

Hunter Arms Co.
FULTON, N.Y.



The Journal of the Volume 9 • Issue 1 • Spring 2011

L.C. SMITH

Collectors Association

L.C. SMITH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF





The Journal of the
L.C. SMITH
Collectors Association

Spring 2011

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On The Cover – 7th Annual shoot at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays outside of Allentown, Pa. Hosted by John K. Bleimaier, Dec. 30, 2010. Had 22 shooters/members including the addition of two more, Patrick and Rich, both of Pa., welcome. Great shoot, high gun was Milt Fitterman with an 88x100



Special Points of Interest:

- Executive Director article
- Meet Your New Journal Editor
- From the Records
- Trap Shooters of Yesteryear
- Future Events

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Executive Director's Page

Sharing the Passion

By Frank J. Finch, Jr.

Jean-Paul Sartre said "We must act out passion before we can feel it".

As we celebrate our 8th anniversary as the L.C. Smith Collectors Association, there has been lots of talk about what our members have grown accustomed to expect, what has changed over the years and what we hold consistent. Our passion is to remain true to our Mission Statement of education of our members and the public in their knowledge of the history and production of the L.C. Smith shotgun, encouragement of good sportsmanship to shooter and collector members and the public, promotion of a positive and responsible use of firearms to members and the public, maintenance and utilization of surviving L.C. Smith records and encouragement of the creation of an L.C. Smith museum.

Members have never been shy about expressing opinions on how our organization should be run. Feedback on the "Forum" and to the BOD tells us what we did right and where we need improvement. For example, members were passionate for additional shooting events to our original spring shoot; we expanded our shooting venues to six events in 2010. Most members are passionate do-it-yourselfers, deriving deep pleasure from knowing how to care for, troubleshoot, and fix our Smith guns; we added "FAQs" (frequently asked questions) to our "Forum". Members are passionate for information on their Smith guns; we obtained a digital copy of the remaining original Smith factory records and through the efforts of Dr. Jim Stubbendieck, have provided research letters and synthesized that record data in articles.

I wish to express my "thank you" to Jason Harrison for his hard work over the last three years on the Journal. I think all members will agree that the quality and content of the Journal has dramatically improved under Jason's direction.

With this issue of our Journal, I am delighted to announce David Williamson as our new Editor. David comes to the job with great hands-on knowledge having developed many procedures for correcting Smith gun problems and having been our Technical Advisor, a position David will retain in addition to his duties as Editor. Members are passionate about the content of our Journal; we polled members and were given suggestions for possible topic categories. Starting with this issue, David will have on going columns; "From the Records" by Dr. Jim Stubbendieck, highlighting new information from Smith records; "Trap Shooters of Yesteryear" by Dr. Drew Hause, facts summarized from his research; "Do You Remember", Smith submissions to share from our membership (shooting, hunting,

collecting stories); "Your Favorite Loads for Elsie", submissions from our reloaders; as well as, our "Special Points of Interest", "Future Events" and "Classified Ads".

Dr. Jim Stubbendieck has indicated that after serving eight years as the designer and Webmaster of our site, he wishes to step down and pass the "opportunity for excellence" on to someone else. We will be seeking a new Web Master and person/s from our membership to support the site. Jim's work has immeasurably benefited the entire Smith community! We owe Jim much thanks for his years of hard work for our organization and all Smith aficionados.

Members are passionate about L.C. Smith vs. Parker Challenge Cup, part of the Southern Side x Side venue held in April of each year at Deep River Shooting School in Sanford, NC. On behalf of our club, I wish to thank Steve Arnett for the excellent job he has done in coordinating the event and leading Team LC to victory over the last two years.

At this year's event, our eighth, Tom Archer, the original organizer along with Mark Conrad of Parker and Bill Kempffer of Deep River, returns to be our event coordinator and Captain of Team LC. (See Tom's article in this issue) This shoot for charity provides a friendly competition using our early American shotguns. The sportsmanship and camaraderie shared among all at the event is worth the journey!

Members are passionate about our annual spring shoot. At this year's ninth event, Rev. Charlie Brooks has expanded the venue to include shooting on Sunday at Carlisle F & G, dinner and rooms at Hotel Carlisle and the main event Monday at Carlisle F & G. Charlie has planned the event to include on site gun smiths, vendor and member gun sales, club merchandise sales, RST support and lunch by Grandpa's Country Butcher Shop. (See Charlie's announcement in this issue)

Members are passionate about the opportunity to view unique Smith guns; we have several "Highly Desirable Smith Gun" displays scheduled for the first quarter.

Dean Rasmussen has organized a .410 display at the International Order of St. Hubertus luncheon in LA and will host several shooting events near LA. In the mid-west, Len Applegate and Cliff White have teamed up to exhibit some fine LC's and unique Hunter Arms memorabilia at the Louisville Gun Show. Skip Dunlap will coordinate the "Members' Favorite Smith" display at the Southern Side x Side in April.

Also, mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on Friday April 29, 2011 at 5 PM in the Deep River Club House. Come to the shoots, the events, the Southern, the Annual Meeting, check it out, get in touch and let us know what you think. Share your LC PASSION!

(Details of shooting and display events can be found on our website "Future Events" page and in this Journal).





Meet Your New Journal Editor

J. David Williamson

by Cheryl Stubbendieck

The new editor of the LCSCA Journal is well-positioned to serve the interests of all LCSCA members: David Williamson is a shooter, a hunter and a collector of The Gun That Speaks for Itself.

Dave bought his first L.C. in 1973 or '74 when a job transfer took him to Trenton, N.J. and he responded to a local want ad for a Field Grade. He bought the gun and started learning about Smiths. That first gun was made in 1946, the same year Dave was born. He recently sold it without ever having shot it, to make room for other guns in his collection.

His current favorite gun is a 1927 LC featherweight Ideal Grade with automatic ejectors. It has a nickle plated receiver and had a few issues that are now taken care of. It's light and nice-shooting, Dave says.

He tends to favor what he calls "clunkers." His best Smiths are 12 and 16 ga. Specialty Grades, both with E & O options that have the stocks cut down, but now are made "shootable".

Dave is originally from West Orange, N.J. and now lives in Hamburg, Pa. He and his wife Karen will celebrate 41 years of marriage in May. Their son, Christian, is a graphic designer that lives in Glen Mills, Pa. Daughter Jennifer is a teacher by profession but now stays home with three daughters in Springs Springs, Pa. She's expecting a fourth child soon and both Dave and his son-in-law are hoping for a boy.

Dave enjoys bird hunting, especially wild pheasants, and laments that there are so few nowadays. His English Setter, Max, joins him when he goes to the field.

Dave retired "a few heart attacks ago" after 28 years with Public Service Electric and Gas. He worked in electric distribution in Trenton and also at a nuclear station near Delaware Bay. He feels fine now and has been serving as the LCSCA's technical advisor, responding to questions on the website Forum. Dave joined the LCSCA in 2006, after visiting the website and enjoying it thoroughly.

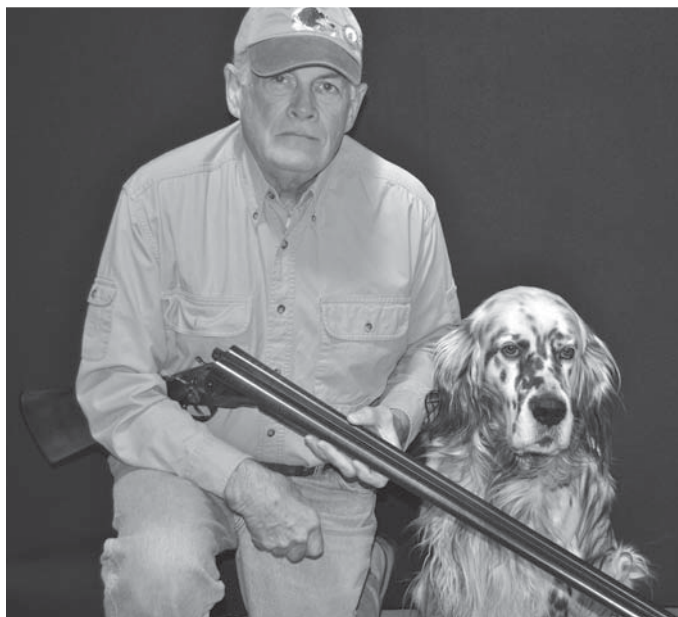
He taught himself the ins and outs of Elsie's. "I figured if I can take apart a million dollar turbine, I can work on these guns," he says. Most Forum inquiries are about putting guns back together, or not knowing where a specific part goes, and Dave is glad to help.

Dave regularly attends East Coast shooting events and enjoys the camaraderie with other Smith owners. At one of those events, LCSCA Executive Director Frank Finch recruited him to be the new Journal editor, succeeding Jason Harrison. "I didn't know

where to begin," Dave said Jan. 5, "but Jason helped me a lot and the LCSCA directors all said they'd help," so he agreed.

Dave would like to add some new regular features to the Journal. He's already received some good ideas: unusual Smiths, stories about old-time trap shooters, and articles on reloading. He's open to about anything related to Smiths and he needs your help: send him articles, high-resolution photos and ideas for what you'd like to see in the Journal.

And look for Dave to continue to give technical advice on the website Forum. He won't let his new editorial responsibilities get in the way of helping out another Smith owner.





From the Records...

Monogram Grade Production

By Jim Stubbendieck

Acquisition of the Hunter Arms Company and L.C. Smith Gun Company records in 2008 makes it possible for the L.C. Smith Collectors Association to continue to collect and summarize information recorded in the ledgers. Research on the Monogram Grade reveals that more were produced than previously thought and provides a summary of frame size, barrel lengths, and options.

Hunter Arms Company 1910 catalog copy said "Our Monogram gun is one of the finer grades, made especially to meet the needs of a beauty-loving sportsman. You will note by the equipment that this grade is one of the choice ones, beautifully finished." The Monogram was a special order shotgun, and the Hunter Arms Company would accommodate nearly any request for engraving, but most Monograms made before 1904 were engraved with two dogs on the lock plates. The general engraving pattern changed to two birds on each lock plate, but appearance remained the point of focus as the catalog copy said: "The new engraving on our Monogram grade is perfection, the scroll is delicate and as one has said, 'You can almost hear the rustle of the birds' wings.' This engraving appeals because it is just right."

The Monogram is the only grade that was offered both pre- and post-1913. Col. William Brophy said 131 Monograms were made from 1892 through 1917 (the period during which the company was owned by the Hunter Brothers) and 140 from 1918 through

1945 for a total of 271 Monograms. A recent search of the records uncovered 152 Monograms from 1892 to 1917 and 154 from 1918 to 1945 for a total of 306 (Table 1). The 35 additional shotguns represent a 13% increase in the known Monogram production. Twelve gauge was by far the most common (227). Only five were made in 10 gauge, and 20 gauge production (51) more than doubled 16 gauge production (23). Brophy reported that a .410 Monogram was made in 1945 and a second in 1948. Neither is recorded in the ledgers. Also, I was unable to locate a 10 gauge Brophy reported as Serial Number 5xx that was shipped in 1891.

Monogram Grades were produced in the standard barrel lengths in 2-inch increments of 24 through 32 inches. The short barrel lengths are not common. Over half of the Monogram Grades had 30-inch barrels (165). Most (295) had automatic ejectors, and 44% had a Hunter One-Trigger. Three late shotguns had the Single Sighting Plane, and only seven were made in the Long Range/Wild Fowl configuration with 3-inch chambers.

Brophy said that 14 were shipped with a second set of barrels and one was shipped with three sets of barrels. Our data agree with these numbers. Two Monograms were made with Krupp steel barrels. Serial numbers of three Monograms duplicate numbers used on lower grade shotguns.

continued on next page...

Table 1. L.C. Smith Monogram Grade production.

Gauge	Total	Frame ²		Barrel Length (inches)					Options ³						
		R	Fw	24	26	28	30	32	E	O	N	B	V	SSP	LR
10	5	5	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	227	201	26	2	5	17	127	76	219	100	2	46	45	1	7
16	23	13	10	-	4	8	11	-	23	9	-	-	-	-	-
20	51	21	30	-	8	15	26	2	50	23	-	5	5	2	-
.410	0 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	306	240	66	2	17	40	165	82	295	132	2	51	50	3	7

¹Brophy said there were two .410s, but they do not appear in the ledgers

²R=regular weight

Fw=featherweight

³E=automatic ejectors

O=selective Hunter One-Trigger

N=nonselective Hunter One-Trigger

B=beavertail forend

V=ventilated rib

SSP=single sighting plane rib

LR=Long Range or Wild Fowl (3-inch chambers)






Table 2. L. C. Smith Monogram Grade production by year, 1892-1945.

Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
1892	1	1903	10	1914	5	1925	8	1936	1
1893	-	1904	14	1915	9	1926	12	1937	0
1894	-	1905	9	1916	5	1927	11	1938	0
1895	1	1906	9	1917	8	1928	14	1939	3
1896	-	1907	15	1918	1	1929	12	1940	1
1897	-	1908	7	1919	21	1930	6	1941	2
1898	2	1909	9	1920	8	1931	2	1942	2
1899	2	1910	7	1921	15	1932	4	1943	1
1900	3	1911	5	1922	10	1933	1	1944	1
1901	2	1912	8	1923	5	1934	-	1945	1
1902	3	1913	18	1924	10	1935	2	Total	306

The Monogram Grade was the third highest grade (below the pre-1913 No. A2 and No. A3 and the post-1913 Premier and DeLuxe) and was relatively expensive. It retailed for \$375 in 1910 when then next lowest grade, No. 5, was priced at \$225. Most could not afford a Monogram Grade, and production of Monogram

Grades averaged only 5.7 per year. Forty percent were made during the 11-year period of 1919-1929 (Table 2). After the stock market crash in 1929, orders for high grade L.C. Smiths, such as the Monogram Grade, never reached previous levels. 

L.C. Smith Collectors Association

Nineth Annual Spring Shoot

Place: Carlisle Fish and Game Association
1421 W. Trindle Rd, Carlisle, Pa. 17015

Dinner: Sunday evening, March 20, 2011, 5 pm at Hotel Carlisle

Shoot: Monday, March 21, 2011 9am-3 pm

Venue: Sporting Clays \$16, Skeet \$6, Wobble Trap \$6, Five Stand \$6

Lunch: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:30-1:00 pm catered
by Grandpa's Country Butcher Shop, \$13

Location: Club House
(as you come in, the club house will be the barn on the right side of the driveway. We will be in the large hall in the bottom of the club house)

Contains:

- Registration
- Lunch
- Used guns for sale
- Items for sale
- Gun smiths and gun exhibit
- RST will again be here supporting us. Thank you RST.
- Restrooms



Hope to
see YOU
There!

Hotel Arrangements:

A block of rooms at the Hotel Carlisle is reserved for a discount price of \$65.00.

If you arrive early on Sunday afternoon, we plan to have some shooting available.

Note: You will need to reserve your room by Feb. 28, 2011 to get this price.

Ask for Rhonda and mention LC Smith Collector's Association for club rate reservation prices. Phone: 717-243-1717 ex. 178. *Reservations will be needed for the Sunday dinner as well as Monday's shoot and lunch. Deadline is March 10, 2011.*

For all other reservations, please contact: Charles Brooks
Phone: 410-756-2095 • E-mail: pastorcharlie1949@yahoo.com





Announcing the Eighth Annual

L.C. Smith vs Parker Challenge


Well Gentleman, once again it time to uncase those LC's; scrub the dust out of those bores, and "light a rag" down to your local clays range! Why you ask, well it's simple; we've got a reputation to protect and we'll be laying that reputation on line real soon. You see, it's almost that time in the New Year when representatives from the L.C. Smith Collectors Association gather once again in Sanford, NC for the express purpose of laying yet one more old fashioned "beat down" on those ole boys with the "Finest Hardware Store Gun in the World"; the Parker Gun Collectors Association.

Thus this notice shall serve as your friendly reminder; make your reservations and plans now to attend this greatest event of its type ever devised by mankind! If you have procrastinated in the past; and have never attended this most excellent event, then remember this; "Life is Short"! Do not let another opportunity pass you by! This year's event will again be held in conjunction with the Southern Side x Side Championships at the Deep River Shooting School in Sanford, NC; and the magic date is the weekend of April 29-May 1, 2011. This great event has continued to grow every year; and although it's now difficult to believe, this will be the EIGHT annual L.C. Smith vs. Parker Challenge!

So seriously, if you've planned to attend in the past; then, for whatever reason didn't make the Evert, make this your year to experience the event that is now the most anticipated and talked about vintage sporting event in the entire country. This event is not only a very rewarding shooting experience; but has also developed a "family reunion" type atmosphere. For this annual pilgrimage has become THE event where good friends from all over the country assemble to renew friendships and fellowship with one other, the place where new friendships are established; and the place to "put a face" on all those guys and gals you hear about, and

read about but have never had the opportunity to meet personally. It is also the venue for our L.C. Smith Collectors Association annual meeting, an event that is always well attended; but which also serves as the perfect venue to meet LCSCA Directors, learn how LCSCA affairs are conducted, and an opportunity to fellowship with other LCSCA members.


For this year's Challenge Event we are hoping, for the first time, to have our own tent (I use the word "hoping", as details are not quite finalized as I write); but when those plans come to fruition we will finally have enough room to adequately accommodate our displays, our members and guests, and we also plan to sharing that tent with the PGCA! This move will serve only to increase everyone's enjoyment; and the fellowship we enjoy with the great Parker folks. And although it's OK to fellowship with those PGCA guys and gals inside the tent, we do not wish to take that hospitality to the extreme by allowing them to actually win either of our events; so practice, practice, practice! I cannot stress practice enough, for after a rough four-year long stretch, the LCSCA is on a roll and has really kicked some Parker tail! We cannot back-off the throttle now; so let's keep our victory train in high gear!

I'll be posting Event details and rules on the LCSCA website very soon; but in the interim I request that those planning to attend this year's Challenge Event either email or call so that name tags can be prepared in advance. My email address is thomas.archer@charter.net and my telephone is 706-769-4932. And whatever you do, don't forget that the Challenge Event is also a great family event; so bring your bride, your kids, your grandkids, your shooting buds, and even your boy and girl friends! But until we meet; practice, practice, practice! See you there! 

Tom

Membership Renewals

By Chris Baumohl

For those of you receiving a renewal notice with this issue of the Journal, the cut off for the NEXT mailing list (and your renewal to stay current) will be **May 23rd**. I will need to have RECEIVED your renewal by that time so we can prepare the list and submit it to the printer. Failure to do so will result in the fact that you will not be on our latest membership list and therefore will not receive the next Journal. I process the renewals almost daily so if you get it to me in time, I will get it processed! 



Trap Shooters of Yesteryear

Rolla Heikes

by Dr. Drew Hause

Rolla A. Heikes "The Great and Only" of Dayton, Ohio surely deserves the title of the "Best Ever Using the Most Guns. Heikes was the first industry representative, for **Lefever** in 1885, but later switched to a **L.C. Smith**.

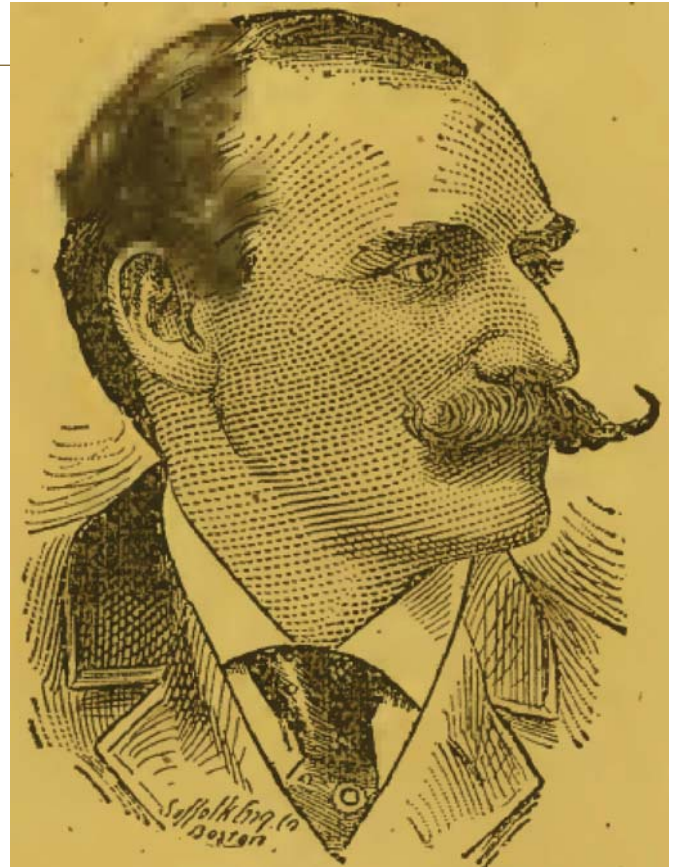
Feb. 20 1897 *Sporting Life*



Dr. Hinkins of Chicago, has an L. C. Smith gun that was formerly used by Rolla Heikes. This gun was fired 60,000 times while in the possession of Mr. Heikes and has had over 15,000 shots fired from it since that time by Dr. Hinkins. This goes to show what the L. C. Smith gun will stand, as it is still tight and strong us a new gun.

In 1895-96, Heikes participated in 67 tournaments (despite having malaria in the summer of 1895) and was high gun in 60 using a **Winchester 1893 Repeater**.

He defeated Fred Gilbert in 1896 at the 2nd "E.C." Cup for the title "Champion



Inanimate Target Shot of the World" in New York and defeated Charles Grimm on Dec. 6 1897 for the Cast Iron Medal using the new **Winchester 1897**. He again beat Fred Gilbert for the "E. C." Cup in Chicago, August 13, 1898, then successfully defended the Cast Iron Medal against Fred Gilbert at Eau Claire, Wis., in August and W.R. Elliston in Nashville in October.

In 1899 he used a **Remington Hammerless** to defeat E.D. Fulford for the "E.C." Cup in January and won the Sportsmen's Association Championship Trophy in the trapshooting tournament held on the roof of the Madison Square Garden in March.

GREAT

VICTORIES

FOR

U.M.C.

TRADE MARK.

MACHINE LOADED
PAPER SHOTGUN SHELLS

John S. Fanning at New York State Shoot, held at Utica, N. Y., June 5th to 8th, 1900, improved his own previous record by using U. M. C. Shells and establishing a new World Record by breaking 231 targets without a miss.

R. O. Heikes, at Grand American Handicap Target Tournament, held at Interstate Park, Queens, L. I., June 11th to 15th, 1900, won the championship cup by the remarkable score of 91 out of 100, shooting from the 22-yard mark.

Mr. Heikes, as well as the next five high men all used U. M. C. Ammunition.

These records are conclusive proof of the reliability and uniformity of our Factory Loaded Ammunition.

AGENCY,
313 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK CITY.

The Union Metallic Cartridge Co.
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.



Rolla used the **Parker** at the 1900 Grand American Handicap at Live Birds, finished out of the money, went back to his **Remington**, and won the Interstate Association's First Annual GAH at Targets June 12-15 1900 shooting from 22 yards with 91x100. He was also High Average for the four days with .955 per cent.; J. S. Fanning was second.

He again won the National Sportsmen's Association Championship Trophy in March, 1901 over Fred Gilbert, J. S. Fanning, W. R. Crosby, Frank Parmelee, J. J. Hallowell, Edward Banks, J. R. Hull, B. Le Roy, Phil Daly, A. H. Fox, Ed. Rike, Colonel Courtney, E. C. Griffith, S. Van Allen and others. He also had the long run of the Tournament with 71 straight.

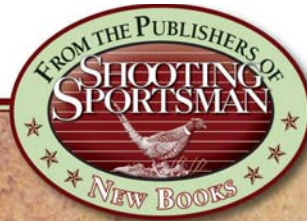
R.O. Heikes (Remington Hammerless), Ed Banks (Winchester Repeater), W.R. Crosby (Smith), Jack Fanning (Smith), possibly B. LeRoy (Remington)

He was part of the victorious American team in the June 1901 Anglo-American Clay Bird Match using a **Parker**.

He started 1902 shooting a new **Remington single trigger hammerless**, then used a **L.C. Smith** to take 3rd in the (last) GAH at Live Birds in Kansas City in April.

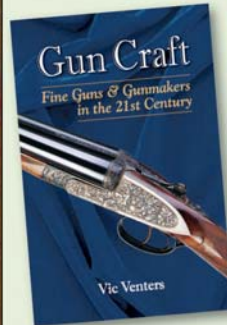
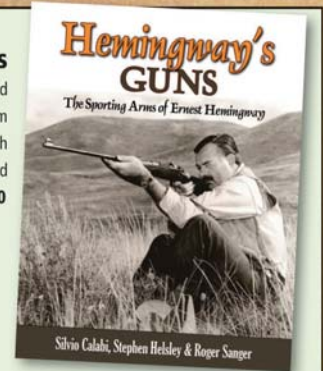
"Rolla Heikes, of Dayton, O., winner of third place, had a host of friends who were rooting for him for all they were worth. Rolla started poorly on Monday and Tuesday, but settled himself on Wednesday and went straight. No one in the tie killed better birds than did Rolla, and two of his kills were wonders.

His twenty-eighth in the tie was one of the finest kills made on the grounds, a fast rising outgoer which required the greatest



Hemingway's Guns

These stories of Hemingway's guns and rifles—as well as how he acquired them and what he did with them—tell us much about "Papa" as a lifelong hunter and shooter . . . and as a man. **\$40**



Gun Craft

Drawing from the popular column "Guncraft" by Vic Venters, this book examines today's artisanally made guns and what goes into fine gunmaking, with the occasional look to the past. **\$30**

www.shootingsportsman.com



The U.M.C. SOUTHERN SQUAD

This squad, including T. A. Marshall, Captain; R. O. Heikes, C. W. Budd, J. L. Head, T. E. Hubby, W. H. Heer, J. T. Anthony, F. C. Riehl and E. D. Fulford, assisted by F. C. Butler, shot in sixty-five Southern Cities and twelve Southern States during the last three months. The first five shooters mentioned broke the five-man squad world's record by a score 488-500 at Palestine, Texas.

Scores of 125 straight, 100 straight, 99 and 98, etc., out of 100 are some of the individual records. The squad's one defeat was at Memphis, Tenn., when the winning team of amateurs all used U. M. C. shot shells.

The Union Metallic Cartridge Company,

Agency, 313 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

judgment to cover and it fell dead nearly to the outer boundary. This shot brought continued applause from the hundreds who saw it. Rolla killed several of the kind of birds which had driven less skillful men to the mourners bench.

He was using an L. C. Smith gun, 3 1/4 drams, E. C. powder, 1 1/4 oz. No. 7 chilled shot in U. M. C. Arrow shells."

He used a **Remington C.E.O. Trap** as part of the 1904 U.M.C. Squad, and with C. W. Budd, J. L. Head, T. E. Hubby, and W. H. Heer, broke the five-man squad world's record by a score 488x500 at Palestine, Texas.

At the 1920 GAH in Chicago (where Heikes was now living and managing a gun club) he was second behind Charles Spencer for the Professional Championship.

While touring the South with the squad, Heikes acquired Typhoid fever and his son Horace, Malaria. He spent most of April recovering at home in Dayton, but returned to take HOA at the Dominion of Canada Exhibition Shoot in Winnipeg as a U.M.C. professional.

In 1905 he began shooting a **Remington Autoloading Shotgun** (which became the Model 11) and won the championship of Ohio at Canton, O., June 14, breaking 50 straight targets.

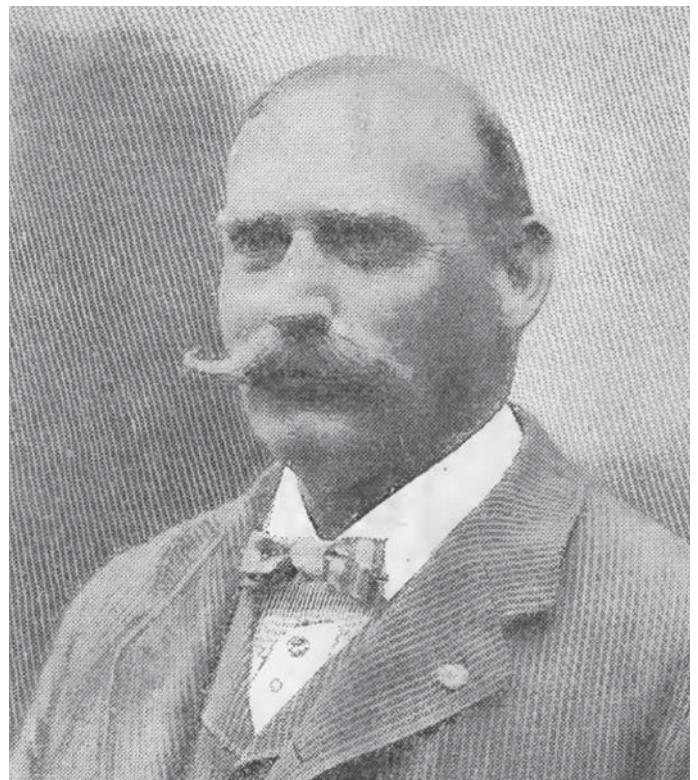
He was second in the High Professional Consolation Handicap at the 1912 GAH, scoring 93x100, still with his Remington.

Rolla "Pop" Heikes died at the age of 78 on Sept. 23, 1934. He was inducted into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame on August 19, 1969.



ED BANKS CHAN POWERS WM. CROSBY FRED GILBERT
R. O. HEIKES T. A. MARSHALL

ALL-AMERICAN SHOTS STILL IN HARNESS



Elsie in the Buckeye State

Larry S. Moore

I've been interested in LC Smith shotguns for many years. My interest is intertwined with family history and lore. My family heritage traces to Kentucky both in the blue grass region and into the hills of Eastern Kentucky. My grandparents (LW and Carrie Moore) were from Shelby County, Kentucky. They farmed raising tobacco plus a dairy herd and other crops. At times they also operated a boarding house for rail road workers.

Family lore indicates that both were good shots competing locally at various shooting events including live pigeon shoots. There were also a pair of shotguns in 12 gauge and 20 gauge with my Grandmother using the 20 gauge gun. These were in separate cases. It is possible that the cases were made by my Grandfather since he also did some wood working including spokes for wagon wheels. Indications are the shotguns were LC Smith. It is possible since Shelby County is reasonably close to Louisville where the guns may have been bought from the Belknap Hardware Store.

It is also possible the guns were other hardware trade guns perhaps made for the Southern States Farm Cooperative. The guns have long since vanished from the family but the lore intrigued me.

Many years passed before I became interested enough to check out better quality side by side guns. When I did, LC Smith was the natural choice. Today, I am blessed to own several LC Smith guns. Like many members, I hunt with these guns. In Ohio and trips back 'home' to Kentucky that means pheasants and rabbits. The Elsie guns I own are not fancy or high collector items. They are a delight to carry and wonderful game guns.

My latest acquisition, a 16 gauge Ideal Grade, has become my favorite. The wood is very dark and original. Almost all the case coloring is gone but the bluing remains good. The action is very crisp and the safety tight. The reason I like this gun so well is that the barrel length is 26-inches. The balance and handling of the Elsie 16 makes it quick to the shoulder and swing onto a bird. Half the fun of getting a new gun is researching the history. Getting the letter

The author shooting a 1903 LC Smith Pigeon Grade at a the Greene County Fish and Game Association annual sporting clays event. Please forgive the non-traditional shooting attire!



The author's LC Smith field 20-gauge gun with a pair of nice Ohio cock pheasants.

adds to the knowledge and the fun of owning LC Smith guns. I learned this gun was sold, returned to the factory and then sold again. The gun spent most of the last 40 years in a safe. Today it is back where it belongs in the field where the qualities of the LC Smith guns can best be enjoyed.

My other favorite is a 20 gauge field grade with 28" barrels. I often joke that this gun shoots so tight it is choked "full and fuller"! Since I rabbit hunt with the beagles it is a great rabbit gun. I don't take jump shots so the full chokes permit cleaner headshots on a returning rabbit or plenty of shot string like skeet shooting on a crossing rabbit in full stride.

Since I've switched to the LC Smith guns, my son often tries to claim my old Stevens 311 20-gauge. Others in our hunting group are also switching to various makes, models, gauges and barrel length side by side guns. Sadly, they are not LC Smith guns but at least an interest in side by side guns is being instilled. Since this has happened we have a running challenge on who gets the most game for the day with the fewest shots. The winner gets their lunch bought by the rest of the party. So far, I am dining very well. I am the oldest hunter in the group. The younger, dare I say "whipper-snappers", of the group were not taken hunting by my Grandfather for whom shells were a necessity and extra shots were a luxury. He really hated what he called "those shell wasting city boys packing fancy auto guns".

It seems hunting is where I get the most enjoyment from my LC Smith guns. One of my most anticipated events each year is the LC Smith Collector's Association display at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association show each July. We see a lot of Buckeye people with LC Smith guns and questions. I'm hoping more of them are joining our association. I also hope they may read this and become interested in hunting with their LC Smith guns or some Ohio shooting events.



Larry S. Moore Photo



Do You Remember?

by Roger "Sully" Sullivan

Do you remember your first L.C. Smith? How you got it? Better yet the first time you shot it? As collectors of these fine double guns, I think we all have a memory or story of how we acquired our first L.C. Smith. Whether it was handed down, won in an auction, or just an outright purchase, your first Elsie has its own trail of history as to how it became one of your possessions. This is mine.

My first L.C. Smith was a 12 ga Field Grade on a regular frame and it was purchased in the early twenties by my grandfather Harry Sullivan. My grandfather made his living as a farmer, cigar maker, and bootlegger. One of his favorite pastimes was hunting rabbits on his Carroll County, Md. farm. My father Edward, can remember at the age of 5 or 6 having my grandfather sending him into the cover for rabbits and he can recall several instances the gun being fired right over top of his head in order to bag dinner.

My grandfather died in 1961 when I was eight and my father inherited the Field Grade rabbit annihilator. From that point on the gun was used very little until I got my hunting license at the age of fourteen. My father would let me use it for squirrels and quail which were plentiful in the area where we lived. I can remember the gun being fairly heavy and the old Remington-Peters paper shells packed a pretty mean kick when you shot it. None the less, I used that gun every chance I got.

Then one day in 1969 when I was sixteen, my father was short on cash and he wanted to go to the horse races in Charlestown, WV. He asked me how much cash I had and would I like to buy my grandfathers rabbit annihilator. Wouldn't you know it, the \$35 I had saved up was just enough to buy my first L.C. Smith. I must of cleaned that gun every day for the first six months I owned it and I shot that gun every chance I got when I could afford the shells.



Its a good thing I bought the gun when I did or I would still be waiting to inherit the gun like my father did from my grandfather. My father turns 93 this year and is still going strong. I thought this would be kind of special to re-unit him with the gun that was fired over his head when he was just a kid 87 years ago. I hope to have my picture taken with the rabbit annihilator when I am going on 93 as the history of my first L.C. Smith carries on. 🍷

From the Editor. This is hopefully going to be an ongoing addition to the Journal. All it takes is for you to sit down and write an article about such events. You don't have to be a great writer, or speller, just write what you remember.

ATTENTION: LC SMITH SHOTGUN ENTHUSIASTS

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2011 Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	POINT PERSON
2/1/11	St. Hubertus Luncheon & "Highly Desirable Smith Gun" Display	Los Angeles Men's Club Los Angeles, CA	805-581-2275	Dean Rasmussen
2/26-2/27/11	Smith Special Gun Display at Louisville Gun Show	KY Fair and Expo Center Louisville, KY	513-942-7572	Cliff White and Len Applegate
3/20/11	Sunday LCSCA Spring Shoot Group Dinner	Carlisle Hotel Carlisle, PA	410-756-2095	Rev. Charlie Brooks
3/21/11	9th Annual LCSCA Spring Shoot & Member Gun Swap	Carlisle Fish and Game Carlisle, PA	410-756-2095	Rev. Charlie Brooks
4/29-5/1/11	Smith vs. Parker Challenge Cup and Hammer Gun Challenge at Southern Side by Side and Member "Favorite Smith Gun" Display	Deep River Shoot'g School 284 Cletus Hall Rd. Sanford, NC 27330	706-769-5294 540-858-9904	Tom Archer Challenge Cup Coordinator Skip Dunlap Display Coordinator
4/29/11	LCSCA Annual Meeting 5 PM	Deep River Club House Sanford, NC	732-899-1498	Frank Finch
6/3-6/5/11	Northeast Side x Side Classic 9th Annual American SxS	Hausmann's Hidden Hollow Friendsville, PA 18818	732-899-1498	Frank Finch

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The image features two ornate double-barreled shotguns, likely made of silver or brass with intricate engravings, resting in a dark brown leather gun case lined with a textured fabric. The shotguns are positioned diagonally, with their barrels pointing towards the top right. The background is a dark, moody landscape of a coastline at dusk or dawn, with a calm body of water reflecting the sky and a dark forested hill in the distance. The overall tone is elegant and sophisticated.

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