

“IT NEVER ^{PART} II FAILED ME”

An exhibit of famous Remington handguns will launch the NRA National Firearms Museum’s William B. Ruger Changing Exhibit Gallery.

BY PHILIP SCHREIER

THE firearms of the Remington Arms Co. have been cherished by generations of hunters and shooters and have served our nation’s fighting men well from the Civil War through the two World Wars, in Korea and even into Vietnam. Since its humble beginnings in 1816—when Eliphalet Remington II made his first rifle barrel—more than 35 million firearms have borne the Remington name. Until recently, however, the story of Remington and its guns, particularly in the American West, has not been widely appreciated.

A major exhibition on display last year at the Cody Firearms Museum, which is a part of the Cody, Wyoming, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, went a long way toward highlighting the achievements and history of Remington. Entitled “It Never Failed



Photo by Paul Goodwin

Me: The Arms and Art of the Remington Arms Co.,” the exhibit featured more than 750 Remington arms and original artwork. Included among the fine arms chronicled at Cody was a Remington revolver that belonged to William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody himself. Sponsored by the Remington Society of America (RSA), the exhibit originally comprised the largest and most expansive exhibit of Remingtons ever assembled.

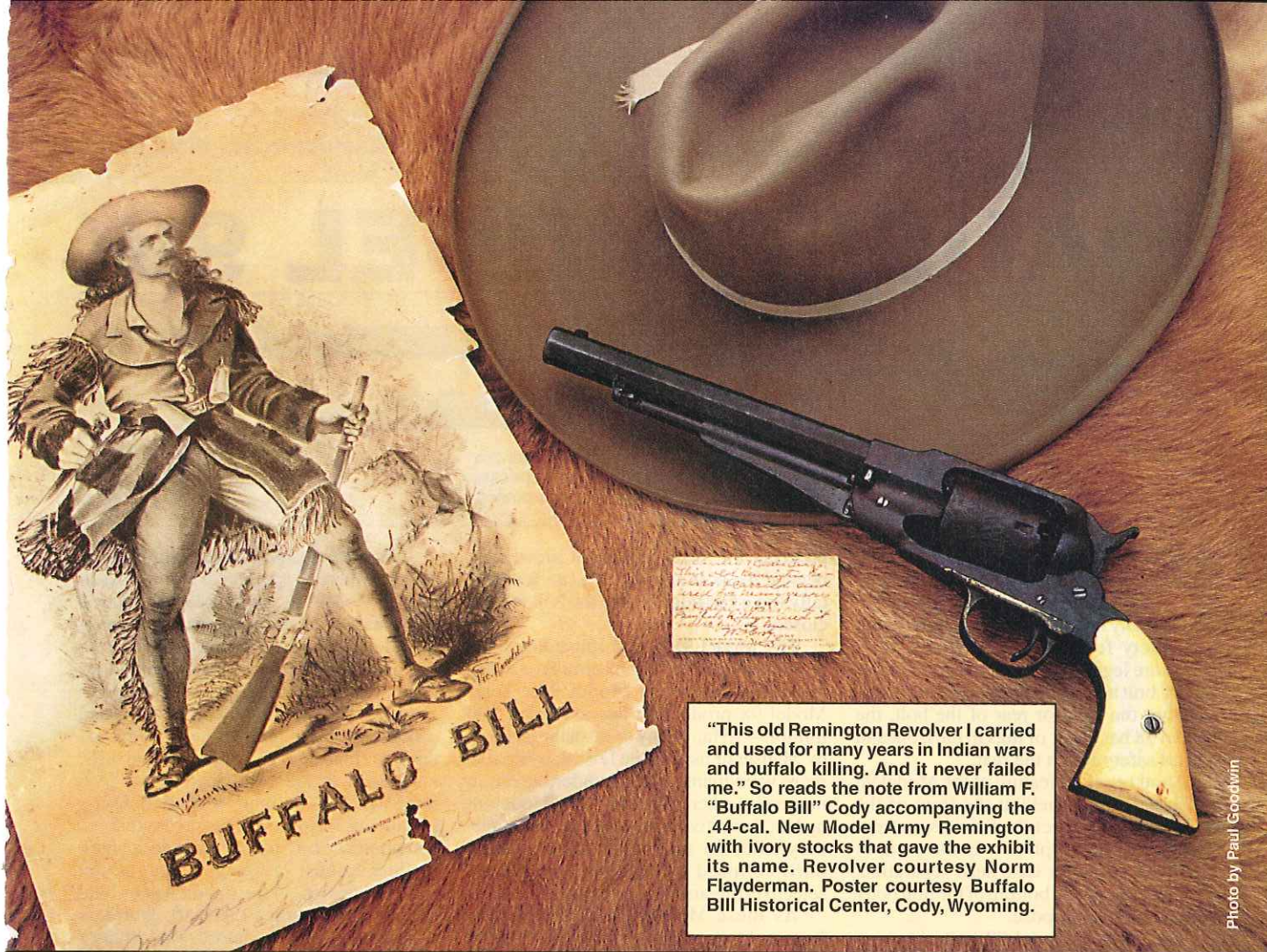
Following the successful exhibition at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, “It Never Failed Me: Part II, The Arms of the Remington Arms Co.” will debut in the William B. Ruger Changing Exhibit Gallery at NRA’s National Firearms Museum, which opens June 1, 1998. Part II concentrates on the handguns of Remington and will feature more than 60 of the firm’s revolvers and pistols.

Norm Flayderman has graciously consented to lend NRA’s National Firearms Museum the revolver that gave the exhibition its name. A well-used New Model Army cap-and-ball revolver, mounted with ivory stocks, it is accompanied by a business card bearing the handwritten inscription, “This old Remington revolver I carried and used for many years in

One of the NRA National Firearms Museum exhibit highlights will be a cased pair of Remington New Model Armies, engraved and mounted with ivory stocks. This exquisite pair of revolvers was manufactured in 1864 for Tzar Alexander II of Russia. Guns courtesy RSA member and exhibit coordinator F. “Slim” Kohler.



Photo by Paul Goodwin



"This old Remington Revolver I carried and used for many years in Indian wars and buffalo killing. And it never failed me." So reads the note from William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody accompanying the .44-cal. New Model Army Remington with ivory stocks that gave the exhibit its name. Revolver courtesy Norm Flayderman. Poster courtesy Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming.

Photo by Paul Goodwin

Indian wars and buffalo killing. And it never failed me." (Signed) W.F. Cody 1906. Under the direction of RSA President Leon Wier and coordinated by RSA Vice President F. "Slim" Kohler, the exhibit highlights Kohler's cased pair of New Model Armies, engraved and mounted with ivory stocks. This exquisite pair of revolvers was manufactured in 1864 for Tzar Alexander II of Russia. The exhibit, which will continue through October 11, 1998, is made possible by the membership of the NRA-affiliated Remington Society of America, the Robert E. Petersen *Guns & Ammo* magazine collection, the Smithsonian, and private collectors such as Michael Zomber and Richard Ellis.

The National Firearms Museum's 500 sq.-ft. William B. Ruger Changing Exhibit Gallery has three ceiling-to-floor exhibit cases capable of highlighting more than 250 firearms. It is expected to turn over a new temporary exhibit every five to six months. The gallery is named for the founder and CEO of Sturm Ruger & Co., William B. Ruger, who has personally contributed \$1 million, plus much time and effort, toward ensuring that our nation's firearms heritage is preserved through the programs of the National Firearms Museum. The museum's staff hopes the exhibits will present a fresh face to the museum so that even the most enthusiastic of repeat visitors will see something new every time. Potential future exhibits will include the winners of the NRA Gun Collectors Committee Trophy and the winner of the E. Andrew Mowbray Trophy. Additionally, significant collections from national institutions such as the Smithsonian are also being scheduled, as well as from prominent private collectors.

Also included in the exhibit will be less-well-known Remington handguns like the Remington-Elliott single-shot "Derringer" pistols and a No. 2 Cartridge Cane Gun. Arms are courtesy RSA members Fritz Bauer, F. "Slim" Kohler, Randall W. Squire and Leon W. Wier, Jr.

The National Firearms Museum—which will have 13 permanent galleries—will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week beginning June 1, 1998. Gallery sponsors as well as museum donors and volunteers are still needed. For more information, write to: Director, National Firearms Museum (Dept. AR), 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400.



The photographs reproduced here are from *The Guns of Remington: Historic Firearms Spanning Two Centuries* by Howard M. Madaus and Paul M. Goodwin. The lavishly illustrated 12"x9"-format, 352-pg. book features more than 800 color photographs that cover nearly every model of Remington firearm made since 1816. It is available from BiPlane Productions at (800) 335-9908. The cost is \$99.95 plus \$14.95 shipping.



Photo by Paul Goodwin