

J.T. CALLAHAN  
ARMS HISTORIAN

53 Old Quarry Road

**SAVAGE ARMS CORPORATION**

UTICA, NEW YORK, U. S. A.  
MANUFACTURER OF SPORTING ARMS  
OWNER AND OPERATOR OF J. STEVENS ARMS CO.

SAVAGE  
STEVENS  
A.H. FOX



A. H. FOX DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUNS

November 15, 2012

Thank you for your letter requesting information on your special Fox, Model BST, .410 double barrel shotgun.

I am pleased that you sent pictures of this unique shotgun as it stirred memories. I had heard it was available at a recent auction. I have seen, and handled this gun in my younger days when I worked for Savage Arms. On weekends, employees who were interested in shooting could shoot at the Ludlow Fish and Game Club in Ludlow Mass., and the company would furnish the ammunition. Regulars at the club on weekends, were of course Bill and Katherine O'connor. Bill started as an office boy in the Utica, NY factory of Savage and eventually became Vice President of sales. He was in that position when I first started at Savage in Westfield, Mass. They returned to Utica, after Bill retired from his career at Savage.

The letter from Mr. George Dawson, basically outlines the origin of this gun. George Dawson was one of my supervisors in the service department after I received my first shirt and tie promotion, coming into that department from the factory floor. The basis for the gun was the Savage "Model BST". The production version had standard 26" barrels with ventilated rib, and walnut stock and forend with single trigger. As Mr. Dawson's letter states, Bill authorized the enhanced gun to be built for Katherine as an anniversary present in 1962.

The task fell to Mr. Mitzie Bielen who worked in our Service Department. Savage at that time did not have (despite what the auctioneer stated) a custom shop. Mitzie, was one of two employees that had the skill to work on the original Ansley H. Fox doubles that were previously made by Savage in the Utica plant and discontinued during WW II. Mitzie, had the talent and skill (I know because I knew him as friend and used to spend time looking over his shoulder) to hand fit, engrave, hand checker and carve artistically. The selection of fancy wood, rebated frame and other details were Mitzie's and approved by Bill O'connor. Bill would bring it in periodically to have Mitzie check it as it was received good use for what it was intended. Katherine was one of a few women shooters at the club and was good at it.

J.T. CALLAHAN  
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53 Old Quarry Road

Westfield, MA 01085

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SAVAGE  
STEVENS  
A.H. FOX

SAVAGE RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS



A. H. FOX DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUNS

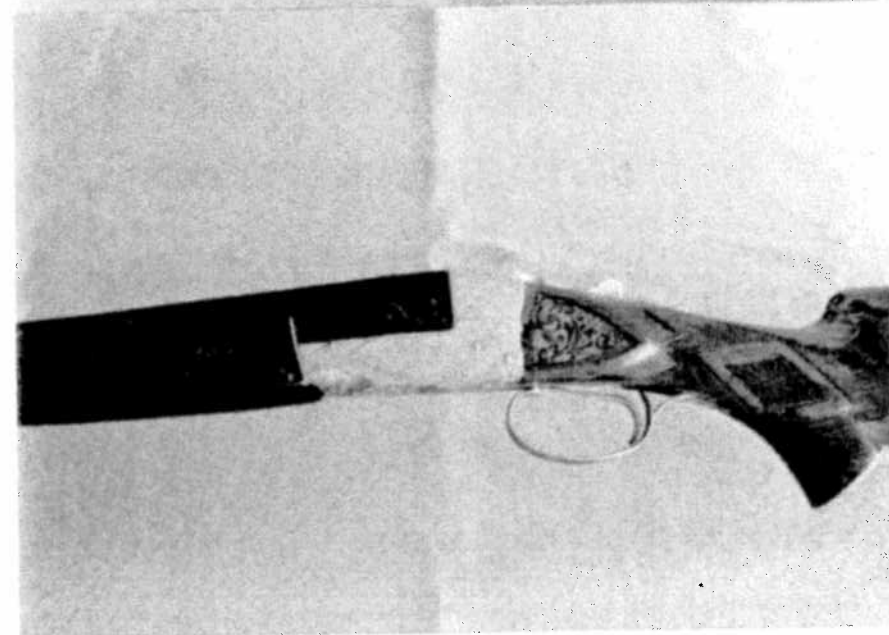
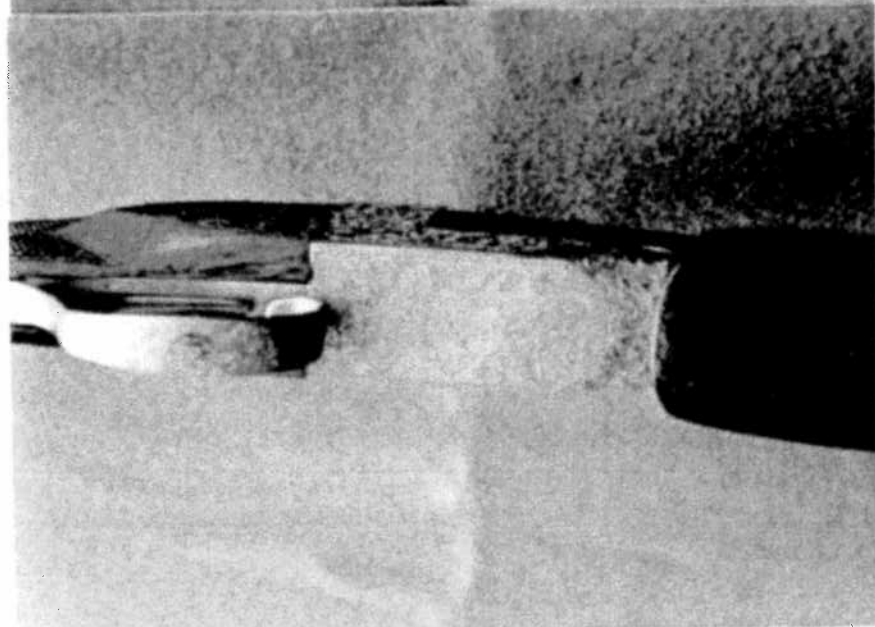
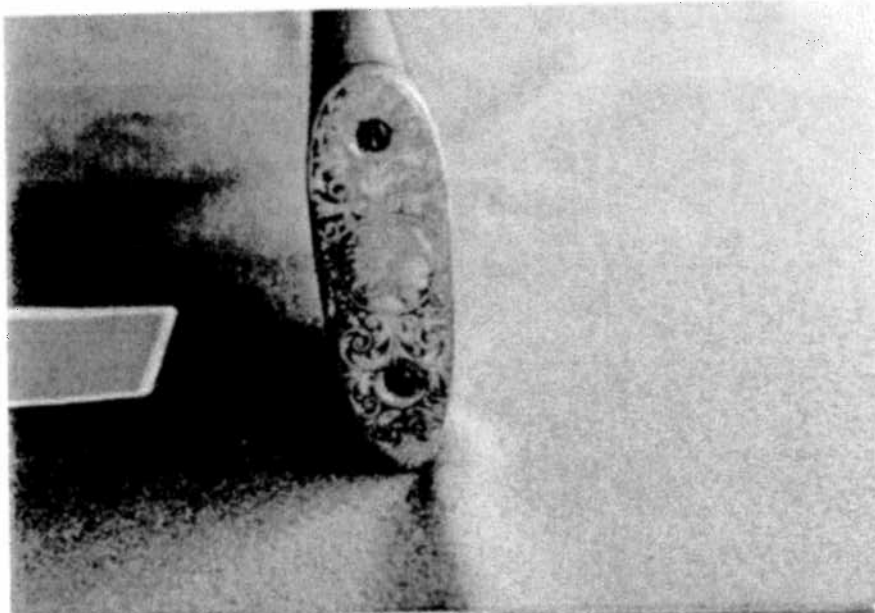
Some of the finest guns turned out by Savage were for employees. In the creation of these employee guns, we had a term calling them "government jobs". This double is one of those extra fine examples and you are fortunate to be the current caretaker of it.

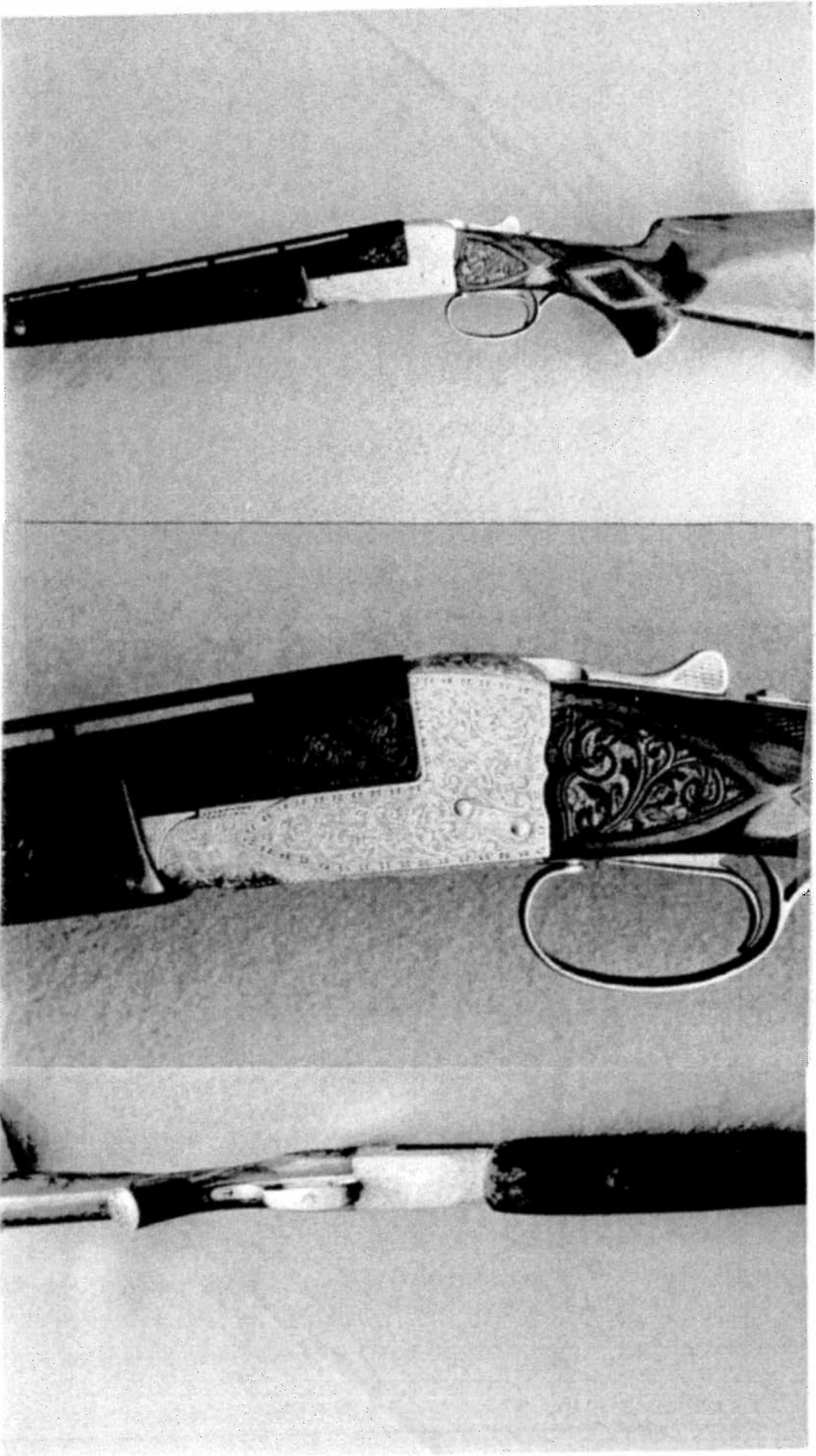
Sincerely,

John T. Callahan

7197/jtc

Russ. ONE CORRECTION  
FOUNTAIN PLATING IS NOT  
LOCATED IN WESTFIELD,  
IT IS (STILL) LOCATED  
IN WEST SPRINGFIELD.  
MASS. LARRY FOUNTAIN  
WAS A SKEET SHOOTER  
AND KNEW BILL O'CONNOR  
LB







**Savage**

SAVAGE ARMS  
Springdale Road  
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085  
Telephone: (413) 562-2361 Telex: 95-5440

June 18, 1981

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

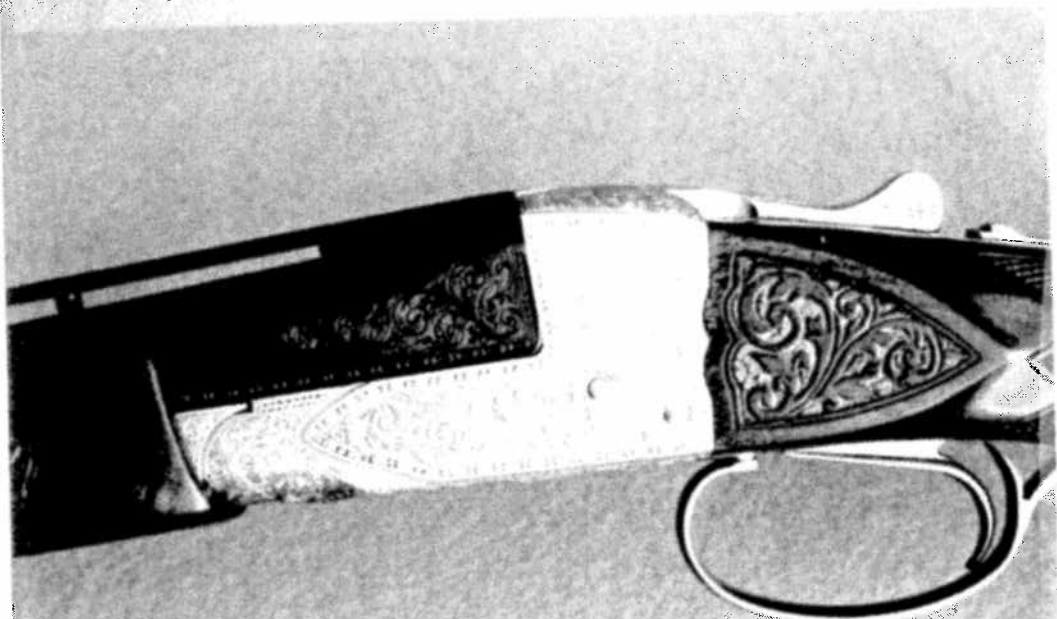
In 1962, a 410 gauge Fox Deluxe double barrel shotgun with ventilated rib, single trigger, automatic ejector and wide forend was specially made for Mr. William J. O'Connor, then Vice President of Savage Arms, as a special anniversary present for his wife Katherine.

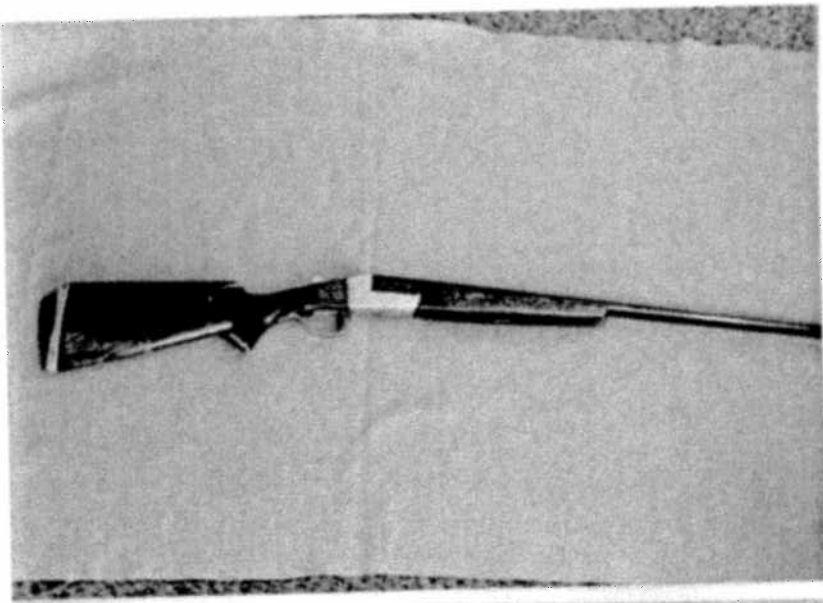
This shotgun was one of a kind with special engraving done by Mr. Mitzie Bielin, 97 Hilton Street, Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts with special satin chrome plating by the Fountain Plating Company of Westfield, Massachusetts. The barrels were soft fitted in the green and then refitted after polishing and bluing. The stock and forend were specially made and matched and hand fitted to the frame and barrel assembly.

There is no serial number since it was not required by Law to serialize shotguns in 1962.

Sincerely,

  
George L. Dawson  
Sales/Service Manager



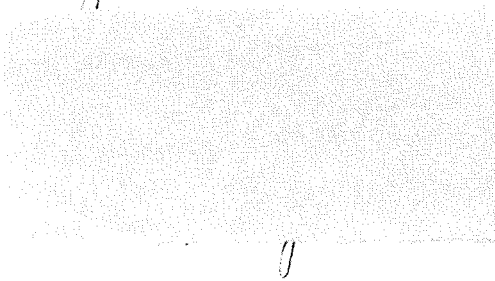


June 29th 1981

Dear Jim

Just received the enclosed  
information on my 1410 Gen. This is a  
copy. I thought you might be inter.

Regards







DATE  
W. H.

FOR RODGERS  
STAY AT ROUNDO  
OF SAGE W/  
SAGE'S VAN

?  
PERSON  
OF  
DATE