

# UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Newsletter of the Utah Gun Collectors Association

December 2014

## Important Note!

**2015 dues MUST be paid for free entry to January show!**

Ticket takers will have the membership list at the door to make it easy to make your 2015 payment when you arrive at the show. Pick up your new membership card from the Secretary's table before you leave.

Or, you can mail your 2015 dues (only \$25 for adults, or \$5 for Junior Members under 18) to:

UGCA,  
PO Box 711161,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84171-1161

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COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS**

# GUN SHOW!

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*\* Private sellers and FFL Dealers*

## January 10-11, 2015

WEBER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1000 NORTH 1200 WEST

OGDEN, UTAH

EAST OF I-15, EXIT 346

**220  
TABLES!**

**SATURDAY 9:00 TO 5:00**

**SUNDAY 9:00 TO 4:00**

**BEST  
UTAH  
SHOW!**

**FREE Door prizes! ★ FREE Parking!**

**Just \$5\* per Adult for BOTH Days!**  
**Children 12 and Under FREE with Adult**

**UGCA Members and Family Admitted FREE!**

*\* With discount coupon available at Utah's better gun stores.  
Only \$6 without Coupon.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
★ **Living History Judging** ★  
★ **Sheet Available.** ★  
★  
★ Collector arms are nice to look at,  
★ but a better understanding of their  
★ place in history comes from seeing  
★ them in context of the period when  
★ they were used, especially with the  
★ clothing and other items used along  
★ with them.  
★ Living history enthusiasts put a lot of  
★ study and effort into this area, and  
★ we are delighted to have so many  
★ participate in our shows for the  
★ pleasure of the public and our mem-  
★ bers.  
★ The new judging sheet is available at  
★ the club table, or can be downloaded  
★ from [http://UGCA.org/](http://UGCA.org/LivingHistoryJudge-rev1.pdf)  
★ [LivingHistoryJudge-rev1.pdf](http://UGCA.org/LivingHistoryJudge-rev1.pdf)  
★  
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## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

### *Someone Said Gun Collectors are Crazy?*

*Well, not compared to the people who collect these!*

*While looking for cool gun stuff in various antique shops, flea markets, auction sites and the like, it is astounding at all the worthless junk being sold and that people are crazy enough to buy. Some people actually collect weird stuff like the following, instead of old guns!*

Wagon jacks	Glass telegraph insulators
Hose nozzles	
Ice cream scoops	Fire hydrants (unless you have a dog)
Soldering irons	Cigar boxes
Keys	Salt and pepper shakers
Coffee Mills	
Coffee Cans	Pencil sharpeners
Plumb bobs	Yardsticks
Duck calls	Beer tap handles
Match holders	Toy sewing machines
Corkscrews	Wood planes
Fountain pens	Bird decoys

#### ***Browning Gun Club***

***at Ogden Union Station!***

***January 13th, February 10th,  
March 10th***



EVERYONE is invited to FREE monthly Browning Gun Club meeting at the Union Station Museum at 25th & Wall Street in Ogden. They meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM in the meeting room upstairs by the gun museum and last about an hour.

### **NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED IN RECENT MONTHS!**

Nathaniel C....  
David L....

Marvin S.  
Brian W.



#### **UGCA Board of Directors**

##### **Officers**

President **Gary N.**  
Vice President **Jimmy C.**  
Treasurer **John S.**  
Secretary **Linda E.**

##### **Directors 2014-2015**

**Jim D.**  
**Linda E.**  
**Chuck R.**  
**John S.**

##### **Directors 2015-2016**

**Jimmy C.**  
**Gary N.**  
**Gaylord S.**  
**Don W.**

##### **Show Chair**

**Chuck R.**

##### **Membership Chair**

**Linda E.**

The UGCA Board meets on the Fourth Tuesday of each month, except June and July, usually at S.E.L.L. Antiques, 1488 South State Street in Salt Lake City starting at 7:00 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary to confirm date, time and location.

## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Editor & Webmaster- **John S.**

Assistant Editor- **Gaylord S.**

**Your articles and photos are needed for the Newsletter, and greatly appreciated.**  
Please submit notes, stories or photos to the editor

# UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

## SOME OF THE GREAT DISPLAYS!



### The Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial- by Mike A.

earned the First Place award among all the great displays, highlighting the final battle of the War of 1812 in January, 1815. Actually, the peace treaty ending the war had been signed at Ghent several weeks before, but news traveled more slowly then.

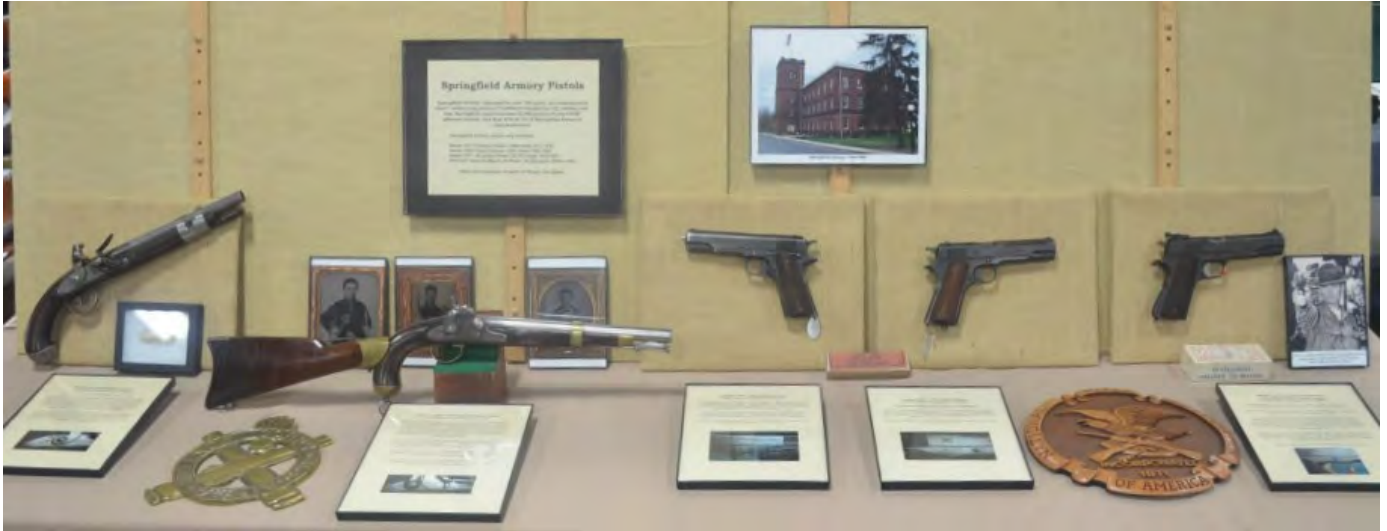


### Savage Lever Action Rifles by David R.

Dave shared his comprehensive array of these remarkable rifles which have had a production history equaled by few arms in history. **SECOND PLACE winner!**



# UTAH GUN COLLECTOR



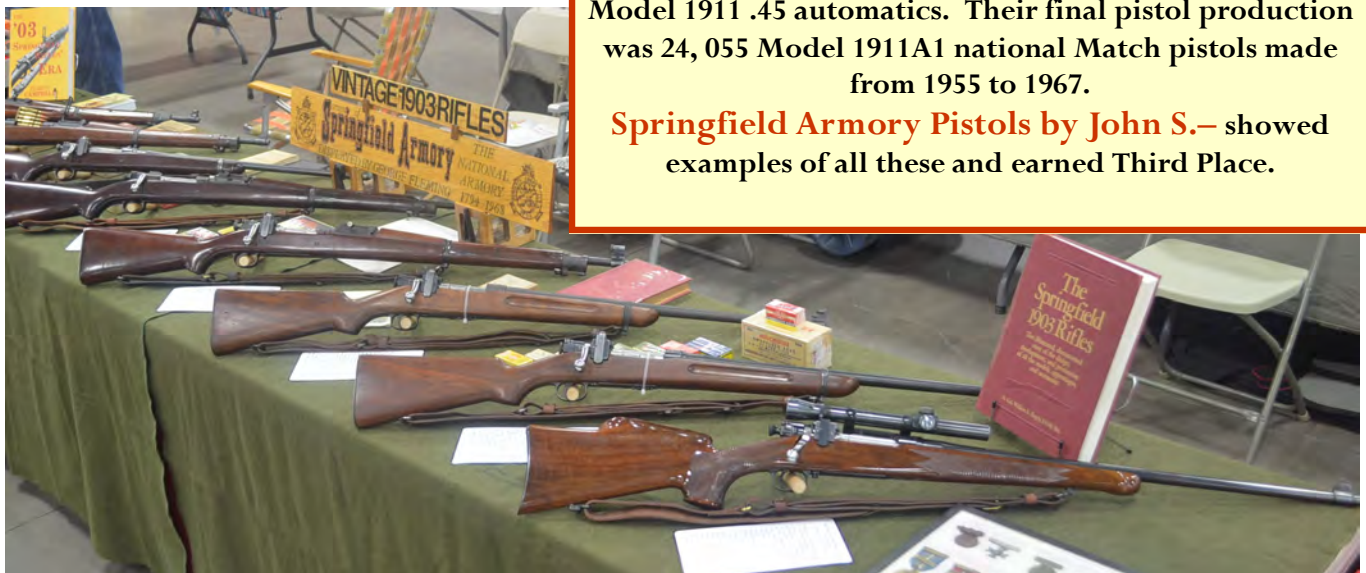
Springfield Armory  
(credit: National Park Service)

## More Award Winners!

Springfield Armory is best known for their millions of rifles made between 1795 and 1968. Especially the famous Model 1903 Springfield, made in combat, training and match versions. **George F's great "Vintage M1903 Rifles"** display (below) covered these famous guns nicely, earning an award.

However, Springfield also made a very small number of pistols, less than 1% of their total production. In 1817 they made 1,000 flintlock pistols, and in 1855 they made 4,021 "Pistol Carbines with detachable shoulder stocks. Between 1914 and 1917 Springfield made about 25,767 Model 1911 .45 automatics. Their final pistol production was 24,055 Model 1911A1 national Match pistols made from 1955 to 1967.

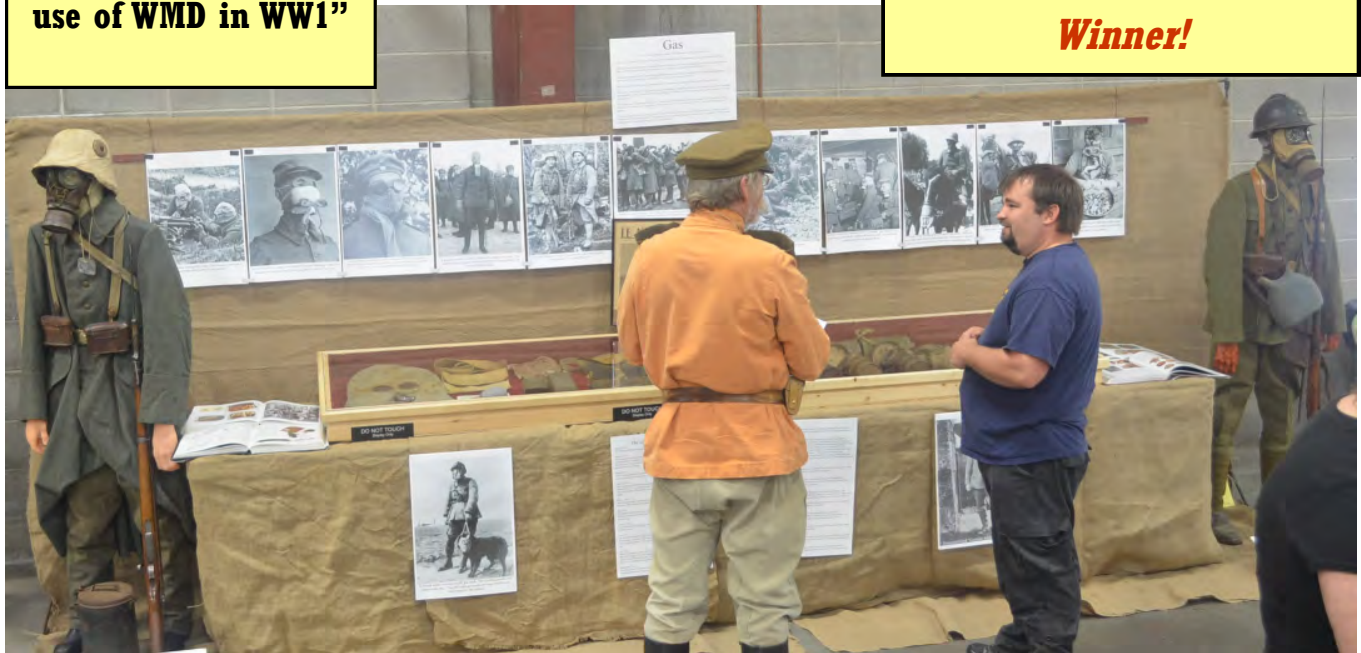
**Springfield Armory Pistols by John S.**— showed examples of all these and earned Third Place.



## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

**"GAS! A study of the use of WMD in WW1"**

***Hope Bisbing  
Award for Excellence  
Winner!***



*Everyone is familiar with the rifles, pistols, and even machine guns from World War I. But, one of the most deadly weapons was poison gas. Nations struggled to improvise protection against gas, in the form of gas masks for men and horses. Quickly made of cheap materials, and soon replaced by better designs, few of the early gas masks have survived, even in major museum collections. Gus's collection of Allied and Axis masks is most impressive, and we were fortunate to see and learn from it. He certainly earned the prestigious Hope Bisbing Award of Excellence!*

**Below left is a fantastic collection of Winchester High-Wall and lever action**



### **More Great Displays!**

*"Spanish American War by Dave G., German Schuetzen Rifles by Gary N. and Gaylord S. and WW2 Japanese Souvenirs by Larry J."*





## SECOND & THIRD GENERATION REVOLVERS

### The Single Action Army– Second Generation

by J. C. (Photos from Author's Collection)



At the beginning of World War II Colt stopped production of the Single Action Army revolver to devote their time and equipment to production for the war. With the design of the Single Action Army being nearly three quarters of a century old there were no plans for reviving it when the war ended. However, customer demand was rising for the Single Action Army. A company in California called Great Western was producing nearly exact copies of the old Colt, and Ruger was turning out their Single Six and their center fire Blackhawks. Additionally, the on-slot of Western themed television shows and movies was creating more customer demand for the revolver, so Colt resumed manufacture in 1955 with the Second Generation line of Single Action Revolvers.

These Second Generation Colt Single Action Army revolvers were produced from 1955–1975 and carried serial numbers in the range of 0001SA to 73,319SA in four calibers, .357 Magnum, .38 Special, .44 Special and .45 Long Colt. There were three standard barrel lengths, 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 7  $\frac{1}{2}$ " as well as the 3" barrel special issue Sheriff's Model and 12" Buntline Special. The .45 Long Colt was the most popular caliber while the least popular was the .38 Special, possibly because the .357 Magnum could also shoot the .38 Special cartridge.

Between 1955 and 1964 Second Generation revolvers were shipped in black boxes with black rubber grips and the familiar Rampant Colt logo. Serial numbers were between 0001SA and approximately 38,500SA. All four calibers were represented.



Beginning in 1964 with approximant serial number 38,500SA the .38 Special caliber was dropped. At approximate serial number 52,000SA an eagle was added to grip panels. These guns were shipped in a red and white "Stagecoach" box. In the 66,000SA range the box was changed to a light pink wood grain followed by a darker brown wood grain box. In 1973 at approximately serial number 70,0555SA the calibers available were reduced to .45 Long Colt and .357 Magnum. They were shipped in a dark brown cardboard box with a Styrofoam insert. The highest serial number, 73,319SA was a 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " .357 Magnum revolver in blue and casehardened finish.

(continued on next page)

## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

In 1960 the Centennial Arms Corporation persuaded Colt to issue the Sheriff Model with a 3" barrel and no ejector rod along the side of the barrel. A total of 503 guns were produced, all in .45 Long Colt caliber and fitted with wood grips. (NOTE: The grips on the pictured gun are not original.) They were packed in small, wood grain brown boxes. The serial numbers were unique with a "SM" suffix. 478 of the guns had a blue/casehardened finish. 25 were nickel plated. The prototype was a Buntline Special. Some collectors consider the Sheriff Model as the first Colt Commemorative; however, others, like myself consider it a necessary part of my Second Generation Single Action Army Collection.

4 3/4" .45 COLT 1973



### The Buntlines



The Buntline Special with a 12" barrel was issued between 1957 and 1975 at least partly due to the popularity of the television show, [\*The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp\*](#). The only production caliber was the .45 Long Colt. The first Buntline serial number was 12476SA. Slightly over 4,000 Buntlines were manufactured. The early guns had either black rubber grips or walnut grips. After 1964 only walnut grips were issued. Most of the guns were finished in blue with a casehardened frame. A small number were nickel plated. Early production was shipped in black boxes, later changed to a tan box.

### BUNTLINE SPECIAL

**HARD  
RUBBER  
GRIPS  
1958**



**WOOD GRIPS 1973**

Unique Serial Numbers were also placed on the Buntline barrels. The numbers were BB+three (later four) digits and were not related to the frame serial numbers. Buntlines issued after 1965 do not have barrel numbers.

### Buntline Barrel Number



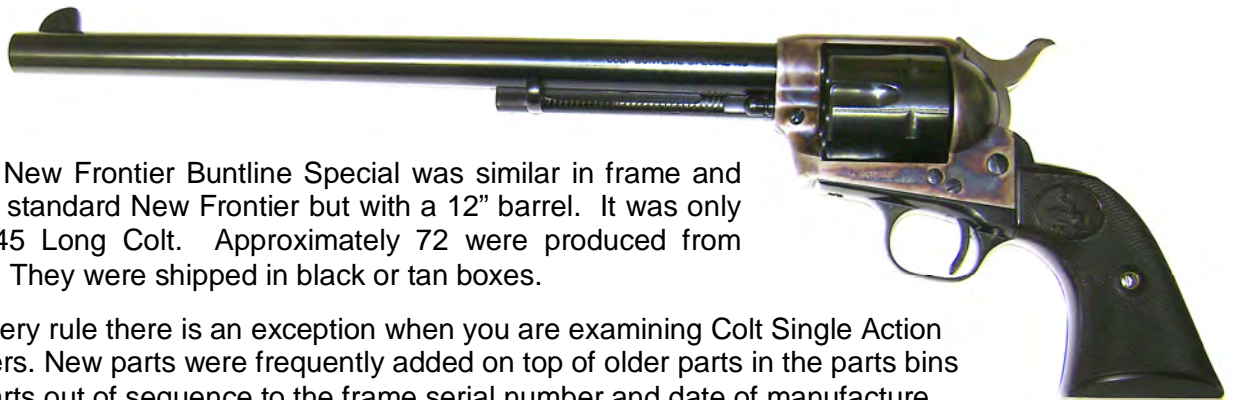
### The "New Frontier" Single Action Army (2nd Generation)

The New Frontier model of the Single Action Army was introduced in 1961 and continued to 1975 with a total production of approximately 4,200 revolvers. They were produced in .357 Magnum, .44 Special, .45 Long Colt and the rare .38 Special. The most common barrel length was 7 1/2"; however, they were also issued with 4 3/4" and 5 1/2" barrels. Serial numbers were four digits with a "NF" suffix. *(continued on next page)*



## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

The New Frontier was similar to the pre-war Single Action Army Target Model with the flat top strap over the cylinder and an adjustable rear sight and a ramp front sight. The standard finish was blue with a casehardened frame. The grips were polished walnut. The early guns were shipped in black boxes. Later guns were in Stagecoach boxes or a brown Styrofoam lined boxed.



The New Frontier Buntline Special was similar in frame and finish to the standard New Frontier but with a 12" barrel. It was only issued in .45 Long Colt. Approximately 72 were produced from 1962-1967. They were shipped in black or tan boxes.

For every rule there is an exception when you are examining Colt Single Action Army Revolvers. New parts were frequently added on top of older parts in the parts bins resulting in parts out of sequence to the frame serial number and date of manufacture.

Sometimes frames were completed years before they were turned into completed revolvers. As the Second Generation series was being completed in 1975, several revolvers were short cylinders or other parts which were completed years later with Third Generation cylinders or other parts. For a more detailed examination of the Second Generation Single Action Army, to include barrel markings, different hammer configurations, more detailed serial number productions by year, and a host of other changes, I recommend Don Wilkerson's book "Colt Single-Action Revolver Handbook 1055-1975."

### The Third Generation

After a short break in production, Colt announced the resumption of production of the Single Action Army on February 4<sup>th</sup> 1978 at the National Sporting Goods Association Bi-Centennial show in Chicago. There are more versions (different models) in the Third Generation Single Action Army than in the Second Generation. The early Third Generation revolvers were issued without the traditional bushing in the cylinder. A change was made in 2002 starting at approximately serial number S34000A that put the cylinder bushing back in the cylinder; therefore, returning it to the same design configuration as the First and Second Generation guns. That change has caused some collectors to call it the Fourth Generation.

Production of the Third Generation Single Action Army continued the serial number system began with the Second Generation revolvers. The first number used was 80000SA and reached 99999SA in 1978. At that point the SA suffix was changed to a prefix with number SA01001. Serial number SA99999 was reached in 1993 resulting in a change to S02001A.

The Third Generation Single Action Army has seen a history of calibers with different start and discontinuation dates as well as some variations in barrel length. Calibers have included such "old time" calibers as the .32-20 WCF, .38-40 WCF and the .44-40 WCF as well as the "currently popular" .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .44 Special and .45 Long Colt. Along with the standard barrel lengths of 4 ¾", 5 ½" and 7 ½" a few 4" and 5" barrels have been issued. Some guns have been finished in all blue while the majority have been in blue with casehardened frames. The first guns were shipped in brown Styrofoam lined boxes. In 1993 the box was changed to the current blue box with black foam padding in a white cardboard over pack.

From 1984-1995 and again beginning in 2008 the "Black Powder Frame" was issued. The cylinder pin is held in place with a screw entering the frame from underneath the barrel like the very early First Generation revolvers. These guns were chambered in .45 Long Colt with the standard barrel lengths of 4 ¾", 5 ½" and 7 ½". A 3" Sheriff Model was also produced in the black powder frame.

A Sheriff Model with no ejector rod has been issued at various times from 1980 to 2010, and in various calibers of .44-40 WCF, .44 Special and .45 Long Colt. The most frequent barrel length was 3"; however, some were issued with 4" barrels with no ejector rod. Finishes ranged from nickel to blue with casehardened frame and in royal blue.

*(continued on page 10)*



## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR



### Living History Interpretation Contest Winners—

From the left, Michael A. as a member of the 7th U.S. Infantry at the Battle of New Orleans; Gus B. as WWI Russian soldier; Shane M. as 101st Airborne paratrooper at Normandy. Aaron B. as U.S. Corpsman; Ben J. as WW2 Navy SEABEE, Caleb W. as U.S. Army Ranger. Below, Alyse A. as WW2 Women's Air Service Pilot, in front of a joint display of U.S. military women's uniforms by several club members, and Jonathan E. as D-Day 24th Infantryman.

The research needed to assemble a correct impression with uniform items, weapons and equipment reflects great credit on these historians.



### UGCA CLASSIFIED ADS:

(free to members....)

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every day of the year!

## UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

The Buntline Special was issued in 44-40 WCF and .45 Long Colt with the traditional 12" barrel finished in nickel or blue with a casehardened frame and walnut grips. Many of these nickel guns with New Frontier frames were fitted with black eagle grips and placed in red velvet lined wood boxes for collectors.

New Frontier (1978-1981) was issued in .357 Magnum, .44-40 WCF, .44 Special and .45 Long Colt with barrel lengths of 4 ¾", 5 ½" and 7 ½". These guns continued the frame design of the Second Generation New Frontier with the flat top strap over the cylinder and adjustable sights. Serial numbers had a "NF" suffix starting with 01001NF. All of the Third Generation New Frontier serial numbers begin with a "0" with the exception of some 5 ½" barreled guns produced in 1980 in the 7000NF range continuing the serial numbers from the Second Generation. Bottom line, all Third Generation New Frontiers will have a serial number above 7288NF or have a "0" as the first digit.

Colt has continued to produce the Third Generation Single Action Army with various combinations of caliber and barrel length and even again issuing the New Frontier for a period in 2011. Their demand appears to continue to out pace their production resulting in long waiting periods to acquire what I consider to be the most beautiful revolver ever produced.

Sorting Out  
2nd and 3rd  
Generation  
Serial  
Numbers

*Save this as a  
handy wallet  
reference list  
for when you  
find a Colt  
Single Action  
for sale!*

MODEL	START	FINISH
2 <sup>ND</sup> GENERATION SAA	0001SA	73319SA
FIRST BUNTLINE	12205SA	
EAGLE GRIPS	Approx. 52000SA	
SHERIFF MODEL	0001SM	0503SM
2 <sup>ND</sup> GENERATION NEW FRONTIER	3000NF	7288NF
3 <sup>RD</sup> GENERATION SAA	80000SA SA01001 S02001A	99999SA SA99999 STILL IN PRODUCTION
ADDED CYL BUSHING	S34000A	
3 <sup>RD</sup> GENERATION NEW FRONTIER	01001NF	BEGIN WITH "0" EXECPT SOME 5.5" BARREL
5.5" BARREL NEW FRONTIER	ABOVE 7288NF	



*Hey guys, please remember to pay your dues  
before the January show, or you can renew  
with us at the door. Only paid up members get  
free admission!*

*Thanks-*