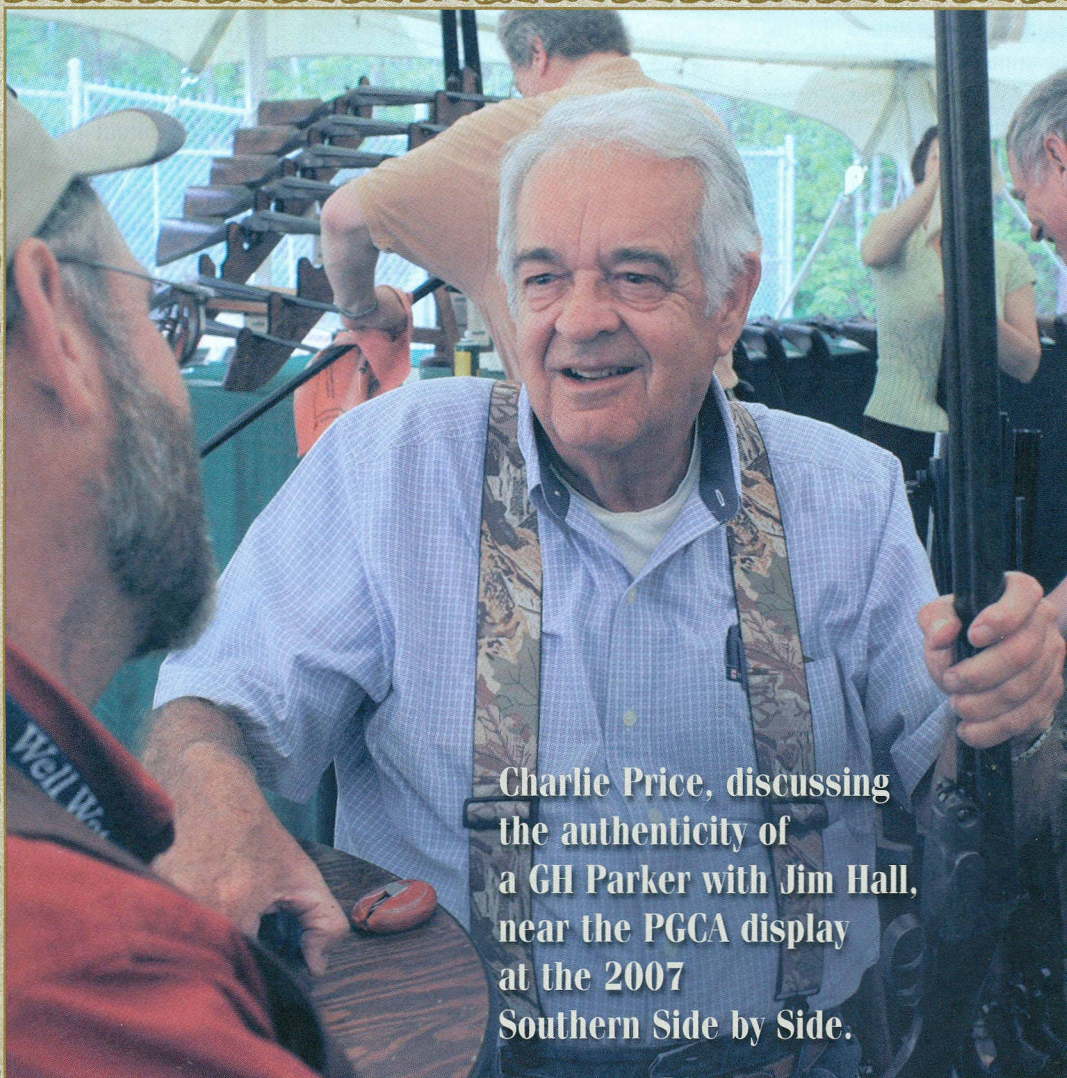


JOURNAL OF  
**The Parker Gun**  
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

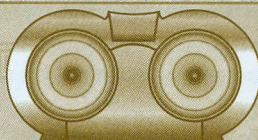
# PARKER PAGES

Summer 2007 Volume 14 • Issue 2



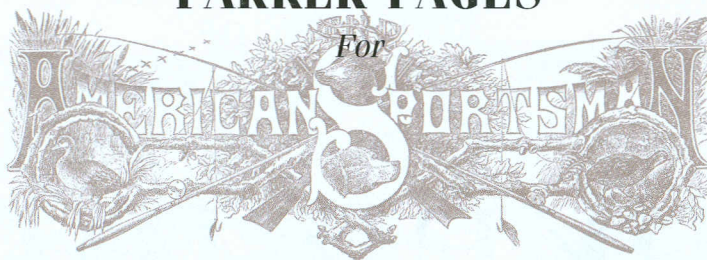
Charlie Price, discussing  
the authenticity of  
a GH Parker with Jim Hall,  
near the PGCA display  
at the 2007  
Southern Side by Side.

Special Issue Honoring Charlie Price  
Annual Meeting • Notice of Change in Membership Renewal • Calendar Offer





# PARKER PAGES



DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PARKER GUN

## ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

PGCA Election Commissioner Frank Sweeney has announced that John N. Davis and Ken Waite, Jr. have been elected as Directors, to serve three (3) year terms beginning May 1, 2007.

The Directors, Staff and members of PGCA extend their thanks to Bruce Day for his service on the Board of Directors, and his contributions to organization of PGCA activities.

## DIRECTORS MEETING APRIL 26, 2007

The Board of Directors of the Parker Gun Collectors Association met, with members of the PGCA staff, on April 26, 2007, in Greensboro, North Carolina. At this meeting the board adopted the following resolution concerning membership renewals:

*Now that we have engaged the services of a person to handle the processing of membership applications, it would appear to be more practical to amend the present policy to provide as follows: As to any member who joins the organization after July 1, 2007, membership will renew on an annual basis from the date of initial submission.*

The Board further determined that the 2008 PGCA calendars will be offered for sale at the price of \$15 each, plus mailing and handling fees. The Board of Directors extends its gratitude to Bruce Day, Brad Steinfield and Destry Hoffard for their dedication to this

project. Charlie Herzog presented a new PGCA decal and the board unanimously voted to provide these decals free of charge to all members. The Board would like to thank Charlie for his efforts in this endeavor.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PGCA Annual Meeting, 27 – 30 September 2007** – The 2007 PGCA Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Vintagers event at Pin Tail Point MD, September 27–30, 2007. PGCA is arranging for the annual meeting and banquet, silent auction, and raffle to be held at the Tidewater Inn.

The theme of the meeting and exhibits will be waterfowl guns.

Pintail Point is on the historic eastern shore of Maryland, near Annapolis, The National Waterfowling Museum, Easton, and several shore villages known for seafood, antique shops, and sport clothes are nearby. The eastern shore is accessible through the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington airports.

This is a new venue for Vintagers, and the "World Side by Side Championship." Vintagers features several Side by Side Competition events for both shotguns and double rifles; a commercial row supported by well known gun dealers, clothing, book and accessory dealers, and individual sale tables. This issue contains points of contact with Vintagers; should you wish to become a member, or look for additional information, contact Vintagers through [www.vintagers.org](http://www.vintagers.org).

**Annual Meeting and Banquet Location** – The Tidewater Inn, Easton, MD, has been selected as the headquarters for

the annual PGCA Meeting, held in conjunction with the Vintagers Side-by-Side Fall Meeting at Pintail Point, Queenstown, MD on September 27-30, 2007. Easton is approximately 15 minutes South on Route 50 from Queenstown, MD.

The Annual PGCA Banquet will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2007, starting at 6:00 PM at the Tidewater Inn. The pre-registration cost for the banquet is \$60.00 per person until May 15, 2007 and \$75.00 per person May 16 – August 31, 2007. The reason for this is that we have to guarantee our commitment. Please get your reservations in ASAP!!

Mail your check, made out to PGCA Banquet: Allan H. Swanson, 482 Skyline Drive, Weatherfield, VT 05156

This is a great location to bring your wife. There is plenty to do in the greater Easton and the surrounding area. Washington, D.C., St. Michaels, Oxford and Annapolis are not far away. We look forward to seeing you there.

The following information may be helpful in making your room accommodations. We have made special arrangements at the Tidewater Inn for discounted room rates. Make sure to mention the PGCA or Vintagers or both for best rates. Other information may be found at the websites of both the PGCA ([www.parkergun.org](http://www.parkergun.org)) and the Vintagers ([www.vintagers.org](http://www.vintagers.org)).

Tidewater Inn  
101 East Dover St.  
Easton, MD 21601  
410-822-1300  
800-237-8775 Reservations

The River Plantation  
Pintail Point  
511 Pintail Point Lane  
Queenstown, MD 21658  
410-827-7029



Make your reservation now because space is limited!

Any questions, call Allan at 802-885-1152.

• • • • •  
**PGCA Calendar for 2007** – A committee of PGCA members, including Bob Roberts, Destry Hoffard, Brad Stenfeld, and Bruce Day, have prepared a 2008 PGCA calendar, which is now available.

The special edition calendar for 2008 will feature a vintage photograph of Mike Stackhouse, the Barnegat Bayman made famous by H. Armstrong Roberts in his photographic work for Remington used in their series of "Ol' Mike" advertising during the 1920's. Mike was a Parker man through and through, though the Remington artists changed his guns to the Model 11 and Model 10 for advertising purposes. Through the kindness of PGCA member H. Armstrong Roberts III, grandson of the photographer, we bring you the image as it was intended, showing Mike holding his favorite fowling piece, a Parker PH fluid steel 10 gauge.

This calendar is not intended to reproduce any Parker or Remington item, but is a totally new calendar made in a style reminiscent of the originals. It features a high resolution photographic image colored in sepia tones, and is reproduced on page 5. It will make a great addition to home or office and a wonderful gift for your sporting friends.

• • • • •  
**Annual PGCA Silent Auction Fundraiser** – We are beginning to solicit donations for this years Silent Auction to be held at the Annual meeting at Easton MD, September 27-30, 2007. For those of you who have not attended in the past, the silent auction is a great fundraiser for the association and a lot of fun to boot.

Items that have been auctioned off in the past include: prints, decoys, reloading items, shooting vests, bags and pouches, gun cases and related items, books, and sporting or other items of interest.

We ask that you take a look around to see if you might have an item that you could part with that would be of interest to another member. Your name will be listed with the item at the time

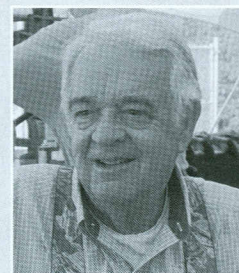
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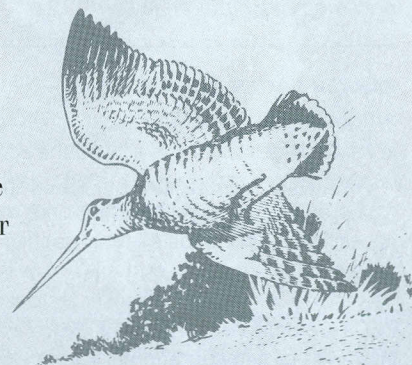


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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Allen Swanson**, Assistant Treasurer

**Mark Conrad**, Research Committee

**Tom Wooden**, Membership, 508-359-9292

**John N. Davis**, Secretary, 229-268-4125

**Ken Waite, Jr.**, [SWood LLC@aol.com](mailto:SWood LLC@aol.com)

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**Greg Schroeder**, Webmaster

**Jeff Kuss**, Webmaster

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**Kevin McCormack**, Displays

**Tom Carter**, Raffle Committee

[tcic@sccc.tv](mailto:tcic@sccc.tv)

**Daniel Houghton**, Silent Auction Committee,  
[houghtonaz@hotmail.com](mailto:houghtonaz@hotmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

The Parker Gun Collectors Association

Att: Mr. Thomas Wooden

6 Jade Walk, Medfield, MA 02052

\$40.00 Annual, \$500.00 Life

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWALS

PGCA Membership, P. O. Box 115, Mayodan, NC 27027  
[pgcamembership@gmail.com](mailto:pgcamembership@gmail.com)

## PARKER PAGES INFORMATION

Articles, letters, photographs and Parker related news for publication in *Parker Pages* should be sent to the editor in a manner that will be received by the closing dates listed. Classified ads must be sent by mail or e-mail to reach the editor prior to the closing dates, and will appear once, unless the editor is notified to re-run them. Questions relative to Parker Guns, or the PGCA will be forwarded to The Research Committee, The Parker Historian or the Chairman of a PGCA Committee for response. *Parker Pages* will not provide appraisals or authentication of Parker Guns.

*Parker Pages* USPS (023-162) (ISSN 155-9062) is published quarterly in Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. by the Parker Gun Collectors Association, PO Box 6453 Charlottesville Va., 22906, with editorial offices at 41 Barton Rd, PO Box 21, Piermont, NH 03779. A membership roster is available from the editor, or from PGCA, c/o T.V. Wooden, 6 Jade Walk, Medfield, MA 02052. Periodical postage paid at Piermont NH 03779 and additional offices. **Postmaster: send address changes to *Parker Pages*, PGCA, c/o T.V. Wooden, 6 Jade Walk, Medfield, MA, 02052.** *Parker Pages* is sent to all members and life members of PGCA. Annual dues are \$40 which includes \$25 for a one year subscription to *Parker Pages*. Life members donate \$500 to \$5000 to the PGCA; an annuity of \$25 for these subscriptions is charged against a life membership fund.

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Mark Conrad Chairman  
P.O. Box 5772, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-5772

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[sjhall@3n.net](mailto:sjhall@3n.net), 804-333-3124

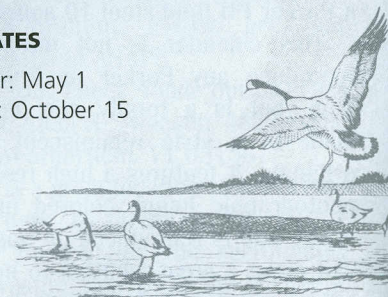
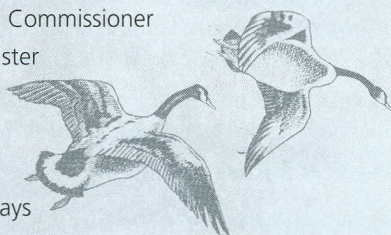
## PARKER PAGES CLOSING DATES

Spring: February 1 • Summer: May 1  
Autumn: August 1 • Winter: October 15

## WEBSITE

[www.parkergun.org](http://www.parkergun.org)

The Parker Gun Collectors Association (PGCA) is a 501(c)7 non-profit corporation, established in 1993 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. *Parker Pages* is the Journal of the Parker Gun Collectors Association, published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter) since 2004. The PGCA is dedicated to the study of the history of the Charles Parker Company and especially of the guns made by the company, and of historic individuals who may have owned or used them. We support exchange of information among students of the Parker Gun, and organize meetings and lectures where this information can be exchanged. *Parker Pages* publishes articles and opinions as a public forum to make public the information resulting from those studies. *Parker Pages* solicits articles for publication that further this purpose. The views expressed by authors of these articles do not necessarily reflect those of the PGCA, and are published as representative of the author's opinion. Comments, suggestions, and criticisms that will improve this publication are welcome. Advertisements for Parker Guns and related items from PGCA members will be published free of charge. The PGCA does not endorse or recommend any product or service advertised in *Parker Pages*. *Parker Pages* does not provide appraisals or authentication of Parker Guns. *Parker Pages* is copyrighted and all rights are reserved. Design and printing are by Village Press, Traverse City, Michigan.





Continued from page 3

of auction and Greg Schroeder will also keep a list of donated items on the website to generate a bit of interest.


This is a great opportunity to help out your organization and your donations will be greatly appreciated. Auctions items can be shipped to my address or if you have any questions or just want to discuss a potential item call me directly at 817-270-8097 or shoot me an email at [houghtonaz@hotmail.com](mailto:houghtonaz@hotmail.com).

Thanks a million!!!

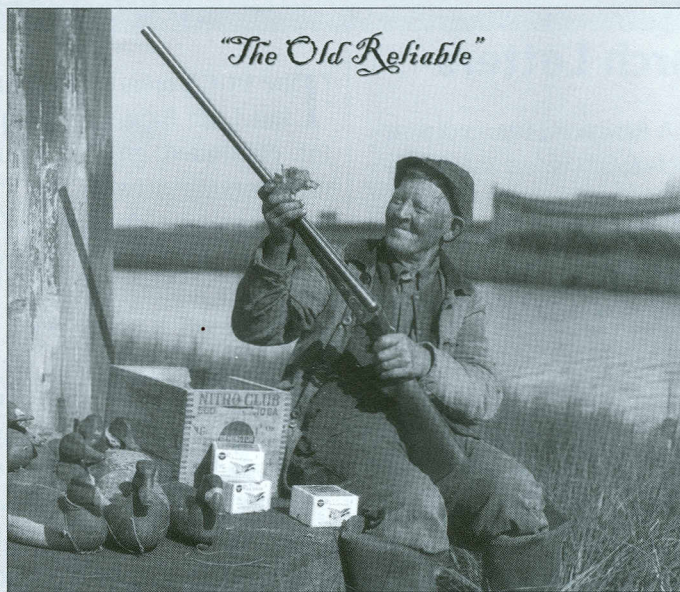
Daniel R. Houghton, Chairman  
Silent Auction Committee  
520 Inland Cir.  
Azle, TX 76020

**Annual PGCA Parker Gun Raffle** – Tom and Irene Carter have succeeded Bill and Sylvia Zachow as the raffle committee. Please use Tom's e-mail address below for information on the 2007 raffle.

Raffle tickets for the 2007 gun are available at this time. The Carters plan to mail the raffle tickets in July. If you can sell tickets at gun shows or shooting events, please contact Tom at [tcic@sccc.tv](mailto:tcic@sccc.tv) and he will send tickets to you now, and will also provide color photos of the gun.

The gun is a Remington/Parker D grade 12 gauge with straight stock, beavertail forend, and Miller trigger. The stock dimensions are very modern. The LOP is 14 1/2 inches, the DAC 1 1/2, and DAH is 1 7/8 inches. It has 30 inch barrels. The right barrel is .730 with a .035 choke. The left barrel is .729 with a .034 choke. The gun weighs 8 1/4 pounds, and has a modern recoil pad. The wood and checkering are beautiful. This is truly a magnificent gun and would certainly make any owner proud to include it in his or her collection. 

Parker DHE trap gun, with single trigger, vent rib, and beavertail forend, to be raffled at Annual Meeting and Banquet.



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## THE PARKER GUN

EST. 1865  
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

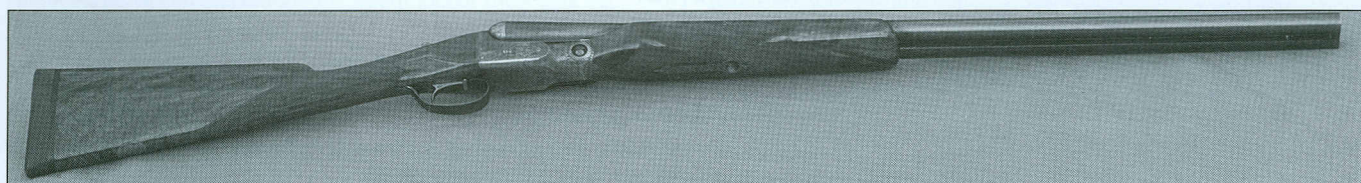
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THE PARKER GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, 2008

### Our 2008 "Old Mike" Parker Gun calendar is available for sale immediately –

This calendar is offered, thanks to members Bruce Day, Destry Hoffard and Brad Steinfeld at a very reasonable price of only \$15.00. The calendar is sized at 24 x 38 and contains all months on one sheet. It is on quality paper in the tradition of the early 1900's when "Old Mike" was used in a number of Arms Company advertisements. A U.S postal packing container and postage costing \$5.00 will be necessary to make shipment; we will absorb excess mail cost above this due to rate change. This LIMITED Edition of 250 only was initially offered at the Southern for \$15.00 as no freight was necessary. We hope you like it. The shipping charge for multiple calendars is \$5.00.

Please send your check made out to the PGCA for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for the container and postage to Mark Conrad, P. O. Box 5772, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.





## Parker Research Letters

**T**he PGCA Research Letter program is available to all owners and collectors through mail inquiry. We have completed indexing for all serial numbers in the existing Parker records. The cost for each search will be \$40 for PGCA members and \$60 for non members. An individual check, payable to PGCA, should be included for each gun to be searched. The check will be returned if no record is available for the specified gun. It will take about 30 days to process a request, and the reply will be in letter format.

The research records are copies of the original Parker/Remington order books, stock books, and IBM cards. Some are in poor condition, and all are hand written. The Parker records contain many abbreviations and ditto marks. The grade of the gun is not listed in the order book. The price and barrel steel are used to determine grade from the entry. Ejector equipped guns are identified by an extra charge.

The research will include a review of both the order and stock books, and the IBM cards for Remington guns. The Research Committee will report on the gauge, grade, barrel length, stock configuration, butt, triggers, weight, stock dimensions and chokes noted in the record. Additional information will be reported when it is recorded on special orders. The researcher will omit information that cannot be clearly read. Copies of the stock and order book entries will not be included with the letter report. The Research Committee will sign the letter, and PGCA will retain a copy.

The Research Committee will only accept written requests for research letters. A request form is available at [parkergun.org](http://parkergun.org), or the request may be made by letter, specifying the serial number of the Parker gun to be searched. Requests should be mailed to: PGCA RESEARCH COMMITTEE, Mark Conrad, Chairman, PO Box 5772, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-5772.

## PGCA Membership Update

**T**he PGCA membership has gone through some challenges in 2006/2007 but I am happy to report the membership is strong and back on track for continued growth. Four years ago when I became involved in the membership area of the PGCA the membership was approximately 750 total members. In early 2006 the membership had grown to approximately 1000 total members, the required membership tasks soon surpassed the volunteer hours available. The PGCA Board of Directors decided that the organization had reached the size to justify the need for a part time administrative support person. In early 2006, we then obtained the support of a part time administrative person and began the process to transition the day to day membership duties to this person. After approximately six months we realized this person could not provide the support we needed due to various family and time commitments.

In February, 2007 we obtained the services of a different administrative support person and we began the work to get back on track and catch up on the membership processing. To date, we have completed all the tasks required to get caught up which consisted of the following activities:

- All 2006 Membership Renewals have been completed.
- All members have received their membership certificates.
- All new membership applications have been processed and new membership packets sent to new members
- On April 16, 2007 – 157 Membership Renewal Reminders were sent for memberships that expired on July 1, 2006.


As of April 25, 2007 just prior to the Southern Side By Side Event in Sanford, NC the following were the Membership Totals:

• Annual Members	784
• Life Members	186
• Family / Honorary Members	6
• Total Membership	967

We are confident with the new members obtained at the Southern Side By Side Event and the recent membership renewals received that our total PGCA membership is in excess of 1000 members possibly as many as 1050 to 1100 members. As you can see the PGCA membership is very strong and growing.

In an effort to better manage the membership workload throughout the year after July 1, 2007 we will be shifting away from our current practice of Annual Memberships due on July 1st of each year to an annual renewal due the month received. Additionally, we have obtained the following PGCA Membership email and post office box:

PGCA Membership  
P. O. Box 115  
Mayodan, NC 27027  
[pgcamembership@gmail.com](mailto:pgcamembership@gmail.com)


As you can see from the above membership summary, the PGCA overcame a significant number of membership hurdles in 2006/2007. We continue to be a very strong and growing organization striving to provide our members with the highest quality membership benefits. 



# President Harrison Gun

Contributed by Scott Harrison, Sam Sawyer, and Bruce Day

Following Ed Muderlak's publication "A Presidential Parker" describing President Harrison's Parker in the Autumn 2006 edition of *Parker Pages*, PGCA member Sam Sawyer of Merriam, Kansas contacted the PGCA with its present location. Sam identified AH grade SN 64,517 as the gun remaining with the Harrison family, presently owned by Scott Harrison of Leawood, Kansas. It is treasured as a family heirloom, and is still used for quail hunting. The gun was given by President Harrison to his brother, J. Scott Harrison, who next passed the Parker to his son, J. Scott Harrison, Jr. One of the original Damascus barrels burst while J. Scott, Jr. was quail hunting, but he was not injured. The gun was returned to Parker Bros for new barrels, and 26 inch Titanic steel barrels, properly serial numbered to the gun, were fitted. The original barrels with highly engraved rib description as described in the Muderlak article have been lost. The gun is still visibly tied to President Harrison, for the gold pistol grip cap bears the inscription "Presented to J. Scott Harrison by Benjamin Harrison 1891."

AH SN 64,517 has seen much use. J. Scott Harrison, Jr. used the gun extensively and passed it to his son, Ridge Harrison, who hunted quail with it for 40 years and was Sam Sawyer's friend and hunting companion. The gun has been re case colored, and bears a white line recoil pad. It is now owned by Ridge's son, Scott Harrison, shown with Sam and the gun. 



Scott Harrison, Sam Sawyer holding AH 64517, and a quail, after a 2006 Kansas quail hunt.

## POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PGCA

The Editor of *Parker Pages* will also serve as the Publisher and will be responsible for all aspects of publishing the *Parker Pages*. He will exercise editorial control over its contents, subject to these Policies and Procedures, at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Articles published in the *Parker Pages* shall contribute to the body of knowledge concerning the Charles Parker Company, the guns made by that company and its successors, the historic individuals who may have owned or used those guns and any other subject matter which may be considered of interest to those who collect, use or appreciate the Parker gun.

Brief notes, photographs, sketches, graphs, data tables and other short submissions may be synthesized by the editor into a single article or picture story. *Parker Pages* will complete, rewrite and/or revise outlines of articles with the permission of the author(s). *Parker Pages* will list all contributors as authors of these articles.

Authors that submit articles which discuss or speculate on the authenticity (or lack thereof) of any individual Parker gun, must have that gun in hand and available for examination.

Authors that submit articles which discuss or speculate on the value (or lack thereof) of any individual Parker gun must have that gun in hand.

Authors that address the work of other authors, or sources, should do this in a collegial manner. Citation, quotation, or criticism of current or prior work of others should;

Precisely identify the work;

Clearly identify the author(s) or source(s)

Summarize (or include in quotation marks) the section or passage of interest;

Cite, quote, criticize, or otherwise include the pertinent information from the work.

Articles may criticize, or refute any other work published in *Parker Pages*, but may not attack the author(s) or other person(s).

Articles that contain pornographic, racist, offensive or other material considered to be in bad taste will be returned to the author(s).

The publisher will return manuscripts that do not follow the guidelines above to the author(s) without prejudice. Revised manuscripts which follow these guidelines will be accepted for publication.



# Hillsville

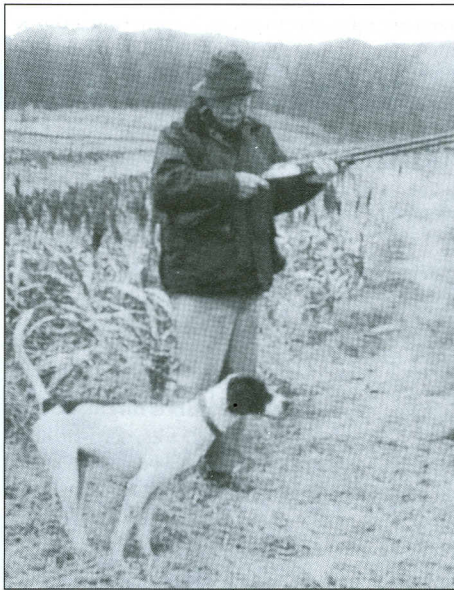
Reviewed by Art Wheaton

It is quite cool outside, with the temperature in the 30's and sleet on the road. My trying to hide from the endless list of chores was becoming obvious. I needed a good book as winter brings out the best of us armchair sportsman. Digging through a growing collection of sporting books, I stopped for a moment to look at a couple of them that have been in my cabinet for years. Yes, I think I've read them before, but it's been awhile. I flipped to one or two stories Gene Hill crafted in *Mostly Tail Feathers* (Stories about Guns and Dogs and Birds and Other Odds and ends) and in *A Hunters Fireside Book*. I could not stop there, so I began reading with one on the night stand and one near my favorite chair.

The first story I had opened was entitled "How to Win;" it was a lunch conversation Gene had had with a friend of mine, Rudy Etchen, one of the finest shotgun pointers of all time. It brought back some very fond memories of my shooting and hunting with Rudy at the Grand, the Grand National Quail Hunt, the One Shot Antelope Hunt, and a host of other trips. In the story, Rudy says to Gene that "A great shooter just will not lose, you see, the only person that ever beats me was myself." It stopped me as I shot right alongside Rudy at the Grand American and saw him drop a target...the squad had stopped momentarily to catch its breath at this irregularity.

I flipped to other stories that talked about some mutual friends. It stirred in me a regret, of which I don't have many, wishing I had known Gene Hill. He had a great talent to take you there, let you see it up close and personal with the kind of description that made it jump off the page with details we generally gloss over.

Gene Hill passed away some time ago, and he is sorely missed by the sporting community. Lamar Underwood was




quoted as saying "Gene Hill is the best outdoor writer since Robert Ruark," and Lamar knew them all. Gene was our kind of man, who loved dogs, guns, a crackling fire, a sip of good bourbon, and had a passion for the out-doors.

You get a glimpse of this man with his story "A window on the pond" and what he would like to do if he could design Christmas in "A Christmas Story." Maybe he was a dreamer, but who isn't? He knows well that hip boots are always 1/2 inch too short, the lowest strand of barbed wire is just a little too low to bend under, and you should never tell your wife how much guns, dogs, or gun clubs cost. He tells

us that the wind will always blow a gale when you shoot, die down when you are through, and when the birds are divided after a hunt yours will be the ones with the most shot.

He will test your emotions from strong sentimentality and somber thought to a good laugh out loud. Try the story of "Old Tom," an aging setter who deserved a last hunt. Try "Another New Gun," "Bargains," "Save Your Marriage," "Collecting Guns," "Logic vs Wives." They all fit Gene's and our never-ending effort to slide that new gun into the house unnoticed, and having a believable story ready to tell if caught red handed. Gene Hill, like Edmund Ware Smith, could take a seemingly obscure observation and turn it into a thoughtful story that makes one stop to smell the roses.

Gene Hill lived for some time in Pennington, N.J and was very familiar with woodcock flights staging in the Cape May area. Try his "The Woodcock Gun" and "The Woodcock Letter" for a touch of his affection for that great game bird. He hunted with the late Dick Baldwin, a friend and colleague of mine for many years, and he captures the "meet" in "How to be Well Dressed."

But that's enough. You should experience Hill at his finest. I crossed his trail many times but we never met....or did we? Try *Amazon.com* or *Abebooks* on the web and that's not a duck as I have learned it from my kids. We lost Gene Hill from C a few years ago...a great loss. You cannot have a sporting library without Mr. Hill. 

## PGCA MEMBERSHIP

A membership application form can be printed from the PGCA homepage: [www.parkergun.org](http://www.parkergun.org)

New members will receive the complete year of Parker Pages.

Application forms are available at PGCA EVENTS, or application can be made by letter.

Applications for membership should be mailed to: PGCA Membership, P. O. Box 115, Mayodan, NC 27027. [pgcamembership@gmail.com](mailto:pgcamembership@gmail.com)

Application must be accompanied by a check payable to PGCA, in the proper amount for the level of membership chosen:

**Annual \$40 • Life (DHE) \$500 • Life (AHE) \$1000 • Life (A1S) \$2500 • Life (INVINCIBLE) \$5000**

Questions on Membership Should be Directed to:

Membership Chairman, PGCA, C/O Thomas Wooden, 6 Jade Walk, Medfield, MA, 02052. Phone: 508-359-9292

[twwooden@duke-energy.com](mailto:twwooden@duke-energy.com)



# A Letter from Bob Davis to Parker Pages

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I publicly answered this question because of my interest in Parkers of the period. An "Ask Parker Pages" column might be of interest to many members. *Parker Pages* will institute such a column, if we can staff it with volunteers with several collecting specialties. — Austin Hogan

*Bob Davis, PGCA member from Louisville, Kentucky, sent Parker Pages a question about his Parker Dollar Grade gun.*

**QUERY:** This is a strange Parker, serial number 3288, made in 1873 or 74. The *Serialization...* says it is an 11gauge, but it is a 12 gauge, and all parts have matching serial numbers. I believe it is a \$135 grade; it is in nice condition with case color surviving. What does the C 12 on the barrels mean?

**ANSWER:** The 3000 – 4000 serial number range is a very interesting fragment of Parker history. According to the *Serialization...* Parker production increased from 300 guns per year during 1868-73 to 2,500 guns per year in 1874-75. King joined the Parker organization some time in this period. There appears to be a relatively large number of higher grade guns bearing serial numbers in the 3000 range, and survival of these guns seems to exceed the norm. There was once a group of collectors that exchanged information on these, and several are pictured in *The Parker Story*. *Parker Pages* recently carried an article on a C 11 gun in \$250 grade sent in by Charles Herzog.

I have three of these guns; 3083, 3215, and 3291. Gun 3215 is pictured on page 236 of *The Parker Story*, and 3291, pictured on page 235, is identical

in appearance to 3295. A "consensus" among several Parker collectors places 3083 and 3291 as \$135 grades and 3215 as a \$250 grade. The interesting aspects now begin to surface.


All of the guns have rebounding hammers. 3083 and 3215 also have the 1878 patent forend latch and carry the 1878 patent date. I have been able to find 3215 in the archives in two subsequent resales; it was noted as rebarreled on each occasion, but the lock and forend change are not recorded. I am especially fond of 3291; it is a 7 pound, 15 ounce, 30 inch barrel ten gauge with a straight grip and high "modern" stock dimensions. It was apparently made for American live bird shooting when any gauge was allowed, but gun weight was limited to 8 pounds at several clubs.

The barrels of 3083 and 3215 are stamped C 12 at the same location that your gun is stamped C 11. The barrels of 3291 are stamped C 10. These barrels carry something that looks like a proof mark a few inches muzzleward of the C 12 or C 10 mark. The barrels of these guns approximate the nominal bore diameters of 12 and 10 gauge guns and are not oversized as are most later Parker Damascus barrels. I hypothesize from this that Parker was purchasing bored and semi finished English barrels at the time they began production. I am led to this by "Stonehenge" J.H. Walsh,



Bob Davis dollar grade Parker, showing the filed contour of the frame behind the breech, and the cross slide forend attachment.

Editor of "The Field" in *The Modern Sportsman's Gun and Rifle*, 1882. His first chapter reviews English Proof Law and states that proof is determined by bore and chamber measurement as well as proof testing. Guns with bores greater than specification could only be "proofed" at a larger gauge. He noted that many barrels intended to be 12 gauge were proofed at 11 gauge to be legally sold.

With respect to your 3288 being noted in the "Serialization..." as an 11 gauge, but is marked C 12; my 3083 is noted as a 10 gauge, but is also marked C 12. Gun 3083 may have begun as a "light" ten, but it is possible that it was mismarked at book entry. With respect to C 11 guns, it may be that these remained in stock, or were returned to stock and sold at a later time as 3083 and 3215 were. The 11 gauge was probably an orphan by that time, (1878 plus?) and 12 gauge barrels were substituted. 

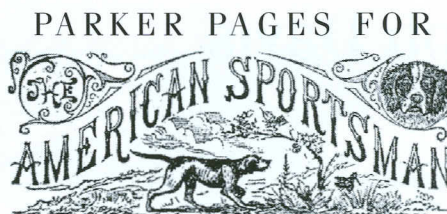
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Austin W. Hogan, Editor

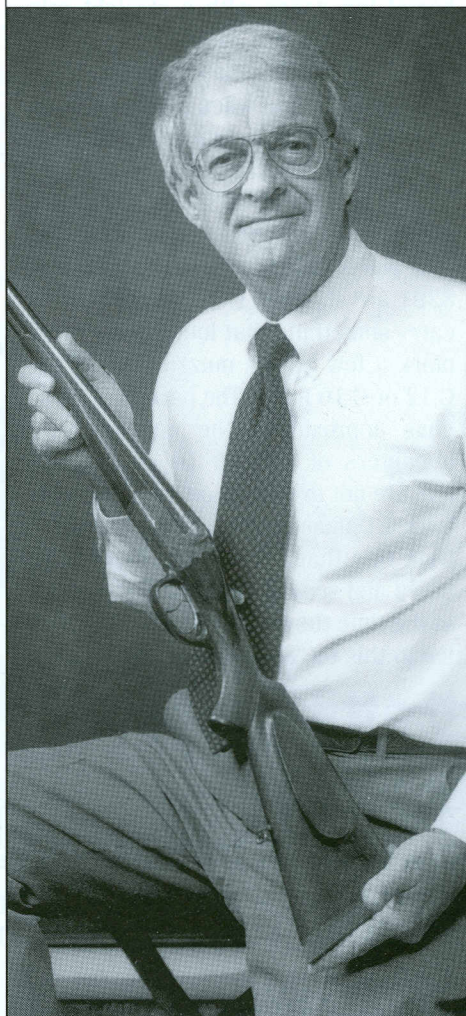
## Editorial

# Charlie Price: Founder of the *Parker Pages* Magazine

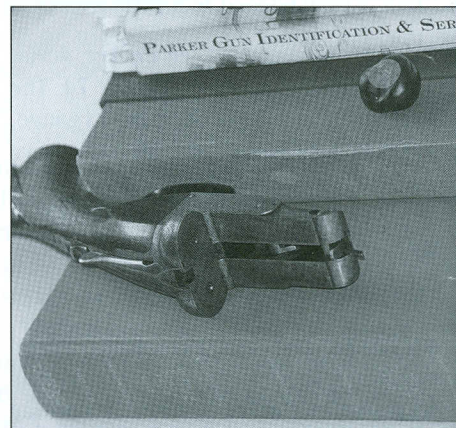
A few years ago, the PGCA was going through a major re-organization that was full of turmoil. Great men rise to the occasion in time of trouble, and Charlie Price volunteered to be Editor of *Parker Pages*. He found a printer, sought contributions from knowledgeable authors, and originated the magazine format that allows publication of sharp photos and continuity of text.

Charlie took on the editorship at the expense of personal sacrifice. There were many fish that remained uncaught, and many woodchucks that had escaped his 220 Swift, while he was researching and writing his portions of *The Parker Story*. He devoted a near equal amount of effort to seeking, reviewing, and editing articles for *Parker Pages*. He was his own backup; if eight pages were unfilled, Charlie contributed eight pages. He set a high standard for quality, which encouraged other good authors to contribute articles. This "bootstrap" or "feedback" leadership has brought this publication to its status among collector publications.

Three years ago, Charlie and the Directors asked me to meet with them at the Baltimore show to discuss my succeeding Charlie as editor of *Parker Pages*. I instantly sensed that Charlie was anxious to get a few lines in the water and more cross hairs on the marmots. I accepted, and took on the job of getting the next issue to press. Charlie stepped back, but didn't wither; he was a regular and steady contributor to the next few issues, and continues to provide review and advice. He has provided major contributions to the article "Philosophy of Collecting" in this issue, which continues research that he initiated.



Charlie holding his  
grandfather's German made 16 gauge



My tribute to Charlie Price is best summed up in the photograph above. Note that my copy of *Serialization...* is dog eared and stuffed with file cards carrying notes derived from many pages. The copy of *The Parker Story* is a little older; the worn binding and the absent embossing on the back are evidence of its continuous use. There is an early (s/n 56553) DH Parker atop the books. At my first meeting with Charlie, he had just discovered that Parker had not yet perfected the design and manufacture of rebounding hammers within a box lock frame at the time of introduction of its hammerless gun. He had with him a DH frame and he very graciously and thoroughly explained to me the workings of the firing pin retraction through connection with the top lever. The final item is the "Lucky Buckeye" that Charlie gave me when I became editor; *Parker Pages* did not need any luck, but I did to maintain the standard.

The finest gift that can be bestowed is the time and attention of a talented mentor; I thank Charlie personally, and for the wonderful gift he has given to all of us.





# Travels with Charlie

By Bill Mullins

It was around 8:00 p.m. when I answered the telephone.

"Bill, this is Charlie; when do you think we should head out in the morning?"

"Oh, how about meeting me around 9:00 a.m. at the Gallery. We have an eight-hour, or so, drive and should arrive by dinner. There are supposed to be plenty of birds this year and we should have a great hunt with a lot of shooting! What gun are you taking, Charlie? Your DHE 20?"

"Yes," said Charlie, "and I will probably also take the 12 or 16 just as a backup." "Sounds good to me," I said, "I plan on carrying my Dad's old VH12 that fits me pretty well. Hope the weather stays good! See you in the morning."

The preceding conversation typifies many that Charlie and I have had over twenty-six years. Whether by car or plane, our trips have taken us on many exciting travels. When not in hunting season, the conversation would be about a gun show we were attending in a neighboring state, Tennessee, or Las Vegas. Most often the show would involve setting up a Parker Gun display. Hunting trip or gun show, we always looked forward to each one with great anticipation!

I first met Charlie at a Knoxville, Tennessee gun show in 1980. He was displaying several Parker shotguns (one of which was an AAHE 12-gauge in an A&F case), and a few early hammer guns. A conversation about our mutual interests was initiated and has been ongoing now for over 26 years!

Charlie and I live about an hour apart, but that has never slowed us down. Our love for the Parker shotgun has carried us to an untold number of gun shows in several states as well as personal viewings of many private collections. We have used our Parkers on doves in Tennessee and Texas; quail in Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia; grouse and woodcock in Vermont, New Hampshire and Virginia; and, pheasant in Kansas! We have even hunted antelope in Wyoming (not with Parkers).

We have yet to try hunting geese and ducks, but I am sure that hunting trip will be in our near future.

Our admiration and desire to know more about the "Old Reliable" led us to a friendship and partnership with Roy Gunther, Louis C. Parker, III, and Daniel Cote for researching and writing a definitive book on this great American classic – known to all as *The Parker Story*. The preliminary work started in 1992. The first volume was printed in the Fall of 1998, and volume two followed in 2000.

Charlie and I spent countless hours and miles traveling, learning more about the Parker shotgun, compiling notes, taking photographs, and interviewing collectors, dealers, and interested parties. For eight years, seldom a day went by that we were not in contact with each other discussing Parkers. Charlie took advantage of an early retirement incentive and devoted many, many hours during the next eight years to researching, writing, and keeping *The Parker Story* on track. Charlie's even temperament, mild manner, and perseverance were all necessary to take *The Parker Story* from the "dream" stage to the final product. Charlie's knowledge of the history of the Parker gun is beyond question. We have always used each other as




Bill Mullins, Bob Casto, Charlie Price and Jeff Kuss at Charlie's display, Louisville 2007.

"sounding boards" and have never really disagreed on issues of substance.

Charlie's other interests are along the lines of many of us "gun" people. He enjoys fishing, old fishing tackle, reels and plugs, old pocket watches, coins, and quality pocket knives. He also enjoys antique and sports cars, with a particular affinity for Jaguars. He is a member of the local Jaguar Car Club and owns a low-mileage 1994 XJS sport convertible. Some years ago I got to go along to one of the Club rallies, hosting a British Jaguar Club, at the Jack Daniels Distillery. The cars were good and the aroma was great!!

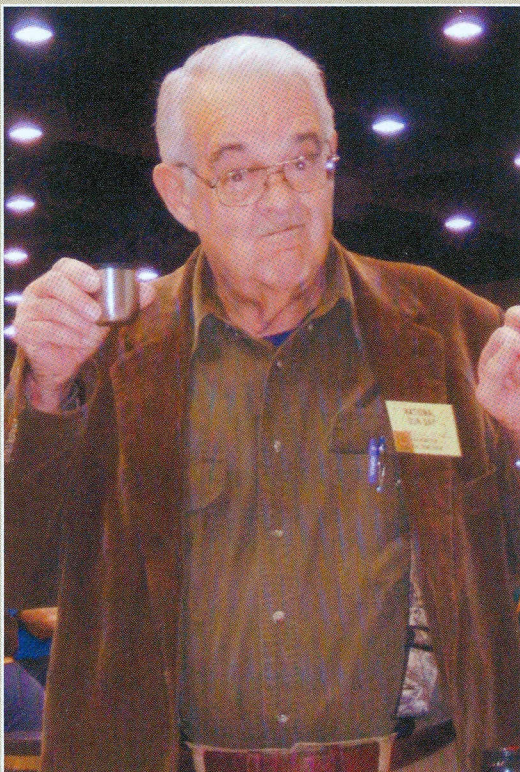
One of the best ways for me to share with you my "travels with Charlie" is through the following photographs – taken over the past several years. Charlie and I anticipate many more miles of hunting and Parker Gun trips. We enjoy shooting our Parkers and visiting with the many friends and fellow collectors we have been privileged to know over the past quarter of a century.

In summary, Charlie is a co-traveler, a partner, a friend, and a brother! 



Charlie Price with his award for best exhibit, at his exhibit table at Nashville (1980?)





Charlie lifts a little toast at Louisville, 2007.

# Mr. Charlie

By Charles A. Herzog Sr.

I would like to personally pay tribute to this great, fellow Parker collector and give him his due credit in *Parker Pages* for all the wonderful work that he did with the publication of *The Parker Story*. I do not know of anyone connected to, or associated with Parker guns that has enjoyed sharing his knowledge with Parker gun collectors as much as Mr. Charlie. Just imagine the monumental task that was undertaken by the authors of *The Parker Story*, and the dedication shown by those fellows to enlighten those that were, and are yet today, looking for answers about the mystique of the Parker shotgun. Charlie Price has shown his dedication and his love for the Parker gun by so doing.

Truly this fine and gentle man is to be held in the very highest of esteem when it comes to sharing his knowledge about Parkers, and also for just

being a great individual. Never a harsh word about anyone will ever come from Mr. Charlie. He is just that sort of a gentleman. He always has time to share his thoughts about our wonderful Parkers, and there is never any made up theories coming from Mr. Charlie. If there is something in question that he is not sure about, he will tell you that he just does not have an answer. There is nothing pretentious about Charlie Price.

I can truly say that I have had the wonderful opportunity to share many hours with this great man, and I feel that I am the better for having had the chance to spend time and be a part of the environment of friendship with Mr. Charlie. I am proud to say that I personally hold Mr. Charlie in the highest regard as a friend and mentor. My life has truly been blessed in having known such a fine man. 🕒



Charlie smiling with a striped bass.



Charlie, lower right with grandfather Charles Bengel, grandmother Aguste Bengel, and mother Rosalie Bengel Price who is holding Charlie's brother James Frank Price. Charlie's grandfather ran Bengel's bakery in Mayfield Kentucky; this picture was taken in front of their home in 1933 or 1934.



# Charlie Price

## Professor of the Parker Gun

By CDR Roy Gunther

In any field of collecting there is one person who is considered to be the "authority." If he is one who gladly shares his knowledge, then he is fondly looked upon as the "professor." For Parker shotguns this person is Charlie Price. Charlie has done more to educate us all about Parker guns than any other person.

While *The Parker Story* was a joint effort, it would never have been written if it weren't for Charlie Price. I was interested in early hammer doubles, and my interest in Parkers was limited to those early guns. I had obtained access to the Parker records at Remington in Ilion, N.Y., but really didn't know what to do with all the information. When my article, "Charles Parker, The Man and His Guns," appeared in the April 1990 issue of *The Gun Report*, Charlie noted the article and contacted me. Neither of us knew of the other's existence up until that time. It is this contact by Charlie that allowed *The Parker Story* to come into being.

Charlie and I collaborated on two Parker articles for the *Double Gun Journal*, and then he worked with Bill Mullins for two additional articles. We eventually agreed that we would try to

do a book. It was Charlie who then brought the team together. He recruited Bill Mullins, tracked down Louis Parker III, and talked Daniel Cote into doing the layout.


Those of you that are close to Charlie know him as a "laid back," easy-going kind of a guy. It was this very persona that worked so well during the writing of the book. When there were disagreements, or tempers flared, it was Charlie that brought us all "back to earth" and back on track. He was the proverbial "oil on troubled waters." The end product, *The Parker Story*, everyone will agree, is the most comprehensive and detailed account of any gun and its maker.

After *The Parker Story*, Charlie went on to do *Parker Gun Identification and Serialization*, published by Blue Book Publications. This work allowed individuals to easily identify Parker guns. The serialization portion of the book identified each gun by serial number. Charlie hoped that putting this information in the hands of collectors will forever end the practice of upgrading Parker guns and passing them off as originals. The next time you authenticate a gun using this book, think of the long hours that Charlie spent



Researching the history of the Parker family, Meriden cemetery.

in putting this information together.

We all fondly remember some educator from our past that has left a lasting impression on us. For Parker collectors, now and in the future, it will be "Professor Price" that will be remembered. 



Charlie with his display of Parkers; cased, hammer, lifter, rare and fine.



Charlie on the Five Stand Wobble Course at Deep River, April 2007.



# Tribute to Charlie Price

By James D. Hall


I first met Charlie Price at the first Parker gathering in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994. I had not bought many Parker shotguns at that time. However, I was in the stages of trying to learn all I could, for I had been told to beware. Charlie and a lot of Parker folks gathered at this event. Here is where the statement "a lot can be learned by listening instead of talking" comes into play. Through the years, we have ended up at many of the same gun shows and have had the privilege of hunting several times together. We hunted at Corbin Park as Alan Swanson's guests several times. We also walked the fields of Kansas, pheasant hunting. We both know who was toting 16 gauges and holding up our end of the shooting.

The first opportunity Charlie had to help me on a gun deal was a purchase from the second Nashville show. It was a P grade 8 gauge with a steel barrel marking that did not jive with a P grade. A copy of Charlie's original reply was enclosed as to his thoughts on 135899. Through the years a friendship has grown with talks of hunting, fishing, water and septic problems, and with questions and



"Nooooo.... It hasn't been cut"

answers. It is just great to sit and listen to Charlie when he talks about his adventures. It is especially great when he talks about his grandchildren. I have even seen e-mails of the fish they have caught; someone has taught them well.

All one has to do is sit and take the time to listen; a question about a Parker or any other gun subject is all it takes. I have always found that there is a lot of wisdom to be shared when someone has walked the walk years ahead of you. The knowledge of this true gentleman is there for those willing to listen. My hat is off to Mr. Charlie Price for the wisdom and advice he has passed to me over the years. It is a privilege to know such a man. I think it is about time for another hunting trip out west. What say ye Charlie? 



Charlie and his son, Danny, with a Canada Goose taken 1970.



Charlie and his 25/06 holding a very light color woodchuck.



# Big Brother – Charlie

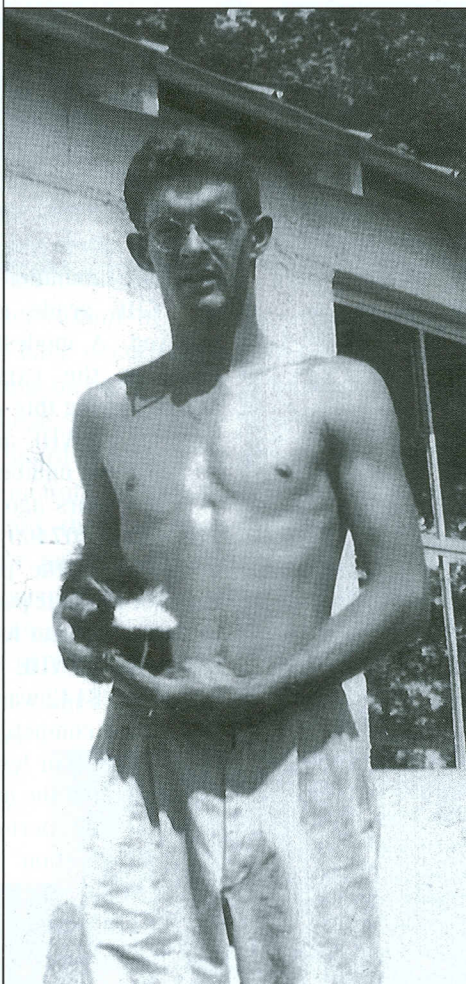
By Louis C. Parker, III

I first met Charlie Price at a Birmingham, Alabama, gun show in the mid 80's. He was standing next to a display of about a half dozen Parker hammer guns. Immediately, I started asking questions, not even taking the time to introduce myself. Charlie pointed out evolutionary differences between the guns in his display, noting that he had observed these features on other guns within specified numbers of the displayed guns. That early, no one else had attempted typing Parker hammer guns. So, this soft-spoken gentleman, being about six inches taller and at least that many years older than myself, made a most favorable impression.

In 1992, this same Tennessee gentleman contacted me stating that he understood that I was related to Charles Parker of Meriden, Connecticut, and had done some research on his family and company. Well, that was it and pretty soon Charlie, Bill Mullins, Roy Gunter, Daniel Cote, and I were barn storming (notice that I didn't say brain storming) on what was to become *The Parker Story*. We figured it could be knocked out in two or three years at the outside. Suffice it to say we had no clue what we were getting into, and I don't think that I ever reminded Charlie of our brief first meeting. At least then I had the presence of mind not to identify myself and speak of my earlier Parker research endeavors that had been on the back shelf for years.

Over the next ten years the five of us worked to bring about *The Parker Story*, and I had the privilege of getting to know Charlie, Bill, Roy, and Daniel. A more opinionated group of disparate personalities with one common interest and goal could not have been assembled if you tried. Whenever differences developed, it was always Charlie who brought us together and got us back on track and moving forward. Roy appropriately describes Charlie as the "Professor of the Parker Gun," and with that description I

heartily concur. Unquestionably, Charlie's contribution to *The Parker Story*, reflecting his years of study and analysis, was by far the most substantive. Charlie, like any great professor, is committed to sharing his




Charlie at the Price farm in Loudon Co, Tennessee with baby skunk. "I tried to perform an operation to remove the scent glands, but it was not successful; poor kitty was cute."

knowledge with others as evidenced by his numerous Parker articles in *Double Gun Journal* and *Parker Pages*, in addition to his book *Parker Gun Identification and Serialization*, and numerous speaking presentations and displays throughout the country.

A retired TVA engineer, which I guess explains his meticulous nature

and through analysis of the Parker gun, Charlie has raised a fine family and resides in Kingston, Tennessee, with his wife, Alma. His interests vary from classic automobiles, to firearms of all types, to bird hunting, fishing, and he has collected quite a variety of items over the years. Oh, I almost forgot to mention that he also takes great pleasure in picking off pesky ground hogs at great distances with a varmint rifle in an effort to assist his neighbors.

During the course of development and since the publication of *The Parker Story* I have been fortunate to be in regular communication with Charlie. However, our gun show and hunting times have been way too few due to miles between us and the fact that I'm still trying to practice law, since I have never gotten it quite right. I have been married to my bride, Kathy, for thirty-two years, and I have one daughter in law school and the other one starting medical school. To be perfectly honest, I'm as jealous as I can be of that Bill Mullins (he, the tall blond fellow who remembers every Parker he ever saw by serial number, when it was that he saw it, and who has it) who is usually in the area when you see Charlie. Those two are inseparable, and together they make the best walking encyclopedia of Parker guns in existence!

This being said, I would like to share with you how I have come to regard Mr. Charles E. Price over the last fifteen years. A nicer and finer gentleman of character and integrity with a truly scholarly approach to gun collecting and writings you will never meet than Charles E. Price. During the course of developing *The Parker Story* and since, Charlie has always unselfishly provided me with warmth, insight, and counsel not just on the subject of Parker guns, but on anything and everything that was on my mind. I regard him not only as one of my closest friends, but as the big brother I never had. Thank you, Charlie. 



# Some Notes on the Remington Parker

With contributions from Ken Waite Jr., Mark Conrad, Babe DelGrego, and Lawrence DelGrego

Remington Arms acquired The Parker Gun in 1934. Remington itself had recently been acquired by E I DuPont de Nemours, and Winchester was acquired by Olin Industries; the two major American long gun makers became subsidiaries of chemical companies. The Remington Society and the Parker Gun Collectors Association have been given access to some of Remington's and Parker's archives. Ken Waite, Jr. searched Remington archives during his many years as an employee. Most of these archives are in the form of inter-office memos, audits, and inventories. Many pages must be read and considered to extract a few facts. Parker Pages will begin to knit a few threads relating to Remington's management of "The Parker Operation," the cessation of Parker manufacture, and the disposal of Parker's tooling in this article.

## INTERNAL AUDIT MEMO REMINGTON ARMS PARKER OPERATION

Hion, New York  
January 23, 1940

TO: C.M. Green  
FROM: G.W. Radley  
SUBJECT: PARKER GUNS

In accordance with the request of the Arms Product Committee, we have made a study of the Parker Gun situation, and we are attaching a schedule showing the amount necessary to spend in order to provide sales for the years 1940-41. The schedule also shows the effect on the inventories, and results in a write off at the end of 1941 in the amount of \$157,000.

While the results are far from pleasing, in our opinion, it is the best solution for the Parker problem at the present time.

We are attaching a schedule showing the parts necessary to be completed in order to obtain the production required to meet the estimated sales for the years 1940-41, and to allow for ten years supply of repair parts.

It is our recommendation that Parker operations be confined only to work on the parts listed in the attached schedule, and to the assembly of such guns as are required for shipment, and all other work except Custom Repairs be stopped immediately, thereby reducing our cash outlay on this line of goods.

Since the purchase of Parker in 1934, we have lost approximately \$250,000, as shown by the statement of net receipts. It must be borne in mind, however, that Parker has absorbed some small portion of the burden that would have to be absorbed by Remington. Such burden is very small due to the fact that we have not been apportioning the burden to the Parker line, apportioning only such items as we feel were directly chargeable to Parker, and we feel that we have been very conservative in apportioning these charges.

The same ratio of loss will prevail for the next two years, and will show on the net receipts statement, inasmuch as the attached schedule represents cash outlay only.

GWR:ED  
Atch.

A memo discussing losses on "The Parker Operation" and an attempt to minimize this loss is stated in the verbatim form below left; the original is a photo copy of a carbon copy that is not suitable for reproduction. The memo refers to several audits and inventories, but these items are not attached to it. A hand prepared table of price, production cost, and forecast production number for each Parker grade is attached to the memo; we have translated this table to an excel file for convenience of study.

The memo indicates "The Parker Operation" had continuously operated at a financial loss, although it was not being fully charged with Remington's overhead burdens. It was expected that this loss would continue through 1941, and that the loss should be reduced by limiting Parker work to filling orders received and to "Custom Repairs." The price and cost tabulation indicates that production cost of VHE and GHE grade guns exceeded the wholesale prices received. A modest retail price increase was proposed although the expected increase in wholesale price accompanying this was not noted. This increase was about 14% for the VHE and GHE grades, but it was expected to decrease the numbers of these grades sold by 40%.

A few years ago, *Parker Pages* carried a story about a PH, serial 207469, made in 1924 and sold new at \$83, according to the price list in the 1923 catalog. A note beneath the butt pad on this gun indicated it had been sold to its third owner for \$40 on 29 September 1938. The 40% diminution of VHE Parker sales resulting from an increase in price to \$142 was probably a bit optimistic; a new VHE at \$142 was competing with thousands of near new VHE's selling at \$50 or less throughout the country.

The tone of the memo above, and other similar memos in the 1940-42 period indicate disagreement about "The Parker Operation" among operating levels of Remington management. There was, among some of them, a sense of pride in Remington having a quality product in its catalog. Among others, however, there was a feeling of Parker being

PARKER PRICE AND COST AUDIT JANUARY 23 1940 by G W RADLEY

	UNIT COST	NET SALE COST	PRESENT RETAIL		FORECAST SALES	
			NOW	NEW	NOW	NEW
VHE	96.67	85.23	125	142	250	150
GHE	105.93	102.27	150	167	100	60
DHE	123.69	132.95	195	212	95	70
CHE	137.99	187.51	275	292	15	12
BHE	175.16	255.68	375	392	5	5
AHE	215.14	351.14	515	532	5	5
AAHE	279.93	501.14	735	750	1	1
A 1S	350.66	606.82	890	890	1	1
SC	153.88	153.88	225	225	30	30
ALL					502	334



a non-contributing intruder among others. The Arms Technical Committee proposed a design for a BHE and forwarded a model of this gun, which could be profitably sold at retail for \$500. These proposals became mute as the War Production Board directed Remington's operations soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

MEMORANDUM  
ON CESSATION OF PARKER PRODUCTION

Ilion, New York  
April 17, 1942

TO: H.A. Brown  
FROM: G.O. Clifford  
SUBJECT: PARKER GUNS

We note your Arms Products Committee Minute of April 13.

For your information, all the guns, which were near completion, have now been completed, and operations in this department have ceased.

G.O. Clifford  
Works Manager

The above memo formalizes the cessation of "The Parker Operation" which appears to have occurred on April 11. There were 147 completed guns on hand at that time; Remington could not deliver these, as they were embargoed by the War Production Board for possible need as guard guns by other war production operations. There were also other Parkers on hand, that had been returned for credit by retailers. Later memos indicate sufficient finished parts on hand to complete a total of 302 Parkers. Hand written notes among these memos indicate proposals to convert some of these to skeet guns, at a cost of \$100 each. It is not clear if the skeet gun conversions were for customer sale, or aerial gunner training. Remington employees did train gunners under contract during WWII.



Lawrence Del Gego demonstrating safety slot drilling jig.

Ilion, New York  
November 12, 1942

TO: A.E. Buchanan  
FROM: G.O. Clifford  
SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF PARKER MACHINES

Attached hereto is a Permanent Investment Transfer proposing the transfer to "Superfluous Machinery" of the machinery and equipment removed from the Parker operation. The approval of this transfer is tantamount to approving the discontinuance of the Parker shotgun. It is submitted at this time as a proposal in connection with the scrap drive and in the interest of the war effort, but it should be understood that the approval would make it impossible to go back in the Parker gun business after the war.

Although the expected scrap value is indicated on the transfer we believe it is probable that many of the machines, although old, and in some cases specialized, could be disposed of as machines or machine parts rather than as scrap iron.

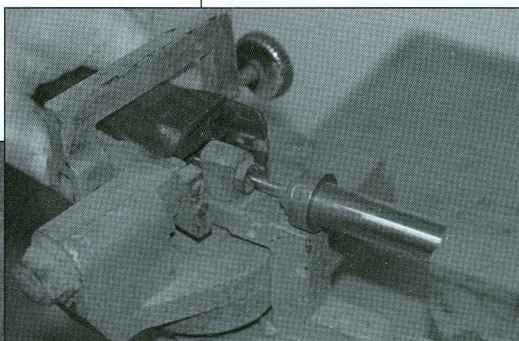
We are submitting this as our recommendation to management.

G.O. Clifford  
Works Manager

This memo was followed by several others indicating the small scrap value of the machinery, and led to a total inventory of Parker tooling, jigs, fixtures, gauges and machinery comprised of 101 typewritten pages dated January 16, 1943. This inventory is a gold mine for Parker research as it defines the tools and




The stock layout pattern 3805 - 8 listed in the tooling inventory. It was used to contour the flat area behind the frame on V,P, and G grade hammerless guns.



Detail of locating fixtures in safety slot drilling jig.

methods used to layout and carve stocks as well as all the tools, methods and gauges used to form and inspect all components of the Parker gun.

We do not know how much Parker machinery was dismantled or scrapped, but there are several survivors. Inventory number 11386 on page 37, is noted to perform the operation "Drill safety slot, etc., in stock." Lawrence Del Gego is shown operating this drill in the photo. Stock gauge 3805 - 8 is inventoried on page 89. The jigs and tools used to cut and fit the bolt plate to the locking bite of the barrels have been restored and are again available. The study of this tooling inventory continues. 



# MistaKaas – A Step Back in Time...

By Destry Hofard

**M**r. Donald Kaas Esq. of Montgomery County, Penn. and I shared an ongoing correspondence for some time relating to our mutual fondness for gunning wildfowl, pigeon shooting, and more specifically these things when done with the Parker Gun. The end of the season being in sight, Mr. Kaas suggested that I join him there in the East for a few days to pursue said sports for which we both show such affection. He proposed a day of goose shooting on the Eastern Shore of Maryland followed by a pigeon match at his gun club near the city of Philadelphia. I met this invitation with much enthusiasm as I'd long held a desire to shoot on the hallowed grounds of the aforementioned club.

My friend, Roger Giles, of Toledo, Ohio offered to stand me a good supper the evening before my leave-taking. The meal was sumptuous as always, the libations liberal, and the company cheerful. Also attended by another friend, the ever gregarious Jack Apple, we made for a merry company. As my train was leaving at the Witching Hour from the Toledo station, I left my conveyance at Mr. Giles' home and

was taken there in record time by the man himself. With a wave and a nod of acknowledgment that he would be on hand to retrieve me when I returned, I left him and boarded the train with guncase and duffle in tow. My journey to the City of Brotherly Love was pleasant and uneventful. Mr. Kaas made a timely arrival at the 30th Street Station, and we wended our way south to the famous "Shore" with hopes for the morning in our hearts. We overnighted at the Brampton Inn with our other gunning companions, and took dinner at a waterfront cafe where the fruits of the sea were much in evidence. With schooners of Baltimore beer, crab cakes, and fresh broiled fish, we were well supplied with a decent meal. Afterwards, one of the gentlemen produced a good bottle of Port, and Mr. Kaas poured another round from his ample cabinet of liquor. We chatted into the night regaling one another with tales of past hunts, good natured arguments as to favored gun borings, cartridge loadings, and all the other pleasant conversation that is common amongst a group of shooting gentlemen. Such exchanges can last into the wee hours, but morning was to come early. So before the stroke of midnight had struck, we each went our separate ways to seek the Temple of Hynos.

**A** knock on my door awoke me at five bells accompanied by a hurried admonition that breakfast was on the table. I jumped into gunning togs, and grabbed my big Parker 10 bore goose gun. A quick repast and we were on our way to the Chester River. Daylight found us well settled in a fine blind, but the rough weather which had been predicted, unfortunately failed to appear. The sun rose to clear skies and calm winds which, as any aficionado of marsh and lake knows, does not bode well for fowling. The middle of the river was black with broadbill, but nary a wing



Destry in the entrance hall of the Philadelphia Gun Club.

The Club dining room.





came close enough for fired salute. A bit later the geese began flying and we managed to coax a single in range which promptly hit the water with a resounding splash at the double report of Mr. Kaas' and my guns. After that a hard look was all the birds would give us, and the morning progressed with only one more gray goose brought to bag. We gave it up when the dinner bell rang and retired to a local tavern for a light repast. A pleasant day all in all. The shooting was slow but due to no fault of our own. It being only the God Boreas that deserted us, failing to send his wintry breath to urge the fowl into flight. We gathered the rest of our trappings from the Inn and headed north back into Pennsylvania, making the gun club in time for a nightcap with another member who was spending the evening there. He entertained us with tales of his travels to the Dark Continent of which I took great interest. But, after a glass or two of whiskey, the urge for rest crept upon me and I retired to my room. Quickly falling into the sleep of a man who has risen with the sun and spent the day afield.

I arose early to perform my ablutions, dressed in my best shooting clothes, then proceeded downstairs to break my fast and view the house. I was happy to find several of the members already at the table taking their coffee. Jimmy, the club's butler and all around major domo, took my order and promptly delivered a plate of eggs and bacon done to a turn. The other gentlemen and I chatted about the upcoming match, the state of the birds, and the chances of the PGC defeating the guns of the The Leash Club of New York, who were guests for the match that day as well. After the meal, but before the appointed hour for the commencement of shooting, Mr. Kaas toured me around the house and grounds. The Philadelphia Gun Club is a haven for men who love the gun and shooting. The old clubhouse filled with interesting curios related to the sport of pigeon shooting and the members, gentlemen of the highest order. Many well known celebrities have spent time there and "signed the book" including that famous modern day Diana, Annie

Oakley, her paramour Frank Butler, and William K. Vanderbilt Jr. to name only a few. Fine rooms are provided for guests to use, and the dining room produces meals of quality along with liquor and wine from the best distillers and vintners. I found nothing in or about the club that did not delight the eye of a man in who's heart the outdoor life holds sway.

At the appointed hour we all gathered at the "shoot house" to register ourselves for the match. Mr. Kaas placed he and myself high on the sheet so I dropped cartridges into my coat pocket, snapped together my faithful Parker, and made my way to the traps. Every gun is allowed three practice birds, and when my turn came I was mightily pleased to see that my shooting eye had not failed me. I downed my three "flyers" and was congratulated by one of the older members who said that I was "seeing the birds well this morning" with a wink of encouragement. The formal match began with a cold hard wind blowing off the Delaware River making the birds fly wildly and giving even the best guns a sporting time. The oak logs burning in the fireplace and cups of hot coffee were much welcome when



Trophy case, and past president's honor gallery, of the Philadelphia Gun Club.

Destry at the traps on a windy day along the Delaware.





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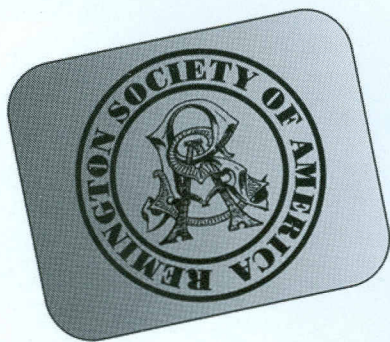
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you were not standing on the mark I can assure you. My good shooting continued, and I was pleased to see 10 down marked out of a 15 bird race next to my space on the chalkboard. Twelve birds took it, so not enough to get my name engraved on the much coveted silver cup, but plenty to satisfy my own sense of skill.

After the scores were tallied and congratulation given, we all made our way back to the main clubhouse for a luncheon. Besides the prestigious Leash Club, we were joined that day by the president of one of the large national shooting organizations, a state supreme court justice, and a visiting army captain just returned from overseas who had recently been granted one of the member's daughter's hand in marriage. After dessert, the clicking of cigar cutters could be heard throughout the room, and curls of smoke appeared in proliferation. Mr. Kaas and I enjoyed a Havana and then headed back for the afternoon shooting. Another 15 bird race had been organized, a count of the remaining birds making this possible. My eye failed me a trifle after my meal, as it always seems to do when I'm well fed. The chalk board showed only 9 birds to my score. I had been a bit late on the trigger causing me to knock a pair down outside the boundary and allowing another three more to escape entirely unscathed. Following the afternoons shooting, Mr. Kaas and I broke our guns, loaded ourselves and gear into his chosen method of transport, then headed for his farm outside the city.

His home is truly the domicile of a sportsman, being filled with shooting prints, decoys, bird dogs, and all the other tackle relating to a life spent in the open. His wife stood us a good dinner in their dining room and left us to our manly conversation. Almost as pleasant as the doing, is the talking of sport after it's over but still freshly in the mind.

The next day I regretfully boarded the train home. This being my last gunning trip of the year, my heart was heavy. But I traveled with a new cache of experiences to hold me through the long months until the leaves again begin to turn and the smell of powder is in the air. Many thanks to Mr. Kaas and all the other gentlefolk who made my travels such a joy. I will long recall our times with fond regard.

Most collectors and shooters of Parker Guns lament and long for the old days of gunning that were written about by our ancestors. But those days really aren't gone forever, though a few things like cars and diesel trains have replaced the horsecart and coal burning engines. Though it reads like something out of the past, as was my intent, the above is the report of a trip I took only this past season. If your imagination is good, and you have friends who are of a similar taste, you can relive days long gone by with only a little effort. We weren't gunning clouds of birds that darkened the sky, the train was Amtrak not the Baltimore and Ohio, my ride to and from the station was a Buick not a surrey with the fringe on top, and we were shooting non-toxic shot through our Parker guns. But the spell of the past lingered and will linger still for those who love and respect it.

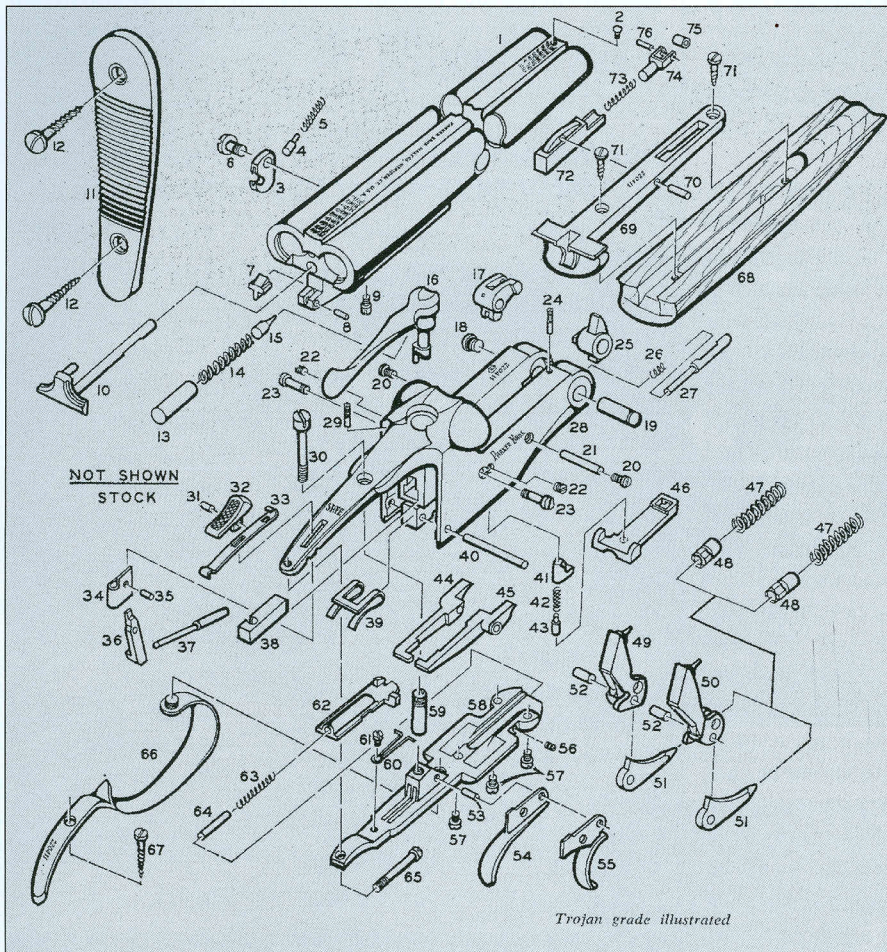
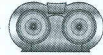




# The Topic is The Trojan Chapter IV

Gary Puckett has sent us these sharp scans of a Triggs assembly drawing, that appeared in The American Rifleman in 1961. This drawing illustrates the Trojan, but is

representative of the hammerless Parker. The absence of ejectors on the Trojan simplifies this drawing, which faithfully presents the lock work, cocking mechanism, and bolting system.



Some study, and a Parker gun at hand, are necessary to really understand the working relationship of Parker parts. Note that the top lever (part 17) turns a bell crank that retracts the locking bolt (part 38).

## Parts Legend

- |                                      |                               |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Barrels                           | 27. Unhooking pin             | 52. Mainspring pin (2)        |
| 2. Front sight                       | 28. Receiver                  | 53. Trigger pin               |
| 3. Cocking link                      | 29. Top-lever retaining screw | 54. Trigger, left             |
| 4. Cocking link spring pin           | 30. Tang screw, front         | 55. Trigger, right            |
| 5. Cocking link spring               | 31. Safety slide pin          | 56. Unhooking slide screw     |
| 6. Cocking link screw                | 32. Safety slide              | 57. Trigger plate screw (3)   |
| 7. Bolt plate                        | 33. Safety slide spring       | 58. Trigger plate             |
| 8. Bolt plate retaining pin          | 34. Safety lever jacket       | 59. Tang screw sleeve         |
| 9. Extractor screw                   | 35. Safety lever pin          | 60. Trigger spring            |
| 10. Extractor                        | 36. Safety lever              | 61. Trigger spring screw      |
| 11. Buttplate                        | 37. Safety pin                | 62. Unhooking slide           |
| 12. Buttplate screw (2)              | 38. Bolt                      | 63. Unhooking slide spring    |
| 13. Top-lever spring shell           | 39. Sear spring               | 64. Unhooking slide plunger   |
| 14. Top-lever spring                 | 40. Sear pin                  | 65. Tang screw, rear          |
| 15. Top-lever spring plunger         | 41. Trip                      | 66. Guard bow                 |
| 16. Top-lever                        | 42. Trip spring               | 67. Guard bow screw           |
| 17. Cocking crank                    | 43. Trip spring plunger       | 68. Fore-end                  |
| 18. Joint pin screw                  | 44. Sear, left                | 69. Fore-end iron             |
| 19. Joint pin                        | 45. Sear, right               | 70. Fore-end plunger box pin  |
| 20. Cocking crank pin stop screw (2) | 46. Cocking slide             | 71. Fore-end screw (2)        |
| 21. Cocking crank pin                | 47. Mainspring (2)            | 72. Fore-end plunger box      |
| 22. Hammer fastening screw (2)       | 48. Mainspring plunger (2)    | 73. Fore-end plunger spring   |
| 23. Hammer screw (2)                 | 49. Hammer, left              | 74. Fore-end plunger          |
| 24. Unhooking pin screw              | 50. Hammer, right             | 75. Fore-end plunger roll     |
| 25. Joint roll                       | 51. Hammer stirrup (2)        | 76. Fore-end plunger roll pin |
| 26. Unhooking pin spring             |                               |                               |

This provides a good reference for the names of Parker parts to be used in articles in Parker Pages.

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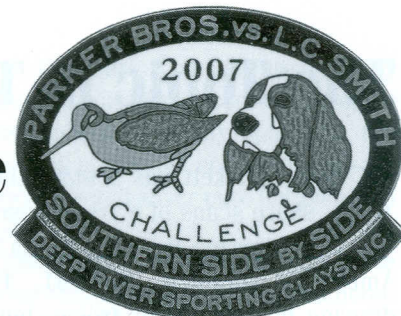


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# The Fourth Annual LC Smith – Parker Challenge

Held at Deep River Shooting School




**T**om Archer of the LC Smith Collectors Association, Bill Kempffer of Deep River Shooting School, and Mark Conrad of PGCA again organized an LC Smith – Parker Challenge in Conjunction with the Southern Side by Side Championship, April 27 – 29 2007. An additional Challenge event for hammergun shooters was held on the Sunday morning following the The Challenge.

The Deep River Five Stand field was set for practice on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning; a second Five Stand area featuring a wobble trap was set near the exhibit area. This dual Five Stand set up provided general access to the practice fields. Shooters registered for Qualification squads at the PGCA and LC Smith organization tables, and began shooting alternating LC Smith/ Parker five member squads Friday afternoon. Tom Wooden, Charles Herzog, Art Wheaton, and Mark Conrad organized registration and squadding. Each participant paid a \$10 registration charge in addition to the range fees, which provided a total of \$1390 that was presented to Kim Furnish, Regional NRA Representative, for the NRA Youth Educational Fund.

The Five Stand field was set for practice with two crossing chandelles, a high incomer, two fast outgoing targets, and a rabbit. The course was reset slightly, and the pairings changed for the Qualification round. All pairs were simultaneous pairs for the Qualifying and Challenge rounds. A total of 71 Parker shooters and 68 LC Smith shooters shot in the qualification round. The Parker shooters are listed in squad order. The qualification round was well set to test the shooters; the ten qualifying PGCA shooters broke 21 to 24 birds each. Several experienced shooters which have been members of the PGCA team in the past did not qualify this year. Mark Conrad and JD Shank have been members of three PGCA teams, and Crile Crisler is the only member of the First Challenge team to be a member this year. The Rev Charlie Brooks has been a member of every LC Smith team.

The traps were reset and re-paired for the Challenge on Saturday afternoon. The LSCSA team trailed slightly after the first squads fired. Team Parker won by a margin of 16. Ricky Kenog (PGCA) was high overall shooter with a 45x50, Don Shumaker (LCSCA) was second with a 43x50, Mark Conrad (PGCA) was third with 42x50 and we had a four-way tie at fourth, and John Butler 41x50 won the tie breaker. Ricky Kenog was also the highest score with a Damascus gun, winning the Oscar Gaddy Trophy. Mary Anne Finch (LCSCA) took the Ladies top gun award.

The hammergun event was shot with less formality Sunday morning. All hammergun shooters fired a single round of 25, and the average score for LC Smith and Parker shooters were calculated. Our congratulations to the Smith Shooters, who won by an average of one half bird per

shooter. Mark Conrad was the High gun with a score of 23. The Challenge and Hammergun events were vigorously but gentlemanly contested; good pickups were applauded by both galleries. 

## Parker Shooters in Order of Squading for Qualification

		<b>PGCA CHALLENGE SQUAD SHOOTERS</b>
Joe Pratts	Steve Cobb	Crile Cristler
Crile Cristler	Ernie Hausman	J.D. Shank
Pat Thrasher	Walt Brown	Ron Garrido
Buddy Marson	Paul Kupferberg	John Jeffery
Zeb Holt	Mark Conrad*	Tom Cutler
Brad Steinfeld	Malcolm	Ricky Kanog
Tom Callaghan*	McGregor*	Joe Burton
J.D. Shank*	Darel Corona	Paul Kupferberg
Ron Garrido*	Boyce Hudson	Mark Conrad
Austin Hogan*	Bill Murphy	Sam Thomas
Dave Kerr	Sam Thomas	
John Jeffery	Carl Calandra	
Dave Fjelline*	Eric Taylor	
Dan Christensen	Rich Anderson	
Dean Romig	Eric Eis	<b>PGCA HAMMERGUN SHOOTERS</b>
Bob Altenhoe	Destry Hoffard	Tom Callaghan
Jent Mitchell	John Davis	J.D. Shank
John Dunkle	Roger Bain	Ron Garrido
Bruce Day	David Smith	Austin Hogan
Dave Purnell*	Jay Bunting	Dale Eielline
Larry Frey	Kenny Berger	Dave Purnell
Tom Carter	Haley Pearsall	Carl Brandt
Kevin McCormack	Dave Zirnsak	Jim Hall
Dick Baum	Lowell MacNutt*	Mark Conrad
Tom Cutler	Jack Noneman	Malcolm
Carl Brandt*	Alex Papp	McGregor
Steve Bradshaw	Richard Carlson	Lowell MacNutt
Frank Halsey	Bill Mullins	David Yeatts
Mitch Lebold	Charlie Price	Terry Smith
Ray Roy	Bruce Scott	
Ricky Kanog	Neil McInnis	
Terry Boose	David Yeatts*	
Jim Hammond	Greg Phillips	
Andy Killgore	Weston Croft	
Jim Hall*	Terry Smith	
Joe Burton	(Hammergun Only)	
David Hamilton		
Morris Baker		





Parker and LC Smith hammergun shooters in the North Carolina morning light.



Jent Mitchell during qualifying round.



Darryl Middlebrook near PGCA and Turnbull displays.



Charlie Brooks with his LC Smith hammergun. Reverend Charlie is the only competitor to have qualified for all four LC Smith – Parker Challenges.



Terry Boose and Mitch Lebold, after shooting the qualifying round.

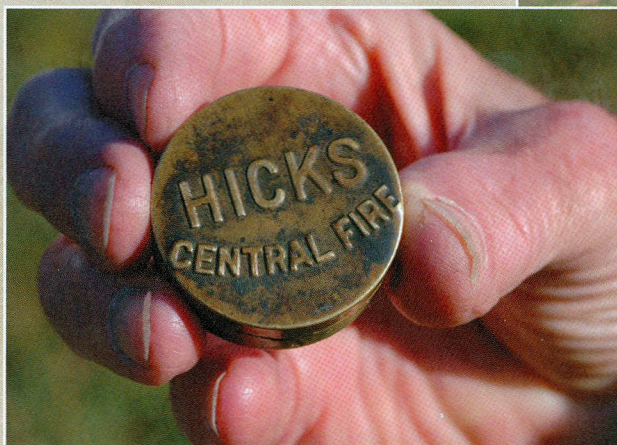




Bill Mullins at the wobble five stand course. The gun is an heirloom VH, which belonged to his father.



Morris Baker with a very nice plain twist hammergun, about to call for a bird.



Hick's primer can, given to him by Dean Romig.



John Hickerson frequent contributor to *Parker Pages*, with a classic primer can.



Paul Kupferburg after shooting a good qualifying score with his Trojan.

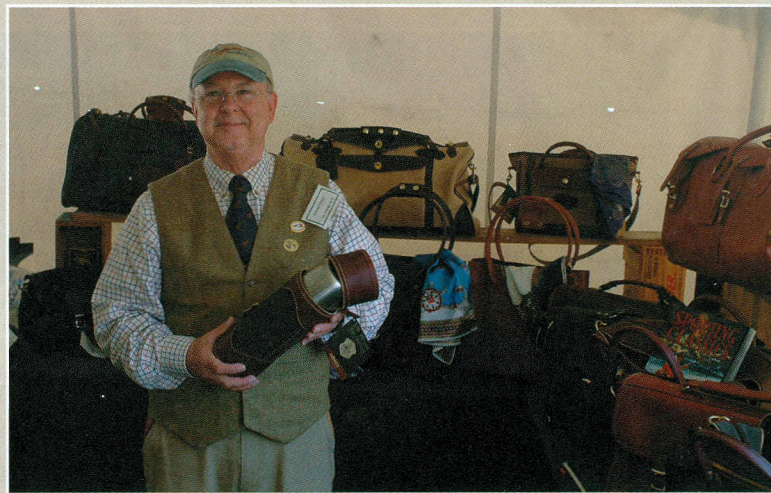


Dean Romig and Bill Murphy.





Alex Papp and Morris Baker at their RST display.



Chris Johnston presented two awards to Challenge shooters on behalf of Hulme leather.



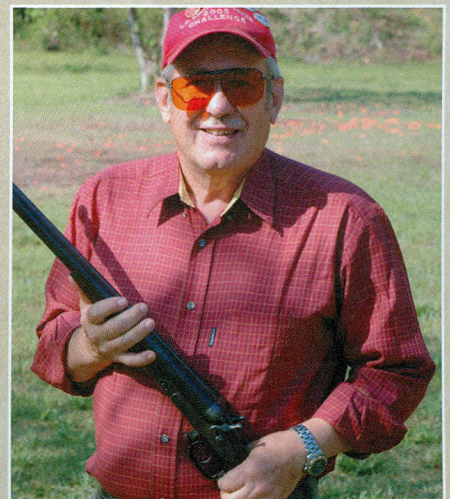
John Dunkle and Charles Herzog with the AA trap ordered by John's grandfather.



The Parker Challenge shooting team. Standing, from left; Tom Cutler, Paul Kupferburg, Ron Garrido, JD Shank, Sam Thomas. Kneeling from left; Joe Burton, John Jeffery, Crile Christler, Mark Conrad, Ricky Kenog.



Host Bill Kempffer presenting LC Smith – Parker Challenge entry fees to Kim Furnish, Regional NRA representative. The entry fees were donated to the NRA Youth Education Fund.



Lowell Mac Nutt smiling after a good round with a borrowed hammergun.





Mark Conrad presenting the Hammergun Challenge Award to Mary Ann Finch. PGCA congratulates the L C Smith shooters on their win.



Dave Pernell with his early Parker lifter.



The PGCA display, adjacent to the LC Smith Collector's display. Thanks to Chris Lien for the photos, and several members who placed guns in the display rack each day. The Remington Parker AAHE 28 gauge was displayed by Remington.



Filming for Shotgun Journal.



Jim Hall registers a new member as John Dunkel, Charlie Herzog and Tom Wooden examine a Parker.



# Philosophies of Parker Collecting Chapter II

## The Influence of Stock Dimensions, Stock Finish, Butt Plates, and Pads on Parker Desirability

Contributions from Mark Conrad, Charlie Price, Greg Schroeder, John N. Davis, Ray Roy, Jeff Kuss, and Ken Waite Jr.

The initial article in this series brought forward some considerations to be pondered in the present infancy of sporting arms collecting. Martial arms collectors collect serial numbers, inspector's marks, unit marks or identification, cartouches, and historic connections, with little concern for the present shootability of the arm. We proposed that Parker gun collectors should consider the utility of every gun as it stands. Parker guns of all eras, grades, and gauges, were made to use and enjoy afield. A fine and beautiful gun's collectability should be enhanced if it is suitable and usable for a hunt or a day at the traps.

Martial arms were purchased in large quantities by governments, carefully documented, repaired, and modified in standardized ways. They were reissued to units of lesser readiness when aged and "surveyed out" when superseded by a new model. This allows martial arms collectors to use definitive terms like "never issued," "arsenal rebuilt," and "battle weary" to describe large quantities of guns.

Sporting arms were purchased by individuals who used and maintained each one as a unique entity. It was pointed out in the introductory article that Parker produced five action types, eleven frame sizes, four stock configurations, nine grades, and used numerous designations of barrel steel. Multiply the fact that some guns of every grade are/were hunted thirty plus days a year by two or more generations of hunters. Some were used only a day or two a year for a short time, and a matrix of grade, configuration, and wear emerges that defies simple definitive terms.

It is also necessary to include maintenance and repair over at least 65 years to describe the present appearance

and condition of every Parker gun. Parker barrels are relatively thick and allow some re-striking of the outside and honing (called "emery out" in Parker orders) of the inside to remove minor dents, dings, scratches, and corrosion. Parkers, like most finely crafted objects, were finished with a small amount of excess wood to allow at least one refinish and one pointing up of the checking. (Editor's note: I know I read this in Johnson, Baer, and TPS, but I just ran my finger nail over an SB that retains its original 15 inch pull and leather covered pad, and a DH that retains its 12 1/2 pull, 3 1/2 drop and SSBP to make sure! ) Early Parker order books contain almost as many repair orders as orders for new guns. "Shorten stock," "refinish stock," and "fit new stock" are frequently found in the orders. The prevalent Parker stock finish is shellac and linseed oil, called "French Polish" by many wood finishers. There are letters from Parker to

Parker owners, advising them that a little linseed oil will rejuvenate minor finish wear and damage. The shellac and oil finish is renewable in minutes if no wood is missing.

It is often a shocking revelation to both new and long time Parker collectors to find, in a Research Committee letter, that the original buyer paid a \$10 surcharge, additional to \$55 to \$80 cost of the gun, for additional drop at heel. The charge for "additional" drop began at 3 to 3 1/4 inches in several catalogs. Orders for 3 1/2 to 4 inches of drop at heel are fairly common, and seem more frequent in guns of DH grade and higher which less frequently applied the surcharge. Parker's order form and catalogs indicate that the customer could specify pull, drop at comb, and drop at heel on a gun of any grade. Du Bray and other Parker representatives used try guns to determine the proper

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF GUNS WITH STATED DIMENSIONS

LENGTH OF PULL TO FRONT TRIGGER, INCHES								
13 1/2	13 3/4	14	14 1/8	14 1/4	14 3/8	14 1/2	14 3/4	15 1/4
4	3	3	3	9	6	3	0	2
DROP AT COMB - INCHES								
1 1/4	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 5/8	1 3/4	1 7/8	2	2 1/8	2 1/4
1	6	9	4	2	4	5	2	1
DROP AT HEEL - INCHES								
1 3/4	2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 3/4	3	3 1/4	3 1/2	4
2	4	7	7	8	2	8	3	1
PITCH - INCHES								
0	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4	4 1/2
1	0	3	8	3	2	6	3	2



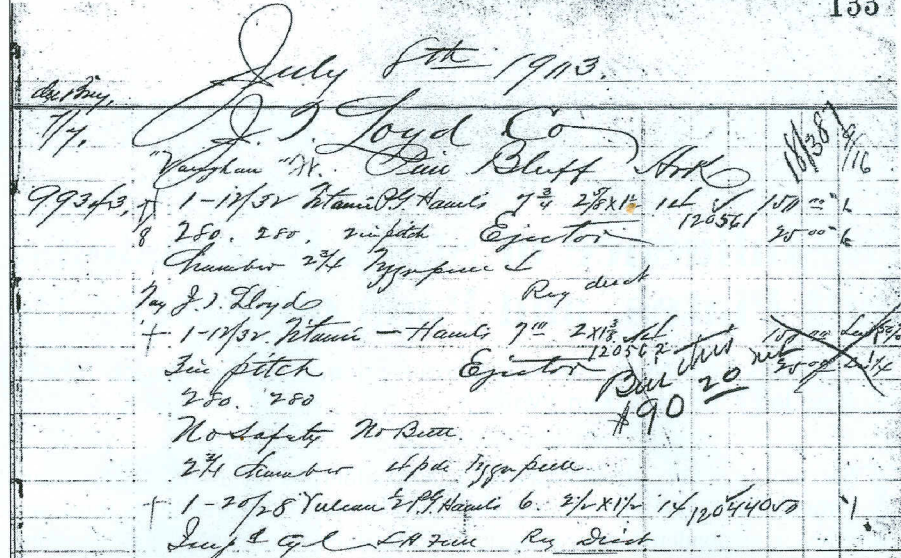
stock dimensions for prospective customers. Du Bray often transmitted multiple orders with measured dimensions obtained from shooters and spectators at tournaments. The measurements acquired by du Bray usually included pitch, and occasionally included cast. Customer supplied dimensions rarely specified pitch or cast.

A tabulation of Parker stock dimensions has been prepared from measurements of existing Parker guns, Research Committee letters, and scans of Parker order books that contain orders with measurements obtained by du Bray. Some of these dimensions appeared recently in *Double Gun Journal*; they are repeated here with pitch and drop at comb added in most cases. The current measured stock dimensions are noted below the ordered dimensions, where both are available.

An analysis of the relative frequency of length of pull, drop at comb, drop at heel, and pitch have been extracted from the tabulation. These numbers are collected in Table 1 for comparison.

Scanning the table indicates that 14 1/4 inches is the most frequent length of pull provided by Parker, and probably the "default" length supplied to distributors placing large speculative orders. Several of du Bray's orders specified a 14 inch pull with "No Butt;" we assume that this meant the butt was cut to the proper pitch at 14 inches, to be fitted later with a pad by the customer. These guns are not included in the pull table as we do not know the final finished length. They are included in the other tables. A majority of the guns listed (18) have a length of pull of 14 1/4 +/- 1/8 inch; 10 are 14 inches or shorter, and only 5 are 14 1/2 inches or longer.

The absence of 14 3/4 and 15 inch pull guns is an interesting anomaly. The addition of a pad to the "No Butt" guns ordered through du Bray would probably place 5 or 6 guns in this length category. The editor continuously seeks Parkers with 14 3/4 pull but does not find them. Note guns 94078 and 104043 in the Parker stock dimensions listing. VH 94078 now measures 14 3/4 after adding an "English Guns" spurred pad, and the P



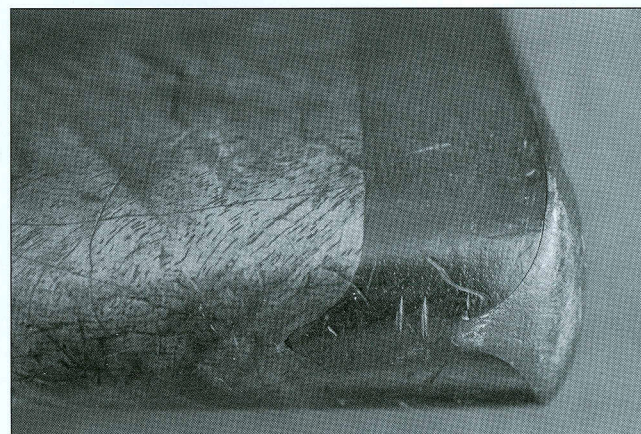
Two orders forwarded by du Bray, which include very specific features and dimensions. These were probably target guns, but there are many orders from du Bray that carry as specific instructions for field guns. Note that chamber length (2 3/4 inches) and pellet count (very tight choke) are specified for each gun as well as measured stock dimensions including pitch and cast. "No Butt" was specified on both orders; we have not analyzed this statistically, but the "No Butt" specification appears to be characteristic of du Bray orders in the early 1900's.

lifter 104043 measures 14 3/4 with a "proper period" spurred pad. A tightly fitted Galco leather extension pad adds 3/8 to 5/8 inch increase in length of pull. The big 9 1/4 pound lifter gun 24590 is an amazingly agile gun with a Galco pad fitted. The spurred "proper period" pad is usually flexible enough to replace a DHBP without cutting the stock, and quickly provides a reversible length increase. The photo of the butt extension of 4181 is shown; the extension has been shaped to fit the original Parker steel butt plate spur without cutting and squaring the butt. Butt extensions, many times with "painted" grain to match the original butt, are relatively common on English guns, but rarely seen on Parkers. Parkers are usually lengthened by adding a pad, and additional length is added by placing spacers between butt and pad. An extreme case of this is shown

on 170789, which had two spacers, one ground to adjust pitch, a Pachmyer pad, and has a small monte carlo shimmed with a full length comb addition.

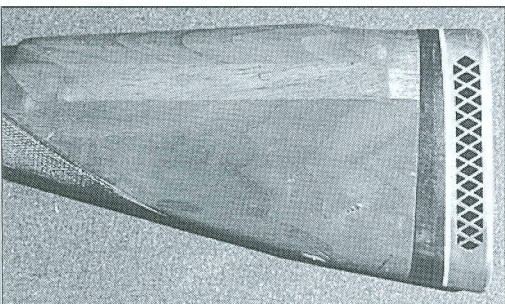
Almost all of the guns with 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches of drop at comb are trap or skeet guns. Nine of these guns were specified by du Bray orders, and only one field gun, VHE 228625, has 1 1/2 inch drop at comb. All of the "big" guns, weighing 8 1/2 pounds or more, have more than 1 7/8 inch drop at comb, but many lighter guns share this dimension. Drop at comb is generally, but not always, related to drop at heel.

The most frequent negative comment heard in the presence of a Parker gun is "too much drop," usually meaning more than 2 1/2 or 2 3/4 inch drop at heel. There are twenty Parkers tabulated with drop at heel of 2 1/2 inches or less; 8 are from du Bray orders; 7 are trap guns; one is a



The butt of an early (s/n 4181) is shown with a "butt block" extension. It is quite common to see an English gun that has been fit to its new owner by attaching a block to the butt. Early order books have many entries to shorten or otherwise adjust a Parker stock. This is the only Parker we have seen with a butt block inletted to fit the spur of the original stock.





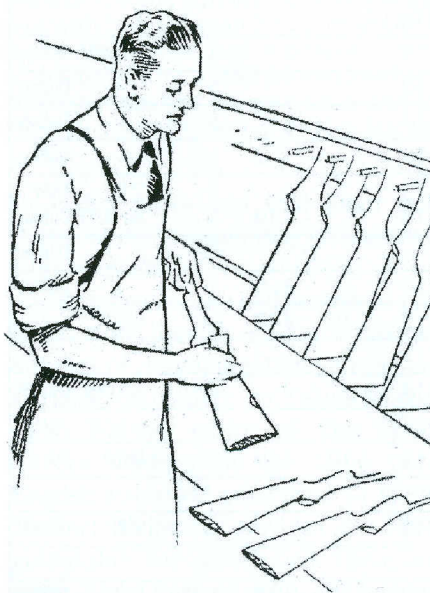
This straight grip live bird gun has had every possible dimension alteration made to the straight grip stock. The Monte Carlo was removed, then replaced and then the comb was lowered. The stock was cut padded, lengthened, and re-pitched. The trigger guard tang does not show, but it has threaded holes where a pistol grip was attached. Since this photo, the stock has been lengthened with a 1 1/2 inch period pad and leather faced. Although this is an extreme example, most live bird and trap guns have been adjusted by the owners in the search for one more bird.

Remington skeet, and three are field guns. We might think of a gun with measurements 14 1/4 x 1 1/2 x 2 1/2 as having modern dimensions, but note that 01082, a back action, and the earliest gun shown, has these dimensions. We often hear that "old timers shot with their heads up;" we are admonished with "keep your head down" when we miss a bird. (See the article "A Round of Skeet with Ray Roy" in the prior issue for excellent head down style, using the Remington Parker 410 listed here). We have applied a little graphical analysis to test these tales. The drop at heel, noted in the list, is plotted against serial number to make a graphical chronology of shooter choice. Drop at heel of 2 3/4 to 3 1/4 remains popular throughout Parker production history, and indeed 2 3/4 and 3 1/8 are the most frequently encountered dimensions. This sampling found no extreme drops of 3 1/2 to 4 inches after 1900, and no drop less than 2 1/2 inches prior to 1900. We attribute the popularity of 1 3/4 to 2 1/4 drop to the increasing popularity of clay bird games shot from a pre-mounted position in the twentieth century. Note the dimensions of 168304, "The Czar Gun;" 32 inch barrels, 7 3/4 pounds 14 x 1 1/2 x 2 3/16; what a lovely modern skeet or five stand gun!

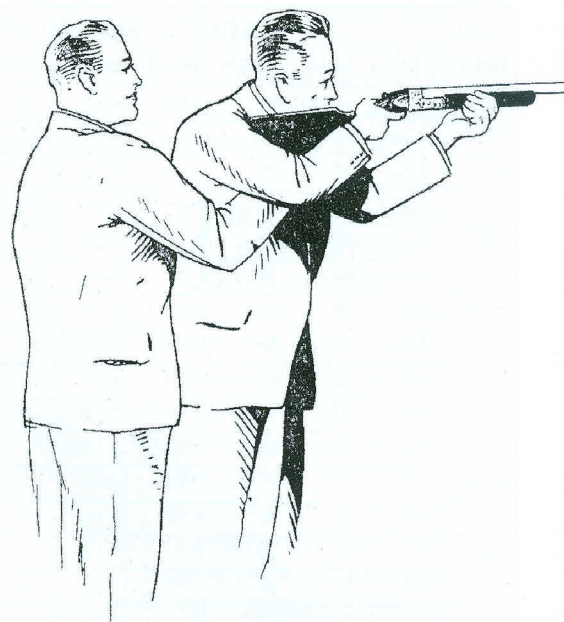
Pitch is tabulated here for com-

pleteness; Ken Waite has sent some material on pitch which *Parker Pages* will present in a future issue. Mark Conrad is also working on a review of beavertail and other specialty stocking to continue this series.

The popular 14 1/4 inch length of pull is somewhat self-sustaining. The 14 1/4 length would have been what we now consider the "default" length. A majority of shooters could use or adapt to this length, and did not need to specify or custom order a gun with this length. An equal number of second owners could adjust to this length as well. Second owners of guns with dog's head buttplates could reversibly lengthen a gun by fitting a spurred pad. A high grade gun could be shortened and the skeleton butt plate refitted; there is evidence of this on early gun repair orders. It seems, from examining the existing Parker population, that squaring the butt and fitting a pad was the most popular method of lengthening, shortening, or just plain making a gun more shootable.



The drop at heel of a Parker stock was established at the time of heading up the stock blank and machine carving it to shape. Very little excess wood remained to adjust drop after these machine cuts were made. Current jigs and radiant heating technology permit bending some Parker stocks to adjust drop, but many second and subsequent owners restocked their guns to their own dimensions.



A great delight of owning a Parker is the fitted, inletted, and curved Dog's Head buttplate or the fitted skeleton buttplate, engraved and with the exposed wood carved and /or checked. It is here that collectability begins to influence our desire for individual Parkers. A collector of V, P, or G grade guns can find several to select from if the collector can tolerate a 14 1/4 inch pull and 2 3/4 or 3 1/8 inches drop at heel. The selection narrows very greatly if the collector wishes to define the desired dimensions to eighths of inches or combine unusual measurements. Guns of D grade and greater were more frequently specified, but the 14 1/4 X 2 3/4 or 3 1/8 seem to remain prevalent. It is not difficult to find DH target guns ordered through du Bray and others with drop at heel of 2 1/2 inches or less. These are splinter forend guns, but usually 32 inch barreled guns are somewhat heavier than most collectors desire to take hunting.

At this point we begin to define the desirability, shootability, collectability dilemma. Let us use Parker gun 159157 as an example. It is one of the last few hammer guns made; most of its original wood finish is intact. There is great contrast in the twist pattern on the barrels, pristine bores, dead square screw slots, a little color remaining on the locks and frame, and only two small chips missing from the DHBP. Additionally, the frame is stamped PH although it certainly



**TABLE 2: PARKER STOCK DIMENSIONS**

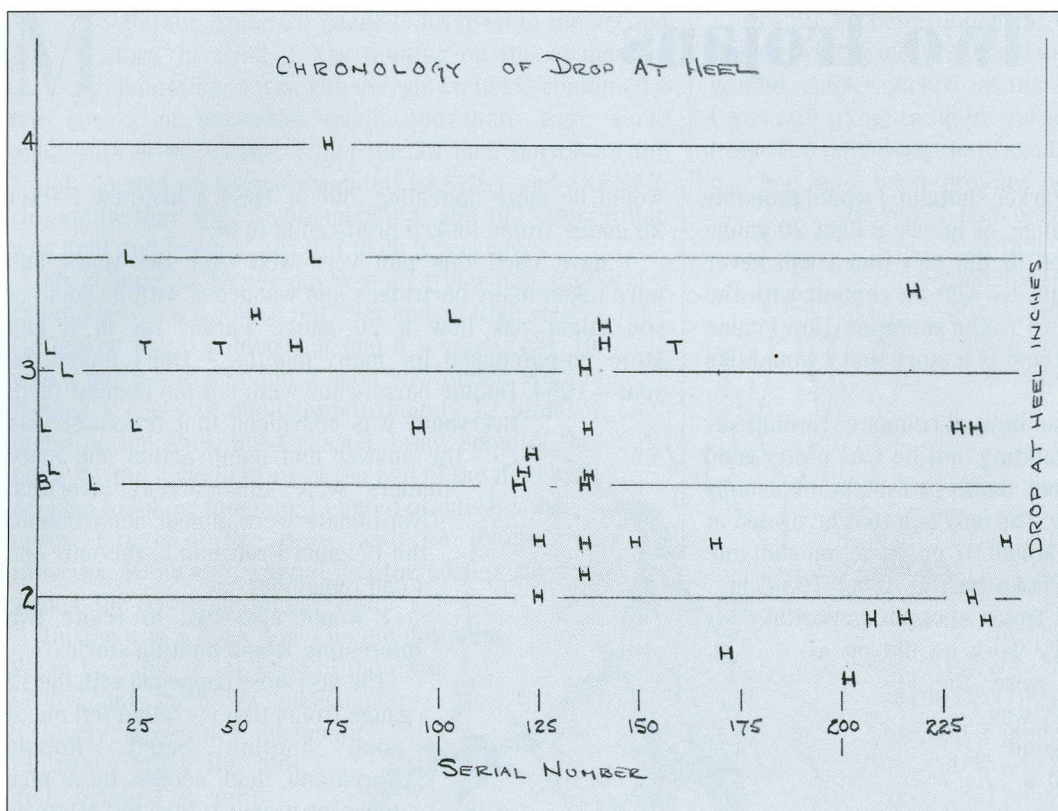
SERIAL	GRADE	GAUGE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	PULL	DCOMB	DHEEL	PITCH	PITCH,IN	GRIP	BUTT	NOTES
1081	??	12B?	30	7 3/4	14 1/4	1 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/8	S	STEEL	B/A
1953	PT(new)	12	30	7 1/2	13 1/2	1 7/8	2 3/4	6 1/2	3 1/2	S	STEEL	LIFTER
3215	\$250?	12	28	7 1/8	14 3/8	2	3 1/8	7 1/2	3 3/4	B(gold)	SSBP	LIFTER
3291	\$135?	10	30	8	14 1/4	1 1/2	2 1/2	5	2 5/8	S	STEEL	TRAP
7004	PT	12	28	7 3/4	14 3/8	2	3	7	3 1/2	S	STEEL	LIFTER
14056	D3	12	28	8 1/8	14 1/8		2 1/2				SSBP	LIFTER
23150	D2	10	30	9	14 1/2	2 1/8	3 1/2	7	3 3/4	CP	DHBP	LIFTER
24590	D2	10	30	9 1/4	14 3/8	1 7/8	2 3/4	4	2 1/8	CR	DHBP	LIFTER
26145	PT	12	30	7 5/8	14 3/8	2	3 1/8	6 1/2	3 1/2	CP	DHBP	T/A
46024	PT	10	30	9 1/4	14 1/8	2 1/8	3 1/4	7	4	CP	TPTG	T/A
46347	D3	12	30	7 7/8	14 1/8	2	3 1/8	7	3 1/2	CP	SSBP	T/A
56568	DH	12	30	7 5/8	14 1/4		3 1/4				SSBP	
65557	CH	10	26	8 1/8	14 1/4		3 1/8				PAD	
69017	PT	12	30	8	14 1/4	2	3 1/2	7	4	CP	DHBP	T/A
73201	GH	12	28	7 1/8	13 1/2		4				DHBP	
94078	VH	12	30	8	14 3/4 14 1/4	1 3/4	2 3/4	3	2	CP	PAD DHBP	
104043	PT- P	12	32	9 7/8	14 3/4 14	2 1/4	3 1/4	4 1/2	2 1/2	CP	PAD DHBP	LIFTER
120344	VH	16	26	6 1/4	13 5/8		2 1/2				DHBP	
120440	VH	20	28	6	14	1 1/2	2 1/2			1/2PG		DuBray
120561	Ti3 DHE	12	32	7 3/4	14	1 1/2	2 5/8		2	CP		DuBray
120562	Ti3 DHE	12	32	7 5/8	14	1 3/8	2 5/8		3	S	No BUTT	DuBray
120563	Ti3 DHE	12	32	7 3/4	14	1 3/8	2		2		No BUTT	DuBray
						Cast Off Heel 3/16 at Toe 1/4						
120564	Ti3 DHE	12	32	7 3/4	14 1/4	1 3/8	2 1/4		2	S	No BUTT	DuBray
136116	Ti3 DHE	12	30	7 3/4	14	1 1/2	2 1/2			S		DuBray
136117	Ti3	20	28	6	14	1 3/8	2 1/4			S		DuBray
136118	Ti3	16	28	6 3/4	14 3/8	1 1/2	2 1/2		1 1/2	S		DuBray
136683	Ti3 DHE	12	31	7 3/4	14 3/8		2 1/4			S	SSBP	TRAP
			31	7 3/4	14 1/4	1 3/8	2 1/8		1 1/4	S	No BUTT	DuBray
136798	Ti3	16	30	6 3/4 - 7	13 1/2		3			CP		DuBray
137023	Ti3	20	26	6	13 1/2	1 5/8	2 3/4		2	S		DuBray
140751	PT- NH	10	30	8 7/8	14 1/8	1 7/8	3 1/8	7 1/2	4 3/8	CP	DHBP	
148235	SC	12	32	8 1/4	14 3/8	1 5/8	2 1/4		2	CP	JOSTAM	ORDER
159157	PT- PH!	12	32	8 1/2	15 1/8	2	3 1/8	6 1/2	3 1/4	CP	DHBP	T/A
168304	W8 A1S	12	32	7 3/4	14	1 3/8	2 1/4			S	SSBP	ORDER
170789	VH	12	32	8 3/8	14 1/4	1 3/8-1 1/2	1 3/4	3 1/2	1 7/8	S- MC	L PAD	TRAP
202760	SB	12	32	8 1/8 8 1/8	15 1/8 15	1 1/4 1 1/2	1 5/8 1 3/4	1	0	CP ENG	LC PAD	TRAP ORDER
207469	PH	12	32	7 1/2	13 3/4		1 7/8			S	PAD	TRAP?
214194	VH	12	30	7 1/8	14 1/4	1 5/8	2 3/4	7	3 1/2	CP	DHBP	
216639	Ti3 DH	12	28	7	13 1/4	1 7/8	3 3/8	5 1/2	2 1/2	CP	SSBP	
228625	VHE	16	30	7	14 1/2	1 1/2	2 3/4	8	4 1/2	CP	PAD	
232243	VHE	16	28	6 1/2	14 1/4	1 3/4	2 7/8	6	3	CP	DHBP	
232800	DHE	12	32	7 3/4	14		2			S	PAD	TRAP
	VHE	0.41	26	6	13 3/4	1 1/2	2 1/4			S	Checked	SKEET
241098	DHE	12	30	8 1/4	14 1/2	1 1/2	1 7/8	2	1 3/8	S	PAD	TRAP

cannot be confused with a hammerless Parker. Examine the facts describing this gun in the data tabulation: 32 inch barrels, 8 1/2 pounds, 15 1/8 inch pull, 3 1/8 inch drop at heel, and 2 inches drop at comb; the second greatest number in that column. The gun has some desirability, at least to those that like hammergeuns, because it has some scarcity due to its relatively high serial number. It is in quite good condition relative to other top actions, and the PH water table mark adds some interest. The perfect bores and fine mechanical condition make it quite shootable, with or without bore inserts, depending on the shooter's feelings; but it is only shootable by someone who is healthy, strong, 70 plus inches tall, and who shoots with a heads up style. This is our dilemma in deciding whether this gun has collectability; it is desirable to some, and shootable to others. Only a few will view it as being both desirable and shootable.

The second part of our dilemma is that shootability and collectibility may sometimes be in conflict. All collectors look favorably on original dog's head butt plates and skeleton steel butt plates. A very nice collection of low grade guns might contain a number of different DHBP patterns. Dogs in different poses appear through the years on the DHBP, and it appears that breeds and poses vary on guns of differing frame sizes within an era. There are also some specialty buttplates; "The Parker Trap Gun" is the best known of these, but there may be others.

The skeleton steel buttplate makes a gun a Parker. We previously discussed that few other makers put such an ornament on even the highest grade guns. Michael McIntosh discussed this in a 1998 article and concluded that the best chance of finding a non-Parker skeleton butt was limited to Fox. Most Parker collectors continuously seek guns with SSBP's retaining good checking within the skeleton to match good checking and engraving on the remainder of the gun. SSBP's are fine in the cabinet and well suited for a nice day afield, but we rarely see them at the clay bird traps.





A chronology showing the drop at heel (DAH) of Parker gun stocks (B back action, L lifter, T top action, H hammerless) with respect to serial number. Serial 100,000 corresponds to 1900, a time when most shooting organizations were eliminating the rule that the gun butt was to be below the elbow at the time the call to pull was made. There are no guns with DAH less than 2 1/2 inches with s/n less than 100,000, although 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 DAH was quite popular on lifter guns. A DAH of 3 1/8 to 3 1/4 was very popular on top action guns; it constituted all of the initial sample, and we measured several more guns without altering this, they are all in the 25 - 75,000 sn range and not entered. A DAH of 2 3/4 to 3 1/4 remains popular throughout Parker history. Almost all guns with DAH of 2 1/4 or less are target guns.

Only a long arduous search will match a shooter with a Parker of the proper gauge, weight, and barrel length that also has the proper stock dimensions to allow enjoyable target shooting without altering the SSBP.

Stock alterations to make the gun fit the current owner are acceptable in the case of British guns, and are perhaps more popular than we suspect among Parker owners. Bent stocks and applied monte carlo combs are frequently encountered on the skeet and five stand fields. Many second and subsequent owners replaced an original stock with one made to the new owner's dimensions. Parker catalogs offered replacement stocks in each grade at approximately 10% of the cost of a gun of that grade; this is relatively inexpensive when compared to 50% of new gun cost for replacement barrels. There are many Parkers that are fitted with Parker Style stocks made by master stock makers twenty

to eighty years ago that share the patina of the gun and may be confused with originals.

The presence of a pad, a modern pad to be more precise, seems a favorite source of condemnation for many Parkers. According to "Stonehenge" (J.W. Walsh), editor of *The Field*, Silvers made pads for large bore English waterfowl guns prior to 1880. Michael McIntosh provides an 1871 patent date for Silver's pad. There are some early Parkers with old looking pads, but the earliest order for a "Silvers Recoil Butt" is a January 16, 1891 entry in the Parker archive. This is a very routine entry, and many pads may have been installed prior to this. It is also quite notable that some of Parker's most prominent shooting customers ordered guns from du Bray with no butt, reserving pad installation for the customer. It should be remembered that pads are quite ephemeral when compared to other

parts of a Parker gun. The most obnoxious pad can be replaced quite quickly, leaving no sign of its prior presence.

There was an opinion expressed in *Double Gun Journal*, recently that said it was much more enjoyable to spend a summer learning to shoot a gun with 3 or more inches of drop at heel than to spend a summer searching for a (perhaps non-existent) gun with prescribed dimensions. This thought can be extended to waiting for a custom stock to be built. It is a unique experience to have a gun of exactly the grade, gauge, barrel length, choke, weight and stock dimensions that you would choose if Parker remained in business. But it is very nice to have an approximation to shoot while you are waiting.

The statistics in the tables indicate that more than half of Parkers have more than 2 3/4 inches drop at heel, an arbitrary limit for "modern" dimensions. Many of the guns with 2 1/4 inches DAH or less are straight, heavy live bird or trap guns. Only one third of Parkers have DAH in the 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 inch range most modern shooters consider proper for field guns. How will the tastes of sporting arms collectors evolve? Will purist collectors desire Parkers of 3 inches plus DAH to conform to the "heads up" paintings of hunters in the field in the Parker era? Will purist shooters pursue only guns with original stocks of modern dimensions? Will sporting arms collectors decide "factory original" is something for military collectors and seek guns that were used, treasured, enjoyed, repaired, and altered by prior owners and continue to use and treasure them?

We hope to receive many inputs on this philosophy for future chapters of this feature.





# A Tale of Two Trojans

By Lawrence DiVeglio

If I had my choice of any Parker shotgun, I would probably choose a nice AHE 12 gauge, or maybe a light 20 gauge DHE. Alas, I am resigned to the fact that I will never possess either one so I might as well be content with the Parker guns that I do have: two Trojan shotguns. How I came to be the lucky recipient of them is a story that I would like to relate to you.

My father was a sportsman beyond compare. I would say he liked fishing more than hunting, but he was pretty good at both. Whether trout or bass, ducks or rabbits, he usually managed to take home a few. The only gun that he owned at that time was a Winchester Model 97 pump action shotgun. It had a long 30 inch full choke barrel. About 1930, he acquired a 12 gauge Parker Trojan shotgun as partial payment for some carpentry work he did on a neighbor's house; these were the depression years, and money was scarce. The Parker, a good Hamilton pocket watch, and a little money were his payment for the work that he had done.

His hunting partner and best friend, my Uncle, Joe Hill, was delighted that Dad had acquired a Parker.

Uncle Joe shot an A.H. Fox double and set about trying to get my dad to enjoy the attributes of a good double gun. Dad shot the Parker pretty well, but was never really happy with the double triggers after using the Model 1897 for most of his adult life. In about 1940, he had a Miller single trigger installed and was so happy with the results that it provided that he gave the Winchester 1897 to his younger brother.

Uncle Joe and Dad had plenty of opportunities to use their double guns on the numerous ducks on Long Island, and they did pretty well. They always came home with a nice bag of birds. Many rabbits also fell to the Trojan over the years.

When my father passed away in 1958, I became custodian of the gun. I had been hunting since I was 16, so getting acquainted with the gun was an easy chore. I liked the gun, but most of my hunting was done with a Browning Sweet-16. The ignorance of youth: I did not really appreciate the Trojan until years later.

My father had a hand in the second Parker Trojan as well. It is a 20 gauge that he bought for me as a present for graduating from high school in 1954. He bought the gun (used) from Woodfield's Sports Shop in Port Jefferson, Long Island. I had been eyeing the gun for several months prior to my dad purchasing it. I guess in this modern age, a new car

would be more appealing, but in 1954 a like-new Parker 20 gauge Trojan looked pretty good to me.

I have used this gun very well over the years and have taken many partridges and woodcock with it. Some of you might ask how a 20 gauge Parker lay in a gun store un-purchased for many months – Don't forget the year – 1954. Double barrel guns were not too popular then.

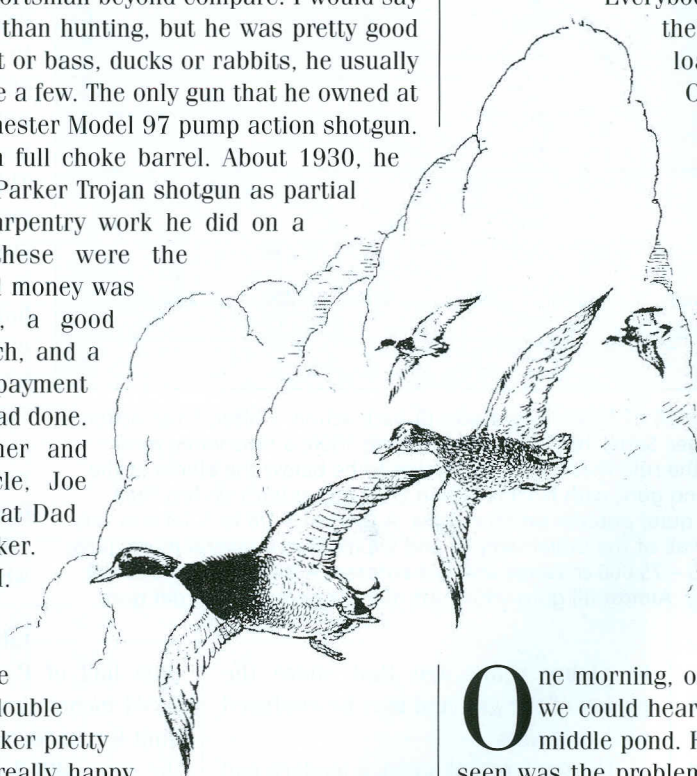
Everybody was convinced that firepower was the answer and pump action and auto-loaders were the current favorites. Over-unders were almost non-existent; the Belgium Browning is the only one I can remember.

I would also like to relate two interesting Trojan hunting stories.

The first story happened with the 12 gauge Trojan that my father left me. A good hunting buddy, Robbie Christiano, had access to a nice piece of property that his relatives owned. It encompassed over 50 acres, and the front of the property had a chain link fence and gate keeping out unwanted intruders. Robbie had a key to the gate lock. There were several small ponds on the property as well.

One morning, on one of our forays into the property, we could hear the gabble of ducks coming from the middle pond. How to get close enough without being seen was the problem. We decided that creeping up to the pond on our bellies was the only way to get close enough without being spotted. We pushed our guns ahead of us. There was a little bank in the front part of the pond that offered us some concealment until we stood up. When we arose, a wondrous sight was before us. The small pond, barely 1/3 of an acre, seemed covered with mallard ducks. They all arose at the same time. It seemed like the sky was covered with ducks. I picked a mallard drake out of the mass and pressed the trigger of the Parker. Robbie was doing the same with his J.C. Higgins pump gun. When it was all over, three ducks lay dead in the shallow pond. I picked and shot a drake, but hit and killed two others also. Robbie emptied his pump gun – three times with no results. I think he tried to flock shoot the birds with the same inefficient results. I was elated. He was dismayed until I told him he could have one of the ducks. So there we were, in the middle of November, standing in our shorts in the pond to pick up the birds.

I was happy. I had shot many ducks, but never three with one shot. Neither one of us was a good wing shot. In those days, there were few trap or skeet ranges for practice, and we could not have afforded the cost.





**M**y Parker Trojan 20 gauge is involved in the second story. In 1962, I was hunting on the abandoned Zimmerman farm. The overgrown fields contained a few coveys of bob-white quail, and there were some pheasants in the draws. I had the 28 inch barrels of the Trojan opened up to approximately SKEET-1 and SKEET-2. Originally, they were tight, modified, and full. This Trojan was light and handled nicely. I liked it very much.

My companion for the day was my trusty dog, Buster (a drop between a golden retriever and an Irish setter). He looked like a golden, but had a reddish coat. He was a handsome dog and a good bird finder. We had flushed a covey of quail (approximately 12 birds). I had a decent shot, but I missed. I saw some of the birds fly into a small draw at the end of the field and decided to follow them up. I hunted practically the entire length of the draw with no results. However, at the end, when it met the edge of the woods, the day began to get "birdy."

Buster was a flush dog – he did not point. When he came to the edge of the draw, he dived into the brush and up came a lovely long-tailed pheasant rooster. I killed the bird, and watched it drop into a mixture of honeysuckle, witch-hazel, and bull-briar thorns.

Buster plowed into the brush like a Sherman tank. I would not go into that hellish mess. That's the dog's job, and he liked it. In a short while, he emerged with a bird and brought it to me. I was taken back – what Buster held in his mouth was a nice hen pheasant. I am not the smartest person in the world, but having shot enough cock pheasants, I certainly knew what one looked like. Buster had delivered a hen.

Despite my better judgment, I plowed into the brush, with Buster helping me, and spied my dead cock bird lying on the ground. Buster picked up the bird and brought it to me – I was still trying to figure out where the hen bird had come from. The only thing that I could come up with was that the hen had been directly behind the cock when they flushed. I had been so intent on shooting the cock bird that I hadn't seen the hen flying behind him. I have made a few doubles on pheasants over the years, but I never killed two pheasants with one shot. It was most unusual to say the least.

**S**o there it is – two strange stories concerning my Parker Trojan shotguns. For those of you who are interested in the specifics of the two guns – they are as follows:

Parker Trojan, 12 gauge, serial #196XXX(1921) 28 inch barrel, mod. & full, weight 7 pounds 6 oz. 1 5/8" x 2 1/2" x 14 1/4" – In 1940, my father had a Miller single trigger and a Jostam anti-flinch recoil pad installed.

I think Remington did the work.

Parker Trojan, 20 gauge, Serial #204XXX (1923) 28 inch BLs. imp. mod. & full

(opened up to SK.1 & SK.2), weight 6 pounds, 3 oz. 1 5/8" x 2 1/2" x 14 1/4". Gun is equipped with original Hawkins recoil pad.

I am 72 years old, and in reasonably good health. I still hunt quite a bit with my English setter. I intend to pass these two Parker Trojans on to my son and grandson – both of whom are good shots and good upland bird hunters. Then they will be the custodians of the guns.



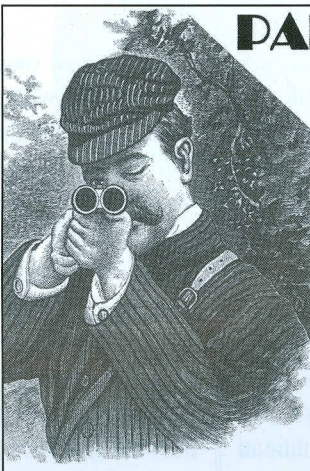
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# Jewel of the South

By Tom Flanagan

The late November day was crisp and clear with the whisper of a breeze gently rustling the remaining leaves of an old oak tree. The ground was moist from a recent rainfall creating perfect scenting conditions for bird hunting. I, a pedigreed Yankee stalwart, was standing at the edge of a field, south of the Mason Dixon line, in a state that still harbors a few people who bemoan the loss of the Confederacy. My favorite partner and traveling companion, Stoney the English setter, sprinkled the landscape while I contemplated the stark contrast between this southern land and my home coverts of New York. I felt somewhat like an alien intruder in a foreign land whose history and traditions are far removed from the area in which I now stood.

The southern location brought to mind my great, great maternal grandfather, George W.

Farnam of the 11th Vermont, who also

traveled south, gun in hand,

seeking a far different quarry.

After being withdrawn from

the defenses of Washington

and forced to march south

double quick, he first saw the

elephant (a term he and his

fellow soldiers used to describe

engaging in battle) at Cold Harbor,

Virginia, a location not all that far from

where I now stood. Unfortunately, his targets

returned fire, and on June 1, 1864, he lost his right leg and

a good part of his left in a late afternoon offensive against

some immovable rebel boys from the 7th Tennessee.

Fortunately for him, when the awful and legendary carnage

at Cold Harbor took place on June 3rd, he was relatively

safe in a makeshift hospital in White House, Virginia.

Regrettably, over were the favorite pastimes of his youth; the

days of fishing for the beautiful and diminutive little brook

trout, and taking grouse for the table.

The unpleasantness of the mid-nineteenth century is now

mostly forgotten in this land of picturesque farms and lazy

rivers. Stoney and I were privileged to be hunting a piece of

land that reportedly held two or possibly three coveys of

bobwhite quail, the little jewel of the South. This southern

version of partridge differs greatly from the partridge of

New England, the ruffed grouse. Although I focus much of

my hunting on the grouse, the winsome little bobwhite quail

is not unknown to me. I have hunted him in the past and

have hopelessly fallen for his charms and those of the lands

he inhabits.

Stoney and I had just entered a small field when a covey

of fifteen or so birds flushed wild about eighty yards ahead

of us. They flew into a wooded area that was protected by

incredibly thick brush and thorns. The little quail is sometimes referred to as Gentleman Bob, but these birds were far from gracious.

We continued to move forward and hunted through a couple of overgrown fields and down some hedgerows. The first point came at the edge of a field bordering a thicket. I expected that it would be difficult to get a decent shot here unless the birds improbably flushed into the open rather than deeper into the woods. Stoney's head and half of his body were in the thicket so I knew that I would have trouble getting an opportunity on this rise. I walked in past Stoney and a covey of about five or more birds flushed toward the protection of the thick woods, as expected. My little

20 gauge GH Parker cracked twice as I

swung on a bird disappearing into the

brush, but to no avail. However, I

did happen to see, out of the

corner of my eye, a single

land about seventy-five yards

away in an area that was

somewhat open. Stoney must

have seen it too, and he

headed in the direction of the

bird. When I caught up to him he

had the bird pinned with a stylish low

bodied point that I'll never get tired of seeing.

His staunch and immovable body trembled with anticipation.

I took a couple of pictures of the point, fervently hoping that

the bird would be accommodating and wait until I was

finished before flushing. This little bob was indeed a

gentleman; he waited until I had the Parker back in my

hands and waded in before he sprang into the air. A quail in

the open is not an especially difficult target and I dropped

the bird which Stoney promptly placed in my hand. I admired

the cock bird and smoothed his feathers before placing him

in my pouch.

We moved on and hunted hard before I noticed Stoney

acting birdy with his head in the air taking scent from the

breeze. Within minutes, he located the birds and pointed

with his head high and lip curled, a sure sign that his find

was based on air washed scent and the birds were a bit

ahead of him. Always cautious (a must for a genuine grouse

dog), Stoney remained immobile and did not try to crowd the

birds. Again, I placed the little Parker on the ground and

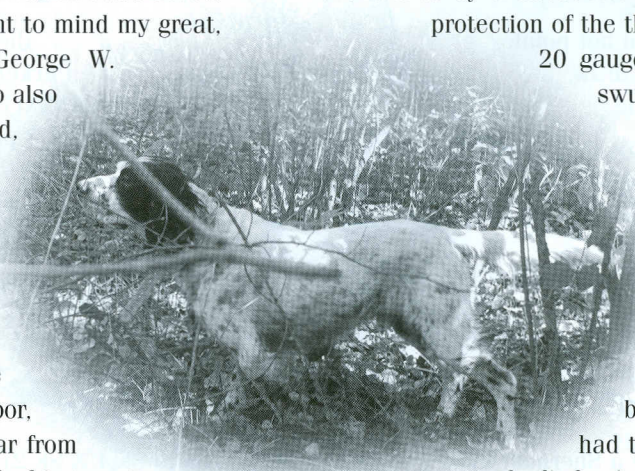
seized an opportunity to take a few pictures of his point.

Until this year, I had never owned a decent camera.

Taking pictures was never important to me. However, I

decided that it might be wise to document some of my days

in the field so that when I am too old to hunt (how I dread







Stoney and Parker on a little break afield.

that day) and rocking in a chair, blanket over my lap, I'll have pictures to spark some wonderful memories of days in the field and dogs long gone.

I finished with the camera and walked in for the flush. A covey of about ten birds burst into the air. I picked a bird and missed, and then quickly picked another which fell at the shot. I quickly reloaded the Parker, knowing that sometimes there are lagging birds that flush after the main covey. As if on cue, a pair flushed about ten yards ahead of where the covey was. With a prayer and a bit of luck, I managed to hit both birds. One dropped, and the other lost some feathers before flying toward the woods, dropping just before reaching the sanctuary of the thick cover. Stoney retrieved the dead birds, and we headed to where the hit bird landed. Stoney was on point before I reached the spot. The bird was lying dead, breast up in the grass about ten yards from Stoney's quivering nose. It was a very large hen bird, its size indicating that maybe this bird was over a year old; an advanced age for a quail. As I held it aloft, admiring the exquisite plumage, my thoughts



Stoney on point in some good cover.

turned to how many broods this bird might have raised. I could picture the hen stewarding the little ones through the chick stage and helping them to avoid the ever present predators. Killing is part of hunting; catch and release doesn't apply, but I must admit that I wished I had missed this bird.

We had hunted hard and had a splendid time, but, with four birds, were still short of a limit. Nevertheless, I decided to end the hunt and let the lovely hen bird be the last of the day. She added a nice exclamation point to a wonder-

ful time in the field with a favorite dog and partner.

As we left the field, the plaintive call of quail trying to covey up reached my ears, a melodious and beautiful sound. I have never seen the movie the "Song of the South," but if it isn't about the sweet music of the little bobwhite quail, then Walt Disney made a mistake.





# PGCA Displays at Pheasants Forever Event

By Bruce Day and Charles Herzog

Pheasants Forever had its national Pheasant Fest in Des Moines, Iowa on Jan 19-21, 2007, and the PGCA was asked to present a display of Parker guns. Association with Pheasants Forever began in December 2005, when PGCA leaders gathered in Nebraska with local members and invited PF leaders to join them in a pheasant and quail hunt. PGCA members Greg Dershem, Charlie Herzog, and Bruce Day provided personally owned guns and Parker documents sufficient to fill the 10' by 10' booth space provided free of charge. PF gave us a booth in prime space and viewed our display as an attractant for its show attendees. Despite cold and a snowstorm, a record 24,510 attended.

Greg, Charlie, and Bruce brought two 6 1/2' tables and a folding 36" x 36" card table, covered them with tablecloths and set up a seven gun display rack on each of the long tables and Parker books on the card table. An oriental rug covered the floor, and a Parker tin sign and poster hung on the back wall. The front table guns ranged from Trojan through C grade. The rear table guns were high grade high condition, and mostly small bore in grades D through A-1S. A CHE Bernard and a DHE Damascus were on the front table, as was a Huey cased CHE. These guns attracted the crowd and were sufficient for most, but interested attendees could enter the booth to view the back table guns and look at books and original catalogs. While we had "do not handle without permission" signs, many of the crowd had not seen Damascus before and ran their fingers along the barrels. Although some were educated about shooting Damascus, some still held old prejudices. On the front table we had a couple shooter quality guns that could be swung and handled by the crowd, including the author's PHE 16 gauge and Greg's VH 12 gauge. Many in the crowd asked questions about value, and we were able to point to front table guns with values of from \$1500 to mid \$20,000s as indicative, and at the lower end, what first time Parker buyers could find reasonable. We were surprised at the drawing power of



Some Parkers on display at PGCA exhibit.

Damascus guns, and learned that an ample crowd display consisted of a mix of grades V through D, with some Damascus. Of course, if a person is fortunate to have one of the few Bernard barreled guns, that is a significant attractant.

Many in the crowd talked about Parkers they had at home, or a grandpa or uncle had, including tales of .410 Parkers or those with "lots of engraving." We ran out of PGCA application forms and had to copy several more. Dez Young, of the television show "Hunting With Dash," spent time with us, the author, Larry Brown, is a Parker enthusiast, and employees from the Browning, Benelli, and Beretta booths stopped by to admire Parkers. We seemed to be a hit with the crowd. This was an event different for us than the usual gun show.

Many in the crowd brought wives and were interested in our guns, as well as hunting trips, bird dogs, and hunting vehicles. We believe this venue offers new opportunities to expose the public to Parker shotguns and provide contact with Parker owners who do not frequent gun shows. Many in the crowd said they would be looking at the PGCA web site for information and may ask questions on the BBS. We do not know where this will lead, but the exposure to a crowd identified by PF as relatively affluent can only lead to greater appreciation of Parker guns and the growth of the PGCA.

The PF Pheasant Fest has become so popular that PF is moving the event to yearly, with the next to be held in St. Paul, MN in Jan. 2008. We have been invited to return, and most likely will, if local members can assist. The event was physically tiring and after three long days, we were beat.

Thanks to members Mark Larson and new member on the spot, local radio personality, Ron Kuntz. We had great time and met many interesting people, made great contacts, and look forward to next year. Other broad appeal sporting venues such as Ducks Unlimited and Ruffed Grouse Society events may offer other expanded opportunities, in addition to PGCA continuing presence at selected major show shows.



Greg Dershem and Bruce Day at the PGCA Exhibit at Pheasants Forever Pheasant Fest.





# Arthur du Bray's Parker

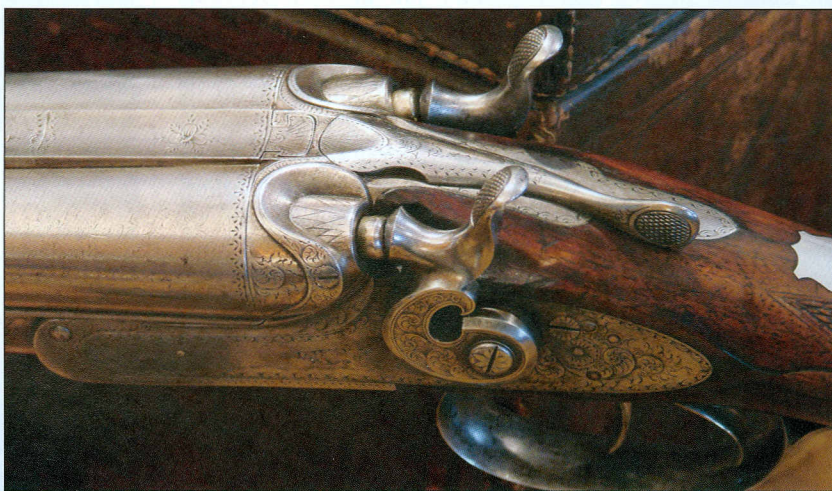
Article and Photos by Roy S. Henderson

The skeleton steel butt plate and wrist of the du Bray gun.

Most Parker collectors are familiar with the name Arthur William du Bray as the best known and influential sale representative to ever work for the Charles Parker Company. What may not be as well known is du Bray's participation in the settlement of the American west and his friendship with some of the most famous frontiersmen, shooters, and showmen in the west.

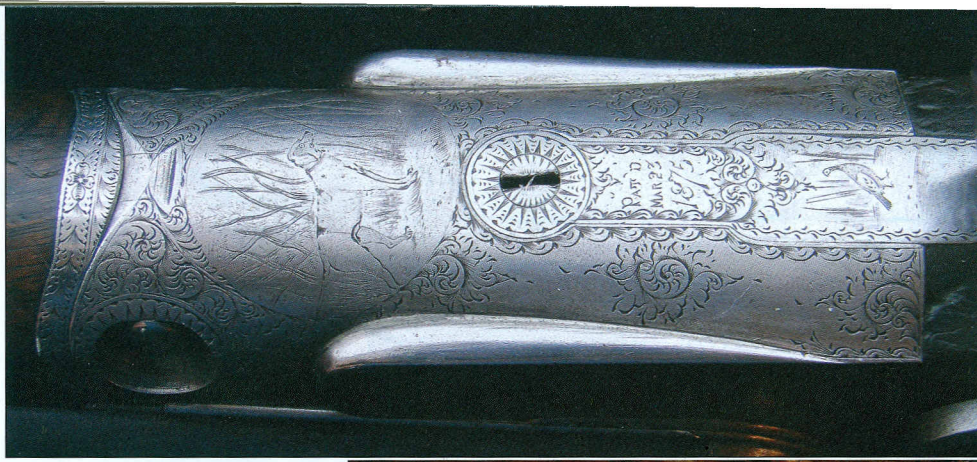
Born in England in 1848, his father passed away when du Bray was still young, prompting his mother to send him to Normandy, France to be raised by his grandfather. It was there, on his grandfather's farm in France, that young du Bray learned the skills of hunting and shooting, skills that would serve him well in his adult life. After completing college he left France, with a sizeable financial nest egg, for South America where he purchased a sheep ranch on the Patagonian frontier. In 1871, du Bray sold the ranch and left for America, arriving in New York that August. Not being one for city life he quickly departed for a hunting trip in the west, eventually ending up in St. Paul, Minnesota in the fall of 1871. It was here that du Bray joined the St. Paul Minnesota Sportsman club and had his first experience in the game of live pigeon shooting.

With the inheritance received from his grandfather's passing, du Bray invested in properties hoping to make a good return on his investment. In 1873, however, the nation experienced a severe economic depression and panic. Many people were financially wiped out, and Arthur du Bray was not spared; he lost his fortune when Jay Cooke's Minnesota bank failed. The eastern leather factories had recently acquired the knowledge to successfully process buffalo hides into commercial quality leather, and the rush to the



Detail of the breech bolster frame and hammer engraving.





Engraving on the floorplate of the du Bray hammergun.

Top action hammerguns of D grade were very nicely filed and engraved.

buffalo ranges began. Left with no means of support, du Bray looked to the buffalo hunting profession, just starting into full swing in 1873. But it took money to put together a hunting outfit, and du Bray was unable to find the capital to get started. For a time, du Bray drove mules and chopped wood. His college education gave him the skills to do accounting and book keeping, and in February of 1875, du Bray met General Greene of Fort Snelling who hired him as a civilian contractor attached to the quartermaster. Several months later he transferred to Fort Steward in the Dakota Territory (considered to be the edge of the frontier). It was also here that du Bray encountered his first Sioux Indians.

For about a year, du Bray held the position of transportation agent at Fort Steward. Then, in April of 1876, two companies of the 7th Cavalry camped at the fort. It was here he met Colonel George A. Custer along with several of his officers. Custer and du Bray developed a friendship, and the Colonel offered him a similar job at Fort Abraham Lincoln, for more pay. Du Bray readily accepted the job. Shortly after his arrival, Lieutenant Algernon Smith and chief of scouts, Charlie Varnum, began a campaign to get du Bray assigned to E Company of the 7th Cavalry. This was supported by Colonel Custer, but General Greene's order, transferring him to the 7th, had not yet arrived. In an effort to expedite the transfer, du Bray requested a meeting with General Alfred Terry. As regiment commander, Terry had the authority to transfer him to E Company, but the General, preparing for the upcoming campaign, was too busy to see him. At dawn, on May 17, 1876, General Custer's regiment of 1200 troops, civilians, and Indian scouts departed Fort Lincoln and headed west to the Montana Territory – without Arthur du Bray.

Several days later, delayed by a mechanical problem, the steamboat, Union, arrived at Bismark, delivering du Bray's



transfer orders. He thought of trying to catch up to the regiment, but a single man riding into the heart of hostile Sioux and Cheyenne territory was extremely risky. So he quickly decided against it. He anxiously awaited news of the Montana campaign and the status of his Company. Then, on July 5, 1876, the steamboat, Farwest, arrived with wounded from the 7th and the news that, on June 25, 1876, Custer and several companies, including E Company, were wiped out at the Little Bighorn. If it were not for the breakdown of the steam boat, du Bray would have died with the rest of E Company. Du Bray had a great pride in his affiliation with the 7th Cavalry, a pride that would stay with him the rest of his life.

Despite the great tragedy and loss of friends, du Bray stayed with the 7th Cavalry as a civilian employee. The spring of 1877 found him in pursuit of Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce. Du Bray was attached to Captain Benteen's battalion as the quartermaster's transportation agent when they caught up to the Indians at Canyon Creek, about 10 miles north of the Yellowstone River, near present day Laurel, Montana. A skirmish broke out, and du Bray made a brave showing against the attacking hostiles, evidenced by the special mention of honor Captain Benteen read before his entire battalion. It was also in the same



year du Bray killed his first buffalo with his .45 caliber Sharps sporting rifle.

In hopes of becoming a commissioned officer, du Bray enlisted in the Army in December of 1878, as a private. His hopes were being fueled by a petition signed by 28 officers of the 7th Cavalry. The endorsers included such famous names as General O.D. Greene, Captain Frederick Benteen, and Lieutenant Charles Varnum. However, the Indian wars were winding down, leaving a glut of officers already within the Army. This, combined with du Bray's advanced age of 30, ensured his dreams of being an officer would never be.

While stationed in Newport Barracks, Kentucky, du Bray, now a sergeant, found he could make more money in the pigeon ring in a few hours than he could make in a month as a sergeant. This marked the beginning of his competitive shooting career, one that would allow du Bray to count as friends the likes of William Cody, Annie Oakley, Frank Butler, Doc Carver, Ira Paine, and Captain Bogardus.

Never to achieve his goal of becoming a commissioned officer, first sergeant du Bray left the army in 1890. In the spring of that same year, he went on tour for the United States Cartridge Company. Then, in December of 1890, du Bray became the traveling salesman for the Parker Gun Company. The number of influential contacts he made during his 19 years on the western frontier, his association with the top competitive shooters of the time, combined with his charisma, made Arthur W. du Bray one of the most recognized and successful salesmen to ever work for Parker

Brothers. Serving 36 years with Parker, du Bray's employment ended in 1926, and after an extended illness he passed away on July 8, 1928, at the age of 80.

In the fall of 2006, a friend of mine purchased a 12 gauge, D grade Parker hammer gun from a private individual. The gun is somewhat unusual in that it has 32 inch barrels on a number 1 frame. The shotgun shows a lot of use but had been carefully cared for. The bores were still bright as new, and the engraving remained sharp. Everything is original except for the front bead, appearing to have been replaced years ago. Very little finish remains except for a few surviving case colors on the locks where they were protected by the hammers. Examination in proper light still shows the intricate damascus pattern of the barrels, characteristic of D grade Parkers. The wood appears to be Circassian walnut with the classic skeleton butt plate.

The engraving is the standard D grade motif with the exception of one unusual feature, the engraving on the bottom of the receiver. Most D grade guns have a standard vignette consisting of a group of game birds in various poses. This particular gun has a single hunting dog facing to the right, standing in front of some tall reeds or cattails. In addition to the dog, there is also a single bird engraved just forward of the trigger guard.

Since I collect hammer Parkers, I told my friend I would be interested in purchasing this gun if he decided to sell it, and after a couple of months I was able to acquire the

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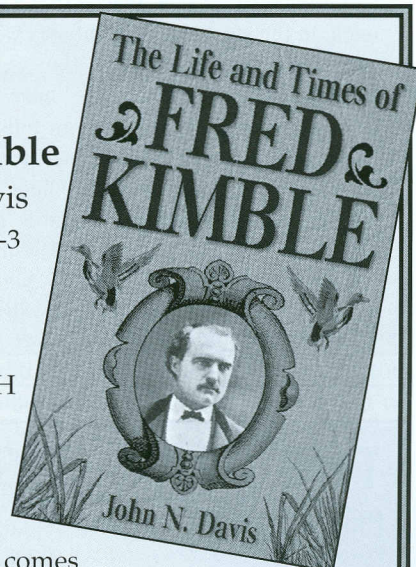
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shotgun. As it became more certain that I might own the gun, a letter was sent to Mark Conrad requesting a factory letter. It wasn't long and I was pulling a gray envelope from the mail box. The letter indicated the gun was shipped on May 21, 1886 to A.W. du Bray in Newport Barracks, Kentucky. The surprise came when I pulled a second sheet of paper from the envelope. It was a separate note from Mark Conrad stating, "Your gun has significant historical value. Arthur du Bray was Parker Bros. famous salesman. This is probably his personal Parker. He was still in the U.S. Army when he ordered it...."

Having grown up on a ranch in Montana I have a great

passion for western frontier firearms and have collected them for many years, but I am a relative newcomer to Parker collecting. In doing the research on Arthur du Bray, I found it exciting that this shotgun, through its original owner, truly bridges the gap between the rawness and survival of the frontier west and the sophistication and money of the live pigeon competitions of the east. Please note that Ed Muderlak graciously allowed me to use the factual information contained in his book, *Parker Brothers Knight of The Trigger*, and that he should be cited as the source of this information in any discussion of this article.



**Note added by John Davis, giving an account of the first meeting of Kimble and du Bray;**

June 26, 27, 28, and 29, 1883, a National shooting tournament was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. According to the *American Field* report: "Messrs. Kimble, Teipel, Meaders, McGraw, Gastright, and Bagge were the principal winners." Also in attendance was A. W. du Bray and this was his introduction to Fred Kimble. The first shoot, class shooting, ten single clay birds, eighteen yards rise, Stock took first money with 10 straight, and second money was divided among Kimble, Meaders and Teipel on 8 each. In the second shoot, five live pigeons, twenty-one yards rise, twelve tied with 5 each. In the shoot off at twenty-six yards, nine tied with 3 each. In the second shoot off at thirty-one yards, miss and out, seven tied and divided as follows: Kimble, Meaders, Stock, Greener, Bagge, Wicks, and Mason. The third shoot, ten single clay birds, twenty-six yards rise, Mason took first money; Meaders, Kimble, and du Bray divided second money. Second day, fourth shoot, ten clay

pigeons, eighteen yards rise, Meaders and McGraw divided first with 9 apiece. Kimble, du Bray, and others tied for second, dusting 8 each. In the shoot off, twenty-one yards rise, Kimble won with a perfect 5. Fifth shoot, ten clay pigeons, eighteen yards rise, Kimble divided first with Meaders and Teipel, each crushing 9. Sixth shoot, ten clay pigeons, eighteen yards rise, Kimble divided first with McGraw, Teipel, and du Bray with 9 apiece. Seventh shoot, ten clay pigeons, eighteen yards rise, Kimble won first on 10 straight. Third day, eighth shoot, ten explosive balls, eighteen yards rise, Tiepel and Skip divided first with 10 straight. Kimble tied for second lighting up 9 and in the shoot off at twenty-one yards, divided the money with Hudson and Stock, each with 3 straight. Ninth shoot, five live pigeons, twenty-six yards rise, miss and out, Kimble tied for first popping 5. In the shoot off, thirty-one yards, miss and out, Kimble, Teipel, and Stock divided first with 4 apiece. Tenth

shoot, eight live pigeons, four double rises at eighteen yards, Kimble tied for second with 7 but lost in the shoot off. Eleventh shoot, five live pigeons, twenty-five yards rise, Kimble tied for first, grassing 5, but lost in the shoot off. Fourth day, twelfth shoot, ten clay pigeons, twenty-six yards rise, Kimble and Teipel divided first, pulverizing 9 apiece. Thirteenth shoot, ten clay pigeons, twenty-six yards rise, Kimble won first with 10 in a row. Fourteenth shoot, eight live pigeons, eighteen yards double rise, Kimble tied for first with 8 straight but lost in the shoot off. "C. F. Stock, of Peoria, Ill., won the Kittredge & Co. prize, \$50.00; and Andy Meaders, Nashville, Tenn., and Fred Kimble, of Peoria, Ill., divided the Gibson House prize, same amount."

(*American Field*, July 21, 1883; *Peoria Daily Transcript*, June 27, 29 and 30, 1883; *The Daily Miner*, Butte, Montana, June 27, 1883; *The Hawkeye*, Burlington, Iowa, June 28, 1883; *The Daily Gazette*, Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 30, 1883)

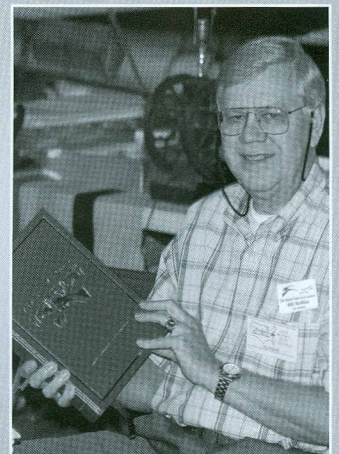
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**SHIRTS AND CAPS AGAIN AVAILABLE** — PGCA has established a new supplier for all shirts and hats carrying the PGCA woodcock logo. Spin Wheel Fashions, who makes similar items for the LC Smith Collectors Association will now deal directly with PGCA members, by mail or telephone. Long and short sleeve blue denim shirts, maroon golf shirts, and caps are available. Similar items can be seen on the LC Smith Collectors web site, and will be posted on the PGCA homepage. Golf shirts in other colors can be ordered individually. Payment will be made directly to Spin Wheel, and they will ship ordered items directly to you. All shirts will be \$40, and caps \$20, plus a shipping charge.

**PGCA items can be ordered by contacting: Cathy Bowman, Spin Wheel Fashions, 2522 Littlestown Pike Westminster MD 21158 Ph: 410 346 7255**





# Czar Gun Auction Day

Photos by Charles Herzog

The legendary Czar Parker was sold at auction by Julia Auctions of Fairfield, Maine on 13 March 2007, to Jack Puglisi. The gallery at Julia's was at near capacity, including more than twenty PGCA members for this historic event. Several more PGCA members attended the pre-auction viewing on the four days prior to the sale.

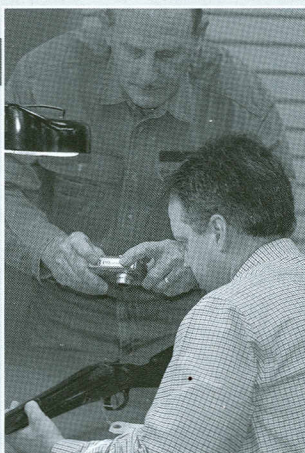
This was the second firearms sale held at Julia's new auction "barn." Guns to be offered at the next auction are received, examined, and photographed in this area, prior to publication of the auction catalog. J R Larue's appraisal office is just to the left of the photographed area. Prior to the auction, the guns to be offered are displayed by catalog lot number in the racks on each side. Cased guns are displayed by lot number on the center tables. Featured guns, which included the L.L. Bean CH 16 gauge Parker and the Czar gun, were displayed in the glass case shown. Two members of the Julia staff were present at all times, and provided individuals with opportunity to examine the featured guns.

A felt covered examining table was available at the left of the display area. This table was equipped with an overarm lamp and magnifier. Notices were posted, requesting that guns were not to be disassembled at the display racks. The Julia staff permitted breakdown of the guns, including the Czar gun, at the examining table. Charles Herzog and Tom Wooden are shown examining the Czar gun.

The Holiday Inn at Waterville, Maine provides special rate accommodations for auction attendees, and Julia Auctions hosted an informal reception there on Monday evening, preceeding Tuesday's sporting arms sale. Many Parker and LC Smith collectors attended the reception, and then gathered for a no host dinner in the dining room.

The sporting arms were offered as the final session of the two day auction. The auction gallery seats approximately 150 persons, with the auctioneer's podium and clerk's station facing the gallery. The podium is flanked by two large screens picturing the item and displaying the lot number being offered. Jim Julia runs a marathon at each auction; he personally gavels about 80 percent of lots. An assistant auctioneer is present identifying and tracking bidders.

Display case in the show room, where the Czar Gun and L.L. Bean CHE were displayed. Steve Cobb and Ed Johnston are examining guns in the background; Julia staff members Mike Taylor and Ron Vallincourt assisted potential buyers.



Tom Wooden trying the Czar Gun for fit.

Charles Herzog and Tom Wooden at examining table with Czar Gun.

A row of members of the Julia staff are seated at a bank of telephones at the left of the gallery. Staff members connected with an active bidder stand when the bidder's lot is called; each has a regular bidder's paddle, and is recognized by the auctioneer in the same way as bidders in the gallery. Additional staff members represent absentee bidders.

A staff member represented Jack Puglisi on the telephone as the Czar lot was called. Jack instructed her to jump up and yell "I have a quarter million dollars bid" the instant Jim called the lot, and jump and holler she did. There were four additional staff members standing, representing telephone bidders actively seeking the Czar gun. An increment of \$25,000 and then \$10,000 was asked with no response.

We all congratulate Jack Puglisi on his purchase of the Czar gun, and we know that many collectors will be able to examine and admire this magnificent gun while it is in Jack's stewardship. We also congratulate the entire Julia Auction organization for conducting this event which we will all remember.

The Russian Royal family was a legendary patron of the arts, decorating the Palace in St. Petersburg with lavish and expensive artwork, created expressly for them by the world's best artisans. When Nicholas desired a best grade shotgun, Parker's every day best, with a little extra supervision and inspection, was fit for a King.

Retrospectively, this was a rather major event for both *Parker Pages* and the editor. The editor met with the directors of PGCA in early December; we unanimously decided that we would move up the date of publication of the spring issue to allow all PGCA members know that this gun would be publically displayed for the first time. We also decided that the gun would be presented in a way that it would speak for itself, relative to quality and rarity.

PGCA and Julia Auctions agreed to share pictures and descriptions of the gun. The editor visited on 18 December, examined and photographed the gun, and discussed many aspects with Jim Julia and J R Larue. This became a rather consuming project for the next three weeks, with a short Christmas break. A prepublication copy of the text and photos in the *Parker Pages* coverage was provided as a courtesy to *Double Gun Journal*, which could not accelerate publication.

One important description was missed in *Parker Pages* coverage of the Czar Gun. This gun may have been the only single owner A 1S offered publically for sale in this decade.





# Parkers Found

## Chapter XI

**T**he Parker Gun was manufactured from 1874 until Remington production ceased at the outset of World War II. Parker configuration changed from Back Actions and Lifter Actions to Top Actions to Hammerless. forends were first attached with sliding keys, then patent latches, and a modified forend loop was added for beavertails and high grade guns. Frame engraving evolved on the G and D grades through the early hammerless period. It is of collector interest to follow evolutionary changes, to find early guns with changes that later became standard, or to find later guns with earlier configuration.

The ground rules for this column are

quite simple: Note the serial number and describe a gun that you think may be the earliest (smallest serial number) or latest (largest serial number) SURVIVING Parker with some definable feature. Support the originality of the gun with the pertinent phrases of a Research Letter if possible. Describe the configuration of a gun from a period with no records objectively, with comments from other collectors if available. Send a description of the gun, (also a photo of the feature if possible) to the editor, and indicate you would like it to be considered a "PARKER FOUND."

We will update this list, and remove duplication in issue 1 of the next volume.

### Some Suggested Categories

Earliest surviving Vulcan and Trojan, by gauge  
Earliest surviving Parker Steel PH and GH  
Latest PH  
Latest Trojan  
Latest surviving Twist or Damascus guns, by grade  
Earliest gun with gauge and/or proof stamp  
Latest 10ga with 2 7/8 chamber  
Latest gun with Conn. rib roll mark  
Earliest gun with Ct. U.S.A. rib roll mark  
The first identifiable Ilion made barrels  
The latest surviving Parker

## The Current List of Earliest and Latest Survivors

Parker guns serial 1 and 2 were known to be in individual collections in 1909, according to a *Forest and Stream* article reviewed in the Winter 2005 *Parker Pages*. Barry Stelford has reported serial 19, the earliest Parker seen in recent time, until Jim Hall brought back action 17 to Deep River. We will have a description of it in the next issue.

**17** – This back action gun was displayed by Jim Hall at the PGCA table at Deep River.

**29** – This back action gun has been in the Craig family since its purchase. It is pictured and described in "An Heirloom Parker," in the Spring 2006 issue.

**029** – Don Burchard has reported this gun as similar to the Craig gun shown in the Spring 2006 issue. It is chambered for the 12B gauge, and the barrels are decarbonized steel. The patent date is on the trigger plate. The checking on this gun is similar to other back action guns.

**66** – This gun has a line beneath its serial, verifying it is 66, not 99. It is a back action gun with non – rebounding hammers. The barrels are stamped with British proof marks, chambered for the 2 1/2 inch paper twelve gauge shell, and measure .745 ahead of the chamber, and .740 at the muzzles. The rib is marked "Parker Bros. Meriden Conn Laminated Steel." The numbers are stamped, with the underline, on both sides of the barrel lump. It has small extractors, a square locking bite and an unusual shape lifter knob. This gun is that of Al Gingrich of Pennsylvania, and we hope to visit him for a photo story.

**066** – This is a straight hand, back action, gun with uncut 26 inch, decarbonized steel barrels. This gun has had some very major repairs using parts from Parker 257. It was described in *Parker Pages* Vol 8, issue 5, page 15. Photos, sent to us by Larry Schuknecht were shown with the discussion above.

**1752 A** – "C" grade 10 gauge lifter. This gun has the Stokes Nov 24 1868 patent rebounding lock, shown on page 94 of *The Parker Story*. Contributed by Don Burchard.

**3089** – "D" grade 12 gauge lifter with rough weight stamp on barrels; Don Burchard.

**4191** – Earliest barrels with initial unfinished weight stamped on water table. This is a 32 inch, 12 gauge, Damascus gun, probably a D2.

It has been restocked. This gun was weighed when attempting to relate stamped weight to finished weight, and was referred to Bill Furnish. He notes 4424 as his earliest weight stamp. He also lists rough weights stamped on 02219, and B2708 but notes "rebbld" for each of these guns.

**5410** – This gun was submitted by Larry Schuknecht as the earliest surviving 20 gauge Parker.

**12204** – A Grade D lifter hammer gun, that is the earliest gun found with the redesigned forend latch. This is a very handsome gun, with a ball grip checked all over. Submitted by Jim Westbrook.

**15936** – The only 20 gauge, "G" grade lifter observed by Don Burchard. It has laminated steel barrels.

**23150** – Earliest (or latest?) D2 grade gun with a woodcock or snipe engraved in the vignette circle on the bottom of the frame. This gun also has a woodcock on the right lock, and these engravings are shown on the back cover. The Dam 2 grade that became the G appears to have received greater engraving coverage through the 18 – 25000 s/n range. (Two other woodcock engraved guns in this serial range have been seen, but not reported here).

**24018** – Earliest lifter gun with the long frame and check hook that would soon become the top action. This gun was shown on the BBS by Mark Howland, and PGCA has attempted to answer his questions.

**43810** – This is a two frame top action gun in 12 gauge with 30 inch barrels bored with open and 1/2 choke for upland game. It is a 2 (G) grade Dam2 gun with dog's head buttplate and capped pistol grip. There is a woodcock engraved in the circle on the bottom of the frame; this is the latest serial number gun found with this engraving. Contributed by Bill Zachow, who found it at an antique show in upstate NY.

**52292** – This is a 10 gauge top action with two barrel – sets. The 30 inch barrels are laminated steel, and the 26 inch barrels are Damascus steel. The frame is stamped with a "1" on the water table. This is the only 1 grade gun with original 26 inch barrels known to Don Burchard.

**55314** – Joe Wood has owned this gun for several years. It is an EH (grade2) 10 gauge with 30 inch barrels, and remains in very good condition with only the barrels refinished. According to the Research



Letter, it was shipped to Parker's NYC office on 26 December, 1888. Only 23 serial numbers separate this gun from the earliest known hammerless Parker, but the published record in this period lists only guns of grade 3 (D,DH) and higher. It may be the earliest grade 2, earliest 10 gauge hammerless, or earliest of both. Joe continues to actively and successfully hunt with this gun. It is the earliest surviving hammerless gun reported.

**56553** – Earliest gun with a factory fitted rubber recoil pad. This gun was originally delivered in 1889 as a DH 30 inch 10 gauge. According to the stock books it was returned several times for repair and modification. The second owner returned it to Parker; the entry for order 43448, January 27 1891, called for this work on 56553: Change Shape of Stock to His Dimension; fit Silvers Recoil Butt, reblue barrels, tighten forend. The lack of special instruction may indicate pad installation was routine by 1891.

**67137** – Boyce Hudson has submitted this PH twist barreled hammerless gun. It is the earliest surviving twist barrel hammerless gun to be reported. Initial production of hammerless guns included only dam 2 (GH and EH) and higher grades. The grade 1 plain twist barreled PH was added a few thousand serial numbers after introduction of the hammerless gun. The dam2 hammerless was one of the most popular Parker guns, with a total of 27,000 made in several gauges, as tabulated in *The Parker Story*. About half as many (14000) PH plain twist guns are tabulated. Prior to about 2002, GH dam 2 Parkers were commonly offered for sale in the smallest and most remote gunshops, but PH's were rarely found. Although production statistics favor the GH by 2 to 1, the "find rate" was about 10 to 1, perhaps leading to Johnson's conclusion of rarity of PH guns. We hope this entry stimulates a search for PH PT Parkers, which are quite handsome in their own way.

**72297** – Latest surviving laminated steel grade 1, Parker hammer gun. This is one of only six, twenty eight inch barreled, guns in 10 gauge. Submitted by Tom Bouwkamp.

**79503** – A note from Charlie Price, dated 9 July 05 relative to his search of the original *Parker Story* data base. This gun awaits our discovery: "Lowest serial number with fluid steel barrels is serial 79503 recorded as a "W3" grade, ie a grade 3 DH with Whitworth Steel barrels. Possibly an experimental or prototype; order books might show some information."

**79964** – I submit Parker Pigeon Gun, serial number 79964, as the earliest surviving Whitworth Barrel Pigeon Gun. This gun has been cited and noted in earlier issues of *Parker Pages*: "The first Whitworth Fluid Steel Barrel Gun (quality AH, grade 6, AH 79964) was delivered to Captain Du Bray" (*Parker Pages* Volume 5, Number 6, Nov – Dec 1998) and "...Du Bray's gun was an AAH, too. Not just any AAH, it was the first AAH." (*Parker Pages* Volume 8, Number 4, July – August 2001). This article notes that several other AAH's were ordered shortly after du Bray's with the request "Engrave same as du Bray's." Several photographs of the engraving on this gun are shown in this issue. Submitted by Stephen M Smith.

**80729** – Earliest surviving fluid steel barrel Parker Pigeon Gun. This was the seventh Pigeon Gun, according to *The Parker Story*. It was ordered October 12, 1894, and shipped March 1, 1895, to Griffith and Temple, Louisville, Kentucky, with the shield engraved "P.L. Atherton, Louisville, Kentucky." It was a 30 inch barreled AAH, with a half pistol grip stock. The gun was returned to Parker in December 1895 to be refitted with a new straight grip stock. Submitted by Bob Faddis.

**82225** – This gun is a DH hammerless 12 gauge with Vulcan Steel 30 inch barrels. This gun was the first of fifteen Vulcan steel guns listed in Stock Book 29. Fourteen were DH Grade, and one was BH grade. Submitted by J.H. Sheldon, J.P.Sheldon, and Mark Conrad.

**90563** – A DH with the hickory strengthening dowel clearly visible in

the toe of the butt, in the checked area within the skeleton steel butt plate. Submitted by Jim Westbrook.

**104043** – Surviving Lifter Gun Ordered May 2 1908 and delivered to Shovering Daly and Gates in a large order with few specifics in the order book. It is a 32 inch, 3 frame, 2 7/8 inch chamber 12 gauge, twist barrels, with P stamped on the water table. (At least two later lifters are known, but as yet unreported.)

**111224** – The earliest surviving Parker with Selective Automatic Ejectors. The first notation indicating a gun with selective ejectors in "Serialization..." is 108041. This BHE 12 gauge gun was made shortly after (1902) during a period of missing records. Sent in by Tom Bouwkamp.

**158280** – This Trojan was ordered by Schoverling Daly & Gales, N.Y., N.Y., on Jan. 14, 1913, shipped Feb. 3, 1913 – Trojan Steel Barrels 30" P.G. F & F, standard stock dimensions & weight. \$19.00 was paid for it at that time. I believe this gun was stamped, and started in 1911. I would like it considered for earliest Trojan. Bill McCrea #1790.

**160852** – Surviving Trojan 20 gauge ordered 31 January 1913, and shipped to Hibbard Spencer and Bartlett in Chicago, IL. Sent in by John Stinauer; note that it was ordered the day after the gun below.

**161492** – Early Trojan 20 gauge, ordered January 30, 1913, and sold for \$19, less than the catalog \$25 price.

**169795** – Surviving fluid steel 8 gauge, PH with 34 inch Titanic steel barrels ordered in 1914. The gun remains in extremely fine condition, and was displayed on the PGCA table at the 2005 Las Vegas Antique and Sporting Arms Show by Warren Webster.

**170789 VHE** – with proper forend loop for a beavertail forend. There are no records for this period. The gun is a 32 inch live bird gun, with a little extra PH like engraving in the spot usually occupied by the safety button. The present BTFE has sharp checking and is probably a replacement. The straight stock has been altered many times, but retains a small monte carlo.

**176381 DHE** – exported to Australia, with "Tested PB USA" stamped as proof mark on frame. It has the strengthening rod through the butt to the grip, and is stamped with the patent date "Pat'd Sep 10 1895" behind the grip cap. Submitted by Ron McDonald of Tasmania, our southernmost member.

**176799 SC** – The maker's mark is on the rib, rather than the barrel on this single barrel trap gun. There is no reference to the type of steel on the rib, and a circled T on the water table. There is no pigeon on the floorplate, and no screw filled access hole in the frame. (Tom Considine)

**177508** – Earliest Parker Steel barreled PHE, a 28 inch barrel 20 gauge. Top rib is marked ...Meriden, Conn., and water table is stamped HT, not HT/A. Submitted by Jim Malone.

**178591** – "I would like to submit my twenty gauge VH, 178591, to PARKERS FOUND as the latest gun with – CONN- on the rib roll mark. The gun was made in 1918, ordered on July 20 1918 by the Charles Davis Co., of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. There are six guns in this order, three Trojans, and three VH.

The gun has several unusual marks; an "HT" standing alone, absent the usual accompanying "A," and "Tested PB" on the barrel flats. The proof mark did not appear until 1926, according to *The Parker Story*. "Made in USA" is hand engraved at the breech end of the barrel rib, but it is not accompanied by the usual arrow.

These guns were ordered through H. A. Ashlett Co., of New York. I have not found any of the other guns from this order, to see if they were similarly marked." Contributed by Ron McDonald of Tasmania, Australia.

**180115 SC** – This is a 32 inch, straight grip gun, with a Hawkins pad. It is one number earlier than a gun made for Fred Gilbert (*Parker Story*, page 408), renowned for his achievements as a Parker shooter. (Dave Suponski)



**180977, PHE** – 12gauge, 2 frame, 32 inch Parker Steel Barrels. This is the earliest Parker Steel PH reported. It was shipped August 27, 1918. The rib is marked "Parker Bros. Makers. Meriden, Ct. USA Parker Steel, preceded by an arrow with 5 fletches, and followed by an arrow with 6 fletches. It is choked full and full, rechoked by Bill Nittler, and "shoots like a laser" according to Gary Lease, who continues to use it for waterfowl. (Gary Lease)

**200397** – Trojan 20 gauge. Latest surviving Trojan with rib extension, and old style safety. Submitted by Tom Bouwkamp.

**200897** – Walt Brown reports that his 16 gauge Trojan, 200897, has a rib extension of the type found on earlier Trojans.

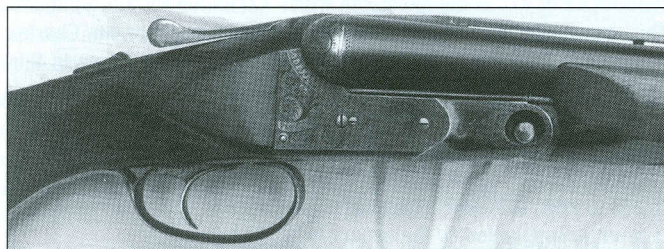
**202066** – Dean Romig reports that his Trojan 202066, has 26" barrels as shown in the Parker Gun Serialization and Identification book and is a sixteen-gauge. It may be the latest known sixteen-gauge Trojan with the rib extension and it also has the pre-1917 style of safety button. The roll stamp on the top rib may be unusual in that the arrow on the left that points toward PARKER BROS. has seven vanes on the fletching while the arrow on the right that points toward TROJAN STEEL has only six vanes. The barrels are choked cylinder in the right barrel and full in the left. The barrel weight before striking was 3 lbs., 3 oz. and the barrel flats also show JG in an oval, OV, and HT over A. The barrel lug is stamped 16 and shows the standard 1 frame size as well as having the 1910 patented bolt plate. The heads of the hinge pin are the small version and neither head is slotted. There was some speculation that it may have been one of the first sixteen-gauge Trojans with 26" barrels but on investigating this possibility some three-hundred earlier Trojan sixteens were found to have 26" barrels before ceasing investigation.

This Trojan has been refinished by the Ohio Case Color Company and while the colors are not at all Trojan-like they are still quite striking. The barrels have been re-rust-blued and still show sharp file marks from the original striking. It retains the original stock and forend but they have been professionally refinished and the checkering recut to original specifications. The only thing about this Trojan that is not in keeping with the original is the thin Old English pad which was replaced at the time of refinishing. It is a very pretty Trojan.

**202904, DH** – 12 gauge, latest surviving DAM 3 barreled gun. Ordered July 1923, with 30 inch full and full Damascus barrels and a trap model forend.

**206367, DHE** – latest surviving DAM3 gun, sent to us by Ron Garrido, and is the gun that he used at the 2006 LC Smith – Parker Challenge. This DHE is a 2 frame 12 gauge, full choke, with .036 constriction in both barrels. The Damascus pattern remains quite vivid, and 60% of case color remains on the frame. It differs from earlier DAM 3 guns in that both upper and lower ribs are fluid steel, without pattern. It has the older style of forend tip, with filed rib.

A portion of the Damascus roll mark – PARKER BROS MAKERS,



Tom Bouwkamp's double barrel trap gun, 219984, showing the single trigger, vent rib and the carving and checking pattern of the beavertail forend.

MERIDEN CONN. DAMASCUS STEEL – is preceded by a hand engraved arrow and hand engraved MADE IN U.S.A. The roll marked portion appears to be identical to that on a 1907 DAM 2 in Ron's collection. This may be the latest gun to carry the "CONN" on the top rib.

All of us who saw Ron break both long and short clays at the Challenge this spring were very impressed with this gun, and with Ron's ability to shoot it.

**206410** – Trojan in new condition, 30 inch barrels, 12 gauge without "Parker Bros Overload Proved" stamp on barrel flats. It was contributed by Bill Zachow to begin a lower limit serial number to define the time Parker began placing proof marks on barrels.

• The serialization table indicates it was made around the turn of the year 1923 to 1924.

**206585 PH** – with an 11/16 reinforcing rod found under the DHBP. This stock had cracked but not separated, with the dowel uniting the wrist. The gun is marked with the Pat'd Sep 10 1895 stamp behind the grip. Contributed by Chuck Bishop.

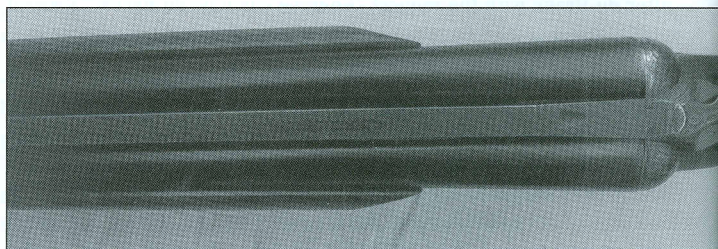
**215833, VH** – .410 bore, is the earliest 410, reported by Dick Gray of Brasleton, GA. The PGCA Research Letter indicates that this gun was shipped to the Western Cartridge Co., East Alton Illinois, on 18 May 1926. It is described with 26 inch barrels, 14 inch pull, 2 3/4 inch drop at heel, capped pistol grip and weighing 5 pounds, 6 ounces. It was returned by Western to Parker 27 April 1927; Western was credited \$83.75 on its return. Dick indicates the stock now has a ball grip, perhaps changed on its return.

**217607 VH** – 12 gauge on 1 1/2 frame with 30 inch barrels (June 1926) and 217768, Trojan 12 with 28 inch barrels (July 1926) both carry the Parker Overload Proved stamp. This narrows the beginning of regular proof marking to the 1924 – 1926 period. Contributed by Bill Zachow.

**219984 DHE** – 12 gauge with beavertail forend, ventilated rib, and single trigger, the earliest surviving Parker double barrel trap gun with all of these features. Sent in by Tom Bouwkamp.

**220657** – Damascus Dam 2 GH. Purchased at the Louisville show and it is the latest GH that I know of. The gun is in beautiful condition with most all black and white barrel finish, over 60% case colors and about 95% wood finish. Bores are perfect and the gun is choked full and full. It is on a 1 1/2 frame and weight 7 pounds 7 ounces. It has a capped pistol grip and and dog's head buttplate with the peak. An interesting point is that the barrel flats are marked with Parker's late proofing mark, "PARKER BROTHERS OVERLOAD PROVED" in the distinctive oval format. Contributed by Bill Zachow

**227020 VHE** – 12 gauge with Damascus barrels. The water table is marked in the ordinary VH manner, but the barrel flats are marked with a large capital D to signify Damascus. The Damascus pattern appears to be G grade, or much like G grade. Contributed by Charles Herzog.



Top view of the vent rib and silhouette of the forend. This is the earliest double barrel trap gun found, with all three "modern" features.

**If you have a gun you would like to be considered a "PARKER FOUND."**

Send a description (also a photo of the feature if possible) to: Austin W. Hogan, *Parker Pages* Editor  
41 Barton Road, P.O. Box 21, Piermont, NH 03779, [austin.w.hogan@valley.net](mailto:austin.w.hogan@valley.net).

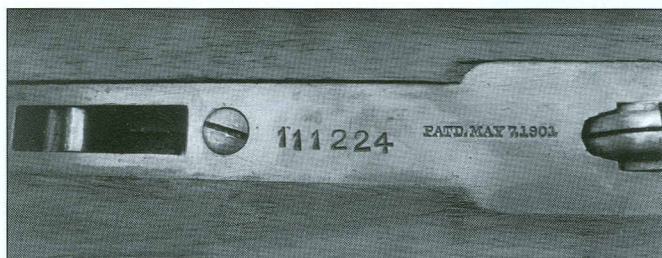


# The First Parker SAE

By Tom and Barbara Bouwkamp

1902 was an exciting year. In New York, Macy's began construction of their new department store on 6th Avenue. Cuba got its formal independence from Spain after the Spanish-American War. The first Rose Bowl game was played between Michigan and Stanford with Michigan winning 49-0. In the same year, Carl Zeiss patented the Tessar lens for cameras. The air conditioner and hair dryer were invented in 1902.

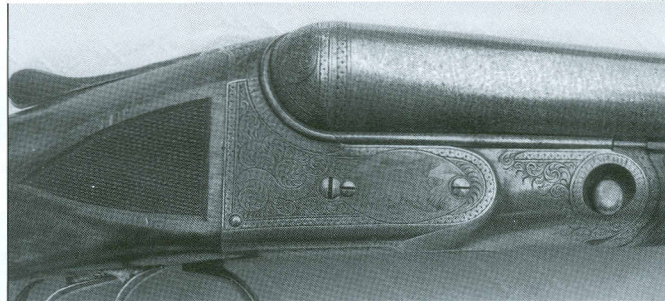
1902 was also an interesting year for Parker Bros. Makers. The gun shop was enjoying brisk sales of its new hammerless model. That year, nearly 7,500 guns were produced and among them was likely the first Parker with selective automatic ejectors.



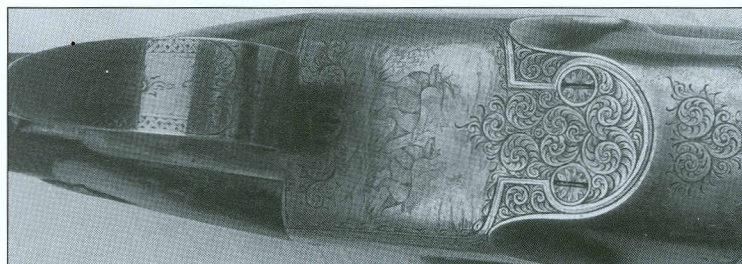
The forend iron of 111224, showing the cut for the ejector hammers, and the two hammers.

Since the 1890's, shooting sportsmen had been requesting automatic ejectors for their guns. Already, in 1892, Lefever and L.C. Smith had introduced ejector guns. Parker, while not innovative, wanted a superior, dependable ejector system. Developed by James P. Hayes and Charles A. King, the selective ejector patent was applied for December 30, 1900, and granted May 7, 1901. Parker's 1901 catalog was the first to picture the new ejector.

The first gun found to have selective automatic ejectors in the stock books is serial number 112920, a sixteen gauge AAHE, which started production in August 1902. This stock book (#40) covers guns between 111444 and 114141. The previous stock book (#39) is missing, but would have included Parker serial number 111224, estimated to have been put into production in April of 1902. This gun, a twelve gauge 30 inch Damascus barreled BHE with straight stock, splinter forend, and skeleton buttplate is an even earlier ejector gun, possibly the first. It has the roll-die stamped



The frame engraving, Damascus pattern, and checked side panels of Parker BHE 111224, the earliest gun so far found that was originally fitted with selective automatic ejectors.



The floorplate of 111224, showing two elk. Game animals were frequently engraved on A, B, and C grade Parkers during this time.

PATD, MAY 7, 1901 on the inside of the forend iron. Other markings include PAT'D JAN. 18 AUG. 16. 1887 over MAY 7-OCT. 8. 1889 on the right side of the water table and 5 over 111224 over B on the left side of the water table. The barrel flats show PAT'D APR 11, 1876 and reading left to right (DD), the barrel weight (4 pounds, 7 ounces), and the grade number (5).

Serial number 111224 has marble cake circassian walnut with nearly all its original finish. Checkering is 26 to 28 line per inch with the forend totally checkered. A large 3/16 inch diameter brass bead tops off the full/full choked Damascus barrels. The top tang shows the old style safety and the long straight top lever. B grade engraving, probably by William H. Gough, shows two setters on the right side and two pointers on the left side. The floor plate has the frequently seen vignette of a bull and cow elk. Case colors are 85-90% in protected areas. A vacant oval gold shield is inlaid on the bottom of the stock. Triggerguard and triggerguard tang retain nearly all of the original finish. The serial number is hand engraved on the trigger guard tang with a "No" in front of the number. All of the screw slots have survived 100 plus years without attacks by amateur gunsmiths.

Serial number 111224 certainly is one of the earliest Parkers with factory selective automatic ejectors – if not the first. It will be entered into the "Parkers Found" section of *Parker Pages* until an earlier SAE can be documented.



Order of Edwardian Gunners

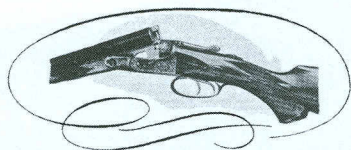
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## The Parker Marketplace FOR SALE

SC trap, 32 inch barrels, 1923 manufacture. Original case color, original recoil pad, gun in mint condition. Had barrel opened up to be compatible with modern trap loads. Can now break 25 with little effort. Before excessive recoil and blown patterns. Call for photos, serious inquiries welcome, asking \$7500 firm. Jimmy, 724-439-9754.

Parker Trojan, 12 gauge, Serial No. 220,451. Restored to 100% as new condition. 30" barrels, choked Modified/Full. 13" LOP to NoShoc recoil pad. Extractors and double triggers. Ideal for cold weather hunting in heavy clothing. \$950.00 + actual shipping cost. Call John Davis, 229-268-4125, or email [jndavis@sowega.net](mailto:jndavis@sowega.net).

Parker coffee mill, No 440, Pat Dec 4 1917. Black metal bottom attaches to wall with 3 screws; glass top marked Parker with metal screw top. All original, excellent plus condition, \$395. Parker match holder, Pat Sep 14 1869 and May 3 1870, open top, hinged, decorative metal, excellent \$295. Parker loading tool, cast iron capper, embossed "Parker Bros. Pat Aug 20 1872, West Meriden, Conn." Excellent plus condition, scarce, \$395. Call Dave Parker 913-362-4526.

Two Parker Eight Gauge Guns, with descriptions forwarded by Bill Zachow. They will be more thoroughly described in an article in the next issue:

#171981 has refinished barrels and a pinned stock – brass pin flush with the stock cheeks. Screws appear to be quite good and case colors still exist in protected areas. Bore is perfect. Overall, the gun appears to be used, but not abused; Mr Smith is asking \$11,500 for this gun.

#162006 is a Damascus barreled GH with 34" barrels and a Miller non-selective single trigger. The gun is also "lettered" but the trigger is not mentioned. The gun is on a #6 frame and has a capped pistol gripped stock. The stock has a ventilated Jostam pad and, what appears to be, a 1/4" red spacer between the pad and the stock. The gun was finished in 1913 and shipped to Portland, Maine. It weighs 13 pounds, 13 ounces and sold for \$90. It appears to have a fair degree of case color and very good screws. The Damascus barrel pattern is very visible and appears to be mostly black/white as made.

Mr. Smith is asking \$10,500 for this gun. Contact Mr. Robert Smith at 846 234 6556, or [honeybeechristie@yahoo.com](mailto:honeybeechristie@yahoo.com).

### WANTED

Original Beavertail Parkers, preferably with straight butt stocks, skeet, trap, and all others, all grades and gauges. Call Ralph at 434-369-4926, or [Ralph.english@englishsinc.com](mailto:Ralph.english@englishsinc.com)

Acme Barrels for CHE, 32 inch, 2 frame, 12 ga., also stock for 2 frame CHE. 781 736 1945, ask for Bob Allenburg.

Looking for: Parker CHE SN 137,022, 16/28 Bernard, st grip, live bird gun. Please contact Bruce Day 816-305-7953.

16 Gauge Parker "LIFTER GUN" in good condition. Please phone Jim Kucaba at: 602-439-2118 or email [JimKucaba@aol.com](mailto:JimKucaba@aol.com).

### LOST

My father's copy of *Parker, America's Finest Shotgun*, by Peter Johnson, 1961 first edition, with Carl L Parker, 3104 Titus Rd. St Louis MO inside cover. Will replace or buy. Dave Parker, 913-362-4526.

The Marketplace has previously contained classified advertising for members wishing to buy or sell Parker guns and related items. The very quick turnovers which now happen at on line sales brokers have greatly reduced the number of classified ads sent to *Parker Pages*. We will continue to carry classifieds as submitted, but will also print small block ads submitted by members, and the business cards of members.



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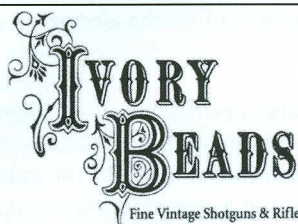
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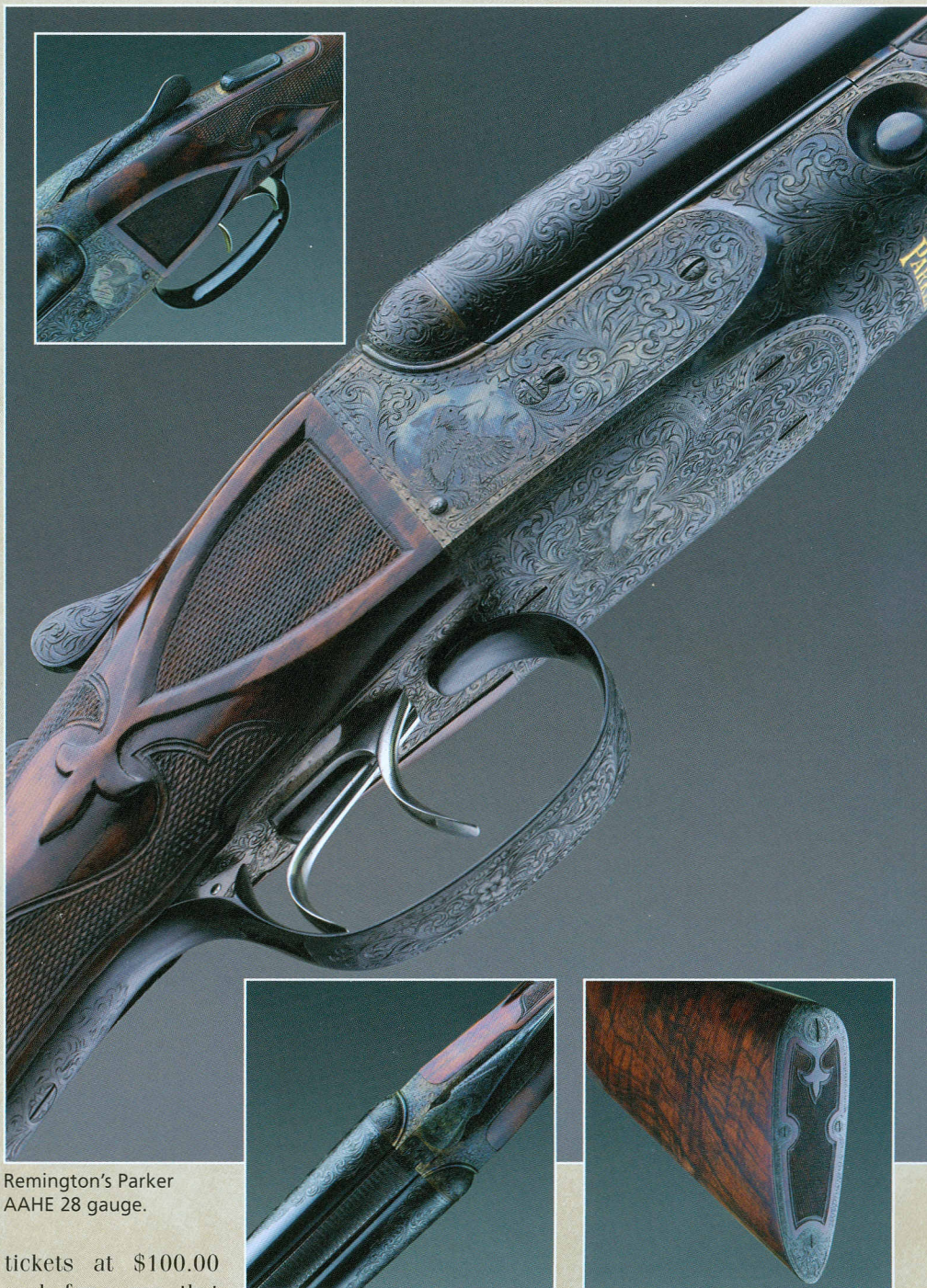


# Letter to the Editor and Readers of *Parker Pages*

Remington announced the resumption of Parker AAHE production October 12, 2005 at our annual Outdoor Writers Seminar. This was followed by prominence in our 2006 catalog. Remington's Parker AAHE 28 gauge is now available to the most discriminating double gun shooters who have looked far and wide to find the magic Parker 28 gauge, of any grade, in fine condition. The highly sought after 28, especially in high grades, especially the AAHE, is nearly impossible to find. These guns seem to be in treasured collections and unavailable to those who love to hunt or shoot this gauge. A total of about 1,800 Parker 28 gauge guns were made, and only 5 of these are archived in AAHE grade.

Remington has resumed building these guns one at a time to exacting dimensions of the buyer's preference, with some choice of engraving in particular areas but limited to variations that keep intact the AAHE style of the earlier Remington built Parkers. There are choices of splinter or beavertail fore end, straight hand, half pistol, or full pistol grip stock. The original Parker single or double trigger is available. This heirloom is built with the same attention to detail as "Old Reliable" was in Meridan, CT. or Ilion, NY. Remington is committed to make this fine shotgun identical in all respects to the Parkers we all know and enjoy.

We have completed four of "America's Finest Shotgun" to date, beginning with serial number P242510, which is our sample gun with splinter FE, double triggers, and straight stock. We have shipped serial number P242511, a straight grip, splinter fore end, double trigger with automatic safety. This gun is fitted with 28" twin ivory head barrels choked improved cylinder and modified. The second gun shipped was 242512; it is configured as a 28" barreled Skeet Gun. This gun is fitted with a full pistol grip stock, beavertail fore end, and a single selective trigger with manual safety. The first two guns feature exhibition grade Circassian walnut. Additionally, the Ruffed Grouse Society sold 1,000



Remington's Parker AAHE 28 gauge.

tickets at \$100.00 each for a gun that was randomly drawn on Saturday April 14th, 2007. The Ruffed Grouse Gun, P242514, is fitted with exhibition grade American walnut with straight grip and splinter fore end. The improved cylinder and modified choked barrels are 28" in length with twin ivory beads. This raffle received so much interest that it will be followed by another, this time a Parker AAHE 28 gauge skeet gun. Tickets are available for this gun

by calling the Ruffed Grouse Society at (412) 262-4044.

Should you desire help in your selection of a new 28 gauge AAHE, please contact John Fink, directly at Remington Arms Co. Inc. 336-548-8551 to assist with feature selection and order placement.

*John Fink*

*Product Manager*

*Remington Arms Co.*







#### The Parker Challenge Shooting Team

Standing, from left; Tom Cutler, Paul Kupferburg, Ron Garrido, JD Shank, Sam Thomas.  
Kneeling from left; Joe Burton, John Jeffery, Crile Christler, Mark Conrad, Ricky Kenog.



#### Hammergun Challenge Award

Mark Conrad presenting the Hammergun Challenge Award to Mary Ann Finch.  
PGCA congratulates the L C Smith shooters on their win.