

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Incorporated 1955



Spring/Summer 2011

APPENDIX

Headstamps Speak of History and Offer a Touch of Wisdom

At the Outdoor Range the other morning amidst the not-yet-swept brass, a handful of M1 Carbine cases with headstamps "LC 43" turned up. The cases are a tiny sample of the many millions churned out in 1943 by Lake City Army Ammunition Plant — Lake City Arsenal in Independence, Missouri — in production that continued for decades. "LC" is the designation of the 4,000-acre ordnance plant; it was established and operated by Remington starting in 1940 until 1985; these particular military rounds had rested in an arsenal or a depot for decades before being declared surplus.

The cartridges' path to our civilian world was possibly to an individual or club, through the programs of the National Board

INC. for the Promotion of Rifle Practice/Director of Civilian Marksmanship—now the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Or they could have been declared surplus somewhere far away. They were shipped back to the U.S. from an allied nation to a distributor, then to a store, and then purchased — what a deal! — and driven home to wait patiently in someone's personal ammo chest...before being fired downrange on a sunny weekday morning at a

batch of paper targets.

At NSC, doubtless that morning's use was not their original purpose, but they were put to good and peaceful employment. And they did not misfire, despite some cracking of the age-embrittled brass.

Perhaps even the M1 Carbine that fired them was made that same year, 1943. It would have been one of more than 6.25 million manufactured for World War II in 1941 through 1945, with subsequent use in the Korean War and the war in Vietnam. (A relative trickle of new-made "retro" carbines is still emerging from dozens of smaller, civilian, manufacturers—ranging from precise, mil-spec replicas to shiny, look-alike recreational arms.)

The M1 Carbine is called the "most produced military small arm for the American military during World War II." Indeed, the internet tells us that "From June 1942 to August 1945 over 6,000,000 M1 carbines were produced by nine different manufacturers." Here's the list by Manufacturer, Quantity, and Per-

centage of Production:

Inland Manufacturing Division (GMC) 2,632,097 43%

Winchester Repeating Arms Co. 828,059 13.5%

Underwood-Elliott-Fisher Co. 545,616 8.9%

Saginaw Steering Gear Division (GMC) 517,212 8.5%

National Postal Meter Co. 413,017 6.8%

Quality Hardware & Machine Co. 359,666 5.9%

International Business Machines Corp. 346,500 5.7%

Standard Products Co. 247,160 4%

Rock-Ola Co. 228,500 3.7%

Impressive! And marching off to war with those carbines, of course, went gigantic stockpiles of ammunition to the far ends of the earth. Out of all these crates of ammo, after all these years, just a very few "LC 43" rounds were destined to end up here, at NSC, for our thoughtful ruminations on years past.

Why? It was simply their time to be fired. It turns out that they did their part in peace, not war. And part of that purpose was to encourage that very contemplation.

Who can foresee the uses to which we ourselves shall be put?

—Actaeon

"Detached reflection cannot be demanded in the presence of an uplifted knife."

—Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., in *Brown v US*, 1921

NSC History/Archives are a "Time Machine"

The good work and enthusiasm of life member Helen Younger found a batch of treasures in the family archives of an early NSC member.

An almost-complete set of the NSC Newsletter from 1965 to 1984 came to Helen's attention and she wisely took the matter in hand. The collection was made by Richard Haderski—a club member since

1957. Early this year, Helen indexed the highlights; that index was then transcribed and amplified by John Stratton, and then was supplemented by recollections of Richard (Dick) Younger, a member since 1957, and Bernard (Bernie) Wolski, a charter club member since 1956.

Here's a sample index from 1970: President: George Wadsworth; VP Fred Kral

Dues \$16.50; initiation fee \$10; George Wadsworth, Man of the Year; Al Mills, Sportsmen of the Year; fire destroys clubhouse on (about) December 4, "a serious blow to the club" which encouraged us "to turn our misfortune into an opportunity to become a stronger and better club;" steering committee formed to reconstruct club and supporting activity programs; December 11 meetings held at the hall of American Legion Post 128, York Avenue, Niantic; Leo Marquand ends 15 years of service on the Executive Committee; pistol league shooters practice at Underwater Sound Lab range; annual field day August 15; Bernie Wolski expands "Shooters' Club" events and drawings.

So...old-timers: what do you have stashed away? We do have the newsletters from the mid-1990's to the present. What about 1984 to 1994? Photos? Letters? Other memorabilia? And those precious early 1954-1965 years, many of whose archives were lost in the two fires in 1970 and 1972? Take a look around. We can make copies and return the originals to you...or just give us copies. Thanks!

In Memoriam Bobby Lenois

Robert H. Lenois, Jr., 52, of Westbrook, passed away on December 19, 2010, after a brief illness. He was active in the Westbrook Fire Department and was the Deputy Fire Marshall for Westbrook, Deep River, and Essex. Additionally, he was a past fire chief in Westbrook. At the time of his death, Bobby was employed as a marketing rep-

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In Memoriam...from pg. 1

representative for the New London County Insurance Company. Memorial contributions may be made to the Westbrook Fire Department, 18 South Main St., Westbrook, CT, 06498.

John Joseph Dombrowski

John Joseph Dombrowski, 64, of Waterford, died February 12, 2011, at Kindred Crossings East Campus in New London. He was born in Erie, Pa. on May 3, 1946 and was married to Kathleen (Walsh) Dombrowski, who survives him. John had a successful career in sales and marketing. He received many sales awards and recognitions from the many companies he worked for, including Polaroid Corporation. He received his bachelor's degree from Columbus College of Art and Design. He loved the outdoors and was an accomplished bowhunter and enjoyed fishing, bird watching, gardening, and watercolors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's memory to the Association for Frontotemporal Dementias at www.ftd-picks.org.

"What more sacred, what more strongly guarded by every holy feeling, than a man's own home."

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

Marlin Closes in North Haven

New Haven Register, North Haven — The last dozen rifles left the Marlin Firearms plant on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

The rifles were being shipped to Ilion, New York, one of three locations to which Marlin operations were transferred after the announcement a year ago that the North Haven plant would close. The estimated closing date had been June, but today, the plant off Bailey Road will shut to all but three employees, who will close up shop for good April 15. More than 500 people worked at Marlin in the mid-1970s. When the closure was announced in March 2010, 265

people were working at the gun manufacturing plant.

Marlin's history dates back to 1870 in New Haven. The 226,000-square-foot North Haven plant was built in 1968 on 23.5 acres on Kenna Drive. The late Frank Kenna Sr. bought Marlin Firearms at auction in 1924 when it was bankrupt. The company had been started by John Marlin.

Marlin was sold to Remington Arms Co. in 2007 for \$41.7 million. Marlin and Remington are part of the conglomerate now overseen by the Freedom Group Inc., of North Carolina, which is one of the largest firearms and ammunition manufacturers in the world.

...Manufacture of the Lever Action product line of sporting rifles was transferred last year to Remington in Ilion, a community close to Utica, New York. Two other product lines, Rimfire and Bolt Action Centerfire, were transferred more recently to Mayfield, Kentucky. Stock manufacturing went to Lexington, Missouri.

NSC Member Views

Lewis and Clark Airgun

In early March, NSC member Kent Lacey traveled to Pennsylvania to talk to the man who discovered the actual air rifle carried by Lewis and Clark on their expedition through the Louisiana Purchase, the Expedition of Discovery. Kent tells us that:

"He then built four exact museum copies of this rifle. The rifle is a 22-shot .44 caliber air rifle used by the Austrian army. It can be reloaded with a speed loader in a second or two, which allows the user to deliver 44 well aimed shots in under two minutes. By screwing into place a new air tank, the soldier could accurately fire approximately 130 shots in five minutes.

"This rifle was manufactured in Vienna by Bartholomaeus Girandoni about 1790 and was in all likelihood the most advanced firearm in the world until the mid 1800's. The NRA has a copy in

their museum in Virginia and a film clip on YouTube. [Search for "NRA air rifle Girandoni" to find the film clip.] The air rifle is mentioned 39 times in the Lewis and Clark journals, and was of the utmost importance in making the Indian tribes think the white man had 'strong magic.' "Touching and using this piece of American history sent chills and goosebumps up and down my arms, and I have begun re-reading the journals of Lewis and Clark with a clearer understanding of their journeys. I am giving serious contemplation to building a replica of a Girandoni pistol from scratch."

Club Notes:

- Lounge Hours for Spring-Summer: The hours are Friday, noon-10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday noon-6 p.m.; Tuesday, 5-10 p.m.; Monday 6:30-9:30 p.m. (after most pistol matches); light lunches Friday noon-2 p.m. with varied menus. Sunday breakfasts will resume in the fall. For scheduled special events or regular use of the meeting hall, contact Jodi Stone.

- Members are reminded that full-metal-jacket centerfire rounds are not allowed on the Indoor Range. Indoor-range-friendly, copper-wash-plated or plain lead ammunition in many pistol calibers is available at local firearms stores owned by club members who are loyal supporters of NSC. Outdoors, the Over the Hill Gang has built sturdy target frames for your personal, all-weather, marksmanship pleasure; these are on sale in the Lounge. Please sweep up and remove all target debris, brass, and litter.
- Safety First on all ranges! Remember that members are responsible for their guests and family members. Children must be closely supervised at all times.

- Continuing Reminder: It is the responsibility of membership applicants to be present at the

meetings for the read-in and vote-in process; if members are sponsoring an applicant, be sure to inform him or her that our meetings are on the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. Membership applications and club brochures are in the Lounge and on the website. NSC's 12-minute outdoor-range safety video is required viewing for new members; it can be viewed before their read-in or vote-in meetings at about 6:30 p.m. in the club office.

- Pistol Permit Renewal: the Dept. of Public Safety 1) accepts only checks or money orders for the \$70 renewal fee; and 2) requires that you must produce proof of citizenship when you appear to renew. This ID can be a birth certificate, voter registration card, U.S. Passport, or Naturalization papers. Legal Alien Residents must provide Alien Registration Number and 90-day Proof of Residency form. Further information may be obtained at the website www.ct.gov/dps by selecting the Special Licensing and Firearms box in the left column, and then clicking on the State Pistol Permit box. Don't let your permit expire.
- Please be sure that you notify the club if you change your email or mail address. The Horizon bulletin and quarterly Newsletter are available on the website in full-graphics PDF format at www.nianticsc.org.

If you have an email address and have not been receiving the email Horizon Bulletin or the Quarterly, please let us know by email. We have a handful of member-email addresses that "bounce back" for no apparent reason, including failures of your email server...and one of those could be yours. If you email us at nscnewsletter@snet.net, we will have your correct address, and you'll be back on the list.

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