

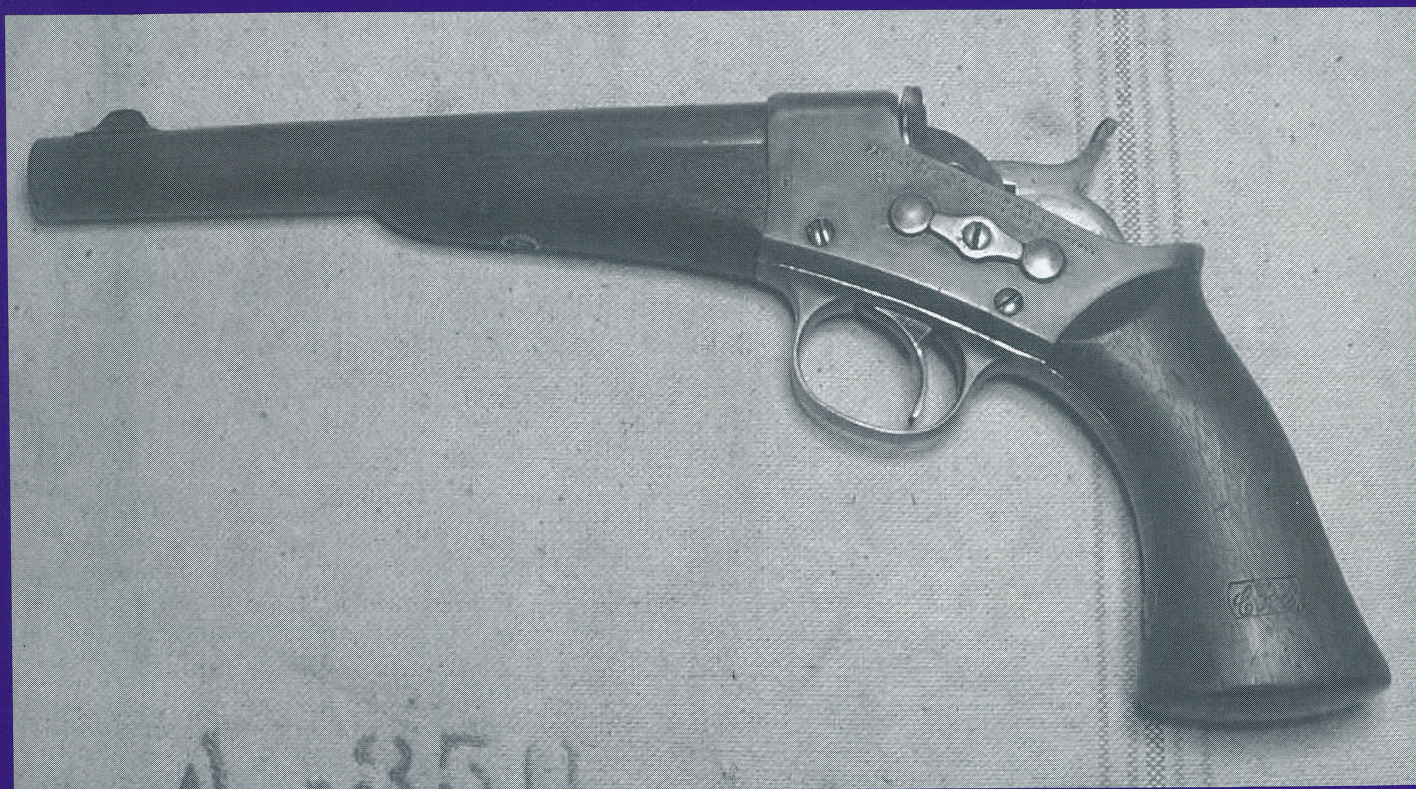
M·W·C·A

MINNESOTA WEAPONS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

VOLUME NO. 18

ISSUE NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2005



Remington model 1871 Army Pistol

50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER ISSUE

Staff.....Dale H. Peterson, Stan Nelson, Lynn Kvam and Joel Hankinson

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

Guess the Gun2

In Memoriam2

President's Shot.....3

2005 Show Schedule.....3

M.W.C.A. 2005 Anniversary4

Courting the Future *by Steve Bly & Jim Grueter*6

Guest Editorial *by Mary Offerdal*8

The Remington Model 1871 Army Pistol *by Stan Nelson*.....9

Dumb Legislation *by Charley Reese*.....12

GUESS THE GUN!

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



In Memoriam

Albert Dueis, North Dakota; Al was a charter member and first treasurer of the MWCA; also one of the guys who helped start this organization.

Pete Souba, Brainerd, MN; Pete was not a charter member but joined the club early on. He was a member of the Minnesota Trapshooters Hall of Fame and won the 1965 Class AA Champion Trophy. His 16 yard average was over 97% for 16 years of the years he shot. In 1983, four months after bypass surgery he took home the Minnesota Class Singles Trophy.

From Alvin Olson's Scrapbook

Say, did ya hear da von about...

Ole was sitting in this bar when a Big Texan walks in and announces that he will give \$500 to anyone that can drink 12 beers back to back. Ole gets up and leaves the bar and comes back about 20 minutes later. He says to the Texan, "Iz dat bet still on?" The Texan replies "It sure is." Ole bellies up to the bar and proceeds to drink 12 beers straight down without stopping. "WOW!" says the Texan, "here is your \$500, but why did you leave the bar for 20 minutes before you took the bet?" Ole says, "Vel, I jus went down the street of Swen's Bar to make sure I could do it first."

THE PRESIDENT'S SHOT

To my Fellow MWCA members.

I would like to welcome everyone into the New Year.

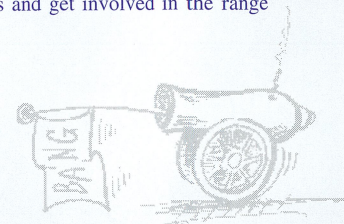
The last fall election was a great victory for the gun owners and their rights. Though we have won a battle we have not won the war. Our gun rights and civil liberties are being stolen and eroded every day. The breakdown and deterioration of our basic freedoms as gun owners is a liberal leprosy that eats and erodes our very freedoms. We must be diligent and relentless in our efforts to restore our democracy.

The liberals believe that as a people we should just cave in and roll over to their ideals and beliefs. Still the liberals saw the election as not fair and cheated away from them again and should not have lost. They lost in the White House, they lost in the Senate and they lost in the Congress. The liberals even lost a seated U.S. senator from South Dakota who had his eye on the White House. Senator Daschle could not even be reelected by his very people from his very own state to his old job. I applaud President Bush when he stated that he had just earned political capital and he was going to spend it. I say Mr. President spend it. Rub it right in their brown liberal noses. At every turn rub it, at every corner show it, and every time tell them that they lost. Tell the Michael Moore and the Hollywood crowd that as actors, they are as phony as the characters they portray. Tell George Sauro and every bleeding heart feel good liberal to finally take down their Wellstone and Kerry Edwards bumper stickers, suck it up and get over it. When the liberals were in control they rammed it right down our throats with the help from the liberal news media. Too bad Matt Laurer and Katie Curic and of course Dan Rather.

Finally I would like to touch on the subject of gun control. One of the common methods of gun control being used today is the closing of our gun ranges through out the state. One by one they are being eliminated. We need a strong range preservation bill. Where will we be able to teach our children to learn how to shoot? I look at all of the new soccer fields and the new golf ranges and clubs being built. They are promoting new growth in their childrens programs. They are growing in numbers and we are dwindling in growth. I am proud of the MWCA Board of Directors. They promote and donate to a lot of young shooting groups. We should do everything we can to help our young shooters. Please help and donate your time and your efforts to help in youth shooting programs and get involved in the range preservation bill. Please help in any way you can.

I would like to close by saying that we will work hard to make this New Year a fine one.

Thank You
Tony Schwab
MWCA President



2005 Show Schedule

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

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

100% Arms and Accessories

Remaining Shows For 2005:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| February 19-20 | — Minneapolis Convention Center
<i>Annual Trophy Show</i> |
| March 19-20 | — MN State Fair Grounds Coliseum |
| April 16-17 | — MN State Fair Education Building |
| August 20-21 | — St. Paul Touchstone®
EnergyPlace @ RiverCenter |
| September 10-11 | — Duluth MN Ent. & Conv. Center |
| October 1-2 | — MN State Fair Education Building |
| October 29-30 | — Rochester Mayo Civic Center |
| December 10-11 | — St. Paul Touchstone®
EnergyPlace @ RiverCenter |

All fees & set-up hours are the same for 2003 as 2002 • In the unlikely event a date or location is changed, watch for Red Show Card for permanent schedule.

Admission \$5.00

Under 18 not admitted
without parent

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

MWCA Celebrates 50th Anniversary

We celebrated our 50th year, an accomplishment not achieved by many organizations or marriages. We can thank our dedicated charter members who had the foresight to see the need of such an organization. We can thank our members who have served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Secretaries (Show Managers) who were continually looking for a better facility in which to hold our shows as they grew over the past 50 years. Last, but not least, the faithful members and exhibitors who continually attend and set up at the shows to keep this club going.

We had a great 50th Dinner Meeting with two of the Charter Members attending; James Jirile and Don Galloway. They reminisced about the first struggling years of the club and related a few anecdotes about some of the members. A number of the past presidents were in attendance and they along with the charter members were presented with a beautiful MWCA medallion commemorating the 50th year celebration.



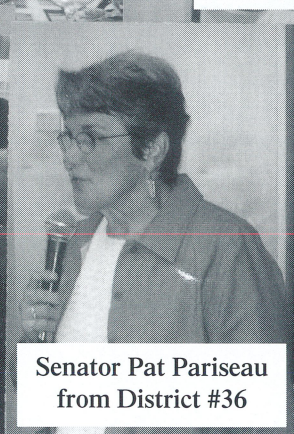
Past Presidents and Charter Members



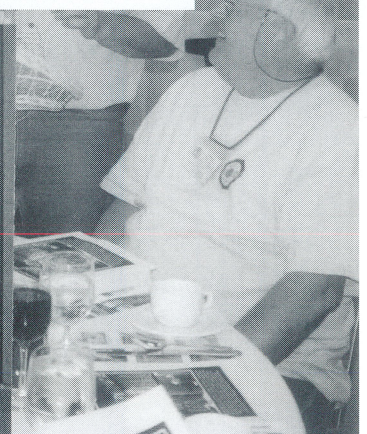
Charter Members
James Jirile & Don Galloway

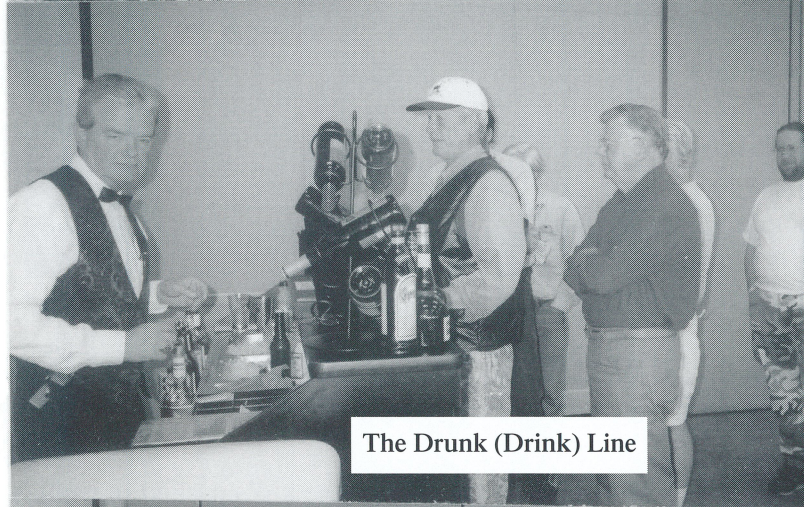


Master of Ceremonies
Tony Schwab

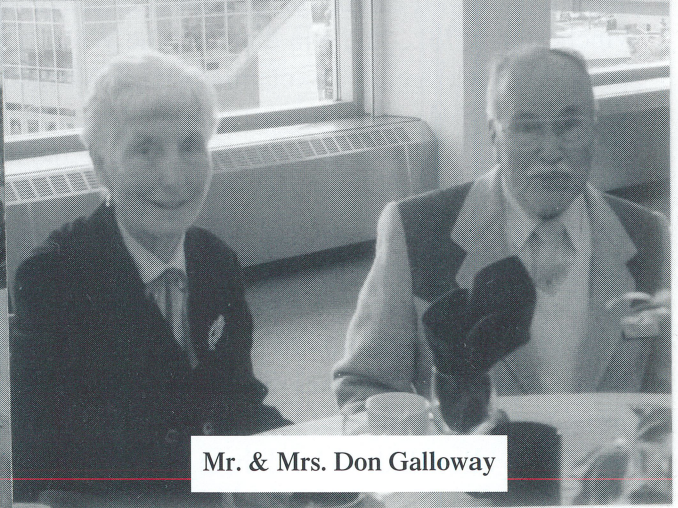


Senator Pat Pariseau
from District #36





The Drunk (Drink) Line



Mr. & Mrs. Don Galloway



Door prizes for all



MWCA's 50th Medallion

COURTING THE FUTURE: HOW ARE KIDS TREATED AT THE SHOWS YOU ATTEND?

by Steve Bly & Jim Grueter

We sat around the other night and lamented the passing of our friend and Winchester expert, George Madis. His knowledge and respect will never be matched. We contemplated not only the future of verifying old Winchesters, but the future of gun collecting as well. Have you noticed, boys, that we are all getting older? Those still in their 50s are considered “younger” and the few in their 40s are definitely “the youngsters”.

What is the future of gun collecting?

It has to be in the interest and enthusiasm of kids. Real kids. Every gun show where we set up, there are plenty of kids who come through the door. They come with mom and dad, grandpa or neighbors. Sometimes they are interested. Sometimes they attend only because of a promised lunch at McDonalds afterward. Whatever the motive, the future of gun collecting is in their hands... and their hearts. So, what are we doing to get kids (say, under the age of 15) interested in old guns?

Here are 10 things we try to do:

1. We talk to kids. Too many dealers scowl at them. Many even tell them to go away. We won't do this. If we aren't busy with a customer, we visit about guns, about their favorite baseball team, about their new tennis shoes... whatever. Kids know when you care.

2. We take time to explain interesting special features on a gun. The 10-year-old boy is not going to buy a gun today. He will probably never buy a gun from us (both of us are in that “old” category). That's not the point. But he might get hooked on the craftsmanship and history and fun of gun collecting, especially, if we stop and show him how a double-set trigger worked, for instance. So, we explain it... let him hold the gun, and set the hair trigger. Now he knows how they work. That's something he will never forget.

3. We try to teach them some history. Antique guns have a story to tell. We try to keep some on the table that have a place in history. It can be the general knowledge about a Winchester 1873... “the gun that won the West.” Or it can be specific knowledge, like explaining a U.S. Marked, Winchester 1894 and their use for home defense during World War I. We have guns that were sent to the Belgium Congo... and others to India. Or we tell them about the little Winchester 1903 semi-auto .22 that was one of only a few used by the Army Aerial Corp in France during the Great War. During the two minutes the kid's parked in front of our table, they get a little lesson in history. It's the hands-on kind of lesson that text books can never provide.

4. With the permission of the adults they are with, we let kids handle the guns. No one ever got excited about old guns (or any guns, for that matter) without touching them. For the adults, we always have signs on our table “Pick'em up and look at 'em.” Now, some guns might be too heavy... and you might have some too valuable to allow kids to hold them. We don't have such guns. Oh, we have plenty that are worth several thousand dollars, but we let the kids pick them up, too. They aren't toys, and we let the kids know that. But the enthusiasm builds when the gun is cradled in their hands or pressed against their shoulder. That goes for adults, too. Remember the first gun you were allowed to touch? Shoot? Of course you do. Always having some guns on your table that kids can touch is one way to encourage another generation of gun collectors.

5. We try to keep at least one gun on our table that would be a kids gun, for the 1st in a gun collection. For



Young Levi Schultz, Janesville, MN, at a gun show with his Grandmother getting a few pointers from James Stoker. Moms, dads, granddads and grandmothers are a great influence on young gun show attendees.

us that might mean a nice Winchester 1890 at a reasonable price. Or, for the bigger kids, a Winchester 1894 that is clean, inexpensive, and yet old enough to increase in value. When grandpa comes up to the table and asks “I want to buy my grandson a gun...”, we want to have one available. Not a junker, either. We want a gun that will increase the kid’s enthusiasm for quality, collectable guns. As we all know, it’s an investment that increases in value way more than those savings bonds.

6. We take every opportunity to stress gun safety and responsibility, guns are not toys. They are tools. Historic tools. Used for survival. Used for pleasure. Used to provide food for hungry pioneer families. They are dangerous tools if misused, just like a table saw is a dangerous tool if misused. But we teach our kids and our grandkids how to build, using power tools. So we can teach them how to enjoy target shooting and hunting, using powerful guns. If the opportunity comes up, we tell them where not to point a gun. How to check the chamber to make sure it’s not loaded. How to take care of a gun to keep if functioning properly. We believe children shouldn’t fear guns... but they should have extreme respect for them. And if given the opportunity, we put in a word or two of instruction in those areas.

7. We keep free literature on our table that is parent friendly. It says a lot to parents and grandparents when they see we are truly interested in their children and grandchildren. The National Rifle Association has some excellent brochures. One is called “A Parent’s guide to Gun Safety.” Another is “Safe Schools, Safe Students.” We buy them by the bundle and give them away for free at our table. These NRA brochures can explain things much better than we can. Often, it’s the moms and grandmothers who snatch them up. We want to assure them that gun collecting is not a reckless hobby. There is a right way to do it.

8. We always remember that kids are smart and have good memories. If you think you are smarter than the kids at your table, you obviously don’t own a computer. The 10 year old with hot chocolate spilled down the front of his Seattle Mariner t-shirt knows 10 times more about computers than you will ever know the rest of your life. Kids are smart. They know when you are talking down to them. They know if you are full of hot air, or really know your guns. they know when you are telling the truth. Treat them like they are sharp and they will be back to visit you next year at the gun show.

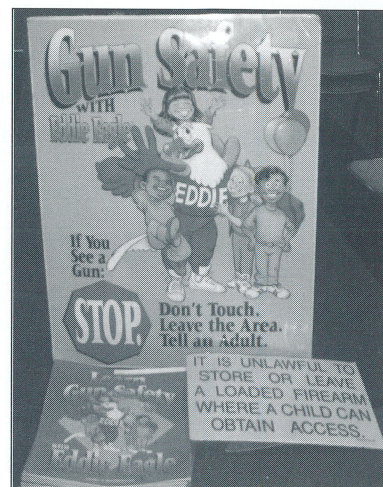
9. We treat their parents (and grandparents) with courtesy. You put down their ol’ man, and they know it. They know when you have ridiculed his gun... or laughed at the price he wants to pay for yours. The minute you write off their father, they’ve dismissed you as a credible person. Treat dad like a good, honest friend (even when you can’t do business with him) and you’ve made an impression on junior. His dad might have offered you \$1000 for a \$2000 gun (which you politely refused) but you can still say to the kid, “Your dad has a really good eye for guns. This one is a beauty!”

10. We try to make sure the kids in our lifetime enjoy the guns that we collect. We tell our own kids the stories of these old guns. Grandsons are taught enjoy shooting. Kids in church and community that are interested are given special opportunities to enjoy them. If the state park next door wants speakers for their programs, we go talk about Old Winchesters.

Gun collecting is a fun hobby. That’s why we got started, remember? It is a wise investment. Buying solid, authentic, unmessed with, collectable guns can only lead to increased value. It is a connection with history. These old firearms were staking their claims in this world long before we were born, and they will be here long after we are gone. Maybe we really don’t “own” them. We are just the caretaker for a few years.

They will outlast us all.

That is... if there is another generation of gun collectors..



NRA “Eddy Eagle” literature is always available at the MWCA shows, it is a good way to introduce the kids to gun safety.

GUEST EDITORIAL

by Mary Offerdal

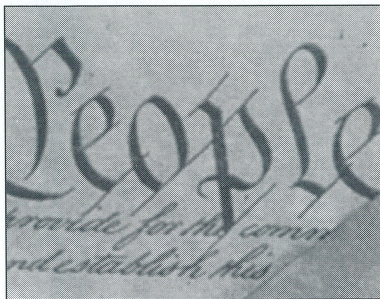
Mary Offerdal
2004 Y.E.S. Participant
Conrad, MT



An excerpt from the essay Mary submitted as part of her application for the 2004 Y.E.S. program held in Washington, D.C., June 14-20.

The Bill of Rights contains a number of amendments to the Constitution, which secure certain liberties to the citizens of the United States of America. Among these are freedoms that significantly impact our daily lives such as the freedom of speech and press, the freedom to assemble, the freedom to practice the religion of our choice, and the freedom to keep and bear arms. Some may argue that the right to express our opinions freely or the right to practice the religion of our choice is far more important than the right to keep and bear arms. However, I disagree. The right to keep and bear arms, which is stated in the Second Amendment, plays a vital role in American society. The Second Amendment not only grants Americans the right to use firearms in their defense but also gives them the right to use firearms for recreational purposes such as hunting and target shooting activities that have been part of the American tradition for centuries.

The Second Amendment gives the people of the United States the right to defend themselves against the vicious criminals of today's modern world. It is the natural right of the people of this country to defend themselves in the event that their lives, their property, or the life of a loved one is being threatened. Without the right to keep and bear arms, innocent citizens would be powerless to defend themselves against armed individuals attempting to do them harm. It is a fact that armed citizens deter criminals who would have otherwise had an easy target. Also, we Americans cannot depend fully on the local authorities to come to our rescue every time we are threatened. Many times the authorities are unable to reach the scene before the incident is over, leaving American citizens the responsibility of defending themselves. The Second Amendment gives us that right so we do not have to depend on the reaction time of the authorities to determine whether we live or die.



The right to keep and bear arms means tradition in America. Because of the Second Amendment, the people of America can enjoy recreational activities involving firearms such as hunting, skeet shooting, and target shooting. Hunting is a pastime as old as this country and today children and adults of all ages continue to make lasting memories hunting deer, pheasants, elk, moose, and other game animals. Skeet and target shooting are hobbies that are enjoyable, but those who participate also have an increased awareness of firearms and how to handle them safely.

The impact the Second Amendment has on our everyday lives is very apparent. America would not be the safe, successful, promising nation that it is today without this valuable addition to our Constitution. It is the responsibility of every American that values this right to ensure that it is never taken away. We must fight to maintain the freedom to keep and bear arms not only for ourselves and our country, but for the generations that will follow us.

THE REMINGTON MODEL 1871 ARMY PISTOL

by Stan Nelson

Six months after the end of the American Civil War the Union Army, numbering over a million men, had been reduced to a force of less than twenty five thousand regulars. As the westward movement began in earnest, undermanned forts and isolated outposts experienced difficulties with the tribes of buffalo hunting Indians, who stubbornly refused to listen to the cajolery of Government agents to surrender their ancestral lands and way of life in exchange for reservations and promises of periodic handouts.

Armed for the most part with the Springfield muzzle-loading rifle and bayonet, the frontier infantry had little success against the mobile horsemen of the plains who favored a hit and run, ambush style of fighting. The cavalry on the frontier were better armed for this kind of warfare, being issued either the breech loading Sharps carbine or the seven shot Spencer carbine, but they still carried cap and ball revolvers, either Colt or Remington. In answer to part of this problem Erskine Allin, the master armorer at the Springfield Armory, devised an inexpensive way to convert the thousands of .58 caliber percussion rifles left from the Civil War to breech loaders firing a big fat .58 caliber rimfire cartridge. The refined 45/70 "trapdoor" Springfield rifle and carbine, adopted in 1873, were standard issue until the 1890's. This early "trapdoor" action was soon improved by lining the barrel to accept a new 50/70 center fire cartridge and in so doing beat out several competitors seeking government contracts. By 1867 these Allin conversions were reaching distant frontier posts where they proved their worth in incidents such as the Wagon Box fight and the Hayfield fight in Wyoming.

Getting cartridge revolvers into the hands of the cavalry, however, was another matter. The Rollin White patent of April 3, 1855, assigned to Smith and Wesson on November 17, 1856, covered a cylinder bored through to accept metallic cartridges. This patent effectively delayed development in the United States of a large caliber cartridge revolver during the critical Civil War years when Smith & Wesson were enjoying their monopoly and seemed content to sell their pipsqueak .22 and the .32 rimfire No. 2 Army model, the latter proving quite popular with officers and enlisted men alike as a personal sidearm and a handy backup to issue percussion weapons. Although toying with the idea of a cavalry size cartridge revolver during the War, Smith & Wesson did little of substance toward that end until expiration of the Rollin White patent on April 3, 1869 grew near. White applied for an extension of his patent but this was turned down without explanation by the Patent Office, which meant that upon expiration the patent became public property and anyone could manufacture a cartridge revolver. White (or Smith and Wesson) got someone in Congress to introduce a bill questioning the Patent Commissioner's action in refusing the extension and this was to become a subject of congressional debate for years, though ultimately of no benefit to White or Smith and Wesson. A letter to the Senate from the Chief of Ordnance General A.B. Dyer undoubtedly expressed the feelings of arms manufacturers and the military alike. Wrote General Dyer: "It is believed that the Government suffered inconvenience and embarrassment enough during the War in consequence of the inability of the manufacturers to use this patent, and that its further extension will operate prejudicially to its interest by compelling it to pay, to parties already well paid, a large royalty for altering its revolvers to use metallic cartridges."

In mid-summer of 1869 a special review board convened in St. Louis to consider some changes in small arms and equipment which might meet the obvious needs of an Indian fighting army. Consisting of five officers headed by General John M. Schofield this board invited arms manufacturers to send examples of firearms suitable for military use to St. Louis for consideration and testing. By a deadline of March, 1870, forty-one rifles, eight carbines, and eleven pistols were on hand for inspection. Some weapons were rejected out of hand as unfit for the military and the rest were subjected to rigorous rusting, dusting and firing tests. Of the pistols tested, six survived and were deemed worthy of further trials in the field. Selected "in order of relative merit," first place went to the only single shot pistol tested by the board, a Remington rolling block, .50 caliber center fire. Second place went to a .44 caliber rimfire Smith and Wesson revolver, a prototype of their American model and third place was taken by variations of Remington cartridge conversion revolvers.

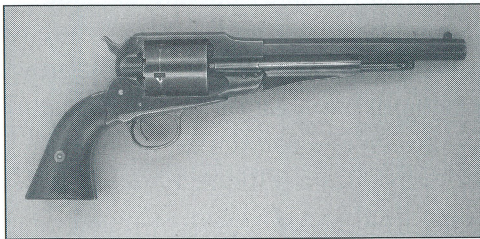
It is hard to understand the review board's choice of a single shot pistol as a cavalry weapon but certain



Remington Model 1871 .50 caliber single shot pistol. First choice of the 1869 Review Board in St. Louis, but last to be issued, 1872-73.

made, "Cavalry armed with the carbine should have a revolver as a substitute for the saber." The frontier cavalry wanted cartridge revolvers and they would soon have them.

Although the Remington rolling block pistol was the first choice of the St. Louis review board, it was the last to be issued for field testing. As Smith & Wesson already had their .44 American model on the civilian market, they were able to begin shipments to the Ordnance Dept. at once and some of these revolvers were issued to cavalry units by the spring of 1871. There is evidence that Remington cartridge conversions were already in the hands of some cavalry by then. In early 1868 Remington and Smith & Wesson had completed an agreement whereby Remington would convert their new model .44 percussion revolvers to five shot .46 rimfire cartridge revolvers and ship them to Smith & Wesson for inspection and distribution to arms dealers. By April, 1869 a total of 4,574 had been converted this way and many of them found their way to the frontier before the review board met in St. Louis. Also in early



Remington cartridge conversion of their 1861 percussion revolver, .44 caliber. Third choice of the Review Board. Ordnance ordered 1,000 in 1870, but an agreement with Smith & Wesson in early 1868 had put thousands of these, in .46 rimfire, on the frontier by 1869.

Remington percussion revolvers which it had in storage, for 5,000 rolling block pistols in lieu of cash payment. Between 1872 and 1888 something over 6,000 Remington single shot pistols were produced with around 5,000 going to the Army; of these about 1,700 were actually issued.

Some writers in the past have questioned whether these were ever actually used by the military on the frontier citing the number of new condition rolling block pistols with military markings available from Bannerman's and other arms dealers from the late 1890's through the 1930's. But research by arms historians of the recent past in Ordnance Department and military records have proven issue of these single shot pistols to specific units in the field. As previously mentioned, the Fourth Regiment of Cavalry received the first shipment in early 1872 and by the end of the year units of the First Cavalry in Washington Territory, the Fifth Cavalry in

factors other than the relative merit of the Remington may have been involved: for one thing familiarity with the rolling block action. The United States Navy had adopted an early version of this pistol in 1866 and with slight modification was still issuing it in 1870. Then too many old line officers had fond memories of the saber as a traditional weapon at close range. This is borne out by a revealing comment in the review board's report, "Cavalry armed with a saber should have one or two single barreled pistols as a substitute for the carbine." Indications are that someone on the board was serious about this for the Ordnance Department eventually wound up with 5,000 Remington single shot pistols on their hands. Further in the report a more realistic suggestion is



Smith & Wesson No. 3 American .44 caliber revolver. Second choice of the Review Board. Ordnance ordered 1,000 in 1870, issue began in March, 1871.

1871 the Colt Firearms Co. sent a first model Richards cartridge conversion of an 1860 .44 Colt Army model to the Chief of Ordnance for inspection and he promptly shipped 1,000 1860 Army Model percussion revolvers back to Hartford for conversion. By late 1871 some of these were issued to units of the Second Cavalry in Nebraska and Wyoming, and to the Sixth Cavalry in Kansas. In contrast to the above activity the Remington rolling block pistol was not issued until the spring of 1872, to companies of the Fourth Cavalry in Texas.

The probable reason for this delay was an arrangement made by the Ordnance Dept. with Remington to trade 5,000 new .44



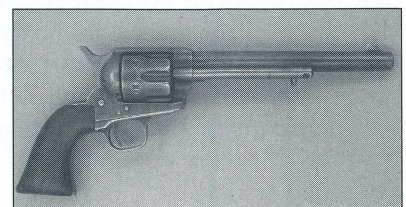
Colt first model Richardson cartridge conversion, .44 caliber. Ordnance ordered 1,000 in early 1871, issue to frontier cavalry began in late 1871.

Arizona Territory, and the Sixth Cavalry in Texas had all received the Remington single shot pistol. By June of 1873 over 1,500 were in use on the frontier; in the First Cavalry alone eight companies were armed completely with them and several of these First Cavalry companies saw action in the lava beds of northern California during the Modoc War of 1872-73. Issued with the pistols were holsters that had been modified from an 1863 pattern designed originally for .44 Remington revolvers. These unusual holsters had the belt loop attached to a swivel, as with the infantry bayonet scabbard, and a cleaning rod carried in a leather tube on the front of the holster. These holsters are a much scarcer collector's item today than the pistols they were designed to carry. Ammunition supplies were adequate by mid-1875, for a total of 167,000 .50 caliber cartridges accompanied the various shipments of single shot pistols.

During my research the only direct comment concerning the Remington single shot pistol from someone who had been issued them, came from Captain George W. Yates of F Company, Seventh Cavalry, who received his in 1873. Said Captain Yates: "They do not compare with the Smith and Wesson pistols, which I have seen tried and know to be a very superior weapon."

As every Colt collector knows 1873 was a big year for the Colt Firearms Company, for in July of that year, the War Department authorized the Chief of Ordnance to purchase 8,000 of the .45 Colt revolvers which became the standard cavalry arm for the next twenty years and went on to great and lasting commercial success. Its only military competitor for a few years was the Smith and Wesson Schofield model, designed by Colonel George W. Schofield, brother of the head of the St. Louis review board, General John M. Schofield. The Remington model 1871 Army Pistol did not disappear immediately, however, for in June 1874 over 1400 frontier cavalrymen were still carrying them. But the .45 Colt revolvers were coming and by March, 1875 only one company of the First Cavalry and three companies of the Fifth carried the Remington single shot pistol or perhaps merely listed them on the quarterly returns of ordnance and ordnance stores on hand. At any rate after three years of frontier service the Remington rolling block pistol disappeared from the scene of action to emerge in later years as a target pistol, a role to which it was much better suited.

As we have seen, the Remington rolling block pistol was issued to at least seven of the ten regular army cavalry regiments. Information is lacking on the Ninth Cavalry but we know that neither the Eighth Cavalry nor the Tenth Cavalry participated in the field tests, retaining their Colt and Remington percussion revolvers until issued the new .45 Colt cartridge revolver in 1874. A legitimate question remains about the actual use of the Remington single shot pistol in combat with hostile Indians. When it was first issued in 1872, there were then available Remington and Colt cartridge conversions and the Smith & Wesson .44 American revolver. As historian Don Rickey has noted: "Because of the serious consideration they gave their arms, western regulars sometimes provided themselves with weapons they thought were more effective than those issued them. This was especially true before the adoption of the .45 caliber Springfield and the .45 Colt in the early 70's. Soldiers added to their personal armament by purchasing revolvers and knives with their own money." The cavalry saber is good example of ineffective issue equipment; though used occasionally in the wooded hills and valleys of the East during the Civil War they were useless on the plains and were left behind when action was anticipated. The same reasoning might apply to a cavalryman who has been issued a pistol that requires both hands to reload after each shot while trying to control a galloping horse as arrows zip by his ears. It might also have a bearing on all of those new condition Remington 1871 Army pistols still in existence.



Colt .45 Single Action, Cavalry Model adopted in 1873. Issue began early 1874, continued until 1890's.

References

- Dorsey, Stephen R., *Guns of the Western Indian War*, Eugene, 1995.
- Garavaglia, Louis A., and Worman, Charles G., *Firearms of the American West 1866-1894*, Albuquerque, 1985.
- McChristian, Douglas C., *The United States Army in the West 1870-1880*.
- McDowell, Bruce R., *Colt Conversion and Others*, Iola, 1997.
- Parsons, John E., *The Peacemaker and It's Rivals*, New York, 1950.
- Parsons, John E., *Smith & Wesson Revolvers*, New York, 1957.
- Rickey, Don, Jr., *Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay*, Norman 1963.
- Rodenbough, Theo F., and Haskin Wm. L., editors, *The Army of the United States*, New York, 1896.
- Sawyer, Charles Winthrop, *United States Single Shot Martial Pistols*, Boston, 1913.

Dumb Legislation

by Charlie Reese

The ban on assault weapons had no effect on crime, and ending the ban will have no effect on crime.

If ever there was a stupid piece of legislation, the so-called assault-weapons ban was it. All it did was ban cosmetic features like flash suppressors, bayonet lugs and high-capacity magazines.

True, assault weapons were already carefully controlled before this dumb legislation was enacted. A semi-automatic rifle, no matter how gussy it up with cosmetic features, is not an assault weapon. An assault weapon is a submachine gun or a rifle with a selector switch that allows it to fire either semiautomatically or automatically.

Since 1934, any weapon capable of firing automatically could only be purchased from specially licensed dealers and by someone who obtained a special license to buy it from the U.S. Treasury Department. About the only people who bothered were collectors. The cost of ammunition is such that few hobbyists can afford to shoot two bits at the rate of 400 to 600 a minute.

A semiautomatic rifle fires the same way a revolver fires – one shot per one pull of the trigger. Whether it's an AK-47 or an Uzi, as long as it was made to fire semiautomatic only, it has been legal, as it should be. A semiautomatic is a semiautomatic. A weapon that can fire automatically keeps firing as long as you hold the trigger down or until your ammo runs out.

By the way, all during this so-called assault-weapons ban, the U.S. government has been selling semiautomatic rifles with bayonet lugs on them to the general public through the Office of Civilian Marksmanship.

All rifles are the same. Whether they are single-shot, bolt-action, lever-action, pump, semiautomatic or fully automatic refers to the mechanics of ejecting the fired case, putting a new cartridge in the chamber and cocking the firing pin. This is done manually in a single shot and mechanically in bolt-actions, lever-actions and pumps. A semiautomatic rifle or pistol diverts some of the hot gases to a mechanism that operates the bolt, ejects the fired case, puts a new cartridge in place and cocks the firing mechanism.

As for the high-capacity magazines, if some guy is shooting at me, it makes no difference whether he has a 15-shot magazine or two 10-shot magazines, which the assault-weapons ban said were legal. You can change magazines in about one second.

I never got excited about the assault-weapons ban because it really didn't ban any weapons. All the manufacturers did was remove the forbidden cosmetics features and continue to sell the exact same rifle. Furthermore, I've never favored semiautos anyway, as they present a temptation to spray and pray. In a gunfight, only the bullets that hit the target count. The one exception to my druthers is the semiauto .45, a fine pistol.

Of course, one should always point out in any discussion of any gun-control measure that, by definition, criminals who don't obey the laws against murder and robbery are not going to obey any gun-control laws. Nor do inanimate objects

cause crime. Most criminals use automobiles, but I never heard any politician suggest that cars be banned or limited to 90-horsepower engines.

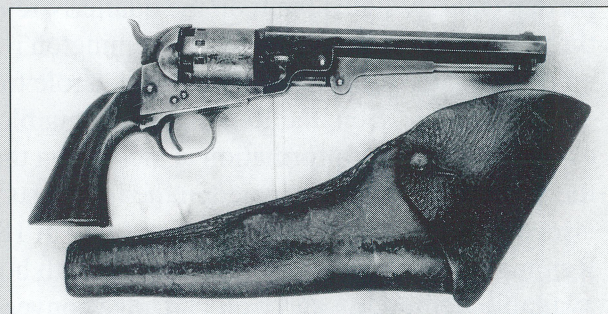
I noticed that one ignorant person pointed out that the Washington, D.C., snipers used a semiautomatic rifle. Yes, they did, but it could have been a muzzleloader, because they only fired one shot per victim. True sniper rifles, by the way, are usually bolt-action. Still another dumb statement is that the military-style weapons were designed only for killing people. Of course. All firearms are designed for killing people. Do you think you would be any less dead if you were shot with a bullet from a bolt-action rifle?

What you don't want is anybody shooting at you with a shotgun or a rifle, regardless of how it is loaded or what it looks like. If you have got to get shot at, pray to God it's with a cheap .25-caliber pistol wielded by a nearsighted drunk.

Crime is a human behavior problem, not a mechanical problem. Furthermore, if firearms were not very useful for self-defense, then police wouldn't carry them. In a free country, if the government can go armed, so should the citizens, if they so choose.

Wright Way Shopper, September 22, 2004

Guess The Gun



There was no winner from the last publication's "Guess the Gun" contest.

It was a Series IV .36-Caliber Manhattan Percussion Revolver as shown above; accompanied with an original holster. There were approximately 24,000 produced in the Series IV between April 1, 1864 to June 30, 1867. Some of them undoubtedly saw Civil War use.

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

DALE H. PETERSON
ANTIQUES AND OLD GUNS



1-763-753-1663

Dacopete@aol.com

Confidential Appraisals

6150-189th Lane NW • Anoka, MN 55303

