

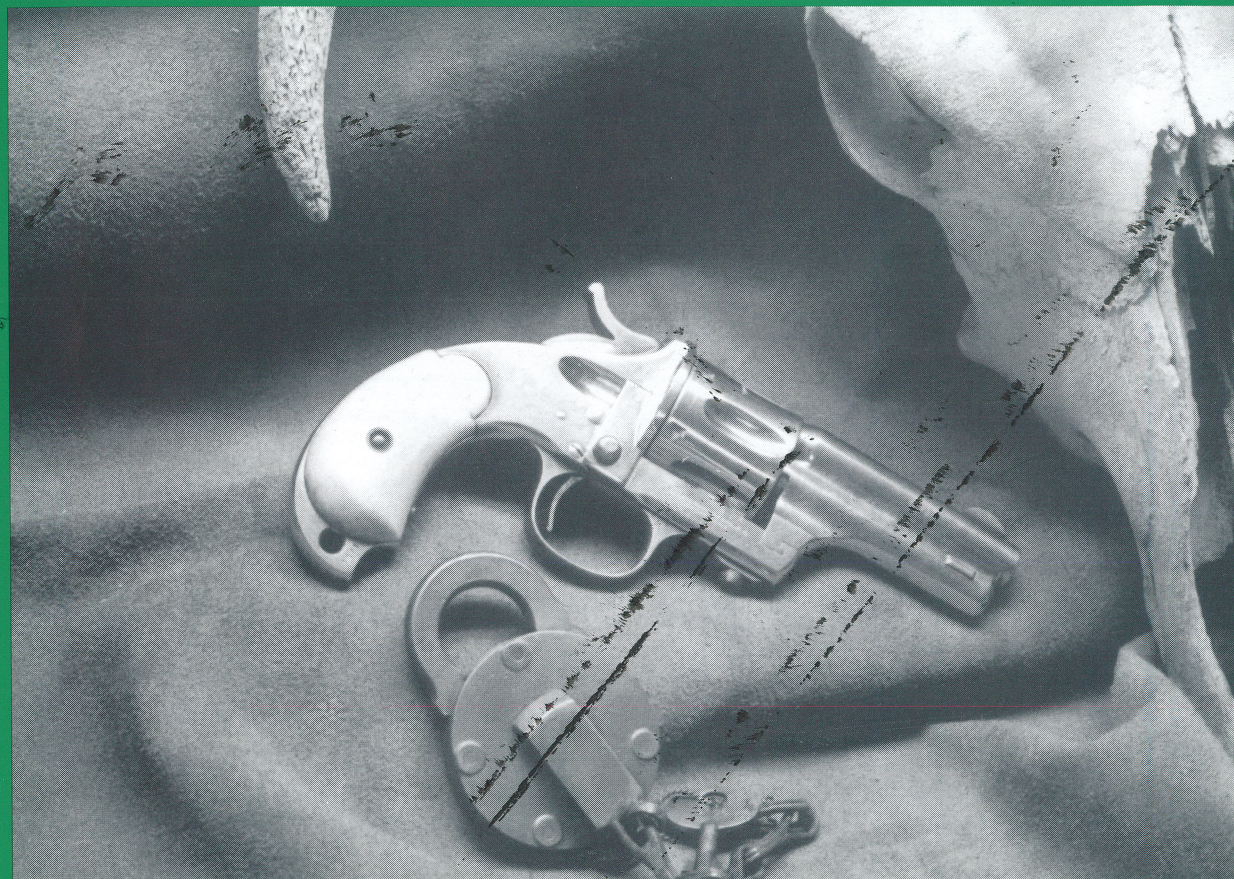
# M·W·C·A

MINNESOTA WEAPONS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
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2003 TROPHY SHOW ISSUE

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

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## In Memoriam

ALAN DALE SORENSON 1939-2003

It is with the very deepest regret that the passing of Dale Sorenson on February 20, 2003 is acknowledge. Dale was a long standing member of the MWCA and a Board member in the early 1990's. His primary collecting interests were Winchester rifles and shotguns, Colts, and US Military 45's. He also took extreme pride in his ancestry, collecting military related items from the WWII era when his decorated relatives served in the Norwegian Army. Dale was a highly diverse and caring individual, spending the last part of his long teaching career helping troubled youth. One of his greatest pleasures was the family cabin in northern Minnesota and the time spent there with family, especially deer hunting.

For those of us who were close friends, we will miss him greatly. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his three sons, their families, and other relatives.

David R. Licht

Vern Lorrie, Pine Island, MN

# THE PRESIDENT'S SHOT

We have just completed the 2003 Trophy Show at the new Minneapolis Convention Center. By all standards, it will be considered a complete success. Those of you who were unable to attend have missed many very outstanding displays. We all owe Tony Schwab a great big thank you for his dedication and effort. It takes many hours of work and years of knowledge and experience to organize this type of show. Thanks Tony, & thanks to all of you who participated.

The MWCA was conceived nearly fifty years ago by a group of people interested in trading and collecting firearms. Although things have changed in fifty years, and people are in the organization for different reasons, we all have one thing in common. That is, the extension of our love of the hunt, and the protection of the second amendment. We all try to do this in different ways, but have a common goal. We must understand that we are in a fight for the very life of our sport and our freedom.

I had the privilege of teaching Firearms safety training for twenty years to our young people to help prepare them for hunting and safe firearms handling. One key subject that was covered as part of the course agenda was hunter ethics. Fifty years ago, there was little relationship problems between the hunter and the landowner. However, as city people lost respect for the landowner's rights and began to pollute and destroy property, the hunter lost many of these privileges. Although there is not a direct correlation, there is a lesson to be learned.

As gun collectors, shooting and hunting enthusiasts, we are observed and judged by the unfriendly media, education system, and the liberal public in general. Therefore it is to our advantage to always create the best possible image. We must act and talk respectfully at the shows or anywhere we are representing our sport. Remember, everyone that attends our displays, are not necessarily old timers. We may be giving them a first impression. Whenever you are in a non-gun group such as, church, school, political, sport, etc. Let it be known that you are a collector, hunter, sport shooter, etc. People outside our circles need to know that we are ordinary citizens, not some type of media ogre. In short, let's all try to create a positive impression. That's the least we can do.

God bless you and our sport. — Ken Menth



## 2003 Show Schedule

### Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

Post Office Box 662, Hopkins MN 55343 • Phone/Fax 612/721-8976 • [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)

**100% Arms and Accessories**

#### Shows Schedule For 2003:

April 12-13	— State Fairgrounds - Education Building
August 9-10	— St. Paul Rivercentre
September 13-14	— Chaska Community Center
September 27-28	— State Fairgrounds - Education Building
November 1-2	— Rochester Mayo Civic Center
December 13-14	— St. Paul Rivercentre

All fees & set-up hours are the same for 2003 • In the unlikely event a date or location is changed, watch for Red Show Card for permanent schedule.

Admission \$5.00

Under 18 not admitted  
without parent

Show Hours: Saturday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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## MWCA Annual Trophy Show - February 2003

The annual trophy show was another dandy this year with over 20 unique displays of some of the finest collectors items available. Again we joined forces with the Heritage Arms Society, American Sporting Collectibles and the North Star Blade Collectors for an interesting show with something for everyone to enjoy. The public attendance was over 4,000 paid admissions for the two days of the show. We have to thank Tony Schwab for his fine job of organizing the show and selecting the judges, who we wish to thank also. The following is a list of the winners in the various categories:

- The Peoples Choice Award went to John Pfiefer and Jerry Norberg for their fine Civil War Display. They also won 2nd place in the Antique Handgun category.
- Dale Peterson received both the “Best of Show Award” and 1st place in the Antique Handguns area for his “Early Military Colts”; Ken Lindquist captured 3rd in this category.
- Bill Nemitz (and Jane) cut into 1st place with their Edged Weapons display with 2nd going to Dave Arnold and 3rd to Randy Harvey.
- Bob Crump was on target and received 1st place for Related Items with Alvin Olson grabbing 2nd place.
- Shooting into 1st place in the Modern Handgun area was Dale Dalbotten with 2nd going to Lynn Kvam and 3rd to Dennis Larson.
- Alvin Olson received 1st in the Modern Rifle category and Eugene Leopold 2nd.
- James Neigel and his bride got 1st in the Modern Shotgun category with 2nd going to Fred Vandersnick.
- James Curlovic marched into 1st place in the Military Long Guns and 2nd went to Don Johnson.
- Congratulations to Robert Edwardson for 1st place in the Military Handguns and David Licht getting 2nd place.
- Vern Berning with his Royal Purple Drapes hung on for 1st place in the Antique Long Gun category with 2nd to Phil Henderson and 3rd to Joel Tastad.

Thanks to all the members who took the time to set up a display of their favorites and to the public for participating in the Peoples Choice Award. Lets have a few more members get involved next year for an even bigger and better Trophy Show.

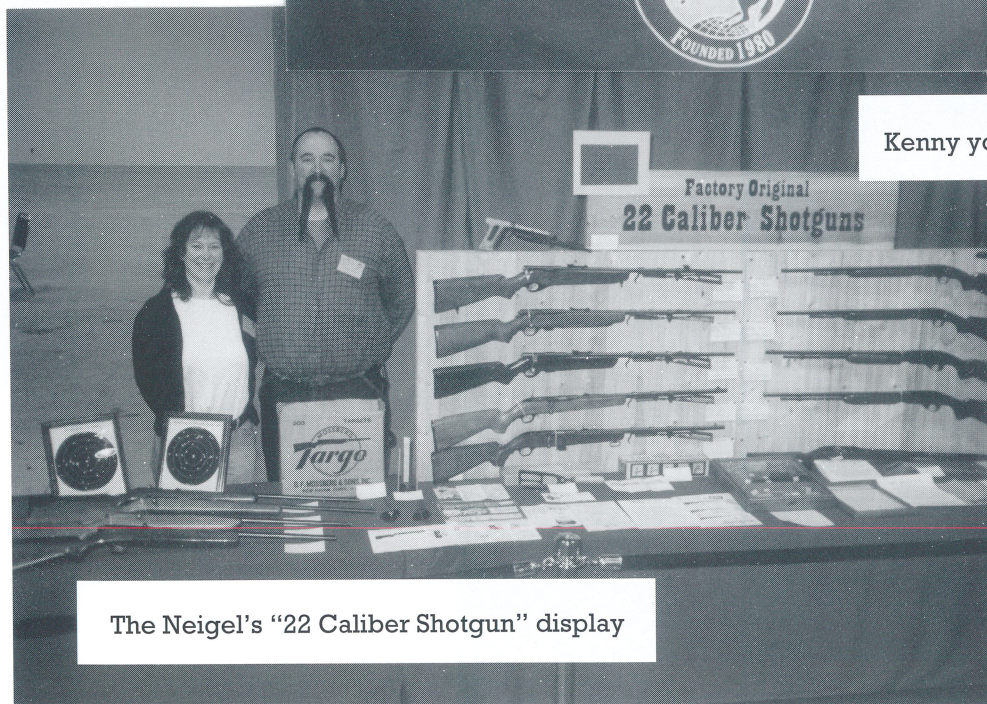


## *The Winners*

Don Johnson M-1s, M-1s, M-1s and more M-1s



David Licht



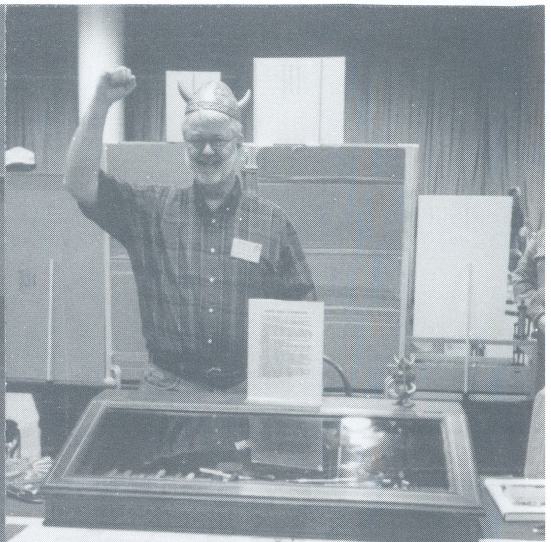
The Neigel's "22 Caliber Shotgun" display



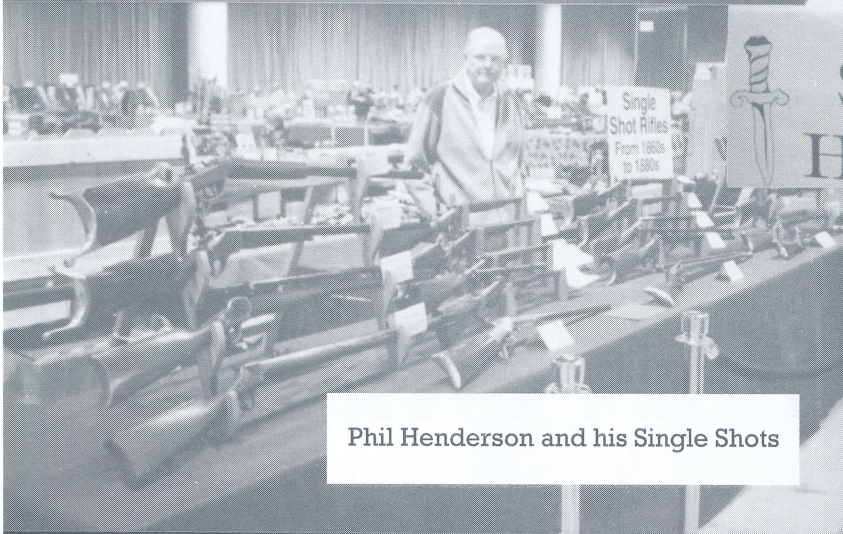
Kenny you're "BLUSHING"



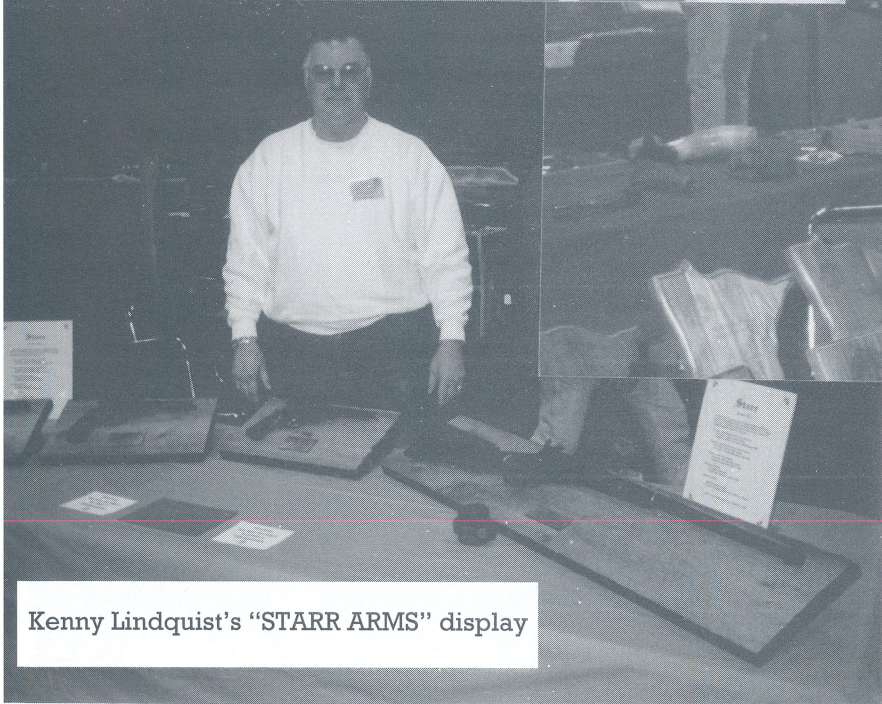
Members of the Heritage Arms Society contributed a number of displays for the Trophy Show



Charlie "Thor" Mossefin

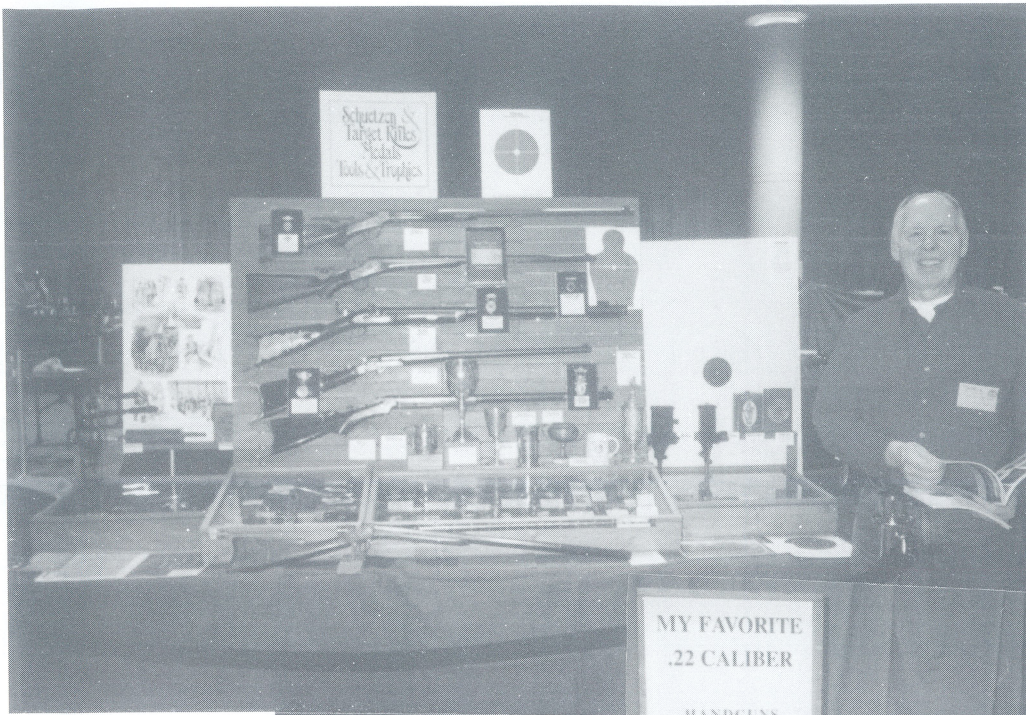


Phil Henderson and his Single Shots

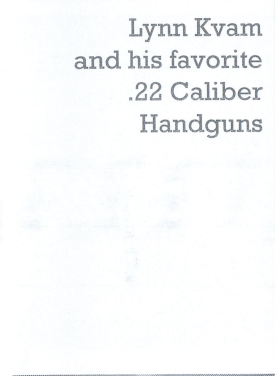


Kenny Lindquist's "STARR ARMS" display

Tony Schwab is the guy to thank for putting the Trophy Show together again this year...  
"THANK YOU Tony"



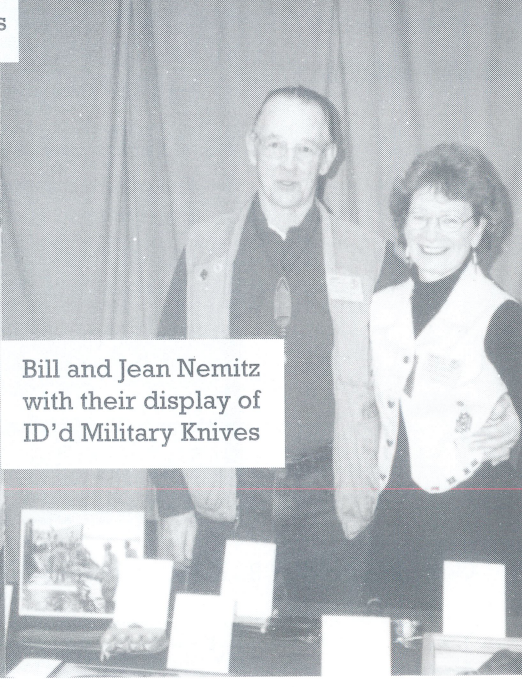
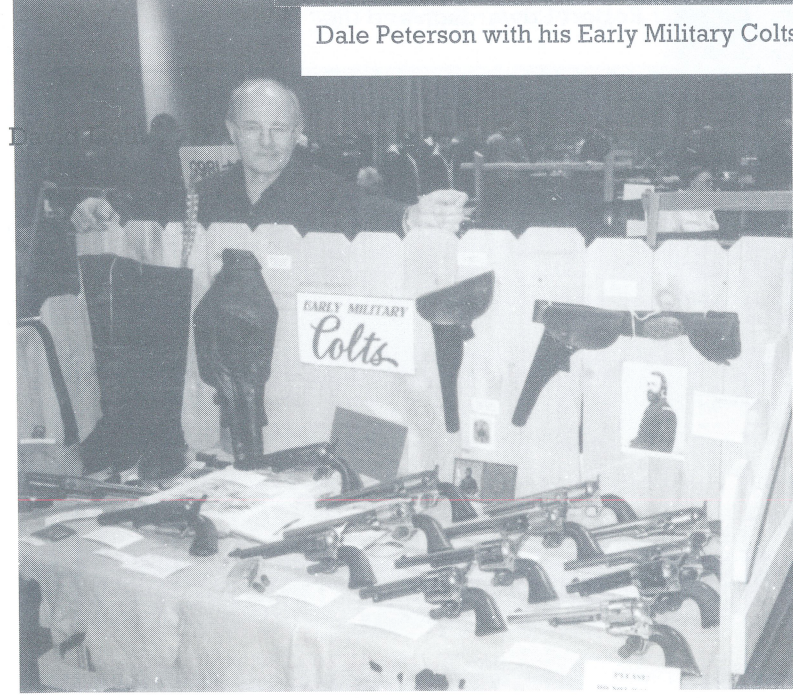
Smiling Bob Krump brought his Schuetzen Target Rifles, Medals, Tools and Trophies. Bob did you win all of those trophies and medals yourself??



Lynn Kvam and his favorite .22 Caliber Handguns



Dale Peterson with his Early Military Colts



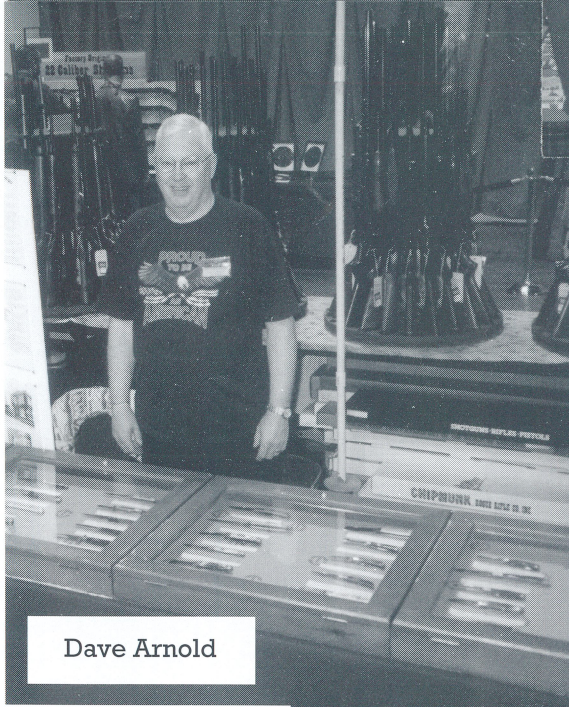
Bill and Jean Nemitz with their display of ID'd Military Knives



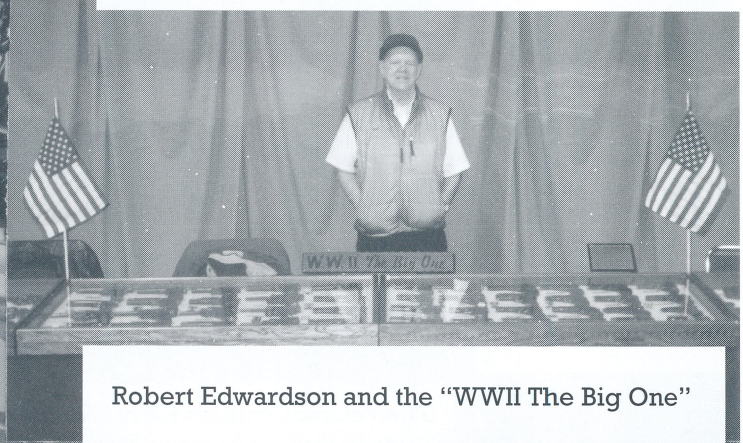
Dale Dalbotton's RUGERS



Alvin Olson



Dave Arnold



Robert Edwardson and the "WWII The Big One"



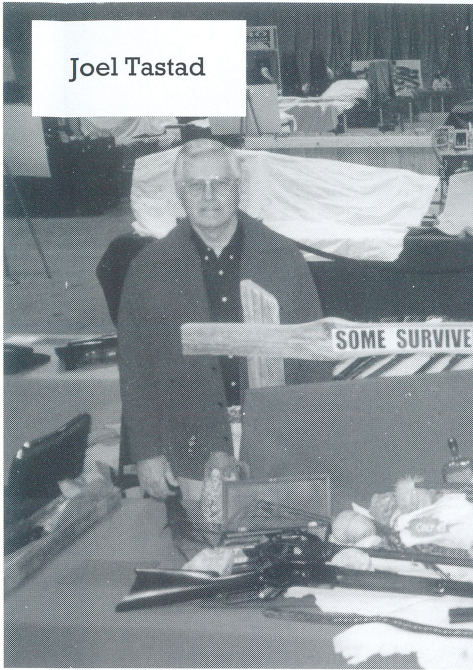
Gene Leopold's "88 & 100 Winchesters"



James Curlovic and his Military Winchesters



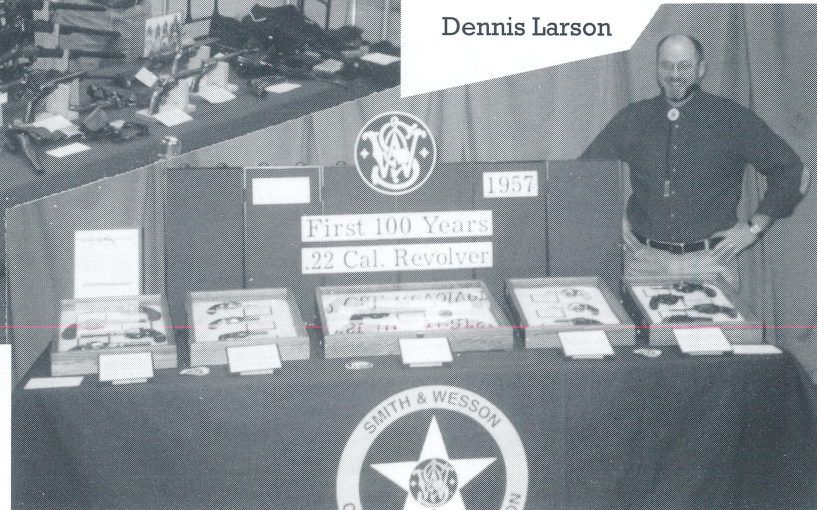
Joel Tastad



Fred Vandersnick  
2nd Place Shotgun  
Display



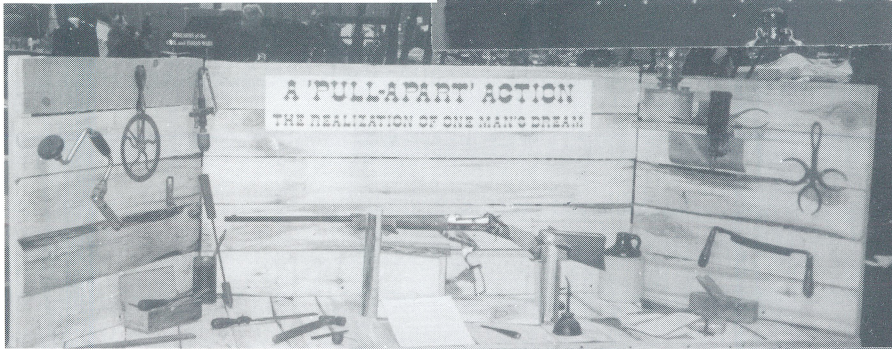
Dennis Larson



Jerry Norberg and John Pfieler with  
"The People's Choice" display



Alvin Olson's  
Shotshell Display



"Boy these Gun Shows are a SNAP"  
Bob Cameron and John Kuntz



Vern Berning with  
a dandy bunch  
of Winchester 1873s



Randy Harvey



Slim's Stock Shop



This is a letter from Minnesota 4th District Representative Betty McCollum in response to one of our members who wrote to her in regard to the bill that she is the cosponsor of. If she is in your district maybe you should write to her and let her know how you stand on the issue of the Gunshow Loophole Act.

—Representative Betty McCollum, 1029 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515 or call her at: Washington Office -202-225-6631 or St. Paul Office: 651-224-9191

BETTY McCOLLUM  
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

1029 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6631  
FAX: (202) 225-1968

165 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH  
SUITE 17  
ST. PAUL, MN 55102  
(651) 224-9191  
FAX: (651) 224-3056



COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

[www.house.gov/mccollum](http://www.house.gov/mccollum)

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 9, 2002



Thank you for contacting me regarding gun show loophole legislation. I appreciate hearing from you.

While I appreciate your views on this subject, I am a cosponsor of HR 2377, the *Gunshow Loophole Act*. For the first three years after enactment, the bill requires a three-day waiting period before a firearm is purchased. After that, states may reduce background checks between private buyers and sellers at gun shows to 24 hours, once the U.S. Attorney General's office has certified that its records are sufficiently automated. This legislation has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where it awaits further action.

It is important that we do all we can to prevent any criminal from obtaining a firearm, whether it is used for terrorism or other purposes. In order to increase safety in our neighborhoods and protect our children and families, we must stop firearms from getting in the hands of those who wish to do harm to others.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or concerns on this or an additional matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

BM:jb



MWCA's Gail Foster and Eric Strand welcomed Mark LaBarbera of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center non-profit group and the OHEC "Touch of the Wild" traveling museum to the St. Paul River Centre show in December. The 32-foot trailer, sponsored in part by Budweiser and College City Beverage, received "thumbs up" from show patrons. The sounds of game calls from the hands-on displays were as loud as the "oohs" and "aahs" when people entered the trailer to find a life-size brown bear, lion and timber wolf.

MWCA is donating funds to the OHEC project to help spread the conservation and wildlife restoration message to people who are removed from nature compared to hunters and anglers.

## HELLO, HELP, FREE, SEX, GOOD FOOD

I hope one of these words gets your attention as we are going to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary next year. Yes, that's right. We started in 1954 and in 2004 we are going to be 50 years old.

We are looking for unique ideas to commemorate our 50th Anniversary. Also, we need your help in finding any Charter Members who started this fine organization. Please contact any M.W.C.A. director or member of the bulletin staff for anything which you might contribute. We are only going to be 50 once so lets do it up right.

# Introduction to the Pocket Army

By Stan Nelson

In a previous issue of this bulletin we discussed the introduction, in 1877, of an open-top design .44 caliber revolver by Merwin-Hulbert & Company of New York. We examined several important changes that were made to it during its production as an open-top design which its makers viewed as improvements to an already competitive revolver. In the fall of 1881, a few months after Merwin-Hulbert had begun offering their "Army" revolver chambered for the popular Winchester 44/40 cartridge they marketed what I feel was their major achievement; a short barrel, round butt revolver which they designated the "Pocket Army." The earliest dated advertisement that I have recorded for this "pocket" revolver is found in the back section of the October, 1881 issue of SCRIBNER's magazine. Said the ad: "We call attention to our Pocket Army. In its construction the best materials and highest known state of the art have been applied.



Early advertisement for the Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army. This ad ran continually for 10 months in Scribners/Century magazine, a respected literary periodical.

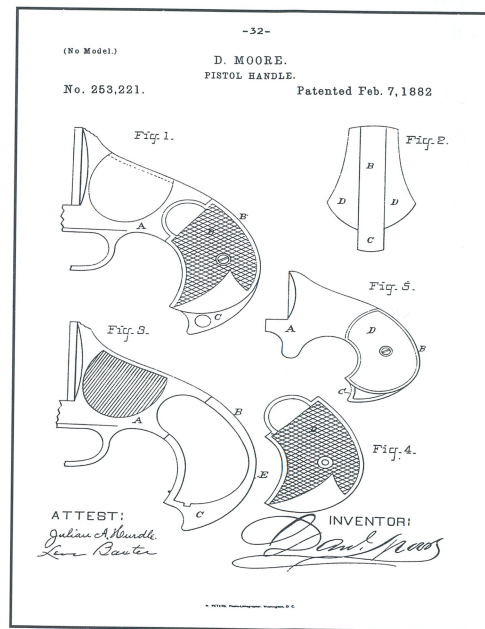
For precision, penetration, poise, compactness, beauty of outline, and general convenience, IT HAS NO EQUAL;" and so on. As the advertising cut shows, the Pocket Army is an open-top revolver, offspring of the Merwin-Hulbert long barrel, flat butt army model. With its short 3 1/2" barrel, and round butt curving to a crescent shaped tip with a lanyard hole, this "pocket" revolver had a decidedly distinctive appearance.

The man responsible for this was old Daniel Moore, a Brooklyn inventor. Born in New York in 1813, living until 1901, Moore had seen all the changes in firearms design from the flintlock to the semi-automatic pistol. Daniel seemed to harbor a fondness for open-top revolvers; the first Merwin-

Hulbert "army" revolver was based on his patents. In the 1860's he had produced two other open-top types; the Moore seven-shooter and the Moore teat-fire revolver. In this instance, on August 27, 1881 he filed application for a patent which describes and pictures a round butt "pistol handle" with a small curved extension at the lower end. Moore was issued patent no. 253,221 on February 7, 1882, by which time the Pocket Army was already on the market. Among advantages claimed for this style

"pistol handle" were a smaller yet comfortable size grip, with the crescent shaped extension giving room for the little finger, while the integral lanyard hole eliminates the necessity of attaching a separate lanyard ring. Last but not least, says the patent application: "...The extended metallic crest also makes it a more formidable weapon when used to strike or club with..." Among other attributes old Daniel Moore had a vivid imagination.

Collectors and arms students should remember that Joseph Merwin died in 1879 and never saw a Pocket Army (nor any other M & H revolvers except the open-top "Army" model) but probably for business reasons the Hulbert Brothers retained the Merwin-Hulbert & Co. name. That they had high hopes for the Pocket Army model is attested to by their ads exclusively featuring the Pocket Army which ran for nearly a year. SCRIBNERS' monthly (which became CENTURY magazine in November of 1881 under the same management) carried the same Pocket Army ad from October, 1881 through July, 1882; a month later Merwin-Hulbert ads began featuring the new top-strap "belt model" .44, which was their term for a long barrel revolver. Since this essay is concerned primarily with the first Pocket Army revolver we will look at it more closely and leave the later top-strap types for another time.



U.S. Patent No. 253,221, issued to Daniel Moore on Feb. 7, 1882. The Pocket Army "handle."

With its easily recognized silhouette a Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army can be spotted across the room but sometimes upon examination it appears not to be a Pocket Army. Here arises a problem in semantics, usually caused by the markings or lack thereof, on a particular revolver. Merwin-Hulbert & Co. made every effort to distinguish the Pocket Army from their other .44 caliber revolvers, including some other round butt types which we run across occasionally. Those manufactured, advertised, and sold as Pocket Army models are, with few exceptions, stamped on the right side of the frame: "Merwin-Hulbert & Co. N.Y. Pocket Army," and on the left side: Calibre Winchester 1873. I know of a couple of revolvers where these stampings are reversed, and I once owned a short barrel, round butt 44/40 M & H revolver, serial no. 2030 that was not stamped Pocket Army, probably the result of human error. Also stamped, in two lines on the left side of the short barrel: Hopkins & Allen Mfg. Co. Norwich Conn. U.S.A. Pat Jan 24. Apr 21. Dec 15 74. Aug 3.75 July 11.76 Apr 17.77

Pats Mar6. 77. In advertisements the Pocket Army was never offered in any other caliber than 44/40 or in any other barrel length than 3 1/2" (I have a few that measure 3 5/16"). In time Pocket Army purchasers were offered two barrel sets, with an interchangeable 7" to accompany the 3 1/2" barrel. Collectors today may find a 7" barrel on a "Pocket Army" marked gun, which means the short barrel is missing. I have record of a 7" barrel on a round butt frame which is not marked "Pocket Army." I take this to be either a special order or assembled from open-top parts on hand when production switched to top-strap models. As with the majority of Merwin-Hulbert revolvers, most Pocket Armies were nickel plated. Although calibers other than 44/40 were never advertised as available in the Pocket Army, I have seen and have record of several in .44 S & W Russian caliber. These were all stamped "Russian Model" on the right side of the frame and not stamped Pocket Army. I view these as special orders by individuals or dealers and find significance in the fact that they are not stamped Pocket Army. I have not seen nor do I have record of an open-top Pocket Army model in .44 Merwin-Hulbert caliber though it is likely there are a few around. Art Phelps' book on



The first Pocket Army is easy to identify, "for compactness, beauty of outline, it has no equal."

Merwin-Hulbert firearms shows an engraved open-top Pocket Army in a shoulder holster (page 11 in the first edition, page 47 in the second) described as being in .44 M-H & Co. However, a letter from the owner of this piece assures that it is a 44/40 and marked "calibre Winchester 1873;" I am still looking. Note that after the 44/40 cartridge became available in Merwin-Hulbert revolvers in 1881 the long barrel belt model (unlike the Pocket Army) was uniformly offered in two caliber: "the 44 Winchester model, 40 grains powder, for the Frontier Trade," or "the 44 M.H. & Co. model, 30 grains powder, for the Mexican trade;" no mention of the .44 S & W Russian cartridge or of a "Russian Model." We must remember that 19th century arms makers were very obliging people and today's collectors see examples of yesterdays special orders quite often. To sum up the foregoing: to bring ease to a mind boggled by conflicting opinions, theories, guesses (educated and otherwise) I have evolved a very simple method of identifying a Merwin-Hulbert & Company POCKET ARMY revolver—if it is stamped POCKET ARMY, that is what it is.

Lack of factory records has been the source of anguish to all of us who are interested in Merwin-Hulbert revolvers, especially concerning serial numbers and total production of the various types during the company's relatively short existence. After years of collecting serial numbers, printed advertisements, examining hundreds of individual specimens and comparing notes, we have arrived at a few notions, if not conclusions. Except for some late rib barrel types every 44 M & H revolver should have two different numbers stamped on it; an assembly number on all major parts: frame, barrel, cylinder, trigger guard, hammer, etc. to ensure that these hand fitted parts were not separated during final finishing. The other number, visible on the bottom of the flat butt, or next to the lanyard hole on the round butt revolver is the serial number, and being sequential is indicative of total production. We believe that both the flat butt and the round butt revolvers were numbered in their own separate series, beginning at or about serial no. 1 through or at about the end of production, regardless of whether open-top or top-strap frames or single or double action. The only caveat to the above observation is found in ribbed barrel types towards the end of production which will be addressed in a future article. Serial numbers on the open-top revolvers behave quite logically, the flat butt, long barrel model numbers running from single digit to around 15,000 total production. The open-top round butt types mostly Pocket Army models, run from single digit numbers to a total of somewhere over 5,000: the highest number I have recorded being 5041. Since serial numbers on the top-strap Pocket Army model begin at around 3,000 we find both open-top and top-strap types with numbers in the 3,000 to 5,000 range. This would indicate that the factory still had quite a number of open-top frames on hand when the top-strap model made its appearance in the fall of 1882. This is borne out in the pages of the December, 1884 illustrated price list (to dealers only) of the E.C. Meacham Arms Co. of St. Louis, in which the open-top Pocket Army was offered at a reduced price. That price, by the way, was still higher than that of the Colt Single Action revolver advertised in the same price list.

Reduced price or not, a few knowledgeable individuals would seem to have preferred the open-top Pocket Army as a handy weapon for "packing." One was Bass Outlaw, a once respected Texas Ranger with a drinking problem. Ranger Captain Frank Jones considered Outlaw to be the best Ranger sergeant in the service, but was forced to compel his resignation after one too many binges. On October 15, 1892 Bass Outlaw was arrested in an El Paso saloon "for displaying a pistol in a public place." His pistol was an open-top Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army, nickel plated, with ivory grips, serial no. 195. This revolver was confiscated by the local law and later wound up in the gun collection of "Coney Island Saloon" owner, Tom Powers. An identical Pocket Army was carried by the Marquis de Mores, a French nobleman

with an American wife who, like many another European, thought he could make money in the beef cattle industry. In 1883 he came to western Dakota territory and founded the town of Medora, where he built a packing plant, a church, and a chateau where Theodore Roosevelt, another Badlands rancher, occasionally came to dinner. The Marquis was no stranger to arms, being an accomplished swordsman and marksman, and survived several shooting incidents in Dakota and a few duels in Europe only to be assassinated in Africa in 1896. A good photo of the Marquis on horseback, taken near the chateau in 1886, plainly shows his Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army with ivory grips snuggled against his side in a cross draw holster. In the 1930's the Marquis' oldest son, Louis Vallombrosa, gave the chateau and other Medora property to the state of North Dakota to restore and preserve for park and museum purposes. On a personal note, in the mid 1950's I happened to be in Medora and helped the Chateau museum director identify some of the Marquis' firearms which had recently arrived from a grandson in France. Among them was a nickel plated open-top Merwin-Hulbert Pocket Army with ivory grips. I wrote down the serial and assembly numbers in a notebook, but as happens over the years, I lost the notebook. Some time back I had need for that information and contacted the State Historical Society of North Dakota only to learn that the Marquis de Mores' Pocket Army had been stolen from the Chateau in the 1970's. Every time I see one like it now, I wonder if it once belonged to the Marquis.



The Marquis de Mores packing a Pocket Army, Medora, Dakota Territory, 1886.

### REFERENCES

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- Tweton, D. Jerome. THE MARQUIS de MORES. Fargo, North Dakota, 1972
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- Various Merwin-Hulbert catalogs and magazine ads.



The MWCA Past Presidents held their annual dinner meeting after the last March Trophy Show, it was well attended with 14 of the old boys showing up for a free meal. The conversation was generally centered around old times and old friends.

President Ken Menth related the events that the Board of Directors are dealing with presently. It is customary for the existing president to pick up the tab for the dinner but Ken wasn't gullible enough to believe that so it was passed on the MWCA treasurer. Since 1954 there have been 47 different presidents, three have held the office twice and there are 30 still enjoying this wonderful country we live in. Those in attendance are pictured from left to right and listed is there year of presidency:

Front row-Dave Arnold 1998, David Strand 1988, Alvin Olson 1984 & 1992, Vern Berning 1991, John Fuchs 1996, Howard Hall 1994. Back row-Harvey Olberg 1970, Eric Strand 1983 & 2001, Russ Nielson 1967, John Castor 1971, Bill Nimetz 1978, Dale H Peterson 1980, Ken Menth 2003, Brian Van Kleek 2000.

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# Michael Stanton: One of His Nice Old Guns

by Nick Wheelock & Mike Stanton

Most people who have been interested in old guns and gun collecting for more than a couple of years have probably met, spoken to, or even dealt with Michael “Mike” Stanton. Mike passed on to the Ultimate Gun Show in June of 2002. His passing was a great loss to the gun collecting community, not just in Minnesota but in the whole of the USA. During his pursuit of collectable firearms, Mike traveled to various places throughout the US and particular era of American made firearms: he liked guns that were associated with the time frame of the Late Frontier Period of US history. Specifically, he liked guns from about the 1870s through the 1890s. Mike especially liked very nice clean - investment grade - guns from that period of American history.

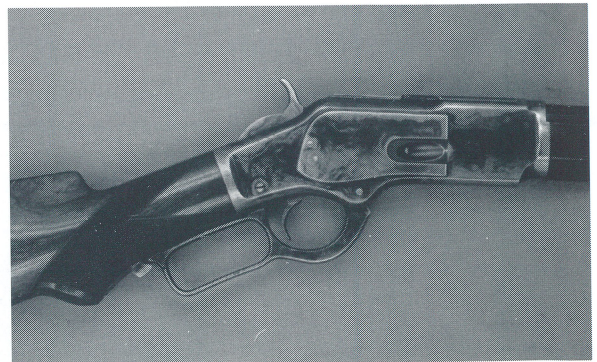
While Mike was not a true historian, he read a great deal about the time period of the guns he collected, and he was knowledgeable about historical events, incidents, personages, and characters from that period. When Mike added a new piece to his collection, he would always check to see if factory records were available for it. He would also check to see if he could find any historical provenance associated with a particular piece. The following article consists of Mike’s notes on one of the nice old rifles he acquired some years ago. The notes were to be a basis for a story that Mike wanted to do on his gun. However, as you can see after reading through his notes, Mike was never able to complete a part of the puzzle associated with this gun, and therefore, the story never came to be.

Read through Mike’s notes. They show Mike’s method of searching for provenance on a rifle associated with the names of specific individuals. They also point up some of the difficulties and frustrations inherent in this kind of effort.

## Only Half the Story – The Prize

In the summer of 1988, I received a call from a gun shop owner suggesting I might want to stop by. He explained that an acquaintance of his had come in with a portion of her deceased husband’s gun collection. In the group was an 1873 Winchester rifle, with just the condition I like. A time was set to view the piece. Driving to the meeting my thoughts returned to our earlier phone conversation; yes it’s a ‘73 Deluxe, it has a pistol grip, yet it’s checkered, the receiver, it’s color case hardened, lots of blue, just about all of it. Oh, the trips made to look at guns described as this one was. And oh, the disappointments on going out for a look-see.

The appointed hour found me standing at the counter waiting my turn. I had scanned the back wall, no ‘73s. A couple of customers were talking handguns with the owner; he acknowledged my presence and walked to the back room. As he returned he said, I think, “I hope it’s as nice as I described it.” Handing it over the counter, he was explaining how the widow decided to sell her husband’s gun. Nobody in the family left to take care or appreciate them. Her husband had a few pieces as long as she could remember; others he had purchased for this reason or that. Listening, but I wasn’t hearing what he was saying. In my hands was a ‘73 Deluxe, a real prize, a near mint specimen. I rolled it, turned it, whoa, nice. Coming back



to earth and hearing him talk made me realize he had done his homework, for he knew just what we were looking at. Discussing its condition, the fact that it’s a deluxe and so on. After a few minutes, I realized that no special significance was being placed on the presentation inscription the side plate carried. Asking {the dealer} who he thought the names were, {he responded that} I think she said the one was her husband’s grandfather, he worked for Pillsbury Mills, I believe.

Well, have you set a price? Not sure was his response. Suggesting I was a real buyer, that when he determined what he wanted, please call.

First step was to check with the Winchester museum, the call revealed that that it was shipped as an octagonal barrel, plain trigger, pistol grip, checkered, with color case-hardened receiver. No mention of the inscription or the special wood. It was shipped in 1887. The inscription made reference to read “to Wm. De Labarre from T.R. Butman.” Lettering style is



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as observed on other Winchesters of that time period. Learned enough to know that a space on my gun room wall should be made for this one. The shop owner knew what he had but wasn't sure of its value. He made several calls to antique gun dealers around the country. Each time we talked, he spoke of this person or that who made offers without seeing the piece. Fear started entering into the picture; this one might slip away. A week after the initial call, we made a deal. The prize was now mine.

## The Names on the Side Plate

The ensuing months brought many compliments as the '73 was shared with fellow collectors. With every showing came the same question. Who were Wm. De Labarre and T.R. Butman?

With the winter of 1989 came more free time. Thoughts returned to the nagging question of the names on the side plate. I contacted a fellow collector who has a library filled with old books dealing with early Minnesota history. Mr. De Labarre's name turned up in three different publications. The information was very brief and left many unanswered questions. It was suggested that the Minnesota Historical Society be consulted. An afternoon at the archives revealed a wealth of information on Mr. De Labarre.

It was learned he was born April 15 1849, in Vienna, Austria, the fourth of twelve children. Schooling at the time was entirely different, the "lower or folk" schools were like grade schools and the district schools were like high schools. William having attended both of the above went on the Polytechnic College in Vienna for several semesters, where he studied mechanical engineering.

At age sixteen, he joined the Austrian Navy, serving in the Engineers Corps. But in a short time, he contracted swamp fever and was sent home as incurable.

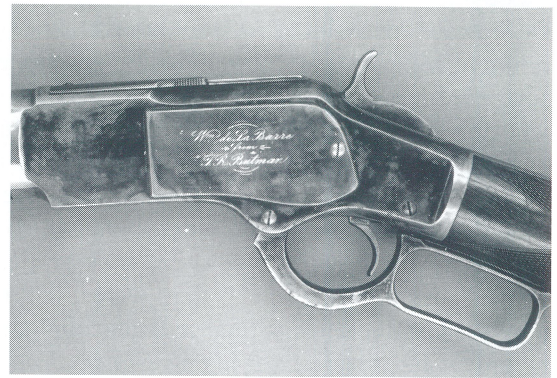
1866 found the De Labarre family sailing for America, father, mother, and eight children, since four had died. The ship Hansa left Hamburg, the trip taking six weeks. After a short stay in New York the family moved to Philadelphia, and it was there that young De Labarre's business career began.

Early jobs were running engines in a machine shop, a brick factory, a brewery, and in a sheet-iron works. He was hired by Morris Trasker & Company, a manufacturer of gas, steam, and water pipes, as well as machinery for sugar refineries and gas works. Bright and well liked, De Labarre moved up quickly in both business and in his new chosen country.

While in the employment of Morris & Trasker, he met, courted, and married Louisa Merian, November 6, 1870. They went on to have two children.

In 1873, the aspiring young De Labarre was commissioned by the City of Philadelphia to represent their city at the International Exhibition held in Vienna. His return from Europe brought pressing demands for his talents and services, designing and following through with the erection of gas works machinery and plants for numerous cities including Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Cincinnati, Ohio; Utica, New York; and Newark, New Jersey.

The year 1876 brought the Centennial Exposition to Philadelphia and a meeting of two men, Wm. De Labarre and Gustav Behrns, a German flour mill builder. Unknown to De Labarre at this time, this meeting would prove to be an important one and would change the course of life. Mr. Behrns was demonstrating a small working model of a device designed to prevent flour-dust explosions at flour mills. This device he endeavored to introduce to the United States millers without success. The majority of US millers he spoke to had not had a problem with or even heard of flour-dust explosions. Some of them even ridiculed the man and his useless invention, and he soon became discouraged and returned to Europe. Before he left, however, Behrns gave a model of his invention to Brehmer Brothers, an engineering and machining firm in Philadelphia, and authorized that company to act as his agent in the United States. During the following year, that firm did install three of the explosion preventing devices in local flour mills to serve as demonstrators. Still, no orders were forthcoming. Then in the spring of 1878, a tragedy in the west caused sudden interest in Mr. Behrns device. A Spark



between the granite wheels of a flour mill had touched off a flour-dust explosion in which 18 people died. As reported in the eastern newspapers, the deadly explosion occurred in Minneapolis, a small town lying just to the west of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Just a few weeks after the explosion, Brehmer Bros. received an inquiry from C.C. Washburn of Minneapolis about the Behrns Invention. Mr. Washburn also requested that Brehmer Bros. send someone knowledgeable about the invention to Minneapolis to discuss and possibly demonstrate how the Behrns device worked. Because neither of the Brehmer brothers was able to leave their business at this time, they prevailed upon their good friend William De Labarre to go to Minneapolis and speak with Mr. Washburn.

De Labarre spoke of the trip as an arduous one, with it taking over twenty hours to travel the 450 miles between Chicago and Minneapolis. Besides the difficult journey, De Labarre was disappointed to find that Mr. Washburn had left for La Crosse, Wisconsin, to attend to other business matters. In the days he spent waiting for Mr. Washburn's return, De Labarre went to look over the site of the mill explosion. He also visited the dam and mills - both lumber and flour - at the site of St. Anthony's Falls. Little did he suspect at that time this visit to Minneapolis would mark a turning point in both his career and his life.

De Labarre met with Washburn, his partners, the insurance people, and other millers the morning following Washburn's return to Minneapolis. Surrounded by questioners and attempting to answer their inquiries to the best of his ability, it was suggested he show them how the device works in the mill. All those present were very skeptical, except for Washburn, who felt a working model should be installed and then weigh its merit. Washburn, however, was reluctant to finance the experiment and assumed that, as agents for the device, Brehmers should cover the expense. De Labarre wrote the Brehmers who declined to respond to the request. Next he wrote his wife apprising her of his dilemma. He instructed her to take from their savings, monies enough to cover the purchase, Washburn called De Labarre to his office. Already convinced the devices would work as proposed, he wished to purchase them and wanted to know how much they were. At this juncture, De Labarre told Washburn how the installation was financed, gave him an exact accounting of his costs, and said he only wanted to recover his investment. Washburn promptly wrote the check for the machinery and its installation and added an additional \$200.00 to compensate for the difficulties he had caused De Labarre. Mr. Washburn concluded that meeting by ordering thirty more of the devices to be installed in his C mill, which was then under construction. Other mill owners seeing the device actually in operation and working, also began placing orders for the device.

As the orders flowed in, Washburn asked De Labarre to remain in Minneapolis and oversee the construction of his new mills and the installation of the explosion preventive devices in them. As an enticement to move to Minneapolis, Washburn offered De Labarre a salary of \$3,000.00 per year. In the ensuing years, Mr. Washburn's high regard for De Labarre's business and engineering skills grew into relationship of trust and friendship, which lasted until Mr. Washburn's death some years later.

De Labarre moved his family to Minneapolis and began his new job by overseeing the construction of Washburn's mills. Once this task was completed, Mr. Washburn sent him off to Europe to look into new technologies in the milling business. For nearly five months, De Labarre traveled through Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland and France while researching new milling techniques and machines. Upon his return to Minneapolis, he began implementing what he had learned abroad in Mr. Washburn's mills, which were among the first in the USA to use the new roller process for milling grains into flour. Much of the technology that De Labarre brought back from Europe and implemented in the Minneapolis flour mills in the 1880s is still in use today.



William D. LaBarre  
Taken about 1884

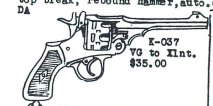
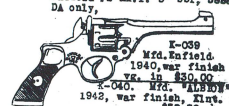
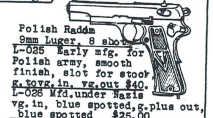
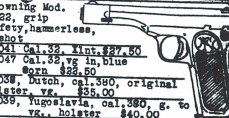
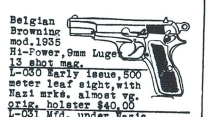
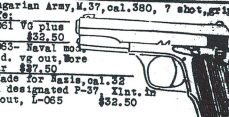
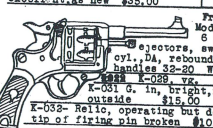
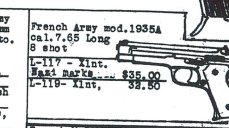
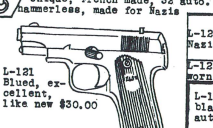

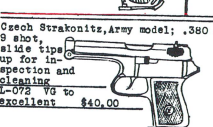
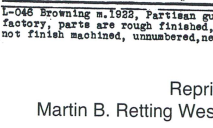
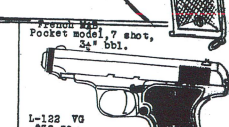
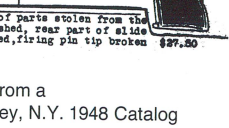
## In Summary

Following is a brief summary of what Mike learned about this particular rifle.

- Special order Winchester Deluxe Model 1873 rifle in caliber 38 WCF shipped from the Winchester factory in 1887.
- Receiver of rifle is color case-hardened
- Deluxe features include fancy wood, checkered pistol-grip stock, and checkered forearm
- All other features of the rifle are standard for 1873 Winchester rifles
- Condition of the rifle is NRA Antique Excellent
- Left sideplate of the rifle is engraved with the presentation inscription: to Wm. De Labarre from T.R. Butman.
- Wm. De Labarre was an Austrian immigrant to the USA who lived out east for a time before moving west and becoming a person of some note in what was later to become the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. He was an engineer whose principal work was for the milling industry located in and around the Twin Cities area.

And that's pretty much what Mike found out about this rifle within a couple of years after he acquired it. Periodically over the succeeding years, Mike would take up the search again for more information on this prize rifle. Who was T.R. Butman? For what reason did T.R. Butman present Mr. De Labarre with a deluxe 1873 Winchester rifle? I recall that he spoke with a number of fellow firearms' collectors and local history buffs about this rifle throughout the 1990s in hopes of finding more information. None of Mike's later efforts at learning more about this special rifle were successful, however.

How can you finish a story when part of the story remains missing? That was Mike's dilemma, and he just couldn't bring himself to write an incomplete story. In sorting through some of his things after Mike had passed on, Mike's wife, Bobbie, came across Mike's notes on this rifle and thought that maybe someone out there in the gun collecting fraternity just might know something about this particular rifle or about T.R. Butman. If you think you have any information on this '73 or on Mr. T.R. Butman, please pass it on to Bob Hoffman @ 763-571-6987, or any member of the M.W.C.A. staff so that we can help to complete Mike's story. Thanks.

PISTOLS, WORLD WAR 2	
<p>British Webley Mk VI cal.455, 8 shot, top break, rebound hammer, auto. ejector, DA</p>  <p>K-037 VG to Xint. \$35.00</p>	<p>Enfield #2 Mk.1. 5" bbl, 38&amp;W DA only,</p>  <p>K-039 Wtd. Enfield 1940, war finish, yr. in \$30.00 L-040. Hd. "ALBANY" 1942, war finish, Rmt. \$52.50</p>
<p>Polish Radom 8mm Luger, 8 shot, L-025 Early mfg. for Polish army, smooth finish, slot for scope \$30.00, in. vg. out. \$40.00 L-026 Mid. under Nazis, vg. in, blue spotted, g. plus out, blue spotted \$25.00</p> 	<p>Browning Mod. 1922, grip safety, hammerless, 9 shot</p>  <p>L-041 Cal.32 Xint. \$27.50 L-042 Cal.32, vg. in, blue worn \$22.50 L-043 Dutch, cal.380, original holster, vg. \$35.00 L-038, Yugoslavia, cal.380, g. to yr. holster \$40.00</p>
<p>Belgian Browning mod. 1925 9mm Luger, 13 shot, mag. L-050 Early issue, 500 meter leaf sight, with Nazi wrtd. almost vg. orig. holster \$40.00 L-051 Wtd. under Nazis, excellent, as new \$25.00</p> 	<p>Hungarian Army, M.37, cal.380, 7 shot, grip safety</p>  <p>L-061 Vg plus \$32.50 L-063 Naval mod. mklid. vg. out, More fine \$27.50 Made for Nazis, cal.32 and designated P-37 Xint. in vg. out, L-065 \$32.50</p>
<p>French Army Mod. 1892, 8mm 8 shot, auto. ejectors, swing out cyl. DA, rebound hammer handles 32-22 WCF cal. \$28.00 K-028 vg. \$25.00 K-031 G. in, bright, no finish outside \$15.00 K-032 Relic, operating but defective, tip of firing pin broken \$10.00</p> 	<p>French Army mod. 1935A cal.7.65 Long 8 shot</p>  <p>L-117 - Xint. Nazi marks \$35.00 L-118 - Xint. \$9.50</p>
<p>Unique, French made, 32 auto. 9 shot, hammerless, made for Nazis</p>  <p>L-122 VG, Nazi marks \$30.00 L-125 VG in, blue worn \$25.00</p>	<p>French M&amp;B Mod. B, military, 8 shot, 4" bbl. grip safety</p>  <p>L-125 E; Em Gee 22rf blank, looks like pocket auto. DA, blued, VG. \$12.50</p>
<p>L-121 Blued, excellent, like new \$30.00</p> 	<p>Czech Strakonitz, Army model; .380 cal. DA 9 shot, slide tips up for inspection and cleaning L-072 VG to excellent \$40.00</p> 
<p>L-048 Browning m.1925, Partisan gun made of parts stolen from the factory, parts are rough finished, unpolished, rear part of slide not finish machined, unnumbered, never blued, firing pin tip broken</p>  <p>\$87.50</p>	<p>French M&amp;B Pocket model, 7 shot, 5 1/2" bbl.</p>  <p>L-122 VG \$32.50</p>

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Martin B. Retting West Hurler, N.Y. 1948 Catalog

# Don't Worry About Terrorism

by Charley Reese

2003 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

One of Brother Dave Gardner's routines involves someone asking him where he would like to be in the event of a nuclear war.

"Wherever," Brother Dave said, cupping his hand behind his ear, "I could say, 'What was that?'"

This little bit has relevance for Americans today who are periodically scared by the federal government. Acts of terrorism are point-specific. If there is an act of terrorism in New York and you're in Chicago, you don't have to do anything. If there is an act of terrorism in lower Manhattan and you're in the Bronx or Brooklyn, you're home free.

The best thing Americans can do is not buy duct tape but go to the library and educate themselves about chemical and biological weapons. Some Americans seem to think that if nerve gas is released in New York City, people will drop dead in Key West, Fla. Chemical weapons have a limited range, and they quickly dissipate.

I hope no one thinks that the participants in World War II declined to use chemical weapons out of humanitarian concerns. Hardly. They managed to kill 55 million people with conventional weapons. Chemical weapons weren't used because everybody learned in World War I that they simply aren't that effective.

If you fire a conventional artillery shell, you know everybody within the burst radius will buy the farm. If you fire a chemical weapon and the wind shifts, you can be breathing your own poison. Gas has a limited range before it dissipates and becomes harmless. Some experts do not even classify chemical weapons as weapons of mass destruction.

Biological agents probably have a greater potential to kill a lot of people, but even these are no reason to panic. Mankind has been living with anthrax, smallpox, plague and whatever for thousands of years. Anthrax and plague can be treated today. Smallpox was still around when I was a kid, and we all got a vaccination. Today, there are no known cases of smallpox anywhere on Earth, and so far as anyone knows for a dead certainty, only Russia and the United States have smallpox viruses in storage.

I heard one moron on television recently say that smallpox could kill 25 million people. Well, only if 75 million people were infected, since smallpox's mortality is only about 30 percent. For a terrorist to infect 75 million people is impossible.

In 2001, 3,000 Americans died in the terrorist attacks; 91,000 died in accidents; and 19,000 were murdered by homegrown criminals. In addition, about 2 million Americans died of various natural causes.

There are 6 billion people on this planet. Do you know how many were killed in 2001 by terrorists in addition to the 3,000? Just 409.

Of all the things you can worry about, being killed by a terrorist is one of the least. Gertrude Stein once described

America as having "more places where people aren't than there are places where people are." That's still true. We are 268 million people living in 3 million square miles. The chances of any one of us being killed by a terrorist are infinitesimal.

Americans need knowledge, not duct tape. There is too much misinformation floating about, due mainly to the ignorance and low IQ of so many people in television. You don't need a gas mask. A gas mask will only help you if you have it with you when gas is detected. Americans are not going to walk around with a gas mask in a pouch on their sides. Ditto for atropine. Atropine is an antidote to nerve gas -- if you inject it within 15 seconds of exposure. Are you going to walk around the rest of your life with a big hypodermic loaded with atropine? Or coarse not.

Chill out, folks. Despite the Washington hype, aimed at justifying big budgets, and television's moronic perpetual hysteria, terrorism is the very least of our problems. In fact, it's not worth thinking about.

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