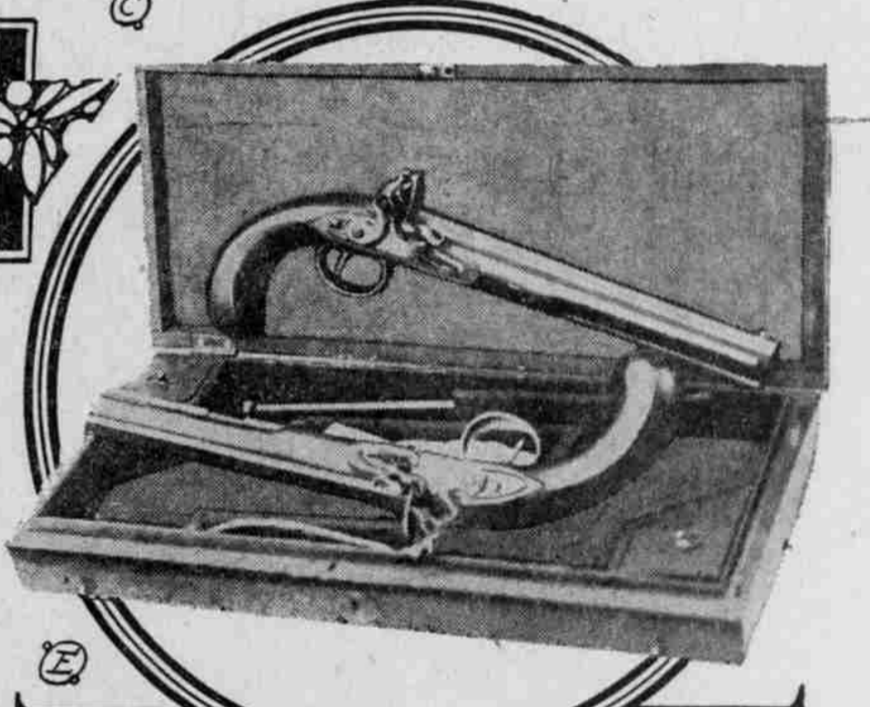
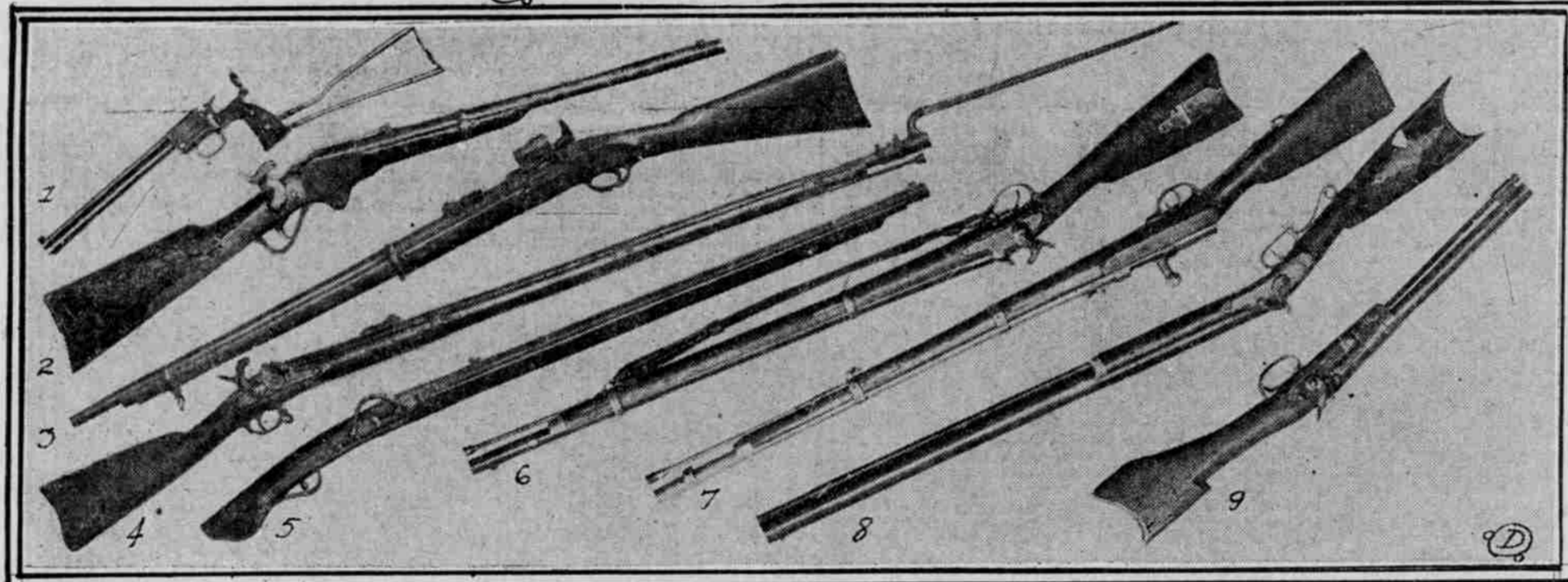
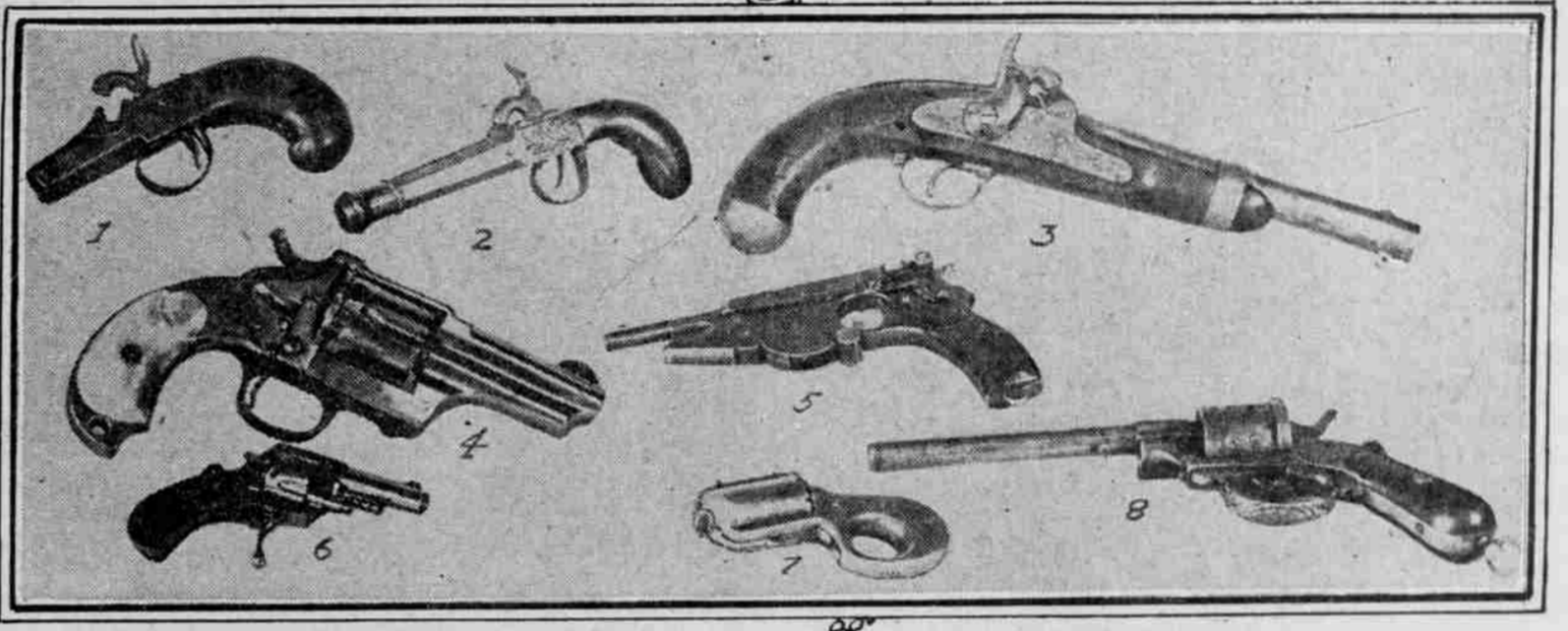
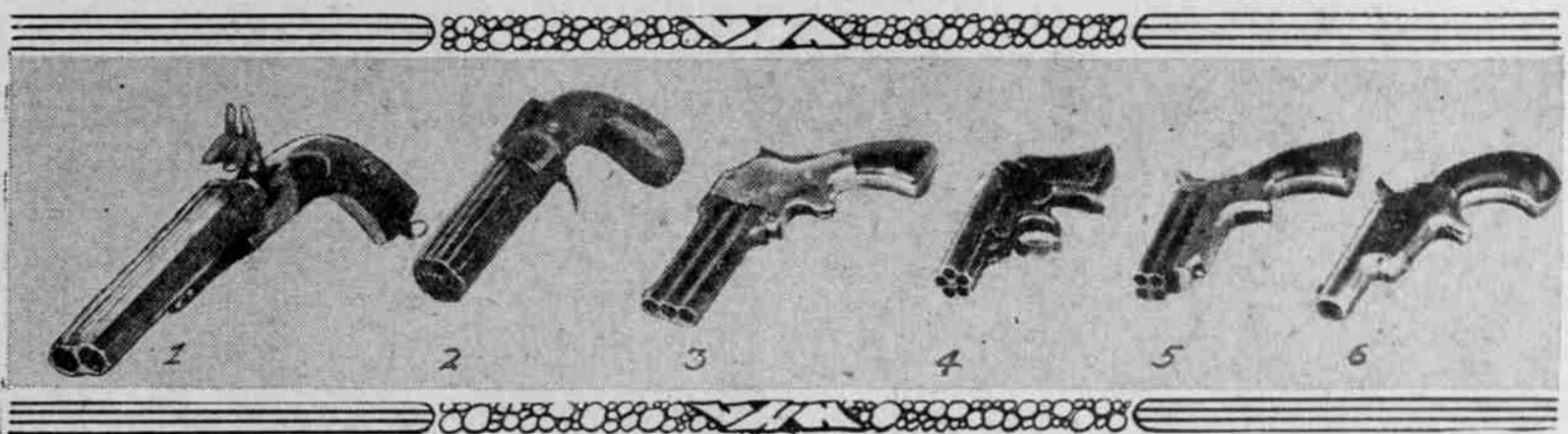




Deadly Weapons Whitney's Hobby



Weapons Used by Arabs 400 Years Ago and Modern Firearms Find Place in Local Arsenal



BY DEWITT HARRY.
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NO COUNTRY in the world's history had its development so wrapped in the use of firearms as the United States. From the time the first settlers came to America and found that their very existence depended on their ability to hit the mark, a race of marksmen was founded that to this date have found no peer among the other peoples of the world. Not only was it essential that our forefathers be able to shoot accurately in order to get their food, but they were forced to defend themselves from Indians and others, and as the development of the country progressed and the migrating colonies took their way over the face of the continent they found it increasingly necessary to use firearms. The rifle was the great force in the conquering of the wilderness, but behind every shot was the keen, accurate eye of the fearless pioneer. We of the west owe more to the rifle than those of any other section of the country, for after the Pilgrims had established their colonies in the east it was the fearless spirits from there who came to the Oregon country in search of the empire that lay in the setting sun.

Not only is the history of the United States wrapped up in the development of the firearm, but that of the world can be told in the same manner. Edwin D. Whitney, president of the Portland Rifle Club, can show the development of nations by means of a collection of firearms which he has spent nearly half a century in gathering. The Whitney arsenal comprises some 200 pieces, some of them dating back four centuries, others made but last year. The story of nearly every war of the last 200 years or more, of nations bent on aggression and of peoples fighting for preservation, of the wilderness conquered, of brave deeds and bad, are all hidden in the cold, hard but eloquent forms of the rifles and pistols that Whitney owns.

Sheik's Favorite on Display.

Some of the pieces in the Whitney collection are graceful and innocent in appearance, others are ugly and sinister. Some of the pieces stand out with more prominence than others, but it is difficult to select many favorites. One of the oldest of the rifles is an ornate, short-stocked affair that was formerly the property of some Arab, possibly one

of the prowlers who preyed on the caravans as they crossed the deserts. Nearly all of us are familiar with the accepted photographs of the Arab horseman on his blooded steed, leaning from the saddle and firing his slender rifle at his pursuers. It is just this gun that Whitney has, the stock is short so that the owner can use it from the saddle, resting the olive-wood butt against the forearm. Try the position yourself, or better yet, get in touch with Whitney and cultivate him for an opportunity to visit and see the collection of firearms. He is a mighty interesting fellow and crammed with information about each article in his collection.

Rifles in the Whitney arsenal tell the tale of the development of firearms from the day of the ancient Arabian piece, which was fired by means of a slow fuse that ignited the powder charge, to the day of the modern automatic. Among the early American guns is a splendid example of the old Kentucky rifle, a heavy piece of tremendous length that was one of the necessities for the early American. While the Germans and others were developing the rifle for years prior to the entry of America into the game the changes that took place in this country were by far the most important and revolutionary. The first guns sent here came about 1683 and were short, heavy rifles with a bore of about an inch. Shooting conditions were found vastly different here from those in Europe and the settlers began the development of an arm that suited their purpose. In Europe the rifle had been used mostly for war and now it was to be used in peace. Here it was of great importance that the marksman not lose any shots and that he be able to handle his weapon rapidly and not have too cumbersome a load to carry.

Kentucky Rifle Appears.

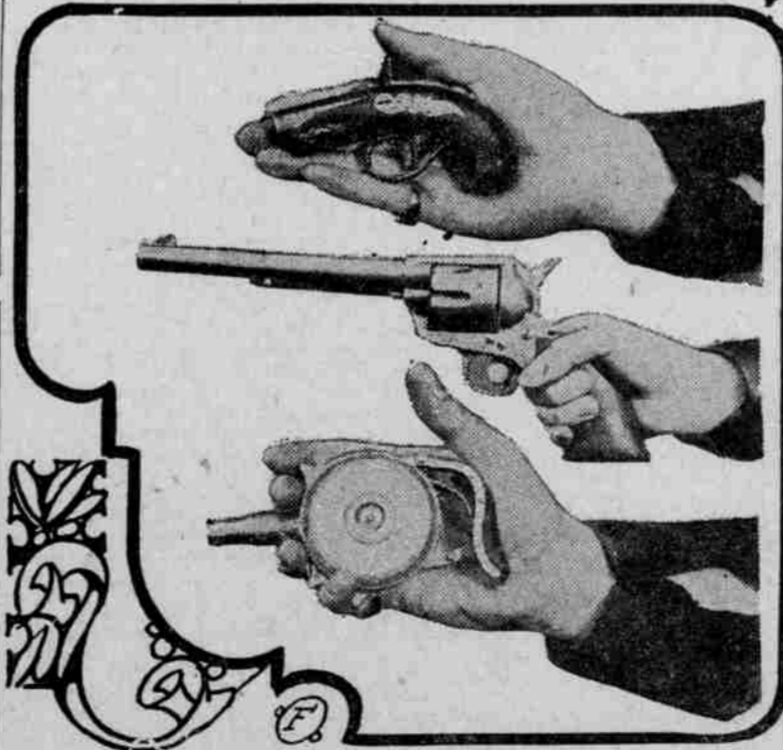
This caused the manufacture of the small-bore rifle, sometimes called a pea gun. It was this type of rifle that was used by Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone and other fearless adventurers, frontiersmen and scouts, and it is a simile of this first gun that Whitney has. In the matter of rifles he has fully half a hundred, all of them teeming with interest. In the history of the type used by the Minutemen in their famed stand when they fired only as they "saw the whites of their eyes," Whitney has his only shortage, though he has the pistols used at that period

and the gun that the invading Hessian employed. There are, though, many examples of rifles used during the civil war, for it was found that it was during times when peoples fought each other that most of the inventive minds turned to the development of firearms and that it was during wars that the greatest strides were made. It was about this time that the breech loader was first invented and the old cap and ball system abandoned. A fine Spencer carbine of the first magazine type, in which the reserve ammunition was kept in a tube in the butt, is in the collection, as well as a British Snider, made in 1859 and the pioneer of the breech loaders. There is also a freak rifle that, with fixed bayonet, has a length over all of more than six feet. This freak arm, used during the civil war, when it was necessary for the men to take what they could get, is a tape-lock and also could be fired by means of a reel of caps in a little magazine, in somewhat similar style to the repeating cap pistol the boys have today.

Nation Bows to Rifle.

In the Franco-Prussian war the Germans owed a great deal of their success to the needle gun which they employed, doing away with the cap and ball and fuse systems of ignition. This arm was ignited by friction generated as the rough needle passed through the base of the cartridge. One of the real freaks and essentially a home product is an Oregon shotgun made by some old pioneer in this state from a section of piping that he well set on a suitable stock and fitted for cap and ball.

It was way back in the '70s that Whitney started his hobby when his grandfather gave him the handsome set of duelling pistols that are shown with this article. These pistols at this time had been in the Whitney family for over a century, kept for use when necessary in the defense of the Whitney honor. Just a glance at them is enough to awaken speculation as to their possible use in the past. Though Whitney will not tell of any specific instances of duels in which these pistols figured, one can conjure up a realistic idea of the two gentlemen, accompanied by their seconds, arriving at the field of honor. One of the seconds carries under his arm the mahogany case with the pistols and as the principals divest themselves of their outer garments the seconds take the pieces from the



case, place in the chamber the powder charge, over this they put a wadding of newspaper and then ram down the lead bullet. All of their deliberations are carried out with the nicest regard for the properties and they are punctilious in their exchange of remarks. Finishing with the loading, the seconds exchange pistols and approaching, measure off the ground and then tell their principals of the rules that have been agreed on. In the background there is the doctor, ready to render first aid in view of the certainty of one of the marksmen being successful, and the two principals, firm in their antagonism, approach, stand back to back and at an agreed signal begin deliberately pacing 20 steps, and then whirl about, on a signal, take deliberate aim and fire.

Duelling Has Advocate.

At the sound of the report one of the pistols whirls through the air, knocked from the hand of the duelist by a clever shot, but—here the story must cease, for there is no sign or any scar on either of the pistols that will confirm this story, so we

must be guided by Whitney's version that he was one of the few actual users of the weapons when he took one of them out and brought a squirrel down from a lofty tree with a single shot. The pistols are marvels of balance and might be a joy to use and one late admirer was a firm advocate of a return to duelling, saying that too many men today neglected their honor and were careless of speaking ill of their neighbors, also that there was a wrong idea that a verbal duel satisfied the offended parties.

"That the United States has not lost sight of the value of having a capable reserve of men in the country skilled in the handling of firearms is well demonstrated by the National Rifle Association, of which the Portland and Sellwood Rifle Clubs are members. The repeating rifle and many of the greatest advancements in the history of firearms came from this country, and for years the marksmen of America have been able to master the best shots of the world. Yet there has been a woeful neglect of the training of the modern citizen to handle a rifle so as to bring re-

sults, to shoot to hit the mark in time of need.

The government is now furnishing rifles and ammunition and even ranges for the clubs in an effort to hold her place as the foremost nation of riflemen in the world. It is even possible, by belonging to one of the local clubs, to get the best kind of a rifle from Uncle Sam at cost, with a revolver also if necessary and the accompanying ammunition at much less than it costs to manufacture. All these inducements are made for the purpose of getting men to take up rifle shooting so that there will be a suitable reserve of well trained sharpshooters in case of need. Ten well trained rifle experts with plenty of ammunition are much more valuable than ten times their number who are unskilled when it comes to a matter of repelling an enemy and defending their country.

Historical Weapons Displayed.

In the Whitney collection are a great number of pistols of designs altogether strange to the ordinary individual. Some of them are marvels of mechanical ingenuity and things of beauty. Others are crude and not very prepossessing, their value lying mainly in their rarity. From huge weapons destined to mangle and kill to tiny ones designed for concealment about the person the styles run and they come from every section of the world and from nearly every age. While by no means a rarity one of the most notable individual pieces is a single-action frontier Colt, the type of gun that was carried by the hardy men who lived the hard life of the west and plains in the days of their development, not so many years ago. This gun, usually of 45-caliber, was designed for accuracy and generally delivered the goods. In Texas the style of operation, to get the maximum efficiency, that is the most shots in the shortest time, was by "fanning." This practice was originated to overcome the single action of the Colt and the marksman pulled his gun, cocking it as it came from the holster with the thumb of his right hand, fired the first shot from the hip and then continued firing as fast as he could rub the trigger hammer back with his right hand, all the time holding the gun on the mark with the left hand.

In the rifle collection is a gun similar to that used by President Theodore Roosevelt in his big game hunting trips, and in the pistol collection is a tiny Derringer of the same type as the gun that was used in killing

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