

Library Could Be Written About Guns In Collection

By Wally Trabing

Boulder Creek is ripe for a community museum.

For example, George Locatelli owns a gun collection which would open the eyes of many a curator.

His own 12 year collection which numbers 175 was bolstered recently by one which totaled 365, owned by the late W. A. Moore of Tres Pinos. This makes 540.

If these guns could only talk! The weapons lining the walls of an upstairs hall behind the Locatelli residence on Laurel street, overflow into the residence dining room.

Their story would begin in China around 1650, continue up through the Boxer rebellion, cover most of Europe and then settle down to a rip-roaring tale around the explosive settling of the minds of men from the civil war to the wild west.

According to the written records which came with Moore's collection, Locatelli possesses pistols and rifles which once were caressed by the itching trigger fingers of Murietta, Vasquez, Jesse James, Emmet Dalton and Sam Bass.

He has enough Civil war guns to start another minor war between the states—if anyone would dare try shooting them again after all these years.

Probably the oldest is a Chinese fire-lock. It was brought to this country by one Wong Lee who claimed it was handed down in his family since 1650. Its firing device consists of a long piece of punk which was kept smouldering during the battle. When it was to be fired the punk was brought in contact with the powder by pulling on a five inch trigger. Two other Chinese guns used in the Boxer rebellion around 1900 were brought here by a J. Ermerius. They are two-man guns. The 52 inch barrel was rested on the shoulders of one man while the other manipulated the punk for firing.

There is an 1848 muzzle loading Springfield musketoon of .69 cal.; a Frank Wesson breech loading, 1859, six pound rifle which was a favorite with the Indians; an 1858 Merrill's breech loader which used paper cartridges; an I. L. Hepburn muzzle loader with one trigger and a combination of two rifle barrels and one shotgun barrel; and a gun invented by Eli Whitney, the cotton-gin man, used in the Civil War.

A tag on one reads: "Cap and ball rifle, used by war scout in Custer's army. Made by R. Ashmore and Son."

From the other camp during the same fracas is a muzzle loading Indian rifle "from a lot surrendered by old Chief Sitting Bull, after Custer's massacre, June 18, 1876." It was sold by the government at an auction as Indian relics.

In the collection is an old German wheel-lock rifle invented in Nuremberg in 1517. It was kept in a German museum for many years before finding its way to America. It weighs 21 pounds and has a 42 inch barrel, decorated with ivory.

Largest of the rifles is an elephant gun made in South Africa by the Boers in 1831. First of the European breech-loaders, it has a one-inch bore and stands about as high as a man. It takes around a .71 calibre bullet.

The former owner of a Hall flint-lock 1811 muzzle loader was a guard at Sing Sing prison. He claimed that he could fire eight times (put in powder, ram in cap, pour in shot, pack cap, pour powder on pan, close it, cock flint back, aim, and pull trigger) at a fleeing convict before the escapee got out of range. Well, that's what the tag on the gun said!

Locatelli has a separate collection of 450 bullets, mounted and labeled, that is of tremendous interest. The calibres run from 2.7 to 71.50. Some of the cartridges are oddly shaped making one wonder how they could possibly get through a barrel.

His pistol collection is smaller. Outstanding items include a boot gun which Locatelli said was used by gamblers, some of whom had the occasion to defend themselves when an ace fell from an unguarded sleeve. Then there is a 20 gauge pistol made long ago by Hopkins and Allen; and the vest pocket derringer with a 1½ inch barrel, also favored by gamblers.

Some of his revolvers show distinct notches, used by the old timers, who were more learned in the art of trigger pulling than counting, to designate the number of men felled by their bullets. Locatelli questions the authenticity of these marks, however.

One of Locatelli's favorites, and

Only A Mighty Man Could Aim This One



Only Safe Place Is Behind



Locatelli, standing in front of a small portion of his huge gun collection, aims an early English blunderbuss made in the

Tower of London armory. Some of his items once were wielded by famous western bandits. He has enough Civil war rifles to supply a small army.

George Locatelli, co-owner of the Locatelli Grocery store in Boulder Creek, holds a fifteenth century German wheel-lock rifle, part of the 500-piece firearm collection at his home on Laurel street. He would like to see a museum in Boulder Creek to house his guns and the many other historical relics about the community. Behind him is a collection of bullets which include some of the first made in this country.

DECREES ARE TERMINATED
Decrees terminating joint tenancies have been granted by Superior Judge Stanley Murray in the following estates: Estate of Alfred E. Nicoletti, petitioner Ora Grace Nicoletti, property on Walnut avenue; estate of Hardin S. Wedmore, petitioner Alice D. Wedmore; estate of Peter Ackermann, petitioner Aagje J. Ackermann, property in the Button tract.

The present California state park system consists of more than 125 units comprising more than 600,000 acres of land.

New Officers Of Legion Post And Auxiliary Are Installed

More than 300 attended the joint installation of new officers of the Santa Cruz Post 64, American Legion, and its auxiliary Friday night in the Veterans Memorial building.

A team of past commanders of the post acted as the installing officers for the new post leaders, headed by Joseph P. LaBue, as commander. The other new officers include Leon L. Smith, first vice commander; I. R. Mobley, second vice commander, James Baker, sergeant at arms; Harry Banks, historian, and Dent Snider, finance officer. The post's new appointive officers are Gordon Langenhovel, adjutant; Arnold Baldwin, chaplain; Paul Forgey, judge advocate, and Harry Barger, service officer.

The installing team for the Legionnaires was headed by Harold Johnson as commander, with the following other members: Barney Antic, first vice commander; Russell Scott, second vice commander; Ted Harbert, past commander; Paul Levy, chaplain and adjutant; Paul Forgey, sergeant at arms; Charles Faneuf, historian, and 28th District Commander Dean Harris of Gonzales, finance officer.

Visitors at the installation were headed by 28th District Commander-Elect Manuel Luz of Salinas, and representatives from the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Canadian Legion.

A diamond past commander's pin was presented to Dan Wright

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counting, to designate the number of men felled by their bullets. Locatelli questions the authenticity of these marks, however.

One of Locatelli's favorites, and part of his original collection, is an English Blunderbus (actual trade name) made in the Tower of London armory and used as a mail coach protector in ye old England.

Probably the longest gun is a Springfield Civil war gun, which measures 57½ inches long.

Most of the guns from the recently purchased Moore collection need a good working over, said Locatelli. He welcomes visitors and he has ideas for the future.

"What Boulder Creek needs is a museum," he emphasized. "There are hundreds of relics in this town, one of the history spots in California. It wouldn't be long before we could fill one.

Locatelli has no idea where he stands among gun collectors. He just keeps taking guns and wanting more.

DECREE IS FILED

Decree of final distribution has been filed in the estate of Nicholas M. Borina. The estate, which goes in equal shares to June and Mary Ann Borina, includes three Caterpillar tractors, three discs, a spray rig, a 1940 model truck, miscellaneous personal effects, packing shed property, the "NMB" trademark, 7960 acres in the Rancho Salsipuedes, the home property on Brennan street, Third street property, property on Rodriguez street, and five pieces of real property in Salinas.

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