

History Is Brought To Life Again In Arms At Gun Show

By Daryl Wagner

A visual display of history! That's probably the best way to describe that fabulous array of firearms and assorted equipment at the First Annual Santa Cruz Gun Show now being held at the CPDES hall next to Harvey West stadium. The show opened yesterday and ends tonight.

Most of the displays belong to individual collectors from all parts of the United States, with a few merchandisers showing. But you don't have to be a collector to appreciate the beauty of some pieces, the history stories others bring to mind, or the first step man made to present day firearms.

Who hasn't watched the cold-eyed gunman and the hero-type marshal on television face each other in a dusty street. The cold-eyed gunman reaches for his trusty shootin' iron, and the hero-type marshal, allowing the cold-eyed gunman the first move, calmly draws and drops the cold-eyed gunman in his tracks.

Or maybe you favor the fellow with the long-shooting rifle that hits a target out of eyesight every time. Or have you imagined yourself in the grey foggy morning, bundled in a great cape, listening to the seconds making the final instructions and selecting the dueling pistols on the field of honor?

Remember a fellow called Dan'l Boone and his trusty rifle; the early pilgrims and their blunderbuss weapons hunting turkeys; the pirates that swarmed over the sailing ships with weapons blazing; the highwaymen of old holding up the cruel rich nobleman?

Well, all these periods are represented, but the collections are representative of man's history, not of man's violence to man. These collectors think of their hobby as an artistic venture, representing man's progress from crude but workable firearms to the scientifically precise arms of today.

What some of the older pieces are lacking, according to today's standard in accuracy, they more than make up for in beauty. They are wrought of a workman's love for beauty and usefulness that shows through in the exquisite carving on the stocks and the inlay of ivory and bone, the scroll work on the metal, and the remarkable preservation of pieces that date back in time over 300 years.

H. J. Dunlap of Los Altos has a pair of cased percussion dueling pistols that bear an inscription on the case proclaiming they were once the possessions of Napoleon. And they are an excellent piece of workmanship and beauty.

To hear out the history angle, B. J. "Doc" Hartman of San Francisco related the tale of one of his Colts. He bought the single action frontier model at an auction, and also found some papers of the owner in the items being auctioned at an estate sale.

He began checking out the leads in the papers, which contained letters written during bat-

Lookit All Those Revolvers!



The display of Colt revolvers on the table are a portion of the collection of B. J. "Doc" Hartman of San Francisco, left, currently being shown at CPDES hall. Holding the revolver is William M. Locke of Cincinnati, O., called the dean of Colt collectors. He reportedly has the finest Colt collection in the world. Looking on is Paul Blakesly, one of the local sponsors of the show.

Remington Arms is represented with a table full of modern arms - it is offering, including some of their newest models. There's a 20-gauge over and under that is really sweet, along with some of the early pieces the company introduced. Other major manufacturers are expected to display for today's show.

The excitement of the trading, buying and selling that is constantly going on soon catches people as they enter the door and become absorbed in the activities. The show closes tonight, and sponsors Don Reid, Paul Blakesly and Leon Chappel invite everyone to attend the final day's showing.

William M. Locke, owner of the finest Colt collections in the world, is guest of honor for the show, although he has brought only a few pieces from his collection Cincinnati, O. While I was talking to Locke, I asked if he could place a round figure value on the pieces on display. While this is a rough thing to attempt without checking each piece individually, he estimated at least half a million dollars would be a fair figure. That's a lot of value, historically, monetarily and plain human interest. Don't miss it.

ties, one describing the battle at Bull Run, newspaper clippings relating to the family.

It was the family of James Rush Lincoln, no relation to Abe, who was a general in the U. S. Army. "Doc" traced the family clear back to the American Revolution, and got to know the individuals quite well.

One ancestor was a major on the staff of George Washington and one of the first secretaries of state. One was closely associated with Benedict Arnold, although it was before the latter's infamous act. He later founded the Iowa National Guard.

During the Civil war, one of the ancestors was acting as a go-between for both sides in an effort to end the war and was captured with a letter designed to end hostilities. Both sides accused him of treason, and he was forced to flee to Texas to save his life.

Another ancestor was chief of general staff corps during World War II. Of course, "Doc" went into a great more detail than is related here, and it was a fascinating piece of history the story told.

There are hundreds of guns at the show with equal tales of their owners' lives, but the above will illustrate the point of the historical value of gun collections.

They have pieces that were fired by a punk igniting the powder charge, flintlocks, wheellocks, percussion firing and cartridge guns. There are all sorts of accessories like powder flasks, bullet molds, swords, knives, flags, gadget guns. On and on the list could go.

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Gun Goes Back To 1600



H. J. Dunlap of Los Altos shows his ivory-inlaid wheel-lock at the Santa Cruz Gun Show being held at the CPDES hall. The show closes tonight.

The wheel-lock was made in England early in 1600. It is but one of many of the firearms on display estimated at half a million dollars in value.