



Fort Constitution Arms Collectors

Meeting Report: February 7, 2018

Web address: <http://www.armscollectors.org/>



Huzzah's from the fort!

As viewed from our Sentry post... could that be “SPRING” on the horizon?... We all know it's out there somewhere! February though, is hanging in there along with our Winter of 2017-18. The dogged cold, occasional storms, and rotten weather unfortunately just aren't “quite” ready to leave... but they WILL! Until we once more have our beloved yard sales, flea markets and on-the-road outdoor adventures, we've got our monthly FCAC club activities... and our club's March 10 Gun and Knife Show to look forward to... **Hoo Rah!...** THAT will be fun and exciting! There'll be money to make, and cool stuff to buy! Be sure to pick up Fort Constitution show fliers at the club meeting to post & pass out to all!

Our February 7 Fort Constitution club gathering was cancelled due to a snow and sleet storm that began around mid-day on Wednesday, and continued into the night. A notice went out by email the day before, and hopefully you got it. Those without computer tie-in got a phone call from Marilyn. All of us were disappointed of course, but you know that had we NOT cancelled, bad things would surely have happened. Probably only a dozen or so FCAC members would have shown up anyway, and we'd have been stuck eating a lot of pizza! Remember that if bad weather or invasion by aliens should happen, and you've any doubt if there'll be a club meeting, check your emails for an official message from the fort!

With the start of the year it's now time to pay dues. As you know, the bargain FCAC membership fee is \$40... and that includes our newsletter, free pizza & brownies, free soda, free setup each month for selling and displays, free entry to our club gun shows, early entry if you wish, and discounted pricing for gun show tables. Add to that we're a non-profit fully insured, and it's one HECK of a deal!

The cutoff date for paying 2018 dues is March 15. If not squared away by then for the new year you will be removed from the Fort Constitution roster, and we sure don't want that!

Did ya know? – The “Bonanza” Theme Song Actually Had Lyrics!

We mostly heard the theme song on its instrumental version. However, it really had lyrics. Lorne Greene, Dan Blocker and Michael Landon sang a lyric version for the pilot, but it never aired.

Famed singer Johnny Cash recorded his own version of the *Bonanza* theme song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd35tBIUlR8>

Semi-Automatic Pistols of the 19th Century

Before the turn of the 20th century, no one knew what a magazine-fed pistol should look like, and theories varied greatly. In the early 1890s, Austrian Joseph Laumann re-designed his Model 1891 8 mm repeater pistol (lower left) to function as a blowback-operated semi-automatic.

The history of the semi-automatic pistol may appear a bit disjointed, for the story requires tying together separate events from around the world as the best minds in the industry focused on creating the simplest, most durable and most user-friendly handgun. The potential reward was enormous, as every military in every country was a prospective buyer, not to mention the legions of civilians. After all, who wouldn't be interested in a new handgun that offered advanced firepower? And so some of the greatest firearm designers in history embarked on what may have been their best-supported and most prolific period of creativity. https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2018/1/4/in-the-beginning-semi-automatic-pistols-of-the-19th-century/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0118



The Model 1909 Colt

In 1909, the Ford Model T had just come to market. The President of the United States was none other than Theodore Roosevelt, finishing his second term. His Great White Fleet had finished its voyage around the globe. The Army Signal Corps had just purchased the world's first military airplane from the Wright brothers, and Colt was in the process of delivering a new double-action revolver to the military. The .45 Colt-chambered Model 1909 was to replace various .38-cal. revolvers that repeatedly struggled to stop fanatical attackers in the then-ongoing Philippine Insurrection. The Army would receive approximately 20,000 1909s before the iconic U.S. Model of 1911 pistol was adopted. Frankly though, I still prefer a .45 Smith & Wesson M 1917 like my pop was issued after OCS. Better ergonomics.

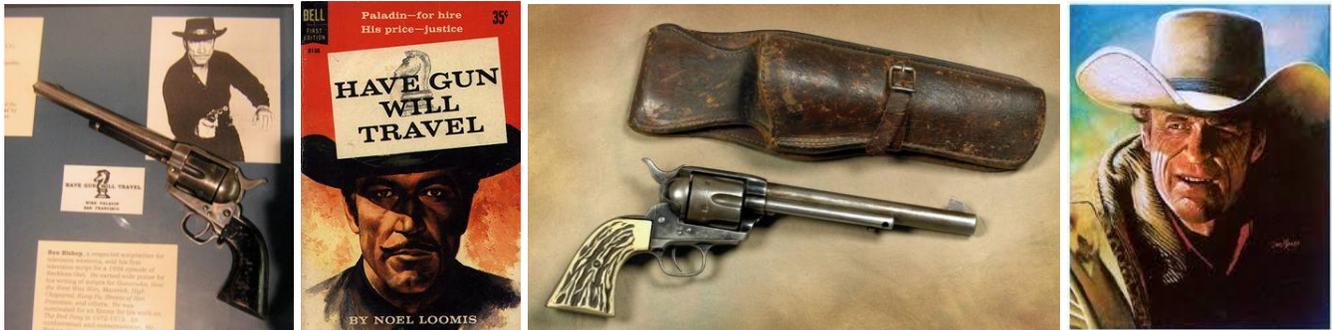
<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2018/1/9/last-of-its-kind-the-usmc-model-1909-colt/>



10 Reasons To Own An AR-15

The AR-15 rifle is once again under fire by gun banners—who ignore the fact that rifles of any kind are seldom used in crime, and seem to despise anyone who dares to own one. Fact is, the AR-15-type rifle is the most popular rifle in America for many reasons. Here are the Top 10 reasons to own an AR-15, in no particular order: https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2016/7/1/10-reasons-to-own-an-ar-15/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=1217

Classics!.... 2 of my FAVORITE Westerns



When I was a little kid... and a big kid... Oh heck I **STILL** watch em!... THESE were **GREAT** westerns! Here's the 1873 Colt Single Action Army Used by Paladin (Richard Boone) in the TV western series "Have Gun Will Travel". It's on display at the Buffalo Bill Historic Center, Cody, Wyoming. We also have the 7 1/2" Colt SA (Ser #147056), used by Matt Dillon (James Arness) in Gunsmoke. Rental Ledger book indicated that the gun was rented to Paramount Pictures on 9/25/61 for use on the series. It was sold at auction in Jan 2014 for \$50,000.00 USD to hunter 5757+ (\$10,500.00) buyer's premium. + applicable fees & taxes... and included an Arvo Ojala (North Hollywood) made holster... Holy Crap... add that up!... \$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

Have Gun Will Travel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgvxu8QY01s>
Gunsmoke https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4hjhirwc_o

Audie Murphy Goes To Brooklyn

January 26, 1945 was just ONE of the occasions when war hero Audie Murphy was wounded during WW2. That anniversary caused club member George Duke to reminisce about his High School years back in Brooklyn, NY. Every year there all those impressionable boys and girls were rounded up and ushered into the auditorium to watch the movie "To Hell And Back" (the story of Audie Murphy's bigger than life exploits). George emphasized that this was **MANDATORY!**...

The lesson for all was "this is what's ahead of you!"... In the late 60's I guess it was!

In Brooklyn, if you got into a fight, you and your class were taken into the gym, the protagonists put on gloves, and then duked it out! George says that was NY conflict resolution training, and that it worked. In private, the teachers (all combat veterans) taught things like "how to take out a sentry with a bayonet"... and it was NOT like in the movies.

This was all at a time in history when you'd graduate High School at 18, and by the time you were 19 you'd very likely be in combat. Back then everyone knew friends who had older brothers, uncles, and fathers who died in combat. George says that everyone wanted to be that guy in "Platoon" who after a fire fight yelled "**Just like Audie Murphy, man!**"

NOTE: "Always remember that nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool."

Another Way The Flu Could Kill — Heart Attack!

Not into the flu shot? Think of it as a heart attack vaccine instead. That's because the first week or so of a flu infection appears to make you much more susceptible to a heart attack, according to a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine. The findings are based on 148,307 cases of patients who were tested for influenza. Among all of those tests, 19,729 turned up positive for the flu. And among those cases, there were 332 patients who had at least one heart attack in the year before or after their flu specimen was tested. (The study authors tallied 364 hospitalizations for acute myocardial infarction overall, meaning that some unlucky folks had two or more heart attacks during the two-year observation period.) Twenty of those heart attacks occurred within one week of a positive flu test. That, of course, was a rate of 20 heart attacks per week. <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-flu-heart-attacks-20180124-story.html>

Confederate History – Dispelling The Myths

History books, the media, the school systems, etc. abound in falsehoods and inaccuracies of Confederate and Southern history. This fact sheet will help to clarify and dispell some of these rampant inaccuracies. <http://www.rulen.com/myths/> ... **And did you know?**... While Lincoln has gone down in history as the “Great Emancipator”, many would not care to hear his real thoughts on people of color. Martyred President Abraham Lincoln was fervently making plans to send all freed slaves to the jungles of Central America once the war was over. Knowing that African society would never allow the slaves to return back to Africa, Lincoln also did not want the slaves in the US. He thought the jungles of Central America would be the best solution and conducive to the freed slaves best interest. The only thing that kept this from happening?.. Lincoln’s assassination!

Palisades Park – (Fun in New Jersey back before that state turned wacko)

I double dated to Palisades once while a young buck, so at least I can say “**Been there - Done that**”. Scott Newton sent me a message, and wants to know what part of New Hampshire it was in?.. chuckle. Of course he was just kidding! Scott says he remembers as a kid when his uncle from NY was visiting the family here in NH, and the man (who was a big shot engineer with Union Carbide) wise-cracked to Scott: "You people are a bunch of hicks". Scott says that he hated the SOB after that! Funny, the things you remember from childhood says Scott... The guy probably hated guns too!

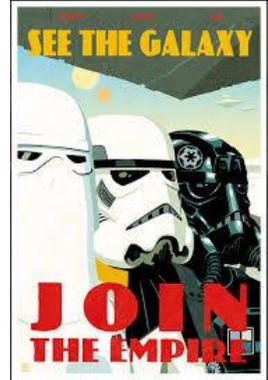
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Behind the Bullet: .45-70 Government



There are those who enjoy hunting with the traditional muzzleloaders, as well as the recurve and longbows in an effort to touch history. Centerfire cartridges have a similar niche, with many hunters enjoying the nostalgia of the older designs and the history that comes along with them. The cartridge that dates back the earliest—among the rifle cartridges still in major production—is the .45-70 Government. https://www.americanhunter.org/articles/2018/1/5/behind-the-bullet-45-70-government/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0118

That Part of WW II we **DON'T** hear about!



History Decoded – Brad Meltzer

The only mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore helmets. ~ Al McGuire

A while back I was reading a book by Brad Meltzer about historic mysteries and subjects without closure... Fascinating stuff!... some of it old, and some of it new. UFO's were one of the topics discussed, and I marked it for later use here.

Probably we all want to believe that we're not the only life in the universe. Ronald Reagan said that he saw a UFO with his own eyes. So did Jimmy Carter. Stephen Hawking, one of the greatest physicists of our time, thinks it's a mathematical impossibility to say there's no other life out there. Listen though to what Hawking says, because he also gives us a warning. Hawking said "we only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet." He continued: "If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans." The late Carl Sagan (astronomer, cosmologist, astrophysicist, astrobiologist) said essentially the same thing, and that "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." (or, perhaps to EAT us? - Roger) How bout it kids?.. AR's and shotguns against Laser Pistols?... Hmmm... **Danger Will Robinson!**

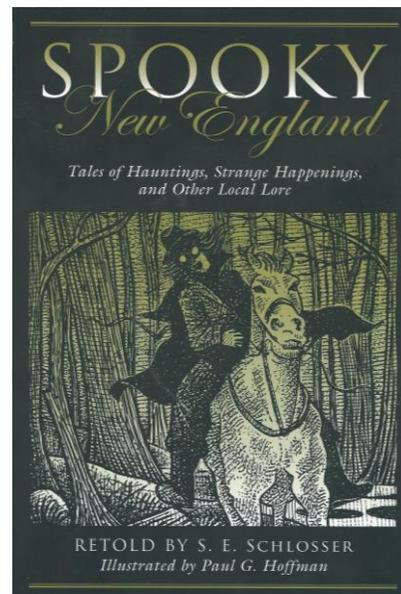
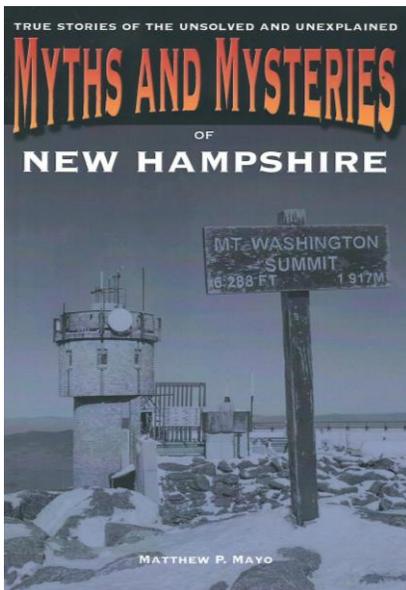
NOTE: ~ "Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't"

Sasquatch at the Hollis Flea Market?..... Nah

There's an unknown DARK side to our lovely New Hampshire that's both weird and spooky. Ever since the 17th century, and probably earlier than that, odd and unexplained things have happened across New England, and certainly in OUR state. I love both mysterious stuff and ghost stories... always have! Knowing this, I was given some wonderful books for Christmas on New Hampshire occurrences. Disappearances, Ghosts, Hauntings, Hideous Crimes, Hidden Treasure, Pirates, and Witches! Yes, we've had witches here (accused witches anyway), and they got screwed over just like in Massachusetts! Interesting that those accused of witchcraft generally were large property owners, and the accusers (or towns) wanted the land owned by that witch! "Burning or Imprisonment for you, ye cantankerous hag!"... and by the way, "your land is now ours!"... (Creative Eminent Domain?)

So... getting back to "Bigfoot"... they've been seen all over NH for years, and especially up north in Coos County!.. "On May 7, 1977, near the grounds of the Hollis, New Hampshire flea market, Gerald St. Louis and two preteen boys had camped so as to stake out a prime spot the next morning to sell their goods. After dark "St. Louis exited his van, backlit by the interior light, and came face-to-face with an eight or nine foot tall hair covered man. The startled Bigfoot bolted toward a four and a half foot height fence and leapt it with ease. The flea market hopefuls hopped in their van and blazed on out of there, not bothering to gather up their sellable goods. A little while later and a few hundred yards away, two other flea marketers sat in their truck also hoping for an early start and good digs at the coming morning's sale. But when their truck began shaking, and they looked to see if they were in the midst of an earthquake, they too spied a massive hairy creature. It took off and so did they!

Both St. Louis and the other two men all ended up back at the flea market the following day, where they met and were able to corroborate each other's stories They worked up enough nerve to inspect the region for evidence of the creature and found seventeen-inch long footprints but nothing else... other than their memories and a shared steadfast refusal to believe they'd seen anything other than a New Hampshire Bigfoot."... Want some VERY entertaining reading?... Buy these paper backed books!



Combine two words, Myth and History... What do you get? Mystery. ~ Ashwin Sanghi

What I tell my kids – by Bill Bunker, Barnstead, NH – (Concord Monitor – 1- 28 -18)

Here is a TERRIFIC letter by Mr. Bill Bunker in response to another letter writer and published in the Concord Monitor newspaper.

“What I have explained to my kids?: I explain that the election of President Donald Trump revealed just how corrupt and shallow progressives and Democrats really are, as they employ childish vitriol and hatred toward him. This from high-minded and supposedly “educated” (self-appointed) thinkers.

I explain that for the previous eight years we had a president whose arrogance and ideologically extreme, anti-business agenda crippled the economy for his entire term. I school them that he made an impotent, secretive deal with a dangerous regime while ignoring another country developing and possessing WMD.

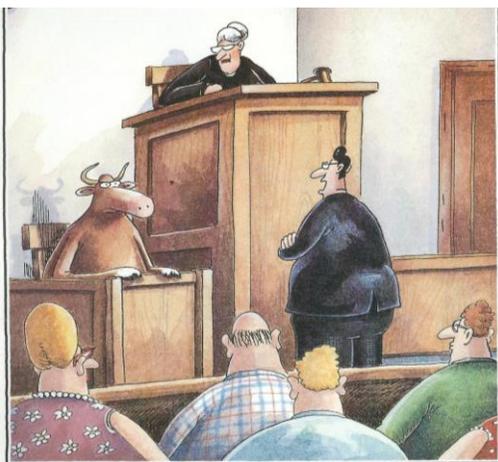
I tell my kids the Washington sewer oozes in dogmatic authoritarian governance and legislation from the judicial bench – the judicial overreach cheered by progressives wanting their way and to win at any cost.

I explain to my kids how Democrats want more citizens on social programs, that Obama illegally granted amnesty to DACA residents while supporting unbridled immigration to harvest future voters.

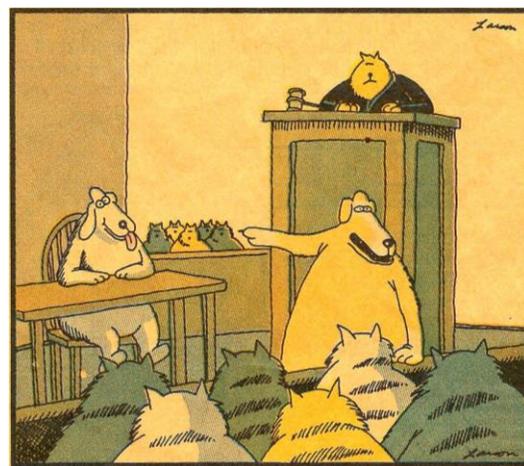
I tell my kids that Trump lost the popular vote by over 2 million votes primarily from California and that the Electoral College protects the entire populace from large population centers controlling national policies.

Obama gave us “new normal,” “our best days are over” and “leading from behind.” I tell my kids that the Trump presidency has proven Obama dead wrong, exposing that Obama’s cynical ideas were the product of anemic leadership, moral weakness, naiveté and little more than contrived propaganda.”

Lawyer Stuff – ***“The main business of a lawyer is to take the romance, the mystery, the irony, the ambiguity out of everything he touches.”*** ~ Antonin Scalia



“Look, we all know HOW you did it – What we now want to know is why... Why now, brown cow?”



“A cat killer? Is that the face of a cat killer? Cat chaser maybe, But hey-who isn't?”

History in February

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

February 3, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes... Thankyou Woodrow Wilson and Thankyou Democrats.

February 4, 1861 - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.

February 6, 1788 - Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the new U.S. Constitution.

February 8, 1587 - Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay, England, after 19 years as a prisoner of Queen Elizabeth I. She became entangled in the complex political events surrounding the Protestant Reformation in England and was charged with complicity in a plot to assassinate Elizabeth.

February 10, 1942 - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

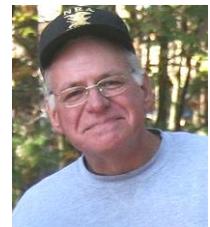
February 14, 1929 - The St. Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police.

February 19, 1942 - Internment of Japanese Americans began after President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order requiring those living on the Pacific coast to report for relocation to government camps.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.... "Give up yet?"

February 27, 1950 - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office.

February 28, 1844 - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS *Princeton* exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.



“A fine is a tax for doing wrong.... A tax is a fine for doing well”.



Next Meeting:

March 7, 2018