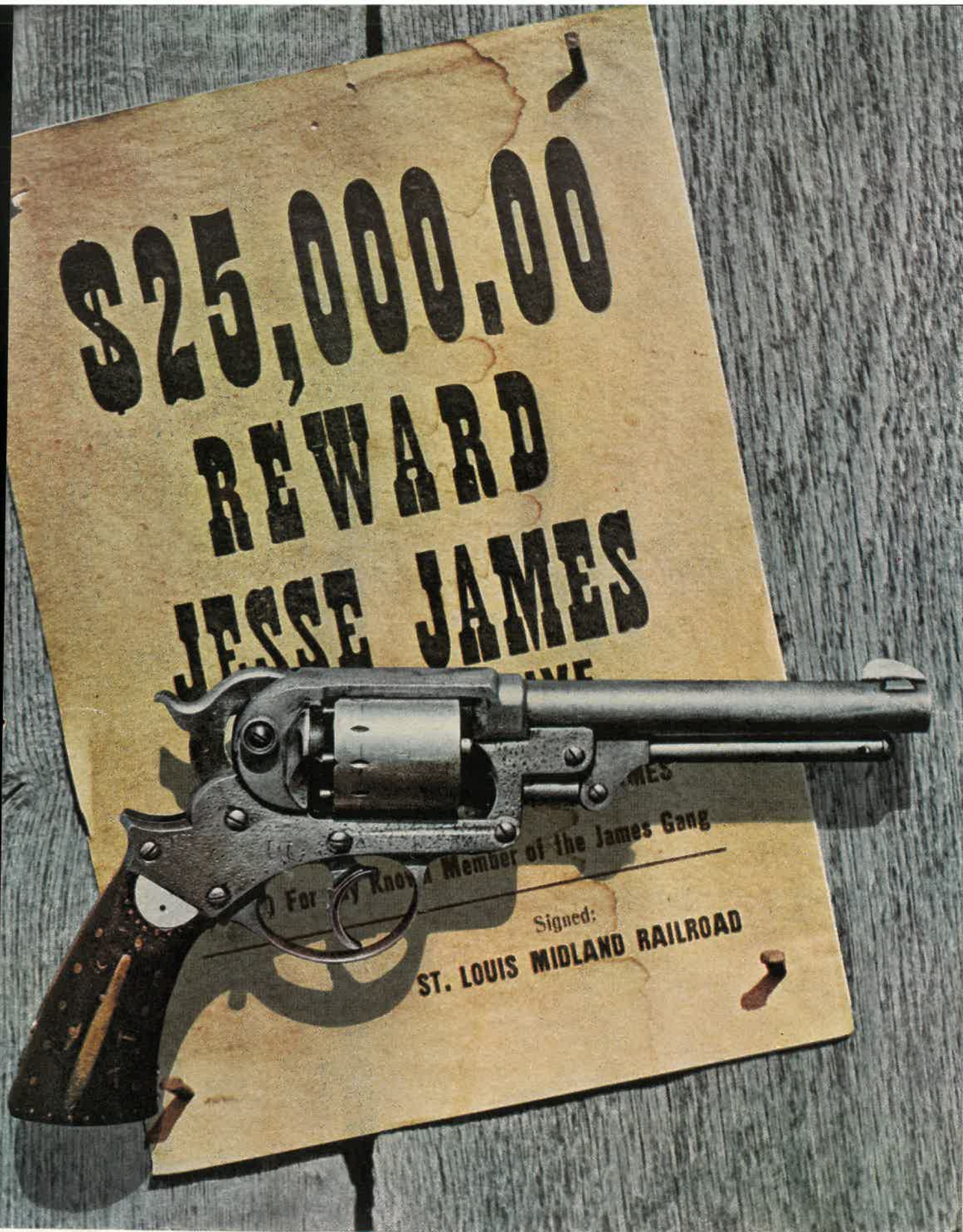




Saunders Museum,
Berryville, Ark.

JESSE JAMES

One of Jesse's favorite weapons was this Starr .44 percussion revolver, which was used by the Missouri outlaw to kill five peace officers in a gun battle near Joplin, Mo. Gun was found buried in a jar of lard underneath a log cabin near Jesse's home after his death. Grips are studded with 46 tacks, assumed number of gun's victims.



BILLY THE KID

76

William H. Bonney, better known as Billy the Kid, was a famous outlaw. An authentic picture of the famous outlaw, which, showing him appear left-handed, as he is known to have reversed from the original appeared.

BILLY THE KID

Saunders Museum,
Berryville, Ark.

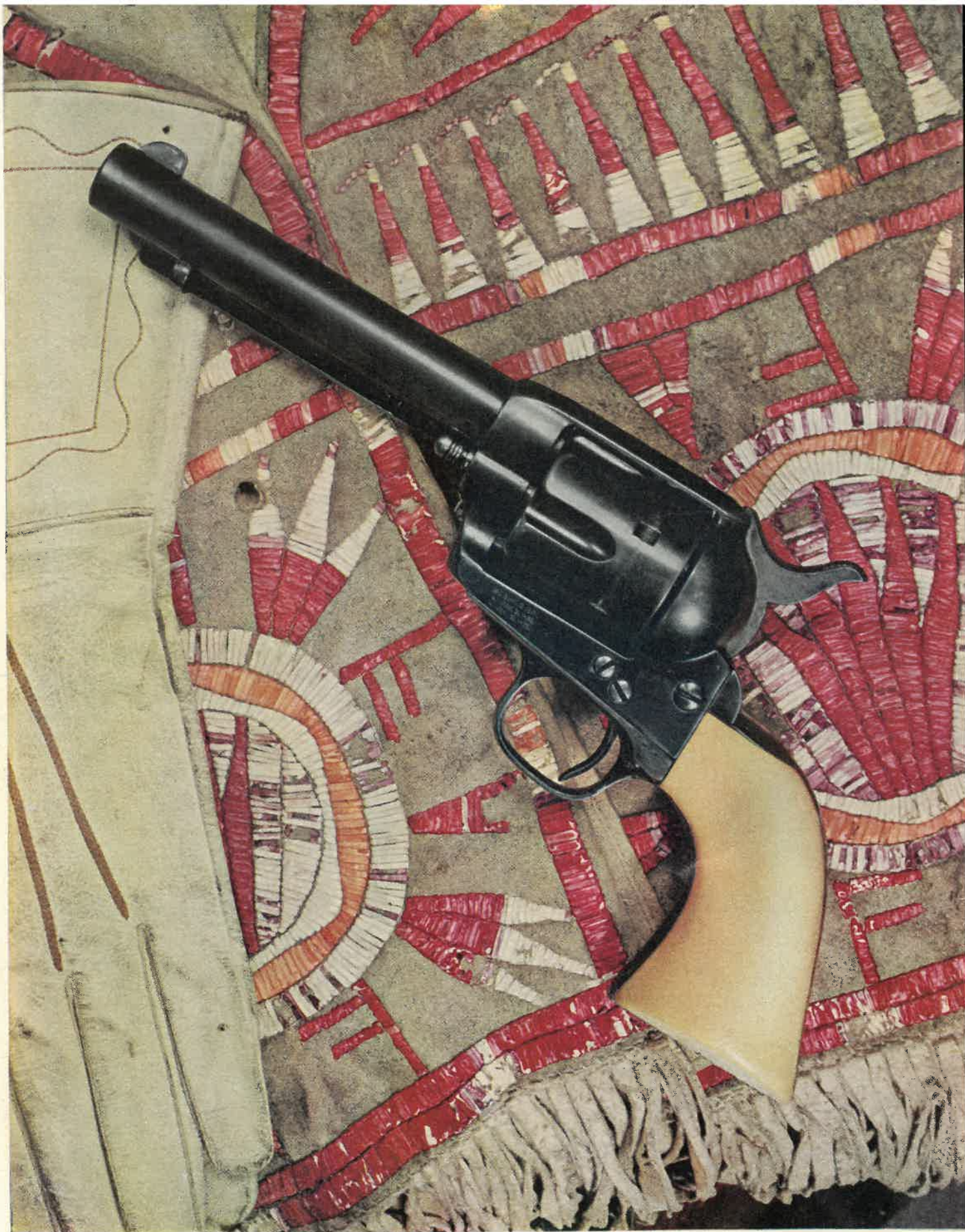
"There are 21 men I have put bullets through, and Sheriff Pat Garrett must make 22. . ." so goes an old ballad sung about William Bonney, the diminutive, buck-toothed killer from New Mexico. One of The Kid's favorite pieces of hardware was Colt's .41 double-action revolver. Garrett gunned down The Kid, age 21, in July, 1881.



Saunders Museum,
Berryville, Ark.

COLE YOUNGER

In 1876, the James-Younger gang rode into Northfield, Minn., to stick up a bank. The raid was a fiasco, and when Cole Younger was captured doctors counted 11 bullet holes in his body. His pistol, a .45 Colt single-action, was given to Belle Starr, who later gave it to Texas Jack. Younger survived and was sentenced to prison for life.



PAWNEE BILL

Saunders Museum,
Berryville, Ark.

At high noon, April 22, 1889, some 10,000 people waited at the starting line for the big land grab on Oklahoma's Cherokee Strip. A pistol fired by Pawnee Bill helped start the rush. Pawnee's real name was Major Gordon Lillie, and he carried his Colt .45 single-action while he was Indian agent and later when he traveled with Buffalo Bill.

need and interest in these guns still exists.

Used American pocket automatics, when offered for sale, are always in demand. Yet many dealers and shooters today, because they became active in the gun field after the "death" of the pocket automatics, know little about these guns.

Pocket automatics were small to medium sized semi-automatic pistols kept for defense and protection. With fixed sights, they generally weighed between 15 and 25 ounces, with barrel lengths of 3 to 4 inches. Magazine capacity was 6 to 10 rounds, the average being 7 or 8. The caliber was usually .32 ACP or .380 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol cartridges), which in Europe are called "7.65 mm Browning" or "9 mm Browning Short" respectively.

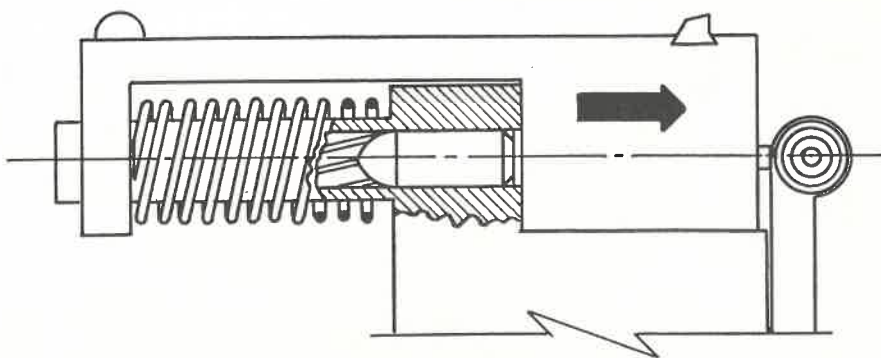
Usually pocket automatics are straight blowback in design, but a locked breech type (the Frommer) was made abroad and two delayed blowback pocket automatics were made in the U. S. These were the Savage and the Remington pistols of the 1920's. A blow-forward pocket automatic, the Schwarzlose, was also made abroad and imported here, but was not commercially successful even in the heyday of pocket autos.

Both hammer and hammerless types of pistols were made, American manufacturers favoring the latter design. These can be subdivided into concealed hammer designs, and true "hammerless" guns using a striker or spring-pushed firing pin. Most of the American pocket automatics were of the concealed "hammerless" type, though the Savage M1910 and 1917 pistols are a sort of crossbreed. In these there is an exposed thumbcocking piece which actually cocks the striker, instead of a separate hammer.

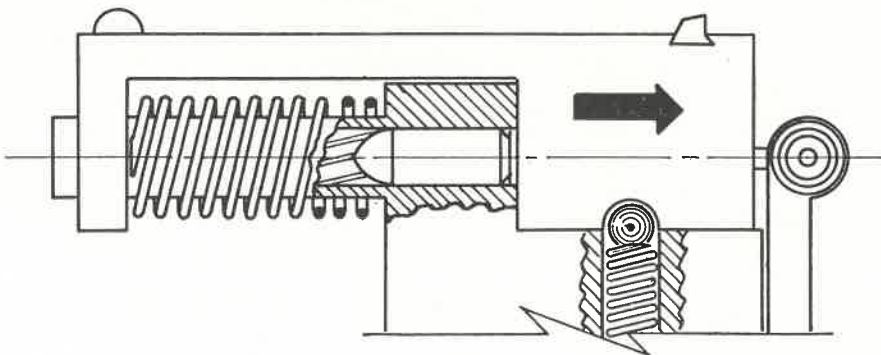
The first American pocket automatic was Colt's model 1905, a Browning blowback patent. Savage was next with their models, followed by Smith & Wesson, Remington, and Harrington & Richardson. Mossberg once made a .22 pistol resembling an automatic. Actually it was a four-barreled gun with the barrel group resembling an automatic pistol slide.

Three other companies sometimes heard of also sold pistols: the Davis Warner Arms Co., the Phoenix Arms Co., and the Union Arms Co.

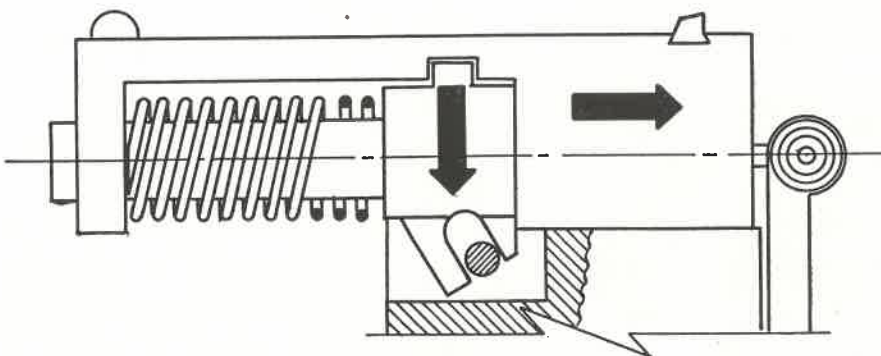
Most of the business done by these companies was just before and after the first World (Continued on page 60)



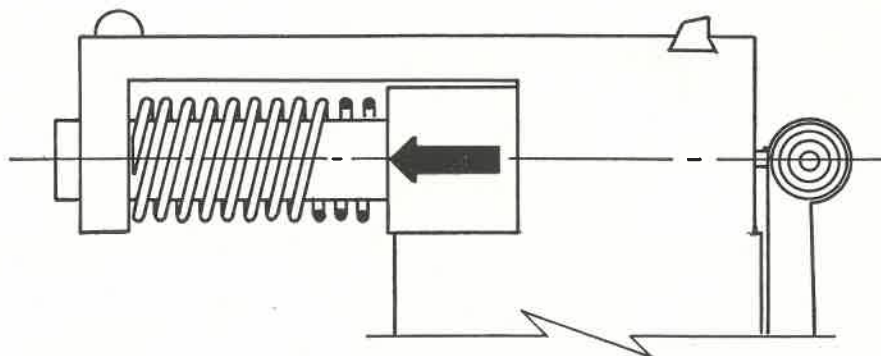
Straight blow back type of action common to pocket automatics relies on breechblock weight and spring to hold gun closed at moment of firing. This is the cheapest design to make and most pocket pistols are this kind.



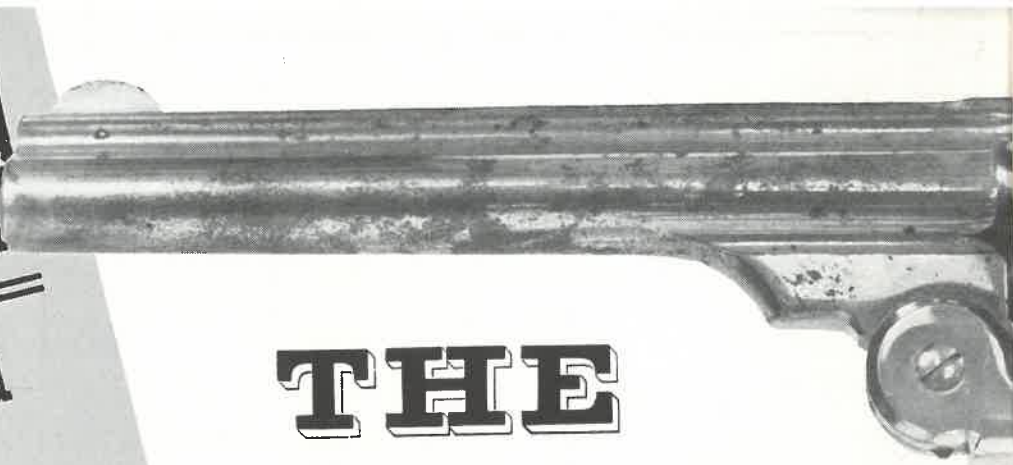
Delayed blowback mechanism sets up hesitation in the opening motion of slide and is often used in larger caliber pistols or in submachine guns. Spring ball prevents abrupt opening of breech, delays it until bullet leaves bore.



Recoil operated pistols with locked breech had block and barrel solidly held together during firing, and used barrel inertia to throw open slide. Fixed frame bar contacts barrel stud and cams barrel lug down from slide.



Blow forward is variant, freak design. Found on only two or three automatics, the barrel blows forward from a standing solid breech. Having theoretical advantages, this design produces heavy recoil and is not too practical.



**\$500
REWARD**

For the Arrest and
Conviction of

JESSE JAMES

St. Louis Midland Railroad

Young Jesse James looked innocent but carried as many as four revolvers riding with Quantrill.

THE 20,000 GUNS OF JESSE

**NOTORIOUS OUTLAW'S CAREER GAVE
TO THOUSANDS OF 'JESSE JAMES GUNS'**

By CARL

THE AMERICAN Robin Hood" they called him, but he might have been more correctly called "America's No. 1 Gun Collector." If all the guns now attributed to Jesse James were tallied up, the total would probably run over 20,000. If their original retail values were tallied, Jesse's descendants would probably still be paying for them. Jesse's whole burglarious career would have been devoted to buying guns. As it was, America's most famous outlaw made less than a fair living wage.

There are pros and cons about every gun that came within sight of Jesse James, let alone the few which he actually had and used. Of them all—hundreds legitimate and thousands illegitimate—none has stirred more question recently than the one with which he was shot.

Certainly the gun which shot Jesse James should rank as a highly important historic firearm: The Lincoln Deringer in U. S. museum custody is priceless, but the gun that shot poor Jesse is in private hands. Two hands, to be exact, for two men on strong but conflicting evidence claim to own the gun.

Andy Palmer of Dearborn, Michigan, claims to have that gun. At his "Military Inn," his famous gun collection decorates the walls, and among the important exhibits is "the gun that killed Jesse James." It is a Colt.

The second "gun that killed Jesse James" is owned by Henry G. Lingenfelder of Baltimore, Md. For variety, this



WANTED



JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

DEAD OR ALIVE

When Jesse James was on the rampage in the 1860s and '70s, lawmen had no idea what he looked like. They'd have given their eye teeth for this photo—but it has been published for the first time in *The Gunfighters*, which can now be yours for a



THE OLD WEST

TIME-LIFE BOOKS INVITES YOU TO JOIN ITS EXPEDITION ACROSS THE GREAT PLAINS



IN DARING DAYLIGHT HOLDUP 12 OUTLAWS ROB LIBERTY, MISSOURI, BANK OF \$60,000 First Daylight Bank Robbery in U.S. History!

Innocent Bystander Shot Down as Desperadoes Make Their Getaway

Shortly before two o'clock on a February afternoon in 1866, a dozen men rode into Liberty, Missouri. It was St. Valentine's Day, but most of the horsemen looked like anybody's idea of desperadoes. They were muffled in long solid coats and some wore six-shooters strapped to their hips. The first three riders dismounted and deserted town square, taking up positions on the roof of the building. The others they could watch the front of the Savings Association. Two of them stepped into the small bank.

Inside, a clerk and a cashier were over accounts at desks behind a window. The cashier, Greenup Bird, saw the men stop to warm themselves at the stove. William, the clerk, went on writing. A moment one of the men walked to the counter and slid a \$10 bill across the polished wood. "The bill changed," he said. As William reached for it, the stranger drew a six-shooter and fired. The bullet hit Bird in the chest. "I'd like all the money in the bank," he

No one had ever said that, or anything like it, to an American bank clerk before. Except for a raid on a small Vermont bank by a band of Confederate guerrillas during the Civil War, no one had ever robbed a bank during business hours.

William Bird had

then forced into the vault to join his son, and the door was slammed shut. "Stay in there," one robber called. "You know all Birds should be cased!" Clearly, the punster was familiar with bank and its employees.

But the cage proved unconfining; the lock of the vault door had failed to catch. Father and son waited a moment, then pushed open the door and peered out. Through the bank's front window they saw several riders galloping past, firing and shooting into the air. Opening the



**FREE
Early Bird
Bonus!**
(See details inside)

**TIME
LIFE
BOOKS**

Time & Life Building
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Gun Down MORGAN EARP In Pool Hall Ambush

Body of One Cowardly Attacker Later Found in Tucson Alley

On a Saturday night in March 1882, Wyatt and Morgan Earp were at a billiard hall on Alamo



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TOPEKA

"A Brand's Something That Won't Come Off in the Wash"

amassing
at a min
and five

your order for yo
weeks, we'll send y
0 famous guns of
evolvers and rifle
32 and the mean-
duced souvenir cha
order must be rece

BL
U.S.

TI

The Gunfighters—

our introductory volume in
THE OLD WEST



No gamble
no risk. Use
this token
today!

At this special Free-Examination Book Token
take you back to the lusty times of THE OLD WEST.
Just punch out the token and place it on the or-
der card, then detach the postpaid card and mail
promptly. We'll send you *The Gunfighters* for a

FREE 10-day examination!

TIME
LIFE
BOOKS

WANTED

Affix
FREE
EXAMINATION
BOOK TOKEN
here.

Just moisten back of
token. No glue needed.

THE GUNFIGHTERS

Detach before mailing.

FREE
Early Bird
Bonus!

If your order is received
within the next two weeks,
we'll send you a
poster-size

Gun Chart

Yours to keep
with purchase of
The Gunfighters!

FOR 10-DAY FREE EXAMINATION

YES, I would like to examine *The Gunfighters*. Please send it to me for 10 days' free examination and enter my subscription to **THE OLD WEST**. If I decide to keep *The Gunfighters*, I will pay \$12.95 plus shipping and handling. I will then receive future volumes in **THE OLD WEST** series, shipped one at a time approximately every other month. Each volume is \$12.95 plus shipping and handling and comes on the same 10-day free-examination basis. There is no minimum number of books that I must buy and I may cancel my subscription at any time simply by notifying you.

If I do not choose to keep *The Gunfighters*, I will return the book and the Gun Chart within 10 days, my subscription for future volumes will be canceled and I will be under no further obligation.

564501 RYNEM108D97 C1GCK1 32 8
D L REYNOLDS
3108 EDMOND ST
ST JOSEPH MO 64501

SEND NO MONEY—just mail this postage-paid card! Please initial here

GFD



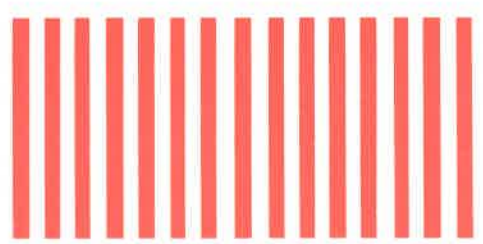
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 22 CHICAGO, IL.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



TIME & LIFE BUILDING
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Benefits of a subscription to
THE OLD WEST

1. 10-day FREE examination of each volume.
2. No club to join.
3. No minimum number of books to buy.
4. Cancel your subscription at any time.
5. Keep only the volumes *you* want.



TIME
LIFE
BOOKS

We found there was only one way to give
a bookbinding this hand-rubbed look
...hand-rubbing!

Why? Because...



Specialists hand-rub each book to emphasize the raised design and highlight the colors of the authentic OLD WEST insignias.

...no machine could duplicate the work of bookbinding specialists, who know how to bring out the deeply lustrous designs embossed in the smooth, supple surface we've chosen for THE OLD WEST series.

Our Editors felt that a story so vital and vividly told demanded a book that's bound for lasting value.

That's why every volume you receive in your OLD WEST library will be individually hand-rubbed. And bound in the same lustrous, embossed cover--rich with authentic Western designs.

First, we carefully select the handsome, leather-like material. Then we wrap it around heavy, extra-thick covers for protection and substance, as well as to give added depth to the embossed Texas longhorns and setting sun.

Next, specialists hand-rub each book to bring out the raised design and highlight the colors in the carefully crafted OLD WEST insignias.

Finally, each of your books is gilt-stamped with special lettering. Colorful illustrations, featuring soldiers to gunslingers to Indians and miners, are inset on each cover.

I think you'll be impressed with THE OLD WEST series...one that not only tells this story as "it really was," but one that's bound in a manner befitting the times.

And something else you'll be impressed with...the reasonable price! It's quite a bargain for all the years of enjoyment you and your family can have from THE OLD WEST. Each volume looks many times its value, each being a superb example of the bookbinder's art, comparable to books that would easily cost several times as much.

And we think you'll be as proud to own these books as we are to have published them.

(Just initial the card and drop it in the mail!)

Sincerely,

Gerry Esposito
Director of Production

FREE
Early Bird Bonus!
Details on page 4.



- Buckskin Frank Leslie...his pistol always ready...was rumored to use his wife for target practice, tracing her outline with bullets as she stood against a wall in their home!
- Belle Starr, a liquid-eyed, black-haired siren, who seemed to infect men with banditry and passion. Her third husband was suspected of having murdered her from ambush--though it was never proven!
- Sitting Bull, chief of the Sioux, whose life of warfare began with the mercy-killing of a captive Crow woman about to be burned at the stake...and climaxed with the slaughter of Custer and his 7th Cavalry at the Little Bighorn!

These are just a few of the hard-riding, larger-than-life characters you'll meet in TIME-LIFE BOOKS' rip-roaring series...

THE OLD WEST

Dear Reader:

Someone once had the guts to ask Clay Allison what he did for a living. He must have been smiling when he asked the question, because he lived to repeat the answer. Allison said, "I am a shootist," and with those four words he eloquently summed up a long career dedicated to blasting his fellow men to smithereens.

Allison was one of a special breed in the Old West -- a gunfighter -- and you can read his story, along with those of dozens of other heroes and rascals, in the exciting pages of The Gunfighters, the fascinating introductory volume in THE OLD WEST series. You are invited to examine this book for 10 days FREE, without obligation to buy it.

Allison and men like him lived (and usually died) with six-gun in hand. They were seldom the glamorous figures the movies and television later made them, but lonely, bitter, frequently psychotic killers who belonged on a psychiatrist's couch. Some were outlaws and some were lawmen; frequently

Your OLD WEST adventure begins with The Gunfighters--
yours for a FREE 10-day examination.

To start you off on an OLD WEST adventure, we'd like to send you a copy of The Gunfighters for 10 days free -- so you can enjoy its wealth of photographs and illustrations in your own home...at your own pace. Share its fascinating anecdotes and portraits of famous Western figures with your family and friends. Discover for yourself the volume's value and authenticity. Then, if The Gunfighters isn't every bit as intriguing as we say it is, return it to us -- with no further obligation on your part.

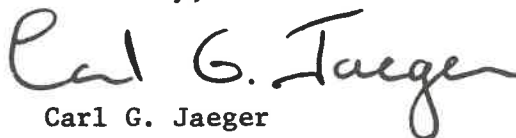
If you decide to keep it, you'll become a subscriber to THE OLD WEST series and you'll be billed only \$12.95 plus shipping and handling for The Gunfighters. Once you've had a chance to see for yourself the extraordinary quality of this volume, I'm sure you'll agree that the price is exceedingly low -- especially when you stop to consider that the average "best seller" -- without any illustrations -- costs considerably more.

Enjoy a memorable journey through the wide-open cattle towns
and brawling settlements of THE OLD WEST as you build a matched
set of handsome books.

Once you've become a subscriber, we'll send you future volumes in THE OLD WEST, one approximately every other month -- always for a 10-day free examination. Each volume is just \$12.95 plus shipping and handling. You keep only the books you want -- there is no minimum number to buy -- and you may cancel your subscription at any time simply by notifying us.

It's easy to order: just place The Gunfighters token on the postage-paid reply card, and drop it in the mail. Begin your OLD WEST adventure by sending for The Gunfighters today.

Sincerely,



Carl G. Jaeger
President

CGJ/GFC

EARLY BIRD BONUS!

If your order is received within the next two weeks, we'll send you a spectacular gift—a brilliantly reproduced poster-size gun chart—yours to keep with purchase of The Gunfighters. See the enclosed brochure for details.



THE OLD WEST

TIME-LIFE BOOKS INVITES YOU TO JOIN ITS EXPEDITION ACROSS THE GREAT PLAINS

SPECIAL OFFER!
First book just \$4.95!
You save \$8!

IN DARING DAYLIGHT HOLDUP 12 OUTLAWS ROB LIBERTY, MISSOURI, BANK OF \$60,000 First Daylight Bank Robbery in U.S. History!

Shortly before two o'clock on a February afternoon in 1866, a dozen men rode into Liberty, Missouri. It was St. Valentine's Day, but none of the horsemen looked like anybody's beau. All of them were muffled in long soldiers' overcoats, and some wore six-shooters strapped outside their coats. The first three riders dismounted in the deserted town square, taking up posts from which they could watch the surrounding streets. The others reined up in front of the Clay County Savings Association. Two of them dismounted and stepped into the small bank.

Inside, a clerk and a cashier were laboring over accounts at desks behind a wooden counter. The cashier, Greenup Bird, saw the two strangers stop to warm themselves at the stove. His son William, the clerk, went on writing. After a moment one of the men walked to the counter and slid a \$10 bill across the polished wood. "I'd like a bill changed," he said. As William reached for the bill, the stranger drew a six-shooter and, almost as an afterthought, broadened his request. "I'd like all the money in the bank," he said.

No one had ever said that, or anything like it, to an American bank clerk before. Except for a raid on a small Vermont bank by a band of Confederate guerrillas during the Civil War, no one had ever robbed a bank during business hours.

William Bird backed away in disbelief as the robbers hurdled the counter. One of them leveled a revolver at Greenup Bird. "Make a noise and we'll shoot you down," he warned. His partner struck William Bird with his gun and pushed him toward the bank's open vault. "Damn you, be quick," he said, shoving the clerk into the vault and following behind. There William gathered gold and silver coins from a shelf and stuffed them into a grain sack the robber had taken from under his coat.

The second robber, standing at Greenup Bird's desk, asked where the paper money was. "In the box," the cashier replied, pointing to a large tin container resting on the table. Six-shooter still in hand, the robber began to stack the contents—currency, bonds, bank notes and sheets of revenue stamps. When his partner emerged from the vault with a bulging sack, the legal tender was stuffed into it too; the total, it was later estimated, came to about \$60,000.

Jesse James and his brother Frank—for this was the first of the James Gang raids—were in business. They would be for the next 15 years, amassing a record of depredations that included, at a minimum, holdups of 12 banks, seven trains and five stages in 11 states and territories.



FRANK AND JESSE JAMES

Photographed in the early years of their career, the brothers flaunt their long-barreled revolvers. Frank (left), the older, was quiet and bookish, while Jesse was "reckless and devil-may-care."

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WESTERN HISTORY DEPARTMENT

A MIXED BAG OF KILLERS

Though some Western gunfight participants represented the law, the line between bad men and good was, at best, blurred. The facing foes usually had more in common than they cared to admit. When they had scores to settle, it hardly mattered which side of the law they were on; their law was the gun, their reflex response the stance of the gunfighter. One Texas gunfighter, Clay Allison, defined himself with one simple statement—"I am a shootist"—and the odd word carried all the professional status and pride of "artist" or "chemist." Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp were considered lawmen, but in 1883 a Dodge City newspaper noted that "Masterson has been credited with killing one man for every year of his life . . . Wyatt Earp is equally famous in the cheerful business of depopulating the country . . . he is popularly accredited with relegating to the dust no less than ten of his fellow men." John Wesley Hardin dispatched 44 men during his 10-year career, including a snoring hotel guest who had disturbed his rest. Jim Miller, a loner, boasted a total of 51 killings beginning at the age of eight when he did in his grandparents.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARY



JOHN KING FISHER admitted killing seven men but added, "I don't count Mexicans."



BAT MASTERSON, fast-shooting sheriff, wound up as a New York City sports writer.



CLAY ALLISON once helped lynch a suspected killer, then beheaded him.



BILL BRAZELTON, stagecoach robber, still wore his mask when slain by a posse.

WESTERN PECCOS MUSEUM, PECOS, TEXAS

WELLS FARGO BANK HISTORY ROOM, SAN FRANCISCO

LOCAL RANCHER REPORTS SEVERAL CALVES MISSING

Neighboring Rancher's Cows Often Give Birth to Twins

The taking of innocent lives was a frequent price of vigilante action, and the likelihood increased whenever cattle barons went after small ranchers or homesteaders who were trying to claim a piece of the range. Not all of the victims were above reproach; sometimes they had succumbed to temptation and snatched a few of the big operators' cattle to start their own herds.

A leading Montana cattleman, Granville Stuart, wryly described such a case. He had been missing some calves from his herds. "Near our home ranch," he said, "we discovered one rancher whose cows invariably had twin calves and frequently triplets, while the range cows in that vicinity were nearly all barren and would persist in hanging around this man's corral, envying his cows their numerous children and bawling and lamenting their own childless fate. This state of affairs continued until we were obliged to call around that way and threaten to hang the man if his cows had any more twins."

Step back into THE

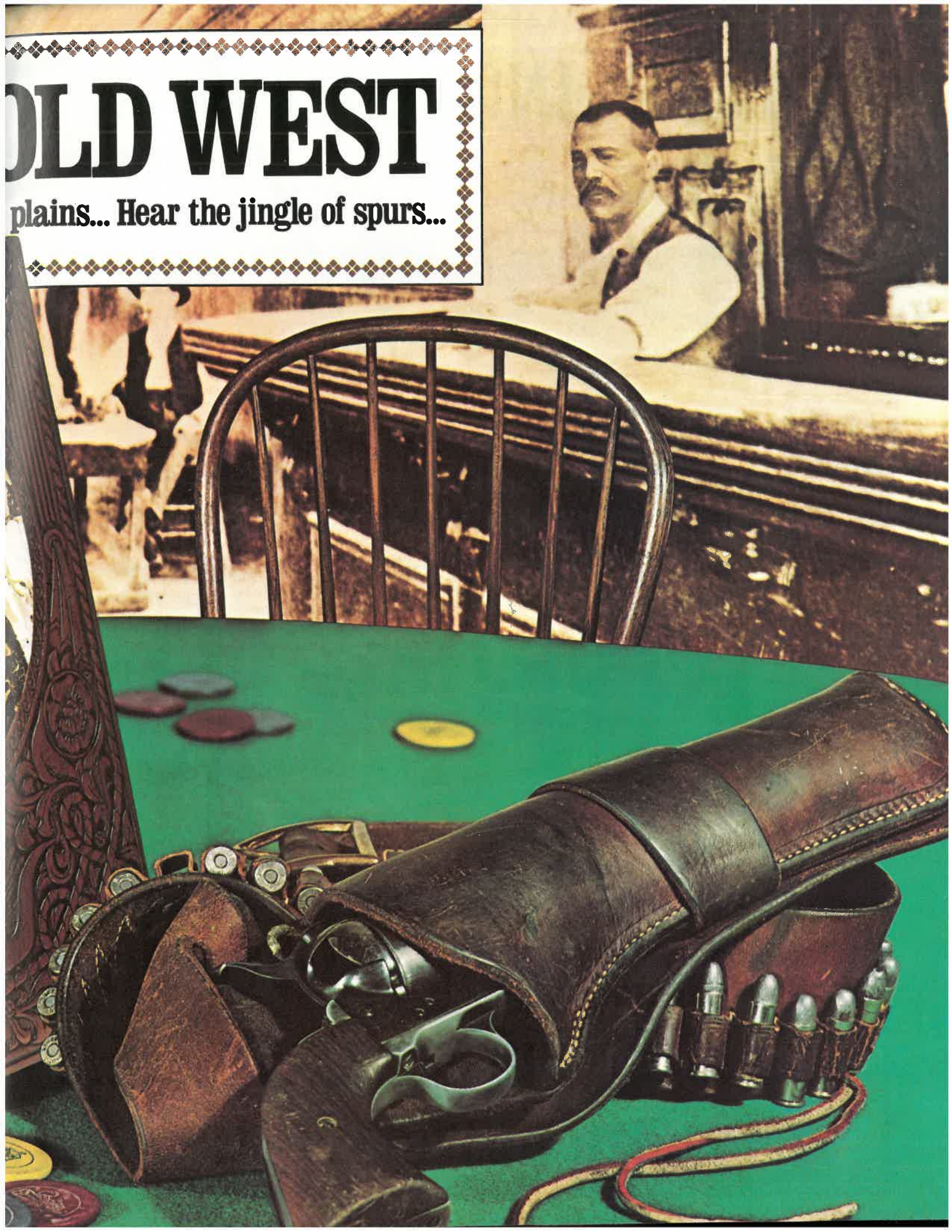
TIME
LIFE
BOOKS

Smell the leather...the whiskey...the horses...Breathe the dust of the



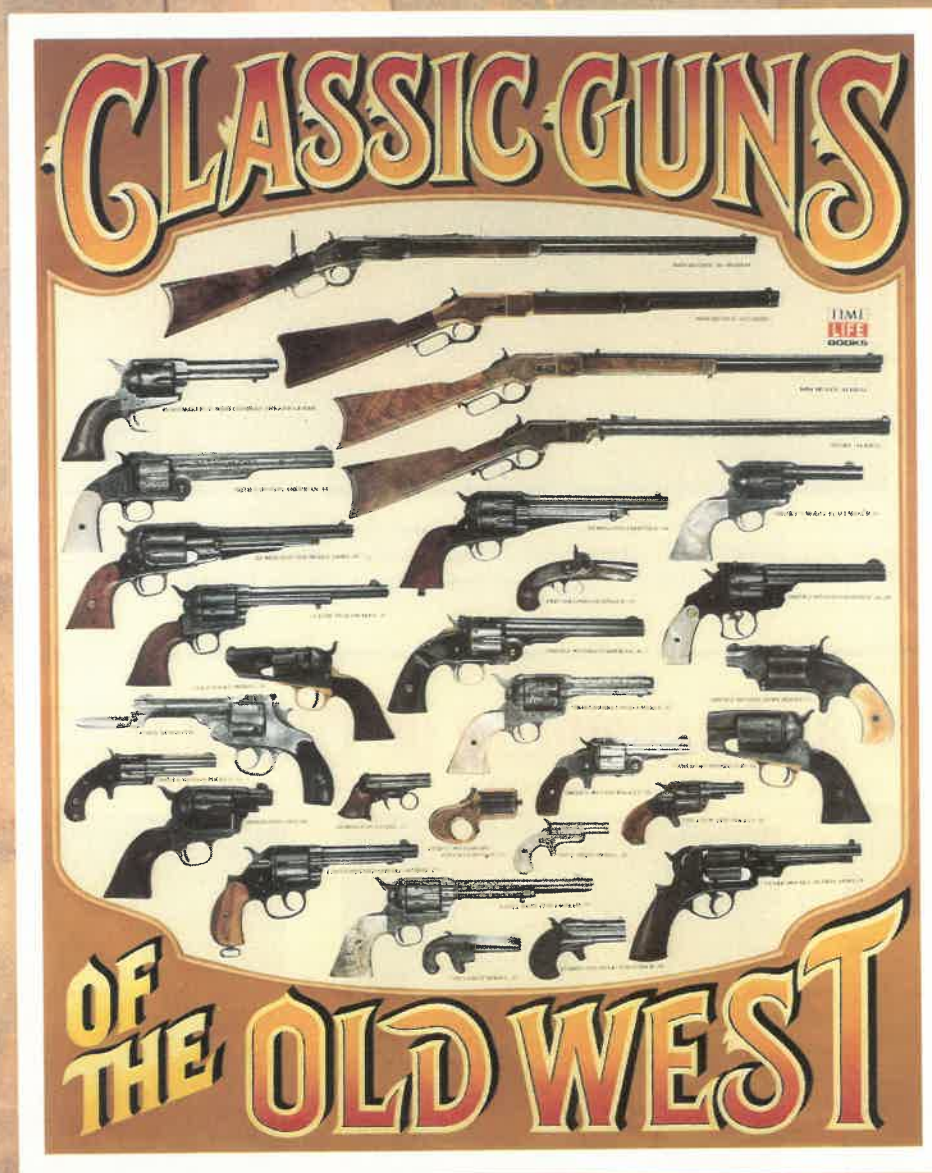
OLD WEST

plains... Hear the jingle of spurs...



FREE Early Bird Bonus!

OLD WEST GUN CHART ...when you purchase *The Gunfighters!*



If your order for your introductory volume to **THE OLD WEST** is received within the next two weeks, we'll send you this handsome 23" x 29" wall chart. Featuring full-color photographs of 30 famous guns of the Old West, this exciting chart gives you a close-up look at the pistols, revolvers and rifles that helped tame the frontier...from the small but effective Knucklebuster .32 and the mean-looking Peacemaker .45 to the sure-fire Henry .44 rifle. This superbly reproduced souvenir chart is yours **FREE** when you purchase your introductory volume...but your order must be received within the next two weeks!

**Get a FREE 10-day examination of your introductory volume...
plus a FREE gift with your purchase...
when your order is received within two weeks!**



JAMES

RISE TO MYTHS AND LEGENDS AND FOR COLLECTORS TO ARGUE ABOUT BREIHAN

gun is a Smith & Wesson. Each owner claims his gun is the one with which "the dirty little coward shot Mr. Howard," the phony name used for a time by Jesse James. A final answer to this claim would be worth much money, verifying that one gun is *the* historical gun.

The ballad about the killing of Jesse James paints killer Bob Ford as a pretty lowdown character. To millions of Americans who read of his exploits, Jesse came to represent the courage, boldness, ingenuity and manliness associated in the popular mind with the settlement of the Mississippi valley and the West.

Jesse really possessed these attributes, as well as a sense of humor and justice. But the famed bandit could also be mean and resentful, and in some ways treacherous. He would brood over fancied wrongs and never fully trusted anyone. Perhaps his moody nature was not unjustified. When he trusted a friend, he was killed.

Jesse had come up the hard way, from the wild days of the Civil War. He had spent about 15 years of his life in armed robbery, with great success so far as escaping the law was concerned.

Born September 5, 1847 in Clay County, Missouri, Jesse Woodson James was a lad when the Civil War began. His father was pro-South and early in 1862 brother Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's guerillas, drawing his whole family into the orbit of passionate feeling. Prior

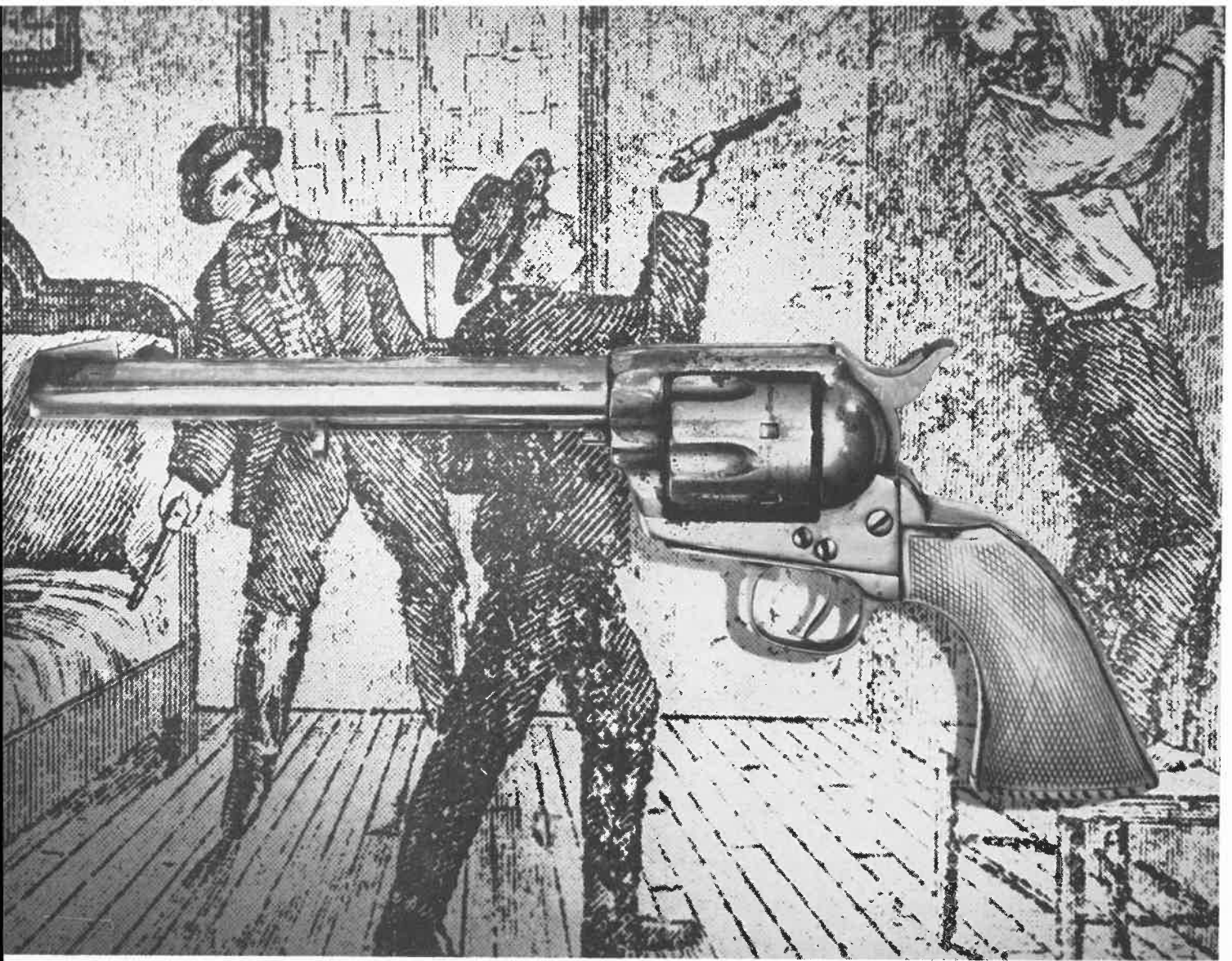
\$25,000 REWARD
JESSE JAMES
DEAD OR ALIVE

\$15,000 REWARD FOR FRANK JAMES
\$5000 Reward for any Known Member of the James Band

SIGNED
ST. LOUIS MIDLAND RAILROAD

Jesse's young friend Bob Ford, with whom he planned robbery, shot him when he turned his back.





Colt .45 with 19 notches in butt is said to be one with which Bob Ford killed Jesse James but claim is questioned. Gun is placed over old artist's version of shooting by Fords which shows Jesse on chair at right dusting picture frame.



Jesse's home in Kearney, Mo., shows the window opposite pump through which Pinkertons threw bomb, killing half-brother and blowing off his mother's arm. Jesse returned to home in death, was buried in yard.



WHAT PISTOL FOR POLICE?



**U. S. OFFICERS PARTIAL TO REVOLVERS
FOR THEIR RELIABILITY BUT EUROPEANS
INSIST ON AUTOMATICS FOR THEIR SPEED**

By HARVEY BRANDT

THERE IS perhaps no single question of firearms so positively settled as what gun is the best for police—and the Atlantic Ocean seems to be the dividing line as far as the answer. In Europe the answer is automatics; they are carried by uniformed and plainclothes officers, by forest rangers and secret agents. But on this side of the water, Canadian and U. S. officers invariably carry revolvers.

The crux of the argument lies in the mechanical difference between automatics and revolvers.

Revolvers carry five or six cartridges in the revolving cylinder, corresponding to the clip magazine of an automatic. But in an automatic, where a platform is pushed up under the cartridges by a spring to feed the shots to the barrel, the revolver cylinder has a never-failing mechanical link direct to the trigger. When the trigger is pulled, the cylinder must rotate a fresh cartridge in line with the barrel, whether it fires or not.

In an automatic, sand or dirt can slow up the movement of the cartridge platform or "follower" and so cause a hesitation in loading, sometimes getting the cartridge cocked sideways and jamming the gun. To clear a jam the slide must be pulled back with the other hand—something an officer cannot always do when handcuffed to a criminal or injured. A revolver even if a misfire occurs, need only be clicked again and the next cartridge will come up.

The substance of the American police argument against automatics boils down to one of "reliability." Automatics are faster than revolvers in the hands of an unskilled or semi-skilled police shooter. But their drawback is their "unreliability."

Exponents of the revolver wage an almost constant verbal battle with the auto pistol advocates. Yet which type of weapon is carried seems to be decided not only by the current function of the officer in society, but also by history.

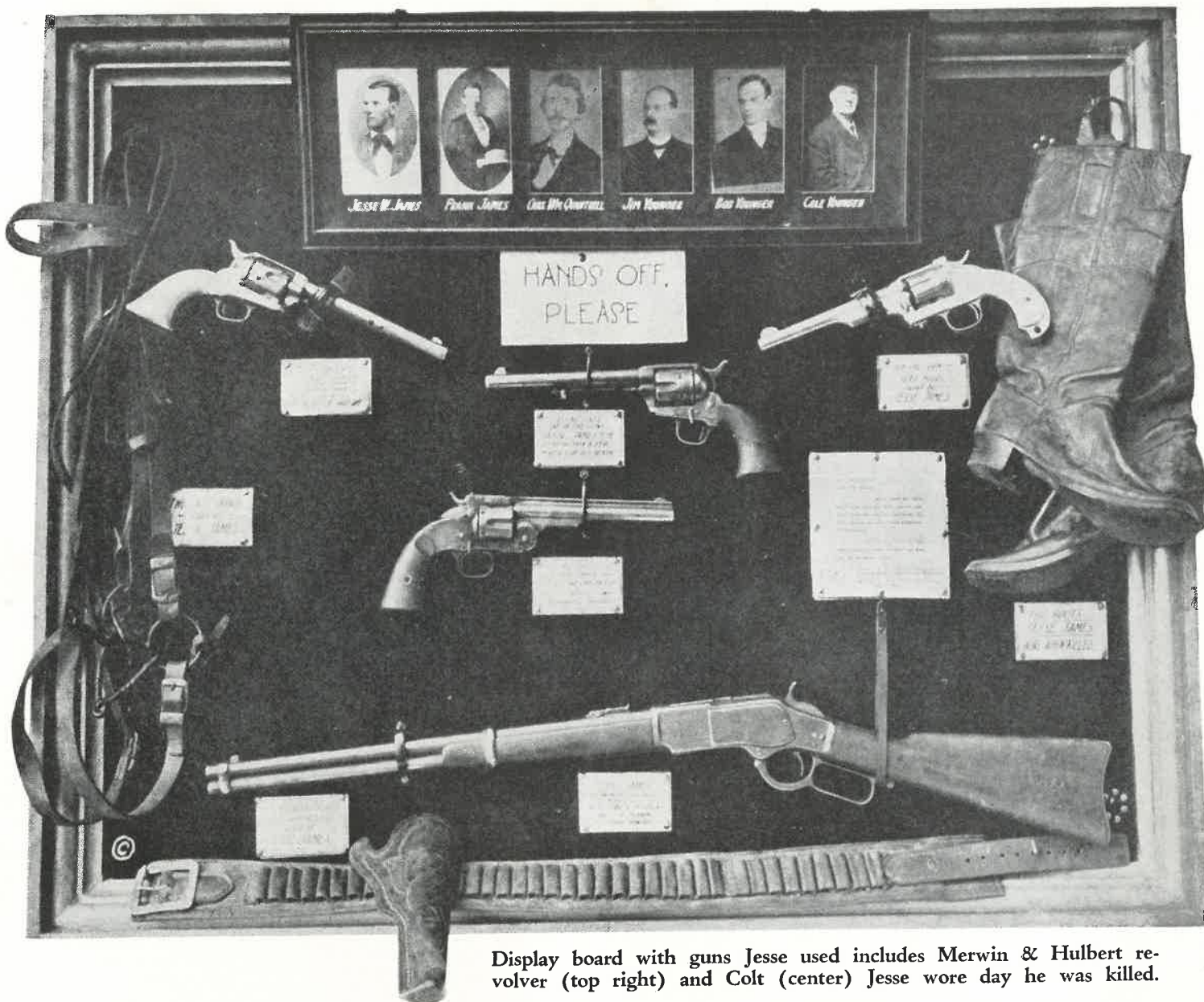
Modern American police departments began about the middle of the last century. The "watches" which walked the streets at night gradually were organized into city "armies" which retained their civilian character. The officers worked an ordinary day and then went home to their families. Their guns were mainly civilian type weapons.

In Europe on the other hand police have a national character. The gendarmes of France are typical. Administered by the army, the French gendarmes serve as combined state and military police, going anywhere in the country. They are on call of the national government.

Living in barracks along military lines, the gendarmes are recruited from former soldiers whose peace-time compulsory enlistments have expired. Because these national police serve as models for city police in most European countries, the equipment of the city police has taken on a military character. Rifles are kept at most police barracks, while often police on routine duty before the city hall will carry submachine guns, more for "show" than to actually use.

The European policeman is more a soldier, while the American policeman is primarily a civilian. Through the years this separation between European and American police departments has become more extreme.

American police have used revolvers from the earliest



Display board with guns Jesse used includes Merwin & Hulbert revolver (top right) and Colt (center) Jesse wore day he was killed.

to this, Frank had fought with regular Missouri Confederate troops, but there is no record of his family being molested until after Frank joined Quantrill, that mixture of patriot and brigand whom the Federals tried to destroy.

Then the Union troopers called on the James house to find Frank. Whips backed up their questions and Jesse's mother and sister Susan were put into a filthy jail where Susan almost died from fever. Jesse escaped, and with Frank and Quantrill became accustomed to the sound of shots in the dark, ambushes along forest-bordered roads in the Missouri country, and the sight of violent death. Jesse received an almost fatal lung wound in a skirmish at Flat Rock Ford in August of 1864, but was nursed back to health by a family who lived nearby.

After Lee's surrender Jesse led a



band of guerillas under a flag of truce to Lexington, Missouri, to surrender to Union troops. There a soldier fired at him, wounding him through the same lung so severely that he was given up for dead. This time he was cared for by a cousin, Zerelda Mimms, whom he later married.

It seemed as if they would not let Jesse surrender. Under terms of the Drake Constitution of 1865 as adopted by the state of Missouri, all Confederate soldiers or sympathizers were strictly forbidden to practice any professions or act as deacons of any church under heavy penalty. For ten years this situation existed, during which Jesse could not have studied for any advanced kind of work, nor have become an active member of the community in ordinary fashion. By then, it was too late. Jesse James was (Continued on page 49)



James Arca 1866



G

Frank James circa 1866

Don Reynolds
Curator
St. Joseph Museum

Dear Don:

Enclosed are a couple of prints made from life sized portraits which I rendered from copies of two recently discovered tin-types - Since you have an interest in the subject matter I thought that you should have them - I have also sent copies to Gary Chilcote -

The town of Independence Mo. will be exhibiting my exhibit entitled "The Westerner On Wood" during the Santa - Fe Days celebration on Aug. 30th, 31st and Sept 1st and 2nd. The show contains life size portraits of most of the notables of the old west and will be located in the Gary Plowman Studio on the town square. Hours of showing - 12:00 noon until 9:00 PM daily. I'm sure that you would enjoy seeing it. Come if your schedule will allow. Curators tell me that it is the largest one of its kind in existence -

It may be that you folks in St. Joseph would want to borrow it for a special occasion some day -

Sincerely
George Wargel

JESSE JAMES*

ATCHISON COUNTY, MO

Atchison County Journal, 8 April 1882

JAMES' JOURNEY

Jesse James, the Notorious Outlaw, Killed The Bandit Taken Unawares, and Shot While off his Guard

St. Joseph, April, -Between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning, Jesse James the notorious outlaw, before who the deeds of FraDiatralo, Dick Turpin and Schinderhannes, dwindled into insignificance, was killed by a boy 20 years old, at his residence in this city. In the light of moral reason the shooting was wholly unjustifiable, but the law is vindicated. The \$50,000 reward offered by the state for the body of the brigand, dead or alive, will doubtless go to the man who had the courage to draw a revolver on the notorious outlaw when his back was turned, as in this case. There is little doubt the killing was the result of a premeditated plan formed by Robert and Charles Ford, several months ago. Charles had been an accomplice of Jesse James since the third of last November, and possessed his confidence. Robert accompanied them here. On Sunday, March 13, Jesse, his wife and two children removed from Kansas City, (where they had lived for several months, until they found their whereabouts would be suspected) in a wagon to this city, arriving here Nov. 8, 1881 accompanied by Charles Ford and rented a house on the corner of Lafayette and Twenty first street where they stayed two month, when they secured a house at 1318 on Lafayette street, giving the name of Thomas Howard. The house is a one story cottage, painted white, with green blinds, and romantically situated on the brow of a lofty eminence east of the city, commanding a fine view of the principal portion of the town, the river and railroad, and adapted as by nature for the perilous calling of James. Just east of the house is a deep ravine, and beyond a broad expanse of open country backed by a belt of timber. The house except from the west side, can be seen for several miles. A large yard surrounded the cottage, and near by is a stable where James had been keeping two horses, which were found this morning.

Charles and Robert Ford have been occupying one of the rooms in the rear of the building, and have been planning to kill James ever since last fall. A short time ago, before Robert had joined James, the latter proposed to rob the Platte City bank. He said the Burgess trial would commence there today, and his plan was if they could get another companion to take views of the situation of the bank, and while the arguments were being heard in the trials, which would engage the attention of the citizens, boldly execute on his favorite raids. Charles Ford approved of the plan and suggested his brother Robert as a companion worthy of sharing the enterprise with them. Jesse had met the brother at the latter's house, near Richmond, three years ago and consented to see him. The two men accordingly went to where Robert was, and arranged to have him accompany them to Platte City. As stated all three came to St. Joe a week ago Sunday. They remained at the house all week. Jesse thought it best that Robert should not exhibit himself on the premises, lest the presence of three able-bodies men who were doing nothing should excite suspicion. They had fixed upon tonight to go to Platte

ATCHISON COUNTY, MO

Atchison County Journal, 8 April 1882 cont...

City. Ever since the boys had been with Jesse they had watched for an opportunity to shoot him, but he was always so heavily armed that it was impossible to draw a weapon without James seeing it. They declare they had no idea of taking him alive, considering the undertaking suicidal. The opportunity they had long wished for came this morning. Breakfast was over. Charles Ford and Jesse James had been in the stable currying the horses, preparatory to their night ride. On retiring to the room where Robert Ford was, Jesse said, "Its an awfully hot day." He pulled off his coat and vest and tossed them on the bed, then he said, " I guess I'll take off my pistols, for fear somebody will see them if I walk in the yard." He unbuckled the belt in which he carried two 45 caliber revolvers, one a Smith & Weston and the other a Colt, and laid them on the bed. He then picked up a brush, with the intention of dusting his pictures which hung on the wall. To do this he got on a chair. His back was now turned to the brothers, who silently stepped between him and his revolvers and at one motion from Charlie both drew their weapons. Robert was the quickest of the two, and in a flash he had his long weapon to a level with his eye, with the muzzle not four feet from the back of the outlaws head. Even in that motion, quick as thought, there was something that did not escape the ears of the hunted man. He made a motion as it to turn his head, but too late. A nervous pressure on the trigger a quick flash, a sharp report, and a ball crashed through the outlaw's skull. There was no outcry, just a swaying of the body, and it fell heavily back upon the floor. The ball was fired from a Colts forty-five caliber handsomely finished revolver presented by the dead man to his slayer only a few days before. Mrs. James was in the kitchen. Hearing a shot she ran into the sleeping room, there to find her husband lying upon the floor, while his slayers, each with a revolver in his hand, were making for the fence in the rear of the house. Robert was in the act of scaling the fence, when she stepped to the door and calling him, "Robert, you have done this, come back." Robert answered: "I swear to God I did not." They then returned to where she stood. Mrs. James ran to the side of her husband and lifted his head. Life was not extinct, and when asked if he were hurt, it seemed to her that he wished to say something but could not. She tried to wipe away the blood that coursed over his face from the hole in his head, but it seemed to her "that the blood would come faster than she could wash it away," and in her hands Jesse James died.

Charles Ford explained to Mrs. James that "a pistol had accidentally gone off."

"Yes," said Mrs. James, "guess it went off on purpose." They went to the telegraph office and sent a message to sheriff of Timberlake of Clay county, to Gov. Crittenden and other officers, and then surrendered themselves to Marshal Craig. They accompanied the officers to the Marshal's headquarters. At 3 o'clock they were removed to the old circuit court room, where an inquest was held in the presence of an immense crowd. Mrs. James also accompanied the officers to the city hall, having previously left her two children, aged 7 and 3, at the house of Mrs. Livinal, who had know the James' under their assumed name. She was greatly affected by the tragedy, and her heart-rending moans and expressions of grief were sorrowful evidences the love she bore the desperado. The undertaker was instructed to move the body to his establishment a large crowd accompanied the coroner to the morgue, but only a few, including the reporters were admitted. An inspection of the body revealed two large bullet holes on the right side of the breast, within three inches of the nipple, and another

ATCHISON COUNTY, MO

Atchison County Journal, 8 April 1882 cont...

bullet wound in the leg, and the absence of the middle finger of the left hand. After viewing the remains the coroner repaired to the court, when soon after Mrs. James, in the custody of Marshal Craig, and the two Ford boys, both heavily armed, followed. They were kept in separate apartments until the jury announced themselves ready to hear the testimony.

A **Herald** reporter viewed the body at the undertaker's. He was a fine-looking man, apparently 40 years of age, with a broad forehead, and his physiognomy was that of an intelligent as well as resolute and daring man. His house has the appearance of an armory. A number of guns and pistols, including a repeating rifle, needle-gun, navy revolver, and a good store of ammunition were found there. Jesse was in the habit of wearing two belts, with a brace of very fine revolvers and twenty-five extra cartridges. In a small stable near by were discovered several fine horses, the property of James. The Ford brothers claim that they are detectives, and they have been on James' track for a long time. It is believed they were with James in the Blue Cut robbery and that they were influenced in killing him by the hope of getting the big reward which had been offered for James dead or alive by the government and by the express and railroad companies.



Permission was granted to publish this photo by the James-Younger Gang Website. The James-Younger Gang is a not-for-profit educational & historical Missouri corporation, which serves as a source of exchange for writers, historians, & family descendants. Organized in 1866- Reorganized 1993. The Gang is dedicated to help support the James Farm and Museum, Liberty Bank Museum, Northfield Bank Museum, Pattee House Museum, Bushwhacker's Museum, Milton F. Perry Research Library, and all other historic sites and institutions preserving James-Younger era history. Members will enjoy receiving news about new research, member projects, field trips, and museums, through a quarterly publication and periodic membership newsletters. The Gang sponsors an annual convention for their membership. Such

conferences are held in various locations around the nation that are significant to James-Younger era history. The annual "Milton F. Perry Award", sponsored by the Gang, recognizes authors, writers, Nebraska City, Nebraska, 1875 and researchers for the best contributions to James-Younger history each year. Whether you are a writer, historian, family descendant, Artwork by George Warfel,

Courtesy Phillip W. Steele...
Past President

or simply want to escape from the stresses of everyday life by joining others with common interest in the James-Younger story, you will enjoy being a Gang member. We invite you to ride with us by sending your membership dues today. Our group started in 1993 and that this is our 10th year. Our annual meeting will be in Sherman Texas this Sept. For information regarding membership and activities in our organization, please contact Marcia Smith at nottabadvue@earthlink.net. Donna Rose@dmrose@ix.netcom.com President- James-Younger Gang (homepage <http://www.islandnet.com/~the-gang/index.html>) **The James-Younger Gang Membership Form... Come Ride With Us! Please print out this membership form and send it to us!**

Mailing Address: PO 78 Liberty, Mo 64068 USA

Name: _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: (check one) Inside US: ☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$30 Couple Outside US: ☐ \$25 Individual ☐ \$35 Couple

BUCHANAN COUNTY

St. Joseph, MO Facts

The following facts were compiled by the Chamber of Commerce of this city:

St. Joseph is the 87th city in size in the United States.

Population (1 924)—82,71 2.

Assessed Valuation —\$79,241 ,390.

St. Joseph has the largest plant for the manufacture of school and writing tablets in America.

St. Joseph has the largest ice cream cone plant in America.

St. Joseph has the largest winter wheat mill in America.

St. Joseph has the largest alfalfa feed mill in America.

St. Joseph has the largest foundry for making "White Way" standards in America.

St. Joseph has the largest pancake flour mill in America.

St. Joseph leads the nation in the manufacture of harness.

St. Joseph is the third wholesale dry goods center of the United States.

St. Joseph is the fifth city of the nation in the manufacture of candy first per capita.

St. Joseph is the fifth city of the nation in the sale of hardware --first per capita.

St. Joseph is the fifth largest live stock market in the United States.

St. Joseph is the eighth city in America as a railway mileage center —six roads, the C. B. & Q., the Santa Fe, the Rock Island, the Missouri Pacific, the Union Pacific and the Great Western, owning 50,542 miles of track serve St. Joseph.

St. Joseph is the tenth city in the United States in flour production.

St. Joseph is the center of the great agricultural districts of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

St. Joseph is the crossing point and headquarters of two of the nation's greatest transcontinental highways, the Jefferson and the Pikes Peak-Ocean-to-Ocean.

St. Joseph has one of the best equipped and most efficient fire departments in the nation.

St. Joseph has under construction a park and boulevard system equaling the finest in the United States and unequaled by any city of its size in America.

St. Joseph has under construction a civic center and city hall to cost over \$3,000,000.

St. Joseph has available many excellent building sites on track age [sic] at reasonable prices.

St. Joseph has never had a successful labor strike.

St. Joseph has over 100 miles of paved highways radiating in all directions.

St. Joseph has a well equipped municipal tourists' camp.

St. Joseph has a government recognized municipal aviation field.

St. Joseph has a municipal eighteen hole golf links.

St. Joseph has a municipal swimming pool and athletic field.

—St. Joseph *Catholic Tribune*, 27 September, 1924

Biography's

JAMES DANIEL AGLER LIFE AND TIMES

James Daniel Agler was born in Carrol County, Indiana on 11 December 1844. His parents were Daniel and Elizabeth (Derr) Agler. Between 1850 and 1860, his father took his family to Taylor County, Iowa, near Bedford. James was brought up to be a farmer and did farm all his life, except the time he spent in the army during the civil war.

James enlisted in the army when he was 16, but said he was 19 years of age. On his enrollment papers he appears to be five feet five and inches tall, fair complexion, hazel eyes. He was accepted in the army as a private on the 21st of May 1864 for one hundred days, as was the whole 46th. Regiment of Iowa Infantry. His company was D.

The 46th. Regiment saw duty in Memphis, Tenn. 20 June 1864 and to Collierville, Tenn. 27 June 1864. The Regiment was on guard on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad till September 1864. A detachment of Company I. repulsed Forest's attack on Memphis in August of 1864. The Regiment was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, 23 September 1864, where they were enlisted.

James returned to Bedford, Iowa and to the farm. He married Lydia Maxfield, daughter of Albert J. and Esther (Cook) Maxfield, 6th. of December 1867. The service was performed by C.F. Drescher, a Justice of the Peace at the time.

Children of James and Lydia were as follows --William Henry Agler, born 2 March 1869 and died 4 April 1942; Daniel Harvey Agler, born 5 April 1870 and died 12 August 1872; Addie Agler born 16 September 1872 and died 23 December 1931; Mary Ettie Agler born 6 August 1877; Anna Mae Agler, born 3 July 1882; Birdie Mabel Agler, born 17 July 1888 and died 21 October 1912, and an infant son who was born 30 October 1890 and died 6 November 1890.

Lydia's father Albert Maxfield was going to Phillips Co., Kansas to settle and farm. James and his family went with them maybe to settle there. They took some ground below Phillips-burg to settle on. They went on Buffalo's hunts a number of times. Once Jesse James, the outlaw came by their place and took William and his sister Addie as hostages in the timber close to their place. The gang left for parts unknown, when they heard that the army was coming close to them. The Children were returned unharmed before they left. James did not like Kansas because it was so harden, and two years later they returned to Bedford, Iowa..

He applied for an army disability pension in 1890, when the pension act was passed onto law. He was living in Bedford, Iowa, then and according to his claim, that he couldn't work to make a living, because of his disease of the kidney's and bowels and had piles that were contracted while in the army.

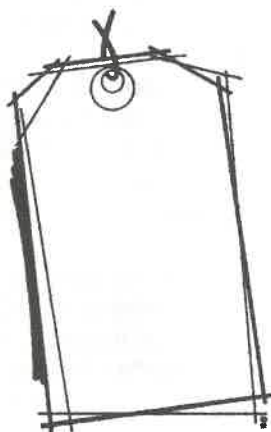
He lived in St. Joseph, Missouri, with one of his daughters, Mrs. Anna Mae Benson at 3033 Mitchell Ave. for a while. He died there on the 27th. of February 1922 at the age of 77 and was buried in the City Cemetery at Bedford, Iowa. Lydia was to follow him in a couple of years, as she died at the same address in St. Joseph on the 3rd. of December 1926, aged 75 and is buried by his side in Bedford, Iowa

By Kenneth D. Cox

WORTH COUNTY

Nurses And Attendants Register

1st. Date of License	Name	Residence	DOB	Place of Birth
20 Aug. 1921	Elizabeth Ann Garrett	Grant City, MO	19 July 1896	Tipton, IA
10 Dec. 1924	Nile Benson	Grant City, MO	23 Nov. 1900	Grant City
4 Aug. 1916	Eunice Tiel Duckworth	Grant City, MO	24 Aug. 1891	Albany, MO
12 Jan. 1922	Mary Evelyn Girling	Sheridan, MO	3 Aug. 1878	Vermillion, OH
12 Jan. 1922	Jenine Hull	Sheridan, MO	18 Oct. 1868	Chillicothe, MO
2 June 1928	Mary Andrews Kent	Barnsdall, OK	17 May 1907	Worth, MO
14 Dec. 1921	Emma Wilson	Sheridan, MO	1878	Shenandoah, IA



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE!

NORTHWEST MISSOURI GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 382

ST. JOSEPH, MO 64502

Worth County, MO

Marriage Records	1861-1873	27pp	WO-MO-01	\$7.00
Marriage Records Books A,B,C,D,E	1873-1910	127pp	WO-MO-02	\$13.00
Probate Index	1861-1911	159pp	WO-MO-03.	\$7.00
Merchants License Book	1879-1889	47pp	WO-MO-08	\$4.00
Deaths from Area Newspapers	1874-1893	46pp	WO-MO-10	\$7.00
Deaths from Area Newspapers	1894-1899	65pp	WO-MO-11	\$8.00
Deaths from Area Newspapers	1900-1903	64pp	WO-MO-12	\$8.00
Deaths from Area Newspapers	1904-1906	55pp	WO-MO-13	\$7.00
Deaths from Area Newspapers	1907-1910	70pp	WO-MO-14	\$8.00
1876 Special Census (3 twps only, Fletchall, Smith, Union)		98pp	WO-MO-15	\$10.00

9-19-85

Dear Don & Maude,

You may be surprised to hear from me after all this time. Mother sent me some information she recently received from Aunt Billie & Uncle Edrl. It seems to be the archives for our branch of the family. I am not a researcher as yet but merely a collector. So it was delighted to read a copy of a letter you wrote to Uncle Malcolm in 1969 giving lots of delicious, previously unknown items about the Oklahoma sojourn of the Jones brothers. I really appreciate having it.

You asked him about the Daniel Jones trip to California. When Grandpa & Grandma broke up housekeeping, Max was kind enough to give me the iron covered wagon & open that used to sit on the glass front desk in the parlor. It has sentimental value as it used to play with it as a child. It was the one interesting thing I could find to keep me occupied. You probably remember it, too. The writing on the back is as follows: "Daniel Jones and sons Fielding H., Albert L., Alfred B., made trip to Deer Lodge, Mont. May 5, 1865" on the side is printed "in memory of _____ (illegible) born Dec 1, 1849 _____ (illegible) Dec 10, 1939". "Lettie and Ollie" are also written on it. The wagon is a replica of a 490 wagon is 1849

and get James family material for the museum. He never got

recently found a cardboard poster
at an antique show advertising
"The Sensational Western Life Drama -
Jesse James, The Notorious
Outlaw". It depicts Jesse & co.
saving the maiden & chasing off the
"bad guys". The interesting part is
they are being assisted by a
black couple, he with a gun & she
with a broom. I gave it to Lyn
for his birthday. He is making
a frame. It's probably early 20's vintage.

Sarah is 22 and recently
graduated with a journalism major &
political science minor. She is currently
working in Washington, D. C. on the
staff of our congressman. Ann is 19
and a sophomore in advertising.
Lyn owns a fertilizer & ag. chemical
business & half of a racing
quarter horse business. He is
still a part time public health
nurse.

We'd be interested to hear from
you. Maybe we can share information.

Love,
Glee

is stamped on both sides of the toy wagon. This was obviously done for some occasion. I'm not sure what. Anyway, I thought you'd like the information if you don't already have it.

We are history and antique buffs so both I love all this family history. Lyn & I visited the Barton grave in Winthrop, Ark. this spring. What a thrill! I think Uncle Earl sent pictures around I'll not & you'd like one let me know. Grandpa Barton has a stone but not Sarah. I'm sure she is there but no one could afford the stone. The VSC must have put up his civil war marker & stone. We also visited the Oklahoma grave of my Confederate Great Grandpa on Daddy's side of the family. I want to go to Georgia to see the Barton museum. Do you have pictures & info about that? I'm sure mother shared it with Earl. Marion recently sent me his Nunlap information. He hasn't documented it all yet but it should make us DAR eligible. The girls are eligible on Lyn's side & documented so if Marion doesn't get to it first I'll try to do that.

Lyn is a big Jesse James fan & we have several books. Each year we think we will go to the big Jesse James Days in Northfield, Minn. As yet we haven't made it. I

9-19-85

7/25

Glee Dodson
515 Main St.
Breckenridge, MN 56520

u. We sort of keep track of you all
l & Aunt Billie. I am not sure how
u. Ma ude thinks it was when grand-
. Erma & Bill came to see us but
ed to return the visit on the way to
gotten around to it.
letter intending to ask Max about the
mit that I don't remember it. Nor
s, he thought, some sort of award for
h. Anyway, Max said that he thought
e of the Jones reunions. I am sorry
help. I expected that Uncle Earls'
they do not. We are curious about it
ys were doing up there in Montana.
or in a wagon or stagecoach. No
e there? I have heard that Grand-
te trips to sort of look over the
Oklahoma. Maybe he inherited this

's a good hobby. On long evenings or
es we also take interest in local and
es that scoundrel Jesse James. Have
for years.

J.J. I will tell you that we used to
ead near Kearney, Mo. to see and talk
k. He being a fox hunter, knew some
around Agency. He mentioned Henry
y Crwick too. This was a bit of luck
e since he was not too friendly with
ter more talk about the Dearborn, Mo.
up and even showed Maude and I and
he bomb tha t blew off his grandfather's

photographs that I have acquired over
on Jesse James and his gang. One that
Robertus Love. I am not sure of the

to Kearney, I wanted to verify a signa-
en found in the old railroad depot at
m in the thirties. The name of Frank
187? " was placed beneath the wains-
building was finished. I being the
Agency, was called to take a picture
St. Joseph newspaper... Bob James,
are, said that he thought that it was
e sure. "I think I can find one to cor-
e went into the old house and he pro-
different drawers in furniture.. old
th age, suffered from the search.. but
of his search was located his wife

descended on him and ran us both out of the house. I never did see
the signature that he sought to find! Years later, after I became
employed by the St. Joseph Museum, the same woman, by then a widow,
asked Roy Coy, Director of the museum and trusted by the James', to
come to Excelsior Spgs., Mo. where she had taken residence in a rest
home, and get James family material for the museum. He nev



Mr & Mrs. Ken Reynolds
3108 Edmund
St. Joseph, Mo.

64500

12/7/35

Dear Glee & Lyn,

It was nice to hear from you. We sort of keep track of you all and your folks through Uncle Earl & Aunt Billie. I am not sure how long it has been since seeing you. Maude thinks it was when grandfather or grandmother Jones died. Erma & Bill came to see us but it was a few years back. We vowed to return the visit on the way to somewhere but so far we have not gotten around to it.

Waited around to answer your letter intending to ask Max about the little covered wagon. I must admit that I don't remember it. Nor does Maude. Max said that it was, he thought, some sort of award for attendance of achievement or such. Anyway, Max said that he thought that it was probably given at one of the Jones reunions. I am sorry that I myself cannot be of more help. I expected that Uncle Earl's might know something about but they do not. We are curious about it too! I wonder what the Jones boys were doing up there in Montana. They must have gone on horses.. or in a wagon or stagecoach. No trains yet then to that area were there? I have heard that Granddad Sam liked to go on real estate trips to sort of look over the country.. such as the venture to Oklahoma. Maybe he inherited this honestly? But then Montana?!

We too are history buffs. It's a good hobby. On long evenings or long trips. Being St. Josephites we also take interest in local and western history and that includes that scoundrel Jesse James. Have clipped news items about Jesse for years.

Since you are interested in J.J. I will tell you that we used to go down to the old James homestead near Kearney, Mo. to see and talk with Mr. Bob James, son of Frank. He being a fox hunter, knew some of the same people that we did around Agency. He mentioned Henry Davis and said that he knew Henry Crwick too. This was a bit of luck for us and sort of broke the ice since he was not too friendly with would-be conversationalists. After more talk about the Dearborn, Mo. Fox-Hunt festival etc. he warmed up and even showed Maude and I and my folks, the iron fragment of the bomb that blew off his grandmother's

I have a collection of Jones photographs that I have acquired over the years. Also several books on Jesse James and his gang. One that I have been watching for is by Robertus Love. I am not sure of the title.

The first time that we went to Kearney, I wanted to verify a signature of Frank James that had been found in the old railroad depot at Agency, Mo. when it was torn down in the thirties. The name of Frank J. and "left Agency for St. Jo, 187?" was placed beneath the wainscoting of the depot before the building was finished. I being the only shutter-bug in the town of Agency, was called to take a picture that with story appeared in the St. Joseph newspaper... Bob James, after a long look at the signature, said that he thought that it was that of his father, he was quite sure. "I think I can find one to compare it to inside the house." We went into the old house and he proceeded to "paw through" several different drawers in furniture.. old newspapers and such, yellowed with age, suffered from the search.. but to no avail. Before the object of his search was located his wife descended on him and ran us both out of the house. I never did see the signature that he sought to find! Years later, after I became employed by the St. Joseph Museum, the same woman, by then a widow, asked Roy Coy, Director of the museum and trusted by the James', to come to Excelsior Spgs., Mo. where she had taken residence in a rest home, and get James family material for the museum. He never got

865"

(46)

around to making the trip before she died. She probably had some of the same yellow papers and pictures that Bob James and I were "pawing through".

Bob James and his Mrs. at that time (late 40's) would go to the old James farm and open the house to the public on Sunday afternoons. He would sit in his car listen to the ball game while she collected the money and showed folks around. I had to sit through part of a game in his car before he would talk to me. (That was the first time there and before we talked fox hunting) The James home, and attached log cabin, has now been restored and is maintained by Clay county as a museum during the summer season. (I hope that you will overlook my running off at the typewriter like this) I guess this is my best J.J. story.. and you did say that you are outlaw buffs.

I am now fully retired but sometimes work harder than I did when I wasn't. For the last three years I had spent April, May and September as Curator at the Pony Express Stables Museum. Maude donated her time during the April-May student visitations. It kept us out of trouble but after two decades of the same place and activity, we thought it enough. Anyway, I only agreed to stay over part time for one year and instead stayed three. Now will have time for fishing etc.

We still have my fathers old house on three acres down at Agency. Have a large garden and fruit trees down there. Some wonder why we don't just move down there but the house isn't much. Not livable or rentable without considerable expense. It is a place where we can go to get dirty though and we can thumb our noses in all four directions when we feel that way. (Which is often)

We travel whenever we get enough good-time money. Enjoy nature and wildlife. (The outdoor kind) Work on a bird list and still do some photography. I bought all of my 35mm photographic gear when I left the museum and they bought new. We went to Canada for a month last July. August and saw a lot of beautiful scenery and wild creatures. Lots of friendly folk there. We sure enjoyed. I was there in Feb. of 1963 on assignment to photograph the Trapper's Festival at the Pas. Always wanted to go back in summer time to see what was under all of that snow.

We bought a small Chinook truck-camper a couple of years back and it is just fine for our needs. Has four cylinder economy and gets us all over with comfort and convenience. A year ago last October we drove to the East Coast for a month and enjoyed every day of it. Lots of history! Dabbled with the Reynolds genealogy in Virginia and followed in the footsteps of our forefathers. Visited many state and national wildlife refuges and seashores. Washington D.C., historic monuments, parks, trails, cemeteries etc. and back over the Cumberland Gap.

We were indeed glad to hear from you and to hear about your family. Sounds like you are all busy and involved and happy. Great! If you get to this part of the country sometime please drop in for a visit.

Till then,
Yours truly

