

# M·W·C·A

## Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Official Publication

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## 2009 Trophy Show Issue

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

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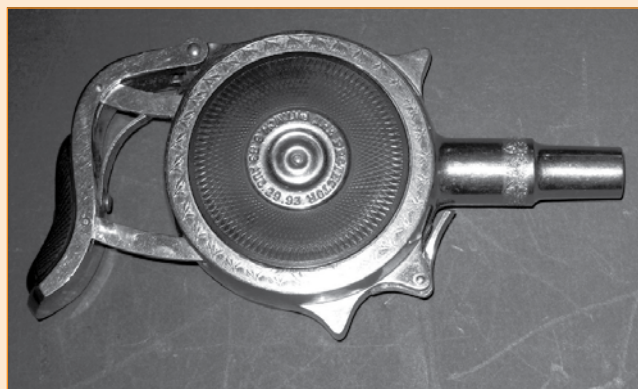
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## GUESS THE GUN!

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

First five correct entries win!

Call Dale at 763-753-1663



## About the Cover

Presentation Colts by Gustave Young.  
See article on page 4.

# The President's Shot

The MWCA has seen an increase in show attendance and table holders for 2009 as a result of the 2008 election. This interest and enthusiasm seems to be subsiding as the year comes to an end. I believe this is due to the perceived lack of legislative threat.

Gun Owners need to remain diligent and aware of pending anti-gun legislation. The politicians who want to take away or infringe on Gun Owners Rights continue to work to those ends. It is important to talk to your friends, family and others, in order to keep them aware of the potential threats to Gun Owners Rights, since they may not be as involved or as informed of the issues as MWCA members are.

If the current majority party has success with other parts of the President's agenda, I believe the Anti-Gun Politicians will become bolder and make a stronger attempt to reverse the positive Gun Rights movement that has occurred at all levels of government throughout the country in the past few years.

2009 MWCA President

David Hinrichs



## 2010 Show Dates

### Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

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**JANUARY 16 - 17, 2010. Rochester Mayo Civic Center**

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**JANUARY 30 - 31, 2010, Minneapolis Convention Center**

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**MARCH 20 - 21, 2010, MN State Fair COLISEUM Building**

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**APRIL 17 - 18, 2010 (Easter is April 4th), MN State Fair EDUCATION Building**

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**AUGUST 21 - 22, 2010, Forest Lake Sports Complex**

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**OCTOBER 2 - 3, 2010, MN State Fair EDUCATION Building**

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**OCTOBER 30 - 31, 2010, MN State Fair COLISEUM Building (Trophy Show)**

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**DECEMBER 11 - 12, 2010, St. Paul RiverCentre**

# Gustave Young's Engraving

*by John Pfeifer*

*and additions by Dale H. Peterson*

Over the years a lot of attention has been given to engraved Colt revolvers. During the 1850's there was a series of 1849 Colt Pocket Models that were generally referred to as "Presentation" pieces. In comparing the various styles of engraving in the 1850's and 1860's, Gustave Young stands far above the rest for his engraving.

Many years ago, I acquired a Pocket Model, 5 inch, engraved, that can be referred to as a presentation piece. Young engraved a series of 1849 Pockets in 1854-1869 that fall into this category. There are several dominant characteristic in the Young style.



Example of the high silver content of the early 1849 Pocket Model.



Examples of the Wolf's head on the hammer.



In the picture above, note the stippled background. This is not seen on all other series of Young's engraved Colts. Note also the presence of a Wolf's head on the revolver. This was often used by Young as his signature and generally appears on the barrel lug. However on this one it appears on the hammer. It is weak with some pitting; but you can see the eye of the wolf.

With this revolver being a "Presentation" piece it gives one the opportunity to do extra research. Who was "John W. Fox"? What is his story? Unfortunately there were many "John W. Foxs" that served in the Civil War. However one individual stands out; a Quarter Master Sergeant John W. Fox, from New York. He enlisted on November 1, 1861. Further research will be needed on this individual to truly make the connection to this gun.



Inscription "John W. Fox"



Examples of Gustave Young's signature that appears on his Colts, the wolf's head.

An understanding of engraving is an aid to determining date of manufacture. Three major styles are found on the percussion colts. The early "Vine" pattern (1848-1851), "Doughnut" style (1851-1852) and the "Gustave Young" style (1852-1869). Shading, background pattern and quality of the cuts are all factors to consider.

## Gustave Young's Engraving, continued

In Robert Jordan and Darrow Watt's book "Colt's Pocket '49 it's Evolution" there are actually 10 different styles listed. Early Vine, Exhibition, Doughnut, Gustave Young, Helfricht, Gold Inlay, Damacene Gold Inlays, Out of House Engraving and English Engraving. The different styles of engraving are too complicated to go into without an exhaustive study so we will limit the styles of the '49 Pocket John has listed in his article.

Factory guns engraved at the Colt Factory had a variety of marks under the serial numbers. Four common marks were an apostrophe, dot, letter E and the letter I. The "Dot" started around serial number 8,000. Photo of SN79482 caption. On this early small trigger guard which was made in 1853 there is a "Dot."



This pocket, serial #176780 was made in 1859 and shows the apostrophe. It is engraved with Ivory grips.

The apostrophe was applied in the same location as the dot but it was used to mean "engraved with Ivory grips." The letter "I" was used the same way as the Apostrophe, and in the same locations, but was much more common.

The letter "E" stood for engraved and applies to '49s with serial numbers from about 226000 to 317000. Earlier "E" marked guns were for export to England and generally not engraved.



"E" marked revolver with serial number 226265 was manufactured in 1863 and is engraved.



This revolver is also a presentation piece as the back strap is inscribed "From the Milwaukee Boys to Sand Moak." The preliminary research I have done stated that a Lesander Moak was a clerk in the Milwaukee area in the late 1850s.



Flowers and leaves on SN 176,780.

Gustave Young also incorporated a variety of animal faces, birds, leaves and flowers into his designs. The flower and leaf designs

often appear as though they are coming out of a doughnut shaped ring.



Animal head on SN 79482 appears to have eye lashes.



Bird's head on SN 176,780.

There were 332,993 Pocket models produced over a period of roughly 40 years so there are a great number of varieties of options found on these very popular little revolvers.

### References:

R.L. Wilson, Colt an American Legend  
Robert M. Jordan and Darrow M. Watt, Colt's Pocket '49, Its' Evolution including the Baby Dragoon & Wells Fargo

# Forest Lake Gun Show

By Dale H. Peterson

In my opinion, the MWCA Board of Directors made a good decision when they selected the Forest Lake Sports Complex for the August gun show. It is a well lighted building with plenty of early morning “fresh air” and bright light supplied by mother nature. The Minnesota weather cooperated for a change as there is no heat or air conditioning in the building. It was a new location and I, for one, saw many a new face that I had not noticed at previous guns shows. If you were pleased with the new location, let the board know or, if displeased, they always welcome your opinion.



New MWCA outdoor sign

Gail Foster reports that there were just under 1,800 in public attendance, not including our members. There were 261 exhibitors tables sold which is the capacity of the building and feedback from exhibitors was positive. The MWCA Board of Directors have decided to schedule another show there again next year.



Entry of the Sports Center



Early Sunday morning



Early Sunday morning



Stan Nelson, one of our remaining Charter Members, holding one of his favorite Merwin & Hulbert revolvers.

# MWCA 2009 Trophy Show

The annual trophy show was October 31 - November 1. There were 15 displays occupying 24 tables. We thank Tony Schwab for his many hours of work to make this a successful show. And thank you to all those who took the time to set up such wonderful displays, and thank you to the judges. Best of Show was awarded to Larry Wales for his Newton Rifles.



**Larry Wales - 1st Place, Modern Long Guns, Best Gun, Best of Show and O.K. Educational Award**



**Barb James (Tom James) - 1st Place, Related Items**



**Ed Pohl**



**Alvin Olson - 2nd Place, Modern Long Guns**



**Dale Peterson - 2nd Place, Antique Long Guns**



**Dale Dalbotten - 1st Place, Modern Handguns**



**Fred Vandersnick - 2nd Place, Related Items**



**Vern Berning - 3rd Place, Antique Long Guns and Best Gun**

# MWCA 2009 Trophy Show



**Jim Curlovic - 1st Place, Antique Long Guns and 3rd Place, Modern Long Guns**



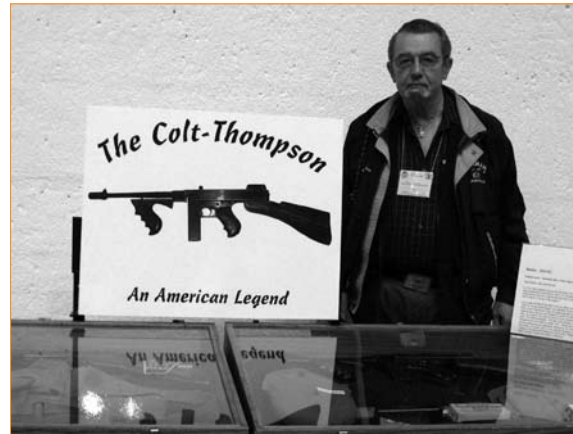
**Robert Rolander**



**Dennis Larson - 2nd Place, Modern Handguns**



**Charles Mossefin - 3rd Place, Related Items**



**Bill Larson**



**Friendly Competitors**



**Tony Schwab, Trophy Show Chairman**

# MWCA Contributes



The Shakopee Class of 2009 thanks you for your continued support of the DNR Youth Firearms Safety Program.

Shakopee Class of 2009 DNR Youth Firearms Safety Program



Among the many contributions MWCA makes annually, shaping the future for our youth is of utmost importance. Here are some of those youth from the Shakopee Class of 2009 DNR Youth Firearms Safety Program, Belle Plaine Class - Spring 2009 Youth Firearms Safety Program and Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Class being trained in firearms safety and marksmanship.



The Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Class had a great spring class with a cool, windy, sunny range day. The Shakopee class had 35 students and the Belle Plaine class had 25 students. With the combined 60 students, plus 40 some parents, on range day, every one had a great time.

On behalf of the 60 students and their parents, along with the Scott County DNR Youth Firearms Instructors, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Program. Without your help and support this program would not be what it is today.

Thank you.

*Darrell K. Honza*

Darrell K. Honza

President Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Class

Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Class

To the B.O.D. of MWCA  
Thank you so much for your continued support of the Owatonna Gun Club youth shooting program. We will use your donation to defray shell and target costs for youth trapshooting.  
Thank you!  
B.O.D. of O.G.C.

Owatonna Gun Club Youth Shooting Program



Belle Plaine Class, Spring 2009 Youth Firearms Safety Program

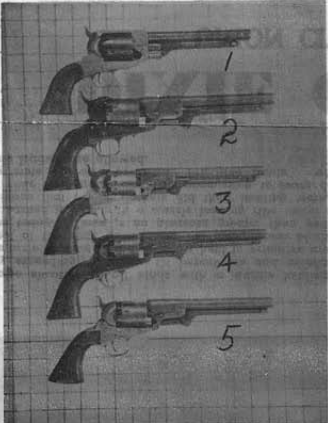
# Confederate Firearms

By Dale H. Peterson

## DIXIE GUN WORKS

UNION CITY, TENNESSEE 38261

### CONFEDERATE REVOLVERS FOR SALE



- 1.1 Spiller & Burr No. 878, cylinder pin is repaired, grips replaced, fine condition, not marked except for C.S. on frame. \$875.00.
- 1.2 Spiller & Burr, serial No. 1107, all original, never touched, fine condition, no marks, better than No. 878, little use, listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$925.00.
- 2.1 Dance .44 Revolver, serial No. 233. Wedge is replaced. Otherwise all original and very fine for a Dance. Works real good. Nipples are extra good. \$1600.00.
- 3.1 Rigdon & Ansley No. 2027, wedge not original, action needs some slight adjustment. Minimum of rust pits and good smooth outside surface condition and above average quality. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$850.00.
- 3.2 Rigdon & Ansley No. 2091 marked CSA on top barrel flat. 12 cylinder stops. Far above average in fine condition. Lightly cleaned and still shows the old original milling marks. Action works pretty good. Listed in "The Original Confederate Colt" and in "Confederate Handguns." \$925.00.
- 4.1 Leech & Rigdon No. 686, 12 cylinder stops, plunger needs repair and cylinder pin is loose in frame. Surface condition is very good with no major pitting or roughness. Even smooth brown finish never cleaned. Action needs repair. Gun does not show excessive use. C.S.A. only is faint on barrel. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$725.00.
- 4.2 Leech & Rigdon serial No. 842, deeply marked on top barrel flat "Leech & Rigdon CSA." Gun is fairly tight all over with good even smooth finish with no major defects. Action needs repair. \$825.00.
- 5.1 Griswold & Grier No. 968 with rounded barrel receiver. Action is tight and works good with good nipples. Shows minimum of use for a Griswold & Grier. \$775.00.
- 5.2 Griswold & Grier No. 1209 with rounded barrel receiver. A good tight gun not quite as nice as No. 968. All parts fit reasonably tight. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$725.00.
- 5.3 Griswold & Grier No. 949 with rounded barrel receiver. Shows a slight amount of roughness and surface discoloration. Action works pretty good. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$675.00.
- 5.4 Griswold & Grier No. 8 with rounded barrel receiver. Gun is in rough condition with a drift pin through the frame into the cylinder pin to make it steady and a new metal strap added between frame and barrel lug to strengthen. Serial No. clear on all parts. This is the lowest serial numbered Griswold & Grier known and is worthy to be in only the finest collections. Loading lever is a replacement. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$775.00.
- 5.5 Griswold & Grier No. 2708 with the octagon barrel receiver. Action is tight and works fine. This is the gun illustrated in Albaugh's "The Brass Framed Colt and Whitney" and has the clearly illustrated strap from the barrel to the frame across the top of the cylinder. We think this is the best known Griswold & Grier that has ever turned up. \$675.00.
- 5.6 Griswold & Grier No. 799 throughout. Rounded barrel receiver, action needs minor work. Good surface metal and a good average condition Griswold & Grier. Reasonably tight. \$675.00.
- 5.7 Griswold & Grier No. 301 throughout. Has rounded barrel receiver. Shows signs of use and has a chip out of the wood stocks. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$625.00.
- 5.8 Griswold & Grier No. 2977 with octagon barrel receiver. All complete and original and shows some rust pits, more than some of the others, and shows use. \$625.00.
- 5.9 Griswold & Grier No. 2629 with octagon barrel receiver. All parts are original. Shows use and roughness. Needs spring for hand. Action seems to be tight. \$600.00.
- 5.10 Griswold & Grier No. 2909 with octagon barrel receiver. Cylinder and wood grips are replacements. Action works pretty good and metal finish is good. Does not show evidence of too much abuse. Listed in "Confederate Handguns." \$550.00.
- 5.11 Griswold & Grier No. 551 with rounded barrel receiver. Hammer spur broken off. Backstrap, triggerguard and wood grips not original. Shows abuse and use. In Fair Condition. \$450.00.

Each is guaranteed to be original and as described.  
Give SECOND CHOICE SINCE THESE ARE ALL ONE OF A KIND.

1968 Dixie Gun Works Flyer

house payments, insurance, car payments and was celebrating the birth of our second born who was going thru baby food and diapers like there was no end to it.

Those revolvers would have been a great investment, if one could have afforded it, as that same group of guns today would be worth well over 10 times that price. Best of all the stock market would not have effected their value. I hope the guy that was able to purchase one or more was able to enjoy the ownership of a rare revolver and a good investment.

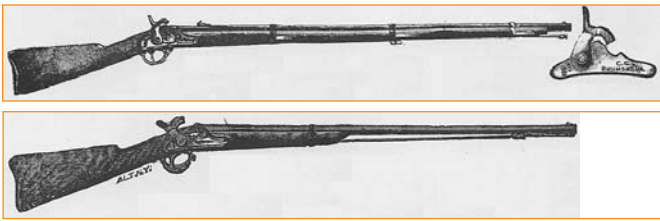


Dance Brothers ad from 1987 catalog.

I think my estimate was a little low as, while putting his article together, I found this cut in a 1987 Bourne Auction catalogue. It is a converted to cartridge Dance Brothers Army estimated for sale at \$4,000.00-\$6,500.00 which actually sold for \$9,500.00. Can you believe it, and that one was converted, an original percussion model would bring a lot more in my estimation. My 1968 investment of \$1,600.00 would have gained \$7,900.00 in 19 years. Now 22 years later it is hard to guess what it would sell for.

As for me I was able to find two confederate muskets this last year and feel very fortunate to own them. Both of them are cut down muskets which seems to be the case with a lot of Civil War muskets that were sold

## Confederate Firearms, continued



Bannerman ad from 1907 catalog

after the war as surplus. An old 1907 Bannerman catalog advertised cut down muskets of the US Springfield and Enfield make to be sold as shotguns. Bannerman also listed "Twice Captured" Confederate muzzle-loading rifle muskets for sale; price \$10.00 each. Another bargain. These were full length muskets with "C.S. Richmond" stamped locks.



"C.S. Richmond, VA" Dated 1863

I was under the impression that most of the confederate muskets were destroyed but this proves they were not and that would account for the cut down ones I have. The Richmond lock is stamped "C.S. RICHMOND-VA" and is dated 1863 and is referred to as a 'Humpback' lock. These locks were originally intended to be cut for the Maynard Tape Primer but were shipped from the Harpers Ferry Arsenal to five southern arsenals



Underside of the breach end of the Richmond Musket.

because it was over crowded. There were around 115,000 muskets sent to these five southern arsenals. The barrel is cut to 33" and is around 58 caliber or 16 gauge. Other stampings were on the breach end of the barrel and tang but because of the corrosion they are not visible. The underside of the barrel and tang are both stamped with the number "17". The butt plate is stamped with the letters "U.S." and is the type used on the Springfield 1863 Musket.



Cut down Palmetto musket.

The other cut down Confederate Musket is a "Palmetto" stamped and dated "1852 Columbia. S.C." and has the Palm Tree encircled with the words "Palmetto Armory S\*C".

The 69 caliber barrel has been cut down to 33" and marked "AR" which is the arsenal's inspector Adam Rhulman who served at Harpers Ferry from 1835 to 1854. The barrel tang is stamped 1850 and is also VP eagle proofed. The underside of the barrel and tang are stamped with a letter "J" and a number "1". Under the nipple bolster there is a letter "B". There is a thimble soldered to the bottom of the barrel to carry the ram rod which appears to be

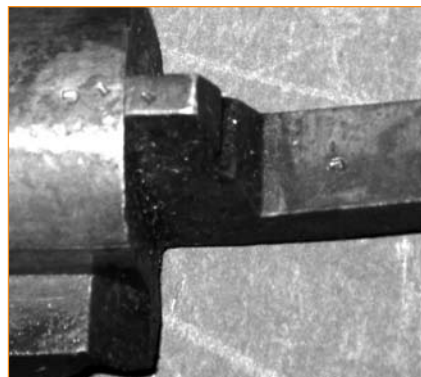


"Palmetto Armory" S\*C

original. The butt plate is stamped with the letters U.S. and the butt stock and plate are of the older pattern similar to a 1855 musket. Both muskets are fitted with a brass bead front sight.



Underside of the Palmetto showing VP eagle proof and AR inspector stamp.



Underside of the Palmetto breech end.

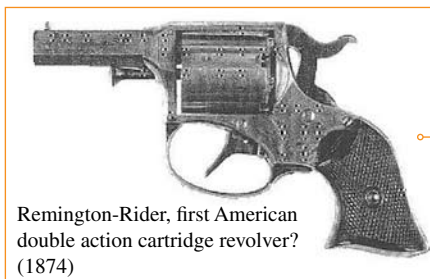
These are quite interesting old cut down muskets and do retain some value even though they are not full length and I was pleased to find them both. It made me do a little more research and gain more knowledge on these old firearms.

# American Double Action Pocket Revolvers 1875 – 1900

By Stan Nelson

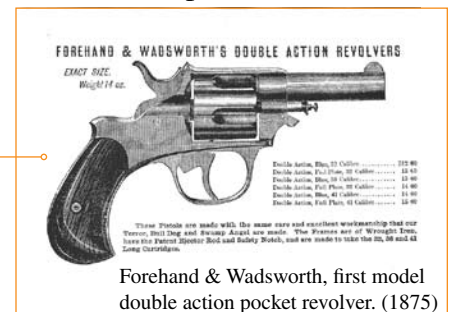
In a previous issue of the M.W.C.A. publication I wrote briefly of the conditions in post Civil War America which greatly expanded an already existing market for that most democratic of weapons, the personal sidearm. Prior to the War American arms manufacturers were doing their best to cash in on this demand with a variety of percussion handguns which did not infringe upon Samuel Colt's basic revolver patent of 1836; Colt had the advantage over other manufacturers and made good use of it. Upon expiration of this patent in 1857, the Colt Patent Firearms was firmly established. Colt's major competitor during those years was the Allen Thurber Company who produced a type of double action revolver, a small multi barrel pepperbox pistol, with a flat bar hammer which was easy to get in and out of a pocket. They outsold Colt revolvers through the 1840's and remained popular until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Just as the Colt patent delayed development of other percussion revolvers, so did Smith & Wesson's control of the Rollin White patent delay development of competing cartridge revolvers from 1857 until 1869. Upon Patent Office refusal to grant extension to the Rollin White patent, most arms manufacturers (some of whom had done a little cheating already) began production of a variety of solid frame, spur trigger pocket revolvers, in calibers from .22 to .41 rimfire. In the next decade an estimated 500,000 of these personal security devices had been manufactured. The time was right for a double action cartridge revolver of pocket size.

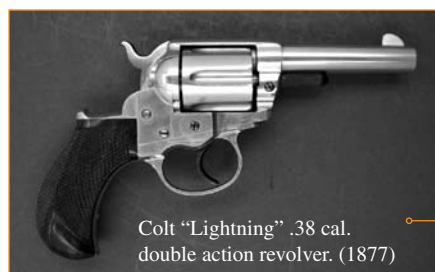


Identity of the first American double action cartridge revolver is open to debate. Some collectors favor the factory conversion of the odd little Remington-Rider pocket revolver, which was made as a percussion revolver from 1860 to 1873, and as a cartridge revolver thereafter. I personally think that the neat little solid frame first model Forehand & Wadsworth double action

revolver deserves the honor. It was advertised in 1876 as available in .32, .38, and .41 rimfire, and it was not a converted percussion revolver.

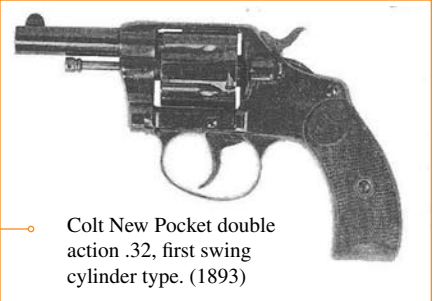


Forehand & Wadsworth, first model double action pocket revolver. (1875)



By this time both Colt and Smith & Wesson had received inquiries about double action revolvers from dealers and customers, and Smith & Wesson had already sent a prototype model to M.W. Robinson, their major distributor in New York; but Colt was the first to act. In 1877 they introduced a medium sized .38 caliber double action revolver, advertised as the Colt "Lightning" by Kittredge & Co., a prominent arms dealer in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was an immediate success, and with its round butt and 2 1/2" or 3 1/2" barrel could easily be carried in a pocket. Soon available in .41 caliber

and longer barrel lengths with a side rod ejector, it became also a holster pistol. Some 112,000 of these model 1877 Colt revolvers were produced before the turn of the Century. Colt's next double action revolver was the model 1878, a large solid frame type, which was available in .44/40 and .45 caliber, with barrel lengths from 3" to 7 1/2", but even with the short barrel it weighed over 2 lbs. and was hardly a pocket revolver. In the 1890's Colt did bring out two pocket revolvers, the New Pocket Double Action, a 6 shot .32 caliber revolver with a 2 1/2" barrel, and featuring the new swing-out cylinder, weighed only 13 oz. About 12,500 of



Colt New Pocket double action .32, first swing cylinder type. (1893)

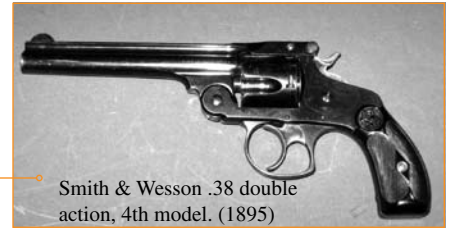
## American Double Action Pocket Revolvers, continued



Colt New Police .32 double action. (1896)

these were produced from its introduction in 1893 through 1899. A similar model, the Colt New Police .32 double action revolver appeared in 1896 with the same 2 1/2" barrel and frame size, but with a longer grip. Serial numbers on the New Police model range from 1 to about 5,800 before 1900.

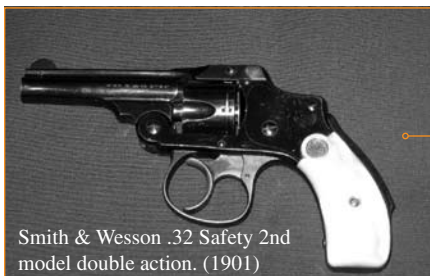
Smith & Wesson did not market a double action revolver until 1880, but they soon made up for lost time. Their first offering was a top-break 5 shot



Smith & Wesson .38 double action, 4th model. (1895)

.38 caliber pocket revolver, followed later that year by a smaller .32 caliber model of the same configuration. Both revolvers became widely popular and, with minor modifications, survived well into the 20th century; some 400,000

of the .38 caliber being produced before 1899, and 209,000 of the smaller .32 caliber. In 1887, introduction of Smith & Wesson's .38 caliber "Safety" revolver (AKA as the Lemon Squeezer) brought a new concept to the manufacture of a small revolver meant to be carried on the person. Also available in .32 caliber, these were true pocket revolvers, with a slick hammerless frame, grip safety, and a rebounding hammer lock which



Smith & Wesson .32 Safety 2nd model double action. (1901)

made an accidental discharge impossible. As with the first double action pocket revolvers made by Smith & Wesson, these were an immediate and long lasting success, being produced well into the 1930's. An estimated 119,000 of the .38 Safety Revolver were made by 1899, and about 65,000 of the .32 caliber. The rebounding hammer of the Safety model revolvers did not become standard on the other Smith & Wesson double action revolvers until after the turn of the century. This brings to mind an incident involving a Smith & Wesson and a genuine Western shootist. In a recent and impressively researched book (WINCHESTER WARRIORS, U.N. T. Press,

2009) author Bob Alexander lets Texas Ranger Capt. John R. Hughes explain: "I had bought me a new pistol .38 cal Smith & Wesson that has a safety notch in the hammer and I thought it was perfectly safe to carry all six chambers loaded, but last night I went to buckle it on and it slipped out of the scabbard and the hammer hit the floor and shot me through the right foot from the inside." Fortunately the bullet missed bones and Capt. Hughes, no stranger to bullet wounds, limped out to find a doctor. This happened on March 29, 1901, and the only 6 shot .38 S & W in existence at that time was the .38 Hand Ejector (First Model Military & Police) manufactured 1899-1902 in a quantity of 20,975.

In November, 1883 Merwin-Hulbert & Co. advertised a .38 cal. double action pocket revolver with a 5 shot cylinder and medium size frame, soon to be followed by a 7 shot .32 caliber revolver of the same size. Both were available in barrel lengths of from 3" to 5 1/2" and either flat or bird's head butt. (I have a nice .38 cal. specimen with bird's head butt and a 2 3/4" barrel.) A smaller 5 shot .32 cal. was advertised in 1884, and as with all

Merwin-Hulbert "Automatic" revolvers from .32 to .44/40 could be had with extra barrels. In December, 1885 .32 and .38 caliber Merwin-Hulbert double action revolvers were available with the Samuel Hopkins patented folding hammer, which as the advertisement says: "makes them beyond question, the most perfect arm ever made. No hammer to catch when withdrawing from pocket. No accident can occur from careless dropping of the arm." The "most perfect" claim aside, addition of the folding hammer did create the safest pocket revolvers on the market until Smith & Wesson's Safety models appeared a couple of years later. The folding hammer was available on the Merwin-Hulbert .44/40 double action "Pocket Army" also, but weighing 2 lbs, 4 oz. it was no pocket revolver.



Merwin-Hulbert .38 double action, with folding hammer (1885)

### *American Double Action Pocket Revolvers, continued*



with the folding hammer. Changing with the times, by the late 1890's Hopkins & Allen was producing their own top-break and hammerless safety revolvers and, as attested to by their catalogs, still selling the Merwin-Hulbert revolvers which they had inherited as a result of the bankruptcy of the Hulbert Brothers Company in 1896.

Though there were spur trigger “Bulldog” revolvers around at the time, this name came to have another meaning to American arms manufacturers in the early 1870’ s, In 1872 English arms makers Philip Webley & Son marketed a compact .44 caliber double action revolver



began showing up on the American market, selling for about half the price of the original and often not worth that. Sensing an opportunity, the Forehand & Wadsworth Co. began production of their “improved” British Bulldog Pocket Revolver in 1879. These are almost exact copies of the Webley, with 2 1/2” barrels, loading gates, swivel ejector rods, and the humpback grips. These were well made revolvers, and being advertised at the same price as the Belgian copies were soon outselling the imports. As Webley had done, Forehand & Wadsworth also marketed a smaller British Bulldog in .32 and .38 calibers, both of which eventually outsold the larger .44, indicating perhaps, greater sales in more heavily populated urban areas. Popularity of the Forehand-Wadsworth British Bulldog revolvers is evident in the numbers; from 1879 to 1890 an estimated 114,000 of these handy little pocket revolvers were produced.

The Hopkins & Allen Co., who manufactured the high quality Merwin-Hulbert revolvers, introduced the first of their own varied line of double action pocket revolvers some time in 1880-81. These were inexpensive solid frame types in .32 and .38 caliber, either rimfire or centerfire, and are generally stamped in the X-L series, continued from their single action revolvers. This includes the double action X-L Bulldog, which was the first Hopkins & Allen revolver to be fitted



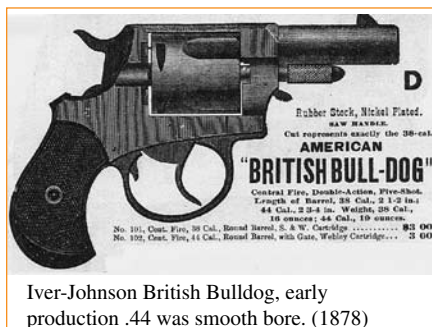
47058 Hopkins & Allen Automatic Hammerless Double Action Revolver. High grade finish, fine adjustment. Its safety locking device makes it one of the safest revolvers to carry in the pocket. Automatic shell ejector, rebounding lock, safety trigger, locking device, chambered cylinder, rifled barrel, nickel plated, 32 caliber, S. & W. small frame, 5 shot, weight 13 oz.; length of barrel, 3 inches, using cartridge 47188. (Retail price, \$7.50). Our price ..... **\$4.90**

47059 38 caliber, S. & W. large frame, weight 18 oz., length of barrel, 3 inches, using cartridge 47188. (Retail price, \$4.90). Our price ..... **\$4.50**

47060 38 caliber, S. & W. large frame, weight 18 oz., using cartridge 47196. Either of above calibers in blued finish same price. Pearl stocks, \$3.00 extra. Postage, extra, 22 cents.

Hopkins & Allen automatic hammerless  
model double action. (1893)

which was evidently just what a lot of people had been looking for. Marked only with the name Bulldog, this small 5 shot large caliber revolver became the best selling handgun in Great Britain and Europe, and by 1876 was being imported in increasing numbers by leading American arms dealers. Inevitably Belgian copies of the Webley



Iver-Johnson, arms makers of Fitchburg, Mass., got into the “Bulldog” business at about the same time as Forehand & Wadsworth, but although their British Bulldog revolvers resembled the Webley externally, they were quite different. Available in .38 and .44 caliber, they lacked the wide hammer spur and swivel ejector rod, and the .38 did not have a loading gate. The .44 (which is quite scarce) had a loading gate but was actually a smooth bore, with simulated rifling grooves at the muzzle of its 2 3/4” barrel. Iver-

## American Double Action Pocket Revolvers, continued

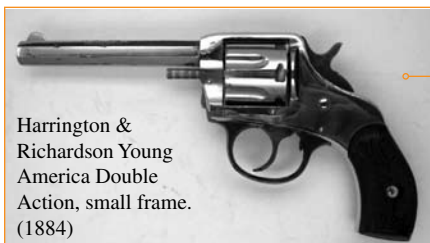
Johnson's later American Bulldog was a more conventional looking revolver and was available in three frame sizes and calibers: .32, .38, and .44, all with 2 1/2" barrels and colorful American Eagle motif red and black hard rubber grips.



A recorded incident in Arizona Territory in 1888 involved one of these Iver-Johnson American Bulldog revolvers. In a well researched study of South-Western train robberies (WESTERN STORY, N.P., 2008) author Jeffrey Burton tells the sad story of J.M. Smart, recently arrived at the Territorial Prison in Yuma, having been convicted of involvement in a train robbery. Smart had managed to smuggle a .38 caliber American Bulldog into his cell and one day, perhaps suffering from Arizona heat: "put the tip of the barrel to the right side of his head and fired four times." Aroused by the noise, guards found Smart bloody but semi-conscious, and sent for the prison doctor. A newspaper, The Arizona Daily Citizen, said: "the bullets flattened against the skull but did not enter," and the doctor was able to

extract them without difficulty. (Smart survived.) With many modifications and name changes, these Iver-Johnson pocket revolvers were still being cataloged by mail order houses in the late 1890's.

Harrington & Richardson were also making double action pocket revolvers in the late 19th Century, their first being a solid frame model in .32 and .38 centerfire. Three years later another solid frame revolver, the American Double Action Revolver was available in .32, .38, and .44 caliber, (the latter quite scarce) with barrel lengths from 2 1/2" to 6". Some of this model have been noted in .32 and .38 rimfire (rather than centerfire) and

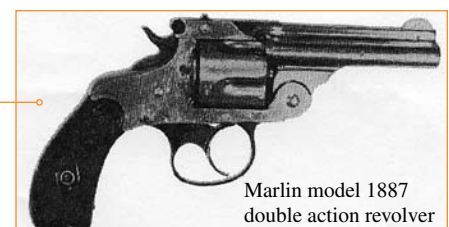
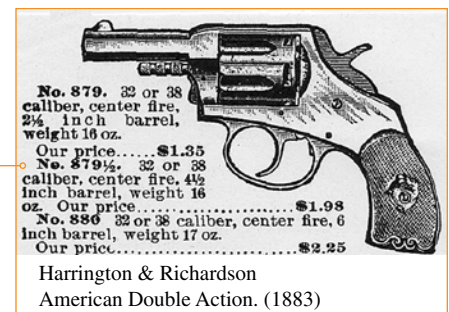


marked H & R Bulldog. A similar but smaller revolver, the Young America double action appeared in 1884, in either

.22 rimfire or .32 centerfire, and, like the larger American Model, was destined to be around for a long time. Both of these pocket revolvers sold in tremendous quantities and, as with the solid frame Iver-Johnson revolvers, were still available. at the outbreak of World War II. During the hard times

of the thirties price was no doubt a major factor in their continuing popularity. In the Island Warfare of the South Pacific several of my Marine buddies carried one for foxhole duty, (easier to swing around than a rifle) and there were a number of these inexpensive revolvers among surrendered Japanese arms (In Japan).

The Marlin Firearms Co. introduced their one and only double action pocket revolver in 1887. This was a top-break model in .38 caliber which was a close copy of the Smith & Wesson 3rd model double action, but sold for a few dollars less, a detail emphasized in Marlin advertisements. This revolver was available in .32 caliber in 1888, and with the .38 was manufactured until 1899 in a total production of about 15,000. A. C. Gould, author of MODERN AMERICAN PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS, Boston, 1894., probably didn't help sales with his comments on two Marlin revolvers being tested with a few other pocket revolvers. On pages 120 - 121 Gould says: "they were inferior in workmanship to the Smith & Wesson and Colt revolvers and want of care in their manufacture made them positively dangerous to handle." Apparently the firing pins on both revolvers were too long and punctured the primers of 3 different makes of cartridges. Gould did allow a Marlin representative to offer a rebuttal: "The revolvers were sent from the factory before inspection by a competent person and the fault alluded to has been



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## *American Double Action Pocket Revolvers, continued*

corrected.” Though little known today, Gould was a respected arms authority and a leading exponent of the many competitive shooting events popular in post Civil War America. His word carried a lot of weight. Talk persists of a Remington .38 caliber top-break double action revolver supposedly manufactured for the Mexican Government in the early 1890’s. It is listed in two publications, REMINGTON HANDGUNS by Karr, 1956, and REMINGTON MILITARY ARMS; 1866-1967 by Hughes, 1968. Neither book has a photo of such a revolver, only rough sketches. Although there exists a drawing (not a blueprint) in the Remington archives of a revolver very much like a Smith & Wesson double action, there are no records of manufacture. To date no one has reported examining, or even seeing one of these elusive (or imaginary?) model 1891 Remington revolvers.

There were other double action pocket revolvers produced by hopeful 19th Century designers and manufacturers which for various reasons never achieved much success. Being scarce, they are in some demand by collectors of arms curiosa, but the numbers tell the story, and we have examined here the American arms manufacturers who dominated the extensive market for personal sidearms in the waning years of our last frontier.

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## **In Memoriam**



**John Fuchs**

Nov. 1931 - Nov. 2009

John was President of MWCA in 1996 and a Board member for most of the 1990s. He was a collector of firearms and knives, and was a respected gunsmith and custom knife maker. John enjoyed collecting and learning about Native American baskets and other Native American artifacts, scrimshaw and antiques. He was a friend and a gentleman, and certainly will be missed.

**Iron Eddy (Kukowski)**

**David Crowley**

We send our condolences to their families.

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# *People You Will Meet At The Gun Show*

By The Elitist  
Shawnee Hunt Club, Blacksburg Virginia

**RAMBO:** He's looking for an Ingram MAC-10, and wants to have it custom chambered in 44 Magnum as a back-up-gun. For primary carry he wants a Desert Eagle, provided he can get it custom chambered in .50 BMG. He derides the .50 Action Express as a wimp round designed for ladies' pocket pistols. He has already bought three years' worth of freeze-dried MRE's from MARK, as well as seven knives. He is dressed in camouflage BDUs and a black T-shirt with the 101st Airborne Division insignia, though he has never been in the Army. He works as a bag boy at the Country Market.

**BUBBA:** He needs some money, and has reluctantly decided to sell his Daddy's .30-30, a Marlin 336 made in 1961. He indignantly refuses all cash offers below his asking price of \$475. Unable to sell it, eventually he trades it plus another \$175 for a new-in-box H&R Topper in .219 Zipper. He feels pretty good about the deal.

**GORDON:** He is walking the aisles with a Remington Model 700 ADL in .30-06 on his shoulder. He's put an Uncle Mike's cordura sling and a Tasco 3x9 variable scope on it. A small stick protrudes from the barrel, bearing the words, "LIKE NEW ONLY THREE BOXES SHELLS FIRED \$800." This is his third trip to a show with this particular rifle, which he has never actually used, since he lives in a shotgun-only area for deer.

**DAWN:** She is here with her boyfriend, DARRYL. At the last show, DARRYL bought her a Taurus Model 66 in .357 Magnum. She fired it twice and is afraid of it, but at DARRYL'S insistence she keeps it in a box on the top shelf of her clothes closet in case someone breaks in. She is dressed in a pair of blue jeans that came out of a spray can, a "Soldier of Fortune" T-shirt two sizes too small, and 4" high heels. DARRYL is ignoring her, but nobody else is.

**DARRYL:** He has been engaged to DAWN for three years. He likes shotguns for defense, and he's frustrated that he can't get a Street Sweeper anymore. So he's bought a Mossberg 500 with the 18-1/2" barrel, a perforated hand guard, and a pistol grip. He plans to use it for squirrel hunting when he isn't sleeping with it. He plans to marry DAWN as soon as he gets a job which pays him enough to take over the payments on her mobile home. His parole officer has no idea where he is at the moment.

**ARNOLD:** He is a car salesman in Charlottesville, Virginia. He has a passion for Civil War guns, especially cap-and-ball revolvers. He has a reproduction Remington 1858, and is looking for a real one he can afford. He owns two other guns: a S& W Model 60 and a Sauer & Sohn drilling with *Luftwaffe* markings that his grandfather brought home in 1945. He has no idea what caliber the rifle barrel on his drilling is, and he last fired the Model 60 five years ago.

**DICK:** He is a gun dealer who makes his overhead selling Jennings J-25's, Lorcin .380's, and H&R top-break revolvers. He buys the J-25's in lots of 1000 direct from the factory at \$28.75 each, and sells them for \$68.00 to gun show customers. He buys the H&R's for \$10 at estate auctions and asks \$85 for them, letting you talk him down to \$78 when he is feeling generous. His records are meticulously kept: he insists on proper ID and a signature on the 4473, but he doesn't mind if the ID and the signature aren't yours. Other than his stock, he owns no guns and he has no interest in them.

**ARLENE:** She is DICK's wife. She hates guns and gun shows more than anything in the world. Her husband insists that she accompany him to keep an eye on the table when he's dickering or has to go to the men's room. She refuses to come unless she can bring her SONY portable TV, even though she gets lousy reception in the Civic Center and there isn't any cable. When DICK is away from the table, she has no authority to negotiate, and demands full asking price for everything. She doesn't know the difference between a rifle and a shotgun, and what's more, she doesn't care.

**MARK:** He doesn't have an FFL. He buys a table at the show to sell nylon holsters, magazines, 'T-shirts, bumper stickers, fake Nazi regalia, surplus web gear, MRE's and accessories. He makes more money than anyone else in the hall.

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## *People You Will Meet At The Gun Show, continued*

**ALAN:** He's not a dealer, but he had a bunch of odds and ends to dispose of, so he bought a table. On it he displays used loading dies in 7.65 Belgian and .25-20, both in boxes from the original Herter's company. He also has a half-box of .38-55 cartridges, a Western-style gun belt he hasn't been able to wear since 1978, a used cleaning kit, and a nickel-plated Iver Johnson Premier revolver in .32 S&W. He's asking \$125 for the gun and \$40 for each of the die sets. He paid \$35 for the table and figures he needs to get at least that much to cover his expenses and the value of his time.

**GERALD:** He's a physician specializing in diseases of the rich. He collects Brownings, and specializes in High-Power pistols, Superposed shotguns, and Model 1900's. He has 98% of the known variations of each of these, and now plans to branch out into the 1906 and 1910 pocket pistols. He owns no handguns made after the Germans left Liege in 1944. He regards Japanese-made "Brownings" as a personal insult and is a little contemptuous of Inglis-made High-Powers. He does not hunt or shoot. He buys all his gun accessories from Orvis and Dunn's.

**KEVIN:** He is 13, and this is his first gun show. His eyes are bugged out with amazement, and he wonders what his J.C. Higgins single-shot 20-gauge is worth. His father gives him an advance on his allowance so he can buy a used Remington Nylon 66. He's hooked for life and will end up on the NRA's Board of Directors.

### **Editors Note:**

I have been attending gun shows since the mid 1960s and I can honestly say that I have met every one of these characters. I remember a show at the old Minneapolis Armory there was a couple similar to Darryl and Dawn. Some of the exhibitors spent to much time looking at Dawn and a while later they found a few items missing off there table. She was a perfect decoy for her quick handed boy friend.

Arlene, Dick's wife, usually brings her knitting along to the show and wants to slip some of her handy-work on the table to see if anyone is interested in purchasing it.

Gordon with the sign sticking out of the barrel generally has his rifle priced about 20% higher then a similar rifle on some dealers table. Just in case a passer by is interested he can discount it a little for cash.

The Mark I remember tried to put a Remington chain saw on his table, his argument was "It is a Remington therefore it should be allowed".

Look around and I'm sure you will spot a few of these individuals. All in all there are some pretty nice people that attend our shows and these few individuals listed above just make a boring Sunday afternoon a little more interesting.

What we need at more shows are the young Kevins, they are the future of our shows, so if he comes by be nice to him and answer his questions as he is our insurance for the future.

### **From Alvin Olson's Scrapbook:**

A doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa. "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fats can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?" After several seconds of quiet, a 75 year old man in the front row raised his hand and softly said, 'Wedding Cake.'

## Meet Your Board Of Directors

Next time you attend one of our shows stop by and thank these guys for the extra time and effort they spend to make the MWCA shows successful. If you have questions about any MWCA policies, show rules etc. they will be glad to answer them. NOTE: Photos are reprinted with the permission of the U.S. Post Office files.



David Hinrichs



Alvin Olson



Chuck Geyer



Larry Rogers



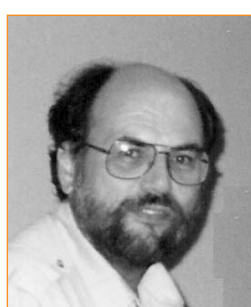
Dave Strand



Ken Menth



Ed Pohl



Brian VanKleek

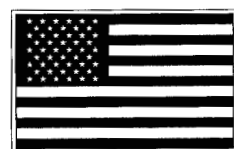


Dale H Peterson

Eric Strand has moved to ND and Dale H Peterson was appointed by the board to fill his vacancy. We wish to thank Eric for his many years of service on the BOD.



## Support The NRA!

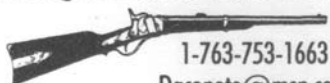


## Guess the Gun

Last issue's gun was an Allen & Wheelock Center Hammer Army, .44 caliber cap and ball. Circa. 1861-1862, with an estimated production of only 700 revolvers. There were 536 A&W revolvers purchased by the U. S. Government in 1861; it is generally assumed that they were .44 calibers Armies. Paul Henry in his book "Ethan Allen and Allen & Wheelock" states there were a number of A&Ws used by different units during the Civil War.

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**Friday, March 26, 2010 • 12:00 - 6:00 pm (members & exhibitors only)**

**Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:00 am — 3:00 pm**

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

For information call evenings (952) 888-1079

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Eagan, Minnesota.

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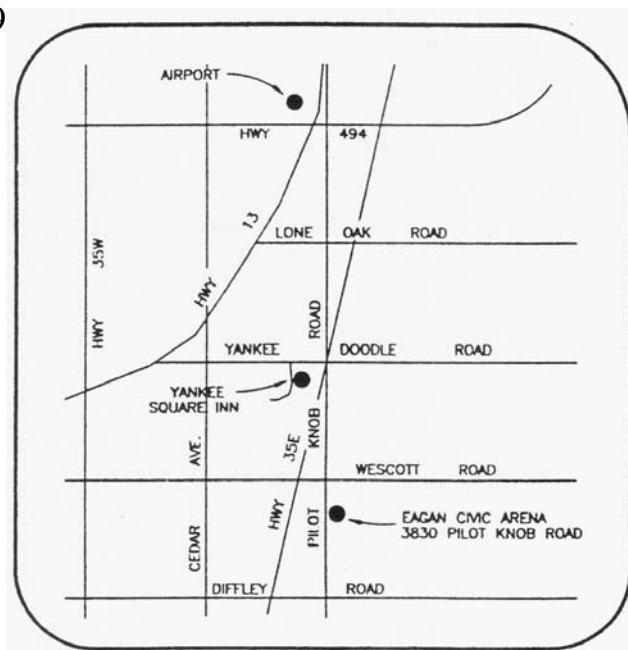
Yankee Square Inn

3450 Washington Drive, Eagan, Minnesota

## **Future Show Dates**

March 26, 2011

March 31, 2012



## **Heritage Arms Society**

### **Collectors' Arms Show - Space Reservation Application**

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
of Table Holder

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Additional \_\_\_\_\_  
Badge Names

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

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ display tables at \$10 per table

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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