw any Merwin-Hulbert revolver other than the .44 open-top “new army” type. The Pocket Army, top-strap models, .32 caliber and .38 caliber revolvers in all their variations were the work of the Hulberts and the Hopkins & Allen Company machinists.

Though not obvious, the last alteration to the Merwin-Hulbert .44 (before the addition of the top-strap) was a necessary one. As Colt, Forehand & Wadsworth and Remington had already done, Merwin, Hulbert & Company decided to offer their “new army revolver” chambered for the popular 44/40 cartridge developed by Winchester for their model 1873 lever action rifle. But at 1 1/2 inches the cylinder of their revolver was a trifle too short to accommodate the 44/40 cartridge. Thus they had to lengthen the cylinder to 1 9/16 inches and make minor changes in the frame and base pin. The small detent pin projecting from the barrel stop (designed to prevent inadvertent separation of barrel and frame) is no longer deemed necessary as the soft bronze spring in the barrel stop itself is replaced by a much stronger steel spring. By this time some 10,000 plus (serial no. 10,167 still has the short cylinder) had been produced, but when the change was made to the 1 9/16 inch cylinder it became standard on all subsequent production of large frame Merwin-Hulbert revolvers regardless of caliber. Since they were all chambered for the 44 Merwin-Hulbert cartridge the short cylinder revolvers had no caliber markings. With more than one cartridge now available, caliber identification was stamped on the frame to avoid confusion, viz; Calibre Winchester 1873; calibre 44 M.H. & Co.; and Russian Model, the latter for the relatively few Merwin-Hulbert revolvers found chambered for the S & W Russian cartridge. Possibly the initial success of the Merwin-Hulbert revolver would have been greater had it been introduced in the 44/40 cartridge for this would prove to be by far its most popular caliber. The earliest advertisement for this combination that I have found is in the May, 1881 issue of SCRIBNER’s magazine, which states: “Our new army for frontier use. Calibre 44, Winchester model 1873, now ready.” In all we estimate total production of the open-top, flat butt, long barrel, Merwin-Hulbert revolver, in all calibers to be something over 15,000.

16 MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

GREATLY REDUCED PRICES FOR 1881.

Turning the Barrel on the Center Stem and drawing it forward, ejects all the Shells.

MERWIN, HULBERT & CO'S SYSTEM AUTOMATIC REVOLVERS

These Revolvers are made of Forged Steel, interchangeable in their parts, of sufficient strength, and are perfect in workmanship. They have *extraordinary* and easy extraction of the Shells; an inclined screw action on the base pin starts the Shells, overcoming any resistance. They extract one or more Shells, if desired, without the aid of any tool. They have no small parts exposed to rust, and the extractor is a solid part of the base pin. They are rifled by a new process, that gives perfect accuracy; are well balanced, and pleasant to handle. The lines of recoil and resistance are so neatly alike, that they prevent any upward throw of the arm when fired. The motion of extracting the Shells along the arm, and they cannot clog by any number of discharges. These Revolvers can be procured through any Hardware or Fire-Arms Dealer in the United States, or of

MERWIN, HULBERT & Co. 83 Chambers Street, New-York.

Our NEW ARMY, for FRONTIER USE, Calibre 44, WINCHESTER MODEL, 1873, now ready.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

Early ad for Merwin-Hulbert in 44/40 cal., May 1881

Although the changes made to Merwin-Hulbert & Company’s “new army revolver” did result in a simpler, sturdier side-arm, and, when chambered for the 44/40 cartridge a more powerful one, the open-top design seemed somewhat anachronistic in the year 1881. Recognition of this would soon see the introduction of a large frame top-strap model revolver, a configuration which had already appeared in the Merwin, Hulbert & Company’s little .38 caliber spur trigger revolver. But before that happened, the first Pocket Army model made its appearance, something we will consider at length in the next issue of the M.W.C.A. publication.

References

Integral to this study have been the well researched notes and informed commentary of my friend, Jerald T. Teesdale.

Carder, Charles E. HOPKINS & ALLEN REVOLVERS AND PISTOLS, Lima Ohio 1998.

Holmes, W.L. Merwin Hulbert Collection, San Jose, 1960.

Lawbaugh, A. Lavielle. “Merwin & Hulbert another chapter,” THE GUN REPORT, April, 1966.

McCabe, James D. ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION, Cincinnati, 1876

Nelson, Stan. “The Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army, THE GUN REPORT, February, 1960

Nelson, Stan. “The Hopkins & Allen X-L no. 8,” M.W.C.A. BULLETIN, vol. 11, no. 1.

NEW YORK HERALD, issue of November 13, 1879, obituary of Joseph Merwin.

Parsons, John. THE PEACEMAKER AND ITS RIVALS, N.Y., 1950.

Phelps, Art. MERWIN, HULBERT & COMPANY FIREARMS, Santa Ana, 2nd ed., 1992

United States Patent Office records, various dates.

Untold numbers of individuals who have contributed descriptions, serial numbers, and other details of Merwin-Hulbert revolvers.

HOT OFF THE INTERNET

Red Shelton's Pledge

The following words were spoken by the late Red Skelton on his television program as he related the story of his teacher, Mr. Laswell, who felt his students had come to think of the Pledge of Allegiance as merely something to recite in class each day. Now, more than ever, listen to the meaning of these words.

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I — me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge — dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

Allegiance — my love and my devotion.

To the flag — our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, 'freedom is everybody's job!'

United — that means that we have all come together.

States — individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

And to the republic — a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people. For which it stands,

One nation — one nation, meaning "so blessed by God"

Indivisible — incapable of being divided.

With liberty — which is freedom - the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice — the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all — which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the pledge of Allegiance...

UNDER GOD

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?

Guess The Gun

We had two winners in the "Guess The Gun" contest.

Bob Hoffman and Rick Simenson, they both get a free business card ad. All of the Cowboy Action Shooters and the Old Western Movie buffs should have guessed this one. It was Colt Single Action Army which was first produced in 1873 and is still going strong.

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

DALE H. PETERSON
ANTIQUES AND OLD GUNS



1-763-753-1663

Dacopete@aol.com

Confidential Appraisals

6150-189th Lane NW • Anoka, MN 55303



NORTH COUNTRY
TAXIDERMISTRY

12889 CROOKED LATE BLVD.
COON RAPIDS, MN 55448



RICKY SIMONSON

763-757-7620

www.nctaxidermy.com



WANTED

Old Fishing Lures & Tackle



BOB HOFFMAN

93 W. Little Canada Road, St. Paul, MN 55117 (651) 482-9657