

September, 2025



## COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

**Dear CGCA Members,**

### **A note from our President,**

Football season is getting started, and for some hunting season is ramping up. For me it is always gun collecting season. There is always a gun show to look forward to, and so many of us peruse the auction house catalogs and the internet for that missing piece in our collections. For me the hunt is half of the fun.

On the other hand, sometimes, the unexpected finds are the spice of life. I recently went to a gun store and noticed what I thought was a high price on a run-of-the-mill Smith and Wesson. Smiths are not my area of expertise but hanging around other collectors and listening to some of our monthly lectures, I have picked up a little knowledge. When I looked at this one it had some initials on the back strap that started with USN followed by CPC. I had no idea what that meant but the USN piqued my interest. I like guns with attributions that can be tied to people or events in history. So, I followed my daughter's long-standing advice, "just Google it Dad." I did, and I got a hit. The USNCPC was a plan at the beginning of WWII for the US Navy to have a "Civilian Police Corp" to help with security. My understanding is that 3000 Smith and Wesson model of 1905 revolvers were stamped with USNCPC on the back strap. The program was never put into practice, so the guns were used for other purposes such as going to Britain for Lend Lease. I frequently see unusual guns that I don't know a lot about, so I go home and research my questions. I don't buy every gun I research obviously but it always adds to my knowledge base. I did end up buying the Smith by the way.

Speaking of adding to your knowledge base, we are going to try to start putting more posts and links from our monthly speakers, on our Facebook page and website. So, if you can't make our meetings, you might try to catch the lectures online. The last lecture was on the NW mounted police and how they morphed into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the revolvers they used through that transition.

Lastly, the Colorado State Shooting Association (CSSA) is having an event in Colorado Springs with vendors and opportunities to shoot all sorts of fun guns. This will be September 20-21 and is to help fund their legal battles against some of our most egregious gun bills here in Colorado.

If you are free that weekend, go have some fun and support a good cause. If you mention the promo code CGCA you will get a discount on admission.

Thanks,  
Rick Wilson, President

For those of you who miss our meetings or would just like to hear our presentations again. We will be sending our meeting videos out via email. Please be sure we have your correct email.

**Our next meeting will be September 16, 2025** at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00PM. Our program will be: "Late War Axis Firearms", by David Parker.

Thank you, Craig Blancett, for the very informative presentation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Side Arms, complete with a uniform to go along with the story. There was so much to learn.

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

We have had some more changes to the Board of Directors. Jon Zeller has resigned as a Director. **Thank you, Jon, for your years of service on the Board.** Replacing Jon as a Director is William Flint. Please welcome William Flint to the Board of Directors. We also have a new position on the Board of Directors, Publicity Chairman. Tyler Brownell has accepted the position of Publicity Chairman. Please welcome Tyler Brownell to the Board of Directors.

Fall is just around the corner and it's almost time to start digging through your cabinets, shelves and closets for items that you could donate to our annual auction.

***Our auction is in November.***

If you were at the show and lost a camera, please contact Cindy at [sectreas@cgca.com](mailto:sectreas@cgca.com)

*Please visit our website at [www.CGCA.com](http://www.CGCA.com) for club news and updates and our Facebook page.*

If you have questions, please contact:

Rick Wilson, President 720-988-0516; [President@cgca.com](mailto:President@cgca.com)

Cindy Jewell, Secretary/treasurer 303-750-5645; [sectreas@cgca.com](mailto:sectreas@cgca.com)

Dave Weddle, Show Chairman 720-482-0167; [CGCAShow@cgca.com](mailto:CGCAShow@cgca.com)

See more on our youtube channel.

<https://youtube.com/@coguncollectors?feature=shared>











## Sidearms of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 1904-1954

By Craig Blancett

The story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) started in May of 1873 as the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP), created by the Canadian Parliament. This date is considered the official birthdate of the RCMP.

The North-West Mounted Police, started with 300 recruits and started the work of establishing posts and policing the vast North-West Territories of new Dominion of Canada.

Later, in 1896, the Klondike Gold Rush in Yukon Territory changed the role of the North-West Mounted Police. It expanded its operations into the territory to enforce Canadian law and maintain peace. The early recruits used .450 Boxer calibre Adams revolvers, Tranter revolvers and the Enfield Mark II revolvers. The .455 Eley calibre was introduced in 1882, but these used black powder cartridges, fouled easily and were heavy and awkward.

In 1902 the North-West Mounted Police Controller invited arms manufacturers of sidearms to submit their latest service revolvers for trials over the next year. When the trials were completed, the Colt New Service revolver in .455 Eley calibre emerged as the favorite. NWMP Commissioner Perry ordered through Lewis Brothers and Company of Montreal, Quebec, 700 New Service revolvers at \$15.00 each. In September 1904, the 700 Colt New Service revolvers arrived at the Regina, Saskatchewan Headquarters. This would be the start of a 50 year relationship between the NWMP and Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company. Throughout the 50 years Colt would make three models of the New Service Revolver and all three would see service with the NWMP, RNWMP and RCMP.

Colt New Service Revolver serial number 11421 one of the first 700 shipped to NWMP in September 1904



## Factory numbered backstrap N.W.M.P. 47



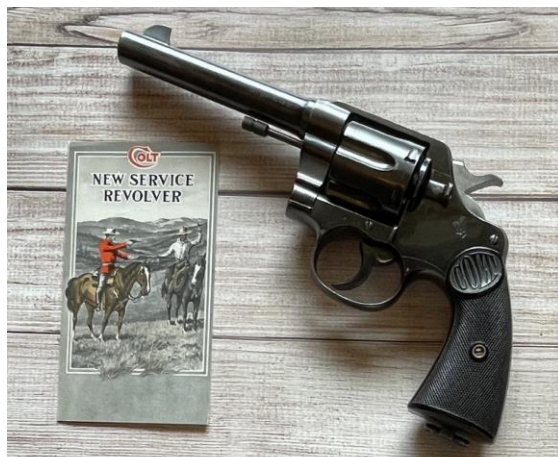
These revolvers were factory marked on the backstrap N. W. M. P. and numbered 1 through 700. They were also armorer stamped with a fused MP on the butt. The 700 new revolvers were completely issued to the constables by April of 1905.

In 1904, King Edward VII awarded the title of Royal to the North-West Mounted Police, officially creating the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP). This was to recognize its service to the British Empire for its 30-year policing role in the Canadian Northwest and Yukon Territories.

In 1912 the RNWMP Depot in Regina burned down and with it a large amount of sidearms were destroyed. Immediately the RNWMP Commissioner contacted Thomas Birkett & Son from Ottawa, Ontario to place orders for more New Service Revolvers from Colt. These would replace the destroyed or damaged and currently issued worn revolvers. In all 650 revolvers were purchased from Thomas Birkett & Son, most of them for the force from 1912 – 1914.

### Colt's Counter Brochure for New Service Revolver featured the RNWMP

A quote from the Colt Counter Brochure, **"MILITARY MEN the world over have been equipped with the COLT NEW SERVICE and it has seen action in South and Central America, Cuba, the Philippine Islands, China, South Africa, etc. That famous organization, the Canadian Royal Northwest Mounted Police, have used this model for years, so to hardy men of action we especially recommend the COLT NEW SERVICE REVOLVER"**



After World War I, the RNWMP would order more New Service Revolvers for the force. By this time Colt had recontoured the frame and added a tapered barrel to the New Service Revolver creating a 2<sup>nd</sup> Model.

In the early 1920's Colt changed the shape of the frame one last time and added checkered wood grips to the New Service Revolver to make the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last Model.

The Three Configurations of the New Service Revolver in RCMP Service  
From left to right, 1<sup>st</sup> Model, 2<sup>nd</sup> Model and 3<sup>rd</sup> Model



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police was formed in 1920 by the amalgamation of two separate federal police services: the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP), which had been responsible for policing in the Canadian West and the Dominion Police, which was responsible for federal law enforcement, intelligence, and parliamentary security. The new Royal Canadian Mounted Police service inherited the paramilitary, frontline policing-oriented culture that had governed the RNWMP.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) continued to order New Service Revolvers from Colt, but around 1919/1920 they were ordered in .45 Colt rather than .455 Eley calibre. Between 1939-1942 the Canadian Government ordered for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 470 New Service Revolvers from Colt.

The order of 100 New Service Revolvers that included serial number 353656, received on July 9, 1942 was to be the last New Service Revolvers the RCMP would receive. After World War II, Colt wouldn't offer the New Service Revolver again. During the 50 years from 1904 – 1954 the RCMP ordered approximately 3200 New Service Revolvers from Colt. This represented less than 1% of the total New Service revolver production. In 1954 the RCMP was forced to move away from the Colt New Service revolver and withdraw it from service. They acquired other sidearms in .38 Special calibre to re-arm the service from both Smith & Wesson and Colt. The RCMP made the withdrawn Colt service arms available for purchase on November 5, 1964 to RCMP constables for \$12.00 each. RCMP constables purchased 296 New Service revolvers during this sale.

A small number of New Service Revolvers had never been issued. These and the remaining inventory were turned over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation for public sale. This signaled the end to the 50 year long reign of the New Service revolver in RCMP service.

## Unissued - RCMP Colt New Service Revolver serial number 353656 with paperwork and brush in the original box.



I receive mail and email returns, please be sure to let me know if you have a new email or new mailing address. Thanks Cindy.