

July, 2025



COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Dear CGCA Members,

A note from our President,

We have celebrated the 4th of July and this great Country and we are now into the heart of summer and Gun Show Season. I usually like to attend the annual Winchester Arms Collectors show in Cody Wyoming in July myself.

Months ago I inadvertently told my wife I would go on a cruise with her during that time. Later after realizing my mistake I asked her if we could change the dates, but she said she was going with or without me. I guess I will be going on the cruise.

My first love is lever guns, but over the last 50 years, like many of you, I have expanded my interest into other fields. When my son became interested in WW II guns, I started paying attention to those. They maybe ugly to me but darned if they aren't interesting with all of their inspectors marks and such, that actually tell you the story of where they have been and what they have done. For instance I have a trapdoor Springfield marked to one of the regiments that was at San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt. That kind of history is just really neat to me. The point is that there are lots of interests in collecting out there today. A Lot of us older collectors are fading away so if each of us can get at least one new collector involved in our hobby, we will keep gun collecting going.

I heard that there was an unintended discharge at one of the other shows this year. There are literally millions of guns handled at gun shows every year, so that would be more than a once in a million occurrence. That is still one occurrence too many, so it should be a reminder to all of us to remain vigilant and make sure that chamber is empty every single time, even though we have done this a million times already.

Be safe out there and have a great summer. We are planning to make our 60th Anniversary show something Special!

Thanks,

Rick Wilson, President

Our next meeting will be July 15, 2025 at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00PM.

Our program will be: 1861 Contract Rifles by Jon Zeller.

Thank you David Parker for his awesome talk on WWII Pistols.

If you have an article that you would like to share in our newsletter, please send it to Cindy.

If you were at the show and lost a camera, please contact Cindy at sectreas@cgca.com

We have lost another member recently.

Sharon Murphy from Castle Rock, CO. Sharon was the wife of Terry Murphy. She became a member in 2022. Sharon was interested in learning about family heirlooms. She helped us at the Gun Show at the Front Desk for several years.

Please visit our website at www.CGCA.com for club news and updates.

If you have questions, please contact:

Rick Wilson, President 720-988-0516; President@cgca.com

Cindy Jewell, Secretary/treasurer 303-750-5645; sectreas@cgca.com

Dave Weddle, Show Chairman 720-482-0167; CGCASHow@cgca.com



See more on our youtube channel.
<https://youtube.com/@coguncollectors?feature=shared>



Sean Bagley

Merit Award

"Built for Impact - Ordnance through Time"



Michael Fargras

"Tools of the Buffalo Hunters"



Jim Moran

Merit Award

"William Tranters Revolvers"



Bob Moulder

"Blades on Southern Waters"

The FP-45 Liberator pistol and WW2

By Bo Ramsour

The FP-45 was an unknown and surreptitious pistol developed in WW2 to help our captured allies regain control of their country, or province. In order to conceal its real function as a firearm, our government misrepresented this pistol as a flare projector. It was officially called The FP - 45. A million of these guns were made in 3 months with no serial number and no inspector or military markings. In order to be unattainable to know who made them and where they came from.

The FP - 45 was secretly called the liberator, its purpose was to help insurgents/resistance fighters in occupied areas. The gun was only single shot, made out of sheet metal. No rifled barrel or magazine. It was believed that its crude/ineffective design would be ignored by the enemy, moreover the mere presence of a liberator would hopefully damage enemy morale, knowing that the insurgents may have a firearm.

The liberators were placed in a wax coated box with 10 FA-42's, 45 ACP Frankfurt arsenal Rounds and were parachuted in enemy occupied areas, With a pictorial instruction sheet with no words so that anyone regardless of language could quickly learn to operate the pistol. They sneak up on the enemy at close range to kill or disable them in order to take their superior weapons and equipment.

General Eisenhower and vinegar Joe Stillwell were against this project, MacArthur approved allowing thousands of FP - 45's to be dropped in the Pacific theater. Eventually Billy Doonovan's newly created OSS division took over the entire FP-45 project and allowed some Liberators; to be dropped in Europe.

In August 1942 a million of these FP - 45s were made in only three months by 300 guide lamp employees, one every 7.5 seconds at \$2.00 each with plenty of profit for G.M. This project was another example of how American industrial might helped win the war.

At the war's end, in 1945, over 600,000 of these pistols were dumped into the ocean off of England's coast and the remaining military inventory FP - 45 were melted into scrap. Once souvenirs of these pistols started showing up in the soldier's duffle bags, the ATF (Alcohol tobacco and firearms) considered these liberators illegal which further aided in their destruction and scarcity.

22 years later, this idea of a cheap Clandestine pistol was resurrected by the CIA. In the early stage of the Vietnam conflict, the pistol was called the deer gun, similarly made to the FP -45. They were chambered in 9mm by the AMF bowling company. By the time the first 1000 deer guns were made, the Vietnam conflict had escalated to a full-blown war, which precluded the need for this pistol. The CIA concealed the project and ordered the deer guns to be destroyed. Less than 20 examples of Deer guns exist today.

In conclusion, this author is not sure if this Clandestine project was a success, but it will always be remembered for its psychological warfare attributes and how the United States continues to this day; from WW2 to Vietnam to now Ukraine on how the United States is willing to help the resistance in enemy territory.

