

# America's Fire FOR ALL TO SEE



*The new National Firearms Museum is fully four times the size of the old museum, with nearly 2,000 firearms on exhibit in 15 galleries. Exhibits escort*

*visitors on a journey through the American experience—from Jamestown, Virginia, to last season's deer hunt. The museum traces the history and development of firearms and their relationship to the American ideal of liberty and freedom.*

**BY PHILIP SCHREIER**

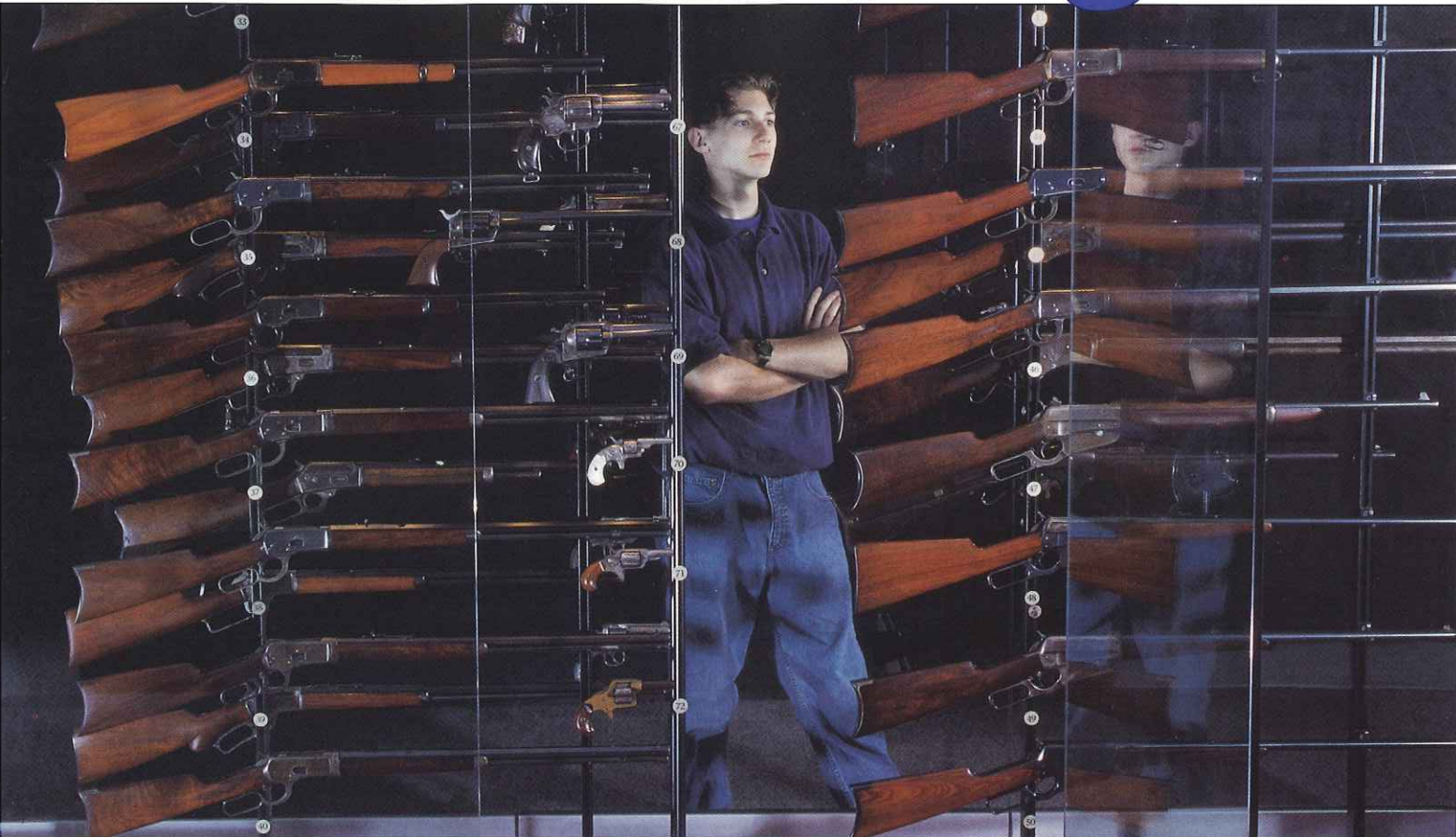


Charles Spinelli and Ed Glynn were two of the first NRA members to tour the new National Firearms Museum.



NRA President Marion P. Hammer cut the ribbon and officially opened NRA's new museum. She was joined by (l.-r.) Exec. Dir. of General Operations Craig D. Sandler, Exec. Vice President Wayne R. LaPierre, Director Sandra J. Froman and Dr. William L. Roberts. Sam Hawken's circa 1830's rifle shop was recreated (l.).

# Arms Heritage



**W**hen NRA President Marion P. Hammer cut the ribbon on the entrance to the National Firearms Museum on May 28, she symbolically opened the museum to the membership of the NRA and to the general public. The museum, which has had two previous homes since its founding in 1937, one on 17th Street and one on Rhode Island Avenue in Washington, D.C., closed its doors to the public on October 31, 1993, in preparation for the relocation of NRA Headquarters to Fairfax, Virginia. With the ribbon cutting, the project that began on February 12, 1993, some five and one-half years prior, was now complete.

"The National Firearms Museum is one of the most important projects you and the NRA have undertaken for America," said Marion Hammer at the ceremony. "It is more than a window to America's history—it is a crucial link to our nation's future, and to the survival of Second Amendment freedom in the hearts and minds of future generations." She added: "For generations to come, this Museum will stand as a per-



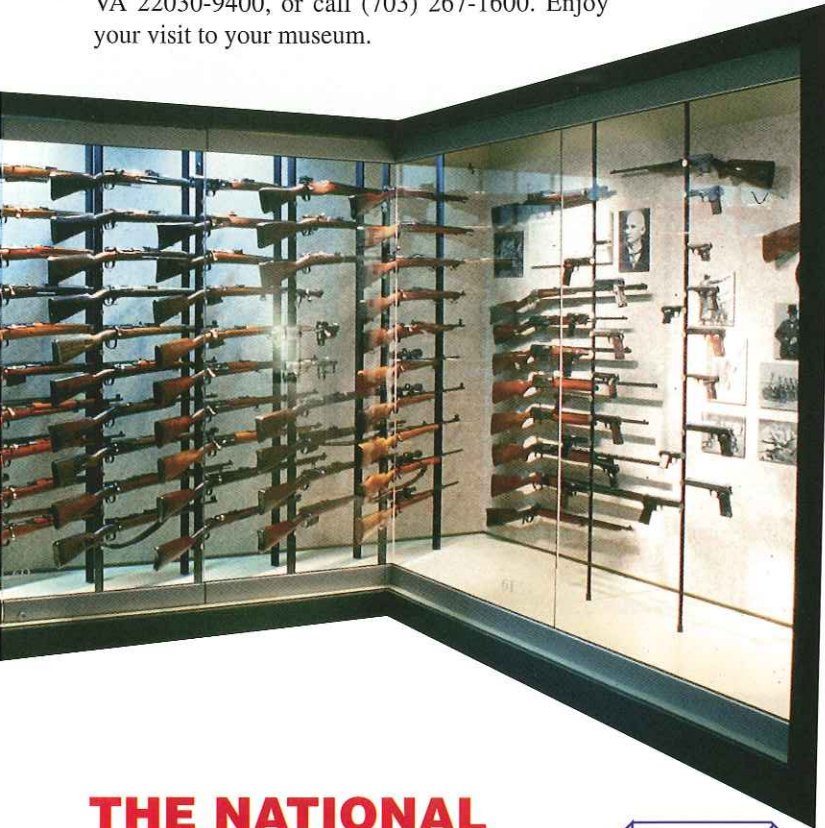
*One of the museum's goals is to educate future generations on firearms, freedom and the American experience. At top is a youngster viewing the museum's fine display of "Old West" Colts and Winchesters. Part of the "Prospering New Republic" exhibit includes a selection of Pennsylvania long rifles (above). Craftsmen and NRA staff toiled to complete the brand new museum (l.).*

William B. Ruger's personal donation of \$1 million ensured that the museum was completed before NRA President Marion P. Hammer left office in June 1998. His generosity is recognized in the dedication of the museum's changing exhibit gallery as the William B. Ruger Gallery. Every six to nine months, the museum will highlight a new collection of firearms in this gallery.

Free to the public and with plenty of on-site parking, the National Firearms Museum is near the intersection of Interstate 66 and U.S. 50 in Fairfax, Virginia, only 20 minutes from Washington, D.C. For more information or detailed directions, write to the NFM at 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, or call (703) 267-1600. Enjoy your visit to your museum.



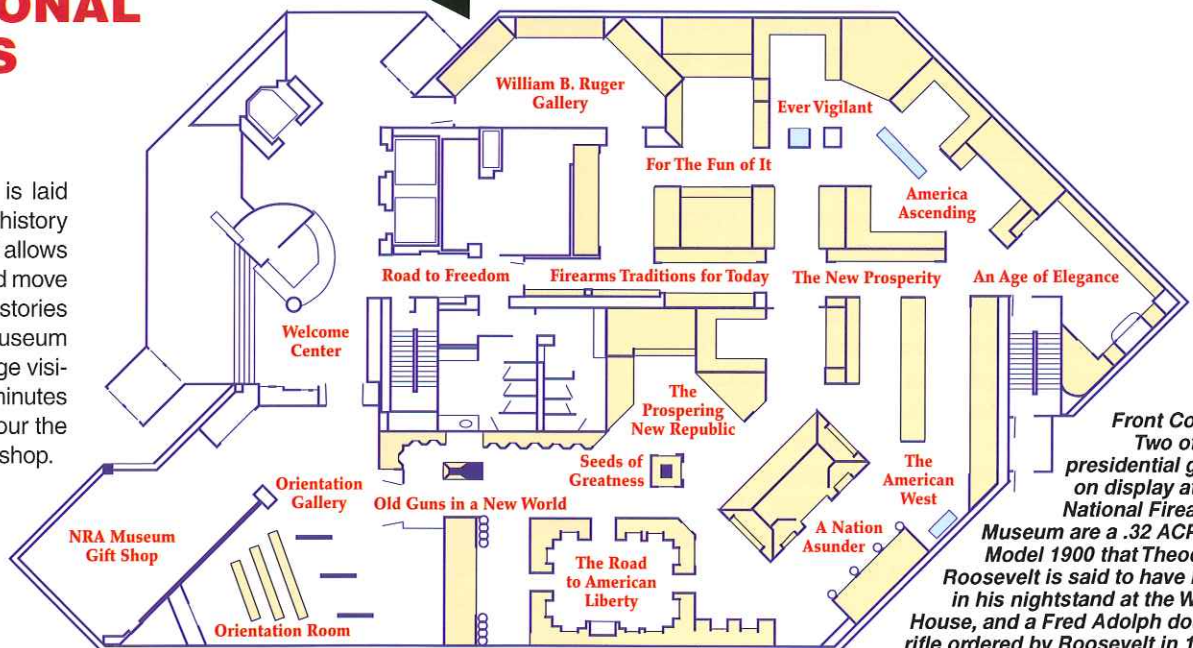
"Baby Boomers" will no doubt enjoy this re-creation of a child's room from the 1950s. Complete with a "Hopalong Cassidy" floor, the child's room has the look and feel of a youngster with a healthy interest in the shooting sports.



Firearms are placed in historical context through a series of dioramas with life-size figures. One scene shows men of the U.S. 29th Infantry Division at St. Lo, France, during World War II.

## THE NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM

The museum's floorplan is laid out so as to chronicle the history of firearms in a format that allows the visitor to roam free and move quickly to favorite eras or stories within the complex. The museum staff estimates that average visitors will want to allow 45 minutes to 1½ hours minimum to tour the facility and expanded gift shop.



Front Cover: Two of the presidential guns on display at the National Firearms Museum are a .32 ACP FN Model 1900 that Theodore Roosevelt is said to have kept in his nightstand at the White House, and a Fred Adolph double rifle ordered by Roosevelt in 1910.