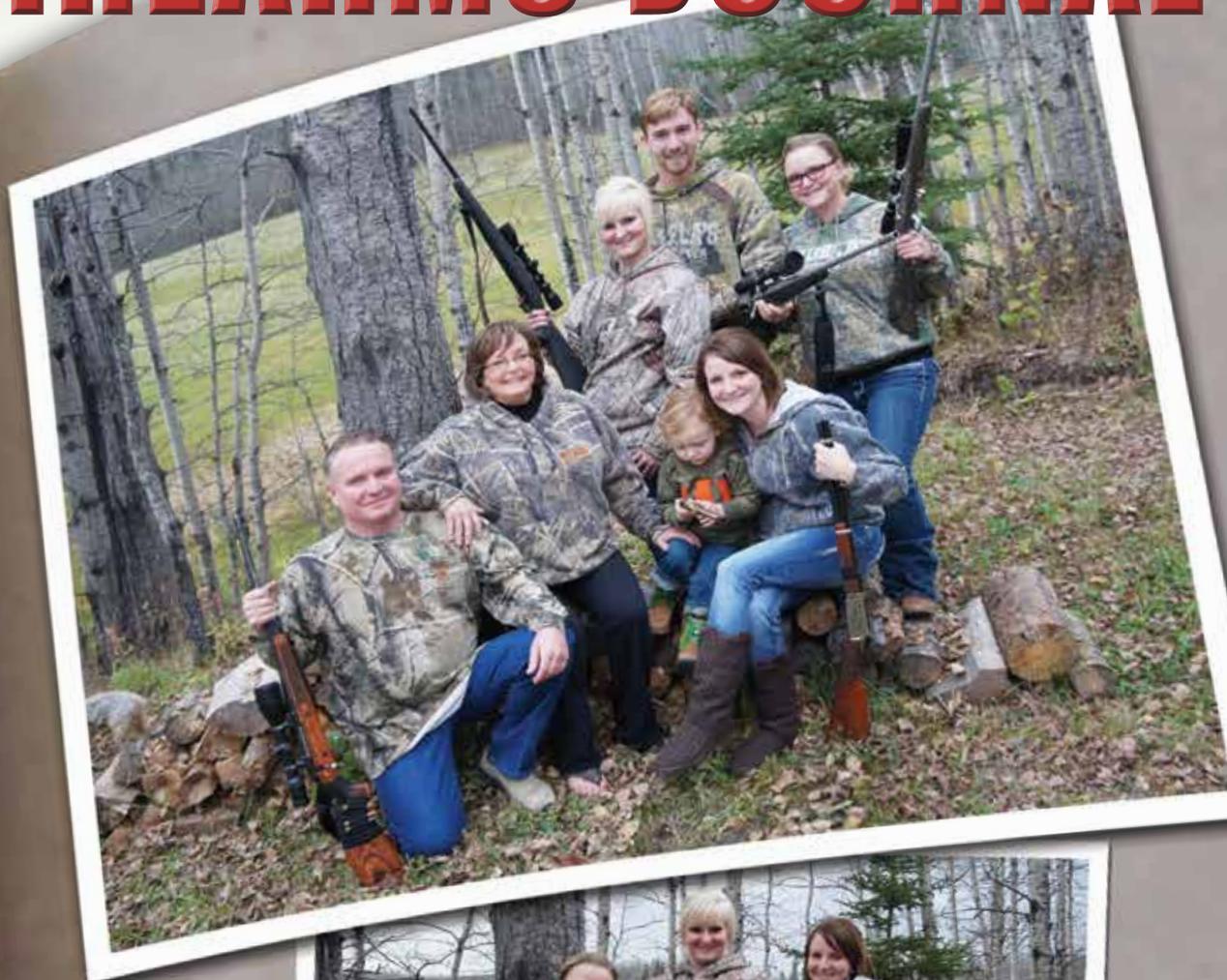


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CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:
Canada's National Firearms Association

In Memoriam

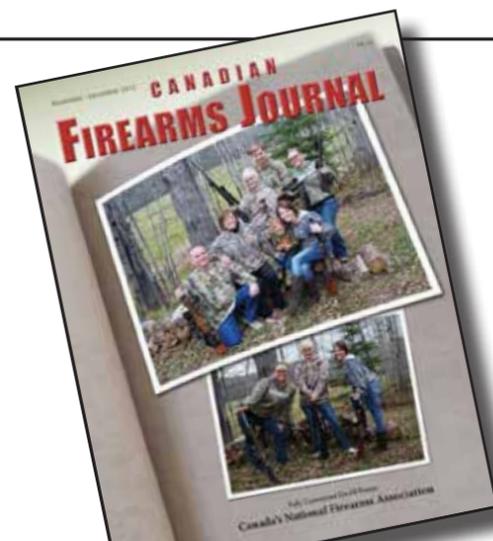
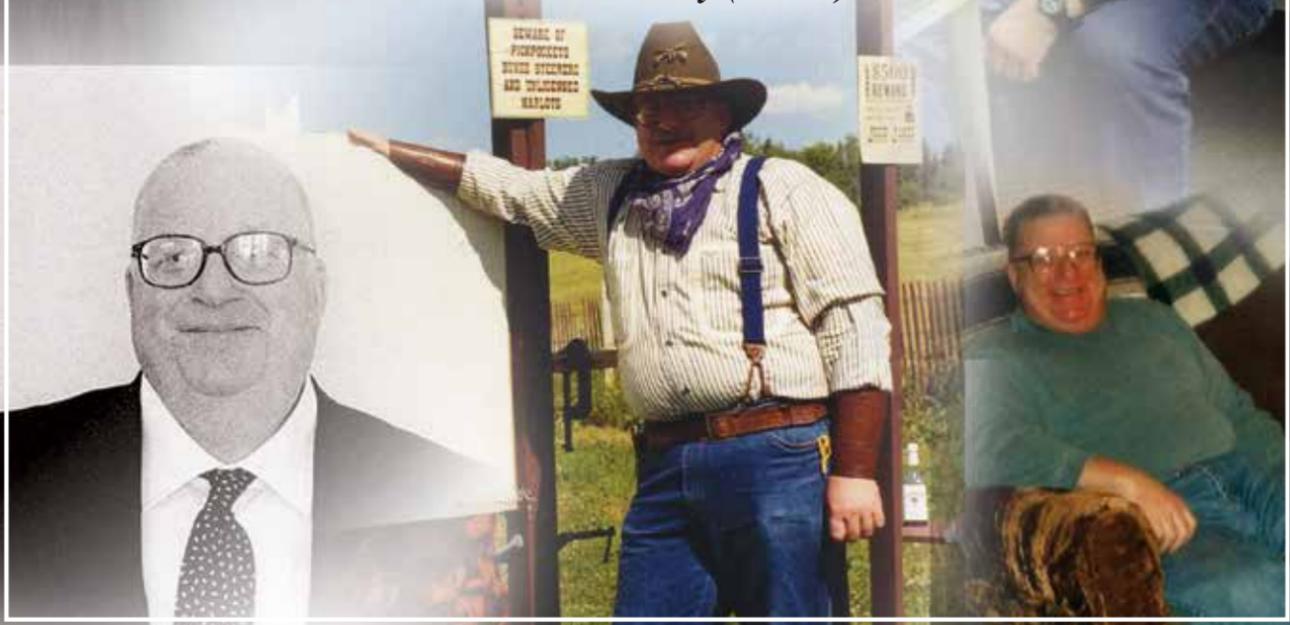


DIRECTOR/LEGAL ADVISOR

Ted Simmermon

October 24, 1946
September 13, 2012

Ted was one of the early fighters for gun rights in Canada, and had many friends in Edmonton and beyond. He was also a long-time member and executive of the Canadian Historical Arms Collector's Society (CHAS).



On The Cover

Here at Canadian Firearms Journal we were recently fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of the Hutchison Family of Bonnyville, Alberta. Family patriarch, Ken and his lovely wife Shelly graciously shared with us their family photo album chronicling their adventures as life-long members of Canada's recreational firearms community. We're proud to be able to share a couple of those photos with our readers. Depicted are three generations of the Hutchison Family, including daughters Chelsey, Amanda & Michelle, son-in-law Elisha Kalinski (Amanda) and grandson Eli.

Ken and Shelly were raised to love the outdoors and passed along their love of hunting, shooting and nature to their children. Amanda & Elisha, with the help of the rest of the family, are doing the same for their son Eli. Hunting and shooting is often a family affair for the Hutchinson Family, with all sharing the bounty Mother Nature has to offer. According to Shelly, the family regularly hunt moose, whitetail deer, mule deer and elk and while meat is their primary focus, more than a few especially memorable animals have been immortalized via a tasteful taxidermy mount.

As Shelly tells it, our cover photos are the product of a Hutchison Family tradition. At Thanksgiving every year the entire family gathers together to share a great meal, enjoy each other's company and even get in a little shooting or hunting. To memorialize the event, the entire family then poses for a few casual family pictures, with the nicest ultimately being chosen as the family Christmas card image for that year. We apparently have daughter Chelsey to thank for the matching camo theme on display this year. According to her mom, Chelsey is very excited to have been drawn for a special elk tag this fall. We wish her luck on the upcoming hunt!

Incidentally, Ken and Shelley have always been extremely safety conscious and were sure to instill those same values and respect for firearms in their kids. Before the camera was broken out, the family made sure that the tenets of ACTS & PROVE were observed and that all firearms were unloaded and completely safe to handle.

Perhaps our cover this issue will serve to inspire more NFA members and their families to emulate the Hutchison Family and start a similar Thanksgiving tradition. If you do, be sure to send in a photo! If we get enough responses we'll publish them in an upcoming issue of CFJ. Each photo will also qualify for one entry into our 2013 NFA SWAG BAG give-a-way that will include a great selection of NFA merchandise and souvenirs.



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MISSION STATEMENT

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defence; firearms education for all Canadians; freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community, and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

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From The Editor's Desk



*"Take two minutes, would you mind?
It's a pittance of time
For the boys and the girls who go over
In peacetime our best still don battle dress
And lay their lives on the line.
It's a pittance of time*

*In Peace may they rest, lest we forget why they died.
Take a pittance of time"*

A PITTANCE OF TIME
by Terry Kelly, Singer/Songwriter

In recent years, I've always tried to run a cover that acknowledged the importance of Remembrance Day to Canada's firearms community. Unfortunately, due to changed publication schedules, our November/December issue of Canadian Firearms Journal won't reach most mailboxes before November 11th. Therefore, I've chosen to make Remembrance Day the focus of this issue's editorial instead.

Coming from a province with a naval history extending some 500 years and the fact that, for several generations, armed service in the Canadian Forces offered tens of thousands of fellow Newfoundlanders the opportunity to escape the relative poverty of Outport life, that particular date is a sacred one for most of us by's from downeast.

For a lot of different reasons, Remembrance Day has always resonated with me. Over the years I've had the privilege to walk the beaches of Normandy and the battlefield at Vimy, and even touched the hallowed grounds of Beaumont Hamel. It was there that our

beloved Royal Newfoundland Regiment was all but wiped out one July 1st, 1916; during the opening volleys of what would become known as the Battle of the Somme.

As a result, while the rest of Canada celebrates the birth of our country, in Newfoundland we continue to observe the date as Memorial Day. Even today, some 96 years later, we continue paying tribute to a lost generation of our best and brightest, one that was cruelly cut down just moments after going over the top on that day of days.

Those brave lads and the legions that have followed, from across our great land, fought and died for our freedom on countless battlefields and in a myriad of strange and foreign lands. We can never repay the debt we owe them, but we can honour their sacrifice by continuing the fight they started.



As the somewhat trite cliché goes, freedom is never free. Today we see the same rights and freedoms that those of our greatest generations literally shed blood to defend, come under renewed attack by enemies from both within and without. As much as we'd prefer to ignore them, the sad reality is that the forces of civil disarmament march ever onward. History has shown us that they will never be satisfied and they will never stop until they achieve their ultimate goal of stripping each of us of our individual right to own and use firearms.

Recently our dear friend and comrade, Mr. Ted Simmermon, passed away. Ted was a close personal friend of mine and he was a true champion and protector of our firearm rights. For over forty years, Ted was in the political and legal trenches, fighting side-by-side with many of the other legendary "giants" of the National Firearms Association's past; gentlemen-warriors such as Mr. David Tomlinson and Major Ray Laycock. With Ted's passing I cannot help but feel we're closing the

cover on a critical chapter in our shared narrative, both as responsible firearms owners and members of Canada's National Firearms Association.

However, our fight goes on and we cannot afford to rest upon our laurels and mourn the passing of such a great friend and human being as long as we would like. Ted would've wanted us back on mission, and so we must honour him by doing so. That we continue to advance our cause today and see the momentum shift in our favour, however slightly, is because we stood upon the shoulders of true giants like Ted Simmermon and Dave Tomlinson. It is our sacred trust and responsibility to pick up the torch they have passed to us and continue the fight in their honour and for the many generations still unborn.

In this Canadian Firearms Journal we have focused on the dangers posed by the forces of international gun control and the threat posited by a looming United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, along with the continuing talks related to the limitation of what international gun-grabbers euphemistically call "small arms & light weapons." Here at NFA we've spent much time and energy over the past year waging this war against the forces of international gun-control. And while we've won some key battles, the war is not over, nor is the threat of an international Arms Trade Treaty ended.

In the coming months, forces within the United Nations and the international civil disarmament movement will attempt to do an end-run around us and our allies within the World Forum and IAPCAR, and take their case to the UN General Assembly. There they will almost certainly find a more receptive audience amongst the multitude of tin pot dictators, third world strongmen and rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran that dominate the General Assembly. Such actors continue to oppress and even kill their citizens with impunity while the United Nations vacillates. It should come as little surprise that such "upstanding" members of the General Assembly are strong proponents of civil disarmament and increased arms control.

Thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform, both past and present, Canada's National Firearms Association is able to continue on mission in the interests of freedom and justice. Lest we forget, this Remembrance Day I will be sure to observe those few minutes of time that we use to mark the sacrifice and service of the "giants" who fought to protect and preserve the rights and freedoms we hold so dear.

While it is not my intent to offend, this year I plan on taking an extra moment or two to also remember several equally dedicated warriors in the cause of freedom; not the least of whom was my friend Theodore Pierce Simmermon.

My friend, our paths may have now diverged but still on this, your greatest adventure, I can only think to leave you with a blessing taught to me as a child:

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rain fall softly on your head.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in his hands.

Codladh sámh – Sleep well...





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's report from the United Nations on the UN Programme of Action

by Sheldon Clare

Canada's National Firearms Association was the only Canadian pro-firearms group represented during the non-governmental organization presentations at the Second Review Conference of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons this past August.

It was important for the NFA to be present at this conference for four main reasons. First, the PoA is alive and potentially dangerous –this was a well-attended conference and vigilance is critical. Second, it was necessary for us to make sure that there was no attempt to make this the Arms Trade Treaty consolation round, or in any way broaden the scope of the PoA. Third, we needed to make our concerns known about the aims of some to include firearms components and ammunition, and to make it clear that we are speaking out strongly in support of civilian rights of self-defense – the only Canadian organization to do so. The fourth reason we were there was to use our strong voice to support our friends and allies.

The Canadian government seems to be headed in the right direction in terms of gun control policy making and the UN PoA. As president of the NFA, I was pleased to hear the concise and clear presentation by Senior Policy Advisor Kim Joslin of the Canadian Delegation that was in strong support of the rights of firearms owners. In particular, Canada supported the USA position which opposes including any aspect of components or ammunition being included in the PoA.

It was clear to me in listening to the speeches from delegates that it would be difficult to achieve consensus on several aspects of the PoA's implementation plan in the two weeks allotted for the review conference. These suspicions were thankfully proven correct.

However, neither Canada's National Firearms Association nor its allies can afford to discount the continuing threat the international gun control movement poses. We underestimate this movement and the influence wielded by their allies within our own federal gun control bureaucracy at our peril.

Decades of Liberal governance has seen our ideological opponents become well-entrenched within the federal

bureaucracy and the latter continues to maintain close-ties to contacts within the larger international gun control movement. For over a decade now, the UN PoA has been seen as a key weapon in their war on global civilian firearms ownership.

The much reviled UN firearms marking scheme is an example of the devastating potential harm the PoA may inflict upon continued firearms ownership in Canada. Once fully implemented this control initiative, adopted by the former Liberal government of Jean Chretien, will add a minimum of several hundred dollars to the price of every single firearm imported into Canada.

In an instant such a move would destroy the thriving trade in collectable military surplus and historically significant firearms in Canada; making most surplus arms economically unappealing to Canadian firearms importers and distributors because the needed profit margins would no longer exist for such trade. Also, the same marking initiative would most assuredly add hundreds of additional dollars to the retail price of commercial sporting firearms; putting many popular models outside the financial reach of tens of thousands of lower and middle income hunters and shooters in Canada. Given the relatively small size of our firearms community compared to the USA, larger gun manufactures could potentially abandon the Canadian market entirely - instantly doubling or even tripling the cost of importing new arms via alternate sources. Inevitably, fewer guns will equal fewer gun owners.

Such an outcome has been the primary objective of the entire international gun control movement from the start. The UN's Programme of Action has been seen as one of the key initiatives necessary to achieve this objective. In their 2006 Red Book, "Review Action on Small Arms" the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) went so far as to argue that, "...adequate implementation of the PoA...requires effective control over the possession and trade of small arms by and for civilians."

The IANSA position on civilian firearms ownership is supported by a host of like-minded advocacy groups, NGOs and member states of the Non-Aligned Movement, including Reaching Critical Will/Women's International League for

Peace & Freedom, the Global Action to Prevent War and similar anti-gun groups. Just this past August, as I was preparing to fly to New York for the latest round of talks, it was reported by the Small Arms Monitor that the NAM position had been further refined and that they were now calling for, "Control over private ownership of small arms," while they, "encouraged all states to ensure that the supply of SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) is limited only to governments or authorized entities."

The more "progressive" proponents of the UN PoA incorrectly believe that complete civilian disarmament can help make world peace a reality. For over a decade now Canada's National Firearms Association, along with our allied members of the World Forum, IAPCAR and other sympathetic NGOs and state actors have fought to delay, derail and hopefully one day engineer the complete collapse of the entire international arms control movement, -including the UN PoA and a comprehensive UN Arms Trade Treaty. In pursuit of this objective it remains up to us to disabuse supporters of groups like IANSA and Reaching Critical Will of their false beliefs; including their misguided contentions that stripping law-abiding civilians of their firearms rights will somehow bring an end to war and genocide.

History has shown that the exact opposite is the only possible outcome when a selected population is stripped of the means to defend themselves. Doubters need only look to the Holocaust of WW II, the Armenian genocide by the Ottoman Turks, the ethnic and intellectual purges of millions by Stalin and Mao, the ethnic cleansings in the Balkans or the continuing genocide in the Sudan for unequivocal proof of this simple truth.

While Canada thankfully remains a free and democratic nation where its citizens are free from such fears, the world remains a very dangerous place. To deny any person, no matter their nationality, the right to defend themselves is simply wrong. Just as unpalatable is for any federal government to cede Canadian sovereignty to an outside entity such as the United Nations; especially when it is acting in the interests of the international gun control movement. As such, Canada's National Firearms Association must remain steadfast in our commitment against the forces of international civil disarmament --on all fronts.

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION: STATEMENT TO UNITED NATIONS ON PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS and LIGHT WEAPONS

Madame President, I am Sheldon Clare, President of Canada's National Firearms Association. The NFA is Canada's largest advocacy organization representing the rights of Canadian firearms owners.

Our members are concerned that UN attempts to regulate small arms and light weapons are misdirected and will have an unjustifiably harmful effect upon the ability of free people to have access to firearms and ammunition for perfectly legitimate purposes. The NFA rejects as false that civilian access to small arms is the problem.

Canada's National Firearms Association (NFA) recommends that controls on small arms and light weapons be limited solely to major crew-served weapon systems possessed or sold by nation states - not individually operated firearms owned or desired to be owned by civilians, also called non-state actors.

The rights and property of Canadians, and our firearms businesses engaged in the lawful trade in firearms and ammunition, including surplus firearms and ammunition, must not be subject to UN edict or control. Quite simply, firearms ownership and use are matters of national sovereignty, civil freedoms, property rights, and are related to national culture.

Also, control of ammunition, including marking beyond calibre, date, and manufacturer would be excessive; it is unreasonable, unnecessary, and fiscally impossible to uniquely mark ammunition.

Small arms in civilian hands allow people to defend themselves from aggression. Self-defense is a natural right of all individuals. This is especially important in the event of unrest and disorder, or in case of state-mandated crimes against humanity.

Civilian ownership of arms is an important factor in preventing and limiting the effect of government-encouraged murders such as what occurred in Srebrenica and Rwanda. Disarmed in Srebrenica by UN peacekeepers and in Rwanda by their own government, these people were helpless in the face of organized aggression, especially when in both cases the UN was powerless to provide protection.

While governments need to act against terrorism, disarming civilians violates fundamental democratic principles. Perhaps Governments should deal with unrest by addressing the economic situations, political differences, and human rights issues that contribute to people agitating for change rather than engaging in one size fits all solutions affecting the rights of free people to own and use firearms.

Thank you for your consideration Madame President.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Rapport du président suite à la conférence sur le Programme d'Action de l'ONU.

Par Sheldon Clare

L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu (NFA) était le seul groupe Canadien pro-armes présent lors des représentations des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) à la deuxième Conférence de révision du Programme d'action en vue de prévenir, combattre et éliminer le commerce illicite des armes légères sous tous ses aspects. (Programme d'Action) Cette conférence a eu lieu en août 2012.

La présence de la NFA était essentielle pour quatre raisons majeures. La première: Le Programme d'Action est vigoureux et potentiellement dangereux. Cette Conférence est prisée par plusieurs et nous devons être vigilants. La deuxième: Il fallait s'assurer qu'elle ne remplace pas le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes qui fût un échec au mois de juin et que la portée du Programme d'Action ne soit pas élargie. La troisième: Nous devons faire connaître nos inquiétudes face aux objectifs de certains groupes d'y inclure des dispositifs d'armes à feu et des munitions. De plus, nous devons énoncer sans équivoque notre appui vigoureux des droits de légitime défense des populations civiles. Nous étions la seule organisation Canadienne à adopter cette position. La quatrième et non la moindre était notre devoir d'appuyer vigoureusement nos amis et alliés.

Le gouvernement Canadien semble adopter la bonne position en regard de ses politiques sur le contrôle des armes et le Programme d'Action de l'ONU. Ce fût un plaisir pour moi en tant que président de la NFA d'écouter Mme Kim Joslin, conseillère politique de la délégation Canadienne donner une présentation claire et concise dans laquelle le Canada appuyait avec vigueur les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Notre pays a appuyé les États-Unis en particuliers dans leur opposition d'inclure toutes munitions et dispositifs dans le Programme d'Action.

Lorsque j'écoutais les discours, il devenait évident qu'un consensus ne serait pas facilement atteint sur plusieurs aspects de la mise en place du Programme d'Action durant les deux semaines allouées pour cette conférence. Mes soupçons ce sont heureusement confirmés.

L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu et ses alliés ne peuvent toutefois prendre à la légère la menace perpétuelle créée par le mouvement international de contrôle des armes. À notre propre péril, nous sous-estimons ce mouvement et l'influence de ses alliés cachés dans notre propre bureaucratie Fédérale du contrôle des armes.

Des décennies de gouvernance Libérale ont bien ancrés nos opposants idéologiques dans la bureaucratie Fédérale qui garde encore aujourd'hui

de contacts étroits avec le mouvement international de contrôle des armes. Le Programme d'Action de l'ONU est utilisé depuis plus de dix ans comme arme de choix dans leur lutte globale contre la possession d'armes par des civils.

Le système de marquage des armes de l'ONU est un exemple flagrant du dommage énorme que le Programme d'Action puisse infliger sur la possession d'armes à feu au Canada à long terme. Une fois mis en place, ce régime de contrôle, adopté par le gouvernement Libéral de Jean Chrétien fera augmenter le prix de chaque arme à feu qui sera importée au Canada par plusieurs centaines de dollars.

Le commerce florissant des armes de surplus militaire, tant prisées par les collectionneurs pour leur valeur historique serait détruit d'un coup de plume. Car ce marquage rendrait le coût de ces armes trop élevé pour les distributeurs et importateurs puisque leur marge de profit deviendrait inexistante. De plus, on verrait le prix de détail des nouvelles armes commerciales sportives augmenter de plusieurs centaines de dollars la pièce. Des centaines de milliers de chasseurs et tireurs sportifs Canadiens de faible ou moyen revenu n'auraient plus accès à plusieurs modèles populaires. Étant donné que notre marché d'armes à feu est beaucoup plus restreint que celui de nos voisins du sud, les plus gros manufacturiers d'armes pourraient abandonner complètement le marché Canadien. Ceci ferait doubler ou tripler le coût d'importation d'armes au Canada puisqu'il faudrait trouver des moyens alternatifs. Inévitablement, moins d'armes à feu signifie moins de propriétaires d'armes à feu.

Ceci est l'objectif visé par le mouvement international du contrôle des armes depuis le début. Le Programme d'Action de l'ONU a toujours été considéré comme outil essentiel pour accomplir cet objectif. Dans leur Livre Rouge de 2006, IANSA (the International Network on Small Arms) ont affirmé que, " ...une mise en place réussie du Programme d'Action... oblige qu'il y ait un contrôle efficace sur la possession et le commerce de petites armes pour et par des civils."

La position d'IANSA sur la possession d'armes par des civils est partagée par plusieurs autres groupes, ONGs et États membres du Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Ces groupes comprennent: Reaching Critical Will-Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, the Global Action to Prevent War et d'autres groupes anti-armes semblables. En août dernier pendant que je me préparais pour me

rendre à la conférence de l'ONU, j'ai lu dans la revue Small Arms Monitor que les États membres du NAM venaient de raffiner leur position en exigeant un "contrôle sur la possession privée d'armes à feu" et en "encourageant tous les États membres de s'assurer que les provisions de petites armes et armes légères ne soient offertes qu'aux gouvernements et aux entités autorisées."

Les partisans les plus "progressifs" du plan d'Action de l'ONU pensent de manière erronée que le désarmement civil complet puisse apporter la paix mondiale. Depuis plus de dix ans, la NFA et ses alliés du World Forum, IAPCAR et d'autres ONGs sympathiques à notre cause ainsi que certains États se battent pour retarder, dérailler et arriver possiblement à détruire complètement le mouvement international de désarmement civil, - incluant le Programme d'Action et le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes de l'ONU. La poursuite de cet objectif nous oblige de continuer de travailler pour faire changer d'opinion les gens qui appuient les groupes tels que Reaching Critical Will. Nous devons faire disparaître leurs croyances faussées, comme celle qui prétend que de désarmer les citoyens respectueux des lois apportera la fin des guerres et génocides.

L'histoire nous a démontrée maintes fois que lorsqu'une population civile est dépouillée de ses moyens de défense, c'est le contraire qui arrive. Ceux qui en doute n'ont qu'à se rappeler de l'holocauste de la deuxième grande guerre mondiale, du génocide Arménien par les Turks Ottoman, des purges ethniques et intellectuelles commises par Stalin et Mao, des génocides ethniques des Balkans ou du génocide actuel au Sudan. Tous démontrent sans équivoque le résultat du désarmement civil.

Heureusement le Canada demeure une nation libre et démocratique ou ses citoyens n'ont pas à craindre ces horreurs, mais le monde reste toujours un endroit très dangereux. Interdire le droit à la légitime défense à qui que ce soit, peu importe la nationalité est une grave erreur. Il est tout aussi odieux qu'un gouvernement fédéral cède notre souveraineté Canadienne à une organisation telle que l'ONU, surtout lorsqu'il est évident qu'elle agit pour défendre les intérêts du mouvement international de contrôle des armes à feu. L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu doit par conséquent persister dans la lutte contre les forces internationales de désarmement civil - sur tous les fronts.

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES PROPRIÉTAIRES D'ARMES À FEU: DÉCLARATION AUX NATIONS UNIES SUR LE PROGRAMME D'ACTION SUR LES PETITES ARMES ET ARMES LÉGÈRES.

Mme la Présidente, je suis Sheldon Clare, Président de l'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu. (NFA) La NFA est la plus grande organisation au Canada qui défend les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens.

Nos membres s'inquiètent des efforts mal orientés de l'ONU pour régler les petites armes et armes légères et de leur effet néfaste et démesuré envers les peuples libres dans leur capacité de se procurer des armes et munitions à des fins

parfaitement légitimes. La NFA rejète l'affirmation que l'accès aux petites armes par des civils soit la source du problème.

La NFA recommande que le contrôle des armes légères soit limité aux armes fournies aux groupes militaires et para militaires ou à celles vendues par les États eux-mêmes. - Ce contrôle ne doit jamais toucher les armes fournies individuellement ou celles qui sont convoitées par des civils, connus aussi sous le nom d'acteurs qui ne sont pas des États.

Les droits et la propriété des Canadiens, nos commerçants en matière d'armes à feu et de munitions, incluant les armes de surplus militaire et leurs munitions ne doivent jamais tomber sous le contrôle ou l'édit de l'ONU. Simplement dit, la possession et l'usage d'armes à feu sont des sujets qui regardent la souveraineté nationale, les libertés civiles et le droit à la propriété de chaque pays et sont soumis à la culture nationale de chaque pays.

De plus, le contrôle des munitions qui inclurait tout marquage de plus que le calibre, la date et le manufacturier serait excessif: Ce n'est pas raisonnable, ce n'est pas nécessaire et c'est irréalisable d'un point de vu fiscal de marquer des munitions de manière unique.

Une population civile munie de petites armes lui permet de se défendre d'une agression. La légitime défense est un droit naturel de tout individu. Ce droit devient prioritaire lors de désordres politiques ou dans les cas où les États commettent des crimes contre l'humanité envers leurs propres peuples.

La possession d'armes par des civils devient un facteur important pour prévenir et limiter les effets des meurtres commis par des gouvernements tels que ceux dont nous avons été témoins au Srebrenica et au Rwanda. Les citoyens de Srebrenica qui avaient été désarmés par les casques bleus de l'ONU et ceux du Rwanda désarmés par leur propre gouvernement ont été laissés sans défense face à une agression bien organisée, surtout lorsque dans les deux cas l'ONU n'a pas été capable de les protéger.

Quoi que les gouvernements doivent continuer d'agir contre le terrorisme, le désarmement civil va à l'encontre des principes démocratiques fondamentaux. Pour agir contre les désordres politiques, les gouvernements devraient plutôt s'attaquer aux situations économiques, aux différences politiques et aux droits humains qui sont tous des facteurs qui poussent les peuples à s'agiter pour le changement. Les solutions universelles qui affectent les droits des peuples libres de posséder et d'utiliser des armes à feu ne peuvent pas fonctionner.

En vous remerciant de votre écoute, Mme la Présidente.



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Flawed Ideology of Civil Disarmament

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

The aftermath of the passing of the Conservative Government's Bill C-19, the legislation that ended the registration of non restricted long guns in Canada, has yielded some expected and some unexpected results.

Yes, the requirement to hold a registration for a non restricted long gun has ended in most of Canada, save for Quebec. But Quebec's fetish for "gun control" continues to manifest itself.

Few could have predicted Chief Provincial Firearms Officers taking action to preserve the long gun registry data and to begin to enact their own long gun registries in order to continue to collect data, and have it available to restore federal or provincial long gun registries in the future. Least of all Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews, who was forced to issue a clarification to CFOs instructing them that Bill C-19 ended the registration of long guns, the collection of data, and the destruction of the long gun registry data collected under the 1995 Liberal C-68 Firearms Act.

The Minister of Public Safety had to re visit the issue. He didn't like that. His government puts a lot of emphasis on keeping election promises, and Bill C-19 reflected that.

The fact that the RCMP firearms program appeared to be undermining the will of Parliament and of the

legislation, and that provincial CFOs were essentially thumbing their noses at his authority by saying that the Firearms Act empowered them to do this did not sit well with the minister or with the government in general.

However, the lawsuit brought by the province of Quebec to force the federal government to maintain the long gun registry data and deliver it to Quebec was more predictable

After Bill C-19 became law, the province of Quebec took the federal government to court to demand that the long gun registry data should not be destroyed as per Bill C-19, but the data on Quebec firearms owners should be transferred to that province so that a provincial gun registry could be established.

The federal government disagreed, citing its promise to Canadians in Bill C-19 to end long gun registration once and for all, and pointing out that Quebec had provincial administrative authority to build their own registry from scratch. Quebec doesn't want to foot the bill for that.

Quebec won that one. The Quebec Superior Court granted an injunction in April preventing the deletion of long gun registry data as mandated under Bill C-19, and in September the Quebec Superior Court ordered the federal government to deliver the data to Quebec. The federal government

is now appealing this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

What is so strange about all of this is that almost all of Canada's random spree shootings have occurred in Quebec, under all of Canada's famously "tough" gun control laws. The most infamous of these is the 1989 murders of fourteen female engineering students in Montreal by Marc Lepine, the tragedy which began Canada's most egregiously failed and unfortunate forays into gun control over twenty years ago.

In September 2006, a madman entered Dawson College in Montreal and began firing, killing one and wounding nineteen others with restricted firearms he was licensed for, held registrations for, and was authorized to transport. The result of this was the imposition in Quebec of Bill Nine, "Anastasia's Law," a provincial law that merely duplicates federal laws regarding restricted firearms, in Quebec.

In September 2012, another disturbed individual opened fire during an election night celebration by the Parti Quebecois. A masked gunman in a bathrobe killed one and wounded another. Ostensibly, this individual was subject to both federal and Quebec firearms laws and regulations, and it was later reported that he had a firearms license and most of his firearms were registered.

In both of these cases, the laws had absolutely no effect on preventing either tragedy. Ironic, as both laws were enacted to prevent exactly the kinds of tragedies that took place under them.

But Quebec persists and demands that the long gun registry data be turned over so a provincial registry can be established, as it is essential in preventing these types of tragedies.

Some say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. If this is so, the politicians and opinion makers of Quebec should be under psychiatric care.

In Ontario, The Barbara Schlifer Clinic and the City of Toronto have brought suit against the federal government to stop the deletion of the long gun registry data so it could be made available to other provinces and jurisdictions. The Ontario provincial government declined to join the suit, offering moral support but refusing to provide any more taxpayers dollars for what is clearly a lost cause. There is little question that the cash-strapped Ontario provincial government knows the long gun registry has been a massive failure. However, we cannot read too much into the Ontario government's refusal to fund the Schlifer legal challenge. Clearly, Premier McGuinty is no longer prepared to throw good money after bad in some pointless exercise

aimed at making the uneducated and the criminally misinformed members of the progressive left "feel" better - instead of actually improving public safety. Make no mistake, however, his government continues to support the idea of punitive action and enforcement of inarguably unjust laws targeted at law-abiding gun owners; it just isn't prepared to pick up the tab any longer.

This is where the logic of the civil disarmament lobby in Canada gets really weird. Like the former federal Liberal government that imposed it, the City of Toronto and the Barbara Schlifer clinic thought it more important to spend large amounts of taxpayer's dollars on preserving an inaccurate and incomplete long gun registry of a minority of law abiding Canadians who had actually complied with the demand to register their long guns, rather than spend that money on front line services for women dealing with poverty or abusive situations.

Their ideology of civil disarmament has trumped the suffering of real women.

Not all women's services organizations or big city governments in Canada supported this move, actually most of them didn't. They accept that the Liberal gun control program of the 1990s wasted billions of tax dollars for no public safety return, targeted the wrong people and was probably a

very bad idea. But there is a hardcore of ideologues that have an agenda of civil disarmament. Left to their own devices, they will use the limited resources of those organizations, city, provincial and federal governments to pursue this at the expense of legitimate programs and goals that inevitably suffer when ideology trumps reality.

All Canadians want to prevent harm and limit the amount of danger that firearms can potentially represent in the wrong hands, but federal government experiments in gun control from the 1970's to the 2000's have proven that all of our efforts to control the lawful access to firearms towards doing this have had no statistically demonstrative effect, and have come at the expense of controlling the illegal access and misuse of firearms by criminals.

But nothing dies harder than a bad idea, and the amount of effort in keeping Canada's failed firearms control system on life support in the pursuit of the civil disarmament agenda just demonstrates the blind ideology of Canada's gun ban crowd. It's a shame really, Canada could have good firearms laws if that segment of the population would simply accept the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership, and work in a non-partisan way towards this.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

Thank you for printing my letter re: Dr. Mauser's article, and your subsequent comments. I do agree that the "Dog" (our ELECTED government) must wag its own "Tail" (the UNELECTED federal firearms bureaucracy, etc.), not the other way around. Unfortunately the polar opposite seems to be the case for far too many issues related to firearms control and regulation.

Obviously, the reform of the current bloated firearms control bureaucracy will be most difficult. In addition to bureaucratic inertia, reformers really are facing a stacked deck. The gun grabbers have cultivated a lot of powerful friends, both politically and within the media. These "progressive" allies continue to aid them in opposing any efforts at dismantling the failed Liberal gun control program, or those that would reduce their "power," read funding -- the life-blood of any bureaucracy.

Maybe I should have just said "starve them to death" (slash operating budgets), and see them wither away like the useless weeds they are. But I still believe that a very powerful oversight body could effectively act like an anti-virus program that would eliminate many useless existing bureaucracies, including the firearms control groups if they cannot PROVE a tangible, measurable benefit to the public. It could serve as a "tool" to begin demolition of some of the worst Liberal-crafted social re-engineering agencies/bureaucracies.

From my perspective, it's time for many more termination letters and severance payments to be printed in Ottawa and throughout the associated provincial firearms control bureaucracies nationwide. No matter the cost, it will be money well spent, assuming we can elect a government with the guts to do it.

Regards,

Laird C.

Dear Laird,

You'll get no complaints from this editor if the federal government decided to shut down the entire federal gun control bureaucracy tomorrow. What Canadian gun owners need to do is let the PMO and the minister know how they feel on the issue. With the quasi-demise of the long gun registry there is a real danger that the majority of gun owners will fall back into that trap of complacency and apathy toward firearms law reform.

C-19 was not the end of our war, but merely the start of a new campaign. There is a lot of work left to do and as long as C-68/C-17 remain on the books, our firearms rights remain at the mercy of arrogant, autocratic paper pushers, crusading anti-gun police agencies and the conceit of gun-grabbing "progressive" politicians.

While what exactly constitutes the "best" strategy to accomplish the mission before us remains quite contentious among the larger firearms community, there should always remain room for free and open debate between responsible firearms owners. Perhaps other NFA members would like to chime in on the debate and offer their own take on the issue and/or your suggestion?

You can contact the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at: pm@pm.gc.ca

- Editors

Dear Editors,

I just wanted to extend my appreciation for all the hard work our current NFA execs and directors are doing on behalf of gun owners like myself. As a part-time gun dealer and gunsmith I was all too aware of just how devastating the many hare-brained gun control schemes originating with the United Nations would be to my business and to our firearms community. Whether it is the long-delayed UN marking scheme, the proposed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) or the recent talks on the limitation of small arms (SALW) in New York, or others, our gun rights are just as threatened from without as from within.

It came as no surprise to learn that Wendy Cukier, president of the Coalition for Gun Control, is a big "mover & shaker" within the international gun control movement and has strong ties to IANSA and has even consulted with the South African government to help impose one of the most draconian gun control regimes on the planet.

The result has been delays in the processing of gun license applications that is better measured in years, not days; the systematic disarmament of those most in need of firearms for protection and a surge in violent crime across the country. As a result, some townships have descended into de facto anarchy, with murder rampant and rapine the norm. Poor black South Africans find themselves at the mercy of brutal gangs and militias with no means of defending themselves. The police, poorly trained and outnumbered, are unable to protect the people. In some cases, rampant police corruption has seen the police doing the killing and looting.

At the same time, thousands of South African land owners, farmers and ranchers of Boer descent have been killed, driven off their land or had their possessions stolen as part of what is effectively a pogrom of ethnic cleansing. Stripped of most of their arms and/or denied access to more effective means of self-defence, those who have the resources have opted to abandon South Africa and escape the violence via emigration. Those that remain, with no means of defending themselves and facing a government that is either unwilling or unable to protect them, face a very dismal future indeed.

My heart goes out to those tens of thousands of innocent South Africans, many of them former gun owners, who will pay the ultimate price for the folly and arrogance of the international gun control movement. Rather than progress or peace, these "progressives" have left nothing but suffering and death in their wake. Their efforts, lending nothing short of de facto support to despots and dictators such as the late, unlamented Gaddafi in Libya, Assad in Syria and Chavez in Venezuela. All of whom are ardent supporters of such initiatives as the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and Programme of Action (PoA) on SALW. I'm proud to see the NFA standing up to such tyrants and sounding the warning every law-abiding gun owner should listen to. If we fail to pay heed to the cautionary tales of South Africa, Australia, Jamaica or Great Britain and their experiments with gun control, we may very well fall into the same trap as did their citizens and see our own gun rights vanish by UN fiat.

John M.

Dear John,

A very wise man once said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. It is heartening to see that there are still people willing to stand on guard in the cause of liberty. As your letter so aptly showcases, the modern gun control movement is international in scope. It isn't by accident that we here at Canadian Firearms Journal have adopted the unofficial motto of, "Fully Committed on All Fronts." Indeed, your National Firearms Association continues to fight wherever our rights as law-abiding gun owners are threatened.

On a more personal note, - having served in an executive post with the NFA for some three years previously, I know just how much the job demands. Having members such as yourself take pen in hand and express their gratitude for such efforts is very much appreciated.

Our org would most definitely not have enjoyed the successes we've had over the past year without the dedication and devotion of Sheldon, Blair, Bill and Ted especially. It was their willingness to give up precious time with family and friends, and sacrifice days away from their paid employment to work on behalf of Canada's National Firearms Association that has allowed us to achieve the successes we have in recent times.

However, they don't do it for the accolades, but for love of our proud firearms heritage and to ensure that future generations will get to enjoy the many riches the Canadian firearms culture has to offer. The guys will always be the first to argue that without the dedication and support of members like you, we could never accomplish the things we have in Ottawa, New York or on the greater international stage.

- Editors

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Touching the Past - Lest We Forget

Gary K. Kangas, Sarah Johnston & Branko Diklitch

Through good fortune artifacts are placed in our care and we become custodians of the past. We are linked to a time that is distant and to some, murky. Too often it sharpens the vision and reminds one of sacrifices made by the inhabitants of by-gone eras.

It is interesting that many young folk of today are re-discovering the chaos of WW I and those that served to provide the security we enjoy today.

I'm reminded of a youthful 23 year old Sgt. Christopher Heathcote, who gave up part of the mobility in his left knee, the hearing in his left ear and carried shrapnel in his neck the balance of his life in his service to others.

In his 78th year, during our visits at the Veterans Hospital, Chris shared with me the reality of his experiences performing military duty at the front. Chris's medals, badges and I.D. bracelet are testament to his dedication.



Sarah and Branko will share a more poignant view regarding an individual who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Great War, the War to End All Wars, World War I has many grand titles, but it took an impulse purchase to really bring an understanding and appreciation for what our Canadian soldiers went through during those years. This new found understanding all began when a valued artifact first came into our possession.

Sarah learned about World War I during high school, but it never kept her interest. Unlike World War II, there was no clear "good vs. evil". At some point the death toll of the war simply became too large to really comprehend, and became just another "statistic." The fact that there are no veterans left just increases the "out of sight, out of mind" mentality and makes the war harder to understand or relate to for many today. Sadly, while most can still relate the basic events

of WW II and even tell a story associated with a relative who served, the same cannot be said of the Great War.

Until we became protectors of the aforementioned WW I artifact, we too remained

largely unaware of much of the conflict's history. However, our personal historical interest tends to be the 19th century, so when a Smith & Wesson Second Model Hand Ejector revolver crossed our path we hesitated. It was about 40 years outside the scope of our primary firearms interest, but for some reason it spoke to us both. The primary appeal of the gun was the fact that it had the engraved name of Lieutenant C. H. Popham on it. Who was he? Did he see action? Did he survive the war? These and countless

other questions seemed to radiate from our newly acquired war relic. And, as most dedicated amateur historians will agree, it is very hard to turn down anything with clear provenance.

As it happens, our Second Model Hand Ejector was ordered from Smith & Wesson by the British government at the beginning of the war. Such purchases were a stop-gap measure to fill the desperate need for service pistols as their army grew exponentially. Smith & Wesson initially offered their existing Hand



Lt. Clarke Hall Popham 1915



Lt. Clarke Popham left. Training Camp, Manitoba 1915



Ejector Triple Lock model as a substitute-standard sidearm. In response, the British suggested some simplifications and the Second Model Hand Ejector was the result. Records indicate that upwards of 70,000 were eventually produced. The British service revolver caliber at the time was the Mark II .455 Webley. A smokeless rimmed cartridge loaded with 6.5 grains of Cordite and a heavy hollow base bullet.

As for the revolver in question, it is in remarkable condition for its age. There is only a small amount of wear on the gun's finish and some dents on the front sight. This revolver had a very ergonomic design for the era and despite being quite a large gun, it is nicely balanced and the grips fit the hand comfortably. The release latch for the cylinder is also easy to operate and the star shaped extractor makes unloading fast. Both the single and double action trigger pull is smooth. Overall, it is next to impossible to find anything negative about the gun.

Smith & Wesson sent a letter of authentication for the gun following our request. The company historian also confirmed the revolver was shipped out from the factory to the Canadian government on the 25th of September in the year 1915. The inscription on the frame of the grips made all the research possible. Without the name of Lt. Popham and his unit this firearm would have been just another anonymous survivor of the Great War.

Trying to trace its history and that of Lt. Popham was somewhat daunting, without having even the officer's full

name to start with. However, several Internet searches later yielded our first concrete clue. We learned that the Lieutenant's full name was Clarke Hall Popham. He was born on the second of June 1894 and came from a prominent Winnipeg family. His two brothers also served overseas during the war. When the war first started, Clarke was studying architecture at McGill University and took a leave of absence to join the army one day short of his 21st birthday. He was assigned to the 61st Battalion and after training shipped out on



the troop ship Olympia on April 1st, 1916. The 61st was a reserve battalion that supplied replacements to various units. Clarke was subsequently assigned to the 8th Battalion on July 1st, 1916. Along with the 8th Battalion, Clarke took part in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge on

September 26th, 1916 and was killed in the first day of the attack.

The Lieutenant's untimely death would have been the end to the story if Sarah did not have the good fortune to find one of Clarke's living relatives. By chance she came across some letters from a Clarke Popham dated from the 1990's. After more searching we discovered that the modern Clarke is the nephew

of our Lieutenant. We learned that he is the son of Earl Popham, the brother of Clarke Hall Popham, and was actually named for his uncle. Clarke is now retired and lives only 50km away from us. We contacted him and he graciously agreed to meet to discuss his family history. Clarke provided photos and anecdotes to complete his namesake's story for us. Among other stories, he shared with us his meeting three different Winnipeg women. Each told him that if his uncle had come back from the war they had planned to wed. The young lieutenant was obviously both a great fighter and lover!

As another Remembrance Day looms, we should all continue revisiting our firearms heritage at every opportunity and remember the selfless deeds of so many brave lads and lasses who served our nation. Their sacrifices helped preserve our freedom and our cherished way of life.

Photo Credits: Popham Family, Gary K. Kangas, Branko Diklitch



SGT. Heathcote with service medals, 1916 Class A Badge and At the Front Pin

POLITICS & GUNS

by Tyler Vance

His Castle No More.....



Centuries of legal tradition tells us that a man's home is his castle. This concept is one of the precepts upon which our entire legal system was built. Our founding fathers borrowed these precepts and traditions from their British forbearer's near millennia-old system of English Common Law. In 1982, then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau decided to "repatriate" the Canadian Constitution and with it a new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was created that quantified most of these core rights and freedoms. However, noticeably absent from this newly-penned list of guaranteed rights was protection for Canadian's fundamental property rights. Whatever the reason, quantified and enshrined property rights never made the cut.

Fast forward some 30 years and we find the latest victim of such "progress," one Antons Kapostins of Ajax, Ontario. Now age 89, Antons is a Canadian immigration success story. He moved to Canada as a young boy from his native Latvia, along with his parents. In the early 1960s, looking to follow his father's example and build a new life for himself and his family, Antons and his wife Gaida found a parcel of farmland near the town of Ajax and built themselves a home. Over the next fifty years, they would plant strong roots and raise a wonderful family. Besides three strong sons, the Kapostins also raised cattle and worked their farm to grow fresh produce for market. To help make ends meet, Antons eventually took a factory job which he worked for almost three decades.

Yet, after almost eight decades of hard work and toil spent in building a home for his family and keeping them fed, you would think Mr. Kapostins would be enjoying his well-deserved retirement years. Unfortunately, you'd be wrong.

As stories of the teen bullying epidemic now plaguing our country make national news, Mr. Kapostins is himself the victim of the worst sort of bully, the state actor type. You see, while Mr. Kapostins may have helped build his home with his own two hands, he no longer owns it; the province of Ontario does.

The Kapostins family now find themselves the victims of urban sprawl, growing traffic congestion and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. Last year the latter informed Antons that he no longer owned the land his house was built on. His land had been expropriated by the province in order to make way for the construction of the new Highway 407 East.

Yet, like so many from his generation, Mr. Kapostins has refused to say uncle and has fought the expropriation as hard as he might. Prior to the government seizing title to his land, he had refused several

offers from the province to buy it. While the offers themselves were below what most realtors called fair market-value, it wasn't so much the money, but the life that his government was taking from him and his family that was important. It was the roots, the memories, and the ties and connections he had forged to his adopted home after a lifetime of toil that mattered most.

Like so many school-yard bullies before them, Ontario's Ministry of Transportation did not take well to being defied. In the face of Mr. Kapostin's rejections of their offers, agents of the Ministry of Transportation ultimately used their superior power, strength, position and purse to expropriate the property of their smaller, weaker opponent; one Antons Kapostins, age 89 years.

While he may have been beaten down by his state-empowered bully, Antons has never given up. And while, he has exhausted nearly every legal option available to him and lost, he still cannot bear the thought of being forced from his home. Recently, with his plight finally coming to the attention of the media, Antons pled his case to the public, saying that he simply wished to live out his last days in the home he had built himself. In response to the ministry's latest notice of eviction, Mr. Kapostins vowed that he wouldn't "go without a fight." With the support of his wife and children, the family planned on continuing to consult with lawyers in hopes that through some miracle their home of fifty years would be spared.

Yet shortly after uttering that off-the-cuff comment, it was not another Ministry of Transportation flunky or lawyer that came banging on Antons' door, but heavily armed members of the Durham Regional Police Service. They had been made aware of what they called a "potential public safety concern" by "provincial officials" and subsequently executed a public safety warrant on September 27th. Upon entry into the Kapostins homestead, members of the Durham Regional Police found what they described as "numerous guns and ammunition," which they immediately seized.

Both the firearms and ammunition in question belong to Mr. Kapostin's adult children, who live with him. All seized firearms had been properly registered and stored under the terms of the Firearms Act. Still, despite no actual crime having been committed and no actionable threats of physical violence ever having been made - by either the owners of the seized guns or Mr. Kapostins, the police still breached the sanctity of "Castle Kapostins" and effectively looted the keep of the owner's legally-owned property.

The rather innocuous comment by Mr. Kapostins to not "give up" his home "without a fight" and the overwhelmingly asymmetrical response by Durham Police to it should be sufficient to make every Canadian pause and start asking some hard questions of government. Whether or not they're a gun owner is irrelevant, there are far bigger issues at stake here.

Certainly, the question of whether or not Canadian property rights should be formally entrenched in the Charter has bearing on this story, but it must be left for a later debate, as must the issue of legal expropriation. The focus of this argument principally centers on one core issue, the 1995 Firearms Act.

As in the case of Antons Kapostins, the current Firearms Act does indeed grant police the right to execute public safety warrants when there is a question of public safety. However, like so much of the Act, the Liberals failed to ever define exactly what constituted a legitimate "public safety concern" or put in place clear protocols or limitations on government and their proxies to contravene the basic human rights and freedoms of Canadian gun owners.

Today the Firearms Act has become a sledgehammer in the arsenal of the state and police that allows them to beat down the doors of registered firearms owners with seeming impunity and on the slimmest of real "public safety concerns." Would a reasonable person come to the inevitable conclusion that Mr. Kapostin's sentimental vow to never give up was essentially code for his intention to barricade his home and wage armed warfare against the forces of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation?

The Durham Police obviously were aware that Mr. Kapostin's sons were living with their father and that they were licensed gun owners with registered firearms in their name. Not in question is that they had a legal right to possess said firearms in their registered place of residence; just as long as they complied with all safe storage requirements per the Firearms Act. This was later found to be the case. At the same time, Mr. Kapostin had no record of violence or a criminal history. He had not threatened physical violence against anyone, nor had he threatened to use his son's firearms for such a purpose. As such, where exactly was the overarching public safety concern? How exactly did a relatively innocuous, off-the-cuff comment by a senior citizen engaged in a CIVIL disagreement with a government ministry grant Durham Police the right to "storm" Castle Kapostin, seize legal property from its owners and violate the sanctity of a private citizen's home?

To answer this question we must look toward the guns and answer one simple, but ever so important question: Why are guns regulated differently than any other legal commodity in Canada?

The presence of the Durham Regional Police at Mr. Kapostin's door, the violation of his castle and the seizure of legal firearms are all directly attributable to the fact that said state actors and agents derive their authority from the criminal law powers granted them by the Liberal's Firearms Act.

Contrary to the principles of natural justice, Canadian law approaches the subject of firearms ownership by law-abiding gun owners from a presumption of guilt. The onus is on responsible gun owners to prove to the state that they are in compliance with the law, not the other way around, - as it is with every other facet of criminal law in this country.

What most Canadians also fail to recognize is that C-68 effectively prohibited the ownership of all firearms in Canada. The government simply made available de facto "get-out-of-jail-free" cards in the form of Possession & Acquisition (PAL) and Possession Only (POL) firearms licenses. For the most part, gun owners aren't in jeopardy from prosecution as long as they keep their licence in good standing. However, it's when mistakes and oversights happen that gun owners run into major problems and a foul of the police.

At its core, it is because gun owners are subject to criminal law and prosecution under the Firearms Act and the Criminal Code of Canada that they are also subject to over-reactions or asymmetrical responses by the state and their agents, i.e., Durham Regional Police SWAT team, etc...

To borrow an argument from the pro-gun control crowd, why aren't guns and gun owners regulated more like cars and car owners? In terms of actual safety concerns, far more Canadians are killed every year in motor vehicle accidents than by firearms, even the illegal ones.

Yet, ownership and use of motor vehicles on Canadian highways is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act. Unlike the Firearms Act, if a person chooses to drive his car on Canadian highways and it is discovered that they forgot to renew their drivers licence they are not automatically criminalized. Instead they are ticketed or perhaps let off with a warning to get their licence renewed immediately. Their vehicle is not immediately seized by the police or forfeited to the state.

Gun owners, by contrast, face far more serious consequences for essentially the same "paper" crime. They are charged under criminal law, do not enjoy the same level of protection under the law as our hypothetical "driver" and can face up to two years in prison for their transgressions.

In reality, many Canadian gun owners end up having the bejeezus scared out of them by the police and talk of criminal records and year-long prison terms. They leap at the chance to avoid prosecution and potential prison-time when offered the option of forfeiting their firearms to the state for destruction. All too often the target of such brilliant police operations are the elderly and the bereaved, core groups that are more likely to have committed paper crimes of omission by not keeping their firearm licence updated, or who are most easily intimidated.

The case of Antons Kapostins clearly highlights the dangers inherent to such situations and serves as a warning against engaging the state in a dispute where criminal law may become a factor. As Mr. Kapostin and his family discovered, legal gun owners are particularly vulnerable in such situations and the extraordinary powers granted police by the Firearms Act; powers that allow the state to wield C-68 like a blunt instrument that far too often results in the unjustified victimization of law-abiding gun owners.

The so-called public safety warrant served on Antons Kapostins was based upon the slimmest and most tenuous of justifications - Mr. Anton's off-the-cuff vow to not give up the fight. Such

heavy-handed police actions cannot help but bring the entire rule of law into disrepute.

At face value, the only "crime" Mr. Kapostins was guilty of was failing to readily accept the Ministry of Ontario's arguably below-market-value offer for his property. Refusing to comply with a government ministry over what should be a civil matter simply does not justify the type of high-risk, high-contact take-downs and "no-knock" warrants that are becoming all too common across Canada these days. In the case of Antons Kapostins, I can only conclude that because his sons were legal gun owners, those unnamed "provincial officials," saw an opportunity to use the near god-like powers granted police by the Firearms Act to intimidate and bully.

A man's home should be his castle. He should not have to worry about the state acting like some school-yard bully because he had the audacity to reject their low-ball offer for his home of fifty years. As a result of the government's actions in this case, not only is Mr. Kapostin losing his home, his family will also be forced to take on the extra financial burden of hiring a lawyer to fight the seizure of their legally-owned property, the guns

and ammo seized by police. Failure to challenge the seizure will result in automatic forfeiture to the Crown, followed by destruction of the same.

Even if Mr. Kapostins and his family choose to sue the government and win, there is no gigantic payday in the offing. Canadian courts simply do not work that way, and the essentially limitless pockets of the government guarantee that appeal after appeal will be filed until they win or they bankrupt the Kapostin family. That such scenarios play out across the country everyday should be offensive to our Canadian sense of justice and fair play.

In the interests of natural justice and restoring the balance of power between citizen and the state, the government must extract the non-criminal component of firearms regulation from the current Criminal Code of Canada and make a concerted effort to correct the inherent flaws of the current Firearms Act. Until that is done, the rights of law-abiding gun owners will remain in jeopardy, the state and police will remain free to act like school-yard bullies and justice will remain a commodity available only to those having the resources to buy it.

~ CANADIAN CHARTER of RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ~

Life, liberty and security of person

- Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

Search or seizure

- Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

Detention or imprisonment

- Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.



EACH ONE OF US IS..

An ambassador, a teacher, and a member. One of the most important functions of Canada's National Firearms Association is making firearms ownership and use relevant to growing numbers of Canadians.

To prosper, we must have a steady flow of new shooters and enthusiasts entering our proud firearms heritage.

Your membership and your donations to Canada's National Firearms Association are helping us develop the programs Canada needs to make sure our firearms heritage continues to grow.

I want to help Make It Happen!

Here is my contribution to **CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION** to help protect my rights to own and use firearms.

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$ _____

My Cheque or Money Order enclosed

Charge my Visa/MasterCard/AMEX

Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

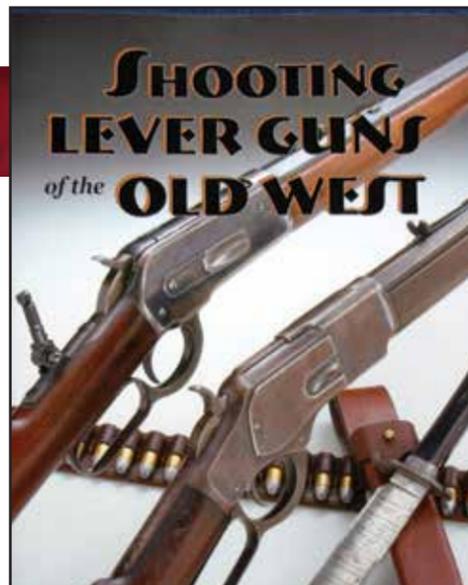
City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Ph.: _____ Fx.: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this form to: Canada's National Firearms Association, Box 49090, Edm., AB T6E 6H4 or **Call our Toll Free Number at 1-877-818-0393**

Megan Heinicke (formerly Tandy). An Olympic Athlete and proud member of the NFA



NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. Rantz

SHOOTING LEVER GUNS OF THE OLD WEST

Author: Mike Venturino

Soft Cover, 300 Pages, Black/White Photographs, 8 1/2 x 11 inches

Originally Published 1999, Reprinted 2010

ISBN: 1-879356-82-1

Wolfe Publishing Company, Prescott, Arizona

Mike Venturino dedicated **SHOOTING LEVER GUNS of the OLD WEST** to a close friend who had greatly influenced his life. Don Stermitz died at fifty years of age as the result of a logging accident. Mr. Stermitz left behind a legacy of honesty, kindness and generosity which the author will remember "for the rest of his life".

Tales of the "old west" are common and no doubt intertwined with both fact and fiction. Firearms are known to have been used for a variety of reasons including protection of life and property, putting food on the family table and law enforcement. While we are left with our visions of life over one hundred years ago many of the firearms remain intact and perfectly functional. They may often be found resting in collections, sitting on a gunshow table or even hidden away between the rafters of an old farmhouse attic.

The author has discovered the joy of loading cartridges for these historic lever action rifles and shooting them at the local range. Experimenting with different loads combined with the knowledge accumulated during the process proved that the old levers are still fun to shoot. The actual targets shot confirmed that they are still capable of accuracy which will rival most newly produced firearms.

Many firearm publications are best described as "reference books" in which the reader searches out specific information. However, I recommend that **SHOOTING LEVER GUNS of the OLD WEST** be read from cover to cover before concentrating on a particular firearm or cartridge of interest. Throughout the text Venturino has repeatedly stressed safety and cautioned against potential problems. He has generously shared knowledge that he has learned through vast personal experience. It would be prudent for any reloader or shooter to take full advantage of the information presented.

SHOOTING LEVER GUNS of the OLD WEST is organized into three basic sections. A large easy to read text and many interesting photographs make reading this publication an enjoyable experience.

Part One "The Guns" covers eighty pages which familiarize the reader with the various models of Winchester and Marlin rifles that were originally produced in the 19th century. Modern reproductions are also discussed as they play an important role in the cowboy action shoots held throughout North America.

Part Two "Reloading for Old West Lever Guns" provides specific information and loading data on twenty-five cartridges which were chambered in the original rifles as well as four modern cartridges currently available in reproduction rifles. Velocity and group sizes are listed for a variety of smokeless powders and bullets. Loads using black powder and Pyrodex are also included for the appropriate cartridges.

Part Three "Miscellaneous" includes four sections such as "The Lever Gun as a Fighting Rifle", "Hunting with the Old West Lever Guns" and "Sights for Old West Lever Guns". These chapters are a perfect way to conclude **SHOOTING LEVER GUNS of the OLD WEST**. Mike Venturino writes in a style that reflects the qualities he admired in Don Stermitz... honesty, kindness and generosity. Upon closing the back cover you will be left feeling that you have shared an afternoon at the range with an old and trusted friend.

SHOOTING LEVER GUNS of the OLD WEST is very reasonably priced at \$30. If not in stock at your favourite gun store it may be ordered online. This book will be a valuable addition to your firearms library or reloading bench and is highly recommended by many cowboy action shooters. I suggest you consider ordering an extra copy or two as Christmas presents for the hunting/shooting enthusiasts among your friends and family.



Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2013

Quality Hotel & Suites Woodstock

580 Bruin Blvd., Woodstock ON, N4V 1E5 1-519-421-4644 toll free 1-800-667-4466

Join us in Woodstock for the 2013 Annual General Meeting of Canada's National Firearms Association.

Friday May 3

Meet and Greet - mingle with the Directors and other activists

Saturday May 4

**Open Panel Discussion, AGM, Banquet
(Evening dinner with door prizes).**

Special guests invited: *Solomon C. Friedman, LL.B. of Edelson Clifford D'Angelo, - Professor John Lott, Jr., - Professor Gary Mausser, - Alan Korwin, an Arizona author and civil rights activist/operator of gunlaws.com, - Andrew Craig, Canada Reload Radio host, - Karen Seliak, Litigation Director-Canadian Constitution Foundation, - Rob Anders, Conservative MP from Calgary and Sun News host Brian Lilley*

More information and a detailed agenda will be posted on our website www.nfa.ca

Please register early to help us plan arrangements. The first 15 members to register will receive a copy of the "Journal on Firearms & Public Policy" by Gary Mauser. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Donations to support this event are gratefully appreciated.

NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION FOR 2013 AGM:

Registration fee: \$40 _____ (Includes: Information sessions & Banquet)	Membership # _____
Guest (s) Registration fee: \$40 x ___ = _____	Name: _____
Donations: _____	Address: _____
Total for the AGM 2013: _____	Phone: _____
Send to: P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton AB. T6E 6H4 or fax to 780-439-4091	Payable by <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express
	Card # _____
	Expiry date: _____

Register Early!! Space is limited!



Notice of Election 2013 And Call for Nomination

Canada's National Firearms Association announces that elections will be held for the Board of Directors. Interested parties should submit a nomination form and a short (200 words) biography and statement of intent to the National office no later than April 15, 2013. Nomination forms are available for downloads.

In accordance with the Bylaws, a total of five nominations are sought for the following position:

15. The property and business of the association shall be managed by a board of directors elected from the following electoral regions as described below:

Electoral Area - Directors to Elect

Alberta – Northwest Territories & Out-of-Canada	1
British Columbia – Yukon	1
Manitoba – Nunavut	0
Newfoundland – Labrador – Maritimes	1
Ontario	1
Quebec	1
Saskatchewan	0

a. Each of the above would form one electoral area when electing its director(s). Out-of-Canada members will vote as part of the Alberta membership. The combinations above shall apply until such time as those specific provinces and territories develop sufficient membership to form separate electoral areas.

b. Each electoral area containing at least 5 percent (5%) of the voting members of the association on September 1 of an election year is entitled to elect one, but only one director. Each electoral area containing at least 10 percent (10%) of the voting members of the association on September 1 of an election year is entitled to elect two, but only two directors. A voting member may vote only for candidate(s) in the electoral area in which he or she resides.

c. A province, territory or Out-of-Canada grouping may form an electoral area when dividing the electoral area it is part of will mean that both of that province(s) and/or territory or grouping each have at least 5 percent (5%) of the voting membership of the association. Provinces and territories not having sufficient numbers to form an electoral area will be combined with an adjacent province or territory as determined by the board of Directors.

Directors must be individuals, 18 years of age or older at the time of the election, with power under Canadian law sign contracts.

16. Directors shall be elected by surface mail, electronic mail, or secure call-in telephone ballot of voting members for a term of 2 years, except as noted below:

a. An electoral area with 2 directors shall elect one each year, except in the first year in which these bylaws come into effect at which time all directors will be elected. The director, from an area with 2 directors, having the second highest number of votes will serve a one year term and that directorship will be up for election for a two-year term in the subsequent election. In the event of a tie, the matter will be determined by a draw. The directors for Saskatchewan and Manitoba-Nunavut will likewise be the first elected as a one year term so that about half of the board of directors is subject to election each year.



Nomination Form for Office Director of Canada's National Firearms Association

Nomination Form for Office of Director of Canada's National Firearms Association

Candidate:

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Candidate Profile: The candidate must provide a good quality digital photograph and a typed electronic 200 word biography that outlines his or her experience and reasons for wishing to serve as a director of Canada's National Firearms Association.

Date of Birth: _____

How long have you been a member of Canada's NFA?: _____

Do you have power under Canadian law to sign legally binding contracts? YES/NO

Do you have a criminal record for which you have not received a pardon? YES/NO

I accept the nomination to run as a director for Canada's NFA.

Candidate's signature: _____ Date: _____

We the undersigned members in good standing of Canada's National Firearms Association wish to nominate _____ for the position of director.

Nominators

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

How long have you known this person? _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

How long have you known this person? _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return form to:

Mail:
Canada's National
Firearms Association
P.O. Box 49090
Edmonton, AB
T6E 6H4
Fax:
780-439-4091



The Rossi Ranch Hand Is, "Wild West Tech"

By Norman Gray

Most of us grew up on classic westerns and a few of us are old enough remember a black-and-white TV show that aired from 1958-1961 starring Steve McQueen called "Wanted: Dead or Alive." This show featured a soft hearted Confederate Civil War veteran (Josh Randall) who made a living as a bounty hunter in the Wild West of the 1870s. Steve McQueen was an amazing actor, but he wouldn't have been able to do what he did without his trusty sidekick, a modified .44-40 Winchester Model 1892 called the "Mare's Leg." He carried it in a modified gun slingers rig that attached to his belt and tied to his leg; he could draw and fire as fast if not faster than the western outlaws he was tracking.

If you're a fan of the show, or just want a unique piece for your collection, Rossi has made it possible to own a replica of this famous movie gun. Rossi's version of the Mare's Leg is called the Ranch Hand and is currently manufactured in Brazil by Taurus International Manufacturing Inc. Rossi offers a choice of three pistol calibers to choose from that includes the .38 Special/.357 Magnum, .44 Magnum and the .45 Colt (a.k.a. .45 Long Colt). The sample I requested had to be the .45 Colt, the same caliber made famous in Samuel Colt's Single Action Army revolver. Also known as the Peacemaker, it has become one of the best known symbols of the Old West and was carried by both heroes and villains alike. In .45 caliber its stopping power was legendary for the time and remains so today. Most "cowboys" of that era carried a rifle and revolver that used the same cartridge; and the versatility of the .45 Colt round not only allowed commonality of ammunition, but gave the user the ability to take both close and comparatively long shots with aplomb.

There are two models of the Rossi Ranch Hand available in the .45 Colt, the Model RH92-57203 which has a case hardened receiver and retails for \$655.00USD and the RH92-57121 which is a normal matte blue receiver and retails

for \$579.00USD. The features are the same; it just comes down to what you prefer and all Rossi firearms carry their lifetime repair policy even on used models. When I received the Ranch Hand I had mixed feelings about this little pistol/carbine, but as time passed I found it very fun to shoot and hard to put down. The 4 lb unloaded weight of the lever gun absorbs the recoil of the .45 Colt very well. When fired using both hands the Ranch Hand was easy to control; even when shooting at arm's length.

That said the Ranch Hand can be fired with one hand, although you will need the other to work the action effectively for successive shots. The action was smooth right out of the box and become even smoother with use. In order to load another round after the trigger is pulled or effect extraction of a fired casing, the shooter must work the oversized loop lever forward. Two locking bars then retract downward allowing the bolt to move rearward and extract the case and eject it upwards with force. A fresh round is ejected from the magazine and positioned in front of the chamber in preparation for the completion of the loading cycle. When the loop lever is pulled back, it pushes the fresh round into the chamber, leaving the hammer cocked and the firearm ready to fire. All this happens in the blink of an eye and with practice you can shoot all seven rounds in less than ten seconds. That said you should always wear safety glasses when shooting. In the case of the Ranch Hand, I found that as the empties are ejected straight up an empty casing could possibly hit the operator in the eye.

The Ranch Hand's stock measures about eight inches from the receiver and merely acts as a hand hold for your shooting hand and was never meant to be placed on your shoulder. Since it ejects spent cases upwards, left handed shooting is no problem. You can either shoot from the hip or hold it at arm's length and aim using the windage adjustable gold





F for fire. To place the Ranch Hand in the safe position the safety lever must be rotated counterclockwise fully so that the lever covers the red and exposes the green. On the left side of the receiver you'll find a traditional saddle ring. These rings were originally intended to secure the rifle to a rider or saddle to ensure that the firearm would not be inadvertently lost or dropped while riding. On the right side of the receiver you'll find the magazine loading port which accepts six rounds of .45 Colt. With one round in the chamber, the shooter will have a full seven rounds to "take care of business," whether it is punching paper, plinking or hunting.

The overall length of the Ranch Hand is 24 inches and 12 inches of that is barrel. The barrel is cradled by a wood forearm that uses a traditional barrel band to hold the wood to the barrel. In front of the forearm the magazine tube and barrel are joined by another barrel band making the fit tight even after many rounds have been fired. The wood stock and forend is unfinished Brazilian Pine and the fit and finish of the Ranch Hand is rustic. It reflects the Wild West heritage and is ready for many miles in a saddle scabbard. The feature that catches your eye is the oversized cocking loop and this is the one feature that makes the Ranch Hand really fun to shoot even with gloves.

However you choose to carry the Ranch Hand, whether on horseback or your hip, there is some great quality leather available through the Hunter Company. They make a "Trapper Holster," for your leg much like the one used by Woody Harrelson in the movie "Zombieland" and "Wanted: Dead or Alive." The other is the holster / scabbard which can be used with a horse's saddle or shooter's belt. Either way, with the Ranch Hand loaded with your favorite ammunition, say TEN-X Ammo's 250 RNFP, you will be toting about 4.9 lbs.

Shooting the Ranch Hand is like stepping back in time, but it will handle all modern and cowboy loads. I feel, with the right ammunition, there is no task this pistol can't handle from target shooting to deer hunting. For my accuracy/chronograph tests I used four types of manufactured ammunition:

bead front sight and the elevation adjustable buckhorn rear sight. Using the sights the Ranch Hand is very accurate with a steady hold, but if you hip shoot it will take a little practice to get the bullets to go where you want them to, - but did I mention it's so much fun mastering this skill as well? It is!

New owners should be aware that the factory forearm is a bit small and, as rapid fire heats up the barrel, having a finger or two slip off can result in a burn. As a cheap fix, a local leather smith suggested wrapping a leather collar around the forearm and barrel in front of the buckhorn sight using either stitching or snaps to combat this issue.

The trigger pull is light and measures a little over 3.5 lbs and the external hammer is large and easy to manually cock. Assuming a round is already chambered, the hammer can be drawn backward to the first cocking position called the half-cock. In this position pulling the trigger will not cause the hammer to fall. In order to actually discharge the chambered round the user must continue pulling the hammer all the way back to the fully cocked position. The Ranch Hand is then ready to be fired.

In addition to the half-cock feature, on top of the bolt and located in front of the hammer you will also find the manual safety. It is clearly marked with a green S for safe and a red

Manufacturer	Grain	Bullet Type	Avg. Vel (FPS)	Std Dev.	Best Group
Doubletap	165	Barnes Tac-XP	1239.2	37.6	
Barnes VOR TX	200	XPB Hollow Point	1208.6	30.2	
TEN-X Ammunition	250	Round Nose Flat Point	838.7	13.3	
TEN-X Ammunition	200	Round Nose Flat Point	804.6	20.7	2.0"
Winchester	250	Lead Flat Nose	815.4	14.0	

Accuracy results are three-shot groups at 25 yards off a MTM K Zone shooting rest. Velocities are the average of 9 shots measured on a Master Shooting Chrony at 15 feet.

All the .45 Colt ammunition tested cycled flawlessly through the Ranch Hand, with only one exception. A single round of Winchester ammo failed to fire due to what was determined to be a bad primer. The only other small problem encountered was the feeding of wadcutter type bullets. There were a couple of minor issues with those types of rounds, but more round nose bullet types fed 100% reliably. Accuracy was amazing for this pistol-sized lever gun, with the best group being 1.5 inches at 25 yards coming from a Rainier 300 grain TCJ backed by 22 grains of Winchester 296. The TEN-X 200 grain RNFP gave me the best group with among the manufactured ammunition at 2" at 25 yards.

While the .45 Colt is a favourite caliber of mine, the one drawback potential buyers will encounter is the cost of factory ammunition. At present, most factory .45 Colt ammo retails for \$35 and up for just a box of 50 rounds. To combat this growing problem hand loading/reloading is becoming a must and there are companies like Rainier Ballistics who help take the bite out of shooting firearms like the Ranch Hand. They supply lead safe copper plated bullets for the .45 LC in 250 and 300 Grain TCJ (Total Copper Jacket) varieties.

For my tests I reloaded the once fired mixed cases using a variety of bullets from different manufacturers and used Winchester large pistol primers.

Manufacturer:	Grain:	Bullet Type:	Powder: Grains/Name	Avg. Vel (FPS):	SD:
Barnes Bullets	225	XPB Hollow Point	24 X Alliant 2400	1796.4	17.9
Rainier Ballistics	230	Total Copper Jacket	7.2 X Winchester 231	952.7	20.6
Rainier Ballistics	250	Total Copper Jacket	10 X Alliant Unique	1178.0	25.4
Rainier Ballistics	250	Total Copper Jacket	6.2 X Hodgdon Tite Group	946.2	26.8
Rainier Ballistics	300	Total Copper Jacket	22 X Winchester 296	1408.8	10.0
Rainier Ballistics	300	Total Copper Jacket	18 X Hodgdon Lil'Gun	1316.1	14.3
Sierra Bullets	300	Jacketed Soft Point	20.5 X Winchester 296	1214.0	25.1

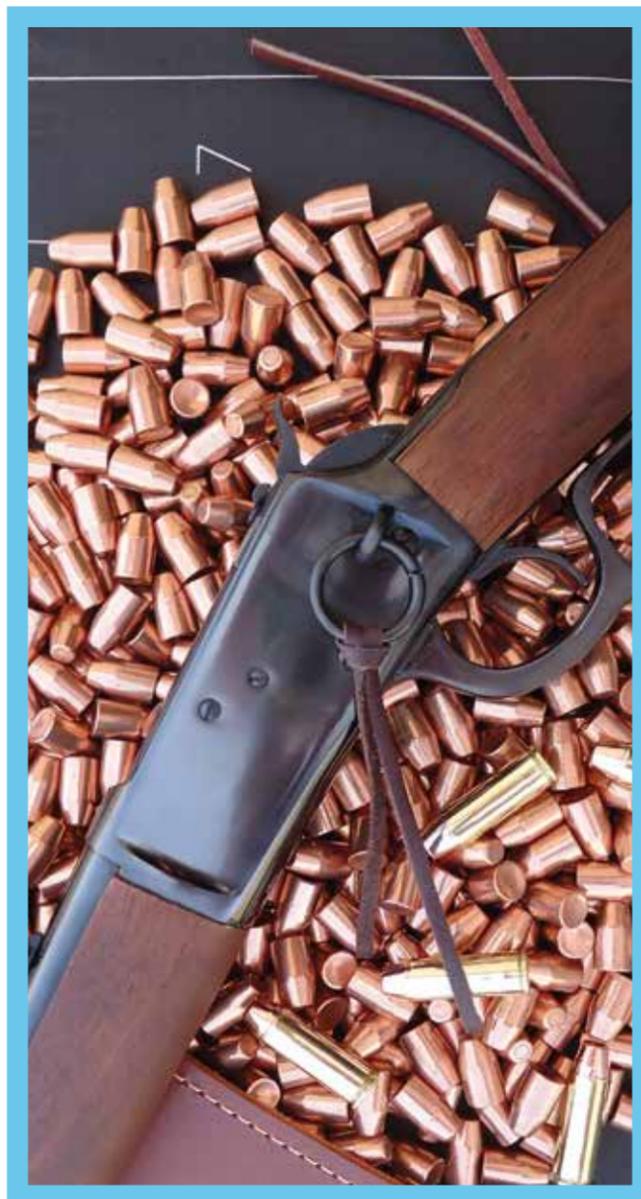
Accuracy results are three-shot groups at 25 yards off a MTM K Zone shooting rest. Velocities are the average of 9 shots measured on a Master Shooting Chrony at 15 feet.

When using a .45 Colt revolver or tubular-feed magazine, it's important to remember that the jacketed bullets need a crimping cannelure. This keeps the bullet from being pushed back into the case while in a tubular feed magazine and from shifting from the force of recoil in a revolver. In the case of the Rainier or any other metal plated bullets, they are soft enough to be roll crimped. If you have copper jacketed bullets without a cannelure such as 230 grain .45 ACP bullets, you can purchase a canneluring tool that mounts to your reloading table to give them a cannelure yourself. This gives you a cheaper and readily available source of bullets suitable for a big boomer like the .45 Colt. Before reloading, always consult a quality manual for safe loads. Use lead bullet data for cowboy loads or use the medium charge listings from your loading manual. When in doubt, double check!

I can recommend this little lever gun to anyone who likes or loves the allure of the Old West, the .45 Colt and lever action rifles. It is loads of fun and can serve in other roles equally well, including home or personal protection and short range hunting without optics. Unfortunately, as of this writing there are no optic mounts available for the Ranch Hand, at least to my knowledge. However, a qualified gunsmith could certainly drill and tap your Ranch Hand for a custom offset optic mount at a minimal cost. To tote your Ranch Hand, the Hunter Company provides quality leather products that will allow you to carry it quite comfortably and securely; whether travelling on two legs or four. Still, while .45 Colt factory ammo tends to be on the expensive side, for the most part reloading can take the bite out that cost. For non-reloaders, all is not lost; there are companies like Ten-X Ammunition or Wolf that offer reloaded ammunition at substantially reduced rates compared to factory prices.



One of the things I love to do as a shooter is let others enjoy an opportunity to try many of the firearms I test. During the course of this project I was able to offer close to a dozen fellow shooters the opportunity to shoot the Ranch Hand at my local range. Their shooting abilities and experience ranged from novice to very experienced. When first offered the chance to shoot the Ranch Hand I saw expressions of apprehension, mild interest and even skepticism, but those quickly changed to excitement and smiles after just the first shot. I asked each shooter what they liked most about the little lever gun and the general consensus was that it was “exciting and different” and a “pure hoot” to shoot. Most offered comments to the effect that it would be a great pack “pistol” or vehicle gun. All came away with a fond memory of the Ranch Hand and my friend Rick loved it so much he offered to buy the test gun on the spot.

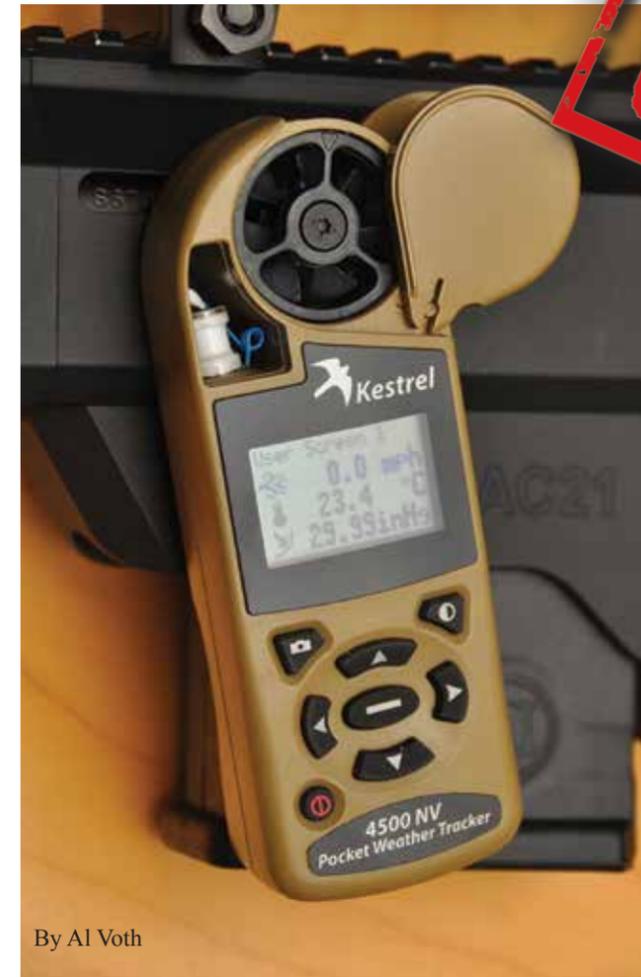


As far as pro’s and con’s, the traditional saddle ring, while historically correct, tends to get in the way sometimes and was something of a minor inconvenience. However, it can be removed fairly easily if desired. When firing full power loads, users should make sure they hold on tight, as the Ranch Hand can “buck” out of your hand due to the stout recoil of the .45 Colt round. Generally, I found that it was most comfortable to shoot the Ranch Hand at arm’s length, as the stock will not feel good against your chin.

Overall, most shooters will find the Ranch Hand simple to aim, fire and cycle, and cleaning it proved to be a breeze. The easy availability of ammo and reloading components is a bonus and even if factory ammo is a little pricey, reloading offers shooters the ability to substantially reduce those costs; while also letting you tailor your rounds to the gun for best accuracy. The manual safety, while unattractive located on the top of the bolt as it is, does serve a useful purpose and will certainly allow novice shooters an added measure of safety. Of course, for more experienced shooters, it is up to the individual shooter whether or not they choose to use it. As a traditionalist, I prefer the use of the half-cock feature as my safety, especially as it allows for fast shots by simply pulling the hammer back fully. At the end of the day, for whatever job you choose the Rossi Ranch Hand for, it will deliver. Mine sure does.

Test Gun: Rossi Ranch Hand
Model: RH92-57121
Status: Available
Caliber: .45 COLT
Capacity: 6+1
Barrel Length: 12”
Wood: Brazilian Pine
Action: Lever Action Repeating Pistol
Finish: Matte Blue
UPC: 6-62205-98505-8
Weight: 4 LBS Unloaded
Warranty: Lifetime Repair policy
MSRP: \$579.00 USD
Rossi USA: www.rossiusa.com
Phone: (305) 474-0401 Fax: (305) 623-7506
Mailing Address: 16175 NW 49 Avenue, Miami, FL 33014

SOURCES:
Sierra Bullets: www.sierrabullets.com
Barnes Bullets: www.barnesbullets.com
Rainier Ballistics: www.rainierballistics.com
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Ten-X Ammunition: www.tenxammo.com
Winchester Ammunition: www.winchester.com
Hodgdon Powders: www.hodgdon.com
Hunter leather products: www.huntercompany.com
Shooting Chrony: www.shootingchrony.com



By Al Voth

KESTREL WEATHER METER

Hunting and shooting are outdoor sports and therefore we have to deal with outdoor weather. We need to survive it, predict it and be able to perform in it. Tools like rain slickers, warm boots and shady hats will help us do all these things, but technology has moved us beyond those essentials and we now have weather tools that help forecast outdoor conditions, do compass navigation and boost our shooting skills. If you’re a precision shooter, they are a necessity to squeeze every bit of performance from yourself and your rifle.

I’ve been spending a year carrying around a sample of this technology in the form of a Kestrel 4500 Pocket Weather® Tracker. It’s an electronic wonder capable of measuring and calculating fourteen different environmental conditions. And many of those can be displayed in the form of minimum, maximum and average



readings, as well as charts. There’s more available from this instrument than I regularly use, but if I ever do need them, those functions are accessible.

The ones I do use regularly include the compass feature—which tells me what direction my truck is—and the measurements for wind velocity, altitude, temperature, barometric pressure and humidity. All of which get plugged into the ballistics program that resides in my iTouch. Get all the data right, dial it in properly and a good trigger squeeze has a higher potential of producing a positive outcome.

However, the usefulness of the Kestrel in the field is limited by the quality of the data you input at the range when sighting in your rifle. Entering accurate field data is good, but if you haven’t set an accurate baseline when sighting in, you’re not using your system to its full potential. This Kestrel now sits on the shooting bench beside me, recording data whenever I am chronographing handloads or sighting in a rifle. When chronographing, temperature is the only data I record, but when zeroing I note all of the five previously mentioned conditions.

The Kestrel 4500 runs on two AAA batteries and mine have lasted over a year. The unit comes with a five year warranty and Kestrel even offers a customer care program, which provides a generous trade-in on an old unit in any condition, when another of the same model is purchased to replace it. This is a quality instrument that is compact and lightweight enough to be unnoticeable in a pocket or pouch. It has worked reliably for me in all conditions; and although Alberta is not the place to test its ability to handle extreme heat, it seems to shrug off extreme cold, as it did one minus 40° C morning on a coyote hunt.

And of course, the Kestrel is the ultimate authority when you’re telling a story and relating just how cold, hot or windy it really was out there. With one of these, there is no need to make reference to brass monkeys or hell when describing conditions. Temperature, wind chill and wind speeds are all there for the reading and retelling.

I am, after all, a fairly serious coyote hunter and that has been the primary field use of my instrument. My hit ratio on coyote’s past the quarter-mile mark was almost perfect last year, and this Kestrel was a key part of a system that included an accurate rifle, a reliable scope, precision ammo and a good rangefinder. I went out past 500 yards and will be looking to stretch that considerably further next winter. The Kestrel won’t make those shots for you; it’s only part of an equipment system that has five components. Get quality gear like this for every part of it and your own skills are all you’ll have to worry about.

DAD

How about teaching that BOY of your's to SHOOT straight and true, with a safe, high-grade, real rifle?

**STRONG
ACCURATE
FINEST STEEL
EASY TO CLEAN**

You know it is the ambition of every red blooded Canadian boy to do so, and it is the finest sport in the world to promote steady nerves, clear eye, and that responsible, manly feeling which always leads to success.

It is just as important to teach him after using never to leave his rifle overnight without thoroughly cleaning and oiling the bore; also, how to carry a gun, never to point even an empty gun at anyone in fun, and many other points of SAFETY FIRST too numerous to mention.

Your boy does not naturally know these things. He has got to be taught. It is a very important part of his education. Make him a sportsman, and you will always be proud of him.

Say, Dad, who is better qualified than yourself? You will have a lot of pleasure, besides making this world a Safer Place to Live In.

**A Beauty in Genuine
Black Walnut
Oiled Stock**

This rifle will shoot any make of the following cartridges

- 22 Long Rifle
- 22 Long
- 22 Short
- 22 BB
- 22 CB



**None of
Your Money
is Wasted on
Exchange or
Duty**

\$8.75

Any Place in Canada, for a

**Cooney Canuck
MODEL**

**22 Calibre Bolt Action
Take Down RIFLE with
the**

wonderful 8-grooved, accurate, hard hitting barrel, and the only rifle in the world with a **Safety Half-Cock** on the bolt.

Length of rifle over all 34 inches; length of barrel and receiver 21 inches; length between sights 17 inches; length of stock 21 inches; weight 3½ to 4 lbs; rear sight open "V" and front sight half circular tang; barrel drilled from solid bar of finest manganese alloy barrel steel; stock oiled. Every rifle is shipped in cardboard box, with sturdy cleaning

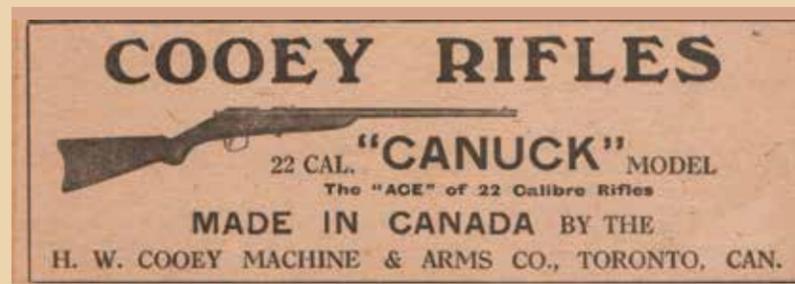
rod and red guarantee card attached. of genuine black walnut. The finest rifle in the world for shooting rabbits and small game; also gophers, ground hogs, crows, hawks, etc. It's the friend of every FARMER, SETTLER and RANCHER, the companion of every Boy, Trapper and Sportsman.

At all good sporting, hardware and general merchants all over Canada. Your store keeper can easily procure you one if they have not one in stock. If your dealer hasn't one we will mail direct to you, all charges paid, upon receipt of above amount, post office order, express order, or cheque.

The H. W. Cooney Machine and Arms Co.
DON'T TAKE A SUBSTITUTE. GET THE GENUINE. OR ORDER DIRECT FROM US. MADE IN CANADA BY
317-321 Howland Avenue, Toronto, Canada

COONEY A Canadian Icon

by G. Scott Jamieson



If ever there was a long lived Canadian manufacturer's success story then surely the H.W. Cooney Machine & Arms Company would be at the pinnacle. What Canadian kid does not have a story to tell of shooting a Cooney made rifle? They managed to remain successful from 1919 to 1961 as an independent firm in the very highly competitive world of small arms manufacturing when many other famous names fell by the wayside through attrition or buyouts. They remained in business under Winchester ownership until February 29, 1980 when the last of the manufacturing staff was let go.

But for the untimely death of Hubert J. Cooney, the founder's son, at the age of 54 it's quite probable that the company would still exist and operate in Cobourg today, producing every young kid's favourite rifles. The fact that the Model 64 semi-auto rifle is still being made in Lakefield, Ontario by the Savage Arms Company in 7 versions (2011) speaks volumes for a rifle introduced in 1964!

H.W. Cooney began his business in 1903 in Toronto as a 'mechanical expert & practical machinist'. His business prospered so that about 1909 he moved to larger premises at 317-321 Howland Avenue in Toronto and remained there until 1929, when the move to Cobourg was made. Herbert W. Cooney only held 2 patents in his lifetime and neither involved firearms. The first patent was Nr. 105125 registered in Canada as "an improvement in Gasoline Engines" and was dated May 7, 1907. His second patent was taken out in both Canada and the U.S. as Nr CA158314 and 1,117,639 respectively. The year was 1914 and the patent concerned a "Portable Life Buoy". He must have known war was imminent. However, it is not known if he ever made any money from the life buoy patent. One story concerning patents and Mr. Cooney was one where he supposedly felt they offered little protection to the inventor-it's been said that a German firm took his engine improvement ideas and he was powerless to do anything about it. This may explain why no Cooney firearms-related patents have been found.

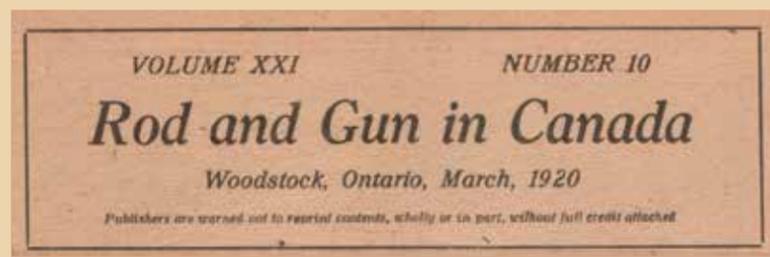
No firearms were actually manufactured until 1919 when the Cooney 'Canuck' rifle was first introduced to market. Prior to that, Cooney mainly concentrated on Government contract work, most notably

as a manufacturer of the Sutherland Sight, a rear sight designed by a Canadian and used on the Ross rifle Mark II and III. ¹ The sight itself was designated as a Mk I or Mk II. The Cooney-made sights have the familiar H.W.C. stamp in an oval on the base. They also made pistol cleaning rods for the military that bore the H.W.C. markings and the British broad arrow marks, but for which war is not known.

The Toronto Howland Avenue years between 1919 and 1929 must have been good ones for Cooney, the Canuck was introduced; and was selling well and according to their advertisements, over 6000 sold in 1922. ² The earliest Canuck advertisement that this writer has found is one from the March, 1920 issue of Rod and Gun in Canada. ^{Plates 1, 2} The loadings advertised were all .22's. By December 1922 the same gun advertised in the same magazine was also chambered for .25 short and long rimfire shells and still selling for \$8.75 in "any part of the dominion". During this time frame they may well have begun production of Eatonia marked rifles for the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., of Toronto so that the small premises they occupied must have become very cramped indeed. The author toured the building on Thursday, April 23, 1992 just as the building was being vacated preparatory to its' demolition and can attest to the fact that the Cooney people achieved nothing short of a minor miracle producing the quantities of rifles they did in such a small building!

As Cooney made so many models of rifles and shotguns under so many different trade names it would be impossible in the short space of this article to discuss them all; rather I have chosen to concentrate on one model, the Model 84 single barrel shotgun and its' offspring. They were manufactured in large quantities and it seems as though they were serial numbered in TWO separate sequences presumably each starting at serial number 1. The Model 84 made H.W. Cooney Machine & Arms Company went to 6 digits, those of the Winchester-Western Model 840 ran to 5 digits. Presumably the Model 37A had its' own set of serial numbers but that is not for certain.

The following information concerning the Model 840-37 was written February 27, 1968 and concerns the assembly of these shotguns and gives a real insider view of production at Cobourg at that time.³ Spelling etc., was left as it was on the original copy to preserve authenticity.



Far right & far left, actual roll dies used in manufacture of Cooney shotguns.

INSPECTION AND SUB-ASSEMBLY OF FRAMES

Frames transported to bench #1 each morning by materials handler (18 boxes-20 frames per box) 360 frames. Girl takes one box at a time from truck to bench and completes her operations and returns rack to truck until all (18) racks are completed. Upon completion of 18 racks materials handler moves racks to outside edge of bench number 4 on floor.

Operations in Sequence

1. Frames from box (20) to bench.
2. Oil frames - inspect for blue.
3. Place in firing pin and retaining screw and tighten.
4. Place in top lever.
5. Place frames back in box cardboard between (20).
6. Place frame box back on truck.

TIME: approx. - 80 per hour - (4 1/2 hours)

ASSEMBLY OF HARDWARE TO FORENDS

Forends transported to bench #1 when operator ready, by materials handler (80 per container) 4 1/2 to 5 containers (360 - 400).

Operations in Sequence

1. Forends from container (10) place upright in holder.
2. Place forend spacer on wood - screw down (2 screws).
3. Forearms from upright position to flat position on bench in holder (10).
4. Place in catch plate and screw down (2 screws)
5. Return forends to container (10).

Continue these operations until container completed (80). Place on floor - continue with another container.

Materials handler picks up and takes to benches 11, 12, 13.

TIME - APPROX. - 105 PER HOUR - (3 1/2 HOURS)

NOTE: THIS PAGE - 1 GIRL - 8 HOURS

Fitting front sight to barrel Bench #2 - Girl

Barrels transported to bench #2 by truck (20) on a truck by materials handler as trucks are emptied up line. -360 - 18 trucks. Stocks for these barrels are also placed on these trucks and continue up line with barrels. These barrels and stocks correspond with frames received by bench #1.

Operations in Sequence

7. Take barrel from rack and tap sight hole.
8. Place sight in fixture and screw into sight hole.
9. Place barrel upright in rack (muzzle up) continue until 20 barrels done.
10. Cut off excess sight in barrel (20).
11. Stake sights in fixture (20).
12. Place rack aside opposite benches 6 and 7 (ready for lug filed to frame).

TIME - approx. 360 - 380 barrels (8 hours) (1 girl)

Assembly of Small Parts Bench #2 - Girl

All parts listed below brought from stores by materials handler.

ASSEMBLY OF CATCH PLATE

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Place spring in plate and hammer to tighten into position.
- 2 Place in holding spring and put pin in.

TIME - 120 per hour - (3 hours)

ASSEMBLY OF COCKING ROD

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Place main spring on rod.
- 2 Grease end of rod and compress spring in jig.
- 3 Place on bushing line up hole in rod and bushing and place in temporary pin.
- 4 Take from jig. Plate 5

TIME - 200 per hour - (2 hours)

LOCKING BOLT ASSEMBLY

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Place locking bolt inside yolk.
 - 2 Put in pin and pin.
- TIME - 120 per hour - (3 hours) (1 Girl - 8 hours)
- NOTE: Catch Plates - upon completion back to bench # 1.

Cocking Rod & locking bolts upon completion up to benches #3, 4 & 5.

Assembly of small parts to frame benches 3, 4, & 5 - 3 Girls

All parts listed below brought by materials handler.

Operations in sequence

- 1 Put in locking bolt and assembly pin.
- 2 Put in locking bolt plunger and spring.
- 3 Put in top lever plunger and spring.
- 4 Put in trigger -spring - and pin.
- 5 Put in hammer and assembly pin.
- 6 Put in cocking rod assembly.
- 7 Check safety and backplay - adjust if necessary.
- 8 Trigger guard and screw assembled to frame upon return from range, of barrel and frame from 1st floor.

Completed frames move forward to benches # 6, & 7 piled outside benches.

NOTE: Range at end of line now under construction on 3rd floor. We hope fixture after modification will be able to fire barrel and frame with trigger guard on.

TIME - approx. 120 - 8 hours (per girl)

FILE BARREL LUG TO LOCKING BOLT Benches #6, 7 15 Men

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Move rack of barrels beside bench.
- 2 Find corresponding rack of frames (numbers).
- 3 Pick frame from box and corresponding barrel.
- 4 Check barrel on frame (make mark on lug with locking bolt).
- 5 File in lug to locking bolt.
- 6 Check hammer for cocking etc.
- 7 Place on rack muzzle up until 20 completed.

Note: racks of 20 then move forward to benches 8, 9 & 10.

TIME - 180 - 220 - 8 hours (per man)

Depends on how much has to be filed from barrel lug.

FIT EXTRACTOR TO BARREL LUG Benches #8, 9 & 10 2.5 men

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Pick up barrel and frame - take apart place frame on bench.
- 2 Cut out inside of lug for burrs.
- 3 File burrs from extractor slot.
- 4 Check extractor in slot (slide in - depth etc.) take out place on bench.
- 5 Put in sear and pin.
- 6 Put in plunger and spring (gauge length of spring).
- 7 Put in extractor.
- 8 Put in extractor stop pin.

- 9 Pin extractor stop pin and sear pin.
- 10 Put in sear trip pin.
- 11 Check extractor depth.
- 12 Check hight (sic) of extractor with shell casing and extraction of casing.
- 13 Place barrel and frame back (sic) on track.
- 14 Continue until 20 on truck completed.

TIME -120-180 per man - 8 hours. Depends on condition of extractors - extractor slot - pin holes in lug. Benches #8, 9 & 10

Fit extractor to barrel lug

NOTE: At present these units now go down to range on 1st floor for proof testing. Box of butt stocks now taken off truck and placed by post opposite benches #11, 12 & 13.

- Range under construction on 3rd floor.
- At present after proofing on 1st floor assemblies are returned and go back to benches #3, 4 & 5 for trigger guard and screw.
- When trigger guards and screws are assembled to frames assemblies then move to stocking benches #11, 12 & 13.

STOCK FITTING - BUTT AND FOREARM Benches # 11, 12 & 13 (3 Men)

Operations in Sequence

- 1 Disassemble frame from barrel.
- 2 Place barrel on bench - frame into stocking fixture.
- 3 Find stock for frame - both numbered.
- 4 Assemble stock to frame - bolt and washer.
- 5 Put second screw in buttplate.
- 6 Take from fixture engage barrel to frame.
- 7 Fit forend.
- 8 Inspect - cocking - backplay - safety - firing pin protrusion. - pull-off-fit of wood - wood finish - blue.
- 9 Place on rack (40) to be removed to packing area #14, 15.

TIME - approx. 120 - per man - 8 hours.

TAKEDOWN FOR PACKER Work Station #14 (Man)

Operations in Sequence

1. Check gun over.
2. Take gun apart.
3. Re-engage forend to barrel.
4. Grease face of frame.
5. Clean - oil inside of barrel.
6. Lay butt stock and frame - barrel and forend on packing table.

PACKING Work Station #15 (Girl)

Operations in Sequence

1. Oil outside of barrel and frame.
2. Attach tag to trigger guard.
3. Fold and make up inner box.
4. Remainder of literature in box.
5. Wrap frame in wax paper.
6. Place butt and frame in box.
7. Place barrel and forend in box.
8. Close box - tape - label.
9. Make up outer carton.
10. Place inner box in five pack.
11. Five guns in outer - close pack - tape - label.
12. From bench to truck - to warehouse.

NOTE: If assemblies proof tested on 3rd floor and firing fixture modified to take trigger guard the frame can be completed by benches 3, 4 & 5 and after extractors completed on benches 8, 9, & 10 can then go to proof test range. Then out to stockers benches 11, 12 & 13.

If fixture made to proof test completed gun (stock on) after proofing the gun could go straight to packing bench for cleaning, oiling and packing. This would mean gun would run straight up line (no backtracking).

(This method used in New Haven)

The numbers of Cooley Model 84's, Winchester -Western 840's and Winchester 37A shotguns produced in Cobourg was prodigious to say the least. The Cooley Model 840 marked "Made in Canada by Winchester" was available in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauge. The Cooley Model 840 marked "Made in Canada" came in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauge. The Winchester-Western Model 840 was produced in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauge. The Winchester Model 37A was produced in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauge. The Winchester Model 370 was produced in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauge. The Sears single shot was produced in 12, 20, and 410 gauge while the Sears Model 684 was produced in 12, 20 and 410 gauge with 2 3/4 and 3" chambering being offered on most gauges. All to this writer's knowledge were full choke except for the 37A youth in 20 gauge-it had an 'improved choke'. Barrel lengths on all of the above ran from 26 to 36 inches. More gauges may well have been available as well. According to the 1977 retail price list the standard Model 37A's commmanded a \$4.00 premium over the Cooley Model 840.

One offbeat model of the Winchester 37 was the 37TR made exclusively for the Thailand market and chambered only in 12 gauge for both 2 3/4 and 3 inch shells. This was the firearm that allegedly caused the Cobourg operation to shut down as the Canadian operation was being used to ship firearms to countries that the U.S. Government had puts arms embargos on. Whether true or not remains to be seen but that was the rumour. The roll dies for the receiver sides are shown and are etched on the flats with the date of 23/9/76. The barrel roll is marked in three lines just over 1/4 inch in height.

Winchester MODEL 37 TR 12 GA 2^{3/4}" & 3" CHAM
FULL CHOKE - WINCHESTER PROOF STEEL
MADE IN CANADA

If you have enjoyed this article and want to see more let your editor know because what you read above is only the 'tip of the iceberg'. There were so many experimental and limited run guns that never saw production that a book on them alone could be written. The author requires much more information especially concerning the Model 64, as for instance who really designed it? All the information gathered will become a future book, so if you have information you would like to add to the story please contact scott.jamieson@sympatico.ca

Books by this author are Bullard Arms (1988), Bullard Firearms (2002); Adirondack Arms is ready to go to publication and both Evans Arms (world's first assault rifle) and Cooley Arms are works in progress.

¹Duguid, Col. A.F. A Question of Confidence. Ottawa, Ontario: Service Publications, 2008.

²Taylor, W.J. Rod and Gun in Canada, Woodstock, Ontario: December, 1922 issue.

³Ure, G.P. archives

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THE CASTING BENCH: *Sharpshooter USA Buckshot Molds*

By Sean G. Penney

Why Cast Buck?

In the face of soaring ammo prices and undependable supply chains created as a result of panic buying and hoarding - brought on by the looming US presidential election - reloading and casting your own projectiles makes more sense than ever. With the growing popularity of tactical and 3-Gun competitions, not to mention the increasing local population of coyotes here in Newfoundland, I recently decided to tackle the one aspect of our hobby that I had consciously avoided until now: casting buckshot!

Alas, my past experiment casting and loading buckshot using an old Lyman double cavity RB mold had been an exercise in pure tedium. Depending on diameter, the 10-20 or more lead pellets needed to complete just a single 12 gauge round of buck simply didn't make it a paying proposition in terms of time expended.

I had given up on the idea entirely until a friend mentioned that he'd just picked up a new dedicated buckshot mold that he couldn't stop raving about. I was gearing up for the fall coyote season at the time and was looking to restock my own supply of #000 buck. Unfortunately, I was to quickly discover that factory buckshot was in extremely short supply locally and what was available was extremely overpriced. All things considered, casting my own buckshot instantly became more attractive. A quick call to my old hunting buddy and one internet search later led me to the website of Sharpshooter USA (www.buckshotmold.com) and their extensive line of multiple-cavity buckshot molds.

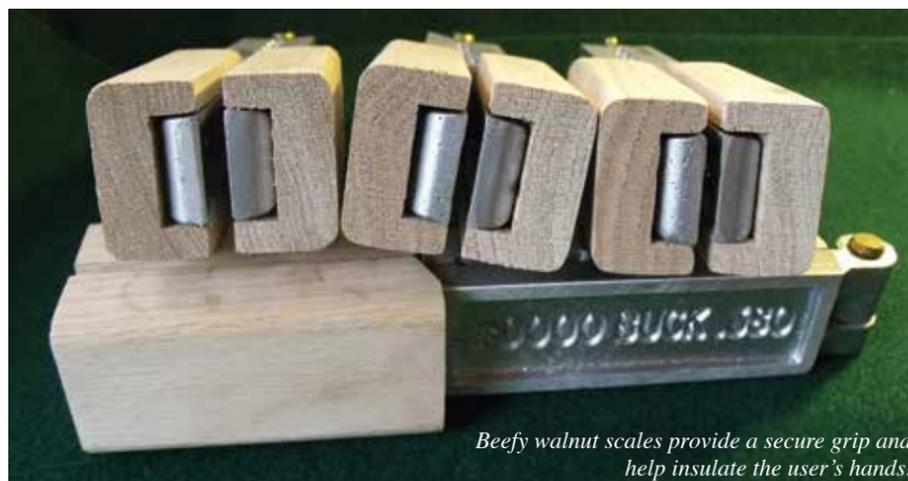


The Sharpshooter Experience

While not the most "polished" commercial website I've ever visited, I couldn't help but be impressed by the variety of molds offered for sale and or the hands-on approach by Sharpshooter USA's owner, Richard Plank. Richard, or "Rick" as he prefers to be called, is extremely customer-oriented and a definite straight-shooter. After discussing my needs with Rick, the very next day several Sharpshooter USA molds were in a USPS Global Priority mailer headed to Newfoundland by way of Peck, Kansas; Sharpshooter USA's base of operations.

I was not disappointed when my order arrived about a week later. While my immediate quarry was the wily Newfoundland Coyote, my secondary objective was to find a cost-effective and accurate buckshot load suitable for 3-Gun competition. The latter sport is exploding in popularity across North America and being able to load your own buck loads for pennies on the dollar just makes economic sense.

With these two objectives in mind I selected the #0 (.32 cal), #000 (.36 cal), & #0000 (.38 cal) molds by Sharpshooter USA.



Beefy walnut scales provide a secure grip and help insulate the user's hands.

I had planned on ordering a #00 buck (.33 cal) as well, but Rick informed me that they were currently sold-out. Rather than wait for a backorder, I took Rick's suggestion and tried their latest innovative design, the "Combo Mold" that offers the ability to cast both #00 and #4 (.24 cal) buckshot pellets. I'm glad I did, as you basically are getting two molds in one!



Top: Detailed instructions are provided with every Sharpshooter USA mold & if you purchase two or more a complimentary set of flush cutters are also included. Right: #0000 buckshot, as dropped fresh from the mold, left-over sprues and the finished pellets.

First Impressions

At first glance, the Sharpshooter USA designs may seem a little crude in comparison to the more finely finished molds from larger commercial makers like RCBS or Lyman. However, looks can be deceiving and as a firm believer in form following function it wasn't long before I became a believer in Sharpshooter USA products.

One of the taglines that Rick uses to describe his molds on the website is that, "All Sharpshooter molds are crafted in the USA by shooters for shooters." While I can appreciate a genuine made in the USA product for its own merits, it readily became self-evident that Sharpshooter molds really are designed by shooters for shooters. Rick focused his attention on the design features that were most important and ignored everything else. The end result is a functional, durable product that may very well outlast its original owner.

Each aluminum alloy mold has "Sharp Shooter USA" cast into its left side and the pellet size cast in the right, making mold identification fast and easy. Externally, the molds appear a little rougher than many others in my collection. Some minor cosmetic casting imperfections were found, but always in non-critical areas. There were also some minor machining marks and cosmetic scratches to be found on the outside surfaces of the review molds.

Certainly, more time could have been spent polishing out casting lines and machine marks to make a "prettier" mold, but thankfully Rick and the team at Sharpshooter USA instead chose to concentrate on the things that really matter, the internals. As such, the face and cavities of all Sharpshooter USA molds are precision CNC machined and not cast in. As a result, casters can expect to produce a superior quality pellet from these molds. Carefully inspecting every single cavity of all four review molds I failed to find a single flaw or machining flub. Actual product testing later confirmed this conclusion.

Value

Potential buyers need bear in mind that Sharpshooter USA molds are manufactured to a specific price point to ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to shooters of all means. The Sharpshooter's nearest rival, the new LEE #00 buckshot mold, is considerably more expensive and here in Canada I've seen it retail for more than double the \$34.95USD for the Sharpshooter USA product. I'd call that one

heck of a bargain! Shipping is extra, but like Sharpshooter molds themselves, is quite reasonable at just \$12.95USD to Canada. At that price, the Sharpshooter USA team can ship up to three molds at no extra cost and if you purchase two or more, they will include a complimentary set of flush cutters for sprue removal as a bonus.

Incidentally, all Sharpshooter molds from size #F (.22) through #000 (.36) cast 20 pellets at a time, while the #0000 (.38) casts ten. In comparison, the LEE #00 buckshot mold casts just 18 pellets at a time and is not available in any other calibers. According to the Sharpshooter USA team, they presently offer buckshot molds in sizes of: #F .22 (5.58mm), #4 .240 (6.09mm), #3 .250 (6.35mm), #2 .270 (6.85mm), #1 .300 (7.62mm), #0 .310 (7.87mm), #0 .320 (8.12mm), #00 .330 (8.38mm), .35 BALL (8.89mm), #000 .360 (9.14mm), #0000 .380 (9.65mm). There is little question that in terms of sheer capacity and caliber options Sharpshooter USA remains an industry leader.

The Molds

Sharpshooter molds are manufactured out of a tough aluminum alloy and are 12" in length, with the two halves

combining for a depth of 1 ½ “by 1” wide in a basic clamshell design. The two halves are mated together by a stout brass hinge. Consistent alignment of the halves is assured via a ball & socket alignment “pin” system that works quite well.

Machined in the top and bottom of the mold are a series of gate cavities that channel the alloy into the pellet cavities and provide a sprue reservoir from which extra metal is drawn as the pellets solidify. Average weight is approximately 18 ounces.

Unlike most other make of mold, it isn’t necessary to purchase extra handles, as the one-piece Sharpshooter mold design incorporates integral cast aluminum handles. For added insulation, thick hardwood scales have been added to each and secured by two stainless steel screws. The end result is a very beefy grip that does a good job in keeping heat away from the caster’s hands. However, thickly insulated leather work gloves or welders mitts are a good idea, as the inside flat of the aluminum handles is exposed and could cause a burn.

Casting with Sharpshooter

In my 20 years of casting experience I have always found that you get back what you put into each casting effort. Casting with the Sharpshooter molds is no different. Proper mold prep is key. As a rule, I always clean and degrease all new molds, regardless of maker. Once dry, I prefer to liberally smoke each cavity over a pure beeswax candle until everything is nicely blackened and sooty. Smoking the cavities ensures a clean release of the cast bullet or pellet, aids in fill-out and permits the caster to maintain a good casting tempo. To prevent undue wear, any pins or hinges are then treated with a quality, high-temp lubricant.

The included instruction sheet with each Sharpshooter mold advises owners that for best results the mold needs to be very

hot. I confirmed this personally after a little experimentation and discovered the “sweet” spot for my Sharpshooter molds was 760 °F using my RCBS Pro-Melt. Even so, pre-heating your mold is an absolute must. Resting it on the top of your lead pot works fine, but since I usually prefer to cast with multiple molds at one time, I picked up a 8 ½”X11” piece of ¼” aluminum plate from my local welding shop’s scrap bin. In combination with my Coleman camp stove, this improvised heating plate allow me to pre-heat multiple molds at one time and keep them hot without having to worry about scorched handles, etc...

Even if you turn your lead pot’s thermometer to maximum and you pre-heat your mold, in all likelihood you will still need to do 3-4 practice pours to get the mold up to proper temperature. You can expect malformed pellets and poorly filled cavities until you get your mold up to temp. Thereafter, with proper practice and technique, you can average up to 95% fill-out rates depending on the alloy you use. Typically the harder the alloy, the more difficult it is to achieve 100% fill-out rates.

While it is possible to dip cast using a proper lead ladle, your fill-out rate will go down and you will have to work much harder and faster to keep your mold at the proper temperature. An electric bottom pour lead pot like the RCBS Pro-Melt, or the larger Lyman or LEE pots is really recommended and you’ll be able to wring-out the very best your Sharpshooter mold has to offer using one.

In terms of actual casting technique, you simply guide the mold under the pot’s spout, pausing just long enough to completely fill each gate cavity and leave a small sprue puddle on top. Give the puddle a moment or two to harden and then flip the mould upside down and repeat with the second line of cavities.



Two molds in one, the Sharpshooter USA Combo Mold offers the ability to cast both #00 & #4 buckshot.

There is no traditional sprue cutter with the Sharpshooter mold, so you will need to break the bond the sprue puddle has made between the mold halves after the alloy has had a moment to fully harden. The best method found was to simply give the mould several sharp raps with a hardwood dowel. This is where the beefy clamshell design of the Sharpshooter comes into play. Once partially cracked open, it is a simply a matter of grasping the handles and fully opening the mold.

In my experience, most pellets will drop free of their own accord, but occasionally you may have one or two twinned pairs of pellets still joined by the sprue stick momentarily. Another gentle tap of the hinge should be sufficient to dislodge the recalcitrant pellets. After casting thousands of buckshot, I’ve not yet found it necessary to resort to the use of pliers or any other tool to pry open any Sharpshooter mold or to remove stuck pellets. Technique and proper mold prep trumps brute force every time.

I like a hard pellet for better penetration, so I normally prefer to water quench the still hot buckshot by dropping them directly into a bucket of water. After they are dry I use the flush cutter provided by Sharpshooter to cut off the remainder sprue. Standard side cutters or wire cutters should not be used as they have beveled edges and will not cleanly remove all of the sprue. For best results, stick with the proper flush cutters, which are available from most hobby stores.

With a little practice I am sure that even a relatively novice caster should have no trouble learning how to minimize the size of the sprue puddle needed and still maintain a 90% or better fill-out with the Sharpshooter. The same goes for timing. If you flip the mold too soon, without allowing the alloy to harden sufficiently, your fill-out rate will plummet and your reject rates will go way up.

Once all sprues have been cut and the buckshot is essentially ready for loading I normally take the time to liberally coat every pellet with LEE’s liquid ALOX lube. To apply, I simply dump the finished pellets into a coffee can, add the desired measure of liquid lube and replace the cover. Shake or roll the can to coat the pellets and dump the entire mess onto old thrift store cookie sheets lined with waxed paper and allow to dry. While a little messy, I find this last step does aid in ease of reloading and cuts down on barrel leading should you desire to substitute the appropriate caliber cast pellets for percussion revolver projectiles.

Newly cast #0000 buckshot with sprues removed & waiting to be lubed and loaded.

The End Product

After extensive load testing and shot patterning, I am now a true believer in both the practicality of casting your own buckshot and Sharpshooter USA molds. There is no question that I wouldn’t be having as much fun as I presently am, experimenting with different sizes of buck, choke restrictions and loads, without the fantastic molds offered by Sharpshooter USA. Having the capability of



Sharpshooter USA molds typically cast 20 buckshot at a time, with the exception of the larger .38 caliber #0000 mold seen here. It casts only 10 pellets per pour.



dropping such a large volume of buckshot at one time has finally made buckshot casting

practical and affordable. Aside from smoking it, Sharpshooter USA molds arrive ready-to-cast and even novice casters should have little trouble getting one into action. Best of all, Sharpshooter USA molds offer one of the most superlative values on the market today and you’re almost guaranteed to recoup the cost of your mold in just one or two sessions with your favourite lead pot. Do yourself a favour and check out the Sharpshooter USA website www.buckshotmold.com. You won’t regret it!





Western Lawmen

Sheriff Pat Garrett

- Part II

by Jesse Wolf Hardin

Billy the Kid was dead at the hands of his former saddle pard and erstwhile “pal” Pat Garrett. However it went down and whatever rewards Garrett thought to collect from the slaying, the killing of the Kid ultimately brought him little acclaim and much derision. The territorial government was again reluctant to pay him a reward. Seeking to cash in on his notoriety, Garrett asked a journalist and drinking buddy – Ashmun Upson – to help him write a book casting him in a more noble and courageous light. The result, *The Authentic Life of Billy The Kid, the Noted Desperado of The Southwest Whose Deeds of Daring and Blood Made His Name a Terror in New Mexico, Arizona, and Northern Mexico* was rushed to print in 1882. However, sales were dismal due to Upson’s whiskey-addled attempts at promotion and Garrett’s growing disrepute. Sticking the book with a title that was the equivalent of a librarian’s nightmare did little to help things.

Some sources say he ran again for Lincoln County Sheriff in 1882, others state with certainty that it was for Sheriff of Grant County that he ran for, but all agree that he lost by a landslide. The Rio Grande Republican newspaper dubbed Garrett “ungrateful and egotistical”, after which Pat hunted down the suspected writer and clubbed him with his Colt. He then joined up with his old rustling partner Mason, and answered the Texas governor’s call for a state-funded militia to “protect” large ranching interests against what were believed to be the encroachments of a growing number of small independent ranchers. Garrett was again aligned with the rich and privileged, and may have found himself an accomplice-after-the-fact to the murders of a number of small ranchers and squatters he’d helped to “bring to justice” at the larger landowner’s behest.

Garrett was to eventually settle, at least temporarily, in Uvalde, Texas, for what were the most peaceful three and a half years of his life... peaceful enough to bore the heck out of him. In 1888, Garrett co-founded an investment company to divert water to farms in the Pecos Valley, but was soon pushed out by more savvy and better funded partners. Then in 1889, Garrett briefly returned to New Mexico to try one last time to win himself a sheriff’s job, this time in Chaves County, but he was soundly trounced once again. His final reprise in law enforcement would be in 1896, when he sold his Uvalde property to accept a position as a private detective working for then Governor Thornton, and was subsequently appointed Doña Ana County Sheriff. In this role, Garrett would expend much effort chasing



Patrick Floyd Garrett styled himself after the Territory’s powerful politicians and rich businessmen, though his alcoholism and explosive temper meant that the stern gunman would never really be accepted by the fraternity he served.

the \$2000 reward for the killer or killers of the controversial lawyer, Albert Fountain and his nine year old son.

Fountain had just secured an indictment for rustling against ranch hands Oliver Lee, William McNew and James Gililand in Lincoln. As he was returning home to Las Cruces using a little known stretch of road through White Sands, Fountain and his son were apparently ambushed and gunned down in cold blood. All that was ever found was the bloodied buckboard they rode in.

With the primary suspects closely aligned with a politician by the name of Fall, Garrett waited two years before presenting his evidence to the court. During that time he attempted to enlist in Col. Theodore Roosevelt’s volunteers, the Rough Riders, an army unit whose ranks were being filled by rugged

westerners from lawmen and cowboys to patriotic outlaws, but for whatever reason they wouldn’t accept Garrett. His “legend” preceded him.

Left with little choice but to continue in his role as local lawdog, Garrett finally managed to secure indictments in the Fountain case in 1898. The first suspect McNew was quickly arrested, while Lee and Gililand went into hiding. Garrett and five deputies surprised them on July 12th, but the two desperate men answered the attack with such heavy and accurate gunfire that Pat and his posse decided to beat a fast retreat, leaving behind Deputy Kurt Kearney. Wounded in the battle, Kearney was left face down in the dirt and eventually bled-out. His killers, Lee and Gililand, escaped to another judicial district where they eventually surrendered, were tried on charges of first degree murder, exonerated and released.

By 1889 Garrett’s drinking and gambling had gotten way out of hand, downing bitter cups filled at the hand of multiple disappointments. Never one to pay his debts, either to financial institutions or to friends, he was now at 50 years old facing the seizure of his New Mexico property over money owed to the Albuquerque Commerce Bank. Desperate for cash, his few influential friends took pity on him and petitioned the now President Theodore Roosevelt to appoint Pat as Customs Collector in El Paso, emphasizing Garrett’s Wild West credentials and killing of Billy The Kid to the West-loving president.

True to form, however, within six months Garrett faced court action over the way he had appraised cattle, and by 1903 a petition was circulated by irate importers and sent to the government to

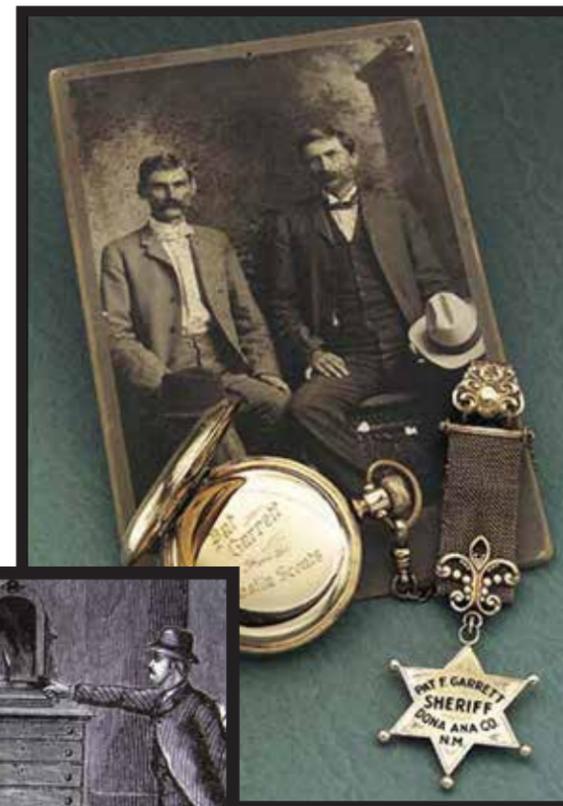


This illustration from Ashmun Upson’s *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid* portrays Garrett’s fanciful version of the gunning down of Billy the Kid in a pitch dark room. Garrett’s story was cast into doubt by the absence of either a knife or revolver at the scene, though few doubted the practicality of ambushing the extremely dangerous Kid when he was at his most vulnerable.

demand his removal. Multiple complaints of impropriety and corruption resulted in the U. S. Treasury Department launching an investigation, and the local Republican political machine lobbied hard to get rid of him. They resented that Pat had switched his allegiance from Democrat to Republican solely to qualify for the position, and they railed against his “Godless drinking”, habitual gambling, and harsh criticism of the church.

As far as the administration was concerned, the final straw came in 1905 when Garrett lied when introducing a buddy to the President at a Rough Rider reunion, billing the crooked owner of the Coney Island Bar – Bill Powers – as a respectable Texas cattleman. When it was pointed out to him, Roosevelt was incensed, and any thoughts of his defending Garrett’s appointment were dashed for good.

By 1907, Pat was nearly debilitated by his alcoholism and his constant gambling and public brawling, never-ending personal vendettas and maltreatment and abuse of his few remaining friends eventually led to him abandoning his wife and children. He eventually took up company with a local



Here is a photo of Garrett reportedly taken shortly before he was shot and killed, posed along with the watch and badge from his earlier days.

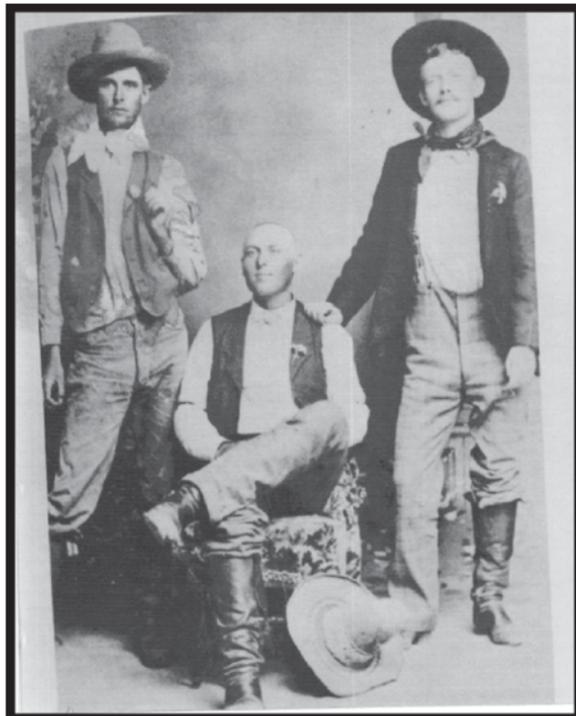
prostitute named “Mrs. Brown,” and they moved in together. However, Garrett’s gambling and personal debts continued to pile-up, eventually causing the ever more cantankerous Garrett to decide to take up residence on his remaining piece of property, a small ranch he’d acquired during better times. Nearly bankrupt at the time, it was then that his main creditor, the rancher W.W. Cox, convinced Pat to lease the ranch to one of his employees. After much convincing, Garret gave a five year lease to Cox’s employee, one Jesse Wayne Brazel. Much to his outrage, Garret would later discover that Brazel intended to graze much despised goats, rather than cattle. In 1908 Garrett received an offer to buy the ranch outright, but only if he could break the lease with Brazel and remove the goats. Brazel, however, refused. Interestingly enough, the cash offer to buy the Garrett place was made by one of the most notorious of all bushwhackers, “Killin’ Jim” Miller. Miller was definitely not someone you’d care

to cross under the best of circumstances. Brazel’s intransigence would have fatal consequences.

On what turned out to be the last day of his life, Garrett took a ride in a buckboard, seemingly intent on trying one last time to change Brazel’s mind. At the reins of the rig was Carl Adamson,

Miller's brother-in-law. It wasn't long into their trip that the pair happened upon Brazel. The animosity between the latter and Garrett had only been magnified by Garrett's desire to buy-out Brazel's lease. Like most western cowmen, Ol' Pat hated Brazel's goats with a passion, but he hated Brazel even more for refusing to sell the lease back to him and screwing up the much-needed sale.

Adamson later testified that there were only three of them present at the fateful meeting. As he told it, he had been standing next to Garrett, engaged in answering the same call of nature as his travelling companion, when the fatal shots were fired. Both allegedly had their backs turned away from the nearby wagon in which Brazel was riding at the time. Adamson told the same court of law that he had heard Garrett make increasingly ominous threats against Brazel, and that he had not been surprised to turn around and see the aggrieved Brazel holding a still smoking Colt revolver in his hand. Adamson further stated that Brazel then handed him the gun and voluntarily joined him on the wagon for the ride back to town to surrender. What's certain is that Brazel was soon released on a \$10,000 bond provided by a cadre of ranchers headed by Cox, Brazel's employer, who he professed complete loyalty to. The remarkable speed with which this money was collected led to no small amount of suspicion being cast upon Adamson's chronicle of the confrontation and the events surrounding Garrett's death. It also raised questions as to the anti-Garrett clique's possible foreknowledge or connivance in Garrett's elimination.



Wayne Brazel, seated, gladly confessed to shooting Garrett after Pat had threatened him, but his confidence and the support he had waiting for him indicated to many there had been a conspiracy to finally get rid of the troublesome part-time lawman.

Brazel's trial started on April 19th, 1909, with Albert B. Fall taking charge of the defense. His argument was a common one in the West, that he had made a pre-emptive strike against Garrett in the face of mortal danger, -- the same exact argument once made by Garrett to explain his murder of the Kid. Brazel claimed that Pat was trying to reach his always loaded shotgun, and that he had to shoot first in order to save his life.

Indications that there was more to Garrett's killing -- that others may have been in on it, or that it may not have even been Wayne Brazel who fired the fatal shots -- are both numerous, and nearly overwhelming. To begin with, Adamson and Brazel left the body where it lay rather than bringing it to town as then would have been the custom, especially odd behaviour given

that Adamson was supposed to have been Pat's friend. It was believed that Garrett's shotgun was still in the wagon and not in his hands, and that it was loaded with bird shot better suited for quail rather than the buckshot it would be loaded with if he was expecting trouble. Brazel's revolver was never checked to see if rounds had recently been fired, and the accuracy of the killing shot was more indicative of a rifle shot. A later investigating officer raised more questions when empty brass rifle shells were found on a spot overlooking the kill site, along with the tracks of a fourth man. Compounding the issue was the fact that so many well-to-do and politically influential people had quickly paid the cost of Brazel's bail and later legal defense. Furthermore, Adamson, the only known eyewitness, was never called to the stand. No autopsy report has come to light to prove whether the bullet that killed him entered from the front or back. And the prosecutor later made only unenthusiastic assertions during the trial, with only the briefest of examinations of the witnesses and the accused.

A number of writers agree with me that Pat was most likely slain by an unseen rifleman hidden at the prearranged ambush site, very possibly Adamson's brother-in-law Killin' Jim... and that if Wayne Brazel fired at all, it may only have been a second round fired into Garrett's abdomen after he was already dead on the ground. After all, how is it that a peace-loving young goat rancher, who wasn't known for even carrying a gun, could cold-bloodedly (and dare I point out, accurately) put a revolver round through the center of Garrett's skull with seeming little hesitation? If they really had been having a heated argument, as Adamson testified, why in heck would a seasoned, crusty, and

lately downright paranoid man leave his weapon in the wagon and turn his back on Brazel to urinate? And what was it that made Brazel's supporters so certain of an acquittal, that they started getting together beef and a band for a big dance party and barbeque weeks before a verdict was due to be handed down? Some Western lawmen that I have studied have been revealed to be seemingly admirable beyond question, while most others proved a decidedly mortal mix of valuable qualities and lamentable traits, performing good and not so good deeds in the overall furtherance of public safety and order. Only one, Patrick F. Garrett, triggered what ended up a territory-wide celebration... by dying with his pride in his hands.

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The International Front

THE ATT IS NOT DEAD YET: WHY YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED

By Gary Mauser

On July 27, the UN failed to reach consensus on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Some have crowed happily about this failure, but this setback did not kill the ATT. This summer's conference was just the opening act; the ATT will reappear again this fall at the UN General Assembly, where it will be much easier to pass. Instead of requiring a consensus to make a decision, all the General Assembly requires is a two-thirds vote. Remember, the disarmament lobby is well funded and relentless; the UN is determined to pass the ATT. Don't be fooled: the UN wants your guns.

The stated goal of the ATT is to establish for the first time common international standards for authorizing international arms transfers, including basic regulations and approval protocols that would improve transparency and accountability. Its prime purpose, according to the latest draft, is to "prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion to illegal and unauthorized end use." The ATT would also prohibit signatories from transferring conventional weapons that violate arms embargoes or enable those who, in the eyes of a UN committee, are likely "to commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes." More than a few countries are concerned that this gives too much control of arms shipments to the UN.

The ATT is pie in the sky. History has shown that it is impossible through treaties or written agreements to prevent genocides or war crimes. Chamberlain's agreement in Munich in 1938 didn't stop Hitler; nor could 16 UN's Security Council resolutions stop Saddam Hussein in the 1990s. The UN was helpless to stop massacres in Srebrenica and Rwanda after disarming the population. Nevertheless, the UN is determined to take guns away from civilians in a misguided effort to prevent the commission of "genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes."

Disarming law-abiding citizens merely enables tyrants. Professor RJ Rummel, a world-renowned genocide scholar, estimates that, in the 20th century, alone, 262 million innocent

victims have been killed by their own government. These are peacetime murders and do not include war casualties.

When the UN General Assembly meets in September, it will review the report of the negotiating conference and be able to pass the ATT. Proponents plan to ram it through despite the opposition of important countries, such as China and Russia. Other countries, like Canada and the United States, are critical but support the ATT in principle. Despite its announced support, Canada is quite likely to work behind the scenes to amend or stop the ATT.

UN diplomats have predicted that the treaty could be adopted by the end of the year. Among the treaties adopted by the UN General Assembly by a two-thirds majority are the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1996), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

Principal anti-gun Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Who are the mysterious NGOs behind the push for civilian disarmament? Four anti-gun NGOs are the most prominent: Amnesty International, Control Arms, IANSA and Oxfam, but there are literally thousands of anti-gun groups involved in UN's disarmament activities. While they are explicit about their goal to disarm civilians, they closely guard their finance and funding information. Despite their media prominence, they lurk in the shadows. These snapshots have been taken from readily available sources on the web.

Amnesty International (AI)

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization focused on human rights with over 3 million members and supporters around the world. The objective of the organization

is "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated."

Amnesty International is financed largely by fees and donations from its worldwide membership. Their website says that AI does not accept donations from governments or governmental organizations, in order to "... allow AI to maintain full independence from any and all governments, political ideologies, economic interests or religions". Nevertheless, AI acknowledges that it receives grants from the UK Department for International Development, the European Commission, the United States State Department and other governments. Criticism of Amnesty International includes claims of excessive pay for management and associating with organizations with a dubious record on human rights protection.

Control Arms

Control Arms is a campaign jointly run by Amnesty International, IANSA and Oxfam International. Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty that will protect lives and livelihoods. A "bulletproof" Arms Trade Treaty means an international legally binding agreement that will stop transfers of arms and ammunitions that fuel conflict, poverty and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

IANSA

The International Action Network on Small Arms claims to be the global movement against gun violence, linking civil society organizations working to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. IANSA supports efforts to make people safer by improving firearm regulation and strengthening controls on arms transfers. IANSA is composed of a wide range of organizations concerned with small arms, including policy development organizations, national gun control groups, women's groups, research institutes, aid agencies, faith groups, survivors, human rights and community action organizations.

IANSA is estimated to represent over 800 gun control organizations in 120 countries. IANSA opposes the use of firearms for self-defense. It advocates prohibiting the private possession of many kinds of small arms, including semi-automatic rifles and handguns. IANSA's work has been funded by the Governments of Belgium, Sweden and Norway, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Compton Foundation, the Ploughshares Fund, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Samuel Ruben Foundation UNICEF, and Christian Aid.

Oxfam

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations networked together in more than 90 countries, as part of a global movement for change, to build a future free from the injustice of poverty. They work directly with communities and seek to influence the powerful to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them.

Conclusion

The fight to stop the UN from disarming civilians is an on going battle. Canada's NFA, along with the American NRA, the Second Amendment Foundation, and the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (the WFSA), are among the very few NGOs registered with the UN who defend the rights of civilians to own firearms. The Canadian government under Stephen Harper has taken a more critical position on the ATT than did the former Liberal governments of Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin. If you want to help stop the UN gun grabbers, I would urge you not to give up. Educate yourself. Your support for the Conservative Party of Canada and the organizations that defend your right to own and use firearms could make a difference.

For more information:

Amnesty International

<http://www.amnesty.ca>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International

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Rummel, RJ Professor

<http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/LIST.HTM>

Shooting the Legends

By Jeff Helsdon

North America's two most popular bolt-action rifles are both celebrating big anniversaries this year.

Winchester's Model 70, which first hit the market in 1937, will celebrate a 75th anniversary. The Remington Model 700 is turning 50. Both are celebrating with commemorative edition rifles.

The Model 70 was marketed as "The Rifleman's Rifle". It has gone through small changes in its 75-year history and is the subject of the storied writings of famed outdoor writer Jack O'Connor, who elevated the gun to legendary status.

In 1935, the first Model 70s were completed to replace the Model 54. The first few didn't leave the factory, and it was 1937 before the gun was produced in commercial quantities and shipped to distributors. Several changes came in with the new gun, including: a hinged floorplate, an improved safety, a gas port and an adjustable trigger.

The Model 70 was known for its reliable controlled round feed, strong Mauser-type action and accuracy.

Initially, the Model 70 was offered in six different calibers. From 1937 to 1964, it was produced in 17 calibers. Several different models were offered, including varmint models, the Alaskan, African and Westerner, and six different barrel lengths. The Featherweight is now one of the more popular models.

One change from 1937 to 1964 was refinements in the safety to the three-position safety the Model 70 is known for today. Initially, the safety was in the line of sight when in the fire position to the present design on the side of the receiver. In the back position, the gun won't fire and the bolt is locked. The middle position allows the bolt to be cycled to load or unload, but the trigger can't be pulled. Pushed all the way forward, the safety is in fire position.

Famed outdoor writer Jack O'Connor helped to build the Model 70 as an icon. The Outdoor Life shooting editor used a Model 70 in .270 Winchester.

The Model 70 was the first commercially successful bolt-action rifle as North American shooters migrated to the bolt action as the rifle of choice. Following the Second World War, Winchester had a bullseye on the market. The Model 70 had a solid reputation and demand. By the mid-1950s, advances in



Winchester Model 70 (top), Remington Model 700 (bottom).

manufacturing technology started to present a challenge that drove up the price on the Model 70 while newer competitor's guns were more economical.

Rising production costs and increased competition reached the point the Model 70 became a money-loser for Winchester. This was a far cry from being the centerpiece of its line a decade earlier.

In 1964, Winchester unveiled its new Model 70, produced with modern methods and hopefully the answer to its marketing woes. Gone was the Controlled Round Feed – which was replaced by push-feed – and the barrels were refloated and no longer screwed to the fore-end. Hand checkering on the stock was replaced with press checkering. As a cost-cutting measure, the nickel steel of the pre-'64s was replaced with chrome-molybdenum steel.

The end result was a gun the public didn't like. Stock changes resulted in a gun less handsome than the traditional Model 70 and wide gaps between the floating barrel and stock collected brush while hunting. Over the next few years, Winchester refined the new Model 70 and corrected these problems.

Problems behind, some argued that the new Model 70s shot better than its pre-'64 predecessors. With free-floating barrels at the least, it should have shot more consistent.

In the 1990s, Winchester introduced the Model 70 with a Classic option that brought back Controlled Round Feed. Now shooters could choose which version of the Model 70 they wanted. Winchester followed the path of other manufacturers and introduced synthetic stocks in its line-up.

Following Browning's purchase of Winchester, production of the Model 70 moved from the New Haven, Connecticut facility where Winchester guns were made since 1866 to the Browning factory in South Carolina. A new variant of the Model 70 was launched from the new plant.



The Remington Model 700 is tested for accuracy while the Winchester Model 70 waits its turn.

The 75th anniversary edition has Grade IV/V wood and the 75th anniversary emblem engraved on the bottom. It is offered in .30/06 Springfield.

The Model 700

Twenty-five years after the Model 70 was launched, and about the time it was faltering, Remington released its first Model 700. The initial purpose was to produce a stronger rifle for the higher pressures of Remington's newly-released caliber, the 7 mm magnum, which was the first caliber the rifle was offered in. Both the Model 700 and the 7 mm Remington Magnum became huge successes.

It was advertised as "the world's strongest bolt-action" and earned a reputation for accuracy. Unlike the original Model 70, the Model 700 was designed for ease of manufacturing using the latest technology at the time.

The strength of the Model 700 is its three rings of steel. Its recessed bolt face completely encloses the cartridge. The barrel then surrounds the bolt shroud and the barrel is threaded into the receiver. The Model 700 action is also a popular choice as the basis for custom-built guns.

It became the best-selling bolt-action rifle in the world. The Model 700 has sold more than five million units, making it the more popular bolt-action commercial rifle.

The Model 700 came on the heels of the 721 and 722, which were introduced in 1948. The original model was a BDL, which was short for B-Deluxe Grade. These models featured B Grade American walnut stock and the checkered bolt the Model 700 has become known for. Other prominent features were the fleur-de-lis checkering, white-line spacers on the black fore-end and pistol grips caps. The 700's good looks helped boost sales further.

Over the years, other models followed. The ADL, which was a plainer version of the BDL, has been around for years and has been replaced by the SPS. Other versions include the CDL, Safari, Mountain Rifle, varmint models and even a muzzleloading variant. The Model 700 has been produced in more than 25 calibers. Synthetic stocks and stainless steel barrels are now part of the line.

The safety on the Model 700 is two positions – on or off – safety can remain on while loading or unloading. Originally, with the safety on, the bolt was locked to prevent accidental release, but that changed for safety's sake.

Like the Model 70, the Model 700 hasn't been without controversy. In 2010, a controversy arose, alleging the rifles produced before 2007 could fire without the trigger being pulled. CNBC found thousands of complaints and more than 75 lawsuits. Former

Remington employee Merle Walker, who designed the Model 700 trigger, came forward talking about Remington ignored his recommendation in the rifle's development stages and went with a more economical trigger. Remington denied the allegations, saying human error or poor maintenance was to blame for misfires. The company has since changed its trigger design.

The 50th anniversary edition is offered in 7mm Remington Magnum with a 24-inch satin-finish blued barrel. It features B grade American walnut stock, classic BDL features and a black vented recoil pad. It is drilled and tapped for a scope, has a four-shot magazine and adjustable X-Mark Pro externally-adjustable trigger. A 50th anniversary logo is laser-engraved into the magazine floor plate.

Redefining an industry

Classics both, the Remington Model 700 and Winchester Model 70 paved the way for the conversion of the preferred rifle action from the lever to the bolt. Many manufacturers now produce bolt actions, but the accuracy of these classics laid the groundwork for other manufacturers to live up to.

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