

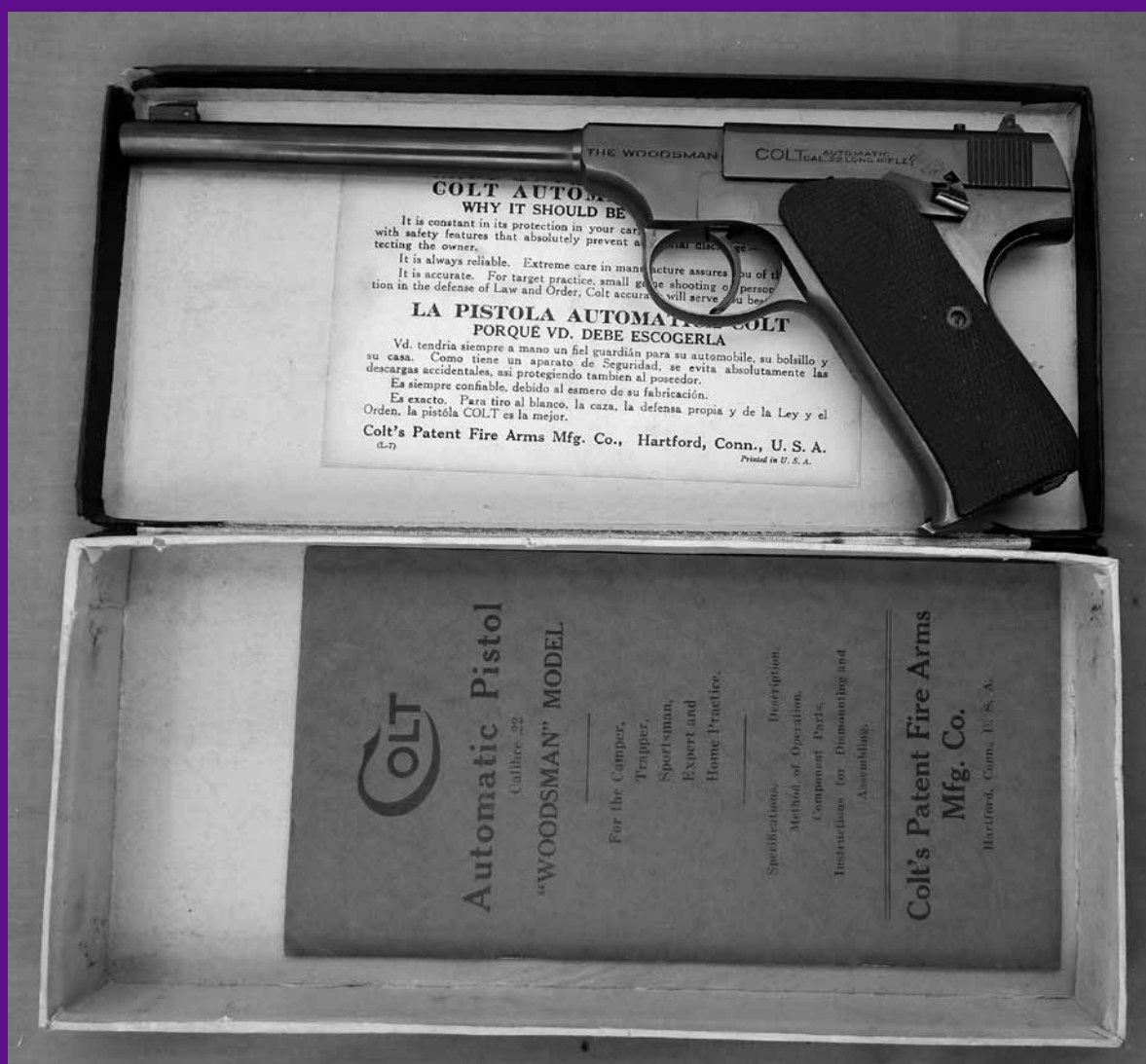
# M·W·C·A

## Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Official Publication

VOLUME NO. 33

ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY 2020



### “A Few Guns”

Early Colt Woodsman in the original box from the same time period as the one mentioned in Stan Nelson's “A Few Guns” article on page 10.

# M • W • C • A News

VOLUME NO. 33

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## Official Publication of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

PO Box 662 • Hopkins MN 55343 • [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) • 612-721-8976

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

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Editor's Note: For those who are not familiar with Stan Nelson, he is one of the 84 original founding members of the MWCA. We want to personally thank him for his dedicated service to the MWCA, for the many interesting and informative articles he has written over the past 66 years, and especially for his service in the Marine Corps during World War II.

## GUESS THE GUN!



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

For the answer to last issue's "Guess the Gun," see page 16.



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

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# The President's Shot



Welcome to 2020, a new year, a new decade, and a new chapter in the history books!

It is an honor and a privilege to be The President of MWCA Board of Directors.

As a continued member on the board, I would like to remind all of the members that we are here to represent you in all the decisions that we make. All ideas and opinions are important to me. Communication is key for proper representation.

2020 will be a year to remember! As our 2nd amendment rights are under attack, it is our responsibility to voice our position! An important way to do so is to vote! Whenever the opportunity presents itself. To not vote, is to surrender your opinion.

This year, as we join together at Gun Shows, let's take a little time to do more than just sell merchandise to the public. Get to know your neighbor and share the knowledge you have acquired with them and perhaps they will share their knowledge with you. Time moves fast, don't let it pass by you without getting to know some history and experiences. Maybe with someone whom you've never spoken to before.

Always remember to do your research, stay informed, and be alert and vigilant. This will solidify our future.

I humbly thank you!

James Walters  
2020 MWCA President

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It's hard to believe a year has gone so quickly and my term as MWCA president has concluded. So it's time for me to write my parting shot.

My message is simple. Thank You!

Thank you for the honor of being the 2019 president of the MWCA.

Thank you for the privilege of continuing to serve on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for supporting our organization, which allows us to support all the great youth groups and nonprofit organizations to which we donate funds.

Thank you for the fun and friendship our shows offer.

Thank you for defending our rights and freedom as you have done for so many years.

I'll see you at the show!

Dave Feinwachs  
2019 MWCA President



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## Support The MWCA!

Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) for show, membership and other important info.



## Support The NRA!

Sign up now! Call 800-672-3888 or go to [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)





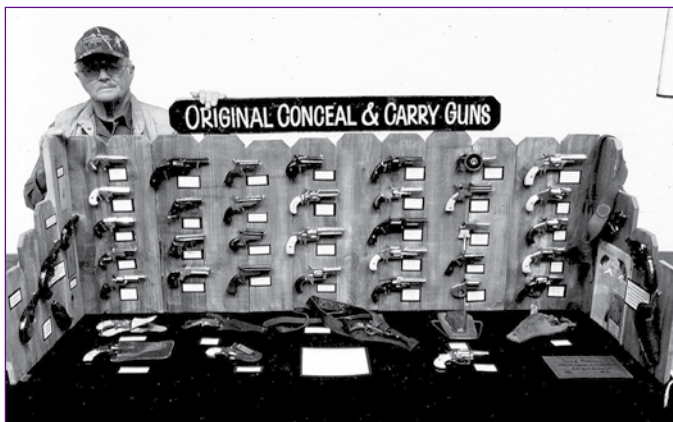
# MWCA 2019 Trophy Show

*By Dale H. Peterson*

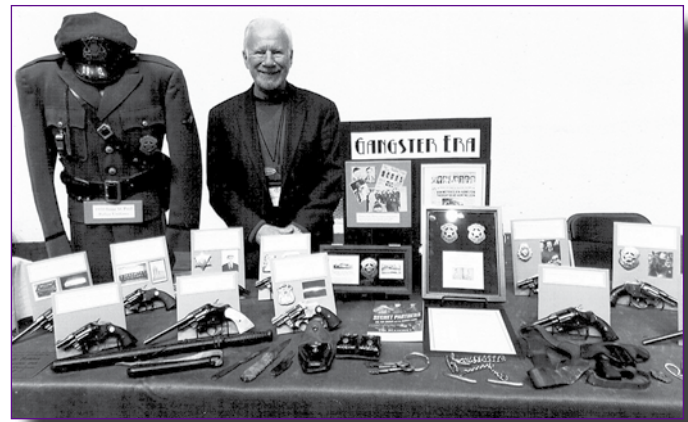
We wish to thank all the collectors that set up a display for our annual Trophy Show, the Judges and the Show Coordinator Ed Pohl. Without these MWCA members, the show would not exist. We awarded \$4,850 in prize money. Here is your chance to get into the action and start planning that display for next year's Trophy Show. Having done a number of these displays, I know from experience that you can never start too early, so go to work and good luck.



**Best of Show went to Mark Reese for his "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Versailles."**



**Dale H Peterson received 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Antique Handguns for his "Original Conceal and Carry Guns."**



**"Gangster Era" received 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Gary Betcher's Classic Handgun display.**



**Congratulations to Don Johnson who received the People's Choice Award, Ozzie Klavastad Educational Award and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Military Long Guns.**



## *MWCA 2019 Trophy Show, continued*



Here are all the dedicated Collectors that make our show a success. "Thanks Guys."



Dennis Larson received a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for his Smith & Wesson Tip-Ups display.



Special Recognition award went to Mike Hewett for his Stevens 22 Caliber display.



Dave Mattson received two awards: Best Gun for a Colt 1911 Navy and 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Military Handguns.



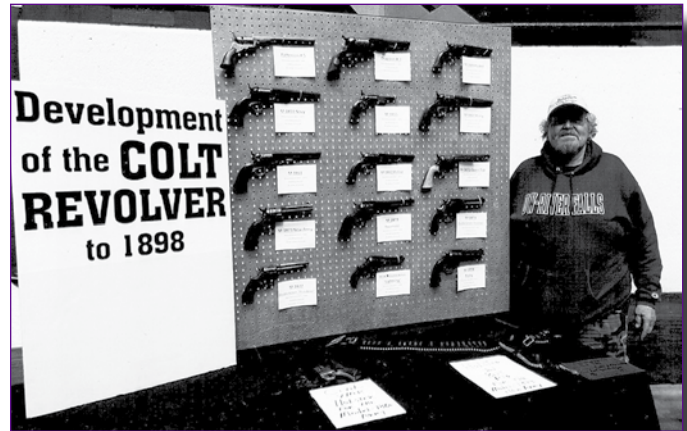
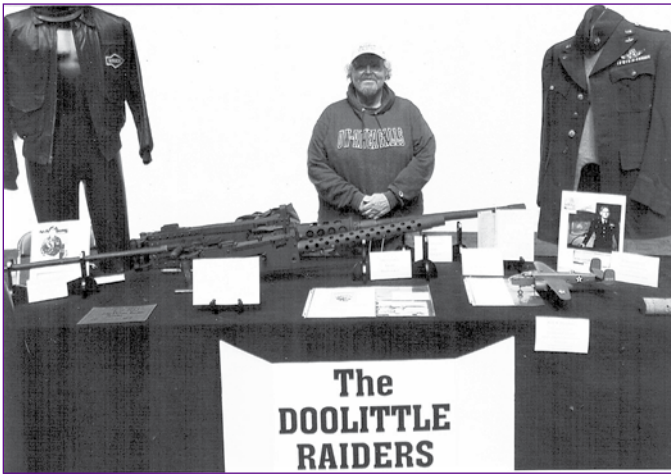
The Cacano Rifle display netted a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Rob Pfeffer in Military Long Guns.



John Finlayson's Remington display took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Modern Long Guns.

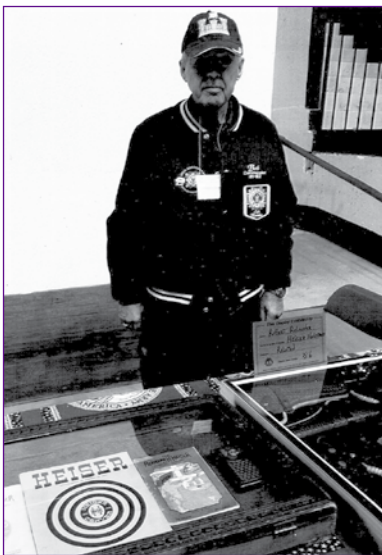
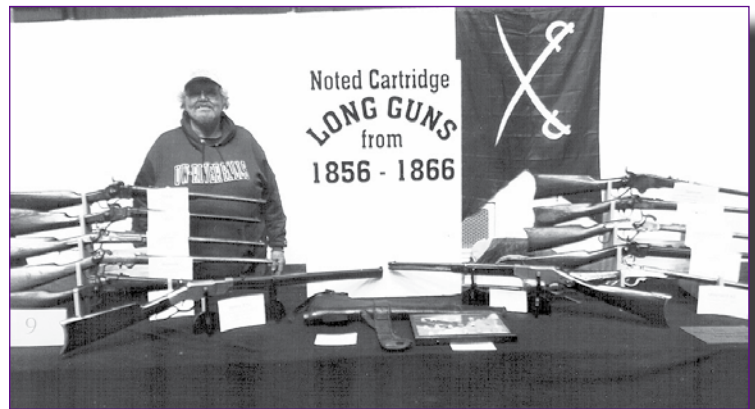


## MWCA 2019 Trophy Show, continued



Ed Pohl, our hard-working "Trophy Show Director," really does his part to make this affair a success - as seen by the three displays he set up:

**The Doolittle Raiders,  
Development of the Colt Revolver to 1898 and  
Cartridge Long Guns 1856 to 1866.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> in Classic Handguns went to Bob Rolander for his outstanding Colts.  
He also received a Special Recognition Award for his Heiser Holsters.**



## MWCA 2019 Trophy Show, continued



**"Happy" Mike Splittgerber's Sturm Ruger display received a 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Modern Handguns category.**



**Mike Splittgerber also got 2nd Place in Related Items for his rock collection entitled "Prehistoric Stone Artifacts."**



**In the Related category, Jeff Stricker received a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for his Oneida & Newhouse Traps.**



**Jim Moores with his display of Colt Single Actions.**



**Our two hard working security guys Kyle and Justin who help things run smoothly.**



**Fun to get the grandkids involved as Gordon Loverink did by bringing his two favorite helpers.**



## *MWCA 2019 Trophy Show, continued*



Say, Jerry Wobig, you had better lower the price on the axe the lady is holding.



Steve Osman answering a few questions for a couple of potential customers.



John Finlayson and Harry Hibnar are in a pretty serious conversation.



Military collector Steve Curtis with a few of his fine WWII rifles for sale.



Grace Kottke the "Cookie Lady." I see Brian VanKleek in the background enjoying one with his coffee.



Tom Goff and friend Jade with a table full of vintage knives.



## *MWCA 2019 Trophy Show, continued*



**I see the Boss is watching Don Belands Custom Knives table.**



**Woody Woodstrom and Dave Hinrichs relaxing Sunday morning before the show opens.**



**Club VP Jim Walters getting ready for the day.**



**"I need my morning coffee."**



**Barb White from Duluth:  
"Will someone turn up the heat?"**



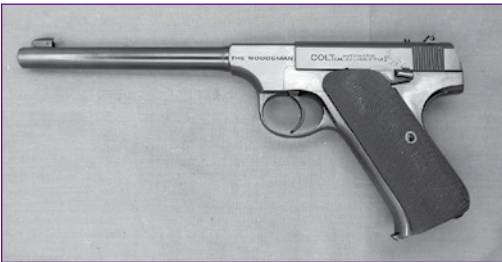
**Matt Cooklock's pyrotechnics display.  
Light 'em up Matt.**

# A Few Guns

By Stan Nelson



.22 Caliber Stevens single shot pistol.



Colt Woodsman



S&W 1st Model 3rd Issue

My interest started early in life. On my 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, my father gave me a neat little .22 Caliber Stevens single shot pistol. I really don't remember that well, but I do remember the first time I fired it about 3 years later. This happened in the basement of Roosevelt High School in south Minneapolis. Here my father was employed as an engineer in charge of the furnace, where the large coal bin made a perfect backstop for an indoor target range.

Here he taught me the basics of firearms safety and use. Over the next few years my father's Indian motorcycle and sidecar were often seen on Sundays in the Roosevelt High parking lot and we would be in the basement with cotton in our ears and pistols in hand. My father also had a Colt Woodsman (see cover picture) and a Smith & Wesson .22 (1<sup>st</sup> Model 3rd Issue). I still wonder if any school officials knew of this indoor target range.

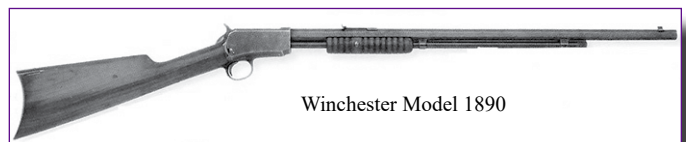
These happy times came to an end about 1934 when my father lost his job. I was old enough to recognize the distress on my mother's face when my father broke the news to her that evening, so we joined the thousands of other Minnesotans in the struggle for survival. The experience has left its psychological mark on most of us.

With no steady income we fell behind on rent payments and we missed an occasional meal as local grocers stopped credit accounts. My father worked on part time jobs, mostly road building projects for the WPA. He also sold anything we had of value, including of course, our guns. And, eventually the last thing to go, his beloved Indian motorcycle, but fate again took a hand.

There was an empty house on the Peterson family farm 60 miles north of Minneapolis owned by my mother's brother Frank. He offered it to us rent free. Eager to rid himself of the constant pressure of rent payments, my father found money enough to move us and our dwindling family possessions to the run down farm 3 miles east of Rush City. He would stay in Minneapolis, looking for any kind of steady job. Over the next few years he became a visiting stranger.

So we began what was essentially a 19th Century existence. We had no electricity, no telephone; we pumped water by hand, cooked and heated with hand cut wood (no chain saw) which was hauled to the house on an old toboggan. Our outdoor toilet had two holes, one being small for the kids. My mother had an aunt and uncle living about 4 miles east of us and a cousin about 7 miles north whose husband owned a truck. Without exception they condemned my father for "abandoning" his family.

As the oldest "Man" on the place (I was nearly 12) I inherited a good axe and crosscut saw plus two firearms from my Uncle Frank. One was, useless, a single barrel shot-gun with a bulged barrel, and an old 1890 .22 Winchester slide action rifle. This unfortunately, had a worn extractor and I had to pry a fired cartridge out of the chamber, making it a slow single shot rifle, not a repeater. Poor equipment for putting meat on the table.



Winchester Model 1890



## *A Few Guns, continued*

In retrospect, that old rifle made me a better marksman. I learned the importance of sight adjustment with different cartridges; short, long, or long rifle. After a year or so I was making one shot kills on squirrels, rabbits and pheasants. (I impressed some of the farmers.)

How times change. Like most kids in rural areas in the mid-west, my brothers and I attended a one room school. Our overworked teacher, Miss Svenson, conducted classes in 1st through 8th grade. During hunting season older kids, like me, could bring our unloaded rifles and shotguns to school, park them in the cloak room during school hours, and hunt with then on the way home, I do not recall any firearms accidents during those years. Nor did our teacher fear “GUNS”.

While writing this I do recall one unfortunate mistake (not accident) that I made on the way home from school. Unlike the people of a working farm we did not eat chicken, pork, or beef very often. On this occasion I had not even seen any game for a couple of weeks. Still in the woods but near home I spotted a large Great Horned Owl preening itself in a nearby tree. My juvenile thought was: birds are edible, an owl is a bird, so I shot it. I skinned it and brought it home, saving the beautiful wing feathers. My mother had her doubts but she boiled it with onions and potatoes. The broth was good but the meat defied chewing. A visiting dog swallowed it; so it wasn't wasted. But shooting it was a mistake in more ways than one. On the ground with a broken wing, its luminous eyes and snapping beak challenged me as I circled it. Thinking about it still brings regret, hunger being my only excuse.

Looking back on those times 80 years later I've wondered how my mother retained her sanity. We had few visitors as none of her female friends back in Minneapolis owned automobiles. An exception was her sister Ann. She was an independent young woman with a good job at the new Sears & Roebuck store in Minneapolis. She married a professional boxer, Earl Lilledahl (from Luck, WI), who worked at Ford Motor Co. in St. Paul. We saw more of them than we did of our father in the next 4 years. They had no children of their own and they became our contact with the outside world. They brought magazines, newspapers and books for my younger brothers. They must have given my mother some money at times too for after a visit I went to the Rush City post office for a money order made out to Sears Roebuck, whose catalog was a wish book for rural kids. Twelve pages of guns and ammo! I memorized those pages



Earl Lilledahl  
My Aunt Ann's husband.  
“Hardest hitting welterweight  
in the northwest.”

The best firearms I saw during those formative years belonged to my mother's “Uncle Charley.” In a family scrapbook I had seen a photo of the “Rusheba Hunting Club” of which he was a member. His place was only a mile south of our school and not far off our trail home. Needless to say I was soon looking at his guns. He had three long guns, all Winchesters. I recall them as being an 1894 30-30 lever action with a octagon barrel, an 1897 pump shotgun, and a single shot .22 rifle. They were all in excellent condition. “Uncle Charley” and his sister “Auntie” also owned a battery operated radio and I would sometimes be invited to stay for lunch and listen to the latest news, which I never refused. “Auntie” would send me home with a clean cloth sack full of head cheese or sausage sandwiches for my mother and brothers. Those were really good people.

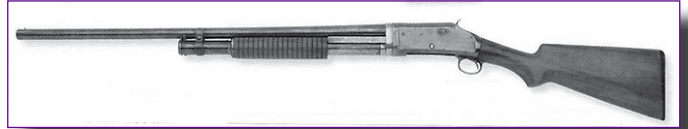


Rusheba Hunting Club near Hinkley, MN 1909.  
Uncle Charley is the 2nd from the right holding his 1894 Winchester.

## A Few Guns, continued



1894 Winchester.



1897 Winchester

My mother was a good gardener (I did the shovel and hoe work) so we never starved; tomatoes, onions, cukes, melons in summer, and potatoes, rutabagas, squash, cabbage in the winter, but with sporadic money orders sent by our father we were often out of flour, sugar, cocoa, etc. For baking, which was a constant aggravation to my mother. My fishing and hunting provided some variation in the menu, if small in quantity.

Our ordeal ended in the spring of 1938; my mother was desperate. We had not heard from our father for near a year, nothing to eat but a few potatoes, the creek was frozen and I was out of ammo. I made a snare out of shoe laces and caught a jack rabbit which with our last head of cabbage made a memorable soup. (Hunger is still the best appetizer)

Early that winter my mother had written to someone at the Hennepin County Welfare office. About a week later, floundering through the snow (our mailbox was ½ mile from the house) I returned with good news. Administered at county level, housing and sustenance was available to indigent mothers with children up to 16 years of age. With brothers Den and Bill I sat transfixed as, with tears of relief rolling down her cheeks, my mother smiled.

As we kids had all been born in Hennepin County this meant a return to Minneapolis which I viewed with mixed emotions. I loved these woods. I owned a Boy Scout compass and had explored them south near to where I now live. But, we moved.

Our new home was an upstairs apartment in a decaying mansion on Nicollet Island, that oblong enclave of past history surrounded by the city of Minneapolis. Hard to believe; fine old homes with indoor plumbing and small cottages with outdoor toilets and well kept vegetable gardens. Much of this is hidden by DeLasalle High School and a block long row of Brownstone rental units near the center of the island. While exploring this unusual area I met a kid about my own age that showed me around. His name was Clay Wescott and he became a good friend. His family lived in the nearby Brownstone Apartments with an older relative, a guy about my mother's "Uncle Charley's" age. And, like "Uncle Charley" he had a few old guns.



Henry Rifle

Clay had no interest in firearms but he soon found that I did. And before we left Nicollet Island about two years later I had seen then, a very nice Henry rifle, a U.S. stamped .45 Colt, and a S&W .32 No.2 pistol with a short barrel. The old guy never talked about himself, but he resembled Buffalo Bill Cody and dressed like him on his perambulations up Nicollet to Washington Ave. Clay

couldn't tell me much about him except he was from Nebraska. (I always intended to do some research on "Buffalo Bill" Wescott.) Was he running away from something, like my father? Or me? I was hiding out from Mrs. Champine, the truant officer at Marshall High School in SE Minneapolis and I was not quite 16 years old. Mrs. Champine was a fine person and I did feel guilty at times as she reasoned with me. These conferences ended on my birthday, Dec. 18, 1939. Incidentally, the house we lived in for two years on Nicollet Island has been restored and is now a registered Minnesota Historic Site.



Colt .45 SAA

## *A Few Guns, continued*

In 1940 the Welfare Department moved us to larger quarters at 717 4th St. SE. Here the kids had a much shorter walk to school and there was a good grocery store and a public library within walking distance. I got a job at "Minneapolis Sugar Feed Co." a short streetcar ride from home. (This feed mill was purchased by Cargill during WWII.) The foreman never asked my age; I was a pretty big kid and handled the power shovels emptying box cars of corn, alfalfa, etc. without any trouble. Unlike myself my brothers were A- plus students in school and received encouragement to think of college. A civic minded group of business men called the "Big Brothers" proved to be a god send for my brother Bill. His "Big Brother" owned a large hardware and sporting goods store in SE Mpls. and over the next few years not only employed him but financed his first year at the U of M. He was a much better big brother than I was.

My brother Dennis was not so fortunate. His "Big Brother" owned the largest wrecking company in the Twin Cities so Den and a number of other kids received on the job training. They learned how to salvage everything from old buildings before demolition of same. Den figured this out and went home.

I had a full time job at the Feed Mill and the manager had offered me on the job training as a millwright. But I noticed some of the nice old guys who encouraged me had hacking coughs from the constant dust, and I turned the offer down.

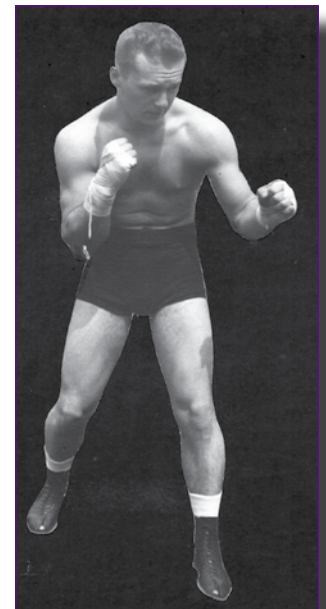
The possibility of fame and fortune was suggested by Earl Lilledahl, my Aunt Ann's husband, the former prize fighter. Feeling some obligation to him for his help during our years on the poor farm, I listened. I soon learned he had been making plans for my (and his) future.

On a Saturday morning in the summer of 1940 we drove to Pott's Gym in Minneapolis to meet Gene Larue. He was a small French Canadian man with only one arm. A one-time high ranking bantam weight boxer. Now a manager and trainer who had an elaborate training camp near Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He had several fighters working out there at this time and had agreed to "take a look at me" when in Minneapolis. His appraisal was quite practical. He had me put the gloves on with Frank Androff, a Minneapolis heavy weight then working out at Pott's Gym. Androff hit me with a solid punch, right on my jaw. This loosened up my sinuses but didn't buckle my knees and Larue called a halt. He just wanted to see if I could take a punch. (Androff looked disappointed.)

Larue invited me out to his training camp and Earl and I went over to Eau Claire several weekends, but I never signed anything despite Earl's urging.

With my steady job I was able to buy my own clothes, browse the Salvation Army Bookstore, and buy an antique S.A. Colt (badly in need of restoration) at Corries' Sporting Goods Store: my first firearm purchase. But most guys my age were not making any long range plans. The national military draft age had been lowered to 18 and soon the downtown street cars were not so crowded. Earl accepted the fact that I would not be around much longer, but we still drove over to Larue's Training Camp. I even did a little shooting there.

With new springs, screws and cylinder hand my 1880s vintage Single Action Colt .45 was ready for trial. My shooting companion was Gene Larue. What I thought was a wallet in my hip pocket was actually a small Colt .25 Auto. I had never seen one and looked it up in a catalog when I got home; it was a Model 1908 hammerless .25 cal. With a 6 shot magazine and a 2" barrel. I could cover it with my hand. Gene bought it after losing his arm. It fit him perfectly.



"Buster" Nelson, The husky beginner.  
Picture was featured in a 1940  
Minneapolis paper



1908 Colt.



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## *A Few Guns, continued*

To explain this small episode of American History: Gene and some other fighters had been hired by Henry Ford to keep union agents out of his Detroit plant. In a rough fight Gene knocked out some guy's teeth; he developed an infection and lost his arm.

Anyhow, we did some shooting using a gallon tin can as a target. At 25-30 feet we hit it with every shot. He tried my "Cowboy Gun" using a side way stance and missed the can. It was a humid day and the black powder smoke hung in the air. We talked about things other than boxing. In Europe the German Army had overrun France and he had relatives there on his mother's side. His given name was Ulysses Jean Girard, but he had used Gene Larue since he started boxing. He thought that with a proper training I could become a top heavyweight contender. But he figured we would all be involved in the coming war one way or another. That was the last time I saw him, just a few weeks before the Japs hit Pearl Harbor and my thoughts went elsewhere for three and a half years or so.

After WWII Earl and I tried to contact Gene through "The Ring" boxing magazine with no success. Earl wanted me to continue boxing and I had a number of amateur fights to pacify him, but I had other ideas about my future which didn't require knocking people unconscious. Thankfully, my aunt Ann was promoted to manager of a Sears-Roebuck store in California and Earl, being her husband, went with her. It's too bad Earl had no son of his own.

-----

I have previously written of my WWII experience in the USMC. My post war life was full of guns and books, but, going blind with Macular Degeneration, I doubt if I can chronicle any of that.

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## *Crouch Firing*

*By Stan Nelson*



As depicted in this photo "Crouch Firing" was a concept of training for U.S. Marine Raiders devised by an unknown (to me) officer who was obviously a fan of western movies. Our Lt. Gotsponer told me it was fun to watch but was laughed out of existence before it became part of our training. On a trip to Montana I showed a copy of this photo to old Ed McGivern and he said "Where's the toilet paper?"

Ed McGivern of Montana was a famous trick shooter who authored the book "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting."

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### **We need articles for the next MWCA News.**

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

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

# 2019 NRA National Convention

By Al Boehne



MWCA representatives Al Boehne, John Chappuie and Dale H Peterson.

It all started with my display at the MWCA annual fall trophy show. I was showing an assortment of Springfield rifles, pistols, knives and swords. This culminated into a trip to Indianapolis and the 148<sup>th</sup> annual NRA national convention in April of 2019.

I began collecting Springfields back in 1993. Almost more than the weapons themselves, I really enjoy their history. A few of you may not know that Springfield Armory was America's first armory. It was started in 1795 by George Washington to produce various arms for our military, and they continued as our nation's Armory until 1968. The oldest rifle in my collection was actually a model 1795 flintlock. One of the most interesting guns I had was an 1855 muzzleloader that was used by a guy named "WILLIAM R. BEALLE 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Volunteers". He used it during the "fall of Atlanta" and afterwards till the end of the Civil War. He had carved his name, regiment and company in the stock. It has been a lot of fun for me to put this collection together and to show it.

Even though there were many other wonderful collections displayed that day, somehow I was lucky enough to win the "Best Of Show" award. Wow!! I was also informed that the MWCA wanted me to take the collection down to Indianapolis at the NRA convention to represent Minnesota. What an honor!!

The exhibits in Indianapolis were amazing, with groups bringing displays in from all over the country. I particularly enjoyed the Winchester collection put on by the Ohio Valley club. I have never seen so many 1 of 1's, and super rare rifles in all my life. And of course there were vendors selling everything imaginable related to guns and shooting. I think everyone should check out this event at least once. One thing for me that was extremely refreshing, was to have all the conservative minded, and outdoors oriented people gathered together in one place. And of course to have president Trump visit was also a thrill. He was actually speaking in the building next door, and I didn't get to go, but I did see his speech on the big screen. (To lots of enthusiastic cheers). I did win a couple of awards for the collection but more rewarding for me was all the comments from the people. They really seemed to enjoy it. And I even got some very nice comments and a thank you from Kevin Hogan, president of the Rock Island Auction company, who was running for the NRA board of directors.

I would really like to thank the MWCA for the opportunity to travel down to Indianapolis and participate in this great event. And also a big thanks to Dale Peterson and John Chappuie for being such great travel partners, and for all the help in setting up and taking down.

During these times of rampant anti-gun craziness I would highly recommend getting as involved as possible, and supporting the NRA & the MWCA, and also to get the younger kids involved. What a great club we have here and a great opportunity to enjoy this hobby of ours. It would be a shame to see it end. Keep collecting!

# Follow up on the 2019 NRA National Convention

By Dale H Peterson



Al Boehne's article told about his personal experiences at the NRA show so I thought I would add this note about what is involved while attending the show.

For anyone who has never been to the NRA convention it is quite an experience as prior to the show opening is when all the chaos and confusion reigns. The loading dock areas are not large enough to accommodate all the exhibitors parking for unloading. To get into the dock area you

start out an hour before the set-up time by lining up on the street to the entrance of the dock area. The local police are generally aware of this and help keep everyone in line as there is a good flow of traffic with people going to work at that hour.

Once you get in the dock area, you are directed to park in a particular spot, you start to unload your display. One of your crew will go inside and try to find the location of your booth in what is called "Collectors Row." With this done you move your load into the hall to your area and check if the correct carpet is laid and the furniture you ordered is there such as chairs, tables and maybe a display case depending on how your display is set up.

In the meantime the guy in the dock area is requesting that you move your vehicle if you are unloaded; many of us have experienced this at local shows to accommodate other exhibitors. Hopefully you will be able to find a parking place within a couple of blocks, occasionally the NRA has a lot for exhibitors and you are given a sticker so you can park in an assigned lot.

The crew is busy setting up the display while the aisles are jammed up like the freeway on Friday night. There are big crates from the commercial exhibitors, (Winchester, Remington, Federal Cartridge, Auction houses, etc.) who have an entire block for their set up. Then some jockey comes flying by on a fork lift with a 12' roll of carpet he is delivering down the aisle a ways or one of the large crates which he is taking back to a storage area. After several hours when you have your display set up and your badges in hand, you finally leave the confusion behind and head back to the hotel for a cool one.

It is utterly amazing when you return the next morning at 7:00 AM, crates are gone and aisle carpet is laid and fits perfectly between all the individual booths. A guy or gal comes down the aisle pushing a big garbage pail on wheels and picks up the remaining debris on the main aisle. The next item on your list is to head down to the NRA Cantina for a free cup of coffee and a nice selection of sweet rolls. You head back to the booth and relax for a while before the crowd arrives at 8:00 AM.





## *Follow up on the 2019 NRA National Convention, continued*

The normal hours are long for the crew as you are generally there for 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM but events run late in the evening if you have enough energy left to attend them. If you have the opportunity it is nice to visit the other displays in Collectors Row where you will see one of a kind items, production models, I recall one item of real interest was a section of bullet proof glass that Smith & Wesson used to test the .44 magnum revolver. You get to visit with people that you have met at past NRA shows from different areas of the country; it is good to see old friends again. There are events and meetings through the day and evenings that one can attend so there is plenty to do if you have any free time.



Sunday finally rolls around and you've enjoyed old friends, talking to the general public about your display, traded ideas and are ready to say good bye to another NRA convention. Around 3:00 o'clock you reverse the Thursday process, one of the crew heads for the parking lot to retrieve the vehicle and get in line for the dock area. The crew has generally just about got the display tore down, packed and on the cart ready to move out. You say your good-byes and head out to the lot.

You're tired and ready to hit the road for home but it was a good show as you may have won an award or one of the special "Silver Medals" for having one of the ten best guns that were at the show. I have attended around a dozen NRA National Conventions and can say I've enjoyed every one of them. As most of the MWCA members, know one of our trophy show displays is selected to set up at that these shows. So here comes the commercial, get busy and dig your favorites out of the vault, closet, from under the bed or where ever they are hiding and join us for our trophy show in October 2020. The next NRA show is going to be held in Nashville, TN on April 16-19 at the Music City Center.



### **2020 Show Schedule**

#### **Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association**

**Celebrating 66 Years!**

**February 1 - 2 Rochester Mayo Civic Center**

**February 22 - 23 St. Paul RiverCentre**

**March 14 - 15 MN State Fair Coliseum Building**

**May 2 - 3 MN State Fair Education Building**

**September 26 - 27 MN State Fair Education Building**

**October 24 - 25 MN State Fair Coliseum Building**

**Annual Trophy Show — Plan Your Display Now!**

**December 12 - 13 St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center**

# Minnesota Weapons

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

The Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association was established in 1954 by a group of collecting enthusiasts. The MWCA provides an opportunity for collectors to buy, sell, and trade firearms, and provides a forum for social interaction and fellowship for those interested in the hobby of arms collecting. Up to seven shows are sponsored each year throughout Minnesota.

**Founded in 1954, MWCA is the largest and oldest gun collecting group in Minnesota.**

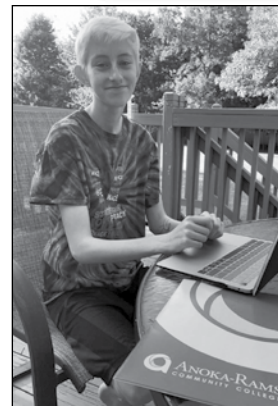


**Trophy Show Displays**



**MWCA contributes to firearms safety and skill development organizations.**

## *MWCA Awards Scholarship*



The 2019 recipient of a \$500 MWCA Scholarship is Hanna Meidiner.

The Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association created a yearly scholarship fund three years ago. To apply for a scholarship the applicant must be sponsored by a MWCA member. The applicant must apply on the MWCA website between February 1 and May 1.

MWCA donated \$12,350 for education of young shooters in 2019.

**Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) for more information.**



# Collectors Association

Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)

The Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association is a proud supporter of the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League!



MWCA awards scholarships to students entering college.  
Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) for details.

## MWCA 2020 Show Dates

February 1 - 2 Rochester Mayo Civic Center

February 22 - 23 St. Paul RiverCentre

March 14 - 15 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

May 2 - 3 MN State Fair Education Building

September 26 - 27 MN State Fair Education Building

October 24 - 25 MN State Fair Coliseum Building

**Annual Trophy Show — Plan Your Display Now!**

December 12 - 13 St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)

And Facebook.



## Free - up to \$25.00 admission value MWCA Show Pass

For student participating in the State High School Clay Target League Trap Shooting Championship and parents, brothers & sisters.

Present this pass directly to ticket-taker.

(Valid through December 13, 2020. No reproductions.)

Show hours Sat. 8 - 5, Sun. 9 - 3

Under 18 not admitted without parent or guardian.

[www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)

# Appraisers Busy at MWCA's Spring Show

By Mark D. Reese; additions by Dale H. Peterson

Every spring MWCA offers free appraising services during the MN State Fairgrounds Education Building show for members and patrons. This past spring seven MWCA members: Denny Larson, John Opheim, Dale Peterson, Rick Simonson, Mike Splittgerber, Jerry Viches and myself volunteered our time and talents to appraise a wide variety of collectible items.

According to Dale Peterson's Saturday tally, he and other volunteers appraised 45 firearms either by looking at the actual items or from photographs. Although this year's appraising service was changed to a "Saturday Only" event, I believe we looked at approximately 20 firearms and accoutrements - as well as a large assortment of Native American items on Sunday.

I personally answered lots of questions regarding the appraising service(s) on Saturday. Many of the same people came back Sunday with their items seeking help. I also noticed many of the items brought in for evaluation were sold at the show (not to the appraisers but sold to other vendors at the show).

Veteran appraiser and avid collector Mike Splittgerber recently commented, "We need more help appraising." We desperately need help appraising items from the 1700 - 1800s. Regardless of your collecting interests and level of expertise, we can use you if you are willing to help out. If you enjoy looking at interesting items, visiting with people and have some idea of how to appraise or evaluate collectible items please contact Mr. Matt Cooklock, MWCA Executive Director.



Mike Splittgerber and Jerry Viches looking over two European Automatics brought in for appraisal.



Mike Splittgerber and Dale H Peterson at work. On the table you will notice five 1851 Colt Revolvers, in various condition; labeled Poor, Good, Better, Best and Something Special. This is to demonstrate to the customer that condition makes a big difference in the value.

## Last Issue's Guess the Gun



No winners on the last publication's "Guess the Gun." It should have been an easy one as around 325,000 were produced at the Colt Factory in Hartford, CT. Production began in 1850 and continued through 1873; it is an 1849 Colt Pocket Model, .31 Caliber Black Powder revolver.





## ***MWCA Contributes***

### ***Thank You***

**for your support of the  
Minnesota Weapons  
Collectors Association!**

***MWCA donated \$12,350***

**during 2019 to a wide variety of local youth-  
oriented firearms safety and skill development  
organizations and the National Rifle Association:**

- South Metro Friends of NRA
- Minnesota Volunteer Safety Instructor Association
- American Legion Post 435
- Boy Scouts Troop 406
- Wishes and More
- Owatonna Gun Club
- Red Arrow Camp
- MN Juvenile Officers Association
- NRA-ILA
- Capable Partners
- Edina Firearms Safety Class
- Scott County Youth Firearm Safety
- Northern Star Council, BSA
- Roseville High School Trap Club



**For 2020: All requests for contributions must be submitted in writing to the MWCA Board of Directors by October 1, 2020 to be considered in the MWCA 2020 budget.**

**In addition, you must agree to have a representative attend the December 2020 show to receive that contribution.**



Organizations  
receive  
MWCA 2019  
contributions.

## In Memoriam



### Steve Fjestad

Steve was the author of *The Blue Book of Gun Values*. He was an Honorary Life Member of the MWCA and was always attentive to the MWCA at NRA national meetings.



### Steve Erickson

Steve was MWCA Chief of Security for over 20 years. Retired from Minneapolis Police Dept. as Sergeant after 30 years of service.



### Lee Jessen

Lee was a long-time member of the MWCA. Operated Jessen Press which published many of MWCA's annual magazines.



### Robert "Bob" Guist

Bob was a MWCA past president.



### Denny Monchamp

Denny will be missed by his fellow military collectors.



### Al Blesener

Al was a real gentleman often seen with the Big Red Hat and called everyone "Pal." He supplied all of our unique Ammo needs.



### Ron Ramerth

Ron was a long-time MWCA member, retired Minneapolis Police officer and avid sportsman.

*Not pictured*

### Ethel Saign (Ray)

Wife of long-time member Ray Saign.

### John Rako

The MWCA donates \$100.00 to the NRA for each member who has passed.

If members know of any members passing please advise a Board member so that they can be listed in this Memoriam Section in the next MWCA News.

## In remembrance of Alvin Olson

Ole and Lena went shopping after Christmas to get a few bargains. There were other people who had the same idea and the store was packed. After a while Lena looked around and *No Ole*. So, she got on her cell phone and gave him a call: "Ole, where are you?" Ole replied, "Lena do you remember dat little shop where I was going to buy you dat nice necklace for Christmas and I just could not afford it?" (Lena thought Ole was in the little shop and she teared up a little thinking Ole was buying her the necklace.) Ole continued, "Vel, I'm in da gun store next to it."



## Meet Your 2020 Board Of Directors

Jim Walters - President, Jim Wright - Vice President, Dave Corbin - Secretary, Brian VanKleek - Treasurer, and Dale Peterson - Historian and Publication Staff. If you have any questions and/or suggestions about MWCA policies, show rules etc., they will be glad to answer them.



**Jim Walters**  
President



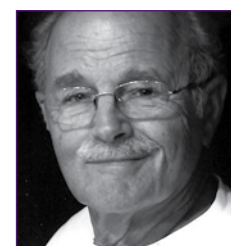
**Jim Wright**  
Vice President



**Dave Corbin**  
Secretary



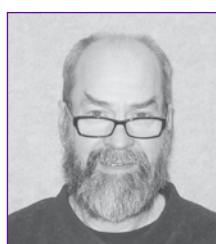
**Brian VanKleek**  
Treasurer



**Dale H. Peterson**  
Historian & Publication Staff



**John Chappuie**



**David Hinrichs**



**Ed Pohl**  
Trophy Show Coordinator



**Dave Feinwachs**  
Past President



**31<sup>st</sup> Annual**

## Heritage Arms Society's Antique Arms Collectors Show

**Saturday, March 28, 2020 • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Public Welcome - Admission \$5.00 (Age 16 and under free with adult) - Free Parking all day.**

**Friday, March 27, 2020 • 12:00 - 6:00 PM**

**(members & exhibitors only)**

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

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

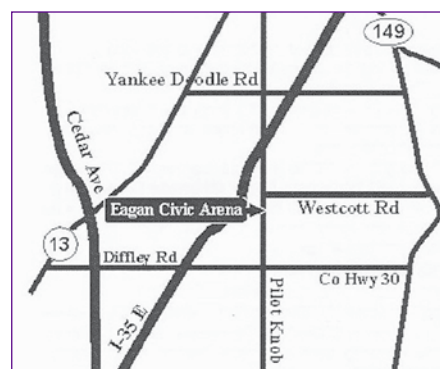
Only legal historic arms and related items produced before 1945 are allowed.

Expert appraisals available.

For table reservations call evenings 651-260-4532.

**Eagan Civic Arena**

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



**Future HAS Date: March 27, 2021**

For more info: [www.heritagearmsociety.org](http://www.heritagearmsociety.org)

# **Consider becoming a member of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association!**

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

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

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

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

**Visit our membership table at a show or our website [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) for more information about the benefits of joining the MWCA!**

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