

# THE ENGRAVER

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JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2021



# THE ENGRAVER

ISSUE 130, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2021

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## Contents:

A Message from Guild President: *Barry Lee Hands*

Seeing Double: *by Gordon Alcorn*

The SCI 50th Anniversary Project: *by Mike Dubber*

The 500: *by Tom Harvey*

The 2022 Auction Gun: *by Mike Dubber*

Around The Traps:

Obituary: Jerry Huddleston

Obituary: Gianfranco Pedersoli

FEGA News:



3  
4  
6  
12  
18  
21  
22  
23  
24



### Front Cover

*Engraving and photos by FEGA Master  
Engraver, Gordon Alcorn  
Story page 4*



### Back Cover

*Engraving and photo  
by Todd Hughes*

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## A MESSAGE FROM GUILD PRESIDENT BARRY LEE HANDS

**D**ear fellow FEGA members, things are moving forward with the next Las Vegas Gun Engravers Show, which will be held once again at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas, January 21st thru 23rd 2022.

A few weeks ago, June 2nd to be exact, I met with the new manager of the Antique Arms Show, Cheryl Goyda. Cheryl is the head of acquisitions and promotions for Morphy Auctions, the show owners and she was very helpful and indicated they wish to maintain the excellent relationship we have had with the Antique Arms show over the last several years and I wholeheartedly agreed with their point of view.

I also assured them that the majority of our membership was pleased with the show and its location.

At the meeting, which occurred in the Westgate with their staff as well as the Antique arms staff, it was very apparent that the vast experience Cheryl has with Shows and events for Morphy, will be brought to bear on the organization of the Antique Arms Show.

The Fega Auction Gun for 2022 is a Colt Single Action Army with work by FEGA and Colt Master Engravers including Lee Griffiths, Bob Strosin and myself and it has been prepped and finished by John Powers, of Powers metal works LLC, (281)513-3438.

Paul Pursinger fitted the exhibition grade pearl grips which were donated by Mr. Powers.

The workmanship is absolutely incredible, I am continually

impressed by the high level of craftsmanship exhibited by our members across the board and their willingness to come together on the great range of FEGA activities, from encouraging and helping new members, to volunteering during the show, serving as officers, and up to and including the many hours they donate of their personal and professional time to complete projects such as the 2022 FEGA auction gun.

Since our last newsletter we have all lost some friends and fellow engravers.

Gianfranco Pedersoli is gone. He was a leader in the field of fantasy engraving and influenced many of us. I had the privilege of visiting him in his studio and observing him at his bench. He was truly a fast and efficient worker, and I remember his bulino was the loudest I ever heard, as he popped out each burr it would make a definite snapping sound, as he worked his way through the piece. While I watched him working, he rubbed in some ink, licked a piece of paper, and burnished it onto the work.

He then peeled it off, scrawled his name on it with a pencil and handed it to me. What a kind gentleman he was!

Franz Marktl also has left us. Its hard to separate facts from legend when speaking of him, but it is known that Franz Marktl immigrated from Austria almost 50 years ago.

Franzie ( as he was known to his friends)was

schooled in Vienna at the Academy of Fine Arts, the same school that famously rejected Adolph Hitler's application. Franzie said that out of 60 applicants he and one other were allowed in, it is said he spent five years there, while also earning a degree in math and physics. He said his father wouldn't let him study art without science. He is also rumored to have been in the Olympics.

As some of the older engravers leave us, it reinforces the idea that we must continue to help promote the art to the younger generations that are joining our ranks. The best place in the world to do this, is at the Gun Engravers show, the largest gathering of hand engravers in the world. So be sure, to come if possible, as an attendee, or as an exhibitor, and I will-

See you in Las Vegas!







I'VE BEEN SEEING DOUBLE FOR SOME TIME  
ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GORDON ALCORN

**T**his pair of consecutively numbered revolvers started as Magnum Research's BFR (Biggest Finest Revolver) in .45/70 caliber. Their even bigger bore conception came at a John Linebaugh "Big Bore Shoot" in Cody, Wyoming.

Tony Grant of Cody re-barreled and manufactured new cylinders to make them accept the Sharps caliber of .50/90. I was enlisted to engrave this pair.

The stainless steel was accommodative of the engraving, more so than the





majority of stainless I engrave – not nearly as nice to engrave as a 100 year old blued Winchester or Colt, but much easier to engrave than most of the modern stainless used in today's guns.

The 10" barrel, 3" cylinder, and large frame (5.3 assembled pounds) were easy to handle in their disassembled state. The grips were made from African Padauk.

I will not be volunteering to shoot them. I am afraid that pulling the trigger on even one of this pair, could have me permanently "seeing double" Ω







# THE SCI 50TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY MIKE DUBBER

Work has been in progress for nearly a year on two firearms for the Safari Club International 50th Anniversary Show to be held January 19-22, 2022 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The SCI 50th Anniversary project will include a Custom 300 Winchester Mag Rifle and a 1911 Colt.

John Bolliger Jr. started the project early when he began collecting parts for the rifle. This unique rifle will feature a fully blueprinted Winchester Model 70

action that has been refined in every way possible. The one-of-a-kind rifle will be chambered in the time-proven







.300 Winchester  
Magnum.

The handmade stock on this rifle will be constructed out of a world class piece of Turkish walnut. The blank came from a tree that was over 150 years of age. The blank has been stored in John's shop for the last two decades, awaiting a special project such as the 50th SCI Commemorative.





Some of the highlights of the rifle will include a full length Krieger octagon barrel, full length extended top and bottom tangs, custom one-of-a-kind fluer de lis

crossbolt heads, double ended fluer swivel bases and fluer bottom metal extensions. The extensive custom metalwork provides a great canvas for full coverage engraving, and







that work is currently underway.

The 2022 SCI Auction project includes, for the first time, a presentation with a John Bolliger Custom Rifle and a Colt 1911 .45 Auto. Mike Dubber, Colt Master Engraver, is creating a .45 Colt 1911 Auto that will be engraved to complement Bolliger's rifle. Mike is engraving both firearms with a shared theme, including coordination of the engraving patterns on both pieces. Both the rifle and pistol will be displayed in a fully







work. The original grips were replaced with a premium set of American Elk Antler produced by Eagle Grips. The top of the slide features a standing grizzly bear within a platinum border. The right panel is inlaid with a bugling elk and the left is inlaid with a Rocky Mountain Big horn sheep. The three figures are inlaid in raised gold with selected platinum highlights.

The Colt engraving also features the SCI Logo and commemorative

fitted Marvin Huey custom case, complete with all the accessories.

The Colt Auto is a Government Model 1911 .45 Auto produced by Colt in 2011, the 100th Anniversary of the renowned Colt .45. The Colt was stripped of the original finishes and the engraving is now completed. Both the rifle and 1911 Colt will share a matching blue finish with detailed French gray throughout the engraved scroll work. The gun will be entirely bordered in 24K line







information engraved and inlaid into the top of the slide. The remainder of the gun is finished in elaborate scroll work, gold vignettes and the selection of 24K Gold Inlaid American Game animals. John Powers did the final finishes and assembly.

The Bolliger/Dubber team set an all-time SCI auction record for the sale of a Rifle in 2019 when they produced the 5th and final of the World Heritage Series of Big Game

Rifles. This magnificent set holds the promise of another exciting SCI Auction in Las Vegas in January, 2022. Ω



*The Winchester rifle floorplate and buttplate.  
But that is for another article.*





While sitting at Las Vegas airport, waiting for flight home from the 2020 FEGA show, I started thinking about engraving ideas for the next Show. Living in Indiana, I wanted to do something to represent my home state.

Once I was boarded and settled into my seat, I was excited to start sketching some of my ideas. I couldn't believe, once I decided on the theme, how easily it was coming together. After returning home, I spent the next several weeks doing more research and more sketching.



When I think of Indiana, my first thought is of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing", The Indianapolis 500. Doing some research online, while sitting at airport, ideas were coming together quickly. Especially, when I realized the first "Indy 500" was in 1911. The obvious firearm was going to be the canvas.











Sometimes ideas for an engraving project take a bit of time. However, this one was quickly falling right into place.

I found the research on this project very interesting and learned quite a bit regarding the “500’s” traditions and history. The most interesting, in my opinion, was the Borg Werner Trophy. It was made in 1936, out of 153 pounds of sterling silver. The trophy stands 5’4” tall. This is the most iconic



trophy in history and is valued at One Million Dollars.

The Winner’s Milk tradition is another. It started in 1936, by race

winner Louis Meyer. His drink of choice, to cool off, was buttermilk. It continued on and off through 1955. From 1956 to the present, a glass bottle of milk is offered the winner. The milk offered is only selected from one of the state of Indiana’s milk producers.

In 1911, Ray Harroun won the first





70, Government model 1911 in a .45 auto. I removed all roll stamping on slide, with many hours of hand finishing. In this step it is very important to start with nice straight lines and polished flats. It will pay off later with details that are to follow.

The grips, I cut black and white Micarta into 1/4" squares. I then epoxied those together with a super glue buffed finish.

Starting with the inlays, all are flush in 24 karat gold, 90% of them were done with wire. Parts of the winged tire logo were done with sheet.

Two winged speedway logos were used. The early logo is without flags and the recent, with 7 flags.

"Indy 500" Race with an average speed of 74 mph. The race lasted 6 hours and 42 minutes compared to 2020's race lasting 3.5 hours with an average speed of 190 mph. In 1911, qualifying consisted of hitting 70 mph on 1/4 mile straight away. Currently, the qualifying speeds are in excess of 230 mph.

As of 2020, there had only been three 4-time winners Al Unser, A.J. Foyt and Rick Mears. Then, as my luck would have it, a fourth 4-time winner won the 2021 race, Helio Castroneves. This happened months after I finished my gun. The 2021 race was rescheduled from May to August due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

I started this project with a Colt MK IV Series



*The Relief checker pattern on top of slide and added to a few more areas.*





At the time of engraving, the 2020 race was postponed. Therefore, I used the 2019 race logo on top of the slide. I wanted to use something current on the “500 Gun”. The Speedway has new race logos every year.

After weeks of inlays, months of outlines, details and all the backgrounds, with a little bulino thrown in. The background was a fun part of the design. Sides of slide, I used a brick background. Since the original speedway was paved in bricks and is still called the “Brickyard”.

On to finishings, I Nitre Blued the controls. Then gold plated the grip screws, trigger and few other pieces. The frame and slide I Greyed with Cold Blue.

The greying process allows







for a optional darker color for the gold and removal of color in areas of bulino and selected details. Also, chatoyancy is achieved easier on the greyed metal to add that extra bit of detail. As an engraver I have become quite fond of French greying. It is a simple process to get the color variants for highlighting area of detail.

This “500 Colt” was such a fun and interesting project that all started with an airport layover in Las Vegas, coming home from the FEGA show.

Hopefully we will see everyone at the 2022 show Ω







THE 2022 FEAGA AUCTION GUN  
ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY MIKE DUBBER

The 2022 FEAGA Auction Gun is a magnificent 7 ½" Barrel Colt Single Action Army chambered in .45 Caliber. This Colt exhibits the finest work of five engravers, each of whom is recognized as FEAGA Master and Colt Master Engraver. All work and materials required to complete this firearm were donated by the participating engravers and associated craftsmen.

The Colt's journey started at the shop of John Powers of Powers Metal Works. John disassembled, polished and prepped the gun for engraving. Once received in Mike Dubber's studio, and after consultation with Barry Hands, the various parts and pieces were distributed around the nation.

While the individual engravers are not identified with the parts they engraved, the parts went to the following Master Engravers: Barry Lee Hands, Mike Dubber, Lee Griffiths, Brian Powley and Bob Strosin.

The overall theme of the engraving is a tribute to Sam Colt. The celebrated "Colt Onion Dome" is



displayed in gold and silver inlay on the loading gate. The colt factory on the Connecticut River is inlaid in gold on the fore right barrel. The first Colt logo, the four-horsehead symbol drawn up by Sam Colt himself, is inlaid in gold on the recoil shield.



There are three beautifully rendered portraits of Sam Colt included in the theme. Sam's facial portrait is shown on the shovel head. He is also shown on the right panel in one of most famous poses – that of a young sailor at sea carving wooden forerunners of his revolving cylinder patents. Those wooden parts were the six/chambered cylinder, the hammer, and the locking pin. He later perfected a working version that was patented in England and France in 1835 and in the United States the following year. Sam Colt's signature is inlaid in gold down the backstrap.

On the left panel a cavalry officer is shown on horseback brandishing his Colt Walker Pistol. With the Mexican War underway in 1846, Sam Colt and Captain Samuel Walker collaborated in the design of the Colt Walker. General Zachary Taylor ordered 1,000 of the big bore .44 Caliber revolvers. The guns were





delivered to the Army in 1847, used in the Mexican War, and provided Sam Colt with his first successful business venture.

The FEGA Colt is fully bordered in 24K Gold and finished in a mix of historically correct Colt Scrolls. With all parts pieces engraved, the gun was sent to John Powers. John donated his time and talents to bluing and assembling the gun. He also donated a beautiful set of Mother-of-Pearl grips that were fitted to the gun by Paul Persinger.

The 2021 FEGA Colt shown in these photographs

represents the highest level of craftsmanship ever applied to a FEGA Auction Gun. This collaboration was completed by an outstanding group of Master Engravers, Metalsmiths, and Grip Makers.

We look forward to featuring this FEGA Colt up for auction at the 2022 FEGA Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to that show, it will also be shown at the Colt Collectors Association Convention in Noblesville, Indiana on September 30 – October 3. At least four of the participants will be in attendance in Noblesville, and all FEGA Members are invited to visit us there. Ω









*Todd Hughes*



*Todd Hughes*

*Sam Welch*



*Andrew Biggs*







Jerry W. Huddleston died peacefully in Baker City, OR on May 7, 2021. He was 84 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elizabeth "Liz" Huddleston of Baker City, and two brothers, Charles (Portland, OR) and Tom

(Salt Lake City, UT).

Jerry was born August 18, 1936 in Portland, OR. He grew up in the Portland area and developed an early interest in guns, gun making, and metallurgy. He served in the United States Army and received an Honorable Discharge in 1961. After completing his military service, Jerry returned to the Portland area where he was employed as an automotive mechanic and pursued his lifelong interest in gun making. He eventually owned his own automotive and car sales business, which he and his wife Liz ran, and he involved himself in local politics.

As his gun making interests continued to grow, along with his reputation for his knowledge and craftsmanship, he strived to create unique and artistically enhanced pieces, which led



him directly into the art of hand engraving. He met Robert Evans, a master engraver and founding member of the Firearms Engravers Guild of America, who became his teacher, mentor, and lifelong friend. It was also from this friendship that Jerry became a member of FEGA and began attending the annual conferences, first in Reno, NV then in Las Vegas. Through these conferences Jerry became friends with numerous other engravers within the Guild, relationships he cherished throughout his life. He was recognized by the Guild with numerous awards for his artwork and with the awarded title of Master Engraver. He and his artwork have been recognized in many periodicals and books and his work has been highly sought after by collectors and firearms aficionados.

Jerry was an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing all over Oregon and searching for Indian artifacts. He was a lifelong student of Native Americans, American history, and art and he maintained an extensive library on these subjects. He was a humble man, dedicated to continually challenging himself to learn and develop his artwork. He was a mentor and teacher himself and was generous in sharing what he knew with anyone talented and motivated enough to learn. His desire to spend time in his shop everyday, up to his last days, was telling of the love he had for the art of engraving. He was a deeply religious man, committed to his Lord and Savior. He was devoted to his loving wife Liz and his many friends. He will be greatly missed by loved ones, his FEGA family, and the many friends of his life.

In conveying the information of Jerry's passing to the FEGA Membership via email, FEGA President Barry Lee Hands made the following comment about Jerry:

*"Jerry's passing is a great loss to his family and also FEGA, as he was a shining example of a hard working, kind, thoughtful, and helpful engraver who's influence on those he knew will continue to yield positive results for many years to come."*

This is a most fitting observation and one that is greatly appreciated.

Ω







Gianfranco Pedersoli was born on 7 September 1946 in Ponte Zanano (BS), in northern Italy.

At the age of 14, possessing good skills in drawing, he abandoned his studies to devote himself fully to his art and began an internship with master Giulio Timpini who immediately

became aware of his great talent.

After 5 years of internship, he started working on his own for some time and then moved to the engravers department of Beretta, continuing for another 5 years to perfect himself in the culture and technique of engraving.

He had been working on his own for many years and had engraved weapons from the best Italian and English manufacturers. Gianfranco Pedersoli created works on commission for clients that left him total freedom both for the choice of subjects and for the themes.

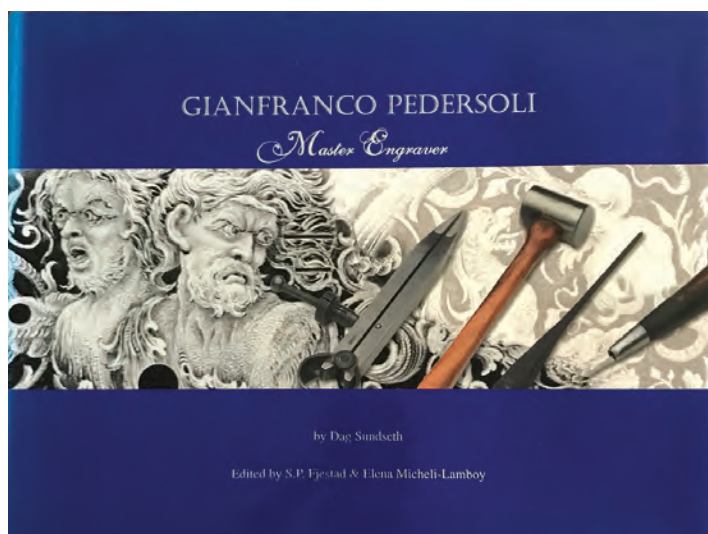
The freedom of the subject allowed him to fully express his artistic abilities without limits and constraints.

In fact, Gianfranco Pedersoli's creations were never repeated: each work became unique and inimitable. He was considered one of the most important engravers both nationally and internationally.

After half a century of continuous work in engraving, he still loved to sit in his studio looking forward with creativity and mastery to each new project.

In 2007 Blue Book Publications Inc. produced a beautiful book authored by Dag Sundeth about the man and his engraving art that is rich in text and photographs of his work.

Gianfranco Pedersoli's artistic skill and mastery of the burin leaves behind a body of work and a legacy that will inspire future generations of engravers. Ω







News From The FEGA Office  
Van Angle FEGA Administrative  
Assistant

Good will and good health to all.

Current paid membership is at 403 at the time of this article. June 30th is a huge renewal date with many renewals still coming in. I expect membership to be back above 450 by the end of August.

Renewal reminders are now going out by email if a valid email is on your membership file. This saves a significant amount of money for the Guild and it faster. If not I am sending postcards reminders by regular mail service unless your email on file is invalid. If invalid it is deleted and you will receive your reminder by postcard.

All FEGA accounts are balanced and reconciled as of August 2nd.

FEGA now has Sam Alfano's Pendant/Key Fob Kit and Diane Scalese's Western Bright Cut Engraving 2 DVD Sets available on fega.com.

Both are excellent investments in learning from the Masters. Links to the items:

The 2022 Show is less than 6 months away. Current tables sold are 23 plus 16 FEGA Tables.

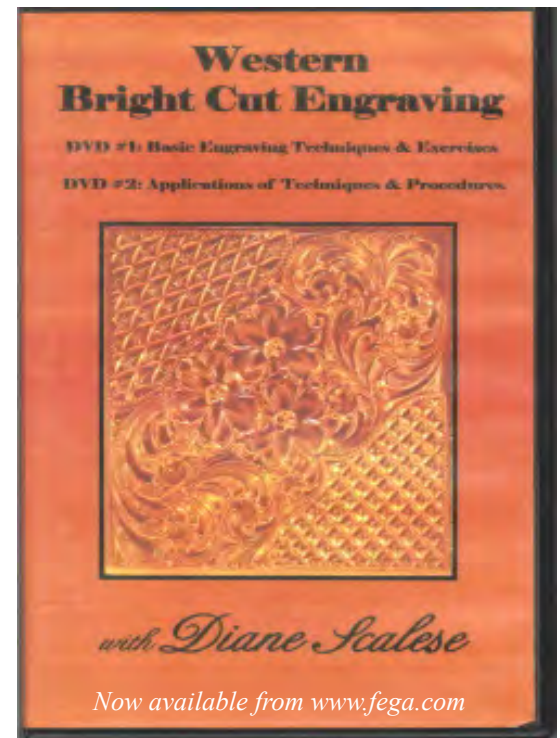
The show is the best way to meet and learn from the greatest engravers of the day and feel the real family that FEGA is. A great way to get involved is to volunteer to help with the show. Simply helping set up on Thursday or helping during the show with the FEGA table or FEGA Auction. When my "Litter Mate of Rex's Class" Jim Agner and I volunteered in Reno, several years ago as newbies, we became part of the FEGA family and over the years became Board members and now I am operating the office for FEGA from Virginia. Get involved, you will not regret it.

One of the ways FEGA raises money

for the show and operations is through the auction of items at the Saturday Banquet Auction. These items include the donation of the engravers time and talent to produce our annual auction gun as well as various

items donated by anyone. From they're engraved items to books, dvds, quilts, leather goods, castings of work, and anything else you can imagine. Contact Lynda Schreck or myself if you have any questions or need donation forms.

See you in Las Vegas!







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Holland & Holland by Phil Coggan  
In-progress photo showing custom made PalmControl  
graver extension. *"As far as I'm concerned, the Lindsay  
PalmControl AirGraver is worth every penny."*  
**Phil Coggan, United Kingdom**

## STEVE LINDSAY ENGRAVING TOOLS

Hartmann and Weiss System Hagn,  
Stocked by Jerry Fisher engraved by  
Barry Lee Hands. Winner of FEGA  
2009 Best engraved rifle and  
Engraver's Choice award of Merit.  
*"The Lindsay Patented PalmControl is  
by far the simplest, easiest to use  
engraving device ever made."*  
**Barry Lee Hands, Bigfork, Montana**

### WHEN QUALITY AND WORKMANSHIP MEAN EVERYTHING

Perazzi by Carl Bleile (in progress)  
*"Using the Lindsay Artisan for the first time I found it to  
have a wide range of power from removing background to  
doing fine line shading and all this in a compact tool."*  
**Carl Bleile, North Bend, Ohio**

*"2006 CCA 'Louisville Gun' Engraved by Mike  
Dubber. Winner of 2009 FEGA Best Engraved  
Hand Gun 'The delicate touch and control of the  
Lindsay PalmControl allows me to proceed with  
confidence on jobs I may not have attempted  
before.' Mike Dubber, Evansville, Indiana*



