

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY AT THE NATIONAL MATCHES

Springfield Armory's contribution to the National Matches is as old as the matches themselves. The National Matches and the Model of 1903 Springfield Rifle have the same date of birth.

In 1921 the 1903 National Match Springfield was introduced and for many years these rifles were made available to competitors on a direct purchase basis.

Following this famous rifle came the M1922, a Cal. .22 rim fire version, designed at Springfield by Mr. Fred Coon. That same year the Match Springfield, Cal. .30, M1922 appeared.

In 1953, the Armory was directed to select 800 Cal. .30 M1 Rifles from the current production line, possessing the highest accuracy capabilities, for issue at Camp Perry that year.

In 1954, an Engineering Program was initiated at Springfield for the design and production of National Match M1 Rifles and M1911A1 National Match Pistols. This program has continued through the development of the National Match M14 Rifle.

Through continued study and evaluation, including shooter requirements, from 1954 through the present, Springfield has endeavored to produce the finest quality attainable in rifles and pistols for use in the National Trophy Matches each year.

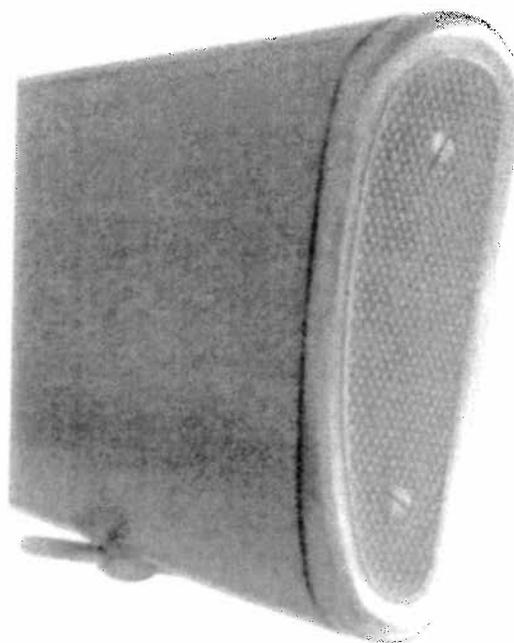
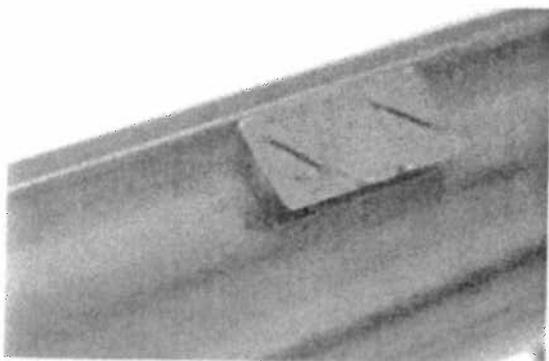
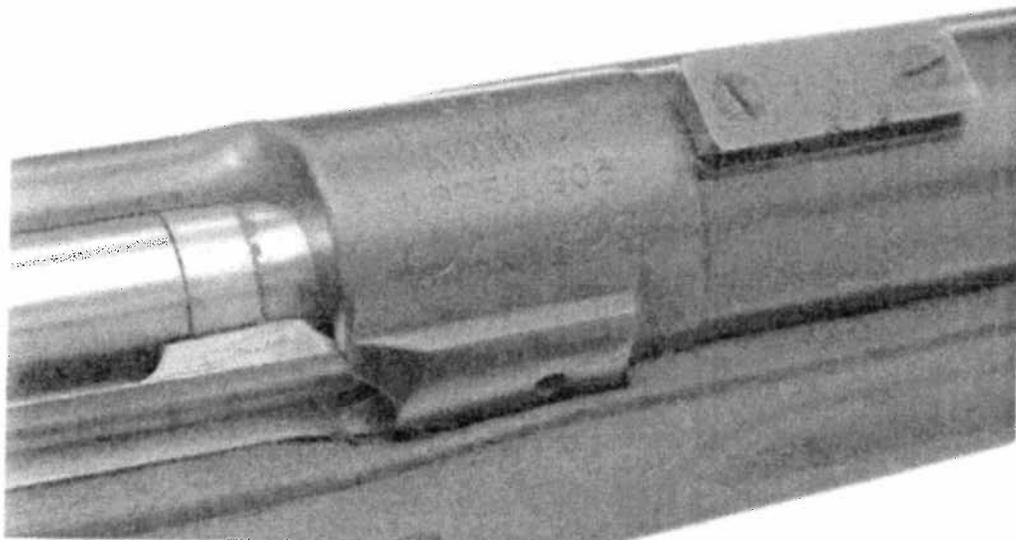
In addition to the design and fabrication of match weapons for Camp Perry, Springfield Armory furnishes technical personnel to augment the Ordnance Detachment and assist the Ordnance Director and his staff each year here at Perry. These men are highly qualified technicians, armorers, and gunsmiths with many years of experience. Many of them need no introduction to you old timers who have been coming to the National Matches for a number of years. These are the same men who fitted and assembled the weapons you have drawn for use this year.

Throughout the matches, Springfield Armory engineering personnel are also available to assist in answering your questions concerning the government furnished weapons.

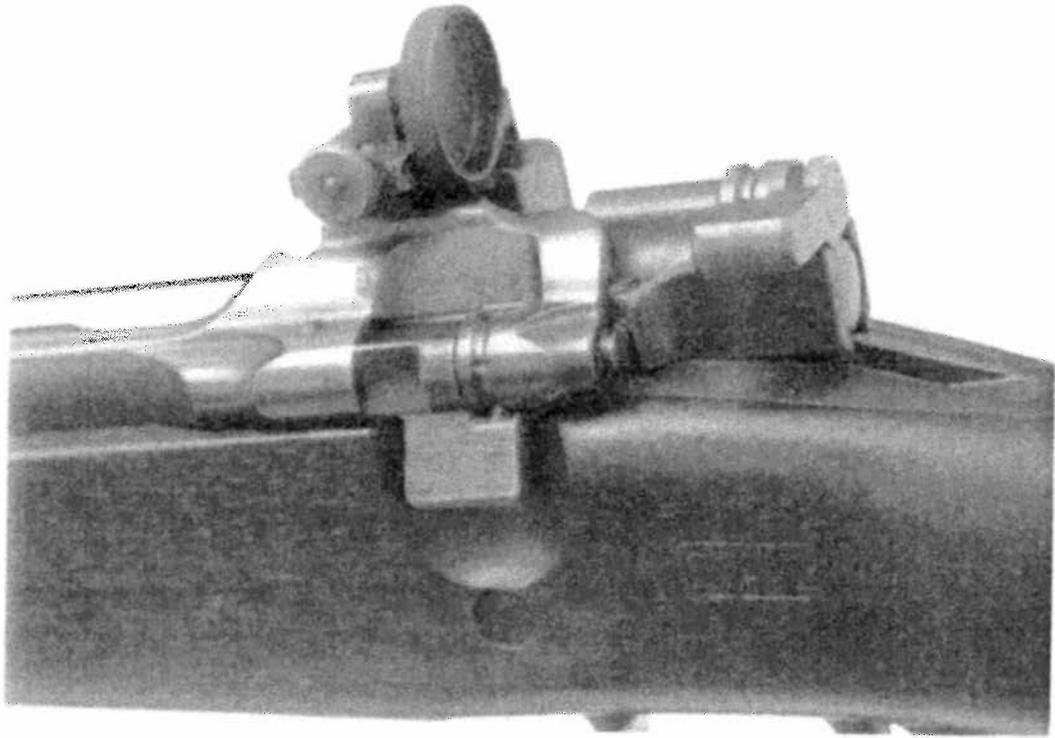
## **Springfield Model 1922 Heavy Barrel Target Rifle**

This rifle is one of the most sought after heavy barrel 30 caliber long range match rifles. The SRS data base has extensive information on these rifles including the correspondence during development and design to produce quality rifles for national and international competition. It is estimated that approximately 100 rifles were made. The initial start of the Springfield program was in early 1922. Discussions and design go back to late 1920 and into 1921. The ordnance Department finalized design and started work at Springfield Armory. The quality of finish, craftsmanship, and fit were superb. There were several variations supported by extensive ammunition testing. The tests also included fit and finish of minor parts, and front and rear sight testing. The result was a 30-06 caliber, 24" heavy round barrel, and a finger groove stock that was later made without the finger grooves. The item shown is one of the rarest models of the 1922 Springfield Match rifles and has a serial number of 1248829. The stock is cartouched on the left side and has the firing proof on the grip. There were many discussions concerning the sights, placement of the Winchester style scope blocks and the 6 inch and 7.2 inch placements for scope adjustments. The front sight is unique. The barrel has extra metal that is machined to accept a dove tail after the design and machine work was finished as part of the barrel. Work on other models and then the T model and internationals, used Winchester and Lyman front sights. The rear sight was a Lyman. This lead to variations in known specimens with different front sights, scope blocks, and slight stock changes. There were extensive discussions concerning accuracy, price to NRA members, and sales of accessories. The result was a fine U.S. Springfield Armory manufactured Match rifle. Please note the finger grooves in the stock, NRA style butt plate, band, scope blocks on the barrel, and front sight. Ordnance material discuss the fit and finish of trigger and other parts as well as operation and accuracy. The photos are courtesy of Jack Lewis. Editor's note: This rifle is the start of an extensive effort to document the Ordnance notes and photos for heavy barrel models. This sample is described as the Model 1922.





*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 123-21*



*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 123-22*