

GUN COLLECTORS NEWS

NEW MEXICO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION MAR / APR 2008

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NMGCA Membership Dues:

Annual renewal for
regular members,
under age 62, is
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Renewal for spouse:
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A Call to Arms

Bush Anti-gun Brief Deals Blow

By Paul C. Lisle

The Bush Administration dealt a devastating blow to gun owners when U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement submitted an anti-gun brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the D.C. handgun ban that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear.

In summary, the brief stated "unrestricted" private ownership of guns clearly threatens the public safety, the Second Amendment can be interpreted to allow a variety of gun restrictions. Gun rights are limited and since they are subject to "reasonable regulation," all gun limits imposed by the federal government should be affirmed as constitutional.

"Given the unquestionable threat to public safety that unrestricted private firearm possession would entail, various categories of firearm-related regulation are permitted by the Second Amendment." The brief also stated that banning private ownership of handguns by D.C. citizens was a reasonable restriction and that the case be sent back to the trial court so that the court can take evidence on everything from how much the District needs the law to whether people can defend themselves without pistols and just what the D.C. trigger lock law means. It would take another four years for the case to work back for a hearing in the Supreme Court, if ever. Sending the case back to the trial court would put our gun rights in extreme jeopardy. There is an old saying that the GOP operates on two principles: screw your friends and appease your enemies.

What is needed in New Mexico as well as the whole country is a "Gun-Free-Zone Liability Act. In the wake of recent public shootings, it has been proven that "Gun-Free-Zones" are a real danger to the honest people that are in attendance without their guns. The proposed law only

See Call to Arms, Page two

Contribution Receives Thank You From NRA

The following is a letter to the NMGCA Treasurer for the NMGCA's pledge to the NRA Foundation. The letter was signed by Wayne Sheets, Executive Director, the NRA Foundation, Inc.

"Thank you and your association for your pledge payment of \$5,000.00 to the NRA Foundation's New Mexico Gun Collectors Association Endowment to benefit the National Firearms Museum.

"Our goal through the NRA Foundation's National Firearms Museum Endowment is to ensure that future generations will always be able to learn about our national firearms heritage and Constitutional freedom. Your association's contribution plays a vital part in our efforts to permanently endow this treasure that celebrates America's liberty, history, artistry, and technology.

"Thank you for your commitment to our endowment-building efforts. We are fortunate to count you among those dedicated to the future of NRA, the Second Amendment and freedom."

Call to Arms from page one

addresses the negligent nature of such zones, making those responsible for disarming innocent bystanders by creating gun free zones liable for the damages. It has no direct cost to the government and it does not prevent gun free zones from being created.

As reported by the Citizens Committee For The Right To Keep And Bear Arms, both the House and Senate passed by voice vote the NICS Improvements Bill. President Bush signed the bill.

Sen. Coburn, gun rights defender, delayed the bill in the Senate until the following changes were made. Under terms of the agreement, the government would pay for the cost of appeals by gun owners and prospective buyers who argue successfully in court that they were wrongly deemed unqualified for mental health reasons.

Originally, the bill would have require any agency, such as the Veterans Administration or the Defense Department, to notify a person flagged as mentally ill and disqualified from buying or possessing a handgun. Now it also would require that the notification be made when someone has been cleared of that restriction.

The bill authorizes up to \$250 million a year over the same period for state courts to help defray of costs of enacting the policy. This bill was backed by the unholy alliance of Rep. McCarthy of New York and Sen. Schumer of New York with the active support of Rep. Dingell of Michigan, the National Rifle Association and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. All of the other pro-gun activists organizations opposed the bill. The law will add thousands of veterans to the NICS no gun list. I was also opposed to the bill.

We have a 100% pro-gun candidate running for the vacant 3rd



Old Time Hunting

District Congressional Seat. Former defense aide to Senator Pete V. Domenici and Santa Fe Lawyer Marco Gonzales announced that he is running for the 3rd District seat. Marco attended the annual meeting of the NM Shooting Sports Association, held January 12th, where I had a long talk with him about the Second Amendment and our gun rights. The GOP gives Marco little chance in the heavily Democratic district, but as shown in the first paragraph, the GOP is not always right. Also attending the Shooting Sports annual meeting was Steve Pearce who was our luncheon speaker. With two strong pro-gun candidates running for the Republican nomination for Senate,

lets work to get the one selected to run against Udall elected.

It has been announced that Remington and Marlin have agreed that Remington will acquire Marlin Fire Arms Col & Marlin's other companies (H&R, NEF & L.C. Smith). Deal will be finished in early 2008.

The New Mexico Legislature was called into session on January 15. So far no anti-gun bill has been introduced and, as I reported in the last issue of CTA, no pro-gun bills will be introduced.

“Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.” Retired Army Command Sergeant Major Dave Herbach.

Reminiscence

My First Gun Collection: Toys of the 1960s

By Ron Smith

Since the advent of the television, the toys that children want are heavily influenced by what they see on TV. Westerns and Spy (cold war) shows were the main diet of the '50s and '60s. Then the Vietnam War was broadcast into our living rooms every evening, initially making military toys popular, but later made "shoot 'em up" unpopular as entertainment. But it was these two earlier genres that created the toy guns of that generation. Toy guns of the past didn't have orange-tipped muzzles, because kids were taught to "never point guns at people, including toys". Most actually shot projectiles (as well as caps) or somehow made shooting noises.

Some of television Westerns that put their name to the most collectable toy guns including Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger, Daniel Boone, The Rifleman, Wagon Train, Wanted: Dead or Alive, and Have Gun will Travel. Presently, depending on condition and accessories, any of the above toys are valued in the \$100s. Steve McQueen's rifle was a cut-down Winchester. Instead of buying the Mattel version when it came out, I took my Sears BB gun and cut it down to replicate Steve's model, using a belted hammer loop as a holster. This was my first attempt in gunsmithing!

Spy shows were a different breed; I Spy, Mission: Impossible, Secret Agent, Get Smart (1965-70), and James Bond helped inspire a number of different lines of Cold War toy guns. And putting the two genres together, The Wild, Wild, West TV show caused its own toy inspirations. The cartoon show Johnny Quest also established its own place, inspiring would-be adventurers and future gun owners! Many of the spy guns from this time were fictitious cre-

ations of the toy makers.

Probably the most popular of the spy guns came from the show Man from U.N.C.L.E. (1964-68); with Illya Kuryarkin and Napoleon Solo battling the evil THRUSH agents (and wooing the girls) every week. Made by Ideal, their pistol with added accessories became a scoped rifle. Not only were U.N.C.L.E. guns marketed, but THRUSH guns as well. The THRUSH rifle looked similar to an M-16 with an infrared scope (NIB, these are valued at over \$1500).

Mattel had two series of spy guns: Agent Zero W (for the westerners) and Zero M line (for the cold-war spy enthusiast). These toy guns were the first transformers in the industry. One of my survivors of the M series is the "Pocket-Shot": a pocketknife that converts into a pistol. The Agent Zero W line was not as vast, having a standard size Fanner, the Snub-Nose, and a shooting belt buckle (also marketed as the "Remington Derringer 1867"). The distinction that the Zero W guns had from the regular Mattel line is that a part of the pistol was plated with a gold color.

Topper Toys had some of the "coolest" toy guns. The Johnny Eagle line was, and still is, one of the most authentic, expensive and sought-after. Each series had a rifle and matching

pistol to fit with each theme: Red Rider (westerner), Mugambo (safari hunter), Skeet-Shooter, and The Lieutenant (marked U.S. Army). Copies of the original advertisements with each type may be viewed at the side.

Another Topper original was the Secret Sam. Advertised as "The most amazing secret weapon ever made!", I just had to have one. My sample is not totally complete, but the take-down gun is designed to fire the small white bullets (and take pictures) from the closed attaché case.

SixFinger can also fall into the spy-gun genre. Made by De Luxe Reading, dated 1965, this toy gun had 6 different types of shootable projectiles: basic bullet, writing pen, written-message sender, SOS message, exploding tip, and a cap-hammerhead. There is a metal clicker on the backside of the grip (its purpose I don't recall). This was yet another disguised pistol that the secret agent could sneak under the nose of his elementary teacher!

Most of my collection did not survive the battlefield rigors of my Houston youth, but I still have a few representatives of the past.

Ron Smith is a New Mexico Gun Collectors Association Board member. This article was written to accompany a display he presented at a recent Gun Show



A display at the March Gun Show

2008 Show Calendar

Gun Shows:

June 7 & 8, and October 4 & 5

Old West Show: August 9 & 10

Mini Shows:

March 26, April 23, June 25,
August 27, and October 22

Dollar Gun Show Admission; Service Animals Allowed

Due to increasing costs, the NMGCA Board voted to charge members \$1.00 admission to the gun shows. When possible, special provisions will be made so members won't have to wait in long lines. We value your support and appreciate your understanding.

The only animals allowed at Gun Shows are Service animals. If you have a Service Animal and wish to bring him to the show, please ensure that you have the appropriate certification to present to Gun Show workers.

Golden Boy Rifle Raffle

The Henry Repeating Arms Company Golden Boy .22 LR will be on display at the upcoming Gun Shows. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each and will be available at the shows. Only 1,000 tickets were printed. Approximately 250 were sold at the March 2008 show. The drawing for the gun will be held at the October 2008 Show.

New Members & Badge Reminder

The NMGCA welcomes the following new members: John L. Cummins, Paul A. Gallagher, Jules Klapper, Glenn M. Mills, and Jon H. Mueller. We appreciate your membership and look forward to your support.

New Member badges have been printed and are available to be picked up at the Mini Shows and Gun Shows. If you are a new member and haven't received your name badge, please check with the Membership Chair.

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