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Reader's comments

Ward,

I, too, picked up a "sporterized" 94, although at a pawn shop...gave \$105 for mine. Luckily, hadn't been drilled in any way. Long, time consuming story short, I managed to find an original stock for it, minus any of the metal. As an aside, a friend had told me of a friend who had "sporterized" a 94 about 10 years ago and might still have the stock. A year later, I also got that stock, but it had the bayo lug on it. I'm still looking for everything else, although, its not a full time search.

Original 94's are scarce as the proverbial hens teeth. I see a lot of "cut downs" at the shows that are being sold for exhorbitant prices. I did get an original Oberndorff some months ago. I hesitate to mention what I gave for it.

As an aside, I know of an "almost new" complete, barrel, and action that I would love to acquire. Fellow hasn't gotten interested yet, in selling it to me. He gave \$15 at a garage sale. He knows what he has.

Thanks for the letter.

Bob Arthur (BOBA100@aol.com)

Ward,

I've come across and idea for the monthly. I've considered applying for a Curio and Relics License. I don't know where to start or what the requirements are. Is there any amount of recordkeeping necessary once licensed? I'm sure one of our fellow Mauserist's has a C&R. Their incite and helpful hints would make a great article.

Regards,

Eric (Mauser416@aol.com)

Since 1903 Springfields sort of qualify as Mausers, I thought I'd run this by you. I recently purchased a a 1903 Mk II for \$30. The wood is suitable for kindling, the magazine and triggerguard are missing, as are also the front and rear sights. As an added bonus, the 4-groove barrel has seen much better days. However, the action body and bolt appear to be quite fine. The trigger still functions and I was amazed at how smooth it is after multiple decades of abuse and neglect. The serial # is well above the 800k cutoff for brittleness. I'm looking for a gunsmith to rebarrel it to 7.62x51/.308 Winchester. I plan on picking up the rest of the missing parts from GPC, including a new wood or synthetic stock. I don't have any rifles in 30-06, but I've got others in 7.62x51, hence the rechambering. Any pointers?

TIA,

Kevin M. Kotlarz (kkotlarz@smumn.edu)

A Mauser Love Affair

Author Unknown?

One of my buddies knew I had some extra time on my hands and invited me up to the local rifle range to target shoot with him. Well, I was never pro-gun or anti-gun; more of a, "what would you need a gun for?" kind of a guy. Now I *know* what you need a gun for; its for SHOOT'N!

At the range, my friend introduced me around to the other guys. It was wild! There was *any* kind of firearm you could imagine. Wow! I hadn't seen this much gun fire since the Rodney King/beating verdict was announced! Everyone was blazing away. A big smile spread across my face and my heart rate accelerated. My friend let me shoot a .22 cal. target rifle. F-U-N! He told me I was getting a "good group." After an hour of this, he suggested that we go up and get a cup of coffee. Yeah, that's what I want to do; sling down a few shots of coffee, get really wired and get back to "getting a good group". I was high on coffee and wanted to blaze away!

Walking back to our bench, I stopped in mid stride when I saw her. I nudged my buddy in the arm and jutted my chin in her direction. "Who's she?" I asked. He gave me a sly conspiratorial smile and chuckled, "Hey man, you're not ready for a girl like that."

My eyes jumped back over in her direction, "What's she called?" He hunched his shoulders and replied, "If you really want to know its, Swedish Mauser. But take my warning, you can get addicted to a girl like that. I know a couple of guys that went with her and now they're divorced, nearly broke and do nothing but haunt all the gun stores and shows so they can buy her little accessories." I really wasn't listening after I heard her name. A sort of audio tunnel vision kicked in. She looked so tall, slim and sexy. I didn't realize it at the time but, that's when my addiction started.

We went over to the bench and my friend introduced me to the guy who came with the her. Let's call him bob. Its not his real name but lets protect the guilty. He noticed I was lusting after her and offered to let me go a round with his Swedish Mauser. He could see I was unsure if it was okay and encouraged me, "Hey, its okay man; this is California. You want to try her, its okay with me but, I get to watch." I didn't care who was watching. I wanted her right here, right now on the bench. It was great.

I held her in my hands and felt the smooth graceful lines of her...furniture. I put my hot hand on her hard firm knob and eased her bolt back-all the way. My big cartridge slipped into her open and willing receiver. I closed the bolt and drove the bullet up against her lands and grooves. My cheek was pressed against her smooth silky stock. I could smell her leather sling and a whiff of her perfume, something called, Hoppes #9, filled my lungs. My warm finger made contact with her smooth trigger. The pressure slowly increasing, harder and harder; all the time holding the front sight down deep in her rear sight, until-RELEASE! The firing pin plunged forward, all the way into the primer, setting of a wonderful explosion of pure ecstasy. I didn't have to look; I could hear the other guys cheering-BULLSEYE! I knew right then and there, she had to be mine.

The last month has been a rush of joyous new experiences: Now, I have a harem of four Swedish Mausers. I know the guy the who owns the local gun shop on a first name basis. In fact, just today, he presented me with a coffee cup with my name on it so I can drink coffee with all the "Regular Guys" in the back room. I've joined the NRA and sent in a subscription to SGN. I'm waiting for Dillon to send my reloading press and, my CRFFL to come back from the BATF in Dallas any day now. I was bitterly disappointed when the local magazine store explained to me that G&A, Surplus Firearms, is not published weekly. My wife thinks I have gone crazy. She wants me to attend some 12 step program called GAG (Guys Addicted to Guns). They told her I should ease off gradually to only one gun per month. Ha! One gun per month? And she thinks *I'm* crazy? She's got to be kidding; one gun per month. I mean, hey, what did I apply for the CRFFL for? Not so I could get one gun per month. I told her to clean out the family room because that's where the new Swedish Mauser Museum/Reloading Center & UPS

Landing Zone will be located. "And by the way", I added, "we are changing our voter registration over from Democrat to Republican."

Next time I run into an anti-gun zealot, I'll challenge them to test their Left Wing Liberal open mindedness and sense of fair play. Hey, all I ask is, just try one round of target shooting with me and if you don't like it, I'll attend a Diane Fienstien political rally. I'm not worried because, once I get them up to the range, I'll just hand them my nicest Swedish Mauser and smile as they ask me, "Wow...what's her name?"

Turkish Mausers Revisited

By: Rick Rote (rote@erols.com)

I have been collecting Mauser 98 for close to 10 years and I have had several different makes of the venerable 98. Recently I came across several Turkish Mauser 98s. Both of the ones I own are Model 38s.

- (1) I purchased as a complete action along with a brand new Swedish 6.5x55 barrel and a new sporterized stock for \$85 at a gunshow (and yes the paperwork was accomplished). This is about the time that Midway started selling the Wilson barrels for about \$70 (if I remember correctly) and a Fajan stock for \$50 to top it off. I purchased a 7x57 small ring barrel because I wanted to use the 6.5x55 on a Mauser 95 action that I purchased from Springfield Sporters in PA. I had a gunsmith turn down the bolt, drill & tap the receiver and install the barrel. I finished the stock and added a Bushnell 4X scope to complete the project. Total cost less than \$300. Project completed now it is time for the range. The range trip was an extremely good surprise. After sighting in, this rifle put 4 shots in 1.5 inches at 100 yards, which for me is really good. This was a fun project that turned into a nice shooter, with the 21-inch barrel and light stock it will be a delight to carry this season.
- (2) While in NM visiting our daughter I stopped at a gun store that had several Turkish Mausers on sale for \$50. The wood was really rough & dinged up but the metal looked in good condition and the rifling appeared to be dirty but in pretty good condition. I got it home and removed all the hardware from the stock and threw the stock away, it was too beat up to consider refinishing but I have plenty of different 98 stock laying around so no problem there. I cleaned up the action and thoroughly cleaned the barrel. There was only a little bit of surface rust, which cleaned up nicely; bluing was maybe 50%. The barrel cleaned up really good and the rifling was really bright & strong. The trip to the range was OK but I have had better. I was shooting Turkish surplus ammo that is 45 years old. At 50 yards the groups were about 4 inches. Initial shots were completely off the paper and low. I raised the sights to 300 meter and they were 3 inches high at 50 yards. I think it will shoot much better with new ammo so of course further trips to the range are required.
- (3) Turkish Mauser notes: These actions are not identical to the other large ring Mauser actions making some of the parts not interchangeable with other Mausers. The third lug on the bolt is a little further forward on the bolt, making for a little shorter bolt throw. The magazine well on the trigger guard is shorter than standard and the ramp to feed the round into the chamber is corresponding longer to match the magazine on the action. The bridge on the rear of the receiver is noticeably higher. Finally the barrels are the same diameter as the small ring barrel.
- (4) Finally, at least the Turkish Mausers I own have smooth actions that function very nicely. They make good actions to sporterize because they are relatively cheap and strong but be advised some of the parts are not interchangeable with the other standard Mauser 98s. They are good additions to my collection and I will get many years of use from them.

Publisher's Comments

By: Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)

One quick note before I start – last month one of you sent me a great story on a “Mauser Scout – New Zealand Style.” I loved the story and still have the original text, but somehow the e-mail attachment was

corrupted and I've been unable to recover it – so I don't know who to credit the article to! Well, actually, I have a pretty good idea, but to make absolutely sure I don't fail to credit you properly, please e-mail me and let me know who wrote this, and I'll publish it in the August Monthly.

Some great info this month – the old story about the fellow falling in love with a Swedish Mauser certainly hit close to home. My thanks, again, to everyone who contributed to this month's issue!

My own 94 Swede carbine hasn't been to the range yet – family matters and the book have kept me pretty busy this month, and the only shooting I've been doing has been .22's. (I actually do own a few guns that aren't Mausers, although I do have a Mauser .22 as well.) So, with any luck July will see me doing some range work with the newly refurbished carbine and a report ready for the August issue.

Summer is here full force in Colorado, and there's nothing like a nice sunny summer afternoon for some range work or just a little plinking – so if anything noteworthy happens to any of you while doing just that, remember to send a note off to the Monthly.

Until next month -
Good Shooting!

- Ward