



COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

From the President:

I have been asked why I collect guns. First of all, I have just found guns to be so very interesting. As a young boy I very much wanted to hunt like my uncles and go on great adventures. That did become one of my passions but along with that I have become an avid gun collector.

Guns have played an important role throughout history, whether it was for protection and the harvesting of food, or in warfare. Wars are horrible but they do happen. So, the history of firearms, their incredible variety, and their development fascinates me. Some types of guns speak to me more than others. That is true for all of us. In fact, that is part of the fun. I study what is interesting to me and become educated on that subject. Someone else has a different interest and becomes knowledgeable in that area, and then when we share our knowledge with each other it is so much fun! That is one of the reasons I have enjoyed putting on displays at gun shows over the years, so others can learn and enjoy.

Someone once said that these guns we love will outlive us all. We are only their caretakers for a few years. With that in mind, I like to make sure I care for them properly, and if possible, add to their history and their story. I have researched a few of my guns to see if they had inscriptions or markings, and sometimes I have learned a little bit of their story just from researching their serial number. They might be a rare variation, or they might have been present at a notable point in history or used by a famous person or group.

One time I noticed an ill-fitting screw on the but plate of a Winchester 1890 and removed it to investigate the reason. Low and behold under the but plate there was an Indian Head penny wrapped in oil paper with a Native American good luck symbol inscribed on the paper. It looks just like a Nazi swastika, which threw me off, until I did some research. It is actually a good luck symbol, used for centuries, and referred to as the "whorling logs" by Native Americans.

Over the last two decades we have fought hard against the anti-gun liberals in Colorado, and one thing that has given us a chance to continue our hobby is the legislation that passed last year stating, "Collectors shows (antique, and Curio and Relics) are not Gun Shows." We gun owners and collectors in Colorado are doing our best to stand up to the anti-gun Liberals. We are on the front lines of defending the 2nd Amendment. If we fail, they may be coming to your state next. I ask you not to give up on us but come to support our show and help us to stay one of the best display shows in the country. I may be biased, but I think our show is one of the most interesting, and best around.

Thanks,
Rick Wilson

Our next meeting will be March 17, 2026 at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00 PM.

Our program will be "Civil War Arms Made in Richmond."

By Bob Moulder.

Thank you, Jarvis, for the great presentation on "Smith and Wesson: The Development of the 357 Magnum."

We have lost a couple of members of our community,

JR Stewart. He has been a regular vendor at our Gun Show for many years.

Fred Vandersnick of Sioux Falls, SD. Fred has also been a regular vendor at our show for many years. He was a big Winchester collector.

We have received two new member applications from:

Aaron Robinson of Castle Rock. Aaron collects Remington double shotguns, S&W Militaria, antiques, cartridges, & New York produced arms.

Ronald L Smith of Aurora, CO. Ronald collects Colt and military items.

COMING SOON Get your tables and your hotel room

60th Annual Colorado Gun Collectors Show

PLEASE EMAIL RAY MAGILL IF YOU CAN HELP WITH DOOR SECURITY RAYCOLTSAA@GMAIL.COM

**OUR COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS SHOW IS
MAY 16, AND MAY 17, 2026
VIP DAY ON MAY 15, 2026.**

**WE STILL HAVE TABLES AVAILABLE.
ISLAND GROVE EVENT CENTER, GREELEY, CO
PLEASE CONTACT OUR SHOW CHAIRMAN,
DAVE WEDDLE 720-482-0167.**

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

New pictures are on our website.

If you have questions, please contact:

President Rick Wilson, President@cgca.com

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

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

Development Of The .357 Magnum

By Jarvis Hurd



In 1935 Smith and Wesson introduced the .357 Magnum Revolver and cartridge. The revolvers were made to order with barrel lengths from 3 ½ inches to 8 ¾ inches in ¼ inch increments. Grips were either Standard or Magna (shown in photograph and introduced with the Magnum). Six sights plus King Sight combination were available, making for dozens of options. Blue or Nickel finishes. Top of the barrel rib is checkered with the grip backstrap and fore strap are serrated. A registration number is stamped inside the yoke. The cylinder is made of higher strength steel. The price was \$60.00.

Each revolver was shipped in a blue box including a shipping tube with registration card and envelope, copy of the order form, sight adjustment screwdriver and spare sight blade in envelope (one for .357 magnum and one for .38 special). The registration card was to be filled out and sent to Smith and Wesson. Less than half were returned.

The .357 Magnum Revolver is based on the N-Frame revolver introduced in 1907, the .44 Hand Ejector 1st Model (New Century, Triple-Lock .44 Military-Model of 1908).

Douglas Baird Wesson (1884-1956), grandson of D.B. Wesson, cofounder of Smith & Wesson, was the primary person in the development of the .357 Magnum. He had worked in every department of S&W's plant. He was Vice- President in the 1930's and was an avid sportsman, author, army officer and outdoorsman. He tirelessly promoted the .357 Magnums and gave much of the credit for the development of it to Philip B. Sharpe. Revolvers were given to famous shooters, important law enforcement, Senators and celebrities. He went hunting with the new revolver taking a grizzly and a moose.

Philip Sharpe was a shooting writer and editor of Outdoors Magazine and gun experimenter. Using a 38/44 HD Outdoorsman revolver and his hand loads in cases that were longer than .38 Special cases that he had made to shoot soap bars. Velocity was recorded and entry and exit holes were measured. Several calibers and loads were compared. Philip heard of the long-range shooting and higher velocity loads Elmer Keith was using. He and Danial Wesson went to his place for a visit to see his work.

In 1907 S&W introduced .44 Hand Ejector 1st Model Previous (New Century, Triple Lock, .44 Military-Model of 1908). The frame was larger than previous Hand Ejector Models and was designated as the N-Frame. Hand ejector had a lock at each end of the ejector rod. A third locking mechanism was added to the cylinder yoke at the front of the frame. 15,375 Revolvers were built with 6,000 being in .455 Mark II Cal. for the British. They thought that the ejector shroud was not necessary. 68,898 were built without the triple lock and ejector shroud. The Triple lock was discontinued in 1915 and introduced the .44 Hand Ejector 2nd Model without the ejector shroud and triple Lock. With 15,510 manufactured from 1915 -1940.



On January 25, 1926, Wolf and Klar phoned S&W requesting a new .44 special revolver like the 1ST Model of 1908 be made for them. S&W replied that they could make revolvers with the ejector rod shroud and without the lock in front of the frame.

In the summer of 1926 Wolf & Klar placed a tentative order for 200 revolvers with 5-inch barrels. On October 5, 1926, Wolf & Klar ordered 1,000 revolvers with ejector shrouds, 5-inch barrels, and no butt swivels. First lot of 200 to be 75% blue and 25% nickel. Later reversed. Wolf & Klar requested that some of the revolvers be made with 4 inch and 6 ½ inch barrels. S&W was hesitant about making these because S&W needed a number required. Wolf & Klar responded with an order for 100 each. S&W listed these revolvers as .44 Hand Ejector 3rd Model, while collectors refer to them as Wolf & Klar Model. Wolf & Klar received 4,910 revolvers priced at \$21.90 each under the exclusive agreement which ended on January 1938. A total of 6,061 units shipped by 1940.

Since S&W could not sell these revolvers to other distributors due to the exclusive agreement, Wolf & Klar would sell revolvers to other distributors for 10% off their dealer price of \$32.00 each.



On October 20, 1930, S&W issued a new N-frame revolver identical to the Wolf & Klar model designed to use a hot loaded .38 special cartridge. At first, called the .44 Military, then 38-44 Super Police Revolver, and later the .38/44 Heavy Duty. The revolver became very popular and by the end of 1931 2,098 revolvers were produced, a total of 11,111 units were built by 1940.



In November 1931 S&W started production of the .38/44 Target Model with 289 revolvers made by the end of 1931 total by 1940 was 4,761. This model was used by Sharpe and Kieth in their testing that would lead to the .357 Magnum.

S&W believed that the majority of the .357 Magnums would be with 8 ¾ inch barrels and were shipped in a blue box with a picture of the .357 Magnum on the lid of the box (Type 1). However, the most common size barrel was the 6 ½ inch barrel. Type 1 boxes were used through approximately registration number 775. Type 2 boxes were made in 3 sizes and were a lighter shade of blue with a picture of the .357 Magnum. The boxes have a white label on the bottom of the box that indicates the serial and registration numbers for Registered Magnums and serial number and barrel length for Non-Registered Magnums. Most of the labels on these boxes are missing or are unreadable.

On October 16, 1939, Harold Wesson President of S&W issued instructions to stop marking the registration numbers inside the yoke thus ending the run of Registered Magnum revolvers. A total of 5,224 being produced. From 1935 to 1940 approximately 1,400 Non-Registered Magnums were produced. The .357 Magnum Cartridge used a case that was .135 inches longer than the case for the .38 special. A bullet weight of 158 grains was used. The round developed by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. had a muzzle velocity of 1,512 feet per second compared to the 950 feet per second of the .38 Special. The Magnum generated 802-foot pounds of energy.

Along with D.B. Wesson's promotions and magazine and paper headlines are as follows:

"What Should Bullet-Proof Mean Now"

"Smith and Wesson Produces Most Powerful Hand Arm"

"Penetrating Power Exceeds That of Sub-Machine Gun"

"ENGINE STOPPED IN 15 SECONDS BY MAGNUM REVOLVOR"

"Magnum Gun Is in Demand by Big Game and Crook Hunters"

The magnum became quite controversial. J. Edgar Hoover wanted congress to regulate sales of the revolver. He believed that only law enforcement should be allowed to have these revolvers. In 1937 an effort to add the .357 Magnum to the registered class of arms as required for machine guns and sawed-off shotguns was undertaken. Attorney General Homer Cummings wanted to ban the transportation of all firearms, even pistols, unless specially registered.

149 Post War transitional .357 Magnum Revolvers were produced in 1946 through 1949. These revolvers were similar to pre-war ones in appearance. The rear sight was changed to the new micrometer click rear sight and a S prefix was added to the serial number.



In 1950 the .357 Magnum Revolver was modernized with the short throw Hammer. It was available in blue or nickel (rare) with any target sight, and checker walnut stocks. Target Stocks became available in 1954 and after while the red ramp front site and white outlined rear sight become available in 1955. It became the model 27 in 1957.

April 15, 1954, the Highway Patrolman, a plane jane version of the .357 Magnum revolver was introduced. 4- or 6-inch barrels magna or target grips in satin blue only. A Baughman Quick Draw front sight and adjustable micrometer-click rear sight (only N-frame without serrations on rear sight leaf). "Highway Patrol" stamped on barrel without any checkering or serrations on barrel. It became the Model 28 in 1957.



Bill Jordon exhibition shooter, border patrolman and writer with others advocated to Smith and Wesson to offer the .357 Magnum in a smaller, lighter and more compact revolver than the big N-Frame. The .357 Combat Magnum was introduced in 1955. This Revolver was built on the square butt K-Frame that is slightly larger in the yoke area than the standard K-Frame. Offered in 4-inch barrel length only in blue or nickel finish. A Baughman Quick Draw Front sight and adjustable micrometer-click rear sight were standard. This model became the Model 19 in 1957 and continued in production until 1999. 2 ½ and 6-inch barrels became available with this change.

S&W has continued to introduce new models for the .357 Magnum as new materials and manufacturing progress.